

Figure S3. Optimized structure of compound 3 in benzene.

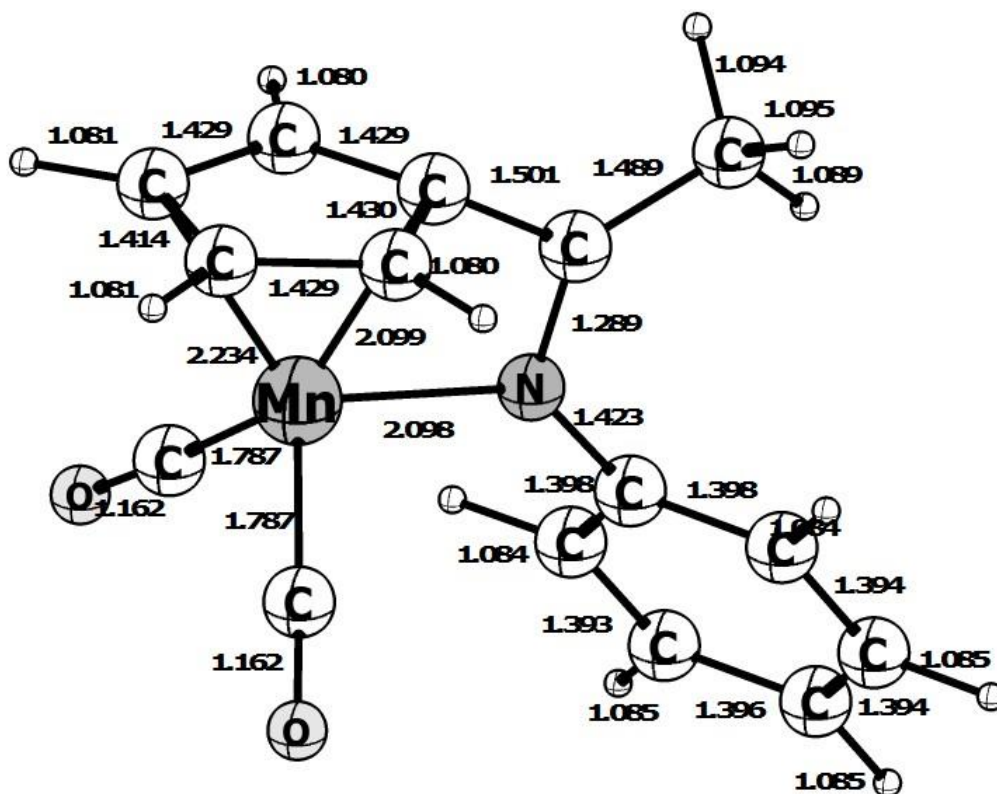
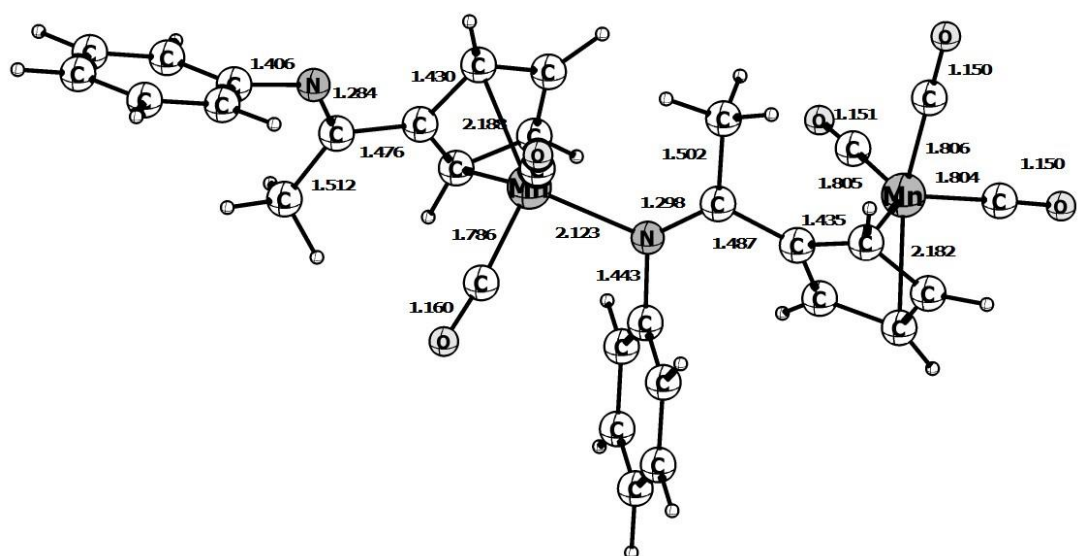


Figure S4. Optimized structure of compound 3 in acetonitrile.





**Figure S6.** Optimized structure of compound **D** in acetonitrile where the Mn atom of the dicarbonyl complex is coordinated with the imino group of the tricarbonyl complex.

**Table S1.** Main energy parameters for the intermediates (T = 298 K, P = 1 bar)

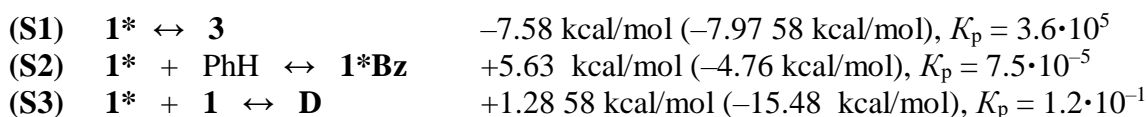
Intermediate	$E_{\text{tot}}$ , a.u.	$E_{\text{ZPVE}}$ , a.u. $E_{\text{H}}$ , a.u.	$E_{\text{G}}$ , a.u.	$S$ , cal/mol
Reaction in benzene				
<b>1</b>	-2048.6382795	-2048.398272 -2048.377746	-2048.449099	150.175
<b>1*</b> <sup>a</sup>	-1935.2127264	-1934.982495 -1934.964645	-1935.029409	136.306
<b>3</b>	-1935.2265105	-1934.995439 -1934.977350	-1935.041481	134.975
<b>1*Bz</b> <sup>a</sup>	-2167.5240055	-2167.191943 -2167.167469	-2167.248487	170.515
<b>D</b>	-3983.87758342	-3983.404692 -3983.367059	-3983.476473	230.280
Reaction in acetonitrile				
<b>1</b>	-2048.6440318	-2048.404228 -2048.383705	-2048.455049	150.156
<b>1*</b> <sup>a</sup>	-1935.2222602	-1934.992249 -1934.974392	-1935.039099	136.189
<b>3</b>	-1935.2330118	-1935.002130 -1934.983995	-1935.048819	136.433
<b>5</b>	-2068.0626865	-2067.784890 -2067.762470	-2067.839312	161.729
<b>D</b>	-3983.88959310	-3983.4168041 -3983.378601	-3983.4885841	230.058

<sup>a</sup> **1\***—complex **1** after CO elimination due to photolysis; **1\*Bz**—dicarbonyl complex in which the Mn atom interacts with the benzene molecule;

$E_{\text{tot}}$ —total energy;  $E_{\text{ZPVE}} = E_{\text{tot}} + \text{ZPVE}$ ;  $E_{\text{H}} = E_{\text{tot}} + \text{ZPVE} + E_{\text{vib}} + E_{\text{rot}} + E_{\text{trans}}$ ;  $E_{\text{G}} = E_{\text{H}} - T \cdot S$ ; ZPVE—zero point vibration energy,  $E_{\text{vib}}$ —vibration energy,  $E_{\text{rot}}$ —rotational energy,  $E_{\text{trans}}$ —translational energy,  $S$ —entropy,  $T$ —temperature (K).

Free Gibbs energies  $\Delta G^\circ$  (enthalpies  $\Delta H^\circ$ ) and equilibrium constants ( $K_{\text{p}}$ ) for the reactions explored:

In benzene:



In acetonitrile:

