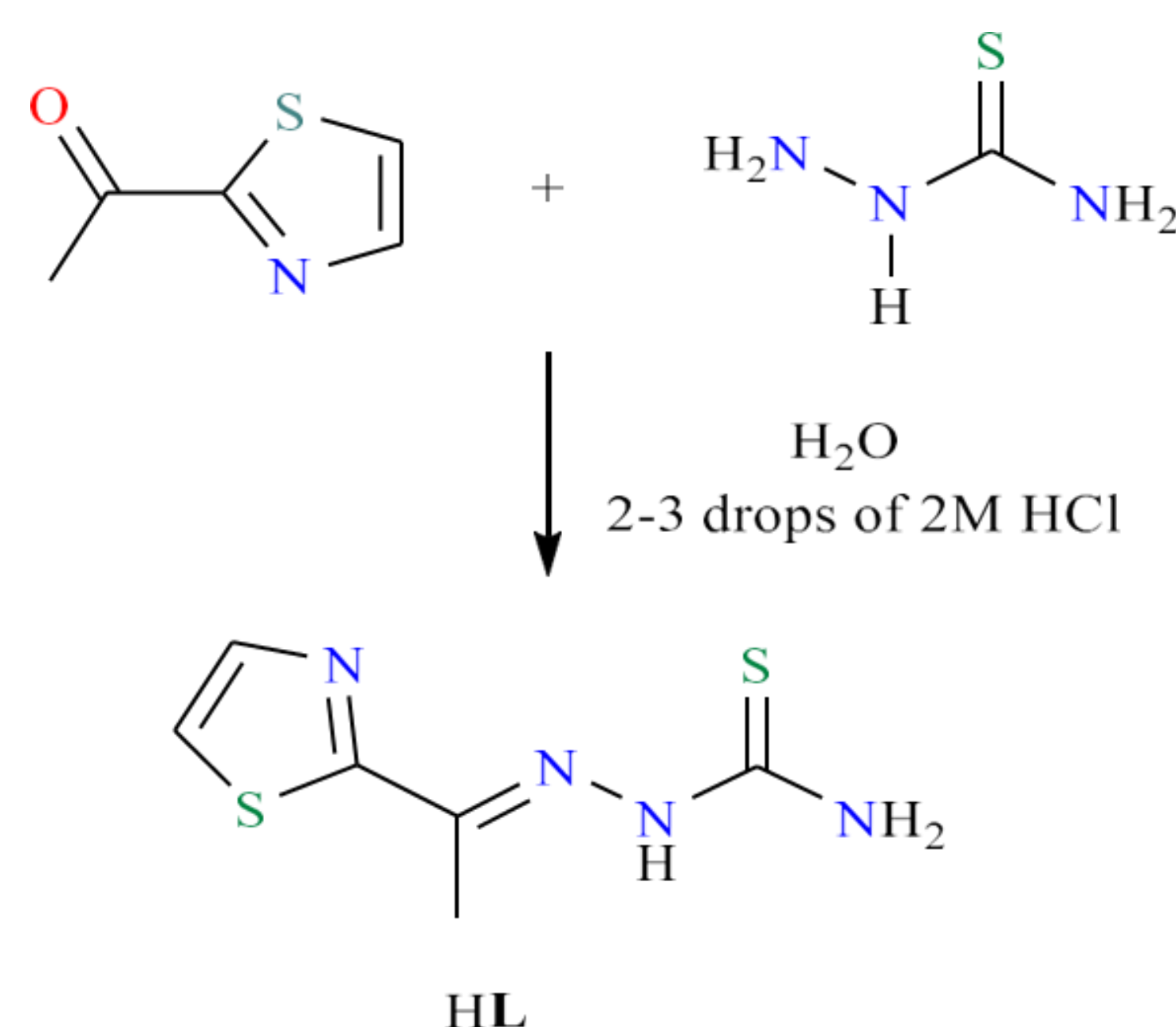
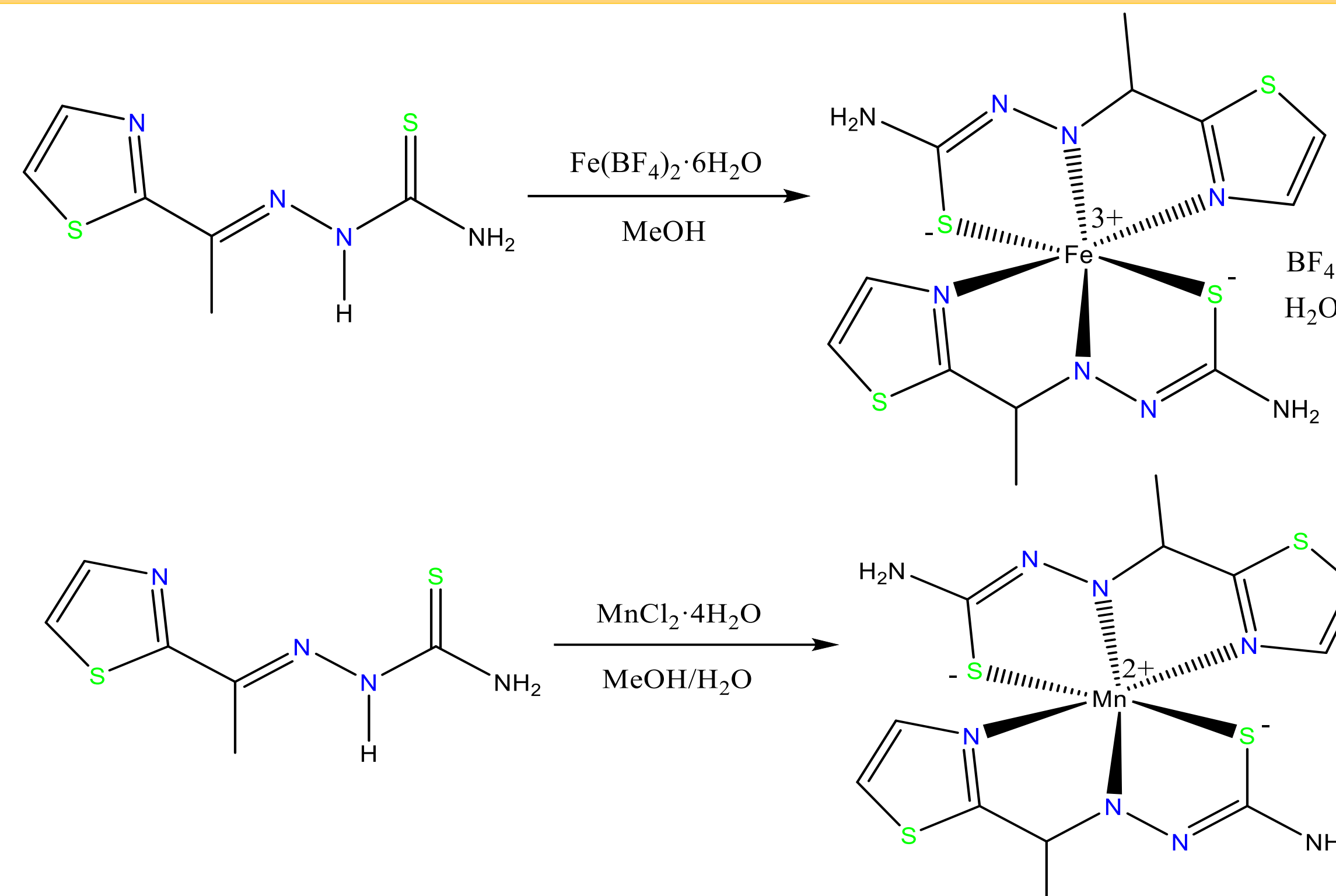


The ligand **HL** (*E*)-2-(1-(thiazol-2-yl)ethylidene)hydrazine-1-carbothioamide) was synthesized in the reaction of thiosemicarbazide and 2-acetylthiazole in molar ratio 1:1 in water, with 3 drops of 2M HCl. (**Scheme 1**). The reaction of the ligand **HL** with metal salt Fe(BF₄)₂·6H₂O in a molar ratio 1:1 in methanol results in the formation of bis Fe(III) complex with composition [Fe(L)₂]BF₄·H₂O (**1**) (**Scheme 2**). The reaction of the **HL** ligand with the metal salt MnCl₂·4H₂O in a molar ratio 1:1 in methanol/water mixture results in the formation of bis Mn(II) complex (**2**) with composition [Mn(L)₂] (**Scheme 3**).



Scheme 1. Synthesis of ligand **HL**



Scheme 2. Synthesis of complexes [Fe(L)₂]BF₄·H₂O (**1**) and [Mn(L)₂] (**2**)

Both complexes **1** and **2** with **HL** ligand are bis octahedral complexes in which two deprotonated ligand molecules coordinate in a *mer* arrangement through two NNS sets of donor atoms, through thiazole and imine nitrogens and thioenolate sulfur (**Fig. 1**; **Fig. 2**). Furthermore, the central metal ions in both cases have the same **d⁵ electronic configuration**. However, effective magnetic moment measurements (1.95 μB for Fe(III) complex and 5.73 μB for Mn(II) complex, respectively) and analysis of the crystal geometries show that these two complexes have a different number of unpaired electrons. We rationalized the results by DFT calculations.

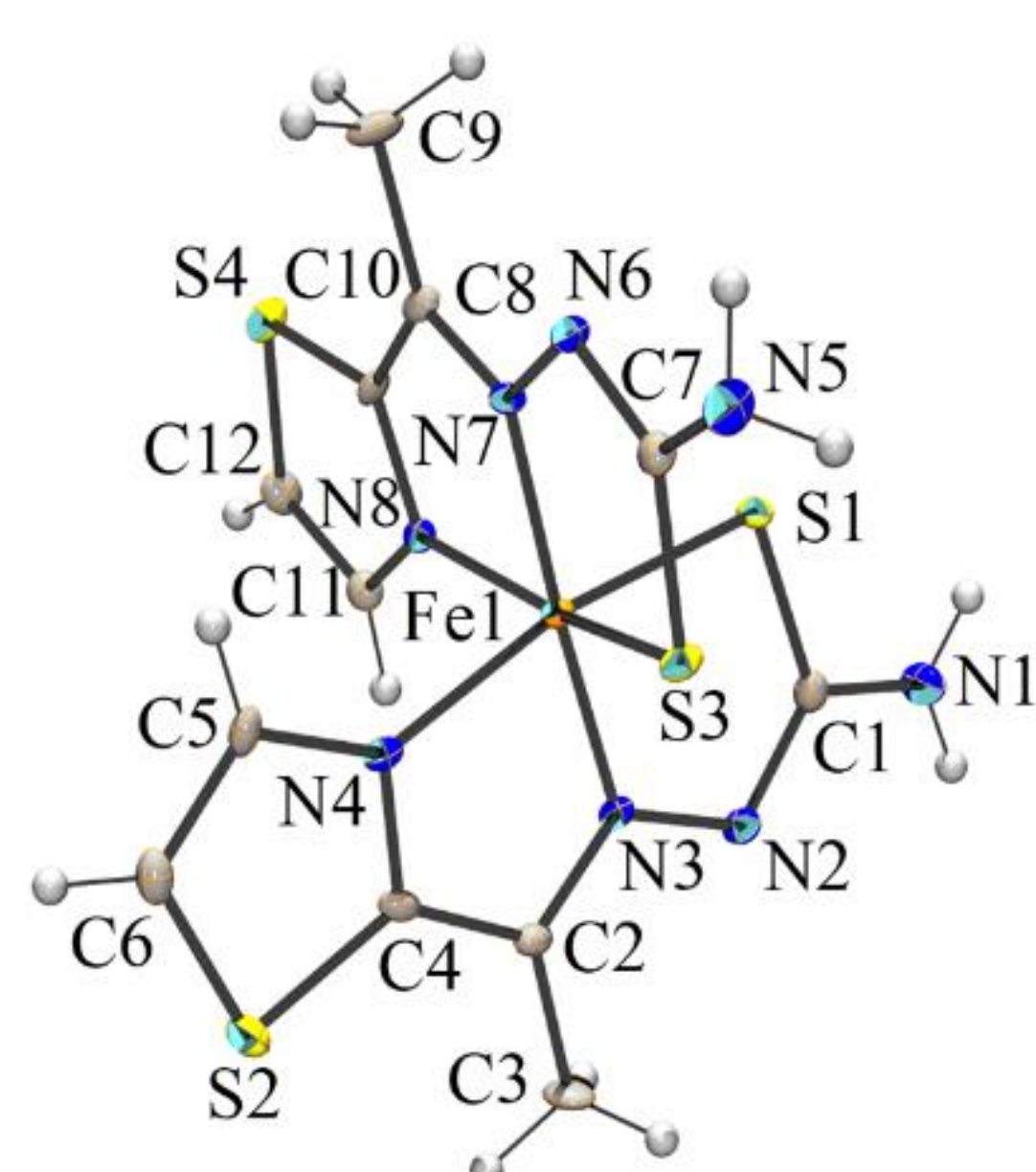


Fig. 1. The complex **1** crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group *Pbca*.

CShM (OC-6) = 1.731

CShM (TPR-6) = 11.228

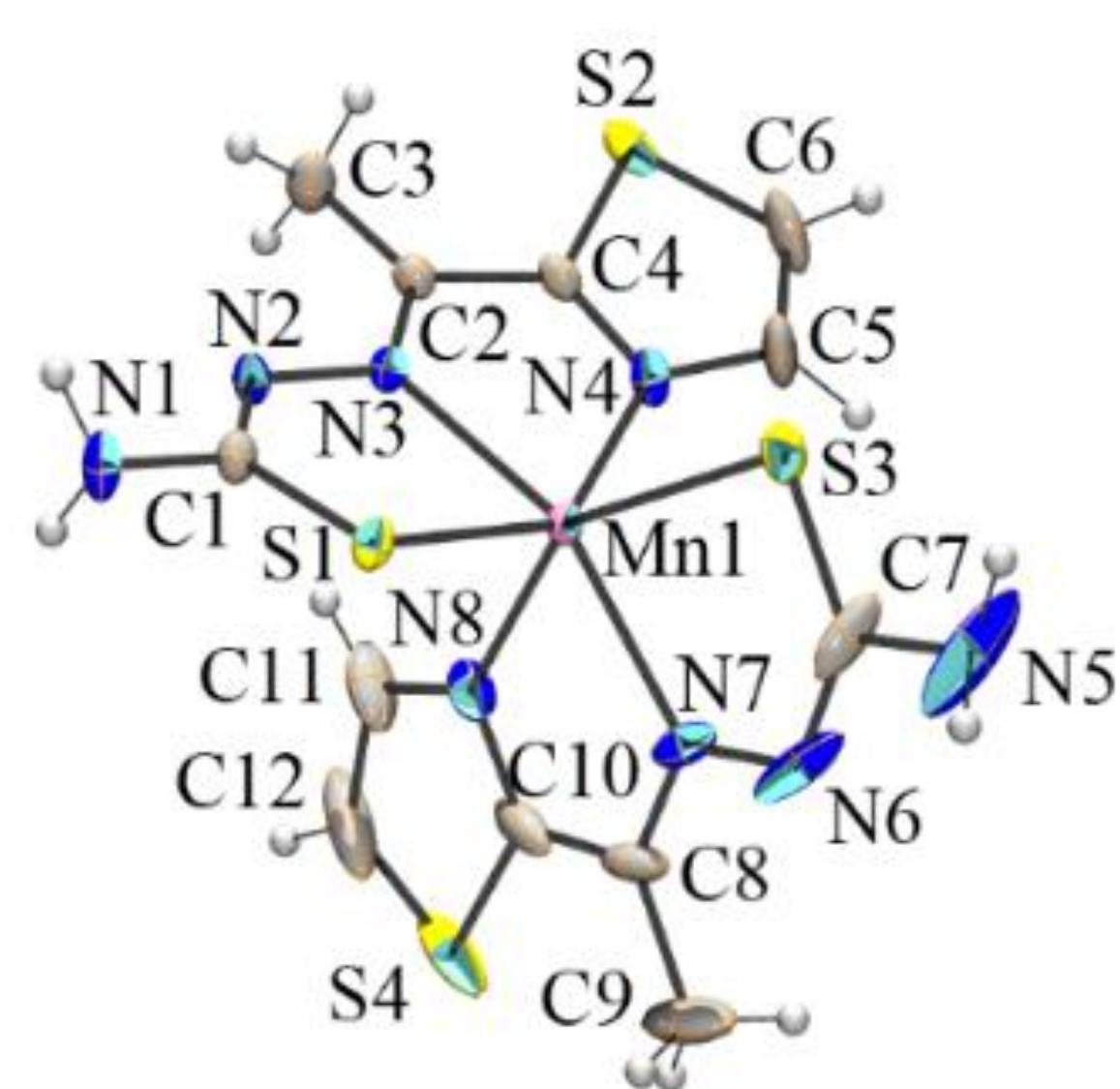


Fig. 2. The complex **2** crystallizes in the triclinic space group *P-1*.

CShM (OC-6) = 7.979

CShM (TPR-6) = 6.517

Table 1. Relative spin state energies (kcal/mol) for [Fe^{III}(L)₂]⁺ and [Mn^{II}(L)₂]

Level of theory	[Fe ^{III} (L) ₂] ⁺		[Mn ^{II} (L) ₂]		
	E _{HS-LS} (X-ray) ^a	E _{HS-LS} (opt.) ^b	E _{HS-LS} (X-ray1) ^a	E _{HS-LS} (X-ray2) ^a	E _{HS-LS} (opt.) ^b
OPBE/TZP	50.74	18.97	-51.15	-52.99	-0.15
OLYP/TZP	53.75	13.48	-44.11	-46.07	-4.59
B97-D/TZP	50.43	11.40	-46.91	-48.80	-5.41
SSB-D/TZP	43.84	8.57	-49.42	-51.23	-5.76
B3LYP*/TZP	52.53	14.03	-40.45	-42.84	-8.60
B97-D/TZP-COSMO ^c	49.08	11.58	-49.28	-51.24	-6.90
SSB-D/TZP-COSMO ^c	42.62	8.92	-51.20	-53.53	-7.00

a) single-point on X-ray geometries; for Mn(II) two crystallographically independent complexes; b) geometry optimization; c) COSMO – DMSO as solvent

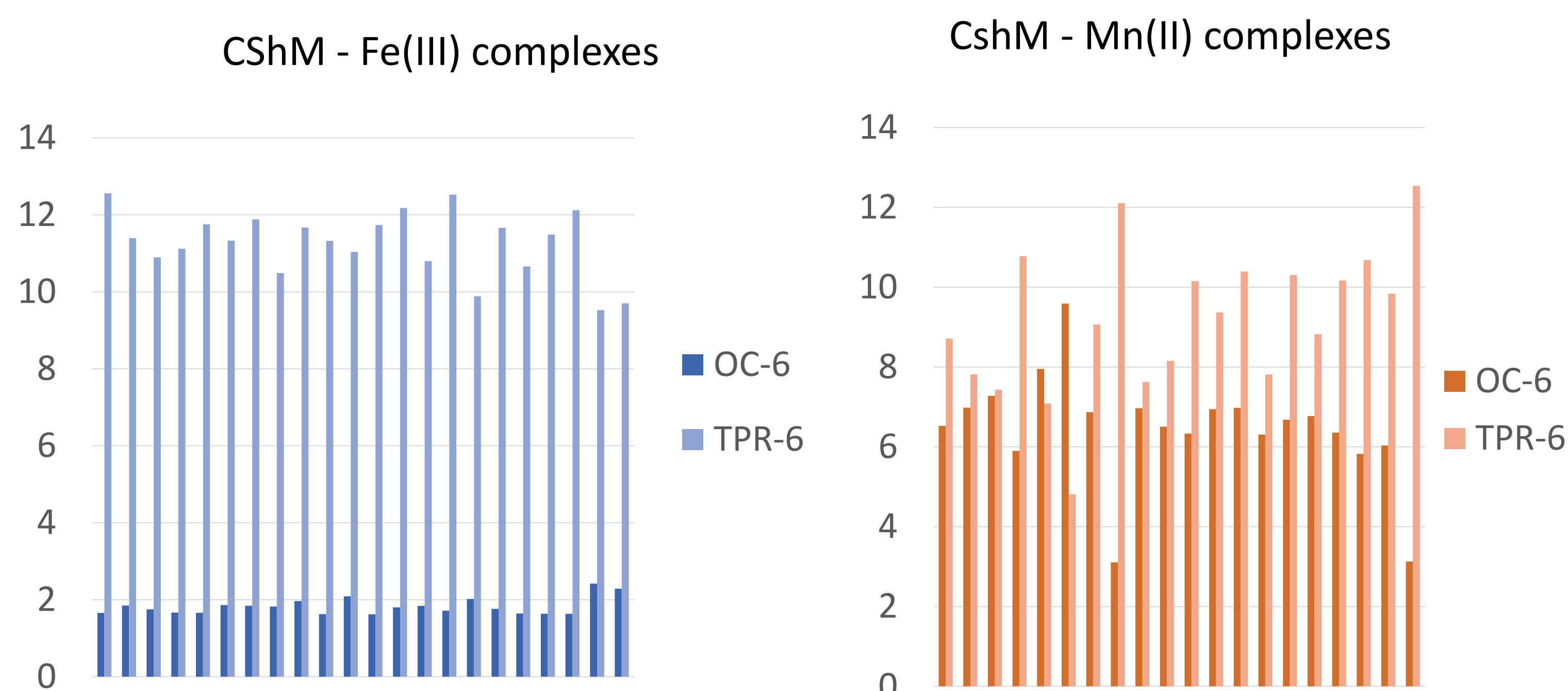


Fig 3. Continuous shape measures (CShMs) for similar Fe(III) and Mn(II) complexes

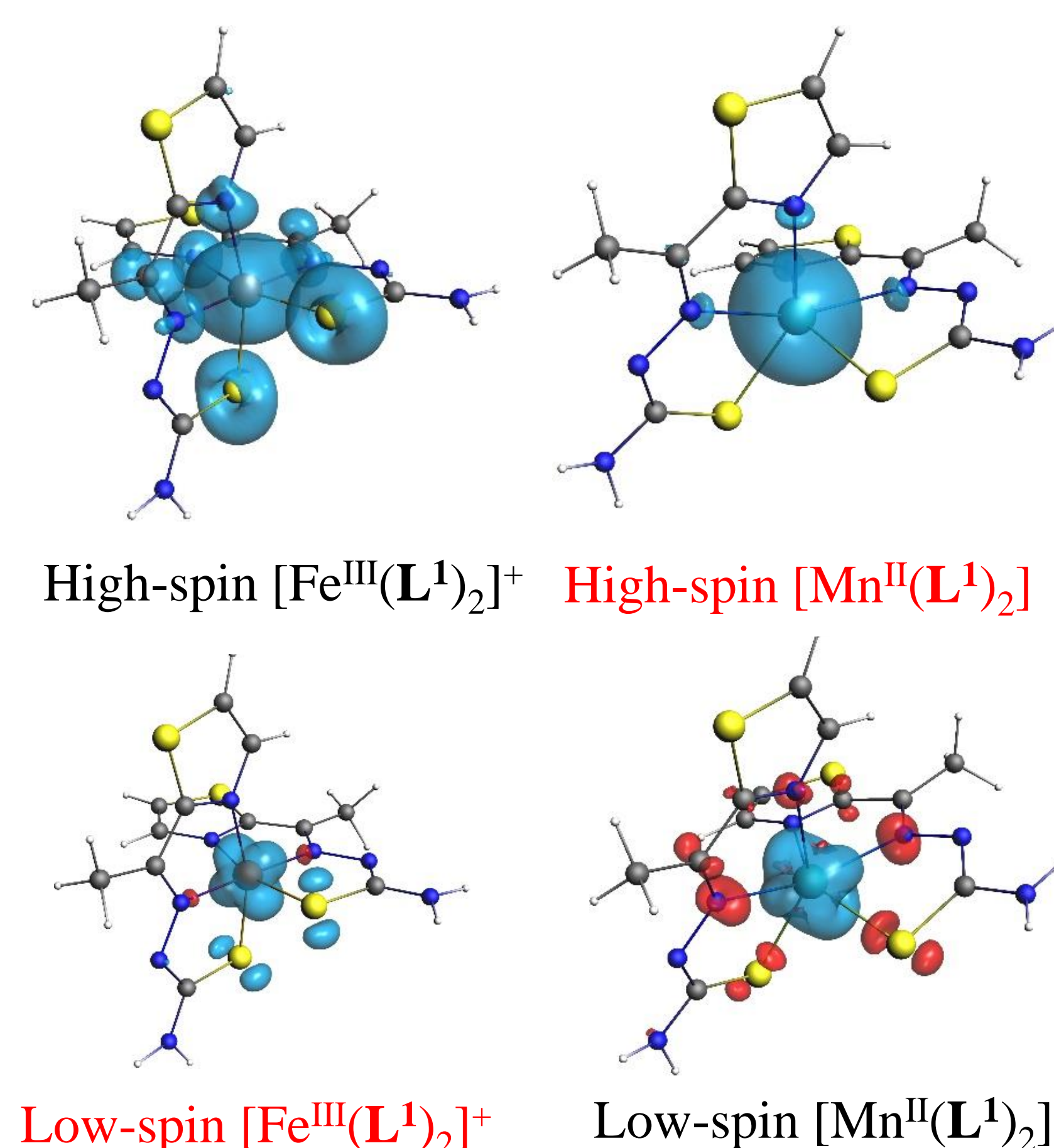


Fig 4. Spin densities (B97-D/TZP-Xray) of complexes **1** and **2**.