

# ELECTRONIC SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Synthesis, Crystal structures and Characterization of two non-metal cation tetrafluoroborates

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Table S1

Atomic coordinates, equivalent isotropic displacement parameters in  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}]\cdot(\text{BF}_4)_3\cdot(\text{I})$ 

| Atom | Site | x         | y         | z          | $B_{\text{eq}}(\text{\AA}^2)$ |
|------|------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| B(1) | 4a   | 0.8109(4) | 0.3109(4) | 0.1891(4)  | 3.5(1)                        |
| B(2) | 4a   | 0.4728(3) | 0.5272(3) | 0.0272(3)  | 2.8(1)                        |
| B(3) | 4a   | 0.7053(4) | 0.2947(4) | -0.2053(4) | 3.(1)                         |
| F(1) | 4a   | 0.8807(2) | 0.3807(2) | 0.1193(2)  | 3.45(8)                       |
| F(2) | 12b  | 0.7001(2) | 0.3478(3) | 0.1768(3)  | 5.84(8)                       |
| F(3) | 4a   | 0.5409(2) | 0.4591(2) | -0.0409(2) | 4.07(8)                       |
| F(4) | 12b  | 0.4265(3) | 0.4611(3) | 0.1137(3)  | 5.56(7)                       |
| F(5) | 12b  | 0.7377(4) | 0.2890(5) | -0.0951(3) | 9.7(2)                        |
| F(6) | 4a   | 0.7706(3) | 0.2294(3) | -0.2706(3) | 7.3(2)                        |
| N(1) | 4a   | 1.0308(2) | 0.5308(2) | -0.0308(2) | 1.96(7)                       |
| N(2) | 12b  | 1.0059(4) | 0.2727(3) | -0.0631(3) | 3.71(7)                       |
| C(1) | 12b  | 1.0969(3) | 0.4574(3) | -0.1086(3) | 2.61(6)                       |
| C(2) | 12b  | 1.0294(4) | 0.3583(3) | -0.1546(3) | 3.13(7)                       |

Table S2

Selected inter-atomic distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) in  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}]\cdot(\text{BF}_4)_3\cdot(\text{I})$ 

|           |            |           |          |
|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| B(1)-F(2) | 3×1.373(8) | N(1)-C(1) | 1.469(4) |
| B(1)-F(1) | 1.383(4)   | N(2)-C(2) | 1.495(5) |
| <B-F>     | 1.375      | C(1)-C(2) | 1.502(5) |
|           |            |           |          |
| B(2)-F(3) | 1.378(4)   |           |          |
| B(2)-F(4) | 3×1.373(4) |           |          |
| <B-F>     | 1.374      |           |          |
|           |            |           |          |
| B(3)-F(6) | 1.32(1)    |           |          |
| B(3)-F(5) | 3×1.343(5) |           |          |
| <B-F>     | 1.337      |           |          |

Table S3

Hydrogen bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and X-H...F angles ( $^\circ$ ) in  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}]\cdot(\text{BF}_4)_3\cdot(\text{I})$ 

| X-H...F         | d(H..F) | d(N..F)  | X-H...F |
|-----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| N(2)-H1C...F(4) | 2.143   | 2.946(?) | 150     |
| N(2)-H1D...F(1) | 1.989   | 2.878(?) | 176     |

Table S4

Atomic coordinates, equivalent isotropic displacement parameters in  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}]\cdot(\text{BF}_4)_3\cdot\text{HF}$  (II)

| Atom  | S.O.F | x          | y         | z         | $B_{\text{eq}}(\text{\AA}^2)$ |
|-------|-------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| B     |       | -0.0416(3) | 0.4291(3) | 0.1059(4) | 3.11(6)                       |
| F(1)  |       | 0.0496(3)  | 0.3735(5) | 0.1537(6) | 8.1(2)                        |
| F(2)  | 0.50  | 0.1149(9)  | 0.502(1)  | 0.166(2)  | 9.1(6)                        |
| F(2P) | 0.50  | 0.087(2)   | 0.463(1)  | 0.211(2)  | 11.4(8)                       |
| F(3)  |       | 0.0837(4)  | 0.3739(3) | 0.0671(5) | 7.0(1)                        |

|       |      |            |           |            |         |
|-------|------|------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| F(4)  | 0.50 | 0.027(1)   | 0.479(1)  | 0.0119(8)  | 7.6(4)  |
| F(4P) | 0.50 | 0.068(1)   | 0.5129(9) | 0.054(1)   | 8.4(4)  |
| F(5)  |      | -1/3       | 1/3       | -0.2001(3) | 2.92(6) |
| N(1)  |      | -1/3       | 1/3       | 0.0094(3)  | 1.89(6) |
| N(2)  |      | -0.1401(3) | 0.4852(3) | -0.1257(3) | 3.48(6) |
| C(1)  |      | -0.2261(2) | 0.3949(2) | 0.0502(2)  | 2.77(5) |
| C(2)  |      | -0.1643(2) | 0.4955(2) | -0.4955(2) | 2.99(6) |

Table S5

Selected inter-atomic distances (Å) in [H<sub>3</sub>tren]·(BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·HF (II)

|          |          |                          |          |           |          |
|----------|----------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| B- F(4p) | 1.293(9) | N(1)-C(1) <sup>\$1</sup> | 1.507(3) | C(1)-C(2) | 1.517(2) |
| B- F(2)  | 1.33(1)  | N(1)-C(1)                | 1.507(3) |           |          |
| B- F(1)  | 1.346(6) | N(1)-C(1) <sup>\$2</sup> | 1.507(3) |           |          |
| B- F(3)  | 1.374(5) | N(2)-C(2)                | 1.486(4) |           |          |
| B- F(2p) | 1.41(2)  | <N-C>                    | 1.496    |           |          |
| B- F(4)  | 1.439(9) |                          |          |           |          |
| <B-F>    | 1.36     |                          |          |           |          |

Symmetry transformation codes: <sup>\$1</sup> -y, x-y+1, z ; <sup>\$2</sup> -x+y-1, -x, z

Table S6

Hydrogen bond distances (Å) and X-H...F angles (°) in [H<sub>3</sub>tren]·(BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·HF (II)

| X-H...F         | d(H...F) | d(N...F) | X-H...F |
|-----------------|----------|----------|---------|
| N(1)-H2D...F(5) | 2.04     | 2.84(?)  | 148     |
| N(1)-H...F(5)   | 1.820    | 2.516(?) | 180     |

**Table s7:** Assignment of vibration modes in [H<sub>3</sub>tren](BF<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>

| Stretching Frequency         | Intensity | Assignment                                                | Expected from literature | Ref.    |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 3255, 3200, 3173             | m-s       | -NH <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup> (symmetric and asymmetric)  | 2800-300                 | [33-35] |
| 3046, 2978, 2876             | w         | -CH <sub>2</sub> - stretching symmetric and asymmetric    | 2930/2850                |         |
| 1469, 1451, 1405, 1387, 1369 | m-s       | -CH <sub>2</sub> - scissoring                             | 1465                     |         |
| 1323-1298                    | w         | -CH <sub>2</sub> - wagging<br>-CH <sub>2</sub> - twisting | 1300-1305                |         |
| 724                          | s         | -CH <sub>2</sub> - rocking                                | 720                      |         |
| 1210, 1026, 1118, 1149       | m-s       | C-N stretching                                            | 1220-1020                |         |
| 1607, 1638, 1505, 1525       | m-s       | NH <sub>2</sub> scissoring, N-H bending                   | 1615                     |         |
| 855, 832                     | m-s       | NH <sub>2</sub> wagging and twisting                      | 850–750                  | [36,37] |
| 768                          | w         | B-F $\nu_1$ (symmetric stretching)                        | 777 cm <sup>-1</sup>     |         |
| -                            | m         | B-F $\nu_2$ (symmetric)                                   | 360 cm <sup>-1</sup>     |         |

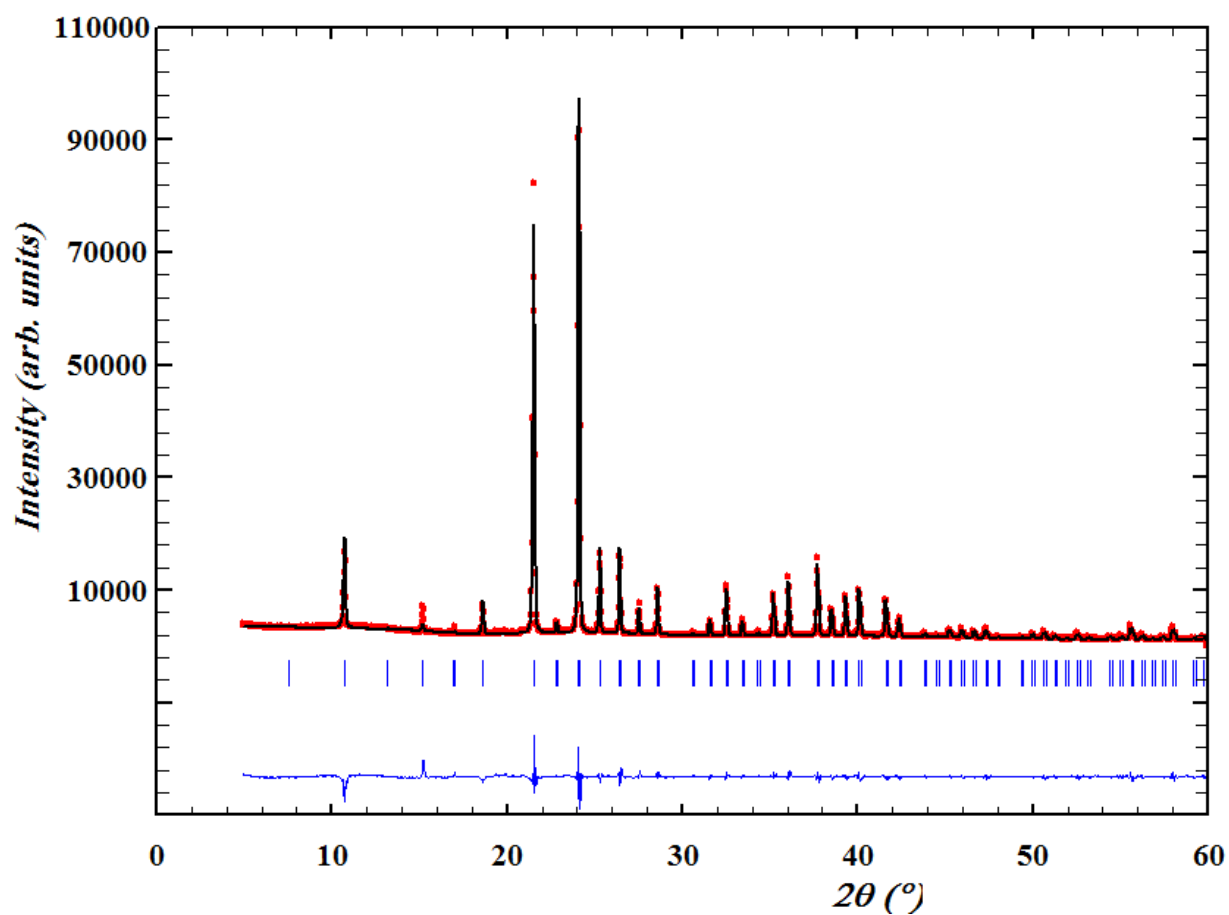
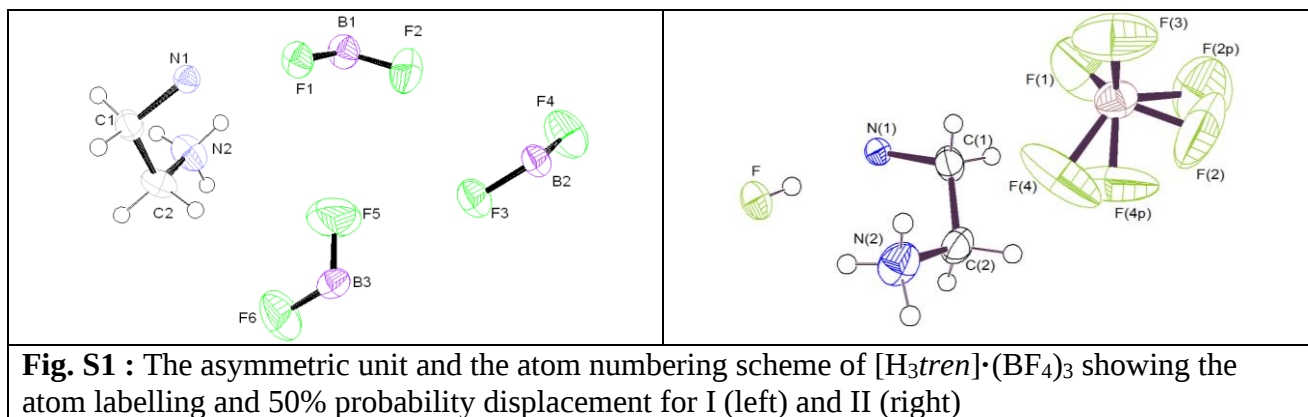
|                  |     |                                      |                       |  |
|------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                  |     | deformation)                         |                       |  |
| 993-947-903-1026 | m-s | B-F $\nu_3$ (asymmetric stretching)  | 1070 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ |  |
| -                | m-s | B-F $\nu_4$ (asymmetric deformation) | 533 $\text{cm}^{-1}$  |  |

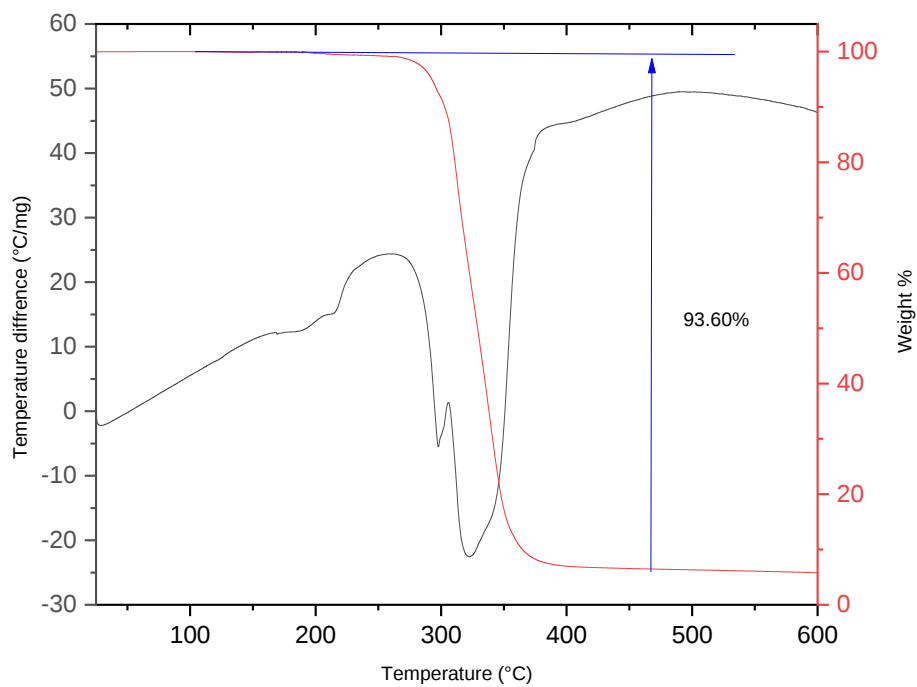
<sup>a</sup> intensities : s = strong, m = medium, w = weak, br = broad, var = varies.

**Table s8:** assignment of vibration modes in  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}]\cdot(\text{BF}_4)_3\cdot\text{HF}$

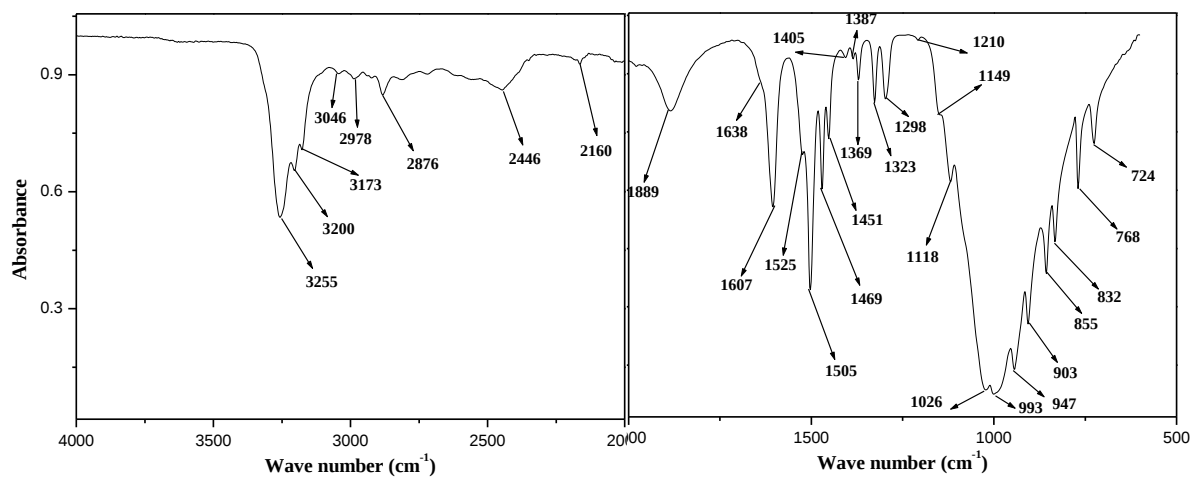
| Stretching Frequency         | Intensity | Assignment                                          | Expected from literature | Ref.    |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 3262, 3215                   | m-s       | $-\text{NH}_3^+$ (symmetric and asymmetric)         | 2800-3000                | [33-35] |
| 3066-3022                    | w         | $-\text{CH}_2-$ stretching symmetric and asymmetric | 2930/2850                |         |
| 1468, 1375, 1379             | m-s       | $-\text{CH}_2-$ scissoring                          | 1465                     |         |
| 1355, 1313, 1335, 1298, 1281 | w         | $-\text{CH}_2-$ wagging<br>$-\text{CH}_2-$ twisting | 1300-1305                |         |
| 743                          | s         | $-\text{CH}_2-$ rocking                             | 720                      |         |
| 1194,                        | m-s       | C-N stretching                                      | 1220-1020                |         |
| 1608-1504                    | m-s       | $\text{NH}_2$ scissoring, N-H bending               | 1615                     |         |
| 847                          | m-s       | $\text{NH}_2$ wagging and twisting                  | 850-750                  |         |
| 760-                         | w         | B-F $\nu_1$ (symmetric stretching)                  | 777 $\text{cm}^{-1}$     | [36,37] |
| -                            | m         | B-F $\nu_2$ (symmetric deformation)                 | 360 $\text{cm}^{-1}$     |         |
| 981, 1026                    | m-s       | B-F $\nu_3$ (asymmetric stretching)                 | 1070 $\text{cm}^{-1}$    |         |
| -                            | m-s       | B-F $\nu_4$ (asymmetric deformation)                | 533 $\text{cm}^{-1}$     |         |

<sup>a</sup> intensities : s = strong, m = medium, w = weak, br = broad, var = varies.

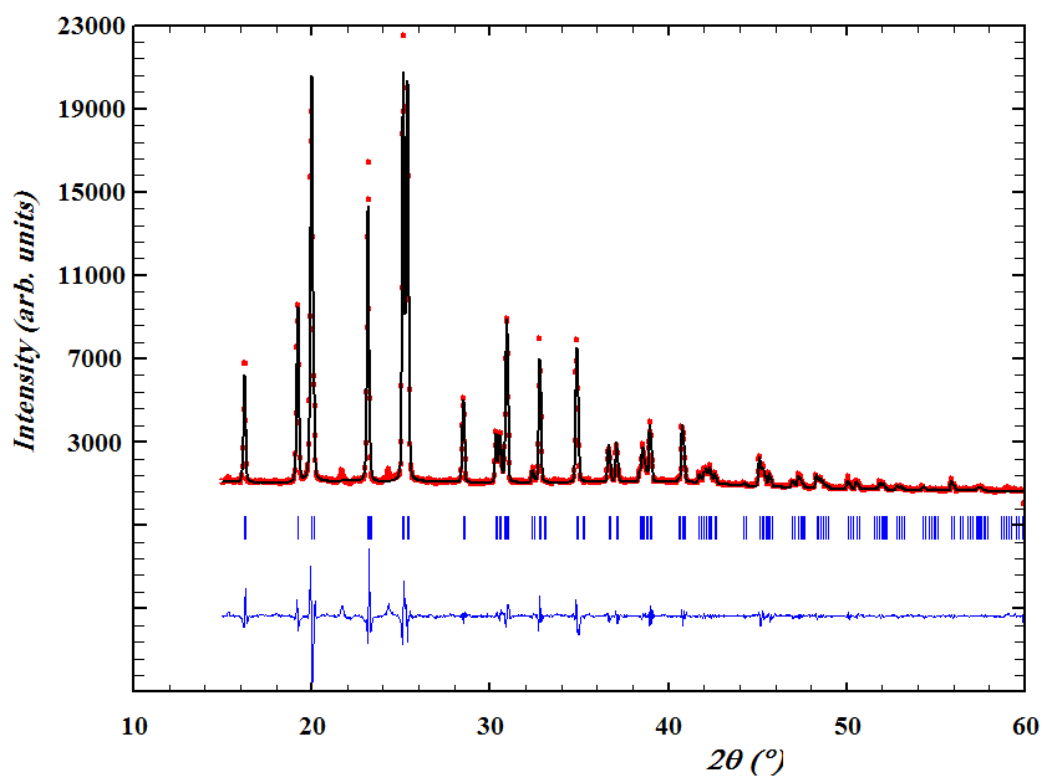




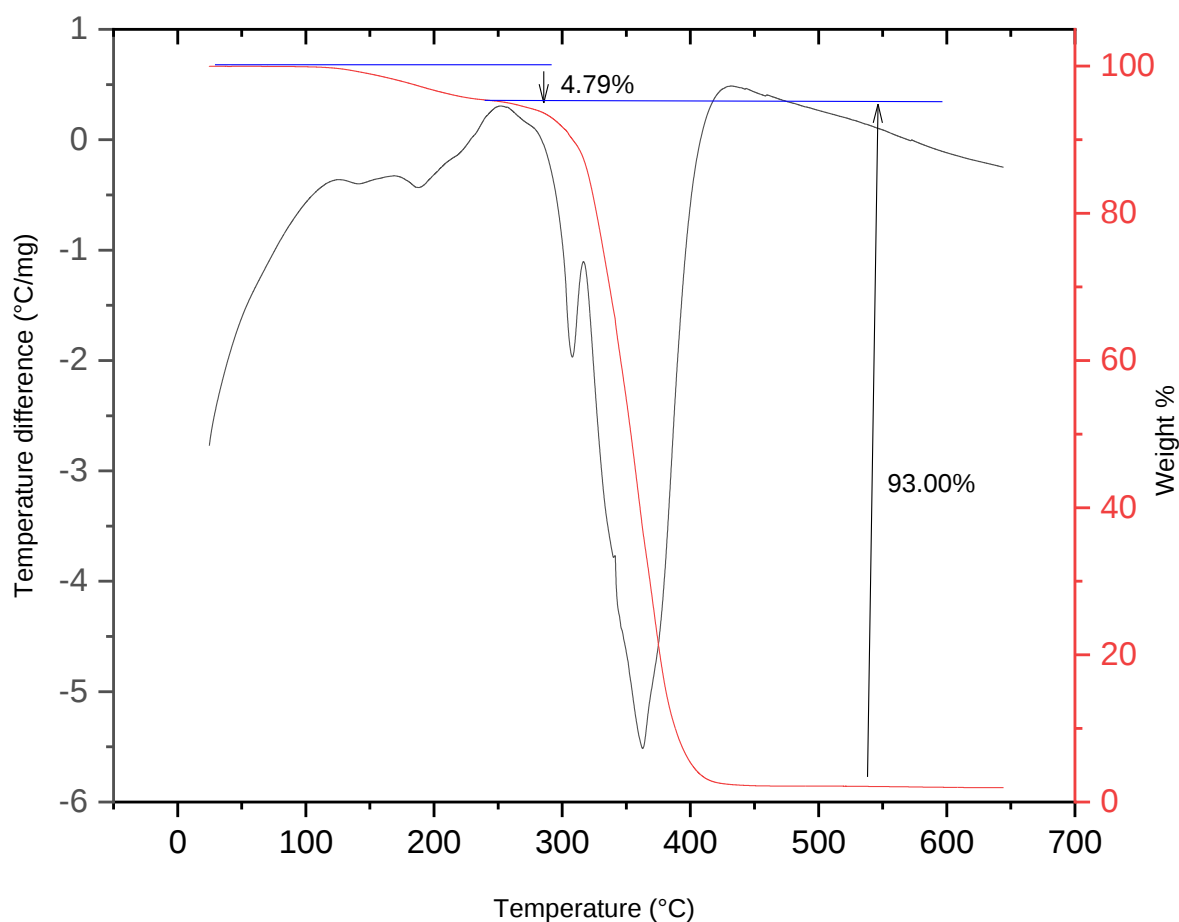
**Fig. S3:** DTA and TGA curves of  $[H_3tren] \cdot (BF_4)_3$



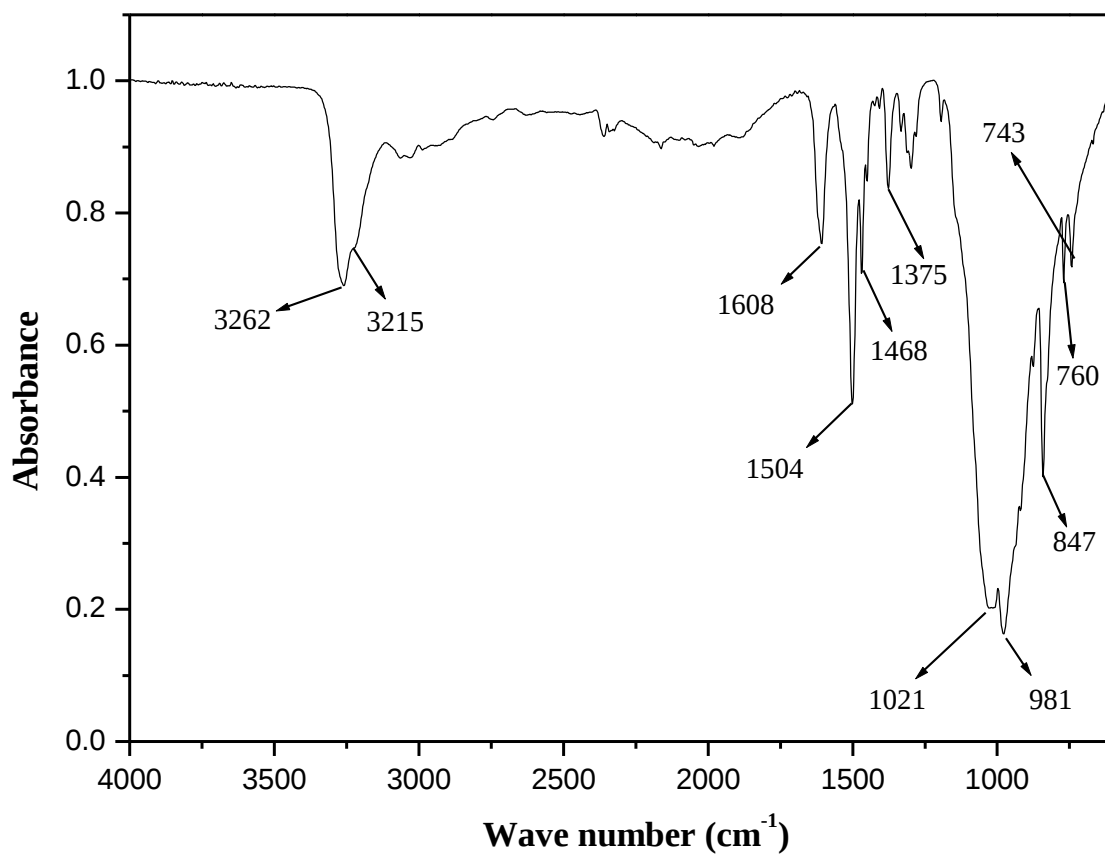
**Fig. S4:** Infra-red absorption spectrum of  $[H_3tren](BF_4)_3$



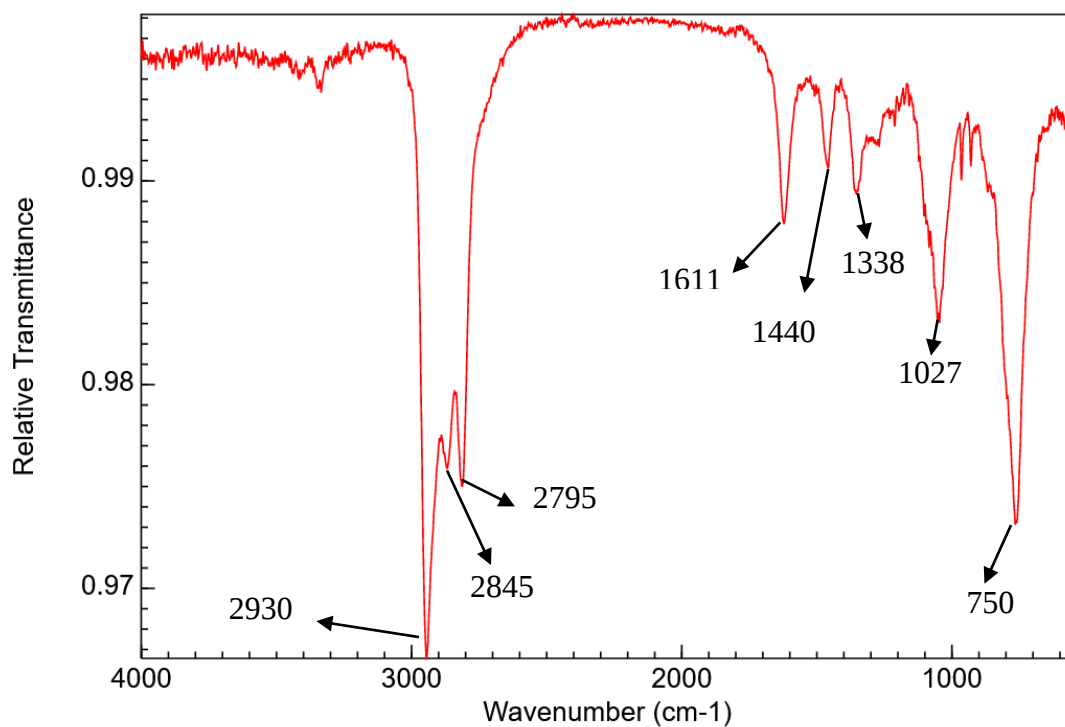
**Fig. S5:** X-ray diffraction patterns simulation, in Full pattern matching mode, of  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}] \cdot (\text{BF}_4)_3 \cdot \text{HF}$  phase, experimental (red) calculated (black) and difference (blue).



**Fig. S6:** DTA and TGA curves of  $[\text{H}_3\text{tren}] \cdot (\text{BF}_4)_3 \cdot \text{HF}$



**Fig. S7:** Infra-red absorption spectrum of  $[H_3tren] \cdot (BF_4)_3 \cdot HF$



**Fig. S8:** Infra-red absorption spectrum of tris-(2-aminoethyl)amine (tren)  
(from <https://webbook.nist.gov/cgi/cbook.cgi?ID=C4097896&Mask=80>)