# Carborane-Based Pincers: Synthesis and Structure of SeBSe and SBS Pd(II)

## Complexes

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#### **1. Synthetic and characterization methods and procedures.**

All reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of nitrogen using standard Schlenk techniques and dry solvents; work-up and all post-reaction manipulations were done at ambient conditions, unless specifically noted otherwise. Solvents were purified by standard procedures. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and used as received. All reagents were used as received from Aldrich Chemical Company. **2** and **3** were prepared according to previously published literature procedures.<sup>\*S1-2</sup> All NMR spectra were recorded Bruker Advance 400MHz. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were referenced to residual proton resonances in deuterated solvents. <sup>11</sup>B and <sup>77</sup>Se NMR were referenced to BF<sub>3</sub>-etherate and Me<sub>2</sub>Se standards respectively. Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were recorded on an Agilent ESI-MS MSD1100 mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses (C, H, Cl) were performed by Quantitative Technologies (Intertek), Whitehouse, NJ.

<sup>\*</sup>NMR data for compound **3** (not reported in ref. 2):  $({}^{1}H NMR (400.1 MHz, CD_2Cl_2, 25 °C, TMS): \delta$ 4.2−1.1 (bm, 10 H, B-Hs), 3.72 (s, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>−Br); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.6 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 73.7 (cage C), 32.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>-Br); <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} (128.53 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>-ether): δ -6.2 (s, 2B), -10.9 (s, 6B), -13.3 (s, 2B).)

Compounds **4**: 0.64 g (2.05 mmols) of diphenyldiselenide was dissolved in 15 mL of anhydrous EtOH in a 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with magnetic stir bar at room temperature. Approximately 175mg of NaBH4 was added slowly to a reaction mixture kept under stream of nitrogen. After 5 minutes reduction of diselenide was complete (disappearance of yellow color). 660 mg (2 mmols) of **3** was dissolved in 5 mL of anhydrous EtOH, degassed, and subsequently added to the flask with selenide via syringe. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 18 hours, the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residual oily substance was extracted with dichloromethane and brine. The organic layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and chromatographed on a silica column with petroleum ether/benzene  $(8/2)$  mixture to yield analytically pure 4  $(0.7 \text{ g}, 72%)$  as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(400.1 \text{ MHz},$ CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 7.51 (m, 4H), δ 7.29 (m, 6H) δ 4.2–1.1 (bm, 10 H, B-Hs), 3.44 (s, 4 H, CH2−Se); 13C{1 H} NMR (100.6 MHz, CD2Cl2, 25 °C, TMS): δ 133.5 (aromatic **C**H), 130.6 (aromatic **C**Se), 129.9 (aromatic **C**H), 128.3 (aromatic **C**H), δ 75.9 (cage **C**), 33.5 (**C**H2-Se); <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} (128.53 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>-ether): δ -6.7 (s, 2B), -10.9 (s, 6B), -13.2 (s, 2B); <sup>77</sup>Se NMR (76.34 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, Me<sub>2</sub>Se):  $\delta$  354.1 (s). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>B<sub>10</sub>Se<sub>2</sub>: C, 39.84; H, 5.01. Found: C, 39.93; H, 4.93.

Compound **5**: 335 mg (0.75 mmol) of Pd(CH3CN)4[BF4]2 was added to 360 mg (0.75 mmols) of **4** in 3 mL of CH3CN; the mixture was refluxed under nitrogen for 24 hours. The resulting yellowish compound was cooled to room temperature and 2eq of (<sup>*n*</sup>Bu)<sub>4</sub>NCl in 2mL of dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN was added. After 10 mins, a precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with methanol, redissolved in dichloromethane, and filtered through a layer of celite. The organic filtrate was evaporated *in vacuo* to yield crude product. Further recrystallization from the dichloromethane/pentane mixture yielded analytically pure **5** as a tan yellow solid (355 mg, 76%). Single crystals of X-Ray quality were grown by slow evaporation from dichloromethane in a NMR tube. ESI-MS: m/z (positive mode) 1210  $[2M+C1]^+$  and m/z (negative mode) 659  $[M+C1]^+$ . <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 8.03 (bs, 4H), δ 7.48 (bs, 6H) δ 4.2–1.1 (bm, 9H, B-Hs), 3.9 (b, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>–Se); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (74.49 MHz, DMF, 25 °C, TMS): δ 134.3 (aromatic **C**H), 130.8 (aromatic **C**H), 130.3(aromatic CH), 84 (b, C-cage), 45 (b, CH<sub>2</sub>Se); <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} (128.53 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>ether):  $\delta$  -0.7 (s, 1B), -3 to -18 (bm, 9B). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{16}H_{23}B_{10}CIPdSe_2$ : C, 30.83; H, 3.72; Cl, 5.69. Found: C, 30.90; H, 3.72; Cl, 5.36.

Compund 6: 1 g (7 mmols) of *m*-carborane 1 was dissolved in 30 mL of dry  $Et<sub>2</sub>O$  in an oven-dried Schlenk flask. 9.4 mL of MeLi  $(1.6M \text{ in Et}_2O, 15 \text{ mmoles})$  was added dropwise to the mixture stirring on ice under nitrogen. The lithiation proceeded overnight at room temperature and was followed by the addition of 2.5g (15 mmoles)  $\alpha$ -chlorothioanisole dissolved in 5 mL of dry Et<sub>2</sub>O to the reaction stirred on ice. Reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours, then extracted with ethyl acetate and brine; the organic extract was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude product was chromatographed on a silica column eluted with petroleum ether to afford analytically pure **6**.  $(1.78g, 66\%)$ <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.13 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS):  $\delta$  7.5-7.1 (m, 10H), δ 3.36 (s, 4H) δ 3.2–1.5 (bm, 10H, B-Hs); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.62 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 135.8 (aromatic **C**H), 130.5 (aromatic **C**H), 129.7 (aromatic **C**H), 127.6 (aromatic **C**H), 75.8 (s, Ccage),  $\delta$  40.8 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>S); <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} (128.37 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>-ether):  $\delta$  -6.7 (s, 2B), -11.1 (s, 6B), -13.8 (s, 2B). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>B<sub>10</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 49.45; H, 6.23. Found: C, 49.65; H. 6.17.

Compound **7**: **6** was palladated in a similar fashion as ligand **4** on a 0.5 mmol scale to afford **7** in 71% yield. Single crystals of **7** were obtained in a similar fashion to **5**. ESI-MS: m/z (positive mode) 1023 [2M+Cl]<sup>+</sup> and m/z (negative mode) 564 [M+Cl]<sup>-</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.13 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 7.86 (m, 4ArH), δ 7.45 (m, 6ArH) δ 3.84−3.65 (dd, 4H, CH2), 3.1-1.0 (bm, 9H, cage-Hs); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.62 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 133.5 (aromatic CH), 132.0 (aromatic **CH**), 131.2 (aromatic CH), 130.4 (aromatic CH) 80.0 (s, C-cage),  $\delta$  54.1 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>S); <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} (128.53 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ , 25 °C, BF<sub>3</sub>-ether):  $\delta$  0.8 (s, 1B), -6.5 to -15 (bm, 9B). Anal. Calcd for C16H23B10S2PdCl: C, 36.30; H, 4.38; Cl, 6.70. Found: C, 36.28; H, 4.17; Cl, 7.07.

## **2. Crystallographic structure determination details of 5 and 7.**S3

(a) **5**:  $C_{16}H_{23}B_{10}CIPdSe_2$ ,  $M_r = 623.21$ , monoclinic, space group P2<sub>1</sub>/n, a = 12.4086(3) Å, b = 11.5587(2) Å, c = 16.2997(3) Å,  $\alpha = \gamma = 90^{\circ}$ ,  $\beta = 109.1730(10)^{\circ}$ , V = 2208.15 Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $\rho_{\text{caled}} =$ 1.875 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, F(000) = 1200, R(int) = 0.0383, goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 1.143$ ; the R values are R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0253 and wR<sup>2</sup> = 0.0642 (I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)); max/min Fourier map electron density = 0.786/-0.596 e Å<sup>-3</sup>.

(b) **7**:  $C_{16}H_{23}B_{10}CIPdS_2$ ,  $M_r = 623.21$ , orthorhombic, space group Pbca, a = 10.4063(4) Å, b = 15.4367(5) Å, c = 27.9230(10) Å,  $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90^{\circ}$ , V = 4485.5 (3) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 8,  $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.568$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $F(000) = 2112$ , R(int) = 0.1009, goodness-of-fit on  $F^2 = 1.239$ ; the R values are R<sub>1</sub> = 0.0495 and  $wR^2 = 0.1073$  (I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)); max/min Fourier map electron density = 1.167/-3.066 e<sup>-</sup> Å<sup>-3</sup>.

### **3. Computational details.**

DFT calculations on **5** were performed using the B3LYP and BP86 functionals with various basis sets. The presence of heavy atoms necessitated the use of effective core potentials (ECPs); calculations without ECPs were inconsistent. Table SI-1 shows the calculated HOMO-LUMO gap and Mulliken partial charges of the Pd, the boron bonded to the Pd, and the boron on the opposite side of the cage. As can be seen, the HOMO-LUMO energy gaps appear to be well-converged; however, we note the pernicious theoretical concern about the physical interpretation of such HOMO-LUMO gaps in DFT calculations. Firstly, DFT is a ground-state formulation, and, secondly, such a gap between non-interacting particles in DFT may not correspond to the physical gap. Additionally, the Mulliken partial charges on the various atoms are wildly variable. In all calculations, we see that the palladium is negatively charged, and the boron bonded to the palladium is relatively positively charged (compared to the other borons in the cage). The magnitudes of these Mulliken partial charges are not converged. Upgrading to Löwdin partial charges maintains these trends, improving consistency with respect to choice of basis set and ECP. Table SI-2 shows the

Löwdin partial charges for the same atoms under two basis set/ECP combinations. We thus recommend caution in the choice of functional and ECP and in the (quantitative) interpretation of the results.



## **Table SI-1.**



**Table SI-2.** 



**Figure SI-1.** Visual comparison between different geometry optimizations of **5**.





**Figure SI-2.** Calculated bonding orbitals of **5**, based on a B3LYP/LANL2DZ DFT calculation.



**Figure SI-3.** Molecular orbital plots of the **5** HOMO and LUMO, based on a B3LYP/LANL2DZ DFT

calculation.





S9







**S12** 



S<sub>13</sub>







S15











#### **5. References.**

- S1. Grafstein, D.; Dvorak, J. *Inorg. Chem.* **1963**, *2*, 1128-1122.
- S2. Zakharkin, L. I.; Kovredov, A. I.; Kazantsev, A. V.; Meiramov, M. G. *Zh. Obshch. Khim.* (*Russian Journal of General Chemistry*) **1981**, *51*, 357-361.
- S3. Sheldrick, G.M. SHELXTL Version 6.14; Bruker Analytical X-ray Instruments, Inc.: Madison, WI, 2003.
- S4. We performed a search in CCDC (ConQuest, vers. 5.29) for Pd-B bond, and obtained 61 hits. Out of these hits, only iminoboryl-Pd (Braunschweig, H.; Radacki, K.; Rais, D.; Uttinger, K. *Angew. Chem.* **2006**, *118*, 169-172) system (B-Pd – 1.958 Å) is significantly shorter.
- S5. Search in CCDC (ConQuest, vers. 5.29) has given no structures with PhSe-Pd-SePh pincer motif. A number of PhS-Pd-SPh structures, allowed for indirect comparison: Gerhardt et al*. Org. Chem.*, **2006**, *71*, 6333–6341 (Pd-Cl distance – 2.40 Å) and Van Koten et al. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **1999**, 2186-2188 (Pd-Cl distance – 2.36 Å).