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# Supporting Information

# 1-Alkali-metal-2-alkyl-1,2-dihydropyridines: Soluble Hydride Surrogates for Catalytic Dehydrogenative Coupling and Hydroboration Applications

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## 1-Alkali-metal-2-alkyl-1,2-dihydropyridines: soluble hydride surrogates for catalytic dehydrogenative coupling and hydroboration applications

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#### **General experimental considerations**

All reactions and manipulations were conducted under a protective argon atmosphere using either standard Schlenk techniques or an MBraun glove box fitted with a gas purification and recirculation unit. NMR experiments were conducted in J. Youngs tubes oven dried and flushed with Argon prior to use. Solvents were dried by heating to reflux over sodium benzophenone ketyl and then distilled under nitrogen prior to use. All other reagents were purchased commercially from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received. 1tLi,<sup>1</sup> 1tNa,<sup>2</sup> 1tK<sup>2</sup> and 2<sup>3</sup> were prepared as previously described or by slight variations thereof.

NMR Spectroscopy NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV3 or AV 400 MHz spectrometer operating at 400.13 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 128.38 MHz for <sup>11</sup>B, 155.47 MHz for <sup>7</sup>Li and 100.62 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C. All  $^{13}$ C spectra were proton decoupled.  $^{1}$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra were referenced against the appropriate solvent signal. <sup>7</sup>Li NMR spectra were referenced against LiCl in D<sub>2</sub>O at 0.00 ppm and <sup>11</sup>B spectra were reference against BF<sub>3</sub>⋅OEt<sub>2</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 0.00 ppm

X-ray Crystallography Crystallographic data were collected on Oxford Diffraction instruments with Mo Kα radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.71073 Å). Structures were solved using SHELXS-97<sup>4</sup> or OLEX2,<sup>5</sup> while refinement was carried out on F2 against all independent reflections by the full matrix least-squares method using the SHELXL-97 program or by the GaussNewton algorithm using OLEX2. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined using anisotropic thermal parameters. Selected crystallographic details and refinement details are provided in table S1. CCDC 1551225 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this structure. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.

#### **Catalytic dehydrocoupling procedure of dimethylamine borane with 2.5 mol% 1tLi**

Dimethylamineborane (59 mg, 1 mmol) and **1t**Li (3.6 mg 2.5 mol%) were placed in a J. Youngs NMR tube and dissolved in the desired deuterated solvent. The NMR tube was then heated for the prescribed period and the reaction monitored via <sup>1</sup>H, and <sup>11</sup>B spectroscopy.

The same procedure was used for **1t**Li∙AEE (7.6 mg 2.5 mol%), **1t**Na (4.0 mg 2.5 mol%), **1t**K (4.4 mg 2.5 mol%), **2** (6.1 mg, 1.25 %) and LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (1.0 mg, 2.5 mol%).

#### **Catalytic hydroboration procedure**

In a typical procedure the required substrate (0.5 mmol) was added to a J. Young NMR tube and dissolved in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> (0.5 mL) containing 10 mol% of the internal reference standard hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane and the NMR data recorded. HBPin (0.076 mL, 0.5 mmol) and then **1t**Li (3.6 mg, 5 mol%) were added and the reaction monitored by NMR spectroscopy.

Figure S1: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tLi in  $d_8$ -toluene (2.5 mol%) over 60 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S2: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tNa (2.5 mol%) in  $d_8$ -toluene over 72 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S3: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tK (2.5 mol%) in  $d_8$ -toluene over 144 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S4: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tLi (2.5 mol%) in  $d_{12}$ cyclohexane over 168 h. at 80 °C.



 $\overline{\phantom{a}8.0}$  $2.5$  $7.5$  $7.0$  $6.5$  $6.0$  $5.5$  $5.0$  $4.5$  $4.0$  $3.5$  $2.0$  $3.0$  $1.5$ 

ppm

Figure S5: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tLi (2.5 mol%) in  $d_8$ -thf over 360 h. at 65 °C.



**Figure S6:** Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with **1t**Li∙AEE (2.5 mol%) in *d*8 toluene over 120 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S7: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tLi (2.5 mol%) in  $d_5$ -pyridine over 5 h. at 80 °C.



**Figure S8:** <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} spectra of reaction between HNMe2∙BH<sup>3</sup> in *d*5-pyridine at 80 °C for 20 h. Reaction shows approximately 85 % HNMe<sub>2</sub>⋅BH<sub>3</sub> and 15% pyrine⋅BH<sub>3</sub> adduct.



Figure S9: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 2 (1.25 mol%) in  $d_5$ -pyridine over 5 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S10: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 2 (1.25 mol%) in  $d_8$ -toluene over 146 h. at 80 °C.





Figure S11: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with LiAlH<sub>4</sub> in *d*<sub>5</sub>-pyridine over 60 h. at 80 °C. In this experiment the resonance corresponding to (NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>BH is the main product after heating for 9 hours. Moreover, the starting material is fully consumed at this point. At this point the second product is minor but begins to increase with prolonged heating, indicating that the former (**III**) is transformed into the latter (**VI**).



Synthesis of **VI**: Dimethylamine borane (118 mg, 2 mmol) and LiAlH<sup>4</sup> (76 mg, 2 mmol) were dissolved in pyridine (4 mL). The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h and then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with three portions of THF (5 mL) and the filtrate was placed at -30 °C overnight. The resulting solid was washed with hexane and all volatiles subsequently removed from the filtrate affording **VI** as viscous white oil, 168 mg, 39% based upon dimethylamine borane.

Figure S12: Spectroscopic characterisation of VI in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 5.96 (4H, dt, DHP-C*H*,  $^3$ J<sub>H-H</sub> 8.0 Hz,  $^4$ J<sub>H-H</sub> 1.7 Hz), 4.53 (4H, dt, DHP-C*H*,  $^3$ J<sub>H-H</sub> 8.6 Hz,  $^3$ J<sub>H-</sub> <sup>H</sup> 3.4 Hz), 2.96 (4H m, DHP-C*H2*) and 2.31 ppm (6H, s, N*Me2*).







C NMR (C6D6): 130.2 (DHP –*C*H), 101.2 (DHP-*C*H), 39.1 (DHP-*C*H2) and 23.3 ppm (N*Me2*).



Figure S13: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tNa (2.5 mol%) in  $d_5$ -pyridine over 8 h. at 80 °C.



Figure S14: Catalytic dehydrocoupling of dimethylamine borane with 1tK (2.5 mol%) in  $d_5$ -pyridine over 7 h. at 80 °C.



**Figure S15:** Catalytic hydroboration of benzaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.30 (2H, d, H3), 7.17-7.09 (2H, m, H4), 7.08-7.02 (1H, m, H5), 4.95 (2H, s, H1) and 1.04 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.8 ppm (s, O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 140.0 (C2), 128.6 (C4), 127.6 (C5), 127.1 (C3), 82.7 (C6), 67.0  $(C1)$  and 24.7 ppm  $(CH_3)$ .

**Figure S16:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-methoxybenzaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in  $C_6D_6$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.66 (1H, d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H-H</sub> = 7.29 Hz, H3), 7.07 (1H, t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H-H</sub> = 8.12 Hz, H5), 6.89 (1H, t, <sup>3</sup> J*H-H* = 7.46 Hz, *H*4), 6.48 (1H, t, <sup>3</sup> J*H-H* = 8.18 Hz, *H*6), 5.29 (2H, s, H1), 3.24 (3H, s, OC*H*3) and 1.05 ppm (12H, s,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): 22.9 ppm (s, O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 156.8 (C7), 128.4 (C5), 127.5 (C3), 120.8 (C4), 110.1 (C6), 82.7  $(C8)$ , 62.6  $(C1)$ , 54.7  $(OCH<sub>3</sub>)$  and 24.7 ppm  $(CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**Figure S17:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-napthaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400.1 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 7.77 (1H, s, Ar-*H*), 7.62-7.56 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.39 (1H, d, Ar-*H*), 7.25-7.21 (2H, m, Ar-*H*), 5.10 (2H, s, H1) and 1.05 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.9 ppm (s, O*B*Pin).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 137.5 (quat Ar-*C*), 134.0 (quat Ar-*C*), 133.4 (quat Ar-*C*), 128.4 (Ar-*C*), 128.3 (Ar-*C*), 128.0 (Ar-*C*), 126.2 (Ar-*C*), 125.9 (Ar-*C*), 125.7 (Ar-*C*), 125.3 (Ar-*C*), 82.8 (C2), 67.1  $(C1)$  and 24.7 ppm  $(CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**Figure S18:** Catalytic hydroboration of ferrocene carboxaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in  $C_6D_6$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 4.74 (2H, s, H1), 4.20 (2H, t, H), 3.98 (5H, s, Cp ring), 3.95 (2H, t, H) and 1.07 ppm (12H, s,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.6 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 86.1 (C2), 82.6 (C6), 69.0 (C4), 68.8 (C5), 68.5 (C3), 63.4 (C1) and 24.8 ppm ( $CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**Figure S19:** Catalytic hydroboration of 4-bromobenzaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra

 $B<sub>1</sub>$ 



**<sup>1</sup>H NMR** (400.13 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 7.22 (2H, d, <sup>3</sup> J*H-H* = 8.31 Hz, Ar-H), 6.93 (2H, d, <sup>3</sup> J*H-H* = 8.31 Hz, Ar-H), 4.73 (2H, s, H1, C1) and 1.03 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.8 ppm (s, *B*Pin).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 138.9 (quat Ar-*C*), 131.7 (Ar-*C*), 128.7 (Ar-*C*), 121.5 (quat Ar-*C*), 82.9 (C2), 66.1 (C1) and 24.7 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**Figure S20:** Catalytic hydroboration of mesitaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 6.71 (2H, br s, H4), 4.99 (2H, s, H1), 2.34 (6H, s, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.10 (3H, s, p-CH<sub>3</sub>) and 1.03 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

<sup>11</sup>**B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 22.6 ppm (OBPin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 136.9 (quat Ar-C), 136.5 (quat Ar-C), 132.1 (quat Ar-C), 128.4 (Ar-C), 81.6 (C8), 60.6 (C1), 23.8 (CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin), 20.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>) and 18.7 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**Figure S21:** Catalytic hydroboration of benzophenone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.45 (4H, d, Ar-H), 7.09 (4H, t, Ar-H), 7.00 (2H, t, Ar-H), 6.43 (1H, s, H1) and 0.98 ppm (12H, s,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.9 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 143.9 (quat Ar-C), 128.6 (Ar-C), 127.5 (Ar-C), 127.0 (Ar-C), 82.8  $(C2)$ , 78.6  $(C1)$  and 24.6 ppm  $(CH_3$  of BPin).

**Figure S22:** Catalytic hydroboration of 4-iodoacetophenone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.43 (2H, d, Ar-H), 6.87 (2H, d, Ar-H), 5.21 (1H, q, H1), 1.32 (3H, d,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$ ) and 1.00 ppm (12H, d,  $CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.5 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 137.7 (Ar-C), 127.7 (Ar-C), 92.7 (quat Ar-C), 82.7 (C2), 72.3 (C1), 25.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>) and 24.7 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub> of Bpin).

**Figure S23:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2,2,2-trifluoroacetophenone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in  $C_6D_6$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.41-7.35 (2H, m, H), 7.06-6.99 (3H, m, H), 5.56 (1H, q, H) and 0.95 ppm (12H, d,  $CH_3$  of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.9 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 133.9 (quat Ar-C), 129.5 (Ar-C), 128.7 (Ar-C), 127.9 (Ar-C), 83.7  $(C2)$ , 75.1  $(C1)$  and 24.4 ppm  $(CH<sub>3</sub>$  of BPin).

**Figure S24:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-phenylacetophenone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 7.33 (2H, d, Ar-H), 7.16-7.10 (6H, m, Ar-H), 7.09-7.01 (2H, m, Ar-H), 5.47 (1H, q, H1), 3.08-2.89 (2H, m, H2) and 0.89 ppm (12H, d, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.1 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 143.7 (quat Ar-C), 138.7 (quat Ar-C), 130.3 (Ar-C), 128.5 (Ar-C), 128.4 (Ar-C), 127.6 (Ar-C), 126.5 (Ar-C), 126.3 (Ar-C), 82.5 (C3), 78.0 (C1), 46.6 (C2) and 24.5 ppm(CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**Figure S25:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-acetylferrocene with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 5.28 (1H, q, H), 4.34 (1H, m, H), 4.08 (1H, m, H), 4.06 (5H, s, Cp ring), 3.97-3.95 (2H, m, H), 1.49 (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>) and 1.09 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.5 ppm (O*B*Pin).

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 92.5 (quat Cp-*C*), 82.6 (C2), 69.3 (Cp ring), 68.0 (Cp-C), 67.5 (Cp-C), 66.1 (Cp-C), 24.8 (CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin) and 24.0 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**Figure S26:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-benzoylpyridine with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 8.29 (1H, d, Py-H), 7.52 (2H, d, Ar-H), 7.06 (2H, t, Ar-H), 6.98 (2H, m, Py-H), 6.89 (1H, d, Py-H), 6.59 (1H, t, Ar-H), 6.14 (1H, s, H1) and 1.28 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 16.2 ppm (O*B*Pin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 162.2 (quat Ar-C), 143.5 (Ar-C), 142.8 (quat Ar-C), 139.1 (Ar-C), 128.6 (Ar-C), 127.8 (Ar-C), 127.1 (Ar-C), 123.1 (Ar-C), 120.5 (Ar-C), 81.0 (C2), 78.7(C1), and 24.9 ppm(CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**Figure S27:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2,4,6-trimethylacetophenone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in  $C_6D_6$ 

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 6.73 (2H, br s, H4), 5.87 (1H, br s, H1), 2.48 (6H, br s, *o*-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.10  $(3H, br s, p-CH<sub>3</sub>)$ , 1.54 (3H, br s, CH<sub>3</sub>) and 0.99 ppm (12H, br s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.4 ppm (OBPin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 137.4 (quat Ar-C), 136.1 (quat Ar-C), 135.8 (quat Ar-C), 130.3 (Ar-C), 82.4 (C8), 70.3 (C1), 24.7 + 24.5 (CH<sup>3</sup> of BPin), 22.0 (CH3) and 20.8 ppm (*o-* + *p*-CH3).

**Figure S28:** Catalytic hydroboration of 2-butanone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>





<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 4.20 (1H, m, CH), 1.50 (1H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.37 (1H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.14 (3H, d, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.07 (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin) and 0.85 ppm (3H, t, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C6D6, 300K): δ 22.3 ppm (OBPin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 82.2 (quat C BPin), 72.2 (CHOBPin), 31.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>-BPin), 22.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>) and 10.1 ppm (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**Figure S29:** Catalytic hydroboration of di-*t*butylketone with HBPin using **1t**Li (5 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400.1 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 3.64 (1H, s, CH), 1.08 (18H, s, *t*Bu-CH<sub>3</sub>) and 1.02 ppm (12H, s, CH<sub>3</sub> of BPin).

<sup>11</sup>**B NMR** (128.38 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 22.3 ppm (OBPin).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100.62 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 300K): δ 88.6 (CHOBPin), 82.2 (quat C BPin), 37.7 (q C), 29,0 (CH<sub>3</sub>-tBu) and 24.7 ppm ( $CH<sub>3</sub>-BPin$ ).

# **Figure S30:** Catalytic hydroboration of benzaldehyde with HBPin using **1t**Li (1 mol%) in C6D<sup>6</sup>



**Figure S31:** Stoichiometric reaction of **It**Li with HBPin in toluene for 16 h. at room temperature.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra ( $d_6$ -benzene) of 1tLi and 1tBPin (aliquot of reaction mixture) showing replacement of Li (lost as LiH) for a BPin unit.



<sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of reaction product showing clear formation of a B-N species (**1t**BPin) due to loss of hydride attached to boron of HBPin.



**Figure S32:** In situ formation of **1t**BPin in toluene and reaction with benzophenone for 16 h. at room temperature. Initially HBPin and **1t**BPin are present. Addition of benzophenone results in slow and incomplete formation of hydroboration product. (Catalytic reaction reaches completion in 1 hour.



**Reaction between pyridine and HBPin:** HBPin (0.58 ml 4 mmol) was stirred in excess pyridine (2 mL) for four hours at room temperature. After storage at -30 °C a crop of colourless crystals corresponding to **3** were obtained. Yield 0.447g 58%.

Crystalline **3** decomposed slightly overtime in an inert atmosphere glovebox.

**Figure S33:** Characterisation of partially decomposed **3**



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## **Table S1 Crystallographic data and refinement details for 3**



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