Electronic Supplementary Information for: Bis(alkylidynyl)phosphines and arsines

Benjamin J. Frogley^[a] and Anthony F. Hill^{[a][b]}

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Experimental

Unless otherwise stated, experimental work was carried out at room temperature under a dry and oxygen-free nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques with dried and degassed solvents.

NMR spectra were obtained at 25 °C on a Bruker Avance 400 (¹H at 400.1 MHz, ¹³C{¹H} at 100.6 MHz, ¹⁹F{¹H} at 376.5 MHz), a Bruker Avance 600 (¹H at 600.0 MHz, ¹³C{¹H} at 150.9 MHz) or a Bruker Avance 700 (1H at 700.0 MHz, 13C at 176.1 MHz) spectrometers. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in ppm and referenced to the solvent peak with coupling constants given in Hz, or external references (CFCI₃ for ${}^{19}F{}^{1}H$, 85% H₃PO₄ for ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$). The multiplicities of NMR resonances are denoted by the abbreviations s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet), br (broad) and combinations thereof for more highly coupled systems. Where applicable, the stated multiplicity refers to that of the primary resonance exclusive of ¹⁸³W satellites. In some cases, distinct peaks were observed in the ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra, but to the level of accuracy that is reportable (i.e. 2 decimal places for ¹H NMR, 1 decimal place for ¹³C NMR) they are reported as having the same chemical shift. The abbreviation 'pz' is used to refer to the pyrazolyl rings on the hydridotris(3,5-dimethylpyrazol-1-yl)borate (Tp*) ligand. Spectra provided generally correspond to samples obtained directly from chromatography and may contain residual solvent as recrystallised samples often display reduced solubility.

Infrared spectra were obtained using a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrometer. The strengths of IR absorptions are denoted by the abbreviations vs (very strong), s (strong), m (medium), w (weak), sh (shoulder) and br (broad). Elemental microanalytical data were provided the London Metropolitan University. High-resolution electrospray ionisation mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) was performed by the ANU Research School of Chemistry mass spectrometry service with acetonitrile or methanol as the matrix.

Data for X-ray crystallography were collected with an Agilent Xcalibur CCD diffractomer using Mo-K α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å) or an Agilent SuperNova CCD diffractometer using Cu-K α radiation (λ =

1.54184 Å) using the CrysAlis PRO software.^[1] The structures were solved by direct or Patterson methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F^2 using the SHELXS and SHELXL programs.^[2] Hydrogen atoms were located geometrically and refined using a riding model. Diagrams were produced using the CCDC visualisation program Mercury.^[3]

The bromocarbyne complexes [Mo(\equiv CBr)(CO)₂(Tp^{*})] (**1a**) and [W(\equiv CBr)(CO)₂(Tp^{*})] (**1b**), have been described previously.^[4] The syntheses of PhP{C \equiv W(CO)₂(Tp^{*})}₂ (**2b**) and CyP{C \equiv W(CO)₂(Tp^{*})}₂ (**3b**) have also been previously reported.^[5] CAUTION: the arsenic reagents (AsCl₂Ph, AsCl₂Me, AsCl₃) utilized herein are extremely toxic and can prove lethal if mishandled.

Synthesis of PhP{C=Mo(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (2a). A solution of 1a (200 mg, 0.370 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (230 µL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.37 mmol). The resulting orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with PCl₂Ph (25.0 µL, 0.184 mmol), causing the solution to immediately turn dark red. The mixture was slowly warmed to RT over the course of 1 h, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with n-hexane followed by 20% v/v CH₂Cl₂/n-hexane. A red band was collected and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure. The resulting red powder was dried in vacuo to give a red solid of pure 2a (136 mg, 0.132 mmol, 71%). This compound was previously reported but was not obtained analytically pure and only partial spectroscopic data were provided.^[5] IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 2001s, 1993s, 1916s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 2.30 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 2.32 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.33 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.38 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 5.71 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.73 (s, 4 H, pzH), 7.34-7.45 (m, 3 H, PPh), 7.83 (t, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 8.1 Hz, 2 H, PPh). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.5, 12.7 (2 C, coincident) 14.3, 15.8 (2 C, coincident) (pzCH₃), 105.9, 106.2 (pzCH), 128.4 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP} = 8.2, m-Ph$)), 129.9 (*p-Ph*), 133.2 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP} = 8.7, P(i-Ph)$), 133.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP}$ = 20.2, *o-Ph*)), 144.0, 144.9, 151.1, 151.3 (pzCCH₃), 227.2 (CO), 296.2 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 92 Hz, Mo=C). ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 79.0 (s). MS (ESI, *m/z*): 1032.2064. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{50}^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4P^{98}Mo_2$ [M + H]⁺: 1032.2113. Anal. Found: C, 48.88; H, 4.79; N, 16.25. Calcd for C₄₂H₄₉B₂Mo₂N₁₂O₄P: C, 48.96; H, 4.79; N, 16.31%.

Synthesis of CyP{C=Mo(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (3a). A solution of 1a (250 mg, 0.462 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with *n*-BuLi (0.289 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.46 mmol). The resulting dark orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with PCl₂Cy (35.5 μ L, 0.231 mmol), causing the solution to immediately turn red. Stirring was continued for 30 min, after which time the solution was warmed to RT and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with *n*-hexane and gradually increasing to 20% v/v CH₂Cl₂/*n*-hexane. A red band was collected and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure to give pure **3a** (129 mg, 0.124)

[[]a] Dr. B. J. Frogley, Prof A. F. Hill. Research School of Chemistry,

Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.

[[]b] Corresponding author. E-mail: a.hill@anu.edu.au.

mmol, 54%) as red microcrystals. IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1998s, 1988s, 1911s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 1.30-1.95 (m, 8 H, Cy), 2.20 – 2.29 (m, 2 H, Cy), 2.31 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.32 (s, 18 H, pzCH₃), 2.37 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 2.53 - 2.65 (m, 1 H, Cy), 5.64 (s, 4 H, pzH), 5.69 (s, 2 H, pzH). $^{13}\mathrm{C}\{^{1}\mathrm{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.7, 12.9, 14.6, 15.9 (pzCH₃), 26.2 $(C^{4}(Cy)), 27.0 \text{ (d}, {}^{2,3}J_{CP} = 11.7, C^{2,3,5,6}(Cy)), 30.7 \text{ (d}, {}^{2,3}J_{CP} = 14.0$ Hz, $C^{2,3,5,6}(Cy)$), 41.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 11.6, $C^{1}(Cy)$), 106.1, 106.4 (pzCH), 143.9, 145.1, 151.3, 151.4 (pzCCH₃), 228.1 (CO), 303.1 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 93 Hz, Mo=CP). ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H{}$ NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 91.6. MS (ESI, m/z): 1059.2402. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{55}N_{12}O_4^{11}B_2^{98}Mo_2PNa \ [M + Na]^+: 1059.2430.$ Anal. Found: C, 48.82; H, 5.43; N, 16.11. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{55}B_2Mo_2N_{12}O_4P$: C, 48.67; H, 5.25; N, 16.22%. Crystals used for X-ray structure determination were grown by slow evaporation of a dichloromethane/ethanol solution and that selected was found to contain 0.75 equivalents of dichloromethane of solvation. Crystal data for $C_{42}H_{55}B_2Mo_2N_{12}O_4P\cdot 0.75CH_2Cl_2$ ($M_w = 1100.14 \text{ gmol}^{-1}$): triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2), a = 10.6555(4), b = 12.0934(4), c = 21.6561(7) Å, $\alpha = 84.805(3)$, $\beta = 77.532(3)$, $\gamma = 67.728(3)^{\circ}$, $V = 2521.42(16) \text{ Å}^3$, Z = 2, T = 150.0(2) K, $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 0.661 \text{ mm}^-$ ¹, D_{calc} = 1.449 Mgm⁻³, 24,775 reflections measured (6.80° ≤ 2Θ \leq 59.73°), 11,909 unique ($R_{\rm int}$ = 0.0254, $R_{\rm sigma}$ = 0.0426) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0376 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR₂ was 0.0888 (all data) for 615 refined parameters with 0 restraints. CCDC 1835465.

Synthesis of CH₃P{C=W(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (4). A solution of 1b (250 mg, 0.398 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (0.25 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.40 mmol). The resulting brown solution was stirred for 30 min at reduced temperature then treated with PCI_3 (17.5 μ L, 0. 201 mmol). The solution was warmed to RT and the resulting red solution stirred for 60 min, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in THF (5 mL) and treated with MeLi (0.125 mL, 1.6 M in diethyl ether, 0.20 mmol), causing the mixture to turn dark orange. Stirring was continued for 1 h, the volatiles were removed in vacuo, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (30 x 1 cm silica gel column), eluting with petroleum ether (40-60 °C) with gradually increasing amounts of CH2Cl2. An orange band was collected with 40% v/v CH₂Cl₂/petrol and was dried under reduced pressure to give a bright orange solid of spectroscopically pure 4 (107 mg, 0.0944 mmol, 47%). A second chromatography step using the same conditions was necessary to provide an analytically pure product. IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1983s, 1972s, 1889s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 1.69 (d, ${}^{3}J_{HP}$ = 2.3 Hz, 3 H, PCH₃), 2.30 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.36 (s, 24 H, pzCH₃), 2.37 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 5.73 (s, 6 H, pzH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^{1}\text{H}\}$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3, 25 °C, $\delta)$: 11.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 15, PCH₃), 12.7, 12.8, 15.2, 16.7 (pzCH₃), 106.3, 106.7 (pzCH), 144.0, 145.2, 152.1, 152.5 (pzCCH₃), 224.0, 225.4 (s, CO), 290.0 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 77, ${}^{1}J_{CW}$ = 188 Hz, W=CP). ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 56.3 (² J_{PW} = 73 Hz). MS (ESI, *m*/*z*): 1145.2874. Calcd for $C_{37}H_{48}^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4P^{184}W_2$ [M + H]⁺: 1145.2869. Anal. Found: C, 39.02; H, 4.03; N, 14.58. Calcd for $C_{37}H_{47}B_2N_{12}O_4PW_2$: C, 38.84; H, 4.14; N, 14.69%.

Synthesis of "BuP{C=W(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (5). A solution of 1b (250 mg, 0.398 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with *n*-BuLi (0.25 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.40 mmol). The resulting brown solution was stirred for 30 min at reduced temperature then treated with PCl₃ (17.5 μ L, 0.20 mmol). The solution was warmed to RT and the resulting red solution stirred for 60 min,

after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in THF (5 mL) and treated with n-BuLi (0.125 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.200 mmol), causing the mixture to turn dark orange. Stirring was continued for 1 h, the volatiles were removed in vacuo, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (30 x 1 cm silica gel column), eluting with petroleum ether (40-60 °C) with gradually increasing amounts of CH₂Cl₂. An orange band was collected with 30% v/v CH₂Cl₂/petrol and was freed of volatiles under reduced pressure to give and orange solid of pure 5 (168 mg, 0.142 mmol, 71%). IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1982s, 1971s, 1888s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 0.99 (t, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.3, 3 H, PCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 1.55 (tq appearing as a sextet, ${}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.4$ Hz, 2 H, PCH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.71–1.82 (m, 2 H, PCH₂CH₂), 2.22 (td, ³J_{HH} = 7.2, ${}^{3}J_{HP}$ = 1.5 Hz, 2 H, PCH₂), 2.31 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.32 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 2.38 (s, 18 H, pzCH₃), 5.70 (s, 4 H, pzH), 5.74 (s, 2 H, pzH). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.7, 12.8 $(pzCH_3)$, 13.9 $(P(CH_2)_3CH_3)$, 15.2, 16.6 $(pzCH_3)$, 24.3 $(d, {}^{3}J_{CP} =$ 14 Hz, PCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 28.7 (d, ¹J_{CP} = 14 Hz, PCH₂), 29.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ = 15 Hz, PCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 106.3, 106.7 (pzCH), 143.9, 145.2, 152.1, 152.4 (pzCCH₃), 225.5 (br, CO), 290.2 (d, ${}^{1}J_{CP}$ = 75.4, ¹*J*_{CW} = 188 Hz, W≡CP). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 69.7 (² J_{PW} = 68 Hz). MS (ESI, *m*/*z*): 1187.3347. Calcd for $C_{40}H_{54}{}^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4P{}^{184}W_2\ [M\ +\ H]^+:\ 1187.3361.$ Anal. Found: C, 40.39; H, 4.67; N, 14.05. Calcd for C₄₀H₅₃B₂N₁₂O₄PW₂: C, 40.50; H, 4.50; N, 14.17%. A crystal suitable for X-ray structure determination was grown by slow evaporation of a CH₂Cl₂/ethanol solution and proved to be a dichloromethane solvate. Crystal data for C₄₁H₅₅B₂Cl₂N₁₂O₄PW₂ (*M*_w =1271.16 gmol⁻¹): monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$ (no. 14), a =11.4608(3), b =19.9952(6), *c* = 21.5347(6) Å, β = 91.254(2)°, V = 4933.7(2) Å³, Z = 4, T = 150.0(1) K, μ (Cu K α) = 10.220 mm⁻¹, D_{calc} = 1.711 Mgm⁻³, 38,238 reflections measured $(8.21^{\circ} \le 2\Theta \le 133.17^{\circ})$, 8,724 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0680$, $R_{sigma} =$ 0.0559) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0397 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.1047 (all data) for 643 refined parameters with 120 restraints. CCDC 1835466.

Synthesis of PhAs{C=Mo(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (6a). A solution of 1a (250 mg, 0.462 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (0.290 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.46 mmol). The resulting dark orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl₂Ph (31 µL, 51 mg, 0.23 mmol), causing the solution to turn orange-brown. The solution was slowly warmed to RT and stirring was continued for 3 h, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with *n*-hexane and gradually increasing to 10% v/v CH₂Cl₂/nhexane. An orange band was collected and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure to give pure 6a (142 mg, 0.132 mmol, 57%) as orange microcrystals. IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 2002s, 1995s, 1916s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 2.24 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.30 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.31 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.32 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.36 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 5.68 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.69 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.71 (s, 2 H, pzH), 7.31-7.42 (m, 3 H, AsPh), 7.81-7.86 (m, 2 H, AsPh). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.7, 12.9 (2 C, coincident) 14.6, 16.1 (2 C, coincident) (pzCH₃), 106.1, 106.1, 106.4 (pzCH), 128.7 (p-Ph), 128.8 (o,m-Ph), 133.7 (o,m-Ph), 140.1 (i-Ph), 144.2, 145.1, 151.3, 151.4 (pzCCH₃), 226.8, 227.6 (CO), 308.3 (Mo≡CAs). MS (ESI, m/z): 1076.1538. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{50}As^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4^{94}Mo_2$ [M + H]⁺: 1076.1591. Anal. Found: C, 46.76; H, 4.68; N, 15.69. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{49}AsB_2N_{12}O_4Mo_2$: C, 46.95; H, 4.60; N, 15.65%. The crystal used for single crystal X-ray structure determination was grown by slow evaporation of a CH₂Cl₂/ethanol mixture. The structure was complicated by a small amount of full-molecule disorder, for which only the heaviest (molybdenum and arsenic) atoms could be identified from the minor component. These were refined to a 10%. partial occupancy of ca. Crystal data for $C_{42}H_{49}AsB_2Mo_2N_{12}O_4$ ($M_w = 1074.35$ gmol⁻¹): triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2), a = 11.5185(4), b = 13.0665(6), c =100.329(3), $\gamma =$ 17.5152(6) Å, α = 92.370(3), β = 108.935(4)°, $V = 2439.02(17) Å^3$, Z = 2, T = 150.0(1) K, μ (Cu $K\alpha$) = 5.385 mm⁻¹, D_{calc} = 1.463 Mgm⁻³, 14,328 reflections measured (5.16° $\leq 2\Theta \leq$ 144.26°), 9,240 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0263$, R_{sigma} = 0.0527) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0435 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.1170 (all data) for 607 refined parameters with 72 restraints. CCDC 1835467.

Synthesis of PhAs{C=W(CO)2(Tp*)}2 (6b). Method 1: A solution of 1b (250 mg, 0.398 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with *n*-BuLi (0.25 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.40 mmol). The resulting yellow-orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl_2Ph (27 $\mu\text{L},$ 45 mg, 0.20 mmol), causing the solution to turn orange-brown. The solution was slowly warmed to RT and stirring was continued for 3 h, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with n-hexane and gradually increasing to 20% v/v CH₂Cl₂/n-hexane. A yellow band was collected from which the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give yellow microcrystals of pure 6b (165 mg, 0.132 mmol, 66%). Method 2: A solution of 1b (200 mg, 0.318 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with *n*-BuLi (200 µL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.32 mmol). The resulting yellow-orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl₃ (13 μ L, 28 mg, 0.16 mmol), causing the solution to turn orange-red. Stirring was continued for 30 min at reduced temperature, after which time PhLi (100 µL, 1.9 M in dibutyl ether, 0.16 mmol) was added, causing the solution to turn yellow-brown. Stirring was continued for 30 min at RT and then the volatiles were removed in vacuo. Column chromatography under the same conditions as Method 1 gave pure 6b (49.0 mg, 0.0392 mmol, 25%). IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1986s, 1977s, 1892s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 2.19 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.30 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.31 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.37 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.38 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.39(s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 5.71 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.73 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.75 (s, 2 H, pzH), 7.29–7.32 (tt, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.3 Hz, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 1.3, 1 H, *p-Ph*), 7.39 (tt, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.1 Hz, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 1.3, 2 H, m-*Ph*), 7.83 (dt, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 7.0, ${}^{4}J_{HH}$ = 1.3 Hz, 2 H, o-*Ph*). ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$ NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.7, 12.8 (2 C, coincident) 15.2, 16.7 (2 C, coincident) (pzCH₃), 106.3, 106.4, 106.7 (pzCH), 128.2 (p-Ph), 128.5 (m-Ph), 133.5 (o-Ph), 141.2 (i-Ph), 144.0, 144.1, 145.2, 152.2, 152.4 (pzCCH₃), 224.7 (CO, ${}^{1}J_{CW}$ = 159.9), 226.3 (CO, ${}^{1}J_{CW}$ = 160.3), 295.1 (W=CAs, ${}^{1}J_{CW}$ = 194 Hz). MS (ESI, *m*/z): 1251.2487. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{49}As^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4^{194}W_2$ [M + H]⁺: 1251.2499. Anal. Found: C, 40.26; H, 3.97; N, 13.29. Calcd for $C_{42}H_{49}AsB_2N_{12}O_4W_2$: C, 40.35; H, 3.95; N, 13.44%. Crystals suitable for X-ray structure determination were grown by slow evaporation of a CH₂Cl₂/cyclohexane solution. The structure was complicated by a small amount of full-molecule disorder.

Only the heaviest (tungsten) atoms could be identified from the minor component, which were refined to a partial occupancy of *ca*. 5.3%. Crystal data for C₄₂H₄₉AsB₂N₁₂O₄W₂ (*M* =1250.17 gmol⁻¹): triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2), *a* = 11.5217(2) Å, *b* = 13.0117(2) Å, *c* = 17.5872(3) Å, *α* = 92.1520(10)°, *β* = 100.361(2)°, *γ* = 109.048(2)°, *V* = 2438.44(8) Å³, *Z* = 2, *T* = 150.0(1) K, μ (CuK α) = 9.766 mm⁻¹, *Dcalc* = 1.703 Mgm⁻³, 54807 reflections measured (5.136° ≤ 2 Θ ≤ 144.06°), 9468 unique (*R*_{int} = 0.0503, R_{sigma} = 0.0345) which were used in all calculations. The final *R*₁ was 0.0369 (I > 2 σ (I)) and *wR*₂ was 0.0939 (all data) for 597 refined parameters with 0 restraints. CCDC 1835468.

Synthesis of CH₃As{C≡Mo(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (7a). A solution of 1a (200 mg, 0.370 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (230 µL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.37 mmol). The resulting orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl₂Me (16 µL, 29 mg, 0.18 mmol), causing the solution to turn orangebrown. The solution was slowly warmed to RT and stirring was continued for 2 h, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with petroleum ether (40-60 °C) and gradually increasing to 20% v/v CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether. A yellow band was collected and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure to give pure 7a (113 mg, 0.112 mmol, 60%) as yellow-orange microcrystals. IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1999s, 1991s, 1911s v(CO). ¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 1.72 (s, 3 H, AsCH₃), 2.30 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.34 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.36 (2 x s overlapping, 18 H, pzCH₃), 2.39 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 5.70 (s, 4 H, pzH), 5.72 (s, 2 H, pzH). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.0 (AsCH₃), 12.7, 12.9 (2 C, coincident), 14.6, 16.1 (2 C, coincident) (pzCH₃), 106.0, 106.1, 106.4 (pzCH), 144.1, 144.2, 145.1, 151.0, 151.2, 151.4 (pzCCH₃), 226.4, 227.3 (CO), 313.0 (Mo≡C). MS (ESI, *m/z*): 1013.1473. Calcd for $C_{37}H_{47}As^{11}B_2N_{12}O_4^{94}Mo_2$ [M + H]⁺: 1013.1461. Anal. Found: C, 43.78; H, 4.67; N, 16.49. Calcd for C₃₇H₄₇AsB₂N₁₂O₄Mo₂: C, 43.90; H, 4.68; N, 16.60%.

Synthesis of CH₃As{C=W(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (7b). Method 1: A solution of 1b (200 mg, 0.318 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with *n*-BuLi (200 µL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.32 mmol). The resulting yellow-orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl₂Me (14 µL, 26 mg, 0.16 mmol), causing the solution to turn orange-brown. The solution was slowly warmed to RT and stirring was continued for 2 h, after which time the volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residue was subjected to column chromatography (20 x 3 cm silica gel column), eluting initially with petroleum ether (40-60 °C) and gradually increasing to 40% v/v CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether. A yellow band was collected and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure to give pure 7b (146 mg, 0.123 mmol, 77%) as yellow microcrystals. Method 2: A solution of 1b (200 mg, 0.318 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (200 µL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.32 mmol). The resulting yellow-orange solution was stirred for 30 min then treated with AsCl₃ (13 $\mu L,$ 28 mg, 0.16 mmol), causing the solution to turn orange-red. Stirring was continued for 30 min at reduced temperature, after which time MeLi (100 μ L, 1.6 M in diethyl ether, 0.16 mmol) was added, causing the solution to turn yellow-brown. Stirring was continued for 30 min at RT and the volatiles were then removed in vacuo. Column chromatography under the same conditions as method 1 gave pure **7b** (41.5 mg, 0.0350 mmol, 22%). IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1983s,

1974s, 1888s v(CO). ¹H NMR (700 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 1.63 (s, 3 H, AsCH₃), 2.29 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.36 (2 x s overlapping, 18 H, pzCH₃), 2.38 (s, 12 H, pzCH₃), 5.72 (s, 4 H, pzH), 5.74 (s, 2 H, pzH). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (176 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 11.8 (AsCH₃), 12.7, 12.8, (2 C, coincident), 15.2, 16.8, 17.0 (pzCH₃), 106.2, 106.4, 106.7 (pzCH), 144.0, 144.1, 145.2, 151.8, 152.0, 152.5 (pzCCH₃), 224.4, 225.6 (CO), 299.8 (¹J_{CW} = 188 Hz, W≡C). MS (ESI, *m*/z): 1189.2374. Calcd for C₃₇H₄₈As¹¹B₂N₁₂O₄¹⁸⁴W₂ [M + H]⁺: 1189.2369. Anal. Found: C, 37.36; H, 4.00; N, 14.12. Calcd for C₃₇H₄₇AsB₂N₁₂O₄W₂: C, 37.40; H, 3.99; N, 14.15%.

Synthesis of "BuAs{C=W(CO)₂(Tp*)}₂ (8). A solution of 1b (250 mg, 0.398 mmol) in THF (10 mL) at -78 °C was treated with n-BuLi (0.249 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.40 mmol). The resulting brown solution was stirred for 30 min at reduced temperature then treated with AsCl₃ (17 μ L, 37 mg, 0.20 mmol). The solution was warmed to RT and the resulting orange-red solution stirred for 1 h, after which time additional n-BuLi (0.125 mL, 1.6 M in hexanes, 0.20 mmol) was added, causing the mixture to turn dark orange. Stirring was continued for 1 h, the volatiles were removed in vacuo, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (30 x 1 cm silica gel column), eluting with petroleum ether (40-60 °C) with gradually increasing amounts of CH2Cl2. A yellow-orange band was collected with 20% v/v CH₂Cl₂/petrol and was dried under reduced pressure to give a yellow-orange solid. A second chromatography step under the same conditions was typically required, from which pure 8 (66.0 mg, 0.0537 mmol, 27%) was isolated. IR (CH₂Cl₂, cm⁻¹): 1982, 1973s, 1888s v(CO). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 0.97 $(t, {}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.2, 3 H, As(CH_{2})_{3}CH_{3}), 1.51 (p, {}^{3}J_{HH} = 7.2, 3 H,$ As(CH₂)₂CH₂), 1.78 (p, ³J_{HH} = 7.2 Hz, 3 H, AsCH₂CH₂), 2.25–2.40 (obscured, 2 H, AsCH₂, 2.29 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.30 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.33 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 2.36 (2 x s overlapping, 12 H, pzCH₃), 2.37 (s, 6 H, pzCH₃), 5.67 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.68 (s, 2 H, pzH), 5.72 (s, 2 H, pzH). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, δ): 12.7, 12.8 (pzCH₃), 13.9 (As(CH₂)₃CH₃), 15.2, 16.6, 16.8 (pzCH₃), 24.7 (As(CH₂)₂CH₂), 29.4 (AsCH₂CH₂), 30.8 (AsCH₂), 106.2, 106.4, 106.7 (pzCH), 143.8, 143.9, 145.2, 151.8, 152.1, 152.4 (pzCCH₃), 224.4, 226.2 (CO), 300.4 (W≡CAs, ¹*J*_{CW} = 190 MS (ESI, *m/z*): 1231.2813. for Hz). Calcd C₄₀H₅₄As¹¹B₂N₁₂O₄¹⁸⁴W₂ [M + H]⁺: 1231.2817. Anal. Found: C, 38.95; H, 4.28; N, 13.55. Calcd for $C_{40}H_{53}AsB_2N_{12}O_4W_2$: C, 39.05; H, 4.34; N, 13.66%. Crystals suitable for X-ray structure determination were grown by slow evaporation of a CH2Cl2/ethanol solution. The asymmetric unit was found to contain four independent molecules, with significant disorder characteristics in each As"Bu moiety. Hydrogen atoms were excluded and the extensive use of distance and thermal displacement parameter restraints were required. Crystal data for $C_{40}H_{53}AsB_2N_{12}O_4W_2$ (*M* =1230.18 gmol⁻¹): triclinic, space group P-1 (no. 2), a = 10.7560(3) Å, b = 29.5247(8) Å, c =32.3562(8) Å, $\alpha = 68.469(2)^{\circ}$, $\beta = 86.621(2)^{\circ}$, $\gamma = 85.103(2)^{\circ}$, V =9519.1(5) Å³, Z = 8, T = 150.0(1) K, μ (CuK α) = 9.992 mm⁻¹, Dcalc = 1.717 Mgm⁻³, 52125 reflections measured (6.968° $\leq 2\Theta$ \leq 133.202°), 33274 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0395$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0716$) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0641 (I > 2 σ (I)) and wR₂ was 0.1414 (all data) for 2310 refined parameters with 457 restraints. CCDC 1835469.

General Observations on the Synthesis of arsinidine bridged bis(carbyne) complexes via the chloroarsinidines "[W2(µ- $C_2AsCI)(CO)_4(Tp^*)_2].$ - Room-temperature ¹H NMR and IR spectroscopy on the bromocarbyne/"BuLi/AsCl₃ crude mixture (before a nucleophile is added) is dominated by signatures for 8 and the methylidyne $[W(\equiv CH)(CO)_2(Tp^*)]$ and its dimer $[W_2(\mu -$ C=CH₂)(CO)₄(Tp*)₂]. Other (unidentified) Tp*-containing species are present only in much smaller quantities, and the region is too cluttered for us to be confident in assigning any resonances to the purported chloroarsinidine intermediate. We presume that the key chloroarsinidine intermediate is thermally unstable based on the observation that the solution is bright red at -78°C but quickly turns a brown-orange when warmed to ambient temperature, i.e., under the conditions required for spectroscopy, the intermediate is short-lived. Because each of these products has 6 ¹H NMR pyrazolyl resonances over narrow frequency ranges, it is not viable to use these as spectroscopic handles. When the reaction (without added nucleophile) is carried out at -78°C, freed of solvent at -10°C and then the ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of the residue acquired in d_8 -toluene at -10 °C (a compromise between thermal sensitivity and ensuring that all products are in solution), a major resonance is observed at δ_{C} = 296.0 tentatively assigned to the chloroarsinidine, flanked by weaker resonances at 300.7 (8) and 280.1 ([W(≡CH)(CO)₂(Tp*)], which only begins to dimerise at room temperature).



The measured intensities are *ca* 3:1:1, respectively, however given the thermal sensitivity of the chloroarsinidine intermediate, this will have progressively decomposed to **8** and the methylidyne during extended NMR data acquisition, *i.e.*, the apparent 60% formation of the chloroarsine is most likely a conservative estimate. The eventual low yield of the product of nucleophilic attack will thus in part be due to competition with these concurrent decomposition processes. It would therefore however appear that neither IR, ¹H nor ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopies provide convenient spectroscopic handles that might be used to monitor the progress of these reactions in contrast to the phosphorus derivatives where ³¹P{¹H} NMR is both rapid and quantitative.

Selected X-ray crystallographic data



Figure S1. Molecular structure of **3b** in a crystal of **3b** 0.75CH₂Cl₂ (50% thermal probability ellipsoids, hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules not shown and pyrazolyl rings are simplified for clarity). Selected bold lengths (Å) and angles (°): Mo1–C1 1.813(2), Mo2–C2 1.806(2), C1–P 1.795(2), C2–P 1.794(2), P–C3 1.865(3), Mo1–N1 2.319(2), Mo1–N3 2.228(2), Mo1–N6 2.229(2), Mo2–N7 2.216(2), Mo2–N9 2.216(2), Mo2–N11 2.322(2), Mo1–C1–P 168.06(17), C1–P–C2 99.14(11), Mo2–C2–P 174.55(14), C1–P–C3 106.29(12), C2–P–C3 102.51(12). *TR* = 2(Mo1–N1)/(Mo1–N3 + Mo1–N6) = 1.041. *TR* = 2(Mo2–N11)/(Mo2–N7 + Mo2–N9) = 1.048.



Figure S3. Molecular structure of **6a** showing 50% displacement ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms are omitted and the phenyl and pyrazolyl rings are simplified for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): Mo1–C1 1.790(4), C1–As 1.931(4), As–C2 1.924(5), C2–Mo2 1.809(5), As–C3 1.953(6), Mo1–N1 2.334(4), Mo1–N3 2.220(3), Mo1–N5 2.230(3), Mo2–N7 2.327(4), Mo2–N9 2.235(4), Mo2–N11 2.234(4), Mo1–C1–As 171.3(3), C1–As–C2 95.7(2), As–C2–Mo2 166.4(3). *TR* = 2(Mo1–N1)/(Mo1–N3 + Mo1–N5) = 1.046. *TR* = 2(Mo2–N7)/(Mo2–N9 + Mo2–N11) = 1.041.



Figure S2. Molecular structure of **5** in a crystal of $5 \cdot CH_2Cl_2$ showing 50% displacement ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms and minor disorder component are omitted and the phenyl and pyrazolyl rings are simplified for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): W1–C1 1.833(6), C1–P 1.857(6), P–C2 1.825(6), C2–W2 1.822(6), P–C7 1.858(17), W1–N1 2.207(5), W1–N3 2.311(5), W1–N5 2.234(5), W2–N7 2.197(5), W2–N9 2.295(6), W2–N11 2.223(6), W1–C1–P 170.0(4), W2–C2–P 151.6(5), C1–P–C2 95.6(3), C1–P–C7 99.1(7), C2–P–C7 94.2(6). *TR* = 2(W1–N3)/(W1–N1 + W1–N5) = 1.041. *TR* = 2(W2–N9)/(W2–N7 + W2–N11) = 1.038.



Figure S4. Molecular structure of **6b** showing 50% displacement ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms are omitted and the phenyl and pyrazolyl rings are simplified for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): W1–C1 1.808(5), C1–As 1.921(5), As–C2 1.927(5), C2–W2 1.819(5), As–C7 1.954(7), W1–N1 2.222(4), W1–N3 2.325(4), W1–N5 2.214(4), W2–N7 2.316(4), W2–N9 2.208(4), W2–N11 2.211(5), W1–C1–As 171.3(3), C1–As–C2 96.4(2), As–C2–W2 168.0(4). *TR* = 2(W1-N3)/(W1-N1 + W1-N5) = 1.048 *TR* = 2(W2-N7)/(W2-N9 + W2-N11) = 1.048. Insets: view along the W1···C1 vector and space-filling representation.



Figure S5. Molecular structure of 8 showing 50% displacement ellipsoids (one of four independent molecules). Hydrogen atoms and minor disorder components are omitted, and the phenyl and pyrazolyl rings are simplified for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°): W1-C1 1.835(11), C1-As1 1.962(11), As1-C2 2.046(16), C2-W2 1.784(13), As1-C7 2.019(16), W1-N1 2.297(7), W1-N3 2.222(8), W1-N5 2.208(8), W2-N7 2.280(8), W2-N9 2.214(9), W2-N11 2.221(12), W1-C1-As1 167.3(8), C1-As1-C2 91.3(5), As1-C2-W2 156.2(11). TR = 2(W1-N1)/(W1-N3 + W1-N5) = 1.037. TR = 2(W2-N7)/(W2-N9 + W2-N11) = 1.028.

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	М	А	R	δ≡c ^[a]	${}^{1}J_{\rm CP}^{[b]}$	¹ <i>J</i> _{CW} ^[b]	δ _P ^[a]	² J _{PW} ^[b]	vco ^[c]	d _{M≡C} (Å)	d _{C-A} (Å)
2a	Мо	Р	Ph	296.2	92		79.0		2001, 1993, 1916		
2b ^[8g]	W	Р	Ph	285.0	79	192	80.4	76	1984, 1970, 1892	1.821(9), 1.832(9)	1.810(10), 1.780(10)
3a	Мо	Р	Су	303.1	93		91.6		1998, 1988, 1911	1.813(2), 1.806(2)	1.795(2), 1.794(2)
3b ^[8g]	W	Р	Су	291.1	80	190	87.8	68	1980, 1969, 1888	1.832(5), 1.836(5)	1.784(6), 1.789(6)
4	W	Р	Me	290.0	77	188	56.3	73	1983, 1972, 1889		
5	W	Р	<i>"</i> Bu	290.2	75	188	69.7	68	1982, 1971, 1888	1.833(6), 1.822(6)	1.857(6), 1.825(6)
6a	Мо	As	Ph	308.3					2002, 1995, 1916	1.790(4), 1.809(5)	1.931(4), 1.924(5)
6b	W	As	Ph	295.1		194			1986, 1977, 1892	1.808(5), 1.819(5)	1.921(5), 1.927(5)
7a	Мо	As	Me	313.0					1999, 1991, 1911		
7b	W	As	Me	299.8		188			1983, 1974, 1888		
8	W	As	<i>"</i> Bu	300.4		190			1982, 1973, 1888	1.835(11), 1.784(13)	1.961(11), 2.046(16)

Table S1. Selected spectroscopic and structural data for complexes [RA{C=M(CO)₂(Tp*)] (2–8).

[a] ppm, measured in a solution of CDCl₃ or C₆D₆ (for **2b** and **3b**). [b] Hz, measured in a solution of CDCl₃ or C₆D₆ (**2b** and **3b**). [c] cm⁻¹, measured in a solution of CD₂Cl₂ or THF (**2b** and **3b**).





 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of **2a**.



 $^{31}P{^{1}H} NMR of 2a.$



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **3a**.





 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of **3a**.



 $^{31}P{^{1}H} NMR of 3a.$



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of 4.





 $^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR of 4.$



 ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR of 4.



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **5**.





 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR of 5.



 $^{31}P{^{1}H} NMR of 5.$



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **6a**.





 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of **6a**.



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **6b**.





 $^{13}C\{^{1}H\}$ NMR of **6b**.



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **7a**.





 $^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR of 7a.$



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **7b**.



 1 H NMR of **7b**.



 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of **7b**.



Infrared Spectrum (CH₂Cl₂) of **8**.



 1 H NMR of **8**.



 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR of 8.

