

Electronic Supporting Information

belonging to

Smooth C_{alkyl}-H bond activation in rhodium complexes comprising abnormal carbene ligands

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Table S1. Crystallographic data for complexes 3b, 4 – 6

	3b	4	5b	6
CCDC no.	817392	817393	817394	817395
color, shape	orange, rod	red, rod	orange, rod	yellow, lath
cryst size /mm	0.40, 0.35, 0.25	0.45, 0.40, 0.23	0.30, 0.28, 0.25	0.25, 0.10, 0.01
formula	C ₅₈ H ₇₀ F ₆ I ₃ N ₈ PRh ₂ ×0.5CH ₂ Cl ₂ ×C ₆ H ₁₄	C ₂₁ H ₃₂ I ₂ N ₆ Rh	C ₁₉ H ₃₁ Br ₂ N ₄ O ₂ Rh	C ₁₉ H ₃₀ I ₂ N ₅ Rh
Fw	1739.34	725.24	610.21	685.19
T /K	173(2)	173(2)	173(2)	100(2)
crystal system	orthorhombic	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic
space group	<i>Pnna</i> (No. 52)	<i>P2₁/c</i> (No. 14)	<i>Cc</i> (No. 9)	<i>P1</i> (No. 1)
unit cell				
<i>a</i> /Å	26.7628(17)	16.7813(9)	11.8107(11)	7.6131(11)
<i>b</i> /Å	26.7351(18)	11.0963(4)	12.0520(9)	8.3587(11)
<i>c</i> /Å	20.3079(11)	14.6937(7)	16.1426(16)	10.6771(15)
α	90	90	90	68.734(3)
β	90	97.152(4)	95.827(12)	73.159(3)
γ	90	90	90	66.537(3)
<i>V</i> /Å ³	14530.4(16)	2714.8(2)	2285.9(4)	572.37(14)
<i>Z</i>	8	4	4	1
<i>D</i> _{calc} /g cm ⁻³	1.590	1.774	1.773	1.988
μ /mm ⁻¹	1.845	2.922	4.265	3.457
total, unique reflections	57955, 12927	51616, 7338	44953, 2234	9954, 4798
<i>R</i> _{int}	0.1184	0.0322	---	0.0353
transmission range	0.611–0.750	0.308–0.511	---	0.547–0.966
no. parameters, restraints	399, 53	271, 0	190, 2	247, 83
<i>R</i> _s ^[a] <i>R</i> _w ^[b]	0.0827, 0.1977	0.0296 0.0792	0.0274, 0.0431	0.0436, 0.0904
GOF	0.837	1.061	0.673	1.072
largest hole, peak /e Å ⁻³	-0.586, 2.074	-1.631, 1.225	-1.137, 0.604	-2.919, 1.168

[a] $R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$ for all $I > 2\sigma(I)$; [b] $wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum (w(F_o^4))^{1/2}]^{1/2}$.

Computational Details

All geometries were optimised without constraints using Gaussian 03, Revision C.02¹ employing the BP86 functional.² The SDD relativistic ECPs and the associated basis sets was

used for Rh and I,³ with a set of d-orbital polarisation functions added for I.⁴ 6-31G** basis sets were employed for all other atoms.⁵ Stationary points were confirmed as either minima or transition states through analytical frequency calculations and the latter were characterised through IRC calculations and subsequent geometry optimisation. Energies quoted in the text are free energies computed at 298.15 K and 1 atm and include a correction for the effect of MeCN solvent via the PCM approach. Details of the computed structures are summarised in Table S2.

Table S2. Computed Structures

(Cartesian coordinates in Å; energies in atomic units; labeling scheme according to main text)

5a'	H	2.15806	-3.96128	-0.52122			
	H	1.32795	-4.20445	1.03420			
	H	3.15017	-2.46384	1.20842			
BP86 Energy = -1010.05583686	H	2.36403	-1.47166	-0.03531			
Enthalpy 0K= -1009.741878	H	0.22605	-1.17282	4.83782			
Enthalpy 298K= -1009.718080	H	2.20360	-2.62293	3.49054			
Free Energy 298K= -1009.796263	H	-1.66839	0.12239	4.17442			
E(MeCN) = -1010.08168210	H	-2.07676	0.37218	2.44048			
	H	-0.92592	1.48168	3.24437			
	H	1.93086	1.20687	-2.96919			
C	1.45850	-1.91892	3.13012	H	0.18793	1.57700	-2.81307
N	1.36106	-1.57230	1.78563	H	0.81333	0.87943	-4.35014
C	0.34675	-0.66024	1.57130	H	-2.98054	3.96801	-0.27042
N	-0.18354	-0.46097	2.83108	H	-1.61609	4.69970	0.62344
C	0.49137	-1.21462	3.78511	H	-1.58476	4.61031	-1.18055
C	2.17674	-2.21612	0.75474				
C	1.48757	-3.48004	0.21441				
C	0.12999	-3.16440	-0.43603	5a' ab			
N	0.29566	-2.24374	-1.56222	BP86 Energy = -1010.02146072			
C	0.59841	-2.69328	-2.84421	Enthalpy 0K= -1009.709295			
C	0.82965	-1.58289	-3.60162	Enthalpy 298K= -1009.683662			
N	0.67142	-0.47911	-2.77058	Free Energy 298K= -1009.768253			
C	0.33556	-0.86484	-1.48710	E(MeCN) = -1010.06997437			
Rh	-0.18887	0.41284	-0.03325				
O	-0.95660	2.07782	-1.24563	C	-1.52737	-0.68961	-0.03117
C	-1.23181	2.73782	-0.17572	N	-1.67322	-2.08225	0.16172
C	-1.88417	4.09547	-0.25571	C	-2.97759	-2.44691	0.08363
C	0.91655	0.88749	-3.25474	N	-3.70092	-1.33548	-0.15846
C	-1.28181	0.44348	3.19589	C	-2.83514	-0.25254	-0.23918
I	-2.70716	-0.66213	-0.14856	C	-0.57850	-3.03164	0.39083
I	2.29981	1.55392	0.10301	C	0.03099	-3.54794	-0.92458
O	-0.97213	2.20051	0.96199	C	0.62337	-2.44432	-1.81834
H	0.59859	-3.74968	-3.09863	N	1.70409	-1.71128	-1.15026
H	1.07688	-1.47350	-4.65394	C	1.53523	-0.59528	-0.30089
H	-0.34233	-4.08298	-0.82062	C	2.83440	-0.30252	0.11292
H	-0.57620	-2.70441	0.27281				

N 3.71770 -1.19695 -0.47726
C 3.01357 -2.05417 -1.24344
Rh -0.00622 0.56010 0.14747
I -0.21878 1.25646 -2.49393
C 5.17120 -1.19441 -0.31730
C -5.15605 -1.27804 -0.29079
O -1.13434 2.35616 0.68540
C -0.03271 3.01656 0.77397
O 1.08423 2.41350 0.56001
I 0.21866 -0.12362 2.79074
C -0.05340 4.49478 1.08762
H 3.42973 -2.85855 -1.84342
H 3.17640 0.49158 0.77067
H 1.02864 -2.88168 -2.74589
H -0.13005 -1.69126 -2.10566
H 0.81425 -4.28611 -0.66933
H -0.73813 -4.08507 -1.51068
H -0.97446 -3.87259 0.98402
H 0.16296 -2.50444 1.01518
H -3.37663 -3.44901 0.21323
H -3.19531 0.75721 -0.41535
H 0.86559 4.78595 1.61785
H -0.10198 5.06275 0.14228
H -0.93937 4.74601 1.68937
H 5.59111 -0.25831 -0.71749
H 5.42645 -1.28016 0.75028
H 5.60138 -2.04711 -0.86166
H -5.42332 -0.85592 -1.27200
H -5.57230 -2.29204 -0.20704
H -5.57917 -0.64522 0.50488

rh_i_oac_bis_normal_me_nonagostic

BP86 Energy = -998.325751122
Enthalpy 0K= -998.012242
Enthalpy 298K= -997.989646
Free Energy 298K= -998.065252
E(MeCN) = -998.394891696

C 2.12136 3.28097 -0.96201
N 1.89055 1.91061 -0.94955
C 0.60115 1.62613 -0.53841
N 0.05194 2.86827 -0.28198
C 0.96523 3.87843 -0.54539
C 2.97313 0.94509 -1.18624
C 3.67427 0.54807 0.12361
C 2.73108 -0.16754 1.10800
N 2.14932 -1.36458 0.48711
C 2.81440 -2.58316 0.46008
C 2.09845 -3.40598 -0.36454
N 1.01178 -2.67636 -0.82602
C 1.02351 -1.39266 -0.31212
Rh -0.46975 -0.07218 -0.58532
O -2.16001 -1.39168 -0.94080
C -2.90964 -0.36987 -1.19505
C -4.35233 -0.53494 -1.56948
C 0.07774 -3.22804 -1.82137
C -1.31849 3.17337 0.16518
I -0.97289 -0.18791 1.97365
O -2.37229 0.80048 -1.08601
H 3.72124 -2.76045 1.03272

H 2.26217 -4.43979 -0.65753
H 3.27667 -0.48656 2.00982
H 1.90423 0.48012 1.43548
H 4.52986 -0.10424 -0.12745
H 4.08711 1.44460 0.61919
H 3.68692 1.41603 -1.88024
H 2.54889 0.06714 -1.69609
H 0.71030 4.92808 -0.42470
H 3.07397 3.70463 -1.26945
H -1.29555 4.14550 0.67732
H -1.65876 2.40064 0.86500
H -2.00171 3.21079 -0.69440
H 0.46437 -3.05030 -2.83824
H -0.91028 -2.76784 -1.70334
H -0.00753 -4.31095 -1.65210
H -4.96000 -0.51872 -0.64742
H -4.68168 0.29518 -2.21114
H -4.51439 -1.50172 -2.06750

rh_i_oac_bis_abnormal_me_nonagostic

BP86 Energy = -998.311415633
Enthalpy 0K= -997.998994
Enthalpy 298K= -997.975699
Free Energy 298K= -998.054313
E(MeCN) = -998.391148493

C 1.54248 -0.62409 -0.47516
N 1.72717 -1.98397 -0.82039
C 3.03715 -2.32196 -0.72966
N 3.72340 -1.23525 -0.32783
C 2.82898 -0.18691 -0.16116
C 0.67192 -2.93085 -1.21180
C 0.01177 -3.61946 -0.00540
C -0.68200 -2.65646 0.97340
N -1.73253 -1.85693 0.32342
C -1.53966 -0.63336 -0.35800
C -2.81841 -0.29624 -0.80375
N -3.71365 -1.28246 -0.41113
C -3.03554 -2.22252 0.27570
Rh -0.01300 0.60197 -0.61743
I 0.03814 1.12598 1.93071
C -5.16162 -1.27867 -0.65752
C 5.17594 -1.16749 -0.12079
O 1.06750 2.40192 -1.12978
C -0.05108 3.01654 -1.33220
O -1.15115 2.36178 -1.13538
C -0.07684 4.45772 -1.75591
H -3.46875 -3.11425 0.72230
H -3.14783 0.59971 -1.32471
H -1.14604 -3.22241 1.79696
H 0.02639 -1.94132 1.42189
H -0.71845 -4.35224 -0.39449
H 0.76776 -4.19346 0.56005
H 1.11881 -3.68384 -1.88075
H -0.06757 -2.36084 -1.79561
H 3.46857 -3.29117 -0.96721
H 3.16085 0.80001 0.15116
H -0.96753 4.66420 -2.36723
H -0.12932 5.09053 -0.85251

H 0.84087 4.71565 -2.30374
H -5.61455 -0.39720 -0.17923
H -5.35219 -1.24973 -1.74074
H -5.60480 -2.19037 -0.23422
H 5.38687 -0.89645 0.92454
H 5.62096 -2.14756 -0.34037
H 5.60928 -0.41138 -0.79249

A

BP86 Energy = -998.316590772
Enthalpy 0K= -998.004001
Enthalpy 298K= -997.981500
Free Energy 298K= -998.056418
E(MeCN) = -998.388906846

C 0.84556 1.60512 0.05881
N 2.12650 1.77473 0.54696
C 2.57039 3.07817 0.33752
C 1.55005 3.73756 -0.28689
N 0.50287 2.83022 -0.44435
C 2.92551 0.73171 1.21207
C 2.07236 -0.29451 2.00620
C 2.24561 -1.76249 1.57884
N 2.07016 -1.91686 0.13041
C 1.14619 -1.18750 -0.58625
N 1.38796 -1.51884 -1.89225
C 2.41481 -2.45980 -1.97850
C 2.85097 -2.70700 -0.70730
Rh -0.12778 -0.08261 0.50463
O -1.23291 -1.58607 1.60062
C -1.84619 -0.66172 2.26635
C -2.88836 -1.00188 3.29072
O -1.54722 0.56752 1.99751
I -2.13144 -0.13191 -1.19893
H 3.63118 -3.36503 -0.33373
H 2.74141 -2.86347 -2.93321
C 0.72763 -0.98189 -3.08999
H 3.26220 -2.11056 1.82608
H 1.52249 -2.39765 2.11772
H 2.29623 -0.23294 3.08734
H 0.97822 0.02585 2.05230
H 3.62284 1.25037 1.88766
H 3.53055 0.20762 0.45091
H 3.55238 3.41977 0.65398
H 1.46911 4.76919 -0.61862
C -0.79855 3.20952 -1.01611
H -2.68874 -1.98928 3.73161
H -2.93402 -0.22577 4.06841
H -3.87113 -1.04322 2.78888
H -1.60792 2.82661 -0.38033
H -0.84671 4.30669 -1.05373
H -0.91131 2.79852 -2.02948
H 1.46935 -0.93737 -3.90126
H -0.11611 -1.62268 -3.38724
H 0.34886 0.02396 -2.87549

A_{ab}

BP86 Energy = -998.304440743
Enthalpy 0K= -997.993018

Enthalpy 298K= -997.969856
Free Energy 298K= -998.047383
E(MeCN) = -998.388619129

C -0.80091 1.35829 0.03355
N -1.77066 1.73111 0.99369
C -2.59581 2.68506 0.49262
N -2.21121 2.93434 -0.77225
C -1.11852 2.12751 -1.07799
C -1.74035 1.33363 2.41077
C -1.03214 0.00020 2.70592
C -1.74076 -1.33303 2.41088
N -1.77088 -1.73080 0.99387
C -2.59609 -2.68475 0.49294
N -2.21139 -2.93435 -0.77183
C -1.11860 -2.12770 -1.07764
C -0.80100 -1.35830 0.03376
Rh 0.56014 -0.00002 0.52062
O 2.26315 -1.10805 1.29999
C 2.87553 0.00000 1.55696
C 4.27648 0.00012 2.10270
I 1.65562 -0.00020 -1.85754
O 2.26312 1.10807 1.29989
H -3.40888 -3.17906 1.01889
H -0.63911 -2.16387 -2.05201
C -2.84095 -3.89839 -1.68297
H -1.21509 -2.12402 2.97374
H -2.77910 -1.28937 2.78285
H -0.86486 0.00025 3.80034
H 0.05860 -0.00002 2.37634
H -2.77862 1.29042 2.78299
H -1.21425 2.12455 2.97333
H -3.40848 3.17958 1.01856
C -2.84058 3.89844 -1.68345
H -0.63908 2.16346 -2.05240
H 4.46008 0.90575 2.69890
H 4.46061 -0.90594 2.69805
H 4.98060 0.00078 1.25229
H -2.09178 -4.63500 -2.00962
H -3.65603 -4.41677 -1.15978
H -3.24564 -3.37195 -2.56055
H -2.09178 4.63609 -2.00863
H -3.24361 3.37220 -2.56191
H -3.65688 4.41556 -1.16092

TS (A-B)

BP86 Energy = -998.291851982
Enthalpy 0K= -997.983970
Enthalpy 298K= -997.961394
Free Energy 298K= -998.037840
E(MeCN) = -998.362914427
Nimag=1 (-1023.0498cm⁻¹)

C -0.27542 -1.09517 1.24472
N 0.24208 -2.35943 1.28393
C -0.04393 -2.96117 2.50630
C -0.76649 -2.04693 3.22487
N -0.91139 -0.90447 2.43405
C 0.97233 -2.93053 0.14618
C 0.61772 -2.23327 -1.19775

Rh -0.16087 -0.06832 -0.38746
I -0.65702 2.47232 -0.02884
C 1.83736 -1.72870 -1.98433
N 2.54120 -0.69887 -1.21289
C 1.84654 0.12755 -0.36252
N 2.81418 0.88106 0.24948
C 4.07493 0.54431 -0.23805
C 3.90552 -0.45436 -1.16093
O -2.26762 -0.23507 -0.54365
C -2.63914 -0.97351 -1.54817
O -1.81328 -1.63057 -2.25469
C -4.11479 -0.99118 -1.87624
H 4.62685 -0.99483 -1.76838
H 4.97670 1.03857 0.11418
C 2.61689 1.90342 1.28546
H 2.55037 -2.54891 -2.18230
H 1.51572 -1.32182 -2.95898
H 0.14770 -2.99492 -1.85141
H 0.73110 -4.00489 0.10791
H 2.05549 -2.83729 0.34562
H 0.27565 -3.97025 2.75216
H -1.19808 -2.10783 4.22038
C -1.68161 0.28442 2.83123
H -4.38652 -1.93902 -2.36165
H -4.72168 -0.82235 -0.97568
H -4.32296 -0.17081 -2.58501
H -0.51257 -1.63448 -1.44503
H -2.27794 0.62939 1.97591
H -2.34737 0.00013 3.65772
H -1.00667 1.08873 3.16109
H 3.49010 1.89328 1.95436
H 2.50112 2.89757 0.82897
H 1.70967 1.66865 1.85476

TS (A-B)_{ab}

BP86 Energy = -998.280130854
Enthalpy 0K= -997.973450
Enthalpy 298K= -997.950464
Free Energy 298K= -998.028765
E (MeCN) = -998.361943393
Nimag=1 (-869.9444cm⁻¹)

C -3.39186 -0.56019 -1.70632
N -2.10771 -0.13895 -1.67673
C -1.42599 -0.69122 -0.57285
C -2.39107 -1.44948 0.07730
N -3.58248 -1.36159 -0.63763
C -1.40426 0.62702 -2.71856
C -0.04210 1.18168 -2.24955
Rh 0.48852 -0.20840 -0.38366
O 2.59754 0.21476 -0.36270
C 3.03559 -0.07797 -1.53707
C 4.52644 -0.16058 -1.75681
C -0.01606 2.57002 -1.57551
N -0.29159 2.51587 -0.13056
C -0.04228 1.35260 0.61649
C -0.25951 1.71500 1.93714
N -0.60251 3.06596 1.95682
C -0.61478 3.53913 0.69445
I 0.84538 -1.79314 1.67611

O 2.23517 -0.32727 -2.51752
H -0.83147 4.56354 0.40346
C -0.90252 3.84856 3.16297
H -0.17905 1.12808 2.84700
H 0.99137 3.00075 -1.70719
H -0.74327 3.25701 -2.04493
H 0.48979 1.37146 -3.20589
H -2.06721 1.43938 -3.06799
H -1.22765 -0.05067 -3.57186
H -2.30929 -2.05170 0.97831
C -4.84147 -2.03261 -0.28855
H -4.13969 -0.31994 -2.45788
H 4.78349 0.14746 -2.78065
H 5.06353 0.44619 -1.01467
H 4.83902 -1.21202 -1.63227
H 0.98952 0.32027 -2.13426
H -0.03488 3.82755 3.83926
H -1.11498 4.88763 2.87670
H -1.77938 3.42341 3.67411
H -5.59425 -1.81684 -1.05895
H -4.67556 -3.11906 -0.23736
H -5.20116 -1.66898 0.68589

B

BP86 Energy = -998.345932233
Enthalpy 0K= -998.034172
Enthalpy 298K= -998.010754
Free Energy 298K= -998.090532
E (MeCN) =

C 0.50534 -1.72487 0.07494
N 0.74572 -2.30719 -1.13988
C 1.29335 -3.57572 -0.98566
C 1.36563 -3.79505 0.36545
N 0.87723 -2.65002 1.00399
C 0.55885 -1.44888 -2.31599
C -0.53336 -0.43328 -1.92810
C -1.96076 -1.03304 -2.10245
N -2.72577 -0.79421 -0.88155
C -4.07794 -0.96728 -0.60696
C -4.24816 -0.60479 0.70407
N -2.99690 -0.22340 1.19559
C -2.05320 -0.34003 0.21554
Rh -0.13750 0.12957 0.03688
O -0.92307 2.18281 -0.11323
C -0.47183 3.34762 -0.26265
C -1.39501 4.53137 -0.38052
I 2.49521 0.81465 0.23597
O 0.80880 3.66005 -0.31846
C 0.81221 -2.45760 2.45482
C -2.74737 0.28226 2.54738
H 1.58075 -4.20370 -1.82453
H 1.71797 -4.65679 0.92620
H 0.27031 -2.06915 -3.18493
H 1.50916 -0.93672 -2.54366
H -0.42311 0.50595 -2.49280
H -2.48324 -0.56975 -2.95751
H -1.91293 -2.12229 -2.28307
H -4.79195 -1.32695 -1.34305
H -5.14083 -0.58713 1.32420

H	-1.08599	5.16751	-1.22468
H	-2.43248	4.19778	-0.50792
H	-1.31381	5.14570	0.53256
H	1.37712	2.83449	-0.17986
H	0.99780	-1.39715	2.68034
H	1.59693	-3.06123	2.93231
H	-0.17161	-2.76141	2.84729
H	-3.11730	-0.43678	3.29457
H	-3.24619	1.25317	2.69241
H	-1.66345	0.41409	2.67344

BP86 Energy = -11.5555831350
E (MeCN) = -11.6496156540

B_{ab}

BP86 Energy = -998.323547139
Enthalpy 0K= -998.012508
Enthalpy 298K= -997.988893
Free Energy 298K= -998.070123
E (MeCN) =

C	0.13173	1.34784	0.58382
N	-0.02407	2.63172	0.03259
C	0.02330	3.56844	1.00313
N	0.18871	2.92699	2.18102
C	0.25268	1.55242	1.95112
C	-0.09410	2.74911	-1.43553
C	-0.46395	1.35884	-2.00630
Rh	0.17152	-0.13273	-0.64631
I	0.80658	-2.27319	0.95527
C	-1.97084	1.17468	-2.31979
N	-2.58401	0.32534	-1.27950
C	-1.75208	-0.41267	-0.40983
C	-2.63609	-1.16730	0.35183
N	-3.93205	-0.89228	-0.07683
C	-3.88113	0.01802	-1.07494
O	2.21148	0.30330	-1.35880
C	3.37543	-0.08488	-1.08374
O	3.67715	-0.95954	-0.14359
C	4.56839	0.42248	-1.85137
C	-5.15629	-1.49611	0.46332
C	0.29238	3.57471	3.49431
H	-0.04864	4.64534	0.87595
H	0.39290	0.84183	2.76047
H	0.90177	3.05238	-1.79829
H	-0.81462	3.54653	-1.69561
H	0.11396	1.20329	-2.93158
H	-2.52616	2.12968	-2.36651
H	-2.09961	0.66365	-3.28931
H	-2.43975	-1.88803	1.14095
H	-4.73963	0.41017	-1.61408
H	2.83153	-1.33969	0.26961
H	4.92914	-0.37820	-2.51985
H	4.29477	1.29854	-2.45289
H	5.39129	0.66370	-1.16110
H	-5.25520	-1.24890	1.53120
H	-5.11373	-2.58896	0.34155
H	-6.02569	-1.10453	-0.08235
H	-0.50719	3.20727	4.15515
H	0.19008	4.66161	3.37095
H	1.27217	3.35042	3.94258

Iodide

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