**Electronic Supplementary Information** 

# Convenient access to the tricyanoborate dianion B(CN)<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> and selected reactions as a boron-centred nucleophile

Johannes Landmann,<sup>*a*</sup> Jan A. P. Sprenger,<sup>*a*</sup> Rüdiger Bertermann,<sup>*a*</sup> Nikolai Ignat'ev,<sup>*b*</sup> Vera Bernhardt-Pitchougina,<sup>*a,c*</sup> Eduard Bernhardt,<sup>*c*</sup> Helge Willner<sup>*c*</sup> and Maik Finze<sup>*a*,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institut für Anorganische Chemie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Am Hubland, 97074
Würzburg, Germany.
E-Mail: maik.finze@uni-wuerzburg.de.
Homepage: http://www-anorganik.chemie.uni-wuerzburg.de/forschungsgruppen/prof\_dr\_m\_finze/

<sup>b</sup> Merck KGaA, PM-ATI, Frankfurter Straße 250, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany.

<sup>c</sup> FB C Anorganische Chemie, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Gaußstraße 20, 42119 Wuppertal, Germany.

## **Experimental Section**

Reactions involving air-sensitive compounds were performed either in 100 or 250 mL round bottom flasks or in 20 or 60 mL glass tubes equipped with valves with PTFE stems (Young, London) under argon using standard Schlenk line techniques. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C either in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO or D<sub>2</sub>O on a Bruker Avance 500 spectrometer, a Bruker Avance III 400 spectrometer, a Bruker Avance III HD 300 or on a Bruker DRX 200 spectrometer. The NMR signals were referenced against TMS (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C), BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with  $\Xi$ (<sup>11</sup>B) = 32.083974 MHz and CFCl<sub>3</sub> with  $\Xi$ (<sup>19</sup>F) = 94.094011MHz as external standards.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts were calibrated against the residual solvent signal and the solvent signal, respectively ( $\delta$ <sup>(1</sup>H): (CD<sub>2</sub>H)(CD<sub>3</sub>)CO 2.05 ppm, HDO 4.79 ppm;  $\delta(^{13}C)$ ; (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO 206.26 and 29.84 ppm).<sup>2</sup> Solid-state <sup>11</sup>B MAS rotorsynchronized Hahn-echo and <sup>13</sup>C MAS as well as <sup>19</sup>F MAS single-pulse NMR spectra were recorded at 22 °C with a Bruker DSX-400 NMR spectrometer with bottom layer rotors of ZrO<sub>2</sub> (diameter 4 mm) containing approximately 30-50 mg of sample (13C, 100.15 MHz; 11B, 128.38 MHz; 19F, 376.47 MHz). The measurements were conducted with a spinning rate of 15 kHz. All chemical shifts were calibrated by setting the <sup>13</sup>C low-field signal of adamantane to  $\delta = 38.48$  ppm according to the IUPAC recommendations<sup>1</sup> with  $\Xi(^{13}C) = 25.145020 \text{ MHz}, \ \Xi(^{11}B) = 32.083974 \text{ MHz} \text{ and } \Xi(^{19}F) = 94.094011$ MHz. After correction of the baseline of the <sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR spectrum of K<sub>2</sub>1·KF the spectrum was fitted with the solids line shape analysis module as implemented in the Bruker TopSpin<sup>TM</sup> 3.2 NMR software package. IR spectra were measured in the attenuated total reflection (ATR) mode in the region of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup> with an apodized resolution of 1 cm<sup>-1</sup> with a Bruker Alpha spectrometer equipped with a Bruker diamond single reflection ATR system. Raman spectra were measured using the 1064 nm excitation line of a Nd/YAG laser on crystalline samples contained in melting point capillaries in the region of 3500–80 cm<sup>-1</sup> at room temperature on a Bruker IFS-120 spectrometer with an apodized resolution of 1 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MALDI mass spectra were acquired on an Autoflex II LRF (Bruker Daltonics). Elemental analysis (C, H, N) were performed either with a Euro EA3000 instrument (HEKA-Tech, Germany) or with a vario MICRO cube (Elementar Analysensysteme, Germany).

#### Chemicals

All standard chemicals were obtained from commercial sources und used without further purification. Solvents were dried according to standard protocols<sup>3</sup> and stored in flasks equipped with valves with PTFE stems (Young, London) under an argon atmosphere.  $K[BF(CN)_3]$  was synthesized according to known procedures starting from Na[BF<sub>4</sub>] and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>SiCN.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Quantum Chemical Calculations**

Density functional calculations (DFT)<sup>5</sup> using the hybrid functional PBE0<sup>6</sup> and def2-TZVPP basis sets<sup>7</sup> were performed with the Turbomole V6.5 program package.<sup>8</sup>

### Crystal Structure Determination of K3·0.5(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, K4·0.5THF, K5 and K6

Colourless crystals of  $K[BH(CN)_3] \cdot 0.5(CH_3)_2 CO$  (K3  $\cdot 0.5(CH_3)_2 CO$ ),  $K[EtB(CN)_3] \cdot 0.5THF$ (K4 $\cdot$ 0.5THF), K[CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K5) and K[C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K6) were obtained from solutions in acetone (K3·0.5(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO and K5) and THF (K4·0.5THF and K6) by slow evaporation of the solvent, respectively. Crystals of K3.0.5(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO, K4.0.5THF and K5 were investigated with a Bruker X8-Apex II diffractometer, a second crystal of K5 was studied with an Gemini E Ultra Xcalibur diffractometer equipped with an EOS detector and a crystal of K6 was studied with a Stoe IPDS I diffractometer using Mo-K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) in all cases. All structures were solved either by direct (SHELXS)<sup>9</sup> or by intrinsic phasing methods (SHELXT).<sup>9a, 10</sup> Refinements are based on fullmatrix least-squares calculations on  $F^{2,9a,11}$  All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The positions of all hydrogen atoms were located from electron density difference maps. In the final steps of the refinement idealized bond lengths and angles were introduced. Calculations were performed either with the ShelXle graphical interface<sup>12</sup> or with the WinGX program package.<sup>13</sup> Molecular structure diagrams were drawn with the program Diamond 3.2i.<sup>14</sup> Experimental details, crystal data, and the CCDC numbers are collected in Table S1. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data request/cif.

	K3·0.5(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CO	K4·0.5THF	$K5^{a}$	$K5^{b}$	K6
Formula	$C_9H_8B_2K_2N_6O$	$C_{28}H_{36}B_4K_4N_{12}O_2\\$	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> BKN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> BKN <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>9</sub> BF <sub>5</sub> KN <sub>3</sub>
$M_{ m W}$	316.03	771.32	169.04	169.04	295.03
<i>T</i> (K)	100	100	150	150	123
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_{1}/n$	$P2_{1}/c$	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	$P2_{1}/c$
a (Å)	9.8586(5)	7.5693(15)	9.5267(4)	9.5044(12)	11.894(2)
b (Å)	13.1307(6)	25.062(5)	9.9704(5)	9.9760(13)	12.782(3)
c (Å)	12.1811(6)	22.116(4)	10.1727(5)	10.1345(13)	7.5458(15)
α			81.041(4)	81.033(3)	
β	93.991(2)	94.30(3)	68.165(4)	68.217(3)	103.98(3)
γ			83.636(4)	83.514(3)	
volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1573.02(13)	4183.6(15)	884.51(7)	879.8(2)	1113.2(4)
Ζ	4	4	4	4	4
$d(\text{calcd}) (\text{Mg m}^{-3})$	1.334	1.226	1.269	1.276	1.760
$\mu (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.603	0.466	0.537	0.540	0.530
F(000)	640	1600	344	344	576
No. of collected reflections	21007	49858	10670	16314	9150
No. of unique reflections	3268	8232	5745	3455	1955
R(int)	0.018	0.190	0.035	0.021	0.040
No. of parameters / restraints	250 / 32	455 / 12	233 / 20	199 / 0	172 / 0
$R1 \ (I > 2s(I))$	0.020	0.063	0.032	0.027	0.033
wR2 (all)	0.055	0.159	0.079	0.071	0.083
GOF on $F^2$	1.050	0.906	1.029	1.054	1.017
Largest diff. peak / hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.240 / -0.171	1.259 / -0.516	0.299 / -0.326	0.685 / -0.272	0.334 / -0.507
CCDC no.	1039994	1039991	1031561	1039993	1039992

**Table S1.** Selected Crystal Data and Details of the Refinement of the Crystal Structures of  $K[BH(CN)_3] \cdot 0.5(CH_3)_2CO(K3 \cdot 0.5(CH_3)_2CO)$ ,  $K[EtB(CN)_3] \cdot 0.5THF (K4 \cdot 0.5THF), K[CH_2=CHCH_2B(CN)_3] (K5) and <math>K[C_6F_5B(CN)_3] (K6)$ .

<sup>a</sup> Gemini E Ultra Xcalibur diffractometer equipped with an EOS detector. <sup>b</sup> Bruker X8-Apex II diffractometer.

## Syntheses

**K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>1·KF) Method A from K in NH<sub>3</sub>:** Potassium (2.90 g, 74.2 mmol) was dissolved in liquid ammonia (25 mL) at -78 °C. K[BF(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K2, 5.00 g, 34.0 mmol) was added carefully in several portions over a period of 1–2 hours. Solid yellow K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub> formed instantaneously and the reaction mixture turned green. The reaction mixture was stirred for one additional hour at -78 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature within 5 hours, which resulted in the evaporation of the ammonia. The residue was dried in a vacuum, suspended in THF (20 mL) and filtered under argon. The solid K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>1·KF) was washed with THF (3 × 10 mL) and dried in a vacuum and the yellow powder was stored in a glove box. Yield: 6.85 g (30.4 mmol, 89%).

Elemental analysis: calculated C<sub>3</sub>BFK<sub>3</sub>N<sub>3</sub>: C: 16.00%, N: 18.66%. Found: C: 15.74%, N: 18.43%.

<sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR (128.38 MHz):  $\delta_{iso} = -43.4$  ppm ( $C_{quad} = 1.01$  MHz,  $\eta_{quad} = 0.19$ ).

<sup>13</sup>C MAS NMR (100.15 MHz):  $\delta_{iso} = 169.4$  ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F MAS NMR (376.47 MHz):  $\delta_{iso} = -133.7$  ppm.

IR (ATR):  $\tilde{v} = 2037$  (m, sh, br), 2020 (s, sh, br,  $v_{asym}$ (CN)), 2003 cm<sup>-1</sup> (vs, br,  $v_{asym}$ (CN)).

Raman:  $\tilde{v} = 2098$  (s,  $v_{sym}(CN)$ ), 2040 (m, sh), 2032 (m, sh), 2022 (s,  $v_{asym}(CN)$ ), 1997 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s,  $v_{asym}(CN)$ ).

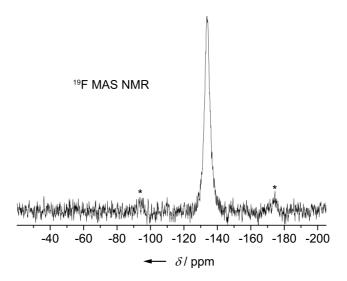


Figure S1. <sup>19</sup>F MAS NMR spectrum of K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>**1**·KF) (asterisks denote spinning side bands).  $\delta_{iso}(^{19}F)$  of -133.7 ppm is similar to the value reported for neat KF of -136 ppm.<sup>15</sup>

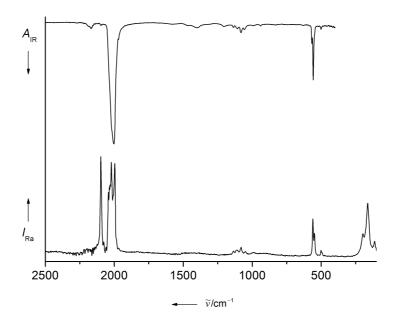


Figure S2. IR and Raman spectrum of K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>1·KF).

**K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>1·KF) Method B from K/naphthalene in THF:** K[BF(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K2) (2.00 g, 13.6 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL) and excess potassium (2.00 g, 51.2 mmol) was added in small pieces. Naphthalene (150 mg, 1.17 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5 mL) and added to the reaction mixture in one portion. The suspension was stirred for 2 hours at room temperature. Unreacted potassium was separated from the green suspension and washed with THF (5 mL). The combined suspensions were filtered off under argon and the remainder was washed with THF (2 × 5 mL). The dark green solid was dried in a vacuum and stored in a glove box. Yield: 3.23 g. The crude product contained a small amount of THF and potassium naphthalide as assessed by  ${}^{1}$ H{ ${}^{11}$ B} NMR spectra recorded on solution in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO after treatment of a small sample of the product with H<sub>2</sub>O. However, the purity of the material was sufficient for subsequent reactions with electrophiles similar to the K<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>·KF (K<sub>2</sub>1·KF) obtained via method A.

**K**[**BH**(**CN**)<sub>3</sub>] (**K3**) **method A:** A three necked round-bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer and a connection tube to an argon line was charged with potassium (23.7 g, 607 mmol) and liquid ammonia (250 mL) at -78 °C. **K2** (41.0 g, 279 mmol) was carefully added in several portions during 1–2 hours. In the course of the addition yellow K<sub>2</sub>1 · KF formed and the colour of the reaction mixture turned green. The mixture was stirred for an additional hour at -78 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature within 5 hours and the ammonia was allowed to evaporate. The residue was dried in a vacuum and subsequently washed with THF (3 × 100 mL) in an argon atmosphere. The solid remainder was suspended in THF (500 mL) and a mixture of water (11.0 g, 610 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was slowly added resulting in the decolourization of the reaction mixture. The mixture was dried with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and the solid material was filtered off. The volume of the solution was reduced to 50 mL and colourless K**3** precipitated upon addition of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . Yield: 31.8 g (247 mmol, 89%, purity >99.5% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy). [Evaporation of the solvent of the filtrate obtained during isolation of K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K**3**) yielded 2.40 g of a mixture of K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K**3**) (70%) and K[BH<sub>2</sub>(CN)<sub>2</sub>] (30%).]

Elemental analysis: calculated C<sub>3</sub>HBKN<sub>3</sub>: C: 27.93%, H: 0.97%, N: 32.54%. Found: C: 27.94%, H: 0.78%, N: 32.58%.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (160.46 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = -40.0$  ppm (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>11</sup>B, <sup>1</sup>H) = 97.0 Hz, BH, 1B).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500.13 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 1.77$  ppm (q, <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>11</sup>B, <sup>1</sup>H) = 97.0 Hz, BH, 1H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.76 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 128.0$  ppm (q, <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>11</sup>B) = 65.8 Hz, BCN, 3C).

Raman:  $\tilde{v} = 2461$  (m, v(BH)), 2221 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s, v(CN)).

**K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K3) method B:** K[BF(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K2) (25.0 g, 170 mmol) was placed in a three necked round-bottom flask equipped with a mechanical stirrer and it was dissolved in THF (500 mL). Potassium (25.0 g, 63.9 mmol) was added in small pieces and subsequently a solution of naphthalene (2.00 g, 15.6 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added in a single portion. The suspension was stirred for 6 hours at room temperature. Excess potassium was separated from the green suspension and washed with THF ( $2 \times 50$  mL). A mixture of water (6.0 g, 333 mmol) and THF (15 mL) was slowly added until the suspension became colourless. The suspension was filtered off, washed with THF ( $2 \times 20$  mL) and dried over K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The volume of the combined organic layers was reduced to 50 mL and colourless K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K3) precipitated upon addition of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Yield: 15.0 g (116 mmol, 68%, purity >99.5% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy).

The analytical data are consistent to those given for the previous example.

**K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K3) method C:** Na[BF(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (Na2) (3.75 g, 28.6 mmol) was dissolved in liquid ammonia (40 mL) at -78 °C. Sodium (1.32 g, 57.4 mmol) was carefully added to the reaction mixture. Subsequently, the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, which resulted in the evaporation of the ammonia. The residue was dissolved in a mixture of H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and THF (200 mL) at 0 °C and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (ca. 5 g) was added until two layers had formed. The aqueous layer was separated and saturated with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (ca. 50 g). The viscous solution was extracted with THF (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and concentrated to a volume of 10 mL. Colourless K[BH(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K3) precipitated upon addition of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Yield: 2.38 g (18.5 mmol, 65%, purity >99.5% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy).

The analytical data are consistent to those given for the previous example.

**Comparative study on the reduction of K2 with Li, Na and K:** K[BF(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K2) (150 mg, 1.02 mmol) was dissolved in THF (7 mL) and an excess of the respective alkali metal, Li (200 mg, 28.8 mmol), Na (400 mg, 17.4 mmol) and K (550 mg, 14.1 mmol) was added in small pieces

(approximately 10). Naphthalene (30.0 mg, 0.234 mmol) dissolved in THF (2 mL) was added to each reaction mixture in a single portion and the suspensions were stirred at room temperature. The progress of the reactions was monitored via <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy on small amounts of the suspension dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O. The reduction was complete after 2 days (Li), 15 hours (Na) and 0.5 hours (K), respectively.

 $K[C_6F_5B(CN)_3]$  (K6):  $K[BF(CN)_3]$  (K2) (500 mg, 3.40 mmol) and naphthalene (30.0 mg, 0.234 mmol) were dissolved in THF (7 mL). Small pieces of potassium (500 mg, 12.8 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at ambient temperature. Excess potassium was removed and hexafluorobenzene (1.5 mL, 13.0 mmol) was added at 0 °C with a syringe. The mixture was decanted and the solid residue was washed with THF (2 × 10 mL). The combined THF layers were concentrated to a volume of 10 mL and pure off-white  $K[C_6F_5B(CN)_3]$  (K6) precipitated upon addition of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . Yield: 670 mg (2.27 mmol, 67%, purity >98% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy).

Elemental analysis: calculated C<sub>9</sub>BF<sub>5</sub>KN<sub>3</sub>: C: 36.64%, N: 14.24%. Found: C: 35.19%, N: 13.57%.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (96.31 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = -33.9$  ppm (tt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>11</sup>B) = 7.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>11</sup>B)  $\approx 2.6$  Hz, 1B).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (75.49 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta$  = 148.4 (ddddd, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 243.9 Hz, <sup>n</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 13.6 Hz, 9.9 Hz, 4.1 Hz, 4.1 Hz, CF, 2C), 141.1 (dtt, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 250.1 Hz, <sup>n</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 20.4 Hz, 5.7 Hz, C<sub>p</sub>F, 1C), 137.9 (dm, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 248.4 Hz, CF, 2C), 126.7 (s, CN, 3C), 111.6 ppm (tdt, <sup>n</sup>*J*(<sup>19</sup>F, <sup>13</sup>C) = 36.3 Hz, 3.2 Hz, 3.2 Hz, C<sub>i</sub>B).

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (470.59 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = -132.1$  (m, 2F), -158.5 (tt,  ${}^{3}J({}^{19}F, {}^{19}F) = 20$  Hz,  ${}^{4}J({}^{19}F, {}^{19}F) \approx 2$  Hz, 1F), -165.4 (m, 2F).

 $K[C_2H_5B(CN)_3]$  (K4): The synthesis of  $K[C_2H_5B(CN)_3]$  (K4) was performed similar to the preparation of  $K[C_6F_5B(CN)_3]$  (K6) using ethyl iodide instead of hexafluorobenzene. Yield: 170 mg (1.72 mmol, 51%).

Elemental analysis: calculated C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>5</sub>BKN<sub>3</sub>: C: 38.25%, H: 3.21%, N: 26.76%. Found: C: 38.30%, H: 3.29%, N: 26.37%.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (160.46 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = -30.0$  ppm (tq, <sup>2</sup> $J(^{11}B, ^{1}H) \approx ^{3}J(^{11}B, ^{1}H) \approx 5$  Hz, 1B).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500.13 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 0.91$  (tq, br, <sup>3</sup> $J(^{1}H, ^{1}H) \approx 7.6$  Hz, <sup>3</sup> $J(^{11}B, ^{1}H) \approx 5$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>, 3H), 0.44 ppm (qq, br, <sup>3</sup> $J(^{1}H, ^{1}H) \approx 7.6$  Hz, <sup>2</sup> $J(^{11}B, ^{1}H) \approx 5$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>, 2H).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (500.13 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 0.91$  (t, <sup>3</sup>J(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 7.6 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>, 3H), 0.44 ppm (q, <sup>3</sup>J(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 7.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.77 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta$  = 130.6 (q, br, <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>11</sup>B) ≈ 64 Hz, BCN, 3C), 13.2 (q, br, <sup>1</sup>J(<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>11</sup>B) ≈ 45 Hz, BCH<sub>2</sub>, 1C), 11.5 ppm (s, CH<sub>3</sub>, 1C).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (75.48 Hz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta$  = 130.6 (s, BCN, 3C), 13.2 (s, BCH<sub>2</sub>, 1C), 11.5 ppm (s, CH<sub>3</sub>, 1C). IR(ATR):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2215 cm<sup>-1</sup> (s,  $\nu$ (CN)). **K[CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K5):** The synthesis of K[CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K5) was performed as described for the preparation of K[C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>B(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (K6) using either CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>Cl or CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>Br instead of hexafluorobenzene. Yield of the synthesis starting from CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>Cl: 170 mg (1.01 mmol, 45%, purity >85% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy). Yield of the synthesis starting from CH<sub>2</sub>=CHCH<sub>2</sub>Br: 115 mg (0.68 mmol, 37%, purity >85% according to <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy). The side product was found to be K3. A few crystals of pure K5 were obtained by recrystallization from acetone and characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (160.46 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = -30.8$  ppm (t, br, <sup>2</sup>*J*(<sup>11</sup>B, <sup>1</sup>H)  $\approx$  6 Hz, 1B).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500.13 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta$  = 5.84 (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 17.0 Hz, 10.1 Hz, 7.7 Hz, =CH–, 1H), 4.85 (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 17.0 Hz, <sup>2</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 2.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 1.4 Hz, =CH<sub>2</sub>, 1H), 4.75 (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 10.1 Hz, <sup>2</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 2.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 1.2 Hz, =CH<sub>2</sub>, 1H), 1.33 ppm (m, BCH<sub>2</sub>, 2H).

<sup>1</sup>H{<sup>11</sup>B} NMR (500.13 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 5.84$  (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 17.0 Hz, 10.1 Hz, 7.7 Hz, =CH-, 1H), 4.85 (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 17.0 Hz, <sup>2</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 2.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 1.5 Hz, =CH<sub>2</sub>, 1H), 4.75 (ddt, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 10.1 Hz, <sup>2</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 2.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 1.1 Hz, =CH<sub>2</sub>, 1H), 1.33 ppm (ddd, <sup>3</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 7.7 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*(<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>1</sup>H) = 1.1 Hz, BCH<sub>2</sub>, 2H).

<sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (125.77 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO):  $\delta = 139.8$  (s, br, =CH–, 1C), 129.9 (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>11</sup>B)  $\approx 66$  Hz, BCN, 3C), 112.8 (s, =CH<sub>2</sub>, 1C), 27.5 ppm (q, <sup>1</sup>*J*(<sup>13</sup>C, <sup>11</sup>B)  $\approx 43$  Hz, BCH<sub>2</sub>, 1C). IR(ATR):  $\tilde{\nu} = 2219$  cm<sup>-1</sup> (s,  $\nu$ (CN)).

## References

- R. K. Harris, E. D. Becker, S. M. Cabral de Menezes, R. Goodfellow, P. Granger, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, 2001, 73, 1795-1818.
- 2 G. R. Fulmer, A. J. M. Miller, N. H. Sherden, H. E. Gottlieb, A. Nudelman, B. M. Stoltz, J. E. Bercaw, K. I. Goldberg, *Organometallics*, 2010, **29**, 2176-2179.
- 3 W. L. F. Armarego, C. L. L. Chai, *Purification of Laboratory Chemicals*, 5 ed., Butterworth-Heinemann (Elsevier), 2003.
- 4 (a) N. Ignatyev, J. A. P. Sprenger, J. Landmann, M. Finze, Merck Patent GmbH, WO2014198401; (b) J. A. P. Sprenger, J. Landmann, M. Drisch, N. Ignat'ev, M. Finze, *Inorg. Chem., submitted for publication.*
- 5 W. Kohn, L. J. Sham, *Phys. Rev. A*, 1965, **140**, 1133-1138.
- 6 (a) J. P. Perdew, Y. Wang, *Phys. Rev. B*, 1992, 45, 13244-13249; (b) J. P. Perdew, K. Burke,
  M. Ernzerhof, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 1996, 77, 3865-3868; (c) J. P. Perdew, M. Ernzerhof, K.
  Burke, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1996, 105, 9982-9985.
- 7 The corresponding literature for the basis sets can be found at: ftp://ftp.chemie.unikarlsruhe.de/pub/basen.

- 8 (a) *Turbomole V6.5*, development: University of Karlsruhe and Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH, 1989-2011, TURBOMOLE GmbH; available from http://www.turbomole.com, Karlsruhe, 2013; (b) R. Ahlrichs, M. Bär, M. Häser, H. Horn, C. Kölmel, *Chem. Phys. Lett.*, 1989, **162**, 165-169.
- 9 (a) G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Crystallogr.*, 2008, A64, 112-122; (b) G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELXS-97, Program for Crystal Structure Solution*, Universität Göttingen, 1997.
- 10 G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELXT, Program for Crystal Structure Solution*, Universität Göttingen, 2014.
- 11 G. M. Sheldrick, *SHELXL-97, Program for Crystal Structure Refinement*, Universität Göttingen, 1997.
- 12 C. B. Hübschle, G. M. Sheldrick, B. Dittrich, J. Appl. Crystallogr., 2011, 44, 1281-1284.
- 13 L. J. Farrugia, J. Appl. Crystallogr., 1999, **32**, 837-838.
- 14 K. Brandenburg, *Diamond 3.2i*, Crystal Impact GbR, Bonn, Germany, 1997-2012.
- 15 U. Groß, S. Rüdiger, A.-R. Grimmer, E. Kemnitz, J. Fluorine Chem., 2002, 115, 193-199.