Supporting Information for:

Structural Elucidation of a Mononuclear Titanium Methylidene

Lauren N. Grant,^a Seihwan Ahn,^{b,c} Brian C. Manor,^a Mu-Hyun Baik,^{b,c*} and Daniel J. Mindiola^{a*}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104. ^bDepartment of Chemistry, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Daejeon, 34141, South Korea. ^cInstitute for Basic Science, Center for Catalytic Hydrocarbon Functionalizations, Daejeon, 34141, South Korea.

E-mail: mbaik2805@kaist.ac.kr; mindiola@sas.upenn.edu

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Experimental Details

General Procedures

Unless otherwise stated, all operations were performed in a M.Braun Lab Master double-dry box under an atmosphere of purified dinitrogen or using high vacuum standard Schlenk techniques under an argon or dinitrogen atmosphere. Anhydrous solvents were purchased from Fisher Scientific or Aldrich. All anhydrous solvents were sparged with argon for 20 minutes and dried by passage through two columns of activated alumina and Q-5 drying agent in a Grubbs-type solvent system. Stabilizer-free Et₂O and THF were purchased from Fisher Scientific and dried by passage through two columns of activated alumina. Deuterated benzene and deuterated toluene were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories (CIL) and was sparged with argon for 20 minutes, then was dried over 4 Å sieves, and degassed by freeze-pump-thaw cycles. All solvents were transferred into a dry box and were stored over 4 Å sieves. All sieves were heated to 200 °C under vacuum overnight prior to use. Celite used for filtrations was also heated to 200 °C under vacuum overnight prior to use. Solution state magnetic susceptibility was measured by the Evans^[1] method in benzene-d₆/tetramethylsilane solution at 298 K. Corrections were applied for diamagnetism calculated for Pascal constants.^[2] (PN)₂TiCl,^[3] the, aryl oxyl radical •OMes* (Mes* = $2,4,6^{+}Bu_3C_6H_2$,^[4] H₂CPPh₃,^[5] and [FeCp₂][OTf]^[6] were prepared according to published literature procedures. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker UNI 400 MHz spectrometer for ¹H and ³¹P{¹H} spectra. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a cryo500. ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are reported referenced to the internal residual proton or carbon resonances of $C_6 D_6$ ($\delta =$ 7.16 ppm or 128.06 ppm). ¹⁹F and ³¹P NMR chemical shifts are reported with respect to external CF₃CO₂H (δ –78.5 ppm) and H₃PO₄ (δ 0.0 ppm).

Synthesis of (PN)₂Ti(CH₃) (1)

A dark brown solution of $(PN)_2$ TiCl (294 mg, 0.38 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 5 mL of toluene was cooled to -35 °C for 30 mins in a 20 mL vial. To this solution was added an ethereal solution of 1.6 M LiCH₃ (0.24 mL, 0.38 mmol, 1 equiv,) dropwise, over a period of 3 minutes. An immediate color change to dark green was observed during this time. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 15 minutes, followed by removal of all volatiles. The green residue was then dissolved in 15 mL diethyl ether, filtered through Celite, and the filtrate concentrated to 5 mL. This concentrated solution was then layered with 10 mL *n*-hexanes and stored at -35 °C overnight, resulting in the deposition of a dark green powder. To isolate this material, the solution was rapidly filtered cold and the solid dried *in vacuo*. Total collected was 278 mg (0.37 mmol, 98% yield). In order to grow single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies, half of the powder product from the isolated reaction mixture (140 mg) was dissolved in 10 mL ether, and stored at -35 °C overnight without further filtration to yield green single plates of complex **1**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 11.98 (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 5.7$ Hz, 2 H, meta-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 9.37 (s, 2 H, meta-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 8.23 (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 65.2$ Hz, 2 H, ortho-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 8.14 (s, 4 H, meta-Ar*H*_{Mesityl}), 4.29 (s, 12 H, ortho-C*H*₃Mesityl), 3.31 (s, 6 H, para-C*H*₃Tolyl), 2.80 (s, 6 H para-C*H*₃Mesityl), 2.39 (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 33.2$ Hz, 12 H, P-CH-C*H*₃), 1.37 (s, 3 H, Ti-C*H*₃) 0.49 (br, 4 H ea, P-C*H*-CH₃). Some

residual solvents such as *n*-hexanes and *n*-pentane are present based on the ¹H NMR spectrum. μ_{eff} = 2.03 μ_B , 25 °C, C₆D₆, Evans' method.

Synthesis of (PN)₂Ti(CH₃)(OTf) (2)

To a dark green solution of **1** in 5 mL THF in a 20 mL vial (224.5 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added a 10 mL THF slurry of [FeCp₂][OTf] (101.5 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) at room temperature while stirring. A color change to dark red was observed, whereby all [FeCp₂][OTf] was consumed as it was added, instantaneously resulting in a homogeneous bright red solution. As monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy, complex **1** is converted quantitatively to complex **2**. Removal of volatiles after stirring at room temperature for 30 minutes provides a pure powder that can be used for NMR characterization. Complex **2** is cleanly formed along with FeCp₂ based on the ¹H NMR spectrum. Given the clean conversion of **1** to complex **2**, it is possible to conduct *in situ* experiments with the crude material without need for separation from the FeCp₂. The details below rely on the use of crude mixture for the synthesis of complex **3**.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 6.70 (s, 4H, *meta*-Ar*H*_{Mesityl}), 6.55, (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 3.3$ Hz, 2 H, *meta*-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 6.53 (s, 2 H, *meta*-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 5.48 (dd, ³J_{H-H} = 3.5 Hz, 2H, *ortho*-Ar*H*_{Tolyl}), 3.60 (s, 12 H, ortho-C*H*₃Mesityl), 2.82 (sept, ³J_{H-H} = 3.5 Hz, 2 H, P-C*H*-CH₃), 2.57 (sept, ³J_{H-H} = 3.3 Hz, 2 H, P-C*H*-CH₃), 2.31 (s, 6 H, para-C*H*₃Tolyl), 2.19 (s, 6 H para-C*H*₃Mesityl), 1.69 (t, ³J_{H-H} = 9.1 Hz, 3 H, Ti-C*H*₃), 1.54 (m, 3 H, P-CH-C*H*₃, coupling constant not assignable due to overlapping resonances), 1.48 (m, 3 H, P-CH-C*H*₃, coupling constant not assignable due to overlapping resonances). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 17.45 ppm. ¹⁹F NMR (282 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 158.45 (Ar-C), 145.43 (Ar-C), 138.41 (Ar-C), 136.47 (Ar-C), 136.10 (Ar-C), 133.67 (Ar-C), 132.40 (Ar-C), 130.63 (Ar-C), 130.04 (Ar-C), 129.27 (Ar-C), 113.90 (Ar-C), 55.22 (t, ¹J_{C-H}= 8.1 Hz, Ti-CH₃), 28.01 (PCH(CH₃)₂, 27.17 (PCH(*C*H₃)₂), 21.61 (Ar-*C*H₃), 21.46 (PCH(*C*H₃)₂), 21.26 (PCH(*C*H₃)₂), 20.99 (Ar-*C*H₃), 20.49 (Ar-*C*H₃).

Synthesis of (PN)₂Ti=CH₂ (3)

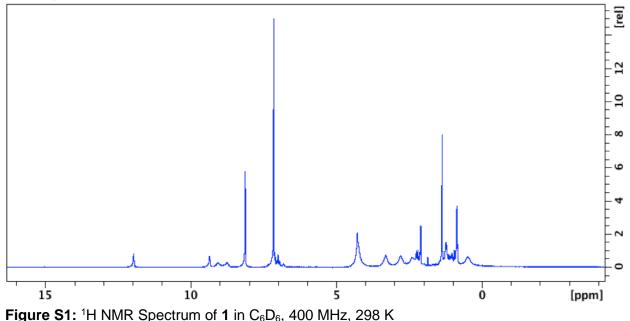
Route A:

To a dark green solution of complex 1 (224 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 5 mL of THF in a 20 mL vial was added a 5 mL slurry of [FeCp₂][OTf] (101.5mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) at room temperature while stirring. A color change to a bright red color was observed immediately upon addition. The solution was stirred for another hour at room temperature during which no further color change was observed. All volatiles were taken to dryness under reduced pressure, and the residue redissolved in 5 mL toluene. To this solution was added a stoichiometric amount of H_2CPPh_3 (83.3 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) as a 5 mL toluene solution at room temperature while stirring. A rapid color change from bright red to light orange was observed. The solution was stirred for 5 minutes, and then taken to dryness under reduced pressure, followed by two triturations with *n*-hexanes. The orange residue was then dissolved in 8 mL of *n*-hexanes, and filtered over Celite to remove the colorless precipitate, presumably [H₃CPPh₃][OTf]. The filtrate was quickly stored at -35 °C overnight without further concentration, resulting in the deposition of light orange crystals of complex **3** suitable for x-ray diffraction (168 mg, 0.22 mmol, 75% yield). In solution complex **3**

gradually decomposes so it is recommended that manipulation of such a species must be conducted rapidly while maintaining the solution cold. *Route B:*

To a dark green stirred solution of complex 1 (75 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.) in 5 mL of toluene in a 20 mL vial was added a 5 mL toluene solution of the aryl oxyl radical •OMes* (Mes* = 2,4,6- $^{t}Bu_{3}C_{6}H_{2}$), at room temperature. Within five minutes, the solution began to lighten to an orange color. The reaction does not fully convert to complex **3** as monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The optimized reaction time for conversion to **3** is 15 minutes at room temperature. After this time, the reaction mixture was then taken to dryness under reduced pressure, triturated with *n*-hexanes, and then redissolved in 10 mL n-hexanes. The solution was filtered over Celite and the filtrate stored at $-35 \,^{\circ}$ C overnight to yield orange crystals of complex **3** (35 mg, 0.05 mmol, 48% yield) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 11.82 ppm (t, J_{H-H}=3.68 Hz, 2 H, Ti=C*H*₂), 7.04 (s, 4 H, meta-ArH_{Mesityl}), 6.85 (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 4.0$ Hz, 2 H, meta-ArH_{Tolyl}), (br, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 4.0$ Hz, 2 H, meta-Ar*H*_{Tolvl}), 5.69 (dd, ³J_{H-H} = 4.1 Hz, 2 H, *ortho*-Ar*H*_{Tolvl}), 2.62 (sept, ³J_{H-H} = 6.6 Hz, 2 H, P-C*H*-CH₃), 2.50 (s, 6 H, para-CH_{3Tolyl}), 2.20 (s, 6 H para-CH_{3Mesityl}), 2.08 (s, 12 H, ortho-CH_{3Mesityl}), 1.01 (m, 6 H, P-CH-CH₃, coupling value not assignable), 0.79 (m, 6 H, P-CH-CH₃, coupling value not assignable due to overlapping residual solvent residues), 0.53 (sept, ³J_{H-H} = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, P-CH-CH₃). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (162 MHz, 298 K, benzene-*d*₆): δ 23.60 ppm. ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, 298 K, toluene-d₈): δ 291.10 (t, ¹J_{C-H}=123.5 Hz, ²J_{C-P}=12.5 Hz, Ti=CH₂), 170.32 (Ar-C), 159.67 (t, Ar-C, ²J_{CP}= 12.3 Hz), 158.17 (Ar-C), 145.46 (Ar-C), 136.85 (Ar-C), 133.78 (Ar-C), 133.60 (Ar-C), 131.82 (Ar-C), 130.27 (Ar-C), 129.89 (Ar-C), 112.78 (Ar-C), 112.12 (t, Ar-C, ²J_{C-P}= 4.2 Hz), 22.47 (PCH(CH₃)₂, CP coupling constant not assignable due to overlapping resonances), 21.67 (PCH(CH₃)₂, 20.86 (PCH(CH₃)₂), 20.65 (PCH(CH₃)₂), 20.28 (Ar-CH₃), 19.97 (Ar-CH₃), 19.21 (Ar-CH₃).

NMR Spectral Data



S4

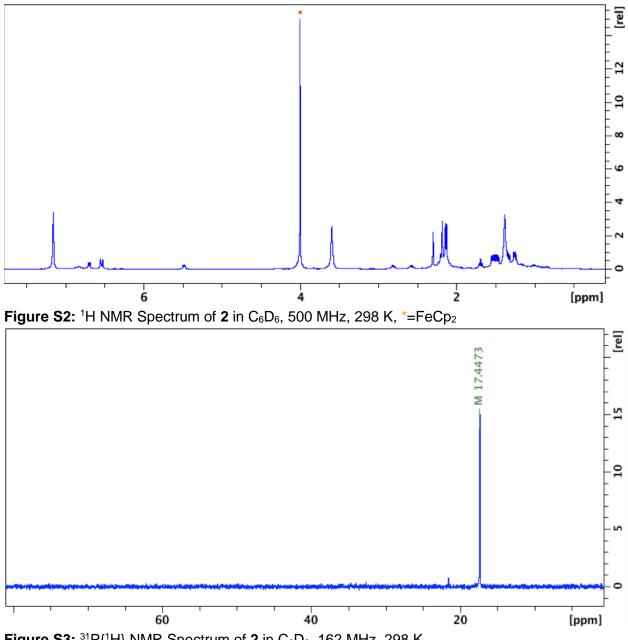
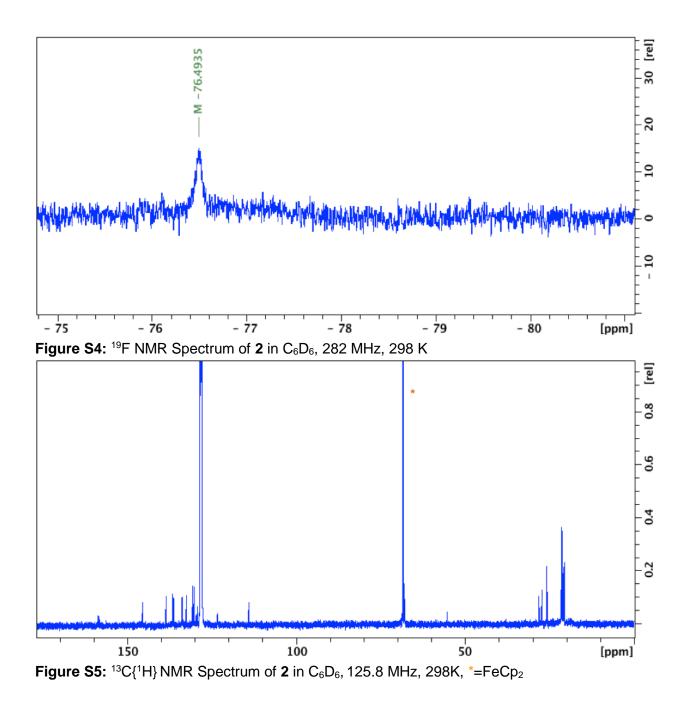
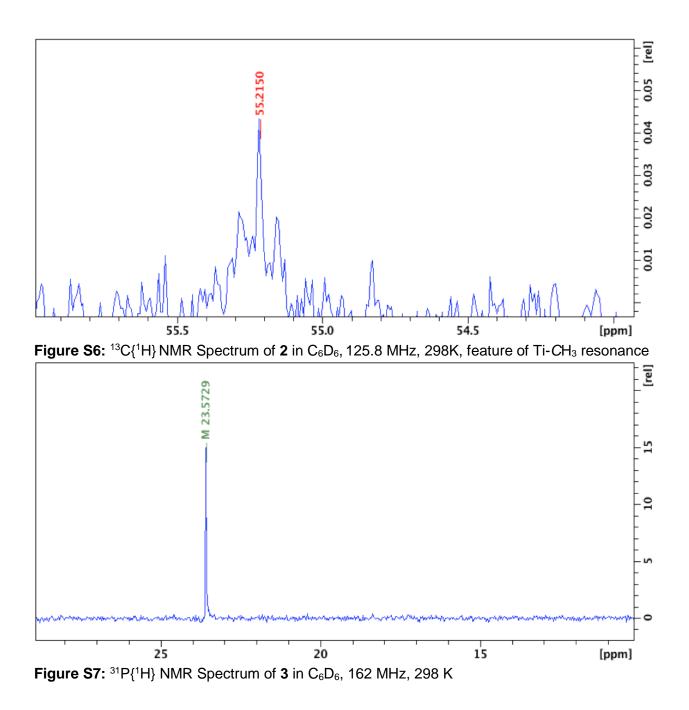
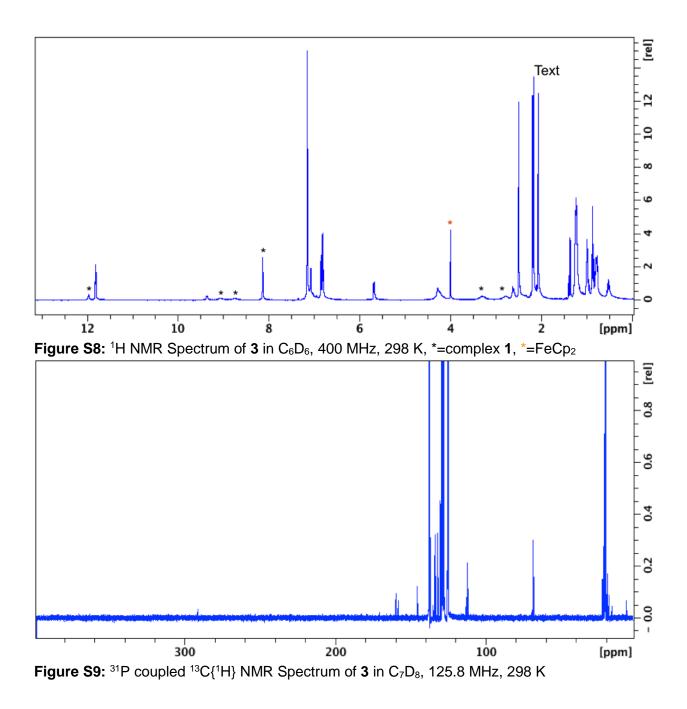
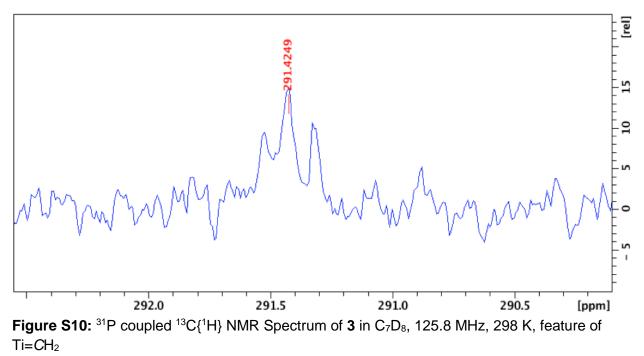


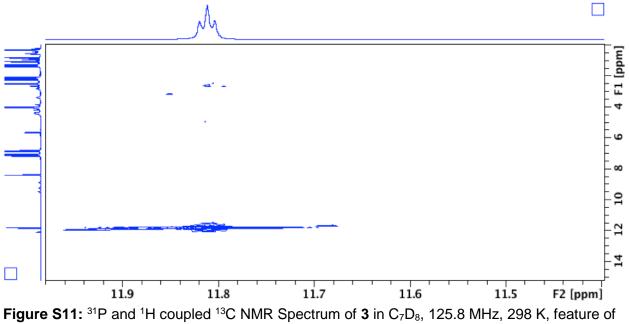
Figure S3: ³¹P{¹H} NMR Spectrum of 2 in C₆D₆, 162 MHz, 298 K



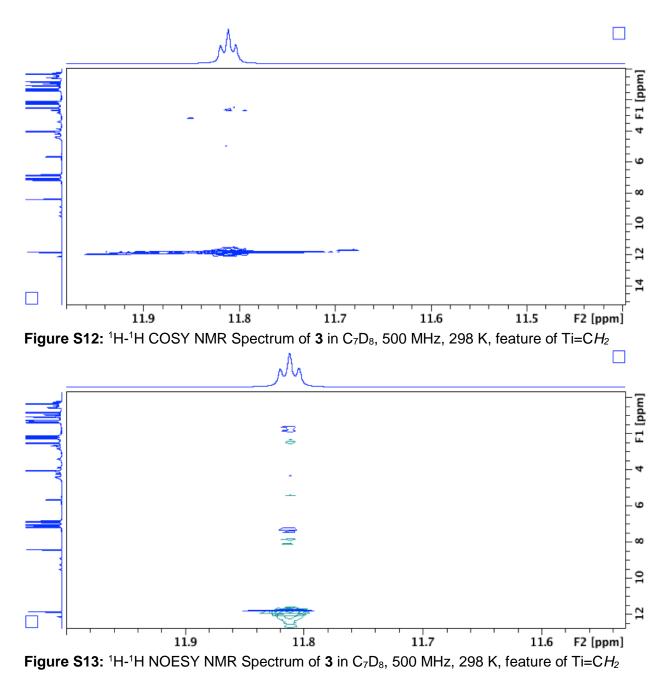








 $Ti=CH_2$



Molecular Structures and Crystallographic Tables

X-ray Crystallography

Crystallographic data for are summarized Table S1 and S2. Suitable single crystals for X-ray analysis of **1** or **3** were placed on the end of a Cryoloop coated in NVH oil. The X-ray intensity data collection was carried out on a Bruker APEXII CCD area detector using graphite-monochromated Mo-K radiation (I = 0.71073 Å) at 100(1) K. Preliminary indexing was performed from a series of thirty-six 0.5° rotation frames with exposures of 10 seconds. Rotation frames were integrated using SAINT,^[7] producing a listing of non-averaged F^2 and s(F^2) values which

were then passed to the SHELXTL^[8] program package for further processing and structure solution. The intensity data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects and for absorption using SADABS.^[9] All calculations were performed using SHELXS^[10] and SHELXL.^[11] The structures were solved by Patterson and Fourier transform methods. All reflections were used during refinement. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydrogen atoms were refined using riding models with exception for methylidene of **3**.

Molecular formula	C100 H154 N4 P4 Ti2
Formula weight	815.98
Temperature (K)	100(2)
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	Р
Cell constants:	
a (Å)	12.3342(3)
b (Å)	14.2207(4)
c (Å)	28.9433(8)
Volume (Å ³)	4833.9(2)
Z	4
Density (calcd mg/m3)	1.121
Abs coeff (mm-1)	0.277
F(000)	1772
Wavelength	0.71073
q range for data collection (°)	1.43 to 27.56
# Refins collected	21616
Refinement method	Full-matrix least- squares on F2
R_1^a	0.0814
wR_2^b	0.0575

Table S1. Crystallographic Data for Complex 1

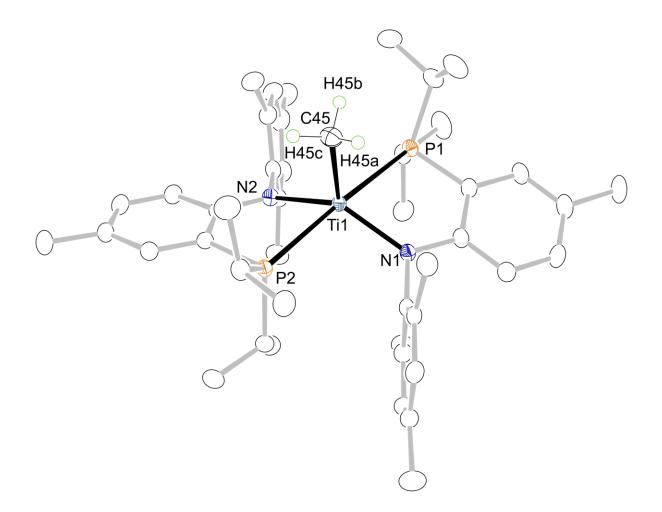
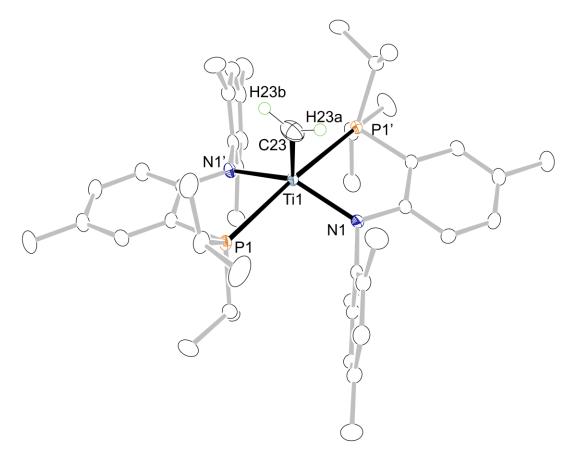


Figure S14. Molecular structure of **1**, showing thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. Hatoms, with the exception of those on C45, have been omitted for clarity.

Molecular formula	C45 H64 N2 P2 Ti
Formula weight	742.82
Temperature (K)	100(2)
Crystal system	Monoclinic

Space group	C 1 2/c 1
Cell constants:	
a (Å)	15.3286(7)
b (Å)	12.3358(5)
c (Å)	22.4869(11)
Volume (Å ³)	4230.8(3)
Z	4
Density (calcd mg/m3)	1.166
Abs coeff (mm-1)	0.310
F(000)	1600
Wavelength	0.71073
q range for data collection (°)	1.43 to 27.56
# Refins collected	59618
Refinement method	Full-matrix least- squares on F2
R_1^a	0.0484
wR_2^b	0.0374
Goodness-of-fit on F2c	1.058



Figure

S15. Molecular structure of **1**, showing thermal ellipsoids at 50% probability level. H-atoms, with the exception of those on C23, have been omitted for clarity.

Computational Details

All calculation results were obtained using density functional theory^[12] as implemented in the Jaguar 9.1 suite^[13] of ab initio quantum chemistry programs. The geometry optimizations were carried out with B3LYP^[14–17] functional and 6-31G^{**} basis set. Titanium was represented using the Los Alamos LACVP basis set^[18–20] that includes effective core potentials. The energies of the optimized structures were readdressed by single-point calculations using cc-pVTZ(-f)^[21] basis set. Titanium used a modified version of LACVP denoted LACV3P. Vibrational frequency calculations were carried out at the B3LYP/6-31G^{**} level of theory. Standard approximation was used to obtain zero-point vibrational energy and entropy corrections. Solvation energies were evaluated by Self-Consistent Reaction field (SCRF)^[22–24] calculations with the dielectric constant $\varepsilon = 4.3$ (Ethyl Ether) using the optimized gas phase structures. The natural bond orbital (NBO) analysis was carried out using NBO 6.0 program^[25–27] in the Jaguar 9.1 suite. The Gibbs free energy in solution phase was computed as follows^[28]:

$$G(\text{Sol}) = G(\text{gas}) + G^{\text{solv}}$$
(1)

$$G(gas) = H(gas) - TS(gas)$$
(2)

$$H(gas) = E(SCF) + ZPE$$
(3)

$$\Delta G(\text{Sol}) = \Sigma G(\text{Sol}) \text{ for products - } \Sigma G(\text{Sol}) \text{ for reactants}$$
(4)

Cartesian Coordinates of All Computed Structures

3-Singlet

Ti	5.980214569 8.332128337 16.777293945
Р	7.322321404 8.476039008 19.143521281
N	7.864935571 9.004241905 16.235341647
С	9.032774882 8.939102894 17.012150513
С	10.322553043 9.179381453 16.470400700
Η	10.417693252 9.454431158 15.426887182
С	11.474310358 9.060399601 17.235856107
Н	12.436221248 9.249990767 16.762109745
С	11.432019652 8.697293442 18.588458309
С	10.166040211 8.490615086 19.137090366
Н	10.104042589 8.216342066 20.186561691
С	8.981307752 8.623147333 18.395563386
С	12.693775256 8.553691612 19.407373965
Н	13.382380227 7.822731301 18.965854055
Н	12.472286072 8.223483924 20.427110657
Н	13.240570926 9.502526277 19.479945536
С	7.537446559 7.030357960 20.343671006
Н	8.395528358 7.314689515 20.963988049
С	7.895351703 5.728657673 19.614190318
Н	7.082867751 5.412607557 18.953921862
Η	8.073718740 4.932391147 20.347457505
Н	8.798742040 5.839046709 19.007914869
С	6.333907825 6.830106411 21.275570765
Н	5.469604252 6.453004327 20.725455150
Н	6.030959814 7.748520449 21.786103815
Н	6.585593587 6.089146803 22.044450051

С	7.192325833	9.986208244 20.290280708
Н	6.145009239	9.976556819 20.611877501
С	7.431671475	11.270875893 19.482846298
Н	8.473222992	11.337905390 19.151902913
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Н	6.793156255	11.326323040 18.599576778
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С	8.700582092	9.026240210 12.579270376
Н	8.986949433	8.314275244 11.807304823
С	8.609659155	10.381832046 12.254274785
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Н	8.248197231	12.341487988 13.067928618
С	8.045775076	10.844301548 14.590720478
С	8.688848777	7.091171543 14.191172997
Н	8.918096212	6.527554881 13.282022703
Н	7.822456768	6.636720067 14.677171645
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С	8.862585725	10.876834809 10.848259767
Н	9.224743489	10.073515190 10.199960435
Н	9.608011660	11.680602267 10.834481601
Н	7.949257812	11.281717357 10.394769362
С	7.825143411	11.867043025 15.678598047
Н	7.669653736	12.863610357 15.255143318
Н	8.693233914	11.915029282 16.346911092
Н	6.966434031	11.621969889 16.307115594

С	5.973961148	6.463837612	16.773514302
Н	6.847495100	5.846112026	16.536271895
Н	5.094507307	5.853055745	17.006931233
Р	4.636790350	8.481908776	14.413335255
N	4.097725237	9.007996437	17.322914477
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Н	-0.513730694	8.241022203	13.132240708
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С	4.426090604	7.036800743	13.213406790
Η	3.571814547	7.321248008	12.587635473
С	4.064349327	5.734752171	13.939080811
Н	4.875271001	5.415948257	14.599753679
Н	3.885899074	4.940757200	13.203484065
Η	3.159983679	5.845464823	14.543694779
С	5.637379018	6.838547744	12.290812579
Η	6.499677372	6.467929309	12.849064755
Н	5.939662763	7.756581735	11.779256608
Η	5.395118011	6.093473385	11.522819323
С	4.763701022	9.989276588	13.262450419
Н	5.809799147	9.978119957	12.937323213

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Н	4.745172379	12.152361278 13.443052289
Н	5.167276682	11.332064396 14.949280432
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Н	3.038860373	8.311404386 21.764805462
С	3.372867588	10.384289743 21.308283321
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С	3.311362893	7.091735074 19.373950358
Н	3.091735393	6.526532177 20.284477460
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Н	2.463527001	6.970011471 18.689684272
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Η	2.798366140	10.069130622 23.373394169
Η	2.369785575	11.665415723 22.740628130
Η	4.043800331	11.304304515 23.154029411
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Н	3.221236412	11.903885875 17.208262810
Η	4.954452985	11.648113343 17.241886990

3-Triplet

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[11] $R_1 = S||F_o| - |F_c|| / S |F_o|$, $wR_2 = [Sw(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2/Sw(F_o^2)^2]^{\frac{1}{2}}$, $GOF = [Sw(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2/(n - p)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$; where n = the number of reflections and p = the number of parameters refined.

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