Supplementary Information for

Crystal Structure of a Carborane *endo/exo-*Dianion and its Use in the

Synthesis of Ditopic Ligands for Supramolecular Frameworks

Kang Zhang,^a Yunjun Shen,^a Jiyong Liu,^a Bernhard Spingler^b and Simon Duttwyler^{*a}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Zhejiang University Zheda Road 38, 310027 Hangzhou, P.R. China ^bDepartment of Chemistry, University of Zurich Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zurich, Switzerland

E-mail: duttwyler@zju.edu.cn

Table of Contents

I	General Information	p. S2–S3
II	Experimental Section	p. S4–S25
ш	X-ray Crystallography	p. S26–S42
IV	References	p. S43
v	NMR Spectra	p. NMR1–NMR35
VI	Mass Spectra	p. MS1–MS7

I General Information

Chemicals

If not otherwise specified, reagents and organic solvents were commercially available and used without further purification. Acetone- d_6 , CD₃CN and DMSO- d_6 were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and filtered through Al₂O₃ prior to use. [Me₃NH]⁺[CB₁₁H₁₂-12-CN]⁻ (starting material) was prepared according to the literature [1]. Anhydrous solvents were prepared by passage through activated Al₂O₃ and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves.

Reaction Conditions

Glassware for air-sensitive reations was dried at 200 °C for at least 6 h and allowed to cool in a vacuum.

Lithium diisopropylamide (LDA) and lithium 2,2,4,4-tetramethylpiperidin-1-ide (LiTMP) were prepared from the free amine and *n*-butyllithium in a glovebox under a nitrogen atmosphere with O_2 , $H_2O < 1$ ppm.

Characterization

Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using silica gel 60, F254 with a thickness of 0.25 mm. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (200-30 mesh).

Solution-phase NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE III 500 spectrometer (¹H NMR 500.13 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125.77 MHz, ¹¹B NMR 160.46 MHz) or a Bruker AVANCE III 400 spectrometer (¹H NMR 400.13 MHz, ¹³C NMR 100.62 MHz, ¹¹B NMR 128.38 MHz) at 23 °C. Data are reported as follows: Chemical shift in ppm, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublet, etc.), coupling constant *J* in Hz, integration, and (where applicable) interpretation. Signals were referenced against solvent peaks (residual $CHD_2C(O)CD_3 = 2.05$ ppm, residual $CHD_2S(O)CD_3 = 2.50$ ppm, residual $CHD_2CN = 1.94$ ppm, ¹³C{¹H}: $CD_3C(O)CD_3 = 29.84$ ppm, $CD_3S(O)CD_3 = 39.52$ ppm). ¹¹B and ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectra were calibrated against external BF₃*Et₂O = 0 ppm (BF₃*Et₂O capillary in C₆D₆).

Solid-state NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400WB AVANCE III spectrometer (¹H NMR 400.13 MHz, ¹³C NMR 100.61 MHz, ¹¹B NMR 128.37 MHz) with a 3.2 mm probe at 25 °C. The magic-angle-spin (MAS) frequency was set to 15 kHz. ¹H and ¹³C{1H} chemical shifts were referenced to adamantane (H = 1.8 ppm, CH₂ = 38.5 ppm). ¹¹B and ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectra were calibrated against external $BF_3*Et_2O = 0$ ppm.

Low-resolution ESI-MS data were recorded on Advion Expression CMS instrument. High-resolution MS data were recorded using IT-TOF detection (Shimadzu, Japan) equipped with an electrospray ionization source (ESI). Accurate mass determination was corrected by calibration using sodium trifluoroacetate clusters as a reference.

IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet iS10 FT-IR spectrometer as KBr pellets and are reported as wavenumbers (v, cm⁻¹).

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies were performed on an Oxford Diffraction Gemini A Ultra diffractometer equipped with an 135mm Atlas CCD detector and using Mo K- α radiation.

Remark about elemental analysis:

Elemental analysis of boron-containing compounds performed by our department has resulted in inconsistent C/H/N values for identical crystalline batches. The reason seems to be irreproducible formation of boron nitride species as a result of incomplete combustion, at least on our instrument. This finding is in agreement with publications reporting the same phenomenon (Dalton Trans. 2015, 44, 9766–9781; Chem. Eur. J. 2008, 14, 1918–1923 and references cited therein).

We therefore refrained from "submitting until the numbers are right" and shipped two random samples to an external laboratory in Shanghai in order to test whether purity as indicated by NMR and mass spectra corresponds to purity as indicated by elemental analysis. The results were as follows:

Compound **10a**: C/H/N (%) calculated: 48.00/9.13/11.19; found: 48.34/8.88/11.01. Compound **10c**: C/H/N (%) calculated: 46.75/7.63/6.06; found: 46.89/7.42/6.12.

II Experimental Section

II. a) Amide base formation, lithiation and cupration

Lithium 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidide (LiTMP)



A dry 25 mL vial, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, was charged with 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine (420.5 mg, 2.98 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (4 mL) was then added to the vial via a syringe, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C. A solution of n-BuLi (1.61 M in hexane, 1.8 mL, 2.90 mmol, 0.97 equiv) was slowly dropped into the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h. This solution was used within hours for deprotonation experiments.

Lithium diisopropylamide (LDA)



A dry 25 mL vial, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, was charged with diisopropylamine (301.4 mg, 2.98 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (4 mL) was then added to the vial via a syringe, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C. A solution of n-BuLi (1.61 M in hexane, 1.7 mL, 2.74 mmol, 0.97 equiv) was slowly dropped into the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h. This solution was used within hours for deprotonation experiments.

Lithiation and cupration of 6

Lithiation: A dry 20 mL glass vial, equipped with a magnetic stir bar, was charged with $[NMe_3H][CB_{11}H_{11}-12-CN]$ (40 mg, 0.175 mmol, 1 equiv). Anhydrous THF (2 mL) was then added to the flask, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.45 M in THF, 1.36 mL, 0.61 mmol, 3.5 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction vial via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. From such solutions, clean deprotonation could be confirmed by NMR spectroscopy. Spectra were obtained by transferring 0.5 mL of solution to an NMR tube containing a sealed capillary with C₆D₆ for locking and shimming.

Remark: When LDA was used in place of LiTMP under the same conditions, *ca*. 50% deprotonation of **6** was observed. Based on this finding, we estimate the pK_a value of **6** to be \approx 36.[2]

Cupration: The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and CuI (36.7 mg, 0.193 mmol, 1.10 equiv) was added the reaction flask. Then the ice-bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. Transmetalation to the cuprate was confirmed by NMR spectroscopy. These solutions were used for Pd-catalyzed cross coupling reactions.

II. b) Preparation of ligands 10a-g

Product 10a



A dry 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with [NMe₃H][CB₁₁H₁₁-12-CN] (282 mg, 1.236 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added to the flask and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.8 M in THF, 5.0 mL, 4.0 mmol, 3.23 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath and CuI (266.2 mg, 1.368 mmol, 1.10 equiv) was added the reaction flask. Then the ice-bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (26.2 mg, 0.1167 mmol, 0.09 equiv), tris(o-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (83.2 mg, 0.236 mmol, 0.19 equiv), and 4-iodopyridine (342.1 mg, 1.669 mmol, 1.35 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 16 h. Water (4 mL) was slowly added, and THF was removed using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+$ Br⁻ (1.04 g, 5.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added, the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h for cation exchange. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 250 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (4:1 v/v) as the eluent. The combined eluates were concentrated with a rotary evaporator and then dried in a vacuum at 60 °C overnight to afford compound 1 as a slightly yellow solid. The solid was added to a 100 mL one-necked round-bottom flask, then the HCl solution (0.5 M in H₂O, 10 mL, 5 mmol) was added and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over

magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. NaOH solution (1 M in H₂O, 5 mL) was added, and this aqueous solution was filtered using a pad of celite. To the clear and colorless filtrate, a solution of $[Et_4N]^+$ Br⁻ (519.1 mg, 2.47 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in water (10 mL) was added to, and the resulting white solid was collected by filtration and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10a** (324.5 mg, 70% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ 8.37 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), δ 8.27 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.20 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 1.97 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.78 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.15 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ ca. -11.0 to -15.0 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (128 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ *ca*. -11.5 to -14.5 (overlapping signals with peaks at -12.54 and -13.41).

 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d6, 23 °C): δ 152.70, 145.81, 124.07 (three pyridyl signals), 70.61 (cage C), 51.37 (CH₂ of cation), 7.08 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_7H_{14}B_{11}N_2]^-$: 245.2253. Found: 245.2266.

Product 10b



A dry 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[NMe_3H][CB_{11}H_{11}-12-CN]$ (201.2 mg, 0.882 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added to the flask, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.8 M in THF, 3.75 mL, 3.0 mmol, 3.40 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and CuI (201.1 mg, 1.055 mmol, 1.12 equiv) was added to the reaction flask. Then the ice bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (17.8 mg, 0.080 mmol, 0.09 equiv), tris(o-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (77.7 mg, 0.221 mmol, 0.25 equiv) and ethyl 4-iodobenzoate (419.1 mg, 1.599 mmol, 1.81 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C and checked by MS and TLC analysis until no starting material remained. Water (4.0 mL) was slowly added, and THF was removed using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (740 mg, 3.53 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h for cation exchange. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 250 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (8:1 v/v) as the eluent. The combined eluates were concentrated with a rotary evaporator and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C overnight to afford the crude product as a yellow solid. Then the solid and sodium hydroxide (100 mg, 2.5 mmol, 2.8 equiv) were added to a 25 mL one-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Water (10.0 mL), methanol (5.0 ml) and NaOH (1 M, ca. 3 equiv, for hydrolysis of the ester) were added to the flask, and the resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h. Methanol was removed using rotary evaporator, and the aqueous phase was acidified with 1 M

HCl (pH = 2) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (400 mg, 1.9 mmol, 2.15 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added, and the resulting white solid was collected by filtration through a glass frit and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10b** (221.2mg, 60% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (500 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 7.82 (d, J = 8.5, 2H, ArH), 7.56 (d, 2H, J = 8.5, ArH), 3.48 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 2.10 (broad signal overlapping with solvent residual signal, 5H, BH), 1.91 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.39 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ ca.-11.3 to 14.5 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (160 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ *ca.* -11.3 to -14.5 (overlapping signals with peaks at -12.5 and -13.3).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 167.24 (C=O), 146.68, 129.88, 129.60, 129.05 (4 aromatic signals), 73.53 (cage C), 52.99 (CH₂ of cation), 7.65 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_9H_{15}B_{11}NO_2]^-$: 288.2199. Found: 288.2216.

Product 10c



A dry 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[NMe_3H][CB_{11}H_{11}-12-CN]$ (257.4 mg, 1.128 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added to the flask, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.8 M in THF, 6.0 mL, 4.8 mmol, 3.75 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and CuI (243.7 mg, 1.280 mmol, 1.13 equiv) was added to the reaction flask. Then the ice bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (25.5 mg, 0.1136 mmol, 0.09 equiv), tris(o-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (99.5 mg, 0.282 mmol, 0.25 equiv) and dimethyl 5-iodoisophthalate (467.5 mg, 1.461 mmol, 1.30 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 18 h. Water (4.0 mL) was slowly added, and THF was removed using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (947 mg, 4.5 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h for cation exchange. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (8:1 v/v) as the eluent. The combined eluates were concentrated with a rotary evaporator and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C overnight to afford the crude product as a yellow solid. Then the crude product and sodium hydroxide (200 mg, 5 mmol, 4.4 equiv) were added to a 25 mL one-necked round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar. Water (10.0 mL) and methanol (5.0 ml) were added to the flask and the resulting mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 3 h for ester hydrolysis. Methanol was removed using a rotary evaporator, and the aqueous phase was acidified with 1 M HCl (pH = 2) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 40 mL). The

combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (400 mg, 1.9 mmol, 1.68 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added, and the resulting white solide was collected by filtration through a glass frit and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10c** (338.8mg, 65% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 13.33 (broad signal, 2H, OH), 8.28 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.13 (s, 2H, ArH), 3.20 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 2.01 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.80 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.16 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ *ca*.-11.0 to 15.0 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (160 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ *ca*. -11.0 to -14.0 (overlapping signals with peaks at -12.5 and -13.2).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d6, 23 °C): δ 166.22 (C=O), 140.81, 132.17, 130.95, 128.77 (4 phenyl signals), 71.98 (cage C), 51.39 (CH₂ of cation), 7.08 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_{10}H_{15}B_{11}NO_4]^-$: 332.2097. Found: 332.2127.

Product 10d



A dry 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with [NMe₃H][CB₁₁H₁₁-12-CN] (112.2 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added to the flask, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.8 M in THF, 2.0 mL, 1.6 mmol, 3.20 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and CuI (106.0 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.10 equiv) was added to the reaction flask. Then the ice bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. A solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (10.10 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.09 equiv), tris(o-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (44.05 mg, 0.13 mmol, 0.25 equiv) and dimethyl 1,4-diiodobenzene (73.4 mg, 0.22 mmol, 0.44 equiv) in anhydrous THF (4.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 2 days. Water (4.0mL) was slowly added, and THF was removed using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (420 mg, 2.0 mmol, 4.0 equiv) in water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h for cation exchange. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 250 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (3:1 v/v) as the eluent. The combined eluates were concentrated with a rotary evaporator and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C overnight to afford the crude product as a slightly yellow solid. The solid was added to a 100 mL one-necked round-bottom flask, then the HCl solution (1 M in H₂O, 10 mL, 5 mmol) was added and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over Cs_2CO_3 and filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round flask. To the flask a solution of Cs₂CO₃ (488.73 mg, 1.5 mmol, 3 equiv) in water (5 mL) was added. Most of the solvent was

removed using a rotary evaporator, and acetone (50 mL) was added to the remaining solid. The solution was filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round-bottom flask, and to this solution water (50 mL) was added. Acetone was removed using a rotary evaporator, and the aqueous layer was filtered into a 150 mL one-necked round-bottom flask using a pad of celite. Most of the solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator. The white solide was collected by filtration through a glass frit and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10d** (84 mg, 50% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ 7.10 (s, 4H, ArH), 1.93 (broad signal 10H, BH), 1.72 (broad signal 10H, BH).

¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ *ca*.-11.5 to 14.5 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (160 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ *ca.* -11.5 to -14.5 (overlapping signals with a peak at -12.8 and -13.2).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 138.64, 126.88 (two aromatic signals), 72.89 (cage C). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_{10}H_{24}B_{22}N_2]^{2-}$: 205.2066. Found: 205.2074.

Product 10e



[Et₄N]⁺

A dry 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[NMe_3H][CB_{11}H_{12}]$ (500 mg, 2.46 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (25 mL) was then added to the flask and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of n-BuLi (1.60 M in Hexane, 5.0 mL, 8.0 mmol, 3.25 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a yellow solution was obtained. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C in an ice bath, and CuI (515.3 mg, 2.71 mmol, 1.10 equiv) was added the reaction flask. Then the ice-bath was removed. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a green solution was obtained. A solution of Pd(OAc)2 (164.7 mg, 0.22 mmol, 0.09 equiv), tris(o-methoxyphenyl)phosphine (83.2 mg, 0.47mmol, 0.19 equiv) and 4-iodopyridine (680.8 mg, 3.32 mmol, 1.35 equiv) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) was added to the reaction mixture at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 16 h. Water (20 mL) was slowly added, and THF was removed using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+Br^-$ (1.54 g, 7.38 mmol, 3.0 equiv) in water (15 mL) and ethyl acetate (20 mL) were added, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h for cation exchange. The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN (4:1 v/v) as the eluent. The combined eluates were concentrated with a rotary evaporator and then dried in a vacuum at 60 °C overnight to afford compound x as a slightly yellow solid. The crude product was added to a 100 mL one-necked round-bottom flask, then the HCl solution (0.5 M in H₂O, 20 mL, 10 mmol) was added and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 40 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered into a 200 mL one-necked round-bottom flask and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. NaOH solution (1 M in H₂O, 10 mL) was added, and this aqueous solution was filtrated using a pad of celite. To the clear and colorless filtrate, a solution of [Et₄N]⁺Br⁻ (1.03 g, 4.92 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in water (10 mL) was added to

the filtrate, and the resulting white solide was collected by filtration through a glass frit and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10e** (688.7 mg, 80% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 8.32 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.38 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.48 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 2.00 (broad signal overlapping with solvent residual signal, 5H, BH), 1.81 (broad signal, 1H, BH), 1.72 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.39 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ -6.99 (d, J = 137 Hz, 1B, B-12), *ca.* -12.4 (overlapping d, J = ca. 130 Hz, 5B), *ca.* -13.4 (overlapping d, J = ca. 130 Hz, 5B).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (128 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ -6.99 (1B), -12.44 (5B), -13.27 (5B).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 151.36, 149.66, 124.07 (three pyridyl signals), 70.97 (cage C), 52.99 (CH₂ of cation), 7.65 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_7H_{14}B_{11}N_2]^-$: 220.2301. Found: 220.2305.

Product 10f (prepared according to the literature [3])



A dry 25 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar was charged with $[NMe_3H][CB_{11}H_{11}-12-CN]$ (211.2 mg, 0.708 mmol, 1 equiv) and capped with a rubber septum. Anhydrous THF (5 mL) was then added to the flask and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 5 min. A solution of LiTMP (0.8 M in THF, 3.8 mL, 3.0 mmol, 4.23 equiv) was slowly added to the reaction flask via a syringe over 5 min. After 1 h of stirring at 25 °C, a dark red solution was obtained. Dry CO₂ gas was then bubbled through the mixture at 0 °C (2-3 bubbles/s) for 10 min. Then the mixture was warmed to 25 °C and stirred for 10 h. Water (3 mL) was slowly added and the solution was concentrated on a rotary evaporator, the residue was dissolved in water (20 mL), washed with diethyl ether (under these basic conditions the dianionic product was in the water layer), and the aqueous phase was acidified with 1 M HCl (pH = 2) and extracted with diethyl ether (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated using a rotary evaporator. A solution of $[Et_4N]^+$ Br⁻ (400 mg, 1.9 mmol, 2.68 equiv) in water (4 mL) was added, the resulting white solide was collected by filtration through a glass frit and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give 10f (268.0 mg, 85% yield).

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 12.70 (broad s, 1H, COOH), 3.20 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 1.87 (broad, 5H, BH), 1.65 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.15 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ ca. -11.5 to -16.5 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (128 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , 23 °C): δ ca. -11.7 to -15.5 (overlapping signals with peaks at -13.07 and -14.21).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ 166.63 (C-COOH), 69.40 (cage C), 51.38 (CH₂ of cation), 7.08 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_3H_{11}B_{11}NO_2]^-$: 212.1886. Found: 212.1915.

Product 10g



A PTFE-lined cylinder-shaped steel autoclave (25 mL) was charged with **10f** (10.0 mg, 0.028 mmol), 0.75 mL of conc. aq. HCl and 0.25 mL of glacial acetic acid. The autoclave was sealed and heated to 180 °C for 3h. The resulting cloudy solution was concentrated using a rotary evaporator. NaOH solution (0.1 M in H₂O, 3 mL) was added, and this aqueous solution was filtrated using a pad of celite. To the clear and colorless filtrate, $[Et_4N]^+$ Br⁻ (15 mg, 0.065 mmol) was added, followed by conc. aq. HCl until the solution was acidic. The resulting white precipitate was collected by filtration and dried in a vacuum at 60 °C to give a colorless solid (10.1 mg). According to NMR spectra, the purity at this stage was ca. 90% This was solid was suspended in hexane (2 mL), and acetone (ca. 1.5 mL) was added until the compound was dissolved completely. Concentration on a rotary evaporator afforded colorless crystals that were collected by filtration and dried overnight in a vacuum at 60 °C to give **10g** (5.6 mg).

Spectra of this compound are shown in Figures S1–5. NMR spectra revealed that the isolated material still contained a small amount of acetone (2.09 ppm *vs* $CHD_2C(O)CD_3$ at 2.05 ppm), which could not be removed even upon prolonged drying in a vacuum. The procedure was repeated multiple times and worked as described above on a small scale, but attempts to synthesize larger amounts of **10g** were not successful.

¹H{¹¹B} NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 3.50 (q, J = 7.3 Hz, 8H, CH₂ of cation), 2.02 (broad signal overlapping with solvent residual signal, 5H, BH), 1.85 (broad signal, 5H, BH), 1.40 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 12H, CH₃ of cation).

¹¹B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ -3.81 (s, 1B, B-12), *ca.* -13.0 (overlapping d, J = ca. 130 Hz, 5B), *ca.* -14.3 (overlapping d, J = ca. 130 Hz, 5B).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (128 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆, 23 °C): δ -3.76 (1B), -12.91 (5B), -14.44 (5B).

¹³C{¹H} NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- d_6 , 23 °C): δ 168.31 (C-COOH), 67.49 (cage C), 53.03 (CH₂ of cation), 7.68 (CH₃ of cation). The B-C signal could not be detected.

High-resolution ESI-MS (negative mode, MeOH): m/z calcd for $[C_3H_{12}B_{11}O_4]^-$: 231.1832. Found: 231.1846.



Figure S1. ${}^{1}H{}^{11}B{}$ NMR spectrum of **10g** (400 MHz, 25 °C, Acetone-*d*₆). Cation signals appear at 3.50 and 1.40 ppm; B–H signals are seen at 2.02 (overlapping with solvent residual peak) and 1.85 ppm.





Figure S3. ¹¹B{¹H} NMR spectrum of 10g (128 MHz, 25 °C, Acetone- d_6).



Figure S4. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectrum of **10g** (125 MHz, 25 °C, Acetone- d_6). Cation signals appear at 53.03 ppm and 7.68 ppm; C- CO_2H and the cage carbon atom are seen at 168.31 ppm and 67.49 ppm. The B(12)- CO_2H signal could not be detected.



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode

Figure S5. Mass spectra of 10g.

II. c) Preparation of polymer 11 based on ligand 10a and Cu(I)



In a 4 mL glass vial **10a** (10 mg, 0.027 mmol) and CuI (5.2 mg, 0.027 mmol) were dissolved in MeCN (0.7 mL) at 25 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 4 h. Slow evaporation of ca. 70% of the solvent afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[((MeCN)_2Cu)-1-pyridyl-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]_n$, which were initially characterized by X-ray crystallography (50% yield). Solution-phase and solid-state NMR measurements of crystalline product were in agreement with the structure determined by X-ray diffraction (see below).

Solution-phase NMR: Several deuterated solvents were tested, but only CD₃CN gave a solubility high enough for ${}^{1}H{}^{11}B{}$, ${}^{11}B$ NMR and ${}^{11}B{}^{1}H{}$ measurements (ca. 1.5 mg/mL). This concentration was not sufficient to obtain ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$ data. Upon dissolution, **11** probably breaks up into monomers, *i.e.* [Cu(solv)_n][**10a**].

 ${}^{1}H{}^{11}B$ NMR (500 MHz, CD₃CN, 23 °C): δ 8.32 (broad signal, coupling not resolved, 2H), 7.39 (broad signal, coupling not resolved, 2H), 2.00 (broad signal overlapping with solvent residual signal, 5H, BH), 1.96 (s, 6H, CH₃CN), 1.82 (broad signal, 5H, BH).

¹¹B NMR (160 MHz, CD₃CN, 23 °C): δ *ca.* -11.3 to -14.8 (overlapping signals).

¹¹B{¹H} NMR (160 MHz, CD₃CN, 23 °C): δ *ca.* -11.6 to -14.4 (overlapping signals with peaks at -12.50 and -13.49).

ESI-MS (negative mode, dissolved in MeCN, MS eluent = MeOH): Only the signal of the monomeric $[1-(4-pyridyl)-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]^-$ was detected, m/z 245.4 (calculated 245.2).

The spectrum matched with that of isolated 10a and is displayed on p. MS7.

Solid-state NMR:

¹H NMR (400 MHz, 25 °C): δ ca. 10.7 to 6.0 (2 overlapping broad signals with peaks at 8.69 and 7.39, 4 H, ArH), ca. 5.2 to -3 (overlapping broad signals, 16 H, CH₃CN and BH).

 ^{11}B NMR (128 MHz, 25 °C): δ ca. -4 to -21 (broad overlapping signals with peaks at -12.31 and -13.72).

 $^{11}B\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (128 MHz, 25 °C): δ ca. -4 to -21 (broad overlapping signals with a shoulder at -12.42 and a peak at -13.71).

 $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (101 MHz, 25 °C): δ 150.77 (two overlapping pyridyl signals), 122.64 (pyridyl signal), 117.22 (CH₃CN), 72.76 (cage C), 3.61 (CH₃CN). The B-C signal could not be detected.

Product **11** was in addition analyzed by IR spectrocopy, and a comparison of the IR spectra of **10a** and **11** is shown in Figures S6/S7.



Figure S6. IR spectrum of 10a (KBr pellet).



Figure S7. IR spectrum of 11 (KBr pellet).

III X-ray Crystallography

General remarks

CCDC1559903–1559909 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this publication. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

Crystals of 7, 10e and 11 were measured at 170 K, while compounds 10a, 10d, 10f and 10g were measured at room temperature because the X-ray facility of our department does not routinely offer measurements at 170 K with nitrogen cooling.

Product	7	10a	10d	10e	10f	10g	11
Empirical formula	$C_{26}H_{58}B_{11}Li_2NO_6$	$C_{11}H_{23}B_{11}N_2O$	$C_{10}H_{64}B_{22}N_4$	$C_{20}H_{31}B_{22}N_3$	$C_{11}H_{31}B_{11}N_2O_2$	$C_{11}H_{12}B_{11}NO_4$	$C_{11}H_{20}B_{11}CuN_4$
M (g/mol)	613.52	318.22	670.63	551.30	342.29	341.13	390.77
$T(\mathbf{K})$	170	293	293	170	293	293	170
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	tetragonal	orthorhombic
Space group	P <u>T</u>	$P \ 1 \ 2_1/c$	Р <u>Т</u>	P <u>T</u>	P1	I4/m	Pnma
a (Å)	10.4350(11)	7.4039(6)	8.5061(6)	10.2902(11)	7.444(4)	12.3385(9)	17.345(2)
b (Å)	10.8304(13)	14.0616(14)	10.3155(9)	10.7001(12)	7.573(5)	12.3385(9)	12.6451(12)
c (Å)	18.597(2)	18.0481(15)	12.1216(11)	16.1214(14)	9.562(5)	13.745(2)	9.1310(7)
α (°)	87.873(9)	90.00	91.607(7)	73.928(9)	91.55(5)	90.00	90.00
β (°)	74.958(10)	92.372(7)	96.421(7)	86.356(8)	106.37(5)	90.00	90.00
(°) γ	64.502(12)	90.00	92.598(6)	88.275(9)	91.65(5)	90.00	90.00
Volume $(Å^3)$	1825.3(4)	1877.4(3)	1055.26(15)	1702.1(3)	516.6(5)	2092.5(4)	2002.7(3)
Ζ	7	4	1	7	1	4	4
$D_{ m calc}~({ m g/cm}^3)$	1.116	1.126	1.055	1.115	1.100	1.147	1.296
$\mu \ (\mathrm{mm}^{-1})$	0.069	0.061	0.053	0.055	0.062	0.070	1.093
$F\left(000 ight)$	660	664	358	604	182	768	792
N (coll. refl.)	11790	3430	3863	6154	2429	994	1913
N (parameters/restraints)	420/0	230/1	239/0	449/0	236/14	93/1	137/0
R1	0.0844	266/67	0.0647	0.0845	0.1201	0.0540	0.0460
wR2	0.2479	0.0785	0.1885	0.2915	0.3464	0.1529	0.1098
GOF	1.017	0.2265	1.022	0.0985	1.068	1.082	1.055
CCDC	1559909	1559903	1559904	1559905	1559906	1559907	1559908

Summary of data

Product 7 (CCDC1559909)

In a glovebox, a solution of 7 (0.5 mL) in a 4 mL glass vial, obtained by deprotonation with LiTMP in THF as described in the experimental section, was placed in a 20 mL glass vial containing hexane (4 mL). Vapor diffusion afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[\text{Li}(\text{THF})_3]_2[\text{CB}_{11}\text{H}_{10}\text{-}12\text{-}\text{CN}]$ suitable for X-ray diffraction within 3 d at 25 °C.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0079 AWavelength=0.71073 Cell: a=10.4350(11) b=10.8304(13) c=18.597(2) beta=74.958(10) gamma=64.502(12) alpha=87.873(9) Temperature: 170 K Calculated Reported Volume 1825.3(4) 1825.3(4) Space group P -1 P -1 Hall group -P 1 -P 1 Moiety formula C26 H58 B11 Li2 N O6 C26 H58 B11 Li2 N O6 Sum formula C26 H58 B11 Li2 N O6 C26 H58 B11 Li2 N O6 613.52 613.52 Mr Dx,g cm-3 1.116 1.116 Z 2 2 Mu (mm-1)0.069 0.069 F000 660.0 660.0 F000' 660.24 h,k,lmax 13,13,23 13,13,23 Nref 7475 11790 Tmin, Tmax 0.971,0.981 0.906,1.000 Tmin' 0.971 Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.906 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN Data completeness= 1.577 Theta(max) = 26.372R(reflections) = 0.0844(5996) wR2(reflections) = 0.2479(11790) S = 1.017Npar= 420



Figure S8. ORTEP representation of **7**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 10a (CCDC1559903)

The compound (5 mg) was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) in a 4 mL glass vial, which was placed in a 20 mL glass vial containing hexane (4 mL). Vapor diffusion afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[1-C_5N(H)H_4-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]$ •THF suitable for X-ray diffraction within 14 d at 25 °C.

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.004	0 A		Wavelengt	h=0.71073	
Cell:	a=7.4039(6)	b	=14.0616	(14)	c=18.0481	(15)
	alpha=90	b	eta=92.3	72(7)	gamma=90	
Temperature:	293 K					
	Calculated			Reported	I.	
Volume	1877.4(3)			1877.4(3)	
Space group	P 21/c			P 1 21/c	: 1	
Hall group	-P 2ybc			-P 2ybc		
Moiety formula	C7 H15 B11 N	2, C4	H8 O	C7 H15 B	11 N2, C4	H8 O
Sum formula	C11 H23 B11	N2 O		C11 H23	B11 N2 O	
Mr	318.22			318.22		
Dx,g cm-3	1.126			1.126		
Z	4			4		
Mu (mm-1)	0.061			0.061		
F000	664.0			664.0		
F000'	664.15					
h,k,lmax	8,16,21			8,16,21		
Nref	3435			3430		
Tmin, Tmax	0.988,0.992			0.899,1.	000	
Tmin'	0.975					
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.899 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN						
Data completeness= 0.999 Theta(max)= 25.350						
R(reflections)= 0.0785(1793) wR2(reflections)= 0.2265(3430)						
S = 1.036	N	par=	266			



Figure S9. ORTEP representation of internally protonated **10a**•THF. Hydrogen atoms except for N–H are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 10d (CCDC1559904)

The compound (15 mg) was dissolved in acetone (0.5 mL) in a 1 mL glass vial. The resulting colorless solution was filtered into an 18 cm long glass NMR tube. Slow evaporation of the solvent afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[Et_4N]_2[12-CN-B_{11}H_{10}-C_6H_4-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]$ suitable for X-ray diffraction within 6 d at 25 °C.

The $[12-CN-B_{11}H_{10}-C_6H_4-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]^{2-}$ anion lies about an inversion center, with the $[Et_4N]^+$ cation in a general position.

Bond precision	C-C = 0.0036 A	Wavelength=0.71073		
Cell:	a=8.5061(6)	b=10.3155(9)	c=12.1216(11)	
Temperature:	293 K	beta=96.421	7) gamma=92.598(6)	
	Calculated	Rep	ported	
Volume	1055.26(15)	105	55.26(15)	
Space group	P -1	P -	-1	
Hall group	-P 1	-P	1	
Moiety formula	C10 H24 B22 N2, N)	2(C8 H20 C10 N)) H24 B22 N2, 2(C8 H20	
Sum formula	C26 H64 B22 N4	C26	5 H64 B22 N4	
Mr	670.63	670	0.63	
Dx,g cm-3	1.055	1.0	055	
Z	1	1		
Mu (mm-1)	0.053	0.0	053	
F000	358.0	358	3.0	
F000'	358.06			
h,k,lmax	10,12,14	10	,12,14	
Nref	3875	386	53	
Tmin, Tmax	0.978,0.989	0.9	911,1.000	
Tmin'	0.978			
Correction meth AbsCorr = MULT:	hod= # Reported T I-SCAN	Limits: Tmin=	0.911 Tmax=1.000	
Data completeness= 0.997 Theta(max)= 25.346				
R(reflections) = 0.0647(2502) wR2(reflections) = 0.1885(3863)				
S = 1.022 Npar= 239				



Figure S10. ORTEP representation of **10d**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 10e (CCDC 1559905)

The compound (5 mg) was dissolved in acetone (0.5 mL) in a 4 mL glass vial, which was placed in a 20 mL glass vial containing hexane (4 mL). Vapor diffusion afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[Et_4N][(1-C_5NH_4-CB_{11}H_{11}])_2H]$ suitable for X-ray diffraction within 14 d at 5 °C.

The proton inbetween the two pyridine molecules was refined at the position where it shows up in the difference electron density map (see Figure S11). This leads to unusually long N-H bonds and therefore to 4 Alert level A alerts in the Checkcif report. The N atom of the $[Et_4N]^+$ cation lies on an inversion center.

```
Bond precision: C-C = 0.0046 A
                                          Wavelength=0.71073
Cell:
                                  b=10.7001(12)
               a=10.2902(11)
                                                   c=16.1214(14)
               alpha=73.928(9)
                                  beta=86.356(8)
                                                   gamma=88.275(9)
Temperature:
               170 K
                Calculated
                                           Reported
Volume
                1702.1(3)
                                           1702.1(3)
Space group
                P -1
                                           P -1
                                           -P 1
Hall group
                -P 1
                                           C12 H31 B22 N2, 2(C4 H10
Moiety formula C12 H31 B22 N2, C8 H20 N
                                           N0.5)
Sum formula
                C20 H51 B22 N3
                                           C20 H51 B22 N3
                571.46
                                           571.45
Mr
Dx,g cm-3
                1.115
                                           1.115
                2
                                           2
Z
                0.055
                                           0.055
Mu (mm-1)
F000
                604.0
                                           604.0
F000'
                604.09
h,k,lmax
                12,12,19
                                           12,12,19
Nref
                6236
                                           6154
Tmin, Tmax
                0.975,0.986
                                           0.731,1.000
Tmin'
                0.974
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.731 Tmax=1.000
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN
Data completeness= 0.987
                                   Theta(max) = 25.349
R(reflections) = 0.0845( 2731)
                                   wR2(reflections) = 0.2915( 6154)
S = 0.985
                           Npar= 449
```



Figure S11. Difference density map of a model without any proton between the two nitrogen atoms of the pyridine rings showing the residual electron density of the proton inbetween the two pyridine rings.



Figure S12. ORTEP representation of **10e** with bridging proton between two pyridylcarborane anions; the disordered $[Et_4N]^+$ cation is not shown. Hydrogen atoms except for N–H are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 10f (CCDC1559906)

The compound (5 mg) was dissolved in THF (0.5 mL) in a 4 mL glass vial, which was placed in a 20 mL glass vial containing hexane (4 mL). Vapor diffusion afforded colorless crystals of the composition $[Et_4N][1-COOH-CB_{11}H_{10}-12-CN]$ suitable for X-ray diffraction within 14 d at 25 °C.

Structure **10f** showed an R value of 12.01%. This is primarily attributed to the floppiness of the ethyl substituents of $[Et_4N]^+$, and in particular the CH₃ groups. The respective anisotropic displacement parameters are rather large, and the thermal ellipsoids deviate from spherical shape because of movement along the elongated displacement directions with low activation energy in the solid state.

Bond precision:	C-C = 0.0182 A	Wavelen	gth=0.71073		
Cell:	a=7.444(4)	b=7.573(5)	c=9.562(5)		
	alpha=91.55(5)	beta=106.37(5)	gamma=91.65(5)		
Temperature:	293 K		2		
	Calculated	Report	ed		
Volume	516.6(5)	516.6(6)		
Space group	P 1	P 1			
Hall group	P 1	P 1			
Moiety formula	C3 H11 B11 N O2,	C8 H20 N C8 H20	N, C3 H11 B11 N O2		
Sum formula	C11 H31 B11 N2 O2	C11 H3	1 B11 N2 O2		
Mr	342.29	342.29			
Dx,g cm-3	1.100	1.100			
Z	1	1			
Mu (mm-1)	0.062	0.062			
F000	182.0	182.0			
F000'	182.05				
h,k,lmax	8,9,11	8,9,11			
Nref	3776[1888]	2429			
Tmin, Tmax	0.988,0.992	0.231,	1.000		
Tmin'	0.980				
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.231 Tmax=1.000					
AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN					
Data completeness= 1.29/0.64 Theta(max)= 25.348					
R(reflections)= 0.1201(1386) wR2(reflections)= 0.3464(2429)					
S = 1.068	Npar=	236			


Figure S13. ORTEP representation of **10f.** Hydrogen atoms except for O–H are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 10g (CCDC1559907)

The compound (10 mg) was dissolved in MeCN (0.5 mL) in a 1 mL glass vial. The resulting colorless solution was filtered into an 18 cm long glass NMR tube and layered with diethyl ether (1 mL). Colorless crystals of the composition [Et₄N] [1-COOH-CB₁₁H₁₀-12-COOH] suitable for X-ray diffraction grew within 7 d at 25 °C.

The 2/m and 4-fold crystallographically-imposed symmetry in this structure results in disorder of the cage anion and the $[Et_4N]^+$ counterion. Similar indistinguishability of C(cage) and B positions has been observed with other carboranes.[4]

Bond precision:	B-B = 0.0034 A	Wavelength=0.71073		
Cell:	a=12.3385(9) alpha=90	b=12.3385(9) beta=90	c=13.745(2) gamma=90	
Temperature:	293 K			
	Calculated	Reporte	d	
Volume	2092.5(4)	2092.5(4)	
Space group	I 4/m	I 4/m	I 4/m	
Hall group	-I 4 -I 4			
Moiety formula	C3 H12 B11 O4, C8	H20 N C3 H12	B11 04, C8 H20 N	
Sum formula	C11 H32 B11 N O4 C11 H32 B11 N O4		B11 N O4	
Mr	361.29 361.28			
Dx,g cm-3	1.147	1.147	1.147	
Z	4	4	4	
Mu (mm-1)	0.070	0.070	0.070	
F000	768.0	768.0	768.0	
F000'	768.26			
h,k,lmax	14,14,16	14,14,1	14,14,16	
Nref	997	994	994	
Tmin, Tmax	0.977,0.982	0.821,1.000		
Tmin'	0.972			
Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.821 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN				
Data completeness= 0.997 T		Theta(max)= 25.344		
R(reflections) = 0.0540(777) wR2(reflections) = 0.1529(994)				
S = 1.110	Npar= 93			



Figure S14. ORTEP representation of **10g**; the disordered $[Et_4N]^+$ cation is not shown. Hydrogen atoms except for O–H are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

Product 11 (CCDC1559908)

Colorless crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained as described in the experimental section.

Bond precision: C-C = 0.0043 A Wavelength=0.71073 Cell: b=12.6451(12) c=9.1310(7) a=17.345(2) alpha=90 beta=90 gamma=90 170 K Temperature: Calculated Reported Volume 2002.7(3) 2002.7(3) Space group Pnma Pnma Hall group -P 2ac 2n -P 2ac 2n Moiety formula C11 H20 B11 Cu N4 0.5(C22 H40 B22 Cu2 N8) Sum formula C11 H20 B11 Cu N4 C11 H20 B11 Cu N4 Mr 390.77 390.77 1.296 Dx,g cm-3 1.296 z 4 4 Mu (mm-1) 1.093 1.093 F000 792.0 792.0 F000' 793.35 h,k,lmax 20,15,10 20,15,11 Nref 1918 1913 0.800,1.000 Tmin, Tmax 0.821,0.896 Tmin' 0.720 Correction method= # Reported T Limits: Tmin=0.800 Tmax=1.000 AbsCorr = MULTI-SCAN Data completeness= 0.997 Theta(max) = 25.340R(reflections) = 0.0460(1441) wR2(reflections) = 0.1098(1913) S = 1.055Npar= 137



Figure S15. ORTEP representation of **11**, showing one chain from the side. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.



Figure S16. ORTEP representation of **11**, showing one chain from the top. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.



Figure S17. ORTEP representation of **11**, showing two chain from the side. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.



Figure S18. ORTEP representation of **11**, showing two chains from the top. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.



Figure S19. ORTEP representation of **11**, showing the intercalation of two chains forming a channel-like arrangement. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity; 25% displacement ellipsoids.

IV References

- [1] A. J. Rosenbaum, D. H. Juers, M. A. Juhasz, Inorg. Chem. 2013, 52, 10717.
- [2] a) M. W. Rathke, R. Kow, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1972, 94, 6854; b) R. A. Olofson, C. M. Dougherty, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 582; c) F. E. Romesberg, J. H. Gilchrist, A. T. Harrison, D. J. Fuller, D. B. Collum, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1991, 113, 5751; d) D. B. Collum, Acc. Chem. Res. 1993, 26, 227; e) P. G. Williard, Q.-Y. Liu, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1993, 115, 3380.
- [3] F. Šembera, J. Plutnar, A. Higelin, Z. Janoušek, I. Císařová, J. Michl, *Inorg. Chem.* 2016, 55, 3797.
- [4] Z. Xie, C.-W. Tsang, E. T.-P. Sze, Q. Yang, D. T. W. Chan, T. C. W. Wak, *Inorg. Chem.* 1998, 37, 6444.

V NMR Spectra

NMR data are shown on pages NMR1–NMR35.

V Mass Spectra

MS data are shown on pages MS1–MS7.





























Ē

















S
































Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode





Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode







Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode



10d



Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode



10e



Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode







Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode



High-resolution ESI-MS negative mode



dissolved in MeCN, MS eluent = MeOH



Low-resolution full-range ESI-MS negative mode