

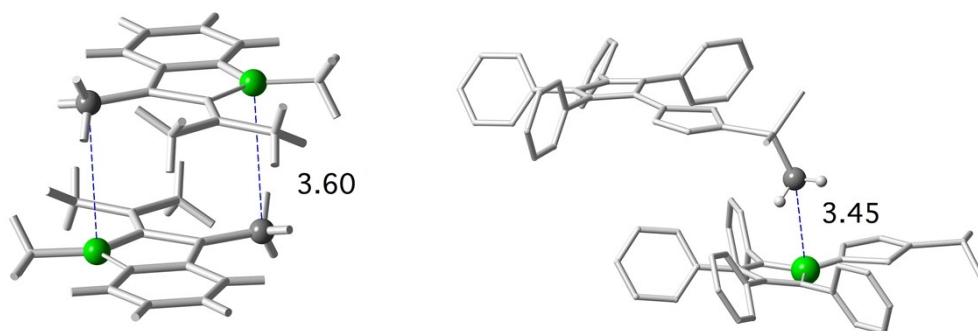
## **Alkyl Groups as Electron Density Donors in $\pi$ -hole Bonding**

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION



**Figure S1.** Short B $\cdots$ C(sp<sup>3</sup>) contacts (Å) in the crystal structure of 2,3-Benzo-1,4-dihydro-1,4,6,6-tetramethyl-1,4-diborafulvene (left, CSD refcode SINCOH) and of 1-(5-(trimethylsilyl)-2-thienyl)-2,3,4,5-tetraphenylborole (right, CSD refcode KEQGAQ).

**Table S1.** Calculated binding energies and intermolecular distances for the dimers of EH<sub>3</sub> $\cdots$ CH<sub>4</sub> (E = B, Al, Ga). At the CCSD(T) level, all variables were kept frozen (at the fully optimized monomers) except the E $\cdots$ C distance, which was optimized. The aug-cc-pVTZ basis set was used for all atoms.

| E  | Method                | E $\cdots$ C (Å) | E $\cdots$ H (Å) | H $\cdots$ H (Å) | $\Delta E_{\text{BSSE}}$ (kcal/mol) |
|----|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| B  | CCSD(T)               | 3.018            | 2.854            | 2.895            | -1.30                               |
|    | MP2                   | 3.014            | 2.850            | 2.893            | -1.25                               |
|    | B3LYP-D3              | 3.090            | 2.921            | 2.961            | -1.45                               |
|    | $\omega$ B97xD        | 3.015            | 2.851            | 2.895            | -1.70                               |
|    | M06-2X-D3             | 2.827            | 2.656            | 2.712            | -2.28                               |
|    | LC- $\omega$ PBE-D3BJ | 3.016            | 2.852            | 2.897            | -1.29                               |
| Al | CCSD(T)               | 2.962            | 2.794            | 2.960            | -2.62                               |
|    | MP2                   | 2.910            | 2.771            | 2.945            | -2.57                               |
|    | B3LYP-D3              | 3.236            | 3.050            | 3.206            | -1.99                               |
|    | $\omega$ B97xD        | 2.968            | 2.806            | 2.985            | -3.21                               |
|    | M06-2X-D3             | 2.842            | 2.694            | 2.910            | -4.20                               |
|    | LC- $\omega$ PBE-D3BJ | 2.761            | 2.620            | 2.837            | -3.97                               |
| Ga | CCSD(T)               | 2.887            | 2.733            | 2.897            | -1.76                               |
|    | MP2                   | 2.858            | 2.720            | 2.853            | -1.59                               |
|    | B3LYP-D3              | 3.338            | 3.154            | 3.284            | -1.96                               |
|    | $\omega$ B97xD        | 3.122            | 2.950            | 3.088            | -2.60                               |
|    | M06-2X-D3             | 2.920            | 2.761            | 2.939            | -3.70                               |
|    | LC- $\omega$ PBE-D3BJ | 2.982            | 2.804            | 2.991            | -2.48                               |

**Table S2.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized dimers characterized as true minima by frequencies analysis.

Dimer 1

B

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| c | -0.042499 | -3.496890 | -0.027963 |
| b | 0.043613  | -0.515255 | 0.131541  |
| h | -0.175682 | -0.619030 | 1.294006  |
| h | 1.163540  | -0.424234 | -0.254544 |
| h | -0.855906 | -0.453107 | -0.641259 |
| h | 0.272078  | -4.085871 | 0.828434  |
| h | -0.229026 | -4.148114 | -0.876967 |
| h | -0.955665 | -2.962031 | 0.219414  |
| h | 0.753797  | -2.801688 | -0.289931 |

Al

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| c  | -0.031114 | -3.465863 | -0.040644 |
| al | 0.031711  | -0.582215 | 0.148516  |
| h  | 0.046447  | -0.757822 | 1.719386  |
| h  | 1.393776  | -0.430450 | -0.641390 |
| h  | -1.341083 | -0.373134 | -0.609263 |
| h  | -0.027282 | -3.876824 | 0.963183  |
| h  | -0.056806 | -4.261705 | -0.779222 |
| h  | -0.928224 | -2.860172 | -0.177668 |
| h  | 0.886826  | -2.898035 | -0.200167 |

Ga

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ga | 0.097817  | -0.641187 | 0.133944  |
| h  | -0.120628 | -0.713216 | 1.665436  |
| h  | 1.535240  | -0.483024 | -0.426515 |
| h  | -1.115174 | -0.535601 | -0.822491 |
| h  | 0.355102  | -4.283152 | 0.398724  |
| c  | -0.088995 | -3.432115 | -0.108845 |
| h  | -0.504907 | -3.731507 | -1.064847 |
| h  | -0.875594 | -3.019468 | 0.517254  |
| h  | 0.717139  | -2.716982 | -0.292658 |

Dimer 2

B

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| c | -0.178919 | -0.302229 | 0.052199  |
| b | 0.116446  | 0.204274  | 2.903765  |
| h | 1.304588  | 0.200542  | 2.891070  |
| h | -0.472745 | 1.236163  | 2.896630  |
| h | -0.479884 | -0.819023 | 2.986713  |
| c | 0.058416  | 0.090511  | -1.401927 |
| h | -1.241280 | -0.387659 | 0.273183  |
| h | 0.293034  | -1.253988 | 0.289223  |

|   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| h | 0.244843  | 0.462002  | 0.711326  |
| h | -0.355698 | -0.656582 | -2.077517 |
| h | -0.410949 | 1.045450  | -1.632858 |
| h | 1.122148  | 0.180539  | -1.616194 |

Al

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| c  | 1.001955  | 0.679826  | 0.010988  |
| al | -1.695891 | -0.133731 | -0.006415 |
| h  | -1.197838 | -1.473690 | -0.685357 |
| h  | -1.932211 | -0.093661 | 1.558707  |
| h  | -2.174527 | 1.078583  | -0.902660 |
| c  | 2.035889  | -0.438042 | -0.000977 |
| h  | 1.453507  | 1.664323  | 0.124214  |
| h  | 0.441842  | 0.706590  | -0.926888 |
| h  | 0.329621  | 0.570552  | 0.872026  |
| h  | 2.737614  | -0.303608 | -0.822100 |
| h  | 2.603420  | -0.452844 | 0.927630  |
| h  | 1.558088  | -1.408446 | -0.122247 |

Ga

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| c  | -0.639491 | -0.386328 | 0.013293  |
| ga | 0.396960  | 0.220048  | 2.477786  |
| h  | 1.781636  | -0.085216 | 1.852807  |
| h  | -0.078825 | 1.692838  | 2.588346  |
| h  | -0.403237 | -0.899285 | 3.189738  |
| c  | 0.245771  | 0.146348  | -1.103070 |
| h  | -1.632723 | -0.660570 | -0.339540 |
| h  | -0.208546 | -1.271671 | 0.478959  |
| h  | -0.822039 | 0.397021  | 0.761519  |
| h  | 0.377372  | -0.605303 | -1.879391 |
| h  | -0.193139 | 1.030137  | -1.562414 |
| h  | 1.230031  | 0.414413  | -0.723613 |