## **Supporting Information**

## Insertion Reactions of Small Unsaturated Molecules in N–B Bonds of Boron Guanidinates

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**Table S1**. Temperature (K), concentrations (mol/L) and equilibrium constants (K<sub>eq</sub>) for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **10** at different temperatures in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>  $(K_{eq} = \frac{[11][CNAr]}{[4]})$ . [Internal standard: tetrakis(trimethylsilyl)silane (TKS); [TKS] = 1.44 \cdot 10^{-2} M].

					1
T (K)	[ <b>11</b> ] (M)	[4] = [CNAr] (M)	K <sub>eq</sub> (mol/L)	1/T (K <sup>-1</sup> )	Ln K <sub>eq</sub>
298.15	0.025344	0.00864	0.00294545	0.00335402	-5.82749213
303.15	0.024912	0.011376	0.00519482	0.0032987	-5.26009315
313.15	0.020592	0.01512	0.0111021	0.00319336	-4.50062119
323.15	0.016992	0.020016	0.02357817	0.00309454	-3.74743402
333.15	0.009216	0.024336	0.06426225	0.00300165	-2.74478291
343.15	0.008064	0.027792	0.09578314	0.00291418	-2.34566857
353.15	0.004176	0.029088	0.20261297	0.00283166	-1.59645769



**Figure S1.** Van't Hoff plot (ln K<sub>eq</sub> vs 1/T) for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **11.**  $\Delta$ H<sup>o</sup> = 66.6 ± 1.9 KJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta$ S<sup>o</sup> = 175.6 ± 6.0 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S2**. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H VT NMR spectra recorded in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 400 MHz for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **11** (*top*: full spectra; *bottom*:  $CH^{-i}Pr$  area expanded; \*TKS; # Compound **11**; ° Compound **4**).

**Table S2**. Temperature (K), concentrations (mol/L) and equilibrium constants (K<sub>eq</sub>) for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **10** at different temperatures in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>  $(K_{eq} = \frac{[12][CNAr]}{[4]})$ . [Internal standard: tetrakis(trimethylsilyl)silane (TKS); [TKS] =  $1.51 \cdot 10^{-2}$  M].

T (K)	[ <b>12</b> ] (M)	[ <b>4</b> ] = [CNAr] (M)	K <sub>eq</sub> (mol/L)	1/T (K <sup>-1</sup> )	Ln K <sub>eq</sub>
298.15	0.0334152	0.0025704	0.00019772	0.00335402	-8.52864311
303.15	0.0328104	0.003024	0.00027871	0.0032987	-8.1853399
313.15	0.0316008	0.0048384	0.00074081	0.00319336	-7.20776954
323.15	0.0305424	0.0077112	0.00194689	0.00309454	-6.24152353
333.15	0.0276696	0.0108864	0.00428317	0.00300165	-5.45306101
343.15	0.0232848	0.0140616	0.00849175	0.00291418	-4.76866071
353.15	0.0185976	0.0176904	0.01682745	0.00283166	-4.08474358



**Figure S3**. Van't Hoff plot (ln Keq vs 1/T) for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **12**.  $\Delta$ H<sup>o</sup> = 72.2 ± 1.2 KJ mol<sup>-1</sup>,  $\Delta$ S<sup>o</sup> = 170.9 ± 3.7 J mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S4**. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H VT NMR spectra recorded in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 400 MHz for the isonitrile de-insertion reaction of compound **12** [*top*: full spectra; *bottom*:  $CH^{-i}Pr$  and  $CH_3O$  area expanded; \*TKS; # Compound **12**; ° Compound **4**; ¶ CN(*p*-MeO-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)].





6.1 5.9 5.7 5.5 5.3 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.5 4.3 4.1 3.9 3.7 3.5 3.3 3.1 2.9 2.7 fl (ppm)



**Figure S5**. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H VT NMR spectra for compound **7a** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 500 MHz: (a) full spectra; (b) CH-<sup>*i*</sup>Pr region expanded; (c)  $CH_3$ -<sup>*i*</sup>Pr and  $Me_2$ -Xyl region expanded.



4.5 4.4 4.3 4.2 4.1 4.0 3.9 3.8 3.7 3.6 3.5 3.4 3.3 3.2 3.1 3.0 fl (ppm)

2.9



**Figure S6**. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H VT NMR spectra for compound **9** in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> at 500 MHz: (a) full spectra; (b)  $CH^{-i}$ Pr region expanded; (c)  $CH_{3}^{-i}$ Pr and  $Me_{2}$ -Xyl region expanded. [\* signals due to a minor rotamer].









2.9 2.7 2.5 2.3 2.1 1.9 1.7 1.5 1.3 1.1 0.9 0.7 0.5 0.3 0.1 -0.1 -0.3 -0.5 -0.7 -0.9 f1(ppm)

**Figure S7**. Stacked <sup>1</sup>H VT NMR spectra for compound **16a** in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at 500 MHz: (a) full spectra; (b) 3 to 10 ppm region expanded; (c) -1 to 3 ppm region expanded. [\* signals due to a minor rotamer].



**Figure S8**. <sup>1</sup>H (top), <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY (bottom) NMR spectra for compound 1 in  $C_6D_6$  (isomer mixture, 1-C and 1-M).



**Figure S9**. <sup>1</sup>H (top), <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY (bottom) NMR spectra for compound 1 in  $CD_2Cl_2$  (isomer mixture, 1-C and 1-M).





**Figure S10**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in  $C_6D_6$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **4**.





**Figure S11**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in  $C_6D_6$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **5**.





**Figure S12**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in  $C_6D_6$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **6**.



**Figure S13**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution at 298K of the reaction crude of **2** with CNXyl.\* Compound **7a**; ° Compound **7b**; ¶ CNXyl; # (p-Me-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N)C(NH<sup>*i*</sup>Pr)<sub>2</sub>.





**Figure S14**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) NMR in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution, <sup>11</sup>B NMR in tol- $d_8$  solution (c), and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **7a**.



**Figure S15**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution at 298K of the reaction crude of **2** with  $CN(p-MeO-C_6H_4)$ . \* Compound **8a**; ° Compound **8b**; ¶  $CN(p-MeO-C_6H_4)$ .





**Figure S16**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) NMR in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution, <sup>11</sup>B NMR in tol- $d_8$  solution (c), and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **8a**.





**Figure S17**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) NMR in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution, <sup>11</sup>B NMR in tol- $d_8$  solution (c), and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **9**.





**Figure S18**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in  $C_6D_6$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **10**.





**Figure S19.** <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) NMR at 253 K, <sup>11</sup>B NMR at 298 K (c), in  $CD_2Cl_2$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **11**.







**Figure S20**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **12**.







**Figure S21**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 333 K (a), <sup>1</sup>H (b), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (c), <sup>11</sup>B (d) NMR at 298 K, in  $C_6D_6$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (e) for compound **13**.



**Figure S22**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in  $C_6D_6$  solution at 298 K of the reaction crude of **4** with CO. [\* Compound **14**; ° Compound **4**.]



**Figure S23**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in  $C_6D_6$  solution at 298 K of the reaction crude of **1** with benzaldehyde. [\* Compound **15**; ° Compound **1**.]



**Figure S24**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution at 298 K of the reaction crude of **2** with benzaldehyde. [° Compound **16a**; \* Compound **16b**; ¶ Compound **2**; # Benzaldehyde.]





**Figure S25**. <sup>1</sup>H (a), <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} (b) and <sup>11</sup>B (c) NMR spectra in  $CD_2Cl_2$  solution, and ATR-IR spectrum (d) for compound **16a**. [\* C-O stretch from benzaldehyde]



**Figure S26**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> solution at 298 K of the reaction crude of **4** with benzaldehyde. [\* Compound **17**; ° Compound **18**; ¶ Compound **4**.]



**Figure S27**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum in  $C_6D_6$  solution at 298 K of the reaction crude of **2** with  $CO_2$ . [\* Compound **19**; ° Compound **2**.]



**Figure S28.** Optimised structures for compounds **9** (a), **10** (b), **11** (c) and **12** (d). Colour code: C, green; B, pink; N, blue; O, red. [*Left*: H atoms omitted only. *Right*: More atoms omitted to focus on heterocycle ring].



**Figure S29.** Optimised constrained structure for compound **11** with a planar fivemembered heterocyclic ring. Colour code: C, green; B, pink; N, blue. [*Left*: H atoms omitted only. *Right*: More atoms omitted to focus on heterocycle ring].