

**Supporting Information**

**Borohydride Intermediates Pave the Way for  
Magnesium-Catalyzed Enantioselective Ketone Reduction**

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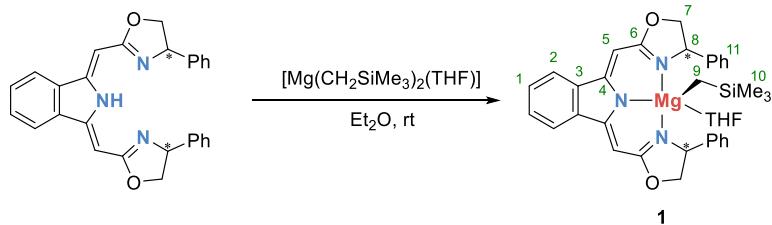
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## 1 General Information

All manipulations, except those indicated, were carried out under exclusion of air and moisture using standard Schlenk and glovebox techniques. As inert gas, Argon 5.0, purchased from Messer Group GmbH, was used after drying over Granusic© phosphorus pentoxide granulate. Solvents were dried over activated alumina columns using a solvent purification system (M. Braun SPS 800) or according to standard literature-known methods and stored in glass ampules under an argon atmosphere.<sup>[1]</sup> Toluene was distilled from sodium, *n*-pentane from sodium/potassium alloy, and tetrahydrofuran, benzene and *n*-hexane from potassium. The same procedures were used to dry the deuterated solvents. Degassed solvents and liquid substrates were obtained by three successive freeze-pump-thaw-cycles. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance (400 MHz, 600 MHz) instruments. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to residual proton solvent signals or carbon resonances.<sup>[2,3]</sup>  $\text{BF}_3\cdot\text{OEt}_2$  (<sup>11</sup>B),  $\text{CCl}_3\text{F}$  (<sup>19</sup>F) and  $\text{SiMe}_4$  (<sup>29</sup>Si) were used as external standards. Mass spectra were acquired on a JEOL JMS-700 magnetic sector (LIFDI) spectrometer at the mass spectrometry facility of the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University of Heidelberg. Elemental analyses were carried out in the Microanalysis Laboratory of the Heidelberg Chemistry Department on a vario MICRO cube (Elementar). HPLC analyses were carried out on an Agilent 1200 Series chromatograph using chiral Daicel columns (AD-H, OD-H, OB-H, and OJ-H). For GC analyses a Finnigan Focus GC by Thermo Electron with astec Chiraldex columns (B-PM) was used.  $[\text{Mg}(\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_3)_2\text{THF}]$ ,<sup>[4]</sup> and boxmi ligands were synthesized according to literature procedures. All substrates and other reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification.

## 2 Synthetic Procedures and Analytical Data

### 2.1 Preparation of Precatalyst **1**



To a room temperature ethereal solution of  $[\text{Mg}(\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_3)_2\text{THF}]$  (249 mg, 922  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 2.0 equiv. in 3 mL  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) was added  ${}^{\text{H},\text{Ph}}\text{boxmi-H}$  ligand (200 mg, 461  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.) as a solid in small portions, whereupon the solution turned dark brown. After stirring the mixture for 1 h, precipitation of an orange solid had occurred, and the reaction was added 10 mL of pentane. The solid precipitate was filtered and the residue was washed with pentane two more times (10 mL, respectively). The remaining golden-orange solid was dried *in vacuo* to give pure **1** (224 mg, 365  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 79%). X-ray quality crystals of **1** were obtained by layering a THF solution with *n*-pentane and cooling to  $-40^\circ\text{C}$ .

**EA:** calcd. C: 70.29 %, H: 6.55 %, N: 6.83 %; found: C: 69.84 %, H: 6.60 %, N: 7.45 %.<sup>1</sup>

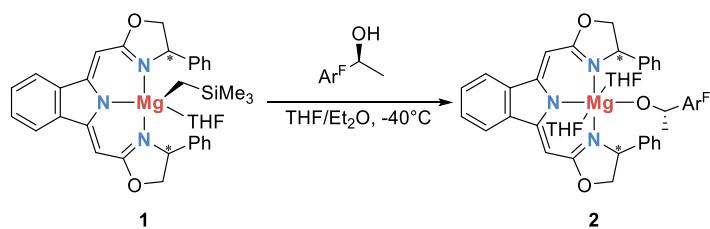
**$^1\text{H-NMR}$  (600.13 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 295 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = -2.06 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz, 1 H, H-9), -1.68 (d,  $J$  = 11.3 Hz, 1 H, H9), 0.19 (s, 9 H, H-10), 1.32 (m, 4 H, H-THF), 3.49 (m, 4 H, H-THF), 3.74 (t,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2 H, H-7/8), 3.99 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 9.8 Hz, 2 H, H-7/8), 4.77 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 9.5 Hz, 2 H, H-7/8), 5.76 (s, 2 H, H-5), 6.93-6.95 (m, 4 H, H-11), 6.96-6.99 (m, 2 H, H-1/2), 7.07-7.14 (m, 6 H, H-11), 7.24-7.26 (m, 2 H, H-1/2).

**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR (150.90 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 295 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 7.74 (1 C, C-9), 4.41 (3 C, C-10), 25.53 (2 C, C-THF), 67.98 (2 C, C-THF), 68.18 (2 C, C-8), 73.81 (2 C, C-7), 81.14 (2 C, C-5), 120.97 (2 C, C-2), 127.65 (4 C, C-Ph), 128.36 (2 C, C-Ph), 129.13 (4 C, C-Ph), 129.42 (2 C, C-1), 139.29 (2 C, C-3), 141.46 (2 C, C-Ph), 163.52 (2 C, C-4), 170.34 (2 C, C-6).

**MS (LIFDI+)**  $[\text{M}-(\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_3,\text{THF})]^+ = \text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{22}\text{MgN}_3\text{O}_2^+$ , calcd.: 487.1, found: 487.3.

<sup>1</sup> Despite several attempts, high N values were obtained for elemental analysis of compound 1.

## 2.2 Preparation of Alkoxide 2



A solution of the magnesium precatalyst **1** (100 mg, 163 µmol, 1.0 equiv.) in 3 mL THF was cooled to -40 °C and was added neat (S)-1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethanol (22.9 mg, 163 µmol, 1.0 equiv.) in one portion. After stirring the mixture for 1 h at this temperature, the solution was layered with cold *n*-pentane, resulting in the formation of orange crystals after a week. Attempts to isolate and further characterize **2** in its pure state remained unsuccessful due to its pronounced thermal lability. Based on preliminary <sup>19</sup>F NMR studies at low temperatures, pronounced dynamic effects are hypothesized for the solution state, obstructing additional insights from such an analysis. No enhancement of the stability of the alkoxide could be achieved by variation of the alkoxide function.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (399.89 MHz, THF-D<sub>8</sub>, 233 K):** δ (ppm) = 1.03 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 3 H, H-10), 3.36 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 1 H, H-9), 4.17 (dd, J = 2.5 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 2 H, H-7), 4.35 (t, J = 8.4 Hz, 2 H, H-7), 5.54 (dd, J = 2.5 Hz, 8.4 Hz, 2 H, H-8), 5.58 (2 H, H-5), 6.85 (t, J = 8.5, 2 H, H-Ar), 7.12-7.26 (m, 12 H, H-Ar, H-Ph), 7.37-7.44 (m, 2 H, H-1), 7.73-7.81 (m, 2 H, H-2).<sup>2</sup>

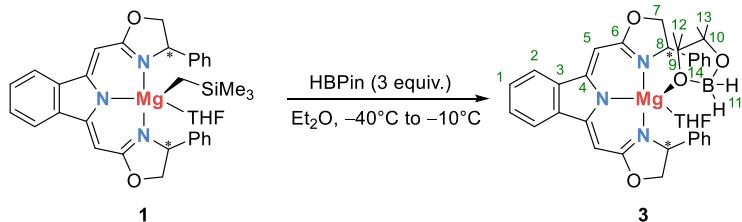
**$^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (100.55 MHz, THF-D<sub>8</sub>, 233 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 31.19 (1 C, C-10), 65.53 (1 C, C-9), 68.53 (2 C, C-7), 74.95 (2 C, C-8), 80.29 (2 C, C-5), 114.27 (d,  $J$  = 20.5 Hz, 2 C, C-Ar) 120.87 (2 C, C-2), 127.42 (4 C, C-Ph), 127.53 (2 C, C-Ph), 127.90 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 2 C, C-Ar), 128.76 (4 C, C-Ph), 129.33 (2 C, C-1), 140.69 (2 C, C-3), 145.41 (2 C, C-Ph), 152.08 (1 C, C-Ar), 161.55 (d,  $J$  = 239 Hz, 1 C, C-Ar), 163.16 (2 C, C-4) 169.84 (2 C, C-6).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376.27 MHz, THF-D<sub>8</sub>, 233 K): δ (ppm) = -120.57 (br s, 1 F-Ar).

**MS (LIFDI+):**  $[M - (2 \text{ THF})]^+ = C_{36}H_{30}FMgN_3O_3^+$ , calcd.: 595.2, found: 595.2.

<sup>2</sup> THF signals not listed due to overlap with NMR solvent.

## 2.3 Preparation of Hydridoborate 3



A suspension of **1** (100 mg, 163  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 equiv.) in 2 mL diethyl ether was cooled to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and was added neat HBPin (200  $\mu\text{L}$ , 176 mg, 1.38 mmol, 8.45 equiv.). After stirring the mixture for several minutes and warming to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the residue dissolved producing a yellow solution which was cooled to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  and layered with cold *n*-pentane. After standing for 3 d quantitative precipitation had occurred. The supernatant was removed and the residue was dried *in vacuo*, furnishing borohydride **3** in a quantitative fashion as a yellow solid (106 mg, 162  $\mu$ mol, >99%). X-ray quality crystals of **3** were obtained by layering a THF solution with *n*-pentane at  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**EA:** calcd. C: 66.88%, H: 5.79%, N: 7.31%; found: C: 67.21%, H: 6.02%, N: 7.61%.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR (600.13 MHz, benzene-D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.00 (s, 6 H, H-12/H-13), 1.11 (s, 6 H, H-12/H-13), 1.12-1.17 (m, 4 H, H-THF), 3.25-3.44 (m, 4 H, H-THF), 3.45-3.54 (m, 2 H, H-11), 3.81-3.90 (m, 2 H, H-8), 3.95-4.12 (m, 2 H, H-8), 5.53 (br s, 2 H, H-9), 5.81 (s, 2 H, H-5), 7.01-7.05 (m, 2 H, H-1), 7.05-7.10 (m, 2 H, H-Ph), 7.10-7.16 (m, 4 H, H-Ph), 7.20-7.26 (m, 4 H, H-Ph), 7.29-7.33 (m, 2 H, H-2).<sup>3</sup>

**$^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.90 MHz, benzene-D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 25.35 (2 C, C-12/C-13), 25.90 (2 C, C-12/C-13), 26.00 (2 C, C-THF), 67.94 (br s, 4 C, C-8, C-THF), 75.05 (2 C, C-7), 78.64 (2 C, C-9/C-10), 81.11 (2 C, C-5), 120.80 (2 C, C-2), 127.43 (4 C, C-Ph), 127.80 (2 C, C-Ph), 128.85 (4 C, C-Ph), 129.45 (2 C, C-1), 139.53 (2 C, C-3), 143.27 (2 C, C-Ph), 162.95 (2 C, C-4), 170.86 (2 C, C-6).<sup>2</sup>

**$^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (128.30 MHz, benzene-D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K):**  $\delta$  (ppm) = 1.63 (br s, 1 B, B-Pin).<sup>2</sup>

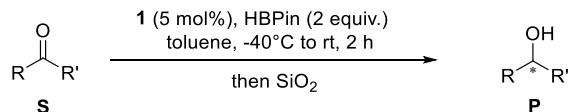
**MS (LIFDI+):** [MO-(2H,THF)]<sup>+</sup> = C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>34</sub>BMgN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>, calcd.: 599.2, found: 599.2.

<sup>3</sup> Short acquisition times allowed the characterization of this mildly thermally labile compound at room temperature, giving significantly better resolved resonances compared to low temperature NMR studies.

## 2.3 NMR Analysis of the Reaction of Hydridoborate 3 with 4'-Fluoroacetophenone

**Exemplary Procedure:** Under an inert gas atmosphere, borohydride complex **3** (20.7 mg, 31.5  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in 0.5 mL toluene-D<sub>8</sub>, transferred to a Young NMR tube and cooled to  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  in a cold bath. The solution was added neat 4'-fluoroacetophenone (4.88 mg, 4.29  $\mu\text{L}$ , 31.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), the tube was sealed and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen prior to any mixing events, after which the frozen sample was transferred to the NMR facility. Prior to loading the tube onto the pre-cooled NMR spectrometer ( $-80^\circ\text{C}$ ), the mixture was allowed to partially melt, the tube was shaken vigorously and was transferred to the machine, recording a sequence of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B, and <sup>19</sup>F spectra at temperature increments of  $10^\circ\text{C}$ .

## 2.4 Catalytic Enantioselective Reduction



**Exemplary Procedure:** A solution of the precatalyst **1** (4.6 mg, 7.5  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 5 mol%) in 0.5 mL toluene was cooled to  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  and was added neat HBPin (43.5  $\mu\text{L}$ , 38.4 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in one portion. The mixture was stirred for 5 min, after which the substrate (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added and the mixture was warmed to  $\text{rt}$  over a period of 2 h. The resulting boric ester was subjected to hydrolysis by addition onto a short silica column. The residue was eluted with ether and analyzed directly by HPLC (for methods see Section 3.1).

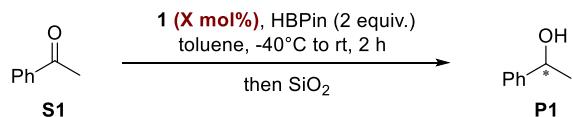
Spectral data for the synthesised compounds have been reported previously.<sup>[5]</sup>

## 2.5 Complete List of Screening Results

#	R <sup>[a]</sup>	R'	reductant	solvent	%c. <sup>[b]</sup>	%ee <sup>[b]</sup>
1 <sup>[c]</sup>	Ph	H	(EtO) <sub>2</sub> MeSiH	toluene	36	33 (R)
2 <sup>[c]</sup>	Ph	H	Ph <sub>2</sub> SiH <sub>2</sub>	toluene	0	nd
3 <sup>[c]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	toluene	>99	89 (S)
4 <sup>[c]</sup>	Ph	Me	HBPin	toluene	>99	87 (S)
5 <sup>[c]</sup>	iPr	Me	HBPin	toluene	>99	5 (S)
6 <sup>[c]</sup>	tBu	H	HBPin	toluene	>99	11 (R)
7 <sup>[c]</sup>	Bn	Me	HBPin	toluene	>99	4 (R)
8 <sup>[c,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	toluene	>99	92 (S)
9 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	toluene	>99	96 (S)
10 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	hexane	>99	89 (S)
11 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	DCM	>99	90 (S)
12 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	THF	>99	95 (S)
13 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	Et <sub>2</sub> O	>99	95 (S)
14 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	MeCN	>99	70 (S)
15 <sup>[d,e]</sup>	Ph	H	HBPin	TMEDA	>99	10 (S)

[a] (S)-enantiomers of all ligands were employed. [b] Determined by HPLC analysis. [c] Performed at rt. [d] Warmed from -40°C to rt over 2 h. [e] Isolated precatalyst **1** was used. Basic work-up ( $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{MeOH}$ ) for hydrosilylation, acidic work-up ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) for hydroboration

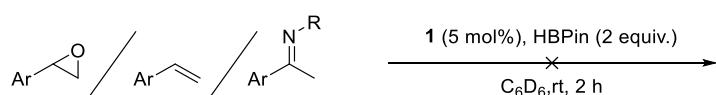
## 2.6 Catalyst Loadings



We applied our standard procedure for the reduction of acetophenone **S1** at different catalyst loadings (5 mol%, 2.5 mol%, 1 mol%, 0.5 mol%, 0.1 mol%): After activation of the catalyst at  $-40^\circ\text{C}$  (*vide supra*), the catalyst/HBPin mixture was added varying amounts of acetophenone. After warming to rt over a period of 2 h, the resulting boronic ester was subjected to hydrolysis by addition onto a short silica column. The residue was eluted with diethyl ether and analyzed by HPLC.

Catalyst loading (mol%)	%conv.	%ee
<b>5</b>	>99	95
<b>2.5</b>	>99	93
<b>1</b>	>99	92
<b>0.5</b>	>99	92
<b>0.25</b>	>99	90

## 2.7 Catalytic Reduction of Other Substrates



**Exemplary Procedure:** A solution of the precatalyst **1** (2.5 mg, 4.1  $\mu\text{mol}$ , 5 mol%) in 0.5 mL  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  was added neat HBPin (23.6  $\mu\text{L}$ , 20.7 mg, 0.16 mmol, 2.0 equiv.) in one portion. The mixture was stirred for 5 min, after which the substrate (0.08 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added. The mixture was transferred into a Young NMR tube and the reaction progress was monitored by NMR spectroscopy. No reaction was observed within 1 d at rt.

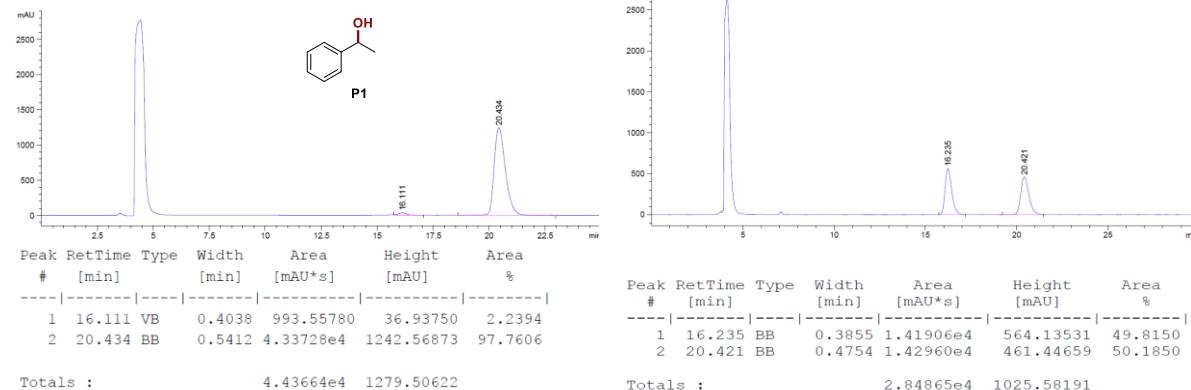
### 3 Chromatographic Data

#### 3.1 Overview of HPLC Methods

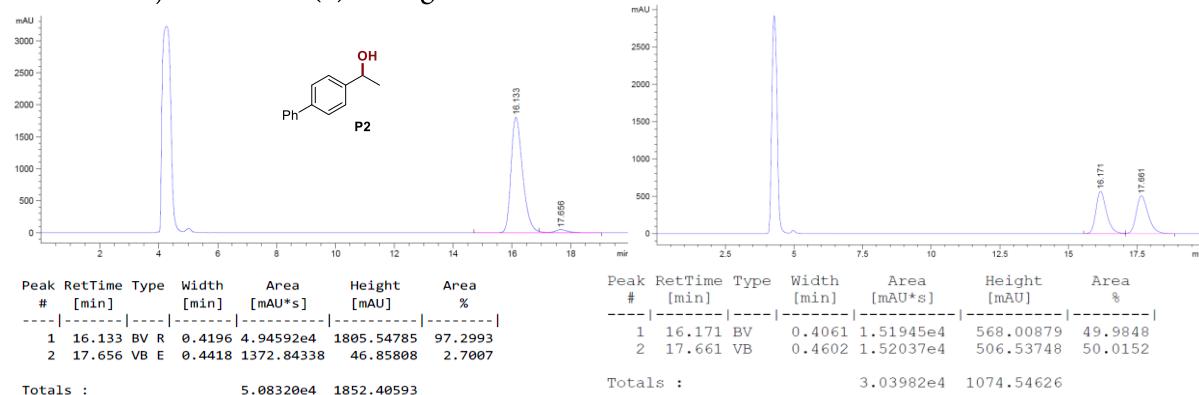
#	HPLC Column	Hexane/iPrOH	$\lambda$ [nm]	v [mL/min]	T [°C]	$t_{R1}$ [min]	$t_{R2}$ [min]
P1	Chiralcel OD-H	98/2	210	1.0	20	15.2	19.9
P2	Chiralpak AD-H	95/5	230	0.8	20	16.1	17.6
P3	Chiralpak AD-H	95/5	215	1.0	20	17.2	18.4
P4	Chiralcel OD-H	98/2	210	1.0	10	25.1	26.8
P5	Chiralpak AD-H	98/2	210	1.0	20	14.2	16.4
P6	Chiralcel OD-H	99/1	210	0.8	20	21.9	25.5
P7	Chiralcel OD-H	95/5	210	0.8	20	19.5	28.0
P8	Chiralcel OD-H	95/5	210	1.0	20	16.5	17.8
P9	Chiralcel OD-H	99/1	210	1.0	20	20.0	23.1
P10	Chiralcel OD-H	99/1	210	1.0	20	24.9	28.0
P11	Chiralcel OD-H	98/2	230	0.5	25	34.4	36.4
P12	Chiralcel OD-H	85/15	230	1.0	20	6.3	12.3

### 3.2 HPLC Data

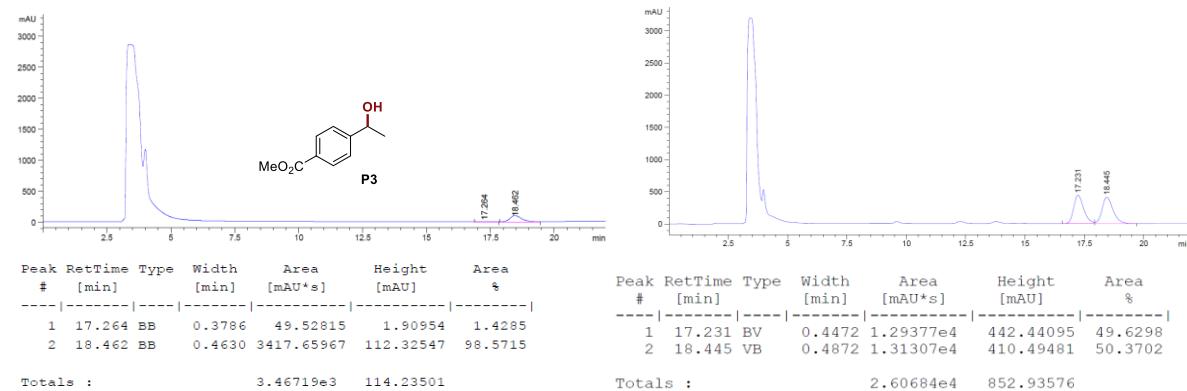
**P1:** The major isomer is (*S*)-configured.



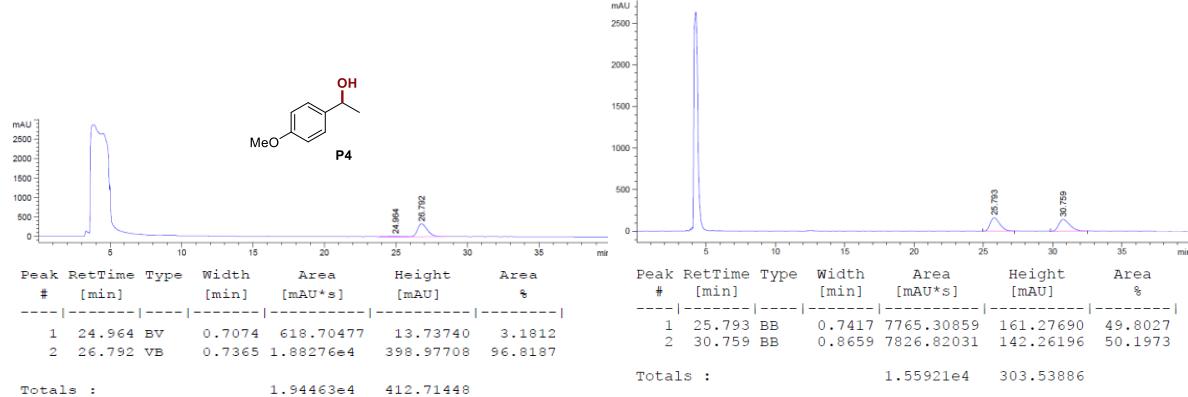
**P2:** The major isomer is (*S*)-configured.



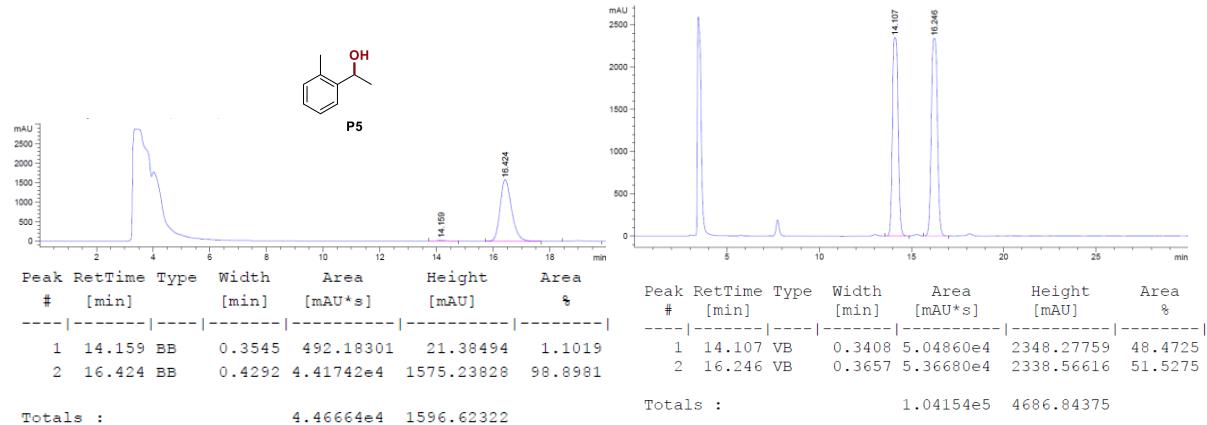
**P3**



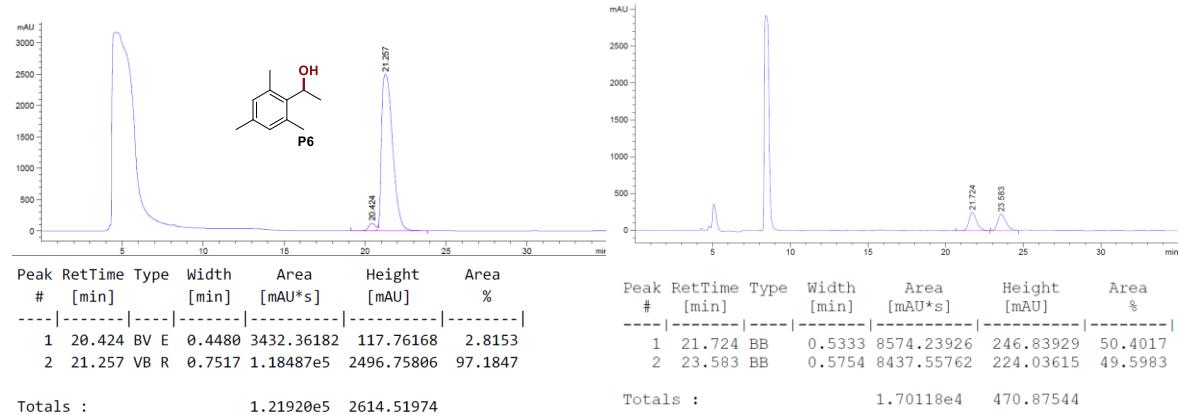
**P4:** The major isomer is (*S*)-configured.



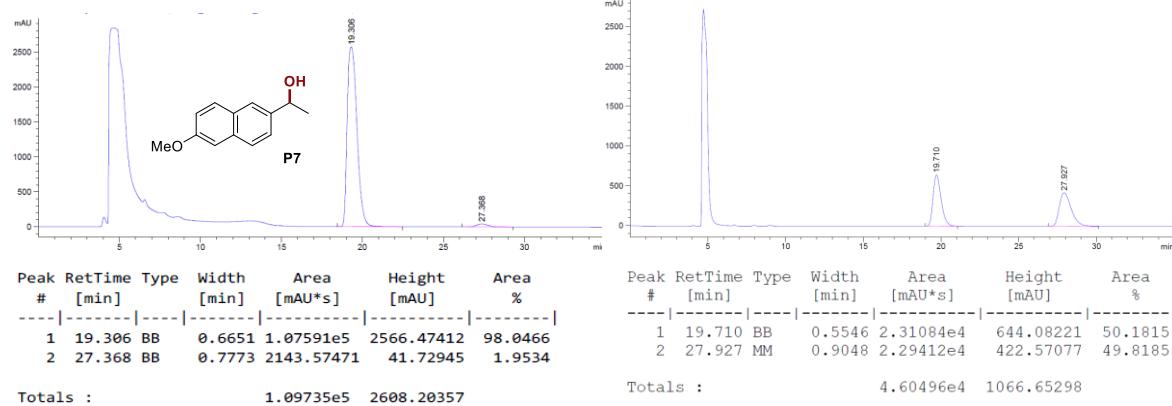
**P5**



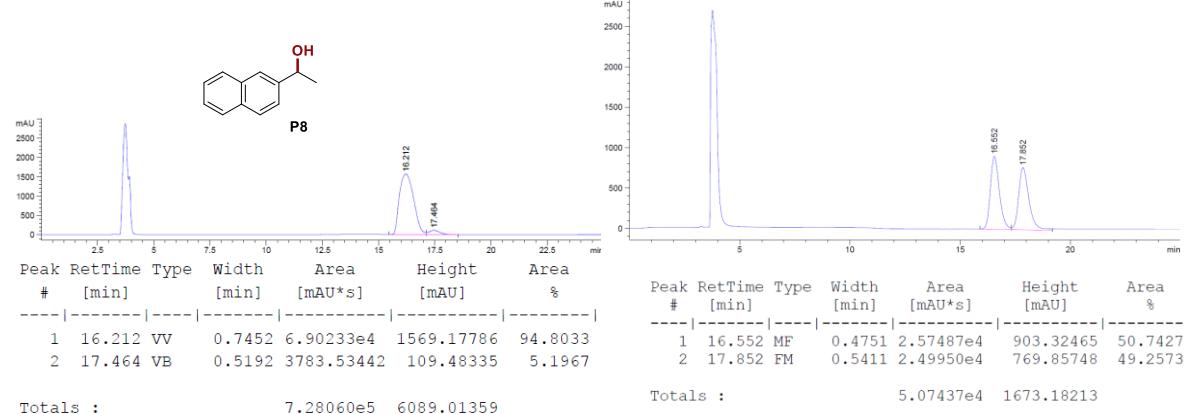
**P6**



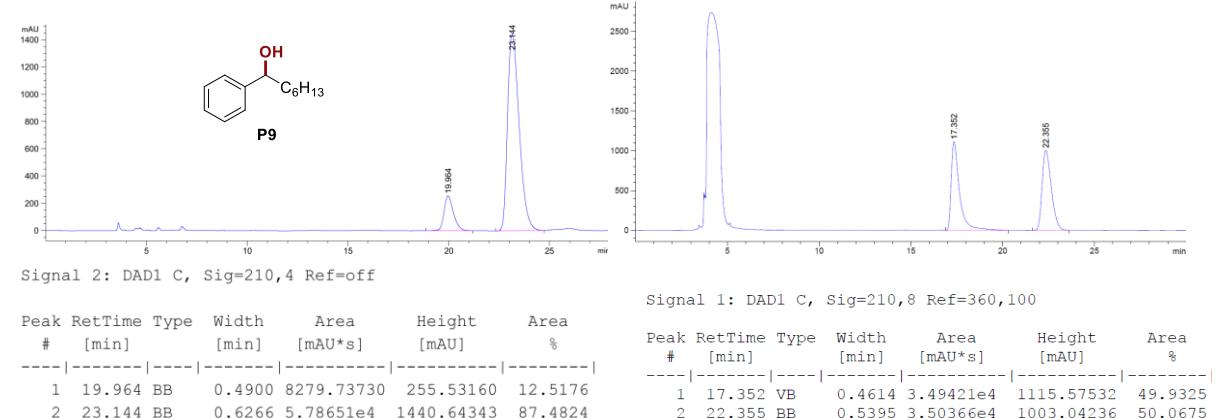
**P7**



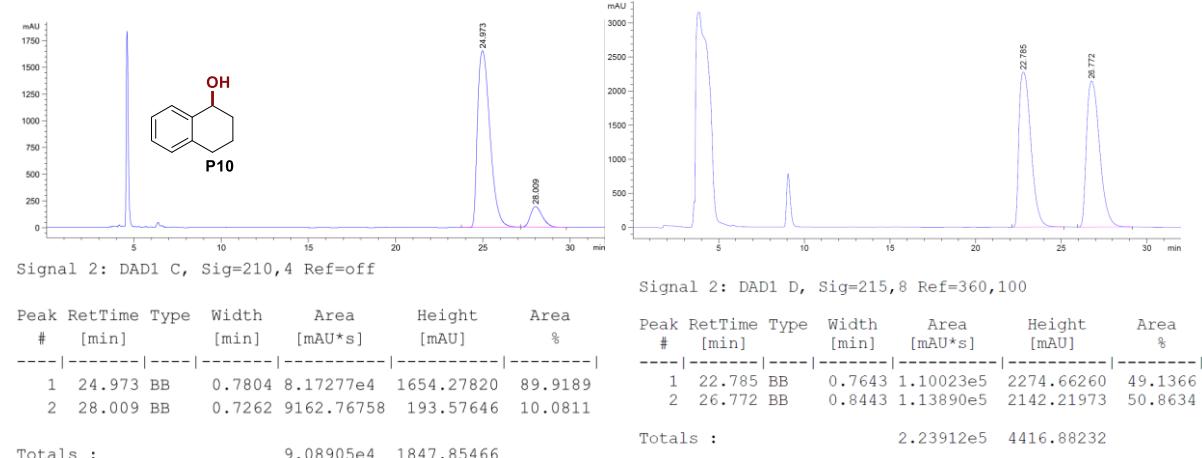
**P8**



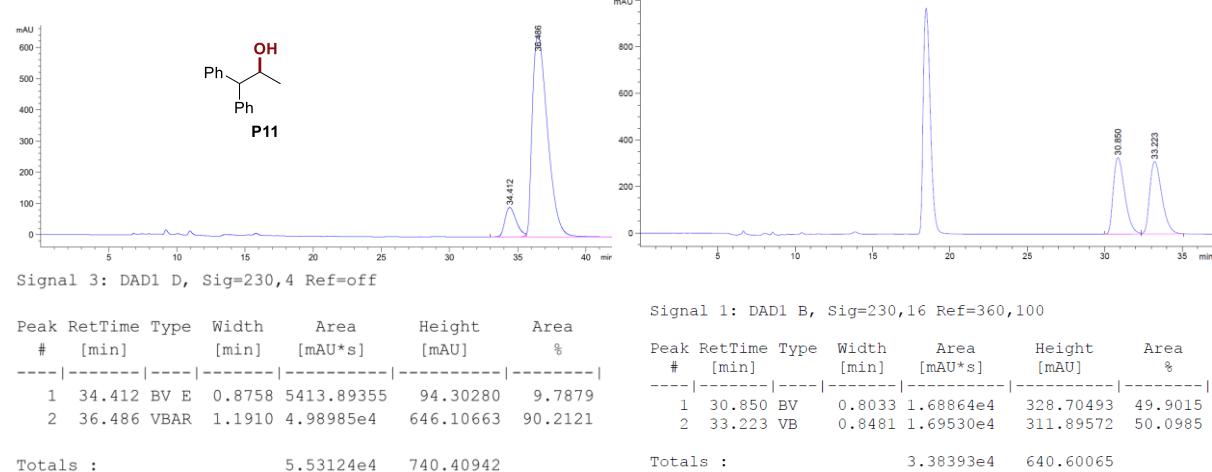
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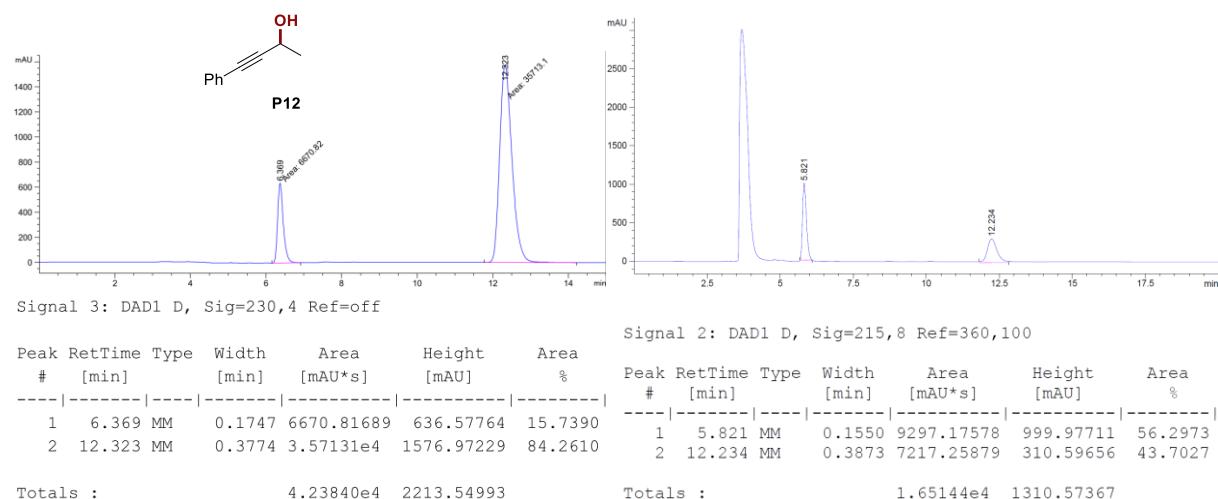
## P10



## P11

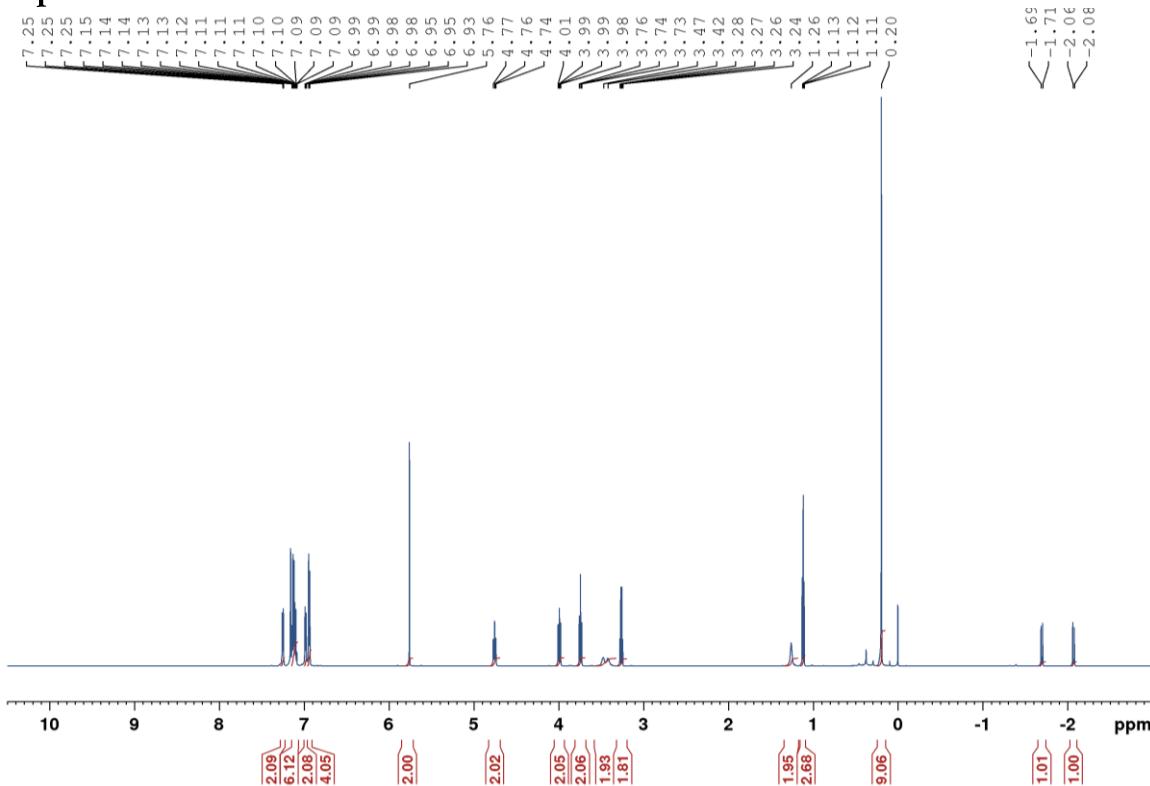


## P12

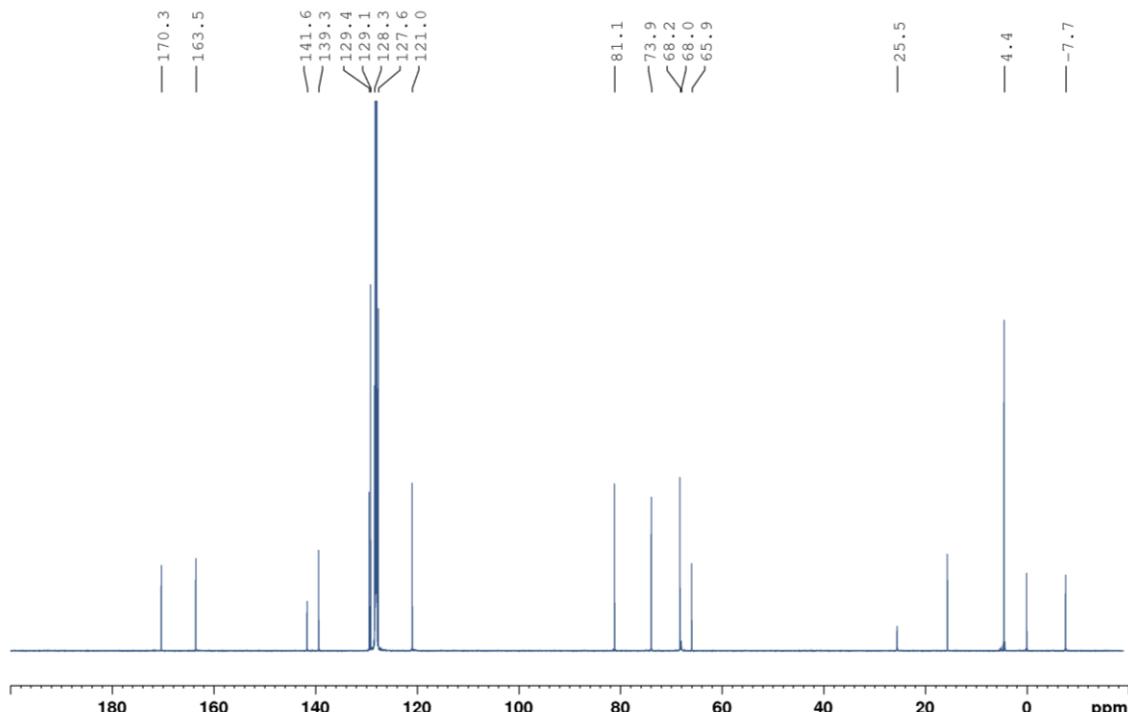


## 4 NMR Spectra

### Compound 1

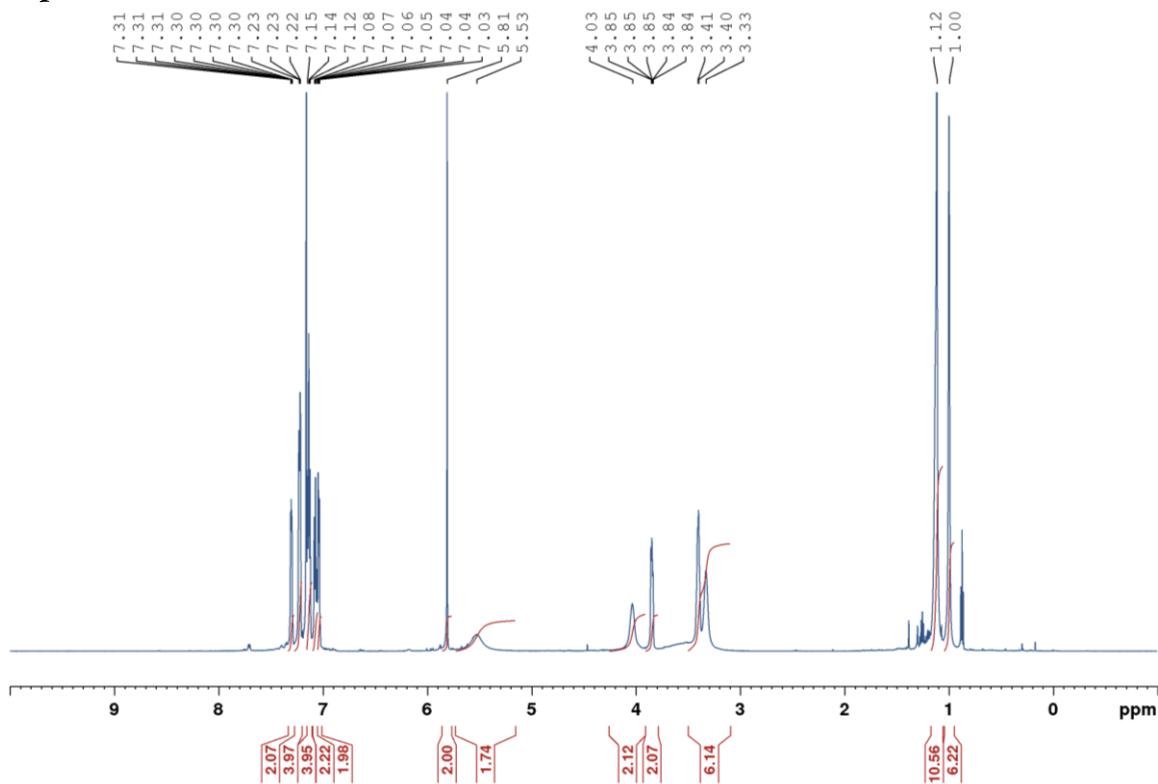


<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of <sup>Ph</sup>boxmiMg(CH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>3</sub>)(THF)<sub>0.5</sub>(Et<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>0.5</sub> (600.13 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K).

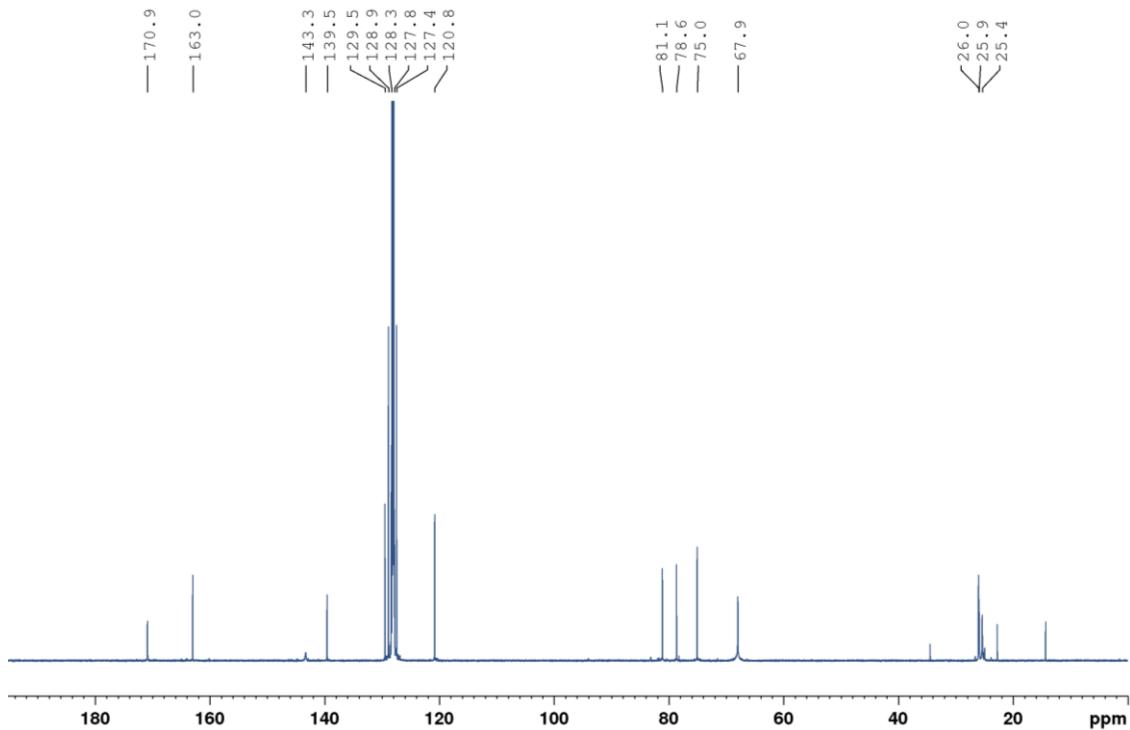


<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of <sup>Ph</sup>boxmiMg(CH<sub>2</sub>SiMe<sub>3</sub>)(THF)<sub>0.5</sub>(Et<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>0.5</sub> (150.90 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K).

**Compound 3**



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 3 (600.13 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K).



<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 3 (150.90 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 295 K).

## 5 X-Ray Crystal Structure Determinations

Crystal data and details of the structure determinations are compiled in Table S1. Full shells of intensity data were collected at low temperature with an Agilent Technologies Supernova-E CCD diffractometer (Mo- or Cu- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation, microfocus X-ray tube, multilayer mirror optics). Detector frames (typically  $\omega$ -, occasionally  $\varphi$ -scans, scan width 0.4...1°) were integrated by profile fitting<sup>[6,7]</sup>. Data were corrected for air and detector absorption, Lorentz and polarization effects<sup>[7]</sup> and scaled essentially by application of appropriate spherical harmonic functions.<sup>[7-9]</sup> Absorption by the crystal was treated with a semiempirical multiscan method (as part of the scaling process), and augmented by a spherical correction<sup>[7-9]</sup> or numerically (Gaussian grid).<sup>[7,8,10]</sup> An illumination correction was performed as part of the numerical absorption correction.<sup>[8]</sup>

The structures were solved by the charge flip procedure<sup>[11]</sup> and refined by full-matrix least squares methods based on  $F^2$  against all unique reflections.<sup>[12]</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were given anisotropic displacement parameters. Hydrogen atoms were generally input at calculated positions and refined with a riding model.<sup>[13]</sup> In complex **3** the positions of hydrogen atoms on boron were taken from difference Fourier syntheses and fully refined. Split atom models were used to refine disordered groups and/or solvent molecules. When found necessary, suitable geometry<sup>[13]</sup> and adp restraints<sup>[14]</sup> were applied.

Crystals of complex **1**·0.5OEt<sub>2</sub> were found twinned; the structure was solved using only reflections with small overlap factors (typically < 0.4). Final refinement was carried out against all single and composite reflections involving both domains (refined twin fractions 0.66:0.34).

CCDC 1961879 – 1961881 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre's and FIZ Karlsruhe's joint Access Service via <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/?>.

**Table S1.** Details of the crystal structure determinations of complexes **1**, **2** and **3**.

	<b>1</b> ·0.5OEt <sub>2</sub>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
formula	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>46</sub> MgN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>3.50</sub> Si	C <sub>44</sub> H <sub>46</sub> FMgN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>44</sub> BMgN <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
crystal system	triclinic	triclinic	orthorhombic
space group	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 1	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>
<i>a</i> /Å	9.7605(2)	9.5675(4)	10.60635(16)
<i>b</i> /Å	10.6398(3)	9.7347(4)	16.6805(3)
<i>c</i> /Å	17.7151(4)	11.4970(3)	19.3703(2)
$\alpha$ /°	94.6517(18)	65.663(3)	
$\beta$ /°	98.1677(18)	88.065(3)	
$\gamma$ /°	90.4055(18)	84.019(3)	
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	1814.72(7)	970.28(7)	3426.98(9)
<i>Z</i>	2	1	4
<i>M</i> <sub>r</sub>	653.18	740.15	657.88
<i>F</i> <sub>000</sub>	698	392	1400
<i>d</i> <sub>c</sub> /Mg·m <sup>-3</sup>	1.195	1.267	1.275
<i>m</i> /mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.059	0.838	0.100
max., min. transmission factors	1.000, 0.507 <sup>a</sup>	1.000, 0.941 <sup>b</sup>	1.000, 0.744 <sup>b</sup>
X-radiation, <i>l</i> /Å	Cu-Ka, 1.54184	Cu-Ka, 1.54184	Mo-Ka, 0.71073
data collect. temperat. /K	120(1)	120(1)	120(1)
<i>q</i> range /°	4.2 to 70.7	4.2 to 71.0	2.2 to 32.5
index ranges <i>h</i> , <i>k</i> , <i>l</i>	±11, ±12, ±21	±11, ±11, ±14	±15, -24 ... 25, ±29
reflections measured	60236	23936	145176
unique [ <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> ]	18074 [0.0325]	6787 [0.0271]	12099 [0.0726]
observed [ <i>I</i> ≥2s( <i>I</i> )]	15882	6573	9996
data / restraints /parameters	18074 / 28 / 857	6787 / 121 / 534	12099 / 85 / 473
GooF on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.013	1.035	1.025
<i>R</i> indices [ <i>F</i> >4s( <i>F</i> )] <i>R</i> ( <i>F</i> ), <i>wR</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.0395, 0.0982	0.0256, 0.0618	0.0496, 0.1127
<i>R</i> indices (all data) <i>R</i> ( <i>F</i> ), <i>wR</i> ( <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> )	0.0453, 0.1009	0.0271, 0.0631	0.0670, 0.1207
absolute structure parameter	-0.028(17)	-0.019(17)	-0.01(7)
largest residual peaks /e·Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.360, -0.231	0.116, -0.149	0.320, -0.254
CCDC deposition number	1961879	1961880	1961881

<sup>a</sup> semi-empirical absorption correction. <sup>b</sup> numerical absorption correction.

## 6 Computational Details

### 6.1 DFT Setup

All calculations were performed with the software suite Gaussian 09 Revision D.01 at the DFT level of theory.<sup>[15]</sup> All geometry optimizations were carried out with Ahlrichs' def2 basis set family,<sup>[16,17]</sup> employing def2TZVP basis functions for Mg, N, B and def2SVP for the remaining elements along with the BP86 functional and no structural simplifications.<sup>[18,19]</sup> Tight convergence criteria and an ultrafine integration grid have been used throughout all calculations. Gibbs free enthalpy corrections were calculated using the harmonic approximation at 233 K at the level of theory of the geometry optimization. The presence of a single imaginary frequency for transition states and their absence in the case of stationary points was confirmed by frequency calculations. The connection of two stationary points by the proposed transition state was confirmed by an optimization run in each direction of the vibration associated with the imaginary frequency or by calculation of the intrinsic reaction coordinate as implemented for the IRC keyword in Gaussian. Single point energies of the optimized structures were calculated with PBE0/def2QZVPP as the computational tool, accounting for solvation effects of toluene with the SMD model.<sup>[20-22]</sup> Dispersion effects were included with Grimme's recent dispersion correction GD3 as implemented in Gaussian.<sup>[23,24]</sup> The functionals and basis sets applied herein have been shown to produce reliable results for geometrical parameters and thermochemical data for comparable systems. An overview of Gibbs corrections and SCF energies is shown in Section 6.2.

## 6.2 Geometries, Energies and Gibbs Corrections

<b>B-1</b>			H	-3.12204	3.03453	1.51084	
$\delta G_{\text{corr}}$	0.569041		C	-1.02763	2.52122	1.51118	
$E_{\text{SCF}}$	-2006.24142214		C	1.21509	2.41199	1.85719	
$G_{\text{rel}}$	2.5 kcal/mol		H	1.72263	1.59434	2.41072	
79			C	0.55921	3.41916	2.84963	
MgH-OBH XYZ			H	1.00201	4.43394	2.80734	
O	-0.24082	-1.78716	-3.71185	H	0.57882	3.05436	3.89837
O	-0.82268	3.50677	2.42788	C	2.21409	3.03902	0.89160
N	-1.94790	0.55845	-0.53566	C	3.57796	2.68852	0.95191
N	0.34807	-0.75401	-1.77333	H	3.90950	1.92886	1.67861
N	0.04069	1.84359	1.15186	C	4.51173	3.29107	0.08975
C	-2.63903	-0.11705	-1.50803	H	5.57376	3.00457	0.14870
C	-4.05777	0.30226	-1.47399	C	4.08979	4.24960	-0.84700
C	-4.14961	1.30161	-0.46912	H	4.81981	4.72235	-1.52336
C	-2.78746	1.45273	0.08988	C	2.72844	4.59959	-0.92103
C	-5.18626	-0.07801	-2.21592	H	2.38965	5.34607	-1.65732
H	-5.12146	-0.84875	-3.00003	C	1.79785	3.99769	-0.05889
C	-6.41398	0.54948	-1.93122	H	0.73211	4.27060	-0.12864
H	-7.31590	0.26238	-2.49456	H	1.58244	-0.74030	1.02855
C	-6.50526	1.54400	-0.93377	H	1.42155	-0.74844	3.04519
H	-7.47737	2.02065	-0.73111	Mg	-0.08119	-0.02170	0.17855
C	-5.37165	1.93443	-0.19568	C	-1.07945	-2.40133	2.28141
H	-5.45059	2.71484	0.57751	C	0.02899	-3.49789	1.95908
C	-2.04970	-0.99603	-2.41211	O	1.26070	-2.77921	2.06417
H	-2.67188	-1.49240	-3.16844	O	-0.45758	-1.20547	1.76261
C	-0.63424	-1.16813	-2.56001	C	0.05425	-4.66692	2.95769
C	1.60216	-0.87535	-2.57846	H	-0.91386	-5.21141	2.97670
H	1.74664	0.10417	-3.09270	H	0.84465	-5.38756	2.66330
C	1.19453	-1.93573	-3.62156	H	0.28787	-4.31671	3.98089
H	1.42990	-2.96675	-3.27323	C	-0.11353	-4.06337	0.52861
H	1.63037	-1.77684	-4.62605	H	-0.18384	-3.25127	-0.22382
C	2.88792	-1.19657	-1.84170	H	0.78618	-4.66857	0.29548
C	4.06182	-0.48134	-2.16264	H	-1.00259	-4.71807	0.41506
H	4.01195	0.34188	-2.89499	C	-2.42841	-2.61256	1.58819
C	5.28835	-0.80260	-1.55630	H	-2.88431	-3.57478	1.90140
H	6.19501	-0.23522	-1.82077	H	-3.13014	-1.79970	1.86613
C	5.35250	-1.83858	-0.60847	H	-2.33354	-2.61699	0.48484
H	6.31029	-2.08707	-0.12379	C	-1.29027	-2.19913	3.79376
C	4.18556	-2.54756	-0.27218	H	-1.90620	-1.29082	3.95272
H	4.21381	-3.34158	0.48979	H	-1.81567	-3.05942	4.25533
C	2.96398	-2.23432	-0.88961	H	-0.32389	-2.05250	4.31508
H	2.05988	-2.78561	-0.59466	B	1.03924	-1.34331	2.03223
C	-2.38341	2.35986	1.05858				

**B-2**  
 $\delta G_{\text{corr}}$  0.697542  
 $E_{\text{SCF}}$  -2390.87758153  
 $G_{\text{rel}}$  2.8 kcal/mol  
96

MgHOBH-Ketone-bottom XYZ

O	1.23782	2.12126	-3.58944	C	0.14363	-2.38687	3.91675
O	1.02122	-3.14860	3.06027	H	-0.50237	-3.09082	4.47675
N	1.96595	-1.09919	-0.70348	H	0.76769	-1.80679	4.63124
N	0.41511	1.36029	-1.60200	C	-2.06540	-1.92658	2.70979
N	0.21388	-1.49911	1.71975	C	-3.09810	-1.41928	3.52854
C	2.71270	-0.71526	-1.79257	H	-2.86531	-0.63665	4.26994
C	3.80221	-1.69027	-2.01699	C	-4.41520	-1.89490	3.40398
C	3.66322	-2.67460	-1.00930	H	-5.20820	-1.48783	4.05195
C	2.51007	-2.25724	-0.18160	C	-4.72022	-2.88360	2.45043
C	4.82502	-1.77824	-2.97451	H	-5.75148	-3.25806	2.34982
H	4.94037	-1.01501	-3.76025	C	-3.69894	-3.39094	1.62656
C	5.70771	-2.87210	-2.90801	H	-3.92971	-4.16350	0.87570
H	6.51920	-2.96356	-3.64733	C	-2.38115	-2.91795	1.75736
C	5.56710	-3.85605	-1.90484	H	-1.58544	-3.31092	1.10538
H	6.27021	-4.70354	-1.87442	H	-0.46494	1.54033	1.44335
C	4.54275	-3.76678	-0.94409	O	-1.43031	-0.48866	-0.52794
H	4.44062	-4.53795	-0.16422	C	-2.66806	-0.37897	-0.54574
C	2.49649	0.40721	-2.58247	C	-3.38982	0.47787	0.46049
H	3.18166	0.59829	-3.41921	H	-4.04475	-0.15728	1.09469
C	1.37176	1.28688	-2.50892	H	-4.02995	1.22953	-0.04588
C	-0.67982	2.14012	-2.25540	H	-2.65539	1.00071	1.10024
H	-1.31456	1.39797	-2.79849	H	0.21891	1.46688	3.34680
C	0.10487	2.96212	-3.29668	Mg	0.47883	0.10189	0.22895
H	0.46181	3.92585	-2.86678	C	-3.44331	-1.11505	-1.59413
H	-0.44770	3.15720	-4.23562	C	-4.85506	-1.05003	-1.66839
C	-1.61128	2.99342	-1.41662	C	-2.73842	-1.89583	-2.54239
C	-2.92779	3.19746	-1.89281	C	-5.54526	-1.74997	-2.67001
H	-3.26006	2.67679	-2.80761	H	-5.42072	-0.45239	-0.93845
C	-3.81706	4.05075	-1.21802	C	-3.42955	-2.59273	-3.54191
H	-4.83653	4.20128	-1.60885	H	-1.64085	-1.93898	-2.47170
C	-3.40356	4.70601	-0.04350	C	-4.83468	-2.52094	-3.60784
H	-4.09902	5.37041	0.49428	H	-6.64406	-1.69443	-2.71999
C	-2.09934	4.50354	0.43923	H	-2.87306	-3.19682	-4.27572
H	-1.76071	4.99651	1.36400	H	-5.37823	-3.06890	-4.39410
C	-1.20371	3.66155	-0.24489	C	2.86941	1.82928	1.94243
H	-0.19680	3.51891	0.17503	C	2.33950	3.33271	1.83697
C	2.10899	-2.90781	0.97401	O	0.93954	3.23162	2.12796
H	2.67563	-3.78906	1.30320	O	1.68597	1.07640	1.60436
C	1.08018	-2.47064	1.87430	C	2.98774	4.29149	2.85128
C	-0.63144	-1.45799	2.93661	H	4.08868	4.35247	2.71465
H	-0.64485	-0.41691	3.32542	H	2.57093	5.31031	2.71241
				H	2.77446	3.98398	3.89260
				C	2.51436	3.91494	0.41833
				H	2.10001	3.23102	-0.34879
				H	1.96264	4.87521	0.35647
				H	3.57782	4.11591	0.17171
				C	3.99775	1.47109	0.97104

H	4.89181	2.10151	1.15875	C	-2.08032	4.35307	0.43496
H	4.29494	0.41166	1.11080	H	-1.63429	4.85709	1.30602
H	3.69426	1.60116	-0.08505	C	-1.29748	3.45789	-0.31601
C	3.28060	1.44087	3.37686	H	-0.25460	3.25914	-0.02412
H	3.45875	0.34678	3.41343	C	2.69708	-2.61227	0.72837
H	4.21182	1.95296	3.69283	H	3.41933	-3.37039	1.05822
H	2.48019	1.68192	4.10348	C	1.51045	-2.49443	1.52148
B	0.52287	1.83417	2.19974	C	-0.54431	-2.07243	2.33358
				H	-0.93130	-1.14141	2.80006
				C	0.29390	-2.86704	3.36855
<b>B-3</b>				H	-0.21769	-3.75557	3.78536
$\delta G_{\text{corr}}$	0.697633			H	0.65233	-2.21339	4.19371
$E_{\text{SCF}}$	-2390.88215240			C	-1.69956	-2.89000	1.76260
$G_{\text{rel}}$	0.0 kcal/mol			C	-2.95109	-2.86982	2.41752
96				H	-3.09070	-2.21844	3.29707
MgHOBH-Ketone-front XYZ				C	-4.01232	-3.67554	1.97008
O	0.76121	2.05542	-3.85414	H	-4.98110	-3.64708	2.49447
O	1.44265	-3.31243	2.60948	C	-3.83802	-4.51493	0.85553
N	2.22310	-0.80890	-0.89214	H	-4.66805	-5.14699	0.50207
N	0.20903	1.26394	-1.78608	C	-2.59765	-4.53872	0.19412
N	0.47709	-1.70765	1.32073	H	-2.45259	-5.19360	-0.68023
C	2.85612	-0.31476	-2.01425	C	-1.53700	-3.73217	0.64316
C	4.12464	-1.04059	-2.23484	H	-0.57015	-3.74881	0.11644
C	4.20660	-2.01058	-1.20863	C	-0.76102	2.41054	2.33310
C	2.99003	-1.84549	-0.38625	H	-1.54788	-0.14193	-0.03063
C	5.13373	-0.92911	-3.20466	C	-2.75726	0.03252	0.20830
H	5.07621	-0.17715	-4.00740	C	-3.20335	0.84999	1.38879
C	6.23173	-1.80512	-3.12579	H	-3.85609	0.24390	2.05140
H	7.03938	-1.73527	-3.87155	C	-3.80348	1.71773	1.04005
C	6.31309	-2.77468	-2.10188	H	-2.32523	1.22917	1.94869
H	7.18322	-3.44894	-2.06197	C	-0.23614	0.62789	3.15699
C	5.29904	-2.88945	-1.13348	H	0.52948	0.09505	0.08524
H	5.36898	-3.64950	-0.33943	Mg	-3.76978	-0.57828	-0.70715
C	2.38283	0.68777	-2.84578	C	-5.15808	-0.36046	-0.53682
H	2.98283	0.97361	-3.71975	C	-3.32746	-1.38567	-1.78308
C	1.10601	1.32345	-2.75063	C	-6.08030	-0.93008	-1.42718
C	-1.02568	1.89541	-2.33197	H	-5.52183	0.26404	0.29218
H	-1.68400	1.07329	-2.70173	C	-4.25016	-1.95396	-2.67110
C	-0.48052	2.70662	-3.53394	H	-2.24729	-1.55935	-1.89873
H	-0.27335	3.76278	-3.24899	C	-5.62841	-1.72597	-2.49582
H	-1.13503	2.69107	-4.42697	H	-7.15826	-0.75230	-1.28836
C	-1.85366	2.77595	-1.41509	C	-3.89654	-2.58181	-3.50399
C	-3.21123	2.99992	-1.74350	H	-6.35417	-2.17239	-3.19432
H	-3.66155	2.46051	-2.59400	C	2.43155	1.99064	1.77839
C	-3.99003	3.90284	-1.00097	C	2.10926	3.01462	2.94862
H	-5.04413	4.07154	-1.27448	O	1.08433	2.34819	3.66615
C	-3.42275	4.58647	0.09121	O	1.10730	1.46945	1.46058
H	-4.03058	5.29224	0.67959				

C	3.28952	3.26806	3.89951	H	7.48309	-1.70423	0.64679
H	4.17226	3.67551	3.36237	C	5.31789	-1.74276	0.44947
H	2.98739	4.00737	4.66940	H	5.23145	-2.81491	0.68638
H	3.58587	2.34134	4.42679	C	2.13671	-2.48183	0.43961
C	1.59496	4.37214	2.41351	H	2.76273	-3.33291	0.73810
H	0.76635	4.22940	1.69278	C	0.72157	-2.67544	0.57346
H	1.19972	4.95763	3.26845	C	-1.51780	-2.45473	0.78612
H	2.39215	4.96874	1.92330	H	-1.74661	-1.94088	1.74954
C	3.04585	2.62811	0.52702	C	-1.09132	-3.91887	1.06208
H	3.99996	3.13836	0.77653	H	-1.36269	-4.59041	0.21684
H	3.27362	1.85763	-0.23791	H	-1.49154	-4.33796	2.00528
H	2.36471	3.37086	0.06949	C	2.55405	2.22365	-0.60513
C	3.31237	0.83074	2.27469	H	3.32348	3.00354	-0.67502
H	3.36519	0.03937	1.50143	C	1.19312	2.67630	-0.68976
H	4.35060	1.16100	2.48359	C	-1.06076	2.87201	-0.82491
H	2.88634	0.39081	3.19771	H	-1.49938	2.63620	-1.82126
B	0.18988	1.70600	2.71355	C	-0.39344	4.28125	-0.83478
<b>B-ts (<i>S</i>)</b>				H	-0.61363	4.85572	0.09097
$\delta G_{\text{corr}}$				H	-0.66641	4.89730	-1.71453
$E_{\text{SCF}}$				C	-2.74202	-2.34161	-0.10550
$G_{\text{rel}}$				C	-2.65440	-2.52313	-1.50258
Atome				H	-1.67089	-2.66283	-1.97699
XYZ				C	-3.81252	-2.48382	-2.29716
				H	-3.72563	-2.60973	-3.38785
				C	-5.07158	-2.27206	-1.70819
<b>H-1</b>				H	-5.97766	-2.24230	-2.33439
$\delta G_{\text{corr}}$	0.388378			C	-5.16769	-2.08661	-0.31794
$E_{\text{SCF}}$	-1594.61958877			H	-6.14878	-1.91056	0.15150
$G_{\text{rel}}$	16.8 kcal/mol			C	-4.00822	-2.11618	0.47544
S7				H	-4.08513	-1.95790	1.56438
MgH XYZ				C	-2.15427	2.72143	0.22305
Mg	0.08121	-0.14086	-0.99810	C	-3.51096	2.69967	-0.15956
O	0.34771	-3.85197	1.15844	H	-3.77237	2.74241	-1.22988
O	1.02553	4.01561	-0.88304	C	-4.52813	2.61430	0.80752
N	2.05315	-0.14895	-0.28127	H	-5.58325	2.59649	0.49131
N	-0.26631	-1.86292	0.24630	C	-4.19881	2.54302	2.17175
N	0.08838	1.96617	-0.60677	H	-4.99435	2.47370	2.93075
C	2.73925	-1.27748	0.09676	C	-1.83263	2.64298	1.59617
C	-2.84716	2.55351	2.56325	H	-0.77469	2.64090	1.90552
H	-2.58140	2.49023	3.63077	C	-0.53961	-0.31673	-2.63120
C	4.18515	-0.96856	0.15570				
C	4.30610	0.41402	-0.14222				
C	2.93120	0.90692	-0.38016	<b>(H-1)<sub>2</sub></b>			
C	5.56155	1.04060	-0.14889	$\delta G_{\text{corr}}$	0.798154		
H	5.66322	2.11413	-0.37321	$E_{\text{SCF}}$	-3189.28888322		
C	6.69832	0.25970	0.13368	$G_{\text{rel}}$	7.9 kcal/mol		
H	7.69582	0.72684	0.12458	114			
C	6.57799	-1.11542	0.42900	Dimer-XYZ			

Mg	-1.10194	-0.91309	0.14623	H	2.34129	-3.91694	-1.43232
O	-3.15015	-2.60727	3.59939	C	1.48081	-5.87392	-1.01403
O	-1.29520	-1.70181	-4.08210	H	2.43594	-6.30145	-0.66878
N	-3.19970	-0.84750	-0.30198	C	0.31572	-6.66002	-1.01573
N	-1.72424	-1.82713	2.00956	H	0.35317	-7.70736	-0.67561
N	-0.94713	-1.76483	-1.83695	C	-0.90074	-6.09998	-1.44836
C	-4.22449	-0.78958	0.61060	H	-1.81987	-6.70788	-1.44564
C	-5.44915	-0.29399	-0.05798	C	-0.94918	-4.76454	-1.88106
C	-5.10752	-0.12143	-1.42441	H	-1.90780	-4.32753	-2.20479
C	-3.69150	-0.53801	-1.54709	Mg	1.19478	0.78384	-0.06524
C	-6.74616	-0.01701	0.39949	O	3.05258	2.71487	3.33007
H	-7.02052	-0.15579	1.45731	O	1.76563	0.61419	-4.34645
C	-7.69617	0.45111	-0.52865	N	3.30124	0.44674	-0.31661
H	-8.71859	0.68460	-0.19148	N	1.77709	2.08894	1.55389
C	-7.35609	0.62425	-1.88747	N	1.25212	1.14642	-2.19735
H	-8.11704	0.99177	-2.59421	C	4.19534	0.41226	0.72458
C	-6.05886	0.33166	-2.35079	C	5.41224	-0.31843	0.30200
H	-5.80385	0.46211	-3.41448	C	5.21060	-0.65869	-1.06114
C	-4.13223	-1.24307	1.92069	C	3.87688	-0.12555	-1.42338
H	-5.03367	-1.27726	2.54689	C	6.60184	-0.66407	0.96050
C	-2.95853	-1.86290	2.46512	H	6.76875	-0.39738	2.01619
C	-0.87461	-2.58938	2.97352	C	7.58506	-1.36810	0.23872
H	-0.21133	-3.26991	2.40324	H	8.52382	-1.65801	0.73695
C	-1.93810	-3.37737	3.77538	C	7.38503	-1.70577	-1.11692
H	-1.72478	-3.45853	4.85826	H	8.17008	-2.25517	-1.66044
H	-2.10826	-4.39370	3.35567	C	6.19694	-1.34776	-1.78300
C	-0.00400	-1.68438	3.84226	H	6.05197	-1.60820	-2.84351
C	1.39244	-1.64816	3.65581	C	3.99820	1.04485	1.94530
H	1.84312	-2.23812	2.84225	H	4.78758	1.00613	2.70770
C	2.20728	-0.86049	4.48785	C	2.89310	1.91540	2.23195
H	3.29620	-0.84644	4.32678	C	1.11702	3.30098	2.11833
C	1.63530	-0.09104	5.51547	H	1.40665	4.16115	1.47053
H	2.27514	0.52394	6.16806	C	1.80753	3.42856	3.49624
C	0.24085	-0.11137	5.70432	H	1.21762	2.93361	4.29964
H	-0.21795	0.48856	6.50662	H	2.03354	4.47052	3.79407
C	-0.57150	-0.90168	4.87393	C	-0.39785	3.26963	2.18983
H	-1.66204	-0.91390	5.03434	C	-1.14779	4.32672	1.63656
C	-2.99282	-0.71321	-2.73720	H	-0.62554	5.14439	1.11254
H	-3.47971	-0.47066	-3.69100	C	-2.55030	4.34182	1.73443
C	-1.72667	-1.38607	-2.82153	H	-3.12159	5.17411	1.29296
C	0.18346	-2.53270	-2.39953	C	-3.21946	3.29288	2.38603
H	1.13322	-2.04315	-2.09740	H	-4.31878	3.29615	2.45741
C	-0.03675	-2.40798	-3.94101	C	-2.47859	2.23124	2.93705
H	-0.13233	-3.39031	-4.44695	H	-2.99839	1.39675	3.43343
H	0.75480	-1.81320	-4.44191	C	-1.07860	2.22009	2.84186
C	0.21756	-3.96927	-1.89008	H	-0.51123	1.37577	3.26417
C	1.42964	-4.53649	-1.44599	C	3.30726	-0.13160	-2.69277

H	3.84939	-0.58990	-3.53031
C	2.08931	0.55541	-3.01799
C	0.20820	1.81900	-2.99955
H	-0.78726	1.47765	-2.64581
C	0.49292	1.30324	-4.44482
H	0.59687	2.11741	-5.18958
H	-0.26958	0.57626	-4.79504
C	0.26170	3.33728	-2.86330
C	-0.93049	4.07762	-2.72620
H	-1.89290	3.54390	-2.66317
C	-0.89967	5.48174	-2.65651
H	-1.84061	6.04500	-2.54896
C	0.32809	6.16382	-2.71539
H	0.35460	7.26388	-2.65878
C	1.52409	5.43294	-2.84018
H	2.49119	5.95979	-2.87887
C	1.49082	4.03036	-2.91286
H	2.43194	3.46331	-2.99675
H	-0.71075	0.94221	-0.07441
H	0.80042	-1.05832	0.41457

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