for

Isolation of Heterometallic Cerium(III) Complexes with a Multidentate Nitrogen-Phosphorus Ligand<br>Xiaoqing Xin and Congqing Zhu*

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## 1. Experimental Procedures

General Procedures: All manipulations were performed under an $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques or in a glovebox. Commercially available chemicals were used as received without further purification. The solvents were obtained by passing through a Solve Purer G5 (MIKROUNA) solvent purification system and further dried over $4 \AA$ molecular sieves. Deuterated solvents (benzene $-\mathrm{d}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}$ ) were dried over $\mathrm{Na} / \mathrm{K}$ and stored under a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere prior to use. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy was performed using a Bruker AVIII-400 $\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H} 400 \mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} 101 \mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} 162 \mathrm{MHz}\right)$ or a Bruker AVIII-500 $\left({ }^{1} \mathrm{H} 500\right.$ $\mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} 126 \mathrm{MHz} ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} 202 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) spectrometer at room temperature (RT). The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR chemical shifts $(\delta)$ are relative to tetramethylsilane, and ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR chemical shifts are relative to $85 \% \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$. Absolute values of the coupling constants are provided in Hertz $(\mathrm{Hz})$. Multiplicities are abbreviated as singlet ( s ), doublet ( d ), triplet ( t ), multiplet (m), and broad (br). Elemental analyses ( $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{N}$ ) were performed on a Vario EL III elemental analyzer at the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. High-resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) was conducted using a Waters SYNAPT G2-Si system equipped with an ESI ionization source. UV-vis absorption spectra were obtained by using a Shimadzu UV-3600 absorption spectrophotometer. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) was performed on a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer with $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{K} \alpha$ X-ray source $(\lambda=1.54056 \AA$ ) operated at 40 kV and 40 mA at $298 \mathrm{~K} .\left(2-\mathrm{NC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{~N}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2}$ and compound1wereprepared according to previously reported procedures. ${ }^{1,2}$

## Synthesis of compound 1



A solution of ${ }^{i} \mathrm{Pr}_{2} \mathrm{PCl}(3.06 \mathrm{~g}, 20.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added dropwise to a solution of (2$\left.\mathrm{NC}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{~N}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2}(1.94 \mathrm{~g}, 10.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{Et}_{3} \mathrm{~N}(11 \mathrm{~mL}, 80.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(30 \mathrm{~mL})$,
resulting in the immediate formation of a white precipitate. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight before being dried in vacuo. The white solid was extracted with hexane and filtered through celite. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give compound $\mathbf{1}$ as a pale yellow oil. Yield: $3.75 \mathrm{~g}(88 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta 8.46\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{3} J_{\mathrm{HH}}=5.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, 6-\right.$ $\left.\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 7.12-7.20\left(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, 3,4-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 6.64\left(\mathrm{dd},{ }^{3} J_{\mathrm{HH}}=7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 5.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, 5-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 3.07(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{NCH}_{2}$ ), 2.99-3.04 (m, 4H, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{NP}\right), 2.49\left(\mathrm{t},{ }^{3} \mathrm{HHH}=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2}-\mathrm{NP}\right), 1.48-$ $1.53\left(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 4 \mathrm{H}, \quad \mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right), \quad 1.39-1.43 \quad(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 2 \mathrm{H}, \quad \mathrm{N} H), 1.01-1.06 \quad\left(\mathrm{~m}, \quad 24 \mathrm{H}, \quad \mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 101 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta 160.5\left(2-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 149.1\left(6-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 135.5\left(4-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right)$, $122.5\left(3-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 121.4\left(5-\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}\right), 60.5\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{NCH}_{2}\right), 57.7\left(\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NP}\right)$, $57.6\left(\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NP}\right)$, $46.6\left(\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NP}\right), 46.4\left(\mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NP}\right), 26.6\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right), 26.5\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)$, $19.2\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)$, $19.0\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right), 17.5\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right), 17.4\left(\mathrm{CH}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)_{2}\right) .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 202 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta$ 63.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{22} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{P}_{2}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} 427.3114$, found 427.3118 .

## Synthesis of complex 2



A 2.4 M solution of $n-\mathrm{BuLi}$ in hexanes $(2.5 \mathrm{~mL}, 6.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added dropwise to a solution of compound $1(1.28 \mathrm{~g}, 3.0 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF $(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ cooled at $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred for a further 2 h , and was then added to the suspension of $\mathrm{CeBr}_{3}(1.14 \mathrm{~g}, 3.0$ mmol ) in THF ( 10 mL ). After stirring overnight at rt , the suspension became transparent. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the residues were extracted with toluene. The mixture was filtered through a sintered glass funnel and the filtrate was dried in vacuo to afford complex $2(1.57 \mathrm{~g}, 76 \%)$ as a red solid. Red crystals of 2 suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by placing the concentrated toluene solution at $-30{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 days. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 400\right.$ $\mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}) \delta 21.06(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 14.49(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 11.49(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 10.65(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 10.15(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.13$ (s, $2 \mathrm{H}), 8.77(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 8.12(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.55(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 6.88(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.02(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.27(\mathrm{~m}$,
$1 \mathrm{H}), 3.18(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.91(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.84(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 2.54(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 2.40(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 0.14(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}),-0.95(\mathrm{~s}$, $6 \mathrm{H}),-1.07(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}),-3.01(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}),-3.75(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H})-4.76(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-6.50(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}),-6.92(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-9.65(\mathrm{~s}$, 2H), -11.08 (s, 2H), -12.38 (s, 1H). ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 162 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta$ 49.2, 33.0. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{83} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{Ce}_{2} \mathrm{Li}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4}$ : C 38.24; H 6.05; N 8.11. Found: C 35.83; H 5.64; N 7.43.This complex consistently has low carbon content, possibly due to the high sensitivity.

## Synthesis of complex 3



The complex $2(138.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ was dissolved in wet $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the resulting red orange solution was filtered, concentrated to 1 mL , and evaporated slowly, yielding 3 as single orange crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction. Yield: $61.9 \mathrm{mg}(45 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} N \mathrm{NR}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right.$, $298 \mathrm{~K}) \delta 18.40(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 17.71(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 11.60(\mathrm{~s}, 10 \mathrm{H}), 11.29(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 10.69(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 9.83(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H})$, $6.39(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 6.16(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 5.02(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.03(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.76(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.51(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.28(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}), 0.71$ $(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 0.47(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 0.30(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-1.25(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-1.52(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-3.16(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}),-3.82(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}),-4.97$ (s, 6H) -7.52 (s, 2H), -7.60 (s, 6H). ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 162 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta$ 169.4, 69.6. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{84} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{Ce}_{2} \mathrm{LiN}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4}$ : C 38.41; H 6.15; N 8.14. Found: C 38.70; H 6.25; N 8.01 .

## Synthesis of complex 4



Atoluene solution $(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ of $[\mathrm{Rh}(\mathrm{COD}) \mathrm{Cl}]_{2}(49.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a stirred solution of $2(138.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ in toluene $(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ at rt . The reaction was heated at $90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h , then the
mixture was filtered through a sintered glass funnel and the filtrate was concentrated to 2 mL . After the concentrated solution was placed at $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h , yellow crystals of 4 suitable for Xray diffraction were obtained ( $34.4 \mathrm{mg}, 28 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (THF-d ${ }_{8}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$ ) $\delta 13.46,12.51$, $12.07,10.95,10.41,9.24,8.52,7.99,7.69,7.46,7.35,7.19,7.14,6.14,5.64,5.37,5.18,4.27,3.72$, $3.60,2.96,2.55,2.33,2.02,1.97,1.92,1.75,1.32,0.92,0.14,0.02,-0.39,-1.66,-3.32,-4.96,-7.44$, -13.10. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(\mathrm{THF}-\mathrm{d}_{8}, 162 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta 85.2\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J_{\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Rh}}=149.4 \mathrm{~Hz}\right), 81.6\left(\mathrm{~d},{ }^{1} J_{\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Rh}}=\right.$ 155.3 Hz). Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{CeRh}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{P}_{2} \cdot 1.5$ toluene: C 42.68.10; H 5.76; N 4.11. Found: C 42.35; H 6.08; N 4.34 .

## Synthesis of complex 5



A solution in toluene $(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ of $[\operatorname{Ir}(\mathrm{COD}) \mathrm{Cl}]_{2}(67.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a stirred solution of $2(138.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol})$ in toluene $(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ at rt . The reaction was heated at $90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h . The mixture was filtered through a sintered glass funnel and the filtrate was concentrated to 2 mL . After the concentrated solution was placed at $-30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h , orange crystals of 5 suitable for Xray diffraction were obtained ( $47.8 \mathrm{mg}, 34 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (THF-d $\mathrm{d}_{8}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$ ) $\delta 14.32,13.33$, $11.71,9.75,8.54,7.70,7.47,7.17,7.16,6.13,5.76,5.40,5.22,4.99,3.90,3.77,3.62,3.28,3.02$, $2.73,2.71,2.70,2.68,2.45,2.35,2.29,2.27,2.19,2.15,2.11,1.91,1.89,1.77,1.59,1.57,1.56$, $1.33,0.93,-0.25,-1.58,-5.30,-5.96,-13.17 .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (THF-d $\left.8,162 \mathrm{MHz}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right) \delta 68.6$, 64.7. Anal. Calcd. For $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{66} \mathrm{Br}_{3}$ CeIr $_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{P}_{2}$-toluene: C 36.10 ; H 4.98; N 3.74.Found: C 36.10 ; H 5.33; N 3.45 .

## 2. X-ray crystallographic analysis

Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown from a solution of the product in hexane at RT. The intensity data were collected using a Bruker APEX-II CCD area detector witha radiation source of $\mathrm{Ga}(\mathrm{K} \alpha)(1.34139 \AA)$ or $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{K} \alpha)(0.71073 \AA)$. Multiscan or empirical absorption corrections (SADABS) were applied. The structures were solved using Patterson methods, expanded using difference Fourier syntheses, and refined using full-matrix least squares fitting on $F^{2}$ using the Bruker SHELXTL-2014 program package. ${ }^{3}$ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were introduced at their geometric positions and refined as riding atoms. The program SQUEEZEwasusedto handle the contribution of disordered solvents in a crystal structure refinement. ${ }^{4}$ CCDC-1940013 (2), 1940015 (3), 1940016 (4), 1940017 (5) contain the crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data-request/cif). Details regarding the data collection and refinement for these complexes are given in Table S1.

Table S1. Crystal data and structural refinement for 2, 3, 4 and 5.

|  | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{83} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{Ce}_{2} \mathrm{Li}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{84} \mathrm{Br}_{3} \mathrm{Ce}_{2} \mathrm{Li}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{76} \mathrm{H}_{130} \mathrm{Br}_{6} \mathrm{Ce}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{76} \mathrm{H}_{130} \mathrm{Br}_{6} \mathrm{Ce}_{2}$ |
| formula weight | $\mathrm{N}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Rh}_{4}$ | $\mathrm{~N}_{8} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Ir}_{4}$ |
| temperature, K | 1381.91 | 1375.98 | 2545.24 | 2808.25 |
| wavelength, $\AA$ | $173(2)$ | $193(2)$ | $193(2)$ | $193(2)$ |
| crystal system | 0.71073 | 1.34139 | 1.34139 | 1.34139 |
| space group | Triclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic |
| $a, \AA$ | $P-1$ | $P-1$ | $P-1$ | $P-1$ |
| $b, \AA$ | $14.0359(4)$ | $12.4128(4)$ | $14.3545(4)$ | $14.3632(5)$ |
| $c, \AA$ | $14.1167(4)$ | $15.6235(5)$ | $19.2818(5)$ | $19.3199(7)$ |
| $\alpha,{ }^{\circ}$ | $17.7636(6)$ | $17.6653(5)$ | $21.2924(6)$ | $21.3343(7)$ |
| $\beta,{ }^{\circ}$ | $70.333(1)$ | $96.143(1)$ | $91.396(1)$ | $91.439(2)$ |
| $\gamma,{ }^{\circ}$ | $81.160(1)$ | $100.177(1)$ | $105.106(1)$ | $104.959(1)$ |
|  | $84.094(1)$ | $102.728(1)$ | $109.615(1)$ | $109.739(1)$ |


| $V, \AA^{3}$ | 3270.04(17) | 3250.87(17) | 5318.8(3) | 5342.3(3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Z | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| $d_{\text {calcd }}, \mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.403 | 1.400 | 1.531 | 1.747 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{Mo}_{\mathrm{K} \alpha}\right), \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 3.337 | 9.295 | 9.845 | 13.149 |
| $F(000)$ | 1380.0 | 1376.0 | 2416.0 | 2672.0 |
| crystal size, mm | $0.10 \times 0.10 \times$ | $0.20 \times 0.10 \times$ | $0.20 \times 0.10 \times$ | $0.20 \times 0.10 \times$ |
|  | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| $\theta_{\text {max }},{ }^{\circ}$ | 25.000 | 53.919 | 53.878 | 53.847 |
| reflns collected | 24842 | 40061 | 67150 | 74998 |
|  | 11417 | 11631 | 19351 | 19372 |
| indep reflns | $\left[\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{int}}=0.0258\right.$, | $\left[\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}=0.0470\right.$, | $\left[\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{int}}=0.0530\right.$, | $\left[\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{int}}=0.0469\right.$, |
|  | $\left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0389\right]$ | $\left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0420\right]$ | $\left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0491\right]$ | $\left.\mathrm{R}_{\text {sigma }}=0.0403\right]$ |
| data/restraints/params | 11417/0/584 | 11631/264/576 | 19351/0/917 | 19372/0/917 |
| goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ | 1.077 | 1.030 | 1.036 | 0.987 |
| final $R(I>2 \sigma(I))$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0252$, | $R_{1}=0.0386$, | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0671$, | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0481,$ |
|  | $w_{2}=0.0664$ | $w R_{2}=0.1029$ | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1983$ | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1465$ |
| $R$ indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0321$ | $R_{1}=0.0395$, | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0750$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0552$ |
|  | $w \mathrm{R}_{2}=0.0684$ | $w R_{2}=0.1038$ |  | $w R_{2}=0.1526$ |
| Residual electron |  |  |  |  |
| density (e. $\AA^{-3}$ ) | 0.46/-0.50 | 1.74/-1.10 | 2.67/-3.44 | 1.61/-3.81 |
| max/min |  |  |  |  |



Figure S1. X-ray molecular structure of complex 2 drawn with $40 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms and isopropyl moieties in $\mathrm{P}^{i} \mathrm{Pr}_{2}$ are omitted for clarity.

Table S2. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles (deg) for $\mathbf{2}$.

| $\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | $3.1249(4)$ | $\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | 3.1516(3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ce1-Br3 | 3.1539(3) | Ce1-N1 | 2.348(2) |
| Ce1-N2 | 2.370(3) | Ce1-N3 | 2.645(3) |
| Ce1-N4 | 2.613(2) | Ce2-Br1 | 3.2034(4) |
| Ce2-Br2 | 3.1300(3) | Ce2-Br3 | 3.2903(4) |
| Ce2-N5 | 2.380(2) | Ce2-N6 | 2.393(3) |
| Ce2-N7 | 2.483(3) | Ce2-N8 | 2.584(2) |
| Br1-Li1 | $2.506(6)$ | Br2-Li2 | 2.504(6) |
| Br3-Li1 | 2.664(6) | Br3-Li2 | 2.598(5) |
| P1-N1 | 1.670(2) | $\mathrm{P} 2-\mathrm{N} 2$ | 1.667(3) |
| P3-N5 | 1.656(3) | P4-N6 | 1.656(3) |
| P1-Li1 | 2.523(5) | P2-Li2 | 2.540(6) |
| P3-Li1 | 2.512(5) | P4-Li2 | 2.497(5) |
| N3-C6 | $1.338(4)$ | N3-C10 | $1.345(4)$ |
| C6-C7 | 1.374(4) | C7-C8 | $1.358(5)$ |
| C9-C8 | 1.373(5) | C10-C9 | 1.370(4) |
| C6-C5 | 1.511(4) | N7-C16 | 1.410(4) |
| N7-C20 | 1.353(4) | C16-C17 | 1.444(4) |


| C17-C18 | 1.340 (5) | C18-C19 | 1.402(5) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C20-C19 | 1.372(5) | C15-C16 | 1.348(4) |
|  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 3$ | 73.084(8) | Br2-Ce1-Li2 | 42.99(10) |
| Br2-Ce1-Li1 | 93.69(8) | Br3-Ce1-Li2 | 44.73(9) |
| Br3-Ce1-Li1 | 45.76(10) | $\mathrm{Br} 1-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | 72.914(9) |
| Br1-Ce1-Br3 | 75.330(10) | Br1-Ce1-Li2 | 96.21(10) |
| Br1-Ce1-Li1 | 42.92(10) | N3-Ce1-Br2 | 82.84(5) |
| N3-Ce1-Br3 | 148.42(6) | N3-Ce1-Br1 | 78.30(6) |
| N3-Ce1-Li2 | 123.10(11) | N3-Ce1-Li1 | 118.17(12) |
| Li2-Ce1-Li1 | 87.05(13) | $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 2-\mathrm{Br} 3$ | 71.523(9) |
| $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 2-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | 72.147(9) | Br2-Ce2-Li2 | 41.54(9) |
| Br2-Ce2-Li1 | 92.88(8) | Br3-Ce2-Li2 | 42.74(8) |
| Br3-Ce2-Li1 | 44.57(11) | $\mathrm{Br} 1-\mathrm{Ce} 2-\mathrm{Br} 3$ | 72.418(9) |
| Br1-Ce2-Li2 | 91.94(8) | Br1-Ce2-Li1 | 42.05(9) |
| N7-Ce2-Br2 | 82.71(6) | N7-Ce2-Br3 | 150.64(6) |
| N7-Ce2-Br1 | 86.69(6) | N7-Ce2-N8 | 67.02(9) |
| N7-Ce2-Li2 | 120.55(11) | N7-Ce2-Li1 | 126.04(12) |
| Li1-Ce2-Li2 | 83.95(13) |  |  |



Figure S2. X-ray molecular structure of complex $\mathbf{3}$ drawn with $40 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms and isopropyl moieties in $\mathrm{P}^{i} \mathrm{Pr}_{2}$ are omitted for clarity.

Table S3. Selected bond distances ( $\AA$ ) and angles (deg) for $\mathbf{3}$.

| Cel-Brl | $3.2733(5)$ | Ce1-Br2 | 3.0797(5) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ce1-Br3 | $3.0620(5)$ | Ce2-Br1 | 3.0941 (5) |
| Ce2-Br2 | 3.0727(5) | Ce2-Br3 | $3.2923(5)$ |
| Ce1-N1 | 2.427(4) | Ce1-N2 | 2.330(4) |
| Ce1-N3 | 2.696(4) | Ce1-N4 | 2.665(4) |
| Ce1-Li1 | 3.679(8) | Ce2-N5 | 2.402(3) |
| Ce2-N6 | 2.329(3) | Ce2-N7 | 2.688(4) |
| Ce2-N8 | 2.664(4) | Ce2-Li1 | 3.673(7) |
| Br3-Li1 | 2.494(7) | Br1-Li1 | 2.508(8) |
| P1-Li1 | 2.498(7) | P3-Li1 | 2.490 (7) |
| C6-C5 | 1.506(9) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | 74.773(12) | Br2-Ce1-Lil | 95.77(10) |
| $\mathrm{Br} 3-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | 78.060(13) | Br3-Ce1-Br1 | 72.612(12) |
| Br3-Ce1-Li1 | 42.21(12) | Br1-Ce1-Li1 | 41.79(12) |
| N1-Ce1-Br2 | 157.76(10) | N1-Ce1-Br3 | 89.35(10) |
| N1-Ce1-Br1 | 84.05(10) | N1-Ce1-N3 | 101.62(14) |
| N1-Ce1-N4 | 66.71(15) | N1-Ce1-Li1 | 63.21(14) |
| N3-Ce1-Br2 | 79.57(10) | N3-Ce1-Br3 | 144.29(10) |
| N3-Ce1-Br1 | 74.86(10) | N3-Ce1-Li1 | 114.06(16) |
| N2-Ce1-Br2 | 94.46(13) | N2-Ce1-Br3 | 108.65(14) |
| N2-Ce1-Br1 | 168.81(14) | N2-Ce1-N1 | 106.99(16) |
| N2-Ce1-N3 | 100.51(18) | N2-Ce1-N4 | 64.82(17) |
| N2-Ce1-Li1 | 145.17(19) | N4-Ce1-Br2 | 130.26(11) |
| N4-Ce1-Br3 | 149.95(11) | N4-Cel-Br1 | 119.82(11) |
| N4-Ce1-N3 | 62.44(15) | N4-Ce1-Li1 | 127.65(15) |



Figure S3. X-ray molecular structure of complex 4 drawn with $40 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms and isopropyl moieties in $\mathrm{P}^{i} \mathrm{Pr}_{2}$ are omitted for clarity.

Table S4. Selected bond distances ( $\AA$ ) and angles (deg) for 4.

| $\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | 2.9139(14) | Cel-Br2 | $3.0509(14)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ce1-Br3 | 2.9448(13) | Ce1-N1 | 2.453(8) |
| Ce1-N2 | 2.466(7) | Ce1-N3 | 2.676(8) |
| Ce1-N4 | 2.630(7) | Rh1-Br1 | 2.4891(17) |
| Rh1-P1 | 2.350(2) | Rh2-Br2 | 2.4787(13) |
| Rh2-P2 | 2.338(2) | P1-N1 | 1.636(8) |
| $\mathrm{P} 2-\mathrm{N} 2$ | 1.649(7) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Br} 3-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | 82.65(4) | Br1-Cel-Br3 | 88.37(4) |
| $\mathrm{Br} 1-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | 84.94(4) | N2-Ce1-Br3 | 158.57(17) |
| N2-Ce1-Br2 | 76.61(16) | N2-Ce1-Br1 | 95.07(16) |
| N2-Ce1-N4 | 67.2(2) | N2-Ce1-N3 | 93.5(2) |
| N4-Ce1-Br3 | 123.34(15) | N4-Ce1-Br2 | 126.06(16) |
| N4-Ce1-Br1 | 135.18(16) | N4-Ce1-N3 | 62.5(2) |
| N1-Ce1-Br3 | 93.05(18) | N1-Ce1-Br2 | 165.67(17) |
| N1-Ce1-Br1 | 81.26(17) | N1-Ce1-N2 | 108.4(2) |
| N1-Ce1-N4 | 67.6(2) | N1-Cel-N3 | 110.5(2) |
| N3-Ce1-Br3 | 78.16(17) | N3-Ce1-Br2 | 82.06(17) |


| N3-Ce1-Br1 | $162.33(17)$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



Figure S4. X-ray molecular structure of complex 5 drawn with $40 \%$ probability. Hydrogen atoms and isopropyl moieties in $\mathrm{P}^{i} \mathrm{Pr}_{2}$ are omitted for clarity.

Table S5. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles (deg) for 5.

| Cel-Br1 | 3.0742(14) | $\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | $2.9215(14)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ce1-Br3 | 2.9440(12) | Ir1-Br1 | 2.4547(13) |
| Ir1-P1 | 2.343(2) | Ir2-Br2 | 2.4432(14) |
| Ir2-P2 | 2.340(2) | Ce1-N1 | 2.445(7) |
| Ce1-N2 | 2.447(7) | Ce1-N3 | 2.671(7) |
| Cel-N4 | 2.624(7) | P1-N1 | 1.659(7) |
| P2-N2 | 1.652(7) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Br} 3-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | 81.59(4) | $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 3$ | 88.60(4) |
| $\mathrm{Br} 2-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | 87.42(4) | P1-Ir1-Br1 | 92.21(6) |
| P2-Ir2-Br2 | 91.91(6) | N1-Ce1-Br3 | 157.25(18) |
| N1-Ce1-Br1 | 76.01(17) | N1-Ce1-Br2 | 94.23(15) |
| N1-Ce1-N2 | 108.1(2) | N1-Ce1-N3 | 94.6(2) |
| N1-Ce1-N4 | 67.6(2) | N2-Ce1-Br3 | 94.66(17) |
| N2-Ce1-Br1 | 167.29(16) | N2-Ce1-Br2 | 80.33(16) |


| N2-Ce1-N3 | $110.7(2)$ | N2-Ce1-N4 | $67.9(2)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N3-Ce1-Br3 | $77.70(17)$ | $\mathrm{N} 3-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 1$ | $80.53(17)$ |
| N3-Ce1-Br2 | $162.89(17)$ | $\mathrm{N} 4-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 3$ | $124.32(15)$ |
| N4-Ce1-Br1 | $124.14(16)$ | $\mathrm{N} 4-\mathrm{Ce} 1-\mathrm{Br} 2$ | $134.63(15)$ |
| N4-Ce1-N3 | $62.5(2)$ |  |  |

## 3. NMR Spectra and powder X-ray diffraction patterns



Figure S5. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz ) spectrum of compound $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.

| 8 |
| :--- |







Figure S6. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $(101 \mathrm{MHz})$ spectrum of compound $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.


Figure S7. The ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (202 MHz) spectrum of compound $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.


Figure S8. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $(400 \mathrm{MHz})$ spectrum of complex $\mathbf{2}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.

Figure S9. The ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 162 MHz ) spectrum of complex 2 in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.


Figure S10. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 MHz ) spectrum of complex $\mathbf{3}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.


Figure S11. The ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 162 MHz ) spectrum of complex $\mathbf{3}$ in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$.


Figure S12. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 MHz ) spectrum of complex 4 in THF- $\mathrm{d}_{8}$.


Figure S13. The ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 162 MHz ) spectrum of complex 4 in THF- $\mathrm{d}_{8}$.


Figure S14. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 MHz ) spectrum of complex 5 in THF- $\mathrm{d}_{8}$.


Figure S15. The ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 162 MHz ) spectrum of complex 5 in THF-d ${ }_{8}$.


Figure S16. Experimental and calculated powder X-ray diffraction patterns for 4.


Figure S17. Experimental and calculated powder X-ray diffraction patterns for 5.

## 4. References

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