

Supporting Information for:

## Tuning the $[L_2Rh \cdots H_3B \cdot NR_3]^+$ Interaction using Phosphine Bite Angle. Demonstration by the Catalytic Formation of Polyaminoboranes

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## Experimental

All manipulations, unless otherwise stated, were performed under an atmosphere of argon, using standard Schlenk and glove-box techniques. Glassware was oven dried at 130°C overnight and flamed under vacuum prior to use. MeCN, THF, hexane and pentane were dried using a Grubbs type solvent purification system (MBraun SPS-800) and degassed by successive freeze-pump-thaw cycles.<sup>1</sup> CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F and 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> were distilled under vacuum from CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> was stirred over alumina for two hours prior to drying. H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H were purchased from Aldrich and sublimed before use (5 × 10<sup>-2</sup> Torr, 298 K). H<sub>3</sub>B·NMeH<sub>2</sub><sup>2</sup> and [Rh(NBD)(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)] [BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (n=2-5)<sup>3</sup> were prepared as previously described. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Unity Plus 500 MHz or Varian Venus 300 MHz spectrometers at room temperature unless otherwise stated. In C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were referenced to the centre of the downfield solvent multiplet (δ = 7.11). <sup>31</sup>P spectra were referenced against 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (external). <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were referenced against BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (external). Chemical shifts are quoted in ppm and coupling constants in Hz. ESI-MS were recorded on a Bruker MicroTOF instrument. Microanalyses were performed by Elemental Microanalysis Ltd and London Metropolitan University. GPC data were obtained in THF solutions at 0.5 mg/ml, containing 0.1 % [nBu<sub>4</sub>]NBr and use polystyrene standards for column calibration. Both the instrumentation and method are described in detail elsewhere.<sup>4</sup>

## Synthesis of new complexes

### Preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F)] [BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (**1a**)

A suspension of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)Cl]<sub>2</sub> (80.0 mg, 0.0745 mmol) and Na[BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (132.1 mg, 0.149 mmol) in C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. Pentane (8 mL) was added to the flask to encourage the full precipitation of NaCl (which is partially soluble in C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F) and then filtered. The product was isolated by first concentrating the filtrate (~ 5 mL) and then adding the solution dropwise to pentane (30 mL) with rigorous stirring causing **1a** to precipitate as a red solid. Yield 80 mg, 37 %.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 8.37 (s, 8H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.63 (s, 4H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 1.83 (apparent d, *J* = 20, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). The co-ordinated C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F signals were not unambiguously located and the phenyl signals not assigned as they were obscured by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F solvent δ 7.31 – 6.70.

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (121 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 73.48 [d, *J*(RhP) 203].

**ESI-MS (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** *m/z*, 597.1083 [M]<sup>+</sup>, (calc. 597.0778).

**Anal.** Calcd for C<sub>64</sub>H<sub>41</sub>B<sub>1</sub>F<sub>25</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh<sub>1</sub> (1460.6344 gmol<sup>-1</sup>): C, 52.63; H, 2.83. Found: C, 52.17; H, 3.25.

### Preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F)][BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] n = 3 (**1b**), 4 (**1c**), 5 (**1d**).

In a typical experiment, [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(NBD)][BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (100 mg) was stirred in C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F (5 mL) in a Young's flask until fully dissolved. The flask was placed under hydrogen (4 atm) and then left to stir at room temperature for 20 minutes. The solution was then concentrated *in vacuo* (~2 mL) and then added dropwise to pentane (30 mL) with rigorous stirring resulting in the precipitation of **1b-d** as a red/orange solid. Diffusion of pentane into a solution of the isolated solid in C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F (3 mL) gave **1b** as red crystals. Yield: 74 mg, 74 % (**1b**), 72 mg, 72 % (**1c**), 78 mg, 78 % (**1d**).

#### **1b**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 8.37 (s, 8H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.65 (s, 4H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 5.66 (m, 4H, *o*&*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 5.08 (m, 1H, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 2.06 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.57 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>). The phenyl signals were not assigned as they were obscured by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F solvent δ 7.31 – 6.70.

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 25.50 [d, *J*(RhP) 196].

**ESI-MS (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** *m/z*, 611.1351 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calc. 611.0935).

**Anal.** Calcd for C<sub>65</sub>H<sub>43</sub>B<sub>1</sub>F<sub>25</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh<sub>1</sub> (1474.6610 gmol<sup>-1</sup>): C, 52.94; H, 2.94. Found: C, 52.85; H, 2.47.

#### **1c**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 8.37 (s, 8H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.65 (s, 4H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 5.50 (m, 2H, *o*/*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 5.44 (m, 2H, *o*/*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 5.10 (m, 1H, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 1.99 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.24 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). The phenyl signals were not assigned as they were obscured by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F solvent δ 7.31 – 6.70.

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (121 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 38.39 [d, *J*(RhP) 199].

**ESI-MS (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** *m/z*, 625.1256 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calc. 625.1091).

**Anal.** Calcd for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>45</sub>B<sub>1</sub>F<sub>25</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh<sub>1</sub> (1488.6876 gmol<sup>-1</sup>): C, 53.25; H, 3.05. Found: C, 53.28; H, 3.38.

#### **1d**

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 8.37 (s, 8H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.65 (s, 4H, BAR<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 5.54 (m, 2H, *o*/*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 5.49 (m, 2H, *o*/*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 5.26 (m, 1H, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F), 2.11 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.59 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>). The phenyl signals were not assigned as they were obscured by C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F solvent δ 7.31 – 6.70.

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F):** δ 27.01 [d, *J*(RhP) 207].

**ESI-MS (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>F, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** *m/z*, 639.1730 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calc. 639.1248).

**Anal.** Calcd for C<sub>67</sub>H<sub>47</sub>B<sub>1</sub>F<sub>25</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh<sub>1</sub> (1502.7142 gmol<sup>-1</sup>): C, 53.55; H, 3.15. Found: C, 53.56; H, 3.37.

**Preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>)] [BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (2b).**

H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub> (1.2 mg, 0.016 mmol) was added to a solution of **1b** (24 mg, 0.016 mmol) in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (3 mL). Diffusion of pentane at -35°C yielded **2b** as red crystals. Yield: 14 mg, 59 %.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 7.74 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.49 – 7.35 (m, 12H, Ph), 2.59 (s, 9H, NMe), 2.40 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.01 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), -1.30 (br, 3H, BH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>):** δ 34.02 [d, *J*(RhP) 167].

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 16.40 (v br).

**ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** m/z, 629.1168 [M-H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>+C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100 %, calc. 629.0840), 515.0861 [M-H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (40 %, calc. 515.0559).

**Preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>)] [BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (2c).**

H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub> (1.2 mg, 0.016 mmol) was added to a solution of **1c** (24 mg, 0.016 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (3 mL). Diffusion of pentane at -35°C yielded **2c** as purple crystals. Yield: 19 mg, 80 %.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 7.74 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.69 – 7.61 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 12H, Ph), 2.51 (s, 9H, NMe), 2.47 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.84 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), -1.66 (br, 3H, BH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (121 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>):** δ 47.12 [d, *J*(RhP) 170].

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 18.26 (br).

**ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** m/z, 643.1342 [M-H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>+C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100 %, calc. 643.0997), 602.2105 [M]<sup>+</sup> (10 %, calc. 602.1784).

**Preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>)] [BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (2d).**

H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub> (1.2 mg, 0.016 mmol) was added to a solution of **1d** (24 mg, 0.016 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (3 mL). Diffusion of pentane at -35°C yielded **2d** as purple crystals. Yield: 21 mg, 89 %.

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 7.74 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.57 (m, 8H, Ph), 7.55 – 7.30 (m, 12H, Ph), 2.55 (s, 9H, NMe), 2.66 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.39 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), -1.99 (br, 3H, BH<sub>3</sub>).

**<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>):** δ 34.89 [d, *J*(RhP) 176].

**<sup>11</sup>B NMR (121 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** 20.34 (br).

**ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion:** m/z, 657.0915 [M-H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>3</sub>+C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100 %, calc. 657.1153), 616.1779 [M]<sup>+</sup> (75 % calc. 616.1941).

## Dehydrocoupling methodology

### *H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H dehydrocoupling experiments for dehydrocoupling plots*

A stock solution of H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (0.07 M) was added to a Schlenk flask under argon containing the catalyst (**1b-d**) which was itself attached to an external mineral oil bubbler. 100 μL aliquots were taken over time; these were quenched immediately in an NMR tube by addition of MeCN (250 μL) and frozen to 77 K until analysis by <sup>11</sup>B NMR Spectroscopy. <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were processed using back linear prediction. Peaks which never reach > 10 % total integration value were not included in the analysis but are detailed in the footnotes of each plot.

### *H<sub>3</sub>B·NMeH<sub>2</sub> polymerisation*

To a Schlenk flask charged with catalyst (**1b-d**) and H<sub>3</sub>B·NMeH<sub>2</sub> (100 mg, 2.2 mmol) was added 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (5 mL) and the resulting solution stirred open to argon for 2 hours. The reaction was subsequently quenched by addition of hexane (30 mL). After the precipitation of the polymer (*ca.* 10 minutes), the solvent was removed by decantation and the resulting solid redissolved in THF (3 mL). This solution was filtered into a new Schlenk containing hexane (30 mL). After decanting all solvent the resulting solid was dried overnight *in vacuo*. These polymerisations were essentially quantitative by <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy, even though isolated yields are lower.

Isolated yields:

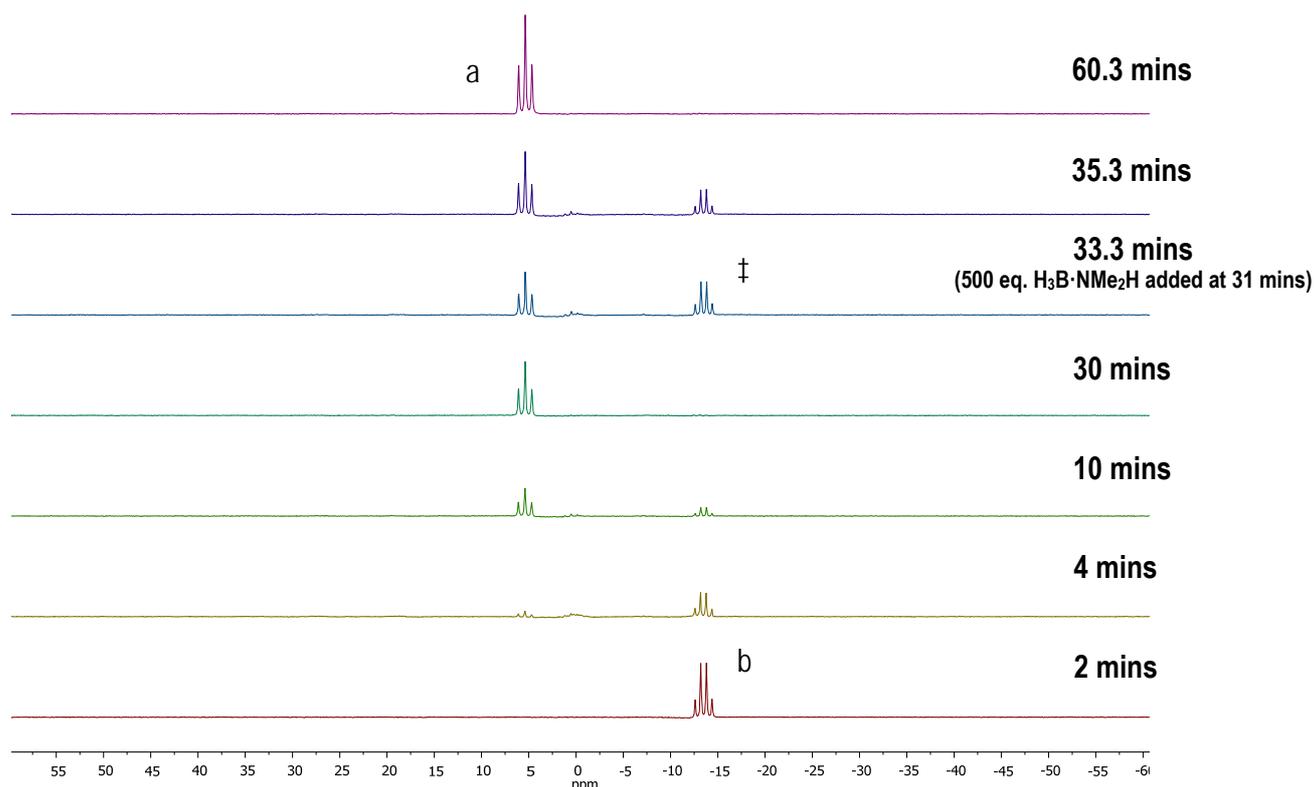
0.2 mol % **1b**: 57 mg, 60 %

0.2 mol % **1c**: 48 mg, 50 %

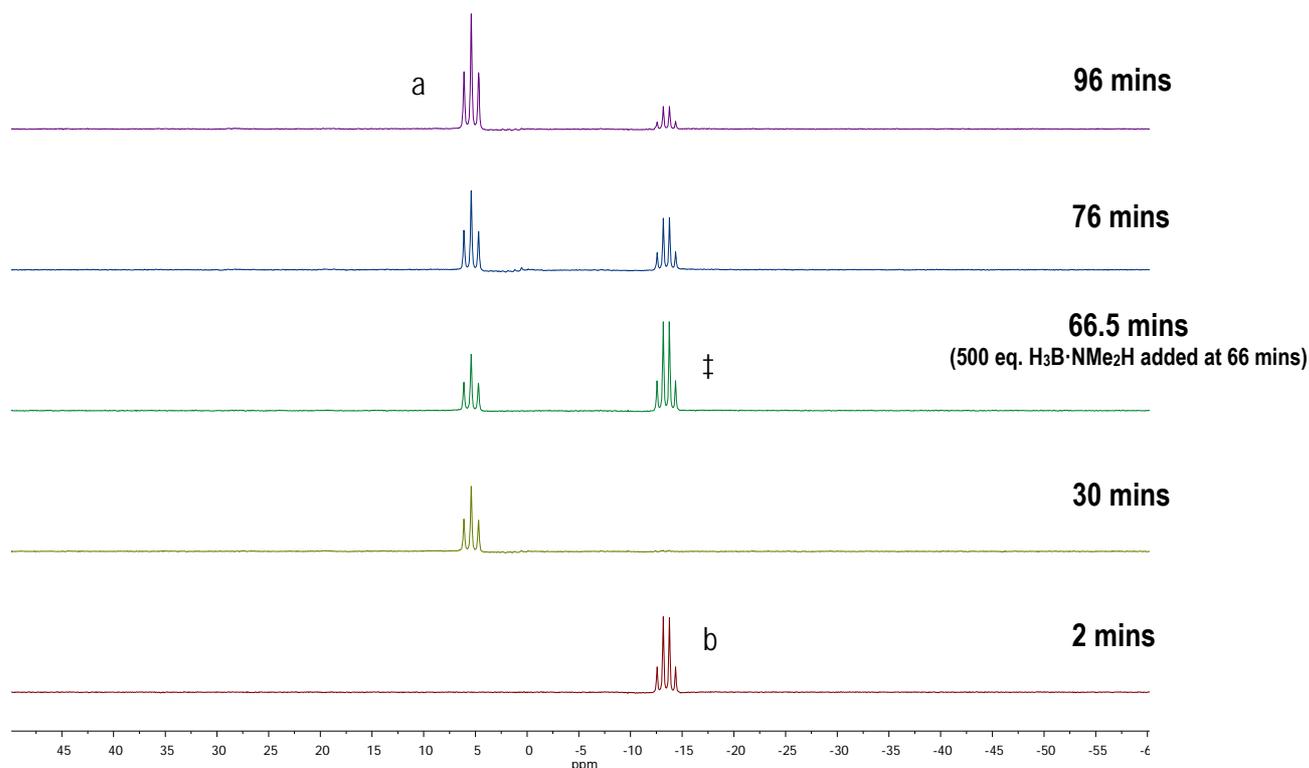
0.2 mol % **1d**: 14 mg, 15 %

1 mol % **1b**: 72 mg, 75 %

### Selected $^{11}\text{B}$ NMR spectra

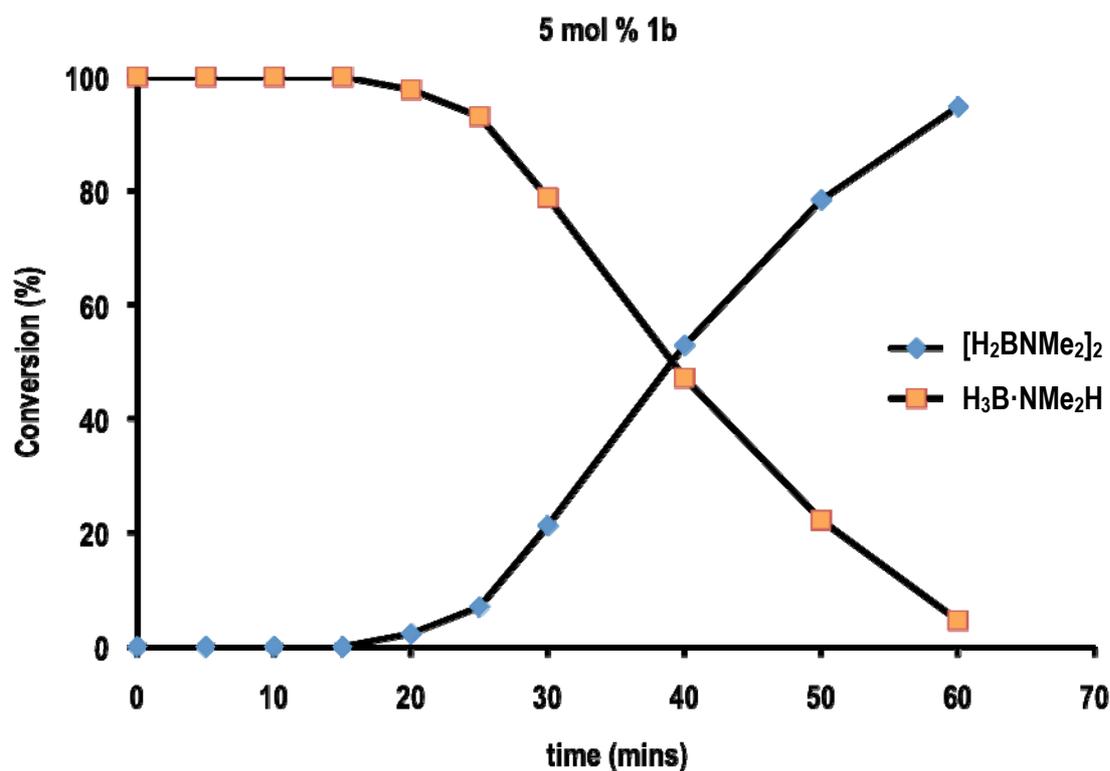


**Figure S-1:** Representative  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectra during catalyst recycling experiment. 500 eq.  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  in 1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  (5 mL) added to **1b** at  $t = 0$  minutes. ‡ A further 500 eq.  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (based on amount **1b** remaining after 30 minutes of sampling) in 600  $\mu\text{L}$  1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  added at 31 minutes. a =  $[\text{H}_2\text{BNMe}_2]_2$ , b =  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$ .

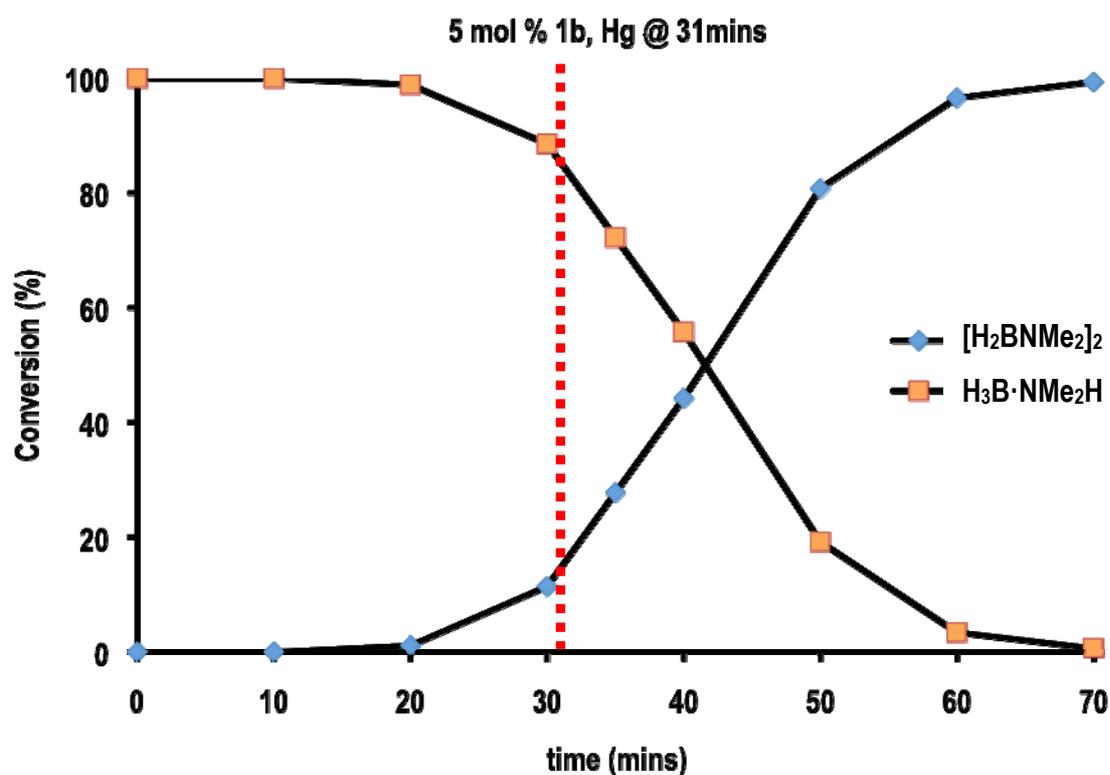


**Figure S-2:** Representative  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectra during catalyst filtration experiment to test for heterogeneous catalysis. Catalysis solution taken into glove box and filtered between 30 minutes and 66 minutes. ‡ 500 eq.  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (based on amount of catalyst remaining after 30 minutes of sampling) in 600  $\mu\text{L}$  1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  added at 66 minutes. a =  $[\text{H}_2\text{BNMe}_2]_2$ , b =  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$ .

### H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H Dehydrocoupling plots

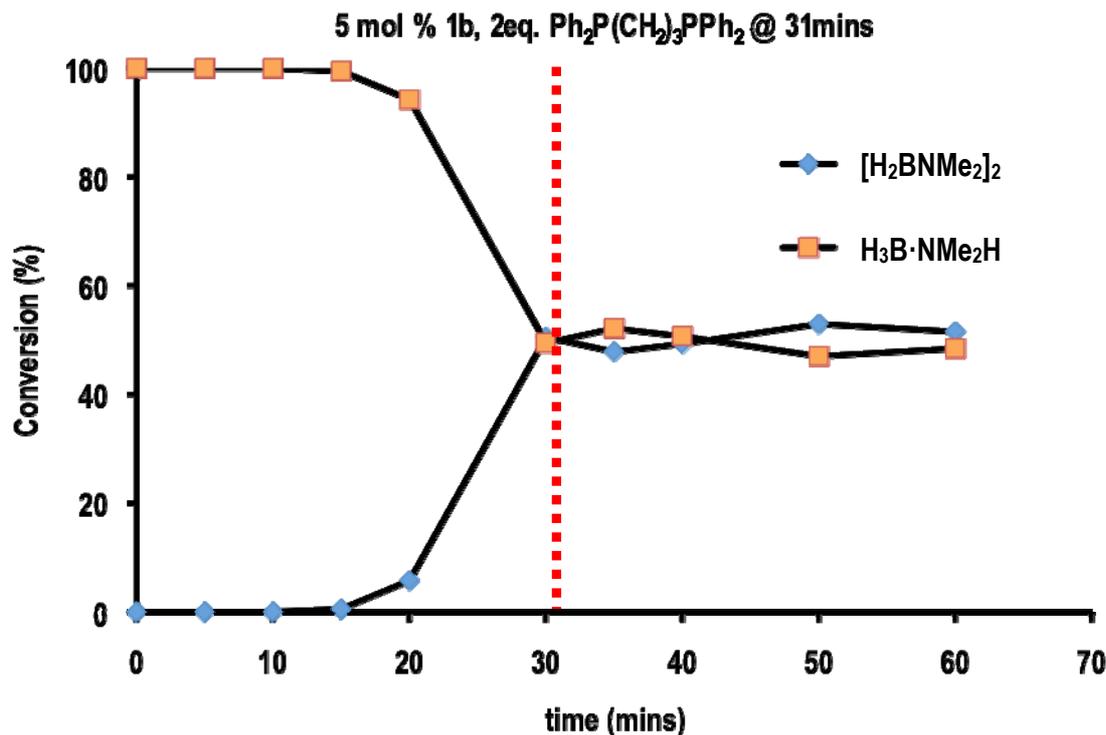


**Figure S-3:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H (5 mol % **1b**). Minor species observed by <sup>11</sup>B NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are: [HB(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] δ 28.6 (br d, *J* = 130) observed from 5 – 60 minutes, trace quantity remains at 60 minutes; H<sub>3</sub>BNMe<sub>2</sub>BH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>H δ 2.5 (t, *J* = 108) -12.9 (q, *J* = 95) observed from 40 minutes, trace quantity remains at 60 minutes.

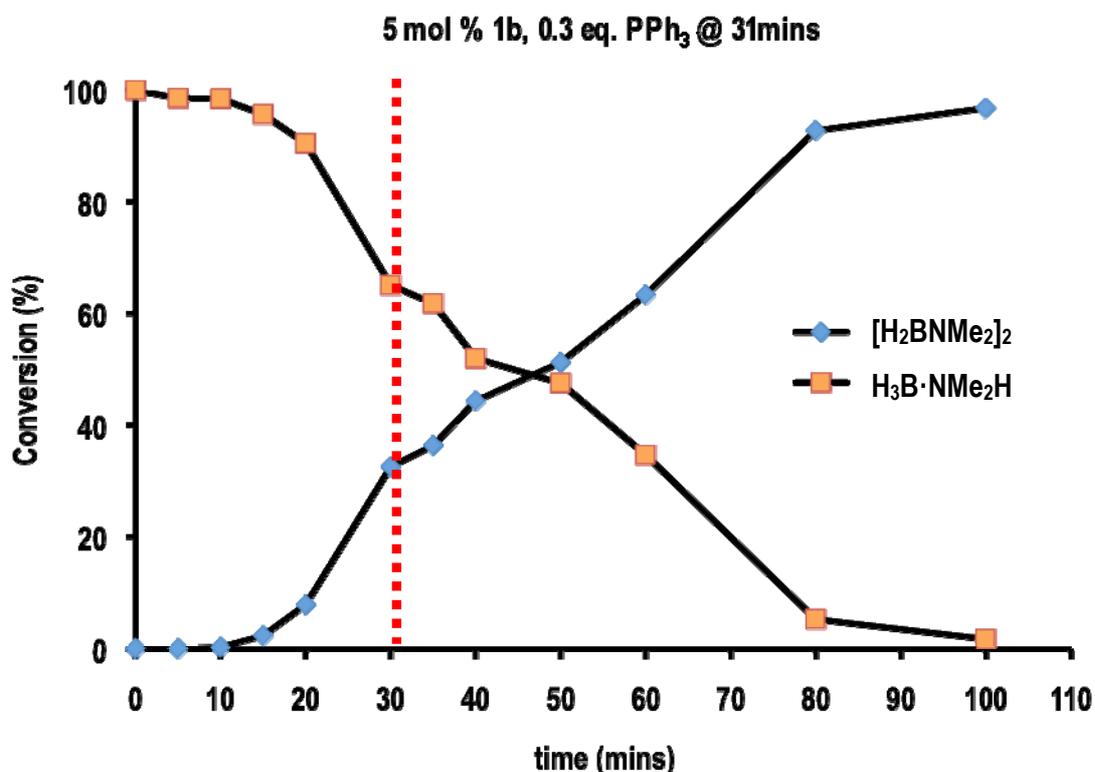


**Figure S-4:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H (5 mol % **1b**). 100 μL Hg added by syringe to the catalytic mixture at 31 minutes (dotted line). Minor species observed by <sup>11</sup>B NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot

are:  $[\text{HB}(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$   $\delta$  28.6 (br d,  $J = 130$ ) observed 10 - 70 minutes, trace quantity remains at 70 minutes;  $\text{H}_3\text{BNMe}_2\text{BH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$   $\delta$  2.5 (t,  $J = 108$ ) -12.9 (q,  $J = 95$ ) observed from 35 minutes, trace quantity remains at 70 minutes.

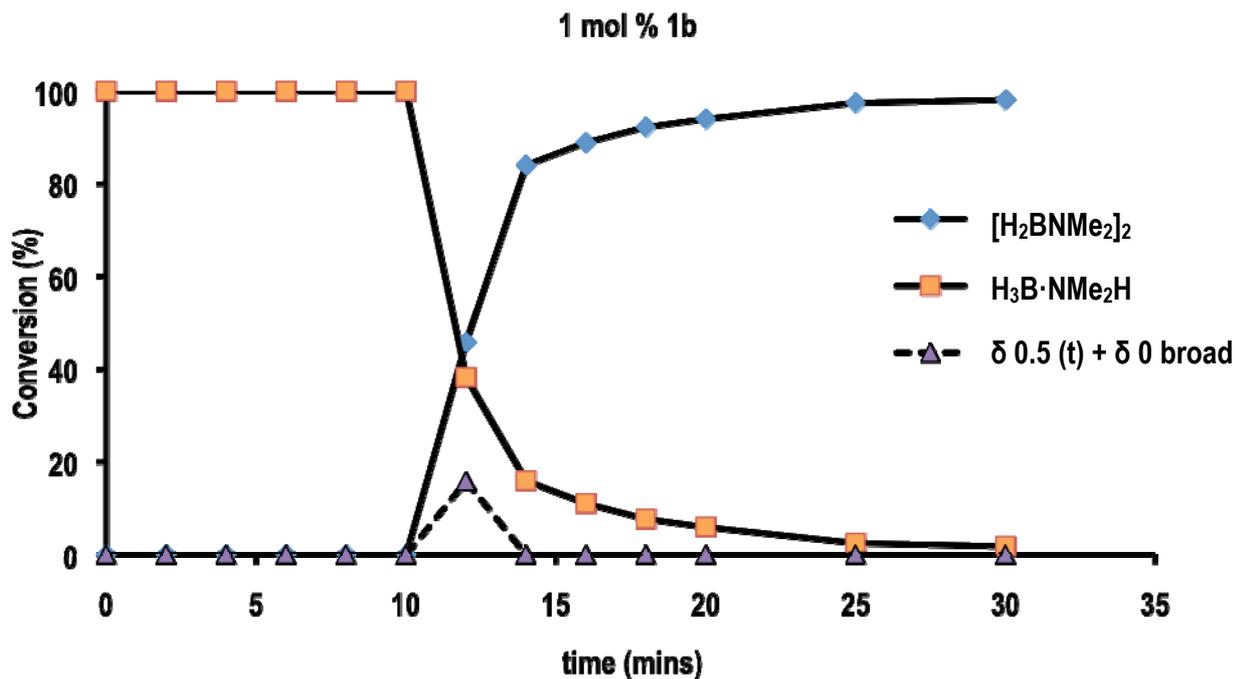


**Figure S-5:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (5 mol % **1b**). 2 eq.  $\text{Ph}_2\text{P}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{PPh}_2$  in 600  $\mu\text{L}$  1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  added by syringe to the catalytic mixture at 31 minutes (dotted line). Minor species observed by  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are:  $[\text{HB}(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$   $\delta$  28.6 (br d,  $J = 130$ ) observed 5 – 60 minutes, trace amount remains at 60 minutes;  $\text{H}_3\text{BNMe}_2\text{BH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$   $\delta$  2.5 (t,  $J = 108$ ) -12.9 (q,  $J = 95$ ) observed from 35 minutes, < 5% remains at 60 minutes.

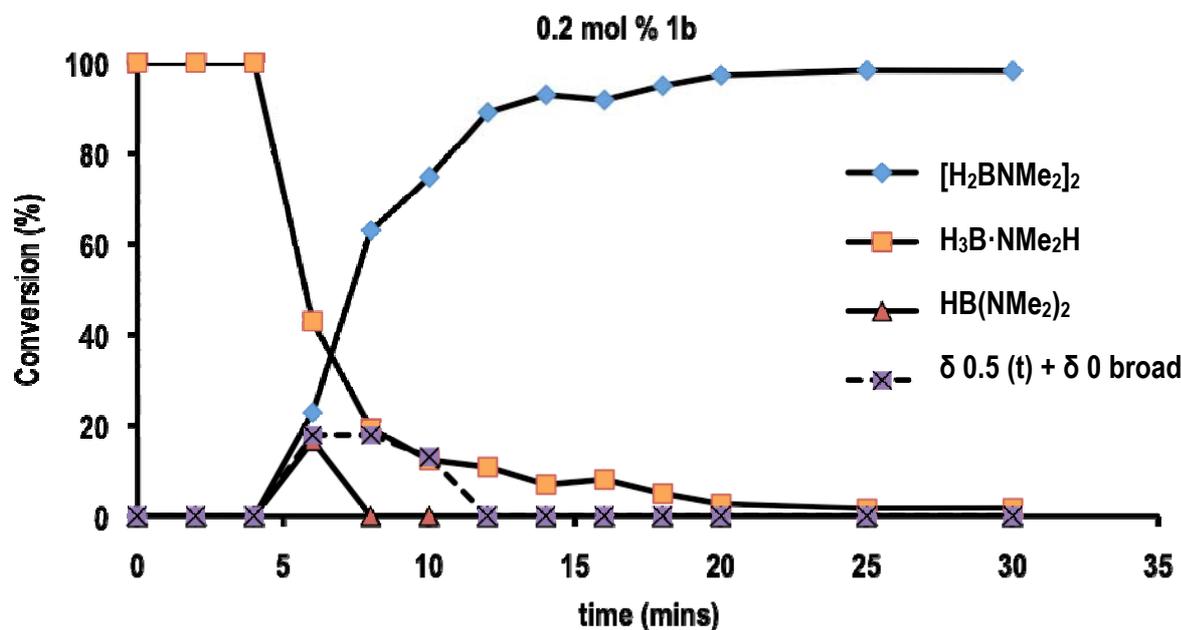


**Figure S-6:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (5 mol % **1b**). 0.3 eq.  $\text{PPh}_3$  in 600  $\mu\text{L}$  1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  added by syringe to the catalytic mixture at 31 minutes (dotted line). Minor species observed by  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR Spectroscopy but

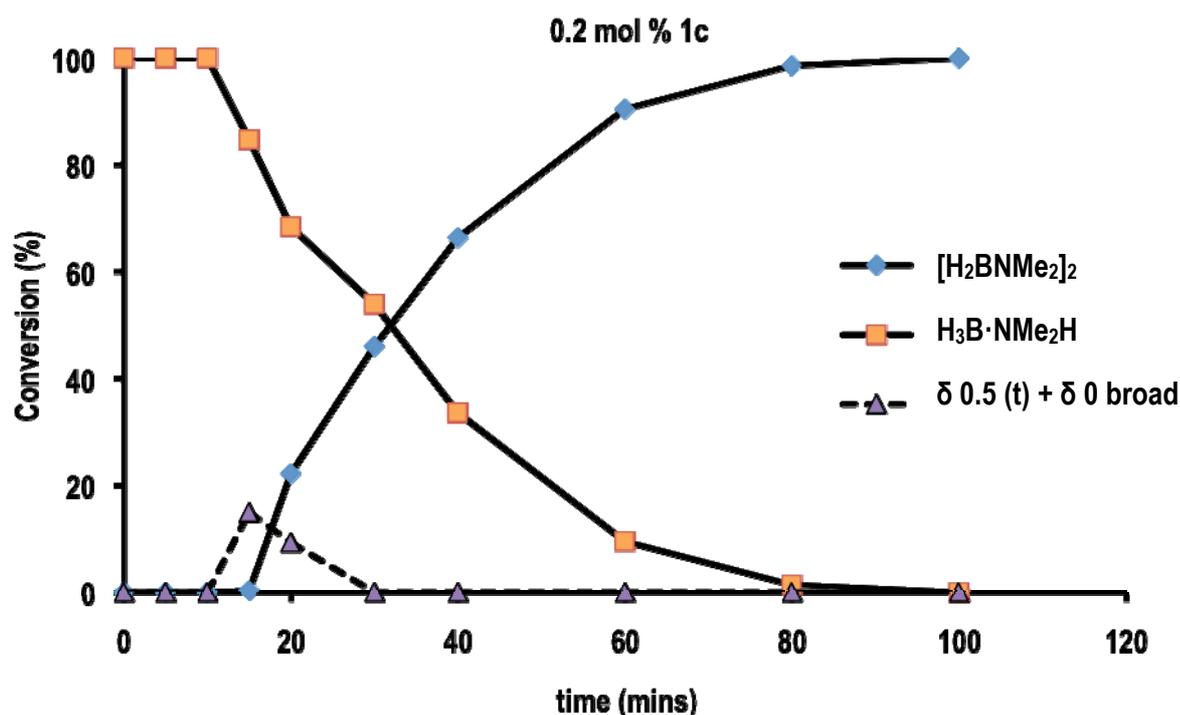
not included in the above plot are:  $[\text{HB}(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$   $\delta$  28.6 (br d,  $J = 130$ ) observed 5 - 80 minutes;  $\text{H}_3\text{BNMe}_2\text{BH}_2\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$   $\delta$  2.5 (t,  $J = 108$ ) -12.9 (q,  $J = 95$ ) observed from 35 minutes, < 5% remains at 60 minutes.



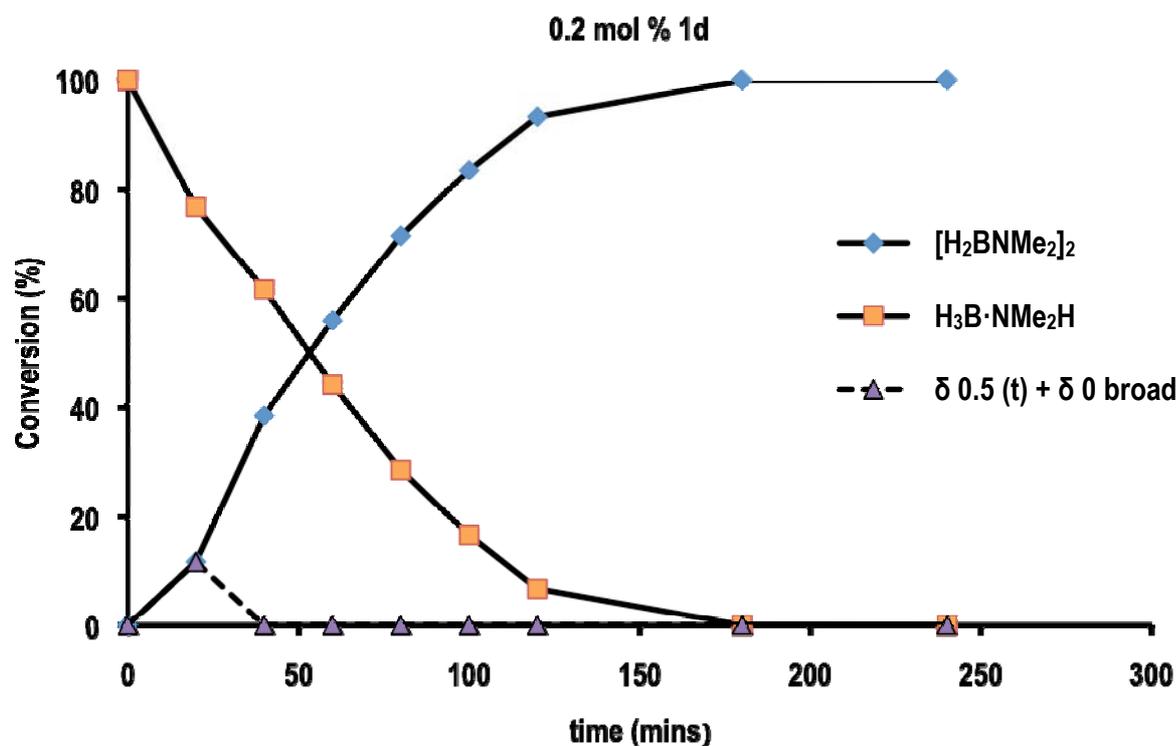
**Figure S-7:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (1 mol % **1b**). Minor species observed by  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are:  $[\text{HB}(\text{NMe}_2)_2]$   $\delta$  28.6 (br d,  $J = 130$ ) observed from 12 - 30 minutes, trace quantity remains at 30 minutes. Dotted lines indicate the reduction of signals closer to the baseline resulting in reliable integration not being possible. Species at  $\delta$  0.5 (t,  $J = 103$ ) and  $\delta$  0 (br) are observed from 12 - 20 minutes.



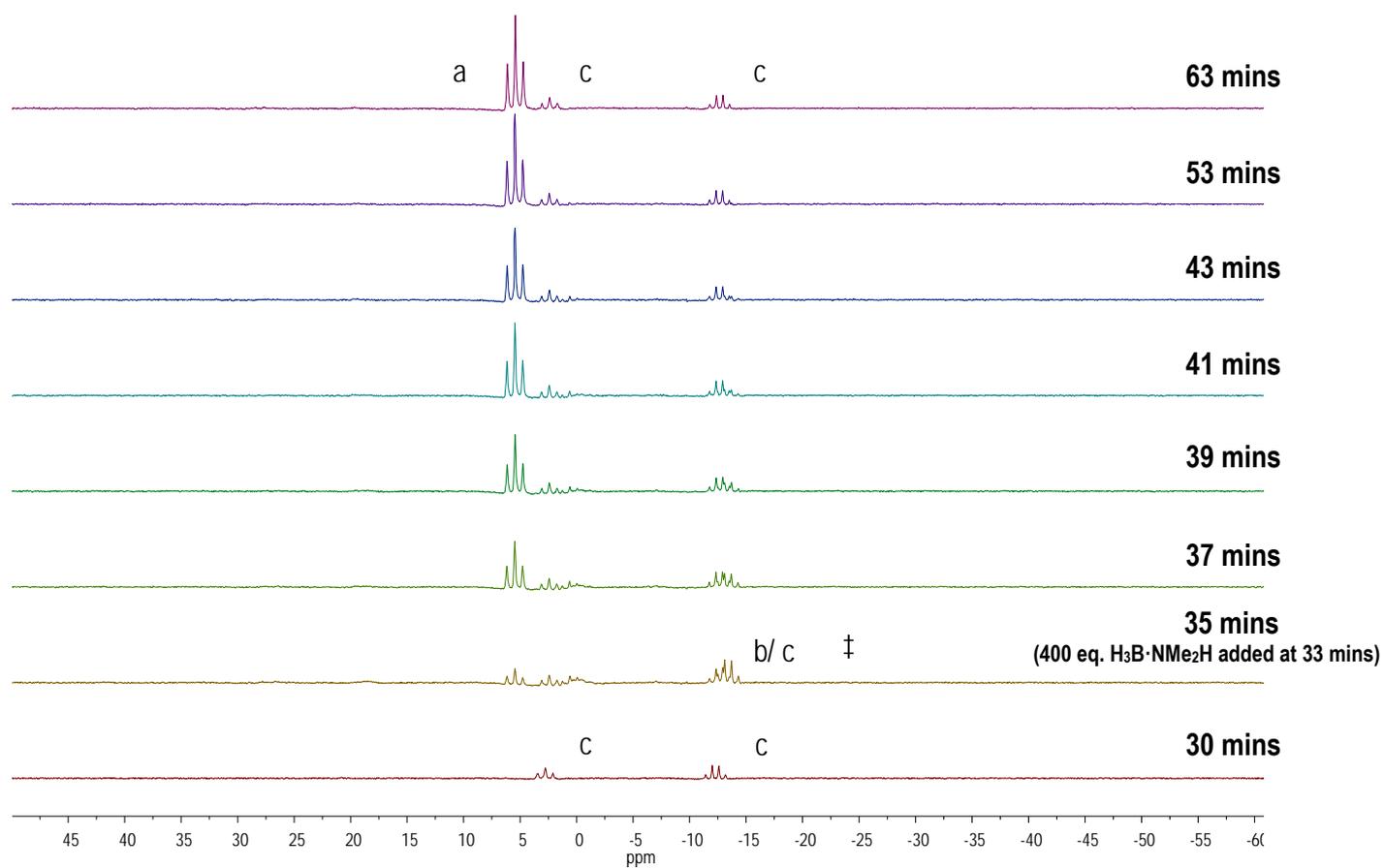
**Figure S-8:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  (0.2 mol % **1b**). Minor species observed by  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are:  $\delta$  19.4 (br) observed at 8 minutes and  $\delta$  3.5 (t,  $J = 117$ ) observed from 10 - 30 minutes, < 5% remains at 30 minutes. Dotted lines indicate the reduction of signals closer to the baseline resulting in reliable integration not being possible. Species at  $\delta$  0.5 (t,  $J = 103$ ) and  $\delta$  0 (br) are observed from 2 - 25 minutes.



**Figure S-9:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H (0.2 mol % **1c**). Minor species observed by <sup>11</sup>B NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are: δ 19.4 (br) observed at from 5 – 100 minutes, trace quantity remains at 100 minutes; δ 3.5 (t, *J* = 117) observed from 20 -100 minutes, < 5 % remains at 100 minutes. Dotted lines indicate the reduction of signals closer to the baseline resulting in reliable integration not being possible. Species at δ 0.5 (t, *J* = 103) and δ 0 (br) are observed from 5 - 80 minutes.



**Figure S-10:** Representative plot of the catalytic dehydrocoupling of H<sub>3</sub>B·NMe<sub>2</sub>H (0.2 mol % **1d**). Minor species observed by <sup>11</sup>B NMR Spectroscopy but not included in the above plot are: δ 19.4 (br) observed from 20 - 240 minutes, < 5 % remains at 240 minutes and δ 3.5 (t, *J* = 117) observed from 20 - 240 minutes, < 5 % remains at 240 minutes. Dotted lines indicate the reduction of signals closer to the baseline resulting in reliable integration not being possible. Species at δ 0.5 (t, *J* = 103) and δ 0 (br) are observed from 20 - 240 minutes, trace quantity remains at 240 minutes.



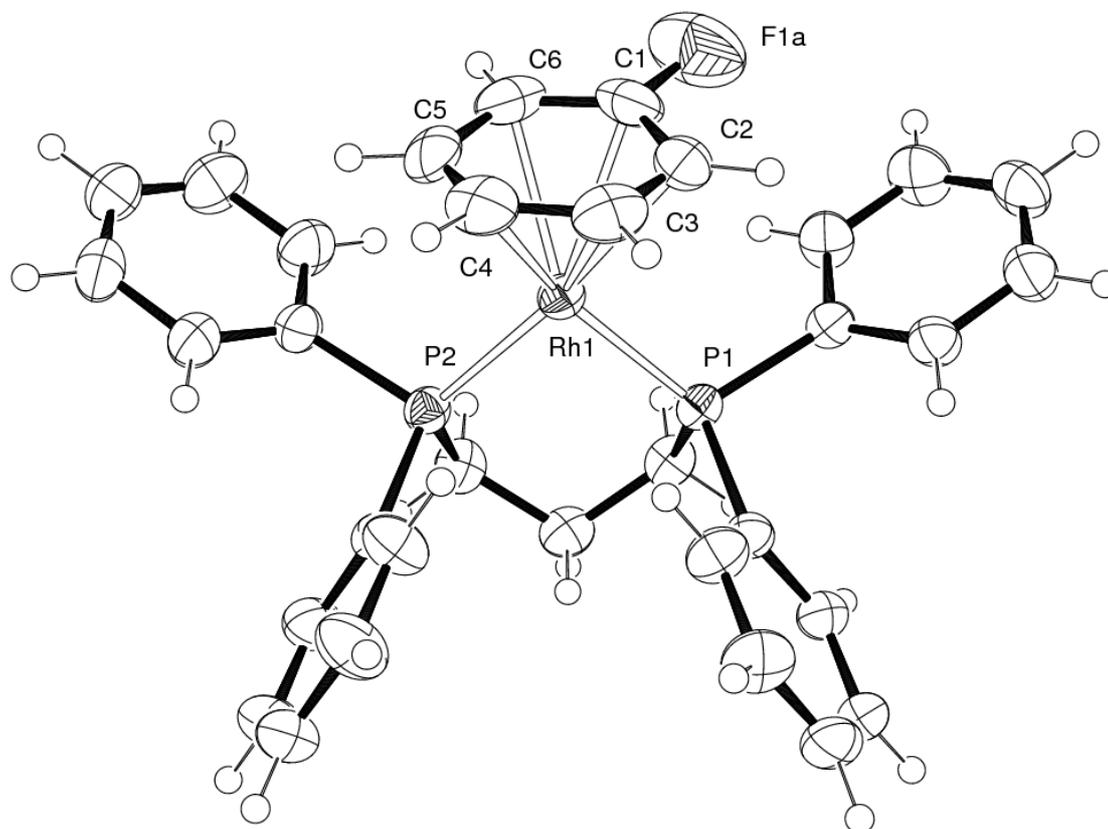
**Figure S-11:** Representative  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectra during  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{BH}_2\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H} + \text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  experiment. 50 eq.  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{BH}_2\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  in 1,2- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{F}_2$  (5 mL) added to **1b** at  $t = 0$  minutes. † 400 eq.  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$  added to the reaction mixture at 33 minutes. a =  $[\text{H}_2\text{BNMe}_2]_2$ , b =  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$ , c =  $\text{H}_3\text{B}\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{BH}_2\cdot\text{NMe}_2\text{H}$ .

## Crystallography

Relevant details about the structure refinements are given in Table 1. Data were collected on an Enraf Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer using graphite monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) and a low-temperature device;<sup>5</sup> data were collected using COLLECT, reduction and cell refinement was performed using DENZO/SCALEPACK.<sup>6</sup> The structures were solved by direct methods using SIR2004 (**1b**, **2d**)<sup>7</sup> or by Patterson interpretation using SHELXS-86 (**2b**)<sup>8</sup> and refined full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$  using SHELXL-97.<sup>8</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. H1A, H1B, H1C in **2d** were located on the Fourier difference map; their isotropic displacement parameters were fixed to ride on the parent atoms. The following restraints were applied: B1-H1A = B1-H1B; H1A-H1C = H1B-H1C. H1A, H1B, H1C, H11A, H11B and H11C in **2b** were placed in calculated positions, with the B-H distance free to refine (the restraint B1-H1A = B1-H1B = B1-H1C = B11-H11A = B11-H11B = B11-H11C was applied). All other hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions using the riding model. Disorder of the fluorobenzene ligand in **1b** was treated by modelling the fluorine atom over three sites and restraining the 1,2- and 1,3- C-F distances. A planarity restraint was also applied about each disordered fluorine atom. Disorder of the amine-borane ligand in **2b** was treated by modelling it over two sites and restraining its geometry. Problematic solvent disorder in the structure of **2b** was treated using the SQUEEZE algorithm.<sup>9</sup> Further details of disorder modelling are documented in the crystallographic information files under the heading `_refine_special_details`. Restraints to thermal parameters were applied where necessary in order to maintain sensible values.

**Table 1:** Crystallographic data for **1b**, **2b** and **2d**.

	<b>1b</b>	<b>2b.<sub>4</sub>(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>2d.</b> (C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>12</sub> )
CCDC number	801544	801541	801542
Formula	C <sub>65</sub> H <sub>43</sub> BF <sub>25</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Rh	C <sub>69.5</sub> H <sub>55</sub> B <sub>2</sub> F <sub>26.5</sub> NP <sub>2</sub> Rh	C <sub>69</sub> H <sub>66</sub> B <sub>2</sub> F <sub>24</sub> NP <sub>2</sub> Rh
<i>M</i>	1474.65	1594.11	1551.70
Crystal System	Triclinic	Triclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
<i>T</i> [K]	150(2)	150(2)	150(2)
<i>a</i> [Å]	12.5134(2)	12.9731(2)	14.94180(10)
<i>b</i> [Å]	13.5513(2)	17.4492(2)	19.2670(2)
<i>c</i> [Å]	19.5061(4)	18.3033(3)	25.1468(2)
$\alpha$ [deg]	105.8393(7)	110.1373(6)	90
$\beta$ [deg]	94.3128(7)	95.3780(7)	91.2143(3)
$\gamma$ [deg]	94.6952(9)	99.4374(7)	90
<i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	3154.98(9)	3786.61(9)	7237.73(11)
<i>Z</i>	2	2	4
Density [gcm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.552	1.398	1.424
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.436	0.372	0.382
$\theta$ range [deg]	5.14 $\leq \theta \leq$ 26.37	5.50 $\leq \theta \leq$ 26.37	5.11 $\leq \theta \leq$ 26.37
Reflns collected	19313	26357	28480
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0246	0.0216	0.0224
Completeness	96.0 %	98.3 %	99.2 %
No. of data/restr/ param	12382 / 654 / 1005	15201 / 1688 / 1196	14685 / 542 / 1018
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2 $\sigma$ ( <i>I</i> )]	0.0458	0.0529	0.0427
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [all data]	0.1145	0.1541	0.1072
<i>GoF</i>	1.020	1.046	1.025
Largest diff. pk and hole [eÅ <sup>-3</sup> ]	0.622, -0.545	0.840, -0.604	0.663, -0.405



**Figure S-12** Solid state structure of **1b**; ellipsoids drawn are depicted at the 50% probability level. Anion and minor disordered components omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Rh1-P1, 2.2266(9); Rh1-P2 2.2343(9); Rh1-C<sub>arene</sub>, 2.292(4) – 2.377(4), P1-Rh1-P2 90.07(3).

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