

## Supporting Information

### **Synthesis and Lewis Acid Properties of a Ferrocene-Based Planar-Chiral Borenium Cation**

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#### **1. Reagents and General Methods**

PhBCl<sub>2</sub> and Et<sub>3</sub>PO were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. (pS)-**1**,<sup>1</sup> Mosher's acid,<sup>2</sup> and the Krossing salts<sup>3</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. All reactions and manipulations were carried out under an atmosphere of prepurified nitrogen using either Schlenk techniques or an inert-atmosphere glove box (MBraun). 499.9 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR, 125.7 MHz <sup>13</sup>C NMR, 160.4 MHz <sup>11</sup>B NMR, and 470.4 MHz <sup>19</sup>F spectra were recorded on a Varian INOVA NMR spectrometer (Varian Inc., Palo Alto, CA) equipped with a boron-free 5 mm dual broadband gradient probe (Nalorac, Varian Inc., Martinez, CA). Solution <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were referenced internally to solvent signals. <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were acquired with boron-free quartz NMR tubes and referenced to BF<sub>3</sub> · Et<sub>2</sub>O (δ = 0). The following abbreviations are used for signal assignments: Lu = 3,5-dimethylpyrid-2yl, Fc = ferrocenyl, Cp = cyclopentadienyl. High resolution MALDI-MS data (benzo[α]pyrene as matrix) were obtained in positive mode on an Apex Ultra 7.0 Hybrid FTMS (Bruker Daltonics). UV/Vis absorption data were acquired on a Varian Cary 500 UV/Vis/NIR spectrophotometer. Optical rotation analyses were performed on an Autopol III polarimeter, Rudolph Research Analytical, using a tungsten-halogen light source operating at λ = 589 nm. GC-FID analyses were performed on a Varian CP3800 GC instrument using an Rt-BetaDex-sm chiral column. Chiral HPLC analyses were performed on a Waters Empower system equipped with a 717plus autosampler, a 1525 binary HPLC pump, and a 2998 photodiode array detector; a CHIRALPAK® IA-3 column was used for separation. Elemental analyses were performed by Quantitative Technologies Inc., Whitehouse, NJ.

X-ray diffraction intensities were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD Diffractometer using CuKα (1.54178 Å) radiation at 100 K. The structures were refined by full-matrix least squares based on *F*<sup>2</sup> with all reflections (SHELXTL V5.10; G. Sheldrick, Siemens XRD, Madison, WI). Non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement coefficients, and hydrogen atoms were treated as idealized contribution. SADABS (Sheldrick, 12 G.M. SADABS (2.01), Bruker/Siemens Area Detector Absorption Correction Program; Bruker AXS: Madison, WI, 1998) absorption correction was applied. Crystallographic data for the structures of (pR)-**3**<sup>+</sup> and (pR)-**3**<sup>+</sup>(acetophenone) have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data

Center as supplementary publications CCDC 907178-907179. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; email: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)).

## 2. Synthetic Procedures and Characterization Details

**Synthesis of [(pR)-LuFcB(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl · 0.5 C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>] ((pR)-2).** A solution of (pS)-1 (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) in a mixture of hexanes/toluene (10/10 mL) was cooled down to -37 °C and then a solution of PhBCl<sub>2</sub> (70 mg, 0.44 mmol, 2.0 equiv) in toluene (2 mL) was added dropwise under stirring. The mixture was stirred over night at room temperature before applying high vacuum to remove the solvents. The residue was taken back up in a mixture of hot hexanes/toluene (1/1). When stored at -37 °C crystals were obtained that contain half an equivalent of toluene. Yield: 55 mg (55%).  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  (c = 0.10, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) = 2110°. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (499.9 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): Major : Minor = 2.5 : 1; δ = 8.23 (s, 1H, Lu; Minor), 8.13 (s, 1H; Lu, Major), 7.58 (s, 1H; Lu, Minor), 7.53 (d, J = 7 Hz, 2H; o-Ph, Minor), 7.48 (s, 1H; Lu, Major), 7.37 (pst, J = 7 Hz, 2H; m-Ph, Minor), 7.32 (d, J = 7 Hz, 2H; o-Ph, Major), 7.26 (nr, 1H, p-Ph, Minor), 7.16 (pst, J = 7 Hz, 2H; m-Ph, Major), 7.13 (m, 1H, p-Ph, Major), 4.77 (dd, J = 2.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1H; Cp, Major), 4.71 (overlapped, 2H; Cp, Minor), 4.62 (dd, J = 2.5 Hz, 1.0 Hz, 1 H; Cp, Major), 4.58 (m, 2H; Cp, Major + Minor), 4.22 (s, 5H; free Cp, Major), 3.65 (s, 5H; free Cp, Minor), 2.52 (s, 3H; Lu-Me, Major), 2.51 (s, 3H; Lu-Me, Minor), 2.38 (s, 3H; Lu-Me, Minor), 2.30 (s, 3H; Lu-Me, Major). <sup>11</sup>B NMR (160.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25° C) δ = 6.0 (w<sub>1/2</sub> = 210 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125.69 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) δ = 158.3, 157.3, 143.3, 142.8, 142.4, 141.5, 131.5, 131.5, 130.4, 130.3, 129.5, 128.9, 127.3, 127.3, 126.4, 126.2 (Lu + Ph), ipso-Ph-B not observed, 84.0 (ipso-Cp-C, Major), 82.5 (ipso-Cp-C, Minor), 74.7 (Cp, Minor), 74.4 (Cp, Major), 70.3 (ipso-Cp-B, Major), 70.2 (ipso-Cp-B, Minor), 70.1 (free Cp, Major), 69.8 (free Cp, Minor), 64.6 (Cp, Minor), 64.5 (Cp, Major), 18.3 (Lu-Me, Major), 18.3 (Lu-Me, Minor), 18.2 (Lu-Me, Minor), 18.1 (Lu-Me, Major). UV-Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): λ<sub>max</sub> = 413 (ε = 1900 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>), 503 (ε = 2700 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>). High-resolution MALDI-MS (+ mode, benzo[α]pyrene): m/z 413.0828 ([M]<sup>+</sup>, 40%, calcd for <sup>12</sup>C<sub>23</sub><sup>1</sup>H<sub>21</sub><sup>11</sup>B<sup>14</sup>N<sup>35</sup>Cl<sup>56</sup>Fe 413.0804); m/z 378.1137 ([M-Cl]<sup>+</sup>, 100%, calcd for <sup>12</sup>C<sub>23</sub><sup>1</sup>H<sub>21</sub><sup>11</sup>B<sup>14</sup>N<sup>56</sup>Fe 378.1115).

**Synthesis of [(pR)-LuFcB(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)]<sup>+</sup>{Al[OC(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>}<sup>-</sup> ((pR)-3<sup>+</sup>).** **Method A:** To a solution of LuFcB(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl · 0.5 C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub> ((pR)-2; 4.9 mg, 0.0106 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL) that was cooled down to -37 °C was added a solution of [Ag(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)]{Al[OC(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>} (14.0 mg, 0.012 mmol, 1.1 equiv) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL) under stirring. The color of the solution turned from red to purple. After filtering off a small amount of a white precipitate, the filtrate was carefully layered with 1 mL of hexanes and kept at -37 °C for recrystallization. Yield: 6.0 mg (42 %). **Method B:** To a sample of Li{Al[OC(CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>} (13.4 mg, 0.0138 mmol) in a 10 mL Schlenk flask was added a solution of LuFcB(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)Cl · 0.5 C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub> ((pR)-2; 6.3 mg, 0.0138 mmol) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (1 mL) under vigorous stirring. Upon addition the color of the solution turned from red to purple. The mixture was stirred for 2 hours and then filtered. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis showed complete conversion to the product. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (499.9 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ = 8.31 (s, 1H; Lu), 7.95 (d, J = 7 Hz, 2H; o-

Ph), 7.83 (s, 1H; Lu), 7.81 (nr, 1H; *p*-Ph), 7.67 (pst,  $J = 7$  Hz, 2H; *m*-Ph), 5.75 (nr, 1H; Cp), 5.58 (nr, 1H; Cp), 5.48 (nr, 1H; Cp), 4.32 (s, 5H; free Cp), 2.40 (s, 3H; Lu-Me), 2.39 (s, 3H; Lu-Me).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125.69 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta = 156.4, 148.0, 140.1, 134.6, 134.5, 134.1, 131.6, 129.9$ , (Lu + Ph), 121.2 (q,  $J(\text{C},\text{F}) = 293$  Hz,  $\text{CF}_3$ ), 85.7 (Cp), 82.9 (ipso-Cp-C), ipso-Cp-B not observed, 79.2 (Cp), 76.6 (Cp), 76.5 (free Cp), 17.7 (Lu-Me), 17.2 (Lu-Me).  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (160.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta = 45.4$  ( $w_{1/2} = 750$  Hz).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (470.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C):  $\delta = -75.4$ . UV-Vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ):  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 407$  ( $\epsilon = 2000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), 566 ( $\epsilon = 2200 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). Elemental analysis for  $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{21}\text{AlBF}_3\text{FeNO}_4$ , calcd C 34.82, H 1.57, N 1.04, found C 34.32, H 1.27, N 0.96%.

**Synthesis of [(*pR*)-LuFcB( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ) $\cdot\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$ ] $^+\{\text{Al}[\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_3]_4\}^-$  ((*pR*)-**3** $^+$ (acetophenone)).** In a glove box, a solution of  $\text{LuFcB}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{Cl} \cdot 0.5 \text{ C}_7\text{H}_8$  ((*pR*)-**2**; 11.0 mg, 0.0242 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL) was added to a sample of  $\text{Li}\{\text{Al}[\text{OC}(\text{CF}_3)_3]_4\}$  (23.5 mg, 0.0242 mmol) in a vial under vigorous stirring. Upon addition the color of the solution turned from red to purple. The mixture was stirred for 2 hours and then a solution of  $\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (1.0 M, 0.0242 mmol, 0.0242 mL) was added. The color of the solution turned from purple to red. The solution was filtered and concentrated under high vacuum. The residue was re-dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5 mL), carefully layered with hexanes (5 mL) and then placed in a freezer at  $-37$  °C to obtain purple red crystals. Yield: 20 mg (57 %).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (499.9 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 25 °C):  $\delta = 8.31, 8.03, 7.76, 7.37$  (br, 10H; Ph), 8.22 (s, 1H; Lu), 7.76 (s, 1H; Lu), 5.16 (br, 1H; Cp), 5.02 (br, 1H; Cp), 4.72 (br, 1H; Cp), 4.02 (s, 5H; free Cp), 3.15 (br, 3H; Me), 2.54 (s, 3H; Lu-Me), 2.42 (s, 3H; Lu-Me).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (499.9 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $-20$  °C):  $\delta = 8.43$  (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2H; *o*-Ph), 8.17 (s, 1H; Lu), 8.11 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H; *p*-Ph), 7.82 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2H; *m*-Ph), 7.72 (s, 1H; Lu), 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H; *m*-Ph + *p*-Ph), 7.22 (d,  $J = 7$  Hz, 2H; *o*-Ph), 5.09 (nr, 1H; Cp), 4.90 (nr, 1H; Cp), 4.60 (nr, 1H; Cp), 3.94 (s, 5H; free Cp), 3.26 (s, 3H; Me), 2.53 (s, 3H; Lu-Me), 2.39 (s, 3H; Lu-Me).  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (160.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 25 °C)  $\delta = 10.7$  ( $w_{1/2} = 960$  Hz). Elemental analysis for  $\text{C}_{47}\text{H}_{29}\text{AlBF}_3\text{FeNO}_5$ , calcd C 38.52, H 1.99, N 0.96, found C 38.36, H 2.04, N 0.95%.

**Hydrosilylation Catalysis.** Stock solutions (1.0 M) of the ketones and silanes were prepared in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . A predetermined quantity of (*pR*)-**3** $^+$  was dissolved in a minimum amount of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and the corresponding amount of the silane solution was added. The mixture was cooled down to  $-37$  °C, an equimolar amount of the ketone solution was added and the progress of the reaction was monitored by taking an aliquot and measuring the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . After completion of the reaction, the mixture was treated with dilute HCl (aq.) solution and stirred vigorously overnight. To determine the enantioselectivity, the resulting (desilylated) alcohol was either directly examined by chiral GC-FID or HPLC, or isolated by distillation and then reacted with the chemical shift reagent (*S*)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride as described by Mosher<sup>2</sup>. In a typical procedure, to a solution of the alcohol (5 mg) in 0.7 mL of  $\text{CDCl}_3$  in a NMR tube is added 1 equivalent of Mosher's chemical shift reagent and an excess amount of pyridine-*d*5. The mixture is heated to 50 °C for 2 days and then filtered. The filtrate is transferred to another NMR tube and measured directly.

## References

- (1) Chen, J.; Lalancette, R. A.; Jäkle, F. *Organometallics* **2013**, to be submitted.
- (2) Dale, J. A.; Mosher, H. S. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1973**, *95*, 512.
- (3) a) Krossing, I. *Chem. - Eur. J.* **2001**, *7*, 490. b) Reisinger, A.; Trapp, N.; Krossing, I. *Organometallics* **2007**, *26*, 2096.

**Table S1.** Hydrosilylation of different ketones with silanes in the presence of (*pR*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> as catalyst.

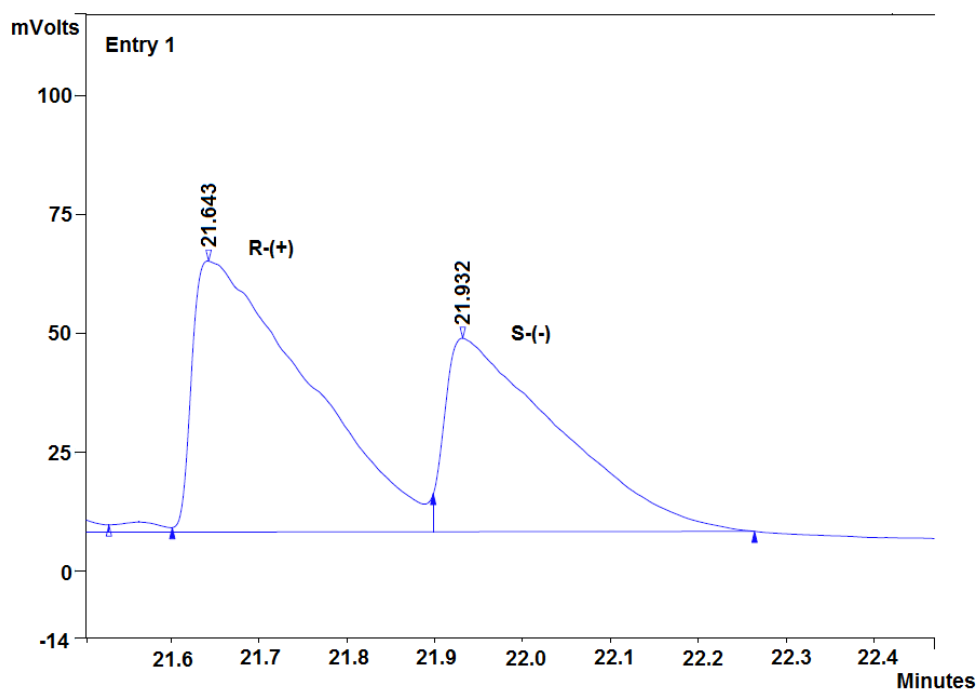
Entry	Ketone	Silane	Cat. (%)	Conv. (%) <sup>a</sup>	ee (%)
1	R <sup>1</sup> =Ph, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	Et <sub>3</sub> SiH	5	65	20 <sup>b</sup> R-(+)
2	R <sup>1</sup> =Ph, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	PhMe <sub>2</sub> SiH	5	92	6 <sup>b</sup> R-(+)
3	R <sup>1</sup> =Ph, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	Ph <sub>3</sub> SiH	5	trace	ND
4	R <sup>1</sup> = <i>t</i> Bu, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	Et <sub>3</sub> SiH	2	>95	5 <sup>c</sup> S-(-)
5	R <sup>1</sup> = <i>t</i> Bu, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	PhMe <sub>2</sub> SiH	2	>95	5 <sup>c</sup> S-(-)
6	R <sup>1</sup> =1-Np, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	Et <sub>3</sub> SiH	3	29	ND
7	R <sup>1</sup> =1-Np, R <sup>2</sup> =Me	PhMe <sub>2</sub> SiH	3	44	ND

<sup>a</sup> Conversion determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR (reaction time: ca. 12 h except for entries 4,5 which went to completion within 10 min).

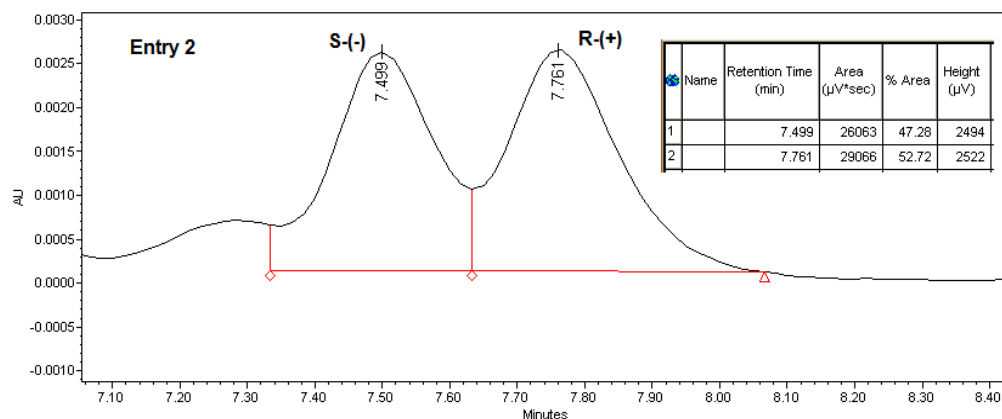
<sup>b</sup> The silylated product was first converted to the corresponded alcohol, then the ee was determined by chiral GC-FID (Entry 1) or HPLC (Entry 2).

<sup>c</sup> The silylated product was converted to the corresponded alcohol, isolated by distillation, and then reacted with the chemical shift reagent (S)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride as described by Mosher (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1973**, *95*, 512-519)

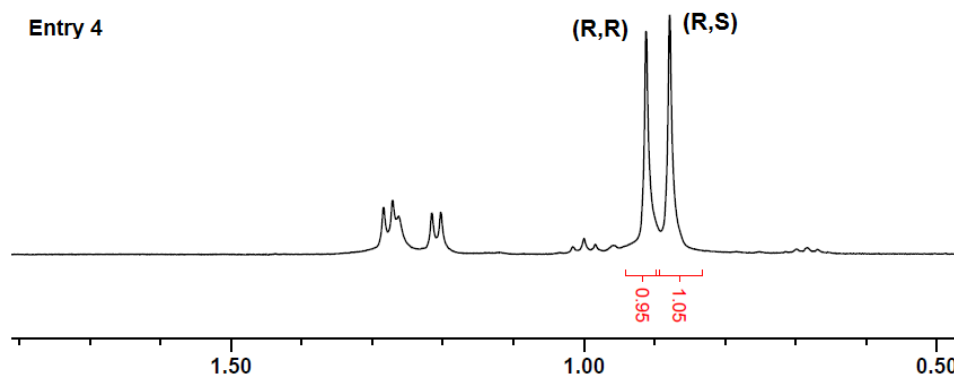
### (a) Data corresponding to Entry 1 in Table S1 – Chiral GC-FID analysis of 1-phenylethanol:



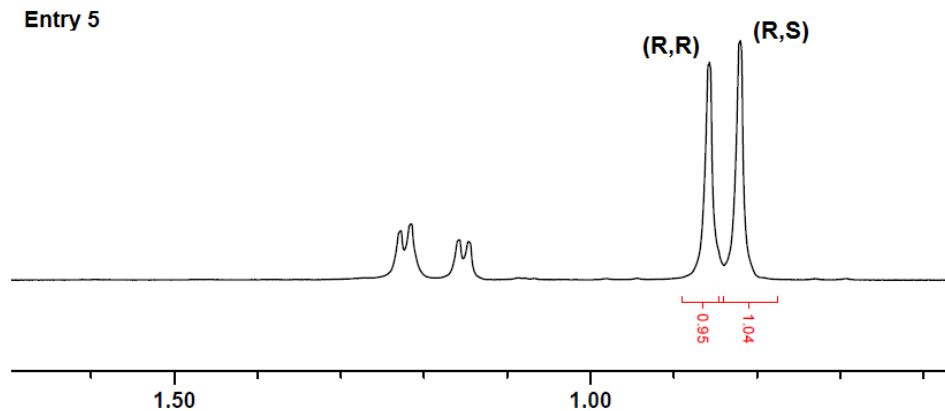
(b) Data corresponding to Entry 2 in Table S1 – Chiral HPLC analysis of 1-phenylethanol:



(c) Data corresponding to Entry 4 in Table S1 –  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the product from reaction of 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol with Mosher's chemical shift reagent:

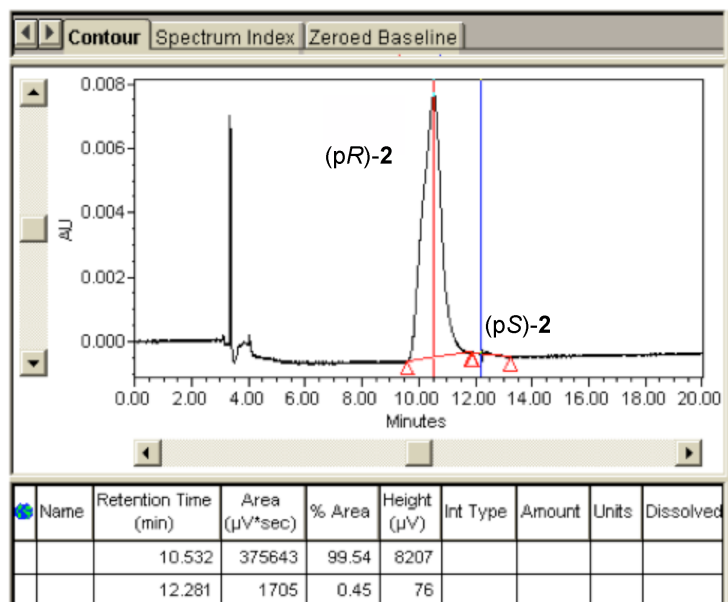


(d) Data corresponding to Entry 5 in Table S1 –  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the product from reaction of 3,3-dimethyl-2-butanol with Mosher's chemical shift reagent:

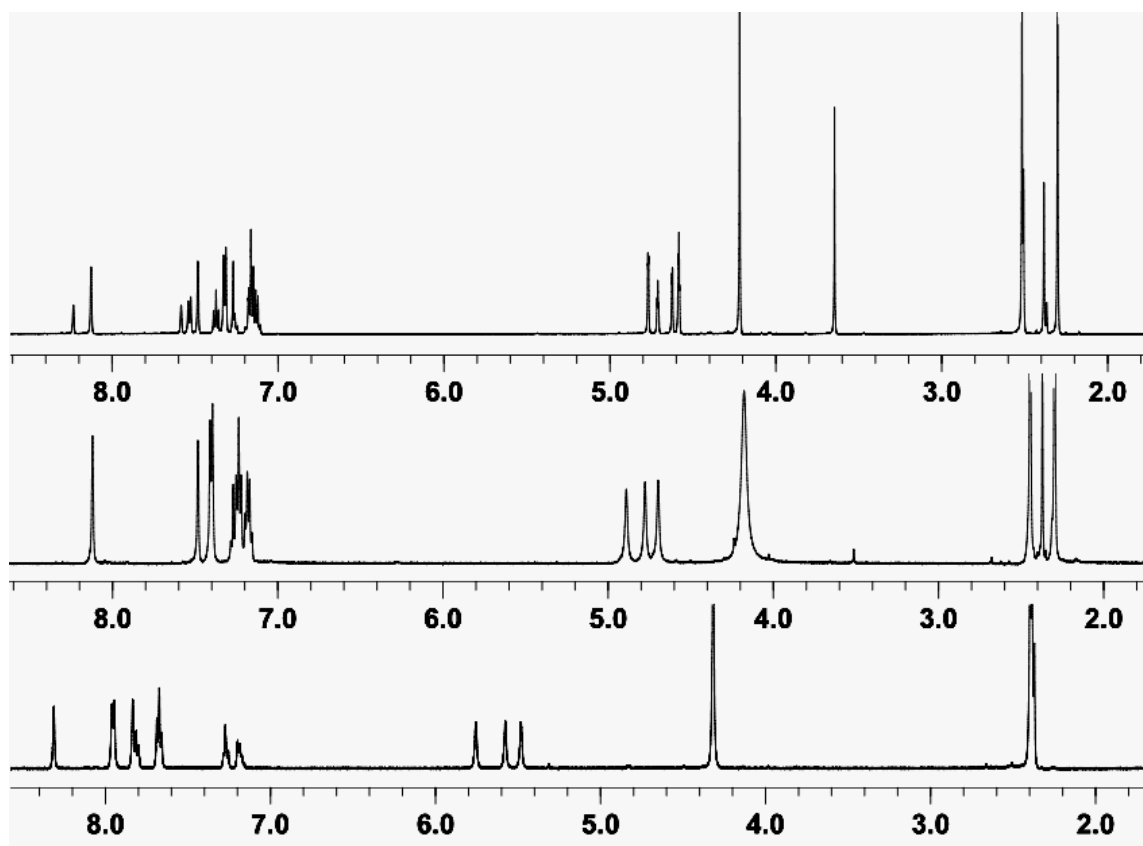


(d)

Figure S1. Data corresponding to determination of enantiomeric excess of catalysis products



**Figure S2.** Chiral HPLC analysis for compound (*pR*)-2 (99% ee) in 93:7 hexanes:THF.



**Figure S3.** Complete  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (*pR*)-2 (top), (*pR*)-2 +  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  (middle), and (*pR*)-3 $^+$  (bottom) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

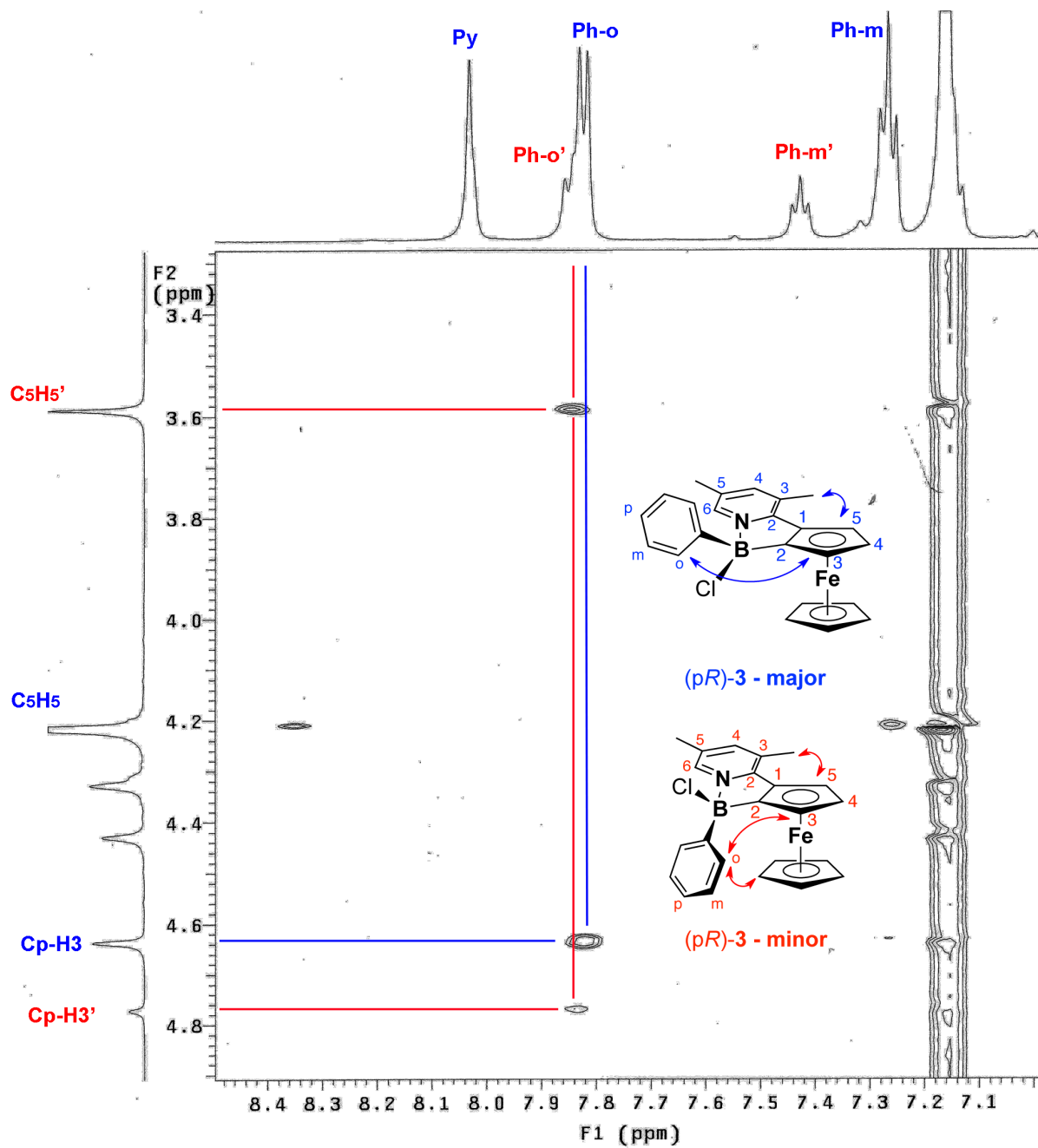
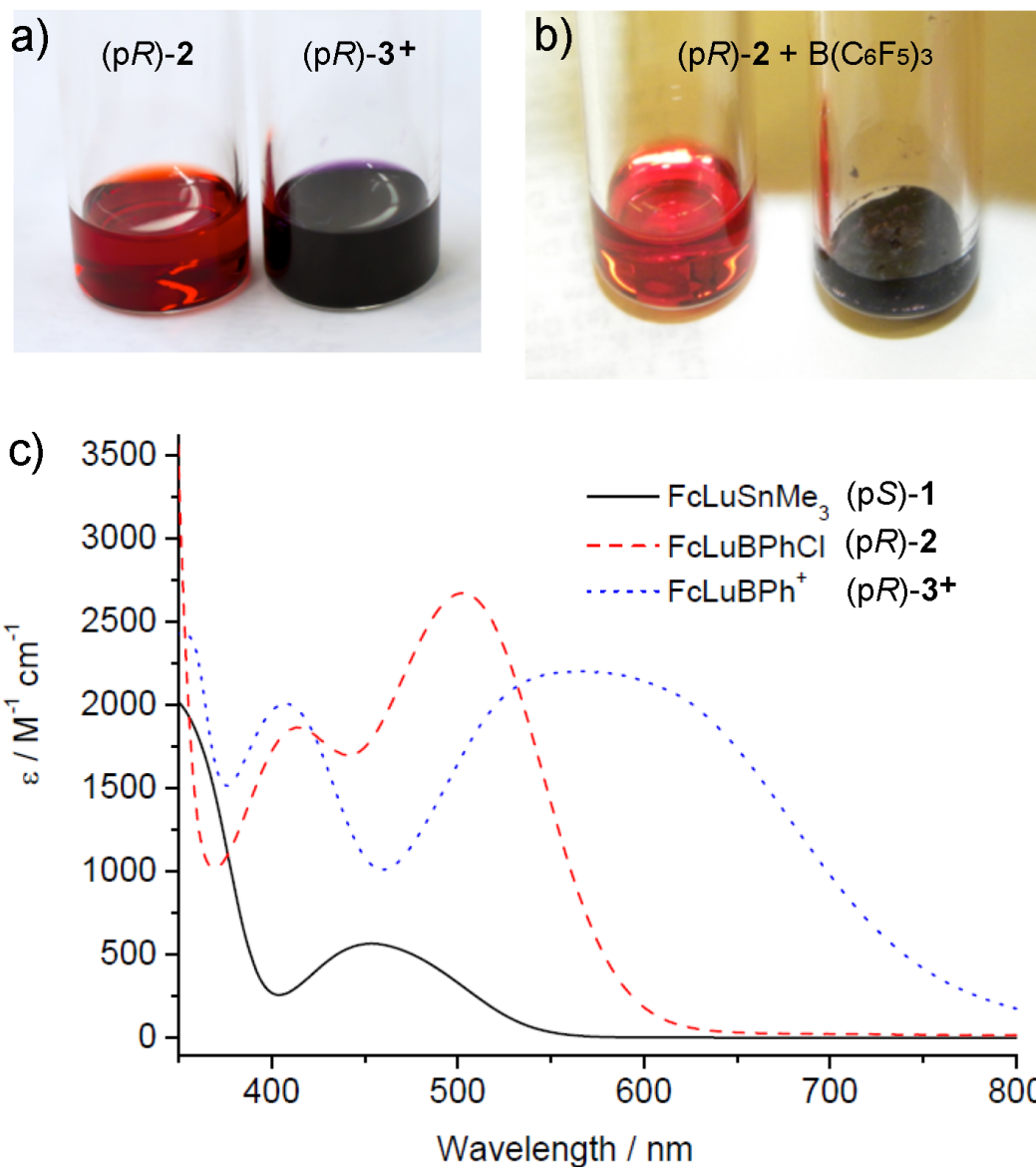


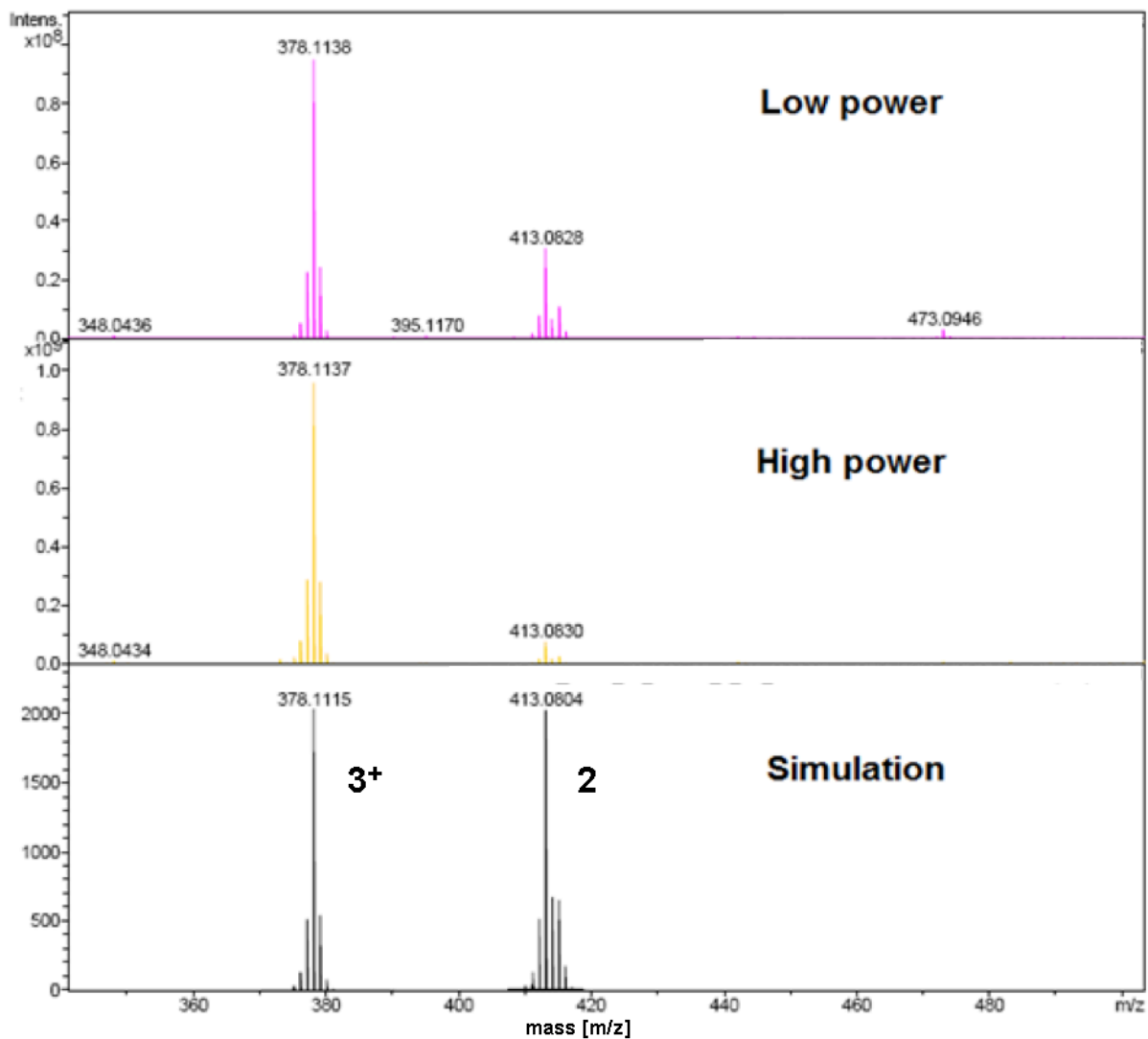
Figure S4. 2D-NOESY spectra of compound (pR)-2 in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S5.** a) Photographs of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions of compounds (pR)-2 and (pR)-3<sup>+</sup>. b) Photographs of a mixture of (pR)-2 +  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution and in the solid state after solvent removal. c) Comparison of UV-Vis spectra of compounds (pS)-1 ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), (pR)-2 and (pR)-3<sup>+</sup> ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

Note that the color change upon removal of solvent from the mixture of (pR)-2 +  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  suggests that halide abstraction by  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  with formation of (pR)-3<sup>+</sup> becomes more favorable in the absence of the solvent  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .

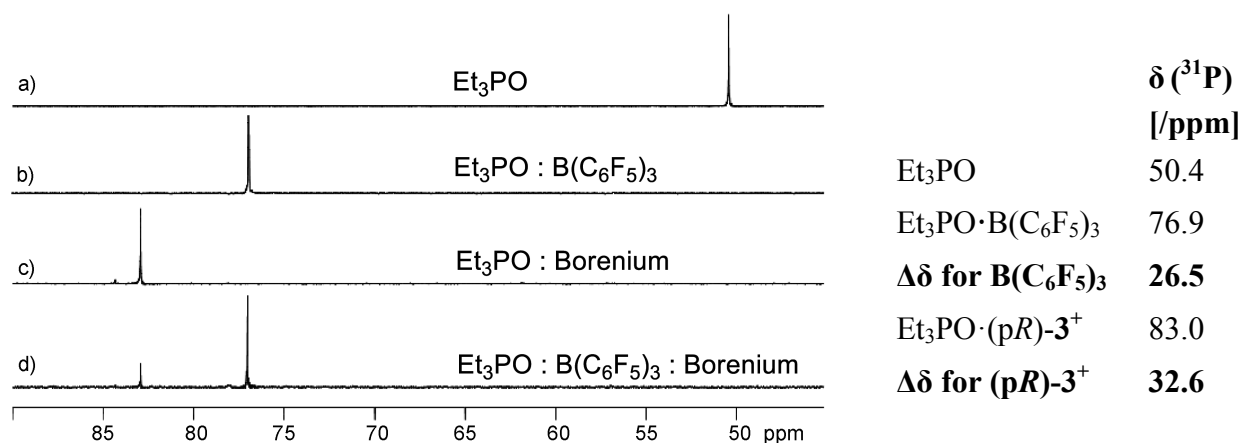




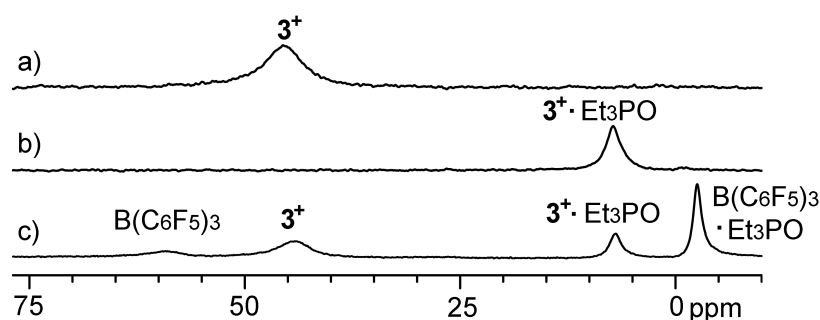
**Figure S6.** High-resolution MALDI-MS spectra of compound (pR)-2 acquired at different laser power levels and comparison to simulated spectra of (pR)-2 and (pR)-3<sup>+</sup>. With increasing laser power, the ion (pR)-3<sup>+</sup> becomes more dominant, suggesting facile Cl<sup>-</sup> abstraction under these conditions.

### Lewis Acidity Determination

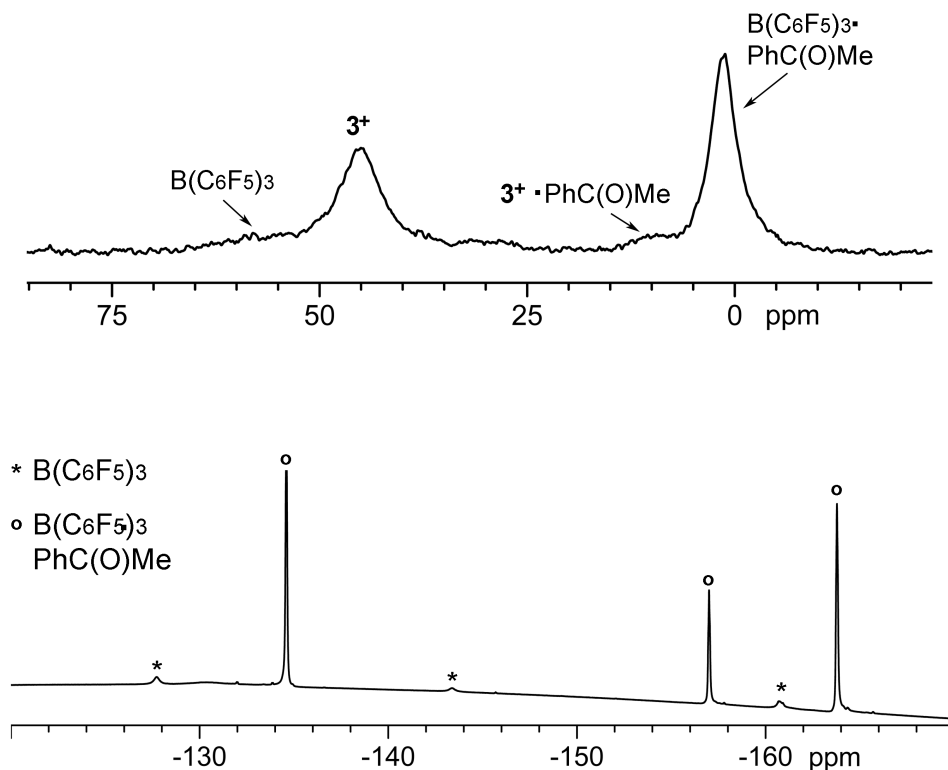
The Gutman-Becket method (Beckett, M. A.; Brassington, D. S.; Coles, S. J.; Hursthouse, M. B. *Inorg. Chem. Commun.* **2000**, 3, 530.) was utilized to examine the relative Lewis acidity of (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup>. The chemical shift difference  $\Delta\delta$  is larger for (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> (32.6 ppm) than for B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (26.5 ppm), which would indicate higher Lewis acidity of (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> toward Et<sub>3</sub>PO. However, in a competition experiment (d), more of the adduct Et<sub>3</sub>PO·B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> than of Et<sub>3</sub>PO·(p*R*)-**3** is generated. This shows that B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> is a stronger Lewis acid toward Et<sub>3</sub>PO. The fact that the <sup>31</sup>P chemical shift difference is larger for the binding of Et<sub>3</sub>PO to (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> could be related to delocalization of the positive charge on the phosphorous. Clearly, the Gutmann-Becket method cannot be used to directly compare the Lewis acidity of ionic and neutral borane species, instead a competition experiment has to be performed.



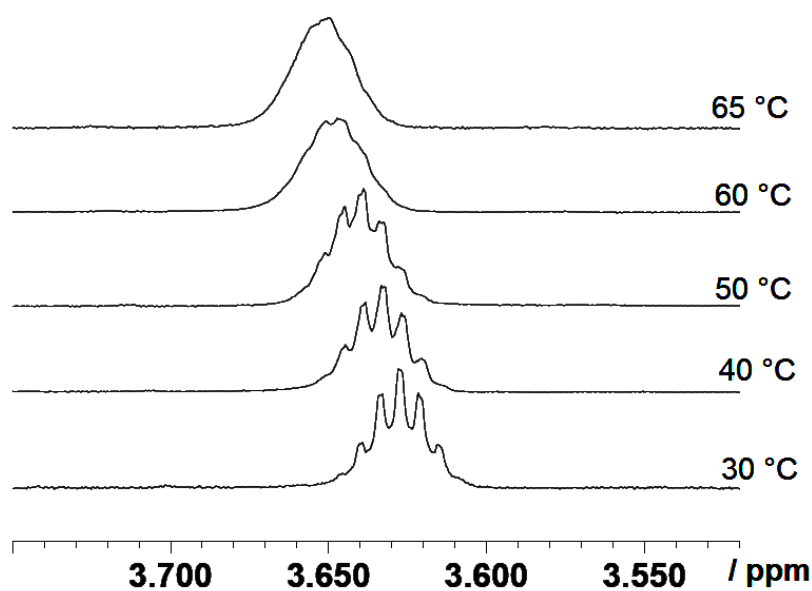
**Figure S7.** Competitive binding of (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> to Et<sub>3</sub>PO examined by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopy in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature (0.02 M solutions). a) Et<sub>3</sub>PO; b) Et<sub>3</sub>PO + B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. c) Et<sub>3</sub>PO + (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup>. d) 1 Et<sub>3</sub>PO + 1 (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> + 1 B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.



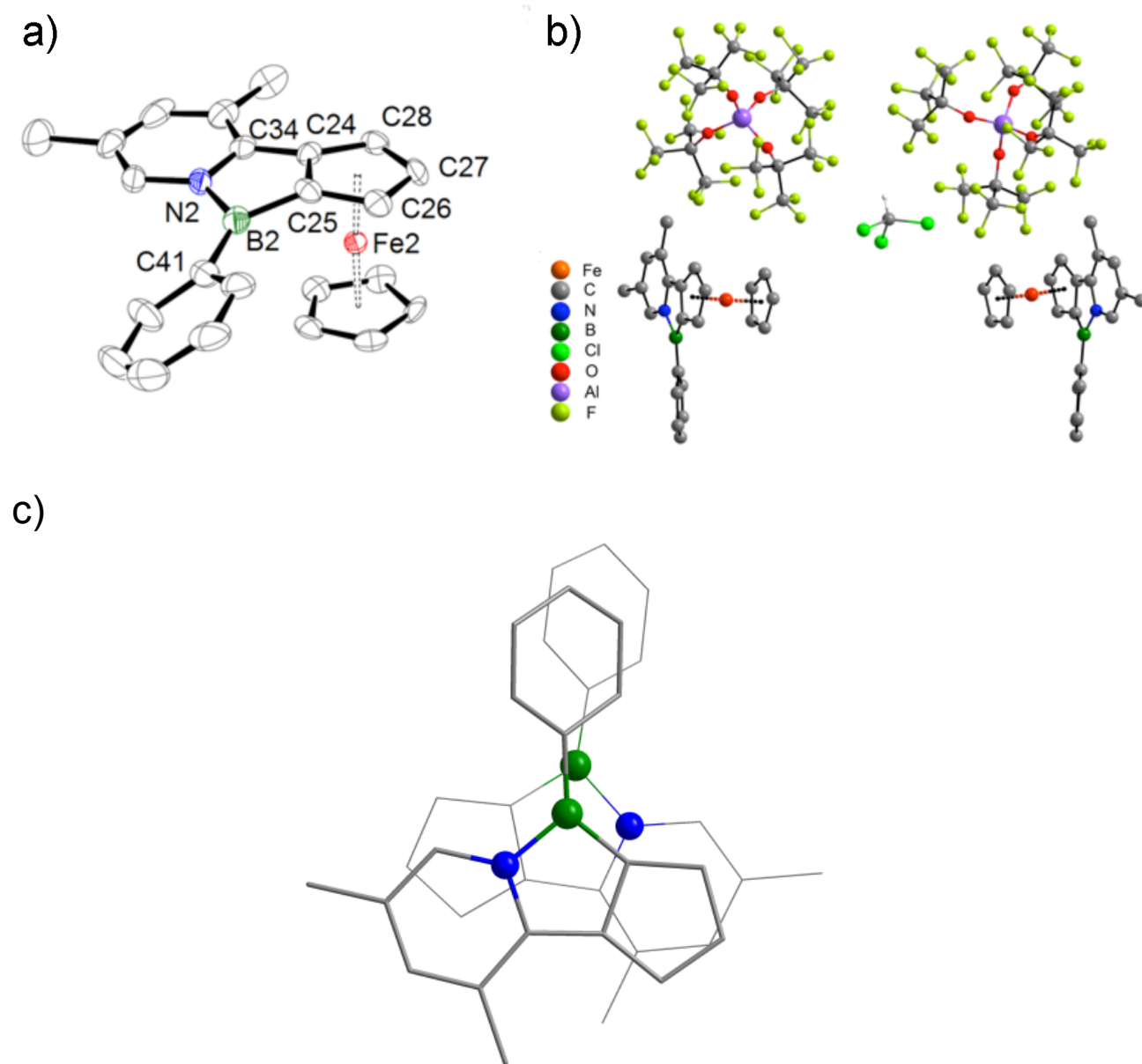
**Figure S8.** Competitive binding of (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> to Et<sub>3</sub>PO examined by <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature (0.02 M solutions). a) (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup>; b) (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> + Et<sub>3</sub>PO; c) 1 (p*R*)-**3**<sup>+</sup> + 1 B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> + 1 Et<sub>3</sub>PO. The ratios in plot c) are consistent with those obtained by <sup>31</sup>P NMR (see Figure S7).



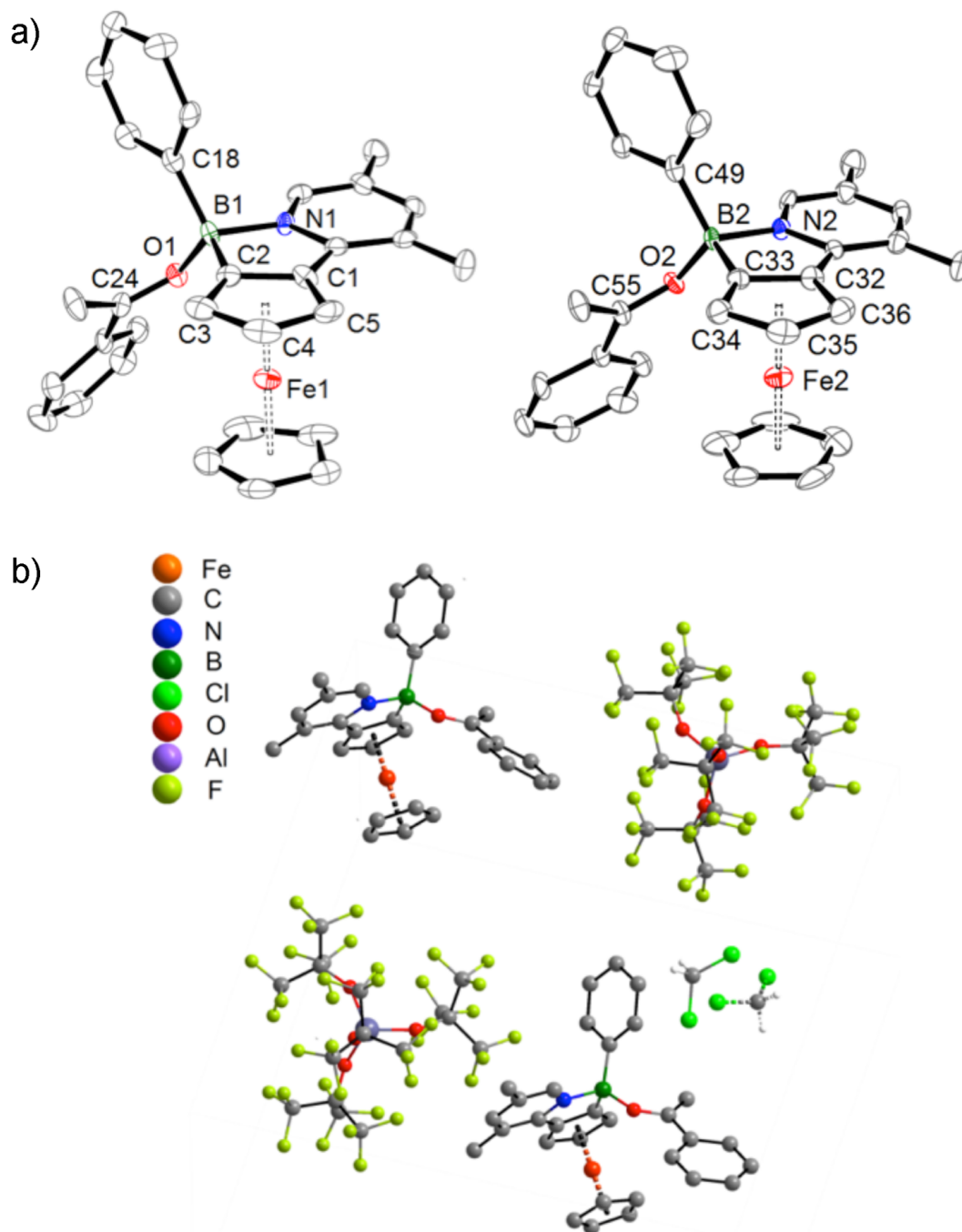
**Figure S9.** (top) Competitive binding of (p*R*)- $3^+$  and  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  to acetophenone (ratio of (p*R*)- $3^+$  :  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  :  $\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{Me}$ ) = 1 : 1 : 1) examined by  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectroscopy in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ . (bottom) Corresponding  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR data. The ratio of the complexation products was estimated to be ca. 10:1 in favor of complex formation with  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ , which is significantly larger than in the case of  $\text{Et}_3\text{PO}$ .



**Figure S10.** VT  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for a mixture of (p*R*)- $3^+$  and  $\text{Et}_3\text{SiH}$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S11.** a) Ortep plot of the second independent molecule of  $(pR)\text{-}3^+$  (50% thermal displacement ellipsoids). Hydrogen atoms and the counterion are omitted for clarity. Selected interatomic distances (Å) and angles (°): B2-N2 1.550(9), B2-C25 1.539(9), B2-C41 1.504(10), C25-B2-N2 100.6(5), C25-B2-C41 132.2(6), C41-B2-N2 127.1(6). b) Asymmetric unit of compound  $(pR)\text{-}3^+$  (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity except in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ). Although the data set was acquired at 100 K, the anions were slightly disordered due to free rotation of the perfluorinated *t*-butyl groups. c) A  $\pi$  dimer consisting of two independent molecules of  $(pR)\text{-}3^+$  (only substituted Cp rings shown).



**Figure S12.** a) Ortep plots of two independent molecules of  $(pR)\text{-}3^+(\text{acetophenone})$  (50% thermal displacement ellipsoids). Hydrogen atoms and the counterions are omitted for clarity. Selected distances (Å) [second independent molecule]: B1-N1 1.603(9) [1.592(9)], B1-O1 1.560(8) [1.577(8)], B1-C2 1.580(11) [1.593(10)], B1-C18 1.603(11) [1.594(10)], O1-C24 1.257(8) [1.255(8)]. b) Asymmetric unit of compound  $(pR)\text{-}3^+(\text{acetophenone})$  (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity except in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). The positional disorder of the solvent  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  could be modeled and refined as two parts without any problems. Both sites of the disordered  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  are shown in the asymmetric cell; the site occupancy factors are 0.54 (solid) and 0.46 (dash).

**Table S2.** Details of X-ray analyses of (pR)-**3** and (pR)-**3**<sup>+</sup>(acetophenone)

Compound	(pR)- <b>3</b> <sup>+</sup>	(pR)- <b>3</b> <sup>+</sup> • PhC(O)Me
CCDC	907178	907179
empirical formula	2 [C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>21</sub> BF <sub>3</sub> N] <sup>+</sup> [C <sub>16</sub> AlF <sub>36</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup> · CHCl <sub>3</sub>	2 [C <sub>31</sub> H <sub>29</sub> BF <sub>3</sub> NO] <sup>+</sup> [C <sub>16</sub> AlF <sub>36</sub> O <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>-</sup> · CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
MW	2809.78	3015.62
T, K	100(2)	100(2)
wavelength, Å	1.54178	1.54178
crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic
space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>	P2 <sub>1</sub>
a, Å	15.9616 (6)	19.2119(3)
b, Å	20.3519 (6)	14.9703(3)
c, Å	30.5167 (8)	19.5719(3)
α, deg	90	90
β, deg	90	92.512(1)
γ, deg	90	90
V, Å <sup>3</sup>	9913.3 (5)	5623.62(17)
Z	4	2
ρ <sub>calc</sub> , g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.883	1.781
μ (Cu Kα), mm <sup>-1</sup>	5.04	4.30
Crystal size, mm	0.43 × 0.28 × 0.27	0.45 × 0.32 × 0.26
θ range, deg	2.6-71.6	2.3-72.0
limiting indices	-18 ≤ h ≤ 18 -23 ≤ k ≤ 20 -36 ≤ l ≤ 35	-22 ≤ h ≤ 23 -15 ≤ k ≤ 17 -23 ≤ l ≤ 23
reflns collected	17455	51856
independent reflns	15330 [R(int) = 0.034]	16806 [R(int) = 0.038]
Absorption correction	Numerical	Numerical
data/restraints/para's	15330 / 15 / 1535	16808 / 50 / 1718
goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.02	1.03
final R indices	R1 = 0.068	R1 = 0.075
[ I > 2σ(I) ] <sup>[a]</sup>	wR2 = 0.180	wR2 = 0.189
R indices (all data) <sup>[a]</sup>	R1 = 0.076 wR2 = 0.187	R1 = 0.088 wR2 = 0.201
Peak <sub>max</sub> /hole <sub>min</sub> (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.37 / -0.69	1.56 / -0.66
Absolute structure parameter	0.019(5)	0.022(6)

[a] R1 = Σ||F<sub>o</sub>| - |F<sub>c</sub>|| / Σ|F<sub>o</sub>|; wR2 = {Σ[w(F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> - F<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup>] / Σ[w(F<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>)<sup>2</sup>]}<sup>1/2</sup>.