

## Bifunctional activation of amine-boranes by the W/Pd bimetallic analogs of “frustrated Lewis pairs”

Elena S. Osipova<sup>a</sup>, Ekaterina S. Gulyaeva<sup>a</sup>, Evgenii I. Gutsul<sup>a</sup>, Vladislava A. Kirkina<sup>a</sup>, Alexander A. Pavlov<sup>a</sup>,  
Yulia V. Nelyubina<sup>a</sup>, Andrea Rossin<sup>b</sup>, Maurizio Peruzzini<sup>b,\*</sup>, Lina M. Epstein<sup>a</sup>, Natalia V. Belkova<sup>a,\*</sup>, Oleg A.  
Filippov<sup>a</sup>, Elena S. Shubina<sup>a\*</sup>

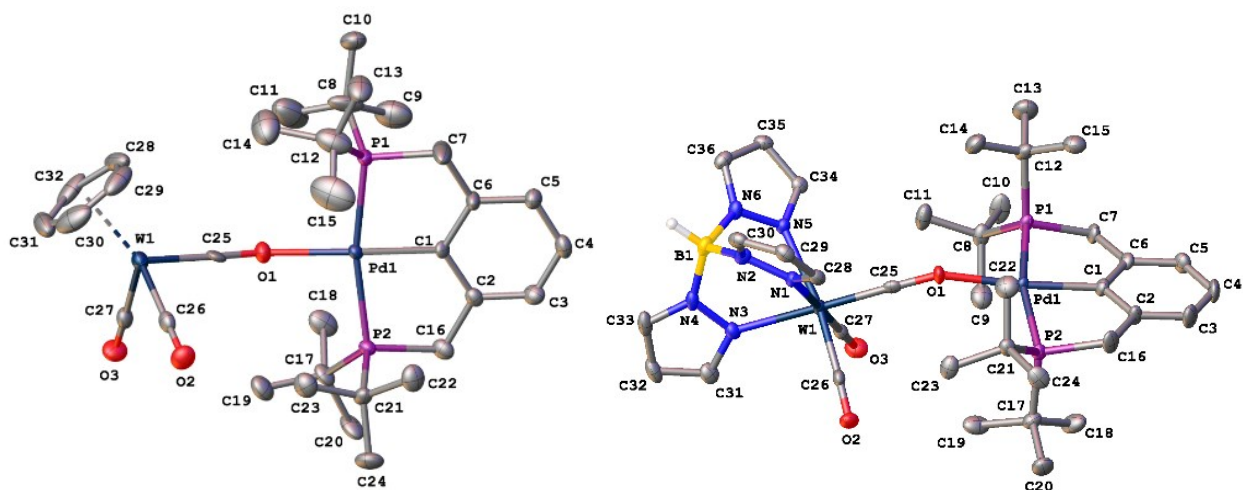
<sup>a</sup> A.N.Nesmeyanov Institute of Organoelement Compounds, Russian Academy of Sciences  
(INEOS RAS), Vavilova Str. 28, 119991 Moscow, Russia

<sup>b</sup> Istituto di Chimica dei Composti Organometallici – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche  
(ICCOM - CNR), Via Madonna del Piano 10, 50019, Sesto Fiorentino, Italy.

### Supporting Information

<b>Figure S1.</b> IR spectra of <b>1b</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M) and (PCP)PdH ( $c = 0.0045$ M) mixture. THF, 190-290 K. ....	6
<b>Figure S2.</b> IR spectra of <b>1b</b> and (PCP)PdH mixture in fluorobenzene. ....	7
<b>Figure S3.</b> IR spectra of <b>4b</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M, $T = 270$ K) and after DMAB addition ( $c = 0.01$ M), 270, 230–190 K. $l = 2$ mm, THF.....	7
<b>Figure S4.</b> IR spectra of <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M, red) and after addition of 1eq. DMAB (blue). 190 K, $l = 0.4$ mm, $T = 190$ K, toluene. ....	8
<b>Figure S5.</b> Diagram showing the temperature dependence of $\nu_{\text{PdH}}$ and $\nu_{\text{BH}}$ bands intensity in the mixture of <b>4b</b> ( $c = 0.01$ M) and DMAB ( $c = 0.033$ M) in toluene. ....	8
<b>Figure S6.</b> Time evolution IR spectra of <b>4a</b> and DMAB mixture (1:5) in THF at 298K. ....	9
<b>Figure S7.</b> Time evolution $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra (400 MHz, hydride region) of <b>4a</b> in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv). 290 K, THF- $d_8$ . ....	9
<b>Figure S8.</b> Time evolution of $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra (400 MHz, hydride region) of <b>4b</b> in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv.). 290 K, THF- $d_8$ . ....	9
<b>Figure S9.</b> $^{31}\text{P}$ NMR spectra (161.98 MHz) of <b>4a</b> in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv.), monitoring in THF- $d_8$ at 290 K. ....	10
<b>Figure S10.</b> Time evolution of IR spectra of complex <b>4b</b> ( $c = 0.01$ M) with DMAB ( $c = 0.033$ M), 298 K, $l = 2$ mm, THF. ....	10
<b>Figure S11.</b> Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of DMAB (5 equiv.) by <b>4a</b> at 298 K in THF. (a) Addition of DMAB to pregenerated ionic pair <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M); (b) simultaneous addition of DMAB, <b>1a</b> and (PCP)PdH (1:1, $c = 0.005$ M). ....	11
<b>Figure S12.</b> $c(t)$ plots of DMAB dehydrogenation by <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M, red and blue) and upon the simultaneous mixing of three reagents ( <b>1a</b> + (PCP)PdH, 1:1, $c = 0.005$ M, green). ....	11
<b>Figure S13.</b> Normalized kinetic curves obtained from $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of DMAB (5 eq.) by <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.01$ M), 293 K, THF- $d_8$ . ....	11
<b>Figure S14.</b> “Man of the moon” device during a catalytic run. ....	12
<b>Figure S15.</b> Relaxed PES scan for hydride transfer in complex <b>6b</b> . TpWH(CO) $_3$ and hydrogen atoms, except BH/PdH are omitted. ....	13
<b>Figure S16.</b> Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of TBAB (5 eq.) by <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M), 298 K, THF. ....	13

<b>Figure S17.</b> $^{11}\text{B}$ NMR spectrum (128.3 MHz) of TBAB (5 equiv.) in presence of <b>4a</b> an hour after mixing. ....	14
<b>Figure S18.</b> Kinetic curve of TBAB dehydrogenation by $[\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-CO})\cdots\text{Pd}(\text{PCP})]$ ( <b>4a</b> , 20 mol.%, $c = 0.003$ M) in THF at 296 K. ....	14
<b>Figure S19.</b> Optimized structures of neutral (right) and ionic (left) complexes of $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$ with $\text{H}_2\text{BNR}_2$ and stabilized by THF. The energies are in kcal/mol respective to the neutral pair. ....	15
<b>Figure S20.</b> Optimized structures of neutral (right) and ionic (left) complexes of $\text{TpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$ with $\text{H}_2\text{BNR}_2$ . The energies are in kcal/mol respective to the neutral pair. ....	16
<b>Figure S21.</b> IR spectra of <b>4b</b> and DMAB mixture (1:1, $c = 0.003$ M) in THF and toluene, 190 K, $l = 0.5$ mm. ....	17
<b>Figure S22.</b> Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$ (5 equiv.) by <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M), 298 K, THF. Initial (a) and full regions (b).....	17
<b>Figure S23.</b> $c(t)$ plots obtained from IR spectra of 5 equiv. $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$ , $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$ and $\text{Me}_2\text{NHBH}_3$ dehydrogenation by <b>4a</b> ( $c = 0.003$ M), 298K, THF.....	18
<b>Table S1.</b> Crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters for <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . ....	3
<b>Table S2.</b> Selected structural parameters for complexes $[\text{LW}(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-CO})\cdots\text{Pd}(\text{PCP})]$ (L = Cp ( <b>4a</b> ), Tp ( <b>4b</b> )). ....	4
<b>Table S3.</b> The catalytic performance of <b>4a</b> in the dehydrogenation of DMAB. ....	12
<b>Table S4.</b> Experimental rate constants for $\text{Me}_2\text{NHBH}_3$ (DMAB) and $^t\text{BuNH}_2\text{BH}_3$ (TBAB) dehydrogenation and corresponding activation free energies $\Delta G^\ddagger$ (kcal/mol) ....	19
<b>Kinetic analysis</b> .....	18
<b>References</b> .....	19

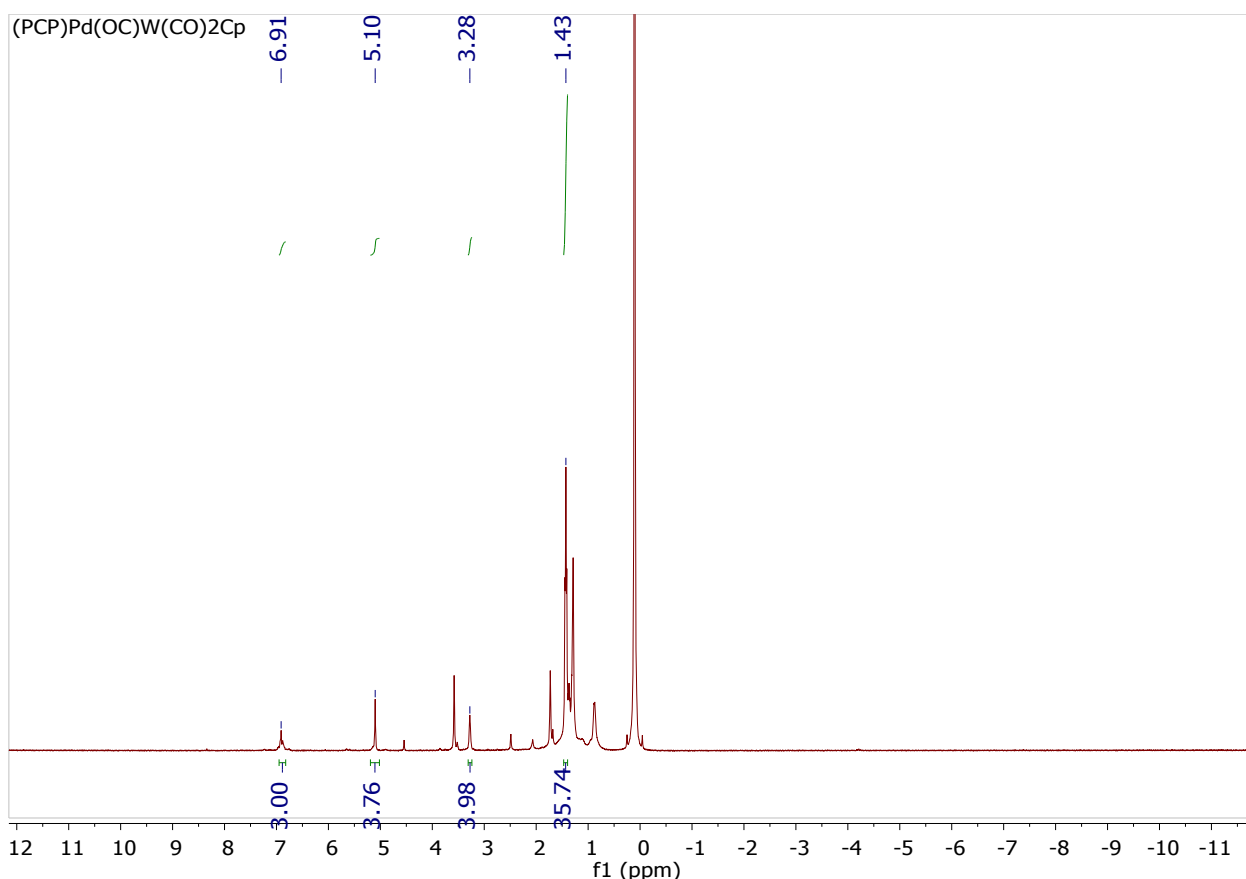


**Table S1.** Crystallographic data and structure refinement parameters for **4a** and **4b**.

Compound	<b>4a</b>	<b>4b</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub> PdW	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>53</sub> BN <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub> PdW
Formula weight	832.89	980.84
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	8.2012(2)	16.8853(7)
<i>b</i> (Å)	37.3720(8)	15.2569(7)
<i>c</i> (Å)	10.9355(2)	15.7122(8)
β (°)	103.3880(10)	91.7010(10)
<i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )	3260.59(12)	4046.0(3)
<i>D</i> <sub>calc</sub> (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	1.697	1.610
Linear absorption, μ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	120.32	34.06
F(000)	1656	1960
2θ <sub>max</sub> , °	135	56
Reflections measured	45938	30841
Independent reflections ( <i>R</i> <sub>int</sub> )	5834 (0.1108)	9756 (0.0704)
Observed reflections ( <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> ))	4578	7383
Parameters	365	463
<i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> (on <i>F</i> for obs. refls)	0.0427	0.0386
<i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> (on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup> for all refls)	0.1000	0.0813
Goodness-of-fit	1.030	0.984
Largest diff. peak and hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	1.702/-0.838	1.446/-0.976

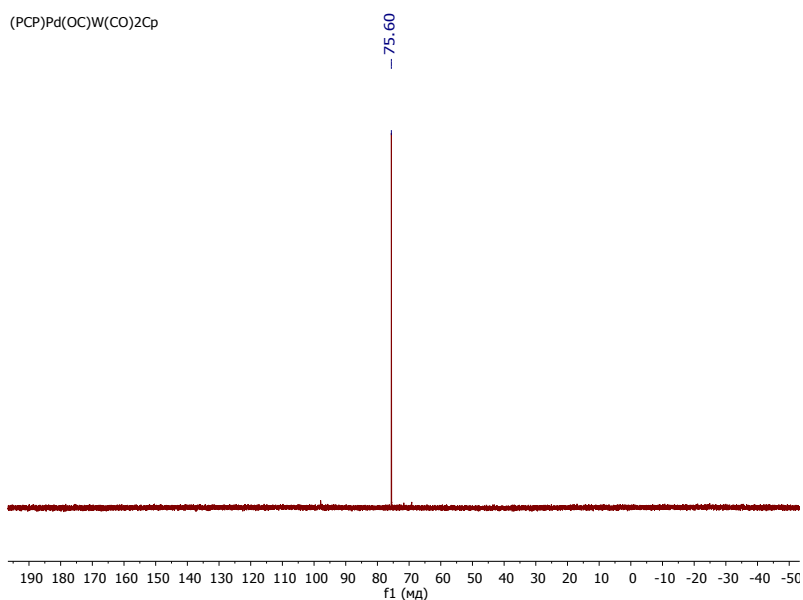
**Table S2.** Selected structural parameters for complexes [LW(CO)<sub>2</sub>(μ-CO)···Pd(PCP)] (L = Cp (**4a**), Tp (**4b**)).

Complex		<b>4a</b>	<b>4b</b>
Distances, Å	Pd-C(1)	2.006(6)	2.009(5)
	Pd-O(1)	2.149(4)	2.156(3)
	Pd-P(1)	2.311(2)	2.312(1)
	Pd-P(2)	2.304(2)	2.316(1)
	W-C(25)	1.906(7)	1.899(5)
	W-C(26)	1.955(8)	1.944(5)
	W-C(27)	1.927(7)	1.959(5)
	C(25)-O(1)	1.194(8)	1.218(6)
	C(26)-O(2)	1.16(1)	1.172(6)
	C(27)-O(3)	1.177(9)	1.174(6)
Angles, °	Pd-O(1)-C(25)	151.3(5)	151.9(3)
	W-C(25)-O(1)	176.3(6)	179.0(4)
	C(1)-Pd-O(1)	174.0(2)	173.2(2)
	P(1)-Pd-P(2)	167.38(6)	166.47(5)
	P(1)-Pd-O(1)	96.6(1)	96.78(9)
	P(2)-Pd-O(1)	95.7(1)	96.54(9)

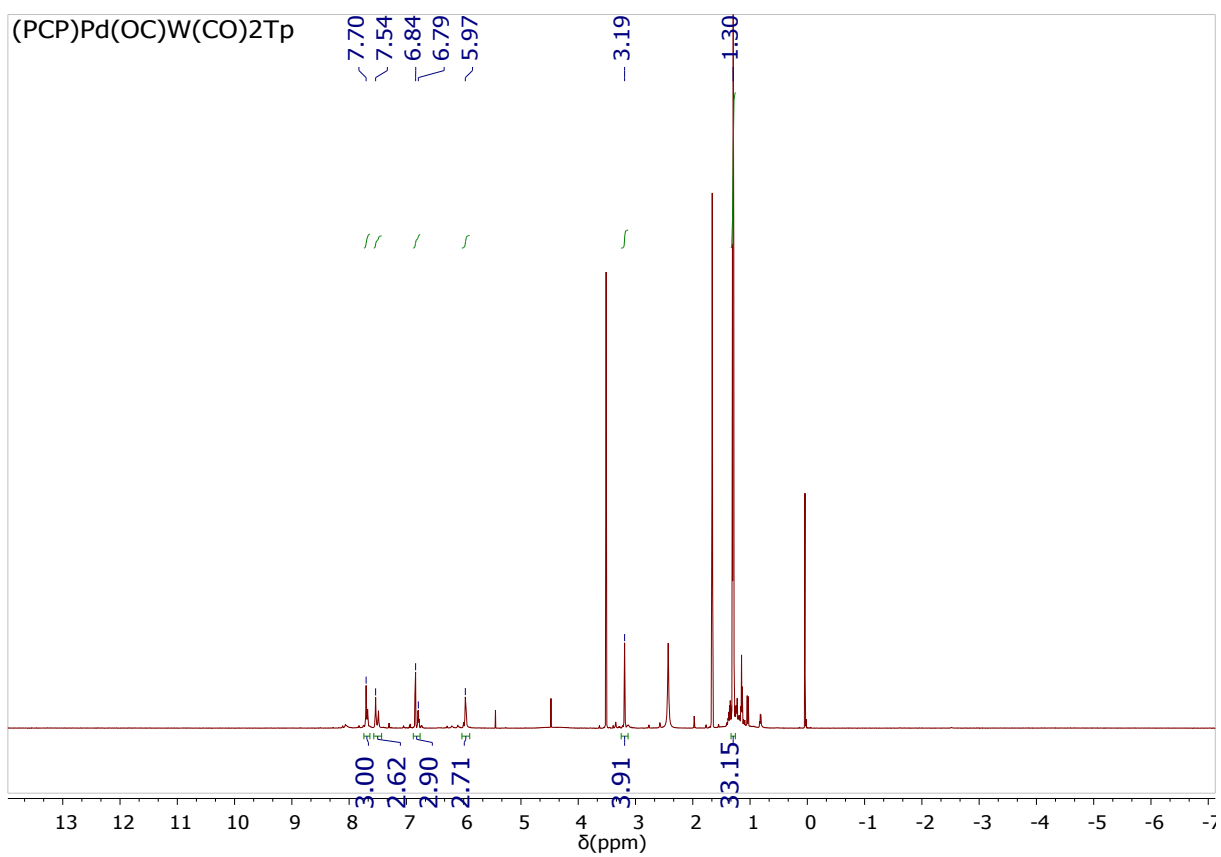


<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of complex **4a**. 290K, THF-*d*<sup>8</sup>.

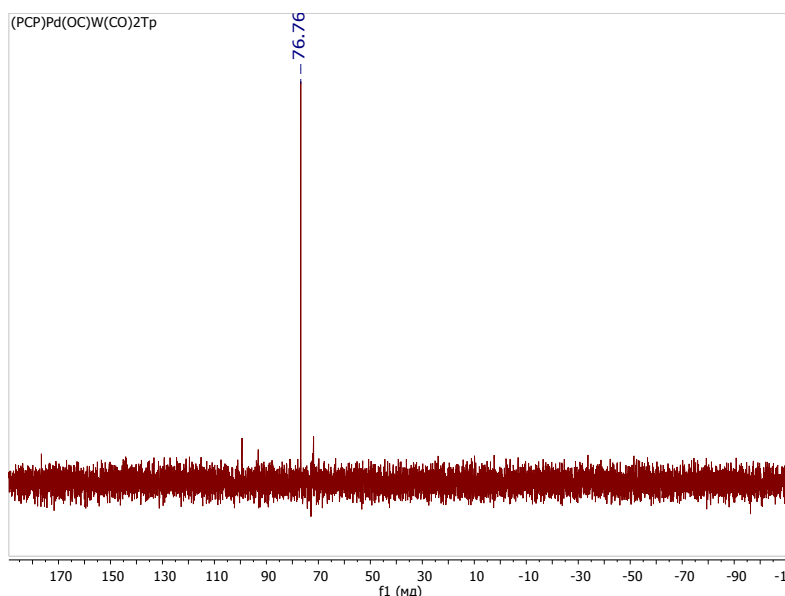
(PCP)Pd(OC)W(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cp



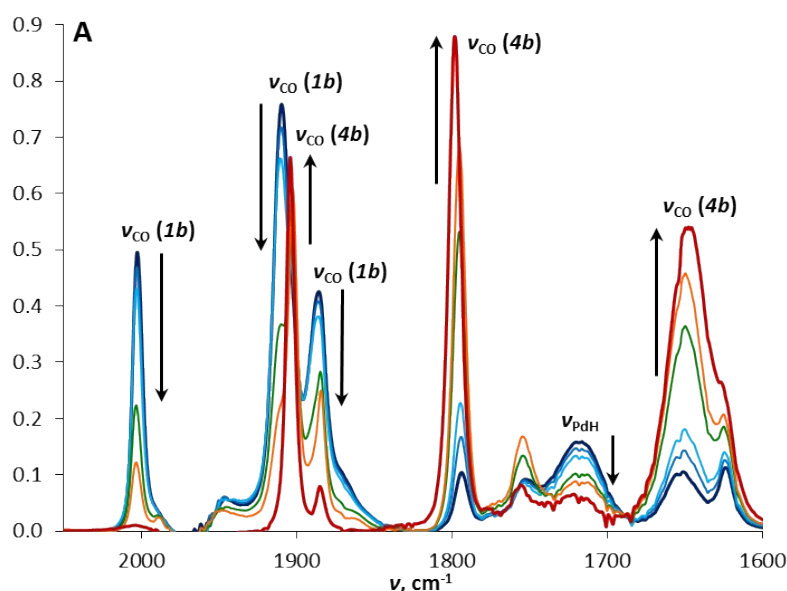
<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectrum (161.9 MHz) of complex **4a**. 290K, THF-*d*<sup>8</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (600 MHz) of complex **4b**. 290K, THF-*d*<sup>8</sup>.



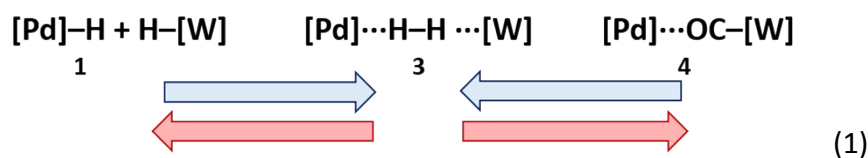
$^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum (161.9 MHz) of complex **4b**. 290K, THF- $d^8$ .

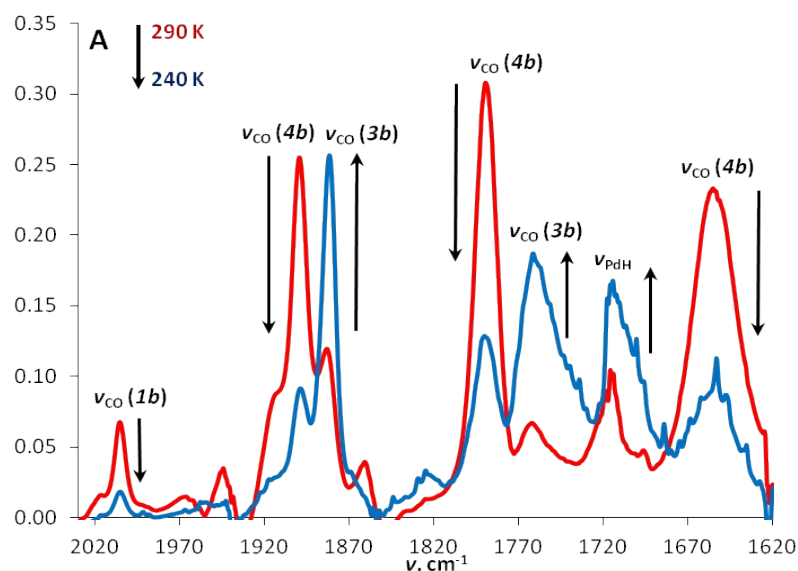


**Figure S1.** IR spectra of **1b** ( $c = 0.003$  M) and (PCP)PdH ( $c = 0.0045$  M) mixture. THF, 190-290 K.

### Reversibility of $\text{H}_2$ loss

When fluorobenzene used as a solvent the spectroscopic picture (see Figure 1, main text) is similar to that observed in THF. If the reaction mixture is kept for one day in a closed system after all hydrogen is released at 270-290 K, a band redistribution is observed in the spectrum (Figure S4). Further cooling to 240K leads to significant growth of  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  of intermediate **3** and complex **4** and **1**  $\nu_{\text{CO}}$  bands intensity decrease. Repeated warming returns the system to the same form, confirming the existence of dynamic equilibrium (1).

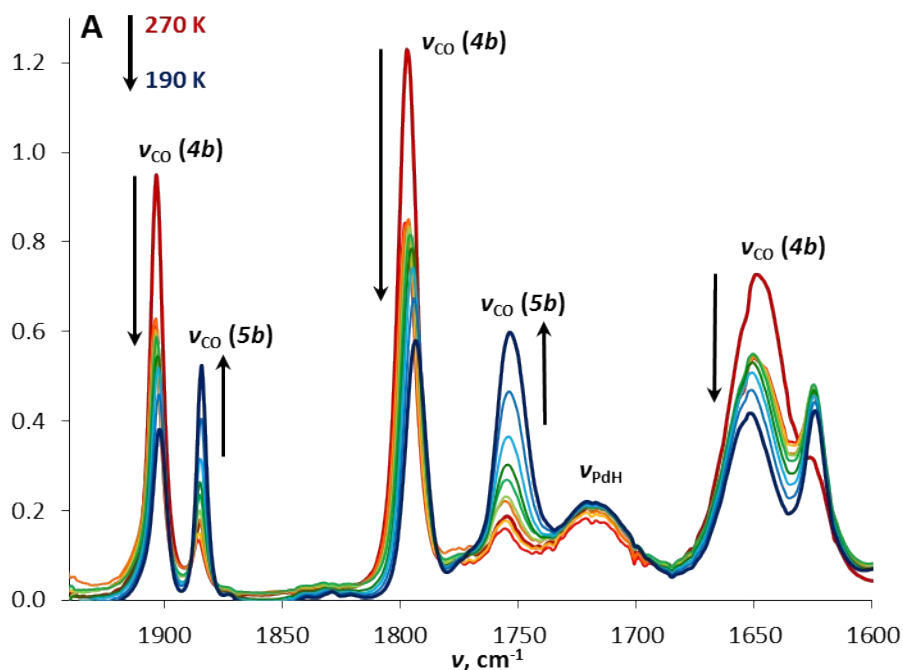




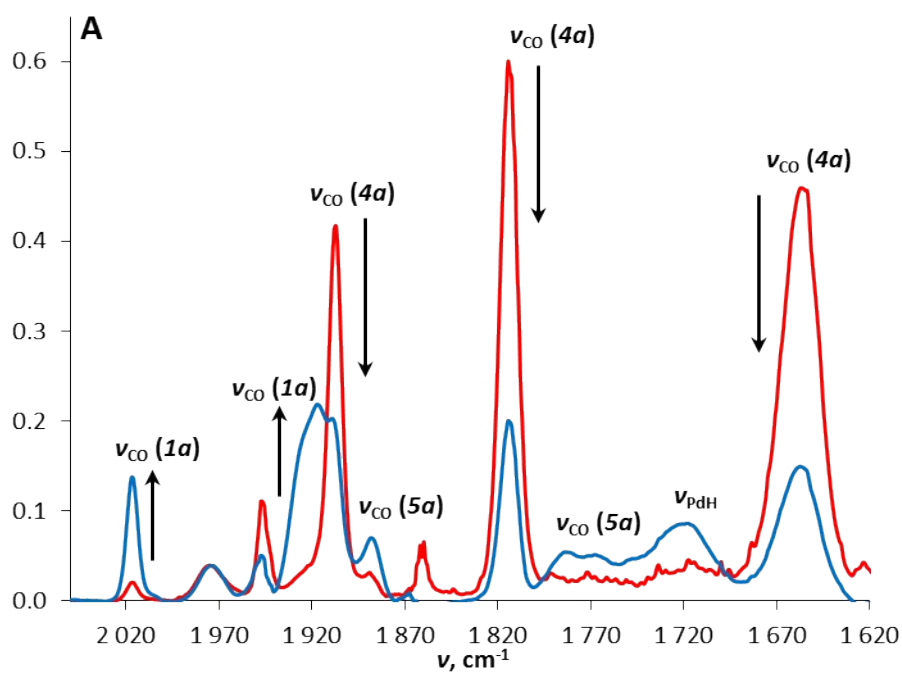
**Figure S2.** IR spectra of **1b** and (PCP)PdH mixture in fluorobenzene.

The rate of H<sub>2</sub> evolution in bimetallic system (**1b** + (PCP)PdH) increases with the temperature increase from 220 K to 240 K. However, the change is too small in this temperature range to give reliable  $\Delta H^\ddagger$  and  $\Delta S^\ddagger$  values. [220K:  $k_{\text{obs}} = 0.159 \text{ mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G^\ddagger = 13.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$ ; 230K:  $k_{\text{obs}} = 0.178 \text{ mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G^\ddagger = 14.1 \text{ kcal/mol}$ ; 240K:  $k_{\text{obs}} = 0.202 \text{ mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  $\Delta G^\ddagger = 14.7 \text{ kcal/mol}$  in THF].

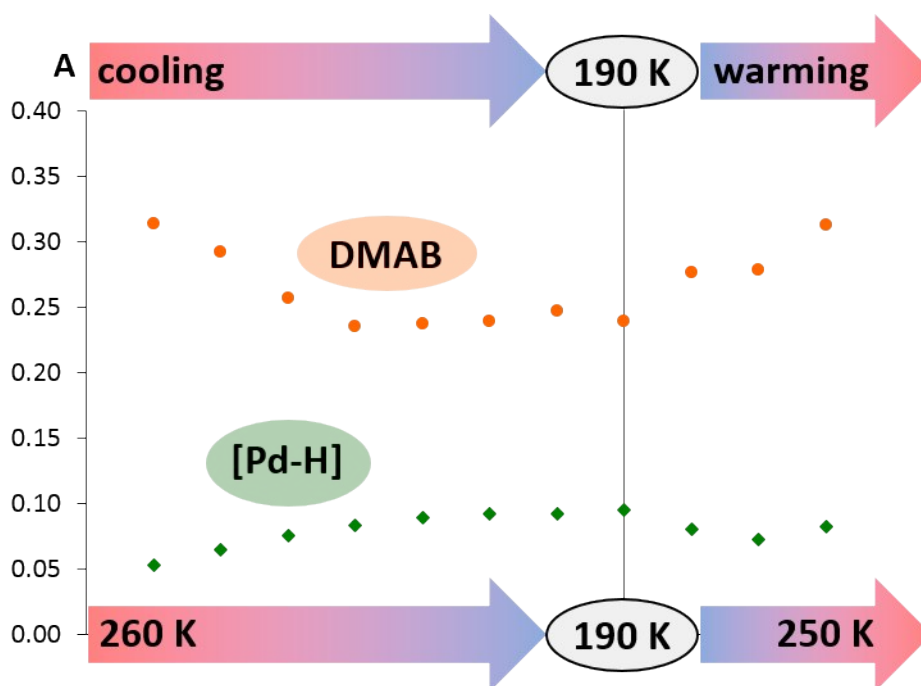
#### DMAB dehydrogenation



**Figure S3.** IR spectra of **4b** ( $c = 0.003 \text{ M}$ ,  $T = 270 \text{ K}$ ) and after DMAB addition ( $c = 0.01 \text{ M}$ ), 270, 230–190 K.  $l = 2 \text{ mm}$ , THF.

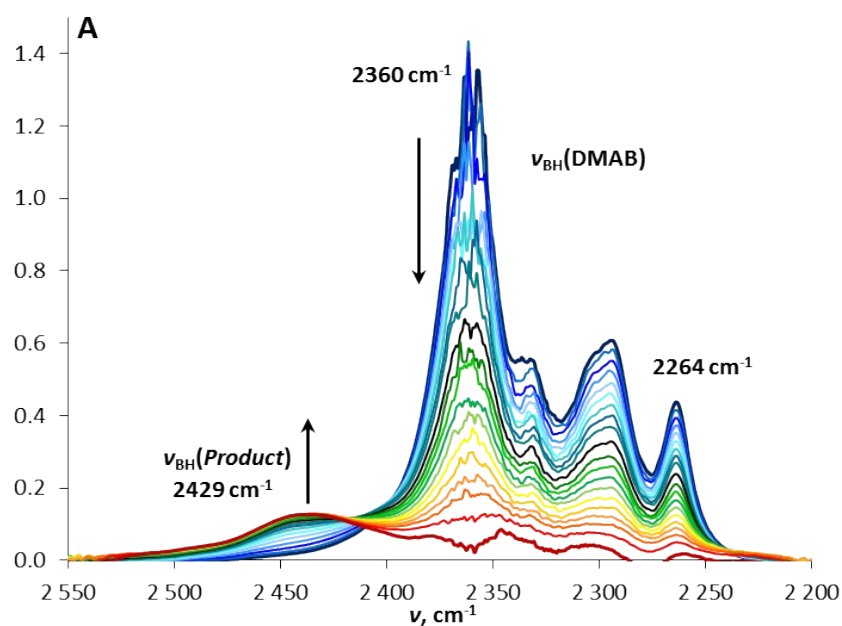


**Figure S4.** IR spectra of **4a** ( $c = 0.003$  M, red) and after addition of 1eq. DMAB (blue). 190 K,  $l = 0.4$  mm,  $T = 190$  K, toluene.

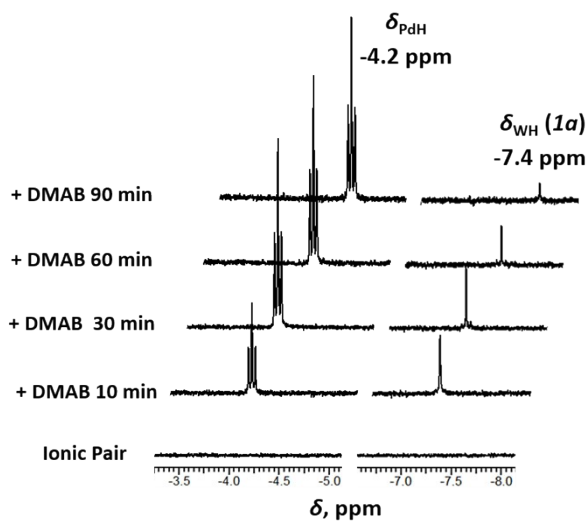


**Figure S5.** Diagram showing the temperature dependence of  $\nu_{\text{pdH}}$  and  $\nu_{\text{BH}}$  bands intensity in the mixture of **4b** ( $c = 0.01$  M) and DMAB ( $c = 0.033$  M) in toluene.

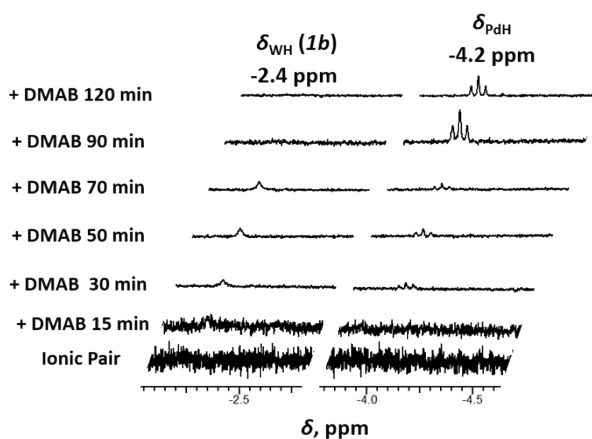




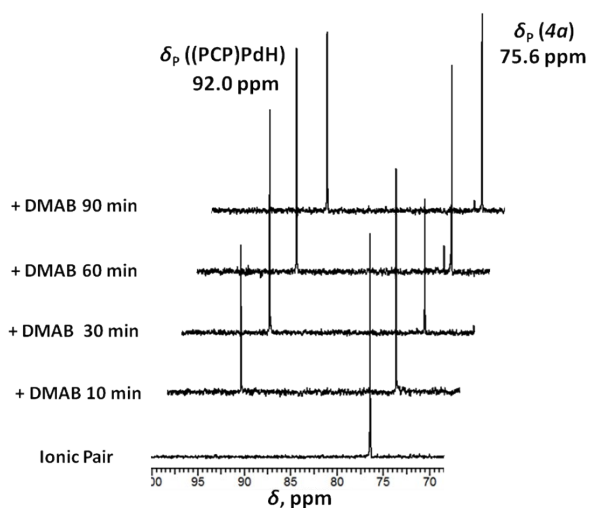
**Figure S6.** Time evolution of IR spectra of **4a** and DMAB mixture (1:5) in THF at 298K.



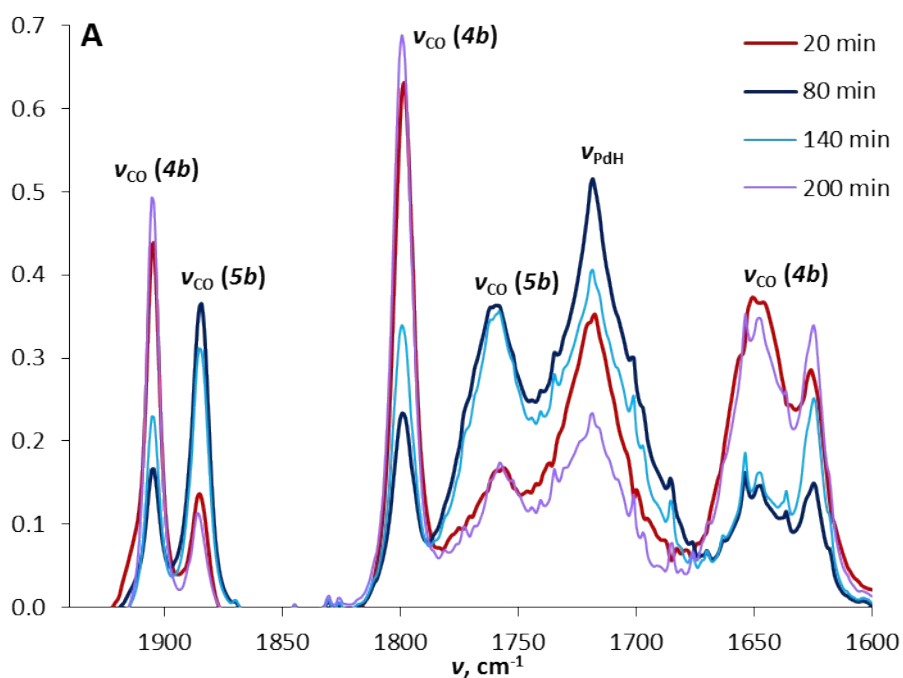
**Figure S7.** Time evolution  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz, hydride region) of **4a** in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv). 290 K,  $\text{THF-}d_8$ .



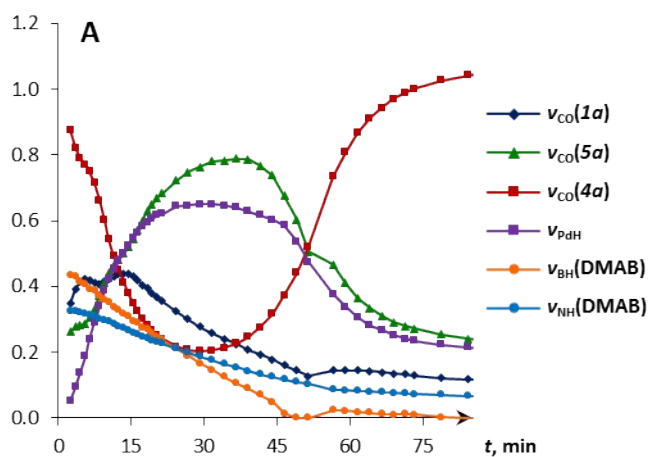
**Figure S8.** Time evolution of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz, hydride region) of **4b** in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv.). 290 K,  $\text{THF-}d_8$ .

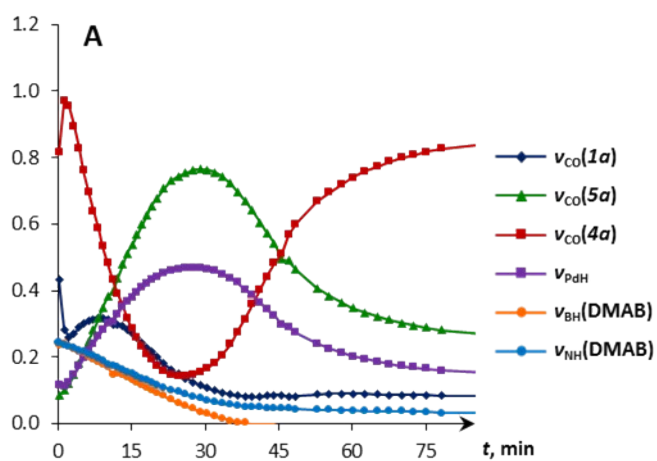


**Figure S9.**  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra (161.98 MHz) of **4a** in the presence of excess DMAB (5 equiv.), monitoring in  $\text{THF-}d_8$  at 290 K.

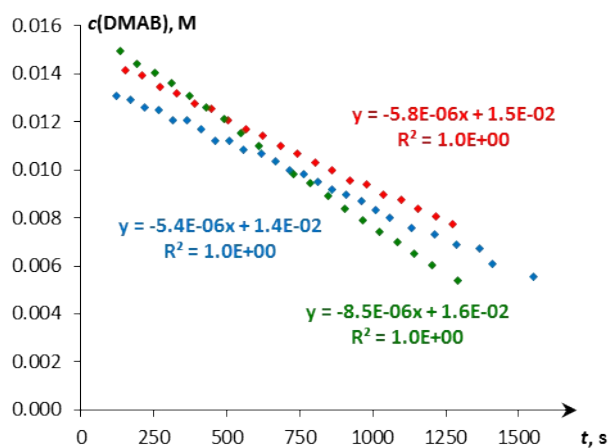


**Figure S10.** Time evolution of IR spectra of complex **4b** ( $c = 0.01$  M) with DMAB ( $c = 0.033$  M), 298 K,  $l = 2$  mm, THF.

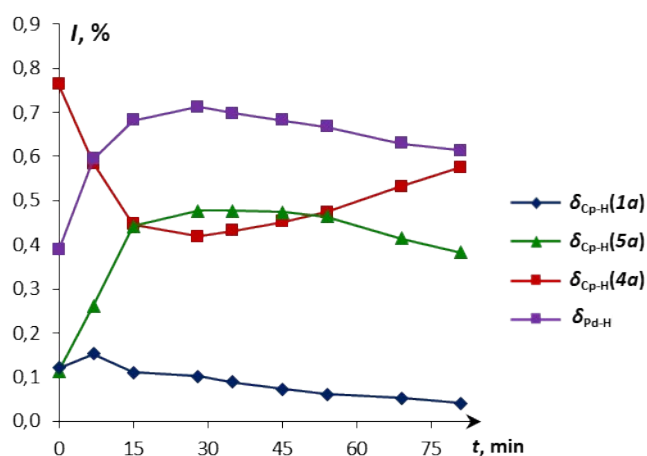




**Figure S11.** Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of DMAB (5 equiv.) by **4a** at 298 K in THF. (a) Addition of DMAB to pregenerated ionic pair **4a** ( $c = 0.003$  M); (b) simultaneous addition of DMAB, **1a** and (PCP)PdH (1:1,  $c = 0.005$  M).



**Figure S12.**  $c(t)$  plots of DMAB dehydrogenation by **4a** ( $c = 0.003$  M, red and blue) and upon the simultaneous mixing of three reagents (**1a** + (PCP)PdH, 1:1,  $c = 0.005$  M, green).



**Figure S13.** Normalized kinetic curves obtained from  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of DMAB (5 eq.) by **4a** ( $c = 0.01$  M), 293 K, THF- $d_8$ .



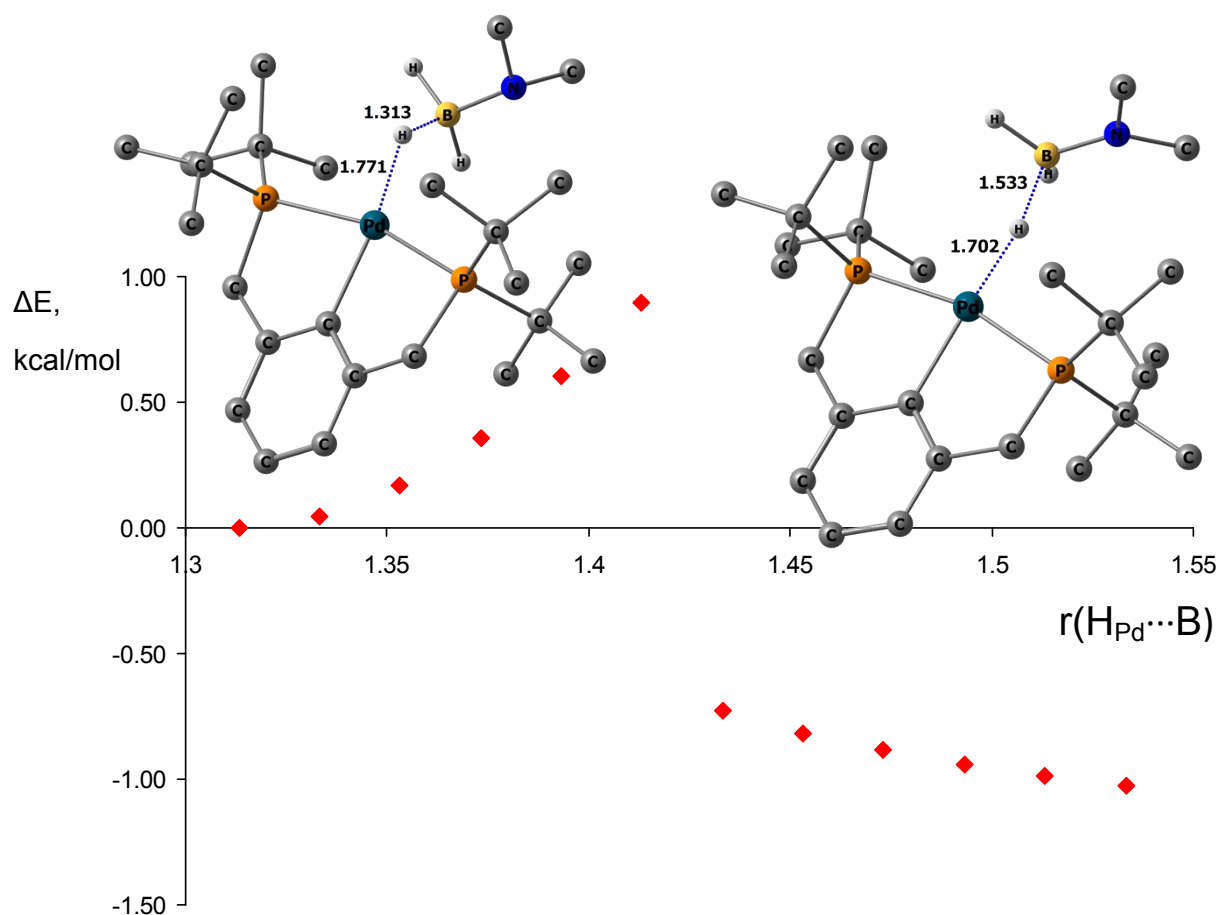
*Man of the moon X103* is a device conceived by the University of Zaragoza (Spain) for monitoring the progress of reactions that evolve gases by measuring the pressure variation vs. time in closed reaction systems. More information about the features of the kit can be found at the following link: <http://www.manonthemoontech.com/x103-gas-evolution.html>.

**Figure S14.** “Man of the moon” device during a catalytic run.

**Table S3.** The catalytic performance of **4a** in the dehydrogenation of DMAB.

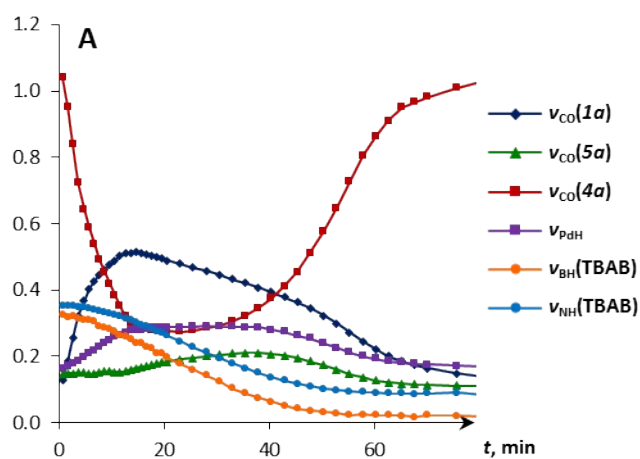
$c_0(\text{DMAB}), \text{M}$	Catalyst loading	$T, \text{K}$	$\text{TOF}^*, \text{h}^{-1}$	Full conversion time, h	Initial rate, $\text{M}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$
0.015	<b>4a</b> , 20 mol%	296	<b>1.6</b>	5	$2.5\cdot 10^{-6}$
0.015	<b>4a</b> , 20 mol%	313	<b>2.7</b>	4	$2.5\cdot 10^{-6}$
0.03	<b>4a</b> , 10 mol%	296	<b>2.2</b>	4	$3.5\cdot 10^{-6}$
0.06	<b>4a</b> , 5 mol%	313	<b>5.6</b>	6	$6.3\cdot 10^{-6}$
0.15	<b>4a</b> , 2 mol%	313	<b>26.0</b>	3	$2.1\cdot 10^{-5}$
0.1	<b>4a</b> , 10 mol%	296	<b>6.7</b>	2	$4.0\cdot 10^{-5}$

\*at half-conversion time

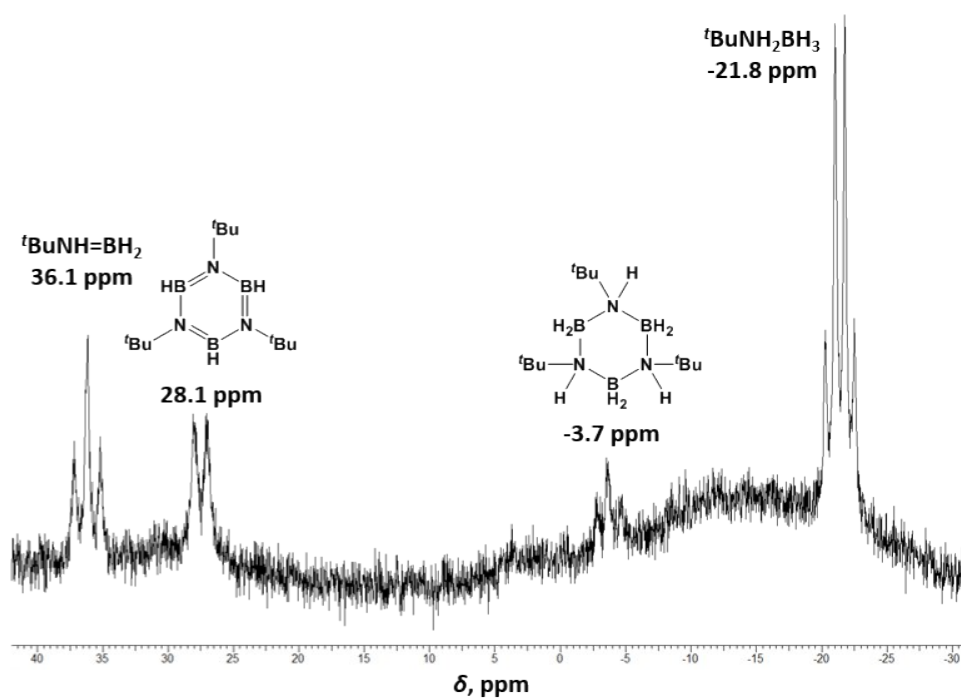


**Figure S15.** Relaxed PES scan for hydride transfer in complex **6b**.  $\text{TpWH}(\text{CO})_3$  and hydrogen atoms, except BH/PdH are omitted.

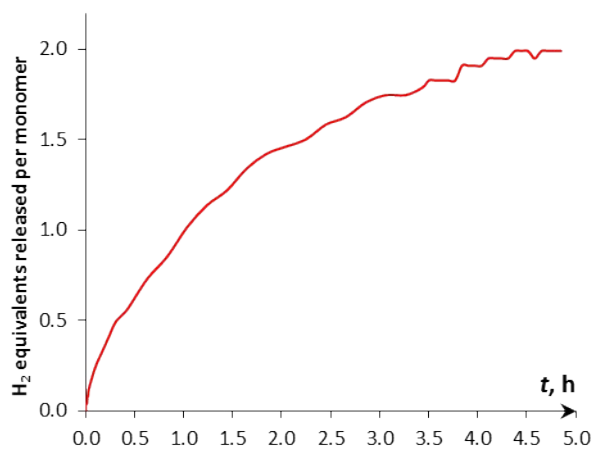
### TBAB dehydrogenation



**Figure S16.** Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of TBAB (5 eq.) by **4a** ( $c = 0.003 \text{ M}$ ), 298 K, THF.

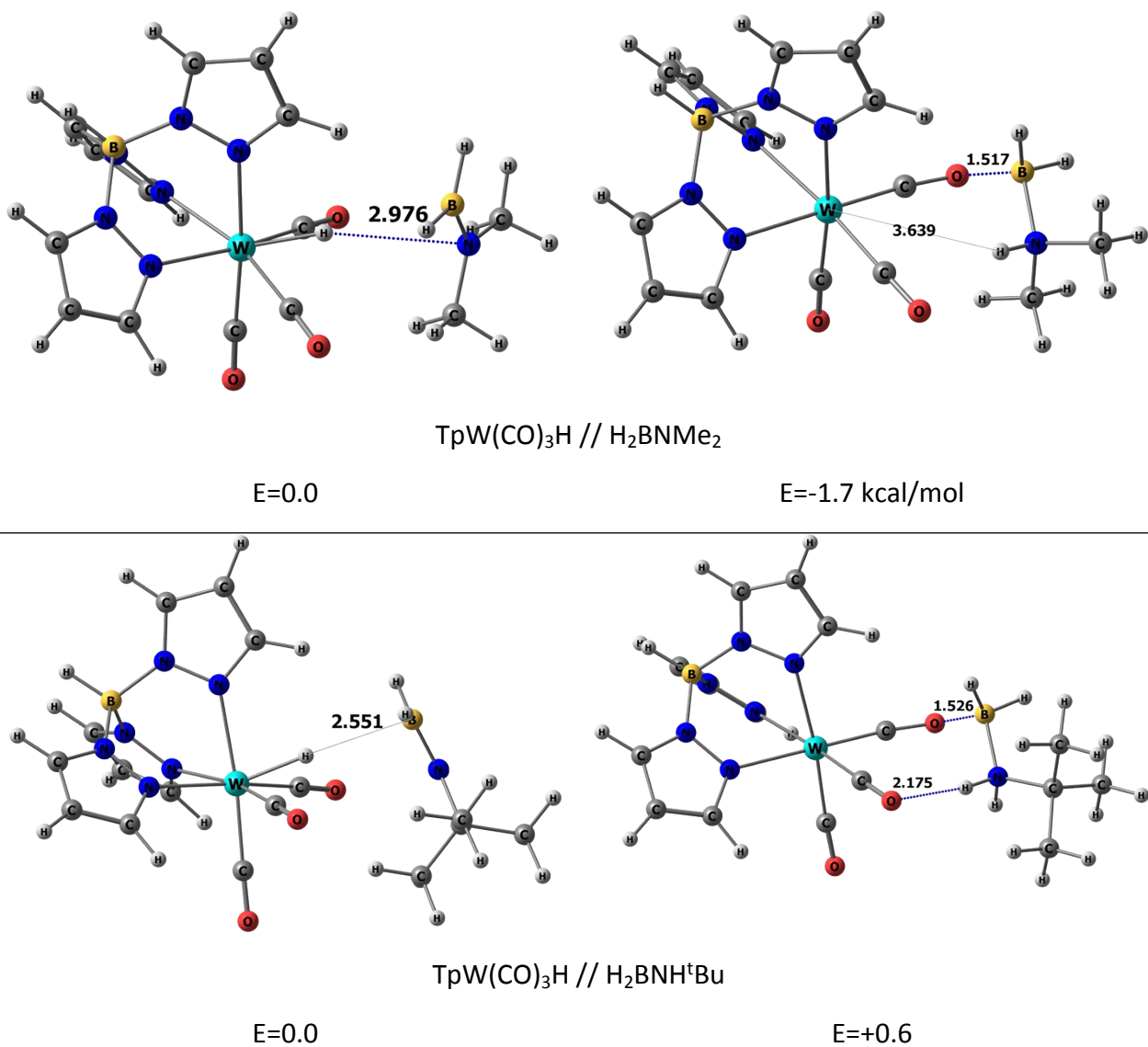


**Figure S17.**  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectrum (128.3 MHz) of TBAB (5 equiv.) in presence of **4a** an hour after mixing.



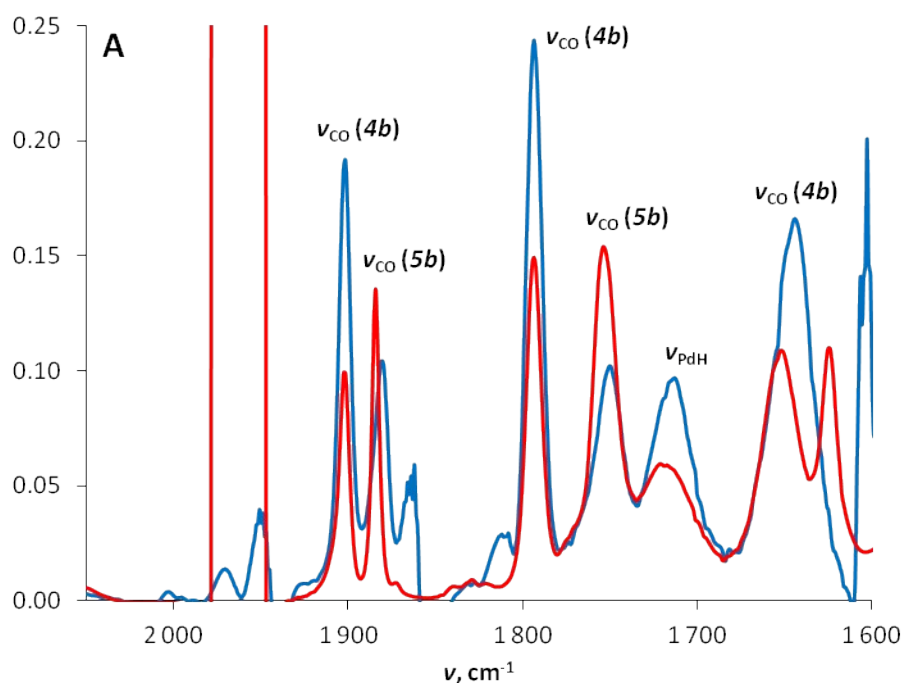
**Figure S18.** Kinetic curve of TBAB dehydrogenation by  $[\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_2(\mu\text{-CO})\cdots\text{Pd}(\text{PCP})]$  (**4a**, 20 mol.%,  $c = 0.003$  M) in THF at 296 K.



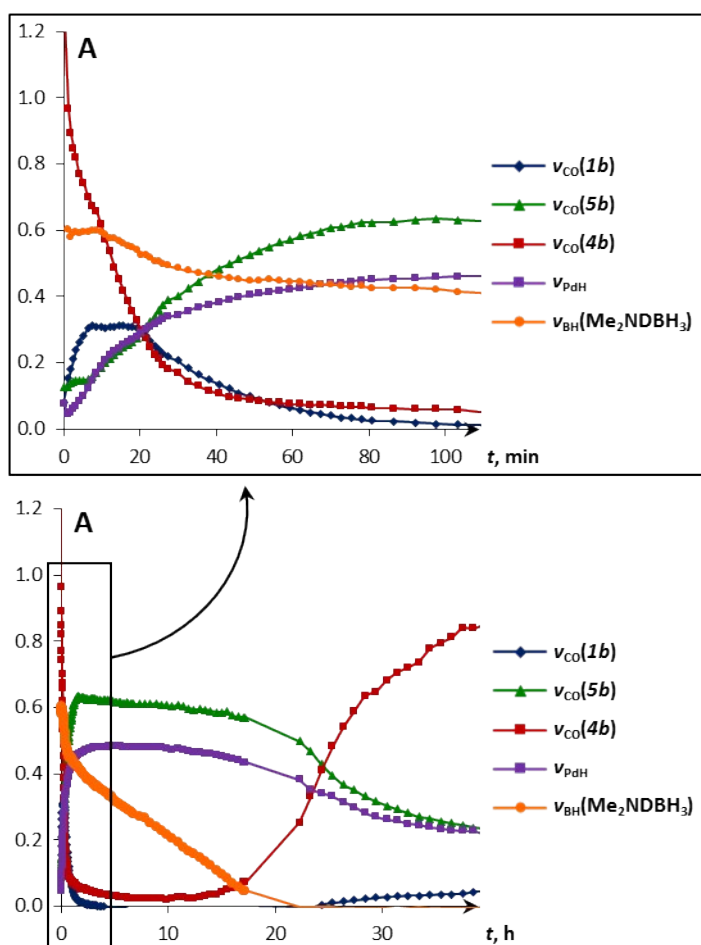


**Figure S20.** Optimized structures of neutral (right) and ionic (left) complexes of  $\text{TpW}(\text{CO})_3\text{H}$  with  $\text{H}_2\text{BNR}_2$ . The energies are in kcal/mol relative to the neutral pair.

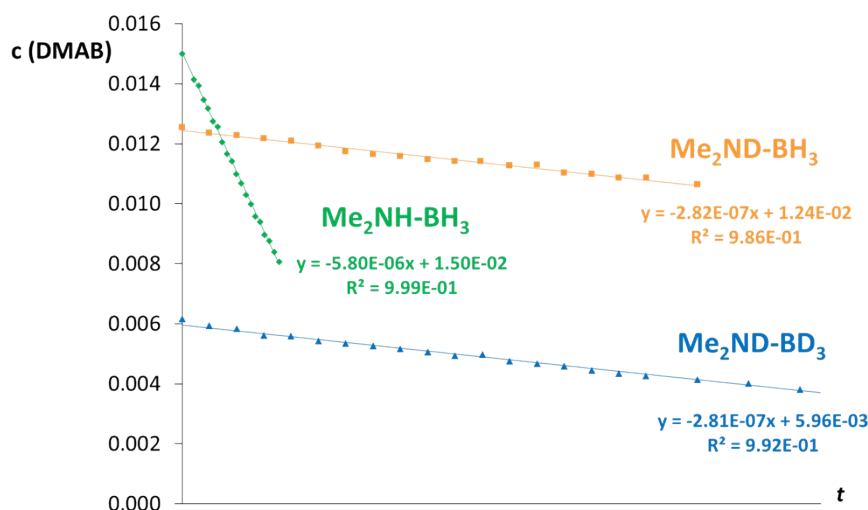




**Figure S21.** IR spectra of **4b** and DMAB mixture (1:1,  $c = 0.003$  M) in THF and toluene, 190 K,  $l = 0.5$  mm.



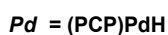
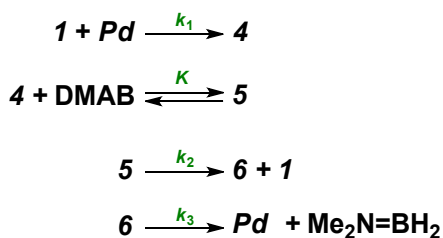
**Figure S22.** Kinetic curves obtained from IR spectra of dehydrogenation reaction of  $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$  (5 equiv.) by **4a** ( $c = 0.003$  M), 298 K, THF. Initial (a) and full regions (b).



**Figure S23.**  $c(t)$  plots obtained from IR spectra of 5 equiv.  $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{NDBH}_3$  and  $\text{Me}_2\text{NHBH}_3$  dehydrogenation by **4a** ( $c = 0.003$  M), 298K, THF.

### Kinetics analysis

Excluding the catalyst and substrate decomposition, the proposed reaction mechanism could be simplified to the following scheme:



The reaction between two neutral hydrides **1** and (PCP)PdH could be described as an irreversible process with pre-equilibrium<sup>[1]</sup>. The observed rate constant for this process is  $k_1$ . Since the rate of hydrogen evolution in the reaction between two neutral hydrides ( $3 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ M} \cdot \text{c}^{-1}$ ; **1**:Pd = 1:1,  $c = 0.003$  M, L = Cp) is higher than in DMAB dehydrogenation ( $2.5 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ M} \cdot \text{c}^{-1}$ ; **1**:Pd:DMAB = 1:1:5,  $c = 0.003$  M, L = Cp), it could be considered that  $k_1 > k_2$ . The formation of **5**

is an equilibrium process with an equilibrium constant  $K = \frac{[\mathbf{5}]}{[\mathbf{4}][\text{DMAB}]}$ . The DFT-calculated activation energy values for stepwise proton and hydride transfer ( $\Delta G_{PT}^\ddagger = 21$  kcal/mol and  $\Delta G_{HT}^\ddagger < 2$  kcal/mol) indicate that  $k_3 \gg k_2$ , and the hydride transfer goes much faster than proton transfer. The shift of the equilibrium due to fast hydride transfer and evolution of hydrogen makes the subsequent reactions  $\mathbf{5} \rightarrow \mathbf{6} + \mathbf{1}$  and  $\mathbf{6} \rightarrow \text{Pd} + \text{Me}_2\text{N}=\text{BH}_2$  almost irreversible. Thus, the following kinetic equations can be derived:

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_1 &= k_1 \cdot [\mathbf{1}] \cdot [\text{Pd}] \\
 [\mathbf{5}] &= K \cdot [\mathbf{4}] \cdot [\text{DMAB}] \\
 r_2 &= k_2 [\mathbf{5}] \\
 r_3 &= k_3 [\mathbf{6}]
 \end{aligned}$$

Considering that proton transfer is rate-limiting stage, the overall reaction rate ( $r$ ) equals to  $r_2$ :  
 $r = k_2 \cdot [5] = k_2 \cdot K \cdot [4] \cdot [\text{DMAB}]$

For the initial stage, the experimentally observed DMAB consumption in presence of substrate excess is pseudo-zero order in DMAB and first order in catalyst **4**. This could be approximated by the following equation:

$$r = k_2 \cdot K \cdot c_0(\text{DMAB}) \cdot [4] = k_{\text{eff}} \cdot [4].$$

**Table S4.** Experimental rate constants for  $\text{Me}_2\text{NHBH}_3$  (DMAB) and  ${}^t\text{BuNH}_2\text{BH}_3$  (TBAB) dehydrogenation and corresponding activation free energies  $\Delta G^\ddagger$  (kcal/mol).

Catalyst	Substrate	$k_1, \text{M}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$k_2K, \text{M}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta G^\ddagger(4 \rightarrow 6)$	$k_2, \text{s}^{-1}$	$\Delta G^\ddagger(5 \rightarrow 6)$
<b>4a</b>	DMAB	2.4 [1]	$5.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$	24.6	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-1}$	18.5
<b>4a</b>	TBAB	2.4	$5.7 \cdot 10^{-6}$	24.6	$1.0 \cdot 10^{-1}$	18.8
<b>4b</b>	DMAB	4.5	$1.5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	25.4	$3.1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	19.5

#### References:

- [1] Osipova, E. S.; Belkova, N. V.; Epstein, L. M.; Filippov, O. A.; Kirkina, V. A.; Titova, E. M.; Rossin, A.; Peruzzini, M.; Shubina, E. S., *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* 2016, 1415-1424.