# Cesium Carbonate Mediated C-H Functionalization of Perhalogenated 12-vertex Carborane Anions

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# **Supplementary Information**

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#### 1. General Considerations

Cs(HCB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>), Cs(HCB<sub>11</sub>Br<sub>11</sub>), Cs(HCB<sub>11</sub>l<sub>11</sub>)<sup>1</sup>, mixture of endo and exo (1S,4S)-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate<sup>2</sup> were synthesized according to literature procedures. Epichlorohydrin was distilled *in vacuo* and stored over 3Å molecular sieves. Cesium carbonate was stored in an MBraun glovebox and as used as needed. All other reagents were purchased from commercial vendors and used without further purification. Dry acetonitrile and CD<sub>3</sub>CN was obtained via distillation from CaH<sub>2</sub> under Argon. Acetone was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy was carried out using a Bruker Avance 600 MHz, and Bruker NEO 400 MHz (Prodigy LN<sub>2</sub> cryoprobe). NMR chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) with <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts referenced to the residual non-deutero solvent. <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectra taken in d6-Acetone contain signals indicative of HDO and H<sub>2</sub>O at 2.81 and 2.84 respectively. Data for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are as follows: chemical shift (ppm), multiplicity, coupling constant (Hz), integration. Multiplicities are as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, dd = doublet of doublet, dt = doublet of triplet, ddd = doublet of doublet of doublet, td = triplet of doublet, h= heptet, and m = multiplet. High resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were recorded utilizing an Agilent Technologies 1260 II HPLC system combined with an Agilent Technologies 6545 QTOF LC/MS.

#### 2. Synthesis and Characterization of Dianionic Species 2Cl<sub>11</sub>, 2Br<sub>11</sub>, and 2l<sub>11</sub>

A large excess of  $Cs_2CO_3$  (10-12 eq) was added to ~50 mg of HNMe<sub>3</sub>(**2X**<sub>11</sub>) and stirred overnight. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo* and dried for several hours at room temperature before dissolving in CD<sub>3</sub>CN for characterization.

Spectral Data for Dianionic Species 2Cl11



Figure 1: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of Cs<sub>2</sub>(2Cl<sub>11</sub>) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN



Figure 3: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $Cs_2(2Cl_{11})$  in CD<sub>3</sub>CN showing the absence of the carborane proton



Figure 4: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of mixtures of Cs(1Cl<sub>11</sub>) and Cs<sub>2</sub>(2Cl<sub>11</sub>) with 1(bottom), 2, 3, 4 and 5(top) equivalents of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>



Figure 5: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of the mixture of Cs(1Cl<sub>11</sub>) and Cs<sub>2</sub>(2Cl<sub>11</sub>) with 1 equivalent of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

### Spectral Data for Dianionic Species 2Br11



Figure 7: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Cs<sub>2</sub>(2Br<sub>11</sub>)



Figure 8: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $Cs_2(2Br_{11})$  in CD<sub>3</sub>CN showing the absence of the carborane proton



Figure 9: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of the mixture of **Cs(1Br**<sub>11</sub>) and **Cs<sub>2</sub>(2Br**<sub>11</sub>) with 1 equivalent of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

### Spectral Data for Dianionic Species 2111



Figure 10: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of  $Cs_2(2I_{11})$ . Integrated peaks belong to  $Cs_2(2I_{11})$  with the others belonging to residual  $Cs(1I_{11})$ 



Figure 11: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Cs<sub>2</sub>(2I<sub>11</sub>).



Figure 12: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $Cs_2(2l_{11})$  in CD<sub>3</sub>CN showing the absence of the carborane proton



Figure 13: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra of the mixture of  $Cs(1I_{11})$  and  $Cs_2(2I_{11})$  with 1 equivalent of  $Cs_2CO_3$ 

#### 3. <u>General Alkylation Procedures</u>

50 mg (0.076 mmol) of CsHCB<sub>11</sub>X<sub>11</sub> and 124 mg Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.38 mmol) were added to an oven-dried round-bottom flask. The desired electrophile (0.23 mmol) was then weighed and subsequently diluted with 3 mL of acetonitrile and added to the contents of the round bottom flask. An extra 2-3 mL of acetonitrile was used to transfer remaining electrophile. Reactions were stirred for 4 hours before being checked by HRMS for the absence of [HCB<sub>11</sub>X<sub>11</sub>] starting materials. Once the starting material was completely consumed, the reaction contents were filtered and solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Electrophiles used, further purification, and spectral data for each compound is reported below.

#### Attempted alkylation in aqueous media

30 mg (0.045 mmol) of CsHCB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub> was dissolved in 5mL of DI H<sub>2</sub>O and was subsequently charged with 73 mg (0.223 mmol) Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. After stirring for 15 min, an <sup>11</sup>B NMR was taken and demonstrated no change associated with conversion to the nucleophilic Cs<sub>2</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>. 34 mg (0.134 mmol) of ethyl 4-bromocrotonate (75% tech grade) was then added and stirred overnight. Evidence of product formation was not observed by <sup>11</sup>B NMR.

4. Purification and Characterization of compounds a-n



Figure 14: Synthesized compounds a-n



**Electrophile used:** *n***-Decyl lodide.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding Cs[C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>21</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>] in 96% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>) δ 2.31 – 2.24 (m, 2H), 1.92 – 1.78 (m, 2H), 1.29 (s, 14H), 0.88 (t, 3H).

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetonitrile) δ -2.28 (s, 1B), -9.28 (s, 5B), -10.90 (s, 5B). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 32.57, 32.00, 30.55, 30.11, 29.96, 29.42, 25.12, 23.36, 14.38. *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>21</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>: 660.9259 Found: 660.9275



Figure 15: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound **a** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN



Figure 17: <sup>11</sup>B NMR of **a** in acetonitrile



Figure 18: HRMS spectrum of compound a



Figure 19: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of compound a



**Electrophile used:** *n***-Decyl lodide.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding  $Cs[C_{10}H_{21}CB_{11}Br_{11}]$  in 96% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 2.44 – 2.36 (m, 1H), 2.02 (m, 1H), 1.31 (m, 14H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone) δ -2.67, -8.89, -11.08.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 37.24, 31.61, 29.24, 29.13, 29.01, 28.95, 28.40, 24.99, 22.41, 13.44 *m/z* calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>21</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Br<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>: 1151.3623 Found: 1151.3499







Figure 23: HRMS spectrum of compound b



Figure 24: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of compound **b** 

#### Purification and Characterization of c



**Electrophile used:** *n***-Decyl Iodide.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding  $Cs[C_{10}H_{21}CB_{11}I_{11}]$  in 95% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 2.54 (m, 2H), 2.19 (m, 2H), 1.29 (m, 14H), 0.88 (t, 3H).

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone) δ -8.64, -12.01, -17.11, -19.57.

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, CD\_3CN)  $\delta$  47.63, 31.65, 29.15, 29.06, 28.97, 28.47, 28.39, 27.10, 22.44, 13.50.

m/z calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>21</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>I<sub>11</sub>: 1668.2236 Found: 1668.2023



Figure 25: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of compound **c** in acetone-d<sub>6</sub>









Figure 28: HRMS spectrum of c



Figure 29: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of c



**Electrophile: isopropyl iodide.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding compound **d** in 89% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 3.10 (hept, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 1.52 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone) δ 37.21, 21.99. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone) δ -1.68, -8.90, -10.94. *m/z* calcd for C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>: 563.8127 Found: 563.8183





Figure 31: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **d** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 32: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of compound **d** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 33: HRMS spectrum of compound d



Figure 34: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of compound d

Purification and Characterization of e



**Electrophile: isopropyl iodide.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding  $Cs[C_3H_5CB_{11}Br_{11}]$  in 89% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  3.12 (hept, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, Acetone) δ 42.03, 23.86.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone) δ -2.52, -8.87, -12.14.

*m*/z calcd for C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Br<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>:1052.2564 Found: 1052.2403





Figure 36: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **e** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone







Figure 38: HRMS spectrum of e



Figure 39: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of e

#### Characterization of **f**



**Electrophile: isopropyl iodide.** Conversion to **f** is estimated from <sup>11</sup>B NMR and presence of product is confirmed by HRMS.



Figure 40: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of a crude mixture of compound **f** and starting materials after reacting 1 week at 85°C



Figure 41: HRMS spectrum of crude reaction mixture



Figure 42: zoomed in HRMS spectrum of crude reaction mixture

#### Purification and Characterization of g



**Electrophile: epichlorohydrin.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding Cs[C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OCB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>] in 89% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  3.46 (dtd, J = 7.9, 3.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.77 (ddd, J = 4.9, 3.8, 1.1 Hz, 1H),

2.72 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, *J* = 15.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H).

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  50.39, 47.42, 34.71.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (192 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ -2.28, -9.78, -11.65.

*m*/*z* calcd for : 577.7920 Found: 577.7945



Figure 44: <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **3** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 45: <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum of compound g in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 46: HRMS spectrum of g

#### Purification and Characterization of h



**Electrophile used: 90% Vinylbenzyl chloride.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding Cs[C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>] in 96% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ) δ 7.49 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.74 (dd, J = 17.7, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (dd, J = 17.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 5.23 (dd, J = 10.9, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (s, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  137.67, 137.49, 134.88, 131.50, 125.59, 114.18, 36.28.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (192 MHz, Acetone) δ -2.38, -9.84, -11.53.

m/z calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>: 637.8284 Found: 637.8326



Figure 47: <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **h** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 49: <sup>11</sup>B NMR of **h** in acetone



Figure 50: HRMS spectrum of compound h



Figure 51: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of compound h

Purification and Characterization of i



**Electrophile:** (15,4S)-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-en-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate. Diethyl ether was added to the recovered oily solid until a suspension formed consisting of mostly CsOTs. Absence of CsOTs was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR before filtering. The filtrate had its solvent removed *in vacuo* before being washed with a mixture of dichloromethane and hexanes.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  6.26 – 6.22 (dd, J = 5.7, 3.0 Hz), 6.10 (dd, J = 5.7, 3.0 Hz), 6.04 (dd, J = 5.8, 2.9 Hz), 2.98 – 2.90 (m), 2.78 (m), 2.57 – 2.22 (m), 1.51 (ddd, J = 11.2, 8.2, 2.4 Hz), 1.38 – 1.20 (m), 0.79 – 0.67 (m). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  139.49, 137.72, 137.21, 132.68, 52.11, 50.51, 49.92, 48.77, 45.87, 44.08, 42.55, 38.24, 37.94, 36.47, 33.88, 33.73.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone) δ 0.03, -7.17, -8.97.

C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>11</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>: 627.8440 Found: 627.8473



Figure 53:  ${}^{13}C$  NMR of i in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 54: <sup>11</sup>B NMR of **i** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 55: HRMS spectrum of i



Figure 56: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of i

Purification and Characterization of j



**Electrophile: ethyl bromoacetate.** The recovered solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The solid was collected and dissolved in warm water. 15 equivalents of trimethylammonium hydrochloride was added and allowed to cool while stirring. The white solid was filtered and compound **j** was collected in 95% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 4.07 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.22 (s, 9H), 3.08 (s, 2H), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 165.57, 61.96, 46.39, 35.08, 14.32.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (192 MHz, Acetone) δ -2.73, -9.76, -11.79.

m/z calculated C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>: 607.8026 Found: 607.7981



Figure 57: <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **j** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone. Water signals appear at ~2.8 ppm and are broadened due to exchange with  $HNMe_{3}^{+}$  cation







Figure 60: HRMS spectrum of j



Figure 61: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of j





**Electrophile: 75% tech. grade Ethyl 4-bromocrotonate.** The recovered solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The solid was collected and dissolved in warm deionized water and filtered while hot. 5 equivalents of CsCl were added and **k** was recrystallized in 72% yield in two combined crops of crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  7.26 (dt, J = 15.5, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (dt, J = 15.4, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 3.20 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 3H), 1.25 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  164.90, 139.68, 125.02, 59.90, 32.65, 13.69. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  -2.50, -10.02, -11.84.

C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub><sup>-</sup>: 633.8182 Found: 633. 8247





Figure 64: <sup>11</sup>B NMR of **k** in Acetone



Figure 65: HRMS spectrum of k



Figure 66: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of k

Purification and Characterization of I



**Electrophile used: 3-bromopropionitrile.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding compound I in 92% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 3.13 – 3.07 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H).

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  118.85, 27.79, 14.07.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (192 MHz, Acetone) δ -1.25, -8.84, -10.77.

*m/z* calcd for: 574.7923 Found: 574.7952



Figure 67: <sup>1</sup>H NMR of I in  $d_6$ -Acetone







Figure 70: HRMS spectrum of I



Figure 71: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of I



#### Electrophile: bromoacetaldehyde diethyl acetal.

**Note: Reaction was refluxed for at least 36 hours before work up.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding compound **m** in 90% yield.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, Acetone- $d_6$ ) δ 5.13 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.61 (dq, J = 9.3, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (dq, J = 9.2, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 2H), 1.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H).

 $^{13}$ C NMR (101 MHz, Acetone)  $\delta$  98.25, 62.35, 36.27, 15.08.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, acetone)  $\delta$  -2.38, -9.82, -11.46.

*m*/z calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>2</sub>CB<sub>11</sub>Cl<sub>11</sub>: 637.8495 Found: 637.8527



Figure 73: <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **m** in d<sub>6</sub>-Acetone



Figure 75: HRMS spectrum of m



Figure 76: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of m





**Electrophile: dibromoethane.** The recovered oily solid was triturated with hexanes and filtered. The filtered solid was then washed through the filter with acetone and pumped dry yielding compound **n** in 92% yield <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, Acetonitrile- $d_3$ )  $\delta$  3.88 (ddd, J = 18.2 Hz, 2.9, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 2.84 – 2.76 (m, 2H).



Figure 77: <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **n** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN



Figure 79: <sup>11</sup>B NMR of **n** in acetonitrile



Figure 80: HRMS spectrum of **n** 



Figure 81: Zoomed in HRMS spectrum of **n** 

References

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