

## Supporting Information

### Advancing Homogeneous Catalysis for Parahydrogen-Derived Hyperpolarisation and its NMR Applications

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A range of SABRE active complexes with different NHC auxiliary ligands have been reported (see Figure 12 and 13 of the manuscript) which exhibit a variety of steric and electronic properties. These can be quantified by use of % Buried Volumes (%BurV) or Tolman Electronic Parameters (TEP) respectively (Table S1). We provide here a comparison of the different %BurV and TEP parameters for IMes-derived ligands used in SABRE hyperpolarisation experiments.

Table S1: Summary of electronic and steric properties of SABRE polarisation transfer catalysts with a variety of NHC ligands.

No.	Abbreviation	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	TEP /cm <sup>-1</sup>	BurV /%	Ref.
5	IMe	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	-	-	2054.1 <sup>‡</sup>	26.3 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
6	ImNPr <sup>t</sup> <sub>2</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-	-	2050.4 <sup>‡</sup>	26.4 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
7	ImMe <sub>2</sub> NPr <sup>t</sup> <sub>2</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-	-	2049.6 <sup>‡</sup>	38.4 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
8	ItBu	<sup>t</sup> Bu	H	<sup>t</sup> Bu	-	-	2048.9 <sup>‡</sup>	35.5 <sup>®</sup>	[155]
9	Icy	Cyclohexyl	H	Cyclohexyl	-	-	2049.5 <sup>‡</sup>	27.1 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
10	Iad	Adamantyl	H	Adamantyl	-	-	2049.6 <sup>‡</sup>	27.4 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
11	-	Ph	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	-	-	2048.3 <sup>‡</sup>	36.1 <sup>®</sup>	[155]
12	-	Mesityl	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-	-	[163]
13	-	Mesityl	H	CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	-	-	-	-	[163]
14	-	Mesityl	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Ph	-	-	-	-	[163]
15	SIImNPr <sup>t</sup> <sub>2</sub>	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-	-	2050.8 <sup>‡</sup>	28.5 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
16	ipr-NHC	Mesityl	H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-	[156]
17	Si-NHC	Mesityl	H	(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> Si(OEt) <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-	-	[156]
18	tzNHC	Mesityl	CH <sub>3</sub>	Ph	-	-	-	-	[156]
19	CAAC-NHC	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-	-	-	[156]
20	IMes	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2049.6 <sup>‡</sup>	31.6 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
							2049.6 <sup>#</sup>	31.6	[153]
							2050.7 <sup>‡</sup>	36.5 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
21	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	H	2050.5 <sup>#</sup>	30.5	[153]
22	-	H	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2050.6 <sup>#</sup>	31.6	[153]
23	-	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2049.8 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
24	IPr	H	H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	H	2050.1 <sup>#</sup>	32.6	[153]
							2050.2 <sup>‡</sup>	33.6 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
							2051.5 <sup>‡</sup>	44.5 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
25	-	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	2049.6 <sup>#</sup>	30.5	[153]
26	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	2048.9 <sup>#</sup>	30.5	[153]
27	-	F	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2051.4 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
28	-	Cl	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2051.7 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
29	-	Br	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2051.9 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
30	-	I	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2051.9 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
31	-	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2052.2 <sup>#</sup>	31.8	[153]
32	-	OTf	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2053.2 <sup>#</sup>	31.8	[153]
33	-	OAc	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2051.3 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
34	-	Ph	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2050.4 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
35	-	<sup>t</sup> Bu	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2049.6 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
36	-	OMe	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2049.3 <sup>#</sup>	31.5	[153]
37	-	NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2047.6 <sup>#</sup>	31.6	[153]
38	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	2047.2 <sup>#</sup>	31.4	[153]
39	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	2047.8 <sup>#</sup>	31.6	[153]
40	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	Cl	Cl	2052.8 <sup>#</sup>	31.7	[153]
41	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	Br	Br	2052.4 <sup>#</sup>	31.8	[153]
42	-	Cl	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	Cl	Cl	2054.9 <sup>#</sup>	31.8	[153]
43	-	H	H	CH(Et) <sub>2</sub>	H	H	2048.3 <sup>‡</sup>	-	[154]
44	-	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	-	-	[212]
45	SIMes	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	2050.8 <sup>‡</sup>	32.7 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
							2051.5 <sup>‡</sup>	36.9 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
46	SIPr	H	H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	H	2051.1 <sup>‡</sup>	35.7 <sup>®</sup>	[154],[155]
							2052.2 <sup>‡</sup>	47.0 <sup>‡</sup>	[48]
47-51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	[161]-[163]

<sup>‡</sup>These values were calculated using density functional theory involving [Ni(CO)<sub>2</sub>(NHC)] and were originally reported in Ref. no. [151]

<sup>#</sup>Ref. no. [154] presented average infrared carbonyl stretching frequencies ( $\nu_{CO,av}$ ) of [Ir(NHC)(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl]. TEP values were calculated from these in our work according to the established equation  $TEP = 0.847\nu_{CO,av} + 336$  consistent with other works.<sup>152,153</sup>

<sup>®</sup>These values were calculated in Ref. no. [155] from X-ray crystal structures of [Ir(NHC)(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl] reported in Ref. no. [152].

<sup>‡</sup>Values determined from average infrared carbonyl stretching frequencies ( $\nu_{CO,av}$ ) of [Ir(NHC)(CO)<sub>2</sub>Cl]

Note that reference numbers correspond to those that appear in the main manuscript