

## A Theoretical and Experimental Study of the Fluxional Behaviour of Molybdenum Dihydrobis- and Hydrotris-pyrazolylborates

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### Electronic supplementary information (ESI)

**NMR Spectroscopy. Solution.** The spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX 400 spectrometer (9.4 Tesla, 400.13 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 100.62 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C and 40.56 MHz for <sup>15</sup>N) with a 5-mm inverse-detection H-X probe equipped with a z-gradient coil. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$  in ppm) are given from internal solvent, CDCl<sub>3</sub> 7.26 for <sup>1</sup>H, 77.0 for <sup>13</sup>C, and for <sup>15</sup>N nitromethane (0.00) was used as external reference. Parameters for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were spectral width 4496 Hz, pulse width 7.5  $\mu$ s at an attenuation level of 0 dB and resolution 0.27 Hz per point. Parameters for <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were spectral width 26178 Hz, pulse width 10.6  $\mu$ s at an attenuation level of -6 dB and resolution 0.80 Hz per point; WALTZ-16 was used for broadband proton decoupling; the FIDS were multiplied by an exponential weighting (lb = 1 Hz) before Fourier transformation. 2D (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H) gs-COSY and inverse proton detected heteronuclear shift correlation spectra, (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) gs-HMQC, (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C), gs-HMBC and (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N) gs-HMBC were acquired and processed using standard Bruker NMR software in non-phase-sensitive mode and were carried out to assign the <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>15</sup>N signals. Gradient selection was achieved through a 5% sine truncated shaped pulse gradient of 1 ms. Selected parameters for (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H) gs-COSY were spectral width 4496 Hz, the acquisition data size was 1024 points and one transient was accumulated per increment, with a 1 s relaxation delay, for a total of 512 experiments, data processing using zero filling in the *F1* domain and shifted sine-bell apodization of factor 0 in both dimensions. Selected parameters for (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) gs-HMQC spectra were spectral width 4496 Hz for <sup>1</sup>H and 16.34 kHz for <sup>13</sup>C, 1024 x 256 data set, number of scans 2 and relaxation delay 1s. Parameters for (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) gs-HMQC spectra were spectral width 4496 Hz for <sup>1</sup>H and 26.18 kHz for <sup>13</sup>C, 1024 x 128 data set, number of scans 4, relaxation delay 1s and 60 ms delay for the evolution of the <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H long-range coupling. Parameters for (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N) gs-HMQC spectra were spectral width 4496 Hz for <sup>1</sup>H and 12.44 kHz for <sup>15</sup>N, 1024 x 512 data set, number of scans 2, relaxation delay 1s and 83 ms delay for the evolution of the <sup>15</sup>N-<sup>1</sup>H long-range coupling. The FIDs were processed using zero filling in the *F1* domain and a sine-bell window function in both dimensions was applied prior to Fourier transformation. In the gs-HMQC experiments GARP modulation of <sup>13</sup>C was used for decoupling. Variable temperature: A Bruker BVT3000 temperature unit was used to control the temperature and an exchanger to reach low temperatures. To avoid problems at low temperatures caused by air moisture, pure nitrogen was used as cooling gas stream.

**Solid state.** <sup>13</sup>C (100.73 MHz) and <sup>15</sup>N (40.60 MHz) CPMAS NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker WB 400 spectrometer at 300 K using a 4 mm DVT probehead and standard CP pulse sequences were employed. Samples were carefully packed in a 4-mm diameter cylindrical zirconia rotors with Kel-F end-caps. Operating conditions involved 3.2  $\mu$ s 90° <sup>1</sup>H pulses and decoupling field strength of 78.1 kHz by TPPM sequence. <sup>13</sup>C spectra were originally referenced to a glycine sample and then the

chemical shifts were recalculated to the Me<sub>4</sub>Si (for the carbonyl atom  $\delta$  (glycine) = 176.1 ppm) and <sup>15</sup>N spectra to <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and then converted to nitromethane scale using the relationship:  $\delta^{15}\text{N}(\text{nitromethane}) = \delta^{15}\text{N}(\text{ammonium chloride}) - 338.1$  ppm. The typical acquisition parameters for <sup>13</sup>C CPMAS were: spectral width, 40 kHz; recycle delay, 5 s; acquisition time, 30 ms; contact time, 2 ms; and spin rate, 12 kHz. In order to distinguish protonated and unprotonated carbon atoms, the NQS (Non-Quaternary Suppression) experiment by conventional cross-polarization was recorded; before the acquisition the decoupler is switched off for a very short time of 25  $\mu\text{s}$ . Typical acquisition parameters for <sup>15</sup>N CPMAS were: spectral width, 40 kHz; recycle delay, 5 s; acquisition time, 35 ms; contact time, 5 ms; and spin rate, 6 kHz.

The cross peaks observed between pairs of signals are: (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H) gs-COSY: 1.20 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 3.20 (Hs), 1.61 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 3.68 (Hs), 3.20 (Hs) $\leftrightarrow$ 3.68 (Hs), 2.07 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 5.76 (H4), 2.08 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 5.65 (H4), 2.35 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 5.65 (H4), 2.65 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 5.76 (H4). (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) gs-HMQC: 1.20 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 49.8, 1.61 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 66.4, 1.66 (Me methallyl) $\leftrightarrow$ 22.2, 2.07&2.08 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 10.5&10.7, 2.35 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 14.0, 2.65 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 13.6, 3.20 (Hs) $\leftrightarrow$ 49.8, 3.68 (Hs) $\leftrightarrow$ 66.4, 5.65 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 104.9, 5.76 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 105.1. (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C) gs-HMBC: 1.20 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 22.2 (Me methallyl), 1.20 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 66.4 (C<sub>i</sub>), 1.20 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 225.7 (CO), 1.61 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 22.2 (Me methallyl), 1.61 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 49.8 (C<sub>i</sub>), 1.61 (Ha) $\leftrightarrow$ 233.5 (CO), 1.66 (Me methallyl) $\leftrightarrow$ 49.8 (C<sub>i</sub>), 1.66 (Me methallyl) $\leftrightarrow$ 66.4 (C<sub>i</sub>), 1.66 (Me methallyl) $\leftrightarrow$ 91.8 (C<sub>c</sub>), 2.07&2.08 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 104.9&105.1 (C<sub>4</sub>), 2.07 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 142.3 (C<sub>5</sub>), 2.08 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 144.1 (C<sub>5</sub>), 2.35&2.65 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 104.9&105.1 (C<sub>4</sub>), 2.35 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 144.1 (C<sub>5</sub>), 2.35 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 149.0 (C<sub>3</sub>), 2.65 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ 151.7 (C<sub>3</sub>), 3.20 (Hs) $\leftrightarrow$ 66.4 (C<sub>i</sub>), 3.68 (Hs) $\leftrightarrow$ 49.8 (C<sub>i</sub>), 5.65 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 144.1 (C<sub>5</sub>), 5.65 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 149.0 (C<sub>3</sub>), 5.76 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 142.3 (C<sub>5</sub>), 5.76 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ 151.7 (C<sub>3</sub>). (<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N) gs-HMBC: 2.07 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ -151.1 (N1), 2.08 (5-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ -150.1 (N1), 2.35 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ -126.9 (N2), 2.65 (3-Me) $\leftrightarrow$ -130.3 (N2), 5.65 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ -150.1 (N1), 5.76 (H4) $\leftrightarrow$ -151.1 (N1).

B3LYP/LANL2DZ calculations (absolute energies in hartrees and relative energies in kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>)

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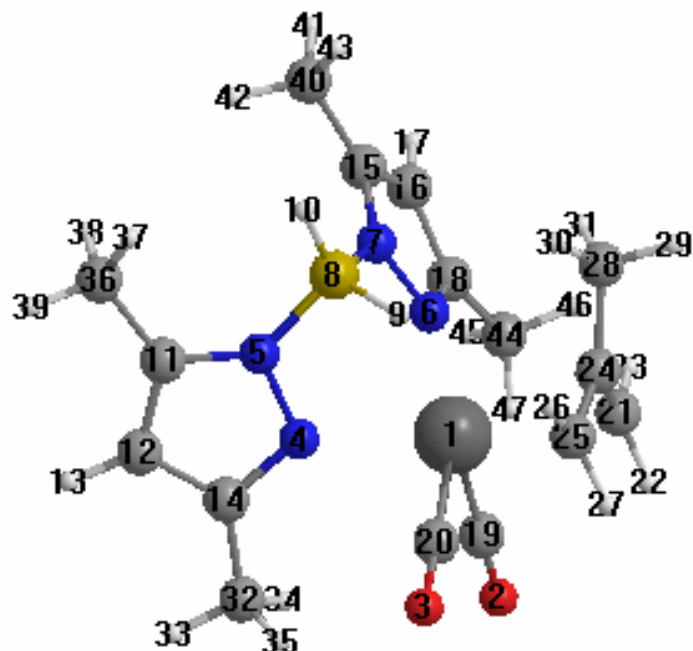
Comp.	Minimum	TS	Barrier	Barrier+ZPE
<b>1</b>	-1085.3559	-1085.3301	67.9	67.6
<b>2</b>	-1046.0459	-1046.0224	61.8	61.5
<b>3</b>	-1388.9978	-1388.9406	150.4	148.9
<b>4</b>	-1349.6874	-1349.6450	111.5	111.6
<b>5</b>	-928.0969	-928.0858	29.0	29.3
<b>6</b>	-888.7865	-888.7753	29.4	29.3
<b>7</b>	-1153.1307	-1153.0833	124.3	122.8
<b>8</b>	-1113.8213	-1113.7901	81.9	81.4

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Absolute shieldings ( $\sigma$ , ppm)

References			B3LYP/LANL2DZ
BH <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	B	161.0201
BH <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	H	33.6756
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	B	23.1862
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	C	177.0135
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	3	C	177.0329
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	4	C	177.0414
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	5	H	31.6551
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	6	H	31.6553
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	7	H	31.6579
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	8	H	31.6551
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	9	H	31.6553
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	10	H	31.6579
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	11	H	31.433
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	12	H	31.4322
BMe <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	13	H	31.4303
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	C	129.1164
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> _GIAO.log:	3	H	30.6777
CH <sub>2</sub> O_GIAO.log:	1	C	-17.0724
CH <sub>2</sub> O_GIAO.log:	2	O	-563.3824
CH <sub>2</sub> O_GIAO.log:	3	H	21.3584
CH <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	C	195.5784
CH <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	H	32.3813
H <sub>2</sub> O_GIAO.log:	1	O	298.3304
H <sub>2</sub> O_GIAO.log:	2	H	31.8177
Mo(CO) <sub>6</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	Mo	-97.5837
Mo(CO) <sub>6</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	C	-35.093
Mo(CO) <sub>6</sub> _GIAO.log:	3	O	-120.2748
MoO <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	Mo	-395.3101
MoO <sub>4</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	O	-373.802
NH <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	1	N	261.5728
NH <sub>3</sub> _GIAO.log:	2	H	32.7386
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	1	C	120.3508
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	2	H	28.1942
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	3	H	28.1942
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	4	H	28.1709
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	5	N	-198.7746
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	6	O	-574.4917
Nitromethane_GIAO.log:	7	O	-574.4041

TMS_GIAO.log:	1	Si	9.1226
TMS_GIAO.log:	2	C	193.1862
TMS_GIAO.log:	6	H	32.77



1 Mo -310.892  
 2 O -162.3539  
 3 O -124.5024  
 4 N -40.4161  
 5 N -6.3602  
 6 N -47.0793  
 7 N -6.1354  
 8 B 120.6772  
 9 H 33.8813  
 10 H 29.5183  
 11 C 44.2177  
 12 C 83.9517  
 13 H 26.5562  
 14 C 31.9432  
 15 C 41.8199  
 16 C 84.6684  
 17 H 26.5681  
 18 C 36.1805  
 19 C -75.3211  
 20 C -60.9744  
 21 C 112.7834  
 22 H 30.3575  
 23 H 28.6384  
 24 C 86.7389

25 C 132.6762  
 26 H 29.5995  
 27 H 31.1315  
 28 C 164.4957  
 29 H 30.6252  
 30 H 31.132  
 31 H 31.5583  
 32 C 173.409  
 33 H 30.6465  
 34 H 29.8556  
 35 H 29.4688  
 36 C 175.6598  
 37 H 30.5076  
 38 H 30.9617  
 39 H 30.8475  
 40 C 175.1556  
 41 H 30.9257  
 42 H 30.7927  
 43 H 30.6284  
 44 C 172.7874  
 45 H 30.6521  
 46 H 30.539  
 47 H 29.9157

Presence/absence matrix

Comp.	Barrier	Me(allyl)	Me(pyrazole)	tris/bis
1	67.9	1	1	0
2	61.8	0	1	0
3	150.4	1	1	1
4	111.5	0	1	1
5	29.0	1	0	0
6	29.4	0	0	0
7	124.3	1	0	1
8	81.9	0	0	1

**Regression Summary**

**Barrier+ZPE vs. 3 Independents**

Count	8
Num. Missing	0
R	.973
R Squared	.947
Adjusted R Squared	.908
RMS Residual	13.206

**Regression Coefficients**

**Barrier+ZPE vs. 3 Independents**

	Coefficient	Std. Error	Std. Coeff.	t-Value	P-Value
Intercept	20.475	9.338	20.475	2.193	.0934
allyl	21.200	9.338	.261	2.270	.0857
pz	31.700	9.338	.390	3.395	.0274
bis	69.250	9.338	.852	7.416	.0018

**Regression Summary**

**Barrier+ZPE vs. 5 Independents**

Count	8
Num. Missing	0
R	.999
R Squared	.999
Adjusted R Squared	.996
RMS Residual	2.599

**Regression Coefficients**

**Barrier+ZPE vs. 5 Independents**

	Coefficient	Std. Error	Std. Coeff.	t-Value	P-Value
Intercept	27.775	2.250	27.775	12.342	.0065
pz	35.250	2.599	.434	13.565	.0054
bis	54.650	3.183	.673	17.172	.0034
ally*bis	36.300	3.675	.387	9.878	.0101
pz*bis	-7.100	3.675	-.076	-1.932	.1931
allyl	3.050	2.599	.038	1.174	.3614