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## **Supporting Informations for:**

# Silver(I)-organophosphane complexes of electron withdrawing CF<sub>3</sub>- or NO<sub>2</sub>- substituted scorpionate ligands

Maura Pellei,<sup>a</sup> Simone Alidori,<sup>a</sup> Grazia Papini,<sup>a</sup> Giancarlo Gioia Lobbia,<sup>a</sup> John D. Gorden,<sup>b</sup> H. V. Rasika Dias,<sup>b</sup> and Carlo Santini<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche, Università di Camerino, via S. Agostino 1, 62032 Camerino (MC), Italy. Email: carlo.santini@unicam.it

#### Material and methods

Elemental analyses (C,H,N,S) were performed in house with a Fisons Instruments 1108 CHNS-O Elemental Analyser. Melting points were taken on an SMP3 Stuart Scientific Instrument. IR spectra were recorded from 4000 to 100 cm<sup>-1</sup> with a Perkin-Elmer System 2000 FT-IR instrument. IR annotations used: m = medium, mbr = medium broad, s = strong, sbr = strong broad, sh = shoulder, w = weak. <sup>1</sup>H-, <sup>13</sup>C-, <sup>19</sup>F- and <sup>31</sup>P-NMR spectra were recorded on a Oxford-400 Varian spectrometer (400.4 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H, 100.1 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C, 376.8 MHz for <sup>19</sup>F, and 162.1 MHz for <sup>31</sup>P). Chemical shifts for <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra are relative to internal Me<sub>4</sub>Si. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were run with <sup>1</sup>H decoupling, and the chemical shifts are reported in ppm vs Me<sub>4</sub>Si. <sup>19</sup>F NMR and <sup>31</sup>P NMR chemical shifts were referenced to an external CFCl<sub>3</sub> and an 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> standard, respectively. The <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopic data were accumulated with <sup>1</sup>H decoupling. NMR annotations used: d = doublet, dd = doublet doublet, dbr = broad doublet, m = multiplet, mbr = broad multiplet, s = singlet, sbr = broad singlet, t = triplet. Electrospray mass spectra (ESIMS) were obtained in positive- or negative-ion mode on a Series 1100 MSD detector HP spectrometer, using an acetone mobile phase. The compounds were added to the reagent grade methanol to give solutions of approximate concentration 0.1 mM. These solutions were injected (1 µl) into the spectrometer via a HPLC HP 1090 Series II fitted with an autosampler. The pump delivered the solutions to the mass spectrometer source at a flow rate of 300 µl min<sup>-1</sup>, and nitrogen was employed both as a drying and nebulizing gas. Capillary voltages were typically 4000 V and 3500 V for the positive- and negative-ion mode, respectively. Confirmation of all major species in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Box 19065, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019-0065. E-mail: dias@uta.edu

this ESIMS study was aided by comparison of the observed and predicted isotope distribution patterns, the latter calculated using the IsoPro 3.0 computer program.<sup>1</sup>

### Syntheses

**K**[**H**<sub>2</sub>**B**(3-(**NO**<sub>2</sub>)**p**z)<sub>2</sub>] (1). IR (Nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3143w, 3122w (CH), 2423m, 2381m, 2266m, 2201w (BH), 1667m (C=C + C=N), 1530s ( $v_{asym}$  NO<sub>2</sub>), 1301s ( $v_{sym}$  NO<sub>2</sub>), 616m (NO<sub>2</sub>), 442m. ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 237 (100) [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>.

**K**[**H**<sub>2</sub>**B**(**3**-(**CF**<sub>3</sub>)**pz**)<sub>2</sub>] (**2**). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3183m (CH), 2407s, 2277m (BH), 1508m (C=C + C=N), 667s, 652sh, 626m, 552m, 517w, 458br, 382s, 338w, 280w. ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), m/z (%): 283 (100) [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(CF<sub>3</sub>)**pz**)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>, 605 (20) [2 H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(CF<sub>3</sub>)**pz**)<sub>2</sub> + K]<sup>-</sup>.

{[ $H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2$ ] $Ag[P(C_6H_5)_3]_2$ } (3). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3164w (CH), 2417m, 2380w (BH), 1535s (C=C + C=N), 1503m (v<sub>asym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 1303s (v<sub>sym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 617m (NO<sub>2</sub>), 542m, 512s, 500sbr, 487sbr (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 632 (100) {Ag[P(C\_6H\_5)\_3]\_2}<sup>+</sup> ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 237 (100) [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>.

 $\{[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]Ag[P(o-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]\}\$  (4). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3149w, 3125w, 3044w (CH), 2441m, 2364m (BH), 1588m, 1531s (C=C + C=N), 1489s (v<sub>asym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 1306s (v<sub>sym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 615m (NO<sub>2</sub>), 565m, 558sh, 522m, 515m, 464s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 717 (100)  $\{Ag[P(o-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}^+$ . ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 237 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]^-$ .

 $\{[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]Ag[P(m-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]\}$  (5). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3142w, 3119w, 3041w (CH), 2453m, 2389m (BH), 1588m, 1530s (C=C + C=N), 1489s (v<sub>asym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 1307s (v<sub>sym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 614w (NO<sub>2</sub>), 548s, 538sh, 471m, 454s, 451s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 717 (100)  $\{Ag[P(m-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}^+$ . ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 237 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]^-$ .

{[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]Ag[P(p-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]} (6). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3142w (CH), 2458m, 2386m (BH), 1597m, 1537s (C=C + C=N), 1495s (v<sub>asym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 1309s (v<sub>sym</sub> NO<sub>2</sub>), 614m (NO<sub>2</sub>), 520s, 505s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), m/z (%): 717 (100) {Ag[P(p-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>}<sup>+</sup>. ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), m/z (%): 237 (100) [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>.

{[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]Ag[PCH<sub>3</sub>(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]} (7). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3151w, 3147w, 3051w (CH), 2426m, 2412m (BH), 1585w, 1523m (C=C + C=N), 1483s ( $v_{asym}$  NO<sub>2</sub>), 1298s ( $v_{sym}$  NO<sub>2</sub>), 617m (NO<sub>2</sub>), 498s, 479s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 508 (100) {Ag[P(CH<sub>3</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>}<sup>+</sup>. ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 237 (100) [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>-</sup>.

 $\{[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]Ag[P(C_6H_5)_3]_2\}$  (8). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3173w (CH), 2396m (BH), 1581m (C=C + C=N), 540s, 509s, 495s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 632 (100)  $\{Ag[P(C_6H_5)_3]_2\}^+$  ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 283 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]^-$ .

 $\{[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]Ag[P(o-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]\}$  (9). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3146w (CH), 2436m, 2352m (BH), 1589s (C=C + C=N), 565s, 557s, 515m, 462s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 717 (100)  $\{Ag[P(o-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}^+$  ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 283 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]^-$ .

 $\{[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]Ag[P(m-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}$  (10). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3161w (CH), 2407m, 2372m (BH), 1590s (C=C + C=N), 544s, 519sh, 445s (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 717 (100)  $\{Ag[P(m-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}^+$ . ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 283 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]^-$ .

 $\{[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]Ag[P(p-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}$  (11). IR (nujol, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3108w (CH), 2403mbr, 2386m (BH), 1597s (C=C + C=N), 552w, 515sbr (R<sub>3</sub>P). ESIMS (major positive-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 717 (100)  $\{Ag[P(p-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]_2\}^+$ . ESIMS (major negative-ions, CH<sub>3</sub>OH), *m/z* (%): 283 (100)  $[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]^-$ , 674 (20)  $[2H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2 + Ag]^-$ .

#### X-ray crystallography

A suitable crystal of each sample covered with a layer of hydrocarbon oil was selected and mounted with paratone-N oil on a cryo-loop, and immediately placed in the low-temperature nitrogen stream. The X-ray intensity data of K[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>], [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]Ag[P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]Ag[P(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], and [H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(CF<sub>3</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>]Ag[P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] were measured at 100(2) K on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD area detector system equipped with a Oxford Cryosystems 700 Series Cryostream cooler, a graphite monochromator, and a Mo K $\alpha$  fine-focus sealed tube ( $\lambda$  = 0.710 73 Å). The detector was placed at a distance of 5.995 cm from the crystal. The data frames were integrated

with the Bruker SAINT-Plus software package. Data were corrected for absorption effects using a multi-scan technique (SADABS).<sup>2</sup> The X-ray intensity data of K[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(CF<sub>3</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>] were measured at 193(2) K on a Siemens P4 diffractometer equipped with graphite monochromated Mo Ka radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.710 73 Å). Structures were solved and refined using Bruker SHELXTL (Version 6.14) software package.<sup>2</sup> K[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(NO<sub>2</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>] crystallizes in the monoclinic P2<sub>1</sub>/c space group. The  $\beta$ -angle (90.073(1)°) was uncomfortably closer to 90° indicating possible orthorhombic cell choice. However, data merging was relatively poor and the structure solution was difficult when the orthorhombic cell was used as compared to the monoclinic option.  $K[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]$  was solved in  $P2_1/c$  using direct methods. All the non hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms on the pyrazolyl rings and on boron were located from the difference map and included, and refined isotropically. Final check using PLATON did not identify a higher symmetry alternative.<sup>3</sup> K[H<sub>2</sub>B(3-(CF<sub>3</sub>)pz)<sub>2</sub>] structure was solved using direct methods. All the non hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms on the boron were located from the difference map and included, and refined isotropically. Pyrazolyl ring hydrogen atoms were placed at calculated positions and refined using a riding model. The silver adducts  $[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]Ag[P(C_6H_5)_3]_2$  and  $[H_2B(3-(NO_2)pz)_2]Ag[P(p-C_6H_4CH_3)_3]$ crystallize in the monoclinic crystal system as well.  $[H_2B(3-(CF_3)pz)_2]Ag[P(C_6H_5)_3]$  crystallizes in P-1 space group, and there are two chemically similar molecules in the asymmetric unit. Their structures were solved using direct methods. All the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms on boron were located from the difference map and included. Further details are in the cif files.

#### References

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