

## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Polymorphs, enantiomorphs, chirality and helicity in $[\text{Rh}\{N,O\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ complexes with $\{N,O\}$ = salicylaldiminato Schiff base or aminocarboxylato ligands

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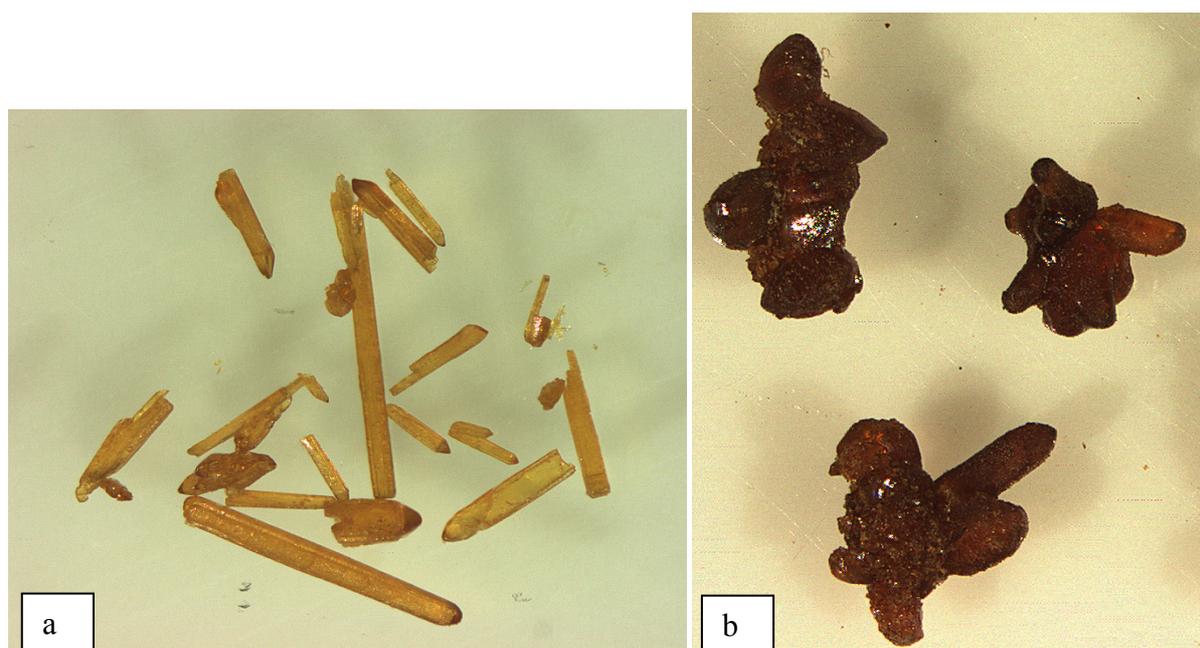
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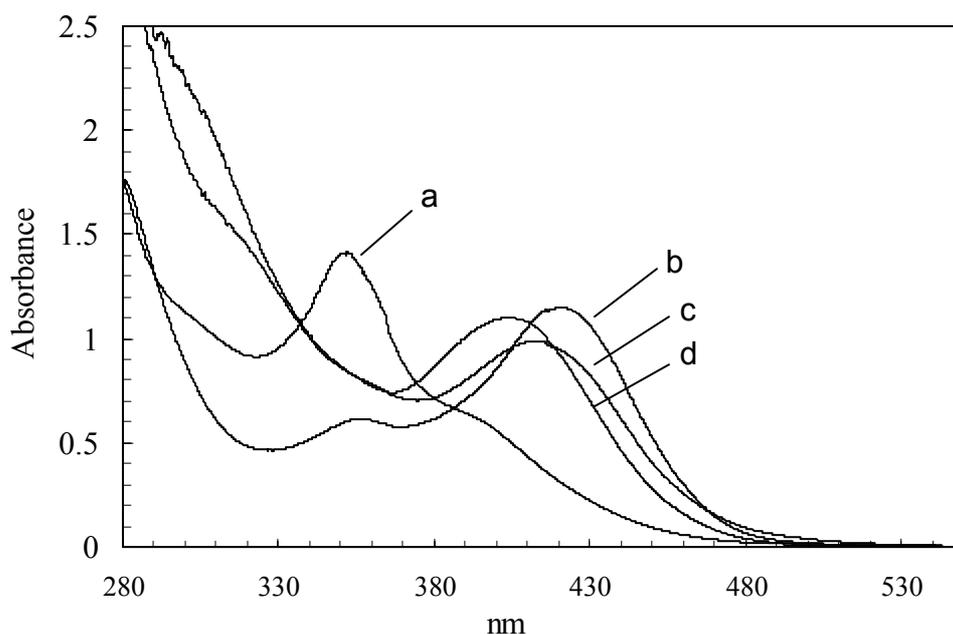
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### Crystal pictures of **3R/3S** and **3rac**



**Fig. S1** (a) Needle-shaped crystals of **3R** and **3S** (tetragonal  $P4_3$  and  $P4_1$ , respectively); (b) block-shaped crystals of **3rac** (monoclinic  $P2_1/c$ ).

## UV/VIS Absorption spectroscopy



**Figure S2** UV-Vis. absorption spectra of (a)  $[\text{RhCl}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  ( $3.65 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ), (b)  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  ( $2.98 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ), (c)  $[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salen})]$  (**1**) ( $1.27 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) and (d)  $[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salophen})]$  (**2**) ( $1.22 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) in  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

Figure S1 shows the absorption spectra of **1** and **2** together with those for  $[\text{RhCl}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  for comparison studies. The spectral data are listed in Table S1 and their assignments are made based on the reported literature (see references in paper). The spectra of the  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})$ -Schiff base complexes are identical with each other and different from those of  $[\text{RhCl}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  (Fig. S1).

The absorption spectrum of  $[\text{RhCl}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  shows three common characteristic bands: (i) a very strong band at higher energy ( $<320 \text{ nm}$ ), associated to the intra-ligand  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition of  $(\eta^4\text{-cod})$  moiety, (ii) a strong broad band at  $330\text{-}380 \text{ nm}$  with absorption maximum at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 352 \text{ nm}$  ( $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 3870 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ), associated to the charge transfer (CT) transition based on the formation of the coordinative  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})^+$  bond and (iii) a broad shoulder at  $380\text{-}500 \text{ nm}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} \sim 396 \text{ nm}$ ), associated to the CT transition based on the formation of the more ionic  $[\text{RhCl}]$  bond. Similarly, spectrum of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  shows three separate bands, a very strong band at  $<320 \text{ nm}$  for intra-ligand  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transition, a strong band at  $330\text{-}380 \text{ nm}$  with  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 356 \text{ nm}$  ( $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 2066 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ), attributed to the CT due to  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]^+$  and a relatively broad and stronger band at  $380\text{-}500 \text{ nm}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 421 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 3854 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for CT transition between  $\text{Rh}(\text{I})$  and acetate in the formation of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_3)]$ .

A very strong band at higher energy ( $<360 \text{ nm}$ ), associated to the intra-ligand  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions of the imino group of the Schiff base in addition to the  $(\eta^4\text{-cod})$  moiety, is observed in  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})$ -Schiff base complexes (see Table S1). Further, a strong broad band, observed at  $400\text{-}500 \text{ nm}$  ( $\lambda_{\text{max}}/\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 403 \text{ nm}/8655 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for **1**,  $413 \text{ nm}/8077 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for **2**,  $411 \text{ nm}/13150 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for **4** and  $416 \text{ nm}/3828 \text{ l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$  for **5**), is assigned to the ct transition between  $\text{Rh}(\text{I})$  and diminato in the formation of  $[\text{Rh}(\text{dimitato})]$  (dimitato = anion of Schiff base). However, the CT transition in the  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]^+$  moiety

likely shifts to higher energy and overlaps with the nearby very strong intra-ligand  $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions, and are not detectable separately in  $\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})$ -Schiff base complexes.

The absorption spectra demonstrate that the CT transition due to  $[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]^+$  moieties appears at almost the same positions in  $[\text{RhCl}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  and  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$ , while the transition due to  $[\text{Rh}(\text{Cl}/\text{acetate})]$  moieties is found at different positions. These results are in good agreement with the idea of replacement of  $\text{Cl}^-$  by acetate in  $[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$ . However, the acetato ligand ( $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2^-$ ) is further replaced by diminato in **1**, **2**, **4** and **5**, accompanied by a change in the corresponding CT bands of the absorption spectra (see Table S1 and Fig. S1).

**Table S1** UV/Vis spectral data of complexes **1**, **2**, **4**, **5** at 25 °C.<sup>a</sup>

Complexes (concentrations)	$\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ transition	$[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ CT	$[\text{Rh}(\text{Cl}/\text{acetato}/\text{dinato})]$ CT
$[(\eta^4\text{-cod})\text{RhCl}]_2$ ( $3.65 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	< 320 nm	330-380 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 352 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 3870$	380-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} \sim 396 \text{ nm}$ (sh)
$[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})(\text{O}_2\text{CCH}_3)]_2$ ( $2.98 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	< 320 nm	330-380 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 356 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 2066$	380-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 421 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 3854$
$[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salen})]$ ( <b>1</b> ) ( $1.27 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	< 360 nm	< 360 nm	400-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 403 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 8655$
$[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salophen})]$ ( <b>2</b> ) ( $1.22 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>b</sup>	< 360 nm	< 360 nm	400-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 413 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 8077$
$[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\{\text{(R)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl-2-oxo-1-naphthaldinato-}\kappa^2\text{N,O}\}]$ ( <b>4</b> ) ( $5.97 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>c</sup>	< 360 nm	< 360 nm	400-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 411 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 13150$
$[\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\{\text{N-(o-toluene)-2-oxo-1-naphthaldinato-}\kappa^2\text{N,O}\}]$ ( <b>5</b> ) ( $2.12 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ mol} \cdot \text{l}^{-1}$ ) <sup>c</sup>	< 360 nm	< 360 nm	400-500 nm $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 416 \text{ nm}$ , $\epsilon_{\text{max}} = 3828$

<sup>a</sup> Molar absorptivity ( $\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ ) values are in  $\text{l} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ; <sup>b</sup> in  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$ ; <sup>c</sup> in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ; sh = shoulder.

## Infrared spectroscopy

The most common characteristics IR-bands of the complexes are reported in the experimental section and their assignments are made based on the reported literature (see references in paper). The  $\nu\text{C}=\text{N}$  bands are observed at  $1600\text{-}1620 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , while the  $\nu\text{C}=\text{C}$  occurs at  $1578\text{-}1526 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  in Rh-Schiff base complexes. The aromatic  $\nu\text{C}-\text{H}$  bands are observed in the range of  $3075\text{-}3000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Two new bands (which are absent in the free ligands) are observed around  $675\text{-}680 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $459\text{-}465 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which are assigned to the  $\nu\text{Rh}-\text{N}$  and  $\nu\text{Rh}-\text{O}$ , respectively.

Two very strong carbonyl bands are observed at  $1561 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{CO}_2_{\text{asy}}$ ) and  $1420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{CO}_2_{\text{sy}}$ ) in the starting material  $[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$  and correspond to the bridging  $\kappa\text{O}:\text{O}'$ -coordination ( $\eta^2$ -coordination) of the carboxylate to the Rh(I) atom in the dimeric structure. These bands obviously disappeared in the prepared complexes. Further, the  $\nu\text{O}-\text{H}$

stretching band of the free Schiff bases (usually observed at 3250-3254  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) disappears in the Rh-Schiff base complexes, which indicates dissociation of the protic hydrogen and formation of a more ionic bond between Rh(I) and the hydroxyl oxygen atom.

The Rh-amino acid complex (**3**) shows two very strong carbonyl bands at 1625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{CO}_2$   $_{\text{asy}}$ ) and 1366  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{CO}_2$   $_{\text{sy}}$ ), correspond to the  $\kappa\text{N},\text{O}$ -coordination ( $\eta^1\text{-CO}_2$  coordination) of the amino-carboxylate to the Rh(I) atom. This complex also exhibits the  $\nu\text{N-H}$  stretching bands at 3142  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{NH}_{\text{asy}}$ ) and 3097  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  ( $\nu\text{NH}_{\text{sy}}$ ). Indeed, the absence of any  $\nu\text{O-H}$  stretching band (usually observed at 3450-3550  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for hydrogen bonded O-H group of free amino acid) indicates the dissociation of the proton and formation of ionic bond between Rh(I) and the hydroxyl oxygen atom in **3**.

**Table S2** FT-IR spectral data of  $[\text{Rh}\{\text{N},\text{O}\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$  complexes (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>a,b</sup>

Complexes	$\nu\text{O-H}$	$\nu\text{H-Ar}$	$\nu\text{C=N}$	$\nu\text{C=C}$	$\nu\text{C-O}$	$\nu\text{Rh-N}$	$\nu\text{Rh-O}$
$[\text{Rh}(\text{O}_2\text{CMe})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$		-	-		1561vs, 1420vs	-	
$\text{H}_2\text{salen}$	3254w	3052w, 3010w, 2930w, 2901w, 2868w	1636vs 1611vs	1578vs, 1498s	-	-	-
$[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salen})]$ ( <b>1</b> )	-	3075w, 3049w, 3011m, 2930s, 2876m, 2829w	1607vs	1575sh 1530s	-	677w	462w
$\text{H}_2\text{salophen}$	3250w	3054s, 3010m, 2932s, 2880m, 2828w	1613vs 1586s	1561vs, 1482s	-	-	-
$[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salophen})]$ ( <b>2</b> )		3075w, 3045w, 3019m, 2930s, 2874m, 2828w	1609vs	1578vs, 1526s	-	675w	460w
$[\text{Rh}((R)\text{-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl-2-oxo-1-naphthaldiminato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ ( <b>4</b> )		3066, 3042m	1620vs	1578vs	-	675w	465w
$[\text{Rh}(\text{N-(o-tolyl)-2-oxo-1-naphthaldiminato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ ( <b>5</b> )		3047, 3010w	1615, 1606vs	1574, 1534vs		679w	459w

Complexes	$\nu\text{N-H}_{\text{asy}}$	$\nu\text{N-H}_{\text{sy}}$	$\nu\text{H-Ar}$	$\nu\text{C-H}$	$\nu\text{CO}_2^-_{\text{asy}}$	$\delta\text{N-H}$	$\nu\text{CH}_2$	$\nu\text{CO}_2^-_{\text{sy}}$
$[\text{Rh}(\text{N-phenylglycinate})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ ( <b>3rac</b> )	3142m	3097m	3053s	2943s	1616vs	1600s	1491s	1366s

<sup>a</sup> KBr plates.

<sup>b</sup> vs: very strong, s: strong, m: medium, w: weak, sh shoulder.

## NMR spectroscopy

**Table S3**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data ( $\delta/\text{ppm}$ ) for the olefinic protons in  $\text{Rh}\{N,O\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})$  complexes in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

Complex	<i>trans</i> to N		<i>trans</i> to O		References
	'left'	'right' <sup>a</sup>	'left'	'right' <sup>a</sup>	
$[\{\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod})\}_2(\text{salen})]$ <b>1</b>	4.40 (4.28 <sup>d</sup> )		3.58 (3.78 <sup>d</sup> )		This work
$[\text{Rh}(\text{sal}=\text{N-}i>p\text{-tol})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$	4.60		3.20		1
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{NH})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$	4.46		3.87		2
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{dcbi})](\text{NHEt}_3)$	4.37		4.05		
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-aminophenolato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>	4.16		3.88		4
$[\text{Rh}\{(R)\text{-}N\text{-}(p\text{-methoxyphenyl})\text{ethyl-}2\text{-oxo-}1\text{-naphthalaldiminato}\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>4</b>	4.61		3.91		This work
$[\text{Rh}(\text{SB1})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>e</sup>	4.54		3.72		5
$[\text{Rh}\{N,O\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>b</sup>	4.78		3.33		6
$[\text{Rh}(\text{sal}=\text{N-}i>p\text{-tol})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$	4.62		3.34	2.66	1
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{salophen})]$ <b>2</b>	4.54	4.37	3.53	2.45	This work
$[\text{Rh}\{N\text{-}(o\text{-tolyl})\text{-}2\text{-oxo-}1\text{-naphthalaldiminato}\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>5</b>	4.59	4.53	3.32	2.62	This work
$[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-hp}/\text{-mhp})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$ <sup>c</sup>	5.38/5.33	5.11/5.04	4.12/4.28	3.29/2.91	7
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\mu\text{-NH}\{p\text{-tolyl}\})(\mu\text{-OMe})]$ <sup>b</sup>	3.93	3.80	3.69	3.24	2
$[\text{Rh}(\text{SB2})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>f</sup>	4.50	4.42	4.29	3.73	5
$[\text{Rh}(N\text{-phenylglycinato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>3</b>			3.58 (3.60 <sup>d</sup> )		This work, 8
$[\text{Rh}(L\text{-methylglycinato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>			3.92		8
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-aminobenzoato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>			3.93		4

<sup>a</sup> 'left' and 'right' is an arbitrary assignment for olefin protons to either side of a plane bisecting the C=C bond. <sup>b</sup> in benzene- $d_6$ ; <sup>c</sup> in toluene- $d_8$ ; <sup>d</sup> in dms- $d_6$ . <sup>e</sup> SB1 = (*R*)-*N*-1-(phenyl)ethylsalicylaldiminato. <sup>f</sup> SB2 = (*R*)-*N*-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethylsalicylaldiminato.

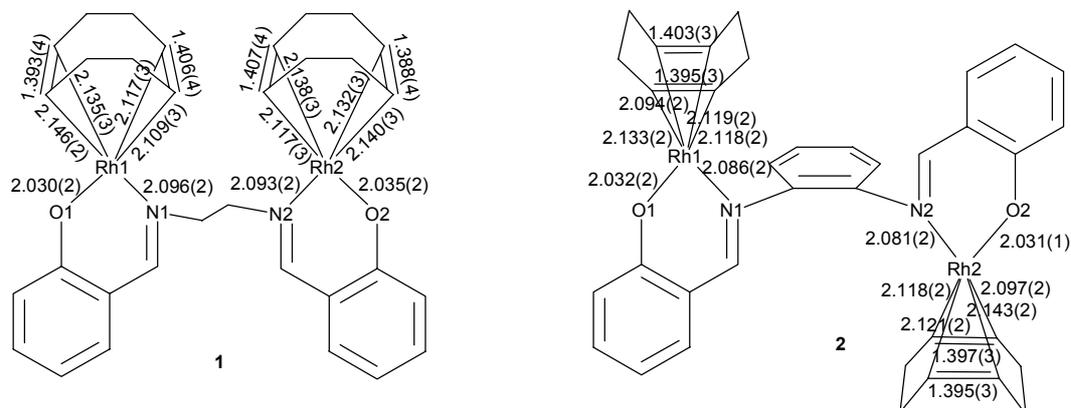
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**Table S4**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data ( $\delta/\text{ppm}$ ) and  $J(^{103}\text{Rh}-^{13}\text{C})/\text{Hz}$  in the cod region in  $\text{Rh}\{N,O\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})$  complexes in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

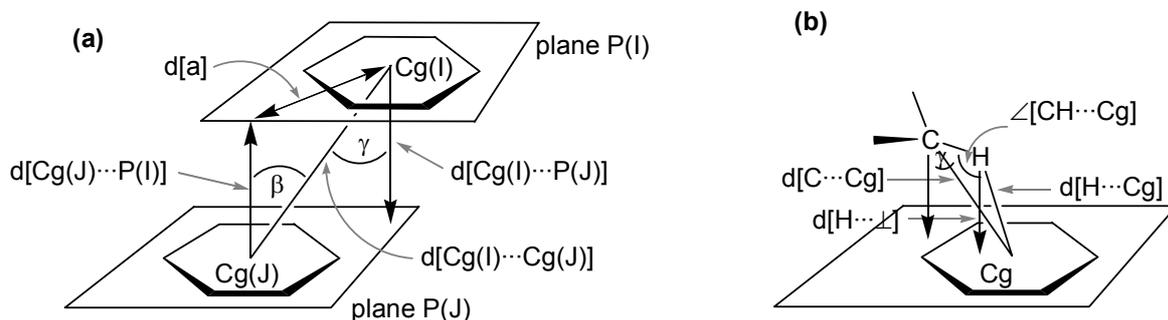
Complex	Methylene carbons (singlets)	Olefin carbons (doublets) ( $J(^{103}\text{Rh}-^{13}\text{C})$ in parentheses)				Ref.
		<i>trans</i> to N		<i>trans</i> to O		
		'left'	'right' <sup>a</sup>	'left'	'right' <sup>a</sup>	
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{salen})]$ <b>1</b>	31.7, 28.8	85.5 (11.9)		71.2 (14.2)		Tw
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{salen})]$	31.8, 28.8	85.5 (12.5)		71.2 (15.0)		1
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-O}_2\text{NC}_6\text{H}_4\text{NH})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$	31.1, 29.4	84.4 (11.0)		71.8 (11.0)		2
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{dcbi})](\text{NHEt}_3)$	31.2, 30.0	82.7 (13.0)		71.7 (14.0)		3
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-aminophenolato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>	30.4br, 29.5br	79.6br		68.9br		4
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{salophen})]$ <b>2</b>	32.6, 30.3, 29.5, 27.9	85.8 (11.7)	84.3 (11.8)	74.3 (14.6)	69.7 (14.4)	Tw
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\text{salophen})]$	32.5, 30.3, 29.5, 27.9	85.8 (12.5)	84.3 (12.5)	74.3 (12.5)	69.7 (15.0)	1
$[\text{Rh}\{(R)\text{-}N\text{-}(4\text{-methoxyphenyl})\text{ethyl-2-oxo-1-naphthaldiminato}\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>4</b>	31.8, 31.1, 28.9, 28.3	84.7 (11.8)	84.1 (11.7)	73.3 (14.2)	71.1 (14.3)	Tw
$[\text{Rh}\{N\text{-}(o\text{-tolyl})\text{-2-oxo-1-naphthaldiminato}\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>5</b>	30.7, 30.3, 28.2, 27.9	83.7 (12.2)	83.2 (11.8)	73.4 (14.1)	72.3 (14.1)	Tw
$[\text{Rh}(\text{SB1})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>e</sup>	32.5, 32.0, 29.6, 29.2	85.7 (12.1)	85.3 (12.3)	73.5 (14.2)	71.4 (14.6)	5
$[\text{Rh}\{N,O\}(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>b</sup>	32.1, 31.9, 29.6, 29.5	81.6	81.3	75.4	75.1	6
$[\text{Rh}(\mu\text{-hp}/\text{-mhp})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]_2$ <sup>c</sup>	35.0, 33.0, 30.1, 29.0 /33.4, 32.1, 30.5, 29.2	89.1 /87.7	77.2 /76.6	74.4 /72.8	70.9 /72.2	7
$[(\text{Rh}(\eta^4\text{-cod}))_2(\mu\text{-NH}\{p\text{-tolyl}\})(\mu\text{-OMe})]$ <sup>b</sup>	32.7, 32.2, 29.4, 29.0	80.1 (12.0)	78.6 (13.0)	73.9 (14.0)	70.2 (15.0)	2
$[\text{Rh}(N\text{-phenylglycinato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <b>3</b>	30.1 29.7 <sup>d</sup>	78.2br 77.9br <sup>d</sup>				Tw 8
$[\text{Rh}(L\text{-methylglycinato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>	30.1	79.6br		72.1br		8
$[\text{Rh}(o\text{-aminobenzoato})(\eta^4\text{-cod})]$ <sup>d</sup>	29.6	77.1br				4

<sup>a</sup> 'left' and 'right' is an arbitrary assignment for the olefin carbons to either side of a plane bisecting the C=C bond. <sup>b</sup> in benzene- $d_6$ . <sup>c</sup> in toluene- $d_8$ . <sup>d</sup> in dms- $d_6$ . <sup>e</sup> SB1 = (*R*)-*N*-1-(phenyl)ethylsalicylaldiminato. <sup>f</sup> SB2 = (*R*)-*N*-1-(2-methoxyphenyl)ethylsalicylaldiminato. br = broad signal. Tw = This work.

## Rh-cod bond distances



**Scheme S1** Bond distances (Å) for Rh–C<sub>cod</sub>, C=C<sub>cod</sub>, Rh–N and Rh–O in **1** and **2** to document the slightly asymmetrical binding of the cyclooctadiene (cod) ligands due to the different *trans* nitrogen or oxygen donor atoms.



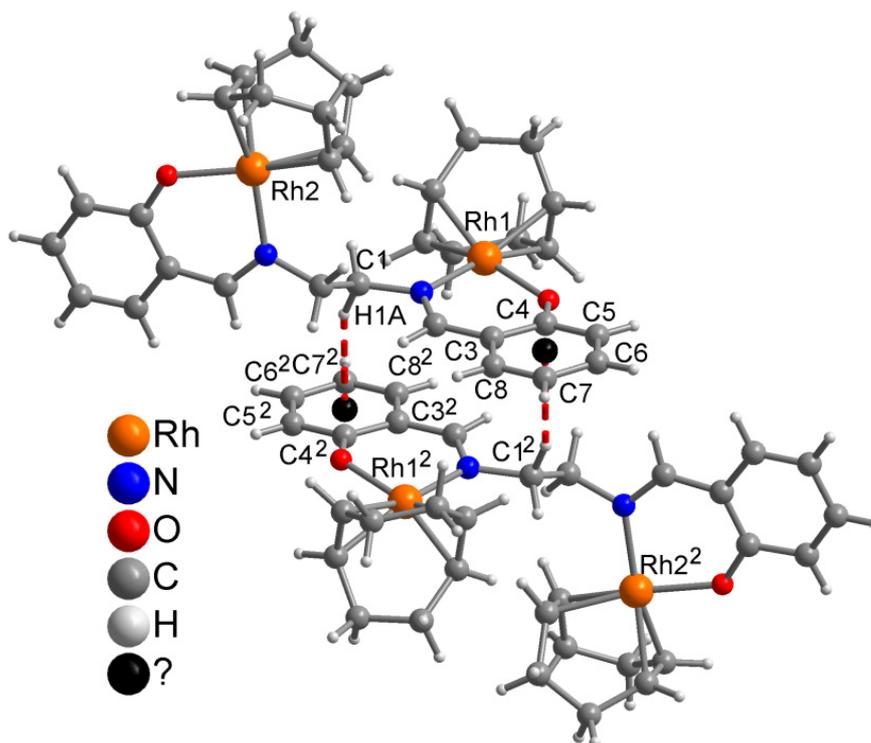
**Scheme S2** Graphical presentation of the parameters used in Table S5 for the description of (a)  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking and (b) CH- $\pi$  interactions.

## Supramolecular $\pi$ - $\pi$ and CH- $\pi$ interactions

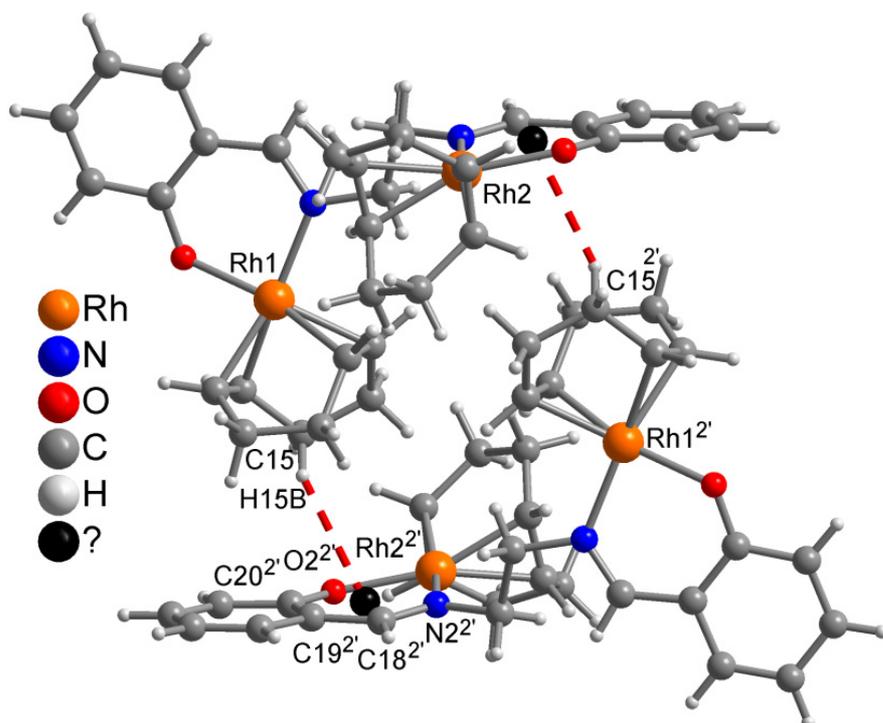
**Table S5** Distances (d/Å) and angles ( $^{\circ}$ ) for the  $\pi$ -contacts in the crystal structures of **1**, **2**, **4** and **5**.<sup>a</sup>

<b><math>\pi</math>-<math>\pi</math> interactions</b>							
compound, ring(I)···ring(J)	d[Cg(I)···Cg(J)] <sup>b</sup>	$\alpha$ <sup>c</sup>	$\beta$ <sup>d</sup>	$\gamma$ <sup>e</sup>	d[Cg(I)···P(J)] <sup>f</sup>	d[Cg(J)···P(I)] <sup>g</sup>	d[a] <sup>h</sup>
<b>1</b> ,							
Rh1-metallacycle···Rh1-metallacycle <sup>2</sup> Rh1-O1C4C3C2N1·· Rh1-O1C4C3C2N1 <sup>2</sup>	3.99	0	32.5	32.5	3.37	3.37	2.15
Rh2-metallacycle···Rh2-metallacycle <sup>2''''</sup> Rh2-O2C20C19C18·· Rh2O2C20C19C18 <sup>2''''</sup>	3.85	0	24.8	24.8	3.50	3.50	1.62
Symmetry transformations: 2 = 1-x, -y, -z; 2'''' = 2-x, 1-y, 1-z.							
<b>CH-<math>\pi</math> interactions</b>							
compound, ligand-C-H···ring	d[H···Cg] <sup>i</sup>	d[H··· $\perp$ ] <sup>j</sup>	$\gamma$ <sup>k</sup>	$\angle$ [CH···Cg] <sup>l</sup>	d[C···Cg] <sup>m</sup>		
<b>1</b> ,							
C1-H1A···ringC3 <sup>2</sup> -C8 <sup>2</sup>	2.62	2.60	6.8	159	3.56 (see Fig. S2)		
C15-H15B···(Rh2O2C20C19C18) <sup>2'</sup>	2.79	2.62	19.7	131	3.51 (see Fig. S3)		
C27-H27A···ringC3 <sup>2''</sup> -C8 <sup>2''</sup>	2.94	2.88	12.4	141	3.76 (see Fig. S4)		
Symmetry transformations: 2 = 1-x, -y, 2' = 2-x, -y, -z; 2'' = 2-x, -y, 1-z.							
<b>2a</b> ,							
C32-H32B···(Rh1O1C13C8C7N1) <sup>1</sup>	2.86	2.61	24.3	167	3.83 (see Fig. S5)		
Symmetry transformations: 1 = 1+x, y, z.							
<b>2b</b> (Refcode SCLIRB10),							
C3-H3A···(Rh1O1C9C14C15N1) <sup>3</sup>	2.74	2.70	9.4	151	3.62 (see Fig. S6)		
C8-H8B···ringC9 <sup>3</sup> -C14 <sup>3</sup>	2.73	2.73	0.6	165	3.67 (see Fig. S6)		
Symmetry transformations: 3 = -0.5+x, 1-y, 0.5-z.							
<b>4</b> ,							
C9-H9C···(RhO1C1C6C7N) <sup>4</sup>	2.70	2.57	17.7	146	3.54 (see Fig. S7)		
C17-H17A···(RhO1C1C6C7N) <sup>4'</sup>	2.64	2.62	6.9	175	3.58 (see Fig. S7)		
Symmetry transformations: 4 = 1-x, -0.5+y, 0.5-z; 4' = 2-x, 0.5+y, 0.5-z.							
<b>5</b> ,							
C22-H22···(RhOC1C6C7N) <sup>2</sup>	2.84	2.80	9.22	132	3.53		
Symmetry transformations: 2 = x, 1-y, -0.5+z.							
<sup>a</sup> For a graphical depiction of distances and angles in the assessment of the $\pi$ -contacts, see Scheme S2. Pyridyl rings of the terpy or bipy ligands are named by their nitrogen atoms. - <sup>b</sup> Centroid-centroid distance. - <sup>c</sup> Dihedral angle between the ring planes. - <sup>d</sup> Angle between the centroid vector Cg(I)···Cg(J) and the normal to the plane I ("slip angle"). - <sup>e</sup> Angle between the centroid vector Cg(I)···Cg(J) and the normal to the plane J. - <sup>f</sup> Perpendicular distance of Cg(I) on ring plane J. - <sup>g</sup> Perpendicular distance of Cg(J) on ring plane I. - <sup>h</sup> Slippage; distance between Cg(I) and perpendicular projection of Cg(J) on Ring I; parallel displacement between ring centroids from a perfect face-to-face alignment. - <sup>i</sup> H-centroid distance. - <sup>j</sup> Perpendicular distance of H on ring plane. - <sup>k</sup> Angle between the C-H vector and the normal to the $\pi$ -plane. - <sup>l</sup> C-H···centroid angle. - <sup>m</sup> C···centroid distance.							

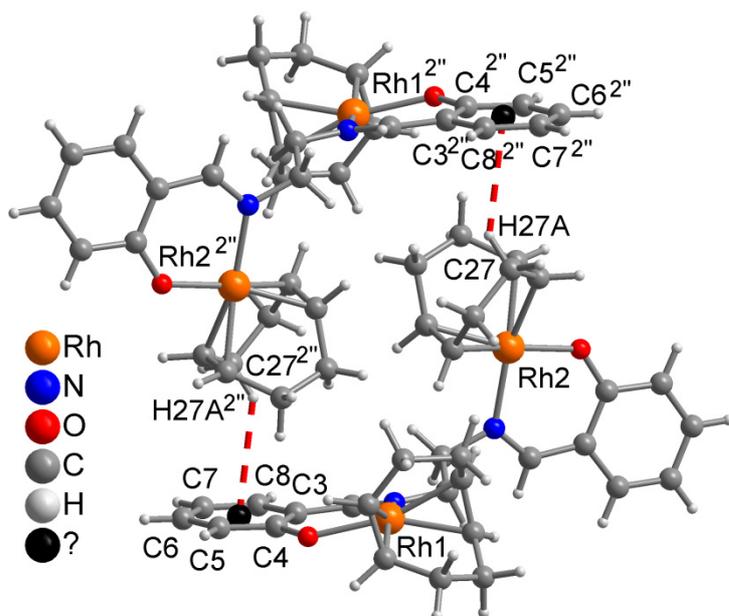
Compounds not listed in Table S5 contain no or only  $\pi$ -stacking interactions which can be viewed as medium to weak in that they exhibit rather long centroid-centroid distances ( $Cg\cdots Cg > 4.0$  Å) together with large slip angles ( $\beta, \gamma > 30^{\circ}$ ) and vertical displacements ( $d > 2.0$  Å). In comparison, strong  $\pi$ -stackings show rather short centroid-centroid contacts ( $< 3.8$  Å), small slip angles ( $\beta, \gamma < 25^{\circ}$ ) and vertical displacements ( $d < 1.5$  Å) which translate into a sizable overlap of the aromatic planes.



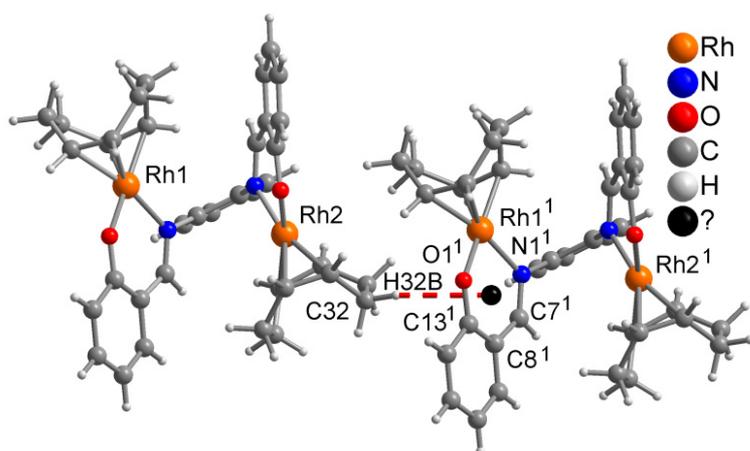
**Fig. S3** Complementary contacts C1–H1A $\cdots$ ringC3<sup>2</sup>–C8<sup>2</sup> (red dashed lines) in compound **1**.



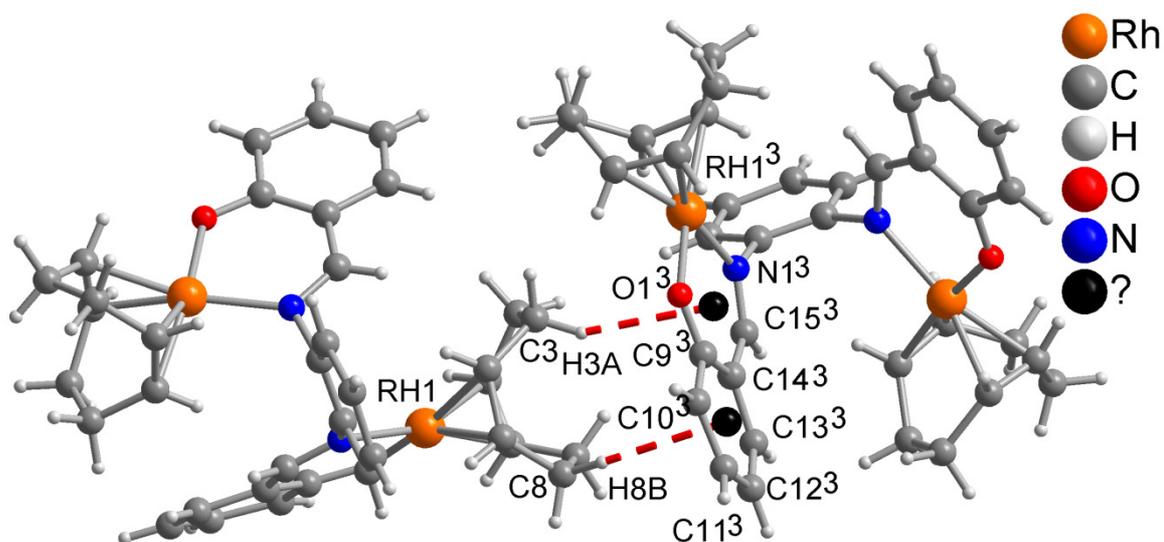
**Fig. S4** Complementary contacts C15–H15B $\cdots$ (Rh2O2C20C19C18)<sup>2'</sup> (red dashed lines) in compound **1**.



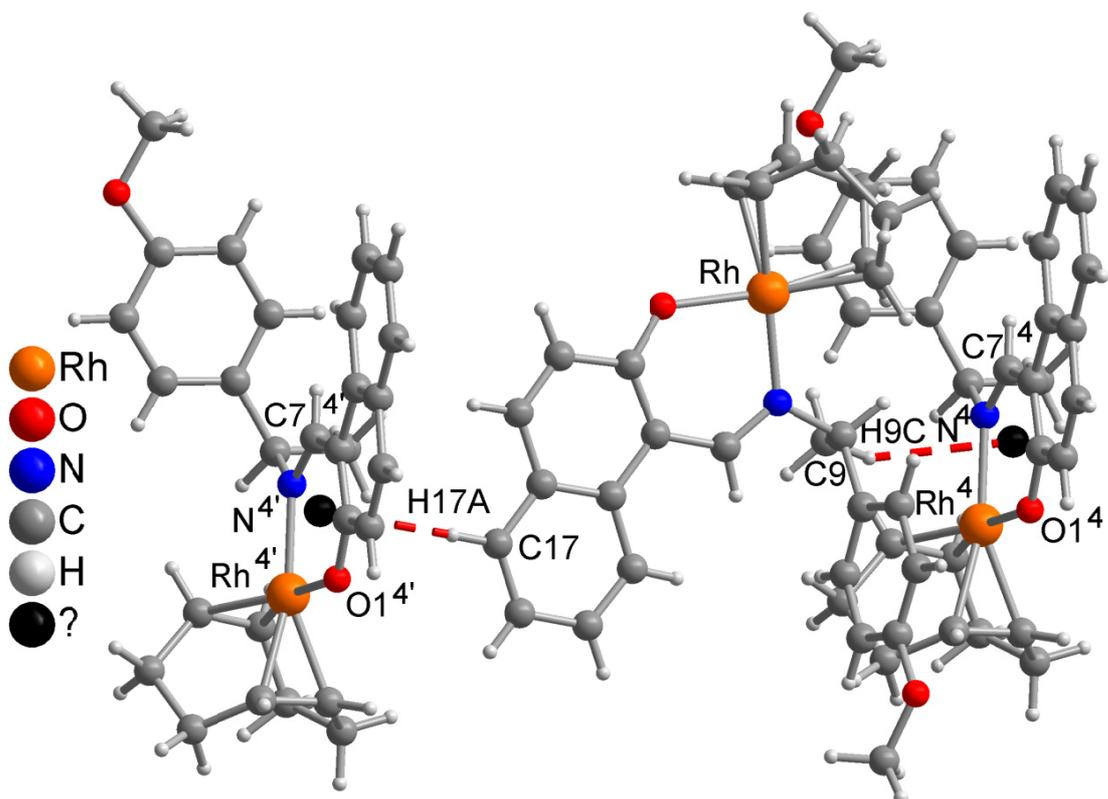
**Fig. S5** Complementary contacts  $C27-H27A \cdots \text{ring}C3^{2''}-C8^{2''}$  (red dashed lines) in compound **1**.



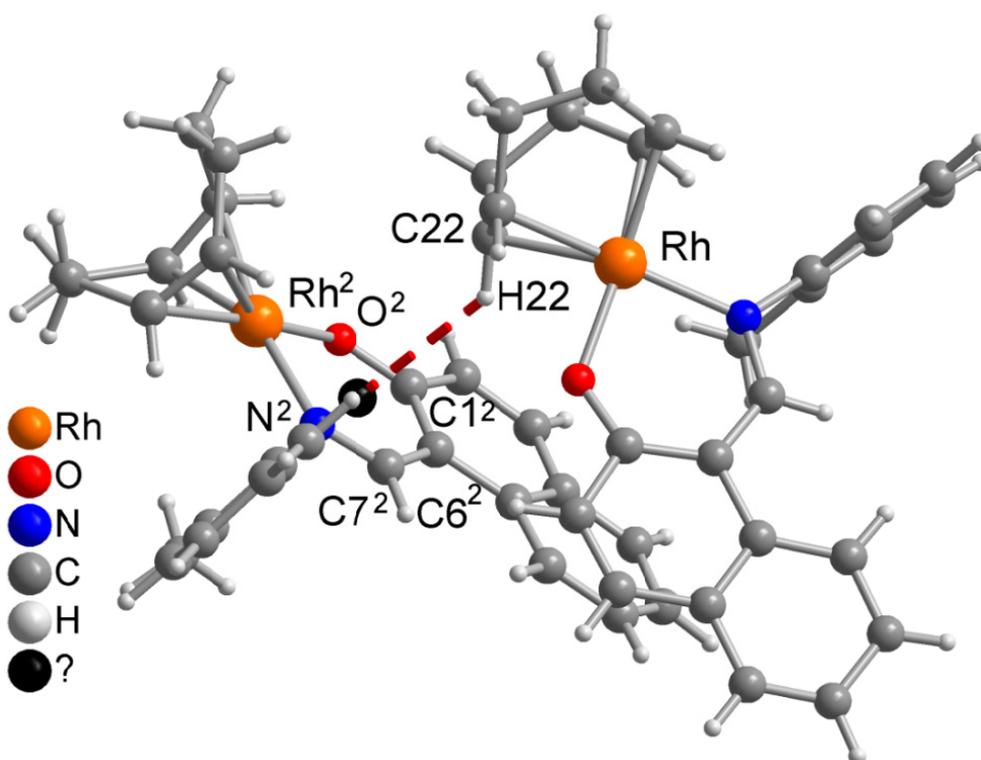
**Fig. S6** Contact  $C32-H32B \cdots (\text{Rh1O1C13C8C7N1})^1$  (red dashed line) in compound **2a**.



**Fig. S7** Contacts  $C3-H3A \cdots (\text{Rh1O1C9C14C15N1})^1$  and  $C8-H8B \cdots \text{ring}C9^3-C14^3$  (red dashed lines) in compound **2b**.



**Fig. S8** Contacts  $C9-H9C \cdots (RhO1C1C6C7N)^4$  and  $C17-H17A \cdots (RhO1C1C6C7N)^{4'}$  (red dashed lines) in compound **4**.



**Fig. S9** Contact  $C22-H22 \cdots (RhOC1C6C7N)^2$  (red dashed line) in compound **5**.