Supporting Information for:

### Dehydrogenation of Cyclic-Thioethers Bound to a [Rh(diphosphine)]\* Fragment.

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### **Experimental Techniques for ligands I- IV**

All non-aqueous reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under an atmosphere of argon, unless otherwise specified. Petrol refers to the petroleum ether fraction that boils in the range 40-60 °C. THF and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were dried by purification through two activated alumina purification columns.<sup>1</sup> Reagents were obtained from Acros, Aldrich, Fluka and Strem and were used as supplied. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance AV400 spectrometer (400 MHz and 100 MHz respectively) in CDCI<sub>3</sub> and referenced to residual solvent peaks or to tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Chemical shifts  $\delta$  are quoted in parts per million (ppm) to the nearest 0.01 for <sup>1</sup>H and 0.1 for <sup>13</sup>C, coupling constants J are quoted in Hz to the nearest 0.1 and splittings are recorded as singlet (s), doublet (d), triplet (t), quartet (q), quintet (quin) and broad (br.). Assignments were based upon DEPT, COSY and HMQC experiments. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer as a thin film between NaCl plates for oils. Absorption maxima are quoted in wavenumbers (cm<sup>-1</sup>) and labelled as strong (s), medium (m), weak (w) and broad (br.). Mass spectra were recorded on a Fisons Platform II spectrometer under electrospray ionisation (ESI) or field ionisation (FI). Relative intensities of assignable peaks are quoted as percentage values. High resolution mass spectra are given to four decimal places and were recorded on a Bruker MicroTof (resolution = 10000 FWHM). Calibration was via the lock-mass of tetraoctylammonium bromide for positive and sodium dodecyl sulfate for negative ions. Melting points (m.p.) were obtained using a Lecia VMTG heated-stage microscope and are uncorrected. Flash column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (60 Å, 0.033-0.070 mm, BDH) using Still's method,<sup>2</sup> with head pressure provided by bellows. The solvent system is quoted in parentheses. Reactions and columns were monitored by thin layer chromatography analysis on Merck DC-Keisegel 60 F<sub>254</sub> 0.2 mm precoated plates. Spots were visualised by UV light ( $\lambda_{max}$  = 254 nm) and/or staining with basic potassium permanganate solution or acidic vanillin solution as deemed appropriate for the compound.

### Synthesis of ligands I- IV

### Dicyclopentylthioether (I, SCyp<sub>2</sub>)

 $\langle j^{s} \rangle \rangle$ 

Cyclopentylthiol (205 mg, 2.00 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of bromocyclopentane (298 mg, 2.00 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.30 g, 4.00 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and

extracted with  $Et_2O$  (3 x 25 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. Flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/Et<sub>2</sub>O, 99:1 then 49:1] gave thioether I as an oil (276 mg, 81 %).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub>: 3.09 (2 H, quin, *J* 7.1, 2 x C*H*), 2.04-1.93 (4 H, m, 4 x CHC*H*<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 1.77-1.67 (4 H, m, 4 x CHCH<sub>2</sub>C*H*<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 1.60-1.45 (8 H, m, 4 x CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub> + 4 x CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 43.7 (CH), 34.2 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.9 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>).

**IR** v<sub>max</sub> (thin film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2957s, 2867s, 2360w, 2341w, 1731w, 1449s, 1378w, 1316m, 1238s, 1137w, 1050w, 1029w, 936w, 907w, 821w.

**m/z** (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 209.1 [100, (M + Na + O)<sup>+</sup>], C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaOS predicted 209.0971, found 209.0976, ( $\Delta - 2.7$  ppm).

This compound has been previously made by different methods but not fully characterised.<sup>3</sup>

### Hepta-1,6-dien-4-ol (a\_II)

A solution of ethyl formate (370 mg, 5.00 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise *via* cannula to a stirred solution of allylmagnesium chloride (2 M in THF, 5.13 mL) at 0 °C and the reaction was warmed to room temperature and then heated at reflux for 16 h. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C and quenched with aqueous 1 M HCl (25 mL) and then extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL), and brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed (cautiously) *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/EtOAc, 19:1 then 9:1] to give alcohol **a\_II** (528 mg, 94 %) as an oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\text{H}}$ : 5.89-5.79 (2H, m, 2 × CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.16-5.12 (4H, m, 2 × CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.74-3.68 (1H, m, CHOH), 2.34-2.16 (4H, m, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.83 (1H, br. s, OH). <sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{\text{C}}$ : 134.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>=CH), 118.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>=CH), 69.8 (CHOH), 41.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>). Data were consistent with those previously reported.<sup>4</sup>

Hepta-1,6-dien-4-yl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (b\_ll)

OTs

*para*-Toluenesulfonyl chloride (273 mg, 1.43 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of alcohol **a\_ll** (146 mg, 1.30 mmol), triethylamine (145 mg, 1.43 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (175 mg, 1.43 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (13 mL) and the mixture heated at 40 °C for 16 h. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (25 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 x 25 mL) and the combined organics were washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and saturated brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. Flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/EtOAc, 19:1] gave *sulfonate* **b\_ll** as an oil (301 mg, 87 %).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub>: 7.79 (2H, d, *J* 8.2, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.33 (2H, d, *J* 8.2, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 5.66-5.56 (2H, m, 2 × C*H*=CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.06-5.02 (4H, m, 2 × CH=C*H*<sub>2</sub>), 4.59 (1H, quin, *J* 6.0, C*H*OR), 2.44 (3H, s, C*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.40-2.31 (4H, m, 2 × C*H*<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 144.6, 134.3 (2 × C(Ar)), 132.1 (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 129.7, 127.9 (2 × HC(Ar)), 118.9 (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>), 81.8 (CHOTs), 38.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

**IR** *v*<sub>max</sub> (thin film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3079m, 2980s, 2926s, 1643m, 1599m, 1496w, 1435m, 1363s, 1037w, 1176s, 1097s, 995m, 903s, 816m.

**m/z** (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 289.1 [90, (M + Na)<sup>+</sup>], 555.2 [100, (2M + Na)<sup>+</sup>], C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NaO<sub>3</sub>S predicted 289.0869, found 289.0874, ( $\Delta$  - 1.9 ppm).

### Cyclopent-3-enyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (c\_II)

OTs

A solution of sulfonate **b\_II** (184 mg, 0.772 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (8 mL) was degassed with argon for 15 min. Grubbs-Hoveyda 2<sup>nd</sup> generation catalyst (9.7 mg, 0.015 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred for 16 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude product was subjected to flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/EtOAc, 9:1] to give sulfonate **c\_II** as prisms (145 mg, 79 %).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{H}$ : 7.80 (2H, d, J 8.3, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.35 (2H, d, J 8.3, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 5.68-5.63 (2H, m, C*H*=C*H*), 5.17 (1H, tt, J 6.7, 2.5, C*H*OTs), 2.63 (2H, dd, J 17.1, 6.7, 2 × C*H*<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 2.53 (2H, dd, J 17.1, 2.5, 2 × CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 2.46 (3H, s, C*H*<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{C}$ : 144.6, 134.3 (2 × C(Ar)), 129.8 (HC(Ar)), 127.7, 127.7 (HC(Ar) + CH=CH), 81.9 (CHOTs), 39.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>). **m.p.** 52-53 °C. Data were consistent with those previously reported.5

# Cyclopent-3-enyl(cyclopentyl)thioether (II, SCypCyp')

⟨**」**<sup>s</sup> ∖ >

Cyclopentylthiol (41.6 mg, 0.408 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of sulfonate **c\_II** (85.9 mg, 0.408 mmol) and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (266 mg, 0.816 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 25 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. Flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/Et<sub>2</sub>O, 99:1 then 49:1] gave *thioether* **II** as an oil (57.5 mg, 0.342 mmol, 84 %).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{H}$ : 5.72-5.68 (2H, m, CH=CH), 3.47 (1H, tt, J 8.4, 5.8, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 3.12 (1H, quin, J 7.1, CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.78 (2H, dd, J 14.7, 8.4, 2 × CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH=CH), 2.36 (2H, dd, J 14.7, 8.4, 2 × CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH=CH), 2.05-1.96 (2H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.78-1.67 (2H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 1.62-1.47 (4H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> + 2 × CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 129.3 (CH=CH), 43.6 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 41.1 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 41.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CH), 34.1 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.8 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>).

**IR** *v*<sub>max</sub> (thin film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3056m, 2956s, 2867m, 2844w, 2360w, 1616m, 1447s, 1343m, 1296m, 1238m, 1052m, 932m, 804w.

**m/z** (ESI<sup>+</sup>) 207.1 [100, (M + Na + O)<sup>+</sup>], C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>NaOS predicted 207.0820, found 207.0814, ( $\Delta$  + 2.9 ppm).

# Cyclopentyl(phenyl)thioether (III, SPhCyp)



Thiophenol (551 mg, 5.00 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of bromocyclopentane (745 mg, 5.00 mmol) and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (3.26 g, 10.0 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (25 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (20 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 25 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. Flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/Et<sub>2</sub>O, 99:1 then 49:1] gave thioether **III** as an oil (847 mg, 95 %).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta_{H}$ : 7.38 (2H, d, *J* 7.9, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.29 (2H, t, *J* 7.7, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.19 (1H, t, *J* 7.3, *H*C(Ar)), 3.62 (1H, quin, *J* 6.3, C*H*SPh), 2.11-2.03 (2H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.85-1.75 (2H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 1.68-1.60 (4H, m, 2 × CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> + 2 × CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 137.3 (*C*(Ar)), 129.9, 128.8, 125.9 (3 × H*C*(Ar)), 45.9 (CHSPh), 33.6 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 24.8 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>).

Data were consistent with those previously reported.6

### Cyclopent-3-enyl(phenyl)thioether (IV, SPhCyp')

Thiophenol (45.2 mg, 0.410 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of sulfonate **c\_II** (97.8 mg, 0.410 mmol) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (267 mg, 0.820 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (2 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 x 15 mL). The combined organics were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. Flash column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>, petrol/Et<sub>2</sub>O, 99:1 then 49:1] gave *thioether* **IV** as an oil (69.3 mg, 96 %).

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>H</sub>: 7.38 (2H, d, *J* 7.9, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.31 (2H, t, *J* 7.6, 2 × *H*C(Ar)), 7.21 (1H, t, *J* 7.4, *H*C(Ar)), 5.78-5.74 (2H, m, C*H*=C*H*), 3.98 (1H, tt, *J* 8.1, 4.5, C*H*SPh), 2.88 (2H, dd, *J* 15.2, 8.1, CHC*H*<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>), 2.46 (2H, dd, *J* 15.2, 4.5, CHCH<sub>a</sub>H<sub>b</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>**C NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ<sub>C</sub>: 136.9 (*C*(Ar)), 129.7, 129.2, 128.9, 126.0 (3 × H*C*(Ar) + CH=CH), 42.8 (CHSPh), 40.4 (CHCH<sub>2</sub>).

IR  $v_{max}$  (thin film)/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3058s, 2937s, 2843s, 1616w, 1584s, 1480s, 1438s, 1345m, 1298m, 1244s, 1153w, 1092s, 1069w, 1025s, 931m.

**m/z** (EI/FI<sup>+</sup>) C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>12</sub>S predicted 176.0660, found 176.0662, ( $\Delta$  - 1.3 ppm).

### Experimental Techniques for new complexes 1-4

All manipulations, unless otherwise stated, were performed under an atmosphere of argon, using standard Schlenk and glove-box techniques. Glassware was oven dried at 130°C overnight and flamed under vacuum prior to use. Hexane and pentane were dried using a Grubbs type solvent purification system (MBraun SPS-800) and degassed by successive freeze-pump-thaw cycles.<sup>1</sup> CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> were distilled under vacuum from CaH<sub>2</sub> and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> was stirred over alumina for two hours prior to drying, *tert*-butylethene was dried over sodium, vacuum

distilled and stored over 3 Å molecular sieves. TBAF was purchased from Aldrich and used as supplied. [Rh(nbd)(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)][BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] was prepared as previously described.<sup>7</sup> NMR spectra were recorded on Varian Unity Plus 500 MHz spectrometer at room temperature unless otherwise stated. In 1,2- $C_6H_4F_2$ , <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were referenced to the centre of the downfield solvent multiplet ( $\delta$  = 7.07). <sup>31</sup>P spectra were referenced against 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (external). Chemical shifts are quoted in ppm and coupling constants in Hz. ESI-MS were recorded on a Bruker MicrOTOF instrument. Microanalysis was performed by London Metropolitan University.

# In situ preparation of $[Rh(Ph_2P(CH_2)_3PPh_2)(\eta^6-C_6H_4F_2)][BAr_4]$ (1)

 $[Rh(Ph_2P(CH_2)_3PPh_2)(nbd)][BArF_4]$  (9 mg, 0.0061 mmol) was dissolved in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (400 µL) in a New Era high pressure NMR tube. The NMR tube was placed under hydrogen (4 atm) and shaken at room temperature for 5 minutes. The tube was then freeze thaw degassed and backfilled with argon, NMR spectroscopy and ESI-MS data were then obtained.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>): δ 8.33 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.68 (m, 4H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.58 – 7.33 (m, 20H, Ar-H), 6.07 (m, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>), 5.70 (m, 2H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>), 2.44 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.95 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>).
<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>): δ 25.23 [d, J(RhP) 195].
ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5kV) positive ion: m/z, 629.1168 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calc. 629.0840).

# Preparation of $[Rh(Ph_2P(CH_2)_3PPh_2){S(C_5H_9)(\eta^2-C_5H_7)}][BAr_4]$ (2)

732  $\mu$ L of a solution of S(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>2</sub> I in pentane (0.1019 M, 0.0746 mmol, 1.1 equivalents) and *tert*butylethene (4 equivalents, 40  $\mu$ L, 0.310 mmol) was added to an *in situ* generated solution of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>)][BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (1) (0.0678 mmol) in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). The solution was heated to 338 K for 18 hours after which the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was washed with hexane (2 x 5 mL) and sonicated to yield **2** as a yellow orange solid. Diffusion of pentane into a solution of the isolated solid in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) at 238 K gave **2** as red crystals. Yield: 77 mg, 73 %.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 7.75 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.58 (br, 4H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.55 – 7.33 (m, 20H, Ar-H), 4.59 (v br, 2H, HC=CH), 3.22 (m, 1H, CH), 3.03 (apparent quintet, *J* (HH) 7, 1H, CH), 2.86 – 0.66 (br m, 18H, CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 22.34 [dd, *J*(RhP) 150, J(PP) 55], 3.42 [dd, *J*(RhP) 152, *J*(PP) 55].

Selected <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200 K): δ 4.69 (m, 1H, HC=CH), 4.34 (m, 1H, HC=CH). ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5 kV) positive ion: m/z, 683.1615 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 683.1532). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>69</sub>H<sub>54</sub>B<sub>1</sub>F<sub>24</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Rh<sub>1</sub>S<sub>1</sub> (1546.8578 gmol<sup>-1</sup>): C, 53.58; H, 3.52. Found: C, 53.64; H, 3.30.

### In situ preparation of $[Rh(Ph_2P(CH_2)_3PPh_2)\{S(\eta^6-C_6H_5)(C_5H_9)\}][BArF_4]$ (3)

12.5  $\mu$ L of a solution of S(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)Ph III in pentane (0.4883 M, 0.0061 mmol) was added to an *in situ* generated solution of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>)][BArF<sub>4</sub>] (1) (0.0061 mmol) in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (400  $\mu$ L).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  8.33 (br, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.68 (br, 4H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.55 – 7.33 (m, 20H, Ar-H), 6.47 (t, *J*(HH) 6, 1H, S-Ph), 5.70 (apparent doublet, *J*(HH) 6, 2H, S-Ph), 5.47 (t, *J*(HH) 6, 2H, S-Ph), 3.26 (quin, *J*(HH) 6, 1H, CH), 2.40 (m, 4H, dppp-CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.90 (m, 2H, dppp-CH<sub>2</sub>). The SPhCyp-CH<sub>2</sub> signals were not ambiguously assigned as they were obscured by excess free SPhCyp ligand and pentane 2.10 – 0.10.

<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>): δ 25.35 [d, *J*(RhP) 196].

# In situ preparation of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>){ $S(C_6H_5)(\eta^2-C_5H_7)$ }[BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] (4)

147  $\mu$ L of a solution of S(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)Ph **III** in pentane (0.4883 M, 0.0718 mmol, 1.1 equivalents) and *tert*butylethene (40  $\mu$ L, 0.310 mmol) was added to an *in situ* generated solution of [Rh(Ph<sub>2</sub>P(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>)][BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>] **(1)** (0.0651 mmol) in 1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). The solution was heated to 378 K for 18 hours after which the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting residue was washed with hexane (3 x 5 mL) and sonicated under vacuum to yield **4** as a yellow/ brown oil.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):** δ 7.75 (m, 8H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), [7.69 – 6.65 (v br m, 20H, dppp Ar-H) {7.65, (br, 4H, BAr<sup>F</sup><sub>4</sub>), 7.35 (m, 3H, S-Ph), 7.23 (t, *J* (HH) 8, 2H, S-Ph)}], 5.00 (br, 1H, HC=CH), 4.23 (br m, 1H HC=CH), 3.30 (m, 1H, Cyp-CH), [2.75 -1.45 (v br m, 8H, dppp-CH<sub>2</sub> and SPhCyp'-CH<sub>2</sub>) {2.33 (d, *J*(HH) 16, 2H, SPhCyp'-CH<sub>2</sub>)}].

<sup>31</sup>P {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 23.10 [dd, *J*(RhP) 153, *J*(PP) 54], 1.76 [dd, *J*(RhP) 148, *J*(PP) 54]. Selected <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200 K): δ 7.30 (m, 3H, S-Ph), 7.17 (t, *J* (HH) 8, 2H, S-Ph), 6.91 (m, 3H, dppp Ar-H), 6.81 (m, 2H, dppp Ar-H), 4.94 (m, 1H, HC=CH), 4.05 (m, 1H, HC=CH), 2.85 - 2.44 (m, 4H, dppp-CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.33 (d, J(HH) 16, SPhCyp'-CH), 2.26 (d, J(HH) 16, SPhCyp'-CH), 2.22 – 2.11 (m, 1H, dppp-CH), 2.06 (d, J(HH) 16, 1H, SPhCyp'-CH), 1.70 (m, 1H, dppp-CH), 1.57 (d, J(HH) 16, 1H, SPhCyp'-CH).

ESI-MS (1,2-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub>, 60°C, 4.5 kV) positive ion: m/z, 691.1204 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 691.1219).

# Crystallography

Data were collected on an Enraf Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer using graphite monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.71073 Å) and a low-temperature device [150(2) K];<sup>8</sup> data were collected using COLLECT, reduction and cell refinement was performed using DENZO/SCALEPACK.<sup>9</sup> The structure was solved by direct methods using SIR2004<sup>10</sup> and refined full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$  using SHELXL-97.<sup>11</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed in calculated positions using the riding model. Disorder of the thioether ligand was treated by modelling the non-coordinated substituent over two sites and restraining its geometry. Rotational disorder of the CF<sub>3</sub> groups of the anion was treated by modelling the fluorine atoms or, in two cases, the entire CF<sub>3</sub> group over two sites and restraining their geometry. Problematic solvent disorder was treated using the SQUEEZE algorithm.<sup>12</sup> Restraints to thermal parameters were applied were necessary in order to maintain sensible values. Crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif</u>.

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