Importance of co-donor field strength in the preparation of tetradentate α-diimine nickel hydrosilylation catalysts

Supplementary Information

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Experimental Procedures

General Considerations. All synthetic reactions were performed within an MBraun glove box under an atmosphere of purified nitrogen. Aldrich or Acros anhydrous solvents were purified using a Pure Process Technology solvent system and stored in the glovebox over activated 4\AA molecular sieves and sodium prior to use. Benzene- d_6 was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and dried over 4\AA molecular sieves prior to use. (COD)₂Ni was purchased from Strem and used as received, while 2-(diphenylphosphino)-1-ethylamine and 3-(diphenylphosphino)-1-propylamine were used as received from Strem. 2,3-Butanedione, *p*toluenesulfonic acid, *N*,*N*-dimethyl-1,3-propanediamine, 2-(2-aminoethyl)pyridine were purchased from TCI America. Hydrosilylation substrates phenylacetylene, 2,4-dimethyl-3pentanone, and cyclohexanone were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, while phenylsilane was purchased from Oakwood Chemical. All of the gases used in this study were obtained from Praxair. ^{Ph₂PEt}DI was prepared in a similar fashion to ^{Ph₂PPr}DI, using a slightly modified procedure from that reported in T. D. DuBois, *Inorg. Chem.*, 1972, **11**, 718.

Solution ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Varian 400-MR 400 MHz NMR spectrometer. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts (ppm) are reported relative to SiMe₄ using ¹H (residual) and ¹³C chemical shifts of the solvent as secondary standards. ³¹P NMR data (ppm) is reported relative to H₃PO₄. Elemental analyses were performed at Robertson Microlit Laboratories Inc. (Ledgewood, NJ) and the Arizona State University CLAS Goldwater Environmental Laboratory (Tempe, AZ).

X-ray Crystallography. Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were coated with polyisobutylene oil in a glove box and transferred to a glass fiber with Apiezon N grease, which was then mounted on the goniometer head of a Bruker APEX (Arizona State University) or APEX II diffractometer (University of Arizona) equipped with Mo K_{α} radiation. A hemisphere routine was used for data collection and determination of the lattice constants. The space group was identified and the data was processed using the Bruker SAINT+ program and corrected for absorption using SADABS. The structures were solved using direct methods (SHELXS), completed by subsequent Fourier synthesis, and refined by full-matrix, least-squares procedures on $|F|^2$ (SHELXL). The solid-state structure of **4** was found to have two positionally disordered chelate arm carbon atoms that were successfully modeled.

Electrochemistry. Electrochemical experiments were conducted using a 1210B handheld potentiostat purchased from CH Instruments Inc. All experiments were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere using a glassy carbon working electrode (3 mm diameter), a silver/silver ion reference electrode, and a platinum counter electrode that were purchased from BAS Inc. Approximately 2 mg of ferrocene (reference, purchased from Sigma-Aldrich) and/or nickel complex (sample) were added to 5 mL of a 0.1 M acetonitrile or tetrahydrofuran solution of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (Fluka) directly before data collection. All cyclic voltammagrams are reported relative to Fc^+/Fc . The $E_{1/2}$ values provided were determined by averaging the potentials of maximum anodic and cathodic current.

UV-Visible Spectroscopy. All UV/Vis spectra were collected on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 18 Spectrometer using a two-beam liquid cell. The spectrometer utilized both deuterium and halogen lamps with a change-over occuring at 300 nm.

Improved Preparation of

(H₃C)₂NCH₂CH₂CH₂N=C(CH₃)C(CH₃)=NCH₂CH₂CH₂N(CH₃)₂ (^{Me₂,NPr}DI). A 100 mL thick-walled glass bomb was charged with 0.021 g (0.123 mmol) of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, 0.143 g (1.66 mmol) of 2,3-butanedione, 5 cm³ of 4Å molecular sieves, and approximately 10 mL of toluene. After stirring at 23 °C for five minutes, a solution of 0.343 g (3.36 mmols) of 3-*N*,*N*-dimethyl-1-propylamine in 10 mL of toluene was added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The glass bomb was then sealed under nitrogen and set to stir in a 70 °C oil bath for 18 hours. The resulting light brown solution was then cooled to 23 °C and filtered under a nitrogen atmosphere. The toluene was then removed *in vacuo* to afford 0.370 g (88%) of a dark yellow oil identified as ^{Me₂NPr}DI. Analysis for C₁₄H₃₀N₄: Calcd. C, 66.09%; H, 11.89%; N, 22.02%. Found: C, 66.33%; H, 12.00%; N, 21.85%. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ = 3.35 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H, NCH₂), 2.34 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H, NCH₂), 2.11 (s, 12H, N(CH₃)₂), 2.07 (s, 6H, N=C(CH₃)), 1.89 (pseudo quintet, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H, NCH₂CH₂). ¹³C NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ = 168.14 (N=CCH₃), 58.35 (C=NCH₂CH₂), 50.88 (CH₂N(CH₃)₂), 46.02 (N(CH₃)₂), 29.89 (CH₂CH₂CH₂), 12.81 (N=CCH₃).



Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum of Me_2NPr DI in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S2. ¹³C NMR spectrum of $^{Me_2NPr}DI$ in benzene- d_6 .

Preparation of (Me_2NPr **DI**)₂**Ni (1).** Under a nitrogen atmosphere, a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 0.054 g (0.532 mmol) of Me_2NPr **DI**, 0.029 g (0.262 mmol) of (COD)₂Ni, and approximately 10 mL of toluene. The resulting solution turned deep red after approximately one minute and continued to darken while stirring at ambient temperature for 24 hours. The solution was then filtered through Celite and the toluene was removed *in vacuo* to afford 0.093 g (77%) a glossy red solid identified as **1**. Recrystallization from a pentane solution at -35 °C afforded 10

mg (7%) of red crystals. Analysis for C₂₈H₆₀N₈Ni: Calcd. C, 59.26%; H, 10.66%. Found: C, 59.32%; H, 10.40%. Values determined for N were consistently low. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 2.86 (pseudo quintet, J = 7.0 Hz, 8H, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 2.62 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 8H, C=NCH₂), 2.51 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 8H, CH₂N), 2.17 (s, 24H, N(CH₃)₂), -0.73 (s, 12H, N=C(CH₃)). ¹³C NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 137.39 (s, N=C(CH₃)), 58.83 (s, CH₂), 58.23 (s, CH₂), 45.61 (s, N(CH₃)₂), 28.70 (s, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 19.35 (s, C(CH₃)).



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** in benzene- d_6 .



Preparation of (2-NC₅H₄)CH₂CH₂N=C(CH₃)C(CH₃)=NCH₂CH₂(2-NC₅H₄) (^{PyEt}DI).

A 100 mL thick-walled glass bomb was charged with 0.352 g (4.09 mmol) of 2,3-butanedione, 0.013 g (0.073 mmol) of p-toluenesulfonic acid, and approximately 40 mL of toluene. The bomb was then set to stir at ambient temperature for five minutes, after which time 1.00 g (8.20 mmol) of 2-(2-aminoethyl)pyridine was added dropwise to the 2,3-butanedione solution along with approximately 5 cm^3 of 4 Å molecular sieves. The resulting reaction mixture was then sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere and set to stir in an oil bath at 100 °C. After 24 hours the reaction was removed from the oil bath and cooled to ambient temperature before being moved into a glove box. The solution was then filtered through Celite and the toluene was removed *in vacuo* to yield 0.976 g (81%) of a viscous brown oil identified as PyEt DI. Analysis for C₁₈H₂₂N₄: Calcd. C, 73.44%; H, 7.53%; N, 19.03%. Found: C, 73.16 %; H, 7.42%; N, 18.79%. ¹H NMR (benzene d_6): δ 8.51 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H, pyridine), 7.05 (td, J = 7.5, 2.0 Hz, 2H, pyridine), 6.89 (d, J = 7.8Hz, 2H, pyridine), 6.62 (m, 2H, pyridine), 3.78 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C=NCH₂), 3.24 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, PyCH₂), 1.94 (s, 6H, N=C(CH₃)₂). ¹³C NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 168.46 (C=NCH₂), 161.60 (pyridine), 150.07 (pyridine), 135.89 (pyridine), 123.84 (pyridine), 121.36 (pyridine), 52.94 (C=NCH₂), 40.46 (PyCH₂), 12.83 (N=CCH₃).



Figure S6. ¹³C NMR spectrum of ^{PyEt}DI in benzene-d₆.

Preparation of (^{PyEt}DI)₂Ni (2). Under a nitrogen atmosphere, a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 0.056 g (0.203 mmol) of (COD)₂Ni and approximately 7 mL of THF. A separate 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 0.120 g (0.406 mmol) of ^{PyEt}DI and approximately 7 mL of THF. The light brown solution of ^{PyEt}DI was then added to the light yellow solution of (COD)₂Ni which began to turn red over a course of 10 minutes. The reaction mixture was then allowed to stir at 23 °C for 5 hours. The resulting red solution was filtered through Celite and the

THF was removed *in vacuo* to give 0.122 g of crude **2** (93%). The product was purified by repeated extraction into pentane followed by recrystallization at -35 °C, yielding 0.053 g (40%) of **2** as red crystals. Analysis for C₃₆H₄₄N₈Ni: Calcd. C, 66.78%; H, 6.85%; N, 17.31%. Found: C, 66.50%; H, 6.86%; N, 17.07%. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 8.55 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 4H, *pyridine*), 7.04 (td, *J* = 9.5, 8.0 Hz, 4H, *pyridine*), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H, *pyridine*), 6.64 (m, 4H, *pyridine*), 4.26 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 8H, CH₂), 2.90 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 8H, CH₂), -0.82 (s, 12H, C(CH₃)). ¹³C NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 161.97 (s, N=C(CH₃)), 149.94 (s, *pyridine*), 138.43 (s, *pyridine*), 135.91 (s, *pyridine*), 123.72 (s, *pyridine*), 121.12 (s, *pyridine*), 61.08 (s, CH₂), 40.09 (s, CH₂), 19.79 (s, C(CH₃)).



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of $(^{PyEt}DI)_2Ni$ in benzene-d₆.



Figure S8. ¹³C NMR spectrum of $(^{PyEt}DI)_2$ Ni in benzene- d_6 .

Preparation of $(H_5C_6)_2PCH_2CH_2CH_2N=C(CH_3)C(CH_3)=NCH_2CH_2CH_2P(C_6H_5)_2$ (^{Ph₂PPr}DI).

Under N₂, a 100 mL thick-walled glass bomb was charged with 0.038 g (0.429 mmol) of 2,3butanedione, 0.004 g (0.029 mmol) of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid, and approximately 5 mL of toluene and set to stir for five minutes at ambient temperature. At that time, 0.204 g (0.872 mmols) of 3-(diphenylphosphino)-1-propylamine was added dropwise to the 2,3-butanedione solution along with approximately 4 cm³ of 4 Å molecular sieves. The initial pale yellow solution was then set to stir in an oil bath at 80 °C. After 20 minutes, the reaction mixture turned colorless. After 22 hours the reaction was stopped, allowed to cool to ambient temperature, and then moved into a glove box. The solution was vacuum filtered through Celite and the toluene was removed *in vacuo* to yield 0.196 g (83%) of a yellow, waxy solid identified as ^{Ph₂PPr</sub>DI. Analysis for C₃₄H₃₈N₂P₂: Calcd. C, 76.10%; H, 7.14%; N, 5.22%. Found: C, 76.27%; H, 7.39%; N, 5.40%. ¹H NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 7.51 (td, *J* = 8.0, 1.5 Hz, 8H, *phenyl*), 7.12-7.06 (m, 12H, *phenyl*), 3.23 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H, C=NCH₂), 2.19 (m, 4H, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.96 (s, 6H, N=C(CH₃)₂), 1.93 (m, 4H, CH₂P). ¹³C NMR (benzene-*d*₆): δ 168.38 (N=C(CH₃)), 140.28 (d, *J*} = 14.5 Hz, *phenyl*), 133.53 (d, J = 18.5 Hz, *phenyl*), 129.05 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, *phenyl*), 128.96 (s, *phenyl*), 55.60 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, C=NCH₂), 28.27 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, CH₂P), 26.87 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, NCH₂CH₂CH₂), 12.95 (s, C(CH₃)). ³¹P (benzene-*d*₆): δ -16.61 (s, *P*Ph₂).



Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of ${}^{Ph_2PPr}DI$ in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectrum of $^{Ph_2PPr}DI$ in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S11. ³¹P NMR spectrum of $^{Ph_2PPr}DI$ in benzene- d_6 .

Preparation of (^{Ph₂PEt}**DI**)Ni (3). Under a nitrogen atmosphere, a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 0.033 g (0.119 mmol) of Ni(COD)₂, 0.062 g (0.123 mmol) of Ph_2PEt DI, and approximately 14 mL of toluene. Upon the addition of Ph2PEtDI to the solution of Ni(COD)2, the color instantly transitioned from a light yellow to a deep green. The resulting deep green solution was then stirred for 24 hours at 23 °C and the color persisted. After 24 hours the solution was then filtered through Celite and the toluene was removed in vacuo to yield 0.067 g (96%) of a red micro-crystalline solid identified as **3**. Analysis for C₃₂H₃₄N₂P₂Ni: Calcd C, 67.75%; H, 6.04%; N, 4.94%. Found: C, 67.62%; H, 5.81%; N, 5.33%. ¹H NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 7.46 (t, J =7.8 Hz, 4H, *phenyl*), 6.94-6.86 (m, 8H, *phenyl*), 2.84 (m, 4H, CH_2P), 2.67 (pseudo q, J = 6.3 Hz, 4H, C=NCH₂), 1.96 (t, J = 4.3 Hz, 6H, C(CH₃)₂). {³¹P}¹H NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 7.46 (broad s, 4H, phenvl), 6.96-6.86 (m, 8H, phenvl), 2.84 (m, 4H, CH₂P), 2.66 (broad s, 4H, NCH₂), 1.96 (broad s, 6H, C(CH₃)). ¹³C NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 136.57 (dd, J = 16.0, 14.5 Hz, phenyl), 135.41 (t, J = 3.0 Hz, N=C(CH₃)), 133.47 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, phenyl), 129.16 (s, phenyl), 128.45 (s, phenyl), 47.62 (s, CH₂) 36.07 (t, J = 15.0 Hz, CH₂), 15.52 (s, C(CH₃)). ³¹P NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 56.36 (s, PPh_2) .



Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S13. $\{^{31}P\}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of **3** in benzene-*d*₆.



Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **3** in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S15. ³¹P NMR spectrum of **3** in benzene- d_6 .

Preparation of (Ph_2PPr **DI**)**Ni (4).** Under a nitrogen atmosphere a 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 0.089 g (0.165 mmol) of Ph_2PPr DI and approximately 5 mL of toluene. A separate solution consisting of 0.045 g (0.164 mmol) of Ni(COD)₂ in approximately 5 mL of toluene was then added dropwise to the solution of Ph_2PPr DI. Upon the addition of Ni(COD)₂, the solution immediately changed from the clear color indicative of Ph_2PPr DI to a deep red solution. The resulting reaction mixture was then capped and sealed under nitrogen and allowed to stir at 23 °C

for 24 hours. After stirring, the resulting deep red solution was filtered through Celite and the toluene was removed in vacuo to yield 0.082 g (84%) of a red solid identified as 4. Recrystallization from an ether/pentane solution afforded 0.047 g (48%) of clear red crystals. Analysis for C₃₄H₃₆N₂P₂Ni: Calcd C, 68.60%; H, 6.43%; N, 4.71%. Found: C, 68.32 %; H, 6.49%; N, 5.08%. ¹H NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 7.66 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, phenyl), 7.03 (m, phenyl), 6.77 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, phenyl), 6.66 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, phenyl), 3.52 (m, 2H, CH₂), 3.05 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.90 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.37 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.01 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.49 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.44 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 6H, N=C(CH₃)). {³¹P}¹H NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 7.66 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.44 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.06 (m, 4H, phenyl), 6.77 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 6.66 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 3.52 (dd, J = 8.6 Hz, 5.5 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 3.05 (t, J = 13.3 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 2.91 (pseudo q, J = 11.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 2.36 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.02 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.49 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.44 (s, 6H, N=C(CH₃)). ¹³C NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 134.83 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, phenyl), 131.10 (t, J = 5.2 Hz, *phenvl*), 128.99 (s, *phenvl*), 127.98 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, *phenvl*), 127.35 (s, *phenvl*), 55.81 (broad s, CH_2), 29.16 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, CH_2), 27.62 (dd, J = 12.6, 10.9 Hz, CH_2), 16.51 (s, $C(CH_3)$), two resonances not located. ³¹P NMR (benzene- d_6): δ 39.03 (s, PPh₂).



Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of **4** in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S17. ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ NMR spectrum of **4** in benzene-*d*₆.



Figure S18. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4 in benzene- d_6 .



Figure S19. ³¹P NMR spectrum of 4 in benzene- d_6 .

Hydrosilylation of cyclohexanone with ($^{Ph_2PEt}DI$)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 11.9 mg (0.0210 mmol) of ($^{Ph_2PEt}DI$)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 52 µL (0.42 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 43 µL (0.42 mmol) of cyclohexanone. The two solutions were then added to a J.Young NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected.

Hydrosilylation of cyclohexanone with (Ph_2PPr DI)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 9.6 mg (0.016 mmol) of (Ph_2PPr DI)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 40 µL (0.32 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 34 µL (0.32 mmol) of cyclohexanone. The two solutions were then added to a J.Young NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected. Hydrosilylation of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone with (Ph_2PEt DI)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 4.7 mg (0.0083 mmol) of (Ph_2PEt DI)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL scintillation vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 21 µL (0.17 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 24 µL (0.17 mmol) of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone. The two solutions were then added to a J.Young NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected.

Hydrosilylation of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone with (Ph_2PPr DI)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 5.0 mg (0.0084 mmol) of (Ph_2PPr DI)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL scintillation vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 21 µL (0.17 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 24 µL (0.17 mmol) of 2,4-dimethyl-3-pentanone. The two solutions were then added to a J.Young style NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected.

Hydrosilylation of phenylacetylene with ($^{Ph_2PEt}DI$)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 7.0 mg (0.12 mmol) of ($^{Ph_2PEt}DI$)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL scintillation vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 30 µL (0.24 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 26 µL (0.24 mmol) of phenylacetylene. The two solutions were then added to a J.Young NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected. Although *trans*-(Ph)HC=CH(SiH₂Ph) was identified as the major product, small quantities of secondary olefin containing compounds were also observed by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

Hydrosilylation of phenylacetylene with (${}^{Ph_2PPr}DI$)Ni: A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with 4.2 mg (0.0071 mmol) of (${}^{Ph_2PPr}DI$)Ni and approximately 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 . A separate 20 mL scintillation vial was then charged with 0.5 mL of benzene- d_6 , 18 µL (0.14 mmol) of phenylsilane, and 18 µL (0.16 mmol) of phenylacetylene. The two solutions were then pipetted into a J-Young style NMR tube and sealed under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was then allowed to sit at 23 °C for 24 hours after which time a ¹H NMR spectrum was collected. Although *trans*-(Ph)HC=CH(SiH_2Ph) was identified as the major product, small quantities of secondary olefin containing compounds were also observed by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.

	(^{PyEt} DI) ₂ Ni	(^{Ph₂PEt} DI)Ni	(^{Ph₂PPr} DI)Ni
Chemical formula	C ₃₆ H ₄₄ N ₈ Ni	$C_{32}H_{34}N_2P_2Ni$	$C_{34}H_{36}N_2P_2N_1$
Formula weight	647.50	567.26	595.31
crystal dimensions	0.160x0.140x0.060	0.370 x 0.120 x 0.080	0.276 x 0.183 x 0.129
crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	C_{12}/C_1	P-1	P-1
<i>a</i> (Å)	9.3548(8)	11.2266(10)	7.7544(6)
<i>b</i> (Å)	20.4687(17)	11.4080(10)	11.1974(8)
<i>c</i> (Å)	17.6111(15)	12.5302(11)	17.6096(13)
α (deg)	90	65.0460(2)	88.050(3)
β (deg)	94.424(2)	75.784(2)	87.795(3)
γ (deg)	90	89.781(2)	71.604(4)
$V(Å^3)$	3362.1(5)	1401.3(2)	1449.43(19)
Z	4	2	2
$T (^{0}C)$	123.(2)	123.(2)	100.(2)
ρ calcd (g cm ⁻³)	1.279	1.344	1.359
$\mu (mm^{-1})$	0.615	0.830	0.806
reflections collected	13867	11233	27313
data/restraints/parameters	3114/0/206	11233/0/338	5316/6/367
$R_1 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0457	0.0484	0.0298
wR ₂ (all data)	0.0946	0.1064	0.0725
Goodness-of-fit	1.031	1.027	1.048
Largest peak, hole (eÅ ⁻³)	0.289, -0.202	0.617, -0.368	0.368, -0.267

Table S1. Crystallographic Data for (^{PyEt}DI)₂Ni, (^{Ph₂PEt}DI)Ni, and (^{Ph₂PPr}DI)Ni.

Ni(1)-N(1)	1.904(2)	N(1)-Ni(1)-N(1A)	131.74(13)
Ni(1)-N(2)	1.912(2)	N(1)-Ni(1)-N(2A)	117.59(9)
N(1)-C(2)	1.344(3)	N(1)-Ni(1)-N(2)	81.83(9)
N(1)-C(5)	1.460(3)	N(2)-Ni(1)-N(2A)	133.77(14)
N(2)-C(3)	1.341(3)	C(2)-N(1)-C(5)	119.0(2)
N(2)-C(12)	1.456(3)	C(2)-N(1)-Ni(1)	115.20(18)
N(3)-C(11)	1.337(4)	C(5)-N(1)-Ni(1)	125.57(16)
N(3)-C(7)	1.340(4)	C(3)-N(2)-C(12)	119.8(2)
N(4)-C(14)	1.331(4)	C(3)-N(2)-Ni(1)	115.33(18)
N(4)-C(18)	1.338(4)	C(12)-N(2)-Ni(1)	124.67(17)
C(1)-C(2)	1.505(4)	C(11)-N(3)-C(7)	117.0(3)
C(2)-C(3)	1.416(4)	C(14)-N(4)-C(18)	116.6(3)
C(3)-C(4)	1.501(4)	N(1)-C(2)-C(3)	114.1(2)
C(5)-C(6)	1.517(4)	N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	121.8(2)
C(6)-C(7)	1.497(4)	C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	124.2(2)
C(7)-C(8)	1.369(4)	N(2)-C(3)-C(2)	113.5(2)
C(8)-C(9)	1.384(4)	N(2)-C(3)-C(4)	122.2(2)
C(9)-C(10)	1.371(5)	C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	124.3(2)
C(10)-C(11)	1.358(5)	N(1)-C(5)-C(6)	112.4(2)
C(12)-C(13)	1.498(4)	C(7)-C(6)-C(5)	111.0(2)
C(13)-C(14)	1.499(4)	N(3)-C(7)-C(8)	122.5(3)
C(14)-C(15)	1.383(4)	N(3)-C(7)-C(6)	115.5(3)
C(15)-C(16)	1.372(5)	C(8)-C(7)-C(6)	122.0(3)
C(16)-C(17)	1.362(5)	C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	119.2(3)
C(17)-C(18)	1.355(5)	C(10)-C(9)-C(8)	118.5(3)
		C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	118.7(3)
C10 🔊 🕂 💬 🛙	C9	N(3)-C(11)-C(10)	124.1(3)
$\int \int$	C18A C17A	N(2)-C(12)-C(13)	112.0(2)
C11		C(12)-C(13)-C(14)	112.0(2)
N3 CO-OC	7 N4A 🕅	N(4)-C(14)-C(15)	122.3(3)
	C15A	N(4)-C(14)-C(13)	116.9(3)
C5 🗬		C(15)-C(14)-C(13)	120.8(3)
T and		C(16)-C(15)-C(14)	119.1(3)
	NI N2A	C(17)-C(16)-C(15)	119.2(4)
C2 💐	JO CSA	C(18)-C(17)-C(16)	118.1(3)
C3 (C4 🐨		N(4)-C(18)-C(17)	124.8(4)
сба 💭	C5A C12 C13		
	C14 C15		
C10A	A C18 C16		
C9A	[−] (₩)C17		

Table S2. Metrical parameters determined for (^{PyEt}DI)₂Ni.

Table S3. Metrical parameters determined for (^{Ph2PEt}DI)Ni.

Ni(1)-N(2)	1.885(2)	N(2)-Ni(1)-N(1)	83.77(10)	C(15)-C(14)-C(13)	120.9(3)
Ni(1)-N(1)	1.896(2)	N(2)-Ni(1)-P(2)	85.13(7)	C(14)-C(15)-C(16)	119.7(3)
Ni(1)-P(2)	2.1283(8)	N(1)-Ni(1)-P(2)	149.02(7)	C(17)-C(16)-C(15)	120.1(3)
Ni(1)-P(1)	2.1290(8)	N(2)-Ni(1)-P(1)	149.37(7)	C(16)-C(17)-C(18)	120.2(3)
P(1)-C(7)	1.817(3)	N(1)-Ni(1)-P(1)	85.40(8)	C(17)-C(18)-C(13)	120.8(3)
P(1)-C(6)	1.826(3)	P(2)-Ni(1)-P(1)	117.15(3)	N(2)-C(19)-C(20)	108.9(2)
P(1)-C(13)	1.840(3)	C(7)-P(1)-C(6)	106.64(15)	C(19)-C(20)-P(2)	104.18(18)
P(2)-C(27)	1.819(3)	C(7)-P(1)-C(13)	101.54(13)	C(26)-C(21)-C(22)	118.3(2)
P(2)-C(21)	1.835(3)	C(6)-P(1)-C(13)	100.81(12)	C(26)-C(21)-P(2)	118.36(19)
P(2)-C(20)	1.840(3)	C(7)-P(1)-Ni(1)	127.99(10)	C(22)-C(21)-P(2)	123.2(2)
N(1)-C(2)	1.360(4)	C(6)-P(1)-Ni(1)	99.96(10)	C(23)-C(22)-C(21)	120.4(3)
N(1)-C(5)	1.469(3)	C(13)-P(1)-Ni(1)	116.40(10)	C(22)-C(23)-C(24)	120.8(3)
N(2)-C(3)	1.373(3)	C(27)-P(2)-C(21)	101.91(12)	C(25)-C(24)-C(23)	119.6(3)
N(2)-C(19)	1.466(3)	C(27)-P(2)-C(20)	108.71(12)	C(24)-C(25)-C(26)	120.0(3)
C(1)-C(2)	1.503(4)	C(21)-P(2)-C(20)	99.43(12)	C(21)-C(26)-C(25)	120.8(2)
C(2)-C(3)	1.388(4)	C(27)-P(2)-Ni(1)	127.27(9)	C(28)-C(27)-C(32)	118.3(2)
C(3)-C(4)	1.506(4)	C(21)-P(2)-Ni(1)	116.62(9)	C(28)-C(27)-P(2)	123.1(2)
C(5)-C(6)	1.522(4)	C(20)-P(2)-Ni(1)	99.35(8)	C(32)-C(27)-P(2)	118.5(2)
C(7)-C(12)	1.384(4)	C(2)-N(1)-C(5)	118.8(2)	C(27)-C(28)-C(29)	120.4(3)
C(7)-C(8)	1.392(4)	C(2)-N(1)-Ni(1)	113.36(18)	C(30)-C(29)-C(28)	120.9(3)
C(8)-C(9)	1.393(5)	C(5)-N(1)-Ni(1)	122.70(19)	C(31)-C(30)-C(29)	119.3(3)
C(9)-C(10)	1.368(6)	C(3)-N(2)-C(19)	119.0(2)	C(30)-C(31)-C(32)	120.6(3)
C(10)-C(11)	1.364(6)	C(3)-N(2)-Ni(1)	112.81(19)	C(31)-C(32)-C(27)	120.5(3)
C(11)-C(12)	1.374(4)	C(19)-N(2)-Ni(1)	122.84(16)		
C(13)-C(14)	1.387(4)	N(1)-C(2)-C(3)	113.8(2)		
C(13)-C(18)	1.390(4)	N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	120.8(3)	C16	D 017
C(14)-C(15)	1.376(4)	C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	125.3(3)	C15	9017
C(15)-C(16)	1.380(5)	N(2)-C(3)-C(2)	114.2(3)		DC18
C(16)-C(17)	1.365(5)	N(2)-C(3)-C(4)	120.4(3)	C14	
C(17)-C(18)	1.375(4)	C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	125.4(3)		13
C(19)-C(20)	1.529(3)	N(1)-C(5)-C(6)	108.6(2)		C12 C11
C(21)-C(26)	1.388(3)	C(5)-C(6)-P(1)	105.74(19)	C1 C5 C6	
C(21)-C(22)	1.394(3)	C(12)-C(7)-C(8)	118.1(3)		C8 C9 C10
C(22)-C(23)	1.377(4)	C(12)-C(7)-P(1)	117.9(2)	NI NI	C28 C29
C(23)-C(24)	1.380(4)	C(8)-C(7)-P(1)	124.1(3)		2 C27
C(24)-C(25)	1.372(4)	C(10)-C(9)-C(8)	120.1(4)		
C(25)-C(26)	1.391(4)	C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	119.9(4)		C32 C31
C(27)-C(28)	1.382(4)	C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	120.8(4)		21
C(27)-C(32)	1.398(4)	C(10)-C(11)-C(12)	119.3(4)		QC22
C(28)-C(29)	1.384(4)	C(11)-C(12)-C(7)	121.8(3)	C25 🔊	
C(29)-C(30)	1.373(4)	C(14)-C(13)-C(18)	118.2(3)		C23
C(30)-C(31)	1.372(4)	C(14)-C(13)-P(1)	118.7(2)	C24	
C(31)-C(32)	1.381(4)	C(18)-C(13)-P(1)	123.0(2)		
/	× /		· /		

Table S4. Metrical parameters determined for (^{Ph₂PPr}DI)Ni.

Ni(1)-N(2)	1.9250(18)	N(2)-Ni(1)-N(1)	81.88(7)	C(17)-C(16)-C(15)	119.8(2)
Ni(1)-N(1)	1.9369(17)	N(2)-Ni(1)-P(1)	139.80(6)	C(16)-C(17)-C(18)	120.2(2)
Ni(1)-P(1)	2.1343(6)	N(1)-Ni(1)-P(1)	99.09(5)	C(17)-C(18)-C(19)	119.9(2)
Ni(1)-P(2)	2.1345(6)	N(2)-Ni(1)-P(2)	94.14(5)	C(18)-C(19)-C(14)	120.7(2)
P(1)-C(14)	1.829(2)	N(1)-Ni(1)-P(2)	130.67(5)	N(2)-C(20A)-C(21A)	111.7(4)
P(1)-C(8)	1.839(2)	P(1)-Ni(1)-P(2)	113.58(2)	N(2)-C(20B)-C(21B)	107.5(7)
P(1)-C(7)	1.846(2)	C(14)-P(1)-C(8)	102.07(9)	C(22A)-C(21A)-C(20A)	112.4(3)
P(2)-C(29)	1.834(2)	C(14)-P(1)-C(7)	102.66(10)	C(21A)-C(22A)-P(2)	112.90(18)
P(2)-C(23)	1.842(2)	C(8)-P(1)-C(7)	99.19(9)	C(24)-C(23)-C(28)	118.67(19)
P(2)-C(22A)	1.847(2)	C(14)-P(1)-Ni(1)	119.05(7)	C(24)-C(23)-P(2)	117.84(15)
N(1)-C(2)	1.340(3)	C(8)-P(1)-Ni(1)	121.44(7)	C(28)-C(23)-P(2)	123.47(16)
N(1)-C(5)	1.465(3)	C(7)-P(1)-Ni(1)	109.27(7)	C(25)-C(24)-C(23)	120.8(2)
N(2)-C(3)	1.341(3)	C(29)-P(2)-C(23)	102.90(9)	C(24)-C(25)-C(26)	120.2(2)
N(2)-C(20B)	1.458(13)	C(29)-P(2)-C(22A)	99.98(10)	C(27)-C(26)-C(25)	119.6(2)
N(2)-C(20A)	1.497(6)	C(23)-P(2)-C(22A)	101.45(10)	C(26)-C(27)-C(28)	120.4(2)
C(1)-C(2)	1.504(3)	C(29)-P(2)-Ni(1)	124.15(7)	C(27)-C(28)-C(23)	120.2(2)
C(2)-C(3)	1.414(3)	C(23)-P(2)-Ni(1)	113.12(7)	C(30)-C(29)-C(34)	118.2(2)
C(3)-C(4)	1.510(3)	C(22A)-P(2)-Ni(1)	112.25(7)	C(30)-C(29)-P(2)	124.02(17)
C(5)-C(6)	1.515(3)	C(2)-N(1)-C(5)	116.58(17)	C(34)-C(29)-P(2)	117.74(16)
C(6)-C(7)	1.529(3)	C(2)-N(1)-Ni(1)	114.15(14)	C(29)-C(30)-C(31)	120.3(2)
C(8)-C(13)	1.391(3)	C(5)-N(1)-Ni(1)	128.24(13)	C(32)-C(31)-C(30)	120.8(2)
C(8)-C(9)	1.394(3)	C(3)-N(2)-C(20B)	107.7(4)	C(31)-C(32)-C(33)	119.5(2)
C(9)-C(10)	1.382(3)	C(3)-N(2)-C(20A)	123.5(3)	C(32)-C(33)-C(34)	120.2(2)
C(10)-C(11)	1.380(3)	C(3)-N(2)-Ni(1)	113.91(15)	C(33)-C(34)-C(29)	121.0(2)
C(11)-C(12)	1.377(3)	C(20B)-N(2)-Ni(1)	131.6(5)		
C(12)-C(13)	1.386(3)	C(20A)-N(2)-Ni(1)	121.6(2)		
C(14)-C(15)	1.386(3)	N(1)-C(2)-C(3)	114.09(19)		
C(14)-C(19)	1.396(3)	N(1)-C(2)-C(1)	122.10(19)		
C(15)-C(16)	1.385(3)	C(3)-C(2)-C(1)	123.75(19)	C26	
C(16)-C(17)	1.380(3)	N(2)-C(3)-C(2)	114.41(19)	C25 (2)	
C(17)-C(18)	1.381(3)	N(2)-C(3)-C(4)	122.1(2)	023.8	
C(18)-C(19)	1.385(3)	C(2)-C(3)-C(4)	123.4(2)	C24 C23	630
C(20A)-C(21A)	1.525(7)	N(1)-C(5)-C(6)	113.68(16)		
C(20B)-C(21B)	1.508(13)	C(5)-C(6)-C(7)	112.69(17)		
C(21A)-C(22A)	1.503(4)	C(6)-C(7)-P(1)	110.10(15)		,29
C(23)-C(24)	1.392(3)	C(13)-C(8)-C(9)	118.44(19)	N2 NI	C34
C(23)-C(28)	1.397(3)	C(13)-C(8)-P(1)	123.95(16)		C9 C10
C(24)-C(25)	1.383(3)	C(9)-C(8)-P(1)	117.57(15)		
C(25)-C(26)	1.384(3)	C(10)-C(9)-C(8)	120.8(2)		
C(26)-C(27)	1.383(3)	C(11)-C(10)-C(9)	120.1(2)	C7 🖉	
C(27)-C(28)	1.388(3)	C(12)-C(11)-C(10)	119.7(2)	C15 C14	C13 C12
C(29)-C(30)	1.389(3)	C(11)-C(12)-C(13)	120.6(2)	C16	
C(29)-C(34)	1.394(3)	C(12)-C(13)-C(8)	120.4(2)	© C19	
C(30)-C(31)	1.391(3)	C(15)-C(14)-C(19)	118.35(19)	C17 C18	
C(31)-C(32)	1.368(4)	C(15)-C(14)-P(1)	117.92(15)		
C(32)-C(33)	1.381(4)	C(19)-C(14)-P(1)	123.72(16)		
C(33)-C(34)	1.381(3)	C(16)-C(15)-C(14)	121.1(2)		



Figure S20. The UV-visible spectrum of 3 (top) and 4 (bottom) in toluene.

Complex	λ_{\max} (nm)	$\epsilon (M^{-1} cm^{-1})$
3	422	5450
	714	4750
4	499	11310
	776	1080

Table S5. The wavelengths of maximum absorption (λ_{max}) and extinction coefficient (ϵ) for each complex analyzed by UV-visible spectroscopy.



Figure S21. Cyclic votammogram of **2** relative to Fc^+/Fc (internal standard) in tetrahydrofuran (scan rate = 25 mV/s).



Figure S22. Cyclic votammograms of **3** (top) and **4** (bottom) relative to Fc^+/Fc in acetonitrile (scan rate = 50 mV/s).