## **Supporting Information**

## Synthesis, Structure, and Alkyne Insertion of Mixed-Sandwich Zirconacarborane Alkyl

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**General Procedures.** All experiments were performed under an atmosphere of dry dinitrogen with the rigid exclusion of air and moisture using standard Schlenk or cannula techniques, or in a glovebox. Ether and toluene were refluxed over sodium benzophenone ketyl for several days and freshly distilled prior to use. 7-Me<sub>2</sub>N(H)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-7,8-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>,<sup>1</sup> Cp<sup>''</sup>ZrMe<sub>3</sub>,<sup>2</sup> PhC=CMe,<sup>3</sup> PhC=CTMS,<sup>4</sup> <sup>n</sup>BuC=CTMS<sup>5</sup> were prepared according to literature methods. Other chemicals were purchased from either Aldrich or Acros Chemical Co. and used as received unless otherwise specified. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 300 spectrometer at 300 and 75 MHz, respectively. <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova 400 spectrometer at 128 MHz. All chemical shifts were reported in  $\delta$  units with references to the residual protons of the deuterated solvents for proton and carbon chemical shifts and to external BF<sub>3</sub> OEt<sub>2</sub> (0.00 ppm) for boron chemical shifts. Infrared spectra were obtained from KBr pellets prepared in the glovebox on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 Fourier transform spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed by the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, CAS, China.

**Preparation of**  $[\eta^1:\sigma;\eta^5-\{\text{MeN}(\text{CH}_2)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\}\text{C}_2\text{B}_9\text{H}_{10}]\text{Zr}(\eta^5-\text{Cp''})$  (1). To an Et<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) suspension of Cp''ZrCl<sub>3</sub> (2.04 g, 5.0 mmol) was added an Et<sub>2</sub>O solution of MeLi (1.4 M, 10.7 mL, 15.0 mmol) at -78 °C with stirring. The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to -20 °C, and stirred for 2 h. Removal of the solvent under vacuum gave a pale-yellow residue which was extracted with hexane (50 mL). After filtration, the filtrate was concentrated to dryness, affording Cp''ZrMe<sub>3</sub> as a yellow crystalline solid (1.21 g, 3.5 mmol).<sup>2</sup> A white solid of 7-Me<sub>2</sub>N(H)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-7,8-C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub> (0.72 g, 3.5 mmol) was added to a toluene solution (15 mL) of Cp''ZrMe<sub>3</sub> (1.21 g, 3.5 mmol) in portions at -30 °C with stirring. The resultant orange suspension was allowed to warm to room temperature, and stirred overnight. After filtration, the orange filtrate was concentrated to *ca*. 10 mL. Complex **1** was isolated as orange crystals after this solution stood at room temperature for 2 days (1.41 g, 56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.68 (s, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.28 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 3.15 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 2.21 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.08 (s, 3H)  $(NCH_3)$ , 2.01 (m, 2H)  $(CH_2CH_2NMe)$ , 2.21 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H)  $(Zr-CH_2)$ , 0.28 (s, 9H), -0.04 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>].  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  132.4, 131.5, 130.7, 129.7, 124.2 [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 73.2 (Zr-CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 63.7 (cage C), 54.4 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 38.3  $(CH_2CH_2NMe)$ , 1.1, -0.2 [Si $(CH_3)_3$ ]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.1 (1B), 0.9 (1B), -2.2 (2B), -4.9 (1B), -7.9 (2B), -13.9 (1B), -18.1 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): v<sub>BH</sub> 2545 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>40</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (1): C, 40.58; H, 8.01; N, 2.78. Found: C, 40.73; H, 8.08; N, 2.81.

**Preparation of**  $[\eta^1:\sigma:\eta^5-\{\text{MeN}[CH_2(Et)C=C(Et)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(\eta^5-Cp'')$  (2a). To a toluene (5 mL) solution of 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added 3-hexyne (16 mg, 0.2 mmol) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. After filtration,

the orange filtrate was concentrated to *ca*. 2 mL. Complex **2a** was isolated as orange crystals after this solution stood at room temperature for 3 days (85 g, 73%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.94 (s, 1H), 7.11 (m, 1H), 6.20 (m, 1H) [C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 4.44 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.10 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.09 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H) (MeNCH<sub>2</sub>CEt), 3.00 (m, 1H), 2.12 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.35 (m, 1H),1.83 (m, 1H), 1.76 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.45 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.42 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 0.98 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.25 (s, 9H), 0.23 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  193.1 (Zr- $C_a$ ), 138.4 (Zr- $C_aC_\beta$ ), 137.8, 131.7, 130.9, 129.7, 121.6 [ $C_3$ H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 88.0, 86.2 (cage C), 67.8 (MeNCH<sub>2</sub>CEt), 64.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 46.8 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 30.4, 25.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.8, 13.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.1, 1.0 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.4 (1B), 0.9 (1B), -1.6 (2B), -3.3 (1B), -5.2 (1B), -8.5 (1B), -12.5 (1B), -16.4 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $v_{BH}$  2545 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>50</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**2a**): C, 47.20; H, 8.61; N, 2.39. Found: C, 47.24; H, 8.36; N, 2.53.

Preparation of  $[η^1: σ: η^5 - {\text{MeN}[CH_2("Pr)C=C("Pr)]CH_2CH_2}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(η^5 - Cp'')$  (2b). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 4-octyne (22 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2a: yield 89 mg (73%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.96 (s, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 6.33 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>*H*<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 4.40 (br s, 1H) (cage *CH*), 3.23 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (d, *J* = 15.3 Hz, 1H) (MeNC*H*<sub>2</sub>*C*<sup>*n*</sup>Pr), 3.12 (m, 1H), 2.36 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>*CH*<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.07 (m, 2H) (*CH*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.91 (m, 2H), 1.69 (m, 2H) (*CH*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.60 (s, 3H) (NC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 1.46 (m, 4H) (CH<sub>2</sub>C*H*<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.94 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.28 (s, 9H), 0.24 (s, 9H) [Si(*CH*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  192.1 (*Zr*-*C*<sub>α</sub>), 137.7 (*Zr*-*C*<sub>α</sub>*C*<sub>β</sub>), 137.3, 131.2, 130.5, 121.1 [*C*<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 74.2 (cage *C*), 68.0 (MeNC*H*<sub>2</sub>*C*"Pr), 64.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 46.3 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 36.8, 34.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 24.1, 21.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.4, 14.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.8, 0.7 [Si(*CH*<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  2.8 (1B), 1.0 (1B), -1.6 (2B), -3.3 (1B), -5.7 (1B), -9.5 (1B), -12.3 (1B), -16.5 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v* <sub>BH</sub> 2543 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>54</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**2b**): C, 48.95; H, 8.87; N, 2.28. Found: C, 48.51; H, 8.56; N, 2.35.

Preparation of [η<sup>1</sup>:σ: η<sup>5</sup>-{MeN[CH<sub>2</sub>(Ph)C=C(Ph)]CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>}C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>]Zr(η<sup>5</sup>-Cp<sup>\*</sup>) (2c). To a toluene (5 mL) solution of 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added diphenylacetylene (36 mg, 0.2 mmol) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was heated to 70 °C overnight. After filtration, the orange filtrate was concentrated to *ca*. 2 mL. Complex **2c** was collected as orange crystals after this solution stood at room temperature for 4 days (108 mg, 70%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.54 (m, 1H), 6.61 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 7.00 (m, 5H), 6.92 (m, 3H), 6.78 (m, 2H) (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 4.67 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.68 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.62 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H) [C(Ph)CH<sub>2</sub>NMe], 3.38 (m, 1H), 2.15 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.73 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.54 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 0.19 (s, 9H), 0.04 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 194.5 (Zr-*C*<sub>α</sub>), 149.7 (Zr-C<sub>α</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 141.7, 140.2, 138.4, 131.7, 130.7, 129.4, 129.3, 127.7, 126.5, 125.6, 125.0, 122.6 [*C*<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> + *C*<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 89.8 (cage *C*), 69.3 [C(Ph)*C*H<sub>2</sub>NMe], 64.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 46.2 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 36.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 0.9, 0.6 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 5.2 (1B), -0.2 (2B), -1.6 (2B), -11.2 (2B), -14.1 (2B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v*<sub>BH</sub> 2544 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>34.5</sub>H<sub>54</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**2c** + 0.5 toluene): C, 56.96; H, 7.48; N, 1.93. Found: C, 57.16; H, 7.54; N, 2.26.

Preparation of  $[\eta^1:\sigma:\eta^5-\{\text{MeN}[CH_2(Ph)C=C(Me)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(\eta^5-Cp'')$  (2d). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and phenylmethylacetylene (23 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2c: yield 100 mg (81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.89 (s, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 6.26 (m, 1H)  $[C_5H_3(TMS)_2]$ , 7.25 (m, 3H), 6.91 (m, 2H) ( $C_6H_5$ ), 3.98 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.42 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 2.44 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H) [MeNCH<sub>2</sub>C(Ph)], 3.18 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.19 (m, 2H)  $(CH_2CH_2NMe)$ , 1.75 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.47 (s, 3H) [ZrC(CH<sub>3</sub>)], 0.28 (s, 9H), 0.22 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  191.4 (Zr-C<sub>a</sub>), 141.5 (Zr-C<sub>a</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 137.0, 136.5, 132.4, 130.5, 127.2, 122.3 [C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> + C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 69.7 (PhCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 64.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 46.4 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 25.4 [ZrC(CH<sub>3</sub>)], 0.9, 0.7 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], cage carbons were not observed. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-d<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  2.3 (1B), 0.1 (1B), -1.5 (2B), -3.3 (1B), -5.8 (1B), -9.9 (1B), -12.4 (1B), -16.3 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{BH}$  2553 (vs). Anal. Calcd for: C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>48</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**2d**): C, 50.42; H, 7.81; N, 2.26. Found: C, 50.21; H, 7.55; N, 2.33.

Preparation of  $[η^1: σ: η^5 - \{MeN[CH_2(Ph)C=C(TMS)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(η^5-Cp'')$  (2e). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and trimethylsilylphenylacetylene (35 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2c: yield 103 mg (76%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (pyridine-*d*<sub>5</sub>):  $\delta$  8.10 (s, 1H), 7.65 (m, 1H), 7.54 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.26 (m, 1H), 7.16 (m, 2H) (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 4.58 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H) (PhCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 4.56 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.85 (m, 1H), 2.63 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.45 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.48 (m, 1H), 2.26 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 0.45 (s, 9H), 0.34 (s, 9H), -0.03 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (pyridine-*d*<sub>5</sub>):  $\delta$  202.2 (Zr-*C<sub>a</sub>*), 153.0 (Zr-C<sub>a</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 145.7, 137.0, 132.8, 130.0, 128.3, 127.6, 126.8, 126.3, 124.9 [*C*<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> + *C*<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 70.8 (PhCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 64.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 47.3 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 35.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 3.1, 0.3, -0.1 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], cage carbons were not observed. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (pyridine-*d*<sub>5</sub>):  $\delta$  1.9 (1B), -2.3 (2B), -4.0 (2B), -9.8 (1B), -11.6 (1B), -16.5 (2B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v*<sub>BH</sub> 2558 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>54</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>3</sub>Zr (2e): C, 49.64; H, 8.03; N, 2.07. Found: C, 49.63; H, 8.09; N, 1.79.

Preparation of  $[\eta^1:\sigma:\eta^5-\{MeN[CH_2(^nBu)C=C(TMS)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(\eta^5-Cp'')$  (2f). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1-trimethylsilyl-1-hexyne (31 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for **2c**: yield 106 mg (81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ 7.34 (s, 1H), 7.20 (m, 1H), 6.45 (m, 1H) [C<sub>3</sub> $H_3$ (TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 4.08 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.40 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (d, J = 15.0 Hz, 1H) (MeNC $H_2$ C<sup>n</sup>Bu), 2.49 (m, 1H), 2.39 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>C $H_2$ NMe), 2.05 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 2H) (C $H_2$ CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.82 (m, 2H) (C $H_2$ CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.77 (s, 3H) (NC $H_3$ ), 1.31 – 1.27 (m, 4H) (CH<sub>2</sub>C $H_2$ CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.96 (t, J = 9.0 Hz, 3H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.30 (s, 9H), 0.20 (s, 9H), 0.18 (s, 9H) [Si(C $H_3$ )<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ 201.7 (Zr- $C_a$ ), 152.6 (Zr- $C_aC_\beta$ ), 135.0, 133.2, 131.4, 128.9, 125.4 ( $C_5$ H<sub>3</sub>(Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 68.9 (<sup>n</sup>BuCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 67.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 58.6 (cage C), 50.5 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 40.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 37.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 30.8, 23.5, 14.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.0, 1.0, 0.9 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  1.4 (1B), -2.1 (2B), -3.7 (1B), -7.4 (2B), -10.4 (1B), -15.2 (2B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $\nu_{BH}$  2548 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>58</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>3</sub>Zr (**2f**): C, 47.49; H, 8.89; N, 2.13. Found: C, 47.55; H, 9.02; N, 2.32.

Preparation of  $[η^1: σ: η^5 - \{MeN[CH_2("Bu)C=C(H)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(η^5 - Cp'')$  (3a). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 1-hexyne (16 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2a: yield 95 mg (81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.81 (s, 1H), 6.46 (m, 1H), 6.13 (m, 1H) [C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 4.85 (s, 1H) (Zr-C*H*), 3.94 (br s, 1H) (cage C*H*), 3.07 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1H) (MeNCH<sub>2</sub>C<sup>*n*</sup>Bu), 2.47 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 2.28 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.55 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31 - 0.99 (m, 6H) ((CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.97 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H) [(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>], 0.34 (s, 9H), 0.19 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  181.9 (Zr-C<sub>α</sub>), 143.4 (Zr-C<sub>α</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 134.6, 131.9, 131.5, 125.8, 123.2 [C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 69.6 (<sup>*n*</sup>BuCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 66.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 48.6 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 45.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 38.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 30.4, 23.5 14.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.2, 0.6 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], cage carbons were not observed. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -0.4 (2B), -2.8 (2B), -6.7 (1B), -9.8 (1B), -11.5 (1B), - -16.5 (2B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v*<sub>BH</sub> 2547 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>50</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**3a**): C, 47.20; H, 8.61; N, 2.39. Found: C, 47.11; H, 9.01; N, 2.55.

Preparation of [η<sup>1</sup>:σ:η<sup>5</sup>-{MeN[CH<sub>2</sub>(Ph)C=C(H)]CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>}C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>]Zr(η<sup>5</sup>-Cp<sup>\*</sup>) (3b). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and phenylacetylene (20 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for **2a**: yield 91 mg (75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.47 (m, 1H), 6.11 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.09 (m, 3H) (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.07 (s, 1H) (Zr-CH), 3.90 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.45 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (d, *J* = 15.0 Hz, 1H) (MeNCH<sub>2</sub>CPh), 2.56 (m, 1H), 2.19 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.77 (m, 1H), 1.59 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.53 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 0.32 (s, 9H), 0.16 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 187.5 (Zr-C<sub>α</sub>), 141.8 (Zr-C<sub>α</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 140.1, 135.3, 132.3, 131.0, 129.2, 127.8, 125.2, 123.4, 122.3 [C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> + C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 68.6 (PhCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 65.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>3</sub>), 59.3 (cage C), 47.9 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 38.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.1, 0.5 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ -0.2 (2B), -2.4 (2B), -6.3 (2B), -9.5(2B), -15.9 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v*<sub>BH</sub> 2550 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>46</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**3b**): C, 49.60; H, 7.66; N, 2.31. Found: C, 49.15; H, 7.60; N, 2.46.

Preparation of  $[η^1: σ: η^5 - \{MeN[CH_2(H)C=C(TMS)]CH_2CH_2\}C_2B_9H_{10}]Zr(η^5-Cp'')$  (3c). This complex was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and trimethylsilylacetylene (20 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2a: yield 94 mg (78%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.63 (s, 1H), 6.86 (m, 1H), 6.71 (m, 1H)  $[C_5H_3(TMS)_2]$ , 6.43 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 3.0 Hz, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CHCTMS), 4.10 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.05 (dd, *J* = 1.5 and 15.0 Hz, 1H), 2.15 (dd, *J* = 3.0 and 15.0 Hz, 1H) (MeNCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 2.73 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.60 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe) 1.47 (s, 3H) (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 0.34 (s, 9H), 0.21 (s, 9H), 0.12 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  211.7 (ZrC<sub>α</sub>), 140.3 (ZrC<sub>α</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 137.1, 133.1, 132.2, 129.4, 129.2 [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 66.9 (HCCH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 64.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 51.9 (cage C), 46.9 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 36.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 1.2, 0.9, -0.8 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$  2.2 (1B), -2.7 (3B), -3.7 (1B), -6.5 (1B), -9.6 (1B), -13.4 (1B), -16.7 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):  $v_{BH}$  2522 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>50</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>3</sub>Zr (**3c**): C, 43.94; H, 8.38; N, 2.33. Found: C, 43.80; H, 7.98; N, 1.95.

Preparation of ( $\eta^5$ -Cp'')[ $\eta^1$ : $\eta^5$ -(Me<sub>2</sub>NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)C<sub>2</sub>B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>]Zr[C=C(<sup>*i*</sup>Bu)] (4). Complex 4 was prepared as orange crystals from 1 (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) and 3,3-dimethyl-1-butyne (16 mg, 0.2 mmol) in toluene (10 mL), using the same procedure reported for 2a: yield 95 mg (75%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.06 (m, 1H), 5.64 (m, 1H) [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub>], 5.12 (br s, 1H) (cage CH), 3.31 (m, 2H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.26 (m, 1H), 1.85 (m, 1H) (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.44 (s, 3H) [N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], 1.08 (s, 9H) [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 0.38 (s, 9H), 0.34 (s, 9H) [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ 131.9, 131.4, 129.6, 126.6, 126.0, 125.6 [C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>3</sub>(TMS)<sub>2</sub> + ZrC<sub>α</sub>], 90.2 (ZrC<sub>α</sub>C<sub>β</sub>), 65.0 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>), 59.3 (cage C), 53.3, 47.7 [N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], 36.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe), 31.2 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 29.8 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 1.3, 1.4 [Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  2.2 (1B), -0.5 (1B), -1.9 (2B), -3.8 (1B), -6.4 (1B), -9.5 (1B), -12.6 (1B), -16.7 (1B). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): *v*<sub>BH</sub> 2557 (vs). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26.5</sub>H<sub>54</sub>B<sub>9</sub>NSi<sub>2</sub>Zr (**4** + 0.5toluene): C, 50.41; H, 8.62; N, 2.22. Found: C, 50.28; H, 8.14; N, 1.79.

**Reaction of 1 with Alkene. A Representative Procedure.** To a toluene (5 mL) solution of **1** (101 mg, 0.2 mmol) was added 1-hexene (42 mg, 0.5 mmol) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. A portion of solution (0.5 mL) was taken from this mixture, which was subject to <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis after replacing toluene with benzene- $d_6$ . The result showed that it was still **1** and no insertion product was observed. The remaining reaction mixture was then heated at 100 °C for 24 h. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR analyses suggested that **1** remained intact and no product was found.

**X-ray Structure Determination**. All single crystals were immersed in Paraton-N oil and sealed under N<sub>2</sub> in thin-walled glass capillaries. Data were collected at 293 K on a Bruker SMART APEX CCD diffractometer using Mo K $\alpha$  radiation (0.71073 Å). An empirical absorption correction was applied using the SADABS program.<sup>6</sup> All structures were solved by direct methods and subsequent Fourier difference techniques and refined anisotropically for all non-hydrogen atoms by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  using the SHELXTL program package.<sup>7</sup> All hydrogen atoms were geometrically fixed using the riding model. Details of the crystal structures were deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre with CCDC-1041216–1041224 for **1**, **2a**, **2c–f**, **3b**, **3c** and **4**.

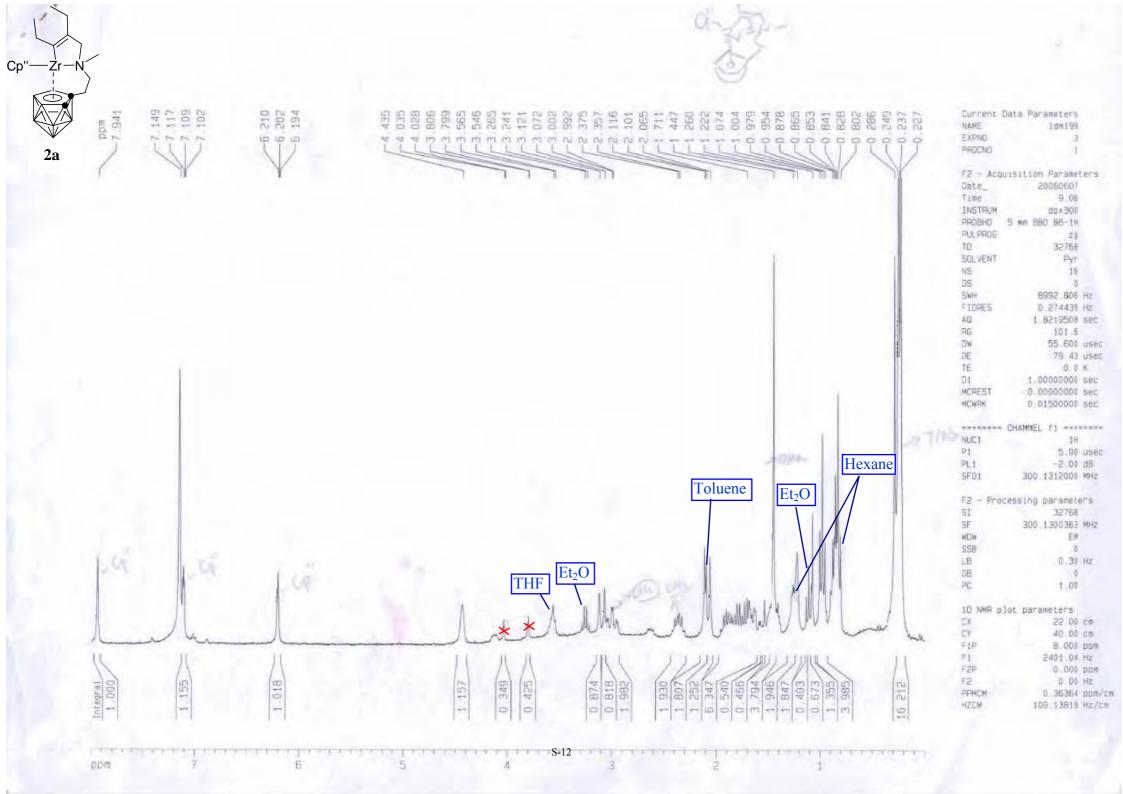
## References

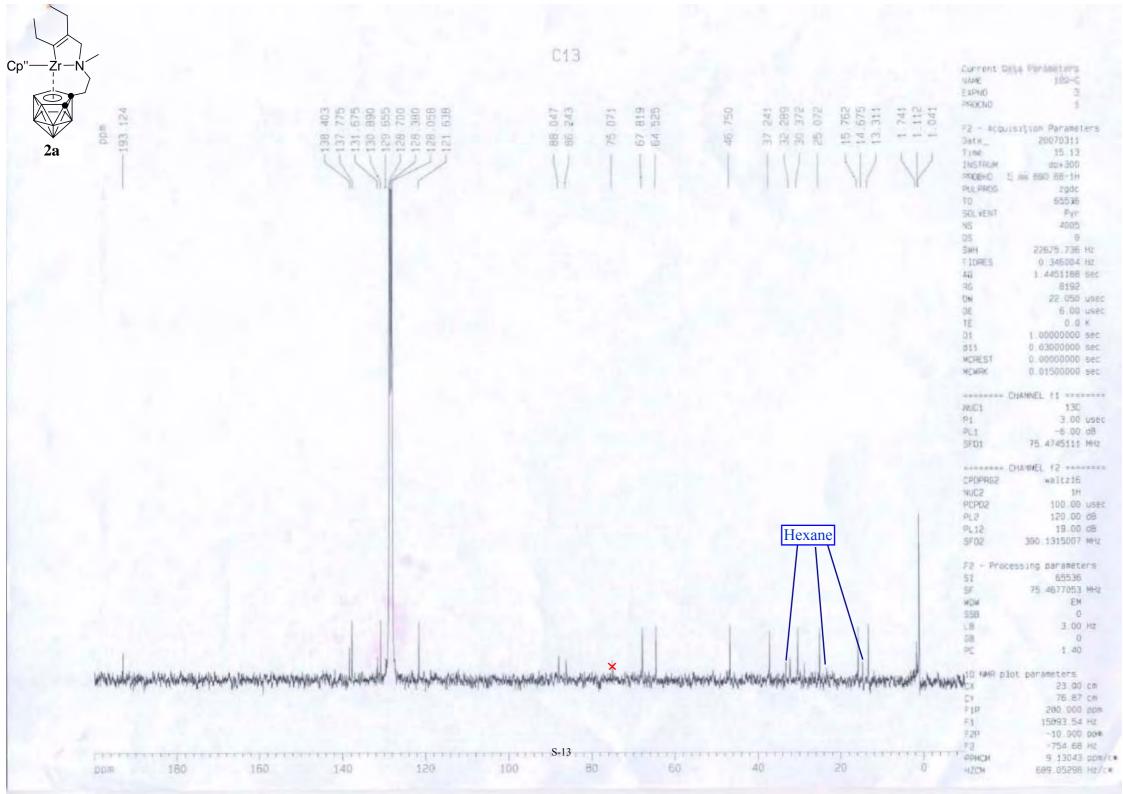
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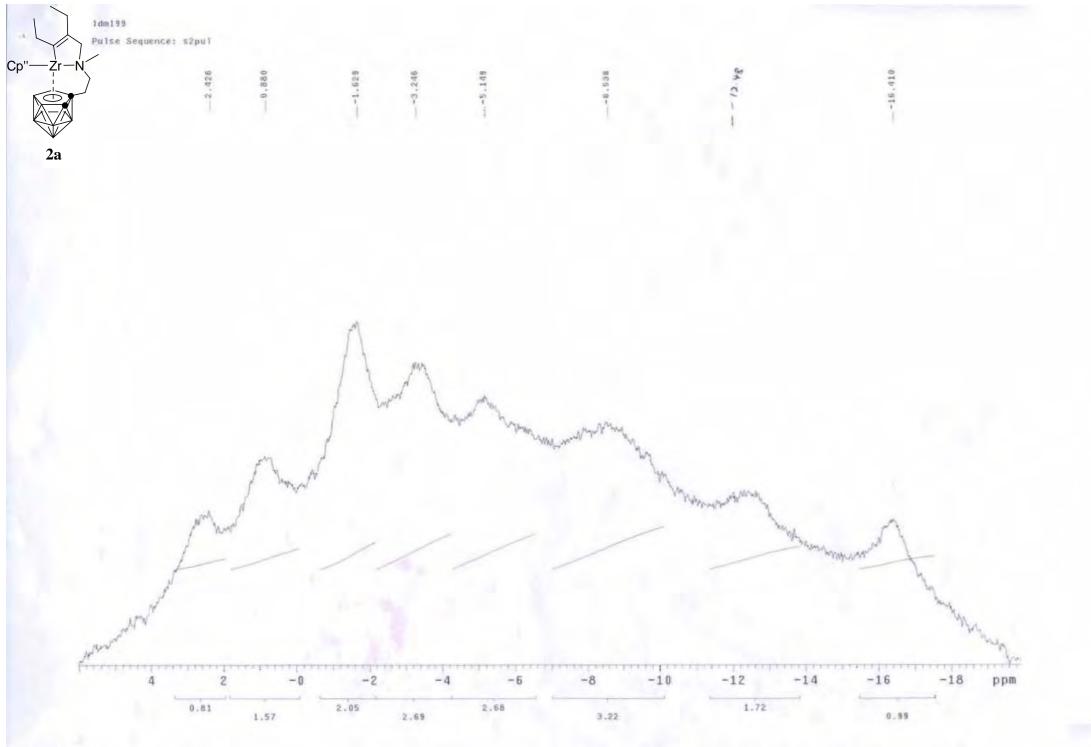
	1	2a	$2c \cdot C_7 H_8$	2d
formula	$C_{17}H_{40}B_9N$ -	$C_{23}H_{50}B_9N$ -	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>56</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N-	$C_{26}H_{48}B_9N$
	Si <sub>2</sub> Zr	Si <sub>2</sub> Zr	Si <sub>2</sub> Zr	Si <sub>2</sub> Zr
cryst size (mm)	0.50 x 0.40	0.60 x 0.35	0.24 x 0.20	0.40 x 0.30
	x 0.30	x 0.25	x 0.14	x 0.20
fw	503.2	585.3	771.5	619.3
cryst syst	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
space group	$P2_{1}/c$	$P2_{1}/c$	<i>P</i> (-1)	<i>P</i> (-1)
<i>a</i> , Å	15.927(3)	19.577(3)	10.175(2)	10.199(2)
b, Å	9.976(2)	9.974(1)	11.110 (2)	11.637(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	17.407(4)	16.926(2)	22.337(4)	15.352(2)
$\alpha$ , deg	90	90	91.67 (1)	80.63(1)
$\beta$ , deg	101.14(1)	99.29 (1)	91.91 (1)	74.97(1)
γ, deg	90	90	114.03 (1)	76.18(1)
$V, Å^3$	2713.7(9)	3261.6(7)	2302.5(7)	1698.8(4)
Z	4	4	2	2
$D_{\rm calcd},{ m Mg/m}^3$	1.232	1.192	1.113	1.211
radiation ( $\lambda$ ), Å	Μο Κα	Μο Κα	Μο Κα	Μο Κα
	(0.71073)	(0.71073)	(0.71073)	(0.71073)
$2\theta$ range, deg	2.6 to 56.8	4.2 to 56.0	4.0 to 50.0	2.8 to 50.0
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.500	0.425	0.316	0.412
F(000)	1048	1232	808	648
no. of obsd reflns	6716	7858	7965	5942
no. of params refnd	271	325	496	352
goodness of fit	1.034	1.067	0.956	1.065
R1	0.051	0.034	0.075	0.037
wR2	0.119	0.088	0.220	0.090

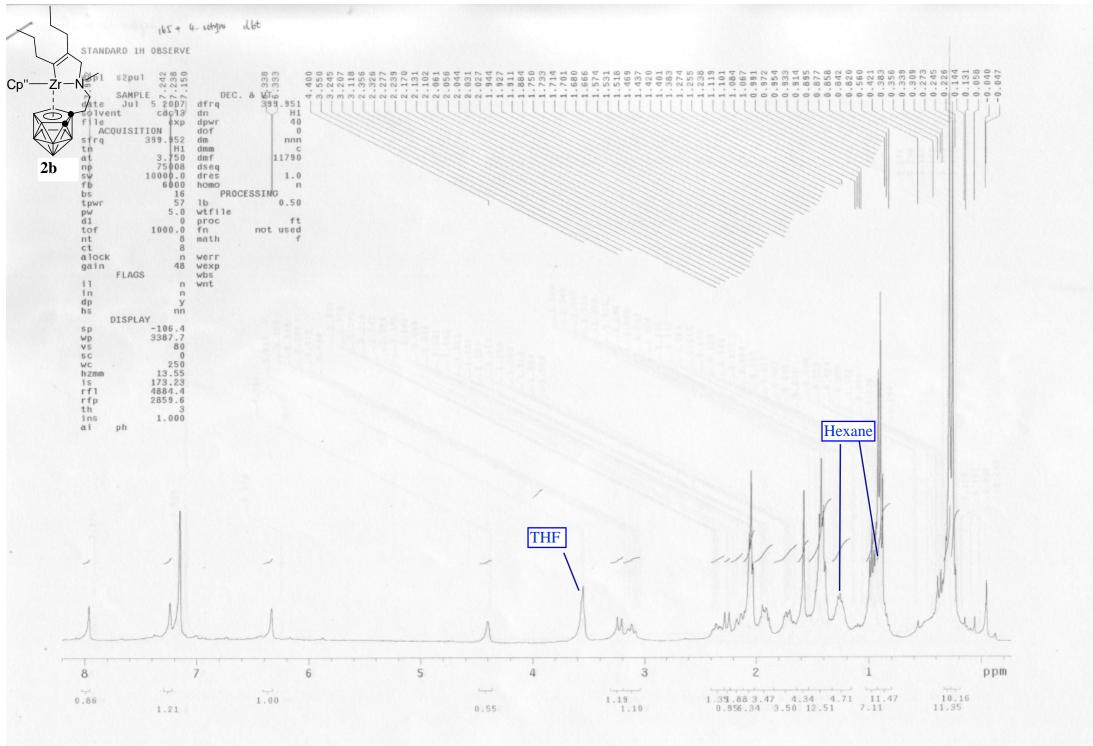
Table S1 Crystal data and summary of data collection and refinement.

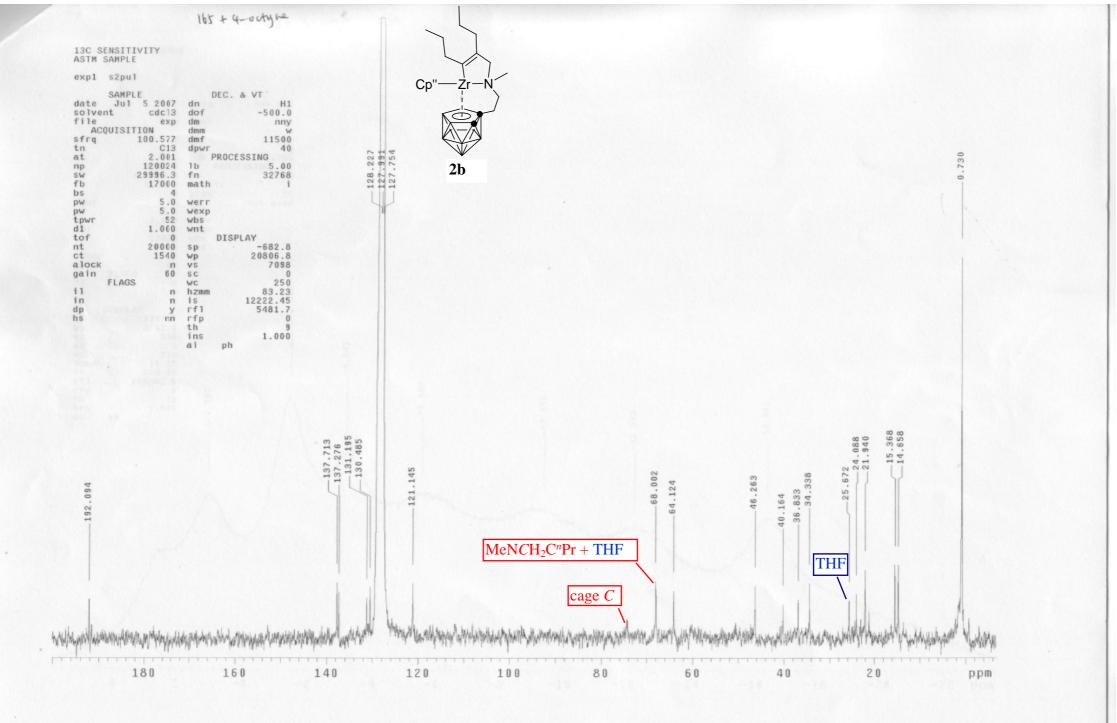
	2e	2f	3b	3c	<b>4</b> •0.5C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>8</sub>
formula	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>54</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N-	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>58</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N-	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>46</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N-	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>50</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N-	C <sub>26.5</sub> H <sub>54</sub> B <sub>9</sub> N
	Si <sub>3</sub> Zr	Si <sub>3</sub> Zr	Si <sub>2</sub> Zr	Si <sub>3</sub> Zr	-Si <sub>2</sub> Zr
cryst size (mm)	0.40 x 0.30	0.50 x 0.30	0.24 x 0.20	0.50 x 0.30	0.30 x 0.20
	x 0.20	x 0.20	x 0.18	x 0.20	x 0.20
fw	677.5	657.5	605.3	601.4	631.4
cryst syst	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	$P2_{1}/c$	$P2_{1}/n$	$P2_{1}/c$	$P2_{1}/c$	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> /c
<i>a</i> , Å	19.530(2)	18.371(2)	10.720(1)	11.055(4)	10.909 (1)
b, Å	10.208(1)	10.614(1)	17.942(2)	30.190(9)	9.538(1)
<i>c</i> , Å	20.640(2)	20.465(2)	16.946(2)	10.338(3)	34.342(3)
$\alpha$ , deg	90	90	90	90	90
$\beta$ , deg	115.68(1)	115.75(1)	96.34(1)	107.93(6)	92.43(1)
γ, deg	90	90	90	90	90
V, Å <sup>3</sup>	3708.2(8)	3594.1(5)	3239.4(7)	3283.0(2)	3570.1(6)
Z	4	4	4	4	4
$D_{\text{calcd}}, \text{Mg/m}^3$	1.214	1.215	1.241	1.217	1.175
radiation ( $\lambda$ ), Å	Μο Κα				
	(0.71073)	(0.71073)	(0.71073)	(0.71073)	(0.71073)
$2\theta$ range, deg	2.2 to 56.0	2.5 to 50.0	3.3 to 50.0	2.7 to 56.0	2.4 to 50.0
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.414	0.425	0.430	0.459	0.393
<i>F</i> (000)	1424	1392	1264	1264	1332
no. of obsd reflns	8947	6332	5635	7855	6279
no. of params refnd	379	361	344	325	370
goodness of fit	0.986	1.055	1.005	1.064	1.067
R1	0.052	0.045	0.080	0.044	0.049
wR2	0.125	0.105	0.175	0.109	0.121

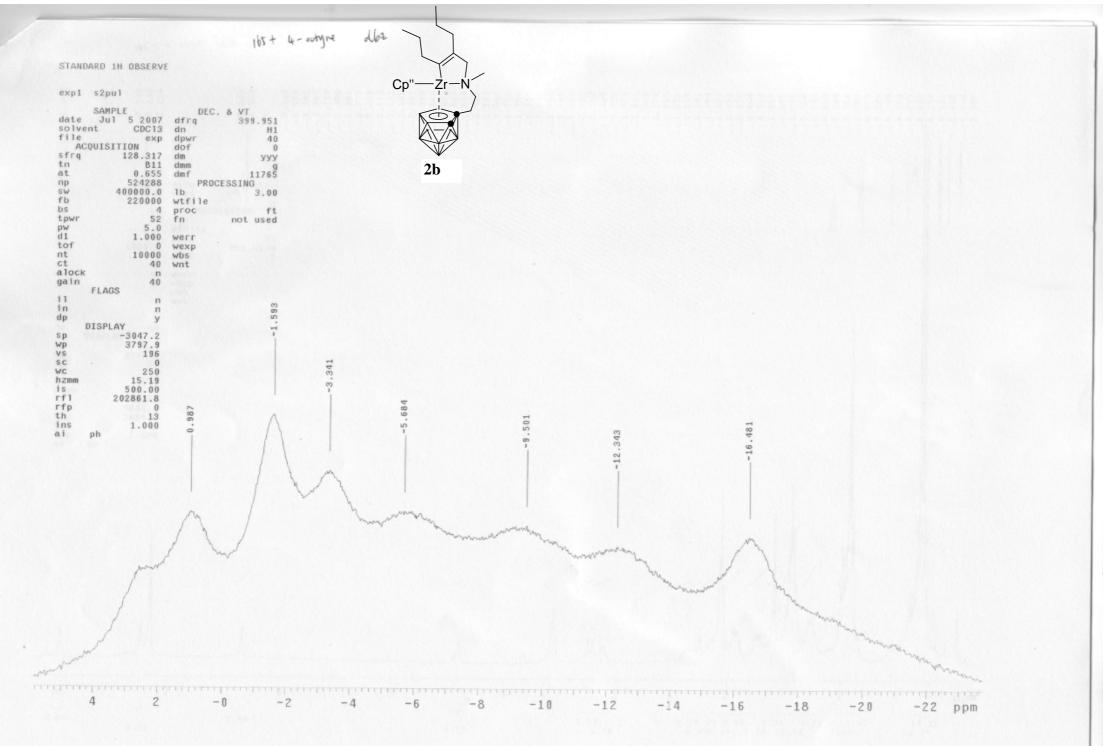


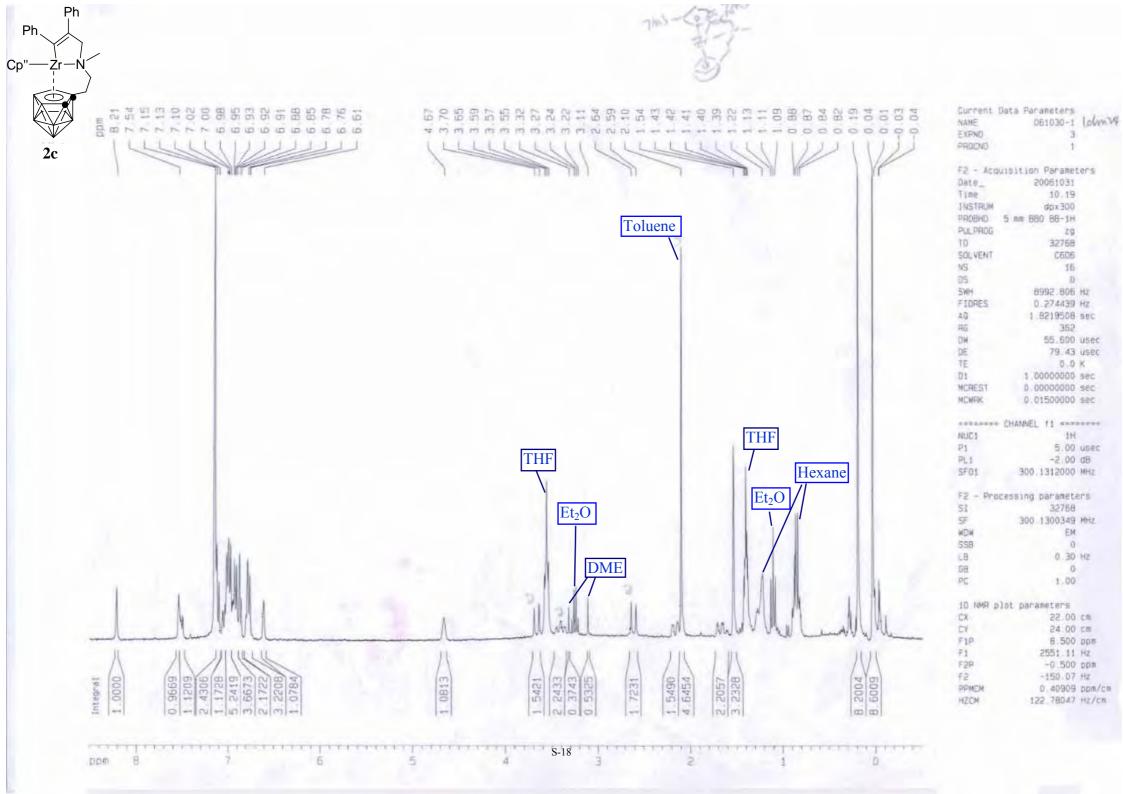


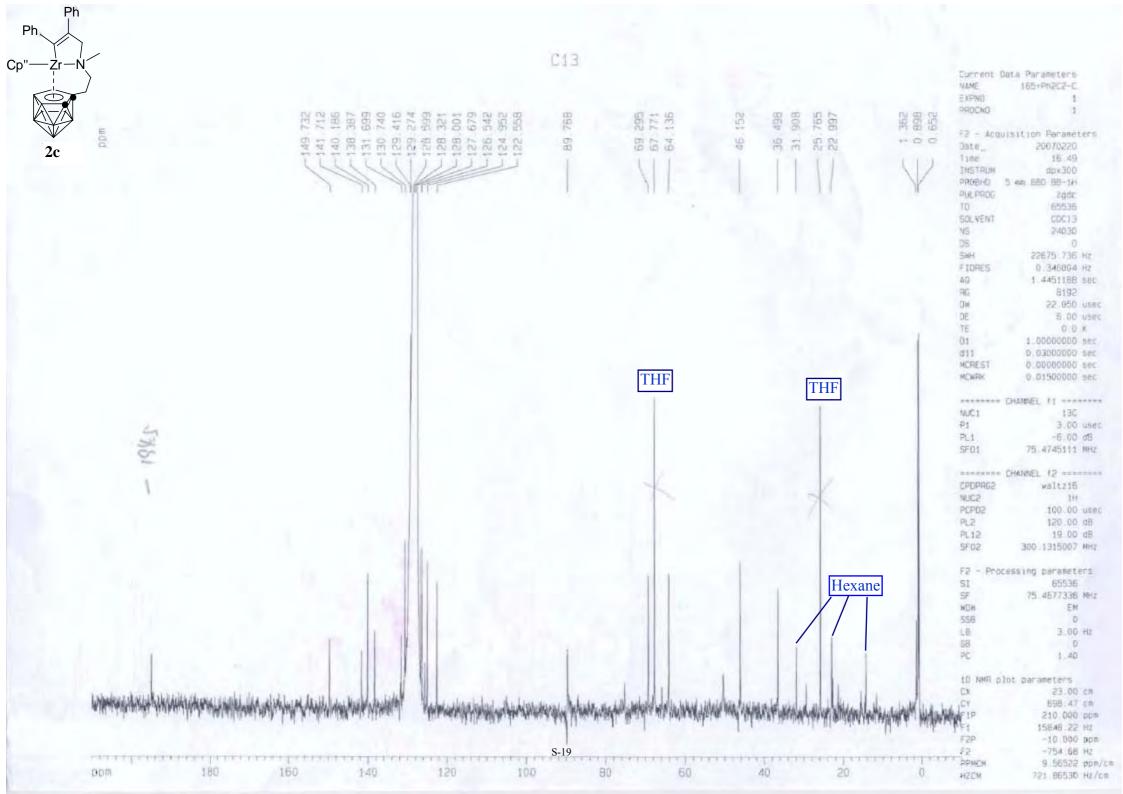


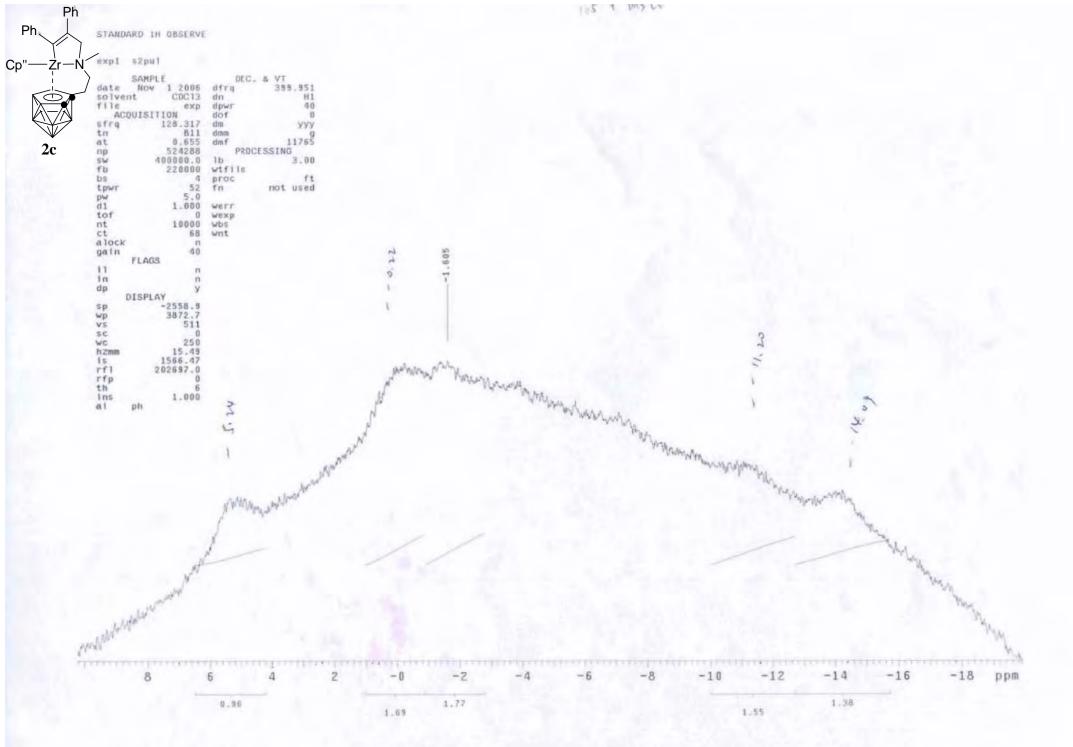


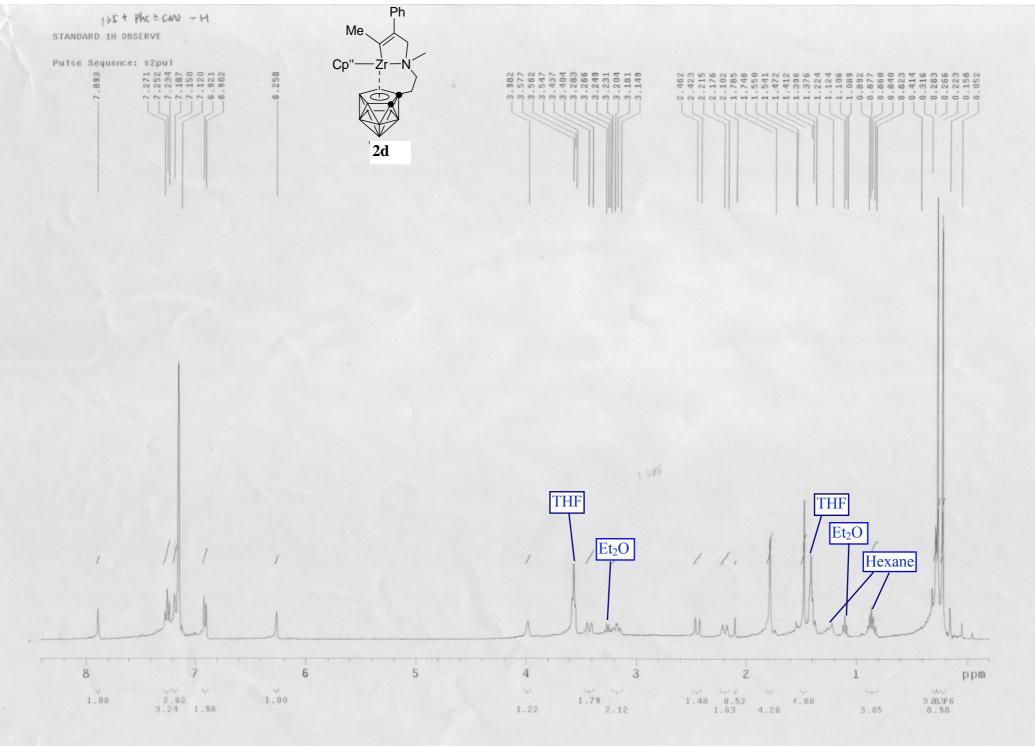




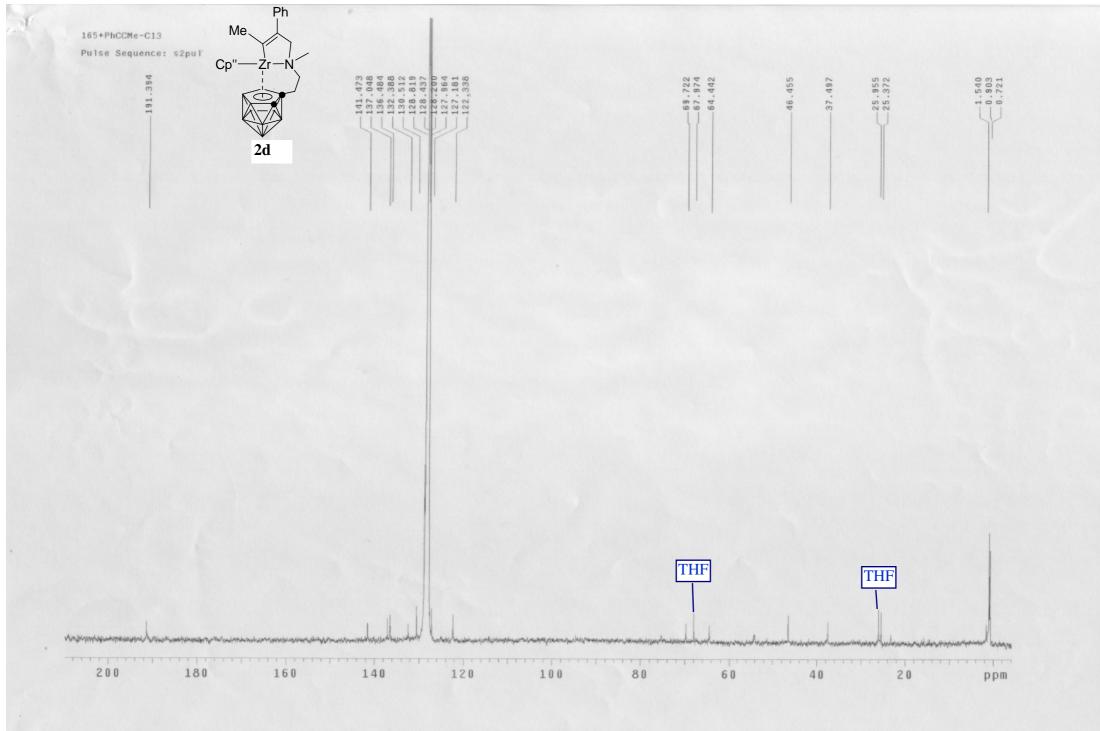


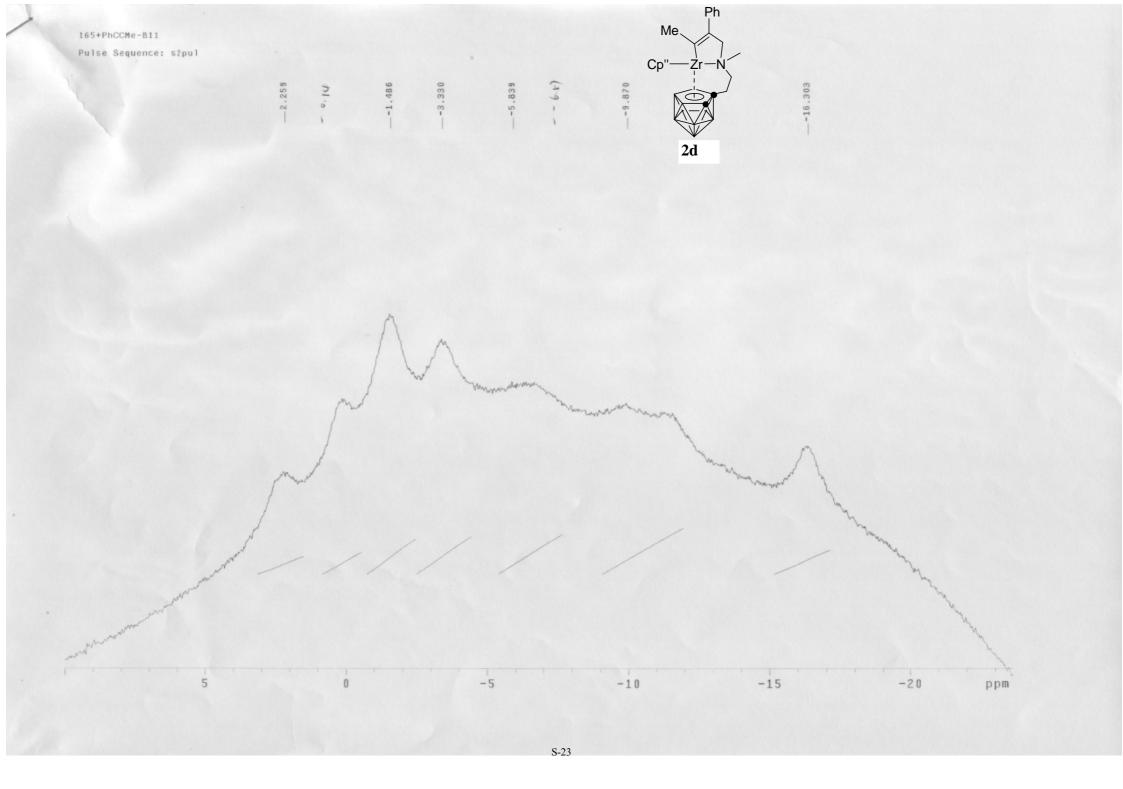


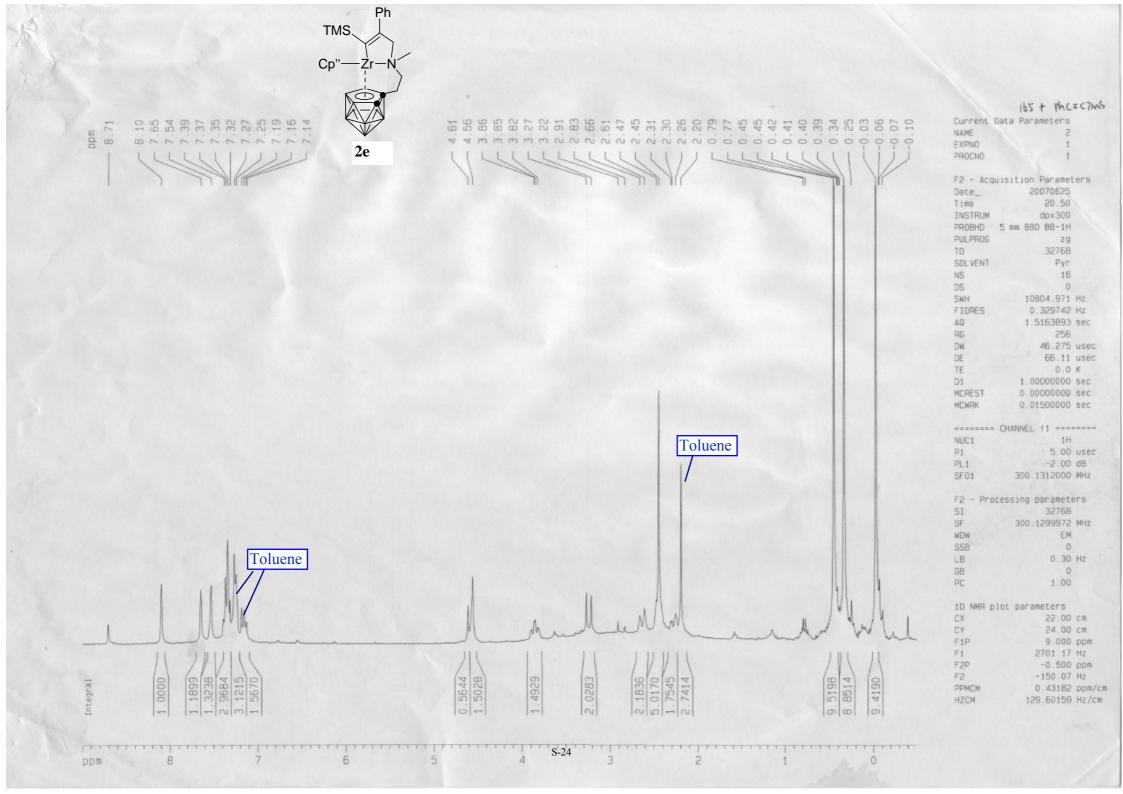


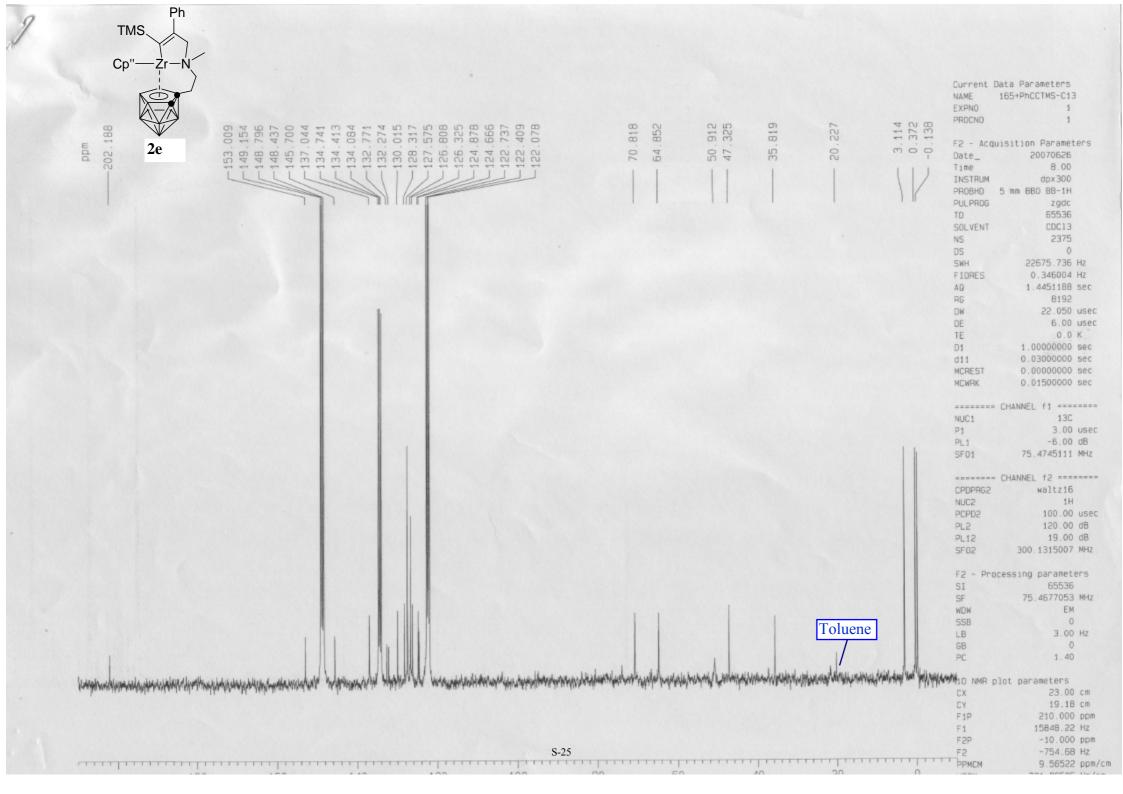


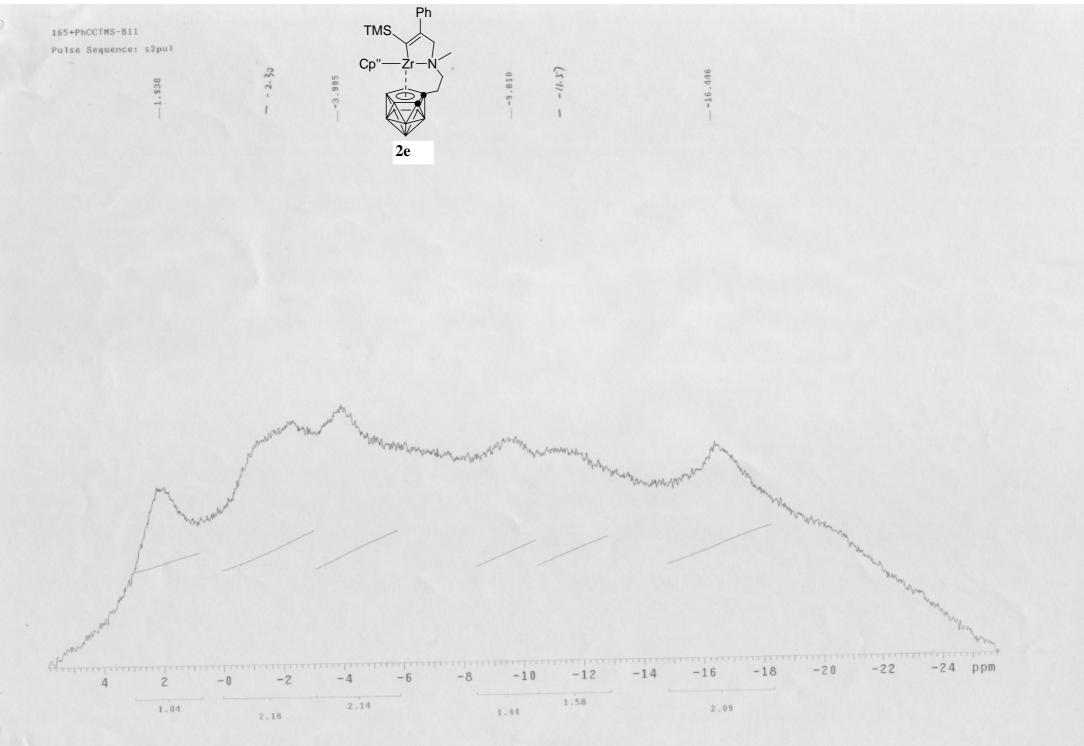
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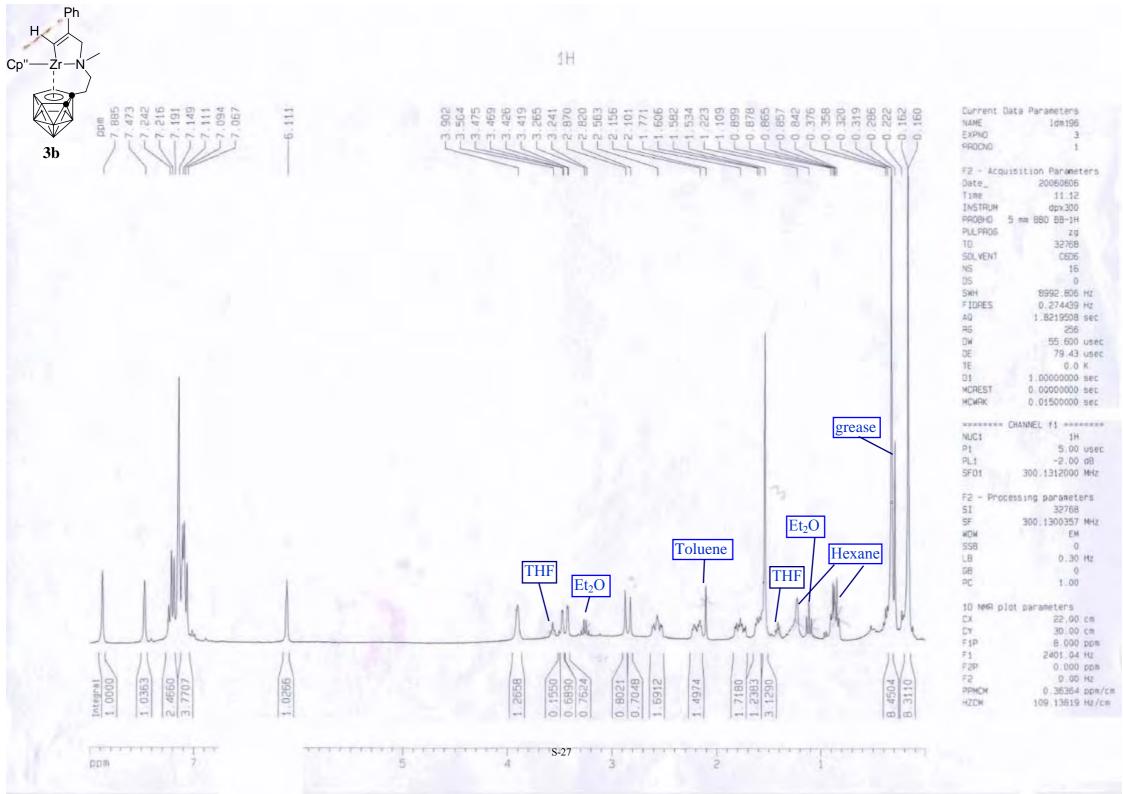


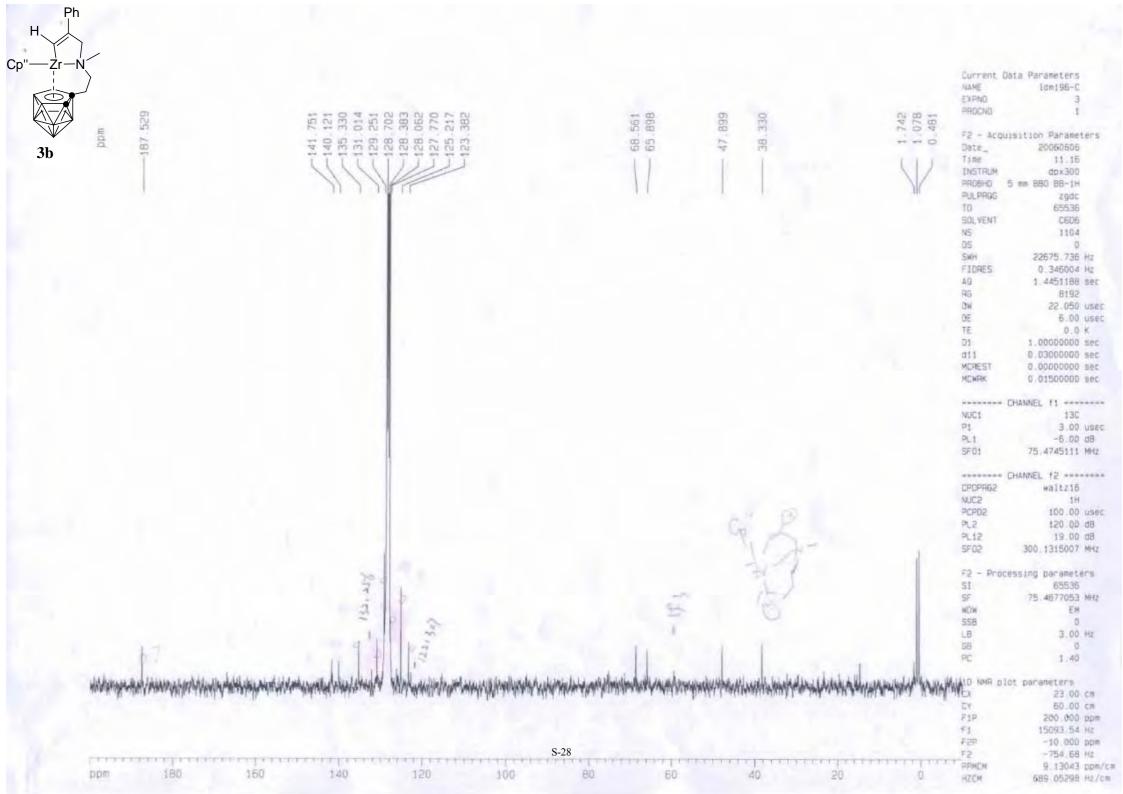


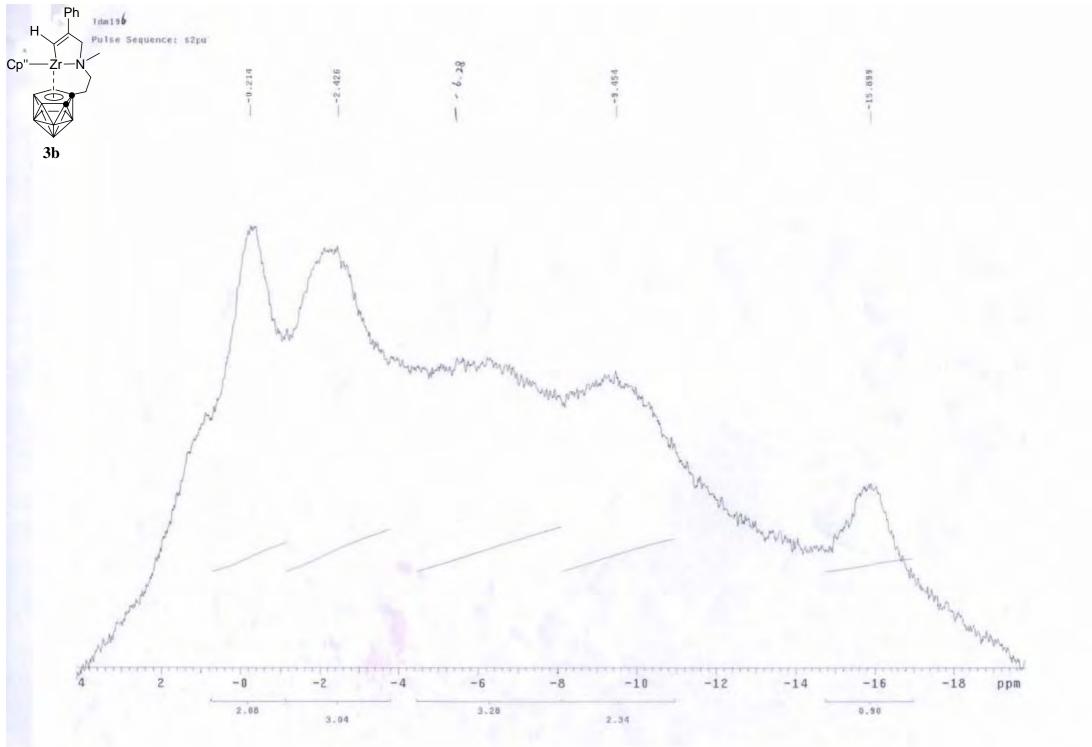


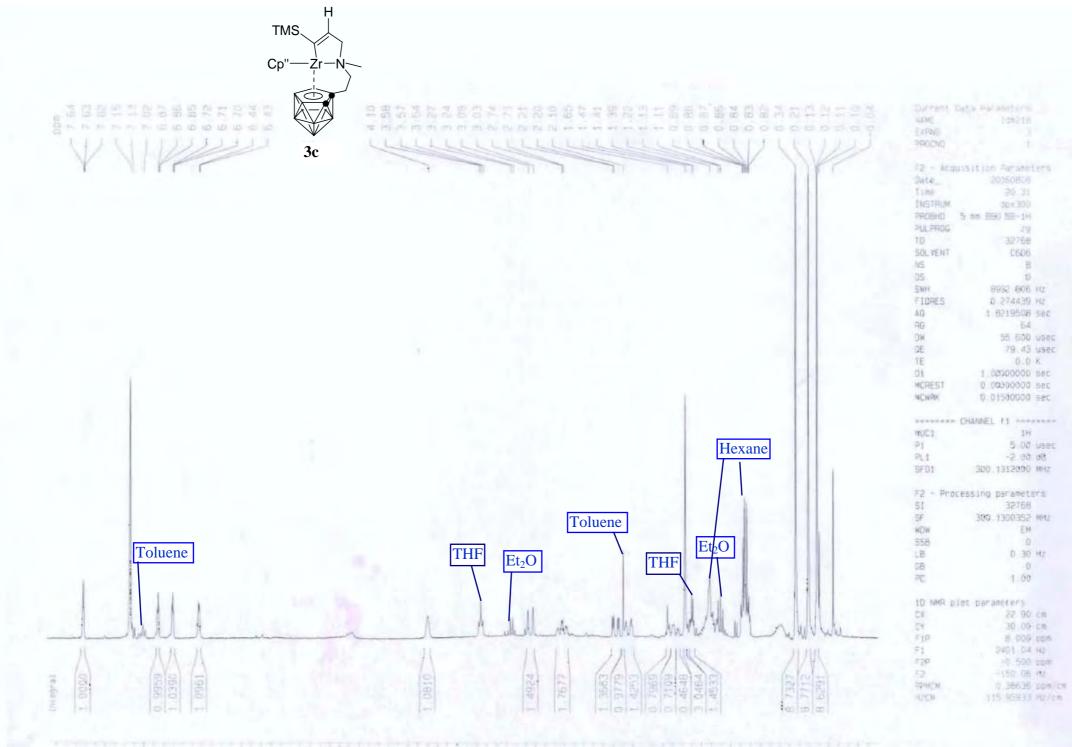












0.045

