M. M. Hansmann, R. L. Melen and D. S. Wright

Part A: NMR Studies

ESI 1

 ^{11}B NMR spectrum of the 2:1 reaction of $^{i}\text{Pr}_2\text{NHBH}_3$ with Al(NMe_2)_3 in d_6-benzene



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ESI 2

¹¹B NMR spectrum of the reaction of ${}^{t}BuNH_{2}BH_{3}$ with Al(NMe₂)₃ (3 mol %) in d₆-benzene showing the build up of the borazine intermediate after 1 day (insert)



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ESI 3

¹¹B NMR spectrum of the reaction of ^{*t*}BuNH₂BH₃ with Ga(NMe₂)₃ (5 mol %) in d₆-benzene showing the build up of the borazine intermediate after 1 h (insert)



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ESI 4

 ^{11}B NMR spectrum of the reaction of iPr_2NHBH_3 with Al(N $^iPr_2)_3$ (10 mol %) in d_6-benzene



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ESI 5

 ^{11}B NMR spectrum of the reaction of $^{i}\text{Pr}_2\text{NHBH}_3$ with Al(N^i\text{Pr}_2)_3 (2 mol %) in d_8-toluene



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Group 13 BN dehydrocoupling reagents, similar to transition metal catalysts but with unique reactivity

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ESI 6

 ^{11}B NMR spectrum of the reaction of $^{i}\text{Pr}_2\text{NHBH}_3$ with $[^{i}\text{Pr}_2\text{NAlH}_2]_2$ (0.5 mol %) in d_6-benzene



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ESI 7

Solid state NMR spectra of the product of the reaction of Al(NMe₂)₃ with NH₃BH₃. (See Reference 13)



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ESI 8

Solid state IR spectrum of the product of the reaction of Al(NMe₂)₃ with NH₃BH₃. (See Reference 13)



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Part B: DFT calculations (B3LYP/cc-pVDZ)

Full DFT geometry optimizations and frequency calculations were undertaken using Gaussian 09¹ without symmetry restrictions. Calculations employed the B3LYP functional² and double ξ -quality, correlation consistent, cc-pVDZ basis set. Geometries were fully optimized without symmetry restrictions and transition states were determined using the QST3-approach. Gibbs free energies are corrected in respect to zero point energies which are calculated based on gas phase frequency calculations. All calculations were done using standard temperature and pressure (298.15 K, 1 atm).

ESI 9

Reaction profile for the computed B-Al-hydride shift (B3LYP/cc-pVDZ)



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ESI 10

Gas phase geometry optimised structure of ['BuNHBH₂]₃ (9)



Borazane	Observed	Calculated
Average B-N bond length /Å	1.58	1.61
Average N-B-N angle /º	108.6	107.7
Average B-N-B angle /º	111.2	111.1

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ESI 11

Gas phase geometry optimised structure of ['BuNHBH₂]₃ (**5**)



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ESI 12

Gas phase geometry optimised structure of [B{NHBH)N(SiMe₃)Si(Me₂)N(SiMe₃)₂}₃] (10)



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