

Supporting Information for:

A Strongly Bent Nickel Imide Supported By a New Chelating Bis(*N*-Heterocyclic Carbene) Ligand

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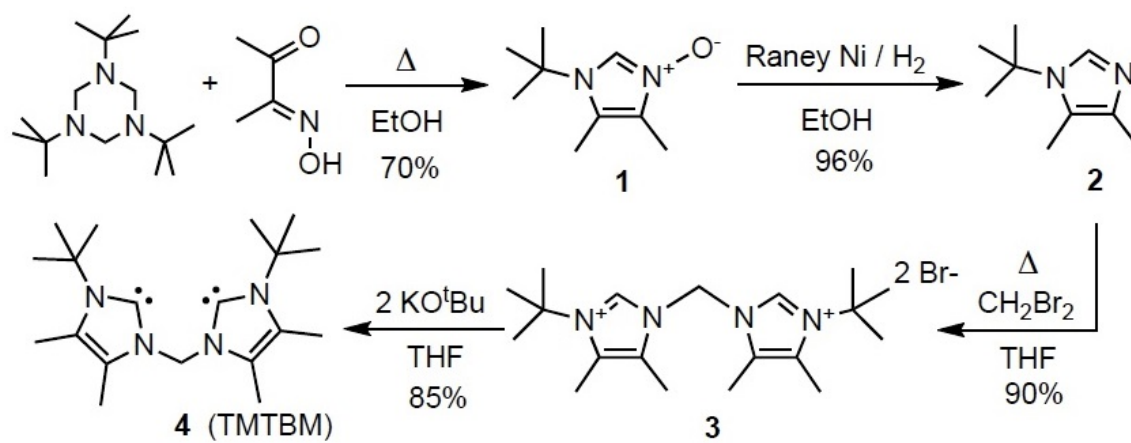
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1. Experimental Section

General Considerations. Unless stated otherwise, all operations were performed in an MBraun *Lab Master* dry box under an atmosphere of purified nitrogen. Anhydrous diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran were purchased from Fischer, stirred over sodium metal, and filtered through activated alumina.¹ Pentane was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and dried by passage through activated alumina and Q-5 columns. C₆D₆ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, degassed by freeze-pump-thaw cycles, and dried over CaH₂ or activated 4 Å molecular sieves. Celite, alumina, and 4 Å molecular sieves were activated by evacuation overnight at 180°C. N₃(dmp) (dmp = 2,6-dimesitylphenyl, N₃dipp (dipp = 2,6-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)phenyl), N₃Ar (Ar = 2,6-di-*iso*-propylphenyl) were prepared according to the literature.^{2,3} All other chemicals were used as received. Elemental analyses were performed by Midwest Microlab (Indianapolis, IN). ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz NMR spectrometer and reported with reference to solvent resonance (for example, residual C₆D₅H in C₆D₆ at 7.16 ppm). X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Siemens Platform goniometer with a Charged Coupled Device (CCD) detector. Structures were solved by direct or Patterson methods using the SHELXTL (version 5.1) program library (G. Sheldrick, Bruker Analytical X-ray Systems, Madison, WI).⁴



Synthesis of 1-*tert*-butyl-4,5-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazole-3-oxide (1). A solution of 2,3-butanedione monoxime (47.9 g, 0.474 mol) and 1,3,5-tri-*tert*-butyl-hexahydro-[1,3,5]triazine (40.33 g, 0.158 mol) in EtOH (200 mL) was heated at reflux for 12 h. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure yielded a red oil, which was washed twice with Et₂O (2 x 200 mL). The viscous oily crude product **1** was used in the next step without further purification. Yield: 79.59 g (70%). Dark red oil. IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 3358, 3139, 2958, 2931, 2873, 1626, 1450 (br), 1396, 1381, 1339, 1255, 1194, 1150, 1080. ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (s, 1H, *HC*), 2.25 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 2.08 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.52 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 127.89, 122.94, 120.86, 57.87, 29.78, 11.95, 6.98. GC-MS (m/z): 168 (M⁺), 112, 97, 42.

Synthesis of 1-*tert*-butyl-4,5-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazole (2). To a stirring solution of the imidazole N-oxide **1** (55.71 g, 0.332 mol) in EtOH (500 mL), a water suspension of Raney-nickel was added in small portions (~20 g Ni total). The reaction was stirred at room temperature under an atmosphere of hydrogen gas until gas consumption ceased. After reduction of **2** was completed, the solution was filtered through Celite and the filtrate was reduced to dryness under reduced pressure. The product was extracted with Et₂O (3 x 100 mL) and reduced to dryness. Pure **2** was obtained after distillation of the product resulting in a pale yellow oil (48.46 g, 96%) ***NOTE: it is very important to extract **2** from precursor **1** before distillation. N-oxides are known to be violently explosive under standard distillation conditions.⁵ IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 2959, 2932, 2873, 1500, 1451, 1388, 1366, 1202. ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.432 (s, 1H, *HC*(2)), 2.260 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 2.094 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.539 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 138.84, 132.63, 122.66, 55.61, 30.10, 12.70, 11.92. GC-MS (m/z): 152 (M⁺)

Synthesis of 3,3'-methylenebis(1-*tert*-butyl-4,5-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazol-3-ium dibromide (3). Dibromomethane (41.50 g, 0.239 mol) was added to a stirring solution of **2** (48.46 g, 0.318 mol) in 100 mL of benzene. The solution was refluxed for 2 days after which the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Acetone (200 mL) was added to the flask and the resulting white suspension was allowed to stir at room temperature for 1 hour. The white solids were filtered and dried under reduced pressure for 2 hours.

Yield: 68.5 g (90%). IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 3026, 2919, 2308, 1782, 1720, 1620, 1541, 1458. ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.632 (s, 2H, NCHN) 7.532 (s, 2H, NCH₂N), 2.438 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 2.389 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 1.6912 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 135.89, 129.50, 127.76, 62.44, 56.02, 29.63, 11.86, 9.81. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₉H₃₄N₄Br₂: C, 47.71; H, 7.16; N, 11.71. Found: C, 47.54; H, 6.94; N, 11.45.

Synthesis of 1-*tert*-butyl-4,5-dimethyldimethylimidazoliylidene (4). A suspension of **3** (8 g, 0.017 mol) was stirred in THF (100 mL) for 20 min after which time freshly sublimed KO^tBu (3.75 g, 0.033 mol) was added. After the solution was allowed to stir for 3 hours, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Pentane (100 mL) was added to the flask and the suspension was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was reduced to ½ volume and stored overnight at -35°C. The resulting white powder was filtered, washed with cold pentane, and dried under reduced pressure for 2 hours. Yield: 4.50 g (85%). IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 2971, 2930, 2883, 1510, 1462, 1389. ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 6.197 (s, 2H, NCH₂N), 2.414 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 2.199 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 1.527 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 214.12, 126.07, 122.89, 63.20, 56.82, 31.71, 12.56, 10.23.

Synthesis of (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -cod) (5). The ligand **4** (1.00 g, 3.160 mmol) was added to a stirring solution of Ni(cod)₂ (0.870 g, 3.160 mol) in THF (40 mL). The solution was stirred for 8 hours at room temperature and then reduced to dryness under vacuum. The resulting orange powder was washed with pentane (3 x 20 mL) and then dried under vacuum for 3 hours. Yield: 1.20 g (94%). IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 3002, 2830, 2823, 1525, 1475, 1390; ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 6.106 (s, 2H, cod), 5.908 (d, 1H, NCH₂N), 4.996 (d, 1H, NCH₂N), 2.759 – 2.259 (m, 8H, cod), 2.201 – 2.168 (m, 2H, cod), 1.758 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.758 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 1.535 (s, 6H, CCH₃). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 203.50, 132.26, 122.15, 57.98, 55.88, 52.88, 35.85, 33.20, 32.16, 13.42, 8.36 (s, cod); Anal. Calcd. for C₂₉H₅₀N₄Ni: C, 67.84; H, 9.82; N, 10.91. Found: C, 67.09; H, 9.29; N, 10.85.

Synthesis of (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -N₃Ar) (6). 2,6-di-iso-propylphenylazide (0.150 g, 0.740 mmol) was added to a cold (-35°C) stirring solution of **5** (0.300 g, 0.740 mmol) in

Et₂O (15 mL). The resulting yellow suspension was stirred for 1 hour and then filtered. The resulting yellow powder was washed with pentane (2 x 10 mL) and then dried under vacuum for 3 hours. Yield: 0.427 g (94%). IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 2725, 1641, 1485, 1419, 1402, 1376, 1327; ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 7.356 (d, 2H, *m*-C₆H₃), 7.084 (t, *p*-C₆H₃), 5.908 (d, 1H, NCH₂N), 4.996 (d, H, NCH₂N), 4.597 (sept, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂), 4.157 (sept, 1H, CH(CH₃)₂); 2.026 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.821 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.579 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.456 (s, 3H, CCH₃), 1.857 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.387 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃); 1.542 (d, 6H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.387 (d, 6H, CH(CH₃)₂); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 190.01, 187.23, 161.09, 123.09, 115.98, 59.88, 58.98, 56.88, 55.23, 54.99, 32.18, 30.72, 31.08, 24.52, 22.10, 21.98, 28.79, 23.17. Anal. Calcd. for C₃₁H₄₉N₇Ni: C, 64.37; H, 8.54; N, 16.95. Found: C, 64.23; H, 8.40; N, 16.73.

Synthesis of (TMTBM)Ni=N(dmp) (7a). 2,6-dimesitylphenylazide (0.263 g, 0.740 mmol) was added to a cold (-35 °C) stirring solution of **5** (0.300 g, 0.740 mmol) in Et₂O (15 mL). Gas evolution was immediately observed, and the resulting red solution was stirred for 1 hour and then filtered and reduced to dryness. The resulting red powder was washed with pentane (2 x 10 mL) and then dried under vacuum for 3 hours. Yield: 520 mg (86%). IR (CaF₂, fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 3349, 3047, 1641, 1574, 1457, 1365, 1334, 1303, 1266, 1218; ¹H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 6.704 (s, 4H, *H*-mesityl); 6.592 (d, 2H, *H*-phenyl) 6.574 (t, 1H, *H*-phenyl); 6.331 (d, 1H, NCH₂N), 4.814 (d, 1H, 1 NCH₂N); 2.614 (s, 12H, *o*-CH₃); 2.165 (s, 6H, CCH₃), 1.617 (1s, 6H, CCH₃); 1.584 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃); 1.353 (s, 6H, *p*-CH₃); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 183.12, 163.18, 143.36, 137.80, 133.25, 124.45, 124.24, 111.03, 87.76, 58.14, 55.51, 52.88, 32.80, 22.08, 21.92, 13.62, 8.68. Anal. Calcd. for C₄₃H₅₇N₅Ni: C, 73.50; H, 8.18; N, 9.97. Found: C, 72.96; H, 8.08; N, 9.95.

Synthesis of (TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp) (7b). N₃dipp (0.325 g, 0.740 mmol) was added to a cold (-35 °C) stirring solution of **5** (0.300 g, 0.740 mmol) in diethyl ether (15 mL). Gas evolution was immediately observed, and the resulting red solution was stirred for 1 hour and then filtered and reduced to dryness. The resulting red powder was washed with pentane (2 x 10 mL) and then dried under vacuum for 3 hours. Yield: 518 mg (89 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown from a concentrated diethyl ether solution at -35 °C; IR (CaF₂, Fluorolube): ν (cm⁻¹) 3035 (s), 1637 (m), 1572

(m), 1450 (w), 1368 (w), 1334 (w), 1266 (w), 1217 (w); ^1H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, C_6D_6): δ 7.24 (d, 4H, C_6H_3), 7.15 (t, 2H, C_6H_3), 6.85 (d, 2H, C_6H_3), 6.70 (t, 1H, C_6H_3), 3.76 (m, 4H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.64 (s, 6H, CH_3), 1.54 (s, 6H, CH_3), 1.54 (s, 18H, ^tBu), 1.45 (d, 12H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.25 (d, 12H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$); $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 182.5, 148.8, 144.7, 130.2, 126.8, 124.8, 124.4, 122.6, 58.0, 55.6, 32.9, 31.2, 26.1, 24.7, 13.6, 8.8.

Synthesis of [(TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp)]₂[B(C₆F₅)₄]₂ (9). In a scintillation vial, **7b** (100 mg, 0.125 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL thf and cooled to -45 °C. Subsequently, 108 mg [FeCp₂][B(C₆F₅)₄], was added via spatula and the solution was stirred for 2 hours. The deep purple solution was filtered through Celite and reduced to dryness. The powder was washed with *n*-pentane (3 x 10 mL) and then dried under vacuum for 3 hours. Yield: 163 mg (89 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown from a concentrated thf solution at -35 °C. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄₆H₁₃₆N₁₀Ni₂B₂F₂₀: C, 59.86; H, 4.68; N, 4.78. Found: C, 62.21; H, 4.81; N, 4.64. **Complex **9** is not sufficiently thermally stable to give accurate elemental analyses. IR (CaF₂, Fluorolube): ν 1359(m), 1242 (m), 1210 (w), 1170 (s), 1095 (s), 940 (w), 849 (w), 680 (s), 659 (m), 592 (s), 455 (m) cm⁻¹. ^1H NMR (22°C, 400 MHz, thf-d₈): δ 7.844 (d, 2H, NCH₂N), 7.19 (t, 4H, C₆H₄), 7.15 (s, 4H, C₆H₂), 6.94 (d, 8H, C₆H₄), 6.28 (d, 2H, NCH₂N), 2.83-2.93 (m, 8H, CH(CH₃)₂), 2.29 (s, 12H, CCH₃), 2.24 (s, 12H, CCH₃), 2.01 (s, 36H, ^tBu), 1.15 – 1.10 (d, 48H, CH(CH₃)₂). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (22°C, 125.75 MHz, thf-d₈) δ 149.1, 139.8, 139.7, 137.6, 137.5, 130.4, 129.4, 124.3, 32.4, 31.8, 26.2, 26.0, 25.8, 28.9, 13.3, 8.6;

2. DFT calculations

Gaussian 03 (revision E.01) was used for all reported calculations.⁶ The B3LYP (DFT) method was used to carry out the geometry optimizations on the model compounds specified in text using the LANL2DZ basis set. The validity of the true minima was checked by the absence of negative frequencies in the energy Hessian. For the optimization of (TMTBM)Ni=N(dmp) the initial structure used was derived from the crystal structure of **7a**.

Table 1. Select metrical data for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dmp) (7a) DFT & Experimental Solid-State Structure

Bond	DFT (Å)	Structure (Å)	Angle (°)	DFT (°)	Structure (°)
Ni(1)-N(1)	1.706	1.732(3)	C(1)-Ni(1)-C(18)	89.02	89.79(16)
N(1)-C(25)	1.345	1.344(5)	C(18)-Ni(1)-N(1)	134.24	137.51(16)
C(1)-Ni(1)	1.930	1.872(4)	C(1)-Ni(1)-N(1)	134.17	128.70(16)
C(18)-N(1)	1.929	1.885(4)	Ni(1)-N(1)-C(25)	145.67	127.3(3)

Table 2. Optimized geometry for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dmp) (7a)

Atom Number	Atom Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
1	Ni	0.107866	-0.192120	-0.395978
2	C	-1.470238	-1.153574	-0.091856
3	N	-1.603019	-1.662259	1.177383
4	C	-2.818025	-2.322470	1.347778
5	C	-3.457156	-2.233842	0.173722
6	C	-4.852380	-2.704016	-0.116202
7	H	-5.205003	-3.176820	0.665755
8	H	-4.842349	-3.309902	-0.885798
9	H	-5.423044	-1.932581	-0.315238
10	N	-2.625400	-1.519911	-0.717663
11	C	-2.727656	-1.550332	-2.224910
12	C	-2.382772	-2.980905	-2.648156
13	H	-3.030630	-3.604208	-2.257003
14	H	-1.482049	-3.207405	-2.333499
15	H	-2.413744	-3.049614	-3.625281
16	C	-4.121969	-1.163439	-2.705191
17	H	-4.318535	-0.242907	-2.432070
18	H	-4.786155	-1.767456	-2.313009
19	H	-4.159532	-1.228739	-3.682526
20	C	-1.759940	-0.574600	-2.836277
21	H	-1.996611	0.336948	-2.563604
22	H	-1.801699	-0.644267	-3.812920
23	H	-0.850876	-0.778185	-2.532992
24	C	-3.197506	-2.952728	2.644610
25	H	-4.080220	-3.370559	2.558953

(cont. from previous page)

Atom Number	Atom Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
26	H	-3.228685	-2.267674	3.345219
27	H	-2.535873	-3.635855	2.884194
28	C	-0.484831	-1.610202	2.107523
29	H	-0.696754	-2.137029	2.915818
30	H	-0.318271	-0.675002	2.379756
31	N	0.701076	-2.156398	1.456997
32	C	1.460400	-3.249539	1.870940
33	C	2.402566	-3.426472	0.916467
34	C	3.463931	-4.483336	0.917116
35	H	3.365067	-5.043629	1.714213
36	H	4.348248	-4.061363	0.923069
37	H	3.374118	-5.040088	0.115527
38	N	2.200095	-2.412927	-0.061001
39	C	1.112529	-1.648282	0.265957
40	C	2.871029	-2.349096	-1.399229
41	C	2.580657	-1.008629	-2.070678
42	H	2.952653	-0.282132	-1.528199
43	H	1.612395	-0.886968	-2.157264
44	H	2.992791	-0.996920	-2.959625
45	C	4.386241	-2.490353	-1.253659
46	H	4.733472	-1.753288	-0.709662
47	H	4.801958	-2.464704	-2.140667
48	H	4.598329	-3.342840	-0.820647
49	C	2.281740	-3.484533	-2.256028
50	H	1.311098	-3.366668	-2.331974
51	H	2.473697	-4.348482	-1.835591
52	H	2.684166	-3.460635	-3.150705
53	C	1.202340	-3.993783	3.130257
54	H	1.857689	-4.717725	3.223443
55	H	0.299055	-4.373640	3.109160
56	H	1.280648	-3.384540	3.894847
57	N	0.318981	1.514975	-0.593426
58	C	0.309901	2.470531	0.351165
59	C	-0.904656	3.025803	0.879881
60	C	-2.237042	2.554264	0.432814
61	C	-2.714886	2.871751	-0.860748
62	C	-3.994316	2.493024	-1.229796
63	H	-4.318654	2.736336	-2.093821
64	C	-4.819213	1.772238	-0.382759
65	C	-4.336587	1.422245	0.860768
66	H	-4.886392	0.902910	1.444161
67	C	-3.058512	1.807641	1.289878
68	C	-2.601743	1.410030	2.667124
69	H	-1.695440	1.748987	2.822145
70	H	-2.601380	0.432714	2.742185
71	H	-3.210599	1.787430	3.335582
72	C	-6.231132	1.396190	-0.791826
73	H	-6.407502	1.724863	-1.698484
74	H	-6.871574	1.798182	-0.169289
75	H	-6.329263	0.420754	-0.775475
76	C	-1.842345	3.623668	-1.820209
77	H	-2.323358	3.759930	-2.662652
78	H	-1.025131	3.110567	-1.988916
79	H	-1.606059	4.493887	-1.434664

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Atom Number	Atom Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
80	C	-0.833927	3.980804	1.904563
81	H	-1.648040	4.342753	2.249348
82	C	0.352958	4.414803	2.427452
83	H	0.367333	5.049881	3.139791
84	C	1.540887	3.913250	1.900395
85	H	2.373737	4.211220	2.261198
86	C	1.544482	2.992485	0.861938
87	C	2.831806	2.472632	0.321543
88	C	3.379984	3.002580	-0.851244
89	C	4.571011	2.495992	-1.353705
90	H	4.927379	2.850481	-2.166045
91	C	5.257948	1.469799	-0.687433
92	C	4.714292	0.962749	0.467723
93	H	5.177004	0.265906	0.930270
94	C	3.508483	1.432466	0.990560
95	C	2.927104	0.794893	2.218170
96	H	2.087439	1.242083	2.451351
97	H	3.559048	0.879249	2.962175
98	H	2.753619	-0.153765	2.042257
99	C	6.529967	0.880463	-1.273781
100	H	6.872146	0.181243	-0.677332
101	H	7.204553	1.585568	-1.369238
102	H	6.336395	0.493152	-2.153151
103	C	2.661223	4.109711	-1.596495
104	H	1.843115	4.351244	-1.114508
105	H	2.429878	3.800738	-2.496804
106	H	3.246161	4.894245	-1.659374

Table 3. Geometry for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp)+ (7b+)

Symbolic Z-matrix:

Charge = 1 Multiplicity = 2

Atom Number	Atom Type	Coordinates (Angstroms)		
		X	Y	Z
1	Ni	9.08417	15.05299	4.01871
2	N	10.3082	15.90372	3.16454
3	N	6.02979	15.40263	4.01958
4	N	7.09335	15.54878	5.87349
5	C	13.06753	15.19065	3.94351
6	C	5.7148	15.10201	2.591
7	C	9.27184	18.13069	0.88113
8	N	9.42887	12.33679	5.37954
9	C	5.75482	15.67759	6.20674
10	C	5.06581	15.59514	5.05046
11	C	7.28168	15.35698	4.54357
12	C	8.20789	15.33185	6.77699
13	H	8.90759	16.01413	6.61935
14	H	7.90175	15.4113	7.71513
15	C	7.41256	19.49826	2.43578
16	H	6.76872	19.95529	2.96393

17	C	9.14083	13.66667	5.29009
18	C	12.59314	16.59184	3.60785
19	C	13.55355	13.43718	5.51942
20	H	13.52529	13.09657	6.40581
21	N	8.74607	14.01206	6.54503
22	C	9.16658	11.86913	6.69192
23	C	10.28033	17.404	0.
24	H	10.95256	16.97403	0.6027
25	C	9.59211	18.48722	2.20579
26	C	8.9624	19.57186	4.42606
27	H	9.86087	19.20418	4.66547
28	C	13.51855	17.61509	3.62407
29	H	14.40474	17.4247	3.90865
30	C	8.64979	19.17127	3.00055
31	C	9.77305	11.49738	4.18818
32	C	11.23836	16.84681	3.20247
33	C	11.91562	19.16915	2.79095
34	H	11.68846	20.04713	2.50769
35	C	13.01286	14.70124	5.25282
36	C	12.37417	15.5118	6.36021
37	H	11.58928	15.99361	5.97062
38	C	10.95151	18.17811	2.74469
39	C	4.8644	16.21938	2.00124
40	H	5.3524	17.0671	2.06022
41	H	4.02496	16.28998	2.50221
42	H	4.66854	16.01979	1.06201
43	C	13.61351	14.87305	1.46936
44	H	13.5797	15.8724	1.4709
45	C	7.10405	19.17375	1.13151
46	H	6.26025	19.41474	0.76735
47	C	8.38711	13.07781	8.85343
48	H	8.43993	12.20479	9.29564
49	H	7.47529	13.42851	8.9306
50	H	9.01338	13.69887	9.28051
51	C	10.30886	12.37165	3.06281
52	H	9.63239	13.03605	2.81507
53	H	10.51739	11.81251	2.2856
54	H	11.12148	12.82939	3.36339
55	C	8.74118	12.92706	7.41279
56	C	8.0284	18.49554	0.35408
57	H	7.8159	18.27613	-0.54547
58	C	14.16319	13.15531	3.23974
59	H	14.55227	12.62025	2.55812
60	C	13.20343	18.91878	3.23864
61	H	13.85097	19.61274	3.28161
62	C	3.58174	15.65848	4.90335
63	H	3.17179	15.79526	5.78295
64	H	3.25553	14.81855	4.51792
65	H	3.34348	16.40322	4.31249
66	C	7.01199	15.03282	1.77893
67	H	7.46579	15.90071	1.81335
68	H	6.80306	14.81041	0.84759
69	H	7.5972	14.34311	2.15603
70	C	13.64415	14.40734	2.91438
71	C	9.3182	10.47096	7.20298
72	H	9.05802	10.43822	8.14725
73	H	10.25233	10.18909	7.11155
74	H	8.74343	9.86971	6.68469
75	C	5.29244	15.87877	7.61011

76	H	4.31565	15.95751	7.62414
77	H	5.69129	16.69783	7.97142
78	H	5.56635	15.11315	8.15734
79	C	13.33973	16.56937	6.92454
80	H	13.67215	17.13133	6.19381
81	H	14.09425	16.12242	7.36215
82	H	12.86758	17.12761	7.57722
83	C	14.12264	12.68147	4.52801
84	H	14.48927	11.82915	4.73212
85	C	12.3492	14.36505	0.78642
86	H	12.33587	14.67009	-0.1447
87	H	11.5622	14.71274	1.2556
88	H	12.33666	13.38533	0.80944
89	C	5.01892	13.74169	2.52545
90	H	4.18543	13.77602	3.03979
91	H	5.60756	13.05499	2.90276
92	H	4.81778	13.52229	1.5917
93	C	14.84863	14.44538	0.65816
94	H	15.65862	14.78564	1.09248
95	H	14.78629	14.81094	-0.24906
96	H	14.88799	13.46726	0.61432
97	C	11.8657	14.66178	7.53184
98	H	11.23823	13.98693	7.19772
99	H	11.41045	15.23843	8.18036
100	H	12.62338	14.21678	7.96572
101	C	7.93252	18.98549	5.38941
102	H	8.14912	19.25868	6.30518
103	H	7.94758	18.00754	5.32802
104	H	7.03986	19.31389	5.15306
105	C	8.50531	10.79405	3.72624
106	H	7.81868	11.46182	3.5184
107	H	8.1816	10.20342	4.43812
108	H	8.69905	10.26429	2.92491
109	C	8.99133	21.02985	4.62842
110	H	9.68073	21.42566	4.05554
111	H	9.19471	21.22537	5.56699
112	H	8.11755	21.40903	4.39778
113	C	10.87398	10.48299	4.5291
114	H	10.56335	9.89289	5.24734
115	H	11.67789	10.96019	4.82332
116	H	11.08331	9.94881	3.73479
117	C	9.66105	16.31051	-0.84825
118	H	9.19154	15.67441	-0.26923
119	H	10.36551	15.84303	-1.34373
120	H	9.0258	16.70756	-1.4801
121	C	11.02349	18.40158	-0.8796
122	H	11.42234	19.09873	-0.3179
123	H	10.39615	18.81049	-1.51167
124	H	11.73019	17.93729	-1.37509

3. Crystallographic Experimental Section and Tables

Data collection: Suitable crystals of **5**, **6**, **7a**, or **7b** were selected under a stereomicroscope while they were immersed in mineral oil to minimize contact with air

or water. The crystal was removed from the oil using a tapered fiber that also served to hold the crystal for data collection. The crystal was mounted on a Bruker SMART APEX system. Rotation and still images showed diffractions to be sharp. Frames separated in reciprocal space were obtained and provided an orientation matrix and the initial cell parameters. Final cell parameters were obtained from the full data set. A hemisphere data set was obtained of reciprocal space to a resolution of 0.84 Å using 0.3° steps in ω using 10 (2) second integration times for each frame. Data collection was made at 100 K. Integration of intensities and refinement of cell parameters were done using SAINT. Absorption corrections were applied using psi- scan. Observation during and after data collection showed that crystal was still clear suggesting no decomposition.

Table 4. Crystal data and structure refinement for (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -cod) (5)

Identification code	Nicole40	
Empirical formula	C ₂₇ H ₄₄ N ₄ Ni	
Formula weight	483.37	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	
Space group	Fdd2	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 17.8294(19)$ Å	$a = 90^\circ$
	$b = 42.047(5)$ Å	$b = 90^\circ$
	$c = 17.6823(19)$ Å	$c = 90^\circ$
Volume	13256(3) Å ³	
Z	16	
Density (calculated)	0.969 g/cm ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.602 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	3487	
Crystal size	0.6 x 0.2 x 0.2 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	2.18 to 28.28°	
Index ranges	-23 ≤ h ≤ 17, -56 ≤ k ≤ 51, -23 ≤ l ≤ 23	
Reflections collected	20306	
Independent reflections	7756 [R(int) = 0.0847]	
Completeness to theta = 25.00°	99.9%	
Absorption correction	Empirical	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	7756 / 1 / 289	
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.065	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0576, wR2 = 0.1542	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0604, wR2 = 0.1566	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.756 and -0.546 e.Å ⁻³	

(TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -cod) (5). The space group was determined to be Fdd2 based on systematic absences and intensity statistics. Direct methods were used to locate C, Ni, and N atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed at idealized positions and refined isotropically using a riding model. See Table 3 (SI-10) for crystal and refinement data. The solvent molecules (Et₂O) were disordered and could not be modeled properly, thus the SQUEEZE/PLATON3 program was used to calculate the solvent disorder area and remove its contribution to the overall intensity data. One of the *tert*-butyl groups of the TMTBM ligand also presents some degree of rotational disorder.

Figure 1: Fully labeled ORTEP for (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -cod) (5)

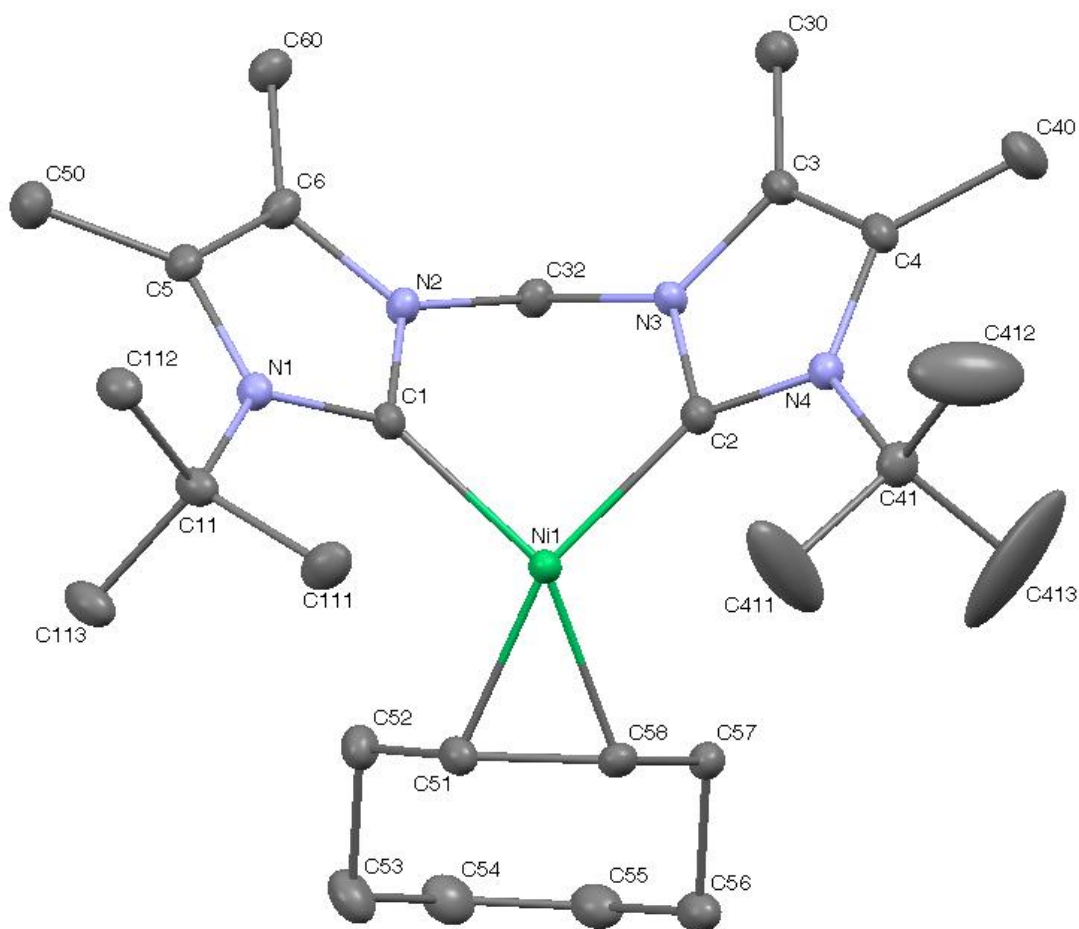


Table 5. Crystal data and structure refinement for (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -N₃Ar) (6)

Identification code	Nicole712	
Empirical formula	C ₃₁ H ₄₉ N ₇ Ni	
Formula weight	578.46	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P-1	
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 12.1740(13)$ Å	$\alpha = 112.359(2)^\circ$
	$b = 26.324(3)$ Å	$\beta = 99.666(2)^\circ$
	$c = 31.697(3)$ Å	$\gamma = 92.719(2)^\circ$
Volume	9191.5(17) Å ³	
Z	10	
Density (calculated)	1.041 g/cm ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.550 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	3119	
Crystal size	0.6 x 0.2 x 0.2 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	1.33 to 28.33°	
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 15, -30 ≤ k ≤ 34, -41 ≤ l ≤ 40	
Reflections collected	45871	
Independent reflections	45871 [R(int) = 0.0960]	
Completeness to theta = 25.00°	98.6%	
Absorption correction	Empirical	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Data / restraints / parameters	42427 / 0 / 1756	
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.032	
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0854, wR2 = 0.2299	
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1602, wR2 = 0.1781	
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.837 and -0.605 e.Å ⁻³	

(TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -N₃Ar) (**6**). The space group was determined to be Fdd2 based on systematic absences and intensity statistics. Direct methods were used to locate C, Ni, and N atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed at idealized positions and refined isotropically using a riding model. See Table 4 (SI-12) for crystal and refinement data. There were five independent molecules in the unit cell, one of which is shown below. The solvent molecules (Et₂O) were disordered and could not be modeled properly, thus the SQUEEZE/PLATON3 program was used to calculate the solvent disorder area and remove its contribution to the overall intensity data.

Figure 2: Fully labeled ORTEP for (TMTBM)Ni(η^2 -N₃Ar) (6**)**

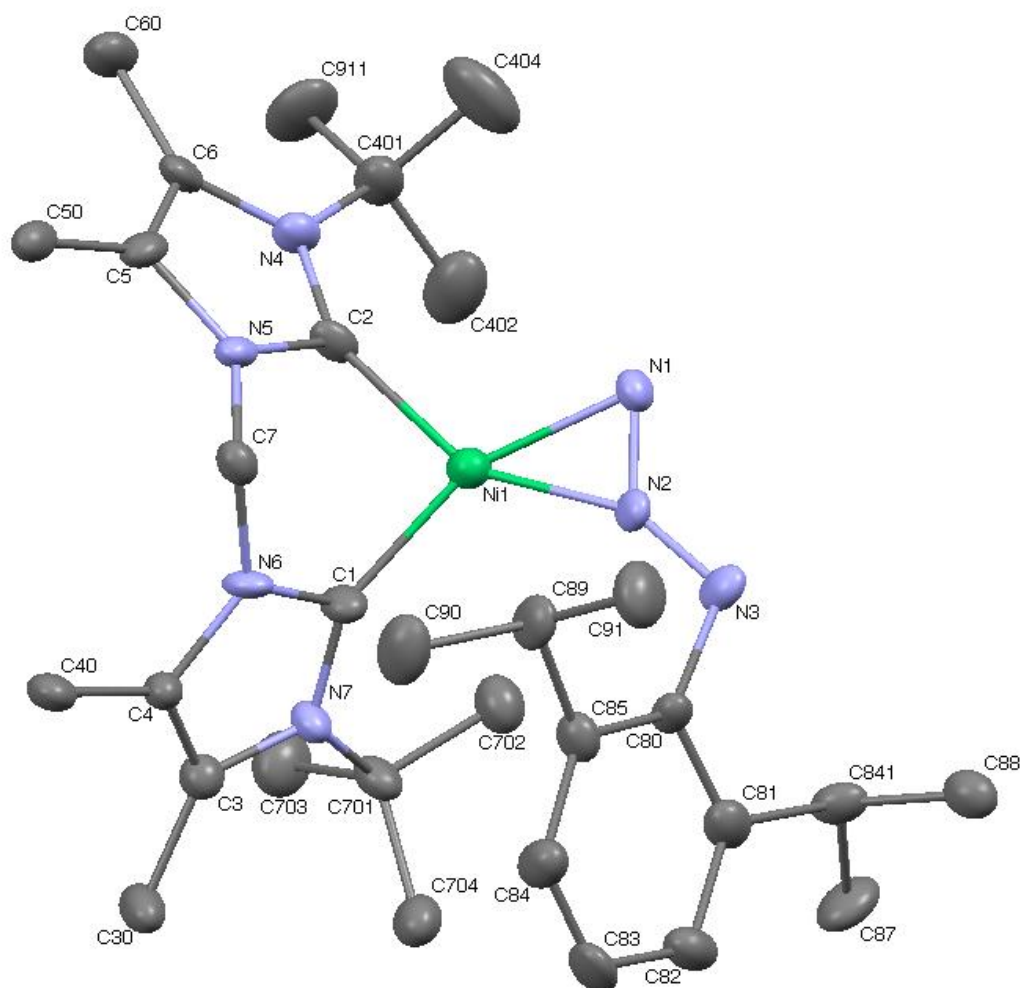


Table 6. Crystal data and structure refinement for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dmp) (7a)

Identification code	Nicole84
Empirical formula	C ₄₃ H ₅₇ N ₅ Ni
Formula weight	702.64
Temperature	100(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P-1
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 10.911(2) \text{ \AA}$ $a = 103.994(4)^\circ$ $b = 12.339(2) \text{ \AA}$ $b = 97.621(4)^\circ$ $c = 15.869(5) \text{ \AA}$ $c = 107.921(3)^\circ$
Volume	1922.2(7) Å ³
Z	2
Density (calculated)	1.214 g/cm ³
Absorption coefficient	0.541 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	1584
Crystal size	0.6 x 0.2 x 0.2 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	1.59 to 25.00°
Index ranges	-13 ≤ h ≤ 13, -27 ≤ k ≤ 26, -9 ≤ l ≤ 18
Reflections collected	21583
Independent reflections	7264 [R(int) = 0.0418]
Completeness to theta = 25.00°	98.6%
Absorption correction	Empirical
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	7264 / 0 / 502
Goodness-of-fit on F²	1.002
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0637, wR2 = 0.1006
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0455, wR2 = 0.0956
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.810 and -0.461 e.Å ⁻³

Table 7. Crystal data and structure refinement for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp)

Identification code	Nicole740a	Crystal size	0.6 x 0.2 x 0.2 mm ²
Empirical formula	C ₄₉ H ₆₉ N ₅ Ni	Theta range for data collection	1.48 to 28.33 °
Formula weight	786.8	Index ranges	-17 ≤ h ≤ 17
Temperature	100(2)		-23 ≤ k ≤ 23
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		-19 ≤ l ≤ 29
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Reflections collected	32704
Space group	P2(1)2(1)2(1)	Independent reflections	12325
Unit cell dimensions	a = 13.2070(10) Å	Completeness to theta = 25.00°	98.1 %
	b = 17.6940(14) Å	Absorption correction	psi-scan
	c = 21.9242(17) Å	Max. and min. transmission	0.9204 and 0.7860
	α = 90.00 °	Refinement method: Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
	β = 90.00 °	Data / restraints / parameters	12325 / 0 / 496
	γ = 90.00 °	Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.045
Volume	5123.3(7)	Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0574
Z	4		wR2 = 0.0854
Density (calculated)	1.020 mg/m ³	R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0833
Absorptions coefficient	0.412 mm ⁻¹		wR2 = 0.0905
F(000)	1704.0	Largest diff. peak hole	1.316 & -0.644 e.Å ⁻³

(TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp) (**7b**). The space group was determined to be $P2(1)2(1)2(1)$ based on systematic absences and intensity statistics. Direct methods were used to locate Ni, C, and N atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were fixed at calculated positions and refined isotropically. Contributions of disordered solvent molecules were removed from the diffraction data with SQUEEZE.

Figure 4: Fully labeled ORTEP for (TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp) (7b)

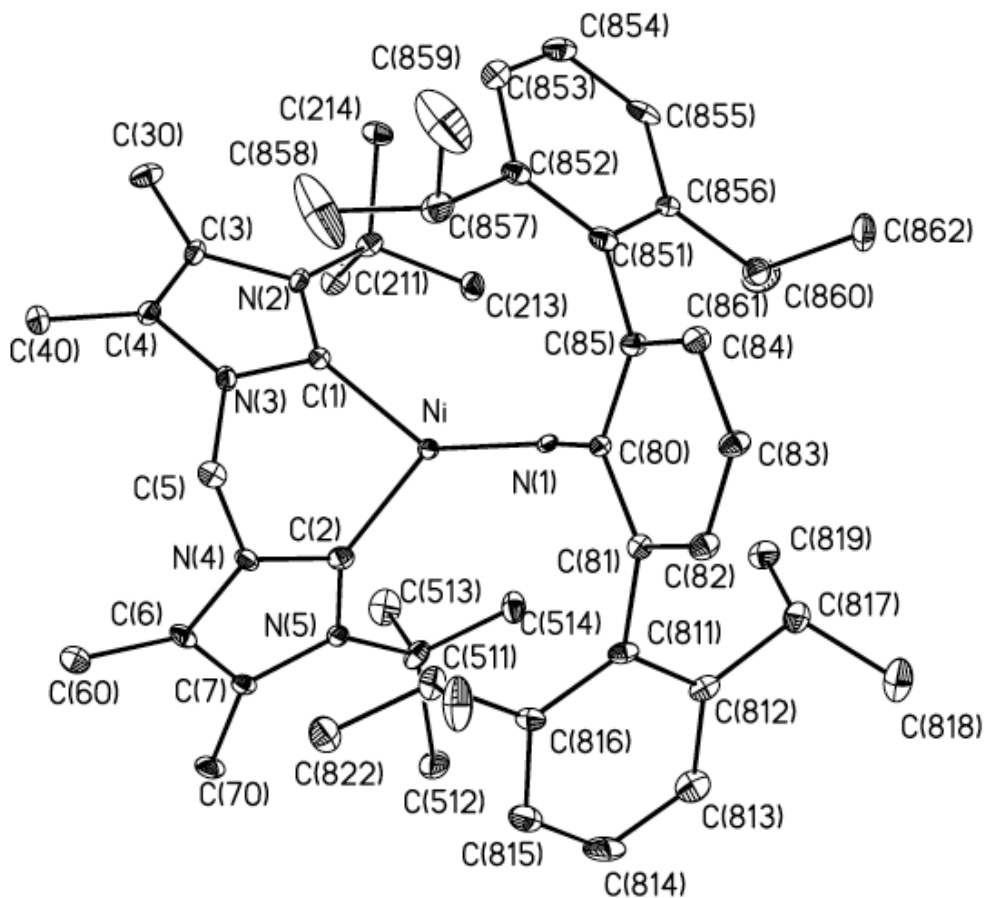


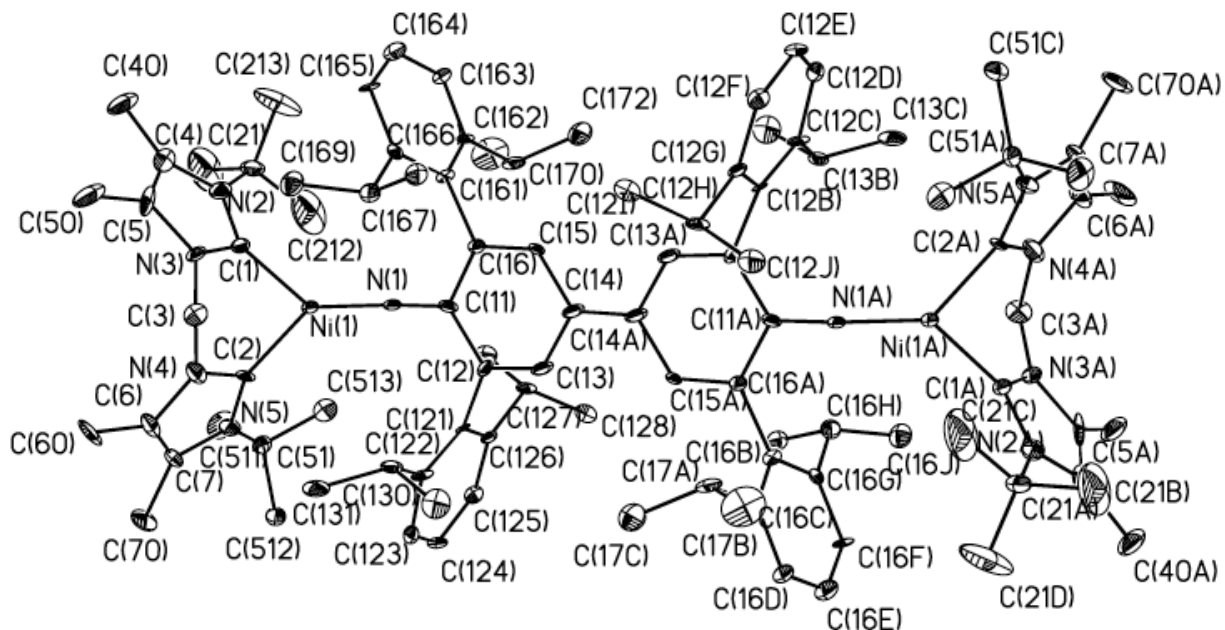
Table 8. Crystal data and structure refinement for [(TMTBM)Ni=N(dipp)]₂[B(C₆F₅)₄]₂ (9)

Identification code	Nicole867a	Crystal size	0.6 x 0.2 x 0.2 mm ²
Empirical formula	C ₁₄₆ H ₁₃₆ N ₁₀ Ni ₂ B ₂ F ₂₀	Theta range for data collection	1.75 to 25.00 °
Formula weight	2929.65	Index ranges	-17 ≤ h ≤ 17 -18 ≤ k ≤ 18 -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Temperature	100(2)	Reflections collected	23669
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	Independent reflections	13101
Crystal system	Triclinic	Completeness to theta = 25.00°	98.9 %
Space group	P-1	Absorption correction	psi-scan
Unit cell dimensions	a = 14.779(2) Å b = 15.500(2) Å c = 16.733(3) Å α = 92.778(4) ° β = 98.247(3) ° γ = 100.522(4) °	Max. and min. transmission	0.9242 and 0.7952
Volume	3718.6(10)	Refinement method: Full-matrix least-squares on F ²	
Z	1	Data / restraints / parameters	6295 / 0 / 448
Density (calculated)	1.308 mg/m ³	Goodness-of-fit on F ²	0.982
Absorptions coefficient	0.354 mm ⁻¹	Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0879 wR2 = 0.2298
F(000)	1508	R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1879 wR2 = 0.2298
		Largest diff. peak hole	0.517 & -0.223 e.Å ⁻³

$[(\text{TMTBM})\text{Ni}=\text{N}(\text{dipp})]_2[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]_2$ (9)

The space group was determined to be P-1 based on systematic absences and intensity statistics. Direct methods were used to locate Ni, C, N, B, and F atoms. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were fixed at calculated positions and refined isotropically.

Figure 5: Fully labeled ORTEP for $[(\text{TMTBM})\text{Ni}=\text{N}(\text{dipp})]_2[\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4]_2$ (9)



4. References

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4. All software and sources of scattering factors are contained in the SHELXTL (version 1.5.1) program library (G. Sheldrick, Bruker Analytical X-ray Systems, Madison, WI).
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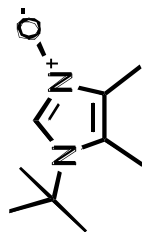


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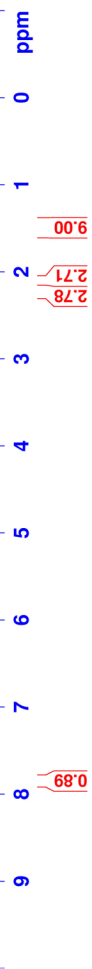
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7.856



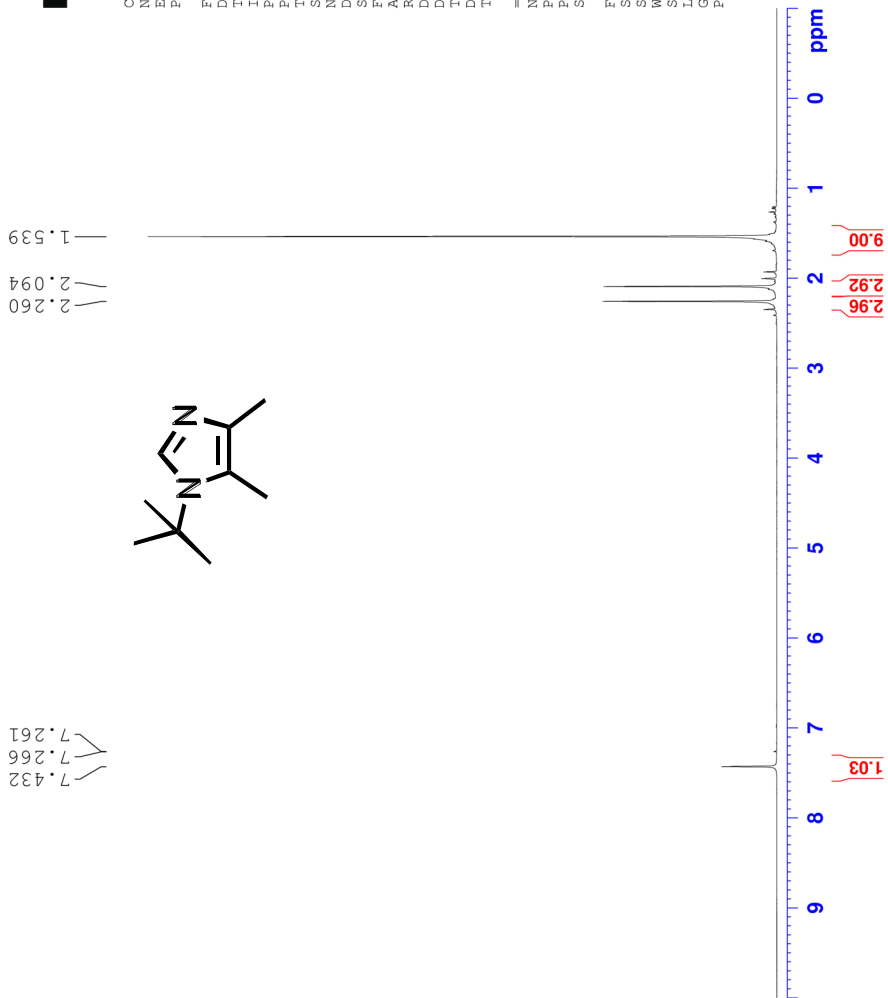
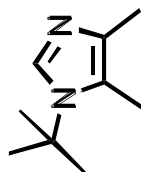


Current Data Parameters
Date_ 20091031
Time_ 5.00
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm BBO BB-1H
PULPROG zg
TD 38460
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 4
DS 0

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_ 20091031
Time_ 5.00
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm BBO BB-1H
PULPROG zg
TD 38460
SOLVENT CDCl3
NS 4
DS 0
SWH 6410.256 Hz
FIDRES 0.166673 Hz
AQ 2.9999299 sec
RG 45.3
DW 78.000 usec
DE 111.43 usec
TE 295.2 K
D1 4.0000000 sec
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 1H
P1 8.00 usec
PL1 -6.00 dB
SFO1 400.1326008 MHz

F2 - Processing Parameters
SI 32768
SF 400.1300067 MHz
SWH 0
SFB 0 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.00





Current Data Parameters
NAME TMTMBEr2sai1
EXPNO 1
PROCNO 1

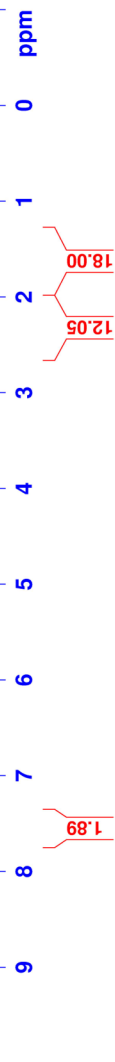
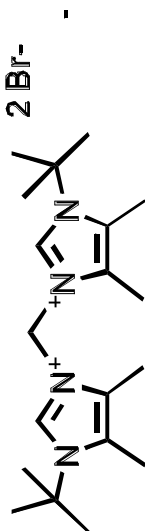
F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_ 20100829
Time 13.41
INSIRUM Spect
PROBHD 5 mm BBO BE-IH
PULPROG zg
TD 38460
SOLVENT CDC13
NS 8
DS 0
SWH 10416.667 Hz
FIDRES 0.270844 Hz
AQ 1.8461300 sec
RG 80.6
DW 48.000 usec
DE 111.43 usec
TE 296.3 K
D1 7.00000000 sec
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 1H
P1 8.00 usec
PL1 -6.00 dB
SF01 400.1326008 MHz

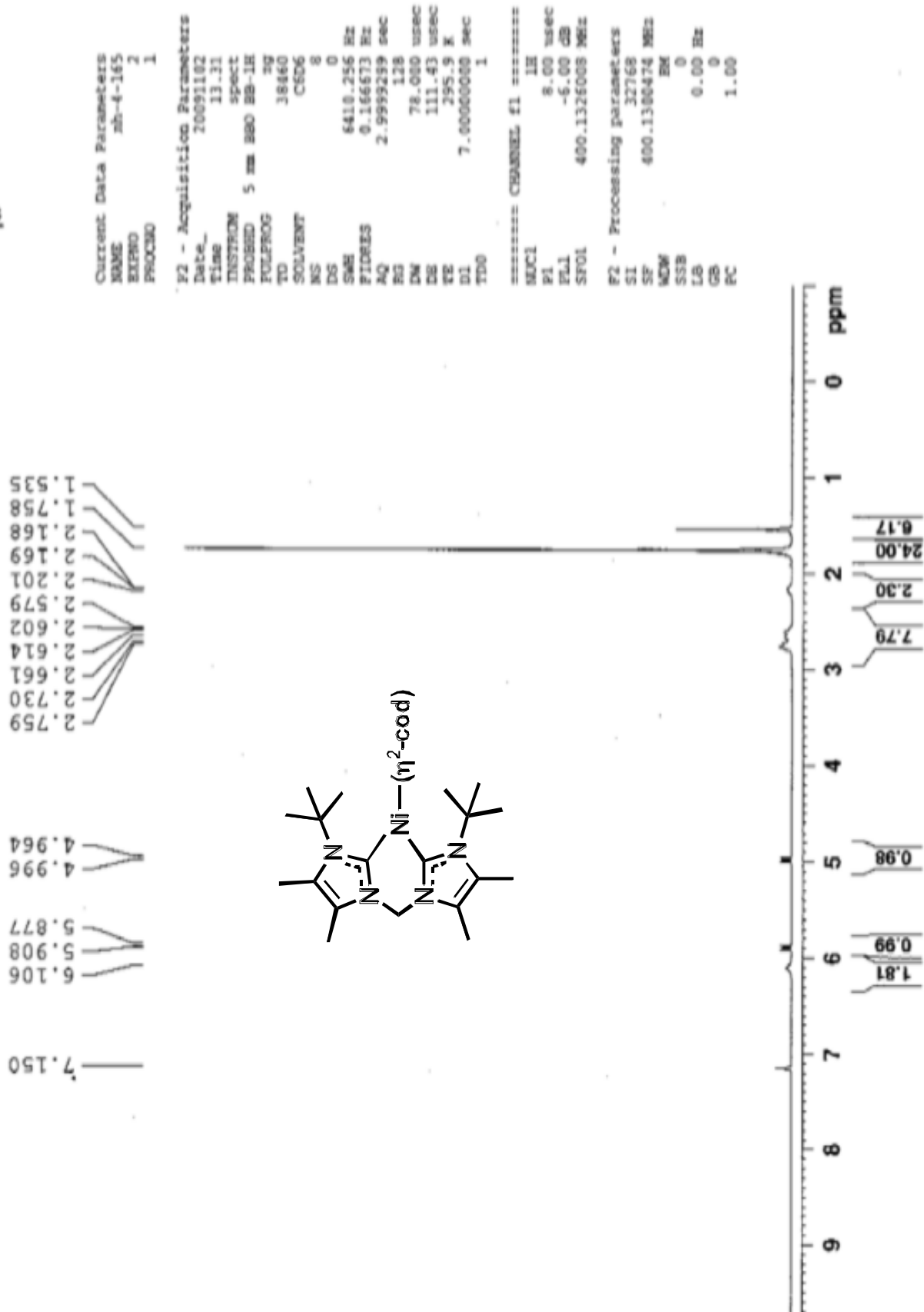
F2 - Processing parameters
SI 32768
SF 400.1300091 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0
LB 0 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.00

1.688
1.714
2.384
2.424

7.530



W



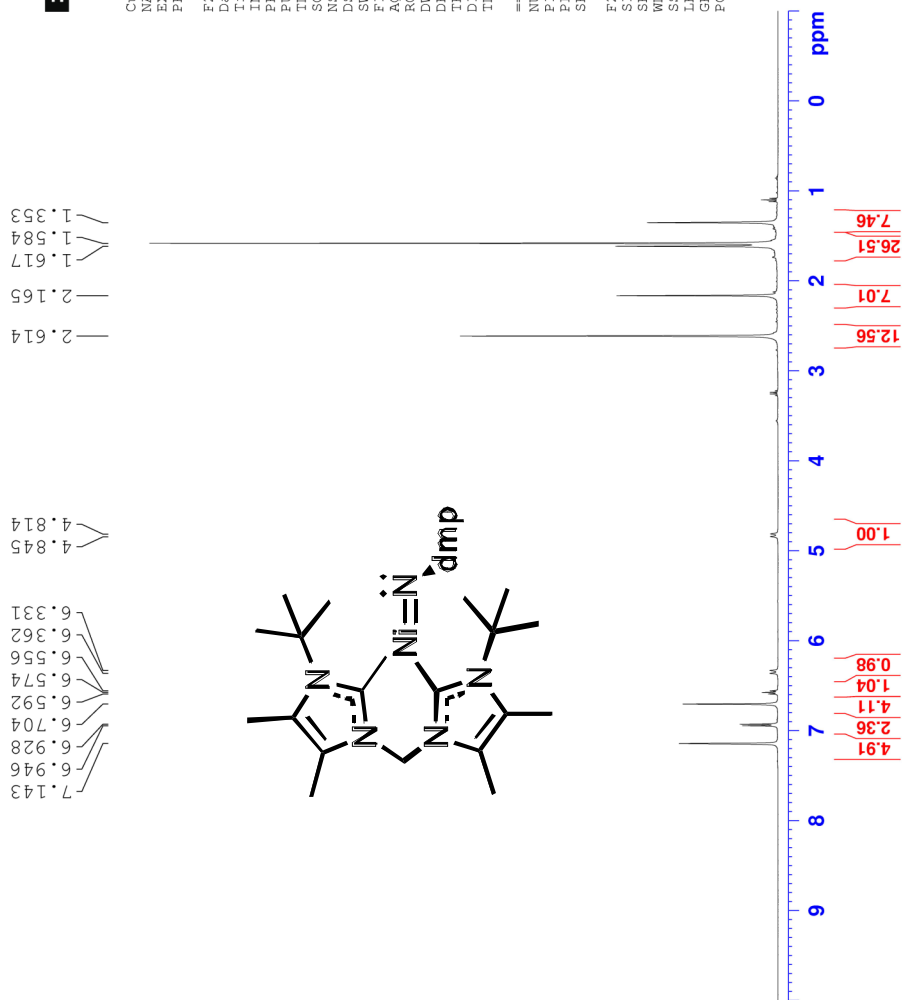


Current Data Parameters
Name ni-4-17
EXPNO 1
PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_ 20100126
Time_ 5:23
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm BBO BB-1H
PULPROG zg
TD 38460
SOLVENT C6D6
NS 8
DS 0
SWH 6410.256 Hz
FIDRES 0.166673 Hz
AQ 2.9999299 sec
RG 128
DW 78.000 usec
DE 111.43 usec
TE 295.5 K
D1 7.00000000 sec
ID0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 1H
P1 8.00 usec
PL1 -6.00 dB
SF01 400.1326008 MHz

F2 - Processing Parameters
SI 32768
SF 400.1300502 MHz
WDW EM
SSB 0 Hz
LB 0 Hz
GB 0
PC 1.00





Current Data Parameters
NAME nh-3-266
EXPNO 6
PROCNO 1

F2 - Acquisition Parameters
Date_ 20100810
Time 9.03
INSTRUM spect
PROBHD 5 mm BBO BB-1H
PULPROG zg
TD 38460
SOLVENT C6D6
NS 8
DS 0
SWH 6410.256 Hz
FIDRES 0.166673 Hz
AQ 2.9999299 sec
RG 80.6
DW 78.000 usec
DE 111.43 usec
TE 295.6 K
D1 7.00000000 sec
TD0 1

===== CHANNEL f1 =====
NUC1 1H
P1 8.00 usec
PL1 -6.00 dB
SFO1 400.1326008 MHz

F2 - Processing parameters
SI 32768
SF 400.1300484 MHz
EM
WDW 0
SSB 0 Hz
LB 0
GB 0
PC 1.00

