π-complexes of diborynes with main group atoms

Article  (Published Version)

Ewing, William C, Dellermann, Theresa, Wong, Y T Angel, Mattock, James D, Vargas, Alfredo, Bryce, David L, Dewhurst, Rian D and Braunschweig, Holger (2020) π-complexes of diborynes with main group atoms. Chemistry An Asian Journal, 15 (10). pp. 1553-1557. ISSN 1861-4728

This version is available from Sussex Research Online: http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/91864/

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies and may differ from the published version or from the version of record. If you wish to cite this item you are advised to consult the publisher’s version. Please see the URL above for details on accessing the published version.

Copyright and reuse:
Sussex Research Online is a digital repository of the research output of the University.

Copyright and all moral rights to the version of the paper presented here belong to the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. To the extent reasonable and practicable, the material made available in SRO has been checked for eligibility before being made available.

Copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided that the authors, title and full bibliographic details are credited, a hyperlink and/or URL is given for the original metadata page and the content is not changed in any way.

http://sro.sussex.ac.uk
π-Complexes of Diborynes with Main Group Atoms

William C. Ewing,[a, b] Theresa Dellermann,[a, b] Y. T. Angel Wong,[c] James D. Mattock,[d] Alfredo Vargas,[d] David L. Bryce,[c] Rian D. Dewhurst,[a, b] and Holger Braunschweig[a, b]

Abstract: We present herein an in-depth study of complexes in which a molecule containing a boron-boron triple bond is bound to tellurium cations. The analysis allows the description of these salts as true π complexes between the B–B triple bond and the tellurium center. These complexes thus extend the well-known Dewar-Chatt-Duncanson model of bonding to compounds made up solely of p block elements. Structural, spectroscopic and computational evidence is offered to argue that a set of recently reported heterocycles consisting of phényltellurium cations complexed to diborynes bear all the hallmarks of π-complexes in the π-complex/metallacycle continuum envisioned by Joseph Chatt. Described as such, these compounds are unique in representing the extreme of a metal-free continuum with conventional unsaturated three-membered rings (cyclopropenes, azirenes, borirenes) occupying the opposite end.

The side-on complexation of alkenes and alkynes to transition metals is generally described in the language of the Dewar-Chatt-Duncanson (DCD) bonding model[1–2] as an interplay between σ-donation from the π-system of the multiple bond and π-symmetry backdonation from filled d-orbitals on the metal to vacant π* orbitals on the multiple bond. In 1957, Joseph Chatt discussed the use of this model as it pertains to the complexation of acetylenes to platinum.[3] Vibrational spectroscopy performed on the studied complexes, triple-bond adducts of [Pt(PPh₃)₃]₂⁺ hinted at sizeable reductions in the bond orders of the bound acetylenes. After noting this, Chatt discussed two possible bonding schemes, a donation/back-donation model where the contribution of the backdonation (dₛ−π*CₛC) outweighed the σ-donation of the alkyne (πCₛC→dₛ) and a metallacyclopentene model featuring two Pt–C two-center-two-electron bonds with a formal double bond between the carbon atoms. Though he favored the latter, he deftly hedged his bet by commenting that the orbitals existed for “one structure to take on part of the character of the other”. In doing so, he allowed for the idea that the bonding in Pt-alkyne complexes, and hence all such metal-alkyne complexes, may fall on a continuum ranging between pure π-complexes, where the bonding is primarily πCₛC→dₛ in nature with negligible backdonation, and metallacycles where backdonation dominates and the orbitals at the alkynyl carbon may be appropriately viewed as rehybridized toward the formation of two new C–M bonds.

Figure 1 depicts a few examples of organometallic compounds favoring either the π-complex description or the metallacyclic formulation. The π-complexes described here are generally the result of the bonding of alkyynes to high-valent (e.g., Pt²⁺, Au³⁺)[4–5] metals or compact, hard metals (Ag⁺)[6] unlikely to redistribute d-electrons. The metallacycles[3, 7–9] are alternatively composed of electron rich, low-valent metals, which readily participate in d₅M−π*CₛC backbonding.

Despite the current ubiquity of the continuum model for describing organometallic cyclics, it is not frequently employed to describe metal-free systems. The smallest unsaturated three-membered rings (cyclopropenes, azirenes, borirenes) are instead most commonly described by valence bond theory as the result of overlapping hybrid orbitals, bent so as to accommodate the imposed geometry of the small ring.[10] Though useful in practice and pedagogy, this model is not without its drawbacks, and as such, alternative views on the bonding environment have been offered ranging from σ-bond delocalization[11] to π-bridged σ-bonding.[12] Though lacking accessible d-orbitals with which to participate in d₅M−π*CₛC backbonding, main group elements in such unsaturated three-membered rings have a p-orbital lying in the plane of the adjacent multiple bond with the correct symmetry for p−π* backbonding.[13] If viewed as part of the DCD-continuum, small rings such as cyclopropene would constitute the extreme rehybridized end of the spectrum; however, such a supposition requires examples of the other extreme, a metal-free π-complex.

[a] Dr. W. C. Ewing, Dr. T. Dellermann, Dr. R. D. Dewhurst, Prof. Dr. H. Braunschweig  
Institute for Inorganic Chemistry  
Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg  
Am Hubland, 97074 Würzburg (Germany)
[b] Dr. W. C. Ewing, Dr. T. Dellermann, Dr. R. D. Dewhurst, Prof. Dr. H. Braunschweig  
Institute for Sustainable Chemistry & Catalysis with Boron  
Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg  
Am Hubland, 97074 Würzburg (Germany)  
E-mail: h.braunschweig@uni-wuerzburg.de
[c] Y. T. Angel Wong, Prof. Dr. D. L. Bryce  
Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5 (Canada)
[d] Dr. J. D. Mattock, Dr. A. Vargas  
Department of Chemistry  
School of Life Sciences  
University of Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9QJ, Sussex (UK)

Supporting information for this article is available on the WWW under https://doi.org/10.1002/asia.202000185

This manuscript is part of a special collection for the 20th Anniversary of the Tateshina Conference.

© 2020 The Authors. Published by Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA, Germany. This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
where the bound alkyne maintains the majority of its triple-bond character.

A number of recent examples have emerged of three-membered heterocycles formed via the reaction of elemental dichalcogenides with disilenes (Si–Si double bonds) with structural features eliciting their description as π-complexes, but such complexes formed with triple bonds are still unknown. Upon complexation to neutral metals (Pt and Pd), disilenes (RSi or metallacyclic characteristics. IDip complexes come from the complexation of bulky acetylenes to organo-tellurirenium and -selenirenium fragments, but even in these cases, as will be discussed below, the geometrical features of the compounds put them somewhere between the π-complex and rehybridized extremes of the DCD continuum.

We recently reported the syntheses of two new three-membered heterocycles formed in the reactions of diborynes with diarylditellurides (Figure 1, bottom left). These compounds, in a departure from conventional metal-free cyclics, clearly displayed the signatures of bonding dominated by a π$_{[B-B]}$ → Te donation. The first hints were provided by X-ray crystallography (Figure 2a). Structurally, a π-complex in the DCD model would show limited differences between the free and bound triple bond, while a metallacyclic structure would evidence significant elongation of the triple bond ($\Delta d = d' - d$).

![Figure 1](image1.png)  
**Figure 1.** Examples of three-membered cyclics exhibiting either π-complex or metallacyclic characteristics. IDip = 1,3-di(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene. R = alkyl, aryl. H. See text for related references.

![Figure 2](image2.png)  
**Figure 2.** a) Solid-state structure of cationic portions of 1 and 2. Thermal ellipsoids represent 50% probability, and have been omitted from the ligand periphery. For clarity, all hydrogen atoms are likewise omitted. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): (1) B1–B2 1.490(6), C1–B1–B2 165.0(4), C2–B2–C1 164.1(3); (2) B1–B2 1.494(10), C1–B1–B2 164.7(7), C2–B2–C1 163.6(7). b) Structural metrics relevant to complexation in the DCD model. c) Table of structural measures of compounds on the π-complex/metallacycle continuum. IMe$^{\text{Me}}$ = 1,3,4,5-tetramethylimidazol-2-ylidene. For references, see text.
6.3),\(^{[19]}\) selenenium (\(\alpha: 24°, 23°; \Delta \text{dd} \alpha: 6.4\))\(^{[15]}\) and tellurium (\(\alpha: 22°, 25°; \Delta \text{dd}\alpha: 7.1\))\(^{[11]}\) ions show them to lie somewhere in the middle of the continuum and indeed further to an end established by cyclopropane (e.g., 1,2-di-tert-butyl-3,3-dimethylcyclopentene,\(^{[20]}\) Figure 1c). The similarities between the all-carbon ring and the chalcogen-containing heterocycles, when compared to \(1^+\), underscore the importance and uniqueness of the \(\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}\) bond in the stabilization of such a \(\pi\)-complex in the absence of a metal.

Vibrational spectroscopy is a second common way to evaluate \(\pi\)-bound complexes within the DCD model. Large decreases in the vibrational frequencies (\(\Delta \nu \text{C=C}\)) of triple bonds upon complexation are indicative of bond weakening through backdonation to a \(\pi^*\) orbital and a decrease in bond order in the resulting metallacycle. Alternatively, small decreases are a hallmark of \(\pi\)-complexes, as they signify only minor perturbation to the triple bond. The \(\Delta \nu \text{C=C}\) values for alkynes coordinated to platinum are diagnostic, as the \(\text{C}_2\text{B}_8\) bound to \(\text{Pt}^{1+}\) (\(\text{PtCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{B}_8)\)), Table 1) shows a mild decrease of only ~200 cm\(^{-1}\) upon complexion, whereas the decrease observed in the complexion of \(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\) in the formation of \(\text{Pt}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4)(\text{PPPh}_3)\) is more than double (~450 cm\(^{-1}\)). The Raman spectra of 1 and 2 show even less significant changes in their central triple bonds (\(\Delta \nu_{\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}} \approx \pm 120 \text{ cm}^{-1}\)) than observed in the \(\text{Pt}^{1+}\) complexes.\(^{[16,20]}\) Once again, these small differences stand in contrast to the complexion of a heavy chalcogen fragment (\(\text{MeSe}^-\)) to a bulky alkynyl, as the complexion of diadamantylacetylene results in a \(\nu \text{C=C}\) value of ~380 cm\(^{-1}\) in the final selenenium ion.\(^{[15]}\)

Recent work by Bryce and coworkers has established the utility of solid-state NMR spectroscopy in gleaning information about molecules containing boron-boron bonds\(^{[23]}\) and in particular as a measure of bond order in diborenes, diborynes and related compounds.\(^{[24]}\) We previously reported on the observed \(J(\text{\textsuperscript{11}B},\text{\textsuperscript{11}B})\) coupling constant of the diboryne \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) obtained through \(^{11}\text{B}\) double-quantum-filtered (DQF) \(J\)-resolved NMR experiments (187 ± 5 Hz).\(^{[25]}\) When combined with natural localized molecular orbital (NLMO) modeling indicating that the \(\sigma\)-bond linking the two boron atoms had 52.5% s-character, the \(\pi\)-hybridization of the two boron atoms was evident, consistent with its assignment as a triple bond. The same measurements carried out on a pair of diborenes yielded substantially smaller \(J(\text{\textsuperscript{11}B},\text{\textsuperscript{11}B})\) values, ranging from 75–85 Hz, while NLMO modeling indicated 31–33% s-character (\(\text{sp}^2\) hybridization). When this technique was applied to compounds 1 and 2 (Figure S1), values of 171 ± 1 and 173 ± 1 Hz were obtained, both strikingly similar to that of the free diboryne (Table 1). Subsequent NLMO modeling (Figure S2) indicated negligible rehybridization of the central boron atoms (~49% s-character), highly suggestive of an intact triple bond (Table 1). A more detailed summation of NMR experiments and NLMO modeling on several compounds for comparison is given in Table S1.

Each of these pieces of data indicating only mild perturbation to the \(\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}\) triple bond upon coordination to the \(\text{Te}^+\) fragment support the assignment of 1 and 2 as metal-free \(\pi\)-complexes; however, the same evidence may be alternatively interpreted as evidence for binding through non-covalent, electrostatic forces much like those reported by our laboratory in the coordination of alkali metals (Na\(^+\), Li\(^+\)) to diborynes.\(^{[27]}\) Structural data points to dissimilarities in the bonding of the two types of compounds, as the \(\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}\) bond in 1 (2.260(4) Å, 2.247(4) Å) were found to be substantially shorter than those in either the diboryne-Li\(^+\) (2.514(5) Å, 2.522(5) Å) or diboryne-Na\(^+\) (2.764(2) Å, 2.768(2) Å) complex.\(^{[28]}\) Theoretical elucidation was sought through the use of Kohn-Sham Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations at the OLYP/ZORA/TZ2P level. Energy decomposition analysis (EDA, Table S2), carried out to determine the relative magnitudes of the electrostatic and covalent contributions to bonding, definitively showed the covalent portion \(\left(\varepsilon_{\text{coval}} = -253.03 \text{ kcal/mol}\right)\) to be dominant over the electrostatic portion \(\left(\varepsilon_{\text{elec}} = -189.19 \text{ kcal/mol}\right)\). The difference in these two interactions may in part be explained by the electronegativity differences of the atoms in question. Boron and tellurium, with Pauling electronegativity values of 2.04 and 2.1, respectively, are more apt to form covalent interactions than is boron with the alkali metals (\(\gamma_{\text{Pauling}} = 0.93, \chi = 0.98\)).

Despite this difference, analysis of the charge flows in the molecule by means of the extended-transition-state natural orbitals for chemical valence (ETS-NOCV) scheme yielded a similar story to the electrostatic bonding of alkali metals. When encountering an alkali metal ion, the diboryne is capable of concentrating electron density along the \(\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}\) bond through the donation of \(\pi\)-electron density from the stabilizing carbones.\(^{[29]}\) Calculations on the cationic portion of 1 indicated the same to be true when covalently donating electrons to the \(\text{Te}^+\) fragment (\(\pi_{\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}} \rightarrow \varepsilon_{\text{coval}}\)). Figures 3a and 3b depict the two most important electron-flow channels based on the orbital interaction terms resulting from the interaction of the \(\text{[PhTe]}^+\) fragment with the diboryne. Areas in red indicate depletion of electron density, while blue shows areas of increased density upon combination of the fragments. For comparison, the same treatment was applied to the interactions between the more metallacyclic \(\text{C}_2\text{B}_8\)-tellurium complex described above, with the two most important contributing interactions depicted in Figures 3c and 3d. In 1, the more important of the two interactions is clearly the donation of electrons from the \(\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}\) bond toward the \(\text{[PhTe]}^+\) fragment (\(\pi_{\equiv \text{B} \equiv \text{B}} \rightarrow \varepsilon_{\text{coval}} = -175.75 \text{ kcal/mol}\)). The second of the two (Figure 3b) shows the movement

| Table 1. The vibrational and NMR characteristics of compounds 1 and 2 in comparison to other relevant species. | \(\Delta \nu \text{C=C} \) [cm\(^{-1}\)] | \(J(\text{\textsuperscript{11}B},\text{\textsuperscript{11}B})\) [Hz] | %s-orbital character |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Vibrational Spectroscopy Compound** | **NMR Spectroscopy Compound** | **J(\text{\textsuperscript{11}B},\text{\textsuperscript{11}B})** | **\%s-orbital character** |
| 1 | 120\(^{[a]}\) | 1 | 171 ± 1 | 49.3 |
| 2 | 120\(^{[a]}\) | 2 | 173 ± 1 | 49.1 |
| \(\text{[PtCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{B}_8)\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 200 | 187 ± 5 | 52.3 |
| \(\text{[MeSe}_2\text{C}(\text{AdiP})_2\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 380\(^{[b]}\) | 85 ± 10\(^{[b]}\) | 32.5 |
| \(\text{[PPPh}_3\text{Pt(C}_2\text{Ph}_3)\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 450\(^{[c]}\) | 75 ± 3\(^{[c]}\) | 31.5 |
| \(\text{[PtCl}_2(\text{C}_2\text{B}_8)\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 200 | 187 ± 5 | 52.3 |
| \(\text{[MeSe}_2\text{C}(\text{AdiP})_2\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 380\(^{[b]}\) | 85 ± 10\(^{[b]}\) | 32.5 |
| \(\text{[PPPh}_3\text{Pt(C}_2\text{Ph}_3)\text{]}^+)\) | \(\text{B}_2\text{IdiP}_2\) | 450\(^{[c]}\) | 75 ± 3\(^{[c]}\) | 31.5 |

[a] ref. 21. [b] ref. 22. [c] ref. 15. [d] ref. 23. 24. [e] ref. 26. |
of charge consistent with $\pi_{B-B} \rightarrow \pi^*$ backbonding, but it is energetically far less significant ($-32.53$ kcal/mol). Importantly, the calculation depicts electronic depopulation across the entire conjugated system stretching from the carbenes to the triple bond, indicative of the donation of electrons from the stabilizing carbenes in order to roughly maintain the electron density at the B=B unit even without substantial backdonation. This is evidenced by the fact that the boron atoms retain their negative Hirshfeld charges, calculated to be $-0.186$ in the free diboryne and on average $-0.118$ in 1, which are uncommon for electropositive elements bound to elements with greater electronegativities. The substantial lengthening of the $C_{\text{carbene}}$-B bonds of 1 (1.552(5) Å, 1.551(5) Å) in comparison to the same bonds in B$_2$Dipp$_2$ (1.487(3) Å, 1.495(3) Å) are a further indication of the depopulation of the conjugated system to enable $\pi_{B-B} \rightarrow \pi^*$ donation.

The same two types of charge flows were calculated for the interaction of [PhTe]$^-$ with C$_2$Bu$_2$; however, in this complex the sigma donation is a weaker interaction overall, $-111.75$ kcal/mol versus $-175.75$ kcal/mol in 1, and the backdonation is far more important. In 1, backdonation only accounts for 15% of the total energy of the combined interactions, while instead constituting 30% of the interaction in the acetylene complex. The relative energetic unimportance of the Te$_{\pi} \rightarrow \pi^*_{B-B}$ backdonation may be compared to that calculated for a hypothetical Ag$^{+}$C$_2$H$_4$ complex ($-20$%),$^{[28]}$ to further underscore the degree to which compound 1 exemplifies Chatt’s vision of the $\pi$-complex.$^{[26]}$

It was initially supposed that the ability of the B$_2$-unit to act strictly as a $\pi$-ligand while the organic alkyn can did not was enabled by both a relatively high-energy HOMO ($\pi_{B-B}$) of the diboryne, making it a strong donor, and an energetic mismatch between the diboryne LUMO ($\pi^*_{B-B}$) and the donating $p$ orbital on Te.$^{[20]}$ However, as Figure S3 shows, though the calculated HOMO and HOMO-1 of the diboryne fragment are higher in energy than those of C$_2$Bu$_2$, their LUMO levels are roughly equivalent, meaning backdonation should be energetically possible in 1. The fact that this does not happen must be attributed to the role of the electronic stabilization of the flanking N-heterocyclic carbenes (NHCs) depicted in Figure 3a. In much of our work on (NHC)$_2$B$_2$ compounds$^{[30]}$ we have shown how the characteristics and reactivities of the central B$_2$ units were the result of the relative $\pi$-acidities of the stabilizing NHCs, serving to attenuate the electron density at boron. In this case, the ability of the diboryne to covalently bond to the phenyltellurium cation as a $\pi$-ligand is instead derived from the $\pi$-basicity of the NHC. The conjugated $\pi$-system acts as a conduit for electron density, and in doing so not only allows for the formation of a strong $\sigma$-bond, but also inhibits deformation of the linear diboryne, which would accompany backbonding. In a more conventional vein, it is perhaps appropriate to view the B=B bond as an exceptionally electron-rich side-on ligand, owing to its access to the carbene electrons, and hence unlikely to accept backdonation from Te.

In conclusion, we have provided evidence that compounds 1 and 2 represent metal-free $\pi$-complexes, aiding in the extension of the DCD model to three-membered unsaturated heterocycles in the $p$-block. It is conceptually appealing to be able to apply models of bonding as widely as possible across the periodic table, rather than relying on compartmentalized explanations of the behaviors of groupings of elements. It is our hope that by describing compounds 1 and 2 in language generally reserved for the d-block elements to their left. We are taking positive steps in this direction.

Acknowledgements

A.V. thanks the University of Sussex for financial support. D.L.B. thanks NSERC (Canada) for funding. H.B. thanks the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program (grant agreement no. 669054) for funding.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Keywords: boron · main group elements · solid-state NMR · $\pi$ interactions · multiple bonds

[1] M. J. S. Dewar, Bull. Chim. Soc. Fr. 1951, 18, C71.
[2] J. Chatt, L. A. Duncanson, J. Chem. Soc. 1953, 2939–2947.
[3] J. Chatt, G. A. Row, A. A. William, Proc. Chem. Soc. 1957, 208.
[4] Some examples include: a) A. König, M. Bette, C. Wagner, R. Lindner, D. Steinborn, Organometallics 2011, 30, 5919–5927; b) D. Steinborn, M. Tschoerner, A. von Zweidorf, J. Sieler, H. Bögel, Inorg. Chim. Acta 1995, 234, 47–53; c) J. Chatt, R. G. Guy, L. A. Duncanson, J. Chem. Soc. 1961,
Of the coinage metals, olefin/acetylene complexes with Ag are known to feature the smallest degree of M—L backbonding, making this comparison to Ag particularly useful. See: N. Salvi, L. Belpassi, F. Tarantelli, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 7231–7240.

a) J. Böhnke, H. Braunschweig, W. C. Ewing, I. Fischer, T. Kramer, J. Mies, A. K. Phukan, A. Vargas, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 13090–13094; Angew. Chem. 2015, 127, 13282–13286.

b) F. A. Perras, D. L. Bryce, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 12596–12599; b) F. A. Perras, D. L. Bryce, Chem. Sci. 2014, 5, 2428–2437; c) Y. T. A. Wong, J. Landmann, M. Finze, D. L. Bryce, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2017, 139, 8200–8211.

F. A. Perras, W. C. Ewing, T. Dellermann, J. Böhnke, S. Ullrich, T. Schäfer, H. Braunschweig, D. L. Bryce, Chem. Sci. 2015, 6, 3378–3382.

R. Bertermann, H. Braunschweig, P. Constantindis, T. Dellermann, R. D. Dewhurst, W. C. Ewing, I. Fischer, T. Kramer, J. Mies, A. K. Phukan, A. Vargas, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 13090–13094; Angew. Chem. 2015, 127, 13282–13286.

M. S. Nechaev, V. M. Rayón, G. Frenking, J. Phys. Chem. A 2004, 108, 3134–3142.

Of the coinage metals, olefin/acetylene complexes with Ag are known to feature the smallest degree of M—L backbonding, making this comparison to Ag particularly useful. See: N. Salvi, L. Belpassi, F. Tarantelli, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 7231–7240.

a) J. Böhnke, H. Braunschweig, W. C. Ewing, I. Fischer, T. Kramer, J. Mies, A. K. Phukan, A. Vargas, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 13090–13094; Angew. Chem. 2015, 127, 13282–13286.

M. S. Nechaev, V. M. Rayón, G. Frenking, J. Phys. Chem. A 2004, 108, 3134–3142.

Of the coinage metals, olefin/acetylene complexes with Ag are known to feature the smallest degree of M—L backbonding, making this comparison to Ag particularly useful. See: N. Salvi, L. Belpassi, F. Tarantelli, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 7231–7240.

a) J. Böhnke, H. Braunschweig, W. C. Ewing, I. Fischer, T. Kramer, J. Mies, A. K. Phukan, A. Vargas, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 13090–13094; Angew. Chem. 2015, 127, 13282–13286.

M. S. Nechaev, V. M. Rayón, G. Frenking, J. Phys. Chem. A 2004, 108, 3134–3142.

Of the coinage metals, olefin/acetylene complexes with Ag are known to feature the smallest degree of M—L backbonding, making this comparison to Ag particularly useful. See: N. Salvi, L. Belpassi, F. Tarantelli, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 7231–7240.

a) J. Böhnke, H. Braunschweig, W. C. Ewing, I. Fischer, T. Kramer, J. Mies, A. K. Phukan, A. Vargas, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2015, 54, 13090–13094; Angew. Chem. 2015, 127, 13282–13286.

M. S. Nechaev, V. M. Rayón, G. Frenking, J. Phys. Chem. A 2004, 108, 3134–3142.

Of the coinage metals, olefin/acetylene complexes with Ag are known to feature the smallest degree of M—L backbonding, making this comparison to Ag particularly useful. See: N. Salvi, L. Belpassi, F. Tarantelli, Chem. Eur. J. 2010, 16, 7231–7240.

Manuscript received: February 13, 2020
Revised manuscript received: March 19, 2020
Accepted manuscript online: March 23, 2020
Version of record online: April 16, 2020