

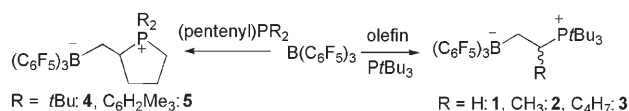
Reactivity of “Frustrated Lewis Pairs”: Three-Component Reactions of Phosphines, a Borane, and Olefins**

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The formation of Lewis acid/base adducts is a classical concept in chemistry.^[1] This principle is fundamental to main-group chemistry, the basis of the coordination chemistry of transition metals,^[2] and the foundation of a variety of both stoichiometric and catalytic organic transformations.^[3] In all of these cases, the observed chemistry is predicated on the interaction of a Lewis base with a Lewis acid in a donor–acceptor fashion. In our recent studies, we have been studying systems in which steric demands preclude such classical donor–acceptor interactions. Such “frustrated Lewis pairs” lead to unique and unprecedented reactivity. For example, we have reported that the reaction of $B(C_6F_5)_3$ with the sterically demanding secondary phosphine $(C_6H_2Me_3)_2PH$ results in *para* attack to afford species of the form $(C_6H_2Me_3)_2PH-(C_6F_4)BF(C_6F_5)_2$, which is readily converted into $(C_6H_2Me_3)_2PH(C_6F_4)BH(C_6F_5)_2$.^[4,5] This latter species was shown to reversibly liberate and take-up H_2 .^[6] Such *para* substitutions have been exploited to tune Lewis acidity, thereby providing ready access to the boranes $R_2P(C_6F_4)B(C_6F_5)_2$ ($R = tBu, C_6H_2Me_3$) and the cationic boranes $[R'R_2P(C_6F_4)B(C_6F_5)_2]^+$ ($R' = H, R = tBu, C_6H_2Me_3, R' = R = iPr, cyclohexyl$).^[7] No reaction between the Lewis acid and Lewis base were apparent for related phosphine/borane combinations in which steric demands are even greater. Nonetheless, such sterically “frustrated Lewis pairs” effect the heterolytic cleavage of H_2 to give the salts $[R_3PH][HB(C_6F_5)_3]$ ($R = tBu, C_6H_2Me_3$).^[8] Herein, we broaden the reactivity of “frustrated Lewis pairs” and demonstrate that sterically demanding phosphines and boranes react with olefins to give alkanediyl-linked phosphonium borates. These three-component reactions are surprising given that neither tertiary phosphines nor tertiary boranes are known to react with olefins.

A solution of bromobenzene containing the combination of tBu_3P and $B(C_6F_5)_3$ was purged with ethylene and stored under 1 atm of ethylene at 25 °C. Over the course of several hours, a colorless precipitate of **1** formed which was isolated in 63 % yield by filtration. The $^{31}P\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum of **1** showed a singlet resonance at $\delta = 50.1$ ppm while the corresponding $^{11}B\{^1H\}$ NMR signal was observed at $\delta =$

-13.3 ppm. The 1H NMR spectrum of **1** showed broad multiplets at $\delta = 1.69$ – 1.94 ppm. These data confirm the presence of phosphonium and borate fragments linked by C_2H_4 , thus affirming the formulation of **1** as $[tBu_3P(C_2H_4)B(C_6F_5)_3]$ (Scheme 1). An X-ray crystallographic study (Figure 1a)^[9] confirmed the proposed zwitterionic formulation,



Scheme 1. Inter- and intramolecular addition of frustrated phosphine/borane pairs to olefins.

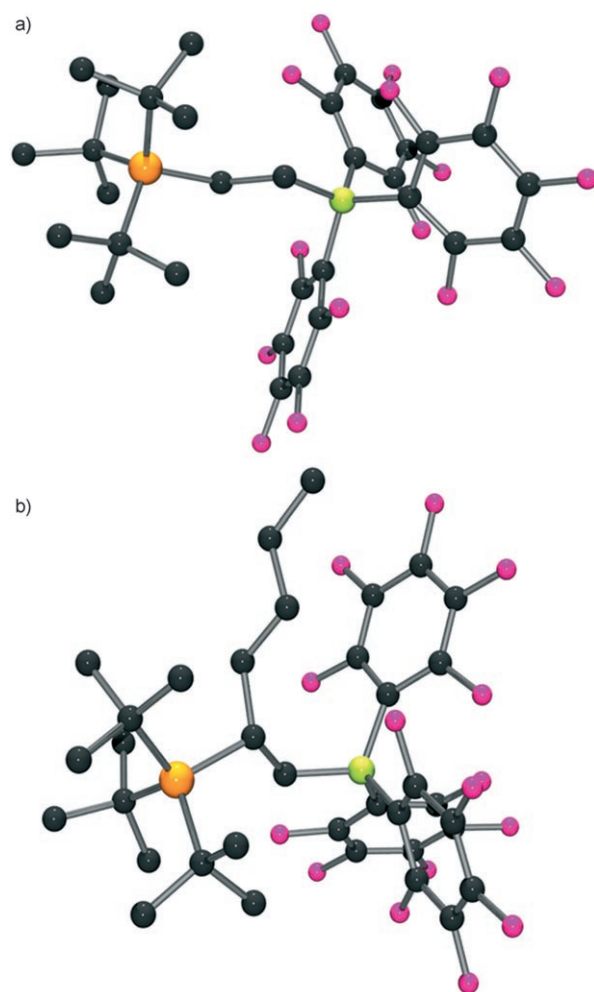


Figure 1. POV-ray drawings of a) **1** and b) **3**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. C: black, P: orange, F: pink, B: yellow-green.

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thus establishing unambiguously that the phosphine and borane add to opposite ends of the ethylene molecule with the formation of pseudotetrahedral centers in both cases. The B–C and P–C bond lengths were found to be 1.653(4) Å and 1.831(3) Å, respectively, which are unexceptional. The remarkably facile formation of **1** stands in contrast to the more conventional syntheses of the related phosphine–borane species $\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}=\text{CHB}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{Me}_3)_2$ and $\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{Me}_3)_2$ previously reported by Marder and co-workers.^[10,11]

Similar intermolecular reactions of propylene and 1-hexene with *t*Bu₃P and B(C₆F₅)₃ afforded the new species **2** and **3** which were subsequently isolated in yields of 63 and 55%. These products exhibited ³¹P{¹H} and ¹¹B{¹H} NMR signals at δ = 56.9 and –11.6, and 58.3 and –13.0 ppm, respectively, which are consistent with the presence of phosphonium and borate fragments similar to those found in **1**. The ¹H and ¹⁹F NMR spectra reveal the expected resonances for propyl and hexyl groups as well as inequivalent C₆F₅ groups, which is consistent with the generation of a chiral center from the prochiral olefins. Two-dimensional ¹³C–¹H NMR correlation spectra were used to establish resonance assignments. These data supported a regiochemistry of addition in which the P atom adds to the secondary olefinic carbon atom while the B atom adds to the terminal methylene group, thus prompting the formulations of **2** and **3** as [*t*Bu₃P(CH(R)CH₂B(C₆F₅)₃], where R = CH₃ and C₄H₉, respectively. An X-ray crystallographic study of **3** confirmed this regiochemistry of addition (Figure 1 b).^[9]

These “frustrated Lewis pairs” can also react with olefins in an intramolecular fashion. The olefinic derivatives of sterically demanding phosphines of the form CH₂=CH–(CH₂)₃PR₂ (R = *t*Bu, C₆H₂Me₃) were prepared by conventional methods. Stoichiometric reactions with B(C₆F₅)₃ were monitored by ³¹P NMR spectroscopy, which revealed no evidence for the formation of phosphine–borane adducts. Rather, the reaction proceeds in CH₂Cl₂ at 25–45 °C to give species **4** and **5** in 94 and 52% yields, respectively. The ³¹P{¹H} NMR spectra of **4** and **5** showed singlet resonances at δ = 62.4 and 52.8 ppm, while the corresponding ¹¹B{¹H} NMR signals were observed at δ = –13.8 and –13.7 ppm, respectively. The ¹⁹F NMR spectra for **4** and **5** confirmed the presence of C₆F₅ groups. These data together with the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data support the formulation of **4** and **5** as the cyclized phosphonium borates [R₂PCH(C₃H₆)CH₂B(C₆F₅)₃], with R = *t*Bu (**4**) and R = C₆H₂Me₃ (**5**; Scheme 1). An X-ray crystallographic study of **4** (Figure 2)^[9] confirmed the proposed connectivity, although rotational disorder of the *tert*-butyl groups dictated a constrained refinement. Related addition of P–H bonds to a pendant olefinic group mediated by a lanthanide species have been proposed as catalytic hydrophosphination intermediates en route to the secondary phospholes HPCH(Me)(C₃H₆).^[12,13]

The mechanism of the present reactions is intriguing given that these phosphines and boranes are not known to react individually with olefins. It is tempting to suggest that these reactions are initiated by activation of the olefin by the Lewis acid, which prompts attack by the phosphine. This view is supported to some degree by the observations of Herrebout and van der Veken,^[14] who reported IR data for the van der

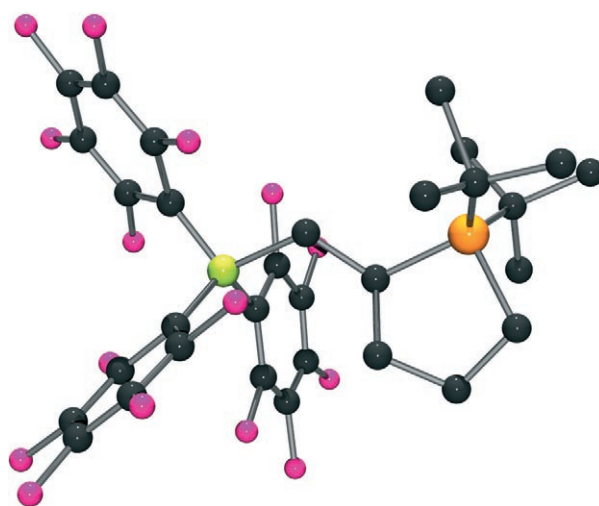


Figure 2. POV-ray drawing of **4**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. C: black, P: orange, F: pink, B: yellow-green.

Waals BF₃–ethylene and BF₃–propylene complexes generated in an argon matrix at 93–125 K. We attempted to observe an analogous borane–olefin interaction by variable-temperature NMR methods using solutions of B(C₆F₅)₃ in 1-hexene. No evidence of interaction was observed by ¹⁹F, ¹¹B, or ¹H NMR spectroscopy at temperatures down to –90 °C. It is noteworthy that DFT calculations for ethylene–alane^[15] and ethylene–borane adducts^[16] suggested that weak π-donation complexes are formed. In the case of the olefin–BF₃ adduct, only small deviations in the geometry of the olefin and the borane were computed upon complexation,^[16] which suggests that in the present cases the phosphine nucleophile may play a significant role in driving the addition reaction. It is noteworthy that conventional hydroboration is postulated to proceed via a π-olefin–borane complex.^[17] These additions of B and P groups across olefins are also reminiscent of Br₂ addition to olefins, as the latter is proposed to proceed by the attack of an electrophilic bromonium ion (Br⁺, Lewis acid) followed by a nucleophilic attack of a bromide ion (Br[–], Lewis base).^[17]

In summary, sterically frustrated Lewis pairs of phosphines and the borane B(C₆F₅)₃ exhibit unprecedented reactivity with olefins, and undergo both intermolecular additions as well as intramolecular cyclizations. These reactions are all the more remarkable given that any pair of these reagents do not react, but the combination of the three reagents results in formation of the product. The utility of such remarkably selective three-component reactions and the further reactivity of “frustrated Lewis pairs” are the subject of ongoing study.

Experimental Section

All preparations were done under an atmosphere of dry, O₂-free N₂ by employing both Schlenk-line techniques and an Innovative Technologies or Vacuum Atmospheres inert-atmosphere glove box. Solvents were purified by employing a Grubbs-type column system manufactured by Innovative Technology. ¹H, ¹³C, ¹¹B, ¹⁹F, and

³¹P NMR spectroscopy spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-300 spectrometer. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are referenced to SiMe₄ using the residual solvent peak impurity of the given solvent. ³¹P, ¹¹B, and ¹⁹F NMR spectroscopy were referenced to 85 % H₃PO₄, BF₃, and CFCl₃, respectively. For experimental details see the Supporting Information. [D₈]THF was used as the solvent for the NMR analyses of **1–3** and CD₂Cl₂ for **4** and **5**. Combustion analyses were performed in house on a Perkin Elmer CHN analyzer. B(C₆F₅)₃ was generously donated by NOVA Chemicals Corporation.

1: A solution of *t*Bu₃P (0.221 g, 1.09 mmol) in C₆H₅Br (2 mL) was added to a solution of B(C₆F₅)₃ (0.499 g, 0.97 mmol) in C₆H₅Br (50 mL) under an ethylene purge. The solution was purged with ethylene for 1 h and then the reaction was stirred under 1 atm of ethylene at room temperature for 16 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. Hexanes were then added to precipitate a white solid, which was isolated by filtration and washed with hexanes several times before being dried in vacuo. Yield: 0.452 g (63 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown from a layered CH₂Cl₂/pentane solution at 25 °C. ¹H NMR: δ = 1.69–1.94 (brm, 4H, C₂H₄), 1.43 ppm (d, 27H, ³J_{H-P} = 14 Hz, *t*Bu); ¹¹B{¹H} NMR: δ = –13.3 ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR partial: δ = 149.17 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 238 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), 139.06 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 244 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), 137.57 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 245 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅), 39.92 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 30 Hz, *t*Bu), 29.90 (s, *t*Bu), 19.00 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 30 Hz, PCH₂), 17.63 ppm (brs, BCH₂); ¹⁹F NMR: δ = –132.58 (d, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 25 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), –164.14 (t, 3F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), –167.27 ppm (t, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅); ³¹P{¹H} NMR: 50.0 ppm. Elemental analysis calcd for C₃₂H₃₁BF₁₅P: C 51.77, H 4.21; found: C 51.92, H 3.93 %.

2: A solution of *t*Bu₃P (0.258 g, 1.28 mmol) in C₆H₅Br (2 mL) was added to a solution of B(C₆F₅)₃ (0.473 g, 0.92 mmol) in C₆H₅Br (50 mL) under a propylene purge. The solution was purged with propylene for 4 h and then the reaction was stirred under 1 atm of propylene at room temperature for 12 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂. Hexanes were then added to precipitate a white solid, which was isolated by filtration and washed with hexane several times before being dried in vacuo. Yield: 0.436 g (63 %). ¹H NMR: δ = 2.72 (brs, 1H, PCH), 2.30 (brs, 2H, BCH₂), 1.59 (d, 27H, ³J_{H-P} = 13 Hz, *t*Bu), 1.57 ppm (m, 3H, Me); ¹¹B{¹H} NMR: δ = –11.6 ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR partial: δ = 149.18 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 237 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), 139.13 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 230 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), 137.57 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 245 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅), 41.62 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 25 Hz, *t*Bu), 33.74 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 22 Hz, PCH), 31.15 (s, *t*Bu), 18.92 ppm (s, Me); ¹⁹F NMR: δ = –129.08 (brs, 6F, *o*-C₆F₅), –162.41 (t, 3F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), –165.53 ppm (mt, 6F, *m*-C₆F₅); ³¹P{¹H} NMR: 56.9 ppm. Elemental analysis calcd for C₃₃H₃₃BF₁₅P: C 52.40, H 4.40; found: C 52.14, H 4.36 %.

3: A solution of *t*Bu₃P (0.211 g, 1.04 mmol) in 1-hexene (2 mL) was added to a solution of B(C₆F₅)₃ (0.496 g, 0.97 mmol) in 1-hexene (30 mL). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 12 h, during which time a white precipitate formed. The solid was isolated by filtration and washed with pentanes and dried in vacuo. Yield: 0.428 g (55 %). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown from a layered CH₂Cl₂/pentane/C₆D₆ solution at 25 °C. ¹H NMR: δ = 2.84 (brm, 1H, P-CH), 2.40 (brm, 1H, CHCH₂), 2.12 (brm, 2H, BCH₂), 1.63 (d, 27H, ³J_{H-P} = 13 Hz, *t*Bu), 1.53 (brm, 1H, CHCH₂), 1.02–1.34 (brm, 2H, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 0.78–0.93 (m, 2H, CH₂Me), 0.69 ppm (t, 3H, ³J_{H-H} = 7 Hz, Me); ¹¹B{¹H} NMR: δ = –13.0 ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR partial: δ = 149.51 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 237 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), 139.28 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 244 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), 137.81 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 256 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅), 42.18 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 24 Hz, *t*Bu), 40.19 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 18 Hz, PCH), 33.90 (s, CHCH₂), 33.11 (d, ³J_{C-P} = 10 Hz, CH₂CH₂CH₂), 31.58 (s, *t*Bu), 23.99 (s, CH₂Me), 14.01 ppm (s, Me); ¹⁹F NMR: δ = –129.31 (brs, 2F, *o*-C₆F₅), –130.66 (brs, 4F, *o*-C₆F₅), –164.22 (t, 3F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), –167.42 ppm (t, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 23 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅); ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ = 58.3 ppm. Elemental analysis calcd for C₃₆H₃₉BF₁₅P: C 54.15, H 4.92; found: C 53.93, H 4.64 %.

4: *t*Bu₂PCH₂CH₂CH₂CH=CH₂ (0.314 g, 1.47 mmol) was added to a solution of B(C₆F₅)₃ (0.704 g, 1.37 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). The solution was stirred overnight and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) and then pentane was added to precipitate a white solid, which was isolated by filtration and washed with pentanes several times. Yield 0.932 g (94 %). ¹H NMR: δ = 2.78 (brm, 1H, CH), 1.95–2.30 (brm, 6H, BCH₂, CH₂CH₂), 1.37 (d, 9H, ³J_{H-P} = 15 Hz, *t*Bu), 1.41–1.53 (brm, 2H, PCH₂), 1.22 ppm (d, 9H, ³J_{H-P} = 15 Hz, *t*Bu); ¹¹B{¹H} NMR: δ = –13.8 ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR partial: δ = 148.81 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 234 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), 138.70 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 245 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), 137.45 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 233 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅), 40.29 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 32 Hz, PCH), 36.27 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 29 Hz, *t*Bu), 34.89 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 32 Hz, *t*Bu), 33.29 (s, CH₂CH), 28.16 (s, *t*Bu), 27.38 (s, *t*Bu), 25.89 (s, PCH₂CH₂), 18.79 ppm (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 44 Hz, PCH₂); ¹⁹F NMR: δ = –131.71 (d, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 23 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), –163.24 (t, 3F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), –166.73 ppm (t, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅); ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ = 62.4 ppm. Elemental analysis calcd for C₃₁H₂₇BF₁₅P: C 51.26, H 3.75; found: C 51.26, H 3.64 %.

5: (2,4,6-MeC₆H₂)₂PCH₂CH₂CH₂CH=CH₂ (0.095 g, 0.28 mmol) was added to a solution of B(C₆F₅)₃ (0.155 g, 0.30 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and the solution refluxed for 72 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (3 mL) and then pentane was added to precipitate a white solid. The solid was filtered and washed with pentanes several times. Yield 0.124 g (52 %). ¹H NMR: δ = 6.90–6.98 (brm, 4H, C₆H₂), 3.50 (m, 1H, PCH₂), 3.32 (brm, 1H, CH), 2.32–2.43 (brm, 3H, PCH₂CH₂), 2.30 (s, 3H, Me-4), 2.25 (s, 3H, Me-4), 1.85–2.22 ppm (brm, 16H, 2,6-Me, BCH₂, CH₂CH); ¹¹B{¹H} NMR: δ = –13.7 ppm; ¹³C{¹H} NMR partial: δ = 148.64 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 245 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), 145.04 (s, *o*-C₆H₂), 145.00 (s, *o*-C₆H₂), 144.53 (s, *o*-C₆H₂), 144.51 (s, *o*-C₆H₂), 141.99 (s, *p*-C₆H₂), 141.86 (s, *p*-C₆H₂), 138.60 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 243 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), 137.20 (dm, ¹J_{C-F} = 257 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅), 133.07 (s, *m*-C₆H₂), 132.93 (s, *m*-C₆H₂), 132.42 (s, *m*-C₆H₂), 132.27 (s, *m*-C₆H₂), 41.78 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 33 Hz, CH), 32.16 (d, ¹J_{C-P} = 22 Hz, PCH₂), 30.75 (d, ²J_{C-P} = 10 Hz, CH₂CH), 24.35 (d, ²J_{C-P} = 10 Hz, PCH₂CH₂), 22.99 (s, 2,6-Me), 22.94 (s, 2,6-Me), 21.38 (s, 4-Me), 21.19 ppm (s, 4-Me); ¹⁹F NMR: δ = –132.02 (d, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *o*-C₆F₅), –163.47 (t, 3F, ³J_{F-F} = 25 Hz, *p*-C₆F₅), –166.86 ppm (t, 6F, ³J_{F-F} = 20 Hz, *m*-C₆F₅); ³¹P{¹H} NMR: δ = 52.8 ppm. Elemental analysis calcd for C₄₁H₃₁BF₁₅P: C 57.9, H 3.67; found: C 57.63, H 3.63 %.

Preparative details for CH₂=CH(CH₂)₃PR₂ (R = *t*Bu, C₆H₅Me₃) are deposited in the Supporting Information. CCDC-639620–639622 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

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- [9] X-ray data: **1**: monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$, $a = 11.9532(14)$, $b = 15.3319(18)$, $c = 18.729(2)$ Å, $\beta = 107.436(2)^\circ$, $V = 3274.7(7)$ Å³. Data: 5758, parameters = 458, $R = 0.0452$, $R_w = 0.1046$, GOF = 1.017. **3**: monoclinic, space group $P\bar{1}$, $a = 11.352(4)$, $b = 11.609(4)$, $c = 15.623(5)$ Å, $\alpha = 111.445(4)$, $\beta = 99.753(4)$, $\gamma = 93.350(4)^\circ$, $V = 1872.4(11)$ Å³. Data: 6576, parameters = 507, $R = 0.0556$, $R_w = 0.1515$, GOF = 1.005. **4**: monoclinic, space group Pc , $a = 14.994(3)$, $b = 12.770(2)$, $c = 16.538(3)$ Å, $\beta = 94.449(3)^\circ$, $V = 3157.1(9)$ Å³. Data: 11 111, parameters: 865, $R = 0.0838$, $R_w = 0.1933$, GOF = 1.002.
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