



W. E. Piers

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** since 2000 in *Angewandte Chemie*:

"High Stokes Shift Anilido-Pyridine Boron Difluoride Dyes": J. F. Araneda, W. E. Piers, B. Heyne, M. Parvez, R. McDonald, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 12422–12425; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 12214–12217.



The work of W. E. Piers has been featured on the cover of *Angewandte Chemie*:

"10a-Aza-10b-borapyrenes: Heterocyclic Analogues of Pyrene with Internalized BN Moieties": M. J. D. Bosdet, W. E. Piers, T. S. Sorensen, M. Parvez, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 5028–5031; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 4940–4943.

## Warren E. Piers

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<b>Position:</b>	S. Robert Blair Professor of Chemistry, University of Calgary (Canada)
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<b>Education:</b>	1984 BSc, University of British Columbia (Canada) 1988 PhD with Prof. Michael D. Fryzuk, University of British Columbia 1988–1990 Postdoctoral Fellow with Prof. John E. Bercaw (Killam and NSERC), California Institute of Technology (USA)
<b>Awards:</b>	<b>2001–2003</b> NSERC E. W. R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship; <b>2003</b> Canadian Society for Chemistry (CSC) Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research Award; <b>2005</b> CSC Alcan Lecture Award; <b>2006</b> Fellow, Royal Society of Canada; <b>2012–2014</b> Canada Council for the Arts Killam Research Fellowship
<b>Current research interests:</b>	Mechanisms of important catalytic and stoichiometric organometallic transformations mediated by main-group and transition-metal compounds; boron-containing organic materials; the chemistry of perfluoroaryl boranes
<b>Hobbies:</b>	Music, mountaineering, and fine wine

**If I were not a scientist, I would be ...** a chef or sommelier.

**My favorite place on earth is ...** the summit of any mountain.

**The biggest problem that scientists face is ...** convincing politicians to stop procrastinating and confront climate collapse.

**My favorite piece of research is ...** the development of olefin metathesis catalysts—classic organometallic chemistry!

**The best stage in a scientist's career is ...** the postdoctoral years; nothing but research (and the small task of finding a real job).

**Guaranteed to make me laugh is ...** Larry David in the American TV series "Curb Your Enthusiasm".

**The best advice I have ever been given is ...** it takes just as long to do a poor job of a task as a good one, because when you do a poor job, you have to do it twice.

**A good work day begins with ...** positive reviews in my inbox.

**My favorite authors are ...** John Irving and Stephen King.

**My top three films of all time are ...** "Lost Highway" (David Lynch); "Eyes Wide Shut" (Stanley Kubrick—anything by Kubrick, really); "American Beauty" (Sam Mendes).

**My favorite food are ...** fresh scallops pan-seared to perfection.

### My 5 top papers:

1. "Bis(pentafluorophenyl)borane: Synthesis, Properties, and Hydroboration Chemistry of a Highly Electrophilic Borane Reagent": D. J. Parks, R. E. von H. Spence, W. E. Piers, *Angew. Chem.* **1995**, 107, 895–897; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **1995**, 34, 809–811. (Introduction of a widely used reagent for preparing perfluoroarylboranes by hydroboration.)
2. "Tris(pentafluorophenyl)boron-Catalyzed Hydrosilation of Aromatic Aldehydes, Ketones, and Esters": D. J. Parks, W. E. Piers, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, 118, 9440–9441. (An early example of what have come to be known as "frustrated" Lewis pairs.)
3. "Cationic Scandium Methyl Complexes Supported by a  $\beta$ -Diketiminato ("Nacnac") Ligand Framework": P. G. Hayes, W. E. Piers, R. McDonald, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, 124, 2132–2133. (One of a long series of papers on organoscandium chemistry from our group.)
4. "Rapidly Initiating Ruthenium Olefin-Metathesis Catalysts": P. E. Romero, W. E. Piers, R. McDonald, *Angew. Chem.* **2004**, 116, 6287–6291; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 6161–6165. (A surprising twist on ruthenium-catalyzed olefin metathesis.)
5. "10a-Aza-10b-borapyrenes: Heterocyclic Analogues of Pyrene with Internalized BN Moieties": M. J. D. Bosdet, W. E. Piers, T. S. Sorensen, M. Parvez, *Angew. Chem.* **2007**, 119, 5028–5031; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2007**, 46, 4940–4943. (A "eureka" idea that worked out very nicely.)

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201200052