

The Structures of a Tetracarba-*nido*-octaborane(8) and a Novel Spiro Derivative of a 2,3,5-Tricarba-*nido*-hexaborane(7)

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Hydroboration of bis(diethylboryl)ethyne (**1**) with tetraethylhydiborane(6) leads to a *B*-ethyl-substituted tetracarba-*nido*-octaborane **2**, a spiro-carborane **3**, which belongs to the 2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-carborane family, and a hexacarba-*arachno*-dodecaborane(12) **4**, along with polymeric material. The X-ray structure analysis of carborane **2**, determined here, is fully consistent with the structure deduced earlier from NMR data. The structure of **3** in solution was

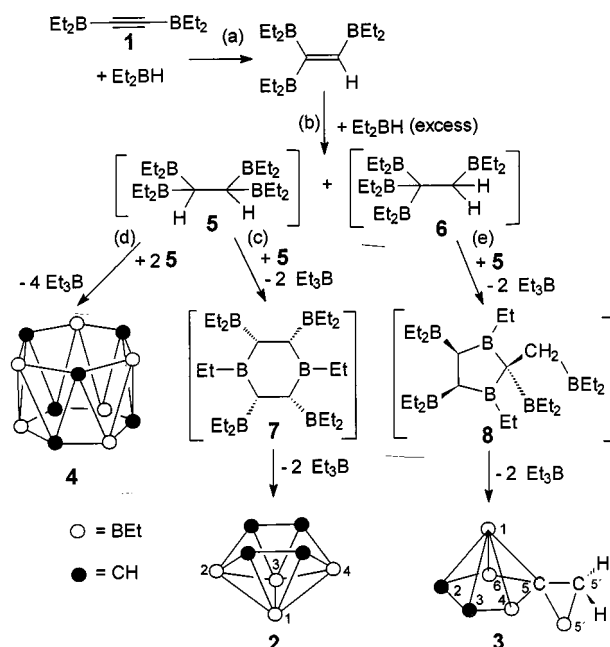
established by theoretical analysis of its NMR data. Ab initio calculations of the structures of **2b** and **3b** (**b** denotes the *B*-methyl-substituted derivatives) and the comparison of calculated with experimental NMR data support the suggested structures of **2** and **3** in solution. The calculated structure of the carborane cage of **2a** also agrees with the experimental geometry of **2**.

Introduction

Tetracarba-*nido*-octaboranes(8) are reported to result from transition metal complex promoted reactions^[1,2] or from the reduction of organo-substituted 1,2,5-thiadiborolanes with potassium.^[3] However, the evidence for structural assignments is not firm, and the chemistry of these carboranes has not been explored. We prepared the *B*-ethyl-substituted tetracarba-*nido*-octaborane(8) **2** by hydroboration of bis(diethylboryl)ethyne (**1**); the structure was inferred from NMR data in solution along with an X-ray structural analysis of the hexacarbonyldiiron complex of **2**.^[4] The hydroboration of **1** (Scheme 1) also leads to other products, e.g. the hexacarba-*arachno*-dodecaborane(12) derivative **4**,^[5] and **3**, a spiro-carborane isomer of **2**.^[5] We now report the first X-ray-structural analysis of the *nido*-C₄B₄ cage, and our finding of an isomer of **2** with a carborane cage different from that of **2**. We employ the ab initio/GIAO-IGLO/NMR method^[6] to elucidate the structures.

Results and Discussion

The routes to the carboranes **2–4** are shown in Scheme 1. The mechanism is speculative. The suggested intermediates **5–8** were not detected, but are inferred [as associated diborane(6) species due to the excess of tetraethyldibo-



Scheme 1. Hydroboration of bis(diethylboryl)ethyne (**1**) using an excess of Et₂BH: formation of polymers and of the carboranes **2**, **3** and **4**

rane(6)] from the products. The formation of polymeric material is suggested if the diethylboryl groups in **7** or **8** are not in the correct positions for BH-catalyzed intramolecular elimination of Et₃B (these isomers of **7** or **8** are not shown in Scheme 1). In the case of **8** intramolecular elimination of Et₃B from the Et₂BCH–CHBEt₂ moiety leads to the apical BEt group and therefore, it can be predicted that a second intramolecular elimination of Et₃B, forming the spiro compound, should give the three-membered ring with an endocyclic C5–B5' bond as in **3**. The proposed structure of **3** is unique in carborane chemistry and therefore, extensive NMR studies and ab initio MO calculations were per-

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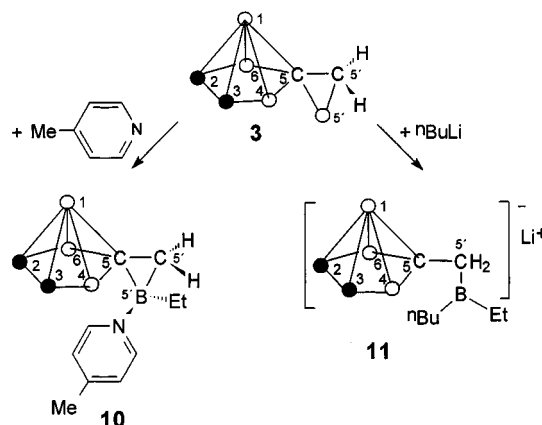
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formed to prove its existence, in particular in the absence of direct structural evidence.

In contrast to **2** and **4**, the carborane **3** is extremely sensitive towards oxygen. It is therefore not observed when the usual work-up procedures are used. However, if the reaction mixtures are not oxidized or hydrolyzed, **3** can be obtained in a mixture with **2** by fractional distillation, and a complete set of NMR data of **3** can be recorded. The ^{11}B -NMR signal at $\delta = -28.9$ with relative intensity 1 indicates the presence of a boron atom (B1) in apical position, and the signal at $\delta = +23.3$ with relative intensity 2 is typical of boron atoms B4,6 in basal positions. A third ^{11}B -NMR signal at rather low field ($\delta = +64.0$), much more typical of triorganoboranes than of carboranes is assigned to the boron atom in the three-membered ring. The connectivity between the $^{11}\text{B}4,6$ and $^{13}\text{C}2,3$ nuclei is evident from the sharpening of relevant ^{13}C -NMR signals as the result of selective ^{11}B decoupling experiments (see Figure 1). Irradiation of the ^{11}B resonance at $\delta = +64.0$ sharpens two $^{13}\text{C}(\text{CH}_2)$ signals, one due to the BEt group and the other to the unique CH_2 moiety in the three-membered ring. The carborane **3** is the first 2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-hexaborane derivative^[7,8] without an *endo*-C5–H bond. For the parent carborane a hyperconjugative interaction of the *endo*-C5–H bond with B4 (or B6) was found computationally.^[9] This participation in the cluster bonding satisfies the electron counting rules.^[10] In comparison with the $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ data of hexaethyl-2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-hexaborane(7) **9** (Table 1) the apical ^{11}B nucleus in **3** is deshielded by 8 ppm. This can be the result of the different substituents linked to C5 (*vide infra*), and it can also be caused (however, less likely) by the missing ethyl groups at C2,3 in **3**.

Two reactions of **3** (Scheme 2) provide further evidence for its unique structure. If γ -picoline is added to the mixture of **2** and **3**, the ^{11}B -NMR signal at $\delta = +64.0$ disappears, and a new broad signal at $\delta = +13.5$ is observed. The spiro

cage structure of **3** appears to be retained, since the effect on all other ^{11}B and $^{13}\text{C}(\text{cage})$ signals is small. The carborane **2** does not react. Treatment of the mixture of **2** and **3** with BuLi also does not affect **2**, but **3** reacts by ring opening to give the 2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-hexaborate(1–) derivative **11**. The reaction can be controlled by using slightly less than one equivalent of BuLi. The ^{11}B -NMR spectrum shows signals with correct integral intensities for B(1) and B(4,6) at $\delta = -38.5$ and $+21.7$, respectively, and a signal at $\delta = +86.7$ for the Et(Bu)B group in the typical range of non-cyclic trialkylboranes.^[11] The $\delta^{11}\text{B}(1,4,6)$ values are close to those determined for corresponding 2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-hexaborates(1–) [e.g. *nido*-Et₆-2,3,5-C₃B₃-hexaborate(1–): $\delta^{11}\text{B}1 = -44.2$ and $\delta^{11}\text{B}(4,6) = +17.2$.^[8]



Scheme 2. Reactivity of the spiro-carborane **3** towards γ -picoline and BuLi

The NMR data of **2** in solution discussed previously,^[4] are fully consistent with the molecular structure of **2** in the solid state.^[12] The X-ray data of **2** confirm the proposed^[4,13] hexagonal open face formed by the four carbon atoms, linked in pairs, and two boron atoms (Figure 2). In

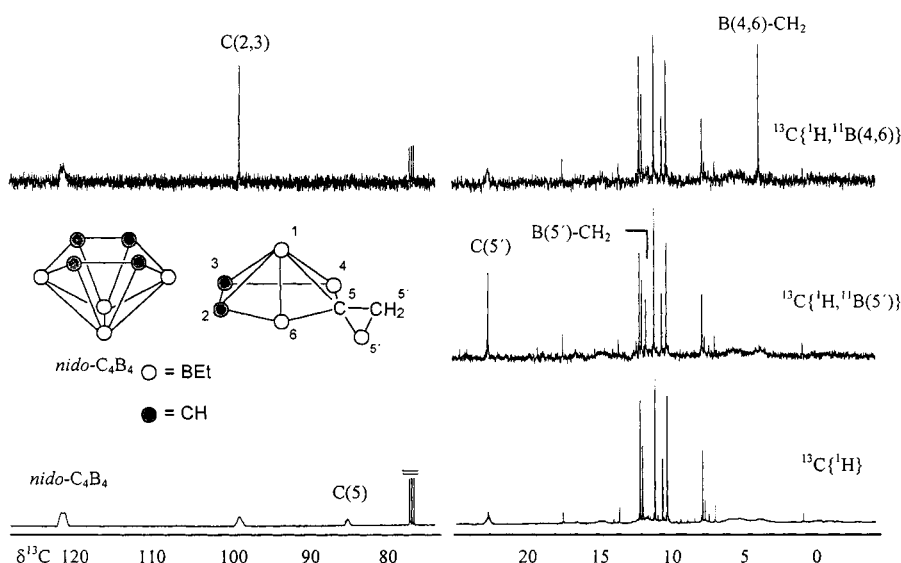


Figure 1. 125.8-MHz ^{13}C -NMR spectra of a mixture of **2** and **3** (ca. 10 mg in 0.5 mL of CDCl_3); A: normal $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ -NMR spectrum; B: the selective heteronuclear $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}, ^{11}\text{B}(4,6)\}$ triple-resonance experiment shows sharpening of the B(4,6)- $^{13}\text{CH}_2$, and $^{13}\text{C}(2,3)$ signals; C: the selective heteronuclear $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}, ^{11}\text{B}(1)\}$ triple-resonance experiment only gives rise to sharpening of the $^{13}\text{CH}_2$ -B(1) signal

the cage, the short distances d_{CC} [138.0(3), 138.5(3) pm] and rather short distances d_{B4C} and d_{B2C} [157.7(4), 159.0(4), 158.4(4), 158.6(4) pm] characterize the bonding situation in the open face. In particular, $d_{B4B1} = 189.5(4)$ and $d_{B2B3} = 190.5(4)$ pm are long when compared with the short $d_{B1B3} = 171.0(4)$ pm separation. The other d_{BC} distances in the cage are similar to the known deltahedral B–C bond lengths. Variations of bond lengths in the hexacarbonyldiiron complex of **2** are less significant. The B–C–C angles in the BEt groups are $116.0(3)^\circ$ (mean value), in the same range as in pentaethyl-1,5-dicarba-*closo*-pentaborane,^[14] in which the B–C–C angles were interpreted in terms of hyperconjugational effects.^[15]

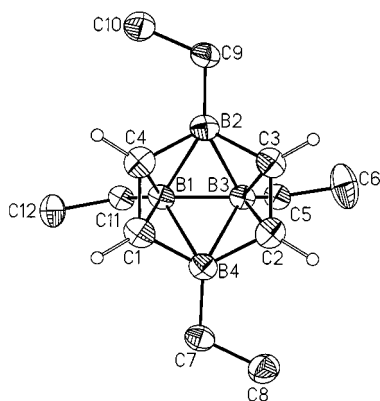


Figure 2. Presentation of the molecular structure of **2** with 50% thermal ellipsoids (ethyl hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity); selected bond lengths [pm] and angles $^\circ$: B1–C1 172.5(3), B1–C4 172.6(3), B1–B3 171.0(4), B1–B4 189.5(4), B1–C11 157.6(3), B2–C3 158.4(4), B2–C4 158.6(4), B2–C9 159.6(4), B2–B3 190.5(4), C1–C4 138.0(3), C2–C3 138.5(3); C1–B4–C2 109.9(2), C3–B2–C4 110.2(2), C10–C9–B2 115.4(2), C12–C11–B1 116.5(2)

Geometries were optimized at the MP2(fc)/6-31G* level of theory using the Gaussian 94 program.^[16] Chemical shifts were evaluated from GIAO-SCF/6-31G* computations of chemical shieldings employing B_2H_6 ($\sigma = 107.0$) as a primary reference. Reported values are converted to the experimental standard, $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ using $\delta(B_2H_6) = 16.6$.^[17]

The parent $C_4H_8B_4$ spiro-carborane, optimized assuming a classical C_2B three-membered ring attached to a C_2B_3 cluster by two C–B connections, gave a C_s -symmetric ge-

ometry **12**. This was characterized as a transition structure at RHF/6-31G*. (Optimization without symmetry constraints converged to a spirocyclic structure with a six- and a three-membered ring.) Computed ^{11}B -NMR-chemical shifts for **12** of +32.5 (B1), +3.2 (B4,5) and +84.6 ppm are in gross disagreement with experimental data (–28.9, +23.3, +64.0 ppm). An alternative starting geometry whose larger B4–B5 separation allows the spiro carbon atom to become part of the cluster optimized to structure **3a**, 63.9 kcal mol $^{-1}$ lower in energy than **12**. Chemical shifts computed for **3a** (B1: –34.0, B4,6: 8.7, B5': 40.2; C2,3: 108.6, C5: 93.6, C5': 10.4) are in acceptable agreement with measured values (see Table 1) when substituent effects are

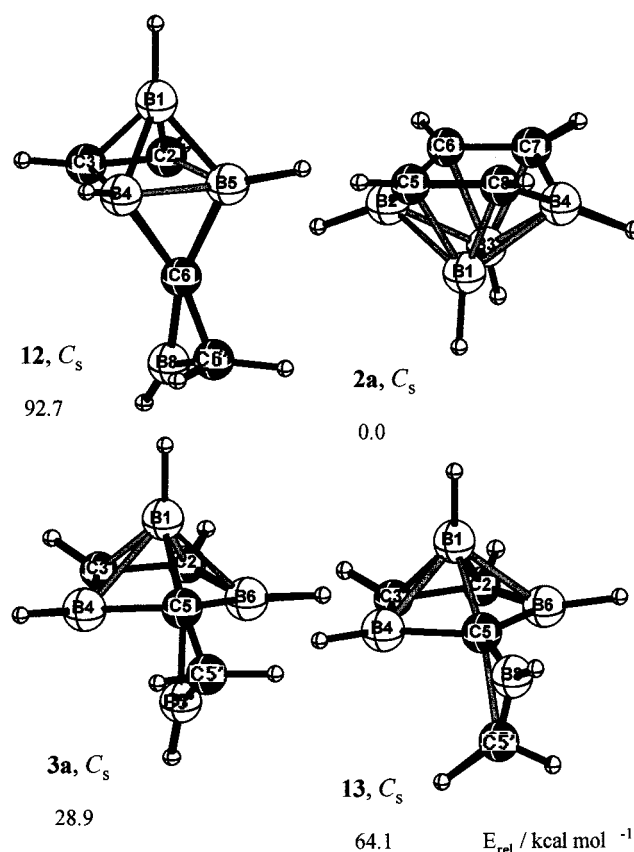


Figure 3. Structures and relative energies [MP2(fc)/6-31G* + 0.89 ZPE(HF/6-31G*)] of some $C_4B_4H_8$ isomers

Table 1. Experimental chemical shifts^[a] of the cage nuclei of **2**, **3**, **9**, **10** and **11** in comparison to values computed for model compounds **2b** and **3b**^[b] (compare Figure 4) at GIAO-SCF/6-31G*//MP2(fc)/6-31G*

	2	3	9 ^[c]	10	11	2b	3b
$\delta^{11}B(1,3)$	0.6					–3.0	
$\delta^{11}B(1)$		–28.9	–36.9	–30.2	–38.5		–30.0
$\delta^{11}B(2,4)$	–4.5					–7.9	
$\delta^{11}B(4,6)$		+23.3	+22.1	+25.0	+21.7		+17.6
$\delta^{13}C$	120.8					128.9	
$\delta^{13}C(2,3)$		98.9	105.9	94.0	n.m.		98.5
$\delta^{13}C(5)$		85.1	55.2	83.6	n.m.		82.5
$\delta^{13}C(5')$		22.5	16.5	23.0	n.m.		7.2
$\delta^{11}B(5')$		+64.0		+13.5	+86.7		+49.8

^[a] Solution of a mixture of **2** and **3** in $CDCl_3$ (25°C); solutions of mixtures of **2** and **9** and **2** and **10** in C_6D_6 (25°C); n.m.: not measured. – ^[b] **2b** and **3b** are the *B*-methyl-substituted analogs of **2** and **3**. – ^[c] Hexaethyl-2,3,5-tricarba-*nido*-hexaborane(7).^[8]

taken into account. A model better than **3a**, the tetrakis(*B*-methylated) structure **3b**, gives satisfactory overall agreement although the B5' chemical shift is 14.2 ppm too low. We compute a B4,6–B5' separation of 206.2 pm for the parent **3a**. But this distance is increased to 211.6 pm for the better per(*B*-methylated) model (and probably is even larger with ethyl substitution). The C₄B₄H₈ tetracarba-*nido*-octaborane structure **2a** is 28.9 kcal mol^{−1} more stable than **3a**. The difference between the tetrakis(*B*-methyl) derivatives **2b** and **3b** is 26.2 kcal mol^{−1} (//MP2(fc)/6-31G*).

Compound **3a** is a derivative of 2,3,5-tricarbahexaborane(7), for which the *endo*-C5–H bond was shown to be asymmetrically bent towards one neighboring boron atom (partially bridging).^[9] For **3a**, no evidence for a similar bending of the *endo*-C5–B5 bond was found; the C_s structure is a minimum and the C5–B5 distance is not signifi-

cantly elongated (150.9 pm). However, the *endo*-B atom does interact with the cage: Hyperconjugative donation from the cage results in a 0.34-electron population of the formally empty p(B5') orbital according to an NBO analysis (0.31 for **3b**).^[18] As a consequence, the NLMO/NPA^[18] bond order between the *exo*-B5' atom and the basal B4,6 atoms is 0.23 (0.31 for **3b**). This compares with 0.73 and 0.87 (0.62 and 0.70 for **3b**) between B5' and C5 and the methylene C5' atom, respectively. This hyperconjugation confers considerable stabilization. Thus, **13**, where B5' is in *exo* position, is 35.3 kcal mol^{−1} less stable than **2a**. The B4,6–B5' bond order in **3** is only 0.06 and the p(B5') orbital has a population of only 0.06 electrons. (The *exo*-B5' isomer related to **12** is only 4.9 kcal mol^{−1} higher in energy than **12**.)

Experimental Section

General: The preparation and the handling of samples was carried out under N₂ or Ar, observing all necessary precautions to exclude traces of oxygen or moisture. Commercial starting materials were employed (γ -picoline, BuLi in hexane (1.6 M)) or were prepared as described [Et₂BH,^[19] Et₂B–C≡C–BEt₂^[4]]. – NMR spectra: Bruker ARX 250 and DRX 500 spectrometers; the latter was equipped with a triple-resonance probehead for ¹³C{¹H,¹¹B} experiments; chemical shifts are given with respect to Me₄Si [δ^1 H (CHCl₃/CDCl₃) = 7.24; δ^1 H (C₆D₅CD₂H) = 2.03; δ^{13} C (CDCl₃) = 77.0; δ^{13} C (C₆D₅CD₃) = 20.4] and Et₂O · BF₃ [δ^{11} B = 0 for $\Xi(^{11}\text{B})$ = 32.083971 Mhz].

1,2,3,4-Tetraethyl-5,6,7,8-tetracarba-*nido*-octaborane(8) (2) and Its Spiro Isomer 3: After heating of a solution of 3.57 g (21.7 mmol) of bis(diethylboryl)ethyne in 5.0 mL of Et₂BH (57.1 mmol hydride^[20]) at 80°C for a period of 24 h, it was saturated with ethene (reactive B–H are converted into B–Et bonds). Fractional distillation under reduced pressure first gave 0.97 g (21%) of a mixture (65:35) of compounds **2** and **3** (b.p. 75–85°C/10^{−4} Torr). The residue contained polymeric material and **4** which could be isolated as described.^[5] Repeated distillation did not lead to further separation of **2** and **3**, and a small amount of this mixture was used to obtain the NMR data of **3** and to carry out the reactions of **3** with γ -picoline and BuLi (by adding the γ -picoline and BuLi to the carborane mixture at −78°C, warming to room temperature and removing all volatile material in vacuo). Treatment of 0.9 g (4.2 mmol) of the carborane mixture with a solution of Na[Et₂BH] in hexane (6 M; 0.5 mL; 3 mmol of hydride) at room temperature gave, after filtration and washing of the insoluble material with hexane (15 mL), a colorless solution containing only Et₃B and the carborane **2** (¹¹B NMR). Compound **2** (0.41 g; 9% relative to **1**; b.p. 82°C/10^{−4} Torr) was obtained as a colorless liquid in high purity (suitable for growing single crystals for X-ray analysis; vide infra) after threhold fractional distillation (see ref.^[4] for NMR and MS data of **2**).

3: ¹H NMR (500.1 MHz, 25°C, CDCl₃): δ = 5.24 (s, 2 H, C2,3-H), 1.64 (s, 2 H, C5–CH₂), 0.19, 0.56 (q, t, 5 H, B1–Et), 0.83, 0.69, 1.06 (m, m, t, 10 H, B4,6–Et), 1.20, 1.01 (m, t, 5 H, C5–BEt). – ¹¹B NMR (80.3 MHz, 25°C, CDCl₃): δ = −28.9 (B1), 23.3 (B4,6), 64.0 (B5'). – ¹³C NMR (125.8 MHz, 25°C, CDCl₃): δ = 98.9 (br., C2,3), 85.1 (br., C5), 22.5 (br., CH₂), −0.4 (br.), 10.6 (B1–Et), 4.0 (br.), 11.2 (B4,6–Et), 11.7 (br.), 12.0 (BEt).

Structure Determination of 2: Compound **2**, C₁₂H₂₄B₄, formula weight 211.55, crystallized from the colorless neat liquid by cooling

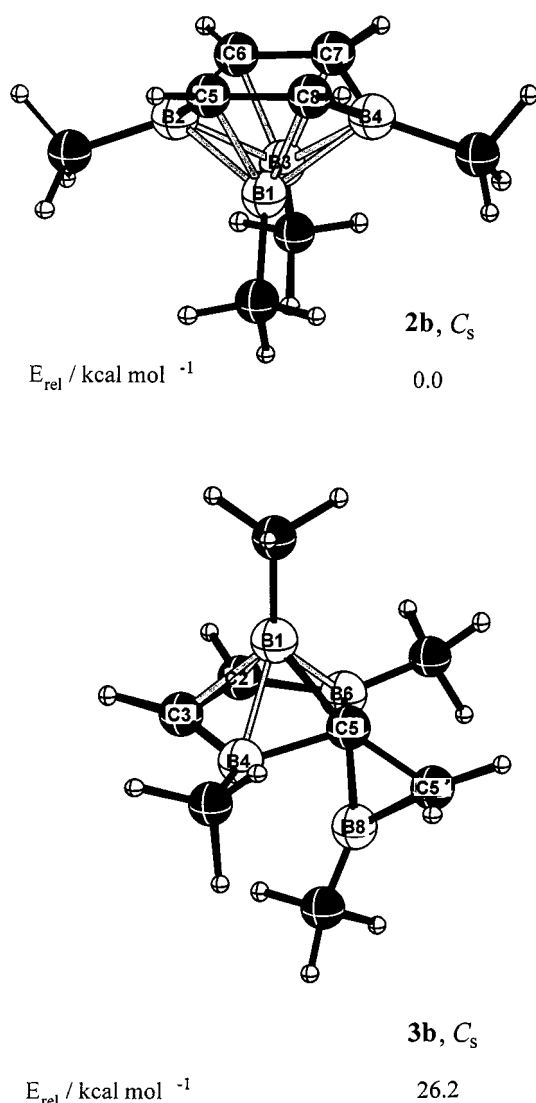


Figure 4. Geometries (bond lengths in pm) of model compounds **2b** (B1–C2 172.8, B1–B4 184.9, B1–C5 161.0, C2–C3 144.5, C2–B6 152.0, B4–C5 161.4, C5–C5' 150.8, C5–B5 151.1, C5'–B5 158.3) and **3b** (B1–B2 186.5, B1–B3 172.9, B1–C5 170.7, B2–C4 158.5, C5–B8 139.3), optimized at MP2(fc)/6-31G*

to 168 K and application of a miniature zone-melting procedure using a CO₂ laser beam^[21] as a cylindrical crystal (diameter 0.3 mm) which was measured at 120 K with a Nicolet R3 diffractometer with graphite-monochromized Mo-K_α radiation. Cell dimensions of the triclinic system: $a = 8.044(4)$, $b = 9.114(4)$, $c = 10.557(5)$ Å, $\alpha = 71.89(3)$, $\beta = 88.79(4)$, $\gamma = 70.13(3)^\circ$, $V = 688.7(5)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, space group $P1\bar{1}21$, $\rho_{\text{calcd.}} = 1.020$ g cm⁻³, $\mu = 0.052$ mm⁻¹, ω -scan data collection of 2567 intensities ($2\theta_{\text{max}} = 50^\circ$), 2422 independent ($R_{\text{merge}} = 0.0388$), 1756 observed [$F_o \geq 4\sigma(F)$], structure solution with direct methods and refinement on F^2 with Siemens SHELXTL-Plus program package (version 5.03), $R1(\text{obsd. data}) = 0.0577$, $wR2(\text{all data}) = 0.1866$, GOF = 1.060, $w^{-1} = \sigma^2(F_o^2) + (0.0558 \cdot P)^2 + 0.55 \cdot P$, where $P = [(\max F_o^2) + (2 F_c^2)]/3$, maximum/minimum residual electron density 0.208/−0.196 e Å⁻³.

Acknowledgments

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