

# Transition Metal Complexes with Sulfur Ligands, 139<sup>[‡]</sup>

## Synthesis and Exchange Reactions of Sulfur-Rich Nickel and Palladium [M(L)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] Complexes [‘S<sub>3</sub>’<sup>2-</sup> = Bis(2-mercaptophenyl)sulfide(2-)]

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*Dedicated to Professor Egon Uhlig on the occasion of his 70th birthday*

**Keywords:** Nickel complexes / Palladium complexes / S ligands / Exchange reactions / Azide / Sulfinylimide

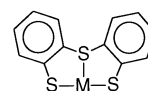
In order to obtain suitable precursors for nickel and palladium complexes that model the reactivity of the active sites of hydrogenases and CO dehydrogenases, a series of [M(L)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] complexes has been synthesized [M = Ni<sup>II</sup>, Pd<sup>II</sup>; ‘S<sub>3</sub>’<sup>2-</sup> = bis(2-mercaptophenyl)sulfide(2-)]. X-ray structure determinations of [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**1**) and [Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**2**) have revealed that the [M(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] fragments trimerize to give six-membered [MS]<sub>3</sub> rings, which exhibit chair conformations with alternating M<sup>II</sup> centers and thiolate bridging atoms. Reactions of the parent complex [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**1**) with nucleophiles L, such as thiolates SR<sup>-</sup> (R = *t*Bu, Cy, Me, Ph), phosphanes PR<sub>3</sub> (R = Cy, Ph), chloride, or azide, have been found to yield the corresponding anionic or neutral [Ni(L)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] complexes, which were isolated as (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SR)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] [R = *t*Bu (**3**), Cy (**4**), Me (**5**), Ph (**6**)],

[Ni(PR<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] [R = Cy (**7**), Ph (**8**)], (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(Cl)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**9**), and (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(N<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**10**). When treated with Me<sub>3</sub>SiX, the StBu<sup>-</sup> ligand in (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(StBu)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**3**) was exchanged to give (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(X)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] [X = Cl<sup>-</sup> (**9**), N<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> (**10**), NCS<sup>-</sup> (**11**), NSO<sup>-</sup> (**12**)]. The palladium complex [Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**2**) could also be cleaved with StBu<sup>-</sup>, but the resulting (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Pd(StBu)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**13**) proved inert towards exchange reactions with Me<sub>3</sub>SiX. All the mononuclear complexes have been characterized by standard spectroscopic techniques and by elemental analysis. The molecular structures of **3**, **4**, **6**, **7**, **8**, **9**, and **13** have been determined by X-ray crystallography. The [MS<sub>3</sub>L] core geometries of all the complexes are non-planar, exhibiting a considerable tetrahedral distortion.

## Introduction

Much of the current interest in nickel thiolate–thioether complexes stems from the discovery that nickel in sulfur-rich coordination spheres forms the active centers of enzymes such as hydrogenases<sup>[1]</sup> and CO dehydrogenases.<sup>[2]</sup> In the quest for model compounds of these enzymes, a considerable number of new nickel complexes with different donor sets and geometries has been synthesized.<sup>[3,4,5]</sup> However, complexes exhibiting structural (Ni–S coordination) and functional (catalysis of enzyme reactions) features of the enzymes have remained extremely rare. Our search for such compounds has recently yielded complexes containing [M(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] fragments (M = Ni, Pt) with the tridentate ligand ‘S<sub>3</sub>’<sup>2-</sup> = bis(2-mercaptophenyl)sulfide(2-).<sup>[6]</sup>

The [M(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] fragments with d<sup>8</sup> electron metal(II) centers were anticipated to have an accessible site for the coordination and activation of substrates. With regard to hydro-



genases, dihydrogen and hydride are, of course, the substrates of primary interest. Unfortunately, however, all attempts to coordinate these species to [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] fragments have to date been unsuccessful,<sup>[6]</sup> despite the fact that NMR spectroscopic investigations have yielded conclusive evidence for the formation of [Pt(H)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sup>-</sup>.<sup>[6]</sup> Further experiments showed that a favored reaction of [M(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] fragments is oligomerization to give either dinuclear [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>2</sub> or trinuclear [Pt(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub>. These complexes contain thiolate bridges, which block the fourth coordination site at the metal centers. As a consequence, they are extremely sparingly soluble in all common solvents such that homogeneous phase reactions are prevented. The thiolate bridges in [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>2</sub> or [Pt(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> may be cleaved by nucleophiles such as PMe<sub>3</sub> or cyanide. The resulting mononuclear [M(L)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] derivatives are much more soluble than the parent complexes, but the coligands L proved to be inert.<sup>[6]</sup> Thus, the aim of the work described herein was to obtain [M(L)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] species with exchangeable coligands L and thus a readily accessible coordination site.

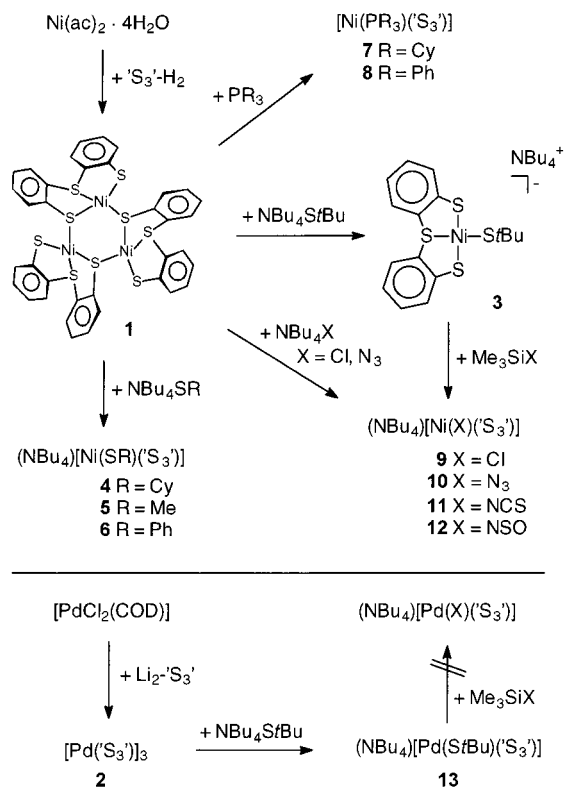
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## Results

Cleavage of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  and Substitution Reactions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(\text{S}_3)]$  Complexes ( $\text{L} = \text{PR}_3, \text{SR}^-$ )

The extremely insoluble  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_2$  parent complex has previously been obtained from  $\text{Ni}(\text{ac})_2 \cdot 4 \text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{S}_3\text{H}_2$ .<sup>[6]</sup> A solvothermal recrystallization from hot DMF (175°C) in a sealed ampoule yielded single crystals, X-ray structure analysis of which showed the product to contain dinuclear  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_2$ . On repeating the synthesis, we have now obtained single crystals from the mother liquor of the reaction solution at room temperature. An X-ray structure determination of these crystals revealed that they consisted of the trinuclear  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  (**1**). Complex **1** is structurally analogous to  $[\text{Pt}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  and shows that the crystallization conditions can influence the trimerization vs. dimerization of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]$  fragments. These results prompted us to synthesize  $[\text{Pd}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  (**2**) as well (for the sake of completeness). Complex **2** was obtained from  $\text{S}_3\text{Li}_2$  and  $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{COD})]$  (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1. Synthesis and reactions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]$  and  $[\text{Pd}(\text{S}_3)]$  complexes

In order to achieve an all-sulfur coordination of the nickel center, we first examined reactions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  with thiolates. Both small and sterically demanding thiolates, such as  $\text{SMe}^-$  and  $\text{SCy}^-$ , gave essentially the same results. When black-brown THF suspensions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  (**1**) were treated with MeOH solutions of the respective NaSR salts at room temperature, dark-brown solutions resulted. Addition of  $\text{NBu}_4\text{OH}$  and subsequent workup yielded the

dark-brown to black salts  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SR})(\text{S}_3)]$  with  $\text{R} = t\text{Bu}$  (**3**),  $\text{Cy}$  (**4**),  $\text{Me}$  (**5**), and  $\text{Ph}$  (**6**). These salts were found to be readily soluble in THF, acetone, MeOH, and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , but insoluble in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  and *n*-hexane. The molecular structures of  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SfBu})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**3**),  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SCy})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**4**), and  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SPh})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**6**) were determined by X-ray diffraction analysis.

Reactions with the bulky phosphanes  $\text{PCy}_3$  and  $\text{PPh}_3$  were then investigated in order to probe the lability of the phosphanes and the potential for formation of agostic  $\text{C-H}\cdots\text{Ni}$  interactions in  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PR}_3)(\text{S}_3)]$  complexes. The  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PR}_3)(\text{S}_3)]$  complexes with  $\text{R} = \text{Cy}$  (**7**),  $\text{Ph}$  (**8**) were readily formed from THF suspensions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  and the respective phosphanes. They were fully characterized but proved as inert to substitution as  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PMe}_3)(\text{S}_3)]$ . No agostic  $\text{C-H}\cdots\text{Ni}$  interactions could be detected, neither by X-ray structure determinations nor by  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra.

## Halides and Pseudohalides as Nucleophiles

Initial attempts to cleave  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  with weak nucleophiles such as chloride from  $\text{NMe}_4\text{Cl}$  to give the  $[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3)]^-$  anion invariably proved unsuccessful. However, this anion was readily formed when the *SfBu* derivative  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SfBu})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**3**) was treated with  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCl}$ . The resulting  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**9**) has been fully characterized and its molecular structure has been determined by X-ray diffraction analysis.

Since these results proved the viability of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3)]^-$ , we repeated the attempts to cleave  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  directly with chloride, but employed  $\text{NBu}_4\text{Cl}$  instead of  $\text{NMe}_4\text{Cl}$ . Indeed, when suspensions of  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  in THF were treated with equimolar amounts of  $\text{NBu}_4\text{Cl}$  at room temperature,  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**9**) was formed in yields in excess of 70%. Analogously,  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{N}_3)(\text{S}_3)]$  (**10**) was obtained first from  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SfBu})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**3**) and  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiN}_3$  and subsequently from the direct reaction between  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  and  $\text{NBu}_4\text{N}_3$ . Syntheses of  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{NCS})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**11**) and  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{NSO})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**12**) required the "silylating" procedure. Thus, complexes **11** and **12** were obtained from  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SfBu})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**3**) using  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiNCS}$  and  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiNSO}$ , respectively. The driving force behind these syntheses is presumably the formation of  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiSfBu}$ . Attempts to obtain  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{NCO})(\text{S}_3)]$  using either of the aforementioned two methods proved unsuccessful.

The palladium complex  $[\text{Pd}(\text{S}_3)]_3$  (**2**) could also be cleaved with  $\text{SfBu}^-$  to yield  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Pd}(\text{SfBu})(\text{S}_3)]$  (**13**). Exploratory experiments showed the  $\text{SfBu}^-$  ligand in **13** to be inert. For example, treatment of **13** with  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiX}$  ( $\text{X} = \text{Cl}, \text{N}_3, \text{NCS}$ , or  $\text{NSO}$ ) did not yield the corresponding  $[\text{Pd}(\text{X})(\text{S}_3)]^-$  ions.

## Characterization of Complexes and Monitoring of Reactions

All the complexes are diamagnetic and have been characterized by standard spectroscopic techniques and elemental

analysis. Several of the complexes have also been characterized by X-ray structure analysis. In contrast to the extremely insoluble starting complexes  $[M(S_3)]_3$ , all  $[M(L)(S_3)]$  derivatives with phosphane or anionic coligands L proved sufficiently soluble in THF, acetone, or  $CH_2Cl_2$  to allow recording of their NMR spectra. The solutions are black-brown (**3–6**), orange (**12**), red (**7, 8, 11, 13**), or violet (**9, 10**).

The  $^1H$ -NMR splitting pattern of the aromatic protons is a typical feature of the  $[M(S_3)]$  fragment and can be used as a “fingerprint” of the individual complexes since

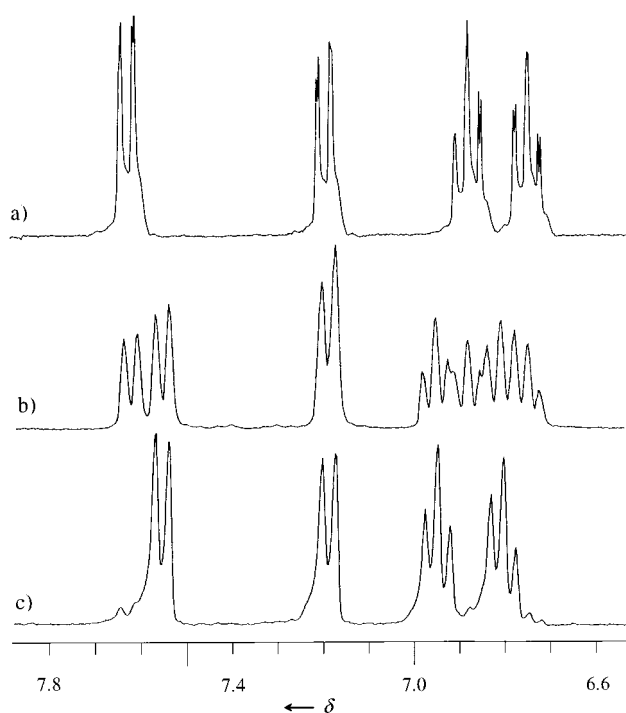


Figure 1. Aromatic region of the  $^1H$ -NMR spectra of (a)  $(NBu_4)[Ni(SiBu)(S_3)]$  in  $[D_8]THF$ , (b) 2 h after addition of  $Me_3SiN_3$ , and (c) after 12 h and almost complete formation of  $(NBu_4)[Ni(N_3)(S_3)]$

the multiplet shifts specifically depend on the coligands L.

Figure 1 illustrates the  $^1H$ -NMR spectroscopic monitoring of the reaction between  $(NBu_4)[Ni(SiBu)(S_3)]$  (**3**) and  $Me_3SiN_3$ . The clean aromatic multiplets demonstrate that complex **3** is converted into the azido complex **10** without the formation of any other complexes as by-products. This is further corroborated by the IR spectrum and, in particular, the UV/Vis spectrum of the reaction solution, which shows two isosbestic points (Figure 2). In all cases, the  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ -NMR spectra of the mononuclear complexes exhibit six  $^{13}C$  signals for the twelve aromatic C atoms of the  $S_3$  ligand, in accordance with the twofold symmetry of the  $[M(S_3)]$  fragments. Strong and characteristic bands in the IR spectra are well suited for identifying the complexes **10** ( $2037\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), **11** ( $2105\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), and **12** ( $1230, 1030\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).

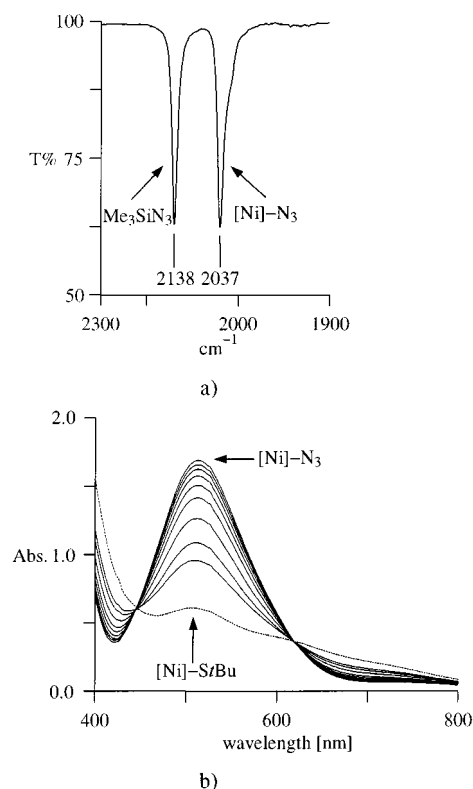


Figure 2. (a) IR spectrum of the reaction solution containing  $(NBu_4)[Ni(SiBu)(S_3)]$ ,  $Me_3SiN_3$ , and the resulting  $(NBu_4)[Ni(N_3)(S_3)]$ , (b) UV/Vis monitoring of the reaction between  $(NBu_4)[Ni(SiBu)(S_3)]$  and  $Me_3SiN_3$  in THF

### X-ray Structure Determinations

Several of the complexes were obtained in the form of single crystals suitable for X-ray structure analysis. Figure 3 depicts the mononuclear structures, showing different views of the individual species. Table 1 lists selected distances and angles.

All the complexes were found to consist of discrete molecules or ions. The  $[M(S_3)]$  fragments invariably exhibit the characteristic butterfly-shape, which arises from the rigid  $S_3$  topology and  $sp^3$  hybridization of the central S(thioether) donor.<sup>[6]</sup> The  $S_3$  topology is also responsible for the tetrahedral distortion of the  $[MS_3L]$  cores, which are not planar as might have been expected for low-spin four-coordinate  $d^8$  electron metal(II) centers. Figure 4 illustrates this tetrahedral distortion in  $[Ni(Cl)(S_3)]^-$ .

Distances and angles show no anomalies. It has been pointed out previously that the M–S(thioether) distances are invariably shorter than the corresponding M–S(thiolate) distances and are practically unaffected by the *trans* ligands L. Because the ligands used here range from “hard” chloride, through “soft”  $\sigma$ - $\pi$  donating thiolates, to  $\sigma$ -donor/ $\pi$ -acceptors such as phosphanes, the  $[M(S_3)]$  fragments evidently also exhibit the structural invariance that has previously been noted as a typical feature of  $[MS_x]$  centers.<sup>[7]</sup> The molecular structure of the  $PCy_3$  complex  $[Ni(PCy_3)(S_3)]$  (**7**) differs from those of all the other complexes in that it has crystallographic  $C_s$  symmetry.

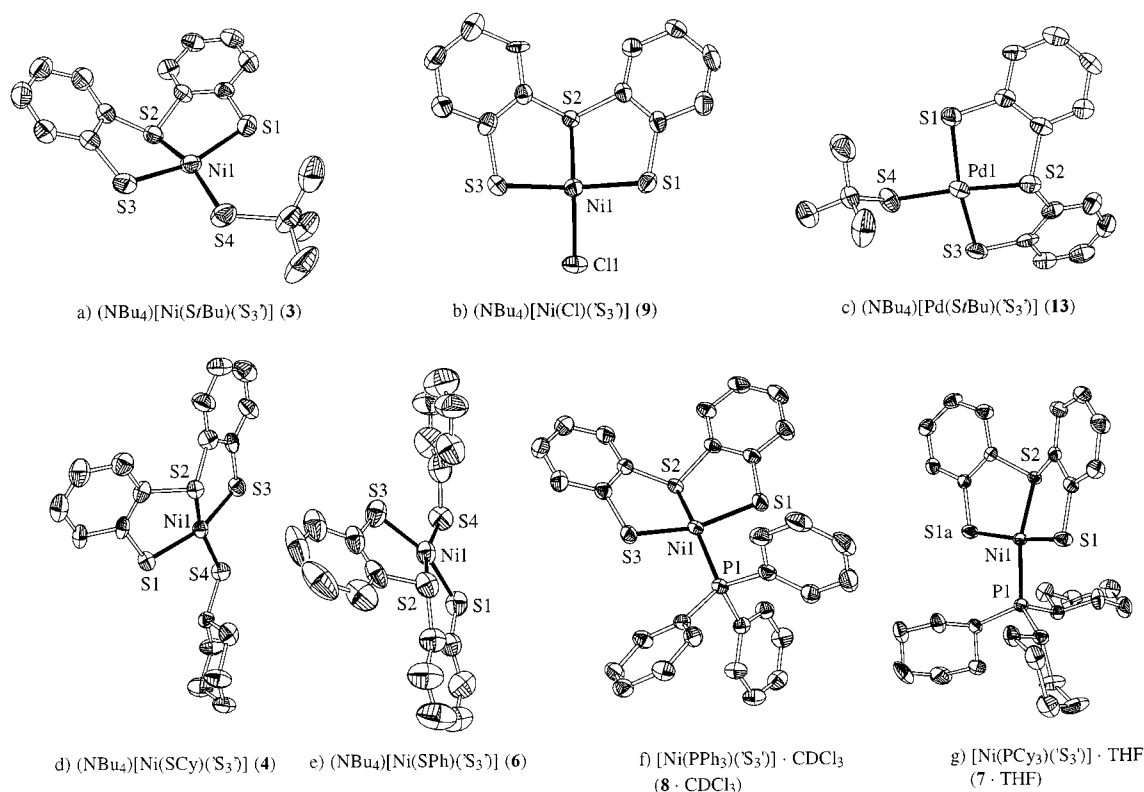


Figure 3. ORTEP plots of (a)  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SrBu})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**3**), (b)  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**9**), (c)  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Pd}(\text{SrBu})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**13**), (d)  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SCy})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**4**), (e)  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SPh})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**6**), (f)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_3)(\text{S}_3')] \cdot \text{CDCl}_3$  (**8** ·  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ), and (g)  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PCy}_3)(\text{S}_3')] \cdot \text{THF}$  (**7** ·  $\text{THF}$ ); 50% probability ellipsoids; hydrogen atoms, solvent molecules and counterions omitted for the sake of clarity; different projections were chosen to illustrate the tetrahedral distortion of the  $[\text{M}(\text{S}_3')]$  fragments

Table 1. Selected distances [pm] and angles  $^\circ$  in  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SrBu})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**3**),  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SCy})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**4**),  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{SPh})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**6**),  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PCy}_3)(\text{S}_3')] \cdot \text{THF}$  (**7** ·  $\text{THF}$ ),  $[\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_3)(\text{S}_3')] \cdot \text{CDCl}_3$  (**8** ·  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ),  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**9**), and  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Pd}(\text{SrBu})(\text{S}_3')]$  (**13**)

| Compound | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{SrBu}$ ( <b>3</b> ) | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{SCy}$ ( <b>4</b> ) | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{SPh}$ ( <b>6</b> ) | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{PCy}_3$ ( <b>7</b> ) | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{PPh}_3$ ( <b>8</b> ) | $[\text{Ni}] - \text{Cl}$ ( <b>9</b> ) | $[\text{Pd}] - \text{SrBu}$ ( <b>13</b> ) |
|----------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| M1–S1    | 217.2(2)                                 | 218.3(2)                                | 217.5(1)                                | 217.6(1)                                  | 217.5(1)                                  | 217.0(1)                               | 229.1(1)                                  |
| M1–S2    | 214.2(1)                                 | 211.9(2)                                | 211.5(1)                                | 213.3(1)                                  | 213.1(1)                                  | 211.4(2)                               | 226.0(2)                                  |
| M1–S3    | 221.2(2)                                 | 216.8(2)                                | 218.0(1)                                | 217.6(1) <sup>[a]</sup>                   | 215.8(1)                                  | 219.5(2)                               | 231.0(1)                                  |
| M1–L     | 219.2(2)                                 | 219.2(2)                                | 220.0(1)                                | 220.9(1)                                  | 219.7(1)                                  | 220.6(2)                               | 233.3(2)                                  |
| S1–M1–S2 | 90.86(6)                                 | 89.47(6)                                | 90.00(5)                                | 88.72(3)                                  | 89.14(3)                                  | 91.05(7)                               | 88.44(5)                                  |
| S1–M1–S3 | 160.88(7)                                | 160.09(6)                               | 159.78(5)                               | 163.66(5) <sup>[a]</sup>                  | 159.73(4)                                 | 161.31(6)                              | 164.04(6)                                 |
| S2–M1–S3 | 86.66(6)                                 | 89.73(6)                                | 89.46(5)                                | 88.72(3) <sup>[a]</sup>                   | 89.85(3)                                  | 87.86(7)                               | 86.96(5)                                  |
| S1–M1–L  | 100.68(6)                                | 97.40(7)                                | 96.89(6)                                | 94.01(3)                                  | 91.64(3)                                  | 92.32(7)                               | 95.72(6)                                  |
| S2–M1–L  | 164.04(7)                                | 163.70(6)                               | 164.95(5)                               | 159.55(5)                                 | 164.11(3)                                 | 166.90(6)                              | 175.72(5)                                 |
| S3–M1–L  | 85.91(6)                                 | 88.75(6)                                | 88.64(5)                                | 94.01(3) <sup>[a]</sup>                   | 94.81(3)                                  | 92.93(7)                               | 89.30(6)                                  |

<sup>[a]</sup> S3 = S1a (symmetry code:  $x, -y - 1/2, z$ ).

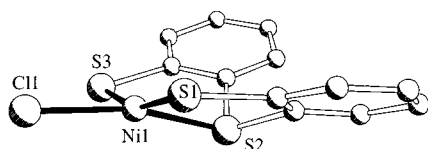


Figure 4. View showing the tetrahedral  $[\text{NiClS}_3]$  core distortion in  $[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(\text{S}_3')]^-$

Figure 5 depicts views of the two trinuclear  $[\text{M}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  complexes **1** and **2** from different angles, while Table 2 lists selected distances and angles. Like the previously described  $[\text{Pt}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  complex,<sup>[6]</sup> the trinuclear  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  (**1**) and

$[\text{Pd}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  (**2**) exhibit a cyclohexane-like  $[\text{M}^{\text{II}}\text{S}_3]$  six-membered ring with a chair conformation that leads to a characteristic propeller-like twist of the three  $[\text{M}(\text{S}_3')]$  units (Figure 5b). Related structures have been found for  $[\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-S}_2\text{C}_3\text{Me}_2)_3]_3$ ,<sup>[5e]</sup>  $[\text{Ni}(\text{tBuS}_4)]_3$ ,<sup>[8]</sup> and  $[\text{Pd}(\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{S})_3]$ .<sup>[9]</sup>

## Concluding Discussion

The trinuclear complex  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  (**1**) has been characterized. Complex **1** and the similarly new  $[\text{Pd}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  (**2**) now complete the series of  $[\text{M}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  complexes with  $\text{Ni}^{\text{II}}$ ,  $\text{Pd}^{\text{II}}$ , and  $\text{Pt}^{\text{II}}$ . The extremely sparingly soluble  $[\text{Ni}(\text{S}_3')]_3$  (**1**) gave

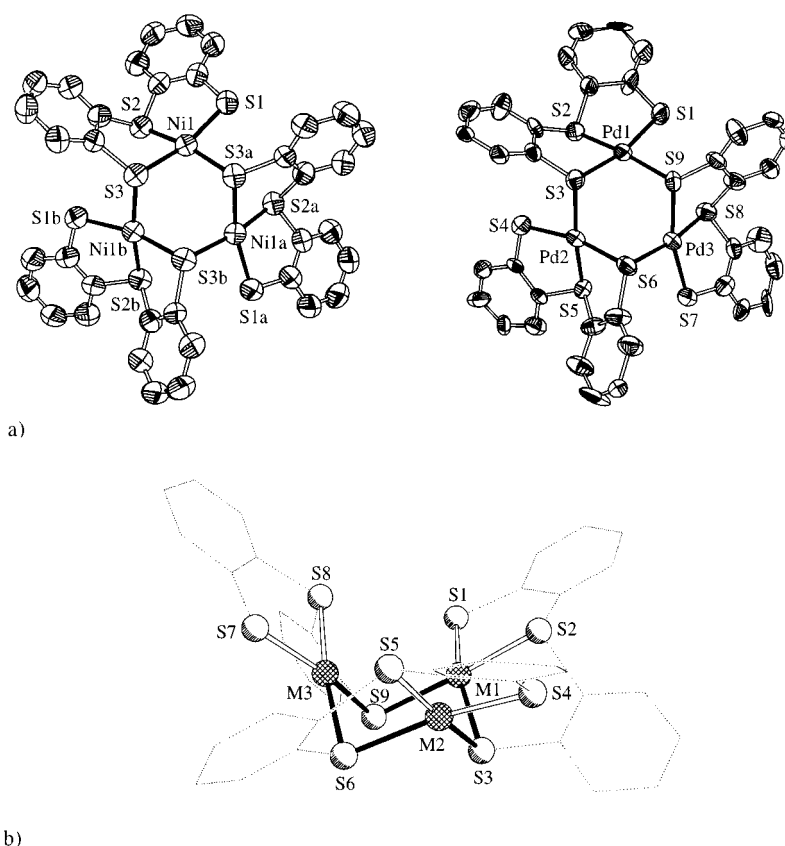


Figure 5. (a) Molecular structures of the  $[M(S_3')]_3$  complexes ( $1 \cdot 3 \text{ THF} \cdot 6 \text{ MeOH}$ ) ( $M = \text{Ni}$ ), and ( $2 \cdot 2 \text{ CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) ( $M = \text{Pd}$ ); 50% probability ellipsoids; hydrogen atoms and solvent molecules omitted for the sake of clarity; (b) view showing the chair conformation of the  $[MS_3]_3$  rings

Table 2. Selected distances [pm] and angles  $^\circ$  in  $[\text{Ni}(S_3')]_3 \cdot 3 \text{ THF} \cdot 6 \text{ MeOH}$  ( $1 \cdot 3 \text{ THF} \cdot 6 \text{ MeOH}$ ), and  $[\text{Pd}(S_3')]_3 \cdot 2 \text{ CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $2 \cdot 2 \text{ CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )

| Compound | $[\text{Ni}(S_3')]_3$ ( <b>1</b> ) |                         | $[\text{Pd}(S_3')]_3$ [ <b>2</b> ] |                         |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| M1–S1    | 214.2(2)                           | 229.0(7)                | 226.3(7) <sup>[d]</sup>            | 226.6(7) <sup>[e]</sup> |
| M1–S2    | 213.4(2)                           | 226.6(7)                | 225.7(7)                           | 226.4(7)                |
| M1–S3    | 221.4(2)                           | 236.1(7)                | 232.6(7)                           | 234.3(7)                |
| M1–L     | 218.4(2) <sup>[a]</sup>            | 233.8(7) <sup>[f]</sup> | 229.7(7) <sup>[g]</sup>            | 229.8(7) <sup>[h]</sup> |
| M1...M2  | 333.6(2) <sup>[b]</sup>            | 337.9(4)                | 355.3(4) <sup>[i]</sup>            | 340.9(4) <sup>[j]</sup> |
| S3...L   | 311.0(4) <sup>[a]</sup>            | 337.8(9) <sup>[f]</sup> | 325.6(9) <sup>[h]</sup>            | 333.3(9) <sup>[k]</sup> |
| S1–M1–S2 | 90.7(1)                            | 88.2(3)                 | 89.2(3)                            | 87.5(3)                 |
| S1–M1–S3 | 163.5(1)                           | 166.7(2)                | 164.8(3)                           | 166.2(3)                |
| S2–M1–S3 | 87.7(1)                            | 86.1(2)                 | 86.7(2)                            | 87.4(2)                 |
| S1–M1–L  | 94.4(1) <sup>[a]</sup>             | 95.2(3) <sup>[f]</sup>  | 96.4(3) <sup>[g]</sup>             | 94.7(3) <sup>[h]</sup>  |
| S2–M1–L  | 169.6(1) <sup>[a]</sup>            | 172.6(2) <sup>[f]</sup> | 170.8(3) <sup>[g]</sup>            | 172.9(3) <sup>[h]</sup> |
| S3–M1–L  | 90.0(1) <sup>[a]</sup>             | 91.9(3) <sup>[f]</sup>  | 89.6(2) <sup>[g]</sup>             | 91.9(2) <sup>[h]</sup>  |
| M1–S3–M2 | 98.7(1) <sup>[b]</sup>             | 93.0(3)                 | 100.4(3) <sup>[i]</sup>            | 93.5(2) <sup>[m]</sup>  |

<sup>[a]</sup> L = S3a (symmetry code:  $-y - 1, x - y - 1, z$ ). – <sup>[b]</sup> M2 = Ni1b (symmetry code:  $-x + y, -x - 1, z$ ). – <sup>[c]</sup> Three independent  $[\text{Pd}(S_3')]_3$  units. – <sup>[d]</sup> Pd2–S4. – <sup>[e]</sup> Pd3–S7. – <sup>[f]</sup> L = S9. – <sup>[g]</sup> L = S3. – <sup>[h]</sup> L = S6. – <sup>[i]</sup> Pd2–Pd3. – <sup>[j]</sup> Pd3–Pd1. – <sup>[k]</sup> S6–S9. – <sup>[l]</sup> Pd2–S6–Pd3. – <sup>[m]</sup> Pd3–S9–Pd1.

mononuclear  $[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(S_3')]$  complexes with L = thiolates, phosphanes, halides, and pseudohalides, which proved to be much more soluble than **1**. The chloro ligand in  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{Cl})(S_3')]$  (**9**) and the  $\text{tBu}^-$  ligand in  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{tBu})(S_3')]$  (**3**) were found to be labile, making **3** and **9** suitable starting materials for the synthesis of other

$[\text{Ni}(\text{L})(S_3')]$  complexes that had previously been found to be inaccessible by direct reaction of  $[\text{Ni}(S_3')_3]$  and the respective L. It is noteworthy that  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{N}_3)(S_3')]$  (**10**) represents one of the few azido complexes in which a hard azide ligand is bound to a sulfur-rich metal complex fragment.<sup>[10]</sup> Very few such NSO complexes have been reported<sup>[11]</sup> and, to the best of our knowledge,  $(\text{NBu}_4)[\text{Ni}(\text{N-SO})(S_3')]$  (**12**) represents the first NSO complex with an  $[\text{MS}_x]$  center.

## Experimental Section

**General Methods:** Unless noted otherwise, all reactions and operations were carried out under nitrogen using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents were dried and distilled prior to use. – As far as possible, reactions were monitored by IR or NMR spectroscopy. Spectra were recorded on the following instruments: IR (KBr discs or  $\text{CaF}_2$  cuvettes, solvent bands were compensated); Perkin–Elmer 983, 1620 FT-IR, and 16PC FT-IR. – NMR: Jeol JNM-GX 270, EX 270, and Lambda LA 400 with the residual protio-solvent signal used as an internal reference. Chemical shifts are quoted on the  $\delta$  scale (downfield shifts are positive) relative to tetramethylsilane ( $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR) or 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$  ( $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR); spectra were recorded at 25°C. – UV/Vis: Shimadzu UV3101 PC spectrophotometer. – Mass spectra: Jeol MSTATION 700 spectrometer. – Elemental analyses: Carlo Erba EA 1106 or 1108 analyzer. –  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCl}$ ,  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiN}_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiNCS}$ ,  $\text{NBu}_4\text{Cl}$ , and  $\text{PR}_3$  were purchased from either Aldrich or Fluka;

'S<sub>3</sub>'-H<sub>2</sub>,<sup>[6]</sup> [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(COD)],<sup>[12]</sup> and Me<sub>3</sub>SiNSO<sup>[13]</sup> were prepared according to literature methods.

**[Ni('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sub>3</sub> (1):** A solution of 'S<sub>3</sub>'-H<sub>2</sub> (4.327 g, 17.28 mmol) in THF (70 mL) was added dropwise to Ni(ac)<sub>2</sub> · 4 H<sub>2</sub>O (4.300 g, 17.28 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) and the resulting brown suspension was refluxed for 4 h. The black-brown precipitate was then separated by filtration, washed with THF (50 mL), and dried in vacuo. A second batch of the product was obtained in the form of single crystals on slow evaporation of the solvent from the filtrate at room temperature. Yield: 5.093 g of 1 · THF (89%). – C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>32</sub>Ni<sub>3</sub>OS<sub>9</sub> (993.41): calcd. C 48.36, H 3.25, S 29.05; found C 48.01, H 3.03, S 30.58.

**[Pd('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sub>3</sub> (2):** A solution of 'S<sub>3</sub>'-H<sub>2</sub> (1.327 g, 5.3 mmol) in THF (30 mL) was combined with *n*BuLi (4.24 mL, 10.6 mmol) at –50 °C and the mixture was subsequently allowed to warm to room temperature. Addition of [PdCl<sub>2</sub>(COD)] led to a dark-red reaction mixture, which was stirred at room temperature overnight and then stored at –30 °C for 24 h. A brown solid precipitated, which was separated, washed with MeOH/THF, and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.536 g of 2 · THF (77%). – C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>32</sub>OPd<sub>3</sub>S<sub>9</sub> (1136.48): calcd. C 42.28, H 2.84, S 25.39; found C 42.29, H 2.71, S 24.79.

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SR)('S<sub>3</sub>')], where R = *t*Bu (3), Cy (4), Me (5), Ph (6) – General Procedure:** The appropriate thiol was first deprotonated in MeOH by the addition of one equivalent of NaOMe or LiOMe. The resulting solution was then combined with a black-brown suspension of [Ni('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sub>3</sub> (1) in THF and the mixture was stirred until all the solid material had dissolved (ca. 30 min). One equivalent of NBu<sub>4</sub>OH in MeOH was then added and all volatile components were removed in vacuo. The residue obtained was taken up in THF (ca. 20 mL), undissolved material was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was concentrated to one-third of its original volume. On layering with Et<sub>2</sub>O or *n*-hexane, black crystals precipitated, which were separated after 4 d, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (60 mL), and dried in vacuo.

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(S*t*Bu)('S<sub>3</sub>') (3):** 1.685 g (1.83 mmol) of 1; 5.1 mL (5.61 mmol) of a 1.1 M solution of Na*t*Bu in MeOH; 6.9 mL (5.52 mmol) of a 0.8 M solution of NBu<sub>4</sub>OH in MeOH; 30 mL of THF. Yield: 1.858 mg (53%). – C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>53</sub>NNiS<sub>4</sub> (638.71): calcd. C 60.18, H 8.36, N 2.19, S 20.08; found C 60.14, H 8.81, N 2.29, S 19.47. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 7.67 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.22 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.94 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.82 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.48 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.77 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.50 (s, 9 H, SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.37 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.90 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.4 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 158.0, 134.3, 129.8, 128.2, 128.0, 121.0 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.4 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 40.1 (SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.5 (SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 24.6, 20.3 [NCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], 13.9 [N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>].

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SCy)('S<sub>3</sub>') (4):** 1.365 g (1.48 mmol) of 1; 8.84 mL (4.42 mmol) of a 0.5 M solution of NaSCy in MeOH; 4.44 mL (4.44 mmol) of a 1.0 M solution of NBu<sub>4</sub>OH in MeOH; 50 mL of THF. Yield: 2.508 g (85%). – C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>55</sub>NNiS<sub>4</sub> (664.78): calcd. C 61.43, H 8.34, N 2.11, S 19.29; found C 61.35, H 8.45, N 2.19, S 18.68. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 7.65 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.20 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.94 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.82 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.49 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.43–1.10 [m, 27 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>], 0.90 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.8 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 157.2, 134.7, 129.8, 128.4, 128.1, 121.2 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 69.3, 59.5, 39.9, 29.6, 29.4, 24.7, 20.4, 14.1 (SC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>, NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SMe)('S<sub>3</sub>') (5):** 369 mg (0.41 mmol) of 1; 12.32 mL (1.23 mmol) of a 0.1 M solution of LiSMe in MeOH; 1.50 mL

(1.20 mmol) of a 0.8 M solution of NBu<sub>4</sub>OH in MeOH; 20 mL of THF. Yield: 494 mg (69%). – C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>47</sub>NNiS<sub>4</sub> (596.63): calcd. C 58.38, H 7.94, N 2.35, S 21.49; found C 58.11, H 8.27, N 2.39, S 21.39. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 7.66 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.21 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.96 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.84 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.50 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.78 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.59 (s, 3 H, SCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.90 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.7 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]acetone): δ = 156.9, 134.9, 129.8, 128.4, 128.2, 121.2 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.5, 24.6, 20.4, 13.9, 11.1 (SCH<sub>3</sub>, NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SPh)('S<sub>3</sub>') (6):** 845 mg (0.92 mmol) of 1; 5.52 mL (2.76 mmol) of a 0.5 M solution of NaSPh in MeOH; 3.50 mL (2.80 mmol) of a 0.8 M solution of NBu<sub>4</sub>OH in MeOH; 20 mL of THF. Yield: 1.400 g (77%). – C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>49</sub>NNiS<sub>4</sub> (658.70): calcd. C 61.99, H 7.50, N 2.13, S 19.47; found C 62.03, H 7.47, N 2.14, S 19.57. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ = 7.70 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.55 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.21 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.02–6.84 (m, 7 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.18 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.50 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.29 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.87 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.7 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ = 155.0, 140.3, 133.8, 134.4, 129.4, 128.1, 127.7, 127.2, 122.6, 121.4 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.4, 24.6, 20.3, 13.9 (NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**[Ni(PR<sub>3</sub>)('S<sub>3</sub>')], where R = Cy (7), Ph (8) – General Procedure:** The appropriate PR<sub>3</sub> was added as a solid to a stirred black-brown THF suspension of [Ni('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sub>3</sub> (1). In the course of few seconds, a deeper solution formed, which was filtered. Upon dropwise addition of MeOH (ca. 20 mL), a dark-red solid precipitated, which was separated, washed with MeOH (ca. 50 mL), and dried in vacuo.

**[Ni(PCy<sub>3</sub>)('S<sub>3</sub>') (7):** 665 mg (0.72 mmol) of 1; 841 mg (3.00 mmol) of PCy<sub>3</sub>; 10 mL of THF. Yield: 1.16 g (91%). – C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>41</sub>NiPS<sub>3</sub> (587.50): calcd. C 61.33, H 7.03, S 16.37; found C 61.47, H 7.29, S 16.23. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1099 cm<sup>–1</sup>, δ(PCH). – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (270.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.70 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.40 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.10 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.00 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 2.20–1.20 [m, 33 H, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.7 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 152.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.2 Hz), 132.2, 129.7, 128.2, 127.0, 122.2 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 34.0 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 20.2 Hz), 30.0, 27.6 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.1 Hz), 26.4 [P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (109.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 28.3 [s, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>11</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. – MS (FD, THF); *m/z*: 587 [Ni(PCy<sub>3</sub>)('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sup>+</sup>.

**[Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)('S<sub>3</sub>') (8):** 500 mg (0.54 mmol) of 1; 525 mg (2.00 mmol) of PPh<sub>3</sub>; 5 mL of THF. Yield: 894 mg (97%). – C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NiPS<sub>3</sub> (569.36): calcd. C 63.29, H 4.07, S 16.89; found C 63.47, H 4.17, S 16.51. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1094 cm<sup>–1</sup>, δ(PCH). – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 7.82 (m, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.72 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.46 (m, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.28 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.07 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.01 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.7 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ = 152.8 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 5.7 Hz), 134.9 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 12.2 Hz), 132.6, 131.3, 130.0 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 48.0 Hz), 129.7, 129.0, 128.6 (d, J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.8 Hz), 127.8, 123.0 [C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (109.4 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ = 30.4 [s, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>].

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(Cl)('S<sub>3</sub>') (9):** [Ni('S<sub>3</sub>')]<sub>3</sub> (1) (1.660 g, 1.80 mmol) and NBu<sub>4</sub>Cl (1.550 g, 5.41 mmol) were combined in THF (20 mL) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h to give a violet suspension. This suspension was then cooled to –30 °C, and the precipitate was filtered off, washed with THF, and dried in vacuo. Yield: 2.311 g (73%). – C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>44</sub>ClNNiS<sub>3</sub> (584.99): calcd. C 57.49, H 7.58, N 2.39, S 16.44; found C 56.98, H 7.68, N 2.36, S 16.54. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.7 MHz, [D<sub>8</sub>]THF): δ = 7.63 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.18 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.94 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.77 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.53 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.38 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.90 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR

(67.7 MHz,  $[D_6]$ acetone):  $\delta$  = 153.9, 138.2, 131.7, 129.4, 129.0, 122.3 ( $C_6H_4$ ), 59.4, 24.8, 20.7, 14.1 ( $NC_{16}H_{36}$ ).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(N<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (10):** A 1.0 M THF solution of NBu<sub>4</sub>N<sub>3</sub> (3.0 mL, 3.00 mmol) was added to a black-brown suspension of [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**1**) (900 mg, 0.97 mmol) in THF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature to give a violet solution, which was then filtered. Layering of the filtrate with (*i*Pr)<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) led to the precipitation of black-violet microcrystals, which were separated, washed with (*i*Pr)<sub>2</sub>O, and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.364 g (79%). – C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>4</sub>NiS<sub>3</sub> (591.55): calcd. C 56.85, H 7.50, N 9.47, S 16.26; found C 56.87, H 8.47, N 9.17, S 16.36. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2035 cm<sup>−1</sup>,  $\nu(N_3)$ . – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.7 MHz,  $[D_8]$ THF):  $\delta$  = 7.56 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.19 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.96 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.81 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.49 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.75 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.89 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.8 MHz,  $[D_8]$ THF):  $\delta$  = 154.9, 134.7, 129.7, 128.5, 128.3, 121.6 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.6, 25.0, 20.7, 14.2 (NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(X)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] from **3** and Me<sub>3</sub>SiX, where X = Cl<sup>−</sup> (**9**), N<sub>3</sub><sup>−</sup> (**10**), NCS<sup>−</sup> (**11**), NSO<sup>−</sup> (**12**) – General Procedure:** The appropriate Me<sub>3</sub>SiX was added to a black-brown THF solution of (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**3**). A color change was observed within a period of time ranging from 5 min up to 48 h depending on the Me<sub>3</sub>SiX compound. All volatile components were then removed in vacuo, and the residue obtained was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (ca. 10 mL), separated, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O, and dried in vacuo.

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(Cl)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**9**):** 250 mg (0.39 mmol) of **3**; 0.10 mL (1.07 mmol) of Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl; 3 mL of THF; volatile components were removed after 30 min.; violet powder.

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(N<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**10**):** 275 mg (0.43 mmol) of **3**; 0.15 mL (1.47 mmol) of Me<sub>3</sub>SiN<sub>3</sub>; 15 mL of THF; volatile components were removed after 24 h; violet powder.

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(NCS)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**11**):** 125 mg (0.20 mmol) of **3**; 0.07 mL (0.47 mmol) of Me<sub>3</sub>SiNCS; 3 mL of THF; volatile components were removed after 5 min; dark-red powder. Yield: 114 mg (94%).

– C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NiS<sub>4</sub> (607.61): calcd. C 57.33, H 7.30, N 4.61, S 21.11; found C 56.82, H 7.33, N 4.78, S 20.12. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 2105 cm<sup>−1</sup>,  $\nu(NCS)$ . – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz,  $[D_6]$ acetone):  $\delta$  = 7.66 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.21 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.06 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.92 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.47 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.45 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.95 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.7 MHz,  $[D_6]$ acetone):  $\delta$  = 153.3 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 140.6 (NCS), 133.2, 129.3, 129.0, 128.0, 122.4 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.2, 24.4, 20.2, 13.8 (NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(NSO)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**12**):** 1.00 g (1.57 mmol) of **3**; 500 mg (3.70 mmol) of Me<sub>3</sub>SiNSO; 20 mL of THF; volatile components were removed after 2 d; orange powder. Yield: 824 mg (86%). – C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>44</sub>N<sub>2</sub>NiOS<sub>4</sub> (611.60): calcd. C 54.99, H 7.25, N 4.58, S 20.97; found C 54.75, H 7.22, N 4.21, S 20.28. – IR (KBr):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1230 cm<sup>−1</sup>,  $\nu_{asym}(NSO)$ , 1030 cm<sup>−1</sup>,  $\nu_{sym}(NSO)$ . – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.6 MHz,  $[D_8]$ THF):  $\delta$  = 7.59 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.19 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.95 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.81 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.41 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.65 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.35 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.85 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (67.8 MHz,  $[D_8]$ THF):  $\delta$  = 155.8, 134.1, 129.9, 128.4, 128.2, 121.5 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.6, 25.0, 20.7, 14.2 (NC<sub>16</sub>H<sub>36</sub>).

**(NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**13**):** A 1.1 M MeOH solution of NaS<sub>3</sub>Bu (0.74 mL, 0.81 mmol), NBu<sub>4</sub>Cl (220 mg, 0.80 mmol), and [Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> (**2**) (290 mg, 0.27 mmol) were combined in THF (10 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h to give a red solution. Undissolved material was removed by filtration, and the red filtrate was concentrated to one-third of its original volume. Layering with Et<sub>2</sub>O led to the precipitation of red crystals, which were separated after 4 d, washed with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL), and dried in vacuo. Yield: 452 mg (81%). – C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>53</sub>NPdS<sub>4</sub> (686.44): calcd. C 55.99, H 7.78, N 2.04, S 18.68; found C 53.37, H 8.36, N 1.98, S 18.05. – <sup>1</sup>H NMR (269.7 MHz,  $[D_6]$ acetone):  $\delta$  = 7.64 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.25 (d, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.97 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 6.85 (m, 2 H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 3.41 (t, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.73 (m, 8 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.46 (s, 9 H, SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.38 [m, 8 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>], 0.90 [t, 12 H, N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]. – <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.4 MHz,  $[D_6]$ acetone):  $\delta$  =

Table 3. Selected crystallographic data for [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> · 3 THF · 6 MeOH (**1** · 3 THF · 6 MeOH), [Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (**2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**3**), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**4**), and (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**6**)

| Compound                                        | <b>1</b> · 3 THF · 6 MeOH                                                     | <b>2</b> · 2 CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>                                   | <b>3</b>                                          | <b>4</b>                                          | <b>6</b>                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Formula                                         | C <sub>54</sub> H <sub>72</sub> Ni <sub>3</sub> O <sub>9</sub> S <sub>9</sub> | C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>28</sub> Cl <sub>4</sub> Pd <sub>3</sub> S <sub>9</sub> | C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>53</sub> NNiS <sub>4</sub> | C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>55</sub> NNiS <sub>4</sub> | C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>49</sub> NNiS <sub>4</sub> |
| <i>M<sub>r</sub></i> [g/mol]                    | 1329.79                                                                       | 1234.14                                                                        | 638.70                                            | 664.74                                            | 658.69                                            |
| Crystal system                                  | trigonal                                                                      | triclinic                                                                      | monoclinic                                        | orthorhombic                                      | monoclinic                                        |
| Space group                                     | <i>P</i> 3( <i>bar</i> )                                                      | <i>P</i> 1( <i>bar</i> )                                                       | <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>                | <i>Pbca</i>                                       | <i>C</i> 2/ <i>c</i>                              |
| <i>a</i> [pm]                                   | 1851.0(7)                                                                     | 951.6(6)                                                                       | 1059.1(3)                                         | 1005.4(2)                                         | 4474.6(9)                                         |
| <i>b</i> [pm]                                   | 1851.0(7)                                                                     | 1462.7(10)                                                                     | 1931.8(3)                                         | 1608.9(9)                                         | 1024.3(2)                                         |
| <i>c</i> [pm]                                   | 983.2(8)                                                                      | 1593.7(12)                                                                     | 1717.8(5)                                         | 4352.5(9)                                         | 1590.4(3)                                         |
| $\alpha$ [°]                                    | 90                                                                            | 88.47(6)                                                                       | 90                                                | 90                                                | 90                                                |
| $\beta$ [°]                                     | 90                                                                            | 77.90(5)                                                                       | 103.20(3)                                         | 90                                                | 107.70(3)                                         |
| $\gamma$ [°]                                    | 120                                                                           | 82.01(5)                                                                       | 90                                                | 90                                                | 90                                                |
| <i>V</i> [nm <sup>3</sup> ]                     | 2.917(3)                                                                      | 2.148(3)                                                                       | 3.422(2)                                          | 7.041(4)                                          | 6.944(2)                                          |
| <i>Z</i>                                        | 2                                                                             | 2                                                                              | 4                                                 | 8                                                 | 8                                                 |
| <i>d</i> <sub>calcd.</sub> [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | 1.514                                                                         | 1.908                                                                          | 1.240                                             | 1.254                                             | 1.260                                             |
| $\mu$ [cm <sup>−1</sup> ]                       | 13.34                                                                         | 19.59                                                                          | 8.32                                              | 8.12                                              | 8.22                                              |
| Cryst. size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]                  | 0.5 × 0.4 × 0.4                                                               | 0.3 × 0.2 × 0.1                                                                | 0.7 × 0.5 × 0.4                                   | 0.4 × 0.4 × 0.1                                   | 0.8 × 0.4 × 0.2                                   |
| $\omega$ -scan [°/min]                          | 8.0                                                                           | 10.0                                                                           | 10.0                                              | 3.0–30.0                                          | 3.0–30.0                                          |
| 2 $\theta$ range [°]                            | 4.0–54.0                                                                      | 3.8–52.0                                                                       | 4.1–52.0                                          | 6.1–54.0                                          | 4.0–50.1                                          |
| Measured refl.                                  | 5423                                                                          | 9400                                                                           | 8330                                              | 5453                                              | 8680                                              |
| Independent refl.                               | 4145                                                                          | 8436                                                                           | 6710                                              | 5453                                              | 6136                                              |
| Observed refl.                                  | 1083                                                                          | 1487                                                                           | 3625                                              | 1024                                              | 2776                                              |
| ref. parameters                                 | 228                                                                           | 487                                                                            | 344                                               | 361                                               | 361                                               |
| <i>R</i> 1 <sup>[a]</sup> ; <i>wR</i> 2 [%]     | 6.4; 17.5                                                                     | 7.4; 20.0                                                                      | 6.5; 19.5                                         | 2.9; 7.5                                          | 4.7; 10.7                                         |

[a]  $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ .

Table 4. Selected crystallographic data for [Ni(PCy<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] · THF (**7** · THF), [Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] · CDCl<sub>3</sub> (**8** · CDCl<sub>3</sub>), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(Cl)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**9**), and (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Pd(SrBu)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**13**)

| Compound                                               | <b>7</b> · THF                                     | <b>8</b> · CDCl <sub>3</sub>                                       | <b>9</b>                                            | <b>13</b>                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Formula                                                | C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>49</sub> NiOPS <sub>3</sub> | C <sub>31</sub> H <sub>23</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> DNiPS <sub>3</sub> | C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>44</sub> CINNiS <sub>3</sub> | C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>53</sub> NPdS <sub>4</sub> |
| <i>M<sub>r</sub></i> [g/mol]                           | 659.59                                             | 689.72                                                             | 584.98                                              | 686.39                                            |
| Crystal system                                         | orthorhombic                                       | monoclinic                                                         | monoclinic                                          | orthorhombic                                      |
| Space group                                            | <i>Pnma</i>                                        | <i>P2<sub>1</sub>/c</i>                                            | <i>P2<sub>1</sub>/n</i>                             | <i>Pbca</i>                                       |
| <i>a</i> [pm]                                          | 2275.1(7)                                          | 1731.1(2)                                                          | 953.8(4)                                            | 1952.2(2)                                         |
| <i>b</i> [pm]                                          | 1713.1(4)                                          | 922.5(1)                                                           | 1660.4(7)                                           | 1666.1(3)                                         |
| <i>c</i> [pm]                                          | 859.8(3)                                           | 1883.4(3)                                                          | 1891.2(6)                                           | 2116.0(2)                                         |
| <i>α</i> [°]                                           | 90                                                 | 90                                                                 | 90                                                  | 90                                                |
| <i>β</i> [°]                                           | 90                                                 | 95.4(1)                                                            | 90.01(4)                                            | 90                                                |
| <i>γ</i> [°]                                           | 90                                                 | 90                                                                 | 90                                                  | 90                                                |
| <i>V</i> [nm <sup>3</sup> ]                            | 3.351(2)                                           | 2.994(1)                                                           | 2.995(2)                                            | 6.882(2)                                          |
| <i>Z</i>                                               | 4                                                  | 4                                                                  | 4                                                   | 8                                                 |
| <i>d</i> <sub>calc.</sub> [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]         | 1.307                                              | 1.530                                                              | 1.297                                               | 1.325                                             |
| <i>μ</i> [mm <sup>−1</sup> ]                           | 8.39                                               | 12.00                                                              | 9.63                                                | 8.03                                              |
| Cryst. size [mm <sup>3</sup> ]                         | 0.5 × 0.5 × 0.3                                    | 0.6 × 0.6 × 0.6                                                    | 0.5 × 0.3 × 0.1                                     | 0.4 × 0.3 × 0.1                                   |
| <i>ω</i> -scan [°/min]                                 | 3.0–30.0                                           | 3.0–30.0                                                           | 3.0–30.0                                            | 3.0–30.0                                          |
| 2 $\theta$ range [°]                                   | 4.0–54.0                                           | 4.0–54.0                                                           | 4.2–55.2                                            | 4.2–52.0                                          |
| Measured refl.                                         | 6237                                               | 6810                                                               | 9724                                                | 8097                                              |
| Independent refl.                                      | 3787                                               | 6593                                                               | 6922                                                | 6766                                              |
| Observed refl.                                         | 1882                                               | 4317                                                               | 3644                                                | 2310                                              |
| ref. parameters                                        | 190                                                | 352                                                                | 309                                                 | 350                                               |
| <i>R</i> <sup>[a]</sup> ; <i>wR</i> <sup>[a]</sup> [%] | 3.4; 7.4                                           | 3.6; 8.9                                                           | 4.1; 11.0                                           | 4.0; 7.9                                          |

[a] [*I* > 2σ(*I*)].

158.0, 134.2, 131.2, 129.6, 128.5, 121.4 (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 59.4 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 41.7 (SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 37.6 (SCCH<sub>3</sub>), 24.6, 20.4 [NCH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], 13.9 [N(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>].

**X-ray Structure Analyses of [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> · 3 THF · 6 MeOH (1 · 3 THF · 6 MeOH), [Pd(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>3</sub> · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)-[Ni(SrBu)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**3**), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(SCy)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**4**), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni-(SPH)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**6**), [Ni(PCy<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] · THF (**7** · THF), [Ni(PPh<sub>3</sub>)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] · CDCl<sub>3</sub> (**8** · CDCl<sub>3</sub>), (NBu<sub>4</sub>)[Ni(Cl)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**9**), and (NBu<sub>4</sub>)-[Pd(SrBu)(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)] (**13**):** Black hexagons of **1** · 3 THF · 6 MeOH were grown by slow evaporation of the solvent at room temperature from the THF/MeOH mother liquor resulting from the synthesis of [Ni(‘S<sub>3</sub>’)]<sub>2</sub>.<sup>[6]</sup> Black single crystals of **2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were formed upon layering a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **2** with Et<sub>2</sub>O. Black-red plates of **3**, **4**, **6**, and **13** were obtained directly from the respective reaction solutions. Orange plates of **7** · THF were grown by layering a THF solution of **7** with MeOH. Red-brown blocks of **8** · CDCl<sub>3</sub> were similarly grown by layering the CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution of **8** that had been used for NMR measurements with MeOH. Black plates of **9** were grown by layering a THF solution of **9** with Et<sub>2</sub>O. In all cases, suitable single crystals were sealed in glass capillaries under N<sub>2</sub>. Data were collected at 200 K (**1** · 3 THF · 6 MeOH, **3**, **4**, **6**, **7** · THF, **8** · CDCl<sub>3</sub>, **9**, **13**) or 298 K (**2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) on a Siemens P4 or a Nicolet R3 m/V (**2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-*K*<sub>α</sub> radiation (λ = 71.073 pm) by the *ω*-scan technique. In the case of **2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and **3**, an absorption correction was applied on the basis of *ψ*-scans. The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXTL-PLUS<sup>[14a]</sup> or SHELXTL 5.03<sup>[14b]</sup>). Full-matrix least-squares refinement was carried out on *F*<sup>2</sup> (SHELXL-93<sup>[14c]</sup> or SHELXTL 5.03<sup>[14b]</sup>). All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The positions of the hydrogen atoms in **3**, **4**, **6**, **7** · THF, **8** · CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and **9** were taken from the difference Fourier map and were kept fixed with a common isotropic displacement parameter. In the case of **1** · 3 THF · 6 MeOH, **2** · 2 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and **13**, the hydrogen atoms were geometrically positioned with isotropic displacement parameters fixed at 1.5 times the *U*(eq) of the adjacent carbon atom. One *n*-butyl group (C40–C43) in the cation of **3** is evidently disordered, but no well-separated sites could be

refined. In the case of complex **9**, the crystal under study proved to be a pseudomerohedral twin. The twin component ratio was refined to give 0.694(1) and 0.306(1), respectively. Selected crystallographic data are listed in Tables 3 and 4.<sup>[15]</sup>

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