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# hypercloso-Hexa(amino)hexaboranes: Structurally Related to Known hypercloso-Dodecaboranes, Metastable with Regard to Their Classical Cycloisomers

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 $B_6({\rm NMe_2})_6$  (2a) is the first neutral *hypercloso*-hexaborane to be characterized by X-ray structural analysis. The geometry of 2a is in nice agreement with that of the  $C_i$  symmetric molecule computed at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level of theory. Two  $B_3$  triangles with long B···B distances in 2a are reminiscent of those in Hawthorne's benzyloxy-substituted *hypercloso*-dodecaboranes 6a,b. Upon heating to 200 °C, 2a transforms into Nöth's classical cyclohexaborane 1a. Computations at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* + ZPE level of theory show 1a to be

21.6 kcal  $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$  lower in energy than 2a, that is, the latter is metastable. hypercloso-Hexaborane  $\mathrm{B_6(NEt_2)_6}$  (2b), which was reported to be thermodynamically more stable than 1b, is computed to be 22.4 kcal  $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$  less stable than 1b. Pure 1b is shown here not to transform into 2b upon standing in solution, which is in contrast to reports in the literature for a mixture containing 1b.

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#### Introduction

Cyclohexaborane isomer **1a** of B<sub>6</sub>(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub> (Scheme 1) was fully characterized by the group of Nöth as early as 1980.<sup>[11]</sup> In 1991, Baudler et al. described cyclohexaborane isomer **1b** of B<sub>6</sub>(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub> as well as octahedral isomer **2b**, the exact geometry of which could not be determined because of disorder of the crystals.<sup>[2]</sup> The same problem arose with **2b**, which was prepared by the group of Siebert by a new route.<sup>[3]</sup> By means of **2a**, we here present the first X-ray structural characterization of a neutral *hypercloso*-hexaborane.<sup>[4]</sup>

Scheme 1.

a: R = Me b: R = Et c: R = H

Cyclohexaborane **1b** has been described to spontaneously transform in solution into the "thermodynamically more stable" *hypercloso*-hexaborane **2b**.<sup>[2]</sup> Computations for models **1c** and **2c** [i.e.,  $B_6(NH_2)_6$ ] led to inconclusive results.<sup>[5]</sup> To clarify the contradicting reports on the relative stability of cyclic and cluster structures of neutral hexa-(amino)hexaboranes, we decided to check whether the transformation **1b**  $\rightarrow$  **2b**, which had been observed with a mixture containing 68% **1b** and a "boron-free degradation product", can be reproduced with *pure* **1b**. Computations at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* + ZPE level of theory<sup>[6]</sup> were extended to **1a–f** and **2a–f** (compare Scheme 4).

# **Results and Discussion**

#### Syntheses and NMR Spectroscopic Characterization

Reaction of 1,3-dichloro-1,2,3-tris(dimethylamino)triborane(5) (3),<sup>[7]</sup> with sodium/potassium alloy in pentane, with lithium powder in diethyl ether or thf at ambient temperature, or with lithium naphthalenide in thf at  $-100\,^{\circ}\text{C}$  did not lead to the desired cyclotriborane (triborirane) 4 or its aromatic dianion  $4^{2-}$ , but to a  $40-50\,^{\circ}$ % yield of the two-electron aromatic bicyclotetraborane 5 described by Siebert et al (Scheme 2).<sup>[8,9]</sup> Interested in the fate of the missing part of the starting material, we took a closer look at the pentane insoluble residue after workup of the reaction performed in pentane. By washing this residue with several portions of thf, we obtained a red solution of  $2a\cdot K_2(\text{thf})_n$ . Oxidation of this solution with 1,2-dibromoethane led to dark green 2a. Compound 2a was characterized spectroscopically by a  $^{11}B$  chemical shift of  $\delta = 41$  ppm, which is

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Scheme 2.

Scheme 2

Scheme 3.

close to  $\delta(^{11}\mathrm{B})=40$  ppm reported for  $2\mathbf{b}.^{[2]}$  The  $\delta(^{11}\mathrm{B})=-14$  ppm of dianion  $2\mathbf{a}^{2-}$  is in the vicinity of chemical shifts of known *closo*-hexaborane dianions  $(B_6H_6^{2-}:-13.5\text{ ppm};^{[10]}\text{ B}_6\text{Cl}_6^{2-}:-17.4\text{ ppm}^{[10]})$ . The structures of  $2\mathbf{a}\cdot[\text{Li}(\text{thf})]_2$  and  $2\mathbf{a}$  are definitively proven by X-ray structural analyses described below.

Upon heating at 200 °C, pure **2a** cleanly transforms into orange **1a** as seen from its NMR spectroscopic data, which are in full agreement with those described by Nöth.<sup>[1]</sup> This isomerization corresponds to the observation that crystals of **2b** transform into **1b** above 137 °C.<sup>[2]</sup> In solution, however, cyclohexaborane **1b** was reported to isomerize spontaneously into *hypercloso*-hexaborane **2b** at room temperature.<sup>[2]</sup>

Because computations (see below) resulted in *hypercloso*-hexa(amino)hexaboranes to be 15.1 to 22.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> *higher* in energy than the corresponding cycloisomers, and the transformation  $1b \rightarrow 2b$  had been observed with a mixture containing 68% 1b and a boron-free degradation product ("Bor-freies ... Zersetzungsprodukt"),<sup>[2]</sup> we decided to check whether this transformation can be reproduced with *pure* 1b. For this reason we synthesized 1b by heating pure 2b at 180 °C. The latter was obtained by oxidation of  $2b^{2-}$  (Scheme 3). A solution of 1b in toluene did not change color (remained orange red) and the <sup>11</sup>B chemical shifts did not change over the course of a nine week period.

#### **Crystal Structures**

Figures 1 and 2 show the structures of  $2a \cdot [Li(thf)]_2$  and 2a, respectively, in the crystal. Characteristic distances and

angles are compared to those computed for the isolated molecules in Table 1.

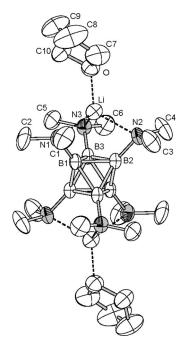


Figure 1. Structure of centrosymmetric  $2a\cdot[\text{Li}(thf)]_2$  in the crystal; hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Only the more highly occupied orientation of disordered thf is shown. Displacement ellipsoids at the 50% level.



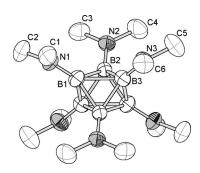


Figure 2. Structure of centrosymmetric 2a in the crystal; hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Displacement ellipsoids at the 50%

Table 1. Comparison of characteristic distances [pm] and angles [°] of 2a and its dianion as determined experimentally and by computations at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level of theory. The standard uncertainties for 2a (exp.) may be underestimated by approximately 30% due to switching off data merging for twin refinement.

	2a			<b>2a</b> ·[Li(thf)] <sub>2</sub>	
	exp.	calcd.[b]	-	exp.	calcd.[b]
B1-B2	188.4(2)	185.9	17	5.1(3)	175.0
B1-B3	189.5(2)	185.9	17	5.1(3)	174.7
B2-B3	190.1(2)	185.8	17	5.3(2)	175.1
B1-B2 <sup>[a]</sup>	171.6(2)	170.9	17	1.7(3)	172.2
B1-B3 <sup>[a]</sup>	170.7(2)	171.0	17	2.2(3)	172.2
B2-B3[a]	169.2(2)	171.1	17	2.1(3)	172.1
B1-N1	141.1(2)	143.6	15	0.8(2)	151.9
B2-N2	143.4(2)	143.6	15	1.6(2)	151.7
B3-N3	143.4(2)	143.5	15	0.6(2)	152.0
B2-B1-B3	60.4(1)	60.0	60	0.1(1)	60.1
B1-B2-B3	60.1(1)	60.0	60	0.0(1)	59.9
B2-B3-B1	59.5(1)	60.0	59	0.9(1)	60.0
B2 <sup>[a]</sup> _B1-B3 <sup>[a]</sup>	67.5(1)	65.8	61	.3(1)	61.1
$B1^{[a]}\!\!-\!\!B2\!\!-\!\!B3^{[a]}$	67.6(1)	65.8	61	.3(1)	61.0
B2 <sup>[a]</sup> _B3-B1 <sup>[a]</sup>	67.3(1)	65.8	61	.1(1)	61.1
(B1,B2,B3)/B1-N1	35.9(1)	36.6	47	7.3(1)	47.3
(B1,B2,B3)/B2-N2	36.4(1)	36.4	48	3.5(1)	48.2
(B1,B2,B3)/B3-N3	36.8(1)	36.7	48	3.2(1)	47.3

[a] Symmetry operation: -x, -y, 1-z. [b] Optimized at B3LYP/6-311+G\*\*.

2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub> is a centrosymmetric contact ion triple of a slightly distorted octahedron 2a<sup>2-</sup> and two lithium cations, each of which coordinates a disordered thf molecule. The B···B distances of the B<sub>3</sub> triangles facing the lithium cations are a bit longer (175.1–175.3 pm) than those of the remaining B-B bonds (171.7-172.2 pm). On average, the B···B distances in 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub> are close (173.3 pm) to those in  $B_6H_6^{2-}$  (172.1 pm).<sup>[10]</sup>

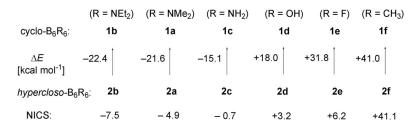
The B<sub>6</sub> nucleus of centrosymmetric **2a** may be described as a distorted octahedron or as a trigonal antiprism. Two B<sub>3</sub> triangles with long B···B distances (188.4–190.1 pm) are located opposite each other and connected by B-B bonds of a length (169.2-171.6 pm) close to those found in classical 1a (172 pm on the average). The B-N bonds of 2a are slightly longer (141.1–143.4 pm) than those in 1a (140 pm) but considerably shorter than those in 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub> (150.6– 151.6 pm). B-N bonds of length 153.9 pm have been computed for the dianion 1,6-diamino-closo-hexaboranate.[11] Pyramidalization at the nitrogen centers of the substituents is considerable in 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub> [deviation of N from the B,C,C plane 39.3(2) pm, on average] but rather small in 2a [corresponding deviation 6.8(1) pm].

#### **Ab Initio Computations**

Energies of 2a-f and of 1a-f (Scheme 4) were computed at the B3LYP/6-311+ $G^{**}$  + ZPE level of theory.<sup>[6]</sup> The energy of **1a** is 21.6 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> lower than that of the  $C_{r}$ -symmetric 2a. This is in agreement with the observed transformation of 2a into 1a upon heating to 200 °C. At the same level of theory, 1b is computed to be 22.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> lower in energy than 2b.

 $C_i$ -symmetric **2c** turned out to be a minimum at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level of theory, whereas  $D_{3d}$  symmetric **2c** is a minimum only at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level. The energy difference between  $C_i$ -symmetric **2c** and **1c** (15.1 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>) is close to that computed before.<sup>[5]</sup> Classical structures of type 1 are preferred over nonclassical type 2 only when carrying strong donor substituents like amino groups. Bond lengths and angles computed for 2a are in satisfying agreement (Table 1) with corresponding data from the X-ray crystal structure determination. 11 Boron chemical shifts computed at the GIAO-B3LYP/6-311+G\*\*//B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level for 1a (64.1 ppm) and 2a (37.1, 37.4 and 38.1 ppm) are in better agreement with the experimental data of 1a (65 ppm) and 2a and 2b (41 and 40 ppm) than with those computed for models 1c (70.1 ppm) and  $D_{3d}$ symmetric **2c** (77.2 ppm) at GIAO/HF/6-311+G(d,p)// B3LYP/6-31G(d).[5]

Nuclear independent chemical shifts (NICS), which are widely accepted now as a measure for aromaticity and antiaromaticity, [12] have been computed [6] for 2a-f and are compiled in Scheme 4. The NICS values cover a wide range from weakly aromatic (-7.5) for **2b** to strongly antiaromatic (+41.1) for 2f. The difference between the latter NICS value



Scheme 4.

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and that of aromatic  $1f^{2-}$  (-26.6) is  $\Delta = 67.7$  and that between 2a (-4.9) and  $2a^{2-}$  (-32.2) only is  $\Delta = 27.3$ . Thus, the "gain in aromaticity" upon addition of two electrons is strongly reduced for 2a, which owes its weak aromaticity to electrons of the donor substituents.

The strong influence of donor substituents on the NICS values of *hypercloso*-boranes has been recognized before for *hypercloso*-dodecaboranes.<sup>[13]</sup> Aromaticity of *hypercloso*-B<sub>4</sub>F<sub>4</sub> and *hypercloso*-B<sub>9</sub>F<sub>9</sub> as compared to antiaromaticity of *hypercloso*-B<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub> and *hypercloso*-B<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub> has been discussed to be due to the electronegativity of the substituents.<sup>[14]</sup>

### **Discussion**

Geometrically, *hypercloso*-hexaborane **2a** resembles Hawthorne's *hypercloso*-dodecaboranes  $B_{12}(OCH_2C_6H_4R)_{12}$  (**6a,b**),<sup>[15]</sup> as they all contain two  $B_3$  triangles located opposite to each other with B···B distances considerably longer than the remaining B–B bonds of the molecules (**6a**: 191.8 vs. 175.5 ppm,  $\Delta = 16.3$  pm; **6b**: 191.4 vs. 177.8 pm,  $\Delta = 13.6$  pm; **2a**: 185.8 vs. 171.1 pm,  $\Delta = 14.7$  pm).

Even bigger differences in B–B bond lengths are computed for *hypercloso*-hexaboranes **2d**, **2e**, and **2f** ( $\Delta$  = 24.4, 30.9, and 27.5 pm, respectively). Bond length equalization is long known to be a characteristic of aromatics as opposed to antiaromatics, regardless of whether two- or three-dimensional aromaticity is involved. The reductions of the above  $\Delta$  values upon increasing donor strength of the substituents may thus be taken as a hint to reduced antiaromaticity. This view is supported by the corresponding NICS values (Scheme 4), which reach from strongly antiaromatic (+41.1 for **2f**) over weakly antiaromatic (+3.2 for **2d**) to weakly aromatic (-7.5 for **2b**). Note that the NICS value computed for **2d** (3.2) is close to that of B<sub>12</sub>(OH)<sub>12</sub> (1.3)<sup>[13]</sup> and that both are considerably smaller than those of antiaromatic B<sub>6</sub>Me<sub>6</sub> (41.1) and B<sub>12</sub>Me<sub>12</sub> (60.1).<sup>[13]</sup>

Our experimental finding that **1b** does not transform into **2b** is in agreement with our computed results showing **1b** to be 22.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> lower in energy than **2b** but in sharp contradiction to Baudler's report on the spontaneous transformation of **1b** into **2b** in solution: "ist, ... erstmals die Umwandlung des cyclo-B<sub>6</sub>-Gerüstes in das oktaedrische closo-B<sub>6</sub>-Gerüst nachweisbar, die sich bei Raumtemperatur in Lösung [Kohlenwasserstoffe, (Diorganylamino)borane] durch eine allmähliche Farbänderung von orangegelb nach

olivgrün zu erkennen gibt".<sup>[2]</sup> A reasonable explanation for this discrepancy could be based on the fact that the reported change in color from orange-yellow to olive-green had been observed with a *mixture* containing 68% **1b** and a "boron-free" degradation product.<sup>[2]</sup> The latter must be the precursor of **2b** and hence obviously *cannot* be "boron-free". Its <sup>11</sup>B chemical shift must be indistinguishable from that of **1b**, that is, close to 65 ppm. Our computations for the tris(diethylamino)triborirane led to  $\delta(^{11}B) = 66.7$  ppm, which is far away from  $\delta(^{11}B) = 48$  ppm, as reported by Baudler. Efforts to substantiate the hypothesis outlined here are under investigation, and results will be presented in a forthcoming paper.

# **Experimental Section**

**General:** Reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon or nitrogen, using standard Schlenk techniques. Solvents were dried, distilled, and saturated with nitrogen. Glassware was dried with a heat gun under high vacuum. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were recorded with a Bruker ARX 300 spectrometer, NMR references are (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Si and BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O. Melting points (uncorrected) were measured under an atmosphere of argon.

hypercloso-Hexakis(dimethylamino)hexaborane (2a): 1,3-Dichloro-1,2,3-tris(dimethylamino)triborane(5)<sup>[7]</sup> (21.0 g, 89.1 mmol) was added slowly to a strongly stirred mixture of Na/K alloy (1:3, 20 mL) and pentane (300 mL) at room temperature. After heating the mixture at reflux for 10 h and cooling to room temperature, the excess amount of Na/K alloy and the produced salts (NaCl/KCl) were filtered off through a reversed frit and washed with pentane (500 mL). The brown pentane solution contained aromatic bicyclotetraborane(4) 5.[8,9] Extraction of the mixture of the Na/K alloy and salts with portions of thf (400 mL in total) led to a dark red solution of closo-[B<sub>6</sub>(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>]K<sub>2</sub>. This solution was oxidized at room temperature by slowly adding 1,2-dibromoethane (4.0 g). The color of the solution immediately changed from red to black and stirring was continued for an additional hour. The solvent was then removed in vacuo and the solid black residue was digested with pentane (200 mL). The formed salts (NaBr/KBr) were filtered off through a reversed frit and washed with pentane (2×20 mL). The combined filtrates were reduced to dryness in vacuo and thoroughly dried thereafter. The deep black solid reduce of hypercloso-[B<sub>6</sub>(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>] was of almost spectroscopic purity and could be crystallized from pentane at -30 °C. Yield: 7.35 g (50%) of black solid 2a, m.p. >200 °C under conversion into 1a. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (96 MHz,  $[D_8]$ thf, 25 °C):  $\delta = 41$  ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz,  $[D_8]$ thf, 25 °C):  $\delta = 2.88$  (s, in all 36 H, NMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>8</sub>]thf, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 45.4 (q, in all 12 C, NMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm. White solid bicyclotetraborane(4) 5 was obtained from the above-mentioned first pentane solution. Yield: 6.92 g (47%); for NMR spectroscopic data see ref.[8,9]

Dilithium-closo-Hexakis(dimethylamino)hexaborate {2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub>}: 1,3-Dichloro-1,2,3-tris(dimethylamino)triborane(5)<sup>[7]</sup> (3; 2.0 g, 8.5 mmol) was added slowly by syringe to a stirred suspension of lithium powder (0.3 g, 43.2 mmol) in thf (30 mL) at room temperature. The mixture turned orange red after 1.5 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the solid orange residue was digested with pentane (20 mL). The excess amount of lithium powder and the formed LiCl were filtered off through a reversed frit. The orange red pentane solution was concentrated in vacuo to 5 mL and mixed with thf (ca. 2 mL). A mixture of  $2a\cdot[\text{Li}(\text{thf})]_2$  and  $5^{[8,9]}$  crystallized



overnight at -30 °C. Colorless platelets of  $2a\cdot[\text{Li}(\text{thf})]_2$  (ca. 60%) and colorless needles of 5 (ca. 40%) could be distinguished and separated under the microscope. The above-mentioned solution of  $2a\cdot\text{K}_2(\text{thf})_n$  was evaporated to dryness in vacuo and the yellow residue dissolved in  $[D_8]$ thf. The NMR spectroscopic data observed were very similar to those of  $2a\cdot[\text{Li}(\text{thf})]_2$ . Data for  $2a\cdot[\text{Li}(\text{thf})]_2$ :  $^{11}$ B NMR (96 MHz,  $[D_8]$ thf, 25 °C):  $\delta = -14$  ppm.  $^{1}$ H NMR (300 MHz,  $[D_8]$ thf, 25 °C):  $\delta = 2.42$  (s, in all 36 H, NMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm.  $^{13}$ C NMR (75 MHz,  $[D_8]$ thf, 25 °C):  $\delta = 50.1$  (q, in all 12C, NMe<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

hypercloso-Hexakis(diethylamino)hexaborane (2b) and Cyclohexakis(diethylamino)hexaborane (1b): Dibromo(diethylamino)borane Et<sub>2</sub>NBBr<sub>2</sub> (14.0 g, 57.6 mmol) was added slowly to a strongly stirred mixture of Na/K alloy (1:3, ca. 15 mL, ca. 10.8 g) and nhexane (200 mL) at room temperature. After heating the mixture for 1 h at reflux and cooling to room temperature, the excess amount of Na/K alloy and the insoluble products (including NaBr and KBr) were filtered off through a reversed frit and washed with *n*-hexane (200 mL). Extraction of this mixture with portions of thf (200 mL in total) led to a dark red brown solution of sodium and potassium salts of closo-[B<sub>6</sub>(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2-</sup> (2b<sup>2-</sup>) as characterized by  $\delta(^{11}\text{B}) = -12.5 \text{ ppm}$ . This solution was oxidized at room temperature by slowly adding 1,2-dibromoethane (1.0 g). The color of the solution immediately changed from dark red brown to dark green. Stirring was continued for an additional hour, the solvent was removed in vacuo, and the solid black residue was digested with nhexane (50 mL). Insoluble salts (NaBr/KBr) were filtered off through a reversed frit and washed with *n*-hexane  $(2 \times 10 \text{ mL})$ . The combined filtrates were reduced to dryness in vacuo. The deep black solid residue of spectroscopically almost pure hypercloso- $[B_6(NEt_2)_6]$  (2b) was crystallized from *n*-hexane at -20 °C to yield 1.3 g (27%) of black solid **2b** [ $^{11}$ B NMR (96 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$ = 40 ppm]. Upon melting, **2b** (ca. 180 °C) cleanly transformed into **1b** [ $^{11}$ B NMR (96 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ , 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 64 ppm]. A solution of 1b in toluene does not show any change in color and chemical shift upon monitoring by <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectroscopy over nine weeks.

X-ray Crystal Structure Analyses of 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub> and 2a: Single crystals were grown from pentane at -30 °C (for 2a) or from pentane/ thf (3:1) at -30 °C {for 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub>}. These crystals were investigated on area detector systems (IPDS Stoe) by using graphite monochromated Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  radiation at 193 K, no absorption corrections were applied. The crystal of 2a proved to be a (001) reflection twin. After refinement of the orientation matrices of both individuals, twin integration by using combined profiles for overlapping reflections was performed.[17] Both structures have the centrosymmetric triclinic space group  $P\bar{1}$ . The structures were solved by direct methods and difference Fourier techniques and refined against all  $F^2$ data using full-matrix least-squares methods (SHELX programs<sup>[18]</sup>), that of 2a as twin. In both structures, the hydrogen atoms of the methyl groups were calculated and the torsion around the N-C bond was refined. For them isotropic displacement factors taken as 1.5 times the  $U_{\rm eq}$  value of the corresponding C atom were used. In 2a·[Li(thf)]2 the thf molecules showed disorder over two positions with common O atom in the ratio 0.676(7)/0.324. The hydrogen atoms were kept riding in calculated positions with isotropic displacement factors set 1.2 times  $U_{eq}$  of their C atoms. For all heavier atoms anisotropic displacement parameters were used. Details of the experimental and crystal data are summarized in Table 2. CCDC-741779 (for 2a) and -741778 (for 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub>) contain 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.

Table 2. Crystal and experimental data for the structure determinations of 2a and 2a·[Li(thf)]<sub>2</sub>.

	2a	<b>2a</b> •[Li(thf)] <sub>2</sub>
Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{36}B_6N_6$	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>52</sub> B <sub>6</sub> Li <sub>2</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	329.33	487.42
Measuring temperature [K]	193	193
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	$P\bar{1}$	$P\bar{1}$
<i>a</i> [pm]	744.6(2)	907.7(1)
<i>b</i> [pm]	911.0(2)	926.8(1)
c [pm]	926.6(2)	1051.6(1)
a [°]	61.26(2)	92.83(1)
β [°]	81.18(2)	111.55(1)
γ [°]	74.85(2)	107.00(1)
Volume [Å <sup>3</sup> ]	531.7(2)	774.6(1)
Z	1	1
Calculated density [g cm <sup>-3</sup> ]	1.029	1.045
$\mu  [\mathrm{mm}^{-1}]$	0.060	0.063
F(000)	180	266
Crystal size [mm]	$0.50 \times 0.15 \times 0.05$	$0.55 \times 0.40 \times 0.25$
$\Theta_{ m max}$ [°]	26.23	25.90
Index range	-9/9, -11/11, -11/11	-11/11, -11/11, -12/12
Scan type	ω-scans	ø-scans
No. of reflections	5936	6193
Unique refl. $(R_{int})$	1988 <sup>[a]</sup>	2800 (0.037)
Observed refl. $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	1476	1694
Parameters, data/param. ratio	116, 17.1 <sup>[a]</sup>	200, 14.0
Goodness-of-fit $(F^2)$	1.196	0.912
$R[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	0.0575	0.0493
$wR_2$ (all refl.)	0.1248	0.1418
largest diff. peak/hole [e Å <sup>-3</sup> ]	+0.234/-0.169	+0.158/-0.160

[a] Twin refinement, reflections not merged, estimated standard deviations underestimated.

**Supporting Information** (see footnote on the first page of this article): Cartesian coordinates and absolute energies of structures optimized at the B3LYP/6-311+G\*\* level of density functional theory.

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