## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Reactivity of the B–H bond in *Tris*(pyrazolyl)hydroborato Zinc Complexes: An Unexpected Example of Zinc Hydride Formation in a Protic Solvent and its Relevance towards Hydrogen Transfer to NAD+ Mimics by *Tris*(pyrazolyl)hydroborato Zinc Complexes in Alcoholic Media

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**Experimental Details** 

## **General Considerations**

 $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnOH,^1$  { $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnOH_2$ } $[HOB(C_6F_5)_3],^2$  10-methylacridinium perchlorate<sup>3</sup> (*caution!*) and 10-methylacridan,<sup>4</sup> were prepared by literature methods.

Reduction of 10-Methylacridinium Perchlorate by [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH in ROH [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH (3 mg, 0.006 mmol) was added to a solution of 10-methylacridinium perchlorate (3 mg, 0.01 mmol) in *ca*. 0.6 mL deutero-ROH (R = Me, Et, Pr<sup>i</sup>). The mixture was heated at 80°C for 15 hours,<sup>5</sup> resulting in the formation of 10-methylacridan and 3-*tert*-butyl-5-methylpyrazole, as demonstrated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. The spectroscopic yield of 10-methylacridan (based on total amount of added [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH) was *ca*. 85%. In the absence of [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH, no reaction was observed between 10-methylacridinium perchlorate and ROH under the same conditions. The analogous reaction between deuterium labeled [DTp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH and 10-methylacridinium perchlorate in CH<sub>3</sub>OH was monitored by <sup>2</sup>H NMR spectroscopy, confirming that deuterium was incorporated into the methylene group.

Reduction of 10-Methylacridinium Perchlorate by [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH in THF A suspension of [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]ZnOH (3 mg, 0.006 mmol) and 10-methylacridinium perchlorate (3 mg, 0.01 mmol) in  $d_8$ –THF (ca. 0.6 mL) was heated at 80°C for 1 day, resulting in the formation of 10-methylacridan, as demonstrated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy.

Reduction of 10-Methylacridinium Perchlorate by [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]Tl in MeOH [Tp<sup>But,Me</sup>]Tl (3 mg, 0.005 mmol) was added to a solution of 10-methylacridinium perchlorate (3 mg, 0.01 mmol) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (*ca.* 0.6 mL). The reaction was monitored by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy which demonstrated the presence of 10-methylacridan and 3-*tert*-butyl-5-methylpyrazole upon mixing. The mixture was heated at 80°C for 2.5 hours to complete the reaction forming a *ca.* 1:3 molar ratio of 10-methylacridan and 3-*tert*-butyl-

5-methylpyrazole. The analogous reaction between deuterium labeled [DTp<sup>But,Me</sup>]Tl and 10-methylacridinium perchlorate in CH<sub>3</sub>OH was monitored by <sup>2</sup>H NMR spectroscopy, confirming that deuterium was incorporated into the methylene group.

## Reaction of {[Tp<sup>Bu<sup>t</sup>,Me</sup>]ZnOH<sub>2</sub>}[HOB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] towards Methanol

- (a) A solution of  $\{[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnOH_2\}[HOB(C_6F_5)_3]$  (ca. 3 mg) in CD<sub>3</sub>OD (ca. 0.6 mL) was monitored by  ${}^1H$  NMR and  ${}^{19}F$  spectroscopy. After ca. 30 minutes,  ${}^1H$  NMR spectroscopy demonstrated the presence of  $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnH$ ,  ${}^6$  3-tert-butyl-5-methylpyrazole, and an unidentified complex which has a spectrum consistent with  $\{[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnL\}^+$ , where L is possibly MeOH or H<sub>2</sub>O. Over a period of hours, small quantities of  $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnF^7$  were generated as the mixture decomposed.  ${}^1H$  NMR spectrum of  $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnH$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 1.37 [s, 3(C(C $\underline{H}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>)], 2.39 [s, 3(C $\underline{H}_3$ )], 4.56 [s, Zn $\underline{H}$ ] 5.83 [s, 3(C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> $\underline{H}$ )],  $\underline{H}B$  not observed.  ${}^1H$  NMR spectrum of  $[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnF$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 1.35 [s, 3(C(C $\underline{H}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>)], 2.41 [s, 3(C $\underline{H}_3$ )], 5.91 [d, J = 0.3, 3(C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> $\underline{H}$ )],  $\underline{H}B$  not observed.  ${}^1H$  NMR spectrum of  $\{[Tp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnL\}^+$  (CD<sub>3</sub>OD): 1.38 [s, 3(C(C $\underline{H}_3$ )<sub>3</sub>)], 2.40 [s, 3(C $\underline{H}_3$ )], 5.95 [s, 3(C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>2</sub> $\underline{H}$ )],  $\underline{H}B$  not observed.
- (b) A similar experiment was performed with the deuterium labeled  $\{ [Tp^{Bu^t,Me}] ZnOD_2 \} [DOB(C_6F_5)_3] \text{ in } CD_3OD. \text{ Formation of the protio complex } \\ [Tp^{Bu^t,Me}] ZnH \text{ was demonstrated by $^1$H NMR spectroscopy.}$
- (c) An analogous experiment was performed with the deuterium labeled complex,  $\{[DTp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnOH_2\}[HOB(C_6F_5)_3], \text{ in }CD_3OD. \text{ Formation of the deutero complex} \\ [DTp^{Bu^t,Me}]ZnD \text{ was demonstrated by removing the volatile components and obtaining the }^2H \text{ NMR spectrum in }C_6H_6.$

## References

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- (5) The initial spectrum at room temperature in CD<sub>3</sub>OD indicated the presence of 10-methylacridan and 3-*tert*-butyl-5-methylpyrazole.
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- (7) (a) Kläui, W.; Schilde, U.; Schmidt, M. Inorg. Chem. 1997, 36, 1598-1601.
  - (b) The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data that was reported in the literature is incorrect due to an error in the solvent referencing (Kläui, W., personal communication).











