Dalton Transactions

PAPER

Cite this: Dalton Trans., 2015, 44, 395

Antimony(III) and bismuth(III) amides containing pendant N-donor groups – a combined experimental and theoretical study†

Iva Vránová,^a Roman Jambor,^a Aleš Růžička,^a Alexander Hoffmann,^b Sonja Herres-Pawlis^b and Libor Dostál*^a

N,N- and N,N,N-chelated antimony(III) and bismuth(III) chlorides $L^{1-3}MCl_2$ **1–4** [for L^1 : M = Sb (**1**), for L^2 : M = Sb (2) and for L³: M = Sb (3) and Bi (4)], containing ligands L¹⁻³ derived from the pyrrole ring (where $L^1 = C_4H_3N-2-(CH=N-2^{\prime},6^{\prime}-iPr_2C_6H_3), L^2 = C_4H_2N-2,5-(CH_2NMe_2)_2, L^3 = C_4H_2N-2,5-(CH_2NC_4H_8)_2),$ were prepared by the treatment of lithium precursors with SbCl₃ or BiCl₃. Molecular structures of $1-4$ were described both in solution (NMR spectroscopy) and in the solid state (single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis). Structures of 1–4 were also subjected to a density functional theory study.

Received 3rd September 2014, Accepted 27th October 2014

DOI: 10.1039/c4dt02692f

<www.rsc.org/dalton>

Introduction

Since the first reports dealing with monoanionic pincer-type ligands by Moulton et al.¹ and van Koten et al.² in 1976 and 1978, respectively, the chemistry of these ligands has been unambiguously developed to be one of the most exciting and studied fields of organometallic chemistry.³ Although the initial interest was devoted mainly to transition metals, a significant breakthrough in the pincer main group chemistry was achieved during the last few years including several landmark discoveries.4 We have been interested for some time in the utilization of pincer-type ligands in the field of heavier group 15 elements (Sb and Bi). The majority of these compounds contains classical monoanionic (carbanionic) N, C, N^5 or O, C, O^6 ligands and only a few examples of compounds containing the $N, C, O⁷$ type are known. Noteworthily, there also exists rather a rich chemistry of antimony and bismuth complexes containing neutral donating ligands and significant progress has been achieved in this field.⁸ PAPER
 Published on 29 October 2014.
 Published on 29 October 2014.
 **Published experimental and theoretical study⁺

Sonja Herres-Pavid⁵ and Libor Dostat¹⁹

WA Vránová² Roman Jambor,² Ales Rožička,² Alexand**

There exists a significant amount of structurally characterized antimony and bismuth amides⁹ including interesting examples of related amidinates and β-diketiminates.¹⁰ Nevertheless, there are, to the best of our knowledge, no examples of antimony or bismuth compounds supported by a monoanionic N,N,N pincer-type ligand bonded to the central metal

Fig. 1 Ligands used in this study.

via a nitrogen–metal bond.¹¹ We herein report the synthesis and structure of $N, N-$ and N, N, N -chelated antimony(III) and bismuth(III) chlorides containing ligands L^{1-3} derived from the pyrrole ring (Fig. 1). Noteworthily, analogous ligands were used for stabilization of group 13 elements¹² and only recently Stalke et al. have reported their first utilization in the field of heavier tetrylenes.¹³ In this study, the structure of compounds 1–4 (Scheme 1) is described both in solution and in the solid state and is subjected to the theoretical investigation with particular emphasis on the description of present metal–nitrogen bonds.

Results and discussion

The ligand-precursors $L^{1-3}H$ were prepared according to published procedures.^{13,14} Parent pyrroles were first lithiated by n BuLi at low temperature (-78 °C) and the observed lithium precursors were in situ treated with one molar equivalent of $SbCl₃$ (or BiCl₃) giving 1–4 (Scheme 1). 1–4 were obtained as colourless (2 and 3) or yellow crystals (1 and 4) in reasonable yields (53–64%). 1 is well soluble in toluene, while the pincer

^aDepartment of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, University of Pardubice, Studentská 573, CZ-532 10 Pardubice, Czech Republic. E-mail: libor.dostal@upce.cz; Fax: +420466037068; Tel: +420466037163

^bDepartment Chemie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Butenandtstr. 5-13, Haus D, 81377 München, Germany

[†]CCDC 1017116-1017119. For crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: 10.1039/c4dt02692f

Scheme 1 Preparation of 1-4.

compounds 2–4 have only limited solubility in aromatic solvents, but are soluble in chlorinated solvents. Noteworthily, the reaction between L^1L i and $Bicl_3$ afforded only a complicated mixture of highly sensitive products. In the case of L^2Li , the treatment with $BiCl₃$ resulted in the formation of totally insoluble yellow powder only. The ligand $L³$ had to be utilized to improve the solubility of the bismuth compounds, thus leading to 4. The 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra of 1-4 revealed expected sets of signals consistent with the proposed structures (Scheme 1; see the Experimental section). Thus, one set of signals was observed for L^1 in ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 1, where one septet for CH and two doublets for CH_3 groups were detected in the corresponding ¹H NMR spectrum for the flanking iPr groups. The 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra of pincer compounds 2–4 revealed only one signal for the methylene $CH₂N$ group in the whole studied temperature range (295–220 K in CDCl3 for ¹ H NMR spectra), thereby suggesting symmetrical and rigid coordination of the ligand arms as observed in the solid state (vide infra). This solution behaviour of 2-4 resembles that established for their N, C, N analogues.^{5,15}

Molecular structures of 1–4 were determined using a singlecrystal X-ray diffraction analysis and are depicted together with related structural parameters in Fig. 2 and 3. The crystallographic data are given in the Experimental section.

The $N(1)$ –Sb (1) bond lengths amount to 2.0810 (15) (1) , $2.033(3)$ [2.031(3) for the second independent molecule of 2] and 2.026(3) \AA (3) and these values are only slightly shorter than the sum of the covalent radii of the corresponding atoms $\sum_{\text{rcov}}(Sb, N) = 2.11 \text{ Å}^{16}$ The Bi(1)–N(1) bond length of 2.129(5) Å also coincides with $\sum_{\text{rcov}}(Bi, N) = 2.22 \text{ Å}^{16}$ Pendant nitrogen functionalities are coordinated to the central atoms in 1–4. The Sb(1)–N(2) bond distance 2.3234(17) Å in 1 is significantly shorter than the value observed in the C,N-chelated analogue $[2-C_6H_4(CH=N-2', 6'-iPr_2C_6H_3)]SbCl_2$ [2.416(2) Å]¹⁷ and the geo-

Fig. 2 ORTEP plot of molecules of 1 (left) and 2 (right, one the of two independent molecules is shown and dichloromethane solvate molecules were omitted for clarity). Anisotropic displacement parameters are depicted at the 40% probability level. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): 1: Sb(1)–N(1) 2.0810(15), Sb(1)–N(2) 2.3234(17), Sb(1)–Cl(1) 2.3691(6), Sb(1)–Cl(2) 2.5616(6), N(1)– Sb(1)–N(2) 73.90(6), Cl(1)–Sb(1)–Cl(2) 92.21(2), N(2)–Sb(1)–Cl(2) 161.35(4). 2: (structural data for the second independent molecule are given in brackets) Sb(1)–N(1) 2.033(3) [2.032(3)], Sb(1)–N(2) 2.446(3) [2.458(3)], Sb(1)–N(3) 2.462(3) [2.421(3)], Sb(1)–Cl(1) 2.5573(10) [2.5583(10)], Sb(1)– Cl(2) 2.6181(10) [2.6061(11)], N(2)–Sb(1)–N(3) 144.32(9) [144.38(10)], Cl(1)–Sb(1)–Cl(2) 173.54(3) [172.89 (3)].

Fig. 3 ORTEP plot of molecules of 3 (left) and 4 (right). Anisotropic displacement parameters are depicted at the 40% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and the dichloromethane solvate molecule (in 3) were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): 3: Sb(1)–N(1) 2.026(3), Sb(1)–N(2) 2.452(2), Sb(1)–N(3) 2.454(2), Sb(1)–Cl(1) 2.5905(7), Sb(1)–Cl(2) 2.5609(6), N(2)–Sb(1)–N(3) 145.06(10), Cl(1)–Sb(1)–Cl(2) 171.85(3). 4: Bi(1)–N(1) 2.129(5), Bi(1)–N(2) 2.505(7), Bi(1)–N(3) 2.584(6), Bi(1)–Cl(1) 2.644(3), Bi(1)–Cl(2) 2.703(3), N(2)–Bi(1)–N(3) 139.51(17), Cl(1)–Bi(1)–Cl(2) 178.98(5).

metry around the central antimony atom in 1 is best described as a see-saw type. $N \rightarrow Sb$ interactions in 2 and 3 [in the range 2.421(3)–2.461(3) Å] are close to the values observed in a classical N,C,N pincer compound $\left[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-}2,\text{6}\text{-}\left(\text{CH}_2\text{NMe}_2\right)\right]$ SbCl₂¹⁸ [2.491(9) and 2.422(8) Å]. Analogously, the N \rightarrow Bi intramolecular interactions in 4 [2.505(7) and 2.584(6) \AA] are similar to the *N*,*C*,*N* chelated analogues: $\left[\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{-}2,\text{6}\text{-}\left(\text{CH}_2\text{N}\text{M}\text{e}_2\right)_2\right]\text{BiCl}_2$ ¹⁵ [2.561(3) and 2.570(4) \AA] and {C₆H₃-2,6-[CH₂N- $\left[\text{CH}_{2}\text{CH}_{2}\right]_{2}$ NMe $\left]_{2}\right\}$ BiCl₂¹⁹ [2.583(5) and 2.563(4) Å]. The coordination polyhedron around the central atoms in 2–4 may be described as a distorted pseudo-octahedron with the nitrogen (pyrrole) atom placed in the apical position, while the remaining nitrogen and chlorine atoms form the basal plane. The stereochemically active lone pair (vide further discussion) of central atoms is then located in the trans position to the

Table 1 Bond lengths [Å] in 1–4 (Gaussian09, def2-TZVP)

			Table 1 Bond lengths [A] in 1-4 (Gaussian09, def2-TZVP)					Table 3 Wiberg bond indices in 1-4 (M06-2X/def2-TZVP)	
	BP86	$M06-L$	$M06-2X$	Expr.		$1 (M = Sb)$	$2 (M = Sb)$	$3 (M = Sb)$	$4(M = Bi)$
	$1 (M = Sb)$				$M-N(1)$	0.53	0.49	0.47	0.46
$M-N(1)$	2.126	2.116	2.081	2.0810(15)	$M-N(2)$	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.21
$M-N(2)$	2.522	2.493	2.323	2.3234(17)	$M-N(3)$		0.25	0.24	0.21
$M-Cl(1)$	2.389	2.370	2.369	2.3691(6)	$M-Cl(1)$	0.65	0.49	0.48	0.45
$M-Cl(2)$	2.464	2.441	2.561	2.5616(6)	$M-Cl(2)$	0.75	0.49	0.48	0.43
	$2 (M = Sb)$								
$M-N(1)$	2.072	2.059	2.033	2.033(3)					
$M-N(2)$	2.552	2.521	2.446	2.446(3)					
$M-N(3)$	2.552	2.521	2.461	2.462(3)					
$M-Cl(1)$	2.593	2.580	2.557	2.5573(10)					
$M-Cl(2)$	2.593 $3 (M = Sb)$	2.580	2.618	2.6181(10)					
$M-N(1)$	2.070	2.059	2.026	2.026(3)					
$M-N(2)$	2.553	2.518	2.452	2.452(2)					
$M-N(3)$	2.554	2.518	2.454	2.454(2)			2	3	
$M-Cl(1)$	2.600	2.588	2.561	2.5609(6)					
$M-Cl(2)$	2.600	2.588	2.591	2.5905(7)		Fig. 4 Presentation of lone pairs of central atoms in 1-4.			
	$4 (M = Bi)$								
$M-N(1)$	2.169	2.161	2.129	2.129(5)					
$M-N(2)$	2.589	2.551	2.505	2.505(7)				The natural charges show that the pyrrole donor is more	
$M-N(3)$	2.643	2.603	2.584	2.584(6)				negatively charged compared to the other N donors (as	
$M-Cl(1)$	2.673	2.671	2.703	2.644(3)				expected). However, taking into consideration that pyrrole	
$M-Cl(2)$	2.663	2.653	2.644	2.703(3)					
								coordinates as anionic ligands, the charge difference is not so large. The Wiberg bond index displays clearly that the pyrrole	
			pyrrole nitrogen atom. This spatial arrangement closely					donor possesses almost the double donor strength than the	
			resembles that usually found in the N,C,N chelated					imine (1) or amine $(2-4)$ donors: the pyrrole-metal bond has a	
								WBI of 0.53-0.46 whereas the imine/amine-metal bond is esti-	
counterparts. ¹⁷⁻¹⁹									
			As 1-4 represent, to the best of our knowledge, rare					mated to a WBI of only 0.21-0.25. Finally, the stereochemically	
			examples of N,N- and N,N,N-chelated antimony and bismuth					active lone pair of central atoms is then located in the trans	
								position to the pyrrole nitrogen atom in all four complexes	
	compounds, they were subjected to the theoretical study with								
			the aim to describe in detail the bonding situation in these			(Fig. 4). The lone pair has a mixed s and p character which			
			compounds. For organometallic compounds, we have found					gives the stereochemical preference (p-character in percent: 1	
								19%, 2: 15%, 3: 14%, 4: 8%). 8% for the bismuth compound 4	
			that BP86/def2-TZVP yield very reasonable results. ²⁰ For the						
			compounds presented here, this is not the case. Table 1 sum-					appears to be not much but gives a direction to the spherical	
			marizes the most important bond lengths for all four com-			s-orbital contribution.			
			pounds and a comparison with the experimental values.						
			It appears that BP86 overestimates strongly all M-N bonds						

It appears that BP86 overestimates strongly all M–N bonds such that the description is not convincing. In the last year, the pure functional M06-L came up, which is highly useful for organometallic chemistry as well, 21 but this functional fails in the correct description of the structures. Hence, we tried the hybrid functional M06-2X which finally gave very good results in accordance with the experimental data. Then, we investigated all the compounds by natural bond orbital analysis using NBO6.0. Besides the natural charges in Table 2, we analysed the Wiberg bond indices (Table 3). The second order perturbation theory predicted all characteristic M–N bonds to be covalent two-electron–two centre bonds.

Table 3 Wiberg bond indices in 1–4 (M06-2X/def2-TZVP)

	$1 (M = Sb)$	$2 (M = Sb)$	$3 (M = Sb)$	$4 (M = Bi)$
$M-N(1)$	0.53	0.49	0.47	0.46
$M-N(2)$	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.21
$M-N(3)$		0.25	0.24	0.21
$M-Cl(1)$	0.65	0.49	0.48	0.45
$M-Cl(2)$	0.75	0.49	0.48	0.43

Fig. 4 Presentation of lone pairs of central atoms in 1–4.

Conclusions

In conclusion, N,N- and N,N,N-chelated antimony and bismuth compounds 1–4 were prepared and their structures were described both from an experimental and a theoretical point of view. It was shown that the metal–nitrogen(pyrrole) bond is a covalent two-electron–two centre bond. The strength of additional $N \rightarrow M$ (M = Sb or Bi) intramolecular interactions is well comparable with the carbanionic N, C, N analogues, thereby proving promising potential of L^{1-3} and related ligands for stabilization of antimony and bismuth compounds similar to classical pincer-type ligands. The reactivity of 1–4 and analogous compounds is currently under investigation.

Experimental

General procedures

All manipulations were carried out under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk tube techniques. All solvents were dried by standard procedures or using a Pure Solv–Innovative Technology equipment. C_6D_6 and CDCl₃ were distilled from LiAlH₄ and degassed before use. The 1 H, 13 C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer, using a 5 mm tunable broadband probe. Appropriate chemical shifts in 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra were related to the residual signals of the solvent $[CDCl_3: \delta(^1H) = 7.27$ ppm and $\delta(^{13}C) =$ 77.23 ppm, C_6D_6 : $\delta(^1H)$ = 7.16 ppm, $\delta(^{13}C)$ = 128.39 ppm]. Elemental analyses were performed by an LECO-CHNS-932 analyser.

Computational details

The calculations were performed with Gaussian09²² by using the BP86²³ and M06-L²⁴ pure functional and with the hybrid functional M06-2 X^{24} with the Ahlrichs def2-TZVP basis set,²⁵ which includes effective core potentials on antimony and bismuth. Tight conversion criteria were applied. Both stationary points were characterized by frequency analysis and show the correct number of negative eigenvalues (zero for a local minimum). Based on the geometry obtained by the M06-2X/ def2-TZVP method, a NBO analysis was performed by using this method with NBO 6.0 ²⁶ The Wiberg indices were used as implemented in Gaussian09.²²

Syntheses

Synthesis of L¹SbCl₂ (1). Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (2.6 mL, 4.2 mmol, 1.6 M solution) was added to a pre-cooled (−80 °C) solution of $L¹H$ (1.064 g, 4.2 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and then stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting white suspension of L¹Li was added to a pre-cooled solution (-40 °C) of SbCl₃ (0.954 g, 4.2 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated in vacuo. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with warm toluene (30 mL, 60 °C) and the yellow extract was slightly concentrated and after storage of this solution for several days at −30 °C gave yellow single-crystals of 1, which were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.15 g (62%). M.p. 151 °C. Anal. calc. for $C_{17}H_{21}Cl_2N_2Sb$ (M_W 446.03): C, 45.8; H, 4.8; Found: C, 45.5; H, 4.6%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 0.98 (d, 6H, CH(CH3)2), 1.13 (d, 6H, CH(CH3)2), 2.92 (sept, 2H, CH- $(CH_3)_2$, 6.23 (dd, 1H, pyrrole CH), 6.60 (dd, 1H, pyrrole CH), 7.08 (m, 3H, C_6H_3), 7.58 (d, 1H, CH=N), 8.11 (d, 1H, pyrrole CH). ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, C₆D₆): δ 24.5 (s, CH(CH₃)₂), 26.0 $(s, CH(CH₃)₂), 29.1 (s, CH(CH₃)₂), 115.5 (s, pyrrole CH), 123.2$ (s, pyrrole CH), 124.6 (s, C_6H_3), 127.9 (s, C_6H_3), 135.2 (s, pyrrole C), 136.1 (s, pyrrole CH), 141.4 (s, C₆H₃), 142.4 (s, C_6H_3 , 157.2 (s, CH=N).

Synthesis of L²SbCl₂ (2). Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (5.2 mL, 8.3 mmol, 1.6 M solution) was added to a pre-cooled (−80 °C) solution of L^2H (1.510 g, 8.3 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellow solution was added to a pre-cooled solution (−40 °C) of SbCl₃ (1.900 g, 8.3 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated in vacuo. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the rosy extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at −30 °C gave colourless singlecrystals of 2, which were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.64 g (53%). M.p. 124 °C. Anal. calc. for $C_{10}H_{18}Cl_2N_3Sb$ (M_{W} 372.94): C, 32.2; H, 4.9; Found: C, 32.4; H, 4.7%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.88 (s, 12H, N(CH₃)₂), 4.03 (s, 4H, CH₂N), 6.00 (s, 2H, pyrrole CH). ¹³C NMR $(100.61 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$: δ 47.5 (s, N(CH₃)₂), 58.1 (s, CH₂N), 107.3 (s, pyrrole CH), 131.2 (s, pyrrole C).

Synthesis of L³SbCl₂ (3). Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (2.7 mL, 4.4 mmol, 1.6 M solution) was added to a pre-cooled (−80 °C) solution of L^3H (1.030 g, 4.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellowish suspension of L³Li was added to a pre-cooled solution (−40 °C) of SbCl₃ (1.006 g, 4.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated in vacuo. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the rosy extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at −30 °C gave colourless single-crystals of 3, which were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.21 g (64%). M.p. 156 °C. Anal. calc. for $C_{14}H_{22}Cl_2N_3Sb$ (M_W 425.01): C, 39.6; H, 5.2; Found: C, 39.8; H, 5.4%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.05 (m, 8H, NC₄H₈), 2.83 $(m, 4H, NC₄H₈), 4.00 (m, 4H, NC₄H₈), 4.18 (s, 4H, CH₂N), 6.00$ (s, 2H, pyrrole CH). ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.2 (s, NC_4H_8 , 54.8 (s, CH_2N), 56.3 (s, NC_4H_8), 106.5 (s, pyrrole CH), 131.4 (s, pyrrole C). **Poper**
 Poperation of the control on 2014. We distribute the control of a which was colled by Ludwig Maximid and the
 Control on 2014. The control on 2014. The control of the spectra on 2014. The control of a subset

Synthesis of L³BiCl₂ (4). Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (3.4 mL, 5.4 mmol, 1.6 M solution) was added to a pre-cooled (−80 °C) solution of $L³H$ (1.260 g, 5.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellow suspension was added to a pre-cooled solution $(-40 \degree C)$ of BiCl₃ (1.701 g, 5.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated in vacuo. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the yellow extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at −30 °C gave yellow-orange single crystals of 4, which were collected by filtration and dried in vacuo. Yield: 1.62 g (59%). M.p. 154 °C. Anal. calc. for $C_{14}H_{22}Cl_2N_3Bi$ (M_W 512.23): C, 32.8; H, 4.3; Found: C, 32.6; H, 4.4%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.03 (m, 8H, NC₄H₈), 3.17 $(m, 4H, NC₄H₈), 4.08 (m, 4H, NC₄H₈), 4.53 (s, 4H, CH₂N), 6.03$ (s, 2H, pyrrole CH). ¹³C NMR (100.61 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.5 (s, NC_4H_8), 56.0 (s, NC_4H_8), 56.7 (s, CH_2N), 107.6 (s, pyrrole CH), 139.0 (s, pyrrole C).

X-ray crystallography

Suitable single-crystals of 1–4 were mounted on a glass fibre with an oil and measured on a four-circle diffractometer KappaCCD with a CCD area detector by monochromatized MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at 150(1) K. The numerical²⁷ absorption corrections from the crystal shape were applied for all crystals. The structures were solved by the direct method $(SIR92)^{28}$ and refined by a full matrix least squares procedure based on F2 (SHELXL97). 29 Hydrogen atoms were fixed into idealized positions (riding model) and assigned temperature factors $H_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2 U_{\text{eq}}$ (pivot atom) or of 1.5 U_{eq} for the methyl moiety with C–H = 0.96, 0.97, and 0.93 Å for methyl,

methylene, and hydrogen atoms in the aromatic ring, respectively. The final difference maps displayed no peaks of chemical significance as the highest peaks and the holes are in close vicinity (∼1 Å) of heavy atoms. Slightly disordered dichloromethane, used as a solvent in the case of 2, was treated by standard procedures, where one of the chlorine atoms is refined into two positions with a 60/40 occupancy ratio. Crystallographic data for structural analysis are summarized below and has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC no. 1017116–1017119.

Crystallographic data for 1. C₁₇H₂₁Cl₂N₂Sb, $M = 446.01$, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, $a = 11.1671(7)$, $b = 10.8550(5)$, $c = 17.3739(7)$ Å, $\beta = 119.731(4)^\circ$, $V = 1828.81(18)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $T = 150(1)$ K, 23 704 total reflections, 5544 independent reflections $(R_{int} =$ 0.027, R_1 (obs. data) = 0.021, w R_2 (all data) 0.050), $S = 1.139$, Δρ, max., min. [e Å−³] 0.571, −0.786, CCDC 1017116.

Crystallographic data for 2. $C_{10}H_{18}Cl_2N_3Sb \cdot CH_2Cl_2$, $M =$ 457.85, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, $a = 8.6800(7)$, $b = 26.242(2)$, $c =$ 16.6360(12) Å, β = 113.379(8)°, $V = 3478.3(5)$ Å³, Z = 8, T = 150(1) K, 24 447 total reflections, 7647 independent reflections $(R_{\text{int}} = 0.045, R_1 \text{ (obs. data)} = 0.031, \text{ wR}_2 \text{ (all data)} 0.071, S =$ 1.180, Δρ, max., min. [e Å−³] 0.949, −1.162, CCDC 1017119.

Crystallographic data for 3. $2(C_{14}H_{22}Cl_2N_3Sb) \cdot CH_2Cl_2$, $M =$ 934.92, monoclinic, C2, $a = 19.8552(4)$, $b = 8.2449(3)$, $c =$ 14.0093(6) Å, $\beta = 130.412(4)$ °, $V = 1746.19(15)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $T =$ 150(1) K, 6524 total reflections, 3739 independent reflections $(R_{\text{int}} = 0.026, R_1 \text{ (obs. data)} = 0.016, \text{ wR}_2 \text{ (all data)} 0.042, S =$ 1.146, Δρ, max., min. [e Å−³] 0.414, −0.815, CCDC 1017117.

Crystallographic data for 4. $C_{14}H_{22}BiCl_2N_3$, $M = 512.23$, monoclinic, $P2_1/c$, $a = 8.7020(5)$, $b = 20.6791(14)$, $c = 12.1480(7)$ Å, β = 132.669(5)°, V = 1607.3(2) Å 3 , Z = 4, T = 150(1) K, 13 439 total reflections, 3650 independent reflections ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.039$, R_1) (obs. data) = 0.042, wR₂ (all data) 0.096), $S = 1.216$, $\Delta \rho$, max., min. [e Å−³] 3.800, −3.006, CCDC 1017118.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the Grant agency of the Czech Republic project no. P207/12/0223. The research leading to these results has partially been supported by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. 312579 (ER-flow). Generous grants of computing time and the Paderborn Centre for Parallel Computing PC^2 are gratefully acknowledged.

Notes and references

- 1 C. J. Moulton and B. L. Shaw, J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans., 1976, 1020.
- 2 G. van Koten, J. T. B. H. Jastrzebski, J. G. Noltes, A. L. Spek and J. C. Schoone, J. Organomet. Chem., 1978, 148, 233.
- 3 For reviews see: (a) M. Albrecht and G. van Koten, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2001, 40, 3751; (b) M. E. van der Boom and D. Milstein, Chem. Rev., 2003, 103, 1759; (c) The chemistry of

pincer compounds, ed. D. Morales – Morales and C. M. Jensen, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2007; (d) I. Moreno, R. SanMartin, B. Ines, M. T. Herrero and E. Domínguez, Curr. Org. Chem., 2009, 13, 878; (e) D. Milstein, Top. Catal., 2010, 53, 915.

- 4 For recent examples see: (a) S. Khan, P. P. Samuel, R. Michel, J. M. Dieterich, R. A. Mata, J.-P. Demers, A. Lange, H. W. Roesky and D. Stalke, Chem. Commun., 2012, 48, 4890; (b) S. Khan, R. Michel, J. M. Dieterich, R. A. Mata, H. W. Roesky, J.-P. Demers, A. Lange and D. Stalke, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2011, 133, 17889; (c) P. Šimon, F. De Proft, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and L. Dostál, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2010, 49, 5468; (d) R. Jambor, B. Kašná, K. N. Kirschner, M. Schürmann and K. Jurkschat, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2008, 47, 1650; (e) M. Bouška, L. Dostál, Z. Padělková, S. Herres-Pawlis, K. Jurkschat, A. Lyčka and R. Jambor, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2012, 51, 3478; (f) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, A. Lyčka, J. Brus and F. De Proft, Organometallics, 2008, 27, 6059; (g) S. P. Chia, H. W. Xi, Y. X. Li, K. H. Lim and C.-W. So, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2013, 52, 6298; (h) S. P. Chia, R. Ganguly, Y. Li and C.-W. So, Organometallics, 2012, 31, 6415; (i) M. Wagner, M. Zoller, W. Hiller, M. H. Prosenc and K. Juskschat, Chem. Commun., 2013, 49, 8925; (j) M. Wagner, C. Dietz, S. G. Koller, C. Strohmann and K. Juskschat, Inorg. Chem., 2012, 51, 6851. Datter Transactions (see Also

including the constraint interactions (see Also Realisations (see Also Realisations 1992). The constraint interactions and interactions universitations and the second by Ludwig Maximilian (s
	- 5 For example see: (a) L. Balazs, H. J. Breunig, E. Lork, A. Soran and C. Silvestru, Inorg. Chem., 2006, 45, 2341; (b) I. J. Casely, J. W. Ziller, B. J. Mincher and J. W. Evans, Inorg. Chem., 2011, 50, 1513; (c) I. J. Casely, J. W. Ziller, M. Fang, F. Furche and J. W. Evans, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2011, 133, 5244; (d) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and J. Holeček, Organometallics, 2008, 27, 2169; (e) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, V. Lochař, L. Beneš and F. De Proft, Inorg. Chem., 2009, 48, 10495; (f) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, E. Černošková, L. Beneš and F. De Proft, Organometallics, 2010, 29, 4486; (g) H. J. Breunig, M. G. Nema, C. Silvestru, A. P. Soran and R. Varga, Dalton Trans., 2010, 39, 11277; (h) P. Šimon, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and L. Dostál, Organometallics, 2013, 32, 239; (i) D. R. Kindra, I. J. Casely, M. E. Fieser, J. W. Ziller, F. Furche and J. W. Evans, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2013, 135, 7777; (j) C. I. Rat, C. Silvestru and H. J. Breunig, Coord. Chem. Rev., 2013, 257, 818, and references cited therein.
	- 6 (a) L. Dostál, I. Císařová, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko and J. Holeček, Organometallics, 2006, 25, 4366; (b) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, I. Císařová and J. Holeček, J. Fluorine Chem., 2008, 129, 167; (c) L. Dostál, P. Novák, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, I. Císařová, R. Jirásko and J. Holeček, Organometallics, 2007, 26, 2911; (d) M. Chovancová, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, I. Císařová and L. Dostál, Organometallics, 2009, 28, 1934; (e) K. Peveling, M. Schurmann, S. Herres-Pawlis, C. Silvestru and K. Jurkschat, Organometallics, 2011, 30, 5181.
- 7 (a) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, J. Holeček and F. De Proft, Dalton Trans., 2011, 40, 8922; (b) J. Vrána, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, J. Holeček and L. Dostál, Collect. Czech. Chem., 2011, 40, 8922; (c) J. Vrána, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, A. Lyčka and L. Dostál, J. Organomet. Chem., 2012, 718, 78.
- 8 For relevant and recent examples see: (a) S. S. Chitnis, N. Burford, R. McDonald and M. J. Ferguson, Inorg. Chem., 2014, 53, 5359; (b) W. Clegg, M. R. J. Elsegood, V. Graham, N. C. Norman, N. L. Pickett and K. Tavakkoli, J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans., 1994, 1743; (c) W. Clegg, M. R. J. Elsegood, N. C. Norman and N. L. Pickett, J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans., 1994, 1753; (d) A. R. J. Genge, N. J. Hill, W. Levason and G. Reid, J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans., 2001, 1007; (e) S. S. Chitnis, B. Peters, E. Conrad, N. Burford, R. McDonald and M. J. Ferguson, Chem. Commun., 2011, 47, 12331; (f) J. L. Dutton and P. J. Ragogna, Coord. Chem. Rev., 2011, 255, 1414, and references cited therein.
- 9 For example see: (a) B. Nekoueishahruki, P. P. Sarish, H. W. Roesky, D. Stern, C. Schulzke and D. Stalke, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2009, 48, 1; (b) D. Michalik, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2010, 49, 7575; (c) H. A. Spinney, I. Korobkov, G. A. DiLabio, G. A. P. Yap and D. S. Richeson, Organometallics, 2007, 26, 4972; (d) M. Lehrnann, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2012, 51, 8087; (e) C. Hering, M. Lehrnann, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, Inorg. Chem., 2012, 51, 8112.
- 10 For example see: (a) B. Lyhs, S. Schulz, U. Westphal, D. Bläser, R. Boese and M. Bolte, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2009, 2247; (b) B. Lyhs, D. Bläser, C. Wölper and S. Schulz, Chem. – Eur. J., 2011, 17, 4914; (c) N. Burford, M. Déon, P. J. Ragogna, R. McDonald and M. J. Ferguson, Inorg. Chem., 2004, 43, 734.
- 11 There are also numerous examples of main group element complexes stabilized by neutral N,N,N ligands. For recent examples see: (a) A. P. Singh, H. W. Roesky, E. Carl, D. Stalke, J. P. Demers and A. Lange, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2012, 134, 4998; (b) E. Magdzinski, P. Gobbo, M. S. Workentin and P. J. Ragogna, Inorg. Chem., 2012, 51, 8425; (c) J. Flock, A. Slujanovic, A. Torvisco, W. Schoefberger, B. Gerke, R. Pottgen, R. C. Fischer and M. Flock, Chem. – Eur. J., 2013, 19, 15504; (d) T. Chu, L. Belding, A. van der Art, T. Dudding, I. Korobkov and G. I. Nikonov, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2014, 53, 2711.
- 12 For example see: (a) J.-H. Huang, H.-J. Chen, J.-C. Chang, C.-C. Zhou, G.-H. Lee and S.-M. Peng, Organometallics, 2001, 20, 2647; (b) J.-C. Chang, Y.-C. Chen, A. Datta, C.-H. Lin, C.-S. Hsiao and J.-H. Huang, J. Organomet. Chem., 2011, 696, 3673; (c) J.-C. Chang, C.-H. Hung and J.-H. Huang, Organometallics, 2001, 20, 4445; (d) P.-C. Kuo, J.-H. Huang, C.-H. Hung, G.-H. Lee and S.-M. Peng, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2003, 1440.
- 13 C. Maaβ, D. Andrada, R. A. Mata, R. Herbst-Irmer and D. Stalke, Inorg. Chem., 2013, 52, 9539.
- 14 (a) Y. Yang, B. Liu, K. Lv, W. Gao, D. Cui, X. Chen and X. Jing, Organometallics, 2007, 26, 4574; (b) I. T. Kim and R. L. Elsenbaumer, Tetrahedron Lett., 1998, 39, 1087.
- 15 A. P. Soran, C. Silvestru, H. J. Breunig, G. Balázs and J. C. Green, Organometallics, 2007, 26, 1196.
- 16 (a) P. Pyykkö and M. Atsumi, Chem. Eur. J., 2009, 15, 186; (b) P. Pyykkö and M. Atsumi, Chem. – Eur. J., 2009, 15, 12770; (c) P. Pyykkö, S. Riedel and M. Patzschke, Chem. – Eur. J., 2005, 11, 3511.
- 17 L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and P. Šimon, Eur. J. Inorg. Chem., 2011, 2380.
- 18 D. A. Atwood, A. H. Cowley and J. Ruiz, Inorg. Chim. Acta, 1992, 198–200, 271.
- 19 A. P. Soran, H. J. Breunig, V. Lippolis, M. Arca and C. Silvestru, Dalton Trans., 2009, 77.
- 20 M. Bouška, L. Dostál, Z. Padělková, A. Lyčka, S. Herres-Pawlis, K. Jurkschat and R. Jambor, Angew. Chem., Int. Ed., 2012, 51, 3478.
- 21 R. Peverati and D. G. Truhlar, Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London, Ser. A, 2014, 372, 1471.
- 22 M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D. J. Fox, GAUSSIAN 09 (Revision D.01), Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2013. Poper Publish R. Interior, A. Richards J. Holes, L. (19) Y. Y. (2003, D. 2014, D. 2014, X. (2003, D. 2014, Z. (2003, D. 2014, Z
	- 23 (a) A. D. J. Becke, Chem. Phys., 1993, 98, 5648; (b) J. P. Perdew, Phys. Rev. B: Condens. Matter, 1986, 33, 8822.
	- 24 Y. Zhao and D. G. Truhlar, J. Chem. Phys., 2006, 125, 194101.
	- 25 F. Weigend and R. Ahlrichs, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2005, 7, 3297.
	- 26 E. D. Glendening, C. R. Landis and F. Weinhold, J. Comput. Chem., 2013, 1429.
	- 27 P. Coppens, in Crystallographic Computing, ed. F. R. Ahmed, S. R. Hall and C. P. Huber, Munksgaard, Copenhagen, 1970, pp. 255–270.
	- 28 A. Altomare, G. Cascarone, C. Giacovazzo, A. Guagliardi, M. C. Burla, G. Polidori and M. J. Camalli, Appl. Crystallogr., 1994, 27, 1045.
	- 29 G. M. Sheldrick, SHELXL-97, A Program for Crystal Structure Refinement, University of Göttingen, Germany, 1997.