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Accessing the Cp^Ar^Ni(I) Synthon: Reactions with N-Heterocyclic Carbenes, TEMPO, Sulfur, and Selenium

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A reactive “Cp^ArNi” surrogate (Cp^Ar = C_5(C_6H_4-4-Et)_5) is accessible via the reduction of the dimer [Cp^ArNi(μ-Br)]_2 with two equivalents of KC_8. A trapping reaction with TEMPO afforded the new nickel(II) complex [Cp^ArNi(η^2-TEMPO)] (3), while the addition of N-heterocyclic carbenes gave the new nickel(I) radicals [Cp^ArNi(IPr)] (4a, IPr = 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene) and [Cp^ArNi(IiPr_2Me_2)] (4b, IiPr_2Me_2 = 1,3-diisopropyl-4,5-dimethylimidazol-2-ylidene). EPR spectra supported by DFT calculations on 4a and 4b indicate that the spin density mainly resides at the nickel center. The reaction of the “Cp^ArNi(I) source” with yellow sulfur gave the Ni 2S_6 complex [(Cp^ArNi)_2(μ-S_6)] (5); the “subselenide” [(Cp^ArNi)_2(μ-Se_2)] (6) was formed in the analogous reaction with grey selenium. All new complexes were characterized by NMR, EPR, and UV–vis spectroscopy; their molecular structures were determined by X-ray crystallography.

INTRODUCTION

Although the chemistry of nickel(I) compounds has attracted great interest recently, examples of well-defined mononuclear nickel(I) complexes with cyclopentadienyl (Cp) ligands have remained scarce. The formation of a donor-free species of the type “CpNi” as a reactive intermediate has been encountered only in the reduction of Cp_Ni with organolithium or -magnesium compounds. A remarkable octahedral [Cp_Ni]_8 cluster was isolated as one of the products in the reduction of NiCp_2 with sodium naphthalenide. However, synthetic applications of such a “CpNi” synthon have not been reported to our knowledge.

Hazari and co-workers reported the preparation of the carbene-stabilized 17 VE complexes [Cp_Ni(NHC)] [NHC = 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene (IPr) and 1,3-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolin-2-ylidene (SiPr)] by chloride substitution of Sigman’s complex [(NHC)Ni(μ-Cl)]_2, in a reaction with two equivalents of CpNa (Figure 1). Related indenyl complexes were also prepared, and the catalytic activity of some of these complexes in Suzuki–Miyaura cross-couplings was demonstrated. In an independent investigation, we found that the [Cp_Ni(NHC)] metalloradicals are also accessible by reducing [Cp_Ni(NHC)Cl] with KC_8 [NHC = IPr and 1,3-bis(2,6-dimesitylphenyl)imidazol-2-ylidene (1Mes)]. [Cp_Ni(IPr)] reacts with P_4, affording the nickel tetraphosphide [[Cp_Ni(IPr)]_3(μ-η^2:η^2-P_4)] with a butterfly-P_4 ligand in a quantitative reaction. The related chalcogenides [[Cp_Ni(IPr)]_3(μ-E_3)] (E = S, Se, Te) and [[Cp_Ni(IPr)]_3(μ-E_2)] (E = S, Se) are formed with S_8, Se_8, and Te_8 (Figure 1).

Pentaarylcyclopentadienyl ligands are potentially suitable ancillary ligands for reactive and unusual metal complexes. Very recently, we prepared the stable nickel(II) halide [Cp^ArNi(μ-Br)]_2 (1, Cp^Ar = C_5(C_6H_4-4-Et)_5), which is the starting material in this study, and [Cp^ArNi(Ga(nacnac))] (2, nacnac = HC[(C(Me)N(2,6-iPr_2C_6H_3))_2], an analogue of the...
aforementioned \([\text{CpNi(NHC)}]\) complexes, where the \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}]\) unit is coordinated by the gallium(I) carbenoid \(\text{Ga(nacnac)}\).\(^8,9\) Complex 2 was accessed by reducing the bimetallic precursor \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}(\mu-\text{Br})(\text{Ga(nacnac)})]\) with \(\text{KC}_8\) and, importantly, by a two-step sequence where the nickel(II) complex \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}(\mu-\text{Br})]_2\) (1) was reduced \textit{in situ} with \(\text{KC}_8\), followed by addition of \(\text{Ga(nacnac)}\) (Scheme 1).\(^9\) Here we describe several new trapping reactions of the reduced species \"\[\text{CpArNi}\]\" with TEMPO, different NHC ligands, yellow sulfur, and grey selenium. These have resulted in new mononuclear complexes \([\text{CpArNiL}]\) (L = TEMPO or NHC), the first bicyclic \(\text{Ni}_2\text{S}_6\) complex \([\text{Cp}_2\text{ArNi}(\mu-\text{S}_6)]\), and a rare example of a "subseleneide" complex \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}(\mu_2-\text{Se}_2)]\).

\section*{RESULTS AND DISCUSSION}

Reduction of 1 with two equivalents of \(\text{KC}_8\) led to a green solution in aromatic solvents such as benzene and toluene (Scheme 1). \(^1\)H NMR monitoring of the reaction in \(\text{C}_6\text{D}_6\) showed that 1 is converted to one diamagnetic main product over the course of 2 days (SI, Figures S1−S4). A small amount of paramagnetic nickel hydride species \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}(\mu-\text{H})]_2\) was also observed (\textit{vide infra}). One set of \(^1\)H and \(^{13}\)C\((\text{H})\) NMR resonances is observed for the diamagnetic compound that can be assigned to a para-ethylphenyl moiety of \(\text{Cp}^{\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}}\) (SI, Figures S1 and S2). In contrast to the relatively clean NMR spectrum, the EPR spectrum of the reaction mixture in toluene is rather complex and indicates the additional presence of paramagnetic species (Figure S6). Considering the NMR spectroscopic data, it is tempting to speculate whether the diamagnetic main species could be a dimer or oligomer of the general composition \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}](\text{L})_n\) with \(n \geq 2\). A signal corresponding to coordinated \(\text{C}_6\text{D}_6\) was not identified in the \(^{13}\)C\((\text{H})\) NMR spectrum (SI, Figure S2), which disfavors the formulation of the diamagnetic species as \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}](\text{C}_6\text{D}_6)_n\) or \([\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}](\mu-\text{C}_6\text{D}_6)_2\).\(^1^8\) Benzene and toluene solutions of the \"\[\text{Cp}^\text{A}^\text{V}^\text{II}^\text{II}\]\" species appear to be stable for at least a week at ambient temperature, but the compound unfortunately decomposed during our attempts to crystallize and isolate it, preventing its further identification.

Several other reducing agents were also tried. Reduction with \([\text{Mg(nacnac}^\text{Mes}^\text{Mes}])_2\) (nacnac\(^\text{Mes}\text{Mes} = \text{HC}[\text{C(Me)N-(C}_6\text{H}_2-2,4,6-\text{Me}_3)]\)) in \(\text{C}_6\text{D}_6\) in an NMR tube showed the formation of
the same diamagnetic compound as with KC₈. Using an excess of KC₈ or Na/Hg in THF, a mixture of Cp₅M(H) and [Cp₅Ni(μ-H)]₂ (SI, Figure S5) was obtained. The latter complex was independently prepared by reaction of 1 with an excess of NaH and identified by X-ray crystallography (SI, Figure S18) and ¹H NMR spectroscopy (SI, Figure S7). [Cp₅Ni(μ-H)]₂ is paramagnetic similar to [(IPr₂Me₂Ni)₂(μ-H)] previously reported by Berry and co-workers, which features an intermediate spin (S = 1) ground state.¹²

Follow-up reactions revealed the in situ generated green-colored benzene solutions to be a source of the "Cp₅Ni" synthon. Addition of (2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-yl)oxyl (TEMPO) led to the diamagnetic complex [Cp₅Ni(TEMPO)] (3), which was obtained as a deep orange solid in 24% yield (Scheme 1).¹³ The complex is air-sensitive and completely decomposes as a solid over 0.5 h when exposed to air. Similarly, new paramagnetic 17 VE complexes [Cp₅Ni(IPr)] (4a) and [Cp₅Ni(IPr₂Me₂)] (4b) were obtained by adding the Ni-heterocyclic carbenes IPr and IPr₂Me₂ to the green solution (Scheme 1). ¹H NMR monitoring of the reaction with IPr carbene showed slow but selective conversion of "Cp₅Ni" to 4a (SI, Figure S11), whereas the reaction of IPr₂Me₂ is comparatively faster and appears to go through an unidentified intermediate (SI, Figure S13). Deep orange 4a and yellow 4b were isolated as highly air-sensitive, but thermally robust crystalline solids in a yield of 36% and 74%, respectively. Complexes 3, 4a, and 4b were characterized by X-ray crystallography as well as NMR spectroscopy, UV–vis spectroscopy, and elemental analysis.

The molecular structure of 3 reveals a side-on-coordinated TEMPO ligand and η⁵-coordinated Cp₅M ligand on nickel (Figure 2). The Ni–N and Ni–O bond distances are comparable to those of [Ni(S(C₆H₄-2,6-Mes)(PPPh₃))(η⁵-TEMPO)]. The ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra in C₆D₆ show the expected number of resonances and multiplicity for a diamagnetic complex featuring an anionic TEMPO ligand and a divalent Ni center.³

In complexes 4a and 4b, the nickel center is surrounded by the η⁵-coordinated Cp₅M ligand and the σ-coordinated NHC (Figure 3). The structural data are comparable to those of the Cp analogue [CpNi(IPr)].³ The Ni–C_carbene bond lengths in 4a (1.908(2) Å) and 4b (1.910(2) and 1.911(2) Å) are very similar but significantly longer than in [CpNi(IPr)] (1.875(2) Å).³ The Ni–C₅(carbene) distance in 4a (1.908(2) Å) is considerably longer than that in 4b (1.793(1) and 1.797(1) Å) and [CpNi(IPr)] (1.792(8) Å), presumably due to steric repulsion. The Cp₅(carbene)–Ni–C_carbene linkage in 4a and 4b deviates from linearity and ranges from 162.⁷° to 168.⁶°. Similar to [CpNi(IPr)], one Ni–C–N angle in 4a is 134.6(2)° and the other one is 122.9(2)°. Interestingly, the IPr₂Me₂ carbene in 4b is almost symmetrically connected to the Ni center, as suggested by the Ni–C–N bond angles of 125.7(1)° and 126.9(1)°.

The ¹H NMR signals for complexes 4a and 4b in C₆D₆ are paramagnetically shifted with resonances observed in the range ~2 to 28 ppm and ~4 to 15 ppm, respectively (Figures S10 and S12). These were assigned based on an H–H COSY experiment and the relative intensities of the ¹H NMR signals. The characteristic methyl protons of the Cp₅M moiety appear as a triplet at 0.60 ppm for 4a and 0.24 ppm for 4b, whereas the methylene protons give rise to a low-field-shifted quartet at 7.41 and 7.51 ppm, respectively. The magnetic moments of 4a (1.9(1) μB in C₆D₆ at 300 K) and 4b (1.8(1) μB in C₆D₆ at 300 K) determined by the Evans NMR method are consistent with S = 1/2 Ni⁷ centers. Comparable magnetic moments were observed for related Cp, Cp₅M, and indenyl derivatives.¹⁴

EPR spectroscopy on 4a and 4b revealed rhombic g-tensors with significant deviations from gₑ pointing to metalloradical character comparable to the [Cp₅Ni(IPr)] complex.³ The signals are rather broad (Figure 4, Figure S19), but the g-tensor components are clearly resolved (4a: gₓ = 1.980, gᵧ = 2.180, gₑ = 2.585; 4b: gₓ = 1.65, gᵧ = 1.99, gₑ = 2.73). The signals are characteristic for low-spin S = 1/2 systems. While the DFT-calculated g-tensor (4a: gₓ = 2.140, gᵧ = 2.239, gₑ = 2.304; 4b: gₓ = 2.106, gᵧ = 2.194, gₑ = 2.956) revealed a similar rhombicity, the absolute values deviate from the experimental ones (see the SI for details).
Consistent with the NMR and EPR data, DFT calculations performed at the D3-B3LYP/def2-TZVP level\textsuperscript{15,16} suggest that the open-shell species \( \text{4a} \) and \( \text{4b} \) have a single unpaired electron in a doublet spin ground state. The spin densities are mainly located on the metal center (Figure 5), which is in agreement with the SOMOs having a significant contribution from d orbitals of the Ni center (SI, Figures S20 and S21). The spin densities of \( \text{4a} \) and \( \text{4b} \) also have an asymmetric shape, with a lobe protruding from the metal center toward one of the 2,6-diisopropyl phenyl or isopropyl substituents of the NHC ligand (Figure 5). This feature along with the sterically demanding Dipp substituents is likely the cause of the distorted \( \text{Cp}^{\delta^+}(\text{centroid})-\text{Ni}-\text{C} \) and \( \text{Ni}-\text{C}-\text{N} \) angles observed by X-ray crystallography (vide supra). In comparison, the almost identical Ni–C–N angles in \( \text{4b} \) may be explained by the lower steric demand of the IPr\(_2\)Me\(_2\) carbene compared to IPr.

The reaction of the "\( \text{Cp}^{\delta^+}\text{Ni} \)" source with an excess of \( \text{S}_8 \) led to the \( \text{S}_8 \)-bridged complex \( \{(\text{Cp}^{\delta^+}\text{Ni})_2(\mu-\text{S}_8)\} \) (5) as a major product (Scheme 2). Complex 5 was isolated in 31% yield and 90% purity; some unidentified minor byproducts could not be completely separated from 5 by washing or crystallization. In comparison, the reaction with elemental selenium afforded the dinuclear complex \( \{(\text{Cp}^{\delta^+}\text{Ni})_2(\mu-\text{Se}_8)\} \) (6, Scheme 2), which is a rare molecular subselenide, with the only other example being \( \{(\text{iPr}_2\text{C}_5\text{H})\text{Ni})_2(\mu-\text{Se}_8)\} \).\textsuperscript{17,18} It is important to mention that dinuclear chalcogenides such as in situ generated \( \{(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{M}-\text{S}_8\}\) (M = Ru, Rh, Ir) dimerize to cubane-type clusters \( \{(\text{C}_5\text{Me}_5)\text{M}(\mu-\text{S})\}_2 \) presumably due to the lower steric effect of the pentamethyl cyclopentadienyl ligand.\textsuperscript{19,20}

Dark brown 5 and dark violet 6 were isolated as crystalline solids in moderate yields (5, 31%; 6 32%) (Scheme 2). Solutions of 5 and 6 were decolorized after 3 h in the presence of air, suggesting complete decomposition. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction studies 5 revealed the formation of an unusual bicyclo[4.1.1] Ni\(_2\)S\(_6\) complex where the terminal S atoms of the \( \text{S}_8^{2-} \) ligand bridge the Ni centers (Figure 6). There are several examples where an \( \text{S}_8^{2-} \) anion terminally connects two metal atoms, including silver,\textsuperscript{21} ruthenium,\textsuperscript{22,23} bismuth,\textsuperscript{24} and nickel complexes.\textsuperscript{25} However, bicyclic \( \text{M}_2\text{S}_6 \) rings (\( \text{M} = \text{any metal} \)) were observed only for alkali metal sulfides\textsuperscript{26-28} such as \([\text{Li(tmeda)}]_2\text{S}_6\) (tmeda = \( \text{N},\text{N},\text{N}',\text{N}''\)-tetramethyl-

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**Figure 4.** Experimental and simulated X-band EPR spectrum of \( \text{4a} \) recorded at 20 K in frozen toluene. Frequency = 9.363226 GHz, microwave power = 0.632 mW, \( T = 20 \) K, modulation amplitude = 4 G. The sharp signal indicated with * is a minor impurity.

**Figure 5.** Spin density maps for \( \text{4a} \) (left) and \( \text{4b} \) (right) obtained from a spin-unrestricted B3LYP-DFT calculation (isosurface value is set to 0.005). Spin densities at Ni: \( \text{4a} \) 88% and \( \text{4b} \) 86%.

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**Scheme 2.** Reactions of the in Situ Generated \( \text{Cp}^{\delta^+}\text{Ni}(\text{I}) \) Species with \( \text{S}_8 \) and Se
The seven-membered Ni₅Se₅ rings in S adopt “crowd-like” conformations, while the Ni₅S₅ core is bent, leaving a fold angle of 25.55(8)°. The long Ni1···Ni2 distance of 3.087(1) Å indicates the absence of an Ni–Ni bond. The Ni–S bond lengths (2.174(1) and 2.170(1) Å) and S1···S (2.991(2) Å) are in the range of those in sulfinyl complexes, while the Ni2Se2 core is bent, having a fold angle of 25.55(8)°. The long Ni1···Ni2 distance of 3.087(1) Å indicates the absence of an Ni–Ni bond. The Ni–S bond lengths (2.174(1) and 2.170(1) Å) and S1···S distance (2.991(2) Å) are in the range of those in sulfide complexes such as [CpNi(μ-SPh)]₂.³⁰

The 1H and 13C{1H} NMR spectra of diamagnetic S in CD₅ show that the Cp₅ ligands are chemically equivalent. A triplet at 0.97 ppm and a quartet at 2.31 ppm arise from the ethyl groups, while the aromatic protons appear as two doublets at 6.69 and 7.35 ppm. The 13C{1H} NMR signal for the CpAr ring carbon was detected at 109.8 ppm. The UV–vis spectrum in THF displays a broad absorption at 486 nm. A single-crystal X-ray study of S revealed that each molecule is located on a crystallographic inversion center, having a planar Ni(880 ppm)¹⁸ and disfavors the Se₂⁻ assignment (generally showing a signal < −250 ppm).³⁴,³⁵ The UV–vis spectrum of 6 in THF displays a strong absorption at 539 nm, while the NIR spectrum shows two absorptions at 817 and 1608 nm. In comparison, [[(iPr₅C₅H)Ni]₂(μ-Se)]₂ was reported to display two low-energy absorptions at 755 and 1474 nm in the NIR region.¹⁸

In summary, the results of this study show that a “Cp³Ni” synthon can be achieved by reducing [Cp³Ni(μ-Br)]₂ with two equivalents of KC₈. The in situ generated “Cp³Ni” surrogate was trapped with TEMPO and NHCS, yielding the adducts [Cp³Ni(TEMPO)] (3) and [Cp³Ni(NHC)] (4a, NHC = IPr; 4b, NHC = IPr₂Me₅). Treatment of the “Cp³Ni” source with S₈ afforded the unusual complex [(CpArNi)₂(μ-Se₂)] (5), which features a unique bidependent Se₅ ring, while the reaction with grey selenium produced the “subselenede” complex [(Cp³Ni)(μ-Se₂)] (6) with a rare half-bonded Se₃⁻ ligand. In addition to the reported chemistry, we anticipate that the presented approach will prove useful for the synthesis of a considerable range of further complexes of the “Cp³Ni” fragment. An extension of this approach to related first-row metal complexes is another tempting target that is being pursued in our laboratories.

# EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

## General Considerations

All experiments were performed under an atmosphere of dry argon, by using standard Schlenk and glovebox techniques. Solvents were purified, dried, and degassed with an MBraun SPS800 solvent purification system. NMR spectra were recorded on Avance 400 spectrometers at 300 K and internally referenced to residual solvent resonances. The 1H and 13C{1H} NMR signals of 3, 5, and 6 were assigned by a combination of H–H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments. The 1H NMR assignment for complexes 4a and 4b is based on a H–H COSY experiment and the relative integration of the signals; vt = virtual triplet. Melting points were measured on samples in sealed capillaries on a Stuart SMP10 melting point apparatus. UV–vis spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 50 spectrometer. The NIR spectrum for 6 was recorded on an Omega 20, Bruins Instruments spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed according to the literature procedures. Yellow sulfur, grey selenium, and TEMPO were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used as received.

[Cp³Ni(TEMPO)] (3). A mixture of 1 (200 mg, 0.138 mmol) and KC₈ (39 mg, 0.288 mmol) was suspended in benzene (10 mL) while stirring. The resulting green mixture was stirred for 1 day. The obtained dark green solution was separated from a black solid (graphite) by filtration, and the filtrate was treated with TEMPO (44 mg, 0.282 mmol). The color of the solution slowly changed to dark red-brown over 2 days. The solution was evaporated to a sticky dark red-brown solid and was extracted with n-hexane (2 × 10 mL).
deep orange extract was evaporated until incipient crystallization (ca. 5 mL) and stored at −35 °C. Complex 3 was isolated as a deep orange crystalline solid. Yield: 53 mg (0.066 mmol, 24%); mp >186 °C (dec.). UV–vis (cyclohexane): λmax/nm (ε/mM–L–mol−1–cm−1) = 247.0 (29594), 386.6 (13826), 511.0 (915). 1H NMR (400.13 MHz, C6D6, 300 K): 0.98 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 10H, 5 × CH2(CH3)2), 1.27 (m, signals were quenched with n-hexane, 3 × CH2(CH3)2), 1.35−1.53 (m, 4H, CH2 TEMPO), 1.81 (s, 6H, 2 × CH2, TEMPO), 1.88 (s, 6H, 2 × CH2, TEMPO), 2.37 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 10H, 5 × CH2(CH3)2), 6.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 10H, 5 × −CH(CH3)2), 7.24 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 10H, 5 × −CH(CH3)2). 13C{1H} NMR (100.61 MHz, C6D6, 300 K): 13.4 (C, δ(CH3)), 22.8 (s, CH2), 28.8 (s, C, δ(CH3)), 109.8 (s, C, δ(CH3) of CpAr), 127.3 (s, m-CH, CpAr), 132.6 (s, C, δ(CH3)), 133.2 (s, −CH, CpAr), 142.8 (s, p-C, CpAr).

[CPnNi(μ-SEt)] (6). K2C8 (46.6 mg, 0.345 mmol) and [Cp2Fe] (19 mg, 0.141 mmol) were suspended in toluene (10 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 1 day, affording a dark green solution along with black graphite. The dark green solution was filtered and treated with [Pf6] (54 mg, 0.139 mmol). The color of the solution slowly turned to dark reddish-brown upon stirring for 1 day. The solution was evaporated to a dark red-brown solid, and it was extracted with n-hexane (5 mL). Cooling the deep orange extract at −35 °C gave complex 4a as large orange crystals. Yield: 51 mg (0.049 mmol, 36%); mp > 212 °C (dec.). UV–vis (cyclohexane): λmax/nm (ε/mM–L–mol−1–cm−1) = 325.7 (20 540), 371.8 (14 916), 511.0 (915). 1H NMR (400.13 MHz, C6D6, 300 K): 0.98 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 10H, 5 × CH2(CH3)2), 1.27 (m, 18H, 9 × CH2(CH3)2), 6.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 20H, 10 × −CH2, CpAr), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 20H, 10 × −CH2, CpAr). 13C{1H} NMR (100.61 MHz, C6D6, 300 K): 14.0 (C, δ(CH3) of CpAr), 28.8 (s, CH2), 28.8 (s, C, δ(CH3)), 109.8 (s, C, δ(CH3) of CpAr), 127.3 (s, m-CH, CpAr), 132.6 (s, C, δ(CH3)), 133.2 (s, −CH, CpAr), 142.8 (s, p-C, CpAr).

DFT Calculations. The calculations on 4a and 4b were performed using the ORCA program package (version 3.0.2).24 The B3LYP density functional and the Ahlrichs def2-TZVP basis set were employed for all atoms.5,16,22 The RI approximation was used. The Ahlrichs Coulomb fitting basis for the TZVP basis for all atoms (TZV52/J) and the atom-pairwise dispersion correction to the DFT energy with Becke–Johnson damping (d3bj) were applied.18 The nature of the stationary points was verified by numerical frequency analyses. Reduced orbital charges and spin densities were calculated according to the Löwdin population analysis.26 Molecular orbitals and the spin density plots were visualized via the program Gauss6d.42 The isosurface value is set to 0.05 for all figures, except for the plot of the spin density of 4a and 4b (isosurface value 0.005). EPR property calculations were performed with ORCA using the B3LYP functional and the def-2
Selected NMR spectra of the "Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ni" synthone and the complexes 3–6, NMR monitoring of the reactions, EPR spectra of the "Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ni" synthone and 4a and 4b, and SOMOs of 4a and 4b (PDF)

Crystallographic data of 3–6 (ZIP)

Crystallographic data (CIF)

Solid-state molecular structure of [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ni(μ-H)]<sub>2</sub> (XYZ)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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REFERENCES


(20) Diiridium complexes with two bridging tetrasulfide and tetrateradene ligands, [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ir(μ-μ-S)]<sub>2</sub> and [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ir(μ-μ-Se)]<sub>2</sub>, were obtained by treatment of [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ir(μ-μ-CI)]<sub>2</sub> with equivalents of Li<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> and Li<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>4</sub> or by treatment of a mixture of [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ir(μ-μ-CI)]<sub>2</sub> and Li<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> or Li<sub>2</sub>Se<sub>4</sub> or by treatment of a mixture of [Cp^<sub>2</sub>Ir(μ-μ-S)]<sub>2</sub> and Li<sub>2</sub>S<sub>4</sub> with NOE.


(33) For the paramagnetic behavior of the related alkyl-substituted derivatives \([\text{CpR}N\text{i(μ-Br)}]_2\) (CpR = \(\text{C}_5\text{H}_2\text{tBu}_3, \text{C}_5\text{H}_2\text{iPr}_3, \text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{iPr}_4\)) see: Schär, M.; Saurenz, D.; Zimmer, F.; Schardlich, I.; Wolmershäuser, G.; Demeshko, S.; Meyer, F.; Sitzmann, H.; Heigl, O. M.; Köhler, F. H. Organometallics 2013, 32, 6298.