# **Inorganic Chemistry**

## Synthesis and Structural Characterization of Heteroboroxines with  $MB_2O_3$  Core (M = Sb, Bi, Sn)

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**S** Supporting Information

[AB](#page-6-0)STRACT: [Reaction of](#page-6-0) organoantimony and organobismuth oxides  $(LSbO)_2$  and  $(LBiO)_2$  (where L is [2,6-bis(dimethylamino)methyl]phenyl) with four equivalents of the organoboronic acids gave new heteroboroxines LM[(OBR)<sub>2</sub>O] 1a–2c (for M = Sb: R = Ph (1a), 4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (1b), ferrocenyl (1c); for  $M = Bi$ :  $R = Ph (2a)$ ,  $4-CF_3C_6H_4$  (2b), and ferrocenyl (2c)). Analogously, reaction between organotin carbonate  $L(Ph)Sn(CO<sub>3</sub>)$  and two equivalents of organoboronic acids yielded compounds  $L(Ph)Sn[(OBR),O]$ (where R = Ph  $(3a)$ , 4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (3b), and ferrocenyl  $(3c)$ ). All compounds were characterized by elemental analysis and NMR spectroscopy. Their structure was described both in solution (NMR studies) and in the solid state (X-ray diffraction analyses 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c). All compounds contain a central MB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> core (M = Sb, Bi, Sn), and the bonding situation within these rings and their potential aromaticity was investigated by the help of computational methods.



### ■ INTRODUCTION

Boroxines are well-known species, readily accessible by dehydration of the corresponding organoboronic acids.<sup>1</sup> Recently, the chemistry of these compounds featuring sixmembered boroxine rings has undergone a period [of](#page-6-0) renaissance due to potential applications in material science.<sup>2</sup> In 2005, Yaghi and co-workers reported the first crystalline boroxi[n](#page-6-0)e covalent organic framework  $(COF)^3$  a landmark in the boroxine chemistry. Since this disclosure, many COFrelated materials have emerged, which signifi[ca](#page-6-0)ntly expanded the interest in material properties of boroxines.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, boroxines were studied as high-performance polymer electrolytes,<sup>5</sup> flame retarda[n](#page-6-0)ts,<sup>2</sup> materials for nonlinear optics,<sup>6</sup> reactants or catalysts for various organic transformation, $\overline{7}$  and Lewi[s](#page-6-0) acids for formation [o](#page-6-0)f adducts with N-donor molecules.<sup>[8](#page-6-0)</sup> Subs[ti](#page-6-0)tution of the central  $B_3O_3$  core with ferrocene moieties in turn allowed isolation of redox-active boroxines.<sup>9</sup> Nevertheles[s,](#page-6-0) the chemistry of heteroboroxines, in which one of the boron ato[m](#page-6-0)s is substituted by a heteroatom M to form a  $MB_2O_3$  sixmembered ring, remains nearly unexplored, as recently pointed out by Korich and Iovine.<sup>2a</sup> Compounds  $L'Al[(OBR)_2O]$ (where  $L' = HC(CMeNAr)_{2}$ ,  $Ar = 2.6-i PrC_6H_3$ , and  $R = Ph$ , 3- $MeC_6H_4$ , 3-FC $_6H_4$ ), prepare[d](#page-6-0) by the reactions between the

aluminum(I) compound L'Al or the hydride L'AlH<sub>2</sub> and the corresponding arylboronic acid, represent prominent examples of such compounds.<sup>10</sup> Molecular borasiloxanes with the  $Si<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  eight-membered ring were also reported.<sup>11</sup> Structurally characterized organoti[n\(](#page-7-0)IV) compounds  $Sn(t-Bu)_{2}[OB(OH) Ph]_2$ ,  $Sn(t-Bu)_2(OH)_2[(t-Bu_2SnO)_2OBC_6H_2Me_3 Sn(t-Bu)_2(OH)_2[(t-Bu_2SnO)_2OBC_6H_2Me_3 Sn(t-Bu)_2(OH)_2[(t-Bu_2SnO)_2OBC_6H_2Me_3 2,4,6]_2$ :2MeCN,<sup>12</sup> and organophosporus(V) compounds<sup>13</sup> stabilized by Salen-type ligand are other rare examples of compounds bea[rin](#page-7-0)g a heteroboroxine motif in the structure. [In](#page-7-0) a continuation of our investigations into main group organometallic oxides, $14$  we report herein a straightforward synthesis of hitherto unknown heteroboroxines  $LM[(OBR)_2O]$  and  $L(Ph)Sn[(OBR)_2O]$ , where  $M = Sb$  and Bi,  $L = [2,6-1]$ bis(dimethylamino)methyl]phenyl,  $R = Ph$ , 4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, and ferrocenyl, comprising  $MB_2O_3$  six-membered rings, from oxides  $(LSbO)_2$  and  $(LBiO)_2$  or organotin carbonate  $L(Ph)Sn(CO_3)$ and the corresponding organoboronic acids. All compounds were characterized by elemental analysis and multinuclear NMR spectroscopy. The bonding situation within the central

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 $MB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  rings as well as their aromaticity has been investigated by computational methods.

#### ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment of intramolecularly coordinated organoantimony and organobismuth oxides  $(\mathrm{LSbO})_2^{14a}$  and  $(\mathrm{LBiO})_2^{14b}$  with four equivalents of the corresponding organoboronic acids smoothly provided heteroboroxines [1a](#page-7-0)−c and 2a−c[, re](#page-7-0)spectively (Scheme 1). Complete deprotonation of the starting boronic acids was confirmed by IR spectra, lacking characteristic vibrations due to the B−OH moieties.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 1a-2c revealed the signals of the ligand L and groups R in a mutual ratio of 1:2 and further showed an AX pattern for methylene  $CH<sub>2</sub>N$  and two signals for the  $NMe<sub>2</sub>$ groups in L. The observed patterns suggest the presence of  $N\rightarrow$ M interactions in 1a−2c with a pseudofacial coordination of the  $CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>$  arms to the central atom M. One set of signals was observed for the substituents R on the heteroboroxine ring (including the ferrocenyl moieties in 1c and  $2c$ ) in the  $H$  and  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra, indicating their equivalency in solution.

The formulation of 1a−2c was unambiguously corroborated by X-ray diffraction analysis. Suitable single crystals of 1a, 1c, and 2b were obtained from saturated toluene solutions at room temperature. The molecular structures of 1a, 1c, and 2b together with the relevant structural parameters are depicted in Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

The central Sb and Bi atoms are stabilized by coordination of the NCN pincer-[ty](#page-2-0)pe ligand. The bond lengths of the M−N bonds (M = Sb: 2.621(3)–2.798(4), M = Bi: 2.671(5) Å) indicate the presence of significant N→M intramolecular interactions in all compounds. Coordination of the ligand L may be described as pseudo-facial as indicated by the N−M−N angles, which fall within a narrow range 118.48(14)− 119.90 $(8)^\circ$ . The coordination polyhedron around the antimony and bismuth atoms in 1a, 1c, and 2b is completed by two oxygen atoms from the boronic acid residues and is best described as a strongly distorted tetragonal pyramid with the ipso-carbon atom C1 located in the apical position. The values of two M−O bond distances within each central heteroboroxine ring are similar (2.042(2) and 2.0565(19) Å for 1a, 2.181(4) Å for 2b, 2.041(2) and 2.034(2) Å for 1c), suggesting M−O covalent bonding  $(\Sigma_{cov}(M, O) = 2.03 \text{ Å } (Sb), 2.14 \text{ Å})$  $(Bi)$ <sup>15</sup>



Figure 1. Molecular structure of 1a; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Angstroms] and angles [degrees]: Sb(1)−C(1) 2.155(3), Sb(1)−N(1) 2.759(3), Sb(1)−N(2) 2.798(4),  $Sb(1)-O(1)$  2.042(2),  $Sb(1)-O(3)$  2.0565(19), B(1)-O(1) 1.334(4), B(1)−O(2) 1.387(4), B(2)−O(2) 1.381(4), B(2)−O(3) 1.334(4), O(1)−Sb(1)−O(3) 86.07(8), O(1)−B(1)−O(2) 123.8(3), O(2)−B(2)−O(3) 124.7(3), Sb(1)−O(1)−B(1) 130.11(19), B(1)−  $O(2)-B(2)$  125.8(3), B(1)– $O(3)-Sb(1)$  128.99(19).



Figure 2. Molecular structure of 2b; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Angstroms] and angles [degrees]: (2b, symmetry operator  $a = x$ ,  $1/2 - y$ , z): Bi(1)–C(1) 2.234(8), Bi(1)–  $N(1)$  2.671(5), Bi(1)–O(1) 2.181(4), B(1)–O(1) 1.326(7), B(1)– O(2) 1.378(7), O(1)−Bi(1)−O(1a) 83.76(14), O(1)−B(1)−O(2) 126.1(6), Bi(1)−O(1)−B(1) 127.1(4), B(1)−O(2)−B(2) 126.6(5).

Reactions of organotin carbonate  $\text{L}(\text{Ph})\text{Sn}(\text{CO}_3)^{\text{14c}}$  with two equivalents of the respective organoboronic acid provided analogous organotin boroxines 3a−c (Scheme 1). I[R s](#page-7-0)pectra of the crude reaction mixtures showed no vibrations due to B− OH, thereby proving complete deprotonation of the starting boronic acids. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 3a–c again confirmed the presence of the ligand L and groups R in a 1:2 ratio. Besides, the spectra revealed an AX spin system due to methylene  $CH<sub>2</sub>N$  and one broad signal for the  $NMe<sub>2</sub>$  groups of the ligand L, suggesting the presence of N→Sn interaction with pseudofacial coordination of  $CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub>$  arms of the ligand L to the central tin atom. An equivalency of substituents R on the heteroboroxine ring was proven by the  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  NMR spectra, where only one set of signals was observed. <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR spectra displayed single

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Figure 3. Molecular structure of 1c; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Angstroms] and angles [degrees]: Sb(1)−C(1) 2.164(3), Sb(1)−N(1) 2.670(3), Sb(1)−N(2) 2.621(3), Sb(1)−O(1) 2.041(2), Sb(1)−O(3) 2.034(2), B(1)−O(1) 1.340(4), B(1)−O(3) 1.386(4), B(2)−O(2) 1.346(4), B(2)−O(3) 1.383(4), O(1)−Sb(1)−O(3) 85.84(9), O(1)−B(1)−O(2) 123.7(3), O(2)− B(2)−O(3) 124.0(3), Sb(1)−O(1)−B(1) 128.2(2), B(1)−O(3)− B(2) 125.4(3), Sb(1)−O(2)−B(2) 128.7(2).

resonances at  $\delta = -359.1$  ppm for 3a,  $\delta = -364.0$  ppm for 3b, and at  $\delta$  = −358.0 ppm for 3c, which is indeed consistent with the presence of hexacoordinated tin atoms.<sup>16</sup>

Single crystals of 3b and 3c were obtained from saturated toluene solution at room temperature and [su](#page-7-0)bjected to X-ray diffraction analysis. Views of the molecular structures are presented in Figures 4  $(3a)$  and 5  $(3c)$  along with selected structural parameters.

In both compounds 3b and 3c, the tin center is coordinated by two nitrogen atoms (N−Sn distances in the range of 2.574(3)−2.727(3) Å) in a pseudofacial fashion as demonstrated by the angles N−Sn−N 118.36(13)° for 3b and  $118.58(9)$ <sup>o</sup> for 3c. The geometry of the central tin atom can be



Figure 4. Molecular structure of 3b; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Angstroms] and angles [degrees]: Sn(1)−C(1) 2.105(5), Sn(1)−C(13) 2.122(5), Sn(1)−N(1) 2.582(4), Sn(1)−N(2) 2.716(4), Sn(1)−O(1) 2.044(3), Sn(1)− O(2) 2.046(3), B(1)–O(1) 1.335(6), B(1)–O(3) 1.385(6), B(2)– O(2) 1.333(6), B(2)−O(3) 1.385(6), O(1)−Sn(1)−O(2) 88.39(13),  $O(1)-B(1)-O(3)$  124.5(4),  $O(2)-B(2)-O(3)$  124.6(4), Sn(1)− O(1)−B(1) 127.8(3), Sn(1)−O(2)−B(2) 127.4(3), B(1)−O(3)− B(2) 126.8(4).



Figure 5. Molecular structures of 3c; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths [Angstroms] and angles [degrees]:  $Sn(1)-C(1)$  2.115(3),  $Sn(1)-C(13)$  2.123(3),  $Sn(1)-N(1)$ 2.727(3), Sn(1)−N(2) 2.574(3), Sn(1)−O(1) 2.032(2), Sn(1)− O(2) 2.035(2), B(1)–O(1) 1.332(4), B(1)–O(3) 1.394(4), B(2)– O(2) 1.339(4), B(2)–O(3) 1.390(4), O(1)–Sn(1)–O(2) 88.75(9),  $O(1)-B(1)-O(3)$  124.5(3),  $O(2)-B(2)-O(3)$  124.4(3), Sn(1)− O(1)−B(1) 127.2(2), Sn(1)−O(2)−B(2) 126.5(2), B(1)−O(3)− B(2) 126.3(3).

described as distorted octahedral. The Sn−O bond distances  $(2.032(2)-2.046(3)$  Å) within the heteroboroxine ring again indicate formation of Sn−O covalent bonds ( $\Sigma_{\text{cov}}$ (Sn, O) =  $2.03$ ).<sup>15</sup>

It is noteworthy that all structures of 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c conta[in](#page-7-0) the central MB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ring system, where both B–O(M) bonds are slightly shorter (1.326(7)−1.346(4) Å) than the remaining B−O(B) bonds (1.378(7)−1.394(4) Å) and also shorter than the B−O distances in the corresponding boroxines  $R_3B_3O_3$ .<sup>17,9d</sup> All values are, however, still slightly shorter than the sum of the covalent radii  $\Sigma_{\text{cov}}(B, O) = 1.48 \text{ \AA}^{15}$  The presenc[e](#page-7-0) [of](#page-6-0) the heteroatom M leads also to a significant distortion of the central six-membered ring as demonstr[ate](#page-7-0)d by the values of the O−B−O (123.8(3)−127.3(3)° in 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c), B−O−B (125.4(3)−126.8(4)°), and M−B−O angles (126.5(2)−130.11(19)°), which are significantly wider than the ideal value of 120° observed usually for simple boroxines such as  $Ph_3B_3O_3^{17}$  or  $Fc_3B_3O_3^{9d}$  This distortion is also reflected in acute O−M−O angles (86.07(8)° 1a, 83.76(14)<sup>o</sup> 2b, 88.39(13)<sup>o</sup> [3b](#page-7-0), 85.84(9)<sup>o</sup> [1c](#page-6-0), 88.39(13)<sup>o</sup> 3c). The presence of heteroatom M is further reflected in a distortion of the  $MB_2O_3$  rings from planarity. Atoms M are slightly displaced from the mean plane of the  $B_2O_3$  moiety, distances of M from this plane being  $0.165$   $(1a)$ ,  $0.423$   $(1c)$ , 0.411 (2b), 0.071 (3b), and 0.253 (3c) Å. The ligand L is oriented nearly perpendicularly to the  $MB_2O_3$  ring system in all structurally characterized compounds.

The most striking feature regarding the substituents on the heteroboroxine rings is the position of the ferrocenyl moieties in 1c and 3c. While in the case of 1c the ferrocenyl residues are placed on the opposite side (anti) of the heteroboroxine ring with respect to L, those in 3c are directed toward ligand L (i.e., in syn fashion). In the case of the triferrocenylboroxine, the ferrocenyl moieties are also oriented in all-syn fashion.<sup>9d</sup> Structures of all possible isomers of 1c, 2c, and 3c (all-syn, allanti, and anti-syn) were optimized by DFT methods a[nd](#page-6-0)

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 $^a$ All values are in ppm.  $^b$ cc-pVTZ-PP on Sb, Bi, and Sn. 'NICS values computed 1 Å away from the geometric center of the heteroboroxine ring on the same side (1) and opposite side (−1) as the pincer-type ligand L on the Sb or Bi. <sup>d</sup> NICS based on the out-of-plane zz shielding tensor component. <sup>e</sup> Average of the in-plane components of the shielding tensor. <sup>f</sup> On B3LYP/cc-pVTZ geometries.

Table 2. Relevant Bond Distances (r, Angstroms), Wiberg Bond Indices (WBI), and NPA Atomic Charges for Model Compounds 1, 2, and 3, Parent Boroxine  $H_3B_3O_3$ , and Extended Model Compounds 1', 2', and 3'

molecule	$r_{\text{B}-\text{O(M)}}$	$r_{B-O(B)}$	$WBI_{B-O(M)}$	$WBI_{B-O(B)}$	$WBIM-O$	$q_M$	$q_{O(M)}$	$q_{O(B)}$	$q_B$
	1.358	1.378	1.000	0.883	0.583	1.460	$-1.009$	$-0.878$	0.941
2	1.354	1.380	1.028	0.879	0.570	1.483	$-1.000$	$-0.883$	0.934
	1.358	1.381	0.893	0.825	0.533	1.675	$-1.018$	$-0.882$	0.937
	1.355	1.387	1.004	0.862	0.465	1.674	$-1.060$	$-0.890$	1.104
$2^{\prime}$	1.352	1.388	1.029	0.858	0.44	1.703	$-1.062$	$-0.898$	1.082
3'	1.354	1.389	1.015	0.859	0.421	2.090	$-1.070$	$-0.896$	1.088
$H_3B_3O_3$			0.904	0.904			$-0.856$	$-0.856$	0.958

basically have the same energy (see Supporting Information). Thus, it seems that the orientation of the substituents is not determined by single-molecule effe[cts but results from th](#page-6-0)e crystal packing.

The redox properties of ferrocenylated derivatives 1c, 2c, and 3c were studied by cyclic voltammetry at the Pt disc electrode in 1,2-dichloroethane containing 0.1 M  $Bu_4N[PF_6]$  as the supporting electrolyte. Compounds showed only one wave attributable to the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple (Figure S1, Supporting Information). The redox change was controlled by diffusion as indicated by  $i_{pa}$  (anodic peak current) increasing [linearly with the squar](#page-6-0)e root of the scan rate  $(i_{pa} \propto \nu^{1/2})$ . However, the observed waves were composite resulting from a convolution of two narrow-spaced one-electron redox waves (anodic peak potential,  $E_{pa} = 0.575$  V for 1c, 0.540 V for 2c, and 0.550 V for 3c vs decamethylferrocene/decamethylferrocenium;<sup>18</sup> peak separations were ca. 140 mV for 1c and 2c and 120 mV for 3c). The composite nature of the redox waves suggest[s a](#page-7-0) weak, probably electrostatic communication between the ferrocenyl substituents and was confirmed by square-wave voltammograms (Figure S2, Supporting Information). It is also noteworthy that the primary electrochemical reaction was not fully reversible, giving rise t[o another electrochemic](#page-6-0)ally active compound, which was reduced at a relatively lower potential (and also oxidized during the second or following scans; see Figure S1, Supporting Information).

The bonding situation in the heteroboroxines was studied theoreticall[y using DFT computa](#page-6-0)tions. As a first step, the molecular structures of compounds 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c were optimized from the crystal structure geometries at the

B3LYP<sup>19</sup>/cc-pVDZ<sup>20</sup> (cc-pVDZ-PP<sup>21</sup> for Sb, Bi, and Sn) level of theory. The computed geometrical parameters were found to be in [go](#page-7-0)od agree[m](#page-7-0)ent with the [e](#page-7-0)xperimental values. The structures of 1b, 2a, 2c, and 3a were also constructed in silico and optimized at the same level of theory. Cartesian coordinates of all optimized geometries are given in the Supporting Information.

The observed shortening of the B−O bonds within all [structurally characterized](#page-6-0) heteroboroxines 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c may indicate a multiple character of these bonds. In order to investigate possible aromaticity of the heteroboroxines,  $22$  the model compounds  $H\text{Sb}[(\text{OBH})_2\text{O}]$   $(1)$ ,  $H\text{Bi}[(\text{OBH})_2\text{O}]$   $(2)$ , and  $H_2Sn[(OBH)_2O]$  (3) were constructed and optimi[ze](#page-7-0)d at the B3LYP<sup>19</sup>/cc-pVTZ<sup>20</sup> (cc-pVTZ-PP<sup>21</sup> on Sb, Bi, or Sn) level. In all optimized model systems, confirmed to be minima on the p[ote](#page-7-0)ntial en[erg](#page-7-0)y surface by [c](#page-7-0)omputation of the vibrational frequencies, the heteroboroxine ring is planar and the bond distances of the B−O(M) bonds are slightly shorter than the  $B-O(B)$  bonds, in agreement with experimental findings. The possible aromaticity of 1−3 through the magnetic criterion was assessed via computation of the different variations of the nucleus-independent chemical shifts  $(NICS)^{23}$  and induced current densities.<sup>24</sup> These were compared with the properties of the parent boroxine  $H_3B_3O_3$ .<sup>[22](#page-7-0)</sup> Results are summarized in Table [1](#page-7-0) together with results of the NICS evaluations in the real compounds 1a−c, 2a−c, a[nd](#page-7-0) 3a−c. On the basis of the comparison of the NICS values in the center of the ring  $(NICS(0))$ , the NICS values 1 Å above and below the ring (NICS( $\pm$ 1)), and the component of the shielding tensor perpendicular to the ring plane component

of the shielding tensor, these rings can be classified as nonaromatic, in agreement with the parent boroxine.

This is nicely confirmed by current density plots (computed using the ipsocentric formalism; $24$  see Figure S3, Supporting Information) showing only localized diatropic circulations around the oxygens and no diatr[opi](#page-7-0)c or paratropic r[ing current,](#page-6-0) [the footprin](#page-6-0)t of an aromatic or nonaromatic ring. The bonding in the heteroboroxine rings was further investigated on the model compounds 1, 2, and 3 using natural bond orbitals<sup>25</sup> and Wiberg bond indices.<sup>26</sup> The Wiberg bond indices (Table 2) of the B−O(M) bonds are always higher than those of t[he](#page-7-0) B− O(B) bonds consiste[nt](#page-7-0) with the shorter distance of the f[orm](#page-3-0)er as compared to the latter, which also well corresponds with the experimental results. The Wiberg bond index of the B−O bond in the parent boroxine  $H_3B_3O_3$  is smaller than the bond order of the B $-O(M)$  bonds for compounds 1 and 2; in the case of compound 3, these bond orders are comparable. The boroxine B−O bond order in  $H_3B_3O_3$  is however larger than the B− O(B) bond orders in all compounds. For compounds 1 and 2, NBO analysis reveals the presence of one largely s-type lone pair on Sb or Bi and two bonds from the metal atoms to the neighboring oxygen atoms (with bond orders of 0.583 and 0.570, respectively). In the case of compound 3, four bonds emerge from the Sn atom to its neighbors with Wiberg bond indices of 0.533 (Sn−O) and 0.876 (Sn−H), respectively.

In order to investigate in more detail the presence of the pincer-type ligands on the heteroboroxine rings, larger model systems  $L\text{Sb}[(\text{OBMe})_2\text{O}]$   $(1')$ ,  $L\text{Bi}[(\text{OBMe})_2\text{O}]$   $(2')$ , and  $L(Me)Sn[(OBMe)<sub>2</sub>O]$  (3') were constructed. These contain the ligands L on the metal atom, while methyl groups are used for termination of the free valencies. Relevant bond distances of the heteroboroxine rings remain essentially unaltered in these larger systems. In addition, NBO analysis is fully consistent with the bonding situation around the metal atoms in the simpler model systems 1−3. The only differences are seen in the bond orders of the metal to oxygen bonds in the boroxine rings that are somewhat decreased (0.465 for 1′, 0.440 for 2′, and 0.421 for 3′) and in the atomic charges on the metals that become more positive, favoring a stabilizing interaction with the negatively charged nitrogen atoms of the ligand L. Both facts reflect significant polarization of the M−O bonds in 1′−3′ in comparison with 1−3 induced by the pincer ligand.

#### ■ CONCLUSION

We discovered a new straightforward and high-yielding synthetic route to novel heteroboroxines possessing Sb, Bi, and Sn heteroatoms in the central  $MB_2O_3$  ring. Theoretical considerations proved nonaromatic character of these heteroboroxines and suggest that the presence of the pincer-type ligand leads to a significant polarization of the  $MB_2O_3$  moieties. Results of further reactivity studies and attempts at preparation of other heteroboroxines bearing various substituents at boron and heteroatoms M will be reported in due course.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

**General Remarks.**  ${}^{1}H$ ,  ${}^{11}B$ ,  ${}^{13}C$ , and  ${}^{119}Sn$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz spectrometer or Bruker Ultrashield 400 MHz using a 5 mm tunable broad-band 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) or to the external Me<sub>4</sub>Sn  $\delta(^{119}Sn)$  = 0.00 ppm in the case of the <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR spectra. <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were related to external standard  $B(OMe)_3$   $(\delta(^{10}B) = 18.1$  ppm). IR spectra were

recorded in the 4000−50 cm<sup>−</sup><sup>1</sup> region on a Nicolet 6700 FTIR spectrometer using a single-bounce diamond ATR crystal. Elemental analyses were performed on an LECO-CHNS-932 analyzer. Starting compounds  $(\text{LSbO})_{2}^{14a}$   $(\text{LBiO})_{2}^{14b}$  and  $\text{L(Ph)Sn}(\text{CO}_3)^{14c}$  were prepared according to literature procedures.

Syntheses. Com[pou](#page-7-0)nd  $L\bar{S}b[(OBPh),O]$  $L\bar{S}b[(OBPh),O]$  $L\bar{S}b[(OBPh),O]$  (1a). A sol[utio](#page-7-0)n of  $(LSbO)_2$  (417 mg, 0.63 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) was added to a stirred solution of  $PhB(OH)$ <sub>2</sub> (309 mg, 2.53 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (15 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 12 h at this temperature. Then the volume of the solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (15 mL) was added leading to formation of a white precipitate. The white solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give 1a as a white solid. Yield: 571 mg (84%). Mp: 155−157 °C. <sup>1</sup> H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 2.19 (s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 2.84 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2$ N), 3.09 and 4.75 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.03 (d, 2H, L-Ph-H3,5), 7.17 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4), 7.38 (m, 6H, B-Ph3,4,5), 8.02 (d, 4H, B-Ph2,6). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 42.4 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 45.0  $((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N)$ , 63.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 126.3 (L-Ph-C3,5), 127.6 (B-Ph-C3,5), 129.3 (L-Ph-C4), 130.1 (B-Ph-C4), 135.0 (B-Ph-C2,6), 147.4 (L-Ph-C2,6), 155.5 (L-Ph-C1). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 26.9. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{24}H_{29}N_2O_3B_2Sb$  (536.86): C, 53.7; H, 5.4. Found: C, 54.0; H, 5.1.

Compound LSb[(OB-4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O] (1b). A solution of  $(LSbO)_2$ (205 mg, 0.31 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) was added to a stirred suspension of  $4\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{B}(\text{OH})_2$  (237 mg, 1.25 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ (15 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred for additional 12 h at this temperature whereupon a clear solution resulted. Then the volume of the solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (15 mL) was added, leading to formation of a white precipitate. The white solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give 1b as a white solid. Yield: 334 mg (80%). Mp: 199–202 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 2.10 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 2.86 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 3.12 and 4.68 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.06 (d, 2H, L-Ph-H3,5), 7.21 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4), 7.63 (d, 4H, B-Ph3,5), 8.08 (d, 4H, B-Ph2,6). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 42.4 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 45.5 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 63.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 124.2  $(q, B\text{-}Ph\text{-}C3,5, \sqrt[3]{(C,F)} = 4 \text{ Hz}$ , 126.3  $(q, CF_3, \sqrt[1]{(C,F)} = 265 \text{ Hz}$ , 126.4 (L-Ph-C3,5), 129.6 (L-Ph-C4), 131.7 (q, B-Ph-C4,  $^{2}$ J(C,F) = 32 Hz), 135.0 (B-Ph-C2,6), 141.4 (B-Ph-C1), 147.2 (L-Ph-C2,6), 155.1 (L-Ph-C1). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 27.5$ . <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = −62.6. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>6</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Sb: C, 46.2; H, 4.7. Found: C, 46.5; H, 4.4.

Compound LSb[(OBFc)<sub>2</sub>O] (1c). A solution of  $(LSbO)_2$  (98 mg, 0.15 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) was added to a stirred solution of  $FcB(OH)$ <sub>2</sub> (138 mg, 0.60 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (15 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 12 h at this temperature. Then the volume of the solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (15 mL) was added, leading to formation of a yellow-orange precipitate. Solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give 1c as a yellow solid. Yield: 172 mg (84%). Mp >250 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 2.15 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 2.80 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 3.15 and 4.89 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 3.96 (s, 10H CpFe), 4.33 (s, 4H,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ), 4.42 (s, 2H,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ) 4.50 (2H, s,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ), 7.10 (d, 2H, L-Ph-H3,5), 7.16 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4). 13C{1 H} NMR  $(CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): \delta = 42.5 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 44.9 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 63.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>N),$ 68.3 (CpFe), 71.2 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 71.3 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 73.8 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)-Fe), 74.5 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 126.5 (L-Ph-C3,5), 129.5 (L-Ph-C4), 147.3  $(L\text{-}Ph\text{-}C2,6)$ , 155.9 (L-Ph-C1). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 29.3. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Sb: C, 51.0; H, 4.9. Found: C, 51.3; H, 4.7.

Compound LBi[(OBPh)<sub>2</sub>O] (2a). A solution of  $(LBiO)_2$  (189 mg, 0.23 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) was added to a stirred solution of  $PhB(OH)_2$  (111 mg, 0.91 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 12 h at this temperature. Then the volume of the resulting solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (10 mL) was added, causing a separation of a white precipitate. White solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give 2a as

#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>Table 3. Crystallographic Data for 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c



a white solid. Yield: 219 mg (95%). Mp: 170−174 °C. <sup>1</sup> H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 2.17$  (s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 2.93 (s(br), 6H,  $(CH_3)_2$ N), 3.29 and 4.76 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.25 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4), 7.39 (m, 8H, L-Ph-H3,5 and B-Ph3,4,5), 8.04 (d, 4H, B-Ph2,6). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 42.5 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 46.2  $((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N)$ , 65.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 127.6 (B-Ph-C3,5), 128.5 (L-Ph-C3,5), 128.7 (L-Ph-C4), 129.6 (B-Ph-C4), 135.1 (B-Ph-C2,6), 152.1 (L-Ph-C2,6), 205.0 (L-Ph-C1). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 26.7. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{24}H_{29}N_2O_3B_2Bi$ : C, 46.2; H, 4.7. Found: C, 46.3; H, 4.6.

Compound LBi[(OB-4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O] (2b). A solution of  $(LBiO)<sub>2</sub>$ (100 mg, 0.12 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) was added to a stirred suspension of  $4\text{-CF}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{B}(\text{OH})_2$  (91 mg, 0.48 mmol) in the same solvent (15 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 12 h at this temperature, affording a clear solution. Then the volume of the solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (15 mL) was added, leading to formation of a white precipitate. White solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give 2b as a white solid. Yield: 182 mg (90%). Mp: 184−187 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 2.17  $(s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N)$ , 2.93  $(s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N)$ , 3.35 and 4.70 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.29 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4), 7.42 (d, 2H, L-Ph-H3,5),  $7.61$  (d, 4H, B-Ph3,5), 8.08 (d, 4H, B-Ph2,6). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 42.5 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 46.3 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 65.7  $(CH<sub>2</sub>N)$ , 124.2 (q, B-Ph-C3,5, <sup>3</sup>J(C,F) = 4 Hz), 124.2 (q, CF<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>J(C,F)  $= 266$  Hz), 128.7 (L-Ph-C3,5), 129.1 (L-Ph-C4), 131.3 (q, B-Ph-C4,  $^{2}$ J(C,F) = 32 Hz), 135.3 (B-Ph-C2,6), 138.1 (B-Ph-C1), 152.2 (L-Ph-C2,6), 205.4 (L-Ph-C1). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 26.4. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = −62.6. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>6</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Bi: C, 41.1; H, 3.6. Found: C, 41.4; H, 3.4.

Compound LBi[(OBFc)<sub>2</sub>O] (2c). A solution of  $(LBiO)_2$  (100 mg, 0.12 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) was added to a stirred solution of  $FcB(OH)<sub>2</sub>$  (110 mg, 0.48 mmol) in toluene (15 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 12 h at this temperature. Then the volume of the solution was evaporated to ca. 5 mL; hexane (15 mL) was added, leading to formation of a yelloworange precipitate. Solid was collected by filtration, washed with 5 mL of hexane, and dried in vacuo to give compound 2c as a yellow solid.

Yield: 156 mg (86%). Mp: >237 °C (dec). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 2.18 (s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 2.67 (s(br), 6H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 3.35 and 4.93 (AX pattern, 4H, CH2N), 3.95 (s, 10H CpFe), 4.30 (s, 4H,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ), 4.40 (s, 2H,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ), 4.91 (2H, s,  $Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe$ ), 7.26 (t, 1H, L-Ph-H4), 7.47 (d, 2H, L-Ph-H3,5). 13C{1 H} NMR  $(CDCI_3, 25 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}): \delta = 42.0 \ ((CH_3)_2N), 45.7 \ ((CH_3)_2N), 65.7 \ (CH_2N),$ 68.2 (CpFe), 71.0 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 73.6 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 74.7 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)-Fe), 128.6 (L-Ph-C3,5), 128.9 (L-Ph-C4), 152.0 (L-Ph-C2,6), (L-Ph-C1) not found. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 28.4. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{32}H_{37}N_2O_3Fe_2B_2Bi$ : C, 45.6; H, 4.4. Found: C, 45.9; H, 4.1.

Compound LSn(Ph)[(OBPh)<sub>2</sub>O] (3a). PhB(OH)<sub>2</sub> (77.8 mg; 0.64 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of  $L(Ph)Sn(CO<sub>3</sub>)$  (142.6 mg; 0.32 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 24 h and then evaporated. White solid residue was washed with hexane (5 mL) and dried in vacuo to give 3a as a white solid. Yield: 571 mg (84%). Mp: 119−124 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta$  = 2.31 (s, 12H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 3.10 and 4.70 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 7.15 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.31 (t, 1H, ArH), 7.49 (m, 9H, ArH), 7.82 (d, 2H, ArH), 8.20 (d, 4H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR  $(CDCl_3, 25^{\circ})$ :  $\delta = 44.8$   $((CH_3)_2N)$ , 63.1  $(CH_2N)$ , 127.2  $(Ph-C3.5)$ , 127.4 (B-Ph-C3,5), 128.1 (L-Ph-C3,5), 129.6 (Ph-C4), 129.7 (B-Ph-C4), 130.1 (L-Ph-C4), 134.6 (Ph-C2,6), 134.9 (B-Ph-C2,6), 138.3 (B-Ph-C1), 139.3 (Ph-C1), 141.9 (L-Ph-C1), 145.2 (L-Ph-C2,6).  $^{11}B\{^{1}H\}$ NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 27.1$ . <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta =$  $-359.1$ . Anal. Calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Sn (476.76): C, 58.9; H, 5.6. Found: C, 58.5; H, 5.3.

Compound LSn(Ph)[(OB-4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>O] (3b). 4-CF<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-B- $(OH)$ <sub>2</sub> (122.6 mg; 0.32 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of  $L(Ph)Sn(CO<sub>3</sub>)$  (144.3 mg; 0.65 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) at room temperature. This reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 24 h at this temperature and then evaporated in vacuo. The resulting white solid was washed with hexane (5 mL) and dried in vacuo to give 3b as a white solid. Yield: 571 mg (84%). Mp: 189−191 °C. <sup>I</sup>H NMR  $(CDCI_3, 25^\circ)$ :  $\delta$  = 2.48 (s, 12H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 3.19 and 4.71 (AX pattern, 4H, CH2N), 7.23 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.43 (t, 1H, ArH), 7.56 (m, 1H, ArH), 7.78 (d, 6H, ArH), 7.85 (d, 2H, ArH), 8.29 (d, 4H, ArH).  $^{13}$ C $\{^1$ H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta$  = 44.7 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 63.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 123.3 (CF<sub>3</sub>), 124.1 (B-Ph-C3,5), 126.1 (CF3), 127.4 (Ph-C3,5), 128.8 (L-Ph-C3,5),

<span id="page-6-0"></span>129.8 (L-Ph-C4), 130.4 (Ph-C4), 131.2 (B-Ph-C4), 131.5 (B-Ph-C4), 134.5 (Ph-C2,6), 135.0 (B-Ph−C2,6), 139.0 (Ph-C1), 141.4 (L-Ph-C1), 142.2 (B-Ph-C1), 145.0 (L-Ph-C2,6).  $^{11}B(^{1}H)$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = 29.3. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta$  = −62.5. <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta$  = -364.0. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>6</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Sn (490.77): C, 51.4; H, 4.3. Found: C, 51.1; H, 4.1.

Compound LSn(Ph)[(OBFc)<sub>2</sub>O] (3c). FcB(OH)<sub>2</sub> (78.4 mg; 0.34 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of  $L(Ph)Sn(CO<sub>3</sub>)$  (76.2 mg; 0.17 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (20 mL) at room temperature, and the reaction mixture was stirred for a further 24 h at this temperature and evaporated in vacuo. The resulting orange solid was washed with hexane (5 mL) and dried in vacuo to give 3c as an orange solid. Yield: 156 mg (86%). Mp: 213–215 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25<sup>°</sup>):  $\delta$  = 2.37 (s, 12H,  $(CH_3)_2N$ ), 3.11 and 4.73 (AX pattern, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>N), 4.05 (s, 10H CpFe), 4.35 (s, 4H, Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 4.53 (s, 4H, Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 7.14 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.31 (d, 1H, ArH), 7.14 (t, 3H, ArH), 7.85 (d, 2H, ArH). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta$  = 44.7 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N), 63.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 68.3 (CpFe), 71.1 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 74.2 (Cp(BO<sub>2</sub>)Fe), 127.3 (L-Ph-C3,5), 128.7 (Ph-C3,5), 129.7 (Ph-C4), 130.3 (L-Ph-C4), 134.9 (Ph-C2,6), 139.7 (Ph-C1), 142.2 (L-Ph-C1), 145.3 (L-Ph-C2,6). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C):  $\delta = 28.2$ . <sup>119</sup>Sn NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25°):  $\delta =$  $-358.0$ . Anal. Calcd for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Fe<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub>Sn: C, 45.6; H, 4.4. Found: C, 45.9; H, 4.1.

X-ray Diffraction Analyses. Suitable single crystals of 1a, 1c, 2b, 3b, and 3c were mounted on a glass fiber with an oil and measured on a four-circle diffractometer KappaCCD with CCD area detector by monochromatized Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Corresponding crystallographic data are given in Table 3. The numerical<sup>27</sup> absorption correction from the crystal shape was applied for all crystals. Structures<br>were solved by direct methods (SIR92<sup>28</sup>) and refined b[y a](#page-7-0) full matrix least-squares procedure based on  $F^2$  (S[HE](#page-5-0)LXL97<sup>29</sup>). Hydrogen atoms were mostly localized on a difference F[ou](#page-7-0)rier map; however, to ensure the uniformity of treatment of the crystal, [a](#page-7-0)ll hydrogen were recalculated into idealized positions (riding model) and assigned temperature factors  $H_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(pivot atom)$  or  $1.5U_{eq}$  for the methyl moiety with C−H = 0.96, 0.98, and 0.93 Å for methyl, methylene, and hydrogen atoms in the aromatic rings, respectively. The final difference maps displayed no peaks of chemical significance as the highest peaks and holes are in close vicinity of heavy atoms. Crystallographic data for structural analysis has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC nos. 895166− 895170. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EY, UK (Fax +44-1223-336033; e-mail deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or http:// www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

Computational Details. Model compounds 1, 2, and 3[, the](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk) parent boroxine  $H_3B_3O_3$ , and the "extended" [model compo](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)unds  $1', 2',$ and 3' [were optimiz](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk)ed at the B3LYP level of theory<sup>19</sup> using the ccpVTZ basis set<sup>20</sup> (cc-pVTZ-PP<sup>21</sup> basis set for Sb, Bi, and Sn). Subsequent NBO analysis<sup>25</sup> and calculation of Wiber[g b](#page-7-0)ond indices<sup>26</sup> and nucleus-ind[ep](#page-7-0)endent chemi[cal](#page-7-0) shifts<sup>23</sup> (for 1,  $2$ , and 3) were performed at the same lev[el](#page-7-0) of theory. In addition, the current densi[ty](#page-7-0) induced by the external magnetic field, d[ire](#page-7-0)cted perpendicular to the ring of interest, was calculated for 1, 2, and 3 at the same level of theory using the ipsocentric CTOCD-DZ method.<sup>24</sup> Compounds  $1a$ c, 2a−c, and 3a−c were optimized at the B3LYP level of theory<sup>18</sup> using the cc-pVDZ basis set (cc-pVDZ-PP basis se[t fo](#page-7-0)r Sb, Bi, and Sn). Subsequent NBO analysis<sup>21</sup> and calculation of Wiberg bond indices<sup>25</sup> and nucleus-independent chemical shifts<sup>26</sup> for these compounds we[re](#page-7-0) performed at the same lev[el](#page-7-0) of theory. All calculations were perform[ed](#page-7-0) using the Gaussian 09 program, $30$  exc[ep](#page-7-0)t for computation of the induced current densities, which were performed using the GAMESS- $UK<sup>31</sup>$  and SYSMO programs.<sup>32</sup>

#### ■ [A](#page-7-0)SSOCIA[TE](#page-7-0)D CONTENT

#### **S** Supporting Information

Figures S1−S3, crystallographic data in cif format, and details of DFT calculations together with ball and stick representation and Cartesian coordinates (Å) of optimized compounds. This

material is available free of charge via the Internet at http:// pubs.acs.org.

#### ■ [AUTHO](http://pubs.acs.org)R INFORMATION

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#### **Notes**

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#### **ENDEDICATION**

Dedicated to Prof. Jaroslav Holeček on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

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