

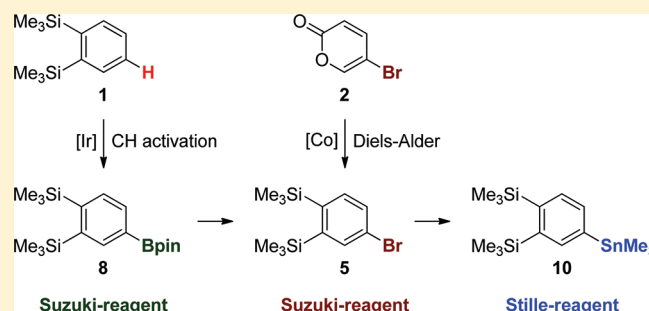
# Synthesis of Bromo-, Boryl-, and Stannyl-Functionalized 1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes via Diels–Alder or C–H Activation Reactions

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**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** 1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes are key starting materials for the synthesis of benzyne precursors, Lewis acid catalysts, and certain luminophores. We have developed efficient, high-yield routes to functionalized 4-R-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes, starting from either 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetylene/5-bromopyran-2-one (**2**) or 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (**1**)/bis(pinacolato)diborane. In the first reaction, **5** (R = Br) is obtained through a cobalt-catalyzed Diels–Alder cycloaddition. The second reaction proceeds via iridium-mediated C–H activation and provides **8** (R = Bpin). Besides its use as a Suzuki reagent, compound **8** can be converted into **5** with CuBr<sub>2</sub> in *i*-PrOH/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O. Lithium–bromine exchange on **5**, followed by the addition of Me<sub>3</sub>SnCl, gives **10** (R = SnMe<sub>3</sub>), which we have applied for Stille coupling reactions. A Pd-catalyzed C–C coupling reaction between **5** and **8** leads to the corresponding tetrasilylbiphenyl derivative. The bromo derivative **5** cleanly undergoes Suzuki reactions with electron-rich as well as electron-poor phenylboronic acids.

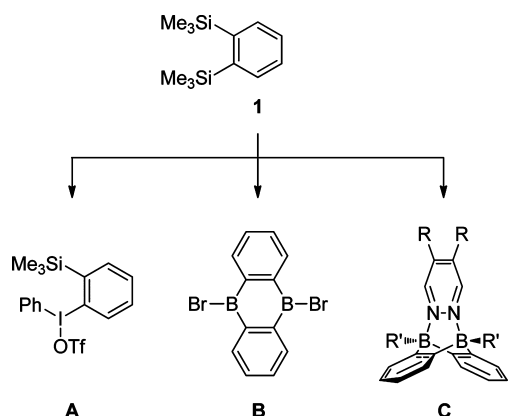


## INTRODUCTION

Polysubstituted arenes constitute versatile fine chemicals for organic synthesis.<sup>1</sup> This is exceptionally true if the individual functional groups are selected such that stepwise orthogonal derivatization is possible.

Our group is particularly interested in 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes because their broad application potential ranges from organic synthesis to materials chemistry and molecular recognition (Scheme 1). For example, the parent compound **1** serves as the key starting material for the synthesis of (i)

Scheme 1

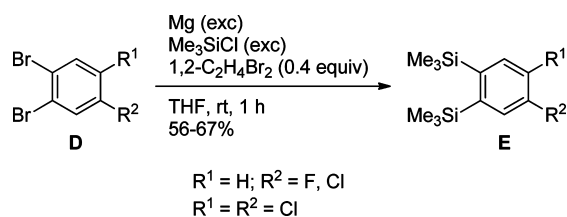


(phenyl)[2-(trimethylsilyl)phenyl]iodonium triflate (**A**), one of the most efficient benzyne precursors available to date;<sup>2</sup> (ii) 9,10-dibromo-9,10-dihydro-9,10-diboranthracene (**B**), an important building block of luminescent boron-doped  $\pi$ -conjugated materials;<sup>3</sup> and (iii) various other 9,10-dihydro-9,10-diboranthracenes, which have been used as fluoride detectors,<sup>4</sup> for the complexation of mono- and ditopic Lewis bases (e.g., **C**; R' = H, R = H or R'R = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>),<sup>5</sup> and as Lewis acidic phthalazine activation catalysts (**C**; R' = methyl, R'' = C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>).<sup>6</sup>

Most synthesis protocols of **1** suffer from one or more of the following disadvantages: use of toxic and cancerogenic solvents, expensive chemicals, inconvenient reaction conditions (e.g., very low or rather high temperatures; extended reaction times), low yields.<sup>7</sup> Very recently, we have shown that **1** is readily accessible from 1,2-dibromobenzene, Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl, and Mg turnings in the presence of 1,2-dibromoethane as an entrainer (THF, rt, 30 min; 62%).<sup>8</sup> However, as a shortcoming, also this new method requires strongly reducing conditions and is therefore compatible with only a very limited number of functional groups. Apart from **1**, we have so far only been able to synthesize the three fluoro- or chloro-bearing derivatives **E**, which turned out to be rather inert toward further C–X activation (X = F, Cl; Scheme 2). Surprisingly, when alkyl-substituted 1,2-dibromobenzenes **D** were employed (R<sup>1</sup> = R<sup>2</sup> =

Received: February 14, 2012

Published: March 13, 2012

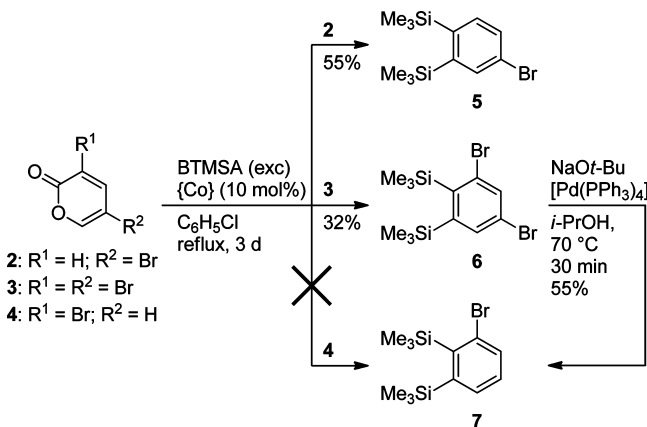
Scheme 2. Derivatives of **1** Accessible via the Entrainment Approach

methyl;  $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \textit{tert}$ -butyl), the double silylation reaction almost completely failed, whereas the phenyl-substituted starting material gave the corresponding derivative **E** ( $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{R}^2 = \text{phenyl}$ ) in 60% yield (see below).

Thus, if we want to exploit the full potential of 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes in the areas outlined above (cf. Scheme 1), additional methods allowing the synthesis of more sophisticated E-type compounds are in demand. In this paper, we are focusing on a substitution pattern  $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$  and  $\text{R}^2 = \text{Br}$ , Bpin, or  $\text{SnMe}_3$ , which are the key functional groups for further Pd-mediated C–C cross-coupling reactions (HBpin: pinacolborane). We will show how these substituents can be introduced starting either from 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetylene (BTMSA) via the assembly of the benzene ring through a Diels–Alder reaction or by the Ir-catalyzed C–H activation of parent **1**.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Bromo-Substituted 1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes via Diels–Alder Reactions.** Seyferth and Kitamura employed the Diels–Alder reaction of 5-R-pyran-2-ones with 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetylene (BTMSA) to prepare a selection of 4-R-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes ( $\text{R} = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Me}$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\textit{t}$ -Bu,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ,  $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Me}$ ).<sup>9</sup> Following a similar approach, we first treated the literature-known bromo-substituted pyran-2-ones **2–4**<sup>10,11</sup> with BTMSA in  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Cl}$  at reflux temperature for 7 days (Scheme 3; cf. the Supporting Information for X-ray crystal structure analyses of **2–4**). 4-Bromo-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (**5**) was obtained in 40% yield, whereas **6** and **7** did not form in significant amounts. This result contradicts the previous finding that **3** is more reactive than **2** in Diels–Alder cycloadditions.<sup>12</sup> In the presence of the catalyst system  $\text{Zn}/\text{ZnI}_2/[\text{CoBr}_2(\text{dppe})(\text{OH}_2)(\text{THF})]$ ,<sup>13</sup>

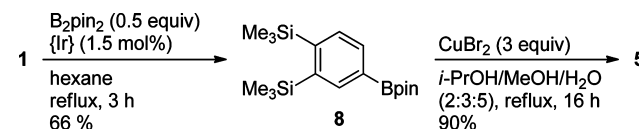
Scheme 3. Syntheses of Bromo-Substituted 1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>{Co} =  $(\text{Zn}/\text{ZnI}_2/[\text{CoBr}_2(\text{dppe})(\text{OH}_2)(\text{THF})], 2:2:1)$ .

the reactions **2** → **5** and **3** → **6** proceeded with yields of 55 and 32%, respectively, already after a reaction time of 3 days (dppe: 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane). In the case of **6**, it is essential to stop the reaction at this stage because prolonged heating results in protodesilylation at the 2-position of the benzene ring. For the transformation **4** → **7**, also the cobalt-catalyzed protocol does not work. However, we found that **7** is accessible in yields of 55% by catalytic dehalogenation of **6** ( $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4]$ , *i*-PrOH/ $\text{NaOt}$ -Bu; Scheme 3).<sup>14</sup> For a selective monodehalogenation at the 5-position, it is mandatory not to exceed a reaction time of 30 min and an oil bath temperature of 70 °C.

The NMR data of **5** are unexceptional and therefore do not merit further discussion. One of the two  $\text{SiMe}_3$  <sup>1</sup>H NMR resonances in both **6** (0.38 and 0.50 ppm) and **7** (0.37 and 0.52 ppm) is significantly deshielded compared to the corresponding signals of **5** (0.35 and 0.37 ppm). We attribute this effect to the presence of the *ortho*-Br substituent in **6** and **7**.

**Bpin-Substituted 1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes via a C–H Activation Reaction.** Parent 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene **1** undergoes selective borylation at the 4-position (cf. **8**; Scheme 4) with 0.5 equiv of  $\text{B}_2\text{pin}_2$  in the presence of an in situ generated iridium catalyst ( $[\text{Ir}(\text{cyclooctene})_2\text{Cl}]_2/4,4'$ -dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine/ $\text{NaOMe}$ <sup>15</sup>).

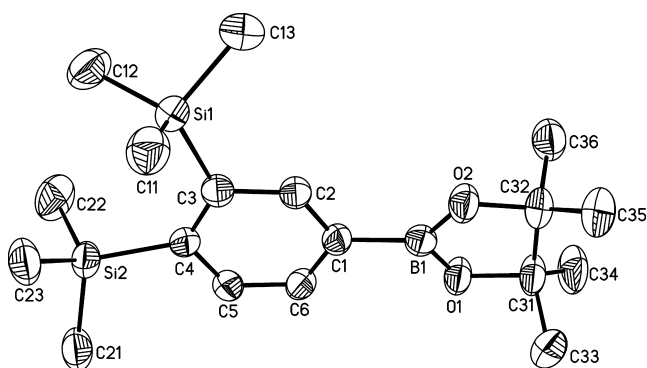
Scheme 4. <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>{Ir} =  $([\text{Ir}(\text{cyclooctene})_2\text{Cl}]_2/4,4'$ -dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine/ $\text{NaOMe}$ , 1:2:6).

After 3 h at reflux temperature in hexane, the yield of **8** amounts to 50% (NMR spectroscopic control) and does not improve upon increasing the reaction time and/or addition of further catalyst or any of the starting materials. Since no significant amounts of side products were detectable, one might argue that borylation comes to a halt because the intermediate HBpin (**1** +  $\text{B}_2\text{pin}_2 \rightarrow \mathbf{8} + \text{HBpin}$ ) is not an active reagent in this special case, so that the subsequent conversion **1** + HBpin → **8** +  $\text{H}_2$  does not occur. However,  $\text{H}_2$  evolution is visible after an induction period of 30 min to 1 h, which contradicts this assumption. When working on a preparative scale, separation of the catalyst is conveniently achieved by flash chromatography. Since solid **8** is easily separable from liquid **1** by crystallization, the unreacted starting material can be recycled and directly reused. Typical combined yields of **8** after two consecutive runs are about 65%.

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **8** is characterized by one Bpin resonance, two  $\text{SiMe}_3$  signals, and three aryl-H resonances. These features testify to the formation of only one isomer. The proton integral values are consistent with one Bpin substituent and two  $\text{SiMe}_3$  groups per molecule.

The structure of **8** has finally been proven by X-ray diffraction. The compound crystallizes with two crystallographically independent molecules, **8** and **8<sub>A</sub>**, in the asymmetric unit. Since most key metrical parameters are similar for **8** and **8<sub>A</sub>**, only a plot of **8** is shown in Figure 1. Considerable steric strain between the *ortho*- $\text{SiMe}_3$  groups is obvious from the elongated  $\text{Si}-\text{C}_{\text{ipso}}$  distances, which possess an even larger average value (1.901(4) Å) than the average  $\text{Si}-\text{CH}_3$  bond



**Figure 1.** Molecular structure and numbering scheme of compound **8** (displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level; H atoms are omitted for clarity). The compound crystallizes with two crystallographically independent molecules, **8** and **8<sub>A</sub>**, in the asymmetric unit. Since most key metrical parameters are similar for **8** and **8<sub>A</sub>**, only a plot of **8** is shown and selected bond lengths (Å), bond angles (deg), and torsion angles (deg) of **8** are listed: Si(1)–C(3) = 1.894(4), Si(2)–C(4) = 1.898(3), B(1)–O(1) = 1.364(5), B(1)–O(2) = 1.367(5), B(1)–C(1) = 1.564(5); Si(1)–C(3)–C(4) = 129.8(2), Si(2)–C(4)–C(3) = 127.7(3); Si(1)–C(3)–C(4)–Si(2) = –4.7(4), C(2)–C(1)–B(1)–O(2) = 8.9(5), C(6)–C(1)–B(1)–O(1) = 10.9(5).

length (1.867(4) Å). Moreover, the average Si–C<sub>ipso</sub>–C'<sub>ipso</sub> bond angles are expanded to 128.5(3)°. As has already been deduced from the NMR spectra, a Bpin substituent occupies the 4-position of the benzene ring. The identity of the single crystal with the bulk material was proven by high-resolution X-ray powder diffraction.

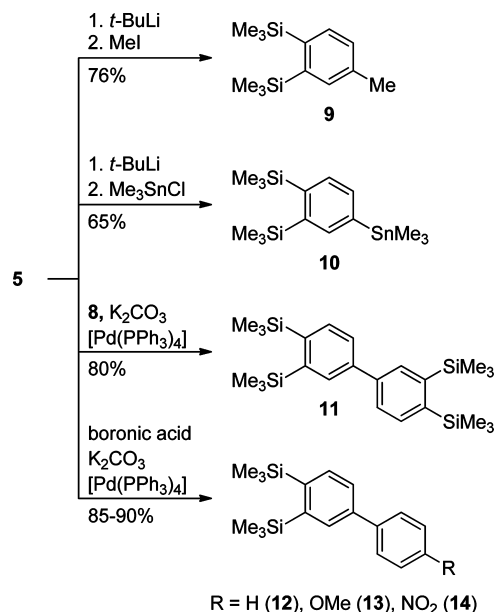
Hartwig et al. recently reported that arylboronic esters can be converted to aryl bromides upon treatment with 3 equiv of CuBr<sub>2</sub> in MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (1:1).<sup>16</sup> For the transformation of **8** into **5**, we adapted the synthesis protocol by adding *i*-PrOH to the solvent mixture in order to increase the solubility of **8**. NMR spectroscopic monitoring of the reaction progress revealed 50% conversion after a reaction time of 6 h at reflux temperature (*i*-PrOH/MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O = 2:3:5); after 16 h, **5** had formed in essentially quantitative yield (Scheme 4).

**Further Derivatizations of 5 and 8.** Lithium–bromine exchange between **5** and *t*-BuLi in Et<sub>2</sub>O or THF at –78 °C and subsequent treatment of the phenyl lithium intermediate with MeI or Me<sub>3</sub>SnCl provides in good yields the 4-methylated or 4-stannylated 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes **9** and **10**, respectively (Scheme 5).

The synthesis of **9**, which has previously been prepared by titanium-catalyzed Diels–Alder cycloaddition of 2-methyl-1,3-butadiene with BTMSA, followed by aromatization of the primary cyclohexa-1,4-diene,<sup>17</sup> just served as a proof-of-principle in the present case. Compound **10**, however, has application potential in further Stille-type<sup>18</sup> C–C coupling reactions (see below).

Aryl bromides together with arylboronic esters constitute the two most widely used components in Suzuki-type<sup>19</sup> cross-coupling reactions. In order to test the utility of **5** and **8** in this context at the same time, we performed a Suzuki reaction<sup>20</sup> between these two compounds and obtained the tetrasilylbiphenyl **11** in 80% yield (Scheme 5; cf. the Supporting Information for an X-ray crystal structure analysis of **11**). The reactivity of **5** was further explored by conducting C–C coupling reactions with *p*-R-phenylboronic acids bearing substituents with greatly different mesomeric effects (i.e., R =

### Scheme 5. Derivatizations of **5** via Li–Br Exchange Reactions (**5** → **9,10**) or Suzuki-Type Coupling Reactions (**5** → **11–14**)



H, OMe, NO<sub>2</sub>). According to NMR spectroscopy, the formation of all three biphenyl products (**12–14**) was essentially quantitative (isolated yields: 85–90%), which underlines the broad application scope of our new building block. X-ray crystal structure analyses of **13** and **14** reveal similarly elongated Si–C<sub>ipso</sub> bond lengths and widened Si–C<sub>ipso</sub>–C'<sub>ipso</sub> bond angles as in molecule **8** (cf. the Supporting Information for more details).

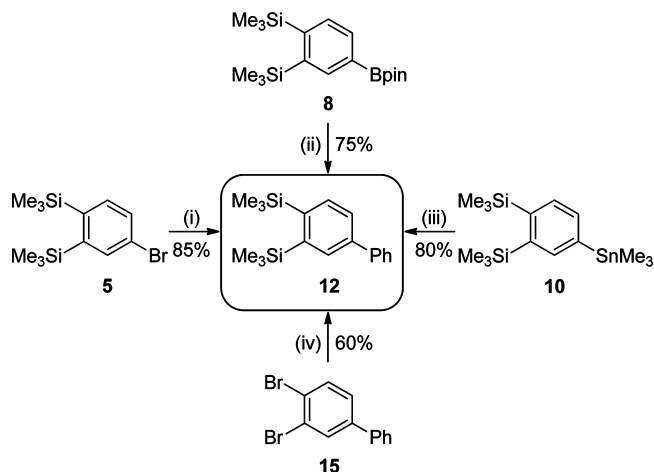
**Comparison of Different Access Routes to 4-Phenyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (12).** In the preceding paragraph, we have shown that 4-bromo-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene **5** readily undergoes Suzuki reactions with electron-rich as well as electron-poor phenylboronic acids. For an evaluation of the performance of **5**, **8**, and **10** in Pd-mediated C–C coupling reactions, we selected 4-phenyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (**12**) as the target molecule (Scheme 6). Under comparable reaction conditions, all three species gave comparably high yields of **12** (i.e., 75–85%), which shows that one is free to choose between arylboronic acids or bromoarenes as coupling partners and basic or base-free reaction media.

For completion, we also performed the synthesis of **12** via the entrainment route, starting from 3,4-dibromobiphenyl (**15**),<sup>21</sup> Me<sub>3</sub>SiCl, and Mg turnings. The yields obtained were satisfactory (60%) but lower than those of the Pd-catalyzed protocols. The Grignard approach is also less versatile because it is not compatible with substituents that are sensitive to reducing conditions, strong nucleophiles, or radical intermediates. Nevertheless, from a fundamental point of view, the successful conversion **15** → **12** is remarkable given the fact that neither 4-*tert*-butyl- nor 4,5-dimethyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene is accessible by the entrainment method.<sup>8</sup>

## CONCLUSION

1,2-Bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes enjoy increasing interest for the preparation of benzyne precursors as well as 9,10-dihydro-9,10-diboraanthracenes. Certain derivatives of the latter class of



Scheme 6. Four Different Approaches to 12<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Reagents and conditions: (i)  $C_6H_5B(OH)_2$  (1.2 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (3.6 equiv),  $[Pd(PPh_3)_4]$  (7 mol %), toluene/EtOH/ $H_2O$  (10:6:3), 80 °C, 1 day; (ii)  $C_6H_5Br$  (1.1 equiv),  $K_2CO_3$  (3.6 equiv),  $[Pd(PPh_3)_4]$  (9 mol %), toluene/EtOH/ $H_2O$  (10:6:3), 80 °C, 1 day; (iii)  $C_6H_5Br$  (1.1 equiv),  $[Pd(PPh_3)_4]$  (6 mol %), toluene, 100 °C, 1 day; (iv)  $Me_3SiCl$  (exc),  $Mg$  (exc), 1,2- $C_2H_4Br_2$  (1.0 equiv), THF, rt, 1 day.

compounds have recently been introduced into the literature as catalysts for inverse electron-demand Diels–Alder reactions and as fluorophores in boron-doped  $\pi$ -conjugated materials. A decisive factor setting the pace of further developments in these emerging fields is the availability of appropriately functionalized 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes. In this paper, we describe brominated, borylated, and stannylated 1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzenes, which serve as valuable reagents in Suzuki and Stille-type C–C coupling reactions. The reaction protocols proved to be compatible with both electron-rich and electron-poor coupling partners, and they can be conducted in basic and base-free media. With these tools at hand, it should now be possible to access a broader variety of compounds through benzyne chemistry, to influence the Lewis acidity of 9,10-dihydro-9,10-diboraanthracene catalysts, and to tune the absorption/emission wavelengths as well as the redox potentials of corresponding boron-containing materials.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Remarks.** All reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere using Schlenk techniques and carefully dried solvents. Chemical shifts are referenced to residual  $CHCl_3$  signals ( $^1H$ : 7.260 ppm,  $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ : 77.16 ppm) external  $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$  ( $^{11}B\{^1H\}$ : 0.00 ppm), external  $SiMe_4$  ( $^{29}Si$  INEPT: 0.00 ppm), or external  $SnMe_4$  ( $^{119}Sn$ : 0.00 ppm).  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR assignments were achieved using 2D NMR techniques including COSY, ROESY, HSQC, and HMBC. Abbreviations: s = singlet, d = doublet, dd = doublet of doublets, vt = virtual triplet, t = triplet, m = multiplet.

5-Bromopyran-2-one (2), 3,5-dibromopyran-2-one (3), and 3-bromopyran-2-one (4) were synthesized according to literature procedures.<sup>10,11</sup> Both routes lead to varying mixtures of these three compounds, which were separated by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc, 3:1).  $[CoBr_2(dppe)(OH_2)(THF)]^{13}$  and 3,4-dibromobiphenyl (15)<sup>21</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. All other chemicals are commercially available and were used as received.

**4-Bromo-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (5).** Method A: A mixture of 2 (1.29 g, 7.37 mmol), BTMSA (3.01 g, 17.7 mmol), Zn powder (0.11 g, 1.7 mmol),  $ZnI_2$  (0.54 g, 1.7 mmol), and  $[CoBr_2(dppe)-$

$(OH_2)(THF)]$  (0.62 g, 0.88 mmol) in  $C_6H_5Cl$  (60 mL) was heated to reflux temperature for 3 days. The solution was cooled to rt, filtered, and all volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo. Column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) gave 5 as a colorless liquid: yield 1.21 g (4.02 mmol, 55%). Method B: 8 (0.465 g, 1.33 mmol) was dissolved in a *i*-PrOH/MeOH mixture (2:3, 25 mL), and a solution of  $CuBr_2$  (0.891 g, 3.99 mmol) in distilled  $H_2O$  (25 mL) was added. The stirred reaction mixture was heated to reflux temperature for 16 h, cooled to rt, and extracted with  $CHCl_3$  (3  $\times$  15 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with  $H_2O$  (2  $\times$  15 mL), dried over anhydrous  $MgSO_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo to give 5 as a colorless liquid: yield 0.359 g (1.19 mmol, 90%);  $^1H$  NMR (250.1 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  0.35 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ ), 0.37 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ ), 7.44 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 8.1$  Hz,  $^4J_{HH} = 2.0$  Hz; H-5), 7.51 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 8.1$  Hz; H-6), 7.74 (d, 1H,  $^4J_{HH} = 2.0$  Hz; H-3);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  1.9 ( $SiMe_3$ ), 2.0 ( $SiMe_3$ ), 124.0 (C-4), 130.8 (C-5), 137.1 (C-6), 137.8 (C-3), 144.7, 149.5 (C-1,2);  $^{29}Si$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -2.7, -2.6. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{21}BrSi_2$  [301.37]: C, 47.82; H, 7.02. Found: C, 47.45; H, 7.03.

**3,5-Dibromo-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (6).** A mixture of 3 (0.54 g, 2.1 mmol), BTMSA (1.40 g, 8.22 mmol), Zn powder (0.03 g, 0.5 mmol),  $ZnI_2$  (0.19 g, 0.60 mmol), and  $[CoBr_2(dppe)(OH_2)(THF)]$  (0.22 g, 0.31 mmol) in  $C_6H_5Cl$  (15 mL) was heated to reflux temperature for 3 days. The solution was cooled to rt, filtered, and all volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo. Column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) gave 6 as a colorless liquid: yield 0.22 g (0.58 mmol, 28%). Some of the starting material 3 (0.081 g, 0.32 mmol, 15%) was recovered by eluting the column with  $CHCl_3$  and could be directly used for further transformations to increase the overall yield to 32%. Analytically pure samples were obtained by HPLC using a RP C18 semipreparative column eluted with MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1):  $^1H$  NMR (300.0 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  0.38 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ ), 0.50 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ ), 7.65 (d, 1H,  $^4J_{HH} = 2.0$  Hz; Ar-H), 7.70 (d, 1H,  $^4J_{HH} = 2.0$  Hz; Ar-H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  3.0, 3.7, 123.2, 133.1, 135.8, 136.9, 146.1, 153.0;  $^{29}Si$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -0.7, -0.6. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{20}Br_2Si_2$  [380.27]: C, 37.90; H, 5.30. Found: C, 37.96; H, 5.19.

**3-Bromo-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (7).** 6 (0.1889 g, 0.4968 mmol),  $NaOt$ -Bu (0.0477 g, 0.496 mmol), and  $[Pd(PPh_3)_4]$  (0.0082 g, 0.0071 mmol) were dissolved in *i*-PrOH (2 mL). The solution was heated to 70 °C (oil bath temperature) under vigorous stirring for 30 min, cooled to rt, and treated with a saturated aqueous solution of  $NH_4Cl$  (5 mL). The mixture was extracted with hexane (3  $\times$  10 mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with  $H_2O$  (2  $\times$  5 mL), dried over anhydrous  $MgSO_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to give a 10:1 mixture of 7 and 5 as a colorless liquid (NMR spectroscopic control): yield 0.082 g (0.272 mmol, 55%). An attempt to separate 7 from 5 by HPLC using a RP C18 semipreparative column eluted with MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1) was not successful:  $^1H$  NMR (250.1 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  0.37 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ -1), 0.52 (s, 9H;  $SiMe_3$ -2), 7.10 (vt, 1H; H-5), 7.52 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.9$  Hz,  $^4J_{HH} = 1.2$  Hz; H-4), 7.58 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.4$  Hz,  $^4J_{HH} = 1.2$  Hz; H-6);  $^{13}C$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  3.1 ( $SiMe_3$ ), 3.8 ( $SiMe_3$ ), 128.9 (C-5), 133.4 (C-3), 133.9 (C-4), 134.3 (C-6), 147.4 (C-2), 150.8 (C-1);  $^{29}Si$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -1.7, -1.4. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{12}H_{21}BrSi_2$  [301.37]: C, 47.82; H, 7.02. Found: C, 47.39; H, 6.95.

**4-Pinacoloboryl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (8).** A mixture of 1 (5.05 g, 22.7 mmol),  $B_2pin_2$  (2.89 g, 11.4 mmol),  $[Ir(cyclooctene)_2Cl]_2$  (0.311 g, 0.347 mmol), NaOMe (0.108 g, 2.00 mmol), and 4,4'-dimethyl-2,2'-bipyridine (0.156 g, 0.847 mmol) in hexane (50 mL) was heated to reflux temperature for 3 h under vigorous stirring. The solution was cooled to rt, all volatiles were removed in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by flash column chromatography (silica gel, hexane/EtOAc, 15:1) to give a colorless solution of 8 in 1 after all volatiles had been removed from the eluate in vacuo. From this solution, 8 crystallized (rt, 12 h) almost quantitatively in the form of colorless plates that were suitable for X-ray structure analysis. The separation of the solid and the liquid phase provided 3.95 g

(11.3 mmol, 50%) of crystalline **8** as well as 1.65 g (7.42 mmol, 33%) of recovered starting material **1**. This was directly used for a second conversion so that, after two consecutive runs, the overall yield of **8** amounted to 5.23 g (15.0 mmol, 66%). Analytically pure samples were obtained by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.36 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.38 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 1.33 (s, 12H; Me), 7.67 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.6$  Hz; H-6), 7.75 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.2$  Hz; H-5), 8.08 (m, 1H; H-3);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.0 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 25.0 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 83.8 ( $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 127.9 (C-4), 134.1 (C-5), 134.6 (C-6), 141.2 (C-3), 145.1 (C-2), 149.9 (C-1);  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR (96.3 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  30.7 ( $h_{1/2} = 400$  Hz);  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.4, -3.2. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{33}\text{BO}_2\text{Si}_2$  [348.43]: C, 62.05; H, 9.55. Found: C, 61.64; H, 9.26.

**4-Methyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (9)**. A solution of **5** (0.205 g, 0.681 mmol) in  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL) was cooled to  $-78$  °C and *t*-BuLi in pentane (1.6 M, 0.70 mL, 1.1 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring. After 45 min, the reaction mixture was slowly warmed from  $-78$  °C to rt and stirred for further 1 h. To the resulting pale yellow solution was added MeI (0.070 mL, 0.16 g, 1.1 mmol), and after stirring for 12 h at rt, the reaction mixture was quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL). The organic phase was separated with a separation funnel, and the aqueous phase was extracted with hexane ( $3 \times 10$  mL). The organic phases were combined, washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to give **9** as a colorless liquid: yield 0.122 g (0.516 mmol, 76%). Analytically pure samples were obtained by HPLC using a RP C18 semipreparative column eluted with MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.36 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.37 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.35 (s, 3H; Me), 7.15–7.18 (m, 1H; H-5), 7.49–7.50 (m, 1H; H-3), 7.58 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.7$  Hz; H-6);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 21.6 (Me), 128.7 (C-5), 135.6 (C-6), 136.3 (C-3), 137.4 (C-4), 142.4 (C-1), 146.2 (C-2);  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.7, -3.5.

**4-Trimethylstannyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (10)**. A solution of **5** (0.133 g, 0.441 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was cooled to  $-78$  °C and *t*-BuLi in pentane (1.6 M, 0.65 mL, 1.0 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring. After 15 min, a solution of  $\text{Me}_3\text{SnCl}$  (0.113 g, 0.567 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added over a period of 5 min. The reaction mixture was slowly warmed from  $-78$  °C to rt, stirred for further 60 min, and quenched by the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (5 mL). The mixture was extracted with hexane ( $3 \times 10$  mL), and the combined organic phases were washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to give **10** as a colorless liquid: yield 0.110 g (0.286 mmol, 65%);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.30 (s, 9H;  $\text{SnMe}_3$ ), 0.37 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.39 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 7.49 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.3$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.1$  Hz; H-5), 7.64 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.3$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.7$  Hz; H-6), 7.81 (dd, 1H,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.1$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.7$  Hz; H-3);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -9.5 ( $\text{SnMe}_3$ ), 2.0 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 134.8 (C-6), 135.7 (C-5), 142.0 (C-4), 142.7 (C-3), 145.4 (C-2), 146.0 (C-1);  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.5, -3.3;  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  NMR (111.9 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -28.1. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{30}\text{Si}_2\text{Sn}$  [385.28]: C, 46.76; H, 7.85. Found: C, 46.39; H, 7.98.

**General Procedure for Suzuki-Type Coupling Reactions (5  $\rightarrow$  11–14)**. **4-(3',4'-Bis(trimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (11)**. **5** (0.4280 g, 1.420 mmol), **8** (0.4942 g, 1.418 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (0.6889 g, 4.984 mmol), and  $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4]$  (0.0805 g, 0.0697 mmol) were dissolved in a degassed toluene/ $\text{EtOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixture (10:6:3, 60 mL). The solution was heated to 80 °C (oil bath temperature) under vigorous stirring for 1 day, cooled to rt, treated with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mL), and the organic phase was separated with a separation funnel. The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $3 \times 20$  mL), and the organic phases were combined, washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 20$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from

the filtrate in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to obtain **11** as a colorless solid: yield 0.495 g (1.12 mmol, 80%). Compound **11** crystallized from a solution in MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1) upon evaporation in the form of thin colorless needles that were suitable for X-ray structure analysis:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (250.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.41 (s, 18H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.42 (s, 18H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 7.56 (dd, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.0$  Hz; H-5), 7.77 (dd, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.5$  Hz; H-6), 7.92 (dd, 2H,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.0$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.5$  Hz; H-3);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 126.5 (C-5), 134.4 (C-3), 135.9 (C-6), 140.4 (C-4), 145.0 (C-1), 146.8 (C-2);  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.2, -2.9. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{42}\text{Si}_4$  [442.94]: C, 65.08; H, 9.56. Found: C, 64.78; H, 9.50.

**4-Phenyl-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (12)**. **Method A**: via the Suzuki-type coupling reaction of **5** and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{B}(\text{OH})_2$ . This compound was obtained according to the general procedure for Suzuki-type coupling reactions (cf. 11). Subsequent purification by HPLC using a RP C18 semipreparative column eluted with MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1) gave **12** as a colorless liquid: yield 85%. **Method B**: via the Suzuki-type coupling reaction of **8** and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ . This compound was obtained according to the general procedure for Suzuki-type coupling reactions (cf. 11). Subsequent column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) gave **12** as a colorless liquid: yield 75%. **Method C**: via the Stille-type coupling reaction of **10** and  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Br}$ . **10** (0.018 g, 0.047 mmol),  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Br}$  (0.005 mL, 0.008 g, 0.05 mmol), and  $[\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4]$  (0.004 g, 0.003 mmol) were dissolved in toluene (5 mL). The solution was heated to 100 °C (oil bath temperature) under vigorous stirring for 1 day, cooled to rt, and all volatiles were removed in vacuo. The residual crude material was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to obtain **12** as a colorless liquid: yield 0.011 g (0.037 mmol, 80%). **Method D**: via the entrainment method. Mg turnings (0.23 g, 9.5 mmol) were covered with THF (30 mL) and treated at rt with neat  $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCl}$  (0.8 mL, 0.7 g, 6 mmol) and **15** (0.21 g, 0.67 mmol). A temperature of approximately 20 °C was maintained by means of a water bath throughout the reaction time. A solution of 1,2- $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Br}_2$  (0.060 mL, 0.13 g, 0.70 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to the vigorously stirred slurry over 30 min. After further stirring for 1 day at rt, the slurry was filtered, the filtrate treated with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (10 mL), and the organic phase separated with a separation funnel. The aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  ( $3 \times 10$  mL), the organic phases were combined, washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $2 \times 10$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and filtered. All volatiles were removed from the filtrate in vacuo, and the residual crude material was purified by HPLC using a RP C18 semipreparative column eluted with MeOH/*t*-BuOMe (3:1) to obtain **12** as a colorless liquid: yield 0.120 g (0.402 mmol, 60%);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.42 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.43 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 7.37 (t, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 7.46 (vt, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 7.56 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$  Hz,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.8$  Hz; H-5), 7.61 (d, 2H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$  Hz;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 7.77 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$  Hz; H-6), 7.91 (d, 1H,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 1.8$  Hz; H-3);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 126.5 (C-5), 127.4 ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 127.5 ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 128.9 ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 134.2 (C-3), 135.9 (C-6), 140.3 (C-4), 141.5 ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ), 144.9 (C-1), 146.8 (C-2);  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.3, -2.9. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{26}\text{Si}_2$  [298.57]: C, 72.41; H, 8.78. Found: C, 72.39; H, 8.55.

**4-(4'-Methoxyphenyl)-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (13)**. This compound was obtained according to the general procedure for Suzuki-type coupling reactions (cf. 11). Subsequent column chromatography (silica gel,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) gave **13** as a pale yellow solid: yield 86%. Compound **13** crystallized from a solution in hexane upon evaporation in the form of colorless plates that were suitable for X-ray structure analysis:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.0 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.41 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 0.43 (s, 9H;  $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 3.87 (s, 3H; OMe), 6.98–7.04 (m, 2H; H-3',5'), 7.50–7.58 (m, 3H; H-5, H-2',6'), 7.75 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 7.8$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.5$  Hz; H-6), 7.88 (dd, 1H,  $^4J_{\text{HH}} = 2.0$  Hz,  $^5J_{\text{HH}} = 0.5$  Hz; H-3);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 2.1 ( $\text{SiMe}_3$ ), 55.5 (OMe), 114.4 (C-3',5'), 126.1 (C-5), 128.4 (C-2',6'), 133.8 (C-3), 134.0 (C-1'), 135.9 (C-6), 139.9 (C-4), 144.1 (C-1), 146.7 (C-2), 159.4 (C-4');  $^{29}\text{Si}$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -3.4, -3.0.



Anal. Calcd for  $C_{19}H_{28}OSi_2$  [328.60]: C, 69.45; H, 8.59. Found: C, 69.51; H, 8.64.

**Synthesis of 4-(4'-Nitrophenyl)-1,2-bis(trimethylsilyl)benzene (14).** This compound was obtained according to the general procedure for Suzuki-type coupling reactions (cf. 11). Subsequent column chromatography (silica gel,  $CHCl_3$ ) gave **14** as a yellow solid: yield 90%. Compound **14** crystallized upon diffusion of  $CHCl_3$  into a solution of **14** in hexane in the form of colorless needles that were suitable for X-ray structure analysis:  $^1H$  NMR (400.1 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  0.41 (s, 9H; SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 0.42 (s, 9H; SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 7.57 (dd, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz,  $^4J_{HH} = 1.9$  Hz; H-5), 7.69–7.76 (m, 2H; H-2',6'), 7.80 (d, 1H,  $^3J_{HH} = 7.8$  Hz; H-6), 7.89 (d, 1H,  $^4J_{HH} = 1.9$  Hz; H-3), 8.17–8.41 (m, 2H; H-3',5'),  $^{13}C$  NMR (75.4 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  2.0 (SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 2.0 (SiMe<sub>3</sub>), 124.3 (C-3',5'), 126.6 (C-5), 127.9 (C-2',6'), 134.1 (C-3), 136.1 (C-6), 137.8 (C-4), 147.3 (C-4'), 147.4, 147.6 (C-1,2), 148.0 (C-1');  $^{29}Si$  INEPT NMR (59.6 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -2.8, -2.5. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{18}H_{25}NO_2Si_2$  [343.57]: C, 62.93; H, 7.33; N, 4.08. Found: C, 62.89; H, 7.33; N, 3.84.

**X-ray Crystal Structure Analyses of 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 13, and 14.** Data were collected on a two-circle diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation. Empirical absorption corrections were performed using the MULABS<sup>22</sup> option in PLATON.<sup>23</sup> The structures were solved by direct methods using the program SHELXS<sup>24</sup> and refined against  $F^2$  with full matrix least-squares techniques using the program SHELXL-97.<sup>25</sup> **8** crystallizes with two and **11** with four crystallographically independent molecules in the asymmetric unit. The absolute structure has been determined for **4** and **13** (Flack  $x$ -parameter = 0.06(7) and 0.1(2), respectively). For **11**, the absolute structure could not be determined reliably (Flack  $x$ -parameter = 0.3(4)). CCDC reference numbers: 865765 (**2**), 865766 (**3**), 865767 (**4**), 865768 (**8**), 865769 (**11**), 865770 (**13**), and 865771 (**14**).

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### ● Supporting Information

Details of the X-ray crystal structure analyses and key crystallographic data of **2**, **3**, **4**, **8**, **11**, **13**, and **14**.  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of the new compounds. Crystallographic data of **2**, **3**, **4**, **8**, **11**, **13**, and **14** in the crystallographic information file (CIF) format. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors acknowledge financial support by the Beilstein Institut, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, within the research collaboration NanoBiC.

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