

# Reactions of transition-metal nitrido compounds with $B(C_6F_5)_3$ : crystal structure of $[Re\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(PMe_2Ph)(S_2CNMe_2)_2]$

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The transition-metal nitrido complexes  $[Re(N)(PR_3)(S_2CNR'_2)]$  ( $PR_3 = PMe_2Ph$ ,  $R' = Me$ ;  $PR_3 = PMePh_2$ ,  $R' = Et$  **1**),  $[Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh_2)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$  **2**,  $[Mo(N)(S_2CNR_2)_3]$  ( $R = Me$  or  $Et$ ) and  $[NBu^*_4][Os(N)(1,2-S_2C_6H_4)_2]$  reacted with the strong Lewis acid  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  to yield the adducts  $[Re\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(PR_3)(S_2CNR'_2)]$  ( $PR_3 = PMe_2Ph$ ,  $R' = Me$  **3\***;  $PR_3 = PMePh_2$ ,  $R' = Et$  **4**),  $[Re\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(Cl)(PMePh_2)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$  **5**,  $[Mo\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(S_2CNR_2)_3]$  ( $R = Me$  **6** or **7**) and  $[NBu^*_4][Os\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(1,2-S_2C_6H_4)_2]$  **8** (\* indicates that the compound has been structurally characterised). Reactions of **3**, **6** and **8** with competing strong Lewis bases have revealed differences in the stability of the  $M\equiv N-B$  interaction depending on the steric crowding around the metal centre. Reaction of **8** with  $MeO_3SCF_3$  causes the formation of  $[Os\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}\{1,2-(S)(SMe)C_6H_4\}(1,2-S_2C_6H_4)]$  **9**.

Recently we have been exploring the varied chemistry of the strong Lewis acid  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  which is crystalline and easily synthesized. As well as mediating unusual and unexpected reactions,<sup>1,2</sup> it has been shown to form relatively stable adducts with transition metal oxo complexes.<sup>3,4</sup> Transition metal nitrido complexes are another class of nucleophiles that might be expected to react with strong Lewis acids; indeed reactions between rhenium nitrido compounds and boron trihalides have been reported.<sup>5,6</sup> However, adducts with triarylboranes have only previously been demonstrated by indirect reaction<sup>7</sup> and electrophilic attack at nitrido moieties bound to other metals has been confined to carbocationic Lewis acids.<sup>8,9</sup> We here describe studies into the reactivity of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  with transition metal nitrido complexes.†

## Results and discussion

The new rhenium(v) nitrido complexes  $[Re(N)(PMePh_2)(S_2CNEt_2)_2]$  **1** and  $[Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh_2)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$  **2** were prepared by reaction of  $[Re(N)Cl_2(PMePh_2)_3]$ <sup>11</sup> with 2 equivalents of  $NaS_2CNET_2 \cdot 3H_2O$  and 1 equivalent of  $NaS_2CNMe_2 \cdot H_2O$  respectively in refluxing methanol. The preparations used were analogous to those used by Ritter and Abram<sup>12</sup> to prepare  $[Re(N)(PMe_2Ph)(S_2CNEt_2)_2]$  and  $[Re(N)(Cl)(PMe_2Ph)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$ . Characterisation was undertaken by means of microanalysis and IR and NMR spectroscopies; these data are summarised in Table 1. Assignments were straightforward; the  $Re\equiv N$  stretches in the IR spectra were assigned by analogy with those of previously reported complexes.

Treatment of each of the transition-metal nitrido complexes  $[Re(N)(PR_3)(S_2CNR'_2)]$  ( $PR_3 = PMe_2Ph$ ,  $R' = Me$ ;  $PR_3 = PMePh_2$ ,  $R' = Et$  **1**),  $[Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh_2)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$  **2**,  $[Mo(N)(S_2CNR_2)_3]$  ( $R = Me$  or  $Et$ ) and  $[NBu^*_4][Os(N)(1,2-S_2C_6H_4)_2]$  with an excess of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  in dichloromethane at ambient temperature yields the nitridometal-Lewis acid adducts as purple  $[Re\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(PR_3)(S_2CNR'_2)_2]$  ( $PR_3 = PMe_2Ph$ ,  $R' = Me$  **3**;  $PR_3 = PMePh_2$ ,  $R' = Et$  **4**), orange  $[Re\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(Cl)(PMePh_2)_2(S_2CNMe_2)]$  **5**, cream and red-brown  $[Mo\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(S_2CNR_2)_3]$  ( $R = Me$  **6** or  $Et$  **7**) and olive-green  $[NBu^*_4]$ -

$[Os\{NB(C_6F_5)_3\}(1,2-S_2C_6H_4)_2]$  **8** respectively (Scheme 1). These compounds are all highly soluble in dichloromethane but virtually insoluble in hydrocarbon solvents and removal of the excess of borane by washing thoroughly with hexanes was generally sufficient to obtain analytically pure product. The compounds **3-8** are reasonably air- and moisture-tolerant in the solid state and can be stored indefinitely under an inert atmosphere without decomposition. Yields were generally quite high (ca. 60–90%).

Compounds **3-8** have been characterised by standard techniques, namely <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>31</sup>P NMR and IR spectroscopies, microanalysis and, in the case of **3**, **4** and **6**, FAB (Fast Atom Bombardment) mass spectrometry (Table 1). A single crystal determination of compound **3** has been carried out; crystals of **4** were also obtained but they proved to be of insufficient quality to obtain a properly refined structure although the connectivity between atoms could be verified. As expected, an upfield shift of the <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic resonance of  $B(C_6F_5)_3$  ( $\delta$  51) to  $\delta$  -3 to -6 is observed on adduct formation. This is consistent with the presence of a four-co-ordinate boron species and hence with the expected formation of an  $M\equiv N-B$  dative bond. Infrared spectroscopy was in the main rather uninformative as regards the strength of the  $M\equiv N-B$  interaction since pentafluorophenyl groups display strong absorptions in the range 900–1100  $cm^{-1}$ , preventing unambiguous assignment of the  $M\equiv N$  stretch. One might expect that the nitridometal complex-Lewis acid interaction would weaken the  $M\equiv N$  bond, as is found to be the case with Lewis acid adducts of oxometal complexes.<sup>13</sup> However, in practice, an increase in the  $M\equiv N$  stretching frequency is usually observed, e.g. the  $Re\equiv N$  stretch in  $[AsPh_4][Re(N)Br_4]$  is observed to move from 1099 to 1170  $cm^{-1}$  on addition of  $BBr_3$ .<sup>14</sup> This is often attributed to resonance between the  $B-N$  and  $M\equiv N$  stretches; however one of the referees has suggested an alternative explanation based on Molecular Orbital theory. The "nitrogen lone pair" MO in the parent nitrido compound has significant  $M-N$   $\sigma$ -antibonding character. Upon co-ordination of the Lewis acid this orbital gains some  $B-N$  bonding character hence increasing the  $M-N$  stretching frequency. In general, IR stretching frequencies are more sensitive to such changes in antibonding/bonding character than are bond distances. Tentative assignments of the  $M\equiv N$  stretch in compounds **3** to **8**, based on the premise that they increase upon borane co-

† During the revision of this manuscript a report of work demonstrating different reactivity between arylborane species and osmium nitrido compounds was published.<sup>10</sup>



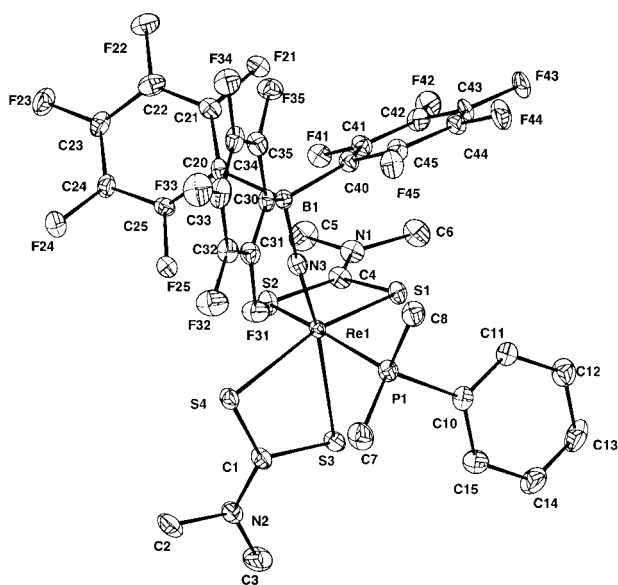
**Table 1** Analytical and spectroscopic data for compounds 1–9

Compound <sup>a</sup>	NMR Data <sup>b</sup>
<b>1</b> [Re(N)(PMePh <sub>2</sub> )(S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] Orange-brown C, 40.2 (39.6); H, 4.7 (4.8); N, 5.8 (6.0); P, 4.6 (4.4) IR: 1358s, 1302s, 1273s, 1212s, 1146s, 1096s, 1076s, 1054s [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], 914s, 888s	<sup>1</sup> H: 1.04 (dd, 6 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 7.1, 7.2, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 1.36 (dd, 6 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 7.2, 7.2, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.31 (d, 3 H, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 8.8, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.36, 3.58, 3.71 and 3.87 (m, 2 H each, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.3–7.8 (m, 10 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 12.45 and 12.84 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 18.02 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 36.7, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 45.14 and 46.03 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 128.38 (d, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 11.2, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 131.56 (s, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 134.04 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 48.5, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 135.17 (d, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 8.9, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 202.66 and 223.87 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>31</sup> P- <sup>1</sup> H: –5.05 (s)
<b>2</b> [Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh <sub>2</sub> )(S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> )] Yellow-brown C, 46.5 (46.1); H, 4.1 (4.3); N, 4.0 (3.7) IR: 1261s, 1094s, 1060s [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], 1020s, 800s	<sup>1</sup> H: 2.13 (d, 6 H, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 8.9, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.24 (s, 6 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.1–7.7 (m, 20 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>31</sup> P- <sup>1</sup> H: –10.77 (s)
<b>3</b> [Re{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(PMe <sub>2</sub> Ph)(S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> )] Lavender C, 35.4 (35.2); H, 2.1 (2.1); B, 0.7 (1.0); N, 3.2 (3.85) Mass: 579, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> IR: 2727s, 1304s, 1281s, 1156s, 1092s [ $\nu$ (Re–N)] <sup>d</sup>	<sup>1</sup> H: 1.81 and 1.97 (d, 3 H each, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 9.6, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.67, 2.98, 3.28 and 3.35 (s, 3 H each, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.3–7.4 (m, 5 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –3.9 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 15.82 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 33.6, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 16.04 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 39.3, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 39.07, 39.17 and 39.71 (s, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 117.5 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 127.32 (d, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 9.7, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 130.03 (s, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 131.37 (d, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 8.3, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 134.28 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 53.1, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 136.89 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 257, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.42 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 247, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 147.77 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 241, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 201.75 and 228.20 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>31</sup> P- <sup>1</sup> H: –26.57 (s)
<b>4</b> [Re{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(PMePh <sub>2</sub> )(S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> )] <sup>c</sup> Purple C, 41.3 (41.2); H, 3.05 (3.0); B, 0.85 (0.9); N, 3.4 (3.4); P, 2.6 (2.5) Mass: 1209, M <sup>+</sup> ; 1042, [M – C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 842, [M – PMePh <sub>2</sub> – C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 697, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 581, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> – 4Et] <sup>+</sup> ; 549, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> – S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 497, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> – PMePh <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 399, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> – 2S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> IR: 1303m, 1276m, 1147m, 1089m [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], <sup>d</sup> 978s	<sup>1</sup> H: 0.86 [d, 3 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 6.5 (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CHOH], 0.94, 1.10, 1.25 and 1.37 (dd, 3 H each, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 7.0, 7.0, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.20 (d, 3 H, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 9.0, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.22, 3.29, 3.42, 3.52, 3.59, 3.72, 3.78 and 3.81 (m, 1 H each, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.73 [m, 0.5 H, (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CHOH], 7.22 (dd, 2 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 8.5, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 8.5, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>o</sub> ), 7.29 (t, 1 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 8.5, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>p</sub> ), 7.36 (dd, 2 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 8.5, 8.5, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>m</sub> ), 7.42 (m, 2 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>o</sub> ), 7.43 (m, 1 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>p</sub> ), 7.65 (dd, 2 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 8.5, 8.5, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>m</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –3.4 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 1.10 [s, (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CHOH], 12.01, 12.43, 12.58 and 12.67 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 17.22, (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 36.8, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 22.68 [s, (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CHOH], 44.72, 44.96, 45.00 and 45.98 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 119.0 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 128.02 and 128.38 (d, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 11.0, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 130.23 and 130.93 (s, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 132.2 and 133.40 (d, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 9.2, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 133.7 and 136.88 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 49.2, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 136.81 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 271, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.52 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 245, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 148.02 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 241, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 199.95 and 229.78 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>19</sup> F: –168.79 (dd, 6 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 22.6, 20.7, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>m</sub> ), –163.90 (t, 3 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 20.7, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>p</sub> ), –133.80 (d, 6 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 22.6, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>o</sub> ) <sup>31</sup> P- <sup>1</sup> H: –12.86 (s)
<b>5</b> [Re{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(Cl)(PMePh <sub>2</sub> )(S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> )] Orange C, 44.5 (44.5); H, 3.3 (2.5); N, 1.9 (2.2) IR: 1099w [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], <sup>d</sup> 970w, 895m, 722m	<sup>1</sup> H: 1.79 (d, 6 H, <sup>2</sup> J <sub>PH</sub> = 9.5, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.16 (s, 6 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.0–7.8 (m, 20 H, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –2.7 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 15.31 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 36.6, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 19.17 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 38.3, PCH <sub>3</sub> ), 38.58 and 39.65 (s, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 120.1 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 127.84, 128.39, 129.01, 130.17, 130.92, 131.28, 132.18, 132.62 and 133.32 (PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> ), 134.37 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 59.6, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 135.82 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CP</sub> = 58.9, PC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 136.68 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 252, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.27 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 263, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 148.03 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 253, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 191.15 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>31</sup> P- <sup>1</sup> H: –16.73 (s)
<b>6</b> [Mo{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] Cream C, 33.6 (33.0); H, 1.9 (1.85); B, 1.0 (1.1); N, 4.9 (5.7) Mass: 984, M <sup>+</sup> ; 773, [M – C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> – MNe <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 697, [M – C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> – S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 472, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> ; 352, [M – B(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> – S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ] <sup>+</sup> IR: 1645w, 1559m, 1514m, 1305m, 1156m, 1082m (br) [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], <sup>d</sup> 979m (br)	<sup>1</sup> H: 3.19 (s, 3 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.25 (s, 6 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.34 (s, 6 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.38 (s, 3 H, NCH <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –6.5 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 35.63, 37.36, 40.68 and 41.10 (s, NCH <sub>3</sub> ), <sup>f</sup> 119.0 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 136.86 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 241, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.28 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 247, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 147.81 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 239, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 200.78 and 203.62 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNMe <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>g</sup> <sup>19</sup> F: –168.98 (m, 6 F, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>m</sub> ), –163.87 (t, 3 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 26.3, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>p</sub> ), –134.17 (d, 6 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 18.8, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>o</sub> )
<b>7</b> [Mo{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] Red-brown C, 38.7 (37.2); H, 3.1 (2.8); B, 1.0 (1.0); N, 4.6 (5.25) IR: 1302s, 1262s, 1209m, 1152m, 1089m [ $\nu$ (Re–N)], <sup>d</sup> 976s	<sup>1</sup> H: 1.11–1.46 (m, 18 H, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 3.61–3.81 (m, 12 H, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –6.6 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 11.77, 12.23, 12.36 and 12.48 (2, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), <sup>f</sup> 43.31, 44.46, 45.58 and 46.64 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), <sup>f</sup> 119.8 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 136.87 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 255, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.24 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 248, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 147.81 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 240, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 199.39 and 202.38 (s, S <sub>2</sub> CNEt <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>g</sup>
<b>8</b> [NBu <sub>4</sub> ][Os{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }(1,2-S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> ] Olive-green C, 44.9 (44.6); H, 3.25 (3.6); B, 1.2 (0.9); N, 2.0 (2.3) IR: 1644m, 1515s, 1283m, 1275m, 1097s, 979s, 794m	<sup>1</sup> H: 0.90 [t, 12 H, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>HH</sub> = 7.1, N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 1.26 [m, 8 H, N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 1.37 (m, 8 H, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 2.63 [m, 8 H, NCH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 7.03 and 7.68 (m, AA'BB' spin system, 8 H, S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –3.7 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 13.32 [s, N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 19.72 [s, N(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 23.68 (s, NCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ), 58.98 [s, NCH <sub>2</sub> (CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub> ], 114.0 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 124.69 and 127.90 (s, S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ), 136.67 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 238, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 139.56 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 228, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 147.56 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 246, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> ), 149.77 (s, S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ) <sup>19</sup> F: –168.80 (m, 6 F, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>m</sub> ), –162.99 (t, 3 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 20.7, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>p</sub> ), –134.72 (d, 6 F, <sup>3</sup> J <sub>FF</sub> = 24.0, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , F <sub>o</sub> )
<b>9</b> [Os{NB(C <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> }{1,2-(S)(SMe)C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> }(1,2-S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )] Dark green oil <sup>h</sup>	<sup>1</sup> H: 3.06 (s, SCH <sub>3</sub> ), 7.0–7.8 (br, C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>11</sup> B- <sup>1</sup> H: –2.3 (s) <sup>13</sup> C- <sup>1</sup> H: 33.5 (br s, SCH <sub>3</sub> ), 118.7 (br s, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>ipso</sub> ), 122.17, 127.01, 128.36, 128.97, 130.47 and 132.27 [br s, S <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> and (S)(SCH <sub>3</sub> )C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub> ], 136.90, (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 246, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>m</sub> ), 140.30 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 267, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>p</sub> ), 148.12 (d, <sup>1</sup> J <sub>CF</sub> = 240, BC <sub>6</sub> F <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>o</sub> )

<sup>a</sup> Analytical data given as found (calculated) in %. Mass spectral data (Fast Atom Bombardment) given as *m/z* (assignment), selected IR data (cm<sup>–1</sup>) as Nujol mulls. <sup>b</sup> At probe temperature. Data given as: chemical shift ( $\delta$ ) (multiplicity, relative intensity, *J* in Hz, assignment). All obtained in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. <sup>c</sup> Two coincident resonances. <sup>d</sup> Tentative assignment, see text. <sup>e</sup> Crystallised with 0.5 molecule of Pr<sup>3</sup>OH. <sup>f</sup> Resonances in 2:2:1:1 intensity ratio. <sup>g</sup> Resonances in 2:1 intensity ratio. <sup>h</sup> Oil too sensitive to obtain microanalytical data.

The NMR spectra of compounds **3–5** reveal that there is a lowering of symmetry upon co-ordination of the Lewis acid. For instance, compound **1** displays 2 methyl and 4 methylene resonances in its  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum whereas 4 and 8 signals respectively are observed for the  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  adduct **4**. This may be attributed to restriction of free rotation about the  $\text{Re}-\text{P}$  bond upon addition of the bulky triarylborane. A further point of interest is provided by compound **5** where there is apparently only one dithiocarbamate methyl environment and one phosphine methyl environment in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum but two distinct resonances for each in the  $^{13}\text{C}-\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum. This has been attributed to the different timescales involved in  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}-\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectroscopy. The adducts **6** and **7** display 4 distinct dithiocarbamate resonances in their  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}-\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra with intensity ratios 1:2:2:1; this is in agreement with published data for the compound  $[\text{Mo}(\text{NCPh}_3)(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)_3][\text{BF}_4]$ .<sup>8</sup> The NMR spectra of compound **8** are similar to those of the parent nitrido complex and are not discussed further.

In order to test the strength of the  $\text{M}=\text{N}-\text{B}$  interaction, the reactions of compounds **3**, **6** and **8** with a series of competing Lewis bases were attempted. The bases used were  $\text{NEt}_3$ ,  $\text{PMe}_3$



**Fig. 1** Molecular structure of  $[\text{Re}\{\text{NB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3\}(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)_2]$  **3** showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level.

**Table 2** Selected bond distances ( $\text{\AA}$ ) and angles ( $^\circ$ ) for compound **3**

$\text{B}(1)-\text{N}(3)$	1.548(7)	$\text{B}(1)-\text{N}(3)-\text{Re}$	170.9(3)
$\text{Re}-\text{N}(3)$	1.700(4)	$\text{C}(20)-\text{B}(1)-\text{C}(30)$	103.3(4)
$\text{Re}-\text{S}(1)$	2.3769(12)	$\text{C}(30)-\text{B}(1)-\text{C}(40)$	114.5(4)
$\text{Re}-\text{S}(2)$	2.4350(15)	$\text{C}(20)-\text{B}(1)-\text{C}(40)$	114.7(4)
$\text{Re}-\text{S}(3)$	2.6090(12)	$\text{C}(20)-\text{B}(1)-\text{N}(3)$	109.0(4)
$\text{Re}-\text{S}(4)$	2.4608(13)	$\text{C}(30)-\text{B}(1)-\text{N}(3)$	115.2(4)
$\text{Re}-\text{P}(1)$	2.4154(15)	$\text{C}(40)-\text{B}(1)-\text{N}(3)$	100.4(4)

**Table 3** Comparison of *cis* and *trans* metal–ligand distances and  $\text{Re}-\text{N}-\text{B}$  bond angles for some octahedral rhenium(v) nitrido complexes and their Lewis acid adducts

Compound	$\text{Re}-\text{L}_{\text{trans}}/\text{\AA}$	$\text{Re}-\text{L}_{\text{cis}}/\text{\AA}$	$\text{B}-\text{N}-\text{Re}/^\circ$	$\text{Re}-\text{N}/\text{\AA}$
<b>3</b> $[\text{Re}\{\text{NB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3\}(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})(\text{S}_2\text{CNMe}_2)_2]$	2.6090	2.3769(12)–2.4608(13)	170.9(3)	1.700(4)
$[\text{Re}(\text{N})(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})(\text{S}_2\text{CNET}_2)_2]^{12}$	2.793(2)	2.396(1)–2.449(1)	<i>a</i>	1.666(6)
$[\text{Re}(\text{N}(\text{BCl}_3)(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})(\text{S}_2\text{CNET}_2)_2]^{16}$	2.565(2)	2.376(2)–2.455(2)	170.5(3)	1.704(3)
$[\text{Re}(\text{N}(\text{BPh}_3)(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})(\text{S}_2\text{CNET}_2)_2]^{17}$	2.579(4)	2.362(4)–2.431(4)	170.9(9)	1.653(12)
$[\text{Re}(\text{N})\text{Cl}_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_3]^{17}$	2.633(2)	2.442(2) <sup>b</sup>	<i>a</i>	1.660(8)
$[\text{Re}(\text{N}(\text{BCl}_3)\text{Cl}_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}))_3]^{18}$	2.439(3)	2.394(3) <sup>b</sup>	176.5(6)	1.728(7)

<sup>a</sup> Not applicable. <sup>b</sup>  $\text{Re}-\text{Cl}_{\text{cis}}$  distance.

and THF and in all cases an excess of base was added to a dichloromethane solution of the adduct and after 1 h stirring the reaction residues were analysed by NMR spectroscopy. Tetrahydrofuran was shown to cause no alteration to either the  $^1\text{H}$  or  $^{11}\text{B}-\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra of all 3 compounds, however  $\text{NEt}_3$  and  $\text{PMe}_3$  had differing effects depending on the metal centre. For the rhenium complex **3** no effect was observed on Lewis base addition, whereas for the osmium compound **8**, addition of  $\text{L}$  ( $\text{L} = \text{PMe}_3$  or  $\text{NEt}_3$ ) caused quantitative formation of the parent nitrido compound and  $\text{L}\cdot\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  within 1 h. The molybdenum compound **6** displayed intermediate stability with approximately 50% displacement of the parent nitrido complex by the competing Lewis base over 1 h. The difference in stability of these 3 metal nitrido complex–Lewis acid adducts is probably due to steric factors since the  $\text{Re}=\text{N}-\text{B}$  moiety in **3** is protected by the bulky *cis* tertiary phosphine and the  $\text{Os}=\text{N}-\text{B}$  linkage in **8** is exposed by the ‘tied back’ dithiolate ligands. Compound **6** displays intermediate steric hindrance.

Following the work of Sellmann *et al.*<sup>9</sup> who demonstrated the presence of two nucleophilic sites on the compound  $[\text{NBu}^n_4][\text{Os}(\text{N})(1,2-\text{S}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_2]$ , the  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  adduct of this metal nitrido complex was treated with 2 competing Lewis acids, namely  $[\text{Ph}_3\text{C}][\text{BF}_4]$  and  $\text{MeO}_3\text{SCF}_3$ . As expected, the bulky trityl cation displaced the borane at the less hindered nitrido moiety to yield the known compound  $[\text{Os}(\text{N}(\text{CPh}_3)(1,2-\text{S}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_2)]$ .<sup>9</sup> However, reaction of  $[\text{NBu}^n_4][\text{Os}\{\text{NB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3\}(1,2-\text{S}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)_2]$  **8** with an excess of methyl triflate in dichloromethane yields, after extraction into toluene, the olive-green oil  $[\text{Os}\{\text{NB}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3\}(1,2-\text{S})(\text{SMe})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}(1,2-\text{S}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4)]$  **9** in which Lewis acids are co-ordinated to both nucleophilic sites. This adduct has been characterised by NMR spectroscopy only since the oil was too sensitive to obtain meaningful microanalytical data. This indicates that the methyl group is relatively mobile and can move between the 4 sulfur donors.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that the nitrido group in transition metal nitrido complexes is sufficiently nucleophilic to form a dative bond with the Lewis acid  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$ . These adducts are the first reported from direct reactions between a triarylborane and a transition metal nitrido complex. The  $\text{M}=\text{N}-\text{B}$  interaction is reasonably strong as demonstrated by the relative stability of the adducts towards atmospheric oxygen and moisture, although stability towards competing strong Lewis bases seems to vary from metal to metal and is probably a function of steric crowding.

## Experimental

All preparations and manipulations of air and/or moisture sensitive materials were carried out under an atmosphere of dinitrogen using standard Schlenk line techniques or in an inert-atmosphere glove-box containing dinitrogen. Dinitrogen was purified before use by passage through a drying column filled with activated molecular sieves (4  $\text{\AA}$ ) and a deoxygenating column filled with either manganese(II) oxide suspended on vermiculite (Schlenk line) or BASF catalyst (glove-box). Solvents were predried over activated 4  $\text{\AA}$  molecular sieves and then distilled from sodium (toluene), sodium–potassium alloy

[pentane and light petroleum (bp 40–60 °C)], potassium (THF) or calcium hydride (dichloromethane) under a slow continuous stream of dinitrogen. The Analar solvents methanol and Pr<sup>i</sup>OH were used as supplied without drying and degassed by bubbling dinitrogen through them for 15 min. Deuteriated dichloromethane for NMR spectroscopy was dried over calcium hydride and deoxygenated by three freeze–pump–thaw cycles. Deuteriochloroform was used as supplied.

The NMR spectra were recorded on either a Varian Unity-Plus 500 (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>13</sup>C, <sup>19</sup>F and <sup>31</sup>P at 499.87, 160.38, 123.70, 470.28 and 202.35 MHz respectively) or a Bruker AM300 spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>31</sup>P at 300.13, 96.25, 75.5 and 121.6 MHz respectively). They were referenced internally using the residual protio-solvent (<sup>1</sup>H) and solvent (<sup>13</sup>C) resonances and measured relative to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta$  0), or referenced externally to BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O (<sup>11</sup>B,  $\delta$  0), CFCl<sub>3</sub> (<sup>19</sup>F,  $\delta$  0) or 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (<sup>31</sup>P,  $\delta$  0). Chemical shifts are quoted in  $\delta$  (ppm); a positive sign indicates a downfield shift relative to the standard. Fast atom bombardment mass spectra were obtained by the EPSRC Mass Spectrometry Service at the University College of Swansea under the supervision of Dr J. A. Ballantine; infrared spectra as Nujol mulls between NaCl plates on a Perkin-Elmer 1710 FTIR spectrometer in the range 400 to 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Elemental analyses were obtained by the microanalytical department of the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory.

The compounds [Re(N)Cl<sub>2</sub>(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>],<sup>11</sup> [Re(N)(PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>],<sup>12</sup> [Mo(N)(S<sub>2</sub>CNR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (R = Me or Et),<sup>19</sup> [N-Bu<sup>n</sup>][Os(N)(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>9</sup> and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>1,20</sup> were prepared by literature methods.

## Preparations

**[Re(N)(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 1.** To a stirred solution of [Re(N)Cl<sub>2</sub>(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (0.300 g, 0.34 mmol) in methanol (30 cm<sup>3</sup>), Na<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O (0.233 g, 1.03 mmol) in methanol (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added. The reaction mixture, which immediately changed from yellow to orange, was heated to reflux for 1 h before being allowed to cool to room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting, rather oily, orange solid washed with Pr<sup>i</sup>OH (20 cm<sup>3</sup>). Recrystallisation from Pr<sup>i</sup>OH and dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 1 : 1 mixture) at –80 °C afforded complex **1** analytically pure. Yield: 0.116 g (48%).

**[Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 2.** The complex [Re(N)Cl<sub>2</sub>(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (0.436 g, 0.500 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) and a solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O (72 mg, 0.500 mmol) in methanol (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added causing immediate darkening of the reaction mixture. The mixture was heated to reflux for 1 h after which time it was cooled to ambient temperature and concentrated to half volume. This led to precipitation of the product which was isolated analytically pure by filtration and washing with Pr<sup>i</sup>OH (2 × 10 cm<sup>3</sup>). Yield: 0.201 g (53%).

**[Re{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 3.** To a stirred solution of [Re(N)(PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (0.289 g, 0.500 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.280 g, 0.547 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). Upon stirring overnight the solution darkened somewhat and the solvent was removed under vacuum to yield a grey oily solid. The product was afforded analytically pure by trituration with pentane (2 × 15 cm<sup>3</sup>) and drying overnight *in vacuo*. Single crystals suitable for analysis by X-ray diffraction were grown by slow vapour diffusion of pentane into a dichloromethane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) solution of complex **3** (*ca.* 20 mg). Yield: 0.300 g (55%).

**[Re{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 4.** To a stirred solution of [Re(N)(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **1** (90 mg, 0.129 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>), B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (72 mg, 0.140 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added. An immediate change

from yellow to violet was observed. After 1 h of stirring, light petroleum (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added but no solid precipitated overnight. Hence the volatiles were removed under vacuum and the resulting oily solid triturated with light petroleum (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) to yield the product as a lavender powder. Crystallisation by slow evaporation of a solution of the product in Pr<sup>i</sup>OH and dichloromethane (10 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 1 : 1 mixture) led to its isolation as purple single crystals which proved to be of insufficient quality for analysis by X-ray diffraction. Microanalysis and NMR spectroscopy identified this product as pure complex **4**·0.5 Pr<sup>i</sup>OH. Yield: 0.104 g (65%).

**[Re{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(Cl)(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 5.** To a stirred solution of [Re(N)(Cl)(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **2** (0.180 g, 0.238 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) a solution of B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.144 g, 0.281 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added dropwise. An immediate change from yellow to orange-red was observed. Stirring was maintained for 3 h after which time the solvent was removed under vacuum and the resulting red oily solid triturated with pentane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>). This afforded the product as a dark orange powder which was dried *in vacuo* overnight and shown to be pure by microanalysis. Yield: 0.199 g (66%).

**[Mo{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] 6.** To a stirred suspension of [Mo(N)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (0.200 g, 0.425 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) a solution of B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.250 g, 0.488 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was slowly added. Stirring was maintained for 48 h after which time all solid material had dissolved and the solution had changed from orange to red. Volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to yield a brown oily solid which was rendered as an orange powder by trituration with pentane (40 cm<sup>3</sup>). The yellow microcrystalline solid was obtained analytically pure by cooling a solution in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) to –80 °C. Yield: 0.251 g (60%).

**[Mo{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] 7.** To a stirred suspension of [Mo(N)(S<sub>2</sub>CNEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] (0.250 g, 0.451 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) a solution of B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.245 g, 0.479 mmol) in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>) was slowly added. Stirring was maintained for 48 h after which time all solid material had dissolved and the solution had changed from brown to red. Volatiles were removed *in vacuo* to yield a brown-red oil. This failed to crystallise from a solution in dichloromethane–pentane (30 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 1 : 4 mixture) and was rendered as a solid by sonication for 15 min in pentane (30 cm<sup>3</sup>). The red-brown foamy solid product was isolated by filtration and dried overnight *in vacuo*. Yield: 0.101 g (21%).

**[NBu<sup>n</sup>][Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 8.** To a stirred solution of [NBu<sup>n</sup>][Os(N)(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] (0.450 g, 0.619 mmol) in dichloromethane (40 cm<sup>3</sup>), B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.450 g, 0.879 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added. An immediate change from yellow to deep red was observed and after 1 h of stirring the volatiles were removed under vacuum. The resulting oily green solid was triturated with pentane (20 cm<sup>3</sup>) to yield the product. It was isolated analytically pure as an olive-green powder by filtration and drying under vacuum. Yield: 0.675 g (88%).

**[Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-(S)(SMe)C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 9.** The complex [NBu<sup>n</sup>][Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **8** (200 mg, 0.160 mmol) and MeO<sub>3</sub>SCF<sub>3</sub> (50 mg, 0.305 mmol) were combined in a dry-box and dissolved in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h without any obvious colour change and then the volatiles were removed under vacuum. Extraction of the oily residues with toluene yielded a red solution. Removal of the solvent from this afforded the product as an olive-green oil. Vigorous washing with pentane (30 cm<sup>3</sup>) failed to yield a solid so the product was characterised

by NMR spectroscopy. It was too air-sensitive to allow satisfactory microanalytical data to be obtained.

#### Reactions with L = THF, NEt<sub>3</sub> or PMe<sub>3</sub>

**[Re{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 3.** To a solution of [Re{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(PMe<sub>2</sub>Ph)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **3** (20 mg, 0.018 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) was added an excess of Lewis base; either THF (3 drops), NEt<sub>3</sub> (3 drops) or PMe<sub>3</sub> (1 cm<sup>3</sup> of a 0.105 M solution in light petroleum, 0.105 mmol). No immediate colour change was observed and the reactions were allowed to proceed for 1 h. Volatiles were then removed *in vacuo* and the residues dried for 2 h. The products were analysed by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and this showed that in all three experiments no reaction of compound **3** had occurred.

**[Mo{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] 6.** To a solution of [Mo{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] **6** (20 mg, 0.020 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) an excess of Lewis base was added as above. Little immediate colour change was observed and the reactions were allowed to proceed for 1 h. Further treatment and NMR analysis as above showed that in the case where L = THF no decomposition of compound **6** had occurred whereas when L = NEt<sub>3</sub> or PMe<sub>3</sub> the residue consisted of *ca.* 50% **6** and 50% [Mo(N)(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>] plus B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·L. NMR data (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·NEt<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>H, δ 1.46 (m, 9 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) and 3.60 (m, 6 H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H, δ -4.2 (s); B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·PMe<sub>3</sub>, <sup>1</sup>H, δ 1.79 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 13.1 Hz, PCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H, δ -4.4 (s)

**[NBu<sup>n</sup>]<sub>4</sub>[Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] 8.** To a solution of [NBu<sup>n</sup>]<sub>4</sub>[Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **8** (20 mg, 0.016 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 cm<sup>3</sup>) an excess of Lewis base was added as above. Little immediate colour change was observed and the reactions were allowed to proceed for 1 h. Further treatment and NMR analysis as above showed that in the case where L = THF no decomposition of compound **8** had occurred whereas when L = NEt<sub>3</sub> or PMe<sub>3</sub> the residue consisted entirely of [NBu<sup>n</sup>]<sub>4</sub>[Os(N)(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>9</sup> and B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·L (NMR spectroscopic data as above).

#### Reaction of [NBu<sup>n</sup>]<sub>4</sub>[Os{NB(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>}(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>] **8** with [Ph<sub>3</sub>C][BF<sub>4</sub>]

Complex **8** (50 mg, 0.040 mmol) and [Ph<sub>3</sub>C][BF<sub>4</sub>] (50 mg, 0.151 mmol) were combined as solids and dissolved in dichloromethane (15 cm<sup>3</sup>). The mixture was stirred for 30 min after which it appeared to have darkened slightly. The volatiles were removed *in vacuo* and the whole of the reaction residues analysed by <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>11</sup>B-<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. This confirmed the formation of the known compound [Os(NCPh<sub>3</sub>)(1,2-S<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>9</sup>, B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> and [NBu<sup>n</sup>]<sub>4</sub>[BF<sub>4</sub>].

#### Crystallography

Single crystals of complex **3** suitable for analysis by X-ray crystallography were grown by slow vapour diffusion of pentane into a solution of **3** in dichloromethane at 298 K. A plate-shaped crystal was selected for diffraction, covered with paratone-N oil under an inert atmosphere and mounted on the end of a glass fibre.

**Crystal data.** C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>23</sub>BF<sub>15</sub>N<sub>3</sub>PREs<sub>4</sub> **3**, *M* = 1090.75, triclinic, space group *P* $\bar{1}$ , *a* = 8.871(5), *b* = 13.233(1), *c* = 16.7220(13) Å, *a* = 80.73(4), *β* = 77.13(5), *γ* = 86.05(5)°, *V* = 1887.6 Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 2, *D*<sub>c</sub> = 1.92 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, *μ* = 3.62 mm<sup>-1</sup>, purple crystals, crystal dimensions 0.25 × 0.05 × 0.05 mm.

**Data collection and processing.** Data were collected at 125 K on an Enraf-Nonius DIP2000 image plate diffractometer with graphite monochromated Mo-Kα radiation (λ = 0.71069 Å).

11663 Reflections were measured (1 < θ < 26°, ±*h*, ±*k*, +*l*, 6103 unique giving 5408 with *I* > 3σ(*I*). The images were processed with the DENZO and SCALEPACK programs.<sup>21</sup>

**Structure solution and refinement.** All solution, refinement and graphical calculations were performed using the CRYSTALS<sup>22</sup> and CAMERON<sup>23</sup> software packages. The structure was solved by direct methods using the SIR 92 program<sup>24</sup> and refined by a full-matrix least squares procedure on *F*. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. All hydrogen atoms were generated and allowed to ride on their corresponding carbon atoms with fixed thermal parameters. A Chebychev weighting scheme with the parameters 2.84, 0.362 and 2.06 was applied as well as an empirical absorption correction.<sup>25</sup> This yielded *R* = 0.042 and *R*' = 0.051 with maximum residual electron density of 1.61 e Å<sup>-3</sup>.

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See <http://www.rsc.org/suppdata/dt/1998/3941/> for crystallographic files in .cif format.

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