

# Synthesis of Alkylidene-Bridged Cp/Phosphido Group 4 Metal Complexes—Precursors of the “(CpCPR)M—Constrained-Geometry” Catalyst Family

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Phosphide [PHR<sup>1</sup>]Li (R<sup>1</sup> = cyclohexyl, phenyl) addition to the fulvenes (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)CMe<sub>2</sub> (**1**) and (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)CHCMe<sub>3</sub> (**2**) yields the corresponding phosphinoalkyl-substituted cyclopentadienides. Subsequent deprotonation at phosphorus with LDA followed by transmetalation of the resulting [(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)CR<sup>2</sup>R<sup>3</sup>PR<sup>1</sup>]Li<sub>2</sub> dianion equivalents to Cl<sub>2</sub>Ti(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> or Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> yields the corresponding [(CpCPR<sup>1</sup>)MX<sub>2</sub>] “constrained-geometry” systems (eight examples, **11–18**). These systems contain a chiral phosphorus center that is characterized by a low inversion barrier ( $\Delta G_{\text{inv}}^{\ddagger}$  ranging from ca. 7.5 to 10.0 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>). The structural and some spectroscopic features of the (CpCPR)Ti and Zr complexes were investigated by DFT calculations. Treatment with a large excess of methylalumoxane gave ethene/1-octene copolymerization catalysts. The [(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)CMe<sub>2</sub>PR<sup>1</sup>]ZrX<sub>2</sub> systems gave the most active catalysts in this series.

## Introduction

Dimethylsilanediyl-bridged *ansa*-metallocenes have found widespread use as catalyst precursors in homogeneous Ziegler–Natta chemistry.<sup>1</sup> Formal replacement of one Cp (or indenyl) group in this ligand arrangement by an alkylidene moiety (e.g. [Me<sub>3</sub>C–N<sup>-</sup>]) leads to the class of “(CpSiNR”)M or “constrained geometry” catalysts, some examples of which have found interesting applications, especially in copolymerization reactions.<sup>2–4</sup> Due to the high general interest in this class of olefin polymerization catalysts a number of ligand variations has been described and tested, including systems with additional donor substituents<sup>5</sup> or longer connecting chains between the Cp and amido functional groups.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>†</sup> DFT calculations.

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Surprisingly, systems where the Cp and amido groups of the constrained-geometry ligands were connected by a C1-based bridging unit instead of the ubiquitous Si1-based bridging unit were not explored until recently.<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, a number of such alkylidene-bridged Cp/amido group 4 metal catalyst precursors have been reported.<sup>8,9</sup> In addition to these “CpCNR” metal complexes some “CpCO” complexes have also been reported, and their catalytic features tested.<sup>10,11</sup> We have previously described the structures of two examples of related [(CpSiPR”)ZrX<sub>2</sub>] systems,<sup>4a,12,13</sup> and we have recently

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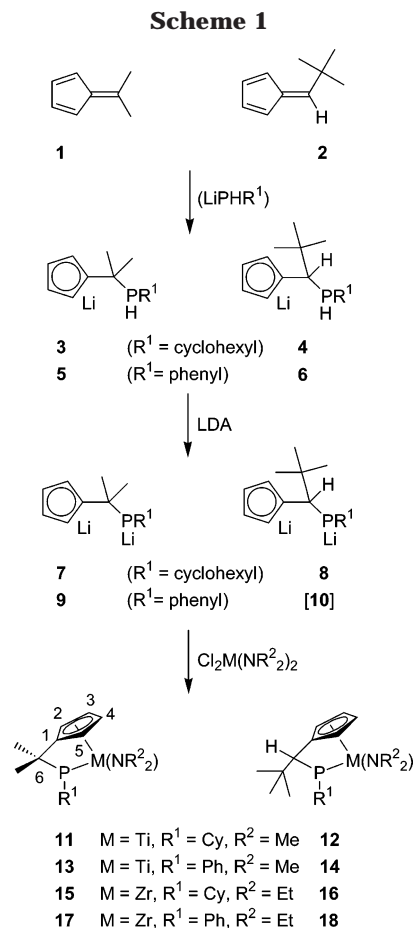
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reported the first example of a ("CpCPR")M<sup>IV</sup>X<sub>2</sub>-derived constrained-geometry catalyst system in a preliminary communication.<sup>8</sup> Before that report, to the best of our knowledge, only a few such ligand systems had been described, e.g. by Jutzi,<sup>14</sup> Hey-Hawkins,<sup>15</sup> and Müller et al.,<sup>16</sup> but not their attachment to the group 4 metals.

It is probably of some interest to study such phosphido analogues of the usual constrained-geometry group 4 metal catalysts to learn what effect the incorporation of a stereogenic phosphorus atom and the increased strain of the ligand framework will have on the catalytic behavior of such catalyst systems. We will, therefore, report here on the synthesis of a small series of such "CpCPR" titanium and zirconium complexes and briefly describe some of their catalytic features.

### Synthesis and Spectroscopic Characterization of the ("CpCPR")Ti and -Zr Complexes

Fulvenes have extensively been used as precursors for substituted Cp ligands<sup>17</sup> as well as the ligands of *ansa*-metallocenes.<sup>18</sup> It is well established that a variety of nucleophiles can add to the electrophilic fulvene C6 carbon atom to form the respective cyclopentadienides.<sup>19</sup> We had used this typical reaction pattern also for the synthesis of specific examples of the "CpCNR" ligand systems. In these cases amide anion equivalents [RNH<sup>-</sup>] were added to a non-CH-acidic fulvene, such as (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)-CHCMe<sub>3</sub>.<sup>8,9</sup>



We have now treated 6-*tert*-butylfulvene (**2**) in a similar way with the phosphido nucleophiles Li[PH(cyclohexyl)] and Li[PH(phenyl)], respectively. In each case, clean addition of the [R<sup>1</sup>PH<sup>-</sup>] reagent at the fulvene C6 carbon atom was observed to yield the corresponding substituted cyclopentadienides [(C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)-CH(CMe<sub>3</sub>)PR<sup>1</sup>H]Li (**4** (92% isolated), **6** (97%)). Each of these functionalized cyclopentadienides contains two persistent chirality centers, one at carbon (C6; see Scheme 1) and the other at phosphorus. Consequently, in each case a mixture of diastereoisomers is obtained (both ca. 3:1). The major isomer of **4** exhibits a pair of <sup>1</sup>H NMR Cp signals at δ 6.10 (2-H/5-H) and δ 6.58 (3-H/4-H). The 6-H resonance occurs at δ 3.00 with a coupling constant to phosphorus of <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 4 Hz. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR signal of the corresponding P-H moiety is observed at δ 3.23 (<sup>1</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 204 Hz). The <sup>31</sup>P NMR resonance occurs at δ -16.4. The minor diastereoisomer of the reagent **4** exhibits its <sup>31</sup>P NMR signal at δ -47.6 (<sup>1</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 183 Hz). In *d*<sub>8</sub>-THF solution both isomers show only a single <sup>7</sup>Li NMR signal at δ -4.9. Complex **6** shows similar NMR features (see the Experimental Section).

The Li-phosphido reagents Li[PHR<sup>1</sup>] are much less basic than their Li[NHR] counterparts. We made use of this characteristic feature which allowed us to add the reagents Li[PH(cyclohexyl)] and Li[PH(phenyl)], respectively, to 6,6-dimethylfulvene (**1**). Although a small fraction of the competing deprotonation reaction took place, the major reaction pathway was addition of the phosphido anion reagents to the electrophilic fulvene carbon center C6 to give the corresponding (phosphi-

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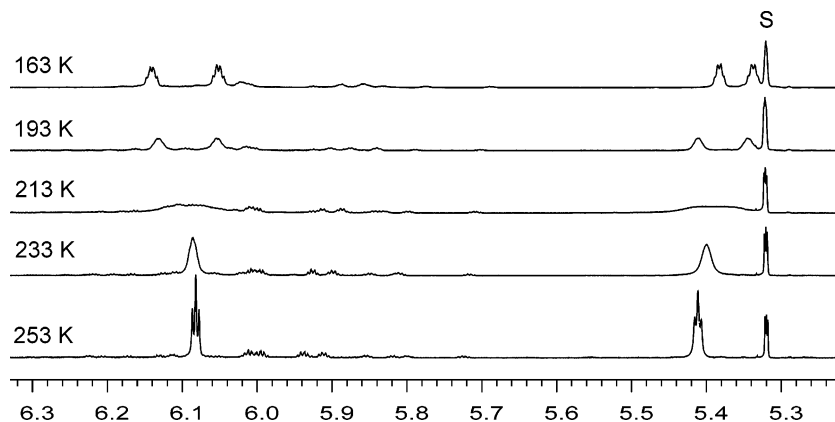
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**Figure 1.** Decoalescence of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$ ) signals of **11** (in  $\text{CDFCl}_2/\text{CDF}_2\text{Cl}/\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 600 MHz; S denotes a residual  $\text{CDHCl}_2$  solvent signal).

noalkyl)-functionalized cyclopentadienides  $[(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)\text{CMe}_2\text{-PHR}^1]\text{Li}$  (**3**,  $\text{R}^1 = \text{cyclohexyl}$ ; **5**,  $\text{R}^1 = \text{phenyl}$ ), each in ca. 70% yield. Compound **5** exhibits a  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR signal at  $\delta -1.1$  with a corresponding  $^1\text{H}$  NMR *PH* resonance at  $\delta 4.40$  ( $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 209$  Hz). The methyl groups at C6 are diastereotopic, due to the adjacent phosphorus chirality center. They give rise to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR features at  $\delta 1.67$  ( $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 7$  Hz) and  $\delta 1.61$  ( $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 14$  Hz). The C6 carbon atom of **5** shows a  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR resonance at  $\delta 28.4$  (with  $^2J_{\text{PC}} = 20$  Hz), and the  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR resonance (in  $d_8$ -THF/ $d_8$ -toluene 1:10) of **5** is observed at  $\delta -7.5$ . Compound **3** shows similar NMR features (for details see the Experimental Section).

Treatment of **4** with LDA in THF at 0 °C resulted in deprotonation at phosphorus. The resulting dilithio salt of the “CpCPR” ligand system (**8**) was in this case isolated in ca. 50% yield. The reagent **8** was then reacted with 1 molar equiv of  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Ti}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$ .<sup>20a</sup> After removal of lithium chloride the (“CpCPR”)TiX<sub>2</sub> complex **12** (see Scheme 1) was isolated as a red-brown oil in 56% yield.

The titanium complex **12** contains a carbon chirality center (C6) that leads to the observation of four  $^1\text{H}$  NMR Cp signals at  $\delta 5.71, 5.54, 5.43,$  and  $4.82$  ( $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta 112.0, 111.0, 110.8, 108.7$ ) and a pair of signals of the diastereotopic  $-\text{NMe}_2$   $\sigma$  ligands at titanium ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR  $\delta 3.11, 2.91$ ;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR  $\delta 48.6, 45.1$ ). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR resonance of the bridging carbon atom C6 occurs at  $\delta 47.9$  with  $^1J_{\text{PC}} = 30$  Hz. The  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance of complex **12** is strongly temperature dependent. It is almost linearly shifted from  $\delta -25.5$  at 353 K to  $\delta -65.5$  at 193 K. A discussion and possible explanation will be given in DFT Calculations.

For the preparation of the corresponding (“CpCPh”)Ti( $\text{NMe}_2$ )<sub>2</sub> complex (**14**), the reagent **10** was generated in situ by LDA deprotonation of **6** followed by treatment with the  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Ti}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$  reagent. Complex **14** was isolated in 79% yield as a red-brown oil. It also shows a temperature dependency of the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR shift, although not nearly as pronounced as in **12** (**14**:  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR  $\delta -54.4$  at 298 K,  $\delta -61.3$  at 193 K).

Similarly, deprotonation of **3** or **5** with LDA gave the  $\text{Li}_2[\text{CpCPR}^1]$  reagents **7** ( $\text{R}^1 = \text{cyclohexyl}$ ) and **9** ( $\text{R}^1 = \text{phenyl}$ ), respectively. Both were treated with  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Ti}$ -

( $\text{NMe}_2$ )<sub>2</sub> to yield the corresponding  $[\text{CpCPR}^1]\text{TiX}_2$  complexes **11** (65%) and **13** (56%).

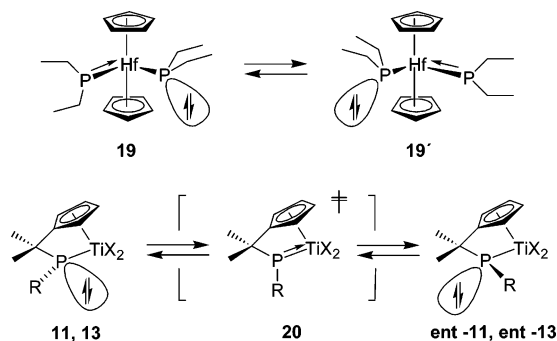
At ambient temperature the NMR spectra are in accord with a symmetry-averaged apparent  $C_s$ -symmetric structure of these complexes. However, this is due to an equilibration of two enantiomeric structures on the NMR time scale caused by a rapid inversion at the stereogenic phosphorus atom. In a  $\text{CDFCl}_2/\text{CDF}_2\text{-Cl}/\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solvent mixture<sup>21</sup> lowering the temperature leads to a broadening and decoalescence of the pair of  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$   $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals into two pairs (see Figure 1). At the same time we observe the decoalescence of the single  $\text{NMe}_2$   $^1\text{H}$  NMR resonance to a 1:1 pair of signals below 213 K ( $\Delta\nu = 60$  Hz) and also the decoalescence of the signal of the pair of methyl groups at carbon atom C6 ( $T_c = 223$ ,  $\Delta\nu = 150$  Hz). In addition a complex pattern evolves of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR P-cyclohexyl resonances that was not further analyzed. From the Cp,  $\text{NMe}_2$ , and  $\text{CMe}_2$   $^1\text{H}$  NMR coalescences an activation energy of  $\Delta G^\ddagger(213 \text{ K}) = 10.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  was estimated<sup>22</sup> for the phosphorus inversion of complex **11** and the concomitant conformational equilibration of the chiral ligand backbone of the  $[\text{“CpCP(cyclohexyl)”}]\text{Ti}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$  system.

The corresponding  $[\text{“CpCP(phenyl)”}]\text{Ti}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$  system (**13**) exhibits an analogous chiral structure that is caused by the presence of a stereogenic nonplanar tricoordinate phosphorus center. Consequently at low temperature ( $<173$  K) complex **13** features four separate  $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$   $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals, a pair of  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$  resonances, and a pair of  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$  signals (frozen spectrum in  $\text{CDFCl}_2/\text{CDF}_2\text{Cl}/\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ). Pairwise coalescence is observed upon raising the monitoring temperature. From the temperature-dependent 600 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra in the Freon solvent mixture a Gibbs activation energy of  $\Delta G^\ddagger(213 \text{ K}) = 9.4 \pm 0.5 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  was obtained<sup>22</sup> for the phosphorus inversion process of complex **13**. At 298 K only symmetry-averaged NMR spectra of complex **13** are observed ( $^1\text{H}$  NMR in  $d_8$ -toluene:  $\delta 5.71/5.28$  ( $\text{C}_5\text{H}_4$ ),  $\delta 3.00$  ( $\text{NMe}_2$ ),  $\delta 1.46$  ( $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 11$  Hz,  $\text{CMe}_2$ )), due to this rapid equilibration on the NMR time scale. In addition the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR resonance of **13** shows a marked temperature-dependent chemical shift ( $\delta 3.0$  at 298 K,  $\delta -13.0$  at 193 K).

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Scheme 2

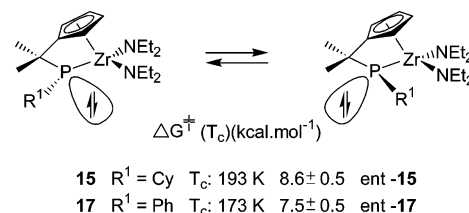


Inversion at phosphorus in phosphanes is usually very slow, which makes trivalent phosphorus in most ligand environments a stable center of chirality.<sup>23</sup> There are, however, a number of cases known where a  $\sigma$ -bonded metal electrophile strongly interacts with the phosphorus lone pair, which may result in a partial double-bond character of the ensuing metal–P interaction.<sup>24</sup> A noteworthy example is the bis(phosphido)hafnocene complex **19**, described by Baker et al.,<sup>25</sup> which actually exhibits two P atoms in a significantly different bonding situation in the solid state as well as in solution (Scheme 2). The  $19 \rightleftharpoons 19'$  interconversion probably represents a process that is closely related to the dynamic process which is observed here for the complexes **11** and **13**. It is likely that the observed P-inversion process involves a  $\pi$ -bonded P–Ti-type structure. DFT calculations of this process (see below), however, indicate that in our case the  $\pi$ -bonded structure (**20**<sup>‡</sup>) represents a transition state rather than a high-lying intermediate.

The corresponding zirconium complexes were prepared in a similar way. They show analogous features. Treatment of the reagent  $\text{Li}_2[(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)\text{CH}(\text{CMe}_3)\text{P}(\text{cyclohexyl})]$  (**8**) with  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Zr}(\text{NEt}_2)_2(\text{THF})_2$ <sup>20b</sup> gave the corresponding [<sup>1</sup>CpCP(cyclohexyl)]Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complex **16** as an orange oil in ca. 60% yield. The chiral complex features four separate NMR signals of the C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub> methine units (<sup>1</sup>H at  $\delta$  6.02, 5.71, 5.56, 5.06; <sup>13</sup>C at  $\delta$  110.3, 108.6, 108.1, 107.8) and a <sup>31</sup>P NMR signal at  $\delta$  –69.2 (298 K). The two –NEt<sub>2</sub> groups are different (cis and trans to the CMe<sub>3</sub> substituent at C6). This gives rise to pairs of <sup>13</sup>C NMR NCH<sub>2</sub> resonances ( $\delta$  43.5, 41.4) and NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> signals ( $\delta$  15.9, 15.6). Due to the diastereotopism of the –NCH<sub>2</sub> hydrogen atoms in **16**, the corresponding <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum is more complicated, giving rise to (in principle) four groups of NCH<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals (found at  $\delta$  3.30 (2H), 3.22 (4H), and 3.15 (2H)) and two corresponding NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> triplets (observed at  $\delta$  0.95 and 0.94).

For the preparation of the *P*-phenyl derivative **18** (see Scheme 1) the ligand system  $\text{Li}_2[(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)\text{CH}(\text{CMe}_3)\text{P}(\text{phenyl})]$  (**10**) was again generated in situ by treatment of **6** with LDA. The subsequent reaction with  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Zr}(\text{NEt}_2)_2(\text{THF})_2$  gave the [<sup>1</sup>CpCP(phenyl)]Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> complex **18** again as an orange oil (59% isolated yield). It shows similar spectroscopic features (see the Experi-

Scheme 3



mental Section). The <sup>31</sup>P NMR chemical shift of complex **18** ( $\delta$  –80.7 at 298 K) is almost temperature invariant.

Treatment of the dilithiated reagent  $\text{Li}_2[(\text{C}_5\text{H}_4)\text{CMe}_2\text{P}(\text{phenyl})]$  (**9**) with  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Zr}(\text{NEt}_2)_2(\text{THF})_2$  furnished the product **17** (orange oil, 65% isolated). Again, the rapid dynamic conformational equilibration leads to the observation of apparently symmetry-equivalent pairs of groups and substituents for the actual chiral complex **17**. At ambient temperature it features <sup>13</sup>C NMR signals of the NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> ligands at  $\delta$  42.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>) and  $\delta$  15.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>). However, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> system in **17** is more complicated, due to the diastereotopism of its N–CH<sub>2</sub> nuclei ( $\delta$  3.29/3.19), whereas the system only gives rise to a single N(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR methyl resonance at  $\delta$  0.92. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR C6 signal of **17** appears at  $\delta$  34.2 (<sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 22 Hz) with the adjacent C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> resonance at  $\delta$  31.4 (<sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 14 Hz, <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  1.60 with <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 11 Hz). The Cp–methine hydrogen atoms of complex **17** are observed in *d*<sub>8</sub>-toluene at ambient temperature at  $\delta$  5.98 (3-H/4-H) and  $\delta$  5.54 (2-H/5-H), respectively. These signals decoalesce at very low temperature (T<sub>coal</sub> in CDFCl<sub>2</sub>/CDF<sub>2</sub>Cl/CD<sub>2</sub>-Cl<sub>2</sub> at ca. 173 K) to two pairs of C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR resonances. From these dynamic <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz) spectra a Gibbs activation energy of  $\Delta G^\ddagger(173 \text{ K}) = 7.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  was estimated for the conformational equilibration process of complex **17**, which includes stereochemical inversion at the phosphorus atom of the ligand system (see Scheme 3). We note that this barrier is markedly lower than that of the corresponding titanium complex **13** (see above).

The complex [<sup>1</sup>CpCP(cyclohexyl)]Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (**15**) was prepared analogously by treatment of **7** with the reagent  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Zr}(\text{NEt}_2)_2(\text{THF})_2$ . Complex **15** was isolated in close to 70% yield. Again, it shows dynamic behavior in solution, featuring pairwise decoalescence of its C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub> <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals at very low temperature in CDFCl<sub>2</sub>/CDF<sub>2</sub>Cl/CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution. The Gibbs activation energy of this P-inversion process was determined to be  $\Delta G^\ddagger(193 \text{ K}) = 8.6 \pm 0.5 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ .

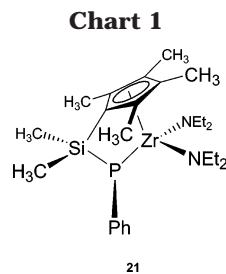
### DFT Calculations

Because X-ray data are unfortunately not available for compounds **11**–**18**, their structures, the inversion barriers, and the <sup>31</sup>P NMR chemical shifts were investigated by quantum-chemical methods. To test the quantum-chemical methodology, a similar compound, where experimental structural data were available, was considered first. In the zirconium compound **21** (Chart 1), C6 has formally been replaced by a silicon atom and the C<sub>5</sub>Me<sub>4</sub> ligand instead of C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub> is present.<sup>4a,12,13</sup> A detailed comparison between computed and experimental structural data is given in the Supporting Information.

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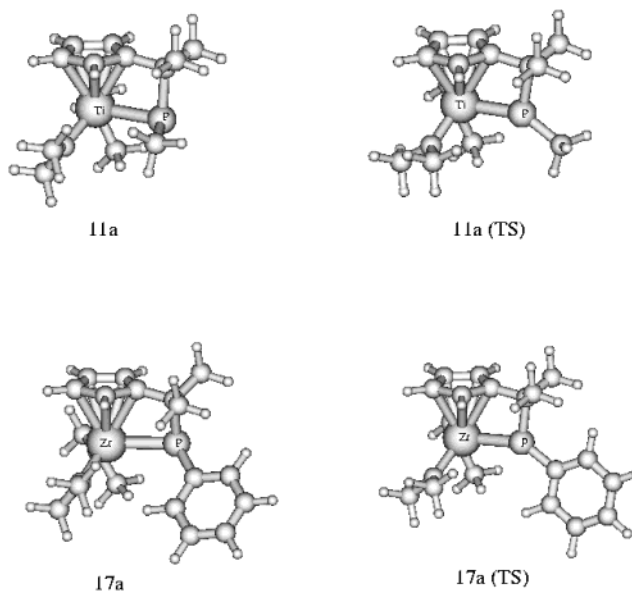
**Table 1. Computed (DFT-BP/TZVP) Inversion Barriers, M–P Bond Lengths, and Phosphorus Pyramidalization Angles for Compounds 11a, 13a, 15a, and 17a (See Text) and the Corresponding Transition States for Their Inversion at Phosphorus<sup>a</sup>**

compd	R <sup>1</sup>	M	$\Delta G_{\text{rel}}^{\circ}$ (kcal/mol)	$\Delta G_{\text{inv}}^{\ddagger}$ <sup>b</sup> (kcal/mol)	d(P–M) (pm)	(C–P–M)–R <sup>1</sup> (deg)
<b>11a</b>	Me	Ti	0		257.8	70.2
<b>11a(TS)</b>			7.8	10.0	241.2	4.9
<b>13a</b>	Ph	Ti	0		255.7	57.0
<b>13a(TS)</b>			5.9	9.4	242.6	3.8
<b>15a</b>	Me	Zr	0		270.9	72.2
<b>15a(TS)</b>			6.7	8.6	254.8	4.5
<b>17a</b>	Ph	Zr	0		267.6	56.9
<b>17a(TS)</b>			5.2	7.5	256.5	3.4

<sup>a</sup> See Figure 2 for a depiction of the calculated structures.

<sup>b</sup> Experimental values ( $\pm 0.5$  kcal/mol).

Density functional theory (DFT) with a gradient-corrected BP86 functional and AO basis set of valence triple- $\zeta$  quality was employed as outlined in more detail in the Experimental Section. The agreement between experiment and theory in the case of **21** was generally good. The bond distances were systematically overestimated by 4–5 pm, and angles deviated only by about 1–2° from experiment. The systematic overestimation of the bond distances between second- and third-row atoms by almost all current density functionals is well-known but is not expected to influence our general conclusions. To simplify matters, the experimentally investigated compounds **11**, **13**, **15**, and **17** have been slightly modified in the computational procedure; i.e., the substituents on the nitrogen atoms are always methyl and the cyclohexyl moiety in **11** and **15** has also been replaced by a methyl group (**11a**–**17a**). The results for these systems are summarized in Table 1. The structures of **11a** and **17a** and their corresponding transition states (TS) of inversion at phosphorus are shown graphically in Figure 2. For both sets of molecules (**11a** and **13a** with Ti and **15a** and **17a** with Zr) the effect of the substituent at the phosphorus atom is clearly evident. Replacing Me by Ph leads to shorter M–P bond distances (about 2 pm) and smaller pyramidalization angles (by 13–16°) due to conjugative interactions of the lone-pair orbital with the phenyl ring. The effect is slightly more pronounced for the Zr compounds **15** and **17** than for their Ti analogues. As expected, these structural features furthermore correlate with the barrier heights for inversion at the phosphorus atom. The computed free enthalpies of activation are, in general, in good agreement with those from experiment (about 1–2 kcal too low). The effect of the metal (smaller barrier for the Zr compounds relative to those with Ti) and the substituent effect (about 1 kcal/mol smaller barrier for R<sup>1</sup> = Ph) are computed almost quantitatively. The only notable difference between theory and experi-



**Figure 2.** DFT-BP/TZVP calculated ground-state structures of **11a** and **17a** and their corresponding transition states (TS) of the rapid inversion process at phosphorus.

ment is observed for **13a**, where the barrier deviates by 3.5 kcal/mol. The most striking feature of all TS structures is the shortened M–P bond length. It amounts to about 16 pm for the two compounds with R<sup>1</sup> = Me and 13 pm (Ti) and 11 pm (Zr), respectively, for the two phenyl-substituted systems. This indicates the better ability of the phosphorus lone-pair orbital to interact with the metal fragment in the transition states and explains the small barrier for the inversion process.

These findings, furthermore, allow us to gain a qualitative understanding of the observed temperature dependence of the <sup>31</sup>P NMR chemical shifts. The <sup>31</sup>P NMR shielding constants strongly depend on the lengths (and consequently the strengths) of the M–P bond. For example, for **13a** we have calculated a change of about 156 ppm when going from the minimum structure to the TS. Because of the asymmetry of the double-minimum potential energy curve for the inversion process, thermally populated higher vibrational levels have more probability closer to the TS region (i.e. at shorter M–P distances), which thus would strongly affect the observed NMR chemical shift. A quantitative description of this process would require a combined quantum-mechanical/Boltzmann averaging of the computed shielding constants along complex hypersurfaces, which is currently out of reach computationally.

### Olefin Polymerization Reactions

The “CpCPR” titanium and zirconium complexes **11**–**18** were used as group 4 metal components for the generation of homogeneous constrained-geometry Ziegler–Natta catalysts. In each case the respective metal diamide complex was activated by treatment with a large excess of methylalumoxane in toluene solution (Al:Zr ratios ranging from ca. 825 to ca. 1450).

All catalyst systems polymerize ethene at 60 °C to give linear polyethylene, but in most cases the catalyst activities were rather low (see Table 2). Noteworthy exceptions are the zirconium catalysts derived from the isopropylidene-bridged Cp/phosphido ligands (**15** and

**Table 2. Ethene Polymerization Reactions with the "CpCPR"Ti/ZrX<sub>2</sub> Complexes<sup>a</sup>**

compd	M	CR <sup>1</sup> R <sup>2</sup> <sup>b</sup>	PR <sup>c</sup>	amt of cat. (mg) <sup>f</sup>	Al/M	amt of PE (g)	mp (°C)	act <sup>g</sup>
<b>11</b>	Ti	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Cy <sup>e</sup>	15	825	1.8	129	21
<b>13</b>	Ti	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Ph	14	840	4.4	130	56
<b>12</b>	Ti	CHR <sup>d</sup>	Cy	11	1200	1.0	128	18
<b>14</b>	Ti	CHR <sup>d</sup>	Ph	13	1000	0.6	129	9
<b>15</b>	Zr	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Cy	10	1450	8.5	130	193
<b>17</b>	Zr	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Ph	20	825	6.9	130	78
<b>16</b>	Zr	CHR <sup>d</sup>	Cy	11	1400	0.3	126	6
<b>18</b>	Zr	CHR <sup>d</sup>	Ph	17	950	0.4	129	6

<sup>a</sup> For each complex a representative example out of a series of similar experiments is listed. Reactions were carried out in toluene solution, for 1 h at 60 °C, under 2 bar of ethene. <sup>b</sup> Bridging alkylidene unit. <sup>c</sup> Hydrocarbyl group at phosphorus. <sup>d</sup> R = CMe<sub>3</sub>. <sup>e</sup> Cy = cyclohexyl. <sup>f</sup> Group 4 metal component. <sup>g</sup> Activity in units of g of PE/(mmol of cat.)(bar of ethene) h).

**Table 3. Ethene/1-Octene Copolymerization with the (CpCPR)MX<sub>2</sub> Complexes at 90 °C<sup>a</sup>**

compd	M	CR <sup>1</sup> R <sup>2</sup>	PR	amt of cat. (mg)	Al/M	act <sup>c</sup>	a:b <sup>d</sup>	M <sub>w</sub>	M <sub>w</sub> /M <sub>n</sub>
<b>11</b>	Ti	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Cy	13	960	15	6:1	12000	2.6
<b>13</b>	Ti	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Ph	15	825	25	5:1	<sup>e</sup>	
<b>12</b>	Ti	CHR <sup>b</sup>	Cy	13	960	18	6:1		
<b>14</b>	Ti	CHR <sup>b</sup>	Ph	12	1000	5	7:1	14000	1.9
<b>15</b>	Zr	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Cy	10	1650	860	6:1	9000 <sup>f</sup>	1.9 <sup>f</sup>
<b>17</b>	Zr	CMe <sub>2</sub>	Ph	10	1500	400	6:1	8000	1.9
<b>16</b>	Zr	CHR <sup>b</sup>	Cy	11	1400	40	6:1	5000	1.9
<b>18</b>	Zr	CHR <sup>b</sup>	Ph	11	1500	12	6:1	13000	2.1

<sup>a</sup> In toluene solution, for 1 h reaction time, under 2 bar of ethene. Representative examples out of larger series of similar experiments are listed. <sup>b</sup> R = CMe<sub>3</sub>. <sup>c</sup> Activity in units of (g of copolymer)/(mmol of cat.)(bar of ethene) h). <sup>d</sup> Ethene/1-octene ratio in the copolymer. <sup>e</sup> Not determined. <sup>f</sup> Values from a copolymer obtained at 1 bar of ethene pressure.

**17**), which show slightly higher ethene polymerization activities under the applied reaction conditions.

More importantly, the **11–18**/MAO systems provide active catalysts for the random copolymerization of ethene with the  $\alpha$ -olefin 1-octene. Typical reaction conditions and polymerization results are listed in Table 3. In all cases a reasonable incorporation of the long-chain 1-alkene component was achieved under the selected reaction conditions (90 °C in toluene solution at 2 bar ethene pressure). The characteristic <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum<sup>26</sup> of a typical copolymer example, namely the ethene/1-octene copolymer obtained at the most active catalyst system (**15**/MAO, entry 5 in Table 3), is depicted and described in Figure 3.

In the "normal" "CpSiNR"<sup>3</sup>M series the titanium complexes usually seem to give the best catalyst performances.<sup>27</sup> In this "CpCPR"<sup>3</sup>M series of complexes the situation seems to be rather different. The catalyst activities depend strongly on the metal and apparently also on the specific substitution pattern of the ligand backbone. All four titanium catalyst systems give rather low activities in ethene/1-octene copolymerization (see Table 3). Generally, their direct zirconium counterparts all seem to be more active catalysts. This is drastically illustrated with the Zr systems [Cp(CMe<sub>2</sub>)PCy]<sub>2</sub>ZrX<sub>2</sub> (**15**) and [Cp(CMe<sub>2</sub>)PPH]<sub>2</sub>ZrX<sub>2</sub> (**17**), which both give in general

quite acceptable polymerization activities upon MAO activation. The most active system in this series, **15**/MAO, was found to be more than 50 times more active than its titanium analogue **11**/MAO (see Table 3), and the related zirconium system **17**/MAO is still a >15 times more active copolymerization catalyst, as compared to its titanium relative **13**/MAO.

However, not all the "CpCPR"<sup>3</sup>Zr systems give very active catalysts for ethene/1-octene copolymerization. This activity depends critically on the structure and substitution pattern of the respective ligand backbone. This is illustrated by the last two entries in Table 3: the (CpCPR)Zr systems **16** and **18** upon MAO activation give only low-activity polymerization catalysts.

We conclude that the alkylidene-bridged (CpCPR)MX<sub>2</sub> catalyst precursors—relatives of the ubiquitous (CpSiNR)MX<sub>2</sub> system—are readily available by means of a fulvene route. The systems can be activated by treatment with MAO to give active olefin polymerization and copolymerization catalysts. The titanium complexes seem to be markedly less active than the zirconium systems, and the catalyst activities generally seem to depend critically on the substitution pattern of the backbone, which will leave some room for further catalyst developments in this area. The Me<sub>2</sub>C-bridged zirconium complexes (**15**, **17**) give rather active copolymerization catalysts. The molecular weights of the obtained products are rather low (see Table 3), whereas typical 1-octene incorporation ratios were achieved. The study shows that the exchange of groups and atoms at the backbones of the constrained-geometry complex systems has a profound influence on the actual catalyst performance and characteristics, which may open up routes to interesting new catalyst systems and product targets.

## Experimental Section

All reactions were carried out under argon using Schlenk-type glassware or in a glovebox. Solvents, including deuterated solvents used for NMR spectroscopy, were dried and distilled prior to use. NMR spectra were measured using a Bruker AC 200 P or Varian Unity Plus 600 NMR spectrometer. Most assignments were based on a series of 2D NMR experiments.<sup>28</sup> Melting points were determined by differential scanning calorimetry (2010 DSC, Du Pont/STA Instruments). GPC was performed using an Agilent 1100 chromatograph with UV/vis absorbance detector and RI detector. Pentafulvenes **1** and **2**,<sup>29</sup> LiPHR (R = Cy, Ph),<sup>30</sup> and the reagents Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub>,<sup>20b</sup> and Cl<sub>2</sub>Ti(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub><sup>20a</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. Some of the products were obtained as viscous oils, which were difficult to get analytically pure.

**Preparation of Lithium [1-Methyl-1-(cyclohexylphosphido)ethyl]cyclopentadienide (3).** Lithium cyclohexylphosphide (920 mg, 7.5 mmol) was suspended in 70 mL of pentane and reacted with 850 mg (8.0 mmol) of 6,6-dimethylfulvene (**1**) at –78 °C. Over 12 h a white solid precipitated. The solid product was collected by filtration, washed twice with 10 mL of pentane, and dried in vacuo to give 1.21 g (71%) of **3**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200.1 MHz, THF-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  5.62, 5.56 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 3.00 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 194 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 2.1 Hz, 1H, P–H), 1.47 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 11.2 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.73–0.81 (m, 11H, Cy H).

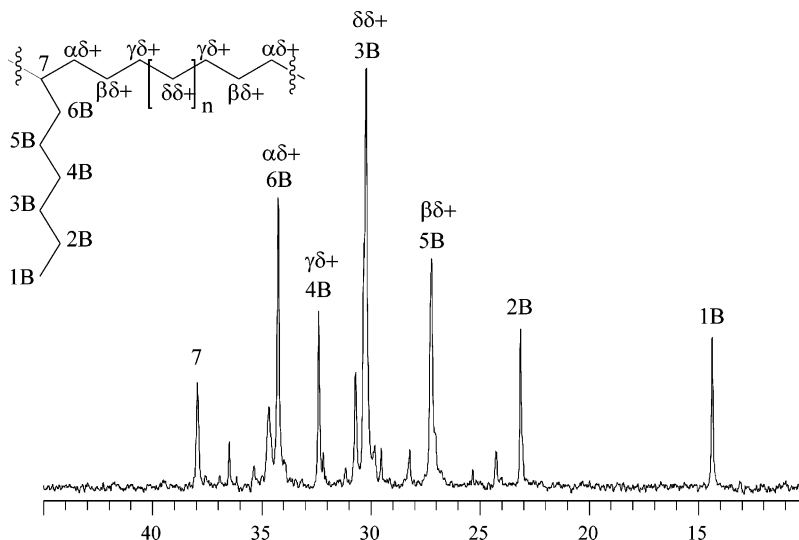
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**Figure 3.**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 300 K) of the ethene/1-octene ca. 6:1 copolymer obtained with the 15/MAO catalyst at 90 °C in toluene (1 bar of ethene pressure).

$^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (80.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.42 (dm,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 194$  Hz, P–H).  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR (232.8 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  –4.9.

**Preparation of Lithium [1-(Cyclohexylphosphido)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]cyclopentadienide (4).** Lithium cyclohexylphosphide (920 mg, 7.5 mmol) was suspended in 70 mL of pentane and reacted with 1.07 g (8.0 mmol) of 6-*tert*-butylfulvene (**2**) at –78 °C. Over 12 h a white solid precipitated. The solid was collected by filtration, washed twice with 10 mL of pentane, and dried in vacuo to give 1.58 g (6.9 mmol, 92%) of **4** as a 3:1 mixture of two diastereomers.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$  (1:4)): diastereomer A (major),  $\delta$  6.58, 6.10 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 3.23 (ddd,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 204$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4$  Hz, 1H, P–H), 3.00 (dd,  $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 4$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$  Hz, 1H, 6-H), 1.27 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.8–1.17 (11H, Cy H); diastereomer B,  $\delta$  6.58, 6.10 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 3.55 (ddd,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 183$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 4$  Hz, 1H, P–H), 3.39 (t,  $^2J_{\text{PH}} = 6$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 6$  Hz, 1H, 6-H), 1.24 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 1.8–1.17 (11H, Cy-H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (81.0 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ ): diastereomer A,  $\delta$  –16.4 ( $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 204$  Hz); diastereomer B,  $\delta$  –47.6 ( $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 183$  Hz).  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR (232.8 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  –4.9.

**Preparation of Lithium [1-Methyl-1-(phenylphosphido)ethyl]cyclopentadienide (5).** Lithium phenylphosphide (870 mg, 7.5 mmol) was suspended in 70 mL of pentane and reacted with 850 mg (8.0 mmol) of 6,6-dimethylfulvene (**1**) at –78 °C. Over 12 h a white solid precipitated. The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed twice with 10 mL of pentane, and dried in vacuo to give 1.21 g (71%) of **5**.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$  (1:4)):  $\delta$  7.24 (m, 2H, Ph H), 7.12 (m, 3H, Ph H), 6.06 (m, 4H, Cp H), 4.40 (d,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 209$  Hz, 1H, P–H), 1.67 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 7$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.61 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 14$  Hz, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$  (1:10)):  $\delta$  –1.1 (d,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 209$  Hz).  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR (232.8 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{toluene}-d_8$  (1:10), 289–193 K):  $\delta$  –7.5.

**Preparation of Lithium [1-(Phenylphosphido)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]cyclopentadienide (6).** Lithium phenylphosphide (920 mg, 7.5 mmol) was suspended in 70 mL of pentane and reacted with 1.07 g (8.0 mmol) of 6-*tert*-butylfulvene (**2**) at –78 °C. Over 12 h a white solid precipitated. The solid was collected by filtration, washed twice with 10 mL of pentane, and dried in vacuo to give 1.85 g (97%) of **6** as a mixture of two diastereoisomers (1:3).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{benzene}-d_6/\text{THF}-d_8$  (4:1)): diastereomer A,  $\delta$  7.80, 7.60, 7.05 (each m, 5H, Ph H), 6.09 u. 6.05 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 4.26 (dd,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 220$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5$  Hz, 1H, P–H), 3.51 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5$  Hz, 1H, 6-H), 1.25 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ); diastereomer B,  $\delta$  7.80, 7.60, 7.05 (each m, 5H, Ph-H), 6.09 and 6.05 (each m, each 2H, Cp H),

4.99 (dd,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 220$  Hz,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5$  Hz, 1H, P–H), 3.45 (d,  $^3J_{\text{HH}} = 5$  Hz, 1H, 6-H), 1.19 (s, 9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (81.0 MHz,  $\text{benzene}-d_6/\text{THF}-d_8$  (4:1)): diastereomer A,  $\delta$  –30.5 (d,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 220$  Hz); diastereomer B,  $\delta$  –58.2 (d,  $^1J_{\text{PH}} = 189$  Hz).  $^7\text{Li}$  NMR (232.8 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{toluene}-d_8$  (1:10), 289–193 K):  $\delta$  –7.7.

**Deprotonation of 3: Formation of 7.** A sample of 228 mg (1.0 mmol) of **3** was dissolved in 5 mL of THF and treated with 107 mg (1.0 mmol) of LDA in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C for 1 h. The solvent was removed, and subsequent recrystallization by diffusion of pentane into a concentrated THF solution gave 187 mg (80%) of **7** as pale yellow crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ ):  $\delta$  5.62, 5.56 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 1.47 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 11.2$  Hz, 6H, 7-H), 1.73–0.81 (m, 11H, Cy H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (81.0 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ ):  $\delta$  33.3 (s).

**Reaction of 4 with LDA: Formation of 8.** A sample of 270 mg (1.0 mmol) of **4** was dissolved in 5 mL of THF and treated with 107 mg (1.0 mmol) of LDA in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C for 1 h. The solvent was then removed, and subsequent recrystallization by diffusion of pentane into a concentrated THF solution yielded 135 mg (50%) of **8** as pale yellow crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$  (4:1)):  $\delta$  5.92, 5.83 (each m, each 2H, Cp H), 1.47 (9H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ ), 2.42–1.02 (bm, 11H, Cy H).  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR (81.0 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$ ):  $\delta$  –24.3 (s).

**Treatment of 5 with LDA: Formation of 9.** A sample of 228 mg (1.0 mmol) of **5** was dissolved in 5 mL of THF and treated with 107 mg (1.0 mmol) of LDA in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C for 1 h. The solvent was removed, and subsequent recrystallization by diffusion of pentane in a concentrated THF solution gave 126 mg (54%) of **9** as pale yellow crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200.1 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.24 (m, 2H, Ph H), 7.12 (m, 3H, Ph H), 6.06 (m, 4H, Cp H), 1.67 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 7$  Hz, 3H, 7-H), 1.61 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 14$  Hz, 3H, 7-H).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (81.0 MHz,  $\text{THF}-d_6/\text{benzene}-d_6$  (1:4)):  $\delta$  28.7 (s).

**Preparation of 11.** A solution of 117 mg (0.50 mmol) of **7** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 97 mg (0.47 mmol) of  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Ti}(\text{NMe}_2)_2$  in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After removal of LiCl by filtration and evaporation of the solvent, 106 mg (65%) of **11** was obtained as a red-brown oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  5.69 (m, 2H, 3-H, 4-H), 5.18 (m, 2H, 2-H, 5-H), 2.99 (s, 12H,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 1.92 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 1.76 (m, 2H, 3'-H), 1.60 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 1.53 (d,  $^3J_{\text{PH}} = 10$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 1.40 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 1.26 (m, 2H, 3'-H), 1.22 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 1.21 (m, 1H, 1'-H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.8 MHz, toluene- $d_8$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  120.0 (C-1), 110.9 (C-3, C-4), 107.2 (C-2,

C-5), 46.6 (d,  $^3J_{PC} = 5.2$  Hz, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 36.7 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 38.3$  Hz, C-1'), 34.9 (d,  $^2J_{PC} = 15.1$  Hz, C-2'), 30.5 (C-6), 28.8 (d,  $^2J_{PC} = 14.6$  Hz, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 27.7 (d,  $^3J_{PC} = 9.3$  Hz, C-3'), 27.0 (C-4).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.6 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  14.2 (298 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PTi (356.3): C, 60.67; H, 9.33; N, 7.86. Found: C, 61.58; H, 9.15; N, 8.13.

**Synthesis of the Titanium Complex 12.** A solution of 120 mg (0.50 mmol) of **8** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 98 mg (0.48 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Ti(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent, 108 mg (56%) of **12** was obtained as a red-brown oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  5.71, 5.54 (each m, each 1H, 3-H and 4-H), 5.43 (m, 1H, 2-H), 4.82 (m, 1H, 5-H), 3.11, 2.91 (each s, each 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.08 (s, 2H, 6-H and 1'-H), 1.82 and 1.27 (bm, each 2H, 2'-H), 1.75, 1.18 (bm, each 2H, 3'-H), 1.62 (bm, 2H, 4'-H), 1.22 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  114.3 (C-1), 112.0 ( $^1J_{CH} = 173$  Hz, C-5), 111.0 and 110.8 ( $^1J_{CH} = 175$  Hz, 174 Hz, C-3 and C-4), 108.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 175$  Hz,  $^3J_{CP} = 4$  Hz, C-2), 48.6 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 131$  Hz, NC <sub>$\alpha$</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 47.9 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 129$  Hz,  $^1J_{CP} = 30$  Hz, C-6), 45.1 (s,  $^1J_{CH} = 133$  Hz, NC <sub>$\beta$</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 44.8 ( $^1J_{CH} = 132$  Hz, C-1'), 34.6 (d,  $^1J_{CP} = 9$  Hz, CMe<sub>3</sub>), 29.1 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 124$  Hz,  $^3J_{CP} = 6$  Hz, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 28.3 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 125$  Hz,  $^3J_{CP} = 11$  Hz, C-3'), 27.2 (C-4').  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.6 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -25.5 (353 K), -28.7 (333 K), -32.7 (313 K), -36.3 (298 K), -41.0 (b, 273 K), -46.9 (253 K), -53.0 (233 K), -59.3 (213 K), -65.5 (193 K), -68.5 (183 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PTi (384.4): C, 62.49; H, 9.70. Found: C, 62.27; H, 9.66.

**Preparation of the Titanium Complex 13.** A solution of 114 mg (0.50 mmol) of **9** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 98 mg (0.48 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Ti(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 108 mg (56%) of **13** was obtained as a red-brown oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  7.31 (m, 2H, 3'-H), 7.04 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 6.96 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 5.71 (m, 2H, 3-H and 4-H), 5.28 (m, 2H, 2-H and 5-H), 3.00 (s, 12H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.46 (d,  $^3J_{PH} = 11$  Hz, 6H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  143.0 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 51$  Hz, C-1'), 136.1 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 155$  Hz,  $^3J_{PC} = 15$  Hz, C-3'), 126.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 155$  Hz,  $^2J_{PC} = 4.5$  Hz, C-2'), 126.2 ( $^1J_{CH} = 160$  Hz, C-4'), 123.1 (C-1), 111.3 ( $^1J_{CH} = 175$  Hz, C-3 and C-4), 107.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 172$  Hz,  $^3J_{PC} = 3$  Hz, C-2 and C-5), 46.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 134$  Hz,  $^3J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 32.2 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 36$  Hz, C-6), 29.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 124$  Hz,  $^2J_{PC} = 15$  Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.6 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  3.0 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 5$  Hz, 298 K), -0.7 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 17$  Hz, 273 K), -6.9 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 30$  Hz, 233 K), -10.0 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 27$  Hz, 213 K), -13.0 ( $\nu_{1/2} = 45$  Hz, 193 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PTi (350.3): C, 61.72; H, 7.77. Found: C, 62.17; H, 7.55.

**Synthesis of the Titanium Complex 14.** A sample of 125 mg (0.50 mmol) of **6** in 5 mL of THF was treated with 53 mg (0.50 mmol) of LDA in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The solution of the in situ generated dilithium salt **10** was then added dropwise to a solution of 98 mg (0.48 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Ti(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 152 mg (79%) of **14** was obtained as a brown oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 253 K):  $\delta$  7.28, 7.03 (each m, each 2H, 2'-H and 3'-H), 6.93 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 5.69 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.21 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.38 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.10 (m, 1H, Cp-H), 3.47 (d,  $^2J_{PH} = 3$  Hz, 1H, 6-H), 2.96, 2.63 (each s, each 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.26 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (100.1 MHz, benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  131.5 (C-2'), 127.5 (C-3'), 125.0 (C-4'), 112.9, 112.5, 112.0 (each Cp C), 49.0 (C-6), 46.0 (NCH<sub>3</sub>), 29.0 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (202.6 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -54.4 (298 K), -55.2 (288 K), -57.5 (253 K), -60.0 (213 K), -61.3 (193

K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PTi (378.4): C, 63.49; H, 8.26; N, 7.40. Found: C, 62.45; H, 8.52; N, 6.38.

**Preparation of the Zirconium Complex 15.** A solution of 117 mg (0.50 mmol) of **7** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 214 mg (0.47 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After removal of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 148 mg (69%) of **15** was obtained as an orange oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  5.92 (m, 2H, 3-H and 4-H), 5.47 (m, 2H, 2-H and 5-H), 3.26, 3.15 (each m, each 4H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.99 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 1.76 (m, 2H, 3'-H), 1.62 (d,  $^3J_{PH} = 10$  Hz, 6H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 1.60 (m, 1H, 1'-H), 1.58 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 1.47 (m, 2H, 2'-H'), 1.26 (m, 2H, 3'-H'), 1.23 (m, 1H, 4'-H'), 0.93 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.0$  Hz, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  124.0 (C-1), 108.1 (C-3 and C-4), 106.4 (d,  $^3J_{PC} = 4$  Hz, C-2 and C-5), 42.5 (d,  $^3J_{PC} < 2$  Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 36.0 (d,  $^2J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C-2'), 35.6 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 38$  Hz, C-1'), 33.2 (C-6), 30.9 (d,  $^2J_{PC} = 13$  Hz, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 27.6 (d,  $^3J_{PC} = 11$  Hz, C-3'), 26.9 (C-4').  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (81.0 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -11.5 (298 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>41</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PZr (455.8): C, 57.98; H, 9.07; N, 6.15. Found: C, 58.27; H, 8.61; N, 4.91.

**Synthesis of the Zirconium Complex 16.** A solution of 120 mg (0.50 mmol) of **8** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 214 mg (0.47 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 143 mg (59%) of **16** was obtained as a deep orange oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  6.02, 5.56 (each m, each 1H, 3-H and 4-H), 5.71, 5.06 (each m, each 1H, 5-H and 2-H), 3.31 (s, 1H, 6-H), 3.30 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, m, 2H, N <sub>$\alpha$</sub> C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.22 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, 4H, N <sub>$\beta$</sub> C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.15 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, 2H, N <sub>$\alpha$</sub> C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.22 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 0.95 (t, 6H, N <sub>$\alpha$</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.94 (t, 6H, N <sub>$\beta$</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>) 1.8–0.9 (br, Cy H, 11H).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  117.5 (C-1), 110.3 and 108.6 (C-2 and C-5), 108.1 and 107.8 (C-3 and C-4), 57.2 (C-6), 43.5 (N <sub>$\beta$</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 41.4 (N <sub>$\alpha$</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.7 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 15.9 (N <sub>$\beta$</sub> -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.6 (N <sub>$\alpha$</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). Cy carbon signals were not resolved.  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (81.0 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -69.2. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PZr (483.8): C, 59.58; H, 9.37; N, 5.79. Found: C, 58.35; H, 9.90; N, 5.50.

**Preparation of the Zirconium Complex 17.** A solution of 114 mg (0.50 mmol) of **9** in 7 mL of THF was added dropwise to 208 mg (0.48 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 146 mg (65%) of **17** was obtained as an orange oil.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  7.56 (m, 2H, 2'-H), 7.06 (m, 2H, 3'-H), 6.96 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 5.98 (m, 2H, 3-H and 4-H), 5.54 (m, 2H, 2-H and 5-H), 3.29, 3.19 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, each m, each 4H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.60 (d,  $^3J_{PH} = 11$  Hz, 6H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 0.92 (t,  $^3J_{HH} = 6.9$  Hz, 12H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (150.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  142.5 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 45$  Hz, C-1'), 136.3 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 158$  Hz,  $^2J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C-2'), 129.2 ( $^1J_{CH} = 157$  Hz, C-4'), 127.6 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 162$  Hz,  $^3J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C-3'), 125.8 (C-1), 108.6 ( $^1J_{CH} = 173$  Hz, C-3 and C-4), 106.7 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 171$  Hz,  $^3J_{PC} = 4$  Hz, C-2 and C-5), 42.7 ( $^1J_{CH} = 131$  Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.2 (d,  $^1J_{PC} = 22$  Hz, C-6), 31.4 (d,  $^1J_{CH} = 124$  Hz,  $^2J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 15.8 ( $^1J_{CH} = 127$  Hz, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (81.0 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -22.5 (298 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PZr (449.7): C, 58.75; H, 7.84; N, 6.23. Found: C, 57.10; H, 7.71; N, 5.81.

**Preparation of the Zirconium Complex 18.** A sample of 125 mg (0.50 mmol) of **6** in 5 mL of THF was treated with 53 mg (0.50 mmol) of LDA in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The solution of **10** was then added dropwise to 214 mg (0.47 mmol) of Cl<sub>2</sub>Zr(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(THF)<sub>2</sub> in 3 mL of THF at 0 °C. Over 2 h the reaction mixture was stirred



at 0 °C. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the oily residue was treated with 10 mL of pentane. After filtration of LiCl and evaporation of the solvent 174 mg (59%) of **18** was obtained as a deep orange oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (599.8 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K): δ 7.36, 7.18 (each m, each 2H, 2'-H and 3'-H), 6.82 (m, 1H, 4'-H), 5.90 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.81 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.79 (m, 1H, Cp H), 5.27 (m, 1H, Cp-H), 3.62 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 4 Hz, 1H, 6-H), 3.19 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, m, 4H, N<sub>α</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.94 (ABX<sub>3</sub>, 4H, N<sub>β</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.27 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 0.98 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 7 Hz, 6H, N<sub>α</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.56 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CH</sub> = 7 Hz, 6H, N<sub>β</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100.1 MHz, benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K): δ 130.0 (C-2'), 127.0 (C-3'), 116.0 (C-1), 110.5, 110.0, 108.5, 107.0 (each Cp C), 47.0 (C-6), 42.0 (N<sub>β</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 34.9 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 34.0 (N<sub>α</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 28.0 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 16.0 (N<sub>β</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.5 (N<sub>α</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>). C-4' was not observed. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202.6 MHz, toluene-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ -80.7 (298 K), -81.2 (253 K), -80.7 (213 K), -80.3 (193 K). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>2</sub>PZr (477.8): C, 60.33; H, 8.23; N, 5.86. Found: C, 58.07; H, 8.90; N, 5.67.

**Technical Details of the Quantum-Chemical Calculations.** The calculations have been performed with the TURBOMOLE suite of programs.<sup>31</sup> All structures have been fully optimized without any symmetry restrictions at the density functional (DFT) level, employing the BP86 functional,<sup>32</sup> a large Gaussian AO basis of valence-triple-ζ quality with one set (two for P) of polarization functions (TZVP: C, N [5s3p1d], H [3s1p], P [5s5p2d], Ti [6s4p3d]),<sup>33,34</sup> and the resolution-of-the-identity (RI) approximation to represent the Coulomb operator.<sup>34,35</sup> For zirconium a [5s3p3d] basis set and an effective core potential with 28 core electrons<sup>36</sup> has been used. Further calculations of the Cartesian second derivatives were

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(34) All basis sets are available from the TURBOMOLE homepage, <http://www.turbomole.com>, via FTP Server Button (in the subdirectories basen (AO basis sets) and jbasen (RI basis sets)).

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carried out, yielding only real vibrational frequencies for the minima and exactly one imaginary normal mode (in the range 80–120i cm<sup>-1</sup>) for the transition states. The calculations of the NMR chemical shifts have been performed also at the DFT-BP86/TZVP level using the GIAO method.

**Polymerization Reactions. (a) Ethene Polymerization.**

A glass autoclave was charged with 200 mL of toluene and 20 mL of a 10% solution of MAO in toluene and then thermostated for 1 h; the solution was then saturated with ethene (at 1 or 2 bar) for 45 min. The catalyst was dissolved in toluene and directly injected in the autoclave. The polymerization reaction was stopped by quenching with 20 mL of aqueous HCl/methanol (1:1 v/v). The resulting polymer was collected by filtration, washed subsequently with HCl and water, and dried at 80 °C in vacuo overnight. Melting points of the polyethylene samples were measured by DSC.

**(b) Ethene–1-Octene Copolymerization.** A glass autoclave was charged with 30 mL of toluene, 50 mL of 1-octene, and 20 mL of a 10% solution of MAO in toluene and then thermostated for 1 h and the solution saturated with ethene (at 1 or 2 bar) for 45 min. The catalyst was dissolved in toluene and directly injected into the autoclave. The polymerization reaction was stopped by quenching with 20 mL of aqueous HCl/methanol (1:1 v/v). The reaction mixture was filtered and washed with water, the solvent was removed in vacuo, and the copolymer was dried at 80 °C in vacuo overnight.

**(c) Polymer Characterizations.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of the copolymer samples (100 mg) were obtained in benzene-*d*<sub>6</sub> (0.5 mL) at 25 °C (oils) or tetrachloroethane-*d*<sub>2</sub> (0.5 mL) at 80 °C (solids). The ethene to 1-octene ratio was determined by integration of <sup>13</sup>C NMR signals (see Figure 3) using the equations

$$\alpha = I(C_{\delta\delta+}, C_{3B})/I(C_{\alpha\delta+}, C_{6B}) = I(C_{\delta\delta+}, C_{3B})/I(C_{\beta\delta+}, C_{5B}) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{ethene/1-octene} = [(3\alpha - 1)/2] + 2 \quad (2)$$

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**Supporting Information Available:** Text and a table giving details of the DFT calculation of **21** and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of the compounds **3–9**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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