Synthesis and Structural Study of Organoantimony(III) and Organobismuth(III) Triflates and Cations Containing O,C,O-Pincer Type Ligands†

Libor Dostál,*,‡ Petr Novák,‡ Roman Jambor,‡ Aleš Růžička,‡ Ivana Císařová,§ Robert Jirásko,^{||} and Jaroslav Holeček[‡]

Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, University of Pardubice, na´*m. C*ˇ*s. legiı*´ *565, CZ-532 10, Pardubice, Czech Republic, Faculty of Natural Science, Charles Uni*V*ersity in Prague, Hla*V*o*V*a 2030, CZ-128 40, Prague 2, Czech Republic, and Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, University of Pardubice, nám. Cs. legií 565, CZ-532 10, Pardubice, Czech Republic*

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The reactions of intramolecularly coordinated organoantimony and organobismuth dihalides $L^{1}SbCl_{2}$ and L²BiCl₂, containing two types of O,C,O-pincer ligands 2,6-(ROCH₂)C₆H₃⁻ (L¹, R = Me; L², R = (Bu) with silver salts of the weakly nucleophilic polar groups CE-SO₂⁻ (OTf) and CB₁·H₁₂⁻ (in 1:1 a Bu), with silver salts of the weakly nucleophilic polar groups $CF_3SO_3^-$ (OTf) and $CB_{11}H_{12}^-$ (in 1:1 and 1:2 molar ratios) gave the following compounds: L¹SbCl(OTf) (1), L²BiCl(OTf) (2), L¹Sb(OTf)₂ (3), $L^2Bi(OTf)_2$ (4), $L^1SbCl(CB_{11}H_{12})$ (5), $L^2BiCl(CB_{11}H_{12})$ (6). All compounds were characterized structurally by X-ray diffraction. In the solid state, compounds **¹**-**³** have OTf groups covalently (although weakly) bound to the central metal atom. In compound **4**, one of the OTf groups is bound in a unidentate fashion and the other in a weakly chelating fashion. Compounds **5** and **6** exist as separated ion pairs consisting of a $[L^1SbCl(THF)]^+$ or $[L^2BiCl]^+$ cation and $CB_{11}H_{12}^-$ anion. The donor oxygen atoms are coordinated to the metal atoms through strong intramolecular interactions in all compounds. The solution structures of all compounds were studied by the help of variable-temperature ¹H NMR measurements.

Introduction

Various types of organometallic cations of both transition and main-group metals constitute an interesting class of compounds from both structural and chemical points of view: for example, the utilization of rare-earth-metal cations in many organic transformations,¹ the activity of Ti and Zr cations in the polymerization of alkenes,² and the use of Al cations as catalysts for polymerizations and ROP processes³ and Sn cations for esterification, transesterification, and other organic reactions.4

‡ Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry, University of Pardubice.

§ Charles University in Prague.

Also, organobismuth cations or at least strong Lewis acids (such as $Bi(OTf)_{3}$ are widely used in organic synthesis.⁵

In many cases, the successful formation of stable organometallic cations (as highly electrophilic species) requires the presence of Lewis bases as electron donors in their structure. The possibility of stabilizing metallic cations of the type $[MX₂]⁺·D_n$ (M = Sb, Bi, X = halide, D = various neutral donors) was clearly demonstrated by several groups.6 References dealing with organometallic (Sb, Bi) cations are somewhat scarce. Norman and co-workers reported several organoantimony and organobismuth monocations of the type $[R_2M]^+D_2$ $(M = Sb, Bi, D = OPPPh₃, OP(NMe₂)₃)$.⁷ The same group succeeded even in the synthesis of the unique dication $[PhBi]^{2+}$. $4OP(NMe₂)₃$.^{7b}

^{*} To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: libor.dostal@ upce.cz.

[†] Dedicated to Dr. K. Mach on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

[|] Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Pardubice.

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A method of choice for stabilization of organometallic cations uses the so-called C,Y-chelating or even a special class of Y, C, Y-pincer ligands ($Y = 2e$ donor atom, such as N, P, O, S, etc.).⁸ The compounds [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂M⁺ (M = Sb, Bi) represent rare examples of pnictogen cations stabilized by C,Ychelating ligands.⁹

Recently, we have reported on the synthesis of organoantimony and organobismuth compounds containing the O,C,Opincer ligands 2,6-(ROCH₂)C₆H₃⁻ (L¹, R = Me; L², R = 'Bu)
(Chart 1)¹⁰ We now turn our attention to stabilization of the (Chart 1).10 We now turn our attention to stabilization of the corresponding organometallic cations. We have recently prepared a cationic organoantimony complex bearing two O,C,Opincer ligands $(L¹)₂Sb⁺$ as a chemical intermediate in the metathesis reaction between $L^{1}L^{1}$ and $SbCl_{3}$.¹¹ In the course of our continuing investigations of main-group-metal derivatives of O,C,O-pincer ligands we report here the synthesis of organoantimony and organobismuth compounds containing the weakly nucleophilic polar groups $CF_3SO_3^-$ (OTf) and $CB_{11}H_{12}^-$, L1SbCl(OTf) (**1**), L2BiCl(OTf) (**2**), L1Sb(OTf)2 (**3**), L2Bi(OTf)2 (4), $L^{1}SbCl(CB_{11}H_{12})$ (5), and $L^{2}BiCl(CB_{11}H_{12})$ (6), with the aim of obtaining and stabilizing the corresponding organometallic cations.

Results and Discussion

Synthetic Aspects. Compounds **¹**-**⁶** were prepared in good yields by reactions of the intramolecularly coordinated chlorides $L^{1}SbCl_{2}$ and $L^{2}BiCl_{2}^{10}$ with the appropriate silver salts of polar groups, according to Scheme 1. The utilization of two different ligands L^1 and L^2 for Sb and Bi compounds stems from the fact that the use of the precursor L^2SbCl_2 in the reaction with AgOTf or $AgCB_{11}H_{12}$ led to decomposition of the ligand via intramolecular ether bond cleavage.12 All compounds had satisfactory elemental analyses, and their identities were established by ESI mass spectrometry.

Chart 1 Scheme 1. Synthesis of Studied Compounds

Molecular Structures of 1–6. The molecular structures of \sim 6 were determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction and **1–6** were determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction and
are depicted in Figures 1–6. Selected bond lengths and bond are depicted in Figures 1-6. Selected bond lengths and bond angles are given in the corresponding figure captions.

The OTf group is coordinated to the central antimony atom of 1 (Figure 1), but the bond length $Sb(1)-O(5) = 2.672(11)$ Å is considerably longer than the corresponding $\Sigma_{\rm cov}(\rm Sb, \rm O) =$ 2.14 Å¹³ (sufficiently shorter than $\Sigma_{vdW}(Sb, O) = 3.78$ Å¹³), indicating a rather weak interaction. Donor atoms O(1) and O(2) of $L¹$ are both strongly coordinated to the central metal atom $(Sb(1)-O(1) = 2.226(7)$ Å, $Sb(1)-O(2) = 2.324(8)$ Å). These intramolecular interactions are considerably stronger than those found in the parent L^1SbCl_2 (Sb(1)-O(1) = 2.577(2) Å and $Sb(1)-O(2) = 2.523(2)$ Å),¹⁰ reflecting an increased Lewis acidity of the central antimony atom in **1**. Also, the bond angle $O(1) - Sb(1) - O(2) = 148.0(2)$ ° in 1 points to a different coordination mode of the ligand compared to that in $L^{1}SbCl_{2}$, with $O(1) - Sb(1) - O(2) = 116.68(6)^{\circ}$.¹⁰ Interestingly, both donor atoms of the ligand are bound to the antimony atom more donor atoms of the ligand are bound to the antimony atom more tightly than the oxygen atom $O(5)$ of the OTf group, as demonstrated by antimony-oxygen distances. This bonding situation may be interpreted in terms of a transition between a purely ionic compound and a ordinary covalent complex (where the bond distance $Sb(1)-O(5)$ should be approximately 2.14 \AA^{13}). Similar weak bonds were found in organoantimony(V) sulfonates of the type $Ph_4Sb(ArSO_3)$ (range of Sb-O bond lengths $2.463 - 2.699$ Å).¹⁴ The chlorine atom Cl(1) is bonded to the central antimony atom through the regular covalent bond Sb(1)-Cl(1) = 2.400(3) Å (Σ_{cov} (Sb,Cl) = 2.37 Å¹³). The overall geometry around the central atom can be described as a distorted

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Figure 1. ORTEP plot of molecules of **1** showing 20% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme (symmetry code (a): $-x$, $\frac{1}{2} + y$, $\frac{1}{2} - z$). Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (A) and angles (deg): Sb(1)-O(1) $= 2.226(7)$, Sb(1)-O(2) $= 2.324(8)$, Sb(1)-C(1) $= 2.093(8)$, Sb- $(1)-Cl(1) = 2.400(3), Sb(1)-O(5) = 2.672(11), Sb(1a)-O(3) =$ $3.398(14)$; O(1)-Sb(1)-O(2) = 148.0(2), O(5)-Sb(1)-Cl(1) = 168.1(2).

square pyramid¹⁵ with the carbon atom $C(1)$ in the axial position and atoms $Cl(1)$, $O(1)$, $O(2)$, and $O(5)$ forming the basal plane (the sum of angles describing the SbO_3Cl girdle is 354 \degree). Both polar groups are placed in mutually trans positions in the basal plane with the angle $O(5) - Sb(1) - Cl(1) = 168.1(2)$ °. Closer inspection of the structure of **1** revealed a weak intermolecular contact of O(3) of the OTf group with the antimony atom of the adjacent molecule $(Sb(1a) - O(3) = 3.398(14))$. This results in the formation of weakly bound dimeric units formed via unsymmetrical OTf bridges and the unusual eight-memberedring system $Sb_2O_4S_2$ (Figure 1). The OTf group in 1 seems to be a rare example of triflate bridging two antimony atoms.¹⁶

The bismuth congener **2** also forms a molecular complex (Figure 2) with the covalently bonded OTf group, although the $Bi(1)-O(3)$ bond length of 2.609(8) Å again implies that the Bi-OTf bond is rather weak ($\Sigma_{\text{cov}}(Bi, O) = 2.19 \text{ Å}; \Sigma_{\text{vdW}}(Bi, O)$ $=$ 3.86 Å¹³). Both oxygen donor atoms O(1) and O(2) of L² are strongly coordinated to the central atom with distances Bi- $(1)-O(1) = 2.363(7)$ Å and Bi(1)-O(2) = 2.406(6) Å. These values are comparable to those of the parent L^2BiCl_2 .¹⁰ Both donor atoms of the ligand are bound to the bismuth atom more tightly than oxygen O(3) of the OTf group, thus closely resembling the bonding situation in **1**. The overall geometry around the central atom can be described as a distorted square pyramid¹⁵ with the carbon atom $C(1)$ in the axial position and atoms $Cl(1)$, $O(1)$, $O(2)$, and $O(3)$ forming the basal plane (the sum of angles describing the $BiO₃Cl$ girdle is 356°). Both polar groups are coordinated in this plane in nearly ideal trans positions, with $Cl(1)-Bi(1)-O(3) = 167.13(17)$ °. The molecular packing is further affected by a weak intermolecular contact of the chlorine atom with the bismuth atom from the second molecule, $Cl(1)-Bi(1a) = 3.707(3)$ Å, resulting in dimeric units similar to those found in the parent L^2BiCl_2 (Figure 2).¹⁰ Interestingly, both **1** and **2** form weakly connected dimers in

Figure 2. ORTEP plot of molecules of **2** showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme (symmetry code (a): $-x$, $-y$, $-z$). Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and angles (deg): Bi(1)-O(1) = 2.363- (7) , Bi $(1)-O(2) = 2.406(6)$, Bi $(1)-C(1) = 2.202(10)$, Bi $(1)-C$ l- $(1) = 2.546(2), Bi(1) - O(3) = 2.609(8), Bi(1a) - Cl(1) = 3.707(3);$ $O(1) - Bi(1) - O(2) = 145.3(2), O(3) - Bi(1) - Cl(1) = 167.13(17).$

Figure 3. ORTEP plot of a molecule of **3** showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Two independent molecules are present in the crystal structure of **3**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg) are as follows. Molecule A: $Sb(1)-O(11) = 2.234$ - (3) , Sb(1)-O(12) = 2.246(4), Sb(1)-C(11) = 2.083(4), Sb(1)- $O(13) = 2.277(4), Sb(1) - O(16) = 2.311(4); O(11) - Sb(1) - O(12)$ $= 149.64(11), O(13) - Sb(1) - O(16) = 168.02(12)$. Molecule B: Sb- $(2)-O(21) = 2.297(3), Sb(2)-O(22) = 2.194(4), Sb(2)-C(21) =$ 2.091(4), Sb(2)-O(23) = 2.193(3), Sb(2)-O(26) = 2.368(4); $O(21) - Sb(2) - O(22) = 149.48(11), O(23) - Sb(2) - O(26) =$ 165.72(14).

the solid state. In the case of **1** the OTf group is the bridge between two antimony atoms, but the chlorine atom can be found in a bridging position in **2**.

Two symmetrically independent molecules of **3** are present in the unit cell, differing mainly in the orientation of the OTf molecules toward the ligand due to the free rotation of OTf along the Sb-O bond. Only one of these molecules is shown in Figure 3. All OTf polar groups are bound covalently to the central antimony atom in compound **³** (Sb-O bond distances are within the range $2.193(3)-2.368(4)$ Å). As a result of the

⁽¹⁵⁾ This structure also can be described as a ψ -octahedron, if the lone pair of the central metal is included in the overall geometry. This lone pair is then located in a position trans to the ipso carbon of the ligands L^1

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Figure 4. ORTEP plot of molecules of **4** showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme (symmetry code (a): $-x$, $-y$, $-z$). Hydrogen atoms and the solvent CH_2Cl_2 molecule were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): Bi(1)-O(1) = 2.389(7), Bi(1)-O(2) = 2.393(6), Bi- $(1)-C(1) = 2.158(9), Bi(1)-O(3) = 2.628(7), Bi(1)-O(4) =$ 2.703(9), Bi(1)-O(6) = 2.377(7), Bi(1a)-O(8) = 3.295(8); O(1)- $Bi(1)-O(2) = 141.3(2), O(3)-Bi(1)-O(6) = 149.6(2), O(4)-Bi (1)-O(6) = 157.8(2), O(3)-Bi(1)-O(4) = 56.2(2).$

increased Lewis acidity (electrophilicity) of the antimony atom, both OTf groups are coordinated more tightly in **3** in comparison to 1. Also, the donor oxygen atoms of $L¹$ are strongly coordinated to the central atom (range of Sb-O(ligand) bond lengths 2.194(3)-2.297 Å). The coordination polyhedron can be described as a distorted square pyramid¹⁵ with the ligand ipso carbon atom $C(11)$ in the axial position and the basal plane being formed by the central antimony atom and four oxygen atoms (two originating from OTf groups and two from L^1 —the sum of angles describing the $SbO₄$ girdle is 354 \degree). Both donor atoms and OTf groups are placed in mutually trans positions with the bond angles $O(11) - Sb(1) - O(12) = 149.64(11)$ ° and $O(13) - Sb(1) - O(16) = 168.02(12)$ ° for the molecule A. There are weak $C-H \cdot \cdot \cdot O(OTf)$ intermolecular contacts stabilizing the OTf positions in the crystal.

Similar to some structural differences found in the solid-state structures of **1** and **2**, the organobismuth compound **4** also displayed a significantly different coordination mode of OTf groups in comparison to the case for **3** (Figure 4). One OTf moiety is coordinated to the central bismuth atom in a unidentate fashion through the relatively strong covalent bond $Bi(1)-O(6)$ $= 2.377(7)$ Å, while the second OTf group is bound to the Bi-(1) atom only weakly, interestingly in a bidentate fashion with distances Bi(1)-O(3) = 2.628(7) Å and Bi(1)-O(4) = 2.703-(9) Å. This bidentate OTf group represents a rare example of this bonding situation in bismuth chemistry; a similar situation was found only in $BiCl(OTf)_2$.^{16c} The coordination mode of this OTf group can be understood in the same manner as for **1** and **2** as an example of a transition between an ionic and a covalent complex. Both donor atoms of L^2 are again strongly coordinated to the bismuth atom $(Bi(1)-O(1) = 2.389(7)$ Å and $Bi(1)$ - $O(2) = 2.393(6)$ Å). The resulting geometry around the bismuth atom can be described as a pentagonal pyramid with the $C(1)$ atom in an apical position and five oxygen atoms in the basal plane (the sum of angles describing $SbO₅$ girdle is 363°). This coordination polyhedron is further affected by weak intermolecular contacts mediated by unsymmetrical bridges formed by OTf groups $(Bi(1a) - O(8) = 3.295(8)$ Å), leading to dimeric units as in the case of **1**. The presence of even stronger sulfonate

Figure 5. ORTEP plot of a molecule of **5** showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): $Sb(1)-O(1) = 2.305(3)$, $Sb(1)-O(2) = 2.238(4)$, $Sb(1)-C(1) = 2.091(5), Sb(1)-Cl(1) = 2.3945(15), Sb(1)-O(3)$ $= 2.576(4)$; O(1)-Sb(1)-O(2) = 148.87(15), O(3)-Sb(1)-Cl(1) $= 171.56(11).$

bridges between two bismuth atoms has been discovered recently by other groups.¹⁷

It is apparent that use of polar triflate groups in compounds **¹**-**⁴** did not lead to an ionization of these complexes, although in these cases OTf groups are bound rather weakly. The even more weakly coordinating $CB_{11}H_{12}^-$ cluster anion¹⁸ was found to be effective for the stabilization of the corresponding organoantimony and organobismuth cations.

Compound **5** had only limited solubility in noncoordinating solvents. Thus, suitable single crystals of **5** could be grown only from THF and, as a result, a THF solvate was isolated (Figure 5). Compound **5** consists of the well-separated ion pair $[L^1SbCl(THF)]+CB_{11}H_{12}$. In the cation, both donor atoms of $L¹$ are strongly coordinated to the central antimony atom with bond distances $Sb(1)-O(1) = 2.305(3)$ Å and $Sb(1)-O(2) =$ $2.238(4)$ Å. The chlorine atom Cl(1) is bound to the central Sb atom by a regular covalent bond: $Sb(1) - Cl(1) = 2.3945(15)$ Å. The polyhedron of the central Sb atom is completed by the coordinated THF molecule with bond distance $Sb(1)-O(1) = 2.576(4)$ Å. This value is comparable to those in other Sb-2.576(4) Å. This value is comparable to those in other Sb-THF complexes.^{16c,19} The THF molecule is coordinated in a position nearly ideally trans to $Cl(1)$, with the angle $O(3)$ -Sb- $(1)-Cl(1) = 171.56(11)$ °. The polyhedron around Sb(1) is a distorted square pyramid with $C(1)$ of $L¹$ in the apical position (the sum of angles describing SbO_3Cl girdle is 357°).

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^{(19) (}a) Schiffer, M.; Johnson, B. P.; Scheer, M. *Z. Anorg. Allg. Chem.* **2000**, *626*, 2498. (b) Liu, L.; Zakharov, N. L.; Rheingold, A. L.; Hanna, T. A. *Chem. Commun.* **2004**, 1472. (c) Tanski, J. M.; Kelly, B. V.; Parkin, G*. Dalton Trans.* **2005**, 2442.

Figure 6. ORTEP plot of a molecule of **6** showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atom-numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms and the solvent $CH₂Cl₂$ molecule were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (\AA) and angles (deg): Bi(1)-O(1) = 2.410- (5) , Bi $(1)-O(2) = 2.393(5)$, Bi $(1)-C(1) = 2.175(7)$, Bi $(1)-Cl(1)$ $= 2.4931(18)$; O(1)-Bi(1)-O(2) = 145.24(16), C(1)-Bi(1)-Cl- $(1) = 94.1(2)$.

The organobismuth compound **6** also is ionic in the solid state (Figure 6). In contrast to the case for 5 , the cation $[L^2BiCl]^+$ of **6** is solvent free (single crystals were obtained from CHCl3 solution). The oxygen donor atoms are strongly coordinated to the bismuth atom with bond lengths $Bi(1)-O(1) = 2.410(5)$ Å and $Bi(1)-O(2) = 2.393(5)$ Å. The overall geometry is distorted *ψ*-trigonal bipyramidal with both oxygen donor atoms in axial positions (bond angle $O(1) - Bi(1) - O(2) = 145.24(16)°$), similar to the organobismuth cation $[2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂Bi⁺$, containing two N,C-chelating ligands.⁹ The significant deviation from an ideal *ψ*-trigonal-bipyramidal environment is the value of the angle formed by oxygen donor atoms in axial positions, which can be ascribed to ligand rigidity.

Solution Structures of 1-**6**. The structures of all compounds in solution were studied with the help of variable-temperature (VT) 1 H NMR measurements.

1H NMR spectra revealed one set of sharp signals for both CH₂O and OCH₃ (1) or OC(CH₃)₃ (2) groups for compounds 1 and 2 at 300 K. The signal appropriate to $CH₂O$ groups is split into an AB pattern at 5.26 and 5.21 ppm below 230 K (CDCl₃), reflecting unsymmetrical substitution at the antimony atom in **1** (resembling that found in the solid state). On the other hand, all signals in the 1H NMR spectrum of **2** remained unchanged in the whole temperature range studied (300-170 K, THF- d_8 ; 2 was almost insoluble in CDCl₃), although considerable $CH₂O$ signal line broadening was observed below 190 K, most probably indicating fluxional behavior of **2** in THF solution similar to the case for **5** (vide infra).

The 1H NMR spectra of compound **3** revealed only one set of sharp signals for CH₂O and OCH₃ in the whole temperature range studied $(300-215 \text{ K}, \text{CDCl}_3)$, indicating a rigid and symmetrical structure of **3**, similar to that found for this derivative in the solid state (square pyramidal, with trans unidentate OTf groups). Its bismuth congener **4** displayed one set of sharp signals for CH₂O and OC(CH₃)₃ groups in ¹H NMR at 300 K (CDCl₃), which in the case of the $CH₂O$ groups split into an AX pattern at 5.60 and 5.40 ppm at 215 K. This finding proves nonequivalently bound OTf groups (unidentate and bidentate) as established for **4** in the solid state (see Figure 4).

which is slowed down with a decrease in temperature. Compound **5** is nearly insoluble in aromatic and chlorinated solvents; thus, VT¹H NMR spectra were recorded in THF- d_8 . Interestingly, 1H NMR spectra revealed only one set of relatively sharp signals for $CH₂O$ and $OCH₃$ in the whole temperature range studied $(300-170 \text{ K})$. This situation does not correspond to an unsymmetrically substituted metal center, which should result in observation of an AX pattern for the protons of the C*H*2O group. A plausible explanation can be found in the solvent used. The THF molecule can easily coordinate to the central antimony atom (as was shown in the solid state; Figure 5). The sufficiently fast dynamic process of coordination-decoordination of THF can hamper observation of any splitting of signals of the CH₂O group, which was readily observed in the bismuth analogue (vide infra).

VT ¹H NMR spectra of 6 recorded in CDCl₃ revealed already at 300 K an AX pattern $(5.60 \text{ and } 5.44 \text{ ppm})$ for the CHO₂ group, which is invariable to 215 K, reflecting the presence of the $[L^2BiCl]^+$ cation similar in structure to that found in the solid state (Figure 6). To demonstrate the ability of this cation to coordinate a THF molecule and to obtain proof for coordination of THF by compound 5 , a ¹H NMR experiment involving addition of THF to a CDCl₃ solution of 6 was performed. ¹H NMR spectra of **6** revealed only one signal for the C*H*2O group upon addition of THF at 300 K, which is in direct contrast to the experiment carried out in pure CDCl3. This means that THF molecules start to coordinate to the bismuth center at this temperature, similar to the case for compound **5**. Below 230 K, the signal of the $CH₂O$ group is again observed as an AX pattern (5.54 and 5.39 ppm), indicating that THF coordination is sufficiently slowed down to resolve the presence of the unsymmetric cation. All these findings prove the predicted solution structure of **5** and also show a significant tendency of **5** and **6** to act as strong Lewis acids. The ionic nature of both **5** and **6** in solution was also corroborated by ¹¹B NMR spectra, where three well-resolved resonances in a 1:5:5 ratio (at -5.10 , -11.39 , and -14.26 ppm for **5** and -12.03 , -17.16 , and -18.98 ppm for **⁶**) were observed, the typical pattern for the free $CB_{11}H_{12}^-$ anion.²⁰

Experimental Section

General Procedures. All air- and moisture-sensitive manipulations were carried out under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk tube techniques. All solvents were dried by standard procedures and distilled prior to use. The reaction flasks were protected against daylight by an aluminum foil covering. 1H, 13C, and 11B NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX360 and Bruker500 Avance spectrometers, respectively, using 5 mm tunable broad-band probes. Appropriate chemical shifts in 1H and 13C NMR spectra were calibrated on the residual signals of the solvents (CDCl₃, δ ⁽¹H) 7.27 ppm and δ ⁽¹³C) 77.23 ppm; THF-*d*₈, δ ⁽¹H) 3.58, 1.73 ppm and *δ*(13C) 67.57, 25.37 ppm). 11B NMR spectra are related to the external standard BF_3 ^{OEt₂ (0.00 ppm). The} positive-ion and negative-ion electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were measured on an Esquire 3000 ion trap analyzer (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) in the range *^m*/*^z* ⁵⁰-1000. The samples were dissolved in acetonitrile and analyzed by direct infusion at a flow rate of $5 \mu L/min$. The ion source temperature was 300 °C, the tuning parameter compound stability was 100%,

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Table 1. Crystallographic Data for 1-**⁶**

 ${}^{a}R_{\text{int}} = \sum [F_{o}^{2} - F_{o,\text{mean}}^{2}] / \sum F_{o}^{2}$. b Weighting scheme: $w = [\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2}) + (w_{1}P)^{2} + w_{2}P]^{-1}$, where $P = [\max(F_{o}^{2}) + 2F_{c}^{2}]$. ${}^{c}S = [\sum(w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2})/(N_{\text{diffis}} + N_{\text{mean}}^{2})]$ $-N_{\text{params}}$]^{1/2}. ${}^{d}R(F) = \sum ||F_{\text{o}}| - |F_{\text{c}}||/\sum |F_{\text{o}}|$; $wR(F^2) = [\sum (w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2)/(\sum w(F_o^2)^2)]^{1/2}$. e Corrected by SADABS $(T_{\text{min}}/T_{\text{max}} = 0.7898)$.

and the flow rate and the pressure of nitrogen were 4 L/min and 10 psi, respectively.

The basic mechanism of the ion formation is the cleavage of the most labile bond in the molecules, yielding two complementary ions, where the cationic part (for example, $[M - OTf]^+$) of the molecule is measured in the positive-ion mode and the anionic part (for example, [OTf]-) is measured in the negative-ion mode of electrospray. Further, the typical neutral losses of hydrogen chloride, butene, formaldehyde, and methanol confirming the presence of substituents in the molecule are observed in the spectra.

The starting compounds $AgSO_3CF_3$ (99%) and $[Me₃NH]⁺$ - $[CB_{11}H_{12}]^-$ were obtained from commercial suppliers and used as delivered. The compounds $Ag^+[CB_{11}H_{12}]^{-21}$ and 2,6- $(MeOCH₂)₂C₆H₃SbCl₂$ and 2,6- $(MeOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl₂¹⁰$ were prepared according to literature procedures.

Synthesis of 2,6-(MeOCH₂)₂C₆H₃SbCl(CF₃SO₃) (1). CF₃SO₃-Ag (72 mg, 0.28 mmol) was added to a solution of 2,6- $(MeOCH_2)_2C_6H_3SbCl_2$ (100 mg, 0.28 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) in a Schlenk flask protected against light by aluminum foil. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight, and then AgCl was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo to dryness, providing white crystals of the product. The crude product was washed twice with hexane (5 mL) and dried in vacuo. Yield: 117 mg (89%). Mp: 135-138 °C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{13}SbClF_3O_5S$ (mol wt 471.49): C, 28.02; H, 2.78. Found: C, 27.88; H, 2.67. Positive-ion MS: *m*/*z* 473 [M + H]⁺; m/z 321 [M - OTf]⁺, 100%; m/z 291 [M - OTf - HCOH]⁺; *m*/*z* 261 [M - OTf - 2*HCOH]⁺. Negative-ion MS: *m*/*z* 149 [OTf]⁻, 100%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.06 (6H, s, C*H*3O), 5.22 (4H, s, OC*H*2), 7.32 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5), 7.51 (1H, t, Ar *H*4). ¹³C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 61.9 (s, CH₃O), 78.4 (s, O*C*H2), 119.4 (q, *^C*F*3*, ¹*J*(19F,13C)) 318 Hz), 123.0 (s, Ar *^C*3,5), 131.5 (s, Ar *C*4), 142.2 (s, Ar *C*2,6), 150.3 (Ar *C*1).

Synthesis of 2,6-('BuOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl(CF₃SO₃) (2). The procedure was analogous to that used for $1: CF_3SO_3Ag$ (51 mg, 0.20) mmol); 2,6-('BuOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl₂ (105 mg, 0.20 mmol) in THF (30 mL). Yield: 99 mg (94%). Mp 145-¹⁴⁸ °C. Anal. Calcd for C17H25BiClF3O5S (mol wt 642.88): C, 31.76; H, 3.92. Found: C, 31.85; H, 4.01. Positive-ion MS: m/z 493 [M - CF₃SO₃]⁺, 100%; m/z 437 [M – CF₃SO₃ – butene]⁺; m/z 401 [M – CF₃SO₃ – butene $-$ HCl]⁺; *m/z* 381 [M - CF₃SO₃ - 2*butene]⁺; *m/z* 345 [M - $CF₃SO₃ - 2*$ butene - HCl]⁺. Negative-ion MS: m/z 149 [CF3SO3]-, 100%. 1H NMR (500 MHz, THF-*d*8): *δ* 1.53 (18H, s, (C*H*3)3CO), 5.29 (4H, s, OC*H*2), 7.44 (1H, t, Ar *H*4), 7.85 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5). 13C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 28.7 (s, (*C*H3)3CO), 72.5 (s, OCH₂), 83.9 (s, CO), 121.5 (q, CF₃, ¹J(¹⁹F,¹³C) = 319 Hz), 127.4 (s, Ar *C*3,5), 129.6 (s, Ar *C*4), 152.6 (s, Ar *C*2,6), Ar *C*1 not found.

Synthesis of 2,6- $(\text{MeOCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{Sb}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3)_2$ **(3). The pro**cedure was analogous to that used for 1: CF_3SO_3Ag (157 mg, 0.62) mmol); 2,6-(MeCH₂)₂C₆H₃SbCl₂ (109 mg, 0.31 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL). Yield: 157 mg (88%). Mp: 204-²⁰⁶ °C dec. Anal. Calcd for $C_{12}H_{13}SbF_6O_8S_2$ (mol wt 585.10): C, 24.63; H, 2.24. Found: C, 24.49; H, 2.38. Positive-ion MS: m/z 453 [M - CF₃SO₃ + H_2O ⁺, 100%; *m*/*z* 435 [M – CF₃SO₃]⁺; *m*/*z* 421 [M – CF₃SO₃ + $H_2O - CH_3OH$ ⁺, m/z 321 [LSbOH + H₂O]⁺. Negative-ion MS: *m*/*z* 149 [CF₃SO₃]⁻, 100%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 4.19 (6H, s, C*H*3O), 5.30 (4H, s, OC*H*2), 7.37 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5), 7.57 (1H, t, Ar *H*4). 13C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 62.6 (s, *C*H3O), 78.8 (s, OCH₂), 119.4 (q, CF₃, ¹J(¹⁹F,¹³C) = 317 Hz), 123.1 (s, Ar *C*3,5), 132.2 (s, Ar *C*4), 142.6 (s, Ar *C*2,6), 150.5 (Ar *C*1).

Synthesis of 2,6-(t BuOCH2)2C6H3Bi(CF3SO3)2 (4). The procedure was analogous to that used for 1: $CF₃SO₃Ag$ (90 mg, 0.35) mmol); 2,6-('BuOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl₂ (93 mg, 0,175 mmol) in THF (30 mL). Yield: 119 mg (90%). Mp >²⁹⁰ °C dec. Anal. Calcd for $C_{18}H_{25}BiF_6O_8S_2$ (mol wt 756.49): C, 28.58; H, 3.33. Found: C, 28.70; H, 3.46. Positive-ion MS: m/z 607 [M - CF₃SO₃]⁺; m/z 551 [M – CF_3SO_3 – butene]⁺; *m*/*z* 401 [M – CF_3SO_3 – CF_3 - SO_3H – butene]⁺; m/z 345 [M – CF₃SO₃ – CF₃SO₃H – 2*butene]⁺. Negative-ion MS: m/z 149 [CF₃SO₃]⁻, 100%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 1.69 (18H, s, (C*H*3)3CO), 5.49 (4H, s, OC*H*2), 7.61 (1H, t, Ar *H*4), 7.99 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5). 13C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 28.6 (s, (*C*H3)3CO), 73.2 (s, O*C*H2), 84.7 (s, CO) , 119.6 $(q, CF_3, {}^1J({}^{19}F, {}^{13}C) = 319$ Hz), 126.5 $(s, Ar C3,5)$, 130.5 (s, Ar *C*4), 152.3 (s, Ar *C*2,6), Ar *C*1 not found.

Synthesis of 2,6- $(\text{MeOCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{SbCl}(\text{CB}_{11}\text{H}_{12})$ **(5).** The procedure was analogous to that used for 1: $CB_{11}H_{12}Ag$ (73 mg,

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0.29 mmol); 2,6-(MeCH₂)₂C₆H₃SbCl₂ (105 mg, 0.29 mmol) in CH₂-Cl2 (30 mL). Yield: 122 mg (89%). Mp: 180-¹⁸⁴ °C. Anal. Calcd for $C_{11}H_{25}SbB_{11}O_2Cl$ (mol wt 465.44): C, 28.39; H, 5.41. Found: C, 28.09; H, 5.32. Positive-ion MS: m/z 321 [M - CB₁₁H₁₂]⁺, 100%. Negative-ion MS: m/z 145 [CB₁₁H₁₂]⁻, 100%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, THF-*d*8): *δ* 4.07 (6H, s, C*H*3O), 5.38 (4H, s, OC*H*2), 7.42 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5), 7.55 (1H, t, Ar *H*4). 13C NMR (125.76 MHz, THF-*d*8): *δ* 51.8 (bs, CB), 62.1 (s, *C*H3O), 78.6 (s, O*C*H2), 124.4 (s, Ar *C*3,5), 132.2 (s, Ar *C*4), 144.1 (s, Ar *C*2,6), 150.9 (Ar *C*1). ¹¹B NMR (115.54 MHz, THF- d_8): δ -5.10 (bs), -11.39 (bs), -14.26 (bs). IR (CHCl3): *^ν*(B-H) 2557 cm-1. IR (Nujol): ν (B-H) 2542 cm⁻¹.

Synthesis of 2,6-(t **BuOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl(CB₁₁H₁₂) (6). The pro**cedure was analogous to that used for 1 : $CB_{11}H_{12}Ag$ (41 mg, 0.17) mmol); 2,6-('BuOCH₂)₂C₆H₃BiCl₂ (87 mg, 0.17 mmol) in THF (30 mL) Yield: 97 mg (92%). Mp: 130 °C dec. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₃₇-BiB11ClO2 (mol wt 636.84): C, 32.06; H, 5.86. Found: C, 32.20; H, 5.99. Positive-ion MS: m/z 493 [M – CB₁₁H₁₂]⁺, 100%; m/z 437 [M - CB₁₁H₁₂ - butene]⁺; m/z 381 [M - CB₁₁H₁₂ - $2*$ butene]⁺; *m*/*z* 345 [M – CB₁₁H₁₂ – 2^{*}butene – HCl]⁺. Negativeion MS: m/z 145 [CB₁₁H₁₂]⁻, 100%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.69 (18H, s, (CH₃)₃CO), 5.60 and 5.44 (4H, AX pattern, OC*H*2), 7.65 (1H, t, Ar *H*4), 8.00 (2H, d, Ar *H*3,5). 13C NMR (125.76 MHz, CDCl3): *δ* 28.8 (s, (*C*H3)3CO), 53.1 (s br, CB), 72.7 (s, O*C*H2), 86.3 (s, *C*O), 127.0 (s, Ar *C*3,5), 130.8 (s, Ar *C*4), 151.9 (s, Ar *C*2,6), Ar *C*1 not found. ¹¹B NMR (115.54 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -12.03 (s br), -17.16 (s br), -18.98 (s br). IR (CHCl₃): ν (B-H) 2555 cm⁻¹. IR (Nujol): $\nu(B-H)$ 2550 cm⁻¹.

X-ray Crystallographic Study. The details of the crystal structure determination and refinement for compounds **¹**-**⁶** are given in Table 1. Suitable single crystals of **¹**-**⁶** were mounted on glass fibers with oil and measured on a KappaCCD four-circle diffractometer with CCD area detector by monochromated Mo $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at 150(1) K. Numerical²² absorption corrections from crystal shape were applied for crystals of **2** and **6**, multiscan23 absorption corrections were applied for **1**, **3**, and **4**,

(22) Coppens, P. In *Crystallographic Computing*; Ahmed, F. R., Hall, S. R., Huber, C. P., Eds.; Munksgaard: Copenhagen, 1970; pp 255-270. and SADABS24 correction was applied for **5**. The structures were solved by direct methods (SIR92²⁵) and refined by full-matrix leastsquares procedures based on F^2 (SHELXL97²⁶). Hydrogen atoms were fixed into idealized positions (riding model) and assigned temperature factors $U_{\text{iso}}(H) = 1.2[U_{\text{eq}}(\text{pivot atom})]$; for the methyl moiety a multiple of 1.5 was chosen. The final difference maps displayed no peaks of chemical significance, as the highest peaks and holes are in close vicinity (\sim 1 Å) of heavy atoms.

Crystallographic data for structural analysis has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre: CCDC Nos. ⁶³²¹⁵³-632157 for **¹**, **²**, and **⁴**-**⁶** and CCDC No. 636272 for **³**, respectively. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EY, U.K. (fax, +44-1223-336033; e-mail, deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk ; web, http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

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Supporting Information Available: CIF files giving crystal data for compounds $1-6$. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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