

Converging and Diverging Synthetic Strategies to Tetradentate (*N,N'*)-Diaminomethyl,(*P,P'*)-Ferrocenyl Ligands: Influence of *tert*-Butyl Groups on Ferrocene Backbone Conformation

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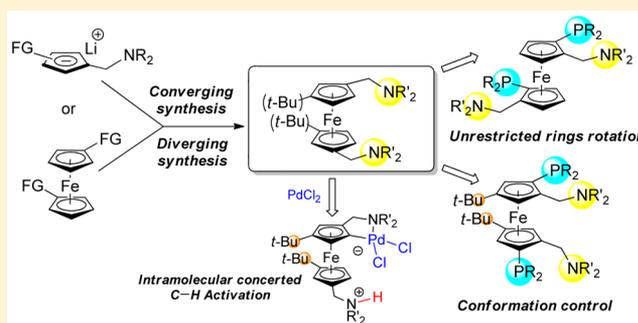
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Hexasubstituted hybrid tetradentate (*N,N',P,P'*)-ferrocenes bearing phosphino and aminomethyl groups, plus hindering *tert*-butyl moieties, were synthesized by using two different strategies: a “diverging” synthesis involving successive functionalization of preformed di-*tert*-butylated ferrocene and a “converging” assembly of the species from appropriately substituted cyclopentadienyl rings. While the new cyclopentadienyl salts formed are of interest, their assembly with iron dichloride used as a “converging” way to produce tetradentate ferrocene ligands presented several drawbacks. Conversely, the synthesis of new *tert*-butylated (aminomethyl)ferrocene derivatives was found convenient to further form (*N,N'*)-aminomethyl,(*P,P'*)-*tert*-butylated-ferrocenyl diphosphines by *N*-directed *ortho*-metalation. The novel N_2 -didentate and N_2P_2 -tetradentate *tert*-butylated ferrocene compounds were all synthesized in good to high yields (48–96%) and tolerated aryl, alkyl, and heteroaryl phosphino groups as substituents on nitrogen and phosphorus atoms. They were characterized by X-ray diffraction and multinuclear NMR (1H , ^{13}C , ^{31}P , ^{15}N). We observed the conformation control provided to *rac*-(*N,N'*)-diaminomethyl-(*P,P'*)-*tert*-butylated-ferrocenyldiphosphines with in particular the systematic near-eclipsed conformation of aminomethyl groups. This conformation is at the origin of the unexpected formation at RT of a zwitterionic cyclopalladate from an (aminomethyl)ferrocene derivative, arising from intramolecular Cp-proton transfer to the proximate free amino group by simple C–H activation reaction in the presence of palladium dichloride.



INTRODUCTION

Functionalized ferrocene derivatives have a wide range of applications relating to homogeneous catalysis, electrochemistry, material sciences, and biomedical research.¹ Since the 1950s the synthesis of ferrocene derivatives incorporating atoms having bonding donor abilities such as phosphorus, sulfur, or nitrogen has attracted much attention.^{2–4} Because of their unique geometric and electronic properties, robustness, and modular backbone, chiral hybrid didentate (*P,N*)-substituted ferrocenes have played a prominent role as ligands in asymmetric catalysis. Accordingly, numerous reviews have highlighted the synthetic routes to enantiopure ferrocene-based ligands.⁵ Due to various synthetic complications, ferrocene derivatives that are iteratively functionalized with more than three different groups are much less developed.^{5a,c,6}

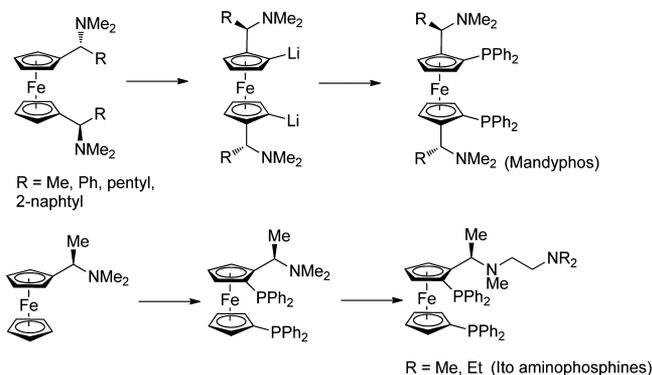
This is the case for *polydentate* hybrid (*P,N*)-functionalized ferrocenes, the term *polydentate* relating to species that bear at least three donor atoms. Only a very limited number of hybrid ferrocenyl tetradentate ligands have been developed, which are related to asymmetric catalysis^{7–10} and heterocyclic chemistry.^{11–14} A structural interest of *polydentate* ligands is their potential ability to form di- and polynuclear complexes that eventually promote metal nuclei cooperation.^{15a} These can also provide catalytic systems with high-TON productivity through intramolecularly supported ligand cooperation.^{15b–e} To this end, a strict control of the global ligand structures and/or conformations is needed.

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Concerning P_2N_2 tetradentate ligands Schwink and Knochel have first reported the formation of chiral diaminodiphosphinoferrocenes by double directed *ortho*-metalation of chiral methylaminoferrocenes (Scheme 1, top).⁷

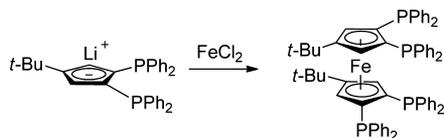
Scheme 1. Tetradentate P_2N_2 Ferrocene Derivatives



This work has led to the synthesis of the family of Mandyphos P_2N_2 chiral ligands used in asymmetric catalysis.^{8b,16} The introduction of two phosphino groups into N,N -dimethyl-1-ferrocenylethylamine by *ortho*-lithiation, after Ugi's method, had been earlier reported by Hayashi and Kumada.¹⁷ This method has been used by Ito et al. to produce compounds with rather original P_2N_2 frameworks on the ferrocenyl platform (Scheme 1, bottom).⁹

On the other hand, no synthetic works have been reported concerning the synthesis of polydentate hybrid (P,N)-functionalized ferrocene compounds through assembly of variously substituted cyclopentadienyl anions. We have initiated a program aimed at developing air-stable and moisture- and temperature-resistant polydentate auxiliaries for transition metal catalysis that seeks, in part, to address these limitations. This project originally focused on the synthesis of novel ferrocenyl-based polyphosphines (Scheme 2)¹⁸ and met success in synthetic applications devoted to copper-¹⁹ and palladium-catalyzed reactions of C–C and C–X cross-coupling (X = O, S, N).²⁰

Scheme 2. Tetradentate P_4 *tert*-Butylated Ferrocenyl Phosphine Synthesized by a Converging Assembly Mode from Substituted Cyclopentadienyl Rings



The robustness of the catalytic systems incorporating ligands based on the ferrocene platform allows for a low loading of palladium and led thus to remarkable catalytic turnover numbers. In order to selectively generate this new class of tetra- and triphosphines, we used a strategy based on the assembling of appropriately substituted cyclopentadienyl salts (Scheme 2). This converging synthetic route avoids many selectivity troubles encountered from successive direct metalation and phosphination of the ferrocene backbone.²¹

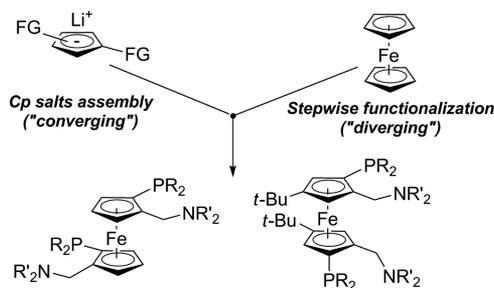
The synthesis of analogous tetradentate hybrid (P,N)-functionalized ferrocenes is very attractive because such hybrid ligands may potentially be suitable to accommodate coordina-

tion with both “soft” and “hard” transition metals and may give access to many diverse catalytic applications.²² Following this perspective we investigated “converging” and “diverging” synthetic methods:²³ either from cyclopentadienyl salt assembly or from functionalization of preformed ferrocene backbones, respectively. We thus assessed the respective merit and interest of both strategies. A decisive structural and synthetic issue we addressed in the present study is the effect of the introduction of two hindering *tert*-butyl groups on Cp rings on the conformation of the ferrocene backbone. This feature distinguishes our targeted hybrid (P,N) species from the planar chiral Mandyphos. We demonstrate here that the *cisoid* position adopted by *t*-Bu hindering groups orientate the (P,N)-substituents on the ferrocene in the same direction and thus favor their spatial proximity. The synthesis of new *tert*-butylated (aminomethyl)ferrocene derivatives gave us the opportunity to establish synthetic conditions to form unprecedented hexasubstituted (N,N')-aminomethyl, (P,P')-*tert*-butylated-ferrocenyl diphosphines by N-directed *ortho*-metalation. Thus, novel P_2N_2 tetradentate ferrocene compounds are synthesized in good yields and tolerate various aryl, alkyl, and heteroaryl phosphino groups as substituents on nitrogen and phosphorus atoms. We report the unexpected formation of a zwitterionic cyclopalladate from intramolecular transfer of a Cp-proton to the proximate free amino group by simple C–H activation reaction in the presence of $PdCl_2$. This evidences one reactivity interest of the ferrocene-based species we formed with the introduction of *t*-Bu groups constraining the ferrocene backbone.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A steric control of the ferrocene backbone conformation has been previously evinced in ferrocenyl polyphosphines through introduction of a bulky *tert*-butyl group on each of the cyclopentadienyl rings (Scheme 2).^{3a–e,20} This conformational control was supported in the solid state and in solution by X-ray and ³¹P NMR studies, respectively. Such a particular conformation results in the same spatial orientation of the phosphino groups with a close proximity of the donor atoms and has been evidenced by the existence of strong nonbonded through-space (TS) spin–spin nuclear ^{TS} $J_{PP'}$ couplings.^{24–26} In the present work we targeted the synthesis of structurally related tetradentate (N,N')-aminomethyl, (P,P')-phosphino ferrocenes (Scheme 3), both with and without steric constraint from *tert*-butyl groups. We aimed also at providing a valuable modularity in the introduction of R and R' groups on the phosphino and amino groups (R, R' = aryl, heteroaryl, alkyl).

Scheme 3. Tetradentate (N,N')-Aminomethyl, (P,P')-Phosphino Ferrocenes Targeted via “Converging” and “Diverging” Synthetic Strategies



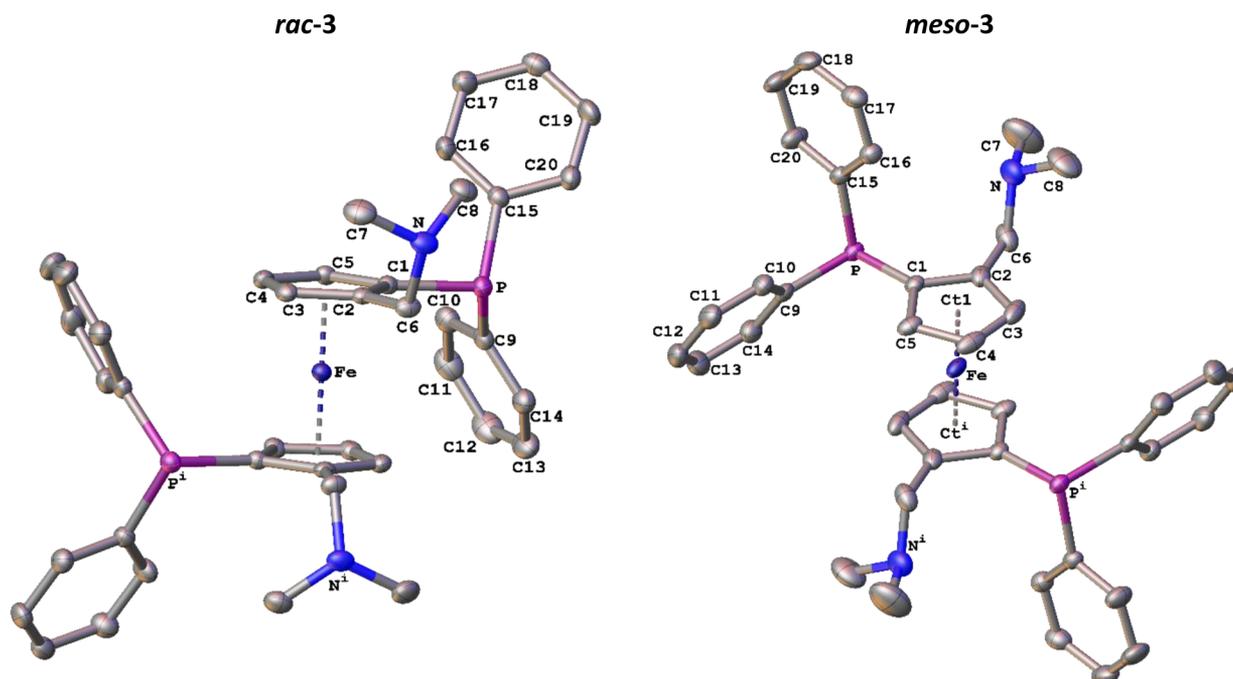
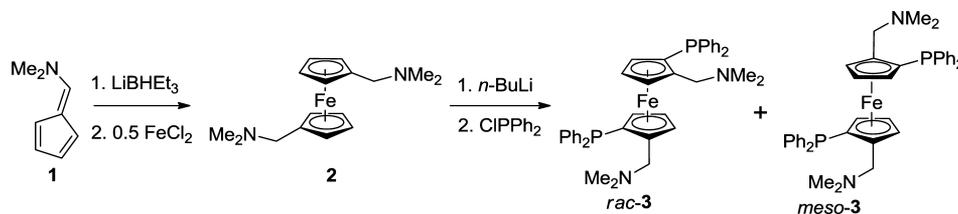
Scheme 4. Synthesis of Compounds *rac*-3 and *meso*-3

Figure 1. Molecular structures of compounds *rac*-3 (left) and *meso*-3 (right). Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): *rac*-3, Fe–Ct = 1.6535(8); C1–P = 1.822(2); Ct–Fe–Ctⁱ = 179.05(5); C6–Ct–Ctⁱ–C6ⁱ = 28.05(7); P–Ct–Ctⁱ–Pⁱ = 169.82(3). Symmetry transformation: (i) 2–x, y, 0.5–z. *meso*-3, Fe–Ct = 1.6477(8); C1–P = 1.8168(15); Ct–Fe–Ctⁱ = 180; C6–Ct–Ctⁱ–C6ⁱ = 180; P–Ct–Ctⁱ–Pⁱ = 180. Symmetry transformation: (i) 1–x, –y, 1–z.

Scheme 5. Synthesis of Compounds *rac*-5 and *meso*-5

Following the synthetic route used for tetradentate polyphosphines synthesis,²⁴ we first synthesized specifically modified cyclopentadienyl salts for subsequent assembly of (P,N)-ferrocene derivatives.

Synthesis of Polyfunctionalized Ferrocenes from Assembly of Cyclopentadienyl Salts. The tetradentate (P,N)-ferrocene derivative **3** (Scheme 4) was synthesized from the cyclopentadienyldiene-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine, **1**. The synthesis of **3** was achieved as a 1:1 mixture of *meso* and *rac* stereoisomers, which were separated and independently crystallized for NMR and X-ray characterization (Figure 1). The lithiation of 1,1'-bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)ferrocene using *n*-BuLi followed by phosphination with ClPPh₂ had a limited efficiency with an overall yield of less than 60%.

³¹P NMR of the crystals in CDCl₃ (298 K) indicated a chemical shift of –25.6 ppm for *rac*-3 and –25.5 ppm for *meso*-

3. Compound *rac*-3 crystallizes in the centrosymmetric C₂/c group. The Cp rings are in an almost eclipsed conformation, and the torsion angle C6–Ct–Ctⁱ–C6ⁱ is equal to 28.05(7)°. The amino groups are in a *cisoid* position. Compound *meso*-3 crystallizes in the space group P $\bar{1}$. In *meso*-3 the Fe atom is an inversion center; thus the torsion angle C6–Ct–Ctⁱ–C6ⁱ is equal to 180°. The Cp rings are in an almost staggered conformation, and in relation to the existence of a crystallographic inversion center, *meso*-3 exhibits a *transoid* conformation for the amino groups. Consistently, the conformations adopted in the solid state by **3** are reminiscent of the conformations recently reported for parent compounds (aminomethyl)ferrocenes, bearing no phosphino group, for which various rotamers with *cisoid* and *transoid* arrangements have been found.^{4a} An analogous synthetic approach was investigated for the synthesis of the *tert*-butyl-substituted

compounds **5** (Scheme 5), cousin of the (P,N)-ferrocene derivatives **3**.

Dimethylaminomethylation of (diphenylphosphino)-3-*tert*-butylcyclopentadienyllithium was selectively achieved by using an iminium sulfate salt of Eschenmoser's salt type. A satisfactory 86% yield of **4** was obtained (Scheme 5). In the solid state compound **4** crystallizes in the space group $P\bar{1}$ (Figure 2). The three endo- and exocyclic conjugated

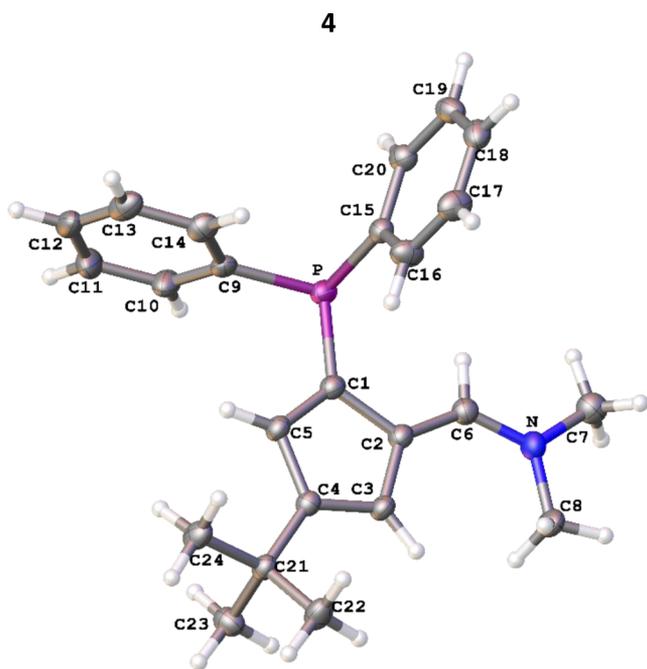


Figure 2. Molecular structure of compound **4**. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): C1–P = 1.8084(16); C1–C2 = 1.459(2); C2–C3 = 1.450(2); C3–C4 = 1.375(2); C4–C5 = 1.445(2); C5–C1 = 1.374(2); C2–C6 = 1.382(2); C1–C2–C6–N = 178.95(16).

double bonds were clearly identified, together with a characteristic angle C1–C2–C6–N = 178.95(16)°. Aromatization of **4** was found difficult but can be achieved by reaction with LiBHET_3 under specific conditions. THF had to be removed from the superhydride, that is suspended in dry toluene prior to use. The resulting lithiated Cp salt $\text{Li}[\mathbf{4}\text{-H}]$ was directly added to FeCl_2 to give **5** as a 2:1 mixture of *rac* and *meso* isomers isolated in low 39% overall yield.

Compound *rac*-**5** crystallizes in the space group Pc (Figure 3). Two independent enantiomers are presents in the asymmetric unit, and the crystal consists of a racemic mixture of two pairs of enantiomers. The cyclopentadienyl rings are in a slightly staggered conformation, and the torsion angles C11–Ct1–Ct2–C30 and C59–Ct3–Ct4–C78 are $-23.9(3)^\circ$ and $20.0(3)^\circ$, respectively.

Synthesis of Polyfunctionalized Ferrocenes from Aminomethyl-Substituted Ferrocenes. The assembly of substituted cyclopentadienyl salts with iron dichloride used as a “converging” way to produce species **5** and **3** presented several drawbacks. The synthesis of aminomethylcyclopentadienyl lithium salts from iminium sulfate is rather difficult to handle and lacks modularity concerning the substituents on the nitrogen atom (Me groups). In addition to low (or moderate) yields obtained in the assembly of the ferrocene, this route suffers from the absence of diastereoselectivity control. Thus, mixtures of *rac* and *meso* stereoisomers have to be separated.

We thus envisioned that the synthesis of tetradentate (P,N)-ferrocene derivatives may be done in a comparatively “diverging” way through successive controlled functionalizations of the ferrocene backbone (Scheme 6).

A high diastereoselectivity is obtained in the formation of *rac*-1,1'-di-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene from 1,1'-di-*tert*-butylferrocene reacted with *n*-BuLi in the presence of *N,N,N',N'*-(tetramethyl)ethylenediamine (TMEDA).²⁷ Thus, following the retrosynthetic Scheme 6, tetradentate (P,N)-ferrocene derivatives may be obtained as pure *rac*-diastereomers from nitrogen-directed *ortho*-lithiation/phosphination steps. Such a synthetic route, which would lead to ferrocenes symmetrically decorated with six substituting groups, has never been reported, and we thus focused on its feasibility.

Aminomethyl-substituted ferrocenes can selectively be synthesized from reductive amination of 1,1'-diformylferrocene using primary and secondary alkylamines.^{4a} This synthetic strategy was applied to 1,1'-di-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene to form the *tert*-butylated aminomethylferrocenes **6–9** in excellent isolated yields around 90% (Scheme 7). $\text{NaBH}(\text{OAc})_3$ is well suited to achieve the reduction of the electron-rich ferrocene iminium formed from 1,1'-di-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene reacted with secondary amines.

X-ray structures for **7–9** are illustrated in Figure 4 and confirmed, together with multinuclear NMR (Table 1), the high diastereoselectivity of the synthetic method (100% *rac*). The molecular structure showed both different conformations for the ferrocene backbone and different mutual arrangements of amino groups. Compounds **7** and **8**, which crystallize in the $P2_12_12_1$, and $P\bar{1}$ groups, respectively, have an eclipsed conformation for their Cp rings with torsion angles C11–Ct1–Ct2–C20 and C11–Ct1–Ct2–C21 respectively equal to $66.54(12)^\circ$ and $146.87(7)^\circ$. The Cp rings of compound **9** ($C2/c$ space group) are in a staggered conformation with a torsion angle C6–Ct–Ct'–C6' equal to $50.95(5)^\circ$. In compounds **7** and **9**, the amino groups are in a *cisoid* arrangement, with N1–Ct1–Ct2–N2 dihedral angles equal to $56.54(9)^\circ$ and $54.05(4)^\circ$, respectively. The same torsion angle for **8**, equal to $137.25(4)^\circ$, is closer to a *transoid* mutual arrangement of the amino groups. In comparison to the non-*tert*-butylated analogues we have recently reported,^{4a} no rotamer displaying a *transoid* arrangement for amino groups that would be closer to 180° was obtained, clearly because of the difficulties in positioning the hindered *tert*-butyl groups in eclipsed positions.

The ^1H NMR spectra showed resonances for the *tert*-butylated alkyl amines **6–9**, which are fairly similar (Table 1), while in the ^{13}C and ^{15}N nuclei NMR spectra the resonances associated with the cyclic amines in **7** and **8** are distinct from those of alkyl amines in **9**. ^1H NMR spectra of **6–9** showed for methylene groups typical diastereotopic AB proton signals with geminal coupling constants $^2J_{\text{HH}}$ around 13 Hz.

Slight modification of the protocol in the stoichiometry amine/aldehyde (= 3:1) allowed us to use *n*-butylamine with 1,1'-di-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene to generate the *tert*-butylated ferrocenyylimines **10** and secondary (aminomethyl)-ferrocene **11** (Scheme 8).

Compound **10** was characterized in the ^1H NMR by a $\text{HC}=\text{N}$ proton at 8.02 ppm and in the ^{13}C NMR by the corresponding signal at 160.3 ppm. The ^{15}N NMR shift of the ferrocenyylimines was found at a rather low field (-58.1 ppm). We believe this to be the first report of ^{15}N NMR data from such a ferrocenyylimine. The reduction of imine **10** is

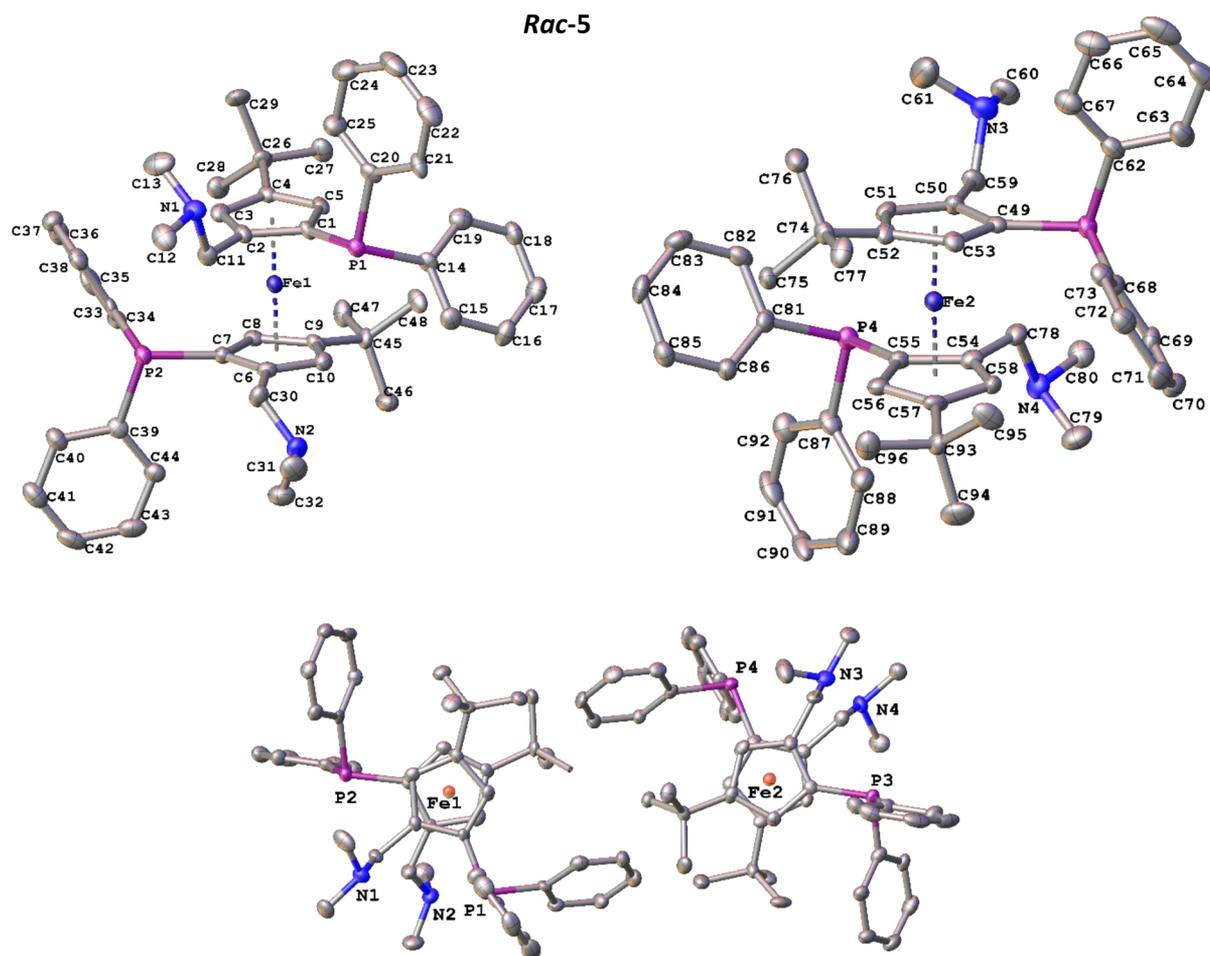
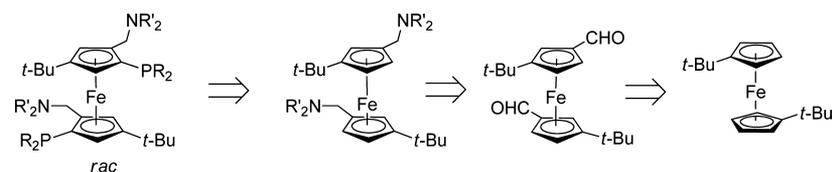
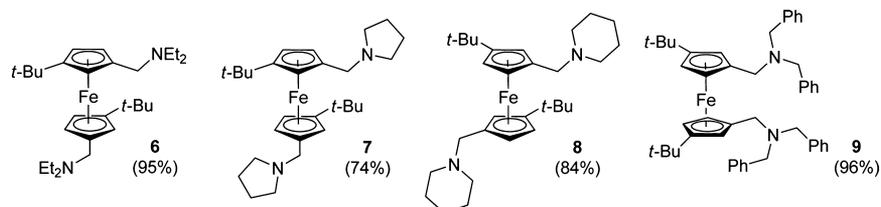


Figure 3. Molecular structures of the two independent molecules present in the asymmetric unit of compound *rac-5* (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): left, Fe1–Ct1 = 1.674(4); Fe1–Ct2 = 1.670(4); C1–P1 = 1.808(9); C7–P2 = 1.828(9); Ct1–Fe1–Ct2 = 178.08(19); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C30 = –23.9(3); P1–Ct1–Ct2–P2 = 119.51(11); right, Fe2–Ct3 = 1.669(4); Fe2–Ct4 = 1.670(4); C49–P3 = 1.817(9); C55–P4 = 1.824(9); Ct3–Fe2–Ct4 = 177.6(2); C59–Ct3–Ct4–C78 = 20.0(3); P3–Ct3–Ct4–P4 = –122.87(12).

Scheme 6. *tert*-Butylated (*N,N'*)-Aminomethyl-(*P,P'*)-Ferrocenyldiphosphine Retrosynthesis



Scheme 7. Compounds 6–9 Formed from Reductive Amination (Isolated Yields, %)



quantitative and the secondary amine **11** was characterized in the ^1H NMR by its $H\text{--}N$ at 1.23 ppm and in the ^{15}N NMR by a signal at –332.0 ppm. Such secondary amines are valuable compounds since, notably, amido complexes are in principle accessible by simple deprotonation.²⁸

The synthesis of these (aminomethyl)ferrocene derivatives gave us the opportunity to establish synthetic conditions to

(*N,N'*)-aminomethyl(*P,P'*)-*tert*-butylated-ferrocenyl diphosphines by *N*-directed *ortho*-metalation. Thus, compounds **12–15** were synthesized in moderate to good yield (48–78%) from **6** and **7** by introducing aryl-, alkyl-, and heteroaryl-phosphino groups (Scheme 9).

A lithiation/phosphination sequence was successfully achieved with both electron-rich and electron-poor halophos-

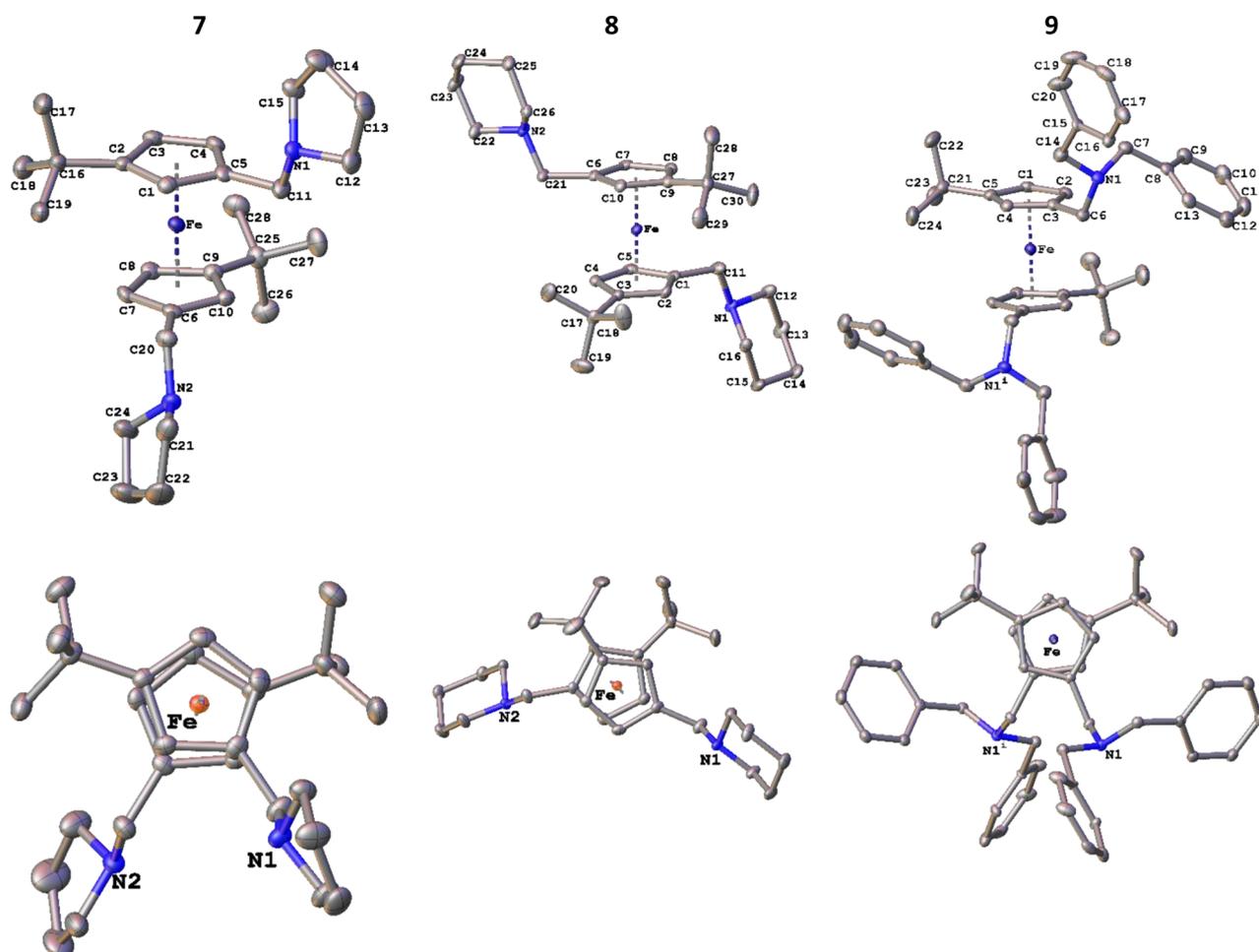


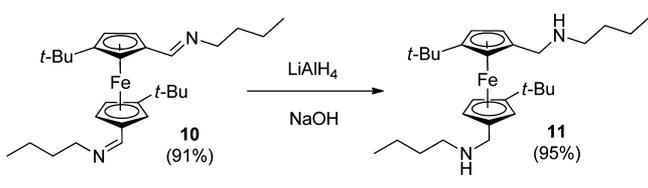
Figure 4. Molecular structures of compounds 7, 8, and 9 (hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity). Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): 7, Fe–Ct1 = 1.6488(17); Fe–Ct2 = 1.6502(16); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 177.49(8); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C20 = 66.54(12); 8, Fe–Ct1 = 1.6601(9); Fe–Ct2 = 1.6593(9); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 176.40(4); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C21 = 146.87(7); 9, Fe–Ct = 1.6583(6); Ct–Fe–Ct' = 179.08(4); C6–Ct–Ct'–C6' = 50.95(5). Symmetry transformation: (i) 1–x, y, 1/2–z.

Table 1. Multinuclear NMR Data for 6–11

compound	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ Cp-CH ₂ (ppm)/ <i>J</i> _{AB} (Hz)	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ Cp-CH ₂ (ppm)	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ Cp (ppm)	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ Cp (ppm)	$\delta(^{15}\text{N})$ CH ₂ -N (ppm) ^a
6	3.39, 3.48/13.5	52.0	3.74, 3.91, 4.04	65.1, 69.0, 70.2, 81.2, 101.8	–327.8
7	3.35, 3.45/12.3	54.7	3.78, 3.93, 4.07	64.4, 67.6, 68.9, 81.4, 101.0	–318.4
8	3.29, 3.36/12.9	59.3	3.75, 3.89, 4.05	65.5, 69.3, 70.5, 81.0, 102.0	–324.2
9	3.41, 3.50/13.5	52.5	3.55, 3.89, 4.05	65.1, 69.5, 70.1, 81.6, 101.7	–327.2
10	8.02 ^b	160.3 ^b	4.13, 4.38, 4.58	66.9, 67.8, 68.8, 80.2, 105.1	–58.1 ^b
11	3.44, 3.50/12.9	48.6	3.80, 3.89, 4.05	64.1, 65.9, 67.4, 84.5, 100.6	–332.0

^aCH₃NO₂ at 0.0 ppm was used as reference. ^bChemical shift for (Cp-CH=N) imino fragment.

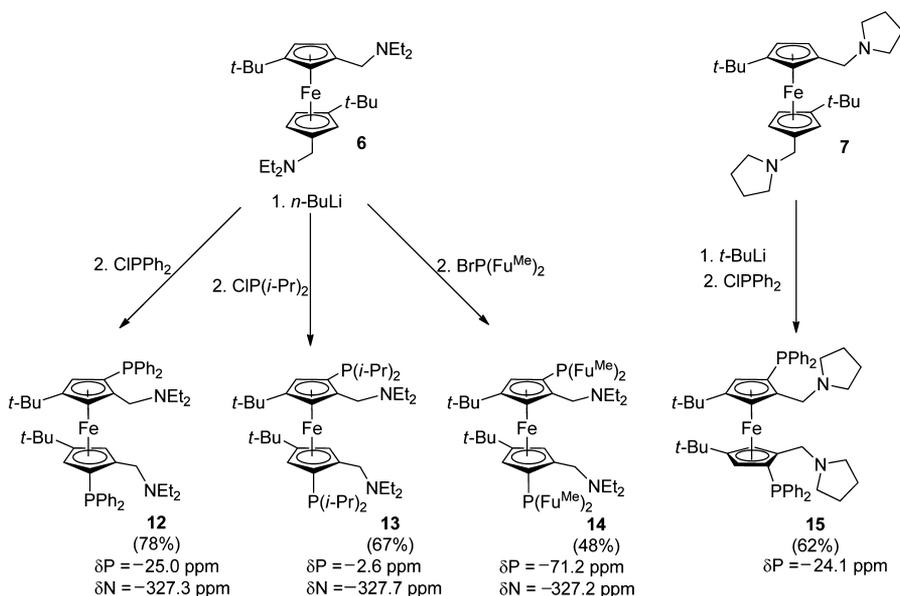
Scheme 8. [(*n*-Butyl)aminomethyl]ferrocene 11 via Ferrocenyliimine 10 (Isolated Yields, %)



phines by using acyclic (from compound 6) and cyclic (from compound 7) amino groups. A selective bis-metalation in one *ortho*-position of the two possible was achieved in good to excellent yield using *n*-BuLi. This is noteworthy since the initial

Mandypfos synthesis using the same lithiation agents had mostly given moderate yields of around 30–40%.⁷ We checked the successive reactions of *ortho*-lithiation/phosphination starting from the non-*tert*-butylated analogue of 6, and we evidenced the absence of diastereoselectivity in this reaction (see X-ray structure of the isolated *meso* compound 12' in the SI). We were pleased to establish that our reaction conditions with 6 and 7 avoid the formation of many possible lithiated intermediates. However, in our hands, the lithiation of benzyl analogue 9 was conversely found incomplete (or unselective under forcing conditions) by using various amounts of *n*-BuLi or *t*-BuLi in the presence or absence of TMEDA. Therefore, subsequent phosphination reactions using ClPPh₂ mainly led to intractable mixtures of phosphinated products. The difficulties

Scheme 9. Synthesis of Compounds 12–15 (Isolated Yields, %)



encountered for phosphination of **9** correlate with early reports of the Mandyphos synthesis⁷ and suggest that steric hindrance in the β -position of the nitrogen atom may be a serious limitation to proper *ortho*-lithiation reactions in these species. Table 2 summarizes the ³¹P, ¹H, and ¹⁵N features of **12–15**,

Table 2. Multinuclear NMR Data for 12–15

compound	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ Cp-CH ₂ (ppm)/ J_{AB} (Hz)	$\delta(^1\text{H})$ Cp (ppm)	$\delta(^{13}\text{C})$ Cp (ppm)	$\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ (ppm)	$\delta(^{15}\text{N})$ CH ₂ -N (ppm) ^a
12	3.71, 3.80/15.0	3.78, 4.12	67.8, 72.9, 73.7, 90.8, 106.7	-25.0	-327.3
13	3.22, 3.46/12.9	3.91, 4.11	69.7, 72.1, 78.8, 87.5, 104.0	-2.6	-327.7
14	4.01, 4.25/15.5	4.43, 4.64	69.7, 71.9, 72.4, 91.0, 106.7	-71.2	-327.2
15	3.69, 3.78/12.4	3.76, 4.09	68.1, 72.4, 73.6, 91.4, 106.7	-24.1	

^aCH₃NO₂ at 0.0 ppm was used as reference.

with typical ³¹P NMR chemical shifts depending on the nature of the P substituents. Conversely, ¹⁵N shift is not affected, suggesting little or no direct P/N interactions.

X-ray diffraction analyses were conducted on single crystals of **12** and **15** (Figure 5). The conformation obtained for these *rac* diastereomers fit our expectations since the arrangement of the two *tert*-butyl groups and the four donor atoms is similar to the one obtained for analogous hexasubstituted *tert*-butylated-ferrocenyl tetraphosphines.^{24,25,29} The *cisoid* conformation found for compounds **12** and **15** is characterized by a dihedral angle C11–Ct1–Ct2–C32 = -21.85(6)° and -25.92(6)°, respectively. Another structure, **12B**, was obtained, which presents minor conformational differences with **12** (see the SI). A comparison of X-ray structures determined for **15** and its precursor **7** clearly indicates that a rotation of the ferrocene backbone occurred to accommodate a near-eclipsed conformation of the carbon atoms holding methylamino groups (Table 3, C–Ct–Ct'–C'(a) = -25.92° and 66.54°, respectively). This

rotation is apparently a common and general feature since for the (*N,N'*)-diaminomethyl, (*P,P'*)-*tert*-butylated ferrocenylphosphines (**5**, **12**, and **15**) very similar conformations were found with 20° < |C–Ct–Ct'–C'(a)| < 26° (Table 3). A noticeable consequence of this rotation is a closer mutual proximity of the nitrogen atoms in **12**, **15**, and **5** in comparison with compounds **7–9**, as well as with the non-*tert*-butylated compounds **3** (Table 3). Mostly dN1...N2 are found around 6.0 Å or below for **12**, **15**, and **5**, whereas values above 6.2 Å (and mostly >8.0 Å) are observed with the other ferrocenes.

In the course of our studies concerning the coordination chemistry and reactivity of these new *tert*-butylated ferrocenes,³⁰ we observed that the simple reaction of the aminomethylferrocene **6** with [PdCl₂(PhCN)₂] at room temperature (RT) in CH₂Cl₂ led to the formation of the unexpected zwitterionic cyclopalladate **16** (Scheme 10). While the formation of *ortho*-palladated ferrocene complexes is known³¹ and has been applied in metal catalysis,³² they have been mostly described as dimers that are formed in the presence of an excess of external base such as sodium acetate. Complex **16**, for which the formation was supported by an X-ray diffraction structure (Figure 6), is a unique example of a zwitterionic intramolecular ferrocene supported palladacycle.

Our attempts to achieve this kind of intramolecularly assisted cyclopalladation using the non-*tert*-butylated analogue of **6** failed. This difference in reactivity may be attributed to the ring in ferrocene **6**, which, due to electronic effects of *tert*-Bu, would be much more susceptible to electrophilic attack. The steric influence of *tert*-Bu groups may also favor a concerted deprotonation/metalation of the Cp ring with regard to the necessary proximity of aminomethyl moieties for the proton transfer in the absence of any other external base. Further studies are ongoing to take advantage of this previously unseen intramolecular reactivity, especially for catalytically selective C–H functionalization of ferrocene.³³

CONCLUSION

We investigated the respective interest of “diverging” (successive functionalization of preformed ferrocene) and “converging” (assembly from cyclopentadienyl rings) synthetic

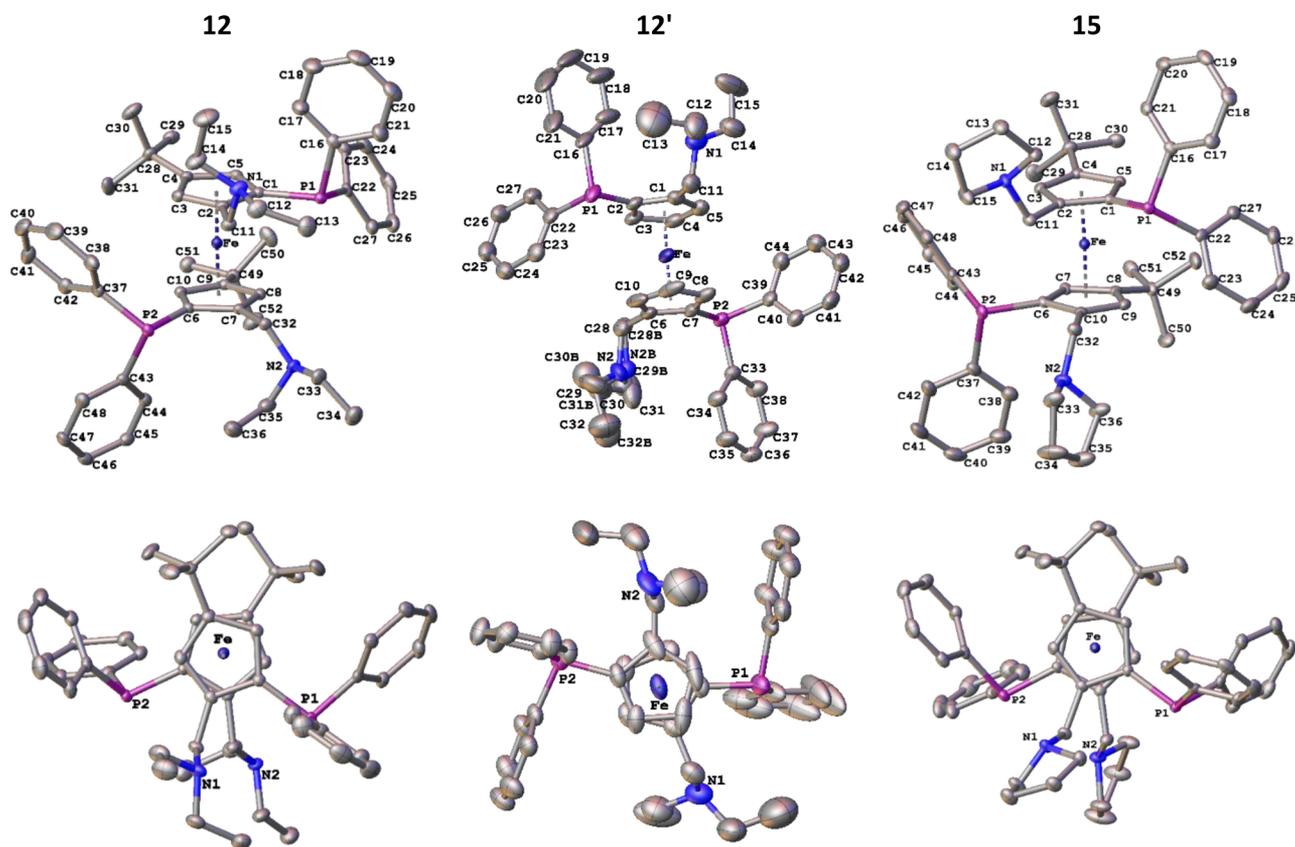


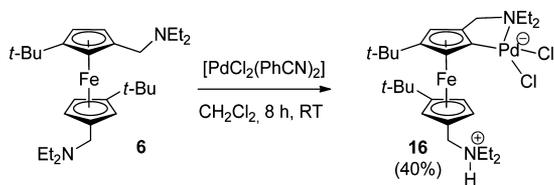
Figure 5. Molecular structures of compounds **12**, **12'**, and **15**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): **12**, Fe–Ct1 = 1.6714(8); Fe–Ct2 = 1.6709(8); C1–P1 = 1.8186(18); C6–P2 = 1.8136(18); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 177.85(5); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C32 = –21.85(6); P1–Ct1–Ct2–P2 = 119.93(3); **12'**, Fe–Ct1 = 1.642(2); Fe–Ct2 = 1.647(3); C2–P1 = 1.820(5); C7–P2 = 1.817(5); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 178.22(14); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C28 = 159.6(2); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C28B = 168.4(4); P1–Ct1–Ct2–P2 = 162.39(8); **15**, Fe–Ct1 = 1.6719(8); Fe–Ct2 = 1.6758(8); C1–P1 = 1.8152(16); C6–P2 = 1.8132(15); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 177.72(4); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C32 = –25.92(6); P1–Ct1–Ct2–P2 = 117.26(2).

Table 3. Key Conformation Parameters for Ferrocenes **3**, **5**, **7**, **8**, **9**, **12**, **12'**, **15**, and **16**

	dN1...N2 (Å)	C–Ct–Ct'–C ^{ra} (deg)	P–Ct–Ct'–P' ^b (deg)	Ctb–Ct–Ct'–Ctb' ^c (deg)
<i>rac</i> - 3	6.211(3) (N,N')	28.05(7)	169.82(3)	
<i>meso</i> - 3	8.840(2) (N,N')	180	180	
<i>rac</i> - 5	6.080(10) (N1,N2)	23.9(3) (C11,C30)	119.51(11) (P1,P2)	51.6(3) (C26,C45)
	5.897(10) (N3,N4)	20.0(3) (C59,C78)	–122.87(12) (P3,P4)	10.43(9) (C74,C93)
7	6.553(4) (N1,N2)	66.54(12)		139.83(12)
8	8.520(2) (N1,N2)	146.87(7)		78.06(7)
9	6.5593(13) (N,N')	50.95(5)		124.75(6)
12	5.972(2) (N1,N2)	–21.85(6)	119.93(3)	52.88(7)
12'	8.718(9) (N1,N2)	159.6(2) (C11,C28)	162.39(8)	
	8.900(15) (N1–N2b)	168.4(4) (C11–C28B)		
15	6.099(3) (N1,N2)	–25.92(6)	117.26(2)	49.65(6)
	6.164(5) (N1–N2b)			
16	7.837(6) (N1,N2)	147.84(16)		81.77(16)

^aC: carbon atom bearing N(1); C': carbon atom bearing N(2, 1). ^bP,P': phosphorus atoms. ^cCtb: tertiary carbon atom of the *tert*-butyl group.

Scheme 10. Intramolecular Cyclopalladation of **6** to Zwitterion **16**



routes to form hexasubstituted tetradentate ferrocenes bearing aminomethyl and phosphino groups and hindering *tert*-butyl moieties. We identified the “diverging” route as more efficient. This strategy starting from 1,1'-di-*tert*-butylferrocene especially allows the diastereoselective introduction on ferrocene of first aminomethyl groups, then the regioselective introduction of phosphino groups. We evidenced the conformational control provided to *rac*-(*N,N'*)-diaminomethyl-(*P,P'*)-*tert*-butylated-ferrocenyldiphosphines by identifying the key conformational

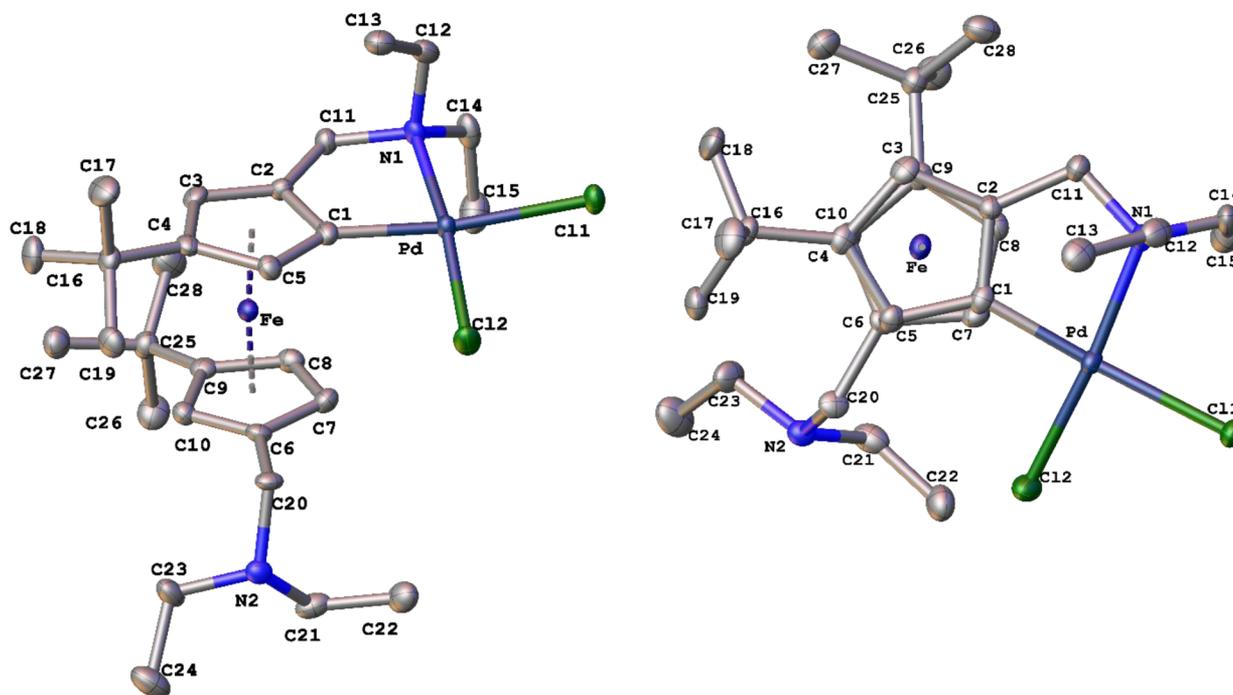


Figure 6. Molecular structures of cyclopalladate **16**. Hydrogen atoms and dichloromethane solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): **16**, Fe–Ct1 = 1.657(2); Fe–Ct2 = 1.652(2); C1–Pd = 1.952(5); N1–Pd = 2.129(4); Pd–Cl1 = 2.4569(12); Pd–Cl2 = 2.3214(12); Ct1–Fe–Ct2 = 174.79(11); C11–Ct1–Ct2–C20 = 147.84(16).

parameters and in particular the systematic near-eclipsed conformation of aminomethyl groups. Such kind of control is supposed to be at the origin of the reaction of the *tert*-butylated aminomethylferrocene **6** with $[\text{PdCl}_2(\text{PhCN})_2]$ (in the absence of external strong base) that led to a previously unseen intramolecular palladium-mediated Cp C–H activation. This reaction is presumably concerted due to the formation of a zwitterionic cyclopalladate in good yield, and the conditions apparently prevent the formation of dimeric orthopalladate classically reported.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Procedures. All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of dry argon in oven-dried glassware using Schlenk and vacuum line techniques. Solvents were purified and dried by standard methods prior to use. Chromatography was performed on silica gel (220–440 mesh). The identity and purity of the products were established at the “Platform of Chemical Analysis and Molecular Synthesis of the University of Burgundy” (PACSMUB) using high-resolution mass spectrometry, elemental analysis, and multinuclear NMR. The exact masses were obtained from an LTQ-Orbitrap XL (THERMO). Elemental analysis was performed on a CHNS/O Thermo Electron Flash EA 1112 Series analyzer. ^1H (300.13, 500.13, or 600.13 MHz), ^{13}C (75.5, 125.8, or 150.9 MHz), and ^{31}P (121.5, 202.5, or 242.9 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 , unless otherwise stated, on a 300 MHz Bruker Avance III NanoBay, a 500 MHz Bruker Avance III, or a 600 MHz Bruker Avance II spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are reported in parts per million downfield relative to internal TMS (for ^1H , ^{13}C) and external 85% H_3PO_4 (for ^{31}P). Coupling constants are reported in hertz. The ^{15}N NMR chemical shifts were measured by ^1H – ^{15}N heteronuclear multiple-bond correlation spectroscopy (HMBC) on a 600 MHz Bruker Avance II spectrometer (60.82 MHz). Neat nitromethane has been used as an external standard reference for which the ^{15}N chemical shift is taken to be 0 ppm. X-ray analysis for compounds was achieved from intensity data collected on a Nonius Kappa CCD at 115 K for *rac*-**3**, *meso*-**3**, **4**, **5**, **7**, **8**, **12'**, **12B**, and **16** and on a Bruker D8 Venture triumph at 100

K for **9** (Cu), **12** (Mo), and **15** (Mo). The structures were solved by direct methods (SIR92 for *rac*-**3**, *meso*-**3**, **4**, **5**, **12'**, and **16**, ShelXS 2013 for **7**, **8**, **9**, **12**, and **12B**, and Superflip for **15**)^{34,35} and refined with full-matrix least-squares methods based on F^2 (SHELXL-97) with the aid of the OLEX2 program.³⁶ All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. Hydrogen atoms attached to carbon atoms were included in calculated positions and refined as riding atoms. Crystallographic data are reported in the SI.

All chemicals were used as supplied, without further purification. *N,N*-Dimethylformamide-dimethyl sulfate, cyclopentadienylidene-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine (**1**),³⁷ *tert*-butylcyclopentadienyllithium, (diphenylphosphino)-3-*tert*-butylcyclopentadienyllithium, 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butylferrocene,³⁸ and 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene³⁹ were prepared according to reported procedures. Amines from commercial sources were used. Lithium triethylborohydride (LiTEBH) and sodium triacetoxyborohydride (STAB) reducing agents were stored under argon. All compounds synthesized from 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene are racemic and are noted as either *rac*-**x** or simply **x**.

1-Cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidene-*N,N*-dimethylmethanamine (1). Dimethylsulfate (16.36 g, 12.3 mL, 130 mmol) was added to dimethylformamide (9.50 g, 10 mL, 130 mmol), and the reaction mixture was heated at 80 °C for 2 h. Then, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and vacuum-dried. The *N,N*-dimethylformamide-dimethyl sulfate formed as a viscous, pale yellow, ether-insoluble oil in quantitative yield. ^1H NMR: δ 2.99, 3.25 (s, 3H each, NCH_3), 3.40 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 4.21 (s, 3H, $[\text{SO}_4\text{CH}_3]^-$), 8.65 (s, 1H, $\text{CH}=\text{N}^+$) ppm.

N,N-Dimethylformamide-dimethyl sulfate (18.50 g, 93.0 mmol) was added slowly to a solution of CpLi (6.70 g, 93.0 mmol) in THF (40 mL) at –20 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm and was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and washed with water. The organic phase was separated and dried over MgSO_4 , and the solvent evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was crystallized from hexane (50 mL), affording yellow crystals of pure **1**. Yield: 5.60 g (45.8 mmol, 50%). ^1H NMR: δ 3.25 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 6.35, 6.43 (m, 1H each, Cp–CH), 6.58 (m, 2H, Cp–CH), 7.16 (s, 1H, $=\text{CH}=\text{N}$) ppm.

1,1'-Bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)ferrocene (2). A molar solution of superhydride (LiTEBH)⁴⁰ in THF (6.1 mL, 6.1 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of dimethylaminofulvene **1** (0.75 g, 6.1 mmol) in toluene/THF (14 mL/14 mL) at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 3 h. This solution was added dropwise to a suspension of FeCl_2 (0.39 g, 3.05 mmol) in THF (8 mL) at $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The suspension was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. Water (14 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, the organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was washed with Et_2O ($2 \times 10\text{ mL}$). Organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to dryness. The amber oil product was purified by SiO_2 column chromatography. Unreacted dimethylaminofulvene **1** was eluted with EtOAc. 1,1'-Bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)ferrocene **2** was eluted with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}/\text{Et}_3\text{N}$ (9:0.9:0.1). Yield: 0.66 g (2.2 mmol, 73%). $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 2.18 (s, 12H, NCH_3), 3.30 (s, 4H, CH_2), 4.07, 4.11 (m, 4H each, Cp-CH) ppm.

1,1'-Bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (3), *rac* and *meso* Compounds. TMEDA (0.4 mL, 2.60 mmol) and *n*-BuLi (2.2 mL of a 1.6 M solution in hexane, 3.30 mmol) were successively added to a solution of 1,1'-bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)ferrocene (**2**) (0.47 g, 1.57 mmol) in Et_2O (15 mL) at $0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm and stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The mixture was cooled to $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, and ClPPh_2 (0.65 mL, 3.5 mmol) was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 (20 mL), the organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (20 mL). Organic layers were combined, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by SiO_2 column chromatography. Impurities were first eluted with EtOAc/hexane (1:1). The (P,N)-ferrocene derivative *meso*-3 was then eluted with Et_2O (fraction 1), and the (P,N)-ferrocene derivative *rac*-3 was eluted with EtOH (fraction 2). Overall yield of compound **3** (fractions 1 + 2): 0.61 g (0.91 mmol, 59%). Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction of *meso*-3 and *rac*-3 have been obtained by slow evaporation of compound solution in a $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{pentane}$ mixture.

Fraction 1 (*meso*-3). $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 1.78 (s, 12H, NCH_3), 2.60 (d, 2H, $J = 12\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 3.29 (dd, 2H, $J = 14\text{ Hz}$, $J = 3\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 3.88 (br s, 2H, Cp-CH), 4.04, 4.24 (m, 2H each, Cp-CH), 7.16–7.65 (m, 20H, Ph) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -25.5 ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 44.7 (s, NCH_3), 56.7 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 73.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 73.2 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.5\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 75.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 90.5 (s, *ipso*-Cp), 90.8 (s, *ipso*-Cp), 127.7 (s, Ph), 127.7 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 6\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 128.3 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 129.4 (s, Ph), 131.6 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 10\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 135.6 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 22\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 137.7 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 140.2 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9\text{ Hz}$, Ph) ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{42}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 669.22461, found 669.22044, [err] 6.13 ppm; $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ m/z calcd 691.20655, found 691.20435, [err] 3.08 ppm.

Fraction 2 (*rac*-3). $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 1.97 (s, 12H, NCH_3), 3.23 (br s, 2H, Cp-CH), 3.34 (d, 2H, $J = 13\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 3.56 (dd, 2H, $J = 13\text{ Hz}$, $J = 2\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 4.04, 4.34 (m, 2H each, Cp), 7.09–7.39 (m, 20H, Ph) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -25.6 ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 45.0 (s, NCH_3), 57.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 72.2 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 2\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 72.3 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.5\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 76.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 4.5\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 91.5 (s, *ipso*-Cp), 91.9 (s, *ipso*-Cp), 127.6 (s, Ph), 127.8 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 6\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 128.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 129.1 (s, Ph), 132.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 18\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 135.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 23\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 137.7 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8\text{ Hz}$, Ph), 140.1 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8\text{ Hz}$, Ph) ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{42}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 669.22461, found 669.22149, [err] 4.56 ppm; $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ m/z calcd 691.20655, found 691.20544, [err] 1.51 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{42}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$ (668.58): C, 71.86; H, 6.33; N, 4.19. Found: C, 71.57; H, 6.58; N, 3.97.

***N*-[4-*tert*-Butyl-2-(diphenylphosphino)cyclopenta-2,4-dien-1-ylidene]methyl-*N,N*-dimethylamine (4).** *N,N*-dimethylformamide-dimethyl sulfate (2.55 g, 12.8 mmol) was added slowly to a solution of (diphenylphosphino)-3-*tert*-butylcyclopentadienyllithium (4.00 g, 12.8 mmol) in THF (40 mL) at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The mixture was allowed to warm and was stirred at room temperature overnight. After

removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and washed with water. The organic phase was separated, dried (MgSO_4), and evaporated to dryness. Yield: 4.00 g (11.0 mmol, 86%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in hexane kept at room temperature. $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 1.19 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 3.20 (s, 6H, $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 6.22 (m, 1H, Cp-CH), 6.54 (m, 1H, Cp-CH), 7.23–7.36 (m, 10H, PPh_2), 7.67 (d, 1H, $J_{\text{PH}} = 6.0\text{ Hz}$, $=\text{CH-N}$) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -29.1 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{28}\text{NP}$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 362.2032, found 362.2049, [err] 4.6 ppm; $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ m/z calcd 384.1852, found 384.1867, [err] 4.1 ppm.

1,1'-Bis((*N,N*-dimethylamino)methyl)-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-4,4'-bis(*tert*-butyl)ferrocene (5), *rac* and *meso* Compounds. LiHBEt_3 supplied as a 1 M solution in THF (4.4 mL, 4.4 mmol) was dried by removal of the solvent on heating at $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 2 h and then for 20 min at $90\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ under reduced pressure (10^{-2} bar). The solid superhydride was dissolved in distilled and dried toluene (40 mL), leading to a cloudy white suspension. A solution of substituted dimethylaminofulvene **4** (1.52 g, 4.2 mmol) in dry toluene (20 mL) was added during 1 h onto the solution of reducing agent at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 24 h. After evaporation of the solvent and dissolution of the residue in THF (20 mL), the resulting solution was added dropwise to a suspension of FeCl_2 (0.26 g, 2.1 mmol) in THF (15 mL) at $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The suspension was warmed and boiled overnight with stirring. The solvent was evaporated, and the residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 and washed with water. The organic layer was separated, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated to dryness. The residue was purified, and *rac* and *meso*-5 isomers were separated by SiO_2 column chromatography with MeOH as eluent. Fraction 2 ($R_f = 0.50$ – 0.52 , *meso*-5): yield 0.44 g (0.56 mmol, 25%). $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 0.71 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.97 (s, 12H, NCH_3), 3.44 (br d, 2H, $J = 12.4\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 3.76 (br s, 2H, Cp), 3.90–4.05 (br m, 2H, CH_2), 4.15 (br s, 2H, Cp), 7.07–7.12 (m, 10H, Ph), 7.25–7.33 (m, 6H, Ph), 7.57–7.65 (m, 4H, Ph) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -27.1 (br s) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 30.2 (s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.4 (s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 44.9 (br s, NCH_3), 49.9 (br s, CH_2N), 67.5, 72.5 (br s, Cp), 73.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 10\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 127.6, 129.4 (s, *p*-Ph), 127.8, 128.4 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 7$ and 8 Hz , *m*-Ph), 132.6, 136.2 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 19$ and 22.5 Hz , *o*-Ph), 137.4 and 140.3 (br s, *i*- PPh_2) ppm. Fraction 4 ($R_f = 0.23$ – 0.25 , *rac*-5): yield 0.20 g (0.26 mmol, 12%). $^1\text{H NMR}$: δ 0.92 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.83 (s, 12H, NCH_3), 3.43 (br d, 2H, $J = 12.8\text{ Hz}$, CH_2), 3.73 (br s, 2H, Cp), 3.76–3.87 (br m, 2H, CH_2), 4.18 (br s, 2H, Cp), 7.00–7.11 (m, 10H, Ph), 7.23–7.34 (m, 10H, Ph) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -28.3 ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 30.4 (s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.9 (s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 44.9 (br s, NCH_3), 58.1 (m, CH_2N), 67.7, 72.7 (br s, Cp), 76.0 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 13\text{ Hz}$, Cp), 127.6, 128.9 (s, *p*-Ph), 127.6, 128.2 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 7$ and 8 Hz , *m*-Ph), 133.0 (d, $J_{\text{PC}} = 20\text{ Hz}$, *o*-Ph), 136.0 (m, *o*-Ph), 137.1, 140.6 (br s, *i*-Ph) ppm. Suitable crystals for X-ray diffraction of *rac*-5 have been obtained by slow evaporation of a $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{pentane}$ (1:1) solution.

1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-Bis((*N,N*-diethylamino)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-6). To a solution of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene (2.00 g, 5.64 mmol) in dichloroethane (40 mL) was added diethylamine (1.22 mL, 11.84 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. To this suspension was added 3.58 g of STAB (16.92 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of 1 M NaOH (20 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 ($3 \times 50\text{ mL}$). The combined organic phases were dried on MgSO_4 and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Column chromatography on SiO_2 using heptane/EtOAc/ Et_3N (90:9:1) gave complex **6** as a red oily product in 95% yield after solvent evaporation (2.50 g, 5.34 mmol). $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CD_2Cl_2): δ 0.99 (t, 12H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5\text{ Hz}$, CH_2CH_3), 1.22 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.40 (q, 8H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5\text{ Hz}$, CH_2CH_3), 3.39, 3.48 (ABq, 4H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 13.5\text{ Hz}$, $\text{Cp-CH}_2\text{-N}$), 3.74, 3.91, 4.04 (m, 2H each, Cp-CH) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 11.9 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 30.4 (s, 2C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.5 (s, 6C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 46.3 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 52.0 (s, 2C, $\text{Cp-CH}_2\text{-N}$), 65.1, 69.0, 70.2 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 81.2 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 101.8 (s, 2C, 1-Cp) ppm. $^{15}\text{N NMR}$ (CD_2Cl_2): δ -327.8 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{48}\text{FeN}_2$)

ESI: $[M + H]^+$ m/z calcd 469.32400, found 469.32258, [err] 2.958 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{48}FeN_2$ (468.32): C, 71.78; H, 10.33; N, 5.98. Found: C, 70.78; H, 9.30; N, 6.06; better EA could not be obtained for this oily product.

1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-Bis((pyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-7). To a solution of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene (0.50 g, 1.41 mmol) in dichloroethane (20 mL) was added pyrrolidine (0.25 mL, 2.96 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. To this suspension was added 0.69 g of STAB (3.20 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of 1 M NaOH (18 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 mL). The combined organic phases were dried on $MgSO_4$, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Column chromatography on deactivated SiO_2 (silica poured in heptane in the presence of 10% of NEt_3 and then dried *in vacuo*) using heptane/EtOAc (3:2) gave complex 7 as a reddish crystalline solid in 74% yield after solvent evaporation (0.48 g, 1.03 mmol). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in pentane kept at room temperature. 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 1.21 (s, 18H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.70 (m, 8H, $py-\beta-N-CH_2$), 2.46 (m, 8H, $py-\alpha-N-CH_2$), 3.35, 3.45 (ABq, 4H, $J_{AB} = 12.3$ Hz, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 3.78, 3.93, 4.07 (m, 2H each, $Cp-CH$) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR: δ 22.3 (s, 4C, $py-\beta-N-CH_2$), 29.5 (s, 2C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 30.5 (s, 6C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 52.8 (s, 4C, $py-\alpha-N-CH_2$), 54.7 (s, 2C, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 64.4, 67.6, 68.9 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 81.4 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 101.0 (s, 2C, 1-Cp) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -318.4 ppm. HR-MS ($C_{28}H_{44}FeN_2$) ESI: $[M + H]^+$ m/z calcd 465.29270, found 465.29106, [err] 3.456 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{44}FeN_2$ (464.29): C, 72.40; H, 9.55; N, 6.03. Found: C, 72.69; H, 9.47; N, 5.75.

1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((piperidinyl)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-8). To a solution of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene (1.00 g, 2.82 mmol) in dichloroethane (30 mL) was added piperidine (0.61 mL, 6.20 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. To this suspension was added 1.37 g of STAB (6.49 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of 1 M NaOH (20 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 mL). The combined organic phases were dried on $MgSO_4$, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Column chromatography on deactivated SiO_2 (silica poured in heptane in the presence of 10% NEt_3 and then dried *in vacuo*) using heptane/EtOAc (7:3) gave complex 8 as a yellow solid in 84% yield after solvent evaporation (1.17 g, 2.38 mmol). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in pentane kept at room temperature. 1H NMR: δ 1.20 (s, 18H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.37 (m, 4H, $pip-\gamma-N-CH_2$), 1.54 (m, 8H, $pip-\beta-N-CH_2$), 2.33 (br s, 8H, $pip-\alpha-N-CH_2$), 3.29, 3.36 (ABq, 4H, $J_{AB} = 12.9$ Hz, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 3.75, 3.89, 4.05 (m, 2H each, $Cp-CH$) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR: δ 24.3 (s, 2C, $pip-\gamma-N-CH_2$), 25.8 (s, 4C, $pip-\beta-N-CH_2$), 30.6 (s, 2C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 31.6 (s, 6C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 53.9 (s, 4C, $pip-\alpha-N-CH_2$), 59.3 (s, 2C, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 65.5, 69.3, 70.5 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 81.0 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 102.0 (s, 2C, 1-Cp) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -324.2 ppm. HR-MS ($C_{30}H_{48}FeN_2$) ESI: $[M + Na]^+$ m/z calcd 515.30595, found 515.30352, [err] 4.644 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{30}H_{48}FeN_2$ (492.32): C, 73.15; H, 9.82; N, 5.69. Found: C, 73.69; H, 10.06; N, 5.43.

1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis(*N,N*-dibenzylamino)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-9). To a solution of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene (1.50 g, 4.23 mmol) in dichloroethane (35 mL) was added dibenzylamine (1.80 mL, 9.31 mmol), and the mixture was stirred for 1 h at room temperature. To this suspension was added 2.06 g of STAB (9.73 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of 1 M NaOH (15 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×30 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with $MgSO_4$, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Column chromatography on deactivated SiO_2 (silica poured in heptane in the presence of 10% NEt_3 and then dried *in vacuo*) using heptane/EtOAc (6:4) gave complex 9 as a brown crystalline solid in 96% yield after solvent evaporation (2.90 g, 4.05 mmol). Single crystals

suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in pentane kept at room temperature. 1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 1.13 (s, 18H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 3.16 (d, 2H, $Cp-CH_2-N$, $^2J_{HH} = 13.5$ Hz), 3.41, 3.50 (ABq, 4H, $J_{AB} = 13.5$ Hz, $Cp-CH_2-Ph$), 3.45 (d, 2H, $^2J_{HH} = 13.5$ Hz, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 3.55, 3.89, 4.05 (m, 2H each, $Cp-CH$), 7.25–7.38 (m, 20H, Ph) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR: δ 30.4 (s, 2C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 31.5 (s, 6C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 52.5 (s, 2C, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 57.3 (s, 4C, $N-CH_2-Ph$), 65.1, 69.5, 70.1 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 81.6 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 101.7 (s, 2C, 1-Cp), 126.7 (s, 4C, *p*-Ph), 128.1 (s, 8C, *m*-Ph), 128.8 (s, 8C, *o*-Ph), 140.0 (s, 4C, *ipso*-Ph) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -327.2 ppm. HR-MS ($C_{48}H_{56}FeN_2$) ESI: $[M]^+$ m/z calcd 716.37884, found 716.37669, [err] 2.866 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{48}H_{56}FeN_2$ (716.38): C, 80.43; H, 7.87; N, 3.91. Found: C, 80.03; H, 7.66; N, 3.88.

1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((*N*-(*n*-butyl)amino)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-11) via 1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((*N*-(*n*-butyl)imino)methyl)ferrocene (*rac*-10). *n*-Butylamine (1.67 mL, 16.94 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of THF, and a solution of 2.00 g of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-diformylferrocene (5.64 mmol) in 5 mL of CH_3CN was added dropwise under vigorous stirring over 15 min. The mixture was evaporated to dryness after 2 h of stirring at room temperature, and a brown oil was collected, washed with pentane, and dried *in vacuo* for 2 h to give 2.38 g of complex 10 (5.13 mmol, 91%). 1H NMR: δ 0.95 (t, 6H, $J_{HH} = 7.2$ Hz, CH_3), 1.23 (s, 18H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.39, 1.63, 3.42 (m, 4H each, CH_2), 4.13, 4.38, 4.58 (m, 2H each, $Cp-CH$), 8.02 (s, 2H, $N=CH$) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR: δ 13.9 (s, 2C, CH_3), 20.5 (s, 2C, CH_2), 30.6 (s, 2C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 31.4 (s, 6C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 33.1, 61.8 (s, 2C each, CH_2), 66.9, 67.8, 68.8 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 80.2 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 105.1 (s, 2C, 1-Cp), 160.3 (s, 2C, $N=CH$) ppm. ^{15}N NMR: δ -58.1 ppm. HR-MS ($C_{28}H_{44}FeN_2$) ESI: $[M + H]^+$ m/z calcd 465.29270, found 465.29261, [err] 0.125 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{44}FeN_2$ (464.29): C, 72.40; H, 9.55; N, 6.03. Found: C, 72.10; H, 9.46; N, 5.98. The 1,1'-bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((*N*-(*n*-butyl)imino)methyl)ferrocene (10) (2.38 g, 5.13 mmol) was dissolved in 25 mL of THF, and 0.68 g (18 mmol) of finely divided $LiAlH_4$ was poured into the solution. After 1 h of stirring at room temperature, a portion of pentane (20 mL) was added followed by several drops of aqueous solution of 1 M NaOH. The suspension was filtered, and the filtrate was evaporated to give 2.28 g of complex 11 as an orange oil (4.87 mmol, 95%). 1H NMR: δ 0.88 (t, 6H, $J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz, CH_3), 1.18 (s, 18H, $C(CH_3)_3$), 1.28 (br s, 2H, NH), 1.33, 1.43 (m, 4H each, CH_2), 2.60 (br t, 4H, $J_{HH} = 7.5$ Hz, CH_2), 3.44, 3.50 (ABq, 2H, $J_{AB} = 12.9$ Hz, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 3.80, 3.89, 4.05 (m, 2H each, Cp) ppm. $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR: δ 13.0 (s, 2C, CH_3), 19.5, 29.5 (s, 2C each, CH_2), 30.5 (s, 2C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 31.2 (s, 6C, $C(CH_3)_3$), 48.4 (s, 2C, CH_2), 48.6 (s, 2C, $Cp-CH_2-N$), 64.1, 65.9, 67.4 (s, 2C each, 2,4,5-Cp), 84.5 (s, 2C, 3-Cp), 100.6 (s, 2C, 1-Cp) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -332.0 ppm. HR-MS ($C_{28}H_{48}FeN_2$) ESI: $[M + H]^+$ m/z calcd 469.32327, found 469.32327, [err] 1.488 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $C_{28}H_{48}FeN_2$ (468.32): C, 71.78; H, 10.33; N, 5.98. Found: C, 71.36; H, 10.38; N, 5.86.

1,1'-Bis((*N,N*-diethylamino)methyl)-2,2'-bis-(diphenylphosphino)-4,4'-bis(*tert*-butyl)ferrocene (*rac*-12). 1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((*N,N*-diethylamino)methyl)ferrocene (6) (0.67 g, 1.43 mmol) was dissolved in Et_2O (5 mL). Then TMEDA (0.51 mL, 3.43 mmol) and a 1.6 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (2.06 mL, 3.29 mmol) were successively added at -60 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm and stirred at room temperature overnight. Then the mixture was cooled to -40 °C, and the chlorophosphine $ClPPh_2$ (0.64 mL, 3.43 mmol) was added dropwise. After the addition the reaction mixture was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of a saturated solution of $NaHCO_3$ (20 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with $MgSO_4$, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product (brown oil) was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc/heptane, 1:9). Complex 12 was isolated in a pure form as an orange crystalline solid (0.92 g, 1.10 mmol, 78%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in pentane kept at room temperature. 1H

NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 0.78 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 0.86 (t, 12H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.5$ Hz, CH_2CH_3), 2.28, 2.40 (ABX₃qd, 8H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 12.8$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}}$, calcd = 3.8 Hz, NCH_2CH_3), 3.71 (AB spin system, dd, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.8$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.78 (br s, 2H, Cp-CH), 3.80 (AB spin system, d, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.0$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 4.12 (br s, 2H, Cp-CH), 7.15–7.69 (m, 20H, Ph-CH) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 11.9 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 30.5 (s, 2C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.7 (s, 6C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 46.7 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 51.6 (m, 2C, Cp- CH_2 -N), 67.8 (m, 2C, 3,5-Cp), 72.9 (br s, 2C, 3,5-Cp), 73.7 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 10$ Hz, 1-Cp), 90.8 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 27$ Hz, 2-Cp), 106.7 (s, 2C, 4-Cp), 127.5 (s, 2C, *p*-Ph), 127.8 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 6$ Hz, *m*-Ph), 128.6 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8$ Hz, *m*-Ph), 129.7 (s, 2C, *p*-Ph), 132.8 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 18$ Hz, *o*-Ph), 136.8 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 23$ Hz, *o*-Ph), 138.8 (s, 2C, *ipso*-Ph), 142.1 (s, 2C, *ipso*-Ph) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -327.3 ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -25.0 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{66}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 837.41246, found 837.41549, [err] 3.760 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{66}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$ (836.41): C, 74.63; H, 7.95; N, 3.35. Found: C, 74.71; H, 8.08; N, 3.47.

1,1'-Bis(*N,N*-diethylamino)methyl)-2,2'-bis(di-isopropylphosphino)-4,4'-bis(*tert*-butyl)ferrocene (*rac*-13). 1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis(*N,N*-diethylamino)methylferrocene (**6**) (0.63 g, 1.34 mmol) was dissolved in Et_2O (7 mL). Then TMEDA (0.48 mL, 3.22 mmol) and a 1.6 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (1.93 mL, 3.08 mmol) were successively added at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Then the mixture was cooled to -40 °C, and the chlorodisopropylphosphine (0.51 mL, 3.22 mmol) in solution in Et_2O (2 mL) was added dropwise. The red-orange reaction mixture was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 (20 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (18 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO_4 , and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product (brown oil) was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc /heptane, 1:9). Complex **13** was isolated in a pure form as an orange crystalline solid (0.63 g, 0.90 mmol, 67%). ^1H NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 0.94 (t, 12H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 7.2$ Hz, CH_2CH_3), 1.00–1.22 (m, 12H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.25 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.30–2.42 (m, 8H, CH_2CH_3), 2.49–2.60 (m, 2H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 3.22 (AB spin system, d, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 12.9$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.46 (AB spin system, dd, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 12.9$ Hz, $J_{\text{PH}} = 1.8$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.91, 4.11 (br s, 2H each, Cp-CH) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ 11.4 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 20.4 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 13$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 20.9 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 8$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 22.5 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 18$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.2 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 22$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.3 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 14$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 24.7 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 14$ Hz, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 31.0 (s, 2C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 32.3 (s, 6C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 46.2 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 52.6 (m, 2C, Cp- CH_2 -N), 69.7 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9$ Hz, 3,5-Cp), 72.1 (br s, 2C, 3,5-Cp), 78.8, 87.5 (d, 2C each, $J_{\text{PC}} = 13$ Hz, 1,2-Cp), 104.0 (s, 2C, 4-Cp) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -327.7 ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CD_2Cl_2): δ -2.6 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{74}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 701.47451, found 701.46382, [err] 1.599 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{74}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$ (700.41): C, 68.55; H, 10.64; N, 4.00. Found: C, 68.14; H, 10.39; N, 4.12.

1,1'-Bis(*N,N*-diethylamino)methyl)-2,2'-bis(bis(5-methyl-2-furyl)phosphino)-4,4'-bis(*tert*-butyl)ferrocene (*rac*-14). 1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis(*N,N*-diethylamino)methylferrocene (**6**) (0.50 g, 1.07 mmol) and TMEDA (0.27 mL, 1.82 mmol) were dissolved in pentane (10 mL). Then a 1.6 M solution of *n*-BuLi in hexane (1.54 mL, 2.46 mmol) was added at -78 °C. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm and stirred at room temperature overnight. Then the mixture was cooled to -78 °C, and the bromobis(5-methylfuran-2-yl)phosphine (0.87 g, 3.21 mmol) was added dropwise over 5 min. After the addition the reaction mixture was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 (10 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO_4 , and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product (amber oil) was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc /heptane, 1:9). Complex **14** was isolated in a pure form as an orange crystalline solid (0.44 g, 0.52 mmol, 48%). ^1H NMR (C_6D_6): δ 1.05 (t,

12H, $J_{\text{HH}} = 4.5$ Hz, CH_2CH_3), 1.16 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 2.03, 1.88 (s, 6H each, CH_3 -furyl), 2.37–2.50 (m, 8H, CH_2CH_3), 4.01 (AB spin system, dd, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{PH}} = 2.5$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 4.25 (AB spin system, dd, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 15.5$ Hz, $J_{\text{PH}} = 2.5$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 4.43, 4.64 (br s, 2H each, Cp-CH), 5.72, 5.81 (m, 2H each, furyl-CH), 6.47 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{PH}} = 3.5$ Hz, furyl-CH), 6.97 (t, 2H, $J_{\text{PH}} = 6.0$ Hz, furyl-CH) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6): δ 12.7 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 13.6 (s, 2C, CH_3 -furyl), 13.9 (s, 2C, CH_3 -furyl), 30.7 (s, 2C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 32.0 (s, 6C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 47.2 (s, 4C, CH_2CH_3), 51.7 (t, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 7.6$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 69.7, 71.9 (d, 2C each, $J_{\text{PC}} = 5.5$ Hz, 3,5-Cp), 72.4 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 5$ Hz, 1-Cp), 91.0 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 29$ Hz, 2-Cp), 106.7 (s, 2C, 4-Cp), 107.1 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 2.5$ Hz, furyl), 107.5 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 9$ Hz, furyl), 119.8 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 14$ Hz, furyl), 123.60 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 32$ Hz, furyl), 151.0 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 15$ Hz, furyl), 152.5, 155.7, 157.2 (s, 2C each, furyl) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (C_6D_6): δ -327.2 ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (C_6D_6): δ -71.2 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{66}\text{FeN}_2\text{O}_4\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 853.39262, found 853.39200, [err] 3.760 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{66}\text{FeN}_2\text{O}_4\text{P}_2$ (852.38): C, 67.60; H, 7.80; N, 3.28. Found: C, 67.38; H, 7.64; N, 3.15.

1,1'-Bis((pyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl)-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)-4,4'-bis(*tert*-butyl)ferrocene (*rac*-15). 1,1'-Bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis((pyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl)ferrocene (**7**) (0.50 g, 1.07 mmol) was dissolved in pentane (7 mL). Then a 1.9 M solution of *t*-BuLi in pentane (1.3 mL, 2.46 mmol) was added at -78 °C and stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm and stirred at room temperature overnight. Then the mixture was cooled to -78 °C, and the chlorodiphenylphosphine (0.46 mL, 2.46 mmol) in solution in Et_2O (2 mL) was added dropwise. The red-orange reaction mixture was warmed and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was hydrolyzed by the addition of a saturated solution of NaHCO_3 (20 mL), the phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (18 mL). The combined organic layers were dried with MgSO_4 , and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product (brown oil) was purified by column chromatography on silica (EtOAc /heptane, 1:9). Complex **15** was isolated in a pure form as an orange crystalline solid (0.55 g, 0.66 mmol, 62%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from a concentrated solution in pentane kept at room temperature. ^1H NMR: δ 0.79 (s, 18H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.46 (m, 8H, *py*- β -N- CH_2), 2.31 (m, 8H, *py*- α -N- CH_2), 3.69 (d, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 12.4$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.78 (d, 2H, $J = 12.4$ Hz, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.76, 4.09 (s, 2H each, Cp-CH), 7.68–7.14 (m, 20H, Ph) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 23.8 (s, 4C, *py*- β -N- CH_2), 30.5 (s, 2C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 31.7 (s, 6C, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 52.9 (m, 4C, *py*- α -N- CH_2), 53.5 (s, 2C, Cp- CH_2 -N), 68.1, 72.4 (br s, 2C each, 3,5-Cp), 73.6 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 10$ Hz, 2-Cp), 91.4 (s, 2C, 1-Cp), 106.7 (s, 2C, 4-Cp), 127.5 (s, 2C, *p*-Ph), 127.8 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 6$ Hz, *m*-Ph), 128.7 (m, 4C, *m*-Ph), 129.6 (s, 2C, *p*-Ph), 132.8 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 18$ Hz, *o*-Ph), 136.6 (d, 4C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 23$ Hz, *o*-Ph), 138.7 (d, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 11$ Hz, *ipso*-Ph), 142.0 (s, 2C, $J_{\text{PC}} = 11$ Hz, *ipso*-Ph) ppm. $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ -24.1 ppm. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{62}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$) ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ m/z calcd 833.38116, found 833.38495, [err] 4.690 ppm. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{62}\text{FeN}_2\text{P}_2$ (832.37): C, 74.99; H, 7.50; N, 3.36. Found: C, 74.82; H, 7.55; N, 3.38.

Palladacycle 16. Bis(benzonitrile)palladium(II) chloride (0.24 g, 0.64 mmol) was added to a solution of 1,1'-bis(*tert*-butyl)-3,3'-bis(*N,N*-diethylamino)methylferrocene (**6**) (0.3 g, 0.64 mmol) in dichloromethane (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h and then filtered over Celite. After removal of the solvent *in vacuo*, a red oil was obtained. Treatment with ether (3 mL) afforded complex **16** as a brown powder (0.155 g, 0.24 mmol, 40%). Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies were obtained from low diffusion of pentane in a concentrated solution of complex **16** in dichloromethane. ^1H NMR: δ 1.14 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.22 (s, 9H, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 1.44 (s, 3H, CH_2CH_3), 1.51 (s, 3H, CH_2CH_3), 1.62 (s, 3H, CH_2CH_3), 1.73 (s, 3H, CH_2CH_3), 2.53, 3.44 (ABX₃qd, 2H, $J_{\text{AB}} = 52.0$ Hz, $J_{\text{AX}} = J_{\text{BX}}$ calcd = 7.0 Hz, CH_2CH_3), 2.79 (s, 1H, CH_2CH_3), 2.86 (s, 2H, CH_2CH_3), 2.95 (s, 1H, CH_2CH_3), 2.96 (s, 1H, Cp- CH_2 -N), 3.27 (s, 2H, CH_2CH_3), 3.72 (m, 2H, Cp-CH), 3.91 (m, 1H, Cp-CH), 3.96 (s, 1H, Cp-CH), 4.09 (s, 1H, Cp- CH_2 -N), 4.10 (s, 1H, Cp- CH_2 -N), 4.34 (m, 1H, Cp- CH_2 -N), 5.09 (d, 1H, Cp-CH, $J = 23.0$ Hz), 11.55 (br

s, 1H, NH) ppm. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR: δ 9.9, 10.1, 13.0 (s, CH_2CH_3), 31.8, 31.9 (s, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_3$), 44.2, 45.8, 46.7 (s, NCH_2CH_3), 49.1, 49.3, 59.3 (s, CpCH_2N), 60.8, 65.9, 67.3, 73.6, 73.8 (s, Cp) ppm. EA were unsatisfactory. HR-MS ($\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{48}\text{Cl}_2\text{FeN}_2\text{Pd}$) ESI: $[\text{M} - \text{Cl}]^+ m/z$ calcd 609.18950, found 609.19062, [err] 3.515 ppm.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.organo- met.5b00601.

Experimental details for the modified synthesis of 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butylferrocene (a), 1,1'-bis-*tert*-butyl-3,3'-difor- mylferrocene (b), and 1,1'-bis((*N,N*-diethylamino)- methyl)-2,2'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (12'); ^1H , $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ *, $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ * NMR and (^1H , ^{15}N)* 2D NMR spectra and HR-MS analysis* for complexes a, b, 1–12, and 13–16; crystal data and structure refinement for complexes *rac*-3, *meso*-3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 12', 12B, 15, and 16 (*if applicable) (PDF)

Crystallographic data (CIF)

Crystallographic data (CIF)

Crystallographic data (CIF)

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The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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