

Supporting Information

Stabilization of a Chiral Dirhodium Carbene by Encapsulation and a Discussion of the Stereochemical Implications

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CRYSTALLOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

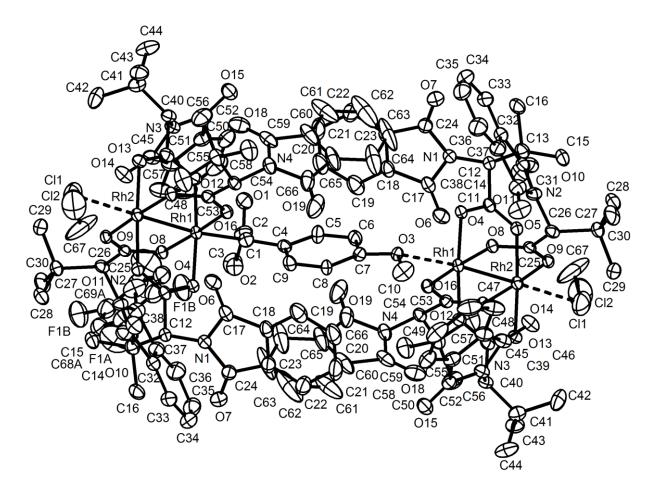


Figure S1. Molecular structure of $[(S^*-10)\cdot(R^*-4)]$. One component of the disordered carbene ligand is shown and H atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S2. Photograph of a crystal of $[(S^*-10)(R^*-4)]$

X-ray Crystal Structure Analysis of [(S*-10)·(R*-4)]: 2($C_{124}H_{126}Cl_4N_8O_{35}Rh_4$)·2(C_6H_5F), $M_r = 5875.72 g \cdot mol^{-1}$, green elongated plate, crystal size 0.039 x 0.049 x 0.103 mm³, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, a = 13.480(8) Å, b = 20.421(11) Å, c = 23.499(13) Å, b = 98.092(10) °, b = 6404(3) Å³, b = 100(2) K, b = 100(2

INTENSITY STATISTICS FOR DATASET

Resolution	#Data #Tl	heory	%Complete	Redundancy	Mean I	Mean I/s	Rmerge	Rsigma
Inf - 2.55	440	443	99.3	11.40	27.95	54.91	0.0213	0.0117
2.55 - 1.69	1027	1027	100.0	12.16	17.81	45.34	0.0271	0.0131
1.69 - 1.34	1457	1457	100.0	12.11	9.64	34.21	0.0405	0.0175
1.34 - 1.17	1454	1454	100.0	11.62	6.14	25.24	0.0603	0.0253
1.17 - 1.06	1479	1479	100.0	10.72	5.03	20.48	0.0769	0.0335
1.06 - 0.98	1516	1516	100.0	9.97	4.21	16.90	0.0952	0.0427
0.98 - 0.92	1552	1552	100.0	9.34	3.42	13.50	0.1177	0.0549
0.92 - 0.87	1592	1592	100.0	8.83	2.76	10.58	0.1438	0.0700
0.87 - 0.84	1141	1141	100.0	8.36	2.37	8.89	0.1686	0.0852
0.84 - 0.80	1830	1830	100.0	8.09	1.96	7.50	0.2053	0.1057
0.80 - 0.77	1644	1644	100.0	7.64	1.67	6.13	0.2476	0.1309
0.77 - 0.75	1197	1197	100.0	7.36	1.35	4.86	0.3036	0.1678
0.75 - 0.73	1392	1392	100.0	7.11	1.30	4.48	0.3248	0.1814
0.73 - 0.71	1508	1508	100.0	6.86	1.17	3.97	0.3680	0.2116
0.71 - 0.69	1715	1715	100.0	6.63	1.03	3.37	0.4135	0.2506
0.69 - 0.68	921	921	100.0	6.41	0.95	3.06	0.4496	0.2840
0.68 - 0.66	2040	2046	99.7	6.19	0.74	2.30	0.5491	0.3759
0.66 - 0.65	1090	1090	100.0	6.01	0.64	1.99	0.5985	0.4470
0.65 - 0.63	2461	2483	99.1	5.72	0.46	1.36	0.7402	0.6534
0.63 - 0.62	1692	1752	96.6	4.92	0.38	1.04	0.8226	0.9439
0.72 - 0.62	10710	 10798	99.2	5.99	0.70	2.20	0.5555	0.4138
Inf - 0.62	29148	29239	99.7	8.10	3.36	11.10	0.1046	0.0697

The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares against F^2 to $R_1 = 0.059$ [$I > 2\sigma(I)$], $wR_2 = 0.173$, 906 parameters. Several low-angle reflections were shadowed by the beamstop and removed from the data set before the final refinement cycles. The fluorobenzene solute is slightly disordered. The carbene ligand is disordered over two positions, each with half occupancy. The disorder could be resolved. Because of the closeness of C1 and O3[1-x, 1-y, 1-z] to one another, the atomic displacement parameters of C1 and O3 were restrained to be isotropic with an effective standard deviation of 0.001. H atoms riding, S = 1.244, residual electron density 3.12 (0.09 Å from Cl2)/ -3.01 (0.65 Å from Rh2) e Å⁻³. **CCDC-1481519**.

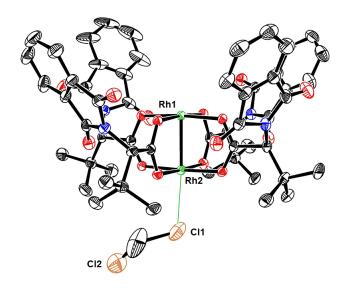


Figure S3. Projection showing that the aperture of the chiral calyx in $[(S-10)\cdot(R-4)]$ about Rh1 is larger than the pore on the backside, which, however, is still wide enough to accommodate a CH_2Cl_2 ligand; the push/pull carbene unit bonded to Rh1 and the (R-4) unit have been removed for clarity

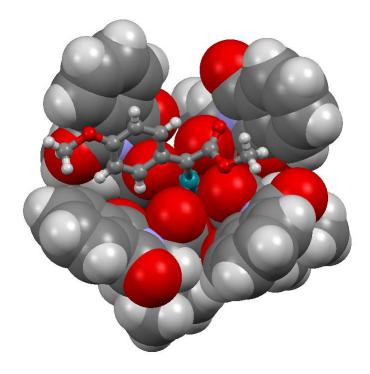


Figure S4. Space-filling model of the S-10 unit

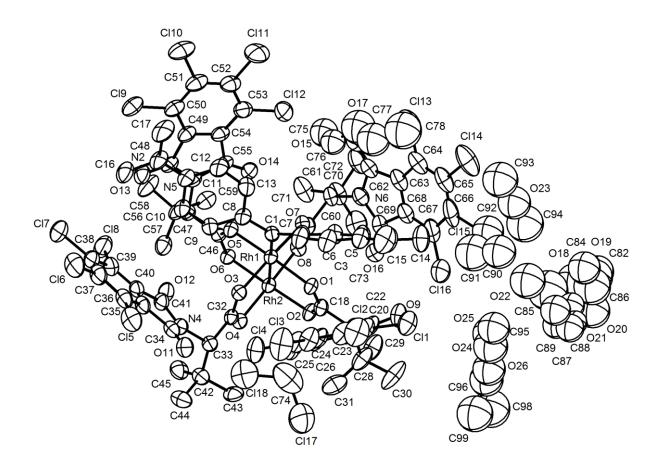


Figure S5. Molecular structure of S-13; hydrogen atoms omitted for clarity

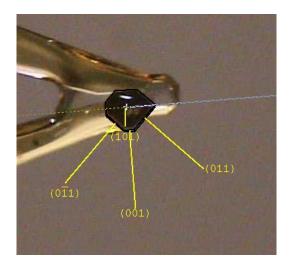


Figure S6. Photograph of the mounted crystal of *S*-**13**

X-ray Crystal Structure Analysis of S-13: $(C_{73}H_{60}Cl_{16}N_6O_{16}Rh_2)\cdot CH_2Cl_2\cdot 3(C_4H_{10}O)$, $M_r = 2332.37 \text{ g}\cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, green-red prism, crystal size 0.090 x 0.174 x 0.184 mm³, monoclinic, space group $P2_1$, a = 12.169(6) Å, b = 21.543(12) Å, c = 21.920(10) Å, $b = 105.183(10)^\circ$, b = 5546(5) ų, b = 200(2) K, b = 21.543(12) Å, b = 21.920(10) Å, $b = 105.183(10)^\circ$, $b = 105.183(10)^\circ$,

INTENSITY STATISTICS FOR DATASET

Resolution	#Data #Th	eory	%Complete	Redundancy	Mean I	Mean I/s	Rmerge	Rsigma
Inf - 2.98	420	443	94.8	4.76	126.17	60.43	0.0244	0.0153
2.98 - 2.00	994	1018	97.6	5.02	83.13	58.44	0.0220	0.0154
2.00 - 1.60	1376	1398	98.4	5.03	46.47	49.25	0.0243	0.0171
1.60 - 1.40	1379	1393	99.0	5.01	28.12	40.65	0.0297	0.0197
1.40 - 1.27	1445	1450	99.7	4.92	22.49	35.05	0.0345	0.0226
1.27 - 1.18	1360	1369	99.3	4.71	16.65	28.81	0.0420	0.0278
1.18 - 1.11	1429	1431	99.9	4.45	13.36	23.52	0.0466	0.0339
1.11 - 1.05	1555	1558	99.8	4.22	11.71	20.48	0.0543	0.0393
1.05 - 1.01	1226	1227	99.9	4.06	9.37	16.83	0.0639	0.0473
1.01 - 0.97	1490	1490	100.0	3.90	7.83	14.55	0.0750	0.0567
0.97 - 0.94	1228	1228	100.0	3.77	7.29	13.36	0.0790	0.0619
0.94 - 0.91	1431	1431	100.0	3.64	5.87	11.09	0.0958	0.0757
0.91 - 0.88	1609	1609	100.0	3.54	5.12	9.75	0.1124	0.0880
0.88 - 0.86	1232	1232	100.0	3.42	4.15	7.96	0.1311	0.1076
0.86 - 0.84	1375	1375	100.0	3.33	3.84	7.22	0.1390	0.1195
0.84 - 0.82	1447	1447	100.0	3.27	3.57	6.59	0.1517	0.1310
0.82 - 0.80	1614	1614	100.0	3.13	3.00	5.55	0.1819	0.1613
0.80 - 0.78	1813	1813	100.0	3.06	2.78	4.99	0.1948	0.1783
0.78 - 0.77	926	926	100.0	3.04	2.38	4.26	0.2189	0.2093
0.77 - 0.75	2443	2635	92.7	2.56	2.19	3.63	0.2530	0.2499
0.85 - 0.75	8965	9157	97.9	2.98	2.83	5.06	0.1892	0.1770
Inf - 0.75	27792 2	8087	98.9	3.84	14.84	18.46	0.0420	0.0367

The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares against F^2 to $R_1 = 0.043$ [$I > 2\sigma(I)$], $wR_2 = 0.129$, 1201 parameters. Several low-angle reflections were shadowed by the beamstop and removed from the data set before final refinement. The crystal contains non-disordered solute dichloromethane and partially-occupied diethylether molecules in the asymmetric unit, all but one of which are disordered. Disordered diethylether molecules were modelled by C and O atoms with varying occupancy and isotropic atomic displacement parameters, while maintaining an atomic ratio of 4 to 1, respectively. H atoms on disordered atoms could not be located, otherwise H atoms were were calculated and refined using a riding model. S = 1.054, residual electron density 0.78 (0.91 Å from Rh1)/ -0.84 (0.78 Å from Rh1) e Å⁻³. **CCDC-1481518**.

General. All reactions were carried out under argon in flame-dried glassware, ensuring rigorously inert conditions. The solvents were purified by distillation over the indicated drying agents and were stored/handled under argon: CH_2Cl_2 (CaH_2), diethylether (CaH_2), fluorobenzene (CaH_2), hexane (Na/K), pentane (Na/K), toluene (Na/K). NMR: Spectra were recorded on Bruker AV300, AV400, AV500, or AV600 spectrometers at the indicated temperatures with the chemical shifts (δ) given in ppm relative to TMS and the coupling constants (J) in Hz. The solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (CD_2Cl_2 : δ_H = 5.32 ppm, δ_C = 53.8 ppm); ¹⁵N NMR spectra are referenced to external H_3CNO_2 ; UV/VIS: UV-1650PC spectrophotometer (Shimadzu). HRMS (ESI): ESQ3000 (Bruker). The different rhodium precursors were purchased from Strem Chemicals or TCI Europe and used as received. The different diazoalkane derivatives were prepared according to literature procedures.¹

Preparation of the Chiral Rhodium Carbenes

Complex $[(S^*-10)(R^*-4)]$. A solution of diazoalkane 9a (2.90 mg, 0.01 mmol) in fluorobenzene (0.5

mL) was quickly added to a solution of a 1:1 mixture of $[Rh_2(S-PTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ and $[Rh_2(R-PTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ (10 mg each, 0.01 mmol) in CH_2CI_2 (2 mL) at -5 °C under rigorously inert conditions. A vigorous effervescence and concomitant color change were observed. Emerald green crystals of the resulting carbene suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by layering the solution with cold toluene (1 mL) and hexane (5 mL) at -30 °C.

For the characterization of the complex by NMR, the following procedure was used: A solution of diazoalkane **9a** (2.90 mg, 0.01 mmol) in CD_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was quickly added to a solution of a 1:1 mixture of $[Rh_2(S-PTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ and $[Rh_2(R-PTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ (10 mg each, 0.01 mmol) in CD_2Cl_2 (1 mL) at -5 °C under rigorously inert conditions. A vigorous effervescence and concomitant color change were observed. The solution was stirred at -5 °C for 2 min before it was transferred into a carefully dried NMR tube under inert conditions via canula and cooled to -50 °C. The complex showed the following spectral characteristics: UV/VIS: λ_{max} [nm] = 725; 1 H NMR (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 223 K): δ = 7.76 (br. s, 4H,

a) Chan, W.-W.; Yeung, S.-H.; Zhou, Z.; Chan, A. S. C.; Yu, W.-Y. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 604; b) Hu, M.; He, Z.; Gao, B.; Li, L.; Ni, C.; Hu, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, *135*, 17302; c) Miller, J. B. *J. Org. Chem.* **1959**, *24*, 560; d) Kumar, S.; Murray, R. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1984**, *106*, 1040; e) for the synthesis of the required imines used as starting materials, see: Fergus, S.; Eustace, S. J.; Hegarty, A. F. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 4663; f) Pickard, P. L.; Tolbert, T. L. *J. Org. Chem.* **1961**, *26*, 4886.

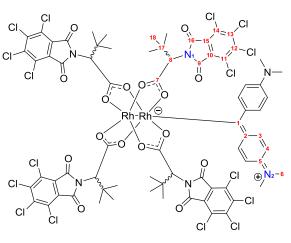
 H_{18}), 7.74 – 7.72 (m, 4H, H_{15}), 7.68 – 7.62 (m, 9H, H_7 , H_{17} , H_{16}), 7.56 (d, J = 7.2, 1H, H_3), 6.29 (br. s, 1H, H_4), 4.83 (br. s, 1H, H_6), 4.67 (s, 4H, H_{12}), 3.44 (br. s, 3H, H_9), 2.69 (br. s, 3H, H_{10}), 0.99 (s, 36H, H_{22}); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CD_2CI_2 , 223 K): δ = 240.7 (br. s, C_1), 185.6 (C_{11}), 173.5 (br., C_8), 170.5 (C_5), 168.1 (C_{13}), 166.9 (C_{20}), 147.5 (br., C_7), 142.7 (br., C_2), 137.6 (C_3), 133.7 (C_{17}), 133.5 (C_{16}), 131.6 (C_{14}), 131.5 (C_{19}), 123.1 (C_{18}), 122.7 (C_{15}), 115.5 (C_4), 114.8 (br., C_6), 60.6 (C_{12}), 56.8 (C_9), 50.0 (C_{10}), 35.4 (C_{21}), 27.3 (C_{22}); ^{15}N NMR (51 MHz, CD_2CI_2 , 223 K): δ = -213.2; HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $[C_{66}H_{67}N_4O_{19}Rh_2]^+$: 1425.24900, found 1425.24848.

$$R_2N$$
 t -Bu

 R_2N
 t -Bu

The unique set of NMR chemical shifts for the four coordinated ligands in the di-rhodium complex point to a 4-fold symmetry, indicating rotation of the carbene ligand about the Rh-C1 bond that is faster than the NMR time scale (> $10s~\mu s$) as well as equivalent conformational space available to the four chiral ligands. Conversely, the electron-donating methoxyphenyl substituent presents two inequivalent yet slowly exchangeable halves (as determined by NOESY/EXSY), suggesting a predominantly hindered rotation about the C1-C2 bond. Therefore, it is proposed that the electronic distribution is such that the C1-C2 has higher bond order than the C1-Rh bond.

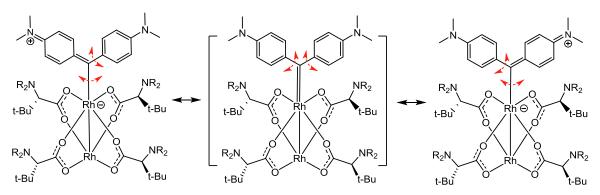
Complex S-13. A solution of diazoalkane 12 (2.84 mg, 0.01 mmol) in fluorobenzene (0.5 mL) was



mL) at -20 °C.

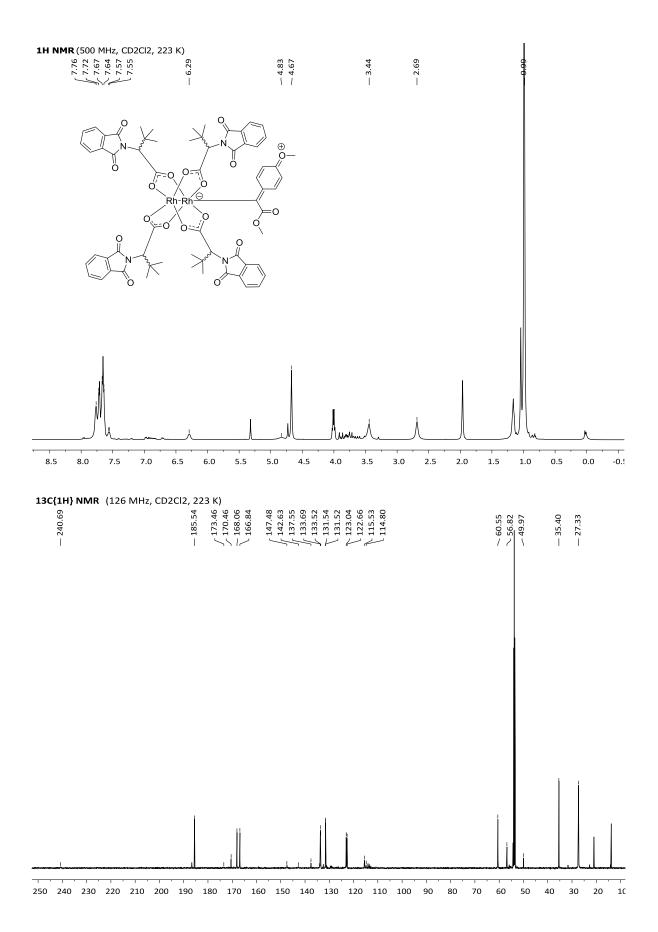
added dropwise to a solution of a 1:1 mixture of $[Rh_2(S-TCPTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ and $[Rh_2(R-TCPTTL)_4]\cdot 2EtOAc$ (10 mg each, 0.01 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) at 0 °C under rigorously inert conditions. A vigorous effervescence and concomitant color change were observed. Red-green crystals of the resulting carbene suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by layering the solution with cold diethylether/toluene (0.5/0.5 mL) and hexane (5

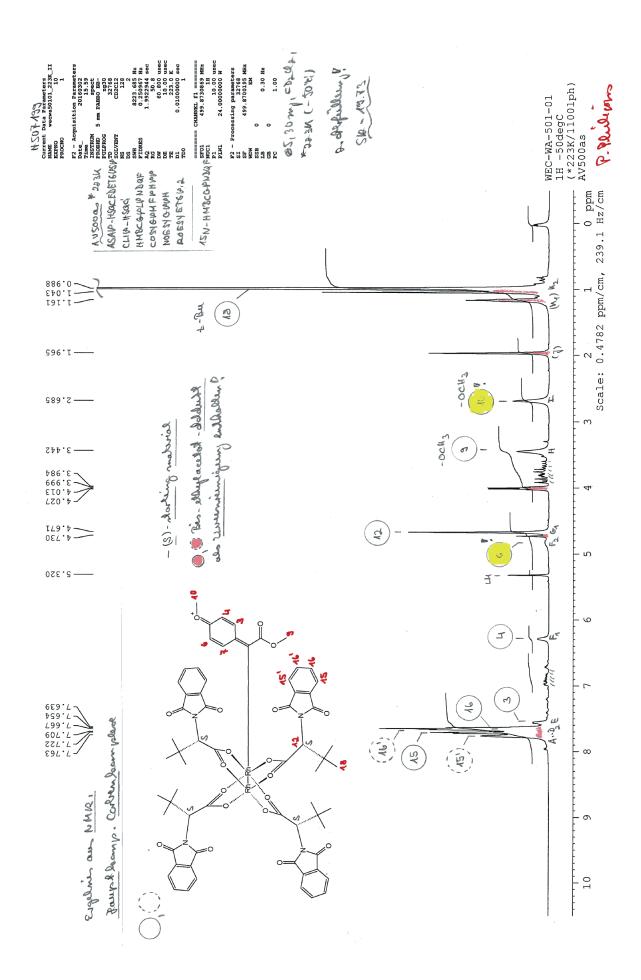
For the characterization of the complex by NMR, the following procedure was used: A solution of diazoalkane **12** (2.84 mg, 0.01 mmol) in CD_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of a 1:1 mixture of $[Rh_2(S\text{-TCPTTL})_4]\text{-}2EtOAc$ and $[Rh_2(R\text{-TCPTTL})_4]\text{-}2EtOAc$ (10 mg each, 0.01 mmol) in CD_2Cl_2 (1 mL) at 0 °C under rigorously inert conditions. A vigorous effervescence and concomitant color were observed. The solution was stirred at 0 °C for 5 min before it was transferred into a carefully dried NMR tube under inert conditions via canula. The complex showed the following spectral characteristics: $UV/VIS: \lambda_{max}$ [nm] = 582; 1H NMR (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K): δ = 6.87 (d, J=9.2, 4H, H₃), 5.65 (d, J=9.2, 4H, H₄), 4.61 (s, 4H, H₈), 2.78 (s, 12H, H₆), 1.02 (s, 36H, H₁₈); $^{13}C\{^1H\}$ NMR (126 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K): δ = 252.0 (br. s, C₁), 183.1 (C₇), 163.5 (C₉), 162.6 (C₁₆), 153.0 (C₅), 139.8 (C₂), 139.4 (C₁₂), 139.2 (C₁₃), 136.3 (C₃), 129.5 (C₁₀), 129.0 (C₁₅), 127.6 (C₁₁), 127.5 (C₁₄), 108.7 (C₄), 62.0 (C₈), 40.3 (C₆), 35.9 (C₁₇), 27.7 (C₁₈); ^{15}N NMR (51 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 273 K): δ -310.99 (N₂), -210.79 (N₁); HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $[C_{73}H_{60}N_6O_{16}Cl_{16}Rh_2]^+$: 2041.71868, found 2041.71963.

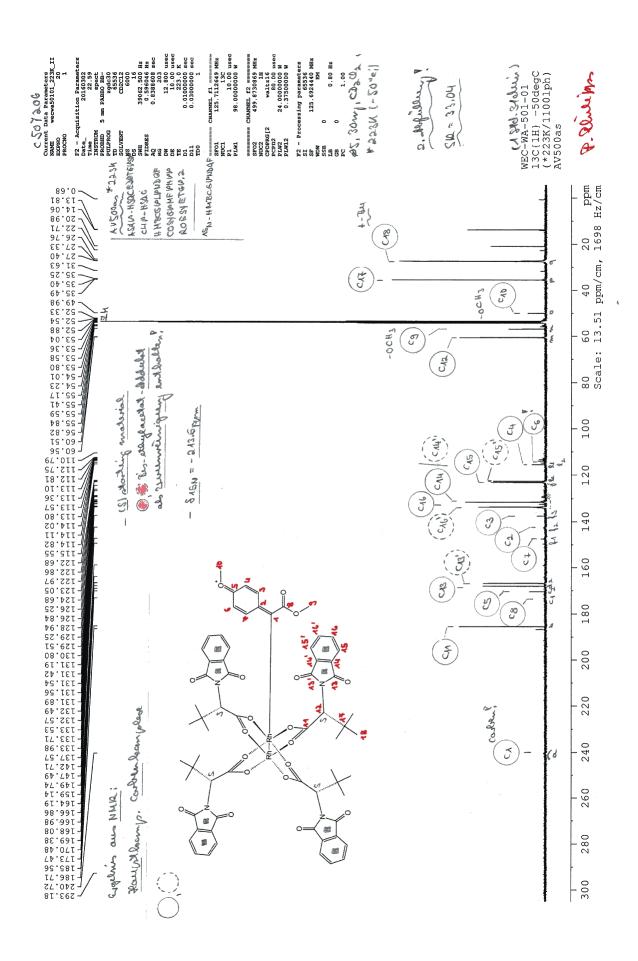


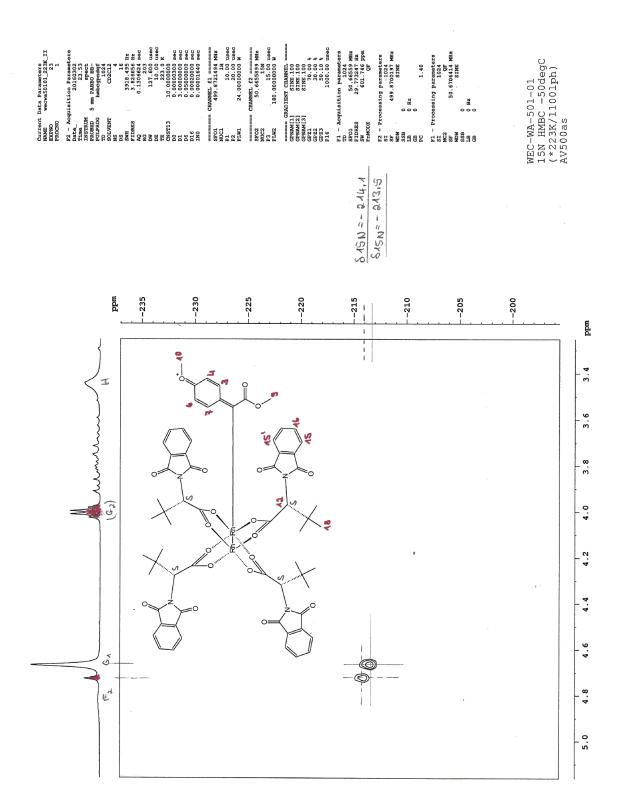
 R_2N = tetrachlorophthalimidoyl

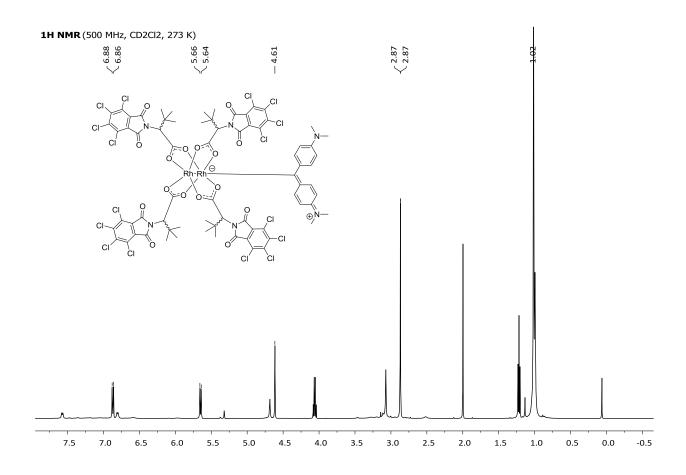
A single set of NMR chemical shifts at 273K indicate a 4-fold symmetry, implying again relatively facile rotation of the carbene ligand about the Rh-C1 bond and identical average conformation of the chiral ligands in S-13. In contrast to $[(S^*-10)(R^*-4)]$, however, the NMR degeneracy within the aromatic dimethylaminophenyl groups also suggests facile rotation about the C1-C2 bond (faster than μ s). Since the carbene has two equivalent electron-donating substituents, it is conceivable that the partial π -character of the C1-C2 bond is shared between each halves; in so doing, it averages out and allows for some degree of rotational freedom at the somewhat higher temperature used to record the spectra (273K compared with 223K for $[(S^*-10)(R^*-4)]$).











13C{1H} NMR (126 MHz, CD2Cl2, 273 K)



