## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Enhanced Electrophilicity of Heterobimetallic Bi-Rh Paddlewheel Carbene Complexes: A Combined Experimental, Spectroscopic and Computational Study

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## GENERAL REMARKS

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 and handled under Argon: $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{CaH}_{2}\right)$, chlorobenzene $\left(\mathrm{CaH}_{2}\right), \quad \mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{O}\left(\mathrm{CaH}_{2}\right)$, hexane $(\mathrm{Na} / \mathrm{K})$, pentane $(\mathrm{Na} / \mathrm{K})$, toluene $(\mathrm{Na} / \mathrm{K})$. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV300 or AV400 spectrometers at 298 K unless otherwise indicated with the chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) 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 $\left(\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}:{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}=5.32 \mathrm{ppm}\right.$, ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}=53.8 \mathrm{ppm} ; \quad \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}:{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}=7.16 \mathrm{ppm}, \quad{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}=128.0 \mathrm{ppm} ; \quad \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}:{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}=7.26 \mathrm{ppm}$, $\left.{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}=77.0 \mathrm{ppm}\right) .{ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}$ NMR resonances were referenced to an internal standard of $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CF}_{3}$ (-63.72 ppm). HRMS (ESI): ESQ3000 (Bruker). UV-Vis spectra were recorded at 228 K on a Cary 8454 diode Array UV-Vis spectrometer equipped with an actively temperature controlled cuvette. Raman spectra were recorded on a TriVista 555 triple monochromator equipped with a liquid nitrogen cooled Roper Scientific 400BR Excelon CCD camera, using Cobalt diode lasers at fixed wavelength. The samples were frozen as drops on a pre-cooled glass pipette which was pre-shaped to feature a small loop at the end. A temperature of 100 K was maintained by positioning the frozen droplet into a cold nitrogen gas stream provided by a Cryostream 800 unit. As such, no quartz windows were necessary. The Raman light was collected in $180^{\circ}$ using a parabolic silver mirror (with hole for laser excitation) and focused onto the entrance slit of a spectrograph with a 100 mm diameter $\mathrm{f} / 4$ lens. The scattered light was dispersed with gratings of $900 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}, 900 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$ and $1800 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$ at the three different stages, respectively. Slit widths at the first and third stages were set to $50 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, giving rise to a spectral resolution at the CCD camera of typically $0.8 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (wavelength dependent). Spectra were collected for 30 min for a given wavelength and spectral window; corresponding spectral
windows were despiked, normalized to the solvent band at $300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. A solvent spectrum has subsequently been subtracted and remaining first derivative lines at the position of the solvent signals resulting from imperfect subtraction have been removed manually. Calibration of the Raman shifts has been achieved to an accuracy of $1 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ by using $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ as well as the solvent signals as a reference.

All quantum chemical calculations were carried out using the ORCA quantum chemistry program. ${ }^{1}$ Geometry optimization and frequency analysis were performed with the BP86 and B3LYP functionals at the level of density functional theory (DFT). ${ }^{2}$ The def2-TZVP basis set was used for all atoms. ${ }^{3}$ The resolution of identity RI approximation has been employed to speed up calculation time. ${ }^{4}$ Scalar relativistic effects are included in zero order regular approach (ZORA). ${ }^{5}$ Broken symmetry calculations invariably converged to a closed-shell singlet wave function. The Cartesian coordinates of all optimized structures are provided as supporting information. Vibrational frequencies and Raman intensities have been calculated from diagonalization of the Hessian matrix and from the polarizability tensor as implemented in ORCA. ${ }^{1}$ A Doppler broadening with a band width at half height of $10 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ has been used to dress the calculated spectra. The accuracy of this method is typically $25 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} .{ }^{6}$ Resonance Raman calculations have been performed as described in reference $7 .^{7}$ Assignments are based on comparison of both experimental and calculated band positions and intensities. For calculations of the UV-Vis spectra, the B3LYP functional was used. QTAIM analyses were performed with the AimAll program (TK Gristmill, http://aim.tkgristmill.com/).

## SINGLE CRYSTAL X-RAY STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF BiRh(esp) $\mathbf{2}_{\mathbf{2}} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathrm{O}$



Figure X1. Two views of the molecular structure of $\operatorname{bis}\left(\mu_{2}-2,2,2^{\prime}, 2^{\prime}\right.$-tetramethyl-1,3-benzene-dipropanoato-O, $\mathrm{O}^{\prime}$ )-aqua-rhodium-bismuth, $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, showing the slight disorder [ca. 28 $\%]$ at the core of the molecule (dotted lines).

X-ray Crystal Structure Analysis of $\mathbf{B i R h}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{O} \cdot\left[\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{41.44} \mathrm{BiO}_{9} \mathrm{Rh}\right], M_{r}=881.98 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-}$ ${ }^{1}$, light-yellow prism, crystal size $0.023 \times 0.062 \times 0.103 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, monoclinic, space group $P \mathrm{c}$ [No. 7], $a=6.5384(7) \AA, b=19.201(2) \AA, c=12.6755(14) \AA, \beta=92.199(2)^{\circ}, V=1590.2(3) \AA^{3}, T=$ $100(2) \mathrm{K}, Z=2, D_{\text {calc }}=1.842 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~cm}^{3}, \lambda=0.71073 \AA, \mu\left(M o-K_{\alpha}\right)=6.097 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction $\left(T_{\min }=0.62391, T_{\max }=0.90053\right)$, Bruker AXS Enraf-Nonius Kappa Mach3 I $\mu \mathrm{S}$ Apex-II diffractometer, $1.060<\theta<31.425^{\circ}, 44832$ measured reflections, 10470 independent reflections, 9690 reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I), R_{\mathrm{int}}=0.0512$.

| Resolution | \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s Rmerge Rsigma |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Inf - 2.84 | 81 | 85 | 95.3 | 9.39 | 130.86 | 79.92 | 0.0380 | 0.0109 |
| 2.84-1.89 | 189 | 189 | 100.0 | 10.90 | 107.24 | 73.27 | 0.0365 | 0.0112 |
| 1.89-1.48 | 282 | 282 | 100.0 | 11.12 | 64.56 | 61.97 | 0.0459 | 0.0132 |
| 1.48-1.29 | 258 | 258 | 100.0 | 10.84 | 44.26 | 50.32 | 0.0571 | 0.0164 |
| 1.29-1.17 | 288 | 288 | 100.0 | 10.69 | 44.91 | 46.22 | 0.0557 | 0.0177 |
| 1.17-1.08 | 280 | 280 | 100.0 | 10.02 | 46.78 | 41.46 | 0.0533 | 0.0192 |
| 1.08-1.02 | 264 | 264 | 100.0 | 9.75 | 41.08 | 38.06 | 0.0568 | 0.0218 |
| 1.02-0.97 | 254 | 254 | 100.0 | 9.08 | 33.97 | 31.75 | 0.0637 | 0.0262 |
| 0.97-0.92 | 310 | 310 | 100.0 | 8.67 | 30.60 | 27.25 | 0.0707 | 0.0300 |
| 0.92-0.89 | 246 | 246 | 100.0 | 8.41 | 26.54 | 23.70 | 0.0789 | 0.0346 |
| 0.89-0.86 | 263 | 263 | 100.0 | 8.10 | 24.58 | 22.04 | 0.0860 | 0.0388 |
| 0.86-0.83 | 293 | 293 | 100.0 | 7.77 | 22.78 | 19.63 | 0.0958 | 0.0436 |
| 0.83-0.80 | 351 | 351 | 100.0 | 7.44 | 20.30 | 17.13 | 0.1009 | 0.0504 |
| 0.80-0.78 | 272 | 272 | 100.0 | 7.39 | 19.01 | 16.04 | 0.1080 | 0.0548 |
| 0.78-0.76 | 294 | 294 | 100.0 | 7.06 | 18.63 | 14.70 | 0.1071 | 0.0593 |
| 0.76-0.75 | 145 | 145 | 100.0 | 6.88 | 17.34 | 13.32 | 0.1218 | 0.0643 |
| $0.75-0.73$ | 340 | 340 | 100.0 | 6.66 | 16.26 | 12.33 | 0.1228 | 0.0709 |
| $0.73-0.71$ | 387 | 387 | 100.0 | 6.49 | 14.46 | 10.71 | 0.1432 | 0.0812 |
| $0.71-0.70$ | 205 | 205 | 100.0 | 6.47 | 13.42 | 10.13 | 0.1551 | 0.0890 |
| 0.70-0.69 | 216 | 216 | 100.0 | 6.05 | 12.42 | 8.45 | 0.1573 | 0.1012 |
| 0.69-0.68 | 188 | 199 | 94.5 | 5.15 | 10.85 | 7.42 | 0.1807 | 0.1302 |
| 0.78-0.68 | 1775 | 1786 | 99.4 | 6.44 | 14.98 | 11.20 | 0.1335 | 0.0795 |
| Inf - 0.68 | 5406 | 5421 | 99.7 | 8.27 | 32.19 | 27.73 | 0.0655 | 0.0317 |

The structure was solved by dual methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares against $F^{2}$ to $R_{1}=0.0418[I>2 \sigma(I)], w R_{2}=0.0887,469$ parameters, 51 restraints. A number of low-angle reflections were shadowed by the beamstop and removed from the data set before the final refinement cycles. The central core of the molecule is slightly (ca. $28 \%$ ) disordered (see Figure S1). In addition, the crystal is partially twinned [TWIN -1 $00001000-1$ ]. Most likely, the crystal is primarily composed of columns of molecules bridged by water that exhibit some local centrosymmetric arrangements ( $\mathrm{P} 2_{1} / \mathrm{c}$ ). Two crystals were investigated. Both showed similar disorder. Two C-O distances in one of the carboxylate groups of the minor component were restrained to be equal with an effective standard deviation of 0.02 . For the disordered atoms C 1 A , C16A, C17A, C32A, O4A, O6A, O8A, O9A, C1B, C16B, C17B and C32B the Uij components
were restrained to be isotropic with an effective standard deviation of 0.001 . The H atoms on the water molecule bonded to Rh1B of the minor component could not be located on a difference Fourier map and were not included in the model. As a result of the disorder, the diffracted intensities decreased more than expected with increasing resolution leading to relatively high goodness of fit for the weak reflections [e.g., 1.875 for $\mathrm{Fc} / \mathrm{Fcmax} 0.0-0.051$ ] and a much higher than expected second term in the WGHT card [7.3772]. The four most disagreeable reflections are given below and refer to weak reflections. None has an error/esd greater than 15 . The error/esd is calculated as $\operatorname{sqrt}\left(\mathrm{wD}^{2} /\left\langle\mathrm{wD}^{2}\right\rangle\right)$ where w is given by the weight formula, $\mathrm{D}=\mathrm{Fo}^{2}-\mathrm{Fc}^{2}$ and <> refers to the average over all reflections. H atoms riding, $S=1.222$, residual electron density $1.72\left(0.69 \AA\right.$ from C32B)/ $-3.90\left(0.84 \AA\right.$ from Rh1A) e $\AA^{-3} . \mathbf{C C D C}-1847633$.

| h | k | l | Fo 2 | Fc2 | Error/esd | Fc/Fc(max) | Resolution(A) |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| -3 | 2 | 1 | 1253.33 | 76.12 | 14.31 | 0.034 | 2.11 |
| -3 | 1 | 0 | 1062.29 | 99.49 | 11.34 | 0.039 | 2.16 |
| -4 | 1 | -2 | 664.69 | 28.69 | 10.88 | 0.021 | 1.56 |
| 1 | 1 | -8 | 1358.86 | 211.12 | 10.66 | 0.057 | 1.55 |



Figure X2. The major (ca. $72 \%$ ) component of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and a section of the lattice showing the packing of the molecules in the crystal.

## PREPARATIVE DATA

$\mathbf{B i}(\text { TFA })_{3}$


Prepared according to reference $8 .{ }^{8}$
${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $282 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CF}_{3}$ as internal standard): $\delta=-76.0$ (s) ppm.


## $\operatorname{BiRh}(T F A)_{4}$



Prepared according to reference 9. ${ }^{9}$
${ }^{19} \mathrm{~F}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $282 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5} \mathrm{CF}_{3}$ as internal standard): $\delta-74.2 \mathrm{ppm}$.





## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathbf{P i v})_{4}$



Prepared according to reference 10 . Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{10}$

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(T P A)_{4}$



Prepared according to reference 10 . Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{10}$

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$



Prepared according to reference $10 .{ }^{10}$
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 298 \mathrm{~K}$ ): $\delta=7.08\left(\mathrm{t}, 7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{8}\right), 6.88(\mathrm{dd}, 7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}_{7}$ ), $6.74\left(\mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{9}\right), 2.75\left(\mathrm{~d}, 12.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{5}\right), 2.59\left(\mathrm{~d}, 12.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{5}\right), 1.10(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 1.03\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{4}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right): \delta=190.3\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{1}\right), 138.5\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{6}\right), 130.8\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{9}\right), 128.5$ $\left(\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{C}_{7}\right), 127.2\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{8}\right), 47.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{5}\right), 46.0\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{2}\right), 26.7\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{4}\right), 25.5\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

Single crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown by the following procedure: A sample of $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ was dissolved in pyridine, filtered and volatiles were removed. The resulting pyridine adduct is significantly more soluble than the unligated complex. Dissolving this sample in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, layering with hexane and, after diffusive mixing was complete, allowing the resultant solution to slowly evaporate yielded crystals.

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\text { esp })_{2}$



## $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{\mathbf{2}}$



Purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used as received.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 255 \mathrm{~K}$ ): $\delta=7.08\left(\mathrm{t}, 7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{7}\right.$ ), 6.87-6.83 (overlapping, 6 H , $\mathrm{H}_{6}$ and $\mathrm{H}_{8}$ ), 2.61 (br. s, $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{4}$ ), 0.96 (br. s, $24 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{3}$ ) ppm.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 298 \mathrm{~K}\right): \delta=196.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{1}\right), 137.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{5}\right), 130.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{8}\right), 128.0$ $\left(\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{C}_{6}\right), 126.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{7}\right), 46.7\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{4}\right), 46.4\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{2}\right), 25.3\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

## $\mathbf{R h}_{2}(\mathbf{e s p})_{\mathbf{2}}$



## Prenyl diazoacetate (1)



Prepared according to reference $11 .{ }^{11}$
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=5.34\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right), 4.74\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right) \mathrm{H}\right), 4.65(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=7.3$ $\left.\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.76\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right), 1.72\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=167.9\left(\mathrm{OC}(\mathrm{O}) \mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right) \mathrm{H}\right)$, $139.3\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \underline{\underline{C C H}}\right), 118.5$ $\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{C} \underline{\mathrm{CH}}\right), 61.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 46.1\left(\mathrm{OC}(\mathrm{O}) \underline{\mathrm{C}}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right) \mathrm{H}\right), 25.7\left(\underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right), 18.0\left(\underline{\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

IR (oil): $v=3098,2964,2936,2924,2103,1684,1444,1386,1356,1234,1172,1047,995,915$, $834,779,739,551,461,432 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Na}\right]^{+}$: 177.063446 ; found 177.063290.

## Prenyl diazoacetate (1)




## Prenyl 2,3-dichloropropanoate (3)



To a stirring solution of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(0.009 \mathrm{~g}, 0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ at 333 K was added a $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ solution ( 5 mL ) of prenyl diazoacetate $(0.077 \mathrm{~g}, 0.50 \mathrm{mmol})$ by syringe pump over 2 h . After 3 h , the reaction was cooled and the product was isolated by column chromatography. Yield $=38 \%$ yield.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta 5.37\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{CC} \underline{\mathrm{H}}\right), 4.72\left(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 4.42(\mathrm{dd}$, $\left.\mathrm{J}=5.4,8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ClCH}_{2} \mathrm{CHCl}\right), 3.96\left(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=8.4,11.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ClCH}_{2} \mathrm{CHCl}\right), 3.79(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=$ $\left.5.4,11.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{ClCH}_{2} \mathrm{CHCl}\right), 1.78\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right), 1.73\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ): $\delta 167.0(\mathrm{OCO}), 140.8\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \underline{\mathrm{CCH}}\right), 117.3\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{CC} H\right), 63.4$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 55.2\left(\mathrm{ClCH}_{2} \underline{\mathrm{CHCl}}\right), 44.0\left(\mathrm{ClCH}_{2} \mathrm{CHCl}\right), 25.7\left(\underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right), 18.1\left(\underline{\mathrm{Me}}_{2} \mathrm{CCH}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

IR (oil): $v=2970,2916,1744,1673,1566,1443,1403,1377,1351,1287,1261,1224,1177$, $1157,1071,1046,982,925,823,775,735,703,634,531,449 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{Na}_{1}\right]^{+}: 233.010760$; found 233.010655.
$\mathrm{Rf}=0.30\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}, \mathrm{Hex}: \mathrm{EtOAc}, 30: 1\right)$

## Prenyl 2,3-dichloropropanoate (3)



## General Procedure A for Catalytic Solvent Activation with BiRh(esp) $\mathbf{2}_{2}$



To a stirring solution of $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(0.005 \mathrm{mmol})$ in solvent $(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ at 313 K was added EDA ( $0.775 \mathrm{mmol}, 85 \%$ solution in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ) in one portion. After 2 h , the reaction was cooled and MesH ( $28.0 \mathrm{uL}, 0.20 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) added as an internal standard for analysis. The crude reaction mixture was analysed by NMR and GCMS. Products were isolated by column chromatography.

## Ethyl 2,3-dichloropropanoate (6)



Isolated as a yellow oil in 51 \% yield by General Procedure A (DCM as solvent; modified with: EDA added by syringe pump over $\left.2 \mathrm{~h}, 0.02 \mathrm{mmol} \operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}, 333 \mathrm{~K}, 3 \mathrm{~h}\right)$. Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{12}$

## Ethyl 2-phenylcyclopropane-1-carboxylate (7)



Isolated in $20 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (modified to match the conditions reported in reference 13 with: DCM as solvent $(40 \mathrm{~mL}), 5$ eq styrene, EDA added by syringe pump over 2 h , $\left.0.02 \mathrm{mmol} \operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}, 3 \mathrm{~h}\right) .{ }^{13}$

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{14}$

## Ethyl n-methylcyclohepta-2,4,6-triene-1-carboxylate (8)



Isolated in $75 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (toluene as solvent).
Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{15}$

## Ethyl cyclohexylacetate (9)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $53 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (cyclohexane as solvent; modified with: $323 \mathrm{~K}, 3 \mathrm{~h}$ ).

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the SDBS Structural Database for Organic Chemicals (SDBS No. 18306)

## 5-ethoxy-2-methyloxazole (10)



NMR yield of 89 \% recorded by General Procedure A (MeCN as solvent; modified with: 363 K , $16 \mathrm{~h})$.

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{16}$

## Ethyl 2,3,3-trichloropropanoate (11)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $53 \%$ yield by General Procedure $\mathrm{A}\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right.$ as solvent $)$.

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{12}$

## Ethyl chloroacetate (12)



Isolated as a yellow oil in $46 \%$ yield by General Procedure A ( ${ }^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{BuCl}$ as solvent). Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{17}$

## Ethyl trans-2,3-dichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (13)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $63 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (trans-1,2-dichloroethylene as solvent ( 20 mL ); modified with: EDA added by syringe pump over $16 \mathrm{~h}, 318 \mathrm{~K}, 18 \mathrm{~h}$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=4.23\left(\mathrm{q}, \mathrm{J}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.76(\mathrm{dd} \mathrm{J}=3.7,4.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{CHCl}), 3.55(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=3.7,9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCl}), 2.42(\mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J}=4.8,9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 1.30(\mathrm{t}, 7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}$ ) ppm.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=165.1(\mathrm{CO}), 60.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 37.7(\mathrm{CHCl}), 36.2(\mathrm{CHCl}), 30.6$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 13.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

IR (oil): $v=3062,2983,1732,1608,1466,1446,1400,1384,1306,1259,1224,1200,1162$, $1097,1056,1035,1011,967,893,860,837,805,785,710,689,646 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{8} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Na}_{1}\right]^{+}$: 204.979355; found 204.979520.
$\mathrm{Rf}=0.55\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, Pent : $\left.\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 5: 1\right)$.

Ethyl trans-2,3-dichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (13)


## Ethyl cis-2,2,3-trichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (cis-14)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $61 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (trichloroethylene as solvent ( 20 mL ); modified with: EDA added by syringe pump over $16 \mathrm{~h}, 333 \mathrm{~K}, 18 \mathrm{~h}$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=4.25\left(\mathrm{q}, \mathrm{J}=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.84(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=9.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCl})$, $2.76(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=9.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 1.31\left(\mathrm{t}, 7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=162.7(\mathrm{CO}), 61.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 59.4\left(\mathrm{CCl}_{2}\right), 43.1(\mathrm{CHCl}), 35.7$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 14.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

IR (oil): $v=3054,2984,1744,1466,1446,1395,1374,1352,1296,1217,1158,1096,1028$, $981,919,862,833,676,532, \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{3} \mathrm{Na}_{1}\right]^{+}: 238.940383$; found 238.940520.
$\mathrm{Rf}=0.3\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, Pent : $\left.\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 10: 1\right)$.

Ethyl cis-2,2,3-trichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (cis-14)


* Denotes a product of HCl elimination, formed during chromatography. These resonances are not present in crude reaction NMR analyses.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NOESY NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ).


## Ethyl trans-2,2,3-trichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (trans-14)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $11 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (trichloroethylene as solvent ( 20 mL ); modified with: EDA added by syringe pump over $16 \mathrm{~h}, 333 \mathrm{~K}, 18 \mathrm{~h}$ ).
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=4.26\left(\mathrm{q}, \mathrm{J}=7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 4.00(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CHCl})$, $2.60(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}), 1.32\left(\mathrm{t}, 7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=162.7(\mathrm{CO}), 61.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 59.4\left(\mathrm{CCl}_{2}\right), 43.1(\mathrm{CHCl}), 35.7$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

IR (oil): $v=3051,2983,2929,2856,1740,1610,1466,1446,1378,1274,1214,1175,1027$, $967,914,852,743,530 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

HRMS (ESI+): calcd. for $\left[\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{3} \mathrm{Na}_{1}\right]^{+}: 238.940383$; found 238.940430.
$\mathrm{Rf}=0.5\left(\mathrm{SiO}_{2}\right.$, Pent : $\left.\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 10: 1\right)$.

Ethyl trans-2,2,3-trichlorocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (trans-14)


* Denotes a product of HCl elimination, formed during chromatography. These resonances are not present in crude reaction NMR analyses.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NOESY NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ).

Cyclopropanation of Trichloroethylene with EDA:
GC of the Reaction Catalyzed by $\left[\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}\right]$


| Peak | Time | $\%$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 (= mesitylene, internal standard) | 7.27 | 42.2 |
| 2 (trans-14) | 9.69 | 4.0 |
| 3 (cis-14) | 10.31 | 53.9 |

GC of the Reaction under UV Irradiation (UV lamp emitting 100-380 nm radiation, 1hr, internal temperature $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) without any Metal Catalyst


GC/MS and comparison with authentic material show that the peaks at 9.80 and 10.25 min correspond to trans- and cis-14

## Ethyl 2-(cyclohex-2-en-1-yl)acetate (15)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $28 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (cyclohexene as solvent; modified with: $\left.0.005 \mathrm{mmol} \mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{TPA})_{4}, 323 \mathrm{~K}, 4 \mathrm{~h}\right)$.

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{18}$

## Ethyl exo-bicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-7-carboxylate (16)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $74 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (cyclohexene as solvent; modified with: $\left.0.005 \mathrm{mmol} \mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{Piv})_{4}, 323 \mathrm{~K}, 4 \mathrm{~h}\right)$.

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{18}$

## Ethyl exo-bicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-7-carboxylate (17)



Isolated as a colourless oil in $29 \%$ yield by General Procedure A (cyclohexene as solvent; modified with: $\left.0.005 \mathrm{mmol} \mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{TPA})_{4}, 323 \mathrm{~K}, 4 \mathrm{~h}\right)$.

Spectroscopic data matched those reported in the literature. ${ }^{19}$
$(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CN}_{2}(18)$


Prepared according to reference $20 .{ }^{20}$
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$ ): $\delta 7.07(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, o-\mathrm{ArH}), 6.75(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, m-\mathrm{ArH})$, 3.29 (s, $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OMe}$ ) ppm.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right): \delta 158.4$ (Ar), 126.9 (Ar), 121.9 (Ar), $115.2(\mathrm{Ar}), 61.0\left(\mathrm{CN}_{2}\right)$, $54.9(\mathrm{MeO}) \mathrm{ppm}$.


## General Procedure (B) for Carbene Formation for Spectroscopic Analysis




Under rigorously anaerobic conditions: 1 mL of a stock solution of complex ( 0.005 mmol ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ at 195 K was added 0.5 mL of a stock solution of $(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CN}_{2}(0.01 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( 5.0 mL ) dropwise over 2 min . The crude, dark green reaction mixture was analysed by various spectroscopic techniques. Concentrations were adjusted as necessary by dilution with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$.

## $\mathbf{R h}_{2}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{p}-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (19)



To a solution of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(0.017 \mathrm{~g}, 0.022 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(2.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ at 195 K was slowly added a solution of $(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CN}_{2}(0.006 \mathrm{~g}, 0.024 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$, resulting in the immediate formation of a dark green solution. This solution was transferred to a pre-cooled NMR tube.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 263 \mathrm{~K}$ ): $\delta=7.81\left(\mathrm{~d}, 8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{3}\right), 7.12\left(\mathrm{t}, 7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{14}\right)$, 6.85-6.78 (overlapping, $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{4}$ and $\mathrm{H}_{13}$ ), $6.62\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{15}\right), 3.93\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{6}\right), 2.60(\mathrm{~d}, 12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4$ $\left.\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{11}\right), 2.27\left(\mathrm{~d}, 12.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{11}\right), 0.85\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{9}\right), 0.76\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{10}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 263 \mathrm{~K}$ ): $\delta=262.2$ (br. s, $\mathrm{C}_{1}$ ), 194.7 (s, $\mathrm{C}_{7}$ ), 164.9 (s, $\mathrm{C}_{5}$ ), $147.1\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{2}\right), 138.1\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{12}\right), 136.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{3}\right), 131.4\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{15}\right), 127.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{13}\right), 126.5\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{14}\right), 113.7(\mathrm{~s}$, $\left.\mathrm{C}_{4}\right), 56.1\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{6}\right), 46.9\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{11}\right), 46.2\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{8}\right), 26.1\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{10}\right), 24.5\left(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{C}_{9}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ HMBC NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 263 \mathrm{~K}$ ) of the reaction mixture. Highlighted signal represents the $\mathrm{H}_{3}-\mathrm{C}_{1}{ }^{3} \mathrm{~J}$ correlation.

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(20)$



To a solution of $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(0.004 \mathrm{~g}, 0.005 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(2.0 \mathrm{~mL})$ at 195 K was slowly added a solution of $(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CN}_{2}(0.001 \mathrm{~g}, 0.005 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{~mL})$, resulting in brown homogeneous solution which turned green over the course of 30 min . This solution was transferred to a pre-cooled NMR tube.

The sample was mostly comprised of azine (21) and $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$. Selected resonances for complex 20 could be identified by comparison with reference samples of $\mathbf{2 1}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$, and by observing its decomposition:
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 225 \mathrm{~K}$ ): $\delta=6.65$ (shoulder, $\mathrm{H}_{15}$ ), $3.91\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{6}\right), 3.08(\mathrm{~d}, 12.1 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{11}\right), 2.20\left(\mathrm{~d}, 12.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{11}\right), 1.00\left(\mathrm{~s}\right.$, overlapping, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{9}\right), 0.60\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{10}\right) \mathrm{ppm}$.

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{p}-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathbf{( 2 0 )}$


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 225 \mathrm{~K}$ ) of the reaction mixture at 225 K . \# denotes resonances attributed to $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, as confirmed by comparison to a clean sample. * denotes resonances attributed to azine 21, as confirmed by comparison to a clean sample.


Below: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 225 \mathrm{~K}$ ) of the reaction mixture at 225 K ; Above: ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 225 \mathrm{~K}$ ) of the reaction mixture after being warmed to room temperature and then returned to 225 K . Red arrows highlight the disappearance of signals attributed to complex 20.
$(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CNNC}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (21)


To a stirring purple pentane $(5 \mathrm{~mL})$ solution of $(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CN}_{2}(0.050 \mathrm{~g}, 0.197 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(0.001 \mathrm{~g}, 0.001 \mathrm{mmol})$ resulting in the formation of a red solution which precipitated a white solid over the course of 30 min . After 1 h , volatiles were removed and the brown powder was re-precipitated from $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ and pentane, washed with pentane and dried in vacuo to yield a cream powder. Yield $=0.034 \mathrm{~g}(72 \%)$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=7.48(\mathrm{~d}, 8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, o-\mathrm{ArH}), 7.33(\mathrm{~d}, 8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, o-\mathrm{ArH}), 6.91$ (d, $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, m-\mathrm{ArH}), 6.82$ (d, $8.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, m-\mathrm{ArH}), 3.84$ (s, $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OMe}), 3.81$ ( $\mathrm{s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{OMe}$ ) ppm.
${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (100 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right): \delta=160.7$ (p-Ar), 159.6 (p-Ar), $159.2\left(\mathrm{CN}_{2}\right), 131.6$ (i-Ar), 131.4 ( $o-\mathrm{Ar}$ ), 130.3 ( $o-\mathrm{Ar}$ ), 128.0 ( $i-\mathrm{Ar}$ ), 113.3 ( $m-\mathrm{Ar}$ ), 113.0 ( $m-\mathrm{Ar}$ ), 55.3 ( OMe ), 55.2 ( OMe ) ppm.

IR (solid): $v=3035,3009,2968,2838,1608,1580,1505,1325,1299,1244,1167,1156,1117$, $1027,843,832,805,742,611,567 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

## $(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \mathrm{CNNC}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(21)$




## THEORY AND SPECTROSCOPY

Geometric Structure of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$. The optimized (BP86/Def2-TZVP) structures of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ are shown in Figure S1. The two esp ligands are oriented such that they form a boat conformation. In the case of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2}$, the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{O}$ distances are not identical and amount to $2.058 \AA$ and $2.064 \AA$, with the lower $\mathrm{Rh}^{2+}$ in Figure S 1 featuring the longer Rh-O bond distances. This difference, albeit small, is significant and has its origin in the lower symmetry of the second coordination sphere. The $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ distance is calculated to be $2.385 \AA$, which is slightly longer than the distance of $2.275 \AA$ between any two oxygen atoms of the same carboxylate, putting a minor strain on the paddlewheel.

A comparison of the optimized structures with experimental data is possible to some extent, although the crystal structure of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\text { esp })_{2}$ features an additional acetone molecule axially coordinated to each Rh centre. ${ }^{21}$ The Rh-Rh bond distance of $2.382 \AA$ compares well to the calculated value. The crystal structure features both esp ligands in a chair conformation and, like in the calculation, small differences are still present in the crystallographically determined $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{O}$ distances $(2.03 \AA, 2.04 \AA, 2.04 \AA$ and $2.05 \AA$ ), whereby the shortest and longest distances occur for Rh-O bonds trans to each other. A selection of bond distances is summarized in Table S1.

For $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, the larger radius of $\mathrm{Bi}^{2+}$ gives rise to a longer $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{O}$ optimized bond distance of $2.408 \AA$, and thereby a more distorted paddlewheel. The Bi-Rh distance of $2.538 \AA$ is much larger than the distance between the two oxygen atoms within the same carboxylate $(2.275 \AA)$. Therefore, whereas the O-Rh-O fragments are able to form an almost linear arrangement (angle larger than $176^{\circ}$ ), the O-Bi-O fragments are more bent (angle of $161^{\circ}$ ), as is shown in Figure S1.

The crystallographically determined structure of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ displays a $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ distance of $2.53(1) \AA$ (this value represents a weighted average of the two Bi-Rh bond lengths determined in
the disordered solid-state structure, vide supra), similar to that found in the optimized geometry. The experimentally determined $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{O}$ distances are all slightly different, but fall within the ranges of 1.97-2.06 $\AA$ and 2.36-2.42 $\AA$, respectively. The crystallographically determined solid state structure also features a chair-like conformation of the two esp ligands, in contrast to the boat-like structure obtained by the geometry optimization.



Figure S1. Geometry optimized structures of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}($ top $)$ and $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ (bottom).

## Table S1. Selected Structural Parameters (A) of Geometry Optimized and Crystallographically Determined Structures

|  | $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\text { esp })_{\mathbf{2}}$ |  | BiRh(esp)2 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DFT | Exp $^{\mathbf{a}}$ | DFT | Exp $^{\mathbf{b}}$ |
| M-Rh | 2.385 | 2.382 | 2.538 | $2.53(1)$ |
| Rh-O | 2.058 | $2.02-2.04$ | 2.051 | $1.97-2.06$ |
| M-O | 2.064 | $2.02-2.04$ | 2.408 | $2.36-2.42$ |

[^0]Geometric Structure of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(19)$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(20)$. The geometry optimized structure of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{1 9})$, calculated at the BP86 level of theory, is given in Figure S2. It closely resembles the experimentally determined crystal structures of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{TPA})_{4} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}\left(p-\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{NPh}\right)_{2}$ with similar $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ bond lengths (Table S2). ${ }^{20,22}$


Figure S2. Geometry optimized structures of (left) $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{1 9})$ and (right) $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{2 0})$.

Table S2. Selected Structural Parameters of Geometry Optimized and Crystallographically Determined Structures

|  | 19 |  | 20 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DFT | Exp ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | DFT |
| M-Rh | 2.477 Å | 2.438 A | 2.656 A |
| Rh-C | $2.022 \AA$ | 2.021 A | 2.139 A |
| $\angle \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ | $179.9^{\circ}$ | $177.4^{\circ}$ | $179.0^{\circ}$ |
| Rh-O | 2.087 A | 2.051 A | 2.088 A |
| M-O | $2.064 \AA$ | 2.043 A | 2.420 A |
| C-C $\mathrm{Ch}_{\text {m }}$ | 1.449 Å | 1.447 Å | 1.444 A |

[^1]The bismuth-rhodium analogue $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2} \quad$ (20), as before, exhibits significantly longer Bi-O bond distances than 19 owing to the larger ionic radius of Bi as compared to Rh. The paddlewheel core is essentially unchanged with respect to the starting compound.

A significant effect arising from changes in the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Rh}$ interaction relates to the elongated $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ distance of $2.139 \AA$ for complex 20 as compared to $2.022 \AA$ for complex 19, which is a first and significant indication that the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ cores interact in a fundamentally different way with the carbene ligand. Other noteworthy features are that the carbene ligand adopts a staggered conformation with respect to the carboxylate ligands in both complexes. Weak interactions between aryl C-H bonds and carboxylates are also apparent, in accordance with previous calculations as well as available experimental evidence. ${ }^{20,22}$

Electronic Structure of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$. The $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ complex features two $\mathrm{Rh}^{2+}, 4 \mathrm{~d}^{7}$ ions. The complex (as well as all related complexes considered in this study) is diamagnetic, as confirmed by NMR spectroscopy. Quantum chemical calculations have been performed to investigate the electronic structure of this complex. Attempts to find a broken-symmetry singlet wave function invariably led to convergence to a closed-shell singlet state.

The overall 4d orbital structure as given by the DFT calculations is shown in Figure S3. Assignment of the orbitals in terms of symmetry labels has been performed under approximate $\mathrm{D}_{4 \mathrm{~h}}$ symmetry of the first coordination sphere. Virtually every molecular orbital of $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ character is evenly delocalized over both Rh ions. The HOMO is a $\delta$ antibonding orbital of $\mathrm{b}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ symmetry. The LUMO comprises the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh} \sigma^{*}$ orbital. The most stabilized orbital with $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ character is the Rh-Rh $\sigma$ orbital. When considering the orbital energies as a crude approximation, the $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^{*}$ transition is expected to be in the UV region of the electronic spectrum. The other
two unoccupied orbitals are formed by the $1 b_{2 u}$ and $1 b_{1 g}$ set, which is indeed expected for a square planar coordination geometry.

As a final note, since it is relevant for the observed spectroscopy (vide infra), a set of orbitals located on the aromatic part of the esp ligand has been located in between the $1 \mathrm{e}_{\mathrm{u}}$ and $1 \mathrm{~b}_{2 \mathrm{~g}}$ orbitals.

$\frac{1 \mathrm{a}_{2 \mathrm{u}}}{-3.81}$

$1 \mathrm{~b}_{14}$
$\uparrow \downarrow \downarrow$



Figure S3. Molecular orbital scheme for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ with symmetry labels under approximate $\mathrm{D}_{4 \mathrm{~h}}$ symmetry. The ligand structure has been truncated for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

Electronic Structure of $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$. As with the $\operatorname{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ complex, $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}\left(\operatorname{Bi}^{2+}, 6 p^{1}\right.$ and $\mathrm{Rh}^{2+}, 4 \mathrm{~d}^{7}$ ) is diamagnetic and calculations did not give rise to broken symmetry solutions. The frontier $\mathrm{Bi}(6 \mathrm{p})$ and $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ centered molecular orbitals are depicted in Figure S 4 and, in contrast to the corresponding dirhodium complex, the $\mathrm{Bi}(6 \mathrm{p})$ and $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals are notably localized. Similarly to $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2}$, the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh} \sigma^{*}$ orbital constitutes the LUMO and the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh} \sigma$ orbital is lowest in energy within the $\operatorname{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})-\operatorname{Bi}(6 \mathrm{p})$ set. The $\sigma^{*}$ orbital has more $\operatorname{Bi}\left(6 \mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{z}}\right)$ character and the $\sigma$ orbital has mainly $\operatorname{Rh}\left(4 \mathrm{~d}_{\mathrm{z}^{2}}\right)$ character. Within the $\operatorname{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ set, only the $1 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ orbital is unoccupied, as is again to be expected for a square planar environment. The 2e set of $\operatorname{Bi}(6 p)$ orbitals is also unoccupied.

In a similar manner to the dirhodium case, it is worth noting that a set of esp-centered $\pi$ orbitals has been found between the occupied $1 a_{1}$ and 1 e orbitals.



Figure S4. Molecular orbital scheme for $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$ with symmetry labels under approximate $\mathrm{C}_{4 \mathrm{v}}$ symmetry. The structure has been truncated for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

Electronic Structure of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{p}-\mathbf{M e O P h})_{2}$ (19). The electronic structure of the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ carbene complex (19) largely mirrors that of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$. The carbene is expected to engage in a $\sigma$-donating interaction with the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2} 1 \mathrm{a}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ orbital. Additionally, $\pi$-backbonding is expected to occur, splitting each of the Rh e sets into two non-degenerate orbitals whose shape depends on the particular orientation of the carbene ligand, which in this complex takes up a staggered conformation.

Inspection of the resulting $\operatorname{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals and the carbene $\pi^{*}$ orbital (Figure S5) reveals exactly these interactions, with $\sigma$ donation of the carbene $\left(1 a_{1}\right)$ and $\pi$ back-donation from the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{e}_{\mathrm{g}}$ orbitals, now labelled as $2 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ and $2 \mathrm{~b}_{2}$ owing to the reduction in symmetry to $\mathrm{C}_{2 \mathrm{~V}}$ upon carbene binding. Otherwise, the orbital structure largely parallels that of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$.

Other noteworthy aspects of the orbital structure are that the LUMO is now largely localized on the carbene $\pi^{*}$ orbital; the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh} \sigma^{*}$ orbital, even more destabilized by the presence of the carbene, is now the LUMO+2. Similarly, the Rh-Rh $1 \mathrm{a}_{1} \sigma$ orbital is also destabilized and no longer lowest in energy. Rather, the $2 \mathrm{~b}_{2}$ orbital now takes up this role. Most importantly, in contrast to $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, the two Rh atoms are no longer equivalent, as is reflected by their unequal contributions to all orbitals in Figure S5.


Figure S5. Molecular orbital scheme for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (19) with symmetry labels under approximate $\mathrm{C}_{2 \mathrm{~V}}$ symmetry. The ligand structure has been truncated for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

Electronic Structure of $\mathbf{B i R h}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\boldsymbol{p}-\mathbf{M e O P h})_{2}$ (20). The molecular orbital structure of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{2 0})$ is summarized in Figure S 6 . Similar to the dirhodium case, the orbital structure largely parallels that of the $\operatorname{BiRh}(\text { esp })_{2}$ starting complex with the additional carbene $\sigma$ donating and $\pi^{*}$ back-donating interactions. The former interaction destabilizes the $\mathrm{a}_{1}$ set, whereas interaction with the carbene $\pi^{*}$ orbital lifts the degeneracy of the e set. The HOMO is the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh} \sigma$ bonding $1 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ orbital; the carbene $\pi^{*}$ orbital $\left(2 \mathrm{~b}_{1}\right)$ constitutes the LUMO. The $1 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$, $1 \mathrm{~b}_{2}$ and $1 \mathrm{a}_{2}$ orbitals show virtually no $\pi$ or $\delta$ interactions between Bi and Rh , respectively.

Also in this complex, a set of esp-centred $\pi$ orbitals lie between the $\operatorname{Bi}(6 p)$ and $\operatorname{Rh}(4 d)$ set. In this case, the esp contribution is especially apparent, since the $\mathrm{Bi} 2 \mathrm{~b}_{2}$ orbital mixes quite strongly with one of the esp-centered $\pi$ orbitals.


Figure S6. Molecular orbital scheme for $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (20) with symmetry labels under approximate $\mathrm{C}_{2 \mathrm{~V}}$ symmetry. The ligand structure has been truncated where possible for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

In-Situ Generation of Complexes 19 and 20. Solutions of the 'donor-donor' carbene complexes 19 and 20 were generated at low temperatures upon addition of a purple $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ solution of bis(para-methoxyphenyl)diazomethane (18) to $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ solutions of the green $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ or yellow $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ paddlewheel complexes (Scheme S 1$)$. NMR studies showed that a stoichiometric reaction of $\mathbf{1 8}$ with either paddlewheel complex produces a mixture of starting complex, carbene complex and diazine 21, whose exact composition is highly sensitive to the reaction conditions (temperature, speed of addition of 18, concentration). Solutions of complex 20 decayed (to $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and diazine 21) much more readily than the corresponding dirhodium complex 19. Reference UV-Vis spectra were therefore collected of all starting materials and products such that, in the following spectroscopic studies, the spectroscopic signatures of the intermediate carbene species could be unambiguously identified.

## Scheme S1. Reaction of 18 with $\operatorname{MRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{Rh}$ or Bi)




Figure S7. Overview of the absorption spectra recorded at $-45^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ of (a) a mixture of $\mathbf{2 0}$, $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and 21 (starting concentration of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}: 20 \mu \mathrm{M}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ), (b) $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ (in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ), (c) 21 (in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ), (d) estimated spectrum of complex 20, (e) a mixture of $\mathbf{1 9}, \mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\text { esp })_{2}$ and 21 (starting concentration of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}: 20 \mu \mathrm{M}$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ), (f) $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}\left(\right.$ in $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$, (g) 21 (in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ), (h) estimated spectrum of complex 21. A Gaussian deconvolution of all structural features is shown in blue and red.

UV-Vis Spectroscopy of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\text { esp })_{2}$. UV-Vis spectra of $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ are shown in Figure S 7 b and S 7 f . Both spectra have a similar appearance and consist of multiple intense bands in the UV, at energies above $30,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$ complex also features two less intense bands in the region between $25,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $30,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. For the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ complex, these bands are also present, but have a reduced molar absorption coefficient and one band is significantly bathochromically shifted to $15,881 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

The spectra have been fitted and deconvoluted by Gaussians. Oscillator strengths and transition energies of the Gaussian bands are included in Table S3.

Table S3. Summary of Gaussian Deconvolutions of the UV-Vis Spectra of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$, $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2}, 19$ and 20

|  | $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ |  | $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ |  | 19 |  | 20 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Band | Center <br> $\left[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right]$ | $f_{\text {exp }}$ | Center <br> $\left[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right]$ | $f_{\text {exp }}$ | Center <br> $\left[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right]$ | $f_{\text {exp }}$ | Center <br> $\left[\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right]$ | $f_{\text {exp }}$ |
| 1 | 15,881 | 0.004 | 26,422 | 0.016 | 14,094 | 0.11 | 14,190 | 0.009 |
| 2 | 25,000 | 0.004 | 28,555 | 0.008 | 16,561 | 0.13 | 24,102 | 0.235 |
| 3 | 32,444 | 0.107 | 34,980 | 0.095 | 25,007 | 1.00 | 27,480 | 0.355 |
| 4 | 35,216 | 0.031 | 38,955 | 0.132 | 29,324 | 0.71 | 29,905 | 0.310 |
| 5 | 38,746 | 0.134 |  |  |  |  | 33,729 | 0.560 |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 36,263 | 0.300 |
| 7 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 39,985 | 0.590 |

UV-Vis Spectroscopy of Diazine 21. The organic product of the reaction, diazine ( $\mathrm{NC}(p$ $\left.\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}\right)_{2}(\mathbf{2 1})$, was isolated and its UV-Vis spectrum recorded. The spectrum (Figures S7c and S7g) features two broad bands with energies above $25,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and molar absorption coefficients of about $3000 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The spectrum can be well deconvoluted by 3 Gaussians.

The UV-Vis spectrum of $\mathbf{2 1}$ is required for a subtraction procedure in the next section but otherwise does not directly relate to the topic of investigating the electronic structures of $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and the carbene complexes $\mathbf{1 9}$ and 20. For this reason, the bands in Figures S7c and S7g have not been further analysed, nor have quantum chemical calculations been performed for 21.

UV-Vis Spectroscopy of Reaction Mixtures. UV-Vis spectra of reaction mixtures that feature the starting complexes, the diazine product 21 and the carbene complexes 20 and $\mathbf{1 9}$ are shown in Figures S7a and S7e, respectively. The spectra feature several new bands that do not overlap with any of those of the already discussed species. In particular, a weak band at about $23,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is
present in spectrum S 7 a . In spectrum S 7 e , there are two intense bands at about $24,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $29,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, as well as a weaker composite band at $15,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Since these bands do not overlap with any of the bands of $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}, \mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ or 21, they can be confidently assigned to the carbene complexes 19 and 20.

Estimation of the UV-Vis Spectra of Complexes 19 and 20. In order to thoroughly analyze the electronic structures of the carbene complexes $\mathbf{1 9}$ and 20, it would be advantageous to have knowledge of the UV-Vis spectra of the pure compounds. However, both carbene species are highly reactive intermediates and could not be isolated or attained in pure form, with the composition of reaction mixtures being very sensitive to the reaction conditions.

The procedure of estimating the UV-Vis spectrum of the carbene complex from a mixture is non-trivial and is therefore carefully described in this and the following paragraph. The main issue is that, mathematically, the task requires additional information: nothing mathematically speaks against assigning the spectra in Figures S7a and S7e to the pure compounds 20 and 19. The reason for this is that the spectral overlap of the components contributing to the total UV-Vis spectrum in Figures S7a and S7e is principally unknown.

In an effort to extract information from the absorption spectrum, an attempt was made to obtain the absorption spectrum of pure $\mathbf{1 9}$ and pure $\mathbf{2 0}$ from the spectra of the mixtures by using additional information from NMR spectroscopy. NMR samples prepared analogously to those prepared for UV-Vis measurements showed that a stoichiometric reaction of $\mathbf{1 8}$ with $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ leads to mixtures containing about $80 \%$ of $\mathbf{1 9}$, whereas reaction with $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ results in mixtures containing only $30 \%$ of 20. In Figure S7a, a much larger component of organic product 21 does indeed seem to be present than in Figure S7e, in agreement with the NMR data. Using
this information and additionally constraining the subtraction procedure to not lead to negative absorptions allows for an estimation of the spectra of the carbene complexes.

The as such obtained spectrum for complex 19 (S7h) has a more intense absorption spectrum in comparison to complex 20 with two intense bands at $25,007 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\left(\varepsilon=85,000 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$ and $29,324 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\left(\varepsilon=50,000 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$. In contrast, complex 20 features a band of much lower intensity in the corresponding region, but displays more structure in the blue part of the spectrum (S7d). Despite the complexes' intense green colors, only weak absorptions were apparent in the $600 \mathrm{~nm}-800 \mathrm{~nm}$ range, with the dirhodium carbene complex 19 again having the more intense spectral features (19: $v=16,561 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varepsilon=11,445 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} ; v=14,094 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, $\left.\varepsilon=10,300 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} . \mathbf{2 0}: v=14,190 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, \varepsilon=290 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$. The spectra of $\mathbf{1 9}$ and $\mathbf{2 0}$ have been deconvoluted by 4 and 7 Gaussians, respectively, to obtain the centers of the bands and oscillators strengths of the transitions, as indicated in Figures S7d, S7h and Table S3.

Although the estimated spectra in Figures S7d and S7h have to be used with caution, it is clear that both $\mathbf{1 9}$ and 20 have a well-defined and non-overlapping electronic transition at $24,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (415 nm). This allows for selective resonant excitation of $\mathbf{1 9}$ and 20 and thereby selective resonance enhancement by 3 to 4 orders of magnitude with respect to the other components of the reaction mixtures in resonance Raman spectroscopy.

Term Schemes. Based on the calculated electronic structures, term schemes for all four complexes have been constructed. They are given in Figures S8-S11. The figures, with labelling based on idealized symmetry of the first coordination sphere, include a summary of dipole allowed transitions, as indicated with red arrows. When considering electronic excitations for resonance Raman spectroscopy, it is noteworthy that only the $z$ polarized transitions are expected
to be accompanied with a change in the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Rh}$ or $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ bond lengths; the x and y polarized dipole-allowed transitions will likely not induce a large geometry change.

Both starting compounds feature dipole forbidden transitions which are lower in energy than the first dipole-allowed transition. Coordination of the carbene opens up the possibility of additional dipole-allowed transitions into the carbene-centered $\pi^{*}$ orbital. All charge transfer transitions into the carbene $\pi^{*}$ orbital are expected to change the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ bond length. As such, the carbene complexes are expected to give rise to large resonance Raman signals. In contrast, resonance enhancements are only expected for the starting compounds with z-polarized transitions which are expected to occur in the UV part of the spectrum. The term schemes therefore predict that the starting complexes will have poor resonance Raman enhancement when excited in the visible region.


Figure S8. Term scheme for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$. Dipole allowed transitions and their polarization are indicated in red. Note that the length of the arrows may not represent the actual order in which the optical transitions appear in the electronic spectrum.

Orbital picture
$\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$


Figure S9. Term scheme for $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$. Dipole allowed transitions and their polarization are indicated in red. Note that the length of the arrows may not represent the actual order in which the optical transitions appear in the electronic spectrum.



Figure S10. Term scheme for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (19). Dipole allowed transitions to the LUMO $\left(3 b_{1}\right)$ and their polarization are indicated in red. Note that the length of the arrows may not represent the actual order in which the optical transitions appear in the electronic spectrum.

Orbital picture
$\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ $\mathrm{C}_{2 v}$ symmetry

| $\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{y}}$ | $2 \mathrm{~b}_{2}$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{x}}$ | $3 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ | - |
| $\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{z}}, \mathrm{d}_{2}\right)$ | $\sigma^{*}$ | $3 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ |
| $\mathrm{~d}_{\mathrm{x}^{2}-\mathrm{y}^{2}}$ | $2 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ | - |
|  |  |  |

$\mathrm{C} \pi * \quad 2 \mathrm{~b}_{1} \quad-$


State picture


Figure S11. Term scheme for $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(20)$. Dipole allowed transitions to the LUMO $\left(2 b_{1}\right)$ and their polarization are indicated in red. Note that the length of the arrows may not represent the actual order in which the optical transitions appear in the electronic spectrum.

TDDFT Calculations of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$. TDDFT calculations have been performed for the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ starting complexes (Figures S 12 and S13). The calculated spectra reasonably well reproduce the bands observed in the experimental spectrum, as well as their intensities.

Inspection of the calculated difference densities of the most intense transitions, as well as of the natural transition orbitals for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, allow for an assignment of bands 1 and 2 to $2 \mathrm{e}_{\mathrm{g}} \rightarrow$ $1 \mathrm{a}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ and $1 \mathrm{e}_{\mathrm{g}} \rightarrow 1 \mathrm{~b}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ transitions, respectively. In the UV region, multiple transitions from the carboxylate $\left(2 \mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{x}}, 2 \mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{y}}\right) \mathrm{e}_{\mathrm{g}}$ sets into the $1 \mathrm{a}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ orbital are present. Band 4 of the Gaussian deconvolution unfortunately does not have a clear equivalent in the TDDFT calculations to allow for a definite assignment. Still, it is clear that bands 1 and 2 are d-d in nature, whereas bands 3 and 5 are oxygen-to-rhodium charge transfer (LMCT) transitions. One should also note that d-d transitions can be dipole allowed, or metal-to-metal in nature, in such bimetallic systems since a center of inversion is located in between the two Rh ions.


Figure S12. B3LYP, zora-def2-TZVP TDDFT calculation (bottom) of the absorption spectrum of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$; Gaussian deconvoluted experimental spectrum (top) of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$; difference densities for the transitions at $11,369 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 24,702 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 33,713-34,960 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $37,035 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (red: negative; yellow: positive). The ligand structure has been truncated for reasons of clarity.

For $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2}$, bands 1 and 2 correspond to the $1 \mathrm{e} \rightarrow 2 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ transitions. However, both transitions feature a difference density with a significant deviation from idealized symmetry induced by the second coordination sphere, in that the positive density does not describe a pure $\mathrm{a}_{1}$ $\left(d_{z^{2}}\right)$ orbital, but takes on a flatter " $d_{z^{2}-x^{2}}$ " shape, i.e., the $1 b_{1}$ orbital mixes into the acceptor orbital. Bands 3 and 4 are $1 \mathrm{~b}_{2} \rightarrow 2 \mathrm{e}$ and $1 \mathrm{e} \rightarrow 2 \mathrm{e}$ transitions, respectively, and are best classified as Rh -to-Bi charge transfer transitions.

As already predicted by the term schemes, the d-d nature of transitions 1 and 2 will not induce large geometric changes. Therefore, excitation in the visible range is expected to afford small, if any, resonance Raman enhancements.


Figure S13. B3LYP, zora-def2-TZVP TDDFT calculation (bottom) of the absorption spectrum of $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$; Gaussian deconvoluted experimental spectrum (top) of $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$; difference densities (red: negative; yellow: positive) for the transitions at $26,537 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 26,675 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, $35,869 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $39,864 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The ligand structure has been truncated where possible for reasons of clarity.

TDDFT Calculations of Complexes 19 and 20. TDDFT calculations and difference densities for the most pronounced transitions in the electronic spectra of the carbene complexes $\mathbf{1 9}$ and $\mathbf{2 0}$ are given in Figures S 14 and S 15 , respectively. The agreement between the estimated experimental spectra and the TDDFT calculations is sufficient to warrant further interpretation.

For complex 19, as predicted by the term schemes, the weak, low energy absorptions (bands 1 and 2) are weak Rh (distal) to carbene transitions of $2 \mathrm{~b}_{1} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ and $1 \mathrm{a}_{1} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ character. The more intense bands 3 and 4 are characterized by charge transfer transitions. The former concerns a Rh (proximal) to carbene MLCT transition of $1 \mathrm{~b}_{2} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{~b}_{1}$ character, the latter is a mixed Rh (distal) to Rh (proximal) charge transfer transition for which the $2 \mathrm{a}_{2} \rightarrow 2 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ and $1 \mathrm{a}_{1} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{a}_{1}$ transitions contribute.


Figure S14. B3LYP, zora-def2-TZVP TDDFT calculation (bottom) of the absorption spectrum of complex 19; Gaussian deconvoluted, estimated spectrum (top) of complex 19; difference densities (red: negative; yellow: positive) for the transitions at $15,421 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 15,541 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, $27,144 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $31,185 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

For complex 20, band 1 represents a Bi to carbene charge transfer transition of $1 a_{1} \rightarrow 2 b_{1}$ character which is dipole forbidden. Band 2 is assigned to a $\pi \rightarrow \pi^{*}\left(2 b_{1}\right)$ transition involving the esp ligand and the carbene ligand. This transition has oscillator strength because a carbene $\pi$ orbital mixes with a $\pi$ orbital of the esp ligand. As such, the transition is best described as a classic ligand based $\pi \rightarrow \pi^{*}$ transition with oscillator strength derived from the carbene part of the donor and acceptor orbitals. Bands 3, 4 and 5 are all dipole allowed. Band 3 is a Rh (proximal) to carbene MLCT transition of $1 b_{1} \rightarrow 2 b_{1}$ character. Band 4 represents a composite $\pi \rightarrow \pi^{*}\left(2 b_{1}\right)$ transition involving the $\pi$ systems of the esp and carbene ligands. Band 5 is best described as a combination of Bi to Rh and carbene to Rh charge transfers $\left(1 \mathrm{a}_{1} \rightarrow 3 \mathrm{a}_{1}\right)$. Bands 6 and 7 do not have clearly identifiable equivalents in the TDDFT calculation.

(1) $14,087 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$

(2) $26,072 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$
(3) $28,292 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$


(4) $29,776 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$
(5) $33,617 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$


Figure S15. B3LYP, zora-def2-TZVP TDDFT calculation (bottom) of the absorption spectrum of complex 20 (shifted by $+3000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ); Gaussian deconvoluted, estimated spectrum of complex 20 (top); difference densities (red: negative; yellow: positive) for the transitions at $14,087 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, $26,072 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 28,292 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 29,776 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $33,617 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The ligand structure has been truncated where possible for reasons of clarity.

## Summary of the Nature of the Optical Transitions. Comparison of the electronic spectra of all

 four complexes with TDDFT calculations has allowed for assignment of all prominent bands in the electronic spectra. Most of these transitions involve Bi and Rh centered orbitals and, for the carbene species, the carbene centered $\pi^{*}$ orbital as an acceptor orbital. However, numerous additional bands are also present which are ligand centered $\left(\pi \rightarrow \pi^{*}\right)$ in nature.For $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, the electronic spectra feature intense bands in the UV region and weak bands in the visible part of the spectrum. The latter correspond to d-d transitions whose molar absorption coefficients can still be up to $2,000 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ because of the bimetallic nature of the complexes. Nevertheless, these transitions are not expected to give rise to resonance Raman enhancement because d-d transitions are not likely to give rise to geometry changes of the molecule in the excited state. Resonance Raman enhancement is thus doubly penalized for these transitions which are (a) dipole forbidden and (b) give rise to small geometry changes. Resonance Raman enhancement is therefore expected to be only obtainable by excitation close to $40,000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}(250 \mathrm{~nm})$, for which no laser is available in our laboratories.

For the carbene complexes 19 and 20, the electronic spectra are richer and the situation for resonance Raman spectroscopy looks much more promising. The presence of the carbene $\pi^{*}$ acceptor orbital provides a new manifold of low-lying dipole allowed transitions which are Rh-to-carbene MLCT in nature. Furthermore, transitions in this manifold are z polarized and are expected to change the Rh-C and M-Rh bond distances upon electronic excitation.

When comparing the dirhodium and bismuth-rhodium variations of both the starting compounds and the carbene complexes, it becomes clear that the dirhodium complexes feature a richer and more mixed manifold of electronic transitions involving the 4 d orbitals of both rhodium centers. In contrast, the bismuth-rhodium variations feature essentially disjointed sets of
$\operatorname{Rh}(4 d)$ and $\operatorname{Bi}(6 p)$ orbitals (with the exception of the $4 d_{z^{2}}$ and $6 p_{z} a_{1}$ pair). It is important to note that 4 d orbital mixing in the case of the dirhodium complexes results in the anti-bonding orbitals being destabilized and thus closer in energy to the LUMO than is the case of the bismuthrhodium complexes.

Resonance Raman Spectroscopy of $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$ and BiRh(esp) $)_{2}$. Resonance Raman spectra of the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ complexes are shown in Figure S 16 . As expected, the resonance enhancement is lackluster.


Figure S16. Normalized Raman spectra of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, recorded at 355 nm and 407 nm excitation (laserpower: $10 \mathrm{~mW} ; \mathrm{T}=100 \mathrm{~K}$ ).

The spectra recorded at 355 nm feature weak bands around $1,600 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. For $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, an additional band appears at $320 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. For $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, bands at $300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ are apparent just above noise level. At excitation at 407 nm , neither complex gave Raman spectra with interpretable features.

Resonance Raman Spectroscopy of Complexes 19 and 20. Resonance Raman spectra were recorded for both carbene complexes upon selective electronic excitation with lasers at energies of $355 \mathrm{~nm}, 407 \mathrm{~nm}, 457 \mathrm{~nm}$ and 660 nm ( 730 nm in the case of $\mathbf{2 0}$ ). In stark contrast to the starting complexes, vastly different vibrational spectra were obtained at each excitation wavelength with especially rich spectral features evident for both complexes upon excitation at 407 nm (Figure S17) and also for 19 at 660 nm , albeit with a lesser degree of resonant enhancement. Very few signals could be detected at 355 nm and 457 nm , with the latter wavelength providing essentially non-resonant excitation. Importantly, the observation of only a few signals at these wavelengths is a strong indication that no other Raman scatterers are present in the reaction mixture and that all signals observed at 407 nm excitation do stem from the carbene intermediates 19 and 20.

As shown in Figure S17, the resonance Raman spectra of $\mathbf{1 9}$ and 20 recorded at 407 nm excitation are very similar in appearance and display intense bands from $200 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ to $1,600 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. A list of prominent bands is given in Table S4. A description and formal assignment of these bands is provided in the following section.


Figure S17. Normalized Resonance Raman spectra recorded at different wavelengths of (a) $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{2 0})$ and (b) $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}$ (19).

Table S4. Vibrational Bands ( $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) in the Resonance Raman Spectra of 19 and 20 Recorded with 407 nm Excitation.

|  | $\mathbf{2 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 9}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $v_{1}$ | 193 |  |
| $v_{2}$ | 261 | 237 |
| $v_{3}$ | 393 | 317 |
| $v_{4}$ | 442 | 412 |
| $v_{5}$ | 584 | 533 |
| $v_{6}$ | 602 | 597 |
| $v_{7}$ | 643 | 637 |
| $v_{8}$ | 711 |  |
| $v_{9}$ | 792 | 789 |
| $v_{10}$ | 837 | 834 |
| $v_{11}$ | 878 |  |
| $v_{12}$ | 896 | 893 |
| $v_{13}$ | 970 | 965 |
| $v_{14}$ | 1073 | 1026 |
| $v_{15}$ | 1129 | 1122 |
| $v_{16}$ | 1181 |  |
| $v_{17}$ | 1271 | 1261 |
| $v_{18}$ |  | 1288 |
| $v_{19}$ | 1331 | 1321 |
| $v_{20}$ | 1503 | 1509 |
| $v_{21}$ | 1520 | 1561 |
| $v_{22}$ | 1597 | 1599 |

Assignment of Bands for $\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}$. Both starting compounds gave Raman spectra with a poor signal-to-noise ratio. However, at 355 nm excitation, a few bands could be discerned. TDDFT calculations (Figures S12 and S13) indicate that the bands at 355 nm comprise a large number of transitions with small oscillator strength, thereby inhibiting analysis of which transitions produce the observed resonance enhancement. For this reason, we only compare the vibrational frequencies and not the intensities of the bands.

In $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}$ (esp) $)_{2}$, a band at $320 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ appears in the experimental spectrum with 355 nm excitation. Interestingly, calculations indicate that the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching frequency occurs at $346 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. The $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ complex displays two bands at approximately $300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ which are just above noise level. The calculations predict the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching frequency to occur at $283 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. In both complexes, the good agreement between calculation and experiment (a discrepancy of $30 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is within the error of the calculations) ${ }^{6 \mathrm{~b}}$ suggests that we observe a small resonant enhancement of the $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching frequencies upon electronic excitation at 355 nm .

The bands observed around $1,600 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ are at a frequency consistent with phenyl vibrations, and this is indeed reproduced by the calculations. Their resonant enhancement is due to excitation of electronic transitions involving the numerous phenyl-based orbitals of similar energies to the frontier metal-based orbitals (vide supra). A detailed interpretation of these ligand-based spectroscopic features is beyond the scope of this manuscript.

Assignment of Bands for Complexes 19 and 20. Of particular interest for the carbene complexes are the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}, \mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ vibrational frequencies expected around $200 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, $300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $850 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, respectively. These signals are expected to become enhanced in intensity when electronic transitions associated with significant changes to the corresponding normal
coordinates are excited. Therefore, excitation of bands 3 and 4 for complex 20 and of bands 4 and 5 for complex 19 are predicted to induce a change of the Rh-C and M-Rh bond lengths.

A full and reliable assignment of the experimentally observed bands in the Raman spectra requires critical comparison to quantum chemical calculations with respect to both frequency and intensity. In that respect, one of the first things to mention is that for resonance Raman spectroscopy, one can by no means expect good agreement between experiment and theory by considering any single resonant excitation in isolation. A few general remarks are in order. While it is certainly helpful to deconvolute the UV-Vis spectra with a limited set of Gaussians and assign the Gaussians' peak positions to those calculated transitions that dominate the oscillator strength, it is clear that many more transitions of lower oscillator strength involving different orbitals are also present and will also be excited by the same laser irradiation. The experimental resonance enhancement of these low oscillator strength transitions can still be significant if the corresponding Raman activity is sufficiently large. Given these boundary conditions, the calculations of the resonance Raman spectra (Figure S18) show remarkably good agreement between experiment and theory with respect to both the vibrational frequencies and intensities.

Analogously to $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$, significant resonant enhancement of phenyl-based vibrations (approximately $1600 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) was observed for complexes 19 and 20. In light of the arguments in the previous paragraph, this is easily understood by noting the presence of numerous phenyl-based orbitals with energies similar to those of the metal-based orbitals of each complex (vide supra).

While the frequency fingerprints of $\mathbf{1 9}$ and $\mathbf{2 0}$ are relatively accurately reproduced by calculation, simulation of the intensities is difficult for the afore-mentioned reasons. Nonetheless, the Raman spectrum calculated for complex 19 upon simulated excitation of the $\mathrm{Rh} \rightarrow \mathrm{C}$ MLCT
transition (band 3 in the UV-Vis spectrum) reproduces the intensities in the lower frequency part of the spectrum remarkably well. The most enhanced frequencies can clearly be identified by comparison of experiment and theory. The Rh-Rh stretching vibration delocalizes over multiple modes and contributes to numerous bands between $283 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $305 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (Figure S19). More importantly, the calculated vibrations with Rh-C character are found at $585 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 771 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $873 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and these bands are indeed clearly enhanced in the experimental spectra (Figure S18). Calculations indicate that for complex 20, the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching frequency contributes to modes at $177 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $251 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; the Rh-C frequency is found at $759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $853 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ (Figure S20). Gratifyingly, there is good agreement between experiment and theory (Figure S18).


Figure S18. Experimental (above) and calculated (below) resonance Raman spectra of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{1 9}$, top $)$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{2 0}$, bottom) recorded at 407 nm excitation ( 6 mW and 40 mW , respectively).






Figure S19. Schematic representation of the normal modes (atomic displacements indicated with arrows) for complex 19 with $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching character at (a) $283 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and (b) $305 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and with Rh-C stretching character at (c) $585 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, (d) $771 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and (e) $873 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Note that the large mass of Rh causes the actual displacements of these atoms to be proportionally small and that the atoms in the outer coordination sphere may display large displacements as a result of collective non-vibrational movement of these more distant groups as induced by small changes of an internal coordinate in the first coordination sphere of the molecule. The bonds to rhodium have been artificially removed in order to increase visibility of the arrows.


Figure S20. Schematic representation of the normal modes (atomic displacements indicated with arrows) for complex 20 with $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching character at (a) $177 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and (b) $251 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and with Rh-C stretching character at (c) $759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and (d) $853 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Note that the large masses of Bi and Rh cause the displacements of these atoms to be proportionally small and that the atoms in the outer coordination sphere may display large displacements as a result of collective non-vibrational motion induced by small changes of an internal coordinate in the first coordination sphere of the molecule. The bonds to the rhodium atom have been artificially removed in order to increase visibility of the arrows.

Summary. In summary, the previous sections provide a detailed analysis through UV-Vis and resonance Raman spectroscopy of the electronic structure of the precursor complexes $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ and $\operatorname{BiRh}(e s p)_{2}$ as well as the carbene complexes $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(19), \operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(p-$ $\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{2 0})$. The observation of resonance Raman enhancements and their reproduction by computation (S18), together with the good agreement of the experimental and calculated UV-Vis spectra (S14 and S15), provides confidence in both the successful formation of the carbene complexes as well as in our computational methodology.

The starting compounds are characterized by strong bands in the UV region of the spectrum and a set of d-d transitions in the visible region of the spectrum. Upon carbene binding, an additional carbene-centered $\pi^{*}$ orbital takes on the role of the LUMO, affording rhodium-tocarbene MLCT transitions and giving rise to much more pronounced spectroscopic features.

Upon excitation of such MLCT transitions, rich resonance Raman spectra of carbene complexes 19 and 20 have been recorded. Analysis shows that the Rh-Rh stretching frequency of 19 mixes into multiple bands in the frequency range of $283 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ to $305 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and the Rh-C stretching frequency mixes into bands at $585 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}, 771 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $873 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. For complex $\mathbf{2 0}$, the $\mathrm{Bi}-\mathrm{Rh}$ stretching frequency occurs in two modes at $177 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $251 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{C}$ frequencies occur in modes at $759 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ and $853 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.

The largest differences between the dirhodium and bismuth-rhodium complexes stem from the fact that the two $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ manifolds mix in the former case, whereas the $\mathrm{Bi}(6 \mathrm{p})$ and $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals are more localized (with the exception of the $a_{1}$ symmetry orbitals) in the latter case. This $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})-\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbital mixing causes the dirhodium anti-bonding 4 d orbitals to be destabilized relative to the localized $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals in the bismuth-rhodium case. As a result, the dirhodium paddlewheel is able to bind more covalently to the carbene and form a stronger bond, with
stronger $\pi$ back-donation interactions to the carbene. This is exemplified by complex 19 having, for example, an increased Rh-C stretching frequency and a shorter Rh-C bond than complex $\mathbf{2 0}$.

## Electronic Structure of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{H})(\mathrm{COOEt})$ (22) and $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{H})($ COOEt) (23).

 Following our combined experimental and theoretical investigation into the more stabilized 'donor-donor' carbene complexes $\mathbf{1 9}$ and $\mathbf{2 0}$, we turn our focus now to the corresponding carbene complexes derived from ethyl diazoacetate ( $\mathbf{2 2}$ and $\mathbf{2 3}$ ) for which novel reactivity was observed. Complexes 22 and 23 are highly reactive intermediates and cannot be generated in sufficient concentrations for the measurement of spectroscopic data. Cautious of the use of calculations without verifiable observables, we have invested significant effort into the study of complexes 19 and $\mathbf{2 0}$ to validate our computational methods. Satisfied with the level of agreement between our calculations and our experimental data, we feel justified in applying these calculations to the investigation of the electronic structure of these more unstable carbene systems.An important difference between the donor-donor carbene complexes 19 and 20 and the acceptor-type carbene complexes $\mathbf{2 2}$ and $\mathbf{2 3}$ is the orientation of the carbene with respect to the carboxylate framework. Whereas this is staggered in complexes 19 and 20, the carbene in complexes 22 and $\mathbf{2 3}$ is eclipsing one axis of the paddlewheel. Consequently, only the $\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{xz}}$ orbitals are able to provide a $\pi$-bonding interaction, with the $d_{y z}$ being orthogonal to the carbene $p_{x}$ orbital.


Figure S21 Molecular orbital scheme for $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(\mathrm{H})(\mathrm{COOEt})$ (22). The ligand structure has been truncated where possible for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

Inspection of the calculated electronic structure of the dirhodium carbene complex 22 (Figure S21) reveals the expected $\sigma$-donating interaction of the carbene with the $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} 1 \mathrm{a}_{2 \mathrm{u}}$ orbital. The resulting C-Rh-Rh $\sigma$ orbital ( -5.71 eV ) lies below the $\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Rh} \pi$ and $\delta$ antibonding manifold in energy. The $\pi$-back-bonding interaction of the $\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{xz}}$ anti-bonding orbital with the carbene splits the e set of $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2}$ into two non-degenerate orbitals ( -4.78 eV and -5.15 eV ). This interaction is significantly stronger than that in complex 19 , with a large energy splitting of 0.37 eV (c.f. 0.22 eV for complex 19). Another measure of the strength of this back-bonding interaction is the Mulliken population of the carbene $\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{x}}$ lobe of the $\mathrm{Rh}\left(\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{xz}}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{x}}\right)(-5.15 \mathrm{eV})$ orbital. At $19.1 \%$, this reflects a significant $\pi$ back-donation of electron density from Rh to the carbene (c.f. $3.4 \%$ in complex 19).


Figure S22 Molecular orbital scheme for $\operatorname{BiRh}(\operatorname{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}(\mathrm{H})(\mathrm{COOEt})(\mathbf{2 3})$. The ligand structure has been truncated where possible for purposes of clarity. Orbital energies in eV .

In contrast to the dirhodium carbene complex 22, the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{Rh}-\mathrm{Bi} \sigma$ orbital of bismuth-rhodium carbene complex 23 lies higher in energy ( -5.02 eV ) than the $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals. This mirrors the comparison between complexes 19 and 20, with the origin lying in dirhodium complexes exhibiting mixing of $\mathrm{Rh}(4 \mathrm{~d})$ orbitals and bismuth-rhodium complexes having highly localized metal orbitals. Although interaction of the $\operatorname{Rh}\left(\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{xz}}\right)$ orbital with the carbene does result in rehybridization of the e set in an analogous manner to complex 22, direct comparison of the strength of this interaction is complicated by accidental degeneracy of the $\mathrm{Rh}\left(\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{yz}}\right)$ orbital with an esp based phenyl orbital. Nevertheless, the Mulliken population of the $\operatorname{Rh}\left(\mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{xz}}\right)-\mathrm{C}\left(\mathrm{p}_{\mathrm{x}}\right)(-6.29 \mathrm{eV})$ orbital is still informative, showing significantly less delocalization (6.1\%) to the carbene than the corresponding orbital in complex 22 (19.1\%).

## CARTESIAN COORDINATES [Å] OF GEOMETRY OPTIMIZED STRUCTURES

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\(\mathbf{R h}_{\mathbf{2}}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2}\)
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| H 7.11747622812913 | 8.18910177328104 | 5.92607090793808 |
| C 6.73594215757191 | 10.30410270193011 | 5.75081637921105 |
| C 6.61959943079037 | 10.31839407299164 | 4.35174596491729 |
| H 6.57264285380323 | 9.37559257192104 | 3.80179114037222 |
| C 6.57440364090417 | 11.53177511663913 | 3.6 |
| H 6.49946474860965 | 11.53177519294220 | 2.56900062931759 |
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## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\text { esp })_{2}$

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| H | 1.83972019756797 | 15.17311571117237 | 10.80470774662178 |
| O | 3.32772123881195 | 12.96632366936868 | 10.90025189053280 |
| O | 5.14585686551641 | 13.40011101742774 | 12.18600367541216 |

## $\mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2} \mathrm{C}(\boldsymbol{p}-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(\mathbf{1 9 )}$

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| 1 | -0.948147000 | 12.792615000 | 6.556993000 |
| 6 | -0.166309000 | 12.834962000 | 4.561681000 |
| 1 | -1.008735000 | 13.413676000 | 4.183326000 |
| 6 | 0.886222000 | 12.443970000 | 3.715348000 |
| 6 | 1.976677000 | 11.725915000 | 4.244434000 |
| 1 | 2.785144000 | 11.432837000 | 3.573563000 |
| 6 | 2.027525000 | 11.423376000 | 5.593269000 |
| 1 | 2.877421000 | 10.875316000 | 5.994357000 |
| 6 | -0.137036000 | 13.440147000 | 1.787649000 |
| 1 | 0.126270000 | 13.551956000 | 0.730163000 |
| 1 | -1.083767000 | 12.881913000 | 1.873546000 |
| 6 | 4.767806000 | 9.526269000 | 8.151352000 |
| 6 | 5.327928000 | 8.348211000 | 7.322681000 |
| 6 | 6.698855000 | 8.770464000 | 6.691194000 |
| 1 | 7.404144000 | 8.944596000 | 7.517398000 |
| 1 | 7.066398000 | 7.901162000 | 6.121547000 |
| 6 | 6.658049000 | 9.995356000 | 5.805051000 |
| 6 | 6.476657000 | 9.909597000 | 4.415396000 |
| 1 | 6.402947000 | 8.930112000 | 3.935863000 |
| 6 | 6.409466000 | 11.070135000 | 3.637910000 |
| 1 | 6.287244000 | 10.991227000 | 2.555048000 |
| 6 | 6.786587000 | 11.268132000 | 6.380592000 |
| 1 | 6.957905000 | 11.346822000 | 7.455409000 |
| 6 | 5.590903000 | 7.177686000 | 8.297042000 |
| 1 | 6.029049000 | 6.329884000 | 7.748155000 |
| 1 | 6.282441000 | 7.478421000 | 9.094307000 |
| 1 | 4.653500000 | 6.832555000 | 8.757943000 |
| 6 | 4.335286000 | 7.903675000 | 6.240034000 |
| 1 | 4.745132000 | 7.031547000 | 5.706676000 |


| 1 | 3.371947000 | 7.616195000 | 6.681381000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 4.144626000 | 8.696503000 | 5.505097000 |
| 6 | 2.824103000 | 9.777427000 | 11.306504000 |
| 6 | 2.275449000 | 8.733479000 | 12.306736000 |
| 6 | 2.337321000 | 9.326981000 | 13.755800000 |
| 1 | 1.912646000 | 8.564004000 | 14.428568000 |
| 1 | 3.397967000 | 9.443453000 | 14.022901000 |
| 6 | 1.628604000 | 10.647323000 | 13.959453000 |
| 6 | 0.303395000 | 10.722879000 | 14.417234000 |
| 1 | -0.235117000 | 9.805979000 | 14.669631000 |
| 6 | -0.321283000 | 11.964237000 | 14.575721000 |
| 1 | -1.342892000 | 12.013258000 | 14.958666000 |
| 6 | 2.304931000 | 11.845213000 | 13.683757000 |
| 1 | 3.343243000 | 11.799408000 | 13.352872000 |
| 6 | 3.204074000 | 7.499395000 | 12.260641000 |
| 1 | 4.241989000 | 7.778675000 | 12.484092000 |
| 1 | 2.869344000 | 6.756613000 | 13.001225000 |
| 1 | 3.176111000 | 7.023450000 | 11.269183000 |
| 6 | 0.844152000 | 8.315548000 | 11.945242000 |
| 1 | 0.490822000 | 7.558470000 | 12.662848000 |
| 1 | 0.152703000 | 9.167272000 | 11.961714000 |
| 1 | 0.805908000 | 7.879674000 | 10.937905000 |
| 8 | 3.585530000 | 9.933713000 | 7.868109000 |
| 8 | 5.522079000 | 9.995546000 | 9.065063000 |
| 8 | 2.052261000 | 10.132592000 | 10.347575000 |
| 8 | 4.012241000 | 10.194440000 | 11.513509000 |
| 8 | 0.949552000 | 12.717883000 | 2.379717000 |
| 45 | 2.722923000 | 11.510257000 | 8.931529000 |
| 45 | 4.843133000 | 11.569043000 | 10.211566000 |
| 1 | -0.253279000 | 14.436735000 | 2.243148000 |
| 6 | 4.797507000 | 13.295800000 | 7.862942000 |
| 6 | 5.390183000 | 14.330285000 | 6.878375000 |
| 6 | 6.749550000 | 13.78688000 | 6.320196000 |
| 1 | 7.455008000 | 13.723934000 | 7.162194000 |
| 1 | 7.133796000 | 14.551834000 | 5.625201000 |
| 6 | 6.681664000 | 12.445167000 | 5.624955000 |
| 6 | 6.500312000 | 12.330301000 | 4.237164000 |
| 1 | 6.441046000 | 13.231238000 | 3.622010000 |
| 6 | 5.682631000 | 15.621064000 | 7.675460000 |
| 1 | 6.157869000 | 16.365585000 | 7.017961000 |
| 1 | 6.351285000 | 15.419185000 | 8.522339000 |
|  |  |  | $S 88$ |
|  |  |  |  |


| 1 | 4.752457000 | 16.061533000 | 8.064239000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 4.413336000 | 14.636880000 | 5.735163000 |
| 1 | 4.869545000 | 15.370178000 | 5.051052000 |
| 1 | 3.476719000 | 15.060634000 | 6.120404000 |
| 1 | 4.158470000 | 13.736999000 | 5.161938000 |
| 8 | 3.603807000 | 12.888371000 | 7.638136000 |
| 8 | 5.546154000 | 12.939310000 | 8.833207000 |
| 6 | 2.903100000 | 13.558052000 | 11.051725000 |
| 6 | 2.383044000 | 14.740089000 | 11.901813000 |
| 6 | 2.448644000 | 14.346372000 | 13.417019000 |
| 1 | 2.068951000 | 15.209667000 | 13.987173000 |
| 1 | 3.508385000 | 14.219856000 | 13.683133000 |
| 6 | 1.685082000 | 13.098149000 | 13.798735000 |
| 6 | 0.359191000 | 13.144653000 | 14.260040000 |
| 1 | -0.136329000 | 14.109763000 | 14.390969000 |
| 6 | 3.334889000 | 15.935396000 | 11.673747000 |
| 1 | 4.370323000 | 15.667261000 | 11.920876000 |
| 1 | 3.026348000 | 16.780957000 | 12.307307000 |
| 1 | 3.302449000 | 16.268736000 | 10.625804000 |
| 6 | 0.954346000 | 15.134297000 | 11.500347000 |
| 1 | 0.641863000 | 16.016566000 | 12.080609000 |
| 1 | 0.237026000 | 14.326371000 | 11.693123000 |
| 1 | 0.899427000 | 15.385832000 | 10.433130000 |
| 8 | 2.118982000 | 13.096220000 | 10.148108000 |
| 8 | 4.079083000 | 13.140746000 | 11.308154000 |
| 6 | -0.267590000 | 11.133051000 | 8.526114000 |
| 6 | -0.545952000 | 11.475235000 | 9.872581000 |
| 6 | -1.760011000 | 11.158855000 | 10.472880000 |
| 1 | -1.940092000 | 11.474147000 | 11.499933000 |
| 6 | -2.721625000 | 10.420259000 | 9.760416000 |
| 6 | -2.457583000 | 10.027549000 | 8.433781000 |
| 1 | -3.204802000 | 9.433708000 | 7.904704000 |
| 6 | -1.267988000 | 10.392334000 | 7.828113000 |
| 1 | -1.069915000 | 10.070899000 | 6.805464000 |
| 6 | -4.239344000 | 10.379292000 | 11.618137000 |
| 1 | -5.235880000 | 9.965539000 | 11.805486000 |
| 1 | -3.517613000 | 9.934534000 | 12.321294000 |
| 8 | -3.929244000 | 10.030930000 | 10.262314000 |
| 1 | -4.263629000 | 11.472331000 | 11.756073000 |
| 1 | 0.197780000 | 12.040521000 | 10.430421000 |

## $\operatorname{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathbf{C}(p-\mathrm{MeOPh})_{2}(20)$

| 6 | 1.222157000 | 11.439945000 | 8.029542000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 6 | 1.178324000 | 11.760136000 | 6.620057000 |
| 6 | 0.118410000 | 12.535178000 | 6.073189000 |
| 1 | -0.665712000 | 12.900036000 | 6.737555000 |
| 6 | 0.088893000 | 12.901534000 | 4.730515000 |
| 1 | -0.716820000 | 13.538133000 | 4.365420000 |
| 6 | 1.098617000 | 12.439993000 | 3.867182000 |
| 6 | 2.152673000 | 11.655845000 | 4.378856000 |
| 1 | 2.934425000 | 11.319172000 | 3.696204000 |
| 6 | 2.214973000 | 11.365742000 | 5.729459000 |
| 1 | 3.043621000 | 10.784536000 | 6.129930000 |
| 6 | 0.122139000 | 13.518213000 | 1.959589000 |
| 1 | 0.379760000 | 13.619651000 | 0.899548000 |
| 1 | -0.863034000 | 13.032504000 | 2.052880000 |
| 6 | 5.031997000 | 9.424945000 | 8.149043000 |
| 6 | 5.444686000 | 8.283185000 | 7.186103000 |
| 6 | 6.698500000 | 8.761849000 | 6.376147000 |
| 1 | 7.507178000 | 8.941283000 | 7.099854000 |
| 1 | 7.007738000 | 7.914296000 | 5.743071000 |
| 6 | 6.509525000 | 9.994395000 | 5.518568000 |
| 6 | 6.171227000 | 9.897962000 | 4.158737000 |
| 1 | 6.060831000 | 8.913760000 | 3.696427000 |
| 6 | 6.000241000 | 11.050824000 | 3.386834000 |
| 1 | 5.756012000 | 10.963180000 | 2.325719000 |
| 6 | 6.682300000 | 11.273433000 | 6.070835000 |
| 1 | 6.982760000 | 11.361659000 | 7.116786000 |
| 6 | 5.868066000 | 7.073265000 | 8.048546000 |
| 1 | 6.234564000 | 6.264073000 | 7.398482000 |
| 1 | 6.663224000 | 7.350368000 | 8.752034000 |
| 1 | 5.014929000 | 6.683759000 | 8.623491000 |
| 6 | 4.301702000 | 7.871030000 | 6.250488000 |
| 1 | 4.627047000 | 7.026720000 | 5.622474000 |
| 1 | 3.420143000 | 7.552392000 | 6.823286000 |
| 1 | 3.994191000 | 8.688521000 | 5.587581000 |
| 6 | 2.945816000 | 9.680762000 | 11.513703000 |
| 6 | 2.207797000 | 8.670960000 | 12.429292000 |
| 6 | 2.113682000 | 9.291684000 | 13.865552000 |
| 1 | 1.633625000 | 8.534777000 | 14.507117000 |
| 1 | 3.142274000 | 9.426034000 | 14.232169000 |
|  |  |  |  |


| 6 | 1.364742000 | 10.602109000 | 13.980525000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 0.008703000 | 10.643711000 | 14.343944000 |
| 1 | -0.517611000 | 9.713009000 | 14.569673000 |
| 6 | -0.662890000 | 11.866076000 | 14.444563000 |
| 1 | -1.709453000 | 11.887585000 | 14.756471000 |
| 6 | 2.023323000 | 11.818687000 | 13.738074000 |
| 1 | 3.088045000 | 11.802358000 | 13.496824000 |
| 6 | 3.078321000 | 7.398140000 | 12.519195000 |
| 1 | 4.081452000 | 7.634648000 | 12.896276000 |
| 1 | 2.605613000 | 6.671039000 | 13.197331000 |
| 1 | 3.179507000 | 6.923516000 | 11.531834000 |
| 6 | 0.818440000 | 8.310811000 | 11.889899000 |
| 1 | 0.344731000 | 7.574291000 | 12.558115000 |
| 1 | 0.164338000 | 9.188394000 | 11.820218000 |
| 1 | 0.887578000 | 7.871020000 | 10.885752000 |
| 8 | 3.860393000 | 9.920769000 | 7.996401000 |
| 8 | 5.892765000 | 9.780671000 | 9.011587000 |
| 8 | 2.308078000 | 10.105391000 | 10.487131000 |
| 8 | 4.124810000 | 10.004580000 | 11.860302000 |
| 8 | 1.158356000 | 12.710490000 | 2.531351000 |
| 45 | 3.058505000 | 11.492148000 | 9.124376000 |
| 83 | 5.331815000 | 11.600763000 | 10.493232000 |
| 1 | 0.088126000 | 14.516119000 | 2.425354000 |
| 6 | 5.006368000 | 13.382503000 | 7.831898000 |
| 6 | 5.399972000 | 14.374013000 | 6.708217000 |
| 6 | 6.657140000 | 13.801573000 | 5.968614000 |
| 1 | 7.478029000 | 13.756671000 | 6.700450000 |
| 1 | 6.940863000 | 14.543307000 | 5.203957000 |
| 6 | 6.489705000 | 12.444433000 | 5.320425000 |
| 6 | 6.150798000 | 12.315182000 | 3.963862000 |
| 1 | 6.018181000 | 13.211530000 | 3.352791000 |
| 6 | 5.803893000 | 15.706470000 | 7.376756000 |
| 1 | 6.116686000 | 16.426837000 | 6.605208000 |
| 1 | 6.630731000 | 15.558668000 | 8.083684000 |
| 1 | 4.954655000 | 16.145066000 | 7.921836000 |
| 6 | 4.244533000 | 14.616478000 | 5.729724000 |
| 1 | 4.557611000 | 15.345059000 | 4.965718000 |
| 1 | 3.368203000 | 15.021891000 | 6.253309000 |
| 1 | 3.931443000 | 13.692609000 | 5.228275000 |
| 8 | 3.831343000 | 12.877207000 | 7.771262000 |
| 8 | 5.884762000 | 13.154254000 | 8.722844000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |


| 6 | 2.968163000 | 13.640671000 | 11.252753000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 2.214955000 | 14.760812000 | 12.014556000 |
| 6 | 2.110943000 | 14.339421000 | 13.520567000 |
| 1 | 1.626341000 | 15.174374000 | 14.052138000 |
| 1 | 3.136699000 | 14.257532000 | 13.909652000 |
| 6 | 1.362315000 | 13.055329000 | 13.807959000 |
| 6 | 0.005000000 | 13.063688000 | 14.170811000 |
| 1 | -0.523653000 | 14.015463000 | 14.262043000 |
| 6 | 3.077475000 | 16.040356000 | 11.936882000 |
| 1 | 4.080413000 | 15.864103000 | 12.346299000 |
| 1 | 2.596612000 | 16.848327000 | 12.509278000 |
| 1 | 3.181372000 | 16.380318000 | 10.895795000 |
| 6 | 0.829666000 | 15.034456000 | 11.415881000 |
| 1 | 0.347560000 | 15.859667000 | 11.963007000 |
| 1 | 0.174412000 | 14.156767000 | 11.472773000 |
| 1 | 0.909678000 | 15.323790000 | 10.359209000 |
| 8 | 2.333153000 | 13.064178000 | 10.299744000 |
| 8 | 4.149572000 | 13.380847000 | 11.634776000 |
| 6 | -0.049332000 | 11.135562000 | 8.639298000 |
| 6 | -0.316445000 | 11.428641000 | 10.002140000 |
| 6 | -1.555605000 | 11.174473000 | 10.576874000 |
| 1 | -1.724085000 | 11.452607000 | 11.616546000 |
| 6 | -2.555428000 | 10.527845000 | 9.825986000 |
| 6 | -2.301456000 | 10.161529000 | 8.489384000 |
| 1 | -3.078250000 | 9.630849000 | 7.936051000 |
| 6 | -1.088763000 | 10.480176000 | 7.906415000 |
| 1 | -0.897705000 | 10.182517000 | 6.875570000 |
| 6 | -4.107230000 | 10.546541000 | 11.656991000 |
| 1 | -5.123887000 | 10.174831000 | 11.822128000 |
| 1 | -3.419413000 | 10.064027000 | 12.368155000 |
| 8 | -3.789477000 | 10.199049000 | 10.301756000 |
| 1 | -4.085617000 | 11.638230000 | 11.803571000 |
| 1 | 0.462608000 | 11.912031000 | 10.587229000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |

## $\mathbf{R h}_{2}(\mathbf{e s p})_{2} \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{H})($ COOEt) (22)

| 6 | 4.665185000 | 9.559973000 | 8.101713000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 5.157652000 | 8.396361000 | 7.216101000 |
| 6 | 6.566597000 | 8.753716000 | 6.631537000 |
| 1 | 7.262216000 | 8.865251000 | 7.476652000 |
| 1 | 6.894906000 | 7.878153000 | 6.048322000 |
|  |  |  | S92 |


| 6 | 6.612962000 | 9.997338000 | 5.771978000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 6.486581000 | 9.944453000 | 4.374898000 |
| 1 | 6.399181000 | 8.977526000 | 3.873431000 |
| 6 | 6.483589000 | 11.121247000 | 3.620252000 |
| 1 | 6.400017000 | 11.067781000 | 2.532397000 |
| 6 | 6.756626000 | 11.253185000 | 6.379041000 |
| 1 | 6.894662000 | 11.305517000 | 7.459836000 |
| 6 | 5.313632000 | 7.157565000 | 8.127211000 |
| 1 | 5.708457000 | 6.314997000 | 7.539064000 |
| 1 | 6.002548000 | 7.359208000 | 8.957894000 |
| 1 | 4.343305000 | 6.850426000 | 8.544422000 |
| 6 | 4.153528000 | 8.096888000 | 6.094061000 |
| 1 | 4.522526000 | 7.254949000 | 5.487417000 |
| 1 | 3.173906000 | 7.821322000 | 6.505453000 |
| 1 | 4.008223000 | 8.962541000 | 5.435797000 |
| 6 | 2.821782000 | 9.770697000 | 11.340593000 |
| 6 | 2.257883000 | 8.730312000 | 12.332628000 |
| 6 | 2.464563000 | 9.249453000 | 13.795986000 |
| 1 | 2.057899000 | 8.473471000 | 14.464662000 |
| 1 | 3.547141000 | 9.307446000 | 13.981313000 |
| 6 | 1.828864000 | 10.585605000 | 14.109750000 |
| 6 | 0.546431000 | 10.686825000 | 14.672894000 |
| 1 | -0.004194000 | 9.779660000 | 14.934019000 |
| 6 | -0.023419000 | 11.940102000 | 14.916060000 |
| 1 | -1.014446000 | 12.007042000 | 15.369049000 |
| 6 | 2.522408000 | 11.770138000 | 13.820629000 |
| 1 | 3.531888000 | 11.705544000 | 13.413524000 |
| 6 | 3.079952000 | 7.432739000 | 12.160283000 |
| 1 | 4.149453000 | 7.616305000 | 12.328154000 |
| 1 | 2.733361000 | 6.678115000 | 12.882695000 |
| 1 | 2.952162000 | 7.015142000 | 11.150189000 |
| 6 | 0.774605000 | 8.446456000 | 12.056226000 |
| 1 | 0.413551000 | 7.678864000 | 12.757937000 |
| 1 | 0.158882000 | 9.346376000 | 12.179391000 |
| 1 | 0.626539000 | 8.073806000 | 11.034024000 |
| 8 | 3.492988000 | 10.020178000 | 7.864250000 |
| 8 | 5.450733000 | 9.972924000 | 9.018719000 |
| 8 | 2.042772000 | 10.164591000 | 10.401121000 |
| 8 | 4.027577000 | 10.147303000 | 11.520954000 |
| 45 | 2.723837000 | 11.563290000 | 9.016486000 |
| 45 | 4.855843000 | 11.531040000 | 10.224173000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |


| 6 | 4.786977000 | 13.295841000 | 7.894394000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 6 | 5.388975000 | 14.310042000 | 6.896726000 |
| 6 | 6.763462000 | 13.773127000 | 6.371633000 |
| 1 | 7.443615000 | 13.691387000 | 7.232258000 |
| 1 | 7.168965000 | 14.551117000 | 5.703841000 |
| 6 | 6.707375000 | 12.447190000 | 5.645541000 |
| 6 | 6.580449000 | 12.365767000 | 4.249588000 |
| 1 | 6.565119000 | 13.280474000 | 3.652537000 |
| 6 | 5.650588000 | 15.618319000 | 7.678068000 |
| 1 | 6.119153000 | 16.360048000 | 7.013152000 |
| 1 | 6.316621000 | 15.441399000 | 8.532865000 |
| 1 | 4.710091000 | 16.048405000 | 8.052874000 |
| 6 | 4.427247000 | 14.579583000 | 5.731745000 |
| 1 | 4.887424000 | 15.299986000 | 5.037358000 |
| 1 | 3.481676000 | 15.003480000 | 6.092038000 |
| 1 | 4.194461000 | 13.662592000 | 5.175864000 |
| 8 | 3.570317000 | 12.936557000 | 7.705574000 |
| 8 | 5.544889000 | 12.908997000 | 8.846394000 |
| 6 | 3.034620000 | 13.536377000 | 11.202785000 |
| 6 | 2.563424000 | 14.696298000 | 12.106977000 |
| 6 | 2.719325000 | 14.273368000 | 13.607737000 |
| 1 | 2.393785000 | 15.135113000 | 14.212661000 |
| 1 | 3.791420000 | 14.122681000 | 13.802897000 |
| 6 | 1.952825000 | 13.036409000 | 14.018986000 |
| 6 | 0.669032000 | 13.107880000 | 14.583220000 |
| 1 | 0.214003000 | 14.082667000 | 14.775002000 |
| 6 | 3.498187000 | 15.898321000 | 11.843326000 |
| 1 | 4.547015000 | 15.634759000 | 12.033449000 |
| 1 | 3.218597000 | 16.733856000 | 12.502829000 |
| 1 | 3.408596000 | 16.245027000 | 10.803051000 |
| 6 | 1.112209000 | 15.086796000 | 11.793687000 |
| 1 | 0.819704000 | 15.939204000 | 12.426234000 |
| 1 | 0.418313000 | 14.258500000 | 11.983655000 |
| 1 | 1.001570000 | 15.380559000 | 10.741886000 |
| 8 | 2.215463000 | 13.124776000 | 10.310709000 |
| 8 | 4.212161000 | 13.085081000 | 11.404608000 |
| 6 | 0.280576000 | 12.502860000 | 7.362941000 |
| 8 | -0.056771000 | 12.104099000 | 6.249694000 |
| 6 | 0.946172000 | 11.559361000 | 8.260249000 |
| 8 | 0.102941000 | 13.753626000 | 7.833446000 |
| 6 | -0.635193000 | 14.671219000 | 6.959920000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |


| 1 | -1.133939000 | 15.351380000 | 7.661925000 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | -1.390416000 | 14.097021000 | 6.405770000 |
| 6 | 0.292811000 | 15.415858000 | 6.016540000 |
| 1 | -0.287519000 | 16.149332000 | 5.436212000 |
| 1 | 1.068469000 | 15.957981000 | 6.574684000 |
| 1 | 0.776668000 | 14.726531000 | 5.312469000 |
| 1 | 0.325526000 | 10.684803000 | 8.511922000 |

## BiRh(esp) $)_{2} \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{H})($ COOEt $)(23)$

| 6 | 5.006084000 | 9.427675000 | 8.150763000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 5.339200000 | 8.293376000 | 7.151675000 |
| 6 | 6.613731000 | 8.711042000 | 6.340589000 |
| 1 | 7.444940000 | 8.807391000 | 7.055283000 |
| 1 | 6.851881000 | 7.866814000 | 5.673476000 |
| 6 | 6.494358000 | 9.981709000 | 5.528577000 |
| 6 | 6.097667000 | 9.958618000 | 4.181422000 |
| 1 | 5.897292000 | 9.002162000 | 3.692928000 |
| 6 | 5.975424000 | 11.147343000 | 3.456992000 |
| 1 | 5.679278000 | 11.115779000 | 2.406584000 |
| 6 | 6.778319000 | 11.223850000 | 6.116335000 |
| 1 | 7.125522000 | 11.253168000 | 7.151001000 |
| 6 | 5.684674000 | 7.031225000 | 7.972842000 |
| 1 | 5.953419000 | 6.210789000 | 7.290310000 |
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| 1 | 3.887082000 | 8.868871000 | 5.609932000 |
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| 1 | -0.452129000 | 9.809655000 | 14.655587000 |
| 6 | -0.498629000 | 11.967844000 | 14.583353000 |
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| 6 | 2.181725000 | 11.816335000 | 13.868124000 |
|  |  |  |  |


| 1 | 3.243345000 | 11.758098000 | 13.618754000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6 | 2.961164000 | 7.382072000 | 12.487415000 |
| 1 | 3.980168000 | 7.520168000 | 12.872341000 |
| 1 | 2.431742000 | 6.666758000 | 13.134954000 |
| 1 | 3.024143000 | 6.943098000 | 11.480871000 |
| 6 | 0.771309000 | 8.498017000 | 11.917111000 |
| 1 | 0.232946000 | 7.795694000 | 12.572073000 |
| 1 | 0.203282000 | 9.434854000 | 11.866857000 |
| 1 | 0.801180000 | 8.070357000 | 10.905730000 |
| 8 | 3.852856000 | 9.972636000 | 8.035008000 |
| 8 | 5.896608000 | 9.726120000 | 9.008350000 |
| 8 | 2.370599000 | 10.189130000 | 10.563566000 |
| 8 | 4.191830000 | 9.952230000 | 11.901952000 |
| 45 | 3.170467000 | 11.537541000 | 9.220433000 |
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| 6 | 6.906733000 | 13.748052000 | 6.106835000 |
| 1 | 7.744976000 | 13.630279000 | 6.810098000 |
| 1 | 7.208346000 | 14.502832000 | 5.362509000 |
| 6 | 6.636245000 | 12.430814000 | 5.414656000 |
| 6 | 6.236223000 | 12.376103000 | 4.069877000 |
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| 6 | 2.366796000 | 14.328559000 | 13.653539000 |
| 1 | 1.936403000 | 15.183371000 | 14.199772000 |
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| 6 | 1.573957000 | 13.077579000 | 13.959881000 |
| 6 | 0.220727000 | 13.138757000 | 14.330144000 |
| 1 | -0.268591000 | 14.110382000 | 14.431269000 |
|  |  |  |  |


| 6 | 3.308718000 | 16.004935000 | 12.026051000 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | 4.319106000 | 15.817822000 | 12.412113000 |
| 1 | 2.857045000 | 16.826856000 | 12.601859000 |
| 1 | 3.390482000 | 16.332464000 | 10.979014000 |
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| 1 | -1.014543000 | 14.063565000 | 5.617622000 |
| 1 | 1.719878000 | 10.919891000 | 7.087062000 |

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[^0]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{a}} \mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{OCMe}_{2}\right) .{ }^{21 \mathrm{~b}} \mathrm{BiRh}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$.

[^1]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{a}} \mathrm{Rh}_{2}(\mathrm{esp})_{2} \mathrm{C}\left(p-\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{NPh}\right)_{2} .{ }^{22}$

