Macropolyhedral boron-containing cluster chemistry. An unusual ‘neonido’ ten-vertex subcluster configuration in a [(PPh₃)₂RuB₁₆H₂₀] species

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Abstract

Reaction of B₁₆H₂₀ with [RuCl₂(PPh₃)₃] gives a [(PPh₃)₂RuB₁₆H₂₀] species of which the metallaborane cluster configuration consists of a conventional nido ten-vertex {B₁₀} unit fused via a common {B₃} face with a ten-vertex {RuB₉} unit of novel ‘neonido’ ten-vertex shape.
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According to the very useful Williams/Wade cluster-geometry/electron-counting formalisms for ‘electron deficient’ cluster species [1–4], the classical nido ten-vertex cluster configuration I is geometrically derived by the removal of the six-connected vertex from the classical closo eleven-vertex configuration II to generate the six-membered open-faced arrangement of I, and this is manifest in very many boron-containing cluster compounds, as exemplified in other contributions to this Edition.
An alternative ten-vertex open-faced configuration \textsuperscript{III}A is derived by the removal of a four-connectivity vertex from \textsuperscript{II} to give a four-membered open face. This configuration, which has been dubbed ‘isonido’ \textsuperscript{[5]}, tends to be exhibited by \{MB\textsubscript{3}\} metallaborane species \textsuperscript{III}B, in which the open-face position of cluster-connectivity five is occupied by a metal centre that is capable of high connectivities and/or higher metal formal oxidation states \textsuperscript{[5–8]}. Here, we now report preliminary results on a third type of ten-vertex open-face configuration \textsuperscript{IV}, that we tentatively describe as ‘neonido’. This neonido configuration has a five-membered open face, and geometrically results from the removal of one of the three types of five-connectivity sites from the \textit{closo} eleven-vertex geometry \textsuperscript{II}. This is manifest in the \{MB\textsubscript{3}\} subunit (schematic \textbf{VB}) of the previously unreported seventeen-vertex macropolyhedral ruthenaborane [(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}RuB\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}] (compound 1, Fig. 1), in which the metallaborane unit (schematic \textbf{I}) consists of this novel neonido \{MB\textsubscript{3}\} subunit \textbf{VB} fused to a conventional \textit{nido} \{B\textsubscript{10}\} unit (schematics \textbf{I} and \textbf{VC}), with a triangular \{B\textsubscript{3}\} face held in common. The incidence is derived by the removal of a four-connectivity \textit{neonido} \{B\textsubscript{10}\} subcluster from the reaction between B\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20} and [RuCl\textsubscript{2}(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{3}] to give a four-membered open face.

Thus, a small-scale preliminary siting reaction of [RuCl\textsubscript{2}(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{3}] (85 mg; 86 \textmu mol), B\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20} (compound 2, prepared essentially as in reference \textsuperscript{[10]}: 15 mg; 77 \textmu mol) and 1,8-bis(dimethylamino)naphthalene (36 mg; 170 \textmu mol) in solution in refluxing CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2} (ca. 6 ml) for 4 h, followed by repeated TLC separation and purification (silica gel GF\textsubscript{254}, 1 mm layer; CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}/hexane 60/40), resulted in the separation of a pure sample of air-stable orange [(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}RuB\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}] (compound 1) (R\textsubscript{f} 0.75; 12 mg, 14 \textmu mol, 19\%), characterised as such by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Fig. 1 and schematics \textbf{V},\textsuperscript{1} together with NMR spectroscopy, elemental analysis and mass spectrometry.\textsuperscript{2} From Fig. 1, it can be seen that the macropolyhedral \{RuB\textsubscript{16}\} cluster unit consists of a ‘neonido’ ten-vertex \{RuB\textsubscript{9}\} subcluster, as discussed above, fused to a conventional \textit{nido} ten-vertex \{B\textsubscript{10}\} residue with a \{B\textsubscript{3}\} triangular face in common.

\textsuperscript{1} Crystallographic data for the previously unreported [(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}RuB\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}] 1 are as follows: C\textsubscript{36}H\textsubscript{50}B\textsubscript{16}P\textsubscript{2}Ru: M = 818.73, monoclinic (orange block from diffusion of hexane into a solution in CH\textsubscript{2}Cl\textsubscript{2}), space group P2\textsubscript{1}/n. a = 10.8893(1), b = 18.4572(2), c = 20.746(3) \textAA, \beta = 90.7750(4), U = 4169.35(8) \textAA\textsuperscript{3}. D\textsubscript{calc} = 1.304 Mg m\textsuperscript{-3}, Z = 4, Mo K\textalpha, \lambda = 0.71073 \textAA, \mu = 0.481 mm\textsuperscript{-1}, T = 150(2) K, R\textsubscript{1} = 0.0298 for 7284 reflections with I > 2\sigma(I), and wR\textsubscript{2} = 0.0796 for all 8189 unique reflections; CCDC 256503; coordinates, etc., can be obtained free of charge at www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html [or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (internat.) +44-1223/336-033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

\textsuperscript{2} NMR data for [(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}RuB\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}] 1. CDC\textsubscript{12}, 294–300 K, \delta in ppm, \delta(\textsuperscript{1}B) rel. \Xi = 32.083972 MHz [nominally F\textsubscript{2}BOEt in CDC\textsubscript{12}], \delta(\textsuperscript{13}P) rel. \Xi = 40.480730 MHz [nominally 85\% aqueous H\textsubscript{3}PO\textsubscript{4}] and \delta(\textsuperscript{31}P) rel. \Xi = 100 MHz [nominally internal SiMe\textsubscript{4}], data presented as: \delta(\textsuperscript{1}B) assignment where possible [\delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) of directly bound H(\textit{exo}) in square brackets]: +28.8 B(5) [+6.05], +22.2 [no H(\textit{exo})], +18.3 [+4.15], +7.6 [+3.61], +1.7 [+3.57], +0.5 [+4.24], –0.1 [+2.71], –2.0 [+3.22], –5.9 [no H(\textit{exo})], ca. –1.5 [+1.16], ca. –1.5 [+1.13], –22.1 [–0.74], –27.9 [very sharp] B(10) [no H(\textit{exo})], –34.2 [–0.92], –39.6 B(6) [–0.42], –42.2 [+0.68]; with \delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) for \muBHB at +0.35, –0.44, –1.39 and –2.36. Three \muBHB \textsuperscript{1}H resonances were also apparent: (i) at \delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) –5.52, associated with B(10), \textit{J}(\textsuperscript{1}B–\textsuperscript{1}H) = 100 Hz, no \textsuperscript{31}P fine structure apparent; (ii) at \delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) –9.02, associated with B(5), apparent 1:2:1 triplet, repeated splitting ca. 3 Hz, arising from couplings \textit{J}(\textsuperscript{1}H–\textsuperscript{1}H) to P(1) and P(2); and (iii) at \delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) –15.03, associated with B(6). This last resonance at \delta(\textsuperscript{1}H) –15.03 exhibited two doublet splittings: (a) 8 Hz, arising from \textit{J}(\textsuperscript{1}H–\textsuperscript{1}H) to P(2), and (b) 44 Hz, arising from \textit{J}(\textsuperscript{1}H–\textsuperscript{1}H) to P(1). Additionally \delta(\textsuperscript{13}P) +43.7 and +49.2, \textit{J}(\textsuperscript{13}P–\textsuperscript{31}P) = 24 Hz. Elemental analysis (analytical sample recrystallised from CHCl\textsubscript{3}/hexane): found: C 51.4, H 5.9\%, C\textsubscript{36}H\textsubscript{50}B\textsubscript{16}P\textsubscript{2}Ru0.25CHCl\textsubscript{3}, requires C 51.25, H 5.9\%. The mass spectrum exhibited a base-peak envelope corresponding to a combination of the molecular ion M and species with dihydrogen loss from M. Note added after reviewing stage (January 2005): preliminary DFT/GIAO structure/nuclear shielding calculations on the non-P-phenylated model species [(PPh\textsubscript{3})\textsubscript{2}RuB\textsubscript{16}H\textsubscript{20}] gave calculated \delta(\textsuperscript{1}B)/ppm values for the various cluster positions as follows \textsuperscript{[13]}: B(5) +30.0, B(8) +24.3, B(1) +18.0, B(3\textsuperscript{\prime}) +6.8, B(9\textsuperscript{\prime}) +0.6, B(1\textsuperscript{\prime}) –0.5, B(10\textsuperscript{\prime}) –0.5, B(8\textsuperscript{\prime}) –0.5, B(7) –7.2, B(4) –19.1, B(7\textsuperscript{\prime}) –23.5, B(10) –30.32, B(3) –33.1, B(4\textsuperscript{\prime}) –42.1 and B(6) –42.6.
In gross geometrical terms, a \( \{ \text{Ru(PPh}_3)_2 \} \) metal centre has simply added to the \( \text{nido} \)-octaboranyl \( \{ \text{B}_8 \} \) subcluster side of the \( \{ \text{B}_{16} \} \) skeleton of \( 2 \), as indicated in schematic VIA. However, the actual mechanism is not straightforward, because the molecular constitution of the product \( [(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{RuB}_{16}\text{H}_{20}] \) implies an addition of a neutral \( \{ \text{Ru(PPh}_3)_2 \} \) unit to \( \text{B}_{16}\text{H}_{20} \) with no hydrogen loss, whereas the anticipated stoichiometry starting from \( \{ \text{RuCl}_2(\text{PPh}_3)_3 \} \) would result in \( [(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{RuB}_{16}\text{H}_{18}] \) with loss of two protons as base-sequestered \( \text{HCl} \). It should, however, be pointed out that the result reported here arises from a small-scale siting experiment. Other products are present, and we plan to isolate and identify these. In view of the constitution and structure of this first defined species, the constitution and structure of these other products will be of high interest. For example, an additional interesting and unusual feature of the \( \{ \text{RuB}_9 \} \) subcluster is the incidence of the edge-bridging hydrogen atom on the \( \text{Ru}(9)\text{B}(5) \) edge, i.e. not on an open-face site, and it will be of interest to see if this type of feature is also mimicked in other macropolyhedral products from this and related systems. It will also be of interest to ascertain whether products resulting from the addition of the ruthenium centre to the \( \{ \text{B}_{10} \} \) subcluster of \( \text{B}_{16}\text{H}_{20} \) also occur. In this last regard, the ruthenaborane \( 1 \) reported here contrasts to the only other \( \text{B}_{16}\text{H}_{20} \)-derived metallaborane reported, \( [\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph}_2\text{PtB}_{16}\text{H}_{17}\text{Me}] \) (compound 3) of schematic skeletal configuration VIB, obtained using \( [\text{PtMe}_2(\text{PMe}_2\text{Ph})_2] \) as the cluster-metallating reagent [12]. In this latter platinum compound 3, the metal atom has added to an alternative open face site on the other, \text{nido}-decaaboranyl, subcluster of the starting \( \text{B}_{16}\text{H}_{20} \) substrate (hatched lines in schematic VIB).

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