

## **Supporting Information**

for

# Introduction of peripheral nitrogen atoms to cyclo-metaphenylenes

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Beilstein J. Org. Chem. 2024, 20, 1207–1212. doi:10.3762/bjoc.20.103

# Experimental and copies of spectra

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### Supplementary data



**Figure S1:** MALDI-TOF MS analyses (matrix: dithranol, ionization: reflector positive). Spectra of crude mixtures obtained by using (a)  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  and (b)  $PdCl_2(dppf) \cdot CH_2Cl_2$  as a catalyst. Spectra of (c) N<sub>3</sub>-[6]CMP (**3a**) and (d) N<sub>4</sub>-[8]CMP (**3b**) after the purification.



**Figure S2:** ORTEP diagram of a crystal structure of  $N_3$ -[6]CMP (**3a**). Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.



**Figure S3:** ORTEP diagram of a crystal structure of  $N_4$ -[8]CMP (**3b**). Thermal ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

#### Methods

#### General

Flash silica gel column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60N (spherical and neutral gel, 40–50  $\mu$ m, Kanto). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL RESONANCE JNM-ECA II 600 equipped with an UltraCOOL probe. Chemical shift values are given relative to an internal tetramethylsilane. Data are reported as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity, coupling constant in Hz and the relative integration value. High-resolution mass spectra were performed on a Bruker Daltonics autoflex speed using matrix assisted laser desorption ionization (MALDI) method with dithranol as a matrix (ionization mode: reflector positive) or on a Bruker micrOTOF II spectrometer equipped with an APCI probe equipped with a DirectProbe (DIP). UV–vis spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a JASCO V670 spectrometer.

#### Materials

Anhydrous DMF was purified by a solvent purification system (GlassContour) equipped with columns of activated alumina and supported copper catalyst (Q-5) [1]. All other chemicals were of reagent grade and used without any further purification. Diborylbenzene **5** was prepared by the reported procedure [2].

#### Crystallography

Single crystals of N<sub>3</sub>-[6]CMP (**3a**) and N<sub>4</sub>-[8]CMP (**3b**) suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained by slowly diffusing hexane vapor into a CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (10:1) solution of **3a** and **3b** at 25 °C. A single crystal was mounted on a thin polymer tip with cryoprotectant oil and was subjected to the X-ray diffraction studies as follows. The X-ray diffraction experiment was performed on a Rigaku XtaLAB P200 diffractometer equipped with a PILATUS200K area detector using multi-layer mirror monochromated Cu K $\alpha$  radiation.

#### IAM refinements by SHELX

The crystal structures of **3a** and **3b** were first solved by a conventional method adopting spherical, independent atom models (IAM) [3]. The initial structures were solved by the direct method with the SHELXT program [4] and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  using the SHELXL program suite [5]. The non-hydrogen atoms were analyzed anisotropically, and hydrogen atoms were located at the calculated positions and refined with a riding model. The refinement data are summarized in Tables S1 and S2.

Table	<b>S1:</b>	Crystal	data of	f N3-[6	5]CMP	(3a)	with	the ]	IAM	refinen	nents by	<b>V SHELX</b>
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CCDC	2335441	
Empirical formula	$C_{33}H_{21}N_3$	
Formula weight	459.53	
Temperature	93(2) K	
Wavelength	1.54184 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	<i>P</i> –1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 5.8332(12)  Å	$\alpha=79.684(13)^\circ$
	b = 9.0678(16)  Å	$\beta=89.420(16)^\circ$
	c = 21.492(4) Å	$\gamma = 83.71(2)^{\circ}$
Volume	1111.6(4) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Ζ	2	
Density (calculated)	$1.373 \text{ mg/m}^3$	
Absorption coefficient	0.630 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
<i>F</i> (000)	480	
Crystal size	$0.10\times0.04\times0.03~mm^3$	
Theta range for data collection	2.090° to 68.218°	
Index ranges	-7<= <i>h</i> <=6, -10<= <i>k</i> <=10, -25	5<= <i>l</i> <=25
Reflections collected	14564	
Independent reflections	3942 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0294]	
Absorption correction	multi-scan	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on A	$F^2$
Data / restraints / parameters	3942 / 0 / 325	
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.053	
Final $R$ indices $[I > 2 \text{sigma}(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0386, wR_2 = 0.1066$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0487, wR_2 = 0.1169$	

Table S2. Crystal data of N <sub>4</sub> -[8]CMP (3b) with the IAM refinements by SHELX			
CCDC	2335442		
Empirical formula	$C_{44}H_{28}N_4 \bullet CHCl_3$		
Formula weight	732.07		
Temperature	93(2) K		

Wavelength

1.54184 Å

Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	C2/c	
Unit cell dimensions	<i>a</i> = 23.783(15) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	b = 5.771(3) Å	$\beta = 108.62(2)^{\circ}$
	c = 26.322(15) Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	3424(3) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Ζ	4	
Density (calculated)	$1.420 \text{ mg/m}^3$	
Absorption coefficient	2.743 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
<i>F</i> (000)	1512	
Crystal size	$0.18\times0.03\times0.02~mm^3$	
Theta range for data collection	3.923° to 70.629°	
Index ranges	-28<=h<=26, -7<=k<=6, -3	2<=l<=32
Reflections collected	14509	
Independent reflections	3202 [R(int) = 0.0530]	
Absorption correction	multi-scan	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on	$F^2$
Data / restraints / parameters	3202 / 0 / 243	
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.082	
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2 \text{sigma}(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0805, wR_2 = 0.1999$	
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0932, wR_2 = 0.2071$	

#### X-ray charge density analysis by XD-2016

For elucidating the difference of the electronic properties by nitrogen doping, crystallographic data of N<sub>3</sub>-[6]CMP (**3a**) and [6]CMP (CCDC 1015816) [6] were subjected to X-ray charge density analyses. The SHELXL-refined structures and the HKL data were transferred to the XD-2016 program [7]. The structures were first converged by the IAM refinement with the XDLSM module in XD-2016. The resultant *R* factors were as follows:

$$R(F) = 0.0382$$
 and  $Rw(F) = 0.0573$  for **3a**;

*R*(*F*) = 0.0361 and *Rw*(*F*) = 0.0460 for [6]CMP.

Then, the data were refined by the aspherical model by adopting the transferable aspherical atom model (TAAM) [8] with the parameters of the University at Buffalo Pseudoatom Databank (UBDB) [9,10]. The significant improvement of the refinement was found with the deformation map ( $F_1 - F_2$ ) and *R* factors:

R(F) = 0.0269 and Rw(F) = 0.0430 for **3a**; R(F) = 0.0237 and Rw(F) = 0.0312 for [6]CMP.

The refinement data of X-ray charge density analyses of **3a** and [6]CMP are summarized in Tables S3 and S4.

CCDC	2335443	
Empirical formula	$C_{33}H_{21}N_3$	
Formula weight	459.53	
Temperature	93(2) K	
Wavelength	1.54184 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	<i>P</i> –1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 5.8332(12) Å	$\alpha = 79.684(13)^{\circ}$
	b = 9.0678(16) Å	$\beta = 89.420(16)^{\circ}$
	c = 21.492(4) Å	$\gamma = 83.71(2)^{\circ}$
Volume	1111.6(4) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Ζ	2	
Density (calculated)	$1.373 \text{ mg/m}^3$	
Absorption coefficient	0.630 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
<i>F</i> (000)	480	
Crystal size	$0.10\times0.04\times0.03~mm^3$	
Theta range for data collection	2.090° to 68.218°	

Index ranges	-7<=h<=6, -10<=k<=10, -25<=l<=25
Reflections collected	14568
Independent reflections	3945 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0294]
Absorption correction	multi-scan
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F
Data / restraints / parameters	3228 / 0 / 346
Goodness-of-fit	2.24
Final $R$ indices $[I > 2 \operatorname{sigma}(I)]$	R(F) = 0.0269, Rw(F) = 0.0430
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R(F^2) = 0.0391, Rw(F^2) = 0.1138$

### Table S4: Crystal data of [6]CMP with the TAAM/UBDB refinements by XD-2016

CCDC	2335444	
Empirical formula	$C_{36}H_{24}$	
Formula weight	465.55	
Temperature	90(2) K	
Wavelength	1.54178 Å	
Crystal system	Monoclinic	
Space group	$P2_{1}/c$	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 12.289(3) Å	$\alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	b = 15.382(3) Å	$\beta = 99.35(3)^{\circ}$
	c = 6.0239(12)  Å	$\gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	1123.6(4) Å <sup>3</sup>	
Ζ	2	
Density (calculated)	1.394 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
Absorption coefficient	0.579 mm <sup>-1</sup>	
<i>F</i> (000)	480	
Crystal size	$0.20\times0.05\times0.05~mm^3$	
Theta range for data collection	3.65° to 67.33°	
Index ranges	-12<= <i>h</i> <=14, -18<= <i>k</i> <=18, -	-7<= <i>l</i> <=7
Reflections collected	8005	
Independent reflections	1755 [ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0371]	
Absorption correction	none	
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on A	F
Data / restraints / parameters	1755 / 0 / 175	
Goodness-of-fit	1.485	

Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2 \operatorname{sigma}(I)]$	R(F) = 0.0237, Rw(F) = 0.0312
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R(F^2) = 0.0417, Rw(F^2) = 0.0610$

#### Visualization and analyses

Molecular structures were visualized and analyzed by Mercury CSD 4.1.0 [11] and UCSF Chimera (ver. 1.13.1) [12]. The electron densities after the TAAM/XD2016 refinements were visualized by MoleCoolQt [13]. The contour map of the deformation density was obtained by the XDGRAPH module in the XD2016 package [7], and the ESP maps were generated by MolIso [14]. All the crystallographic data were deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 2335441-2335443). The data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\_request/cif.





**Figure S4:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of N<sub>3</sub>-[6]CMP (**3a**) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 600 MHz).



Figure S5: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of N<sub>3</sub>-[6]CMP (3a) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 151 MHz).



**Figure S6:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of N<sub>4</sub>-[8]CMP (**3b**) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 600 MHz).



Figure S7: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of N<sub>4</sub>-[8]CMP (3b) (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 151 MHz).

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