

1 **[RuCl₂(η⁶-p-cymene)(P^{*})] and [RuCl₂(κ-P^{*}-η⁶-arene)]**
2 **Complexes Containing P-Stereogenic Phosphines.**
3 **Activity in Transfer Hydrogenation and Interactions**
4 **with DNA**

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22 ABSTRACT

23 The preparation of a series of half-sandwich ruthenium complexes, $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6\text{-p-}$
24 $\text{cymene})(\text{P}^*)]$ ($\text{P}^* = \text{SPMeRR}'$) and $[\text{RuCl}_2(\kappa\text{-P}^*\text{-}\eta^6\text{-arene})]$, containing P-stereogenic
25 phosphines is reported. The borane-protected Pstereogenic phosphines have been obtained
26 by addition of the $(\text{H}_3\text{B})\text{PMe}_2\text{R}$ ($\text{R} = \text{t-Bu}$ (1), Cy (2), Fc (3))/sec-BuLi/(-)-sparteine adduct
27 to benzyl halides, carbonyl functions, and epoxides with yields between 40 and 90% and ee
28 values in the 70–99% range. Those containing an aryl secondary function have been used in
29 the preparation of $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6\text{-p-cymene})\text{-}(\text{P}^*)]$ complexes. Borane deprotection has been
30 performed using HBF_4 , except for $(\text{H}_3\text{B})\text{PRMe}(\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_2\text{Ph})$ phosphines, where DABCO
31 was used to avoid partial cleavage of the $\text{CH}_2\text{-Si}$ bond. In the case of $(\text{H}_3\text{B})\text{P}(\text{t-}$
32 $\text{Bu})\text{Me}(\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{OH})\text{Ph}_2)$ (11) the dehydrated phosphine was obtained. The tethered
33 complexes were obtained by p-cymene substitution in chlorobenzene at 120 °C, except for
34 ferrocenyl-containing complexes, which decomposed upon heating. The presence of
35 substituents in the aryl arm of some of the phosphines introduces new chiral elements in the
36 tethered $[\text{RuCl}_2(\kappa\text{-P}^*\text{-}\eta^6\text{-arene})]$ compounds. Full characterization of all compounds both
37 in solution and in the solid state has been carried out. Crystal structure determinations of
38 four phosphine–borane molecules confirm the S configuration at the phosphorus atom (1a,e,l
39 and 2d). Moreover, the crystal structure of one p-cymene complex (5i) and four tethered
40 complexes reveal the strain of the compounds with two atoms in the tether (7c,g,l and 8i).
41 Tethering has a marked effect on the catalytic performance transfer hydrogenation of
42 acetophenone and on the nature of hydridic species originating during the activation period.
43 The chiral induction attains 58% ee with complexes with the bulkiest substituents in the
44 pendant arm of the phosphine. Three of the prepared complexes can interact with DNA and
45 present a reasonable cytotoxicity toward cancer cells. Intercalation of the free aromatic
46 pendant arm of the phosphines seems to be fundamental for such interactions.

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51 1. INTRODUCTION

52 The chemistry of η^6 -arene ruthenium complexes has received considerable attention
53 in recent years, since a large number of applications in catalysis,^{1,2} supramolecular
54 chemistry,³ and medicinal chemistry⁴ have been developed with excellent or promising
55 results. The usual pseudotetrahedral three-legged piano-stool structure of the Ru(II)
56 complexes opens the possibility of modifying the nature of each of the four ligands, giving
57 neutral or ionic complexes. Furthermore, chirality can be introduced through the ligands or
58 even at the ruthenium center, which becomes stereogenic when all ligands are different.⁵
59 One way to introduce an initial stereogenic center is using a Pstereogenic phosphine in
60 $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6\text{-p-cymene})(\text{P}^*)]$ arene complexes. When the phosphine contains an appropriate
61 aryl pendant arm, it is possible to obtain the tethered $[\text{RuCl}_2(\kappa\text{-P}^*\text{-}\eta^6\text{-arene})]$ compounds.
62 If the aryl pendant arm contains suitable substituents, it is possible to introduce different new
63 elements of chirality in the tethered complex.

64 In electronically saturated metal complexes it is expected that the first step of almost
65 any metal-mediated process must be the total or partial dissociation of ligands to form free
66 coordination positions.⁶ In arene complexes $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6\text{-p-cymene})(\text{P}^*)]$ the use of basic
67 trialkylphosphines disfavors their dissociation in comparison with triarylphosphines. Chiral
68 phosphino–arene tethered ruthenium complexes present a more rigid and less labile
69 environment around the metal center in comparison with the nontethered counterparts, a
70 feature that could be particularly useful in order to use these compounds for the
71 discrimination of prochiral substrates in catalytic organic synthesis.⁷

72 Moreover, the polydentate nature of the $\kappa\text{-P}^*\text{-}\eta^6\text{-arene}$ ligand could also increase the
73 usual low isomerization barriers of racemization in the chiral ruthenium–arene
74 intermediates.⁸

75 In a previous communication⁹ we explored this synthetic approach using P-
76 stereogenic phosphines obtained by the methodology developed by Muci and Evans.¹⁰ In
77 the present work we have extended the study in two aspects: the design of appropriate
78 potentially bidentate phosphino–arene and phosphino–pyridine ligands and the use of some
79 of these chiral phosphino–arene ligands in the preparation of arene–ruthenium complexes in
80 order to evaluate differences between tethered and nontethered complexes in catalysis and
81 in their interactions with DNA.

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83 2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

84 **Preparation of the Phosphine–Borane Adducts by Desymmetrization of**
85 **Dimethylphosphines.** Several methods to prepare optically pure P-stereogenic phosphines
86 have been developed using different approaches.¹¹ In particular the synthetic potential of
87 lithium salts of carbanions stabilized by coordination to chiral ligands such as (–)-sparteine
88 has been known for some time¹² and even the crystal structures of some of these salts have
89 been determined.¹³ The application of this type of asymmetric deprotonation to the synthesis
90 of P-stereogenic phosphines, originally proposed by Muci and Evans,¹⁰ is one of the most
91 successful achievements of that methodology. Since the first report, the procedure has been
92 successfully applied to the synthesis of many families of P-stereogenic mono- and
93 diphosphines.¹⁴

94 To improve the Evans methodology of desymmetrization of prochiral substrates, a
95 number of sparteine surrogates have been developed to overcome the limitation of the
96 availability of only one enantiomer of sparteine and its limited supply.^{14b,15} Here we
97 expand our initial communication on the application of this methodology to the synthesis of
98 P-stereogenic phosphines containing an aromatic pendant arm able to form tethered arene
99 ruthenium complexes or potentially act as bidentate or tridentate ligands.

100 To explore the scope of the Evans methodology, dimethyl-(tert-
101 butyl)phosphine–borane (1) was initially used as the prochiral dimethylphosphine model for
102 all reactions with different electrophiles, but subsequently another two protected
103 dimethylphosphines (2, 3) were also tested to evaluate the role of the third substituent (Chart
104 1). Previously reported phosphine–borane adducts of this kind by us^{9,16} or others^{17a,b} are
105 depicted in Chart 2.

106 The deprotonation reaction was carried out using *sec*-BuLi/(–)-sparteine in a 1/1 ratio
107 at low temperature. Three hours later the electrophile was added. Benzyl bromides or silyl
108 halides (Schemes 1–3), ketones or aldehydes (Scheme 4), and epoxides (Scheme 5) were
109 used as electrophiles. To ensure high enantioselectivities, the reactions must be performed
110 at –78 °C, and only after the addition of a slight excess of electrophile the temperature can
111 be allowed to reach room temperature very slowly. A possible excess of lithium species as
112 the temperature increases could produce side deprotonation reactions of the second methyl
113 group or in the methylene links, decreasing the overall yield, as observed by O’Brien.¹⁸
114 Conversions that could reach 90% were achieved with *t*-Bu phosphines, but those containing

115 the ferrocenyl or cyclohexyl groups only reached around 60% conversion according to ³¹P
116 NMR spectra of the crude products. Since the reactivity of organolithium reagents is
117 increased by coordination to (–)-sparteine, O’Brien envisaged the possibility of using
118 substoichiometric amounts of the chiral auxiliary and developed ligand-accelerated
119 asymmetric deprotonations,¹⁷ but in order to obtain the best enantioselectivities, the ratio
120 RLi/(–)-sparteine was kept stoichiometric or with a slight excess of (–)-sparteine. Direct
121 dilithiation of (BH₃)PPhMe₂ was recently reported by Strohmann, who used the diamine
122 (R,R)-TMEDA and t-BuLi for the deprotonation reaction, but this reaction was not observed
123 under our conditions.¹⁹

124 The use of meta-substituted benzyl halides is convenient in order to introduce a second
125 element of chirality in the metaltethered complexes. Another important modulation of the
126 pendant arm of the phosphines is the selection of the length of the chain between the
127 phosphorus atom and the aromatic moiety. Direct substitutions on benzyl bromides gave
128 yields in a satisfactory range (35–90% estimated by ³¹P NMR of the reaction solution), but
129 this was not the case when the number of carbon atoms increased between the aryl and
130 bromide groups (1h). To improve the reproducibility and yields in the preparation of
131 phosphines containing longer arms, nucleophilic substitution was performed on
132 appropriately substituted chlorosilanes (Scheme 2). With these electrophiles, a group of
133 phosphines with spacers of three (i) and two atoms (j) for a comparison of their coordination
134 behaviors was obtained in excellent yields (Scheme 3).

135 When chlorodimethyl(phenyl)silane was used as electrophile (j), the methylenic group
136 that is initially formed after the electrophilic attack on the carbanion is sufficiently acidic to
137 compete with the methyl group of another molecule of the starting material and suffers a
138 second deprotonation. To minimize this side reaction, a very slow increase of the
139 temperature upon addition of the electrophile is crucial. The phosphine–borane 1j has been
140 described previously but has not been further developed.^{17a,b}

141 The reaction of the lithium carbanion with carbonyl compounds is very efficient,
142 giving quantitative yields and good enantioselectivities on the obtained phosphines.
143 Livinghouse, Kann, and O’Brien used benzophenone for quenching the lithium complex of
144 prochiral phosphine–boranes with different chiral dinitrogen auxiliaries as a method to
145 evaluate the enantioselectivities achieved.^{14b,15a–c,17a,b,20} Indeed, 1l was obtained but
146 its deprotection was not described. We explored the reaction with other three different

147 carbonyl reagents, which included one or two pyridine rings: benzopyridyl ketone, dipyridyl
148 ketone and pyridylaldehyde (Scheme 4).

149 Livinghouse²¹ developed an effective route to optically pure secondary
150 phosphine–boranes (R)-(BH₃)PPhHMe from (BH₃)PPhMe₂. We have reproduced the
151 preparation of compound 11', precursor of the secondary phosphine, with the same
152 excellent yields. The preparation of phosphine–borane 11'' confirms the previous formation
153 of the alcohol.

154 In the preparation of adducts 1k,m a new stereogenic carbon atom was created but no
155 diastereoselection was observed, since the two possible diastereomers, SP,SC and SP,RC,
156 were formed in the same amounts and they could be separated and isolated by flash
157 chromatography.

158 Other functionalities susceptible to nucleophilic attack are epoxides, which upon
159 opening lead to phosphino–alcohols. The reaction with styrene oxide takes place with good
160 conversion (80%) and with complete regioselectivity of the nucleophilic attack at the
161 secondary carbon of the oxirane ring (Scheme 5). When racemic styrene oxide was used, the
162 two diastereomers (SP,SC and SP,RC) were obtained, but using optically pure styrene oxide
163 allowed the isolation of a single diastereomer. In this example (R)-styrene oxide has been
164 used to characterize 1p (SP,RC).

165 The new phosphine–boranes obtained were characterized by means of elemental
166 analysis, infrared spectroscopy, NMR spectroscopy, HPLC analysis, and polarimetry (see
167 the Supporting Information). In some cases, their absolute configuration was confirmed by
168 a crystal structure determination.

169 HPLC analyses have allowed the evaluation of the optical purity of the
170 phosphine–boranes. In general, the ee has been found to be higher than 95% after workup
171 and purification (Table 1). Phosphine–boranes obtained from silyl chlorides and those
172 containing the ferrocenyl substituent showed reduced ee's, as observed by Kann.^{14c} Jamison
173 reported that monodentate chiral ferrocenylphosphines prepared from the ephedrine-based
174 oxazaphospholidine–borane complex were obtained with better than 95% ee values in most
175 cases.²² ³¹P NMR spectroscopy of phosphine–borane adducts showed a single broad
176 quartet due to the coupling to the ¹¹B atom (Table 1). The two diastereomers of 1k could be
177 separated by flash chromatography and were observed at 22.45 and 25.27 ppm. The

178 diastereomeric mixture of 1m appeared as a broad signal at 20.20 ppm. The chemical shifts
179 of the phosphine–boranes spanned a narrow range of values for each group of compounds
180 1, 2, or 3, with those of the ferrocenylphosphine adducts (3) appearing at lower fields. ¹H
181 spectra at room temperature did not show any remarkable particularities, except for the
182 duplicity of the signals of the hydrogen atoms belonging to the methylene or dimethylsilyl
183 linkers of the pendant arm due to their diastereotopic character. The pattern is complicated
184 when the chain between the phosphorus atom and the aryl moiety is an ethylene group, since
185 the spin system is a five-nucleus AA' BB' X. The signals of the CH₂Ar methylene
186 appeared at lower fields than those of CH₂P methylene. In the rest of the adducts,
187 assignments were possible using 2D HSQC experiments and taking into account the different
188 contributions of the coupling constants to the ³¹P nucleus, although with frequently
189 overlapped signals. Accordingly, doublets of doublets or pseudotriplets could appear for
190 each proton of the methylene group bound to the phosphorus atom, a doublet for each proton
191 of the methylene group bound to the aryl moiety in the adducts i and two singlets for the
192 SiMe₂ linker in adducts i and j.

193 ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the phosphine–borane 3 showed a similar pattern for the
194 signals of the cyclopentadienyl rings of the ferrocenyl substituent: one single peak for the
195 unsubstituted Cp ring and a group of more or less overlapped signals for the Cp–P ring, in
196 which all atoms are different, reflecting the lack of symmetry in the phosphine–borane
197 adduct.

198 The molecular structures of some of the borane-protected phosphines were determined
199 by single-crystal X-ray analysis to confirm the absolute configuration of the obtained
200 enantiomer. Bond distances and angles are similar to those previously reported for related
201 P-chiral phosphines (Figure 1S and Table 1S in the Supporting Information).²³ In all
202 structures the stereogenic phosphorus atom had an S configuration, as expected.

203 **Deprotection of the Phosphorus–Borane Adducts.** Borane protection can be
204 removed by different protocols. For arylphosphine–borane adducts amines such as
205 morpholine and diethylamine are commonly used, and when secondary amines are not
206 compatible with some functional groups present in the starting adduct, a tertiary amine such
207 as DABCO is a good option.²⁴ Even the use of polymer-supported amines has been
208 reported.²⁵ For trialkylphosphine–boranes the use of strong acids with a weakly
209 coordinating, nonoxidizing conjugate base such as HBF₄·Et₂O is more convenient.²⁶ The

210 use of alcohols with or without molecular sieves to perform the deprotection has been
211 proposed, but only for phosphine adducts containing at least one phenyl group attached to
212 the phosphorus atom. We have verified this extreme.²⁷

213 Given the electron-rich character of all the phosphine–boranes synthesized in this
214 work, the strong acid deprotection method was used to attain the free phosphine (Scheme 6).
215 Initially the addition of HBF₄·Et₂O to a solution of the phosphine–borane in CH₂Cl₂ led to
216 the formation of the protonated phosphine [HP*]⁺, which in a second step was converted
217 into the corresponding free phosphine by addition of a degassed aqueous solution of
218 NaHCO₃. The deprotection process was monitored by ³¹P NMR. One advantage of this
219 methodology is that the protonated phosphine is indefinitely stable, even in contact with air.
220 This operation was performed with the phosphine adducts that were used to explore their
221 coordination to ruthenium.

222 Deprotection by HBF₄·Et₂O showed a limitation with some phosphine adducts, since
223 for the products 1j, 2j, and 3j variable amounts of the starting dimethylphosphine were
224 recovered (Scheme 7).

225 The combination of the stabilizing effect of the phenyl ring directly connected to the
226 silyl fragment and the high affinity between silicon and fluoride led to the elimination of the
227 silyl unit with consequent formation of dimethylphosphine after neutralization. This kind of
228 behavior is not new; O'Brien took advantage of it by using the dimethylphenylsilyl moiety
229 as a protecting group for the methyl group in tert-butyldimethylphosphines.¹⁸ To overcome
230 this limitation, adducts 1j, 2j, and 3j were deprotected using DABCO in hot toluene. Another
231 side reaction was the elimination of the –OH group of 1l when it was deprotected in acidic
232 media, a fact confirmed after preparation of the ruthenium complex. The abstraction of OH
233 could be favored by the charge stabilization due to the presence of two phenyl groups; the
234 proton of the final –CHPh₂ fragment could be abstracted from the borane decomposition
235 products. The other phosphine–borane coming from the addition over C=O double bonds,
236 potentially bidentate PN ligands, were not deprotected.

237 Free phosphines were very easily oxidized and therefore were immediately
238 coordinated with ruthenium or converted to the selenides to avoid decomposition. To
239 confirm that the deprotection of the phosphine–boranes retained the original optical purity,
240 the diastereomeric ratio of the product of the reaction between the free phosphine and a chiral

241 dinuclear cyclopalladated complex was evaluated. This known fast methodology uses ^1H or
242 ^{31}P NMR spectroscopy to roughly assess the enantiomeric purity of the phosphine.²⁸

243 Palladium cyclometalated complexes derived from (R)-1-(1-naphthyl)ethylamine
244 have been prepared as chiral derivatizing agents to perform this kind of control (Scheme
245 8).²⁹

246 If ^{31}P NMR signals corresponding to the two diastereomers have different enough
247 chemical shifts, it is possible to evaluate the diastereomeric ratio of the mixture from the
248 relative areas of the signals. Alternatively, the same measurement could be performed using
249 the methyl signal of the cyclometalated ligand in the ^1H NMR. This ratio reflects the
250 enantiomeric excess of the original mixture of the starting phosphine. To check this
251 methodology, the phosphine–borane **1i** in racemic form was prepared using the same
252 standard procedure without addition of (–)-sparteine (Scheme 9).

253 The ^{31}P spectra of the corresponding cyclometalated palladium complexes with
254 deprotected phosphine–borane rac-**1i** and S-**1i** obtained with the (–)-sparteine methodology
255 are depicted in Figure 1, showing that it is possible to evaluate the enantiomeric purity of
256 the free phosphine obtained after the deboronation (ratio close to 9/1). The same verification
257 was performed with **2d** (~99% ee), **3d** (~99% ee), and **3i** (~65% ee), giving results roughly
258 similar to those obtained by HPLC of the protected phosphines.

259 **Comparison of the σ -Donating Power between Phosphines.** The influence of the
260 substituents on the phosphorus lone pair in a phosphine is a combination of electronic and
261 steric factors. Electron-withdrawing groups increase the s character of the lone pair of the
262 phosphine, while bulky substituents widen the intervalence angles and reduce the s character
263 of the phosphorus lone pair.^{30,31} Therefore, an experimental comparison of the σ -donating
264 ability of phosphines surrounded by different substituents must be referred to the selected
265 acceptor. Tolman³² used a carbonyl nickel complex to perform this kind of evaluation, but
266 another way to perform this comparison is to use the magnitude of 1JPX , where X should
267 ideally be a nucleus with $S = 1/2$. Selenium is an excellent candidate, since it contains a
268 7.58% of the isotope ^{77}Se with $S = 1/2$ and the phosphine–selenides can be easily obtained
269 by direct reaction between selenium or SeCN^- and the free phosphine.^{31,33} The results
270 collected in Table 1 were obtained from phosphine–selenides prepared by overnight stirring
271 of the corresponding deprotected phosphines with elemental selenium in toluene at room
272 temperature or with gentle heating. The 1JPSe values were obtained from satellites of the

273 ^{77}Se isotopologue present in the spectra of the corresponding phosphine–selenides; no
274 further characterization was attempted. The values obtained are in the range reported for
275 these kinds of phosphines (PPh₃, 728.9 Hz;³¹ PPh₂Fc, 731.1 Hz;³¹ PnBu₃, 689 Hz;³⁴
276 PCy₃, 672.9 Hz;³¹ PtBu₃, 693 Hz;³⁵ PiPr₃, 696 Hz³⁵). The $^1\text{JPSe}$ values increase with the
277 s character of the lone pair, reflecting a decrease in the basicity of the phosphine.

278 The data in Table 1 show some interesting features; in phosphines with the same
279 primary substituent R (PMeR-(CH₂R'), 1–3), the order of σ basicity is t-Bu \approx Cy > Fc
280 (see series i and j), a trend also observed for the prochiral phosphines SePMe₂(t-Bu) and
281 SePMe₂Fc ($\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ 39.2 (JPSe = 690 Hz) and 11.5 (JPSe = 702 Hz), respectively).

282 The change of the group R' in the pendant arm of the phosphine is also reflected in
283 $^1\text{JPSe}$. The most significant difference, probably for steric reasons, was observed when
284 comparing the remote –SiMe₂Ph group (3j for instance) with the more basic –SiMe₂CH₂Ph
285 (3i).

286 Since it is necessary to monitor the formation of the phosphonium salts [P*H]⁺ by
287 $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectroscopy in the first step of the deprotection of the phosphine–borane
288 adducts in acidic media, it is possible to record the same spectra without proton decoupling.
289 The values of ^1JPH obtained with the adducts 1i–3i (Table 1) showed a trend similar to that
290 obtained from the $^1\text{JPSe}$ coupling constants, suggesting that ^1JPH values could be used for
291 the same comparative purposes with the minimum possible steric distortion.

292 **Preparation of Ruthenium Complexes.** A group of [RuCl₂(η^6 -p-cymene)(P*)] (P*
293 = deprotected phosphine) complexes was synthesized by reaction of the dimeric p-cymene
294 ruthenium precursor and the appropriate pure deprotected phosphines containing a pendant
295 arm potentially capable of stabilizing a polydentate κ -P*- η^6 arene ligand. Ruthenium-
296 tethered complexes were obtained through an intramolecular arene substitution reaction by
297 heating the complexes [RuCl₂(p-cymene)(P*)] (P* = tert-butyl- and cyclohexylphosphines)
298 in chlorobenzene at 120 °C (Scheme 10).³⁶ The ferrocenyl-containing phosphines were
299 thermally unstable under these conditions, and even the use of [RuCl₂(benzene)(P-
300 ferrocenyl)] complexes as starting materials was unsuccessful. Attempts to prepare the
301 ferrocenyltethered complexes using [RuCl₂(DMSO)₄] or [RuCl(μ -Cl)(CO)₃]₂ as starting
302 materials were also unsuccessful (see the Supporting Information for more details). Recent
303 examples of tethered chiral ruthenium complexes of this type have been described, in which
304 the phosphine–arene chelates have a stereogenic center located in the bridge³⁷ or possess

305 either planar chirality³⁸ or a stereogenic center in the phosphine substituents.³⁹ Other κ^1 -
306 X- η^6 -arene complexes containing nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, or carbene coordination arms are
307 also known.⁴⁰

308 Elemental analyses and ³¹P, ¹H, and ¹³C NMR spectral data of all new complexes
309 are given in the Experimental Section (Charts 3 and 4).

310 The nature of the different pendant arms hanging from the phosphine allowed the study
311 of several aspects of the substitution reaction of the coordinated p-cymene group.

312 (1) When the incoming pendant arm of the phosphine contains a nonsymmetric arene
313 moiety, namely for 2-naphthyl (d), 3-methoxyphenyl (e), and 3-biphenyl (g), a new
314 element of planar chirality is created. NMR spectra showed the formation of diastereomeric
315 mixtures for tert-butyl complexes **7e** (tethered complex from PMe(t-Bu)(3-MeOPh))⁹ (crude
316 product ~16% de, isolated product 45% de) and **7g** (crude product ~23% de, isolated
317 product 11% de) but only one diastereomer was detected for **7d** (tethered complex from
318 PMe(t-Bu)CH₂CH₂(2-Naphth)).⁹ Careful examination of 1D and 2D NMR data confirmed
319 that in all compounds the major diastereomer has the substituent of the coordinated aryl
320 moiety located in an opposite position relative to the tert-butyl substituent of the phosphine.

321 (2) When the incoming phosphine contains a pendant arm with two equivalent arene
322 groups, an additional stereogenic center is formed in the tether upon ring closure, as in the
323 case of **7l**. Once again, it is possible to evaluate the discrimination ability of the stereogenic
324 phosphorus atom in this reaction. tert-Butyl and methyl substituents of phosphine **1** showed
325 very limited discrimination capacity between the two phenyl groups of the pendant arm
326 (isolated product, 5% de).

327 (3) The length of the linker between the phosphorus atom and the arene group is
328 another important parameter, since the spatial disposition of the remaining phosphine
329 substituents and the position of the substituents of the arene ligand could change as a function
330 of the number of atoms in the linker (**7i,j** and **8i,j**).⁴¹ Crystal structures of tethered complexes
331 with two or three-membered linkers are useful in evaluating the importance of these effects.

332 Monocrystals of sufficient quality to perform X-ray diffraction studies were obtained
333 with the tethered complexes **7c,g** described in the previous communication⁹ and **7l** and **8i**.
334 Only in one case has it been possible to crystallize the open compounds (**5i**). The crystals
335 were obtained by slow diffusion of hexane over a chloroform or dichloromethane solution

336 of the complex. All complexes adopt a distorted three-legged “piano stool” geometry,
337 showing the underlying octahedral arrangement of the different ligands. The ruthenium atom
338 is η^6 -coordinated to the p-cymene or to the arene fragment of the pendant arm of the
339 phosphine, blocking three coordination positions in the complex. The other three positions
340 are occupied by two chlorine atoms and one phosphorus atom with angles not far from 90°
341 between them. In complex 7c the unit cell contains two molecules that differ in the relative
342 position of the planes defined by the pentamethylphenyl arene and the three opposite ligands
343 (Figure 2).

344 Both isomers of complexes 7g (11% de) and 7l (5% de) were observed in solution, but
345 the crystal used in the determination of 7g contains only the isomer with the 3-phenyl
346 substituent of the arene directed opposite to the tert-butyl group of the phosphine and 7l is a
347 1/1 mixture of both isomers RP,SC and RP,RC (Figure 3). Bond distances and angles are
348 quite similar to those reported for analogous ruthenium complexes; a selection of distances
349 and angles is given in Table 2.42

350 With the phosphine 2i (S, 75% ee) it was possible to obtain the molecular structures
351 of the open (5i) and tethered (8i) ruthenium complexes. In 5i only the isomer arising from
352 the coordination of the S isomer of the phosphine is present, but in the crystal there are two
353 independent identical molecules disordered in the ratio 93/7. In 8i the unit cell of the crystals
354 studied contain a 1/1 mixture of the tethered complex of both isomers of the phosphine.
355 Although it is not possible to discard completely some racemization in the thermal formation
356 of the tethered complex, the preferred crystallization of the pairs of enantiomers seems more
357 probable (Figures 4 and 5).

358 It is interesting to note that in the open p-cymene complexes such as 5i and examples
359 reported in the literature the distances arene plane–Cl and arene plane–P are similar, with a
360 value of around 3.1 Å. In the tethered complexes, those with a chain with three-membered
361 linkers the distances arene–P are similar, but when the chain contains two atoms in the linker
362 the arene–P distances decrease to around 2.8 Å without changes in the arene–Cl distances
363 (Supporting Information). Therefore, in the solid state the claw effect of the formally
364 tetradentate κ^1 - η^6 ligand with the arene–phosphorus bridge containing two atoms in the
365 linker introduces a certain tension that is also reflected in the Cl–Ru–P and Ru–P–CH₂–
366 angles and in the slight differences in the Ru–C distances of the arene moiety, as could be
367 observed on comparing the non trained 5i and 8i with complexes 7 (Figure 5 and Table

368 2).7a,c This pincer effect does not allow us to observe differences in the distance Ru–C6
369 plane when the number of methyl substituents on the arene moiety is increased: $7l < 7b <$
370 $7c$. The change of the spherical tert-butyl to the flat Cy substituents is reflected in the large
371 differences of the C11–Ru–P and Ru–P–CR angles, where C11 is directed toward R. The
372 introduction of a silicon atom in the chain of the tethered complexes is reflected mainly in
373 the angles C–Si–C, which are smaller than the equivalent C–C–C counterparts in analogous
374 compounds.

375 All new compounds were characterized in solution by means of multinuclear NMR
376 spectroscopy. ^1H – ^{13}C -HSQC and ^1H – ^1H -NOESY experiments were performed to
377 unambiguously assign ^1H NMR spectra. The position of the ^{31}P , ^1H , and ^{13}C NMR signals
378 are, in general, quite similar for the phosphine ligands in complexes $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})(\text{P}^*)]$
379 containing the same substituent t-Bu (4), Cy (5), or Fc (6). The small variation is consistent
380 with the similarity of the groups attached to the phosphorus atom (see the Experimental
381 Section).

382 $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectra of t-Bu complexes (4) showed a singlet around 29 ppm. The
383 spectrum of compound 4l, which is unique in having two phenyl groups at the β -carbon of
384 the tether, and those containing the silicon atom in a β -position (4i,j) showed a slight
385 displacement to lower field (31 and 36 ppm, respectively). The signals of the Cy complexes
386 (5) appeared around 25.5 ppm, and those of the Fc series (6) appeared in the narrow range
387 9–10 ppm; in this group no effect from the silyl fragment is observed (Table 3).

388 To assign the proton spectra of the CH_2 groups of the pendant arm of the coordinated
389 phosphine, it is convenient to obtain the ^{13}C spectra and the corresponding HSQC. The ^{13}C
390 NMR signals of the PCH₂ and PCH₃ groups appear as doublets as a consequence of the P–C
391 coupling, of about 20 ± 5 Hz for the PCH₂ link, 6–10 Hz lower than that observed for the
392 PCH₃ group. The signal of the second CH_2Ar appeared in some cases as a singlet or a
393 doublet ($J_{\text{CP}} < 4$ Hz).

394 The consequence of the presence of the stereogenic phosphorus atom in the
395 coordination sphere is the lack of any symmetry in the complex, reflected in the
396 nonequivalence of the four CH aromatic carbons and two methyl groups of the isopropyl
397 substituent of the p-cymene. The signals of four of the CH aromatic carbon atoms appeared
398 between 83 and 89 ppm coupled with the phosphorus atom ($J_{\text{PC}} \approx 3\text{--}6$ Hz) and the other
399 two at 92–94 and 107–108 ppm with few exceptions. The ferrocenyl group showed one

400 intense signal of the carbon atoms of the free Cp in the range 68–70 ppm, but in the Cp
401 bonded to the phosphorus atom it is possible observe up to four signals in the range 68–72
402 ppm coupled with the phosphorus atom ($J_{PC} \approx 6\text{--}10$ Hz), although they are overlapped in
403 some complexes.

404 In the ^1H NMR spectra the signals of the phosphine protons of the PMe and the P(*t*-
405 Bu) moieties are observed between 1.00 and 1.60 ppm as two doublets. The cyclohexyl
406 protons are dispersed between in the 1–2 ppm range and those of the ferrocenyl fragment
407 appeared divided for the two Cp rings, near 4.15 ppm for the unsubstituted Cp and four more
408 or less overlapped signals for the four protons of the CpP ring in the range 4.1–4.5 ppm. The
409 pendant arm of the phosphine showed the diastereotopic nature of the protons of the PCH₂,
410 CH₂Ar, and SiMe₂ groups. In some complexes the pattern of the signals are complex, as
411 expected for a AA' BB' X system; the pairs of diastereotopic protons could reach a
412 difference of 0.3 ppm. The CH₂Ar signal usually appears at lower field than the PCH₂
413 methylene signals. Finally, the signal of the protons corresponding to the noncoordinated
414 aromatic ring of the phosphine appears in the normal range.

415 The signals of the *p*-cymene moiety showed the same lack of symmetry in the
416 complex; the two methyl groups of the isopropyl substituent appeared as two doublets or a
417 partially overlapped pseudotriplet in the range 1.2 ± 0.2 ppm, and the methyl substituent
418 appears in the range 1.8 ± 0.2 ppm. The four CH aromatic protons appeared around 5.50
419 ppm; in complexes 4l and 6i,j four clean independent doublets are observed, but in general
420 the signals appeared more overlapped.

421 In the tethered complexes 7a–f the ^{31}P chemical shift increases ~ 30 ppm with respect
422 to that in the open *p*-cymene compounds 4a–f. Complex 7g showed the same ring
423 contribution, but for those complexes with a silicon atom in the tether the chemical shift
424 changed slightly up and down from the former open complexes (Table 3).

425 The most significant changes were observed in the ^1H NMR spectra, since the
426 substitution of the *p*-cymene simplifies the aliphatic part and now all the arene hydrogen
427 atoms appeared separated, showing a multiplicity of the signals according to the substituents
428 present in the phenyl ring. The signals of the diastereotopic CH₂Ar invert the position with
429 respect to the open complexes and appear usually at higher fields than the PCH₂ signals; the
430 differentiation between diastereotopic protons could increase up to ~ 0.5 ppm, and the
431 multiplicity remains complex except for the SiCH₂Ar methylene protons, where just a

432 doublet appears for each proton by geminal coupling. The rigidity of the κ -P*- η^6 -arene
433 ligand allowed observing the vicinity of the different protons of the tether and their contacts
434 with those of the phosphine substituents and arene hydrogen atoms by NOESY experiments,
435 some of which are depicted in the Supporting Information.

436 **Transfer Hydrogenation.** The asymmetric version of the hydrogen transfer reaction
437 applied to the reduction of ketones has been studied in detail in recent years. The most
438 commonly used metal catalysts are ruthenium-based complexes, usually with +II as the
439 formal oxidation state of the Ru atom. The stabilizing ligands are a wide range of
440 combinations between chiral polydentate nitrogen and phosphorus ligands. Arene ruthenium
441 precursors play an interesting role, since three coordination positions located in a fac manner
442 are blocked by the arene ligand, a fact that limits the numbers of possible stereoisomers.
443 Typically, with arene ruthenium complexes, bidentate or monodentate chiral ligands have
444 been used as fundamental partners; this has allowed the development of excellent systems
445 for enantioselective reductions.^{1,2,43}

446 Ruthenium complexes of the type $[\text{RuCl}_2(\eta^6\text{-arene})(\text{P})]$ with P as a monodentate
447 phosphorus ligand have been seldom used in the hydrogen transfer reaction, despite being
448 stable and easy to prepare.⁴⁴ These complexes can be prepared through straightforward
449 syntheses and give good activities in the standard hydrogen transfer reaction; they have also
450 been tested in the asymmetric version of the reaction using chiral phosphines with some
451 success.⁴⁵ To obtain more information about the conditions needed to improve the stability
452 of the active species and the asymmetric induction generated by the ligand, we have tested
453 some of the tethered and nontethered complexes in the model acetophenone reduction
454 reaction.

455 In order to generate the catalytically active species, the ruthenium complexes and
456 potassium tert-butoxide were dissolved in 2-propanol and heated to reflux for 30 min, before
457 the addition of acetophenone. This activation period was the same for all reactions. Initially
458 the transfer hydrogenation reactions were tested with several complexes under reflux in
459 isopropyl alcohol (Scheme 11, Table 4). Several precursors reach almost complete
460 conversion in 24 h, but the enantioselectivity was negligible, with the exception of complex
461 7d, which includes a new planar element of chirality. The open $[\text{RuCl}_2(\text{p-cymene})(\text{P}(\text{t-Bu})\text{-}$
462 $\text{MeCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{R}')]^9$ precursors 4c ($\text{R}' = -\text{C}_6\text{Me}_5$) and 4d ($\text{R}' = -2\text{-Naphth}$) presented higher
463 activity than the tethered counterparts.

464 To check whether lowering the temperature could improve the enantioselectivity of
465 the process, two known complexes containing (S)-isopropyl(aryl)phenylphosphines^{45a} and
466 4d that showed a limited degree of enantioselection were tested at 40 °C (see the Supporting
467 Information). An expected decrease of conversion and a clear increase of enantioselectivity
468 was observed in comparison with the experiments at 82 °C. A slight evolution of ee with
469 time could be a consequence of the ketone–alcohol equilibrium of the hydrogen transfer
470 reaction. Therefore, in order to evaluate the discrimination ability of the ruthenium
471 complexes, the hydrogen transfer reactions were carried out at 40 °C.

472 Regarding the activity, some trends were observed. The activities of the tethered
473 precursors are lower than those of the open analogues in isopropyl alcohol at reflux;
474 however, at 40 °C the reverse order is observed. In the group of tethered complexes in which
475 the arene moiety presents a gradual increase in the number of methyl substituents (7a–c) the
476 activity decreases with an increase in the number of methyl substituents on the arene, in
477 parallel with the increase of arene basicity and steric hindrance. The presence of tert-butyl
478 (4i,j), cyclohexyl (5i,j), and ferrocenyl (6i,j) substituents on the phosphine in p-cymene
479 complexes or a change of the tether length from two (7j, 8j) to three atoms (7i, 8i) does not
480 significantly affect the activity. The different basicities of tertbutyl- and
481 cyclohexylphosphines with respect to ferrocenylphosphines or the increased basicity of
482 –SiMe₂CH₂Ph-containing phosphines (i) in comparison to those containing –SiMe₂Ph (j) is
483 not reflected in any change on the rate of the transfer hydrogenation.

484 With regard to the enantioselectivity, the effect of the pendant arm of the phosphines
485 is determinant; those containing the terminal groups 2-naphthyl and –CHPh₂ in p-cymene or
486 tethered complexes have significant enantiomeric excess.

487 The solutions containing catalytic half-sandwich precursors sometimes darken after 24
488 h of reaction time, which indicates decomposition of the ruthenium complex. This color
489 change was not observed in the solutions containing tethered catalytic precursors. Similar
490 complexes stabilized by triaryl- or diarylalkylphosphines showed reaction rates higher than
491 those reported here with trialkylphosphines but conversely lower stability of the catalytic
492 species.^{44c,45}

493 It is generally accepted that the active species in transfer hydrogenation with
494 precursors of the type [RuCl₂(η⁶-arene)-(P*)] could be either a monohydride or a dihydride
495 species.⁴⁶ To explore the origin of the differences observed, some tests have been performed

496 in order to know the kind of intermediates present in solution after activation of the
497 precursors. The position of the NMR signals of monohydride and dihydride complexes have
498 been determined starting from the method developed by Demerseman^{46c} to directly obtain
499 the dihydride complexes (Scheme 12). Therefore, 4IH₂ and 5iH₂ were obtained, a single
500 doublet is observed in the hydride region of the crude solution (4IH₂, δ -12.05 ppm, JPH =
501 42.5 Hz; 5iH₂, δ -10.38 ppm, JPH = 47.5 Hz). ³¹P{¹H} and coupled ¹³P NMR spectra
502 showed that the amount of other species is low, confirming the nature of the main products
503 of these reactions (see spectra of mono- and dihydride species in the Supporting
504 Information). The CDCl₃ solutions of the dihydride complexes slowly evolve to the starting
505 dichloride compound, and the solids obtained after concentration to dryness were used
506 without further purification.

507 The dihydride complex 4IH₂ was used as a precatalyst without an induction period
508 (Table 4), showing less activity than its precursor 4I but retaining the same
509 enantioselectivity, pointing out that the discrimination ability of the active species does not
510 depend on the starting complex.

511 To investigate the species obtained after the activation of the ruthenium complexes, 20
512 mL of a 0.01 M solution of [RuCl₂(p-cymene)(P*)] (5i) and [RuCl₂(κ -P*- η 6-arene)] (8i)
513 with 5 equiv of t-BuOK were refluxed for 30 min in isopropyl alcohol (Scheme 13). The ¹H
514 and ³¹P spectra of the solution reaction of 5i showed the formation of several species with
515 hydride and phosphorus signals in the range observed for mono- and dihydride complexes
516 (Figure 6). In contrast, the solution of the reaction of 8i showed the formation of mainly a
517 monohydride single product (Figures 7 and 8).

518 The results of the reduction of acetophenone can be discussed considering that the
519 successive reaction steps must be initiated by ligand dissociation to open a free coordination
520 position. Arene slippage or phosphine exchange are accessible initiation steps available for
521 dihydride intermediates; exchange of the chloride ligand is also available for monohydride
522 intermediates, although it seems less accessible as reported.^{45b} Regarding the activity, the
523 arene and phosphine ligands in the tethered complexes must be less labile than the p-cymene
524 parent complexes, but in the reactions at 40 °C the higher activity of the tethered complexes
525 probably can be associated to the major stability of a single active species. The
526 enantioselectivity observed is very limited, with the exceptions of the complexes bearing
527 PCH₂CHPh₂ or PCH₂CH₂(2-naphthyl) substituents in the pendant arm of the phosphines,

528 both tethered and in the parent p-cymene complexes. Furthermore, the dihydride and
529 dichloride precursors of the same phosphine tested as catalytic precursors give similar
530 selectivities, showing that the standard activation process leads to the same catalytically
531 active species. These facts point toward an activation process by arene slippage or complete
532 decoordination, as suggested for ruthenium carbene analogues.⁴⁷

533 **Exploration of the Anticancer Activity.** Since several ruthenium arene complexes
534 showed important interactions with DNA and therefore are of pharmacological interest, two
535 p-cymene complexes (5j, 6j) and one tethered complex (8j) have been used to evaluate the
536 difference between tethered and open complexes in their interaction with DNA and possible
537 cytotoxicity.^{4,48} The results obtained in the study of the interactions with DNA: circular
538 dichroism and tapping mode atomic force microscopy (TMAFM) are described in the
539 Supporting Information.

540 Cytotoxicity of the Ruthenium Complex against HL-60 Cells. The effect of the
541 ruthenium complexes was examined on human leukemia cancer cells (HL-60) using the
542 MTT assay, a colorimetric determination of cell viability during in vitro treatment with a
543 drug. The assay, developed as an initial stage of drug screening, measures the amount of
544 MTT reduction by mitochondrial dehydrogenase and assumes that cell viability
545 (corresponding to the reductive activity) is proportional to the production of purple formazan
546 that is measured spectrophotometrically. A low IC₅₀ value is desired and implies
547 cytotoxicity or antiproliferation at low drug concentrations.

548 The drugs tested in this experiment were cisplatin and ruthenium complexes. Cells
549 were exposed to each compound continuously for a 24 or 72 h period and then assayed for
550 growth using the MTT end point assay. The IC₅₀ values of ruthenium complexes and
551 cisplatin for the growth inhibition of HL-60 cells are summarized in Table 5.

552 The values of IC₅₀ for ruthenium complexes 5j and 6j are similar to those of cisplatin
553 for HL-60 tumor cell lines for 72 h and lower than that of the platinum drug for 24 h.
554 However, compound 8j exhibits a lower activity for both 24 and 72 h of treatment.

555 Quantification of Apoptosis by Annexin V Binding and Flow Cytometry. We have
556 also analyzed by Annexin V-PI flow cytometry whether ruthenium complexes are able to
557 induce apoptosis in HL-60 cells after 24 h of incubation at equitoxic concentrations (IC₅₀
558 values). Annexin V binds phosphatidyl serine residues, which are asymmetrically distributed

559 toward the inner plasma membrane but migrate to the outer plasma membrane during
560 apoptosis.⁴⁹

561 As can be seen in Table 6, ruthenium complexes induce cell death by apoptosis at IC₅₀
562 treatment (29.72% for 5j, 23.67% for 6j, and 7.71% for 8j). The percentages for complexes
563 5j and 6j are lower than that for cisplatin but much higher than that obtained for complex 8j.

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573 3. CONCLUSIONS

574 A small library of P-stereogenic phosphines S-PMeR(CH₂R') were obtained by the
575 Evans methodology, where R = t-Bu (1), Cy (2), Fc (3) and R' contains an aryl, pyridyl,
576 or alcohol functionality. The preparation of the corresponding selenides allowed us to
577 compare their σ -donating abilities, which were similar for 1 and 2 and more basic in
578 comparison to 3. Those phosphines with a pendant arm bearing a secondary aryl
579 functionality have been selected to prepare two series of Ru(II) arene complexes. From the
580 first series, [RuCl₂(η 6-p-cymene)-(P*)] (4–6), a second group of tethered [RuCl₂(κ -P*- η 6-
581 arene)] complexes (7, 8) have been prepared by thermal arene substitution. All phosphines
582 and ruthenium compounds have been fully characterized both in solution and in the solid
583 state.

584 When the terminal aryl fragment of the pendant arm was substituted in a
585 nonsymmetrical way (meta substitution or fused aromatic rings) a new planar element of
586 chirality was introduced when complexes 7 were prepared. The diastereoselectivity of the
587 synthesis depends on the nature of the phosphine substituents R and R'. Within the group of
588 complexes explored, complete diastereoselectivity was observed for R = t-Bu and R' =
589 CH₂(2-naphthyl). Thus, this methodology to prepare diastereomerically pure ruthenium
590 tethered complexes seems promising, since it depends on the appropriate selection of
591 substituents on the P-stereogenic phosphines.

592 The effect of different structural parameters of the ruthenium complexes has been
593 evaluated in the model hydrogen transfer reduction of acetophenone. In reactions carried out
594 at 40 °C, the tethered ruthenium complexes showed better activity probably by a
595 combination of more robustness and the presence of mainly a unique monohydride species
596 after activation of the precursor. The enantioselectivity observed is significant when the
597 pendant arm of the phosphine contains a bulky aryl terminus (d, l) in the open or tethered
598 catalytic precursors. The results obtained point to an arene slippage as the way to open the
599 coordination position needed to operate the hydrogenation transfer reaction.

600 Some complexes were tested for potential antitumor activity against the human
601 promyelocytic leukemia cell line HL-60 using a MTT assay. Compounds 5j and 6j exhibit
602 excellent antitumor activity, with IC₅₀ values similar to that of cisplatin. Compound 8j
603 presents a higher value for IC₅₀, being less active. The apoptotic behavior studies gave
604 results in the same direction.

605 The study of the interaction of DNA with these three ruthenium compounds were
606 carried out by CD and AFM. Results indicated modifications in tertiary ct-DNA and pBR322
607 plasmid DNA structures after incubation with the three compounds, showing that DNA
608 could be one of the targets of their antitumor mechanisms of action. The results obtained
609 strongly suggest that the biologically active organic group is the pendant aromatic
610 substituent available in 5j and 6j, but it is unavailable in the tethered complex 8j.

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619 4. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

620 **General Data.** All compounds were prepared under a purified nitrogen atmosphere
621 using standard Schlenk techniques. All solvents were purified by standard procedures⁵⁰ and
622 distilled under nitrogen. ¹H, ¹³C{¹H}, ³¹P{¹H}, and HSQC ¹H–¹³C NMR spectra were
623 recorded on Bruker DRX 250, Varian Unity 300, and Varian Mercury 400 spectrometers.
624 NOESY spectra (¹H–¹H) were obtained on a Varian Inova 500 spectrometer. The spectra
625 were recorded in CDCl₃ unless otherwise specified. Chemical shifts are reported downfield
626 from standards. HPLC analyses were carried out in a Waters 717 Plus autosampler
627 chromatograph with a Waters 996 multidiode array detector, fitted with a Chiracel OD-H
628 chiral column. The eluent, in all determinations, was a mixture of n-hexane and iPrOH (95/5)
629 unless otherwise noted. Optical rotations were determined with a Perkin-Elmer 241MC
630 polarimeter at 23 °C using a sodium lamp at the sodium D-line wavelength (589.592 nm).
631 The solvent and concentration (g/mL) for each compound are indicated in parentheses.
632 Elemental analyses (C, H) were performed at the Serveis Científicotècnics of the University
633 of Barcelona. The ruthenium dimers [RuCl(μ-Cl)(C₆H₆)]₂ and [RuCl(μ-Cl)(C₁₀H₁₄)]₂ and
634 tertbutyldimethylphosphine–borane were prepared as previously described. 14a,44a Other
635 reagents were used as received from commercial suppliers. The analytical results of some of
636 the silicon-containing complexes are outside the range viewed as establishing analytical
637 purity; they are provided to illustrate the best values obtained to date. All NMR spectra of
638 these complexes are included in the Supporting Information.

639 **General Procedure for Phosphine–Borane Deprotection.** Method A. A 1 mmol
640 portion of phosphine–borane was placed in a Schlenk flask under a nitrogen atmosphere and
641 dissolved in 10 mL of dichloromethane. The mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and HBF₄·OEt₂
642 (0.70 mL, ~5 mmol) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred for 30 min. The
643 disappearance of the initial phosphine–borane signal and the presence of a new singlet
644 corresponding to the protonated phosphine in the ³¹P NMR spectra was observed. A
645 degassed saturated solution of NaHCO₃ (10 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred for
646 1 h. ³¹P NMR confirmed the quantitative formation of the free phosphine. The organic phase
647 was separated, dried on sodium sulfate, and filtered to obtain a solution containing the free
648 phosphine.

649 Method B. A 1 mmol portion of phosphine–borane was placed in a Schlenk flask under
650 a nitrogen atmosphere and dissolved in 10 mL of toluene. A 10 mmol portion of DABCO

651 (1.12 g) was added, and the solution was stirred for 6 h at 90 °C. ³¹P NMR confirmed the
652 quantitative formation of free phosphine. The solution was purified by column
653 chromatography (alumina, toluene) to yield a solution of the free phosphine.

654 **Half-Sandwich [RuCl₂(η⁶-arene)(P*)] Complexes.** Phosphine Deprotected with
655 Method A. Solid [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂ (0.31 g, 5 × 10⁻⁴ mol) was added to a solution
656 containing the free phosphine, and the mixture was stirred for 30 min at room temperature.
657 ³¹P NMR confirmed the coordination of the phosphine. The solvent was removed under
658 vacuum, and the crude product was purified by crystallization or by flash chromatography.

659 Phosphine Deprotected with Method B. A solution of [RuCl₂(pcymene)]₂ (0.31 g, 5
660 × 10⁻⁴ mol) in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added to the toluene solution containing the free
661 phosphine, and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. ³¹P NMR confirmed the coordination of
662 the phosphine. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the crude solid was dissolved
663 in dichloromethane. The resulting solution was washed several times with a 1 M aqueous
664 solution of HCl to eliminate DABCO, DABCO-borane, and other derivatives. The organic
665 phase was dried with sodium sulfate and filtered, and the crude product was purified by
666 crystallization or by flash chromatography.

667 Dichloro(η⁶-p-cymene)[(R)-tert-butyl(2-(3-phenylphenyl)ethyl)-
668 methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (4g). The phosphine was deprotected with method A. The
669 preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol, but starting
670 from 0.350 g (1.19 mmol) of 1g and 0.309 g (0.50 mmol) of [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂. Yield:
671 0.445 g, 75%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₉H₃₉Cl₂PRu: C, 58.98; H, 6.66. Found: C, 59.1; H, 7.0%.
672 ¹H NMR (400.0 MHz, 298 K): δ (ppm) 1.25 (d, J = 6.6, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.27 (d, J = 6.6,
673 CH₃CH, 3H); 1.33 (d, JHP = 13.2, (CH₃)₃C, 9H); 1.53 (d, JHP = 10.4, CH₃P, 3H); 2.09 (s,
674 CH₃ pcymene, 3H); 2.14–2.25 (m, CH₂P, 1H); 2.49–2.60 (m, CH₂P, 1H); 2.75 (tt, JHP ≈
675 JHH,gem = 13.6, JHH = 4.6, 1H); 2.85 (septet, J = 7.0, CH₃CH, 1H); 3.11 (tt, JHP ≈
676 JHH,gem = 13.5, JHH = 4.7, 1H); 5.52 (d, J = 6.3, p-cymene, 1H); 5.58 (d, J = 5.9, p-cymene,
677 1H); 5.63 (d, J = 6.1, p-cymene, 1H); 5.65 (d, p-cymene, 1H); 7.19 (d, Ph, 1H); 7.31–7.38
678 (m, 2H); 7.39–7.47 (m, 4H); 7.54–7.61 (m, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz, 298 K): δ
679 (ppm) 5.8 (d, JPC = 29.4, CH₃P); 18.1 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 22.0 (s, CH₃CH); 22.6 (s,
680 CH₃CH); 27.6 (d, JPC = 2.7, C(CH₃)₃); 28.4 (d, JPC = 21.6, CH₂P); 30.7 (s, CH₃CH); 31.8
681 (d, JPC = 4.6, CH₂Ph); 34.7 (d, JPC = 22.9, (CH₃)₃C); 83.0 (d, JPC = 4.9, CH p-cymene);
682 83.6 (d, JPC = 6.5, CH p-cymene); 88.2 (d, JPC = 4.1, CH pcymene); 89.9 (d, JPC = 4.0,

683 CH p-cymene); 93.2 (s, p-cymene); 107.8 (s, p-cymene); 125.1 (s, CH Ph.); 126.90 (s, CH
684 Ph.); 126.95 (s, 2CH Ph.); 127.2 (s, 2CH Ph.); 127.3 (s, CH Ph.); 129.0 (s, CH Ph.); 141.1
685 (s, C Ph.); 141.5 (s, C Ph.); 142.7 (d, JPC = 11.7, C Ph). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101.2 MHz,
686 CH_2Cl_2 , 298 K): δ (ppm) 29.6 (s).

687 Dichloro(η^6 -p-cymene)[(R)-tert-butyl-(2,2-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-sila-1-
688 propyl)methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (4i). The phosphine–borane was deprotected with
689 method A. The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol.
690 The crude orange resin was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to obtain the title
691 compound as an orange powder in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{41}\text{Cl}_2\text{PRuSi}$: C, 52.44;
692 H, 7.22. Found: C, 51.29; H, 7.34. ^1H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.08 (s, CH_3Si , 3H); 0.15
693 (s, CH_3Si , 3H); 1.01 (dd, J = 14.80, J = 13.20, CH_2P , 1H); 1.20–1.24 (m, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C}$, CH_3CH ,
694 15 H); 1.51 (d, J = 10.4, CH_3P , 3H); 1.62 (pt, J = 14.80, CH_2P , 1H); 1.97 (s, CH_3 p-cymene,
695 3H); 2.12 (d, J = 14.00, CH_2Si , 1H); 2.17 (d, J = 14.00, CH_2Si , 1H); 2.78 (septet, CH_3CH ,
696 1H); 5.48 (d, J = 5, p-cymene, 1H); 5.54 (s, p-cymene, 2H); 5.58 (d, J = 5, p-cymene, 1H);
697 6.90 (d, J = 4, o-Ph, 2H); 7.02 (t, J = 4, p-Ph, 1H); 7.18 (t, J = 4, Ph, 1H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR
698 (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) -0.44 (s, CH_3Si); -0.15 (s, CH_3Si); 10.06 (d, J = 28.17, CH_3P);
699 11.01 (d, J = 22.14, CH_2P); 17.82 (s, CH_3 p-cymene); 21.91 (s, CH_3CH p-cymene); 22.22
700 (s, CH_3CH , p-cymene); 27.32 (s, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C}$); 27.79 (s, PhCH_2Si); 30.47 (s, CH_3CH , p-
701 cymene); 34.66 (d, J = 23.14, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CP}$); 82.40 (d, J = 6.04, CH p-cymene); 83.18 (d, J =
702 6.04, CH p-cymene); 88.79 (s, CH, p-cymene); 89.53 (d, J = 3.02, CH p-cymene); 91.94 (p-
703 cymene); 107.76 (p-cymene); 123.98 (s, Ph); 128.02 (s, Ph); 128.11 (s, Ph); 139.54 (s, Ph).
704 $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 35.8 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm^{-1}) 476; 700; 765; 828; 888;
705 1056; 1135; 1205; 1249; 1281; 1366; 1470; 1492; 1599; 2870; 2898; 2958; 3021; 3056.

706 Dichloro(η^6 -p-cymene)[(R)-tert-butyl((dimethylphenylsilyl)-
707 methyl)methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (4j). The phosphine–borane was deprotected with
708 method B. The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol.
709 The crude orange resin was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane in order to obtain the
710 title compound as an orange powder in 80% yield. Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{39}\text{Cl}_2\text{PRuSi}$: C,
711 51.60; H, 7.04. Found: C, 51.52; H, 7.34. ^1H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.42 (s, CH_3Si ,
712 3H); 0.49 (s, CH_3Si , 3H); 1.16 (d, J = 12.00, $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{C}$, 9H); 1.20–1.24 (m, CH_2P , CH_3CH ,
713 8H); 1.47 (d, J = 10.40, CH_3P , 3H); 2.01 (s, CH_3 p-cymene, 3H); 2.82 (septet, Me_2CH , 1H);
714 5.49 (d, J = 6.00, p-cymene, 1H); 5.54 (s, p-cymene, 2H); 5.59 (d, J = 5.60, p-cymene, 1H);
715 7.31–7.34 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.50–7.53 (m, 3,5-Ph, 2H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm)

716 -0.26 (s, CH₃Si); 0.41 (d, J = 1, CH₃Si); 9.71 (d, J = 29.18, CH₃P); 12.95 (d, J = 20.52,
717 CH₂P); 17.84 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.98 (s, CH₃CH); 22.27 (s, CH₃CH); 27.39 (d, J = 4.02,
718 CH₃CP); 30.51 (s, Me₂CH); 34.6 (d, J = 6.04, CP); 82.72 (d, J = 5.03, CH, p-cymene); 83.09
719 (d, J = 7.04, CH, p-cymene); 88.93 (d, J = 4.03, CH, p-cymene); 89.52 (d, J = 3.02, CH, p-
720 cymene); 92.08 (s, p-cymene); 107.50 (s, p-cymene); 127.80 (s, Ph); 129.08 (s, 4-Ph);
721 133.54 (s, Ph); 139.40 (d, J = 3.4, 1-Ph). 31P{1H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 36.4 (s). FT-
722 IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 469; 632; 702; 783; 822; 888; 1111; 1246; 1365; 1425; 1463; 1741; 2896;
723 2931; 2959; 3053.

724 Dichloro(η⁶-p-cymene)[(R)-tert-butyl(2,2-diphenylethyl)-
725 methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (4l). The phosphine was deprotected with method A. The
726 preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol, but starting
727 from 0.160 g (0.51 mmol) of 1l and 0.128 g (0.21 mmol) of [RuCl₂(p-cymene)]₂. Yield:
728 0.152 g, 61%. Anal. Calcd for C₂₉H₃₉Cl₂PRu: C, 58.98; H, 6.66. Found: C, 58.5; H, 6.6.
729 1H NMR (400.0 MHz, 298 K): δ (ppm) 0.93 (d, JHP = 11.1, CH₃P, 3H); 1.15 (d, JHH = 7.0,
730 CH₃CH, 3H); 1.22 (d, JHH = 6.9, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.29 (d, JHP = 13.0, (CH₃)₃C, 9H); 1.95
731 (s, CH₃ p-cymene, 3H); 2.73 (septet, JHH = 7.0, CH₃CH, 1H); 2.90–3.07 (m, CH₂P, 2H);
732 4.89 (m, CHPh₂, 1H); 5.47 (d, J = 5.9, p-cy, 1H); 5.54 (d, J = 6.0, p-cy, 1H); 5.59 (d, J = 5.9,
733 p-cy, 1H); 5.63 (d, J = 5.9, p-cy, 1H); 7.08–7.14 (m, Ph, 2H); 7.20–7.27 (m, Ph, 4H);
734 7.36–7.40 (m, Ph, 4H). 13C{1H} NMR (100.6 MHz, 298 K): δ (ppm) 5.1 (d, JPC = 27.8,
735 PCH₃); 18.0 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.6 (s, CHCH₃); 22.9 (s, CHCH₃); 27.8 (d, JPC = 2.8,
736 C(CH₃)₃); 30.5 (s, CH(CH₃)₂); 33.4 (d, JPC = 18.5, CH₂P); 34.7 (d, JPC = 23.3, C(CH₃)₃);
737 46.2 (d, JPC = 4.2, CHPh₂); 82.6 (d, JPC = 4.3, CH p-cymene); 84.4 (d, JPC = 6.8, CH
738 p-cymene); 87.7 (d, JPC = 4.3, CH p-cymene); 90.3 (d, JPC = 3.7, CH p-cymene); 107.5 (s, C
739 p-cymene); 126.2 (s, CHPh); 126.3 (s, CHPh); 127.3 (s, 2CHPh); 127.6 (s, 2CHPh); 128.6
740 (s, 2CHPh); 128.7 (s, 2CHPh); 145.5 (s, JPC = 4, CPh); 145.6 (d, JPC = 8, CPh). 31P{1H}
741 NMR (101.2 MHz, 298 K): δ (ppm) 32.55 (s). IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 3052, 3030, 2960, 2900, 2870;
742 1596, 1492, 1468, 1450, 1365, 922, 893, 749, 709, 535.

743 Dichloro(η⁶-p-cymene)[(R)-cyclohexyl(2,2-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-sila-1-
744 propyl)methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (5i). The phosphine was deprotected with method A.
745 The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol.
746 Monocrystals of the title product were obtained after slow evaporation from a solution of
747 hexane/dichloromethane in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for C₂₇H₄₃Cl₂PRuSi: C, 54.17; H, 7.24.
748 Found: C, 53.41; H, 7.25. 1H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.11 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.13 (s, CH₃Si,

749 3H); 1.14 (dd, JHP = 15, JHH = 10, CH₂P, 1H); 1.22 (d, J = 6.5, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.23 (d, J =
750 6.5, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.24–1.30 and 1.76–1.94 (m, Cy, 11H); 1.48 (d, J = 11, CH₃P); 1.57 (pt,
751 J = 15, CH₂P, 1H); 1.99 (s, CH₃ p-cymene, 3H); 2.14 (s, CH₂Si, 2H); 2.78 (m, J = 6.5,
752 Me₂CH, 1H); 5.40 (s, 2H, p-cymene); 5.46 (s, 2H, p-cymene); 6.96 (d, J = 8, 2H, o-Ph);
753 7.05 (t, J = 8, 1H, p-Ph); 7.18 (t, J = 8, 2H, m-Ph). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm)
754 –0.56 (s, CH₃Si); –0.53 (s, CH₃Si); 10.80, (d, J = 23.14, CH₃P); 11.08 (d, J = 15, CH₂P);
755 17.98 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.71 (s, CH₃CH p-cymene); 22.44 (s, CH₃CH p-cymene); 26.16
756 (s, Cy); 26.8 (d, J = 10, Cy); 26.9 (d, J = 10, Cy); 27.62 (d, J = 3, Cy); 28.11 (s, Cy); 28.17
757 (s, SiCH₂Ph); 30.46 (s, CH₃CH p-cymene); 42.79 (d, J = 25.6, CCyP); 82.28 (d, J = 5, CH
758 p-cymene); 84.48(d, J = 6, CH p-cymene); 88.12 (d, J = 3, CH p-cymene); 89.67(d, J = 4,
759 CH p-cymene); 92.50 (s, p-cymene); 107.64 (s, p-cymene); 124.16 (s, Ph); 128.15 (s, Ph);
760 139.33 (s, Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 25.6 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 484; 700;
761 763; 820; 872; 892; 918; 1116; 1203; 1250; 1448; 1492; 1598; 1637; 2850; 2924; 2957;
762 3022; 3050.

763 Dichloro(η⁶-p-cymene)[(R)-cyclohexyl(2-methyl-2-phenyl-2-sila-1-
764 propyl)methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (5j). The phosphine was deprotected with method B.
765 The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The crude
766 orange resin was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to obtain the title product as an
767 orange powder in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₄₁Cl₂PRuSi: C, 53.41; H, 7.07. Found:
768 C, 53.62; H, 7.30. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.38 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.45 (s, CH₃Si, 3H);
769 0.97–1.2 (m, Cy, 5H); 1.21 (d, J = 5.5, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.22 (d, J = 5.5, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.44 (d,
770 J = 12, CH₃P, 3H); 1.46 (pt, J = 12.5, CH₂P, 1H); 1.83 (pt, J = 15.3, CH₂P, 1H); 1.65–1.95
771 (m, Cy, 6H); 2.01 (s, CH₃ p-cymene, 3H); 2.81 (septet, CH, 1H); 5.40–5.50 (m, p-cymene,
772 4H); 7.37 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.55 (m, 3,5-Ph, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) –0.58
773 (s, CH₃Si); 0.15 (s, CH₃Si); 11.36 (d, JCP = 36.22, CH₃P); 11.98 (d, JCP = 23.14, CH₂P);
774 17.97 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.93 (s, CH₃CH); 22.25 (s, CH₃CH); 26.17 (s, Cy); 26.52 (d,
775 JCP = 11.07, Cy); 26.89 (d, JCP = 11.07, Cy); 28.05 (s, Cy); 28.27 (s, Cy); 30.51 (s,
776 Me₂CH); 42.23 (d, JCP = 26.16, CHP); 82.52 (d, J = 5.03, CH p-cymene); 83.78 (d, J =
777 6.03, CH p-cymene); 88.62 (d, J = 4.02, CH p-cymene); 89.53 (d, J = 4.02, CH p-cymene);
778 92.17 (s, p-cymene); 107.73 (s, p-cymene); 128.01 (s, 2,6-Ph); 129.32 (s, 4-Ph); 133.61 (s,
779 3,5-Ph) 138.83 (s, 1-Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 25.8 (s, PBH₃). FT-IR: ν
780 (cm⁻¹) 472; 628; 663; 704; 743; 792; 826; 907; 1115; 1247; 1428; 1448; 1468; 2846; 2921;
781 3036; 3069.

782 Dichloro (η^6 -p-cymene) [(R) – ferrocenyl (2 - (3, 5 - dimethylphenyl) - ethyl)
783 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (6b). The phosphine–borane was deprotected with method
784 A. The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The
785 crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 9/1; R_f = 0.27)
786 to obtain the title product as an orange solid in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for
787 C₃₁H₃₉RuCl₂PFe: C, 55.54; H, 5.86. Found: C, 55.76; H, 5.85. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ
788 (ppm) 1.00 (d, J = 6.80, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.08 (d, J = 8.00, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.78 (s, CH₃ p-
789 cymene, 3H); 1.84 (d, J = 11.60, CH₃P, 3H); 2.34 (s, CH₃Ph, 6H); 2.58 (m, CH p-cymene,
790 1H); 2.60–2.73 (m, CH₂P, 2H); 3.10 (m, CH₂Ph, 2H); 4.30 (s, Cp, 5H); 4.45 (s, Cp, 1H);
791 4.49 (s, Cp, 2H); 4.60 (s, Cp, 1H); 5.02 (d, J = 6.00, p-cymene, 1H); 5.12 (d, J = 6.00, p-
792 cymene, 1H); 5.16 (d, J = 6.00, p-cymene, 1H); 5.19 (d, J = 6.00, p-cymene, 1H); 6.90 (s, 4-
793 Ph, 1H); 6.92 (s, 2,6-Ph, 2H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) 9.18 (d, J = 34, CH₃P);
794 17.71 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.32 (s, CH₃Ph); 21.82 (s, CH₃CH); 22.03 (s, CH₃CH); 30.21
795 (s, CH p-cymene); 30.41 (s, CH₂Ph); 32.39 (d, J = 27, CH₂P); 68.60 (d, J = 8, Cp); 69.37
796 (s, Cp); 69.87 (d, J = 7, Cp); 70.49 (d, J = 11, Cp); 70.71 (d, J = 8.8, Cp); 83.89 (d, J = 5, CH
797 p-cymene); 84.60 (d, J = 6, CH p-cymene); 89.90 (d, J = 4, CH p-cymene); 90.57 (d, J = 5.5,
798 CH p-cymene); 92.76 (s, pcymene); 107.15 (s, p-cymene); 125.86 (s, 2,6-Ph); 127.98 (s, 4-
799 Ph); 138.28 (s, Ph); 141.88 (d, J = 11.00, 1-Ph); 159.81 (s, Ph). ³¹P {¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz):
800 δ (ppm) 9.4 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 460; 848; 1080; 1104.06; 1280; 1383; 1466; 2867; 2914;
801 2960; 3083.

802 Dichloro (η^6 -p-cymene) [(R) – ferrocenyl (2 - (2 - naphthyl) methyl) -
803 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (6d). The phosphine was deprotected with method A. The
804 preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The crude
805 product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 9/1; R_f = 0.25) to
806 obtain the title product as an orange solid in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for C₃₃H₃₇RuCl₂PFe:
807 C, 57.24; H, 5.38. Found: C, 57.9; H, 5.3. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.01 (d, J = 8,
808 CH₃CH, 3H); 1.08 (d, J = 8, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.81 (s, CH₃ p-cymene, 3H); 1.89 (d, J = 12,
809 CH₃P, 3H); 2.62 (septet, J = 8, Me₂CH, 1H); 2.71 (m, CH₂P, 1H); 2.84 (m, CH₂P, 1H);
810 3.30 (m, CH₂Ar, 1H); 3.39 (m, CH₂Ar, 1H); 4.31 (s, Cp, 5H); 4.47 (s, Cp, 1H); 4.51 (s, Cp,
811 2H); 4.60 (s, Cp, 1H); 5.05 (d, J = 8, p-cymene 1H); 5.15 (s, p-cymene 2H); 5.20 (d, J = 8,
812 p-cymene 1H); 7.41–4.50 (m, Ar, 3H); 7.75 (s, Ar, 1H); 7.80–7.86 (m, Ar, 3H). ¹³C {¹H}
813 NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) 9.50 (d, J = 34.3, CH₃P); 17.74 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.80 (s,
814 CH₃CH); 21.99 (s, CH₃CH); 30.21 (s, CH p-cymene); 30.68 (s, CH₂Ar); 30.20 (d, J = 28.30,

815 CH₂P); 68.65 (d, J = 9.1, Cp); 69.35 (s, Cp); 69.97 (d, J = 7.07, Cp); 70.32 (d, J = 11.00,
816 Cp); 70.67 (d, J = 8.08, Cp); 84.03 (d, J = 6.05, CH p-cymene); 84.65 (d, J = 6.05, CH p-
817 cymene); 90.16 (d, J = 6.05, CH p-cymene); 90.56 (d, J = 6.05, CH p-cymene); 92.73 (s, p-
818 cymene); 107.15 (s, pcymene); 125.44 (s); 126.12 (d, J = 5.00, Ar); 126.74 (s); 127.47 (s,
819 Ar); 127.64 (s, Ar); 128.42 (s); 132.13 (s); 133.64 (s); 139.50 (d, J = 13.10, Ar); 31P{1H}
820 NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 10.5 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 455; 487; 743; 821; 896; 1003; 1034;
821 1105; 1167; 1279; 1385; 1470; 1599; 1632; 2862; 2917; 2951, 3056.

822 Dichloro (η 6-p-cymene) [(R)-ferrocenyl (2-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)-
823 methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (6e). The phosphine-borane was deprotected with method
824 A. The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The
825 crude product was purified by flash chromatography (hexane/ethyl acetate, 9/1; R_f = 0.15)
826 to obtain the title product as an orange foam in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for
827 C₃₀H₃₇RuPCl₂FeO: C, 53.59; H, 5.55. Found: C, 53.90; H, 5.50. 1H NMR (400 MHz): δ
828 (ppm) 0.98 (d, J = 8, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.06 (d, J = 8, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.77 (s, CH₃ p-cymene,
829 3H); 1.83 (d, J = 12, CH₃P, 3H); 2.56–2.66 (m, CH p-cymene, 1H); 2.69–2.80 (m, CH₂P,
830 2H); 3.05–3.22 (m, CH₂Ph, 2H); 3.82 (s, CH₃O, 3H); 4.28 (s, Cp, 5H); 4.43 (s, Cp, 1H);
831 4.48 (s, Cp, 2H); 4.57 (s, Cp, 1H); 5.01 (d, J = 4, p-cymene 1H); 5.13 (s, p-cymene 2H); 5.19
832 (d, J = 4, pcymene 1H); 6.78 (d, J = 8, Ph, 1H); 6.86 (s, Ph, 1H); 6.89 (d, J = 8, Ph, 1H);
833 7.24–7.26 (m, Ph, 1H). 13C{1H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) 9.29 (d, J = 34.4; CH₃P);
834 17.66 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.74 (s, CH₃CH); 21.95 (s, CH₃CH); 30.17 (s, CH p-cymene);
835 30.46 (s, CH₂Ph); 32.14 (d, J = 27.3; CH₂P); 55.19 (s, CH₃O); 68.56 (d, J = 9.1; Cp); 69.29
836 (s, Cp); 69.90 (d, J = 7.7; Cp); 70.31 (d, J = 11; Cp); 70.65 (d, J = 8.8; Cp); 83.94 (d, J = 6.6;
837 CH p-cymene); 84.55 (d, J = 6.60; CH p-cymene); 90.05 (d, J = 4.42; CH p-cymene); 90.57
838 (d, J = 5.50; CH p-cymene); 92.62 (s, p-cymene); 107.07 (s, p-cymene); 111.54 (s, Ph);
839 113.82 (s, 2-Ph); 120.26 (s, Ph); 129.68 (s, 5-Ph); 143.60 (d, J = 13, 1-Ph); 159.81 (s, 3-Ph).
840 31P{1H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 10.6 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 452; 483; 690; 772; 823;
841 878; 1035; 1166; 1258; 1384; 1436; 1465; 1490; 1583; 1599; 2832; 2868; 2920; 2957; 3076.

842 Dichloro (η 6-p-cymene) [(R)-ferrocenyl (2,2-dimethyl-3-phenyl-2-sila-1-
843 propyl)methylphosphine]ruthenium(II) (6i). The phosphine was deprotected with method A.
844 The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The crude
845 orange oil was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to obtain the title product as an
846 orange powder in 90% yield. Anal. Calcd for C₃₁H₄₁Cl₂RuFePSi: C, 53.15; H, 5.90.
847 Found: C, 52.49; H, 6.08. 1H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.28 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.32 (s, CH₃Si,

848 3H); 1.01 (d, J = 7.2, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.03 (d, J = 7.2, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.76 (s, CH₃ p-cymene,
849 3H); 1.76–1.79 (m, CH₃P, CH₂P, 5H); 2.24–2.37 (m, CH₃CH, 1H); 2.25 (d, J = 12.00,
850 CH₂Si, 1H); 2.35 (d, J = 12.00, CH₂Si, 1H); 4.19 (s, Cp, 5H); 4.35 (s, Cp, 1H); 4.44 (s, Cp,
851 2H); 4.55 (s, Cp, 1H); 4.89 (d, J = 5.6, p-cymene, 1H); 5.03 (d, J = 5.6, pcymene, 1H); 5.14
852 (d, J = 5.2, p-cymene, 1H); 5.24 (d, J = 5.6, pcymene, 1H); 7.09–7.11 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.24–7.28
853 (m, Ph, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) –0.08 (s, CH₃Si); 0.00 (s, CH₃Si); 13.74
854 (d, J = 36.22, CH₃P); 15.86 (d, J = 19.12, CH₂P); 17.87 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.73 (s,
855 CH₃CH); 22.60 (s, CH₃CH); 28.26 (d, J = 4.02, CH₂Si); 29.85 (d, J = 37, CH₃CH); 69.12
856 (Cp); 69.75 (d, J = 7, Cp); 70.24–70.44 (m, Cp); 84.53 (d, J = 5.03, CH p-cymene); 85.70
857 (d, J = 5.03, CH p-cymene); 87.95 (d, J = 4.02, CH p-cymene); 88.49 (d, J = 6.04, CH p-
858 cymene); 95.69 (s, p-cymene); 106.32 (s, pcymene); 124.26 (s, Ph); 128.26 (s, Ph); 128.32
859 (s, Ph); 139.93 (s, Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 8.8 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 482;
860 501; 700; 763; 826; 880; 1030; 1052; 1124; 1204; 1242; 1276; 1491; 1598; 2959; 3029;
861 3083.

862 Dichloro (η⁶-p-cymene) [(R)-ferrocenyl (2-methyl-2-phenyl-2-sila-1- propyl)
863 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (6j). The phosphine-borane was deprotected with method
864 B. The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general protocol. The
865 crude orange oil was crystallized from dichloromethane/hexane to obtain the title product as
866 an orange powder in 80% yield. Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₃₉Cl₂PFeRuSi: C, 52.49; H, 5.73.
867 Found: C, 52.21; H, 5.89. ¹H NMR (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.60 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.64 (s, CH₃Si,
868 3H); 1.01 (d, J = 8, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.03 (d, J = 8, CH₃CH, 3H); 1.74 (d, J = 8, CH₃P, 3H);
869 1.75 (s, CH₃ p-cymene, 3H); 2.04 (d, J = 16, CH₂P, 2H); 2.38 (septet, J = 8, CH₃CH, 1H);
870 4.15 (s, Cp, 5H); 4.38 (s, Cp, 1H); 4.41 (s, Cp, 2H); 4.50 (s, Cp, 1H); 4.94 (d, J = 8, p-
871 cymene, 1H); 5.00 (d, J = 4,1 p-cymene, 1H); 5.14 (d, J = 4.1, p-cymene, 1H); 5.22 (d, J =
872 4.1, p-cymene, 1H); 7.38–7.39 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.64–7.66 (m, m-Ph, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR
873 (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.13 (s, CH₃Si); 13.41 (d, J = 35.22, CH₃P); 17.68 (d, J = 21.13,
874 CH₂P); 17.82 (s, CH₃ p-cymene); 21.82 (s, CH₃CH); 22.38 (s, CH₃CH); 30.07 (s, CH₃CH);
875 69.07 (s, Cp); 69.47 (d, J = 10, Cp); 69.74 (d, J = 8, Cp); 70.17 (d, J = 10, Cp); 70.26 (d, J =
876 9, Cp); 84.56 (d, J = 6, CH pcymene); 85.27 (d, J = 5, CH p-cymene); 88.61 (d, J = 4, CH
877 pcymene); 88.96 (d, J = 6, CH p-cymene); 94.98 (s, p-cymene); 106.45 (s, p-cymene);
878 128.04 (s, Ph); 129.21 (s, Ph); 133.49 (s, Ph); 140.22 (s, Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz):
879 δ (ppm) 9.2 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 456; 502; 698; 725; 785; 821; 891; 1031; 1114; 1246; 1280;
880 1426; 1469; 2923; 2950; 3043; 3076; 3096.

881 **Tethered [RuCl₂(κ-P*-η⁶-arene)] Complexes.** General Procedure. A 1 mmol
882 portion of the half-sandwich complex [RuCl₂(η⁶-cymene)(P*)] was dissolved in 20 mL of
883 chlorobenzene and the mixture stirred at 130 °C for 4 h. ³¹P NMR confirmed the quantitative
884 formation of the tethered complex with total consumption of the starting product. The
885 solution was cooled down slowly to 25 °C. The addition of 10 mL of hexane caused, after
886 10 min, the precipitation of the desired complex. The product was filtered and purified by
887 crystallization from CH₂Cl₂/hexane.

888 Dichloro [κ-P-η⁶-(R)-tert-butyl (2-(3-phenylphenyl) ethyl) - methylphosphine]
889 ruthenium(II) (7g). This compound was obtained as described in the general procedure, but
890 starting from 0.117 g (0.193 mmol) of 4g. Yield: 41 mg, 45%. Anal. Calcd for
891 C₁₉H₂₅Cl₂PRu: C, 50.01; H, 5.52. Found: C, 49.8; H, 5.3.

892 ¹H NMR (500.0 MHz, 298 K): major isomer, δ (ppm) 1.27 (d, JHP = 14.7, (CH₃)₃C,
893 9H); 1.63 (d, JHP = 10.5, CH₃P, 3H); 2.20–2.32 (m, CH₂Ph, 1H); 2.64–2.72 (m, CH₂P,
894 1H); 3.01–3.19 (m, CH₂P, CH₂Ph, 2H); 4.94 (s, Ar, 1H); 5.28 (d JHH = 5.8, Ar, 1H), 5.80
895 (t, JHH = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 6.26 (d, JHH = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 7.41–7.51 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.68–7.74 (m,
896 Ph, 2H); minor isomer, δ (ppm) 1.24 (d, JHP = 14.8, (CH₃)₃C, 9H), 1.60 (d, JHP = 10.6,
897 CH₃P, 3H); 2.52–2.64 (m, CH₂Ph, 1H); 2.72–2.92 (m, CH₂P, CH₂Ph, 2H), 3.08–3.16 (m,
898 CH₂P, 1H); 4.97 (d, JHH = 5.4, Ar, 1H); 5.24 (s, Ar, 1H); 6.11 (t, JHH = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 6.37
899 (d, JHH = 6.3, Ar, 1H); 7.41–7.51 (m, Ph, 3H); 7.62–7.66 (m, Ph, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR
900 (100.6 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): major isomer, δ (ppm) 10.7 (d, JPC = 25.6, PCH₃); 25.9 (d,
901 JPC = 2.5, C(CH₃)₃); 28.9 (d, JPC = 3.35, CH₂Ph); 32.6 (d, JPC = 22.1, C(CH₃)₃); 37.7 (d,
902 JPC = 27.9, CH₂P); 73.8 (s, CHAr); 75.3 (s, CHAr); 89.1 (d, JPC = 13.1, CHAr); 95.2 (s,
903 CHAr); 110.0 (d, JPC = 4.04 Hz, CAr); 116.5 (d, J = 5.87 Hz, CAr); 129.5 (s, CPh); 130.1
904 (s, CPh); 133.6 (s, CPh); minor isomer: δ (ppm) 10.6 (d, JPC = 25.6, PCH₃), 26.1 (d, JPC =
905 2.40, C(CH₃)₃); 29.7 (d, JPC = 3.9, CH₂Ph); 32.7 (d, JPC = 21.4, C(CH₃)₃); 38.5 (d, JPC
906 = 27.6, CH₂P); 73.4 (s, CHAr), 76.4, (s, CHAr); 87.8 (d, JPC = 14.0, CHAr); 98.5 (s, CHAr);
907 111.0 (d, JPC = 4.09, CAr); 111.3 (d, J = 1.45, CAr); 129.6 (s, CHPh); 130.0 (s, CHPh).
908 ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz, C₆H₅Cl, 298 K): δ (ppm) major isomer 63.6 (s), minor isomer
909 61.4 (s). X-ray: red crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by slow diffusion
910 of hexane over a solution of the complex in dichloromethane, at room temperature.

911 Dichloro [κ-P-η⁶-(R) – tert – butyl -(2, 2 – dimethyl -3 - phenyl-2-sila-1 - propyl)
912 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (7i). The preparation of this compound was carried out

913 following the general protocol. The product was isolated as an orange solid in 90% yield.
914 Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₆Cl₂RuPSi: C, 39.53; H, 6.21. Found: C, 39.5; H, 6.1. ¹H NMR (400
915 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.29 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.40 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 1.02 (pt, J = 15, CH₂P, 1H); 1.12
916 (pt, J = 15.00, CH₂P, 1H); 1.27 (d, J = 14.10, C(CH₃)₃, 9H); 1.43 (d, J = 12, CH₃P, 3H);
917 1.63 (d, J = 15, CH₂Si, 1H); 1.86 (d, J = 15, CH₂Si, 1H); 5.07 (t, J = 5.4, Ph, 1H); 5.13 (d,
918 J = 6, Ph, 1H); 5.35 (t, J = 4.8, Ph, 1H); 6.12 (t, J = 6, Ph, 1H); 6.23 (t, J = 5.7, Ph, 1H).
919 ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) -1.04 (s, CH₃Si); -0.11 (d, J = 5, CH₃Si); 7.53 (d, J
920 = 9.06, CH₂P); 10.1 (d, J = 30.2, CH₃P); 18.28 (s, CH₂Si); 27.92 (s, C(CH₃)₃); 35.18 (d, J
921 = 25.15, C(CH₃)₃); 79.54 (s, Ph); 79.91 (s, Ph); 86.42 (s, Ph); 95.46 (d, J = 10.62, Ph);
922 96.58 (s, Ph); 101.48 (d, J = 11.1, Ph). ³¹P {¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm) 32.53 (s). FT-
923 IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 809; 839; 897; 1102; 1251; 1448; 1464; 2864; 2897; 2947; 3057.

924 Dichloro [κ-P-η⁶-(R)-tert-butyl 1(2- methyl-2- phenyl - 2 - sila - 1 -propyl) -
925 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (7j). The preparation of this compound was carried out
926 following the general protocol. The product was isolated as an orange solid in 90% yield.
927 Anal. Calcd for C₁₄H₂₅Cl₂PRuSi: C, 39.62; H, 5.94. Found: C, 39.5; H, 5.9. ¹H NMR (400
928 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.46 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.54 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 1.23 (d, J = 15.00, C(CH₃)₃, 9H);
929 1.49 (d, J = 10.8, CH₃P, 3H); 1.66 (pt, J = 14.5, CH₂, 1H); 2.09 (dd, J = 14.6, J = 10.7, CH₂,
930 1H); 5.19 (d, J = 5.3, Ph, 1H); 5.35 (d, J = 4.3, Ph, 1H); 5.52 (t, J = 5.7, Ph, 1H); 6.07 (t, J =
931 6, Ph, 1H); 6.19 (t, J = 6, Ph, 1H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) -3.92 (d, J = 7.04,
932 CH₃Si); -2.08 (d, J = 8.05, CH₃Si); 11.53 (d, J = 27.16, CH₃P); 21.79 (d, J = 12.07, CH₂P);
933 26.28 (d, J = 3.0, C(CH₃)₃); 34.30 (d, J = 21.13, C(CH₃)₃); 82.40 (s, Ph); 86.35 (s, Ph);
934 88.53 (s, Ph); 96.76 (d, J = 9.05, Ph); 98.67 (d, J = 10.00, Ph). ³¹P {¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz):
935 δ (ppm) 32.88 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 425; 753; 794; 812; 848; 888; 1013; 1096; 1256; 1280;
936 1364; 1392; 1463; 1637; 2882; 2944; 3025.

937 Dichloro[κ - P - η⁶ - (R) - tert - butyl (2 , 2 - diphenyl ethyl) - methylphosphine]
938 ruthenium(II) (7l). This compound was obtained as described in the general procedure, but
939 starting from 0.117 g (0.198 mmol) of 4l. Yield: 41 mg, 45%. Anal. Calcd for
940 C₁₉H₂₅Cl₂PRu: C, 50.01; H, 5.52. Found: C, 50.2; H, 5.3.

941 ¹H NMR (500.0 MHz, 298 K): major isomer, δ (ppm) 1.37 (d, JHP = 15.0, (CH₃)₃C,
942 9H); 1.64 (d, JHP = 10.9, CH₃P, 3H); 3.18 (ptd, J = 11.3, J = 8.4, CH₂P, 1H); 3.47–3.55 (m,
943 CH₂P, 1H); 4.01 (ddd, J = 13.9, J = 6.0, J = 1.5, CHPh₂, 1H); 5.00 (d, J = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 5.31
944 (d, J = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 5.81 (t, J = 5.8, Ar, 1H); 6.08 (t, J = 5.9, Ar, 1H); 6.25 (td, J = 6.0, J =

945 2.6, Ar, 1H); 7.30–7.41 (m, Ph, 5H)’, minor isomer, δ (ppm) 1.31 (d, JHP = 15.2, (CH₃)₃C,
946 9H); 1.76 (d, JHP = 10.5, CH₃P, 3H); 3.02 (ddd, J = 13.7, J = 11.7, J = 5.6, CH₂P, 1H);
947 3.41–3.48 (m, CH₂P, 1H); 3.83 (ddd, J = 13.7, J = 5.5, J = 1.7, CHPh₂, 1H); 5.02 (d, J = 5.4,
948 Ar, 1H); 5.27 (d, J = 6.0, Ar, 1H); 5.72 (t, J = 5.7, Ar, 1H); 6.16 (td, J = 5.9, J = 2.0, Ar, 1H);
949 6.31 (t, J = 5.7, Ar, 1H); 7.30–7.41 (m, Ph, 5H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz, 298 K,
950 CDCl₃): major isomer, δ (ppm) 11.5 (d, JPC = 27.8, PCH₃); 26.7 (d, JPC = 2.85, C(CH₃)₃);
951 33.1 (d, JPC = 20.1, C(CH₃)₃); 44.3 (d, JPC = 27.0, CH₂P); 49.6 (d, JPC = 3.35, CHPh₂);
952 73.8 (s, CHAr); 77.9 (s, CHAr); 91.2 (d, JPC = 13.4, CHAr); 95.4 (s, CHAr); 102.5 (d, JPC
953 = 4.63, CHAr); 112.8 (d, JPC = 2.12, CAr); 126.7 (s, Ph); 128.1 (s, Ph); 129.1 (s, Ph); minor
954 isomer, δ (ppm) 10.0 (d, JPC = 25.1, PCH₃); 25.8 (d, JPC = 2.28, C(CH₃)₃); 32.6 (d, JPC =
955 21.9, C(CH₃)₃); 41.9 (d, JPC = 27.1, CH₂P); 45.3 (d, JPC = 6.02, CHPh₂); 73.7 (s, CHAr);
956 77.2 (s, CHAr); 89.3 (d, JPC = 14.5, CHAr); 94.8 (s, CarH); 101.8 (d, JPC = 6.10, CHAr);
957 110.3 (d, JPC = 2.37, CAr); 126.8 (s, Ph); 128.1 (s, Ph); 129.2 (s, Ph). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2
958 MHz, 298 K), major isomer δ (ppm) 47.2 (s), minor isomer δ (ppm) 45.1. X-ray: red crystals
959 suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by slow diffusion of hexane over a solution of
960 the complex in chlorobenzene, at room temperature.

961 Dichloro [κ -P- η 6-(R)-cyclohexyl (2-dimethylbenzylsilyl) - methylphosphine]
962 ruthenium(II) (8i). The preparation of this compound was carried out following the general
963 protocol. The product was isolated as an orange solid in 90% yield. Monocrystals of the title
964 product were obtained after slow evaporation from a solution of dichloromethane/hexane.
965 Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₂₉Cl₂PRuSi: C, 43.96; H, 6.29. Found: C, 42.1; H, 6.25. ¹H NMR
966 (400 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.32 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.34 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 1.15 (d, J = 14.8, CH₂P, 2H);
967 1.15–1.33 (m, Cy, 6H); 1.37 (d, J = 11.2, CH₃P, 3H); 1.66 (d, J = 12, CH₂Ar, 1H); 1.80–1.95
968 (m, Cy, 4H); 1.96 (d, J = 12, CH₂Si, 1H); 2.05 (m, CHP, 1H); 4.87 (d, J = 5.60, Ph, 1H);
969 4.94 (t, J = 3.60, Ph, 1H); 5.07 (t, J = 5.20, Ph, 1H); 6.15 (t, J = 5.60, Ph, 1H); 6.24 (t, J =
970 5.60, Ph, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ (ppm) –0.62 (d, J = 23.14, CH₃Si); 0.14 (d,
971 J = 4.03, CH₃Si); 6.03 (d, J = 12.73, CH₂P); 7.86 (d, J = 32.10, CH₂P); 18.24 (s, CH₂Ph);
972 26.12 (s, Cy); 26.95 (d, J = 11, Cy); 27.07 (d, J = 12, Cy); 27.53 (s, Cy); 27.84 (d, J = 3, Cy);
973 39.25 (d, J = 33.1, CHP); 79.38 (s, CHPh); 81.98 (s, CHPh); 83.01 (s, CHPh); 97.58 (s, CPh);
974 97.75 (d, J = 10.6, CHPh); 98.57 (d, J = 10.1, CHPh). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ (ppm)
975 30.21. FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 647; 737; 782; 808; 837; 897; 1098; 1173; 1200; 1251; 1405; 1446;
976 1508; 2850; 2923; 3056.

977 Dichloro [κ -P- η 6-(R)-cyclohexyl (2-methyl-2-phenyl-2-sila-1-propyl)
978 methylphosphine] ruthenium(II) (8j). The preparation of this compound was carried out
979 following the general protocol. The product was isolated as an orange solid in 90% yield.
980 Anal. Calcd for C₁₆H₂₇Cl₂PRuSi: C, 42.67; H, 6.04. Found: C, 43.6; H, 6.1. ¹H NMR (400
981 MHz): δ (ppm) 0.46 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 0.56 (s, CH₃Si, 3H); 1.20–2.30 (m, Cy, CH₂P, 13H);
982 1.47 (d, J = 12.50, CH₃P, 3H); 5.14 (d, J = 8, Ph 1H); 5.28 (d, J = 8, Ph 1H); 5.40 (t, J = 7,
983 Ph, 1 H); 6.05 (t, J = 8, Ph, 1 H); 6.28 (t, J = 8, Ph, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100.6 MHz): δ
984 (ppm) –3.78 (s, CH₃Si); –2.01 (d, J = 8.35, CH₃Si); 10.74 (d, J = 29.17, CH₃P); 20.98 (d, J
985 = 12.37, CH₂P); 26.08 (s, Cy); 26.50 (s, Cy); 26.60 (s, Cy); 26.67 (s, Cy); 27.72 (s, Cy);
986 36.04 (d, J = 25.95, CHP); 81.54 (s, CHPh); 86.13 (s, CHPh); 87.14 (s, CHPh); 91.1 (s, CPh);
987 97.64 (d, J = 11.07, CHPh); 98.07 (d, J = 9.46, CHPh). ³¹P{¹H} NMR (101.2 MHz): δ
988 (ppm) 32.84 (s). FT-IR: ν (cm⁻¹) 728; 794; 816; 844; 878; 894; 920; 1090; 1117; 1252;
989 1279; 1447; 2849; 2924; 3056.

990 Dichloro [κ -P- η 6-(R)-tert-butyl (2-(2,3,4,5,6-pentamethylphenyl)-ethyl)
991 phosphine] ruthenium(II) (1c). X-ray: red crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were
992 obtained by slow diffusion of hexane over a solution of the complex 1c prepared previously
993 in chlorobenzene, at room temperature.⁹

994 **General Procedure for the Enantioselective Transfer Hydrogenation.** A typical
995 transfer hydrogenation run was performed as follows. A 50 mL Schlenk flask was charged
996 with the ruthenium precursor (0.02 mmol) and potassium tert-butoxide (11.2 mg, 0.1 mmol)
997 and was purged with three vacuum/argon cycles. Under a gentle flow of argon, 25 mL of
998 degassed 2-propanol was added and the flask heated to reflux (82 °C) for 30 min. After that
999 time acetophenone (600 mg, 4.0 mmol) was rapidly added to start the catalytic run. The
1000 reaction was monitored by GC analysis.

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1004 **AUTHOR INFORMATION**

1005 **Notes**

1006 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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1213 **Table 1.** Relevant Data of Selected Phosphines and Different Adducts Obtained by
 1214 Stereoselective Deprotonation of BH₃PMe₂R (R = t-Bu (1), Cy (2), Fc (3))^a

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| | P-BH ₃ ee (S), % | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ P-BH ₃ q (J _{PM}) | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ free P | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ P-Se d (J _{PS}) | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ P-H ⁺ d (J _{PH}) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1a ⁹ | 99 | 25.0 (60) | -15.5 | | |
| 1b ⁹ | 90 | 24.9 (57) | -15.7 | 48.8 (697) | |
| 3b | 98 | 6.20 (58) | -46.2 | 21.6 (709) | |
| 1c ⁹ | 99 | 24.9 (57) | -14.4 | 48.3 (693) | |
| 1d ⁹ | 99 | 25.2 (55) | -15.3 | 49.0 (692) | |
| 2d | 98 | 15.40 (75) | | | |
| 3d ¹⁶ | 99 | 2.01 (62.2) | -46.1 | 21.8 (710) | |
| 1e ⁹ | 99 | 25.2 (57.4) | -15.5 | | |
| 3e | 82 | 6.8 (73) | | | |
| 1f | 99 | 27.4 (54) | -15.4 | | |
| 1g | 99 | 27.1 (52.0) | -15.4 | | |
| 1i | 82 | 24.1 (59.7) | -23.4 | 41.2 (683) | 4.64 (470) |
| 2i | 75 | 14.0 (61.7) | -36.6 | 29.3 (678) | 4.70 (475) |
| 3i | 70 | 4.26 (60.6) | -51.5 | 14.4 (697) | 0.80 (502) |
| 1j ^{16,17a} | 99 | 24.0 (68.8) | -23.2 | 39.5 (705) | |
| 2j | 84 | 14.7 (60.4) | -36.8 | 27.8 (702) | |
| 3j ¹⁶ | 82 | 4.59 (57.7) | -52.1 | 12.8 (722) | |
| 1l | 99 | 20.2 (62.4) | -19.2 | | |
| 1p (S _P R _C) | 86 | 26.0 (69.0) | | | |

^a ee values were obtained by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column. ³¹P NMR spectra (inset of acetone-d₆, 298 K, 101 MHz, δ in ppm, *J* in Hz).

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1226 **Table 2.** Selected Angles (deg) and Distances (Å) of the Tethered Complexes 7b,9 7c,g,l,
 1227 and 8i (with Esd's in Parentheses)

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| | [RuCl ₂ (η ¹ :η ⁶ -S-PMe(R)(CH ₂ R ^c)] | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | R = <i>t</i> -Bu (7b) | R = <i>t</i> -Bu (7c) ^b | R = <i>t</i> -Bu (7g) ^c | R = <i>t</i> -Bu (7l) ^d | R = Cy (8i) |
| links | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Ru-P | 2.3299(10) | 2.3319(14) | 2.3203(19) | 2.3433(13) | 2.3403(12) |
| Ru-Cl ₁ (R) | 2.4267(13) | 2.4199(17) | 2.4197(17) | 2.4044(14) | 2.4171(12) |
| Ru-Cl ₂ (Me) | 2.3925(13) | 2.4049(16) | 2.4306(18) | 2.4027(10) | 2.4037(12) |
| Ru-C ₆ plane ^a | 1.694 | 1.698 | 1.707 | 1.693 | 1.702 |
| Ru-C _{aromatic} chain | 2.165(4) | 2.141(5) | 2.163(7) | 2.12(2) | 2.251(4) |
| Ru-C _{aromatic} t-chain | 2.244(3) | 2.271(6) | 2.262(7) | 2.297(14) | 2.239(5) |
| P-CH ₂ - | 1.823(4) | 1.847(6) | 1.924(8) | 1.809(5) | 1.817(5) |
| P-C ₂ | 1.839(4) | 1.869(7) | 1.869(9) | 1.850(5) | 1.853(5) |
| P-CH ₃ | 1.832(5) | 1.831(7) | 1.777(6) | 1.809(4) | 1.818(5) |
| Cl ₁ -Ru-Cl ₂ | 85.61(4) | 86.85(7) | 86.82(6) | 87.47(5) | 86.71(4) |
| Cl ₁ -Ru-P | 96.95(3) | 97.39(2) | 95.99(6) | 96.19(5) | 83.99(4) |
| Cl ₂ -Ru-P | 88.93(4) | 87.84(5) | 88.73(6) | 87.94(5) | 90.25(4) |
| P-Ru-C _{aromatic} chain | 79.29(11) | 81.17(17) | 80.5(2) | 81.36(5) | 95.56(13) |
| Ru-P-CH ₂ - | 104.07(14) | 104.2(2) | 105.5(3) | 102.9(3) | 115.78(15) |
| Ru-P-C ₂ | 124.46(13) | 124.3(2) | 126.0(3) | 123.20(15) | 113.72(17) |
| Ru-P-CH ₃ | 112.32(16) | 113.6(2) | 116.0(2) | 113.85(17) | 114.01(14) |

^aPlane defined by the six ring carbon atoms. ^bData from conformer 1. ^cThe dihedral angle between the atoms Cl1-C2-C14-C15 of the two phenyl planes (Ph-Ph) is 47.3°. ^dR_SS_C isomer.

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1237 **Table 3.**

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| open complex | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ NMR (ppm) | tethered complex | $\delta(^{31}\text{P})$ NMR (ppm) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4g | 29.6 | 7g | 63.6 |
| 4i | 35.8 | 7i | 32.5 |
| 4j | 36.4 | 7j | 32.9 |
| 4l | 32.5 | 7l | 47.2 |
| 5i | 25.6 | 8i | 30.2 |
| 5j | 25.8 | 8j | 32.8 |
| 6b | 9.4 | | |
| 6d | 10.5 | | |
| 6e | 10.6 | | |
| 6i | 8.8 | | |
| 6j | 9.2 | | |

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1247 **Table 4.** Comparison of the Different Catalytic Precursors on the Transfer Hydrogenation
 1248 of Acetophenone in Isopropyl Alcohola

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| entry | precursor | conversion at 9 h (24 h) and 82 °C, % | ee (S), % | conversion at 24 h and 40 °C | ee (S), % |
|-------|-----------------|---|------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | 7a ⁹ | 74 (97) | 4 | | |
| 2 | 7b ⁹ | 30 (66) | <i>rac</i> | | |
| 3 | 7c ⁹ | 23 (58) | <i>rac</i> | | |
| 4 | 7i | | | 55 | <i>rac</i> |
| 5 | 7j | | | 44 | 8 |
| 6 | 7d ⁹ | 28 (73) | 23 (20) | 43 | 50 |
| 7 | 8i | | | 22 | <i>rac</i> |
| 8 | 8j | 95 | <i>rac</i> | 32 | <i>rac</i> |
| 9 | 4c ⁹ | 69 (95) | 8 (5) | | |
| 10 | 4d ⁹ | 36 (93) | 8 (6) | 42 | 58 |
| 11 | 4i | | | 9 | 20 |
| 12 | 4j | | | 29 | <i>rac</i> |
| 13 | 4l | | | 42 | 59 |
| 14 | 5i | | | 21 | 5 (R)- |
| 15 | 5j | 93 | <i>rac</i> | 6 | <i>rac</i> |
| 16 | 6d | | | 15 | 20 |
| 17 | 6i | | | 24 | <i>rac</i> |
| 18 | 6j | | | 20 | <i>rac</i> |
| 19 | 4IH2 | | | 21 | 56 |

^a[RuCl₂(*p*-cymene)(P(*t*-Bu)MeCH₂CH₂R')]:⁹ R' = -C₆Me₅ (4c),
 -2-Naph (4d). [RuCl₂(κ-P(*t*-Bu)Me-η⁶-arene)]:⁹ arene = C₆H₅ (7a),
 2,3-Me₂C₆H₃ (7b), C₆Me₅ (7c), 2-Naph (7d). Conditions: substrate/
 catalyst/base 250/1/5, [Ru] 0.5 mM, isopropyl alcohol, after 30 min
 of activation.

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1257 **Table 5.** IC₅₀ Values of Ruthenium Compounds and Cisplatin against HL-60 Cells

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| complex | IC ₅₀ (μ M) | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | 72 h | 24 h |
| 5j | 3.36 \pm 0.42 | 5.15 \pm 0.29 |
| 8j | 25.91 \pm 4.24 | 52.06 \pm 10.47 |
| 6j | 3.72 \pm 0.34 | 5.38 \pm 0.45 |
| CDDP | 2.15 \pm 0.1 | 15.61 \pm 1.15 |

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1266 **Table 6.** Quantification of Apoptosis after 24 h Exposure to Concentration Equal to IC50
1267 Values of Cisplatin and Ruthenium Complexes against HL-60 Cells

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| treatment (IC ₅₀ 24 h, μ M) | % vital cells (R1) | % apoptotic cells (R2) | % dead cells (R3) | % damaged cells (R4) |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| control | 92.03 | 2.37 | 5.21 | 0.40 |
| CDDP (15.6) | 40.18 | 42.77 | 13.88 | 3.16 |
| 5j (5.15) | 50.75 | 29.72 | 17.81 | 1.73 |
| 8j (52.06) | 78.45 | 7.71 | 13.03 | 0.81 |
| 6j (5.38) | 53.67 | 23.67 | 15.02 | 1.38 |

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1276 **Figures Captions**

1277 **Scheme 6.** Removal of the Borane Unit by $\text{HBF}_4 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$

1278 **Scheme 7.** Deprotection of Phosphines 1j, 2j, and 3j

1279 **Scheme 9.** Synthesis of Phosphine–Borane 1i in Racemic Form

1280 **Figure 1.** ^{31}P NMR spectra of the cyclopalladated complex with phosphine 1i prepared with the
1281 standard (–)-sparteine methodology or in racemic form. A solution of the deprotected phosphine in
1282 CH_2Cl_2 was added to a solution of the cyclopalladated dimer in CH_2Cl_2 .

1283 **Scheme 10.** Synthesis of Ruthenium Complexes

1284 **Chart 3.** New Open Complexes Obtained

1285 **Chart 4.** New Tethered Complexes Obtained

1286 **Figure 2.** ORTEP drawings of the molecular structure of the two conformers of compound
1287 7c. Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

1288 **Figure 3.** ORTEP drawings of the molecular structures of the ruthenium complexes 7b
1289 (left), 9 7g (middle), and the RP,SC isomer of 7l (right) shown at the 50% probability level.
1290 Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

1291 **Figure 4.** Molecular structure and atom-labeling scheme for the S isomer of compound 8i.
1292 Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

1293 **Figure 5.** Molecular structure and atom-labeling scheme for compound 5i. Hydrogen atoms
1294 have been omitted for clarity. Selected bond distances (Å) and bond angles (deg): Ru1–P11,
1295 2.350(2); Ru1–C11, 2.410(2); Ru1–C12, 2.415(2); C11–Ru1–C12, 87.34(7); C11–Ru1–P11,
1296 86.59(7); C12–Ru1–P11, 85.49(7); Ru1–P11–C19, 115.8(3); P11–C19–Si2, 124.4(5);
1297 C19–Si2–C23, 106.2(4).

1298 **Figure 6.** Hydride region of the ^1H NMR spectrum of solution of the reaction of 5i in
1299 Scheme 13: spectrum obtained of the crude solution using an insert with d_6 -acetone at room
1300 temperature.

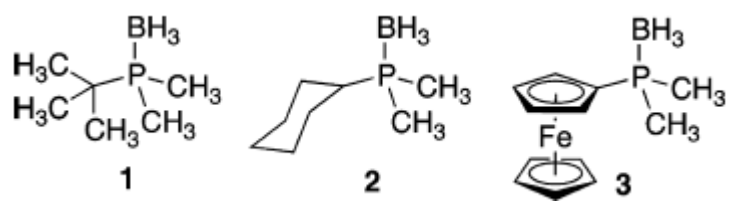
1301 **Figure 7** Hydride region of the ^1H NMR spectrum of 8iH: spectrum obtained as in Figure
1302 6.

1303 **Figure 8.** $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ and ^{31}P coupled NMR spectra of 8iH: spectra obtained as in Figure 6.

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1306 **Chart 1**



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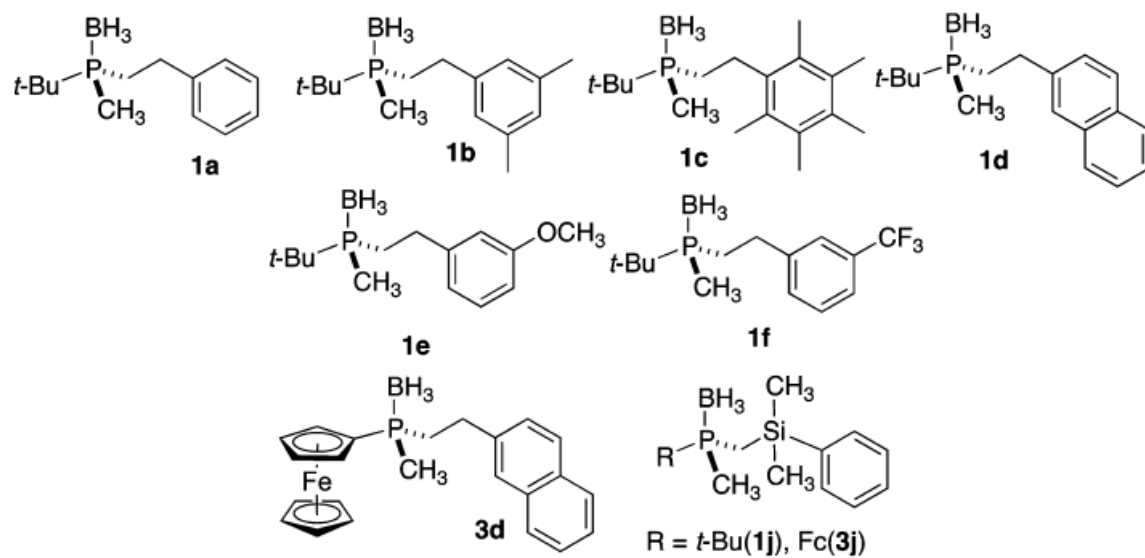
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1312 **Chart 2**



1a – 1f ref 9 ; **3d, 3j** ref 16 ; **1j** ref 17a-b

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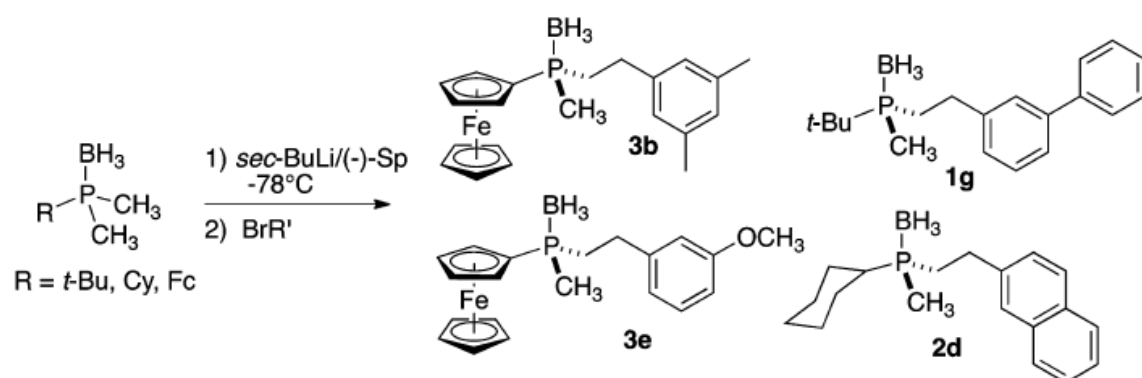
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1320 **Scheme 1.**

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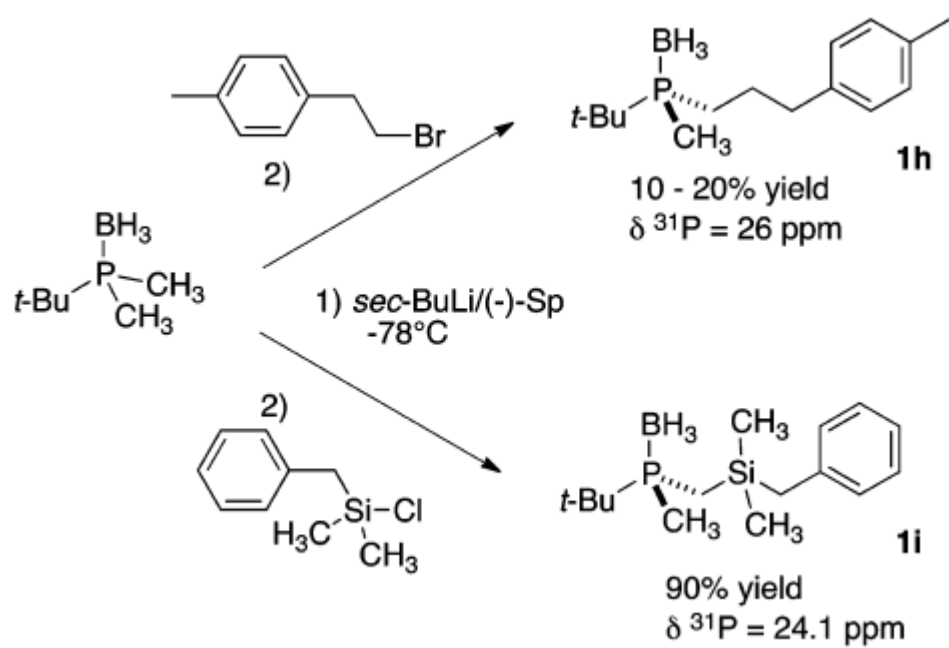
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1329 **Scheme 2.**

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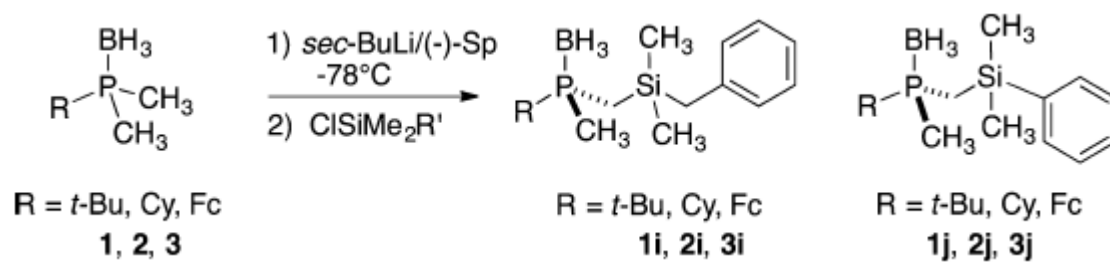
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1338 **Scheme 3.**

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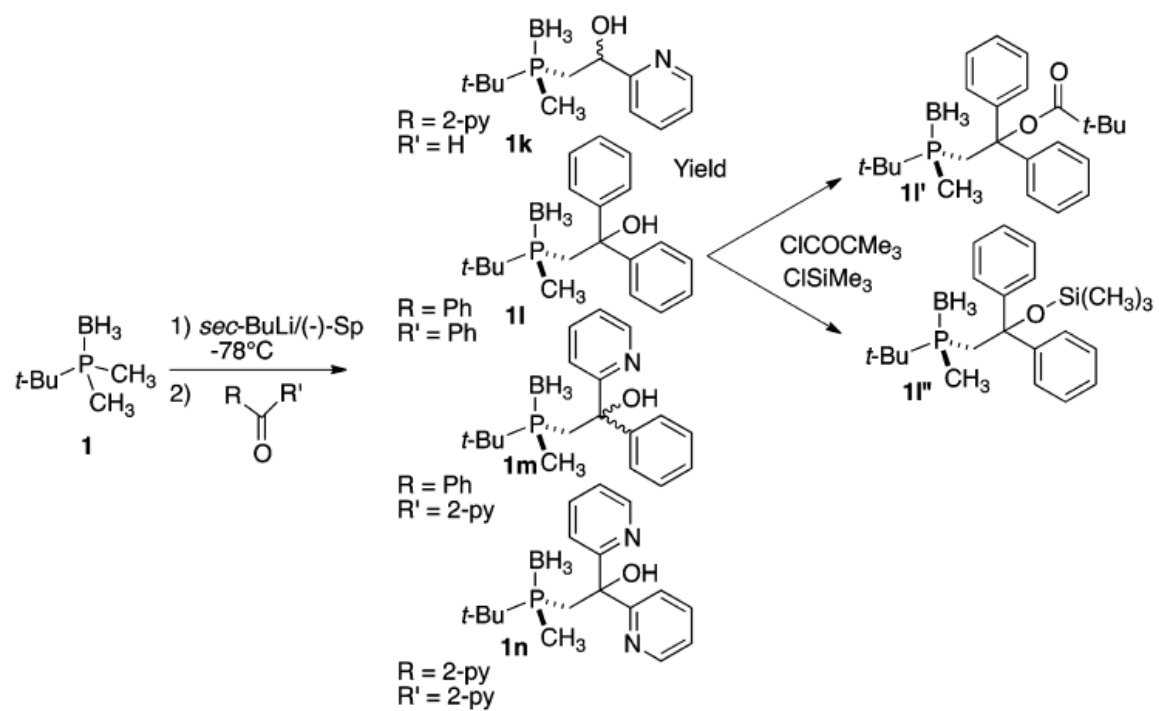
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1347 **Scheme 4.**

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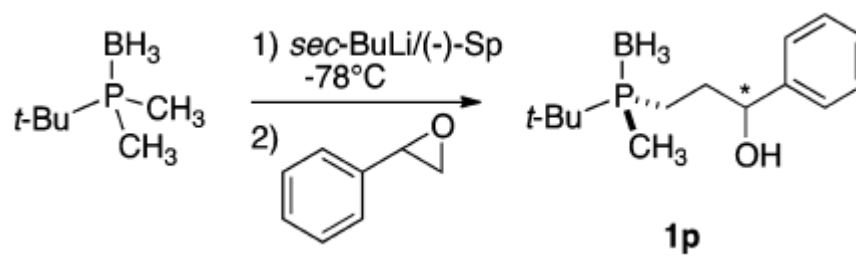
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1356 **Scheme 5.**

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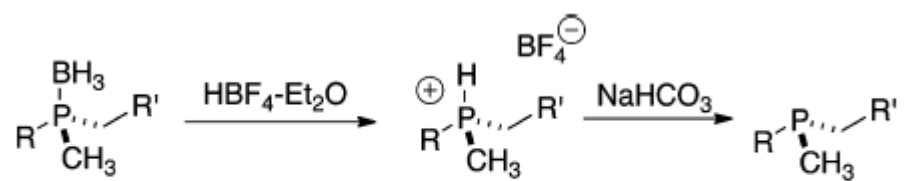
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1365 **Scheme 6.**

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^aThe deprotection is complete after 1 h for all of the substrates.

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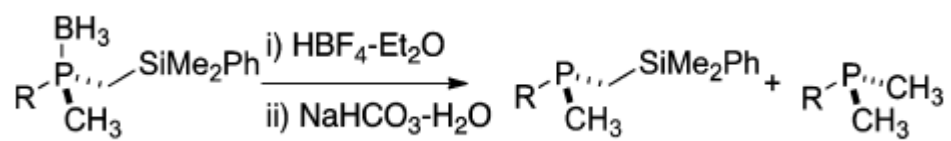
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1374 **Scheme 7.**

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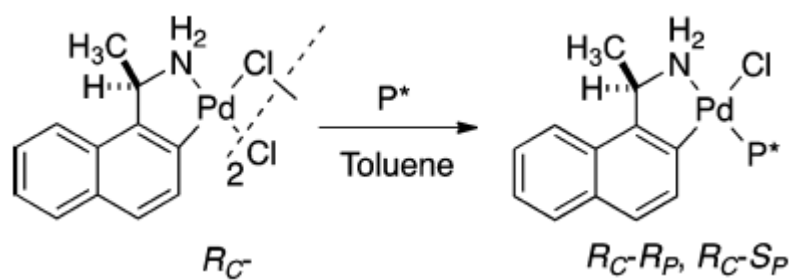
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1383 **Scheme 8.**

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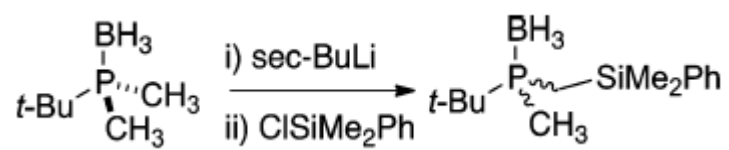
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1392 **Scheme 9.**

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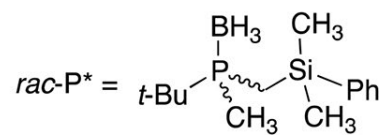
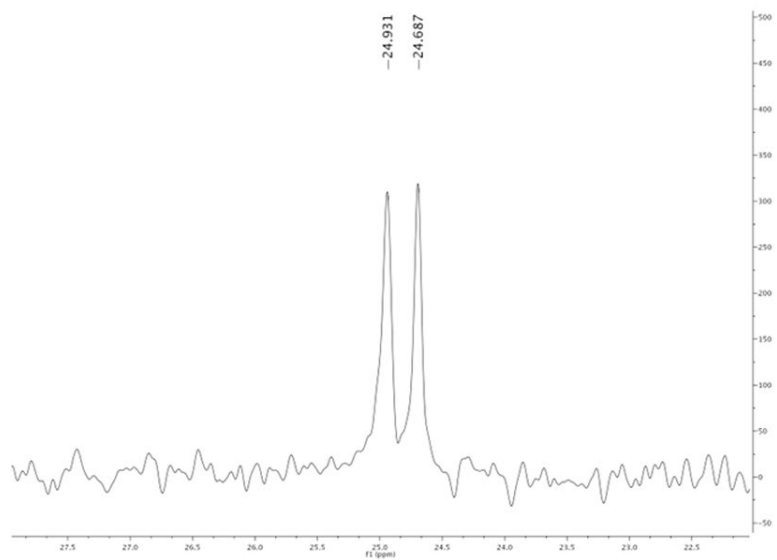
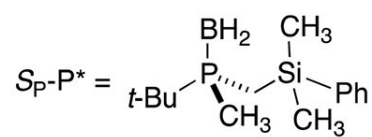
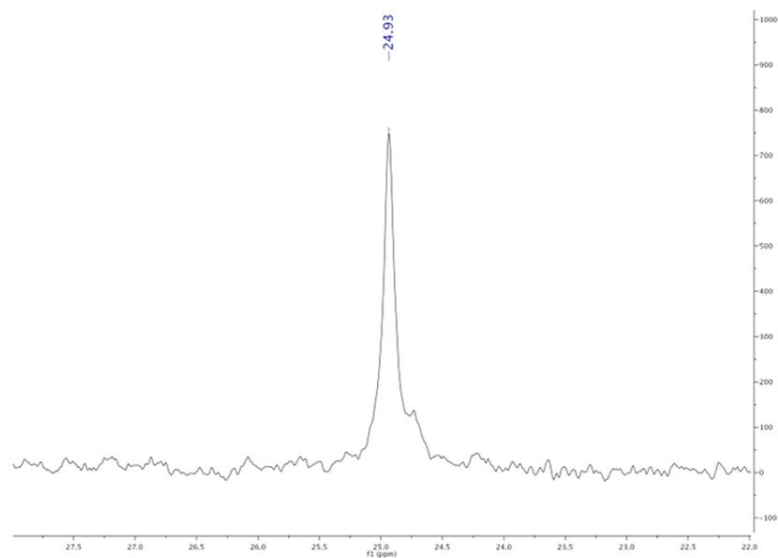
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1401 **Figure 1**

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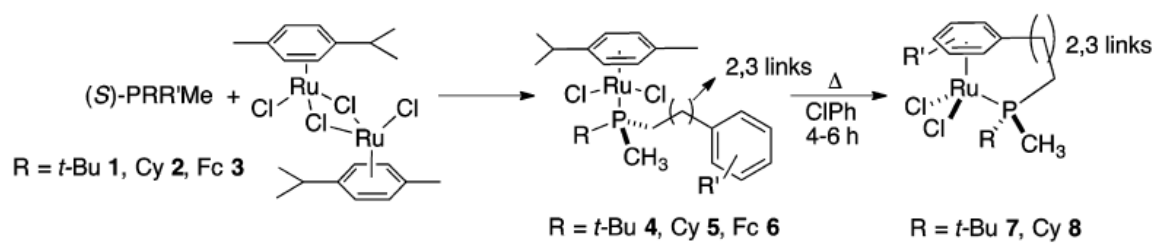
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1409 **Scheme 10.**

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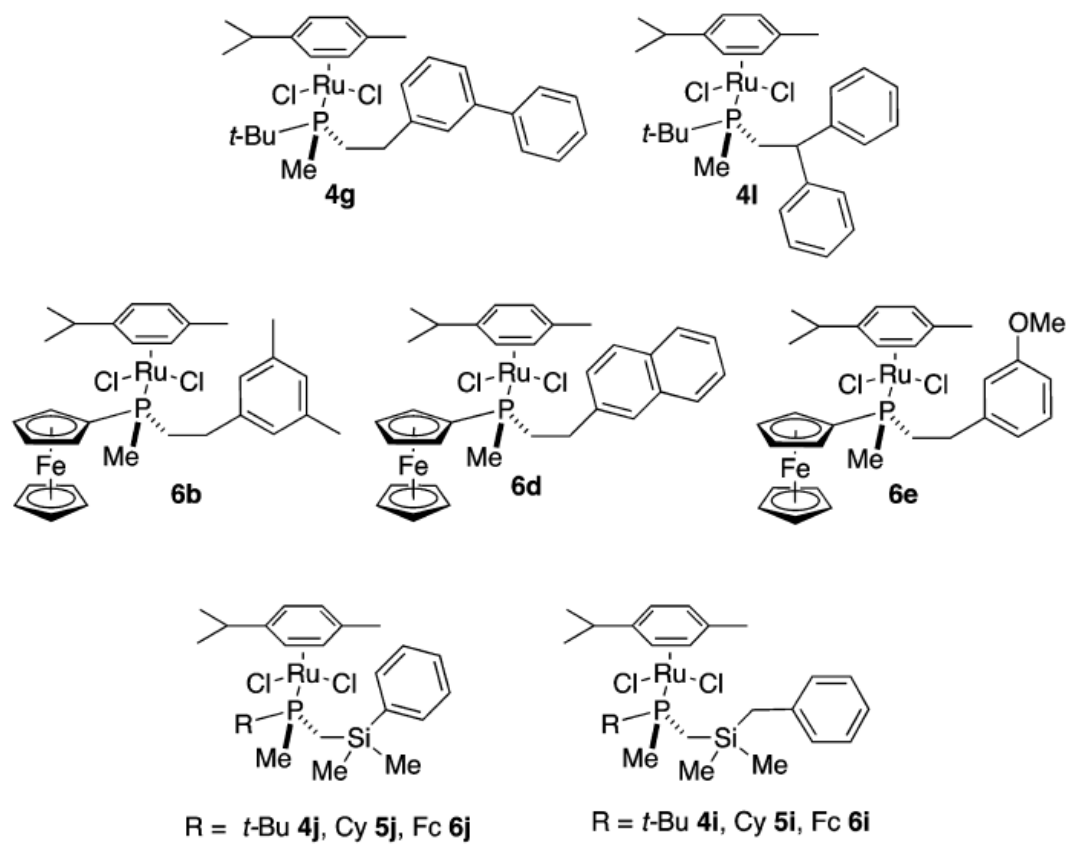
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1418 **Chart 3.**

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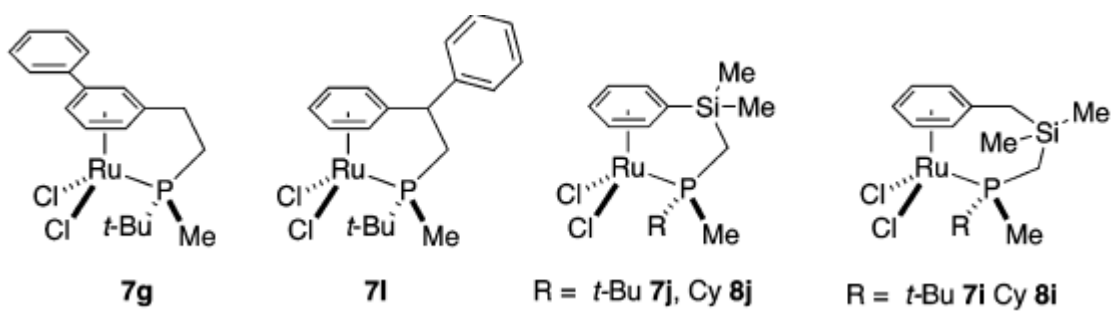
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1427 **Chart 4.**

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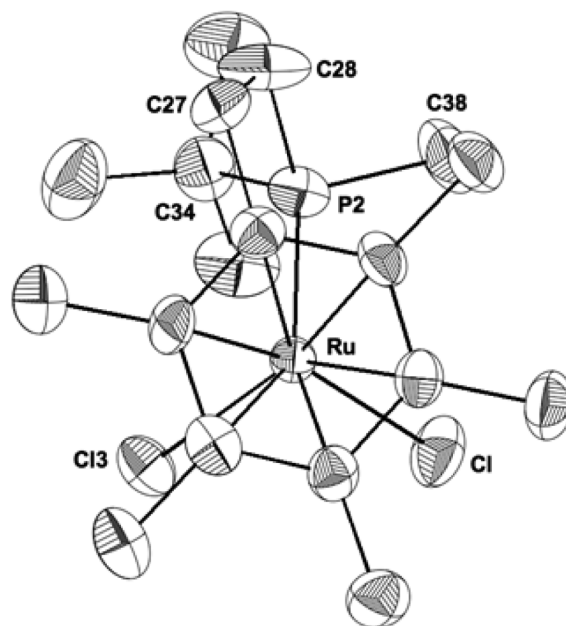
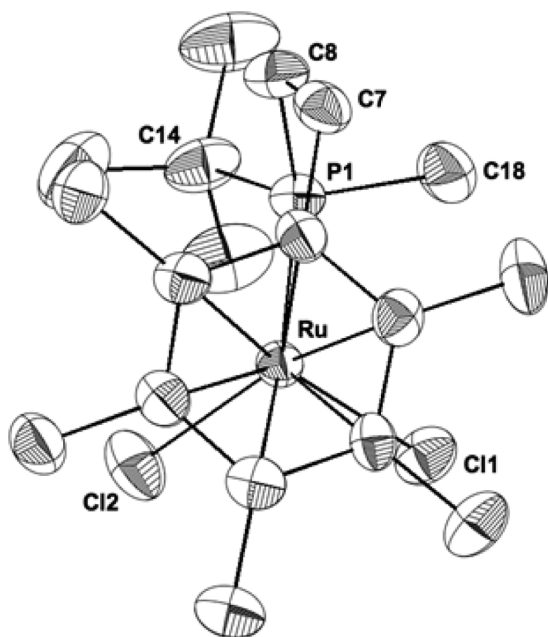
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1436 **Figure 2**

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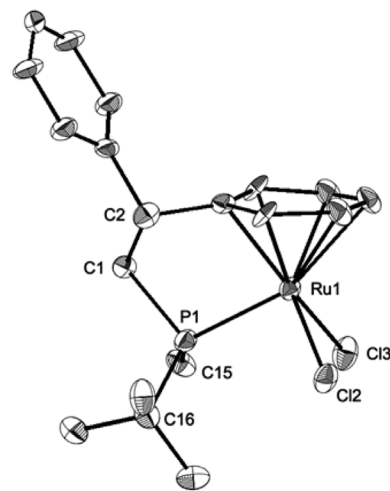
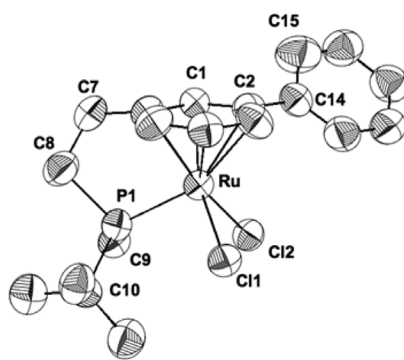
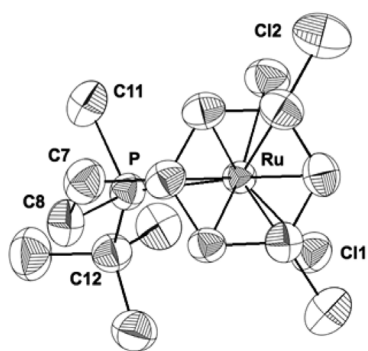
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1448 **Figure 3**

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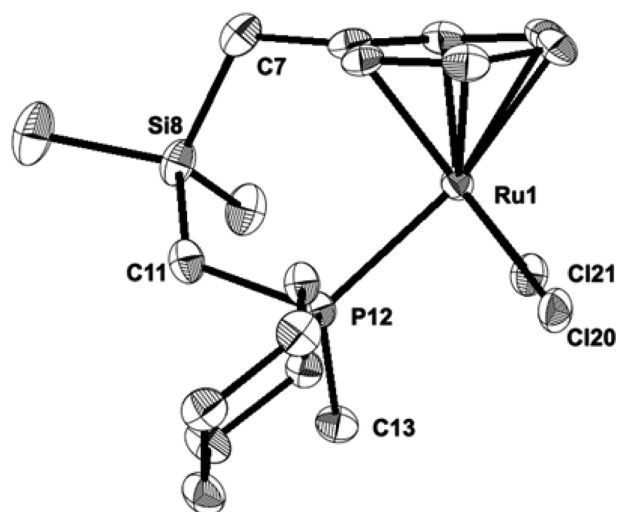
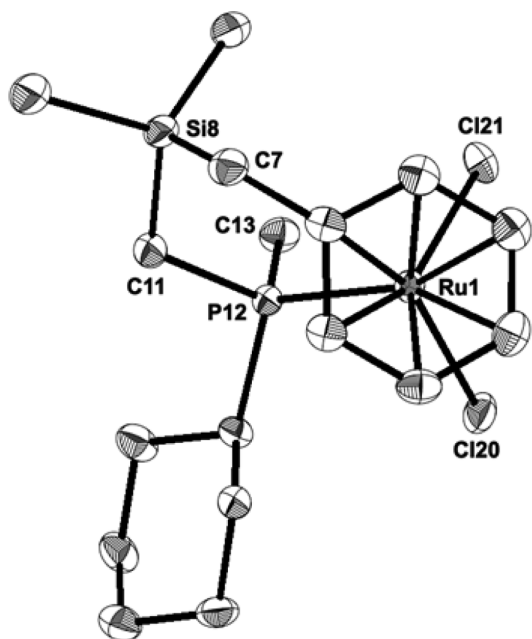
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1457 **Figure 4**

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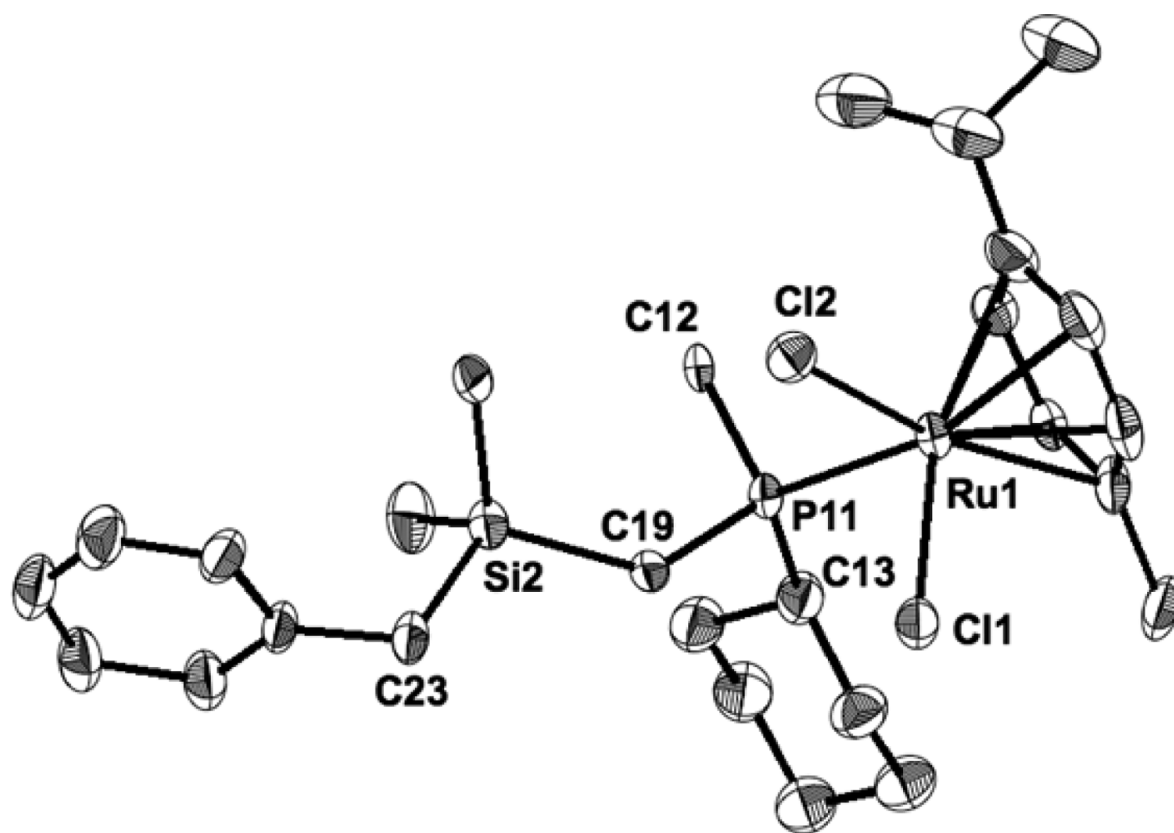
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1465 **Figure 5**

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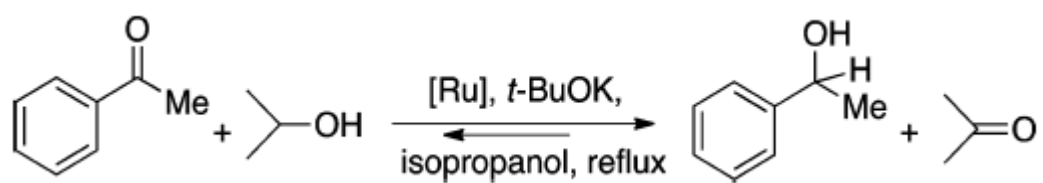
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1473 **Scheme 11.**

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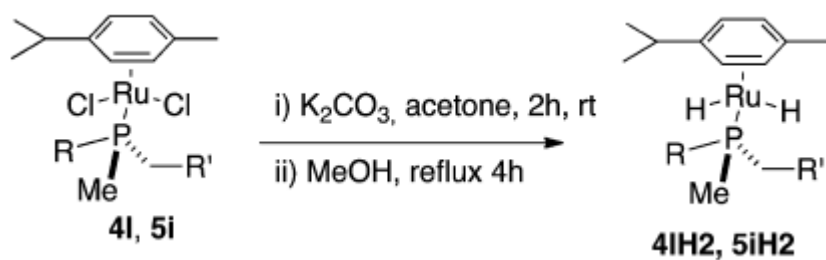
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1482 **Scheme 12.**

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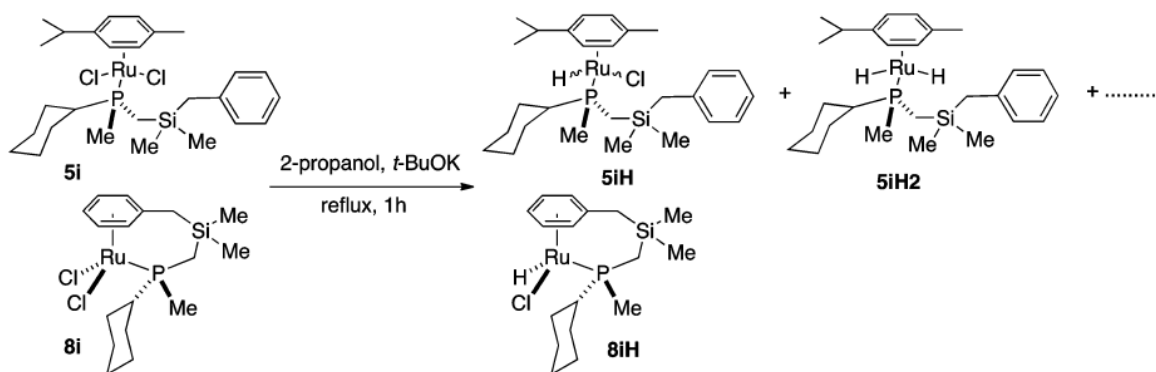
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1491 **Scheme 13.**

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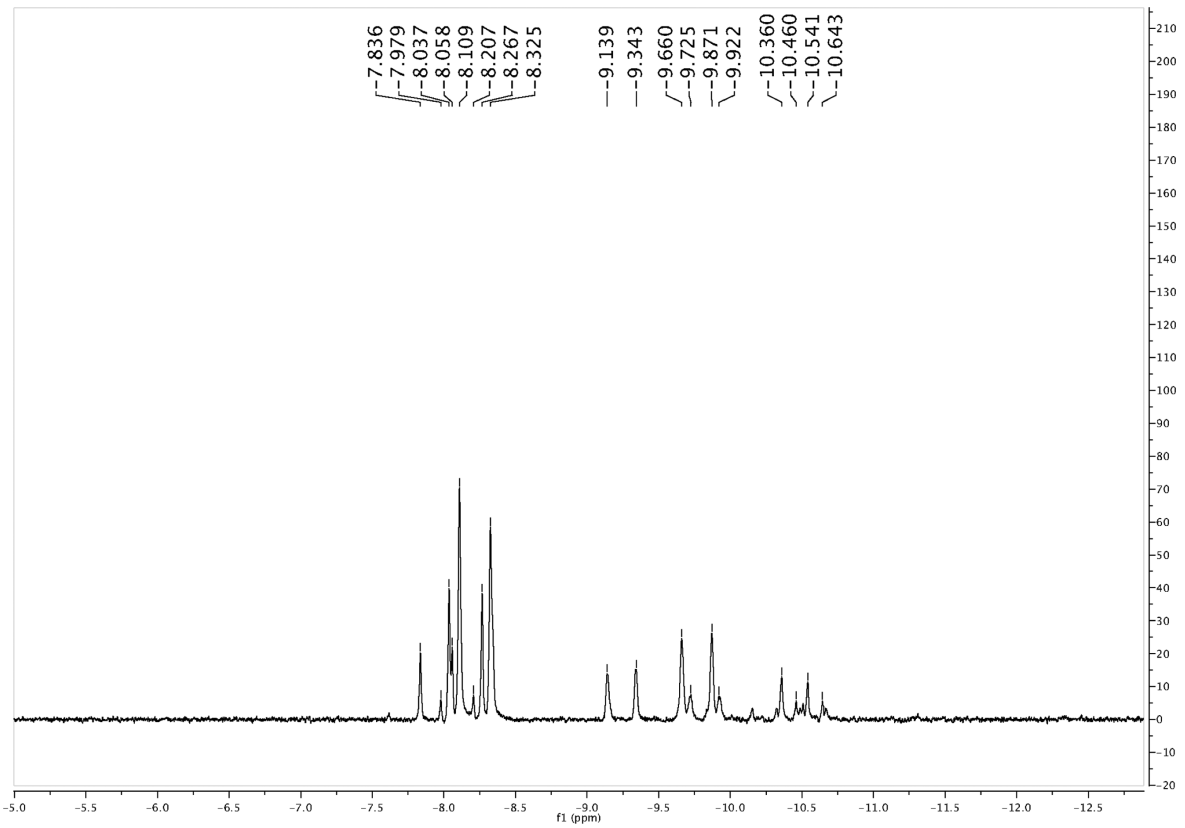
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1500 **Figure 6**

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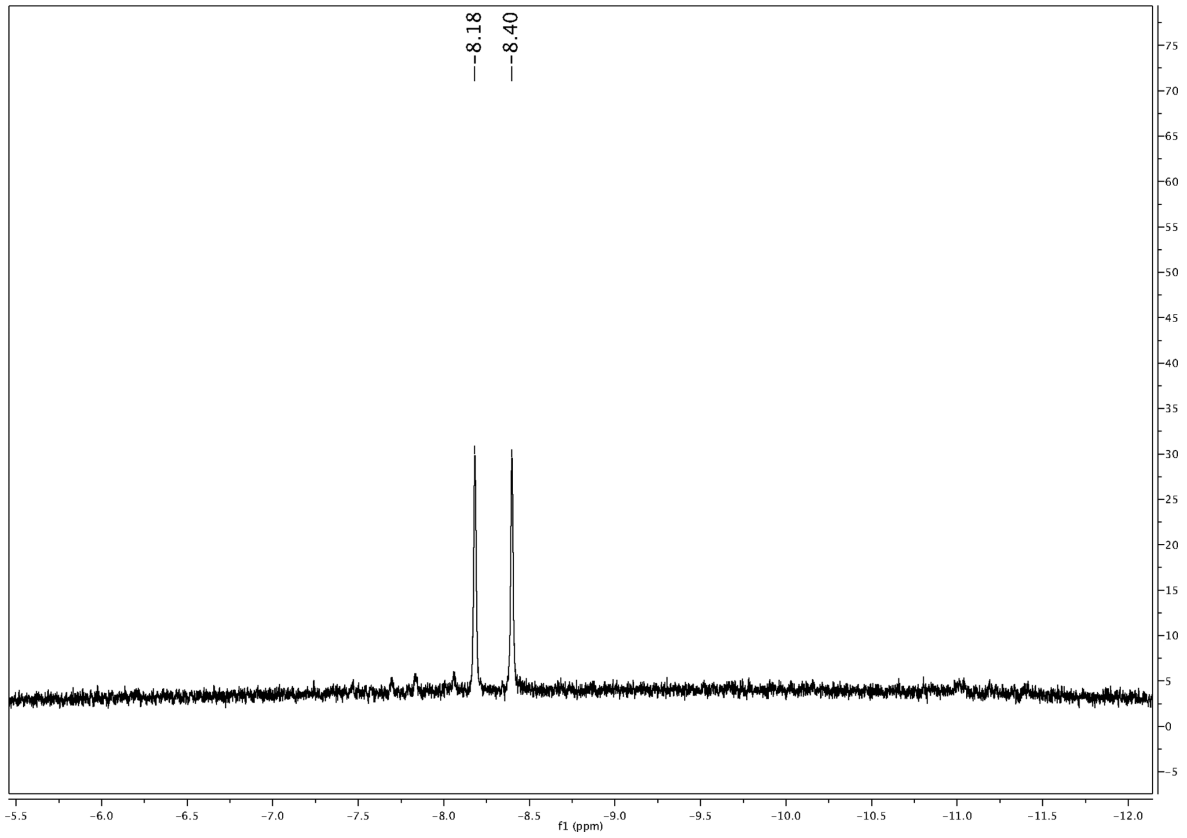
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1515 **Figure 7**

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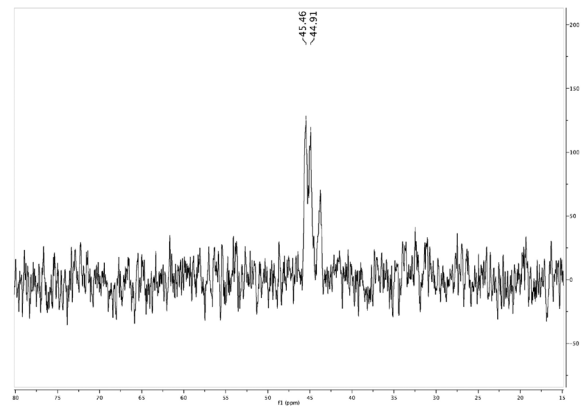
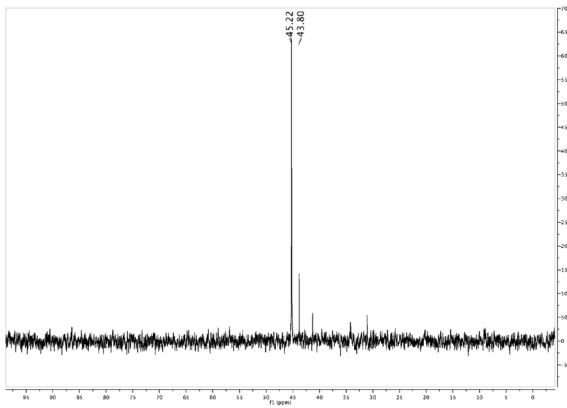
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1530 **Figure 8**

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