

大空间位阻 β -二亚胺镁配合物的合成、晶体结构及硅氢化反应

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摘要: 2,4-戊二酮分别与不同的伯胺反应, 合成出 2 种新的大空间位阻的 β -二亚胺配体。其中 β -二亚胺配体 **1** 与格氏试剂甲基碘化镁(MeMgI)反应得到相应四配位镁的甲基配合物, 配体 **1** 的锂盐与溴化镁(MgBr₂)反应制备出 Mg-Li 双金属溴配合物。新 β -二亚胺配体和相应镁的甲基配合物和溴配合物的晶体结构均通过单晶 X 射线衍射确定, 相应镁的甲基配合物和溴配合物在苯乙酮的硅氢化反应中显示了较好的催化活性。

关键词: 镁; β -二亚胺配体; 晶体结构; 硅氢化

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Sterically Bulky β -Diketiminato Magnesium Complexes: Syntheses, Crystal Structure and Catalytic Hydrosilylation

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Abstract: Two new sterically bulky β -diketiminato compounds CH(C(Me)N(2,6-CHPh₂-4-ⁱPrC₆H₂))₂H (**1**) and (CH(C(Me)N(2,4-C(CH₃)₃C₆H₂))₂H (**2**) were synthesized by the reaction of 2,4-pentanedione with the corresponding primary amines. Treatment of ligand **1** with Grignard reagent MeMgI in THF provided a four-coordinated magnesium methyl complex. The lithium salt of **1** was subsequently reacted with MgBr₂ in THF to yield the Mg-Li bimetallic magnesium bromide complex. The molecular structures of two β -diketiminato ligands and their corresponding magnesium methyl and bromide complexes have been characterized using X-ray crystallography. The corresponding magnesium methyl and bromide complexes have shown moderate catalytic activity in the hydrosilylation of acetophenone. CCDC: 1445844, **1**; 1445845, **2**; 1480136, **4**; 1480137, **5**.

Keywords: magnesium; β -diketiminato ligand; crystal structure; hydrosilylation

0 Introduction

Due to its ease of synthesis and the fact that the substituents on the aromatic amine and backbone are readily tuned, β -diketiminato ligand is a versatile precursor which is widely used in inorganic chemistry,

organic chemistry and catalysis. It can be used for the coordination of almost all main and transition metals, and often used as a very efficient catalyst for olefin polymerization and in organic catalysis^[1-3]. As early as 1968 there has been a report about β -diketiminato ligand as single electron bidentate ligand to prepare

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nickel(II) complexes^[4]. Recently, Shen et al. used it to synthesize a series of rare earth complexes which are highly efficient catalysts for the polymerization of L-lactide^[5].

Over the past decade, various kinds of ligands stabilizing subvalent metal complexes have been synthesized. For example, Robinson et al. have successfully synthesized monovalent zinc complex [(DippNacnac)Zn(I)]₂ with the corresponding β -diketiminato ligand Dipp Nacnac (DippNacnac=(DippNC(Me))₂CH, Dipp=2,6-diisopropylphenyl) in 2005^[6]. Subsequently Jones et al. also used the same ligand Dipp Nacnac to synthesize the first room temperature stable monovalent magnesium compound [(DippNacnac)Mg(I)]₂ in 2007 and further extended it to other similar β -diketiminato ligands^[7-8]. These Mg(I) complexes could be used as a reducing agent in organic, organometallic and inorganic reactions^[9-11], in some ways it can even replace the traditional reducing agents used in many synthesis reactions. For instance, Driess and Power et al. respectively prepared cyclic and acyclic carbene silicon analogues with [(MesNacnac)Mg(I)]₂ as a reducing agent recently^[12-13]. However, most of the known ligands cannot stabilize other active low valence metal complexes such as calcium and rare earth because of the comparatively slow steric hindrance. Moreover the reports about β -diketiminato magnesium complexes are relatively few. Herein we report the syntheses of two new extremely bulky β -diketiminato ligands, the corresponding β -diketiminato magnesium methyl and Mg-Li bimetallic complexes and their application in the catalytic hydrosilylation of acetophenone.

1 Experimental

¹H and ¹³C {¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance III 600 MHz spectrometer and were referenced to the resonances of the solvent used. HRMS data was obtained with the Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL. Melting points were determined and uncorrected. The starting material 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline and 2,6-bis(dinaphthylmethyl)-4-methylaniline were prepared

according to literatures^[14-15]. Other chemicals were purchased and used without further purification.

1.1 Synthesis of compound 1

2,4-Pentanedione (0.20 mL, 2.24 mmol) and 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline (2.00 g, 4.28 mmol) were refluxed with *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (0.83 g, 4.36 mmol) in toluene (80 mL) under Dean-Stark conditions for 3 days. Upon cooling of the resulting yellow mixture, a beige solid was precipitated, which was filtered, dissolved in 100 mL CH₂Cl₂, neutralized with 70 mL of a 5%(w/w) aqueous NaOH solution, and extracted into CH₂Cl₂ (2×50mL). After dried by MgSO₄, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and compound **1** was recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/hexane as colorless crystals (Yield: 65%). m.p. 253~254 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 12.01 (s, 1H, NH), 7.23~6.97 (m, 40H, Ar-H), 6.86 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 5.90 (s, 4H, CHPh₂), 4.12 (s, 1H, =CH), 2.74 (sep, ³J_{HH}=7.2 Hz, 2H, CH(CH₃)₂), 1.08 (d, ³J_{HH}=7.2 Hz, 12H, CH(CH₃)₂), 0.19 (s, 6H, NCCH₃). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (151 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃) δ 164.0 (C=N), 144.9, 144.3, 142.7, 141.6, 138.5, 130.0, 129.4, 128.2, 128.0, 126.7, 126.1, 125.8 (Ar-C), 94.7 (=CH), 52.3 (CHPh₂), 33.6 (CH₃), 24.0 (CH(CH₃)₂), 19.8 (CH(CH₃)₂). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd. for C₇₅H₇₀N₂+H [M⁺+H]: 999.5618; Found: 999.5667.

1.2 Synthesis of compound 2

Compound **2** was prepared using a similar procedure to that employed for **1** (Yield: 44%). m.p. 202~203 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ 12.31 (s, 1H, NH), 7.33 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.11 (d, ³J_{HH}=8.4Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 6.70 (d, ³J_{HH}=8.4 Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 4.87 (s, 1H, =CH), 1.81 (s, 6H, NCCH₃), 1.31 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.30 (s, 18H, C(CH₃)₃). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (151 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃) δ 159.5 (C=N), 146.3, 142.2, 142.0, 125.8, 123.1, 122.7 (Ar-C), 96.4 (NC=CH), 35.3, 34.5 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.6, 30.6 (C(CH₃)₃), 21.3 (CH₃). HRMS (ESI): *m/z* Calcd. for C₃₀H₅₀N₂+H [M⁺+H]: 475.4052; Found: 475.4034.

1.3 Synthesis of compound 3

Compound **3** was prepared using a similar procedure to that employed for **1** (Yield: 67%). m.p. 157~158 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K, CDCl₃): δ

12.20 (s, 1H, NH), 7.81~7.28 (m, 28H, Ar-H), 6.91 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 5.95 (s, 2H, $\text{CH}(\text{Np})_2$), 4.90 (s, 1H, =CH), 2.19 (s, 3H, CH_3), 2.07 (s, 3H, CH_3), 0.69 (s, 3H, CH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (151 MHz, 298 K, CDCl_3) δ 195.6 (C=O), 163.9 (C=N), 142.5, 140.8, 139.4, 137.4, 134.3, 133.44, 133.41, 132.3, 132.2, 129.8, 128.5, 128.1, 128.01, 127.97, 127.88, 127.82, 127.60, 127.58, 126.1, 125.9, 125.8, 125.7 (Ar-C), 96.3 (=CH), 52.4 ($\text{CH}(\text{Np})_2$), 29.0, 21.7, 18.2 (CH_3). HRMS (ESI): m/z Calcd. for $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{43}\text{NO}+\text{H}^+$ [M⁺+H]: 722.3424; Found: 722.3463.

1.4 Synthesis of magnesium methyl complex 4

MeMgI (0.67 mL, 2.01 mmol, 3 mol·L⁻¹ in Et_2O) was added dropwise to a solution of ligand **1** (1.00 g, 1.00 mmol) in THF at -70 °C. The mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred overnight, filtered and concentrated. Hexane was added to give colorless crystals of **4** (0.79 g, Yield: 72%). m.p. 146.8~148.2 °C. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K, C_6D_6): δ 7.38~6.86 (m, 44H, Ar-H), 6.13 (s, 4H, CHPh_2), 4.60 (s, 1H, =CH), 3.58 (m, 4H, THF), 2.50 (sep, $^3J_{\text{HH}}=7.2$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.34 (m, 4H, THF), 0.97 (s, 6H, NCCH_3), 0.96 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}}=7.2$ Hz, 12H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), -0.81 (s, 3H, MgCH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (151 MHz, 298 K, C_6D_6): δ 170.8 (C=N), 146.3, 146.0, 144.0, 142.9, 138.8, 130.4, 129.7, 128.3, 128.0, 126.3, 125.9 (Ar-C), 95.9 (=CH), 67.9 (THF), 51.6 (CHPh_2), 33.3 (CH_3), 25.3 (THF), 24.1 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.6 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), -15.1 (MgCH_3).

1.5 Synthesis of magnesium bromide complex 5

$n\text{BuLi}$ (0.7 mL, 1.12 mmol, 1.6 mol·L⁻¹ in

hexane) was added dropwise to a solution of ligand **1** (0.97 g, 0.97 mmol) in THF at room temperature and stirred for 2 h. The resulting red-brown solution was added to MgBr_2 (0.18 g, 0.97 mmol) in THF and stirred overnight. The solvents were removed *in vacuo* and the residue was extracted with toluene and filtered. Hexane was added to afford the colorless crystals of **5** (0.73 g, Yield: 56%). m.p. 193.5~195.6 °C. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, 298 K, C_6D_6): δ 7.52~6.94 (m, 44H, Ar-H), 6.22 (s, 4H, CHPh_2), 4.56 (s, 1H, =CH), 2.63 (sep, $^3J_{\text{HH}}=7.2$ Hz, 2H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 1.06 (d, $^3J_{\text{HH}}=7.2$ Hz, 12H, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 0.89 (s, 6H, NCCH_3). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (151 MHz, 298 K, C_6D_6): δ 166.5 (C=N), 150.6, 146.0, 144.4, 141.9, 137.6, 130.4, 130.0, 128.0, 127.9, 126.6, 126.3, 126.1 (Ar-C), 93.9 (=CH), 52.6 (CHPh_2), 33.8 (CH_3), 24.3 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$), 23.2 ($\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$).

1.6 X-ray crystal structure determination

Diffraction data were collected on a Bruker D8 VENTURE PHOTON 100 diffractometer with Mo $K\alpha$ radiation ($\lambda=0.071\ 073$ nm, graphite monochromator) at 135 (2) K. SADABS absorption corrections were applied^[16]. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined on F^2 by full matrix least squares (SHELXL-97) using all unique data^[17]. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, while the hydrogen atoms were introduced at calculated positions and refined riding on their carrier atoms. Crystal data for the complexes **1**, **2**, **4**, **5** and a summary of the crystallographic analyses were given in Table 1.

CCDC: 1445844, **1**; 1445845, **2**; 1480136, **4**; 1480137, **5**.

Table 1 Crystallographic data for **1**, **2**, **4** and **5**

	1	2	4	5
Formula	$\text{C}_{75}\text{H}_{70}\text{N}_2$	$\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_2$	$\text{C}_{84}\text{H}_{88}\text{MgN}_2\text{O}_2$	$\text{C}_{83}\text{H}_{85}\text{Br}_2\text{LiMgN}_2\text{O}_2$
Formula weight	999.33	474.75	1 181.87	1 333.59
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic	Triclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	$P2_1/n$	$P\bar{1}$	$P\bar{1}$	$Pbca$
a / nm	1.410 08(6)	1.048 43(5)	1.272 6(2)	1.889 75(12)
b / nm	2.060 30(9)	1.115 50(5)	1.448 5(3)	2.036 96(13)
c / nm	2.061 64(10)	1.341 94(6)	2.009 1(3)	3.587 2(2)
α / (°)		86.245 9(13)	101.648(2)	
β / (°)	104.844 9(15)	80.999 7(13)	98.735(2)	
γ / (°)		76.953 6(13)	95.834 2(13)	

Continued Table 1

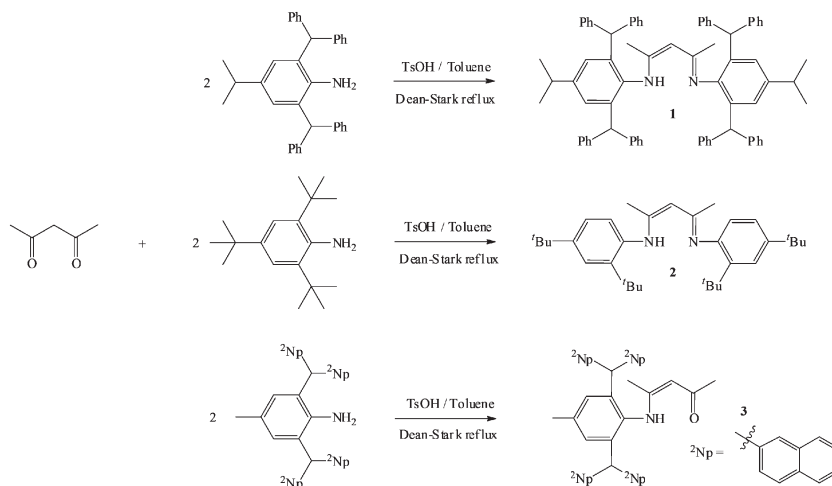
V / nm^3	5.789 5(5)	1.509 35(12)	3.551 5(11)	13.808 2(15)
Z	4	2	2	8
$D_c / (\text{g} \cdot \text{cm}^{-3})$	1.146	1.045	1.105	1.283
μ / mm^{-1}	0.065	0.060	0.073	1.233
$F(000)$	2 136	524	1 268	5 584
Size / mm	0.20×0.20×0.15	0.20×0.15×0.10	0.24×0.22×0.20	0.25×0.21×0.16
GOF	0.981	1.042	1.006	1.178
Reflections collected, unique	51 209, 14 397	36 864, 5 952	28 244, 15 721	147 122, 13 583
Observed reflections [$I > 2\sigma(I)$]	6 741	5 071	8 830	9 559
R_{int}	0.084 4	0.023 8	0.039 4	0.068 8
R_1	0.069 2	0.044 9	0.048 6	0.069 2
wR_2	0.124 3	0.117 2	0.097 2	0.194 2

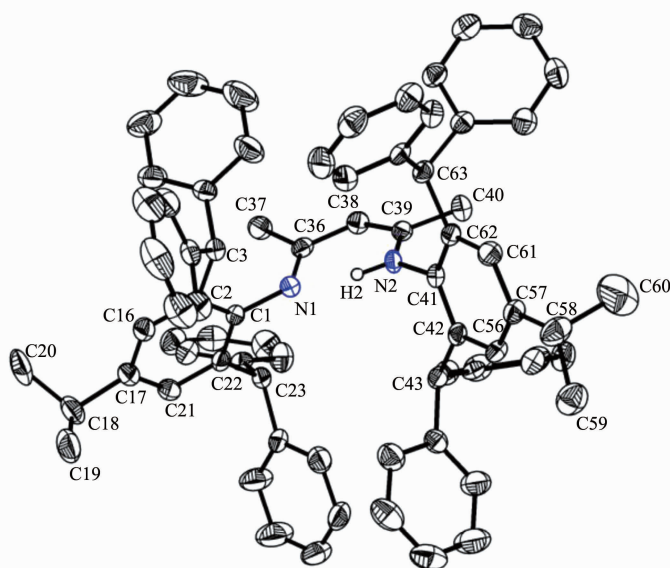
2 Results and discussion

When 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline and 2,4-pentanedione were refluxed in ethanol or toluene as per protocol followed in normal β -diketiminato ligand synthesis, no reaction was observed even when the longer reaction time (2 weeks) was employed. However 2,4-pentanedione upon treatment with **2** equiv. of 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline and *p*-toluenesulfonic acid by Dean-Stark reflux for 3 days in toluene afforded the corresponding β -diketiminato ligand **1** in good yield (65%) (Scheme 1). Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopic analysis revealed that in the ^1H NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) the NH_2 signal (δ 3.26) of the starting material 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline^[14] disappeared

while a new singlet signal appeared at δ 12.01 which is assigned to the NH characteristic resonance and another new singlet signal at δ 4.12 that is assigned to the backbone methine resonance of compound **1**. Other integration data and chemical shifts for all other signals are consistent with the desired target product **1**. The $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of compound **1** further confirmed the structure. It displayed a characteristic downfield C=N resonance at δ 164.0 and C=C double bond resonance at δ 94.7. Finally the solid state molecular structure of ligand **1** was determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

Colorless crystals of **1** suitable for X-ray diffraction study were obtained from mixed dichloromethane and hexane solvents (Fig.1). Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 2. In

Scheme 1 Syntheses of β -diketiminato ligands

Fig.1 Molecular structure of **1** with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level**Table 2** Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles ($^{\circ}$) for compound **1**

C(1)-N(1)	0.142 7(2)	C(36)-N(1)	0.131 5(3)	C(36)-C(38)	0.142 3(3)
C(36)-C(37)	0.150 3(3)	C(38)-C(39)	0.138 0(3)	C(39)-N(2)	0.134 6(2)
C(39)-C(40)	0.150 3(3)	C(41)-N(2)	0.142 6(2)		
C(22)-C(1)-N(1)	121.89(18)	C(2)-C(1)-N(1)	117.77(18)	N(1)-C(36)-C(38)	119.65(19)
N(1)-C(36)-C(37)	122.76(19)	C(38)-C(36)-C(37)	117.59(19)	C(39)-C(38)-C(36)	126.3(2)
N(2)-C(39)-C(38)	120.45(18)	N(2)-C(39)-C(40)	119.08(19)	C(38)-C(39)-C(40)	120.4(2)
C(42)-C(41)-N(2)	118.25(18)	C(62)-C(41)-N(2)	121.21(18)	C(36)-N(1)-C(1)	123.75(17)
C(39)-N(2)-C(41)	127.61(17)				

compound **1**, the double bond C(38)-C(39) (0.1380(3) nm) is shorter than the single bond C(36)-C(38) (0.142 3(3) nm), the bond length of C-N single bond C(39)-N(2) (0.134 6(2) nm) is slightly longer than that of the C=N double bond C(36)-N(1) (0.131 5(3) nm), the bond distances of aromatic N(1)-C(1) and N(2)-C(41) are almost identical (0.142 6(2) and 0.142 7(2) nm) and are much longer than that of C(39)-N(2) and slightly longer than that of the reported mesityl substituted β -diketiminato ligand (0.142 4(2) nm)^[18]. This could be attributed to the steric hindrance of the bulky 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-4-isopropylaniline. The N-H hydrogen was fixed to the nitrogen with the longer C-N bond. The N(1), C(36), C(38), C(39) and N(2) atoms are almost in the same plane. Their bond angles are around the ideal value of 120° .

When the similar reaction between 2,4-pentanedione and 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butyl aniline was carried out under Dean-Stack reflux in toluene for 3 days, a new product was produced (Scheme 1). This product also exhibited a NH characteristic resonance at δ 12.31 and a backbone methine resonance at δ 4.87 in the ^1H NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) as well as a characteristic C=N double bond resonance at δ 159.5 and C=C double bond resonance at δ 96.4 in the ^{13}C { ^1H } NMR spectrum (CDCl_3). However, integration indicated that there were 36 protons at δ 1.31 and 1.30. This is not matched with the expected product in which six tertiary butyl groups should have 54 protons. Meanwhile there are six aromatic protons which are two more than the expected product. Hence we speculated that two tertiary butyl groups of phenyl

ring could be lost. The high resolution mass spectrum (HRMS) also demonstrated that the experimental observed value of 475.403 4 is same to the calculated value of 475.405 2.

However, from the above ^1H , $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR and HRMS spectra, we did not know which tertiary butyl groups were lost. We attempted to grow single crystals of this new compound. The single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of **2** established that the two *ortho*-tertiary butyl groups of phenyl ring were indeed lost. We deduced the high reaction temperature and time maybe lead to the tertiary butyl group decomposition. We subsequently lowered the reaction temperature from

reflux in toluene to room temperature, however no reaction was observed even after two weeks. Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 2. As shown in Fig.2, one *ortho*-substituted tertiary butyl group of each phenyl ring was obviously split from the original 2,4,6-tri-*tert*-butylaniline. The bond lengths of C(6)-N(1) and C(10)-N(2) (0.142 36(15) and 0.141 94(16) nm) are slightly shorter than those of **1** and other similar β -diketiminato ligands reported previously^[18-19] due to the vacancy generated by the cleaved *ortho*-tertiary butyl groups as expected. Moreover the two *ortho*-tertiary butyl groups adopt a *trans*-arrangement in order to minimize steric crowding.

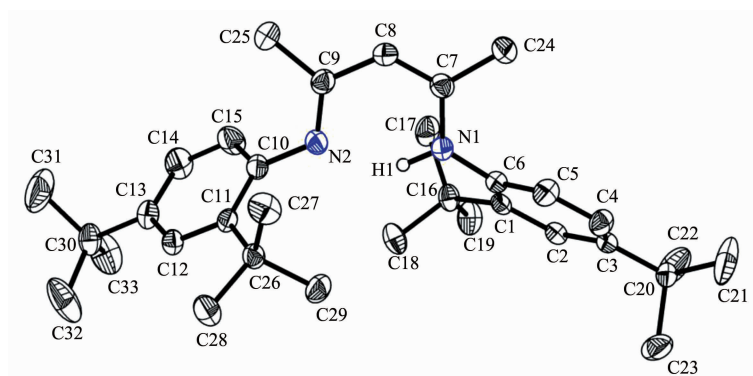


Fig.2 Molecular structure of **2** with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level

Table 3 Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles ($^\circ$) for compound **2**

N(1)-C(7)	0.135 10(16)	N(1)-C(6)	0.142 36(15)	N(2)-C(9)	0.130 37(16)
N(2)-C(10)	0.141 94(16)	C(7)-C(8)	0.137 49(17)	C(7)-C(24)	0.149 98(18)
C(8)-C(9)	0.143 29(17)	C(9)-C(25)	0.151 31(17)		
C(7)-N(1)-C(6)	124.65(10)	C(9)-N(2)-C(10)	121.36(10)	N(1)-C(7)-C(8)	120.65(11)
N(1)-C(7)-C(24)	118.97(11)	C(7)-C(8)-C(9)	125.86(11)	N(2)-C(9)-C(8)	120.33(11)
N(2)-C(9)-C(25)	123.66(11)				

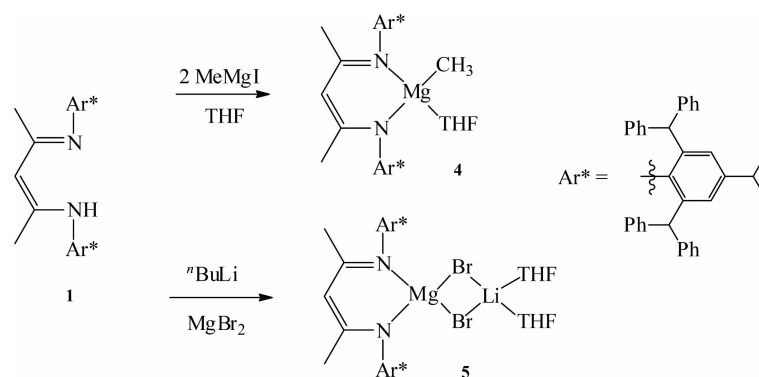
Quite recently, the extremely bulky 2,6-bis(dinaphthylmethyl)-4-methylaniline was synthesized via a two step Grignard reaction and Friedel-Crafts alkylation protocol in excellent yields and successfully applied to prepare what can be categorized as one of the bulkiest N-heterocyclic carbenes synthesized so far^[15]. Hence we envisaged that we can prepare the corresponding β -diketiminato ligand. When 2,6-bis(dinaphthylmethyl)-4-methylaniline was treated with

2,4-pentanedione under the same reaction condition as above, only compound **3** was obtained as observed via ^1H and $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectroscopic analysis (Scheme 1). There is a NH characteristic resonance at δ 12.20 and a backbone methine resonance at δ 4.90 in the ^1H NMR spectrum (CDCl_3) as well as a characteristic unreacted C=O double bond resonance at δ 195.6 and the new C=C double bond resonance at δ 96.3 in the $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (CDCl_3). We suppose the first

equivalent primary amine underwent reaction and the second did not further react with another ketone group of 2,4-pentanedione because of much larger steric hindrance. We also extended the reaction time from 5 days to 10 days, the same product was obtained. Compared with the above-mentioned two reactions 2,6-bis(dinaphthylmethyl)-4-methylaniline should be the bulkiest primary amine reported to date.

The reaction of ligand **1** with one equiv. MeMgI in THF did not give the desired pure magnesium iodide complex. ^1H NMR analysis indicated that it could generate the magnesium iodide, magnesium methyl complexes (LMgI and LMgMe, L=ligand **1**), ligand **1** in the crude reaction mixture. This is different from the previously reported β -diketiminato ligands which upon

reaction with one equiv. MeMgI produced the corresponding magnesium iodide complexes in good yield^[8,20]. Due to the fact that the crude mixture was very complex, the product couldnt be separated completely. We postulated that the resultant magnesium iodide complex (LMgI) is too reactive and further reacted with MeMgI immediately to generate the corresponding magnesium methyl complex (LMgMe). Hence we added two equiv. MeMgI to the solution of ligand **1** in THF, the desired magnesium methyl complex **4** was indeed obtained as colorless crystals in good yield (72%) (Scheme 2). This offered an alternative method to synthesize the magnesium methyl complex which previously prepared from dimethylmagnesium with the relevant β -diketiminato ligand^[20-24].



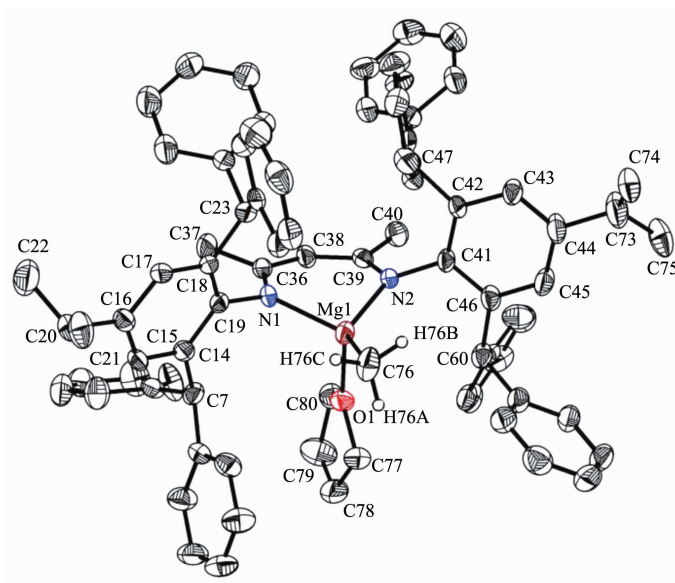
Scheme 2 Syntheses of magnesium complexes

NMR spectra of complex **4** displayed a very characteristic upfield Mg-CH₃ resonance at δ -0.81 (singlet, 3H) in ^1H NMR spectrum and at δ -15.1 in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum respectively. These chemical shifts are similar to those observed for the related unsolvated dimeric Dipp-substituted β -diketiminato magnesium methyl complex [(DippNacnac)Mg(Me)]₂ (δ -1.17 (^1H), δ -18.6 (^{13}C))^[19] and those of monomeric three-coordinated *tert*-butyl-substituted β -diketiminato complex [(*t*-Bu Nacnac)Mg(Me)] (δ -1.37 (^1H), δ -16.8 (^{13}C))^[22] and 2,6-bis(diphenylmethyl)-*p*-tolyl-substituted β -diketiminato complex [(ArNacnac)Mg(Me)] (ArNacnac=CH(C(Me)N(2,6-CHPh₂-4-MeC₆H₂))₂, δ -1.27 (^1H), δ -18.1 (^{13}C))^[23].

Single crystals of complex **4** suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained from THF/hexane mixture at room temperature (Fig.3). Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 3. The

geometry at magnesium is distorted tetrahedral with angles in the range of 94.52(6)°~126.68(8)°. The Mg metal center is coordinated by two nitrogen atoms of ligand (N(1) and N(2)), one oxygen atom of THF (O(1)) and one carbon (C(76)). The Mg(1)-C(76) bond length (0.210 96(19) nm) in **4** falls in the range of 0.210 7(6)~0.218 9(4) nm in those similar solvated β -diketiminato magnesium methyl complexes. The bond angle of N(1)-Mg(1)-N(2) in **4** was 94.52(6)°, which is bigger than those similar solvated β -diketiminato magnesium methyl complexes reported previously (91.8(2)°~94.51(12)°)^[21-23].

In order to get the desired magnesium halide complex, the ligand **1** was treated with *n*-BuLi to produce the corresponding lithium salt at room temperature. Upon further reaction with magnesium bromide (MgBr₂) in THF, the Mg-Li bimetallic complex

Fig.3 Molecular structure of **4** with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability levelTable 4 Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for complex **4**

Mg(1)-C(76)	0.210 96(19)	Mg(1)-O(1)	0.207 65(15)	Mg(1)-N(1)	0.206 42(15)
Mg(1)-N(2)	0.205 55(15)	N(1)-C(36)	0.133 8(2)	N(1)-C(19)	0.146 0(2)
N(2)-C(39)	0.135 4(2)	N(2)-C(41)	0.144 7(2)	C(36)-C(38)	0.140 2(2)
C(38)-C(39)	0.139 8(2)\&				
O(1)-Mg(1)-C(76)	107.11(7)	N(1)-Mg(1)-O(1)	100.69(6)	N(1)-Mg(1)-N(2)	94.52(6)
N(1)-Mg(1)-C(76)	123.42(7)	N(2)-Mg(1)-O(1)	99.67(6)	N(2)-Mg(1)-C(76)	126.68(8)
C(36)-N(1)-Mg(1)	120.01(12)	C(39)-N(2)-Mg(1)	116.61(11)	N(1)-C(36)-C(38)	122.86(16)
C(39)-C(38)-C(36)	131.40(17)	N(2)-C(39)-C(38)	125.02(16)		

5 was obtained as colorless crystals in good yield (56%) (Scheme 2). This is quite different from the very similar 2,6-bis (diphenylmethyl)-*p*-tolyl-substituted β -diketiminate ligand which gave the corresponding magnesium bromide complex [(ArNacnac)MgBr(OEt₂)] in very low yield (<5%) when treated with methylmagnesium bromide (MeMgBr)^[23]. However, the similar reaction between the potassium salt of ligand **1** and magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) in THF did not give the corresponding magnesium chloride complex since only the starting material ligand **1** was recovered after workup.

Single crystals of complex **5** suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis were obtained from toluene/hexane mixture at room temperature (Fig.4). Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 4. Single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis of **5** showed that it

was the Mg-Li bimetallic complex which is different from the normal monometallic β -diketiminate magnesium halide complexes. The Mg, Li, Br(1) and Br(2) are almost in the rhombus plane. The geometry at magnesium is distorted tetrahedral with angles in the range of 96.62(15)°~118.89(11)°. The Mg metal center is coordinated by two nitrogen atoms of ligand (N(1) and N(2)) and two bromine atoms (Br(1) and Br(2)). The four-coordinated lithium is also distorted tetrahedral which is bound by two oxygen atoms of THF (O(1) and O(2)) and two bromine atoms (Br(1) and Br(2)). The bond length of Mg-Br (0.250 67(15) and 0.250 45(15) nm) in **5** is slightly longer than that of very similar methyl-substituted β -diketiminate magnesium bromide complex [(ArNacnac)MgBr(OEt₂)] (0.249 44(10) nm). The bond angle of N(1)-Mg(1)-N(2)

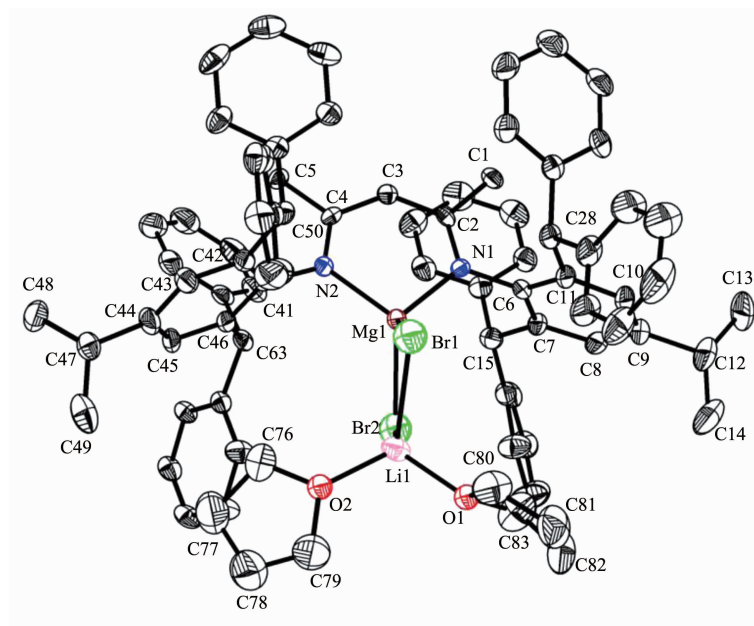
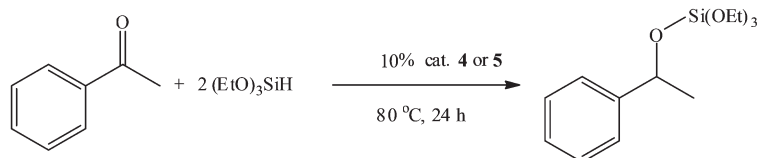


Fig.4 Molecular structure of **5** with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level

Table 5 Selected bond lengths (nm) and angles (°) for complex **5**

N(1)-Mg(1)	0.204 0(4)	Mg(1)-N(2)	0.204 5(4)	Br(1)-Mg(1)	0.250 45(15)
Mg(1)-Br(2)	0.250 67(15)	Br(1)-Li(1)	0.250 1(9)	Li(1)-Br(2)	0.251 6(9)
O(1)-Li(1)	0.190 6(10)	Li(1)-O(2)	0.192 8(10)	N(1)-C(2)	0.132 0(6)
N(2)-C(4)	0.133 9(5)	C(2)-C(3)	0.139 8(6)	C(4)-C(3)	0.140 2(6)
N(1)-Mg(1)-N(2)	96.62(15)	N(1)-Mg(1)-Br(1)	116.63(11)	N(2)-Mg(1)-Br(1)	114.06(11)
N(1)-Mg(1)-Br(2)	115.54(12)	N(2)-Mg(1)-Br(2)	118.89(11)	Br(1)-Mg(1)-Br(2)	96.53(5)
O(1)-Li(1)-O(2)	109.0(4)	O(1)-Li(1)-Br(1)	109.0(4)	O(2)-Li(1)-Br(1)	113.5(4)
O(1)-Li(1)-Br(2)	113.6(4)	O(2)-Li(1)-Br(2)	114.8(4)	Br(1)-Li(1)-Br(2)	96.4(3)
Li(1)-Br(1)-Mg(1)	83.4(2)	Mg(1)-Br(2)-Li(1)	83.0(2)		

Scheme 3 Hydrosilylation of acetophenone by magnesium catalysts **4** and **5**

(96.62(15)°) in **5** is slightly smaller than that of methyl-substituted [(ArNacnac)MgBr(OEt)] (96.86(11)°)^[23].

Finally, the corresponding magnesium methyl and bromide complexes (**4** and **5**) as catalyst have been used in the hydrosilylation of acetophenone^[25-27]. At room temperature, using (EtO)₃SiH as silane source in the presence of 10% (n/n) catalyst, the hydrosilylation reaction of acetophenone proceeded very slowly. However when the reaction temperature was increased

to 80 °C the reaction was completed in 24 h with 70% and 83% conversion for **4** and **5** respectively which was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy in C₆D₆ (Scheme 3).

3 Conclusions

In summary, we have successfully synthesized two new sterically bulky β -diketiminato ligands. They have been used to synthesize the corresponding

magnesium methyl and Mg-Li bimetallic magnesium bromide complexes which showed moderate catalytic activity in the hydrosilylation of acetophenone. Their molecular structures were confirmed by X-ray single crystal diffraction determination. The applications in the preparation of subvalent metal complexes and other applications are in progress in our group.

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