SCUOLA DI SCIENZE Dipartimento di Chimica Industriale "Toso Montanari"

Corso di Laurea Magistrale in

Chimica Industriale

Classe LM-71- Scienze e Tecnologie della Chimica Industriale

Synthesis and Characterization of fluorescent Atropoisomeric Bis-arylboryl-Carbazoles

Tesi di laurea sperimentale

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Anno Accademico 2020-2021

Abstract

This thesis project presents a work based on the study of bis-arylboryl-carbazoles a particular class of aminoboranes. The peculiarity of these compounds is the $B=N^+$ chemical moiety and their conformational behaviour coming from the combination of steric constrain and conjugation of the B-N bond. Our work is focused on three products: 9-(mesityl(naphthalen-1 yl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole **1a**, 9-(mesityl(2-methylnaphthalen-1-yl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole **1b** and 9-(anthracen-9-yl(mesityl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole **1c**. We firstly focused our attention on the synthesis optimizing conditions. Then the products were synthetized and characterized with NMR. The products were eventually analysed through conformational studies, by a theoretical approach with DFT calculations and by experimental techniques, such as Standard kinetic and EXSY. In the end of this work the products were characterized through fluorescence studies both by DFT, TD-DFT calculations and experimentally by emission spectroscopy.

Sommario

Questo progetto di tesi si è basato sullo studio di bis-aril-boril-carbazoli. La peculiarità di questi composti è data dal sistema -B=N+ e dal loro comportamento conformazionale, dovuto alla combinazione di vincoli sterici e coniugativi del legame B-N. Il nostro lavoro si è focalizzato su tre prodotti: : 9-(mesitil(naftalen-1-il)boraneil)-9H-carbazolo **1a**, 9-(mesitil(2-metilnaftalen-1-il)boraneil)-9H-carbazolo **1b** and 9-(antracen-9-il(mesitil)boraneil)-9H-carbazolo **1c**. In primo luogo la nostra attenzione si è incentrata sulla sintesi ottimizzandone le condizioni. I prodotti sono stati sintetizzati e caratterizzati con l'uso della spettroscopia NMR. Sono stati poi svolti degli studi conformazionali dei prodotti sia attraverso approcci teorici con calcoli DFT sia con tecniche sperimentali, quali cinetica classica ed EXSY. Infine, i prodotti sono stati caratterizzati attraverso studi di fluorescenza sia tramite calcoli DFT, TD-DFT sia sperimentalmente con spettroscopia di emissione.

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Introduction

Aminoboranes

Functional materials are defined as any chemical system with useful physical or chemical properties. Materials that can convert external energy into direct molecular function are especially attractive. These stimuli responsive materials, also known as "smart" materials, are used for specialized applications.^[1] Aminoboranes are materials that belong to this class and due to their luminescent properties have peculiar applications in OLEDs^[2] and fluorescent sensors.^[3] In the design of this material, incorporation of selected functional groups into π conjugated carbon skeleton is a powerful strategy.^[4] In this regard, the combination of the nitrogen filled p_z orbital with the boron empty p_z orbital generates a π-conjugated scaffold that enhances the chemical stability, also showing a small HOMO–LUMO gap. Thus, N-B bondcontaining π -electron systems shows an unusual fluorescence.^[4]

Twisted Intramolecular Charge Transfer State

The term fluorescence refers to the ability of some molecule to reemit radiatively with wavelengths higher than the absorption one. The fluorescence process can be rationalized in a process that involved three steps (Figure 1):

- 1. **Vertical absorption**: from the ground state (GS^{eq}), the molecule absorbs photons that raise it in the excited state (ES^{no-eq}) .
- 2. **Non-radiative relaxation**: The unstable ESno-eq dissipates energy and reaches a minimum of energy in the excited state ES^{eq}.
- 3. **Vertical emission**: The molecule emits light and returns to an unstable ground state (ES^{no-eq}) that eventually reaches the ground state (GS^{eq}) .

Theoretical studies have suggested that fluorescence in aminoboranes systems can be rationalized by considering the emission from the twisted intramolecular charge transfer state (TICT).^[5]

Figure 1. Representation of an emission process is shown for general aminoborane that involved TICT state.

In Figure 1, the TICT fluorescence process in the excited state of general aminoborane is represented. In the first step, thanks to the partial $B=N^+$ double bond, the molecule is almost planar. When the vertical absorption occurs, an electron in the HOMO is promoted in the LUMO, with anti-bonding character, leading to the destabilization of the system. In the second step, the molecule rearranges itself reaching a perpendicular conformation. This motion favours the charge transfer from nitrogen (Donating group, red) to boron (Acceptor group, blue) and improves stabilization by reducing the frontier orbital interaction. The character of charge transfer can be easily manipulated by adjusting several factors, including steric hindrance, polarity environments, effectiveness and strength of the Donor-Acceptor.[6] In the third step, from the ES^{eq} the molecule reemits light and reaches the GS^{no-eq}. According to Frank-Condon principles, atoms nuclei, during vertical emission or absorption, remain in the same position so the geometry is retained because vertical transitions are faster than molecular motions. At this point, the molecule can return in a planar conformation improving energy stabilization (GS^{eq}). The energy dissipation that occurs during the permanence of the molecule in the excited state makes that the wavelength of the emitted photons is greater than the wavelength of the absorbed photons. This difference is also known as "Stokes shift". Not all the molecules that absorb energy can reemit with radiative processes. Collisions between molecules can quench fluorescence or even the molecule alone can vibrate dissipating energy. For this reason, the Quantum Yield (QY) of a luminescent compound is usually calculated. QY is defined as the

ratio between the number of photons emitted and those absorbed. QY can assume values from 0 to 1 and it depends on the nature of the molecule and the environment (temperature, solvent, etc.).

Axial Chirality and Atropisomers

Stereochemistry of a molecule is related to the spatial arrangement of its atoms. Molecules with central chirality possess one or more stereogenic centres. The stereogenic centres are identified by a single atom bonded with four different substituents and for this reason they have no element of symmetry (mirror plane e/or centre of inversion). Thus, the spatial arrangement of the substituents on the atom leads to the existence of two enantiomers for each centre. The interconversion of these stereoisomers requires the breaking of a bond (Figure 2, right).

On the other hand, the axial chirality is characterized by stereogenic axes which are identified when the rotation around a single bond is restricted. This allows for the existence of two conformational isomers called atropisomers that are non-superimposable mirror images (*i.e.* two enantiomers). The stereoisomers identified by chiral axes can interconvert by rotation about single bonds. Biarylic systems are the most representative example of atropoisomeric compounds (Figure 2, left).

[1,1'-binaphthalene]-2,2'-diol

Figure 2 Left: atropisomers with chiral axis indicate in red, right: example of central chirality

The rotation around a bond is a time-dependent process and depends on several factors. The

temperature, the steric hindrance and/or electronic interactions of the substituents close to the axis can slow down the rotation. An important requirement for the existence of chiral atropisomers is the presence of different substituents on the aryl rings on both sides of the chiral axis, to avoid the presence of a symmetry plane, responsible for non-chiral "*meso* forms" (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Left: chiral atropisomer; right: achiral meso form.

In 2011, LaPlante has proposed a useful evaluation of stereogenic axis stability.[7] According to this, conformational isomers can be classified in three different classes based on their rotational energy barriers (Figure 4).

- Class 3: In this class, conformational isomers have rotational energy barriers greater than 30 kcal/mol and consequentially half-lifetime of interconversion in order of years. Therefore, the single stereoisomer can be considered kinetically stable.
- Class 2: These molecules are in a metastable situation; rotational energy barriers are between 20 and 30 kcal/mol and half-lifetime of interconversion between minutes to years. Molecules with these features may not be physically resolved at room temperature (at 298 K). Therefore, it is possible to identify two subclasses:
	- Class 2a: Rotational energy barriers between 20 and 23 kcal/mol, the two possible stereoisomers can be detected and may be resolved, but rotation is fast enough at 298 K to complete racemization from minutes to hours.
	- Class 2b: 23 kcal/mol $\leq \Delta E_{\text{rot}} \leq 30$ kcal/mol, enantiomerically pure atropoisomer can be detected, resolved, and stored at 298 K for hours to weeks.
- Class 1: The conformational isomers belonging to this class cannot be considered atropisomers at 298 K. Relatively fast axial rotation occurs in order from nanoseconds to a few seconds. The rotational energy barrier is generally less than 20 kcal/mol so it must be considered as single entities.

Figure 4 Rotational energy barrier at 298 K of the single atropoisomer. [reprinted and adapted from Laplante, S. R. et al. Assessing atropoisomer axial chirality in drug discovery and development. J. Med. Chem. **54**, 7005–7022 (2011)]

Stereochemical descriptors

The absolute configuration of two atropisomers that have a chiral axis is related to the dihedral angle between two planes. A dihedral angle is identified by four atoms called **a-b-c-d** (Figure 5). The first plane is identified by the atoms **a**, **b**, **c** and the other one by **b**, **c**, **d**. The torsion angle moving along the shortest path between the planes determines the absolute configuration. Atoms **b** and **c** are placed on the chiral axis while **a** and **d** are the substituent with highest priority (deduced with the CIP-rules) on the opposite side of the b-c bond. The absolute configuration is assigned *P* (Plus, positive dihedral angle) for clockwise torsion and *M* (minus, as negative dihedral angle) for counterclockwise torsion. *P* and *M* descriptors are also used to assign absolute configuration of helixes, in which *M* and *P* stands for the left- and right-handed helix respectively.

Figure 5 *P* and *M* descriptor representation for BINOL

*N***-borylcarbazole and** *N***-borylbenzocarbazole**

N-borylcarbazole and *N*-borylbenzocarbazole are compounds that are gaining increasing interest in literature due to luminescence proprieties (Figure 6).[8] The fluorescence character of these compounds is strongly dependent on the polarity of the solvent, making solvatochromic solutions. In these systems where the excited state shows TICT character, the solvent can stabilize or destabilize the excited state. During the electronic transition, the solvent molecules rearrange to respond to the change in the solute's dipole moment. The difference in the dipole moment between GS and ES affects their relative energies and influences all the representative parameters of fluorescence such as QY, Stokes shift and emission intensity. Hence, if the dipole moment of the GS is bigger than the ES, the solvent stabilizes much more GS and the emission shifts to shorter wavelengths (negative or blue shifts). On the contrary, when the solvent stabilizes ES, the emission shifts to longer wavelengths (positive or red shift).[9]

Figure 6 top: N-carbazoleborane, bottom: N-benzocarbazole borane

Due to the empty p_z orbital on boron, these kinds of systems usually have poor chemical stability towards nucleophilic attacks. To overcome this issue, aryl substituents with methyls in the *ortho* positions, such as mesityls, are usually bonded to the boron. These aryls can shield the boron atom by improving the chemical stability of these compounds, but also increasing the steric hindrance around the boron. For this reason, these systems have angled aryls giving propeller like conformations.

Molecular propellers

When two or more aryl rings (Ar) are linked to a single atomic centre (Z), the rotation of the Ar-Z bond axis is led by the other rings. Molecules of this type are propeller-like in shape. The aryl rings can be considered as "blades" with an axis of rotation, allowing the existence of chiral (helical) structures: right-handed (P) and left-handed (M) helix (Figure 7).^[10] Trisarylboranes usually shows propeller-like conformations in the ground state, where the three blades are twisted out of the plane, considering the planar plane formed by the three carbons bonded to boron. The possible interconversion of stereoisomers occurs with "flip" mechanisms. The "flip" is considered the torsional movement of the rings around the boron atom. There are two possible flips: one in which a ring passes through the planar plane with a disrotatory movement and a simultaneous interchange of the sides; another in which the ring is perpendicular to the planar plane with a conrotatory motion and no exchange of the sides. Four possible mechanisms are reasonable: zero, one, two, or even three aryl ring systems can rotate together through the B-C bond axis (ring "flip").^[11] In the zero- and three-ring flips, all the ring move together in clockwise or counterclockwise respectively. With one- or two-ring flips, one ring rotates in the same direction while the remaining rings rotate in the opposite one.


```
left handed: M
```
right handed: P

Figure 7. Molecular propellers in tri-arylboranes

In this regard, Mancinelli and co-workers have reported the stereodynamic behaviour of bismesityl-boranes bearing carbazole or benzocarbazole.[8] According to the "ring flip" (RF) nomenclature proposed by Mislow,[11] the transition state geometries are identified regarding a reference plane where boron, nitrogen and two carbons of the mesityl groups atom linked to boron are contained. The prefix number identifies the number of rings that are perpendicular to the reference plane. The possible transition states are shown in Figure 8. Bis-mesityl-boranes develop a partial π-bond because the nitrogen filled pz-orbital shares a pair of electrons with the empty boron p_z -orbital. The 3-RF and 1-RFs are too high in energy to be accessible while 0-RF could not be simulated due to the large steric hindrance of the geometry. Reasonably, the 0-RF cannot be accessible for the interconversion of conformers. The 2-RFs have two available geometries that have different stereochemical effects on the B-N branch of the molecule. When the two mesityl rings reach perpendicular position by a conrotatory motion, at the same time the carbazole will be positioned planar to the reference plane. In this geometry, the $-B=N^+$ moiety develops the maximum stabilization due to the overlapping between the empty boron p_z orbital and the nitrogen lone pair. On the contrary, steric clash between the mesityl rings disfavours this geometry. This TS corresponds to the so-called steric barrier (Fig.8 2-RF left). When one mesityl ring and the carbazole are perpendicular to the reference plane, steric interactions between the mesityl rings decrease, but at the same time the B–N bond completely loses any π contribution. This TS corresponds to the conjugative barrier of the B–N bond (Fig.8) 2-RF right).

Figure 8. Graphic representation of the possible TSs is shown,

Kinetic studies

Strereodynamic processes can be experimentally evaluated by Dynamic-NMR and Dynamic-HPLC in a range of energies between 4.5 kcal/mol and 26 kcal/mol. However, in systems where rotational energy barriers exceed the values reported above, discontinuous technique can be used. Classic kinetic studies are performed isolating one enantiomer through chiral stationary phase (CSP) HPLC and racemized at high temperatures. In order to evaluate the evolution of racemization, small aliquots are collected at fixed times and injected at room temperature in CSP-HPLC.

The kinetic equation derived from a first order reversible process at equilibrium is:

$$
ln(x_{eq} - x) = -2k_{rac}t + ln(x_{eq})
$$

Eq. 1 kinetic equation

Where x is the molar fraction of the interconverted enantiomer in the corresponding time t ; x_{eq} is the molar fraction of the same enantiomer reached at the equilibrium ($x_{eq} = 0.5$); k_{rac} is the rate constant (s^{-1}) ; *t* is time (s). The Eq. 1 represent a straight line in the form $y = mx + q$, where the slope is $-2k_{rac}$ and the intercept is $ln(x_{eq} - x)$. The resulting k_{rac} value is eventually used to obtain the ΔG^{\neq} of the process (Eq. 1) from the derived Eyring equation (Eq. 2):^[12]

$$
k = \kappa \frac{k_B \cdot T}{h} e^{-\frac{\Delta G^{\neq}}{RT}}
$$

Eq. 2 Eyring equation

Where *h* is the Planck's constant (1.584⋅10⁻³⁴cal⋅s); k_B is the Boltzmann constant (3.2998⋅10⁻ ²⁴); *R* is the universal gas constant (1.9872 cal/K⋅mol); *κ* is the transmission coefficient that can be considered equal to 1.

Solving for ΔG^{\neq} in kcal/mol (Eq. 3):

$$
\Delta G^{\neq} = 4.574 \cdot 10^{-3} \cdot T \cdot \left(\log \frac{T}{k} + 10.310 \right)
$$

Eq. 3 kinetic equation solved for ΔG^{\neq}

To evaluate experimental rotational energy barriers in a range between \sim 20 to \sim 22 kcal/mol the EXchange SpectroscopY (EXSY) experiment can be used. EXSY requires the irradiation of a single proton signal with the NOESY pulse sequences but with a mixing time in the scale of milliseconds. In this evolution time, the nearest protons do not develop NOE effect. During the mixing time, the proton irradiated can change its position in the space and interchange with another. The two protons interchanged exhibit EXSY signals in the NMR spectrum with a different ratio of integrals depending on the mixing time and temperature. The interpolation of the integrals and the mixing time by a kinetic first-order reversible at equilibrium will provide the rate constant and ΔG^{\neq} .

Theoretical methods

Computational methods can be useful before the synthesis in the design of the molecules and to investigate steric requirements needed to obtain stable stereoisomers. In this regard, the Density Functional Theory (DFT) is a computational methodology used to simulate the property of many-electron systems. The basic idea of DFT is that for a collection of electrons and nuclei the ground state molecular energy, the wave function and all other molecular electronic are uniquely determined by the electron density as a function of three spatial coordinates $\rho(x,y,z)$. The ground state energy (E_0) is a function of ρ : $E_0 = E(\rho(r))$.^[13]

 $E(\rho(r))$ is derived from the linear combination of functional and one of them is not correctly known: the exchange-correlation functionals. Because of this uncertainty it is necessary to introduce approximations to the DFT method. Several functionals have been proposed to evaluate better the exchange-correlation functionals. B3LYP is the most used hybrid functional in organic chemistry. This functional linearly combines the Hartree-Fock exchange with the DFT exchange-correlation functionals, leading to integrals that can be solved with numerical methods. The functional defines the approximation of the exchange-correlation energy, while a combination basis set of functions describe mathematically each orbital of atoms.

Through DFT calculations is possible to obtain the conformations and energies of ground states but also find the geometries and energies of transition states. The accuracy of results from DFT calculations depends on the choice of the basis set and density functional. The calculate geometries and the relative energy of conformations, in many cases, can be experimentally checked with X-ray diffraction and kinetic studies respectively. The simulation of transition state structure and energy is a crucial point for dynamic analysis as a correct simulation can help to understand the process and to identify the correct experimental method to observe it.

In order to simulate fluorescence cycle, all the geometries and energies of the species involved need to be calculated. The optimization of GSs geometries is calculated with the DFT method describe above, while the optimization of excited state and the vertical transitions are calculated with TD-DFT method because the light-matter interaction processes, like fluorescence, are time dependent (TD).^[15] Therefore, Time Dependent-Density Functional Theory (TD-DFT) is employed and CAM-B3LYP is used as functional. Fluorescence processes are affected by the polarity of the solvent. This leads to define a computational model integrated in DFT and TD-DFT methods for simulating contributions of solvation. The PCM (polarizable Continuum Model) with SCRF (Self-Consistent Reaction Field) method can determine the wave function that describes the solute-solvent interaction.[9]

Electronic Circular Dichroism

Electronic Circular Dichroism (ECD) analysis can observe the different ability of chiral molecules to absorb left or right circularly polarized radiation at wavelength compatible with electronic excitation (UV-VIS spectra). The Electronic Circular Dichroism (ECD) signal for a chiral substance is the difference between the absorbance of left and right circular polarized light. The CD signal is expressed in the difference of the molar attenuation coefficient because it is independent by the concentrations *c* and the path length *l*.

$$
\Delta \varepsilon = \varepsilon L - \varepsilon R = CD/cl
$$

Usually, the ECD spectra are represented as the variation of $\Delta \varepsilon$ in function of the wavelength. Racemic and achiral substance have a flat ECD spectrum because the sum of the absorption left and right circularly polarized light (L-CPL and R-CPL) results zero.

The ECD signal depends on the nature and disposition of the chromophores in the molecular structure. In this regard, the electronic environment of each chromophore gives important information about the conformation. Moreover, the ECD spectrum is useful to the determination of absolute configuration giving opposite spectrum for a pair of enantiomers. The absolute configuration is determined by comparison between the experimental ECD spectrum to the calculated one using TD-DFT method.

Aim of the thesis

The work of the thesis was focused on the synthesis of bis-arylboryl-carbazole **1a**, **1b**, **1c** (Figure 9). A new synthesis and its optimization were done, starting with a synthesis reported by Mancinelli in 2021.[8]

Figure 9 Products **1a**, **1b**, **1c**

The rotational barriers of the synthetized products were measured with standard kinetic and 1D-EXSY-NMR techniques. Additional attention was paid for the luminescent properties of the products. The absorption wavelength, emission wavelength and the Stokes Shift of all the products were calculated in three different solvent with increasing polarity: *n*-hexane (HEX), tetrahydrofuran (THF), acetonitrile (ACN) by DFT, TD-DFT level theory. The products were characterized by emission spectra were registered in collaboration with Stagni's research group.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis bis-arylboryl-carbazoles 1a, 1b, 1c

In the previous work, research group reported the synthesis of unsymmetrical substituted bisarylboryl-carbazoles (Scheme 1).^[15] Potassium mesityl-trifluorborate was used as boron source and was readily available by the reaction with KHF₂ of the corresponding mesityl-boronic acid. To avoid hydrolysis of the aryl-trifluorborates or any other fluoro-boron intermediates,[16] all the steps of the synthesis were performed under Argon atmosphere. Reagent **A** was chosen as starting material for the study of the reaction to give compound **1b**.

Scheme 1 General synthesis

In Scheme 1, the synthetic route was represented and it consists of three steps. In the first step, 1-bromo-2-methylnaphthalene (**B**), an excess of magnesium foils and a catalytic amount of iodine were kept at reflux in THF. The mixture was stirred and left to reflux for 2 hours after the discoloration of red iodine solution, obtaining the Grignard reagent.

In another flask, mesityldifluoroborate was prepared from potassium mesityltrifluoroborate and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate $(BF₃OEt₂)$.

In the second step, the temperature of the Grignard reagent solution was decreased at -78 °C and the solution of mesytildifluoroborate was added dropwise to afford the intermediate **I**. In the third step, freshly prepared carbazole anion (**II** or **I)** was added and reacted for one hour. Following this procedure, the final product **1b** was obtained with 20% of yield over three steps. In order to avoid the use of corrosive BF_3OEt_2 and to reduce the reaction steps, the activation of potassium mesityltrifluoroborate was investigated.

Ligand exchange from potassium ariltrifluoroborates salts of KF to form the active aryldifluoroborate intermediate can be mediated by fluorophores. Many fluorophores have been studied in literature, such has BF_3 or Si-based compound like TMSCl.^[17] The conversion arytrifluorobarates species into aryldifluoroborate could be supplied by fluorophores such as Mg^{2+} or Li⁺ cations, as reported in literature.^[18] In this way, it was possible to try a one-pot reaction by activating the mesityltrifluoroborate with a Grignard reagent prepared *in situ* and reported in Scheme 2.

Scheme 2. Path a: "one pot" synthetic procedure

The one pot procedure was done adding together the aryl-bromine and the mesitylfluoroborate then refluxing for two hours. The temperature solution was decreased to room temperature and the carbazole anion was added. The solution was stirred for 1 hour providing the final product **1b** with 23% yield over two steps. To optimize the last step conditions, three bases for the deprotonating of carbazole were tested. NaH, *t*-BuLi and KHMDS were tested, but no significant differences were found in the yields. Therefore, the nature of the counterion has not appreciable influence reaction between **I** and **II**. Deprotonation of carbazole **C** was carried out with KHMDS for his facile handling.

The formation of **I** was checked with ¹⁹F NMR experiment. The ¹⁹F NMR spectrum showed different fluorinated by-products (Figure 10). As reported by Chambers and Chivers, aryldifluoroborate can be slow converted *via* dismutation at room temperature [19] and it is accelerated by heating. Therefore, in Scheme 3 it is represented the assumed mechanism of the reaction and the corresponding by-product (a', a'', a'') that could be formed. The high temperature required to prepare the Grignard reagent leads to dismutation (**iii**) of mesityl difluoroborate into bis-mesityl fluoroborate. This results in the existence of two reactive intermediates in the first step of reaction (**Ia** and **Ib**). Furthermore, **Ia** and **Ib** intermediates can also react with another molecule of Grignard to yield **a''** and **a'''**. When carbazole anion is added, a mixture of the desired product and **a'** is generated. Despite all proposed by-products only **a'** and **a''** compounds has been detected by 1H-NMR.

Scheme 3 Proposed mechanism of the synthesis

In this context, to avoid by-products and increase the yield, the Grignard reagent was added to dry THF solution of potassium mesityl-trifluoroborate salt. The temperature of the addition was tested at -10 °C and -78 °C, in order to reduce the energy for the disproportion but only a small amount of intermediate **I** was formed raising a poor yield of the final product. A recently new approach reported the preparation of unsymmetrically substituted tri-arylborane,^[20] where the potassium mesityl-trifluoroborate was added on fresh prepare Grignard reagent at room temperature improving good yields. Thanks to this, a new synthetic strategy was proposed (*path b*, Scheme 4).

Some difference was applied to the new procedure; THF were replaced by Et2O/toluene as solvent to prepare the fresh Grignard intermediate; potassium mesityl-trifluoroborate were directly added to a room temperature Grignard solution. The formation of **I** was checked at 19F NMR following *path b* (Figure 10).

Path a

Figure 10 19F-NMR spectra of Mes-2methylnaphthylfluoroborate

NMR spectra revealed that following *path b* only a few by-products were formed. In comparison with *path a, the new reaction results very clean*. In fact, *path b* afforded the major yield of product **1b** (83%). After the optimization of the synthesis, product **1a** and **1c** were obtained with 43% and 32% yield respectively.

Conformational analysis

As discussed in the *molecular propellers* chapter, bis-arylboryl-carbazoles have a propellerlike structure. The presence of a different aromatic ring in the place of a mesityl does not change the idea of propeller flip but increase the number of possible 2-RF transition states. In addition to Mislow's RF nomenclature, three descriptors were added. Specifically, two letters that indicate which rings are perpendicular to the planar plane (i.e. **CC** for aryl-aryl and **CN** for aryl

-carbazole), then the shorted name of the planar ring (i.e. **carb** for carbazole, **ant** for anthracene and **mes** for mesityle).

When the aromatic ring is an anthracene (compound **1c**), the possible 2-RF transition states are three. The steric barrier has the carbazole planar and two aryl rings perpendiculars (2RF-CCcarb). While conjugative barrier has two different TSs depending on which mesityl (2RF-CNmes) or anthracene (2RF-CN-ant) is planar, meanwhile the carbazole along with the other aromatic ring are perpendicular to it (Figure 11). All the transition states lead to an inversion of the helix and therefore lead to the exchange of two conformational enantiomers.

Figure 11 transition state of the compound **1c**

The compound **1a** and **1b** generate a more complex dynamic stereochemistry. Asymmetric naphthyl and 2-methyl-naphthyl rings add a chiral axis, increasing the number of transition states and ground states. In the ground states, two conformers for each enantiomer (i.e. *P*-GS1 and *P*-GS2) are possible coming from the inversion of the helix while the chirality of the axis is retained. There are two possible TSs to interconvert these conformers: 2RF-CC-carb and 2RF-CN-Mes (compound **1a** in Figure 12 and compound **1b** in Figure 13).

Figure 12 TSs of compound **1a** without changing chirality

Figure 13 TSs of compound **1b** without changing chirality

Transition states with asymmetric ring in planar position implies the inversion of the chiral axis from *P* to *M* atropisomers. There are two possible transition states where the aromatic ring can rotate from the side of carbazole (2-rf-CN-Np0) or from the side of mesityl (2-rf-CN-Np180).

Figure 14 schematic representation of transition states with chiral motion is shown

In order to identify the energies of the two-ring flip motions and mostly the stability of atropoisomeric scaffolds, all the GSs and the TSs of the products were calculated with DFT level of theory and data are reported in Table 1.

Table 1. Relative energy barriers for two-ring flip motions (energies in kcal/mol) are reported.

Comp	GS1	GS ₂	2RF-CC-carb	2RF-CN-mes		$2RF-CN-Ar0$ 2RF-CN-Ar180	
			Calc.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.
1a	1.1	0.0	7.6	21.6		20.7 19.9	20.9
1 _b	0.4	0.0	11.4	23.5	24.6	26.4 25.3	26.7
1 _c	0.0		9.7	22.5	23.9	25.6	

Compound **1b**, which has the more hindered 2-methylnaphhtyl, has a calculated energy barrier of 25.3 kcal /mol, high enough to resolve two atropisomers by CSP-HPLC. The racemization barrier of 26.7 kcal/mol was obtained by classic kinetic analysis (Figure 15). The free energy barrier corresponds to the TS4-2rf-CN-Ar180.

Figure 15 Kinetic analysis starting from the second eluted atropoisomer of compound **1b**.

In order to evaluate conjugative barriers of compound **1a**, **1b** and **1c**, EXSY analysis is performed. Therefore, we decided to irradiate one signal proton of carbazole with different mixing times. With the increasing of the mixing time, the molecule has more time to rotate in the NMR time scale and so, the signal of the other corresponding proton (8H) will be irradiate itself and generating an EXSY NMR signal. To understand better the process, in Figure 16 there is the schematization of the movements.

Figure 16 1H and 8H exchange of the carbazole in all the product structures.

The proton of carbazole is irradiated with six different mixing times at different temperatures. It is important to evaluate the results of more than one temperature to get a more accurate ΔG^{\neq} . Transition states that involved rotation of carbazole is slow at room temperature. Hence, analysis requires higher temperatures that allows fast rotation of carbazole. This kind of analysis can unequivocally give the energy referred to the rotation of the carbazole, since the other motion of the molecule would not show any visible effect on the irradiated proton.

The EXSY experiment is considered a kinetic of the first order reversible to equilibrium. At 0 ms, the 100% of the signal is the irradiated proton, while for an infinite time it is reached an equilibrium (50:50) between the irradiated proton and the exchanged one. The equation for a first-order reversible reaction is such as Eq. *1*:

$$
\ln(X_{irr} - X_{irr\,eq}) = -2k \cdot t_{mix} + \ln(X_{irr\,0} - X_{irr\,eq})
$$

Where X_{irr} is the percentage of the irradiated signal, $X_{irr \, eq}$ corresponds to the equilibrium (which is 0.5), $X_{irr,0}$ is the percentage at zero time (which is equal to 1), t_{mix} is the mixing time and k is the rate constant.

For compound **1a**, the EXSY analysis was conducted at three temperatures (+81.6 °C, +84.1 °C, +86.7 °C). After interpolation (Figure 17), we obtained a value of 20.9 kcal/mol which is consistent with the DFT calculated results. The free energy barrier corresponds to the lower 2RF-CN transition state and in this case it is 2RF-CN-Ar180 (see table 1).

Figure 17 1D-EXSY spectra were acquired at three different temperatures (+81.6, +84.1 and +81.7 °C). Three rate constants are derived and an average energy barrier of compound **1a** was determined.

EXSY analysis was conducted for Compound **1b** at 122.5 °C and 127.6 °C and the free energy barrier corresponds to the **TS2-2rf-CN-mes** was 24.6 kcal/mol (Figure 18).

Figure 18 1D-EXSY spectra were acquired at two different temperatures (+122.5 and +127.6 °C). Two rate constants are derived and an average energy barrier of compound **1b** was determined.

Rotational barrier for compound **1c** was **23.9** kcal/mol and it is consistent with DFT calculations for corresponding **TS2-2rf-CN-mes** (Figure 19).

Figure 19 1D-EXSY spectra were acquired at two different temperatures (+117.4 and +122.5 °C). Two rate constants are derived and an average energy barrier of compound **1c** was determined.

The theoretical calculation of ECD spectra was selected to assign the atropoisomeric *P*/*M* configurations of compound **1b**. In order to compare the calculated spectra to the experimental one, the weighting sum of both GS1 (32.6%) and GS2 (67.4%) spectra must be considered (Figures 19 and 20).

Figure 20 GS1 and GS2 simulated ECD spectra, calculated with 4 different functionals

Figure 21 Superimposed ECD spectra calculated with 4 functionals and averaged by Boltzmann equation

Comparing the ECD calculated for *M* atropisomer and the ECD experimental of first eluted peak on CSP-HPLC, we can affirm that they are comparable. This leading us to conclude that the first eluted atropisomer has the *M* absolute configuration (Figure 22).

Figure 22 Compound **1b**: experimental and simulated ECD spectra of the first eluted enantiomer.

Fluorescence characterization

In Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4, the calculated values of emission wavelengths, absorption wavelengths and Stokes shift are reported for compounds **1c**, **1a** and **1b**, respectively.

Table 2 Emission wavelengths, absorption wavelengths and Stokes shift calculated in three different solvents for compound **1c.**

Table 3 Emission wavelengths, absorption wavelengths and Stokes shift calculated in three different solvents for compound **1a.**

Table 4 Emission wavelengths, absorption wavelengths and Stokes shift calculated in three different solvents for compound **1b.**

From Table 2, Table 3 and Table 4, a positive solvatochromic effect in emission for all the compounds is observed. The positive solvatochromic effect can be explained by the TICT character of the excited states.

From steps 4 and 6 of the cycle of fluorescence (see experimental section for more detail), it is possible to calculate the molecular orbital involved in vertical transition with the highest probability (P) (Table 5).

Table 5 reported the correspondence between ΔEvert-abs, ΔEvert-emi calculated in steps 4 and 6 and their respective higher probability electronic transitions for all the compound in THF solvent.

Figure 23 Compound 1b: representation of the HOMO (116) and LUMO (117) calculated orbitals of GS*eq* and ES*eq* involved with the highest probability in vertical absorption and emission transitions. It is shown the GS2 conformation and using THF as solvent.

As reported in Table 5, the orbitals involved in vertical transitions of absorption and emission are HOMO-LUMO orbitals of the GS^{eq} and ES^{eq}. The graphic analysis of these orbitals has highlighted that during the vertical transitions they are localized in two different regions of the molecules: the carbazole side (donor group) and the bis-aryl-boron side (acceptor group) (Figure 23).

Moreover, it is possible to analyze the variation of the dihedral angle C-B-N-C (θ) in the geometries of the GS^{eq} and ES^{eq} (Table 6 and Figure 24).

Figure 24 optimized GS2 geometries of **1a** in THF with C-B-N-C dihedral angle (θ) labelled

Table 6 ΔθGSeq -ESeq values calculated in three different solvents for compounds **1a**, **1b** and **1c**
For all the compound, GSeq and ESeq optimized geometries shows different of C-B-N-C (θ) dihedral angles. This means that during the excited state the molecule relax in a non-radiative way with rotation of the B-N bond. The lower Stokes shift for compound **1c** compared to compounds **1a** and **1b** with the same solvent can be explained by considering the difference in geometry between the molecules in GS^{eq} and ES^{eq}, expressed as a function of the difference in dihedral angle C-B-N-C ($\Delta \theta^{ESeq-GSeq}$). As reported in Table 6 the difference in the dihedral angle for compound 1c is smaller than the others (Figure 25). This is due to the geometry of ES^{eq} with a lower perpendicularity caused by the steric bulk given by anthracene. The smaller difference in geometry between the GSeq and the ESeq reduces the extent of non-radiative relaxation in the ES and then the value of the Stokes Shift. The same reasoning can be applied to compound **1b** versus **1a**. Compound **1a** bearing naphthyl substituent has the least steric constraints and therefore the greatest degrees of freedom. Compound **1a** in fact has the highest values of Δθ^{ESeq-} GSeq for the two conformers (GS1 and GS2) (Table 6).

Figure 25 ESeq optimized geometries of 1**a GS1**, **1b GS1 and 1c** in THF with the difference of C-B-N-C dihedral angle (θ) in respect of GS^{eq} geometries.

		ACN	4.23	2.40	1.83
1 _b	GS1	HEX	4.05	2.86	1.19
		THF	4.06	2.63	1.43
		ACN	4.08	2.53	1.55
	GS ₂	HEX	4.15	2.90	1.25
		THF	4.16	2.76	1.40
		ACN	4.18	2.71	1.47
1 _c	GS1	HEX	3.41	2.79	0.63
		THF	3.42	2.76	0.65
		ACN	3.42	2.76	0.66

Table 7 ΔEvert-abs, ΔEvert-emi and Stokes shift values for all the products

Polar solvent stabilizes the ES^{eq} lowering its energy while ES^{no-eq} is not affected by the solvent. This leads to a decrease of ΔEvert-emi values and then an increase in emission wavelength. On the other hand, ΔEvert-abs (and then absorption wavelength) has a small dependence on the polarity of the solvent because even GS^{no-eq} does not possess geometries and solvation of equilibrium, while GS^{eq} has less charge separation (minor dipole moment) than ES^{eq} (Table 6). Hence, increasing the polarity of the solvent $\Delta E^{vert-emi}$ decrease while $\Delta E^{vert-abs}$ (and then absorption wavelength) remains almost constant leading to larger Stokes shifts (Table 7 and Figure 26).

Figure 26 qualitative diagrams of Frank-Condon representing the effect of solvent polarity for the compounds studied

These evidences from calculation confirm the TICT in the excited states from the nitrogen (donor) of the carbazole to the boron (acceptor).

Emission spectra were recorded for compound **1a** (Figure 27), **1b** (Figure 28) and **1c** (Figure 29) with four different solvents (acetonitrile, dichloromethane, n-hexane and THF). The fluorescence spectra were recorded with a wavelength of excitation of 350 nm for all the compound in n-hexane, THF and dichloromethane (DCM) while a wavelength of excitation of 310 nm for acetonitrile.

Figure 27 Fluorescence spectra of compound **1a**

35

Compound 1b

Figure 28 Fluorescence spectra of compound **1b**

Figure 29 Fluorescence spectra of compound **1c**

This study shows that for the compounds a positive solvatochromic properties with the gradual increase in solvent polarity from hexane to acetonitrile as reported in Table 8. Spectra registered in acetonitrile present discontinuity on this trend probably due to the stability of the compounds in this solvent. Furthermore, from Table 8 are reported the quantum yields and the average lifetime (τ_{ES}) of the excited state.

ACN	348	3 26		310				
compound 1b								
Solvent	Emission wavelength (nm)	τ_{ES} (ns)	Quantum Yield $(\%)$	Excitation wavelength (nm)				
HEX	448	$\overline{2}$	6	350				
THF	480	3	8	350				
DCM	485	3	9	350				
ACN	495	5	12	310				
compound 1c								
Solvent	Emission wavelength (nm)	τ_{ES} (ns)	Quantum Yield $(\%)$	Excitation wavelength (nm)				
HEX	501	7	45	350				
THF	525	4	22	350				
DCM	535	$\overline{4}$	57	350				
ACN	564	$\overline{2}$	15	310				

Table 8 summary of the experimental fluorescence data for all the compounds

From the values of τ_{ES} it is noted that these are of the order of nanoseconds, confirming the the fact that the luminescent emissions are fluorescent.

Conclusions

Our work was focused on improved the general synthesis of carbazole-bis-aryl-boranes **1a**, **1b** and **1c**. A new general synthesis (*path b*) was optimized improving yields and avoiding corrosive reagent (Figure 30).

Figure 30 Summary of the yields obtained following *path b*

Successively, all the conformational behaviors of these molecules have been studied with DFT calculations. Then, with standard kinetic and EXSY analysis, it was possible to obtain the energy barrier of the main transitions (Table 9).

Comp	GS1	GS ₂	2RF-CC-carb	2RF-CN-mes		$2RF-CN-Ar0$ 2RF-CN-Ar180	
			Calc.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.
1a	1.1	0.0	7.6	21.6		20.7 19.9	20.9
1 _b	0.4	0.0	11.4	23.5	24.6	26.4 25.3	26.7
1c	0.0		9.7	22.5	23.9	25.6	

Table 9 summary of the results, relative energies in kcal/mol

For compound **1b**, it was possible to separate the atropisomers and assign their absolute configuration comparing the experimental ECD spectrum with a compute one. The first eluted has *M* absolute configuration while the second eluted has the *P*.

Moreover, a positive solvatochromic effect was observed from DFT, TD-DFT calculations of fluorescence for all the products. The solvatochromic effect was explained by confirming the TICT charge transfer in the excited state. The positive solvatochromic effect is also observed in the experimental fluorescence spectra registered by Stagni's research group.

Experimental Section

Instrumentations

Reactions which needed anhydrous conditions were performed under argon flow. The glassware used in these reactions was placed in an oven at $+70$ °C for at least 1 hour immediately before use.

¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and ¹¹B-NMR spectra were registered with Varian Inova 600 MHz and Varian Mercury 400 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are given in ppm relative to the internal standards tetramethylsilane or relative to the peak of the solvents. The deuterated solvents for NMR spectra were commercially available. Deuterated chloroform was filtered, before use, on aluminium oxide to remove HCl residues.

Silica gel 60 F254 (Merk) for the TLC and silica gel 60 Å (230-400 mesh, Sigma Aldrich) were employed for chromatography separation of the reaction crudes.

HPLC Water TM 600 instrument with detection fixed at 254 nm was used with Enantioselective HPLC columns (DAICEL chiralcel AD-H 5 μm 250 x 21.2 mm, 20 mL/min) to separate stable atropisomers using different mixtures of *n*-hexane and isopropanol as eluent.

Emission spectra were registered with FLS920P- Edinburgh Instruments spectrofluorometer with 10^{-5} M solutions of the sample.

ECD spectra were obtained with JASCO J-810 spectropolarimeter at $+25$ °C in acetonitrile solution, using a quartz cell with 0.2 cm path length. The concentration of the sample was adjusted to reach about 1.0 in the maximum of absorbance. The spectrum was obtained from the average of 16 scans at 50 nm∙min-1 scan rate.

Materials

1-bromo-2-methylnaphthalene, 9-bromoanthracene, 1-bromonaphthalene, 9H-carbazole, mesitylboronic acid, naphthalen-1-ylboronic acid, 1-bromo-2-nitrobenzene were commercially available. THF, ET2O and Toluene has been dried before use by distillation from Na/benzophenone. 9H-carbazole was re-crystallized in water to obtain as pure one.

Calculations

The calculations for ground states and transition states (Figure 31, Figure 32, Figure 33) employed the B3LYP hybrid HF-DFT method and the 6-311G (d,p) basis sets. The analysis of the vibrational frequencies has shown an absence of imaginary frequency for optimized structure of the ground states, while only one in transition states. Transition states were also validated by visual inspection.

Compound 1a

 $\text{T}\text{S2-2rf-CN-mes}$

TS3-2rf-CN-Ar0

TS4-2rf-CN-Ar180

Figure 31 Calculate GSs and TSs for compound **1a**

Compound 1b

 $\overline{\textbf{G}}$

TS1-2rf-CC-carb

Figure 32 Calculate GSs and TSs for compound **1b**

Compound 1c

Figure 33 Calculate GSs and TSs for compound **1c**

For the calculation of the florescence cycle, a procedure has been optimized in previous work by the research group was used. The procedure involved 7 steps. The fluorescence data was obtained by the simulation of the cycle based on DFT and TD-DFT. The Functional CAM-B3LYP was used in all the steps. Starting from GS^{eq} geometry, the first step involved an optimization considering solute-solvent interaction with the 6-31G (d) basis sets. In the second step, with 6-31+G(d,p) basis sets, three possible transitions (ESno-eq) were simulated increasing energy from GS^{eq} . The ES^{no-eq} with the maximum of probability and the minimum of energy was chosen. In the step 3, with and $6-31+G(d,p)$ basis sets the energy of GSeq was calculated. Therefore, the coordinates of non-equilibrium state of GS^{eq} were saved. In the step 4, the saved coordinates were applied to ES^{no-eq} choose in step 2 and then the ES^{no-eq} energy was calculated with 6-31+G(d,p) basis sets. In the step 5, with the 6-31G (d) basis set, the ES^{no-eq} geometry was optimized reaching the equilibrium state of solvation (ES^{eq}). In the steps 6 and 7 analogously with steps 3 and 4, the vertical emission was calculated with TD-DFT method. In the step 6 were calculated with 6-31+G(d,p) basis set the energy of ES^{eq} and the coordinates of non-equilibrium of ES were saved. In the last step, the coordinates saved in the step 6 were applied to GS^{no-eq} and then calculate with the same functional and basis set the energy. The geometries of equilibrium in the steps 1 and 5 were calculated in THF and then were used as starting points in the same steps for n-hexane and ACN.

The absolute configuration of the two atropisomers of **1b** was assigned by the simulation of ECD spectrum based on TD-DFT. The theoretical ECD spectra were obtained with four different functionals (CAM-B3LYP,16 ωB97X-D,17 BH&HLYP18 and M06-2x19) with the same 6-311++ $G(2d,p)$ basis set, in order to have data redundancy, and to enhance reliability.

Synthesis

Potassium trifluoro(mesityl)borane salt

To a solution of mesitylboronic acid (5 g, 30.5 mmol, 1 eq) dissolved in 20 mL of MeOH was added slowly with vigorous stirring a solution of KHF_2 (7.93 g, 101.5 mmol, 3.33 eq) in H₂O (23 mL). The resulting mixture was stirred for 15 min and a white solid was obtained; H2O was removed as azeotropic mixture with CH3CN under reduced pressure. The excess of KHF2 was removed using a Soxhlet extractor. A white solid was obtained after removing CH3CN under reduce pressure. The yield is almost quantitative.

¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ = 6.48 (s, 1H), 2.25 (m, 6H), 2.09 ppm (s, 3H).

Synthesis of products 1a, 1b and 1c

Product **1b** is prepared following different strategies: *path a* and *path b*. The compounds **1a, 1c** is prepared following *path b*.

Path a

In a 25 mL oven-dried reaction flask magnesium foil (10 eq), a tip of iodine, MesBF3K (2.4 mmol) and the solvents THF (15 mL) were added. The arylbromine (2.4 mmol) was dropped at room temperature and the resulting solution was stirred under argon at reflux. When the discoloration of iodine was visible, the reaction time was taken for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the formation of the Mes-aryl-fluoroborate was checked at 19F NMR. Simultaneously, in another 25 mL oven-dried reaction flask, carbazole (2.4 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was reacted with KHMDS (2.4 mmol) at room temperature. After 1-hour, when MesBF3K salt has been disappeared, the Mes-aryl-fluoroborate solution was dropped to second flask at room temperature. The residue was diluted in DCM and filtered on Celite®, then evaporated the solvent. The products were purified by chromatography separation on silica gel, with eluent *n*hexane/DCM in 9:1 ratio.

Path b

In a 25 mL oven-dried reaction flask, magnesium slice (10 eq), the solvents $Et_2O/tolu$ ene (10 mL:5 mL) and a tip of iodine were added. The arylbromine (2.4 mmol) was dropped at room temperature and the resulting solution was stirred under argon at reflux. When the discoloration of iodine was visible, the reaction time was taken for 1 h. After cooling to room temperature, the MesBF3K (2.4 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred another 1 h. The formation of the Mes-Aryl fluoro borate was checked at ¹⁹F NMR. Meanwhile, in another 25 mL oven-dried reaction flask, carbazole (2.4 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was reacted with KHMDS (2.4 mmol) at room temperature. After 1-hour, when MesBF3K has been disappeared, the Mes-Aryl fluoro borate solution was dropped to second flask at room temperature. The residue was diluted in DCM and filtered on Celite®, then evaporated the solvent. The products were purified by chromatography separation on silica gel, with eluent *n*-hexane/DCM in 9:1 ratio.

Compound **1a 9-(mesityl(naphthalen-1-yl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole**

Compound **1a** was synthetized following *path b* starting with 1-bromo-naphthalene with 43% of yields.

1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.00 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.92 (m, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 6.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (ddd, *J* = 8.5, 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H).

13C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3, 77 ppm) δ 144.06 (Cq), 142.69 (Cq), 140.58 (Cq-B broden), 140.13 (Cq), 138.73 (Cq), 138.30 (Cq), 134.87 (Cq), 133.16 (CH), 133.01 (Cq), 130.56 (CH), 128.63 (CH), 128.43 (Cq), 128.36 (CH), 128.24 (CH), 128.00 (CH), 126.55 (CH), 126.44 (CH), 125.84 (CH), 125.68 (CH), 125.63 (CH), 122.91 (CH), 122.68 (CH), 119.48 (CH), 119.32 (CH), 116.99 (CH), 115.73 (CH), 22.65 (CH3), 21.78 (CH3), 21.38 (CH3).

11B NMR (192 MHz, CDCL3) δ 51.62.

Compound **1b 9-(mesityl(2-methylnaphthalen-1-yl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole**

Compound **1b** was synthetized by *path b* starting with 1-bromo-2-mehtyl-naphthalene with 73% of yields. Atropisomers were separated with AD-H column and eluent *n*-hexane:*i*-PrOH $(97:3)$ with a flow 20 mL/min.

1 H NMR (600 MHz, CD2Cl2, 5.32 ppm) δ 8.02 (dt, *J* = 7.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (dt, *J* = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.89 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.86 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.28 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 4H), 7.03 (dt, *J* = 8.5, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.88 – 6.82 (m, 2H), 6.65 – 6.60 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CD₂CL₂, 53.3 ppm) δ 143.22 (Cq), 142.79 (Cq), 140.92 (Cq-B broden), 140.77 (Cq-B broden), 139.86 (Cq), 139.56 (Cq), 138.66 (Cq), 138.40 (Cq), 135.49 (Cq), 131.74 (Cq), 129.80 (CH), 129.28 (CH), 128.84 (CH), 128.70 (CH), 128.42 (CH), 128.23 (Cq), 128.11 (Cq), 127.19 (CH), 126.19 (CH), 125.95 (CH), 125.81 (CH), 124.61 (CH), 122.85 (CH), 122.61 (CH), 119.45 (CH), 119.33 (CH), 115.70 (CH), 115.52 (CH), 22.35 (CH3), 21.81 (CH3), 21.44 (CH3), 20.91 (CH3).

11B NMR (192 MHz, CD2CL2) δ 53.77.

Compound **1c 9-(anthracen-9-yl(mesityl)boraneyl)-9H-carbazole**

Compound **1c** was synthetized by *path b* starting with 9-bromo-anthracene with 32% of yields.

1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.01 (dt, *J* = 7.9, 1.9 Hz, 3H), 7.95 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (dt, *J* = 7.6, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.16 (dddd, *J* = 7.8, 6.4, 3.8, 1.3 Hz, 3H), 7.10 – 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.83 (s, 2H), 6.60 (ddd, *J* = 8.6, 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.19 – 6.15 (m, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.00 (s, 6H).

13C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl3) δ 143.51 (Cq), 142.73 (Cq), 140.91 (Cq), 139.54 (Cq), 138.59 (Cq-B broaden), 134.60 (Cq), 131.32 (Cq), 129.84 (CH), 129.13 (CH), 129.12 (CH), 128.63 (Cq), 128.22 (Cq), 127.95 (CH), 126.37 (CH), 126.07 (CH), 125.87 (CH), 125.02 (CH), 123.07 (CH), 122.62 (CH), 119.62 (CH), 119.30 (CH), 116.41 (CH), 115.90 (CH), 22.64 (CH3), 21.33 $(CH₃).$

11B NMR (192 MHz, CDCl3) δ 55.05.

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Compound 1a GS1

 Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1276.95634273 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = 22.5524

Compound 1a GS2

 Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1276.95743337 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = 24.0210

47 6 0 3.197055 0.428998 2.516653

Compound 1a TS2-2rf-CN-mes

 Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1276.92582172 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = -33.9649

Compound 1a TS4-2rf-CN-Np180 Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1276.92805367 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = -41.3938

Compound 1b GS1 Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1316.27847872 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = 25.6218

Compound 1b TS1-2rf-CC-carb Method: b3lyp/6-311g(d,p) SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -1316.26419669 A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = -44.2319

 Zero-point correction= 0.508394 (Hartree/Particle) Thermal correction to Energy= 0.536434 Thermal correction to Enthalpy= 0.537378 Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy= 0.450529
Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1315.755802 Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies= -1315.755802
Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= - -1315.727763 Sum of electronic and thermal Energies= -1315.727763 Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies= -1315.726818 Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1315.813668

Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies= -1315.794310


```
Compound 1b TS3-2rf-CN-2MeNp0
```
Method: $b3lyp/6-311g(d,p)$ SCF Done: $E(RB3LYP) = -1316.23895524$ A.U. after 1 cycles Lowest frequency = -39.7846

