

## Structures and bonding of auropolyboroenes $[\text{Au}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}_3]^-$ , $[\text{Au}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}_2]^{2-}$ and $[\text{Au}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}]^+$ ( $x = 2, 3$ ): Comparison with dihydride polyboroenes

### Supplementary Information

Peng Shao<sup>a,\*</sup>, Li-Ping Ding<sup>a</sup>, Cheng Lu<sup>b</sup>, Jiang-Tao Cai<sup>a</sup>, Bo Liu<sup>a</sup> and Chang-Bo Sun<sup>a</sup>

**Table S1.** Fragmentation channels and dissociation energies ( $\Delta E$ ) for auropolyboroenes  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_9^+$ ,  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$ ,  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{13}^+$ ,  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{14}^{2-}$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{15}^-$  compared with the corresponding dihydride boron  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_9^+$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{13}^+$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{14}^{2-}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{15}^-$ .

channels	$\Delta E$ (eV)
$\text{Au}_2\text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^1A) = \text{AuB}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^2A) + \text{Au} (\text{OH}, {}^2A_{2g})$	3.53
$\text{H}_2\text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^1A_1) = \text{HB}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^2A') + \text{H} (\text{OH}, {}^2A_{2g})$	4.60
$\text{Au}_2\text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^1A) = \text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_2, {}^1A) + \text{Au}_2 (\text{D}_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g)$	4.39
$\text{H}_2\text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_s, {}^1A_1) = \text{B}_9^+ (\text{C}_2, {}^1A) + \text{H}_2 (\text{D}_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g)$	3.18
$\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_{2h}, {}^1A) = \text{AuB}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_s, {}^2A) + \text{Au} (\text{OH}, {}^2A_{2g})$	3.74
$\text{H}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_{2h}, {}^1A) = \text{HB}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_s, {}^2A') + \text{H} (\text{OH}, {}^2A_{2g})$	4.56
$\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_{2h}, {}^1A) = \text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{D}_{2h}, {}^1A_g) + \text{Au}_2 (\text{D}_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g)$	4.31
$\text{H}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{C}_{2h}, {}^1A) = \text{B}_{10}^{2-} (\text{D}_{2h}, {}^1A_g) + \text{H}_2 (\text{D}_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g)$	3.22

<sup>a</sup> College of Science, Shaanxi University of Science & Technology, Xi'an 710021, China

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, Nanyang Normal University, Nanyang 473061, China

\*Correspondence to: Peng Shao, College of Science, Shaanxi University of Science & Technology, Xi'an 710021, China.

E-mail address: scu\_sp@163.com (Peng Shao).

$$Au_2B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) = AuB_{11}^-(C_s, {}^2A') + Au(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 3.50$$

$$H_2B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) = HB_{11}^-(C_s, {}^2A') + H(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 4.65$$

$$Au_2B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) = B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) + Au_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 3.01$$

$$H_2B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) = B_{11}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A_1) + H_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 2.64$$

$$Au_2B_{13}^+(C_s, {}^1A) = AuB_{13}^+(C_1, {}^2A) + Au(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 3.26$$

$$H_2B_{13}^+(C_{2h}, {}^1A) = HB_{13}^+(C_s, {}^2A) + H(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 4.64$$

$$Au_2B_{13}^+(C_s, {}^1A) = B_{13}^+(C_s, {}^1A') + Au_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 4.46$$

$$H_2B_{13}^+(C_{2h}, {}^1A) = B_{13}^+(C_s, {}^1A') + H_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 2.87$$

$$Au_2B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A) = AuB_{14}^{2-}(C_s, {}^2A) + Au(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 3.65$$

$$H_2B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A_1) = HB_{14}^{2-}(C_s, {}^2A) + H(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 4.58$$

$$Au_2B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A) = B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A) + Au_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 5.40$$

$$H_2B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A_1) = B_{14}^{2-}(C_{2h}, {}^1A) + H_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 4.54$$

$$Au_2B_{15}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A) = AuB_{15}^-(C_s, {}^2A) + Au(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 3.49$$

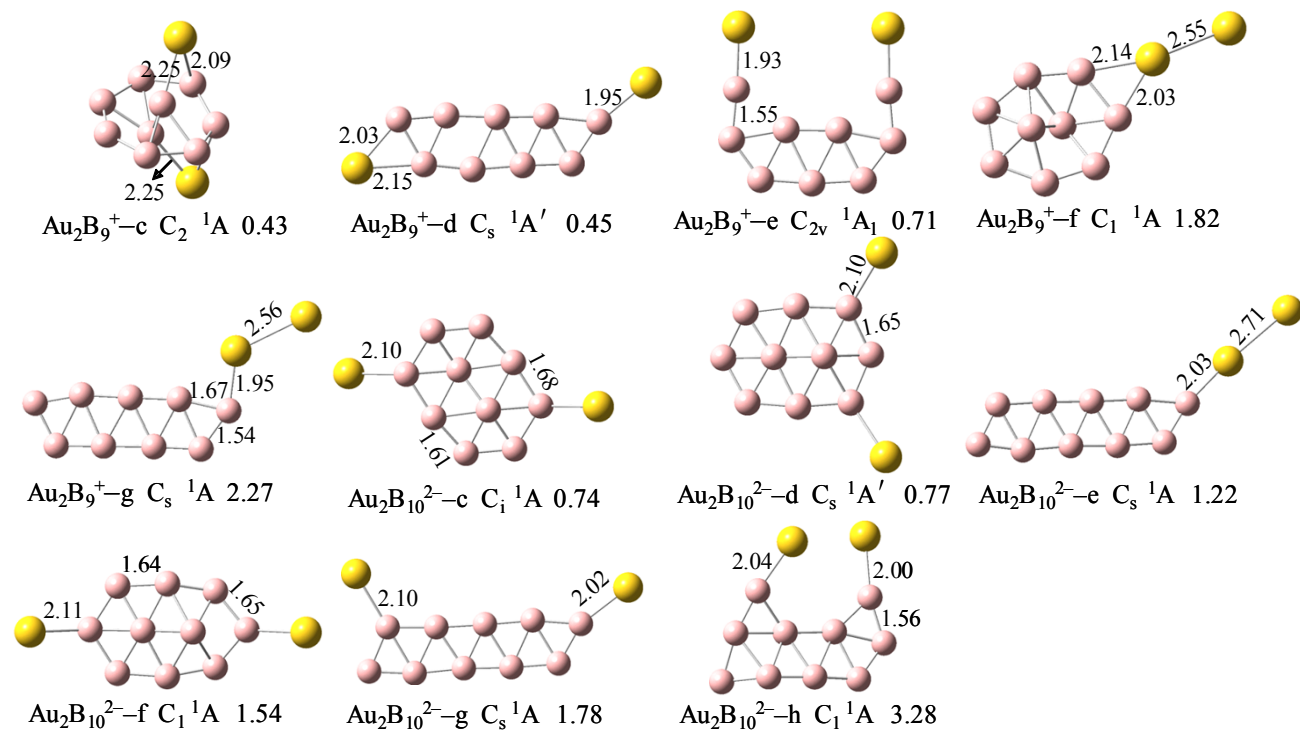
$$H_2B_{15}^-(C_{2h}, {}^1A_1) = HB_{15}^-(C_s, {}^1A) + H(OH, {}^2A_{2g}) \quad 4.65$$

$$Au_2B_{15}^-(C_{2v}, {}^1A) = B_{15}^-(C_1, {}^1A) + Au_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 3.23$$

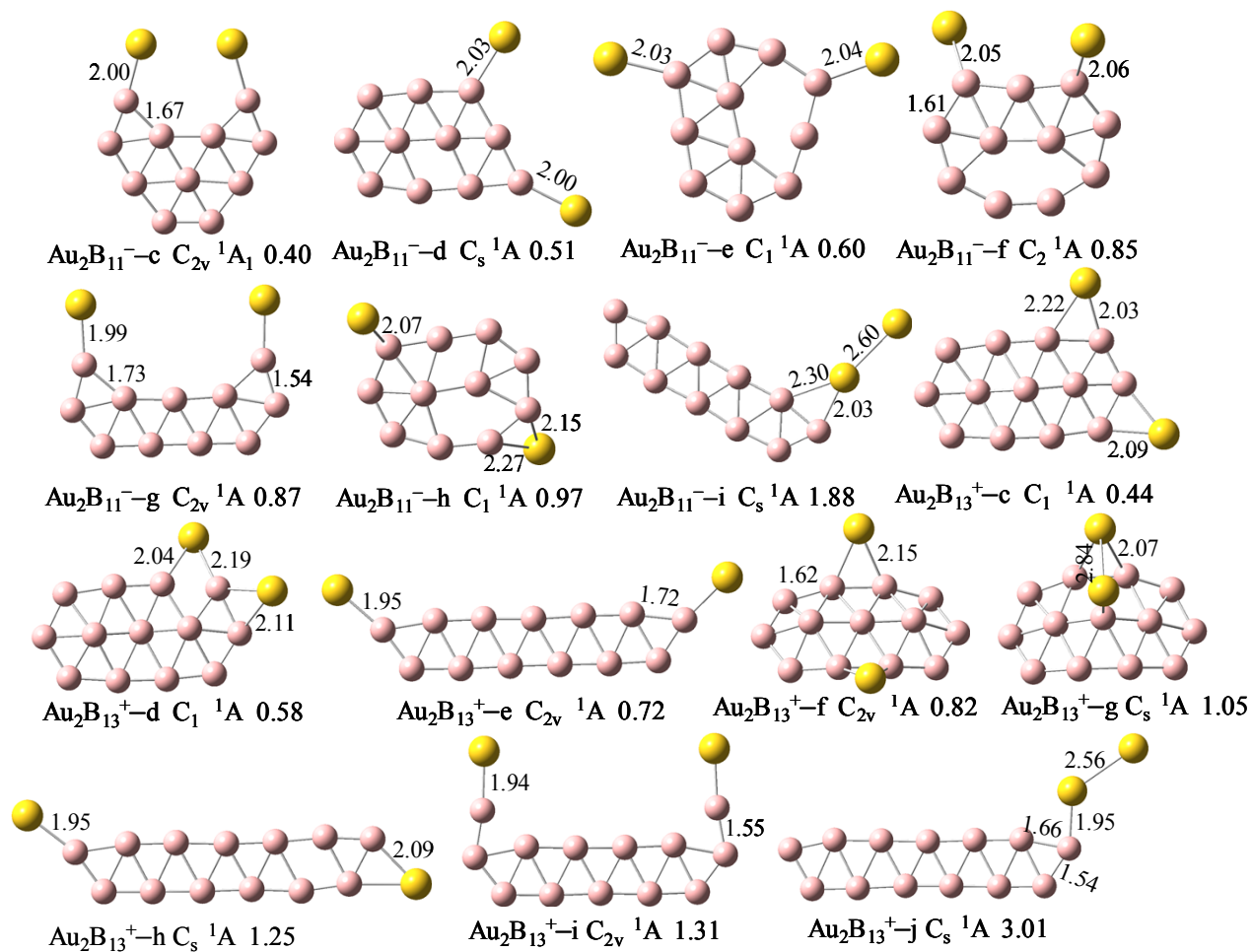
$$H_2B_{15}^-(C_{2h}, {}^1A_1) = B_{15}^-(C_1, {}^1A) + H_2(D_{\infty h}, {}^1\Sigma_g) \quad 2.87$$


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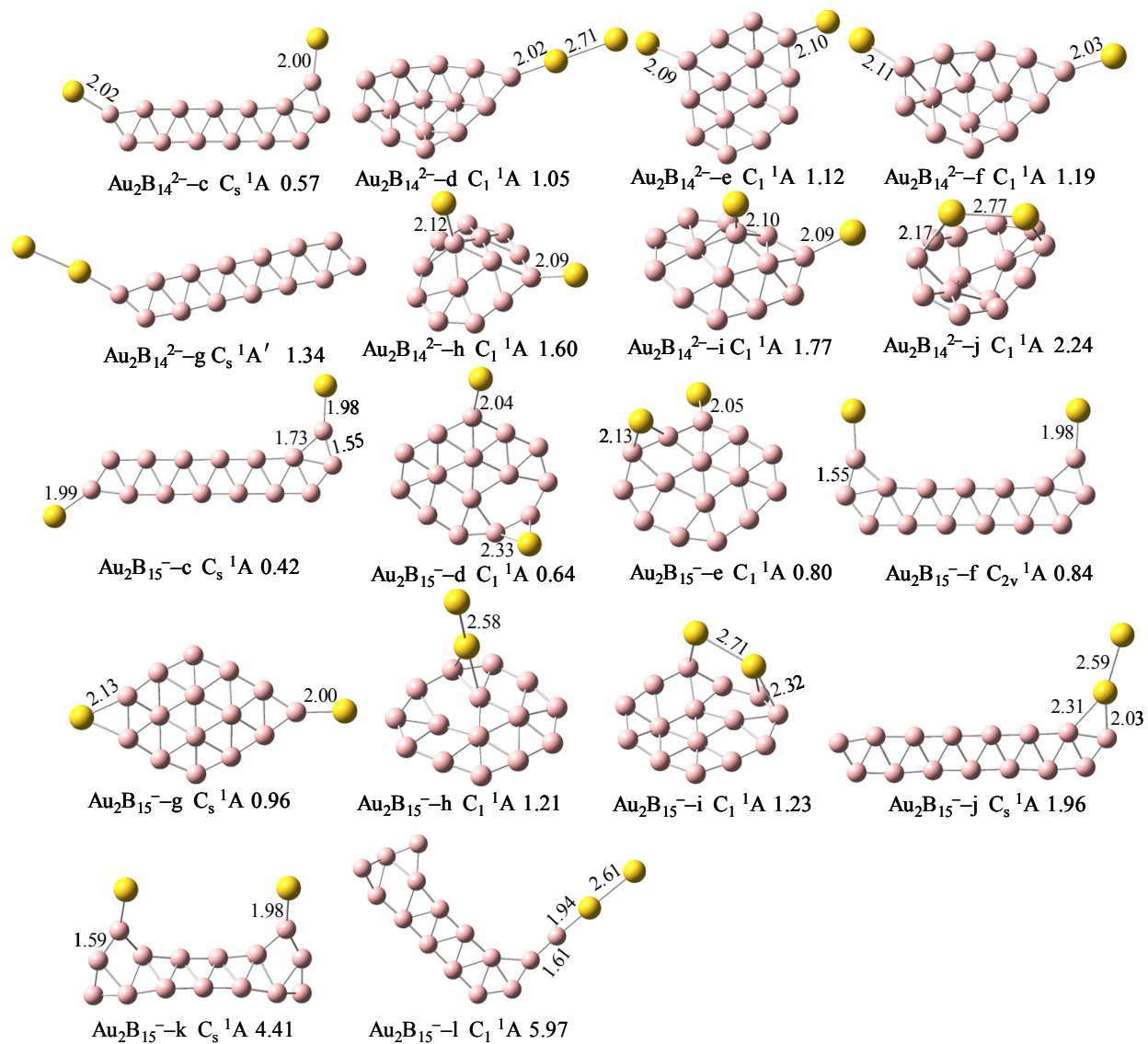
**Fig. S1** Optimized structures of the low-lying isomers of  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_9^+$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{10}^{2-}$  auropolyborenes with their symmetry, electron state and relative energies at B3LYP/Au/SDD/B/6-311+G\* method.



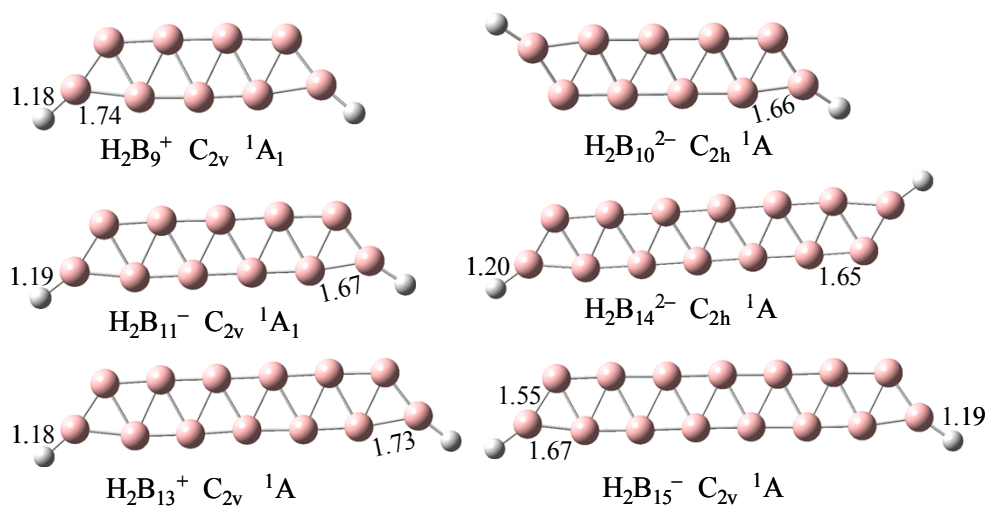
**Fig. S2** Optimized structures of the low-lying isomers of  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{13}^+$  auropolyborenes with their symmetry, electron state and relative energies at B3LYP/Au/SDD/B/6-311+G\* method.



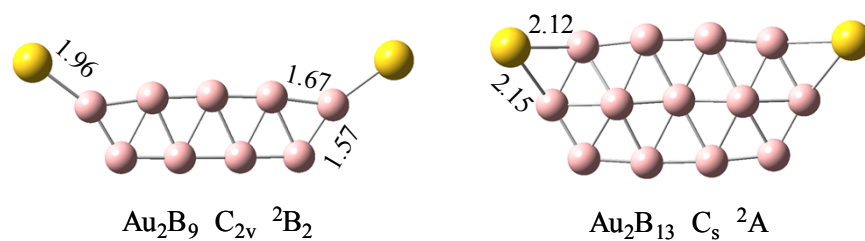
**Fig. S3** Optimized structures of the low-lying isomers of  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{14}^{2-}$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{15}^-$  auropolyborenes with their symmetry, electron state and relative energies at B3LYP/Au/SDD/B/6-311+G\* method.



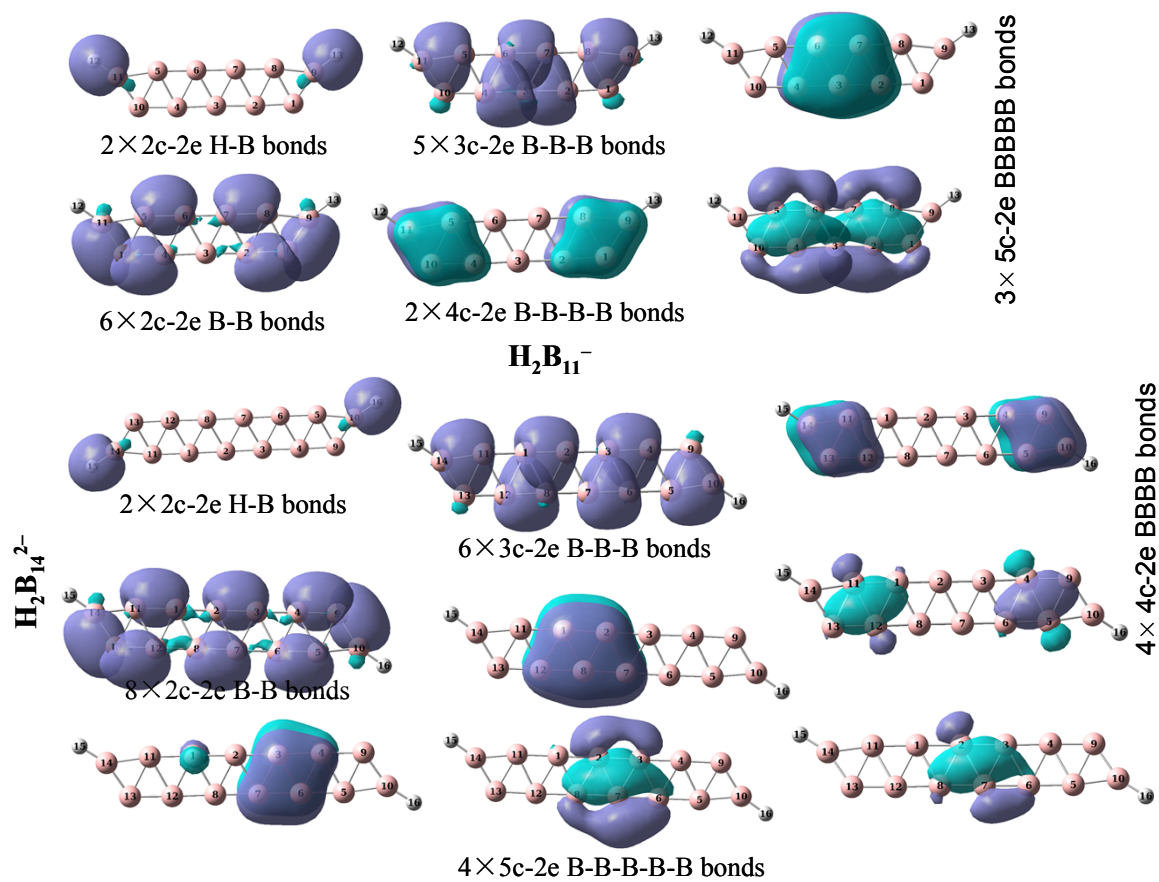
**Fig. S4** Optimized lowest-energy structures for dihydride polyboroenes  $[\text{H}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}_3]^-$ ,  $[\text{H}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}_2]^{2-}$ ,  $[\text{H}_2(\text{B}_4)_x\text{B}]^+$  ( $x = 2, 3$ ).



**Fig. S5** Optimized the ground state structures of neutral  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_9$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{13}$  clusters.



**Fig. S6** Chemical bonding analyses for  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{14}^{2-}$  using the AdNDP method.



**Fig. S7** Simulated photoelectron spectra for the lowest-energy structures of  $\text{H}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$ ,  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$  and  $\text{Au}_2\text{B}_{15}^-$  clusters at the TPSS level. Photoelectron spectra of  $\text{D}_2\text{B}_{11}^-$  measured at 266 nm. (The spectra are taken from Ref. 28. Copyright 2012 American Chemical Society).

