Supporting Information

for

A molecular Mo₄Bi₄ framework composed exclusively of unsupported metal-metal bonds

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Experimental Section – Synthetic and Spectral Details

General Procedure. All manipulations were carried out in a glove-box, or else by means of Schlenk-type techniques involving the use of a dry and oxygen-free argon atmosphere. The ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 NMR spectrometer (¹H, 400.1 MHz; ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$, 100.6 MHz) in dry deoxygenated benzene- d_6 as solvent. The spectra were calibrated against the internal residual proton and natural abundance ¹³C resonances of the deuterated solvent (benzene- $d_6 \delta_H$ 7.15 ppm, δ_C 128.0 ppm). Microanalyses were performed on a HEKAtech Euro EA 3000 elemental analyser. Infrared (IR) spectra were recorded in the region 4000 - 400 cm⁻¹ using solid samples prepared as KBr pellets with a Shimadzu FTIR 8400s spectrometer. The thermal behaviour was studied by simultaneously coupled TA-MS measurements for a sample protected against air (for the transfer from the glovebox into the apparatus) by a alumina layer. A NETZSCH thermoanalyzer STA 409 C Skimmer[®] system, equipped with a BALZERS QMG 421, was used to record the thermoanalytical curves (T, DTA, TG, DTG) together with the ionic current (IC) curves in the multiple ion detection (MID) mode. ^{\$1,\$1} Further experimental details were as follows: DTA-TG sample carrier system; Pt/PtRh10 thermocouples; platinum crucibles (beaker, 0.8 ml); sample mass 25 mg (measured versus empty reference crucible); constant purge gas flow of 70 ml/min nitrogen 5.0 (AIRLIQUIDE); constant heating rate 10 K/min; raw data evaluation with manufacturer's software PROTEUS® (v. 4.3) and QUADSTAR® 422 (v. 6.02) without further data treatment, e.g. such as smoothing.

The determination of the initial (T_i) , extrapolated onset (T_{on}^{ex}) and peak (T_P) temperatures was performed following international recommendations.^{S3}

Materials. All solvents were dried by an MBraun SPS solvent purification system prior to use. The starting materials $[Bi{OCH_2CH=CH_2}_3]$,^{S4} $[Bi{OCH(CH_3)CH=CH_2}_3]$,^{S5}

 $[Bi{OC(CH_3)_2CH=CH_2}_3]^{S1}$ and $[Cp_2MoH_2]^{S2}$ were prepared according to literature procedures.

 $[Cp_2Mo{Bi(OCH_2CH=CH_2)_2}_2], 1:$ **Synthesis** of А colourless solution of [Bi{OCH₂CH=CH₂}] (133 mg, 0.35 mmol) in 5 mL of toluene was added to a stirred yellow solution of [Cp₂MoH₂] (40 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 10 mL of the same solvent at ambient temperature. During the addition the colour changed from yellow to bright orange, and darkened to red while stirring the solution at ambient temperature for 3 h. Removal of all volatile components and drying of the residue in vacuo yielded 1 (71 mg, 0.08 mmol, 46 %) as a dark-red oil. ¹H NMR (C_6D_6): δ [ppm] = 6.15 (m, 4H, CH), 5.41 (dd, 4H, ³ J_{HH}^E = 17.1 Hz, ${}^{1}J_{H}{}^{E}_{H}{}^{Z} = 1.7$ Hz, ${}^{CH2}H^{E}$), 5.35 (s br, 8H, CH₂), 5.17 (dd, 4H, ${}^{3}J_{HH}{}^{Z} = 10.0$ Hz, ${}^{1}J_{H}{}^{E}_{H}{}^{Z} = 1.7$ Hz, $^{CH2}H^{Z}$), 4.82 (s, 10H, ^{Cp}H); $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (C₆D₆): δ [ppm] = 135.0 (*C*H), 112.5 (=*C*H₂), 82.2 (^{Cp}C) , 72.5 (CH_2).

Synthesis of [Cp₂Mo{Bi(OC(CH₃)₂CH=CH₂)₂]₂], 2: To a stirred, yellow solution of $[Cp_2MoH_2]$ (40 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 10 mL toluene a colourless solution of [Bi{OC(CH₃)₂CH=CH₂]₃] (162 mg, 0.35 mmol) in the same solvent (5 mL) was added at ambient temperature. A bright orange solution was initially formed, that darkened to red while stirring the solution at ambient temperature for 3 h. Removal of all volatile components and drying of the residue in vacuo yielded 2 (123 mg, 0.12 mmol, 71 %) as a dark-red highly viscous oil. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆): δ [ppm] = 6.17 (dd, 4H, ³J_{HH} = 17.5, 10.6 Hz, CH), 5.18 (dd, 4H, ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}{}^{E} = 17.5 \text{ Hz}, {}^{2}J_{\text{H}}{}^{E}{}_{\text{H}}{}^{Z} = 1.7 \text{ Hz} {}^{\text{CH2}}H^{E}$), 5.00 (dd, 4H, ${}^{3}J_{\text{HH}}{}^{Z} = 10.6 \text{ Hz}, {}^{2}J_{\text{H}}{}^{E}{}_{\text{H}}{}^{Z} = 1.7 \text{ Hz}$ $^{CH2}H^{Z}$), 4.82 (s, 10H, ^{Cp}CH), 1.45 (s, 24H, CH₃); $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ NMR (C₆D₆): δ [ppm] = 151.8 (CH), 109.3 (CH₂), 83.5 (^{Cp}C), 73.0 (C), 33.8 (CH₃); IR (KBr): $v[cm^{-1}] = 3075, 2959, 2916$, 2852, 1844, 1707, 1636, 1424, 1409, 1368, 1352, 1288, 1261, 1135, 1104, 1011, 998, 947, 917, 890, 834, 800, 737, 731, 686, 556, 474, 409.



Fig. S1: ¹H NMR spectra of $[Cp_2Mo\{Bi(OC(CH_3)_2CH=CH_2)_2\}_2]$, **2**, in benzene- d_6 ; § denotes the residual proton resonance of benzene- d_6 (C₆D₅H).

¹H NMR Spectroscopic Data of [Cp₂Mo(OCH₂CH=CH₂)₂]: Equimolar Reactions of $[Cp_2MoH_2]$ with $[Bi{OCH_2CH=CH_2}_3]$, I, led to the initial formation of a red solution, that darkened to black within few minutes. While stirring the solution at ambient temperature the color of the solution changed back to red, and the latter was accompanied by the formation of elemental Bi in form of a metallic mirror at the vascular wall as well as amorphous solid. Filtration of the reaction mixture and removal of all volatile compounds led to a red solid, ^{1}H whose NMR spectroscopic investigations revealed the formation of $[Cp_2Mo(OCH_2CH=CH_2)_2].$

¹H NMR (CD₃CN): δ [ppm] = 5.82 (m, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{H}{}^{E}{}^{Z}_{H}$ = 17.1, 10.3 Hz, ${}^{3}J_{HH}$ = 5.4 Hz, CH), 5.39 (s, 10H, ^{Cp}H), 5.00 (dd, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH}{}^{E}$ = 17.1 Hz, ${}^{2}J_{H}{}^{E}{}^{Z}_{H}$ = 1.7 Hz, ^{CH2}H^E), 4.83 (d br, 2H, ${}^{3}J_{HH}{}^{Z}$ = 10.3 Hz, ^{CH2}H^Z), 3.77 (d, 4H, ${}^{3}J_{H}{}^{E}{}^{Z}_{H}$ = 5.4 Hz, CH₂).



Fig. S2: TA-MS curves of **3**. (25,25 mg, layered by α -Al₂O₃) in N₂ with IC curves for m/z = 66 (C₅H₆⁺, M⁺ \rightarrow Cp) and 92 (C₇H₈⁺, M⁺ \rightarrow toluene).

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