## **Electronic Supplementary Information for**

## Insertion chemistry of iron(II) boryl complexes

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**Figure S1.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**3a**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$  generated from the reaction of **1**·**py** and B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>. Inset displays an expansion of the region from 4 to 10 ppm showing peaks for the expected byproduct, PhOBpin. Asterisks denote resonances for thf used in the preparation of **1**·**py**. The resonance for excess B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub> and PhOB*pin* is marked with §.



**Figure S2.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**3a**) in toluene- $d_8(s)$  generated from the reaction of **2** and B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>. Inset displays an expansion of the region from -2 to 2 ppm showing peaks for the expected byproduct, MeBpin. Asterisk denotes the resonance for excess B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S3.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(Bcat)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**3b**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$  generated from the reaction of **1**·py and B<sub>2</sub>cat<sub>2</sub>. Asterisks denotes resonances for Et<sub>2</sub>O used in purification of **1**·py.



**Figure S4.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of putative [Fe(Bcat)(CO)<sub>2</sub>(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**3b**·CO) in benzene- $d_6(s)$  generated from the reaction of **1**·py and B<sub>2</sub>cat<sub>2</sub> followed by introduction of CO(g).



**Figure S5.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the reaction of in situ-generated [Fe(Bcat)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**3b**) with 2,2'bipyridine in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Left inset displays expansion of the diamagnetic region. Asterisks denote resonances for [FeH(bipy)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)]. <sup>31</sup>P NMR resonance for putative **3b·bipy** is marked with ‡.



**Figure S6.** 500 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $[Fe(CO)_2(OPh)(^{Cy}PNP)]$  (**1**·CO) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Asterisks denotes resonances for thf used in preparation of **1**·py.



**Figure S7.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(bipy)(OPh)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**1**•**bipy**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ .



**Figure S8.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Me}C{Me}Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**4a**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Inset displays an expansion of the region from -15 to 7 ppm. Asterisks denote resonances for toluene and ether used in purification.



**Figure S9.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Me}C{Me}Bcat)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**4b**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Asterisks denote a resonance from the pyridine byproduct, PhOBcat.



**Figure S10.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Ph}C{H}Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**5a**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Inset displays an expansion of the region from -15 to 1 ppm. Asterisks denote resonances for diethyl ether from purification.



**Figure S11.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Ph}C{H}Bcat)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**5b**) in toluene- $d_8(s)$ .



**Figure S12.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Ph}C{Me}Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**6a**) in toluene- $d_8(s)$ . Asterisks denote resonances for diethyl ether from purification.



**Figure S13.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Ph}C{CPh}Bpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (**7a**) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ . Asterisk denotes resonances for residual B<sub>2</sub>pin<sub>2</sub> used in preparation of **3a**.



**Figure S14.** 300 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Fe(C{Ad}NBpin)(<sup>Cy</sup>PNP)] (8) in benzene- $d_6(s)$ .



**Figure S15.** Selected region of the <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum of the reaction of **3a** and 4-fluorostyrene in benzene- $d_6(s)$  showing formation of borylated products. Product assignments (a – d) correspond to those in Scheme 4 of the main text.



**Figure S16**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structure of PhO(py)Bcat isolated from the synthesis of **3b**.



**Figure S17**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structures of **1**•**CO**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S18**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structures of **1**·**bipy**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S19**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structures of **5b**. Hydrogen atoms with the exception of that bound to C(37) are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S20**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structures of **6a**. Hydrogen atoms and minor components of the disorder are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S21**. Thermal ellipsoid drawing (50%) of the solid-state structures of **7a**. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.