Supporting information

Monoorganobismuth(III) dihalides containing the new pincer 2,6-{MeN(CH_2CH_2)_2NCH_2}_2C_6H_3 ligand: solution NMR, vibrational and single-crystal X-ray studies

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 $\sum r_{vdW}$ (Cl,H) 3.01 Å

[2,6-{MeN(CH₂CH₂)₂N)CH₂}₂C₆H₃]BiCl₂ (2)

- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of (S_{N1}, S_{N3}) and (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) isomers
- intramolecular distances Cl(1)…H(7A) 2.96 Å Cl(1)…H(12B) 2.85 Å Cl(1)…H(16B) 2.87 Å Cl(2)…H(10B) 2.86 Å Cl(2)…H(10B) 2.86 Å Cl(2)…H(14B) 2.95 Å



Figure S1. Intramolecular chlorine-hydrogen contacts in the molecule of (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) -2 isomer (only hydrogens involved in intramolecular interactions are shown).



Figure S2. View of the chain polymer of alternating (S_{N1}, S_{N3}) and (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) isomers in the crystal of **2** (only hydrogens involved in intermolecular interactions are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Bi(1a) (0.5+x, 1.5-y, 0.5+z); Bi(1b) (-0.5+x, 1.5-y, -0.5+z). Intermolecular contacts within a chain: Cl(1)···H(10Aa)_{N-methylene-ring} 2.85 Å; Cl(2)···H(16Ab)_{N-methylene-ring} 2.87 Å. No further inter-chain contacts.

[2,6-{MeN(CH₂CH₂)₂N)CH₂}₂C₆H₃]BiBr₂ (3)



Figure S3. Molecular structure of the (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) isomer of **3** (ORTEP drawing with 20% probability ellipsoids) with the labeling scheme for the atom positions.

- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of (S_{N1}, S_{N3}) and (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) isomers



Figure S4. Intramolecular bromine-hydrogen contacts in the molecule of (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) -3 isomer (only hydrogens involved in intramolecular interactions are shown).



Figure S5. View of the chain polymer of alternating (S_{N1}, S_{N3}) and (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) isomers in the crystal of **3** (only hydrogens involved in intermolecular interactions are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Bi(1a) (-0.5+x, 0.5-y, -0.5+z); Bi(1b) (0.5+x, 0.5-y, 0.5+z). Intermolecular contacts within a chain: Br(1)···H(10Aa)_{N-methylene-ring} 2.94 Å; Br(2)···H(16Ab)_{N-methylene-ring} 2.96 Å.



Figure S6. View of the tridimesional network built from columnar chain polymers in the crystal of **3**, through weak bromine-hydrogen inter-chain contacts (only hydrogens involved in hydrogen contacts are shown). Symmetry equivalent positions: Bi(1c) (1.5-x, -0.5+y, 0.5-z); Bi(1d) (0.5-x, -0.5+y, 0.5-z); Bi(1e) (0.5-x, 0.5+y, 0.5-z); Bi(1f) (1.5-x, 0.5+y, 0.5-z). Inter-chain contacts: Br(1)···H(4e)_{aryl} 3.11 Å; Br(2)···H(5f)_{aryl} 3.14 Å.

$[2,6-{MeN(CH_2CH_2)_2N)CH_2}_2C_6H_3]BiI_2(4)$



Figure S7. Molecular structure of the (R_{N1}, R_{N1a}) isomer of 4 (ORTEP drawing with 20% probability ellipsoids) with the labeling scheme for the atom positions.

- the crystal contains a 1:1 mixture of (S_{N1}, S_{N1a}) and (R_{N1}, R_{N1a}) isomers



Figure S8. Intramolecular iodine-hydrogen contacts in the molecule of (R_{N1}, R_{N3}) -4 isomer (only hydrogens involved in intramolecular interactions are shown). No further intermolecular contacts.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectra of (a) diiodide 4, and (b) the free organic ligand 1.



Table S1. Selected optimized^{a,b} and experimental^c bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for the dihalides **5a**-**7a** and **5**-**7**.

| Compound | R | Х | Bi-X | Bi-C | Bi-N | X-Bi-X | N-Bi-N | τ^{d} |
|----------|----|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|------------|
| 5a | Н | Cl ^a | 2.683 | 2.214 | 2.510 | 175.69 | 144.18 | 80.03 |
| | | b | 2.657 | 2.206 | 2.490 | 173.81 | 143.86 | 79.40 |
| 6a | Н | Br ^a | 2.860 | 2.215 | 2.512 | 177.97 | 144.23 | 80.24 |
| | | b | 2.828 | 2.207 | 2.490 | 175.79 | 143.99 | 79.53 |
| 7a | Н | I ^a | 3.079 | 2.215 | 2.512 | 179.91 | 144.53 | 80.78 |
| | | b | 3.039 | 2.208 | 2.493 | 177.57 | 144.12 | 80.00 |
| 5 | Me | Cl ^a | 2.692 | 2.204 | 2.590 | 179.94 | 144.84 | 70.80 |
| | | b | 2.667 | 2.196 | 2.556 | 178.09 | 144.67 | 70.01 |
| | | с | 2.704 | 2.224 | 2.566 | 173.73 | 144.18 | 70.89 |
| 6 | Me | Br ^a | 2.875 | 2.206 | 2.601 | 176.81 | 144.64 | 71.09 |
| | | b | 2.843 | 2.198 | 2.567 | 178.92 | 144.47 | 70.39 |
| | | с | 2.840 | 2.194 | 2.565 | 175.86 | 144.34 | 71.33 |
| 7 | Me | I ^a | 3.105 | 2.209 | 2.616 | 187.66 | 144.12 | 71.08 |
| | | b | 3.064 | 2.201 | 2.583 | 185.22 | 143.99 | 70.26 |
| | | с | 3.082 | 2.215 | 2.589 | 180.30 | 143.65 | 70.42 |

^a Calculated with the B3LYP functional; ^b calculated with the mPW1PW functional; ^c structural experimental mean values; ^d dihedral angle between the CBiX₂ plane and that containing the phenyl ring.

| Compound | R | Х | | Q(Bi) | Q(X) | Q(N) | W(Bi-C) | W(Bi-X) | W(Bi-N) |
|----------|----|----|---|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 5a | Н | Cl | а | 1.499 | -0.663 | -0.895 | 0.709 | 0.476 | 0.264 |
| | | | b | 1.502 | -0.662 | -0.907 | 0.704 | 0.477 | 0.262 |
| 6a | Н | Br | а | 1.376 | -0.608 | -0.892 | 0.718 | 0.518 | 0.268 |
| | | | b | 1.378 | -0.605 | -0.904 | 0.713 | 0.521 | 0.267 |
| 7a | Н | Ι | а | 1.251 | -0.55 | -0.891 | 0.728 | 0.548 | 0.273 |
| | | | b | 1.249 | -0.546 | -0.902 | 0.722 | 0.553 | 0.271 |
| 5 | Me | Cl | а | 1.522 | -0.657 | -0.582 | 0.699 | 0.477 | 0.238 |
| | | | b | 1.532 | -0.655 | -0.593 | 0.691 | 0.478 | 0.233 |
| 6 | Me | Br | а | 1.398 | -0.601 | -0.578 | 0.707 | 0.522 | 0.243 |
| | | | b | 1.405 | -0.597 | -0.588 | 0.700 | 0.525 | 0.238 |
| 7 | Me | Ι | а | 1.270 | -0.542 | -0.573 | 0.715 | 0.554 | 0.246 |
| | | | b | 1.275 | -0.535 | -0.585 | 0.709 | 0.559 | 0.242 |

Table S2. Selected NBO charges Q (e) and Wiberg bond indexes calculated for dihalides **5a**–**7a** and **5**–**7**.

^a Calculated with the B3LYP functional; ^b calculated with the mPW1PWfunctional.

Table S3. Experimental FT-Raman and FT-IR spectra in the low frequency region $(500 - 50 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ of **5**-7.

| Compound | FT-Raman | FT-IR |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | 473 (1.6), 449 (1.8), 371 (3), 230 (1.3), 215 (1.3), 202 (1), 164 (1.8), 109 (10) | 480m, 454br s, 372m, 358m, 279m, 270m, 227m, 196br m, 173br s, 140br m, 105br s |
| 6 | 473 (1.4), 451 (1.4), 370 (5), 334 (2), 205 (3), 161 (4), 134 (7.6), 122 (2), 92 (10) | 480w, 456m, 438s, 420m, 386s, 352m, 326m, 303m, 280s, 267m, 227m, 203m, 140br m, 128 br m, 120br m |
| 7 | 473 (1.1), 450 (1.3), 368 (2.2), 205 (1.3), 162 (2.9), 119 (1.5), 103 (10), 85 (4.5) | 404br s, 392 m, 352m, 325s, 302s, 290m, 280s, 227w, 144w, 101br m |