

# Dalton Transactions

Accepted Manuscript



This is an *Accepted Manuscript*, which has been through the Royal Society of Chemistry peer review process and has been accepted for publication.

*Accepted Manuscripts* are published online shortly after acceptance, before technical editing, formatting and proof reading. Using this free service, authors can make their results available to the community, in citable form, before we publish the edited article. We will replace this *Accepted Manuscript* with the edited and formatted *Advance Article* as soon as it is available.

You can find more information about *Accepted Manuscripts* in the [Information for Authors](#).

Please note that technical editing may introduce minor changes to the text and/or graphics, which may alter content. The journal's standard [Terms & Conditions](#) and the [Ethical guidelines](#) still apply. In no event shall the Royal Society of Chemistry be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this *Accepted Manuscript* or any consequences arising from the use of any information it contains.

## ARTICLE

# Antimony(III) and Bismuth(III) Amides Containing Pendant N-Donor Groups – Combined Experimental and Theoretical Study

Cite this: DOI:  
10.1039/x0xx00000x

Received 00th January 2012,  
Accepted 00th January 2012

DOI: 10.1039/x0xx00000x

www.rsc.org/

Iva Vránová<sup>a</sup> Roman Jambor<sup>a</sup> Aleš Růžička<sup>a</sup> Alexander Hoffmann<sup>b</sup> Sonja Herres-Pawlis<sup>b</sup> and Libor Dostál<sup>a\*</sup>

*N,N* and *N,N,N* - chelated antimony(III) and bismuth(III) chlorides  $L^{1-3}MCl_2$  **1** - **4** [for  $L^1$ :  $M = Sb$  (**1**), for  $L^2$ :  $M = Sb$  (**2**) and for  $L^3$ :  $M = Sb$  (**3**) and  $Bi$  (**4**)], containing ligands  $L^{1-3}$  derived from the pyrrole ring (where  $L^1 = C_4H_3N-2-(CH=N-2',6'-iPr_2C_6H_3)$ ,  $L^2 = C_4H_2N-2,5-(CH_2NMe_2)_2$ ,  $L^3 = C_4H_2N-2,5-(CH_2NC_4H_8)_2$ ), were prepared by treatment of lithium precursors with  $SbCl_3$  or  $BiCl_3$ . Molecular structure of **1** - **4** was described both in solution (NMR spectroscopy) and in the solid state (single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis). Structures of **1-4** were also subjected to a density functional theory study.

## Introduction

Since the first reports dealing with monoanionic pincer-type ligands by Moulton<sup>1</sup> *et al.* and van Koten<sup>2</sup> *et al.* in 1976 and 1978, respectively, the chemistry of these ligands unambiguously developed to one of the most exciting and studied fields of organometallic chemistry.<sup>3</sup> Although the initial interest was devoted mainly to transition metals, significant breakthrough in the pincer main group chemistry was achieved during the last years including several landmark discoveries.<sup>4</sup> We have been interested for some time in the utilization of pincer-type ligands in the field of heavier group 15 elements (Sb and Bi). The majority of these compounds contains classical monoanionic (carbanionic) *N,C,N*<sup>5</sup> or *O,C,O*<sup>6</sup> ligands and only a few examples of compounds containing *N,C,O*<sup>7</sup> type are known. Noteworthy, there also exists rather rich chemistry of antimony and bismuth complexes containing neutral donating ligands and a significant progress has been achieved in this field.<sup>8</sup>

There exists a significant amount of structurally characterized antimony and bismuth amides<sup>9</sup> including interesting examples of related amidinates and  $\beta$ -diketiminates.<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, there are, to the best of our knowledge, no examples of antimony or bismuth compounds supported by a monoanionic *N,N,N* pincer type ligand bonded to the central metal *via* nitrogen-metal bond.<sup>11</sup> We herein report the synthesis and structure of *N,N* and *N,N,N* - chelated antimony(III) and bismuth(III) chlorides

containing ligands  $L^{1-3}$  derived from the pyrrole ring (Figure 1). Noteworthy, analogous ligands were used for stabilization of group 13 elements<sup>12</sup> and only recently Stalke *et al.* have reported their first utilization in the field of heavier tetrelenes.<sup>13</sup> In this study, the structure of compounds **1** - **4** (Scheme 1) is described both in solution and in the solid state and is subjected to the theoretical investigation with particular emphasis on the description of present metal-nitrogen bonds.

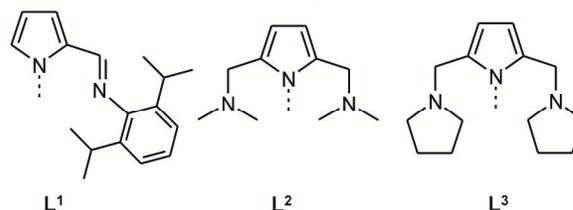
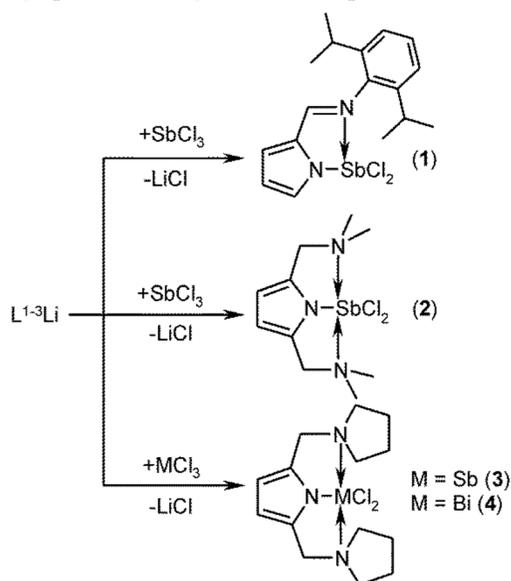


Figure 1 Ligands used in this study.

## Results and Discussion

The ligand-precursors  $L^{1-3}H$  were prepared according to published procedures.<sup>13, 14</sup> Parent pyrroles were first lithiated by *n*BuLi at low temperature (-78°C) and observed lithium precursors were *in situ* treated with one molar equivalent of  $SbCl_3$  (or  $BiCl_3$ ) giving **1** - **4** (Scheme 1). **1** - **4** were obtained as colourless (**2** and **3**) or yellow crystals (**1** and **4**) in

reasonable yields (53–64%). **1** is well soluble in toluene, while the pincer compounds **2** – **4** have only limited solubility in aromatic solvents, but are soluble in chlorinated solvents. Noteworthy, the reaction between  $L^1Li$  and  $BiCl_3$  afforded only complicated mixture of highly sensitive products. In the case of  $L^2Li$ , the treatment with  $BiCl_3$  resulted in formation of totally insoluble yellow powder only. The ligand  $L^3$  had to be utilized to improve the solubility of the bismuth compounds, thus leading to **4**. The  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of **1** – **4** revealed expected sets of signals consistent with the proposed structures (Scheme 1; see the Experimental section). Thus, one set of signals was observed for  $L^1$  in  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of **1**, where one septet for  $CH$  and two doublets for  $CH_3$  groups were detected in the corresponding  $^1H$  NMR spectrum for the flanking  $iPr$  groups. The  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  spectra of pincer compounds **2** – **4** revealed only one signal for the methylene  $CH_2N$  group in the whole studied temperature range (295–220K in  $CDCl_3$  for  $^1H$  NMR spectra), thereby suggesting symmetrical and rigid coordination of the ligand arms as observed in the solid state (*vide infra*). This solution behaviour of **2** – **4** resembles that established for their  $N,C,N$  analogues.<sup>5, 15</sup> Molecular structures of **1** – **4** were determined using single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis and are depicted together with related structural parameters in Figures 2 and 3. The crystallographic data are given in the Experimental section.



Scheme 1 Preparation of **1** – **4**.

The  $N(1)-Sb(1)$  bond lengths amount 2.0810(15) (**1**), 2.033(3) [2.031(3) for the second independent molecule of **2**] and 2.026(3) Å (**3**) and these values are only slightly shorter than the sum of the covalent radii of the corresponding atoms  $\Sigma_{cov}(Sb, N) = 2.11$  Å.<sup>16</sup> The  $Bi(1)-N(1)$  bond length of 2.129(5) Å also coincides with  $\Sigma_{cov}(Bi, N) = 2.22$  Å.<sup>16</sup> Pendant nitrogen functionalities are coordinated to the central atoms in **1** – **4**. The  $Sb(1)-N(2)$  bond distance 2.3234(17) Å in **1** is significantly shorter than the value observed in the  $C,N$ -chelated analogue

[2- $C_6H_4(CH=N-2',6'-iPr_2C_6H_3)$ ] $SbCl_2$  [2.416(2) Å]<sup>17</sup> and the geometry around the central antimony atom in **1** is best described as see-saw type.  $N \rightarrow Sb$  interactions in **2** and **3** [in the range 2.421(3) – 2.461(3) Å] are close to the values observed in classical  $N,C,N$  pincer compound [ $C_6H_3-2,6-(CH_2NMe_2)_2$ ] $SbCl_2$ <sup>18</sup> [2.491(9) and 2.422(8) Å]. Analogously, the  $N \rightarrow Bi$  intramolecular interactions in **4** [2.505(7) and 2.584(6) Å] are similar to the  $N,C,N$  chelated analogues: [ $C_6H_3-2,6-(CH_2NMe_2)_2$ ] $BiCl_2$ <sup>15</sup> [2.561(3) and 2.570(4) Å] and [ $C_6H_3-2,6-[CH_2N(CH_2CH_2)_2NMe]_2$ ] $BiCl_2$ <sup>19</sup> [2.583(5) and 2.563(4) Å]. The coordination polyhedron around the central atoms in **2** – **4** may be described as distorted pseudo-octahedron with the nitrogen (pyrrole) atom placed in the apical position, while remaining nitrogen and chlorine atoms form the basal plane. The stereochemically active lone pair (*vide further discussion*) of central atoms is then located in the *trans* position to the pyrrole nitrogen atom. This spatial arrangement closely resembles that usually found in the  $N,C,N$  chelated counterparts.<sup>17–19</sup>

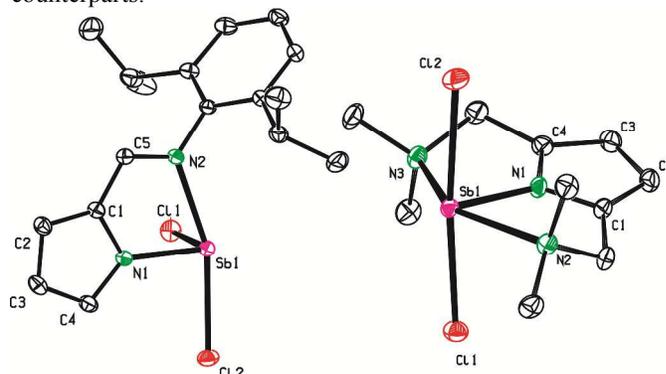


Figure 2 ORTEP plot of molecule of **1** (left) and **2** (right, one of two independent molecules is shown and dichloromethane solvate molecules were omitted for clarity). Anisotropic displacement parameters are depicted at the 40% probability level. Hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): **1**:  $Sb(1)-N(1)$  2.0810(15),  $Sb(1)-N(2)$  2.3234(17),  $Sb(1)-Cl(1)$  2.3691(6),  $Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  2.5616(6),  $N(1)-Sb(1)-N(2)$  73.90(6),  $Cl(1)-Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  92.21(2),  $N(2)-Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  161.35(4). **2**: (Structural data for the second independent molecule are given in brackets)  $Sb(1)-N(1)$  2.033(3) [2.032(3)],  $Sb(1)-N(2)$  2.446(3) [2.458(3)],  $Sb(1)-N(3)$  2.462(3) [2.421(3)],  $Sb(1)-Cl(1)$  2.5573(10) [2.5583(10)],  $Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  2.6181(10) [2.6061(11)],  $N(2)-Sb(1)-N(3)$  144.32(9) [144.38(10)],  $Cl(1)-Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  173.54(3) [172.89(3)].

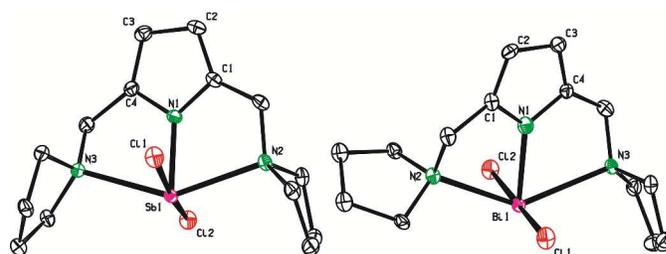


Figure 3 ORTEP plot of molecules of **3** (left) and **4** (right). Anisotropic displacement parameters are depicted at the 40% probability level. Hydrogen atoms and the dichloromethane solvate molecule (in **3**) were omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (deg): **3**:  $Sb(1)-N(1)$  2.026(3),  $Sb(1)-N(2)$  2.452(2),  $Sb(1)-N(3)$  2.454(2),  $Sb(1)-Cl(1)$  2.5905(7),  $Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  2.5609(6),  $N(2)-Sb(1)-N(3)$  145.06(10),  $Cl(1)-Sb(1)-Cl(2)$  171.85(3). **4**:  $Bi(1)-N(1)$  2.129(5),  $Bi(1)-$

N(2) 2.505(7), Bi(1)-N(3) 2.584(6), Bi(1)-Cl(1) 2.644(3), Bi(1)-Cl(2) 2.703(3), N(2)-Bi(1)-N(3) 139.51(17), Cl(1)-Bi(1)-Cl(2) 178.98(5).

As **1-4** represent, to the best of our knowledge, rare examples of *N,N*- and *N,N,N*-chelated antimony and bismuth compounds, they were subjected to the theoretical study with the aim to in detail describe the bonding situation in these compounds. For organometallic compounds, we have found that BP86/def2-TZVP yield very reasonable results.<sup>20</sup> For the compounds presented here, this is not the case. Table 1 summarizes the most important bond lengths for all four compounds and a comparison with the experimental values.

**Table 1** Bond lengths [Å] in **1-4** (Gaussian09, def2-TZVP).

|                   | BP86  | M06-L | M06-2X | Expr.      |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|------------|
| <b>1 (M = Sb)</b> |       |       |        |            |
| M - N(1)          | 2.126 | 2.116 | 2.081  | 2.0810(15) |
| M - N(2)          | 2.522 | 2.493 | 2.323  | 2.3234(17) |
| M - Cl(1)         | 2.389 | 2.370 | 2.369  | 2.3691(6)  |
| M - Cl(2)         | 2.464 | 2.441 | 2.561  | 2.5616(6)  |
| <b>2 (M = Sb)</b> |       |       |        |            |
| M - N(1)          | 2.072 | 2.059 | 2.033  | 2.033(3)   |
| M - N(2)          | 2.552 | 2.521 | 2.446  | 2.446(3)   |
| M - N(3)          | 2.552 | 2.521 | 2.461  | 2.462(3)   |
| M - Cl(1)         | 2.593 | 2.580 | 2.557  | 2.5573(10) |
| M - Cl(2)         | 2.593 | 2.580 | 2.618  | 2.6181(10) |
| <b>3 (M = Sb)</b> |       |       |        |            |
| M - N(1)          | 2.070 | 2.059 | 2.026  | 2.026(3)   |
| M - N(2)          | 2.553 | 2.518 | 2.452  | 2.452(2)   |
| M - N(3)          | 2.554 | 2.518 | 2.454  | 2.454(2)   |
| M - Cl(1)         | 2.600 | 2.588 | 2.561  | 2.5609(6)  |
| M - Cl(2)         | 2.600 | 2.588 | 2.591  | 2.5905(7)  |
| <b>4 (M = Bi)</b> |       |       |        |            |
| M - N(1)          | 2.169 | 2.161 | 2.129  | 2.129(5)   |
| M - N(2)          | 2.589 | 2.551 | 2.505  | 2.505(7)   |
| M - N(3)          | 2.643 | 2.603 | 2.584  | 2.584(6)   |
| M - Cl(1)         | 2.673 | 2.671 | 2.703  | 2.644(3)   |
| M - Cl(2)         | 2.663 | 2.653 | 2.644  | 2.703(3)   |

It appears that BP86 overestimates strongly all M-N bonds such that the description is not convincing. In the last year, the pure functional M06-L came up, which is highly useful for organometallic chemistry as well,<sup>21</sup> but this functional fails either in the correct description of the structures. Hence, we tried the hybrid functional M06-2X which finally gave very good accordance with the experimental data. Then, we investigated all compounds by natural bond orbitals analysis using NBO6.0. Besides the natural charges in Table 2, we analysed the Wiberg bond indices (Table 3). The second order perturbation theory predicted all characteristic M-N bonds to be covalent two-electron-two centre bonds.

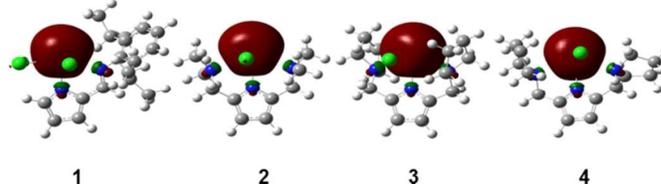
**Table 2** NBO charges (in e- units) in **1-4** (M06-2X/def2-TZVP)\*.

|       | <b>1</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>2</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>3</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>4</b><br>(M = Bi) |
|-------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| M     | 1.57                 | 1.70                 | 1.74                 | 1.85                 |
| N(1)  | -0.67                | -0.71                | -0.73                | -0.71                |
| N(2)  | -0.55                | -0.46                | -0.47                | -0.48                |
| N(3)  | -                    | -0.46                | -0.47                | -0.46                |
| Cl(1) | -0.56                | -0.67                | -0.67                | -0.70                |
| Cl(2) | -0.48                | -0.67                | -0.67                | -0.71                |

**Table 3** Wiberg Bond Indices in **1-4** (M06-2X/def2-TZVP).

|           | <b>1</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>2</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>3</b><br>(M = Sb) | <b>4</b><br>(M = Bi) |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| M - N(1)  | 0.53                 | 0.49                 | 0.47                 | 0.46                 |
| M - N(2)  | 0.23                 | 0.25                 | 0.24                 | 0.21                 |
| M - N(3)  | -                    | 0.25                 | 0.24                 | 0.21                 |
| M - Cl(1) | 0.65                 | 0.49                 | 0.48                 | 0.45                 |
| M - Cl(2) | 0.75                 | 0.49                 | 0.48                 | 0.43                 |

The natural charges show that the pyrrole donor is more negatively charged compared to the other N donors (as expected). However, taking into consideration that pyrrole coordinates as anionic ligand, the charge difference is not so large. The Wiberg bond index displays clearly that the pyrrole donor possesses almost the double donor strength than the imine (**1**) or amine (**2-4**) donors: the pyrrole-metal bond has a WBI of 0.53 - 0.46 whereas the imine/amine-metal bond is estimated to a WBI of only 0.21 - 0.25. Finally, the stereochemically active lone pair of central atoms is then located in the *trans* position to the pyrrole nitrogen atom in all four complexes (Figure 4). The lone pair has a mixed s and p character which gives the stereochemical preference (**1**: 19 %, **2**: 15 %, **3**: 14 %, **4**: 8 %). 8 % for the bismuth compound **4** appears not much but gives a direction to the spherical s-orbital contribution.



**Figure 4** Presentation of stereochemically active lone-pairs of central atoms in **1-4**.

## Conclusions

In conclusion, *N,N* and *N,N,N*-chelated antimony and bismuth compounds **1-4** were prepared and their structures were described both from experimental and theoretical point of view. It was shown that the metal-nitrogen(pyrrole) bond is covalent two-electron-two centre bond. The strength of additional N→M (M=Sb or Bi) intramolecular interactions is well comparable with the carbanionic *N,C,N* analogues, thereby proving promising potential of L<sup>1-3</sup> and related ligands for stabilization of antimony and bismuth compounds similarly to classical pincer type ligands. The reactivity of **1-4** and analogous compounds is currently under investigation.

## Experimental

### General procedures

All manipulations were carried out under an argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk tube technique. All solvents were dried by standard procedures or using Pure Solv-Innovative Technology equipment. C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and CDCl<sub>3</sub> were distilled from LiAlH<sub>4</sub> and degassed before use. The <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer, using 5 mm

tunable broad - band probe. Appropriate chemical shifts in  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were related to the residual signals of the solvent [ $\text{CDCl}_3$ :  $\delta(^1\text{H}) = 7.27$  ppm and  $\delta(^{13}\text{C}) = 77.23$  ppm,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ :  $\delta(^1\text{H}) = 7.16$  ppm,  $\delta(^{13}\text{C}) = 128.39$  ppm]. Elemental analyses were performed on an LECO-CHNS-932 analyser.

### Computational details

The calculations were performed with Gaussian09<sup>22</sup> by using the BP86<sup>23</sup> and M06-L<sup>24</sup> pure functional and with the hybrid functional M06-2X<sup>24</sup> with the Ahlrichs def2-TZVP basis set<sup>25</sup>, which includes effective core potentials on antimony and bismuth. Tight convergence criteria were applied. Both stationary points were characterized by frequency analysis and show the correct number of negative eigenvalues (zero for a local minimum). Based on the geometry obtained by the M062X/def2-TZVP method, a NBO analysis was performed by using this method with NBO 6.0.<sup>26</sup> The Wiberg indices were used as implemented in Gaussian09.<sup>22</sup>

### Syntheses

#### Synthesis of $\text{L}^1\text{SbCl}_2$ (1)

Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (2.6 mL, 4.2 mmol, 1.6M solution) was added to a pre-cooled ( $-80^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of  $\text{L}^1\text{H}$  (1.064 g, 4.2 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and then stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting white suspension of  $\text{L}^1\text{Li}$  was added to a pre-cooled solution ( $-40^\circ\text{C}$ ) of  $\text{SbCl}_3$  (0.954 g, 4.2 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated *in vacuo*. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with warm toluene (30 mL,  $60^\circ\text{C}$ ) and the yellow extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  gave yellow single-crystals of **1**, which were collected by filtration and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 1.15 g (62%). M.p.  $151^\circ\text{C}$ . Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{Sb}$  (MW 446.03): C, 45.8; H, 4.8; Found: C, 45.5; H, 4.6%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  0.98 (d, 6H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 1.13 (d, 6H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 2.92 (sept, 2H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 6.23 (dd, 1H, pyrrole CH), 6.60 (dd, 1H, pyrrole CH), 7.08 (m, 3H,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ), 7.58 (d, 1H,  $\text{CH}=\text{N}$ ), 8.11 (d, 1H, pyrrole CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  24.5 (s,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 26.0 (s,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 29.1 (s,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 115.5 (s, pyrrole CH), 123.2 (s, pyrrole CH), 124.6 (s,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ), 127.9 (s,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ), 135.2 (s, pyrrole C), 136.1 (s, pyrrole CH), 141.4 (s,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ), 142.4 (s,  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ ), 157.2 (s,  $\text{CH}=\text{N}$ ).

#### Synthesis of $\text{L}^2\text{SbCl}_2$ (2)

Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (5.2 mL, 8.3 mmol, 1.6M solution) was added to pre-cooled ( $-80^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of  $\text{L}^2\text{H}$  (1.510 g, 8.3 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellow solution was added to a pre-cooled solution ( $-40^\circ\text{C}$ ) of  $\text{SbCl}_3$  (1.900 g, 8.3 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated *in vacuo*. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the rosy extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  give colourless single-crystals of **2**, which were collected by filtration and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 1.64 g (53%). M.p.  $124^\circ\text{C}$ . Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{18}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_3\text{Sb}$  (MW 372.94): C, 32.2; H, 4.9;

Found: C, 32.4; H, 4.7%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.88 (s, 12H,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 4.03 (s, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 6.00 (s, 2H, pyrrole CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  47.5 (s,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ), 58.1 (s,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 107.3 (s, pyrrole CH), 131.2 (s, pyrrole C).

#### Synthesis of $\text{L}^3\text{SbCl}_2$ (3)

Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (2.7 mL, 4.4 mmol, 1.6M solution) was added to a pre-cooled ( $-80^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of  $\text{L}^3\text{H}$  (1.030 g, 4.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellowish suspension of  $\text{L}^3\text{Li}$  was added to a pre-cooled solution ( $-40^\circ\text{C}$ ) of  $\text{SbCl}_3$  (1.006 g, 4.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated *in vacuo*. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the rosy extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  give colourless single-crystals of **3**, which were collected by filtration and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 1.21 g (64%). M.p.  $156^\circ\text{C}$ . Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_3\text{Sb}$  (MW 425.01): C, 39.6; H, 5.2; Found: C, 39.8; H, 5.4%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.05 (m, 8H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 2.83 (m, 4H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 4.00 (m, 4H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 4.18 (s, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 6.00 (s, 2H, pyrrole CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  23.2 (s,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 54.8 (s,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 56.3 (s,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 106.5 (s, pyrrole CH), 131.4 (s, pyrrole C).

#### Synthesis of $\text{L}^3\text{BiCl}_2$ (4)

Hexane solution of *n*BuLi (3.4 mL, 5.4 mmol, 1.6M solution) was added to a pre-cooled ( $-80^\circ\text{C}$ ) solution of  $\text{L}^3\text{H}$  (1.260 g, 5.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL) and stirred for 1 h at r.t. The resulting yellow suspension was added to a pre-cooled solution ( $-40^\circ\text{C}$ ) of  $\text{BiCl}_3$  (1.701 g, 5.4 mmol) in diethylether (30 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 h at r.t. and evaporated *in vacuo*. The remaining insoluble solid was extracted with dichloromethane (30 mL) and the yellow extract was slightly concentrated and storage of this solution for several days at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$  gave yellow-orange give-single crystals of **4**, which were collected by filtration and dried *in vacuo*. Yield: 1.62 g (59%). M.p.  $154^\circ\text{C}$ . Anal. calc. for  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{22}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_3\text{Bi}$  (MW 512.23): C, 32.8; H, 4.3; Found: C, 32.6; H, 4.4%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  2.03 (m, 8H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 3.17 (m, 4H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 4.08 (m, 4H,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 4.53 (s, 4H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 6.03 (s, 2H, pyrrole CH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.61MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  23.5 (s,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 56.0 (s,  $\text{NC}_4\text{H}_8$ ), 56.7 (s,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}$ ), 107.6 (s, pyrrole CH), 139.0 (s, pyrrole C).

### X-ray crystallography

Suitable single-crystals of **1** - **4** were mounted on glass fibre with an oil and measured on four-circle diffractometer KappaCCD with CCD area detector by monochromatized  $\text{MoK}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$ ) at  $150(1)\text{K}$ . The numerical<sup>27</sup> absorption corrections from crystal shape were applied for all crystals. The structures were solved by the direct method (SIR92)<sup>28</sup> and refined by a full matrix least squares procedure based on F2 (SHELXL97).<sup>29</sup> Hydrogen atoms were fixed into idealized positions (riding model) and assigned temperature factors  $\text{Hiso}(\text{H}) = 1.2 \text{ Ueq}$  (pivot atom) or of  $1.5 \text{ Ueq}$  for the methyl moiety with C-H = 0.96, 0.97, and 0.93  $\text{ \AA}$  for methyl, methylene, and hydrogen atoms in aromatic ring, respectively.

The final difference maps displayed no peaks of chemical significance as the highest peaks and holes are in close vicinity ( $\sim 1 \text{ \AA}$ ) of heavy atoms. Slightly disordered dichloromethane, used as solvent in the case of **2**, was treated by standard procedures, where one of the chlorine atoms is refined into two positions with 60/40 occupancy ratio. Crystallographic data for structural analysis are summarized below and has been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, CCDC nos. 1017116-1017119. Copies of this information may be obtained free of charge from The Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EY, UK (Fax: +44-1223-336033; E-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk or www: http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

**Crystallographic data for 1.**  $C_{17}H_{21}Cl_2N_2Sb$ ,  $M = 446.01$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 11.1671(7)$ ,  $b = 10.8550(5)$ ,  $c = 17.3739(7) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 119.731(4)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1828.81(18) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 150(1) \text{ K}$ , 23704 total reflections, 5544 independent ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.027$ ,  $R1$  (obs. data) = 0.021,  $wR2$  (all data) 0.050),  $S = 1.139$ ,  $\Delta\rho$ , max., min. [ $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ ] 0.571, -0.786, CCDC 1017116.

**Crystallographic data for 2.**  $C_{10}H_{18}Cl_2N_3Sb.CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $M = 457.85$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 8.6800(7)$ ,  $b = 26.242(2)$ ,  $c = 16.6360(12) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 113.379(8)^\circ$ ,  $V = 3478.3(5) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 8$ ,  $T = 150(1) \text{ K}$ , 24447 total reflections, 7647 independent ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.045$ ,  $R1$  (obs. data) = 0.031,  $wR2$  (all data) 0.071),  $S = 1.180$ ,  $\Delta\rho$ , max., min. [ $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ ] 0.949, -1.162, CCDC 1017119.

**Crystallographic data for 3.**  $2(C_{14}H_{22}Cl_2N_3Sb).CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $M = 934.92$ , monoclinic,  $C2$ ,  $a = 19.8552(4)$ ,  $b = 8.2449(3)$ ,  $c = 14.0093(6) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 130.412(4)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1746.19(15) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 2$ ,  $T = 150(1) \text{ K}$ , 6524 total reflections, 3739 independent ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.026$ ,  $R1$  (obs. data) = 0.016,  $wR2$  (all data) 0.042),  $S = 1.146$ ,  $\Delta\rho$ , max., min. [ $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ ] 0.414, -0.815, CCDC 1017117.

**Crystallographic data for 4.**  $C_{14}H_{22}BiCl_2N_3$ ,  $M = 512.23$ , monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ ,  $a = 8.7020(5)$ ,  $b = 20.6791(14)$ ,  $c = 12.1480(7) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $\beta = 132.669(5)^\circ$ ,  $V = 1607.3(2) \text{ \AA}^3$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $T = 150(1) \text{ K}$ , 13439 total reflections, 3650 independent ( $R_{\text{int}} = 0.039$ ,  $R1$  (obs. data) = 0.042,  $wR2$  (all data) 0.096),  $S = 1.216$ ,  $\Delta\rho$ , max., min. [ $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$ ] 3.800, -3.006, CCDC 1017118.

## Acknowledgements

The authors thank the Grant agency of the Czech Republic project no. P207/12/0223. The research leading to these results has partially been supported by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no 312579 (ER-flow). Generous grants of computing time the Paderborn Centre for Parallel Computing PC<sup>2</sup> are gratefully acknowledged.

## Notes and references

<sup>a</sup> Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Technology, University of Pardubice, Studentská 573, CZ - 532 10, Pardubice, Czech Republic Fax: +420466037068; Tel: +420466037163; E-mail: libor.dostal@upce.cz

<sup>b</sup> Department Chemie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Butenandtstr. 5-13, Haus D, 81377 München, Germany

1 C. J. Moulton and B. L. Shaw, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 1976, 1020.

2 G. van Koten, J. T. B. H. Jastrzebski, J. G. Noltes, A. L. Spek and J. C. Schoone, *J. Organomet. Chem.* 1978, **148**, 233.

3 For reviews see: (a) M. Albrecht and G. van Koten, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2001, **40**, 3751; (b) M. E. van der Boom and D. Milstein, *Chem. Rev.* 2003, **103**, 1759; (c) D. Morales – Morales and C. M. Jensen (eds.), *The chemistry of pincer compounds*. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2007; (d) I. Moreno, R. SanMartin, B. Ines, M. T. Herrero and E. Domínguez, *Curr. Org. Chem.* 2009, **13**, 878; (e) D. Milstein, *Top. Catal.* 2010, **53**, 915.

4 For recent examples see: (a) S. Khan, P. P. Samuel, R. Michel, J. M. Dieterich, R. A. Mata, J.-P. Demers, A. Lange, H. W. Roesky and D. Stalke, *Chem. Commun.* 2012, **48**, 4890; (b) S. Khan, R. Michel, J. M. Dieterich, R. A. Mata, H. W. Roesky, J.-P. Demers, A. Lange and D. Stalke, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, **133**, 17889; (c) P. Šimon, F. De Proft, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and L. Dostál, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2010, **49**, 5468; (d) R. Jambor, B. Kašná, K.N. Kirschner, M. Schürmann and K. Jurkschat, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2008, **47**, 1650; (e) M. Bouška, L. Dostál, Z. Padělková, S. Herres-Pawlis, K. Jurkschat, A. Lyčka and R. Jambor, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2012, **51**, 3478; (f) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, A. Lyčka, J. Brus and F. De Proft, *Organometallics* 2008, **27**, 6059; (g) S.P. Chia, H.W. Xi, Y.X. Li, K.H. Lim and C.-W. So, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2013, **52**, 6298; (h) S.P. Chia, R. Ganguly, Y. Li and C.-W. So, *Organometallics* 2012, **31**, 6415; (i) M. Wagner, M. Zoller, W. Hiller, M.H. Prosenc and K. Jurkschat, *Chem. Commun.* 2013, **49**, 8925; (j) M. Wagner, C. Dietz, S.G. Koller, C. Strohmam and K. Jurkschat, *Inorg. Chem.* 2012, **51**, 6851.

5 For example see: (a) L. Balazs, H.J. Breunig, E. Lork, A. Soran and C. Silvestru, *Inorg. Chem.* 2006, **45**, 2341; (b) I.J. Casely, J.W. Ziller, B.J. Mincher and J.W. Evans, *Inorg. Chem.* 2011, **50**, 1513. (c) I.J. Casely, J.W. Ziller, M. Fang, F. Furche and J.W. Evans, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2011, **133**, 5244; (d) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and J. Holeček, *Organometallics* 2008, **27**, 2169; (e) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, V. Lochař, L. Beneš and F. De Proft, *Inorg. Chem.* 2009, **48**, 10495; (f) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, E. Černošková, L. Beneš and F. De Proft, *Organometallics* 2010, **29**, 4486; (g) H.J. Breunig, M.G. Nema, C. Silvestru, A.P. Soran and R. Varga, *Dalton Trans.* 2010, **39**, 11277. (h) P. Šimon, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and L. Dostál, *Organometallics* 2013, **32**, 239; (i) D.R. Kindra, I.J. Casely, M.E. Fieser, J.W. Ziller, F. Furche and J.W. Evans, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2013, **135**, 7777; (j) C.I. Rat, C. Silvestru and H.J. Breunig, *Coord. Chem. Rev.* 2013, **257**, 818 and references cited therein.

6 (a) L. Dostál, I. Císařová, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko and J. Holeček, *Organometallics* 2006, **25**, 4366; (b) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, I. Císařová and J. Holeček, *J. Fluorine Chem.* 2008, **129**, 167; (c) L. Dostál, P. Novák, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, I. Císařová, R. Jirásko and J. Holeček, *Organometallics* 2007, **26**, 2911; (d) M. Chovancová, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, I. Císařová and L. Dostál, *Organometallics* 2009, **28**, 1934; (e) K. Peveling, M. Schürmann, S. Herres-Pawlis, C. Silvestru and K. Jurkschat, *Organometallics* 2011, **30**, 5181.

7 (a) L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, R. Jirásko, J. Holeček and F. De Proft, *Dalton Trans.* 2011, **40**, 8922; (b) J. Vrána, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, J. Holeček and L. Dostál, *Collect. Czech. Chem.* 2011, **40**,

- 8922; (c) J. Vrána, R. Jambor, A. Růžička, A. Lyčka and L. Dostál, *J. Organomet. Chem.* 2012, **718**, 78.
- 8 For revelant and recent examples see: (a) S.S. Chitnis, N. Burford, R. McDonald and M.J. Ferguson, *Inorg. Chem.* 2014, **53**, 5359; (b) W. Clegg, M.R.J. Elsegood, V. Graham, N.C. Norman, N.L. Pickett and K. Tavakkoli, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 1994, 1743; (c) W. Clegg, M.R.J. Elsegood, N.C. Norman and N.L. Pickett, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 1994, 1753; (d) A.R.J. Genge, N.J. Hill, W. Levason and G. Reid, *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* 2001, 1007; (e) S.S. Chitnis, B. Peters, E. Conrad, N. Burford, R. McDonald and M.J. Ferguson, *Chem. Commun.* 2011, **47**, 12331; (f) J.L. Dutton and P.J. Ragona, *Coord. Chem. Rev.* 2011, **255**, 1414 and references cited therein.
- 9 For example see: (a) B. Nekoueshahraki, P.P. Sarish, H.W. Roesky, D. Stern, C. Schulzke and D. Stalke, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2009, **48**, 1; (b) D. Michalik, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2010, **49**, 7575; (c) H.A. Spinney, I. Korobkov, G.A. DiLabio, G.A.P. Yap and D.S. Richeson, *Organometallics* 2007, **26**, 4972; (d) M. Lehrmann, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2012, **51**, 8087; (e) C. Hering, M. Lehrmann, A. Schulz and A. Villinger, *Inorg. Chem.* 2012, **51**, 8112.
- 10 For example see: (a) B. Lyhs, S. Schulz, U. Westphal, D. Bläser, R. Boese and M. Bolte, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* 2009, 2247; (b) B. Lyhs, D. Bläser, C. Wölper and S. Schulz, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2011, **17**, 4914; (c) N. Burford, M. D'eon, P.J. Ragona, R. McDonald and M.J. Ferguson, *Inorg. Chem.* 2004, **43**, 734.
- 11 There are also numerous examples of main group element complexes stabilized by neutral *N,N,N* ligands. For recent examples see: (a) A.P. Singh, H.W. Roesky, E. Carl, D. Stalke, J.P. Demers and A. Lange, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2012, **134**, 4998; (b) E. Magdzinski, P. Gobbo, M.S. Workentin and P.J. Ragona, *Inorg. Chem.* 2012, **51**, 8425; (c) J. Flock, A. Slujanovic, A. Torvisco, W. Schoefberger, B. Gerke, R. Pottgen, R.C. Fischer, and M. Flock, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2013, **19**, 15504; (d) T. Chu, L. Belding, A. van der Art, T. Dudding, I. Korobkov and G.I. Nikonov, *Angew. Chem Int. Ed.* 2014, **53**, 2711.
- 12 For example see: (a) J.-H. Huang, H.-J. Chen, J.-C. Chang, C.-C. Zhou, G.-H. Lee and S.-M. Peng, *Organometallics* 2001, **20**, 2647; (b) J.-C. Chang, Y.-C. Chen, A. Datta, C.-H. Lin, C.-S. Hsiao and J.-H. Huang, *J. Organomet. Chem.* 2011, **696**, 3673; (c) J.-C. Chang, C.-H. Hung and J.-H. Huang, *Organometallics* 2001, **20**, 4445; (d) P.-C. Kuo, J.-H. Huang, C.-H. Hung, G.-H. Lee and S.-M. Peng, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* 2003, 1440.
- 13 C. Maaß, D. Andrada, R.A. Mata, R. Herbst-Irmer and D. Stalke, *Inorg. Chem.* 2013, **52**, 9539.
- 14 (a) Y. Yang, B. Liu, K. Lv, W. Gao, D. Cui, X. Chen and X. Jing, *Organometallics* 2007, **26**, 4574; (b) I.T. Kim and R.L. Elsenbaumer, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1998, **39**, 1087.
- 15 A.P. Soran, C. Silvestru, H.J. Breunig, G. Balázs and J.C. Green, *Organometallics* 2007, **26**, 1196.
- 16 (a) P. Pyykkö and M. Atsumi, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2009, **15**, 186; (b) P. Pyykkö and M. Atsumi, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2009, **15**, 12770; (c) P. Pyykkö, S. Riedel and M. Patzschke *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2005, **11**, 3511.
- 17 L. Dostál, R. Jambor, A. Růžička and P. Šimon, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* 2011, 2380.
- 18 D.A. Atwood, A.H. Cowley and J. Ruiz, *Inorg. Chim. Acta* 1992, **198-200**, 271.
- 19 A.P. Soran, H.J. Breunig, V. Lippolis, M. Arca and C. Silvestru, *Dalton Trans.* 2009, **11**, 77.
- 20 M. Bouška, L. Dostál, Z. Padělková, A. Lyčka, S. Herres-Pawlis, K. Jurkschat and R. Jambor, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2012, **51**, 3478.
- 21 R. Peverati and D.G. Truhlar, *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A* 2014, **372**, 1471.
- 22 Gaussian 09, Revision D.01, M.J. Frisch, G.W. Trucks, H.B. Schlegel, G.E. Scuseria, M.A. Robb, J.R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H.P. Hratchian, A.F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J.L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J.A. Montgomery Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J.J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K.N. Kudin, V.N. Staroverov, T. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J.M. Millam, M. Klene, J.E. Knox, J.B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R.E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A.J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J.W. Ochterski, R.L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V.G. Zakrzewski, G.A. Voth, P. Salvador, J.J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A.D. Daniels, O. Farkas, J.B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski and D.J. Fox, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2013.
- 23 (a) A.D.J. Becke, *Chem. Phys.* 1993, **98**, 5648; (b) J.P. Perdew, *Phys. Rev. B* 1986, **33**, 8822.
- 24 Y. Zhao and D.G. Truhlar, *J. Chem. Phys.* 2006, **125**, 194101.
- 25 F. Weigend and R. Ahlrichs, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 2005, **7**, 3297.
- 26 E.D. Glendening, C.R. Landis and F. Weinhold, *J. Comp. Chem.* 2013, 1429.
- 27 P. Coppens: In: F.R. Ahmed, S.R. Hall and C.P. Huber, Eds., *Crystallographic Computing Copenhagen*, Munksgaard 1970, 255–270.
- 28 A. Altomare, G. Casciarone, C. Giacovazzo, A. Guagliardi, M.C. Burla, G. Polidori and M.J. Camalli, *Appl. Crystallogr.* 1994, **27**, 1045.
- 29 G.M. Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXL-97, A Program for Crystal Structure Refinement. University of Göttingen, Germany 1997.

The synthesis and structural study dealing with antimony(III) and bismuth(III) amides, derivatives of pyrrole core, with pendant nitrogen functionalities is presented.

