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Research paper

Towards a frustrated Lewis pair-ionic liquid system.

Florian G. Perrin, Felix D. Bobbink, Emilia Păunescu, Zhaofu Fei, Rosario Scopelliti, Gabor Laurenczy, Sergey Katsyuba, Paul J. Dyson

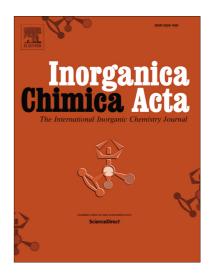
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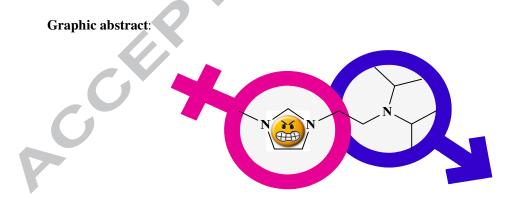
Florian G. Perrin¹, Felix D. Bobbink¹, Emilia Păunescu¹, Zhaofu Fei¹, Rosario Scopelliti¹, Gabor Laurenczy¹, Sergey Katsyuba² and Paul J. Dyson^{1,*}

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Abstract: An ionic liquid encompassing a bulky tertiary amine was synthesized and used as a dual solvent-reactant for the formation of a frustrated Lewis pair with tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane, forming a pseudo-frustrated Lewis pair-ionic liquid system. The ionic liquid-LA system is prone to self-ionization, i.e. with the formation of iminium and boron hydride species, which are able to form adducts with CO₂. Compared to frustrated Lewis pairs operating in organic solvents of low polarity, more forcing conditions are required for the ionic liquid system. Calculations indicate that the anion of the ionic liquid interacts with the Lewis acidic boron center, hindering reactivity, and rationalizing the low reactivity observed.

Keywords: Frustrated Lewis pairs, Ionic liquids, Hydrogen activation, CO₂ reduction, Imidazolium salts.



Frustrated Lewis pairs (FLPs) are composed of sterically or electronically hindered Lewis acids (LA) and Lewis bases (LB) that do not form strong LA-LB adducts.^{1–4} This property makes FLPs highly reactive and some are able to heterolytically split hydrogen and catalyse

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