



Generation of $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{N}_3)$ from a family of new uranium(III) alkyl complexes

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ABSTRACT

A new family of uranium(III) benzyl species supported by bulky hydrotris(3,5-dimethylpyrazolyl)borate (Tp^*) ligands has been synthesized and characterized. These derivatives were synthesized by treating Tp^*_2UI (**1-I**) with various benzylpotassium salts to afford $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{-para-isopropylphenyl})$ (**1-p-ⁱPr**), $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{-para-tert-butylphenyl})$ (**1-p-^tBu**), $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{-meta-methoxyphenyl})$ (**1-m-OMe**), and $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{-ortho-picolyl})$ (**1-o-Picolyl**). Along with previously reported $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})$ (**1-CH₂Ph**), these uranium alkyl complexes can be treated with an equivalent of Me_3SiN_3 to yield Tp^*_2UN_3 (**2-N₃**), releasing an equivalent of the corresponding benzyltrimethylsilane. All compounds were characterized by multinuclear NMR, IR, and electronic absorption spectroscopies as well as X-ray crystallography.

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1. Introduction

The field of organouranium chemistry has been of interest since the mid-twentieth century, when such compounds were predicted to be useful for isotope separation due to their presumed increased volatility [1,2]. While uranium alkyls did not prove their versatility in this realm, these species have been of fundamental interest for comparison to their transition metal counterparts, with most of the strides being made for uranium(IV) derivatives [3–7]. More recently, new synthetic methodologies have allowed access to tri-, penta-, and hexavalent analogues [8].

Efforts in our group have focused on the synthesis, characterization and reactivity of organouranium species in the +3 [9–11] and +4 [12,13] oxidation states. In regard to the former, we have demonstrated that utilizing sterically demanding hydrotris(3,5-dimethylpyrazolyl)borate (Tp^*) ligands allows divergence from the bulky $-\text{CH}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$ group [3,14–16], which is typically used for U(III), effectively supporting benzyl [9,10], neosilyl [10], and methyl [10] substituents. In the latter case, we have shown that when uranium(IV) centers are benzylated, such species are stable in their homoleptic form, with no bulky ancillary ligands required due to the increased hapticity (η^4) of the benzyl group, which saturates the coordination sphere [13,17,18]. These homoleptic compounds

are even tolerant to ring substitution, facilitating isolation of the *p*-ⁱPr, *p*-^tBu, *m*-OMe, *o*-OMe, and *o*-picoline derivatives [13]. In this study, we sought to combine these systems to determine if the bis(Tp^*) uranium(III) derivatives were also tolerant to the same ring substitution, given that uranium(III) is more electron rich and alkyl ligands are generally more reactive towards decomposition pathways. To this end, we employed substituted benzylpotassium salts, $\text{KCH}_2\text{Ph}'$ ($\text{Ph}' = p\text{-}^i\text{PrPh}, p\text{-}^t\text{BuPh}, m\text{-OMePh}, o\text{-picolyl}$) [13], to generate this new family. These trivalent derivatives were stable and resulted in useful synthons, as treating these members with Me_3SiN_3 afforded Tp^*_2UN_3 , which is the first monomeric, neutral, trivalent azide derivative for the actinides. Full spectroscopic and structural characterization is discussed for each compound.

2. Results and discussion

Our first experiments were geared towards the synthesis of the new members of the uranium(III) benzyl family. Treating a stirring solution of Tp^*_2UI (**1-I**) with a slight excess (1.20 equiv) of substituted benzylpotassium salt resulted in an immediate color change from dark purple to dark green in each case. After two hours of stirring and subsequent workup, green powders were isolated, assigned as $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{UCH}_2\text{Ph}'$ (**1-CH₂Ph'**) and characterized using ¹H NMR spectroscopy (Scheme 1). The spectra for the first three entries, **1-p-ⁱPr**, **1-p-^tBu**, **1-m-OMe**, had similar paramagnetically broadened and shifted features, with the number of resonances and corresponding integration values appropriate for C_{2v} symmetry.

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Most notably, the methylene resonances had diagnostic shifts, as these are closest to the paramagnetic uranium center (**1-p-ⁱPr** = 24.42 ppm; **1-p-^tBu** = 24.72 ppm; **1-m-OMe** = 20.98 ppm). ¹¹B NMR spectroscopy was used to assess the boron environment as well. The products containing the bulky alkyl groups (**1-p-ⁱPr** = −15.6 ppm; **1-p-^tBu** = −15.4 ppm) and electron-withdrawing group (**1-m-OMe** = −14.0 ppm) have a singlet with chemical shifts that are consistent with $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{UCH}_2\text{Ph}$ (**1-CH₂Ph**) (−15.4 ppm) [19].

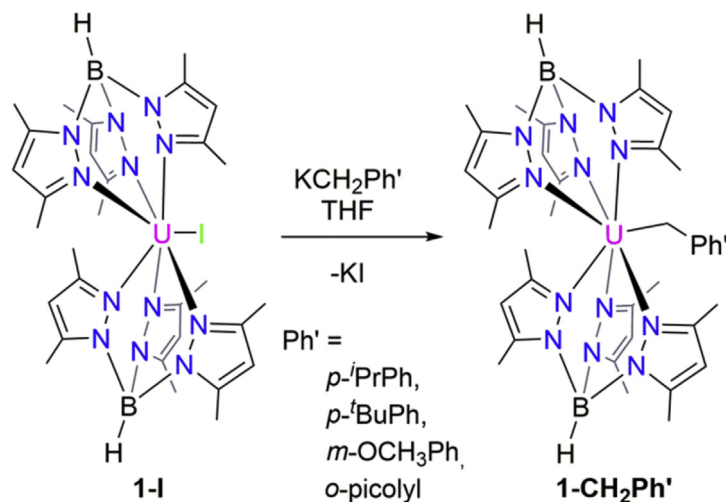
1-o-Picolyl displayed a more complicated, C_1 symmetric spectrum, likely due to coordination through the nitrogen atom of the *ortho*-picoline, similar to the uranium(IV) homoleptic species (Fig. S10) [13]. The chemically inequivalent methyl groups of the Tp^* appear as 12 singlets (3H each), whereas the C-H pyrazole protons are represented by six resonances (1H each). Aryl protons observed as four singlets between 3.58 and 17.43 ppm are also visible. A broad singlet (2H) observed at −5.56 ppm represents the methylene protons. Two resonances are observed by ¹¹B NMR spectroscopy for **1-o-Picolyl** (−13.1, 2.9 ppm) due to the asymmetry imparted by the nitrogen coordination to uranium. Evaluation of the family of **1-CH₂Ph'** by IR spectroscopy (KBr pellet) revealed two $\nu_{\text{B-H}}$ stretches (**1-p-ⁱPr** = 2544, 2521 cm^{-1} ; **1-p-^tBu** = 2545, 2523 cm^{-1} ; **1-m-OMe** = 2556, 2522 cm^{-1} ; **1-o-Picolyl** = 2555, 2519 cm^{-1}), which is consistent with other bis(Tp^*) U complexes [19–21].

To evaluate the structural properties of these compounds, single crystals of all compounds were grown for analysis by X-ray diffraction (Fig. 1). Unfortunately, suitable crystals of pure **1-p-^tBu** were not obtainable; analysis revealed that it was in fact a 0.95:0.05 co-crystal of **1-p-^tBu** and **1-I**. In each case, refinement of the data showed the expected $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U(III)}$ benzyl complex with two $\kappa^3\text{-Tp}^*$ ligands per uranium center (**1-p-ⁱPr** – $\text{U-N}_{\text{pyrazole}}$: 2.528(3)–2.690(3) Å; **1-p-^tBu** – $\text{U-N}_{\text{pyrazole}}$: 2.517(2)–2.703(2) Å; **1-m-OMe** – $\text{U-N}_{\text{pyrazole}}$: 2.524(5)–2.706(5) Å; **1-o-Picolyl** – $\text{U-N}_{\text{pyrazole}}$: 2.580(3)–2.736(3) Å) (Table 1). The U-C bonds for the series (**1-p-ⁱPr** = 2.629(4) Å; **1-p-^tBu** = 2.632(4) Å; **1-m-OMe** = 2.675(15) Å; **1-o-Picolyl** = 2.747(4) Å) are within the range of other reported uranium(III) alkyl bond distances, including **1-CH₂Ph** (2.57(2) Å) [9], $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{SiMe}_3)$ (2.601(9) Å) [22], $\text{Tp}^*\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})_2$ (2.615(7), 2.604(9) Å) [10], $\text{U}(\text{CH}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2)_3$ (2.48(2) Å) [14], and $\text{TpTp}^*\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{Ph})$

(Tp = hydrotris(pyrazolyl)borate) (2.56(2) Å) [11]. Consistent with the solution ¹H NMR spectrum, the solid state molecular structure of **1-o-Picolyl** shows pyridine coordination taking on the aza-allyl coordination mode observed for $\text{U}(\text{CH}_2\text{o-Picolyl})_4$ [13].

Further characterization by electronic absorption spectroscopy was performed on the family of uranium benzyl derivatives to confirm the +3 oxidation state of its members. All compounds have similar features in the near-infrared (NIR) region, characterized by a relatively intense absorption near 1250 nm (ca. $150 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$) with additional broad features up through 1650 nm, consistent for U(III) ions (Fig. 2) [23,24]. Across repeated measurements, **1-m-OMe** gave absorbances with lower molar absorptivities than the other benzyl complexes, possibly due to the electronic effects from the methoxy substituent. The UV–visible region displays characteristic spectra similar to **1-CH₂Ph**'s previously reported spectra [9].

As expected based on our previous work, this new family of benzyl derivatives, **1-CH₂Ph'**, are useful synthons to develop new uranium(III) derivatives. One target was a monomeric, neutral trivalent uranium azide, as previous examples have oxidation states ranging from +4 to +6 or are trivalent anions stabilized by a counteranion ($[\text{Na}(18\text{-crown-6})][\text{Cp}'_3\text{UN}_3]$ ($\text{Cp}' = \text{C}_5\text{H}_4\text{SiMe}_3$)) [25]. Treating dark green THF solutions of **1-CH₂Ph'** with one equivalent of azidotrimethylsilane (Me_3SiN_3) caused an immediate change to blue-green. After 30 min, volatiles were removed, and the resulting oil was washed with *n*-pentane to remove $\text{Me}_3\text{SiCH}_2\text{Ph}'$ [26–28], affording a blue-green powder assigned as Tp^*_2UN_3 (**2-N₃**) (Scheme 2). Analysis by ¹H NMR spectroscopy revealed four resonances, consistent with C_{2v} symmetry. Two signals (18H) corresponding to the *endo*-(−15.00 ppm) and *exo*-methyl (1.28 ppm) groups were observed for Tp^* , with a singlet (6H) at 7.67 ppm for the $\text{Tp}^*\text{-CH}$. In this case, a very broad singlet (10.12 ppm) was also found for the $\text{Tp}^*\text{-B-H}$. A single boron resonance is observable in the ¹¹B NMR spectrum (10.6 ppm), which is expected for the proposed symmetry. This is shifted from the uranium alkyl starting materials [19] and is consistent with other trivalent uranium complexes [11,23,29]. Two B-H stretches are visible by IR spectroscopy (KBr pellet) (2558, 2523 cm^{-1}), as noted for the **1-CH₂Ph'** family. An asymmetric stretch for the terminal azide (2073 cm^{-1}) is consistent with other uranium $\eta^1\text{-azide}$ complexes (2055–2086 cm^{-1}) [30–32]. As for the bis(Tp^*)U alkyl



Scheme 1. The preparation of U(III) benzyl compounds from **1-I**.

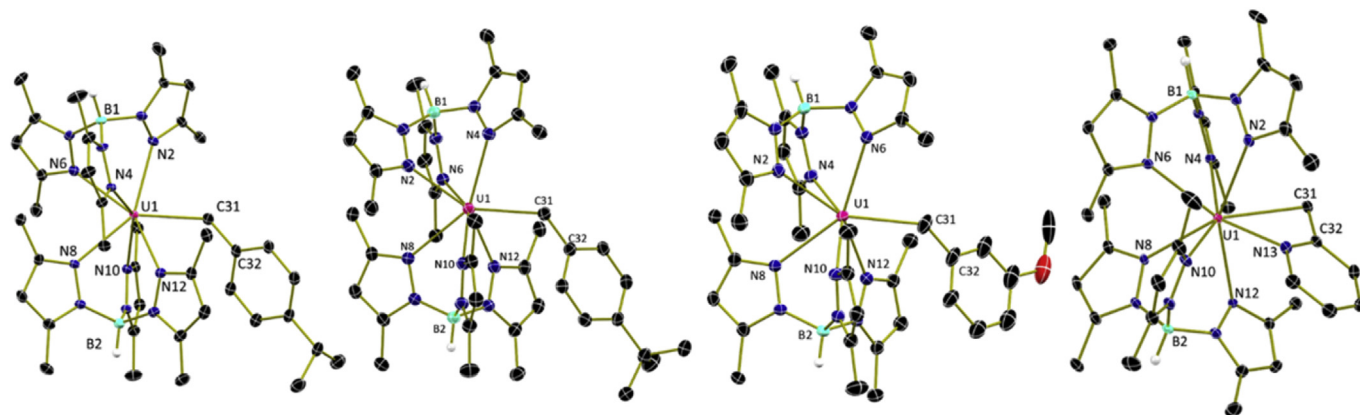


Fig. 1. Molecular structures of **1-p-ⁱPr**, **1-p-ⁱBu** × **Tp*₂UI**, **1-m-OMe**, and **1-o-Picolyl** (left to right), displayed with 30% probability ellipsoids. Selected hydrogen atoms, iodine atoms, and co-crystallized solvent molecules have been omitted for clarity.

Table 1

Selected bond lengths of **1-p-ⁱPr**, **1-p-ⁱBu** × **Tp*₂UI**, **1-m-OMe**, **1-o-Picolyl**, and **2-N₃**.

	1-p- ⁱ Pr	1-p- ⁱ Bu	1-m-OMe	1-o-Picolyl	2-N ₃
U1-N2	2.540(3) Å	2.675(2) Å	2.673(4) Å	2.736(3) Å	2.673(3) Å
U1-N4	2.528(3) Å	2.589(2) Å	2.524(5) Å	2.580(3) Å	2.530(3) Å
U1-N6	2.690(3) Å	2.585(2) Å	2.560(5) Å	2.709(3) Å	2.632(3) Å
U1-N8	2.652(3) Å	2.703(2) Å	2.612(5) Å	2.593(3) Å	2.655(3) Å
U1-N10	2.590(3) Å	2.517(2) Å	2.592(5) Å	2.621(3) Å	2.648(3) Å
U1-N12	2.589(3) Å	2.544(2) Å	2.706(5) Å	2.703(3) Å	2.558(3) Å
U1-N13	—	—	—	2.491(3) Å	2.321(4) Å
U1-C31	2.629(4) Å	2.632(4) Å	2.675(15) Å	2.747(4) Å	—

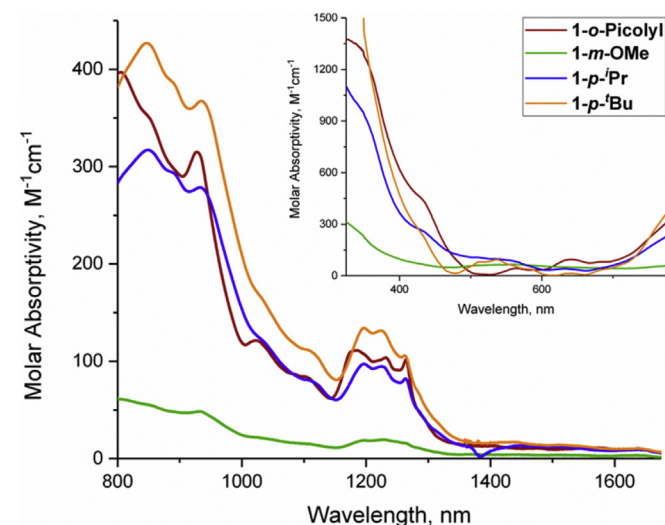


Fig. 2. Electronic absorption spectra of **1-o-Picolyl** (red), **1-m-OMe** (green), **1-p-ⁱBu** (orange), and **1-p-ⁱPr** (blue) recorded from 300 to 1650 nm in THF at ambient temperature. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

compounds, the electronic absorption spectrum of **2-N₃** has an absorption at 1250 nm (ca. 200 M^{−1}cm^{−1}) and broad U(III)-like features in the NIR region. In the UV–visible region, there is a strong color-producing band at λ_{max} = 641 nm (1000 M^{−1}cm^{−1}) (Fig. 3).

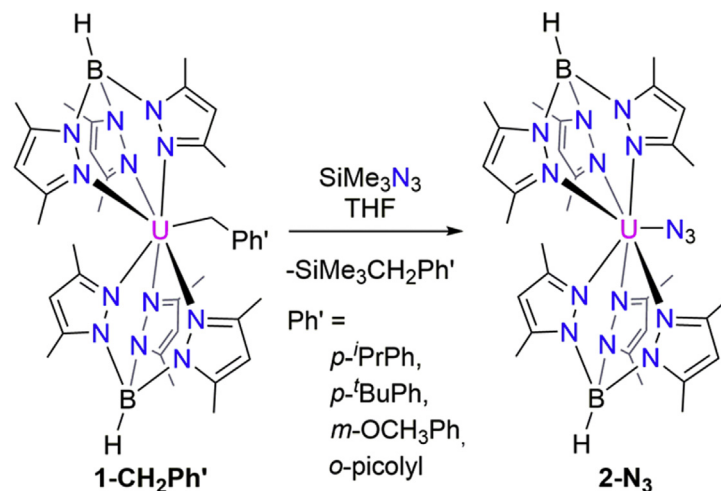
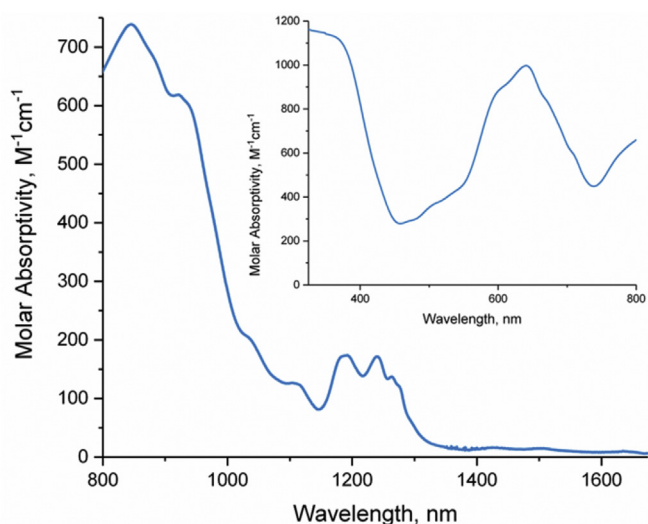
Single, X-ray quality crystals of **2-N₃** were obtainable by cooling a concentrated toluene solution to −35 °C. Analysis revealed two

κ³-Tp* ligands on the seven-coordinate uranium center (Fig. 4), with U-N_{pyrazole} bond distances (2.530(6)–2.673(3) Å) (Table 1) consistent with other bis(Tp*) uranium compounds [33,34]. The U-N_{azide} bond length of 2.321(4) Å is significantly shorter than the U-N_{pyrazole} distances, which is expected for a monodentate, mono-anionic ligand. There have been U(IV) [31,32,35–46], U(V) [47], and U(VI) [30,48–50] terminal azide complexes reported and bridging U(III) azide complexes [25,51], but to our knowledge, **2-N₃** is the first report of a monomeric, terminal U(III) azide complex.

The U1-N13-N14 bond angle (166.0(3)°) is slightly bent, likely due to the crowded bis(Tp*) ligand framework. This U-N_{azide} angle is similar to those observed in other U-N₃ complexes (Cp*₂U[N(SiMe₃)₂](N₃) = 163.5(17)° [40]; ((^{Ad}ArO)₃tacn) UN₃ = 177.2(5)°, ((^{Ad}ArOH)₃tacn = 1,4,7-tris(3-adamantyl-5-*tert*-butyl-2-hydroxybenzyl)1,4,7-triazacyclonone) [35]; U(N₃)(Tren^{TIPS}) = 176.0(3)°, (Tren^{TIPS} = tris(triisopropylsilylamidomethyl)amine) [42]. The linearity of the azide fragment (N13–N14–N15, 178.1(5)°) is expected and consistent with previously reported uranium azide complexes (Cp*₂U[N(Ph)(SiMe₃)](N₃) = 177.9(10)° [39]; U(N(SiMe₃)₂)₃(N₃)₂ = 179.5(4)° [47]. The intraligand bond distances (N13–N14 = 1.201(6) Å; N14–N15 = 1.154(6) Å) are similar to other reported bond lengths (Cp*₂U(O-2,6-*i*Pr₂C₆H₃)(N₃) – N–N = 1.197(10), 1.172(11) Å) [41] and suggest that any charge is delocalized across all the nitrogen atoms within the azide fragment.

After isolation and characterization of **2-N₃**, attempts were made to induce dinitrogen loss to form the corresponding uranium(V) nitrido species. Photolysis using both UV or compact fluorescent lamps produced intractable mixtures of products, with the same result observed after prolonged heating as well. Addition of BPh₃ to **2-N₃** also appeared to result in immediate decomposition, giving a complicated NMR spectrum. In each case, there was not an obvious sign of effervescence which would indicate N₂ loss.

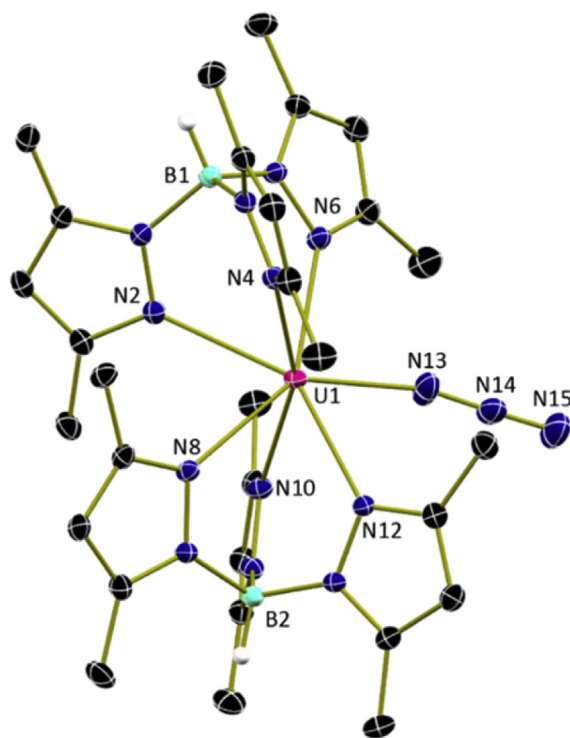
Compound **2-N₃** is the latest entry into an established family of bis(Tp*) uranium(III) compounds bearing monoanionic ligands, including Tp*₂UX, where X = CH₃, F, Cl, I. Examining crystallographic data for these species affords an opportunity for a direct comparison of sterics, which can be modeled in a quantitative way using the Solid-G [52,53] program. This analysis uses “numerically calculated ligand steric parameters” from experimentally determined molecular structures to calculate the extent of the uranium coordination sphere that is blocked by its ligands (Table 2). The reported G(complex) value represents the sum of all ligands minus any overlap to give an absolute value for shielding. The percentage of the coordination sphere blocked by the Tp* and X ligands is also given. Based on the G(complex) for this system, we can see an

Scheme 2. Reaction of **1-CH₂Ph'** to afford **2-N₃**.Fig. 3. Electronic absorption spectra of **2-N₃** recorded from 300 to 1650 nm in THF at ambient temperature.

expected trend for the halide series (F, Cl, I), in that the larger the halide substituent, the more of the coordination sphere that is blocked. Furthermore, the respective $G(\text{complex})$ values of 85.64% and 85.57% for **2-N₃** and $\text{Tp}^*_2\text{UCh}_3$ show these derivatives are very similar in their degrees of coordinative saturation, and that this is on par with what is observed for **1-I**. Individually, however, the steric influence of the azide substituent on the uranium(III) ion is the same as for a fluoride substituent due to the affinity of the electropositive uranium for this electron withdrawing ligand.

3. Summary

Overall, we have demonstrated that uranium(III) alkyls, which are typically highly reactive and difficult to make, can be synthesized using the bulky bis(hydrotris(3,5-dimethylpyrazolyl))borate framework. Installation of benzyl groups was possible using substituted benzylpotassium salts, demonstrating that uranium(III) is tolerant to methoxy and pyridyl functional groups. This family was useful for the synthesis of the first monomeric, neutral U(III)

Fig. 4. Molecular structure of **2-N₃** displayed with 30% probability ellipsoids. Selected hydrogen atoms and co-crystallized toluene molecules have been omitted for clarity.

azide when treated with Me_3SiN_3 , as clean silane elimination occurs. Full spectroscopic and structural analyses reveal the unique features of this interesting trivalent species, which is remarkably stable given its electron-rich uranium center.

4. Experimental section

4.1. General considerations

All air- and moisture-sensitive manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques or in an MBraun inert

Table 2
Solid angle parameters obtained from crystallographic data using Solid-G [52,53].

	Tp* ₂ UN ₃	Tp* ₂ UCH ₃ [22]	Tp* ₂ UF [29]	Tp* ₂ UCl [54]	Tp* ₂ UI [55]
G(Tp*), %	38.61	37.60	37.73	37.51	38.42
	38.06	39.40	38.37	37.99	38.64
G(X), %	12.24	10.24	12.25	9.74	10.30
G(complex), %	85.64	85.57	84.72	85.20	85.78

atmosphere drybox with an atmosphere of purified nitrogen. The MBraun drybox was equipped with a cold well designed for freezing samples in liquid nitrogen as well as two –35 °C freezers for cooling samples and crystallizations. Solvents for sensitive manipulations were dried and deoxygenated based on literature procedures using a Seca solvent purification system [56]. Benzene-d₆ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, dried with molecular sieves and sodium, and degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. Azidotrimethylsilane was purchased from Acros Organics and degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles before use. Benzylpotassium salts [13], Tp*₂UI (**1-I**) [57], and Tp*₂UCH₂Ph (**1-CH₂Ph**) [9] were prepared per literature procedures.

¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova 300 spectrometer operating at 299.992 MHz. ¹¹B NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Inova 300 spectrometer operating at a frequency of 96.24 MHz. All chemical shifts are reported relative to the peak for SiMe₄, using ¹H (residual) chemical shifts of the solvent (C₆D₆: 7.16 ppm) as a secondary standard. ¹¹B chemical shifts are reported relative to the peak for BF₃·Et₂O (0.0 ppm). The spectra for paramagnetic molecules were obtained by using an acquisition time of 0.5 s, thus the peak widths reported have an error of ±2 Hz. For paramagnetic molecules, the ¹H NMR data are reported with the chemical shift, followed by the peak width at half height in Hertz, the integration value, and, where possible, the peak assignment. Elemental analyses were performed by Midwest Microlab, LLC (Indianapolis, Indiana). Solid state infrared spectra were recorded using a Thermo Nicolet 6700 spectrophotometer; samples were made by crushing the solids, mixing with dry KBr, and pressing into a pellet. Electronic absorption spectroscopic measurements were recorded at ambient temperature in sealed 1 cm quartz cuvettes with a Cary 6000i UV-Vis-NIR spectrophotometer.

Single crystals of **1-m-OME** and **2-N₃**, suitable for X-ray diffraction, were coated with poly(isobutylene) oil in a drybox and quickly transferred to the goniometer head of a Bruker AXS D8 Quest diffractometer with kappa geometry, an I-μ-S microsource X-ray tube, laterally graded multilayer (Goebel) mirror single crystal for monochromatization, a Photon2 CMOS area detector and an Oxford Cryosystems low temperature device. Examination and data collection were performed with Cu Kα radiation (λ = 1.54184 Å). Single crystals of **1-p-ⁱPr**, **1-p-^tBu** × **1-I**, and **1-o-Picolyl**, suitable for X-ray diffraction, were coated with poly(isobutylene) oil in a drybox and quickly transferred to the goniometer head of a Bruker AXS D8 Quest diffractometer with a fixed chi angle, a sealed tube fine focus X-ray tube, single crystal curved graphite incident beam monochromator and a Photon200 CMOS area detector. Examination and data collection were performed with Mo Kα radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å). Data were collected, reflections were indexed and processed, and the files scaled and corrected for absorption using APEX3 [58]. Complete crystallographic data, in CIF format (CCDC 1567337–1567341), have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (CCDC). Additional details for all compounds are given in the SI.

4.2. General synthesis for Tp*₂U(III) alkyl compounds

A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with Tp*₂UI (0.500 g, 0.521 mmol) in 10 mL THF. To this stirring purple solution, an excess

of substituted benzyl potassium salt (KCH₂-p-ⁱPrPh: 0.112 g, 0.652 mmol; KCH₂-p-^tBuPh: 0.121 g, 0.652 mmol; KCH₂-m-OMePh: 0.104 g, 0.652 mmol; KCH₂pyr: 0.085 g, 0.652 mmol) was added. The color of the solution became dark green after 2 h, after which the green solution was filtered over Celite, and volatiles were subsequently removed *in vacuo*. The resulting green powders were then washed with *n*-pentane (2 × 5 mL) and dried to afford dark green solids identified as **1-p-ⁱPr** (0.458 g, 0.474 mmol, 91% yield), **1-p-^tBu** (0.434 g, 0.443 mmol 85% yield), **1-m-OME** (0.417 g, 0.438 mmol, 84% yield), or **1-o-Picolyl** (0.424 g, 0.459 mmol, 88% yield). Single crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were grown from a concentrated THF solution (**1-p-ⁱPr**) or diffusion of a concentrated diethyl ether solution into toluene (**1-p-^tBu**, **1-m-OME**, **1-o-Picolyl**) stored at –35 °C. **1-p-ⁱPr**: Elemental analysis of C₄₀H₅₇B₂N₁₂U, Calculated: C, 49.75; H, 5.95; N, 17.41. Found: C, 49.86; H, 5.93; N, 17.02. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –11.19 (24, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), –2.77 (5, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), 0.30 (23, 2H, B–H), 5.70 (4, 6H, ⁱPr–CH₃), 7.25 (5, 6H, Tp*–CH), 9.93 (6, 1H, ⁱPr–CH), 17.82 (17, 2H, *meta*–CH), 24.42 (4, 2H, –CH₂), 26.59 (24, 2H, *ortho*–CH). ¹¹B NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –15.6. IR (KBr): ν_{B–H} = 2544, 2521 cm^{–1}. **1-p-^tBu**: Elemental analysis of C₄₁H₅₉B₂N₁₂U was not performed due to co-crystallization of **1-I**. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –11.29 (23, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), –2.88 (4, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), –0.03 (3, 2H, B–H), 5.69 (2, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 7.13 (4, 6H, Tp*–CH), 17.89 (71, 2H, *o*–/*m*–CH), 24.72 (3, 2H, –CH₂), 26.48 (26, 1H, *m*–/*o*–CH). ¹¹B NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –15.4. IR (KBr): 2545, 2523 ν_{B–H} = cm^{–1}. **1-m-OME**: Elemental analysis of C₃₈H₅₃B₂N₁₂OU, Calculated: C, 47.86; H, 5.60; N, 17.63. Found: C, 47.37; H, 5.58; N, 17.42. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –11.31 (23, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), –2.79 (14, 18H, Tp*–CH₃), –0.07 (3, 2H, B–H), 7.15 (6, 6H, Tp*–CH), 7.86 (4, 3H, –OCH₃), 10.49 (5, 1H, *o*–/*p*–CH), 17.37 (8, 1H, *o*–/*p*–CH), 20.98 (1, 2H, –CH₂), 24.90 (24, 1H, *m*–/*o*–CH), 27.29 (26, 1H, *m*–/*o*–CH). ¹¹B NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –14.0. IR (KBr): ν_{B–H} = 2556, 2522 cm^{–1}. **1-o-Picolyl**: Elemental analysis of C₃₆H₅₀B₂N₁₃U, Calculated: C, 46.77; H, 5.45; N, 19.70. Found: C, 46.71; H, 5.42; N, 19.06. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –27.65 (19, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –23.68 (21, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –11.78 (14, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –11.33 (13, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –5.56 (3, 2H, –CH₂pyr), –3.84 (7, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –2.22 (22, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), –0.10 (7, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 0.02 (7, 1H, Tp*–CH), 0.33 (7, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 1.31 (7, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 1.40 (16, 1H, Tp*–CH), 2.71 (7, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 3.58 (15, 1H, *p*–CH), 3.87 (16, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 4.37 (8, 1H, Tp*–CH), 7.45 (8, 1H, Tp*–CH), 8.58 (16, 1H, Tp*–CH), 10.86 (8, 1H, Tp*–CH), 10.98 (18, 3H, Tp*–CH₃), 11.47 (8, 1H, Tp*–CH), 15.53 (8, 1H, *m*–CH), 16.35 (8, 1H, *m*–CH), 17.43 (35, 1H, *o*–CH), 39.71 (26, 1H, Tp*–CH). ¹¹B NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = –13.1, 2.9. IR (KBr): ν_{B–H} = 2555, 2519 cm^{–1}.

4.3. Synthesis of Tp*₂UN₃ (2-N₃)

A 20 mL scintillation vial was charged with **1-CH₂Ph** (**1-CH₂Ph**: 0.300 g, 0.325 mmol; **1-p-ⁱPr**: 0.345 g, 0.357 mmol; **1-p-^tBu**: 0.200 g, 0.204 mmol; **1-m-OME**: 0.200 g, 0.210 mmol; **1-o-Picolyl**: 0.200 g, 0.216 mmol) in 8 mL THF. To this dark green solution, azidotrimethylsilane (**1-CH₂Ph**: 32.5 μL; **1-p-ⁱPr**: 35.7 μL; **1-p-^tBu**: 20.4 μL; **1-m-OME**: 21.0 μL; **1-o-Picolyl**: 21.6 μL) was added via syringe and the solution immediately became blue-green. After 30 min, volatiles were removed *in vacuo*, affording a blue powder. This crude product was washed with *n*-pentane (4 × 5 mL) and

dried again. This resulted in a blue powder (**1-CH₂Ph**: 0.236 g, 0.270 mmol, 83% yield; **1-pⁱPr**: 0.242 g, 0.275 mmol, 77%; **1-p^tBu**: 0.112 g, 0.128 mmol, 63%; **1-m-OMe**: 0.166 g, 0.190 mmol, 91%; **1-o-Picolyl**: 0.152 g, 0.174 mmol, 80%) assigned as Tp²UN₃ (**2-N₃**). Elemental analysis of C₅₉H₇₄B₃N₁₅U. Calculated: C, 57.25; H, 6.03; N, 13.58. Found C, 56.82; H, 5.93; N, 13.58. ¹H NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = −15.00 (43, 18H, Tp²-CH₃), 1.28 (17, 18H, Tp²-CH₃), 7.67 (20, 6H, Tp²-CH), 10.12 (5, 2H, B-H). ¹¹B NMR (C₆D₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) = 10.6. IR (KBr): ν_{B-H} = 2558, 2523 cm^{−1}; ν_{N3} = 2073 cm^{−1}.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jorgchem.2017.09.013>.

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