

# Bis[1,3-bis(diphenylmethylsilylamido)propane]zirconium: A Spirocyclic Complex Containing a Sterically Demanding Chelating Amido Ligand

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*Dedicated to Prof. R. Schmutzler on the occasion of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday*

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Lithiation of the diamine  $\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{NHSiMePh}_2)_2$  using *n*-butyl lithium and subsequent reaction with zirconium tetrachloride yielded the bis(chelate)-amidozirconium complex  $[\text{Zr}\{\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{NSiMePh}_2)_2\}_2]$ . The spirocyclic molecule has a distorted tetrahedral coordination at the zirconium centre with overall  $C_2$  symmetry broken only by the relative orientation of four phenyl rings. The bulky diphenylmethylsilyl substituents at the amido-N functions as well as the ligand backbone sterically protect the metal centre and render it inert towards conproportionation with zirconium chloride.