

*Supplementary Information*

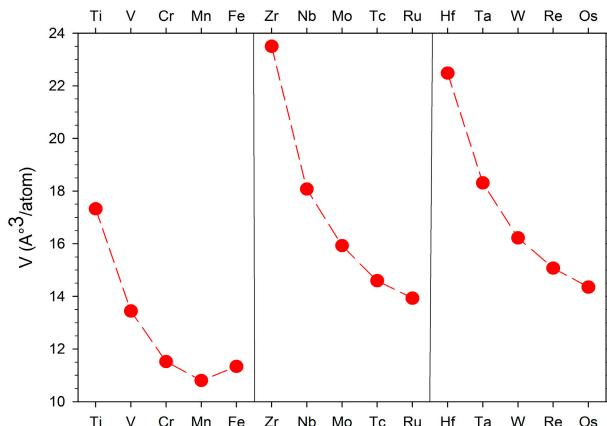
## Enthalpies of Formation of Transition Metal Diborides: A First Principles Study

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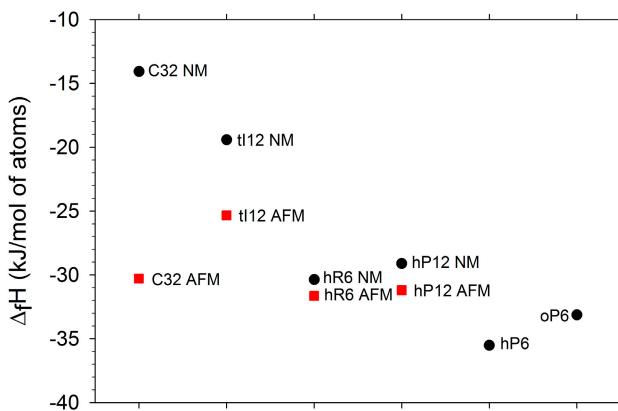
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**Figure S1.** Atomic volumes of the transition metals considered in the present work.



**Figure S2.** Enthalpies of formation of anti-ferromagnetic and non-magnetic MnB<sub>2</sub> in the hP3, tI12, hP12, hR6, hP6, and oP6 structures.

**Table S1.** Values of the formation enthalpies and atomic volumes of the early transition metals diborides.

	TiB <sub>2</sub>		VB <sub>2</sub>		CrB <sub>2</sub>		MnB <sub>2</sub>		FeB <sub>2</sub>	
--	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom
hP3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-102.30	8.5705	-71.33	7.8533	-33.64	7.6461	-30.29	7.5443	-4.93	7.2377
tI12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-100.15	8.5139	-70.03	7.8477	-34.29	7.4932	-25.34	7.4908	-7.61	7.3474
hP12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-64.07	9.3724	-61.86	8.3712	-41.13	7.8441	-31.20	7.6839	-15.18	7.5966
hR6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-64.97	9.3703	-61.72	8.3766	-40.99	7.8462	-31.64	7.7146	-16.63	7.7146
hP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-20.38	10.0008	-23.54	8.9052	-27.07	8.1426	-35.52	7.75	-25.73	7.6304
oP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-24.01	10.0431	-29.76	8.8623	-29.96	8.0841	-33.13	7.7948	-25.49	7.6745
hR3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-26.48	10.0919	-31.76	8.855	-29.37	8.1236	-33.26	7.7741	-19.68	7.7002
	ZrB <sub>2</sub>		NbB <sub>2</sub>		MoB <sub>2</sub>		TcB <sub>2</sub>		RuB <sub>2</sub>	
--	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom
hP3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-95.87	10.3489	-70.71	9.2755	-26.68	8.8632	-5.40	8.7071	14.27	3.2945
tI12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-90.08	10.351	-68.98	9.2499	-26.69	8.8164	-5.32	8.6273	8.90	10.3578
hP12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-53.37	11.2615	-63.65	9.891	-41.85	9.2396	-24.98	8.9447	-1.96	14.2147
hR6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-54.07	11.247	-62.25	9.8922	-42.19	9.2373	-26.62	8.9317	-3.16	7.1662
hP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-12.80	11.7646	-23.66	10.4428	-32.80	9.6046	-42.98	9.0923	-26.85	7.2884
oP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-7.88	12.0197	-24.22	10.5677	-33.62	9.6047	-37.90	9.156	-27.72	4.0582
hR3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-10.20	12.033	-25.58	10.5427	-32.84	9.6315	-37.68	9.1491	-20.10	11.1019
	HfB <sub>2</sub>		TaB <sub>2</sub>		WB <sub>2</sub>		ReB <sub>2</sub>		OsB <sub>2</sub>	
--	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom	Δ <sub>f</sub> H kJ/mol of atoms	V Å <sup>3</sup> /atom
hP3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-98.90	9.9623	-62.58	9.2523	-7.45	8.9166	20.18	8.8164	51.14	8.8701
tI12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-94.19	9.949	-61.44	9.2352	-6.31	8.8641	23.23	8.9044	48.07	8.8504
hP12-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-58.17	10.8636	-64.32	9.8555	-32.31	9.2741	-9.90	9.0545	14.83	9.2306
hR6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-59.04	10.8743	-63.81	9.8541	-32.93	9.2697	-12.28	9.0443	12.80	9.171
hP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-14.66	11.4586	-25.95	10.4651	-35.32	9.6528	-41.50	9.2181	-19.93	9.1623
oP6-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-14.70	11.7292	-29.58	10.5484	-34.47	9.6476	-34.76	9.276	-20.77	9.2608
hR3-TMB <sub>2</sub>	-16.66	11.7519	-31.56	10.5409	-34.02	9.6556	-34.48	9.2708	-12.96	9.1399

**Table S2.** Comparison of the calculated and experimental values of the lattice parameters and internal parameters of some diborides. The experimental values are the more recent one indicated in the Pearson’s Handbook [13]. For the prototypes, the calculated and experimental values are given in Table 1 of the manuscript.

Compound	Structure	--	a (Å)	b (Å)	c (Å)	Internal Coordinates		
ZrB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.1767	3.1767	3.5525	--	--	--
		exp.	3.1682	3.1682	3.5284	--	--	--
HfB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.1449	3.1449	3.4892	--	--	--
		exp.	3.1458	3.1458	3.4778	--	--	--
VB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	2.9971	2.9971	3.0286	--	--	--
		exp.	2.9980	2.9980	3.0440	--	--	--
NbB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.1077	3.1077	3.3271	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0890	3.0890	3.3090	--	--	--
TaB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.1016	3.1016	3.3316	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0728	3.0728	3.2382	--	--	--
CrB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	2.9765	2.9765	2.9377	--	--	--
		exp.	2.9680	2.9680	3.0740	--	--	--
MoB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.0327	3.0327	3.3822	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0430	3.0430	3.0670	--	--	--
WB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.0233	3.0233	3.3793	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0200	3.0200	3.0500	--	--	--
MnB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	2.9764	2.9764	2.8865	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0100	3.0100	3.0380	--	--	--
TcB <sub>2</sub>	hP6, ReB <sub>2</sub> -type	VASP	2.9044	2.9044	7.4676	x (B 4f) = 0.54776	--	--
		exp.	2.8920	2.8920	7.4530	x (B 4f) = 0.548	--	--
FeB <sub>2</sub>	hP3, C32	VASP	3.0433	3.0433	2.6840	--	--	--
		exp.	3.0450	3.0450	3.0350	--	--	--
OsB <sub>2</sub>	oP6, RuB <sub>2</sub> -type	VASP	2.8888	4.7023	4.0904	y (B 4e) = 0.05604	z (B 4e) = 0.13813	z (Os 2a) = 0.65502
		exp.	2.8726	4.6841	4.0769	y (B 4e) = 0.0557	z (B 4e) = 0.1325	z (Os 2a) = 0.6545