The Claims defining the Invention are as follows:

1. A lubricant composition comprising:

   a) an oil of lubricating viscosity, and

   b) a borate ester comprising at least one alkyl group having 10 to 32 carbon atoms, said alkyl group having a branch at the β or higher position, said borate ester being present in an amount to provide 1 to 1000 parts per million by weight of boron to the lubricant composition.

2. The lubricant composition of claim 1, wherein the borate ester comprises multiple alkyl groups each independently having 10 to 32 carbon atoms, said alkyl groups having a branch at the β or higher position.

3. The lubricant composition of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the alkyl group is branched at the β position.

4. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkyl group has a structure represented by $-CH_2-C(R^1)(R^2)H$, where R^1 is an alkyl group of 7 to 18 carbon atoms and R^2 is an alkyl group having fewer carbon atoms than R^1.

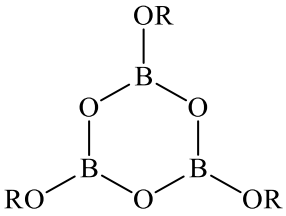
5. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the alkyl group has a structure represented by $-CH_2-C(R^1)(R^2)H$, where R^1 is an alkyl group of 7 to 18 carbon atoms and R^2 is an alkyl group having two fewer carbon atoms than R^1.

6. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the alkyl group is a 2-propylheptyl group, a 2-butyloctyl group, a 2-hexyldecyl group, or a 2-octyldodecyl group.

7. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the alkyl group is derived from a Guerbet alcohol.

8. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the borate ester is represented by one or more of the formulas

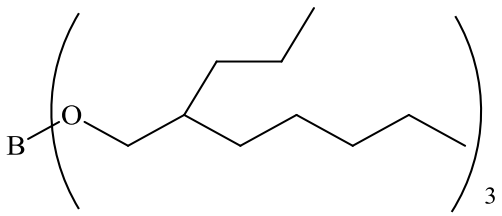
$(RO)_3B$, $(RO)_2B–O–B(OR)_2$, or



wherein each R is independently an alkyl group having 10 to 32 carbon atoms and having a branch at the β or higher position.

9. The lubricant composition of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the borate ester comprises a trialkylborate.

10. The lubricant of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the borate ester comprises a material represented by the structure



11. The lubricant of any one of claims 1 to 10, further comprising an overbased detergent.

12. The lubricant of any one of claims 1 to 11, further comprising at least one amine-functionalized dispersant having a total base number of 1 to 110 mg KOH/g.

13. The lubricant of any one of claims 1 to 12, further comprising at least one amine-functionalized dispersant in an amount sufficient to deliver a TBN of 0.5 to 8 mg KOH/g to the lubricant, wherein the TBN is determined according to ASTM D2896.

14. A method for lubricating a mechanical device, comprising supplying thereto the lubricant of any one of claims 1 to 13, preferably wherein the mechanical device is an internal combustion engine.

15. A method of reducing corrosion in an internal combustion engine comprising:

providing a lubricating composition comprising (a) an oil of lubricating viscosity, and (b) a borate ester comprising at least one alkyl group having 10 to 32 carbon atoms, said alkyl group having a branch at the β or higher position, said borate ester being present in an amount to provide 1 to 1000 parts per million by weight of boron to the lubricant composition; and

supplying said lubricating composition to said internal combustion engine.