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# **Electronic Supporting Information**

# Synthesis and properties of electron accepting star-shaped phosphaviologen oligomers

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# **UV-Vis Spectroscopy**



**Figure S1** UV-Vis spectrum of compounds **5b** and **6b** in  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M water solution.

## **Electrochemical Measurements**



## **Cyclic Voltammetry**

**Figure S2** Cyclic voltammetry of compound **5b** at different scan rates; in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  as supporting electrolyte (0.05M), referenced to FcH/FcH<sup>+</sup>.



**Figure S3** Cyclic voltammetry of compound **6b** at different scan rates; in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  as supporting electrolyte (0.05M), referenced to FcH/FcH<sup>+</sup>.



**Figure S4** Cyclic voltammetry of the first reduction of compound **5b** at different scan rates; in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  as supporting electrolyte (0.05M), referenced to FcH/FcH<sup>+</sup>.



**Figure S5** Cyclic voltammetry of the first reduction of compound **6b** at different scan rates; in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  as supporting electrolyte (0.05M), referenced to FcH/FcH<sup>+</sup>.

Compound	Peak	Trial 1 <sup>c</sup>	Trial 2 <sup>c</sup>	Trial 3 <sup>c</sup>	Trial 4 <sup>c</sup>	Trial 5 <sup>c</sup>	Trial	Concentration	# e <sup>-</sup>
(scan rate)"	Area						Ave	Correction <sup>**</sup>	Per
	$(\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V})^{\circ}$								Event <sup>e</sup>
Monomer	Red 1	1 68E-04	1 52E-04	1 59E-04	1 61E-04	1 63E-04	1.61E-04	1 91E-05	1.00
(100  mV/s)	Red 2	1.62E-04	1.50E-04	1.53E-04	1.42E-04	1.38E-04	1.49E-04	1.77E-05	1.00
· · · · ·	Ox 1	1.55E-04	1.61E-04	1.55E-04	1.55E-04	1.64E-04	1.58E-04	1.88E-05	1.00
	Ox 2	1.68E-04	1.61E-04	1.58E-04	1.68E-04	1.52E-04	1.61E-04	1.92E-05	1.00
5b	Red 1	7.15E-05	6.64E-05	7.14E-05	6.52E-05	6.80E-05	6.85E-05	5.91E-05	3.09
	Red 2	5.65E-05	6.92E-05	7.22E-05	6.24E-05	6.22E-05	6.45E-05	5.56E-05	3.13
(100  mV/s)	Ox 1	7.01E-05	7.00E-05	6.74E-05	6.19E-05	6.45E-05	6.68E-05	5.76E-05	3.06
	Ox 2	7.48E-05	7.09E-05	7.17E-05	6.86E-05	7.02E-05	7.12E-05	6.14E-05	3.20
Monomer	Red 1	2.49E-04	2.10E-04	2.54E-04	2.20E-04	2.02E-04	2.27E-04	2.70E-05	1.00
(20 mV/s)	Red 2	2.54E-04	2.40E-04	2.35E-04	2.38E-04	2.20E-04	2.37E-04	2.82E-05	1.00
	Ox 1	2.07E-04	2.46E-04	2.46E-04	2.54E-04	2.27E-04	2.36E-04	2.80E-05	1.00
	Ox 2	2.05E-04	2.19E-04	2.26E-04	2.16E-04	2.32E-04	2.20E-04	2.61E-05	1.00
6b	Red 1	1.34E-04	1.25E-04	1.37E-04	1.39E-04	1.38E-04	1.35E-04	1.04E-04	3.83
(= = = = = ( )	Red 2	1.42E-04	1.39E-04	1.49E-04	1.45E-04	1.40E-04	1.43E-04	1.10E-04	3.90
(20 mV/s)	Ox 1	1.33E-04	1.51E-04	1.48E-04	1.43E-04	1.49E-04	1.45E-04	1.11E-04	3.96
	Ox 2	1.36E-04	1.49E-04	1.24E-04	1.38E-04	1.33E-04	1.36E-04	1.05E-04	4.00

**Table S1** Electron count comparison of the monomer and compounds **5b** and **6b** using peak area obtained from cyclic voltammetry. <sup>*a*</sup>A lower scan rate was necessary for **6b** due to irreversibility at higher scan rates. <sup>*b*</sup>Peak areas were manually obtained from the collected CV data. <sup>*c*</sup>Five trials of manually collecting each peak area were carried out and averaged to increase confidence in the average. <sup>*d*</sup>Peak areas were corrected by dividing each average by the respective solution concentration used in each analysis. <sup>*e*</sup>Electron counts for each reduction/oxidation event was determined by dividing the corrected concentration of the benzyl-methyl phosphaviologen monomer with the respective corrected concentration of **5b** and **6b**.



**Figure S6** Spectroelectrochemistry of isolated first reduction (top) and isolated second reduction (bottom) of **5b**. UV-vis referenced to  $Ag/Ag^+$ , in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  (0.05 M) as supporting electrolyte.



**Figure S7** Spectroelectrochemistry of isolated first reduction (top) and isolated second reduction (bottom) of **6b**. UV-vis referenced to  $Ag/Ag^+$ , in DMF solution with  $[nBu_4N][PF_6]$  (0.05 M) as supporting electrolyte.



Figure S8 UV-vis of isolated first (purple) and second (yellow) reduction of 5b in DMF using zinc and sodium, respectively.



Figure S9 UV-vis of isolated first (purple) and second (yellow) reduction of 6b in DMF using zinc and sodium, respectively.

# NMR spectroscopy



Figure S10  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 1 in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S11  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 4 in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S12  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 5a in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S13 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of 5a in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S14  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 5b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S15  $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ -NMR of 5b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S16<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of 5b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S17  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 6a in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S18 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of 6a in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S19  ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR of 6b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S20  $^{13}C{^{1}H}$ -NMR of 6b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.



Figure S21 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of 6b in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>.

# **DFT Calculations**







-7.69 eV

НОМО-2

номо-3

HOMO-4



-7.69 eV

-7.83 eV

-7.83 eV



-7.83 eV

HOMO-6

HOMO-7

HOMO-8



-8.17 eV

-8.23 eV

-8.64 eV

## HOMO-9

-8.64 eV

HOMO-10

HOMO-11

HOMO-12



-8.73 eV

-8.74 eV

## HOMO-13

-8.74 eV

HOMO-14

HOMO-15

HOMO-16



-9.22 eV

-9.23 eV

-9.25 eV

Table S2 Cartesian Coordinates for optimized structure of 5b.

С	-0.49958406	-0.16011801	0.59283007
С	0.52981104	0.74881503	0.28557005
С	1.75646812	0.25021797	-0.18021199
С	1.97677110	-1.12991914	-0.32590000
С	0.93954000	-2.01152219	0.00935103
С	-0.30723408	-1.54460412	0.46549606
Н	-1.43982713	0.21231305	0.99419110
H	2.56389320	0.94529900	-0.40186901
H	1.11345098	-3.08387827	-0.05876198
C	5.67164338	-1.11369624	-0.70432603
C	4 57731528	-2 03044828	1 17438411
C	6.88173448	-1.13226927	-0.03806898
н	5 57360637	-0 75428021	-1 72316111
C	5 76150837	-2 06439431	1 89481517
е н	3 64037720	-2 37722228	1 59314515
C	6 94043844	-1 60952331	1 28628912
С Н	5 73704636	-2 44473934	2 91077325
C C	-0 29556996	3 32616725	-1 //21/609
C	-1 37596703	3 91151233	1.44214000 0.57238107
C	_0 _0115000	1 20007/35	-2 1/22611/
ч	-0.99143099	4.2999743J 2.68313810	-2.14220114
С	-2 00206306	2.00313019 A Q0114342	-1.92140012
ч	-2.09290300	4.90114342 3.71508231	1 63446715
п	1 00022004	5.71590251	1 45102600
U	-1.90033004	J.11442043	-1.4JIUJ000
H	-0.80140797	4.40/16435	-3.2051/322
C	-2.17081928	-3.59425323	-1.05499605
C	-3.6/330639	-3.20356416	0.71985908
C II	-3.14234137	-4.2/10/020	-1.////0011
H	-1.16619520	-3.456/3124	-1.43508608
C	-4.67799048	-3.8/431118	0.04993203
H	-3.82093538	-2./661/812	1.70160415
C	-4.4188014/	-4.4281/123	-1.21929007
H	-2.8/943036	-4.66399529	-2./5433418
C	8.30357057	-1.52488534	1.8/4/291/
C	8./18/1959	-1.95109338	3.14102826
C	9.23768568	-0.92789131	1.00809610
C	10.045049/1	-1./5/59240	3.504/4529
H	8.05497754	-2.42/90140	3.8543/432
C	10.54803676	-0.75861833	1.42785114
H	10.43204772	-2.06402343	4.47079136
H	11.31391182	-0.30087232	0.81072009
C	-2.74514907	6.21272553	-1.99168313
С	-3.61036312	6.76294261	-1.02785105
С	-2.75612806	6.72473860	-3.29356923
С	-4.46797016	7.79091773	-1.38705308
С	-3.63391710	7.75853568	-3.59326925
Η	-2.10807702	6.35681854	-4.08189129
H	-5.16154620	8.25444678	-0.69344003
Н	-3.69129009	8.20223069	-4.58153732

С	-5.60316060	-5.10696226	-1.80963111
С	-6.75365464	-4.99694522	-1.00649505
С	-5.67730161	-5.80491630	-3.01965021
С	-7.94209874	-5.56776822	-1.43370709
С	-6.89488570	-6.35946130	-3.39331524
H	-4.82831354	-5.93779731	-3.68172126
H	-8.86449782	-5.51363418	-0.86501804
Н	-7 01997072	-6 91381437	-4 31723330
N	4 53329728	-1 56123524	-0 10108298
N	10 03027080	_1 17100330	2 66095223
IN NI	10.95027980	2 14012424	2.00095225
N	-0.48052996	J.1401J424 0.07071172	-0.10703090
N	-4.40833913	0.2/0/11/5	-2.03404310
N	-7.99635381	-6.23560531	-2.61224/1/
Ν	-2.43016928	-3.0/528118	0.1/335604
Р	8.49225962	-0.35203625	-0.59653002
P	-6.49082262	-3.96506915	0.51947306
P	-3.51194714	5.90977754	0.62275307
0	-7.09907562	-2.60422903	0.47184006
0	-4.65949925	5.01278549	0.94456010
0	8.32393765	1.12433387	-0.72456903
С	9.24830367	-1.23551734	-1.94744212
С	9.67537670	-0.46392929	-3.04528821
С	9.47206966	-2.62727845	-1.91703012
С	10.32611575	-1.09199235	-4.10757129
Н	9.51261771	0.60966880	-3.05499321
С	10.11795166	-3.23884651	-2.98635420
Н	9.15522457	-3.23123149	-1.06884406
С	10.54622973	-2.47114147	-4.07792929
с Н	10,66833479	-0.50265732	-4.95244835
н	10 29965165	-4 30897860	-2 97097720
н	11 06021472	-2 95315052	-4 90419035
C	-2 98489907	7 08021760	1 85903017
C	-3 60373712	7.00021700	3 07500226
C	1 05165207	0 01206562	1 62200615
C	-1.95105297	0.01290303	1.05590015
	-3.30304407	0.00331471	4.00123034
H	-4.49953220	0.30433438	3.23545627
	-1.631/9/92	8.93138974	2.62839523
H	-1.40462492	8.03293165	0.69331008
C	-2.33893197	8.92846974	3.83848532
H	-3.91321011	8.01550769	4.99724940
H	-0.84179984	9.65740177	2.46327521
H	-2.09213494	9.65596881	4.60598638
С	-6.77235365	-4.96586021	1.96701418
С	-7.58527273	-4.40783315	2.97240525
С	-6.26365868	-6.27427033	2.09838719
С	-7.88511577	-5.16538720	4.10493834
Н	-7.98483171	-3.40458907	2.85802424
С	-6.56818368	-7.01466037	3.23581627
Н	-5.64339564	-6.71877440	1.32231913
С	-7.37964974	-6.46107233	4.23553035
Н	-8.51967280	-4.74641815	4.87955440
Н	-6.18613670	-8.02491546	3.34480628

Н	-7.62268677	-7.04862736	5.11584242
С	12.34903988	-1.00211740	3.10628926
Н	12.35445289	-0.54315937	4.09655834
Н	12.82579392	-1.98507549	3.13933027
Н	12.86891197	-0.35770836	2.39865621
С	-9.27559990	-6.87433431	-3.05389221
Н	-9.41512791	-6.68442826	-4.11908929
Н	-9.21466890	-7.94926640	-2.86414319
Н	-10.10140497	-6.43997023	-2.49161216
С	-5.37844220	9.39685987	-3.03312421
Н	-4.78256813	10.30594489	-3.14858322
Н	-5.87628824	9.14730586	-3.97162628
Н	-6.12070224	9.53287085	-2.24759315
С	0.43550707	2.22464815	0.67114507
Н	0.10782105	2.30612217	1.70961216
Н	1.42645816	2.68312416	0.61406507
С	-1.31886519	-2.52906317	1.04806311
Н	-1.82520921	-2.06716312	1.89672317
Н	-0.79284617	-3.41014325	1.42770114
С	3.26885319	-1.67913922	-0.92282805
Н	3.48804421	-1.17351519	-1.86562212
Н	3.15482415	-2.74345630	-1.14665306

Compound 6b







-7.69 eV

НОМО-2

HOMO-1





-7.70 eV





HOMO-5

HOMO-6

HOMO-7





-8.59 eV

HOMO-9

HOMO-10

HOMO-11



-8.72 eV

-8.74 eV

-8.76 eV



-8.76 eV

HOMO-13

HOMO-14

HOMO-15



-8.77 eV

-8.81 eV

-8.83 eV



-8.85 eV

HOMO-17

HOMO-18

HOMO-19



-8.89 eV

-9.39 eV

-9.41 eV

Table S3 Cartesian coordinates for optimized structure of 6b.

С	1.51309	-0.14228	0.32716
С	0.80827	-1.35634	0.22449
С	-0.61034	-1.30062	0.2022
С	-1.225	-0.034	0.30113
С	-0.51984	1.17304	0.42614
С	0.90182	1.12012	0.42883
Н	2.59996	-0.18504	0.35251
Н	-2.31263	0.00363	0.30264
С	-3.55717	-3.4883	-0.75163
С	-1.78457	-2.95431	-2.21567
С	-4.28391	-4.04054	-1.78783
Н	-3.93473	-3.45493	0.2652
С	-2.47545	-3.48183	-3.29684
Н	-0.80148	-2.5138	-2.32676
С	-3.74872	-4.039	-3.09359
Н	-2.00843	-3.44229	-4.27572
С	-2.04212	2.70916	2.80926
С	-3.61139	3.0841	1.08424
С	-2.96559	3.06993	3.77686
Н	-1.0325	2.41251	3.06746
С	-4.57065	3.46025	2.00545
H	-3.80645	3.07155	0.01688
С	-4.25667	3.45793	3.38095
Н	-2.65921	3.04296	4.81777
С	1.5303	3.34233	-1.56725
C	3.3281	4.03668	-0.205
C	1.97722	4.13623	-2.61466
Н	0.64291	2.72738	-1.65249
С	3.82629	4.8322	-1.21661
H	3.81682	3.95782	0.76082
С	3.14212	4.90273	-2.44919
Н	1.40406	4.14252	-3.53624
С	3.91622	-3.31433	0.641
C	2.26674	-3.31286	2.33201
C	4.84505	-3.84992	1.51188
Н	4.15593	-3.08811	-0.39275
С	3.15911	-3.84163	3.25083
Н	1.23944	-3.09253	2.59667
С	4.47529	-4.12165	2.84631
H	2.80934	-4.02591	4.26164
С	-4.67676	-4.61304	-4.1044
C	-4.44	-4.82582	-5.46756
C	-5.92924	-4.95834	-3.56244
C	-5.45983	-5.36372	-6.2443
H	-3.49634	-4.59672	-5.95131
С	-6.90983	-5.4896	-4.38867
- H	-5.34043	-5.55498	-7.30581
н	-7.89505	-5.77332	-4.033
С	3.76703	5.85384	-3.40707

C	4.85519	6.55326	-2.85183
C	3.3948	6.10973	-4.73223
C	5.53269	7.48898	-3.62182
С	4.11226	7.05639	-5.45404
Н	2.57694	5.59968	-5.23011
Н	6.37797	8.06016	-3.25215
Н	3.87731	7.29996	-6.48525
С	-5.40282	3.84889	4.24345
С	-6.59159	4.04573	3.51621
С	-5.41114	4.03077	5.63155
С	-7.75228	4.40573	4.1873
С	-6.60319	4.39422	6.24732
Н	-4.53044	3.91112	6.25379
Н	-8.69983	4.57212	3.68549
Н	-6.67742	4.55449	7.31823
С	5.59681	-4.65102	3.66637
С	5.55555	-5.0985	4.9923
С	6.81875	-4.67913	2.96817
С	6.73223	-5.54989	5.57864
Н	4.64787	-5.12007	5.58624
С	7.96184	-5.13905	3.6081
Н	6.76836	-5.91292	6.60089
Н	8.93298	-5.18629	3.12637
C	9.13635	-6.06578	5.58347
H	9,98967	-5.94842	4.91695
 H	9.29125	-5.48177	6.49345
 H	8,99385	-7,12146	5.82807
C	-8 99311	4 97219	6 25612
U H	-9 18588	4 24667	7 04941
H	-8 84809	5 9695	6 6794
H	-9 824	4 98193	5 55206
C	5 884	8 73868	-5 73256
с н	6 29562	8 2373	-6 6118
Ч	5 17973	9 51812	-6 03308
Ч	6 68846	9 17254	-5 14032
C	-7 71010	-6 27524	-6 50254
н	-7 44284	-7 30843	-6 92039
и и	-9 67577	-6 24806	-6 07207
и и	-7 7799	-5 69715	-7 51005
n D	-7.7799 6.41120	-J.0071J	-7.51005
F	-0.41130	J./12/0 4 57211	L.09400 5 52212
IN N	-7.74209	4.37211	J.JJZIZ
IN N	-2.3549	2.71436	1.481/3
N	-2.3145	-2.95294	-0.96183
N	-6.66414	-5.68155	-5./0/46
N	2.186/2	3.29963	-0.3/618
N	5.15359	1.72704	-4.90053
N	2.63536	-3.0491	1.04576
N	7.90321	-5.56238	4.89394
0	-6.96734	2.41518	1.20914
С	-6.81526	5.19867	0.80406
С	-7.66845	5.05508	-0.30873
С	-6.39998	6.47837	1.23049

С	-8.10288	6.19466	-0.98592
Н	-8.00422	4.06956	-0.61713
С	-6.83674	7.60343	0.53931
Н	-5.75282	6.60279	2.09658
С	-7.69045	7.46137	-0.56387
Н	-8 77454	6 09422	-1 83278
Н	-6 53017	8 59317	0 86333
Н	-8 04293	8 34543	-1 08704
P	5 17925	6 13373	-1 06867
	1 72082	7 14006	-0 06559
C	6 82608	5 17838	-0.92669
C	7 61714	5 98206	0.12599
C	7 36948	<i>4</i> 57439	-1 86472
C	0 01052	5 57022	0 22070
U U	7 20110	5.57925	0.23079
п С	9 6065	0.09302	1 74049
	0.0905	4.17725	-1.74040
H C	0.17204	4.1095	-2.00937
	9.4000	4.002// E.07E01	-0.69721
H	9.06977	2.97301	1.02770
H	9.12/09	3.40/0/	-2.46009
П	10.52595	4.30243	-0.01/12
P	6.70296	-4.00324	1.238/3
0	7.23684	-2.62372	1.03617
	/.18418	-5.27952	0.09785
	8.06812	-4.90393	-0.93422
	6./94/5	-6.62/18	0.255
	8.559	-5.881	-1.8004
H	8.38431	-3.87004	-1.03529
	1.28/5/	-7.58709	-0.62249
H	6.12424	-6.93168	1.05629
C	8.1/1/4	-7.21476	-1.64512
H	9.25451	-5.60332	-2.58626
H	7.00093	-8.62772	-0.50634
H	8.56734	-7.97275	-2.31482
С	-1.28243	2.50654	0.44141
H	-1.78212	2.63935	-0.52158
H	-0.59465	3.34757	0.54898
С	1.8231	2.31446	0.71839
H	2.77668	1.92995	1.09038
Н	1.40331	2.92583	1.5195
С	1.6086	-2.65328	0.014
Н	2.16513	-2.56837	-0.92274
Н	0.95036	-3.51615	-0.0979
С	-1.51461	-2.54204	0.25672
Н	-2.26053	-2.37874	1.037
Н	-0.94995	-3.42851	0.55224
P	-6.09701	-4.55365	-1.75458
С	-6.41979	-6.05832	-0.86261
С	-7.43674	-6.00757	0.11236
С	-5.77453	-7.27667	-1.16467
С	-7.80313	-7.17835	0.77646
Н	-7.94716	-5.07255	0.323

С	-6.1471	-8.43296	-0.48758
Н	-4.99877	-7.33101	-1.92611
С	-7.16281	-8.38401	0.47789
Н	-8.59778	-7.15168	1.51551
Н	-5.66368	-9.37737	-0.7177
Н	-7.4615	-9.29441	0.98923
0	-6.90549	-3.34239	-1.43001

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(Note: this also doubles as the full reference 18 from the main manuscript) M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H.
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