

Supporting information to accompany:

## [Cu(P<sup>^</sup>P)(N<sup>^</sup>N)][PF<sub>6</sub>] compounds with bis(phosphane) and 6-alkoxy, 6-alkylthio, 6-phenyloxy and 6-phenylthio-substituted 2,2'-bipyridine ligands for light-emitting electrochemical cells

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### General method for N<sup>^</sup>N ligand synthesis

6-Bromo-2,2'-bipyridine (1.0 eq, Table S1) and NaOR or NaSR (R = Me, Et, Ph) (2 eq, Table S1) were dissolved in 2 mL solvent (Table S1) under N<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was heated in a microwave reactor under the conditions shown in Table S1, and the product was purified as detailed in Table S1. Each of MeObpy, EtObpy, PhObpy, MeSbpy and EtSbpy was obtained as a colourless oil; PhSbpy was isolated as a white solid (yields are given in Table S1). Spectroscopic data for MeObpy, PhObpy, MeSbpy, EtSbpy and PhSbpy have previously been reported.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

**Table S1** Reaction conditions and purifications for N<sup>^</sup>N ligand preparation

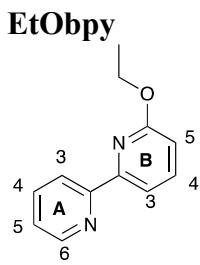
Product	Brbpy / mg, mmol	Amount of NaOR or NaSR	Solvent	Microwave conditions	Yield / %
MeObpy	300, 1.28	5.12 mL (0.5 M), 2.56 mmol	DMF	4h, 120 °C	77 <sup>a</sup>
EtObpy	300, 1.28	186 mg (96% assay), 2.62 mmol	DMF	5h, 130 °C	64 <sup>a,b</sup>
PhObpy	104, 0.44	150 mg, 0.88 mmol	NMP	4h, 180 °C, 1 bar	48 <sup>c</sup>
MeSbpy	200, 0.85	126 mg (95% assay), 1.7 mmol	NMP	4h, 180 °C, 1 bar	64 <sup>c</sup>
EtSbpy	100, 0.43	79 mg (90% assay), 0.85 mmol	NMP	4h, 180 °C, 1 bar	20 <sup>d</sup>
PhSbpy	100, 0.43	125 mg (90% assay), 0.85 mmol	NMP	4h, 180 °C, 1 bar	57 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>For product purification, the reaction mixture was added to water (25 mL) and extracted with toluene (3 × 25 mL). The combined organic fractions were washed with water (3 × 25 mL) and extracted with aq. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (20%, 4 × 20 mL). Aqueous NH<sub>3</sub> (16%) was added to the combined aqueous layers until a white precipitate formed. The alkaline solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 25 mL) and the combined organic fractions were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure.

<sup>b</sup>The product was further purified by column chromatography (silica, *n*-pentane:EtOAc 10:1, 10% TEA).

<sup>c</sup>The reaction mixture was added to water (25 mL) and extracted with toluene (3 × 25 mL). The combined organic fractions were washed with water (3 × 25 mL) and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (alumina, *n*-pentane:EtOAc 20:1).

<sup>d</sup>The crude reaction mixture was purified by preparative TLC (silica, *n*-pentane:EtOAc 1:5) followed by column chromatography (alumina, *n*-pentane:EtOAc 20:1).



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ/ppm 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.04 Hz, 3H, H<sup>Et</sup>), 4.48 (q, *J* = 7.04 Hz, 2H, H<sup>Et</sup>), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 8.21, 0.80 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B5</sup>), 7.29 (ddd, *J* = 7.50, 4.79, 1.22 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 8.21, 7.46 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 7.81 (ddd, *J* = 8.00, 7.50, 1.82 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.00 (dd, *J* = 7.46, 0.80 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.37 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>), 8.63 (ddd, *J* = 4.79, 1.82, 0.95 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ/ppm 15.0 (C<sup>Et</sup>), 62.1 (C<sup>Et</sup>), 111.7 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 113.9 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.3 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 124.1 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 137.3 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 139.9 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.6 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 154.0 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 156.6 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 163.9 (C<sup>B6</sup>). ESI MS: *m/z* 222.96 [L+Na]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 223.08).

## Syntheses and characterization of copper complexes

**[Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** A solution of [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) and POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. A solution of MeObpy (47 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solution was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was redissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) and layered with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). Yellow crystals were formed and were separated by filtration and washed with *n*-hexane. Solvent residues were removed under reduced pressure. [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (212 mg, 0.23 mmol, 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ/ppm 3.90 (s, 3H, H<sup>OMe</sup>), 6.77–6.85 (m, 6H, H<sup>C3+D2/D2'</sup>), 7.04–7.09 (m, 2H, H<sup>C4</sup>), 7.12–7.18 (m, 7H, H<sup>B5+C6+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.26 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 5.1, 1.1 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.34–7.43 (m, 8H, H<sup>C5+D4/D4'+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.46–7.53 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 8.08 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.14 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.16 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.3 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.23 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.53 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ/ppm 56.4 (C<sup>OMe</sup>), 108.5 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 116.4 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.5 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 123.5 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.2 (t, *J*<sub>PC</sub> = 14

Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.6 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 129.4 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.4 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.2 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.9 (C<sup>D1/D1'</sup> only from HMBC), 132.7 (C<sup>D1/D1'</sup> only from HMBC), 132.9 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 133.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.9 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 139.5 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 143.1 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.1 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 151.7 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.7 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 159.4 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.7 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta/\text{ppm}$  –11.4 (br. FWHM = 350 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS:  $m/z$  787.0 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 787.2). Found C 60.44, H 4.56, N 2.90; C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>38</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub> requires 60.49, H 4.10, N 3.00%.

**[Cu(POP)(EtObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) and EtObpy (50 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(POP)(EtObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (213 mg, 0.23 mmol, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta/\text{ppm}$  1.29 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H, H<sup>OEt</sup>), 4.26 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>OEt</sup>), 6.77–6.83 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 6.86 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.06–7.11 (m, 4H, H<sup>C4+C6</sup>), 7.12–7.16 (m, 5H, H<sup>B5+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.19 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 5.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.29 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.33–7.38 (m, 6H, H<sup>C5+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.40–7.45 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.55–7.61 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 8.05 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.11 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.13 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.3$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.17 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.51 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta/\text{ppm}$  14.7 (C<sup>OEt</sup>), 65.9 (C<sup>OEt</sup>), 109.2 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 116.3 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.4 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 123.4 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.3 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.4 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 129.4 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.3 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.4 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.9 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 133.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.8 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 9$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 139.4 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 142.9 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.9 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 151.9 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.8 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 159.2 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.1 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta/\text{ppm}$  –11.0 (br. FWHM = 310 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 708$  Hz). ESI MS:  $m/z$  801.0 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 801.2). Found C 59.62, H 4.54, N 3.08; C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>40</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O requires 59.72, H 4.39, N 2.90%.

**[Cu(POP)(PhObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) and PhObpy (62 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(POP)(PhObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (217 mg, 22 mmol, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta/\text{ppm}$  6.67–6.74 (m, 5H, H<sup>B5+E2+C3</sup>), 6.83–6.88 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.02 (m, 2H, H<sup>C4</sup>), 7.11 (m, 2H, H<sup>C6</sup>), 7.18–7.26 (m, 8H, H<sup>D3+D3'</sup>), 7.27 (ddd,

$J = 7.6, 5.1, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.31–7.39 (m, 7H, H<sup>E4+C5+D4+D4'</sup>), 7.45 (m, 2H, H<sup>E3</sup>), 7.48–7.54 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 8.12 (m, 2H, H<sup>A4+B4</sup>), 8.26 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.34 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.7, 0.6$  Hz, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.63 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 111.6 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 117.9 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.55 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 121.6 (C<sup>E2</sup>), 123.7 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 124.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 15$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.8 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 127.2 (C<sup>E4</sup>), 129.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 4$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.6 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.3 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.5 (C<sup>E3</sup>), 131.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 18$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.9 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 133.3 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.9 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 139.6 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 143.3 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.2 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.25 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.3 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 153.7 (C<sup>E1</sup>), 159.2 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.3 (C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm –11.7 (br. FWHM = 225 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 849.1 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 849.2). Found C 60.46, H 4.65, N 2.93; C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>40</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O requires C 60.56, H 4.30, N 2.72%.

**[Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) solution of [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol) and a solution of xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and MeObpy (47 mg, 0.25 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) were stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min. The solutions were then combined and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The solution was filtered and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL) and layered with Et<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL). The yellow crystals that formed were removed by filtration and washed with *n*-hexane. Solvent residues were removed under reduced pressure. [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (148 mg, 0.15 mmol, 61%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 1.75 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.83 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 3.40 (s, 3H, H<sup>OMe</sup>), 6.64 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.02–7.09 (m, 8H, H<sup>D2+D2'</sup>), 7.14–7.24 (m, 9H, H<sup>B5+D3+D3'</sup>), 7.26 (m, 2H, H<sup>C4</sup>), 7.30–7.37 (m, 4H, H<sup>D4+D4'</sup>), 7.44 (m, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.83 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.5$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 8.10 (td,  $J = 7.9, 1.6$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.19–8.24 (m, 2H, H<sup>B3+B4</sup>), 8.36 (ddd,  $J = 5.1, 1.7, 0.9$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.54 (dt,  $J = 8.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 27.7 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 29.0 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.9 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 56.1 (C<sup>OMe</sup>), 108.6 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 116.4 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 123.9 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 127.1 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.2 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.75 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 130.8 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.7 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 17$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 17$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 133.8 (t,

$J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.8 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 139.7 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 143.4 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.9 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 151.5 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.7 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 156.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 165.1 (C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -12.6 (br, FWHM = 270 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 827.0 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 827.2). Found C 61.92, H 4.81, N 3.17; C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>42</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub> requires C 61.70, H 4.35, N 2.88%.

**[Cu(xantphos)(EtObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and EtObpy (50 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(xantphos)(EtObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (239 mg, 0.24 mmol, 97%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 0.76 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H, H<sup>OEt</sup>), 1.72 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.82 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 3.84 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>OEt</sup>), 6.71 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.04–7.14 (m, 8H, H<sup>D2+D2'</sup>), 7.15–7.20 (m, 5H, H<sup>B5+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.23–7.29 (m, 6H, H<sup>C4+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.30–7.34 (m, 4H, H<sup>D4+D4'</sup>), 7.42 (m, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.84 (dd,  $J = 7.2$ , 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 8.07 (td,  $J = 8.0$ , 1.6 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.14 (m, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.19 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.31 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.54 (dt,  $J = 8.2$ , 1.1 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 13.9 (COEt), 27.5 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 29.4 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.9 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 65.2 (COEt), 109.4 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 116.2 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 123.7 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 127.0 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.3 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.7 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 130.9 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.7 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 17$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 133.75 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 135.0 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 139.7 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 143.2 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.7 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 151.6 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.8 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 156.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 165.2 (C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -13.0 (br, FWHM = 183 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 841.1 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 841.2). Found C 61.91, H 4.98, N 3.19; C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>44</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub> requires C 62.04, H 4.49, N 2.84%.

**[Cu(xantphos)(PhObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and PhObpy (62 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(xantphos)(PhObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (254 mg, 0.25 mmol, 98%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 1.46 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.48 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 6.04 (m, 2H, H<sup>E2</sup>), 6.58 (dd,  $J = 8.3$ , 0.6 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B5</sup>), 6.68 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 6.93–6.98 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.10–7.15 (m, 4H, H<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 7.18–7.25 (m, 9H, H<sup>E3+E4+C4+D2/D2'</sup>), 7.25–7.32 (m, 6H, H<sup>D3/D3'+D4/D4'</sup>), 7.38 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.53 (dd,  $J = 7.8$ , 1.5 Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 7.58 (m, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 8.13 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>)

overlapping with 8.15 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.33 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 0.6$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.56 (dt,  $J = 8.2, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>), 8.80 (d,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 24.9 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 30.9 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.6 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 111.4 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 117.7 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.3 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 121.5 (C<sup>E2</sup>), 123.9 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.9 (C<sup>E4</sup>), 127.5 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.1 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.8 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 130.8 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.0 (C<sup>E3</sup>), 131.3 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 18$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 133.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.8 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 139.7 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 143.6 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.3 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 151.9 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 152.2 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 153.1 (C<sup>E1</sup>), 156.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.8 (C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -12.8 (br. FWHM = 240 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 889.1 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 889.2). Found C 63.70, H 4.53, N 2.97; C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>44</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub> requires C 63.80, H 4.28, N 2.71%.

**[Cu(POP)(MeSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) and MeSbpy (51 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(POP)(MeSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (213 mg, 0.23 mmol, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 2.45 (s, 3H, H<sup>SMe</sup>), 6.84 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 6.91 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.08–7.17 (m, 9H, H<sup>A5+D3/D3'+C4+C6</sup>), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.33–7.45 (overlapping signals, 9H, H<sup>D3/D3'+D4/D4'+C5+B5</sup>), 7.59 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 8.02–8.08 (overlapping, 2H, H<sup>A4+B4</sup>), 8.14 (ddt,  $J = 4.4, 1.7, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.26 (dd,  $J = 7.9, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.53 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.0$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 15.7 (C<sup>SMe</sup>), 118.9 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.1 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 122.3 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.5 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 126.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.5 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 129.3 (t,  $J_{PC} = 4$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.3 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.3 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.6 (C<sup>D1/D1'</sup> from HMBC), 132.4 (C<sup>D1/D1'</sup> from HMBC), 133.0 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 133.1 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.8 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 139.5 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 140.0 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.9 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.7 (C<sup>A2/B2</sup>), 152.75 (C<sup>A2/B2</sup>), 158.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 163.6(C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -11.2 (br. FWHM = 260 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 803.0 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 803.2). Found C 59.07, H 4.25, N 2.83; C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>38</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>3</sub>S requires C 59.46, H 4.03, N 2.95%.

**[Cu(POP)(EtSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) and EtSbpy (54 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(POP)(EtSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was

isolated as a yellow solid (190 mg, 0.20 mmol, 79%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm 1.13 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H, H<sup>SEt</sup>), 2.98 (q,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>SEt</sup>), 6.77–6.91 (overlapping m, 6H, H<sup>D2/D2'+C3</sup>), 7.09–7.17 (overlapping m, 9H, H<sup>C4+C6+D3/D3'+A5</sup>), 7.27–7.43 (m, 9H, H<sup>C5+B5+D3/D3'+D4+D4'</sup>), 7.56 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 8.00–8.07 (overlapping m, 2H, H<sup>A4+B4</sup>), 8.17 (ddd,  $J = 5.2, 1.7, 0.9$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.26 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.51 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (126 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm 13.5 (C<sup>SEt</sup>), 27.1 (C<sup>SEt</sup>), 118.9 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 120.9 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 122.7 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.5 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.4 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 126.0 (C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.4 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 129.3 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 4$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.5 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.4 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.3 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.7 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.4 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.0 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 133.2 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.9 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.4 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 139.5 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 139.7 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.9 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.7 (C<sup>A2/B2</sup>), 152.9 (C<sup>A2/B2</sup>), 158.8 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 6.0$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 162.7 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm –11.4 (br. FWHM = 280 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{\text{PF}} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS:  $m/z$  817.0 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 817.2). Found C 59.15, H 4.40, N 3.02; C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>40</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>3</sub>S·H<sub>2</sub>O requires 58.75, H 4.31, N 2.85%.

**[Cu(POP)(PhSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), POP (135 mg, 0.25 mmol) and PhSbpy (66 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(POP)(PhSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (192 mg, 0.19 mmol, 76%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm 6.75 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B5</sup>), 6.88–6.92 (m, 6H, H<sup>C3+D2/D2'</sup>), 7.12 (m, 4H, H<sup>C4+C6</sup>), 7.17–7.22 (overlapping m, 7H, H<sup>A5+E2+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.32–7.38 (m, 8H, H<sup>C5+D3/D3'+D4/D4'</sup>), 7.41 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.49 (m, 2H, H<sup>E3</sup>), 7.55 (m, 1H, H<sup>E4</sup>), 7.63 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.90 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.06 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.20 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.30 (dd, 1H,  $J = 7.9, 0.8$  Hz, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.54 (m, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>).  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (126 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm 119.5 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.2 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 123.4 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.7 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.5 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 15$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 126.1 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 126.6 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 129.5 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.7 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.8 (C<sup>E1</sup>), 130.5 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 131.3 (C<sup>E3</sup>), 131.4 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.45 (C<sup>E4</sup>), 131.5 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.4 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 18$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.1 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 133.3 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.9 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 135.5 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 136.0 (C<sup>E2</sup>), 139.6 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 140.1 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.0 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.5 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 153.1 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 158.8 ( $t, J_{\text{PC}} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 163.9 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ ):  $\delta$ /ppm –11.6 (br. FWHM = 194 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{\text{PF}} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS:  $m/z$  865.1 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 865.2).

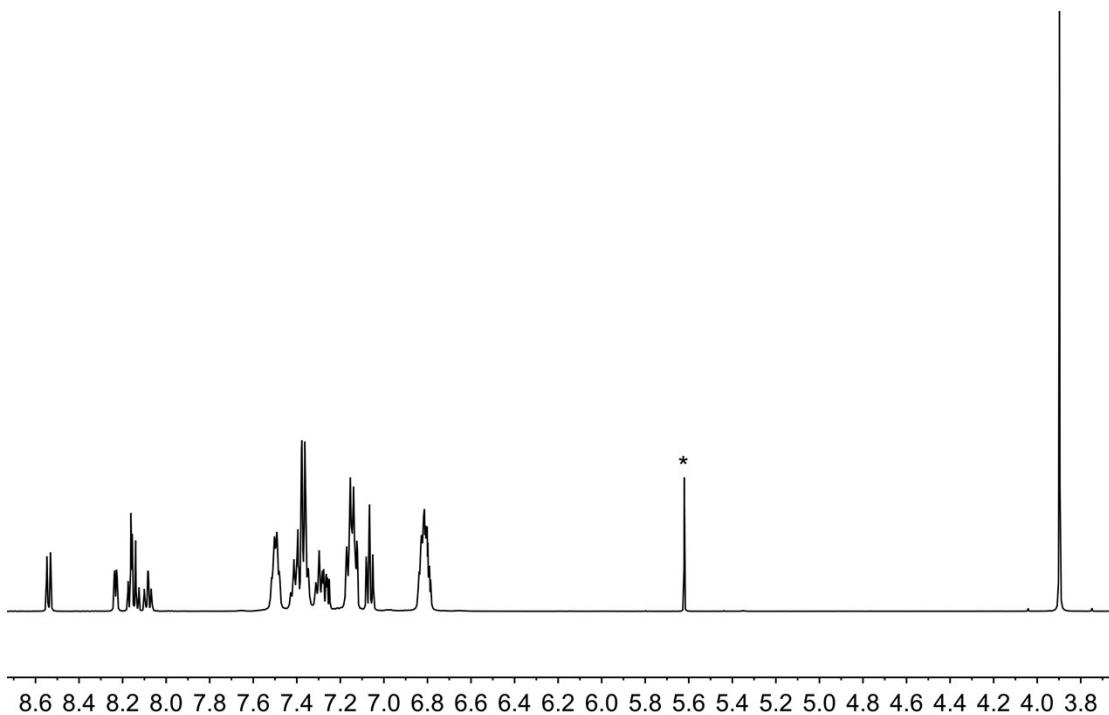
Found C 61.35, H 4.66, N 2.99;  $C_{52}H_{40}CuF_6N_2OP_3S\cdot H_2O$  requires C 60.67, H 4.11, N 2.72%.

**[Cu(xantphos)(MeSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and MeSbpy (51 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(xantphos)(MeSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (198 mg, 0.20 mmol, 80%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 1.71 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.86 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 2.17 (s, 3H, H<sup>SMe</sup>), 6.68 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.02–7.07 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.13–7.19 (m, 8H, H<sup>D2/D2'+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.23–7.28 (m, 6H, H<sup>C4+D3/D3'</sup>), 7.31 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.40 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.44 (m, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.50 (dd,  $J$  = 8.2, 0.7 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B5</sup>), 7.83 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 8.07 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.1, 7.5, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.13 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.26 (m, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.33 (m, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>), 8.48 (dt,  $J$  = 8.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 15.2 (C<sup>SMe</sup>), 27.3 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 30.0 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.8 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 118.8 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.9 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 15 Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 122.1 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.9 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.9 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 2 Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 127.1 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.3 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.3 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 5 Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.8 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 5 Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.8 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 130.9 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.6 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.6 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 17 Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.0 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 17 Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.7 and 133.8 (overlapping t,  $J_{PC}$  = 8 Hz, C<sup>D2+D2'</sup>), 134.5 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 139.8 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 140.1 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 149.8 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.3 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 152.6 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 156.1 (t,  $J_{PC}$  = 6 Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.2 (C<sup>B6</sup>). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm –11.8 (br. FWHM = 250 Hz), –144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF}$  = 707 Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 843.0 [M–PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 843.2). Found C 59.90, H 4.54, N 3.12;  $C_{50}H_{42}CuF_6N_2OP_3S\cdot H_2O$  requires C 59.61, H 4.40, N 2.78%.

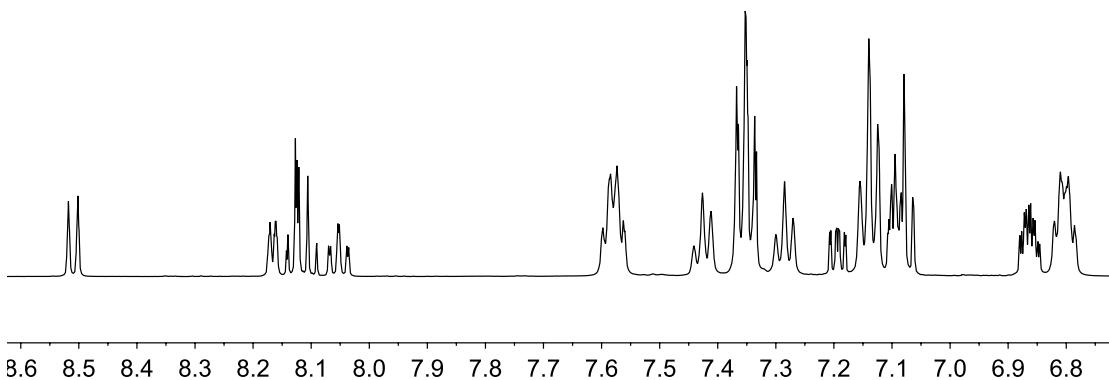
**[Cu(xantphos)(EtSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and EtSbpy (54 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(xantphos)(EtSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (163 mg, 0.16 mmol, 65%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 0.76 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H, H<sup>SEt</sup>), 1.63 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.90 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 2.73 (q,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>SEt</sup>), 6.75 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 7.00 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.13 (m, 4H, H<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 7.21–7.34 (overlapping m, 12H, H<sup>C4+D2/D2'+D3/D3'+D4/D4'</sup>), 7.51 (overlapping m, 2H, H<sup>A5+B5</sup>), 7.82 (dd,  $J$  = 7.8, 1.4 Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 8.07 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>) overlapping with 8.10 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.21 (dd,  $J$  = 8.0, 0.8 Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.43 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.3, 1.0, 1.0 Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>), 8.54 (br, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 13.1 (C<sup>SEt</sup>), 26.0 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 26.5 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.8 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 118.7 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 122.1 (t,

$J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 122.5 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.7 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 2$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 127.1 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.2 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.5 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.8 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 130.9 (C<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 131.5 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 17$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 16$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.75 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 133.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.6 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 139.5 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 139.9 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.0 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.4 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 152.6 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 156.2 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 163.2 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -12.1 (br. FWHM = 210 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 857.0 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 857.2). Found C 60.64, H 4.73, N 3.13; C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>44</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>3</sub>S requires C 61.05, H 4.42, N 2.79%.

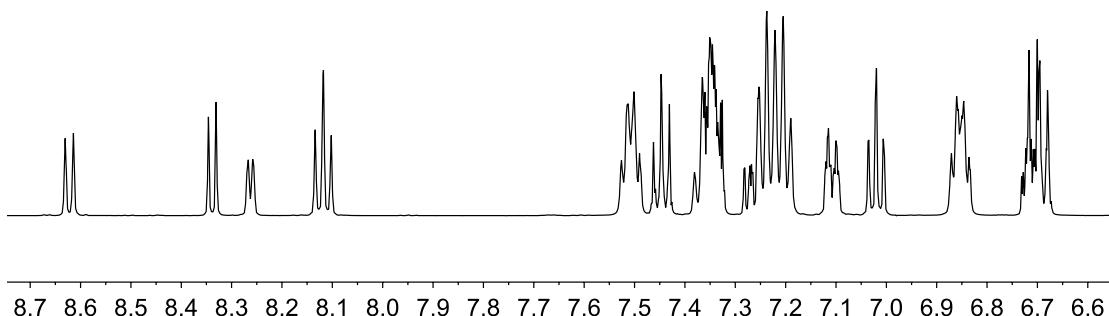
**[Cu(xantphos)(PhSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>].** The method was as for [Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] starting with [Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (93.2 mg, 0.25 mmol), xantphos (145 mg, 0.25 mmol) and PhSbpy (66 mg, 0.25 mmol). [Cu(xantphos)(PhSbpy)][PF<sub>6</sub>] was isolated as a yellow solid (179 mg, 0.17 mmol, 68%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 1.58 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 1.59 (s, 3H, H<sup>a/a'</sup>), 6.76 (m, 2H, H<sup>C3</sup>), 6.85 (m, 2H, H<sup>E2</sup>), 6.91 (dd,  $J = 8.2, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B5</sup>), 7.02 (m, 4H, H<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 7.16 (m, 4H, H<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 7.22–7.39 (overlapping m, 14H, H<sup>E3+C4+D2/D2'+D3/D3'+D4/D4'</sup>), 7.41 (m, 2H, H<sup>D4/D4'</sup>), 7.47 (m, 1H, H<sup>E4</sup>), 7.56 (ddd,  $J = 7.6, 5.1, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A5</sup>), 7.67 (dd,  $J = 7.8, 1.4$  Hz, 2H, H<sup>C5</sup>), 8.00 (m, 1H, H<sup>B4</sup>), 8.10 (m, 1H, H<sup>A4</sup>), 8.27 (dd,  $J = 8.0, 0.8$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>B3</sup>), 8.47 (dt,  $J = 8.3, 1.1$  Hz, 1H, H<sup>A3</sup>), 8.67 (br, 1H, H<sup>A6</sup>). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm 25.9 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 31.5 (C<sup>a/a'</sup>), 36.7 (C<sup>xantphos-bridge</sup>), 119.5 (C<sup>B3</sup>), 121.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 14$  Hz, C<sup>C2</sup>), 123.4 (C<sup>B5</sup>), 123.9 (C<sup>A3</sup>), 125.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 3$  Hz, C<sup>C4</sup>), 127.4 (C<sup>A5</sup>), 128.5 (C<sup>C5</sup>), 129.5 (C<sup>E1</sup>), 129.6 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 129.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 5$  Hz, C<sup>D3/D3'</sup>), 130.9 (C<sup>E3</sup>), 130.9 (C<sup>D4+D4'</sup>), 131.1 (C<sup>E4</sup>), 131.7 (C<sup>C3</sup>), 132.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 17$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 132.8 (t,  $J_{PC} = 18$  Hz, C<sup>D1/D1'</sup>), 133.7 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 133.9 (t,  $J_{PC} = 8$  Hz, C<sup>D2/D2'</sup>), 134.3 (C<sup>C6</sup>), 135.4 (C<sup>E2</sup>), 139.8 (C<sup>A4</sup>), 140.4 (C<sup>B4</sup>), 150.2 (C<sup>A6</sup>), 152.5 (C<sup>A2</sup>), 152.7 (C<sup>B2</sup>), 156.0 (t,  $J_{PC} = 6$  Hz, C<sup>C1</sup>), 164.4 (C<sup>B6</sup>).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR (162 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$ /ppm -11.7 (br. FWHM = 175 Hz), -144.2 (sept,  $J_{PF} = 707$  Hz). ESI MS: *m/z* 905.0 [M-PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (base peak, calc. 905.2). Found C 61.56, H 4.61, N 2.75; C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>44</sub>CuF<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>OP<sub>3</sub>S·H<sub>2</sub>O requires C 61.77, H 4.34, N 2.62%.



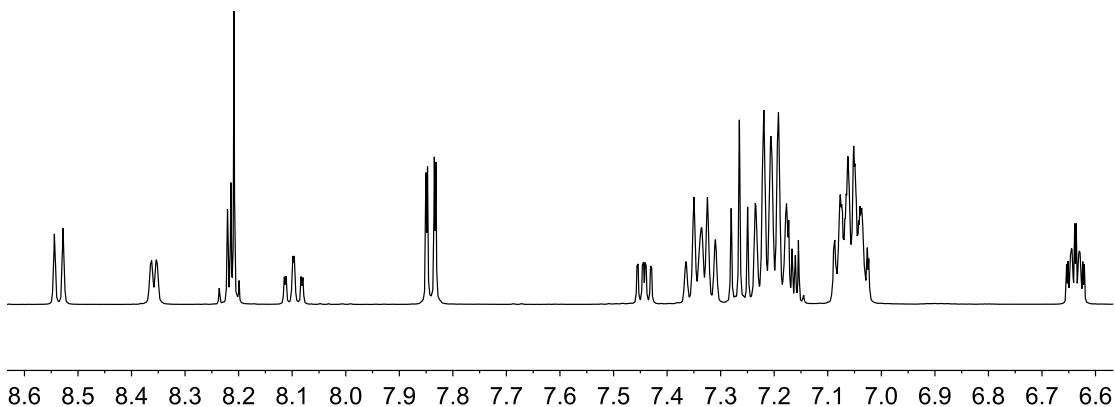
**Fig. S1** 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . See also Fig. 1 in the manuscript. \* = residual  $\text{CD}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CD}_2\text{H}$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



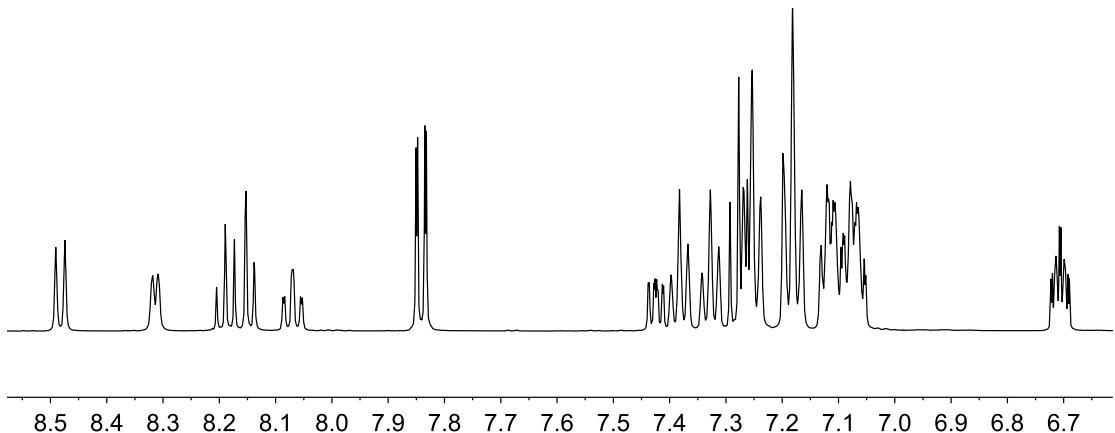
**Fig. S2** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



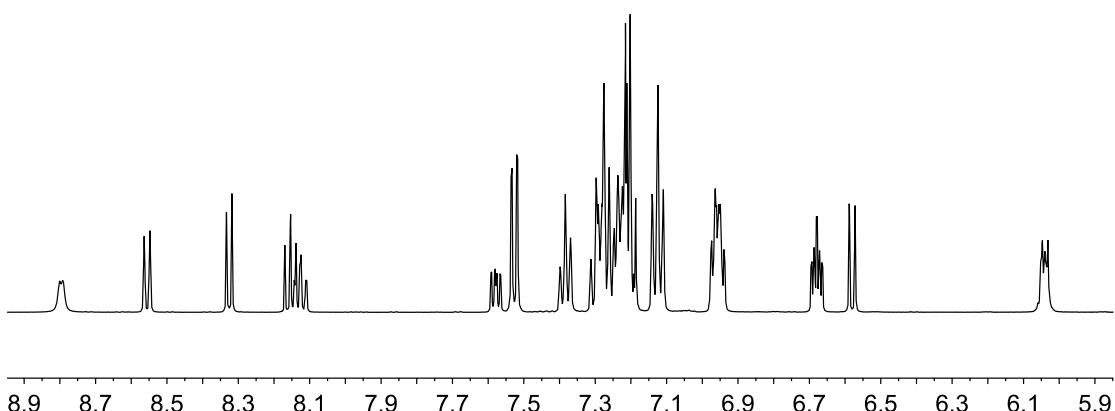
**Fig. S3** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



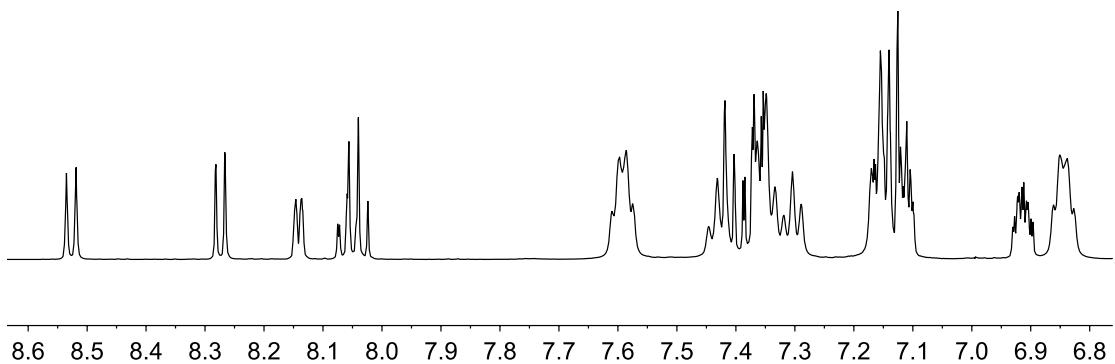
**Fig. S4** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



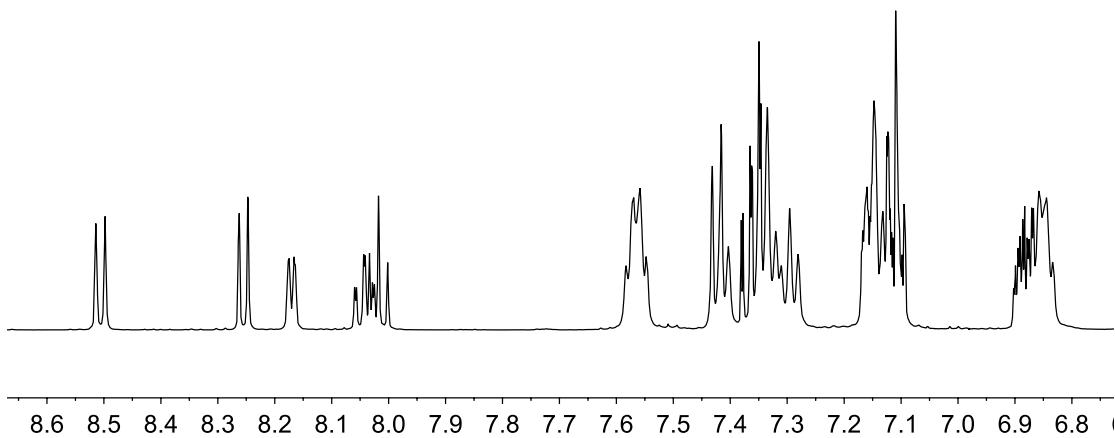
**Fig. S5** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



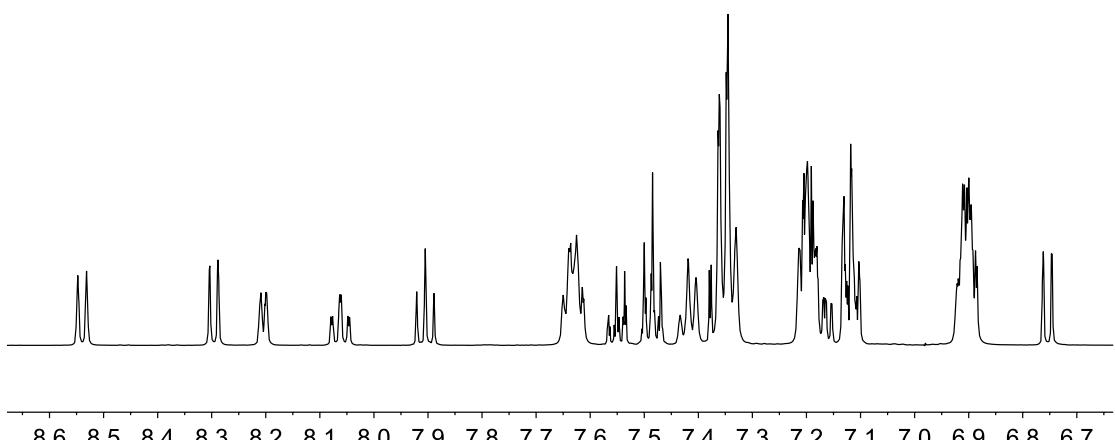
**Fig. S6** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



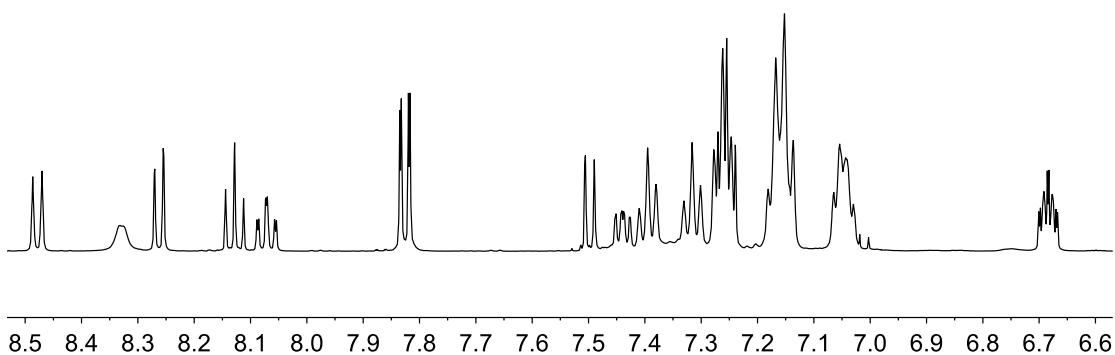
**Fig. S7** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



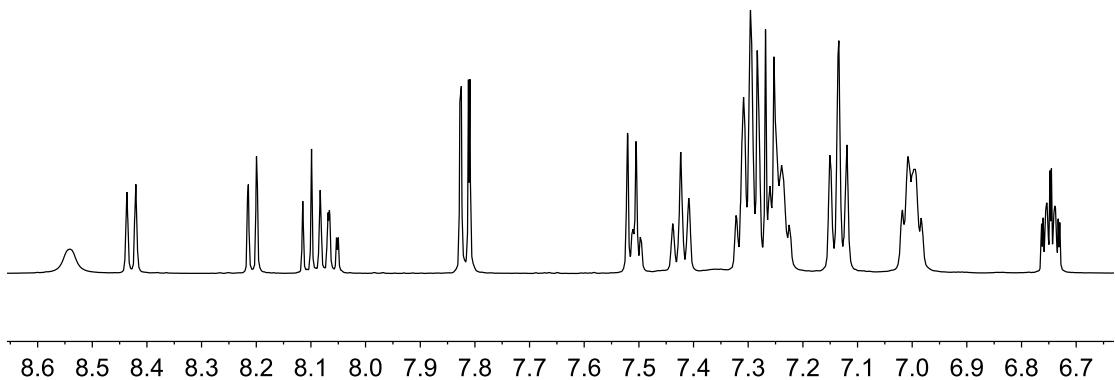
**Fig. S8** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



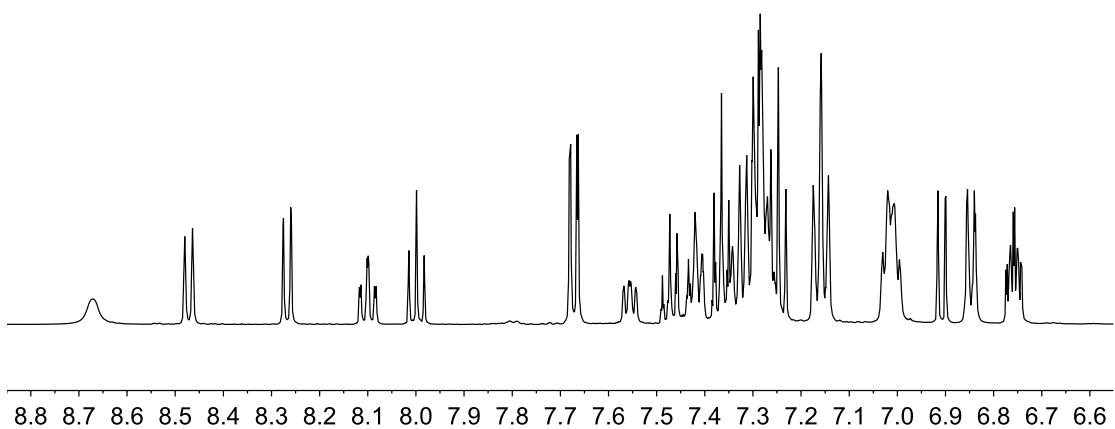
**Fig. S9** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



**Fig. S10** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



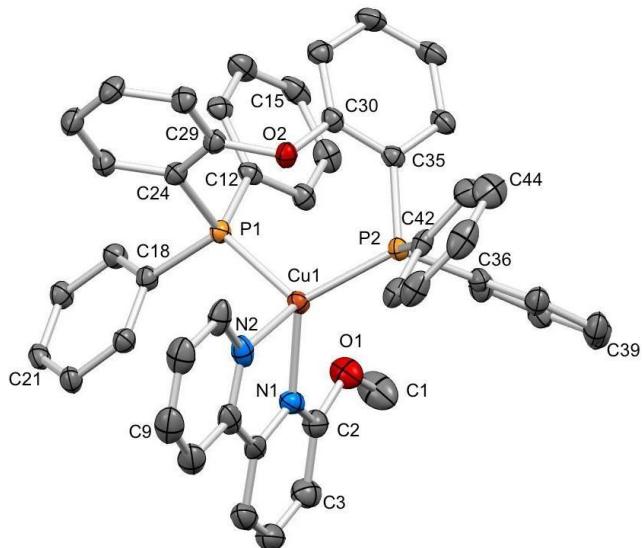
**Fig. S11** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .



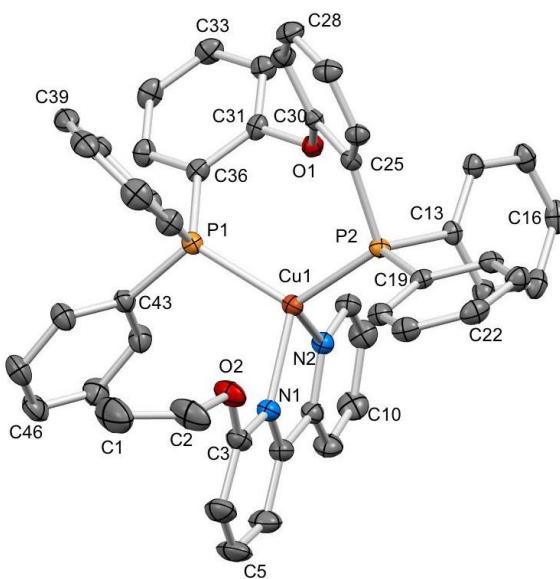
**Fig. S12** Aromatic region of the 500 MHz  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  in acetone- $d_6$ . Chemical shifts in  $\delta/\text{ppm}$ .

**Table S2** Crystallographic data for the copper(I) complexes

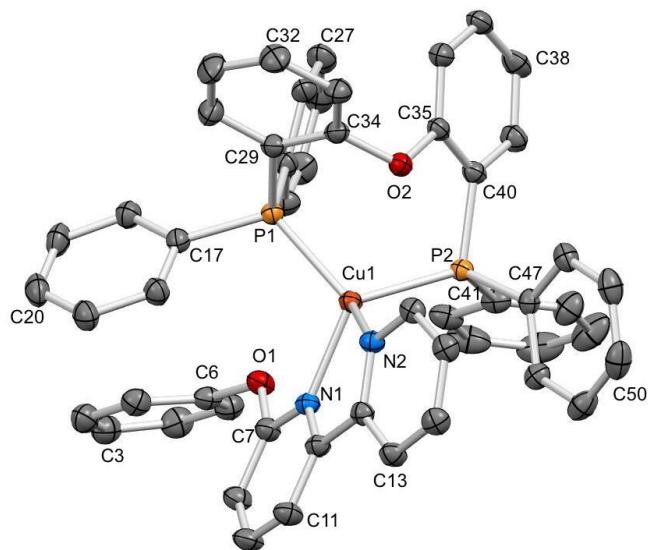
	[Cu(POP)(MeObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·Et <sub>2</sub> O	[Cu(POP)(PhObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	2{[Cu(POP)(PhObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·1.5CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> }	[Cu(POP)(MeSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·0.5CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
Formula	C <sub>47</sub> H <sub>38</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>40</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>105.50</sub> H <sub>83</sub> Cl <sub>3</sub> Cu <sub>2</sub> F <sub>12</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub> P <sub>6</sub>	C <sub>47</sub> H <sub>38</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OP <sub>3</sub> S
Formula weight	933.29	947.31	2118.11	949.35
Crystal colour; habit	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block
Crystal system	monoclinic	orthorhombic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c	Pbca	P-1	P-1
a, b, c / Å	10.7304(8) 43.541(3) 9.6702(7)	16.3593(10) 20.1565(12) 26.5917(17)	14.4382(9) 17.1970(11) 21.5959(14)	9.9139(9) 14.2468(13) 15.7717(14)
α,β,γ / °	90 108.260(4) 90	90 90 90	107.797(3) 104.175(3) 94.745(3)	82.112(3) 84.629(3) 71.123(3)
U / Å <sup>3</sup>	4290.5(5)	8768.5(9)	4877.4(6)	2085.0(3)
D <sub>c</sub> / Mg m <sup>-3</sup>	1.445	1.435	1.44	1.512
Z	4	8	2	2
μ(Cu-Kα) / mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.359	2.317	2.885	2.875
T/K	123	123	123	123
Refln. collected (R <sub>int</sub> )	28076 (0.030)	31282 (0.042)	64272 (0.033)	27895 (0.025)
Unique refln.	7688	8014	17894	7564
Refln. for refinement	7266	7093	16525	7524
Parameters	583	559	1216	550
Threshold	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)
R1 (R1 all data)	0.0951 (0.0977)	0.0397 (0.0453)	0.0547 (0.0582)	0.0453 (0.0454)
wR2 (wR2 all data)	0.2331 (0.2338)	0.0964 (0.0991)	0.1435 (0.1445)	0.0847 (0.0847)
Goodness of fit	1.0713	0.9818	0.9889	0.9337
CCDC	1562408	1562410	1562412	1562449
Compound	[Cu(POP)(EtSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·Et <sub>2</sub> O	[Cu(POP)(PhSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	[Cu(xantphos)(MeObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ·0.5Et <sub>2</sub> O	[Cu(xantphos)(EtObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·0.5CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ·0.5H <sub>2</sub> O
Formula	C <sub>52</sub> H <sub>50</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>52</sub> H <sub>40</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OP <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>49</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2.50</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>51.50</sub> H <sub>46</sub> ClCuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2.50</sub> P <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	1037.50	1011.42	1095.34	1038.85
Crystal colour; habit	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	C2/c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P-1	P-1
a, b, c / Å	31.7468(14) 15.6233(7) 19.5833(9)	9.8131(14) 28.886(4) 16.433(3)	10.9394(9) 15.1458(11) 18.1780(14)	10.8766(6) 15.2866(9) 18.4018(10)
α,β,γ / °	90 101.338(3) 90	90 103.040(6) 90	109.391(4) 98.101(4) 108.096(4)	106.817(4) 102.402(3) 107.943(4)
U / Å <sup>3</sup>	9523.6(7)	4538.0(12)	2598.5(4)	2626.6(3)
D <sub>c</sub> / Mg m <sup>-3</sup>	1.45	1.480	1.400	1.313
Z	8	4	2	2
μ(Cu-Kα) / mm <sup>-1</sup>	2.581	2.681	2.962	2.445
T/K	123	123	123	123
Refln. collected (R <sub>int</sub> )	30655 (0.105)	30102 (0.036)	29615 (0.043)	34275 (0.052)
Unique refln.	8549	8311	9390	9596
Refln. for refinement	4643	8050	8070	6647
Parameters	559	595	649	622
Threshold	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)
R1 (R1 all data)	0.0716 (0.1221)	0.0377 (0.0386)	0.0789 (0.0870)	0.0874 (0.1131)
wR2 (wR2 all data)	0.1918 (0.2423)	0.0859 (0.0861)	0.2020 (0.2060)	0.2180 (0.2367)
Goodness of fit	1.0159	0.9970	1.0785	1.1211
CCDC	1562407	1562453	1562409	1562411
Compound	[Cu(xantphos)(PhObpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·3CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	[Cu(xantphos)(MeSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·0.5CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> ·0.5Et <sub>2</sub> O	[Cu(xantphos)(EtSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·1.5Et <sub>2</sub> O	[Cu(xantphos)(PhSbpy)][PF <sub>6</sub> ] ·0.5CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>
Formula	C <sub>58</sub> H <sub>50</sub> Cl <sub>6</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>52.50</sub> H <sub>48</sub> ClCuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>1.50</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>57</sub> H <sub>59</sub> CuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2.50</sub> P <sub>3</sub> S	C <sub>55.5</sub> H <sub>45</sub> ClCuF <sub>6</sub> N <sub>2</sub> OP <sub>3</sub> S
Formula weight	1290.22	1068.95	1114.63	1093.95
Crystal colour; habit	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block	yellow block
Crystal system	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic	triclinic
Space group	P-1	P-1	P-1	P-1
a, b, c / Å	13.3823(8) 14.0597(8) 17.5669(10)	10.9688(6) 15.3886(8) 18.2399(10)	10.9194(5) 15.3624(8) 16.8151(9)	10.9025(7) 13.2292(9) 17.8354(12)
α,β,γ / °	103.548(3) 112.186(3) 98.856(3)	110.2998(17) 97.3701(19) 108.6020(18)	95.111(3) 93.760(3) 107.807(3)	80.615(3) 84.731(3) 83.868(3)
U / Å <sup>3</sup>	2865.4(3)	2636.0(3)	2662.0(2)	2516.2(3)
D <sub>c</sub> / Mg m <sup>-3</sup>	1.495	1.347	1.39	1.44
Z	2	2	2	2
μ(Cu-Kα) / mm <sup>-1</sup>	4.449	2.797	2.354	2.939
T/K	123	123	123	123
Refln. collected (R <sub>int</sub> )	37703 (0.033)	34770 (0.023)	31869 (0.039)	32882 (0.032)
Unique refln.	10515	9618	9530	9230
Refln. for refinement	9124	9024	8534	9178
Parameters	703	649	631	622
Threshold	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)	I > 2σ(I)
R1 (R1 all data)	0.0697 (0.0771)	0.0613 (0.0634)	0.0597 (0.0654)	0.0470 (0.0525)
wR2 (wR2 all data)	0.1821 (0.1855)	0.1715 (0.1727)	0.1461 (0.1481)	0.1233 (0.1258)
Goodness of fit	1.0491	0.9810	1.0908	1.0152
CCDC	1562457	15624458	15624460	1562448



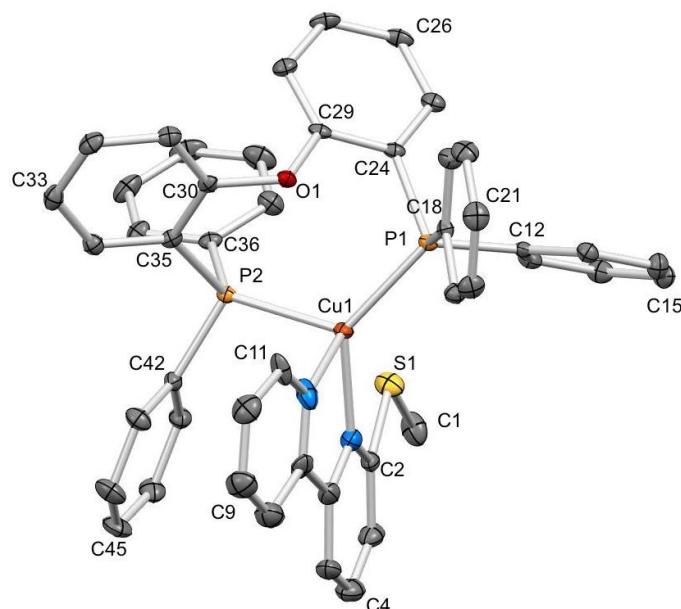
**Fig. S13** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeObpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeObpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2711(12), Cu1–P2 = 2.2387(12), Cu1–N1 = 2.045(4), Cu1–N2 = 2.096(4), O1–C1 = 1.443(7), O1–C2 = 1.330(7), O2–C29 = 1.398(5), O2–C30 = 1.400(5) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 113.83(5), P1–Cu1–N1 = 110.44(11), P2–Cu1–N1 = 124.55(12), P1–Cu–N2 = 105.71(12), P2–Cu1–N2 = 117.08(11), N1–Cu1–N2 = 79.49(17), C1–O1–C2 = 118.3(5), C29–O2–C30 = 118.7(3)°.



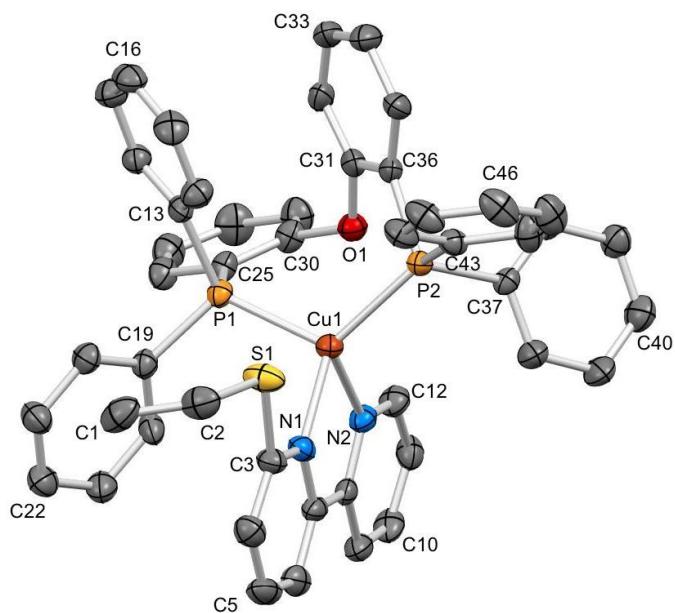
**Fig. S14** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtObpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtObpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2712(6), Cu1–P2 = 2.2259(6), Cu1–N1 = 2.0589(18), Cu1–N2 = 2.0737(17), O1–C30 = 1.392(2), O1–C31 = 1.397(2), O2–C2 = 1.454(3), O2–C3 = 1.348(3) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 116.48(2), P1–Cu1–N1 = 109.75(5), P2–Cu1–N1 = 126.11(5), P1–Cu1–N2 = 105.49(5), P2–Cu1–N2 = 111.46(5), N1–Cu1–N2 = 79.65(7), C30–O1–C31 = 118.88(15), C2–O2–C3 = 119.52(19)°.



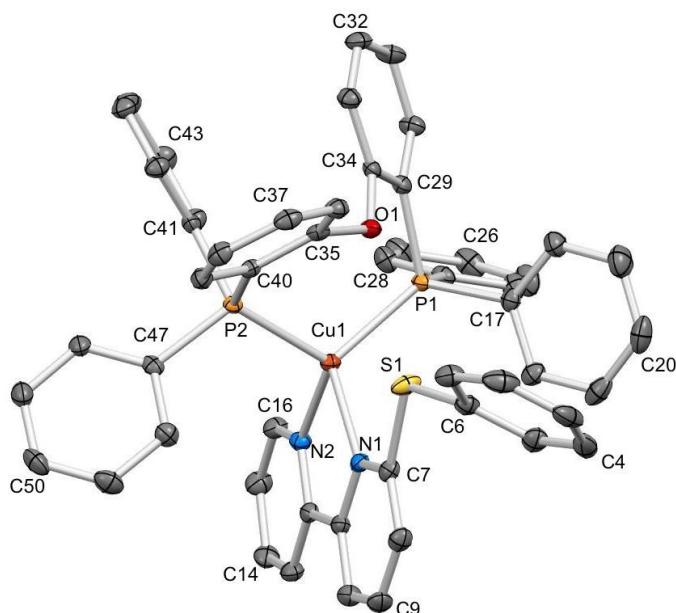
**Fig. S15** Structure of one of the two crystallographically independent  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhObpy})]^+$  cations in  $2\{\text{[Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhObpy})]\text{[PF}_6\text{]}\} \cdot 1.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . Solvent molecules and H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2391(7), Cu1–P2 = 2.2599(7), Cu1–N1 = 2.076(2), Cu1–N2 = 2.094(2), O1–C6 = 1.409(3), O1–C7 = 1.365(3), O2–C34 = 1.403(3), O2–C35 = 1.395(3) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 110.83(3), P1–Cu1–N1 = 114.23(6), P2–Cu1–N1 = 125.02(6), P1–Cu1–N2 = 123.33(6), P2–Cu1–N2 = 100.71(6), N1–Cu1–N2 = 79.43(8), C6–O1–C7 = 117.17(19), C34–O2–C35 = 116.64(18)°.



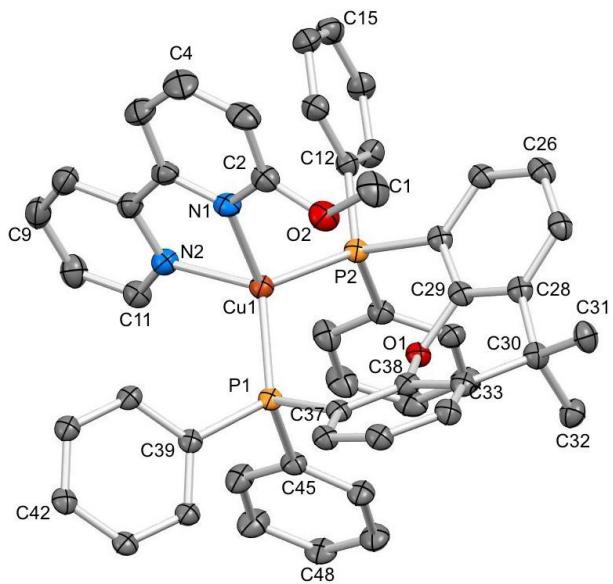
**Fig. S16** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{MeSbpy})]\text{[PF}_6\text{]}$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2281(7), Cu1–P2 = 2.2913(7), Cu1–N1 = 2.069(2), Cu1–N2 = 2.138(2), S1–C1 = 1.790(3), S1–C2 = 1.769(3), O1–C29 = 1.387(3), O1–C30 = 1.393(3) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 118.99(3), P1–Cu1–N1 = 133.70(6), P2–Cu1–N1 = 102.37(6), P1–Cu1–N2 = 113.71(6), P2–Cu1–N2 = 97.21(7), N–Cu1–N2 = 78.09(9), C1–S1–C2 = 103.63(13), C29–O1–C30 = 118.78(17)°.



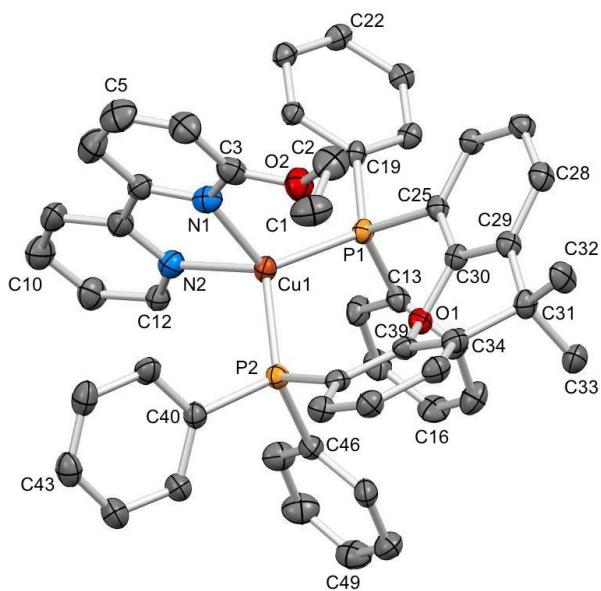
**Fig. S17** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{EtSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]\cdot\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level; solvent molecule was not refined (see text). Selected bond parameters:  $\text{Cu1-P1} = 2.2756(18)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-P2} = 2.2328(17)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N1} = 2.059(5)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N2} = 2.101(5)$ ,  $\text{S1-C2} = 1.798(8)$ ,  $\text{S1-C3} = 1.770(7)$ ,  $\text{O1-C30} = 1.412(8)$ ,  $\text{O1-C31} = 1.404(8)$  Å;  $\text{P1-Cu1-P2} = 113.86(7)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N1} = 106.57(16)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N1} = 132.61(15)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N2} = 105.48(15)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N2} = 110.70(16)$ ,  $\text{N1-Cu1-N2} = 79.8(2)$ ,  $\text{C2-S1-C3} = 104.0(4)$ ,  $\text{C30-O1-C31} = 116.5(5)$ °.



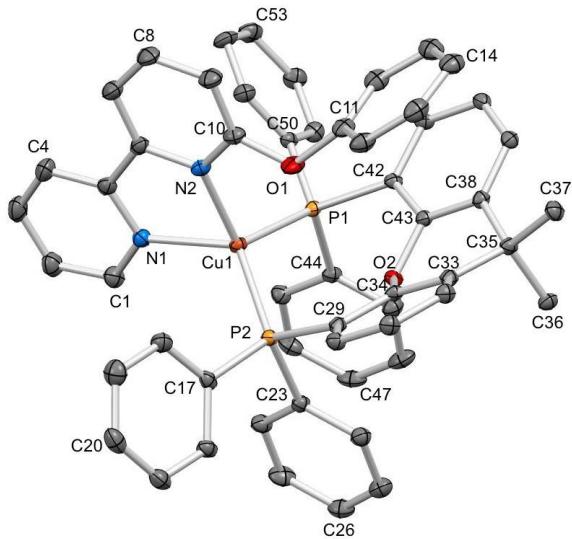
**Fig. S18** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{PhSbpy})][\text{PF}_6]$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. Selected bond parameters:  $\text{Cu1-P2} = 2.2818(6)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-P1} = 2.2699(6)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N2} = 2.0725(17)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N1} = 2.1239(16)$ ,  $\text{C6-S1} = 1.776(2)$ ,  $\text{C7-S1} = 1.752(2)$ ,  $\text{C34-O1} = 1.383(2)$ ,  $\text{C35-O1} = 1.388(2)$  Å;  $\text{P2-Cu1-P1} = 112.49(2)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N2} = 114.48(5)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N2} = 116.08(5)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N1} = 111.72(5)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N1} = 119.34(5)$ ,  $\text{N1-Cu1-N2} = 78.86(7)$ °.



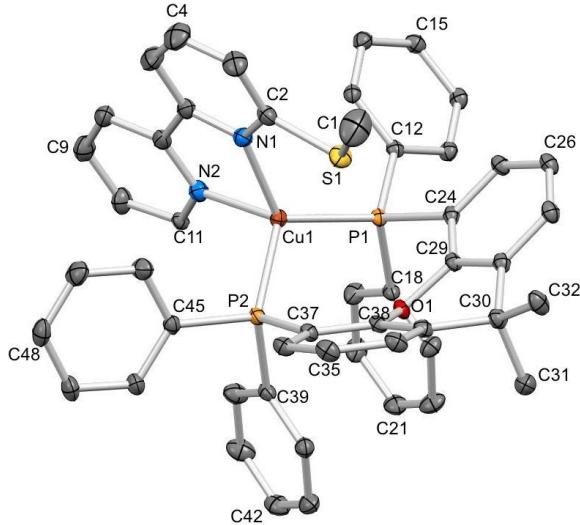
**Fig. S19** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeObpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeObpy})][\text{PF}_6] \cdot \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 0.5\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2376(10), Cu1–P2 = 2.2569(10), Cu1–N1 = 2.046(3), Cu1–N2 = 2.071(3), O1–C29 = 1.386(4), O1–C38 = 1.393(4), O2–C1 = 1.440(5), O2–C2 = 1.325(5) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 114.42(4), P1–Cu1–N1 = 121.10(9), P2–Cu1–N1 = 109.89(9), P1–Cu1–N2 = 115.42(9), P2–Cu1–N2 = 111.62(9), N1–Cu–N2 = 79.67(13)°.



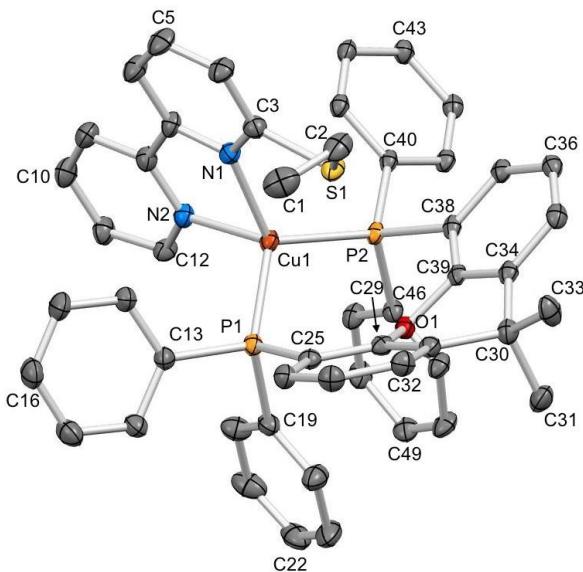
**Fig. S20** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtObpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtObpy})][\text{PF}_6] \cdot 0.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 0.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2363(11), Cu1–P2 = 2.2524(12), Cu1–N1 = 2.026(4), Cu1–N2 = 2.094(4), O1–C30 = 1.376(5), O1–C39 = 1.387(5), O2–C2 = 1.435(7), O2–C3 = 1.316(6) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 114.15(4), P1–Cu1–N1 = 119.87(12), P2–Cu1–N1 = 112.97(11), P1–Cu1–N2 = 114.22(12), P2–Cu1–N2 = 111.02(12), N1–Cu1–N2 = 79.91(17), C30–O1–C39 = 114.5(3), C2–O2–C3 = 122.4(5)°.



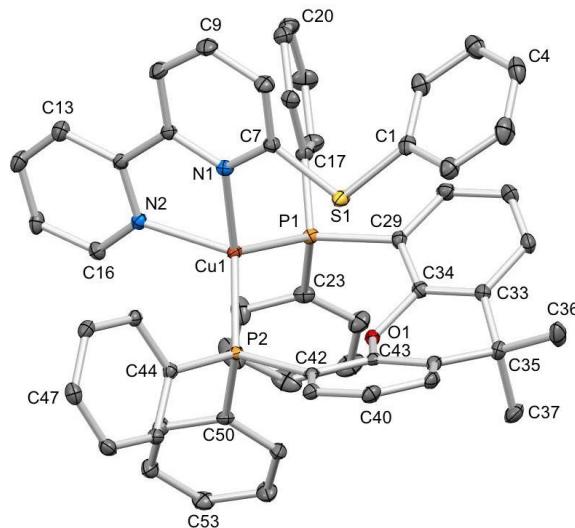
**Fig. S21** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhObpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhObpy})][\text{PF}_6] \cdot 3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P1 = 2.2767(9), Cu1–P2 = 2.2422(9), Cu1–N1 = 2.087(3), Cu1–N2 = 2.068(3), O1–C10 = 1.357(5), O1–C11 = 1.405(4), O2–C34 = 1.391(4), O2–C43 = 1.390(4) Å; P1–Cu1–P2 = 113.29(3), P1–Cu1–N1 = 111.01(8), P2–Cu1–N1 = 119.20(8), P1–Cu1–N2 = 111.65(8), P2–Cu1–N2 = 118.52(8), N1–Cu1–N2 = 78.76(11), C10–O1–C11 = 119.4(3), C34–O2–C43 = 113.8(2)°.



**Fig. S22** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{MeSbpy})][\text{PF}_6] \cdot 0.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \cdot 0.5\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level. Selected bond parameters: Cu1–P2 = 2.2666(8), Cu1–P1 = 2.2463(8), Cu1–N2 = 2.079(3), Cu1–N1 = 2.049(3), C1–S1 = 1.783(4), C2–S1 = 1.744(3), C29–O1 = 1.396(3), C38–O1 = 1.384(3) Å; P2–Cu1–P1 = 113.33(3), P2–Cu1–N2 = 111.24(8), P1–Cu1–N2 = 114.12(8), P2–Cu1–N1 = 111.71(8), P1–Cu1–N1 = 122.20(7), N2–Cu1–N1 = 79.70(11), C1–S1–C2 = 104.2(2), C29–O1–C38 = 114.2(2)°.



**Fig. S23** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{EtSbpy})]\text{[PF}_6\text{]} \cdot 1.5\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . H atoms and solvent molecules are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 30% probability level. Selected bond parameters:  $\text{Cu1-P1} = 2.2680(8)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-P2} = 2.2534(7)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N1} = 2.062(2)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N2} = 2.084(2)$ ,  $\text{S1-C2} = 1.822(3)$ ,  $\text{S1-C3} = 1.753(3)$ ,  $\text{O1-C29} = 1.386(3)$ ,  $\text{O1-C39} = 1.396(3)$  Å;  $\text{P1-Cu1-P2} = 113.65(3)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N1} = 114.37(7)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N1} = 118.96(7)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N2} = 112.49(7)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N2} = 113.39(6)$ ,  $\text{N1-Cu1-N2} = 79.48(9)$ ,  $\text{C2-S1-C3} = 103.77(14)$ ,  $\text{C29-O1-C39} = 114.56(19)^\circ$ .

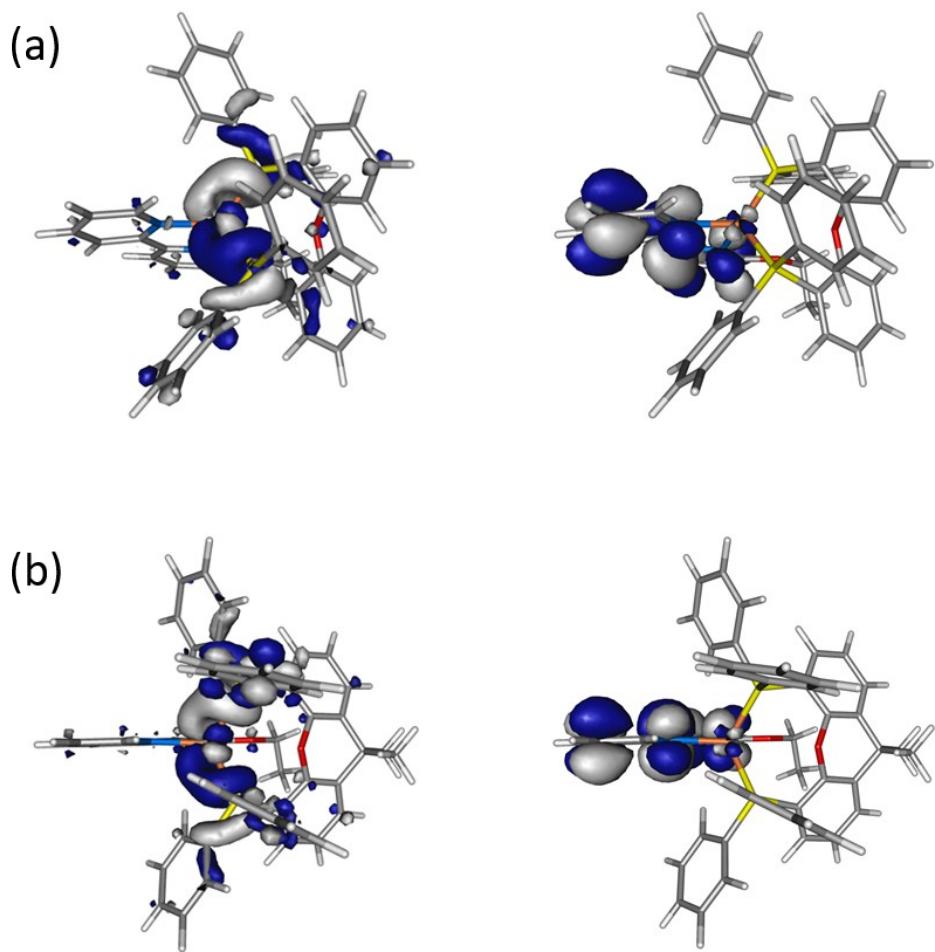


**Fig. S24** Structure of the  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhSbpy})]^+$  cation in  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhSbpy})]\text{[PF}_6\text{]} \cdot 0.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . H atoms are omitted and ellipsoids are plotted at 40% probability level. The solvent molecule was not refined (see text). Selected bond parameters:  $\text{Cu1-P1} = 2.2717(7)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-P2} = 2.2466(7)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N1} = 2.066(2)$ ,  $\text{Cu1-N2} = 2.079(2)$ ,  $\text{S1-C1} = 1.774(3)$ ,  $\text{S1-C7} = 1.764(2)$ ,  $\text{O1-C34} = 1.388(3)$ ,  $\text{O1-C43} = 1.386(3)$  Å;  $\text{P1-Cu1-P2} = 115.71(2)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N1} = 111.38(6)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N1} = 119.48(6)$ ,  $\text{P1-Cu1-N2} = 112.79(6)$ ,  $\text{P2-Cu1-N2} = 112.84(6)$ ,  $\text{N1-Cu1-N2} = 79.40(8)$ ,  $\text{C1-S1-C7} = 103.84(12)$ ,  $\text{C34-O1-C43} = 114.85(18)^\circ$ .

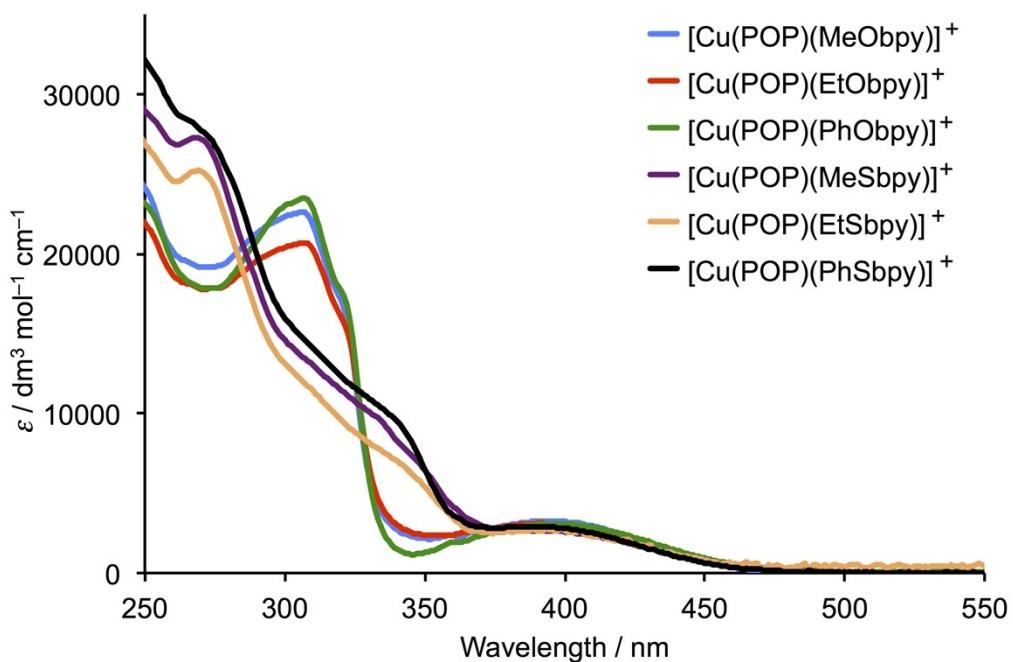
**Table S3** Selected structural parameters calculated at the B3LYP-D3/(def2svp+def2tzvp) level in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution for [Cu(P<sup>^</sup>P)(N<sup>^</sup>N)]<sup>+</sup> complexes in their electronic ground state S<sub>0</sub> and in their first triplet excited state T<sub>1</sub>.

Cation	Cu–P distance /Å (Cu1–P1, Cu1–P2)	Cu–N distance /Å (Cu1–N1, Cu1–N2)	P–Cu–P chelating angle /°	N–Cu–N chelating angle /°	Angle formed by P–Cu–P and N–Cu–N planes /°	N–C–C–N torsion angle /°
Ground state (S <sub>0</sub> )						
[Cu(POP)(bpy)] <sup>+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.246, 2.284	2.096, 2.069	113.84	80.09	80.37	14.29
[Cu(POP)(6-MeObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.256, 2.281	2.104, 2.082	113.04	79.08	81.05	14.24
[Cu(POP)(6-EtObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.268, 2.271	2.103, 2.081	113.70	78.17	82.60	9.69
[Cu(POP)(6-PhObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.262, 2.282	2.106, 2.081	113.36	78.60	86.02	5.69
[Cu(POP)(6-MeSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.271, 2.286	2.098, 2.097	113.84	79.10	81.97	9.78
[Cu(POP)(6-EtSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.275, 2.282	2.097, 2.095	113.86	79.14	82.34	9.82
[Cu(POP)(6-PhSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.302, 2.271	2.107, 2.106	113.09	78.40	84.42	9.33
[Cu(xantphos)(bpy)] <sup>+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.269, 2.270	2.104, 2.068	114.40	79.75	86.94	3.23
[Cu(xantphos)(6-MeObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.268, 2.276	2.099, 2.083	114.20	78.94	87.84	3.73
[Cu(xantphos)(6-EtObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.274, 2.275	2.107, 2.079	114.15	78.74	88.76	2.51
[Cu(xantphos)(6-PhObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.276, 2.274	2.107, 2.081	114.36	78.56	89.67	2.02
[Cu(xantphos)(6-MeSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.257, 2.300	2.100, 2.096	114.40	78.95	86.61	5.95
[Cu(xantphos)(6-EtSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.274, 2.289	2.105, 2.091	113.53	78.84	88.02	2.81
[Cu(xantphos)(6-PhSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.313, 2.255	2.115, 2.097	115.48	78.53	89.37	5.85
Triplet excited state (T <sub>1</sub> )						
[Cu(POP)(bpy)] <sup>+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.365, 2.334	1.982, 1.981	102.90	83.46	59.69	2.83
[Cu(POP)(6-MeObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.364, 2.333	2.003, 1.951	103.50	82.49	60.67	3.29
[Cu(POP)(6-EtObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.365, 2.329	2.000, 1.952	103.85	82.43	60.79	3.53
[Cu(POP)(6-PhObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.353, 2.340	1.988, 1.965	105.26	82.40	63.75	4.24
[Cu(POP)(6-MeSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.386, 2.310	2.016, 1.953	104.00	82.33	62.11	3.73
[Cu(POP)(6-EtSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.387, 2.307	2.018, 1.948	104.30	82.02	62.81	3.35
[Cu(POP)(6-PhSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.396, 2.314	2.019, 1.949	103.73	81.79	65.32	3.57
[Cu(xantphos)(bpy)] <sup>+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	2.399, 2.350	1.997, 1.981	105.92	83.06	57.53	1.99
[Cu(xantphos)(6-MeObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.378, 2.362	1.981, 1.979	105.72	82.63	61.01	2.64
[Cu(xantphos)(6-EtObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.378, 2.361	1.979, 1.979	106.75	82.66	65.01	4.04
[Cu(xantphos)(6-PhObpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.378, 2.350	1.985, 1.981	106.96	82.41	65.58	5.07
[Cu(xantphos)(6-MeSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.399, 2.342	1.990, 1.970	105.93	82.50	64.05	1.12
[Cu(xantphos)(6-EtSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.397, 2.342	1.988, 1.972	105.74	82.47	64.98	1.67
[Cu(xantphos)(6-PhSbpy)] <sup>+</sup>	2.391, 2.340	2.000, 1.959	107.50	82.33	69.42	2.22

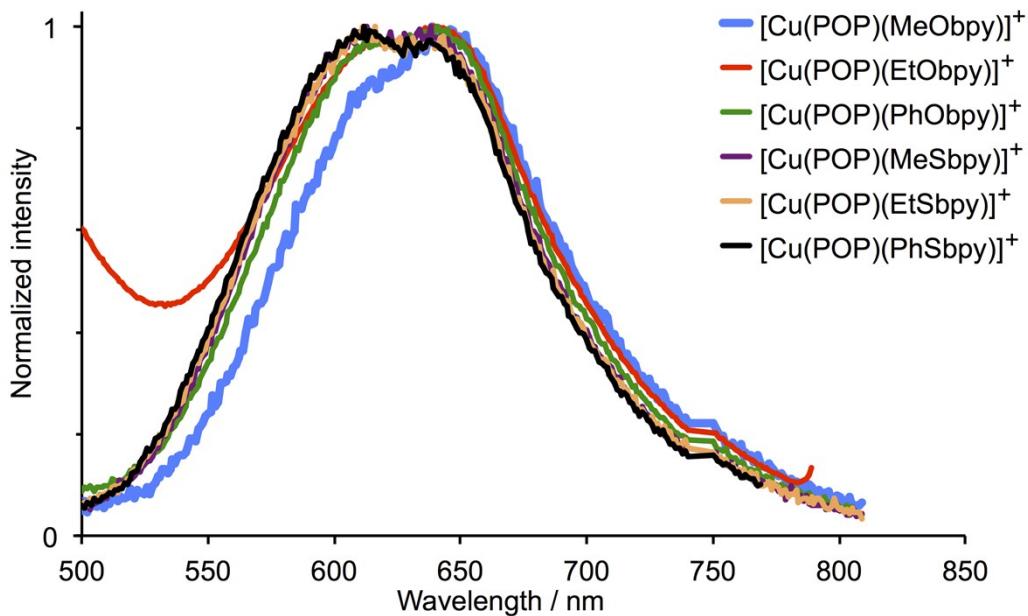
<sup>a</sup> Values from ref. 5.



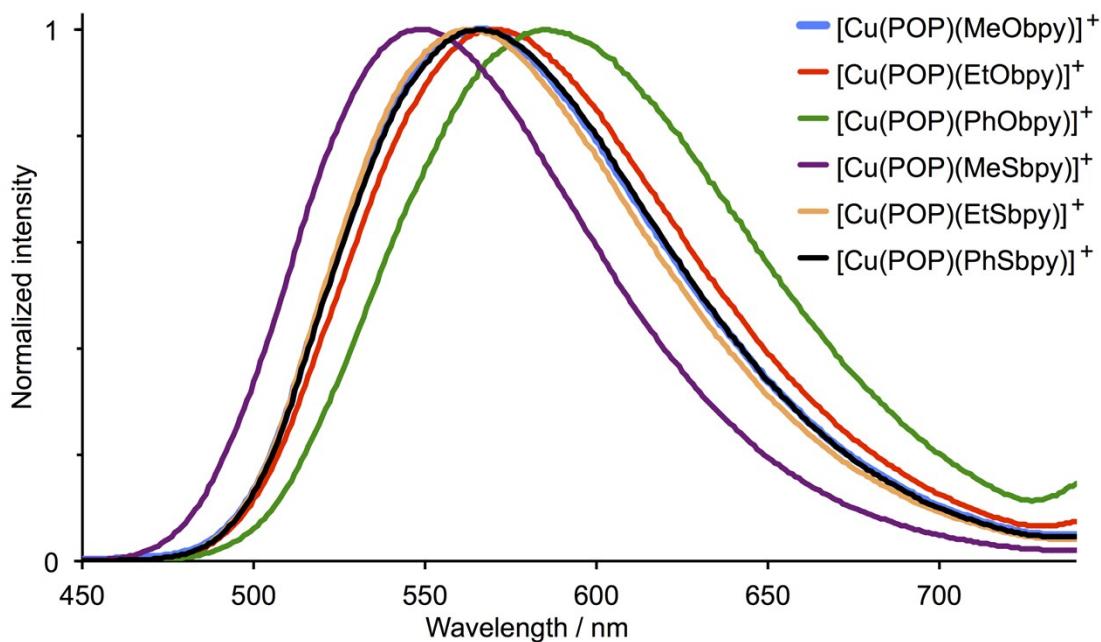
**Fig. S25** Isovalue contour plots ( $\pm 0.03$  a.u.) for the HOMO (left) and LUMO (right) of complexes  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{6-EtObpy})]^+$  (a) and  $[\text{Cu}(\text{Xanthpos})(\text{6-EtObpy})]^+$  (b).



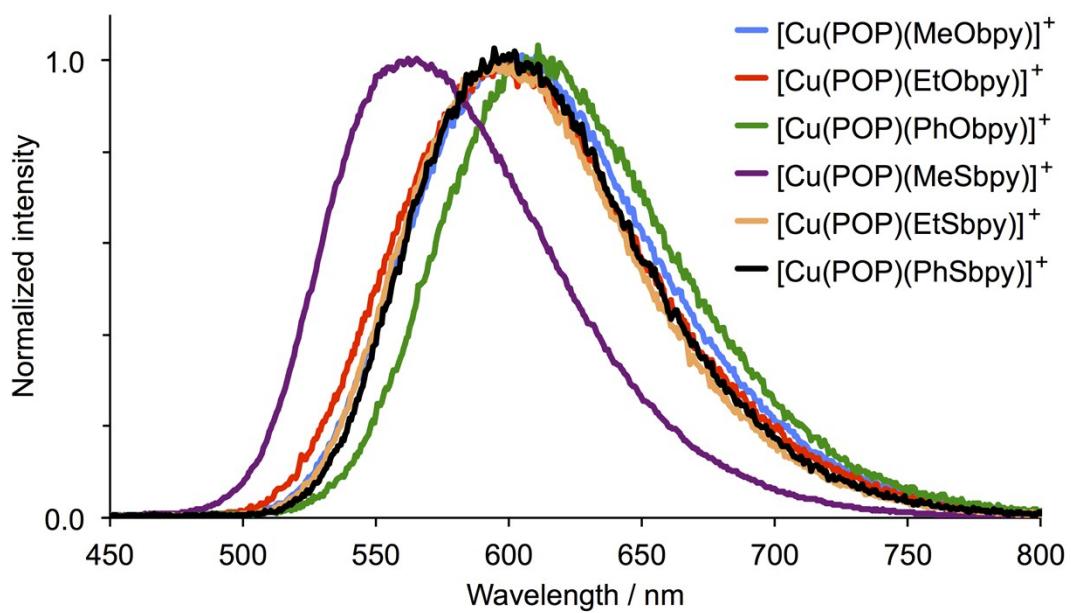
**Fig. S26** Absorption spectra of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{N}^{\text{N}})]^{+}\text{[PF}_6^{-}]$  complexes (concentration =  $2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol dm}^{-3}$ ).



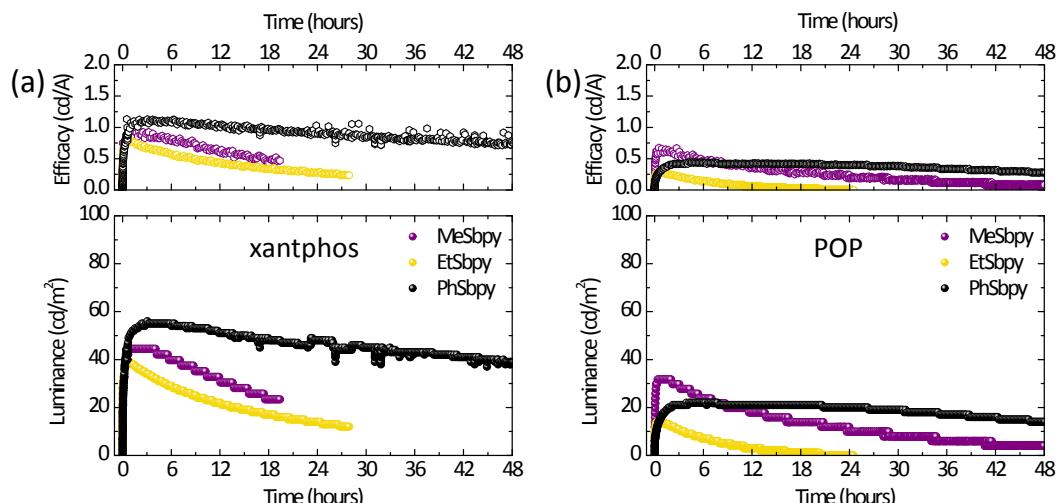
**Fig. S27** Emission spectra of solutions ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  mol dm $^{-3}$ ) of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{N}^{\text{N}})][\text{PF}_6]$  complexes (see Table 3 for  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}$ ).



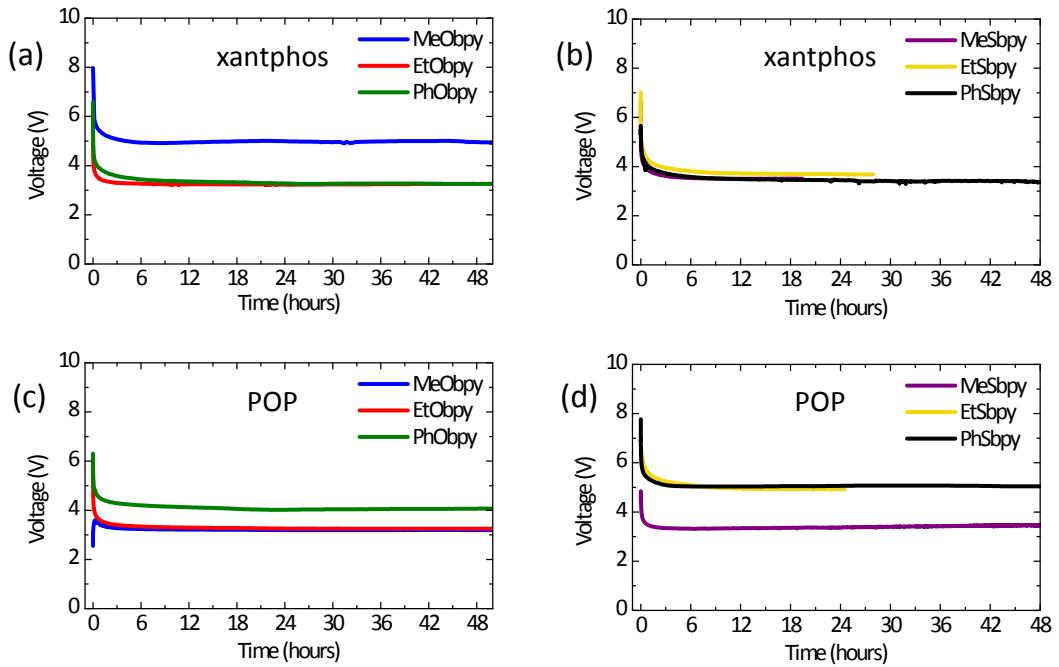
**Fig. S28** Emission spectra of powder samples of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{N}^{\text{N}})][\text{PF}_6]$  complexes ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 365$  nm).



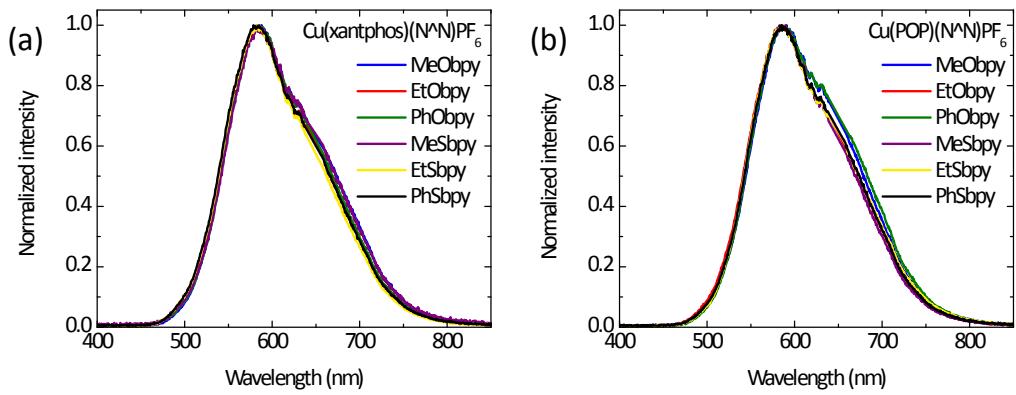
**Fig. S29** Emission spectra of  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{N}^{\text{N}})]\text{[PF}_6]$  complexes in frozen Me-THF ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 410 \text{ nm}$ ).



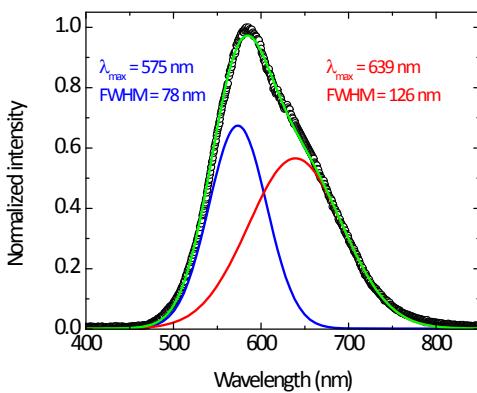
**Fig. S30** Efficacy (top) and luminance (bottom) vs. time for LECs employing RSbpy ligands and either (a) xantphos or (b) POP as bisphosphane ligands. LECs were driven with pulsed current density at  $50 \text{ A/m}^2$  (1 kHz, 50% duty cycle, square wave).



**Fig. S31** Time evolution of the voltage for LECs based on (a)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{RObpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$ , (b)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{RSbpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$ , (c)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{RObpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$  and (d)  $[\text{Cu}(\text{POP})(\text{RSbpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$  complexes. LECs were driven with pulsed current density at  $50 \text{ A/m}^2$  (1 kHz, 50% duty cycle, square wave).



**Fig. S32** Electroluminescence spectra of LECs employing  $[\text{Cu}(\text{P}^{\text{P}})(\text{RXbpy})]\text{[PF}_6]$  complexes ( $\text{X} = \text{O}, \text{S}$ ) with (a) xantphos or (b) POP ligands. LECs were driven with pulsed current density at  $50 \text{ A/m}^2$  (1 kHz, 50% duty cycle, square wave).



**Fig. S33** Fit of the electroluminescence spectra for the complex  $[\text{Cu}(\text{xantphos})(\text{PhObpy})][\text{PF}_6]$  with the sum of two Gaussian functions. The centre and full width at half maximum of the two components are reported in the corresponding colour.

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