

## Supplementary material

### Electrophosphorescent homo- and heteroleptic copper(I) complexes prepared from various bis-phosphine ligands

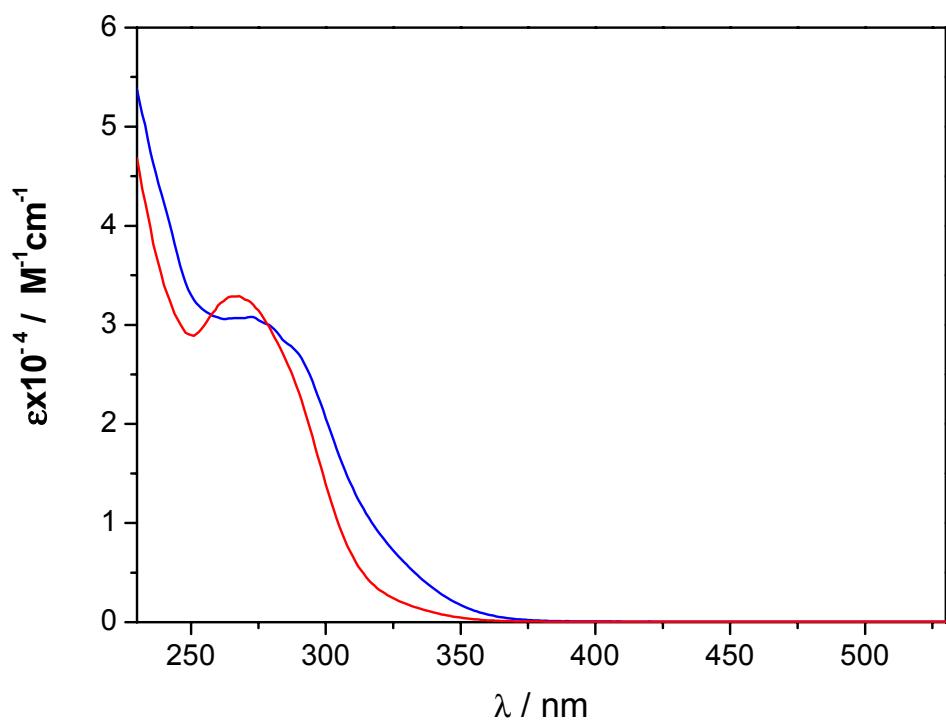
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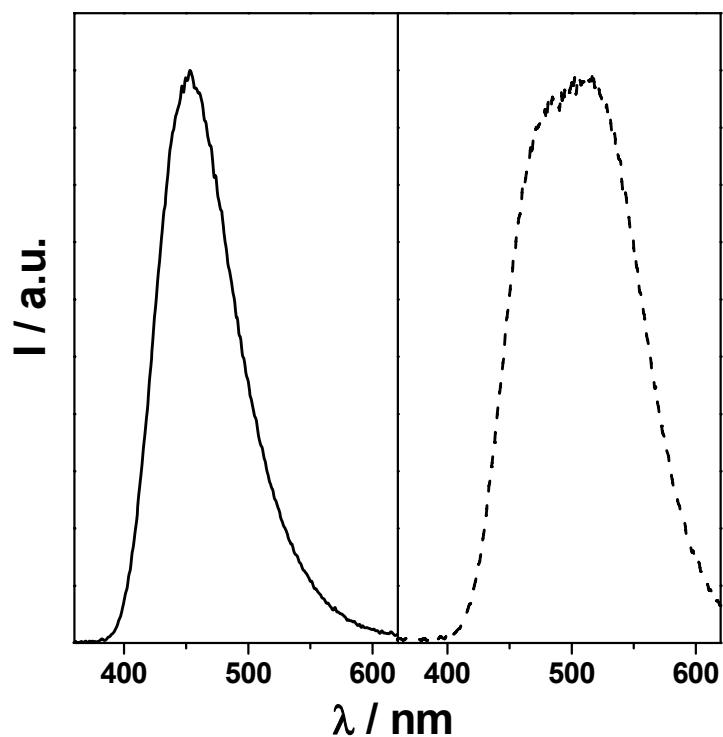
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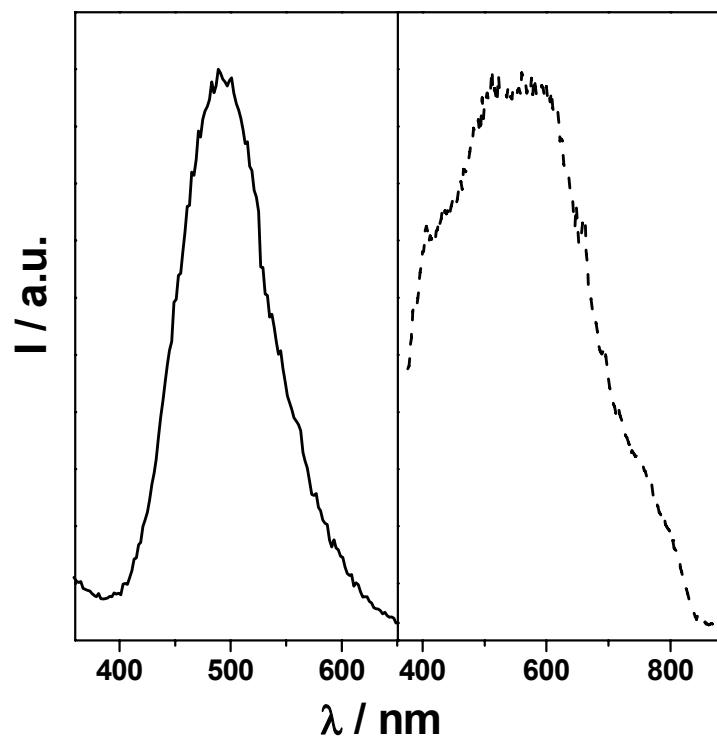
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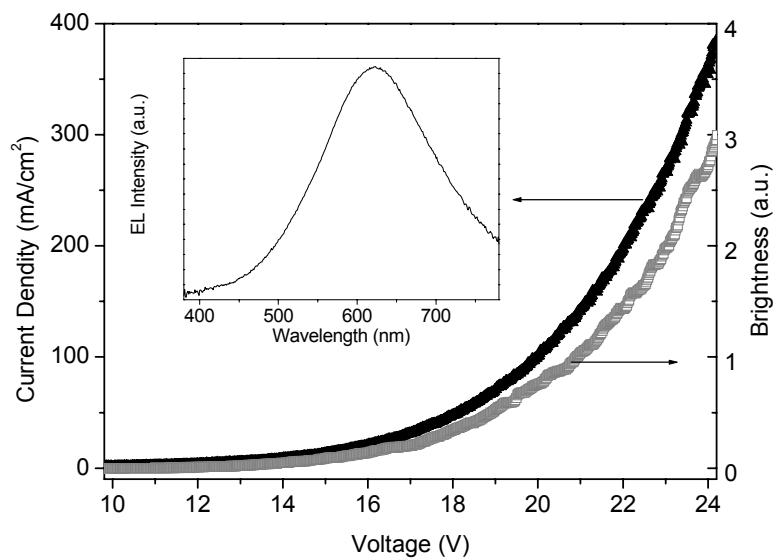
**Figure S1.** Absorption spectra of **1** (red) and **4** (blue) in dichloromethane solutions.



**Figure S2.** Emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 330 \text{ nm}$ , O.D. = 0.2) in dichloromethane rigid matrix (77 K) of **4** (solid line, left window) and **1** (dashed line, right window).



**Figure S3.** Emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 330 \text{ nm}$ , O.D. = 0.2) in dichloromethane solution (room temperature) of **4** (solid line, left window) and **1** (dashed line, right window)

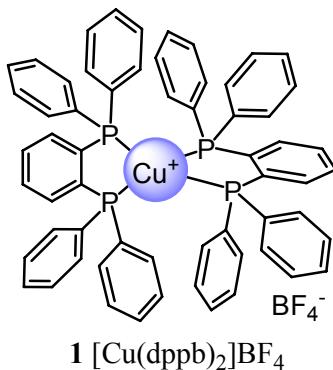


**Figure S4.** I-V-B characteristics of the device obtained from **4**. Inset: EL spectra of **4** at a concentration of 12.5 wt.-% in a PVK matrix.

## Experimental section

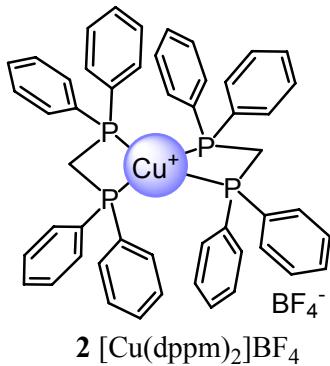
**General.** All reagents were used as purchased from commercial sources without further purification. All reactions were performed in standard glassware. Evaporation was done using water aspirator and drying *in vacuo* at  $10^{-2}$  Torr. UV/Vis spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  in nm ( $\varepsilon$ )) were measured on a Hitachi U-3000 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 300 spectrometer. Electrospray (ES) mass spectra in positive mode were acquired on a Perkin Elmer Sciex API-365 spectrometer. Elemental analysis were performed by the analytical service at the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination (Toulouse, France).

### Compound 1.



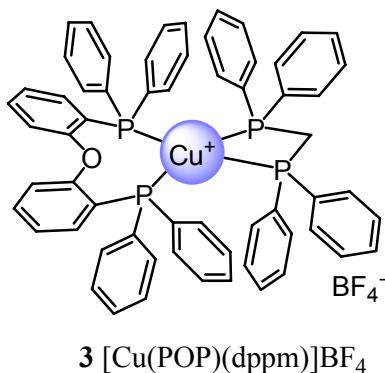
A mixture of  $\text{Cu}(\text{CNCH}_3)\text{BF}_4$  (0.08 g, 0.18 mmol) and dppb (0.17 g, 0.37 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature. The resulting solution was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Crystals of **1** were obtained by vapor diffusion of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  into this  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. Compound **1** was thus obtained in 68% yield as colorless crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 6.98 (m, 16 H), 7.09 (m, 16 H), 7.34 (m, 8 H), 7.54 (m, 8 H).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 8.12.  $^{13}\text{C}\{^{31}\text{P}\}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 129.0, 130.2, 131.2, 131.7, 132.4, 134.0, 141.6. ES-MS: 955.2 ( $[M - \text{BF}_4^-]^+$ , calc. for  $\text{C}_{60}\text{H}_{48}\text{P}_4\text{Cu}$ : 955.20). Elemental analysis calc. for  $\text{C}_{60}\text{H}_{48}\text{P}_4\text{CuBF}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ : C 67.90, H 4.75; found: C 67.85, H 4.40.

### Compound 2.



A mixture of  $\text{Cu}(\text{CNCH}_3)\text{BF}_4$  (0.13 g, 0.35 mmol) and dppm (0.26 g, 0.71 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature. The resulting solution was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Crystals of **2** were obtained by vapor diffusion of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  into this  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. Compound **2** was thus obtained in 63% yield as colorless crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.64 (m, 4 H), 7.21 (m, 22 H), 7.34 (m, 18 H).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): -7.31.  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 25.3, 129.2, 130.3, 130.9, 132.5. ES-MS: 831.5 ( $[\text{M} - \text{BF}_4]^{+}$ , calc. for  $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{44}\text{P}_4\text{Cu}$ : 831.17). Elemental analysis calc. for  $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{44}\text{P}_4\text{CuBF}_4$ : C 65.34, H 4.83; found: C 65.16, H 4.75.

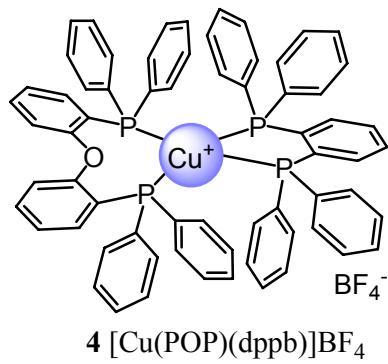
### Compound 3.



A mixture of  $\text{Cu}(\text{CNCH}_3)\text{BF}_4$  (0.05 g, 0.16 mmol) and POP (0.08 g, 0.16 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature; dppm (0.06 g, 0.16 mmol) was then added and the solution stirred for another 1 h. The resulting solution was concentrated to

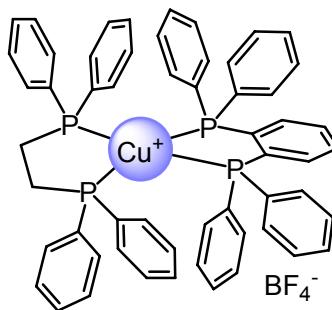
ca. 5 mL. Crystals of **3** were obtained by vapor diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into this CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution. Compound **3** was thus obtained in 80% yield as colorless crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 3.33 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2 H), 6.67 (m, 2 H), 6.99 (m, 26 H), 7.11 (m, 12 H), 7.23 (m, 3 H), 7.30 (m, 3 H), 7.42 (m, 2 H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ -8.92 (broad), -4.37 (t, J = 40 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>31</sup>P}{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 29.3, 120.6, 123.3, 125.3, 128.9, 130.1, 130.3, 130.5, 131.8, 132.5, 133.2, 133.9, 134.50, 158.4. ES-MS: 985.2 ([M - BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>+</sup>, calc. for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>50</sub>P<sub>4</sub>OCu: 985.21). Elemental analysis calc. for C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>50</sub>P<sub>4</sub>OCuBF<sub>4</sub>.0.75CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>: C 65.23, H 4.57. found: C 65.68, H 4.35.

### Compound 4.



A mixture of Cu(CNCH<sub>3</sub>)BF<sub>4</sub> (0.12 g, 0.37 mmol) and POP (0.20 g, 0.37 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature; dppb (0.17 g, 0.37 mmol) was then added and the solution stirred for another 1 h. The resulting solution was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Crystals of **4** were obtained by vapor diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into this CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution. Compound **4** was thus obtained in 75% yield as colorless crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 6.35 (m, 2 H), 6.78 (m, 16 H), 6.97 (m, 20 H), 7.10 (m, 2 H), 7.23 (m, 6 H), 7.39 (m, 2 H), 7.65 (m, 4 H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -7.20, 0.07. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>31</sup>P}{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 120.9, 124.1, 125.3, 128.6, 128.7, 129.0, 130.0, 130.7, 131.6, 131.8, 132.4, 133.3, 133.6, 134.1, 134.4, 141.2, 158.0. ES-MS: 1047.6 ([M - BF<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>+</sup>, calc. for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>52</sub>OP<sub>4</sub>Cu: 1047.23). Elemental analysis calc. for C<sub>66</sub>H<sub>52</sub>OP<sub>4</sub>CuBF<sub>4</sub>.2H<sub>2</sub>O: C 67.67, H 4.82; found: C 67.88, H 4.38.

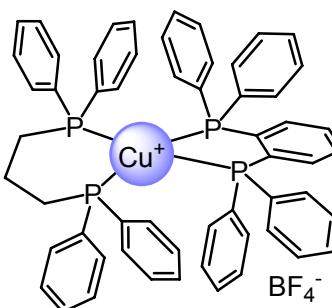
### Compound 5.



**5**  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dppe})(\text{dppb})]\text{BF}_4$

A mixture of  $\text{Cu}(\text{CNCH}_3)\text{BF}_4$  (0.05 g, 0.16 mmol) and dppe (0.06 g, 0.16 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature; dppb (0.07 g, 0.16 mmol) was then added and the solution stirred for another 1 h. The resulting solution was concentrated to ca. 5 mL. Crystals of **5** were obtained by vapor diffusion of  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  into this  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution. Compound **5** was thus obtained in 78% yield as colorless crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 2.44 (m, 4 H), 6.89 (m, 6 H), 7.01 (m, 12 H), 7.19 (m, 16 H), 7.39 (m, 10 H).  $^{31}\text{P}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 3.76, 8.53.  $^{13}\text{C}\{\text{H}\}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 26.1, 26.7, 128.8, 129.0, 129.1, 129.2, 130.2, 130.4, 130.6, 130.9, 131.2, 131.6, 131.7, 131.9, 132.1, 132.3, 132.4, 132.7, 133.9, 134.0, 141.5. ES-MS: 907.5 ( $[\text{M} - \text{BF}_4]^{+}$ , calc. for  $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{48}\text{P}_4\text{Cu}$ : 907.20). Elemental analysis calc. for  $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{48}\text{P}_4\text{CuBF}_4 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ : C 59.79, H 4.50; found: C 59.53, H 4.16.

### Compound 6.



**6**  $[\text{Cu}(\text{dppp})(\text{dppb})]\text{BF}_4$

A mixture of  $\text{Cu}(\text{CNCH}_3)\text{BF}_4$  (0.05 g, 0.16 mmol) and dppp (0.06 g, 0.16 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL) was stirred for 1 h under Ar at room temperature; dppb (0.07 g, 0.16 mmol) was then added and the solution stirred for another 1 h. The resulting solution was concentrated to ca. 5

mL. Crystals of **6** were obtained by vapor diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into this CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution. Compound **6** was thus obtained in 65% yield as colorless crystals. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.67 (broad s, 2 H), 2.34 (broad s, 2 H), 2.63 (broad s, 2 H), 6.99 (m, 12 H), 7.08 (m, 12 H), 7.21 (m, 10 H), 7.36 (m, 6 H), 7.53 (m, 2 H), 7.60 (m, 2 H). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -9.08, 5.89, 8.38. <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>31</sup>P}{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 17.6, 27.9, 28.1, 128.8, 128.9, 129.0, 130.1, 130.2, 130.3, 131.2, 131.4, 131.45, 131.7, 132.3, 132.4, 132.8, 133.0, 133.9, 133.85, 134.0, 141.3, 141.6. ES-MS: 921.5 ([M - BF<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, calc. for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>50</sub>P<sub>4</sub>Cu: 921.21). Elemental analysis calc. for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>50</sub>P<sub>4</sub>CuBF<sub>4</sub>: C 67.83, H 4.99; found: C 67.13, H 4.89.

### Crystal data for 1:

Crystals suitable for X-ray crystal-structure analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **1**. Intensity data for **1** were collected at low temperature on an Xcalibur Oxford Diffraction diffractometer using a graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation source and equipped with an Oxford Cryosystems Cryostream Cooler Device.

C<sub>60</sub>H<sub>48</sub>CuP<sub>4</sub>, BF<sub>4</sub>; M=1043.29, colorless plate crystal, 0.10x0.28x0.50, monoclinic, space group P 2/n, a = 13.5721(9), b= 12.5841(8), c= 14.9692(12) Å,  $\beta$  = 100.516(6), V= 2513.7(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z=2, T=180 K, d=1.378,  $\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ )=0.617 mm<sup>-1</sup>. 308 parameters, 11658 reflections measured, 5719 unique (Rint = 0.04), 3534 reflections used in the calculations [I>2.5 $\sigma$ ], R = 0.0509, wR = 0.0579.

### Crystal data for 3:

Crystals suitable for X-ray crystal-structure analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of Et<sub>2</sub>O into a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **3**. Data for **3** were collected at a low temperature on an IPDS STOE diffractometer equipped with an Oxford Cryosystem Cryostream Cooler Device.

(C<sub>61</sub>H<sub>50</sub>CuOP<sub>4</sub>), 0.75(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), (BF<sub>4</sub>); M=1137.01, colorless block crystal, 0.10x0.25x0.37, triclinic, space group P -1, a = 14.6080(14), b= 19.213(2), c=21.0316(17) Å,  $\alpha$  = 80.126(11),  $\beta$  = 80.686(11),  $\gamma$  = 89.676(12), V=5737.2(10) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z=4, T=180 K, d=1.316,  $\mu$ (Mo K $\alpha$ )=0.615 mm<sup>-1</sup>. 651 parameters, 57446 reflections measured, 20986 unique (Rint = 0.09), 6820 reflections used in the calculations [I>2 $\sigma$ ], R = 0.0714, wR = 0.0789.

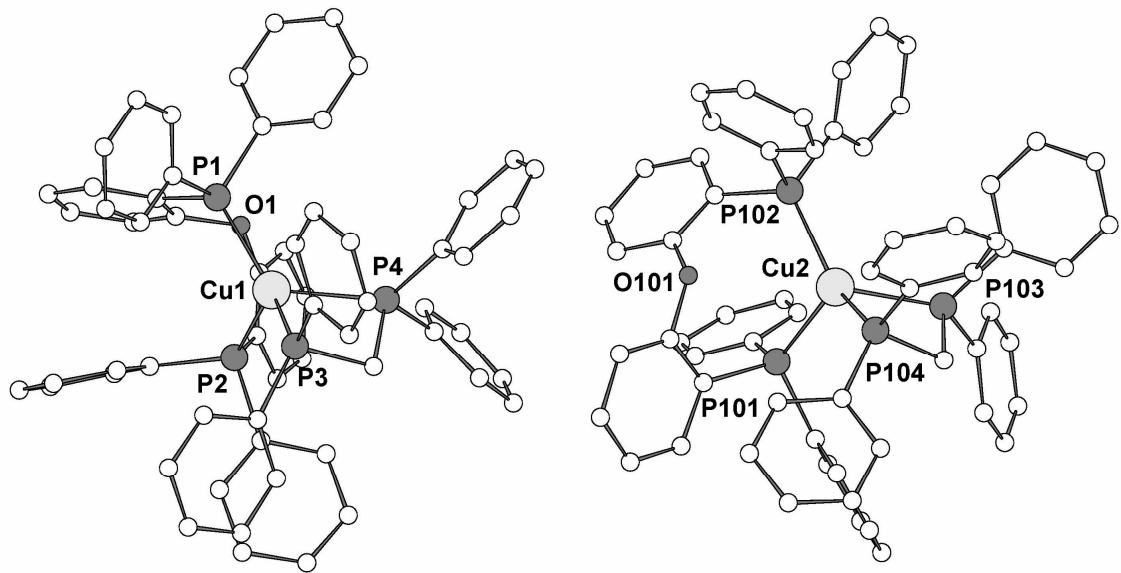
Structures were solved by direct methods using SIR92,<sup>1</sup> and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on F using the programs of the PC version of CRYSTALS.<sup>2</sup> Atomic scattering factors were taken from the International tables for X-ray Crystallography. For complex **1**, all non-BF<sub>4</sub> molecules and non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. For complex **3**, only copper and phosphorus atoms were refined anisotropically, due to the lack of reflexions and high number of parameters. Hydrogen atoms were located in a difference map (those attached to carbon atoms were repositioned geometrically), then refined using a riding model.<sup>3</sup> Absorption corrections were introduced using the program MULTISCAN.

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<sup>1</sup> A. Altomare, G. Cascarano, C. Giacovazzo, A. Guagliardi, J. Appl. Crystallogr. 26 (1993) 343.

<sup>2</sup> P.W. Betteridge, J.R. Carruthers, R.I. Cooper, K. Prout, D.J. Watkin, J. Appl. Crystallogr. 36 (2003) 1487.

<sup>3</sup> International Tables for X-ray Crystallography, vol. IV, Kynoch Press, Birmingham, England, 1974.



**Figure S5.** Plot of the structure of the two conformers observed in the crystal lattice of **3**. Selected bond lengths and bond angles: Cu(1)-P(1): 2.279(4); Cu(1)-P(2): 2.304(3); Cu(1)-P(3): 2.333(3); Cu(1)-P(4): 2.425(4); P(1)-Cu(1)-P(2): 110.51(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(1)-Cu(1)-P(3): 124.44(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(1)-Cu(1)-P(4): 125.43(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(2)-Cu(1)-P(3): 109.77(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(2)-Cu(1)-P(4): 108.26(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(3)-Cu(1)-P(4): 73.28(12) $^{\circ}$ ; Cu(2)-P(101): 2.294(3); Cu(2)-P(102): 2.268(4); Cu(2)-P(103): 2.339(3); Cu(2)-P(104): 2.409(3); P(101)-Cu(2)-P(102): 111.20(12) $^{\circ}$ ; P(101)-Cu(2)-P(103): 109.44(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(101)-Cu(2)-P(104): 109.51(12) $^{\circ}$ ; P(102)-Cu(2)-P(103): 124.03(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(102)-Cu(2)-P(104): 123.63(13) $^{\circ}$ ; P(103)-Cu(2)-P(104): 73.86(12) $^{\circ}$ .

## Electrochemistry

The cyclic voltammetric measurements were carried out with a potentiostat Autolab PGSTAT100. Experiments were performed at room temperature in an homemade airtight three-electrode cell connected to a vacuum/argon line. The reference electrode consisted of a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) separated from the solution by a bridge compartment. The counter electrode was a platinum wire of ca 1cm<sup>2</sup> apparent surface. The working electrode was a Pt microdisk (0.5mm diameter). The supporting electrolyte [nBu<sub>4</sub>N][BF<sub>4</sub>] (Fluka, 99% electrochemical grade) was used as received and simply degassed under argon. Dichloromethane was freshly distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> prior to use. The solutions used during the electrochemical studies were typically 10<sup>-3</sup> M in complex compound and 0.1 M in supporting electrolyte. Before each measurement, the solutions were degassed by bubbling Ar and the working electrode was polished with a polishing machine (Presi P230).