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Supplementary Information

# A Simple Route to Phosphamethine Cyanines from *S*,*N*-Heterocyclic Carbenes

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### **Computational Data:**

Calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 suite of programs<sup>1</sup> using Compute Canada's Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SharcNet). Model complexes were fully optimized with no symmetry constraints using the PBE1PBE density functional theory (DFT) method<sup>2–4</sup> in conjunction with the TZVP basis sets for all atoms.<sup>5,6</sup> Geometry optimizations were started using models in which the relevant phosphorus, nitrogen and carbon atoms were placed a the positions found experimentally using X-ray crystallography and the hydrogen atoms were placed in geometrically appropriate positions using Gaussview.<sup>7</sup> Frequency calculations were also performed at the same level of theory in order to confirm that the optimized structures were minima on the potential energy hypersurface and to determine thermochemical information. Natural bond orbital (NBO) analyses<sup>8</sup> to determine orbital contributions, Wiberg Bond Indicies and orbital energies were obtained using the routine included in the Gaussian distributions.<sup>9</sup> Atoms In Molecules (AIM) analysis was done using AIM2000.<sup>10</sup>

## Olefin Dimer (EtBTZ)<sub>2</sub>

1\1\GINC-ORC136\FOpt\RPBE1PBE\TZVP\C18H18N2S2\BINDERJ\18-Jul-2015\0\\#

PBE1PBE/TZVP scf=tight opt freq pop=(full,nboread) test\\Optimization

, frequency test and NBO analysis for (EtBTZ)2\\0,1\C,-1.8488680665,-1 .894451556,-2.5501923654\C,1.6085254151,1.997501337,-1.1485755875\C,-1

 $.4114390502, -2.2223120321, -1.1330948836 \backslash C, 1.4264994752, 3.30821643, -0.408321, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083212, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.4083221, -0.40832221, -0.4083221, -$ 

 $.1171650254, 1.1485070333, 0.2055853206 \backslash C, 0.67032763, -0.0704958078, -0.0866, 0.0000, 00000, 0.0000, 0.00$ 

10404533\C,-2.7900777699,-0.6310490352,0.1057079262\C,-5.2767095428,0.

 $5296798089, 0.5517832494 \ C, 2.9236303425, 0.4359861283, 0.2366097605 \ C, 5.26303425, 0.263025, 0.263025, 0.263055, 0.26505, 0.26505, 0.26505, 0.26505, 0.26505, 0.26505, 0.26505,$ 

603073098,0.5722976086,0.7508585409\C,-3.8324138575,-1.4057510522,0.59

16291934\C,-5.0739333432,-0.8188097462,0.8105131869\C,2.8951498351,-0.

 $8364110427, 0.8179339715 \ C, 5.2240571397, -0.6899665982, 1.3238564132 \ C, 4.$ 

0303206768,-1.4061077896,1.3585633931\N,1.7073165874,0.8306447427,-0.2

926642339\N,-1.4981885966,-1.0906902478,-0.1979986403\S,-1.5601345779,

 $1.4901425299, -0.8326642689 \ S, 1.2832259687, -1.5358877418, 0.7302844686 \ H$ 

,-1.2227921417,-1.1079100988,-2.9768887856\H,-2.8878436075,-1.55739919 77,-2.5753884946\H,-1.7631525601,-2.7791883241,-3.1864380988\H,1.39910 3564,4.1395605331,-1.1100709182\H,0.4921394724,3.3067868489,0.16196456 3\H,2.2472459543,3.4839718089,0.2973551411\H,2.5186899641,2.0308700551 ,-1.7571891553\H,0.7828437761,1.8308052446,-1.8434174858\H,-0.38023901 79,-2.5811723733,-1.1232181764\H,-2.0210717762,-3.0286494019,-0.718981 0409\H,3.9920839265,-2.3949112383,1.8010021542\H,6.1224451143,-1.12306 03008,1.7471246281\H,6.1908105864,1.1279420687,0.7288832227\H,4.162937 5356,2.1409482218,-0.2248556805\H,-4.3908225395,2.3675741864,-0.141836 7804\H,-6.2471787413,0.9779171163,0.7305833638\H,-5.8867719521,-1.4226 587593,1.1974853798\H,-3.6746069525,-2.4553206038,0.8116283088\\Versio n=EM64L-G09RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-1601.6562345\RMSD=1.987e-09\RMSF=5.85 1e-06\Dipole=0.2415209,0.0980942,-0.435696\Quadrupole=4.43147,3.439373 9,-7.8708439,3.4491548,-0.6192667,-2.6619903\PG=C01 [X(C18H18N2S2)]\@

Zero-point correction=	0.321367 (Hartree/Particle)
Thermal correction to Energy=	0.341356
Thermal correction to Enthalpy=	0.342301
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Ene	ergy= 0.272219
Sum of electronic and zero-point Ener	rgies= -1601.334867
Sum of electronic and thermal Energie	es= -1601.314878
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthal	pies= -1601.313934
Sum of electronic and thermal Free El	nergies= -1601.384015

#### Phosphamethine Cyanine Model [EtTZ<sub>2</sub>P]<sup>+</sup>

#### 1\1\GINC-ORC302\FOpt\RPBE1PBE\TZVP\C14H22N2P1S2(1+)\BINDERJ\20-Jul-201

S3

5\0\\# PBE1PBE/TZVP opt freq scf=tight pop=(full,nboread) test\\Optimi zation, frequency and NBO for good EtTZ2P\\1,1\P,5.7386777572,2.300467 475,2.9479190572\\$,5.6567441432,-0.5119882582,1.412272956\C,5.74578211 72,1.206859698,1.5347156287\C,4.4575355156,3.7843369398,-0.0205897142\ H,3.8800630185,3.3612245882,-0.8444899813\H,4.5420704261,4.8601303225, -0.1844843264\H,3.9045078417,3.6254657861,0.9063991895\C,5.90534993,1. 2790262813,-2.1655655098\H,5.1378379462,2.0173685329,-2.4068086978\H,5 .7810061809,0.4405754374,-2.8475575329\H,6.8832413444,1.7246642462,-2. 368597411\N,5.8211696421,1.7287614275,0.2902386549\C,5.8460492065,3.17 63301247,0.0571564109\H,6.4050063294,3.3478318917,-0.8615394949\H,6.42 53346035,3.6225586938,0.8690256087\C,5.6972289548,-1.742068572,-1.0999 224139\H,6.592274147,-2.3394066408,-0.9075647188\H,5.6540958851,-1.544 8933074,-2.1705321789\H,4.82673394,-2.3488112069,-0.8395368965\C,5.720 0556135,-0.4696430479,-0.3317486948\C,5.8024196315,0.8102522241,-0.757 690485\S,5.8206115467,-0.5119882026,4.4835652508\C,5.7315734654,1.2068 59744,4.3611225216\C,7.0198199061,3.7843371173,5.9164277798\H,7.597292 4296,3.3612248289,6.7403280607\H,6.9352849285,4.8601305002,6.080322356 6\H,7.5728475899,3.6254659677,4.9894388813\C,5.5720056481,1.2790264391 ,8.0614036578\H,6.3395175858,2.0173687464,8.3026468215\H,5.6963494495, 0.4405756253,8.7433957084\H,4.5941142058,1.7246643496,8.2644355443\N,5 .6561859079,1.7287615097,5.6055994782\C,5.6313062531,3.1763302131,5.83 86816747\H,5.0723491196,3.3478319753,6.7573775748\H,5.0520208283,3.622 5587193,5.0268124622\C,5.7801268119,-1.7420684364,6.9957606611\H,4.885 0816569,-2.3394065674,6.8034029857\H,5.8232598692,-1.5448931338,8.0663 704197\H,6.6506218645,-2.3488110255,6.7353751637\C,5.7573000737,-0.469 6429389,6.2275869002\C,5.6749359758,0.8102523419,6.6535286483\\Version

=EM64L-G09RevD.01\State=1-A\HF=-1792.8094767\RMSD=8.129e-09\RMSF=3.239 e-06\Dipole=0.,0.0978095,0.\Quadrupole=-29.6432789,-6.8772187,36.52049 76,-0.0000007,-0.1753232,0.0000007\PG=C02 [C2(P1),X(C14H22N2S2)]\\@

Zero-point correction=	0.342167 (Hartree/Particle)
Thermal correction to Energy=	0.364873
Thermal correction to Enthalpy=	0.365817
Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Ene	rgy= 0.290035
Sum of electronic and zero-point Ener	rgies= -1792.467310
Sum of electronic and thermal Energie	es= -1792.444604
Sum of electronic and thermal Enthal	pies= -1792.443660
Sum of electronic and thermal Free En	nergies= -1792.519441

# NBO Results

# 1. (1.96908) BD (1) P 1 - C 3

(33.99%)	0.5830* P 1 s( 17.17%)p 4.79( 82.21%)d 0.04( 0.62%)
	0.0000 0.0000 0.4102 0.0587 -0.0008
	0.0000 0.0437 -0.0014 0.0003 0.0000
	0.7014 -0.0353 -0.0043 -0.0001 -0.5717
	0.0088 -0.0030 0.0036 -0.0041 -0.0694
	-0.0323 0.0169
( 66.01%)	0.8125* C 3 s( 39.46%)p 1.53( 60.50%)d 0.00( 0.04%)
	0.0000 0.6281 0.0088 -0.0054 0.0000
	-0.0369 -0.0007 0.0004 -0.6559 -0.0166
	0.0105 0.4158 0.0143 -0.0067 0.0011

-0.0007 -0.0162 -0.0109 0.0047

2. (1.74718) BD (2) P 1 - C 3

(62.51%) 0.7906\* P 1 s( 0.00%)p 1.00( 99.69%)d 0.00( 0.31%)

0.0000 -0.0001 0.0001 -0.0003 0.0000

0.0009 0.9965 0.0052 0.0029 -0.0001

-0.0625 0.0020 0.0019 0.0000 -0.0004

0.0000 0.0003 0.0142 -0.0533 0.0025

0.0024 0.0007

(37.49%) 0.6123\* C 3 s( 0.00%)p 1.00(99.97%)d 0.00( 0.03%)

0.0000 -0.0029 -0.0020 -0.0001 0.0001

0.9954 0.0074 0.0206 -0.0835 0.0003

0.0001 -0.0392 0.0004 0.0001 -0.0127

0.0098 -0.0012 -0.0017 -0.0003

3. (1.96909) BD (1) P 1 - C 23

(33.99%) 0.5830\* P 1 s(17.17%)p 4.79(82.21%)d 0.04(0.62%)

0.0000 0.0000 0.4102 0.0587 -0.0008

0.0000 -0.0443 0.0014 -0.0003 0.0000

-0.7014 0.0353 0.0043 -0.0001 -0.5717

0.0088 -0.0030 0.0037 0.0042 0.0694

-0.0323 0.0169

(66.01%) 0.8125\* C 23 s(39.46%)p 1.53(60.50%)d 0.00(0.04%)

0.0000 0.6281 0.0088 -0.0054 0.0000

0.0423 0.0006 -0.0003 0.6554 0.0166

-0.0105 0.4160 0.0143 -0.0067 0.0010

0.0008 0.0161 -0.0109 0.0048

78. (1.92530) LP (1) P 1 s(66.23%)p 0.51(33.74%)d 0.00(0.03%)

0.0000 -0.0006 0.8135 -0.0231 0.0003 0.0000 0.0001 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0003 0.5808 0.0111 -0.0020 0.0001 0.0000 0.0000 0.0033 -0.0164

AIM Results



<b>Critical Point</b>	ρ	L	KEG	KEK	VIR	
P-C1	+0.1481	-0.0567	+0.1738	+0.1170	+0.2908	
P-C1`	+0.1481	-0.0567	+0.1738	+0.1170	+0.2908	
C1-N	+0.3236	+0.2167	+0.2652	+0.4819	+0.7471	
C1`-N1`	+0.3236	+0.2167	+0.2652	+0.4819	+0.7471	
C1-S	+0.2092	+0.1092	+0.0765	+0.1857	+0.2623	
C1`-S`	+0.2092	+0.1092	+0.0765	+0.1857	+0.2623	
S-S`	+0.0156	-0.0119	+0.0109	-0.0011	+0.0098	

Cyclic Voltammetry of [EtTZ<sub>2</sub>P][I]



Cyclic voltammetry was performed in dry MeCN solutions using a [NBu<sub>4</sub>][PF<sub>6</sub>] (0.1 M) electrolyte with analyte concentration of about 0.01 M. A glassy carbon electrode, a platinum wire, and an Ag/AgCl electrode were used as the working, auxiliary, and reference electrodes, respectively. The experiments were run with a scan rate of 100mV/s and a sensitivity of 100  $\mu$ A/V. The potential is scaled with respect to the Ag/AgCl reference electrode in the above voltammogram.

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