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# **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## Electrophilic Phosphonium Cations (EPCs) with Perchlorinated-Aryl Substituents: Towards Air Stable Phosphorus-based Lewis Acid Catalysts

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#### **General Procedures:**

All manipulations were performed in a Glove box MB Unilab produced by MBraun or using standard Schlenk techniques under an inert atmosphere of anhydrous N<sub>2</sub>. All glassware was oven-dried and cooled under vacuum before use. Dry, oxygen-free solvents (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, Et<sub>2</sub>O, toluene and *n*-pentane) were prepared using an Innovative Technologies solvent purification system. CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and CD<sub>3</sub>CN (Aldrich) were deoxygenated, distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub>, then stored over 4 Å molecular sieves before use. C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br (Aldrich) were deoxygenated and stored over 4 Å molecular sieves before use. Commercial reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Strem Chemicals, Apollo Scientific, TCI Chemicals or Alfa Aesar, and were used without further purification unless indicated otherwise.  $[Et_3Si][B(C_6F_5)_4] \cdot (C_7H_8)$  was prepared by the reported procedure.<sup>34</sup> NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker AvanceIII-400 MHz spectrometer, Varian NMR system 400 MHz spectrometer, Agilent DD2-500 MHz spectrometer, or Agilent DD2-600 MHz spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data, referenced to external Me₄Si, are reported as follows: chemical shift ( $\delta$ ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, g = guartet, guin = guintet, m = multiplet, br = broad), coupling constant (Hz), normalized integrals.  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are referenced to external Me<sub>4</sub>Si. Assignments of individual resonances were done using 2D NMR techniques (HMBC, HSQC, HH-COSY) when necessary. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on an Agilent 6538 Q-TOF (ESI) or a JEOL AccuTOF (DART) mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed at the University of Toronto employing a Perkin Elmer 2400 Series II CHNS Analyser. Crystals were coated in paratone oil and mounted in a cryo-loop. Data were collected on a Bruker APEX2 X-ray diffractometer using graphite monochromated Mo-Ka radiation (0.71073 Å). The temperature was maintained at 150(2) K using an Oxford cryo-stream cooler for both, initial indexing and full data collection. Data were collected using Bruker APEX-2 software and processed using SHELX and Olex2 an absorption correction applied using multiscan within the APEX-2 program. All structures were solved by direct methods within the SHELXTL package and refined with Olex2.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of phosphines, phosphoranes, and phosphinums

### Synthesis of phosphines:

**Perchlororophenyl(diphenyl) phosphine (1)**. A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub> (318 mg, 1.12 mmol), a large magnetic stir-bar and anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), generating a white slurry. The reaction flask was cooled to -15 °C using a dry ice/acetone bath. A hexane solution of 2.5 M *n*-BuLi (0.44 mL, 1.12 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirring solution under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>; slowly turning the slurry to a clear light yellow solution. The solution was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of PPh<sub>2</sub>Cl (247 mg, 1.12 mmol) in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL) was added dropwise by syringe over 5 minutes. The stirring solution was left to warm to room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the solid extracted with anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL) before being filtered over Celite. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce a white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 2 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing a white solid (340 mg, 70% yield). Vapour diffusion of *n*-pentane into a solution of the compound in dichloromethane yielded X-Ray quality crystals. Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>: C: 49.76, H: 2.32. Found: C: 49.82%, H: 1.99%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 10.68 (s) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.33 – 7.39 (m, 4H, *m*-C6H5), 7.08 – 7.03 (m, 6H, *o*-, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  139.70 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 17.7 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 136.37 (s, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 135.97 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 24.2 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 134.26 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 15.4 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 133.28 (s, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 132.92 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 20.7 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 129.14 (s, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.98 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 6.3 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>P: 432.90410, Found: 432.90360.







Figure 1. POV-Ray depiction of 1. P: yellow, CI: green, C: Black.

**Bis(perchlorophenyl)phenyl phosphine (2).** A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub> (597 mg, 2.10 mmol), a large magnetic stir-bar and anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), generating a white slurry. The reaction flask was cooled to -15 °C using a dry ice/acetone bath. A hexane solution of 2.5 M *n*-BuLi (0.84 mL, 2.10 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirring solution under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>; slowly turning the slurry to a clear light yellow solution. The solution was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of PPhCl<sub>2</sub> (188 mg, 1.05 mmol) in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL) was added dropwise by syringe over 6 minutes. The stirring solution was left to warm to room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the solid extracted with anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL) before being filtered over Celite. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce an off-white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (3 x 3 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing an off-white solid (231 mg, 36% yield). Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>: C: 35.63, H: 0.83. Found: C: 35.29%, H: 0.92%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (243 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 15.14 (s) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 (apparent triplet, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 7.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 7.0 Hz, 2H, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 6.98 - 7.07 (m, 4H, *o*-, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  137.07 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 19.0 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 136.02 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 36.3 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 135.26 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 1.4 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 133.42 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 1.2 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 131.82 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 14.8 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 130.75 (s, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.94 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 8.6 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.54 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 14.2 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>P: 602.70924, Found: 602.70831.







ION MODE: POSITIVE

**Tris(perchlorophenyl) phosphine (3).** A 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged with  $C_6Cl_6$  (1053 mg, 3.70 mmol), a large magnetic stir-bar and anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (60 mL), generating a white slurry. The reaction flask was cooled to -15 °C using a dry ice/acetone bath. A hexane solution of 2.5 M *n*-BuLi (1.47 mL, 3.70 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirring solution under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>; slowly turning the slurry to a clear light yellow solution. The solution was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of PBr<sub>3</sub> (333 mg, 1.23 mmol) in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (4 mL) was added dropwise by syringe over 5 minutes. The stirring solution was left to warm to room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the solid extracted with anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 6 mL) before being filtered over Celite. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce an off-white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 3 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing an off-white solid (199 mg, 21% yield). Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>Cl<sub>18</sub>: C: 27.76. Found: C: % 25.87.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 19.07 (s) ppm.

HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>HCl<sub>15</sub>P: 778.50553, Found: 778.50594.

C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>

 ${}^{31}P{}^{1}H$ -NMR in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>

240 -120 120 40 Ó -40 -160 -200 -240 -280 200 160 80 -80 -320 -360 f1 (ppm)

**bis(perchlorophenyl)(perfluorophenyl) phosphine (4)**. A 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged with C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub> (513 mg, 1.80 mmol), a large magnetic stir-bar and anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL), generating a white slurry. The reaction flask was cooled to -15 °C using a dry ice/acetone bath. A hexane solution of 2.5 M *n*-BuLi (0.72 mL, 1.80 mmol) was added dropwise to the stirring solution under an atmosphere of N<sub>2</sub>; slowly turning the slurry to a clear light yellow solution. The solution was cooled to -78 °C and a solution of P(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)Br<sub>2</sub> (323 mg, 0.90 mmol) in anhydrous Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 mL) was added dropwise by syringe over 4 minutes. The stirring solution was left to warm to room temperature overnight. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the solid extracted with anhydrous CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL) before being filtered over Celite. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce a white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The white filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 2 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing a white solid (261 mg, 42% yield). Vapour diffusion of *n*-pentane into a solution of the compound in dichloromethane yielded X-Ray quality crystals. Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>: C: 31.03. Found: C: 31.19%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -17.76 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 40.0 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ -129.20 to -129.61 (m, 2F, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), -147.50 (tt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 21.8 Hz, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 4.7 Hz, 1F, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), -159.63 to -159.88 (m, 2F, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  147.92 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 244.8 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 143.17 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 258.0 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 137.90 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 247.5 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 137.12 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 20.7 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 136.43 (s, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 133.59 (s, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 132.39 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 34.2 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 108.64 (br s, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) m/z: [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>F<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>P: 692.66213, Found: 692.66280.







Figure 2. POV-Ray depiction of 4. P: orange, CI: green, C: black, F: pink.

**fluorobis(perchlorophenyl) phosphineoxide (11).** A 20 mL vial was charged with  $P(C_6Cl_5)_3$  (78 mg, 0.10 mmol), MeCN (3 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. A solution of 1-chloromethyl-4-fluoro-1,4-diazonia-bicyclo-[2.2.2]octane bis(tetrafluoroborate) {Selectfluor} in MeCN was added. The solution briefly turns dark purple as a black precipitate is formed before returning to a pale green colour. The supernatant is decanted off and the solvent is removed *in vacuo* resulting in a yellow solid (24 mg, 43 %).

 $^{31}P{^{1}H} NMR$  (162 MHz, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  21.15 (d,  $^{1}J_{PF}$  = 1065.8 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376 MHz, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  –54.30 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1063.8 Hz) ppm.

HRMS (EI-TOF) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>12</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>FPO: 564.65753, Found: 564.65713.





### Synthesis of phosphoranes:

**Difluoro perchlorophenyl(diphenyl) phosphorane (5)**. In a cold well, a 20 mL vial was charged with  $Ph_2P(C_6Cl_5)$  (257 mg, 0.59 mmol),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (4 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, forming a light yellow solution. XeF<sub>2</sub> (100 mg, 0.59 mmol) was quickly added to the stirring solution. The solution gradually lightens as it was left to stir and warm up to room temperature for 2 hours. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce a white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The white filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 2 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing a white solid (230 mg, 83% yield). X-Ray quality crystals were obtained from  $CH_2Cl_2$  in glovebox freezer. Anal. Calcd. for  $PC_{18}H_{10}Cl_5F_2$ : C: 45.76, H: 2.13. Found: C: 45.24%, H: 2.00%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -50.69 (t, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 715.3 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -41.79 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 715.7 Hz, PF<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.17 – 8.10 (m, 4H, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.08 – 7.01 (m, 6H, *o*-, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  140.11 (dt, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 217.3 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 42.3 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 137.54 (dt, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 180.8 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 23.7 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 134.98 (dt, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.1 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 10.2 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 134.53 (dt, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 1.8 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 133.50 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 16.6 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 132.58 (dt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.0 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 2.8 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 131.72 (dt, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.8 Hz, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 1.2 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 128.57 (dt, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.1 Hz, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 10.2 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.



190 170 150 130 110 90 70 50 30 10 -10 -30 -50 -70 -90 -110 -130 -150 -170 -190 f1 (ppm)

F  $C_6H_5, ..., P - C_6CI_5$   $C_6H_5 - F$ <sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H}-NMR in C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>

-30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -220 f1 (ppm)





Figure 3. POV–Ray depiction of 5. P: orange, CI: green, C: black, F: pink.

**Difluoro bis(perchlorophenyl)(phenyl) phosphorane (6)**. In a cold well, a 20 mL vial was charged with PhP(C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (153 mg, 0.25 mmol), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (6 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, forming a yellow solution. XeF<sub>2</sub> (43 mg, 0.25 mmol) was quickly added to the stirring solution. The solution gradually lightens as it was left to stir and warm up to room temperature for 1.5 hours. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce an off-white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (3 x 2 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing an off-white solid. (123 mg, 76% yield). Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>F<sub>2</sub>: C: 33.53, H: 0.78. Found: C: 34.16%, H: 0.86%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (202 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ):  $\delta$  -44.91 (t, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 746.5 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (470 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>):  $\delta$  -28.9 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 746.5 Hz, PF<sub>2</sub>) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 8.11 – 8.04 (m, 2H, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.16 – 7.08 (m, 3H, *o*-, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>): δ 137.73 (dt, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 209.6 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 31.5 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 136.70 – 136.55 (m, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 135.84 (dt, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.6 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 9.7 Hz, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 135.43 (dt, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 187.3 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 22.8 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 134.26 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 17.5 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 133.98 – 133.81 (m, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 132.98 (br d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 4.1 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 129.28 (dm, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 18.1 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.







**Difluoro bis(perchlorophenyl)(perfluorophenyl) phosphorane (7)**. In a cold well, a 20 mL vial was charged with  $(C_6F_5)P(C_6Cl_5)_2$  (228 mg, 0.33 mmol),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (5 mL), and a magnetic stir bar, forming a light yellow solution. XeF<sub>2</sub> (56 mg, 0.33 mmol) was quickly added to the stirring solution. The solution gradually lightens as it was left to stir and warm up to room temperature for 2 hours. The solvent was reduced and the solution cooled to -35 °C to produce a white precipitate, which was collected by filtration. The filtrate was then washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 3 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo*, producing a white solid (192 mg, 80% yield). Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>18</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>F<sub>7</sub>: C: 29.43. Found: C: 28.52%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br):  $\delta$  -41.22 (t, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 756.6 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br): δ -10.92 (dm, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 756.4 Hz, PF<sub>2</sub>), -129.24 to -129.64 (m, 2F, *o*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), -145.91 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 21.7 Hz, 1F, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), -158.50 to -158.72 (m, 2F, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br):  $\delta$  146.53 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 254.4 Hz, o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 143.91 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 259.1 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 137.89 (br dm, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 255.1 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>), 136.91 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.7 Hz, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 134.96 (br d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 264.0 Hz, o-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 134.53 (dt, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 217.0 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 28.7 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 134.46 (dm, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 17.8 Hz, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>), 112.95 (br dm, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 200.8 Hz, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>) ppm.





### Synthesis of phosphoniums:

**Fluoro bis(perchlorophenyl)(diphenyl)phosphonium tetrakis(perfluorophenyl)borate (8).** A 20 mL vial was charged with ( $C_6Cl_5$ )PF<sub>2</sub>Ph<sub>2</sub> (382 mg, 0.81 mmol), toluene (3 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. To the stirring solution, [Et<sub>3</sub>Si][B( $C_6F_5$ )<sub>4</sub>] (682 mg, 0.77 mmol) was added as a solid. The dark orange solution was stirred for an hour, before allowing it to settle. Upon settling, a dark orange oil collected at the bottom of the vial, leaving a clear supernatant. After decanting the toluene from the oil, additional toluene (2 x 3 mL) was used to wash the oil before being decanted off. The oil was subsequently washed with *n*-pentane (3 x 4 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo* resulting in a fluffy white solid (697 mg, 80% yield) upon trituration. Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>42</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>F<sub>21</sub>B: C: 44.54, H: 0.89. Found: C: 45.15%, H: 0.94%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz,  $C_6D_5Br$ ):  $\delta$  89.50 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1008.5 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (376 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br): δ -116.01 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1009.8 Hz, PF<sub>2</sub>), -131.98 (m/br, 8F, B(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -162.30 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 21.0 Hz, 4F, B(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -166.18 (m/br, 8F, B(m-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br): -16.52 (s) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.09 – 8.04 (m, 1H, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.88 – 7.78 (m, 4H, *o*-, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  148.25 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 241.4 Hz, B(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 145.26 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.2 Hz, P(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 139.48 (dd, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 2.4 Hz, <sup>5</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 2.4 Hz, P(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 138.25 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 238.0 Hz, B(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 137.74 (dd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 6.2 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 1.0 Hz, P(*o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 137.06 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 12.3 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 136.26 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 234.6 Hz, B(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 133.53 (dd, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.8 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 1.3 Hz, P(*o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 131.48 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 15.4 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 123.80 (br s, B(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 116.12 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 112.0 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 14.0 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 115.91 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 121.1 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 11.1 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>10</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>PF: 450.89468, Found 450.89445.









ION MODE: POSITIVE

**Fluoro bis(perchlorophenyl)(phenyl)phosphonium tetrakis(perfluorophenyl)borate (9).** A 20 mL vial was charged with  $(C_6Cl_5)_2PF_2Ph$  (186 mg, 0.29 mmol), toluene (5 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. To the stirring solution,  $[Et_3Si][B(C_6F_5)_4]$  (243 mg, 0.28 mmol) was added as a solid. The dark orange solution was stirred for an hour, before allowing it to settle. Upon settling, a dark orange oil collected at the bottom of the vial, leaving a clear supernatant. After decanting the toluene from the oil, additional toluene (2 x 3 mL) was used to wash the oil before being decanted off. The oil was triturated in *n*-pentane (4 mL) until an off-white solid was formed. The solid was subsequently washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 4 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo* yielding an off-white solid (320 mg, 90% yield). X-Ray quality crystals were obtained from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in glovebox freezer. Anal. Calcd. for PC<sub>42</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>F<sub>21</sub>B: C: 38.66. H: 0.39. Found: C: 42.17%, H: 0.87%.

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  84.38 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1009.0 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (470 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Br): δ -125.64 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1010.7 Hz, PF<sub>2</sub>), -138.89 (m/br, 8F, B(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -169.24 (m/br, 4F, B(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -173.12 (m/br, 8F, B(m-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): -16.66 (s) ppm.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.13 – 8.08 (m, 1H, *p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 7.98 – 7.76 (m, 4H, *o*-, *m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  148.28 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 240.3 Hz, B(*o*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 145.51 (dm, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.2 Hz, P(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 140.54 (m, P(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 138.25 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 239.2 Hz, B(*p*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 137.20 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.3 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 136.65 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 6.2 Hz, P(*o*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 136.33 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 239.0 Hz, B(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 133.12 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 13.5 Hz, P(*o*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 132.15 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 16.6 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 124.12 (br s, B(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 118.30 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 130.7 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 10.8 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)), 115.99 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 113.9 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 12.5 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) m/z: [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>PF: 620.69982, Found 620.69896.









ION MODE: POSITIVE



Figure 4. POV-Ray depiction of 9. P: orange, CI: green, C: black, F: pink.

**Fluoro** bis(perchlorophenyl)(perfluorophenyl)phosphonium tetrakis(perfluorophenyl) borate (10). A 20 mL vial was charged with  $(C_6CI_5)_2PF_2(C_6F_5)$  (172 mg, 0.23 mmol), toluene (5 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. To the stirring solution,  $[Et_3Si][B(C_6F_5)_4]$  (197 mg, 0.22 mmol) was added as a solid. The clear solution was stirred for an hour, before allowing it to settle. Upon settling, a brown oil collected at the bottom of the vial, leaving a clear supernatant. After decanting the toluene from the oil, additional toluene (2 x 3 mL) was used to wash the oil before being decanted off. The oil was triturated in *n*-pentane (4 mL) until an off-white solid was formed. The solid was subsequently washed with *n*-pentane (2 x 4 mL) before removing the solvent *in vacuo* resulting in an off-white solid (229 mg, 74% yield). Anal. Calcd. for  $PC_{42}Cl_{10}F_{26}B$ : C: 36.17. Found: C: 37.21%

<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (162 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>5</sub>Br):  $\delta$  71.02 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1030.8 Hz) ppm.

<sup>19</sup>F{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (470 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>Br): δ -117.04 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PF</sub> = 1030.3 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 25.5 Hz, 1F, PF), -123.43 (br s, P(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -124.73 (m, 1F, P(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -126.84 (m, 1F, P(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -132.24 (m/br, 8F, B(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -150.35 (br s, P(m-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -162.36 (t, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>FF</sub> = 20.8 Hz, 4F, B(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), -166.43 (m/br, 8F, B(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

<sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): -16.59 (s) ppm.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  150.58 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 276.5 Hz, P(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 148.28 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 241.2 Hz, B(o-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 147.07 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 3.2 Hz, P(p-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 139.38 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 269.2 Hz, P(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 138.27 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 241.2 Hz, B(p-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 137.69 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 15.3 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 136.69 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 6.1 Hz, P(o-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 136.38 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 234.7 Hz, B(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 134.90 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 259.8 Hz, P(*m*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 124.01 (br s, B(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)), 116.32 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 143.6 Hz, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>FC</sub> = 9.9 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>5</sub>)), 95.79 (br d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>PC</sub> = 136.8 Hz, P(*i*-C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)) ppm.

HRMS (DART Ionization) *m/z*. [M]<sup>+</sup> Calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>F<sub>6</sub>Cl<sub>10</sub>P: 710.65271, Found 710.65339.







ION MODE: POSITIVE