## Dihydrogen Phosphate-containing Dinuclear Double Assemblies that Demonstrate Phosphate Reactivity to the Tetrafluoroborate Anion.

Robert A. Faulkner, Nathan J. Patmore, Craig R. Rice* and Christopher Slater.

## Electronic Supplementary Information.

Chemicals were purchased and used without further purification. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz Bruker Avance DP X400. Mass spectra were obtained on an Agilent 6210 TOF MS for the organic species with the metal complexes run on a Bruker MicroQTOF LC.

## Synthesis of $\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}$



To a 250 mL RBF was charged with ethylenediamine ( $1 \mathrm{~mL}, 0.9 \mathrm{~g}, 15 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and $\mathrm{MeCN}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added a solution of benzoyl isothiocyanate ( $5 \mathrm{~mL}, 6.1 \mathrm{~g}, 37.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in $\mathrm{MeCN}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ slowly over 30 mins with constant stirring. The reaction mixture was then stirred at RT for a further 12 hrs during this time a heavy white precipitate was formed. The resulting mixture was the added dropwise whilst stirring to deionised water $(300 \mathrm{~mL})$ to yield a white/yellow precipitate which was then isolated via vacuum filtration. The solid was then suspended in $\mathrm{MeOH}(50 \mathrm{~mL})$ in a 100 mL conical flask and sonicated ( 5 mins ). The white/yellow suspension was then once again filtered under vacuum to yield a fine white solid which was washed with further portions of $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL})$ to give the dibenzoylated dithiourea as a fine white powder $(3.5 \mathrm{~g}, 60$ \%). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.400 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 11.39(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{PhCONH}), 10.97\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CONH}\right), 7.95(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $=7.5,4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2 \mathrm{Ph}), 7.63(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{Ph}), 7.51(\mathrm{t}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{Ph}), 4.04\left(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR [400 MHz, $\left.\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right]: \delta_{\mathrm{C}}=183.5(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}), 168.4(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}), 133.4(\mathrm{CH}), 132.7(\mathrm{Q}), 129.0(\mathrm{CH}), 128.7$ $(\mathrm{CH}), 44.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$. ESI-MS $m / z 387\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$, HR ESI-MS found $387.0927 \mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{19} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 387.0944 (error 4.5 ppm ). Whilst the ESI-MS analysis did give an accurate ion the compound did decompose rapidly in the ESI MS process and only a small $\mathrm{M}^{+}$ion was observed. This behaviour is common to all the aliphatic bridged dithioamines and their derivatives.


Figure 1. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of dibenzoylated dithiourea derivative.


In a 100 ml RBF was combined the benzoylated dithiourea ( $1 \mathrm{~g}, 2.6 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), deionised water ( 30 mL ) and a magnetic stir bar. A solution of $\mathrm{NaOH}(0.63 \mathrm{~g}, 15.8 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(15 \mathrm{~mL})$ was then added to the reaction mixture whilst stirring at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After 12 hrs the resulting colourless solution was then cooled to RT during which time a fine white precipitate was formed. The precipitate was then collected via vacuum filtration and then washed with deionised water ( $3 \times 5 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) giving the thiourea as a fine white powder $(0.43 \mathrm{~g}, 93 \%)$. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR gives four broad signals in the aromatic region and two broad signals at $\sim 3.5 \mathrm{ppm}$. It is suspected that intra-molecular hydrogen bonding is inducing broad peaks in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. However, both the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ and ESI-MS are exactly as expected. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR [ $\left.400 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right]: \delta_{\mathrm{C}}=183.9(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}), 43.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$. ESI-MS $m / z 179\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$. HR ESI-MS found $179.0415 \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ requires 179.042 (error 2.61 ppm ).


Figure 2. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of the dithiourea derivative.


Synthesis of $\mathbf{L}^{1}$. A 25 mL RBF was charged with dithiourea derivative ( $228 \mathrm{mg}, 1.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), EtOH ( 10 mL ) and magnetic stir bar and the mixture was then heated to $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and to this added $\alpha$-bromoacetyl pyridine $(540 \mathrm{mg}, 2.7 \mathrm{mmol})$ in a solution in EtOH ( 2 mL ) solution whilst stirring. Heating was continued for a further 8 h during which time a heavy yellow precipitate was formed. This was then isolated via vacuum filtration and the filtrand was then washed with portions of EtOH ( $3 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) to give the protonated product. The free-base ligand was then isolated by suspending in concentrated ammonia ( 15 mL ) for 24 h . The resulting colourless suspension was then sonicated ( 5 mins ) and was filtered under vacco and the filtrand washed with portions of deionised water $(5 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{EtOH}(2 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$ giving the product as a fine off white powder ( $402 \mathrm{mg} 81 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 8.55(\mathrm{~d}, J=4,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-6 \mathrm{py})$, 7.917.89 (m, overlapping, $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ py and $-\mathrm{N} H$ ), 7.79 (dt, $J=7.6,1.6,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{py}$ ), 7.31 (s, 2H, tz), 7.26 (ddd, $J$ $=7.4,2.6,1.2,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{py}), 3.60\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2}-\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta 169.0,152.9$, 150.7, 149.7, 137.4, 122.8, 120.8, 105.4 and 44.1 ppm . ESI-MS $m / z 381\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$. HR ESI-MS found $381.0934 \mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ requires 381.0951 (error 4.79 ppm ). IR (ATR) v/ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3206$ ( $\mathrm{s},-\mathrm{NH}$ ), 3001 ( $\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}$ ), $1590(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{CH})$ and 1531 ( $\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH}$ ).


Figure 3. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}$.


To a 100 mL RBF was charged with putrescine $(0.35 \mathrm{~g}, 3.9 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{MeCN}(25 \mathrm{~mL})$ was added a solution of benzoyl isothiocyanate ( $1.3 \mathrm{~mL}, 1.59 \mathrm{~g}, 9.8 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in $\mathrm{MeCN}(25 \mathrm{~mL})$ slowly over 30 mins with constant stirring. The reaction mixture was then stirred at RT for a further 12 hrs during this time a heavy white precipitate was formed. The resulting mixture was the added dropwise, whilst stirring, to deionised water $(100 \mathrm{~mL})$ to yield a cream precipitate which was then isolated via vacuum filtration. The solid was then suspended in $\mathrm{MeOH}(20 \mathrm{~mL}$ ) in a 50 mL conical flask and sonicated ( 5 mins ). The cream suspension was then once again filtered under vacuum to yield a fine white solid which was washed with further portions of $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \times 5 \mathrm{~mL})$ to give the dibenzoylated thiourea as a fine white powder ( $0.90 \mathrm{~g}, 55 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 400 $\left.\mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 11.30(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{PhCON} H), 10.92\left(\mathrm{t}, J=5.4,2 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-\right), 7.92(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.2,4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-2$ $\mathrm{Ph}), 7.64(\mathrm{t}, J=7.4,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4 \mathrm{Ph}), 7.51(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8,4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3 \mathrm{Ph}), 3.68\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=5.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-\right), 1.72$ (brs, $\left.4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR [ $\left.400 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right]: \delta_{\mathrm{C}}=183.5(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}), 168.4(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}), 133.4(\mathrm{CH}), 132.7$ (Q), $129.0(\mathrm{CH}), 128.7(\mathrm{CH}), 44.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 25.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$. ESI-MS $m / z 415\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$, HR ESI-MS found $415.1257 \mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 415.1268 (error 2.65 ppm ). Whilst the ESI-MS analysis did give an accurate
ion the compound did decompose rapidly in the ESI MS process and only a small $\mathrm{M}^{+}$ion was observed. This behaviour is common to all of the aliphatic bridged dithioamines and their derivatives.


Figure 4. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of the dibenzoylated dithiourea derivative.


In a 50 ml RBF was combined the dibenzoylated dithiourea ( $510 \mathrm{mg}, 1.23 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), deionised water ( 10 mL ) and a magnetic stir bar. A solution of $\mathrm{NaOH}(290 \mathrm{mg}, 7.4 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{~mL})$ was then added to the reaction mixture whilst stirring at $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After 12 hrs the resulting colourless solution was then cooled to RT during which time a fine white precipitate was formed. The precipitate was then collected via vacuum filtration and then washed with deionised water ( $3 \times 3 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). To give the dithiourea as a fine white powder ( $210 \mathrm{mg}, 83 \%$ ). The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR gives three broad signals in the aromatic region and two broad signals at 3.0 and 1.4 ppm . As has been mentioned previously is suspected that intra-molecular hydrogen bonding is inducing broad peaks in the ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR. However, the ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ and ESI-MS is exactly as expected. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR [400 MHz , DMSO- $\left.d^{6}\right]$ : $\delta_{\mathrm{C}}=183.5(\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S})$, $44.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 26.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$. ESI-MS $m / z 207\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$. HR ESI-MS found $207.0735 \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ requires 207.0733 (error 1.48 ppm ).


Figure 5. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of the dithiourea derivative.


Synthesis of $\mathbf{L}^{2}$. A 25 mL RBF was charged with the dithiourea derivative ( $150 \mathrm{mg}, 0.73 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), EtOH ( 10 mL ) and magnetic stir bar and the mixture was then heated to $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and to this added $\alpha$-bromoacetyl pyridine ( $0.30 \mathrm{mg}, 1.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in a solution in EtOH ( 2 mL ) solution whilst stirring. Heating was continued for a further 8 h during which time a heavy yellow precipitate was formed. This was then isolated via vacuum filtration and the filtrand was then washed with portions of $\mathrm{EtOH}(3 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$ to give the protonated product. The free-base ligand was then isolated by suspending in concentrated ammonia ( 15 mL ) for 24 h . The resulting colourless suspension was then sonicated ( 5 mins ) and was filtered under vacuum and the filtrand washed with portions of deionised water $(5 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{EtOH}(2 \times 2 \mathrm{~mL})$, giving the product as a fine off white powder ( $180 \mathrm{mg} 60 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz},\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta(\mathrm{ppm}) 8.53(\mathrm{~d}, J=4,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-6 \mathrm{py})$, 7.88 (d, $J=7.8,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-3$ py), 7.79 (dt, $7.6, J=1.7,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-4$ py), 7.75 (t, $J=5.4,2 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{N} H$ ), 7.28 ( $\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{tz}$ ), 7.25 (dd, $J=5.7,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}-5 \mathrm{py}$ ), 3.33 (brs, $4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-$, overlapping with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ), 1.71 (brs, $4 \mathrm{H},-\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}-$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.400 \mathrm{MHz}\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right) \delta 169.2,153.0,150.7,149.7,137.5,122.8,120.7,104.9,44.6$ and 26.7 ppm. ESI-MS $m / z 409\left(\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)$, HR ESI-MS found $409.1261 \mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{~N}_{6} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ requires 409.1264 (error 0.97 ppm). IR (ATR) $\mathrm{v} / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3216(\mathrm{~m},-\mathrm{NH}), 2870(\mathrm{w}, \mathrm{CH}), 1574(\mathrm{~s}, \mathrm{~N}=\mathrm{CH})$ and $1516(\mathrm{w}, \mathrm{CH})$.


Figure 6. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\left(\mathrm{CD}_{3}\right)_{2} \mathrm{SO}\right)$ of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{2}$.
Synthesis of $\left[\mathbf{C u}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{4}$. To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}(\text { trif })_{2}(10 \mathrm{mg} .0 .028 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was added a suspension of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{1}(10 \mathrm{mg}, 0.026 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ and the reaction warmed and sonicated until a clear dark blue solution had formed. Diethyl ether was slowly allowed to diffuse into the solution resulting in dark blue block-like crystals after several days. Filtration and washing with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ and diethyl ether ( 1 ml ) gave dark blue crystals which lost solvent rapidly (yield $=46 \%)$. $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{1}\right)_{2}\right](\text { (rif })_{4}$. Found: C, 32.0; H, 1.7 N , $10.91 \% ; \mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{~S}_{8} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{12}$ requires C, 32.37; H, 2.17; N, 11.32\%.

Synthesis of $\left[\mathbf{C u}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathbf{H}_{2} \mathbf{P O}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$. To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}(\text { trif })_{2}(10 \mathrm{mg}$. 0.028 mmol$)$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was added a suspension of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{1}(10 \mathrm{mg}, 0.026 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ and the reaction warmed and sonicated until a clear dark blue solution had formed. To this was added a solution of $\mathrm{Bu}_{4} \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.013$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{ml})$ during which the colour changed from dark blue to lime green. Di-isopropyl ether was slowly allowed to diffuse into the solution resulting in lime green needle-like crystals after several days. Filtration and washing with diisopropyl ether $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ and diethyl ether $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ gave lime green crystals which lost solvent rapidly (yield $=39 \%$ ).

Synthesis of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}\right)_{\mathbf{3}}\left(\mathbf{O}_{3} \mathbf{P O B F}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathbf{B F}_{4}\right)_{3}$. To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{mg} .0 .029 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was added a suspension of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{1}(11 \mathrm{mg}, 0.029 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ and the reaction warmed and sonicated until a clear dark blue solution had formed. To this was added a solution of $\mathrm{Bu}_{4} \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(4.9 \mathrm{mg}$, $0.014 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{ml})$ during which the colour changed from dark blue to lime green. Diisopropyl ether was slowly allowed to diffuse into the solution resulting in lime green needle-like crystals after several days. Filtration and washing with diisopropyl ether ( 1 ml ) and diethyl ether ( 1 ml ) gave lime green crystals which lost solvent rapidly $($ yield $=37 \%)$. $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{1}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{POBF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{3}$. Found: C, 36.25; H, $1.73 ; \mathrm{N}, 13.44 \% ; \mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{48} \mathrm{~N}_{18} \mathrm{~S}_{6} \mathrm{Cu}_{3} \mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{~F}_{15} \mathrm{PO}_{4} \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ requires $\mathrm{C}, 36.21 ; \mathrm{H}, 2.93 ; \mathrm{N}, 14.07 \%$.

Synthesis of $\left[\mathbf{C u}_{\mathbf{2}}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{)}_{\mathbf{2}}\left(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{P O}_{\mathbf{4}}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}\right.$. To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}(\text { trif })_{2}(10 \mathrm{mg} .0 .028 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was added a suspension of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{2}(11 \mathrm{mg}, 0.027 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ and the reaction warmed and sonicated until a clear dark blue solution had formed. To this was added a solution of $\mathrm{Bu}_{4} \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(4.7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.014$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{ml})$ during which the colour changed from dark blue to lime green. Di-isopropyl ether was slowly allowed to diffuse into the solution resulting in lime green needle-like crystals after several days. Filtration and washing with diisopropyl ether $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ and diethyl ether $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ gave lime green crystals which lost solvent rapidly (yield $=41 \%$ ).

Synthesis of $\left[\mathbf{C u}_{\mathbf{2}}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{2}}\right)_{\mathbf{2}}\left(\mathbf{O}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{P}\left(\mathbf{O B F}_{3}\right)_{\mathbf{2}}\right]\left(\mathbf{B F}_{4}\right)\right.$. To a solution of $\mathrm{Cu}\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{2} \cdot 6 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{mg} .0 .028 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ $(1 \mathrm{ml})$ was added a suspension of ligand $\mathbf{L}^{2}(11 \mathrm{mg}, 0.027 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ and the reaction warmed and sonicated until a clear dark blue solution had formed. To this was added a solution of $\mathrm{Bu}_{4} \mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}(4.7 \mathrm{mg}$, $0.014 \mathrm{mmol})$ in $\mathrm{MeNO}_{2}(0.5 \mathrm{ml})$ during which the colour changed from dark blue to lime green. Diisopropyl ether was slowly allowed to diffuse into the solution resulting in lime green needle-like crystals after several days. Filtration and washing with diisopropyl ether ( 1 ml ) and diethyl ether ( 1 ml ) gave lime green crystals which lost solvent rapidly (yield $=38 \%) .\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)\right.$. Found: C, 36.35; H , $2.91 ; \mathrm{N}, 12.61 \% ; \mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{~S}_{4} \mathrm{~B}_{3} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{10} \mathrm{PO}_{4} \cdot 3 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ requires $\mathrm{C}, 36.52 ; \mathrm{H}, 3.52 ; \mathrm{N}, 12.78 \%$.

In all cases the solutions gave a homogeneous mass of crystalline product. X-ray analysis was carried out several times (either a whole data collection or unit cell parameters) in an effort to assure homogeneity and repeatability. However, this was often accompanied by small amounts of an intractable fine powder (especially upon addition of dihydrogen phosphate for $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$ and $\left.\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}\right)$ and this precluded elemental analysis in these cases.


Figure 7. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{4}$ with the obtained isotope pattern (inset top) and calculated (inset bottom) for $m / z 1335\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\right](\text { (trif })_{3}\right\}^{+}$.


Figure 8. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$ with the obtained isotope pattern (inset top) and calculated (inset bottom) for $m / z 1282\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{2}\right\}^{+}$.


Figure 9. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{POBF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{3}$ with the obtained isotope pattern (inset top) and calculated (inset bottom) for $m / z 1668\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{POBF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{2}\right\}^{+}$.


Figure 10. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{4}$ with the obtained isotope pattern (inset top) and calculated (inset bottom) for $m / z 1391\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{2}}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{3}\right\}^{+}$.


Figure 11. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { (trif })_{3}$ with the obtained isotope pattern (inset top) and calculated (inset bottom) for $m / z 1339\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { (trif })_{2}\right\}^{+}$.


Figure 12. ESI-MS of $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)$. Peaks (unlabelled) at $m / z 1127$ and 1195 correspond to $\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{HPO}_{4}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)\right\}^{+}$and $\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{HO}_{3} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{4}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)\right\}^{+}\right.$respectively.


Figure 13. ESI-MS isotope pattern for a) $m / z 1107\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{POBF}_{3}\right)\right]\right\}^{+}$(LHS observed top and calculated bottom) and b) $m / z 1175\left\{\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)\right]\right\}^{+}(\mathrm{RHS}$ observed top and calculated bottom).

## Crystallography

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data was collected at $150(2) \mathrm{K}$ on a Bruker D8 Venture diffractometer equipped with a graphite monochromated $\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{K} \alpha)$ (or $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{K} \alpha)$ for $\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left[\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{3}\right)$ radiation source and a cold stream of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ gas. Solutions were generated by conventional heavy atom Patterson or direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares on all $F^{2}$ data, using SHELXS-97 and SHELXL software respectively. ${ }^{1}$ Absorption corrections were applied based on multiple and symmetry-equivalent measurements using SADABS. ${ }^{2}$ For all five species the crystallisations were repeated several times and either a full data set or unit cell collected, each time giving the same cell parameters as those observed for the structures reported.
$\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{4}$ this crystal structure was treated as standard.
$\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)(\text { trif })_{3}\right.$ contained both a positionally disordered triflate counter anion and nitromethane solvent molecules. These were modelled over two positions using the PART instruction and assigned their own free variable. In most cases $D E L U, S I M U$ and $I S O R$ were used to constrain the adp's in the least-squares refinement.
$\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{O}_{3} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{3}\right.$ contained two molecules of the trinuclear assembly in the asymmetric unit and disorder that could not be successfully modelled. As a result the diffuse electron density was removed using
the solvent mask facility in Olex2, resulting in voids of $2515 \AA^{3}\left(629 \AA^{3}\right.$ or 227 electrons per circular helicate) in the crystal structure. ${ }^{3}$ This corresponds to one $\mathrm{BF}_{4}$ anion and $6 \mathrm{MeNO}_{2}$ molecules per helicate.
$\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{1}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$ contained a positionally disordered triflate counter anion and this was modelled over two positions using the PART instruction and assigned its own free variable. In most cases DELU, SIMU and $I S O R$ were used to constrain the adp's of the disordered fragments in the least-squares refinement. Furthermore, the structure contained disorder that could not be successfully modelled and as a result the diffuse electron density was removed using the solvent mask facility in Olex2, resulting in voids of $1176 \AA^{3}$ which corresponds to 545 electrons. ${ }^{3}$ This accounts for 5 molecules of DIPE per asymmetric unit.
$\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathrm{~L}^{2}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)\right.$ contained a rotationally disordered tetrafluoroborate counter anion and as a result the fluorine atoms were modelled over two sites using the PART instruction. The resulting B-F bond lengths had to be restrained using the SADI instruction and the anisotropic thermal parameters had to be restrained using $D E L U, S I M U$ and $I S O R$ in the 1.s. refinement. The structure also contains a relatively poorly defined water oxygen atom on a special position and as a result the hydrogen atoms were not added.

In the above two structures attempts at growing crystals containing less disorder was tried numerous times, coupled with numerous attempts at modelling the resultant disorder. The solvent mask was only applied once the gross structure had been determined, refined, made anisotropic and hydrogen atoms added. Despite the removal of diffuse electron density the gross molecular connectivity can be established and the structures (and their hosts) are also confirmed by ESI-MS.

| Compound | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}\right)_{2}\right](\text { trif })_{4}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{3}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{1}}\right)_{3}\left(\mathrm{PO}_{4} \mathrm{BF}_{3}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)_{3}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Formula | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{12} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{12} \mathrm{~S}_{8}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{9} \mathrm{~N}_{13.858} \mathrm{O}_{15.743} \mathrm{PS}_{7}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{114} \mathrm{H}_{114} \mathrm{~B}_{5} \mathrm{Cu}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{18} \mathrm{~N}_{42} \mathrm{O}_{20} \mathrm{P}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{12}$ |
| M | 1484.33 | 1514.22 | 3616.55 |
| Crystal system | triclinic | triclinic | triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 | P -1 | P -1 |
| a ( $\AA$ ) | 9.7479(10) | 11.358(4) | 12.3871(8) |
| b ( $\AA$ ) | 10.8987(11) | 16.280(5) | 24.199(2) |
| c ( $\AA$ ) | 14.1786(14) | 16.681(7) | 32.271(4) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right.$ ) | 67.525(3) | 99.030(16) | 78.661(7) |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right.$ ) | 73.066(3) | 108.218(16) | 85.813(9) |
| $\gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 83.669(3) | 92.693(12) | 78.326(7) |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | 1331.6(2) | 2878.4(18) | 9283.1(15) |
| Z | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| $\rho_{\text {calc }}\left(\mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | 1.851 | 1.7470 | 1.2937 |
| $F(000)$ | 746 | 1530.0797 | 3666.8836 |


| Crystal dimensions (mm) | $0.15,0.1,0.1$ | 0.25, 0.2, 0.1 | 0.1, 0.1, 0.1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reflections measured | 22989 | 80975 | 132190 |
| Range | $2.072 \leq \theta \geq 30.578$ | $1.92 \leq \theta \geq 30.69$ | $2.56 \leq \theta \geq 68.72$ |
| $h k l$ range indices | $\begin{aligned} & -13 \leq h \geq 13,-15 \leq k \geq 15, \\ & -20 \leq 1 \geq 15 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -16 \leq \mathrm{h} \geq 16,-23 \leq \mathrm{k} \geq 23,-23 \leq \\ & \mathrm{l} \geq 23 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -14 \leq \mathrm{h} \geq 14,-28 \leq \mathrm{k} \geq 29,0 \leq \\ & 1 \geq 38 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\mathrm{N}^{0}$ independent reflections | 8122 | 17674 | 33538 |
| Reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ | 5735 | 11284 | 23849 |
| $\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}$ | 0.0692 | 0.0829 | 0.1127 |
| Final $R_{l}$ values | 0.0498 | 0.0744 | 0.0997 |
| Final $w R\left(F^{2}\right)$ values | 0.1146 | 0.1587 | 0.2929 |
| Final $R_{l}$ values (all data) | 0.0846 | 0.1299 | 0.1337 |
| Final $w R\left(F^{2}\right)$ values (all data) | 0.1288 | 0.1923 | 0.3299 |
| GOF | 1.034 | 1.0732 | 1.2535 |
| Refined parameters | 388 | 886 | 2014 |
| Restraints | 0 | 48 | 121 |
| Largest peak and hole (e $\AA^{-3}$ ) | 0.942, -0.779 | 1.6254, -2.0257 | 1.8506, -1.6788 |
| CCDC Number | 1849997 | 1849998 | 1849999 |


| Compound | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{2}}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{PO}_{4}\right)\right](\text { trif })_{3}$ | $\left[\mathrm{Cu}_{2}\left(\mathbf{L}^{\mathbf{2}}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{P}\left(\mathrm{OBF}_{3}\right)_{2}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{BF}_{4}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Formula | $\mathrm{C}_{43} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{9} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{13} \mathrm{PS}_{7}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{40} \mathrm{~B}_{4} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~F}_{14} \mathrm{~N}_{12} \mathrm{O}_{4.5} \mathrm{PS}_{4}$ |
| M | 1488.40 | 1356.37 |
| Crystal system | triclinic | tetragonal |
| Space group | P-1 | I-4 2 d |
| a ( $\AA$ ) | 14.629(5) | 22.4423(11) |
| b ( $\AA$ ) | 15.453(6) | 22.4423(11) |
| c ( $\AA$ ) | 17.397(6) | 20.6438(10) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 93.102(18) | 90 |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right.$ ) | 103.018(14) | 90 |
| $\gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 95.287(15) | 90 |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | 3804(2) | 10397.4(9) |
| Z | 2 | 8 |


| $\rho_{\text {calc }}\left(\mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | 1.2994 | 1.733 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $F(000)$ | 1512.1201 | 5464 |
| Crystal dimensions (mm) | $0.2,0.1,0.1$ | $0.25,0.2,0.2$ |
| Reflections measured | 114289 | 27338 |
| Range | $1.85 \leq \theta \geq 30.44$ | $2.26 \leq \theta \geq 30.55$ |
| hkl range indices | $-20 \leq \mathrm{h} \geq 20,-21 \leq \mathrm{k} \geq 21,-24 \leq 1 \geq 24$ | $-32 \leq \mathrm{h} \geq 32,-22 \leq \mathrm{k} \geq 22,-29 \leq 1 \geq 29$ |
| $\mathrm{~N}^{\circ}$ independent reflections | 22936 | 7906 |
| Reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ | 13386 | 4758 |
| $\mathrm{R}_{\text {int }}$ | 0.0777 | 0.0675 |
| Final $R_{I}$ values | 0.0762 | 0.0804 |
| Final $w R\left(F^{2}\right)$ values | 0.1957 | 0.2190 |
| Final $R_{l}$ values (all data) | 0.1334 | 0.1445 |
| Final $w R\left(F^{2}\right)$ values (all data) | 0.2317 | 0.2635 |
| GOF | 1.1000 | 1.026 |
| Refined parameters | 858 | 384 |
| Restraints | 87 | 1850000 |
| Cargest peak and hole $\left(\mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}\right)$ | $2.6065,-2.0660$ | -1.360 |

1. SHELXTL Program System, Vers. 5.1, Bruker Analytical X-ray Instruments Inc., Madison, WI, 1998.
2. G. M. Sheldrick, SADABS: A Program for Absorption Correction with the Siemens SMART System, University of Göttingen (Germany), 1996.
3. O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard and H. Puschmann, OLEX2: a complete structure solution, refinement and analysis program. J. Appl. Cryst. (2009). 42, 339-341.
