

# Supporting Information

## Trapped Inorganic Phosphate Dimer

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## Experimental Section

**Materials.** Tris-(2-aminoethyl)amine, pentafluorophenyl isocyanate, tetrabutylammonium dihydrogenphosphate, tetrabutylammonium acetate, tetrabutylammonium nitrate, and tetrabutylammonium perchlorate were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, USA and were used as received dichloromethane (DCM) purchased from S.D. Fine, India was distilled over anhydrous calcium hydride prior to use.

**Physical Measurements.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker 200 MHz and 75.47 MHz FT-NMR spectrometers instruments respectively. HRMS (ESI) measurements were carried out on Waters QToF-Micro instruments.

**X-ray Crystallography.** The crystallographic data and details of data collection for **L** and **1** are given in Table 1S and Table 4S respectively. In each case, a crystal of suitable size was selected from the mother liquor and immersed in paratone oil, then mounted on the tip of a glass fiber and cemented using epoxy resin. Intensity data for all three crystals were collected using Mo  $\text{K}_\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 0.7107 \text{ \AA}$ ) radiation on a Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer equipped with CCD area detector at 100K. The data integration and reduction were processed with SAINT<sup>1a</sup> software. An empirical absorption correction was applied to the collected reflections with SADABS<sup>1b</sup>. The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXTL<sup>2</sup> and were refined on  $F^2$  by the full-matrix least-squares technique using the SHELXL-97<sup>3</sup> program package. Graphics are generated using PLATON<sup>4</sup> and MERCURY 1.3.<sup>5</sup> In both cases the non-hydrogen atoms are refined anisotropically till the convergence. Hydrogen atoms attached to the amide nitrogens in both the compounds and the hydrogen atoms attached to the dihydrogenphosphate moiety of compound **1** were located from the difference Fourier map and refined isotropically. Rest of the hydrogen atoms in both of the compounds were stereochemically fixed at idealized positions.

(1) (a) SAINT and XPREP, 5.1 ed.; Siemens Industrial Automation Inc.: Madison, WI, 1995. Sheldrick, G. M. (b) SADABS, *empirical absorption Correction Program*; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

(2) Sheldrick, G. M. *SHELXTL Reference Manual: Version 5.1*; Bruker AXS: Madison, WI, 1997.

(3) Sheldrick, G. M. *SHELXL-97: Program for Crystal Structure Refinement*; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

(4) Spek, A. L. *PLATON-97*; University of Utrecht: Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1997.

(5) Mercury 1.3 Supplied with Cambridge Structural Database; CCDC: Cambridge, U.K., 2003-2004.

## Synthesis

### Synthesis of Compound L:

2.6 mL (20 mmol) of pentafluorophenyl isocyanate was dissolved in 25 mL of dry dichloromethane (DCM) at room temperature in a 100 mL 2-neck round bottom flask equipped with a dropping funnel. Tris-(2-aminoethyl) amine (1.0 mL, 6.5 mmol) was dissolved in 25 mL of dry DCM and was added drop-wise with constant stirring. The resulting solution was stirred for another 1 h at room temperature in N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. The colorless precipitate formed was filtered off and washed with DCM twice. The precipitate collected was dried in air. Yield of **L** is 98%. Single crystals of **L** suitable for X-ray analysis were isolated when we attempted complexation of bromide with **L** upon treating **L** with tetrabutylammonium bromide in dimethylformamide (DMF). Slow evaporation of above solution yielded colorless crystals of **L** after 3 days which were filtered off from the mother liquor. Isolated yield is 50%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 2.55 (t, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.15 (t, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.55 (s, 3H, NH<sub>a</sub>), 8.352 (s, 3H, NH<sub>b</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75.47 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 38.914 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 54.528 (NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 115.737 (m of s, Ar, CC-F, J<sub>CCF</sub> = 15Hz), 137.94 (m of d, Ar, C-F, J<sub>CF</sub> = 247 Hz), 138.77 (m of d, Ar, C-F J<sub>CF</sub> = 247 Hz), 143.62 (m of d, Ar, C-F, J<sub>CF</sub> = 246 Hz), 155.36 (s, C=O). Positive ESI HRMS: m/z 774.5637 [**L**+H<sup>+</sup>] 100%.

### Synthesis of Complex 1:

50 mg of **L** was dissolved in 5 mL DMF/MeCN (1:1 v/v, pH ~ 7.89) binary solvent in a 25 mL beaker. In to this solution 25 mg of n-Bu<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> was added in one shot and mixture was stirred for 5 min with a magnetic stirrer at room temperature. Resulting solution was filtered using a filter paper. Filtrate was allowed to evaporate under room temperature. Colorless crystals of the dihydrogenphosphate complex of **L**, [**L**(H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>)]·DMF (**1**), suitable for X-ray diffraction was obtained after a week. Isolated Yield of **1** is 60%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.20 (t, 3H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.55 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.62 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.45 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.15 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.20 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 7.87 (br, 3H, NH<sub>a</sub>), 9.43 (br, 3H, NH<sub>b</sub>). Positive ESI HRMS: m/z 774.5637 [**L**+H<sup>+</sup>].

**<sup>1</sup>H NMR studies.** Binding constants were obtained by <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz Bruker) titrations of **L** with [*n*-Bu]<sub>4</sub>N<sup>+</sup>A<sup>-</sup> (A<sup>-</sup>: H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, CH<sub>3</sub>COO<sup>-</sup>) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> at 25°C. The initial concentration of **L** was 20 mM. Aliquots of anions were added from two different stock solutions 25 mM and 50 mM of anions (host : guest = up to 1:1, 25 mM stock solution was used, and above 1:1 ratio higher concentration anion was used). Tetramethylsilane (TMS) in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> was used as an internal reference, and each titration was performed by 15 measurements at room temperature. All proton signals were referred to TMS. The association constants<sup>6</sup>, *K*, were calculated by fitting the change in the N-H chemical shift with a 1:1 association model with non-linear least square analysis. The error limit in *K* was less than 10%. There were no detectable chemical shift of -NH in cases of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and ClO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> guests indicate no host-guest complex formation.

The equation  $\Delta\delta = \{([A]_0 + [L]_0 + 1/K) \pm (([A]_0 + [L]_0 + 1/K)^2 - 4[L]_0[A]_0)^{1/2}\} \Delta\delta_{\max} / 2[L]_0$  was used.

(6) Hynes, M. J. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1993**, 311-312.

Table 1S: Crystallographic Parameters for Ligand L

<b>Crystal Data</b>	<b>Ligand</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>18</sub> F <sub>15</sub> N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
FW	773.48
Crystal size (mm)	0.65X0.45X0.23
Crystal description	BLOCKS
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	9.2984(10)
b/Å	13.3540(14)
c /Å	13.7161(14)
$\alpha$ /°	118.317(2)
$\beta$ /°	90.295(2)
$\gamma$ /°	96.329(2)
Volume / Å <sup>3</sup>	1487.0(3)
Z	2
D <sub>calc</sub> /Mgm <sup>-3</sup>	1.728
F(000)	776
$\mu$ MoK $\alpha$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.179
Temperature (K)	100(2)
2 $\theta$ max (°)	28.29
Observed reflections [ $I > 2 \sigma(I)$ ]	6733, (R <sub>int</sub> =0305)
Parameters refined	493
Goodness of fit	1.081
Final R <sub>1</sub> on observed data	0.0582
Final wR <sub>2</sub> on observe data	0.1215

Figure 1S: ORTEP diagram of **L** with atom numbering with 50% probability factor for the thermal ellipsoids.

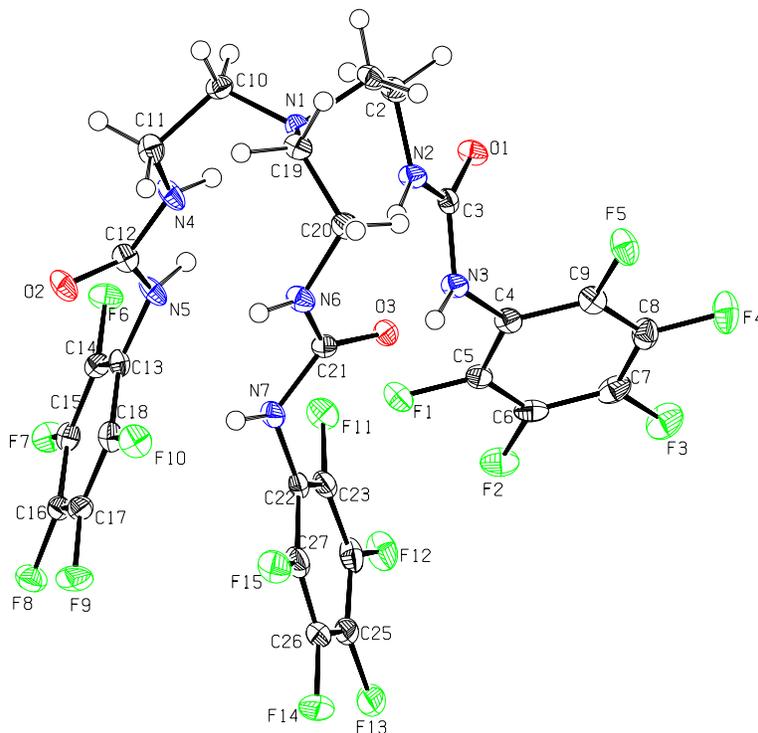
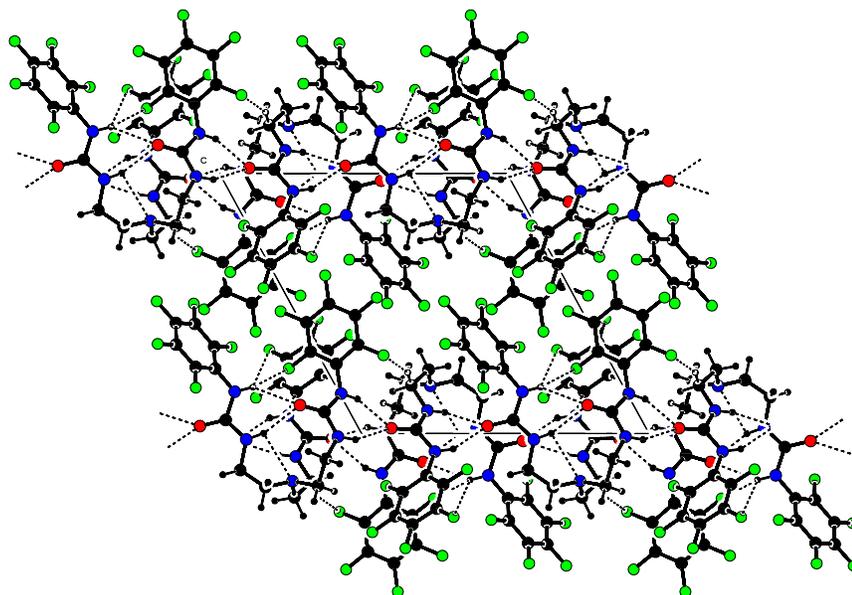


Figure 2S: Packing diagram of **L** viewed down a-axis showing the one dimensional hydrogen bonded layers of molecules in the bc-plane.



Packing diagram of **L** is viewed down a-axis depicting the various H-bonding interactions are shown in Figure 2S. As shown in the figure the alternate ligand moiety is oriented in opposite direction along b-axis and are involved various intermolecular hydrogen bonding interactions to form a layered network along bc-plane. Thus, Hydrogen atoms attached of the diamide nitrogens from all the strands are involved in intermolecular hydrogen bonding via N-H...O and and N-H...F interactions with the tethered urea oxygen of oppositely oriented tripodal ligands. Thus three N-H...O , two N-H...F and one C-H...F interaction between the methylene hydrogen H11B with F15 of the pentafluoro aryl ring is responsible for the generation of layered network arrangement in the packing mode.

Table 2S: Hydrogen bonding table for **L** with symmetry code

<b>D-H...A</b>	<b><i>d</i>(H...A), Å</b>	<b><i>d</i>(D...A), Å</b>	<b>&lt;DHA deg</b>
N(2)-H(2C)...O(3) <sup>1</sup>	H(2C)...O(3) = 2.18(4)	N(2)...O(3) = 3.003(3)	N(2)-H(2C)...O(3) = 162(3)
N(3)-H(3C)...F(11) <sup>1</sup>	H(3C)...F(11) = 2.35(3)	N(3)...F(11) = 3.027(3)	N(3)-H(3C)...F(11) = 136(2)
N(3)-H(3C)...F(7) <sup>2</sup>	H(3C)...F(7) = 2.47(3)	N(3)...F(7) = 3.015(3)	N(3)-H(3C)...F(7) = 122(2)
N(3)-H(3C)...O(3) <sup>1</sup>	H(3C)...O(3) = 2.44(3)	N(3)...O(3) = 3.176(3)	N(3)-H(3C)...O(3) = 144(2)
N(4)-H(4C)...O(1) <sup>3</sup>	H(4C)...O(1) = 2.16(4)	N(4)...O(1) = 2.888(3)	N(4)-H(4C)...O(1) = 144(3)
N(5)-H(5C)...O(1) <sup>3</sup>	H(5C)...O(1) = 2.03(4)	N(5)...O(1) = 2.823(3)	N(5)-H(5C)...O(1) = 153(2)
N(6)-H(6C)...O(2) <sup>4</sup>	H(6C)...O(2) = 2.10(3)	N(6)...O(2) = 2.871(3)	N(6)-H(6C)...O(2) = 150(2)
N(7)-H(7C)...O(2) <sup>4</sup>	H(7C)...O(2) = 2.07(3)	N(7)...O(2) = 2.834(3)	N(7)-H(7C)...O(2) = 158(2)
C(11)-H(11B)...F(15) <sup>4</sup>	H(11B)...F(15) = 2.50	C(11)...F(15) = 3.414(3)	C(11)-H(11B)...F(15) = 157

1. x, y, z 2. 1+x, y, z 3. -x, 1-y, -z 4. -x, 2-y, -z

Table 3S: Different Non-bonding Interactions in **L**

<b>C-F...F-C/Cg...F-C</b>	<b><i>d</i>(F...F/Cg...F) in Å</b>	<b>&lt; C-F...F/Cg...F-C in (deg)</b>
C(6)-F(2)...F(9)-C(17) <sup>1</sup>	F(2)...F(9) = 2.753	C(17)-F(9)...F(2) = 158.12
C(25)-F(13)...F(1)-C(5) <sup>1</sup>	F(13)...F(1) = 2.741	C(5)-F(1)...F(13) = 159.40
Cg1...F(13)-C(25) <sup>1</sup>	Cg1...F(13) = 3.027	Cg1...F(13)-C(25) = 128.12

symmetry code : 1. -x, 2-y, 1-z

Where Cg1 represents the centroid of C13-C18.

Figure 3S. ORTEP diagram of **1** with atom numbering with 40% probability factor for the thermal ellipsoids.

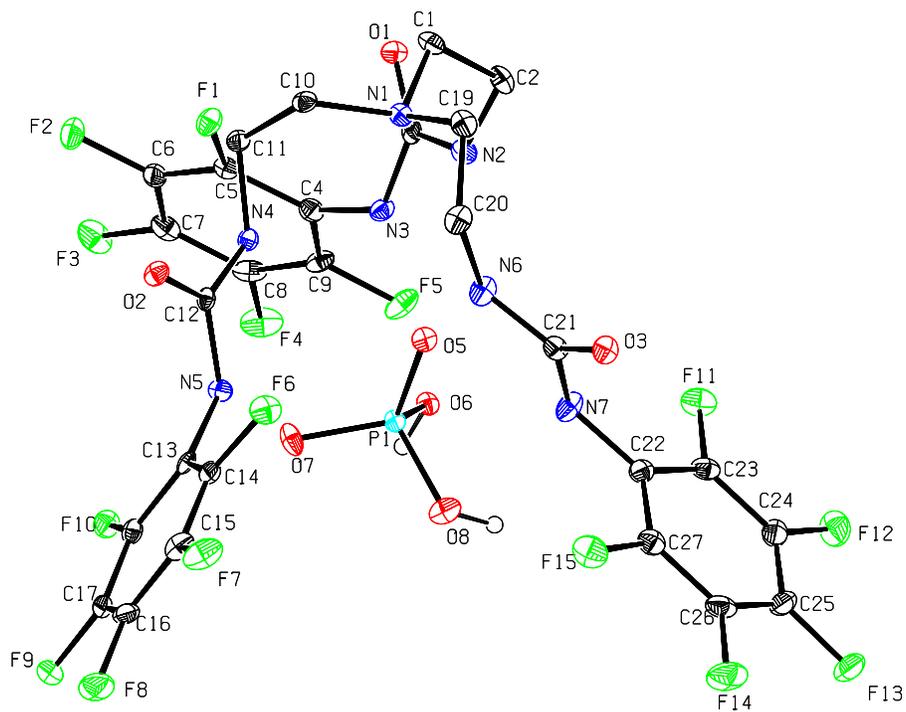


Table 4S: Crystallographic Parameters for Complex 1

<b>Crystal Data</b>	<b>Complex 1</b>
Empirical formula	C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>63</sub> F <sub>15</sub> N <sub>9</sub> O <sub>3</sub> P <sub>1</sub>
FW	1186.02
Crystal size (mm)	0.35 x 0.24 x 0.22
Crystal description	PLATES
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	13.3363(11)
b/Å	14.0385(11)
c /Å	15.5942(13)
$\alpha$ / <sup>0</sup>	99.391(2)
$\beta$ / <sup>0</sup>	95.841(2)
$\gamma$ / <sup>0</sup>	108.885(2)
Volume / Å <sup>-3</sup>	2687.8(4)
Z	2
D <sub>calc.</sub> /Mgm <sup>-3</sup>	1.465
F(000)	1232
$\mu$ MoK <sub><math>\alpha</math></sub> (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.163
Temperature (K)	100(2)
2 $\theta$ max	25
Observed reflections [I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)]	9400 [R(int) = 0.0411]
Parameters refined	750
Goodness of fit	1.117
Final R <sub>1</sub> on observed data	0.0640
Final wR <sub>2</sub> on observe data	0.1252

Table.5S: Hydrogen bonding table for the complex 1.

D-H ...A	d(H...A), Å	d(D ...A), Å	<DHA °
N(2)-H(2C)...O(5) <sup>1</sup>	H(2C)...O(5) = 2.10(3)	N(2)...O(5) = 2.898(4)	N(2)-H(2C)...O(5) = 169(3)
N(3)-H(3C)...O(6) <sup>1</sup>	H(3C)...O(6) = 2.03(4)	N(3)...O(6) = 2.893(3)	N(3)-H(3C)...O(6) = 160(3)
N(4)-H(4C)...O(5) <sup>1</sup>	H(4C)...O(5) = 2.36(3)	N(4)...O(5) = 3.132(4)	N(4)-H(4C)...O(5) = 164(3)
N(5)-H(5C)...O(7) <sup>1</sup>	H(5C)...O(7) = 1.95(4)	N(5)...O(7) = 2.753(4)	N(5)-H(5C)...O(7) = 172(3)
N(6)-H(6C)...O(5) <sup>1</sup>	H(6C)...O(5) = 2.19(3)	N(6)...O(5) = 2.976(4)	N(6)-H(6C)...O(5) = 159(4)
O(6)-H(6D)...O(7) <sup>2</sup>	H(6D)...O(7) = 1.67(3)	O(6)...O(7) = 2.563(3)	O(6)-H(6D)...O(7) = 177(3)
N(7)-H(7C)...O(5) <sup>1</sup>	H(7C)...O(5) = 2.16(4)	N(7)...O(5) = 2.966(3)	N(7)-H(7C)...O(5) = 160(4)
N(7)-H(7C)...O(8) <sup>1</sup>	H(7C)...O(8) = 2.59(3)	N(7)...O(8) = 3.202(4)	N(7)-H(7C)...O(8) = 131(3)
O(8)-H(8D)...O(4) <sup>3</sup>	H(8D)...O(4) = 1.76(4)	O(8)...O(4) = 2.576(4)	O(8)-H(8D)...O(4) = 168(4)
C(28)-H(28A)...O(3) <sup>4</sup>	H(28A)...O(3) = 2.37	C(28)...O(3) = 3.332(4)	C(28)-H(28A)...O(3) = 172
C(29)-H(29B)...O(2) <sup>1</sup>	H(29B)...O(2) = 2.55	C(29)...O(2) = 3.432(4)	C(29)-H(29B)...O(2) = 151
C(32)-H(32B)...O(1) <sup>5</sup>	H(32B)...O(1) = 2.53	C(32)...O(1) = 3.491(4)	C(32)-H(32B)...O(1) = 173
C(37)-H(37A)...O(3) <sup>4</sup>	H(37A)...O(3) = 2.52	C(37)...O(3) = 3.430(5)	C(37)-H(37A)...O(3) = 155
C(40)-H(40A)...O(2) <sup>1</sup>	H(40A)...O(2) = 2.31	C(40)...O(2) = 3.284(4)	C(40)-H(40A)...O(2) = 179
1. x, y, z 2. -x, 1-y, -z 3. -1+x, y, z 4. 1-x, 1-y, 1-z 5. 1+x, y, z			

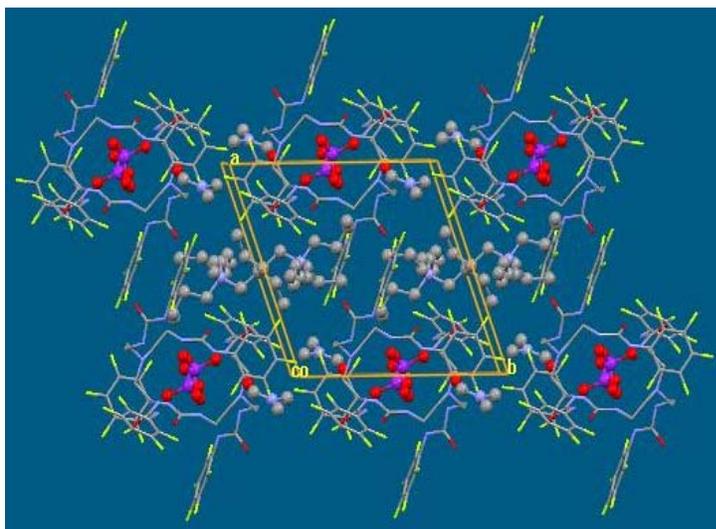
Table 6S: Different Non-bonding Interactions in Complex 1

C-F...F-C/Cg...F-C	d(F...F/Cg...F) Å	<C-F...F/ Cg...F-C deg
C(18)-F(10)...F(5)-C(9) <sup>1</sup>	F(10)...F(5) = 2.872	C(9)-F(5)...F(10) = 163.76
Cg2...O(4)-C(46) <sup>*2</sup>	Cg2...O(4) = 3.474	Cg2...O(4)-C(46) = 152.19
Cg3...O(8)-P(1) <sup>1</sup>	Cg3...O(8) = 3.420	Cg3...O(8)-P(1) = 140.85
Cg4...F(3)-C(7) <sup>1</sup>	Cg4...F(3) = 3.545	Cg4...F(3)-C(7) = 124.89
Symmetry code: 1. -x, 1-y, -z 2. 1-x, 1-y, -z		

Where Cg2, Cg3, and Cg4 represents the centroids of C4-C9 and C22-C27 respectively.

\* with the shortest distance C23...O4 = 3.025 Å

Figure 4S: Packing diagram of **1** viewed down c-axis showing the arrangement of the dimeric anion encapsulated capsules along b-axis and the n-tetrabutyl ammonium cations between the adjacent layers of the anionic capsules.



Packing diagram of the compound viewed down c-axis is shown in Fig. 3S. As depicted in the Figure the dihydrogen phosphate dimers are wrapped by two tripodal moiety are oriented along with the DMF molecules are H-boned with the  $[\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4]^-$  units form either end of the dimres and are oriented as a layer along along b-axis . The tert-butyl cations are occupied between the adjacent anionic layers; two tert-butyl cations molecules are surrounded by the four of the paired anionic capsules. Extensive strong C-H...O hydrogen bonding do exits between the amide oxygens of the tripodal moiety and the ethylenic and methyl hydrogens from different arms of the tert-butyl ammonium cation. These C-H...O interactions not only stabilize the cation between the four anionic tripodal capsules but also a bridge between the adjacent encapsulated anionic tripodal array along a-axis.

Figure 5S: Job plot for **L** with  $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N}^+\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

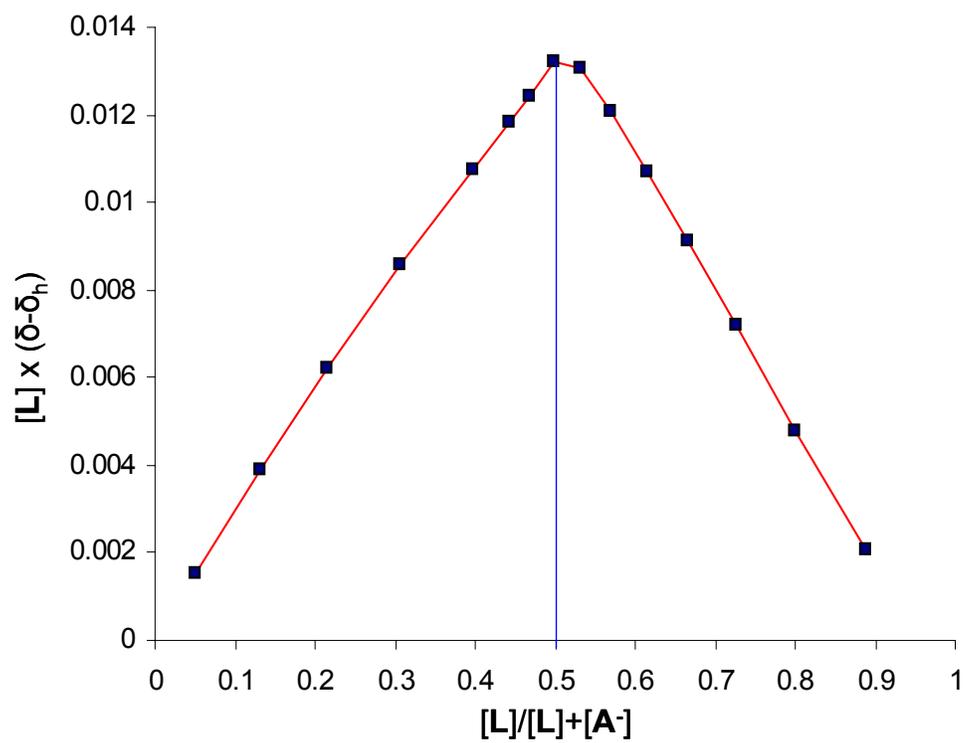


Figure 6S: Job plot for **L** with  $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{N}^+\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$  in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .

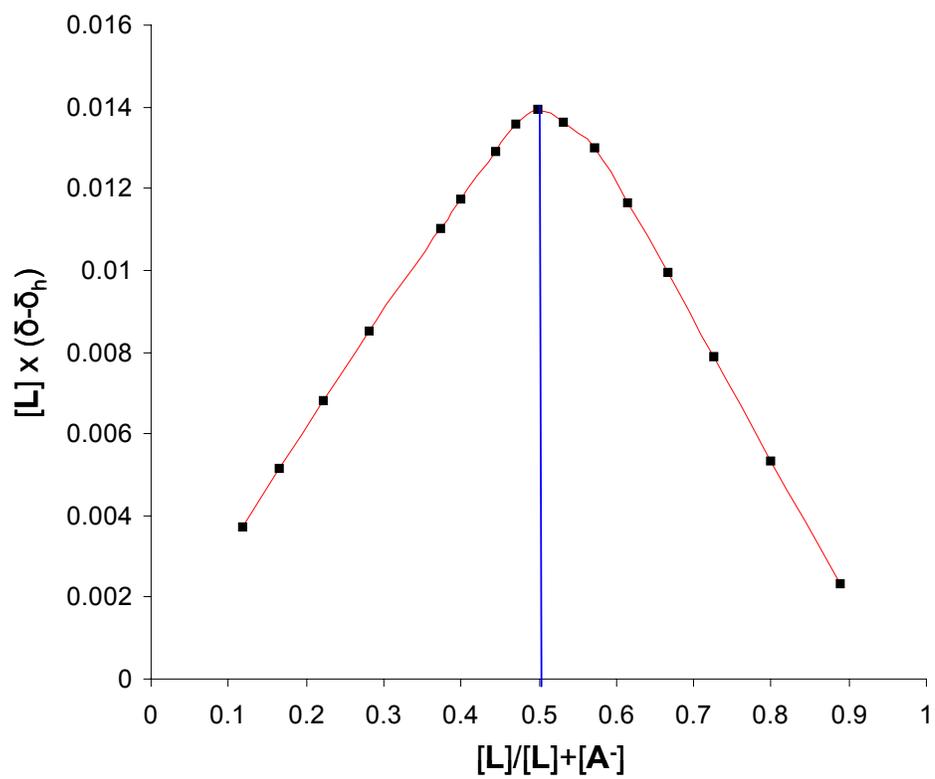


Figure 7S: Solution state  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Experiments of **L** in presence of different combination of anions.

