## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) Planarity Takes Over in the $C_xH_xP_{6-x}$ (x = 0-6) Series at x = 4

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**Fig. S1** Lowest-lying structures of P<sub>6</sub>, their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311+G\* (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311+G\* optimized geometries



**Fig. S2** Lowest-lying structures of CHP<sub>5</sub>, their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* optimized geometries



**Fig. S3** Selected structures of  $C_2H_2P_4$ , their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G<sup>\*\*</sup> (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G<sup>\*\*</sup> optimized geometries



**Fig. S4** Selected isomers of  $C_3H_3P_3$ , their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* optimized geometries



**Fig. S5** Selected isomers of C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>, their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* optimized geometries



**Fig. S6** Selected isomers of  $C_5H_5P$ , their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\* optimized geometries



**Fig. S7** Selected isomers of  $C_6H_6$ , their point group symmetries, spectroscopic states and ZPE corrected relative energies. The energies are given at: CCSD(T)/CBS (bold), CCSD(T)/cc-pVTZ (in brackets), CCSD(T)/cc-pVDZ (square brackets), and B3LYP/6-311++G<sup>\*\*</sup> (curly brackets), all at B3LYP/6-311++G<sup>\*\*</sup> optimized geometries

Distance	P <sub>6</sub>	CHP₅	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> P <sub>4</sub>			C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>			C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> P <sub>2</sub>			C5H5P	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>
(Å)	I.11	II.16	III.5	III.10	III.13	IV.2	IV.4	IV.5	V.I	V.2	V.3	VI.1	VII.1
0.0	-23.7	-12.1	-9.0	-9.1	-9.0	-9.2	-9.2	-8.9	-10.4	-10.4	-10.2	-12.5	-14.5
0.1	-23.8	-12.3	-9.3	-9.4	-9.2	-9.5	-9.5	-9.2	-10.7	-10.7	-10.5	-12.9	-14.9
0.2	-24.2	-12.9	-10.0	-10.1	-10.0	-10.4	-10.3	-10.1	-11.7	-11.7	-11.5	-14.1	-16.3
0.3	-24.8	-13.9	-11.2	-11.3	-11.1	-11.8	-11.7	-11.5	-13.2	-13.3	-13.1	-15.8	-18.2
0.4	-25.5	-15.1	-12.7	-12.8	-12.5	-13.5	-13.4	-13.2	-15.1	-15.2	-14.9	-17.9	-20.6
0.5	-26.3	-16.6	-14.4	-14.4	-14.2	-15.3	-15.3	-15.0	-17.1	-17.2	-17.0	-20.1	-23.0
0.6	-27.2	-18.0	-16.0	-16.2	-15.8	-17.2	-17.2	-16.9	-19.1	19.2	-19.0	-22.3	-25.2
0.7	-28.0	-19.4	-17.7	-17.8	-17.5	-19.0	-19.0	-18.7	-21.0	-21.0	-20.9	-24.1	-27.0
0.8	-28.7	-20.7	-19.2	-19.3	-18.9	-20.6	-20.5	-20.2	-22.5	-22.6	-22.4	-25.5	-28.3
0.9	-29.3	-21.8	-20.5	-20.5	-20.1	-21.9	-21.7	-21.5	-23.6	-23.7	-23.5	-26.5	-29.1
1.0	-29.6	-22.7	-21.4	-21.5	-21.1	-22.8	-22.6	-22.3	-24.4	-24.4	-24.2	-27.0	-29.2
1.1	-29.8	-23.3	-22.1	-22.1	-21.7	-23.4	-23.1	-22.9	-24.7	-24.7	-24.6	-27.0	-28.9
1.2	-29.7	-23.6	-22.5	-22.4	-22.1	-23.6	-23.3	-23.0	-24.7	-24.7	-24.5	-26.6	-28.2
1.3	-29.5	-23.7	-22.6	-22.5	-22.1	-23.5	-23.2	-22.9	-24.4	-24.3	-24.2	-26.0	-27.2
1.4	-29.0	-23.6	-22.4	-22.3	-22.0	-23.2	-22.8	-22.6	-23.8	-23.7	-23.6	-25.0	-26.0
1.5	-28.4	-23.2	-22.0	-21.9	-21.6	-22.6	-22.2	-22.0	-23.0	-22.9	-22.8	-23.9	-24.6
1.6	-27.7	-22.7	-21.5	-21.3	-21.0	-21.9	-21.5	-21.3	-22.1	-21.9	-21.8	-22.7	-23.2
1.7	-26.8	-22.0	-20.9	-20.7	-20.4	-21.0	-20.6	-20.4	-21.1	-20.9	-20.8	-21.5	-21.7
1.8	-25.9	-21.3	-20.0	-19.8	-19.6	-20.1	-16.7	-19.4	-20.0	-19.8	-19.7	-20.2	-20.2
1.9	-24.9	-20.5	-19.2	-19.0	-18.8	-19.1	-18.7	-18.5	-18.9	-18.7	-18.6	-18.9	-18.8
2.0	-23.8	-19.6	-18.3	-18.1	-17.9	-18.1	-17.7	-17.5	-17.8	-17.6	-17.4	-17.6	-17.4

## Table S1 NICS<sub>zz</sub> values (ppm) calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*

Distance	P <sub>6</sub>	CHP₅	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> P <sub>4</sub>			C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>			C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> P <sub>2</sub>			C₅H₅P	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub>
(Å)	I.11	II.16	III.5	III.10	III.13	IV.2	IV.4	IV.5	V.1	V.2	V.3	VI.1	VII.1
0.0	-9.7	-6.3	-5.7	-5.7	-5.0	-6.6	-5.9	-5.1	-6.7	-6.0	-6.0	-7.8	-8.0
0.1	-9.8	-6.4	-5.8	-5.8	-5.1	-6.7	-6.0	-5.2	-6.8	-6.1	-6.1	-7.9	-8.2
0.2	-9.9	-6.6	-6.0	-6.0	-5.3	-6.9	-6.3	-5.5	-7.1	-6.4	-6.4	-8.1	-8.5
0.3	-10.1	-6.9	-6.4	-6.3	-5.7	-7.2	-6.7	-5.9	-7.4	-6.9	-6.8	-8.5	-8.9
0.4	-10.4	-7.3	-6.8	-6.8	-6.1	-7.6	-7.1	-6.5	-7.9	-7.4	-7.3	-9.0	-9.4
0.5	-10.6	-7.7	-7.2	-7.2	-6.6	-8.1	-7.6	-7.0	-8.3	-7.9	-7.9	-9.5	-9.9
0.6	-10.9	-8.1	-7.7	-7.7	-7.1	-8.5	-8.1	-7.6	-8.7	-8.4	-8.4	-9.9	-10.2
0.7	-11.1	-8.5	-8.1	-8.1	-7.6	-8.8	-8.5	-8.0	-9.0	-8.8	-8.8	-10.1	-10.5
0.8	-11.3	-8.9	-8.4	-8.4	-7.9	-9.1	-8.8	-8.4	-9.3	-9.1	-9.0	-10.3	-10.6
0.9	-11.5	-9.1	-8.7	-8.7	-8.2	-9.3	-9.0	-8.6	-9.4	-9.2	-9.2	-10.3	-10.5
1.0	-11.5	-9.3	-8.8	-8.8	-8.4	-9.3	-9.1	-8.7	-9.4	-9.2	-9.2	-10.1	-10.2
1.1	-11.5	-9.4	-8.9	-8.8	-8.4	-9.3	-9.0	-8.7	-9.2	-9.1	-9.1	-9.8	-9.8
1.2	-11.3	-9.3	-8.8	-8.8	-8.4	-9.1	-8.9	-8.6	-9.0	-8.9	-8.8	-9.4	-9.3
1.3	-11.2	-9.2	-8.7	-8.6	-8.3	-8.9	-8.6	-8.3	-8.7	-8.5	-8.5	-8.9	-8.8
1.4	-10.9	-9.0	-8.5	-8.4	-8.1	-8.5	-8.3	-8.1	-8.3	-8.1	-8.1	-8.4	-8.2
1.5	-10.6	-8.8	-8.2	-8.1	-7.8	-8.2	-7.9	-7.7	-7.9	-7.7	-7.7	-7.9	-7.6
1.6	-10.2	-8.5	-7.9	-7.7	-7.5	-7.8	-7.5	-7.3	-7.4	-7.3	-7.2	-7.3	-7.0
1.7	-9.8	-8.1	-7.5	-7.4	-7.2	-7.4	-7.1	-6.9	-7.0	-6.8	-6.7	-6.8	-6.4
1.8	-9.4	-7.8	-7.1	-7.0	-6.8	-6.9	-6.7	-6.5	-6.5	-6.3	-6.3	-6.2	-5.8
1.9	-9.0	-7.4	-6.7	-6.6	-6.5	-6.5	-6.3	-6.1	-6.1	-5.9	-5.8	-5.7	-5.3
2.0	-8.5	-7.0	-6.4	-6.2	-6.1	-6.1	-5.8	-5.7	-5.6	-5.4	-5.4	-5.3	-4.8

## Table S2 NICS values (ppm) calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*