

## Phosphine-catalyzed [3 + 2] annulation of 2-aminoacrylates with allenoates and mechanistic studies

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## 1. Computational details

### Methyl anion affinities:

Methyl anion affinities (MAA) have been calculated using the same methodology employed successfully in earlier studies<sup>[1]</sup> as the free energy at 298.15 K ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ ) for reaction shown in equation S1. [MAA = ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$  of eq. S1)].



Geometry optimizations have been performed with a combination of the B3LYP<sup>[2]</sup>/6-31G(d,p)<sup>[3]</sup> level of theory. Thermochemical corrections to Gibbs energies (corr.  $\Delta G$ ) and enthalpy (corr.  $\Delta H$ ) at 298.15 K have been calculated using the rigid rotor/harmonic oscillator model without any scaling. Thermal corrections to Gibbs energies (corr.  $\Delta G$ ) are further treated with the quasi-harmonic approximation with a cutoff value of 100 cm<sup>-1</sup> using *Goodvibes*.<sup>[4]</sup>

Single point total electronic energies ( $\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ ) have subsequently been calculated using a combination of the B3LYP hybrid functional and the larger 6-311++G(3df,2pd) basis set.<sup>[3, 5]</sup> Solvent effects on MAA values have been estimated by adding single point solvation corrections ( $\Delta G_{\text{Solv}}$ ).  $\Delta G_{\text{Solv}}$  was calculated for gas phase optimized geometries using the SMD<sup>[6]</sup> continuum solvation model.

$$\Delta G_{\text{sol}} [\text{B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)}] = \Delta E_{\text{tot}} [\text{B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)}] + \text{corr. qh-}\Delta G [\text{B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)}] + \Delta G_{\text{Solv}} [\text{SMD(DCM)/B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)}]$$

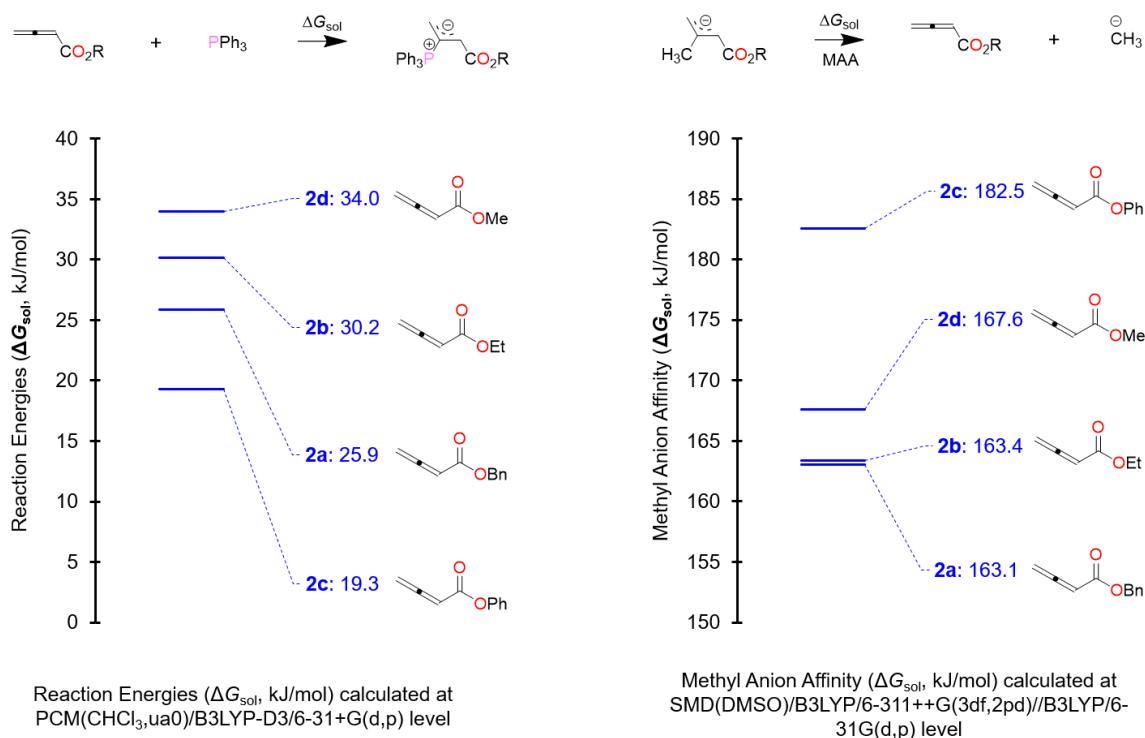
$$\Delta H_{\text{sol}} [\text{B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)}] = \Delta E_{\text{tot}} [\text{B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)}] + \text{corr. }\Delta H [\text{B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)}] + \Delta G_{\text{Solv}} [\text{SMD(DCM)/B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)}]$$

### For reaction energy profile:

Geometry optimizations have been performed with a combination of the B3LYP hybrid functional<sup>[2]</sup> complemented by the D3 dispersion correction<sup>[7]</sup> and the 6-31+G(d,p)<sup>[3]</sup> basis set under implicit solvation that is implemented using polarizable continuum model<sup>[8]</sup> (solvent=chloroform, radii=ua0). [these settings referred in text as the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory]. Thermochemical corrections to Gibbs energies (corr.  $\Delta G$ ) and enthalpy (corr.  $\Delta H$ ) at 298.15 K have been calculated using the rigid rotor/harmonic oscillator model without any scaling. Thermal corrections to Gibbs energies (corr.  $\Delta G$ ) are further treated with the quasi-harmonic approximation with a cutoff value of 100 cm<sup>-1</sup> using *Goodvibes*.<sup>[4]</sup>

Free energies in solution have been corrected to a reference state of 1 mol/l at 298.15 K through addition of  $R\text{Ln}(24.46) = +7.925$  kJ/mol (= 0.0030185 Hartree) to the gas phase (1 atm) free energies. The value for  $R = 8.31451$  J K<sup>-1</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>. All calculations have been performed with *Gaussian 09*, Rev. D.<sup>[9]</sup>

## 2. Summary

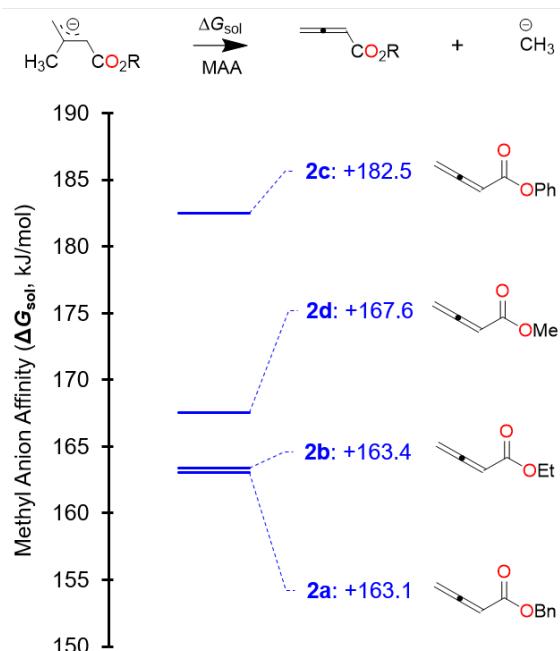


**Figure S1.** Comparison of methyl anion affinities and  $\text{PPh}_3$  additional reaction energies ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol) calculated at the SMD(DMSO)/B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)//B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) and PCM( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) levels of theory respectively for selected allenoates (**2a-d**).

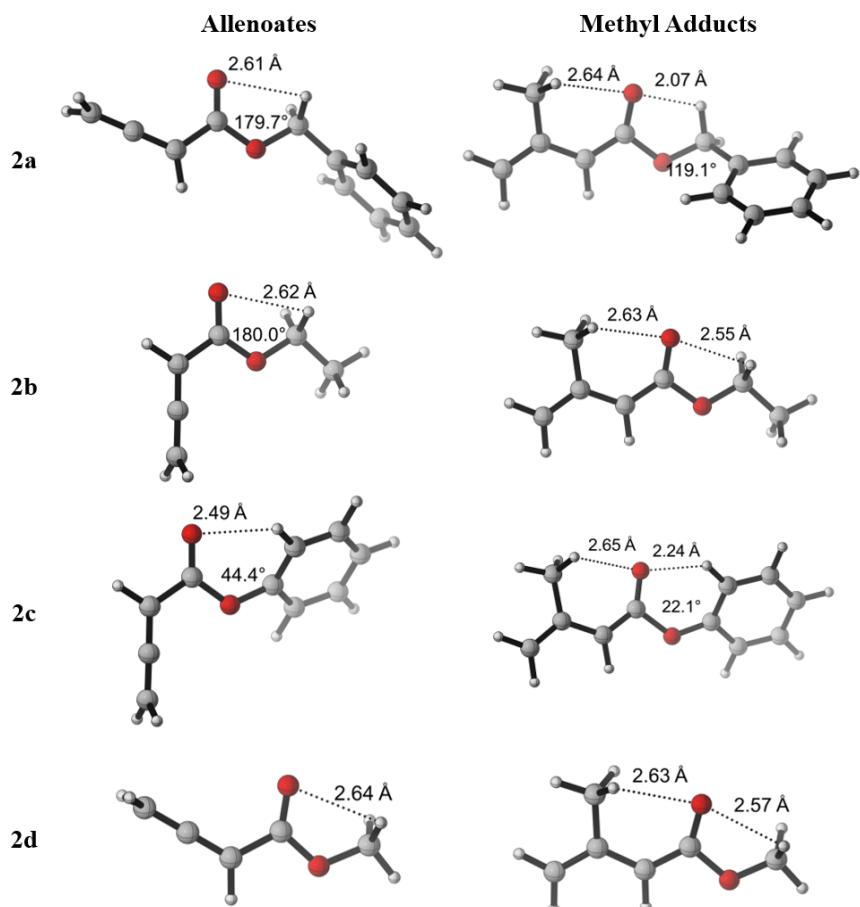
### 3. Methyl anion affinities (MAA)

**Table S1.** Methyl anion affinities (in kJ/mol) calculated at the SMD(DMSO)/B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)//B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) levels of theory for selected allenoates (**2a-d**).

Label	Filename	Based on Best Conformer			Based on Boltzmann Avg.		
		$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$	$\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$	$\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$
<b>2a</b>	b5	+235.1	+215.5	+162.8	+235.3	+215.7	<b>+163.1</b>
<b>2b</b>	b9	+234.8	+215.0	+163.9	+233.9	+214.2	<b>+163.4</b>
<b>2c</b>	b3	+254.9	+234.6	+182.4	+254.7	+234.5	<b>+182.5</b>
<b>2d</b>	b2	+237.9	+218.1	+168.3	+237.0	+217.4	<b>+167.6</b>



**Figure S2.** Methyl anion affinities ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol) calculated at the SMD(DMSO)/B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)//B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) levels of theory for selected allenoates (**2a-d**).



**Figure S3.** Structure of gas phase lowest free energy ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ ) conformers of allenoates (**2a-d**) and corresponding methyl adducts obtained at the SMD(DMSO)/B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd)//B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) levels of theory.

**Table S2.** QM properties for gas phase optimized conformers of selected allenoates (**2a-d**) and their corresponding methyl anion adducts (ma).

Marker	File Name (for internal reference)	B3LYP\6-31G(d,p)								$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ (hartree) [B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2pd) //B3LYP/6-31G(d)]		
		Low Frequency		HOMO <sub>E</sub> (hartree)	LUMO <sub>E</sub> (hartree)	corr. ZPE (hartree)	corr. $\Delta H$ (hartree)	corr. qh- $\Delta G^{\text{a}}$ (hartree)	$\Delta G_{\text{Solv}}$ (kcal/mol)			
<b>CH<sub>3</sub><sup>-1</sup></b>	ch3anion	-29	0	0	0.13514	0.37353	0.027840	0.031650	0.008651	-78.9	-39.7960280	-39.8566374
<b>2a</b>	b5_4	-5	0	0	-0.24727	-0.03919	0.181227	0.193953	0.141116	-7.02	-575.6037632	-575.7921996
	b5_1	-4	0	0	-0.24701	-0.03854	0.181201	0.193941	0.141147	-7.13	-575.6035430	-575.7919823
	b5_5	-6	0	0	-0.24577	-0.04012	0.180694	0.193671	0.138773	-7.62	-575.6028220	-575.7918664
	b5_2	-10	-4	0	-0.24860	-0.03739	0.180669	0.193673	0.138840	-8.02	-575.6025513	-575.7920488
	b5_3	-9	-6	-2	-0.24944	-0.03704	0.180668	0.193687	0.137059	-8.11	-575.6025457	-575.7921399
	b5_6	-7	0	0	-0.25240	-0.04233	0.180759	0.193545	0.140618	-9.68	-575.5899441	-575.7788268
	b5_7	-5	-4	0	-0.24709	-0.04689	0.180359	0.193420	0.138954	-10.42	-575.5886826	-575.7783665
<b>2a+CH<sub>3</sub><sup>-1</sup></b>	ma_b5_8	-4	-2	0	0.01177	0.10767	0.218810	0.233115	0.177360	-50.02	-615.5820983	-615.7962934
	ma_b5_10	-4	0	0	0.01134	0.10428	0.218343	0.232780	0.175863	-50.12	-615.5820501	-615.7970296
	ma_b5_5	-12	-4	0	0.01334	0.10755	0.219050	0.233230	0.177707	-50.42	-615.5780057	-615.7924501
	ma_b5_1	-4	0	0	0.01349	0.10423	0.218647	0.232947	0.176380	-50.69	-615.5771846	-615.7925760
<b>2b</b>	b9_3	-11	-8	0	-0.26273	-0.03757	0.127844	0.137752	0.094110	-4.78	-383.8659710	-383.9992046
	b9_4	-9	0	0	-0.26358	-0.03816	0.128117	0.137886	0.094594	-4.51	-383.8657690	-383.9985832
	b9_1	-6	0	0	-0.26502	-0.03649	0.127816	0.137737	0.094346	-4.95	-383.8656605	-383.9989643
	b9_2	0	0	0	-0.26617	-0.03722	0.128127	0.137895	0.094797	-4.66	-383.8655085	-383.9983477
	b9_5	-7	-6	0	-0.26221	-0.04301	0.127553	0.137534	0.093872	-7.69	-383.8522707	-383.9861814
	b9_6	0	0	0	-0.26215	-0.04213	0.127832	0.137635	0.094436	-7.81	-383.8509049	-383.9845082
	b9_7	-9	-3	0	-0.26186	-0.03990	0.127589	0.137538	0.093823	-6.71	-383.8508840	-383.9844083
<b>2b+CH<sub>3</sub><sup>-1</sup></b>	ma_b9_5	0	0	0	0.02324	0.20347	0.165761	0.177116	0.130641	-49.99	-423.8378318	-423.9976439
	ma_b9_4	-9	-7	0	0.02535	0.20546	0.165292	0.176929	0.129827	-50.78	-423.8366995	-423.9976867
	ma_b9_2	-11	-2	0	0.02475	0.20153	0.165979	0.177211	0.131136	-50.33	-423.8338096	-423.9938747
	ma_b9_3	-11	-2	0	0.02475	0.20153	0.165979	0.177211	0.131136	-50.33	-423.8338096	-423.9938747
	ma_b9_8	-11	-2	0	0.02475	0.20153	0.165979	0.177211	0.131136	-50.33	-423.8338096	-423.9938747
	ma_b9_1	-9	-3	0	0.02685	0.20334	0.165542	0.177043	0.130322	-51.18	-423.8326363	-423.9938176
	ma_b9_6	-9	-3	0	0.02685	0.20334	0.165542	0.177043	0.130322	-51.18	-423.8326363	-423.9938176
	ma_b9_12	-1	0	0	0.02570	0.20378	0.165970	0.177255	0.130907	-51.71	-423.8324293	-423.9935107
	ma_b9_10	-10	-4	-1	0.02758	0.20556	0.165503	0.177047	0.130016	-52.47	-423.8314089	-423.9935981
	ma_b9_11	-10	-4	-1	0.02758	0.20556	0.165503	0.177047	0.130016	-52.47	-423.8314089	-423.9935980
	ma_b9_7	-9	-3	0	0.02079	0.20281	0.165466	0.176945	0.130143	-51.66	-423.8295742	-423.9919704

	ma_b9_9	0	0	0	0.01990	0.20267	0.165738	0.177011	0.130660	-51.24	-423.8281844		-423.9895380
<b>2c</b>	b3_2	-7	-5	-3	-0.23821	-0.04796	0.151706	0.163245	0.113531	-6.51	-536.2852306		-536.4625979
	b3_1	-4	0	0	-0.23821	-0.04769	0.151697	0.163246	0.113691	-6.60	-536.2850363		-536.4623199
	b3_3	-4	0	0	-0.24699	-0.04823	0.151426	0.163026	0.112892	-8.43	-536.2774258		-536.4553970
	b3_4	-5	0	0	-0.23990	-0.04880	0.151322	0.162888	0.113686	-8.29	-536.2746318		-536.4527299
<b>2c+CH<sub>3</sub><sup>-1</sup></b>	ma_b3_3	-10	-2	0	0.00062	0.12682	0.189411	0.202626	0.149500	-48.10	-576.2722893		-576.4757030
	ma_b3_1	0	0	0	0.00318	0.12594	0.189773	0.202793	0.150231	-48.63	-576.2669971		-576.4708625
	ma_b3_6	-5	0	0	0.00453	0.12814	0.189621	0.202750	0.149888	-49.86	-576.2653644		-576.4696981
<b>2d</b>	b2_2	-7	-6	0	-0.26480	-0.03898	0.099484	0.108095	0.067212	-4.29	-344.5441270		-344.6671856
	b2_1	-10	-4	-3	-0.26749	-0.03802	0.099406	0.108053	0.067112	-4.50	-344.5438333		-344.6669600
	b2_3	-9	0	0	-0.26444	-0.04472	0.099201	0.107814	0.066623	-7.45	-344.5299781		-344.6537030
<b>2d+CH<sub>3</sub><sup>-1</sup></b>	ma_b2_2	-4	-3	0	0.02715	0.20713	0.136814	0.147217	0.101911	-50.82	-384.5146697		-384.6660460
	ma_b2_1	-9	0	0	0.02849	0.20501	0.137156	0.147382	0.102660	-51.18	-384.5107363		-384.6624460
	ma_b2_5	-9	0	0	0.02934	0.20724	0.137115	0.147391	0.102557	-52.47	-384.5094172		-384.6620716
	ma_b2_4	-15	-4	0	0.02222	0.20420	0.137117	0.147217	0.102685	-51.66	-384.5073991		-384.6600719

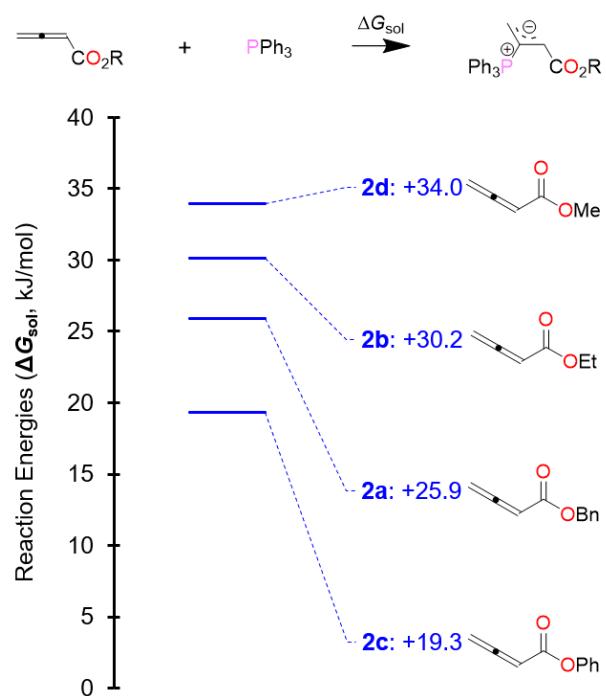
<sup>a</sup>Truhlar Quasi-harmonic treatment is used for thermal corrections

## 4. Reaction Energies

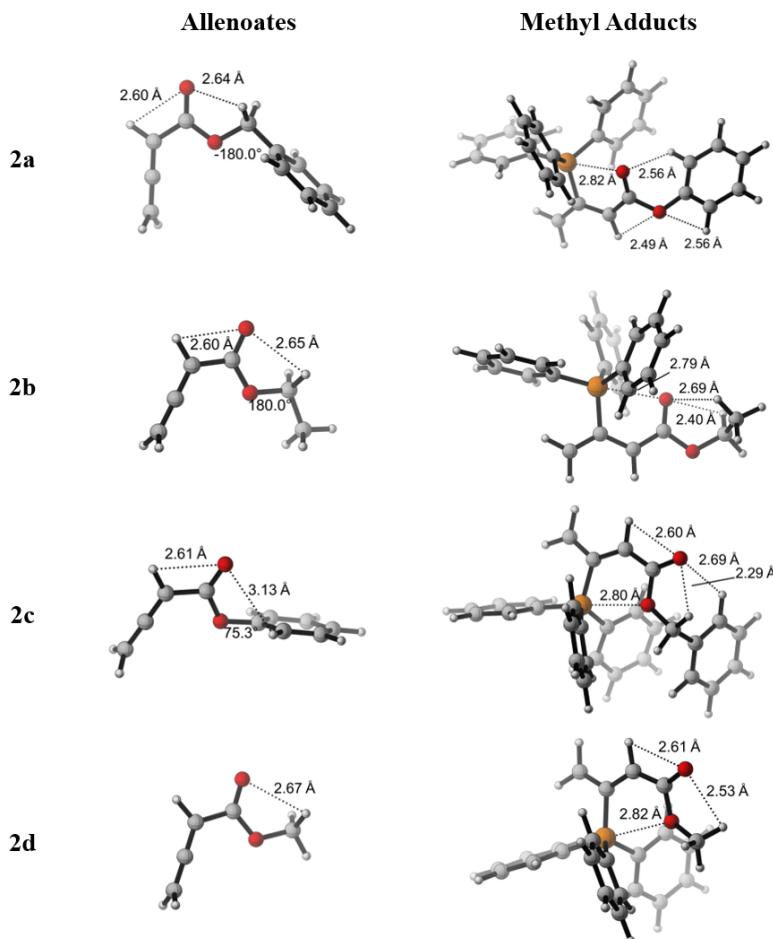
### 4.1. Phosphine addition to allenoates

**Table S3.** Reaction energies (kJ/mol) of tertiary phosphine (**PPh<sub>3</sub>**) addition to selected allenoates (**2a-d**) calculated at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory.

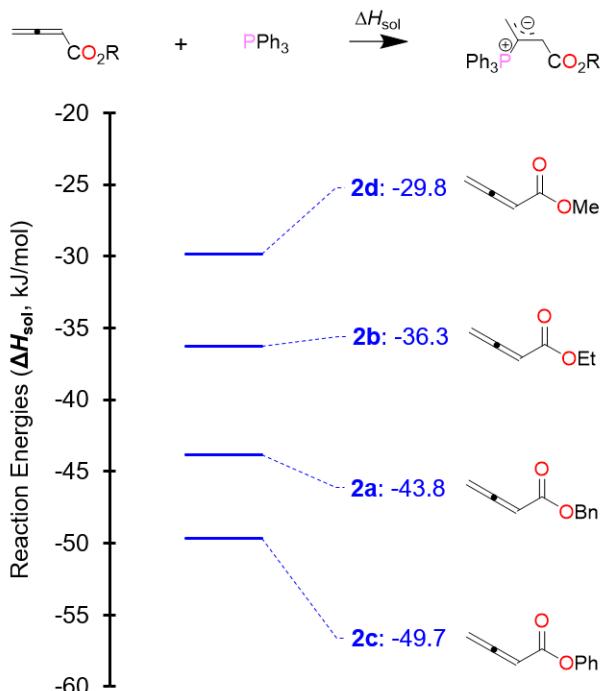
Label	For Internal Reference	Based on Best Conformer			Based on Boltzmann Avg.		
		$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$	$\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$	$\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$	$\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$
<b>2a</b>	b5	-52.6	-44.3	+26.1	-52.5	<b>-43.8</b>	<b>+25.9</b>
<b>2b</b>	b9	-44.4	-36.0	+31.1	-44.6	<b>-36.3</b>	<b>+30.2</b>
<b>2c</b>	b3	-59.7	-50.9	+18.2	-58.5	<b>-49.7</b>	<b>+19.3</b>
<b>2d</b>	b2	-37.9	-29.8	+34.2	-38.0	<b>-29.8</b>	<b>+34.0</b>



**Figure S4.** Reaction energies ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol) of tertiary phosphine (**PPh<sub>3</sub>**) addition to selected allenoates (**2a-d**) calculated at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory.



**Figure S5.** Structure of gas phase lowest free energy ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ ) conformers of allenoates (**2a-d**) and corresponding methyl adducts obtained at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) levels of theory.



**Figure S6.** Reaction energies ( $\Delta H_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol) of tertiary phosphine ( $\text{PPh}_3$ ) addition to selected allenoates (**2a-d**) calculated at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory.

**Table S4.** QM properties for gas phase optimized conformers of selected allenoates (**2a-d**) and their corresponding phosphine (**PPh<sub>3</sub>**) adducts (pa) calculated at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory..

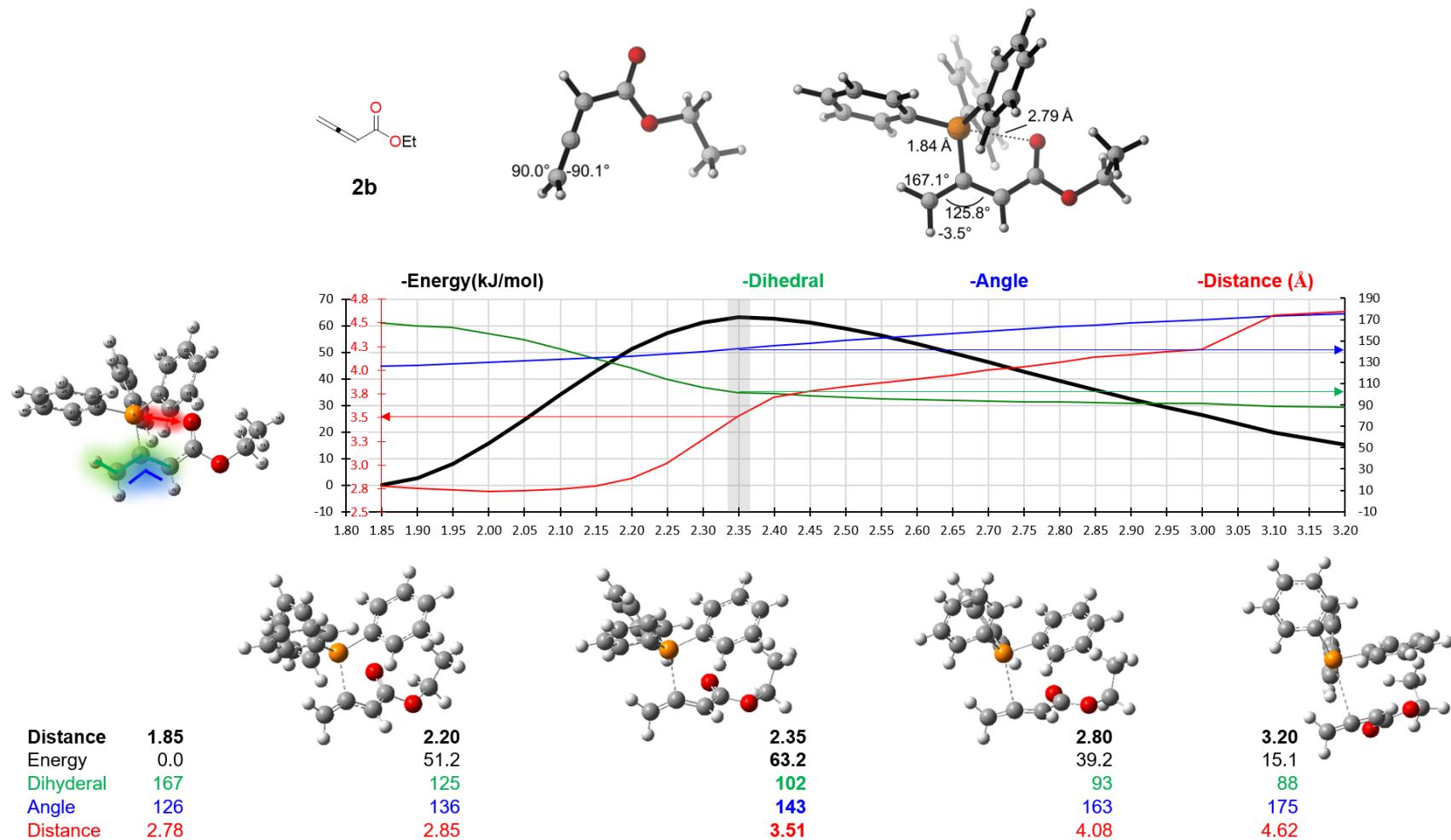
Marker	File Name (for internal reference)	Low Frequency			HOMO <sub>E</sub> (hartree)	LUMO <sub>E</sub> (hartree)	corr. ZPE (hartree)	corr. ΔH (hartree)	corr. qh-ΔG <sup>a</sup> (hartree)	ΔE <sub>tot</sub> (hartree)
<b>PPh<sub>3</sub></b>	pPh3_3	-2	0	0	-0.22360	-0.03397	0.273033	0.289876	0.231712	-1036.3855710
	pPh3_1	-1	0	0	-0.22359	-0.03396	0.273060	0.289903	0.231744	-1036.3855781
<b>2a</b>	b5_5	-12	-5	0	-0.26098	-0.05587	0.180006	0.192967	0.142494	-575.6504163
	b5_2	0	0	0	-0.26130	-0.05630	0.180025	0.192950	0.142607	-575.6502496
	b5_4	-8	0	0	-0.25978	-0.05586	0.180373	0.193139	0.143027	-575.6505818
	b5_1	-9	0	0	-0.25976	-0.05611	0.180330	0.193110	0.143047	-575.6503912
	b5_6	-25	-4	0	-0.26050	-0.06335	0.179903	0.192759	0.142768	-575.6407300
	b5_7	-16	-9	-6	-0.26314	-0.06372	0.179781	0.192818	0.142286	-575.6395839
<b>2a+PPh<sub>3</sub></b>	pa_b5_2	-13	-5	-2	-0.16507	-0.05491	0.457157	0.486182	0.404373	-1612.0531770
	pa_b5_1	0	0	0	-0.16404	-0.05853	0.457429	0.486377	0.404341	-1612.0530653
	pa_b5_4	0	0	0	-0.16564	-0.05488	0.457131	0.486110	0.404226	-1612.0524028
	pa_b5_6	-9	-7	-4	-0.17008	-0.05761	0.456439	0.485584	0.403482	-1612.0469502
<b>2b</b>	b9_3	-28	-14	0	-0.28115	-0.05512	0.127171	0.137092	0.093394	-383.8975114
	b9_1	0	0	0	-0.28591	-0.05542	0.127238	0.137106	0.093792	-383.8974101
	b9_4	-15	0	0	-0.28131	-0.05541	0.127385	0.137181	0.093816	-383.8970117
	b9_2	0	0	0	-0.28593	-0.05555	0.127428	0.137202	0.094080	-383.8968967
	b9_5	-20	-14	-8	-0.28638	-0.06273	0.127012	0.136976	0.093411	-383.8873482
	b9_7	-12	-7	0	-0.28179	-0.05757	0.127076	0.136993	0.093347	-383.8859527
	b9_6	-31	-5	0	-0.28680	-0.06177	0.127182	0.137020	0.093850	-383.8863984
<b>2b+PPh<sub>3</sub></b>	pa_b9_13	-14	-11	0	-0.16475	-0.05047	0.404168	0.430198	0.353848	-1420.2969775
	pa_b9_14	-12	-9	-7	-0.16475	-0.05037	0.404180	0.430176	0.353853	-1420.2969735
	pa_b9_4	0	0	0	-0.16437	-0.05084	0.404032	0.430147	0.353412	-1420.2965152
	pa_b9_5	-18	-11	0	-0.16475	-0.05037	0.404186	0.430207	0.353903	-1420.2969737
	pa_b9_12	-9	0	0	-0.16487	-0.05061	0.404325	0.430241	0.354074	-1420.2965698
	pa_b9_8	-7	0	0	-0.17101	-0.05021	0.404178	0.430229	0.353593	-1420.2923243
	pa_b9_2	0	0	0	-0.17042	-0.05016	0.404420	0.430317	0.354076	-1420.2911201

	pa_b9_3	-10	-6	0	-0.17037	-0.05015	0.404416	0.430327	0.354036	-1420.2909051
<hr/>										
<b>2c</b>	b3_2	-10	0	0	-0.25788	-0.06146	0.150779	0.162389	0.114755	-536.3273056
	b3_1	-17	0	0	-0.25776	-0.06239	0.150739	0.162364	0.114807	-536.3269929
	b3_3	-14	-3	0	-0.26039	-0.06689	0.150626	0.162242	0.114644	-536.3222235
	b3_4	-11	0	0	-0.25501	-0.06357	0.150579	0.162143	0.114783	-536.3207979
<b>2c+PPh<sub>3</sub></b>	pa_b3_8	-12	-6	0	-0.17412	-0.05382	0.427861	0.455643	0.376142	-1572.7326064
	pa_b3_6	-7	-3	0	-0.17227	-0.05314	0.427684	0.455572	0.375934	-1572.7314141
	pa_b3_7	-12	-3	0	-0.17226	-0.05313	0.427693	0.455577	0.375942	-1572.7314140
	pa_b3_13	-10	0	0	-0.17325	-0.06218	0.427817	0.455809	0.376155	-1572.7299516
	pa_b3_12	-3	0	0	-0.17112	-0.06228	0.427712	0.455711	0.375647	-1572.7292037
	pa_b3_4	-6	0	0	-0.17399	-0.05386	0.427809	0.455622	0.375949	-1572.7294707
	pa_b3_10	-11	-8	0	-0.17516	-0.05830	0.427305	0.455243	0.375361	-1572.7212905
<hr/>										
<b>2d</b>	b2_2	-9	0	0	-0.28294	-0.05659	0.098946	0.107542	0.067020	-344.5723041
	b2_1	-12	-9	0	-0.28782	-0.05670	0.098903	0.107511	0.067151	-344.5722484
	b2_3	-19	0	0	-0.28857	-0.06462	0.098817	0.107402	0.067188	-344.5617654
<b>2c+PPh<sub>3</sub></b>	pa_b2_1	-2	0	0	-0.16481	-0.05557	0.375676	0.400505	0.326206	-1380.9692956
	pa_b2_3	-6	0	0	-0.16869	-0.05846	0.375239	0.400001	0.326027	-1380.9623911

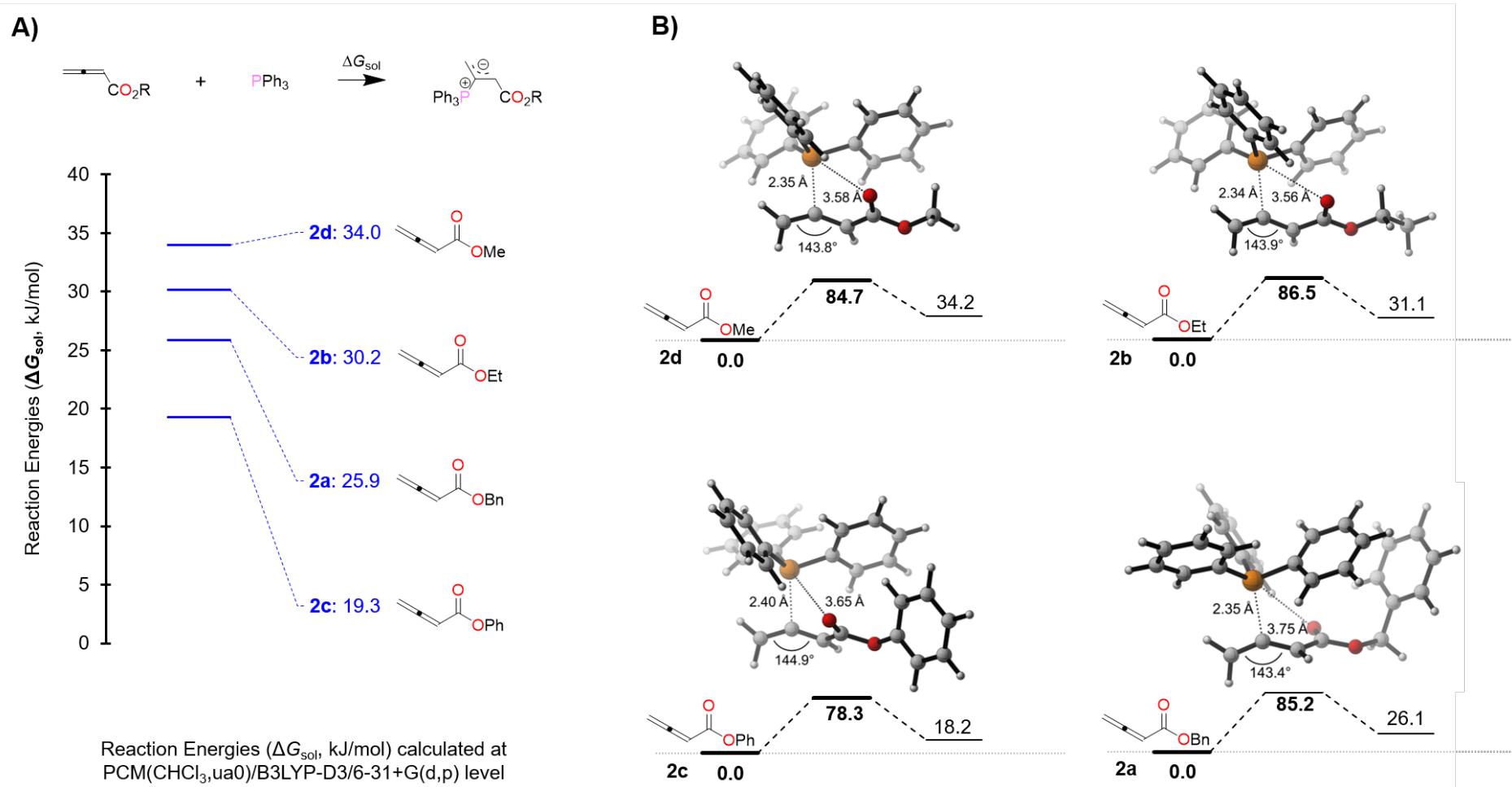
<sup>a</sup>Truhlar Quasi-harmonic treatment is used for thermal corrections

## 5. Reaction Energy Profile

Bond dissociation energy curve



**Figure S7.** The P-C bond (between  $\text{PPh}_3$  and **2b**) dissociation energy curve (black curve,  $\Delta E_{\text{tot}}$ , in kJ/mol) for the phosphine adduct of allenolate **2b** calculated at the PCM( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory. The change in various other structural properties along the dissociation curve is also depicted.



**Figure S8.** (A) Reaction energies ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol, Boltzmann averaged); and (B) reaction barriers ( $\Delta G_{\text{sol}}$ , in kJ/mol, based on best conformer) of tertiary phosphine ( $\text{PPh}_3$ ) addition to selected allenotes (**2a-d**) calculated at the PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>,ua0)/B3LYP-D3/6-31+G(d,p) level of theory.

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