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## **Supplementary Information**

Efficient photoswitchable organometallic complexes with azobenzene and stilbene units: the case of Au(I)

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## X-ray structure determinations of Au(I) complexes 1N-6N

The crystal structures of **1N–6N** were determined by the means of single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. Crystals were fixed on a micro mounts and the diffraction data have been collected on the various Rigaku Oxford Diffraction diffractometers at a temperature of 100K. Crystals of 1N, and 3N-5N was placed on the XtaLAB Synergy-S diffractometer and measured using monochromated  $CuK\alpha$  radiation. Crystals of 2N and 6N were placed on the Agilent Supernova diffractometer and measured using monochromated CuK $\alpha$  radiation. Data were integrated and corrected for background, Lorentz, and polarization effects. An empirical absorption correction based on spherical harmonics implemented in the SCALE3 ABSPACK algorithm was applied in *CrysAlisPro* program.<sup>1</sup> The unit-cell parameters were refined by the least-squares techniques. The structures were solved by dual-space algorithm and refined using the SHELX programs<sup>2,3</sup> incorporated in the OLEX2 program package.<sup>4</sup> The final models included coordinates and anisotropic displacement parameters for all non-H atoms. The carbon-bound H atoms were placed in calculated positions and were included in the refinement in the 'riding' model approximation,  $U_{iso}(H)$  set to  $1.5U_{eq}(C)$  and C-H 0.96 Å for the CH<sub>3</sub> groups,  $U_{iso}(H)$  set to  $1.2U_{eq}(C)$  and C-H 0.97 Å for the CH<sub>2</sub> groups and  $U_{iso}(H)$  set to  $1.2U_{eq}(C)$  and C-H 0.93 Å for the CH groups. Supplementary crystallographic data for this paper have been deposited at Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 2162085 – 2162090) and can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/.

Compound	1N	2N	3N	4N	5N	6N
Formula	$C_{35}H_{30}AuN_2O_3P$	$C_{32}H_{21}AuF_3N_2P$	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>24</sub> AuN <sub>2</sub> P	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>25</sub> AuN <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>27</sub> AuN <sub>4</sub>	C <sub>64</sub> H <sub>48</sub> AuN <sub>5</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
a (Å)	12.42947(17)	12.29040(10)	10.33940(10)	17.7163(5)	9.98990(10)	14.8468(2)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.6315(2)	17.49240(10)	10.83140(10)	10.5957(3)	13.60260(10)	16.8602(2)
<i>c</i> (Å)	22.1433(4)	12.96260(10)	12.85120(10)	11.3229(2)	18.30690(10)	21.2660(4)
α (°)	73.6773(15)	90	70.5120(10)	90	90.6340(10)	90
$\beta$ (°)	80.9946(13)	102.5220(10)	89.9380(10)	94.813(2)	96.8150(10)	105.031(2)
γ (°)	71.2088(14)	90	71.5480(10)	90	103.8920(10)	90
$V(Å^3)$	3150.26(10)	2720.52(4)	1278.19(2)	2118.00(9)	2395.85(3)	5141.17(14)
Molecular weight	754.54	718.44	664.47	554.43	604.49	1145.98
Space group	P-1	$P2_1/c$	P-1	$P2_1/c$	P-1	I2/a
$\mu (mm^{-1})$	9.549	11.102	11.582	13.159	11.693	6.326
Temperature (K)	100(1)	100.01(10)	99.99(10)	100.00(10)	99.99(10)	100(2)
Ζ	4	4	2	4	4	4
$D_{\rm calc}$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.591	1.754	1.726	1.739	1.676	1.481
Createl size	0.14 × 0.12 ×	0.122 × 0.001 ×	0.074 × 0.052	$0.258 \times$	0.273 ×	0.150 × 0.122
Crystal size	0.14 × 0.12 ×	0.133 × 0.081 ×	0.074 × 0.055	0.213 ×	0.214 ×	0.139 × 0.133
(mm <sup>2</sup> )	0.08	0.042	× 0.021	0.173	0.198	× 0.118
	VtoI AP	SuperNove	XtaLAB	XtaLAB	XtaLAB	SuperNous
Diffractometer	AlaLAD	Supernova,	Synergy,	Synergy,	Synergy,	$H_{\rm M}$ Div 2000
	Synergy, Hyr Ix	1191135000	HyPix	HyPix	HyPix	11yr 1x3000
Radiation	CuKa	CuKa	CuKa	CuKa	CuKa	CuKa
Total reflections	47674	33659	47793	37734	103493	23526
Unique reflections	13146	5187	5271	4461	10013	4675
Angle range			7.348 -	5.006 -	4.866 –	
$2\theta(^{\circ})$	4.168 – 160.47	7.368 – 140.998	154.286	154.89	155.056	6.782 – 136.67
Reflections with $ F_0  > 4\sigma_F$	11390	4780	5113	4336	9504	4515
$R_{\rm int}$	0.0695	0.0416	0.0991	0.0647	0.0489	0.0411
$R_{\sigma}$	0.0494	0.0254	0.0376	0.0310	0.0204	0.0249
$R_1 ( F_0  > 4\sigma_F)$	0.0589	0.0293	0.0292	0.0341	0.0314	0.0254
$wR_2 ( F_0  \ge 4\pi)$	0.1416	0.0789	0.0680	0.0929	0.0706	0.0629
$\mathbf{R}_{i}$ (all data)	0.0678	0.0315	0.0300	0.0346	0.0328	0.0263
$M_1$ (all data)	0.1473	0.0313	0.0500	0.0340	0.0528	0.0203
wh <sub>2</sub> (an uata)	1.048	1 097	1 020	1 104	1 006	1 122
S	1.0+0	1 12 2 52	1.057	1.104	3 64 2 09	1.123
$\rho_{\rm min}, \rho_{\rm max}, e/A$	2162085	2162086	2162087	2162088	2162089	2162090

Table S1.Crystallographic data for compounds 1N-6N

 $R_{1} = \Sigma ||F_{o}| - |F_{c}|| / \Sigma |F_{o}|; wR_{2} = \{ \Sigma [w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2}] / \Sigma [w(F_{o}^{2})^{2}] \}^{1/2}; w = 1 / [\sigma^{2}(F_{o}^{2}) + (aP)^{2} + bP], \text{ where } P = (F_{o}^{2} + 2F_{c}^{2}) / 3; s = \{ \Sigma [w(F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})] / (n-p) \}^{1/2} \text{ where } n \text{ is the number of reflections and } p \text{ is the number of refinement parameters.}$ 

	1N	2N	3N					
Bond lengths and distances, Å								
Au1–P1	2.2737(16)	2.2697(8)	2.2762(10)					
Au2-P2	2.2725(19)	_	-					
Au1-C14	2.032(6)	2.007(3)	1.999(4)					
Au2-C49	1.977(7)	_	-					
C13–C14	1.171(11)	1.191(5)	1.201(6)					
C48-C49 1.218(11)		_	_					
	Bond angles, °							
P1-Au1-C14	172.3(2)	177.93(10)	173.38(11)					
P2-Au2-C49	173.0(2)	_	-					
Au1-C14-C13	134.5(1)	175.4(3)	169.6(4)					
Au2-C49-C48	176.3(6)	_	_					

**Table S2.**Selected structural parameters for compounds 1N-3N

Table S3.Selected structural parameters for compounds 4N-6N

	<b>4N</b>	5N	6N				
Bond lengths and distances, Å							
Au1-C15	2.021(4)	2.036(4)	_				
Au1A-C15A	_	2.022(5)	_				
Au1-C14	1.989(4)	1.991(4)	2.004(3)				
Au1A-C14A	_	1.985(5)	_				
C13-C14	1.199(6)	1.192(6)	1.190(4)				
C13A-C14A	_	1.200(7)					
Bond angles, °							
C14-Au1-C15	178.42(14)	176.77(16)	_				
C14A-Au1-C15A	-	178.25(18)	_				
C14-Au1-C14'	_	_	179.28(15)				
Au1-C14-C13	171.4(3)	172.6(4)	177.6(2)				
Au1-C14A-C13A	_	174.7(4)	_				

Compound	$\lambda_{abs}, nm$	Bathochromic	
Compound	Before irradiation	After UV irradiation	shift <sup>*</sup> , cm <sup>-1</sup>
LN	336(3.63)	437(0.25), 308 <sup>sh</sup> (0.88), 263(2.0)	_
1N	365(2.84), 255(5.15)	446(0.28), 334 <sup>sh</sup> (1.07), 255(5.15)	2365
2N	364(3.23)	448(0.29), 337 <sup>sh</sup> (1.09), 290(1.73)	2289
3N	364(3.01)	448(0.26), 338 <sup>sh</sup> (0.99), 291(1.55)	2289
4N	372(3.75), 279 <sup>sh</sup> (1.0), 257 <sup>sh</sup> (1.86)	450(0.33), 351(1.33), 283(1.82),	2880
		258(1.93)	
5N	369(3.53), 291(2.25), 283 <sup>sh</sup> (1.94)	452(0.32), 340(1.36), 292(2.98),	2662
		284(2.43)	
6N	397(6.44)	385(3.68), 465(0.72)	4573
LC	340 <sup>sh</sup> (1.89), 322(2.94), 310 <sup>sh</sup> (2.63)	339 <sup>sh</sup> (0.75), 322 <sup>sh</sup> (1.35), 311(1.50),	-
		298 <sup>sh</sup> (1.41)	
1C	358 <sup>sh</sup> (3.67), 340(5.29), 326 <sup>sh</sup> (4.31)	319(2.83)	1644**, 1479**
5C	358 <sup>sh</sup> (4.53), 341(6.28), 329 <sup>sh</sup> (5.10)	328 <sup>sh</sup> (2.22), 312(2.68)	1730**, 1479**
6C	367 (10.97), 351(10.55)	334 <sup>sh</sup> (2.64), 318(3.14)	2566**, 2164**

**Table S4.** Optical properties of **LC**, **LN** and Au(I) complexes **XN** (X = 1–6), **XC** (X = 1, 5, 6), DCE,  $c = 10^{-5}$  M, r.t.

\* compared to band of transition in azobenzene or stilbene moiety of free acetylenes **LN** or **LC** before irradiation, respectively \*\* calculated for two lowest maximums

Table S5.	Photoisomerization quantum yields of LC, LN and Au(I) complexes XN ( $X =$
1-6), <b>XC</b> (X =	= 1, 5, 6), DCE, $c = 10^{-5}$ M, r.t.; <b>AB</b> = native azobenzene.

Sample	Light source,	Photon flux,	<i>ɛ</i> , c	$m^{-1}M^{-1}$	Ф
Sampic	wavelength	photons/s	trans	cis	<b>⊥ Y</b> trans→cts
AB*	Laser, 355 nm	1.103369E+16	3860	449	0.11
LN	Laser, 355 nm	1.103369E+16	17020	1230	0.09
AB*	Xenon lamp, 355 nm	8.0422E+13	3860	449	0.11
LN	Xenon lamp, 355 nm	8.0422E+13	17020	1230	0.10
1N	Xenon lamp, 382 nm	2.983E+14	25070	6153	0.13
2N	Xenon lamp, 382 nm	2.983E+14	25520	4221	0.13
3N	Xenon lamp, 382 nm	2.983E+14	27510	4150	0.12
4N	Xenon lamp, 382 nm	2.983E+14	32096	9063	0.15
5N	Xenon lamp, 382 nm	2.983E+14	28740	7585	0.18
6N	Xenon lamp, 406 nm	3.78E+14	62425	13937	0.10
LC	Laser, 355 nm	1.103369E+16	970	318	0.55
1C	Laser, 355 nm	1.103369E+16	36391	5112	0.45
1C*	Xenon lamp, 355 nm	5.73E+12	36391	5112	0.45
5C	Xenon lamp, 355 nm	5.73E+12	44467	4870	0.62
6C	Xenon lamp, 367 nm	1.42E+13	110130	4950	0.43

\* used as a standard for photon flux determination in a series of measurements

Table S6.	Brief summary of the most important singlet excited states of XN and XC
compounds as	obtained from TDDFT calculations.

	Calculation		Calculation Experiment		Calculation		Experiment
	λ, nm	$\mathbf{f}^*$	λ, nm		λ, nm	$\mathbf{f}^*$	λ, nm
LN	453 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0	336	LC	320 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.41	322
trans	331 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.22		trans			
LN	447 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.05	437	LC	292 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.71	311
cis	280 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.39	263	cis	233 (S <sub>4</sub> )	0.29	
1N	353 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.65	365	1C	333 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.92	340
trans				trans			
1N	451 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.08	446	1C	307 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.17	319
cis	304 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.78	255	cis			
2N	352 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.64	364	-	_	_	_
trans							
2N	451 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.08	448	-	_	_	_
cis	302 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.78	291				
3N	353 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.64	364	-	_	_	_
trans							
3N	451 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.08	448	-	_	_	_
cis	303 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.77	290				
4N	357 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.59	369	-	_	_	_
trans							
4N	452 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.08	452	-	_	_	_
cis	308 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.76	340, 292,				
			284				
5N	356 (S <sub>2</sub> )	1.68	372	<b>5</b> C	335 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.97	341
trans				trans			
5N	452 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.08	450	<b>5</b> C	309 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.24	312
cis	308 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.88	283, 258	cis			
6N	370 (S <sub>3</sub> )	3.11	397	6C	346 (S <sub>1</sub> )	3.51	367, 351
tr-tr				tr-tr			
6N	454 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.17	385	6C	319 (S <sub>1</sub> )	1.99	318
cis-cis	318 (S <sub>3</sub> )	1.47	465	cis-cis	305 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.26	
					275 (S <sub>3</sub> )	0.01	
6N	453 (S <sub>1</sub> )	0.11	_	6C	340 (S <sub>1</sub> )	2.46	_
cis-tr	364 (S <sub>3</sub> )	1.78		cis-tr	311 (S <sub>2</sub> )	0.41	
	* <b>f</b> is as:11.	ator strongth					

**f** is oscillator strength



**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 1N-3N, Acetone- $d_6$ , r.t.



Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 4N and 5N, Chloroform-*d*, r.t.



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **6N**, Acetone- $d_6$ , r.t.



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1C**, Acetone- $d_6$ , r.t.



**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **5C**, Chloroform-*d*, r.t.



**Figure S6.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **6C**, Chloroform-*d*, r.t.



Figure S7. FTIR spectra of azobenzene and stilbene derivatives, KBr pellet, r.t.



**Figure S8.** Experimental ESI<sup>-</sup> MS spectra of **6N** and **6C**, and simulated isotopic patterns of the most intensive signal corresponded to molecular ion.



Figure S9. Molecular structure of 2N, 3N and 5N.



Figure S10. Mutual orientation of two molecules in the crystal packing of 3N.



Figure S11. Mutual orientation of two molecules in the crystal packing of 4N.



Figure S12. Mutual orientation of two molecules in the crystal packing of 5N.



Figure S13. Mutual orientation of molecules in the crystal packing of 6N.



**Figure S14.** UV-vis spectra of **LN** and Au(I) complexes **XN** (X = 1-3) before and after (line marked by 'A') UV irradiation, DCE, r.t. In the cases of irradiated samples formal  $\varepsilon$  values based on total concentrations are calculated.



**Figure S15.** UV-vis spectra of Au(I) complexes **XN** (X = 4-6) before and after (line marked by 'A') UV irradiation, DCE, r.t. In the cases of irradiated samples formal  $\varepsilon$  values based on total concentrations are calculated.



**Figure S16.** UV-vis spectra of **LC** and Au(I) complexes **XC** (X = 1, 5, 6) before and after (line marked by 'A') UV irradiation, DCE, r.t. In the cases of irradiated samples formal  $\varepsilon$  values based on total concentrations are calculated.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation UV-Vis spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation



**Figure S17.** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>1</sup>H<sup>1</sup>H COSY NMR, and UV-Vis spectroscopic monitoring of representative complexes **XN** and **XC** photoisomerization.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation UV-Vis spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation



Figure S17 Continued.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation UV-Vis spectrum before (green line) and after (red line) UV irradiation



Figure S17 Continued.



**Figure S18.** Dihedral energy scans corresponding to rotation around N=N and C=C bonds: DFT computational data.



**Figure S19.** Energy level diagram of the excited states in **XN** obtained from TDDFT calculations. Colour legend shows singlets (blue), triplets (green), and low-lying active states (red).



**Figure S20.** Energy level diagram of the excited states in **XC** obtained from TDDFT calculations. Colour legend shows singlets (blue), triplets (green), and low-lying active states (red).



**Figure S21.** Evolution of the  $S_1$  state in **LN** upon low-angle rotation around the N=N bond. Wavelengths and oscillator strengths are obtained from TDDFT calculations. Ground state energy curve is shown to demonstrate the relatively high probabilities of such rotations via comparison with kT value at room temperature.



**Figure S22.** Natural transition orbitals involved in the lowest energy electronic excitation for compound LN.



**Figure S23.** Natural transition orbitals involved in the lowest energy electronic excitation for compound **LC**.



<sup>#</sup> For *trans*-6N two degenerate intraligand singlet states are observed in TDDFT calculations, with each of the states being localized on one of the ligands. Only one of these states is shown for clarity.

**Figure S24.** Natural transition orbitals involved in the lowest energy electronic excitation for compounds **5N** and **6N** in *trans*-form of switcher group.



**Figure S25.** Natural transition orbitals involved in the lowest energy electronic excitation for compounds **XC** (X = 1, 5, 6) in *trans*-form of switcher group.



**Figure S26.** Natural transition orbitals involved in the lowest energy electronic excitation for compounds **1C** and **6C** in *cis*-form of switcher group.



Figure S27. Emission spectrum of xenon lamp in soft UV region.

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