

## The molecular structure of [Sn(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu<sup>t</sup><sub>2</sub>)] using gas-phase electron diffraction and DFT calculations

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**Table S1** Nozzle-to-film distances (mm), weighting functions (nm<sup>-1</sup>), scale factors, correlation parameters and electron wavelengths (pm) used in the electron diffraction study of [Sn(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu<sup>t</sup><sub>2</sub>)], **2b**.

Nozzle-to-film distance <sup>a</sup>	$\Delta s$	$s_{\min}$	$sw_1$	$sw_2$	$s_{\max}$	Scale factor <sup>b</sup>	Correlation parameter	Electron wavelength
86.06	4	80	120	230	250	0.801(42)	0.393	6.020
255.26	2	20	40	102	110	0.857(14)	0.119	6.020

<sup>a</sup> Determined by reference to the scattering pattern of benzene. <sup>b</sup> Values in parentheses are the estimated standard deviations.

**Table S2** Selected interatomic distances ( $r_a$ /pm) and amplitudes of vibration ( $u_{h1}$ /pm) for the restrained GED structure of  $[\text{Sn}(\text{P}_2\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)]$ , **2b**.<sup>a</sup>

	Atom pair	$r_a$ /pm	$u_{h1}$ /pm <sup>b</sup>	Restraint
$u_{1-9}$	C–H	110.2(3)	7.1(3)	7.7(8)
$u_{10}$	C(3)–C(6)	152.1(4)	4.0(6)	—
$u_{11-12}$	C(6)–C(8/9)	154.8(2)	4.1(tied to $u_{10}$ )	—
$u_{13}$	C(6)–C(7)	155.6(2)	4.1(tied to $u_{10}$ )	—
$u_{14-15}$	P(2)–C(3/5)	180.2(3)	5.2(4)	—
$u_{16}$	Sn(1)–C(3)	240.7(11)	10.5(11)	10.1(10)
$u_{17}$	C(3)...C(7)	249.1(10)	7.1(8)	8.0(8)
$u_{18-19}$	C(7)...C(8)	250.6(23)	7.1(tied to $u_{17}$ )	—
$u_{20-21}$	C(3)...C(9)	252.6(8)	6.8(tied to $u_{17}$ )	—
$u_{22}$	Sn(1)–P(2)	261.4(7)	7.5(8)	7.7(8)
$u_{23}$	P(2)...P(4)	269.8(17)	5.1(6)	5.6(6)
$u_{24}$	P(2)...C(6)	300.0(14)	9.0(7)	8.2(8)
$u_{25}$	P(2)...C(19)	304.7(16)	9.0(tied to $u_{24}$ )	—
$u_{26}$	P(2)...C(8)	336.7(38)	18.7(18)	19.1(19)
$u_{27}$	P(2)...C(22)	341.8(39)	18.7(tied to $u_{26}$ )	—
$u_{28}$	Sn(1)...C(6)	352.7(11)	12.1(12)	12.4(12)
$u_{29}$	P(2)...C(7)	362.0(28)	18.0(25)	—
$u_{30}$	P(2)...C(20)	369.3(40)	18.0(tied to $u_{29}$ )	—
$u_{31-32}$	Sn(1)...C(8/9)	393.5(32)	22.7(17)	—
$u_{33}$	P(2)...C(9)	424.1(12)	9.8(9)	—
$u_{34}$	P(2)...C(21)	426.6(14)	9.9(tied to $u_{33}$ )	—
$u_{35}$	Sn(1)...C(7)	480.7(11)	13.8(12)	12.0(12)

<sup>a</sup> Estimated standard deviations, as obtained in the least squares refinement, are given in parentheses. <sup>b</sup> Amplitudes not refined were fixed at the values obtained using the force field calculated at B3PW91/LanL2DZ on Sn and 6-31G\* on P, C, and H. Other amplitudes were also included and fixed at this level but are not shown here.

**Table S3** Least-squares correlation matrix ( $\times 100$ ) for  $[\text{Sn}(\text{P}_2\text{C}_2\text{Bu}^t_2)]$ , **2b**.<sup>a</sup>

	$p_2$	$p_{10}$	$p_{21}$	$u_6$	$k_1$	$k_2$
$p_1$	–50				–58	
$p_5$		–52				
$p_{12}$				–75		
$p_{18}$			81			
$u_1$					62	

<sup>a</sup> Only elements with absolute values  $\geq 50\%$  are shown;  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are scale factors.

**Table S4** GED coordinates for [Sn(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu<sup>t</sup><sub>2</sub>)], **2b**.<sup>a</sup>

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Sn(1)	0.0000	2.2002	0.0000
P(2)	0.0000	0.0000	1.3626
C(3)	1.1809	0.0986	0.0000
P(4)	0.0000	0.0000	-1.3626
C(5)	-1.1809	0.0986	0.0000
C(6)	2.7139	-0.1401	0.0000
C(7)	2.9627	-1.6776	0.0009
C(8)	3.3627	0.4916	-1.2673
C(9)	3.3649	0.4990	1.2625
H(10)	4.0667	-1.9066	0.0111
H(11)	2.5158	-2.1588	-0.9161
H(12)	2.4985	-2.1599	0.9082
H(13)	4.4785	0.3295	-1.2714
H(14)	3.1718	1.6022	-1.3060
H(15)	2.9405	0.0327	-2.2067
H(16)	4.4815	0.3422	1.2625
H(17)	2.9488	0.0412	2.2052
H(18)	3.1689	1.6088	1.2982
C(19)	-2.7139	-0.1401	0.0000
C(20)	-2.9627	-1.6776	-0.0009
C(21)	-3.3627	0.4916	1.2671
C(22)	-3.3649	0.4990	-1.2625
H(23)	-4.0667	-1.9066	-0.0111
H(24)	-2.5158	-2.1581	0.9161
H(25)	-2.4985	-2.1599	-0.9082
H(26)	-4.4785	0.3295	1.2714
H(27)	-3.1718	1.6022	1.3060
H(28)	-2.9405	0.0327	2.2067
H(29)	-4.4815	0.3422	-1.2625
H(30)	-2.9488	0.0412	-2.2052
H(31)	-3.1689	1.6088	-1.2982

<sup>a</sup> All coordinates are  $r_a$  in Å.

**Table S5** Calculated coordinates (B3PW91/6-31G\*/LanL2DZ) for [Sn(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu'<sub>2</sub>)], **2b**.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Sn(1)	0.0000	0.0000	1.5772
P(2)	1.3678	0.0000	-0.6732
C(3)	0.0000	-1.1813	-0.5416
P(4)	-1.3678	-0.0000	-0.6732
C(5)	-0.0000	1.1813	-0.5416
C(6)	0.0000	-2.6845	-0.7173
C(7)	0.0000	-2.9910	-2.2308
C(8)	1.2554	-3.3041	-0.0845
C(9)	-1.2553	-3.3043	-0.0845
H(10)	0.8868	-2.5675	-2.7158
H(11)	0.0001	-4.0747	-2.4041
H(12)	-0.8867	-2.5675	-2.7158
H(13)	1.2710	-3.1461	1.0005
H(14)	1.2852	-4.3848	-0.2700
H(15)	2.1710	-2.8689	-0.5029
H(16)	-2.1709	-2.8689	-0.5028
H(17)	-1.2850	-4.3849	-0.2699
H(18)	-1.2709	-3.1461	1.0005
C(19)	-0.0000	2.6845	-0.7173
C(20)	-0.0000	2.9910	-2.2308
C(21)	-1.2554	3.3041	-0.0845
C(22)	1.2553	3.3043	-0.0845
H(23)	-0.8868	2.5675	-2.7158
H(24)	-0.0001	4.0747	-2.4041
H(25)	0.8867	2.5675	-2.7158
H(26)	-1.2710	3.1461	1.0005
H(27)	-1.2852	4.3848	-0.2700
H(28)	-2.1710	2.8689	-0.5029
H(29)	2.1709	2.8689	-0.5028
H(30)	1.2850	4.3849	-0.2699
H(31)	1.2709	3.1461	1.0005

Energy = -1077.502038 Hartrees (corrected for ZPE).

All coordinates are in Å.

**Table S6** Calculated coordinates (B3PW91/6-31G\*/LanL2DZ) for [Sn(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>)], **3**.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Sn(1)	0.0000	0.0000	1.0351
P(2)	0.0000	1.3710	-1.2177
C(3)	1.1613	0.0000	-1.0797
P(4)	0.0000	-1.3710	-1.2177
C(5)	-1.1613	0.0000	-1.0797
H(6)	2.2453	0.0000	-1.1341
H(7)	-2.2453	0.0000	-1.1341

Energy = -763.324630 Hartrees (corrected for ZPE).

All coordinates are in Å.

**Table S7** Calculated coordinates (B3PW91/6-31G\*) for [P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu'<sub>2</sub>], **4**.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
P(1)	1.3795	-0.0122	0.0000
C(2)	-0.1428	1.1642	0.0000
P(3)	-1.3797	0.0122	0.0000
C(4)	0.1428	-1.1642	0.0000
C(5)	-0.1458	2.6577	0.0000
C(6)	-1.5778	3.2086	0.0000
C(7)	0.6035	3.1488	1.2573
C(8)	0.6035	3.1488	-1.2573
H(9)	-2.1292	2.8754	0.8870
H(10)	-1.5679	4.3049	0.0000
H(11)	-2.1292	2.8754	-0.8869
H(12)	1.6307	2.7673	1.2871
H(13)	0.6508	4.2447	1.2601
H(14)	0.0925	2.8242	2.1701
H(15)	0.0925	2.8242	-2.1701
H(16)	0.6508	4.2447	-1.2601
H(17)	1.6307	2.7673	-1.2871
C(18)	0.1458	-2.6577	0.0000
C(19)	1.5778	-3.2086	0.0000
C(20)	-0.6035	-3.1488	1.2573
C(21)	-0.6035	-3.1488	-1.2573
H(22)	2.1292	-2.8754	0.8870
H(23)	1.5679	-4.3049	0.0000
H(24)	2.1292	-2.8754	-0.8869
H(25)	-1.6307	-2.7673	1.2871
H(26)	-0.6508	-4.2447	1.2601
H(27)	-0.0925	-2.8242	2.1701
H(28)	-0.0925	-2.8242	-2.1701
H(29)	-0.6508	-4.2447	-1.2601
H(30)	-1.6307	-2.7673	-1.2871

Energy = -1074.038806 Hartrees (corrected for ZPE).

All coordinates are in Å.

**Table S8** Calculated coordinates (B3PW91/6-31G\*/LanL2DZ) for [Sn(C<sub>4</sub>Bu<sup>t</sup><sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>)], **5**.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Sn(1)	-1.5890	-0.0002	0.0057
C(2)	0.5256	-1.0284	-0.0020
C(3)	0.5163	0.0000	-1.0447
C(4)	0.5253	1.0285	-0.0020
C(5)	0.5231	0.0000	1.0410
C(6)	0.8581	0.0002	-2.5111
C(7)	2.3981	0.0004	-2.6389
C(8)	0.3008	-1.2557	-3.1956
C(9)	0.3005	1.2560	-3.1955
H(10)	2.8300	-0.8858	-2.1604
H(11)	2.6990	0.0005	-3.6945
H(12)	2.8298	0.8866	-2.1603
H(13)	-0.7948	-1.2682	-3.1648
H(14)	0.6139	-1.2909	-4.2464
H(15)	0.6640	-2.1687	-2.7091
H(16)	0.6634	2.1691	-2.7089
H(17)	0.6136	1.2914	-4.2462
H(18)	-0.7951	1.2683	-3.1647
C(19)	0.8750	0.0000	2.5050
C(20)	2.4158	0.0002	2.6223
C(21)	0.3221	1.2557	3.1933
C(22)	0.3224	-1.2560	3.1931
H(23)	2.8443	0.8865	2.1408
H(24)	2.7240	0.0002	3.6758
H(25)	2.8445	-0.8859	2.1407
H(26)	-0.7737	1.2680	3.1699
H(27)	0.6423	1.2910	4.2418
H(28)	0.6817	2.1688	2.7042
H(29)	0.6823	-2.1689	2.7040
H(30)	0.6427	-1.2913	4.2417
H(31)	-0.7734	-1.2686	3.1698
H(32)	0.6564	-2.1033	-0.0026
H(33)	0.6559	2.1034	-0.0024

Energy = -472.194130 Hartrees (corrected for ZPE).

All coordinates are in Å.

**Table S9** Calculated coordinates (B3PW91/6-31G\*) for [Li<sub>2</sub>(P<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Bu<sub>2</sub><sup>t</sup>)], **6**.

Atom	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>
Li(1)	0.0000	0.0000	-1.9281
P(2)	0.0000	-1.3843	-0.0649
C(3)	1.1816	0.0000	-0.0807
P(4)	0.0000	1.3843	-0.0648
C(5)	-1.1816	0.0000	-0.0807
C(6)	2.6982	0.0000	0.0140
C(7)	3.1455	0.0000	1.4933
C(8)	3.2746	-1.2534	-0.6636
C(9)	3.2746	1.2535	-0.6635
H(10)	2.7667	-0.8930	2.0093
H(11)	4.2399	-0.0000	1.5919
H(12)	2.7667	0.8928	2.0093
H(13)	3.0331	-1.2653	-1.7339
H(14)	4.3670	-1.2903	-0.5611
H(15)	2.8640	-2.1688	-0.2205
H(16)	2.8640	2.1688	-0.2204
H(17)	4.3670	1.2903	-0.5611
H(18)	3.0331	1.2654	-1.7338
C(19)	-2.6982	0.0000	0.0140
C(20)	-3.1455	0.0000	1.4933
C(21)	-3.2746	1.2535	-0.6635
C(22)	-3.2746	-1.2534	-0.6636
H(23)	-2.7667	0.8929	2.0093
H(24)	-4.2399	0.0000	1.5919
H(25)	-2.7667	-0.8930	2.0093
H(26)	-3.0331	1.2654	-1.7338
H(27)	-4.3670	1.2903	-0.5610
H(28)	-2.8640	2.1688	-0.2204
H(29)	-2.8640	-2.1688	-0.2205
H(30)	-4.3670	-1.2903	-0.5611
H(31)	-3.0331	-1.2653	-1.7339
Li(32)	0.0000	-0.0000	1.7920

Energy = -1089.185305 Hartrees (corrected for ZPE).

All coordinates are in Å.



**Figure S1** Molecular-scattering intensity and final weighted difference curves for  $[\text{Sn}(\text{P}_2\text{C}_2\text{Bu}'_2)]$ , **2b**, at nozzle-to-film distances of (a) 255 mm and (b) 86 mm.

