## Supplementary data for:

### Sodium compounds of the Benzophenone dianion (diphenyloxidomethanide)

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#### 1. X-ray powder diffractograms of 1 and 3

Powder diffractograms were measured at room temperature on a STOE STADI P2 diffractometer (CuK<sub> $\alpha$ 1</sub>, Germanium-monochromator) with a linear position-sensitive detector. For the calculation of the theoretical diffractograms the atomic coordinates from the single crystal structures were used. The experimental (blue) and calculated (red) diffractograms for compounds **1** (A) and **3** (B) are shown below:



# 2. <sup>23</sup>Na 3QMAS NMR Spectrum of 1

A) Experimental <sup>23</sup>Na MAS NMR spectrum of **1** recorded at 132.3 (on the left) and 105.8 MHz (on the right), the simulated spectra are shown above. B) Contour plot of the 105.8 MHz <sup>23</sup>Na 3QMAS spectrum of **1** with the internal projection on the left and the conventional 1D MAS spectrum above. Traces extracted at the maxima along  $\omega_1$  are shown on the right (indicated by arrows) with simulations above and below (see the Experimental part).

Spin parameters of solid 1 ( $C_{qcc}$  = nuclear quadrupole coupling constant,  $\eta_Q$  = asymmetry parameter):

Site	$\delta_{iso}$ /ppm	$C_{qcc}$ /MHz	$\eta_O$
1	-6.6	3.21	0.42
2	-15.0	2.30	0.60



### 3. Atomic coordinates for the calculated structure of [Na<sub>2</sub>(Ph<sub>2</sub>CO)]

The structure was optimised at the B3LYP/6-311+G(2d,p) level using RHF/6-311+G(2d,p) orbitals as initial guess orbitals. It was confirmed as minimum by a vibrational analysis.

Orthogonal	coordinates	(Å`	۱.
Orthogonal	coordinates	(11)	٫.

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 H7 H8 H9 H10 H11 C12 C13 C14 C15 C16	0.137387 -0.088895 -0.536787 -0.676509 -0.397804 0.000000 0.540293 -0.808460 -1.026559 -0.505012 0.226653 0.000000 0.088895 0.536787 -0.137387 0.676509	2.477794 1.276657 1.491722 2.754687 3.909879 3.745748 2.381117 0.641950 2.855040 4.895726 4.616614 0.000000 -1.276657 -1.491722 -2.477794 -2.754687	0.613318 -0.145664 -1.490775 -2.022262 -1.270018 0.048619 1.616117 -2.101124 -3.044624 -1.704130 0.656229 0.498467 -0.145664 -1.490775 0.613318 -2.022262
C13 C14 C15	0.536787	-1.491722 -2.477794	-0.143004 -1.490775 0.613318
C16 H17	0.676509	-2.754687 -0.641950	-2.022262
C18 H19 C20	-0.540293 0.397804	-3.745748 -2.381117 -3.909879	0.048619 1.616117 -1.270018
H21 H22 H23	1.026559 -0.226653 0.505012	-2.855040 -4.616614 -4.895726	-3.044624 0.656229 -1 704130
024 Na25 Na26	0.000000 1.723667	0.000000 -1.296623	1.877634 1.924753 1.924753

The NICS values were evaluated at the following points:

X1	-0.260430	2.609410	-0.711130
X2	0.693470	2.590610	-1.010830
X3	-1.214330	2.628210	-0.411430
X4	0.260430	-2.609410	-0.711130
X5	-0.693470	-2.590610	-1.010830
X6	1.214330	-2.628210	-0.411430

## 4. QTAIM analysis of the model structure [Na<sub>2</sub>(Ph<sub>2</sub>CO)]

**Table 1**. Atomic charges, electron populations  $[N(\Omega_i)]$  and localisation indices  $[\lambda(\Omega_i)]$  for the atomic basins  $\Omega_i$ .

	charge	$N(\Omega_{\rm i})$	$\lambda(\Omega_{\mathrm{i}})$
Nal	+0.831	10.169	9.956
01	-1.258	9.258	8.293
C1	+0.383	5.617	3.611
C2	-0.069	6.069	3.934
C3	-0.181	6.181	4.099
C4	-0.054	6.054	3.977
C5	-0.081	6.081	4.020
C6	-0.052	6.052	3.982
C7	-0.079	6.079	4.007
H7	+0.027	0.973	0.407

**Table 2.** Properties evaluated at selected bond critical points,  $\mathbf{r}_b$ , in atomic units.<sup>28</sup>  $\rho(\mathbf{r}_b)$ : electron density;  $\nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}_b)$ : Laplacian of the electron density;  $G(\mathbf{r}_b)$ : Lagrangian kinetic energy density;  $v(\mathbf{r}_b)$ : potential energy density;  $G(\mathbf{r}_b)/\rho(\mathbf{r}_b)$ : kinetic energy per electron;  $\varepsilon$ : ellipticity.

	Na1-C3	Na1-O1	01-C1	C1-C2	H7-H7'
$ ho(\mathbf{r}_{b})$	0.0153	0.0338	0.2877	0.2883	0.0129
$\nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}_{\rm b})$	0.0736	0.2188	-0.7125	-0.7378	0.0467
$G(\mathbf{r}_{b})$	0.0155	0.0472	0.2292	0.0868	0.0095
$v(\mathbf{r}_{b})$	-0.0127	-0.0398	-0.6366	-0.3581	-0.0073
$G(\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{b}})/\rho(\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{b}})$	1.0131	1.3964	0.7967	0.3011	0.7364
3	0.8133	0.0202	0.1466	0.2601	0.2180

 Table 3. Delocalisation indices.

	$\delta(\Omega_{\rm i},\Omega_{\rm j})$		$\delta(\Omega_{\rm i}, \Omega_{\rm j})$
01,C1	1.046	C2,C4	0.062
O1,C2	0.120	C2,C5	0.054
O1,C3	0.054	C2,C6	0.066
O1,C4	0.006	C2,C7	1.232
O1,C5	0.008	C3,C4	1.406
O1,C6	0.010	C4,C5	1.410
O1,C7	0.018	C5,C6	1.319
C1,C2	1.227	C6,C7	1.487
C1,C3	0.073	Na1,O1	0.174
C1,C4	0.014	Na1,C1	0.041
C1,C5	0.025	Na1,C2	0.032
C1,C6	0.023	Na1,C3	0.081
C1,C7	0.061	H7,C7	0.941
C2,C3	1.232	H7,H7′	0.021