**Supplementary Materials** 

## Homoleptic aminophenolates of Ca, Mg and Zn. Synthesis, structure, DFT studies and polymerization activity in ROP of lactides

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(\*) Though 8' has structure close to crystallographic one (or rather its mirror image form), we found two lower energy conformers: 8 and 8". In the lowest energy conformation both dioxolane groups are arranged in such way that methine protons are directed toward phenyl oxygen atoms. The difference between ZPE corrected TPSS-D3/def2-TZVPPD energies of the lowest energy forms 8 and 8" is slightly over 1.3 kcal/mol.

(\*) Table 1S presents geometrical parameters calculated for Ca-, Mg-, and two conformers (I, and II) of Zn-complexes. Experimentally found conformers I and II correspond to the structures 1 and to the mirror image form of molecule 8', respectively. In round parentheses are values for conformer with geometric parameters closer to experimental ones but slightly higher in energy (8'). The lower energy form corresponds to 8''.

**Tabela 1S.** Geometric parameters (in Å and degrees) for the Ca-, Mg-, and Zn-complexes computed at different levels of theory, along with experimental data from X-ray diffraction. For the atom numbering see Figure 1. All calculated structures have  $C_2$  symmetry. For explanation of values in round parentheses see text.

	TPSS-D3		MP2-SCS	Exp.	TPS	TPSS-D3		Exp.		
	SVPD	TZVPPD	SVPD		SVPD	TZVPPD	SVPD			
	$[Ca(L^{tBu})_2]$					$[Mg(L^{tBu})_2]$				
r(M-O44)	2.397	2.408	2.377	2.405	2.156	2.172	2.143	2.164		
[r(M-O89)]				[2.373]				[2.190]		
r(M-O2)	2.205	2.204	2.227	2.187	1.976	1.970	1.976	1.943		
[r(M-O46)]				[2.210]				[1.954]		
r(M-N28)	2.670	2.683	2.639	2.609	2.301	2.300	2.294	2.272		
[r(M-N72)]			<b>5 15</b> 0	[2.663]	<b>5</b> 00 4	6.01.5	5 0 2 2	[2.283]		
r(C3-C47)	5.530	5.587	5.478	5.783	5.994	6.015	5.933	6.023		
r(C20-C64)	10.694	10.729	10.625	11.114	11.191	11.212	11.073	11.086		
r(C5-C49)	5.833	5.947	5.703	6.308	8.874	8.983	8.751	9.167		
a(O44-M-O89)	145.5	144.8	145.9	144.3	87.3	86.5	88.0	90.3		
a(O2-M-O46)	104.1	105.6	105.6	103.2	176.0	175.5	175.4	176.5		
a(N28-M-N72)	101.1	100.2	100.1	100.0	117.2	117.9	117.0	112.9		
d(M-N28-C33-C36)	35.3	35.3	34.1	45.5	26.8	29.3	22.6	34.2		
[d(M-N72-C77-C80)]				[39.1]				[40.3]		
d(N28-C33-C36-H45)	54.7	55.5	54.0	73.8	64.2	63.3	67.3	67.8		
[d(N72-C77-C80-H81)]			_	[72.5]			_	[61.6]		
		[Zn(L <sup>t</sup>	$^{(Bu)}_{2}$ (I)			$[\mathbf{Zn}(\mathbf{L}^{\text{LBU}})_2]  (\mathbf{II})$				
r(M-O44)	2.537	2.675	2.454	2.726	4.045	4.094	4.047	3.011		
[r(M-O89)]				[2.726]	(3.157)	(3.261)		[3.011]		
r(M-O2)	1.960	1.952	1.958	1.934	1.914	1.912	1.911	1.924		
[r(M-O46)]				[1.934]	(1.927)	(1.924)		[1.924]		
r(M-N28)	2.170	2.153	2.169	2.101	2.111	2.117	2.103	2.094		
[r(M-N72)]	4.004	4.207	1 2 0 2	[2.101]	(2.130)	(2.126)	5 1 2 5	[2.094]		
r(U3-U47)	4.294	4.387	4.202	4.827	5.201	5.212	5.135	4.989		
<b>r</b> (C20 C64)	7 000	9 156	7 600	0.414	(5.005)	(5.093)	0.856	0.649		
1(C20-C04)	/.000	0.130	7.090	9.414	(0.588)	(9.675)	9.830	9.040		
r(C5-C49)	5 246	5 379	5 175	6 386	6 409	6 4 4 8	6 296	6416		
1(05-04))	5.210	5.575	5.175	0.500	(6 306)	(6 3 5 6)	0.290	0.110		
a(O44-M-O89)	76.7	77.1	74.9	80.6	62.8	62.9	61.6	68.2		
					(66.8)	(65.7)				
a(O2-M-O46)	115.3	117.4	114.7	117.0	136.1	135.9	137.7	123.9		
. ,					(134.1)	(133.8)				
a(N28-M-N72)	154.0	150.6	155.1	148.6	126.6	126.3	126.1	147.5		
					(146.1)	(143.3)				

d(M-N28-C33-C36)	-54.4	-56.8	-52.1	-59.5	55.0	56.0	54.4	53.1
[d(M-N72-C77-C80)]				[-59.5]	(48.2)	(49.0)		[53.1]
d(N28-C33-C36-H45)	158.6	160.9	156.0	164.3	-17.9	-18.6	-19.2	34.2
[d(N72-C77-C80-H81)]				[164.3]	(30.0)	(27.9)		[34.2]



**Figure 1S.** Superposition of X-ray structures (in black color) with the TPSS-D3/def2-TZVPPD level energy-minimized conformations.

(\*) The direct transition between 1 and 3 is also possible (Figure 3) through a second order saddle point SOSP (stationary point with two imaginary frequencies). The  $1\rightarrow 3$  reaction coordinate can be assigned to the smaller frequency (in absolute value) imaginary mode with preserved C<sub>2</sub> symmetry. SOSPs are very rarely objects of interest (see for example D. Heidrich, W. Quapp, *Theor. Chim. Acta*, 70, 1986, 89) because they do not appear in transition state theory. But even apart from the discussion about chemical significance of SOSP the barrier for  $1\rightarrow 3$  is much higher than for  $1\rightarrow 2$  or  $2\rightarrow 3$ , thus the stepwise path is more favorable.

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	r(M-O2)	r(M-O46)	r(M-N28)	r(M-N72)	r(C5-C49)	R(C3-C47)	r(C20-C64)	d(M-N28-	d(N28-C33-	d(M-N72-	d(N72-C77-
								C33-C36)	C36-H45)	C77-C80)	C80-H81)
1	1.952	1.952	2.153	2.153	5.379	4.387	8.156	-56.8	160.9	-56.8	160.9
1'	1.951	1.949	2.166	2.160	5.434	4.447	8.229	-58.7	160.6	-56.3	164.1
1"	1.949	1.949	2.172	2.172	5.468	4.491	8.249	-57.9	163.3	-57.9	163.3
2	1.921	1.937	2.129	2.133	5.531	4.524	8.439	-169.4	-166.7	-58.8	164.1
2'	1.918	1.934	2.124	2.132	6.102	4.925	9.41	-169.4	-167.0	-55.6	170.2
2"	1.923	1.940	2.138	2.143	5.488	4.494	8.353	162.6	164.5	-57.0	163.7
3	1.914	1.924	2.124	2.124	5.440	4.48	8.258	-168.3	-165.9	-168.3	-165.9
3'	1.901	1.901	2.125	2.125	6.667	5.353	10.306	-166.2	-166.6	-166.2	-166.6
4	1.922	1.941	2.132	2.133	5.495	4.504	8.389	174.2	40.8	-57.6	163.3
5	1.917	1.945	2.127	2.128	5.672	4.627	8.655	-57.3	23.1	-57.9	162.7
6	1.906	1.910	2.126	2.113	6.440	5.208	10.009	-55.0	17.7	-164.7	-166.5
7	1.906	1.910	2.129	2.113	6.423	5.188	9.945	-53.7	19.0	-177.2	51.4
8	1.932	1.923	2.139	2.134	6.305	5.059	9.607	-45.1	-43.5	-45.1	-32.4
8'	1.922	1.922	2.122	2.122	6.384	5.127	9.754	-49.8	-23.1	-49.8	-23.1
8"	1.912	1.912	2.116	2.116	6.439	5.207	10.006	-56.3	18.9	-56.3	18.9
9	1.923	1.937	2.126	2.128	5.507	4.513	8.415	-178.8	-40.1	-59.2	163.0
10	1.937	1.944	2.143	2.128	5.480	4.468	8.355	-66.1	-58.9	-56.1	162.2
11	1.900	16.980	2.126	2.121	6.608	5.319	10.223	-172.9	51.6	-166.0	-166.5
12	1.902	1.902	2.119	2.119	6.601	5.31	10.214	-170.7	53.7	-170.7	53.7

Tabela 2S. Geometric parameters (in Å and degrees) for all Zn-complexes computed at TPSS-D3/TZVPPD level of theory. For the atom numbering see Figure 1.

Tabela 2S. (continued)

	d(C41-C38-	d(C38-O37-	d(O37-C36-	d(C36-O44-	d(O44-C41-	d(C86-C83-	d(C83-O82-	d(O82-C80-	d(C80-O89-	d(O89-C86-
	O37-C36)	C36-O44)	O44-C41)	C41-C38)	C38-O37)	<b>O82-C80</b> )	C80-O89)	<b>O89-C86</b> )	C86-C83)	C83-O82)
1	-38.4	32.9	-13.1	-10.4	29.6	-38.4	32.9	-13.1	-10.4	29.6
1'	-38.3	31.8	-11.5	-11.9	30.4	10.6	8.6	-25.7	31.3	-25.5
1"	9.5	9.3	-25.5	30.5	-24.2	9.5	9.3	-25.5	30.5	-24.2
2	-38.5	35.0	-16.5	-7.4	28.0	-37.8	33.0	-14.0	-9.3	28.6
2'	-38.4	35.1	-16.6	-7.2	27.9	13.3	7.2	-26.2	33.4	-28.3
2"	-37.6	36.7	-20.1	-3.4	25.2	-37.7	34.7	-17.0	-6.4	26.8
3	-38.4	35.4	-17.2	-6.7	27.5	-38.4	35.4	-17.2	-6.7	27.5
3'	-38.3	35.5	-17.4	-6.4	27.3	-38.3	35.5	-17.4	-6.4	27.3
4	-38.3	37.4	-20.6	-3.3	25.5	-37.8	34.3	-16.2	-7.1	27.3
5	-2.3	26.6	-41.1	38.3	-22.0	-38.3	34.3	-15.6	-8.0	28.1
6	-10.6	33.4	-43.3	35.1	-15.1	-38.4	35.8	-17.9	-6.0	27.1
7	-10.2	33.3	-43.6	35.7	-15.6	-22.9	0.4	23.9	-37.1	36.6
8	35.5	-19.9	-5.5	26.9	-38.0	-35.4	43.6	-33.5	10.5	15.5
8'	-35.0	43.1	-33.1	10.4	15.3	-35.0	43.1	-33.1	10.4	15.3
8"	-8.4	31.6	-42.8	36.0	-17.0	-8.4	31.6	-42.8	36.0	-17.0
9	-37.8	39.5	-24.4	0.6	22.8	-37.9	33.4	-14.7	-8.6	28.2
10	-35.7	42.8	-31.9	8.8	16.6	-38.4	34.1	-15.1	-8.5	28.5
11	-36.1	39.6	-26.4	3.4	20.1	-38.3	35.6	-17.6	-6.3	27.2
12	2.8	21.4	-38.2	38.6	-25.4	2.8	21.4	-38.2	38.6	-25.4



**Figure 2S.** Schematic structure of  $[Zn(L^{tBu})_2]$  complexes (H atoms omitted except for the CH protons of oxolane rings). (Continued on the next page.)



Figure 2S. (continued)



Figure 2S. (continued)



Figure 2S. (continued)

(\*) The contributions of individual fragments of the ligand (dioxolane ring, amine part, and phenyl ring) to the total interaction energy were estimated using the following formulas (see also Figure 3S):

 $\Delta E(\text{dioxolane ring}) = -\{[E(LML) - E(ML^{+}) - E(L^{-})] - [E(LML^{+}) - E(ML^{+}) - E(L^{-})]\}$  $\Delta E(\text{amine part}) = -\{[E(LML^{+}) - E(ML^{+}) - E(L^{-})] - [E(LML^{-}) - E(ML^{+}) - E(L^{-})]\}$  $\Delta E(\text{phenyl ring}) = -\{E(LML^{-}) - E(ML^{+}) - E(L^{-})\}$ 



**Figure 3S.** Structures used as the models to calculate the contributions of individual fragments of the ligand (dioxolane ring, amine part, and phenyl ring) to the total interaction energy.