

## Phosphorus Cations

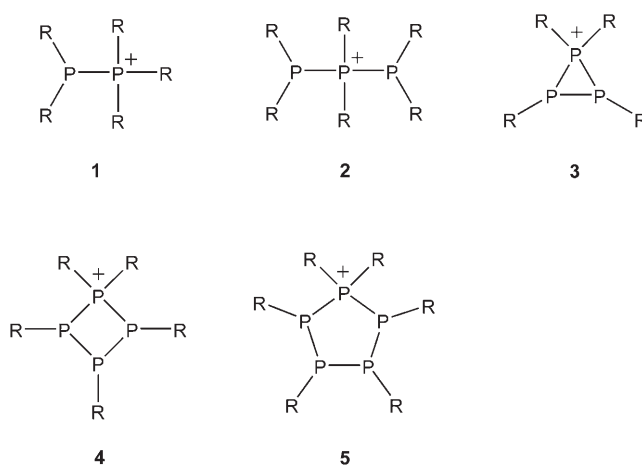
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Small Cyclopolyphosphinophosphonium Cations: Systematic Development of Fundamental *catena*-Phosphorus Frameworks\*\*

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Recognizing that catenation of carbon is principally responsible for the diversity and extent of organic chemistry, the “diagonal relationship” between carbon and phosphorus in the Periodic Table is often quoted<sup>[1,2]</sup> in the discussion of the numerous catenated polyphosphines<sup>[2–6]</sup> and polyphosphorus anions.<sup>[2–4,7–12]</sup> *catena*-Phosphorus cation systems are less well developed despite the classical chemistry of phosphonium salts, but the pioneering contributions of Schmidpeter and co-workers<sup>[13–15]</sup> and Schmutzler et al.<sup>[16]</sup> have highlighted new aspects of structure and bonding that prompt the establishment of a comprehensive polyphosphinophosphonium series. Our high-yielding and facile methods for the synthesis of the prototypical phosphinophosphonium **1**,<sup>[17]</sup> diphosphinophosphonium **2**,<sup>[18]</sup> and cyclotetraphosphinophosphonium **5**<sup>[18]</sup> cations have now been applied to the preparation of the

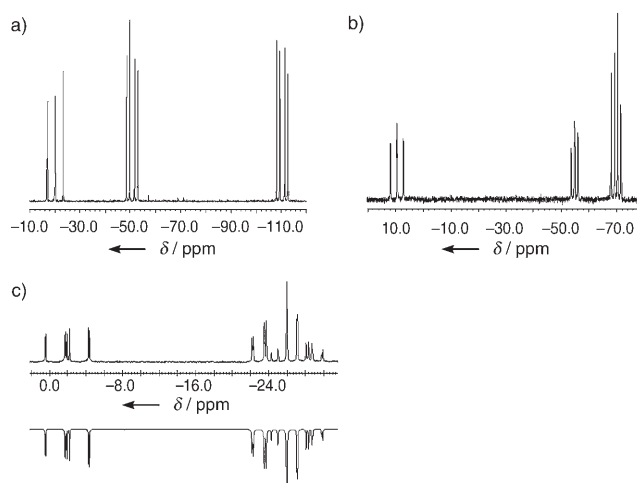
first examples of cyclodiphosphinophosphonium **3** and cyclotriphosphinophosphonium **4** cations (Scheme 1). Isolation of these new frameworks is surprising in light of the exclusive formation of **5** over possible tetra- and hexaphosphorus derivatives with phenyl substituents at the phosphorus



**Scheme 1.** Prototypical *catena*-polyphosphinophosphonium cation frameworks.

centers.<sup>[18]</sup> Derivatives of **3** and **4** provide representative frameworks that complete a series of the smallest cyclopolyphosphinophosphonium cations **3–5**, and their characterization is pivotal in the systematic development of fundamental phosphorus chemistry.

<sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of reaction mixtures containing (PrBu)<sub>3</sub> (**6a**) with excess MeOTf show quantitative formation of [(PrBu)<sub>3</sub>Me][OTf] (**3a-OTf**; Figure 1a and Scheme 2a). The spectrum can be approximated as an AMX<sup>[19]</sup> spin system and is consistent with the solid-state structure of **3a-OTf** (Figure 2a), thus demonstrating stereoselective methylation of **6a** at either of the *syn*-configured centers to give a racemic

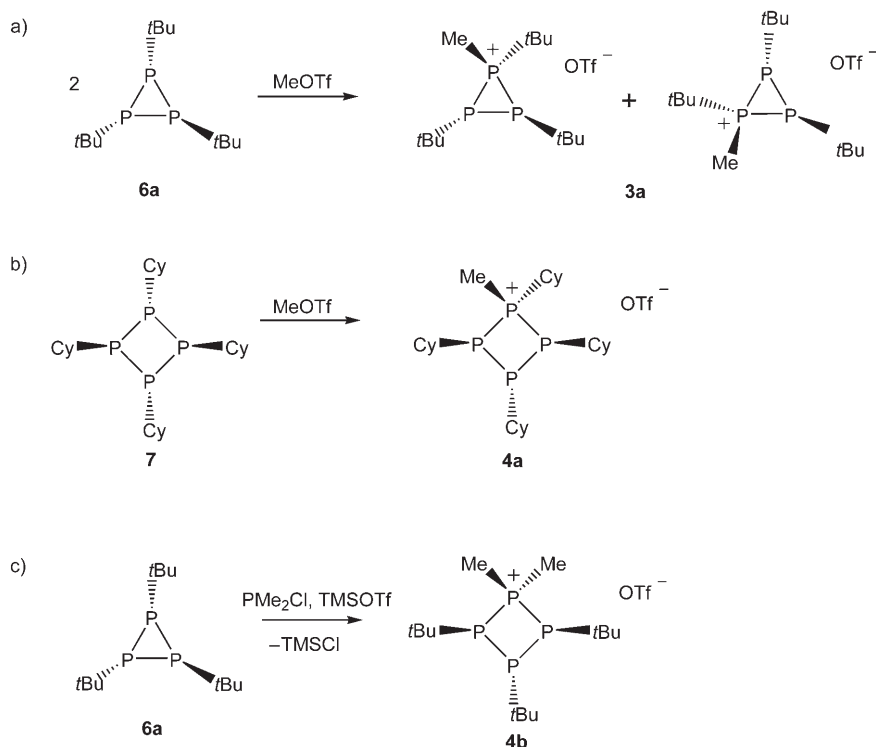


**Figure 1.** <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra at 101.3 MHz: a) mixture of MeOTf (2 equiv) and (PrBu)<sub>3</sub>, which shows the approximate AMX pattern of **3a-OTf**; b) mixture of MeOTf (2 equiv) and (PCy)<sub>4</sub>, which shows the approximate A<sub>2</sub>MX pattern of **4a-OTf**; c) experimental (top) and simulated (inverted) AB<sub>2</sub>X pattern of pure **4b-OTf**.

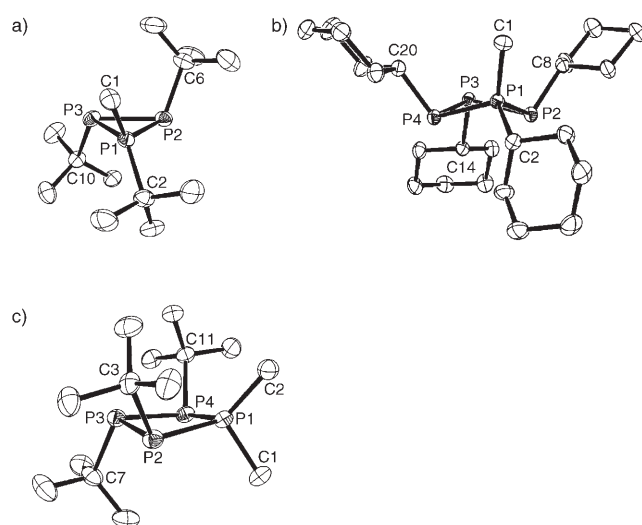
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**Scheme 2.** Preparation of cyclopolyphosphinophosphonium cations. OTf = trifluoromethanesulfonate, Cy = cyclohexyl, TMS = trimethylsilyl.



**Figure 2.** Representative structural views of the cations in a) **3a-OTf**, b) **4a-OTf**, and c) **4b-OTf**. Ellipsoids are given at the 50% probability level. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

mixture rather than the *meso* isomer. Similarly, the homocyclic tetraphosphorus core is maintained in the formation of  $[(\text{PCy})_4\text{Me}][\text{OTf}]$  (**4a-OTf**) from  $(\text{PCy})_4$  (**7**) and MeOTf (Scheme 2b), and the  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of the reaction mixture can be approximated as an  $\text{A}_2\text{MX}$  spin system (Figure 1b). Thus, methylation occurs at one of the four equivalent phosphorus atoms in the all-*trans* configuration of **7**, which is confirmed by the solid-state structure of the

*meso* isomer **4a** (Figure 2b). The reaction of **6a** with 1.5 equivalents of  $\text{PMe}_2^+$  (formed in situ from  $\text{Me}_2\text{PCl}$  and TMSOTf, see Scheme 2c) gives  $[(\text{PrBu})_3\text{PMe}_2][\text{OTf}]$  (**4b-OTf**) almost quantitatively through a  $\text{PMe}_2^+$  bond insertion/ring expansion process. The complicated  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectrum of **4b-OTf** (Figure 1c) was simulated at 101.3 MHz (Figure 1c, inverted) and at 202.6 MHz as a second-order  $\text{AB}_2\text{X}$  spin system and is consistent with the symmetric *meso* structure of **4b** observed in the solid state (Figure 2c). There is no evidence for the existence of the diastereomeric isomers of **4b**, thus indicating a stereospecificity of the reaction that can be rationalized in terms of “ $\text{PMe}_2^+$ ” insertion into the *syn*-configured P–P bond at the less-hindered face of **6a**,<sup>[20]</sup> as observed in similar insertions of “ $\text{PCl}$ ” and “ $\text{PBr}$ ”.<sup>[21]</sup>

Examples of cations based on framework **4** have been previously postulated on the basis of elemental analysis<sup>[22,23]</sup> and  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR data;<sup>[24]</sup> however, we provide herein the first con-

firmation of structural types **3** and **4**. The solid-state structural features of **3a-OTf**, **4a-OTf**, and **4b-OTf** are listed in Table 1 along with the comparative parameters of  $[\text{P}_5\text{Ph}_6][\text{OTf}]$  (**5a-OTf**), **6a**, **7**, and  $(\text{PPh})_5$ . The methylated, four-coordinate P1 center in **3a** is significantly distorted with the C–P1–P angles exhibiting the widest range (108.6–133.2°) of the compounds listed in Table 1 (Figure 2a). Whereas the endocyclic angles in **3a** are similar to those in the neutral precursor **6a**, the plane defined by C1, P1, C2 is twisted by 72.49(6)° with respect to the plane of the three phosphorus atoms (ideally 90°) because of the steric interactions of the *syn* substituents. The greater steric imposition of the *tert*-butyl substituents in **4b** relative to that of the cyclohexyl substituents in **4a** is indicated by both the greater planarity of the  $\text{P}_4$  ring in **4b** (P–P–P–P torsional angles: **4a**: 23.6–24.2°, **4b**: 10.3–10.5°; c.f.  $(\text{PrBu})_4$ : 24.5°, **7**: 31.4°) and a greater distortion of the tetrahedral geometry at P1 in **4b**, in which a larger range of C–P1–P angles and a smaller C–P–C angle are adopted (Table 1). In this context, the cyclohexyl substituent at P1 in **4a** minimizes steric interactions by twisting to enable a *gauche* conformation of the  $\alpha$ -hydrogen atom of C2 and the methyl substituent (C1).

The P–P distances are remarkably regular in neutral, anionic, and cationic compounds, although the four-coordinate phosphorus centers of the cations typically form slightly shorter P–P bonds (bold values in column 3 of Table 1). Interestingly, the P–P distances between the three-coordinate phosphorus centers in the cations are somewhat longer than those in the neutral cyclopolyphosphines. Consistent with the trend in P–P distances, the shortest P–C bonds within a given cation involve the phosphonium center (bold values in column 2 of Table 1).

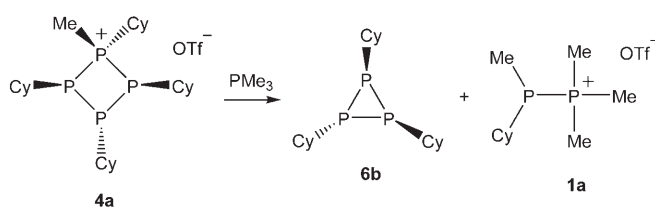
**Table 1:** Selected distances [Å] and angles [°] for **3a**-OTf, **4a**-OTf, and **4b**-OTf, and the comparative features of **5a**-OTf, **6a**, **7**, and (PPh)<sub>5</sub>.<sup>[a]</sup>

Compound	P–C	P–P	C–P–P	C–P–C	P–P–P	Ref.
[(PtBu) <sub>3</sub> Me][OTf] ( <b>3a</b> -OTf)	<b>1.858(2)</b> [1,2] <b>1.806(2)</b> [1,1] 1.886(2) [2,6] 1.894(2) [3,10]	<b>2.1465(6)</b> [1,2] <b>2.1652(6)</b> [1,3] 2.2306(6) [2,3]	<b>123.15(7)</b> [1,1,2] <b>108.62(7)</b> [1,1,3] <b>112.97(6)</b> [2,1,2] <b>133.21(6)</b> [2,1,3]	<b>110.41(9)</b> [1,1,2]	<b>62.31(2)</b> [2,1,3] 59.26(2) [1,2,3] 58.43(2) [1,3,2]	[b]
[(PCy) <sub>4</sub> Me][OTf] ( <b>4a</b> -OTf)	<b>1.822(2)</b> [1,2] <b>1.797(2)</b> [1,1] 1.867(2) [2,8] 1.871(2) [3,14] 1.858(2) [4,20]	<b>2.1952(6)</b> [1,2] <b>2.1896(6)</b> [1,4] 2.2387(6) [2,3] 2.2378(6) [3,4]	<b>114.45(7)</b> [1,1,2] <b>115.54(7)</b> [1,1,4] <b>113.68(6)</b> [2,1,2] <b>113.03(6)</b> [2,1,4]	<b>108.44(8)</b> [1,1,2]	<b>91.05(2)</b> [4,1,2] 84.92(2) [1,2,3] 88.68(2) [4,3,2] 85.07(2) [1,4,3]	[b]
[(PtBu) <sub>3</sub> PMe <sub>2</sub> ][OTf] ( <b>4b</b> )	<b>1.800(2)</b> [1,2] <b>1.802(2)</b> [1,1] 1.890(2) [2,3] 1.890(2) [3,7] 1.885(2) [4,11]	<b>2.2032(5)</b> [1,2] <b>2.1983(6)</b> [1,4] 2.2385(6) [2,3] 2.2307(6) [3,4]	<b>106.33(6)</b> [1,1,2] <b>105.12(6)</b> [1,1,4] <b>120.56(6)</b> [2,1,4] <b>122.72(6)</b> [2,1,2]	<b>105.99(9)</b> [2,1,1]	<b>94.33(2)</b> [4,1,2] 85.50(2) [1,2,3] 92.47(2) [4,3,2] 85.80(2) [1,4,3]	[b]
[P <sub>5</sub> Ph <sub>6</sub> ][OTf] ( <b>5a</b> )	<b>1.798(2)</b> <b>1.799(2)</b> 1.829(2) 1.843(2) 1.842(2) 1.827(2)	<b>2.2221(6)</b> <b>2.2072(6)</b> 2.2318(6) 2.2392(6) 2.2251(6)	<b>106.08(6)</b> <b>113.22(6)</b> <b>111.57(6)</b> <b>107.03(6)</b>	<b>111.59(8)</b>	<b>107.36(2)</b> 96.52(2) 93.59(2) 89.56(2) 91.64(2)	[18]
(PtBu) <sub>3</sub> ( <b>6a</b> ) <sup>[c]</sup>	1.874(5) 1.915(5) 1.897(5)	2.188(2) 2.186(2) 2.216(2)	105.0–123.7 av. 112.1	–	60.8(1) 59.6(1) 59.6(1)	[20]
(PCy) <sub>4</sub> ( <b>7</b> )	1.874(2)	2.224(2)	102.8(1) 102.6(1)	–	85.47(6)	[25]
(PPh) <sub>5</sub>	1.83(1)–6(1) av. 1.84	2.207(5)–23(5) av. 2.217	96.4(4)–109.8(4) av. 102.0	–	94.0(2)–107.2(2) av. 100.0	[26]

[a] Numbers in square brackets denote atom labels and the values in bold are those that involve the four-coordinate phosphorus center (av. = average value). [b] This work. [c] The average of two crystallographically independent molecules.

In a preliminary study of reactivity, reaction mixtures that contain **4a**-OTf and PMe<sub>3</sub> show the characteristic A<sub>2</sub>B pattern of (PCy)<sub>3</sub> (**6c**) in the <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra.<sup>[27]</sup> In addition, two new doublets ( $\delta$  = 15.4 and –38.2 ppm, <sup>1</sup>J(P–P) = 295 Hz) are assigned to the new phosphinophosphonium cation in [Me<sub>3</sub>P–PMeCy][OTf] (**1a**-OTf), and a low-intensity sharp signal at  $\delta$  = –67 ppm is assigned to **7** (Scheme 3). The

of cyclodiphosphinophosphonium **3** and cyclotriphosphinophosphonium **4** cations are facilitated by the appropriate imposition of substituent steric strain in the starting cyclopolyposphines. The phosphonium abstraction induced by PMe<sub>3</sub> and ring contraction provides further systematic development of these fundamentally important *catena*-phosphorus frameworks.

**Scheme 3.** Phosphenium abstraction from **4a**.

abstraction of MeCyP<sup>+</sup> from **4a** by PMe<sub>3</sub> effects a ring contraction and, in conjunction with a previous methylation step, highlights a synthetically viable transformation from cyclotetraphosphine (PR)<sub>4</sub> to cyclotriphosphine (PR)<sub>3</sub>. In addition, the reversibility of the phosphonium P–P insertion is observed (by <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectroscopic analysis) in the reaction of **4b** with PMe<sub>3</sub>, which slowly gives **6a** and [Me<sub>3</sub>P–PMe<sub>2</sub>][OTf] (**1b**-OTf).

In summary, the application of methylation or phosphonium insertion reactions to cyclopolyposphines has enabled the characterization of a family of small cyclopolyposphinophosphonium monocations. The high-yielding preparations

## Experimental Section

Small-scale reactions were carried out in a glove box with an inert N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Solvents were dried on an MBraun solvent-purification system and stored over molecular sieves prior to use. (PtBu)<sub>3</sub><sup>[28]</sup> and (PCy)<sub>4</sub><sup>[29]</sup> were prepared according to literature methods. All the reported <sup>31</sup>P NMR parameters were derived by computer simulation, as all compounds exhibited some degree of second-order character.

**3a**-OTf: MeOTf (0.08 mL, 0.71 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of (PtBu)<sub>3</sub> (0.096 g, 0.36 mmol) in fluorobenzene (4 mL). The reaction mixture was filtered after 15 min. Slow diffusion of hexane vapors into the filtrate at –25 °C gave colorless crystals; yield = 0.14 g (0.32 mmol, 87 %). M.p. 121–125 °C; elemental analysis (%) calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>30</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>S: C 39.3, H 7.1; found: C 39.5, H 7.0; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500.1 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  = 3.6 (dd, <sup>1</sup>J(P,H) = 13 Hz, <sup>1</sup>J(P,H) = 8 Hz, 1H), 1.6 (d, <sup>3</sup>J(P,H) = 22 Hz, 3H), 1.4 (d, <sup>3</sup>J(P,H) = 17 Hz, 3H), 1.6 ppm (d, <sup>3</sup>J(P,H) = 17 Hz, 3H); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (101.3 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): AMX spin system,  $\delta$ A = –110.3, M = –50.8, X = –20.4 ppm, <sup>1</sup>J(A,M) = –123, <sup>1</sup>J(A,X) = –334, <sup>1</sup>J(M,X) = –317 Hz; FTIR (nujol, ranked intensities):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1399 (9), 1260 (1), 1151 (2), 1030 (4), 904 (5), 800 (10), 751 (8), 638 (3), 572 (7), 516 (6) cm<sup>–1</sup>.

**4a**-OTf: MeOTf (0.095 mL, 0.84 mmol) was added dropwise to a mixture of (PCy)<sub>4</sub> (0.25 g, 0.55 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (5 mL). The reaction mixture was filtered after 90 min, and removal of the solvent in vacuo gave a white solid that was recrystallized at –25 °C from fluoroben-

zene by vapor diffusion of hexane over 3 days; yield = 0.15 g (0.23 mmol, 43 %). M.p. 175–177 °C; elemental analysis (%) calcd for  $C_{26}H_{47}F_3O_3P_4S$ : C 50.3, H 7.6; found: C 50.4, H 7.3;  $^1H$  NMR (500.1 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  = 2.6 (m, 1H) 2.4 (d,  $J(P,H)$  = 12 Hz, 3H), 2.4 (m, 2H), 1.7–2.1 (m, 20H), 1.1–1.5 ppm (m, 21H);  $^{31}P$  NMR (202.6 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $A_2MX$  spin system,  $\delta A$  = –69.8,  $M$  = –56.2,  $X$  = 10.1 ppm,  $^1J(A,M)$  = –122,  $^1J(A,X)$  = –230,  $^2J(M,X)$  = –17 Hz; FTIR (nujol, ranked intensities):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1284 (4), 1246 (1), 1158 (5), 1083 (3), 926 (9), 883 (8), 754 (10), 636 (2), 572 (7), 527 (6)  $cm^{-1}$ . Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by vapor diffusion of fluorobenzene/hexane at room temperature.

**4b-OTf**: A solution of  $PMe_2Cl$  (0.044 mL, 0.55 mmol) and  $TMSOTf$  (0.10 mL, 0.67 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of  $(PrBu)_3$  (0.098 g, 0.37 mmol) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL). The solvent was removed in vacuo after stirring of the reaction mixture for 45 min, and the resulting white solid was washed with portions of hexane (2 × 4 mL). The product was recrystallized from fluorobenzene by diffusion of hexane vapor into the solution at room temperature over 5 days; yield = 0.095 g (0.20 mmol, 54 %). M.p. 112–114 °C; elemental analysis (%) calcd for  $C_{15}H_{33}F_3O_3P_4S$ : C 38.0, H 7.0; found: C 38.5, H 6.9;  $^1H$  NMR (500.1 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  = 2.7 (d,  $^2J(P,H)$  = 14 Hz, 1H), 2.4 (dt,  $J(P,H)$  = 13 Hz,  $J(P,H)$  = 8 Hz, 1H), 1.5 (m, 6H), 2.7 ppm (d,  $^3J(P,H)$  = 14 Hz, 3H);  $^{31}P$  NMR (101.3 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $AB_2X$  spin system,  $\delta A$  = –28.2,  $B$  = –24.2,  $X$  = –2.1 ppm,  $^1J(A,B)$  = –143,  $^1J(B,X)$  = –251,  $^2J(A,X)$  = 28 Hz; FTIR (nujol, ranked intensities):  $\tilde{\nu}$  = 1304 (6), 1267 (2), 1224 (7), 1155 (3), 1032 (4), 957 (8), 914 (9), 638 (1), 573 (10), 517 (5)  $cm^{-1}$ .

X-ray crystallographic analysis: Data was collected on Bruker AXS P4/SMART 1000 diffractometer using  $\omega$  and  $\theta$  scans with a width of 0.3°, a exposure time of 10 s at 173 K, and a detector distance of 5 cm. The data were reduced (SAINT)<sup>[30]</sup> and corrected for absorption (SADABS).<sup>[31]</sup> Structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least squares on  $F^2$  (SHELXL).<sup>[32]</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. **3a-OTf**:  $C_{14}H_{30}F_3O_3P_4S$ ; colorless, plates, crystal size  $0.40 \times 0.40 \times 0.10$  mm<sup>3</sup>, monoclinic, space group  $P2_1/n$ ,  $a$  = 13.6318(9),  $b$  = 10.5918(7),  $c$  = 15.487(1) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $\beta$  = 104.084(1)°,  $V$  = 2168.9(2) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z$  = 4,  $\mu$  = 0.405 mm<sup>–1</sup>;  $\lambda(Mo_{K\alpha})$  = 0.71073 Å,  $2\theta_{max}$  = 53.8°, collected (independent) reflections = 14573 (4869),  $R_{int}$  = 0.0213; 337 refined parameters,  $R_1$  = 0.0487,  $wR_2$  = 0.1056 for all data, max./min. residual electron density = 0.646/–0.476 e Å<sup>–3</sup>. **4a-OTf**:  $C_{26}H_{47}F_3O_3P_4S$ , colorless parallelepiped, crystal size  $0.275 \times 0.20 \times 0.175$  mm<sup>3</sup>, triclinic, space group  $P\bar{1}$ ,  $a$  = 11.4946(7),  $b$  = 11.5640(7),  $c$  = 14.0822(9) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $\alpha$  = 110.984(1),  $\beta$  = 102.476(1),  $\gamma$  = 106.868(1)°,  $V$  = 1561.62(17) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z$  = 2,  $\mu$  = 0.352 mm<sup>–1</sup>;  $\lambda(Mo_{K\alpha})$  = 0.71073 Å,  $2\theta_{max}$  = 52.2°, collected (independent) reflections = 10965 (6795),  $R_{int}$  = 0.0195; 522 refined parameters,  $R_1$  = 0.0475,  $wR_2$  = 0.0964 for all data, max./min. residual electron density = 0.491/–0.247 e Å<sup>–3</sup>. **4b-OTf**:  $C_{15}H_{33}F_3O_3P_4S$ , colorless parallelepiped, crystal size  $0.40 \times 0.275 \times 0.25$  mm<sup>3</sup>, tetragonal, space group  $I4_1/a$ ,  $a$  = 25.6452(11),  $b$  = 25.6452(11),  $c$  = 14.7549(8) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $V$  = 9703.9(8) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z$  = 16,  $\mu$  = 0.432 mm<sup>–1</sup>;  $\lambda(Mo_{K\alpha})$  = 0.71073 Å,  $2\theta_{max}$  = 54.7°, collected (independent) reflections = 33323 (5547),  $R_{int}$  = 0.0293; 367 refined parameters,  $R_1$  = 0.0445,  $wR_2$  = 0.0809 for all data, max./min. residual electron density = 0.414/–0.237 e Å<sup>–3</sup>.

CCDC-271727–271729 (**3a**, **4a**, and **4b**, respectively) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

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