

Cover Picture

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The cover picture shows the structure, determined crystallographically, of the tetrakis(trimethylstannyl)phosphonium cation that is formed with surprising ease from the reaction of $\text{P}(\text{SnMe}_3)_3$ with Me_3SnOTf ($\text{OTf} = \text{OSO}_2\text{CF}_3$) and is isolated as the OTf salt. It is the first completely substituted main group organometallic phosphonium derivative, and, in contrast to the more common tetraorganic-substituted phosphonium cations is only stable in the solid state; in solution it functions as a masked Me_3Sn^+ reagent. More about this chameleonlike ion and the $\text{N}(\text{SnMe}_3)_4$ cation homologue, which is equally dynamic in solution and has unusual long Sn–N bond lengths, is reported by M. Driess et al. on p. 3684 ff.

