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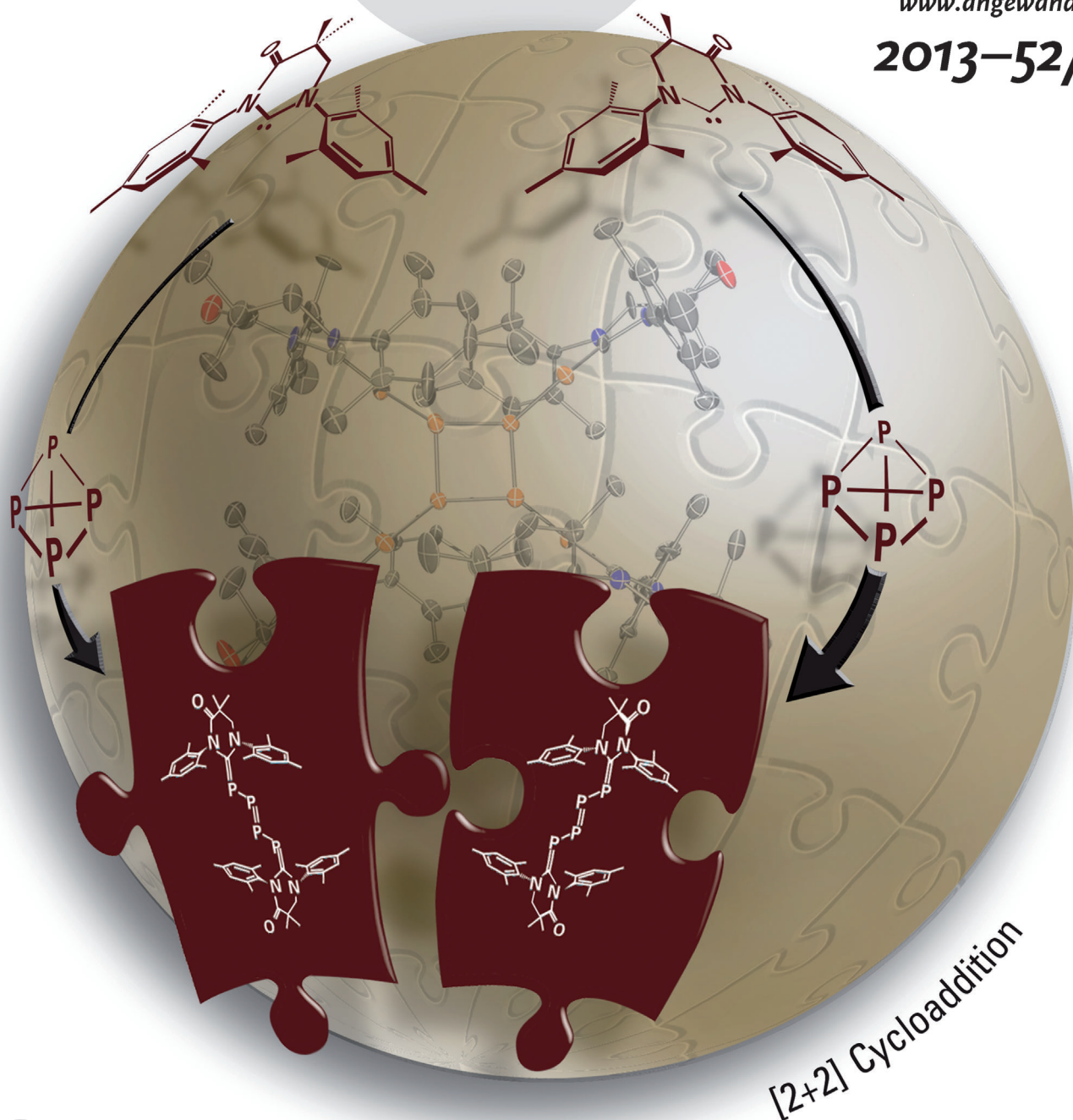
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Piecing together ...

... a carbonyl-decorated carbene and P_4 affords the two transient diphosphenes (puzzle pieces in foreground) that rapidly dimerize to give a P_8 allotrope (X-ray structure). Whereas nucleophilic carbenes stabilize main-group allotropes, in their Communication on page 4462 ff., T. W. Hudnall and co-workers show how the electrophilicity of carbenes dictates reactivity toward P_4 . By modulating carbene electrophilicity, two allotropes of phosphorus can be isolated and characterized.

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