

White phosphorus and yellow arsenic ...

... can be selectively activated with dimeric metal complexes, as described by M. Scheer et al. in their Communication on page 9077 ff. The resulting P_4 and As_4 butterfly complexes of iron and chromium are unprecedented. Surprisingly, they dimerize after photolytic activation or even at room temperature to afford the first examples of As_8 cuneane complexes.

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