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## Design of neutral, mono- or di-cationic water-soluble trihydrazidophosphoradamantanes

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Abstract—The versatile behavior of a trihydrazidophosphoradamantane allowing the synthesis of a variety of neutral, mono- or di-cationic water-soluble molecules of potential interest for biphasic catalysis is reported. © 2006 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

The success of aqueous two-phase catalysis can be explained by the fact that water is a cheap and environmentally friendly solvent and by the possibility of overcoming two basic problems encountered in homogeneous catalysis, namely, the separation and subsequent recycling of the catalyst.<sup>[1](#page-2-0)</sup> Among the different classes of ligands used for this purpose, linear or cyclic phosphines occupy a special place because their hydrophilicity can be tuned by grafting a variety of polar groups, such as ammonium, carbohydrate, phosphonium, phosphonate, polyether, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, sulfonated groups, etc. In contrast, very few water soluble cage-like phosphines have been used in catalysis: the Verkadetype bases 1 are efficient ligands in a number of organic reactions<sup>[2](#page-2-0)</sup> while 1,3,5-triaza-7-phosphoradamantane 2 (PTA) discovered in 1974[3](#page-2-0) has received renewed interest, not only in homogeneous aqueous biphasic catalysis,[4](#page-2-0) but also for medicinal<sup>[5](#page-2-0)</sup> and photoluminescence uses.<sup>[6,7](#page-2-0)</sup>



We were particularly interested in developing new water-soluble air-stable phosphines with a phosphoradamantane skeleton which, in principle, should present overall reactivity comparable to classical phosphines

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but with a higher resistance to oxidation and with enhanced possibilities to tune the solubility in water.

We herein report the synthesis of a set of neutral mono- or dicationic phosphoradamantanes derived from trimethyl-4,6,9-thio-5-hexa-1,3,4,6,7,9-phospha-5 tricyclo $[3.3.1.1]^{3,7}$ ]decane 3a as well as the X-ray structure determination of one of these phosphoradamantanes, the monocationic species 6a.

Compound 3a, a non-water-soluble phosphoradamantane, was prepared according to the literature procedure[8](#page-2-0) in 80% yield from thiophosphorhydrazide  $S= P[N(CH_3)NH_2]$ <sub>3</sub> and formaldehyde (Scheme 1). Desulfuration of 3a using classical methods, for example,  $(Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH<sup>9</sup>$  $(Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH<sup>9</sup>$  $(Me<sub>3</sub>Si)<sub>3</sub>SiH<sup>9</sup>$  or  $P(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>10</sup>$  $P(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>10</sup>$  $P(NMe<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub><sup>10</sup>$  did not take place. Reaction of 3a with a large excess of tributylphosphine gave rise to the expected phosphine 4[8](#page-2-0) but this method, although efficient, did not afford 4 in a high enough yield since the separation of 4 from the tributylphosphine sulfide formed during the reaction and unreacted



Scheme 1. Synthesis of phosphorus(III) or (V) adamantanes 3a,b and 4.

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tributylphosphine is tedious. The best method we found consists of the reduction of 3a with Raney Ni allowing the isolation of 4 in 80% yield. Remarkably 4, for which we have proposed the acronym THPA (trihydrazidophosphoradamantane), appears to be as water soluble as its analog PTA, 2.

All attempts to reduce the corresponding oxide 3b which is in marked contrast to 3a, soluble in water, have failed up to now. One unique feature of 4 is its ability to be chemoselectively alkylated (or protonated) at nitrogen rather than at the phosphorus center. This can be achieved with a strong alkylating reagent such as  $CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>$  (Scheme 2). Further, *N*-alkylation is thermodynamically less favorable, as changes in hybridization of the nitrogen atoms, induce distortions in the adamantane backbone decreasing the overall stability. The water soluble monoalkylated phosphoradamantane  $5<sup>11</sup>$  $5<sup>11</sup>$  $5<sup>11</sup>$  was characterized in  $<sup>31</sup>P$  NMR by a singlet at</sup> 103.0 ppm (4,  $\delta^{31}P = 101.8$  ppm) while the desymetrization of the structure due to monoalkylation is clearly observed in the <sup>1</sup> H NMR (two types of doublets for the P–N-CH<sub>3</sub> groups) and in the  $^{13}$ C NMR (two doublets for the PNCH<sub>3</sub> groups and three singlets for the  $CH<sub>2</sub>$  groups). Monomethylation at the nitrogen atom in the  $\beta$ -position relative to phosphorus was also proved by the  $1H$  NMR singlet at 2.96 ppm and the singlet at  $46.16$  ppm in the  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectrum.

Methylation of 3a and 3b with  $CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>$  also proceeds smoothly giving rise to new water-soluble phosphoradamantane monocationic species 6a and 6b (Scheme 2).[12,13](#page-2-0) The structure of 6a was fully established by X-ray diffraction studies (see the supporting informa-tion for full details<sup>[14](#page-3-0)</sup>). An ORTEP view is shown in Figure 1. N-Methylation affects the bond distances associated with the phosphorus center with a significant lengthening of the P1–N1 bond  $(1.7211(3)$  Å), compared to P1–N2 (1.674(3)  $\dot{A}$ ), and P1–N3 (1.648(3)  $\dot{A}$ ).

The reactivity of the N-alkylated THPA 5 differs from that of THPA 4 itself. As an example, the Staudinger reaction between 5 and the functionalized azide  $N_3P(S)(OC_6H_4CHO)_2$  does not take place even under forcing conditions while this reaction occurs readily in 2 h at room temperature with 4 leading to the iminophosphoradamantane 7 ([Scheme 3](#page-2-0)).[15](#page-3-0)

The latter compound appears to be a good model for obtaining unprecedented dicationic phosphoradaman-



Scheme 2. Selective *N*-alkylation of phosphoradamantanes 3a,b and 4.



Figure 1. X-ray structure of 6a. Selected bond distances  $(\hat{A})$  and angles (deg):  $P1-S1 = 1.8999(13)$ ;  $P1-N1 = 1.721(3)$ ;  $P1-N2 = 1.674(3)$ ;  $P1-N3 = 1.648(3)$ ;  $N1-N4 = 1.482(4)$ ;  $N2-N5 = 1.446(4)$ ;  $N3-N6 =$ 1.449(4); N3–P1–N<sub>2</sub> = 104.27(15); N3–P1–N1 = 103.02(15); N2–P1–  $N1 = 100.20(14)$ .

tane derivatives since alkylation can be envisaged both at the  $\beta$  nitrogen atom, and at the sulfur of the P=S unit. Indeed, it has already been demonstrated that methylation of a  $P=N-P=S$  linkage easily occurs on sulfur leading to  $[P=N-P+S(CH_3)]CF_3SO_3^-$  units.<sup>[16](#page-3-0)</sup> Addition of 2 equiv of  $CF_3SO_3CH_3$  to 7 allows the observation based on 31P NMR of the formation of the three possible cationic species: the S-methylated compound 8  $[\delta^{-31}P = 26.10 \text{ (d, }^2J_{PP} = 47.4 \text{ Hz})]$ , and 9.32  $(d_2^2 J_{PP} = 47.4 \text{ Hz})$  ppm], the N-methylated species 9  $\left[ \delta \right]^{31}P = 64.02$  (d,  $^{2}J_{PP} = 64$  Hz), and  $-4.10$  (d,  $^{2}L_{z} = 64$  Hz), ppm and the desired discripric phos  $J_{\rm PP} = 64$  Hz) ppm], and the desired dicationic phosphoradamantane  $10^{31}P = 28.6$  (d,  $^{2}J_{PP} = 58.3$  Hz), and 2.75 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{PP}} = 58.3 \text{ Hz}$ ) ppm]. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra corroborate the coexistence of these three cationic species. Unfortunately, their instability prevented their isolation and all attempts to direct such a reaction to selectivity failed. Therefore, another strategy was investigated with the aim of preparing stable and eventually water-soluble dicationic species incorporating a phosphoradamantane skeleton and a  $[P=N=P]^+X^$ unit. Phosphonioimino phosphorane cations  $[{\rm P=N=P]}^+$ have the advantageous property of forming readily isolable salts of complex anions which are soluble in organic solvents, making them widely useful in inor-ganic chemistry.<sup>[17](#page-3-0)</sup> Moreover, some of these salts were recently used as promising catalysts in halogen exchange reactions (Halex reactions) where chloro- and bromoaromatics activated toward nucleophilic substitution react with a fluoride source to yield the corresponding fluoroarenes.<sup>[18,19](#page-3-0)</sup>

Treatment of THPA 4 with  $Ph_3P=NBr$  11 (obtained from the addition of 2 equiv of *n*-BuLi then  $Br<sub>2</sub>$  to the phosphonium salt  $[(Ph_3P-NH_2)^+Cl^-]$  overnight at room temperature) gave the unique phosphonio iminophos-phorane 12 in 90% yield after workup.<sup>[20](#page-3-0)</sup> The identity of 12 was established by NMR.  $^{31}P$  NMR revealed the presence of two characteristic doublets at 4.45 (NPN) and 21.12 ( $P(C_6H_5)$ ) ppm with  ${}^2J_{PP} = 29.6$  Hz [\(Scheme](#page-2-0)

<span id="page-2-0"></span>

Scheme 3. S- and N-alkylation of the iminophosphoradamantane 7.



Scheme 4. Synthesis of the water-soluble mono- and di-cationic  $[P=N=P]$  compounds 12 and 13.

4). As expected, monoalkylation of 12 proceeded almost quantitatively leading to 13, the first example of a dicationic species bearing a charged PNP unit and an N-alkylated phosphoradamantane.<sup>[21](#page-3-0)</sup> The reaction was monitored by <sup>31</sup>P NMR with the disappearance of the two doublets due to compound 12 on behalf of two new doublets at  $-2.8$  (NPN) and 24.8 (P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) ppm  $(^{2}J_{\text{PP}} = 35.3 \text{ Hz})$ . <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra corroborate the formation of 13 with the appearance of new singlets for the N–CH<sub>3</sub> group at 3.88 ppm in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and 45.31 ppm in the  $^{13}$ C NMR accompanied with multiplicity of the other signals ( $CH<sub>3</sub>$  and  $CH<sub>2</sub>$  signals) due to the desymmetrization of the molecule. Remarkably, in marked contrast with the  $[P=N=P]^+$  cations reported in the literature, 12 was found to be fairly soluble in water while 13 was only slightly soluble.

In summary, we have developed new classes of neutral, monocationic, and dicationic constraint structures based on trihydrazidophosphoradamantanes, most of them being water soluble. These air-stable derivatives are convenient to prepare, store, and handle<sup>22</sup> and open new possibilities in homogeneous catalysis. These properties will be illustrated in forthcoming letters.

## Acknowledgements

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- 11. Synthesis and characterization of 5: To a solution of 0.10 g  $(0.5 \text{ mmol})$  of  $(CH_2NMeN)_3P$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL) at room temperature was added  $0.082$  g (57 µL) of CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> using a microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at rt. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure afforded the expected compound as a white powder in 96% yield.  ${}^{31}P_1{}^{1}H$ }NMR (81 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 103.0 (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz,  $CD_2Cl_2$ )  $\delta$  2.86 (d, 103.0 (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  2.86 (d, <sup>3</sup>L - 15.0 Hz 6H CH) 2.96 (s 3H CH) 3.08 (d  ${}^{3}J_{\text{PH}} = 15.0 \text{ Hz}$ , 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.96 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.08 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{\text{PH}} = 15.0 \text{ Hz}$ , 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.15 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 11.8 \text{ Hz}$ , 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  35.79 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 14.9 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 38.80 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 19.8 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 46.16 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 60.24 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 66.40 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.40 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 121.25 (q,  $J_{\text{CF}} =$ 319.8 Hz,  $CF_3$ ). Anal. Calcd for  $C_8H_{18}N_6O_3PSF_3$ : C, 26.23; H, 4.95; N, 22.94. Found: C, 26.16; H, 4.87; N, 22.90.
- 12. Synthesis and characterization of 6a: To a solution of 0.117 g (0.5 mmol) of  $(CH_2NMeN)_3P(S)$  in  $CH_2Cl_2(3 mL)$ at room temperature (0.082 g, 57  $\mu$ L) of CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> was added via microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred

<span id="page-3-0"></span>for 2 h at rt, then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to afford the expected compound as a white powder in  $95\%$  yield.  ${}^{31}P_1{}^{1}H$ }NMR (81.015 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  67.42 (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200.133 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$ 2.95 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 13.3 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.23 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 13.2 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.25 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 0.89 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.61 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 14.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 4.78 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 14.6 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.30 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 11.5 \text{ Hz}$ , 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.52 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 11.5 \text{ Hz}$ , 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (50.323 MHz, CDCl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  31.50 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.80 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 47.12 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 64.90 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 67.80 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 5.9 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.90 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.6 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 320.1 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd for  $C_8H_{18}N_6O_3PS_2F_3$ : C, 24.12; H, 4.55; N, 21.10. Found: C, 24.07; H, 4.48; N, 21.19.

- 13. Synthesis and characterization of 6b: To a solution of 0.10 g (0.5 mmol) of  $(CH_2NMeN)_3P(O)$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (3 mL) at room temperature was added  $0.082 \text{ g}$  (57 µL) of  $CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>$  by microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at rt. Removal of the solvent afforded the expected compound as a white powder in 94% yield.<br><sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  2.94 (s); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\delta$  2.86 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 10.7 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.04 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 10.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.13 (d, <sup>4</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 1.5 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.34 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{HH} = 14.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 4.69 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{HH} = 14.2$  Hz, 1H, CH), 5.11 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{HH} = 12.1$  Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 5.27 (d, <sup>2</sup> $J_{HH} = 12.1$  Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR  $(63 \text{ MHz}, \text{CD}_3\text{CN})$   $\delta$  29.10 (d,  $^2J_{\text{CP}} = 2.5 \text{ Hz}, \text{CH}_3$ ), 33.31  $(s, CH_3)$ , 45.52 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 63.54 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 63.60 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.02 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.8 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 319.2 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>). Anal. Calcd for  $C_8H_{18}N_6O_4PSF_3$ : C, 25.13; H, 4.75; N, 21.98. Found: C, 25.16; H, 4.67; N, 21.82.
- 14. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structure in this letter have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication number CCDC294642.
- 15. Synthesis and characterization of 7: To a solution of 0.10 g  $(0.5 \text{ mmol})$  of  $(CH_2NMeN)_3P$  in 4 mL THF was added  $N_3P(S)(OC_6H_4CHO)_2$  (0.174 g, 0.5 mmol) in 3 mL THF via cannula at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at rt for 2 h. After solvent removal under reduced pressure, the product was obtained as a white powder in 95% yield. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 3.83 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 58.15 Hz, P=N), 48.10 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 58.15 Hz, P=S), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$  2.81 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 12.7 Hz, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.24 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.80 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 13.1 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.45 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.2 Hz, 4H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 7.92 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 8.2 Hz, 4H, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 9.99 (s, 2H, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (63 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\delta$ 34.98 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 66.41 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 122.0 (s, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 131.17 (s, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 133.24 (s, C, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), 156.31 (d,  $J_{CP} =$ 8.8 Hz, C, C6H4), 190.80 (s, CHO). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{20}H_{25}N_7O_4P_2S$ : C, 46.07; H, 4.83; N, 18.80. Found: C, 46.12; H, 4.79; N, 18.72.
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- 20. Synthesis and characterization of 12: To a suspension containing 0.157 g (0.5 mmol) of  $(C_6H_5)_3$ PNH<sub>2</sub>Cl in THF (6 mL) at  $-50$  °C was added dropwise a solution of 0.625 mL (1 mmol) of n-BuLi (1.6 M solution in hexane). The reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and  $0.257$  mL  $(0.5 \text{ mmol})$  of Br<sub>2</sub> was added. After 1 h, a solution of  $0.101 \text{ g}$   $(0.5 \text{ mmol})$  of  $(CH<sub>2</sub>NMeN)<sub>3</sub>P$  in 3 mL THF was added via cannula. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and the resulting white precipitate was filtered. The white solid was washed with a 1:1 ether/ THF solution. Compound 12 was obtained as a white powder in 90% yield. <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ 4.45 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 29.6 Hz, NPN), 21.12 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 29.6 Hz,<br>P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.65 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 13.05 Hz, 9H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4.61 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.82 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>HH</sub> = 12.6 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.67 (m, 15H, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C<sub>NMR</sub> (63 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  35.04 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 66.72 (d, <sup>3</sup> $J_{CP} = 5.66$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 123.10 (d, <sup>1</sup> $I_{L} = 103.8$  Hz, C i, C, H), 125.50 (d, <sup>1</sup> $I_{L} = 108.2$  Hz  $J_{\rm CP} = 103.8 \text{ Hz}, \text{ C}, i\text{-C}_6\text{H}_5$ , 125.50 (d,  $\overline{J}_{\rm CP} = 108.2 \text{ Hz}$ , C, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 129.51 (d,  $J_{CP} = 13.2$  Hz, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 130.12 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 13.8$  Hz, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 131.90 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 11.9$  Hz, CH,  $C_6H_5$ ), 133.25 (d,  $J_{CP} = 11.9$  Hz, CH,  $C_6H_5$ ), 134.31<br>(d,  ${}^4J_{CP} = 3.1$  Hz, CH,  $p$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 134.75 (d,  ${}^4J_{CP} = 2.5$  Hz, CH,  $p$ -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>7</sub>P<sub>2</sub>Br: C, 51.62; H, 5.42; N, 17.56. Found: C, 51.58; H, 5.38; N, 17.60.
- 21. Synthesis and characterization of 13: To a solution of  $0.28 \text{ g}$  (0.5 mmol) of 12 in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 mL) at room temperature was added  $0.82$  g (56.6  $\mu$ L) of CF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub> using a microsyringe. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at rt. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure afforded the expected compound as a white powder in 95% yield.  ${}^{31}P(^{1}H)NMR$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ -2.8 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 35.3 Hz, NPN), 24.8 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PP</sub> = 35.3 Hz, P(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  2.75 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.04 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 12.4 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.88 (s, 3H<sub>1</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>), 4 CH), 4.78 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 12.5 \text{ Hz}$ , 1H, CH), 5.43 (d,  ${}^{2}I_{\text{H}} = 12.5 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{2}I_{\text{H}} = 12.5 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{2}I_{\text{H}} = 12.6 \text{ Hz}$ ,  ${}^{2}I_{\text{H}} = 12.6 \text{ Hz}$  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 12.6 \text{ Hz}, 2H, \text{ CH}_2$ ), 5.68 (d,  ${}^{2}J_{\text{HH}} = 12.6 \text{ Hz}, 2H, \text{ CH}_2$ ), 7.71 (m, 15H, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (63 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  30.64 (d, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>CP</sub> = 3.8 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.09 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 45.31 (s, CH<sub>3</sub>), 64.26 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 76.34 (s, CH<sub>2</sub>), 120.4 (q, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 320.1 Hz, CF<sub>3</sub>), 122.42 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 86.8 Hz, C, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 124.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>J<sub>CF</sub> = 91.8 Hz, C, *i*-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 129.7 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 14.4$  Hz, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 130.40 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 13.8$  Hz, CH,  $C_6H_5$ ), 132.20 (d,  $J_{CP} = 11.9$  Hz, CH,  $C_6H_5$ ), 132.92 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 11.3$  Hz, CH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>), 134.82 (d,  $J_{\rm CP} = 2.5$  Hz, CH,  $p\text{-}C_6H_5$ ), 135.21 (d,  $J_{CP} = 3.1 \text{ Hz}$ , CH,  $p\text{-}C_6H_5$ ). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{26}H_{33}N_7O_3P_2SBrF_3$ : C, 43.22; H, 4.60; N, 13.57. Found: C, 43.14; H, 4.52; N, 13.48.
- 22. No cleavage of the P–N bond was detected in all these experiments confirming the rigidity brought about by the adamantane skeleton.