

# Synthesis of tetraphenylphosphonium (thio)phosphorylthiobenzamides and hydrolytic degradation to $\text{Ph}_3\text{P}=\text{O}$ , $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ and phosphoryl(thio)benzamides: A route for crystal design of $\text{PhC}(\text{X})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OiPr})_2$ ( $\text{X}=\text{S}, \text{O}$ )

Damir A. Safin<sup>a</sup>, Maria G. Babashkina<sup>a,\*</sup>, Michael Bolte<sup>b</sup>, Yann Garcia<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Condensed Matter and Nanosciences, MOST – Inorganic Chemistry, Université Catholique de Louvain, Place L. Pasteur 1, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

<sup>b</sup> Institut für Anorganische Chemie, J.-W.-Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt/Main, Germany

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## ABSTRACT

Reactions of the sodium salts of  $\text{PhC}(\text{S})\text{NHP}(\text{Y})(\text{OiPr})_2$  ( $\text{Y}=\text{S}, \text{HL}^{\text{I}}$ ;  $\text{O}, \text{HL}^{\text{II}}$ ) with  $\text{PPh}_4\text{Br}$  in 96% aqueous EtOH leads to the corresponding compounds  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$ . The structures of these compounds were investigated by IR,  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectroscopies; their compositions were examined by microanalysis. Recrystallization of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$  from EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (1:1, v/v) leads to the formation of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OiPr})_2$  ( $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}$ ), respectively. The crystal structures of  $\text{HL}^{\text{I,II,III}}$  are reported and compared with the previously reported polymorphs.

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*N*-(Thio)phosphorylated (thio)ureas and (thio)amides  $\text{RC}(\text{X})\text{NHP}(\text{Y})(\text{OR}')_2$  ( $\text{X}, \text{Y}=\text{O}, \text{S}$ ) are easily deprotonated under the influence of bases in aqueous alcohol medium [1–3]. Accordingly salts with alkaline metal cations are easily formed. In the literature there is so far only one crystal structure of a salt of *N*-(thio)phosphorylthioureas ( $[\text{K}(\text{Me}_2\text{CO})](\text{PhNHC}(\text{S})\text{NP}(\text{S})(\text{OiPr})_2)$ ) [4]. The structures of similar compounds, salts of *N*-(thio)phosphorylamides and thioamides  $[\text{M}(\text{CCl}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NP}(\text{O})(\text{OMe})_2)]$ ,  $\text{M}=\text{Na}^+$  or  $\text{Rb}^+$  [5];  $[\text{K}(\text{Me}_2\text{CO})](\text{PhC}(\text{S})\text{NP}(\text{S})(\text{OiPr})_2)$  [6],  $[\text{K}(\text{MeOH})](\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{NP}(\text{S})\text{Ph}_2)$  [7,8] have also been investigated. Salts of *N*-phosphorylamides and thioamides with the alkaline metal cation being complexed by crown ether molecules  $[\text{M}(\text{crown})](\text{PhC}(\text{Y})\text{NP}(\text{X})(\text{OiPr})_2)$  ( $\text{X}, \text{Y}=\text{O}, \text{S}$ ;  $\text{M}=\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ; crown = 18-crown-6, dibenzo-18-crown-6, 1,10-diaza-18-crown-6) are also described [1]. Furthermore, a number of salts of imidodiphosphinate ligands  $\text{R}_2\text{P}(\text{X})\text{NHP}(\text{Y})\text{R}'_2$  were isolated and structurally characterized [9–11]. Phosphonium salts of  $\text{RC}(\text{O})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OR}')_2$  are also of interest, since they might exhibit a variety of structures [1,5].

The X-ray diffraction data for crystal modifications of each *N*-(diisopropoxyphosphoryl)(thio)benzamides  $\text{PhC}(\text{S})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OiPr})_2$  [12,13] and  $\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OiPr})_2$  were reported earlier [14,15].

Herein we present data about the tetraphenylphosphonium salts of  $\text{PhC}(\text{S})\text{NHP}(\text{Y})(\text{OiPr})_2$  ( $\text{Y}=\text{S}, \text{HL}^{\text{I}}$ ;  $\text{O}, \text{HL}^{\text{II}}$ ) (Scheme 1). Recrystallization

of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$  from EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (1:1, v/v) leads to the formation of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{PhC}(\text{O})\text{NHP}(\text{O})(\text{OiPr})_2$  ( $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}$ ), respectively. The crystal structures of  $\text{HL}^{\text{I,II,III}}$  are reported and compared with the previously reported polymorphs.

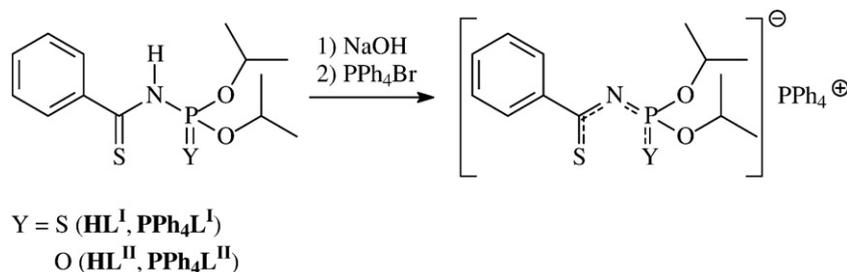
The tetraphenylphosphonium salts  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$  were prepared by the following procedure: the ligand was *in situ* converted to the sodium salt, followed by interaction with  $\text{PPh}_4\text{Br}$  (Scheme 1) [16]. The obtained compounds are solids, which are soluble in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and slightly soluble in EtOH and most polar solvents.

The IR spectra of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$  contain an intense absorption band for the conjugated  $\text{S}\cdots\text{N}$  group at about  $1560\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . There is a weak absorption band of the  $\text{P}=\text{S}$  group at  $608\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the spectrum of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I}}$ , while a band for the  $\text{P}=\text{O}$  group in the spectrum of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{II}}$  was observed at  $1192\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The strong band at  $996\text{--}1008\text{ cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to the POC group. No NH group bands were found in the IR spectra of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$ .

In the  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I}}$  the resonance at 61.8 ppm corresponds to the phosphorus atom of the thiophosphoryl group [1], while the singlet signal of the phosphoryl group in the spectrum of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{II}}$  was found at 11.4 ppm [1]. These signals are low-field shifted relative to those in the spectra of  $\text{HL}^{\text{I,II}}$ , respectively [1]. The signal of the phosphorus atom of  $\text{PPh}_4^+$  was found at 22.3–23.9 ppm. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I,II}}$  contain only signals, which correspond to the proposed structures. The spectra contain a set of signals for the *i*Pr protons: signals for the  $\text{CH}_3$  protons at 1.08–1.18 ppm and a signal for the CH protons at 4.57–4.74 ppm. The signals for the phenyl protons in the spectra were observed at 6.21–7.82 ppm.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: maria.babashkina@ksu.ru (M.G. Babashkina).



Scheme 1.

The ES (electrospray method) mass spectra were measured in the positive and negative ion regime. In the mass spectra of **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>** besides the  $[\text{PPh}_4]^+$  peak there are characteristic peaks for the molecular ions  $[\text{PPh}_4\text{Lig} + \text{H}]^+$  and, in addition, peaks for the  $[\text{PPh}_4\text{Lig} + \text{PPh}_4]^+$  and  $[(\text{PPh}_4)_2\text{Lig}_2 + \text{H}]^+$  cations; some of them containing additional solvent molecules (alcohol and/or water). Negative ES mass spectra of **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>** revealed peaks of  $[\text{Lig}]^-$  but again also the peaks of the composition as  $[\text{PPh}_4\text{Lig} + \text{solv} + \text{Lig}]^-$  and  $[(\text{PPh}_4)_2\text{Lig}_2 + \text{solv} + \text{Lig}]^-$  (solv = H<sub>2</sub>O or CH<sub>3</sub>OH).

Unfortunately, we were not successful to obtain X-ray-suitable crystals of **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>** even though attempting a number of different sol-

vents for crystallization. However, recrystallization of **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>** from an aqueous EtOH solution (1:1, v/v) leads to the formation of **HL<sup>II</sup>** and **HL<sup>III</sup>**, respectively. After several days, yellow needles of **HL<sup>II</sup>** or colorless plates of **HL<sup>III</sup>** were deposited and then isolated by decantation. The structures of **HL<sup>III</sup>** were proven by means of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopy and microanalysis. The mother liquor was left for one day and afterwards the fine-crystalline solid of Ph<sub>3</sub>P=O ( $\delta_p = 29.9$  ppm [17]) was formed. The hydrolysis of the thiophosphoryl and thiocarbonyl groups was most likely caused by the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O as well as the presence of the  $\text{PPh}_4^+$  ion. We assume, that binding of  $\text{PPh}_4^+$  to  $\text{L}^{1-}$  or  $\text{L}^{2-}$  through the sulfur atom of the thiopho-

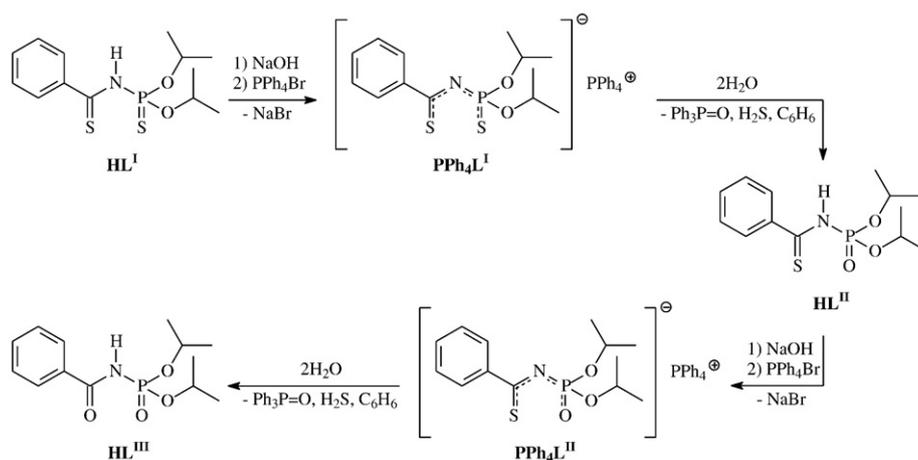


Chart 1.

**Table 1**  
Crystal data and data collection details for **HL<sup>II</sup>** and **HL<sup>III</sup>**.

	<b>HL<sup>II</sup></b>		<b>HL<sup>III</sup></b>	
	Polymorph <b>HL<sup>II</sup></b> (1)	Polymorph <b>HL<sup>II</sup></b> (2) [13]	Polymorph <b>HL<sup>III</sup></b> (1)	Polymorph <b>HL<sup>III</sup></b> (2) [14]
Empirical formula	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>20</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> PS	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>20</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> PS	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>20</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> P	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>20</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> P
Formula weight	301.33	301.33	285.27	285.28
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	C2/c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n	C2/c	P2 <sub>1</sub> /c
a/Å	23.694 (2)	9.497 (1)	22.831 (2)	15.573( 4)
b/Å	9.0823 (8)	18.972 (2)	8.8312( 9)	9.546 (2)
c/Å	14.8961 (15)	8.937 (1)	14.9842 (15)	21.897 (3)
β/°	91.696 (8)	95.30 (1)	91.025 (2)	100.94 (2)
V/Å <sup>3</sup>	3204.2 (5)	1603.4 (3)	3020.7 (5)	3196 (6)
Z	8	4	8	8
D <sub>calc</sub> /g cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.25	1.25	1.26	1.19
T/K	173 (2)	293 (2)	100 (2)	293 (2)
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.3 (Mo Kα)	2.8 (Cu Kα)	0.2 (Mo Kα)	1.7 (Mo Kα)
Reflections collected	10,491	3492	8551	7528
Unique reflections	2988	3295	3068	2290
Observed reflections	2270 (R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0511)	3030 (R <sub>int</sub> = 0.012)	2646 (R <sub>int</sub> = 0.024)	1506 (R <sub>int</sub> = not given)
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0594, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1730	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.041, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.112	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0487, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1217	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.044, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.053

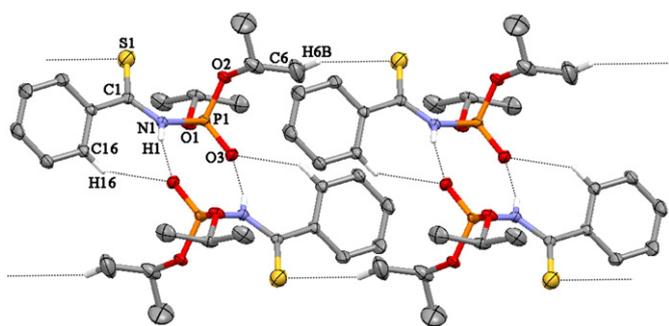


Fig. 1. Displacement ellipsoid representation of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}$ . Ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms not involved in H-bonding are omitted for clarity.

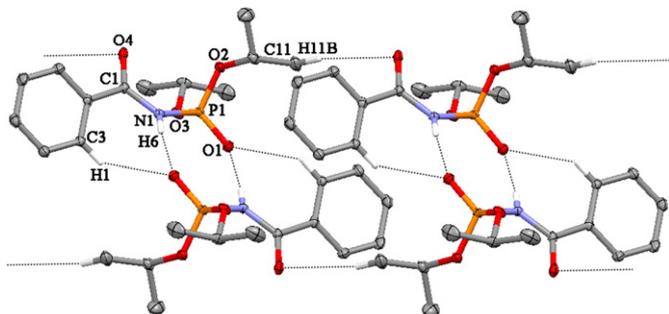


Fig. 2. Displacement ellipsoid representation of  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}$ . Ellipsoids are drawn at the 30% probability level. Hydrogen atoms not involved in H-bonding are omitted for clarity.

sphoryl or the thiocarbonyl group, respectively, might provoke the hydrolysis of the  $\text{P}=\text{S}$  group in  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{I}}$  and the  $\text{C}=\text{S}$  group in  $\text{PPh}_4\text{L}^{\text{II}}$  (Chart 1). It should be noted, that recrystallization of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}$  or their sodium salts from an EtOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  solution (1:1, v/v) does not lead to the hydrolysis products.

The crystal structures of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}$  were elucidated by single-crystal X-ray diffraction [18] and are compared with the previously reported structures [12–15]. It is noteworthy that the X-ray suitable crystals of the recently published structures of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}$  were obtained from the slow evaporation of their solutions in the chloroform–ethanol (1:1, v/v) and benzene–diethyl ether (1:2, v/v) mixtures, respectively [12–15]. Results of the structure solutions and refinements are collected in Table 1. The representative structures are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, bonding parameters are collected in Table 2.

Table 2  
Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles ( $^\circ$ ) for  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}$ .

	Polymorph $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$	Polymorph $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{2\}$ [13]	Polymorph $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$	Polymorph $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$ [14]
<i>Bond lengths</i>				
P–O	1.561 (2), 1.569 (2)	1.545 (1), 1.557 (1)	1.5553 (15), 1.5647 (14)	1.544 (4), 1.546 (4), 1.559 (5), 1.560 (5)
P=O	1.471 (2)	1.465 (1)	1.4654 (15)	1.440 (4), 1.463 (4)
P–N	1.677 (3)	1.675 (1)	1.6633 (17)	1.649 (6), 1.670 (5)
X=C	1.591 (3)	1.650 (2)	1.309 (2)	1.200 (7), 1.229 (7)
N–C	1.366 (4)	1.365 (2)	1.374 (2)	1.356 (8), 1.388 (8)
<i>Bond angles</i>				
O=P–O	115.22 (13), 115.30 (13)	114.73 (7), 114.96 (7)	114.60 (8), 115.90 (8)	116.1 (3), 116.3 (3), 116.4 (3)
O–P–O	103.81 (12)	104.94 (6)	103.54 (8)	98.1 (2), 101.9 (3)
O=P–N	107.52 (13)	107.05 (7)	108.48 (8)	107.8 (3), 110.4 (3)
O–P–N	105.08 (13), 109.37 (12)	105.61 (7), 109.09 (7)	104.42 (8), 109.29 (8)	101.6 (3), 108.9 (3), 109.1 (3)
C–N–P	126.7 (2)	128.4 (1)	124.44 (14)	126.8 (5)
N–C=X	122.6 (2)	123.2 (1)	122.05 (17)	120.4 (7)
<i>Torsion angles<sup>a</sup></i>				
O=P–N–C	–176.3 (2)	174.5 (1)	–174.98 (15)	174.9, 179.6
O–P–N–C	–53.1 (3), 57.8 (3)	51.9 (2), –60.5 (2)	–50.82 (17), 59.42 (18)	47.9, 55.5, –51.5, –58.2
P–N–C=X	–9.4 (4)	7.5 (2)	–12.1 (3)	4.8, 11.8

<sup>a</sup> Torsion angles must be compared by their magnitudes.

The crystal structures of  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}$  reveal to be polymorphs of the previously reported structures [13,14]. In view of the fact that the structures of these polymorphs ( $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$ ) have been established we discuss in the following the structural parameters of these polymorphs in comparison with the recently established second polymorphs  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{2\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$ .

The polymorphs  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$  crystallize in the monoclinic space group  $\text{C}2/c$  ( $Z=8$ ), while the polymorphs  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{2\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$  crystallize in the space groups  $\text{P}2_1/n$  ( $Z=4$ ) [13] and  $\text{P}2_1/c$  ( $Z=8$ ) [14], respectively (Table 1). The polymorph  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$  contains two independent molecules in the crystal [14]. The parameters of the  $\text{C}=\text{S}$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{N}$ ,  $\text{P}-\text{N}$  and  $\text{P}=\text{O}$  distances observed in the molecular structures of the polymorphs  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{2\}$  (Table 2) are in the typical range for  $N$ -phosphorylated (thio)amides [1]. The  $\text{P}-\text{N}-\text{C}=\text{X}$  moieties in  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{2\}$  exhibit an  $E$ -conformation (Figs. 1 and 2) [13,14], and are significantly flattened (torsion angle is  $-9.4(4)^\circ$  in  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$ ,  $7.5(2)^\circ$  in  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{2\}$ ,  $-12.1(3)^\circ$  in  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$ , and  $4.8^\circ$  and  $11.8^\circ$  in  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$ , respectively) and rotated towards the phenyl group.

In the crystal modifications  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{2\}$  the molecules are linked into identical centrosymmetric or pseudocentrosymmetric dimers by a pair of intermolecular hydrogen bonds  $\text{N}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}=\text{P}^{\#1}$ , formed between the hydrogen atom of the  $\text{NH}$  group and the oxygen atom of the  $\text{P}=\text{O}$  group of a neighboring molecule (Figs. 1 and 2, Table 3). Furthermore, in the polymorphs  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  a centrosymmetric dimer is additionally stabilized by two H-bonding contacts  $\text{C}-\text{H}(\text{Ph})\cdots\text{O}=\text{P}^{\#1}$ , formed between the hydrogen atom of the *ortho* CH unit of the phenyl group and the oxygen atom of the  $\text{P}=\text{O}$  group of a further molecule (Figs. 1 and 2, Table 3). These dimers in  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  are packed into stacks along the  $b$  axis by intermolecular  $\text{C}-\text{H}(i\text{Pr})\cdots\text{S}=\text{C}^{\#2}$  or  $\text{C}-\text{H}(i\text{Pr})\cdots\text{O}=\text{C}^{\#2}$  interactions, respectively, formed between the methyl hydrogen atoms of the  $i\text{Pr}$  groups and the sulfur ( $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$ ) or oxygen ( $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$ ) atoms of the  $\text{C}=\text{S}$  or  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  groups of further dimers (Figs. 1 and 2, Table 3). The crystal packing in the modification  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{1\}$  is similar to that in  $\text{HL}^{\text{II}}\{2\}$  (Table 1), while the crystal packing in the polymorph  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{1\}$  differs markedly compared with the crystallographic modification  $\text{HL}^{\text{III}}\{2\}$  (Table 1). This is also evident in the difference of density ( $0.07\text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) of the polymorphs.

It should be noted, that the differences in the polymorphs are not apparently due to the hydrogen bonding. Thus, compounds  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{1\}$  and  $\text{HL}^{\text{II,III}}\{2\}$  can be considered as a good example to stress the importance of the entire crystal packing arrangement to the overall energy and stability of a certain crystal form [29,30].

Table 3

Hydrogen bond lengths (Å) and angles (°) for HL<sup>II</sup> and HL<sup>III</sup>.

		D–H⋯A	d (D–H)	d (H⋯A)	d (D⋯A)	∠ (DHA)
HL <sup>II</sup>	Polymorph HL <sup>II</sup> {1} <sup>a</sup>	N(1)–H(1)⋯O(3) <sup>#1</sup>	0.83 (4)	2.04 (4)	2.849 (4)	165 (3)
		C(16)–H(16)⋯O(3) <sup>#1</sup>	0.95	2.60	3.239 (4)	125
		C(6)–H(6B)⋯S(1) <sup>#2</sup>	0.98	2.81	3.705 (6)	152
HL <sup>III</sup>	Polymorph HL <sup>III</sup> {2} <sup>b</sup> [13]	N(1)–H(1)⋯O(3) <sup>#1</sup>	0.87 (2)	1.95 (2)	2.805 (2)	165 (2)
		N(1)–H(6)⋯O(1) <sup>#1</sup>	0.80 (3)	2.04 (3)	2.836 (2)	172 (3)
	Polymorph HL <sup>III</sup> {1} <sup>c</sup>	C(3)–H(1)⋯O(1) <sup>#1</sup>	0.95	2.58	3.254 (2)	128
		C(11)–H(11B)⋯O(4) <sup>#2</sup>	0.98	2.68	3.615	159
		N–H(1)⋯O(1) <sup>c</sup>	0.89 (6)	1.96 (8)	2.837 (7)	162 (5)
		N'–H(1)'⋯O(1)	0.84 (6)	1.99 (6)	2.811 (7)	164 (6)

<sup>a</sup> Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 1/2–x, 1/2–y, 1–z; #2 x, –1+y, z.<sup>b</sup> Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 1–x, –y, –z.<sup>c</sup> Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms: #1 3/2–x, 3/2–y, 1–z; #2 x, –1+y, z.

In summary, the tetraphenylphosphonium salts **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>II/III</sup>** have been synthesized and characterized by means of IR, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectroscopy, ES mass spectrometry and microanalysis. Recrystallization of **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>II/III</sup>** from an aqueous EtOH solution (1:1, v/v) leads to the formation of **HL<sup>II/III</sup>**, respectively. The crystal structures of **HL<sup>II/III</sup>** reveal to be polymorphs to the previously reported structures. Single crystal X-ray diffraction studies showed that **HL<sup>II/III</sup>** form intermolecular hydrogen bonds leading to the centrosymmetric dimer formation.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary material

CCDC 767460 (**HL<sup>II</sup>**) and 767909 (**HL<sup>III</sup>**) contain the supplementary crystallographic data. These data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html>, or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; or e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk). Supplementary data to this article can be found online at [doi:10.1016/j.inoche.2012.02.041](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.inoche.2012.02.041).

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- [16] *Physical measurements*: IR spectra were recorded with Bruker IFS66F/S or Specord M-80 spectrometers in the range 400–3600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. NMR spectra (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) were obtained on Bruker Avance 300 MHz or Varian Unity-300 NMR spectrometers at 25 °C. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} spectra were recorded at 299.948 and 121.420 MHz, respectively. Chemical shifts are reported with reference to SiMe<sub>4</sub> (<sup>1</sup>H) and 85% H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (<sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H}). Electrospray ionization mass spectra were measured with a Finnigan-Mat TCQ 700 mass spectrometer on a 10<sup>-6</sup> M solution in CH<sub>3</sub>OH. The speed of sample submission was 2 μL/min. The ionization energy was 4.5 kV. The capillary temperature was 200 °C. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer 2400 CHN microanalyser. *Synthesis of PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>II/III</sup>*: A suspension of **HL<sup>II/III</sup>** (0.317 or 0.301 g, respectively; 1.0 mmol), in 96% aqueous EtOH (10 mL) was mixed with a 96% aqueous EtOH (10 mL) solution of sodium hydroxide (0.044 g, 1.1 mmol, 10% excess). A 96% aqueous EtOH (10 mL) solution of PPh<sub>4</sub>Br (0.419 g, 1.0 mmol) was added dropwise under vigorous stirring to the resulting sodium salt. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for a further 3 hours and left overnight. The white precipitate of NaBr was filtered off, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. A yellow (**PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>II</sup>**) or colorless precipitate (**PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>**) was isolated from a H<sub>2</sub>O/EtOH mixture (1:1, v/v). **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>II</sup>**: Yield 0.525 g (80%). IR ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 608 (P=S), 996 (POC), 1562 (S-C-N). <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ (ppm): 1.14 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>, iPr), 1.18 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.1 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>, iPr), 4.57 (d sept, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>POCH</sub> = 9.4 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 2H, OCH), 6.38–7.82 (m, overlapped with the solvent signal, Ph). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR δ (ppm): 23.9 (1P, PPh<sub>4</sub>), 61.8 (1P, NPS). ES-MS positive ion *m/z* (%): 339.4 (100) [PPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 657.1 (81.8) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + H]<sup>+</sup>, 1013.4 (28.9) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + H<sub>2</sub>O + PPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1041.7 (17.4) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + EtOH + PPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1330.8 (10.9) [(PPh<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Lig<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O + H]<sup>+</sup>. ES-MS negative ion *m/z* (%): 316.2 (62.1) [Lig]<sup>-</sup>, 972.4 (85.3) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + Lig]<sup>-</sup>, 1646.8 (38.6) [(PPh<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Lig<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O + Lig]<sup>-</sup>. Anal. for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (655.79): calcd. C 67.77, H 5.99, N 2.14; found C 67.64, H 6.04, N 2.09. **PPh<sub>4</sub>L<sup>III</sup>**: Yield 0.569 g (89%). IR ν (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1008 (POC), 1192 (P=O), 1557 (S-C-N). <sup>1</sup>H NMR δ (ppm): 1.08 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.0 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>, iPr), 1.14 (d, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.2 Hz, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>, iPr), 4.74 (d sept, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>POCH</sub> = 9.0 Hz, <sup>3</sup>J<sub>H,H</sub> = 6.0 Hz, 2H, OCH), 6.21–7.76 (m, overlapping with the solvent signal, Ph). <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR δ (ppm): 11.4 (1P, NPO), 22.3 (1P, PPh<sub>4</sub>). ES-MS positive ion *m/z* (%): 339.1 (100) [PPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 641.3 (70.2) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + H]<sup>+</sup>, 979.6 (44.1) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + PPh<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1312.0 (27.4) [(PPh<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Lig<sub>2</sub> + CH<sub>3</sub>OH + H]<sup>+</sup>. ES-MS negative ion *m/z* (%): 300.3 (48.2) [Lig]<sup>-</sup>, 972.7 (13.6) [PPh<sub>4</sub>Lig + CH<sub>3</sub>OH + Lig]<sup>-</sup>. Anal. for C<sub>37</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>S (639.73): calcd. C 69.47, H 6.14, N 2.19; found: C 69.32, H 6.18, N 2.13.
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