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**Reactions of lithium salts of triphosphines  
tBu<sub>2</sub>P–PLi–PtBu<sub>2</sub> and tBu<sub>2</sub>P–PLi–P(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with  
metal complexes [(R<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>MCl<sub>2</sub>] (M = Ni, Pd, Pt, R<sub>3</sub>P  
= Et<sub>3</sub>P, pTol<sub>3</sub>P, Ph<sub>2</sub>EtP, iPr<sub>3</sub>P)**

Aleksandra Wiśniewska, Katarzyna Baranowska, Rafal Grubba, Eberhard  
Matern, Jerzy Pikies

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**Reactions of lithium salts of triphosphines tBu<sub>2</sub>P–PLi–PtBu<sub>2</sub>  
 and tBu<sub>2</sub>P–PLi–P(NEt<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with metal complexes  
 [(R<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>MCl<sub>2</sub>] (M = Ni, Pd, Pt, R<sub>3</sub>P = Et<sub>3</sub>P, pTol<sub>3</sub>P, Ph<sub>2</sub>EtP,  
 iPr<sub>3</sub>P)**

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5 **Reactions of lithium salts of triphosphines  $t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  and  $t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-}$**   
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8  **$\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$  with metal complexes  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni, Pd, Pt, R}_3\text{P} = \text{Et}_3\text{P, }^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P,}$**   
9  
10  **$\text{Ph}_2\text{EtP, }^i\text{Pr}_3\text{P}$ )**

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1  
2 **Abstract.**  $t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  reacts with  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Pt, Pd, Ni}$ ) yielding isomers of  
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4  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  where  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  ligand adopts the geometry of a side-on  
5  
6 bonded 1,1-di-*tert*-butyl-2-(di-*tert*-butylphosphino)diphosphenium cation.  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-}$   
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8  $\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  reacts with  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  but does not form complexes with a  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$   
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10 moiety, however, splitting of a  $\text{P-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$  bond of the parent triphosphine takes place.  
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14 **Keywords:** P ligands; nickel, palladium, platinum.  
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## 1. Introduction

Phosphido and phosphinidene complexes of transition metals are versatile reagents in syntheses of phosphorus – element bond [1].

The reactivity of metal phosphides and silylphosphides towards complexes of nickel triad was studied for three decades.  $\text{LiP}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  reacts with  $[\text{Cp}(\text{Cl})\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_3)]$  at low temperature yielding unstable terminal phosphido complex [2], similarly  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$  reacts with  $\text{LiP}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  at low temperature yielding unstable mono and diphosphido Ni(II) complexes which decompose under formation of cyclic Ni(I) complexes  $[\text{R}_3\text{P-Ni}\{\mu\text{-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2\}]_2(\text{Ni-Ni})$  and side-on bonded diphosphene complexes  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{Ni}(\eta^2\text{-Me}_3\text{SiP=PSiMe}_3)]$  [3,4,5,6]. Similar behaviour was observed in reactions of  $[(\text{dRpe})\text{NiCl}_2]$  with  $\text{LiP}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  ( $\text{dRpe} = \text{R}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PR}_2$ ), the diphosphorous complexes  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{Ni}(\mu\text{-P}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{PR}_3)_2]$  were thereafter isolated.[7,8]. The reactions of  $\text{LiP}^t\text{Bu}_2$  with  $[(\text{Me}_3\text{P})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$  yielded  $[\text{Me}_3\text{P-Ni}\{\mu\text{-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\}]_2(\text{Ni-Ni})$  [9]. Thus, the phosphido ligands tend to occupy bridge positions while the stable Ni-complexes with terminal phosphido groups are rare. Driess *et al.* reported on the synthesis and X-ray structure of  $[\text{Cp}(\text{Ph}_3\text{P})\text{NiPH}(\text{SiFTrip}_2)]$  [10] and Hilhouse *et al.* reported on complex  $[(\text{dtbpe})\text{NiP}^t\text{Bu}_2]$  [11] ( $\text{dtbpe} = {}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$ ). In both cases the geometry around phosphido P atoms is pyramidal.

The data on palladium phosphido-complexes are scarce. Reduction of  $[\text{cis}-(\text{Cy}_2\text{HP})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$  with sodium yields phosphido bridged Pd(I) complex  $[\text{Cy}_2\text{HPPd}\{\mu\text{-PCy}_2\}]_2(\text{Pd-Pd})$  [12].

$[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$  reacts with  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2(\text{Me})$  in the presence Na/Nph yielding  $[\text{Et}_3\text{PPd}\{\mu\text{-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\}]_2(\text{Pd-Pd})$  [13]. Terminal phosphido Pd(II) complexes were isolated only for cyclic compounds  $[(\text{diphos})\text{Pd}\{(\text{CH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{Me}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{Mes})\}]$  [14].

$\text{LiP}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  reacts with  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  yielding initially unstable terminal mono and diphosphido Pt(II) complexes. These complexes decompose at r. t. giving rise to Pt(I) complexes  $[\text{Et}_3\text{P-Pt}\{\mu\text{-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2\}]_2(\text{Pt-Pt})$ , side-on bonded diphosphene complexes  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pt}(\eta^2\text{-Me}_3\text{SiP=PSiMe}_3)]$  and diphosphorous complexes  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pt}(\mu\text{-P}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)_2]$  [15]. The terminal phosphido complexes of Pt (II) are more stable than related complexes of Ni and Pd.  $[\text{cis}-(\text{PHCy}_2)\text{PtCl}_2]$  reacts with sodium at

r. t. yielding  $[\text{Cy}_2\text{HPPt}\{\mu\text{-PCy}_2\}]_2(\text{Pt-Pt})$  and a stable complex  $[\text{trans}-(\text{Cy}_2\text{HP})_2\text{PtCl}(\text{PCy}_2)]$ . The geometry around terminal phosphido P-atom is pyramidal [16]. A series of stable terminal Pt (II) phosphido complexes  $[(\text{dppe})\text{Pt}(\text{Me})\text{X}]$  ( $\text{X} = \text{PHR}$  or  $\text{PR}_2$ ) was described [17]. For the latest review see [18].

We have studied the reactivity of lithiated diphosphines  $\text{R}'_2\text{P-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Li}$  and lithiated triphosphine  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^i\text{Bu}_2$  towards transition metals complexes. The reaction of  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  with  $\text{R}'_2\text{P-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)_2$  involves mainly a formation of dinuclear diphosphorous complexes  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{Pt}(\mu\text{-P}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)_2]$  [19], and, with  $\text{R}'_2\text{P-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Li}$  the formation of side-on bonded phosphanylphosphinidene complexes  $[(\eta^2\text{-R}'_2\text{P=P})\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)_2]$  but not phosphido complexes. This reaction is relatively general,  $\text{R}'$  can adopt  ${}^t\text{Bu}$ ,  ${}^i\text{Pr}$ ,  $\text{Et}_2\text{N}$  and  ${}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{N}$ , but not  $\text{Ph}$  [20].

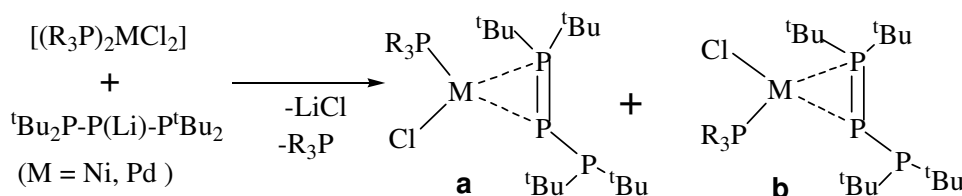
${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^i\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  reacts with  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Pd}$ ) yielding mixtures of isomers of  $[(1,2\text{-}\eta\text{-}{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^i\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}]$ . The related reaction with  $[\text{cis}-(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  does not yield  $[(1,2\text{-}\eta\text{-}{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^i\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}]$  [21]. Homologous  $[(1,2\text{-}\eta\text{-}{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^i\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Br}]$  was obtained in a different way and proved to be quite stable [22]. According to the structural and  ${}^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR data these complexes can be viewed as a modification of side-on bonded phosphanylphosphinidene complexes rather, than as terminal phosphido complexes [20].

Now we have extended our investigations on the reactivity of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^i\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  with  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Pd}, \text{Pt}$ ) where R groups possess different electronic and steric properties. Moreover, we have studied the reactivity of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  towards  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Pd}, \text{Pt}$ )

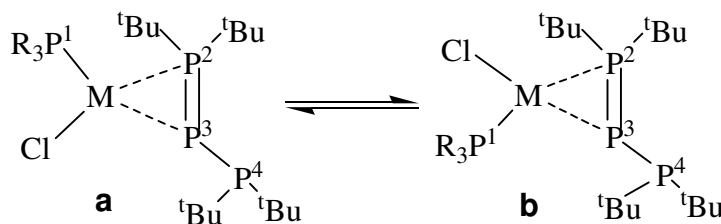
## 2. Results and Discussion

### 2.1. Reactivity

The reaction of  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Pd}, \text{Ni}$ ) with 1 molar equiv. of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^i\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  in THF at room temperature yields two isomers of  $[(1,2\text{-}\eta\text{-}{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^i\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  (**a** and **b**) (Scheme 1).



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12 However this reaction with platinum complex  $[(^i\text{PrTol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  gave only one isomer **a**. We have  
13 isolated  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(^i\text{PrTol}_3\text{P})\text{Cl}\cdot\text{C}_5\text{H}_{12}]$  (**1a**·pentane),  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-$   
14  $\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{P}^i\text{Pr}_3)\text{Cl}]$  (**2a**),  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{P}^i\text{Pr}_3)\text{Cl}]$  (**3b**),  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-$   
15  $\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_2\text{Et})\text{Cl}]$  (**4b**). We have measured the ratios of isomers **a** vs. isomers **b** in  
16 reactions solutions and after dissolving the isolated isomer in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$  (integrations of P3 signals in  
17  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR spectra) in room temperature. The ratios are similar (see Table 1). However, after  
18 repeated crystallisations we have isolated only one isomer. Thus, an equilibrium according to  
19 Scheme 2 is very plausible.  
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44 Table 1. The molar ratio of isomer **a** : isomer **b** of  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  in the  
45 reaction solution and in a solution of the isolated complex in  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ .  
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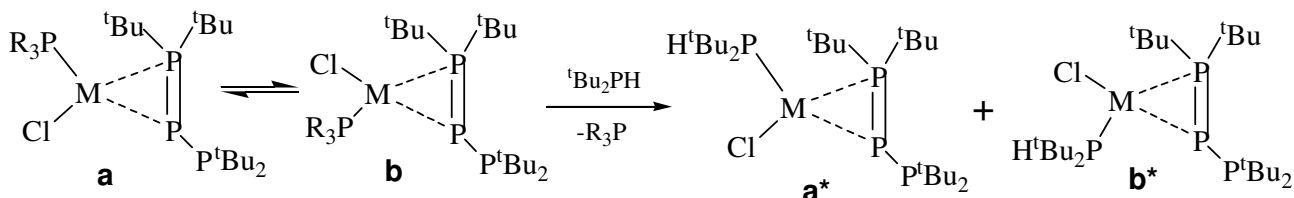
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Isolated isomer	<b>a</b> : <b>b</b> reaction sol.	<b>a</b> : <b>b</b> dissolved
$[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}]$ ( <b>7a</b> ) [12]	95 : 5	91 : 9
$[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{P}^i\text{Pr}_3)\text{Cl}]$ ( <b>2a</b> )	67 : 33	56 : 44
$[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{P}^i\text{Pr}_3)\text{Cl}]$ ( <b>3b</b> )	50 : 50	44 : 56
$[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}]$ ( <b>8a</b> ) [12]	55 : 45	52 : 48
$[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_2\text{Et})\text{Cl}]$ ( <b>4b</b> )	19 : 81	21 : 79

The reaction according to scheme 1 is accompanied by two main side reactions:

i. Exchange of the  $R_3P$  ligand in  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  with  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$  (Scheme 3).

Thus **2a** and **2b** yield **2a\*** and **2b\*** (equilibrium), **3a** and **3b** yield **2a\*** and **2b\*** (equilibrium), **4b** yields **4b\***.



Scheme 3

${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$  is a product of a splitting of the P–P bond in the triphosphine backbone. Similar splitting was observed and discussed in reactions involving  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{P}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{Li}$  [19].

ii. A reaction leading to formation of a planar isotetraphosphine  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  [23]. A mechanism of its formation is not clear.  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  was found in many runs.

$[({}^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  react with  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  forming  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}({}^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})\text{Cl}]$  (**1a**) in a poor yield. In the same experiment we have isolated a phosphanylphosphinidene complex  $[(\eta^2\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P})\text{Pt}({}^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2]$  [20]. In the reaction solution we have detected a significant amount of  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  and some amount of a Pt complex with four P atoms (A). The formation of  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  is not necessary attributed to a formation of  $[(\eta^2\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P})\text{Pt}({}^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2]$  since we have not detected this complex in the early stage of run 4.1.

The reaction of  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  with  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{P}(\text{SiMe}_3)-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  (run 4.2) yields significant amounts of  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$ . However, we have not detected  $[(\eta^2\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P})\text{Pt}(\text{PEt}_3)_2]$  which is fairly stable but then  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{P}=\text{PEt}_3$  [24]. Moreover,  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  was isolated in a reaction of  $[(\text{Et}_2\text{PhP})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  with  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$ .

The known complexes  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)\text{X}]$  (X = Cl, Br) are **a**-type isomers. This fact can be rationalized, taking into account that *trans* influence is most important for heaviest



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2 element in a group [25, 26].  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}_2$  (scheme 2) exerts stronger *trans* influence than P3 (see p. 2.2)  
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4 and it is advantageous to have Cl or Br ligands but not  $\text{R}_3\text{P}_1$  group *trans* to P2 atom

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6 We have studied the reactivity of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  towards a variety of complexes  
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8  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  (M = Pt, Pd, Ni). To our surprise these compounds do not react under formation of  
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10  $[\{1,2-\eta-{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2\}\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  or  $[\{1,2-\eta-(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_2\text{P=P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\}\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$ . We have isolated  
11  
12 and identified only two known compounds and a new adduct of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$ .  
13

- 14 1.  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  in a reaction of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  with  $[(\text{Et}_2\text{PPh})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$ .  
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- 18 2.  $[\mu-(1,3:2,3-\eta-{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}_4{}^t\text{Bu}_2)\{\text{Ni}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}\}_2]$  (**5**) [27] together with two other compounds **B** [27] and  
19  
20 **C** in a reaction of  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  with  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$ .  
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22
- 23 3.  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  react with  $[(\text{Et}_2\text{PhP})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  yielded oily product and  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  (not  
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25 detected in the early stage of this reaction).  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  was converted to relatively  
26  
27 inert  $\text{LiCl} \cdot 2\{{}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2\} \cdot 2\text{THF}$  [28]. This compound does not dissociate into  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-}$   
28  
29  $\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$  in THF solution.  
30  
31

32 The formation of **5** and of  $({}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  indicates a splitting of the  $\text{P-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$  bond in the parent  
33  
34 triphosphine backbone.  
35  
36

## 37 38 39 2.2. ${}^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR Studies, X-Ray Crystallographic Studies and Discussion

40 In Table 2 are collected  ${}^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  MNR data for complexes with side-on bonded  ${}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$   
41  
42 ligand. These data indicate that the structures in solution are the same as in solid state. The  
43  
44 equilibrium according to Scheme 2 is slow in the NMR time scale and we observed separated  
45  
46 resonances for all isomers. The large absolute values of the couplings constants  ${}^1\text{J}_{\text{P}_2-\text{P}_3}$  of 560/518  
47  
48 Hz (M = Pd, Ni) and 482/447 (M = Pt) show that this bond has a multiple bond character.  
49  
50

51 Noteworthy is a substantial high field shift of P3 ( $-66 / -130$  ppm) indicating a single-bond  
52  
53 character of a Pt-P3 bond. Similar features displays side-on bonded  ${}^t\text{Bu}(\text{Cl})\text{P=P-}{}^t\text{Bu}$  connected to  
54  
55  $\text{CpW}(\text{CO})_2$  centre [29]. The values of *trans*  ${}^2\text{JP}_1\text{-P}_2$  in “b” complexes are in the range 249.9/270  
56  
57 Hz (M = Pd) and 178.3/194.3 Hz (M = Ni). In “a” complexes the values of *trans*  ${}^2\text{JP}_1\text{-P}_3$  are in the  
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range 102.9/108.5 Hz (M = Pt, Pd) and 75.6/75.8 (M = Ni). Thus the *trans* influence of P2 is stronger than that of P3. This assumption is additionally supported by the values of  $^1J_{Pt-P}$  in **1a**. The  $^1J_{Pt-P1}$  *trans* to P3 is 3437.3 Hz and is similar to the  $^1J_{Pt-P}$  coupling in [*cis*-( $^P$ Tol<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PtCl<sub>2</sub>] of 3627 Hz. Thus according to the criterion of Benett [30] P3 atom exerts very low *trans* influence, similar to that of a Cl atom.

Table 2.  $^{31}P\{^1H\}$  NMR data for [(1,2- $\eta$ - $^t$ Bu<sub>2</sub>P=P-P $^t$ Bu<sub>2</sub>)M(PR<sub>3</sub>)Cl] (M = Ni, Pd)

	M	R <sub>3</sub> P1	$\delta$ P1 ppm	$\delta$ P2 ppm	$\delta$ P3 ppm	$\delta$ P4 ppm	$J_{P1-P2}$ Hz	$J_{P1-P3}$ Hz	$J_{P1-P4}$ Hz	$J_{P2-P3}$ Hz	$J_{P2-P4}$ Hz	$J_{P3-P4}$ Hz
<b>1a</b>	Pt	$^P$ Tol <sub>3</sub> P	26.2	62.4	-130.4	27.8	20.7	107.8		447.3	32.6	254.7
<b>6a<sup>a</sup></b>	Pt	Ph <sub>3</sub> P	28.0	61.0	-125.9	32.0	22.0	107.0		482.0	34.0	251.0
<b>2a</b>	Pd	$^P$ Tol <sub>3</sub> P	20.1	105.5	-87.7	28.7	25.2	103.3		549.7	33.2	246.7
<b>2b</b>	Pd	$^P$ Tol <sub>3</sub> P	15.9	97.2	-65.7	33.3	265.1	13.8		539.2	36.7	247.8
<b>2a<sup>*</sup></b>	Pd	$^t$ Bu <sub>2</sub> H	30.7	104.2	-89.7	26.8	25.5	104.1		557.6	32.1	248.9
<b>2b<sup>*</sup></b>	Pd	$^t$ Bu <sub>2</sub> H	41.8 <sup>b</sup>	75.6	-66.2	26.9	251.2	16.1	2.2	547.3	32.1	242.1
<b>3a</b>	Pd	$^i$ Pr <sub>3</sub> P	47.7	100.8	-88.4	31.0	23.0	102.9		551.7	30.3	255.2
<b>3b</b>	Pd	$^i$ Pr <sub>3</sub> P	35.5	77.2	-74.8	32.5	249.9	16.2		535.8	30.3	255.1
<b>7a<sup>c</sup></b>	Pd	Et <sub>3</sub> P	22.6	110.3	-103.4	26.2	21.7	108.5		550.8	33.5	248.0
<b>7b<sup>c</sup></b>	Pd	Et <sub>3</sub> P	10.7	79.2	-74.5	28.8	270.0	15.3		534.0	34.9	241.0
<b>4a</b>	Ni	Ph <sub>2</sub> Et	21.4	69.9	-119.2	32.7	30.2	75.8		531.6	25.5	257.0
<b>4b</b>	Ni	Ph <sub>2</sub> Et	13.6	39.5	-97.5	36.4	191.0	$\approx 0$		523.5	29.4	253.6
<b>4b<sup>*</sup></b>	Ni	$^t$ Bu <sub>2</sub> H	40.4	22.9	-90.6	32.0	178.3	$\approx 0$	2.2	538.5	22.3	255.1
<b>8a<sup>c</sup></b>	Ni	Et <sub>3</sub> P	19.9	72.8	-127.8	31.8	33.4	75.6		531.6	26.4	256.3
<b>8b<sup>d,c</sup></b>	Ni	Et <sub>3</sub> P	7.1	31.3	-101.8	34.1	194.3	2.4		518.0	27.8	252.8

<sup>a</sup> – see [13], Br in place of Cl, <sup>b</sup> –  $^1J_{P1-H} = 286$  Hz, <sup>c</sup> – see [12], <sup>d</sup> – higher order spectrum

The structures of **1a-pentane** (Fig. 1), **2a** (Fig. 2), **3b** (Fig. 3) and **4b** (Fig. 4) were determined by X-ray diffraction methods [31, 32]. The crystal data, details of the data collection and refinement are given in Table 3.

The Pt atom in **1a** (RMS deviations of fitted atoms = 1.69 pm) and the Pd atom in **2a** (RMS deviations = 1.10 pm) are in an almost planar environment defined by R<sub>3</sub>P1, Cl and the P2–P3 bond. In **3b** (RMS deviations = 5.46 pm) the environment around Pd atom displays small deviations from planarity and in **4b** (RMS deviations = 23.7 pm) the environment around Ni atom displays substantial deviations from planarity. The P2-P3 distances are short: 214.50(2) pm in **1a**,

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2 213.03(13) pm in **2a**, 213.32(7) pm in **3b** and 212.54 (12) pm in **4b**. These data and literature data  
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4 for **6a** – 214.9(2) pm [22], for **7a** – 213.68(5) pm [21] and for **8a** – 212.81(10) pm [21] indicate  
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6 general trend that the distances P2-P3 diminish in the order Pt > Pd > Ni. These short distances are  
7  
8 typical for the double P=P bond of diphosphenes upon  $\eta^2$ -coordination [33]. All P3-P4 distances are  
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10 in the range of single P–P bonds [34].  
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13  
14 Table 3. Summary of crystallographic data and structure refinement details for **1a-4b**.  
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	1a	2a	3b	4b
Empirical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>69</sub> ClP <sub>4</sub> Pt	C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>57</sub> ClP <sub>4</sub> Pd	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>57</sub> ClP <sub>4</sub> Pd	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>51</sub> ClP <sub>4</sub> Ni
$M_r$ /g mol <sup>-1</sup>	928.39	767.56	623.44	629.75
Temperature /K	120(2)	120(2)	120(2)	120(2)
Wavelength /Å	0.71073 (Mo K $\alpha$ )	0.71073 (Mo K $\alpha$ )	0.71073 (Mo K $\alpha$ )	0.71073 (Mo K $\alpha$ )
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> -1	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i>
<i>a</i> /Å	14.7717(4)	11.9728(5)	8.4306(4)	8.2709(4)
<i>b</i> /Å	24.5098(6)	12.7680(5)	11.8235(4)	19.6137(12)
<i>c</i> /Å	13.2810(3)	14.2078(9)	16.9039(6)	20.2758(12)
$\alpha$ /°	90	93.391(4)	89.747(3)	90
$\beta$ /°	110.902(2)	114.571(4)	91.967(3)	93.444(4)
$\gamma$ /°	90	98.813(3)	108.684(4)	90
<i>V</i> /Å <sup>3</sup>	4491.97(19)	1933.61(17)	1595.19(10)	3283.3(3)
<i>Z</i>	4	2	2	4
Calc. density /Mg m <sup>-3</sup>	1.373	1.318	1.298	1.274
Crystal size / mm	0.26 × 0.24 × 0.15	0.08 × 0.06 × 0.02	0.16 × 0.09 × 0.02	0.10 × 0.05 × 0.02
$\theta$ range /°	1.96 to 25.5	1.91 to 25.5	2.17 to 25.5	2.26 to 25.5
Limiting indices	-17 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 17	-13 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 14	-10 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 10	-10 ≤ <i>h</i> ≤ 10
	-27 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 29	-15 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 15	-14 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 13	-23 ≤ <i>k</i> ≤ 21
	-16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 16	-16 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 17	-20 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 20	-24 ≤ <i>l</i> ≤ 24
Reflections collected / unique	31323 / 8354	14073 / 7206	11626 / 5947	23453 / 6098
	[ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0565]	[ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0394]	[ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0226]	[ <i>R</i> (int) = 0.0706]
Completeness to $\theta_{\max}$ /%	100	99.8	99.8	100
Linear absorption coeff. /mm <sup>-1</sup>	3.352	0.738	0.878	0.885
Data / restraints / parameters	8354 / 0 / 450	7206 / 0 / 403	5947 / 0 / 298	6098 / 0 / 338
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.16	1.041	1.151	0.932
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0501	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0379	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0253	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0412
	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1228	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0949	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0645	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0917
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0712	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0543	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0308	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0737
	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1393	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1077	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.067	<i>wR</i> 2 = 0.0978
Largest diff. peak and hole /eÅ <sup>-3</sup>	1.576 and -1.146	0.703 and -0.67	0.588 and -0.627	0.559 and -0.607

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2 The M–P distances display distinct differences depending on the isomer type. In **3b** the Pd–P1  
3 distance 234.32 (9) pm, *trans* to P2 is longer than 236.03 pm reported for Pd–P bond in [*trans*-  
4 (<sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub>] [35]. Thus <sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>P2 exerts strong *trans* influence. Pd–P2 bond is very short -  
5  
6  
7 225.39(15) pm, similarly to 225.8 (3) reported for Pd–P bond in [*cis*-(Me<sub>3</sub>P)<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>2</sub>] [36], however,  
8  
9 it has <sup>i</sup>Pr<sub>3</sub>P1 in *trans* position. The Pd–P3 bond of 238.59(5) pm *trans* to Cl atom is a long one. In  
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14 **2a** Pd–P1 (234.32 (9) pm) is shorter than in **3b** (238.77(5) pm)- but Pd–P3 bond of 241.79 (9) pm,  
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16 *trans* to <sup>p</sup>Tol<sub>3</sub>P is a very long one. Thus, P3 exerts small *trans* influence but the Pd–P3 bond  
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18 lengthens very significantly if a tertiary phosphine is in *trans* position to it. The same was observed  
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21 in Ni complexes **4b** and **8a**.  
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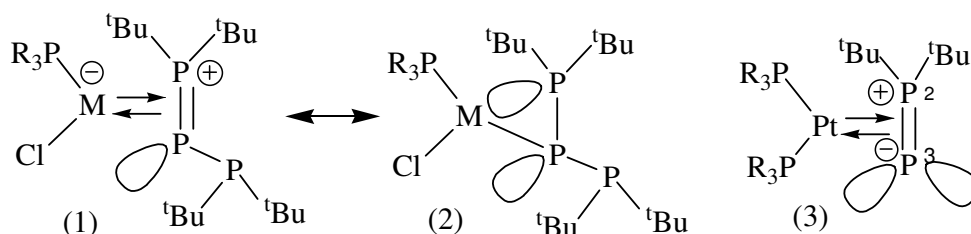
27 **FIGURE 1.** An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of **1a** in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not  
28 shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]:  
29 Pt1-Cl1 236.37(15); Pt1-P1 228.53(17); Pt1-P2 221.24(16); Pt1-P3 240.77(18); P2-P3 214.50(2);  
30 P3-P4 221.80(3); P2-Pt1-P3 55.14(6); P2-P3-P4 106.92(10).  
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37 **FIGURE 2.** An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of **2a** in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not  
38 shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]:  
39 Pd1-Cl1 238.62(9); Pd1-P1 234.32(9); Pd1-P2 223.15(9); Pd1-P3 241.79(9); P2-P3 213.03(13); P3-  
40 P4 222.40(13); P2-Pd1-P3 67.28(4); P2-P3-P4 106.78(5).  
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48 **FIGURE 3.** An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of **3b** in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not  
49 shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]:  
50 Pd1-Cl1 237.63(5); Pd1-P1 238.77(5); Pd1-P2 225.39(5); Pd1-P3 238.59(5); P2-P3 213.32(7); P3-  
51 P4 224.05(7); P2-Pd1-P3 54.654(17); P2-P3-P4 102.96(3).  
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58 **FIGURE 4.** An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of **4b** in the crystal; hydrogen  
59 atoms not shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and  
60 angles [°]: Ni1-Cl1 220.46(9); Ni1-P1 223.68(10); Ni1-P2 214.83(10); Ni1-P3 226.05(10); P2-P3  
212.54(12); P3-P4 224.80(12); P2-Ni1-P3 57.58(3); P2-P3-P4 105.58(5).

In **1a** the Pt-P2, Pt-P3 and Pt-Cl distances are very similar to those reported in **2a** (M = Pd), however the Pt-P1 distance of 228.53 (7) pm is shorter than Pd-P1 distance in **2a**. We have suggested [21] two Lewis structures which partially explain properties of this class of complexes. The features of X-ray structures are well explained by the Lewis structure 1 (Scheme 4).



Scheme 4

The planar alignments around the metal centres in all these compounds are in accord with the assumption that  $(R_3P)ClM^-$  groups exhibit properties of a  $d^{10} ML_2$  metal centre [37] and so this ligand can be seen as an  $\eta^2$  bonded 1,1-di-*tert*-butyl-2-(di-*tert*-butylphosphanylo)diphosphenium cation. Related phosphanylophosphenium cation has a planar geometry [38]. The short distances  $M-P^tBu_2$  (Scheme 4, structure 1) are due to additional electrostatic interactions. Such interactions are not possible in side-on bonded phosphanylphosphinidene platinum complexes (Scheme 4, structure 3). Thus the Pt-P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub> distance in  $[(^pTol_3P)_2Pt(\eta^2-^tBu_2P=P)]$  is 230.59(17) pm [20] compared to Pt-P2 in **1a** - 221.24 (16) pm. This distance is shorter than Pt-P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>H distance in  $[cis-(Ph_3P)(^tBu_2PH)PtCl_2]$  (225.3 pm) [39]. These additional electrostatic interactions may be partially responsible for a greater value of  $^1J_{Pt-P2}$  in **1a** compared to  $[(^pTol_3P)_2Pt(\eta^2-^tBu_2P=P)]$  [20]. The geometry around P3 atom differs to some extent from the geometry of side-on bonded diphosphenes. The P4-P3-P2 angle in **1a** of 106.71 deg differs slightly from the related angle in  $[(\eta^2-^tBu_2P-P=P-P^tBu_2)Pt(PPh_3)_2]$  - 111.12 deg. The torsion angle Pt-P2-P3-P4 of 107.12 deg differs from the related value in  $[(\eta^2-^tBu_2P-P=P-P^tBu_2)Pt(PPh_3)_2]$  - 103.82 deg [33]. The sum of angles around <sup>p</sup>Tol<sub>3</sub>P1 in **1a** is 312.67 deg. The sum of angles around <sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>2</sub>P2-P is 344.62 deg. Thus the geometry around P2 atom is more planar than around P1 atom. The Lewis structure 2 (Scheme 4) explains the relatively large  $^1J_{Pt-P2}$

(2776.8 Hz for **1a** and 2740 Hz for **6a**). These values of  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P3}}$  of 187.0 Hz<sup>1</sup> (**6a**) and 188.1 Hz (**1a**) are however smaller than reported for  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}=\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  bonded side-on to  $d^{10}\text{PtL}_2$  centre (332 / 404 Hz) [33] and significantly smaller than in terminal phosphido complexes with tertiary phosphine in trans position (573 Hz / 675 [15], 806 / 1239 Hz [17]) but greater than in complexes with  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}$  bonded side-on to  $d^{10}\text{PtL}_2$  centre (32 / 104 Hz) [40]. The planar geometry of P1-Cl-P2-P3-M in Lewis structure 2 (Scheme 4) is obvious in terms of the planarity of low spin  $d^8\text{ML}_2$  complexes.

The crystallographic data have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publications CCDC 746220 (**1a-pentane**), CCDC 746221 (**2a**), CCDC 746222 (**3b**) and CCDC 746223 (**4b**). Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge on application to the Director CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK (fax: +(44) 1223-336-033; e-mail for inquiring: [fileserv@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fileserv@ccdc.cam.ac.uk), e-mail for deposition: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk)

### 3. Conclusion

We have isolated several new complexes  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{M}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  which are products of reactions of  $[(\text{R}_3\text{P})_2\text{MCl}_2]$  with  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$ . In solution we observed a mixture of isomers in an equilibrium. For  $[(^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  only one isomer of  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(\text{PR}_3)\text{Cl}]$  was formed together with a phosphanylophosphinidene complex  $[(\eta^2\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P})\text{Pt}(\text{P}^p\text{Tol}_3)_2]$ . The studied reactions are not general for lithiated triphosphines and were successful only for a compound with voluminous  $^t\text{Bu}$  groups. Surprisingly  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}(\text{N}^i\text{Pr}_2)_2$  does not form related complexes with  $1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}(\text{N}^i\text{Pr}_2)_2$  or  $2,3-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{P}=\text{P}(\text{N}^i\text{Pr}_2)_2$  ligands but a splitting of a  $\text{P}-\text{P}(\text{N}^i\text{Pr}_2)_2$  was observed. It seems reasonable to study related reactions involving lithiated triphosphines with smaller groups e. i.  $^i\text{Pr}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}^i\text{Pr}_2$ .

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<sup>1</sup> The value 95 Hz previously reported [21, 22] was a mistake.

## 4. Experimental

All manipulations were performed in flame-dried Schlenk type glassware on a vacuum line. THF and toluene were dried over Na/benzophenone and distilled under nitrogen. Pentane was dried over Na/benzophenone/diglyme and distilled under nitrogen.  $^{31}\text{P}$  NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Av400 and on Bruker AMX300 spectrometers (external standard 85%  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ) at ambient temperature. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals for **2a**, **2b** and **3b** were established from  $^{31}\text{P}$ - $^1\text{H}$ -COSY spectra.  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{P}(\text{SiMe}_3)-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  was prepared in a one-pot reaction [41] and lithiated according to literature procedures [42],  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2$  was prepared according to literature procedures [43]

### 4.1. Reaction of $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$ with $[\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P}]_2\text{PtCl}_2$ . Synthesis of $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pt}(\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P})\text{Cl}]$ (**1a**).

A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PLi}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  (0.187 g, 0.396 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added at room temperature to a suspension of  $[\textit{cis}/\textit{trans}-(\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  (0.346 g, 0.396 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The mixture was stirred for 1 d, the suspension dissolved (the solution turned orange) and was investigated with  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR, then evacuated at  $2 \cdot 10^{-3}$  Torr for 2 h. The residue was dissolved in toluene (4 mL) and filtered. The volume was reduced to  $\approx 1$  mL and pentane (4 mL) was carefully layered over the toluene solution. After 7 days at  $+4$  °C orange crystals of **1a**·pentane deposited (0.079 g, 21 % yield). Then the mother liquor was separated from crystals and after 7 days at  $+4$  °C yielded small amount of red crystals of  $[(\eta^2\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P})\text{Pt}(\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P})_2]$  [20]

$^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR examination of reaction solution: **1a**,  $(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  [23],  $[\textit{cis}-(\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P})(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH})\text{PtCl}_2]$ ,

$^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}-\text{PH}-\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  [41],  $\textit{p}\text{-Tol}_3\text{P}$ , **A**.

**1a** :  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (161.94 MHz, MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , THF, 25 °C,)  $\delta = 26.2$  (dd, P1); 62.4 (ddd, P2); –130.4 (ddd, P3); 27.8 (dd, P4);  $^1\text{J}_{\text{Pt-P1}} = 3437.3$  Hz,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{Pt-P2}} = 2776.8$  Hz,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{Pt-P3}} = 188.1$  Hz,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{Pt-P4}} = 45.9$  Hz,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{P1-P2}} = 20.7$  Hz,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{P1-P3}} = 107.8$  Hz,  $^3\text{J}_{\text{P1-P4}} \approx 0$  Hz,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{P2-P3}} = -447.3$  Hz,  $^2\text{J}_{\text{P2-P4}} = 32.6$  Hz,  $^1\text{J}_{\text{P3-P4}} = -254.7$  Hz.



1  
2 **A** :  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (161.94 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , THF, 25 °C,)  $\delta = 22.0$  (ddd, P1);  $-14.1$  (dd, P2);  $-$   
3  
4  $32.0$  (ddd, P3);  $-45.4$  (ddd, P4);  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P1}} = 2547.0$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P2}} = 2161.5$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P3}} = 1454.6$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P4}} \approx$   
5  
6  $20$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P1-P2}} = 315.6$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P1-P3}} = 12.7$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P1-P4}} = 6.7$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P2-P4}} = 323.5$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P2-P3}} = 9.2$  Hz,  $J_{\text{P3-P4}} =$   
7  
8  $275.3$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{P3-H}} = 165.0$  Hz..

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10  
11  $[\text{cis-}(^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P}_2)(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P1H})\text{PtCl}_2]$   $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (161.94 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , THF, 25 °C,)  $\delta = 50.4$  (d, P1);  
12  
13  $13.3$  (d, P2);  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P1}} = 3502$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P2}} = 3668$  Hz,  $^2J_{\text{P1-P2}} = 10.6$  Hz,  
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#### 16 17 18 4.2. Reaction of $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$ with $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$ .

19  
20 A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P}(\text{SiMe}_3)\text{-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  (0.11 g, 0.28 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added at room  
21  
22 temperature to a solution of  $[\text{cis/trans-}(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$  (0.14 g, 0.28 mmol) in THF (7 mL). The  
23  
24 mixture turned slowly yellow. After 1 d the solution was concentrated to 2 mL and colourless  
25  
26 crystals of  $(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  deposited.  
27  
28

29  
30  $^{31}\text{P}$ -NMR examination of reaction solution (101.26 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , THF, 25 °C):  $(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  [23],  $[\text{cis-}$   
31  
32  $(\text{Et}_3\text{P})(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH})\text{PtCl}_2]$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$ ,  $p\text{-Tol}_3\text{P}$ ,  $[\text{cis-}(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$ ,  $[\text{trans-}(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{PtCl}_2]$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P}=\text{PEt}_3$  [24]  
33  
34  $[\text{cis-}(\text{Et}_3\text{P}_2)(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P1H})\text{PtCl}_2]$   $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101.26 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , THF, 25 °C,)  $\delta = 34.4$  (d, P1) ; 4.7  
35  
36 ppm (d, P2) ;  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P1}} = 3531.0$  Hz,  $^1J_{\text{Pt-P2}} = 3365.8$  Hz,  $^2J_{\text{P1-P2}} = 15.4$  Hz,  
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#### 42 43 4.3. Reaction of $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$ with $[(^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$ . Synthesis of $[(1,2\text{-}\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}=\text{P-}$ 44 45 $\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(\text{P}^p\text{Tol}_3)\text{Cl}]$ (**2a**).

46  
47 A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2 \cdot 2\text{THF}$  (0.210 g, 0.444 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added at room  
48  
49 temperature to a suspension of  $[(^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$  (0.349 g, 0.444 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The yellow  
50  
51 suspension turned immediately dark red. After stirring for 2 h the suspension dissolved and volume  
52  
53 was reduced to 2 mL. The reaction mixture was investigated by  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR. Then the solution  
54  
55 was evaporated to dryness under *vacuum*, dissolved in toluene (4 mL) filtrated, concentrated to 1  
56  
57 mL and stored for 5 d at 4 °C. Crystals of  $^p\text{Tol}_3\text{P}$  were deposited. Then the solution was stored for  
58  
59  
60

14 d at  $-35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The pale yellow crystals of  $(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  were deposited. The resulting mother liquor was layered with pentane. After 14 d at  $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  orange needles of **2a** deposited (0.106g, 31% yield).

$^{31}\text{P}$ -MNR examination of reaction solution. **2a**, **2b**, **2a\*** (small signals), **2b\*** (small signals),  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PH-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$  (small signals) and  $(^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P})_3\text{P}$  (small signals).

**2a** :  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ,  $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ):  $\delta = 7.91$  (m, *o*-H of  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**; 6.94 (m, probably *m*-H of  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**, overlap with *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P}$ ) ; 2.003 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$  of *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**); 1.991 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$  of *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**); 1.902 (d, 11.9 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); 1.386 (d, 10.7 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); 1.282 (d, 16.6 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP2}$ ); 1.148 (d, 15.2 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP2}$ );

**2b** :  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ,  $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ):  $\delta = 7.91$  (m, *o*-H of  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**; 6.94 (m, probably *m*-H of  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_7\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**, overlap with *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P}$ ) ; 2.003 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$  of *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**); 1.991 (s,  $\text{CH}_3$  of *p*- $\text{Tol}_3\text{P1}$  of **2a** or **2b**); 1.829 (d, 17.1 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP2}$ ); 1.508 (d, 13.8 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP2}$ ); 1.464 (d, 10.7 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); 1.082(d, 11.5 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ );

#### 4.4. Reaction of $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$ with $[(^i\text{Pr}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$ . Synthesis of $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Pd}(^i\text{Pr}_3)\text{Cl}]$ (**3b**).

A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$  (0.208 g, 0.440 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was added at room temperature to a suspension of  $[(^i\text{Pr}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$  (0.219 g, 0.440 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The yellow solution turned orange-brown. After stirring for 1 h the suspension dissolved volume was reduced to 2 mL and investigated by  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR. Then the solution was evaporated to dryness under *vacuum*, dissolved in toluene (4 mL) filtrated and concentrated to 1 mL. The solution was layered with pentane (4 mL) and stored for 7 d at  $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Orange crystals deposited: **3b** (0.160g, 58% yield).

$^{31}\text{P}$ -MNR examination of reaction solution: **3a**, **3b**, **2a\***, **2b\***,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PH-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$  and  $[(^i\text{Pr}_3\text{P})_2\text{PdCl}_2]$  were found.

**3a**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ,  $25\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ): 1.773 (d, 12.0 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); 1.576 (dd, 1.1 Hz + 16.0 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP2}$ ); 1.453 (d, 10.5 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); Others signals we were not able to assign unequivocally to H atoms of **3a**.

**3b**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 25 °C): 1.389 (d, 11.0 Hz,  $\text{H}_3\text{CCP4}$ ); Others signals we were not able to assign unequivocally to H atoms of **3b**.

4.5. Reaction of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$  with  $[(\text{Ph}_2\text{EtP})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$ . Synthesis of  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{PPh}_2\text{EtCl})]$  (**4b**).

A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}^t\text{Bu}_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$  (0.210 g, 0.444 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added at room temperature to a suspension of  $[(\text{Ph}_2\text{EtP})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$  (0.248 g, 0.444 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The cherry-red solution turned red-brown and the suspension dissolved. Then the solution was evaporated to dryness under *vacuum*, dissolved in toluene (4 mL) filtrated and concentrated to 1 mL. Pentane (4mL) was put over the toluene solution and the bulb was stored for 5 d at 4 °C. Cherry-red crystals deposited: **4b**, (0.212 g, 76% yield)

$^{31}\text{P}$ -MNR examination of reaction solution: **4a**, **4b**,  $[(1,2-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P=P-P}^t\text{Bu}_2)\text{Ni}(\text{P}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{HCl})]$  (**4b\***),  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PH-P}^t\text{Bu}_2$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PCl}$  and  $\text{Ph}_2\text{EtP}$  were found.

4.6. Reaction of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$  with  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$ . Synthesis of  $[\mu\text{-}(1,3:2,3-\eta\text{-}^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P}_4^t\text{Bu}_2)\{\text{Ni}(\text{PEt}_3)\text{Cl}\}_2]$  (**5**)

A solution of  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-PLi-P}(\text{NEt}_2)_2\cdot 2\text{THF}$  (0.271 g, 0.539 mmol) in THF (2 mL) was added at room temperature to a suspension of  $[(\text{Et}_3\text{P})_2\text{NiCl}_2]$  (0.193 g, 0.527 mmol) in THF (2 mL). The cherry-red solution turned red-brown and the suspension dissolved. Then the solution was evaporated to dryness under *vacuum*, dissolved in toluene (4 mL) filtrated and concentrated to 1 mL. Pentane (5mL) was put over the toluene solution and the bulb was stored for one week at -35 °C. Small amount of cherry-red crystals of **5** was deposited (0.049g).

$^{31}\text{P}$ -MNR examination of reaction solution: **5** [18], **B** [18], **C**,  $(\text{Et}_2\text{N})_3\text{P}$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{PH}$ ,  $^t\text{Bu}_2\text{P-P=PEt}_3$  and  $\text{Et}_3\text{P}$  were found.

**5** :  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101.26 MHz, Tol,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 25 °C.)  $\delta = -28.5$  (dddd, P1);  $-1.0$  (dddd, P2),  $-94.6$  (dddd, P3),  $70.6$  (m, P4),  $5.0$  (ddd, P5),  $8.6$  (m, P6),  $J_{\text{P1-P2}} = 197.8$ ,  $J_{\text{P1-P3}} = 89.2$ ,  $J_{\text{P1-P4}} =$

10.5,  $J_{P1-P5} = 292.2$ ,  $J_{P1-P6} = 2.2$ ,  $J_{P2-P3} = 298.5$ ,  $J_{P2-P4} = 11.8$ ,  $J_{P2-P5} = 1.9$ ,  $J_{P3-P4} = 511.3$ ,  
 $J_{P3-P5} = 64.8$ ,  $J_{P3-P6} = 187.5$ ,  $J_{P4-P5} = 2.5$ ,  $J_{P4-P6} = 8.0$ ,  $J_{P5-P6} = 10.5$ .

**B** :  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (101.26 MHz, Tol,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 25 °C,)  $\delta = 64.0$  (dddd, P1); 12.1 (dd P2),  
−8.7 (dddd, P3), −126.2 (dddd, P4), −157.7 (dddd, P5), −182.1 (dddd, P6),  $J_{P1-P2} = 3.9$ ,  $J_{P1-P3} =$   
28.4,  $J_{P1-P4} = 85.0$ ,  $J_{P1-P5} = 162.3$ ,  $J_{P1-P6} = 196.9$ ,  $J_{P2-P3} = 283.3$ ,  $J_{P2-P4} = 32.8$ ,  $J_{P2-P5} = 2.2$ ,  $J_{P2-P6} =$   
2.8,  $J_{P3-P4} = 19.5$ ,  $J_{P3-P5} = 180.5$ ,  $J_{P3-P6} = 60.1$ ,  $J_{P4-P5} = 119.9$ ,  $J_{P4-P6} = 210.8$ ,  $J_{P5-P6} = 172.2$  [18].

**C** :  $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR (161.94 MHz, THF,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ , 25 °C,)  $\delta = 49.6$  (dddd, P1); 13.2 (dd dP2),  
8.3 (ddd, P3), −6.2 (ddd, P4), −38.9 (ddd, P5),  $J_{P1-P2} = 84.9$ ,  $J_{P1-P3} = 227.6$ ,  $J_{P1-P4} = 134.2$ ,  $J_{P1-P5} =$   
289.1,  $J_{P2-P3} = 16.0$ ,  $J_{P2-P4} = 256.8$ ,  $J_{P3-P5} = 13.8$ ,  $J_{P4-P5} = 193.8$ ,

**Crystallographic refinement details.** Diffraction data were recorded on a KUMA KM4 diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo  $K_\alpha$  radiation using Sapphire-2 CCD detector (Oxford Diffraction Ltd). The apparatus was equipped with an open flow thermostat (Oxford Cryosystems) which enabled experiments at 120K. The structures were solved with direct methods and refined with the SHELX97 program package[30] with the full-matrix least-squares refinement based on  $F^2$ . The data were corrected for absorption with the CrysAlis RED program. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All H atoms were positioned geometrically and refined using a riding model C—H = 0.95 – 0.99 Å and  $U_{iso}(\text{H}) = 1.2U_{eq}(\text{C})$  or  $1.5U_{eq}(\text{C})$  for  $\text{CH}_3$  groups.

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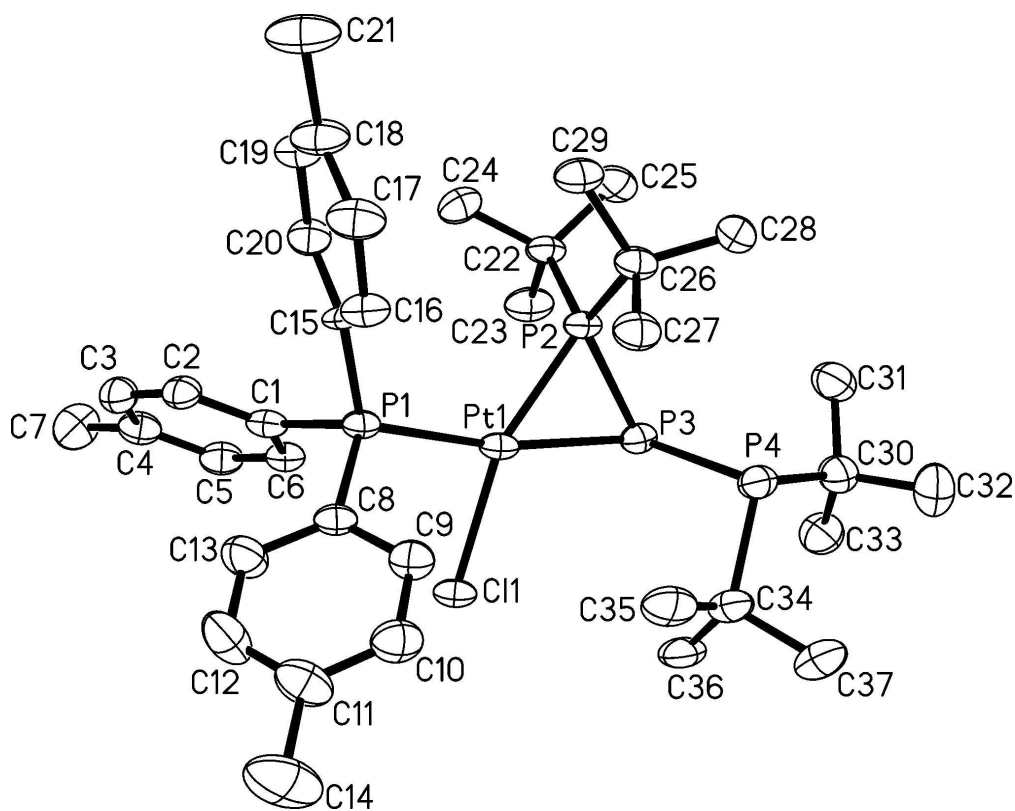


FIGURE 1. An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of 1a in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]: Pt1-Cl1 236.37(15); Pt1-P1 228.53(17); Pt1-P2 221.24(16); Pt1-P3 240.77(18); P2-P3 214.50(2); P3-P4 221.80(3); P2-Pt1-P3 55.14(6); P2-P3-P4 106.92(10).  
171x136mm (600 x 600 DPI)



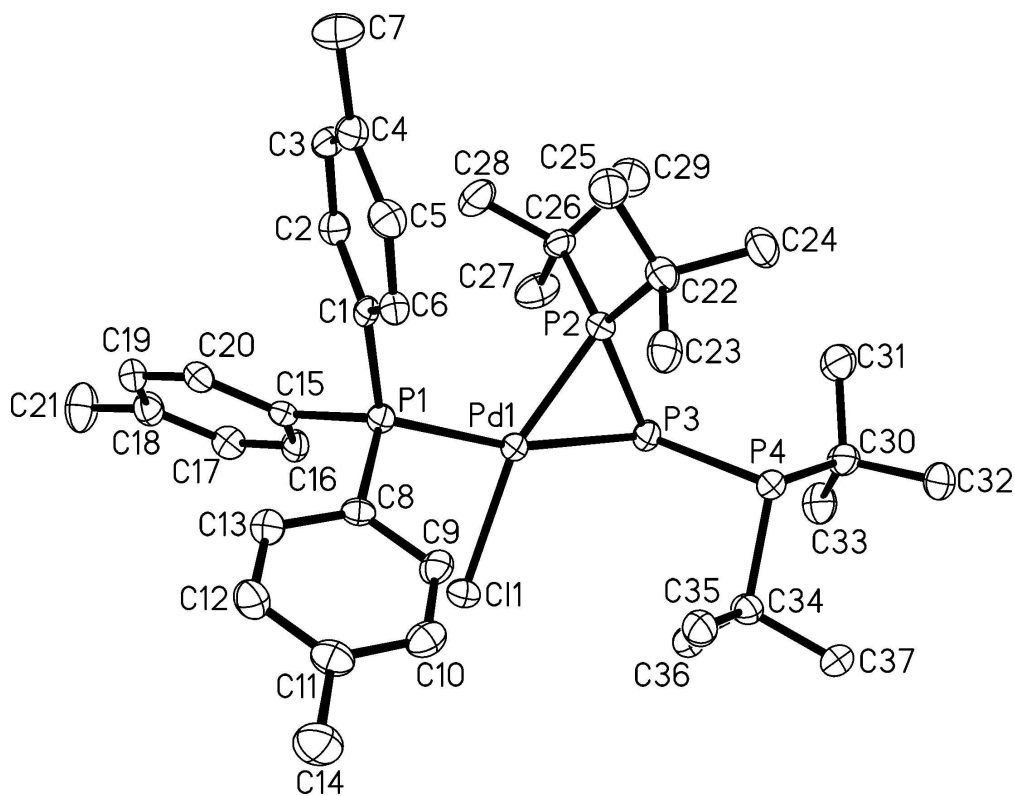


FIGURE 2. An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of 2a in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]: Pd1-Cl1 238.62(9); Pd1-P1 234.32(9); Pd1-P2 223.15(9); Pd1-P3 241.79(9); P2-P3 213.03(13); P3-P4 222.40(13); P2-Pd1-P3 67.28(4); P2-P3-P4 106.78(5).  
187x145mm (600 x 600 DPI)

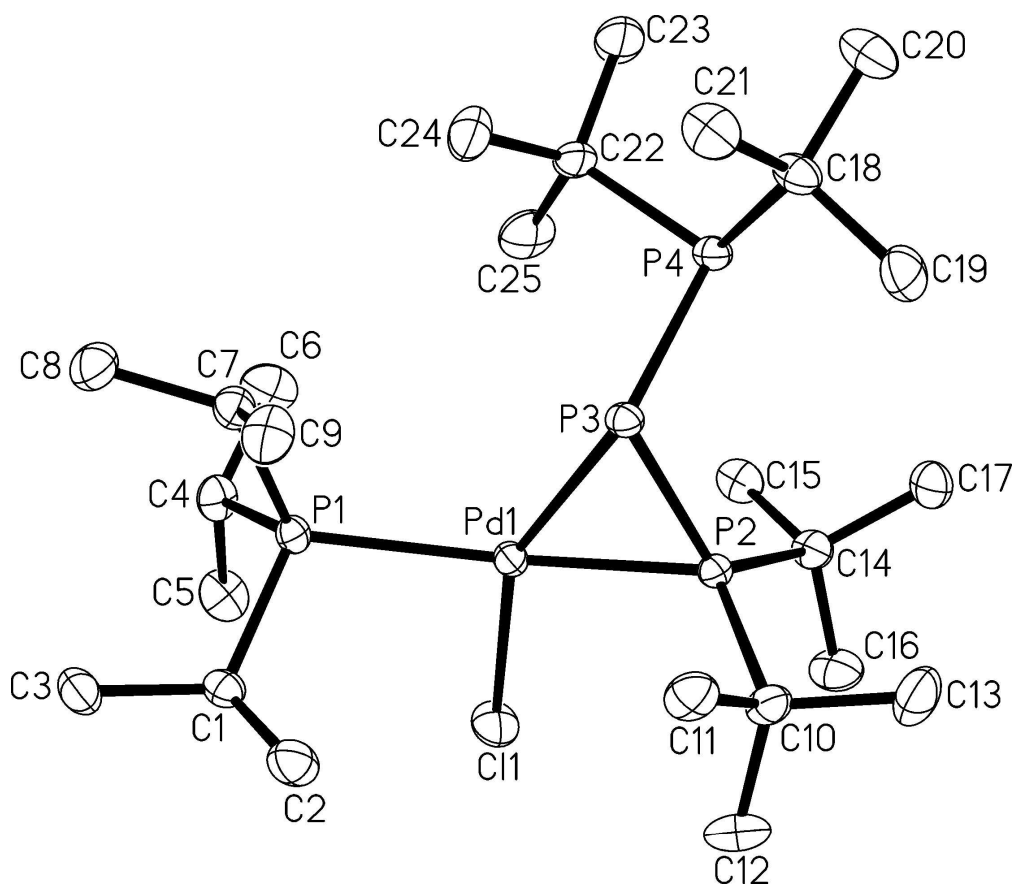


FIGURE 3. An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of 3b in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]: Pd1-Cl1 237.63(5); Pd1-P1 238.77(5); Pd1-P2 225.39(5); Pd1-P3 238.59(5); P2-P3 213.32(7); P3-P4 224.05(7); P2-Pd1-P3 54.654(17); P2-P3-P4 102.96(3).  
189x164mm (600 x 600 DPI)

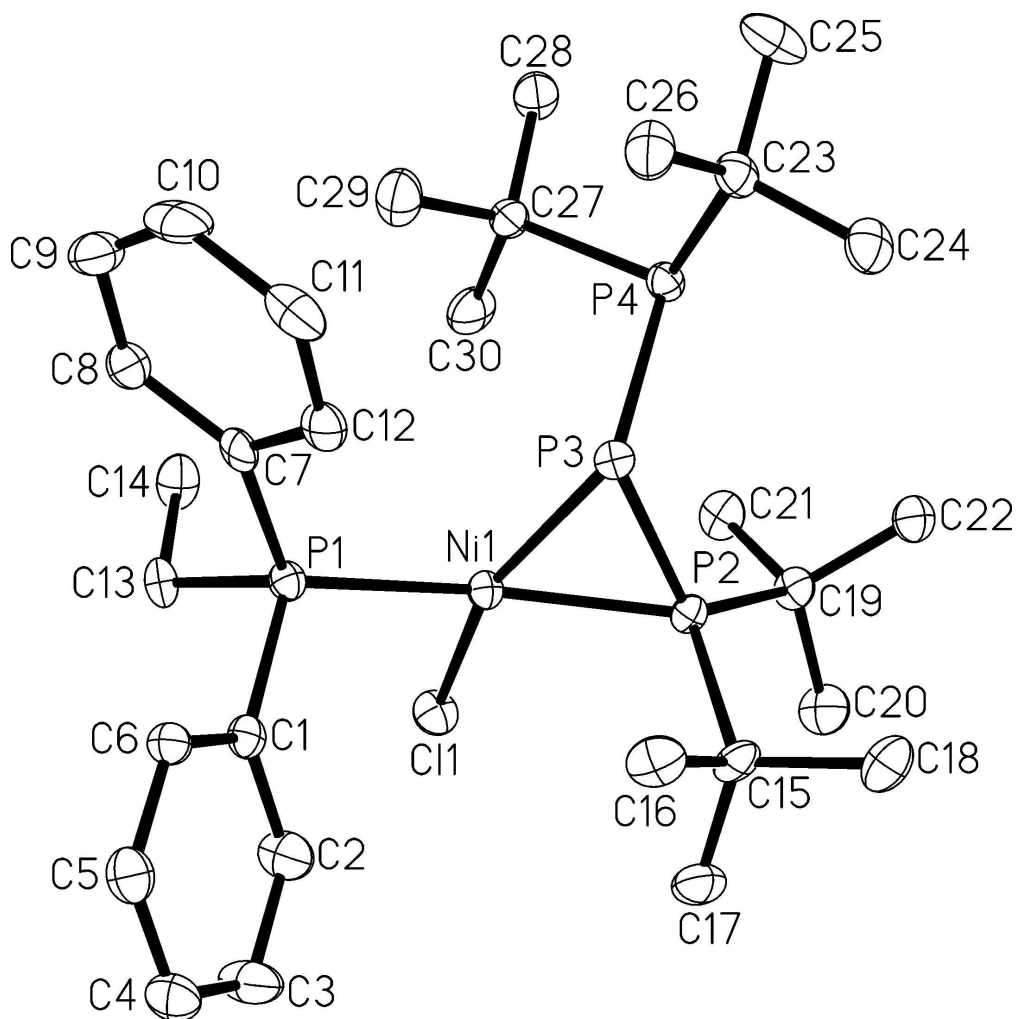


FIGURE 4. An ORTEP view of the molecular structure of 4b in the crystal; hydrogen atoms not shown, ellipsoids are drawn at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths [pm] and angles [°]: Ni1-Cl1 220.46(9); Ni1-P1 223.68(10); Ni1-P2 214.83(10); Ni1-P3 226.05(10); P2-P3 212.54(12); P3-P4 224.80(12); P2-Ni1-P3 57.58(3); P2-P3-P4 105.58(5).  
182x184mm (600 x 600 DPI)