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# Taking Advantage of Ortho- and Peri-substitution to Design Nine-membered P,O,Si-heterocycles

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## Abstract

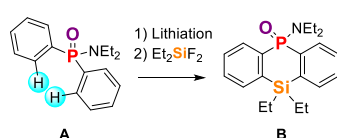
A family of cyclic phosphine-disiloxane featuring peri-substituted naphthyl(Nap)/acenaphthyl(Ace) scaffolds has been prepared and fully characterized including X-ray structure, which enables a detailed structural analysis. This straightforward synthesis takes advantage of both ortho- and peri-substitution of Nap/Ace-substituted phosphine oxides. The synthetic method allows diversifying the polycyclic aromatic platform (Nap and Ace) as well as the Si substituents (Me and Ph). Despite a strong steric congestion, the P-atom remains reactive toward oxidation or coordination. In particular, Au(I) complex could be prepared. All the compounds display absorption/luminescence in the UV-Vis range. Surprisingly, the P-trivalent derivatives display unexpected luminescence in the green in solid-state.

## Introduction

Ortho-metalations belong to the Complex-Induced Proximity Effect based reactions and are widely used in organic synthesis.<sup>[1]</sup> Various functional groups (ether, amine, amide, ester, etc.), called the directing group, are used to orientate the metalation. However, heavier element containing functional groups such as phosphine oxides or phosphonates can also be used.<sup>[2]</sup> For example, the use of ortho-lithiation on phosphinamide can lead to the synthesis of unprecedented heterocycles such as the P, Si containing 6-membered ring **B** (Figure 1).<sup>[2d]</sup> Peri-Substitution is a double substitution in positions 1 and 8 of naphthalene (Nap) (or acenaphthene (Ace)) (Figure 1b).<sup>[3]</sup> Unique geometric constraints are imposed to the substituents connected to these positions, which are even closer than ortho-substitution. Such molecular engineering has been recently used to stabilize reactive species featuring main group elements (B, P, As etc).<sup>[4]</sup> Furthermore, the proximity between the peri-substituent offers the possibility of specific reactivity leading to the design novel heterocycles such as P,Si heterocycle **D** (Figure 1).<sup>[5,6]</sup> During our study of multi-heteroatom-containing fluorophores,<sup>[7]</sup> we noticed a specific reactivity of (8-bromonaphthalen-1-yl)diphenylphosphine oxide **E**<sup>[8]</sup> with silanes: we observed a sequence of ortho and peri-lithiation followed by intramolecular cyclization of a nine-membered ring **F** (Figure 1) through the formation of a disiloxane bridge. In this article, we present the straightforward synthesis of this unconventional heterocyclic platform, its reactivity, a detailed structural analysis and a study of its peculiar luminescent properties.

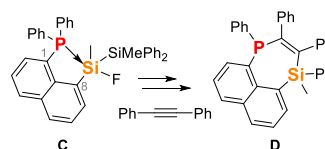
### Literature

#### a) Ortho-lithiation toward the preparation of P,Si heterocycles

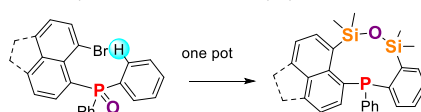


#### This work

#### b) Synthesis of peri-substituted P,Si heterocycles



#### c) Ortho- and peri-substitution toward the preparation of P,Si heterocycles

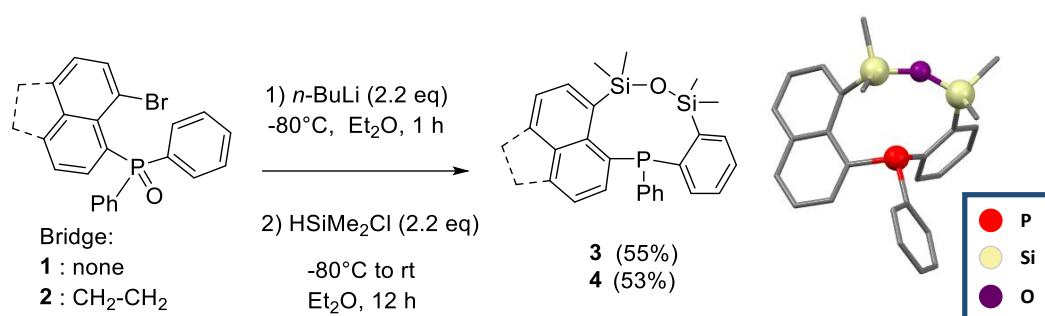


**Figure 1:** Examples of ortho-substitution (a) **E** and peri-substitution (b) **F** toward the synthesis of P,Si heterocycles and strategy used in this work (c).

## Results and discussion

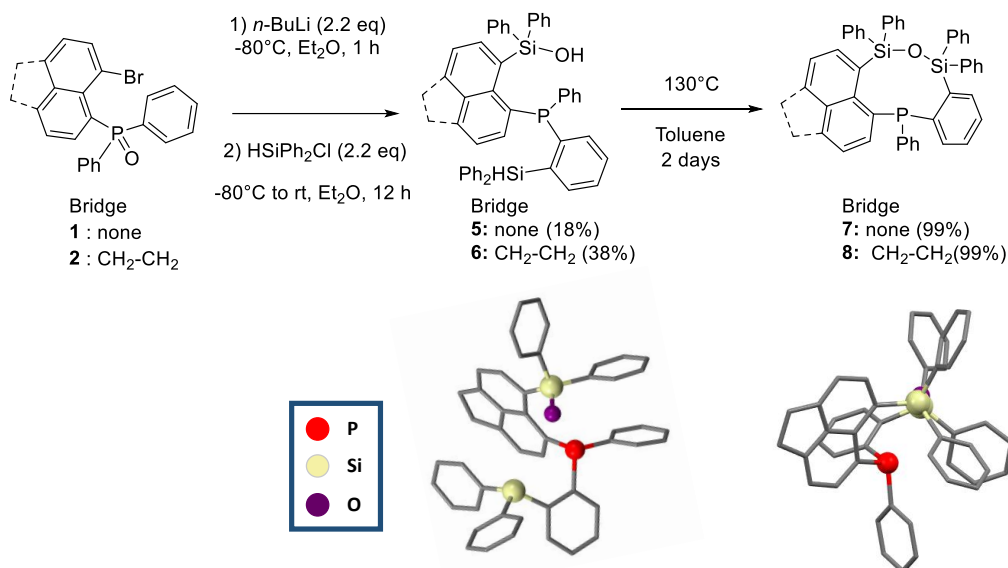
### Synthesis

During our study of the reactivity of (8-bromonaphthalen-1-yl)diphenylphosphine oxide (Scheme 1),<sup>[8]</sup> we observed that the lithiation of **1** followed by quenching with chlorodimethylsilane does not lead to the expected peri-substituted silane-phosphine oxide but to a peri-substituted Nap featuring a nine-membered ring incorporating a phosphine and a disiloxane bridge (Compound **3**, Scheme 1). This unexpected compound was unambiguously characterized by multinuclear NMR, mass spectrometry and X-ray diffraction (Scheme 1, for full X-ray diffraction study and comparison, see below). At this point it is worth noting that during this sequence, a second Si-atom has been introduced in ortho-position of the P=O fragment and the P atom is reduced from  $\sigma^4, \lambda^5$ -P to  $\sigma^3, \lambda^3$ -P (see postulated mechanism below).<sup>[9]</sup> Careful tuning of the reaction conditions (2.2 eq. of BuLi and HSiMe<sub>2</sub>Cl) allowed to optimize the yield of **3** to 55%. Such synthetic method also efficiently works with Ace platform (**4**, Scheme 1).



**Scheme 1:** Synthesis of **3-4** and X-ray structure **3**

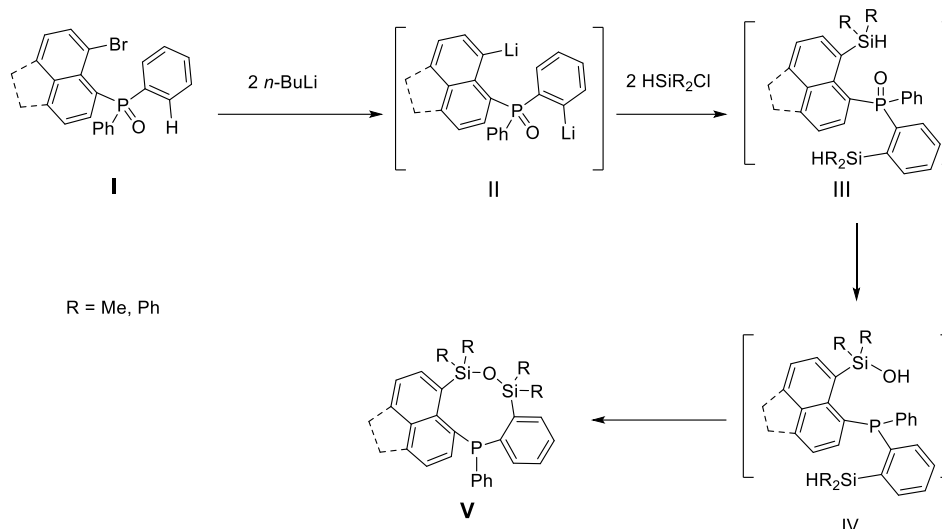
When bulkier diphenylchlorosilane is used as electrophile, the reaction stops at the silane-silanol intermediates **5-6** (Scheme 2) both with Nap and Ace platforms, probably due to the steric hindrance at the Si-atoms. In particular, the characterization of **6** (including X-ray diffraction, Scheme 2) unambiguously proves that the siloxane is formed on the peri-substituted Si-atom. The disiloxane formation could finally be obtained upon refluxing **5-6** in toluene to afford the cyclic derivatives **7-8**.



**Scheme 2:** Synthesis of **7-8** and X-ray structure of intermediate **6** and compound **8**

Such reaction pathway can be explained (Scheme 3). The 2.2 eq of BuLi allow performing the expected Li-halogen exchange but also an ortho-lithiation on the phenyl ring connected to the phosphine oxide (**II**, Scheme 3). Such dilithiated derivatives is then quenched by chlorodimethylsilane to afford **III**. The phosphine oxide moiety of **III** was in situ deprotected by the peri-substituted silane function<sup>[10]</sup> to afford the mixed silane-silanol **IV**. The fact that the

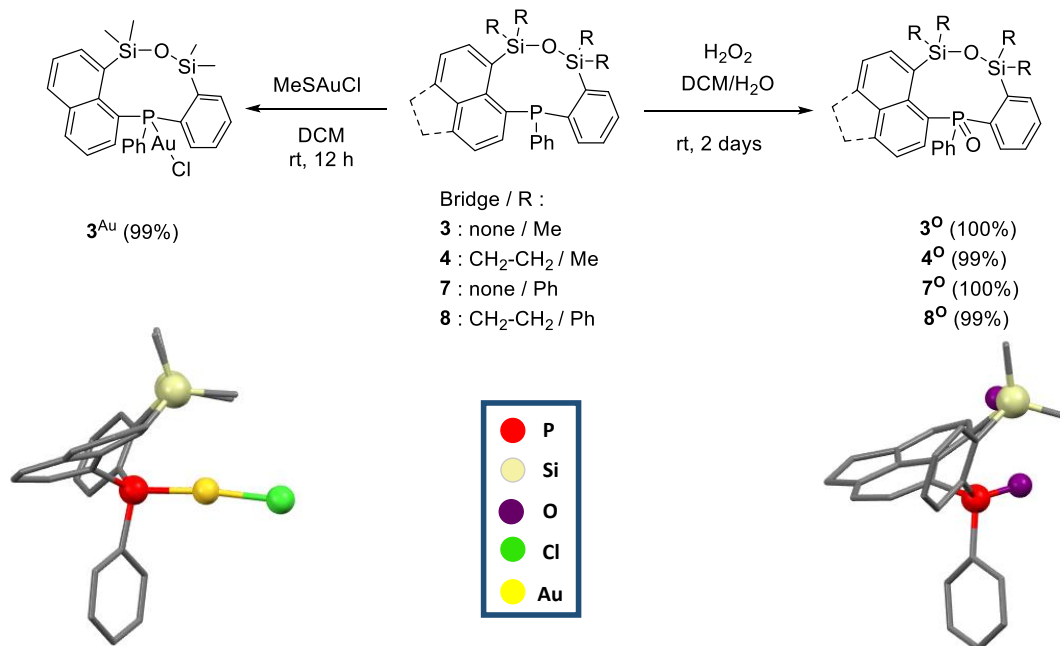
reduction is performed by the peri-substituted silane is evidenced by the characterization of intermediate **6** (Scheme 2). Finally, the disiloxane bridge of **V** is formed in the last step, either spontaneously (**3,4**) or upon heating (**7,8**).



**Scheme 3:** postulated mechanism based on experimental observations

In short, a family of 4 cyclic phosphine-disiloxane featuring peri-substituted naphthyl scaffolds could be prepared in a very straightforward manner. They were all characterized by multinuclear NMR, mass spectrometry and X-ray diffraction. They display excellent air-stability both in solution and in solid, as well as good thermal stability ( $T_{d10}(\mathbf{4}) = 306^\circ\text{C}$ ).

Phosphines are known to display a rich reactivity toward oxidant, electrophile or metallic ions. However, the X-ray structures of **3,4** and **8** reveal that the lone pair of the P points toward the disiloxane bridge (Schemes 1,2), which can explain the excellent air stability of the compound. Nevertheless, the reactivity of the P-atom could be used and **3-4, 7-8** were quantitatively oxidized using  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  to afford **3<sup>o</sup>, 4<sup>o</sup>, 7<sup>o</sup>** and **4<sup>o</sup>** (scheme 4). Finally, the coordination ability these heterocycles was evaluated using of **3** as prototype compound. The  $\sigma^3, \lambda^3$  P-atom behaves as a classic two-electrons P-donor toward  $\text{Au}^{\text{I}}$  as evidenced by the formation of complex **3<sup>Au</sup>** (Scheme 4).



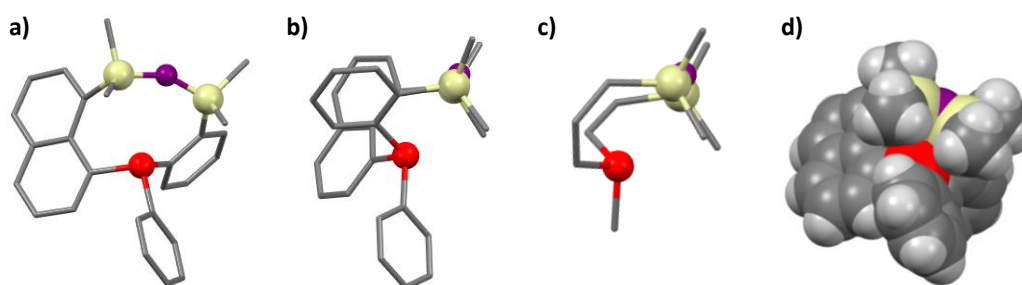
**Scheme 4:** Synthesis of **3<sup>o</sup>-4<sup>o</sup>, 7<sup>o</sup>-8<sup>o</sup>, 3<sup>Au</sup>**, X-ray structure of **4<sup>o</sup>** and **3<sup>Au</sup>**

In conclusion, a family of cyclic phosphine-disiloxane featuring peri-substituted naphthyl scaffolds have been prepared and fully characterized. The synthetic method allows introducing different naphthyl platforms (Nap and Ace) and Si

substituents (Me and Ph). The P-atom remains reactive (oxidation, coordination) despite a highly sterically hindered scaffold.

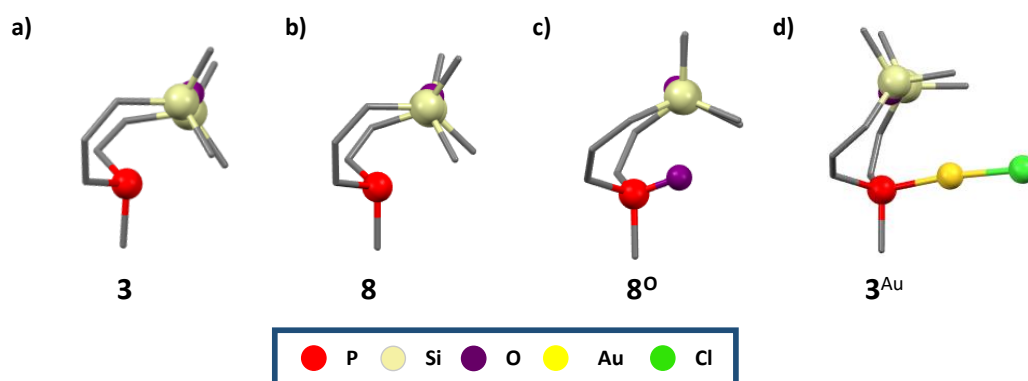
### Structural properties

Six heterocyclic compounds (**3**, **4**, **4<sup>o</sup>**, **8**, **8<sup>o</sup>** and **3<sup>Au</sup>**) could be crystallized. A full crystallographic data study and comparison within the family is thus possible (Table 1). A detailed inspection will be performed on **3**, then the general trend in the entire family will be discussed. **3** crystallizes in the P 21/c space group and the unit cell is composed by a racemic mixture of two enantiomers (the P atom in the molecule is stereogenic). The chemical structure of **3** is highly distorted due to the steric congestion to accommodate the trigonal P-atom, the nine-membered heterocycle and peri-substituents (Figure 2). The P-C bond lengths and angles are classical for phosphanes ( $1.83 < d_{P-C} < 1.84$  Å), as well as the Si-C distances ( $1.90$  Å  $< d_{Si-C} < 1.92$  Å) et Si-O ( $1.63$  Å  $< d_{Si-O} < 1.64$  Å) (Table 1). The nine-membered ring display a boat-like conformation with equatorial position for the exocyclic P-Ph substituent (Figure 1c). Consequently, the P-lone pair points toward the disiloxane bridge ( $d_{P-O} = 3.181$  Å) and is sterically protected by the multiple substituent (see space fill, Figure 2). The Si...P peri-distance in **3** ( $3.189$  Å, Table 1) is indicative for predominantly repulsive interactions, as previously observed by Beckmann *et al* on acyclic Ace peri-substituted with phosphine and silane.<sup>6a</sup> Finally, the Nap is also distorted from planarity (Table 1) due to the presence of bulky substituent in peri-position. In the packing,  $\pi$ -dimers composed of the two enantiomers are observed in the solid-state (Figure 4).

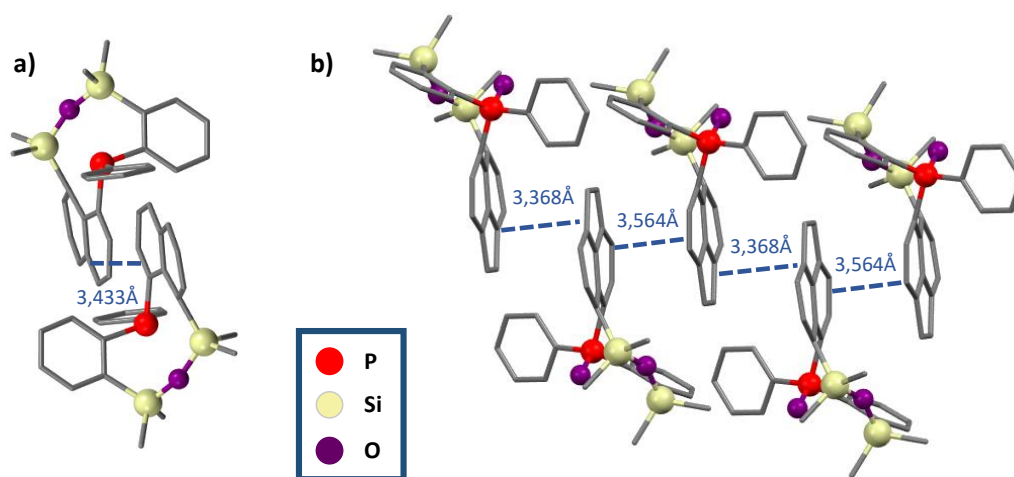


**Figure 2:** (a, b) Different views of the crystallographic structure of **3**, (c) zoom on the nine-membered ring (substituents omitted for clarity) and (d) space fill representation of **3**

When Nap is replaced by Ace (**4**), most of the parameters remain valid (Table 1). Surprisingly, the presence of the Ph substituents on the Si in **8** has only a minor impact on the structural parameters (Figure 3). Upon oxidation, the nine-membered ring shape is altered due to the repulsion between the P=O bond with the disiloxane bridge on one side, and the peri-substituted Si on the other one. Consequently, the P-Si peri distance increases as well as the distortion on the Nap/Ace platform (Figure 3 and Table 1). Such observations are even more pronounced upon coordination of the Au<sup>I</sup> (Figure 3 and Table 1) Indeed, a stronger deformation is induced by the quasi-linear P-Au-Cl fragment (P-Au-Cl:  $173.1^\circ$ ). In the packing, the effects of substituent are almost impossible to rationalize as Nap-Nap  $\pi$ -dimers are observed for **3** (Figure 4), **4**, **8**,  $\pi$ -columns through Ace-Ace interactions for **4<sup>o</sup>** (Figure 4), while no clear interaction is found for **8<sup>o</sup>** and **3<sup>Au</sup>**.



**Figure 3:** Zooms on the nine-membered ring (substituents omitted for clarity) of (a) **3**, (b) **8**, (c) **8<sup>o</sup>** and (d) **3<sup>Au</sup>**



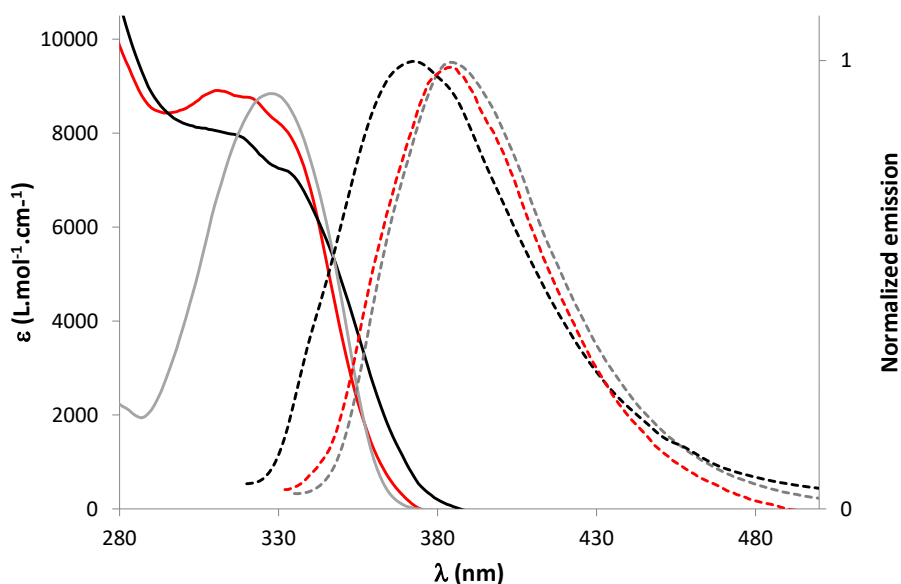
**Figure 4:** Intermolecular interactions observed in the packing of (a) **3** and (b) **4°**

**Table 1:** Crystallographic data

	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4°</b>	<b>8°</b>	<b>3<sup>Au</sup></b>
P-C <sub>1</sub> (Å)	1.829(2)	1.835(2)	1.830(4)	1.811(2)	1.801(2)	1.821(8)
P-C <sub>5</sub> (Å)	1.835(2)	1.839(1)	1.829(4)	1.817(3)	1.820(2)	1.829(7)
C <sub>1</sub> -C <sub>2</sub> (Å)	1.435(3)	1.445(2)	1.433(6)	1.441(4)	1.438(2)	1.440(1)
C <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>3</sub> (Å)	1.455(3)	1.452(2)	1.450(7)	1.439(4)	1.449(3)	1.440(1)
C <sub>3</sub> -Si <sub>1</sub> (Å)	1.921(2)	1.897(2)	1.878(5)	1.887(2)	1.893(2)	1.890(1)
Si <sub>1</sub> -O (Å)	1.641(2)	1.639(1)	1.629(2)	1.632(2)	1.624(1)	1.642(5)
O-Si <sub>2</sub> (Å)	1.637(2)	1.634(1)	1.625(3)	1.627(2)	1.624(1)	1.626(6)
Si <sub>2</sub> -C <sub>4</sub> (Å)	1.897(2)	1.890(1)	1.879(6)	1.886(3)	1.887(2)	1.886(9)
C <sub>4</sub> -C <sub>5</sub> (Å)	1.415(3)	1.410(2)	1.401(6)	1.414(3)	1.418(2)	1.410(1)
C <sub>1</sub> -P-C <sub>5</sub> (°)	103.00(1)	104.72(7)	101.00(2)	106.20(1)	105.50(8)	106.40(4)
<i>peri distances</i>						
P...Si	3.189	3.242	3.199	3.687	3.575	3.789
<i>Intracycle distances</i>						
P...O	3.181	3.147	3.097	3.176	3.313	2.988

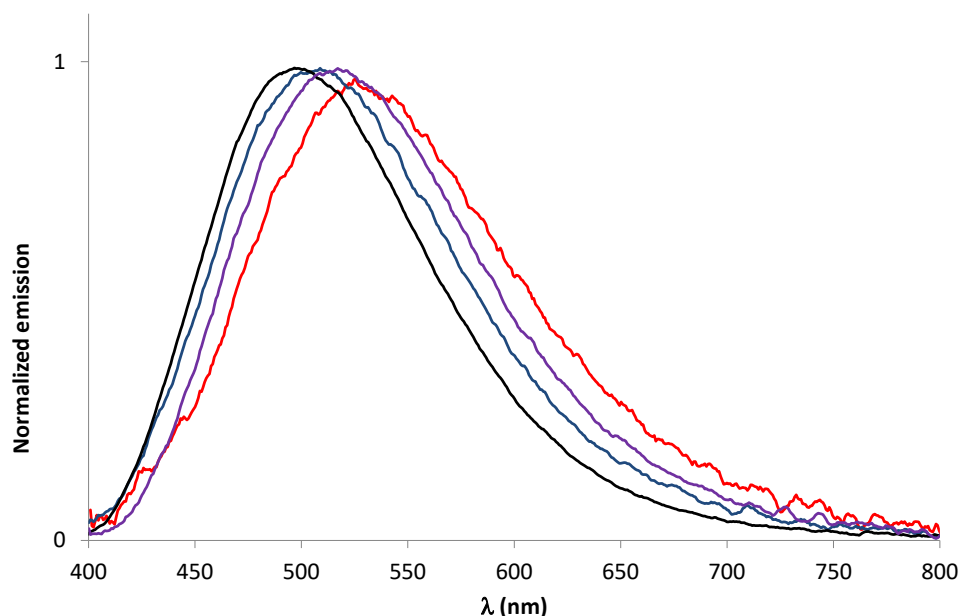
## Optical properties

$\pi$ -conjugated P-heterocycles and Si-heterocycles display rich optical properties,<sup>[11]</sup> the UV-vis absorption and fluorescence properties of **3-8** (resp **3<sup>o</sup>-8<sup>o</sup>**) were thus investigated in diluted dichloromethane ( $C = 10^{-5}M$ ) (table 2). They all display absorption bands in the UV characteristic of substituted Nap<sup>[12]</sup> and the effect of molecular engineering remain modest. For example, **4** displays absorptions bands with moderate extinction coefficient at  $\lambda_{max}$  (308 nm). The polycyclic aromatic platform has a small influence on the absorption as the UV-vis absorption of the Ace heterocycles is slightly red-shifted compared to their Nap analogues (Table 2 and Fig S19). The oxidation has the opposite effect as the  $\sigma^4, \lambda^5$ -P-derivatives display a blue-shifted absorption compared to their  $\sigma^3, \lambda^3$ -P-analogues (Table 2 and Fig 5). This can be explained by the stronger distortion of the  $\pi$ -system of the Nap/Ace induced by the presence of the P=O fragment (Table 2).



**Figure 5:** Absorption (solid line) and emission (dotted line) spectra of **4** (red), **8** (black), **4<sup>o</sup>** (grey) in diluted DCM

The fluorescent properties of the heterocycles are more peculiar. While the P-trivalent derivatives featuring a Nap platform, are not luminescent in solution, all the other compounds display emission in the near UV, characteristic of substituted Nap/Ace.<sup>[12]</sup> Apart from **4<sup>o</sup>**, the luminescence quantum yields are modest (table 2). The effect of the substituents on the emission wavelength is also rather limited. While all the heterocycles have modest luminescent properties in diluted solutions, crystalline samples of P-trivalent **3-4** and **7-8** display unexpected greenish luminescence (for example  $\lambda_{em,solid}$  (**4**) = 504 nm while  $\lambda_{em,liq}$  (**4**) = 381 nm) with quantum yields between 9% and 32% (Figure 6 and Table 2). Such important red-shift of **3-4** and **7-8** is not observed for pentavalent P-cycles which display weak solid-state luminescence in the spectral range of their emission in diluted solution (for example  $\lambda_{em,solid}$  (**4<sup>o</sup>**) = 414 nm while  $\lambda_{em,liq}$  (**4<sup>o</sup>**) = 382 nm, see Figure S20). Such unexpected red-shifted solid-state emission can have two main origins: specific aggregate formation or triplet emission (phosphorescence).<sup>[13,14]</sup> Time-resolved fluorescence measurements allowed to rule out the possibility of phosphorescence as all compounds display emission lifetime in the range of the ns, typical of fluorescent materials (see Figure S21-24). The study of the packing in the crystals did not allow to clarify the presence of specific interactions that would favour these observations, as some of these compounds form  $\pi$ -dimers but other don't. Finally, when the compound is isolated under the form of an amorphous material or diluted in PMA matrix (5% weight), no green luminescence could be observed, which clearly emphasizes the role of intermolecular interaction in the solid state, even if the inspection of X-Ray data did not allow to unravel their nature.



**Figure 6:** Emission spectra in solid-state of **3**(blue), **4**(red), **7**(purple) and **8** (black)

**Table 2:** Photophysical data.

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}^{[a]}$ (nm)	$\epsilon_{\text{max}}$ (L.mol <sup>-1</sup> .cm <sup>-1</sup> ) [a]	$\lambda_{0-0}^{[a]}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{em}}^{\text{liq}} [a]$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{em}}^{\text{solid}} [b]$ (nm)	Stokes shift (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) [a]	$\Phi_{\text{liquid}}^{[b]}$	$\Phi_{\text{solid}}^{[b]}$
<b>3</b>	322	7400	-	-	495	-	-	0.32
<b>4</b>	308	8900	350	381	504	6200	<0.01	0.09
<b>7</b>	327	7500	-	-	498	-	-	0.14
<b>8</b>	309	8000	345	371	495	5400	<0.01	0.11
<b>3<sup>o</sup></b>	310	7700	328	347	418	3400	0.07	0.07
<b>4<sup>o</sup></b>	327	8900	353	382	414	4400	0.60	0.08
<b>7<sup>o</sup></b>	309	8200	329	353	398	4000	0.05	0.05
<b>8<sup>o</sup></b>	322	8000	350	386	420	6600	0.06	0.01

[a] Measured in diluted CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10<sup>-5</sup>M). [b] Measured in calibrated integration sphere.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, a full family of cyclic phosphine-disiloxane featuring peri-substituted naphthyl and acenaphthyl scaffolds have been prepared and fully characterized. This straightforward synthesis takes advantage of both ortho- and peri-substitution of Nap/Ace-substituted phosphine oxides. The synthetic method allows introducing various polyaromatic platforms (Nap and Ace), various Si substituents (Me and Ph). Despite a strong steric congestion, the P-atom remains reactive (oxidation, coordination). In particular, Au(I) complex **3<sup>Au</sup>** could be prepared. All the compounds display absorption/luminescence in the UV-vis. Surprisingly, the P-trivalent derivatives display unexpected green luminescence in the solid-state. Finally, given to their easy synthesis, these unconventional heterocycles can be further used to design solid-state luminophore or cavity-shaped ligands for application in supramolecular catalysis.<sup>[15]</sup>

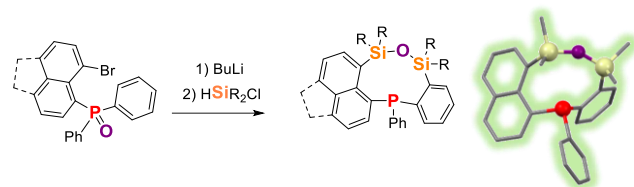


## Acknowledgements

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**Keywords:** Heterocycles; P-chemistry; Si-Chemistry; Fluorescence.

## TOC



A family of cyclic phosphine-disiloxane featuring peri-substituted naphthyl(Nap)/acenaphthyl(Ace) scaffolds has been prepared. This straightforward synthesis takes advantage of both ortho- and peri-substitution of Nap/Ace-substituted phosphine oxides. The synthetic method allows diversifying the polycyclic aromatic platform and the Si substituents. Despite some steric congestion, the P-atom remains reactive. In particular, Au(I) complex could be prepared. Surprisingly, the P-trivalent derivatives display unexpected luminescence in the green in solid-state.

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