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General: All reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under Ar. All the solvents were purified by distillation over the drying agents indicated and were transferred under $\operatorname{Ar} . \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{CaH}_{2}\right)$, n-pentane, toluene, benzene ( $\mathrm{Na} / \mathrm{K}$ ). IR: Nicolet FT-7199 spectrometer, wavenumbers in $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$. MS (EI): Finnigan MAT 8200 (70 eV), ESIMS: Finnigan MAT 95, accurate mass determinations: Bruker APEX III FT-MS (7 T magnet). NMR: Spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 400 or a AV 600 spectrometer in the solvents indicated; ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in ppm relative to TMS, coupling constants ( $\mathcal{J}$ ) in Hz . The solvent signals were used as references and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale. All commercially available compounds (Acros, ABCR, Fluka, Lancaster, Alfa Aesar, Aldrich) were used as received unless stated otherwise. 2,4,6-Tris(isopropyl)phenylphosphine ${ }^{1}$ and 1-chloro-2,3(diisopropylamino)cyclopropenium tetrafluoroborate ${ }^{2}$ were prepared according to literature procedures.

Compound 2: A mixture containing $(\mathrm{PhO})_{3} \mathrm{PO}(25.4 \mathrm{~g}$, previously melted and dried in vacuum at
 $60^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 h ), bromide $1(7.4 \mathrm{~g}, 16.97 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and 2-pyridyldiphenylphosphine ( 4.49 g , 17.05 mmol ) was stirred overnight at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Once cooled to rt, toluene ( 100 mL ) was added and the suspension stirred for three hours. After filtration of the organic solvents, the remaining residue was washed with toluene three times, re-dissolved in $\mathrm{MeOH}(30 \mathrm{~mL})$ and precipitated with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(40 \mathrm{~mL})$. Finally, the light grey solid thus obtained was dried in vacuum affording the desired product ( $2.84 \mathrm{~g}, 24 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=8.22-8.07(\mathrm{~m}, 11 \mathrm{H}), 8.02-7.91(\mathrm{~m}$, $4 \mathrm{H}), 7.66-7.57(\mathrm{~m}, 5 \mathrm{H}), 7.50-7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.46-7.36 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 10 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=$ $150.7(\mathrm{~d}, J=20 \mathrm{~Hz}), 142.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=119 \mathrm{~Hz}), 138.4(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 135.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 135.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz})$, $135.1,134.7(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=26 \mathrm{~Hz}), 130.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=14 \mathrm{~Hz}), 130.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=13 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 118.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=89 \mathrm{~Hz}), 117.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=89 \mathrm{~Hz}), 16.8 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{t}, J=47 \mathrm{~Hz}) ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(162 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta$ $=21.5(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=18 \mathrm{~Hz}), 16.3 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=18 \mathrm{~Hz})$; MS (ESI+): m/z (\%): 538.3 (100); HRMS (ESI+): m/z: calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{NP}_{2}$ : 538.1848; found: 538.1854.

Compound 3: $\mathrm{NH}_{3}(45 \mathrm{~mL})$ was condensed in a 100 mL two neck round-bottom flask containing
 compound $2(1.14 \mathrm{~g}, 1.63 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{NaNH}_{2}(410 \mathrm{mg}, 10.51 \mathrm{mmol})$, and the mixture stirred for 7 h at $-35^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. After that, the $\mathrm{NH}_{3}$ was allowed to slowly evaporate before toluene ( 15 mL ) was added to the reaction mixture. The yellow organic phase was filtered and the remaining solid washed at rt with toluene ( $2 \times 10 \mathrm{~mL}$ ). Evaporation of the combined organic phases afforded the desired compound as a yellow solid ( $770 \mathrm{mg}, 88 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{d}_{8}-\right.$ THF): $\delta=8.45(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.38(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.64(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.63(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.62(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.19(\mathrm{~m}$,

[^0]$2 \mathrm{H}), 7.18(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.16(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.10 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 4 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{d}_{8}-\mathrm{THF}\right): \delta=161.7$ (dd, $J=119$, $10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 149.4(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=18 \mathrm{~Hz}), 138.4(\mathrm{dd}, J=89,7 \mathrm{~Hz}), 138.2$ (dd, $J=88,6 \mathrm{~Hz}), 135.7(\mathrm{~d}, J=9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.2$ (d, $J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $133.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.9(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=22 \mathrm{~Hz}), 128.2$ (d, $J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $127.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 123.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 11.8 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{dd}, J=122,119 \mathrm{~Hz})$.
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right): \delta=8.64(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.31(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 8.04(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.90(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.02(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.00$ (m, 9H), 6.99 (m, 6H); $6.46 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 1 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right): \delta=161.3$ (dd, $J=119,10 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 148.9 (d, $J=18 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 137.9 (dd, $J=89,7 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 137.6 (dd, $J=88,6 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 134.9 (d, $J=9 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 132.9 (d, $J=$ $10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.4(\mathrm{~d}, J=2 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 128.7(\mathrm{~d}, J=22 \mathrm{~Hz}), 127.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 127.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 122.9(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 12.3 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{dd}, J=118,115 \mathrm{~Hz}) ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}(162 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}\right): \delta=-2.14(\mathrm{~d}, J=85 \mathrm{~Hz}),-5.55 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=85 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat): $v \square=3050,1571,1476,1433,1298$, 1270, 1173, 1097, 1026, 970, 741, $691 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; MS (EI): m/z (\%): 536 (100), 459 (43), 352 (12), 262 (34), 183 (33), 165 (21); HRMS (EI): m/z calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{NP}_{2}$ : 537.1775; found: 537.1770 ; elemental analysis calcd. (\%) for $\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{NP}_{2}$ : C 80.43, H 5.44, N 2.61; found: C 79.76, H 5.74, N 1.92.

Compound 4: $\left[\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{PAuCl}\right](70 \mathrm{mg}, 0.142 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a precooled solution of compound

$\mathrm{SbF}_{6}$ $3(75 \mathrm{mg}, 0.140 \mathrm{mmol})$ in THF ( 3 mL ) at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the resulting mixture stirred for 1 h at the same temperature. Subsequently, $\mathrm{NaSbF}_{6}(36.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.140 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added and the suspension stirred for an additional hour. Evaporation of the volatile materials afforded a white solid that was re-dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(2 \mathrm{~mL})$ and filtered. Concentration of the organic phase in vacuum afforded the desired product as a white solid ( $168 \mathrm{mg}, 97 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=8.44(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.80(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.71(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H})$, 7.50-7.42 (m, 10H), $7.32(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.30(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}), 7.26(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.22(\mathrm{~m} \mathrm{1H}), 7.01 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 6 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}$ ( $150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ): $\delta=156.0$ (dt, $J=114,3 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $150.4(\mathrm{~d}, J=18 \mathrm{~Hz}), 136.4(\mathrm{~d}, J=9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $14 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.1$ (dd, $J=91,4 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.0(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 131.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=2 \mathrm{~Hz}), 131.7(\mathrm{dd}, J=92,5 \mathrm{~Hz}), 130.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=55 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=11 \mathrm{~Hz}), 128.8$ (d, $J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $128.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=23 \mathrm{~Hz}), 125.4(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 24.5 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{dt}, J=86,84 \mathrm{~Hz}) ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}(162 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ): $\delta=41.28(\mathrm{t}, J=6 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 19.70 (dd, $J=30,7 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 15.03 ppm (dd, $J=30,7 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat): $v \square=$ 3059, 1571, 1481, 1435, 1312, 1184, 1127, 1099, 1068, 1027, 998, 844, 744, 691, $656 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; MS (ESI+): $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}(\%): 996.3$ (100); HRMS (ESI+): m/z calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{AuNP}_{3}$ : 996.2347; found: 996.2347; elemental analysis calcd. (\%) for $\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{AuNP}_{3} \mathrm{SbFF}_{6}$ : C 52.62, H 3.60, N 1.14; found: C 50.16, H 3.29, N 0.92.

Compound 5: $\mathrm{CuCl}(4.8 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0485 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a solution of $4(48 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0390 \mathrm{mmol})$ in

$5 \quad \mathrm{SbF}_{6}$ $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ at $0{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the mixture stirred at this temperature overnight. Removal of the solvent in vacuum provided the desired compound as an orange solid (49.3 $\mathrm{mg}, 95 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(600 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=9.06(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.97(\mathrm{dd}, J=12,8 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 7.85$ (tdt, $J=8,5,2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.75(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.67(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.63(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.54$ $(\mathrm{m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.48(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.45(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.40(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.30(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.25(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H})$,
7.24 (m, 2H), 7.16 (ddq, $J=8,5,1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.11$ (m, 6H), $6.94 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}(150 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=152.8(\mathrm{dd}, J=130,15 \mathrm{~Hz}), 150.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=16 \mathrm{~Hz}), 138.9(\mathrm{~d}, J=9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.1,134.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=14$ Hz ), $133.89(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.83,133.5(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.2$ (d, $J=2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 129.9 (d, $J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.4$ (d, $J=24 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.2$ (d, $J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 128.9 (d, $J=58 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 128.5 (dd, $J=89,5 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 128.0 (d, $J=2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 126.4 (dd, $J=76,3 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $124.2\left(\mathrm{~d}, ~ J=79 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$ ), 17.5 ppm (ddd, $J=68,58,52 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(122 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right.$ ): $\delta=39.7(\mathrm{~m}), 26.2$ ppm (ddd, $J=49,23,9 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat): $v \square=3050,2956,1575,1481,1435,1311,1262,1185,1161$, 1096, 991, 741, 689, $650 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; MS (ESI+): m/z (\%): 1094.2 (60); HRMS (ESI+): m/z: calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{AuClCuNP}_{3}$ : 1094.1331; found: 1094.1354; elemental analysis calcd. (\%) for $\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{AuClCuNP}_{3^{*}} \mathrm{SbF}_{6}$ : C 48.71, H 3.33, N 1.05; found: C 47.01, H 3.47, N 0.95 .

Compound 6: [(Me $\left.\left.\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right) \mathrm{AuCl}\right](13.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0458 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a cooled $\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ solution of 4

$6 \quad \mathrm{SbF}_{6}^{-}$ ( $54 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0438 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(1 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the mixture was stirred 2 h at this temperature. Evaporation in vacuum of all volatile materials afforded 6 as a white solid ( $54.5 \mathrm{mg}, 85 \%$ ). Crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were grown by slow diffusion of pentane in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ solutions of the product. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{NMR}(600 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=8.05(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.99(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.89(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.80(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.75(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H})$, $7.59(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.58(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.52(\mathrm{~m} 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.47(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}), 7.46(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.41(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.34(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 7.32(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 7.27(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.19(\mathrm{~m}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 7.15 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{m}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(150 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right): \delta=152.0(\mathrm{dt}, J=117$, $3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 150.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=19 \mathrm{~Hz}), 138.1(\mathrm{~d}, J=9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.5(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.12(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $14 \mathrm{~Hz}), 134.11(\mathrm{~d}, J=10 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.9(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 133.3(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 132.5(\mathrm{~d}, J=2$ $\mathrm{Hz}), 129.82(\mathrm{~d}, J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.81(\mathrm{~d}, J=23 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.52(\mathrm{~d}, J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.49(\mathrm{~d}, J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.1(\mathrm{~d}$, $J=12 \mathrm{~Hz}), 129.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=58 \mathrm{~Hz}), 127.3(\mathrm{dd}, J=89,3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 127.2(\mathrm{~d}, J=3 \mathrm{~Hz}), 126.5(\mathrm{dd}, J=89,6 \mathrm{~Hz})$, 125.4, (d, $J=87 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 14.2 ppm (ddd, $J=66,42,40 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}\left(162 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right.$ ): $\delta=35.4(\mathrm{~m}), 27.5$ (m), $21.9 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{t}, J=7.1 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat): $v \square=3057$, 2963, 1586, 1572, 1481, 1435, 1311, 1260, 1187, 1094, 1024, 998, 944, 798, 740, 711, $689 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; MS (ESI+): m/z (\%): 1228.3 (100); HRMS (ESI+): m/z: calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{Au}_{2} \mathrm{CINP}_{3}$ : 1228.1701; found: 1228.1695.

Compound 7: 2,4,6-Tris(isopropyl)phenylphosphine ( $1.63 \mathrm{~g}, 6.90 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added to a mixture
 Pr of chlorocyclopropenium salt ( $1.24 \mathrm{~g}, 3.45 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in bis(2-methoxyethyl)ether $(15 \mathrm{~mL})$ and the resulting mixture was heated at $135{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed in vacuum at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, the residue dissolved in dichoromethane ( 20 mL ) and washed with a saturated solution of $\mathrm{NaBF}_{4}(3 \times 15 \mathrm{~mL})$. Once dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, the organic phase was concentrated and the residue purified by flash column chromatography ( $1: 9$, acetone : dichloromethane), affording the desired compound as a white solid ( $1.20 \mathrm{~g}, 62 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta=1.10$ (dd, $J$ $=14.0,6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 1.19$ (dd, $J=13.4,6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.20 (d, $J=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.32 (dd, $J=6.6,2.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 12 H ), 2.87 (m, 1H), $3.44(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.57$ (m, 2H), 4.04 (m, 2H), 5.47 (d, J = $238 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$ ), 7.07 (d, J = 2.8
$\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR ( $162 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta=-100.80 \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta=21.1,21.3(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=$ 4.9 Hz ), 22.0, 23.7 (d, $J=3.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), $24.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=20.9 \mathrm{~Hz}), 33.5(\mathrm{~d}, J=14.5 \mathrm{~Hz}), 34.5,51.2,53.9,106.9$, $119.3,122.4,136.9,153.6,154.7 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=13.6 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ). IR (neat) $v \square=688,882,1032,1047,1152,1357$, 1459, 1542, 1711, 1876, $2955 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{P}^{+}$: 471.386759; found: 471.386263.

Compound 8: KHMDS ( $46.1 \mathrm{mg}, 0.231 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added to a cooled $\left(-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ suspension of 7
 $(129.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.231 \mathrm{mmol})$ in dry toluene $(15 \mathrm{~mL})$. The resulting mixture was allowed to reach rt and stirred for additional 2 h . The suspension thus formed was filtered under argon atmosphere and the organic phase concentrated in vacuum. The desired phosphinidene is stable at room temperature only for a few hours. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{d}_{8}-\mathrm{THF}$ ) $\delta=0.92$ (d, $J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.16 (dd, $J=31.7,7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, 12 H ), 1.23 (d, $J=6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}$ ), 1.35 (d, $J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 2.81(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3,16(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 3.86(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.36(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 6.91 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J}=1.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=23.4(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $=7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 23.7, 24.6, $25.5(\mathrm{~d}, J=1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}), 33.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=10.4 \mathrm{~Hz}), 35.0,49.4,124.6,128.4,129.3,147.2$, $155.0(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.6 \mathrm{~Hz})$ ppm. ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR ( 162 MHz , $\mathrm{d}_{8}-\mathrm{THF}$ ) $\delta=-83.33 \mathrm{ppm}$; HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{52} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{P}^{+}$: 470.379141 ; found: 470.378989 .

Compound 9: A solution of 8 in toluene was prepared from 7 ( $84.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.150 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and
 KHMDS ( $29.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.150 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) as described above. This solution was cooled to $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ before $\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right) \mathrm{AuCl}(176.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.300 \mathrm{mmol})$ ) was added. The resulting mixture was allowed to slowly reach ambient temperature during 16 h . Removal of the solvent in vacuum and purification of the residue by flash chromatography (1:9, acetone:dichoromethane), afforded the desired compound as a white solid ( $117 \mathrm{mg}, 83 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=1.13(\mathrm{~d}, \mathrm{~J}=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H})$, $1.16(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.20(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 12 \mathrm{H}) 1.23(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 2.79(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.81(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 3.90(\mathrm{~m}$, $2 \mathrm{H}), 4.28(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 7.01 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=4.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR $\left(162 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=-54.00 \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=20.7,21.2,22.7,23.5,33.0,33.1,33.5,110.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}), 122.5,122.8,122.9$, 123.0, 133.8, 150.8, $151.7 \mathrm{ppm}(\mathrm{d}, J=9.2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ); IR (neat) $v \square=679,894,1031,1142,1358,1454,1543$, 1711, 1866, $2963 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{51} \mathrm{Au} 2 \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{PNa}^{+}$: 957.238922; found 957.239014.

Compound 10: A solution of 8 in toluene ( 15 mL ) was prepared from $7(65.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.116 \mathrm{mmol})$
and KHMDS ( $29.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.150 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) as described above. This solution was
 cooled to $-78{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ before $\left[\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right) \mathrm{AuCl}\right](34.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.116 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added followed by $[\mathrm{RhCl}(\mathrm{cod})]_{2}(28.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.058 \mathrm{mmol})$. The resulting mixture was allowed to come to room temperature and was stirred for additional 16 h . Finally, the obtained suspension was filtered and dried in vacuum to afford the desired product as a yellow solid ( $60 \mathrm{mg}, 54 \%$ ). ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{NMR}$ indicated this compound to be contaminated with $8 \%$ of 9. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(400 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=1.15(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 1.20(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 12 \mathrm{H}), 1.26(\mathrm{~d}, J=6.9$
$\mathrm{Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}), 1.33(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 12 \mathrm{H}), 1.88(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.00(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.41(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 2.78(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}), 3.64(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H})$, $4.16(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}), 4.90(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 2 \mathrm{H}), 5.21(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 1 \mathrm{H}), 5.52(\mathrm{~m}(\mathrm{br}), 1 \mathrm{H}), 6.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR $\left(161 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=-30.94(\mathrm{~d}, J=122 \mathrm{~Hz}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C} \operatorname{NMR}\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=20.7,21.2,22.7$, $23.5,33.0,33.1,33.5,110.8(\mathrm{~d}, J=9.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ), 122.5, 122.8, 122.9, 123.0, 133.8, 150.8, 151.7 ( $\mathrm{d}, J=9.2$ $\mathrm{Hz}) \mathrm{ppm} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(100 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right) \delta=21.7,23.9,25.7,29.0,29.9,31.3,32.4,34.0,34.5,80.1,97.8$, $98.7,117.7,124.1,124.2,129.4,150.4,152.6(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ) ppm. IR (neat) $v \square=678,883,1036,1139$, 1349, 1447, 1518, 1855, $2948 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. HRMS calcd. for $\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{63} \mathrm{AuClN}_{2} \mathrm{PRh}$ : 913.313556, found 913.313689.

## Single crystal X-ray structure analyses

## Crystal structure analysis of 3



Figure S-1. Molecular structure of $\mathbf{3} \cdot 1 / 2\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}\right)$.
Crystal data for $3 \cdot 1 / 2 \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}$ : Chemical formula $2\left[\mathrm{C}_{36} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{~N} \mathrm{P} \mathrm{P}_{2}\right] \cdot \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{H}_{8}, F_{w}=1167.22 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, yellow needle from toluene, crystal size $0.05 \times 0.02 \times 0.02 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, crystal system triclinic, space group $P 1, a=$ 10.5881(12), $b=11.7546(14), c=13.4581(16) \AA, \alpha=73.849(2), \beta=73.626(2), V=78.953(2)^{\circ}, V=$ $1531.9(3) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}=1.265 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=1, \lambda=0.71073 \AA, \mu=0.172 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\text {min }}=0.99209, T_{\max }=0.99724$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 Apexll diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, $5.10<\theta<32.04^{\circ}, 47413$ reflections collected, 10542 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.0715$ ), 7527 reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$. Intensity statistics:

| lution | \#Data | eory | \%Complete | Redun | Mean I | an I/s | R(int) R | Rsigma |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Inf - 1.80 | 538 | 557 | 96.6 | 6.09 | 52.2 | 47.23 | 0.0261 | 0.0150 |
| 1.80-1.44 | 551 | 551 | 100.0 | 6.38 | 19.8 | 33.89 | 0.0376 | 0.0198 |
| $1.44-1.26$ | 538 | 538 | 100.0 | 6.17 | 17.9 | 31.46 | 0.0440 | 0.0222 |
| $1.26-1.14$ | 578 | 578 | 100.0 | 5.78 | 16.7 | 27.07 | 0.0477 | 0.0254 |
| $1.14-1.06$ | 545 | 545 | 100.0 | 5.44 | 9.7 | 19.27 | 0.0666 | 0.0366 |
| $1.06-1.00$ | 546 | 546 | 100.0 | 5.09 | 8.0 | 15.84 | 0.0770 | 0.0442 |
| 1.00-0.95 | 545 | 545 | 100.0 | 4.88 | 8.4 | 16.06 | 0.0818 | 0.0459 |
| 0.95-0.91 | 531 | 531 | 100.0 | 4.64 | 6.8 | 13.50 | 0.1001 | 0.0564 |
| 0.91-0.87 | 662 | 662 | 100.0 | 4.43 | 6.5 | 12.65 | 0.1040 | 0.0619 |
| $0.87-0.84$ | 563 | 563 | 100.0 | 4.23 | 5.7 | 10.34 | 0.1252 | 0.0721 |
| 0.84-0.81 | 653 | 653 | 100.0 | 4.06 | 4.7 | 8.90 | 0.1492 | 0.0884 |
| 0.81-0.78 | 749 | 749 | 100.0 | 3.93 | 4.2 | 7.77 | 0.1694 | 0.1054 |
| 0.78-0.76 | 571 | 571 | 100.0 | 3.78 | 3.9 | 6.91 | 0.1795 | 0.1164 |
| $0.76-0.74$ | 663 | 663 | 100.0 | 3.59 | 3.8 | 6.36 | 0.1964 | 0.1288 |
| $0.74-0.72$ | 720 | 720 | 100.0 | 3.51 | 3.1 | 5.23 | 0.2394 | 0.1593 |
| $0.72-0.70$ | 799 | 799 | 100.0 | 3.35 | 2.7 | 4.59 | 0.2607 | 0.1983 |
| $0.70-0.68$ | 820 | 886 | 92.6 | 2.80 | 2.5 | 3.81 | 0.2832 | 0.2555 |
| 0.68-0.67 | 2 | 13 | 15.4 | 0.15 | 1.2 | 0.38 |  | 2.4259 |
| Inf - 0.67 | 10574 | 10670 | 99.1 | 4.46 | 9.6 | 14.78 | 0.0656 | 0.0484 |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. The position of the N atom in the pyridyl group could not be located by refining the structure with C atoms in all the 6-membered rings, which indicates that the pyridyl group may be disordered over several positions in the molecule. Nevertheless, a lack of electron density in a region where the H atom of a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ group would be expected suggests that N 1 is the likely position of the N atom. The crystal contains a toluene molecule that is disordered about a crystallographic centre of symmetry. Disordered atoms were refined with isotropic atomic displacement parameters and half occupancy. Reflections above $4 \AA$ resolution were affected by the beamstop and removed from the final refinement cycles. $R_{1}=0.053[I>2 \sigma(I)], w R_{2}=0.152$ (all data), 381 parameters, $S=1.042$, residual electron density $+0.90 /-0.71$ e $\AA^{-3}$ [in the vicinity of C42 ( $0.57 \AA$ ) and C37 ( $0.53 \AA$ ), respectively]. CCDC 914763.

## Crystal structure analysis of 4



Figure S-2. Molecular structure of $\mathbf{4} \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$.
Crystal data for $4 \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ : Chemical formula $\left[\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{Au} \mathrm{N} \mathrm{P}_{3}\right]^{+}\left[\mathrm{F}_{6} \mathrm{Sb}\right]^{-} \cdot \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, F_{w}=1317.45 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, colourless plate from dichloromethane/pentane, crystal size $0.010 \times 0.010 \times 0.004 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, crystal system triclinic, space group $P 1, a=12.0585(17), b=15.106(2), c=16.288(2) \AA$, $\alpha=63.058(2), \beta=68.541(3)$, $Y=83.121(3)^{\circ}, V=2457.9(6) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}=1.780 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=2, \lambda=0.71073 \AA, \mu=3.800 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\text {min }}=0.95624, T_{\text {max }}=0.98694$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 Apexll diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, $1.82<\theta<23.44^{\circ}, 34062$ reflections collected, 7175 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.0705$ ), 5917 reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$. Intensity statistics:

Resolution \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s R(int) Rsigma

| Inf - 2.44 | 360 | 361 | 99.7 | 5.57 | 78.5 | 38.26 | 0.0327 | 0.0196 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2.44-1.93$ | 371 | 374 | 99.2 | 5.52 | 52.9 | 32.13 | 0.0418 | 0.0243 |
| 1.93-1.68 | 369 | 369 | 100.0 | 5.55 | 44.9 | 28.36 | 0.0451 | 0.0265 |
| $1.68-1.52$ | 373 | 373 | 100.0 | 5.44 | 36.9 | 25.27 | 0.0518 | 0.0300 |
| $1.52-1.42$ | 365 | 365 | 100.0 | 5.46 | 35.9 | 24.49 | 0.0532 | 0.0313 |
| $1.42-1.33$ | 409 | 409 | 100.0 | 5.37 | 30.1 | 21.00 | 0.0609 | 0.0361 |
| $1.33-1.26$ | 382 | 382 | 100.0 | 5.28 | 23.7 | 17.94 | 0.0772 | 0.0436 |
| $1.26-1.20$ | 421 | 421 | 100.0 | 5.08 | 22.4 | 16.21 | 0.0798 | 0.0484 |
| $1.20-1.15$ | 428 | 428 | 100.0 | 4.87 | 20.2 | 14.86 | 0.0929 | 0.0550 |
| $1.15-1.11$ | 388 | 388 | 100.0 | 4.81 | 16.7 | 12.61 | 0.1043 | 0.0653 |
| $1.11-1.07$ | 464 | 464 | 100.0 | 4.56 | 18.4 | 13.18 | 0.1039 | 0.0648 |
| $1.07-1.04$ | 373 | 373 | 100.0 | 4.49 | 14.9 | 10.91 | 0.1257 | 0.0785 |
| $1.04-1.01$ | 437 | 437 | 100.0 | 4.29 | 14.1 | 9.98 | 0.1286 | 0.0852 |
| 1.01-0.98 | 501 | 501 | 100.0 | 4.29 | 13.6 | 9.38 | 0.1338 | 0.0912 |
| 0.98-0.96 | 362 | 362 | 100.0 | 4.02 | 13.0 | 8.59 | 0.1466 | 0.0986 |
| $0.96-0.94$ | 392 | 392 | 100.0 | 4.05 | 11.4 | 7.53 | 0.1597 | 0.1132 |
| $0.94-0.92$ | 424 | 424 | 100.0 | 3.93 | 10.0 | 6.76 | 0.1749 | 0.1287 |
| $0.92-0.89$ | 359 | 392 | 91.6 | 2.80 | 8.9 | 5.35 | 0.1843 | 0.1889 |
| Inf - 0.89 | 7178 | 7215 | 99.5 | 4.72 | 25.2 | 16.46 | 0.0705 | 0.0483 |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. The crystal appears to be twinned about (0 001 ) [-2 -2 5] with a rotation matrix of $\left[\begin{array}{lllll}-1 & 0 & 0 & 0-1 & 0-0.854-0.8951 .0] ~(a c c o r d i n g ~ t o ~ P L A T O N, ~ A . ~ L . ~\end{array}\right.$ Spek, Acta Cryst. 2009, D65, 148-155). The refined fractional contribution of the second component was 0.09987 (154). The crystal diffracted so poorly that the possible non-merohedral intensity data of this minor second component could not be collected. It cannot be ruled out that the reflections for which the measured intensities were significantly higher than the calculated ones based on the model, are not a result of loss of solvent from the crystal and corresponding crystallinity with retention of the gold contribution. The probable position of the N atom was determined by refining atomic displacement parameters of all atoms in the 6-membered rings as $C$ atoms. The $C$ atom, with the smallest atomic displacement parameter and no adjacent electron density that could be construed as an H atom, was chosen to be N . Subsequent refinement cycles with atomic displacement parameters of all ring atoms restrained to be similar with a standard uncertainty of 0.001 ( 252 restraints) suggested that this choice was likely, but not certain. We cannot rule out that the N atom is disordered over several pyridyl rings. Assuming that the final model is correct, the larger than unity goodness-of-fit of 1.835 at the end of refinement suggests that the weights attributed to the measured intensities were underestimated. $R_{1}=$ $0.054\left[I>2 \sigma(\Lambda]\right.$, $w R_{2}=0.103$ (all data), 620 parameters, $S=1.835$, residual electron density $+2.37 /-$ 1.22 e Å-3 [in the vicinity of Au1 ( $1.07 \AA$ Å and $0.74 \AA$ Å, respectively)]. CCDC 914764.

## Crystal structure analysis of 5




Figure S-3. Molecular structure of $5 \cdot \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O} \cdot 1.26\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$.
Crystal data for 5. $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O} \cdot 1.26\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$ : Chemical formula $\left[\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{Au} \mathrm{Cl} \mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{N} \mathrm{P}_{3}\right]^{+}\left[\mathrm{F}_{6} \mathrm{Sb}^{-} \cdot \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}\right.$. $1.26\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right), F_{w}=1512.60 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, yellow needle from dichloro-methane/diethylether/hexane, crystal size $0.100 \times 0.020 \times 0.010 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, crystal system monoclinic, space group $C 2 / \mathrm{c}, a=31.703(8), b=$ 11.136(3), $c=38.620(11) \AA, \beta=114.233(4)^{\circ}, V=12433(6) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}=1.616 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=8, \lambda=$ $0.71073 \AA, \mu=3.410 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\min }=0.73288, T_{\max }=0.96823$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 ApexII diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, 2.42 < $\theta<27.88^{\circ}, 94800$ reflections collected, 14815 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.0946$ ), 12024 reflections with $/$ $>2 \sigma(\Lambda)$. Intensity statistics:

Resolution \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s R(int) Rsigma

| Inf - 2.07 | 844 | 852 | 99.1 | 7.56 | 84.4 | 26.19 | 0.0522 | 0.0309 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2.07-1.63$ | 843 | 844 | 99.9 | 8.05 | 52.4 | 23.84 | 0.0567 | 0.0326 |
| 1.63-1.42 | 850 | 850 | 100.0 | 8.14 | 45.8 | 22.77 | 0.0617 | 0.0336 |
| $1.42-1.28$ | 917 | 917 | 100.0 | 7.82 | 35.3 | 20.86 | 0.0708 | 0.0376 |
| $1.28-1.18$ | 931 | 931 | 100.0 | 7.38 | 25.8 | 17.83 | 0.0883 | 0.0444 |
| $1.18-1.11$ | 873 | 873 | 100.0 | 6.86 | 24.6 | 16.32 | 0.0930 | 0.0500 |
| $1.11-1.05$ | 929 | 929 | 100.0 | 6.60 | 20.0 | 14.47 | 0.1138 | 0.0589 |
| $1.05-1.00$ | 953 | 953 | 100.0 | 6.31 | 17.6 | 12.67 | 0.1237 | 0.0674 |
| 1.00-0.96 | 950 | 950 | 100.0 | 6.00 | 16.6 | 11.57 | 0.1327 | 0.0751 |
| $0.96-0.92$ | 1100 | 1100 | 100.0 | 5.75 | 14.2 | 10.56 | 0.1472 | 0.0866 |
| $0.92-0.89$ | 929 | 929 | 100.0 | 5.63 | 12.8 | 9.39 | 0.1694 | 0.0978 |
| 0.89-0.86 | 1078 | 1078 | 100.0 | 5.33 | 11.2 | 8.52 | 0.1745 | 0.1119 |
| 0.86-0.84 | 849 | 849 | 100.0 | 5.20 | 9.8 | 7.42 | 0.1995 | 0.1305 |
| $0.84-0.82$ | 878 | 878 | 100.0 | 5.10 | 9.2 | 7.23 | 0.2180 | 0.1412 |
| $0.82-0.80$ | 981 | 981 | 100.0 | 4.85 | 8.5 | 6.38 | 0.2291 | 0.1614 |
| $0.80-0.78$ | 1111 | 1111 | 100.0 | 4.84 | 7.5 | 5.79 | 0.2490 | 0.1787 |
| $0.78-0.76$ | 1222 | 1223 | 99.9 | 4.55 | 6.6 | 4.94 | 0.2926 | 0.2166 |
| $0.76-0.74$ | 595 | 812 | 73.3 | 1.97 | 5.7 | 3.25 | 0.2989 | 0.3080 |
| Inf - 0.74 | 16833 | 17060 | 98.7 | 5.95 | 21.8 | 12.53 | 0.0947 | 0.0638 |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. The Cu and Cl atoms in the cation are each disordered over two positions with refined occupancy of 0.802(7):0.198(7). Bond distances, angles and vectors indicate that in the major component ( $80 \%$ ), Cu1A is bonded to N 1 of the pyridyl group with a Cu1A-N1 bond distance of $2.267(6) \AA$. As a result, the Cl atom, Cl 1 A , which bonded to Cu 1 A , is bent away from N1 in the plane of Au1, Cu1A, N1, such that the C1-Cu1A-Cl1A bond angle is 148.3(2) ${ }^{\circ}$. Bond angles around the Cu atom of the minor component indicate that Cu 1 B undergoes interaction with an N atom of a minor pyridyl ring component near to the position of C20. Due to the partial occupancy of solute and the presence of $\mathrm{Au}, \mathrm{Cu}$ and Cl in the structure, it was not possible to locate the exact position of this pyridyl group, but it is probably bonded to P2. In addition, the large anisotropic atomic displacement parameter of CI1B indicate that the partial pyridyl group is itself disordered. The crystal contains both solute ether and dichloromethane. Both dichloromethane molecules are present with refined partial occupancy of $62.9(4) \%$. Several low angle reflections were shaded by the beamstop and were not used in the final refinement cycles. Assuming that the final model is correct, the larger than unity goodness-of-fit of 1.319 at the end of refinement suggests that the weights attributed to the measured intensities were slightly underestimated. $R_{1}=0.052[I>2 \sigma(\Lambda)], \mathrm{w} R_{2}=0.120$ (all data), 734 parameters, $S=1.319$, residual electron density $+1.88 /-2.68$ e $\AA^{-3}$ [in the vicinity of Au1 ( $0.91 \AA$ and 0.05 Å, respectively)]. CCDC 914765.

## Crystal structure analysis of 6



Figure S-4. Molecular structure of $6 \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$.
Crystal data for 6.2( $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right)$ : Chemical formula $\left[\mathrm{C}_{54} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{Au}_{2} \mathrm{Cl} \mathrm{N} \mathrm{P}_{3}\right]^{+}\left[\mathrm{F}_{6} \mathrm{Sb}\right]^{-} \cdot 2\left(\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right), F_{w}=$ $1634.80 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, colourless plate from dichloro-methane/diethylether, crystal size $0.036 \times 0.036 \times 0.010$ $\mathrm{mm}^{3}$, crystal system triclinic, space group P1, $a=11.0964(17), b=16.611(3), c=17.876(3) \AA, \alpha=$ $63.214(2), \beta=74.097(3), \gamma=71.051(3)^{\circ}, V=2750.0(7) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}=1.974 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=2, \lambda=$ $0.71073 \AA, \mu=6.199 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\text {min }}=0.77426, T_{\text {max }}=0.94267$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 ApexII diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, $2.18<$ $\theta<26.78^{\circ}, 58526$ reflections collected, 11609 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.0799$ ), 8203 reflections with $/>$ $2 \sigma(I)$ Intensity statistics:

Resolution \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s R(int) Rsigma

| Inf - 2.15 | 584 | 586 | 99.7 | 6.34 | 56.0 | 34.91 | 0.0289 | 0.0221 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2.15-1.72$ | 583 | 583 | 100.0 | 6.27 | 30.3 | 28.06 | 0.0374 | 0.0258 |
| $1.72-1.49$ | 614 | 614 | 100.0 | 6.20 | 26.3 | 25.79 | 0.0443 | 0.0281 |
| 1.49-1.35 | 614 | 614 | 100.0 | 6.13 | 21.7 | 23.01 | 0.0514 | 0.0312 |
| $1.35-1.25$ | 620 | 620 | 100.0 | 5.99 | 15.9 | 19.20 | 0.0669 | 0.0382 |
| $1.25-1.18$ | 594 | 594 | 100.0 | 5.78 | 12.9 | 16.30 | 0.0791 | 0.0461 |
| $1.18-1.12$ | 588 | 588 | 100.0 | 5.52 | 10.3 | 13.16 | 0.0963 | 0.0569 |
| $1.12-1.07$ | 641 | 641 | 100.0 | 5.30 | 10.6 | 13.04 | 0.1004 | 0.0601 |
| $1.07-1.03$ | 582 | 582 | 100.0 | 5.12 | 8.8 | 10.75 | 0.1174 | 0.0725 |
| 1.03-0.99 | 695 | 695 | 100.0 | 4.99 | 8.1 | 9.60 | 0.1319 | 0.0818 |
| $0.99-0.96$ | 600 | 600 | 100.0 | 4.75 | 7.8 | 9.14 | 0.1395 | 0.0888 |
| 0.96-0.93 | 673 | 673 | 100.0 | 4.62 | 6.4 | 7.59 | 0.1648 | 0.1100 |
| $0.93-0.90$ | 795 | 795 | 100.0 | 4.46 | 5.2 | 6.08 | 0.1962 | 0.1374 |
| 0.90-0.87 | 868 | 868 | 100.0 | 4.28 | 4.6 | 5.24 | 0.2198 | 0.1633 |
| $0.87-0.85$ | 662 | 662 | 100.0 | 4.27 | 3.6 | 4.13 | 0.2832 | 0.2073 |
| $0.85-0.83$ | 737 | 737 | 100.0 | 4.10 | 3.5 | 3.93 | 0.2782 | 0.2280 |
| 0.83-0.81 | 795 | 795 | 100.0 | 3.95 | 2.9 | 3.19 | 0.3276 | 0.2842 |
| 0.81-0.79 | 368 | 474 | 77.6 | 2.43 | 2.8 | 2.78 | 0.3292 | 0.3520 |
| Inf - 0.79 | 11613 | 11721 | 99.1 | 4.99 | 12.6 | 12.61 | 0.0762 | 0.0585 |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. One of the phenyl/pyridyl groups attached to P was rotationally disordered over two positions about C19. The location of the single 2pyridyl group attached to P could not be determined with certainty. However, refinement of all the sixmembered ring atoms as $C$ resulted in smaller than average $C$ atomic displacement parameters for C 01 and C20A, indicating that these positions are the preferential locations of N. Position C20A and half of position C01 were refined as N atoms (N1A and N1B, respectively). Distances of these two N atoms to the Au atom Au2 (N1A...Au2 3.31(1) and N1B...Au2 3.41(1) Å) indicate that the 2-pyridyl group is not bonded to Au2. This is confirmed by the almost linear C1-Au2-Cl1 angle of 178.8(2). The crystal contains two solute dichlormethane molecules. The atomic displacement parameter of one Cl atom (Cl4) is somewhat anisotropic. Attempts to model the disorder of this atom by two atoms with half occupancy were unsuccessful, since the close proximity of a centre of symmetry, and associated symmetry related molecule, prevented an otherwise chemically sensible interpretation of the disorder. Several low angle reflections were shaded by the beamstop and were not included in the final refinement cycles. $R_{1}=$ $0.051[I>2 \sigma(I)], w R_{2}=0.139$ (all data), 648 parameters, $S=1.270$, residual electron density $+3.23 /-$ 1.98 e $\AA^{-3}$ [in the vicinity of $\mathrm{Au} 2(0.92 \AA$ ) and Cl4 ( $0.74 \AA$ ), respectively)]. CCDC 914766.

## Crystal structure analysis of 9



Figure S-5. Molecular structure of $9 \cdot \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}$.
Crystal data for 9. $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}$ : Chemical formula [ $\left.\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{51} \mathrm{Au}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{P}\right] \cdot\left(\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}\right), F_{w}=1009.65 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, colourless prism from dichloromethane/diethylether, crystal size $0.110 \times 0.100 \times 0.060 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, crystal system monoclinic, space group $P 2_{1} / \mathrm{n}, a=12.2004(15), b=18.010(2), c=17.840(2) \AA, \beta=96.719(2)^{\circ}$, $V=3893.2(8) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}=1.723 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=4, \lambda=0.71073 \AA, \mu=7.733 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\min }=0.35063, T_{\max }=0.67230$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 Apexll diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, $1.61<\theta<31.02^{\circ}$, 112428 reflections collected, 12388 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=0.0279$ ), 11258 reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$. Intensity statistics:

Resolution \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s Rmerge Rsigma

| Inf - 2.88 | 192 | 195 | 98.5 | 11.00 | 133.0 | 107.25 | 0.0178 | 0.0074 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $2.88-1.90$ | 452 | 452 | 100.0 | 12.05 | 88.5 | 104.04 | 0.0167 | 0.0071 |
| $1.90-1.50$ | 640 | 640 | 100.0 | 12.14 | 73.2 | 98.63 | 0.0179 | 0.0074 |
| $1.50-1.31$ | 636 | 636 | 100.0 | 11.95 | 49.5 | 85.15 | 0.0212 | 0.0083 |
| $1.31-1.18$ | 685 | 685 | 100.0 | 11.55 | 43.0 | 77.13 | 0.0224 | 0.0092 |
| $1.18-1.10$ | 605 | 605 | 100.0 | 10.90 | 41.2 | 71.55 | 0.0240 | 0.0097 |
| $1.10-1.03$ | 690 | 690 | 100.0 | 10.31 | 34.0 | 62.01 | 0.0267 | 0.0109 |
| $1.03-0.98$ | 616 | 616 | 100.0 | 9.74 | 29.2 | 56.13 | 0.0287 | 0.0124 |
| $0.98-0.93$ | 760 | 760 | 100.0 | 9.39 | 25.6 | 50.59 | 0.0314 | 0.0136 |
| $0.93-0.90$ | 532 | 532 | 100.0 | 8.89 | 24.4 | 47.99 | 0.0337 | 0.0147 |
| $0.90-0.87$ | 603 | 603 | 100.0 | 8.77 | 21.2 | 43.00 | 0.0380 | 0.0163 |
| $0.87-0.84$ | 721 | 721 | 100.0 | 8.35 | 19.4 | 40.25 | 0.0391 | 0.0179 |
| $0.84-0.81$ | 796 | 796 | 100.0 | 8.09 | 16.6 | 34.55 | 0.0466 | 0.0206 |
| $0.81-0.79$ | 628 | 628 | 100.0 | 7.79 | 16.0 | 32.99 | 0.0474 | 0.0220 |
| $0.79-0.77$ | 666 | 666 | 100.0 | 7.60 | 13.0 | 27.66 | 0.0565 | 0.0259 |
| $0.77-0.76$ | 369 | 369 | 100.0 | 7.38 | 13.9 | 27.77 | 0.0516 | 0.0255 |
| $0.76-0.74$ | 791 | 791 | 100.0 | 7.16 | 12.6 | 25.91 | 0.0590 | 0.0283 |
| $0.74-0.72$ | 875 | 875 | 100.0 | 7.00 | 12.8 | 24.82 | 0.0573 | 0.0291 |
| $0.72-0.71$ | 485 | 485 | 100.0 | 6.58 | 11.4 | 22.83 | 0.0666 | 0.0335 |
| $0.71-0.70$ | 510 | 510 | 100.0 | 6.68 | 10.3 | 21.42 | 0.0724 | 0.0361 |
| $0.70-0.69$ | 503 | 546 | 92.1 | 5.45 | 11.2 | 20.29 | 0.0685 | 0.0390 |
| ------------------------------------------------------------------------1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. $R_{1}=0.0148[I>2 \sigma(\Lambda)], \mathrm{w} R_{2}=0.0351$ (all data), 395 parameters, $S=1.029$, residual electron density $+1.93 /-1.22$ e $\AA^{-3}$ [in the vicinity of Au2 ( $0.68 \AA \AA$ ) and $\mathrm{Cl} 2(0.73 \AA$ ), respectively)]. CCDC 914767.

## Crystal structure analysis of 10



Figure S-6. Molecular structure of 10.
Crystal data for 10: Chemical formula [ $\left.\mathrm{C}_{38} \mathrm{H}_{63} \mathrm{Au} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{PRh}\right], F_{w}=949.65 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$, yellow needle from dichloromethane/diethylether, crystal size $0.190 \times 0.120 \times 0.040 \mathrm{~mm}^{3}$, crystal system monoclinic, space group $C 2 / \mathrm{c}, a=24.580(3), b=26.348(4), c=15.250(2) \AA, \beta=126.810(2)^{\circ}, V=7908(2) \AA^{3}, T=100 \mathrm{~K}, \rho_{\mathrm{c}}$ $=1.595 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}, Z=8, \lambda=0.71073 \AA, \mu=4.327 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$, Gaussian absorption correction ( $T_{\text {min }}=0.18962$, $T_{\max }=0.76362$ ), scaling SADABS, Brucker AXS Mach3 Apexll diffractometer equipped with Helios multilayer X-ray optics, $2.27<\theta<30.51^{\circ}$, 110186 reflections collected, 12070 unique reflections ( $R_{\text {int }}=$ $0.0505), 10548$ reflections with $I>2 \sigma(\Lambda)$. Intensity statistics:

Resolution \#Data \#Theory \%Complete Redundancy Mean I Mean I/s Rmerge Rsigma

| Inf - -2.47 | 296 | 297 | 99.7 | 11.69 | 56.8 | 50.25 | 0.0387 | 0.0173 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $2.47-1.63$ | 711 | 711 | 100.0 | 12.03 | 38.8 | 46.92 | 0.0378 | 0.0166 |
| $1.63-1.30$ | 948 | 948 | 100.0 | 11.97 | 24.9 | 41.83 | 0.0386 | 0.0175 |
| $1.30-1.13$ | 1016 | 1016 | 100.0 | 11.25 | 19.6 | 36.70 | 0.0427 | 0.0193 |
| $1.13-1.02$ | 1051 | 1051 | 100.0 | 10.31 | 16.4 | 32.38 | 0.0460 | 0.0218 |
| $1.02-0.95$ | 930 | 930 | 100.0 | 9.57 | 13.5 | 28.95 | 0.0503 | 0.0242 |
| $0.95-0.89$ | 1085 | 1085 | 100.0 | 8.93 | 11.4 | 25.22 | 0.0573 | 0.0275 |
| $0.89-0.85$ | 862 | 862 | 100.0 | 8.55 | 9.5 | 22.33 | 0.0639 | 0.0310 |
| $0.85-0.81$ | 1089 | 1089 | 100.0 | 8.09 | 8.4 | 20.11 | 0.0716 | 0.0348 |
| $0.81-0.78$ | 943 | 943 | 100.0 | 7.67 | 7.2 | 17.62 | 0.0780 | 0.0399 |
| $0.78-0.75$ | 1094 | 1094 | 100.0 | 7.39 | 7.3 | 17.66 | 0.0838 | 0.0416 |
| $0.75-0.73$ | 833 | 833 | 100.0 | 7.06 | 6.3 | 15.18 | 0.0962 | 0.0480 |
| $0.73-0.71$ | 956 | 956 | 100.0 | 6.83 | 6.0 | 14.57 | 0.0988 | 0.0509 |
| $0.71-0.69$ | 1047 | 1047 | 100.0 | 6.57 | 5.4 | 12.82 | 0.1109 | 0.0572 |
| $0.69-0.67$ | 1178 | 1178 | 100.0 | 6.29 | 4.7 | 11.53 | 0.1265 | 0.0663 |
| $0.67-0.66$ | 641 | 641 | 100.0 | 6.05 | 4.0 | 10.05 | 0.1463 | 0.0773 |
| $0.66-0.64$ | 1415 | 1415 | 100.0 | 5.86 | 3.9 | 9.80 | 0.1489 | 0.0813 |
| $0.64-0.63$ | 758 | 758 | 100.0 | 5.65 | 3.4 | 8.21 | 0.1724 | 0.0963 |
| $0.63-0.62$ | 843 | 843 | 100.0 | 5.44 | 3.2 | 7.97 | 0.1829 | 0.1036 |
| $0.62-0.61$ | 854 | 856 | 99.8 | 5.23 | 3.0 | 7.18 | 0.1921 | 0.1156 |
| $0.61-0.59$ | 980 | 1554 | 63.1 | 1.64 | 2.7 | 4.49 | 0.2052 | 0.1986 |
| -------------------------------------------------------------------1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Solution by direct methods (SHELXS-97), refinement by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ (SHELXL-97, G. M. Sheldrick, Acta Cryst. 2008, A64, 112-122), H atoms riding. Reflections above 9 Å resolution were shaded by the beamstop and removed from the final least-squares refinement cycles. $R_{1}=0.020[I>$ $2 \sigma(\Lambda)$ ], w $R_{2}=0.049$ (all data), 420 parameters, $S=1.228$, residual electron density $+1.56 /-1.04 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}[$ in the vicinity of Rh2 ( $0.92 \AA$ Å) and Au1 ( $0.76 \AA$ Å), respectively)]. CCDC 914768.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Y. van den Winkel, H. M. M. Bastiaans, F. Bickelhaupt, J. Organomet. Chem. 1991, 405,183.
    ${ }^{2}$ R. Weiss, K. G. Wagner, C. Priesner, J. Macheleid, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1985, 107, 4491.

