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# Hybrid Catalysts for Enantioselective Photo-Phosphoric Acid Catalysis

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# Abstract

The syntheses of two novel, organic, and chiral photocatalysts are presented. By combining donor–acceptor cyanoarene-based photocatalysts with a chiral phosphoric acid, bifunctional catalysts have been designed. In preliminary proof-of-concept reactions, their use in both enantioselective energy transfer and photoredox catalysis is demonstrated.

# **Graphical Abstract**

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.joc.3c00191. Photophysical measurements; CV data; overview schemes of photocatalyst synthesis; synthesis of literature known compounds; synthesis of PCII-Cl intermediate; HPLC spectra; NMR spectra (PDF)

Complete contact information is available at: https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acs.joc.3c00191

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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## INTRODUCTION

Within the rapidly expanding field of photocatalysis, the development of enantioselective transformations remains challenging due to the high reactivity and transient nature of photoexcited intermediates. A particular challenge in this area is the suppression of uncatalyzed background processes that give rise to undesired racemic products. To tackle this problem, creative strategies have been developed<sup>1–3</sup> such as utilizing chiral Lewis acid catalysis in conjuncture with a separate photocatalyst or via direct excitation of the substrate. Within these strategies, the role of the chiral Lewis acid for the enantioselectivity of the photocatalyzed reaction can be manifold as has been elegantly shown by pioneering work of the groups of Bach,<sup>4</sup> Yoon,<sup>5</sup> and Meggers.<sup>6</sup>

One such mode of enantioinduction via a chiral Lewis acid was shown by the Bach group in the [2 + 2] photocycloaddition of enones (Scheme 1A).<sup>4e</sup> In this example, coordination of chiral Lewis acid **LA1** to the substrate results in a red-shifted absorption of the substrate by lowering the energy of the LUMO, rendering an uncoordinated racemic background reaction less feasible as compared to excitation of the chiral Lewis acid substrate complex. While this strategy relies on direct excitation of the substrate, the work of Yoon introduced the use of a chiral Lewis acid for enantioselective triplet energy-transfer catalysis that proceeds with a discrete photocatalyst separate from the Lewis acid (Scheme 1B).<sup>5c</sup> In this case, the coordination of the chiral Lewis acid complex to 2'-hydroxychalcones causes a significant lowering of the triplet energy of the substrate, allowing for selective excitation and subsequent enantioselective control.

In addition to utilizing Lewis acids to enable enantioselective photocatalytic processes, the use of hydrogen bonding as another secondary mode of catalysis is of particular importance in this field.<sup>1b,3</sup> This noncovalent interaction has been established as a powerful method to control the selectivity of photocatalytic transformations leading to the existence of a multitude of chiral catalysts containing a hydrogen bonding site. The first bifunctional hydrogen bonding photocatalyst for an intramolecular enantioselective [2 + 2] photocycloaddition of quinolones was introduced in 2003 by Krische et al. and utilized benzophenone as a sensitizing moiety (Figure 1).<sup>7</sup> While this example was important in

demonstrating the potential of enantioselective catalysis via sensitization by a photocatalyst with a pendant chiral motif, it suffers from relatively poor enantioselectivities. Since then, the Bach group has developed modified catalysts that result in higher selectivities, first by attaching a benzophenone photosensitizer to a lactam backbone and later by improving on this structure through the incorporation of a xanthone photosensitizer (xanthone catalyst shown in Scheme 2A).<sup>3,8</sup>

Despite the success of these catalysts in chiral photocatalysis, their ability to promote competing hydrogen atom abstraction reactions results in decomposition of the catalyst that limits their long-term stability. Further, both benzophenone and xanthone absorb light in the ultraviolet region, which often has sufficiently high energy to directly excite substrates, resulting in undesired background reactions. In 2014, the Bach group overcame this wavelength limitation by presenting the synthesis of a chiral thioxanthone, allowing for the use of visible light in an enantioselective [2 + 2] photocycloaddition (Scheme 2B).<sup>9</sup>

Building on the thioxanthone scaffold six years later, the group further enhanced its reactivity by combining this photocatalyst with a different hydrogen-bonding motif in the form of chiral phosphoric acids to yield novel bifunctional catalysts TX-PA1 and TX-PA2 (Scheme 2C).<sup>10</sup> Shortly thereafter, the group of Masson independently reported the synthesis of TX-PA2 and its monosubstituted C1-symmetric-derivate featuring only one thioxanthone moiety.<sup>11f</sup> The use of **TX-PA1** to promote enantioselective processes was demonstrated in a [2 + 2] intermolecular cycloaddition reaction with  $\beta$ -carboxyl-substituted cyclic enones. The chiral phosphoric acid moiety binds to the carboxylic acid by means of two hydrogen bonds, imprinting its chirality, while the attached thioxanthone moieties induce the energy transfer process. Enantiomeric ratios of up to 93:7 were achieved, albeit with only a relatively small substrate scope and with overall low yields. Despite the achievements of bifunctional thioxanthone-based catalysts in the field of enantioselective photocatalysis,<sup>11</sup> the ability to further modify the thioxanthone photocatalyst core of these chiral catalysts has proven to be limited and modifications are usually focusing on the attached chiral backbone, and not the photocatalyst itself. Consequently, addressing limitations of these chiral thioxanthonephotocatalysts, such as unmatched redox potentials or insufficient triplet energies, remains challenging.<sup>12</sup> For example, the triplet energy of modified thioxanthone based **TX-PA1** is significantly lowered as compared to the parent thioxanthen-9-one (from 272 to 235 kJ/mol). Hence, there is a need for bifunctional phosphoric acid photocatalysts with more readily tuned photophysical properties which inspired us to think about alternative catalyst structures that would allow for increased design flexibility.

Specifically, we were interested in the introduction of well-known donor–acceptor cyanoarene-based photocatalysts into the backbone of chiral phosphoric acids. We were especially attracted to this family of photocatalysts because of their extensively studied photophysical properties and their known understanding of how structural changes result in a tuning of these properties. This tuning is achieved by changing the nature of donors and acceptors, which in turn change the charge transfer characteristics of these photocatalysts and therefore impact their redox and photophysical properties.<sup>13</sup> Within this wide class of carbazole-based photocatalysts, we were particularly excited by the inexpensive organic dye **4CzIPN**, which has found tremendous applications in photocatalysis<sup>14</sup> since its introduction

in 2012 originally in the context of organic light-emitting diode (OLED) research.<sup>15b</sup> The widespread adoption of this catalyst is due to its promising photophysical properties, including a high photoluminescence quantum yield (up to 94.6%) and a long lifetime in the excited state. Additionally, the wide redox potential window, that is comparable to that of commonly utilized Ru- and Ir-polypyridyl catalysts, combined with a high chemical stability make this system a particularly attractive catalyst choice. Furthermore, carbazole-based photocatalysts have found utility as both effective photoredox catalysts as well as highly efficient energy transfer catalysts.<sup>16,17</sup> On the basis of these promising features, we hypothesized that novel chiral catalysts derived from the union of chiral phosphoric acids and donor–acceptor cyanoarene-based photocatalysts would open new chemical space in both enantioselective visible light-mediated photoredox and energy transfer catalysis.

# SYNTHESIS AND CHALLENGES

For the reasons discussed above, we started our synthetic approach with the goal of attaching a **4CzIPN** derived moiety to a BINOL-based chiral phosphoric acid. We envisioned starting our synthesis of this new chiral photocatalyst from the literature reported chiral BINOL boronic acid 2 (Scheme 3A).<sup>18,19</sup>

From this intermediate, a Suzuki coupling with a brominated analogue **4** of **4CzIPN** was envisioned to allow for the desired union of the photocatalyst with the BINOL backbone of what will become the phosphoric acid.<sup>19</sup> Inspired by earlier reports from our group about photosubstitution reactions of the nitrile group at **4CzIPN** and **2CzPN**, we considered leveraging this photoredox radical coupling for the synthesis of the necessary brominated 4CzIPN derivative 4.<sup>20</sup> To our delight, the previously unreported reaction of **4CzIPN** (**3**) with 4-bromophenylacetic acid gave the desired product **4** without any detrimental effects due to the presence of the potentially reactive aryl bromide (Scheme 3B, second step). This functionalization reaction proceeded in good yield when performed on a small scale (60  $\mu$ mol) using irradiation from below via a 451 nm LED plate through the bottom of 5 mL crimp cap vials; however, scaling up the reaction to a synthetically useful 2.4 mmol using a Kessil lamp ( $\lambda_{max} = 440$  nm) yielded just 42% of the desired substrate after 1 h reaction time, in contrast to the 70% observed on the 60  $\mu$ mol scale under otherwise identical conditions. By doubling the concentration and increasing the time to 5 h, a 72% isolated yield was achieved on a 2.4 mmol scale (Scheme 3B).

Next, the palladium cross-coupling of **4** and **2** was investigated (Table 1). Solubility issues of **4** in commonly used solvents for Suzuki coupling, such as 1,4 dioxane/water (entry 1), resulted in low yield; therefore, DMF was added as a third cosolvent (entry 2) to increase both solubility and yield. Using only a DMF/water mixture (entry 3) resulted in similar yields as 1,4-dioxane/water and provided worse results than the three-solvent system. Doubling the catalyst loading (entry 4) or increasing the equivalents of base (entry 5) did not have major impacts on the yield.

Testing different palladium sources (e.g., Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>·DCM) and different solvents (e.g., dichloroethane) also gave very low yields. Changing the base to sodium carbonate decreased the yield (entry 6), while using cesium carbonate in the solvent system gave the best result

with 45% isolated yield (entry 7) of the desired coupled product **5**. The remaining mass balance was attributed to the formation of monocoupled product **6** (26% isolated yield) and a mixture of starting material **4** and debrominated starting material. With sufficiently optimized conditions in hand, the Suzuki coupling was scaled up to 0.7 mmol of starting material **2** without significant impact on the yield (43% isolated yield).

Next, demethylation of **5** to produce the free binaphthol necessary for the introduction of the phosphoric acid was achieved by using BBr<sub>3</sub> (4.0 equiv, 1 M in DCM),<sup>10,19</sup> resulting in quantitative formation of **7** without the need for purification by column chromatography (Scheme 4, first step).

In the final step, the phosphoric acid moiety was introduced (Scheme 4, second step).<sup>21</sup> After purification via recrystallization induced selective precipitation of impurities from hot MeCN followed by column chromatography, the final desired bifunctional catalyst **PCI** was obtained as bright yellow crystals.

Motivated by positive reports on the performance of **2CzPN** as an energy transfer catalyst,<sup>22</sup> we envisioned a synthetic route toward a second bifunctional catalyst consisting of the chiral phosphoric acid backbone and **2CzPN** as the attached photocatalyst. To achieve this, a slightly different approach was used to access a brominated derivative of **2CzPN** (**9**), as depicted in Scheme 5. Although the synthesis of **9** was described in the literature,<sup>23</sup> our attempts at replicating the reported procedure for the synthesis of intermediate 8 were hindered by both incomplete reactivity and over addition of the carbazole, which presented challenging issues related to purification by column chromatography. Attempts to optimize the reaction conditions to give **8** in a quantitative yield were unsuccessful. By observing that the desired molecule **8** displayed lower solubilities in chloroform and DCM than the symmetric unwanted products (difluoro starting material and **2CzPN**), we were able to develop a new purification process to obtain pure **8** through multiple rounds of washes with chloroform/DCM.

Pure **9** was then submitted to the previously optimized conditions of the Suzuki coupling of **4**; namely a solvent mixture of 1,4-dioxane, water and DMF with Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> as base and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> as the palladium catalyst (Scheme 6A). Surprisingly, no desired cross-coupled product **10** was observed, and only what was assigned to be the monocoupled product was obtained. We hypothesized that this lack of biscoupling may be due to the increased steric hindrance of attaching the photocatalyst moiety directly at the carbazole, rather than by an additional benzylic linker as in the case of **5**. As such, an alternative route was explored, allowing a stepwise introduction of the steric bulk (Scheme 6B). First, the sterically less demanding 3-bromocarbazole was submitted to a Suzuki coupling yielding **11** in an excellent yield of 94%. We envisioned taking advantage of the reduced steric bulk surrounding the carbazole nitrogen to introduce the remainder of the photocatalyst through a nucleophilic aromatic coupling strategy. Gratifyingly, this coupling of **11** with aryl fluoride **8** was successful and produced desired intermediate **10** in 90% yield. It is noteworthy that the nucleophilic substitution leading to **10** was only achieved using NaH and not when using NaHMDS, the latter of which is often used in the synthesis of **2CzPN** or **4CzIPN**.<sup>20a</sup>

Unfortunately, the demethylation of **10** under the conditions described for the synthesis of photocatalyst **PCI** (1 M BBr<sub>3</sub> in DCM, 4.0 equiv) only led to the decomposition of **10**. Utilizing less harsh reaction conditions, such as lowering the temperature of the BBr<sub>3</sub> reaction to -78 °C before quenching at room temperature or using AlCl<sub>3</sub><sup>24</sup> in place of BBr<sub>3</sub>, also failed to give the desired product and only resulted in the formation of decomposition products. The use of neat pyridine hydrochloride at 200 °C was next explored<sup>25</sup> but resulted in no conversion of the starting material 10. By doubling the equivalents of BBr<sub>3</sub> from 4 to 8 at a reaction temperature of -78 °C, while also quenching the reaction mixture at this low temperature, a new compound was obtained that was identified to be monodemethylated **10**. However, neither longer reaction times (1–6 h) nor more equivalents of BBr<sub>3</sub> were able to push the reaction to complete demethylation. Fortunately, it was found that using trimethylsilyl iodide<sup>26</sup> in dry deuterated chloroform followed by quenching with methanol overnight produced the desired doubly demethylated catalyst precursor **12** in a moderate yield of 61% (Scheme 7, step 1).

Targeting the formation of **PCII**, the free binaphthol **12** was then submitted to the same phosphorylation conditions as was used previously on **7** for the synthesis of **PCI**. However, in this case, it is worth mentioning that the resulting <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectrum showed three singlet phosphorus signals in proximity at 0.56, 0.76, and 0.92 ppm in DMSO- $d_6$ . Conformational restrictions in **PCII** were suspected to be a potential cause of this observation. Therefore, high-temperature NMR studies in DMSO were carried out. However, these experiments proved inconclusive as heating the sample to 368 K (95 °C) did not result in coalescence of the signals. Further, neither different column chromatographic purification conditions nor recrystallization led to any observable change in the ratio of the signals in the NMR spectra (<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P).

To confirm that none of these observed phosphorus peaks correspond to the intermediate phosphoryl chloride that is formed before hydrolysis to the desired phosphoric acid, the phosphoryl chloride was selectively synthesized and investigated by <sup>31</sup>P NMR<sup>27</sup> (see Supporting Information). The spectrum showed multiple peaks which were significantly shifted compared to the signals obtained for the acid (by ~2 ppm in CDCl<sub>3</sub>), excluding the chloride as a source for the three signals. Since HRMS and <sup>1</sup>H NMR indicate that the desired phosphoric acid photocatalyst **PCII** was synthesized, we believe that **PCII** was obtained, and that the observed splitting is most likely caused by conformational effects.

A schematic view summarizing the synthesis of both **PCI** and **PCII** can be found in the Supporting Information.

# **PROOF-OF-CONCEPT REACTIONS**

After the successful synthesis of the two novel bifunctional catalysts **PCI** and **PCII**, we first wanted to test their ability to induce chirality in known photochemical reactions. We were particularly interested in investigating whether the two catalysts can promote both asymmetric energy transfer and photoredox catalysis. For this purpose, the triplet energies and redox potentials of **PCI** and **PCII** were measured and compared to published values

of the corresponding parent compounds **4CzIPN** and **2CzPN** (Table 2; see Supporting Information for details).

Further, two proof-of-concept dual catalytic reactions were picked from the literature to evaluate the competency and performance of our catalysts. In both reactions, the original conditions relied upon a chiral phosphoric acid for asymmetric induction and a discrete photocatalyst for substrate activation.

The first investigated reaction was the energy transfer-catalyzed [2 + 2] cycloaddition depicted in Table 3 that was first published in a racemic fashion in 2020 by the group of Yoon.<sup>30</sup> In the achiral version, a ruthenium catalyst can only effectively excite the imidazole substrate **13** in the presence of the acid *p*-TsOH (20 mol %), as the acid cocatalyst facilitates the triplet energy transfer of the photocatalyst (Table 3, entries 1–4). A year later, the group published a chiral version of this reaction utilizing 1 mol % of [Ir(Fppy)<sub>2</sub>(dtbbpy)]PF<sub>6</sub> as photocatalyst with 20 mol % of chiral BINOL-derived phosphoric acids **CPA-1** and **CPA-2** (entries 5–7).<sup>31</sup> At room temperature, their initial conditions utilizing **CPA-1** resulted in 72% yield with 37% enantiomeric excess (ee) and a diastereoselective ratio (dr) of 1:2 favoring the *trans–trans* **14** over the *trans–cis* product 14 (entry 5). Interestingly, when switching to the more acidic *N*-triflyl phosphoramide derivative of the chiral acid (**CPA-2**), they observed that no photocatalyst is needed at all and they can achieve similar yields via direct excitation with 20 mol % of acid in high ee (97%) and high, but reversed, dr (6:1 for the *trans–cis* product) when the temperature is decreased to  $-78 \,^{\circ}C$  (entry 8).

When only 5 mol % of **PCI** was utilized with the same solvent system as reported by the Yoon group, an ee of 35% was achieved at room temperature (entry 9) with a yield of 70% while slightly favoring the *trans–trans* product **14** with a dr of 1:1.3 (*trans–cis:trans–trans*). **PCII** achieves similar yields (72%), albeit with a slightly lower enantioselectivity of 27% ee at room temperature but with better diastereoselectivity of 1:1.6 favoring the *trans–trans* product of **14** (entry 11). As higher enantiomeric values and better dr values were observed by the Yoon group when lowering the reaction temperature to -78 °C, we investigated the effects of low temperature for our catalysts as well (entries 10 and 12). We were delighted to find that upon lowering the temperature to -78 °C, both photocatalysts gave improved enantioselectivities, with **PCII** producing 65% ee with a simultaneously improved yield of 80% (entry 12). As observed in the original publication by the Yoon group, the diastereoselectivity also improved, now favoring the *trans–cis* product of **14** with a moderate dr of 3.8:1.

Highly motivated by these promising results indicating that **PCI** and **PCII** impart enantioselectivity in a visible-light mediated energy-transfer-catalyzed reaction, we wanted to further explore their performance as photoredox catalysts. To study this ability, we were especially interested in a recently published example of a chiral photoredox-catalyzed Minisci reaction (Table 4).<sup>32</sup> The reported example utilized 2 mol % of **4CzIPN** along with 10 mol % of a chiral phosphoric acid at 15 °C to construct chiral heterobiaryls **17** in good yields with excellent ee and diastereoselectivity (entry 1). We chose this example to test whether the novel bifunctional catalysts can replace the dual catalytic system and fulfill the role of both chiral phosphoric acid and photocatalyst in an enantioselective fashion in this

photoredox-catalyzed reaction. By subjecting both **PCI** and **PCII** to the literature reported reaction conditions, albeit at a slightly higher temperature (room temperature), we were delighted to find that without any optimization, an enantioselectivity of 21% with a yield of 33% was achieved with **PCI** (entry 4). Using only **4CzIPN** gave no product formation (entry 2), indicating that the phosphoric moiety of **PCI** is necessary for the reaction. Indeed, by adding 10 mol % racemic phosphoric acid *rac*-**PA**, racemic product **17** could be obtained with **4CzIPN** in low yields (entry 3).

This initial hit with **PCI** (entry 4) shows evidence of achieving chirality with our novel catalyst in reactions operating by a photoredox mechanism and we are optimistic that better enantioselectivity could be achieved by optimizing the reaction conditions for this specific catalyst.

# **CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK**

In summary, we have synthesized two novel catalysts that combine a chiral phosphoric acid with an organic, donor–acceptor cyanoarene-based photocatalyst moiety. Both are accessible in seven-step syntheses and all the synthetic challenges in accessing these catalysts have been overcome. In proof-of-concept reactions, the bifunctional catalysts have shown potential for both enantioselective energy transfer catalysis and photoredox catalysis. To explore the full potential of these novel catalysts, optimization studies need to be carried out to improve both yield and selectivity in the proof-of-concept examples.

Going forward, a potential library of donor–acceptor cyanoarene-based chiral photocatalysts can be envisioned to tailor the photophysical properties of the catalysts to the reactions. A potential pathway to modulate the enantioselectivity of these catalysts is the introduction of only one photocatalyst unit (**PC**) and replacement of the second photocatalyst unit with a bulky group that better extends the chirality of the BINOL backbone into the substratebinding pocket of the chiral phosphoric acid (Scheme 8-R<sup>1</sup>). Further, enantioselectivity might be improved by increasing the acidity of the phosphoric acid through conversion to the *N*-triflyl phosphoramide (Scheme 8-R<sup>2</sup>).<sup>33</sup> We believe that this new class of highly modular catalysts will help open new avenues of research in chiral photocatalysis.

# **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

#### Materials and General Methods.

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Anhydrous solvents were obtained from Acros Organics in a AcroSeal bottle ("anhydrous") or purified by passage through an activated alumina column under an argon atmosphere. Air sensitive reactions were performed in Schlenk vials or crimp capped vials under nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) using plastic syringes and cannulas to transfer solvents or liquid reagents. The reactants of the photoreaction were weighed under air but degassed by three cycles of freeze pump thaw after addition of solvent to ensure complete exclusion of air. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using Merck silica gel 60 F254 TLC plates and visualized under UV or by staining with KMnO<sub>4</sub>. Purification by flash column chromatography was performed on a Teledyne Isco CombiFlash. Enantiomeric

excess was determined by chiral HPLC using Daicel OD-H, OJ-H, IA, and IB columns  $(0.46 \times 25 \text{ cm})$ . All NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature unless otherwise noted using Bruker AV 600, Neo-500, AVB-400 and AVQ 400 spectrometers. These CoC-NMR instruments at UC Berkeley are funded in part by the NIH (S10OD024998). All chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$ -scale as parts per million [ppm] (multiplicity, coupling constant J, number of protons), relative to the solvent residual peaks as the internal standard (CHCl<sub>3</sub>;  $\delta H = 7.268$  ppm and  $\delta C = 77.16$  ppm). Coupling constants J are given in Hertz [Hz]. Abbreviations used for signal multiplicity:  ${}^{1}H$  NMR: b = broad, s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, dd = doublet of doublets, ddd = doublet of doublets, dt = doublet of triplets, dq = doublet of quartets and m = multiplet. Optical rotations were determined using a PerkinElmer 241 polarimeter with a 10 cm glass cell and a sodium filter at the concentrations (g/100 mL) and temperatures noted. HRMS (high-resolution mass spectra) were measured at the QB3 mass spectra facility at the University of California, Berkeley. Photoreactions were performed using blue light with LT-1960 royal blue (blue,  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 451 \text{ nm}$ ) as irradiation source in crimp capped vials in a water-cooled metal cooling block (distance approximately 1 cm) unless otherwise specified. The synthesis of literature reported compounds can be found in the Supporting Information.

For the determination of  $E_{0-0}(S_1)$ , UV/vis absorption spectra were recorded using a Shimdazu UV-2600i spectrophotometer and emission measurements were recorded using a Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer (Varian).

For the determination of the triplet energy values  $E_{0-0}(T_1)$ , the following materials and methods were used: All steady state photophysical measurements were performed either in DCM (Merck, spectroscopic grade) or toluene (Merck, spectroscopic grade). The UV/vis absorption spectra were measured with a Cary 50 spectrometer (Agilent). The emission spectra as well as the emission decay of the samples were recorded at room temperature and at 77 K (using a quartz Dewar sample holder filled with liquid nitrogen) with a Fluorolog-3 fluorescence spectrometer (Horiba Jobin Yvon). The sample was placed in a 1.5 mm thin quartz capillary with an optical density at the excitation wavelength of ~1 over a 10 mm path length. The sample was excited at  $\lambda_{exc} = 380$  nm and the emission recorded orthogonally to this.

For obtaining cyclic voltammetry (CV) data, the following materials and methods were used. Acetonitrile (MeCN) (99.9%, extra dry over molecular sieves) was obtained from Thermo Scientific. Tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF<sub>6</sub>; >99%, for electrochemical analysis) was obtained from MilliporeSigma, dried under high vacuum for 48 h at 75 °C, and transferred to a N<sub>2</sub>-filled glovebox for storage and use. All electrochemical experiments were performed in a N<sub>2</sub>-filled glovebox with an atmosphere <0.6 ppm oxygen and <0.1 ppm water. Electrolyte solutions were prepared in the glovebox by first drying the acetonitrile over freshly activated 3 Å molecular sieves for at least 24 h. Supporting electrolyte was then added and the solvent/electrolyte mixture was further dried for another 24 h before use. The resulting solvent/electrolyte mixtures were stored over the 3 Å molecular sieves in the glovebox. All potentials are reported relative to the ferrocene/ferrocenium couple (Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>), and this adjustment is made for each sample through the addition of a small amount of ferrocene reference. CV experiments were performed with a CH Instruments 760

bipotentiostat with a three-electrode electrochemical cell. A glassy carbon disk electrode (BASi, 3.0 mm diameter) was used as a working electrode, a Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> electrode (5 mM AgBF<sub>4</sub> in 0.5 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> in MeCN) sealed with a Coralpor frit was used as a non-aqueous quasi-reference electrode (BASi), and platinum mesh was used as a counter electrode. The glassy carbon electrode was polished outside the glovebox using alumina (MicroPolish II, Buehler) in Milli-Q water before being sonicated in Milli-Q water, dried with acetone, and brought into the glovebox. Unless otherwise indicated, all CV measurements were performed by dissolving the compound in stock 0.5 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> in acetonitrile to give a concentration of 2.5 mM.  $E^0$  values for the oxidation were approximated as follows: For both catalysts **PCI** and **PCII**, the oxidative couple was irreversible and caused significant passivation of the electrode, resulting in little to no reductive peaks in the return potential scans. To determine  $E^0$  in these instances, the method of Vullev<sup>34</sup> was used that employs  $E^{(i)}$ , the inflection point of the anodic wave, as a good estimator for  $E^0$ . This value of  $E^{(i)}$  is obtained from the first derivative of the anodic wave.

#### Preparation of Photocatalyst PCI.

**3-(4-Bromobenzyl)-2,4,5,6-tetra(9H-carbazol-9-yl)benzonitrile (4). Small Scale with Blue LED (\lambda\_{max} = 451 nm LED):** A 5 mL crimp capped vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **4CzIPN** (47 mg, 60  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 equiv), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (78.2 mg, 240  $\mu$ mol, 4.0 equiv), and 4-bromophenylacetic acid (51.6 mg, 240  $\mu$ mol, 4.0 equiv). The mixture was degassed by three cycles of vacuum and nitrogen backfills before DMA (4 mL, not dry, 0.015 M) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h under blue light irradiation ( $\lambda_{max}$  = 451 nm LED) through the plane bottom side of the vial (distance approximately 1 cm) at room temperature. The end of the reaction was visible by a color change from yellow to pink. For isolation, 12 reactions were first diluted with DCM and were then combined and washed once with water and once with brine. After drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, the solvent was removed in vacuo in a 65 °C water bath to remove remaining DMA. The solid crude material was dissolved in DCM, and then equal amounts of EtOAC were added. Pure material crystallized over 48 h, and **4** was obtained as yellow solid (473 mg, 507  $\mu$ mol, 70%).

Larger Scale with Kessil Lamp ( $\lambda_{max}$  = 440 nm): A 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 4CzIPN (1.88 g, 2.38 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.12 g, 9.58 mmol, 4.0 equiv), and 4-bromophenylacetic acid (2.06 g, 9.58 mmol, 4.0 equiv). The mixture was degassed by three cycles of vacuum and nitrogen backfills before DMA (80 mL, not dry, 0.03 M) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred for 5 h under blue light irradiation ( $\lambda_{max}$  = 440 nm) with a Kessil Lamp (distance approximately 1 cm). After 5 h, the reaction was first diluted with DCM and then washed with water (3 times) and once with brine. After drying over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, the solvent was removed in vacuo in a 65 °C water bath to remove remaining DMA. The solid crude material was dissolved in DCM (17 mL), and then equal amounts of EtOAC (17 mL) were added. Pure material crystallized out, and 4 was obtained as a yellow solid (1.60 g, 1.72 mmol, 72%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72–7.60 (m, 6H), 7.48–7.39 (m, 4H), 7.31–7.23 (m, 4H), 7.11–6.99 (m, 10H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 6.67–6.58 (m, 2H), 6.58–6.54 (m, 2H), 5.77 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz,

2H), 3.70 (s, 2H);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H{}$  (126 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  144.9, 142.1, 140.9, 140.3, 140.1, 138.9, 138.7, 137.9, 136.4, 135.6, 130.9, 129.1, 127.0, 125.6, 125.6, 124.4, 124.3, 124.2, 123.8, 123.7, 121.6, 121.3, 121.3, 121.0, 120.4, 120.4, 120.3, 120.1, 119.5, 117.8, 112.7, 110.2, 110.1, 109.8, 109.1, 34.5 (*contains dimethylacetamide solvent peaks; carbazole-based photocatalysts tend to incorporate solvent molecules; contains*<sup>1</sup>*H*-grease impurity); HRMS (ESI<sup>+</sup>) (*m*/*z*) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>62</sub>H<sub>38</sub>N<sub>5</sub><sup>79</sup>Br<sub>1</sub><sup>23</sup>Na<sub>1</sub> 954.2203; found 954.2207.

# (R)-5,5'-(((2,2'-Dimethoxy-[1,1'-binaphthalene]-3,3'-diyl)bis(4,1phenylene))bis(methylene))bis(2,3,4,6-tetra(9H-carbazol-9-yl)benzonitrile)

(5).—A round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 4 (1.92 g, 2.06 mmol 3.0 equiv), 2 (276 mg, 0.687 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (671 mg, 2.06 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (79 mg, 0.068 mmol, 10 mol %). The flask was degassed and backfilled with nitrogen three times before degassed solvent [dioxane (12.2 mL), water (4.1 mL) and DMF (7.5 mL)] was added. After stirring overnight at 85 °C (metal heating block), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with 1 M HCl, and extracted with DCM twice. The combined organic phases were washed with water and brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The crude reaction mixture was purified with flash column chromatography (0-70% DCM)in hexanes) yielding 5 (589 mg, 0.292 mmol, 43%) as a yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, chloroform-*d*) *&* 8.22 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 2.5 Hz, 4H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.71–7.61 (m, 12H), 7.50 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 4H), 7.43 (td, J = 7.4, 6.9, 3.7 Hz, 4H), 7.38 (s, 2H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28 (dd, J=7.9, 3.6 Hz, 8H), 7.16 (ddd, J=8.2, 6.8, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.10–6.98 (m, 22H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 6.78–6.73 (m, 4H), 6.65–6.59 (m, 4H), 6.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 3.89 (s, 4H), 2.68 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (151 MHz, chloroform-d) δ153.8, 145.4, 142.2, 141.1, 140.3, 140.2, 139.0, 138.8, 137.9, 136.8, 136.3, 136.1, 134.2, 133.4, 130.6, 128.7, 128.0, 127.5, 127.0, 126.2, 125.7, 125.6, 125.6, 125.5, 125.0, 124.4, 124.4, 124.3, 123.9, 123.7, 121.5, 121.5, 121.3, 121.2, 120.9, 120.9, 120.4, 120.3, 119.5, 117.7, 112.7, 110.2, 110.1, 110.0, 109.3, 60.5, 34.9 (contains<sup>1</sup>H-grease impurity); HRMS (ESI+) (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>146</sub>H<sub>92</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>10</sub><sup>23</sup>Na<sub>1</sub> 2039.7297; found 2039.7280.

# (R)-5,5'-(((2,2'-Dihydroxy-[1,1'-binaphthalene]-3,3'diyl)bis(4,1phenylene))bis(methylene))bis(2,3,4,6-tetra(9H-carbazol-9-

**yl)benzonitrile) (7).**—A round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with **5** (558 mg, 276  $\mu$ mol 1.0 equiv) and was degassed and backfilled with nitrogen three times before anhydrous DCM (2.1 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and BBr<sub>3</sub> (1 M solution in DCM, 1.1 mL, 1.1 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added dropwise. The reaction was stirred for 4 h at room temperature, cooled to 0 °C again, and quenched by slow addition of water. The mixture was diluted with DCM, and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM three more times. The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The demethylated product **7** was obtained in quantitative yield (549 mg, 276  $\mu$ mol) as a yellow solid without further purification: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  8.06 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.56–7.47 (m, 12H), 7.36 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 5H), 7.20–7.06 (m, 13H), 6.91 (ddt, *J* = 21.7, 18.2, 7.3 Hz, 22H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 6.61 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 6.50 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 4.66 (s, 2H),

3.70 (s, 4H);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  149.5, 145.4, 142.2, 141.0, 140.3, 140.2, 140.15, 139.0, 138.7, 138.7, 137.9, 136.5, 136.4, 135.2, 132.9, 131.0, 129.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.3, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 125.6, 125.6, 124.4, 124.4, 124.3, 124.3, 124.2, 124.2, 123.8, 123.8, 123.6, 121.5, 121.5, 121.3, 121.2, 120.9, 120.4, 120.3, 119.5, 117.7, 113.0, 112.7, 110.2, 110.1, 109.9, 109.2, 34.9 (*the number of observed carbon peaks is higher than what would be expected based on symmetry, and it is believed to be due to rotameric and/or other conformational effects, that disrupt the symmetry; contains DCM solvent peaks; carbazole-based photocatalysts tend to incorporate solvent molecules; contains<sup>1</sup>H-grease impurity*); HRMS (ESI-) (m/z) [M – H]<sup>–</sup> calcd for C<sub>144</sub>H<sub>87</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>10</sub> 1987.7019; found 1987.7009.

#### 5,5'-((((11bR)-4-Hydroxy-4-oxidodinaphtho[2,1-

#### d:1',2'-f ][1,3,2]dioxaphosphepine-2,6-diyl)bis(4,1-

# phenylene))bis(methylene))bis(2,3,4,6-tetra(9H-carbazol-9-yl)benzonitrile) (PCI).—A round-bottom flask equipped

with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 7 (509 mg, 256  $\mu$ mol 1.0 equiv) and was degassed and backfilled with nitrogen three times before anhydrous pyridine (0.82 mL) was added. Phosphorus(V)oxychloride (48  $\mu$ L, 0.51 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 95 °C (metal heating block) before the mixture was cooled to 0  $^{\circ}$ C and degassed water (0.8 mL) was added. Afterward, the mixture was heated up to 95 °C again and stirred overnight. The next day, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with DCM and washed with 3 M HCl (×4). The solvent was removed in vacuo and the brownish solid was redissolved in hot acetonitrile. After letting the reaction mixture cool down to room temperature, it was allowed to stand undisrupted (approximately 2 days) until brown solid formed on the bottom of the flask. The clear yellow solution was filtered, and the solvent was once again removed in vacuo. The obtained yellow solid was further purified by flash column chromatography (0–3% methanol in DCM). Finally, pure catalyst PCI was obtained as yellow solid (300 mg, 146 µmol, 57%) by removing the solvent, redissolving it in DCM, washing it with 6 M HCl, and removing the solvent once again in vacuo: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.29 (dd, J = 7.7, 5.2 Hz, 4H), 8.16 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (dd, J = 21.1, 8.2)Hz, 4H), 7.85–7.63 (m, 20H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.44–7.33 (m, 10H), 7.25–7.13 (m, 8H), 7.07 (dq, J = 15.7, 7.7 Hz, 6H), 7.02 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (dd, J = 21.7, 8.1 Hz, 4H), 6.82-6.71 (m, 12H), 6.16 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 5.08 (s, 1H), 3.58 (s, 4H);  ${}^{13}C{}^{1}H$  NMR (151) MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ 144.7, 144.6, 144.5, 142.7, 141.2, 140.2, 140.2, 139.3, 139.3, 138.7, 138.7, 138.5, 137.6, 135.2, 134.3, 133.2, 131.1, 131.0, 130.3, 128.6, 128.4, 126.6, 126.5, 125.9, 125.7, 125.2, 125.1, 124.9, 124.8, 123.8, 123.1, 123.0, 122.8, 122.7, 122.6, 122.4, 121.4, 120.8, 120.7, 120.7, 120.5, 120.1, 120.1, 119.9, 119.8, 119.7, 119.1, 117.5, 113.1, 111.8, 111.4, 111.4, 110.6, 110.6, 33.9 (the number of observed carbon peaks is higher than what would be expected based on symmetry, and it is believed to be due to rotameric and/or other conformational effects, that disrupt the symmetry; contains<sup>1</sup>H-grease impurity); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (243 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  0.57; HRMS (ESI+) (m/z) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for  $C_{144}H_{87}O_4N_{10}P_1^{23}Na_1$  2073.6542; found 2073.6517;  $[a]_D^{25} = -89.0$  (c = 0.245, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

#### (R)-3,3'-(2,2'-Dimethoxy-[1,1'-binaphthalene]-3,3'-diyl)bis(9H-carbazole) (11).

-A round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 3-

bromocarbazole (1.48 g, 6.00 mmol 3.0 equiv), 2 (804 mg, 2.00 mmol, 1.0 equiv), Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.95 g, 6.00 mmol, 3.0 equiv), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.23 g, 0.20 mmol, 10 mol %). The flask was degassed and backfilled with nitrogen three times before degassed solvent [dioxane (37.6 mL) and water (12.6 mL)] was added. After stirring overnight at 85 °C (oil bath), the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with 1 M HCl and extracted with DCM twice. The combined organic phases were washed with water and brine, dried over  $MgSO_4$  and the solvent was removed in vacuo. The crude reaction mixture was purified with flash column chromatography (0-70% DCM in hexanes, then up to 100% DCM), yielding 11 (1.21 g, 1.87 mmol, 94%) as a white solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, chloroform-d)  $\delta$  8.52 (s, 2H), 8.13 (t, J= 4.0 Hz, 4H), 8.06 (s, 2H), 7.98 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (dd, J= 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.48–7.38 (m, 8H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.33–7.30 (m, 2H), 7.30–7.24 (m, 2H), 3.25 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (126 MHz, chloroform-*d*) δ154.5, 140.0, 139.0, 135.9, 133.6, 131.1, 130.8, 130.4, 128.1, 127.7, 126.2, 126.2, 126.0, 126.0, 125.1, 123.6, 123.6, 121.2, 120.6, 119.7, 110.9, 110.5, 60.6 (contains DCM solvent peaks; carbazole-based photocatalysts tend to incorporate solvent molecules); HRMS (ESI-) (m/z) [M – H]<sup>-</sup> calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> 643.2391; found 643.2392.

(R)-5,5'-((2,2'-Dimethoxy-[1,1'-binaphthalene]-3,3'-diyl)bis(9Hcarbazole-3,9diyl))bis(4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phthalonitrile) (10).-NaH (60% in oil, 148 mg, 3.70 mmol, 4.0 equiv) was added slowly to a stirred solution of **11** (596 mg, 0.924 mmol, 1.0 equiv) in dry THF (10 mL) under inert conditions. The reaction mixture was heated to 35 °C and stirred for 1 h before 8 (619 mg, 1.98 mmol, 2.1 equiv) was added. Afterward, it was stirred overnight at 35 °C (oil bath). The next day, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.7 mL) was added to quench excess NaH. The resulting mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was redissolved in DCM and washed with brine  $(2\times)$ . Purification by flash column chromatography (70–100% DCM in hexanes) yielded **10** (1.02 g, 0.831 mmol, 90%) as yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, chloroform-d)  $\delta$  8.37–8.33 (m, 2H), 8.29 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 8.19– 8.15 (m, 2H), 7.93–7.83 (m, 6H), 7.76–7.71 (m, 2H), 7.71–7.66 (m, 2H), 7.49–7.43 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.36 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.01 (m, 20H), 7.00–6.95 (m, 4H), 2.98 (dd, J=11.7, 4.4 Hz, 6H);  $^{13}C{^{1}H} NMR (151 MHz, chloroform-d) \delta 154.1, 154.1, 154.0, 154.0, 138.7, 138.7, 138.4,$ 138.3, 138.3, 138.3, 138.3, 138.2, 138.2, 137.6, 137.6, 135.6, 135.5, 134.9, 134.8, 134.8, 133.6, 133.5, 132.5, 132.4, 130.9, 130.9, 130.5, 130.5, 130.5, 129.1, 128.3, 128.1, 128.0, 127.7, 127.7, 127.7, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 126.3, 126.3, 126.3, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.9, 125.8, 125.8, 125.4, 125.2, 125.1, 124.5, 124.5, 124.4, 124.2, 124.2, 121.9, 121.9, 121.8, 121.8, 121.7, 121.3, 121.3, 121.2, 120.7, 120.7, 120.7, 120.5, 120.5, 120.4, 120.3, 120.3, 114.8, 114.7, 114.6, 109.2, 109.1, 109.1, 109.0, 109.0, 60.3, 60.3 (the number of observed carbon peaks is higher than what would be expected based on symmetry, and it is believed to be due to rotameric and/or other conformational effects, that disrupt the symmetry); HRMS (ESI +) (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>86</sub>H<sub>51</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>8</sub> 1227.4129; found 1227.4109.

(R)-5,5'-((2,2'-Dihydroxy-[1,1'-binaphthalene]-3,3'-diyl)bis(9H-carbazole-3,9diyl))bis(4-(9H-carbazol-9-yl)phthalonitrile) (12).—A small Schlenk vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 10 (921 mg, 750 µmol, 1.0 equiv) and anhydrous deuterated chloroform (2.5 mL). Under nitrogen, trimethylsilyl

iodide (0.50 mL, 3.8 mmol, 5.0 equiv) was added and the reaction was heated to 60 °C (metal heating block) overnight. The next day, the mixture was filtered through a Celite pad and rinsed with chloroform and methanol was added. This mixture was left to stir another night at room temperature under nitrogen. After removing the solvent in vacuo, purification by column chromatography (DCM in hexane; 0 to 100%) and washing with hexane, 12 was obtained as yellow solid (551 mg, 459  $\mu$ mol, 61%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, chloroform-d)  $\delta$  8.26–8.23 (m, 4H), 8.16 (d, J=4.5 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J=12.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.91–7.86 (m, 2H), 7.82–7.72 (m, 6H), 7.49–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.31 (q, J = 6.2, 4.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 2H), 7.18–7.04 (m, 20H), 5.40–5.29 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C{^{1}H}$  NMR (151 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$  150.2, 150.1, 138.8, 138.4, 138.4, 138.4, 138.3, 137.9, 135.5, 135.5, 135.4, 133.0, 133.0, 131.3, 131.0, 130.6, 130.5, 129.5, 128.4, 127.9, 127.3, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 124.6, 124.4, 124.4, 124.3, 121.9, 121.8, 121.8, 121.6, 120.6, 120.5, 114.8, 114.8, 114.8, 114.6, 112.8, 112.8, 109.3, 109.1 (contains<sup>1</sup>H-grease impurity and ethyl acetate solvent peaks; after initial purification, grease was observed in the product; to remove grease, the product was passed through a small silica plug with pure hexanes and then ethyl acetate; carbazole-based photocatalysts tend to incorporate solvent molecules); HRMS (ESI+) (m/z) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>47</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>8</sub> 1199.3816; found 1199.3805; HRMS (ESI-) (m/z) [M – H]<sup>-</sup> calcd for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>45</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>8</sub> 1197.3671; found 1197.3666.

# (4r,4'r)-5,5'-(((11bS)-4-Hydroxy-4-oxidodinaphtho[2,1-d:1',2'f]-[1,3,2]dioxaphosphepine-2,6-diyl)bis(9H-carbazole-3,9-diyl))bis(4-(9Hcarbazol-9-yl)phthalonitrile) (PCII).—A round-bottom flask

equipped with a magnetic stirring bar was charged with 12 (185 mg, 155  $\mu$ mol, 1.0 equiv) and was degassed and backfilled with nitrogen three times before anhydrous pyridine (0.50)mL) was added. Phosphorus(V)oxychloride (29 µL, 0.31 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added, and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 95 °C (metal heating block) before the mixture was cooled to 0 °C and degassed water was added. Afterward, the mixture was heated up to 95 °C again and stirred overnight. The next day, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with DCM and washed with 3 M HCl (×4). The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the brownish solid was redissolved in hot acetonitrile. After letting the reaction mixture cool down to room temperature, it was allowed to stand undisrupted (approximately 2 days) until brown solid formed on the bottom of the flask. The clear yellow solution was filtered, and the solvent was once again removed in vacuo yielding PCII as yellow solid (127 mg, 100  $\mu$ mol, 65%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.88 (dd, J = 11.4, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 8.86–8.81 (m, 2H), 8.49 (d, J=15.8 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, J=15.0 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 3.7 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (dd, J = 8.3, 4.9 Hz, 2H), 8.00–7.88 (m, 6H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.68–7.63 (m, 1H), 7.60 (dd, J = 8.6, 2.9 Hz, 1H), 7.57–7.48 (m, 5H), 7.38–7.32 (m, 2H), 7.28–7.13 (m, 10H), 7.10–7.01 (m, 6H), 7.03–6.94 (m, 2H);  $^{13}C{1H} NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-d_6) \delta 145.4, 145.3, 145.3, 145.2, 145.2, 138.9, 138.8, 138.8, 145.2$ 138.5, 138.4, 138.3, 138.1, 138.1, 138.1, 136.6, 136.5, 136.4, 136.4, 133.9, 133.8, 131.3, 131.1, 131.1, 130.9, 130.8, 130.0, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 126.6, 126.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.8, 125.8, 125.7, 123.6, 123.4, 123.2, 122.3, 122.2, 121.9, 121.7, 121.1, 121.0, 120.3, 120.2, 120.1, 115.4, 115.1, 110.0, 110.0, 109.9, 109.6, 109.4 (the number of observed carbon peaks is higher than what would be expected based on symmetry, and it is believed to be due to rotameric and/or other conformational effects, that disrupt the symmetry); <sup>31</sup>P NMR (243

MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  0.92, 0.76, 0.56 (*the number of observed phosphorus peaks is higher than what would be expected based on symmetry, and it is believed to be due to rotameric and/or other conformational effects, that disrupt the symmetry*); HRMS (ESI +) (*m/z*) [M + H]<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>8</sub>P<sub>1</sub> 1261.3374; found 1261.3365; HRMS (ESI-) (*m/z*) [M – H] <sup>-</sup> calcd for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>8</sub>P<sub>1</sub> 1259.3229; found 1259.3215; [*a*]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> = -336 (*c* = 0.250, CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

# Supplementary Material

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# **Data Availability Statement**

The data underlying this study are available in the published article and its Supporting Information.

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Scheme 3.

Synthesis of Chiral Boronic Acid 2 (A) and Brominated 4CzIPN Derivative 4 (B)



**Scheme 4.** Synthesis of PCI via Demethylation of 5 to 7

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Scheme 5. Synthesis of Brominated 2CzPN Derivative 9 and Monosubstituted 8

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Scheme 6. Strategies to Access 10

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**Scheme 7.** Synthesis of PCII via Demethylation of 10 to 12

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Possible Points of Modulating the Catalyst's Structure to Build up a Chiral Library

Table 1.

Optimization of the Cross-Coupling of 4 with 2

2

Yield (%) 37<sup>b</sup>  $26^{a}$  $42^{a}$ 27<sup>a</sup> 35<sup>b</sup> 20<sup>a</sup> 45<sup>b</sup> 1,4-dioxane: water: DMF (3:1:2) 1,4-dioxane: water (3:1) water: DMF (3:1) Solvent <sup>d</sup>Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub>·8H<sub>2</sub>O Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub>·8H<sub>2</sub>O Ba(OH)<sub>2</sub>·8H<sub>2</sub>O Ba(OH)2.8H2O Ba(OH)2.8H2O Base (3.0 eq.) Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> Cs2CO3 Pd (10 mol%) <sup>c</sup>Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> B(OH) (23 µmol screening) 85 °C, O/N, N2 0 (HO)<sub>2</sub>B Entry 4 (3.0 eq.) m Ь 9 4 

 $^{a1}\mathrm{H}\,\mathrm{NMR}$  yield using mesitylene as internal standard.

 $b_{\rm Isolated}$  yield.

 $^{\mathcal{C}}$  Catalyst loading of 20 mol %.

 $d_{10.0}$  equiv instead of 3.0 equiv.



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Redox Potentials and Triplet Energies of Novel Catalysts and Their Parent Compounds<sup>a</sup>

PCI	$E_{1/2}(\mathbf{P^{*+}/*P})^b$	$E_{1/2}(*\mathrm{P/P^{*-}})^b$	$E_{1/2}(\mathbf{P}^{*+}/\mathbf{P})$	$E_{1/2}(P/P^{-})$	$E_{0-0}(\mathrm{Si})  \mathrm{[eV]}$	$E_{0-0}(\mathrm{Ti}) \left[\mathrm{eV}\right]^{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$	ref
PCI	-1.51	+1.20	$+1.37^{c}$	$-1.68^{\mathcal{C}}$	2.88 <sup>d</sup>	$2.49^f, 2.51^{\mathcal{G}}$	
4CzIPN	-1.04	+1.35	+1.52	-1.21	2.56	$2.53^{f}$	13, 15
PCII	-1.46	+1.37	$+1.37^{c}$	$-1.46^{\mathcal{C}}$	2.83 <sup>d</sup>	$2.48^{f,g}$	
2CzPN	-1.30	+1.32	+1.47	-1.45	2.77	$2.63^{f}$	13, 15
<sup>a</sup> All potent	ials are given in v	olts vs saturated	calomel electro	ode (SCE) and	l were measured i	n MeCN at room t	emperature.
<sup>b</sup> Calculateo	l according to $E_{\rm l}$	$/2(\mathbf{P}^{\bullet+/*}\mathbf{P}) = (E_1)$	$/2(P^{\bullet+}/P) - E($	-0(S1)) and	$E_{1/2}(*P/P^{\bullet-}) = (.$	$E_{0-0}(S_1) + E_{1/2}(S_1)$	P/P*_)). <sup>28</sup>
$c_{\mathrm{Using \ ferr}}$	ocene as internal	standard and con	verted to SCE	according to F	$^{3}c^{+}/Fc \rightarrow SCE: +$	-0.380 V. <sup>29</sup>	
$d_{ m Estimated}$	from the point of	f intersection of tl	he excitation a	ad emission sp	ectra at room ten	nperature.	
$e_{\rm Estimated}$	from the highest	slope of the long	est wavelength	edge of the co	orresponding emi	ssion spectrum rec	corded at 77 K.
$f_{Measured}$	in toluene.						

 $^{g}$ Measured in DCM.







 $^{a}$ Entries and values from the original publication of the Yoon group. $^{30}$ Reaction was carried out in MeCN for 16 h with nonchiral acids.

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 $b_{
m Entries}$  and values from the original publication of the Yoon group. $^{31}$ 

 $c_{20 \text{ mol } \%}$  was used.

 $d_{\text{Reactions were run overnight.}}$ 

 $^{\mathcal{C}}$  Yield determined by  $^1\mathrm{H}$  NMR analysis of crude reaction mixture with phenanthrene as internal standard.

 $f_{\rm Not}$  determined.

 $\mathcal{E}_{\text{Enantiomeric}}$  excess of the major diastereomer determined by chiral HPLC.

 $h_{\rm Enantiomeric}$  excess of the  $trans-cis\,{\rm diastereomer}$  determined by chiral HPLC.

 $\dot{D}$  biastereomeric ratios determined by  $^{1}\mathrm{H}$  NMR analysis of crude reaction mixture.





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 $^{a}$ Entries and values from the publication of the Xiao group.<sup>32a</sup>

 $b_{
m Reactions}$  were run overnight at room temperature.

 $^{\mathcal{C}}\mathrm{I}_\mathrm{H}\,\mathrm{NMR}$  analysis with 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.

 $d_{
m Enantiomeric}$  excess was determined by chiral HPLC.

 $e_{\rm Not}$  determined.

 $f_{\rm Diastereometic ratios determined by }^{\rm I}{}_{\rm H}\,{
m NMR}$  analysis.

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<sup>g</sup>Due to low conversion and formation of undesired and unidentifiable products, we were unable to define a dr greater than 10:1 with high levels of confidence.