

## Construction of Novel Halogen Receptor with Phosphorus Triamides

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### Summary

Halogen ions have been widely applied in industrial and environmental chemistry. For recognition of anions, in particular halides, anion recognition by phosphorus triamide as a novel functional group was studied in this work. Phosphorus triamide-based receptors 3a ((PhNH)<sub>3</sub>P=O), 3b ((PhNH)<sub>2</sub>(BuNH)P=O), and 3c ((PhNH)(BuNH)<sub>2</sub>P=O) were successfully prepared. The recognition abilities of the receptors were measured by means of UV-vis spectroscopic titrations in acetonitrile, however, small spectral changes due to the low association ability for anions and less effective electronic perturbation on  $\pi$ -electron of phenyl group(s) prevent the determination of the association constants. The peaks of amide N-H groups of the receptors by <sup>1</sup>H NMR in acetonitrile-d<sub>3</sub> showed clear downfield shift upon the addition of anions such as AcO<sup>-</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> indicating hydrogen bonding of the groups to the anions. The association constants of all receptors for AcO<sup>-</sup> were greater than those for Cl<sup>-</sup>. In addition, the order of the association constants was found to be 3a > 3b > 3c. This result clearly indicates that the hydrogen bond ability of aryl N-H is more effective than that of alkyl N-H. The observed results are quite important for the design of receptors based on phosphorus triamides. DFT calculations (B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level of theory) of 3a and a 3b analog in acetonitrile revealed the structures of free receptors and the anion complexes, in which three N-H groups cooperatively hydrogen-bonded to anions. Energetic evaluation of the complexation also suggested that the effective binding properties of aryl N-H comparing to alkyl N-H. Receptor 4b having two phosphorus triamides bearing 2,2'-binaphthalene as a spacer was prepared from the corresponding diamine and mono-chlorophosphorus diamide in low yield.