Research visit to the Tokitoh Group, Kyoto University

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I was trained as an inorganic synthetic chemist in the Streubel work group, where I did both my Bachelor and Master of Science Thesis work, and I started working on my PhD thesis project since November 2018. The Streubel group is mainly interested in the synthesis of novel phosphorus-containing molecules. The shared interest in new heteroatom-containing organic molecules let to a longstanding collaboration with the Tokitoh group at Kyoto University.



Thanks to this collaboration, I was able to stay for two months in Japan and conduct research in the Tokitoh laboratory.

The aim of my research was the synthesis of new crypto-FLP systems with P-O-E bonding motif, E being a heavier main group four element, especially silicon. A first synthetic route to obtain a silicon-containing crypto-FLP was recently found in the Streubel group, but the structural features were rather restrictive, thus new synthetic pathways and modifications should be explored.

During my stay, I did various synthetic experiments to obtain new insights about the related compounds and learned to work under different conditions.

Besides having the possibility to work and learn in a new and different laboratory, I also had the opportunity to explore the country. The landscape, especially around Uji, is beautiful, and seeing some of Japan's historic sites and learning more about its history was a special highlight for me. Japan has an interesting culture (and also cuisine!) which I was very happy to indulge in during that two months.

I want to acknowledge financial support from JSPS which covered flight and housing costs in Uji. I also want to thank Prof. Dr. Norihiro Tokitoh for hosting me, and also the whole work group for the very nice welcome in their group.

