

Referee 1 (R1)

The manuscript of Liu and coworkers presents the synthesis of the first phosphaborenes with B-halide bonds, their Lewis adduct formation, and the nucleophilic substitution at the B-halide bond with alkyl and aryl groups. These are substantial results in a fast-growing area of research, as well as being very difficult and sensitive chemistry. The manuscript, SI and research are exceptionally well done and error-free.

1. I have only one suggestion for the authors: it is difficult to get an idea of where the lobes are in Figure 4 with respect to the atoms - can the lobes be made partially transparent?