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Hypervalent diorganoantimony(III) fluorides via diorganoantimony(III) cations – a general method of synthesis†

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Novel diorganoantimony(III) fluorides containing ligands with pendant arms, R₂SbF (5), (R)PhSbF (6) [R = 2-(2',6'-¹Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄], R''₂SbF (7) and (R'')PhSbF (8) [R'' = 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄], were prepared via the ionic derivatives [R₂Sb]⁺[PF₆]⁻ (1), [(R)PhSb]⁺[PF₆]⁻ (2), [R''₂Sb]⁺[SbF₆]⁻ (4) and [(R'')PhSb]⁺[SbF₆]⁻ (obtained *in situ*) by treatment with [Bu₄N]F·3H₂O. The ionic species used as starting materials as well as [R'₂Sb]⁺[PF₆]⁻ (3) [R' = 2-(2',4',6'-Me₃C₆H₂N=CH)C₆H₄] were obtained from the corresponding bromides or chlorides and Ti[PF₆] or Ag[SbF₆]. The compounds were investigated by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy in solution, MS and IR spectroscopy in the solid state. The molecular structures of the ionic species 1·2CH₂Cl₂ and 3·2CHCl₃ as well as of the fluorides 5–8 were determined by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

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Introduction

The interest in the development of new sensors for the potentially toxic fluoride anion led to recent achievements based on main group chemistry and, particularly, organoantimony(III) and -antimony(V) compounds.^{1–6} A survey of the literature concerning organoantimony(III) fluorides revealed some interesting aspects with regard to the preparation of the few R₂SbF^{7–12} and RSbF₂ (ref. 11–14) species reported so far. In earlier works [NH₄]₂[PhSiF₅] was used for phenylation of SbF₃ in aqueous solution to give Ph₂SbF.^{7,8} This is, so far, the only R₂SbF species investigated by single-crystal X-ray diffraction; its solid state structure consisting of infinite chains of Ph₂SbF units connected by strong intermolecular fluorine bridges.⁸ It should be noted here that organotin(IV) fluorinating agents such as Me₃SnF or [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂Sn(^tBu)₂F were used successfully in halogen exchange reactions to prepare organoantimony(III) difluorides of the type [2,6-(YCH₂)₂C₆H₃]₂SbF₂ (Y = MeO, ^tBuO,

Me₂N) from the corresponding dichlorides containing (O,C,O)- or (N,C,N)-pincer ligands.¹³ The difluoride [2,6-(Me₂NCH₂)₂-C₆H₃]₂SbF₂ was also obtained by reacting the oxide [{2,6-(Me₂NCH₂)₂C₆H₃]₂SbO)₂ and HBF₄·Et₂O as result of a polar group exchange.¹⁴

Several other methods failed to produce the desired Ph₂SbF derivative.⁸ Thus, the reaction of Ph₂SbCl with AgF in acetonitrile and AsF₃ afforded the organoantimony(V) species Ph₃SbF₂ following a process of simultaneous oxidative fluorination and redistribution of the phenyl groups. The redistribution reaction between R₃Sb and SbX₃ (X = Cl, Br) in absence of any solvent,^{15–18} or the halogen exchange reaction between R₂SbCl and KBr or NaI,^{17,18} worked very well for the preparation of chlorides, bromides or iodides. By contrast, no reaction occurs between Ph₃Sb and SbF₃ in CH₂Cl₂ or MeOH solutions, at reflux, or in absence of a solvent, or between Ph₂SbCl and KF even after long periods of heating at reflux in methanol.⁸ However, the fluorination was effective when the dibenzoazastibocine chloride MeN(CH₂C₆H₄)₂SbCl was reacted with KF in DMF solution.⁹ While the partial phenylation of SbF₃ with PhLi or PhMgBr reagents failed, the isolated product always being Ph₃Sb regardless of the molar ratio of the reagents used,⁸ for other organolithium reagents the reaction with SbF₃ led to the desired organoantimony(III) fluorides,^{10–12} even if the stoichiometry could not be fully controlled and from the reaction mixture both R₂SbF and RSbF₂ were isolated by fractional crystallization, e.g. for R = 2,4,6-^tBu₃C₆H₂.^{11,12}

Taking into account the ability of the organoantimony(V) cations to react with the fluoride anions we have decided to investigate the possibility to prepare diorganoantimony(III) fluorides using ionic species such as the diorganoantimony(III) cation, [R₂Sb]⁺. Monocations of this type can be stabilized by

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intermolecular^{19–24} coordination, e.g. $[\text{Ph}_2\text{Sb}\{\text{OP}(\text{NMe}_2)_3\}_2]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$,¹⁹ $[\text{Me}_2\text{Sb}(\text{SbMe}_3)]^+[\text{GaCl}_4]^-$,²¹ $[\text{Ph}_2\text{Sb}(\text{PPh}_3)_2]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$,²³ $[\text{Ph}_2\text{Sb}(\text{PMe}_3)]^+[\text{O}_3\text{SCF}_3]^-$ and $[\text{Ph}_2\text{Sb}(\text{PMe}_3)_2]^+[\text{O}_3\text{SCF}_3]^-$,²⁴ or by intramolecular coordination, e.g. $[\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$,¹⁹ and $[\{2,6-(\text{MeOCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\}_2\text{Sb}]_4^+[\text{Sb}_6\text{Cl}_{12}]_4^-$.²⁵

We report herein a new route for the preparation of the diorganoantimony(III) fluorides *via* ionic diorganoantimony(III) derivatives stabilized by (*C,N*)-chelating ligands as well as their structural characterization both in solution and in the solid state.

Results and discussion

Synthesis and characterization of ionic diorganoantimony(III) compounds

The monohalides R_2SbBr , $(\text{R})\text{PhSbCl}$ [$\text{R} = 2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$] and $\text{R}'_2\text{SbBr}$ [$\text{R}' = 2-(2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$] were reacted with $\text{Ti}[\text{PF}_6]$ in THF, at room temperature, to give the ionic diorganoantimony(III) species $[\{2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (**1**), $[\{2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{PhSb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (**2**) and $[\{2-(2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (**3**) (Scheme 1).

Using a similar procedure, treatment of the monochloride $\text{R}''_2\text{SbCl}$ [$\text{R}'' = 2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$] with $\text{Ag}[\text{SbF}_6]$ gave the ionic compound $[\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{SbF}_6]^-$ (**4**) (Scheme 2). The species $[\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{PhSb}]^+[\text{SbF}_6]^-$ was prepared *in situ* from the corresponding monochloride $(\text{R}'')\text{PhSbCl}$ and $\text{Ag}[\text{SbF}_6]$ and converted, without isolation, into the fluoride **8** (Scheme 2).

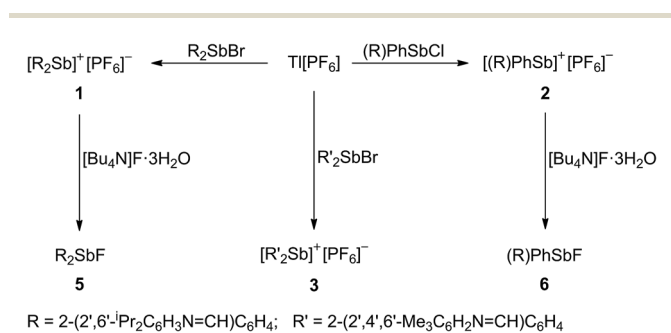
The compounds were isolated in fair good yields as pale yellow (**1**, **2**, **3**) and white (**4**) solids, soluble in chlorinated solvents. The spectroscopic data as well as elemental analytical data are consistent with the anticipated formulas. For compounds **1–3** the IR spectra exhibit a $\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})$ stretching

vibration of medium intensity in the region $1620\text{--}1600\text{ cm}^{-1}$, which is typical for compounds containing Schiff-base ligands.¹⁸ In addition, strong $\nu(\text{E-F})$ stretching vibrations corresponding to the inorganic $[\text{EF}_6]^-$ anions were observed, as expected,²⁶ in the regions $835\text{--}800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ($\text{E} = \text{P}$) for compounds **1–3** and around 750 cm^{-1} ($\text{E} = \text{Sb}$) for compound **4**. In the ESI(+) (for **1**, **3**, **4**) and APCI(+) (for **2**) mass spectra the base peaks were assigned to the corresponding fragments $[\text{R}_2\text{Sb}]^+$, $[\text{R}'_2\text{Sb}]^+$ and $[\text{R}''_2\text{Sb}]^+$, and $[\text{RPhSb}]^+$, respectively.

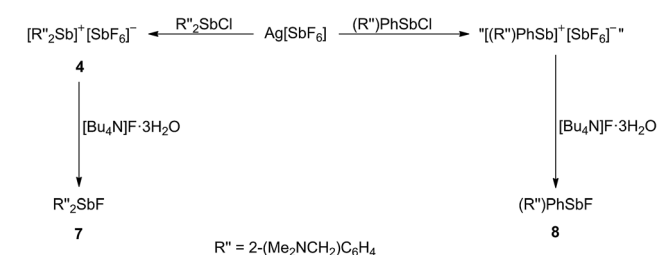
All ionic compounds were investigated by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy in CDCl_3 solution, at room temperature. The assignment of the resonances was based on 2D NMR spectra, according with the numbering schemes illustrated in Scheme S1 (see ESI†). The ^1H NMR spectra of **1** and **2** exhibit four doublet resonances for the methyl protons. This indicates a diastereotopic behaviour of the isopropyl groups as well as non-equivalence of the two halves of a $2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3$ moiety, the free rotation of the bulky aromatic group around the C–N(=C) single bond being blocked. This is also supported, for example, by the presence of two singlet resonances for the methine C-7'_a and C-7'_b atoms in the ^{13}C NMR spectra (δ 30.21 and 28.96 ppm for **1** and δ 29.15 and 28.13 ppm for **2**, respectively). By contrast, for the cation of **3** both ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra exhibit only two sharp resonances assigned to the methyl protons (1 : 2 integral ratio) of the $2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2$ moieties attached to the metal atom, suggesting that there is no restriction of free rotation of the mesityl groups around the C–N(=C) single bonds. This different freedom of rotation around a C–N(=C) single bond observed for compounds **1** (or **2**) and **3**, respectively, in CDCl_3 solution at room temperature, is related to the bulkiness of the organic group attached to nitrogen. The presence of only one set of resonances in the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for the two organic groups in the cations of **1**, **3** and **4** is consistent with equivalence of the aromatic ligands attached to the same metal atom. The room temperature ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **4** show one set of singlet resonances for the methyl and methylene groups, respectively, suggesting a fast dynamic behaviour which involves de-coordination – re-coordination of nitrogen to the metal centre. The presence of the octahedral fluorine-containing anions is indicated by the doublet ^{19}F resonance ($^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713\text{ Hz}$) observed for compounds **1–3** and the multiplet ^{19}F resonance observed for compound **4**. Consequently, the ^{31}P NMR spectra of **1–3** exhibit a septet resonance centered at $\delta -144\text{ ppm}$.

Single crystals of **1**·2 CH_2Cl_2 and **3**·2 CHCl_3 were investigated by X-ray diffraction. The crystals contain the corresponding diorganoantimony(III) cations and hexafluorophosphate anions. The structure of the cations of **1** and **3** are depicted in Fig. 1 and S5,† respectively, and the important bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 1.

In the cations of **1** and **3** both nitrogen atoms are coordinated to antimony in an almost *trans* arrangement [N(1)–Sb(1)–N(2) $159.67(10)^\circ$ for **1**; $155.02(17)^\circ$ for **3**] resulting in a pseudo-trigonal bipyramidal (“*see-saw*”) coordination geometry at antimony, with the *ipso* carbon atoms placed in equatorial positions [C(1)–Sb(1)–C(20) $105.05(14)^\circ$ for **1**; C(1)–Sb(1)–C(17) $102.8(2)^\circ$ for **3**]. The antimony–nitrogen bond distances [Sb–N



Scheme 1 Preparation of the ionic species **1–3** and the fluorides **5** and **6**.



Scheme 2 Preparation of the ionic species **4** and the fluorides **7** and **8**.



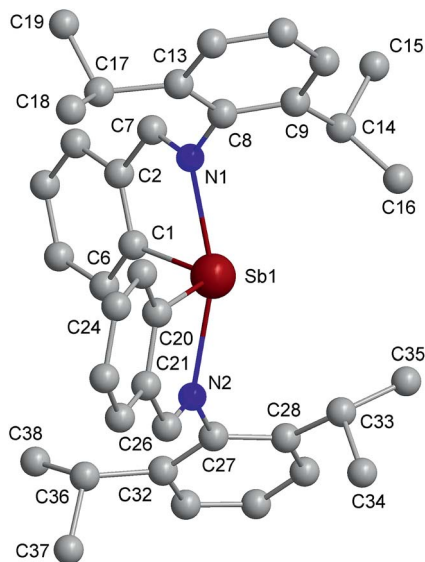


Fig. 1 Structure of the (Λ)-cation in $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

Table 1 Selected bond distances (\AA) and angles ($^\circ$) for compounds $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ and $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$

$1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$		$3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$	
Sb(1)–C(1)	2.145(4)	Sb(1)–C(1)	2.167(6)
Sb(1)–C(20)	2.131(4)	Sb(1)–C(17)	2.151(5)
Sb(1)–N(1)	2.353(3)	Sb(1)–N(1)	2.365(5)
Sb(1)–N(2)	2.367(3)	Sb(1)–N(2)	2.395(5)
N(1)–C(7)	1.276(5)	N(1)–C(7)	1.269(9)
N(1)–C(8)	1.450(5)	N(1)–C(8)	1.442(8)
N(2)–C(26)	1.285(5)	N(2)–C(23)	1.267(7)
N(2)–C(27)	1.446(5)	N(2)–C(24)	1.435(7)
C(1)–Sb(1)–C(20)	105.05(14)	C(1)–Sb(1)–C(17)	102.8(2)
N(1)–Sb(1)–N(2)	159.67(10)	N(1)–Sb(1)–N(2)	155.02(17)
N(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	75.70(12)	N(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	75.16(19)
N(1)–Sb(1)–C(20)	92.23(12)	N(1)–Sb(1)–C(17)	89.21(19)
N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1)	91.70(12)	N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1)	89.2(2)
N(2)–Sb(1)–C(20)	75.46(12)	N(2)–Sb(1)–C(17)	75.21(18)

2.353(3)/2.367(3) \AA for **1**; 2.365(5)/2.395(5) \AA for **3**] compare well with those found in the related ionic species [$\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}\}^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ [Sb–N 2.412(3)/2.416(4) \AA],¹⁹ but are shorter than in the bromide precursor [$2-\{(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3)_2\text{N}=\text{CH}\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{SbBr}$ [Sb–N 2.498(4)/2.996(4) \AA]¹⁸ [*cf.* sums of the corresponding covalent, $\Sigma r_{\text{cov}}(\text{Sb},\text{N})$ 2.11 \AA , and van der Waals radii, $\Sigma r_{\text{vdw}}(\text{Sb},\text{N})$ 3.74 \AA],²⁷ due to the more electrophilic nature of the antimony in the cation.

The cations of both these ionic species exhibit a helical structure due to the (*C,N*)-chelating ligands. The corresponding configurations at the metal can be given as Δ_{Sb} (or P_{Sb}) and Λ_{Sb} (or M_{Sb}) with respect to the right-handed or left-handed helicity of the two chelate rings along the C_2 -axis passing through the centre of the $\text{C}\cdots\text{C}$ edge (carbon atoms attached to antimony), the metal ion and the centre of the $\text{N}\cdots\text{N}$ edge.²⁸ Both compounds **1** and **3** crystallize as a 1 : 1 mixture of (Δ_{Sb})- and (Λ_{Sb})-cations. No cation–anion interactions between heavy

atoms were observed. However, for both compounds supramolecular associations are built through halogen \cdots hydrogen and $\text{C}-\text{H}\cdots\pi$ ($\text{Ar}_{\text{centroid}}$) interactions. Thus, in the crystal of $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ chain polymers are formed based on $\text{F}\cdots\text{H}_{\text{imine}}$ contacts between anions and (Δ_{Sb})- or (Λ_{Sb})-cations (see Fig. S3, ESI[†]). Alternating, parallel, polymeric chains containing (Δ_{Sb})- and (Λ_{Sb})-cations, respectively, are connected through $\text{Cl}_{\text{solvent}}\cdots\text{H}$ contacts into a layer (see Fig. S4, ESI[†]). By contrast, in the crystal of $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$ centrosymmetric dinuclear units are formed from (Δ_{Sb})- and (Λ_{Sb})-cations based on $\text{C}-\text{H}_{\text{methyl}}\cdots\pi$ ($\text{Ar}_{\text{centroid}}$) interactions (*i.e.* $\text{H}\cdots\text{Ar}_{\text{centroid}}$ contacts shorter than 3.1 \AA , with an angle γ between the normal to the aromatic ring and the line defined by the H atom and $\text{Ar}_{\text{centroid}}$ smaller than 30°):²⁹ $\text{C}(16)-\text{H}(16\text{B})_{\text{methyl}}\cdots\text{Ar}_{\text{centroid}}\{\text{C}(24')-\text{C}(29')\}$ 2.85 \AA ($\gamma = 3.8^\circ$). These dinuclear units are further connected through anions and solvent molecules into chain polymers (see Fig. S8, ESI[†]). In the crystals there are no further contacts between parallel layers (for $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$) or polymeric chains (for $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$).

Synthesis and characterization of diorganoantimony(III) fluorides

The treatment of the ionic compounds **1**, **2**, **4** and [$\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{PhSb}\}^+[\text{SbF}_6]^-$ with $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{F} \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in acetonitrile, at room temperature, followed by extraction with *n*-hexane leads to the isolation of the organoantimony(III) fluorides: [$2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3)_2\text{N}=\text{CH}\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{SbF}$ (**5**), [$2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3)_2\text{N}=\text{CH}\}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{PhSbF}$ (**6**) (Scheme 1), [$2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{SbF}$ (**7**) and [$2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}\text{PhSbF}$ (**8**) (Scheme 2). The fluorides were obtained as air-stable, yellow (**5**, **6**) or white (**7**, **8**) solids. They are easily soluble in chlorinated organic solvents as CHCl_3 , a behaviour consistent with their molecular structure observed in solid state. In the case of fluorides **5** and **6** an absorption band was observed at 1641 and 1622 cm^{-1} , respectively, which was assigned to the $\nu_{\text{CH}=\text{N}}$ stretching vibration, consistent with the presence of the imine ligand. In the ESI(+ (for **5**, **7** and **8**) and APCI(+ (for **6**) mass spectra the base peaks were assigned to the corresponding fragments $[\text{R}_2\text{Sb}^+]$, $[\text{R}'_2\text{Sb}^+]$, $[\text{R}''\text{PhSb}^+]$, and $[\text{RPhSb}^+]$, respectively. The mass spectrum of **6** showed a fragment with *m/z* value (*i.e.* 945) higher than that corresponding to the molecular ion, which was assigned to the dinuclear cation containing fluorine bridge between metal atoms, $[(\text{RPhSb})_2\text{F}]^+$.

The ^{19}F NMR spectra of the new fluorides exhibit a sharp singlet resonance at δ –181.3, –174.7, –176.9 and –169.2 ppm (for **5**, **6**, **7** and **8**, respectively), a behaviour consistent with the presence of only one species in the solution of these compounds. The structure of the fluorides **5**–**8** in CDCl_3 solutions was investigated by ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy at room temperature. The assignment of the observed resonances, according to the numbering schemes illustrated in Scheme S1 (see ESI[†]), was based on 2D NMR spectra. For the fluoride **5**, the NMR spectra at room temperature are consistent with a similar behaviour as observed previously for the analogous chloride³⁰ and bromide,¹⁸ *i.e.* the presence in the same molecule of one organic ligand for which the free rotation around the $\text{C}-\text{N}(=\text{C})$ single bond is blocked (non-equivalence of the two



halves of a 2',6'-¹Pr₂C₆H₃ moiety) and one organic ligand with no restriction of free rotation around the C–N(=C) single bond. A similar restricted rotation around the C–N(=C) single bond was observed for the imine ligand in **6**, at room temperature. This is consistent with four doublet ¹H resonances for the methyl protons and two septet resonances for the methine protons of the ¹Pr groups indicating that the two halves of the 2',6'-¹Pr₂C₆H₃ moiety are not equivalent. The NMR spectra of fluorides **7** and **8** are consistent with the expected structures. For **7** only one set of resonances was observed suggesting a dynamic behaviour which results in equivalent organic ligands on the NMR time scale, at room temperature. The fluoride **8**, with different organic groups attached to antimony, exhibits two singlet ¹H resonances, a behaviour consistent with the presence of intramolecular N→Sb interaction in solution. Interesting, an evident AB system was not observed for the CH₂ group of the pendant arm due to isochronous chemical shifts of the methylene protons. It should be also noted that for several carbon atoms the corresponding resonances appear as doublets due to carbon–fluorine couplings at two or even three bond distances.

Single crystals of the diorganoantimony(III) fluorides **5–8**, suitable for X-ray diffraction studies, were obtained by slow evaporation of their *n*-hexane solutions. The molecular structures are depicted in Fig. 2, 3, S20 and S24.† Selected bond lengths and angles are listed in Table 2.

The crystals of all four fluorides **5–8** contain discrete molecules with no intermolecular contacts between heavy atoms. This contrasts with the chain polymeric structure of Ph₂SbF in which molecular units are connected by strong, almost symmetric Sb–F⋯Sb bridges.⁸ As a consequence, the terminal antimony–fluorine bond distances in the title fluorides [Sb(1)–F(1) 1.997(5) Å in **5**, 1.9989(19) Å in **6**, 2.032(4) Å in **7** and 2.001(2) Å in **8**, respectively] are shorter than those found in the unique polymeric monofluoride Ph₂SbF [intramolecular Sb–F

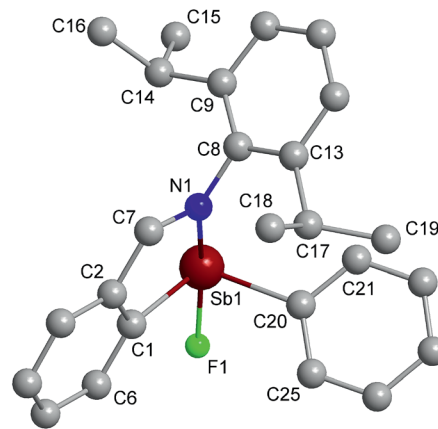


Fig. 3 Molecular structure of (C_{5b})-**6**, showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

2.166(5) Å; intermolecular Sb⋯F 2.221(5) Å].⁸ The lack of fluorine bridges in the case of the fluorides **5–8** is the result of intramolecular coordination of the nitrogen atom from the pendant arm to the metal centre.

Indeed, in the molecules of **5** and **7**, which contain two similar organic ligands with one pendant arm, both nitrogen atoms are coordinated intramolecularly to antimony. As expected, one nitrogen atom is strongly coordinated to the metal [Sb(1)–N(1) 2.693(6) Å in **5**, and 2.512(5) Å in **7**] in *trans* position to the fluorine atom [F(1)–Sb(1)–N(1) 158.66(18)° in **5**, and 161.74(16)° in **7**]. Due to a stronger *trans* influence of the fluorine atom these N→Sb distances are considerably longer for both **5** and **7** than observed in the related chlorides/bromides/iodides, *i.e.* [2-(2',6'-¹Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄]₂SbX [Sb–N 2.416(2) Å for X = Cl;³⁰ 2.498(4) Å for X = Br¹⁸] or [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂SbX [Sb–N 2.463(2) Å for X = Cl;³¹ 2.423(3) Å for X = Br; 2.417(3) Å for X = I⁷]. The nitrogen atom of the second pendant arm in the molecule is placed in *trans* position to an *ipso* carbon atom and exhibits a slightly longer intramolecular bond in **5** [Sb(1)–N(2) 2.778(7) Å; N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1) 156.1(3)°], but being considerably longer in **7** [Sb(1)–N(2) 3.379(6) Å; N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1) 154.30(17)°; *cf.* sums of the respective covalent, Σ*r*_{cov}(Sb,N) 2.11 Å, and van der Waals radii, Σ*r*_{vdw}(Sb,N) 3.74 Å].²⁷ While for the fluoride **7** the length of the N→Sb bond placed in *trans* position to the carbon atom is similar to those observed for the other analogous halides [*cf.* Sb–N 3.216(3) Å for X = Cl;³¹ 3.276(3) Å for X = Br; 3.211(3) Å for X = I⁷], for the imine derivative **5** this N→Sb distance is considerably shorter than in the corresponding chloride or bromide [Sb–N 2.952(3) Å for X = Cl;³⁰ 2.996(4) Å for X = Br¹⁸].

In the molecules of the chiral fluorides **6** and **8**, which contain one phenyl group and one organic ligand of the same type as in **5** and **7**, again the nitrogen atom of the pendant arm is strongly coordinated to the metal atom [Sb(1)–N(1) 2.466(3) Å in **6**, and 2.526(3) Å in **8**] in *trans* position to the fluorine atom [F(1)–Sb(1)–N(1) 158.97(8)° in **6**, and 161.48(9)° in **8**]. The intramolecular N→Sb bond distance is longer than found in the related halides *i.e.* [2-(2',6'-¹Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄]₂SbX [Sb–N 2.433(2) Å]³² or [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂PhSbX [Sb–N 2.452(2) Å for X = Cl;³³ 2.444(4) Å for X = Br; 2.426(3) Å for X = I³⁴].

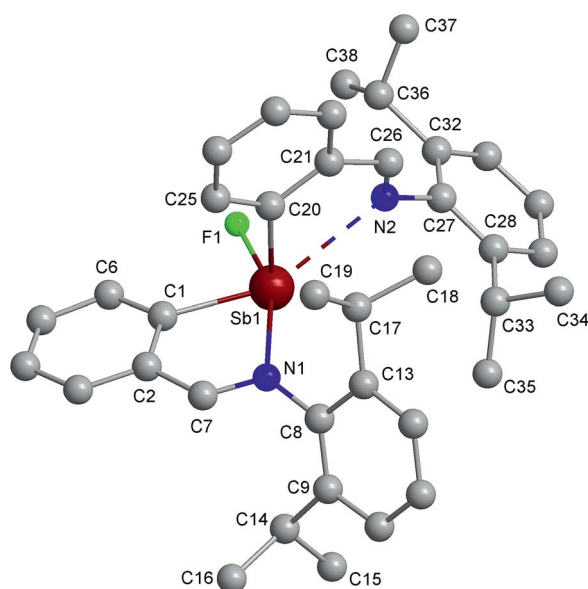


Fig. 2 Molecular structure of (C_{5b})-**5**, showing the atom numbering scheme. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Table 2 Selected bond distances (Å) and angles (°) for compounds 5–8

	5	6	7	8	
Sb(1)–C(1)	2.172(7)	2.128(3)	Sb(1)–C(1)	2.134(6)	2.141(3)
Sb(1)–C(20)	2.172(8)	2.122(3)	Sb(1)–C(10)	2.151(5)	2.150(3)
Sb(1)–F(1)	1.997(5)	1.9989(19)	Sb(1)–F(1)	2.032(4)	2.001(2)
Sb(1)–N(1)	2.693(6)	2.466(3)	Sb(1)–N(1)	2.512(5)	2.526(3)
Sb(1)–N(2)	2.778(7)		Sb(1)–N(2)	3.379(6)	
N(1)–C(7)	1.268(11)	1.269(4)	N(1)–C(7)	1.466(8)	1.464(4)
N(1)–C(8)	1.445(10)	1.428(4)	N(1)–C(8)	1.463(9)	1.476(5)
			N(1)–C(9)	1.473(9)	1.473(5)
N(2)–C(26)	1.264(11)		N(2)–C(16)	1.450(9)	
N(2)–C(27)	1.439(11)		N(2)–C(17)	1.442(11)	
			N(2)–C(18)	1.452(11)	
F(1)–Sb(1)–N(1)	158.66(18)	158.97(8)	F(1)–Sb(1)–N(1)	161.74(16)	161.48(9)
C(1)–Sb(1)–C(20)	93.4(3)	102.15(11)	C(1)–Sb(1)–C(10)	96.9(2)	95.74(12)
F(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	87.1(3)	88.78(10)	F(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	89.69(19)	88.94(11)
F(1)–Sb(1)–C(20)	93.3(2)	89.14(10)	F(1)–Sb(1)–C(10)	89.5(2)	90.52(11)
N(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	71.8(3)	72.88(9)	N(1)–Sb(1)–C(1)	73.26(18)	73.31(11)
N(1)–Sb(1)–C(20)	85.5(2)	84.89(10)	N(1)–Sb(1)–C(10)	86.2(2)	86.18(10)
N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1)	156.1(3)		N(2)–Sb(1)–C(1)	154.30(17)	
N(1)–Sb(1)–N(2)	120.87(19)		N(1)–Sb(1)–N(2)	86.25(14)	
N(2)–Sb(1)–C(20)	69.3(2)		N(2)–Sb(1)–C(10)	65.73(19)	
N(2)–Sb(1)–F(1)	78.06(19)		N(2)–Sb(1)–F(1)	108.11(15)	

Taking into account both intramolecular N→Sb interactions the coordination geometry around the antimony atom in **5** and **7** is distorted square pyramidal [(C,N)₂SbF core; hypervalent 12-Sb-5 species^{35,36}], with an *ipso* carbon atom in the apical position (Fig. 2 and S20†). For the fluorides **6** and **8**, the molecules of which contain only one intramolecular N→Sb interaction, the coordination geometry is distorted pseudo-trigonal bipyramidal [(C,N)CSbF core; hypervalent 10-Sb-4 species^{35,36}], with the halogen and the nitrogen atoms placed in the axial positions. The intramolecular N→Sb interactions result in *chelate induced-Sb-chirality*^{34,37} and therefore the crystals of the fluorides **5** and **6** contain 1 : 1 mixtures of (*C*_{Sb}) and (*A*_{Sb}) isomers.²⁸ While the resulting SbC₃N rings are basically planar for the imine ligands in **5** and **6**, the C₃SbN rings in **7** and **8** are folded along the Sb⋯C_{methylene} axis, with the N(sp³) atom lying out of the best plane through the residual SbC₃ fragment. As result, in addition to the chirality at antimony, this folding induces planar chirality (with the aromatic ring and the nitrogen atom as chiral plane and pilot atom, respectively; for planar chirality the enantiomers are given as *pS_N* and *pR_N*).³⁸ Indeed, the crystals contain racemic mixtures of (*C*_{Sb})(*pR_{N1}*,*pR_{N2}*)-**7**/(*A*_{Sb})(*pS_{N1}*,*pS_{N2}*)-**7** isomers and (*C*_{Sb})(*pS_{N1}*)-**8**/(*A*_{Sb})(*pR_{N1}*)-**8** isomers, respectively.

A closer investigation of the crystal packing revealed that, in addition to intramolecular F⋯H contacts established in the molecules of all fluorides **5–8**, intermolecular F⋯H and C–H⋯π (*A*_{centroid}) interactions are present and led to different supramolecular architectures (see ESI†). Thus, ribbon-like polymers of either (*C*_{Sb}) or (*A*_{Sb}) isomers based on C–H_{aryl}⋯π (*A*_{centroid}) interactions are formed in the crystal of **5**. Parallel pairs of chains built from (*C*_{Sb})(*pR_{N1}*,*pR_{N2}*)-**7** or (*A*_{Sb})(*pS_{N1}*,*pS_{N2}*)-**7** isomers, respectively, through weak F(1)⋯H(3a)_{aryl} contacts [2.49 Å; cf. sum of the corresponding van der Waals radii,

$\sum r_{vdw}(F,H) 2.55 \text{ \AA}]^{27}$ and C(14)–H(14)_{aryl}⋯*A*_{centroid}{C(10c)–C(15c)} (3.09 Å; γ = 13.3°) are developed along axis *b* in the crystal of **7**. By contrast, in the crystal of **6** a 3D architecture is formed based on weak C–H⋯π (*A*_{centroid}) contacts between parallel chain polymers of alternating (*C*_{Sb})-**6** and (*A*_{Sb})-**6** isomers connected through F(1)⋯H(7b)_{imine} (2.31 Å) interactions. Surprisingly, no intermolecular F⋯H contacts are present in the crystal of **8**; in this case a dimer association of (*C*_{Sb})(*pS_{N1}*)-**8** and (*A*_{Sb})(*pR_{N1}*)-**8** isomers is formed through C(7)–H(7B)_{methylene}⋯*A*_{centroid}{C(10')–C(15')} (2.99 Å; γ = 17.7°) contacts and these dimer units are further associated into a layer based on C(11)–H(11)_{aryl}⋯*A*_{centroid}{C(10'a)–C(15'a)} (3.02 Å; γ = 13.7°) contacts.

Experimental

Materials and instrumentation

The syntheses were performed under argon or nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. THF was dried over sodium or potassium and distilled under argon prior to use. Reagents such as ⁿBuLi, Ti[PF₆], Ag[SbF₆] and [Bu₄N]F were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. The other starting materials were prepared according to the literature procedures: 2-(2',6'-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄Br, [2-(2',6'-*i*-Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄]₂SbBr, [2-(2',4',6'-Me₃C₆H₂N=CH)C₆H₄]₂SbBr,¹⁸ PhSbCl₂,^{15,39} [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]PhSbCl.³⁴ Elemental analyses were carried out with Perkin-Elmer 2400 and CHN-Analysator Type FlashAE 1112 (Co. Thermo) instruments. The melting point of compounds was measured with an Electrothermal 9200 or a Melting Point B-540 (Co. Büchi) apparatus. The ¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁹F NMR spectra were recorded at room temperature using Bruker Avance 300 (for **2**, **7**, **8**), Bruker Avance II 400 (for **5**, **6**) and Bruker Avance III 500 (for



1, 3) instruments, respectively. The chemical shifts are reported in δ units relative to the residual peak of the solvent (CHCl_3 , δ 7.26 ppm; $\text{DMSO-}d_5$, δ 2.50 ppm) in ^1H NMR spectra and to the peak of the deuterated solvent (CDCl_3 , δ 77.16 ppm; $\text{DMSO-}d_6$, δ 39.52 ppm) in ^{13}C NMR spectra, respectively.⁴⁰ The ^1H and ^{13}C resonances were assigned using 2D NMR experiments (COSY, HSQC and HMBC). The ^{19}F and ^{31}P chemical shifts are quoted in δ units (ppm) relative to external standards (CFCl_3 for ^{19}F NMR, and H_3PO_4 85% for ^{31}P NMR, respectively). The NMR spectra were processed using the *MestReNova* software.⁴¹ Infrared spectra were recorded on a BioRad FTS-165 spectrometer, using ATR accessory. Mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer equipped with a standard ESI/APCI source.

Crystal structure determination

Single crystals of $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ were obtained by slow diffusion of *n*-hexane into a solution of CH_2Cl_2 (3 : 1 v/v) or slow evaporation of a CHCl_3 solution for $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$. Colorless crystals of 5–8 were grown by slow evaporation of a *n*-hexane solution. The details of the crystal structure determination and refinement are given in Tables S1 and S2 (see ESI[†]). The crystals were attached with Krytox[™] to a glass fiber ($1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$) or mounted on cryoloops (5–8). For $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$, 5–8 data were collected at room temperature, while for $1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ the crystal was cooled under a nitrogen stream at low temperature. Data were collected on Oxford (Type Gemini S) ($1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$) and Bruker SMART APEX (5–8) diffractometers, using graphite-monochromated Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$), except for $3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$ for which Cu-K α ($\lambda = 0.54184 \text{ \AA}$) radiation was used. The structures were refined with anisotropic thermal parameters. The hydrogen atoms were refined with a riding model and a mutual isotropic thermal parameter. For structure solving and refinement the software package SHELX-97 was used.⁴² The drawings were created with the Diamond program.⁴³ CCDC reference numbers 1020707 ($1 \cdot 2\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$), 1020708 ($3 \cdot 2\text{CHCl}_3$), 1020709 (5), 10207010 (6), 10207011 (7) and 10207012 (8) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper.[†]

Synthesis of $[[2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (1). A suspension of $\text{Ti}[\text{PF}_6]$ (0.750 g, 2.15 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of $[2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]_2\text{SbBr}$ (1.570 g, 2.15 mmol) in THF (25 mL) at room temperature, resulting in immediate formation of a white precipitate. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h and then filtered off through Celite. The solvent was removed in vacuum from the clear yellowish solution to give **1** as a pale yellow solid (1.380 g, 81%), m.p. 235–237 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{44}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{P}_2\text{Sb}$ (795.49): C, 57.37; H, 5.58; N, 3.52. Found: C, 57.31; H, 5.46; N, 3.30%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 1606(m) [$\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})$], 834(s) [$\nu(\text{P}-\text{F})$]. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 1.17 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7 \text{ Hz}$, 6H, H-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.38 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 6H, H-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.43 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7 \text{ Hz}$, 6H, H-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.51 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.6 \text{ Hz}$, 6H, H-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 3.03 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 3.29 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 7.34 [dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.3 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 2.8 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-3'a or H-3'b, C_6H_3],

7.46 (m, 4H, H-3'b or H-3'a, H-4', C_6H_3), 7.52 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.4 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-6, C_6H_4), 7.59 (ddd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-5, C_6H_4), 7.70 (ddd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.1 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-4, C_6H_4), 8.17 (dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.6 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 0.9 \text{ Hz}$, 2H, H-3, C_6H_4), 8.94 (s, 2H, H-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 23.86 [s, C-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.49 [s, C-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.78 [s, C-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 27.35 [s, C-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 28.96 [s, C-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 30.21 [s, C-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 125.14, 126.21, 129.23 (s, C-3'a, C-3'b, C-4'), 131.61 (s, C-4), 135.01 (s, C-6), 135.14 (s, C-5), 135.82 (s, C-3), 138.78 (s, C-2), 140.27 (s, C-2'b), 141.12 (s, C-1'), 141.36 (s, C-2'a), 146.94 (s, C-1), 174.41 (s, C-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -73.0 (d, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.1 \text{ Hz}$). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (121.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -144.3 (sept, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.3 \text{ Hz}$). MS (ESI+, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$): *m/z* (%) 649 (100) [R_2Sb^+] [R = 2-(2',6'- $^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].

Synthesis of $[[2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{PhSb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (2).

A solution of $^n\text{BuLi}$ in *n*-hexane (5.45 mL, 8.7 mmol, 1.6 M) was added dropwise, at -78 °C to a stirred solution of 2-(2',6'- $^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Br}$ (3.00 g, 8.7 mmol) in anhydrous *n*-hexane (40 mL) and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h. The resulting yellow-orange suspension of organolithium compound was added dropwise to a suspension of PhSbCl_2 (2.35, 8.7 mmol) in *n*-hexane (30 mL), at -78 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at -78 °C, then for 12 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed, the residual yellow-orange solid was washed several times with cold *n*-hexane and then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . Evaporation of the solvent in vacuum gave 2.15 g (50%) of $[2-(2',6'\text{-}^i\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{PhSbCl}$ as a yellow powder (m.p. 233–235 °C; cf. 238 °C (ref. 32)) which was used without further purification. To a solution of this chloride (1.00 g, 2.00 mmol) in THF (25 mL) a suspension of $\text{Ti}[\text{PF}_6]$ (0.70 g, 2.00 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added dropwise, at room temperature. A white precipitate is formed immediately. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h and then filtered off through Celite. The solvent was removed under vacuum from the pale-yellow solution and the resulting precipitate was washed with *n*-hexane to give **2** as a pale yellow solid (0.873 g, 72%), m.p. 169–170 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{F}_6\text{NPSb}$ (608.21): C, 49.37; H, 4.47; N, 2.30. Found: C, 49.02; H, 4.26; N, 2.33%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 1615(m) [$\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})$], 802(s) [$\nu(\text{P}-\text{F})$]. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.35 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7 \text{ Hz}$, 3H, H-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 0.88 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 3H, H-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.13 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 3H, H-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.34 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 3H, H-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.73 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 2.93 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 7.06 (dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.3 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.3 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-3'a, C_6H_3), 7.26 (m, 7H, H-3'b, H-4', C_6H_3 + *ortho,meta,para*, C_6H_5), 7.77 (dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.3 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-4, C_6H_4), 7.84 (ddd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5 \text{ Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.0 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-5, C_6H_4), 8.08 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.1 \text{ Hz}$, 1H, H-3, C_6H_4), 8.38 (s, br, 1H, H-6, C_6H_4), 8.65 (s, 1H, H-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 22.33 [s, C-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 23.98 [s, C-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.98 [s, C-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 26.07 [s, C-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 28.13 [s, C-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 29.15 [s, C-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 123.98 (s, C-3'b), 124.26 (s, C-3'a), 127.94 (s, C-4'), 129.39 (s, C-*meta*), 130.15 (s, C-4), 130.44 (s, C-*para*), 133.60 (s, C-3), 134.41 (s, C-*ortho*), 134.58 (s, C-5), 136.13 (s, C-6), 139.64 (s, C-1'), 140.39 (s, C-2), 140.66 (s, C-2'b), 141.02 (s, C-2'a), 144.45 (s, C-*ipso*), 151.42 (s, C-1), 174.86



(s, C-7, CH=N). $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -72.9 (d, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.1$ Hz). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (121.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -144.3 (sept, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.3$ Hz). MS (APCI+, CH_3CN): m/z (%) 462 (100) $[\text{RPhSb}^+]$ [$\text{R} = 2-(2',6'\text{-}^1\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].

Synthesis of $[\{2-(2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{PF}_6]^-$ (3). A suspension of $\text{Tl}[\text{PF}_6]$ (0.120 g, 0.34 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added dropwise to a solution of $[2-(2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]_2\text{SbBr}$ (0.222 g, 0.34 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at room temperature, resulting in immediate formation of a white precipitate. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1.5 h and then filtered off through Celite. The solvent was removed in vacuum from the clear yellowish solution to give **3** as a pale yellow solid (0.139 g, 57%), m.p. 200–202 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{32}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{PSb}$ (711.33): C, 54.03; H, 4.53; N, 3.94. Found: C, 53.16; H, 4.61; N, 3.89%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 1602(m) $[\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})]$, 825(s) $[\nu(\text{P}-\text{F})]$. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 2.37 (s, 6H, H-8', CH_3), 2.45 (s, 12H, H-7', CH_3), 7.11 (s, 4H, H-3', 5', C_6H_2), 7.48 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5$ Hz, 2H, H-6, C_6H_4), 7.55 (ddd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.2$ Hz, 2H, H-5, C_6H_4), 7.62 (ddd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 1.1$ Hz, 2H, H-4, C_6H_4), 8.12 (dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.5$ Hz, $^4J_{\text{H,H}} = 0.8$ Hz, 2H, H-3, C_6H_4), 8.94 (s, 2H, H-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 20.25 (s, br, C-7', CH_3), 21.07 (s, C-8', CH_3), 129.79 (s, C-2', 6'), 131.26 (s, C-4), 131.36 (s, C-3', 5'), 134.96 (s, C-5), 135.12 (s, C-6), 135.29 (s, C-3), 138.58 (s, C-4'), 138.72 (s, C-2), 142.30 (s, C-1'), 146.17 (s, C-1), 174.43 (s, C-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -72.8 (d, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.2$ Hz). $^{31}\text{P}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (202.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -144.3 (sept, $^1J_{\text{P,F}} = 713.2$ Hz). MS (ESI+, $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$): m/z (%) 565 (100) $[\text{R}'_2\text{Sb}^+]$ [$\text{R}' = 2-(2',4',6'\text{-Me}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].

Synthesis of $[\{2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\}_2\text{Sb}]^+[\text{SbF}_6]^-$ (4). To a solution of $[2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]_2\text{SbCl}$ (0.48 g, 1.13 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added a suspension of $\text{Ag}[\text{SbF}_6]$ (0.39 g, 1.13 mmol) in THF (10 mL), which lead to the immediate formation of a white precipitate. The flask was covered with aluminum foil against light. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes and then filtered off through Celite, resulting in a colorless solution. Removal of the solvent under vacuum gave **4** as a white solid (0.35 g, 50%), m.p. 212–214 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{24}\text{F}_6\text{N}_2\text{Sb}_2$ (625.91): C, 34.54; H, 3.86; N, 4.48. Found: C, 34.58; H, 4.09; N, 4.47%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 750(s) $[\nu(\text{Sb}-\text{F})]$. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 2.42 (s, 12H, CH_3), 3.90 (s, 4H, CH_2), 7.44 (m, 6H, H-3,4,5, C_6H_4), 7.61 (d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.0$ Hz, 2H, H-6, C_6H_4). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ 45.44 (s, CH_3), 65.36 (s, CH_2), 128.48 (s, C-5 or C-3), 128.56 (s, C-3 or C-5), 129.96 (s, C-4), 135.08 (s, C-6), 143.96 (s, C-2), 145.58 (s, C-1). $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (282.4 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$): δ -119.5 (m). MS (ESI+, CH_3CN): m/z (%) 389 (100) $[\text{R}''_2\text{Sb}^+]$ [$\text{R}'' = 2-(\text{Me}_2\text{NCH}_2)\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].

Synthesis of $[2-(2',6'\text{-}^1\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]_2\text{SbF}$ (5). A solution of $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{F}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.088 g, 0.28 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added to a solution of **1** (0.224 g, 0.28 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h, the color of the solution being changed from colourless to yellow. The solvent was removed in vacuum to obtain a yellow precipitate, which was extracted with *n*-hexane. Slow evaporation of the clear *n*-hexane solution gave yellow crystals of **5** (0.103 g, 55%), m.p. 166–168 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{44}\text{FN}_2\text{Sb}$ (669.53): C, 68.17; H, 6.62; N, 4.18. Found: C, 68.46; H, 6.81; N,

4.34%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 1641(m) $[\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})]$. ^1H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.44 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.4$ Hz, 3H, H-8'a1 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 0.73 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.3$ Hz, 3H, H-8'a2 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 0.88 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 5.3$ Hz, 6H, H-8'1 (B), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.06 [m, 12H, H-8'b1 (A) + H-8'b2 (A) + H-8'2 (B) $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.91 [m, 1H, H-7'a (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 2.80 [m, 3H, H-7'b (A) + H-7' (B), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 6.98 [s, br, 1H, H-3'a (A), C_6H_3], 7.11 [s, br, 5H, H-3'b (A) + H-4' (A) + H-3' (B) + H-4' (B), C_6H_3], 7.22 [s, br, 1H, H-6 (B), C_6H_4], 7.26 [s, br, 1H, H-5 (B), C_6H_4], 7.44 [dd, 1H, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.4$ Hz, H-4 (B), C_6H_4], 7.62 [m, 2H, H-4 (A) + H-3 (B), C_6H_4], 7.74 [dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.3$ Hz, 1H, H-5 (A), C_6H_4], 7.85 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7$ Hz, 1H, H-3 (A), C_6H_4], 8.38 [m, 3H, H-6 (A), C_6H_4 + H-7 (A) + H-7 (B), $\text{CH}=\text{N}$]. $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 22.12 [s, C-8'a1 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 23.78 [s, C-8'1 (B), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.03 [s, C-8'2 (B), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.40 [s, C-8'b1 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.92 [s, C-8'a2 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 25.32 [s, C-8'b2 (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 28.14 [s, br, C-7'a (A) + C-7' (B), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 28.31 [s, C-7'b (A), $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 122.99 [s, C-3'a (A) + C-4' (A) or C-4' (B)], 123.97 [s, C-3'b (A)], 124.42 [s, C-4' (B) or C-4' (A)], 126.32 [s, C-3' (B)], 128.95 [s, C-4 (A)], 129.69 [s, C-4 (B)], 131.96 [s, C-5 (B)], 132.47 [s, C-3 (A)], 132.94 [s, C-5 (A) and C-3 (B)], 135.53 [s, C-6 (A)], 136.06 [s, C-6 (B)], 138.57 [s, C-2' (B)], 139.00 [s, C-2 (B)], 139.47 [s, C-2'b (A)], 140.64 [s, C-2 (A) + C-2'a (A)], 144.69 [s, C-1' (A)], 148.15 [s, C-1' (B)], 148.53 [s, C-1 (B)], 160.00 [s, C-1 (A)], 164.74 [s, C-7 (B), $\text{CH}=\text{N}$], 168.76 [s, C-7 (A), $\text{CH}=\text{N}$]. $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -181.3 (s). MS (ESI+, CH_3CN): m/z (%) 649 (100) $[\text{R}_2\text{Sb}^+]$ [$\text{R} = 2-(2',6'\text{-}^1\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].

Synthesis of $[2-(2',6'\text{-}^1\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4]\text{PhSbF}$ (6). A solution of $[\text{Bu}_4\text{N}]\text{F}\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.262 g, 0.83 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL) was added to a solution of **2** (0.505 g, 0.83 mmol) in acetonitrile (20 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h, while the color changed from colorless to yellow. The solvent was then removed in vacuum to obtain a yellow solid, which was extracted with *n*-hexane. Slow evaporation of the clear *n*-hexane solution gave yellow crystals of **6** (0.326 g, 82%), m.p. 222–224 °C. Anal. calc. for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{FNSb}$ (482.25): C, 62.26; H, 5.64; N, 2.90. Found: C, 61.64; H, 5.93; N, 3.01%. IR (ATR, cm^{-1}): 1622(s) $[\nu(\text{CH}=\text{N})]$. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 0.51 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.7$ Hz, 3H, H-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 0.86 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.12 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.33 [d, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$ Hz, 3H, H-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 1.82 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 3.05 [sept, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 6.8$ Hz, 1H, H-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 7.06 (m, 1H, H-3'a, C_6H_3), 7.23 (m, 5H, H-3'b, H-4', C_6H_3 + H-*meta,para*, C_6H_3), 7.42 (m, 2H, H-*ortho*, C_6H_3), 7.64 (dd, $^3J_{\text{H,H}} = 7.4$ Hz, 1H, H-4, C_6H_4), 7.81 (m, 2H, H-3, H-5, C_6H_4), 8.44 (m, 2H, H-6, C_6H_4 + H-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (100.6 MHz, CDCl_3): δ 22.64 [s, C-8'a1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.25 [s, C-8'b2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 24.98 [s, C-8'b1, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 26.21 [s, C-8'a2, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 27.93 [s, C-7'a, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 28.81 [s, C-7'b, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$], 123.71 (s, C-3'b), 123.93 (s, C-3'a), 126.67 (s, C-4'), 129.02 (s, C-*meta*), 129.35 (s, C-4), 129.46 (s, C-*para*), 132.49 (s, C-3), 133.33 (s, C-5), 134.25 (d, $^3J_{\text{C,F}} = 1.0$ Hz, C-*ortho*), 134.92 (d, $^3J_{\text{C,F}} = 9.9$ Hz, C-6), 139.45 (s, C-2), 140.17 (s, C-2'b), 140.37 (s, C-2'a), 143.27 (s, C-1'), 147.72 (d, $^2J_{\text{C,F}} = 9.2$ Hz, C-*ipso*), 153.75 (d, $^2J_{\text{C,F}} = 6.3$ Hz, C-1), 168.43 (s, C-7, $\text{CH}=\text{N}$). $^{19}\text{F}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (376.5 MHz, CDCl_3): δ -174.7 (s, br). MS (APCI+, CH_3CN): m/z (%) 945 (30) $[(\text{RPhSb})_2\text{F}^+]$, 462 (100) $[\text{RPhSb}^+]$ [$\text{R} = 2-(2',6'\text{-}^1\text{Pr}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_3\text{N}=\text{CH})\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$].



Synthesis of [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂SbF (7). A solution of [Bu₄N]F·3H₂O (0.131 g, 0.42 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 mL) was added to a solution of [{2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂Sb⁺}[SbF₆]⁻ (4) (0.260 g, 0.42 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h, then the solvent was removed in vacuum to yield a white solid, which was extracted with *n*-hexane. Slow evaporation of the clear *n*-hexane solution gave white crystals of 7 (0.105 g, 62%), m.p. 64–66 °C. Anal. calc. for C₁₈H₂₄FN₂Sb (409.15): C, 52.84; H, 5.91; N, 6.85. Found: C, 52.56; H, 5.94; N, 6.99%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.21 (s, 12H, H-8, CH₃), AB spin system with A at 3.50 and B at 3.70 ppm (²J_{H,H} = 13.5 Hz, 4H, H-7, CH₂-N), 7.26 (m, 6H, H-3,4,5, C₆H₄), 7.68 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 5.5 Hz, 2H, H-6, C₆H₄). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 45.10 (s, C-8), 65.78 (s, C-7), 127.67, 128.14, 128.77 (s, C-3, C-4, C-5), 135.21 (d, ³J_{C,F} = 4.0 Hz, C-6), 143.72 (s, C-2), 150.15 (s, br, C-1). ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -176.9 (s, br). MS (ESI+, CH₃CN): *m/z* (%) 409 (3) [M⁺+H], 389 (100) [R''₂Sb⁺] [R'' = 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄].

Synthesis of [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]PhSbF (8). To a solution of [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]PhSbCl³⁴ (0.500 g, 1.36 mmol) in THF (20 mL) was added Ag[SbF₆] (0.470 g, 1.36 mmol), resulting in the immediate formation of a white precipitate. The flask was covered with aluminum foil against light and the reaction mixture was stirred 3 h, then filtered off through Celite, resulting in a colorless solution. Evaporation of the solvent in vacuum gave 0.70 g (87%) of crude [{2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]PhSb⁺}[SbF₆]⁻ as a white solid (m.p. 105–107 °C) which was used without further purification. To a solution of this ionic species (0.200 g, 0.34 mmol) in acetonitrile (15 mL) was added a solution of [Bu₄N]F·3H₂O (0.110 g, 0.35 mmol) in acetonitrile (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 16 h, then the solvent was removed in vacuum to yield a white solid, which was extracted with *n*-hexane. Slow evaporation of the clear *n*-hexane solution gave white crystals of 8 (0.051 g, 43%), m.p. 164–166 °C. Anal. calc. for C₁₅H₁₇FNSb (352.06): C, 51.17; H, 4.87; N, 3.98. Found: C, 50.76; H, 5.10; N, 3.81%. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.01 (s, 3H, H-8a, CH₃), 2.39 (s, 3H, H-8b, CH₃), 3.51 (s, 2H, H-7, CH₂-N), 7.21 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H-3, C₆H₄), 7.32 (m, 3H, H-*meta,para*, C₆H₅), 7.37 (dd, ³J_{H,H} = 7.4 Hz, 1H, H-4, C₆H₄), 7.47 (dd, ³J_{H,H} = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H-5, C₆H₄), 7.52 (m, 2H, H-*ortho*, C₆H₅), 8.16 (d, ³J_{H,H} = 7.3 Hz, 1H, H-6, C₆H₄). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 45.48, 45.50 (s, C-8a, C-8b), 65.45 (s, C-7), 126.51 (s, C-3), 128.32 (s, C-5), 128.90 (s, C-*meta*), 129.18 (s, C-4), 129.46 (s, C-*para*), 134.67 (d, ³J_{C,F} = 1.1 Hz, C-*ortho*, C₆H₅), 135.22 (d, ³J_{C,F} = 6.9 Hz, C-6), 143.22 (s, C-2), 144.07 (d, ²J_{C,F} = 10.1 Hz, C-*ipso*), 148.27 (d, ³J_{C,F} = 7.7 Hz, C-1). ¹⁹F{¹H} NMR (282.4 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -169.2 (s, br). MS (ESI+, CH₃CN): *m/z* (%) 332 (100) [R''PhSb⁺] [R'' = 2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄].

Conclusions

The present work reports on a new general method for the synthesis of hypervalent diorganoantimony(III) fluorides containing either one or two organic ligands with a pendant arm, e.g. [2-(2',6'-i-Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄]₂SbF (5), [2-(2',6'-i-Pr₂C₆H₃-N=CH)C₆H₄]PhSbF (6) (Scheme 1), [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]₂SbF (7) and [2-(Me₂NCH₂)C₆H₄]PhSbF (8), using as starting

materials diorganoantimony(III) cations stabilized by intramolecular N → Sb interactions. It is worthwhile to mention that the diorganoantimony(III) fluorides could be obtained just by [Bu₄N]F·3H₂O addition to *in situ* prepared cationic species. The ionic species [{2-(2',6'-i-Pr₂C₆H₃N=CH)C₆H₄]₂Sb⁺}[PF₆]⁻ (1) and [{2-(2',4',6'-Me₃C₆H₂N=CH)C₆H₄]₂Sb⁺}[PF₆]⁻ (3) exhibit helical chirality and crystallize as 1 : 1 mixture of (Δ_{Sb})- and (Λ_{Sb})-cations. In contrast to Ph₂SbF, which exhibits a chain polymeric structure based on almost symmetric Sb-F...Sb bridges, the crystals of the novel fluorides 5–8 contain discrete molecules as result of intramolecular N → Sb interactions.

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