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## Supporting Information

## P≡B and As≡B Triple Bond in the Linear PB<sub>2</sub>O<sup>-</sup> and AsB<sub>2</sub>O<sup>-</sup> Species

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**Figure S1.** Global minimum and low-lying isomers of (a)  $PB_2O^-$  and (b)  $AsB_2O^-$  and their relative energies in kcal/mol at B3LYP/6-311+G\* and TPSSh/Aug-cc-pVTZ/ (in brackets) levels.



**Figure S2.** The optimized structures for (a)  $PB_2O^-$  and (b)  $AsB_2O^-$  and their corresponding neutrals at the TPSSh/Augcc-pVTZ level. The point group symmetries and electronic states are also given. The bond lengths are given in Å. The bond lengths are almost the same to those obtained with B3LYP.



Figure S3. The occupied valence molecular orbitals of (a)  $PB_2O^-$  and (b)  $AsB_2O^-$ .



**Figure S4.** The observed vibrational modes for (a) PB<sub>2</sub>O and (b) AsB<sub>2</sub>O with their computed frequencies scaled by a factor of 0.97.

	EA	(eV)ª		Frequency (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>			
	Exp.	<b>B3LYP</b>	TPSSh	Exp. <sup>c</sup>	<b>B3LYP</b> <sup>d</sup>	TPSSh <sup>d</sup>	
$PB_2O$	3.592	3.52	3.43	2010 (v <sub>1</sub> )	2010(166.05)	1995(122.08)	
				1260 (v 2)	1254(29.32)	1253(27.61)	
				470 (v <sub>3</sub> )	472(0.00)	473(0.02)	
AsB <sub>2</sub> O	3.432	3.39	3.32	2000 (v <sub>1</sub> )	2003(201.77)	1986(150.90)	
				1165 (v <sub>2</sub> )	1161(15.70)	1164(15.55)	
				400 (v <sub>3</sub> )	389(0.04)	390(0.07)	
				135 (v <sub>4</sub> )	143(14.17)	141(13.91)	

**Table S1.** The experimental EAs, and vibrational frequencies for EB<sub>2</sub>O, compared with calculated values using two DFT functional.

<sup>a</sup> Spin-orbital coupling is not considered in the computed EAs.

<sup>b</sup> Calculated frequencies using the B3LYP functional are scaled by a factor of 0.97. Calculated frequencies using the TPSSh functional are scaled by a factor of 0.98 .  $n_1 = B-O$  stretching,  $n_2 = B-B$  stretching,  $n_3 = E-B$  stretching,  $n_4 = cis$ -bending.

 $^{\rm c}$  The experimental uncertainty is estimated to be  $\pm 10$  cm  $^{-1}.$ 

<sup>d</sup> The numbers in the parentheses represent the IR intensity.