Supporting Information for

Design of two-photon absorbing fluorophores for FRET antenna-core oxygen probes

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Crystallography

Single crystals of A1 and A4 were obtained by slow diffusion evaporation of a concentrated solution in chloroform. Suitable crystals were selected and mounted on a Gemini kappa-geometry diffractometer (Agilent Technologies UK Ltd) equipped with an Atlas CCD detector and using Cu radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184$ Å). Intensities were collected at 100 K or 150°K by means of the CrysalisPro software. Reflection indexing, unit-cell parameters refinement, Lorentz-polarization correction, peak integration and background determination were carried out with the CrysalisPro software. An analytical absorption correction was applied using the modelled faces of the crystal. The structures were solved by direct methods with SIR97 and the least-square refinement on *F2* was achieved with the CRYSTALS software. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The hydrogen atoms were all located in a difference map, but were then repositioned geometrically. The H atoms were initially refined with soft restraints on the bond lengths and angles to regularize their geometry (C—H in the range 0.93-0.98 Å) and $U_{iso}(H)$ (in the range 1.2-1.5 times U_{eq} of the parent atom), after which the positions were refined with riding constraints.

	A1	A2				
Data Collection						
Radiation type	Cu $K\alpha$, $\lambda = 1.54184$ Å	Cu <i>K</i> α , λ = 1.54184 Å				
No. measured reflections	35024	27659				
Independent and reflections	8884	6582				
Reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$	6725	5821				
R _{int}	0.087	0.044				
$ heta_{\max}$	67.2	67.0				
$ heta_{\min}$	3.9	3.2				
h	-13→12	-19→22				
k	-17→17	-6→8				
1	-20→20	-32→33				
Refinement						
$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)]$	0.088	0.040				
wR(F ²)	0.291	0.108				
S	1.07	1.02				
No. of reflections	8884	6582				
No. of parameters	606	428				
No. of restraints	0	0				
H-atom treatment	H-atom parameters constrained	H-atom parameters constrained				
$(\Delta/\sigma)_{max}$	< 0.001	0.002				
$\Delta \rho_{\text{max}}$ (e Å ⁻³)	0.42	0.26				
$\Delta \rho_{\min} (e \text{ Å}^{-3})$	-0.34	-0.40				

Table SI-1. Data collection and structure refinement parameters



Fig. SI-1 ORTEP view of A1 crystal structure with ellipsoid at 50% probability.



Fig. SI-2 ORTEP view of A4 crystal structure with ellipsoid at 50% probability.



Fig. SI-3 Crystal packing of A1 viewed down crystallographic *a* axis.

Fig. SI- 4 Crystal packing of A4 viewed down crystallographic *b* axis.

Electrochemical studies

Solvent and Electrolyte: Dichloromethane (99.9%, Acros Organics, extra-dry/Acroseal®, stabilized with amylene) and tetra-*n*-butylammonium perchlorate (TBAP, Fluka puriss.) have been purchased and used without further purification.

Apparatus: Cyclic voltammetry (CV) and voltammetry with rotating disc electrodes (RDE) were recorded using a SP300 Bilogic potentiostat. Analytical studies have been conducted under a nitrogen atmosphere (glove box) in a standard one–compartment, three–electrodes electrochemical cell. Tetra-*n*-butylammonium in dichloromethane was used as supporting electrolytes (0.1 M). An automatic ohmic drop compensation procedure was systematically performed when using cyclic voltammetry. Vitreous carbon ($\emptyset = 3 \text{ mm}$) working electrodes (CH Instruments) were polished with 1 mm diamond paste before each recording. Voltamperometry with a rotating disk electrode (RDE) was carried out with a radiometer (CTV101 radiometer analytical) equipment at a rotation rate of 500 rad min⁻¹ using a glassy carbon RDE tip (\emptyset = 3 mm). Ag/AgNO₃ (CH Instruments, 10⁻² M + TBAP(10⁻¹) M in CH₃CN) was used as a reference electrode.

Fig. SI-5 Voltammograms for C1, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, *E vs E_{ref}*[Ag/Ag⁺]. RDE 10 mV/s, 500 rd/min.

Fig. SI-6 Voltammograms for C2, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, *E vs E_{ref}*[Ag/Ag⁺]. RDE 10 mV/S, 500 rd/min.

Fig. SI-7 Voltammograms for A1, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, *E vs E_{ref}*[Ag/Ag⁺].

Fig. SI-8 Voltammograms for A2, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, $E vs E_{ref}[Ag/Ag^+]$.

Fig. SI-9 Voltammograms for A3, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, *E vs E_{ref}*[Ag/Ag⁺].

Fig. SI-10 Voltammograms for A4, 1 mM in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 M TBAP) recorded under N₂ (glove box); 3 mm Ø vitreous carbon working electrode, v = 100 mV/s, *E vs E_{ref}*[Ag/Ag⁺].

Table SI-2 Half-wave (*) or peak potential (Δ) values measured a for C1, C2, A1, A2, A3 and A4 (1 mM) in CH₂Cl₂ + n-tetrabutylamonium perchlorate (TBAP, 0.1 M); *E vs E*_{1/2}[Fc/Fc⁺].

	$[E_{\mathrm{pa}}]_2$	$[E_{\rm red}]_1$	$[E_{\rm ox}]_1$	$[E_{\text{ox}}]_2$
C1	-2.308 ^Δ	-1.807 *	0.553 *	0.943 *
C2	-2.256 ^Δ	-1.793 *	0.632 *	1.025 *
A1			0.330 *	0.730 ^Δ
A2			0.354 ^Δ	0.955 ^Δ
A3			0.344 ^Δ	0.811 ^Δ
A4			0.836 ^Δ	0.926 ^

a Vitreous carbon WE, $\Phi = 3$ mm, v = 0.1 V.s-1, E vs Ag/Ag+ (10-2 M).

Fig. SI-11 Absorption spectra of compounds A) **A1**, B) **A2**, C) **A3**, and D) **A4** in solvents of different polarity (Bz=Benzene, CHCl₃=chloroform, EtOAc=Ethyl acetate, THF=Tetrahydrofuran, EtOH=Ethanol, MeCN=Acetonitrile, DMF=*N*,*N*-Dimethylformamide).

Fig. SI-12 Compound A1: plots of A) fluorescence lifetime (τ) vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; B) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; C) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs Emission energy. $\Delta f = [(\epsilon-1)/(2\epsilon+1)] - [(n^2-1)/(2n^2+1)]$

Fig. SI-13 Compound A2: plots of A) fluorescence lifetime (τ) vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; B) radiative (k_r) and nonradiative (k_{nr}) constants vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; C) radiative (k_r) and nonradiative (k_{nr}) constants vs Emission energy. Data for benzene are excluded from the linear fit. $\Delta f = [(\epsilon-1)/(2\epsilon+1)] - [(n^2-1)/(2n^2+1)]$

Fig. SI-14 Compound A3: plots of A) fluorescence lifetime (τ) vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; B) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; C) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs Emission energy. $\Delta f = [(\varepsilon-1)/(2\varepsilon+1)] - [(n^2-1)/(2n^2+1)]$

Fig. SI-15 Compound A4: plots of A) fluorescence lifetime (τ) vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; B) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs the Lippert-Mataga orientation polarizability Δf ; C) radiative (kr) and nonradiative (knr) constants vs Emission energy. $\Delta f = [(\epsilon-1)/(2\epsilon+1)] - [(n^2-1)/(2n^2+1)]$

Fig. SI- 16 Absorption spectrum of **C1** and emission spectra of antennae **Ai** (i=1-4) in A) CHCl₃ and B) DMF, showing the spectral overlap.

Fig. SI-17 Comparative figure of the aromatic part of the ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz) for **C1**, **C2**, **22**, **P1** and **P2** showing the appearing of the characteristic triazole proton for compound **P1** and **P2**.

Fig. SI-18 Picture showing the quenching of fluorescence in compounds P1 and P2 compared to 22. Under a handled UV-lamp ($\lambda_{exc} = 365$ nm), the intense fluorescence of compound 22 can easily be seen (cell a), whereas compounds P1 (cell c) and P2 (cell d) are barely emissive. C2 is added for comparison.

Fig. SI-19 A) Singlet oxygen luminescence observed in aerated dichloromethane solution of C1 and C2 following irradiation in the Soret band at $\lambda_{exc} = 420$ nm. B) Singlet oxygen luminescence observed in aerated dichloromethane solution of P1 and P2 following irradiation in the antenna at $\lambda_{exc} = 370$ nm. Note that for this excitation wavelength the generation of singlet oxygen by C1 and C2 is negligible.

Fig. SI-20 Emission spectra of **P1** upon two-photon excitation ($\lambda_{Laser} = 800 \text{ nm}$) at different laser excitation powers. Emission spectra were recorded with a cut-off filter explaining the deformation of the red part of the phosphorescence signal. Inset: power dependence emission intensity *vs* laser excitation power for the residual fluorescence (\circ) and the phosphorescence (\blacktriangle) showing the quadratic dependence.

Fig. SI-21 Emission spectra of **P1** upon two-photon excitation ($\lambda_{Laser} = 800 \text{ nm}$) at different laser excitation powers. Emission spectra were recorded with a cut-off filter explaining the deformation of the red part of the phosphorescence signal. Inset: power dependence emission intensity *vs* laser excitation power for the residual fluorescence (\circ) and the phosphorescence (\blacktriangle) showing the quadratic dependence.

Compound characterization data

1-(hexylthio)-4-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]benzene: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

1-(hexylthio)-4-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]benzene: ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)

1-(hexylthio)-4-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]benzene: HR-MS

Compound 9: HR-MS

Compound 12: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) full spectrum

Compound 12: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aromatic protons

80 7.75 7.70 7.65 7.60 7.55 7.50 7.45 7.40 7.35 7.30 7.25 7.20 7.15 7.10 7.05 7.00 6.95 6.90 6.85 6.80 6.75 6.70 6.65 6.60 6.55 6. f1 (ppm)

Compound A2: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

Compound A2: HR-MS

Compound A3: $^1\!\mathrm{H}$ NMR (300 MHz, CDCl_3) full spectrum

A3

Compound A3: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aliphatic protons A3

Compound A3: ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)

A3

Compound A3: HR-MS

Compound A4: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) full spectrum

Compound A4: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aromatic protons

A4

Compound A4: ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)

Compound 13: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, Acetone-*d*₆)

Compound 13: HR-MS

Compound 14: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

Compound 14: HR-MS

f1 (ppm)

Compound 15: HR-MS

Compound 16: 13 C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone- d_6)

Compound 18: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃)

Compound 18: ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃)

3-((4-((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)phenyl)thio)propan-1-ol: HR-MS

Compound 19: HR-MS

Compound 20: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aliphatic protons

Compound 20: HR-MS

Compound 21: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aliphatic protons

Compound 22: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) full spectrum

Compound 22: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aliphatic protons

Compound 22: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aromatic protons

Compound 22: HR-MS

Compound P1: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) full spectrum

Compound **P1**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) exapnsion aliphatic protons P1

Compound **P1**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aromatic protons P1

Compound P1: MS

Compound **P2**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) full spectrum P2

Compound **P2**: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aliphatic protons P2

Compound P2: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) expansion aromatic protons

Compound P2: MS

