Supporting Information for

Meta-Bridged Calix[4]arenes: A Straightforward Synthesis via Organomercurial Chemistry

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Experimental procedures and characterizations

General Experimental Procedures

All chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Solvents were dried and distilled using conventional methods. Melting points were measured on Heiztisch Mikroskop – Polytherm A (Wagner & Munz, Germany). NMR spectra were performed on Varian Gemini 300 (¹H: 300 MHz, ¹³C: 75 MHz) and on Bruker Advance DRX 500 (¹H: 500 MHz, ¹³C: 125 MHz) spectrometers. Deuterated solvents used are indicated in each case. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm and are referred to the residual peak of the solvent or TMS as an internal standard; coupling constants (*J*) are in Hz. The mass analyses were performed using ESI technique on Q–TOF (Micromass) spectrometer. Elemental analyses were done on Perkin–Elmer 240, Elementar vario EL (Elementar, Germany) or Mitsubishi TOX–100 instruments. All samples were dried in the desiccator over P₂O₅ under vacuum (1 Torr) at 80 °C for 8 hours. The IR spectra were measured on an FT–IR spectrometer Nicolet 740 or Bruker IFS66 spectrometers equipped with a heatable Golden Gate Diamante ATR–Unit (SPECAC) in KBr. 100 Scans for one spectrum were co–added at a spectral resolution of 4 cm⁻¹. The courses of the reactions were monitored by TLC using TLC aluminum sheets with Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck). The column chromatography was performed using Silica gel 60 (Merck).

General remark: All organomercury derivatives are considered potentially hazardous and require special consideration!

The corresponding trifluoroacetyloxymercurio derivatives 2a, 2b and 2c were not characterized as we were unable to purify them using chromatographic separation – these compounds do not move on silica gel or alumina and they are unstable upon the contact with sorbent material. From these reasons we did not isolate these derivatives and they were always directly transformed into corresponding chloromercurio derivatives **3**.

4-chloromercurio-25,26,27,28-tetrapropoxycalix[4]arene (3a)

It was prepared on a 1 g scale using procedure currently published by our group: P. Slavik, M. Dudič, K. Flídrová, J. Sýkora, I. Císařová, S. Böhm, P. Lhoták, *Org. Lett.* **2012**, *14*, 3628-3631

4-chloromercurio-25,26,27,28-tetramethoxycalix[4]arene (3b)

A mixture of calixarene **1b** (200 mg, 0.42 mmol) and Hg(TFA)₂ (180 mg, 0.42 mmol) was dissolved in 30 ml of dry chloroform and stirred overnight at room temp. Brine (30 ml) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h. The organic layer was separated, washed three times with water and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed under a reduced pressure, and the crude product **3b** (white powder) was used without any purification into next step. HRMS (ESI⁺): $[M+NH_4]^+$ calcd: 734.19554,

found: 734.19517 (100% int.); [M+Na]⁺ calcd: 739.15093, found: 739.14982 (50%); [M+K]⁺ calcd: 755.12487, found: 755.12337 (20%).

4-chloromercurio-25,26,27,28-tetraethoxycalix[4]arene (3c)

A mixture of calixarene **1c** (225 mg, 0.42 mmol) and Hg(CF₃COO)₂ (180 mg, 0.42 mmol) was dissolved in dry chloroform and stirred overnight at room temp. Brine (30 ml) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred vigorously for 1 h. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed under a reduced pressure to yield the crude product which was purified by column chromatography on a silica gel (eluent = CH₂Cl₂:hexane 1:1, v/v). The title compound was obtained as a white solid in 65% yield (0.210 g), m.p. 245 - 247 °C. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 298 K) δ 6.83-7.12 (m, 6H, ArH), 6.22-6.39 (m, 5H, ArH), 4.70 (d, 1H, *J*=14.1 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 4.46 (d, 1H, *J*=13.5 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 4.45 (d, 2H, *J*=13.2 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 4.08-4.23 (m, 4H, OCH₂), 3.79-3.90 (m, 4H, OCH₂), 3.18 (d, 2H, *J*=13.5 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 3.16 (d, 1H, *J*=13.5 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 3.03 (d, 1H, *J*=14.1 Hz, ArCH₂Ar), 1.36-1.50 (m, 12H, CH₃) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 298 K) δ 157.7, 157.5, 157.1, 155.7, 148.2, 139.0, 138.9, 137.4, 137.2, 136.7, 135.8, 134.4, 134.1, 130.5, 130.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.7, 128.1, 127.9, 127.5, 123.8, 122.5, 122.3, 70.8, 70.6, 70.4, 69.9, 34.5, 31.6, 31.3, 31.2, 15.9, 15.5 ppm. HRMS (TOF MS ESI+): [M+NH₄]⁺ calcd: 790.25814, found: 790.25782 (100% int.); [M+Na]⁺ calcd: 795.21353, found: 795.21243 (60%).

6,10-bridged-25,26,27,28-tetrapropoxycalix[4]arene (4a):

A mixture of calixarene **3a** (0.110 g, 0.13 mmol), AsPh₃ (0.007 g, 0.02 mmol), Cs₂CO₃ (0.040 g, 0.13 mmol), and Pd(OAc)₂ (0.003 g, 0.01 mmol) was put into the Schlenk flask and the whole apparatus was several times evacuated and flushed with argon. Deoxygenated toluene (7 ml bubbled with argon) was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at reflux. After cooling to room temperature 20 ml of DCM was added, the organic layer was washed with water and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed under a reduced pressure to yield the crude product which was purified by preparative TLC on a silica gel (glass plates 20 x 20 cm, eluent = CH₂Cl₂:hexane 1:2, v/v). The title compound was obtained as a white powder in 64% yield (50 mg), m.p. 199 – 203 °C. ¹H NMR (600.13 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 7.11 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.9 Hz, H-3 –*B*), 6.93 (dd, 2H, *J* = 1.3, 7.4 Hz, H-5 –*B*), 6.77 (dd, 2H, *J* = 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-4 – *B*), 6.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, H -4 –*A*), 6.58 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, H-5 –*A*), 4.44 (d, 2H, *J* = 12.8 Hz, H-bridge –*AB*), 4.25 – 4.05 (m, 2H and 1H, CH₂ – *A* and H-bridge –*BB*), 4.02 – 3.92 (m, 2H and 2H, CH₂ – *A* and CH₂ – *B*), 3.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 19.1 Hz, H-bridge –*AA*), 3.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 19.1 Hz, H-bridge –*BB*), 2.14 – 2.04 (m, 2H, CH₂CH₃-CH₃–*B*), 1.98 – 1.86 (m, 6H, CH₂CH₂CH₃-*A* and CH₂CH₂CH₃-*A*). 1.18 and 0.97 (2 x tr, 2 x 6H, CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*A* and CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*B*).

¹³C NMR (150.86 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ 157.5 (kv. C-1 –*A*), 156.1 (kv. C-1 –*B*), 144.8 (kv. C-2 -*A*), 138.5 (kv. C-6 -*B*), 137.5 (kv. C-3 -*A*), 134.4 (kv. C-2 -*B*), 130.2 (CH-5–*A*), 129.0 (CH-3 -*B*), 127.7 (kv. C-6 -*A*), 127.6 (CH-5 -*B*), 122.7 CH-4-*B*), 116.4 (CH-4 –*A*), 76.7 (OCH₂-*B*), 75.5 (OCH₂A), 34.3 (C-

bridge -AA), 33.4 (C-bridge -AB), 25.9 (C-bridge -BB), 23.7 (OCH₂CH₂CH₃-A), 23.0 (OCH₂CH₂CH₃-B), 10.9 (CH₃-A), 10.0 (CH₃-B) ppm. HRMS ESI+ m/z for C₄₀H₄₆O₄ calcd.: 591.34689 [M+H]⁺; found: 591.34662 (5%) [(M+H)]⁺; calcd.: 613.32883 [M+Na]⁺; found: 613.32886 (100%) [(M+Na)]⁺; calcd.: 629.30277 [M+K]⁺; found: 629.30214 (5%) [(M+K)]⁺.



Numbering for NMR spectra:

6,10-bridged-25,26,27,28-tetramethoxycalix[4]arene (4b):

Crude reaction mixture of 4-chloromercurio-25,26,27,28-tetramethoxycalix[4]arene **3b** (prepared from 0.200 g (0.42 mmol) of 25,26,27,28-tetramethoxycalix[4]arene **1b**), 0.02 g (0.08 mmol) of AsPh₃, 0.14 g of Cs₂CO₃ (0.42 mmol) and 0.009 g of Pd(OAc)₂ (0.04 mmol) were put into the Schlenk flask and the flask was filled with argon. Toluene (7 ml) was bubbled with argon for 10 min. and added to the Schlenk flask. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux overnight. After cooling, 20 ml of CH₂Cl₂ was added and the mixture was washed with water (20 ml). Organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, evaporated and separated on preparative TLC using CH₂Cl₂-hexane (1:1 v/v) as an eluent. Crude product was recrystalized from mixture of CH₂Cl₂ and ethyl-acetate. The title compound was obtained as colorless crystals (0.08 g, 39 %), m.p. 210-214 °C.

Spectra of the *1,2-alternate* **conformation:** ¹H NMR (500.13 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 203 K) δ 7.26 (d, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, H-5 –*A*), 7.14 (d, 2H, J = 7.8 Hz, H -4 –*A*), 7.15 – 7.05 (overlapped 4H, H-5 –*B* and H-3 –*B*), 6.81 (dd, 2H, J = 7.7, 7.7 Hz, H-4 –*B*), 8 x H-bridge and 8 x OCH₂ overlapped by corresponding signals of the major cone conformer), 7.67 and 3.31 (2 x s, 2 x 3H, CH₃).

¹³C NMR (125.77 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 203 K) δ 157.7 (kv. C-1 –*A*), 156.9 (kv. C-1 –*B*), 146.4 (kv. C-2 -*A*), 136.8 (kv. C-3 -*A*), 135.2 (kv. C-6 -*B*), 134.4 (kv. C-2 -*B*), 131.0 and 130.9 (CH-5–*A* and CH-3 -*B*), 129.3 (CH-5 -*B*), 128.9 (kv. C-6 -*A*), 122.2 CH-4-*B*), 115.8 (CH-4 –*A*), 60.0 (2 x OCH₃), 36.8 (C-bridge –*AB*), 32.8 (C-bridge –*AA*), 25.6 (C-bridge –*BB*).

Spectra of the *cone* **conformation:** ¹H NMR (600.13 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 203 K) δ 7.07 (d, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz, H-3 -B), 6.92 (d, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz, H-5 -B), 6.77 (dd, 2H, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, H-4 -B), 6.72 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, H-5 -A), 4.29 (d, 2H, J = 13.0 Hz, H-bridge -AB), 4.06 (d, 1H, J = 18.9 Hz, H-bridge -AA), 4.01 (s, 3H, C<u>H</u>₃), 3.89 (d, 1H, J = 12.7 Hz, H-bridge -BB), 3.67

(overlapped 1H, H-bridge –*AA*), 3.59 (s, 3H, C<u>H</u>₃), 3.30 (d, 2H, *J* = 13.0 Hz, H-bridge –*AB*), 2.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 12.7 Hz, H-bridge –*BB*). ¹³C NMR (150.86 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 203 K) δ 159.6 (kv. C-1 –*A*), 156.6 (kv. C-1 –*B*), 145.0 (kv. C-2 -*A*), 138.3 (kv. C-6 -*B*), 136.3 (kv. C-3 -*A*), 134.6 (kv. C-2 -*B*), 130.1 (CH-5–*A*), 129.0 (CH-3 -*B*), 128.0 (CH-5 –*B*), 126.8 (kv. C-6 -*A*), 123.5 CH-4-*B*), 116.6 (CH-4 –*A*), 61.6 and 60.9 (CH₃-*A* and CH₃-*B*), 35.2 (C-bridge –*AA*), 32.7 (C-bridge –*AB*), 26.2 (C-bridge –*BB*).

MS ESI+ $[M+NH_4]^+$ calculated: 498.26389 found: 498.26433 (100% int.); $[M+Na]^+$ calculated: 503.21928 found: 503.21921 (40%); $[M+K]^+$ calculated 519.19322 found: 519.19293 (15%).



Numbering for NMR spectra:

6,10-bridged-25,26,27,28-tetraethoxycalix[4]arene (4c):

4-chloromercurio-25,26,27,28-tetraethoxycalix[4]arene **3b** (0.1 g, 0.13 mmol), $Pd(OAc)_2$ (0.003 g, 0.01 mmol), Cs_2CO_3 (0.04 g, 0.13 mmol) and AsPh₃ (0.008g, 0.03 mmol) were put into the Schlenk flask and the flask was flushed with argon. Toluene (10 ml) was bubbled with argon for 15 min. and added to the flask. The reaction mixture was then heated overnight at reflux. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temp., toluene was diluted with CH_2Cl_2 (20 ml) and washed with water (2x10 ml). Organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, evaporated and purified on preparative TLC using CH_2Cl_2 :hexane (1:2 v/v) mixture as an eluent. We obtained 0.017 g (25%) of the *cone* conformer **4c**(*co*) and 0.010 g (15%) of the *1,2-alternate* conformer **4c**(*alt*).

Data for 4c(*alt*): m.p. 190-192 °C; ¹H NMR (500.13 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄, 298 K) δ 7.28 (d, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz, H-5 –*A*), 7.18 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H -4 –*A*), 7.16 (d, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz, H-5 –*B*), 7.10 (d, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz, H-3 –*B*), 6.82 (dd, 2H, J = 7.4, 7.4 Hz, H-4 –*B*), 4.10 – 3.85 (m, 7H, H-bridge –*AB*, H-bridge –*BB*, CH₂ – *B*), 3.8 – 3.68 (m, 2H, CH₂ – *A*), 3.65 (d, 2H, J = 13.8 Hz, H-bridge –*AB*), 3.50 (d, 1H, J = 19.0 Hz, H-bridge –*AA*), 3.50 – 3.38 (m, 2H, CH₂ – *A*), 2.98 (d, 1H, J = 13.0 Hz, H-bridge –*BB*), 2.89 (d, 1H, J = 19.0 Hz, H-bridge –*AA*), 1.25 – 1.35 (m, 2 x 6H, CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*A* and CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*B*). ¹³C NMR (125.77 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄, 298 K) δ 156.6 (kv. C-1 –*A*), 156.3 (kv. C-1 –*B*), 146.2 (kv. C-2 -*A*), 137.9 (kv. C-3 -*A*), 135.4 (kv. C-6 -*B*), 134.5 (kv. C-2 -*B*), 131.6 (CH-5–*A*), 131.0 (CH-3 -*B*), 129.3 (CH-5 -*B*), 129.2 (kv. C-6 -*A*), 121.5 CH-4-*B*), 116.2 (CH-4 –*A*), 68.8 (OCH₂-*A*), 68.2 (OCH₂-*B*), 37.6 (C-bridge –*AB*), 32.8 (C-bridge –*AA*), 26.2 (C-bridge –*BB*), 15.9 and 15.7 ppm (CH₃-*A*), (CH₃-*B*). MS ESI

[M+H]⁺ calcd: 535.28429, found: 535.28484 (50% int.); [M+NH₄]⁺ calcd: 552.31084, found: 552.31151 (100%); [M+Na]⁺ calcd: 557.26623, found: 557.26627 (70%).

Data for **4c**(*co*): m.p. 226-229 °C; ¹H NMR (500.13 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄, 298 K) δ 7.10 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz, H-3 –*B*), 6.95 (d, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz, H-5 –*B*), 6.77 (dd, 2H, J = 7.7, 7.7 Hz, H-4 –*B*), 6.70 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H -4 –*A*), 6.59 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, H-5 –*A*), 4.42 (d, 2H, J = 12.8 Hz, H-bridge –*AB*), 4.39 – 3.29 (m, 2H, CH₂ – *A*), 4.17 (d, 1H, J = 12.9 Hz, H-bridge –*BB*), 4.15 – 4.05 (m, 4H, CH₂ – *A* and CH₂ – *B*), 3.92 (d, 1H, J = 19.6 Hz, H-bridge –*AA*), 3.86 (d, 1H, J = 19.6 Hz, H-bridge –*AA*), 3.65 – 3.58 (m, 2H, CH₂ – *B*), 3.33 (d, 2H, J = 12.9 Hz, H-bridge –*AB*), 2.97 (d, 1H, J = 12.9 Hz, H-bridge –*BB*), 1.54 (tr, 2 x 6H, CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*A* and CH₂CH₂CH₃ –*B*).

¹³C NMR (125.77 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄, 298 K) δ 157.1 (kv. C-1 –*A*), 155.7 (kv. C-1 –*B*), 144.3 (kv. C-2 -*A*), 138.4 (kv. C-6 -*B*), 137.3 (kv. C-3 -*A*), 134.4 (kv. C-2 -*B*), 129.9 (CH-5–*A*), 128.7 (CH-3 -*B*), 127.6 (kv. C-6 -*A*), 127.3 (CH-5 -*B*), 122.4 CH-4-*B*), 116.6 (CH-4 –*A*), 69.8 (OCH₂-*A*), 68.9 (OCH₂-*B*), 34.3 (C-bridge –*AA*), 33.2 (C-bridge –*AB*), 25.7 (C-bridge –*BB*), 15.8 and 15.6 (<u>C</u>H₃-*A*), (<u>C</u>H₃-*B*). ppm. MS ESI [M+H]⁺ calcd: 535.28429, found: 535.28452 (100% int.); [M+NH₄]⁺ calcd: 552.31084, found: 552.31120 (90%); [M+Na]⁺ calcd: 557.26623, found: 557.26631 (30%); [M+K]⁺ calcd: 573.24017, found: 573.24005 (50%).



Numbering for NMR spectra:

Compound 3b



Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is C The Royal Society of Chemistry 2013



Compound 3c



Compound 4a



Compound 4a



Compound 4a



Compound 5a (dimer)







Compound 4b



Compound 4b



Compound 4c(alt)



4c(alt) 16

Compound 4c(alt)





Compound 4c(co)



Compound 4c(co)



Compound 4c(co)



Dimer 5c



¹H NMR spectra of 4b (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 to 203 K)



¹H NMR spectra of 4b(*alt*) (500 MHz, CDCl₂-CDCl₂, 298 to 403 K).



¹H NMR spectra of 4b(*co*) (500 MHz, CDCl₂-CDCl₂, 298 to 403 K).





a) ¹H NMR spectrum of pure isomer 4c(alt), c) ¹H NMR spectrum of pure isomer 4c(co), b) spectrum of thermodynamic equilibrium after 3 h heating of 4c(alt) or 4c(co) to 130 °C (500 MHz, CD₂Cl-CD₂Cl).

Crystallographic data

Derivative 4a (cone) (KF_609):

Formula: $C_{40}H_{46}O_4$, $M_r = 590.8$, crystal dimension $0.50 \times 0.32 \times 0.19$ mm, crystal system Triclinic, space group *P*-1, *a* = 10.6165 (2) Å, *b* = 11.7880 (3) Å, *c* = 14.3411 (3) Å, *a* = 100.7475 (19)°, $\beta = 110.181$ (2)°, $\gamma = 92.2470$ (19)°, V = 1644.55 (7) Å³, Z = 2, $\rho_{calc} = 1193$ kgm⁻³, $\mu = 0.59$ mm⁻¹, Cu *K* α radiation, $\lambda = 1.54184$ Å, *T* = 120 K, $2\Theta_{max}$, = 134.2, 31302/5780 measured/independent reflections, $R_{int} = 0.024$, R = 0.041, wR = 0.127, $\Delta \rho_{max} = 0.53$ eÅ⁻³, $\Delta \rho_{min} = -0.25$ eÅ⁻³. The data were collected on Gemini Ultradiffractometer with Atlas CCD detector and graphite monochromator. The structure was solved using charge flipping methods³ and refined using the Jana2006 suite of programs⁴. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined using harmonic refinement. The hydrogen atoms were located in Fourier difference maps, but according to common practice they were 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. The structure was deposited into Cambridge Structural Database under number CCDC 930504.

Derivative **4c** (*1,2-alternate*) (KF_660):

Formula: $C_{36}H_{38}O_4$, $M_r = 534.69$, crystal dimension $0.37 \times 0.29 \times 0.11$ mm, crystal system Monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, a = 11.09428 (16) Å, b = 15.33790 (18) Å, c = 17.4781 (2) Å, $\beta = 91.8464$ (12)°, V = 2972.58 (7) Å³, Z = 4, $\rho_{calc} = 1195$ kgm⁻³, $\mu = 0.60$ mm⁻¹, Cu K α radiation, $\lambda = 1.54184$ Å, T = 293 K, $2\Theta_{max}$, = 151.6, 61451/6069 measured/independent reflections, $R_{int} = 0.033$, R = 0.065, wR = 0.124, $\Delta \rho_{max} = 0.31$ eÅ⁻³, $\Delta \rho_{min} = -0.30$ eÅ⁻³. The data were collected on Xcalibur PX diffractometer with Onyx CCD detector and graphite monochromator. The structure was solved using direct methods¹ and refined using the Crystals suite of programs². All non-hydrogen atoms were refined using harmonic refinement. The hydrogen atoms were located in Fourier difference maps, but according to common practice they were 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. The structure was deposited into Cambridge Structural Database under number CCDC 930506.

Derivative 4b (KF_640):

Formula: $C_{32}H_{30}O_4$, $M_r = 478.56$, crystal dimension $0.61 \times 0.38 \times 0.33$ mm, crystal system Monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, a = 7.33245 (16) Å, b = 33.2368 (5) Å, c = 10.52859 (18) Å, $\beta = 101.6960$ (19)°, V = 2512.62 (8) Å³, Z = 4, $\rho_{calc} = 1265$ kgm⁻³, $\mu = 0.66$ mm⁻¹, Cu K α radiation, $\lambda = 1.54184$ Å, T = 190 K, $2\Theta_{max} = 154.2$, 20567/5223 measured/independent reflections, $R_{int} = 0.021$, R = 0.044, wR = 0.143, $\Delta \rho_{max} = 0.28$ eÅ⁻³, $\Delta \rho_{min} = -0.22$ eÅ⁻³. The data were collected on Xcalibur PX diffractometer with Onyx CCD detector and graphite monochromator. The structure was solved using direct methods¹ and refined using the Crystals suite of programs². All non-hydrogen atoms were refined using harmonic refinement. The hydrogen atoms were located in Fourier difference maps, but according to common practice they were 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. The structure was deposited into Cambridge Structural Database under number CCDC 930505.

Literature:

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[3] Palatinus L. and Chapuis G., SUPERFLIP - a computer program for the solution of crystal structures by charge flipping in arbitrary dimensions,(2007). J. Appl. Cryst. 40, 786-790.

[4] Petricek, V., Dusek, M. and Palatinus L. (2006). Jana2006. Structure Determination Software Programs. Institute of Physics, Praha, Czech Republic.



Figure S1. Molecular packing of compound **4a**. The intermolecular interactions of fluorene moiety are represented by dashed line.



Figure S2. Molecular packing in the crystal structure of **4a** (thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level).



Figure S3. Molecular packing of compound **4b**(*alt*). The intermolecular interactions are represented by dashed line.



Figure S4. Molecular packing of compound 4b(alt).



Figure S5. Molecular packing of compound **4b**. The intermolecular interactions of fluorene moieties are represented by dashed line.



Figure S6. Molecular packing in the crystal structure of 4c.