Measurements of short distances between trityl spin labels with CW-EPR, DQC and PELDOR

Supporting Information

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Table of Contents

General procedures ........................................................................................................... 3
Organic synthesis procedures ......................................................................................... 4
Compound 7 ...................................................................................................................... 4
Compound 1 ...................................................................................................................... 6
4-((4-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yl)oxy)phenyl)ethynyl)phenol ......................................... 8
Compound 11 .................................................................................................................... 10
Compound 12 ................................................................................................................... 12
Compound 13 ................................................................................................................... 14
Compound 2 ...................................................................................................................... 16
Compound 15 ................................................................................................................... 18
Compound 16 ................................................................................................................... 19
Compound 3 ...................................................................................................................... 20
Simulation of CW-EPR spectra ....................................................................................... 22
Table S1. Simulation parameters for 1-3 at 120 K ............................................................ 23
Figure S1. Original DQC and PELDOR time traces ......................................................... 24
Figure S2. Histograms of the ratio $|\omega_A - \omega_B|$ to $|\omega_{AB}|$ ......................................... 25
Figure S3. Histograms of the ratio $|\omega_A - \omega_B|$ to $|\omega_{AB}|$ ......................................... 26
Table S2. Average spin densities in the trityl moiety of compounds 1-3 ......................... 27
References ......................................................................................................................... 28
General procedures

All reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. All solvents were dried over molecular sieves (3Å) prior to use. All moisture- and oxygen-sensitive reactions were carried out under an inert atmosphere of argon unless otherwise stated. Silica gel was purchased from Silicycle. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates (Silicycle 60 F254).

NMR spectra for all compounds were recorded on an Avance 400 MHz Bruker NMR spectrometer and the chemical shifts were reported parts per million (ppm) relative to the deuterated NMR solvent used [\textsuperscript{1}H-NMR CDCl\textsubscript{3} (7.26 ppm), DMSO-d6 (2.50 ppm); \textsuperscript{13}C-NMR: CDCl\textsubscript{3} (77.16 ppm), DMSO-d6 (39.52 ppm)].

Mass spectra were recorded on Bruker, Micro Tof-Q. Compounds 1, 2 and 3 were purified on RP-HPLC using a GL Sciences Inertsustain C18 14 × 250 mm preparative column with UV detection at 360 nm on Beckman Coulter Gold HPLC. Analytical RP-HPLC samples for compounds 1, 2 and 3 were run on the same instrument, using a GL Sciences Inertsustain C18 4.6 × 150 mm analytical column with UV detection at 360 nm. Solvent gradients for analytical and preparative RP-HPLC are described for compounds 1, 2 and 3. Compounds having mass higher than 1000 mass units were analysed by MALDI-TOF using an Autoflex III matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight mass spectrometer (Bruker). The MALDI was operated with a Nb-YAG smartbeam laser of wavelength 354 nm and repetition rate up to 1000 Hz. The spectra were recorded in positive ion mode with ion reflectron and pulsed ion extraction (PIE) of 10 ns. The laser power was kept below 50% of total laser power in all measurements. The matrix solution was prepared by dissolving 10 mg of the matrix α-cyano-4-hydroxy cinnamic acid methyl ester in 1 mL (50:50 v/v) CH\textsubscript{3}CN and 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in water. Compounds were dissolved 50:50 CH\textsubscript{3}CN and EtOAc. The sample spots were prepared by co-spotting 0.5 µL of compound in 50:50 (v/v) acetonitrile (CH\textsubscript{3}CN) and ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and 0.5 µL of matrix solution on a clean polished steel sample plate, after which the solvent was allowed to evaporate at 22 °C. The instrument was internally calibrated using peptide calibration standard (nr. 206195, Bruker, Germany) and an in-house prepared calibration standard mixture prior to measurements.
Organic synthesis procedures

**Compound 7.** To a solution of hydroquinone 5 (0.005 g, 0.045 mmol) and monoacid trityl alcohol 6\(^1\) (0.410 g, 2.42 mmol) and Et\(_3\)N (1.5 mL) in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) were added BOP (0.080 g, 0.182 mmol) and HOBt (0.025 g, 0.182 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h, after which the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 7 (0.454 g, 45\%) as a yellow solid.

**TLC** (Silica gel, 30\% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (5) = 0.3, Rf (6) = 0.1, Rf (7) = 0.50.

\(^1\)H NMR (CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta \) 7.41 (s, 4H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 4.51 – 4.38 (m, 8H), 1.81 – 1.66 (m, 74H), 1.47 (t, \(J = 7.1 \text{ Hz}, 12\text{H}).

\(^13\)C NMR (CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta \) 166.34, 164.52, 148.09, 142.65, 142.10, 141.68, 140.78, 140.49, 139.94, 139.18, 134.77, 134.08, 122.72, 121.54, 120.35, 84.50, 77.42, 77.16, 76.84, 62.54, 61.49 – 60.91, 34.14, 33.79, 32.41, 32.06, 31.68, 29.69, 29.37, 29.04, 28.69, 14.43.

MALDI-TOF; calcd. for C\(_{94}H_{98}O_{14}S_{24}\) [M+Na] 2241.015, found 2241.666
$^1$H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 7.

$^{13}$C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 7.
Compound 1. Trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) was added to a solution of compound 7 (0.020 g, 0.020 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 h and concentrated in vacuo. The product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 1 (0.019 g, 95%) as a green solid.

TLC (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (7) = 0.50, Rf (1) = 0.70.

MALDI-TOF: calcd. for C₉₄H₉₆O₁₂S₂₄⁻ [M+] 2184.019, found 2184.070

Preparative HPLC run (flow rate = 7 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% EtOAc; 5 min linear gradient from 0% to 10% B, 15% B isocratic for 25 min. 1 min linear gradient from 10% to 0% B to initial conditions (100% A).

Analytical HPLC run (Flow rate = 1 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% EtOAc; 15 min linear gradient from 0% to 10% B, 10% B isocratic for 4 min. 1 min linear gradient from 10% to 0% B to initial conditions (100% A).
HPLC chromatogram of 1.

EPR spectrum of 1 (10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ at 22 °C).
4-((4-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-yloxy)phenyl)ethynyl)phenol (10). To a solution of compound 8 (0.368 g, 1.818 mmol), 4-iodophenol (0.200 g, 0.909 mmol) and freshly distilled Et$_3$N (5 mL) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) were added Pd[PPh$_3$]$_2$Cl$_2$ (0.032 g, 5 mol %) and CuI (0.014 g, 8 mol %) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$ and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to yield 10 (0.166 g, 62%) as a brown solid.

TLC (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (8) = 0.50, Rf (9) = 0.40, Rf (10) = 0.20.

$^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 7.41 (dd, $J = 11.4, 8.8$ Hz, 4H), 7.01 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 5.44 (t, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.96 – 3.84 (m, 1H), 3.67 – 3.58 (m, 1H), 2.08 – 1.95 (m, 1H), 1.91 – 1.83 (m, 2H), 1.66 (ddd, $J = 23.1, 11.2, 4.1$ Hz, 3H).

$^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 157.02, 155.56, 133.26, 132.93, 116.65, 116.14, 115.60, 96.47, 88.07, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 62.25, 30.42, 25.29, 18.83.

MS (ESI) calcd. for C$_{19}$H$_{18}$O$_3$ [M+Na] 317.1154, found 317.1148.
$^1$H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 10.

$^{13}$C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 10.
**Compound 11.** To a solution of compound 10 (0.040 g, 0.136 mmol), monoacid trityl alcohol (0.100 g, 0.136 mmol) and Et3N (1.5 mL) in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) were added BOP (0.082 g, 0.272 mmol) and HOBT (0.037 g, 0.272 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h, after which the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 11 (0.083 g, 45%) as a yellow solid.

**TLC** (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (10) = 0.20, Rf (6) = 0.1, Rf (11) = 0.50.

$^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 7.56 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 2H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 5.45 (t, $J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.52 – 4.37 (m, 4H), 3.94 – 3.83 (m, 1H), 3.62 (dt, $J = 8.2$, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (dd, $J = 13.9$, 9.2 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (dd, $J = 7.9$, 3.4 Hz, 4H), 1.74 (ddd, $J = 34.5$, 7.1, 3.3 Hz, 39H), 1.47 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 6H).

$^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 166.33, 164.43, 157.36, 149.93, 142.64, 142.08, 141.70, 140.77 (s, 2C), 140.47, 139.89, 139.43, 139.16, 134.77, 134.05, 133.10, 132.69, 121.86, 121.52, 120.33, 116.58, 116.13, 96.40, 89.85, 87.50, 84.48, 77.48, 77.16, 76.84, 62.53, 62.19, 61.49 – 60.93, 34.13, 33.78, 32.34, 32.11, 31.65, 30.39, 29.69, 29.44 – 28.89, 28.69, 25.28, 18.80, 14.42.

MALDI-TOF: calcd. for C$_{63}$H$_{64}$O$_9$S$_{12}$ [M+Na] 1371.119, found 1371.279.
$^1$H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 11.

$^{13}$C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 11.
Compound 12. 4-toluenesulfonic acid (0.003 g, 0.019 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 11 (0.050 g, 0.037 mmol) in anhydrous THF and methanol (1:1, 10 mL). After stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 12 h, it was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (2:98, EtOAc:hexane) to yield 12 (0.043 g, 92%) as a yellow solid.

TLC (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (11) = 0.5, Rf (12) = 0.30.

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.55 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (t, J = 4.3 Hz, 3H), 4.50 – 4.38 (m, 4H), 1.84 – 1.64 (m, 41H), 1.47 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 7H).

¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 142.10, 141.75, 140.42, 134.13, 133.45, 132.71, 121.93, 121.55, 115.70, 77.48, 77.26, 76.84, 62.56, 61.22, 34.14, 33.78, 32.39, 32.12, 31.65, 29.72, 29.58 – 28.92, 28.70, 14.43, 1.17.

MALDI-TOF: calcd. for C₅₈H₅₆O₈S₁₂ [M+Na] 1287.062, found 1287.945
$^1$H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 12.

$^{13}$C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 12.
**Compound 13.** To a solution of compound 12 (0.050 g, 0.039 mmol), monoacid trityl alcohol (0.042 g, 0.039 mmol) and Et$_3$N (1.5 mL) in anhydrous DMF (5 mL) were added BOP (0.079 g, 0.079 mmol) and HOBT (0.010 g, 0.079 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h, after which the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 13 (0.037 g, 40%) as a yellow solid.

**TLC** (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (12) = 0.30, Rf (6) = 0.1, Rf (13) = 0.50.

$^1$H NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 7.59 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 4H), 7.36 (d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, 4H), 6.81 (s, 2H), 4.51 – 4.39 (m, 9H), 1.73 (ddd, $J = 11.8$, 9.6, 3.9 Hz, 93H), 1.47 (t, $J = 7.1$ Hz, 15H).

$^{13}$C NMR (CDCl$_3$) δ 166.35, 142.10, 141.76, 140.69, 140.41, 139.97, 139.44, 134.07, 132.91, 122.02, 121.55, 120.29, 84.50, 77.42, 77.16, 76.84, 62.56, 61.22, 34.15, 33.77, 32.41, 31.88, 31.57 – 31.25, 29.80, 29.32, 29.08, 28.70, 14.43, 1.17.

**MALDI-TOF:** calcd. for C$_{102}$H$_{102}$O$_{14}$S$_{24}$ [M+Na] 2341.056, found 2344.555
$^1$H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 13.

$^{13}$C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of 13.
Compound 2. Trifluoroacetic acid (2 mL) was added to a solution of compound 13 (0.025 g, 0.010 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 3 h and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 2 (0.023 g, 95%) as a green solid.

**TLC** (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (13) = 0.50, Rf (2) = 0.60.

**MALDI-TOF**: calcd. for C₁₀₂H₁₀₀O₁₂S₂₄ [M+Na] 2307.040, found 2307.697

Preparative HPLC run (Flow rate = 7 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% EtOAc; 5 min linear gradient from 0% to 5% B, 5% B isocratic for 15 min. 1 min linear gradient from 5% to 0% B to initial conditions (100% A).

Analytical HPLC run (Flow rate = 1 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% EtOAc; 5 min linear gradient from 0% to 15% B, 15% B isocratic for 15 min. 1 min linear gradient from 15% to 0% B to initial conditions (100% A).
HPLC Chromatogram of 2

EPR spectrum of 2 (10% MeOH/CH2Cl2 at 22 °C).
**Compound 15.** To a solution of compound 8 (0.202 g, 0.997 mmol), compound 14 (0.200 g, 0.498 mmol) and freshly distilled Et₃N (5 mL) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) were added Pd[PPh₃]₂Cl₂ (0.017 g, 5 mol %) and CuI (0.007 g, 8 mol %) and the reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h. The reaction mixture was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to yield 15 (0.133 g, 56%) as a red solid.

**TLC** (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (8) = 0.50, Rf (14) = 0.40, Rf (15) = 0.30.

**MS (ESI)** calcd. for C₃₀H₃₇N₂O₃ [M+Na] 496.2702, found.

EPR spectrum of 15 (10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ at 22 °C).
Compound 16. 4-toluenesulfonic acid (0.020 g, 0.105 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 15 (0.100 g, 0.210 mmol) in anhydrous THF and methanol (1:1, 10 mL). After stirring the reaction mixture at 25 °C for 12 h, it was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with EtOAc (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layers were washed successively with water (2 × 10 mL) and brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography using neutral silica gel (2:98, EtOAc:hexane) to yield 16 (0.078 g, 95%) as a red solid.

TLC (Silica gel, 30% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (15) = 0.3, Rf (16) = 0.20.


EPR spectrum of 16 (10 % MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ at 22 °C).
**Compound 3.** To a solution of trityl radical 17 (0.081 g, 0.077 mmol) and compound 16 (0.030 g, 0.077 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) was added BOP (0.068 g, 0.153 mmol) and HOBT (0.021 g, 0.153 mmol) followed by addition of Et₃N (0.5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h and concentrated to remove DMF. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using silica gel (5:95 to 40:60, EtOAc:hexane) to give 3 as a green solid (0.055 g, 50%).

**TLC** (Silica gel, 40% EtOAc/hexane): Rf (16) = 0.30, Rf (17) = 0.1, Rf (3) = 0.50.

**MALDI-TOF:** calcd. for C₆₈H₇₂O₈S₁₂ · [M+] 1428.1937, found 1428.093

Preparative HPLC run (Flow rate = 7 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% CH₃CN. Run time = 21 min.

Analytical HPLC run (Flow rate = 1 mL/min). Solvent A, 100% CH₃CN; Solvent B, 100% CH₃CN. Run time = 21 min.
HPLC chromatogram of 3.

EPR spectrum of 3 (10% MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ at 22 °C).
Simulation of CW-EPR spectra

Simulation of CW-EPR spectrum for 1 was done using the EasySpin\textsuperscript{2} toolbox with the following spin system definition:

\[
\text{Sys}.S = [1/2 \ 1/2];
\]
\[
\text{gtensor} = [2.0029 \ 2.0030 \ 2.0032];
\]
\[
\text{Sys}.g = \text{gtensor} \text{gtensor};
\]
\[
\text{Sys}.ee = 0 + [1 \ 1 \ -2]*9.5;
\]

The CW-EPR simulation for 2 was done using the same spin system definition as above, except the dipole-dipole coupling constant was set to 3 MHz.

The CW-EPR spectrum of 3 was simulated both as a two-component spectrum (a combination of a trityl and a nitroxide spectra) and a two-spin system. For the two-component spectrum simulation the spin system was defined by the following:

\[
\text{SysTrityl}.weight = 0.5;
\]
\[
\text{SysTrityl}.S = 1/2;
\]
\[
\text{SysTrityl}.g = [2.0029 \ 2.0030 \ 2.0031];
\]
\[
\text{SysNitroxide}.weight = 0.5;
\]
\[
\text{SysNitroxide}.S = 1/2;
\]
\[
\text{SysNitroxide}.g = [2.0092 \ 2.0059 \ 2.0018];
\]

For the two-spin system simulation the spin system was defined by the following:

\[
\text{Sys}.S = [1/2 \ 1/2];
\]
\[
\text{Sys.Nucs} = \text{C,C,C,14N};
\]
\[
\text{Sys}.g = [2.0029 \ 2.0030 \ 2.0032;2.0093 \ 2.0059 \ 2.0018];
\]
\[
\text{Sys}.ee = 0+[1 \ 1 \ -2]*4;
\]
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>1-2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<th>Trityl</th>
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<tr>
<td>$A_{xx}$, $A_{yy}$, $A_{zz}$</td>
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[^a] The hyperfine coupling values are in MHz. Only carbon atoms with the largest hyperfine couplings were included in the simulation for the trityl. [^b] The linewdths (Gaussian, Lorentzian) is the peak to peak linewidth in mT. [^c] The dipole-dipole coupling value is given in MHz and corresponds to the perpendicular component ($\theta = 90^\circ$).
Figure S1. Original DQC and PELDOR time traces. a) Original DQC time trace for 1. b) Original DQC time trace for 2. c) Original DQC time trace for 3. d) Original PELDOR time traces for 3.
Figure S2. Histograms of the ratio $|\omega_A - \omega_B|$ to $|\omega_{AB}|$. a) Ratio histogram for 1. b) Ratio histogram for compound 4. c) Ratio histogram for 2. d) Ratio histogram for 3.
Figure S3. Histograms of the ratio $|\omega_A - \omega_B| / |\omega_{AB}|$. a) Ratio histogram for 1. b) Ratio histogram for compound 4. c) Ratio histogram for 2. d) Ratio histogram for 3. The width of the bars in these histograms are smaller than in Figure S2, to better show the distribution of spin pairs in the high- and intermediate-coupling regimes.
### Table S2. Average spin densities of carbon, oxygen and sulphur atoms in the trityl moiety of compounds 1-3.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Position</th>
<th>Average spin density</th>
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^[a] Structure of the trityl moiety used for DFT calculations. The numbering of the atoms refers to the position of the spin-bearing atoms.
References