ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENATRY INFORMATION

Tunable electronic interactions between anions and perylenediimide

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EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

MATERIALS

Chemicals and solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Acros Organic, Cambridge Isotope Laboratory, and EMD Chemicals and used as obtained. **PDI-1** was synthesized and characterized according to a literature procedure.^{S1} Tetra-*n*-butylammonium (TBA) salts of F⁻, Cl⁻, Br⁻, l⁻, OH⁻, and PF₆⁻ were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and were protected from moisture. Freshly prepared solutions of **PDI-1** and anions in dry, HPLC grade solvents — purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and EMD Chemicals — were used for all spectroscopic and electrochemical measurements.

METHODS

UV/Vis Spectroscopy

UV/Vis spectra of **PDI-1** was recorded on a PerkinElmer Lambda-25 UV/Vis spectrophotometer in different solvents and in the presence and absence of anions.

Electrochemistry

Cyclic voltammetry (CV) of **PDI-1** was conducted on a Princeton Applied Research (PAR) VersaStat-3-200 potentiostat/galvanostat instrument using a standard electrochemical cell, consisting of a glassy carbon working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl (3 N aq. NaCl) reference electrode. CV was recorded for 1 mM PDI solutions in the presence of 0.1M TBAPF₆ in THF, and Acetone at room temperature with 100 mV/s scan rate.

Spectroelectrochemistry

Spectroelectrochemistry was conducted in an Optically Transparent Thin Layer Electrochemical Cell (OTTLE) fitted with a Pt-gauge working electrode, Pt-wire counter electrode, and Ag/AgCl (3 N aq. NaCl) reference electrode using degassed (N₂-purged) 0.1 mM solutions of **PDI-1** in 0.1 M TBAPF₆ in THF and DMF at room temperature. UV/Vis spectra were recorded at 2 min. intervals on a PerkinElmer Lambda-25 UV/Vis spectrophotometer while the applied potential (V_{ap}) was controlled by the PAR potentiostat, using Virtual Potentiostat software. **PDI-1**⁻ radical anion started to form at $V_{ap} = -550$ mV (vs. Ag/AgCl) and saturated at -1100 mV.

NMR Experiments

¹H and ¹⁹F NMR titrations were conducted at 298 K in appropriate deuterated solvents (THF- d_8 and (CD₃)₂CO) using Bruker Avance 400 MHz and Bruker Avance 600 MHz spectrometers. For

titrations, the concentration of **PDI-1** solutions were maintained at 1 mM and the stock solutions of TBAX salts were made 10 times concentrated.

EPR Spectroscopy

EPR spectra of neutral **PDI-1** (1 mM) and F⁻-generated **PDI-1**⁻ radical anion were recorded in THF and DMF using a Bruker Elexsys-500 spectrometer, at the X-band, microwave frequency 9.3902 GHz; microwave power 1 mw; and modulation amplitude 1 Gauss (G) at 298 K. The microwave frequency was measured with a built-in digital counter and the magnetic field was calibrated using 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH; g = 2.0037). Modulation amplitude and microwave power were optimized for high signal-to-noise ratio and narrow peaks.^{S2}

REFERENCE.

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Additional Figures



Fig S1. Cyclic voltammogram of **PDI-1** (1 mM **PDI-1** in 0.1 M TBAPF₆ / THF, vs. Ag/AgCl, scan rate = 100 mV/s) shows two fully reversible reduction waves.



Fig S2: UV/Vis titrations of **PDI-1** in THF with: (a) TBAOH: pink trace: neutral **PDI-1** (no OH⁻), green trace: **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion (8 equiv. OH⁻), red trace: (100 equiv. OH⁻); (b) TBAF: pink trace: neutral **PDI-1** (no F⁻), green trace: **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion (1–100 equiv. F⁻); (c–f) TBACI, TBABr, TBAI, and TBAPF₆: black traces: neutral **PDI-1** (no anion), overlapping dashed red lines: **PDI-1** in the presence of 100 equiv. of (c) Cl⁻, (d) Br⁻, (e) I⁻, and (f) PF₆⁻ indicating no ET and CT interactions.



Fig S3: UV/Vis titrations of **PDI-1** in Me₂CO with: (a) TBAF: pink trace: neutral **PDI-1** (no F⁻), green trace: **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion (1–100 equiv. F⁻); (b–e) TBACI, TBABr, TBAI, and TBAPF₆: pink traces: neutral **PDI-1** (no anion), overlapping dashed black lines: **PDI-1** in the presence of 100 equiv. of (c) Cl⁻, (d) Br⁻, (e) I⁻, and (f) PF₆⁻ indicating no ET and CT interactions. Ttitration with TBAOH could not be conducted in Me₂CO.



Fig S4: (a) ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2CO$, 25 °C) titration of **PDI-1** with TBAF. **PDI-1** signals disappeared in the presence of TBAF but no new peak emerged, indicating the formation of paramagnetic **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion, which was oxidized back to neutral **PDI-1** by NOBF₄, as characteristic signals reappeared. (b) ¹⁹F NMR (400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2CO$, 25 °C) titration of TBAF. 3H₂O with **PDI-1**. The F⁻ signal disappeared in the presence of 1 equiv. of **PDI-1**, indicating the oxidation of F⁻ to a sacrificial F⁺ radical. The lack of any new F-signal ruled out covalent C–F bond formation.



Fig S5: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, $(CD_3)_2CO$, 25 °C) of **PDI-1** in the presence of excess amounts of TBA⁺ salts of Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻ and PF₆⁻ (bottom spectrum: neutral **PDI-1**), upon addition of 1 equiv. of TBAF into the solution (middle spectrum: **PDI-1**⁻ formation), and upon addition of NOBF₄ to the F⁻-generated **PDI-1**⁻ radical anion (top spectrum: **PDI-1** regeneration).



Fig S6: (a) EPR spectra (THF, 25 °C) of neutral **PDI-1** (pink trace, no signal) and **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion produced by increasing amounts of TBAF (1, 1.5, 2 equiv.). (b) EPR spectra (DMF, 25 °C) of neutral **PDI-1** (pink trace, no signal), **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion produced by 10 equiv. of TBAOH (green trace), and gradual disappearance of **PDI-1**⁻⁻ radical anion with excess TBAOH (red trace: 100 equiv. TBAOH and black trace (no signal): 500 equiv. TBAOH) upon formation of diamagnetic **PDI-1**²⁻ dianion.