# **Supporting Information**

#### Fluorescent crystals and co-crystals of 1,8-naphthalimide

#### derivatives: synthesis, structure determination and

## photophysical characterization

Fabrizia Grepioni,<sup>a,</sup>\* Simone d'Agostino,<sup>a,</sup>\* Dario Braga,<sup>a</sup> Alessio Bertocco,<sup>a</sup> Luca Catalano,<sup>a</sup> Barbara Ventura<sup>b,</sup>\*

(a) Dipartimento di Chimica "G. Ciamician", Università di Bologna, Via F. Selmi 2, 40126Bologna, Italy.

(b) Istituto per la Sintesi Organica e la Fotoreattività (ISOF) – CNR, Via P. Gobetti 101, 40129
 Bologna, Italy.

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	Δ		
Formula	C <sub>23</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	D <sub>calc</sub> (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.349
fw	371.43	packing coefficient	69.9
		(%) <sup>a</sup>	
Cryst. System	Orthorhombic	accessible void (Å <sup>3</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	0
Space group	Pna2 <sub>1</sub>	μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.088
Z	4	Measd refins	7735
a (Å)	30.652(5)	Indep reflns 3143	
b (Å)	5.3082(9)	$R_1[\text{on } F_0^2, I > 2\sigma(I)]$ 0.0663	
c (Å)	11.243(2)	wR <sub>2</sub> (all data) 0.111	
α (deg)	90		
β (deg)	90		
γ (deg)	90		
V (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1829.3(6)		

Table S1. Crystallographic data and details of measurements for crystalline 4 Form I.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated with Platon; for the accessible void calculation a probe of 1.2 Å<sup>3</sup> was employed.



**Figure S1.** Top (left) and side (right) views for the superimposition of **4** (**Form I**) (orange) and **4** (**Form II**) (yellow) molecular structures for crystalline **4**, showing that the two conformations are almost exactly the same in the two polymorphs.  $H_{CH}$  are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S2.** Types of dimers observed in crystalline **2-4**: (a) head-to-tail dimer in crystalline **2**, CD = 3.8Å, ID = 3.4Å, offset = 1.7 Å; (b) head-to-head dimer in crystalline **3**: CD = 5.3 Å, ID = 3.5 Å, offset 3.9 Å (left), and T-dimers with dC–H··· $\pi$  = 3.2 Å or dC··· $\pi$  = 4.0 Å (right); (c) head-to-head dimer in crystalline **4** (**Form I**): CD = 5.3 Å, ID = 3.5 Å, offset 3.9 Å (left), and T-dimers dC–H··· $\pi$  = 2.7 –2.9 Å or dC··· $\pi$  = 3.6 Å (right), and (d)head-to-head dimer in crystalline **4** (**Form II**): CD = 4.6 Å, ID = 3.3 Å, offset 3.2 Å. H<sub>CH</sub> omitted for clarity.



**Figure S3.** Types of dimers observed in **n**<sub>2</sub>**·12F4** co-crystals. (a) head-to-head dimer in crystalline **2**<sub>2</sub>**·12F4**, CD = 5.2 Å, ID = 3.3 Å, offset = 4.0Å (left), and T-dimer dC–H··· $\pi$  = 2.8 –3.1 Å or dC··· $\pi$  = 3.7 – 3.8 Å (right); (b) head-to-head dimer in crystalline **3**<sub>2</sub>**·12F4**, CD = 4.1 Å, ID = 3.5 Å, offset = 2.1Å; (c) T-dimer in crystalline**4**<sub>2</sub>**·12F4**, dC–H··· $\pi$  = 2.8-3.0 Å or dC··· $\pi$  = 3.7-3.9 Å.H<sub>CH</sub> omitted for clarity.



**Figure S4.** Experimental (red-line) and simulated (black-line) X-ray powder diffraction patterns for compounds: (a) **2**, (b) **3**, and (c) **4** of for corresponding co-crystals: (d) **2**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4**, (e) **3**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4**, and (f) **4**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4**.



**Figure S5.** ATR-FTIR spectra of components I2F4 (black line), **3** (red line) and **3**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4** (green line) in the range 4000-600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The inset highlights the shifts to higher frequencies for the vC<sub>pyr</sub>—H stretching (from **3**) of the pyridine involved in the halogen bond.



**Figure S6.** ATR-FTIR spectra of components I2F4 (black line), **4** (red line) and **4**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4** (green line) in the range 4000-600 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The inset highlights the shifts to higher frequencies for the vC<sub>pyr</sub>—H stretching (from **4**) of the pyridine involved in the halogen bond.

Thermal characterization (TGA-DSC-VTPXRD).



Figure S7. TGA thermograms for the compounds 2, 3 (Form I and Form II), and 4 (Form II).

Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements below the decomposition temperature were also performed, and are shown in SI-Figure 8. For compound **2** the DSC trace shows that melting occurs at ca 190 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 35.8$ kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) in the first heating cycle; recrystallization to the same crystalline form is observed in a second heating cycle (exothermic peak at 108 °C, peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 17.8$ kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>), followed by melting at 190 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 35.0$ kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) (see SI-Fig. 8).Compound **3** (Form I) melts at 157 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 28.9$ kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) but a second, small peak is observed at ca. 175 °C. Recrystallization occurs during the cooling process and in a second heating cycle, in which melting is observed at 156 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 2.5$ KJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). When the same measurement is performed on a sample of **3** (Form II) melting is now observed at 176 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 38.9$ kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>), and recrystallization occurs on a second heating cycle to **3**  (Form I), which melts at 156 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 5.1$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). The small peak observed at 175 °C in the DSC trace of Form I is likely due to traces of Form II.

The DSC trace of compound **4** (**Form II**) shows an endothermic peak at 181 °C (peak temperature,  $\Delta H = 35.9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ), due to melting. A second heating cycle shows the compound melts at the same temperature, i.e. **Form II** recrystallizes from the melt.

The thermal behavior of **3** (Form II) has also been investigated via variable temperature X-ray powder diffraction (see SI-Figure 8).



Figure S8. DSC traces for the compounds: (a) 2, (b1) 3 (Form I), (b2) 3 (Form II), and (c) 4 (Form II).



**Figure S9**. VT-XRPD patterns for crystalline **3** (**Form II**) at RT (a), at 180 °C (melting occurs) (b) and back at RT (the solid is amorphous); a second heating to 153 °C (d) shows recrystallization to **3** (**Form I**).



Figure S10. TGA thermograms for the co-crystals 22·12F4, 32·12F4, and 42·12F4.



**Figure S11.** Absorption (a, c) and normalized emission (b, d) spectra of **3** (a, b) and **4** (c, d) in the explored solvents at room temperature.

	$\lambda_{fl}^{max}$ / nm <sup>a</sup>	τ / ns <sup>b</sup>	<i>E</i> / eV
2	491	7.0	2.53
3	493	7.2	2.51
4	493	7.1	2.51

 Table S2.
 Luminescence data in toluene glassy matrix at 77 K.

<sup>a</sup> From corrected spectra. <sup>b</sup>Fluorescence lifetimes, excitation at 373 nm.



**Figure S12.** Normalized fluorescence spectra of **2** (black), **3** (red) and **4** (green) in toluene at 77K. Excitation at 400 nm.



**Figure S13.** Structural detail that highlights how the halogenated co-formers lie above and below the naphthalimide units in crystalline **4**<sub>2</sub>**·I2F4**. H<sub>CH</sub> omitted for clarity.