Contorted Aromatics via a Palladium-Catalyzed Cyclopentannulation Strategy

Sambasiva R. Bheemireddy,[‡] Pamela C. Ubaldo,[‡] Aaron D. Finke,[†] Lichang Wang,[‡] and Kyle N. Plunkett^{*‡}

[‡]Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Materials Technology Center, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901 United States

[†]Swiss Light Source, Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland

kplunkett@chem.siu.edu

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1) DFT minimized chemical structures (Cartesian coordinates supplied at end of SI)



Figure SI-1. DFT energy minimized structure of 1a at the B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) level.



Figure SI-2. DFT energy minimized structure of **2a** at the B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) level. Crystal structure gave slightly different splay angles of 14.34° and 36.83°.



Figure SI-3. DFT energy minimized structure of **3a** at the B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) level.



Figure SI-4. DFT energy minimized structure of 4a at the B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) level.

2) TD-DFT calculated absorption spectra



Figure SI-5. Calculated absorption spectra of compounds **1a-4a** obtained from TD-CAMB3LYP/ 6-311g(d,p) with N=24 (states) with the corresponding B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) optimized geometry. For comparison purposes, the experimental spectra are provided in red.

	Experimental $\lambda_{max}(nm)$	Calculated λ_{max}	Error (nm)
		(nm)	
1a	625	569	56
2a	551	584	-33
3a	547	534	13
4 a	547	538	9

Table SI-1. A comparison between the calculated and experimental λ_{max}

 λ_{max} was calculated using TD-CAMB3LYP/6-311g(d,p) with a B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) optimized geometries

3) Association constant determination¹⁻³



Figure SI-6. Concentration dependent NMR of **1b** and **2b**. General concentrations (for comparison) from top to bottom: 0.5 mM, 1 mM, 3 mM, 6 mM, 12 mM, 25 mM. More specific concentrations in table

A monomer-dimer equilibrium is assumed to be the predominant species for aggregation in solution. The association constant (K2) is found by curve-fitting the chemical shifts of a given proton at various concentrations to eq. 1 where δ is the chemical shift at substrate concentration Ct, and δ_m and δ_d are the chemical shifts of the monomer and dimer, respectively. The data was fit in Origin with K2, δ_m and δ_d being variable. The calculated K2 for each proton was then averaged to give the association constant.

Eq 1.
$$\delta = \delta_{m} + (\delta_{d} - \delta_{m}) \left(1 + \frac{1 - (sqrt((8K2Ct) + 1))}{4K2Ct} \right)$$



Figure SI-7. Example fit for proton Ha of 2b at 293 K in CDCl₃.

Compound 2	b @ 293K (CDCl₃)				Compoun	d 2b @ 353	K (CD ₂ Cl ₄)			Compoun	d 4b @ 353	3K (CD2CI4)	
Conc (mM)	Ha	Hb	Hc	Hd	He	Conc. (mM	На	Hb	Hc	Hd	Conc. (mM	Ha	Hb	Hc	
0.47	8.9	8.55	8.38	8.21	7.76	0.608	8.969	8.459	8.271	7.39	0.59	8.50	8.41	7.312	
0.95	8.88	8.53	8.37	8.19	7.75	0.719	8.969	8.459	8.271	7.39	0.71	8.49	8.38	7.306	
3.04	8.82	8.46	8.32	8.14	7.69	0.879	8.968	8.458	8.269	7.389	0.86	8.48	8.35	7.295	
6.07	8.77	8.41	8.28	8.1	7.65	1.318	8.967	8.458	8.269	7.389	1.29	8.45	8.29	7.278	
12.15	8.67	8.3	8.21	8.02	7.56	2.637	8.966	8.457	8.268	7.388	2.58	8.40	8.17	7.24	
25.23	8.57	8.18	8.14	7.92	7.47	5.697	8.958	8.452	8.263	7.385					
						7.121	8.955	8.45	8.26	7.383					
δd (ppm)	8.03	7.51	7.79	7.36	6.97	9.494	8.951	8.448	8.256	7.381	δd (ppm)	8.13	7.64	7.03	
						14.242	8.943	8.444	8.252	7.379					
δm (ppm)	8.91	8.56	8.39	8.22	7.78	28.483	8.92	8.428	8.232	7.368	δm (ppm)	8.58	8.62	7.36	
K2 (M ⁻¹)	20.7	18.1	25.3	16.1	19.8						K2 (M ⁻¹)	219	304	191	
	+/- 3.9	+/- 3.8	+/- 3.6	+/- 3.4	+/- 4.5	δd (ppm)	8.97	8.46	8.27	7.39		+/- 69	+/- 91	+/- 84	
K2 avg (M ⁻¹)	20.0	3.4				δm (ppm)	8.49	7.96	7.62	7.21	K2 avg (M ⁻¹	238	58.8		
20	0.0 +/- 3.4 1	M-1										238 +/- 59	M-1		
						K2 (M ⁻¹)	2.29	1.25	1.19	2.77					
							+/- 0.058	+/- 0.086	+/- 0.093	+/- 0.13					
						K2 avg (M ⁻¹	1.88	0.78							
							1.88 M-1 +	-/- 0.78 M-1							

Table SI-2. Concentration dependent NMR shifting of **2b** and **4b** at 293K in $CDCl_3$ or 353K in CD_2Cl_4 . Compounds **1b** and **3b** did not show concentration dependent NMR shifts.

4) Other derivative synthesis with unsuccessful Scholl reactions



5) Experimental Procedures

Unless otherwise noted, all reagents were used as received and all reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. Column chromatography was performed on a chromatographing system with normal phase silica columns. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR were recorded on a 400 MHz NMR station at room temperature, unless otherwise noted.



1-(4-bromo-phenyl)-dodecan-1-one (i): To a solution of bromobenzene (31.4 g, 0.217 mol) and AlCl₃ (16.0 g, 0.119 mol) was added lauroyl chloride (21.9 g, 0.100 mol) drop wise while stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for one hour at 50 °C and then poured into ice water and extracted with dichloromethane. The organic solution was washed with 2N HCl followed by brine and then dried over MgSO₄. After removing the dichloromethane in vacuo, the crude product was recrystallized from ethanol to give 23.9 g (35.2 %) of **i** as white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.93 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.72 (p, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.26 (m, 16H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.5, 135.9, 131.9, 129.7, 128.1, 38.7, 32.0, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 24.4, 22.8, 14.3. LRMS (EI+): m/z for C₁₈H₂₇BrO calc: 338.1, found 338.1.



1-bromo-4-dodecyl-benzene (ii): A mixture of **i** (19.0 g, 0.0559 mol), hydrazine hydrate (19.4 g, 0.387 mol) and KOH (14.5 g, 0.259 mol) in diethylene glycol was heated for 4 h at 200 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled, poured into ice water, acidified with 1N HCl, and then extracted with dichloromethane. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude product was purified by column chromatography with hexane to give 5.74 g (31.5%) of **ii** as a clear oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.39 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J*=8.4Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.59 (m, 2H), 1.27 (m, 18H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 141.9, 131.2, 130.2, 119.2, 35.4, 31.9, 31.6, 31.4, 29.7, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.2, 22.7, 14.1.



4,4'-didodecyl,1,1'-diphenyl acetylene (iii): In a glove box, **ii** (5.30 g, 16.3 mmol), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (345 mg, 0.491 mmol), and CuI (305mg, 1.60 mmol) were dissolved in toluene (22 ml) in a sealed tube. Argon purged H₂O (0.12 ml, 6.5 mmol), DBU (14.8 g, 97.5 mmol) and then trimethylsilylacetylene (0.801 g, 8.15 mmol) were added to the sealed tube outside the glove box and stirred at 70 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled, acidified with 2N HCl, then extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 2×100 ml 1N HCl, 100 ml brine and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to give 2.70 g (64.5%) of **iii** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 2.61 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.60 (m, 4H), 1.29 (m, 36H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.3, 131.6, 128.6, 120.7, 89.1, 36.1, 32.1, 31.4, 29.8, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 22.9, 14.3. LRMS (EI+) 514.9 HRMS: m/z for C₃₈H₅₈ calc: 514.4539, found 514.4539.



1-Bromo-4-dodecyloxy-benzene (iv): A mixture of 4-Bromo-phenol (5.1 g, 0.029 mmol), dodecylbromide (7.35 g, 0.0295 mmol), KOH (8.27 g, 0.147 mmol) in 50 ml DMSO was stirred at 50 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was partitioned between 250 ml 1N HCl and dichloromethane. The organic layer was washed with water and dried over MgSO4. The organic layer was concentrated to get 9.66 g (96%) of iv as clear oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H), 1.83 – 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.52 – 1.25 (m, 18H), 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H).



4,4'-didodecyloxy,1,1'-diphenyl acetylene (v): In a glove box, **(iv)** (9.51 g, 0.0279 mol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (1.37 g, 0.0139 mol), and CuI (531 mg, 0.00279 mol) were dissolved in toluene (135 ml) in a schlenk flask. Argon purged H₂O (0.25 ml, 0.014 mol), DBU (25.48 g, 0.1674 mol) and trimethylsilylacetylene (1.37 g, 0.0139 mol) were added to flask outside the glove box under Ar and stirred at 80 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled and then acidified with 2N HCl, then extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 2×100 ml 1N HCl, 100ml brine and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to give 4.57 g (60%) of **v** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 4H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 3.96 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.82 – 1.74 (m, 4H), 1.49 – 1.24 (m, 36H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 132.9, 115.6, 114.6, 88.1, 68.2, 32.1, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 26.2, 22.8, 14.3. LRMS (EI+): m/z for C₃₈H₅₈O₂ calc: 546.44, found 546.50.



1-Bromo-3-dodecyloxy-benzene (vi): A mixture of 3-Bromo-phenol (5.1 g, 0.029 mol), dodecylbromide (7.35 g, 0.0295 mol), KOH (8.27 g, 0.147 mol) in 50 ml DMSO was stirred at 50 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was partitioned between 250 ml 1N HCl and dichloromethane. The organic layer was washed with water and dried over MgSO4. The organic layer was concentrated to get 9.56 g (95%) of vi as clear oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.14 – 7.10 (m, 1H), 7.06 (dd, J = 1.7, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 2.2, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 – 6.78 (m, 1H), 3.92 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 1.81 – 1.71 (m, 2H), 1.34 – 1.21 (m, 18H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H).



3,3'-didodecyloxy,1,1'-diphenyl acetylene (vii): In a glove box, **(vi)** (9.51 g, 0.0279 mol), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (1.37 g, 0.0139 mol), and CuI (531 mg, 0.00279 mol) were dissolved in toluene (135 ml) in a schlenk flask. Argon purged H_2O (0.25 ml, 0.014 mol),DBU (25.48 g, 0.1674 mol) and trimethylsilylacetylene (1.37 g, 0.0139 mol) were added to flask outside the glove box under Ar and stirred at 80 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled and then acidified with 2N HCl, then extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 2×100 ml 1N HCl, 100

ml brine and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to give 4.26 g (56%) of **vii** as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.27 – 7.20 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.06 – 7.04 (m, 2H), 6.88 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.83 – 1.74 (m, 4H), 1.50 – 1.23 (m, 36H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 129.5, 124.3, 124.1, 117.1, 115.7, 89.2, 68.2, 32.1, 29.8, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 26.2, 22.8, 14.3. LRMS (EI+) 546.4 HRMS: m/z for C₃₈H₅₈O₂ calc: 546.4437, found 546.4431.



1,2,6,7-tetra(4-dodecylphenyl)cyclopenta[hi]aceanthrylene (viii): In a glove box, **iii** (220.6 mg, 0.4285 mmol), 1,6-dibromoanthracene (60.0 mg, 0.178 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (16.3 mg, 0.0178 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (8.15 mg, 0.0268 mmol), KOAc (87.6 mg, 0.893 mmol), LiCl (15.1 mg, 0.357 mmol) and DMF (15 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 $^{\circ}$ C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into 75 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 167 mg (78%) of **viii** as a green solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.33 – 7.29 (m, 4H), 7.27 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 2.72 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 2.59 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.61 (m, 4H), 1.44 – 1.15 (m, 72H), 0.91 – 0.85 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.0, 141.5, 140.8, 139.3, 138.2, 138.1, 134.5, 132.4, 130.6, 130.1, 128.7, 128.3, 128.6, 128.2, 128.1, 127.9, 126.0, 125.7, 125.0, 35.9, 35.8, 32.0, 31.9, 31.4, 31.4, 29.8, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.4, 22.7, 22.7, 14.2. LRMS (EI+) 1203.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₀H₁₂₂ calc: 1202.9541, found 1202.9620.



1,2,6,7-tetra(4-dodecyloxyphenyl)cyclopenta[hi]aceanthrylene (ix): In a glove box, **v** (162.76 mg, 0.2976 mmol), 1,6-dibromoanthracene (50.0 mg, 0.148 mmol), $Pd_2(dba)_3$ (13.7 mg, 0.0148 mmol), P(o-Tol)3 (6.79 mg, 0.0223 mmol), KOAc (73.02 mg, 0.7440 mmol), LiCl (12.62 mg, 0.2976 mmol) and DMF (15 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured in to 75 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 113 mg (60%) of **ix** as a green solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 8.7 Hz,

4H), 7.41 (dd, J = 8.6, 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 4.05 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 3.96 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.90 – 1.73 (m, 8H), 1.55 – 1.19 (m, 72H), 0.91 - 0.86 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 158.2, 141.0, 138.6, 138.2, 137.9, 132.0, 131.5, 129.4, 128.4, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 126.1, 125.6, 125.0, 114.4, 114.3, 77.4, 77.2, 76.9, 68.2, 68.1, 32.09, 32.08, 29.86, 29.83, 29.82, 29.80, 29.79, 29.77, 29.76, 29.67, 29.59, 29.53, 29.52, 29.49, 26.33, 26.25, 22.86, 22.86, 14.30, 14.30. LRMS (EI+) 1267.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₀H₁₂₂O₄ calc: 1267.9421, found 1267.9392.



3,3'-dimethoxy,1,1'-diphenyl acetylene (x): In a glove box, 3-bromoanisole (5.22 g, 0.0279 mol), $PdCl_2(PPh_3)_2$ (1.37 g, 0.00139 mol), CuI (531 mg, 0.00279 mol) were dissolved in toluene (70 ml) in a schlenk flask. Argon purged H₂O (0.25 ml, 0.014 mol), DBU (25.48 g, 0.1674 mol) and trimethylsilylacetylene (1.37 g, 0.0139 mol) were added to flask outside the glove box under Ar and stirred at 80 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled and acidified with 2N HCl, then extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with 2×50 ml 1N HCl, 50 ml brine and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography to give 1.9 g (58%) of a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.28 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.15 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.08 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.92 – 6.88 (m, 2H), 3.83 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.5, 129.5, 124.3, 124.3, 116.5, 115.1, 89.2, 55.4. LRMS (EI+): m/z for C₁₆H₁₄O₂ calc: 238.1, found 238.1.



1,2,6,7-tetra(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclopenta[hi]aceanthrylene (1a): In a glove box, **x** (744.58 mg, 3.1250 mmol), 1,6-dibromoanthracene (500 mg, 1.49 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (136.4 mg, 0.1488 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (67.94 mg, 0.2232 mmol), KOAc (730.2 mg, 7.440 mmol), LiCl (126.2 mg, 2.976 mmol) and DMF (120 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into 250 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol to give 532.6 mg (55%) of **xiii** as a green solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.23 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.12 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 6.96 – 6.92 (m, 2H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 7.8, 2.2 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.67 (s, 6H). Too insoluble for ¹³C NMR. LRMS (EI+) 650.2 HRMS: m/z for C₄₆H₃₄O₄ calc: 650.2457, found 650.2450.



2,7,13,18-tetrakis(methoxy)tetrabenzo[f,h,r,t]rubicene (2a): In a round bottom flask **1a** (234.5 mg, 0.3603 mmol) was dissolved in 250 ml of CHCl₃. To this mixture FeCl₃ (350.6 mg, 2.162 mmol) in 2ml of CH₃NO₂ was added drop wise under Ar. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was reduced to 50 ml by rotovap and methanol (150 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. The product was collected by filtration and washed with methanol to give 210 mg (90%) of **xiv** as a purple solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄ (80 °C)) δ 8.81 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.54 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 4H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 8.31 – 8.28 (m, 2H), 8.13 – 8.10 (m, 2H), 7.76 -7.70 (m, 2H), 7.31 – 7.24 (m, 4H), 4.03 (s, 6H), 3.96 (s, 6H). Too insoluble for ¹³C NMR. LRMS (EI+) 646.7 HRMS: m/z for C₄₆H₃₀O₄ calc: 646.2144, found 646.2163.



1,2,6,7-tetra(3-dodecyloxyphenyl)cyclopenta[hi]aceanthrylene (1b): In a glove box, **vii** (500 mg, 0.914 mmol), 1,6-dibromoanthracene (153.6 mg, 0.4572 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (41.86 mg, 0.04572 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (20.87 mg, 0.06857mmol), KOAc (224.3 mg, 2.286 mmol), LiCl (38.77 mg, 0.9140 mmol) and DMF (60 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured in to 200 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 295.6 mg (51.0%) of **x** as a green solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 7.39 – 7.34 (m, 2H), 7.26 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.10 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.95 – 6.91 (m, 2H), 6.81 (dd, *J* = 8.2, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.95 – 3.85 (m, 4H), 3.77 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.80 – 1.65 (m, 8H), 1.45 – 1.20 (m, 72H), 0.90 – 0.81 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 158.9, 140.5, 139.7, 138.7, 138.5, 138.0, 136.3, 136.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.6, 128.0, 126.4, 126.23, 125.2, 123.2, 122.6, 116.4, 115.8, 114.5, 114.1, 68.2, 68.0, 32.08, 32.07, 29.9, 29.84, 29.82, 29.80, 29.78, 29.76, 29.6, 29.53, 29.51, 29.4, 29.3, 26.19, 26.18, 22.8, 14.3. LRMS (EI+) 1267.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₀H₁₂₂O₄ calc: 1267.9421, found 1267.9377.



2,7,13,18-tetrakis(dodecyloxy)tetrabenzo[f,h,r,t]rubicene (2b): In a round bottom flask **1b** (504 mg, 0.397 mmol) was dissolved in 300 ml of CH₂Cl₂. To this mixture FeCl₃ (386.8 mg, 2.385 mmol) in 2 ml of CH₃NO₂ was added drop wise under Ar. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was first reduced to 50 ml by rotovap and methanol (150 ml) was added and the mixture stirred for 20 min. The product was collected by filtration and the solid was washed with methanol to give 452 mg (90%) of **xi** as a purple solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 8.48 (dd, *J* = 9.3, 6.9 Hz, 4H), 8.32 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.61 – 7.55 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 4.17 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 4.12 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.97 – 1.83 (m, 8H), 1.63 – 1.22 (m, 72H), 0.94 – 0.82 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.7, 157.1, 138.6, 137.3, 136.3, 133.8, 133.0, 129.9, 128.6, 127.8, 127.4, 127.4, 126.1, 125.8, 124.8, 124.7, 124.6, 124.5, 117.2, 116.3, 109.4, 106.3, 68.4, 68.3, 32.12, 32.07, 29.93, 29.90, 29.88, 29.86, 29.8, 29.72, 29.70, 29.63, 29.57, 29.5, 26.5, 26.4, 22.9, 22.8, 14.29, 14.26. LRMS (EI+) 1262.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₀H₁₁₈O₄ cale: 1262.9030, found 1262.9011.



1,6-dibromopyrene (xi): To a solution of pyrene (19.0 g, 0.0941 mol) in dichloromethane (400 ml), a solution of Br₂ (30.11 g, 0.1882 mol) in dichloromethane (100 ml) was added drop wise via addition funnel. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The solvent was removed in vacuo and the crude product was recrystallized from toluene four times (800 ml, 500 ml, 500 ml, 500 ml of toluene respectively) to give 5.07 g (15%) of **xv** as an off white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.58 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H). LRMS (EI+): m/z for C₁₆H₈Br₂ calc: 360.0, found 359.9.



1,2,6,7-tetra(4-dodecylphenyl)dicyclopenta[*cd,jk*]**pyrene (xii):** In a glove box, **iii** (282.5 mg, 0.5486 mmol), 1,6dibromopyrene (99.3 mg, 0.276 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (25.25 mg, 0.0276 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (12.6 mg, 0.0414 mmol), KOAc (134.6 mg, 1.372 mmol), LiCl (23.26 mg, 0.5486 mmol) and DMF (25 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into 200 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 271 mg (80%) of **xvi** as a red solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.73 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (m, 4H), 7.35 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 6.2 Hz, 8H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 10.8, 8.3 Hz, 8H), 2.64 (m, 8H), 1.71 – 1.65 (m, 8H), 1.30 (m, 72H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 12H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 142.2, 142.0, 141.4, 141.3, 140.8, 139.4, 133.0, 132.34, 132.31, 132.28, 131.9, 130.4, 129.4, 129.3, 129.0, 128.4, 128.34, 128.27, 125.2, 121.8, 121.4, 35.9, 31.9, 31.39, 31.35, 29.71, 29.69, 29.67, 29.65, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 22.7, 14.1. LRMS (EI+) 1228.0 HRMS: m/z for C₉₀H₁₂₂ calc: 1226.9541, found 1226.9480.



1,2,6,7-tetra(3-methoxyoxyphenyl)dicyclopenta[*cd,jk*]**pyrene (3a):** In a glove box **x** (138.2 mg, 0.58 mmol), 1,6dibromopyrene (100 mg, 0.276 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (25.25 mg, 0.0276 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (12.6 mg, 0.0414 mmol), KOAc (134.6 mg, 1.372 mmol), LiCl (23.26 mg, 0.5486 mmol) and DMF (15 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured in to 200 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 130 mg (70%) of **xix** as a brick red solid. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.30 (dd, *J* = 15.0, 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.07 – 7.02 (m, 4H), 6.98 (m, 4H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 5.3 Hz, 4H), 3.74 (s, 6H), 3.71 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.64, 159.58, 141.99, 141.31, 140.70, 140.13, 136.40, 136.32, 132.17, 130.48, 129.76, 129.57, 129.52, 125.78, 122.27, 122.18, 121.79, 121.69, 115.07, 114.41, 113.76, 113.36, 77.41, 77.16, 76.91, 55.37, 55.31.



2,7,13,18-tetrakis(methoxy)-8b,11b,19b,22b-tetrahydrodibenzo[4,5:6,7]indeno[1,2,3-

cd]dibenzo[4,5:6,7]indeno[1,2,3-jk]pyrene (4a): In a round bottom flask 3a (30 mg, 0.044 mmol) was dissolved in 25 ml of CH₂Cl₂. To this mixture FeCl₃ (28.85 mg, 0.1780 mmol) in 0.2 ml of CH₃NO₂ was added drop wise under Ar. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was reduced to 5 ml by rotovap, methanol (20 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. The product was collected by filtration and washed with methanol to give 26 mg (87%) of xx as a bright red solid. Too insoluble for NMR.



1,2,6,7-tetra(3-dodecyloxyphenyl)dicyclopenta[*cd,jk*]**pyrene (3b):** In a glove box vii (300 mg, 0.548 mmol), 1,6dibromopyrene (99.3 mg, 0.276 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (25.25 mg, 0.0276 mmol), P(o-Tol)₃ (12.6 mg, 0.0414 mmol), KOAc (134.6 mg, 1.372 mmol), LiCl (23.26 mg, 0.5486 mmol) and DMF (30 ml) were combined in a sealed tube and stirred overnight at 130 °C. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured in to 200 ml methanol and filtered. The solid was washed with methanol and acetone to give 221 mg (62%) of **xvii** as a brick red solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.60 – 7.57 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.25 (m, 4H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 6.5 Hz, 4H), 6.99 – 6.95 (m, 4H), 6.86 (td, *J* = 7.6, 2.2 Hz, 4H), 3.89 – 3.80 (m, 8H), 1.76 – 1.68 (m, 8H), 1.44 – 1.23 (m, 72H), 0.90 - 0.86 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 159.1, 142.0, 141.4, 140.8, 140.2, 136.4, 136.3, 132.2, 130.5, 129.7, 129.5, 125.8, 122.2, 122.1, 121.7, 121.6, 115.5, 114.8, 114.5, 114.1, 105.1, 77.4, 77.2, 76.9, 68.1, 68.1, 32.1, 29.9, 29.82, 29.80, 29.79, 29.58, 29.56, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 26.2, 22.9, 14.3. LRMS (EI+) 1291.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₂H₁₂₂O₄ calc: 1291.9421, found 1291.9382.



2,7,13,18-tetrakis(dodecyloxy)-8b,11b,19b,22b-tetrahydrodibenzo[4,5:6,7]indeno[1,2,3-

cd]dibenzo[4,5:6,7]indeno[1,2,3-jk]pyrene (4b): In a round bottom flask 3b (100 mg, 0.0774 mmol) was dissolved in 60 ml of CH₂Cl₂. To this mixture FeCl₃ (75.32 mg, 0.4644 mmol) in 1ml of CH₃NO₂ was added drop wise under Ar. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. The solvent was reduced to 10 ml by rotovap, methanol (40 ml) was added and the mixture was stirred for 20 min. The product was collected by filtration and washed with methanol to give 90 mg (90%) of **xviii** as a bright red solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, C₂D₂Cl₄ (80⁰ C)) δ 8.26 - 8.21 (m, 4H), 7.97 - 7.93 (m, 4H), 7.79 - 7.70 (m, 6H), 7.15 - 7.08 (m, 4H), 4.18 - 4.09 (m, 8H), 1.98 -1.85 (m, 8H), 1.61 - 1.15 (m, 72H), 0.88 - 0.83 (m, 12H). Too insoluble for ¹³C NMR. LRMS (EI+) 1287.9 HRMS: m/z for C₉₂H₁₁₈O₄ cale: 1287.9108, found 1287.9073.

6) NMR Spectra





Compound (ii)



Compound (iii)



Compound (iv)



Compound (v)



Compound (vi)



Compound (vii)



Compound (viii)



Compound (ix)



Compound (x)



Compound (1a)



Compound (2a)



Compound (1b)



Compound (2b)



Compound (xi)



Compound (xii)



Compound (3a)



Compound (3b)



Compound (4b)



7) Cartesian coordinates for calculated structures

С	-0.272000	-1.288000	0.280000
С	-0.453000	-2.683000	0.550000
Η	-1.451000	-3.093000	0.621000
С	0.637000	-3.505000	0.718000
Η	0.477000	-4.558000	0.924000
С	1.979000	-3.028000	0.626000
Η	2.800000	-3.719000	0.775000
С	2.193000	-1.700000	0.345000
С	1.070000	-0.842000	0.188000
С	1.520000	0.471000	-0.067000
С	0.540000	1.461000	-0.323000
С	-0.803000	1.014000	-0.236000
С	-1.253000	-0.285000	0.079000
С	0.719000	2.840000	-0.667000
Η	1.717000	3.246000	-0.763000
С	-0.371000	3.653000	-0.878000
Η	-0.211000	4.694000	-1.134000
С	-1.713000	3.177000	-0.777000
Η	-2.534000	3.863000	-0.946000
С	-1.926000	1.854000	-0.472000
С	3.400000	-0.865000	0.187000
С	2.994000	0.433000	-0.047000
С	-2.726000	-0.248000	0.061000
С	-3.133000	1.026000	-0.278000
С	-3.614000	-1.407000	0.330000
С	-3.667000	-1.992000	1.607000
С	-4.415000	-1.926000	-0.686000
С	-4.513000	-3.068000	1.841000
Η	-3.055000	-1.594000	2.408000
С	-5.265000	-3.013000	-0.447000
Η	-4.394000	-1.497000	-1.680000
С	-5.317000	-3.591000	0.825000
Н	-4.557000	-3.513000	2.828000
С	-4.510000	1.539000	-0.406000
С	-5.468000	1.279000	0.577000
С	-4.879000	2.321000	-1.518000
С	-6.770000	1.777000	0.465000
Η	-5.219000	0.693000	1.452000
С	-6.173000	2.811000	-1.625000
Η	-4.159000	2.518000	-2.302000
С	-7.130000	2.550000	-0.643000
Н	-6.453000	3.404000	-2.489000

С	4.778000	-1.377000	0.304000
С	5.150000	-2.550000	-0.362000
С	5.737000	-0.721000	1.099000
С	6.447000	-3.063000	-0.252000
Н	4.448000	-3.074000	-0.999000
С	7.020000	-1.236000	1.207000
Н	5.464000	0.179000	1.635000
С	7.393000	-2.405000	0.539000
Н	7.752000	-0.729000	1.827000
С	3.885000	1.595000	-0.285000
С	4.715000	1.636000	-1.417000
С	3.912000	2.664000	0.612000
С	5.545000	2.730000	-1.629000
Η	4.701000	0.814000	-2.123000
С	4.752000	3.763000	0.397000
Η	3.288000	2.660000	1.499000
С	5.575000	3.799000	-0.733000
Н	6.182000	2.760000	-2.506000
Н	6.231000	4.638000	-0.921000
Η	8.401000	-2.784000	0.641000
Η	-5.966000	-4.430000	1.033000
Н	-8.131000	2.946000	-0.750000
0	6.688000	-4.207000	-0.956000
0	4.694000	4.742000	1.344000
0	-5.997000	-3.432000	-1.518000
0	-7.610000	1.458000	1.491000
С	7.991000	-4.782000	-0.893000
Η	7.954000	-5.669000	-1.522000
Η	8.750000	-4.094000	-1.281000
Η	8.250000	-5.072000	0.130000
С	-6.891000	-4.530000	-1.344000
Н	-7.362000	-4.684000	-2.313000
Η	-6.355000	-5.439000	-1.053000
Η	-7.659000	-4.304000	-0.598000
С	5.527000	5.890000	1.189000
Н	5.288000	6.435000	0.270000
Η	5.321000	6.524000	2.049000
Η	6.587000	5.617000	1.185000
С	-8.955000	1.930000	1.441000
Н	-9.483000	1.542000	0.564000
Η	-9.433000	1.557000	2.345000
Η	-8.994000	3.024000	1.437000

0	3.648000	5.529000	0.507000
0	7.272000	-3.553000	-0.230000
С	1.049000	-0.786000	0.282000
С	1.338000	0.547000	-0.090000

С	2.811000	0.689000	-0.030000
С	0.238000	1.365000	-0.458000
С	4.767000	-0.823000	0.037000
С	3.175000	3.157000	0.216000
Η	2.126000	3.289000	0.421000
С	3.363000	-0.582000	0.175000
С	3.667000	1.847000	-0.016000
С	4.028000	4.244000	0.262000
С	-0.919000	3.326000	-1.331000
Н	-0.878000	4.298000	-1.811000
С	2.194000	-2.779000	1.014000
Η	3.075000	-3.361000	1.248000
С	0.252000	2.662000	-1.062000
Н	1.191000	3.108000	-1.357000
С	5.077000	1.642000	-0.115000
С	2.264000	-1.510000	0.489000
С	6.999000	0.044000	-0.389000
Н	7.678000	0.865000	-0.572000
С	5.311000	-2.134000	0.021000
Н	4.650000	-2.978000	0.123000
С	5.412000	4.054000	0.069000
Н	6.066000	4.917000	0.099000
С	7.512000	-1.229000	-0.393000
Η	8.566000	-1.410000	-0.568000
С	5.912000	2.786000	-0.098000
Η	6.984000	2.672000	-0.184000
С	5.622000	0.299000	-0.171000
С	6.662000	-2.337000	-0.186000
С	6.475000	-4.721000	-0.042000
Н	5.994000	-4.719000	0.942000
Н	7.162000	-5.563000	-0.107000
Η	5.713000	-4.812000	-0.822000
С	2.271000	5.796000	0.769000
Η	2.208000	6.867000	0.950000
Η	1.923000	5.256000	1.654000
Н	1.644000	5.536000	-0.089000
0	-3.648000	-5.529000	-0.507000
0	-7.272000	3.553000	0.230000
С	-1.049000	0.786000	-0.282000
С	-1.338000	-0.547000	0.090000
С	-2.811000	-0.689000	0.030000
С	-0.238000	-1.365000	0.458000
С	-4.767000	0.823000	-0.037000
С	-3.175000	-3.157000	-0.216000
Η	-2.126000	-3.289000	-0.421000
С	-3.363000	0.582000	-0.175000
С	-3.667000	-1.847000	0.016000
С	-4.028000	-4.244000	-0.262000
C	0.919000	-3.326000	1.331000
H	0.878000	-4.298000	1.811000
C	-2.194000	2.779000	-1.014000
Η	-3.075000	3.361000	-1.248000

С	-0.252000	-2.662000	1.062000
Η	-1.191000	-3.108000	1.357000
С	-5.077000	-1.642000	0.116000
С	-2.264000	1.510000	-0.489000
С	-6.999000	-0.044000	0.389000
Η	-7.678000	-0.865000	0.572000
С	-5.311000	2.134000	-0.021000
Η	-4.650000	2.978000	-0.123000
С	-5.412000	-4.054000	-0.069000
Η	-6.066000	-4.917000	-0.099000
С	-7.512000	1.229000	0.393000
Η	-8.566000	1.410000	0.568000
С	-5.912000	-2.786000	0.098000
Η	-6.984000	-2.672000	0.184000
С	-5.622000	-0.299000	0.171000
С	-6.662000	2.337000	0.186000
С	-6.475000	4.721000	0.042000
Η	-5.994000	4.719000	-0.942000
Η	-7.162000	5.563000	0.107000
Η	-5.713000	4.812000	0.822000
С	-2.271000	-5.796000	-0.769000
Η	-2.208000	-6.867000	-0.950000
Η	-1.922000	-5.256000	-1.654000
Н	-1.644000	-5.536000	0.089000

С	-2.223000	2.696000	-0.017000
С	-2.712000	1.380000	-0.024000
С	-1.766000	0.360000	0.001000
С	-0.408000	0.574000	0.005000
С	0.122000	1.895000	-0.002000
С	-0.834000	2.937000	-0.009000
С	-2.371000	-0.935000	0.017000
С	0.408000	-0.574000	0.005000
С	-0.121000	-1.895000	-0.002000
С	-1.567000	-2.053000	0.002000
С	0.834000	-2.937000	-0.009000
Η	0.491000	-3.966000	-0.008000
С	2.223000	-2.696000	-0.017000
С	2.712000	-1.380000	-0.024000
С	1.766000	-0.360000	0.001000
С	2.371000	0.935000	0.017000
С	1.567000	2.053000	0.002000
Η	1.984000	3.055000	-0.006000
Н	-2.897000	3.545000	-0.019000
Η	-0.491000	3.966000	-0.008000
Η	-1.984000	-3.055000	-0.006000
Η	2.897000	-3.545000	-0.019000

С	4.036000	-0.702000	-0.016000
С	3.833000	0.668000	0.006000
С	-4.036000	0.702000	-0.016000
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