

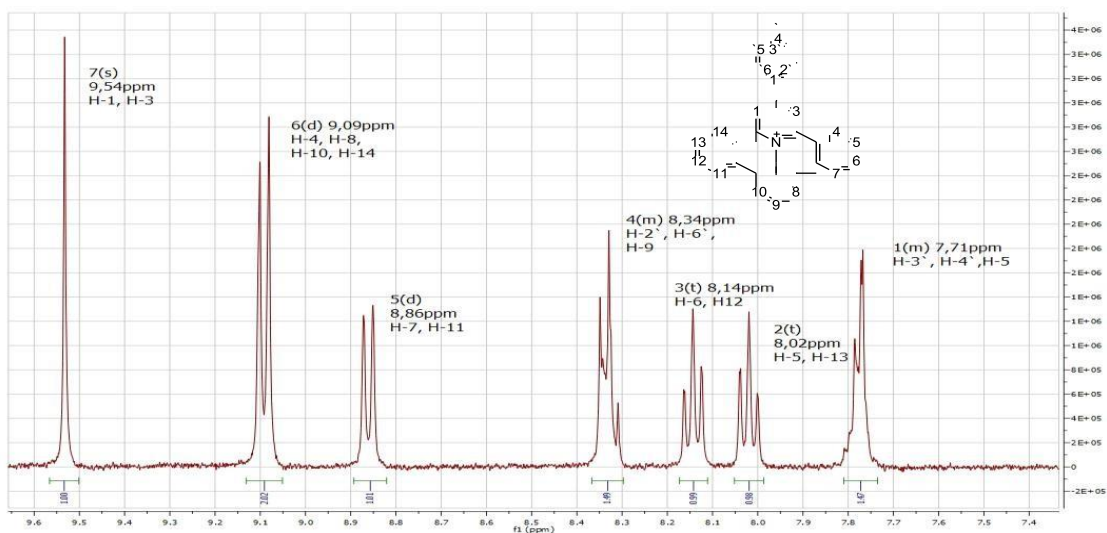
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Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI):

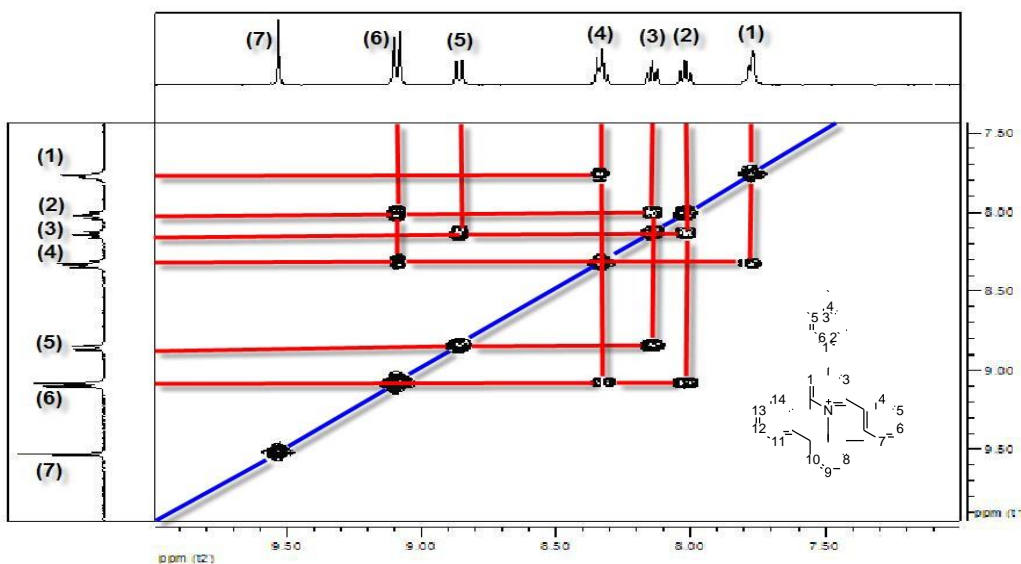
# Aggregation phenomena in photobicycled pyridinium salts

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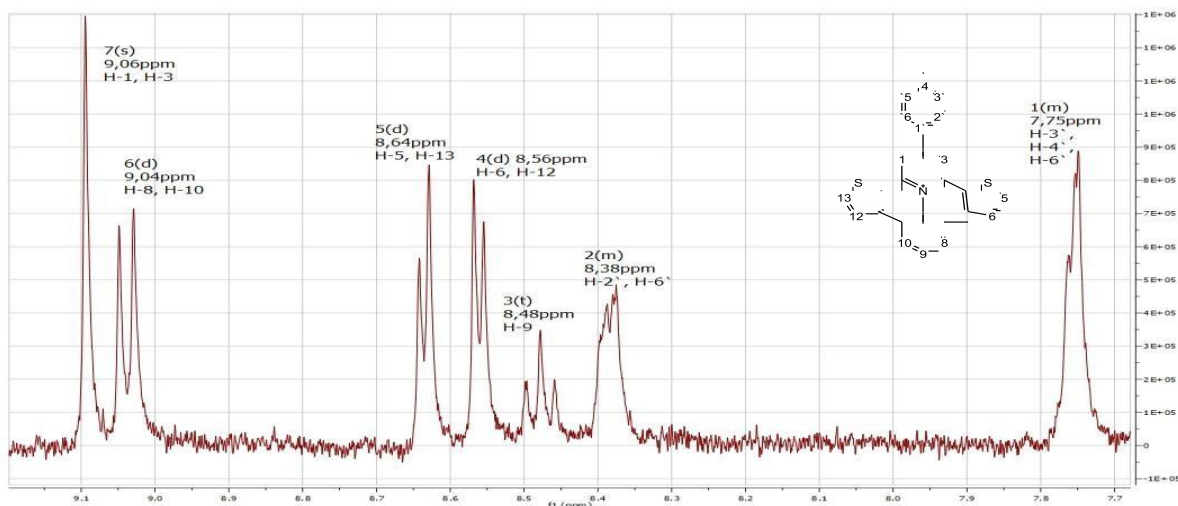
NMR spectra of studied compounds:



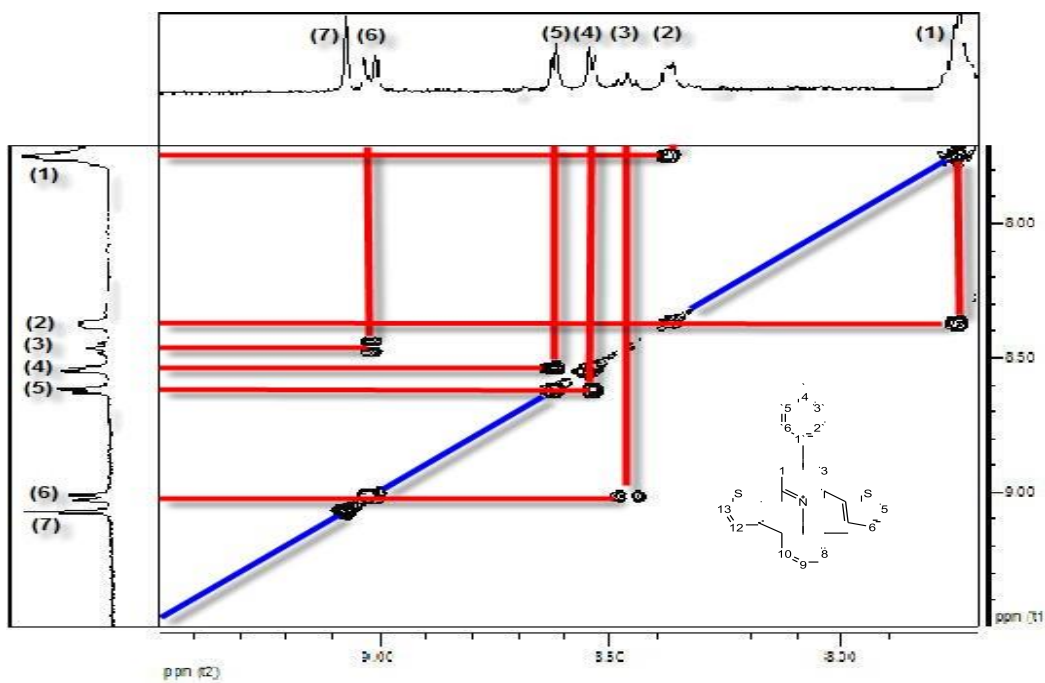
**Figure 1** -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the 2-phenylbenzo[8,9]quinolizino[4,5,6,7-fed]phenanthridinylium tetrafluoroborate (PQPBF<sub>4</sub>) in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO.



**Figure 2** - 2-D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY plot of the 2-phenylbenzo[8,9]quinolizino[4,5,6,7-fed]phenanthridinylium tetrafluoroborate (PQPBF<sub>4</sub>) in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO

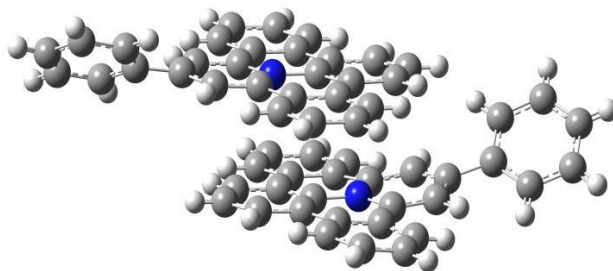


**Figure 3** -  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the 2-phenylbenzo[*ij*]pyrido[2,1,6-*de*]dithieno[3,2-*b*:2',3'-*g*] quinolizin-13-ium perchlorate (BPDTQClO<sub>4</sub>) in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO

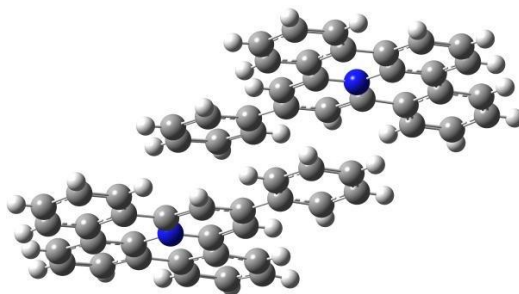


**Figure 4** – 2-D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY plot of the 2-phenylbenzo[*ij*]pyrido[2,1,6-*de*]dithieno[3,2-*b*:2',3'-*g*] quinolizin-13-ium perchlorate (BPDTQClO<sub>4</sub>) in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO

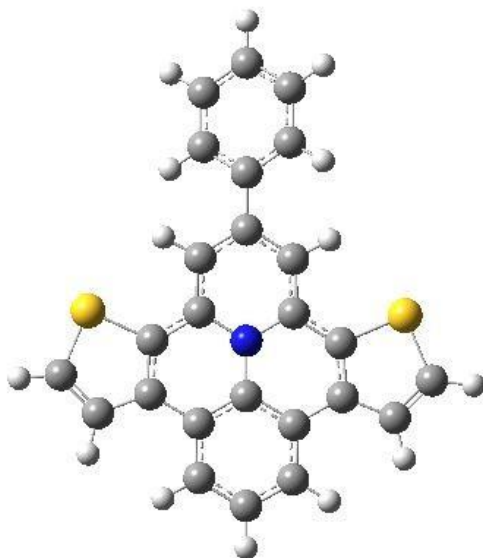
**Structures and total energies of cationic dimers of PQP<sup>+</sup> and BPDTQ<sup>+</sup> :**



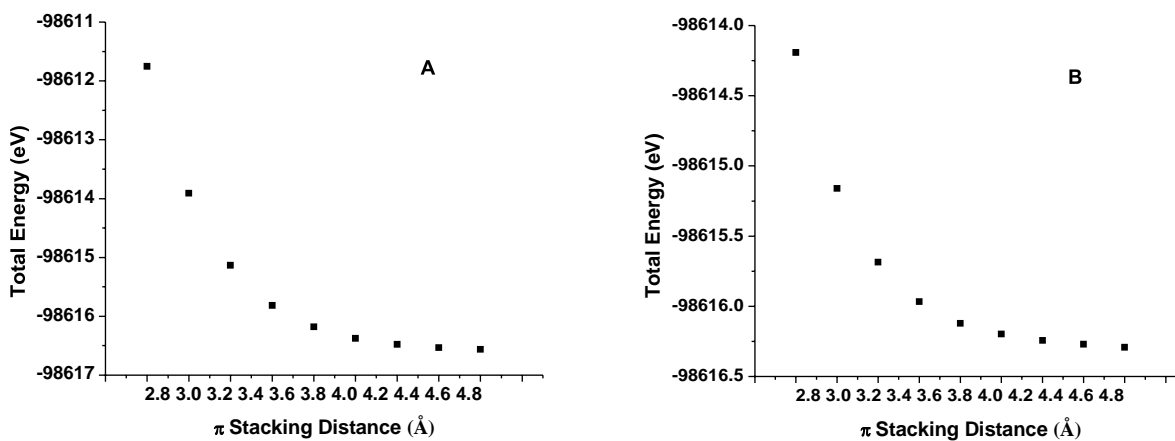
**Figure 5** – Structure of the cationic dimer of PQP<sup>+</sup> in the parallel conformation, obtained from x-ray measurements (D. Wu, W. Pisula, V. Enkelmann, X. Feng, K. Müllen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 9620. ja902420u si 002.cif). Single-point calculation employing a DFT PBE0/6-31G(d) method, and the PCM model to mimic the aqueous medium yielded a total energy of -2337.89377692 hartrees, corresponding to -1467049.4 kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.



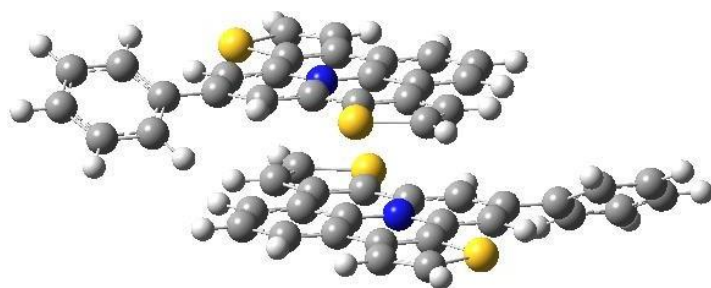
**Figure 6** - Structure of the cationic dimer of PQP<sup>+</sup> in the antiparallel conformation, obtained from x-ray measurements (D. Wu, W. Pisula, V. Enkelmann, X. Feng, K. Müllen, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, **131**, 9620. ja902420u si 003.cif). Single-point calculation employing a DFT PBE0/6-31G(d) method, and the PCM model to mimic the aqueous medium yielded a total energy of -2337.90080034 hartrees, corresponding to – 1467053.8 kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.



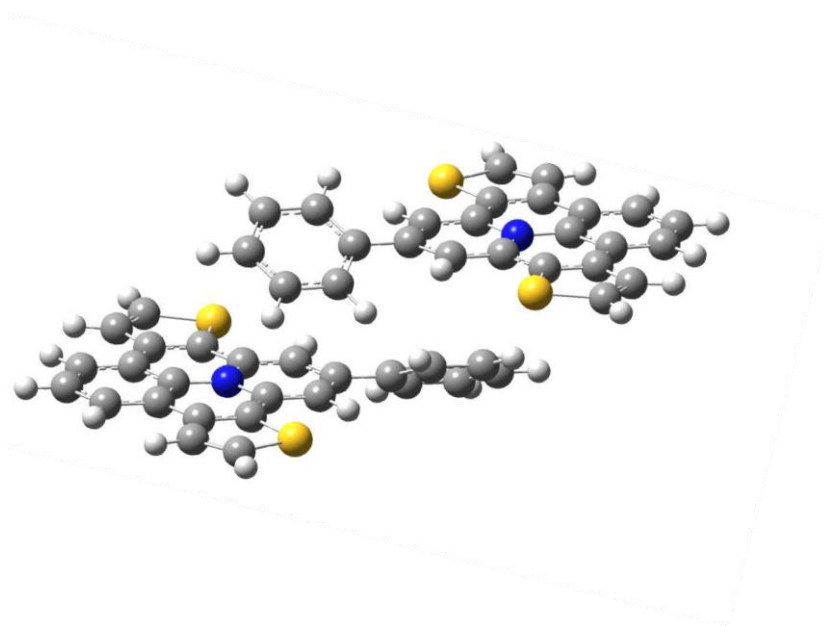
**Figure 7** – Structure of the monomeric cation of BPDTQ<sup>+</sup>, optimized in the gas phase with the DFT B3LYP/6-31G(d) method, with a total energy of -1812.06359 hartrees.



**Figure 8** – Variation of the calculated heat of formation of the antiparallel (A) and parallel (B) BPDTQ<sup>+</sup> dimer, as a function of the distance between the two monomeric units. Total energies were obtained from single-point calculations employing the optimized structure of the monomer of Figure 7, and varying the distance between the two monomeric units.



**Figure 9** - Structure of the cationic dimer of BPDTQ<sup>+</sup> in the parallel conformation, with a distance between the two parallel rings of 4 Å. Single-point calculation employing a DFT PBE0/6-31G(d) method, and the PCM model to mimic the aqueous medium yielded a total energy of -3621.28232801 hartrees, corresponding to – 2272387.3 kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure 10** - Structure of the cationic dimer of BPDTQ<sup>+</sup> in the antiparallel conformation, with a distance between the two parallel rings of 4 Å. Single-point calculation employing a DFT PBE0/6-31G(d) method, and the PCM model to mimic the aqueous medium yielded a total energy of -3621.27731597 hartrees, corresponding to – 2272384.1 kcal.mol<sup>-1</sup>.