

Supplementary Material

1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic acid: A versatile hydrogen bonding template for controlling the regioselective topochemical synthesis of head-to-tail photodimers from stilbazole derivatives.

Gabriela Ortega,^a Jesús Hernández,^a Teresa González,^a Romano Dorta^b and Alexander Briceño^{a*}

Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas (IVIC), Apartado 21827, Caracas 1020-A, Venezuela. E-mail: abriceno@ivic.ve; Fax: +58-212-5041350; Tel: +58-212-5041320.

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Figure S21. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **5** (bottom).

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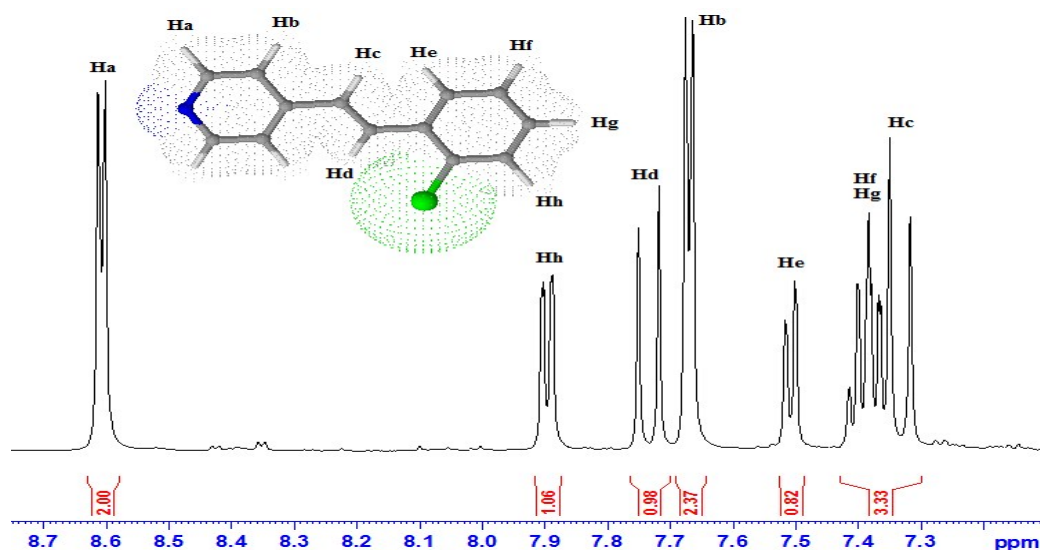
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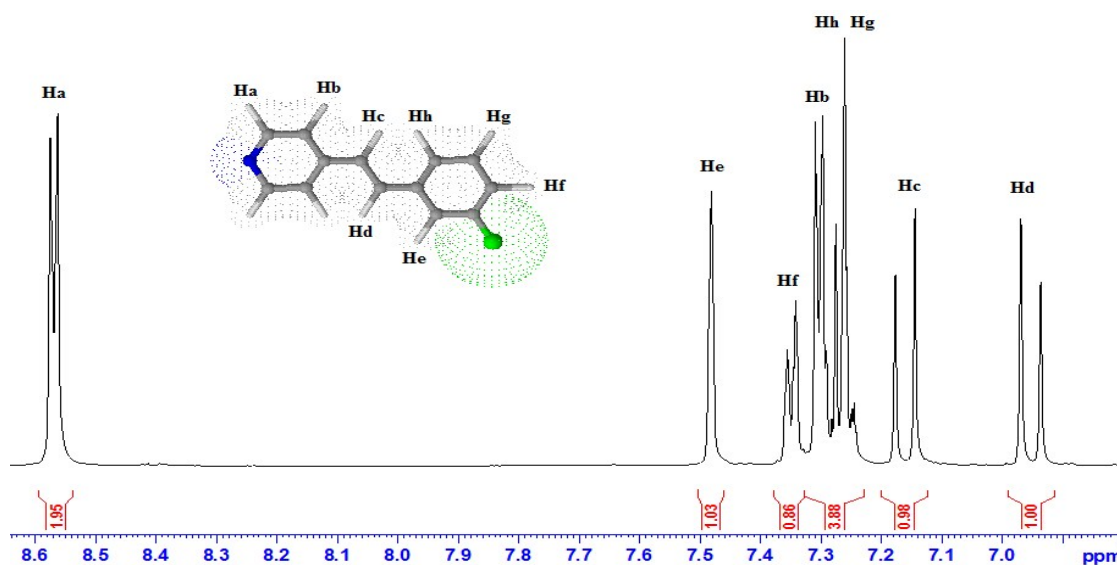
Characterization by ^1H NMR spectroscopy of *Trans*-4-stilbazole Derivatives:

Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-2-chlorine-4-stilbazole (2-Cl-Stb).



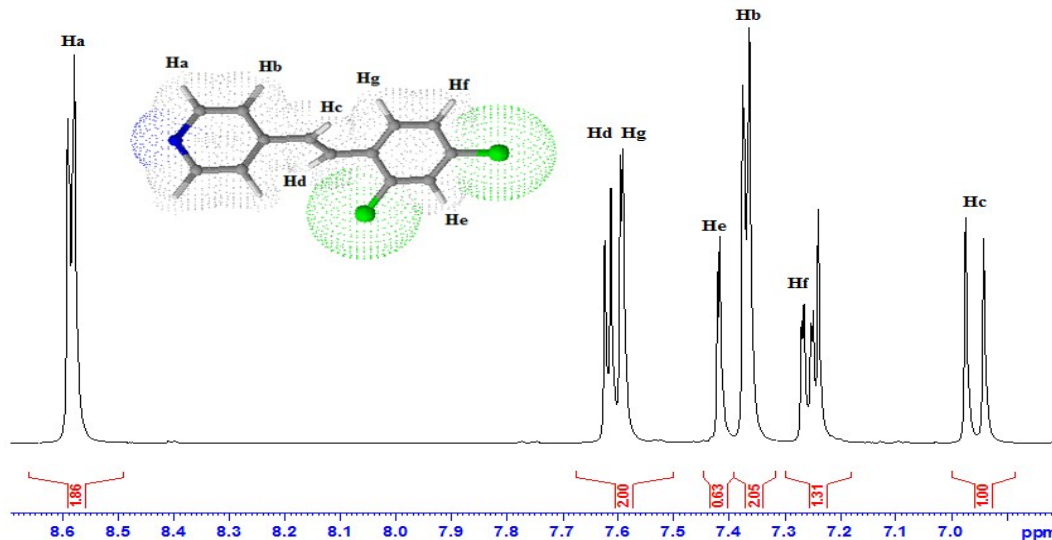
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.61 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 6.0$, Ha), 7.90 (dd, 1H, $J_{hg} = 8.0$, $J_{hf} = 1.7$, Hh), 7.73 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$, Hd), 7.67 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 6.0$, Hb), 7.51 (dd, 1H, $J_{ef} = 8.1$, $J_{eg} = 1.6$, He), 7.39 (m, 2H, Hf, Hg), 7.33 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hc) ppm.

Figure S2. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-3-chlorine-4-stilbazole (3-Cl-Stb).



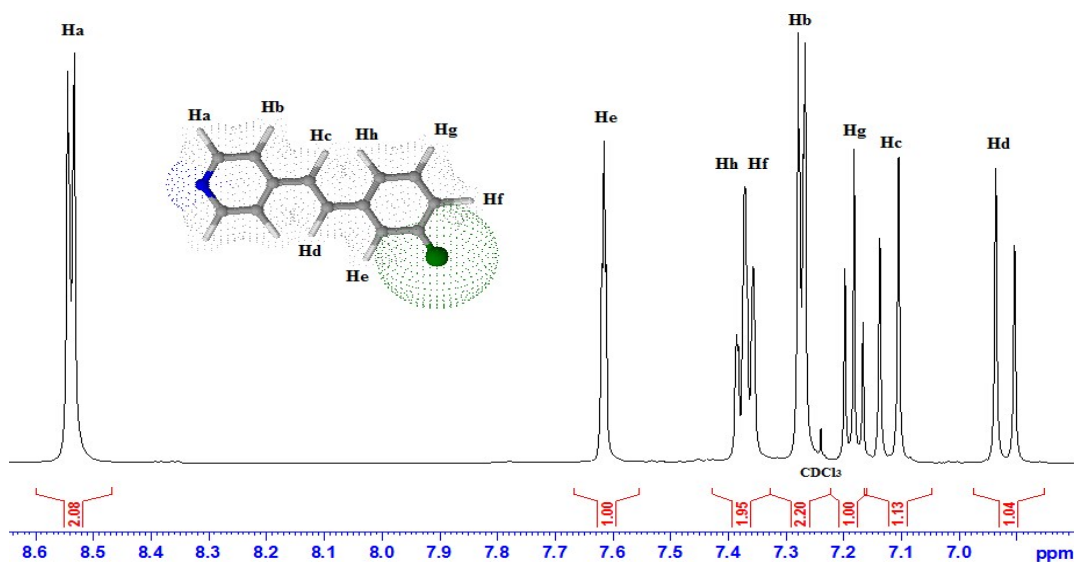
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.57 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 6.0$, Ha), 7.48 (s, 1H, He), 7.35 (dd, 1H, $J_{fg} = 7.4$, $J_{fh} = 1.5$, Hf), 7.30 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 6.0$, Hb), 7.28 (m, 2H, Hg, Hh), 7.16 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hc), 6.95 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$ Hd) ppm.

Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-2,4-dichlorine-4-stilbazole (2,4-dCl-Stb).



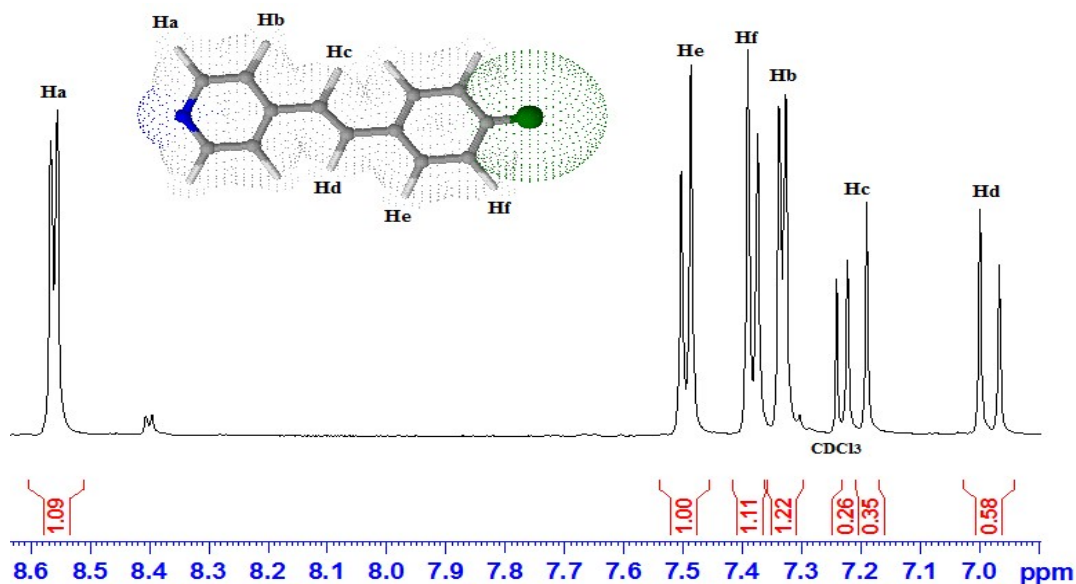
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.59 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 6.2$, Ha), 7.61 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hd), 7.60 (d, 1H, $J_{gf} = 8.5$, Hg), 7.42 (d, 1H, $J_{ef} = 2.0$, He), 7.36 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 6.2$, Hb), 7.26 (dd, 1H, $J_{fg} = 8.5$, $J_{fe} = 2.0$, Hf), 6.96 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$, Hc) ppm.

Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-3-bromine-4-stilbazole (3-Br-Stb).



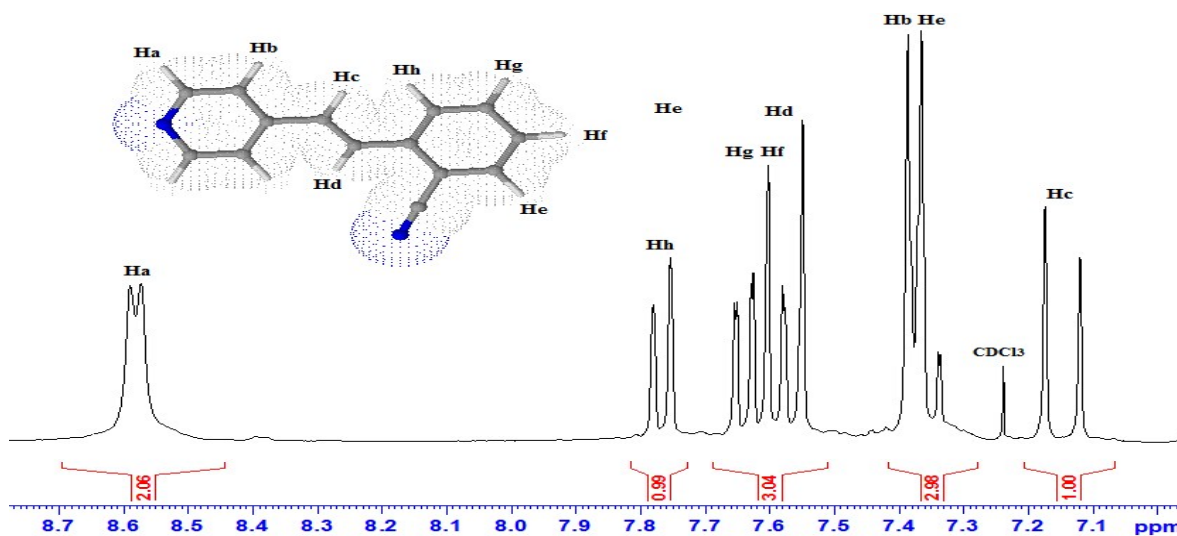
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.54 (dd, 2H, $J_{ab} = 5.0$, $J_{ab'} = 1.3$, Ha), 7.62 (m, 1H, He), 7.38 (dd, 1H, $J_{hg} = 7.6$, $J_{hf} = 2.0$, Hh), 7.36 (dd, 1H, $J_{fg} = 7.2$, $J_{fh} = 2.0$, Hf), 7.27 (dd, 2H, $J_{ba} = 5.0$, $J_{ba'} = 1.3$, Hb), 7.18 (t, 1H, $J_{gh} = 7.6$, $J_{gf} = 7.2$, Hg), 7.12 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hc), 6.92 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$, Hd) ppm.

Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-4-bromine-4-stilbazole (4-Br-Stb).



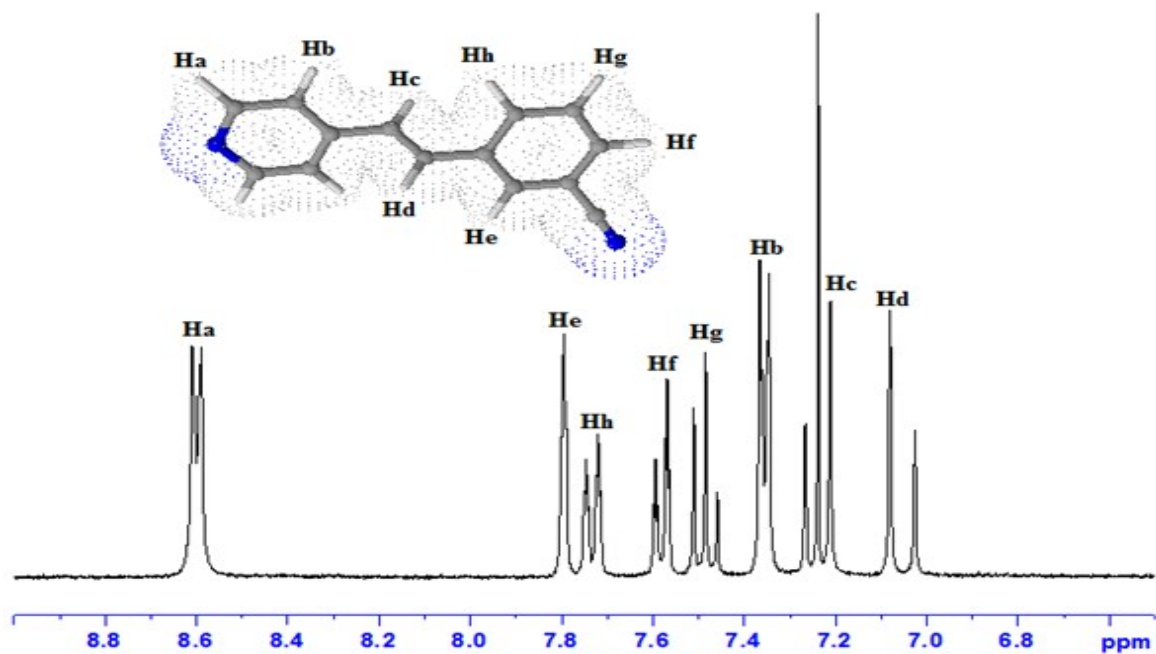
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.56 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 5.8$, Ha), 7.49 (d, 2H, $J_{ef} = 8.4$, He), 7.38 (d, 2H, $J_{fe} = 8.4$, Hf), 7.33 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 5.8$, Hb), 7.21 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hc), 6.98 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$, Hd) ppm

Figure S6. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-2-benzonitrile-4-stilbazole (2-CN-Stb).



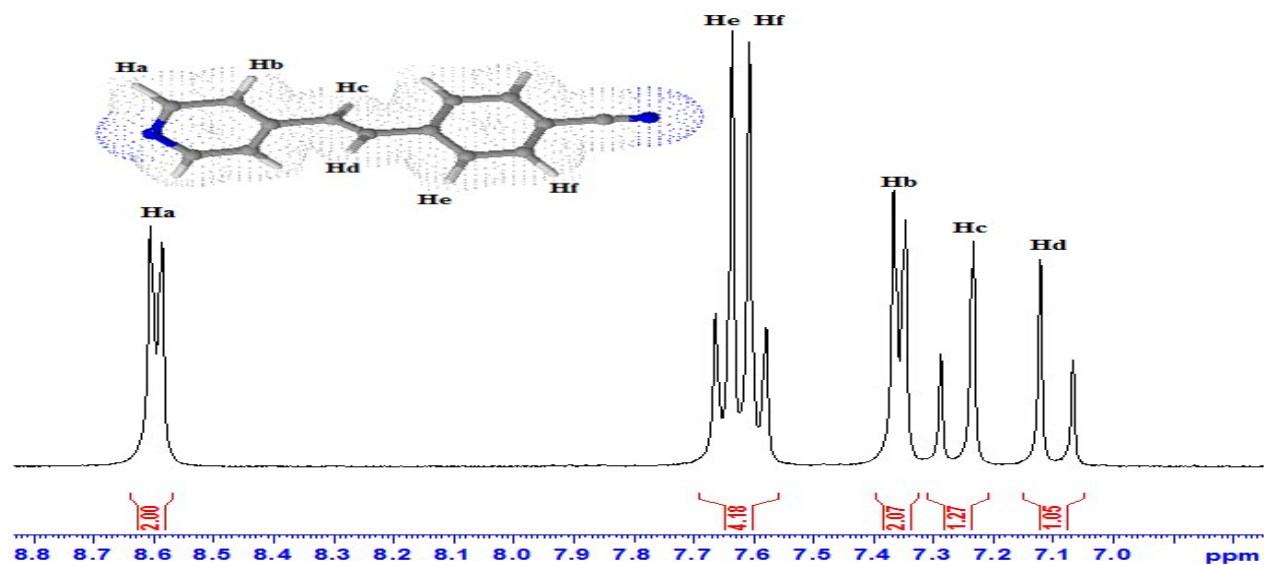
^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 8.58 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 5.7$, Ha), 7.76 (dd, 1H, $J_{hg} = 7.7$, $J_{hf} = 1.3$, Hh), 7.63 (ddd, 1H, $J_{gh} = 7.7$, $J_{gf} = 7.4$, $J_{ge} = 1.2$, Hg), 7.60 (ddd, 1H, $J_{fg} = J_{fe} = 7.4$, $J_{fh} = 1.3$, Hf), 7.59 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.1$, Hd), 7.38 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 5.7$, Hb), 7.36 (dd, 1H, $J_{ef} = 7.4$, $J_{eg} = 1.2$, He), 7.14 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.1$, Hc) ppm.

Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-3-benzonitrile-4-stilbazole (3-CN-Stb).



^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.60 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 5.3$, Ha), 7.80 (s, 1H, He), 7.73 (dd, 1H, $J_{hg} = 7.8$, $J_{hf} = 1.2$, Hh), 7.58 (dd, 1H, $J_{fg} = 7.8$, $J_{fh} = 1.2$, Hf), 7.49 (t, 1H, $J_{gf} = J_{gh} = 7.8$, Hg), 7.36 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 5.3$, Hb), 7.24 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.4$, Hc), 7.05 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.4$, Hd) ppm.

Figure S8. ^1H NMR spectrum of *trans*-4-benzonitrile-4-stilbazole (4-CN-Stb).



^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 8.60 (d, 2H, $J_{ab} = 6.0$, Ha), 7.65 (d, 2H, $J_{ef} = 8.4$, He), 7.60 (d, 2H, $J_{fe} = 8.4$, Hf), 7.36 (d, 2H, $J_{ba} = 6.0$, Hb), 7.26 (d, 1H, $J_{cd} = 16.3$, Hc), 7.09 (d, 1H, $J_{dc} = 16.3$, Hd) ppm.

Characterization of supramolecular ionic assemblies:

(3-Cl-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (1): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 230-232. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 63.07; H, 3.83; N, 4.09. Found: C, 63.63; H, 3.92; N, 4.48. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3062, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2143, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1690, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1624, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1346, $\nu(\text{C-Cl})$: 1062, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 974.

(2,4-di-Cl-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (2): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 224-226. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{24}\text{Cl}_4\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 57.31; H, 3.21; N, 3.71. Found: C, 57.76; H, 3.29; N, 4.13. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3100, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2162, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1698, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1618, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1340, $\nu(\text{C-Cl})$: 1051, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 964.

(3-Br-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (3): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 226-228. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 55.83; H, 3.39; N, 3.62. Found: C, 56.28; H, 3.49; N, 3.91. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3099, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2140, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1692, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1622, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1344, $\nu(\text{C-Br})$: 1095, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 976.

(4-Br-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (4): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 256-258. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 55.83; H, 3.39; N, 3.62. Found: C, 56.54; H, 3.11; N, 4.40. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3097, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2135, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1688, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1624, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1342, $\nu(\text{C-Br})$: 1094, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 972.

(3-CN-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (5): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 240-242. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8$: C, 68.46; H, 3.94; N, 8.40. Found: C, 67.46; H, 4.32; N, 8.14. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3065, $\nu(\text{-CN})$: 2229, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2148, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1688, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1624, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1343, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 982.

(2-CN-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (6): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 223-225. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8$: C, 68.46; H, 3.94; N, 8.40. Found: C, 69.08; H, 3.82; N, 9.02. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3065, $\nu(\text{-CN})$: 2227, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2130, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1704, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1628, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1456, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 985.

(2-Cl-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (7): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 203-205. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 63.07; H, 3.83; N, 4.09. Found: C, 63.01; H, 3.88; N, 4.18. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3066, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2148, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1718, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1624, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1336, $\nu(\text{C-Cl})$: 1049, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 974.

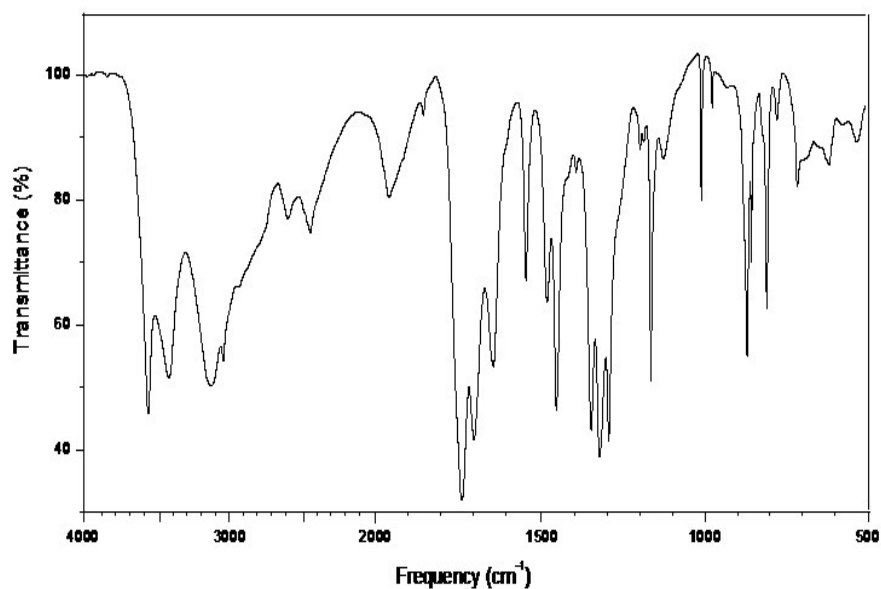
(2-Cl-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (8): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 208-210. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 63.07; H, 3.83; N, 4.09. Found: C, 63.19; H, 3.86; N, 4.48. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3095, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2160, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1695, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1618, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1344, $\nu(\text{C-Cl})$: 1047, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 975.

(3-Cl-Hstb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (9): m.p ($^{\circ}\text{C}$): 234-236. Anal. Calcd (%) for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{26}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$: C, 63.07; H, 3.83; N, 4.09. Found: C, 63.00; H, 3.87; N, 4.05. FT-IR (cm^{-1} , KBr): $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 3063, $\nu(\text{N}^+\text{-H})$: 2145, $\nu(\text{C=O})$: 1687, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1626, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1346, $\nu(\text{C-Cl})$: 1063, $\nu(\text{=C-H})$: 978.

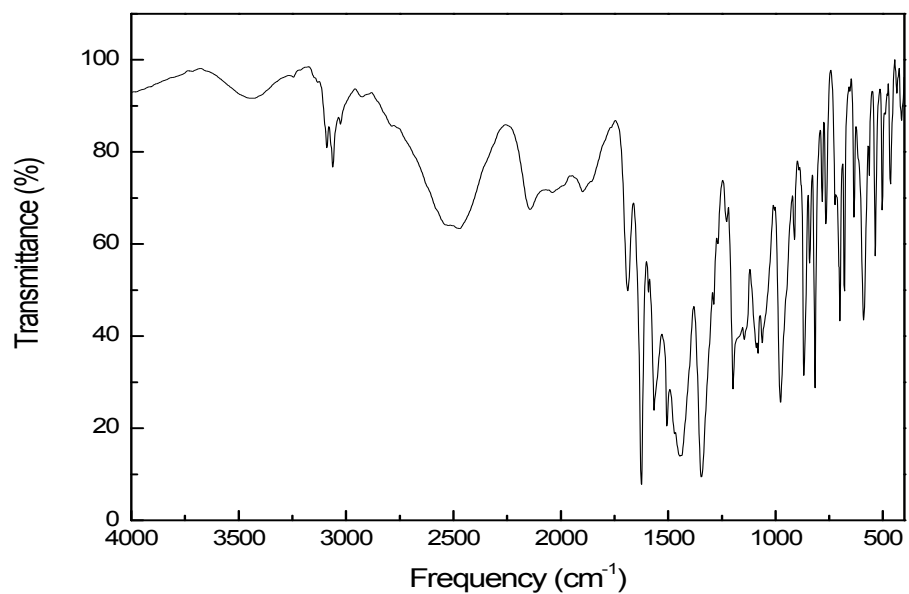
(4-CN-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (10): m.p (°C): 248-250. Anal. Calcd (%) for C₃₈H₂₆N₄O₈: C, 68.46; H, 3.94; N, 8.40. Found: C, 67.64; H, 4.42; N, 8.05. FT-IR (cm⁻¹, KBr): ν (=C-H): 3065, ν (-CN): 2228, ν (N⁺-H): 2151, ν (C=O): 1703, $\nu_{\text{asim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1626, $\nu_{\text{sim}}(\text{CO}_2^-)$: 1452, ν (=C-H): 985.

Figure S9. FT-IR spectra of 1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic acid (H₄bta) (a) and compounds **1-10** in KBr disk (b-k).

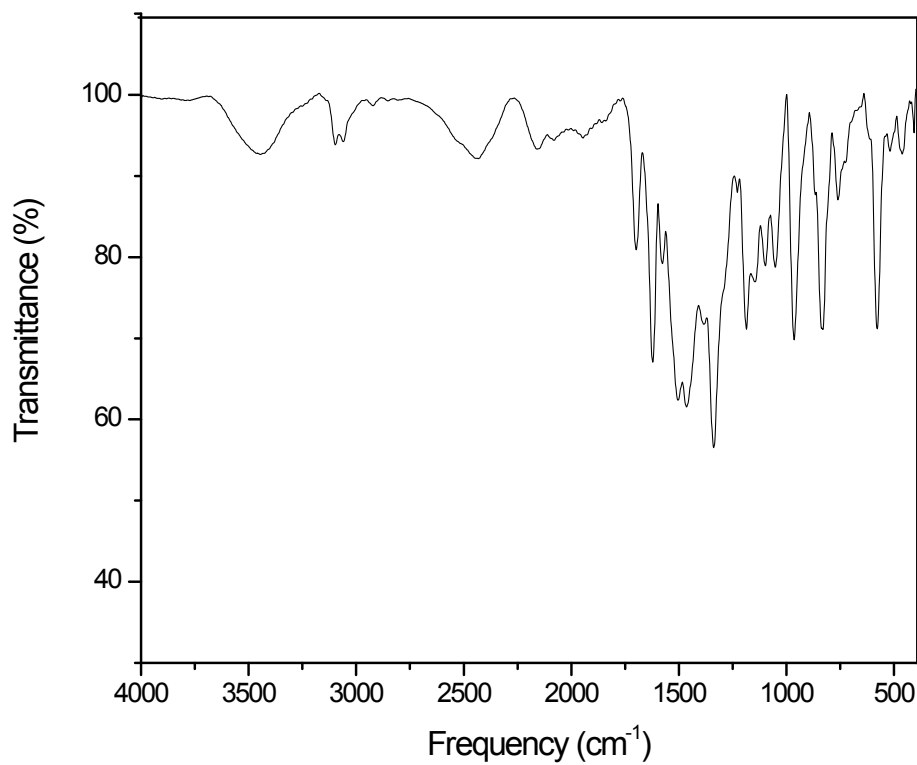
(a) FT-IR spectrum of 1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic acid (H₄bta)



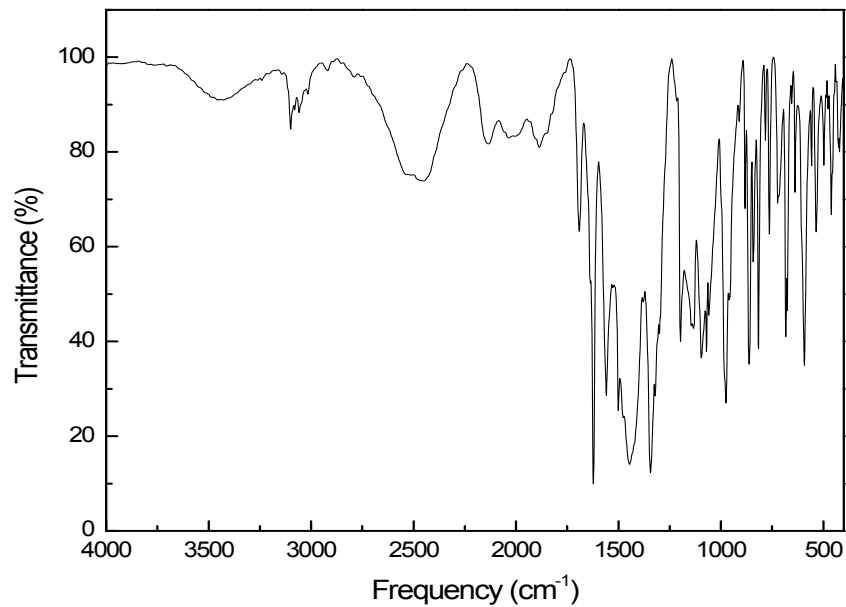
(b) FT-IR spectrum of (3-Cl-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**1**)



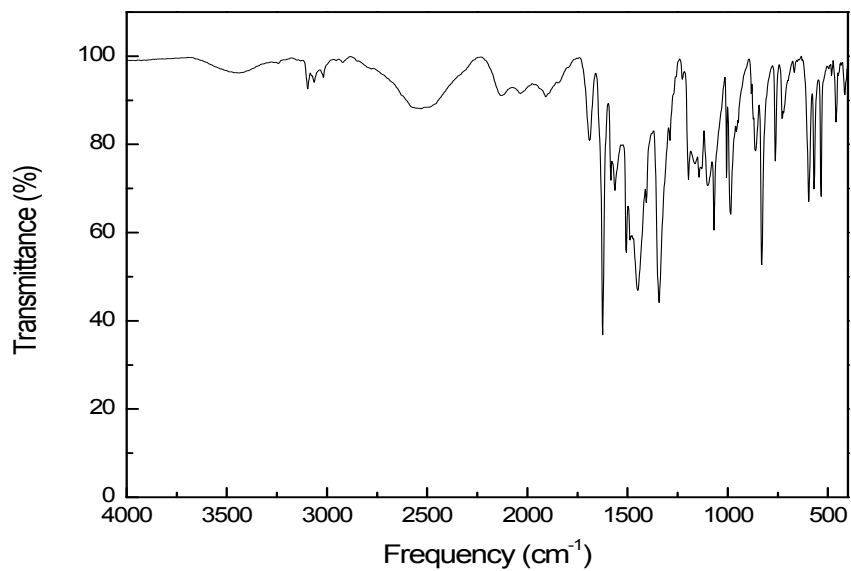
(c) FT-IR spectrum of $(2,4\text{-di-Cl-Hstb}^+)_2(\text{H}_2\text{bta})^{2-}$ (**2**)



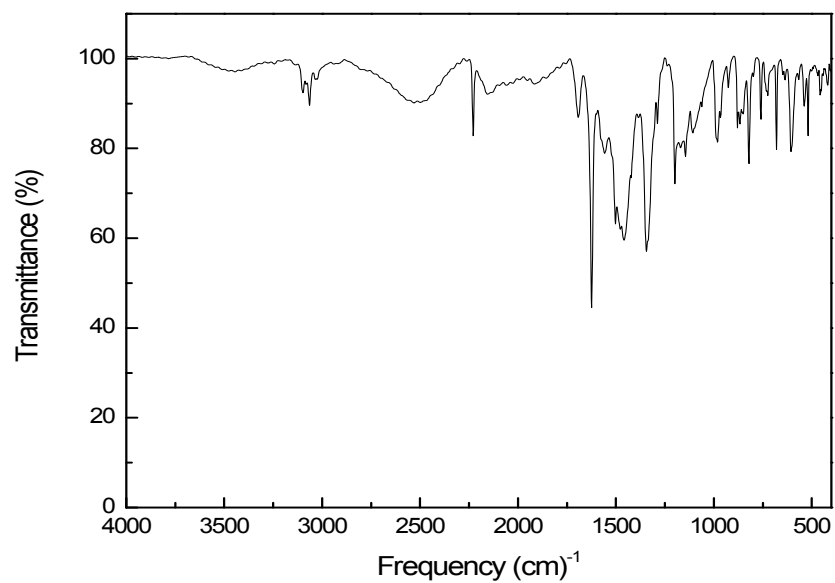
.....(d) FT-IR spectrum of $(3\text{-Br-Hstb}^+)_2(\text{H}_2\text{bta})^{2-}$ (**3**)



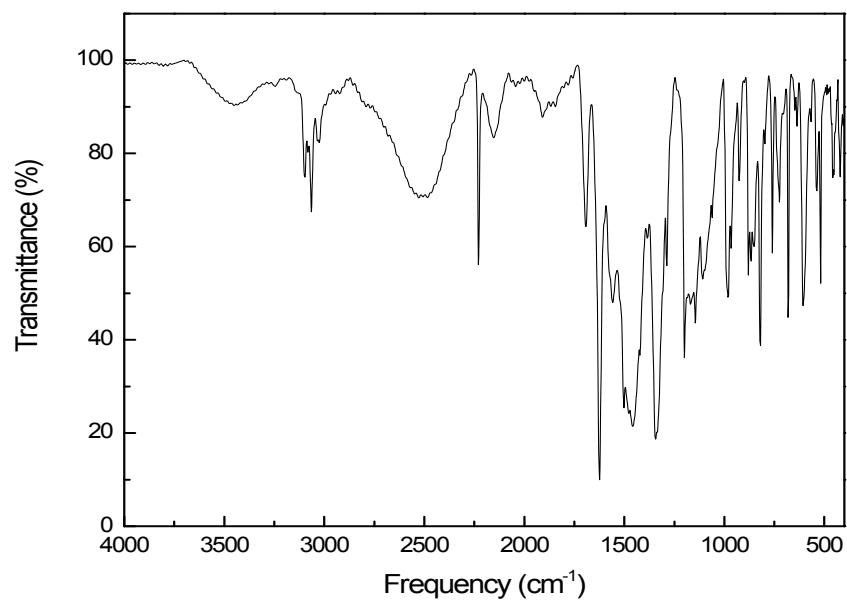
(e) FT-IR spectrum of (4-Br-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**4**)



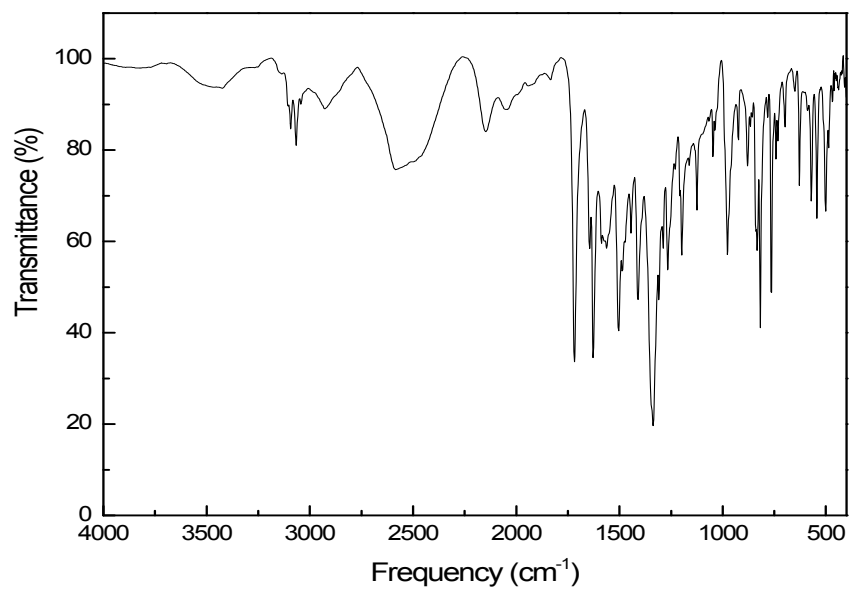
(f) FT-IR spectrum of (3-CN-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**5**)



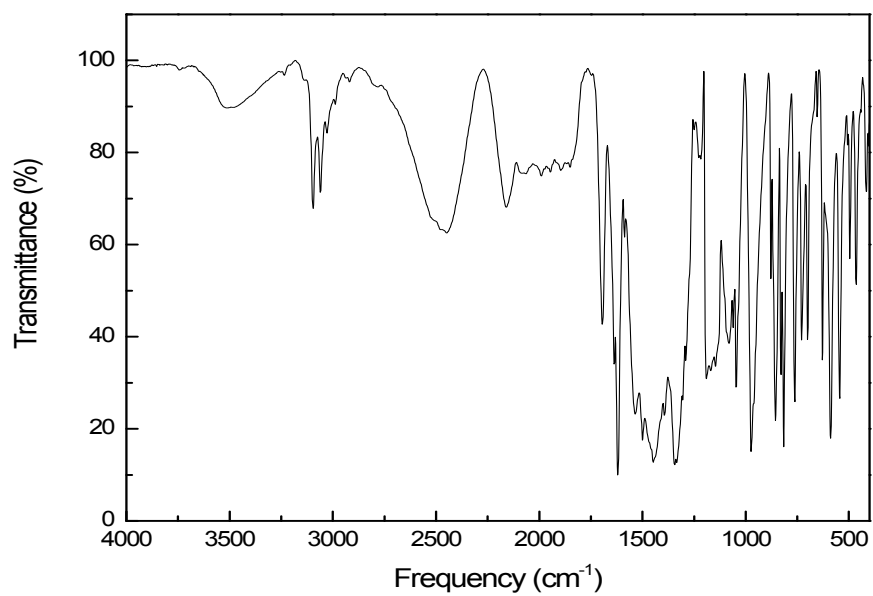
(g) FT-IR spectrum of (2-CN-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**6**)



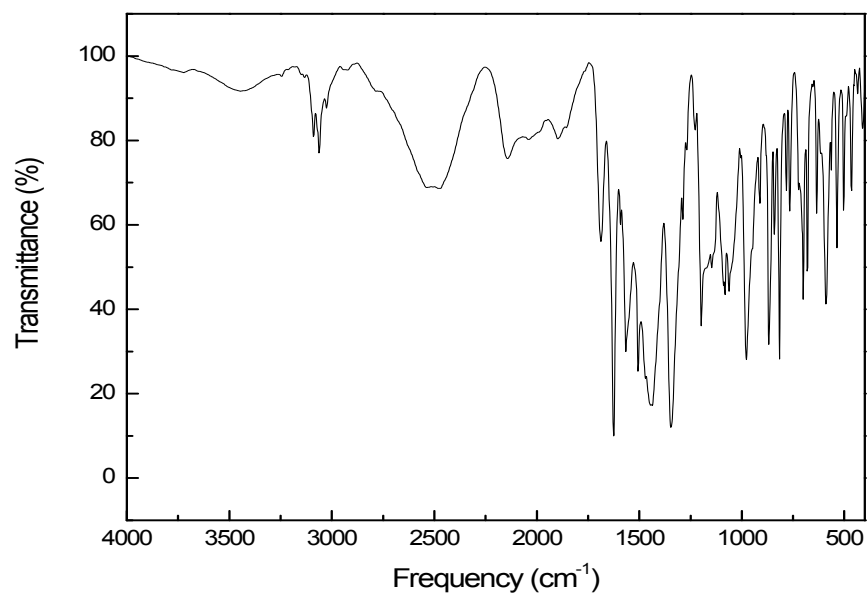
(h) FT-IR spectrum of (2-Cl-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**7**)



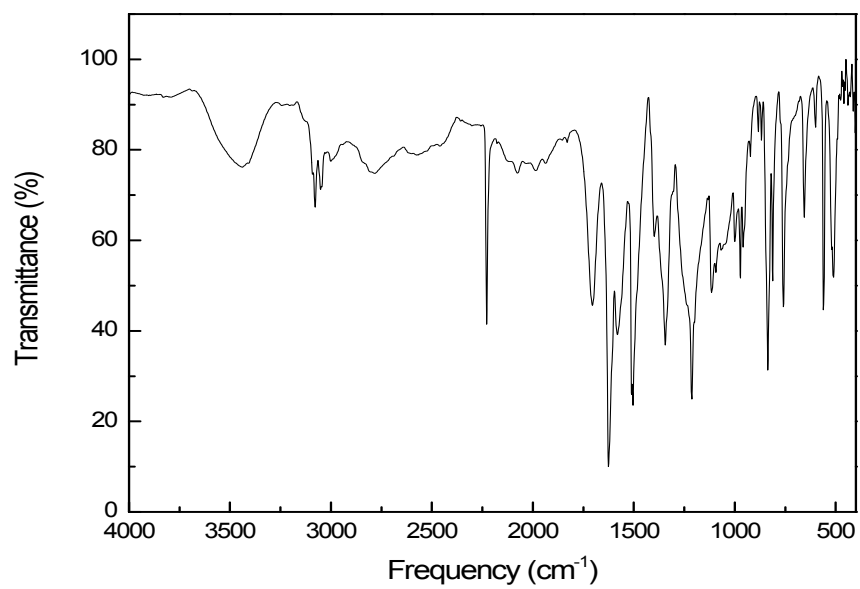
(i) FT-IR spectrum of (2-Cl-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**8**)



(j) FT-IR spectrum of (3-Cl-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**9**)

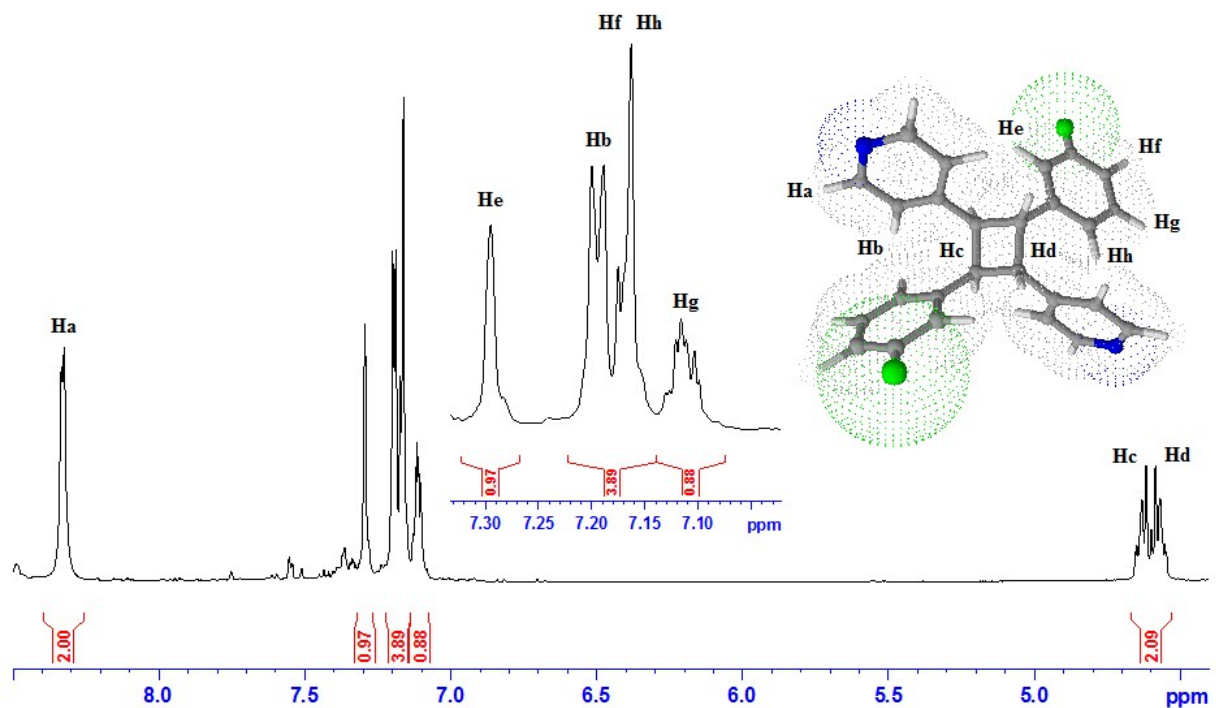


(k) FT-IR spectrum of (4-CN-Hstb⁺)₂(H₂bta²⁻) (**10**)



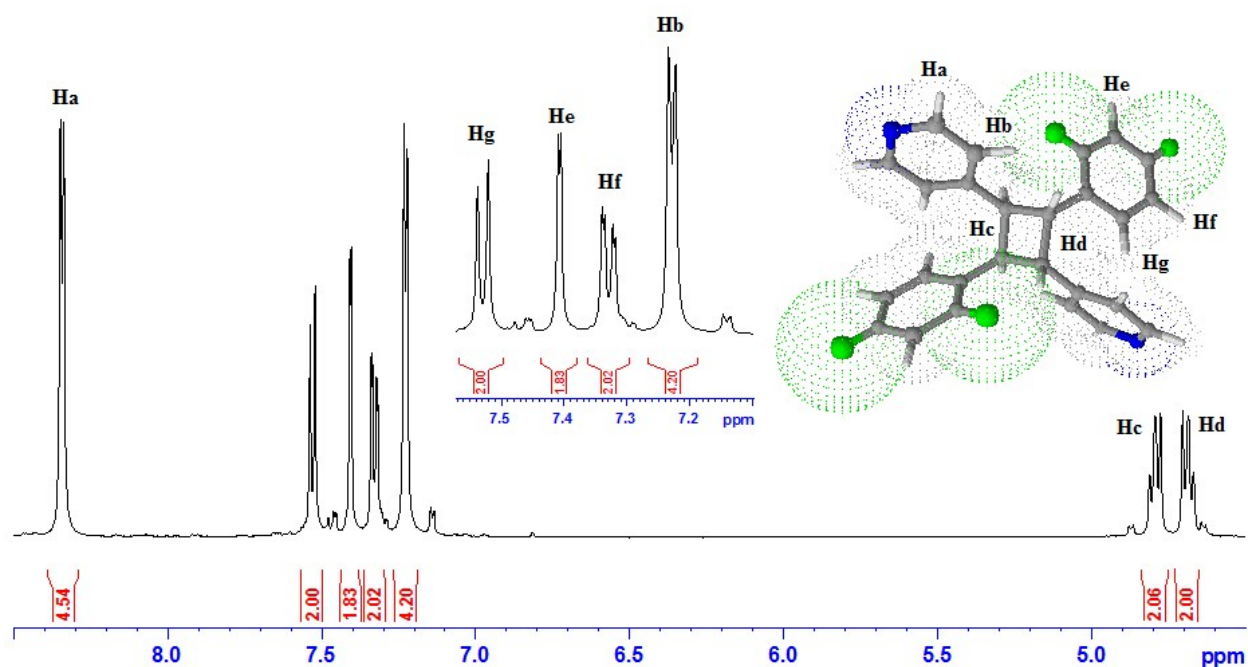
Solid-State Reactivity:

Figure S10. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of $(3\text{-Cl-HStb}^+)_2(\text{H}_2\text{bta}^{2-})$ (**1** or **9**): *rctt*-1,3-bis(3-chlorophenyl)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



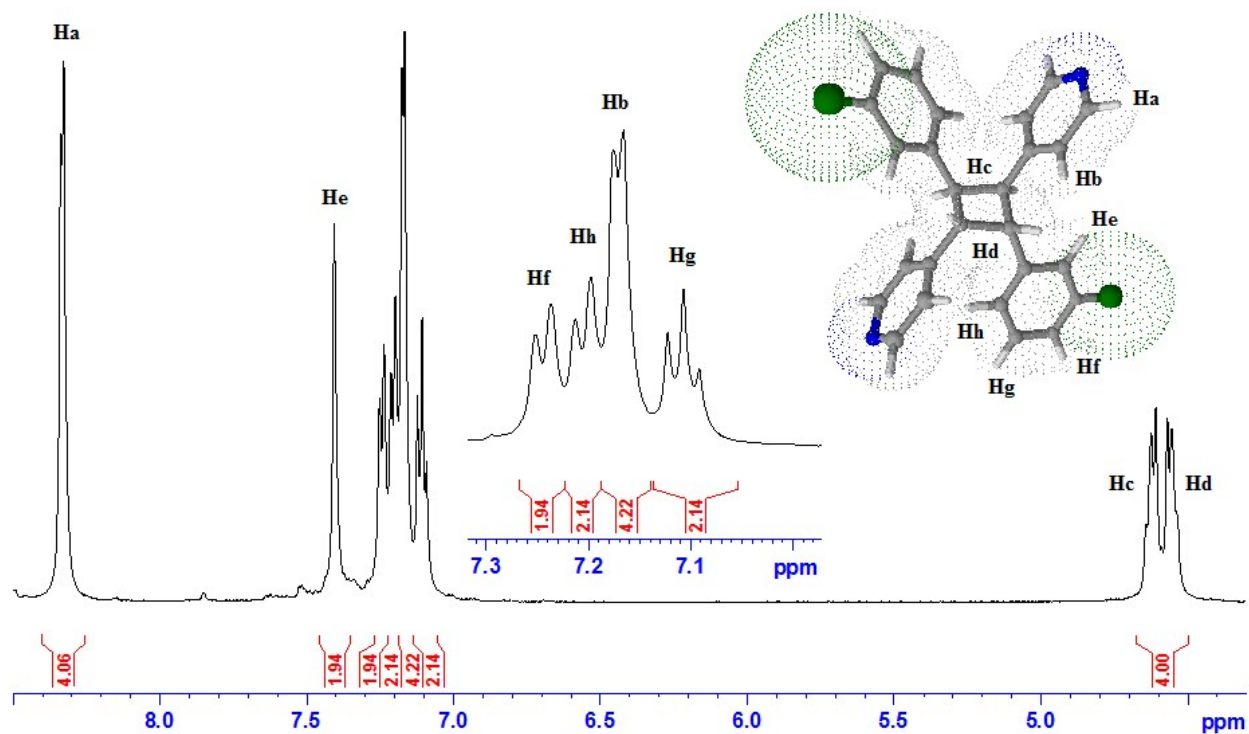
Yield: 86-90%. ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 500 MHz) δ 8.33 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 5.0$, Ha), 7.29 (s, 2H, He), 7.19 (d, 4H, $J_{ba} = 5.0$, Hb), 7.17 (m, 4H, Hf, Hh), 7.12 (m, 2H, Hg), 4.64 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.56 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of (2,4-di-Cl-HStb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (**2**): *rctt*-1,3-bis(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



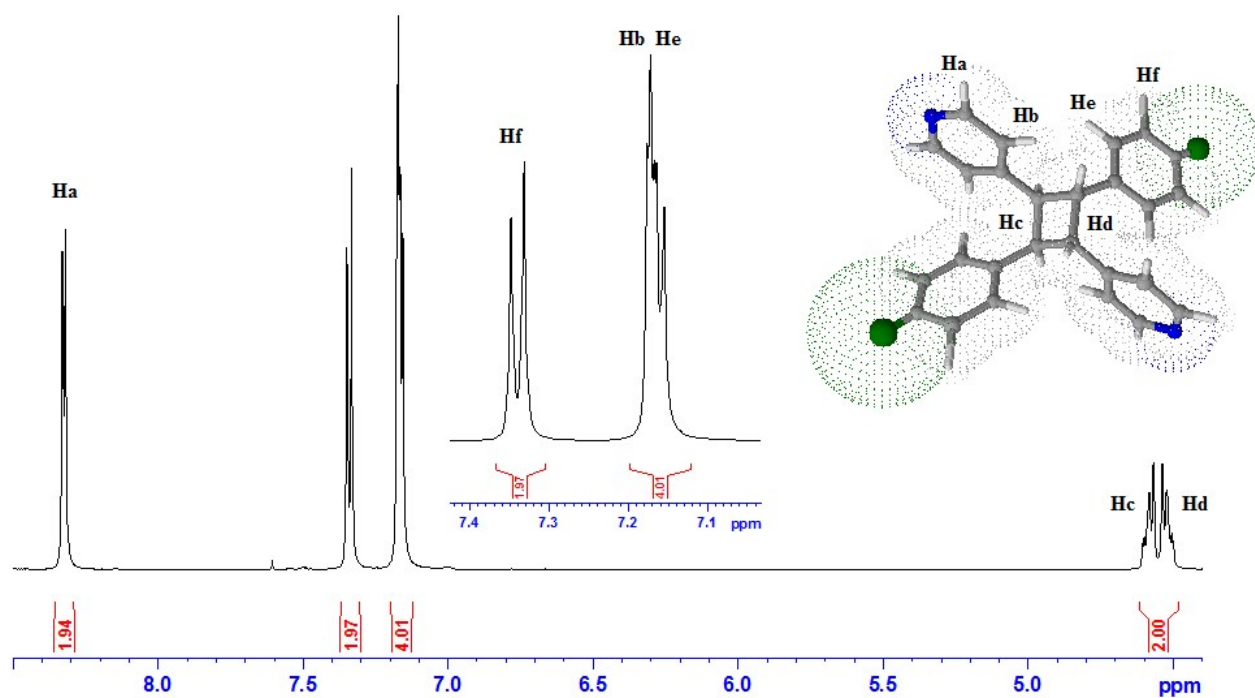
Yield: 91 %. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz) δ 8.34 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 5.8$, Ha), 7.53 (d, 2H, $J_{gf} = 8.4$, Hg), 7.41 (d, 2H, $J_{ef} = 2.0$, He), 7.33 (dd, 2H, $J_{fg} = 8.4$, $J_{fe} = 2.0$, Hf), 7.23 (d, 4H, $J_{ba} = 5.8$, Hb), 4.80 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.70 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S12. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of (3-Br-Cl-HStb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (**3**): *rctt*-1,3-bis(3-bromophenyl)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



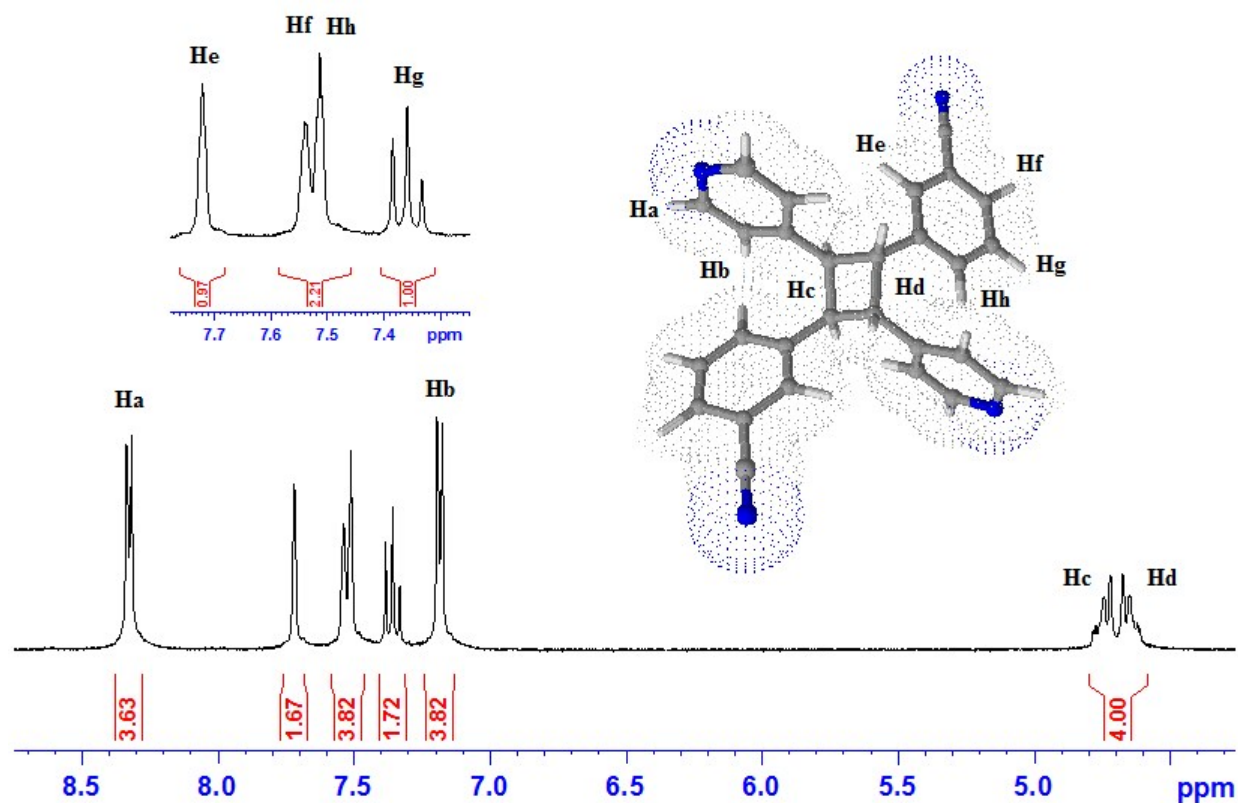
Yield: 86 %. ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO-}d_6$, 500 MHz) δ 8.33 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 4.8$, Ha), 7.41 (s, 2H, He), 7.24 (d, 2H, $J_{fg} = 7.7$, Hf), 7.20 (d, 2H, $J_{hg} = 7.7$, Hh), 7.17 (d, 4H, $J_{ba} = 4.8$, Hb), 7.11 (t, 2H, $J_{gh} = J_{gf} = 7.7$, Hg), 4.63 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.55 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S13. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of (4-Br-HStb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (**4**): *rctt*-1,3-bis(4-bromophenyl)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



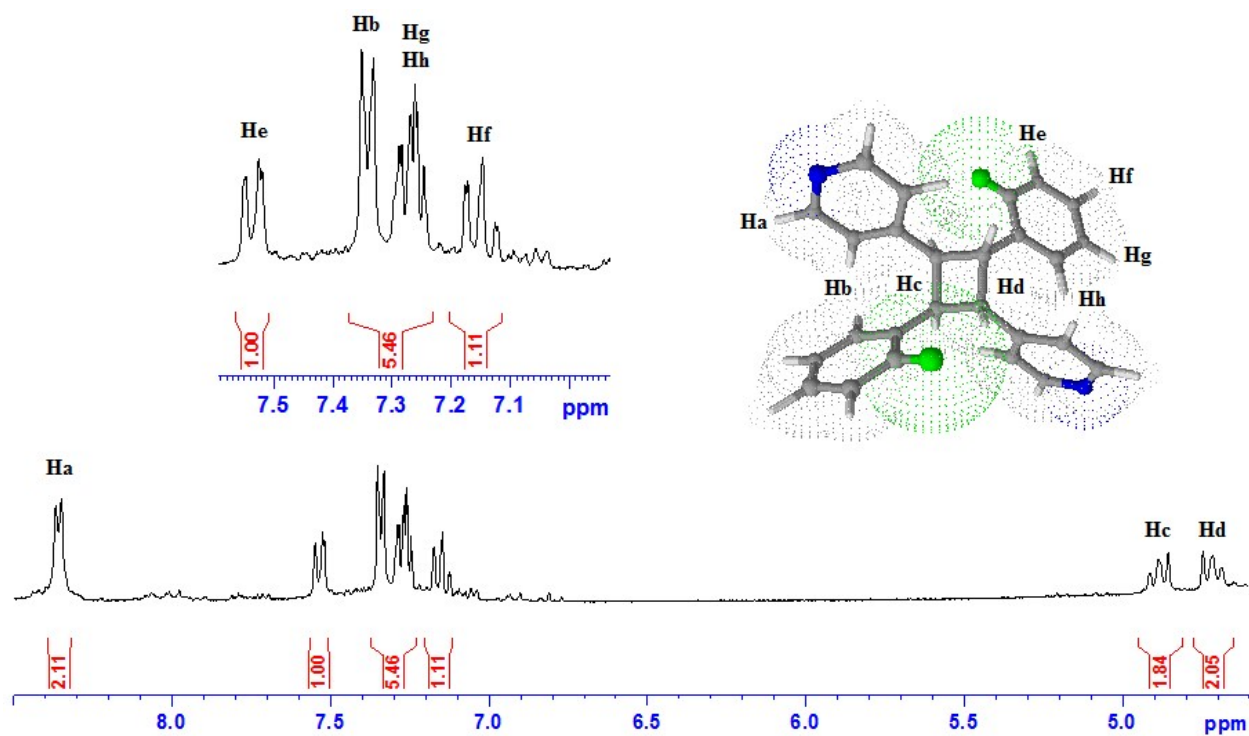
Yield: 98%. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz) δ 8.32 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 5.6$, Ha), 7.34 (d, 4H, $J_{fe} = 8.2$, Hf), 7.17 (m, 8H, Hb, He), 4.57 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.53 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of $(3\text{-CN-HStb}^+)_2$ ($\text{H}_2\text{bta}^{2-}$) (**5**): *rect*-1,3-bis(3-benzonitrile)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



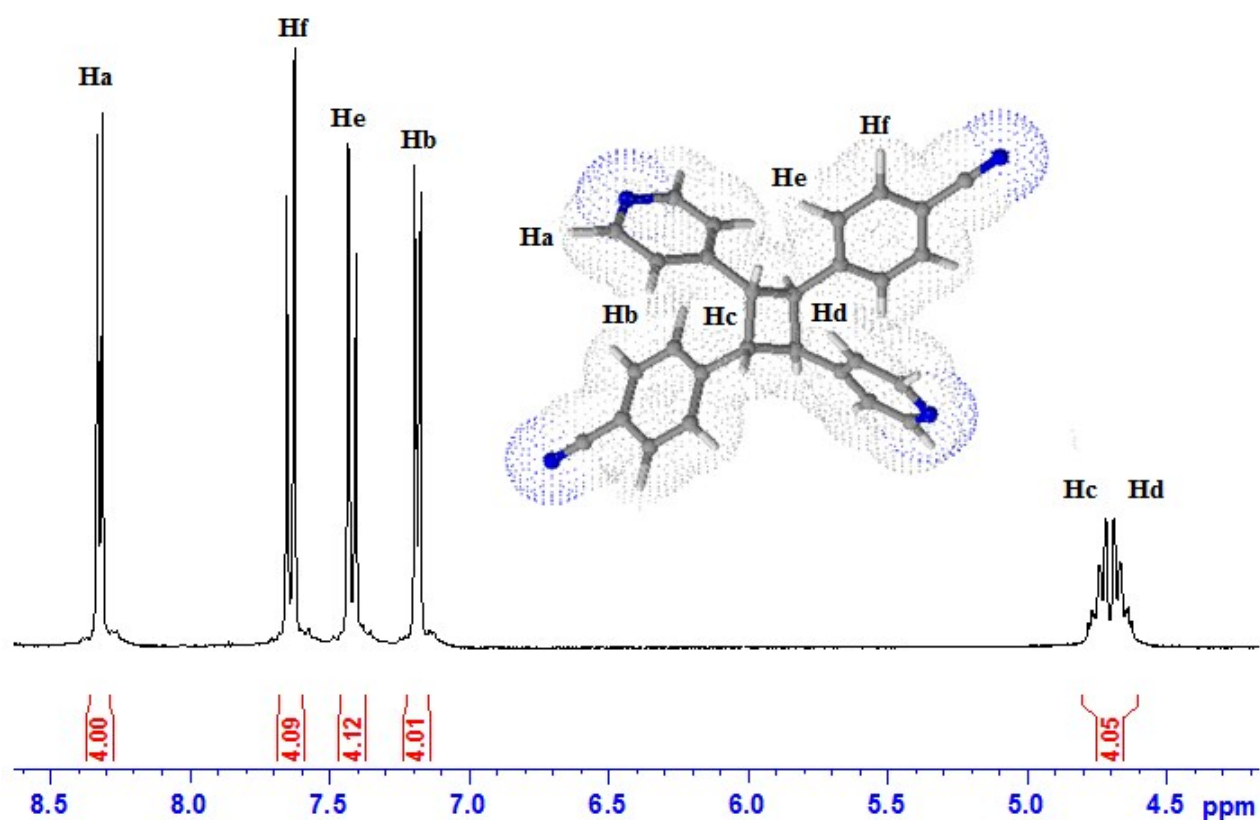
Yield: 100.00 %. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 8.33 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 5.3$, Ha), 7.72 (s, 2H, He), 7.52 (m, 4H, Hf, Hh), 7.36 (t, 2H, $J_{gf} = J_{gh} = 8.1$, Hg), 7.19 (dd, 4H, $J_{ba} = 5.3$, $J_{bb'} = 1.4$, Hb), 4.76 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.64 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S15. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of (2-Cl-HStb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (**7** or **8**): *rctt*-1,3-bis(2-chlorophenyl)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



Yield: 83-85%. ^1H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 300 MHz) δ 8.36 (d, 4H, $J_{ab} = 5.8$, Ha), 7.53 (dd, 2H, $J_{ef} = 8.0$, $J_{eg} = 2.0$, He), 7.34 (d, 4H, $J_{ba} = 5.8$, Hb), 7.27 (m, 4H, Hg, Hh), 7.16 (ddd, 2H, $J_{fg} = J_{fe} = 8.0$, $J_{fh} = 1.8$, Hf), 4.89 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.71 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S16. ^1H NMR spectrum of the photoproduct isolated from the irradiation of (4-CN-HStb $^+$) $_2$ (H $_2$ bta $^{2-}$) (**10**): *rcctt*-1,3-bis(4-benzonitrile)-2,4-bis(4-pyridyl)cyclobutane.



Yield: 100.00 %. ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 300 MHz) δ 8.32 (dd, 4H, $J_{ab} = 4.5$; $J_{ab}' = 1.5$, Ha), 7.64 (d, 4H, $J_{fe} = 8.4$, Hf), 7.42 (d, 4H, $J_{ef} = 8.4$, He), 7.18 (dd, 4H, $J_{ba} = 4.5$; $J_{ba}' = 1.5$, Hb), 4.73 (m, 2H, Hc), 4.68 (m, 2H, Hd) ppm.

Figure S17. From bottom to top: Comparative PXRD patterns simulated and experimental for compound **1** and experimental XRD pattern for compound **9** (top).

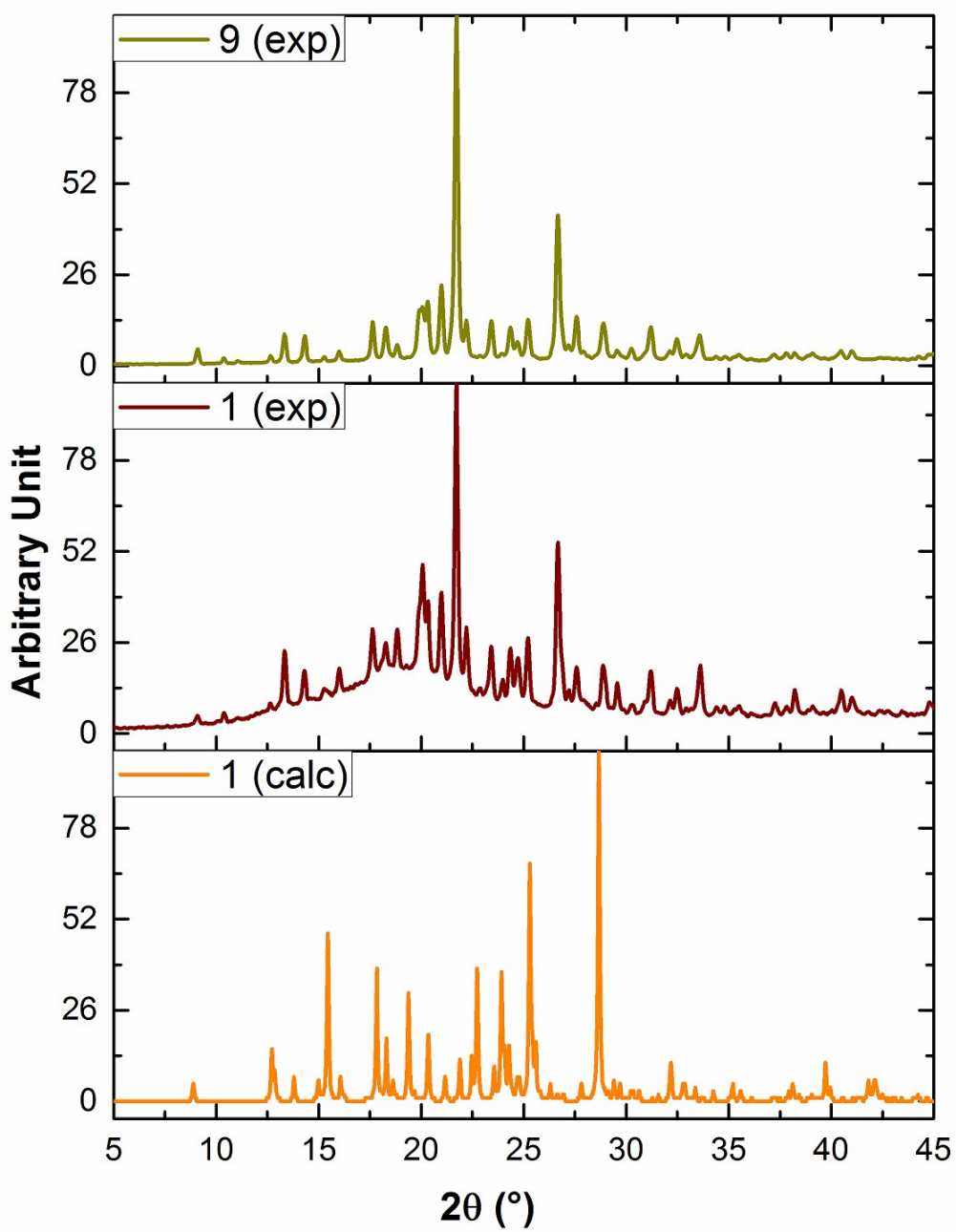


Figure S18. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound 2 (bottom).

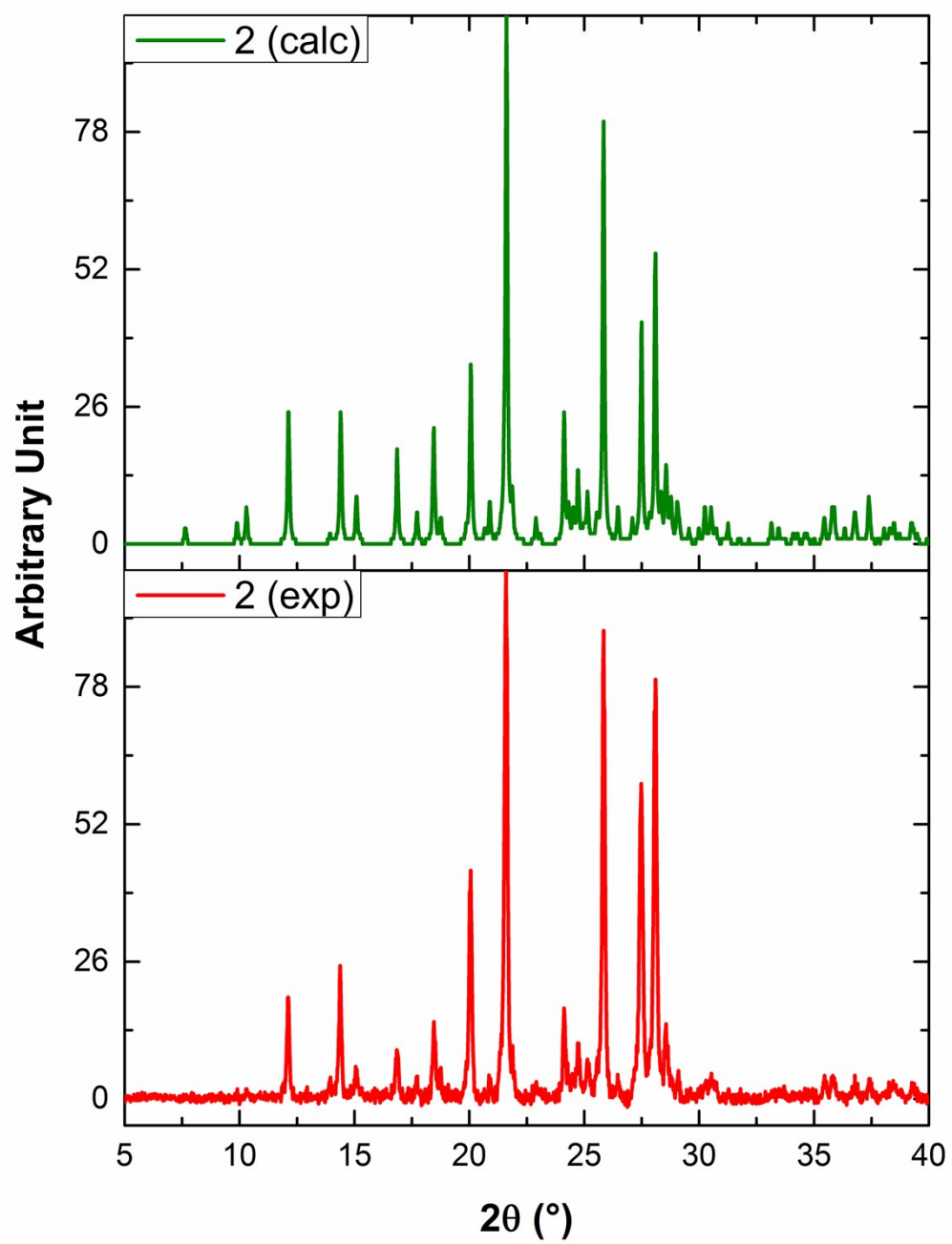


Figure S19. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **3** (bottom).

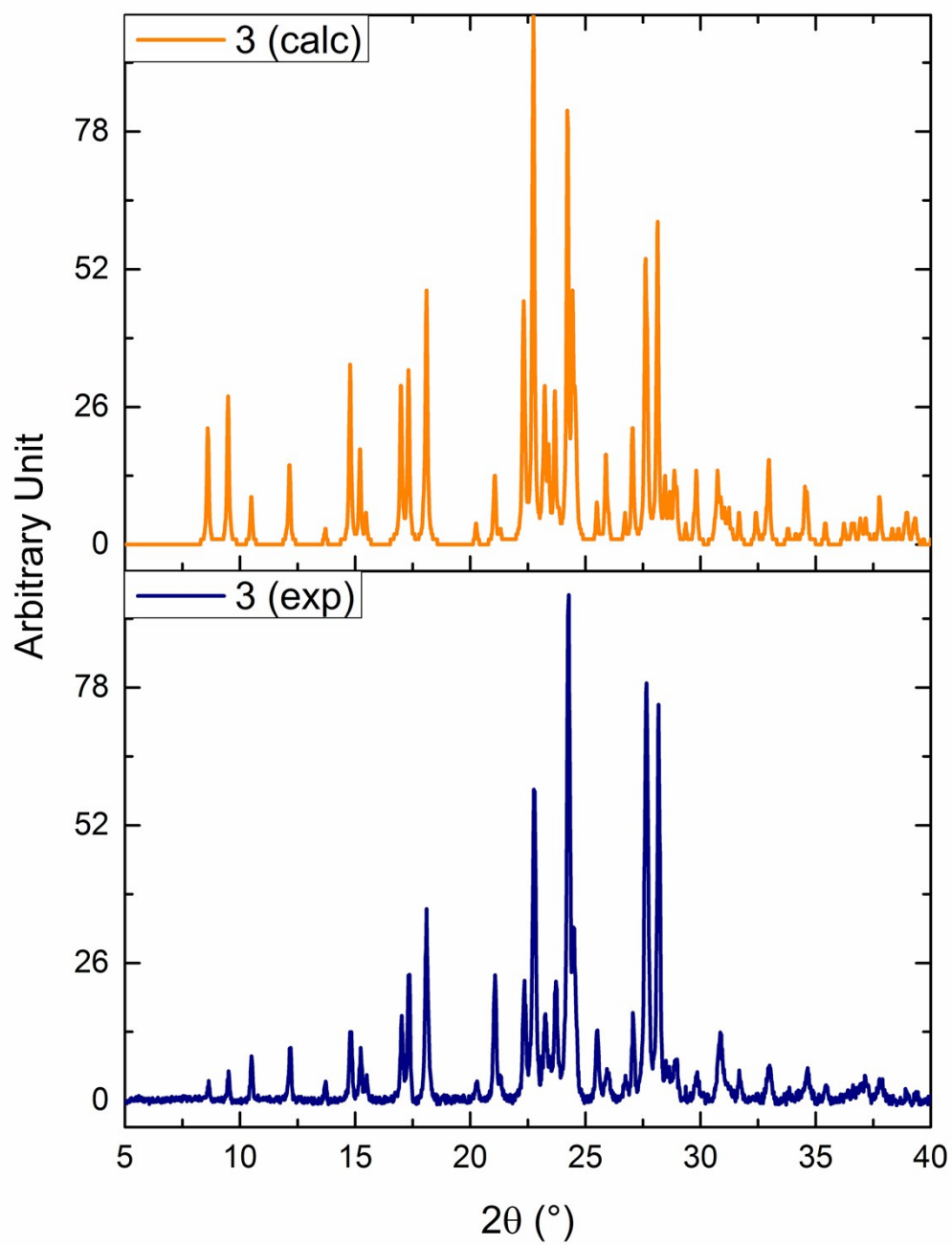


Figure S20. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **4** (bottom).

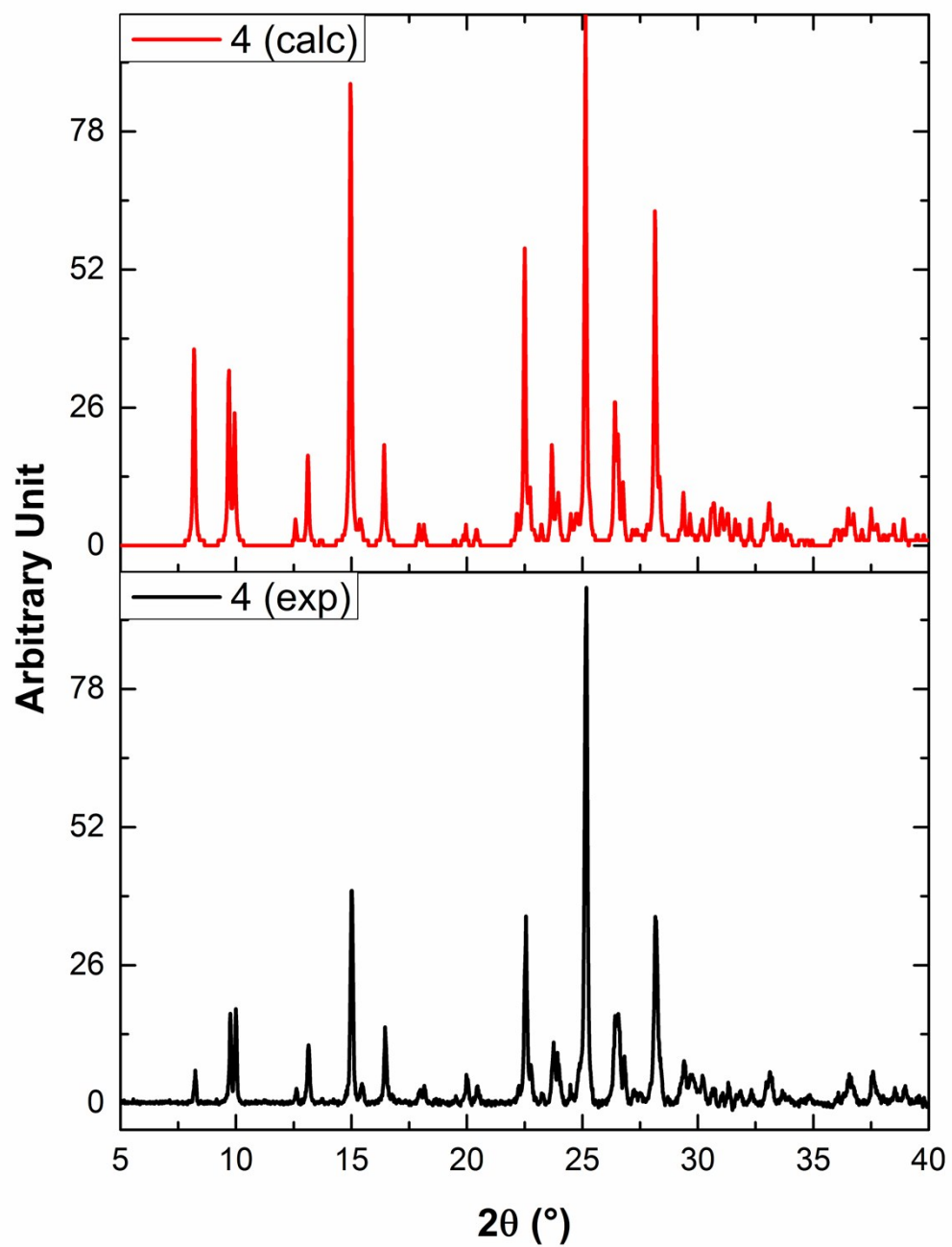


Figure S21. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **5** (bottom).

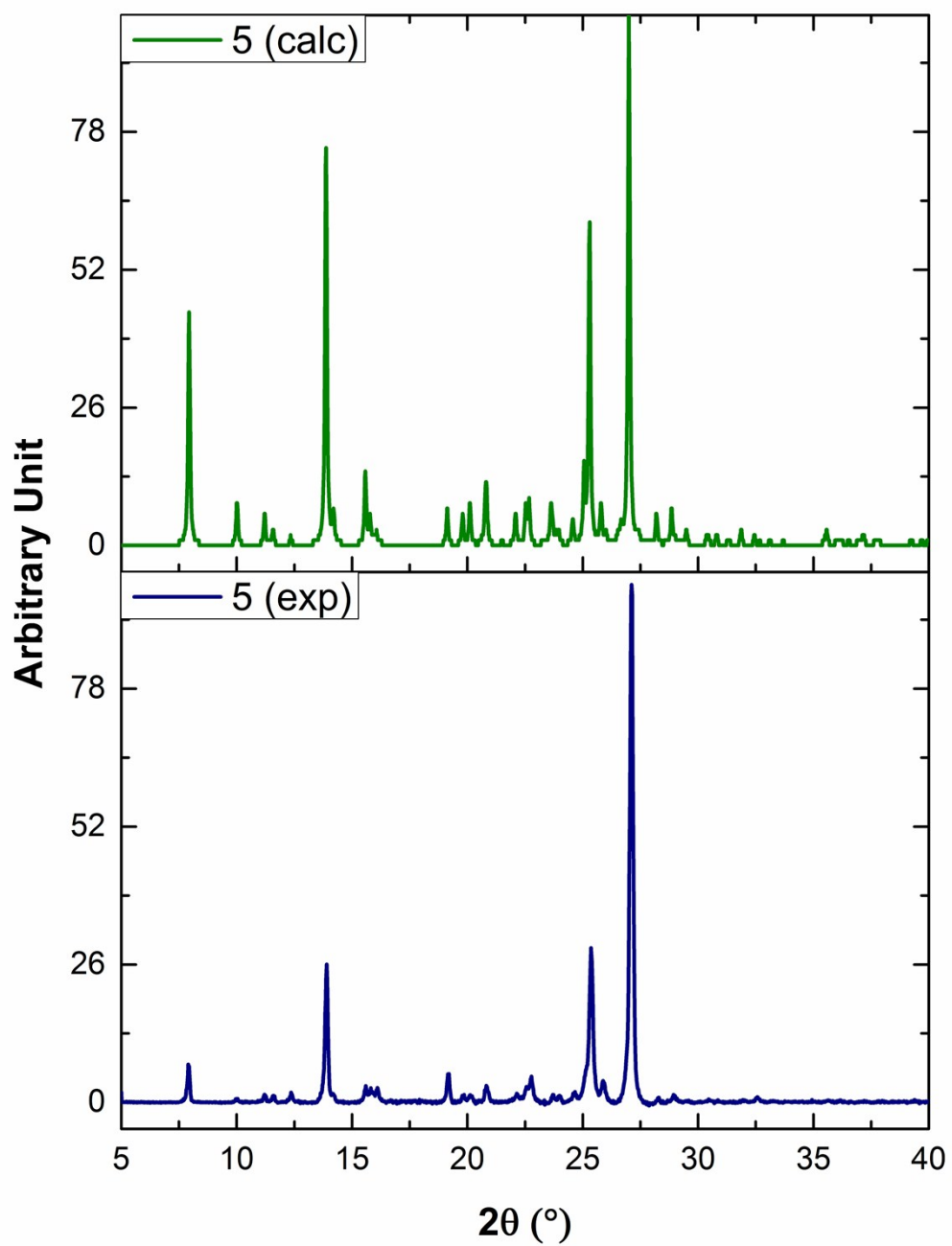


Figure S22. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **6** (bottom).

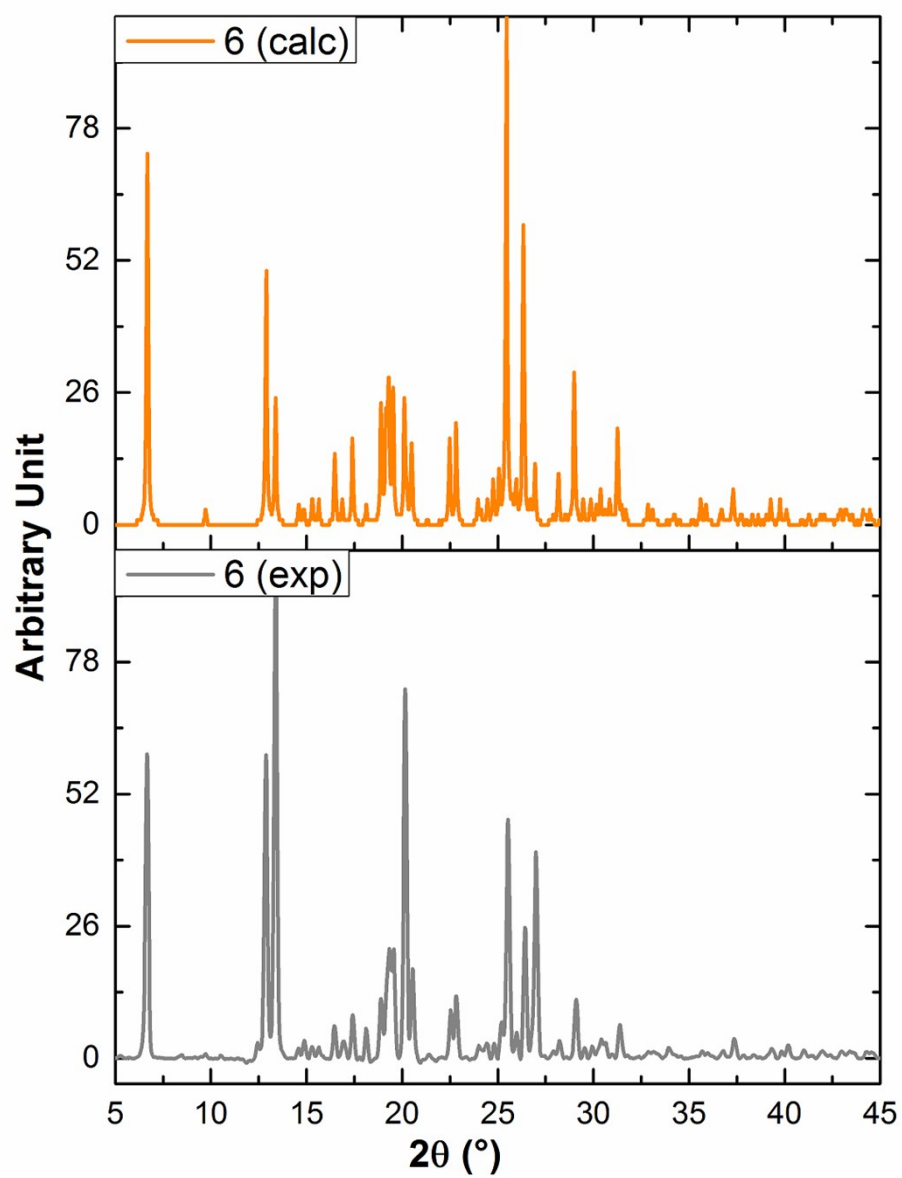


Figure S23. From bottom to top: Comparative PXRD patterns simulated and experimental for compounds **7** and **8**.

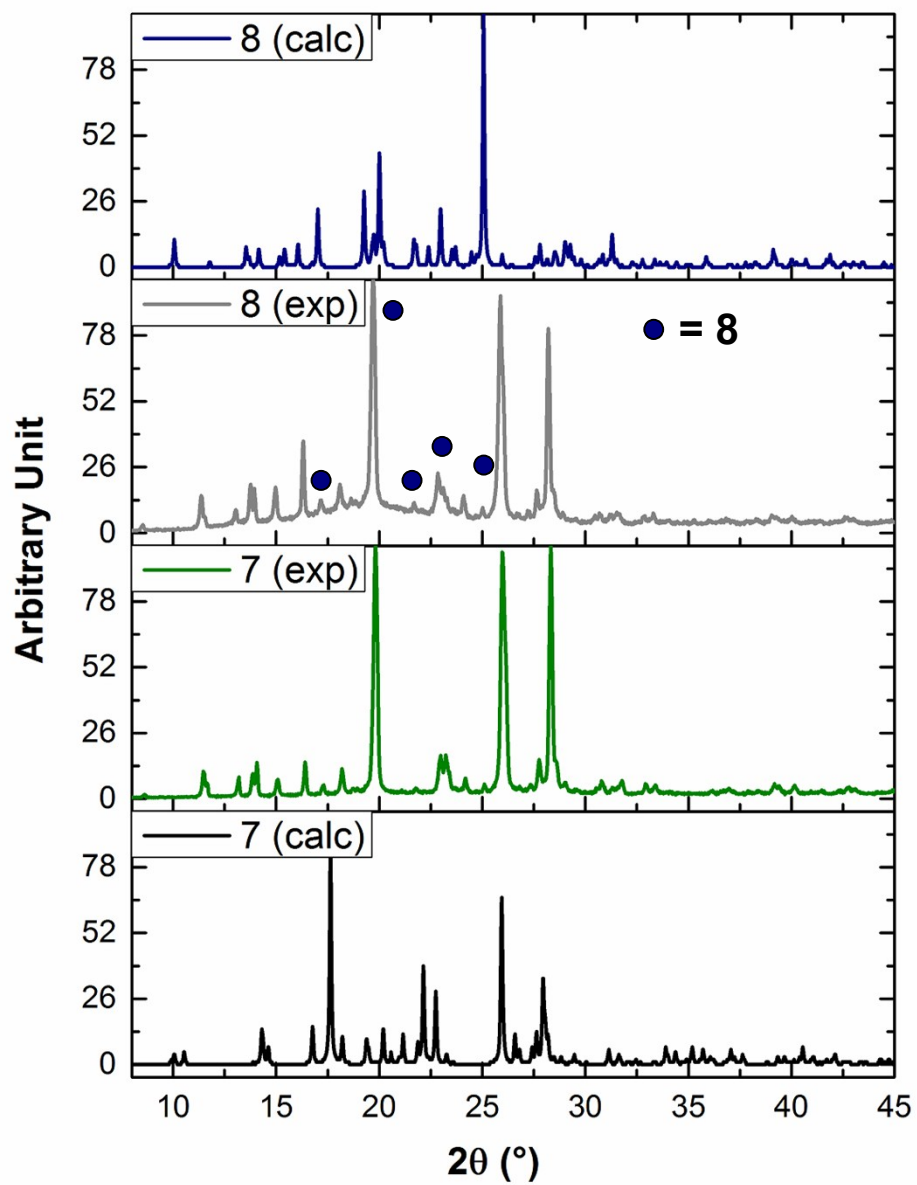


Figure S24. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **9** (bottom).

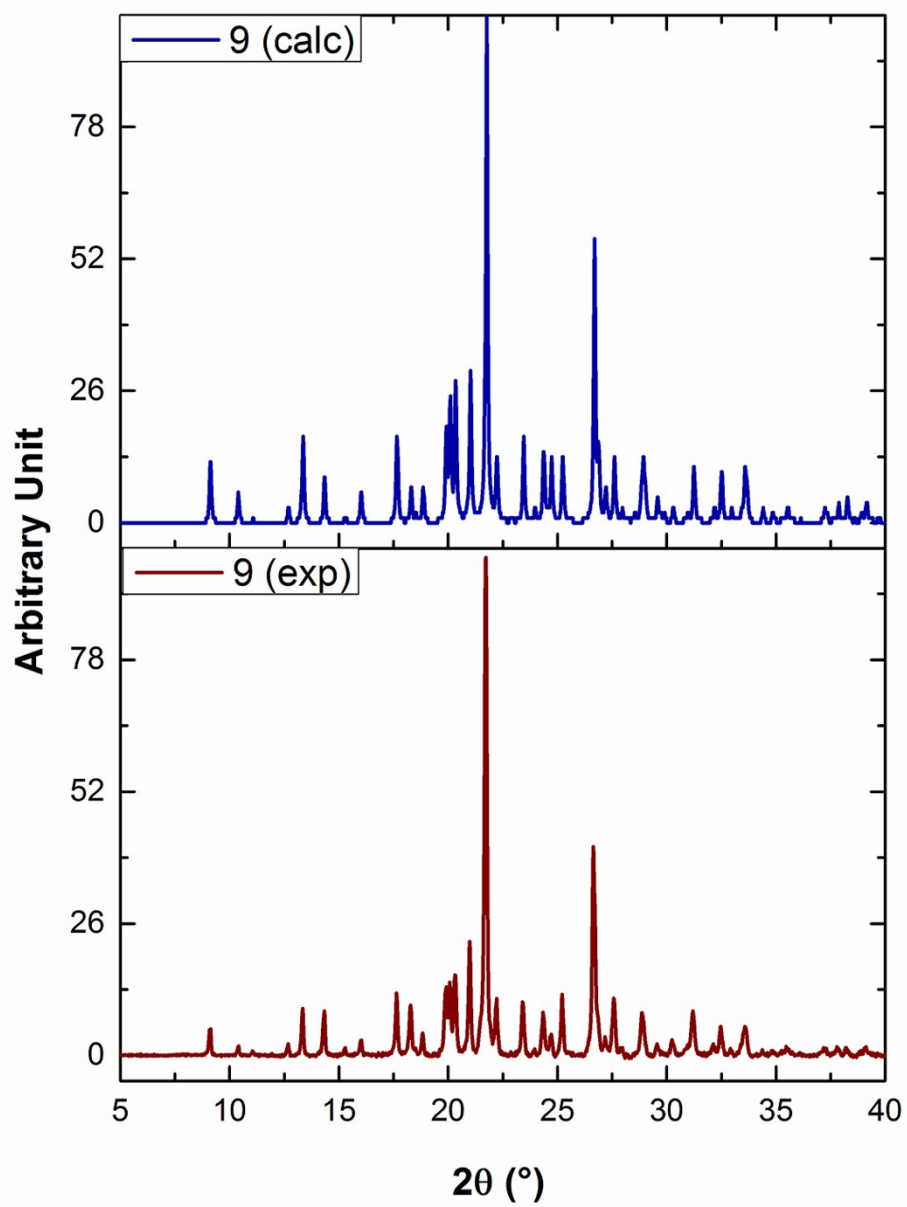


Figure S25. Comparative PXRD patterns simulated (top) and experimental for compound **10** (bottom).

