**Electronic Supplementary Information for:** 

# Spin-Orbit Charge Transfer Intersystem Crossing in the

# Perylenemonoimide-Phenothiazine Compact

# **Electron Donor-Acceptor Dyads**

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#### **1. General Information**

All the chemicals used in synthesis are analytically pure and were used as received. Solvents were dried and distilled prior to use. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on the Bruker Avance spectrometers (400 MHz or 500 MHz). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS, with the residual solvent peak used as an internal reference. The mass spectra were measured by HRMS (MALDI-TOF) and HRMS (EI).

The fluorescence spectra of compounds were recorded on a RF-5301PC spectrofluorometer (Shimadzu, Japan) at room temperature. In the comparison of the fluorescence intensity of different solutions, optically matched solution of compounds were sued, i.e. the absorbance of compounds at the excitation wavelength were adjusted to be the same, in order to eliminate the effect of fluorescence intensity caused by the difference in the absorbance of compounds. The fluorescence quantum yields were measured with the relative method, i.e. **BDP-1** was used as standard (molecular structure was shown in Scheme S1.  $\Phi_F = 4.4\%$  in toluene). In some cases **BDP** was used as standard for the fluorescence quantum yield measurement ( $\Phi_F = 72\%$  in THF). Luminescence lifetimes were measured on an OB920 luminescence lifetime instrument (Edinburgh Instruments, U.K.), equipped with EPL picosecond pulsed laser and TCSPC detection modules.

The radiative rate constant ( $k_r$ ) and non-radiative rate constant ( $k_{nr}$ ) of compounds were calculated using the following equation S1 and S2, based on the *fluorescence* of the charge transfer state (CT emission):

$$k_{\rm r} = \frac{\Phi_{\rm F}}{\tau}$$
(S1)  
$$k_{\rm nr} = (1 - \Phi_{\rm F})/\tau$$
(S2)

In the above equations,  $\Phi_F$  is the fluorescence quantum yield and  $\tau$  is the fluorescence lifetime of the compound.

Singlet oxygen quantum yields  $(\Phi_{\Delta})$  of compounds were measured with 1,3diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) as singlet oxygen scavenger. By following the absorption ( $\lambda_{max} =$  414 nm) of DPBF, the <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> production was monitored. For calculation of singlet oxygen quantum yield ( $\Phi_{\Delta}$ ), the following equation S3 was used:

$$\Phi_{\rm sam} = \Phi_{\rm std} \left( \frac{1 - 10^{-A_{\rm std}}}{1 - 10^{-A_{\rm sam}}} \right) \left( \frac{m_{\rm sam}}{m_{\rm std}} \right) \left( \frac{\eta_{\rm sam}}{\eta_{\rm std}} \right)^2$$
(S3)

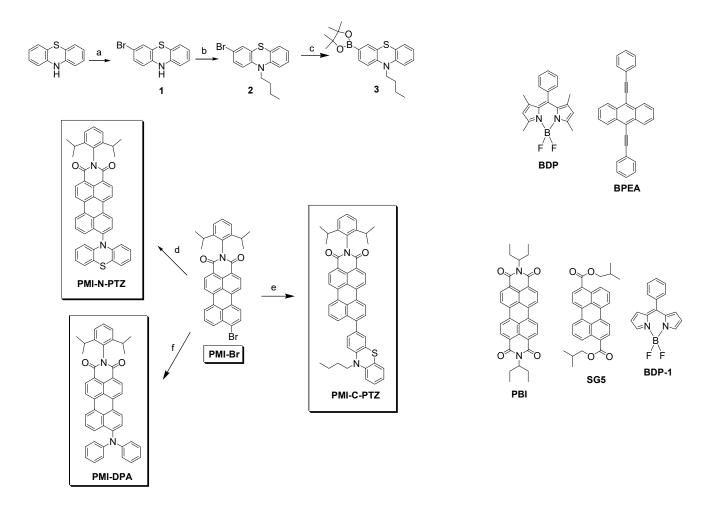
In the above equation, "std" and "sam" stands for standard and sample.  $\eta$ , A,  $\Phi$  and m stands for refractive index of the solvent, absorbance at excitation wavelength, singlet oxygen quantum yield and slope of the absorbance of DPBF changing with time, respectively. For measurement,

optically matched solutions of sample and standard were used. DiiodoBodipy was used as standard  $(\Phi_{\Delta} = 85\% \text{ in toluene})$  for the measurement of the singlet oxygen quantum yield.

The nanosecond transient absorption spectra were measured on an LP980 laser flash photolysis spectrometer (Edinburgh Instruments, UK). The samples were excited with a nanosecond pulsed laser (Opolette 355II+UV nanosecond pulsed laser, the wavelength is tunable in the range of 200–2200 nm, OPOTEK, USA) and the signal was digitized with a Tektronix TDS 3012B oscilloscope. Each sample was purged with N<sub>2</sub> in 15min before measurement.

#### 2. Syntheses of the Compounds

#### Scheme S1. Synthesis of PMI Derivatives<sup>a</sup>



<sup>*a*</sup>Key: (a) NBS, THF, ice bath, 1 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, yield: 20%; (b) *n*-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Br, KOH, dry DMF, RT, overnight, under N<sub>2</sub>, yield: 88%; (c) bis(pinacolato)diboron, AcOK, Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>.CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 1,4-dioxane, 80 °C, 18 h, yield: 45%; (d) phenothiazine, tri-*tert*-butylphosphine, sodium *tert*-butoxide, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>, dry toluene, 80 °C, 8 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, yield: 61%; (e) compound **3**, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O, 80 °C, 3 h, under N<sub>2</sub>, yield: 42%; (f) diphenylamine, similar to step (d), yield: 55%.

Compound PMI-N-PTZ. Compound PMI-Br (100 mg, 0.18 mmol), phenothiazine (42.6 mg, 0.21 mmol) and sodium tert-butoxide (51.3 mg, 0.53 mmol) were mixed together with dry toluene (5 mL) in a 25 mL two-necked round bottom flask under N2 atmosphere. Then Pd2(dba)3 (8.1 mg, 0.01 mmol) and tri-tert-butyl phosphine (4.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C under N<sub>2</sub> for 9 h. Water (5 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) were added after the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaCl solution (3 × 30 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/ $CH_2Cl_2 = 2:3$ , v/v) to give a dark brown solid (74.2 mg, yield: 61%). Mp: > 250 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.74 (t, 3H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.58 (m, 3H), 8.27 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.85 (d, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.67 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.51 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.35 (d, 2H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.09 (d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.83 (t, 4H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.20 (d, 2H, J = 4.0Hz), 2.82–2.75 (m, 2H), 1.20 (d, 12H, J = 4.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$ 163.91, 163.90, 145.73, 143.55, 137.13, 136.71, 132.21, 132.08, 130.10, 130.94, 130.50, 130.26, 130.11, 130.07, 129.51, 128.43, 127.09, 126.96, 126.85, 126.59, 124.56, 124.34, 124.05, 122.94, 121.68, 121.45, 121.00, 120.75, 120.19, 115.79, 31.59, 29.17, 24.04, 22.66, 14.11. HRMS (MALDI-TOF): Calcd ( $[C_{46}H_{34}N_2O_2S]^+$ ), m/z =678.2341; found, m/z = 678.2353.

**Compound PMI-C-PTZ.** Compound **PMI-Br** (100 mg, 0.18 mmol), 10-butyl-3-(4,4,5-trimethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-10H-phenothiazine (81.5 mg, 0.22 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (89.0 mg, 0.64 mmol), DMF (5 mL) and water (0.5 mL) were mixed together in a 25 mL two-necked round bottom flask under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. After bubbling, the Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (10.3 mg, 0.01 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C under N<sub>2</sub> for 3 h. Water (30 mL) was added after the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 50 mL). The organic layers were combined and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> = 1:10, v/v) to give a dark red solid (55.1 mg, yield: 42%). Mp: 241–243.3 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.66

(d, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 8.48–8.44 (m, 4H), 8.07 (d, 1H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.61 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 7.55 (d, 1H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.49 (t, 1H, J = 4.0 Hz), 7.35–7.30 (m, 4H), 7.19 (d, 2H, J = 4.0 Hz), 6.99 (d, 3H, J = 32.0 Hz), 4.08 (s, 2H), 2.81–2.76 (m, 2H), 1.87 (s, 2H), 1.55–1.52 (m, 2H), 1.20 (d, 12H, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.02 (t, 3H, J = 4.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  163.98, 145.73, 137.71, 137.48, 132.00, 131.11, 130.53, 129.48, 129.41, 128.96, 127.37, 127.07, 126.96, 124.00, 123.94, 123.54, 120.97, 120.30, 120.06, 115.75, 29.76, 29.14, 24.03, 20.27, 13.93. HRMS (MALDI-TOF): Calcd ([C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S]<sup>-</sup>), m/z = 734.2967; found, m/z = 734.2964.

**Compound PMI-DPA.** Compound **PMI-Br** (100 mg, 0.18 mmol), diphenylamine (36.2 mg, 0.21 mmol) and sodium *tert*-butoxide (51.3 mg, 0.53 mmol) were mixed together with dry toluene (5 mL) in a 25 mL two-necked round bottom flask under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Then Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (8.1 mg, 0.01 mmol) and tri*-tert*-butyl phosphine (4.4 mg, 0.02 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C under N<sub>2</sub> for 9 h. Water (4 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) were added after the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature. The organic layer was washed with saturated NaCl solution (3 × 30 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> = 1:3) to give a dark purple solid (64.0 mg, yield: 55%). Mp: > 250 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.66 (s, 2H), 8.55 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 8.13 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.58–7.52 (m, 2H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.40 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.33 (t, 4H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.14–7.06 (m, 6H), 2.83–2.77 (m, 2H), 1.19 (d, 12H, *J* = 8.0 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz):  $\delta$  164.01, 148.37, 147.07, 145.74, 137.62, 137.44, 132.13, 132.04, 131.39, 131.10, 130.62, 129.82, 129.43, 127.64, 127.40, 127.13, 126.79, 126.65, 124.73, 124.16, 123.99, 122.95, 122.83, 121.04, 120.53, 120.22, 119.89, 31.59, 29.12, 24.03, 22.65, 14.11. HRMS (MALDI-TOF): Calcd ([C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>36</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>), *m/z* = 648.2777; found, *m/z* = 648.2759.

**Compound 1.** Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, the phenothiazine (2.0 g, 10.0 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (20 mL) in a double-necked round-bottomed flask. Then NBS (1.8 g, 10.0 mmol) was also dissolved in dry THF (20 mL) and added dropwise over 1 h with an additional funnel. The reaction mixture was stirred

under the ice bath and quenched by water (40 mL) after the addition of NBS was completed. The aqueous layer was extracted by DCM (3 × 50 mL). The organic layer was combined and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, *n*-hexane/ethyl acetate = 8:1) to give a light green solid (555 mg, yield 19.9%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.71 (s, 1H), 7.15–7.11 (m, 2H), 7.02–6.98 (m, 1H), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.78–6.75 (m, 1H), 6.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.61 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz). HRMS (ESI): Calcd ([C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrNS – H]<sup>-</sup>), *m/z* = 276.9561; found, *m/z* = 275.9483.

**Compound 2.** Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, the mixture of **1** (1.0 g, 3.6 mmol), anhydrous potassium hydroxide (303 mg, 5.4 mmol) and dry DMF (5 mL) were added and stirred at 0 °C for 10 min. Then 1-bromobutane (0.47 mL, 4.3 mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture and stirred at room temperature for 13 h. After the reaction was finished (monitored via TLC), the mixture was poured to the ice water (30 mL) and extracted with DCM (3 × 30 mL). Organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether) to give a yellow oil (1.06 g, yield 88%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ 7.23–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.16–7.09 (m, 2H), 6.93 (t, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 3.80 (s, 2H), 1.79–1.71 (m, 2H), 1.48–1.39 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, 3H, *J* = 8.0 Hz). HRMS (EI): Calcd ([C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>BrNS]<sup>+</sup>), *m/z* = 333.0187; found, *m/z* = 333.0191.

**Compound 3.** Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, the mixture of **2** (333 mg, 1 mmol), bis(pinacolato)diboron (381 mg, 1.5 mmol), potassium acetate (245 mg, 2.5 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl<sub>2</sub>.CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (24.5 mg, 0.03 mmol) and dry 1,4-dioxane (10 mL) were added and stirred at 80 °C for 18 h. Then the reaction mixture was cooled to the room temperature, poured to the ice water (20 mL) and extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 30$  mL). Organic layer was washed with water ( $2 \times 100$  mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified with column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether: DCM = 3:2) to give a yellow oil (170 mg, yield 45%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$ 7.49–7.47 (m, 1H), 7.33 (d, 1H, *J*=4.0 Hz), 7.22–7.18 (m, 1H), 7.15–7.12 (m, 1H), 7.04 (t, 2H, *J*=8.0

Hz), 6.97 (t, 1H, J = 8.0 Hz), 3.90 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.69–1.62 (m, 2H), 1.43–1.34 (m, 2H), 1.27 (s, 12H), 0.88 (t, 3H, J = 8.0 Hz). HRMS (EI): Calcd ([C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>28</sub>BNO<sub>2</sub>S]<sup>+</sup>), m/z = 381.1934; found, m/z = 381.1940.

### 3. Molecular Structure Characterization Data

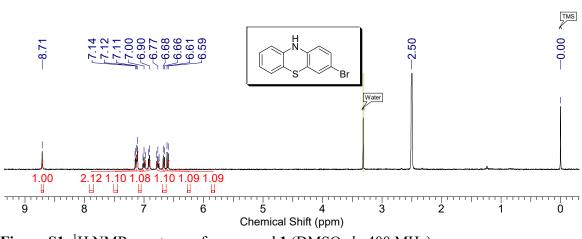


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 1 (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz).

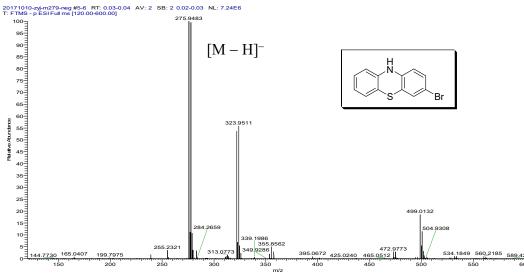


Figure S2. ESI-HRMS spectrum of compound 1.

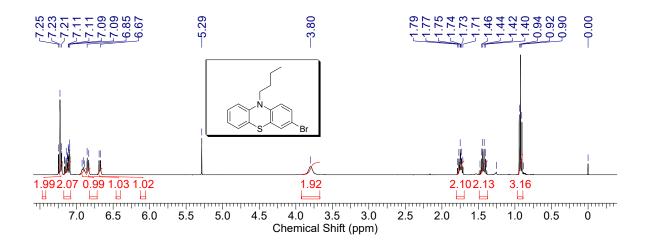


Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 2 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).

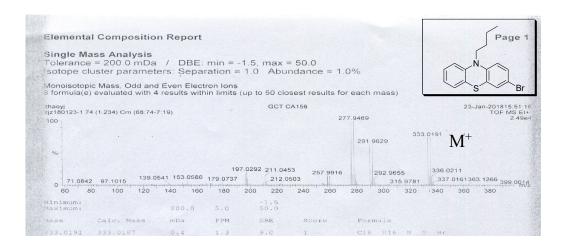


Figure S4. TOF-HRMS spectrum of compound 2.

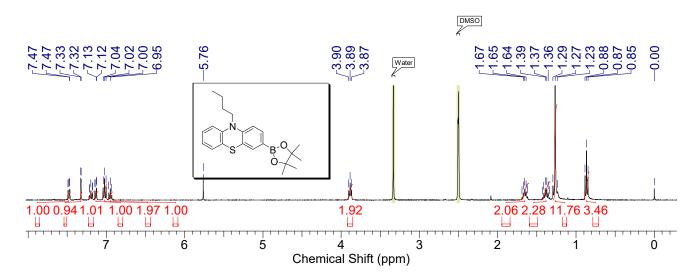


Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 3. (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz).

Elemental Composition	n Report				Page 1
Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 200.0 mDa sotope cluster paramete			1.0%		~₽-0, /
Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and 39 formula(e) evaluated with		s (up to 50 closest resu	ults for each mass	3	0×
zhaoyj ⊴jz180123-2 601 (10.002) Cm (601∋ 100⊐	640-59:136)	GCT CA156		381.1940	Jan-201815:56:5 TOF MS EI 1.94e
1			324.1226 338.1	382 M <sup>+</sup>	
%-					
	223.03 1.5573 198.0373	24.0357 86 238.0511 266.0813	323.1282 339 340		414.4176
80 100 120 140			300 320 340		420 440 m
dinimum: daximum:	200.0 5.0	-1.5 50.0			
Mass Calc. Mass	mDa PPM	DBE Score	Formula		
381 1940 381 1934	0.6 1.6	10.0 1	C22 H28	B N 02 S	

Figure S6. TOF-HRMS spectrum of compound 3.

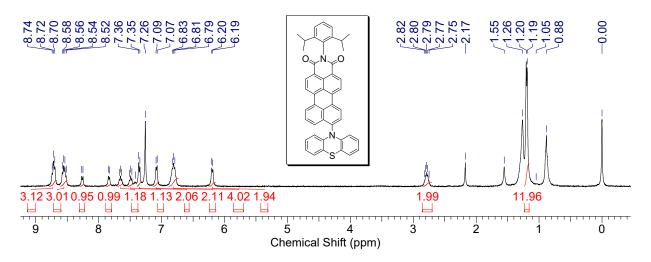


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound PMI-N-PTZ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).

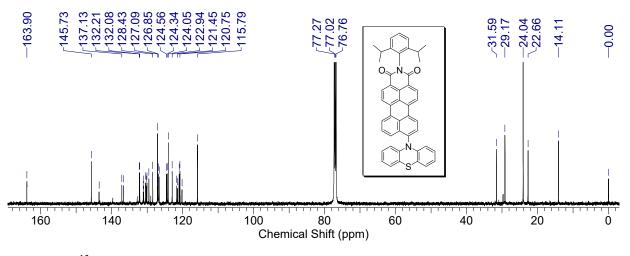


Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PMI-N-PTZ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz).

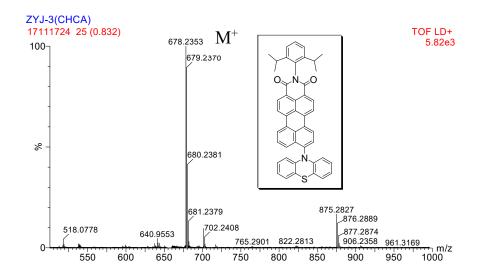


Figure S9. MALDI-HRMS spectrum of PMI-N-PTZ.

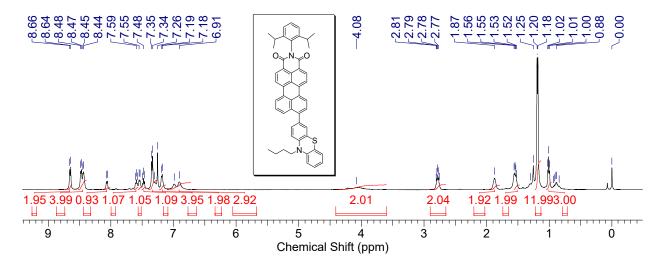


Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PMI-C-PTZ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).

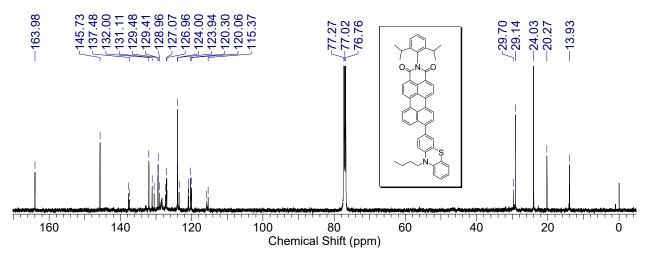


Figure S11. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PMI-C-PTZ (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz).

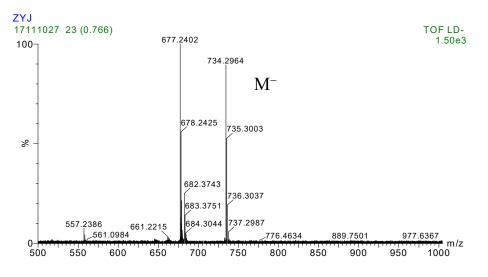


Figure S12. MALDI-HRMS spectrum of PMI-C-PTZ.

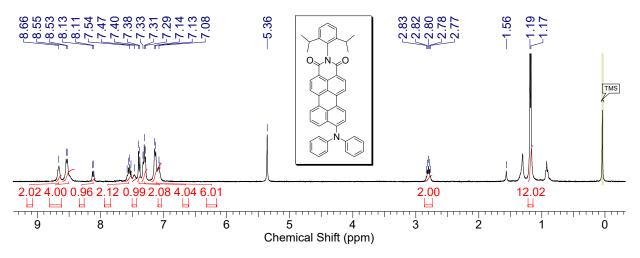


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PMI-DPA (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz).

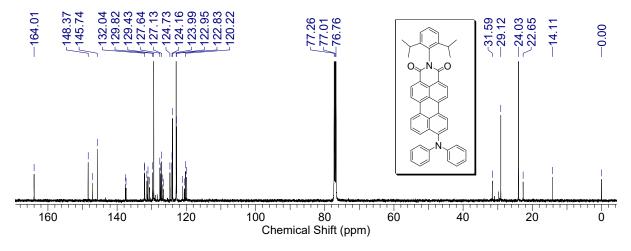


Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of PMI-DPA (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 126 MHz).

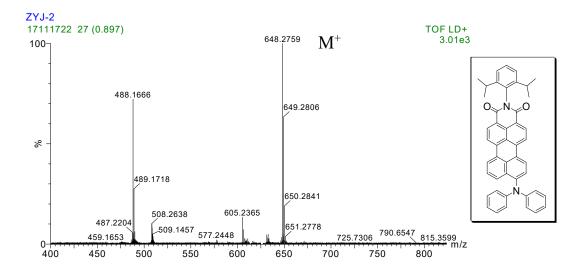


Figure S15. MALDI-HRMS spectrum of PMI-DPA.

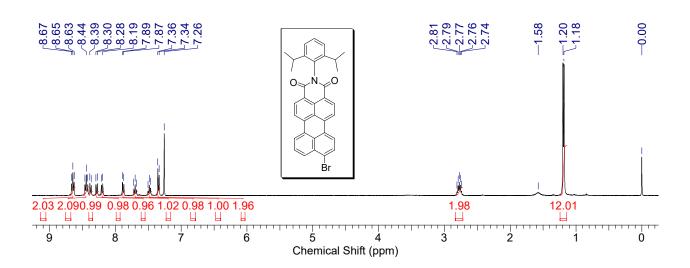


Figure S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of PMI-Br (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz).

## 4. UV–Vis Absorption Spectra

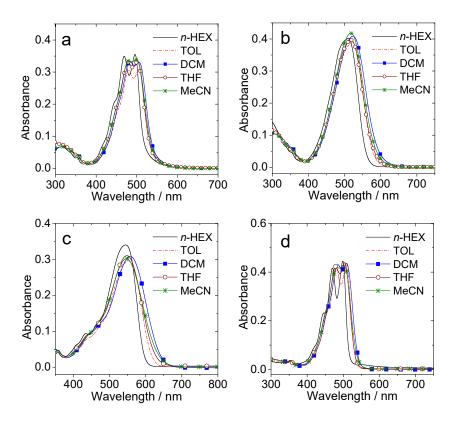
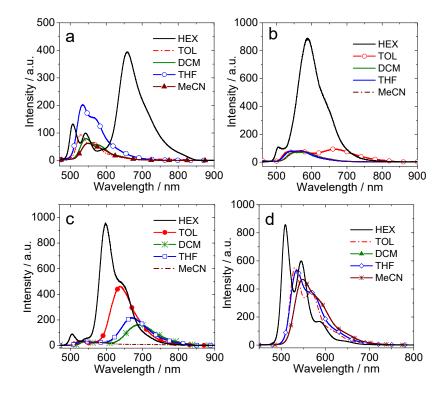


Figure S17. UV–Vis absorption spectra of (a) PMI-N-PTZ; (b) PMI-C-PTZ; (c) PMI-DPA and (d) PMI-Br in different solvents.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.

#### 5. Fluorescence Spectra



**Figure S18.** Fluorescence emission spectra of (a) **PMI-N-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 465 \text{ nm}$ , A = 0.302); (b) **PMI-C-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 450 \text{ nm}$ , A = 0.104); (c) **PMI-DPA** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 460 \text{ nm}$ , A = 0.101) and (d) **PMI-Br** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 440 \text{ nm}$ , A = 0.160) in different solvents. Optically matched solutions were used (the concentration is varied slightly for the compounds). 20 °C.

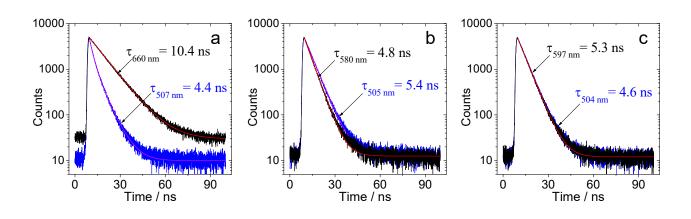


Figure S19. The fluorescence decays of (a) PMI-N-PTZ; (b) PMI-C-PTZ; (c) PMI-DPA.  $\lambda_{ex} = 445$  nm.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M for PMI-N-PTZ and PMI-C-PTZ, and  $c = 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M for PMI-DPA in deaerated *n*-hexane. 20 °C.

#### 6. Singlet Oxygen Quantum Yield

 Table S1. Singlet Oxygen Quantum Yields of PMI Derivatives in Different Solvents<sup>a</sup>

	<i>n</i> -Hexane	Toluene	DCM	THF	MeCN
PMI-N-PTZ	57.3	14.0	b	_ <i>b</i>	_ <i>b</i>
PMI-C-PTZ	6.5	13.6	_ <i>b</i>	< 1.0	1.0
PMI-DPA	_ <i>b</i>	< 1.0	< 1.0	_ <i>b</i>	1.2
PMI-Br	14.8	21.9	11.5	17.3	23.0

<sup>*a*</sup> In percentage,  $\lambda_{ex} = 500$  nm. DiiodoBodipy was used as standard compound,  $\Phi_{\Delta} = 85\%$  in toluene. <sup>*b*</sup> Not observed.



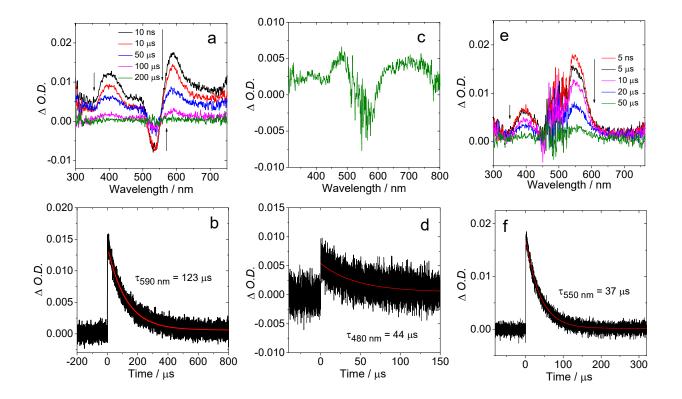
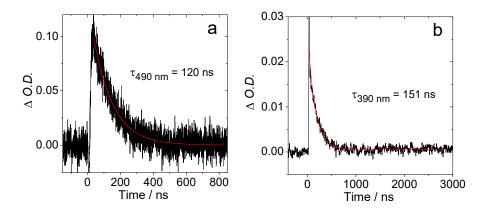


Figure S20. Nanosecond transient absorption spectra of (a) PMI-C-PTZ ( $\lambda_{ex} = 532 \text{ nm}, c = 2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ in deaerated toluene) and (b) the related decay trace at 590 nm; (c) PMI-DPA ( $\lambda_{ex} = 532 \text{ nm}, c = 6.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  in deaerated *n*-hexane) and (d) the related decay trace at 480 nm. (e) PMI-Br ( $\lambda_{ex} = 532 \text{ nm}, c = 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$  in deaerated acetonitrile) and (f) the related decay trace at 550 nm. 20 °C.



**Figure S21.** The decay trace of triplet state of (a) **PMI-N-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 500 \text{ nm}, c = 5.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$  in aerated *n*-hexane); (b) **PMI-C-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{ex} = 532 \text{ nm}, c = 2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  in aerated toluene). 20 °C.

## 8. Delayed Fluorescence Spectra

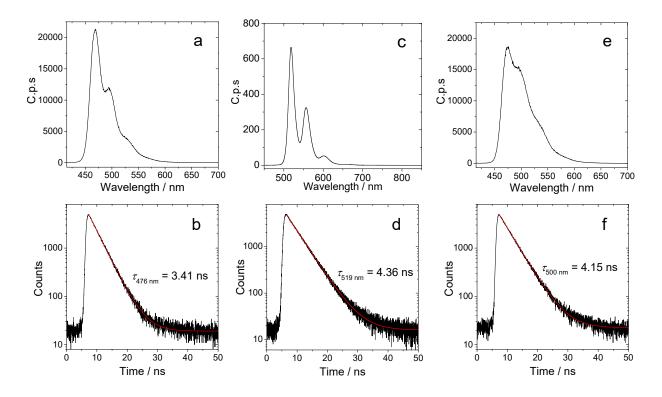
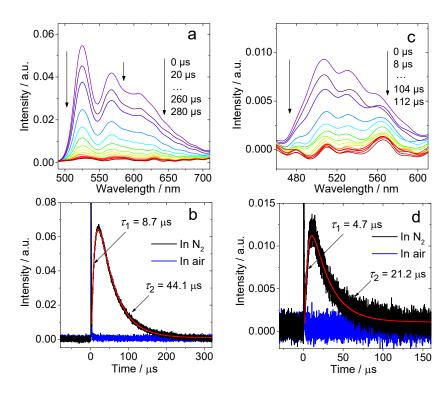


Figure S22. The fluorescence emission spectra of (a) BPEA and (b) the related decay at 476 nm; (c) PBI and (d) the related decay trace at 519 nm; (e) SG5 and (f) the related decay trace at 500 nm.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M in *n*-hexane. 20 °C.



**Figure S23.** Delayed fluorescence spectra of the mixture of **PMI-N-PTZ** with (a) PBI ( $c = 5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M) and (b) the related decay trace at 520 nm; (c) SG5 ( $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M) and (d) the related decay trace at 510 nm. **PMI-N-PTZ** was used as photosensitizer ( $c = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M,  $\lambda_{ex} = 500$  nm). The spike in the delayed fluorescence traces is the scattered laser. 20 °C.

#### 9. Discussion on the Decay of the Charge Separated States (CSS) of the Dyads

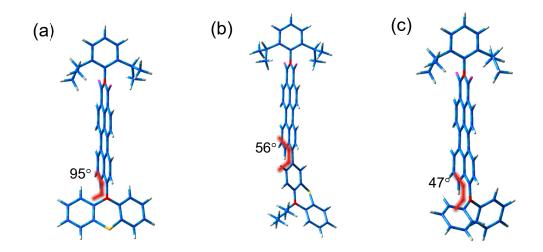
The decay of the CSS of the dyads include a few processes (please refer to the Scheme 2 in the main text), i. e. the ISC process giving the localized triplet state; the radiative decay to the ground state ( $S_0$ ), and the non-radiative to the ground state. All these processes for the decay of the CSS of the dyads are actually charge recombination, i.e. the electron transfer. The Marcus theory for the electron transfer kinetics predicts that there is no simple exponential relationship between the energy gap of the states (herein it is the energy gap between the CSS and the ground state).

Moreover, it is inappropriate to compare the non-radiative decay rate constants of the different compounds, based on the different energy gaps. The reason is that other factors, such as the reorganization energy ( $\lambda$ ) and the electronic coupling between the electron donor and acceptors ( $V_{DA}$ ). These parameters all contribute to the electron transfer rate constants (related to the non-radiative decay of the dyads in this manuscript), and these parameters are different for the dyads. The relationship between the energy gap (can be approximated as the Gibbs free energy changes of the electron transfer) and the electron transfer rate constant is described by the Marcus equation S4:<sup>[1]</sup>

$$k_{\rm et} = \frac{2\pi^{3/2} V^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\left(\Delta G + \lambda\right)^2 / 4\lambda}{k_{\rm B}T}\right)}{h\left(\lambda k_{\rm B}T\right)^{1/2}}$$
(S4)

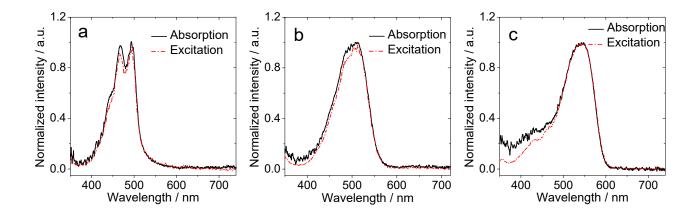
 $\Delta G$  is the Gibbs free energy change between the equilibrium reactant and the product state;  $\lambda$  is the total reorganization energy; V is the electronic coupling matrix element. T is the temperature and the  $k_{\rm B}$  is the Boltzmann constant.

10. DFT Optimized Ground State Geometry.



**Figure S24.** Optimized ground state conformations and the dihedral angles of (a) **PMI-N-PTZ**; (b) **PMI-C-PTZ** and (c) **PMI-DPA** calculated with DFT theory at B3LYP/6-31G (d) level with Gaussian 09W.

#### 11. Fluorescence Excitation Spectra.

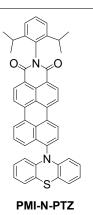


**Figure S25.** Normalized fluorescence excitation spectra and UV–Vis absorption spectra. (a) **PMI-N-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{em} = 750 \text{ nm}$ ); (b) **PMI-C-PTZ** ( $\lambda_{em} = 730 \text{ nm}$ ) and (c) **PMI-DPA** ( $\lambda_{em} = 750 \text{ nm}$ ) in *n*-hexane.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$ , 20 °C.

## 12. x,y,z Coordinates of the Optimized Ground State Geometry of the Compounds PMI-N-PTZ

Charge = 0; Multiplicity = 1 Symbolic Z-Matrix:

С	0.22726 4.05931 -4.87702
С	-0.33492 2.76094 -4.81381
С	0.59123 4.69926 -3.71512
С	-0.58175 2.15731 -3.54343
С	-0.19529 2.83166 -2.33077
С	-1.08727 0.81789 -3.51933
С	-1.38195 0.18176 -4.72932
С	-1.16871 0.8001 -5.96252
Н	-1.40712 0.29452 -6.89202
Н	-1.80269 -0.81686 -4.72443
Н	1.08468 5.66218 -3.78343
С	-0.35774 2.21408 -1.19175
С	-0.97623 0.92368 -1.08399
С	-1.4277 0.21596 -2.23832
С	-0.02884 2.87979 -0.00773
С	-1.2515 0.37794 0.20795
С	-0.92936 1.11145 1.37417
С	-0.36 2.36618 1.25094
С	-1.86177 -0.89316 0.33083
Н	0.42861 3.85627 -0.05752
Н	-0.15237 2.93531 2.15077
С	-2.13197 -1.48535 1.66363
С	-1.20882 0.56307 2.72087
0	-2.60974 -2.60731 1.78675



0	-0.92674 1.17101 3.74662
Ν	-1.81714 -0.70071 2.78368
С	-2.00706 -1.04535 -2.07448
С	-2.20954 -1.60154 -0.80815
Н	-2.65865 -2.58241 -0.69508
Н	-2.31111 -1.62127 -2.94082
С	0.36748 4.12173 -2.44493
Н	0.7197 4.61988 -1.5659
С	-3.37815 -1.62109 5.98767
С	-3.16485 -1.03664 4.73892
С	-1.98914 -1.30096 4.03672
С	-1.02556 -2.14915 4.58379
С	-1.23867 -2.73305 5.83246
С	-2.41522 -2.46933 6.5343
Н	-4.30536 -1.41292 6.54093
Н	-0.47944 -3.40157 6.26388
Н	-2.5831 -2.92991 7.51858
С	0.27255 -2.44073 3.80822
Н	0.91737 -3.04866 4.40782
С	-4.22875 -0.10104 4.1353
Н	-5.08098 -0.06624 4.78136
С	-0.06555 -3.18378 2.50239
Н	-1.04542 -3.60717 2.57639
Н	-0.03489 -2.49659 1.6828
Н	0.64877 -3.96385 2.3407
С	0.98069 -1.1143 3.47548
Н	0.75411 -0.83181 2.46863
Н	0.6418 -0.35138 4.14482
Н	2.03817 -1.23808 3.58182
С	-4.65365 -0.63095 2.75318
Н	-4.13001 -0.09502 1.98931

Н	-4.4189 -1.67252 2.68294
Н	-5.70725 -0.4935 2.62697
С	-3.64118 1.3144 3.98395
Н	-2.78631 1.41553 4.61945
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Н	-0.46327 2.53427 -6.96585
С	4.1378 3.81726 -8.04356
С	3.20906 4.67052 -8.63734
С	2.00147 4.96748 -8.00168
С	1.67144 4.36184 -6.77329
С	2.61568 3.50404 -6.18907
С	3.83865 3.24797 -6.80867
С	-0.72461 5.05637 -6.8694
С	-0.60977 5.73808 -8.09499
С	-1.75282 6.11562 -8.80295
Н	-1.63518 6.62734 -9.75413
С	-3.14892 5.20859 -7.06806
С	-2.01284 4.79214 -6.3755
Н	5.08076 3.60824 -8.53945
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Н	4.54914 2.58706 -6.32057
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Н	-3.90521 6.18364 -8.84125

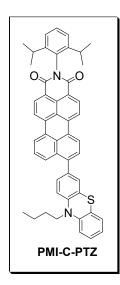
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#### PMI-C-PTZ

Charge = 0; Multiplicity = 1

Symbolic Z-Matrix:

С	0.6931 4.01271 -4.90705
С	0.13092 2.71434 -4.84384
С	1.05708 4.65266 -3.74515
С	-0.11591 2.11071 -3.57346
С	0.27056 2.78507 -2.3608
С	-0.62142 0.7713 -3.54936
С	-0.91611 0.13516 -4.75935
С	-0.70286 0.75351 -5.99255
Н	-0.94127 0.24792 -6.92205
Н	-1.33684 -0.86345 -4.75446
Н	1.55052 5.61559 -3.81346
С	0.10811 2.16748 -1.22178
С	-0.51039 0.87709 -1.11402



С	-0.96186 0.16936 -2.26835
С	0.437 2.83319 -0.03776
С	-0.78566 0.33134 0.17792
С	-0.46351 1.06485 1.34414
С	0.10584 2.31959 1.22091
С	-1.39593 -0.93976 0.3008
Н	0.89445 3.80968 -0.08755
Н	0.31347 2.88871 2.12074
С	-1.66612 -1.53195 1.6336
С	-0.74298 0.51648 2.69084
0	-2.1439 -2.65391 1.75672
0	-0.4609 1.12442 3.71659
Ν	-1.3513 -0.74731 2.75364
С	-1.54122 -1.09195 -2.10451
С	-1.74369 -1.64813 -0.83818
Н	-2.1928 -2.62901 -0.72511
Н	-1.84526 -1.66787 -2.97085
С	0.83333 4.07513 -2.47496
Н	1.18554 4.57328 -1.59593
С	-2.90649 -1.64737 5.91523
С	-2.69318 -1.06292 4.66647
С	-1.51748 -1.32724 3.96427
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Н	1.38903 -3.07494 4.33538
С	-3.75708 -0.12732 4.06285
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Н	-2.31464 1.38925 4.547
Н	-2.87839 1.44654 2.89413
Н	-3.90728 2.01202 4.18823
С	-0.17164 2.03257 -6.04329
Н	0.00258 2.48767 -6.99588
С	-1.7248 11.31591 -5.35459
С	-1.93369 9.95273 -5.14512
С	-1.22478 9.00111 -5.87801
С	-0.23608 9.3872 -6.8071
С	-0.03526 10.76526 -6.99867
С	-0.77929 11.71337 -6.29451

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Н	-0.58878	4.84092 -4.86363
С	1.22702	4.50888 -5.9835
С	2.09992	5.09678 -6.90699
С	1.87599	6.37916 -7.39693
Н	-2.2954	12.04866 -4.79227
Н	-2.67195	9.6145 -4.42329
Н	0.70661	11.11591 -7.70345
Н	-0.59826	12.76822 -6.48075
Н	2.98251	4.55559 -7.2344
Н	2.60051	6.79385 -8.08443
S	-1.69803	7.29367 -5.71879
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С	3.27413	9.86705 -9.86444
Н	3.31825	8.99733 -10.53558
Н	2.62106	10.59912 -10.36078
С	4.6777	10.46061 -9.7065
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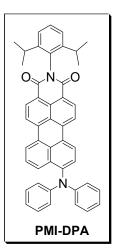
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#### **PMI-DPA**

Charge = 0; Multiplicity = 1

Symbolic Z-Matrix:

С	4.31601	0.17797 -0.0597
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С	2.02544	-0.51103 0.59518
С	1.48396	0.4977 -0.26532
С	1.16253	-1.3696 1.35315
С	1.73146	-2.28037 2.23924
С	3.12105	-2.37952 2.40135
Н	3.52678	-3.08531 3.12037
Н	1.10035	-2.92484 2.83988
Н	4.41185	1.79026 -1.45954
С	0.02902	0.65213 -0.3844



С	-0.82742 -0.24418 0.33128
С	-0.29621 -1.26166 1.18477
С	-0.55976 1.63948 -1.18121
С	-2.24552 -0.11931 0.18978
С	-2.79355 0.8887 -0.6395
С	-1.94557 1.75653 -1.30986
С	-3.11067 -1.00334 0.8781
Н	0.0594 2.34309 -1.72495
Н	-2.38229 2.52473 -1.93942
С	-4.5804 -0.88497 0.75626
С	-4.25562 1.02496 -0.81329
0	-5.34895 -1.62071 1.36203
0	-4.75306 1.8721 -1.54401
Ν	-5.06824 0.12449 -0.09597
С	-1.19013 -2.11972 1.83194
С	-2.57392 -1.9935 1.68537
Н	-3.25111 -2.66604 2.20137
Н	-0.82028 -2.9154 2.46757
Ν	5.72753 0.03008 0.00647
С	6.52526 1.20897 0.11972
С	7.59722 1.44588 -0.7532
С	6.22503 2.1534 1.11179
Н	7.82064 0.71871 -1.52825
С	6.98886 3.31368 1.21314
Н	5.39817 1.97293 1.79155
С	8.0605 3.53792 0.3483
Н	6.7507 4.04484 1.98117
Н	8.65227 4.4453 0.4411

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С	5.73476 -2.03984 -1.32244
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С	6.32501 -3.25879 -1.65599
Н	4.80914 -1.73346 -1.79894
С	8.12965 -2.81534 -0.12365
Н	8.00531 -0.9641 0.97237
С	7.52549 -3.65349 -1.06463
Н	5.84536 -3.89595 -2.39431
Н	9.06202 -3.11061 0.35047
Н	7.98482 -4.60071 -1.33185
С	2.37309 1.31052 -0.96528
Н	2.00127 2.08049 -1.63123
С	-8.55686 -0.4028 -1.33837
С	-7.1675 -0.54675 -1.21591
С	-6.51116 0.24494 -0.24751
С	-7.21516 1.14922 0.5781
С	-8.60417 1.23688 0.40827
С	-9.27588 0.47507 -0.5383
Н	-9.07877 -1.00267 -2.0801
Н	-9.16278 1.92639 1.03671
Н	-10.35311 0.56472 -0.65167
С	-6.62698 2.10534 1.62731
Н	-7.47166 2.31548 2.29682
С	-6.54028 -1.605 -2.13672
Н	-7.25233 -1.68708 -2.96859
С	-5.51053 1.57268 2.54343
Н	-5.72792 0.56198 2.90069

Н	-4.5315	1.56288	2.0553
Н	-5.42333	2.23111	3.41589
С	-6.23405	3.45899	0.99696
Н	-5.41882	3.34832	0.27769
Н	-7.08242	3.90278	0.46452
Н	-5.91814	4.16046	1.7794
С	-6.51193	-2.99305	-1.46058
Н	-5.85565	-3.0046	-0.58684
Н	-7.51269	-3.28276	-1.1219
Н	-6.16047	-3.75072	-2.17226
С	-5.18786	-1.27957	-2.79582
Н	-5.16007	-0.25592	-3.1804
Н	-4.34221	-1.41575	-2.11541
Н	-5.03068	-1.9638	-3.63813
С	3.96782	-1.5882	1.65729
Н	5.04002	-1.66785	1.78571
С	8.37986	2.59988	-0.64261
Н	9.20623	2.76182	-1.30274

Calculation Type = FREQ

Calculation Method = RB3LYP

Basis Set = 6-31G(d)

Charge = 0

Spin = Singlet

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RMS Gradient Norm = 0.00000286 a.u.

Imaginary Freq = 0

Dipole Moment = 7.3687 Debye

Point Group = C1

## 13. Reference

[1] J. W. Verhoeven, J. Photochem. Photobio C: Photochem Rev., 2006, 7, 40–60.