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#### Supporting information

# Synthesis and Properties of Dithienylethene-Functionalized Switchable Antibacterial Agents

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Scheme S1 Photoisomerization of switchable antibacterial agents 1-4.



**Fig. S1** Absorption spectral changes of dithienylethenes **1b** and **3b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding color changes of dithienylethene **1b** and **3b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) absorption spectral changes for **1b** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 25 s, 35 s, 45 s, 55 s, 70 s, 85 s, 100 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s, 130 s, 160 s, 190 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 15 s, 25 s, 35 s, 45 s, 55 s, 60 s, 75 s, 90 s, 105 s, 120 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 160 s, 190 s, 230 s, 260 s (PSS-closed)].



**Fig. S2** Absorption spectral changes of dithienylethenes **2a** and **2b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding color changes of dithienylethene **2a** and **2b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) absorption spectral changes for **2a** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 30 s, 45 s, 60 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 110 s (PSS-open)]; (B) absorption spectral changes for **2b** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 115 s, 135 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 75 s, 95 s, 115 s, 135 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 10 s, 130 s, 160 s, 200 s, 240 s, 280 s (PSS-open)].



**Fig. S3** Absorption spectral changes of dithienylethenes **4a** and **4b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding color changes of dithienylethene **4a** and **4b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) absorption spectral changes for **4a** [0 s, 3 s, 6 s, 9 s, 12 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 100 s, 115 s, 125 s, 135 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s, 200 s, 220 s, 240 s, 260 s, 280 s, 330 s (PSS-open)]; (B) absorption spectral changes for **4b** [0 s, 3 s, 6 s, 9 s, 12 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 110 s, 120 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 100 s, 110 s, 120 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 100 s, 110 s, 120 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 100 s, 110 s, 120 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 70 s, 80s, 90 s, 100 s, 200 s, 270 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 80 s, 110 s, 140 s, 170 s, 200 s, 230 s, 270 s (PSS-open)].

	$\lambda_{max}{}^{Abs}  /  nm^a$	$\lambda_{max}{}^{Abs}  /  nm^b$	$\Phi^{c}$	
Compounds	$(\epsilon \times 10^4)$	(ε×10 <sup>4</sup> )		
	(Open)	(PSS)	$\phi_{o\text{-}c}\left(\lambda/nm\right)$	$\phi_{c\text{-}o}\left(\lambda/nm\right)$
1a	283 (1.08)	510 (0.11)	0.21 (510)	0.0014 (283)
1b	281 (0.92)	510 (0.10)	0.18 (510)	0.0011 (281)
2a	283 (0.72)	522 (0.09)	0.24 (522)	0.0040 (283)
2b	283 (0.63)	520 (0.07)	0.20 (520)	0.0034 (283)
<b>3</b> a	282 (0.66)	511 (0.07)	0.25 (511)	0.0076 (282)
3b	283 (0.95)	510 (0.10)	0.16 (542)	0.0055 (296)
<b>4</b> a	283 (0.73)	542 (0.20)	0.33 (542)	0.0042 (283)
4b	282 (0.62)	543 (0.18)	0.31 (543)	0.0038 (282)

Table S1 Absorption characteristics and photochromic quantum yields of 1-4 in DMSO (2.0 ×10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L)

a Absorption maxima of open-ring isomers.

b Absorption maxima of closed-ring isomers.

c Quantum yields of open-ring ( $\phi_{c-0}$ ) and closed-ring isomers ( $\phi_{o-c}$ ), respectively.



**Fig. S4** Fatigue resistance of dithienylethenes **1a** (A) at 510 nm and **1b** (B) at 510 nm on alternate excitation at 254 nm and > 402 nm Vis light irradiation over six cycles in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K.



**Fig. S5** Fatigue resistance of dithienylethenes **2a** (A) at 522 nm and **2b** (B) at 520 nm on alternate excitation at 254 nm and > 402 nm Vis light irradiation over six cycles in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K.



**Fig. S6** Fatigue resistance of dithienylethenes **3a** (A) at 511 nm and **3b** (B) at 510 nm on alternate excitation at 254 nm and > 402 nm Vis light irradiation over six cycles in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K.



**Fig. S7** Fatigue resistance of dithienylethenes **4a** (A) at 542 nm and **4b** (B) at 543 nm on alternate excitation at 254 nm and > 402 nm Vis light irradiation over six cycles in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K.



Fig. S8 HPLC traces of 1 before UV irradiation and in the PSS state detected at the isosbestic point of 326 nm  $(CH_3CN / H_2O = 80 / 20, v / v)$  at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, (A) HPLC for 1a; (B) HPLC for 1b.



Fig. S9 HPLC traces of 2 before UV irradiation and in the PSS state detected at the isosbestic point of 338 nm  $(CH_3CN / H_2O = 80 / 20, v / v)$  at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, (A) HPLC for 2a; (B) HPLC for 2b.



**Fig. S10** HPLC traces of **3** before UV irradiation and in the PSS state detected at the isosbestic point of 324 nm  $(CH_3CN / H_2O = 80 / 20, v / v)$  at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, (A) HPLC for **3a**; (B) HPLC for **3b**.



**Fig. S11** HPLC traces of **4** before UV irradiation and in the PSS state detected at the isosbestic point of 359 nm  $(CH_3CN / H_2O = 80 / 20, v / v)$  at a flow rate of 1.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, (A) HPLC for **4a**; (B) HPLC for **4b**.

Compounds	Conversion ratio (%)	Compounds	Conversion ratio (%)	
1a	93	1b	88	
2a	89	2b	81	
3a	89	3b	80	
<b>4</b> a	83	4b	79	

Table S2 The conversion ratio of switchable antibacterial agents 1-4 at the photostationary state (PSS).



**Fig. S12** Frontier molecular orbital profiles of **1** and **3** based on DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level by using the Gaussian 09 program.



**Fig. S13** Frontier molecular orbital profiles of **2** and **4** based on DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level by using the Gaussian 09 program.

Cpds	HOMO (ev)	LUMO (ev)	Eg (ev)	Cpds	HOMO (ev)	LUMO (ev)	Eg (ev)
1a (o)	-5.24	-1.16	4.08	1a (c)	-4.08	-2.40	1.68
1b (o)	-5.16	-1.12	4.04	1b (c)	-4.18	-2.49	1.69
2a (o)	-5.42	-1.33	4.09	2a (c)	-4.33	-2.63	1.70
2b (o)	-5.32	-1.23	4.09	2b (c)	-4.38	-2.74	1.64
3a (o)	-5.13	-1.15	3.98	3a (c)	-4.15	-2.44	1.71
3b (o)	-5.12	-1.09	4.03	3b (c)	-4.11	-2.42	1.69
4a (o)	-4.62	-1.04	3.58	4a (c)	-3.74	-2.03	1.71
4b (o)	-4.50	-1.01	3.49	4b (c)	-3.81	-2.13	1.68

Table S3 Calculated parameters for dithienylathenes 1-4.



**Fig. S14** Emission spectral changes of of dithienylethenes **1b** and **3b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding fluorescence intensity changes of dithienylethene **1b** and **3b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) emission spectral changes for **1b** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s (PSS-open)]; (B) emission spectral changes for **3b** (0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 35 s, 45 s, 55 s, 65 s, 80 s, 95 s, 110 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 70 s, 90 s, 110 s, 130 s, 150 s, 170 s, 200 s, 230 s (PSS-open)].



**Fig. S15** Emission spectral changes of of dithienylethenes **2a** and **2b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO  $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol/L})$  at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding fluorescence intensity changes of dithienylethene **2a** and **2b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) emission spectral changes for **2a** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 25 s, 30 s, 45 s, 55 s, 60 s, 65 s, 70 s, 75 s, 80 s, 85 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 50 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s, 120 s, 150 s, 180 s, 200 s (PSS-open)]; (B) emission spectral changes for **2b** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 25 s, 30 s, 45 s, 55 s, 60 s, 65 s, 70 s, 95 s, 100 s, 110 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s, 120 s, 140 s, 170 s, 200 s, 230 s, 260 s, 300 s (PSS-open)]



**Fig. S16** Emission spectral changes of of dithienylethenes **4a** and **4b** with 254 nm UV and > 402 nm visible light irradiation in DMSO ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) at 298 K. (Inset) Corresponding fluorescence intensity changes of dithienylethene **4a** and **4b** in DMSO upon photoirradiation. (A) emission spectral changes for **4a** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 35 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s (PSS-open)]; (B) emission spectral changes for **4b** [0 s, 5 s, 10 s, 15 s, 20 s, 25 s, 30 s, 35 s, 40 s, 45 s, 55 s, 65 s, 75 s, 85 s, 95 s (PSS-closed); 0 s, 10 s, 20 s, 30 s, 40 s, 60 s, 80 s, 100 s (PSS-open)].

Compounds	$\lambda_{\mathrm{em}}{}^{a}$ (nm)	${\it I} {\it I}_{ m f}$ (open) <sup>b</sup>	${\bf \Phi}_{\rm f}$ (closed) $^c$
1a	440	0.35	0.14
1b	440	0.29	0.12
2a	436	0.41	0.20
2b	431	0.48	0.22
3a	428	0.06	0.40
3b	432	0.11	0.33
4a	434	0.23	0.12
4b	435	0.25	0.08

Table S4 The fluorescence data of dithienylethenes 1-4 in DMSO at 298 K ( $2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L)

<sup>*a*</sup> Fluorescence emission maxima; <sup>*b*</sup> Fluorescence quantum yield of open isomers determined by a standard method with quinoline sulfate in 0.1 M aqueous H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ( $\Phi_f = 0.55$ ,  $\lambda_{ex} = 313$  nm) as reference; <sup>*c*</sup> Fluorescence quantum yield of closed isomers determined by a standard method with quinoline sulfate in 0.1 M aqueous H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ( $\Phi_f = 0.55$ ,  $\lambda_{ex} = 313$  nm) as reference.



**Fig. S17** The energy-minimized structure of open and closed isomers of **2a** and **2b** based on DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level by using the Gaussian 09 program.



**Fig. S18** The energy-minimized structure of open and closed isomers of **3a** and **3b** based on DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level by using the Gaussian 09 program.



**Fig. S19** The energy-minimized structure of open and closed isomers of **4a** and **4b** based on DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31G\* level by using the Gaussian 09 program.

### Appendix: NMR and Mass spectra







Fig. S23 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 1b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S24 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 1b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S25 HRMS of dithienylethene 1b.



Fig. S26 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 2a in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S27 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 2a in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S29 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 2b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.

## 7/16.91 7/16.88 7/16.88 6/16.81 6/16.81 6/16.82 6/16.82 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.83 6/16.84 <td



Fig. S30 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 2b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S31 HRMS of dithienylethene 2b.



-15.07

Fig. S32 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 3a in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S33 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 3a in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S35 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 3b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S36 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 3b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S37 HRMS of dithienylethene 3b.

-15.13







Fig. S39 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 4a in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S41 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 4b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S42 100 MHz <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of dithienylethene 4b in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Fig. S43 HRMS of dithienylethene 4b.



Fig. S44 HPLC of dithienylethene 1a.



Fig. S45 HPLC of dithienylethene 1b.



Fig. S46 HPLC of dithienylethene 2a.



Fig. S47 HPLC of dithienylethene 2b.



Fig. S48 HPLC of dithienylethene 3a.



Fig. S49 HPLC of dithienylethene 3b.



Fig. S50 HPLC of dithienylethene 4a.



Fig. S51 HPLC of dithienylethene 4b.