

Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

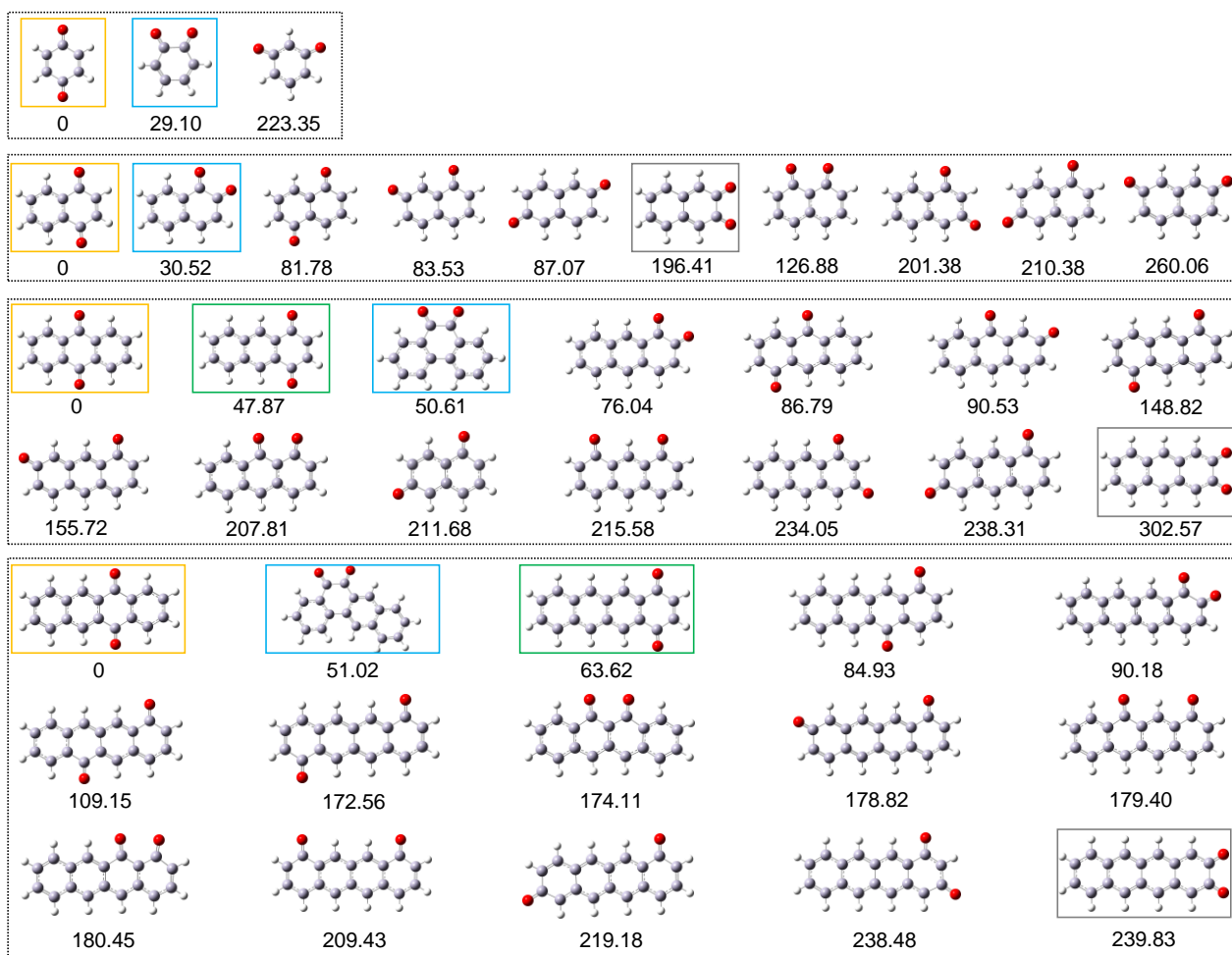
## **Orbital-dependent redox potential regulation of quinone derivatives for electrical energy storage**

Zhihui Niu,<sup>a,b,1</sup> Huaxi Wu,<sup>a,1</sup> Yihua Lu,<sup>b</sup> Shiyun Xiong,<sup>a</sup> Xi Zhu,<sup>\*b</sup> Yu Zhao,<sup>\*a</sup> Xiaohong Zhang<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Functional Nano & Soft Materials (FUNSOM), Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Carbon-Based Functional Materials & Devices, Soochow University, 199 Ren'ai Road, Suzhou, 215123, Jiangsu, PR China. Email: [yuzhao@suda.edu.cn](mailto:yuzhao@suda.edu.cn) (Y.Z.), [xiaohong\\_zhang@suda.edu.cn](mailto:xiaohong_zhang@suda.edu.cn) (X.Z.)

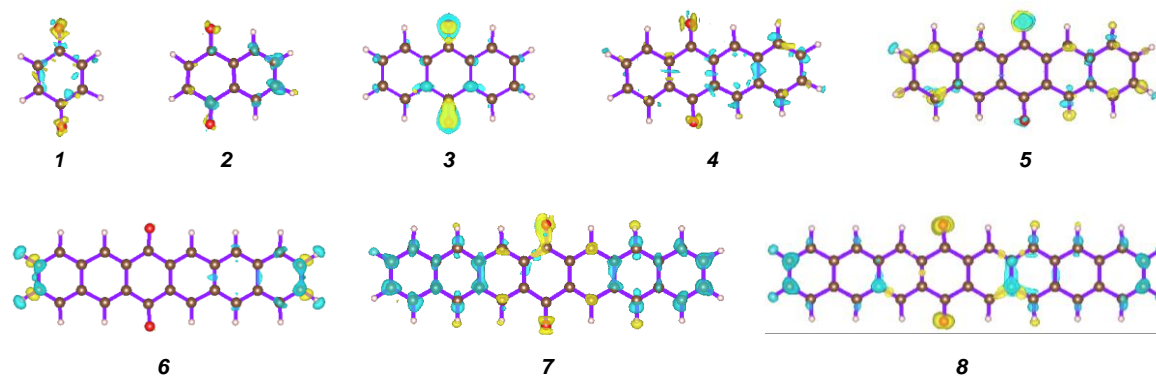
<sup>b</sup> School of Science and Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2001 Longxiang Road, Longgang District, Shenzhen, Guangdong 518172, PR China. Email: [zhuxi@cuhk.edu.cn](mailto:zhuxi@cuhk.edu.cn) (X.Z.)

<sup>1</sup> These authors contribute equally to this work.

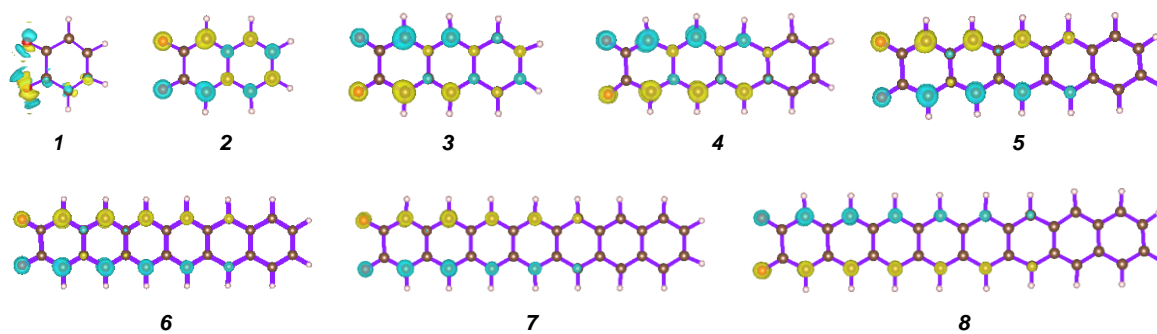


**Fig. S1.** The total ground state energy of selected quinone derivatives. The values (in  $\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$ ) stand for the ground state energy difference with respect to the most stable configuration in each panel.

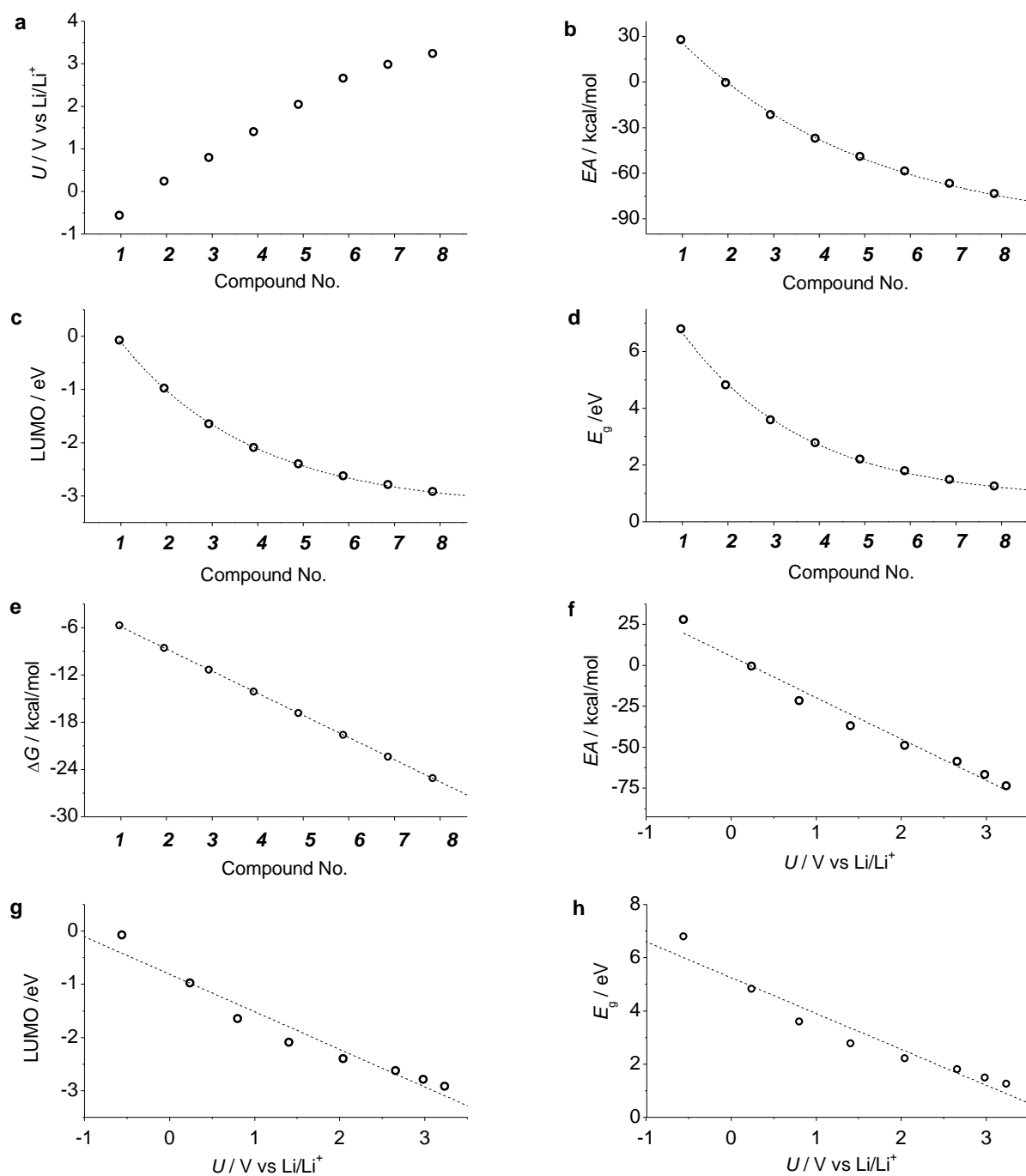
***p*-PAHQs-1**



***o*-PAHQs-2**

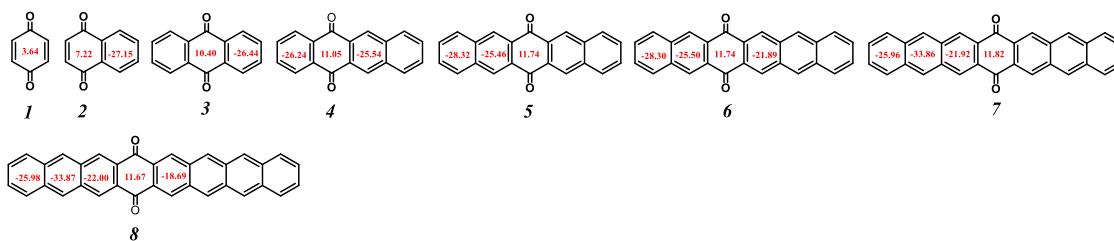


**Fig. S2.** The spin density isosurface of *p*-PAHQs-1 (isosurface value:  $5.05 \times 10^{-8}$ ) and *o*-PAHQs-2 (isosurface value:  $2.08 \times 10^{-8}$  for 1 and 2,  $9 \times 10^{-3}$  for 3–8). For the *p*-PAHQs-1, the distribution of isosurface is not regular and the values can be neglectable, so there are no electron spin of these structures. However, for the *o*-PAHQs-2, the distribution of electron spin density are regular with  $10^5$  times larger than that of *p*-PAHQs-1, which suggest the *o*-PAHQs-2 exhibit obviously induced magnetism by the strong electron spin.

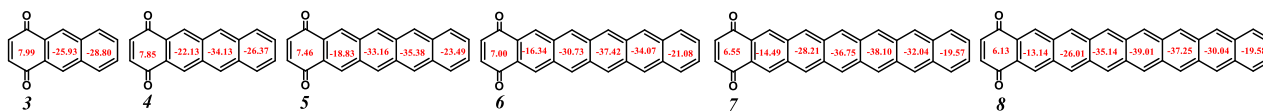


**Fig. S3.** Selected referential acene derivatives and their electrochemical properties. (a) Calculated redox potential. (b) Electron affinity ( $EA$ ). (c) LUMO energy level. (d) Energy gap ( $E_g$ , LUMO-HOMO). (e) Solvation free energy ( $\Delta G$ ). (f)  $EA$  versus the redox potential. (g) LUMO energy level versus the redox potential. (h)  $E_g$  versus the redox potential.

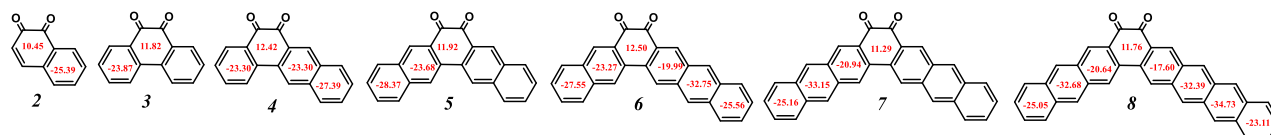
***p*-PAHQs-1**



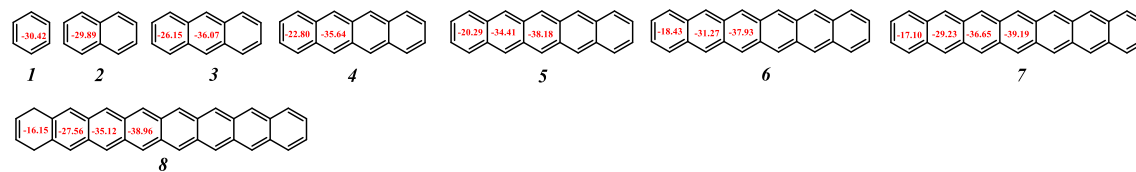
***p*-PAHQs-2**



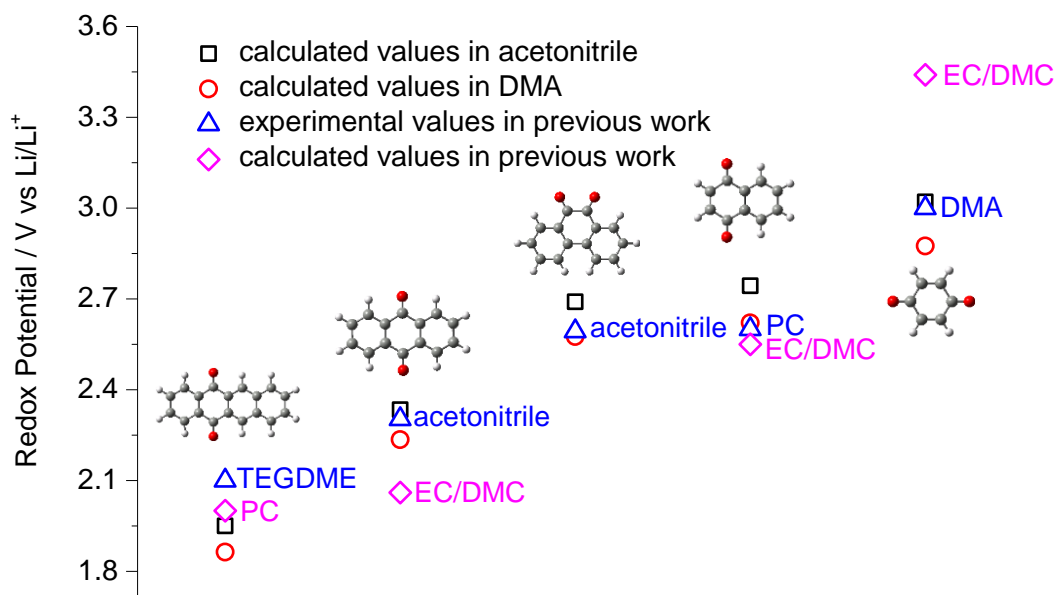
***o*-PAHQs-1**



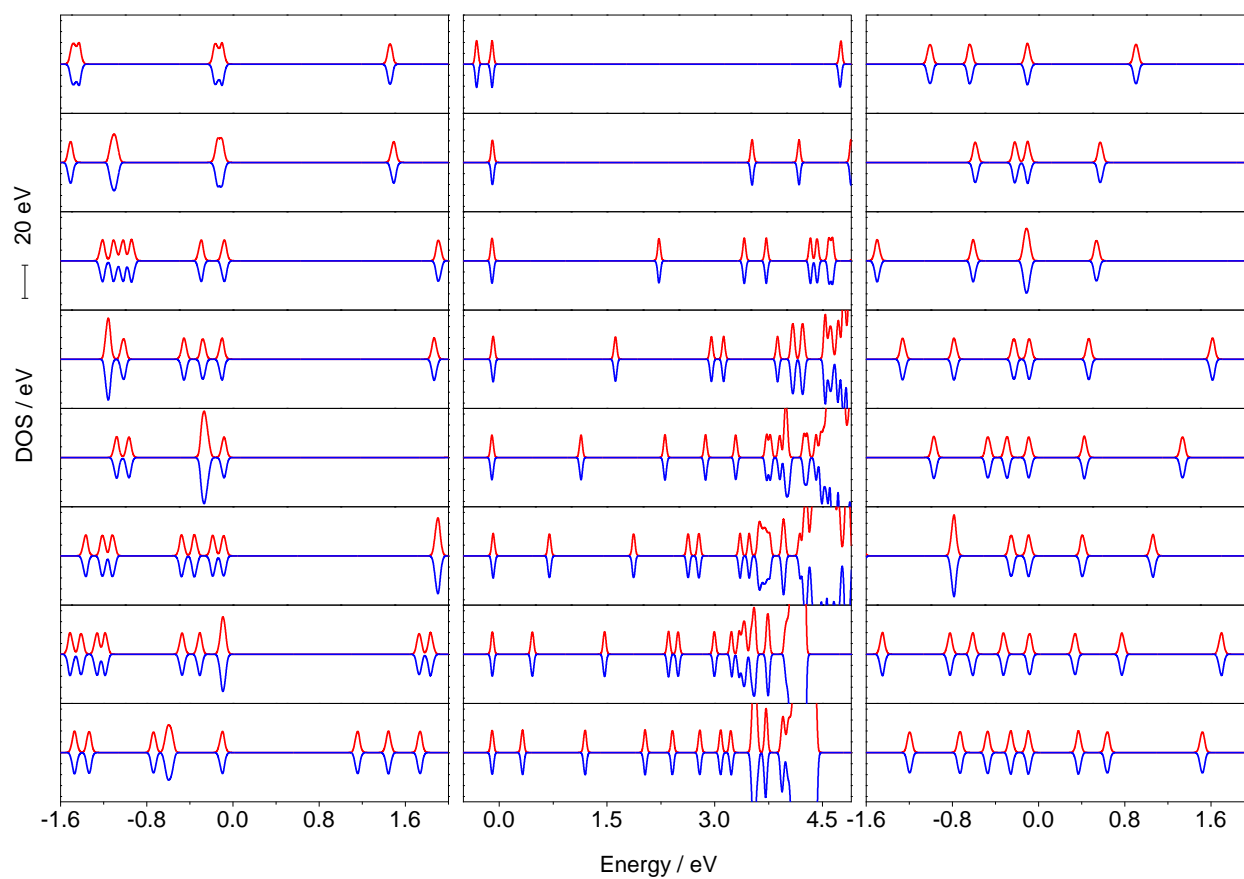
**Acene derivatives**



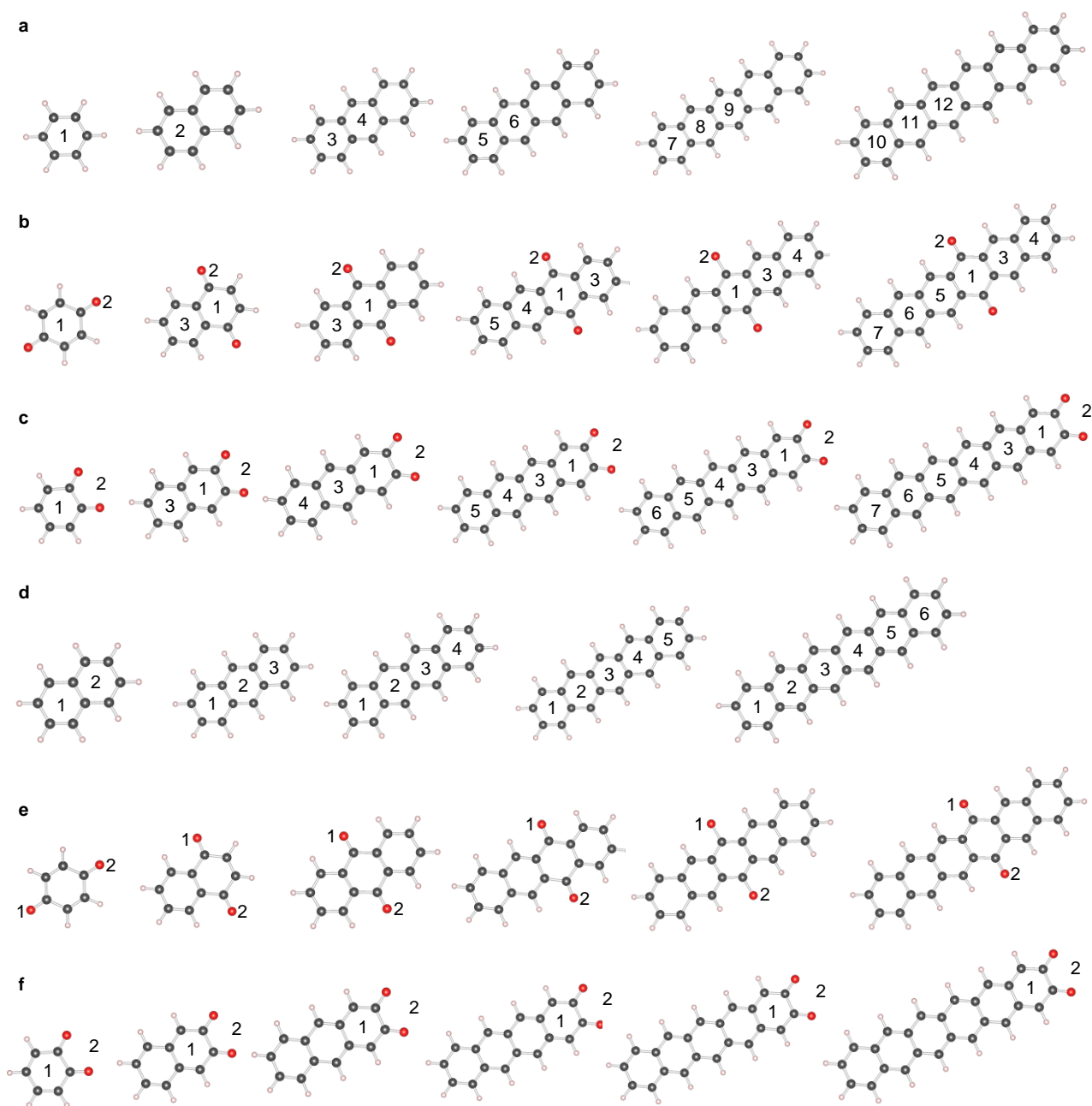
**Fig. S4.** Selected molecular structures and corresponding NICS values of *p*-PAHQs-1, *p*-PAHQs-2, *o*-PAHQs-1 and acene derivatives.



**Fig. S5.** Comparison of the calculated redox potentials with former calculated and experimental redox potentials of five quinone derivatives. The experimental values and calculated values in previous works are adapted from ref. S1-S3, and ref. S4-S5, respectively.

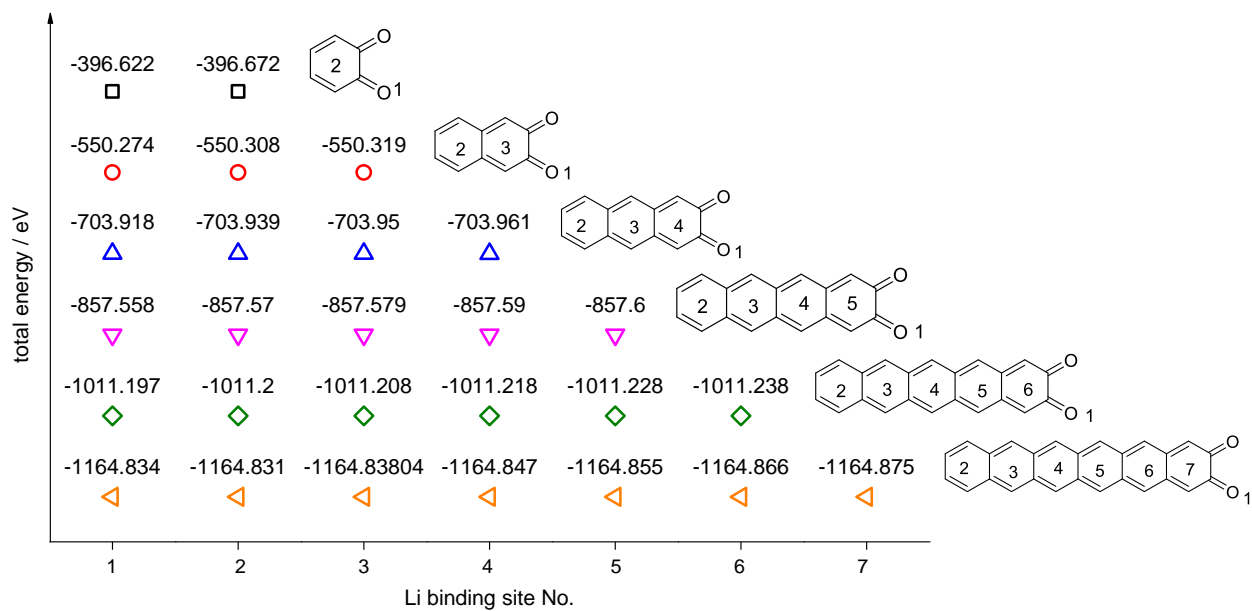


**Fig. S6.** Calculated total DOS of *p*-PAHQs-1 (left panel), referential benzene derivatives (middle panel), and *o*-PAHQs-2 (right panel).

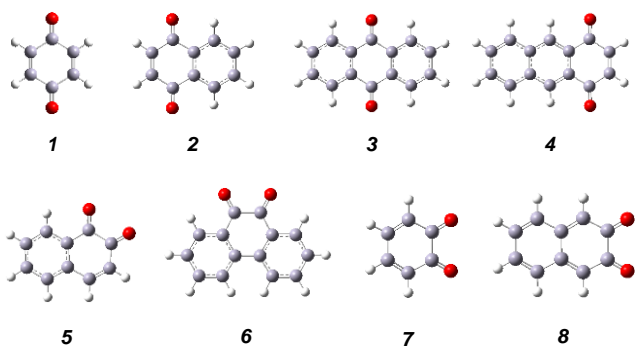


**Fig. S7.** Possible binding position of  $\text{Li}^+$ -ion in acene derivatives, *p*-PAHQs-1 and *o*-PAHQs-2. (a–c) one  $\text{Li}^+$ -ion and (d–f) two  $\text{Li}^+$ -ions.





**Fig. S8.** The total energy of the second Li binding site of *o*-PAHQs-2.

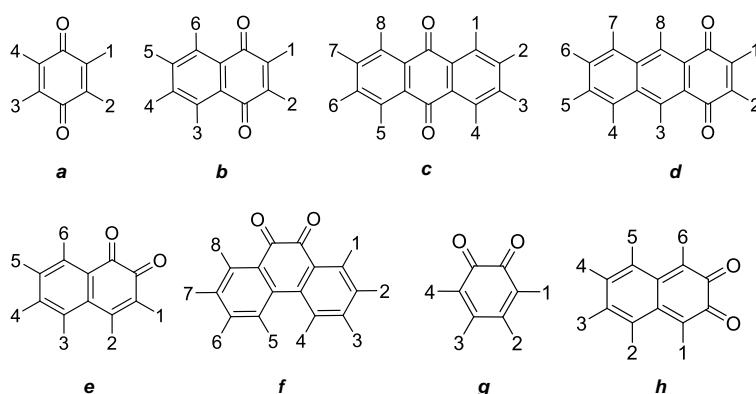


**Fig. S9.** Selected quinone derivatives used for solvation free energy calculation.

**Table S1.** Calculated solvation free energy of selected quinone derivatives in acetonitrile and N,N-dimethylacetamide.

Solvation free energy ( $G_{\text{solv}}$ , kcal/mol)		
No.	Acetonitrile	N,N-dimethylacetamide
1	-8.57	-9.46
2	-10.24	-10.61
3	-11.89	-11.80
4	-13.00	-13.05
5	-12.56	-12.92
6	-14.49	-15.53
7	-10.32	-11.00
8	-12.99	-13.34

**Table. S2.** Calculated solvation free energy of molecules modified by functional groups in N,N-dimethylacetamide.



$R_1 = -\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ ,  $R_2 = -\text{OH}$ ,  $R_3 = -\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $R_4 = -\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$

a										
No	1	2	3	4					$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)	
1	$R_1$								<b>-15.07</b>	
2	$R_1$		$R_1$						-16.26	
3	$R_2$								-12.70	
4	$R_3$								<b>-17.41</b>	
5	$R_4$								<b>-15.58</b>	
6	$R_4$		$R_4$						<b>-19.90</b>	
b										
No	1	2	3	4	5	6				$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1	$R_1$									-13.87
2			$R_1$							<b>-14.00</b>
3				$R_1$						-13.62
4	$R_1$	$R_1$								-15.81
5			$R_1$			$R_1$				<b>-17.88</b>
6				$R_1$	$R_1$					-15.99
7	$R_2$									-14.05
8	$R_3$									<b>-18.14</b>
9	$R_4$									-16.21
10			$R_4$							<b>-17.18</b>
11					$R_4$					-14.51
12	$R_4$	$R_4$								-21.19
13			$R_4$			$R_4$				<b>-21.47</b>
14				$R_4$	$R_4$					-19.74
c										
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)	
1	$R_1$								<b>-15.07</b>	
2		$R_1$							-14.87	
3	$R_1$			$R_1$					-18.42	
4		$R_1$	$R_1$						-17.31	
5	$R_1$				$R_1$				<b>-19.23</b>	
6		$R_1$				$R_1$			-18.03	
7	$R_2$								-15.51	
8	$R_3$								<b>-19.18</b>	

9	$R_4$								-16.29
10		$R_4$							<b>-16.68</b>
11	$R_4$			$R_4$					<b>-22.56</b>
12	$R_4$				$R_4$				-21.83
13		$R_4$	$R_4$						-20.88
14		$R_4$				$R_4$			-19.45

d

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1	$R_1$								<b>-16.38</b>
2								$R_1$	-14.66
3							$R_1$		-15.34
4						$R_1$			-16.08
5	$R_1$	$R_1$							-18.06
6			$R_1$					$R_1$	-15.97
7				$R_1$			$R_1$		<b>-18.45</b>
8					$R_1$	$R_1$			-18.31
9	$R_4$								<b>-18.22</b>
10								$R_4$	-17.82
11							$R_4$		-15.81
12						$R_4$			-17.31
13	$R_4$	$R_4$							-22.49
14			$R_4$					$R_4$	-22.11
15				$R_4$			$R_4$		-21.30
16					$R_4$	$R_4$			<b>-23.44</b>

e

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6			$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1		$R_1$							-15.41
2						$R_1$			<b>-16.27</b>
3					$R_1$				-15.78
4			$R_1$						-15.93
5				$R_1$	$R_1$				-18.99
6			$R_1$			$R_1$			<b>-19.24</b>
7		$R_4$							-15.69
8						$R_4$			<b>-18.22</b>
9					$R_4$				-16.37
10			$R_4$						-16.05
11				$R_4$	$R_4$				<b>-22.45</b>
12			$R_4$			$R_4$			-21.44

f

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1	$R_1$								-17.54
2		$R_1$							<b>-17.91</b>
3			$R_1$						-17.13
4	$R_1$							$R_1$	-20.64
5		$R_1$					$R_1$		-20.44
6			$R_1$			$R_1$			<b>-22.23</b>
7	$R_4$								-16.29
8		$R_4$							<b>-18.07</b>
9			$R_4$						-17.85
10	$R_4$							$R_4$	<b>-26.21</b>

11		$R_4$				$R_4$		-23.50
12			$R_4$				$R_4$	-23.64
g								
No.	1	2	3	4				$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1	$R_1$							-13.95
2		$R_1$						<b>-15.98</b>
3	$R_1$				$R_1$			-17.34
4		$R_1$	$R_1$					<b>-18.26</b>
5	$R_4$							<b>-16.18</b>
6		$R_4$						-14.94
7	$R_4$				$R_4$			<b>-21.68</b>
8		$R_4$	$R_4$					-19.12
h								
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6		$G_{\text{solv}}$ (kcal/mol)
1	$R_1$							-14.62
2		$R_1$						-15.91
3			$R_1$					<b>-18.24</b>
4	$R_1$					$R_1$		-18.37
5		$R_1$			$R_1$			-18.32
6			$R_1$	$R_1$				<b>-18.48</b>
7	$R_4$							<b>-19.10</b>
8		$R_4$						-17.48
9			$R_4$					-17.10
10	$R_4$					$R_4$		-20.57
11		$R_4$			$R_4$			-21.05
12			$R_4$	$R_4$				<b>-23.58</b>

## References

- S1 K. C. Kim, T. Liu, S. W. Lee, S. S. Jang, First-principles density functional theory modeling of Li binding: thermodynamics and redox properties of quinone derivatives for lithium-ion batteries. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2016**, *138*, 2374–2382.
- S2 Y. Ding, G. Yu, A bio-inspired, heavy-metal-free, dual-electrolyte liquid battery towards sustainable energy storage. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2016**, *55*, 4772–4776.
- S3 Minjoon Park , Dong-Seon Shin , Jaechan Ryu, Min Choi, Noejung Park ,Sung You Hong, Jaephil Cho, Organic-Catholyte-Containing Flexible Rechargeable Lithium Batteries. *Adv. Mater.* **2015**, *27*, 5141–5146.
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- S5 J. E. Bachman, L. A. Curtiss, R. S. Assary, Investigation of the redox chemistry of anthraquinone derivatives using density functional theory. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **2014**, *118*, 8852–8860.