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# **Supporting Information**

# Planarization of tetracarboxamides. Tuning the self-assembly of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

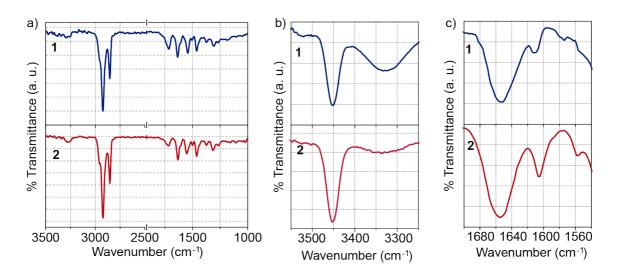
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## **1. Supplementary Figures and Tables**



**Figure S1.** FTIR spectra of **1** and **2** in film (a) and in CHCl<sub>3</sub> at 8 mM (b and c). The FTIR spectra in (b) and (c) show the region on which the stretching N-H and Amide I bands are observed.

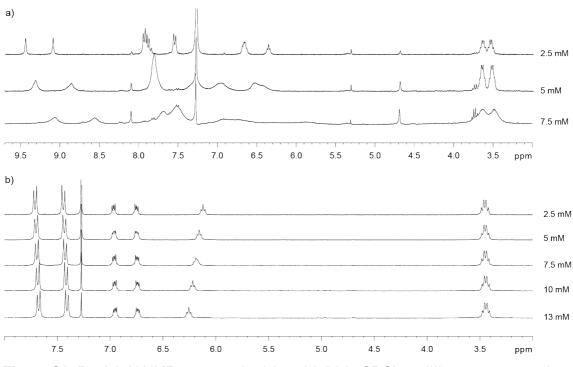


Figure S2. Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 1 (a) and 2 (b) in  $CDCI_3$  at different concentrations (300 MHz, 303 K).

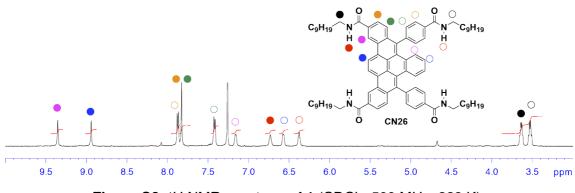
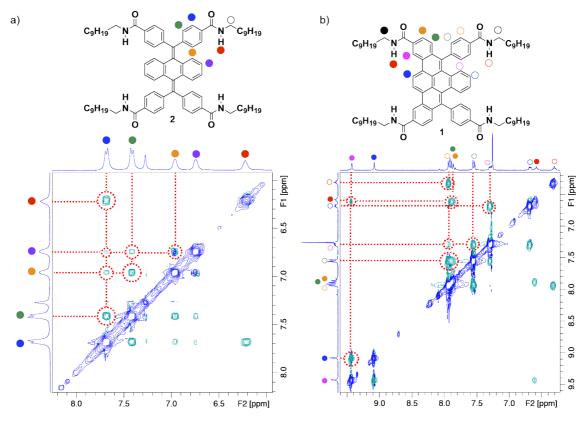


Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 1 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz, 328 K).



**Figure S4.** ROESY NMR spectra of (a) **2** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 30 mM, 303 K) and (b) **1** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz, 4 mM, 318 K). The red, dotted lines show the intramolecular through-space coupling signals between the different resonances

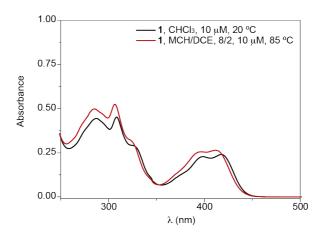
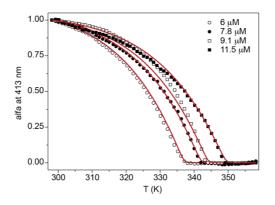


Figure S5. UV-Vis spectra of 1 in CHCl<sub>3</sub> at 20 °C (black line) and MCH/DCE (8/2) at 85 °C. The concentration of both samples is 10  $\mu$ M.



**Figure S6.** UV-Vis cooling curves of compound **1** (MCH/DCE 8/2, measured at  $\lambda$ = 413 nm).\_The red lines correspond to the fit to the EQ model.<sup>4a</sup>

	1
∆ <i>H</i> e [kJ/mol]ª	-55.1±5
∆S [J/Kmol]	-63±1
∆ <i>H</i> n [kJ/mol]ª	-23.9±2
σ[-] <sup>ь</sup>	3.4x10-6
K <sub>e</sub> [L/mol]⁵	2.4x10 <sup>6</sup>
K <sub>n</sub> [L/mol]⁵	8.2

**Table S1**. <sup>a</sup>The nucleation penalty  $\Delta Hn$  is negative, which implies that the enthalpy gain is smaller for nucleation compared to elongation. <sup>b</sup>The equilibrium constants for elongation and nucleation,  $K_e$  and  $K_n$ , and the cooperativity factor  $\sigma$  (=  $K_n/K_e$ ) are calculated at 298 K.

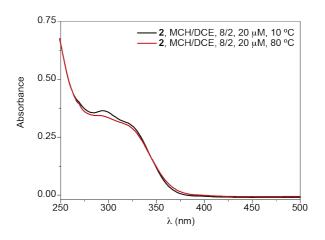
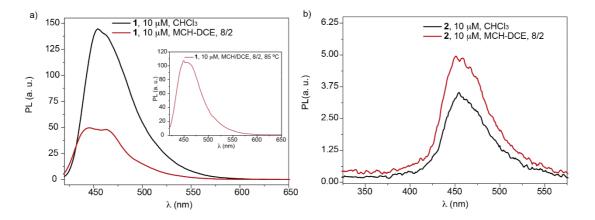


Figure S7. UV-Vis spectra of 2 in MCH/DCE (8/2) at 20 °C and 80 °C. The concentration is 20  $\mu$ M.



**Figure S8.** Emission spectra of **1** (a) and **2** (b) in MCH/DCE, 8/2, and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (20°C, 10  $\mu$ M;  $\lambda_{exc}$  = 334 nm). The inset in (a) shows the PL spectrum of **1** in MCH/DCE, 8/2, 10  $\mu$ M, at 85 °C.

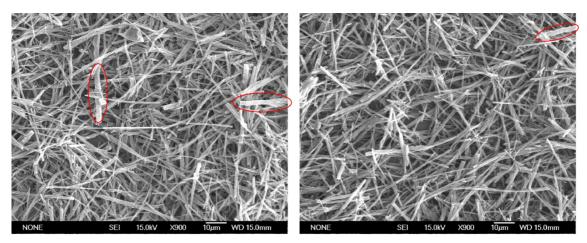


Figure S9. SEM images of the rod-like supramolecular structures formed by the selfassembly of 1 onto a glass substrate.

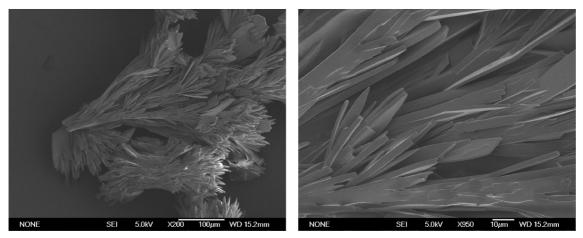


Figure S10. SEM images of the lamellar supramolecular structures formed by the selfassembly of 2 onto a glass substrate.

#### 2. Experimental section

General. All solvents were dried according to standard procedures. Reagents were used as purchased. All air-sensitive reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere. Flash chromatography was performed using silica gel (Merck, Kieselgel 60, 230-240 mesh or Scharlau 60, 230-240 mesh). Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using aluminium-coated Merck Kieselgel 60 F254 plates. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 (1H: 300 MHz; 13C: 75 MHz) and on a Bruker Avance 500 (1H: 500 MHz; <sup>13</sup>C: 126 MHz) spectrometer using partially deuterated solvents as internal standards. Coupling constants (J) are denoted in Hz and chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) in ppm. Multiplicities are denoted as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quadruplet, m = multiplet, br = broad. FT-IR spectra in film were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 (ATR device) spectrometer. The samples for the FTIR spectra in film were prepared as follows: a 1 mM solution of the corresponding tetracarboxamide in CHCl<sub>3</sub> was deposited in the ATR device and the solvent was gently evaporated under a nitrogen stream. FT-IR spectra in solution were recorded on a SHIMADZU FTIR-8300 Fourier transform infrared spectrophotometer. UV-Vis spectra were registered on a Jasco-V630 spectrophotometer equipped with a Peltier thermoelectric temperature controller. The spectra were recorded in the continuous mode between 200 and 500 nm, with a wavelength increment of 1 nm, a response time of 4 s, and a bandwidth of 1 nm. A 1 mm path length guartz cuvette (Hellma) was used. Thermal experiments were performed at constant heating rates of 1 K min<sup>-1</sup>. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Jasco FP-6500 spectrophotometer. SEM images were obtained from on a JEOL JSM 6335F microscope working at 10kV. Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization (coupled to a Time-Of-Flight analyzer) experiments (MALDI-TOF) were recorded on a Bruker REFLEX spectrometer.

#### 3. X-Ray data collection and structure refinement

Data collection for compound **5** was carried out at room temperature on a Bruker Smart CCD difractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo-Ka radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) operating at 50 kV and 40 mA.

Data were collected over a sphere of the reciprocal space by combination of five exposure sets. Each exposure was of 30 s covered 0.3 in  $\omega$ . The cell parameters were determined and refinement by least-squares fit of all reflections. The 50 frames were recollected at the end of the data collections to monitor crystal decay, and no appreciable decay was observed.

The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-square procedures on F2 (SHELXL-97)1. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. All hydrogen atoms were included in their calculated positions and refined riding on the respective carbon atoms. Mercury CSD 4.02 was used for molecular graphics (see Figure S11).

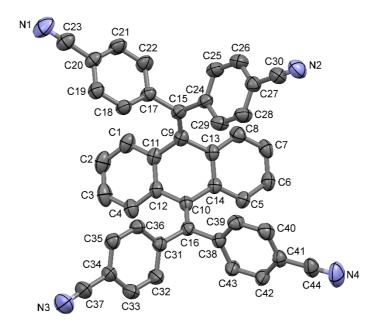


Figure S11. ORTEP diagram (50% probability level) of compound 5. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

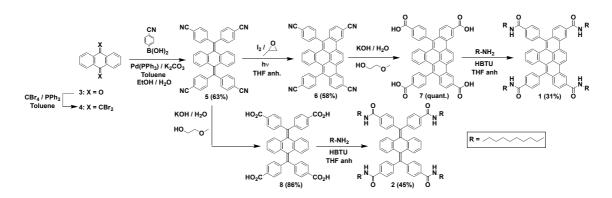
Further crystallographic details for the structure reported in this paper may be obtained from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center, on quoting the depository number CCDC: 1851673

Table S2. Crystal da	ata and structure r	refinement for compound	d <b>5</b> .
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Identification code	p21c	
Empirical formula	C44H24N4	
Formula weight	608.67	
Temperature/K	296.15	
Crystal system	monoclinic	
Space group	P21/c	
a/Å	10.3313(6)	
b/Å	10.8088(6)	
c/Å	29.7134(2)	
a/°	90	
β/°	93.6640(9)	
γ/°	90	
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3311.3(3)	
Z	4	
pcalcg/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.221	
µ/mm⁻¹	0.072	
F(000)	1264.0	
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.52 × 0.18 × 0.12	
Radiation	ΜοΚα (λ = 0.71073)	
20 range for data collection/°	2.746 to 57.838	
Index ranges	$-14 \le h \le 13$ , $-14 \le k \le 14$ , $-40 \le l \le 40$	
Reflections collected	33972	
Independent reflections	8213 [ $R_{int} = 0.0720, R_{sigma} = 0.0839$ ]	
Data/restraints/parameters	8213/0/433	
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	0.988	
Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma (I)]^a$	R1 = 0.0533, <i>w</i> R2 = 0.1070	
Final R indexes [all data] <sup>b</sup>	R1 = 0.1698, <i>w</i> R2 = 0.1537	
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>.3</sup>	0.16/-0.17	
* $R1=\Sigma  F_{\circ} - F_{\circ}  /\Sigma F_{\circ} $ * $wR2=\{\Sigma[w(F_{\circ}^{2}-F_{\circ}^{2})^{2}]/\Sigma[w(F_{\circ}^{2})^{2}]\}$		

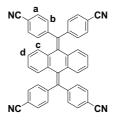
 Siemens, SMART, SAINT and SHELXTL, Siemens Analytical X-ray Instruments INC., Madison, Wisconsin, USA, 2002.  I.J. Bruno, J.A. Chisholm, P. R. Edgington, P. McCabe, E. Pidcock, L. Rodriguez-Monge, R. Taylor, J. Van de Streek and P. A. Wood, J. APPL. Crystallogr., 2008, 41, 466-470.

#### 4. Synthetic details and characterization



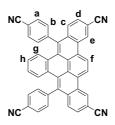
Compound **4** was prepared according to previously reported synthetic procedures (see: R. Neidlein and M. Winter, *Synthesis*, 1998, 1362) and showed identical spectroscopic properties to those reported therein.

#### 9,10-bis(di-4'-cyanophenylmethylene)-9,10:dihydroanthracene (5)



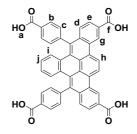
To a stirred suspension of **4** (1.0 g, 1.92 mmol) and 4-cyanophenylboronic acid (1.07 g, 11.5 mmol) in 55 mL of toluene, potassium carbonate (2.11 g, 15.3 mmol) was added in 16 mL of a EtOH:H<sub>2</sub>O mixture (1:1) under argon atmosphere. After fifteen minutes, *tetrakis*(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (89 mg, 1.68 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was heated at reflux overnight. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude was dissolved in dicloromethane, washed with brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent, the raw product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent), affording **5** as pale pink flakes in a 63 % yield (730 mg, 1.2 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  / ppm): 7.64 (d, 8H, H<sub>a</sub>, *J*=8.3), 7.46 (d, 8H, H<sub>b</sub>, *J*=8.3), 6.93 (m, 4H, H<sub>c</sub>), 6.85 (m, 4H, H<sub>d</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 145.75, 137.68, 136.94, 136.28, 132.74, 130.61, 128.55, 126.78, 118.36, 111.71. FTIR (v /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 571, 642, 668, 730, 760, 828, 862, 951, 1020, 1044, 1110, 1179, 1267, 1401, 1452, 1498, 1601, 1923, 2226, 3061. MALDI-MS: C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+1]<sup>+</sup> calcd. 609.178; found, 609.080.

5,10-bis(4-cyanophenyl)-5b,9a-dihydrodibenzo[h,rst]pentaphene-2,13dicarbonitrile (6)



To a stirred suspension of **5** (330 mg, 0.54 mmol) in 180 mL of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran, iodine (680 mg, 2.71 mmol) and 15 mL of propylene oxide were added portion wise under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature and under UV-light irradiation ( $\lambda$ = 360 nm). The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the resulting crude was washed with methanol and filtered affording compound **6** as yellow flakes in a 58 % yield (190 mg, 0.31 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (700 MHz, C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 9.31 (s, 2H, H<sub>e</sub>), 9.13 (s, 2H, H<sub>f</sub>), 7.88 (d, 4H, H<sub>a</sub>, *J*=8.2), 7.86 (d, 2H, H<sub>d</sub>), 7.77 (d, 2H, H<sub>c</sub>, *J*=8.5), 7.69 (d, 4H, H<sub>b</sub>, *J*=7.6), 7.29 (m, 2H, H<sub>g</sub>), 6.88 (m, 2H, H<sub>h</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>4</sub>) ( $\delta$ / ppm): 145.59, 133.50, 133.30, 133.11, 132.69, 131.33, 130.99, 129.23, 129.10, 128.69, 128.18, 127.57, 125.80, 123.14, 120.60, 119.61, 118.98, 112.35, 110.42, 99.81. FTIR (v /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 626, 703, 742, 802, 827, 887, 948, 1005, 1094, 1260, 1375, 1460, 1605, 2229, 2854, 2924, 2957. MALDI-MS: C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+1]<sup>+</sup> calcd. 605.1688; found, 604.896.

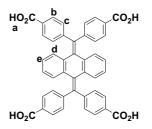
5,10-bis(4-carboxyphenyl)-5b,9a-dihydrodibenzo[h,rst]pentaphene-2,13dicarboxylic acid (7)



To a stirred suspension of **6** (190 mg, 0.31 mmol) in 15 mL of 2-methoxyethanol, potassium hydroxide (4.74 mL, 12 M) was added portion wise and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at reflux. To the resulting crude, HCl (1 M) was added and the precipitate was filtrated affording **7** as a yellow solid in a quantitative yield (213 mg, 0.31 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 13.29 (s, 4H, H<sub>a,f</sub>), 9.54 (s, 2H, H<sub>g</sub>), 9.09 (s, 2H, H<sub>h</sub>), 8.19 (s, 4H, H<sub>b</sub>), 8.18 (d, 2H, H<sub>e</sub>, *J*=9.1), 7.90 (d, 2H, H<sub>d</sub>, *J*=8.8), 7.78 (d, 4H, H<sub>c</sub>, *J*=8.1), 7.47 (m, 2H, H<sub>i</sub>), 6.94 (m, 2H, H<sub>j</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 167.35, 167.16, 145.17, 133.31, 132.95, 132.73, 132.41, 130.72, 130.23, 130.14, 129.07, 128.53, 128.02, 127.12, 127.03, 126.52, 125.11, 124.37, 122.57, 79.18. FTIR (v

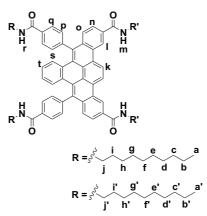
/cm-1): 705, 742, 764, 819, 1008, 1026, 1072, 1123, 1153, 1290, 1379, 1463, 1601, 1730, 3309, 3395, 3671. MALDI-MS: C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>8</sub> [M+1]<sup>+</sup> calcd.681.1471; found, 681.1584.

## 9,10-bis(di-4'-carboxyphenylmethylene)-9,10:dihydroanthracene (8)



To a stirred suspension of **5** (330 mg, 0.542 mmol) in 25 mL of 2-methoxyethanol, potassium hydroxide (8.25, 12 M) was added portion wise and the reaction was heated overnight at reflux. To the resulting organic mixture, HCl (1 M) was added and the precipitate was filtrated affording **8** as a brown solid in 86 % yield (320 mg, 0.46 mmol). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 12.98 (s, 4H, H<sub>a</sub>), 7.95 (d, 8H, H<sub>b</sub>, *J*=8.4), 7.65 (d, 8H, H<sub>c</sub>, *J*=8.3), 6.94 (m, 4H, H<sub>d</sub>), 6.80 (m, 4H, H<sub>e</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 167.04, 146.26, 138.91, 136.57, 135.17, 129.65, 129.62, 129.28, 127.63, 125.80. FTIR (v /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 542, 631, 662, 714, 750, 767, 793, 874, 927, 956, 1019, 1112, 1128, 1179, 1285, 1311, 1424, 1454, 1562, 1606, 1703, 2550, 2674, 2923, 3003, 3444. MALDI-MS: C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>8</sub> [M+1]<sup>+</sup> calcd. 685.1784; found, 685.1854.

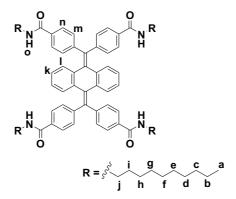
N<sup>2</sup>,N<sup>13</sup>-didecyl-5,10-bis(4-(decylcarbamoyl)phenyl)-5b,9a-dihydrodibenzo-[h,rst]pentaphene-2,13-dicarboxamide (1)



To a stirred solution of **7** (100 mg, 0.14 mmol) in 15 mL of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran, decylamine (140 mg, 0.88 mmol) and HBTU (280 mg, 0.73 mmol) were added portion wise under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The resulting crude was washed with HCI (1 M), NaOH (1M) and brine and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 10:0.2) and subsequent precipitation

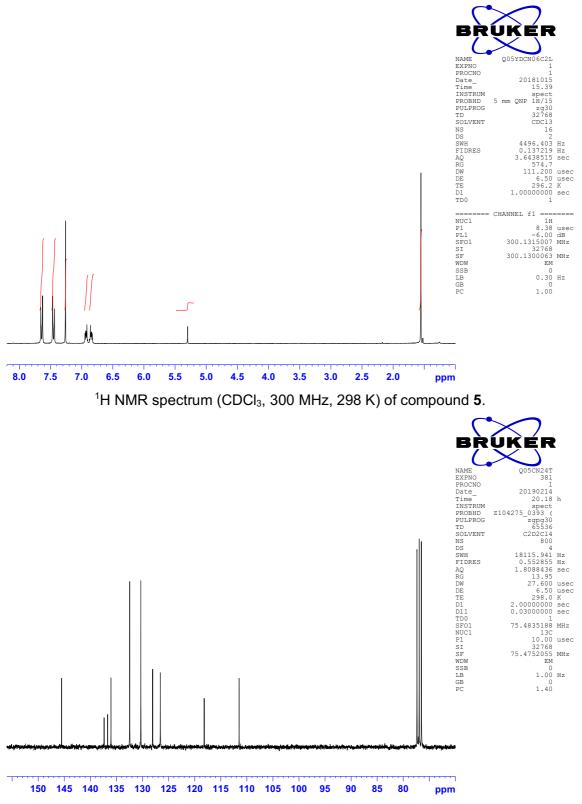
from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH afforded compound **2** as yellow flakes in a 31 % yield. (10 mg, 0.008 mmol) <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 9.36 (s, 2H, H<sub>I</sub>), 8.95 (s, 2H, H<sub>k</sub>), 7.88 (d, 4H, H<sub>q</sub>, *J*=7.8), 7.83 (s, 4H, H<sub>n+o</sub>), 7.43 (d, 4H, H<sub>p</sub>, *J*=7.5), 7.17 (m, 2H, H<sub>s</sub>), 6.72 (m, 2H, H<sub>m</sub>), 6.58 (m, 2H, H<sub>t</sub>), 6.37 (m, 2H, H<sub>r</sub>), 3.64 (q, 4H, H<sub>j</sub>), 3.53 (q, 4H, H<sub>j</sub>), 1.91 – 1.10 (br, 64H, H<sub>b+b'+c+c'+d+d'+e+e'+f+f'+g+g'+h+h'+i+i'), 0.89 (t, 12H, H<sub>a+a'</sub>, *J*=2.3). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 167.89, 167.29, 144.60, 134.33, 133.45, 133.06, 132.60, 130.89, 129.22, 129.12, 128.45, 127.85, 127.74, 127.58, 127.42, 126.10, 125.52, 125.04, 124.40, 122.33, 40.79, 40.54, 32.14, 32.08, 29.99, 29.86, 29.82, 29.78, 29.75, 29.63, 29.57, 29.50, 29.47, 27.41, 27.32, 22.83, 14.20. FTIR (v /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 733, 1267, 1308, 1373, 1462, 1504, 1543, 1634, 1715, 2853, 2922, 3294, 3841. HRMS (MALDI-TOF) m/z for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>108</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+1]<sup>+</sup> calcd. 1237.8371; found, 1237.8387.</sub>

9,10-bis(di-4'-N-decylcarbamoylphenylmethylene)-9,10-dihydroanthracene (2)

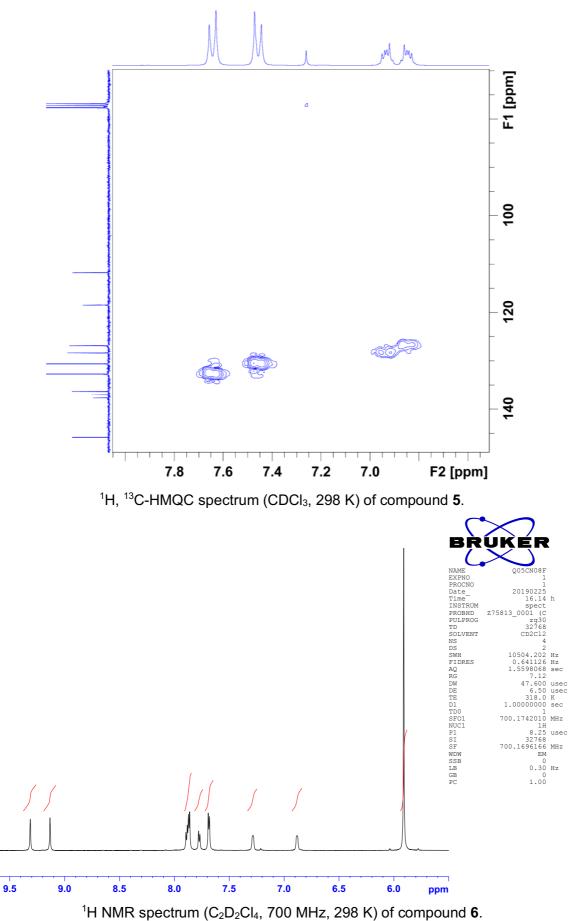


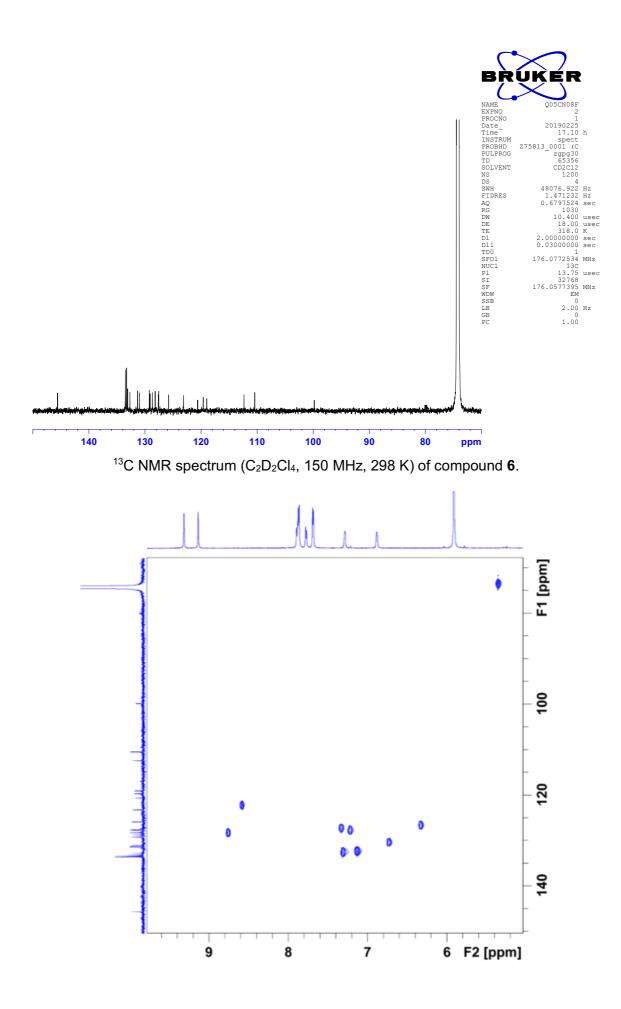
Tetrabenzoic acid **9** (230 mg, 0.33 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (15 mL) under argon atmosphere. After fifteen minutes, decylamine (316 mg, 2.01 mmol) and HBTU (635 mg, 1.67 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The resulting crude was washed with HCl (1 M), NaOH (1 M) and brine solution and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After filtration and removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH 10:0.2) and subsequent precipitation from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH afforded compound **2** as white flakes in 45 % yield (280 mg, 0.22 mmol) .<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 7.68 (d, 8H, H<sub>n</sub>, *J*=8.1), 7.41 (d, 8H, H<sub>m</sub>, *J*=8.1), 6.95 (m, 4H, H<sub>l</sub>), 6.73 (m, 4H, H<sub>k</sub>), 6.17 (t, 4H, H<sub>o</sub>, *J*=5.5), 3.44 (q, 8H, H<sub>l</sub>), 1.58-1.31 (br, 64H, H<sub>b+c+d+e+f+g+h+i</sub>), 0.87 (t, 12H, H<sub>a</sub>, *J*=6.7). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) ( $\delta$  / ppm): 167.40, 145.31, 138.28, 137.23, 136.82, 133.63, 130.06, 128.14, 127.24, 126.07, 40.66, 32.30, 30.14, 30.11, 29.96, 29.74, 29.69, 27.46, 23.06, 14.46. FTIR (v /cm<sup>-1</sup>): 608, 631, 684, 728, 869, 1021, 1107, 1158, 1265, 1314, 1374, 1462, 1499, 1552, 1632, 1717, 2852, 2922, 3281. HRMS (MALDI-TOF) m/z for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>112</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> calcd. 1241.8684; found, 1241.8705.

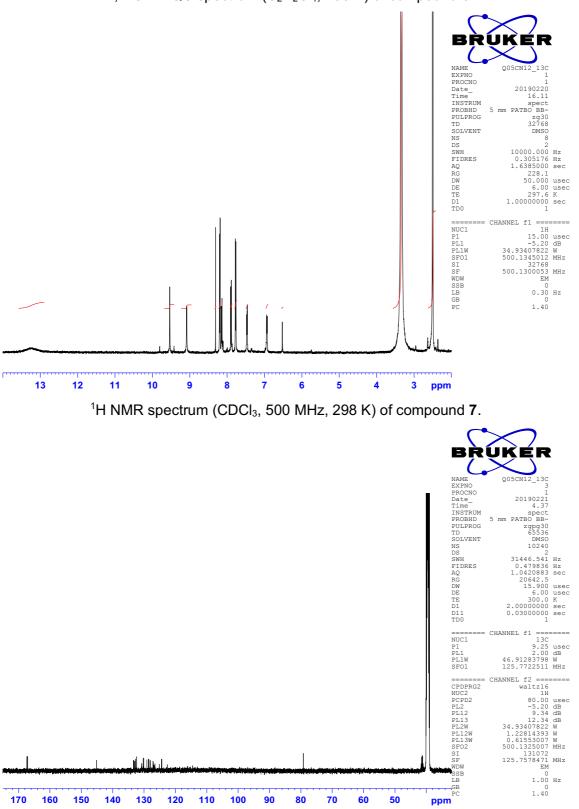
#### 5. Collection of spectra



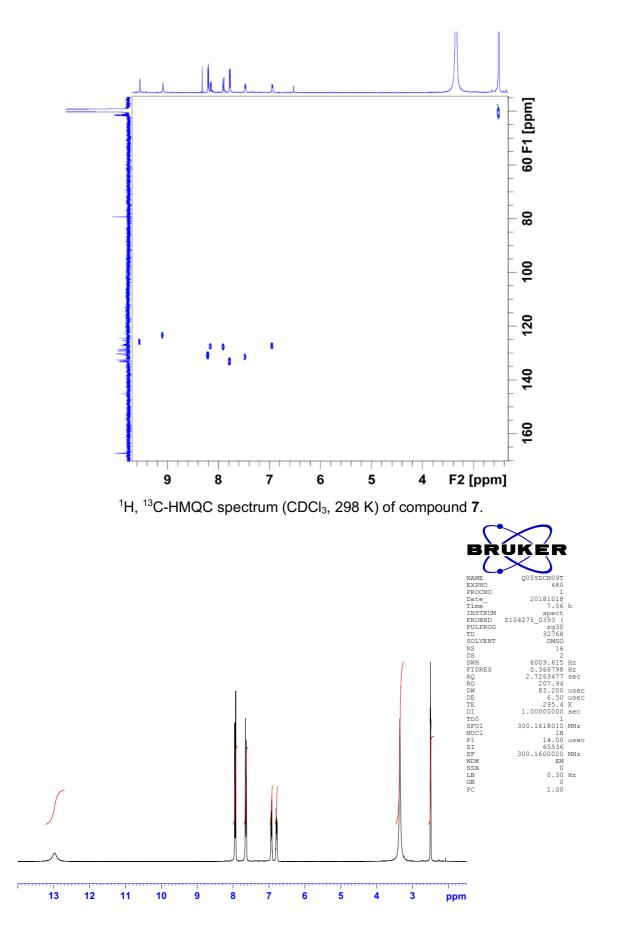
 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (CDCl\_3, 75 MHz, 298 K) of compound **5**.



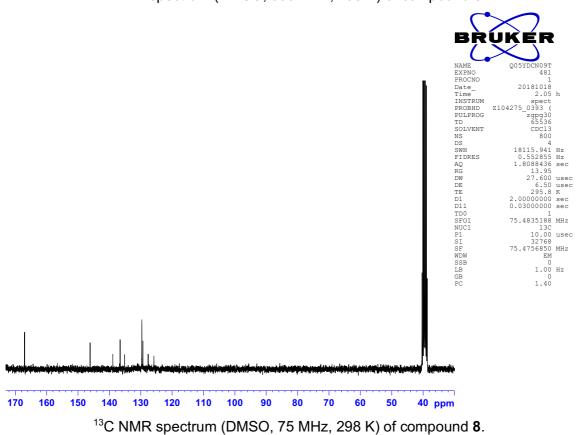




<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C-HMQC spectrum ( $C_2D_2CI_4$ , 298 K) of compound **6**.



 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (CDCl\_3, 126 MHz, 298 K) of compound 7.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO, 300 MHz, 298 K) of compound **8**.

