

Electronic Supplementary Information for

**Stepwise structural and fluorescent colour conversion in
rhodamine analogues based on light and acid stimulations**

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1. General Remarks

Materials. Reagents and solvents were commercially available and used as purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industries (Tokyo, Japan), Wako Pure Chemical Industries (Osaka, Japan), and Nacalai Tesque (Kyoto, Japan). All solvents were used without further purification. Flash column chromatography was conducted over silica gel (Merck Silica Gel 60 mesh 70-230). Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on commercial Merck 60F, 254 silica gel plates, and compounds were visualized with a short-wave UV lamp ($\lambda = 254$ nm), by staining with an I₂-SiO₂ mixture, and by heating plates that were dipped in ammonium phosphomolybdate sulfate solution.

Instruments. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using 600 MHz (Varian UNITY INOVA) spectrometers. Solvents used for NMR measurements were CDCl₃ and THF-*d*₈. Mass spectra were recorded by using G6520 (Agilent Technologies, Ltd.). Light source for photochemical reaction and photometric measurements were xenon lamp (1500 W) coupled to HITACHI F-7100 fluorescence spectrophotometer equipped with a temperature controller unit, and PD2-1012-LED lamp (CCS Inc., Japan).

Absorption and fluorescent emission measurement. UV-vis spectra were recorded using a V-570 spectrophotometer (JASCO Co., Ltd.) at 293 K. Absorption measurements over the spectral range from 250 nm to 700 nm were carried out in quartz cells having an optical path length of 1 cm. Fluorescence emission spectra were collected on a F-7100 fluorescence spectrophotometer (HITACHI High-Technologies Co. Ltd.) at 293 K. To obtain an accurate spectrum, spectrum correction was carried out with rhodamine B concentrated solution and a secondary-standard light source. A cut filter was utilized to eliminate multiple lights, such as secondary light, due to the effects of light scattering. All solvents for spectrophotometry were purchased from Nacalai Tesque (Kyoto, Japan).

2. Figures and tables

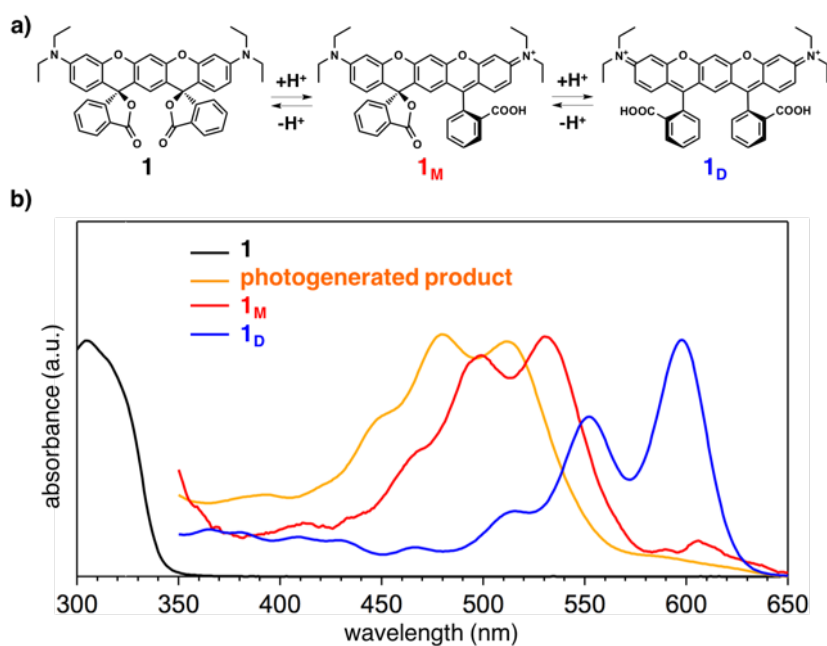


Fig. S1 (a) Protolytic reaction of compound **1**. (b) Absorption spectra of photogenerated product of **1** in CHCl_3 after irradiation of UV light, and equilibrium species in various combination of TFA and CHCl_3 . The black, red, blue and orange curves correspond to the closed, monocationic (**1_M**), dicationic (**1_D**), and zwitterionine species of **1**, respectively.

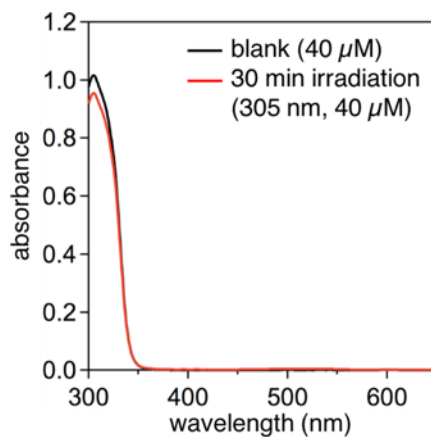


Fig. S2 Absorption spectra of 40 μM of **1** in CHCl_3 (black line), and **1** in CHCl_3 irradiated with 305 nm UV light for 30 minutes.

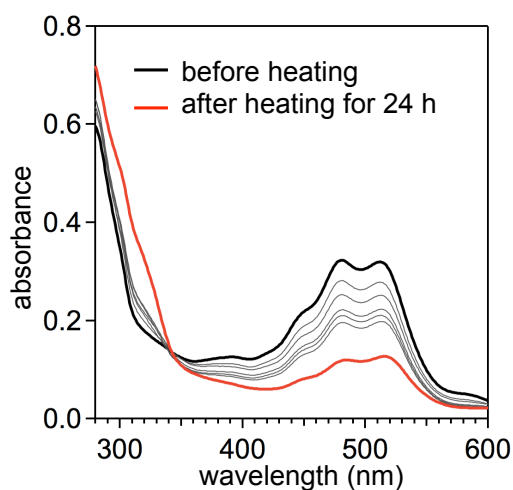


Fig. S3 Absorption spectra of **1z** in degassed CHCl_3 upon heating at 313 K.

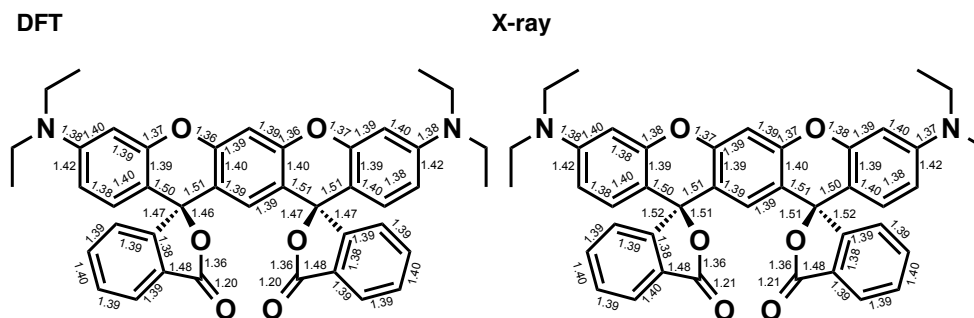


Fig. S4 Comparison of bond lengths (Å) in the DFT-optimized geometry of compound **1** with those in the crystal structure.¹

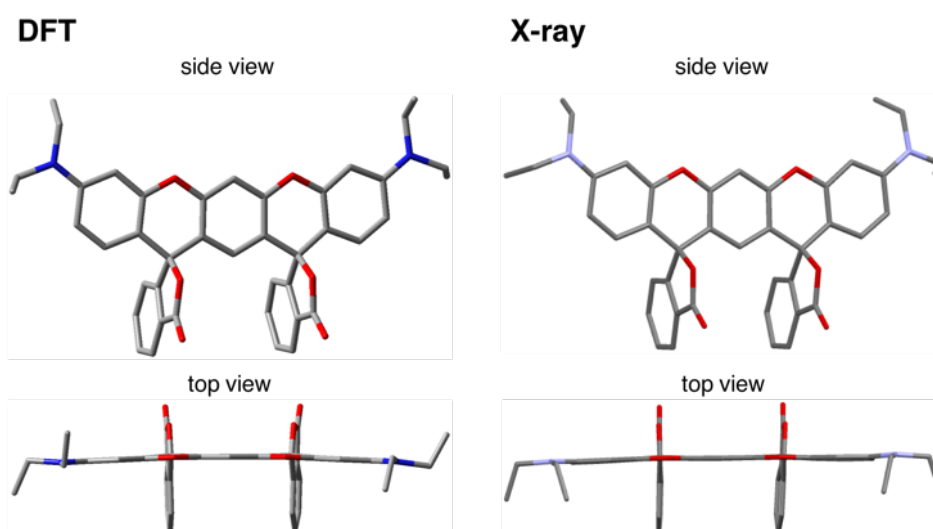


Fig. S5 Comparison the DFT-optimized geometry of compound **1** with the crystal structure.

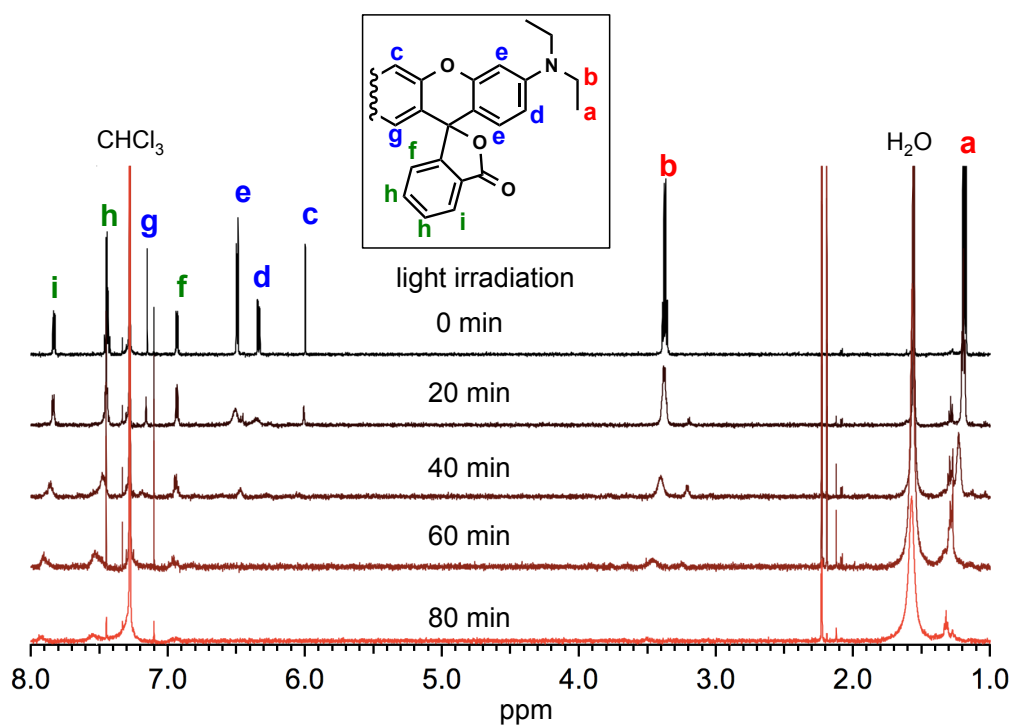


Fig. S6 ¹H NMR spectra of **1** in argon-purged CDCl₃ upon light irradiation over 0–80 min at 298 K ($\lambda_{\text{irr}} = 305$ nm, xenon lamp). The inset shows the ¹H peaks of **1** in CDCl₃. The solution of **1** gave no resonance signals corresponding to the xanthene ¹H (H_c–H_g) after 60 min of the irradiation.

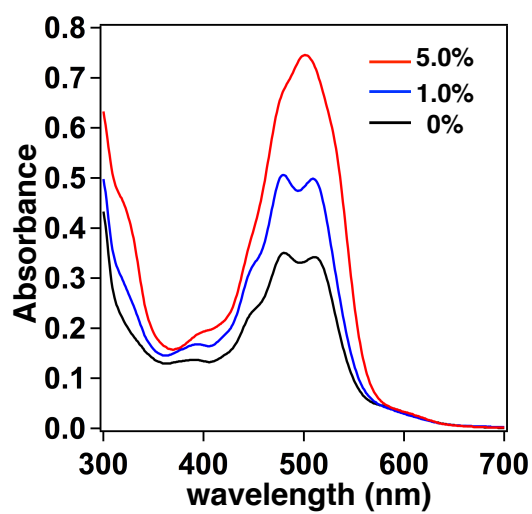


Fig. S7 Absorption spectra of 40 μM of **1** in $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ solution after UV irradiation for 1 h. The percentages indicate the content of MeOH.

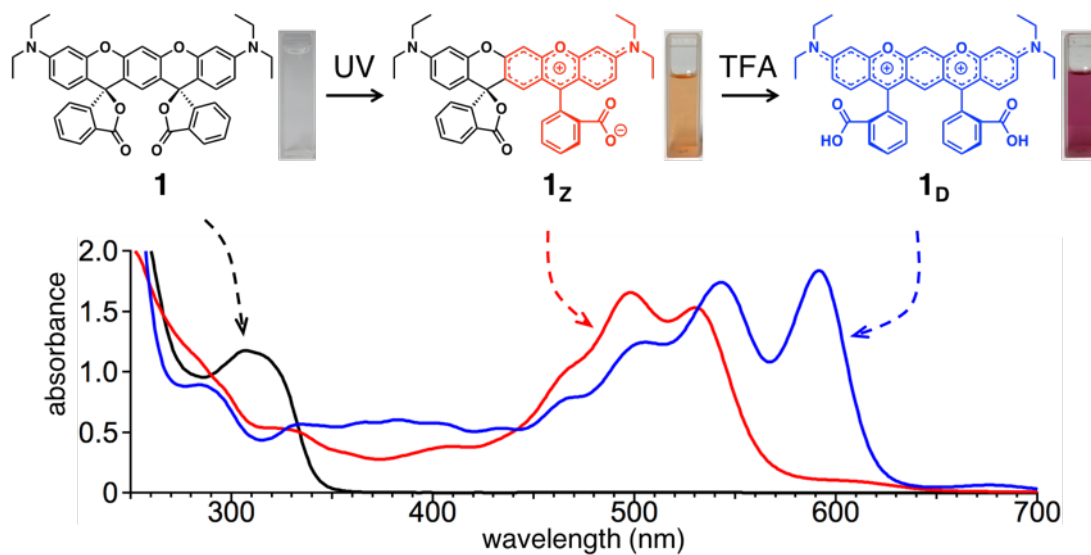
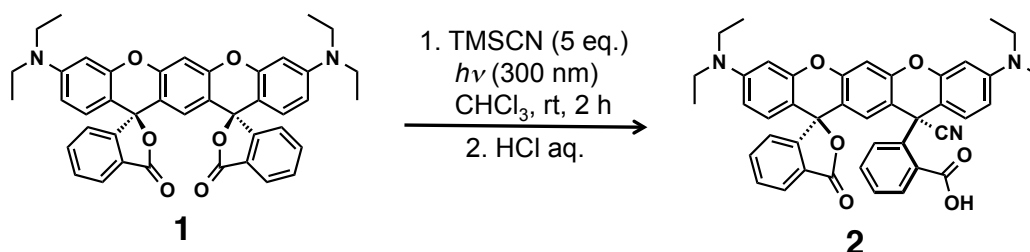


Fig. S8 Schematic illustration and absorption spectra of three states (**1**, **1_z** and **1_D**) in 1.0% MeOH/ CHCl_3 .

3. Trapping and structural characterization of photogenerated products

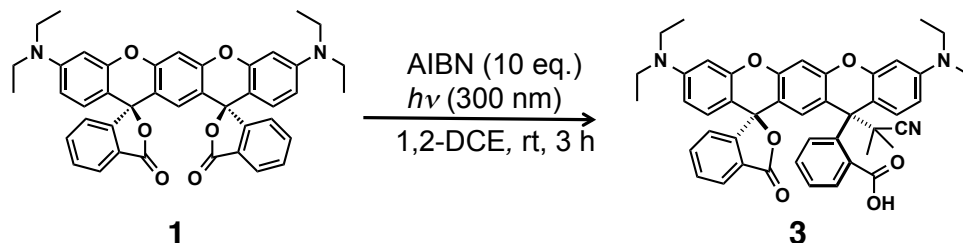
3-1. Preparation of cyanoadduct (2)



To argon-purged CHCl_3 (20 mL) in a dry quartz flask was added compound **1** (13 mg, 2 μM) and TMS-CN (9.7 mg, 5 eq.). The reaction mixture was then irradiated with LED lamp (9.5 W, CCS Inc.) peaking at 300 nm for 2 h in the dark condition (The non-irradiated reaction was carried out in the dark condition.). The resulting mixture was acidified with diluted HCl, and allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 min to remove the trimethylsilyl group. The suspension was then extracted with CHCl_3 repeatedly. The organic phase was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and evaporated to the crude product. This was purified by silica gel column chromatography to obtain the pure product of **2** as white powder. Yield: 2.1 mg (15%).

Compound **2**: ^1H NMR ($\text{THF}-d_8$, 600 MHz): δ 7.83-7.89 (m, 2 H), 7.45-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.24 (dt, 1 H, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz), 7.11 (dt, 1 H, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz), 6.97-7.01 (m, 2 H), 6.92-6.95 (m, 1 H), 6.86 (d, 1 H, $J = 9$ Hz), 6.53 (d, 1 H, $J = 9$ Hz), 6.43-6.48 (m, 2 H), 6.36 (dd, 1 H, $J = 8.4, 2.7$ Hz), 6.32 (dd, 1 H, $J = 8.7, 2.7$ Hz), 6.30 (s, 1 H), 3.28-3.40 (m, 8 H), 1.10-1.20 (m, 12 H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 172.63, 169.76, 153.52, 152.72, 152.23, 151.89, 151.57, 149.70, 149.47, 147.89, 134.54, 132.99, 131.52, 130.66, 130.54, 129.66, 129.55, 128.96, 127.73, 127.63, 125.94, 124.85, 123.87, 122.03, 115.14, 111.25, 108.46, 108.34, 105.49, 103.71, 98.92, 97.87, 84.69, 44.59, 44.49, 12.74, 12.70, 12.62. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{38}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 692.2760, Found 692.2755. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 2972, 2854, 1767, 1616.

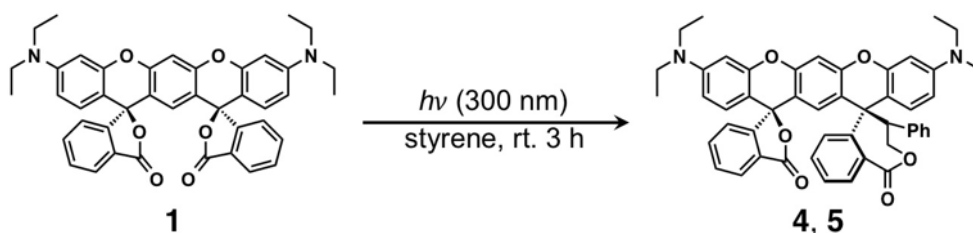
3-2. Preparation of isopropyl cyano radical adduct (3)



To argon-purged 1,2-DCE (10 ml) in a dry quartz flask was added compound **1** (66 mg, 100 μmol) and AIBN (164 mg, 10 eq.). The resulting mixture was irradiated with LED lamp (9.5 W, CCS Inc.) peaking at 300 nm for 3 h in the dark condition (The non-irradiated reaction was heated to 70°C in the dark condition.). The reaction mixture was evaporated to give the crude product. This was purified by preparative silica gel column chromatography to obtain the pure product of **3** as white powder. Yield: 8.1 mg (11%).

Compound 3: ^1H NMR (THF- d_8 , 600 MHz): δ 7.83 (d, 1 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.65 (dd, 1 H, $J = 7.8, 1.2$ Hz), 7.50 (t, 2 H, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 7.43 (dt, 2 H, $J = 7.2, 1.0$ Hz), 7.24 (t, 1 H, $J = 7.5$ Hz), 7.12 (dt, 1 H, $J = 7.5, 2.4$ Hz), 7.01 (dt, 1 H, $J = 7.5, 1$ Hz), 6.82-6.92 (m, 4 H), 6.73 (d, 1 H, $J = 8.4$ Hz), 6.58 (s, 1 H), 6.49 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.4$ Hz), 6.47 (d, 1 H, $J = 9.6$ Hz), 6.41 (d, 1 H, $J = 1.8$ Hz), 6.35 (dd, 2 H, $J = 8.4, 2.4$ Hz), 6.28-6.32 (m, 2 H), 3.30-3.42 (m, 8 H), 1.40 (s, 6 H), 1.10-1.17 (m, 12 H). ^{13}C NMR (THF- d_8 , 150 MHz): δ 169.40, 168.90, 154.12, 153.50, 153.28, 152.79, 152.67, 152.15, 150.36, 150.03, 148.74, 138.13, 132.49, 131.83, 131.16, 130.87, 130.45, 130.14, 129.97, 129.58, 128.82, 128.67, 126.10, 125.90, 124.85, 124.66, 123.95, 116.55, 112.00, 109.10, 108.91, 106.88, 103.78, 99.25, 98.42, 83.67, 68.21, 44.07, 44.98, 44.83, 37.81, 35.10, 30.73, 26.37, 21.39, 12.96, 12.81. LRMS (FAB $^+$) Found 735. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 2972, 1765, 1618.

3-3. Preparation of styrene adducts (4 and 5)



The procedure for the synthesis of compounds **4** and **5** is shown in Scheme 1. A solution of compound **1** (132 mg, 1.5 mmol), and degassed styrene (50 ml) were added into a dry and argon-purged quartz flask. The resulting mixture was then irradiated with LED lamp (9.5 W, CCS Inc.) peaking at 300 nm for 3 h in the dark condition. The reaction mixture was evaporated to give the crude product. This was purified by preparative silica gel column chromatography to obtain the pure product of **4** and **5** as pink powder. Compounds **4** and **5** were identified by ^1H - ^1H COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra.

Compound **4**: Yield: 7.8 mg (5.1 %). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 7.82-7.87 (m, 2 H), 7.43-7.49 (m, 2 H), 7.12-7.17 (m, 2 H), 7.00-7.05 (m, 1 H), 6.94-7.00 (m, 3 H), 6.87 (dd, 1 H, J = 8.1, 0.9 Hz), 6.57 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.56 (s, 1 H), 6.50 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.46 (d, 1 H, J = 8.4 Hz), 6.36 (dd, 1 H, J = 9.3, 2.7 Hz), 6.31 (dd, 1 H, J = 9.0, 2.4 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1 H), 5.98-6.04 (m, 3 H), 4.71 (dd, 1 H, J = 11.4, 7.2 Hz), 4.26 (d, 1 H, J = 12.0 Hz), 3.57 (d, 1 H, J = 7.2 Hz), 3.22-3.42 (m, 8 H), 1.18 (t, 6 H, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.13 (t, 6 H, J = 12.0 Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 170.51, 169.59, 153.44, 153.07, 153.02, 151.62, 151.46, 149.78, 148.03, 146.32, 138.83, 135.23, 134.55, 132.89, 131.36, 131.02, 129.77, 129.50, 129.34, 129.21, 129.03, 128.9, 128.80, 128.50, 128.42, 127.40, 127.02, 126.80, 124.86, 123.89, 123.64, 115.03, 114.75, 108.65, 108.60, 104.68, 103.11, 97.75, 97.40, 68.22, 60.43, 54.38, 44.61, 44.49, 12.62, 12.56. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 769.3272, Found 769.3266. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 2970, 2872, 1765, 1616.

Compound **5**: Yield: 3.4 mg (2.2 %). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 7.94 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0 Hz), 7.90 (dd, 1 H, J = 8.4, 1.8 Hz), 7.48-7.53 (m, 1 H), 7.35 (dt, 1 H, J = 7.5, 1.2 Hz), 7.11-7.21 (m, 3 H), 6.92-7.02 (m, 3 H), 6.76 (d, 1 H, J = 7.8 Hz), 6.71 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.61 (s, 1 H), 6.52 (d, 1 H, J = 9.0 Hz), 6.44 (d, 1 H, J = 1.8 Hz), 6.35 (dd, 1 H, J = 8.7, 2.7 Hz), 6.32 (dd, 1 H, J = 9.0, 2.4 Hz), 6.04 (d, 2 H, J = 7.2 Hz), 6.01 (d, 1 H, J = 2.4 Hz), 5.85 (s, 1 H), 5.07 (dd, 1 H, J = 6.6, 6.0 Hz), 4.23 (d, 1 H, J = 12.0 Hz), 3.43 (d, 1 H, J = 6.6 Hz), 3.23-3.41 (m, 8 H), 1.08-1.23 (m, 12 H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 169.23, 168.99, 153.59, 153.27, 152.06, 151.73, 151.64, 149.73, 148.32, 147.20, 138.77, 135.59, 134.18, 133.38, 131.59, 130.94, 130.37, 129.50, 129.28, 129.00, 128.86, 127.67, 127.32, 126.98, 126.75, 126.47, 125.17, 123.44, 116.18, 112.20, 108.34, 107.74, 105.47, 102.92, 98.11, 97.85, 68.42, 60.38, 54.77, 44.62, 44.62, 44.55, 44.1, 12.61, 12.58, 12.54. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $\text{C}_{50}\text{H}_{45}\text{N}_2\text{O}_6$ $[\text{M}]^+$: 769.3272, Found 769.3249. IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 2970, 1766, 1614.

4. Calculation of the excited state dipole moment

In previous report, it was founded that compound **1** exhibited solvatochromic fluorescence. Therefore, the determination of excited state dipole moment (μ_e) of **1** through solvatofluorochromic shifts have been carried out by plotting of Lippert-Mataga and Bilot-Kawski equations, and Reichardt's E_T^N solvent polarity parameter.

Lippert-Mataga equation

$$\nu_{\text{abs}} - \nu_{\text{fl}} = \frac{2(\mu_e - \mu_g)^2}{hca^3} \left(\frac{\epsilon - 1}{2\epsilon + 1} - \frac{n^2 - 1}{2n^2 + 1} \right) + \text{constant} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$\Delta f = \frac{(\epsilon - 1)}{(2\epsilon + 1)} - \frac{(n^2 - 1)}{(2n^2 + 1)} \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

In the equations of Eq. 1 and Eq. 2, ν_{abs} and ν_{fl} are the wavenumber of the absorption and fluorescence emission; μ_e and μ_g are the excited and ground state dipole moments, respectively; c is the velocity of light; h is Planck's constant; a is the radius of the cavity in which chromophore resides; ϵ and n are the dielectric constant and the refractive index, respectively of the organic solvent; Δf is the orientation polarizability function. The a calculated from the absolute density of compound **1** was 5.98 Å.

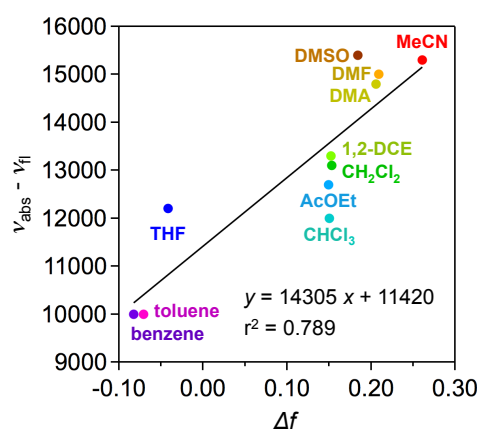


Fig. S9 Lippert-Mataga plots. Stokes shifts ($\nu_{\text{abs}} - \nu_{\text{fl}}$) vs orientation polarizability function (Δf) for **1**. Only aprotic solvents were used.

Bilot-Kawski equation

$$\nu_{abs} - \nu_{fl} = m_1 \cdot f_{BK}(\varepsilon, n) + const. \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

$$\nu_{abs} + \nu_{fl} = -m_2 \cdot [f_{BK}(\varepsilon, n) + 2g_{BK}(n)] + const. \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

In the equations of Eq. 3 and Eq. 4, $f_{BK}(\varepsilon, n)$ and $g_{BK}(n)$ are solvent polarizability function, respectively. Using a slope of m_1 and m_2 , and the calculated permanent dipole moment (μ_e and μ_g) can be obtained from Eq. 5 and 6. The a calculated from the absolute density of compound **1** was 5.98 Å.

$$m_1 = \frac{2(\mu_e - \mu_g)^2}{hca^3} \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

$$m_2 = \frac{2(\mu_e^2 - \mu_g^2)}{hca^3} \quad (\text{Eq. 6})$$

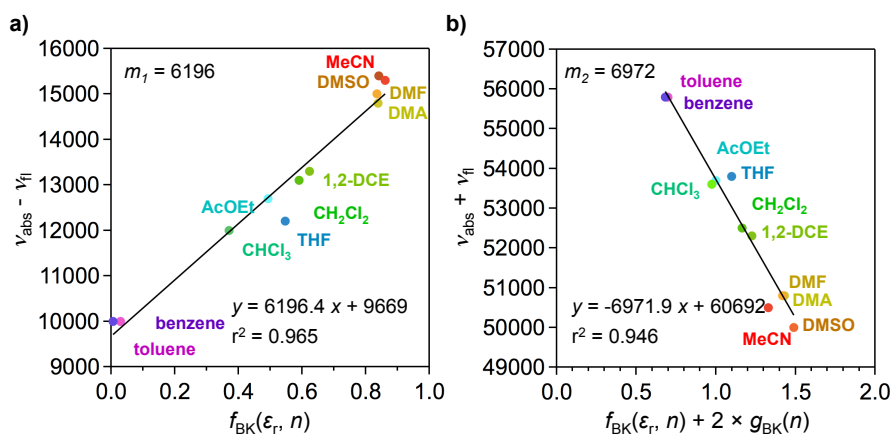


Fig. S10 Bilot-Kawski plots. Stokes shifts ($\nu_{abs} - \nu_{fl}$) vs orientation polarizability function $f_{BK}(\varepsilon, n)$ and $g_{BK}(n)$ for **1**. Only aprotic solvents were used.

Reichardt's E_T^N solvent polarity parameter

$$\nu_{abs} - \nu_{fl} = 11307.6 \left[\left(\frac{\Delta\mu}{\Delta\mu_B} \right)^2 \left(\frac{a_B}{a} \right)^3 \right] E_T^N + const. \quad (\text{Eq. 7})$$

E_T^N is one of the most popular solvent polarity parameter obtained by molar electronic transition energies (E_T) of penta-*tert*-butyl-substituted betaine dye. In the equation of Eq. 7, $\Delta\mu_B$ is the dipole moment change of a pyridinium *N*-phenolate betaine dye ($\Delta\mu_B = 9$ D) ; a_B is the radius of the cavity in which the pyridinium *N*-phenolate betaine dye ($a_B = 6.2$ Å).

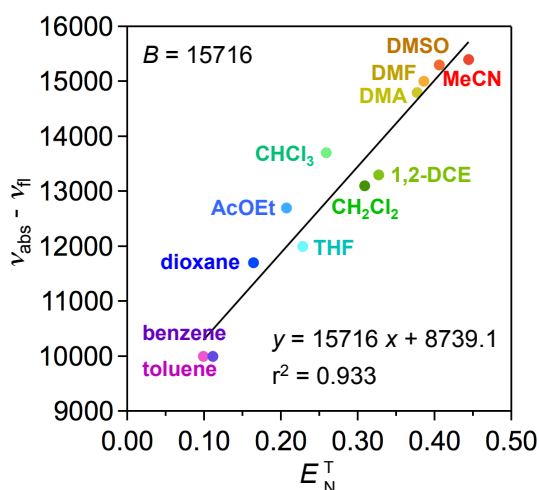


Fig. S11 Stokes shifts ($\nu_{abs} - \nu_{fl}$) vs E_T^N plot for **1**. Only aprotic solvents were used.

Table S1 Difference between the ground (μ_g) and excited (μ_e) permanent dipole moment of compound **1**.

1 ;	μ_g (calculated) = 11.01 [D] ^{*1} , $a = 5.98$ [Å]	
Lippert-Mataga	$\mu_e = 28.31$ [D] ^{*2}	$\Delta\mu = 17.30$ [D]
Bilot-Kawski	$\mu_e = 16.37$ [D] ^{*2}	$\Delta\mu = 5.36$ [D]
E_T^N	$\mu_e = 20.82$ [D] ^{*2}	$\Delta\mu = 9.81$ [D]
DFT ^{*1}	$\mu_e = 20.54$ [D] ^{*2}	$\Delta\mu = 9.53$ [D]

^{*1} μ_g and μ_e were calculated by using the CAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of theory.

^{*2} μ_e was estimated using $\mu_{g(\text{calculated})}$.

5. Kinetics

In a typical experiment, 40 μM solutions of compound **1**, **8**, **9**, **11** and **14** were prepared in degassed CHCl_3 and the absorption spectra of the closed form were measured under nitrogen atmosphere. Photo-conversion of closed form of these compounds to zwitterionic form (**1_z**, **8_z**, **9_z**, **11_z** and **14_z**) was carried out by using xenon lamp (305 nm, 1500 W) coupled to HITACHI F-7100 fluorescence spectrophotometer equipped with a temperature controller unit. Thermal relaxation analysis of zwitterionic form was measured in water bath at 5°C increments from 298 to 313 K over a period of 8 hours. The thermal relaxation typically followed first order kinetics.

First-order rate constants for thermal relaxation were determined by fitting absorbance to Eq. 1, where Abs is the absorbance at 480 nm (**1_z**, **9_z**, **11_z**, and **14_z**) or 510 nm (**8_z**), Abs₀ is the absorbance value at $t = 0$, k is the rate constant and t is time.

$$\ln [\text{Abs}] = [\text{Abs}_0]e^{-kt} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

The Arrhenius equation, as shown in Eq. 2, was used to plot the linear temperature dependence of the rate constant for thermal relaxation and find the activation energy (E_a), the pre-exponential factor (A), and half-life time ($t_{1/2}$). In the equation, k is the rate constant; R is the gas constant; T is the temperature (K).

$$\ln k = E_a/RT + \ln A \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

The thermodynamic activation of properties were calculated using Eyring equation, as shown in Eq. 3 and 4. In the equation, k is the rate constant; $\Delta S^\ddagger$ is the entropy of activation; $\Delta H^\ddagger$ is the enthalpy of activation; R is the gas constant; T is the temperature (K); k_B is the Boltzmann constant; h is the Planck's constant; $K^\ddagger$ is the transition state equilibrium of activation.

$$\ln(k/T) = \ln(k/h) + \Delta S^\ddagger/R - \Delta H^\ddagger/RT \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

$$k = (k_B T/h) K^\ddagger \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

Eq. 5 was used to calculate the Gibbs free energy of activation ($\Delta G^\ddagger$).

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = \Delta H^\ddagger - T\Delta S^\ddagger \quad (\text{Eq. 5})$$

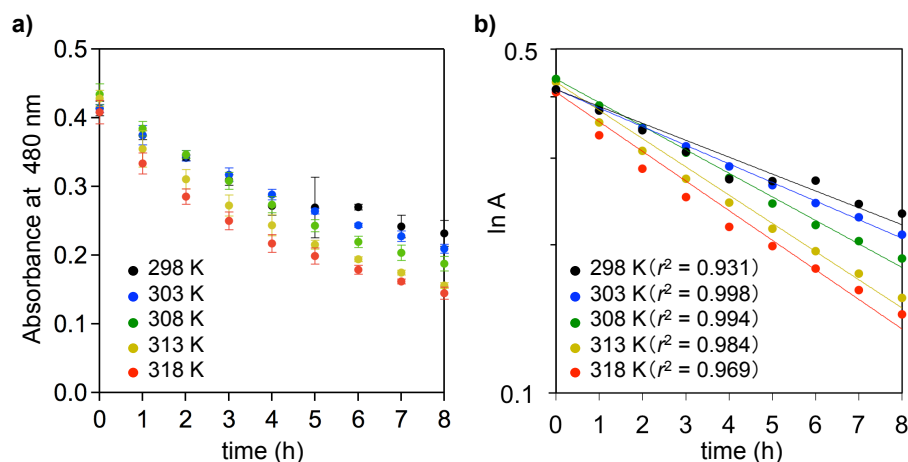


Fig. S12 (a) Thermal decay profiles of **1z** monitored at 480 nm in degassed CHCl_3 under nitrogen atmosphere. The measurements were performed over the temperature range 298-318 K. (b) The $\ln A$ vs. time plots for the thermal bleaching process. The curves were fitted with first-order kinetics to calculate the thermal bleaching rate constant: $k_{298 \text{ K}} = 0.079 \text{ h}^{-1}$, $k_{303 \text{ K}} = 0.087 \text{ h}^{-1}$, $k_{308 \text{ K}} = 0.110 \text{ h}^{-1}$, $k_{313 \text{ K}} = 0.132 \text{ h}^{-1}$, $k_{318 \text{ K}} = 0.138 \text{ h}^{-1}$.

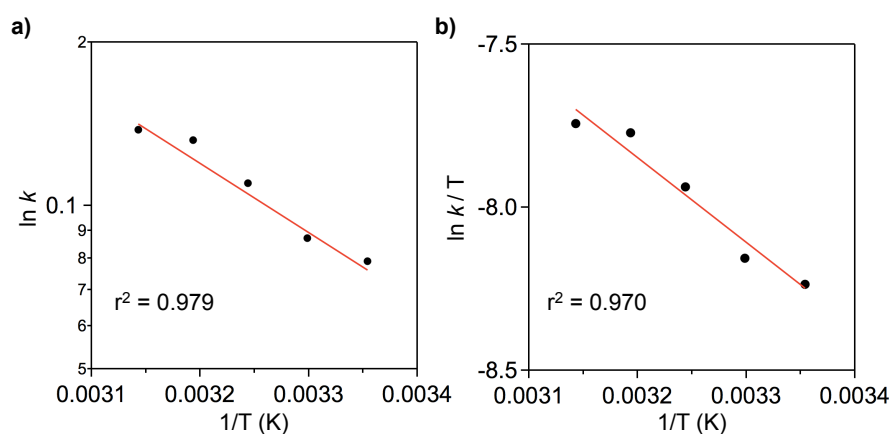


Fig. S13 (a) Arrhenius plots and (b) Eyring plots for the thermal bleaching process of **1z**.

Table S2 Thermodynamic parameters associated with the thermal back reaction of **1_Z** at 298 K.

$k_{298\text{ K}}$	$t_{1/2}$	E_a	A	$\Delta H^\ddagger$	$\Delta S^\ddagger$	$\Delta G^\ddagger_{298\text{ K}}$
H^{-1}	h	kcal mol^{-1}	H^{-1}	kcal mol^{-1}	$\text{cal mol}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$	kcal mol^{-1}
0.076	9.1	6.6	1.4×10^3	5.2	-46.2	18.8

$t_{1/2}$: half-life time, E_a : activation energy, A : pre-exponential factor, $\Delta H^\ddagger$: enthalpy of activation, $\Delta S^\ddagger$: entropy of activation, and $\Delta G^\ddagger_{298\text{ K}}$: Gibbs energy of activation.

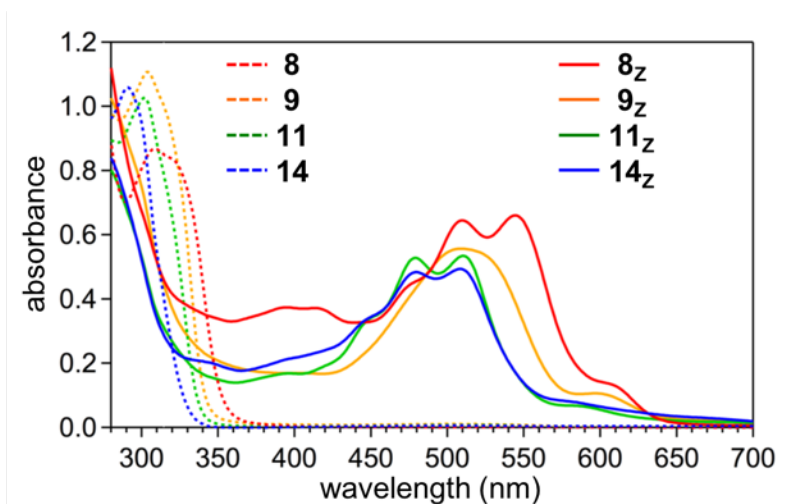


Fig. S14 Photoswitching of spiro-ring form to zwitterionic form of ABPXs with different electron donating amino substituents (**8**, **9**, **11** and **14**). Absorption spectra of 40 μM of **1** in CHCl_3 before (dotted line) and after (solid line) UV irradiation.

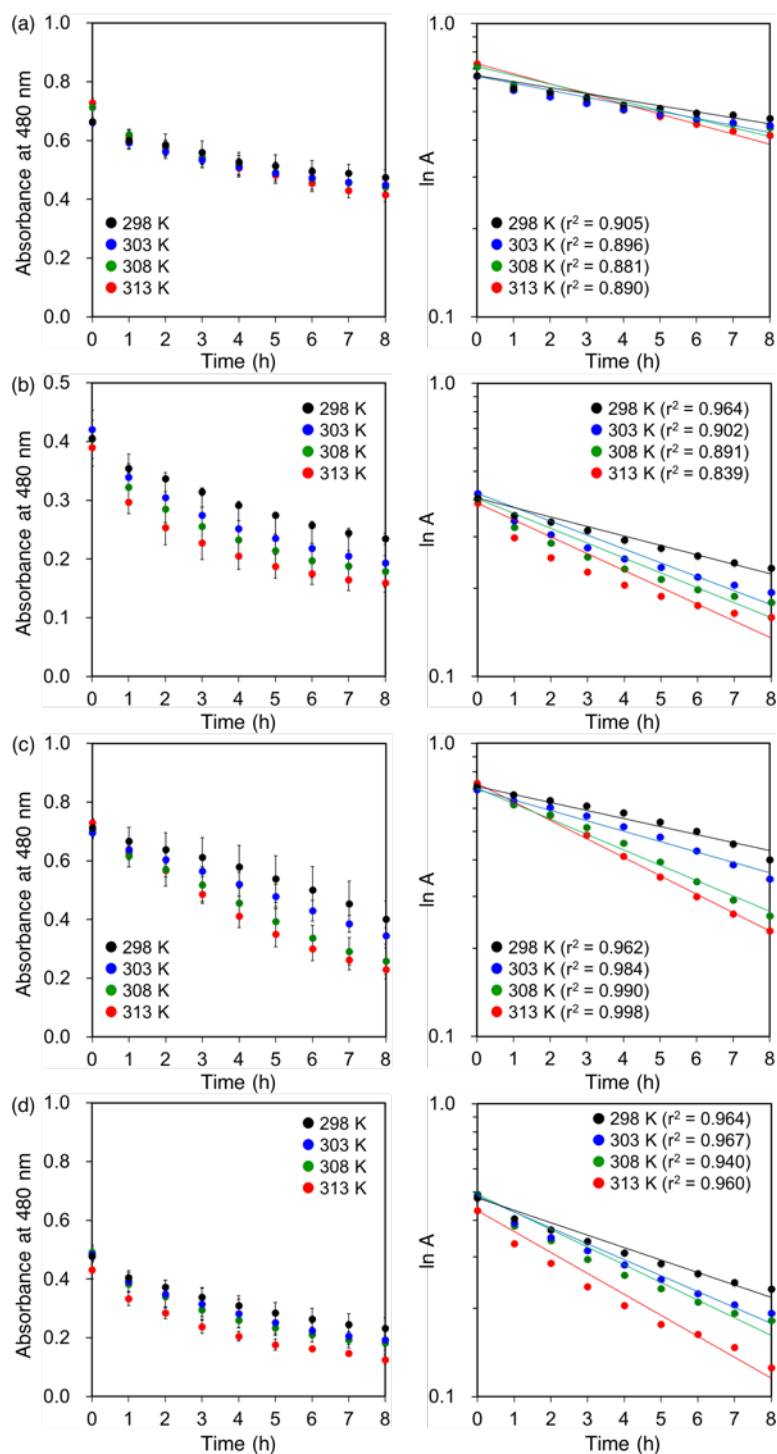


Fig. S15 (a) Thermal decay profiles of **8z**, **9z**, **11z**, and **14z** monitored at 480 nm in degassed CHCl_3 under nitrogen atmosphere. The measurements were performed over the temperature range 298–318 K. (b) The $\ln A$ vs. time plots for the thermal bleaching process. The curves were fitted with first-order kinetics to calculate the thermal bleaching rate constant.

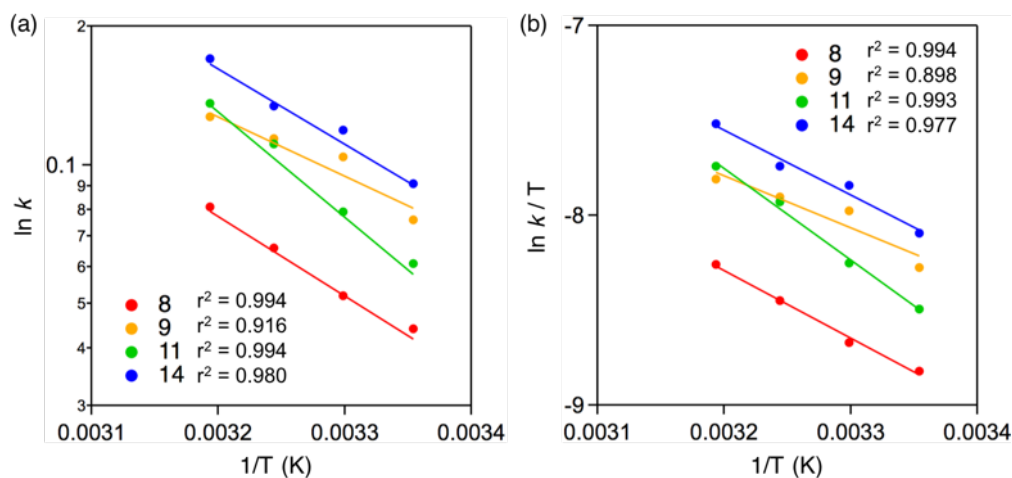


Fig. S16 (a) Arrhenius plots and (b) Eyring plots for the thermal bleaching process.

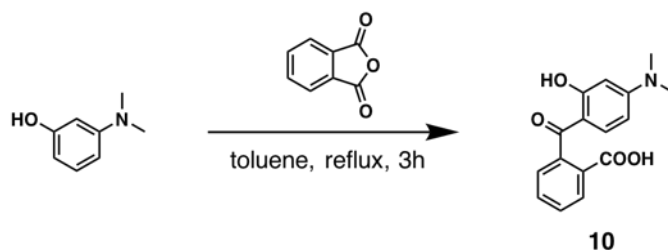
Table S3 Rate constants for thermal relaxation for **8_Z**, **9_Z**, **11_Z**, and **14_Z** over 298-313 K averaged from 3 replicates.

	σ^+	$k_{298\text{ K}}$ ($t_{1/2}$ [h])	$k_{303\text{ K}}$ ($t_{1/2}$ [h])	$k_{308\text{ K}}$ ($t_{1/2}$ [h])	$k_{313\text{ K}}$ ($t_{1/2}$ [h])
8_Z	-2.03	0.044 (15.8)	0.052 (13.3)	0.066 (10.5)	0.081 (8.60)
9_Z	-1.80	0.076 (9.10)	0.104 (6.70)	0.114 (6.10)	0.127 (5.50)
11_Z	-1.70	0.061 (11.4)	0.079 (8.80)	0.111 (6.20)	0.136 (5.10)
14_Z	-1.51	0.091 (7.60)	0.119 (5.80)	0.134 (5.20)	0.170 (4.10)

Table S4 Thermodynamic parameters associated with the thermal back reaction of **8_Z**, **9_Z**, **11_Z**, and **14_Z** at 313 K averaged from 3 replicates.

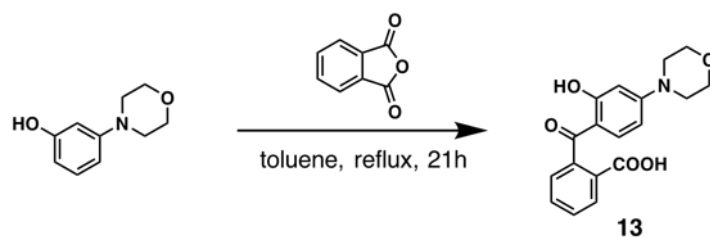
	σ^+	E_a kcal mol ⁻¹	A H ⁻¹	$\Delta H^\ddagger$ kcal mol ⁻¹	$\Delta S^\ddagger$ cal mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹	$\Delta G^\ddagger_{313\text{ K}}$ kcal mol ⁻¹
8_Z	-2.03	7.7	1.8×10^4	7.1	-41.1	19.9
9_Z	-1.80	4.5	2.3×10^3	5.5	-45.2	19.6
11_Z	-1.70	10.2	2.0×10^6	9.6	-32.0	19.6
14_Z	-1.51	5.8	2.4×10^4	6.8	-40.6	19.5

6. Synthesis



A suspension of *N,N*-diethyl-3-aminophenol (4.11 g, 30.0 mmol) and phthalic anhydride (4.69 g, 31.6 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) was refluxed under Ar for 3 h. Then 10 mL of 10 M aqueous NaOH was added in two steps and heated at 100°C for 6 h. The resulting mixture was poured into H₂O (100 mL), acidified with HCl, and allowed to stand at room temperature for 2 h. The suspension was then dissolved in CHCl₃. Then extraction was carried out H₂O three times. The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to the crude product. This was purified by silica gel column chromatography to obtain the pure product of **4c** as brown powder. Yield: 7.9 g (87%).

Compound 10: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 12.49 (s, 1 H), 8.08 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 7.9, 1.3 Hz), 7.62 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 7.5, 7.5, 1.2 Hz), 7.52 (ddd, 1 H, *J* = 7.7, 7.7, 1.5 Hz), 7.35 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 7.5, 1.3 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1 H, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 6.15 (d, 1 H, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 6.06 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 9.2, 2.6 Hz), 3.02 (s, 6 H). These values of ¹H NMR of this compound were consistent with literature's one².



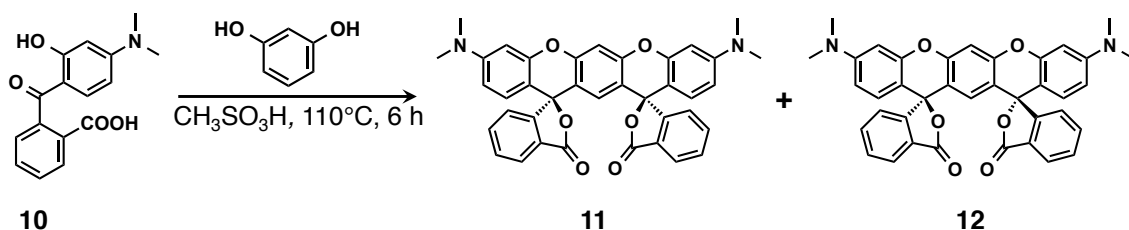
A suspension of **3c** (5.00 g, 27.9 mmol) and phthalic anhydride (6.22 g, 42.0 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) was refluxed under Ar for 21 h. Then 10 mL of 10 M aqueous NaOH was added in two steps and heated at 100°C for 5 h. The resulting mixture was poured into H₂O (100 mL), acidified with HCl, and allowed to stand at room temperature for 2 h. The suspension was then dissolved in CHCl₃. Then extraction was carried out H₂O three times. The organic phase was dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to the crude product. This was purified by silica gel column chromatography to obtain the pure product of **4c** as yellow viscous oil. Yield: 4.7 g (52%).

Compound 13: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 12.4 (s, 1 H), 8.11 (dd, 1 H, *J* = 7.8, 1.4

(Hz), 7.66 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 7.8, 7.6, 1.4$ Hz), 7.56 (ddd, 1 H, $J = 7.6, 7.6, 1.4$ Hz), 7.36 (dd, 1 H, $J = 7.6, 1.4$ Hz), 6.93 (d, 1 H, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 6.36 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.5$ Hz), 6.23 (dd, 1 H, $J = 9.0, 2.5$ Hz), 3.81 (m, 4 H), 3.32 (m, 4 H). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 199.37, 170.09, 165.08, 156.45, 140.92, 134.22, 132.95, 131.06, 129.41, 127.81, 127.59, 112.07, 105.34, 100.18, 66.40, 46.79. HRMS (ESI, positive mode): m/z calcd for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{17}\text{NO}_5$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 328.1179; Found 328.1179.

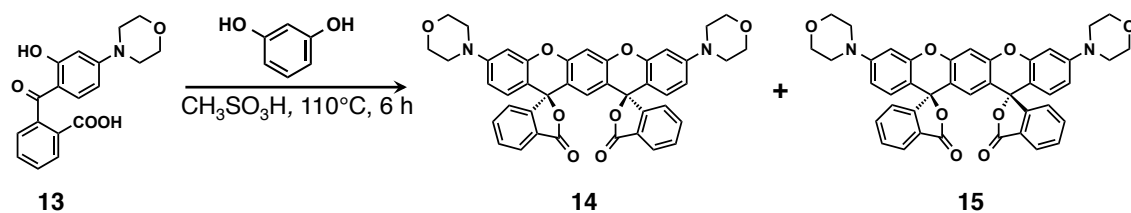
General procedure for the synthesis of ABPXs

A solution of benzophenone derivatives **10** or **13** (2.0 eq.) and resorcinol (1.0 eq) in $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ were heated at 110°C for 6 h in a sealed tube. On cooling, the mixture was poured into ice and its pH was adjusted to 9~11 with aqueous NaOH followed by extraction with CHCl_3 . The organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 and evaporated to give the crude product. This was purified by thin-layer silica gel chromatography to obtain the pure product *trans*-isomer was firstly eluted, followed by *cis*-isomer.



Compound 11: Yield 49 %. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.84-7.82 (m, 2 H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 4 H), 7.15 (s, 1 H), 6.92-6.90 (m, 2 H), 6.53-6.51 (m, 4 H), 6.38 (dd, 2 H, $J = 9.0, 2.5$ Hz), 6.00 (s, 1 H), 2.99 (s, 12 H) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 168.95, 168.12, 164.23, 153.30, 152.84, 152.30, 144.72, 134.27, 129.42, 128.63, 128.58, 127.23, 125.07, 123.76, 123.47, 122.61, 116.41, 113.89, 109.13, 106.61, 92.24, 40.38 HRMS (ESI, positive mode): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_8^+$ $[\text{M}]^+$

Compound 12: Yield 38 %. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 7.80 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.6, 0.9$ Hz), 7.61 (ddd, 2 H, $J = 7.6, 7.4, 1.2$ Hz), 7.52 (ddd, 2 H, $J = 7.5, 7.5, 0.9$ Hz), 7.14 (s, 1 H), 7.11 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.7, 0.8$ Hz), 6.54-6.52 (m, 4 H), 6.39 (dd, 2 H, $J = 8.9, 2.6$ Hz), 6.07 (s, 1 H), 2.99 (s, 12 H) ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz): δ 169.33, 153.24, 153.58, 152.30, 152.28, 135.25, 129.87, 128.61, 127.89, 126.60, 124.73, 124.03, 116.40, 109.17, 106.09, 104.37, 102.73, 98.67, 83.38, 40.36, 28.25 HRMS (ESI, positive mode): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_8^+$ $[\text{M}]^+$



Compound 14: Yield 32%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 7.86-7.85 (m, 2 H), 7.57-7.54 (m, 4 H), 7.18 (s, 1 H), 6.92-6.91 (m, 2 H), 6.75 (d, 2 H, $J = 1.2$ Hz), 6.59 (d, 4 H, $J = 1.2$ Hz), 6.05 (s, 1 H), 3.87 (dd, 8 H, $J = 5.0, 5.0$ Hz), 3.22 (dd, 8 H, $J = 5.0, 5.0$ Hz). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150 MHz): δ 168.76, 153.11, 152.54, 152.10, 134.29, 129.49, 128.54, 128.50, 126.86, 125.09, 123.28, 116.35, 111.68, 109.46, 104.47, 101.85, 82.28, 66.63, 48.25, 29.78. HRMS (ESI, positive mode): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_8^+$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 693.2231; Found 693.2210.

Compound 15: Yield 33%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 Hz): δ 7.83 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.8, 0.9$ Hz), 7.64 (ddd, 2 H, $J = 7.8, 7.6, 1.2$ Hz), 7.55 (ddd, 2 H, $J = 7.6, 7.6, 0.9$ Hz), 7.17 (s, 1 H), 7.12 (dd, 2 H, $J = 7.6, 1.2$ Hz), 6.75 (d, 2 H, $J = 0.9$ Hz), 6.60 (m, 4 H), 6.12 (s, 1 H), 3.87 (dd, 8 H, $J = 5.0, 5.0$ Hz), 3.23 (dd, 8 H, $J = 5.0, 5.0$ Hz). ^{13}C -NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz): δ 169.03, 153.07, 152.96, 152.30, 152.12, 135.26, 129.93, 128.55, 127.78, 126.19, 124.79, 123.82, 116.36, 111.73, 109.36, 104.42, 101.81, 82.49, 66.63, 48.23. HRMS (ESI, positive mode): m/z calcd. for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_8^+$ $[\text{M}]^+$ 693.2231; Found 693.2216.

7. Crystallographic data collection and structure refinement

Single crystals of compounds **2** and **3** were obtained by slow diffusion of less solubilizing solvent vapor (Et₂O) into more solubilizing solvent (THF). Crystal data and structure refinement for these crystals are summarized in Table S5. X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Rigaku Varimax with Saturn using Mo K α radiation (λ = 0.710747 Å) at 110 K. Frame data were integrated and the data set was corrected for absorption using a Rigaku/MSO CrystalClear program package. All calculations were performed with a Rigaku/MSO CrystalStructure program package, and structures were solved by Direct Methods (SIR2011)³ and refined on F^2 by full-matrix least squares techniques (SHELXL 2013)⁴. Anisotropic refinement was applied to all non-hydrogen atoms, and all hydrogen atoms were put at the calculated positions. Structural drawings and geometrical calculations were performed with ORTEP⁵ and PLATON⁶, respectively. Crystallographic data for these crystals were deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC). The data can be obtained free of charge from the CCDC via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

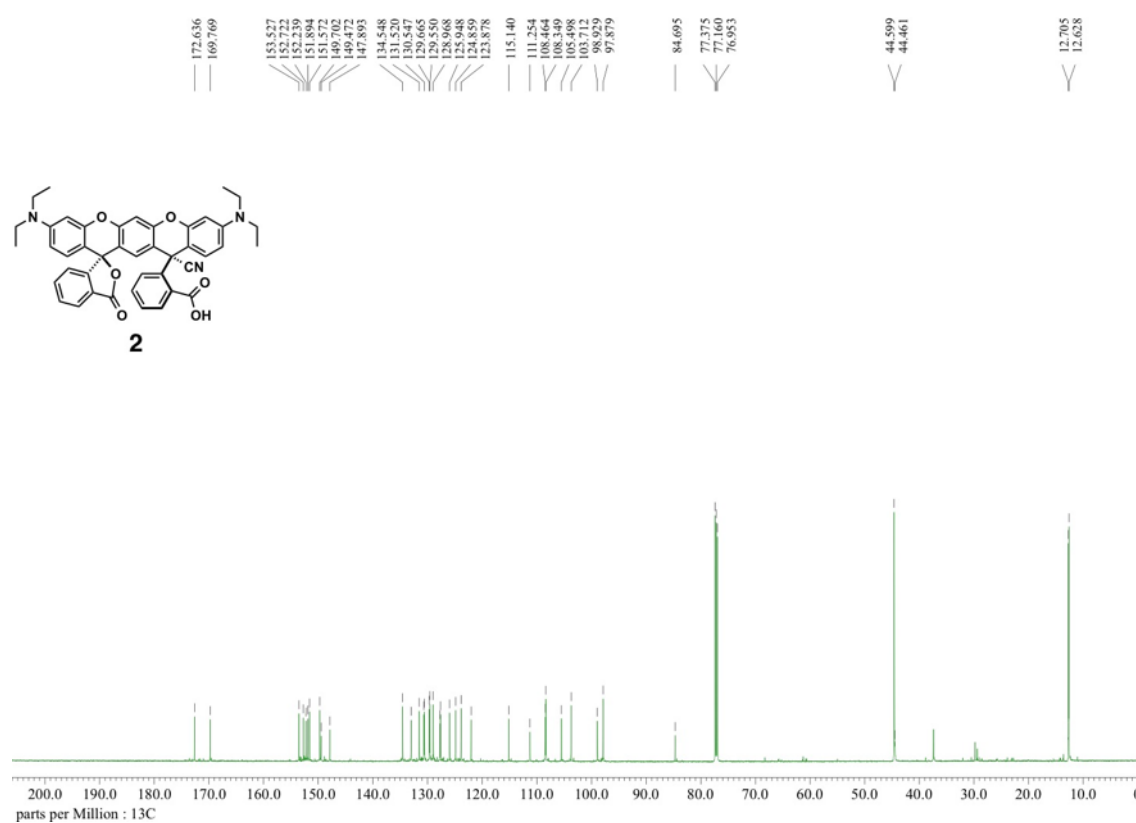
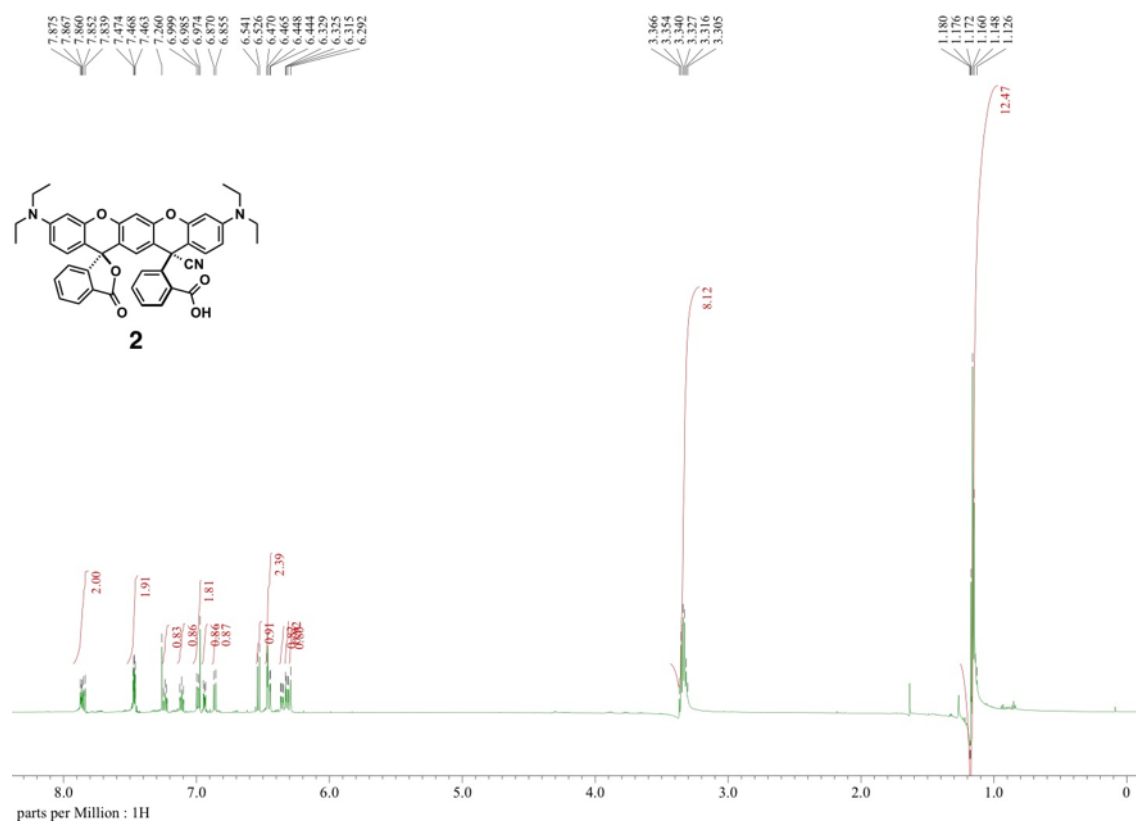
Table S5 Crystal data and structure refinement for compounds **2** and **3**.

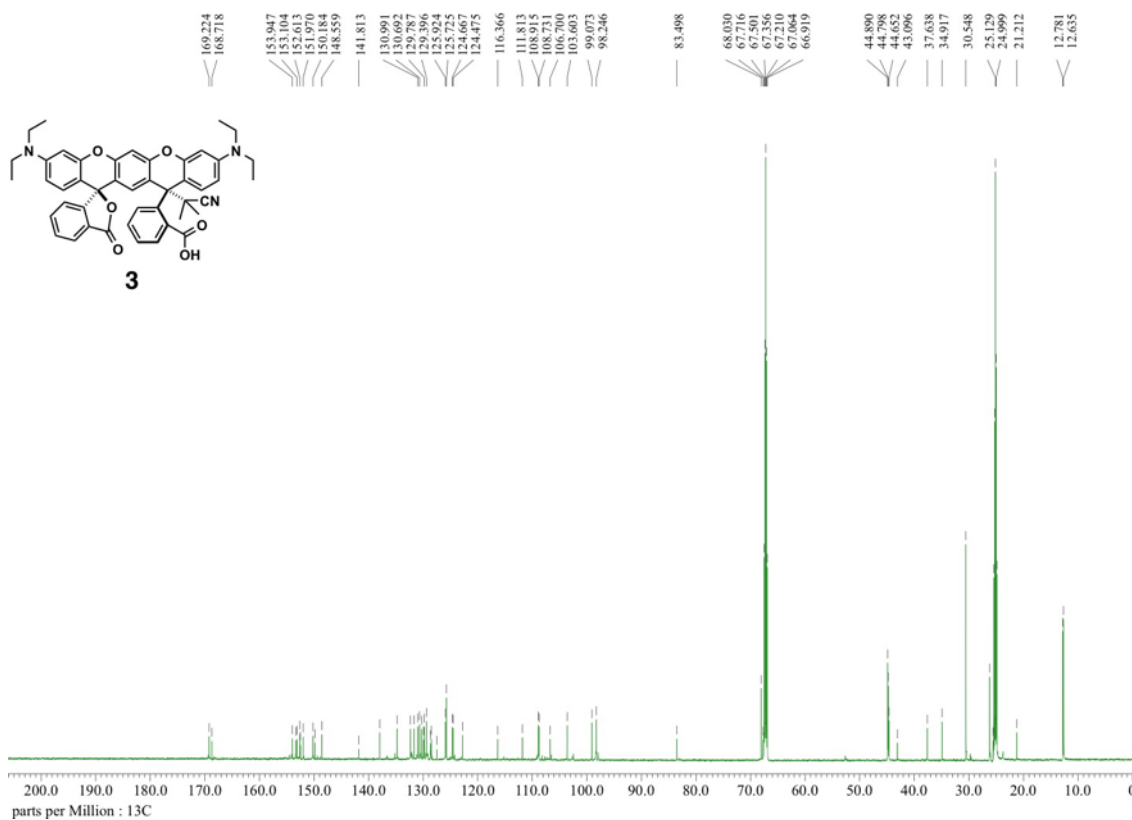
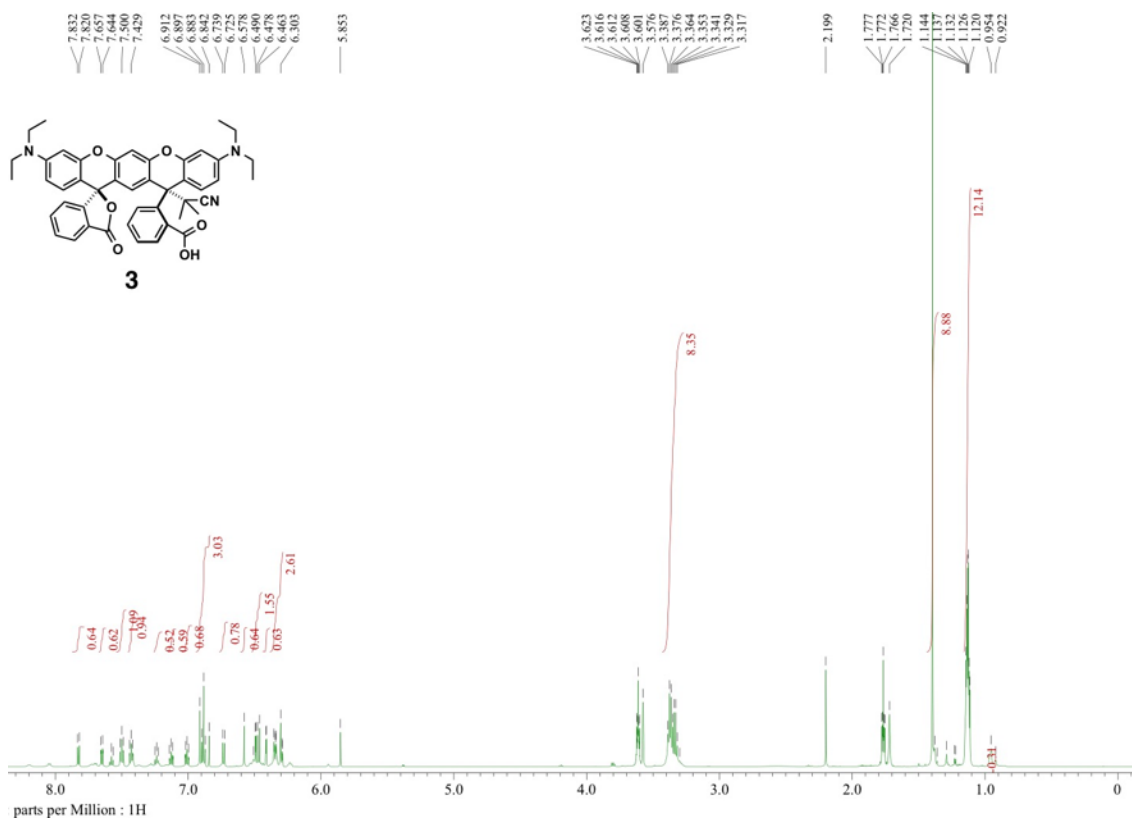
	2	3
Chemical formula	C ₄₃ H ₃₇ N ₃ O ₆	C ₅₀ H ₅₁ N ₃ O ₇
Formula Weight	691.78	805.97
Crystal Color, Habit	red, prism	colorless, prism
Crystal Dimensions	0.230×0.220×0.200 mm	0.170×0.150×0.140 mm
crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group [No.]	P21/c	P21/n
<i>a</i> , Å	14.527(3)	9.9387(13)
<i>b</i> , Å	16.277(3)	13.4852(11)
<i>c</i> , Å	16.006(3)	31.896(3)
<i>α</i> , °	90	90
<i>β</i> , °	106.414(7)	92.127(5)
<i>γ</i> , °	90	90
volume, Å ³	3630.5(12)	4271.9(8)
<i>Z</i>	4	4
<i>D</i> _{calcd} , g/cm ³	1.266	1.253
<i>T</i> , K	110	110
radiation ^a	MoKα	MoKα
2 <i>θ</i> _{max} , °	54.9	55.0
<i>F</i> (000)	1456.00	1712.00
reflns collected	54103	56836
unique reflns	8218	9394
R1 factor (<i>I</i> > 2.00σ(<i>I</i>))	0.0808	0.0909
R factor (all reflection)	0.1341	0.1252
<i>wR</i> factor	0.2973	0.3025
GOF	0.946	1.179
CCDC No.	1879131	1879130

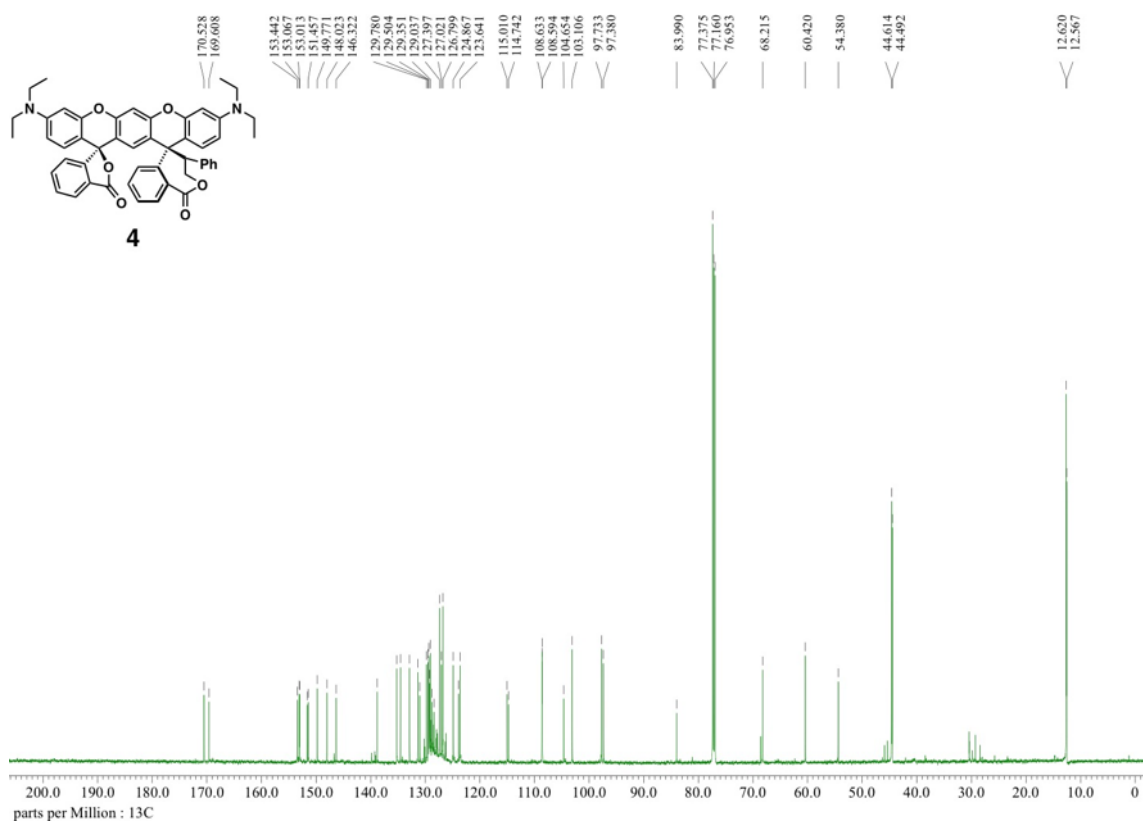
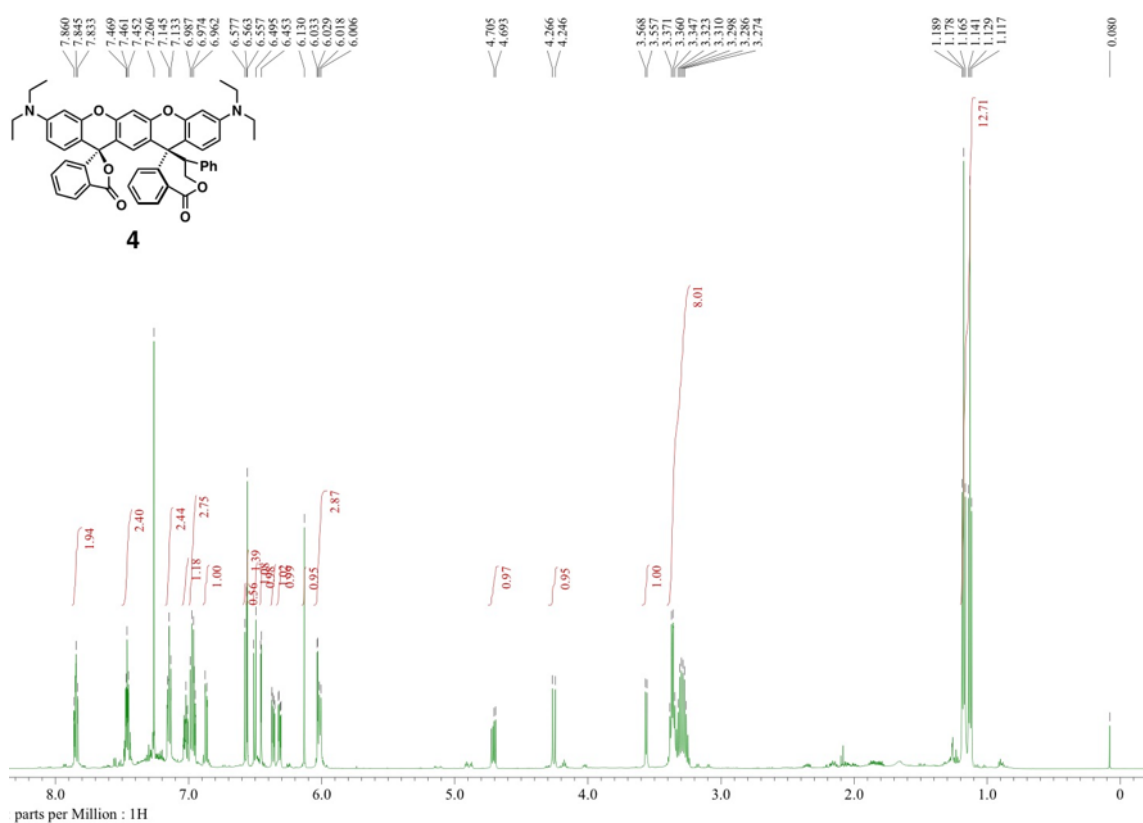
8. Computational details

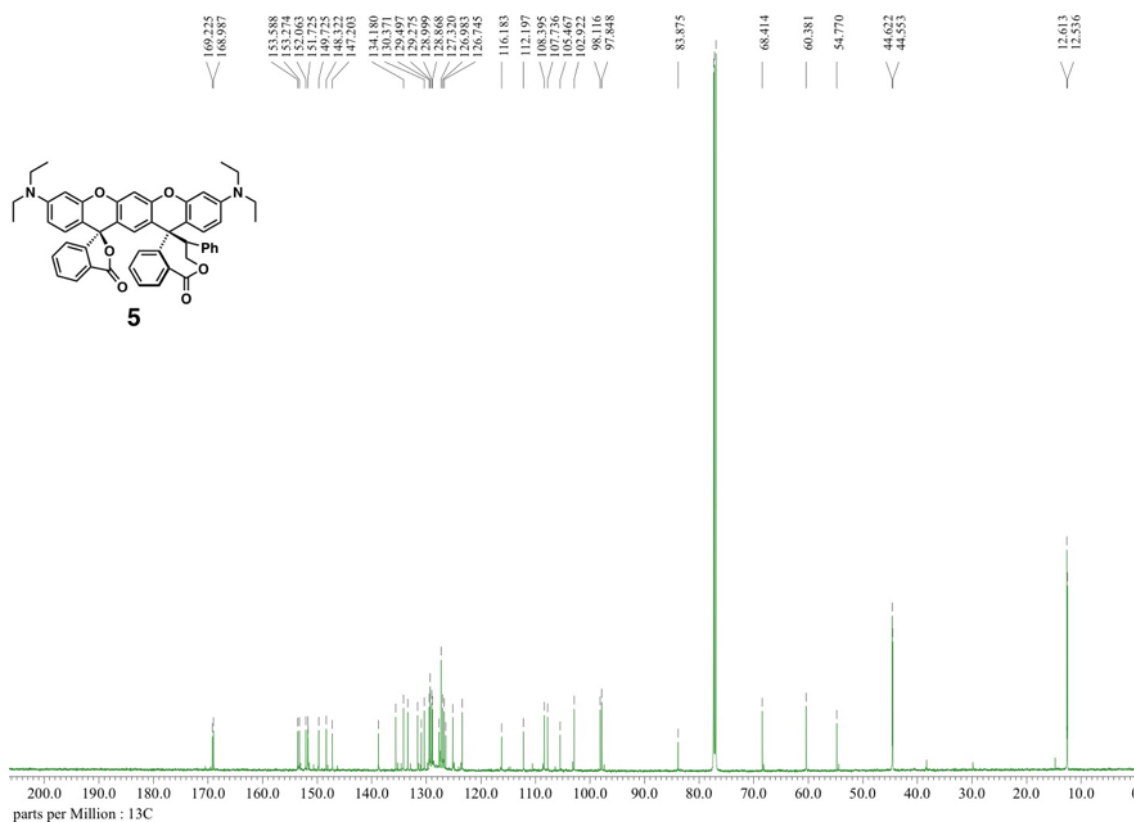
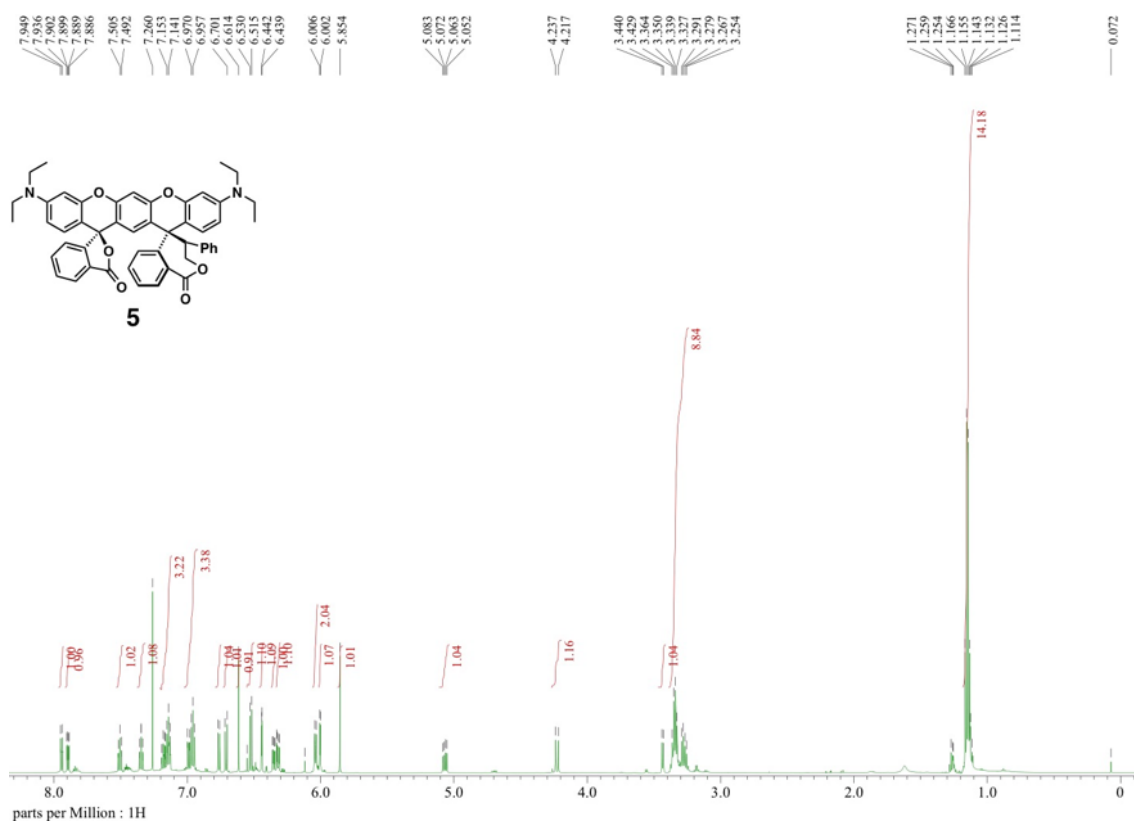
Density functional calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 program package.⁷ Geometry optimisation for the S₀ and S₁ state was performed at the CAM-B3LYP density functional⁸ and the 6-31G** basis sets. Electrostatic potential (ESP) maps were drawn by GaussView 5. ESP surfaces were generated at an isodensity value of 4.0×10^{-4} electron/bohr³ and surface potential range was set to −44 (red) and 28 kcal/mol (blue).

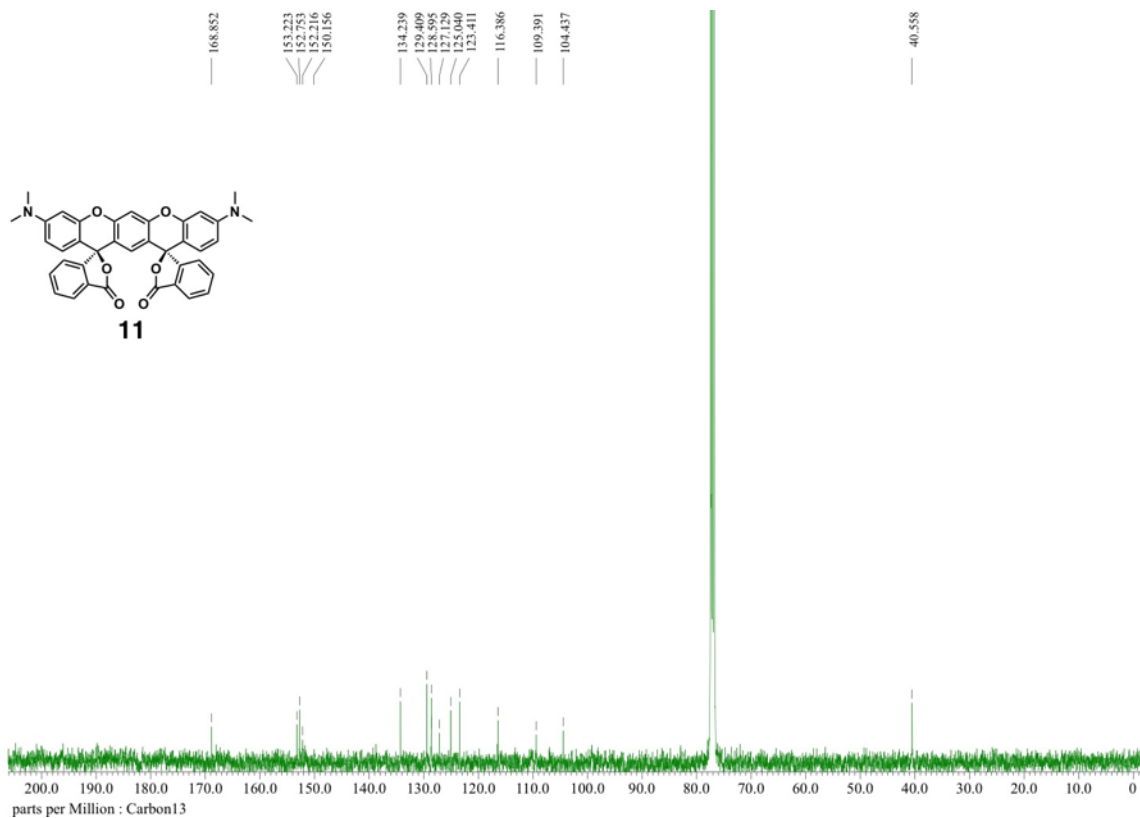
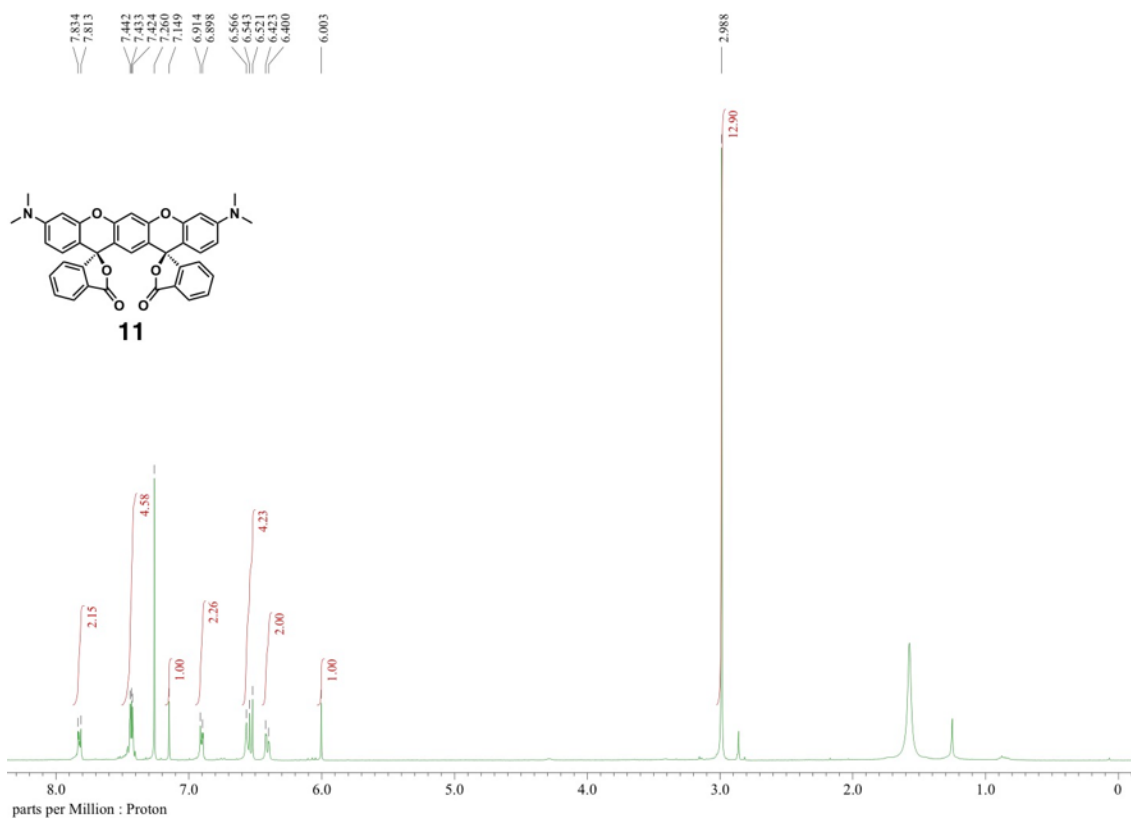
9. NMR spectra

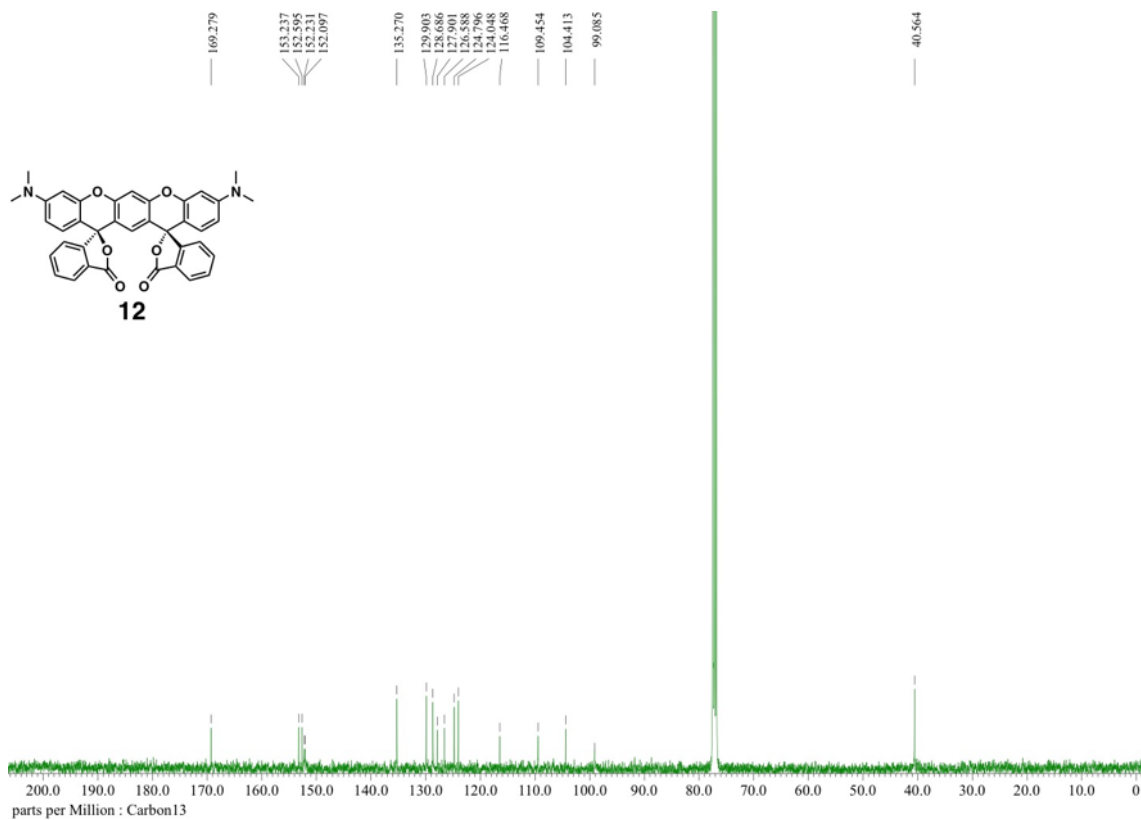
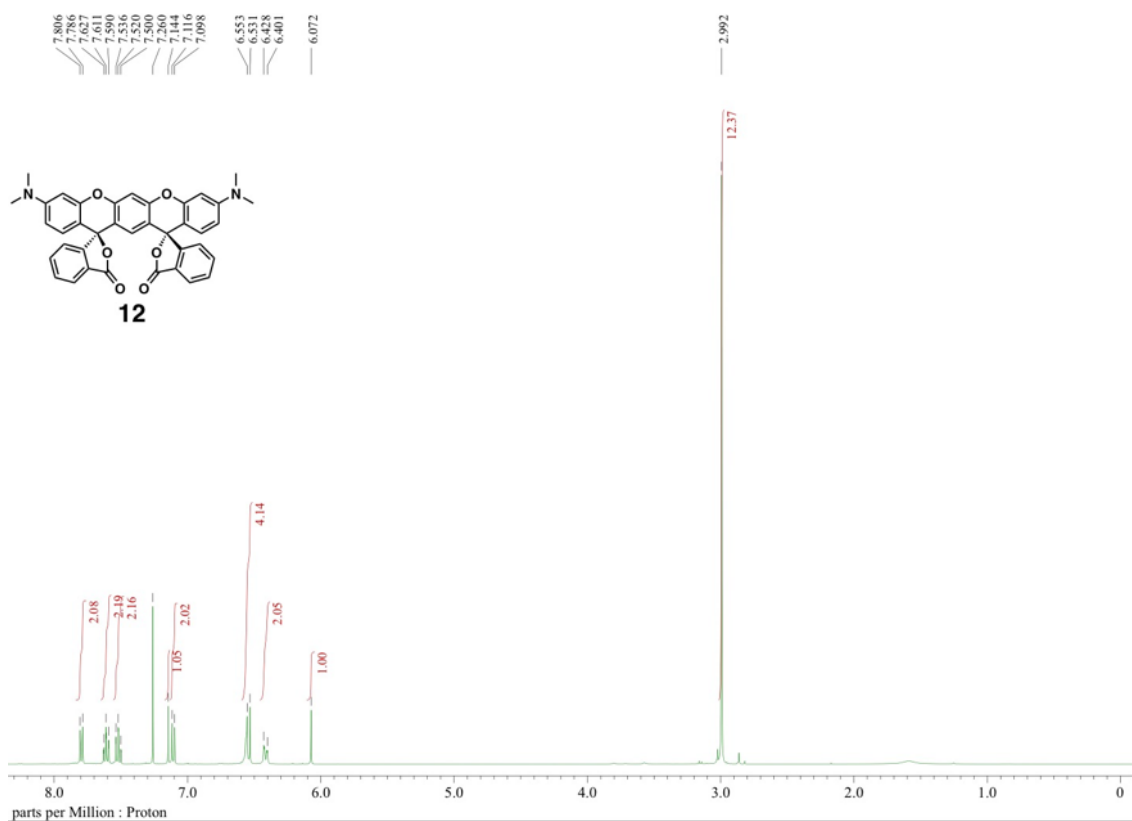


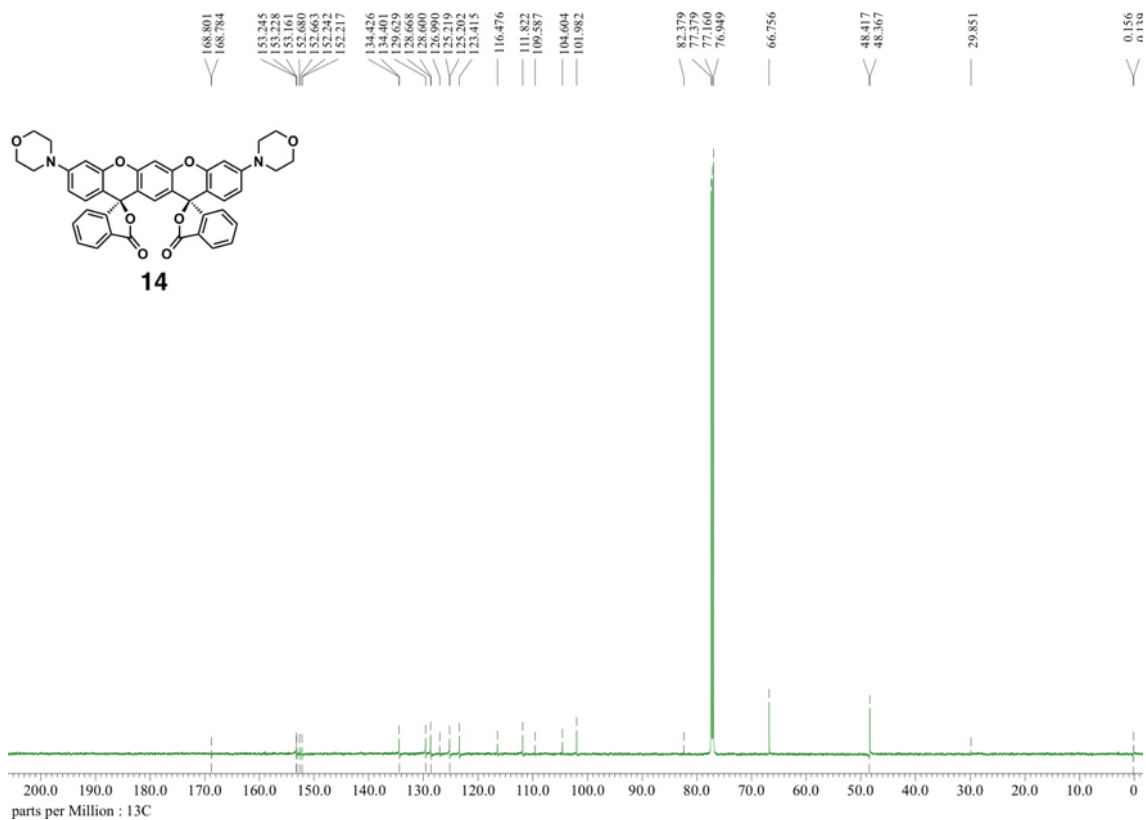
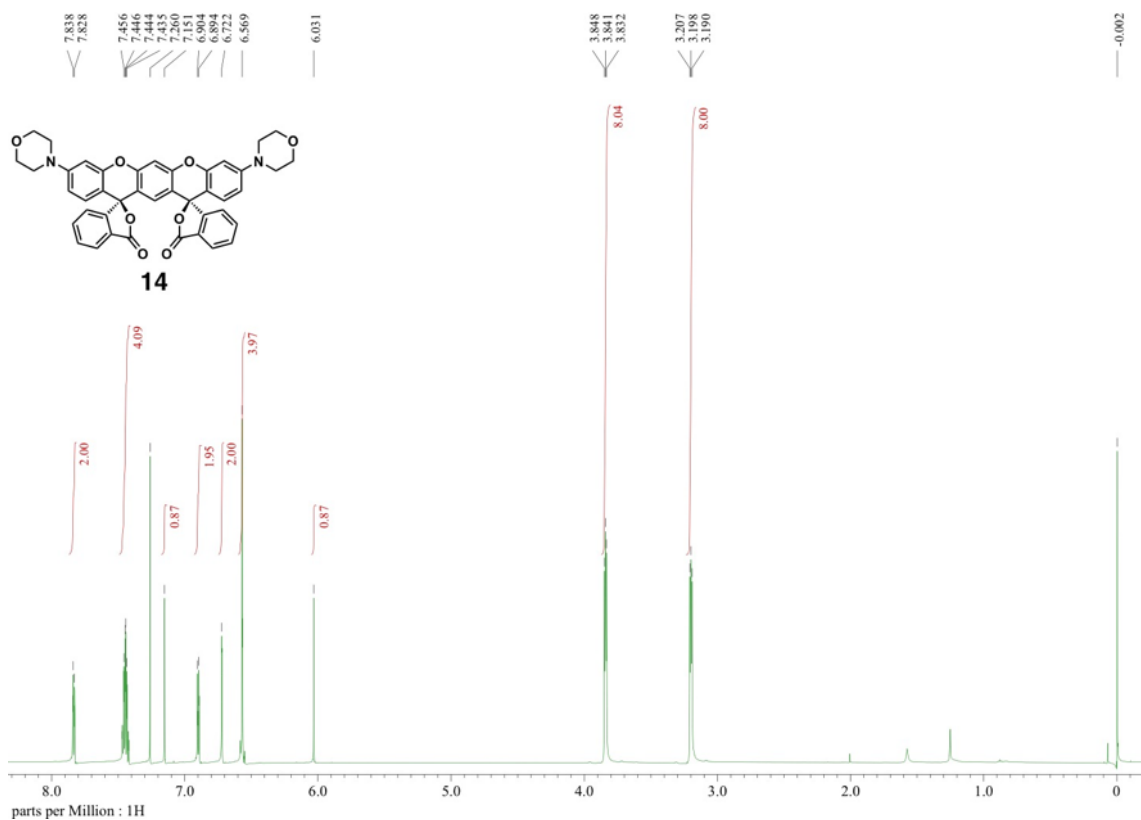


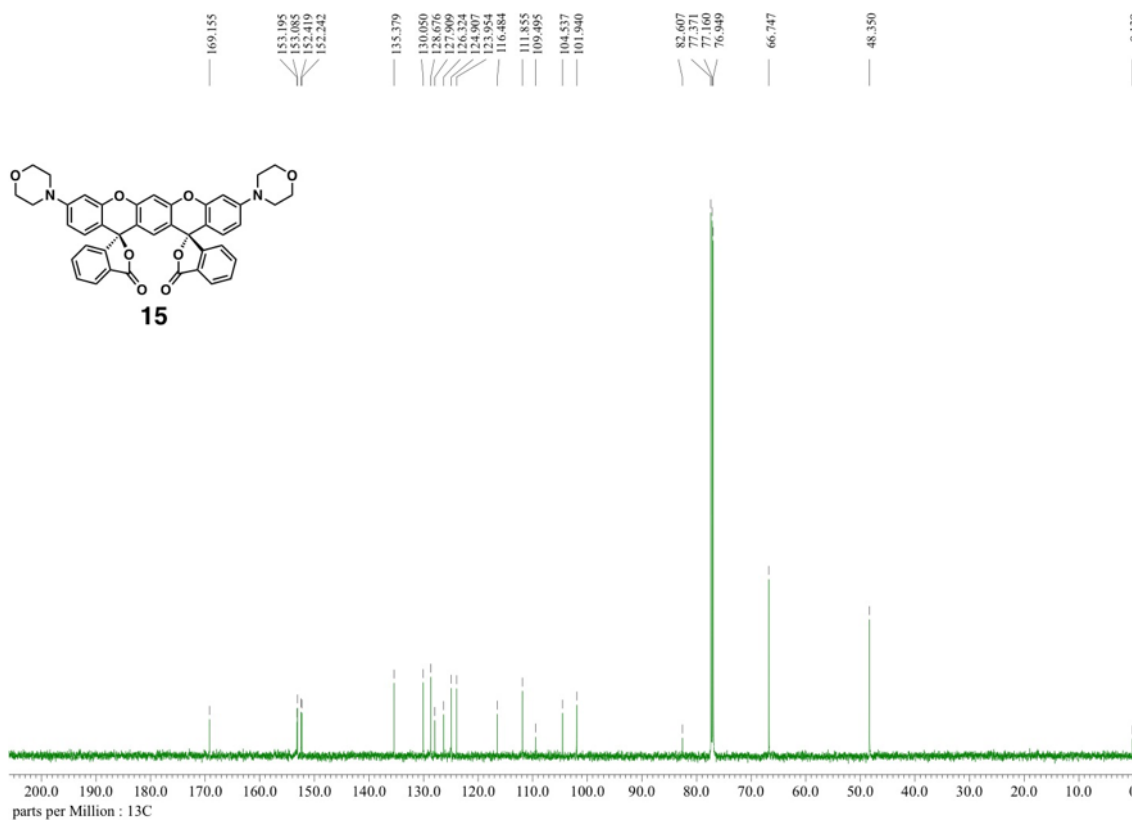
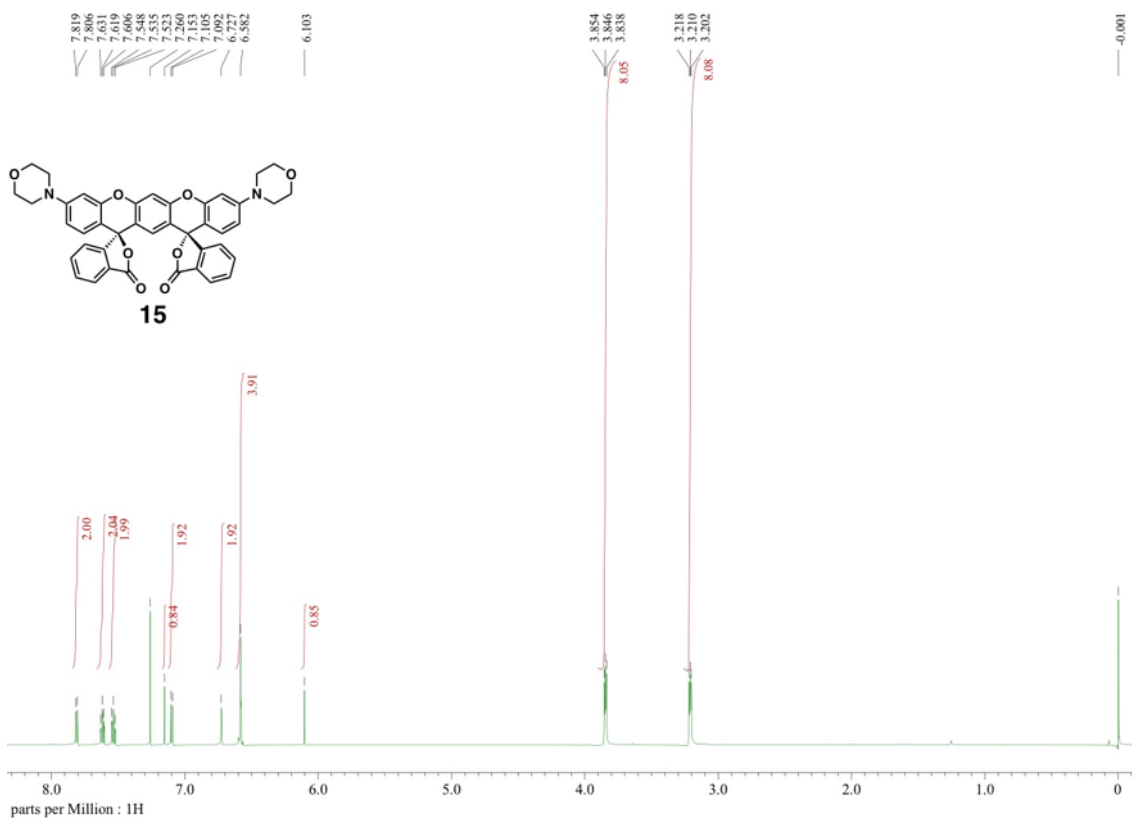












10. Cartesian Coordinates and Total Electron Energy

Compound 1 (S₀)

E (rCAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)) = -2181.98629010 hartrees

Coordinates (Å)				Coordinates (Å)			
Atom	X	Y	Z	Atom	X	Y	Z
C	-1.1992	-1.32043	-0.16457	C	8.99307	-1.69662	1.29178
C	-1.22273	0.07113	-0.28252	C	6.67821	-4.93723	-0.9046
C	-0.00206	0.73168	-0.35103	N	-7.02238	-2.68038	0.21401
C	1.21874	0.06998	-0.29772	C	-8.37498	-2.17044	0.36874
C	1.19525	-1.32147	-0.17878	C	-6.86915	-4.1253	0.18583
C	-0.0019	-2.01634	-0.10744	C	-6.58495	-4.7401	1.55481
C	2.52119	0.82679	-0.41197	C	-9.08592	-1.89575	-0.95467
C	3.69701	-0.09554	-0.23156	H	-0.00222	1.81233	-0.45114
C	3.5459	-1.47076	-0.11634	H	-0.00178	-3.09442	-0.01145
O	2.32043	-2.08175	-0.10656	H	5.17331	1.45456	-0.31823
C	5.009	0.38536	-0.22902	H	7.08922	-0.00232	-0.09855
C	6.10243	-0.44391	-0.11234	H	4.40335	-3.39131	0.06675
C	5.93796	-1.8448	0.00527	H	-4.40417	-3.38303	0.16905
C	4.62576	-2.3357	0.00228	H	-7.09108	0.00313	-0.0333
O	-2.32418	-2.07985	-0.08073	H	-5.175	1.46057	-0.24222
C	-3.54915	-1.4678	-0.07503	H	2.84927	5.32397	-0.38013
C	-3.69965	-0.09153	-0.17887	H	2.79431	5.52842	2.11908
C	-2.52582	0.82908	-0.37949	H	2.6079	3.51049	3.51887
C	-4.62791	-2.3307	0.06619	H	2.47178	1.2538	2.49319
C	-5.93938	-1.83795	0.08813	H	-2.43153	1.2641	2.52315
C	-6.10347	-0.43658	-0.02293	H	-2.54982	3.5238	3.54451
C	-5.0104	0.39174	-0.14936	H	-2.75573	5.53798	2.14204
O	2.59313	1.41886	-1.75337	H	-2.8492	5.32657	-0.35543
C	2.7032	2.77443	-1.71365	H	7.73943	-4.4571	0.91168
C	-2.56947	2.05198	0.51815	H	6.01121	-4.26513	1.04581
C	-2.68668	3.18465	-0.26231	H	8.98912	-3.02935	-0.40433
C	2.68611	3.18193	-0.2905	H	8.42038	-1.4259	-0.782
C	2.57971	2.04716	0.48846	H	10.0223	-1.3608	1.13563
C	2.76619	4.4532	0.26104	H	8.41623	-0.86113	1.69523
C	2.73495	4.55453	1.64489	H	9.0055	-2.48809	2.04633
C	2.62849	3.40755	2.43861	H	6.56972	-5.99863	-0.66346
C	2.55049	2.13981	1.87197	H	5.79417	-4.6196	-1.46214
C	-2.72583	2.77318	-1.68392	H	7.54449	-4.82675	-1.56283
O	-2.61737	1.41748	-1.72157	H	-8.94083	-2.91024	0.94372
C	-2.51896	2.14847	1.90077	H	-8.35519	-1.26929	0.98774
C	-2.58704	3.41786	2.46499	H	-7.793	-4.54726	-0.22214
C	-2.70458	4.5627	1.66976	H	-6.08278	-4.39227	-0.52573
C	-2.75714	4.45752	0.28683	H	-6.49408	-5.8275	1.47918
O	2.7997	3.45639	-2.69692	H	-5.6581	-4.34686	1.97881
O	-2.8369	3.45257	-2.66745	H	-7.39392	-4.51574	2.2557
N	7.02156	-2.68753	0.12453	H	10.1018	-1.53006	-0.77899
C	6.85518	-4.11055	0.36753	H	-8.54855	-1.14871	-1.5433
C	8.38555	-2.20382	-0.01448	H	-9.15367	-2.80691	-1.55556

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