## Cascade Reactions in Crystals through Cation-π-Controlled Reorientation on Exposure to HCl Gas

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### **Supplementary Information**

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- 2. General procedure for the exposure of 4-azachalcones 1 to hydrochloric acid
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- 4. Thermogravimetric analysis of **2a** (Fig. S1)
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#### 1. General procedures.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL EX-400 and Bruker 600 spectrometers as dilute solution in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and the chemical shifts were reported relative to internal TMS. Powder X-ray diffraction profiles were recorded using a Regaku Ultima IV with monochromated Cu-Ka radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54184$  A, 50 kV, 40 mA, scan speed 2.0°/min, scan range 4 - 60°) equipped with a cross-beam optics system consisting of a PSA100U parallel slip analyzer. Thermogravimetric Analyses were carried out using a TG-DTA200SA instrument manufactured by Bruker. Three to five milligrams of the crystal samples were heated from 22 to 170 °C in aluminum pans that were 5 mm in diameter. A ramping rate of 10 °C/min was used with a nitrogen purge rate of 150 mL/min.

#### 2. General procedure for the exposure of 4-azachalcone to hydrochloric acid.

The HCl gas was generated by addition of conc hydrosulfonic acid in dropping funel to conc hydrochloric acid in two-necked flask under stirring. The evolved gas was collected to a balloon through a conc  $H_2SO_4$  trap and a CaCl<sub>2</sub> tube. The collected dried HCl gas was introduced into a desiccator, in which the powdered crystal of **1** was placed. The powder was kept in a desiccator for 10 min. The obtained hydrochloric salt **2** was used for PXRD measurment and <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis.

#### 3. General procedure for irradiation of 4-azachalcone hydrochlorides.

The powdered crystals of 4-azachalcone hydrochloride **2** (30 mg) placed between two glass plates were irradiated with 250W high-pressure mercury lamp for 24h. The product was collected and was neutralized with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution. This was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Evaporation of the organic solvent gave only *syn*HT dimer **3**, the structure of which was confirmed by comparison with the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra with those reported.

# 4. TG-DTA chart for 2a



TG -DTA measurement of 2a

Fig. S1 Thermogravimetric analysis of 2a.

5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for 2a and 2b (in CD<sub>3</sub>OD), and 3a and 3b (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>) before purification

















## 7. Schematic possible process for the orientation change from 1b to 2b.



Fig. S4 Possible process for the orientation change from 1b (a) to 2b (b) on exposure to HCl gas.

# 8. Photomicrographs of a single crystal of 2b (a) before and (b) after irradiation for 24h.



Fig. S5 Photomicrographs of a single crystal of 2b (a) before and (b) after irradiation for 24h.