# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Antioxidant-substituted Tetrapyrazinoporphyrazine as

## a Turn-on Fluorescence Sensor for Basic Anions

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1.0. General. Solvents and reagents were obtained from Aldrich Chemical Co., Fischer Chemical Co., Wako Chemical Co., Tokyo Kasei Chemical Co. or Kanto Chemical Co. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were measured at 298 K from CDCl<sub>3</sub> or CDCl<sub>3</sub>/d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO solutions of the samples using a JEOL model AL300BX spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as internal standard. Electronic absorption spectra were measured from dichloromethane solutions of the samples using a Shimadzu model UV-3600 UV/Vis/NIR spectrophotometer. FTIR spectra were measured from samples cast on a barium fluoride disc using a Nicolet model 760X FTIR spectrometer. Matrix–assisted laser desorption/ionization time–of–flight mass spectra (MALDI–TOF–MS) were measured using a Shimadzu-Kratos model Axima CFR+ mass spectrometer with dithranol as matrix. Scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) was performed using an Omicron UHV STM. Samples were prepared by dropping a chloroform solution of 1 (10<sup>-9</sup> M) onto a gold substrate [Au(111)] and allowing it to evaporate. The sample/substrate was dried in vacuo prior to insertion in the STM vacuum chamber.

## 2.0. Synthesis

Scheme S1. Synthesis of 1, 2 and 3.

# 5,6-Bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile, 2.

5,6-Dichloro-2,3-dicyanopyrazine (1 g, 0.005 mol) and 2,6-di-t-butylphenol (2.5 eq., 2.6 g) were dissolved in N,N-dimethylformamide (50 mL) and the mixture heated to 60 °C. Potassium carbonate (3 g) was gradually added and the suspension heated at 60 °C for 6 hours. The resulting solution was cooled to room temperature, poured into water (100 mL) then extracted with dichloromethane (100 mL × 3). The combined organic fractions were dried (anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) then the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica eluting with dichloromethane:hexane (40%:60%). Yield: 1.81 g, 67% based on 5,6-dichloro-2,3dicyanopyrazine. UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 262$ , 340, 393 nm. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta = 7.35$  (s, 4H, Ar-H), 5.54 (s, 2H, phenolic-H), 1.32 (s, 36H, t-butyl-H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta = 30.03$ , 34.33, 113.65, 124.91, 126.95, 128.60, 136.51, 156.17, 156.34 ppm. FT-IR (BaF<sub>2</sub>): v = 775.84(w), 810.07(w), 887.78(w), 902.61(m), 1024.09(w), 1122.90(m), 1153.31(m), 1207.53(m), 1218.59(m), 1239.90(m), 1254.08(m), 1289.69(w), 1322.59(m), 1370.70(s), 1384.35(m), 1425.01(w), 1443.67(w), 1458.28(w), 1510.70(w), 1596.10(m), 2236.86(w), 2872.98(m), 2950.63(s), 3010.39(w), 3601.95(s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): calcd. for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M + H]<sup>+</sup>: 539.33; found: 539.55.

5-Chloro-6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile (3) can be a major byproduct of the synthesis of 5,6-bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile reaction when not sufficient time is allowed for completion of the reaction.  $^{1}$ H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta = 1.49$  (s, 18H, t-butyl-H), 5.82 (s, 1H, phenolic-H), 7.84 (s, 2H, Ar-H) ppm.  $^{13}$ C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta =$ 30.10, 34.51, 112.23, 112.53, 123.76, 127.69, 127.81, 130.55, 136.52, 149.25, 157.01, 157.99 ppm. FT-IR (BaF<sub>2</sub>): v = 865.02(w), 887.53(w), 895.16(w), 913.05(w), 990.11(w), 1024.79(w), 1105.33(m), 1121.80(m), 1132.04(m), 1146.27(m), 1206.63(m), 1240.40(m), 1272.07(m), 1280.85(m), 1293.42(w), 1307.48(w), 1337.28(m), 1376.84(s), 1405.18(w), 1419.21(w), 1456.52(w), 1492.20(w), 1513.01(m), 1590.30(m), 2240.75(w), 2874.77(m), 2920.23(m), 2962.51(s), 3590.47(s) cm<sup>-1</sup>. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): calcd. for  $C_{20}H_{21}CIN_4O [M]^+$ : 368.14; found: 368.17.

**2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octakis**(**3,5-di-***tert*-butyl-**4-hydroxyphenyl**)-tetrapyrazinoporp **hyrazine** (**1**). **1** was prepared according to a literature method <sup>1a,b</sup> using 1-hexanol as the solvent. Samples of **1** are usually contaminated with the mono-hexyloxy-substituted product that could not be removed. UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 330$ , 384, 526, 596, 620, 648, 676 nm. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta = -0.663$  (br. s. 2H, NH), 1.49 (s, 144H, t-butyl-H), 5.44 (s, 8H, phenolic-H), 7.84 (s, 16H, Ar-H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>:

25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta = 30.51$ , 34.57, 127.26, 128.07, 130.86, 136.22, 146.00, 155.13, 157.80 ppm. FT-IR (BaF<sub>2</sub>): v = 760.35(w), 772.14(w), 810.08(w), 866.91(w), 890.54(w), 1004.25(w), 1023.76(w), 1096.90(w), 1121.21(m), 1121.61(w), 1153.28(m), 1203.88(w), 1224.59(s), 1237.85(s), 1255.61(m), 1289.74(w), 1320.81(w), 1356.35(s), 1392.01(w), 1399.94(w), 1433.60(w), 1458.33(w), 1464.94(w), 1536.66(w), 1599.57(w), 1632.61(m), 1727.53(w), 1737.20(w), 2872.16(m), 2955.00(s), 3000.66(w) 3297.88(w), 3640.36(m) cm<sup>-1</sup>. MALDI-TOF-MS (dithranol): calcd. for  $C_{136}H_{170}N_{16}O_8$   $[M + 6H]^+$ : 2161.38; found: 2161.29.

## Non-phenolic control compounds.

**5,6-Diphenylpyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile**<sup>2</sup> was synthesized according to the method used by Ohta et al.<sup>3</sup> UV/Vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = \text{nm.}^{1}\text{H-NMR}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.36 (t, 4H,  $^{3}J$  = 7.4 Hz, phenyl *meta-*H), 7.46 (t, 2H,  $^{3}J$  = 7.3 Hz, phenyl *para-*H), 7.53 (d, 4H,  $^{3}J$  = 7.5 Hz, phenyl *ortho-*H ppm.  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 25 °C, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  = 113.13, 128.86, 129.86, 131.15, 135.34, 155.39 ppm.

**2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octaphenyltetrapyrazinoporphyrazine, 1**, was synthesized from 5,6-diphenylpyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile using literature methods. <sup>1,4</sup>

## 3.0. X-ray crystallography

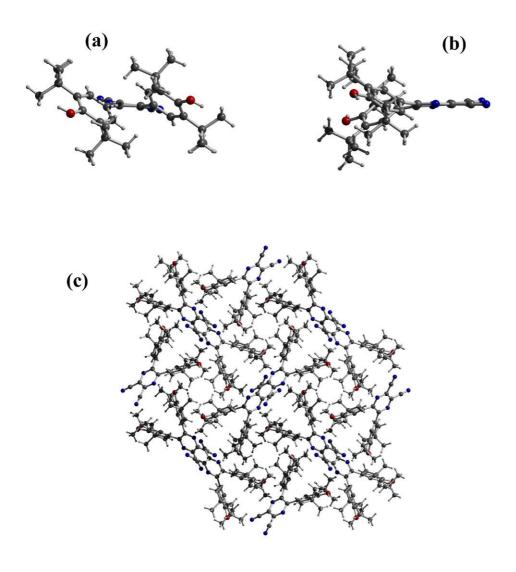
Crystals of 2 suitable for X-ray diffraction were grown by refrigerating a dichloromethane/hexane (40:60) solution of 2 at -20 °C. Crystals of 3 were grown by slow evaporation of a dichloromethane solution. X-ray data for 2 and 3 were collected at 180 K on a Bruker SMART APEX diffractometer using graphite-monochromated MoKα radiation. Structure solutions by direct methods and full-matrix least-squares refinement against  $F^2$  (all data) were carried out using the SHELXTL package.<sup>5</sup> All ordered non-H atoms were refined anisotropically. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication nos. CCDC 864529 & 864530. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZUK: http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/catreq.cgi, e-mail: data request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk, or fax: +44 1223 336033.

X-ray Crystallography data for **2**:  $C_{34}H_{42}N_4O_2$ , M = 538.72 g/mol, space group P 43 21 2, a = 15.9922(12), b = 15.9922(12), c = 12.4393(19) Å,  $\alpha = 90.00^{\circ}$ , V = 3181.36(59) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $\rho_{calcd} = 1.125$  mg/m<sup>3</sup>,  $\mu(MoK_{\alpha}) = 0.070$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, 25867 reflections measured, 1997 were unique (Rint. 0.0271); refinement against F2 to wR2:

0.1176, R1 = 0.0473 (1855 reflections with I>2 $\sigma$ (I)), goodness of fit S = 1.074, 193 parameters.

<u>X-ray Crystallography data for 3</u>:  $C_{20}H_{21}CIN_4O$ , M=368.86 g/mol, space group P 2(1)/m, a=10.639(5), b=6.969(3), c=13.260(6) Å,  $\alpha=\gamma=90.00^\circ$ ,  $\beta=109.394(7)^\circ$ , V=927.3(7) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z=2,  $\rho_{calcd}=1.321$  mg/m<sup>3</sup>,  $\mu(MoK_\alpha)=0.070$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, 7235 reflections measured, 2040 were unique (Rint. 0.0289); refinement against F2 to wR2: 0.1290, R1 = 0.0499 (1574 reflections with I>2 $\sigma$ (I)), goodness of fit S = 1.027, 155 parameters, 1 restraint.

## 3.1. Crystal structure of 2



**Figure S1**. X-ray crystal structure of 5,6-Bis(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile **2**. (a) View showing the non-coplanarity of the phenyl substituents. (b) Viewed edge-on. The pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile unit is slightly distorted from planarity. (c) Packing diagram of **2** viewed along the *c*-axis.

## 3.2. Crystal structure of 3

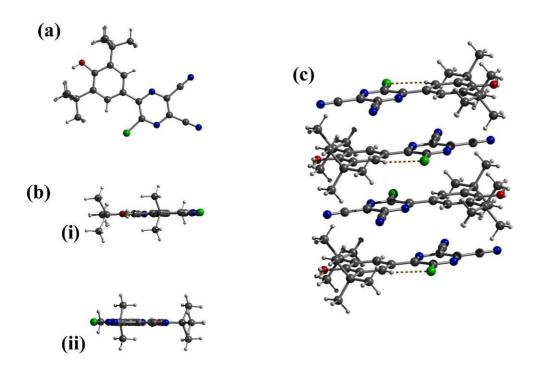
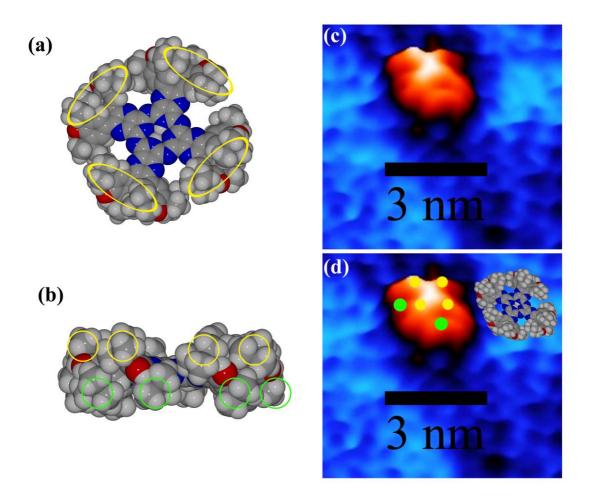


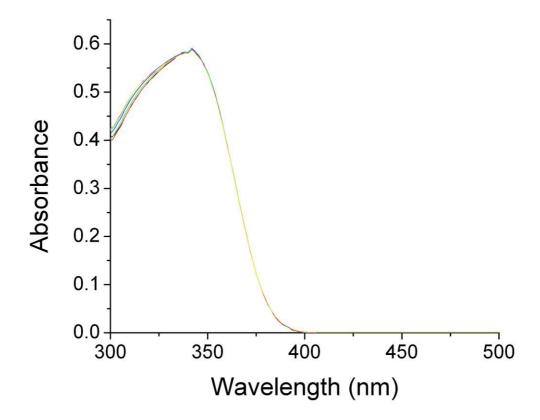
Figure S2. X-ray crystal structure of 5-Chloro-6-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) pyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile, 3. (a) Single molecule 3. An intramolecular H-bonding interaction between 5-chloro atom and phenyl substituent leads to coplanarity of the two six-membered rings. (b) Edge-on views of 3 emphasizing the coplanarity: (i) viewed remote from nitrile groups; (ii) viewed from the direction of the nitrile groups. (c) A stack of 3 within the structure where directions of the molecular long axes alternate. Stacking is made possible by the H-bonding induced coplanarity of 3.

# 4.0. Molecular model and STM image of 1.

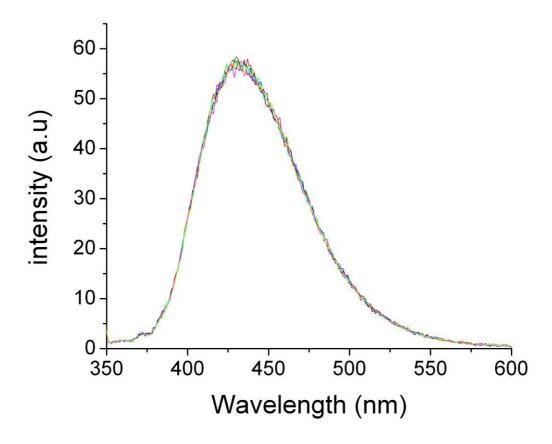


**Figure S3**. Molecular model of **1** and STM image. (a) Energy minimized structure of **1** (MM2, generated using the Chemdraw3D program). Yellow ellipses indicate the positions oft-butyl groups at the upper rim of the molecule. (b) Edge view of **1** with 'upper' and 'lower' t-butyl groups indicated. (c,d) STM image of **1**. In (d) positions of each type of t-butyl groups are indicated by spots of the same colour as given in (b). A model structure of **1** is also shown in (c) illustrating its approximate positioning.

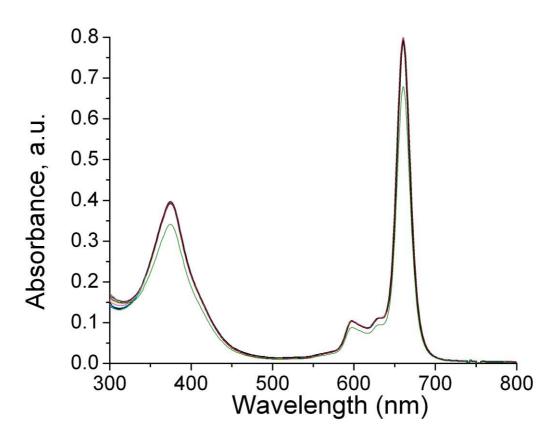
5.0. Control spectroscopic data for non-phenol derivatives 5,6-Diphenylpyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile and 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octaphenyltetra pyrazinoporphyrazine.



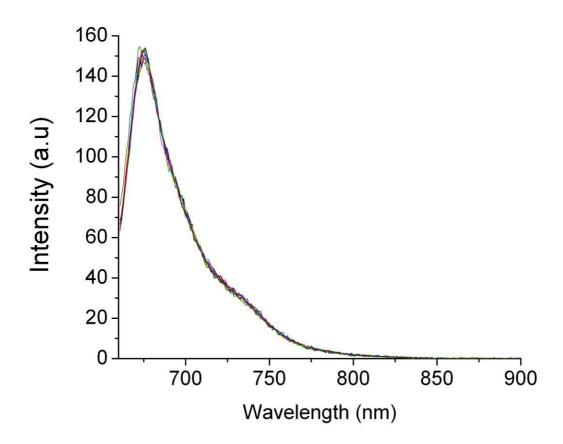
**Figure S4**. Electronic absorption spectra of 5,6-diphenylpyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile in benzonitrile containing increasing amounts of fluoride anion. Almost no variation is observed at any concentration of fluoride anions.



**Figure S5**. Fluorescence emission (excitation wavelength: 344 nm) spectra of 5,6-diphenylpyrazine-2,3-dicarbonitrile in benzonitrile containing increasing amounts of fluoride anion. Almost no variation is observed at any concentration of fluoride anions.

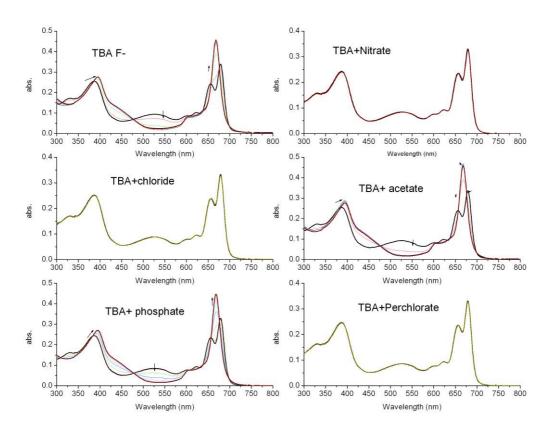


**Figure S6**. Electronic absorption spectra of 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenyl tetrapyrazinoporphyrazine in benzonitrile containing increasing amounts of fluoride anion. Almost no variation is observed at any concentration of fluoride anions.



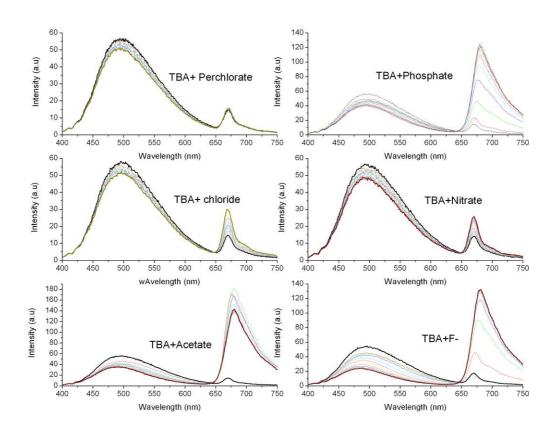
**Figure S7**. Fluorescence emission (excitation wavelength: 660 nm) spectra of 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenyl tetrapyrazinoporphyrazine in benzonitrile containing increasing amounts of fluoride anion. Almost no variation is observed at any concentration of fluoride anions.

#### 6.0. UV/Vis titrations with other anions.



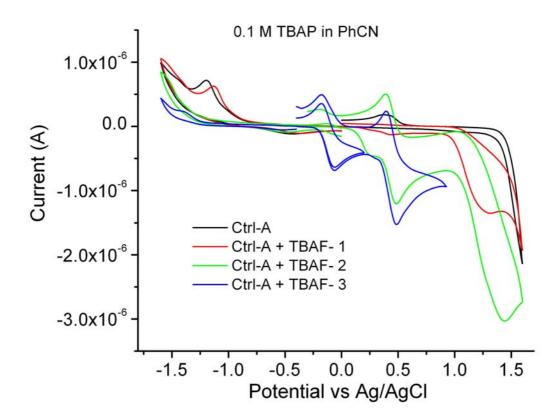
**Figure S8.** Changes in electronic absorption spectra during titration of solutions of **1** in benzonitrile with the indicated anions.

## 7.0. Fluorescence emission titrations with other anions.



**Figure S9.** Changes in fluorescence emission spectra during titration of solutions of **1** in benzonitrile with the indicated anions.

## 8.0 Cyclic voltammetry of compound 2.



**Figure S10**. Cyclic voltammograms of **2** revealing eventual emergence of two reversible oxidations in the presence of fluoride anions probably due to oxidation to a quinonoid state.

#### 9.0. References

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