

## Unusual binary aggregates of perylene bisimide revealed by their electronic transitions in helium nanodroplets and DFT calculations

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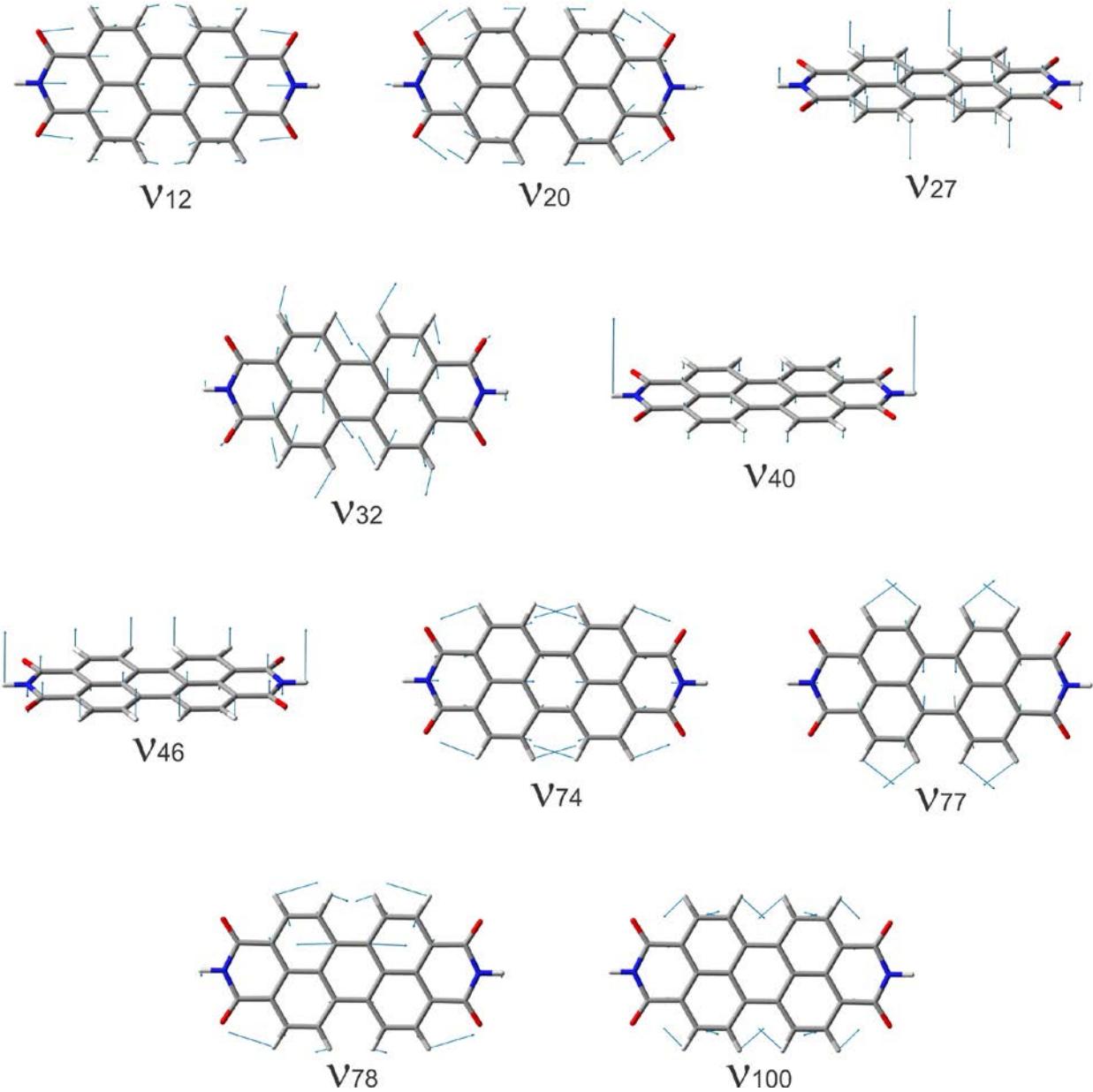
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### Supplementary Information

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**Figure S1.** Vibrational motions of the ten fundamental bands which contribute significantly to the  $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$  transition calculated at the CAM-B3LYP-D3BJ/6-311++G(2d,p) level.

**Table S1.** Calculated properties of the PBI monomer and dimers at the three levels of theory.<sup>a</sup>

APFD/6-311++G(2d,p)						
PBI monomer gs → ex1 AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	18137					
PBI dimers	I τ <sub>s</sub> (0)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (70)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90) shifted	II τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	III τ <sub>s</sub> (90)
<i>E<sub>b</sub></i> (kcal/mol) <sup>b</sup>	9.04/ <b>8.75</b>	9.82/ <b>9.44</b>	9.78/ <b>9.27</b>	11.29/ <b>10.53</b>	10.84	/ <b>31.07</b>
Δ <i>E</i> (kcal/mol) <sup>c</sup>	2.25/ <b>1.78</b>	1.47/ <b>1.09</b>	1.51/ <b>1.26</b>	0.00/ <b>0.00</b>	0.45	
top → top AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>	18058/ <b>18056</b>	/18035	18024/ <b>18019</b>	/17963	18178	
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>	-79/-80	/-102	-113/-118	/-174	+41	
bot → bot AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>			17776/		18199	
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>			-361/		+62	
B3LYP+GD3BJ/6-311++G(2d,p)						
PBI monomer gs → ex1 AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	17670					
PBI dimers	I τ <sub>s</sub> (0)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (70)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90) shifted	II τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	III τ <sub>s</sub> (90)
<i>E<sub>b</sub></i> (kcal/mol) <sup>b</sup>	7.03/ <b>6.74</b>		7.56/ <b>7.17</b>	8.86/		/ <b>24.34</b>
Δ <i>E</i> (kcal/mol) <sup>c</sup>						-
top → top AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>	17591/ <b>17593</b>		17573/ <b>17566</b>			/ <b>17876</b>
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>	-79/-77		-97/-104			/ <b>+206</b>
bot → bot AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>						
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>						
APFD/6-31G(d)						
PBI monomer gs → ex1 AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	18745					
PBI dimers	I τ <sub>s</sub> (0)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (70)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	I τ <sub>s</sub> (90) shifted	II τ <sub>s</sub> (90)	III τ <sub>s</sub> (90)
<i>E<sub>b</sub></i> (kcal/mol) <sup>b</sup>	<b>7.37</b>	<b>7.53</b>	<b>7.56</b>	<b>8.67</b>	10.01	<b>29.45</b>
Δ <i>E</i> (kcal/mol) <sup>c</sup>	1.30	1.14	1.11	0.00		-
top → top AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>	18665	18498	18628	18560		18709
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>	-80	-247	-117	-185		-36
bot → bot AH 0-0 (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>d</sup>						
Δ(0-0) (cm <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>e</sup>						

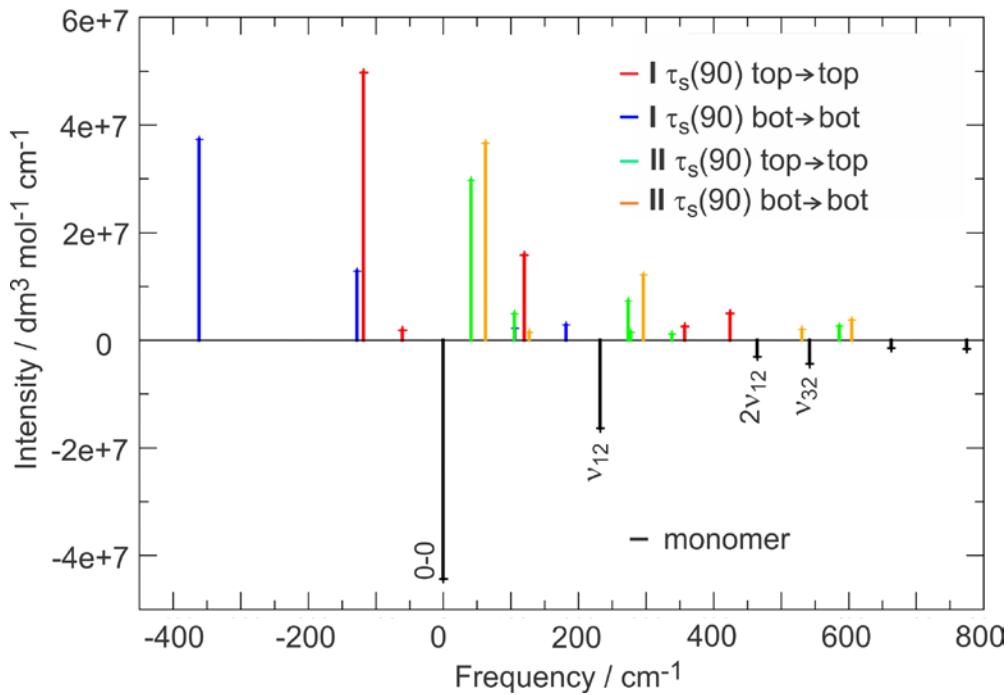
<sup>a</sup> Black colour indicates that the PBI dimers are fully relaxed, the bottom PBI ring is slightly bowed. The red colour indicates that the bottom PBI subunit is constrained as planar.

<sup>b</sup> The binding energy of the PBI dimer with the ZPE and BSSE correction.

<sup>c</sup> Relative energies compared to the most stable Type I PBI dimer calculated. Positive values mean less stable.

<sup>d</sup> See main text for the definition of top → top and bot → bot.

<sup>e</sup> The shift of the 0-0 band origin of the PBI dimer from that of the PBI monomer.



**Figure S2.** Simulated vibronic spectra of the top  $\rightarrow$  top and bot  $\rightarrow$  bot electronic transitions of of I  $\tau_s(90)$  and II  $\tau_s(90)$  PBI dimer structures (fully optimized) in comparison to that of the PBI monomer at the APFD/6-311++G(2d,p) level of theory.

### Completion of references 31 and 32.

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