

Supporting Information: Tuning fast excited-state decay by ligand attachment in isolated chlorophyll *a*

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EXPERIMENT

Photo-dissociation studies after excitation into the Q and Soret (B) bands, performed by ns-laser pulses at the ion-storage ring ELISA [1]

Besides the impact of the ligand on the spectroscopic properties, we observe large differences in the fragmentation behavior between the *chl**a*-TMA and the *chl**a*-formate complexes. The differences are ascribed to different binding energy in the two Chl*a* systems. A loosely bound system may fragment after absorption of a single photon, whereas a tighter bound system may require more photons to fragment and hence cause detectable action. Likewise, absorption of two or more photons gives a much faster event (higher dissociation rate) than absorption of a single photon does.

After excitation, the molecular system eventually relaxes by non-radiative decay channels into a vibrationally hot electronic ground state. From there, the molecular system with high internal energy undergoes fast intra-molecular energy redistribution followed by statistical fragmentation, when ignoring slow radiative cooling [2].

In Fig. 1, the photofragment yield is shown as a function of time and of the laser-pulse energy for both complexes after excitation into the Q and Soret bands (640-660 nm and 395-430 nm). For the *chl**a*-TMA complex we observe prompt dissociation (red signal) as well as delayed dissociation over a time scale of several ms (blue signal). The *chl**a*-formate data show almost exclusively prompt action. Prompt action is defined as fragmentation within the first 20 μ s (a quarter revolution time in the ring), whereas delayed action is associated with fragmentation from 40 μ s up to several ms after photoabsorption.

The yield of delayed action nicely follows a Poisson distribution for single-photon absorption ($n=1$). Prompt action, on the other hand, is caused by sequential multiphoton absorption which is

in agreement with observations obtained in single-pass experiments [3].

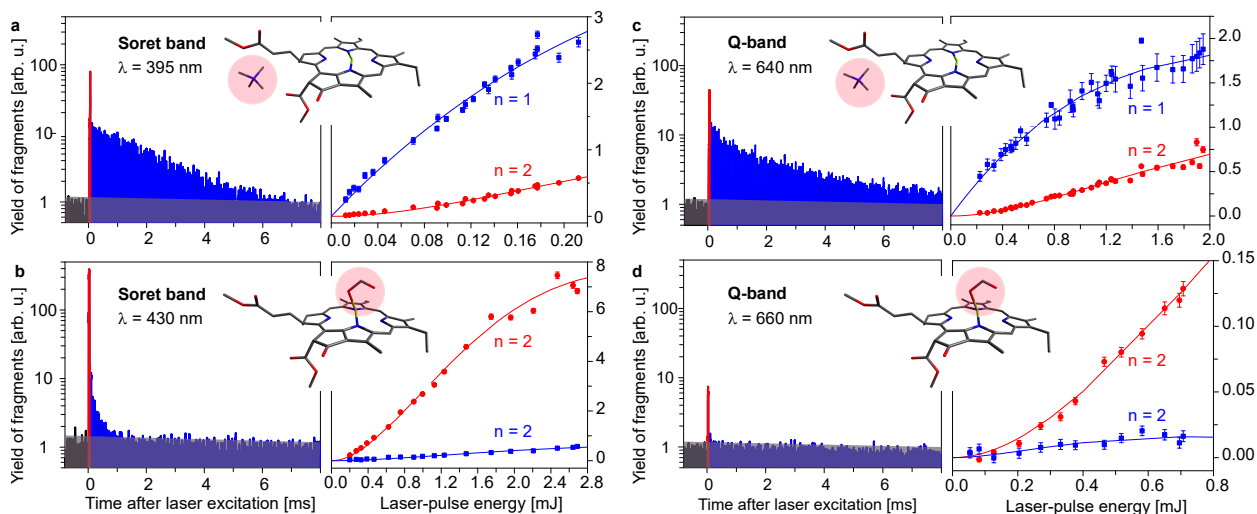


Figure 1. **Photo-dissociation studies at the ELISA ion-storage ring**

Histograms of neutral photo fragments as a function of time for the chl-a-TMA complex (a,c) and for the chl-a-HCOO⁻ complex (b,d) after excitation into the Soret band (a,b) and the Q band (c,d) by ns laser pulses in the storage ring ELISA. The shadowed grey area represents the background fragmentation, induced by collision with the rest gas in the storage ring. The fitting of the fragmentation yield as a function of laser-pulse energy was done using Poisson statistics. n corresponds to the number of independent photons absorbed within one ns laser pulse.

CALCULATIONS

Structure and energy calculations of chl a

Vertical energies of chl a are obtained through DFT calculations by the Gaussian16 software package [4] using the ω B97XD functional and TZVP basis. The structure of chl a is optimized at the same level of theory. For comparison, we also optimize the structure by PM3, which only gives slightly different excited-state energies, with shifts between 0.01 - 0.1 eV. The B3LYP functional gives some changes to the energy for T $_1$ where the energy is shifted to 1.39 eV, and for S $_2$ which is shifted to 2.35 eV. The other states have very small changes. We note that the DFT method may not fully capture the charge-transfer character of the involved transitions and as a consequence they do not completely reproduce the spectroscopy of chl a . Moreover, we use a model chlorophyll without the phytol tail of Chl a , which might also contribute to small changes in spectroscopy.

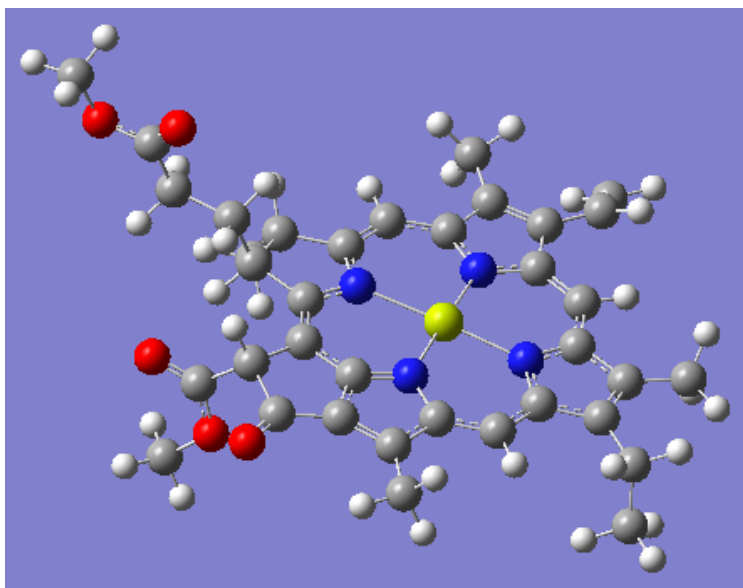


Figure 2. DFT optimized structure of Chl a

Chlorophyllid DFT optimized (oB97XD/TZVP)		Mg	
C	-5.59982100	3.44040400	0.65730200
C	-5.96400200	4.873991400	0.74336600
C	-7.27111200	4.99176900	0.38046700
C	-7.76634500	3.62297500	0.02183700
C	-9.04325800	3.45593600	-0.43469300
C	-9.60125300	2.24443600	-0.82645700
C	-10.95018700	2.02946700	-1.35529800
C	-11.10331300	0.68546300	-1.62760700
C	-9.86248600	0.02164600	-1.26086200
C	-9.51529000	-1.30635500	-1.30627600
C	-8.25513800	-1.75802800	-0.89351500
C	-7.84511700	-3.14216900	-0.93034000
C	-6.55440700	-3.17367500	-0.43379600
C	-4.83574800	-1.78385900	0.40360600
C	-4.18413200	-0.63742800	0.67299800
C	-2.75085400	-0.45072800	1.10315800
C	-2.63759200	1.08420100	1.28838200
C	-4.02439300	1.58299000	0.92737400
C	-4.36346500	2.96079800	0.97046300
N	-6.736631400	2.69678500	0.21494600
N	-8.97514600	1.02677800	-0.78201900
N	-7.18673100	-0.94080900	-0.36903000
N	-4.87937900	0.62068500	0.56617900
H	-9.69371600	4.34450600	-0.51982800
H	-10.26167000	-2.04027800	-1.65939500
H	-3.57977700	3.66360600	1.28588600
H	-2.58619400	-0.97985100	2.07524500
C	-4.99814600	5.90526900	1.15635700
C	-7.88051800	7.35340400	0.81381900
C	-8.65222900	-4.27431300	-1.40857300
C	-5.44746800	-4.08317200	-0.15146700
H	-5.41439400	6.92150300	1.08046600
H	-4.09532700	5.86832900	0.53052700
H	-4.68814600	5.75102100	2.19959300
H	-6.97122100	7.59986600	1.36089700
H	-8.57955400	8.17895400	0.71911800
H	-9.60436200	-4.33849000	-0.86370400
H	-8.12438800	-5.22785500	-1.27838400
H	-8.88785300	-4.16312500	-2.47609300
Mg	-7.24320600	0.94984600	-0.16776900
C	-11.95587700	3.08282000	-1.56267400
H	-12.16830400	3.62192400	-0.63005700
H	-11.61681300	3.81825400	-2.30423000
H	-12.89753700	2.63722800	-1.92629000
C	-12.79436200	-1.15224700	-1.47035900
H	-12.02468900	-1.94244400	-1.44154700
H	-13.05201800	-0.90780200	-0.43229300
H	-13.68857100	-1.57712200	-1.94298000
O	-5.36176300	-5.27453100	-0.34826900
H	-1.90302200	1.51920600	0.56711300
C	-2.22637900	1.46268600	2.69717600
H	-2.18816800	2.55301500	2.82360000
H	-2.92090900	1.06848600	3.45083500
H	-1.22813300	1.06573900	2.92764000
C	-1.77590900	-1.00464600	0.06569300
C	-0.37051400	-1.10246300	0.63631000
H	-1.78190100	-0.38037900	-0.85007300
H	-2.12403100	-2.01390700	-0.25868500
C	0.63988600	-1.54766200	-0.39527600
H	-0.05849200	-0.12305400	1.05625500
H	-0.35044100	-1.81676600	1.48610900
O	0.45326100	-1.88622900	-1.54743400
O	1.91213000	-1.54237500	0.10079900
C	2.97603600	-1.96879900	-0.75461600
H	3.01711700	-1.32003800	-1.65255300
H	2.79361400	-3.00808800	-1.09266200
C	-12.30302100	0.06124400	-2.22864600
H	-13.10125800	0.83800700	-2.28642300
H	-12.06906500	-0.21212400	-3.27742400
C	-8.13179500	6.15202300	0.29740900
H	-9.08175000	5.97281400	-0.23571100
C	-4.31061100	-3.20261300	0.45288800
C	-3.94297700	-3.62325100	1.86652900
O	-2.81803300	-3.69195900	2.32480000
O	-5.00400800	-3.93245400	2.66360600
C	-4.75600000	-4.37103800	3.98280500
H	-5.76535100	-4.55831500	4.35781800
H	-4.16217700	-5.29106600	4.00247000
H	-4.26185800	-3.59836500	4.58133400
H	-3.38565100	-3.26391600	-0.18317400
H	3.87778723	-1.89765434	-0.18305397

Figure 3. DFT optimized structure of Chla

SOC: Chla @B97XD/TZVP (ω B97XD/TZVP optimized)

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 1: Triplet- π Sym 1.0208 eV 1214.55 nm f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
 165 -> 167 0.21847
 165 -> 168 0.19600
 166 -> 167 0.67174
 166 -> 168 -0.13551
 165 <- 168 0.12434
 166 <- 167 0.24166
 This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.
 Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -2188.86539498
 Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 2: Triplet- π Sym 1.6096 eV 770.30 nm f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
 165 -> 167 0.63342
 166 -> 167 -0.24621
 166 -> 168 -0.18082
 165 <- 167 0.15548

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 3: Triplet- π Sym 2.0758 eV 597.29 nm f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
 160 -> 167 0.11442
 165 -> 167 0.18072
 165 -> 168 0.13080
 166 -> 168 0.64122

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 4: Singlet- π Sym 2.1468 eV 577.53 nm f=0.2187 <S**2>=0.000
 165 -> 168 0.26683
 166 -> 167 0.63645

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 5: Singlet- π Sym 2.5785 eV 480.85 nm f=0.0404 <S**2>=0.000
 165 -> 167 0.56347
 166 -> 167 -0.12370
 166 -> 168 -0.38737

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 6: Triplet- π Sym 2.5979 eV 477.25 nm f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
 165 -> 167 -0.10189
 165 -> 168 0.61530
 165 -> 169 -0.15727
 166 -> 167 -0.15260

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 7: Triplet- π Sym 2.7327 eV 453.70 nm f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
 163 -> 167 0.44916
 163 -> 168 0.26765
 163 -> 169 0.17204
 163 -> 170 -0.16917
 164 -> 167 -0.28902
 164 -> 168 -0.13667
 164 -> 169 -0.10003

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 8: Singlet- π Sym 3.4814 eV 356.13 nm f=0.9756 <S**2>=0.000
 163 -> 167 0.14848
 165 -> 167 0.36718
 166 -> 168 0.56531

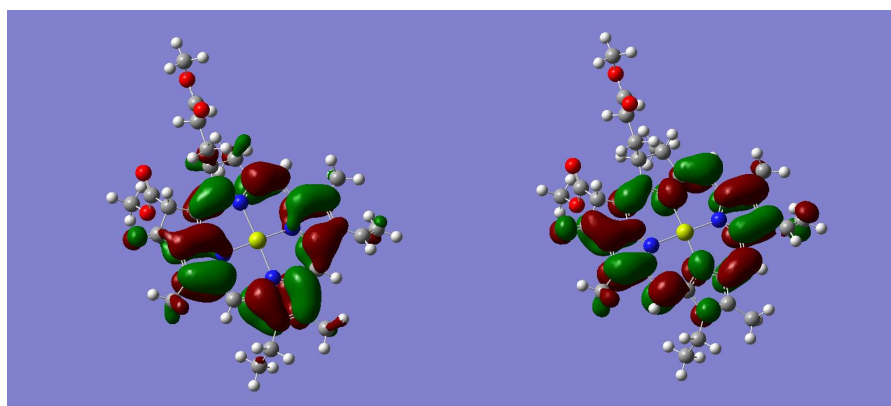
Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 9: Singlet- π Sym 3.7176 eV 333.50 nm f=0.3447 <S**2>=0.000
 163 -> 167 -0.41245
 163 -> 168 -0.18670
 164 -> 167 0.41877
 165 -> 167 0.11076
 165 -> 168 0.22071

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
 Excited State 10: Singlet- π Sym 3.7584 eV 329.89 nm f=0.8134 <S**2>=0.000
 163 -> 168 0.10802
 164 -> 167 -0.20020
 165 -> 168 0.57838
 166 -> 167 -0.25595

Figure 4. DFT energies of Chla

Table I. Transition energies and oscillator strength calculated for chl a with Gaussian16 using TDDFT with the ω B97XD functional and TZVP basis. The structures are obtained at the same level of theory.

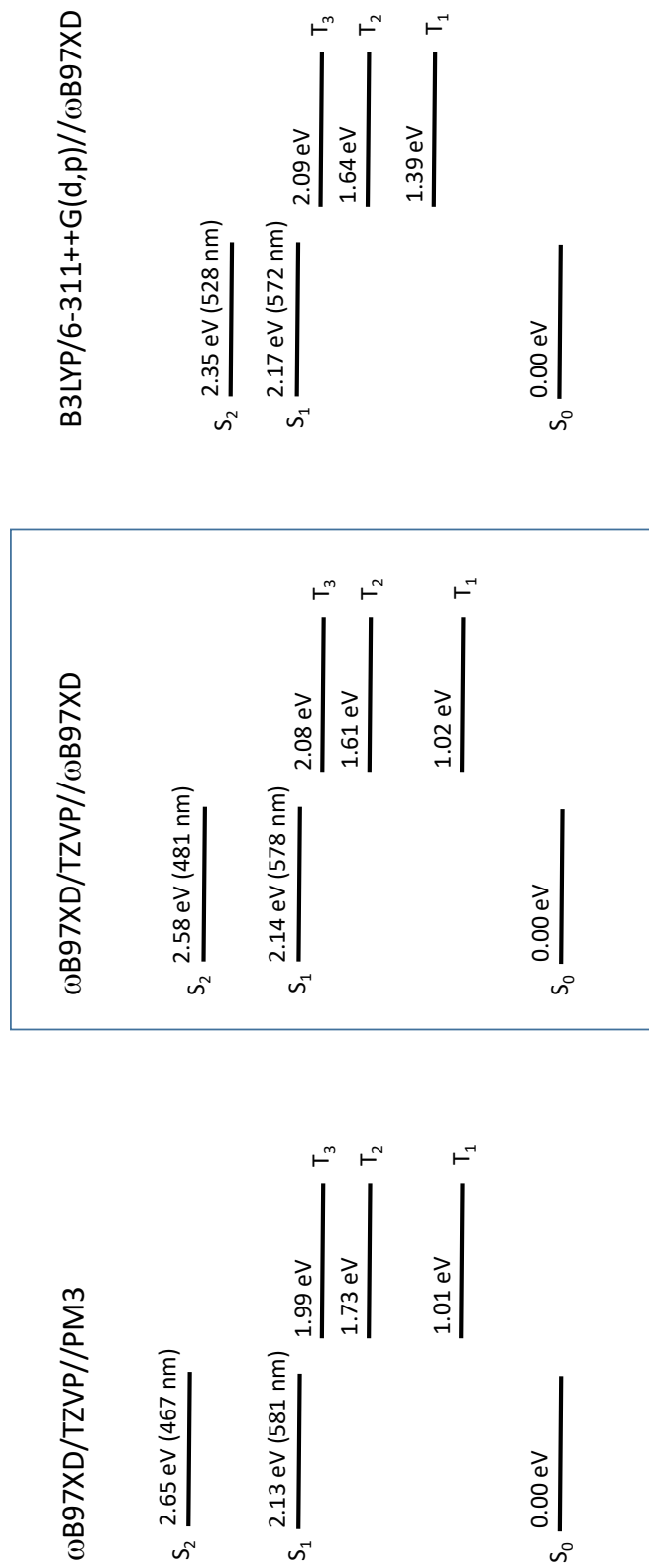
Excited State	Multiplicity	Transition Energy(eV)	Wavelength(nm)	Oscillator Strength
Excited State 4	Singlet	2.1468	577.53	0.2187
Excited State 5	Singlet	2.5785	480.85	0.0404
Excited State 8	Singlet	3.4814	356.13	0.9756
Excited State 9	Singlet	3.7176	333.50	0.3447
Excited State 10	Singlet	3.7584	329.89	0.8134
Excited State 1	Triplet	1.0208	1214.55	0.0000
Excited State 2	Triplet	1.6096	770.30	0.0000
Excited State 3	Triplet	2.0758	597.29	0.0000
Excited State 6	Triplet	2.5979	477.25	0.0000
Excited State 7	Triplet	2.7327	453.70	0.0000



Homo orbital (166) of Chla.

Lumo orbital (167) of Chla.

Figure 5. **Molecular orbitals of Chla**



Results in the box are used for the SOC calculation

Figure 6. Chl_a spectroscopy summary

Structure and energy calculations of chl*a*-formate

Vertical energies of chl*a*-formate are obtained through DFT calculations by the Gaussian16 software package [4] using the ω B97XD functional and TZVP basis. The structure of the chl*a*-formate complex is optimized at the same level of theory. For comparison, we also optimize the structure by PM3, which only gives slightly different excited-state energies, with shifts between 0.01 - 0.13 eV. The B3LYP functional gives some changes to the energy for T₁ where the energy is shifted to 1.36 eV, and for S₂ which is shifted to 2.19 eV. The other states have very small changes. We note that the DFT method may not fully capture the charge-transfer character of the involved transitions and as a consequence they do not completely reproduce the spectroscopy of chl*a*-formate.

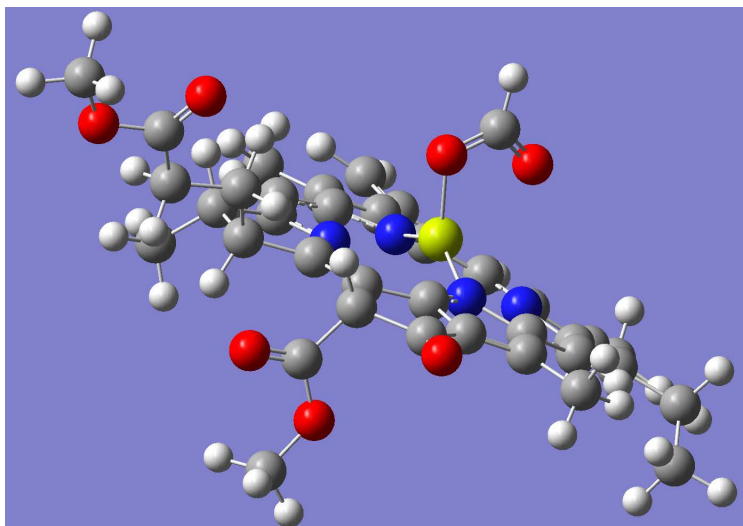


Figure 7. **DFT optimized structure of Chl*a*-formate**

Chl α -formate ω B97XD/TZVP (ω B97XD optimized)

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Excited State 1:  Triplet- $\pi$ Sym  0.9778 eV 1267.98 nm  f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
177 -> 179  -0.34358
177 -> 180  -0.20181
178 -> 179  0.61382
178 -> 180  -0.15098
177 -> 179  -0.14044
177 -> 180  -0.12130
178 -> 179  0.23231
This state for optimization and/or second-order correction.
Total Energy, E(TD-HF/TD-DFT) = -2378.15541650
Copying the excited state density for this state as the 1-particle RhoCI density.

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 2:  Triplet- $\pi$ Sym  1.5126 eV 819.69 nm  f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
177 -> 179  0.60141
178 -> 179  0.36003
177 -> 179  0.13689

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 3:  Triplet- $\pi$ Sym  2.1309 eV 581.83 nm  f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
169 -> 179  -0.12362
177 -> 180  -0.21222
178 -> 180  0.62880

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 4:  Singlet- $\pi$ Sym  2.1587 eV 574.33 nm  f=0.2049 <S**2>=0.000
177 -> 179  -0.18273
177 -> 180  -0.26541
178 -> 179  0.61076

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 5:  Singlet- $\pi$ Sym  2.4729 eV 501.37 nm  f=0.1064 <S**2>=0.000
177 -> 179  0.59968
178 -> 179  0.20354
178 -> 180  0.27944

Excited State 6:  Triplet- $\pi$ Sym  2.5028 eV 495.38 nm  f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
167 -> 179  0.10066
177 -> 179  -0.12063
177 -> 180  0.57426
177 -> 181  0.20623
178 -> 179  0.13986
178 -> 180  0.15515

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 7:  Triplet- $\pi$ Sym  2.6805 eV 462.54 nm  f=0.0000 <S**2>=2.000
171 -> 179  -0.13086
173 -> 179  0.17072
173 -> 180  0.10611
174 -> 179  0.42900
174 -> 180  0.27370
174 -> 181  -0.17429
174 -> 182  -0.10818
175 -> 179  -0.17174
176 -> 179  0.10527

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 8:  Singlet- $\pi$ Sym  3.4059 eV 364.03 nm  f=0.6851 <S**2>=0.000
174 -> 179  0.14789
176 -> 179  0.11256
177 -> 179  -0.25912
177 -> 180  -0.10219
178 -> 180  0.59771

Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 9:  Singlet- $\pi$ Sym  3.6027 eV 344.14 nm  f=0.7315 <S**2>=0.000
175 -> 179  0.12355
175 -> 180  -0.10620
177 -> 180  0.58803
178 -> 179  0.26695
178 -> 180  0.10691

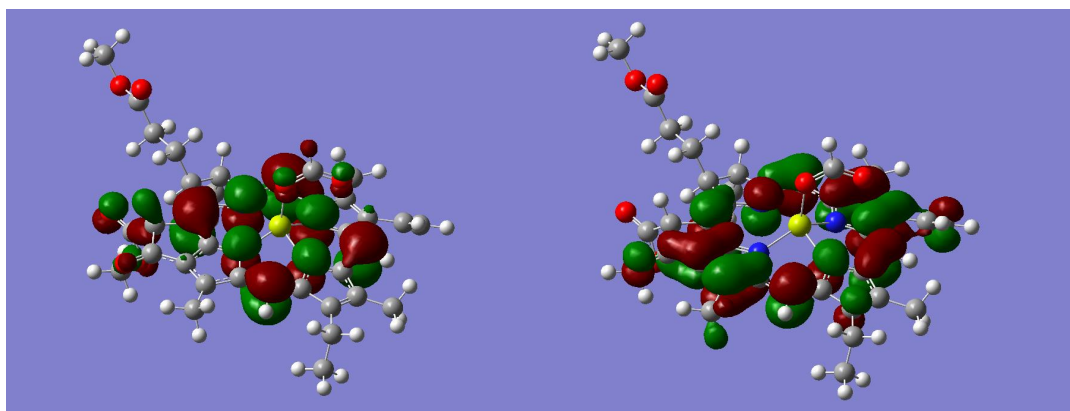
Excited state symmetry could not be determined.
Excited State 10: Singlet- $\pi$ Sym  3.6827 eV 336.67 nm  f=0.1748 <S**2>=0.000
174 -> 179  0.26327
176 -> 179  0.57142
176 -> 180  0.10946
178 -> 180  -0.13779

```

Figure 9. DFT energies of Chl α -formate

Table II. Transition energies and oscillator strength calculated for chl*a*-formate with Gaussian16 using TDDFT with the ω B97XD functional and TZVP basis. The structures are obtained at the same level of theory.

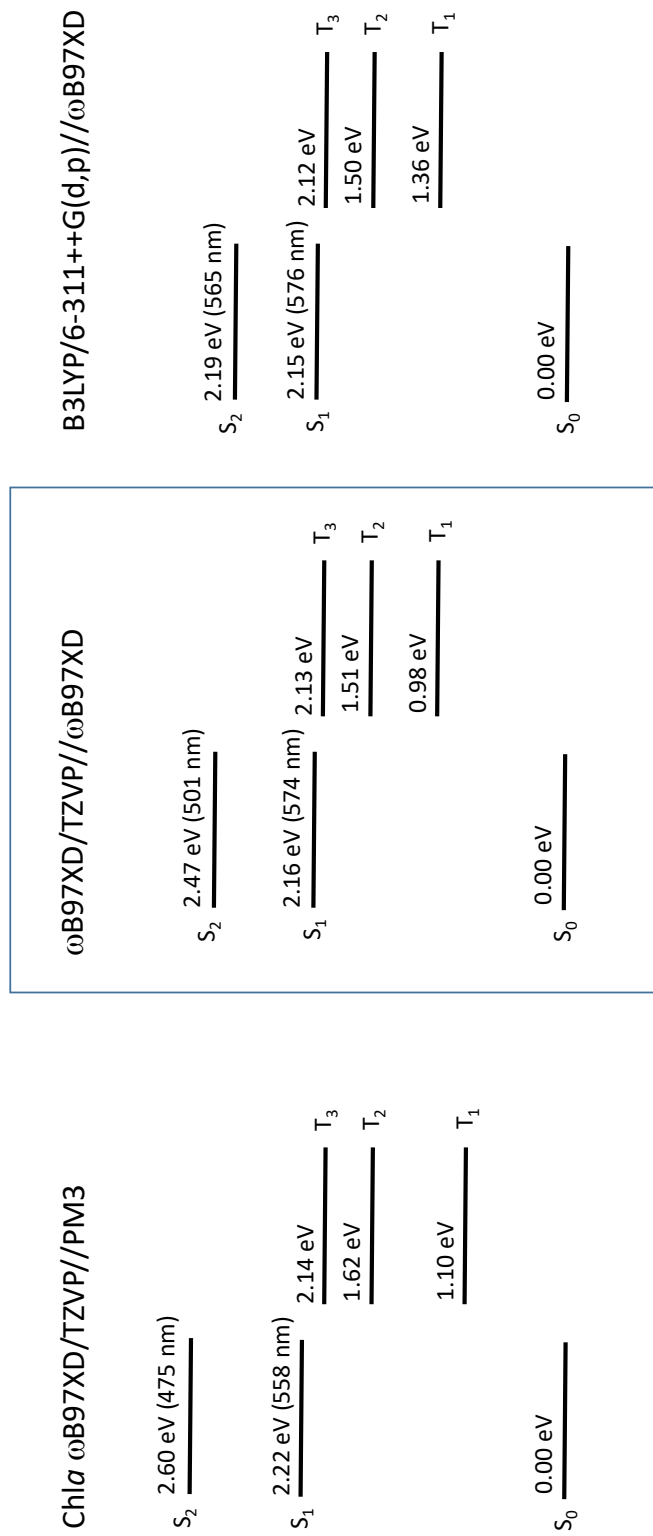
Excited State	Multiplicity	Transition Energy(eV)	Wavelength(nm)	Oscillator Strength
Excited State 4	Singlet	2.1587	574.33	0.2049
Excited State 5	Singlet	2.4729	501.37	0.1064
Excited State 8	Singlet	3.4059	364.03	0.6851
Excited State 9	Singlet	3.6027	344.14	0.7315
Excited State 10	Singlet	3.6827	336.67	0.1748
Excited State 1	Triplet	0.9778	1267.98	0.0000
Excited State 2	Triplet	1.5126	819.69	0.0000
Excited State 3	Triplet	2.1309	581.83	0.0000
Excited State 6	Triplet	2.5028	495.38	0.0000
Excited State 7	Triplet	2.6805	462.54	0.0000



Homo orbital (178) of Chla-formate.

Lumo orbital (179) of Chla-formate.

Figure 10. Molecular orbitals of Chl*a*-formate



Results in the box are used for the SOC calculation

Figure 11. Chl a-formate spectroscopy summary

Spin-orbit coupling matrix elements

Output from the DFT calculations is used as input for a direct calculation of the spin-orbit coupling matrix elements using the PySOC code [5]. The needed files are obtained by adding required keywords to the Gaussian16 command line: TD(50-50,nstates=5) ω B97XD/TZVP 6D 10F nosymm GFInput.

Chla: Spin-orbit matrix elements

sum_soc, <S0 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.83854	0.20384	0.78743	0.20384
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.24150	0.16776	0.04510	0.16776
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.29307	0.16421	0.17878	0.16421
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.16775	0.11013	0.06230	0.11013
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.29407	0.03590	0.28965	0.03590
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.28456	0.17647	1.26008	0.17647
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.82038	0.13608	0.79749	0.13608
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.20074	0.06257	0.18018	0.06257
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.34659	0.19178	1.31899	0.19178
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.12063	0.03691	0.10875	0.03691
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.17280	0.00851	0.17238	0.00851
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.76447	0.11951	0.74555	0.11951
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.48741	0.06411	0.47890	0.06411
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.10890	0.02564	0.10268	0.02564
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.11532	0.01326	0.11379	0.01326
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.15288	0.06664	0.12037	0.06664
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.23425	0.15576	0.07972	0.15576
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.30223	0.13594	0.23321	0.13594
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.19544	0.08804	0.15065	0.08804
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.02922	0.02066	0.00040	0.02066

Figure 12. Spin-orbit matrix elements for Chla

Chla-formate: Spin-orbit matrix elements

sum_soc, <S0 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.07855	0.26229	1.01276	0.26229
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.41871	0.29583	0.01686	0.29583
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.59081	0.41652	0.04563	0.41652
sum_soc, <S0 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.10593	0.06569	0.05090	0.06569
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.43386	0.05355	0.42720	0.05355
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.33739	0.24912	1.29015	0.24912
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.23704	0.25118	1.18494	0.25118
sum_soc, <S1 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.20639	0.04781	0.19500	0.04781
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	1.54275	0.28019	1.49099	0.28019
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.20039	0.06825	0.17561	0.06825
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.17840	0.09597	0.11579	0.09597
sum_soc, <S2 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.92319	0.24115	0.85789	0.24115
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.81866	0.16956	0.78276	0.16956
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.28458	0.06107	0.27116	0.06107
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.25315	0.03549	0.24813	0.03549
sum_soc, <S3 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.23061	0.03030	0.22659	0.03030
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T1,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.29243	0.07686	0.27148	0.07686
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T2,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.71619	0.30286	0.57400	0.30286
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T3,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.41746	0.05168	0.41101	0.05168
sum_soc, <S4 Hso T4,1,0,-1> (cm-1):	0.12460	0.02907	0.11762	0.02907

Figure 13. Spin-orbit matrix elements for Chla-formate

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