

1 *Electronic supplementary information*

2 **Nano-goethite-mediated transformation of anthracene derivatives under low**

3 **moisture conditions**

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21 **S1. Supplemental methods**

22 **Nao-goethite synthesis**

23 The Goe-03 nano-goethite sample was synthesized as follows. Five mL of 5 M
24 KOH was mixed with 250 mL of 0.1 M $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in a beaker under magnetic
25 stirring. The mixture was aged at 60 °C for 70 h. Next, the cooled mixture was
26 transferred into a dialysis tube (MD34 (7000)), which was then placed into a 2-L beaker
27 filled with ultrapure water. The ultrapure water was replaced 10 times each day until the
28 conductivity was less than $1.0 \mu\text{S} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$. The product was dried at 80 °C for 4 h, and
29 then at 50 °C for 2 h.

30 The Goe-02 nano-goethite sample was synthesized by reacting 30 mL of 0.5 M
31 $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ with 125 mL of 2.5 M KOH, followed by aging at 60 °C for 100 h. The
32 aged suspension was washed as abovementioned and then dried at 40 °C overnight to
33 obtain the final product.

34 The Goe-01 nano-goethite sample was synthesized by adding rapidly 180 mL of 5
35 M KOH to 100 mL of 1 M $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ under magnetic stirring, followed by
36 immediate dilution of to 2 L with ultrapure water and subsequent aging at 70 °C for 60
37 h. The aged suspension was washed and dried as abovementioned.

38 **Nao-goethite characterization**

39 Specific surface areas of the nano-goethite samples were measured by the
40 Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) gas adsorption isotherms with water vapor using a
41 surface area and porosimetry analyzer (Micromeritics ASAP 2460). The water vapor

42 adsorption curves and gravimetric water content for each sample at 20 °C were obtained
43 at vapor pressure of $P/P_0=0-0.1$. X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis was performed using
44 a Bruker Discover diffractometer operating at 40 kV and 40 mA with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation
45 ($\alpha = 1.54 \text{ \AA}$) in a 2θ range from 5° to 80° at a scan rate of $0.05^\circ/\text{s}$. The morphological
46 features of nano-goethite were observed using a transmission electron microscope
47 system (JEM-2100; JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) at 200KV. The nano-goethite were mixed
48 with KBr on a mass ratio of 1:100 before analysis using a FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet
49 NEXUS870; Thermo Scientific).

50 **Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) measurements**

51 All samples were analyzed at room temperature with an X-band microwave frequency
52 of 9.81 GHz, and microwave power of 20.0 mW. The instrument and operating
53 parameters were set as follows: at center field, 3503 G; sweep width, 200 G; resolution
54 of 1024 points; receiver gain of 3.17×10^3 ; modulation frequency of 100 kHz;
55 modulation amplitude, 1 G; time constant, 39.06 ms; sweep time, 40.00 s.

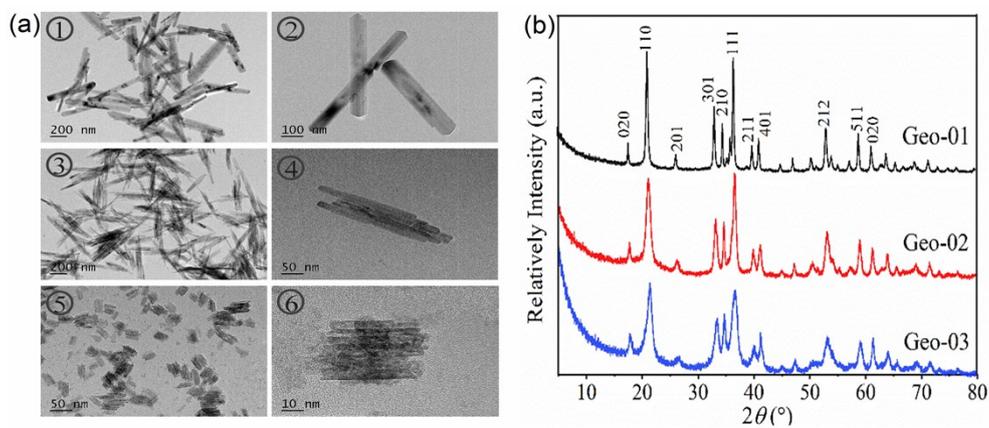
56 **Calculation of water film coverage**

57 The theoretical length of three sides in a water molecule were calculated as 3.97,
58 3.27 and 3.04 \AA , and three van der Waals molecular surface area are 9.95, 12.06 and
59 12.99 \AA^2 . Thus, the total areas of water molecules in 1.0 g of goethite were 160–209,
60 223–291, 283–369, 483–621 m^2 at 4.8%, 6.7, 8.5% and 14.5% water content. According
61 to the BET specific surface area ($138 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$) of nano-goethite (Goe-03), it is roughly
62 estimated that mono-layer water film may form on the surface of nano-goethite with

- 63 4.8% and 6.7% water content. By contrast, at 8.5% and 14.5% water content multi-layer
- 64 water film may cover the surface of nano-goethite.

66 **S2. Supplemental Results**

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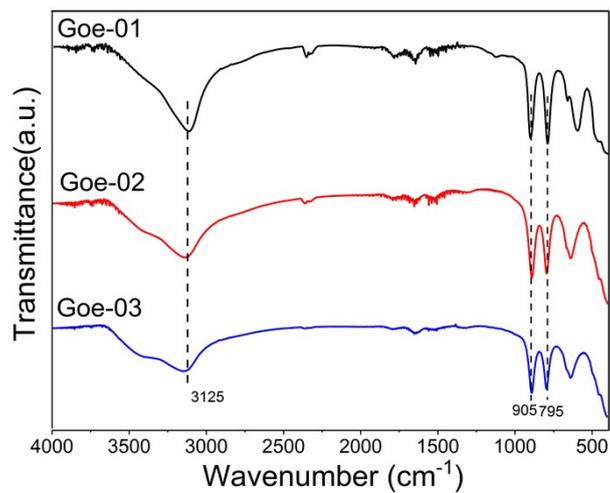


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69 **Fig. S1** (a) TEM images showing aggregation of goethite nanorods in 87.0 nm (①, ②)

70 Geo-01 sample, (③, ④) 22.7 nm Geo-02 sample, (⑤, ⑥) 11.1 nm Geo-03 sample.

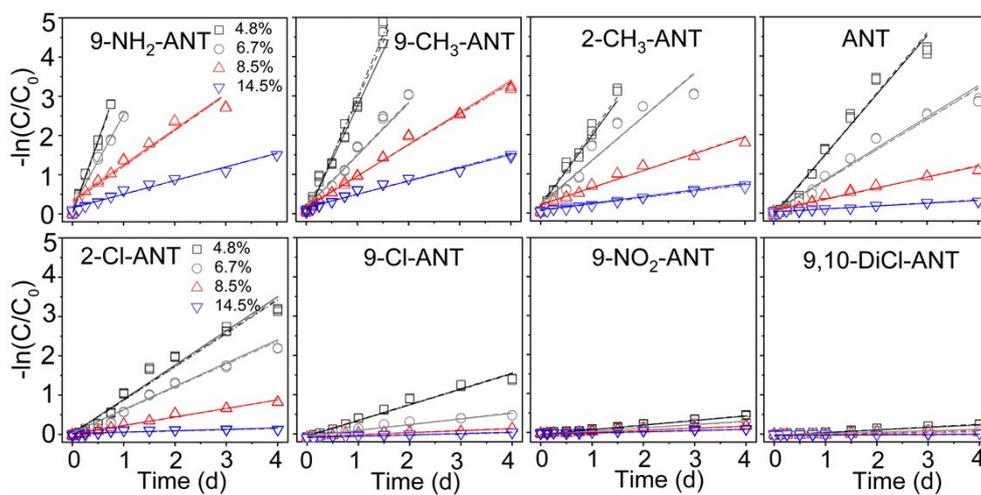
71 (b) XRD patterns of nano-goethite samples of different sizes.



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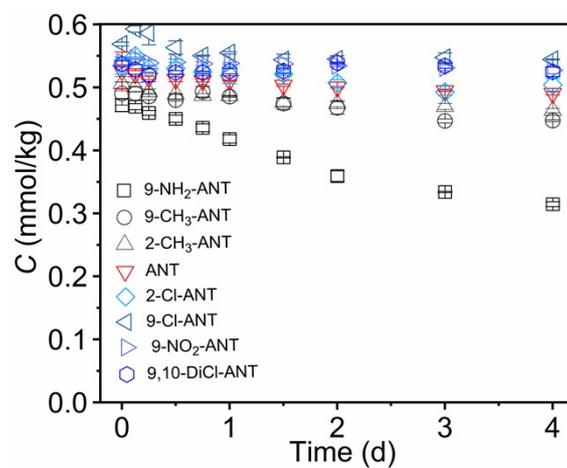
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Fig. S2 FTIR spectra of nano-goethite samples of different sizes.



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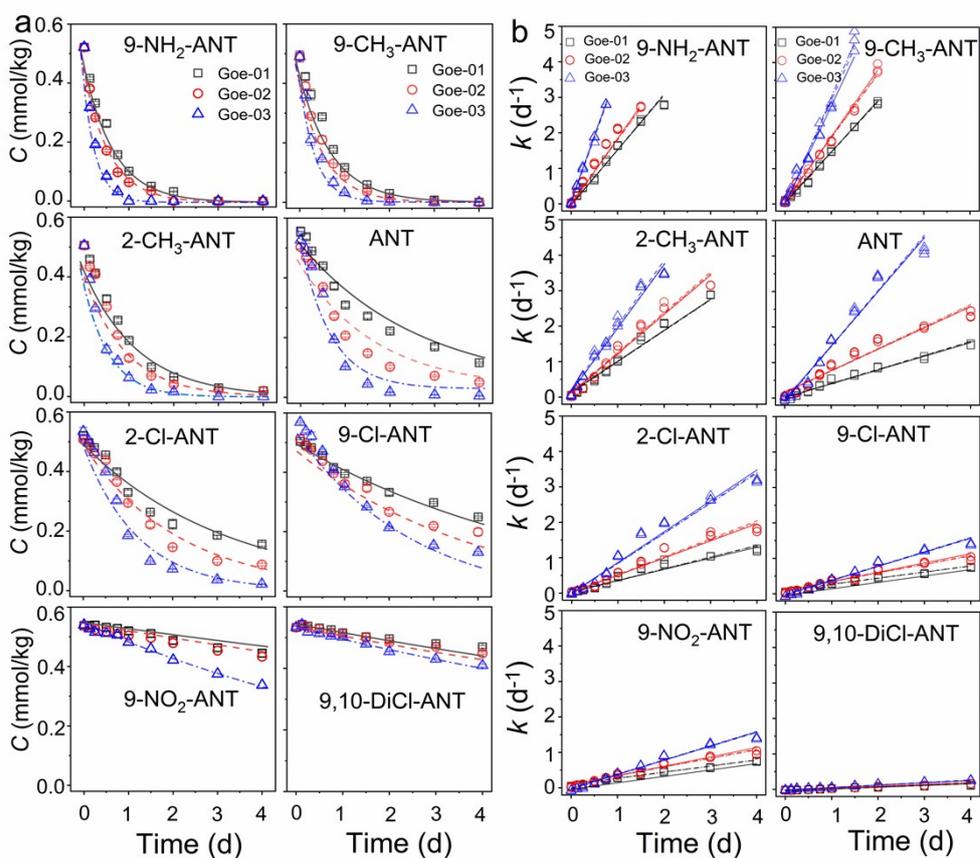
77 **Fig. S3** Transformation kinetics of ANT and ANT derivatives on nano-goethite (Goe-
 78 03) at different water content and 20 °C. The kinetic data were fitted to the first-order
 79 kinetic model, and the fitting parameters are summarized in [Table S3](#).



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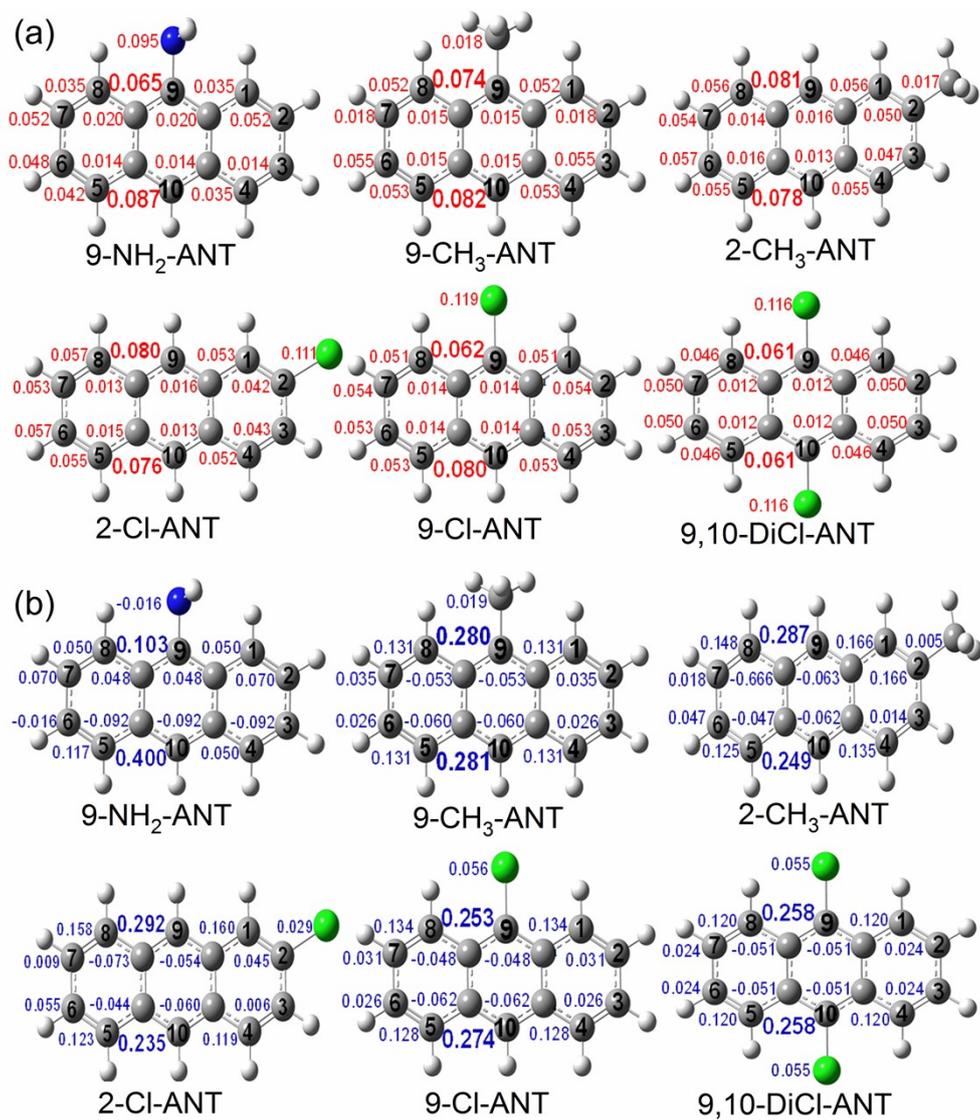
82 **Fig. S4** Transformation of ANT and ANT derivatives on silica powder with 0.6% water

83 content at 10% relative humidity and 20 °C.



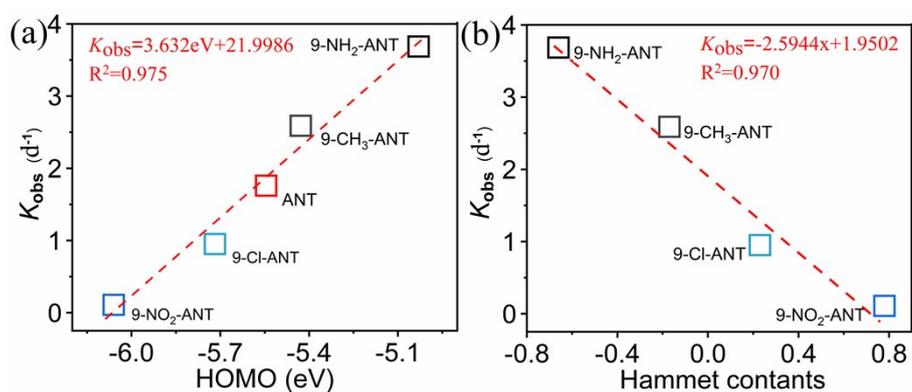
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85 **Fig. S5** (a) Transformation kinetics of 0.5 mmol/kg ANT and ANT derivatives on Goe-
 86 01, Goe-02, and Goe-03 nano-goethite samples with water content of 2.3%, 3.1%, and
 87 4.8%, respectively. (b) The transformation kinetics were fitted to the first-order kinetic
 88 model, and the fitting parameters are summarized in [Table S4](#).



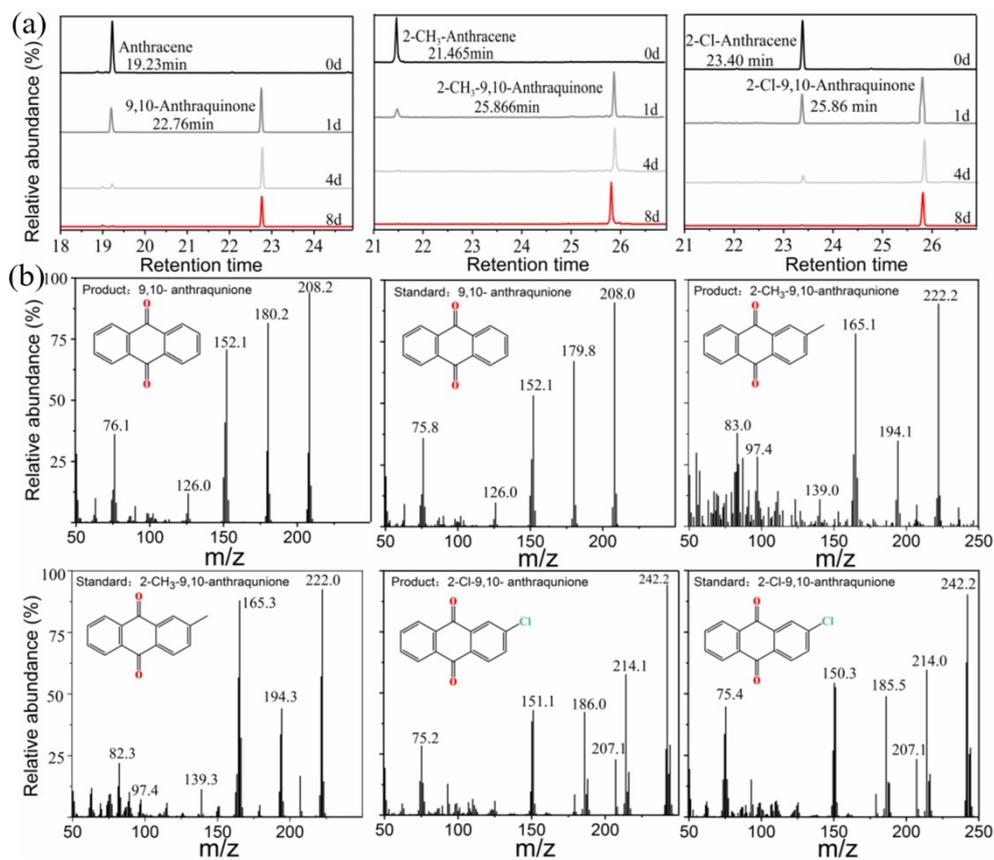
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91 **Fig. S6** (a) Fukui functions of 9-NH₂-ANT, 9-CH₃-ANT, 2-CH₃-ANT, 2-Cl-ANT, 9-Cl-
 92 ANT and 9,10-DiCl-ANT. (b) Mulliken atomic spin densities of 9-NH₂-ANT, 9-CH₃-
 93 ANT, 2-CH₃-ANT, 2-Cl-ANT, 9-Cl-ANT and 9,10-DiCl-ANT.



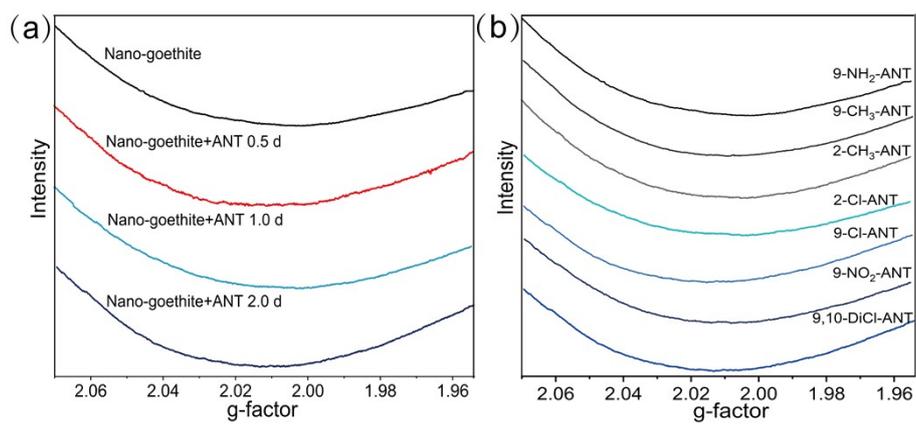
95

96 **Fig. S7** (a) The first-order rate constants of 9-NH₂-ANT, 9-CH₃-ANT, ANT, 9-Cl-ANT,
 97 and 9-NO₂-ANT as function of HOMO energy. (b) The first-order rate constants of 9-
 98 NH₂-ANT, 9-CH₃-ANT, 9-Cl-ANT, and 9-NO₂-ANT as function of Hammett constants
 99 of their substitution groups.



101

102 **Fig. S8** (a) GC-MS chromatograms of 1:1 acetone/dichlormethane extract of
 103 Goethite/ANT, 2-Cl-ANT, 2-CH₃-ANT reaction mixture after 1 d, 4 d, and 8 d. (b) GC-
 104 MS chromatograms of transformation products (9,10-anthraquinone, 2-Cl-9,10-
 105 anthraquinone, 2-CH₃-9,10-anthraquinone).



107

108 **Fig. S9** EPR spectra of original nano-goethite and nano-goethite reacted with ANT for

109 0.5, 1, and 2 d, and with ANT derivatives for 1 d.

110 **Table S1.** Physical and chemical properties of ANT, ANT derivatives and
 111 transformation products.

Compounds	Formulae	Boiling point (°C)	Log K_{ow}	Vapor pressure (mmHg)	Solubility (mg L ⁻¹)
9-aminoanthracene	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ N	402.2±14.0	3.43	4.05E ⁻⁰⁰⁶	4.3430
9-methylanthracene	C ₁₅ H ₁₂	347.2±0.0	5.07	4.00E ⁻⁰⁵	0.2610
2-methylanthracene	C ₁₅ H ₁₂	353.5±9.0	5.00	5.34E ⁻⁰⁶	0.0213
anthracene	C ₁₄ H ₁₀	337.4±9.0	4.45	6.53E ⁻⁰⁶	0.0434
2-chloroanthracene	C ₁₄ H ₉ Cl	370.1±11.0	4.99	2.56E ⁻⁰⁰⁵	0.1601
9-chloroanthracene	C ₁₄ H ₉ Cl	370.1±11.0	4.99	2.56E ⁻⁰⁰⁵	0.1601
9-nitroanthracene	C ₁₄ H ₉ NO ₂	402.9±14.0	1.96	5.09E ⁻⁰¹⁴	53.5100
9,10-dichloroanthracene	C ₁₄ H ₈ Cl ₂	401.3±18.0	5.63	6.20E ⁻⁰⁰⁶	0.0294
9,10-anthraquinone	C ₁₄ H ₈ O ₂	377.0±12.0	3.39	1.16E ⁻⁰⁰⁷	3.9230
2-methyl-9,10-anthraquinone	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ O ₂	415.4±35.0	4.37	2.67E ⁻⁰⁰⁶	0.4049
2-chloro-9,10-anthraquinone	C ₁₄ H ₇ ClO ₂	425.7±34.0	3.99	2.36E ⁻⁰⁰⁶	0.7905

112 Note: the boiling point, log K_{ow} , vapor pressure, and solubility values for ANT, ANT derivatives and
 113 degradation products were form <http://www.chemspider.com/>.

115 **Table S2.** The recovery percentage, relative standard deviation (RSD), and detection
 116 limits of ANT and ANT derivatives for the extraction and analytical methods in this
 117 study.

Compounds	0.50 mmol/kg		0.05 mmol/kg		Detection limit ug/L
	Recovery %	RSD	Recovery %	RSD	
9-NH ₂ -ANT	97.37	5.80	96.62	1.74	0.53
9-CH ₃ -ANT	96.13	3.34	96.61	2.89	0.12
2-CH ₃ -ANT	99.19	2.01	96.19	1.82	0.05
ANT	100.98	4.53	98.29	4.09	0.15
2-Cl-ANT	100.78	2.00	98.33	3.57	0.19
9-Cl-ANT	99.69	1.83	98.96	1.42	0.26
9-NO ₂ -ANT	105.90	0.66	97.50	1.55	0.21
9,10-DiCl-ANT	104.43	1.42	96.9	1.80	0.40
9,10-anthraquinone	97.92	2.42	97.35	5.64	2.00
2-CH ₃ -9,10-anthraquinone	97.99	2.50	96.83	6.11	2.71
2-Cl-9,10-anthraquinone	98.04	1.78	96.19	4.56	2.24

119 **Table S3.** The fitted first-order kinetic parameters of ANT and ANT derivatives on nano-goethite (Goe-03) at different water content.

120 The mean is the average value of the fitted first-order kinetic parameters, and SD is the standard deviation from the triplicate experiments.

Compounds	4.8%				6.7%				8.5%				14.5%			
	k/d^{-1}		R^2		k/d^{-1}		R^2		k/d^{-1}		R^2		k/d^{-1}		R^2	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
9-NH ₂ -ANT	3.681	0.034	0.998	0.001	1.815	0.008	0.976	0.0004	0.907	0.008	0.985	0.001	0.346	0.003	0.975	0.002
9-CH ₃ -ANT	2.941	0.152	0.986	0.005	1.335	0.009	0.991	0.002	0.796	0.013	0.991	0.002	0.339	0.008	0.977	0.009
2-CH ₃ -ANT	1.802	0.018	0.979	0.006	1.113	0.008	0.925	0.001	0.436	0.005	0.964	0.003	0.169	0.006	0.993	0.006
ANT	1.536	0.021	0.972	0.009	0.791	0.008	0.971	0.005	0.285	0.007	0.962	0.006	0.075	0.004	0.948	0.026
2-Cl-ANT	0.858	0.009	0.969	0.002	0.588	0.004	0.982	0.001	0.217	0.002	0.980	0.003	0.050	0.005	0.886	0.015
9-Cl-ANT	0.397	0.004	0.975	0.005	0.147	0.003	0.946	0.010	0.052	0.002	0.902	0.049	0.036	0.002	0.887	0.042
9-NO ₂ -ANT	0.119	0.001	0.993	0.002	0.085	0.003	0.996	0.002	0.051	0.002	0.964	0.012	0.031	0.002	0.936	0.023
9,10-DiCl-ANT	0.069	0.004	0.983	0.009	0.034	0.002	0.962	0.022	0.027	0.007	0.879	0.024	0.014	0.004	0.841	0.066

122 **Table S4.** The fitted first-order kinetic parameters of ANT and ANT derivatives on
 123 Goe-01, and Goe-02 nano-goethite samples at water content of 2.3%, and 3.1%,
 124 respectively. The mean is the average value of the fitted first-order kinetic parameters,
 125 and SD is the standard deviation from the triplicate experiments.

Compounds	Goe-01				Goe-02			
	k/d^{-1}		R^2		k/d^{-1}		R^2	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
9-NH ₂ -ANT	1.561	0.024	0.995	0.002	1.875	0.026	0.994	0.004
9-CH ₃ -ANT	1.425	0.021	0.996	0.002	1.816	0.048	0.996	0.002
2-CH ₃ -ANT	0.872	0.002	0.979	0.002	1.117	0.015	0.972	0.007
ANT	0.390	0.003	0.980	0.007	0.610	0.010	0.956	0.014
2-Cl-ANT	0.323	0.008	0.950	0.015	0.494	0.012	0.960	0.007
9-Cl-ANT	0.175	0.005	0.982	0.006	0.250	0.012	0.965	0.017
9-NO ₂ -ANT	0.038	0.002	0.964	0.014	0.046	0.003	0.987	0.005
9,10-DiCl-ANT	0.051	0.002	0.980	0.011	0.053	0.001	0.991	0.005

126

128 **Table S5.** Fitting parameters of Mössbauer spectra of nano-goethite samples before and
 129 after reaction with ANT and 9-NO₂-ANT.

Samples	Phase	QS (mm/s)	IS (mm/s)	H (T)	Area (%)
Nano-goethite	Fe(II) Doublet	3.55	1.25	—	2.4
	Fe(III) Sixlet	-0.20	0.26	38.56	97.6
Nano-goethite +ANT	Fe(II) Doublet	3.38	1.41	—	5.2
	Fe(III) Sixlet	-0.27	0.25	38.02	94.8
Nano-goethite +9-NO ₂ -ANT	Fe(II) Doublet	3.06	1.43	—	4.2
	Fe(III) Sixlet	-0.27	0.25	38.74	95.8

130 QS: quadrupole splitting; IS: isomer shifts; H: Hyperfine field; Area: relative phase abundance in %.