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# **Supporting Information**

## Mesogenic discrete metallofoldamer for columnar liquid crystal

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#### 1. Experimental procedures

Synthetic procedures were carried out under dry nitrogen atmosphere, unless otherwise specified. All of the chemicals were purchased at the highest commercials quality available (Wako, Kanto, TCI, and Aldrich) and used without any further purification, unless otherwise stated. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a JNM-ECS400 (400 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 100 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C), a JNM-ECS500 (500 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 125 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C), and JNM-ECA600 (600 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 150 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C) spectrometers. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as an internal reference for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR measurements. Silica gel column chromatography was performed using Merck silica gel 60. GPC was performed using a JAI LC-9204 equipped with JAIGEL 2H-40/1H-40 or 2.5H-40/2.5H-40 columns. Elemental analyses were performed on a Yanaco MT-6 analyzer. Optical rotation was measured with a JASCO P-1010-GT polarimeter. ESI-TOF Mass spectroscopy was performed with a compact, Bruker. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectroscopy (MALDI-TOF-MS) was performed with an ultraflex III, Bruker Daltonics and dithranol or  $\alpha$ -CHCA was used as the matrix. The absorption spectra were recorded with a Hitachi U-4100 spectrophotometer in CHCl<sub>3</sub> solutions at  $20 \pm 0.1$  °C in 1.0 cm quartz cell. Circular dichroism spectra were recorded in in 1.0 cm quartz cell using a JASCO J-1500 CD spectrometer. Grazing incidence X-ray diffraction (GIXRD) analysis using  $CuK_{\alpha}$  radiation was carried out for the samples placed on the glass plate on the temperature-controlled heating stage with various temperatures. The incidence angle in GIXRD was set to approximately 0.4°. The diffracted radiation was recorded by imaging plate with a sample-to-detector distance of 30 cm and exposure time of 5–30 min. The temperature of the sample was measured both with a thermocouple probe equipped in the X-ray stage and by an infrared ther- mometer (IT-550, HORIBA). For the powder X-ray diffraction experiment, the sample was loaded in a custom-made extrusion device. After heating the device to the desired temperature, the fiber was fabricated via extrusion at the liquid-crystalline phase. Typical extruded fiber dimensions are diameter 0.7 mm and length 0.5 to 11 mm. Infrared (IR) spectroscopy was carried out using JASCO FT/IR-6100 (KBr method or attenuated total reflection (ATR) method, Ge).

Microscopic IR spectroscopy was conducted at BL43IR beamline of SPring-8 (Hyogo, Japan) with a Fourier transform IR microscope system (VERTEX 70 and HYPERION 2000, Bruker) equipped with an MCT detector (No. 2021A1232, No. 2021B1127). The sample prepared on  $BaF_2$  optical cell was installed into a temperature-controlled stage (LINKAM 10036L). IR spectra were recorded in transmission mode with a resolution of 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 100–400 times integration with polarizer. Molecular force-field calculation was conducted with BIOVIA Materials Studio 2018 (18.1.0.2017).

#### 2. Synthesis



Scheme S1. Synthetic route of liquid-crystalline salen derivative.

Synthesis of 4-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)-3-hydroxyacetophenone (2)

4-Acetylsalicylaldehyde<sup>1</sup> (2.00 g, 12.2 mmol) and *p*-TsOH•H<sub>2</sub>O (68 mg, 0.36 mmol) were dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (44 mL). Molecular sieve 3A (400 mg) and 1,3-propanediol (2.64 mL, 36.4 mmol) were added and the mixture was stirred for 25 h at room temperature, then the mixture was stirred for 14 h at 30 °C. A saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to obtain a crude product. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 3.6 cm  $\phi$ , 8.5 cm, hexane:AcOEt = 20:1) to obtain a colorless solid (2.19 g, 81%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 8.00 (s, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (s, 1H), 4.31 (dd, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (td, *J* = 12.5 Hz, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 2.38-2.21 (m, 1H), 1.54-1.51 (m, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 197.9, 155.5, 139.0, 128.1, 119.5, 117.2, 102.3, 67.6, 26.8, 25.7. ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* = 245.0784 for calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found: 245.0774.

Synthesis of 3-(benzyloxy)-4-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)-acetophenone (3)

Compound **2** (2.00 g, 9.00 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.74 g, 27.0 mmol), and benzyl bromide (1.60 mL, 13.4 mmol) were suspended in dry acetone (20 mL). The mixture was stirred for 21.5 h. H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to obtain a crude product. The crude product was purified by reprecipitation from acetone and hexane to obtain the compound **3** as a yellow solid (2.49 g, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 7.72 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.41–7.37 (m, 2H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 11.2 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (td, *J* = 12.7 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 2.31-2.19 (m, 1H), 1.43 (d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 197.9, 155.6, 138.6, 136.8, 132.4, 128.6, 128.0, 127.5, 127.3, 121.9, 111.2, 96.7, 70.5, 67.7, 26.8, 25.9. ESI-TOF-MS (pos.) : *m/z* = 335.1254 for calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found: 335.1267.

### Synthesis of 4

Compound 3 (1.50 g, 4.80 mmol), methyl 3,4,5-tris(dodecyloxy)benzoate (3.96 g, 5.74 mmol), and NaH (60%, 977 mg, 24.4 mmol) were suspended in dry THF (15 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 24 h. H<sub>2</sub>O (150mL) and 1M HCl (20 mL) was added and the pH was adjusted to 7. The mixture was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (100 mL  $\times$  6). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to obtain a crude product. The crude product was purified by recrystallization form 2-propanol and reprecipitation from CHCl<sub>3</sub> and 2-propanol to obtain the compound 4 as a pale yellow solid (2.63 g, 58%). The filtrate was further purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 5.5 cm  $\phi$ , 4 cm, hexane:AcOEt = 30:1) to obtain a target product (0.27 g, 6%, total 64%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 16.9 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 7.46 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.42-7.01 (m, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 5.20 (s, 2H), 4.26 (dd, J = 11.7 Hz, 5.0 Hz, 2H), 4.06-3.97 (m, 8H), 2.30-2.21 (m, 1H), 1.86-1.71 (m, 6H), 1.55-1.26 (m, 48H, including H<sub>2</sub>O), 0.87 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 9H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz) δ: 186.4, 184.1, 156.1, 153.2, 142.7, 137.3, 136.9, 131.6, 130.5, 128.7, 128.0, 127.4, 127.3, 119.9, 110.9, 106.4, 96.8, 93.3, 73.7, 70.7, 69.6, 67.7, 32.0, 30.4, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 26.2, 25.9, 22.8, 14.2. ESI-TOF-MS: m/z = 969.7188 for calcd for  $C_{62}H_{97}O_8$  ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found: 969.7178.

#### Synthesis of 5

Compound **4** (500 mg, 0.16 mmol) was dissolved in TFA (5.0 mL) and toluene (5.0 mL). The mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 1.5 h. A saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (150 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL × 2). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to obtain a crude product. The crude product was purified by reprecipitation from CHCl<sub>3</sub> and MeOH to obtain a yellow solid (411 mg, 97%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 16.7 (s, 1H), 11.0 (s, 1H), 9.97 (s, 1H), 7.68 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (s, 1H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 4.05 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6H), 1.87-1.71 (m, 6H), 1.54-1.45 (m, 6H, including H<sub>2</sub>O), 1.25–1.20 (m, 42H), 0.87 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 196.3, 188.5, 180.5, 161.5, 153.3, 143.0, 134.0, 130.3, 122.4, 118.2, 116.2, 106.4, 94.2, 73.7, 69.5, 32.0, 30.4, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 26.2, 22.8, 14.2. ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* =821.6278 for calcd for C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>85</sub>O<sub>7</sub> ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found: 821.6290.

## Synthesis of $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$

Compound **5** (100 mg, 0.122 mmol), (1*R*,2*R*)-(-)-1,2-cyclohexanediamine (11.4 mg, 0.0609 mmol) and Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (64 mg, 0.604 mmol) were suspended in dry EtOH (1.0 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 1 h. The mixture was decantated and washed with MeOH, the residue was dissolved in CHCl<sub>3</sub> and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to obtain a crude product. The crude product was purified by GPC (JAIGEL 2H-1H, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) to obtain  $1_{R,R}$  as an orange oil (91 mg, 87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 16.8 (s, 2H), 13.3 (brs, 2H), 8.33 (s, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 8.0 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, including CHCl<sub>3</sub>), 7.17 (s, 4H), 6.69 (s, 2H), 4.04 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 12H), 3.41-3.39 (m, 2H), 2.15-1.92 (m, 4H), 1.86-1.71 (m, 14H), 1.57-1.47 (m, 12H), 1.40-1.20 (m, 96H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 187.5, 182.3, 164.3, 160.9, 153.2, 142.7, 138.7, 131.7, 130.6, 121.2, 117.3, 115.4, 106.2, 93.5, 73.7, 72.9, 69.5, 33.0, 32.0, 30.4, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 26.2, 24.2, 22.8, 14.2. ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* = 1742.3272 for calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>178</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found: 1742.3297.



Synthesis of  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ 

**1**<sub>*S,S*</sub> was obtained as an orange oil with the similar procedure to that of the enantiomer (49 mg, 72%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz) δ: 16.8 (s, 2H), 13.4 (brs, 2H), 8.33 (s, 2H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.28 (m, 2H, including CHCl<sub>3</sub>), 7.17 (s, 4H), 6.69 (s, 2H), 4.06–4.02 (m, 12H), 3.42-3.40 (m, 2H), 2.02-1.92 (m, 4H), 1.86-1.71 (m, 14H), 1.56-1.20 (m, 110H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz) δ: 187.5, 182.3, 164.3, 160.9, 153.2, 142.7, 138.7, 131.7, 130.6, 121.2, 117.3, 115.4, 106.2, 93.5, 73.7, 72.9, 69.5, 33.0, 32.0, 30.4, 29.8, 29.7, 29.7, 29.5, 26.2, 24.2, 22.8, 14.2. ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* = 1742.3272 for calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>178</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Na ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found: 1742.3250.



Synthesis of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd



This reaction was performed under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere and all reaction vessels were dried up. Compound  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$  (100 mg, 58.1 µmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (19.7 mg, 87.7 µmol) were suspended in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (6 mL). The mixture was heated for 36 h at 40 °C. The reaction mixture was filtered with Celite® and a precipitate was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The filtrate was evaporated to obtain a crude product (125 mg, 118%). The crude product was purified by GPC (JAIGEL 2.5H-3H, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) and GPC (JAIGEL 2H-1H, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) to obtain  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd as an orange solid (48 mg, 45%). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>20</sup><sub>D</sub> – 256.7° (*c* 0.5, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 16.8 (s, 2H), 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.42 (s, 2H), 7.22 (s, 6H, including CHCl<sub>3</sub>), 7.03-6.98 (m, 4H), 6.74 (s, 2H), 4.10-4.04 (m, 14H), 3.69 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 2H), 1.96 (s, 2H), 1.88-1.73 (m, 14H), 1.51-1.25 (m, 149H), 0.86 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 21H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 187.3, 183.2, 164.8, 155.0, 153.3, 142.6, 140.8, 135.3, 130.6, 123.4, 120.3, 112.8, 105.9, 93.7, 73.7, 72.5, 69.5, 32.0, 30.5, 29.9, 29.8, 29.6, 29.5, 28.6, 26.3, 26.2, 24.6, 22.8, 14.2. ESI-TOF-MS: *m/z* = 1844.2161 for calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>PdNa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found : 1844.2197. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Pd : C, 72.39; H, 9.72; N, 1.53. found: C, 72.00; H, 10.10; N, 1.43.



Synthesis of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni



Compound  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$  (250 mg, 0.145 mmol) and Ni(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O (36 mg, 0.145 mmol) were dissolved in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (9 mL) and dry EtOH (9 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 1 h. The reaction mixture was filtered with cellulose powder (200~300 mesh). The filtrate was evaporated to obtain a crude product (265 mg, 103%). The crude product was purified by GPC (JAIGEL 3H-2.5H, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) and reprecipitated from EtOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to obtain  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni as a red solid (186 mg, 72%). [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>21</sup><sub>D</sub> –527.7° (*c* 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 323K, 400 MHz)  $\delta$ : 16.7 (s, 2H), 7.60 (s, 2H), 7.37 (s, 2H), 7.21 (s, 4H), 7.10 (s, 4H), 6.73 (s, 2H), 4.09-4.04 (m, 12H), 3.25-3.20 (m, 2H), 2.48-2.40 (m, 2H), 1.98-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.73 (m, 14H), 1.54-1.20 (m, 110H), 0.89-0.85 (m, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz)  $\delta$ : 187.1, 183.3, 163.9, 157.2, 153.2, 142.4, 139.9, 133.1, 130.4, 122.5 120.0, 113.0, 105.7, 93.5, 73.6, 70.3, 69.3, 31.9, 30.4, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 28.7, 26.2, 26.1, 24.3, 22.7, 14.1. ESI-TOF MS : *m/z* = 1798.2469 for calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>NiNa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found : 1798.2441. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Ni : C, 74.34; H, 9.98; N, 1.58. found: C, 74.10; H, 10.17; N, 1.63.



Synthesis of 1<sub>S,S</sub>-Ni



**1**<sub>*S,S*</sub>-Ni was prepared as a red solid with the similar method to **1**<sub>*R,R*</sub>-Ni (87 mg, 88%). [α]<sup>21</sup><sub>D</sub> 537.4° (*c* 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 323K, 400 MHz) δ: 16.8 (s, 2H), 7.63 (s, 2H), 7.49 (s, 2H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.20 (s, 4H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (s, 2H), 4.08-4.03 (m, 12H), 3.21-3.19 (m, 2H), 2.51-2.49 (m, 2H), 2.00–1.99 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.72 (m, 12H), 1.52-1.23 (m, 112H), 0.89-0.85 (m, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 100 MHz) δ: 187.1, 183.3, 163.9, 157.2, 153.2, 142.4, 139.9, 133.1, 130.4, 122.5 120.0, 113.0, 105.7, 93.5, 73.6, 70.3, 69.3, 31.9, 30.4, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 28.7, 26.2, 26.1, 24.3, 22.7, 14.1. ESI-TOF MS : *m*/*z* = 1798.2469 for calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>NiNa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found: 1798.2452. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>110</sub>H<sub>176</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Ni: C, 74.34; H, 9.98; N, 1.58. found: C, 74.71; H, 10.11; N, 1.76.



S14

Synthesis of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$ 



 $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni (100 mg, 56 µmol) and Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (6.3 mg, 28 µmol) were dissolved in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (22 mL) and dry MeOH (4.4 mL). The mixture was stirred for 12.5 h at 50 °C. The reaction mixture was evaporated to obtain a crude product (100 mg, 98%). The crude product was purified by SCC  $(3.0 \text{ cm} \phi, 16 \text{ cm}, \text{CHCl}_3:\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 100:1)$ , SCC  $(3 \text{ cm} \phi, 19 \text{ cm}, \text{CHCl}_3:\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 50:1 \sim 10:1)$ , and GPC (JAIGEL 3H-2.5H, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) ×3 to obtain  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd as a red solid (8.1 mg, 8%).  $[\alpha]^{20}_{D}$  –  $167.0^{\circ}$  (*c* 0.2, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (THF-*d*<sub>8</sub>:CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1/TMS, 323 K 600 MHz)  $\delta$ : 17.4 (s, 2H), 7.72 (s, 4H), 7.54 (s, 2H), 7.51 (s, 2H), 7.47 (s, 2H), 7.28-7.23 (m, 8H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (s, 2H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 6H), 4.01-3.97 (m, 10H), 3.92-3.84 (m, 8H), 2.39 (brs, 2H), 2.26 (brs, 2H), 2.08-2.06 (m, 2H), 1.81–1.72 (m, 12H), 1.57-1.49 (m, 24H), 1.42-1.11 (m, 204H), 0.87-0.79 (m, 36H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TMS, 125 MHz) &: 185.5, 184.5, 181.3, 180.2, 164.1, 163.7, 156.8, 156.6, 153.3, 152.8, 141.8, 141.7, 140.4, 138.6, 132.7, 132.6, 132.2, 130.6, 130.3, 122.5, 122.0, 121.0, 113.4, 112.6, 106.8, 105.2, 95.7, 93.4, 73.5, 70.3, 70.0, 69.5, 69.4, 32.1, 30.4, 30.4, 29.9, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.4, 28.5, 28.4, 26.3, 26.2, 26.2, 26.1, 24.4, 22.7, 14.1. ESI-TOF MS : *m/z* = 3677.39 for calcd for C<sub>220</sub>H<sub>350</sub>N<sub>4</sub>Ni<sub>2</sub>O<sub>24</sub>PdNa ([M+Na]<sup>+</sup>), found : 3677.35. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>220</sub>H<sub>350</sub>N<sub>4</sub>Ni<sub>2</sub>O<sub>24</sub>Pd : C, 72.22; H, 9.64; N, 1.53. found: C, 72.02; H, 9.93; N, 1.56.



Figure S1. MALDI-TOF MS spectrum of the reaction product of the helical oligomer  $(\alpha$ -CHCA, LP-Mode)



**Figure S2**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd (600 MHz, THF- $d_8$ :CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1, TMS, 323 K)



It is inferred that the absence of cross peaks between the resonances a' and e' supports the *cis*-isomer of the Pd- $\beta$ -diketonate moiety rather than the *trans* isomer, because the resonances of a' and e' in the *trans* isomer would be within the distance range to show a coupling (See Fig. S24).



Figure S4. NOESY spectrum of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  (600 MHz, THF- $d_8$ :CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1, TMS, 323 K)



Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of  $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS)



Figure S6. ESI-TOF MS spectrum of (1<sub>*R*,*R*</sub>-Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd

### 3. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)

TGA of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni,  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni, and  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd were carried out by TA instruments TGAQ50 under nitrogen atmosphere. The sample was placed on the platinum sample holder. The temperature was increased at a rate of 10 °C/min unitl 600 °C. The TGA results indicated that the  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni,  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni, and  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd were stable up to 333 °C, 320 °C, and 280 °C, respectively.



Figure S7. TGA of (a)  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni, (b)  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni, and (c)  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd

### 4. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC)

DSC measurements were carried out under  $N_2$  atmosphere with TA Instruments Q2000 DSC equipped with a RCS 90 cooling accessory and the transition temperatures were determined from the second heating run at a rate of 10 °C/min using Universal Analysis 2000 software.



Figure S8. DSC profiles of of  $1_{R,R}$ -Ni, (b)  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni, and (c)  $1_{R,R}$ -Pd

# 5. Polarized optical microscopy



**Figure S9.** POM images of **1**<sub>*R*,*R*</sub>-Ni at (a) 22 °C, (b) 171 °C, and (c) 182 °C.



**Figure S10.** POM images of **1**<sub>*S,S*</sub>-Ni at (a) 20 °C, (b) 170 °C, and (c) 180 °C.



Figure S11. POM images of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd at (a) 22 °C, (b) 170 °C, and (c) 215 °C.

## 6. Structural analysis using XRD

# 6-1. GIXRD patterns of the $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni at different temperatures



**Figure S12.** X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni at (a), (b) 96 °C; (c), (d) 163 °C; and (e), (f) 186 °C.



Figure S13. X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for  $1_{R,R}$ -Ni at 163 °C.

**Table S1**. Observed GIXRD data of the liquid crystalline phases of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni, diffraction angles  $2\theta_{obs}$  (°), Miller indices *h*,*k*,*l*, *d* value  $d_{obs}$  (Å),  $d_{calc}$  (Å) are *d* values calculated from the lattice parameters of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni at 96 °C and 163 °C.

Temperature (°C)	$2\theta_{\rm obs}$ (°)	hk	$d_{\rm obs}({ m \AA})$	$d_{\rm calc}({ m \AA})$	$d_{\rm obs} - d_{\rm calc}({\rm \AA})$	2D cell
						parameter
96	2.24	(10)	39.4	_	_	Cr
	3.01		29.3			<i>a</i> = 45.6 Å
	3.88	(11)	22.8	22.7	0.1	
	4.41	(20)	20.0	19.7	0.3	
	6.26	(21)	14.1	14.9	-0.8	
	6.74	(30)	13.1	13.1	0.0	
	7.00		12.6			
	8.05	(22)	11.0	11.4	-0.4	
	8.28	(31)	10.7	10.9	-0.2	
	9.07	(40)	9.7	9.9	-0.11	
	9.74	(32)	9.1	9.0	0.1	
	10.2	(41)	8.6	8.6	0.03	
	11.8	(50)	7.5	7.88	-0.38	
	12.5	(42)	7.1	7.4	-0.4	
163	2.53	(10)	34.9	_	_	Colh
	4.43	(11)	19.9	20.1	-0.21	<i>a</i> = 39.8 Å
	4.87	(20)	18.1	17.4	-0.68	

6-2. GIXRD patterns of the  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni at different temperatures



**Figure S14.** X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for 1<sub>*s*,*s*</sub>-Ni at (a), (b) 100 °C; (c), (d) 164 °C; and (e), (f) 188 °C.



**Figure S15.** X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni at 164 °C.

Temperature (°C)	$2\theta_{\rm obs}$ (°)	hk	$d_{ m obs}({ m \AA})$	$d_{ m calc}({ m \AA})$	$d_{\rm obs} - d_{\rm calc}$ (Å)	2D cell
						parameter
100	2.22	(10)	39.8	_	_	Cr
	2.97		29.7			a = 46.0  Å
	3.84	(11)	23.0	23.0	0	
	6.18	(21)	14.3	15.0	-0.7	
	6.67	(30)	13.2	13.3	-0.1	
	6.92		12.8			
	7.96	(22)	11.1	11.5	-0.4	
	8.08	(31)	10.9	11.0	-0.1	
	8.97	(40)	9.8	9.9	-0.1	
	9.71	(32)	9.1	9.1	0	
	10.3	(41)	8.6	8.7	-0.1	
	10.9	(50)	8.1	8.0	0.1	
	11.7	(33)	7.6	7.7	-0.1	
	12.3	(42)	7.1	7.5	-0.4	
164	2.56	(10)	34.5	_	_	Col <sub>h</sub>
	4.35	(11)	20.3	19.9	0.40	a = 40.6  Å

**Table S2**. Observed GIXRD data of the liquid crystalline phases of  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni, diffraction angles  $2\theta_{obs}$  (°), Miller indices *h*,*k*,*l*, *d* value  $d_{obs}$  (Å),  $d_{calc}$  (Å) are *d* values calculated from the lattice parameters of  $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni at 100 °C and 164 °C.



**Figure S16**. Tentative model of the packing structure of  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni in the liquid-crystalline phase. (a) A side view of the helical columnar structure of  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni. (b) The another stacking structure with a periodicity of folded dimer. The aromatic carbons, Ni ion, and oxygens are presented as the van der Waals model.

Given that the postulated density,  $\rho$  of the molecule is approximately 1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, the cell parameter of 2.0 nm suggested by GIXRD results indicates the molecular number Z is estimated to be 1.7, where  $Z = \rho VN/M_w$  (V = volume,  $N_{Avogadro number} = 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ mol}^{-1}$ ,  $M_w =$  molecular weight).<sup>2</sup> This result indicates that

a dimer of the molecules stacks themselves in a helical fashion to form the hexagonal packing as shown in Figure S16. In the postulated structure, the right-handed helical structure has stacking distances,  $d_1$  between the Ni-salen moieties or between Ni-salen- $\beta$ -diketone moieties of 0.32–0.34 nm and 0.33–0.35 nm, respecticely (Figure S16a). On the other hand, the another possible stacking structure with a periodicity ascribed to the dimer of the 1<sub>*S*,*S*</sub>-Ni has a periodic distance,  $d_2 = 5.5$  nm (Figure S16b). The PXRD results (vide infra) support the former packing structure. In the helical stacking structgure, the intermolecular hydrogen bonding involving  $\beta$ -diketonate moiety might take place to form the helix as suggested in the other compounds possessing  $\beta$ -diketone moiety, albeit the contribution of the interaction seems to be small.<sup>3,4</sup>

## 6-3. PXRD patterns of the one-axially oriented sample of $\mathbf{1}_{S,S}$ -Ni





6-4. GIXRD patterns of the  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd at different temperatures



**Figure S18.** X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd at (a), (b) 28 °C; (c), (d) 180 °C; and (e), (f) 200 °C.



**Figure S19**. X-ray diffraction pattern in GIXRD for  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd at 180 °C.

Temperature (°C)	$2\theta_{\rm obs}$ (°)	hk	$d_{\rm obs}({\rm \AA})$	$d_{\rm calc}({\rm \AA})$	$d_{\rm obs} - d_{\rm calc}$ (Å)	2D cell
1 ( )					( )	parameter
28	2.27	(10)	38.9	I	_	Cr
	3.89	(11)	22.7	22.5	0.24	a = 45.4  Å
	4.50	(20)	19.6	19.4	0.30	
	6.11	(21)	14.5	14.7	-0.2	
	6.78	(30)	13.0	13.0	0.06	
	8.08	(22)	10.9	11.2	0.3	
	8.97	(40)	9.85	9.72	0.13	
	9.88	(32)	8.94	8.92	0.02	
	10.2	(41)	8.66	8.49	0.17	
	11.2	(33)	7.89	7.49	0.40	
180	2.60	(10)	34.0	Ι		Col <sub>h</sub>
	4.45	(11)	19.8	19.6	0.20	<i>a</i> = 39.6 Å
	5.15	(20)	17.1	17.0	0.1	

**Table S3**. Observed GIXRD data of the liquid crystalline phases of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd, diffraction angles  $2\theta_{obs}$  (°), Miller indices *h*,*k*,*l*, *d* value  $d_{obs}$  (Å),  $d_{calc}$  (Å) are *d* values calculated from the lattice parameters of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Pd at 28 °C and 180 °C.

# 7. Infrared (IR) spectroscopy

7-1. IR spectrum of 1<sub>S,S</sub>-Ni



Figure S20. IR spectrum of  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni at 22 °C (KBr method).

7-2. Microscopic polarized IR measurement of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni



**Figure S21**. POM images of the sheared sample of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni at 22 °C with the polarizer set to (a) 45° and (b) 0° to the sheared direction. (c) Microscopic IR spectra recorded at 170 °C. The polarized light is set to 90° (orange line) and 0° (black line) to the shearing direction (d) Polar plot of the  $\beta$ -diketonate O–C=C–C stretching band of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni.

As shown in Figure S21, POM image of the sheared sample showed a homogeneous bright birefringence with the sheared direction oriented by 45° to the polarizers. In contrast, when the sheared direction was set parallel to the one of the polarizers, the dark image was observed. These results indicate the columnar assembly of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni could be readily aligned to the sheared direction. In microscopic IR spectra of  $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni at the LC state, a peak corresponding to the O–C=C–C stretching of acetylacetonate moiety coupled with in-plane bending OH band appear around at 1488 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The O–C=C–C stretching bond have a maximum when the polarizer is set to 90° with respect to the sheared direction. Relatively large dichroic ratio ( $A_{\parallel}/A_{\perp}$ ) of 2.4 in the absorbance regarding the O–C=C–C stretching band was observed. The results clearly illustrate that the planar mesogen of Ni-salen moiety orients perpendicular to the long axis of the columnar assembly.

# 8. Structural analysis of $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$

# 8-1. Comparison of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of $\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni and $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd



Figure S22. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a)( $1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd and (b)  $1_{R,R}$ -Ni (600 MHz,THF- $d_8$ :CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1, TMS, 323 K)

8-2. Concentration dependece of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$ 



Figure S23. Concentration dependence of <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$ (400 MHz,THF- $d_8$ :CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1, TMS, 293 K) (a) 0.05 mM, (b) 0.1 mM, (c) 0.5 mM, and (d) 1.0 mM.



**Figure S24**. (a) Chemical structures of *cis* and *trans* isomers of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2$ Pd. (b) Model structrues calculated by molecular mechanics (MM2) of *cis* and *trans* isomers of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2$ Pd. For simplification of the calculation, the dodecyl chains were substituted with methyl groups.

### 8-4. DFT calculation of $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$



**Figure S25**. Optimized structures of (a) *M*- and (b) *P*-helix of the  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  calculated by the density functional theory (DFT) method at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level of theoly.

The molecular structures of *M*- and *P*-helix isomers of the  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  were optimized by the density functional theory (DFT) method at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level of theory, employing the basis sets of 6-31G(d) for C, H, N, O, SDD for Ni, and Pd, respectively. The basis function was combined with the dispersion correction (D3BJ).<sup>5</sup> The dodecyl chains were substituted with methyl groups for simplification. The optimized structures were confirmed that they do not have imaginary frequencies by normal mode analyses. The DFT calculation suggested that the *M*-isomer is preferable than that of the *P*-isomer ( $\Delta E = -4.0$  kJ/mol).



Figure S26. VT NMR spectra of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  at temperatures of 25 to 120 °C in tetrachloroethane- $d_2$ .



Figure S27. VT NMR spectra of  $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd at temperatures of 20 to -40 °C in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

Upon cooling to -40 °C, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-\text{Ni})_2\text{Pd}$  did not split except the proton b that is ascribled to methine moieties in the non-chelating  $\beta$ -diketone. The other signals became broad below -40 °C. The splitting of the b proton might be attributed to the difference on orientation of the side chains due to the rotation of the C-C bond between the  $\beta$ -diketonate and the benzene in the Ni-salen moiety.



#### 8-6. CD and UV-vis spectra

Figure S28. CD and UV-vis spectra  $1_{R,R}$ -Ni (black solid),  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni (black dashed line),  $1_{R,R}$ -Pd (orange solid), and  $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd (blue solid) at 50 °C in THF:CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 5:1. [1-Ni or 1-Pd] and [ $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd] are 12 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M and 6 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M, respectively.

As shown in Fgiure S28,  $1_{R,R}$ -Ni and  $1_{S,S}$ -Ni exhibit the opposite CD pattern related to the MLCT bands at 405-438 nm, whereas  $(1_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd exhibits the negative CD bands at 336 and 450 nm followed by a broad negative band at 530 nm.

#### 8-7. DFT calculation of ECD spectra

The molecular structures of *M*-helix and *P*-helix of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  were optimized by the density functional theory (DFT) method at the B3LYP/6-31G (d) level of theory, employing the basis sets of 6-31G(d) for C, H, N, O, and SDD for Ni and Pd, respectively. The dodecyl chains of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  were substituted with methyl group for simplicity. The optimized structures were confirmed that they do not have imaginary frequencies by normal mode analyses. Excited states (S1 – S100) of those molecules were examined at the optimized geometry by the time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT) calculations using B3LYP/6-311G (d,p) employing a basis sets 6-311G (d,p) for C, H, N, O, and SDD for Ni, and Pd. TD-DFT calculation under a solvent (THF) condition with a polarizable continuum model (PCM) using the integral equation formalism variant (IEFPCM). All calculations were performed by Gaussian 16 program package.<sup>6</sup>



**Figure S29**. Experimental (solid) and simulated (dashed) CD spectra of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-\text{Ni})_2\text{Pd}$ . Simulated (M) and Simulated (P) correspond to the (*M*)-helix and (*P*)-helix of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-\text{Ni})_2\text{Pd}$ , respectively. Experimental spectra were obtained as shown in Figure S28.



**Figure S30.** (a) TGA and (b) DSC profiles of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd. TGA profile indicates that  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd is stable up to 295 °C



**Figure S31.** POM images of (**1**<sub>*R,R*</sub>-Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd at (a) 50 °C, and (b) 185 °C.and (c) 204 °C.

8-9. GIXRD patterns of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd at different temperatures



**Figure S32.** X-ray diffraction patterns in GIXRD for  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd at (a), (b) 100 °C; and (c), (d) 185 °C, and (e), (f) 204 °C,



**Figure S33**. X-ray diffraction pattern in GIXRD for  $(1_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  at 185 °C.

**Table S4**. Observed GIXRD data of the liquid crystalline phases of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-\mathrm{Ni})_2\mathrm{Pd}$ , diffraction angles  $2\theta_{\mathrm{obs}}$  (°), Miller indices *h,k,l, d* value  $d_{\mathrm{obs}}$  (Å),  $d_{\mathrm{calc}}$  (Å) are *d* values calculated from the lattice parameters of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-\mathrm{Ni})_2\mathrm{Pd}$  at 100 °C, 185 °C, and 204 °C.

Temperature (°C)	$2\theta_{\rm obs}$ (°)	hk	$d_{ m obs}({ m \AA})$	$d_{ m calc}({ m \AA})$	$d_{\rm obs} - d_{\rm calc}$ (Å)	2D cell
						parameter
100	2.13	(100)	41.5	-	_	Cr
	3.61	(110)	24.4	23.9	0.45	a = 48.8  Å
	4.24	(200)	20.8	20.7	0.06	
	5.62	(210)	15.7	15.7	0.02	
	6.38	(300)	13.8	13.8	-0.03	
	7.56	(220)	11.7	12.0	-0.27	
	9.21		9.59	—		
	24.9		3.58	—		
185	2.21	(10)	40.0	_	_	$\operatorname{Col}_h$
	3.79	(11)	23.3	21.2	0.22	<i>a</i> = 46.6 Å
	4.41	(21)	20.0	20.0	0.01	
	6.66	(30)	13.3	13.3	0.03	
	8.02	(22)	11.0	11.5	-0.53	
204	2.31	(10)	38.2	_	_	Col <sub>h</sub>
	4.00	(11)	22.1	22.1	0.01	<i>a</i> = 44.2 Å



**Figure S34**. Tentative model of the packing structure of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$  at 185 °C.



**Figure S35.** IR spectrum of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}$ -Ni)<sub>2</sub>Pd at 22 °C (ATR method).

8-11. Microscopic polarized IR spectrum of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}-Ni)_2Pd$ 



**Figure S36**. POM images of the sheared sample of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2$ Pd at 185 °C with the polarizer set to (a) 45° and (b) 0° to the sheared direction. (c) Microscopic IR spectra recorded at 185 °C. The polarized light is set to 90° (orange line) and 0° (black line) to the shearing direction (d) Polar plot of the  $\beta$ -diketonate C=O stretching band of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2$ Pd.

 $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2\text{Pd}$  can be sheared due to the flowable LC properties at 185 °C. As shown in Figure S36, POM image of the sheared sample showed a homogeneous bright birefringence with the sheared direction oriented by 45° to the polarizers. In contrast, when the sheared direction was set parallel to the one of the polarizers, the dark image was observed. These results indicate the columnar assembly of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2\text{Pd}$  could be readily aligned to the sheared direction at the LC phase temperature. In microscopic IR spectra of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2\text{Pd}$  at the LC state, a peak corresponding to the anionic C=O stretching of acetylacetonate moiety appear around at 1611 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The C=O stretching bond have a maximum when the polarizer is set to 90° with respect to the sheared direction. Relatively large dichroic ratio  $(A_{\parallel}/A_{\perp})$  of 1.9 in the absorbance regarding the C=O stretching band was observed. Also, the O–C=C–C stretching band derived from the metal-free  $\beta$ -diketonate moiety of  $(\mathbf{1}_{R,R}\text{-Ni})_2\text{Pd}$  showed a dichroic ratio  $(A_{\parallel}/A_{\perp})$  of 1.7 in the absorbance. These results clearly illustrate that the planar Pd-bis(diphenyl- $\beta$ -diketonate) moiety orients perpendicular to the long axis of the columnar assembly.

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