

## Supporting Information

### **Excited state proton transfer in the triplet state of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline : A transient absorption and time-resolved resonance Raman spectroscopic study**

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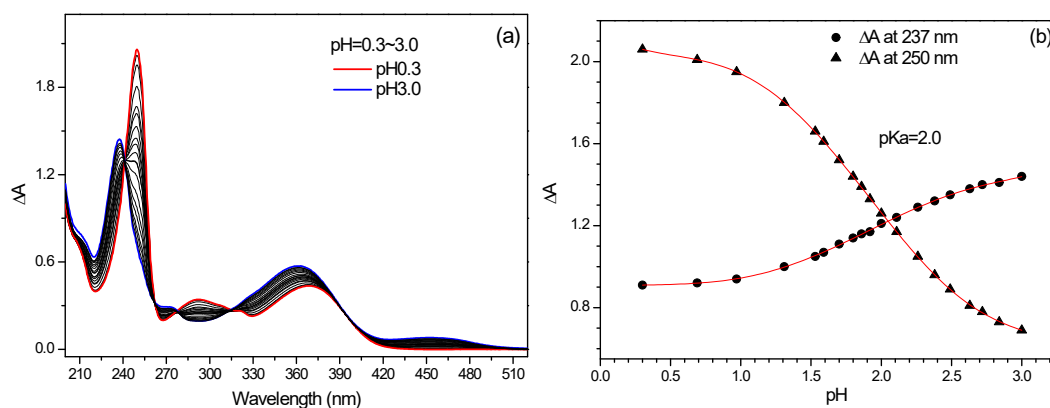
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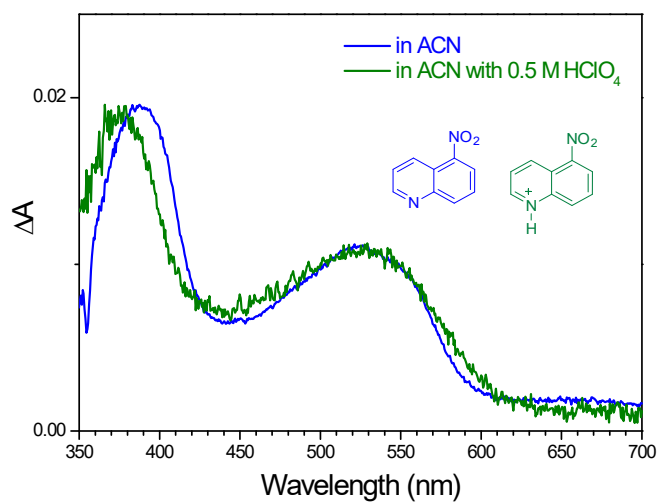
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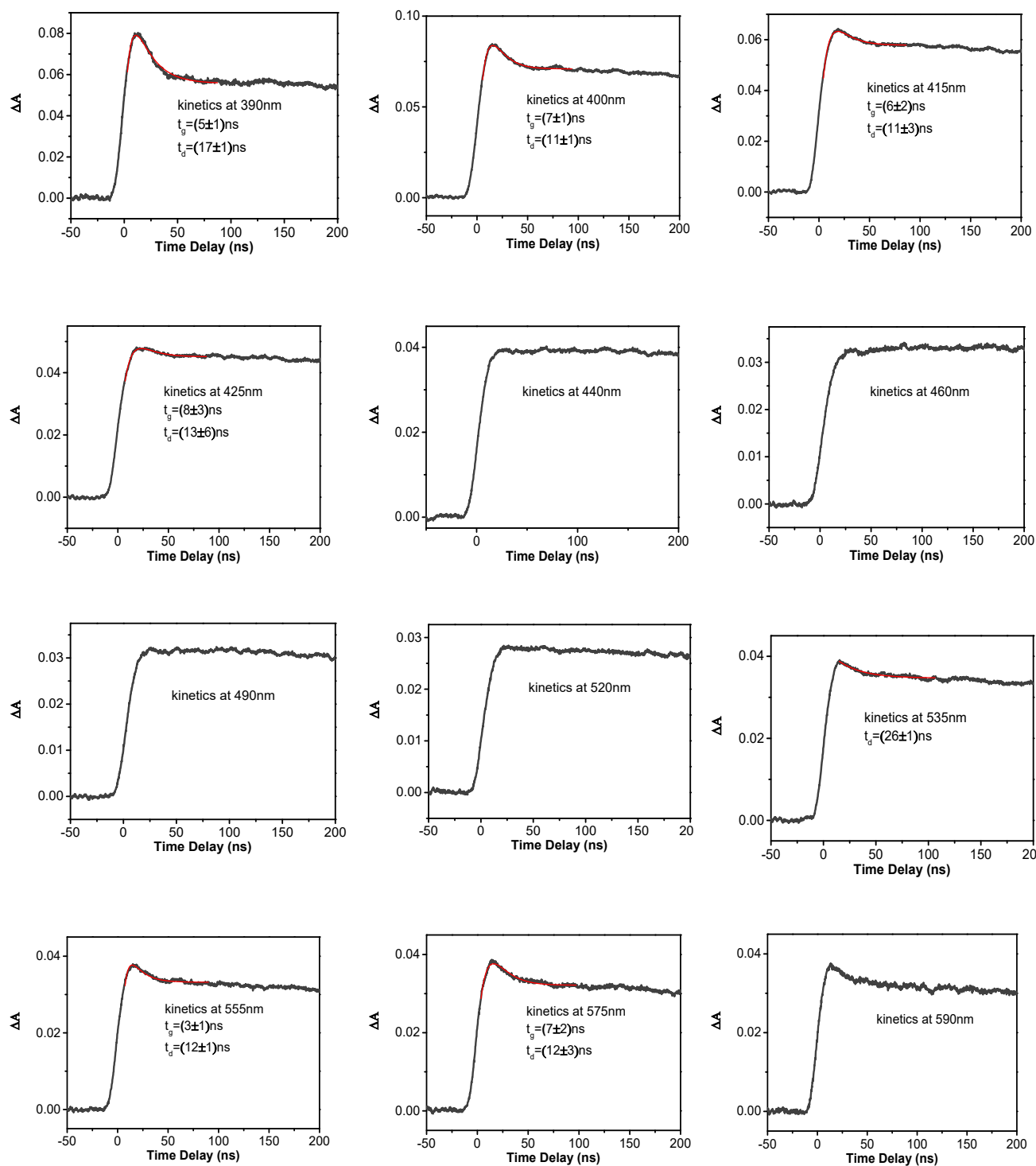
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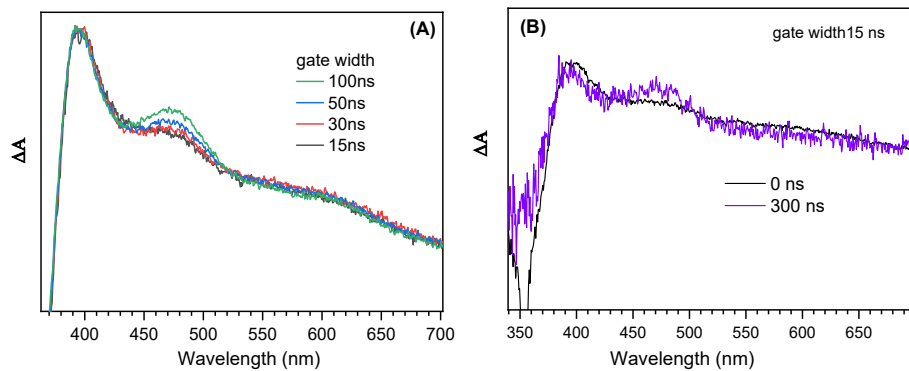
**Fig.1S** (a) UV-Vis spectra of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline in acetonitrile:water=1:1(v/v) in the presence of various concentrations of perchloric acid. (b) Measurements of  $pK_a$  for HO-QN-NO<sub>2</sub> in acetonitrile:water=1:1(v/v) solution.



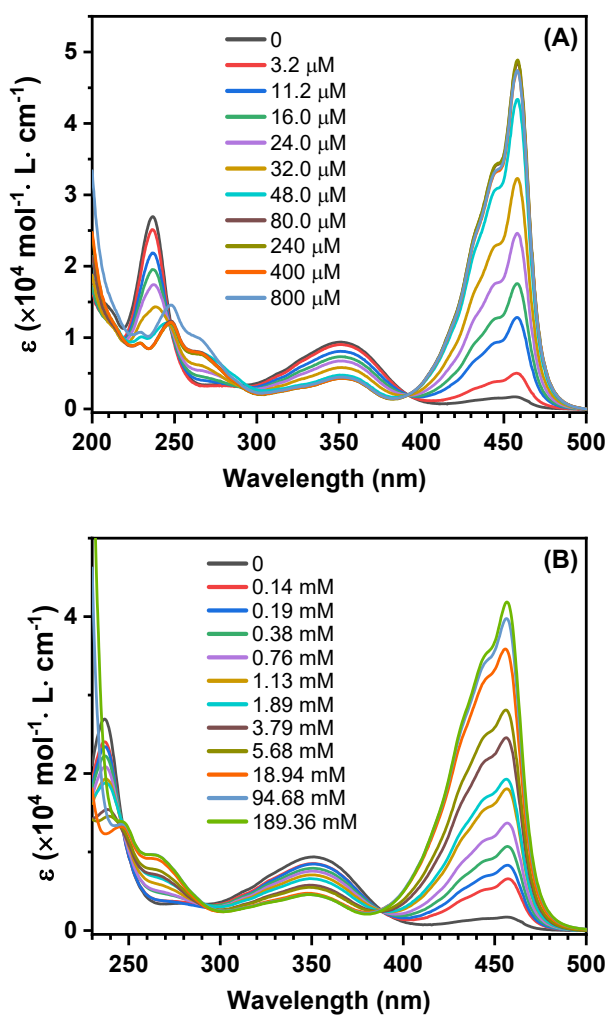
**Fig.2S** TA spectra recorded at 0 ns after 355 nm laser excitation of 5-nitroquinoline in acetonitrile under argon saturated conditions with 0.5 M HClO<sub>4</sub> and without acid present. These spectra are assigned to the neutral and protonated triplets, respectively.



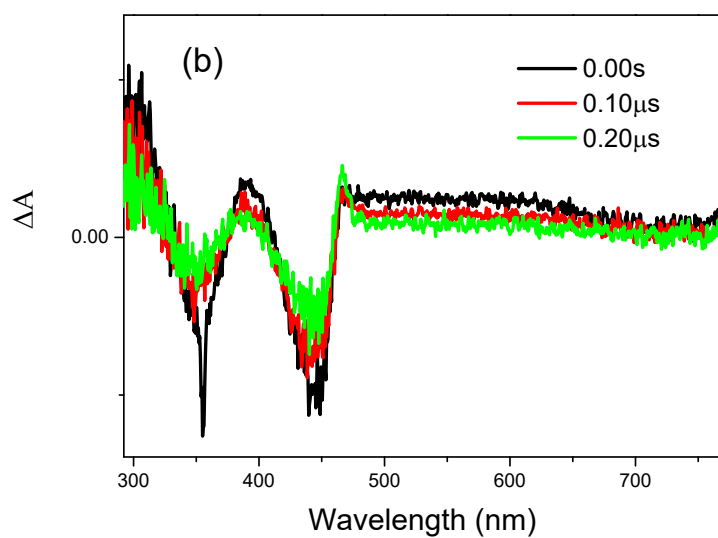
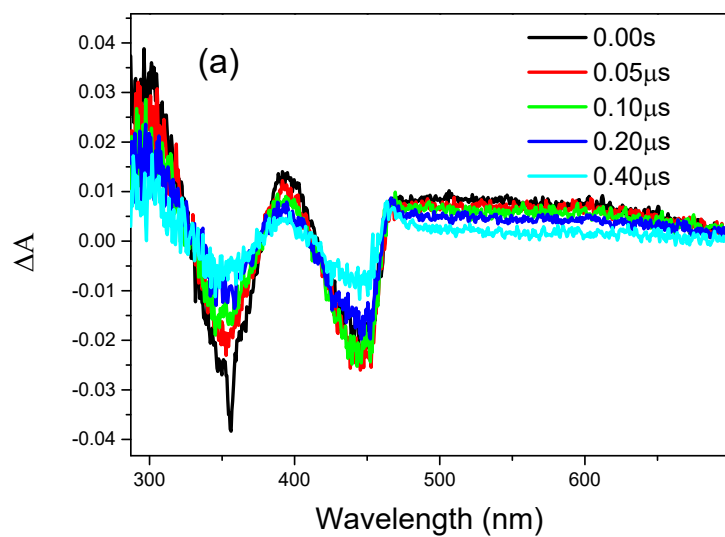
**Fig.3S** Plot of kinetics data at wavelengths 390–590 nm. The data were collected immediately after 355 nm laser excitation of 8-hydroxyquinoline in argon saturated acetonitrile.



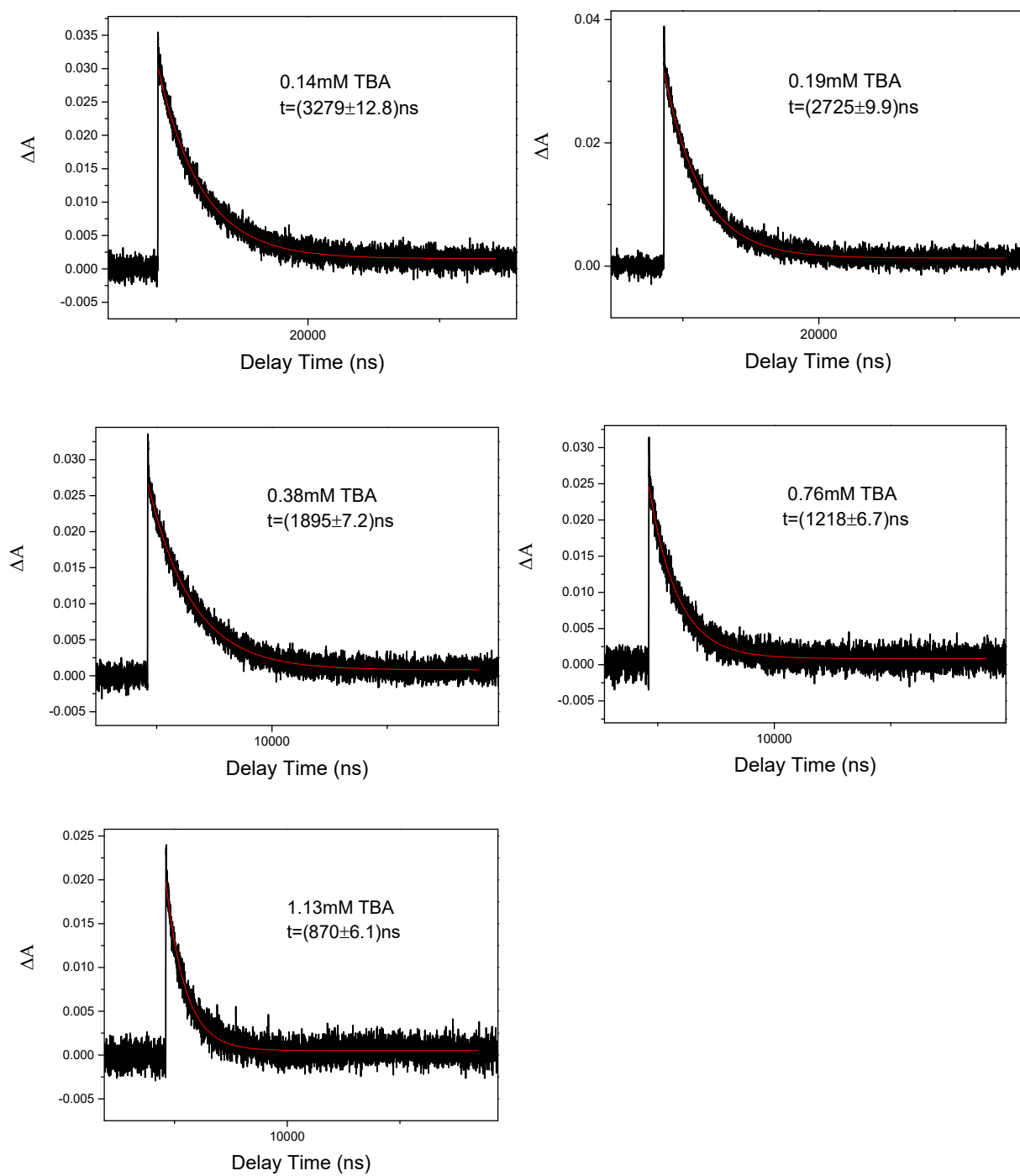
**Fig.4S** Normalized nanosecond TA spectra recorded in acetonitrile under air condition (A) immediately (0 ns) after the laser excitation with different gate width setups, and (B) with gate width of 15 ns.



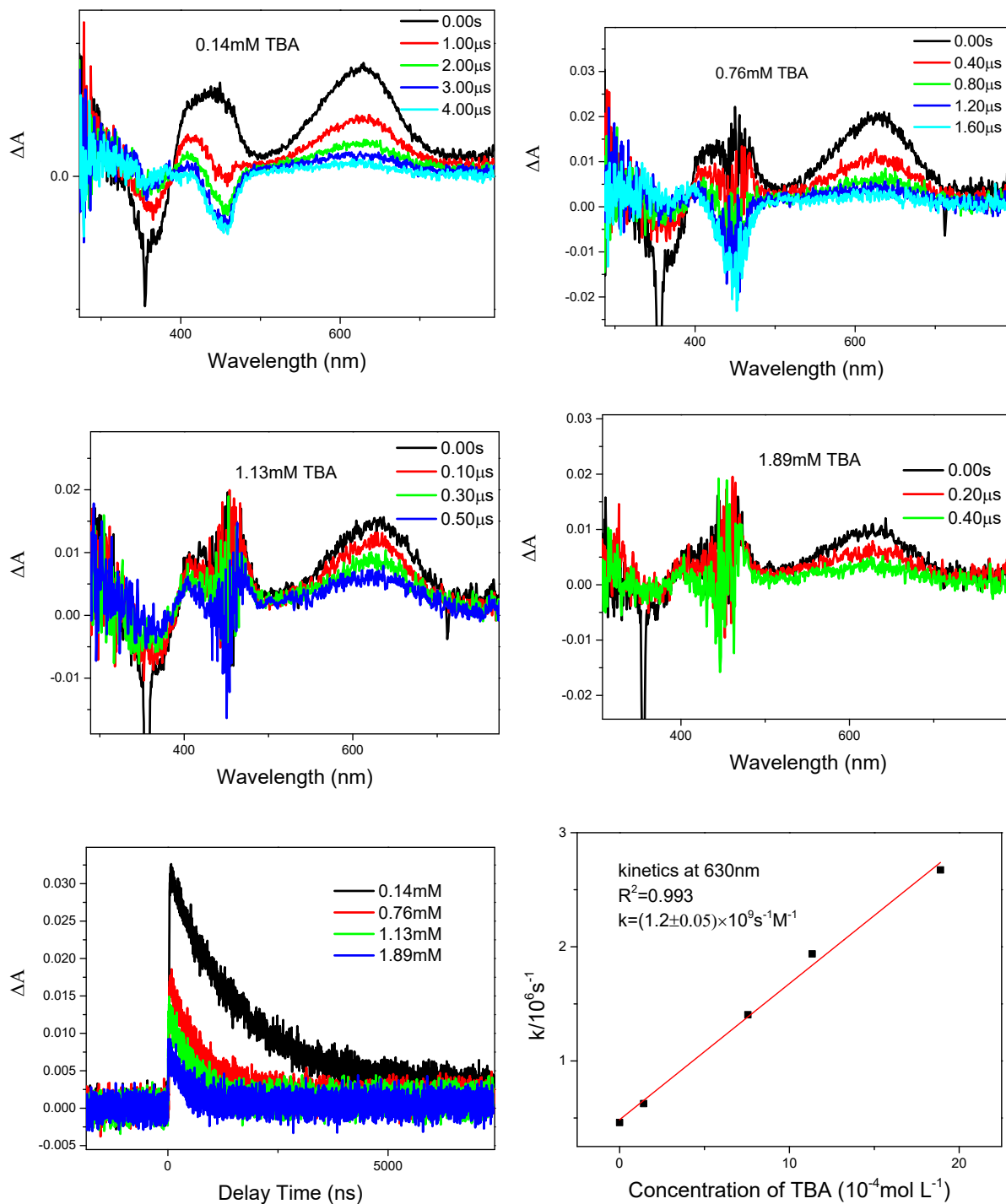
**Fig.5S** UV-Vis absorption spectra of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline in acetonitrile in the presence of various concentrations of (A) tetra-butylammonium hydroxide and (B) *t*-butylamine.



**Fig.6S** Nanosecond TA spectra after excitation of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline under argon condition in acetonitrile solution containing (a) 3.79 mM TBA and (b) 5.68 mM TBA.

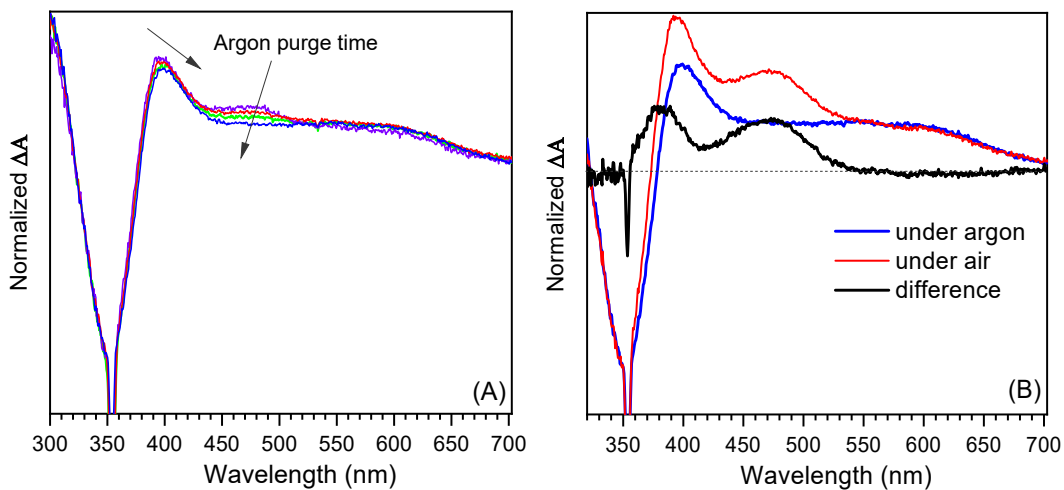


**Fig.7S** Fitting mono-exponential functions to the kinetics of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline under argon condition at 400 nm obtained in acetonitrile containing various concentrations of TBA.

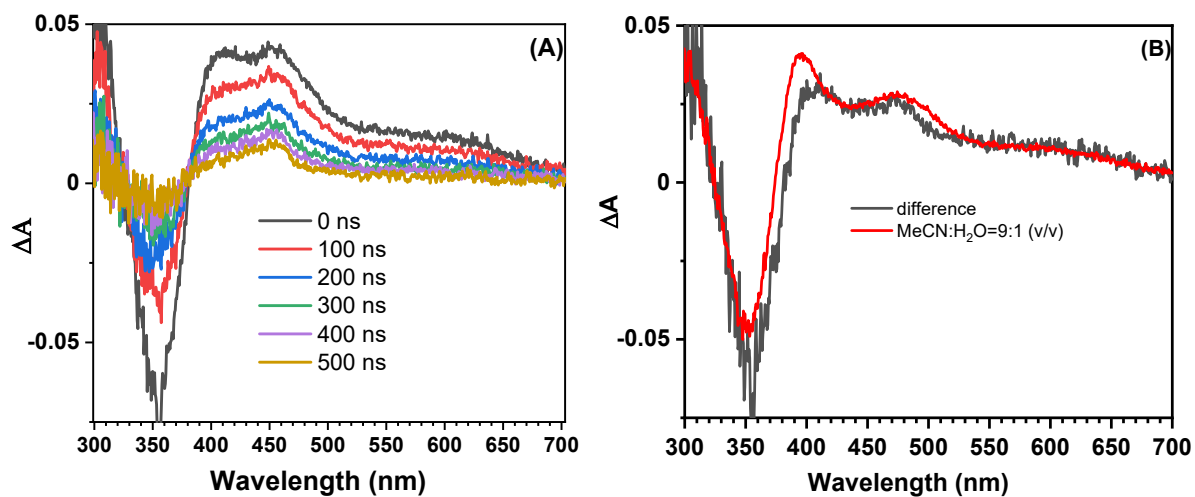


**Fig.8S** Nanosecond TA spectra and kinetic data at 630 nm obtained after excitation of 4-nitro-1-naphthol under argon condition in acetonitrile solution containing various concentrations of TBA.





**Fig.9S** (A) Nanosecond TA spectra recorded at 0 ns in acetonitrile with varying argon purged time and (B) Nanosecond TA spectra recorded at 0 ns in acetonitrile under argon and air conditions. The spectra were normalized using the ground state bleaching. The difference spectrum is obtained by subtracting spectrum under argon from the one under air by removing the ground state bleaching.



**Fig.10S** (A) Nanosecond TA spectra recorded after excitation of 8-hydroxy-5-nitroquinoline under air condition in MeCN:H<sub>2</sub>O=9:1 (v/v). (B) A comparison of the TA spectrum recorded at 0 ns under air condition in MeCN:H<sub>2</sub>O=9:1 (v/v) to the difference spectrum by subtracting the scaled 500 ns spectrum from the 0 ns spectrum in graph A.

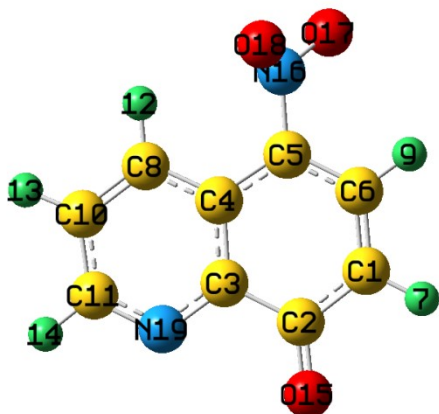
The two spectra in graph B appear to agree in the region of 430-500 nm, indicating that  $T_1$  state NO<sub>2</sub>-QN-O<sup>-</sup> is generated in MeCN:H<sub>2</sub>O=9:1 (v/v) mixed solution.

**Table 1S** Tentative vibrational assignments for T<sub>1</sub> state of NO<sub>2</sub>-QN-O<sup>-</sup> in ACN.

Mode	Calculation			Experimental frequency (cm-1)		Assignment (PED%)
	Frequency (cm-1)		Raman activity	435 nm probe	266 nm probe	
	Original	Calibrated				
v <sub>46</sub>	1618	1645	344	1627	1630	vC <sub>10</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (23)+vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (11)+vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>3</sub> (15)+vC <sub>4</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (15)
v <sub>45</sub>	1580	1604	357		1608	vC <sub>11</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (26)+vC <sub>4</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (13)+δC <sub>3</sub> N <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (12)
v <sub>44</sub>	1558	1581	3487	1592	1592	vO <sub>15</sub> C <sub>2</sub> (68)
v <sub>43</sub>	1532	1553	371	1555		vC <sub>1</sub> C <sub>6</sub> (37)+vC <sub>5</sub> C <sub>4</sub> (10)
v <sub>42</sub>	1492	1511	565	1505	1497	vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>3</sub> (12)+vC <sub>6</sub> C <sub>5</sub> (13)+vC <sub>4</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (10)+δH <sub>14</sub> C <sub>11</sub> N <sub>19</sub> (16)
v <sub>41</sub>	1454	1471	101	1477	1464	vC <sub>6</sub> C <sub>5</sub> (12)+δH <sub>9</sub> C <sub>6</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (11)+δH <sub>7</sub> C <sub>1</sub> C <sub>6</sub> (19)+δH <sub>13</sub> C <sub>10</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (14)
v <sub>40</sub>	1416	1430	115		1431	δH <sub>9</sub> C <sub>6</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (11)+δH <sub>12</sub> C <sub>8</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (18)+δH <sub>14</sub> C <sub>11</sub> N <sub>19</sub> (17)+ δN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (10)
v <sub>39</sub>	1372	1384	199	1386	1387	vC <sub>5</sub> C <sub>4</sub> (22)
v <sub>38</sub>	1328	1337	725		1329	vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (39)
v <sub>37</sub>	1304	1312	420			vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>3</sub> (10)+vO <sub>17</sub> N <sub>16</sub> (15)+vN <sub>16</sub> C <sub>5</sub> (25)
v <sub>36</sub>	1292	1299	368	1290	1294	vN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>3</sub> (33)+δH <sub>14</sub> C <sub>11</sub> N <sub>19</sub> (10)
v <sub>35</sub>	1230	1233	223		1230	vC <sub>2</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (20)
v <sub>34</sub>	1190	1191	234			vC <sub>6</sub> C <sub>5</sub> (18)+δH <sub>9</sub> C <sub>6</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (22)
v <sub>33</sub>	1167	1167	1403	1153		vO <sub>17</sub> N <sub>16</sub> (38)+vO <sub>18</sub> N <sub>16</sub> (28)+δH <sub>7</sub> C <sub>1</sub> C <sub>6</sub> (13)
v <sub>32</sub>	1152	1151	155		1149	vC <sub>10</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (16)+δH <sub>12</sub> C <sub>8</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (21)+δH <sub>13</sub> C <sub>10</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (22)
v <sub>31</sub>	1138	1136	267		1138	vO <sub>18</sub> N <sub>16</sub> (34)+δC <sub>3</sub> N <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (10)+δH <sub>7</sub> C <sub>1</sub> C <sub>6</sub> (14)
v <sub>30</sub>	1102	1098	25			vC <sub>1</sub> C <sub>6</sub> (11)+vC <sub>2</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (12)+δC <sub>3</sub> N <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (14)+δH <sub>9</sub> C <sub>6</sub> C <sub>1</sub> (14)
v <sub>29</sub>	1065	1058	164		1055	vC <sub>11</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (38)
v <sub>28</sub>	1010	1000.6	0.3			ptH <sub>12</sub> C <sub>8</sub> C <sub>10</sub> C <sub>11</sub> (25)+ptH <sub>13</sub> C <sub>10</sub> C <sub>11</sub> N <sub>19</sub> (45)+ptH <sub>14</sub> C <sub>11</sub> N <sub>19</sub> C <sub>3</sub> (16) )+ptN <sub>19</sub> C <sub>11</sub> C <sub>10</sub> C <sub>8</sub> (10)
v <sub>27</sub>	990	979	161	980		vO <sub>17</sub> N <sub>16</sub> (10)+vN <sub>16</sub> C <sub>5</sub> (12)+δC <sub>4</sub> C <sub>8</sub> C <sub>10</sub> (10)

a: B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) calculated frequency; b: Calibration equation:  $y=1.06x-70$ ;

v:stretch; δ: in-plane bending; pt:torsion; PED: potential energy distribution; only contributions larger than 10% were give.

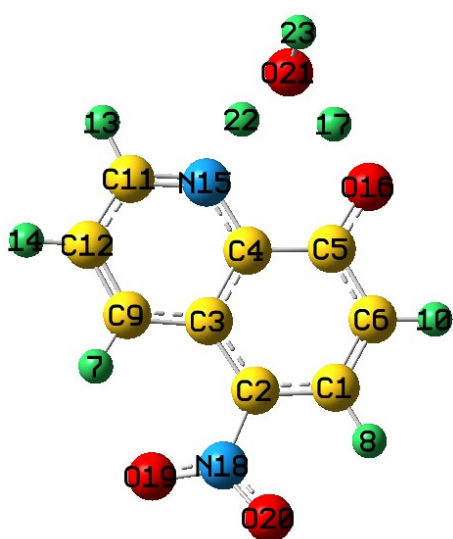


Ttransition state of transformation of NO<sub>2</sub>-QN-OH to NO<sub>2</sub>-QNH-O with the help of water in acetonitrile

SCF Done: E(RB3LYP) = -758.317300648

The imaginary frequency: -1349.06 cm<sup>-1</sup>

C	-1.28717200	-1.79036400	0.01081500
C	-1.55521800	-0.42399800	0.00262000
C	-0.47751900	0.52164300	0.00137100
C	0.85645500	0.00523500	-0.01308100
C	1.12273900	-1.43285300	-0.03227000
C	0.00398000	-2.28208600	-0.01099900
H	-1.59739600	2.36904500	0.08568300
H	-2.12168500	-2.47736100	0.01639100
C	-0.61163800	1.93560200	0.05836100
H	0.18124900	-3.34989200	-0.02393000
C	1.76777000	2.17014500	0.03301900
C	0.49586100	2.75004400	0.07240200
H	2.67264900	2.76624400	0.03617800
H	0.39475600	3.82617900	0.11517200
N	1.92221000	0.85808900	-0.00256700
O	2.31153500	-1.94378400	-0.06758400
H	3.29994000	-1.21023200	-0.05021000
N	-2.94338100	-0.04146900	-0.01269100
O	-3.25740700	1.12267200	-0.29848000
O	-3.79582300	-0.90139800	0.24697800
O	4.08010800	-0.33184800	-0.07321700
H	3.11864600	0.37910000	-0.00596200
H	4.60118500	-0.30477100	0.73847400



Transition state of transformation of NO<sub>2</sub>-QN-OH to NO<sub>2</sub>-QNH-O in acetontirile.

SCF Done: E(UB3LYP) = -681.762045465

The imaginary frequency: -1604.11 cm<sup>-1</sup>

C	0.10222900	-2.39336000	0.00000000
C	-1.14990700	-1.71718900	0.00000000
C	-1.14689200	-0.27877200	0.00000000
C	0.00000000	0.53833800	0.00000000
C	1.24703000	-0.20715000	0.00000000
C	1.25633600	-1.64951300	0.00000000
H	0.13943900	-3.47541100	0.00000000
C	-0.25244400	1.92115600	0.00000000
H	2.22125200	-2.13121100	0.00000000
C	-1.58152200	2.38212000	0.00000000
C	-2.64336800	1.49041200	0.00000000
H	0.56689100	2.62070500	0.00000000
H	-1.78235200	3.44489300	0.00000000
H	-3.67639400	1.81345000	0.00000000
N	-2.40876300	0.16645000	0.00000000
O	-2.35654000	-2.19631900	0.00000000
H	-2.89501100	-1.05598800	0.00000000
N	2.50011400	0.44694300	0.00000000
O	3.54310700	-0.26491400	0.00000000
O	2.53817700	1.70792700	0.00000000

