

*Electronic Supplementary Information*

## **First 1-hydroxy-1*H*-imidazole-based ESIPT emitter with an O–H···O intramolecular hydrogen bond: ESIPT-triggered TICT and speciation in solution**

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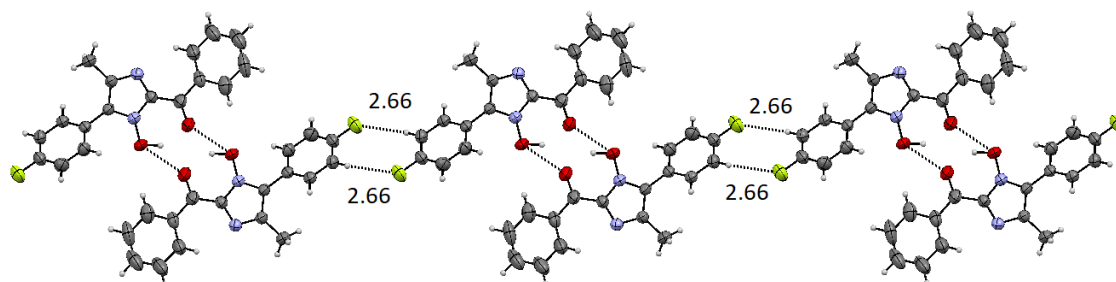
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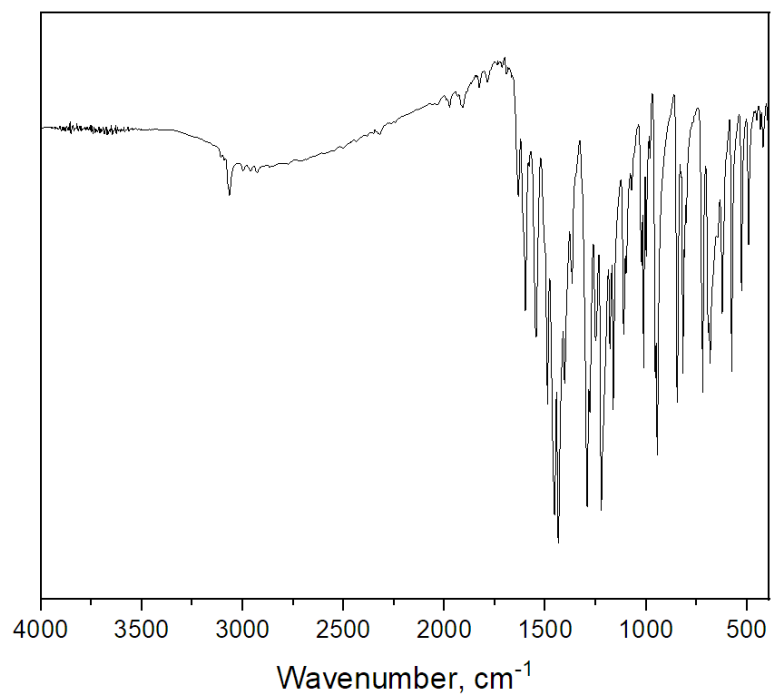
## Experimental part

### X-ray crystal structure data

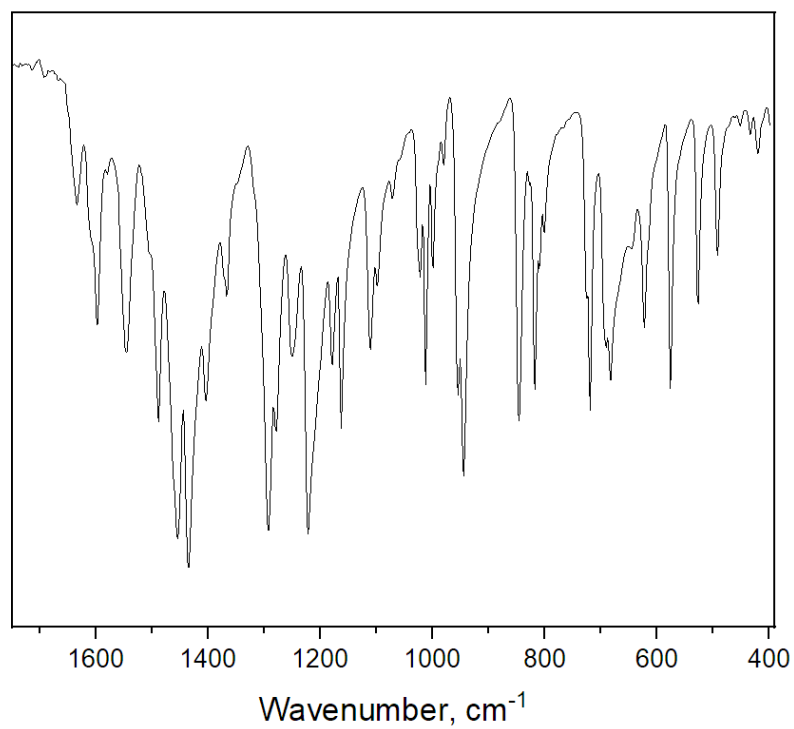


**Figure S1.** A supramolecular ribbon in the structure of **HL**.

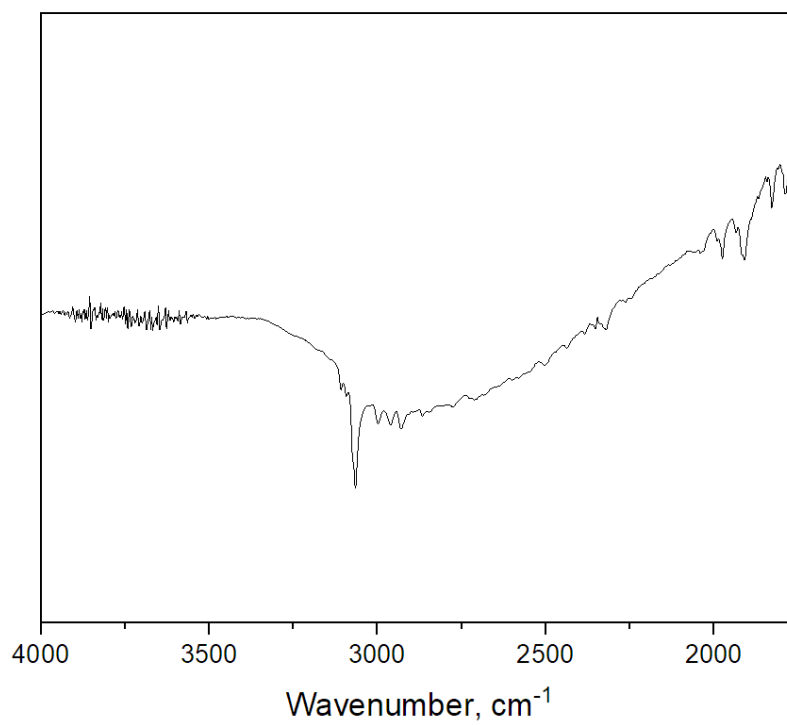
### IR spectra



**Figure S2.** The IR spectrum of **HL** in the 4000 – 390 cm<sup>-1</sup> region.

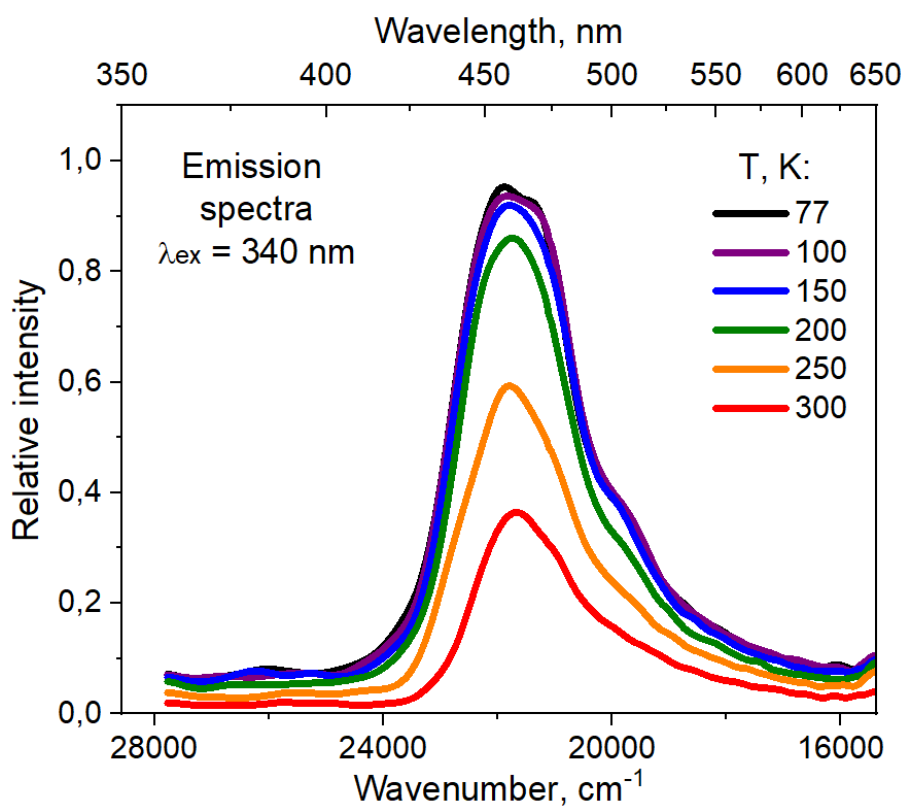


**Figure S3.** The IR spectrum of **HL** in the 1750 – 390 cm<sup>-1</sup> region.

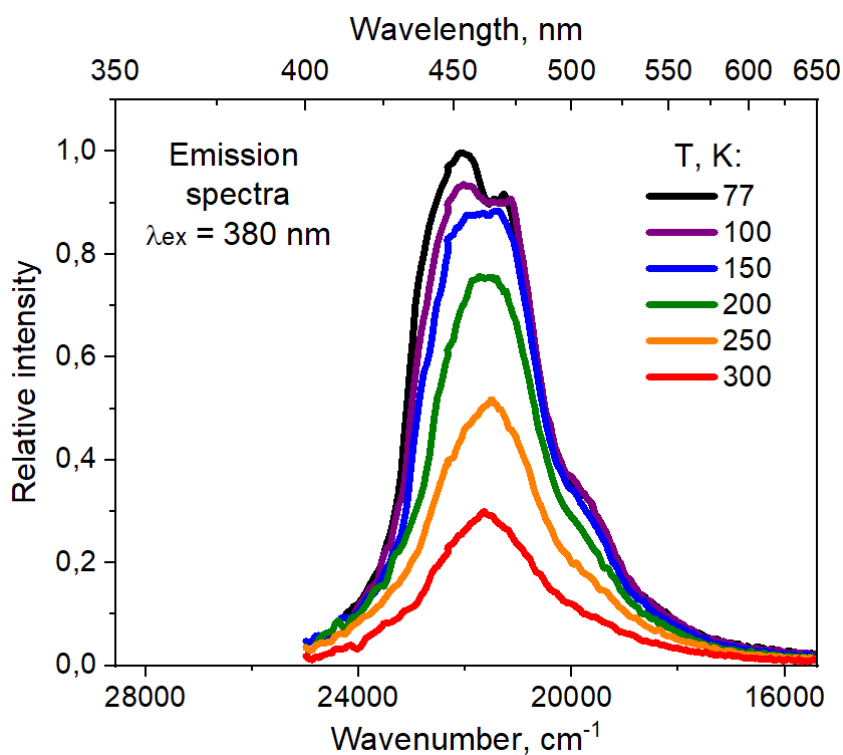


**Figure S4.** The IR spectrum of **HL** in the 4000 – 1750 cm<sup>-1</sup> region.

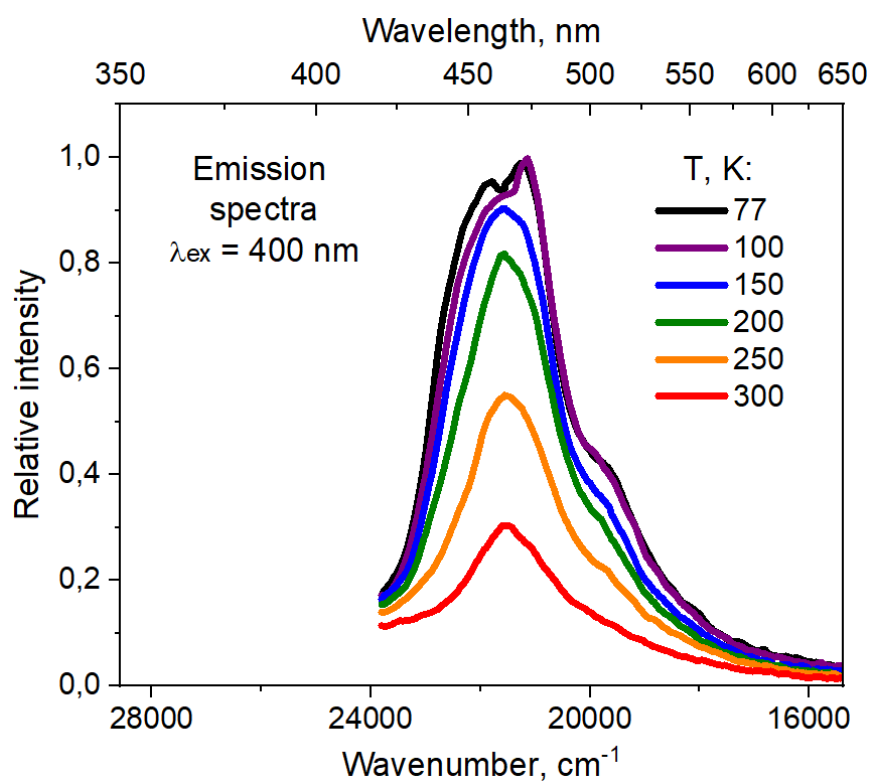
## Photoluminescence data



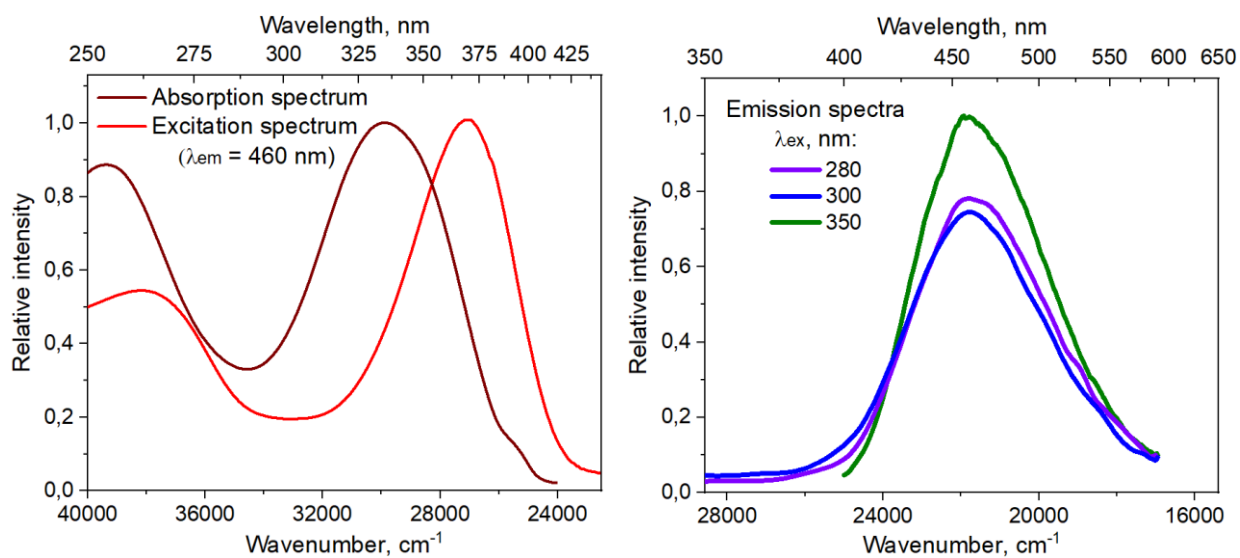
**Figure S5.** Temperature dependence of the emission spectrum of **HL** at  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340 \text{ nm}$  in the solid state.



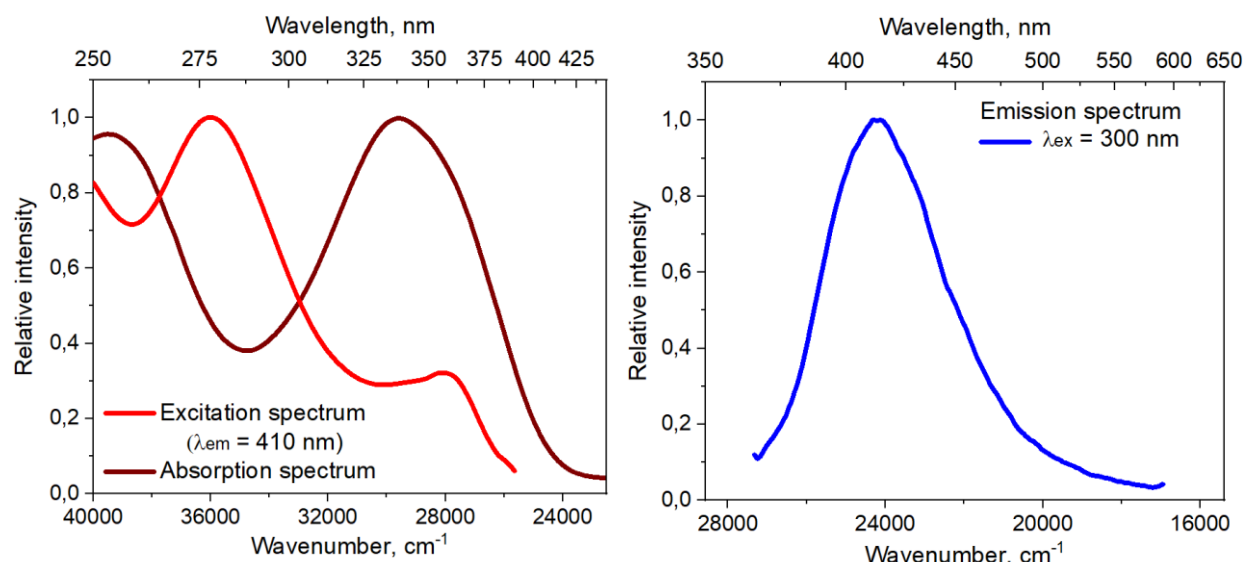
**Figure S6.** Temperature dependence of the emission spectrum of **HL** at  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$  in the solid state.



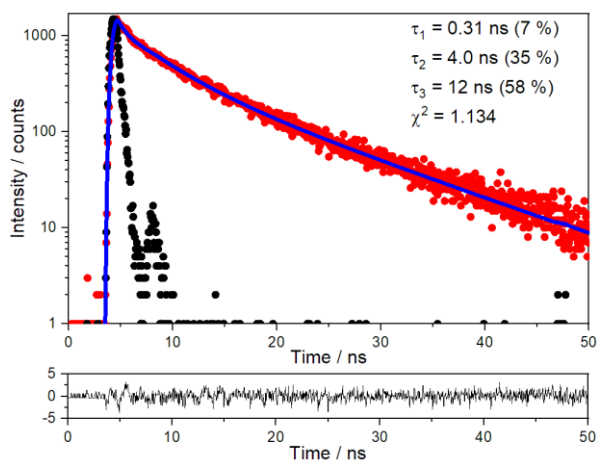
**Figure S7.** Temperature dependence of the emission spectrum of HL at  $\lambda_{ex} = 400$  nm in the solid state.



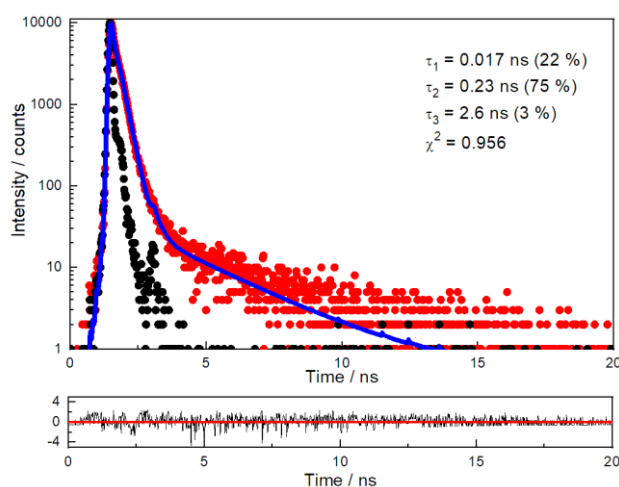
**Figure S8.** Absorption, excitation and emission spectra of HL in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution at 300 K.



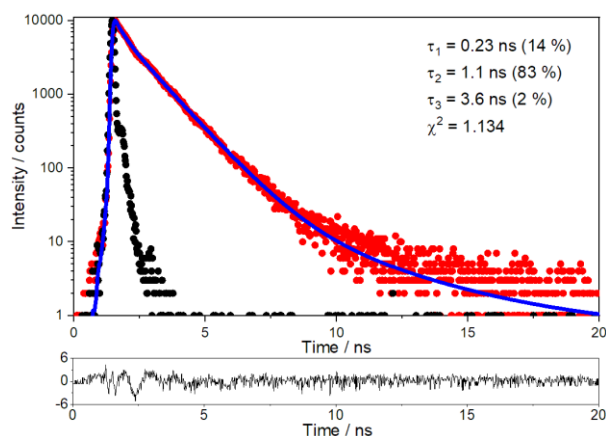
**Figure S9.** Absorption, excitation and emission spectra of **HL** in EtOH solution at 300 K.



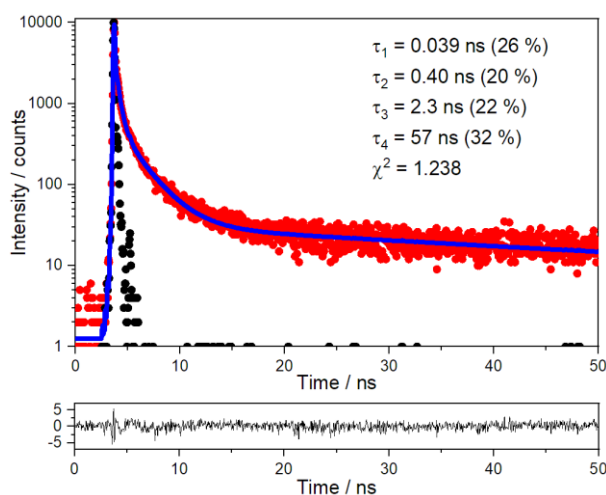
**Figure S10.** Fluorescence decay curves recorded for **HL** in EtOH solution at 300 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 250$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{det}} = 410$  nm): approximation (blue), experimental points (red) and instrument response function (black).



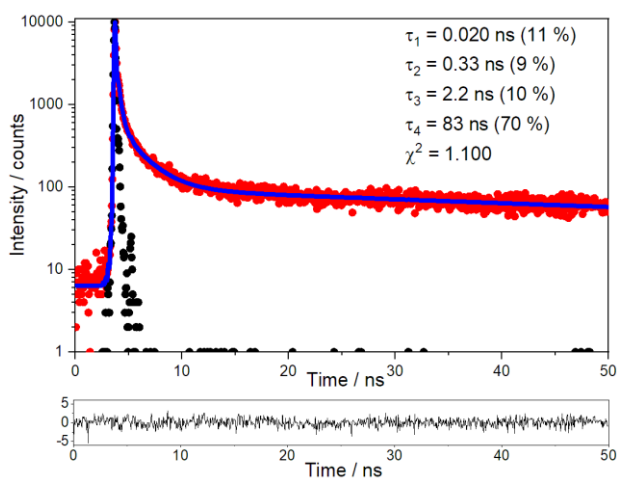
**Figure S11.** Fluorescence decay curves recorded for **HL** in MeCN solution at 300 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{det}} = 450$  nm): approximation (blue), experimental points (red) and instrument response function (black).



**Figure S12.** Fluorescence decay curves recorded for **HL** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution at 300 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375\text{nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{det}} = 460\text{ nm}$ ): approximation (blue), experimental points (red) and instrument response function (black).



**Figure S13.** Fluorescence decay curves recorded for **HL** in the solid state at 300 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375\text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{det}} = 470\text{ nm}$ ): approximation (blue), experimental points (red) and instrument response function (black).



**Figure S14.** Fluorescence decay curves recorded for **HL** in the solid state at 300 K ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 375\text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{det}} = 545\text{ nm}$ ): approximation (blue), experimental points (red) and instrument response function (black).

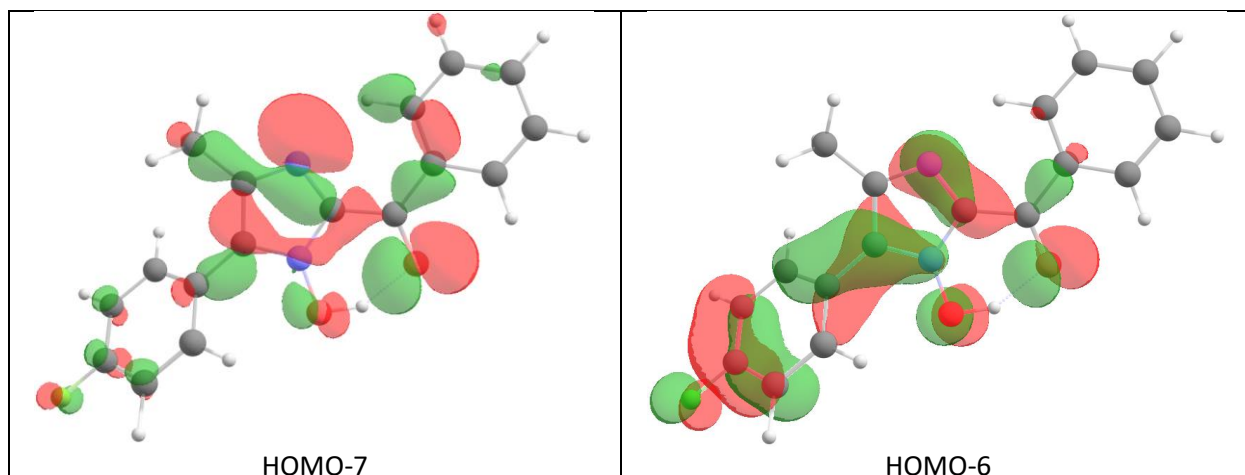


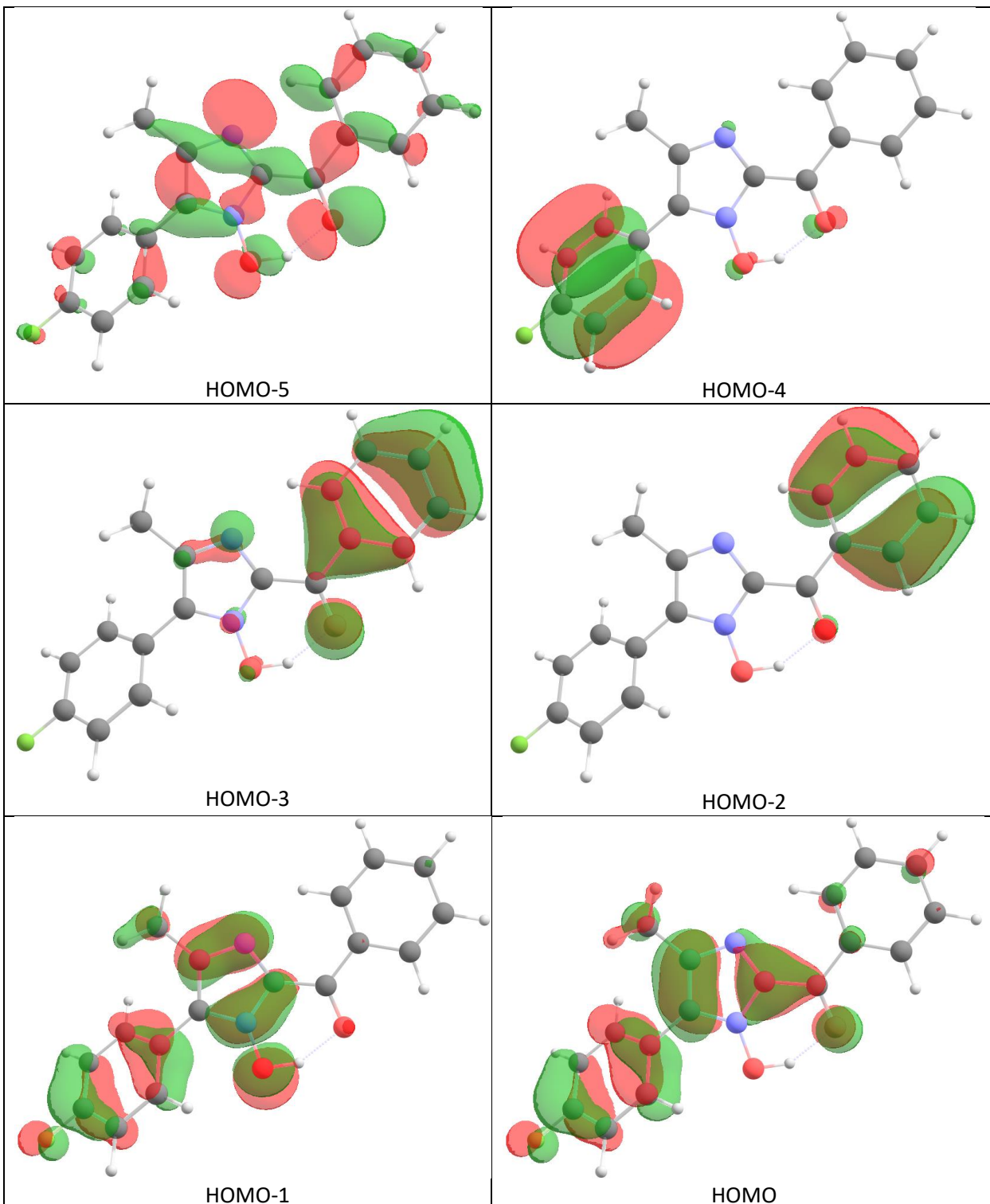
## Theoretical part

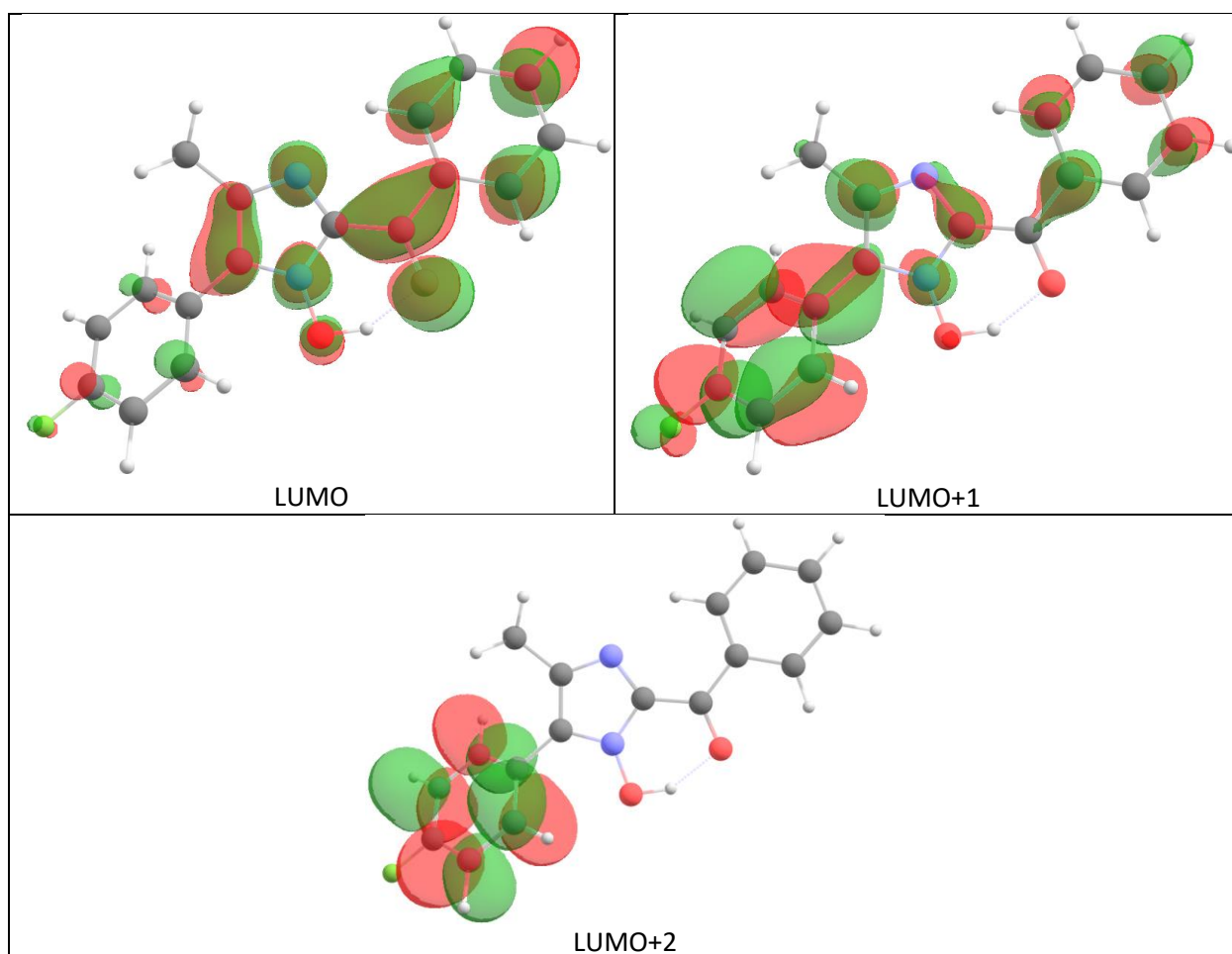
**Table S1.** Excited state properties of **HL-A** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0^N$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**. Transitions with contribution >10% are shown.

| State | Energy (eV) | Energy (nm) | Contributions (%)   | Oscillator strength | Character                   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| S1    | 3.4043      | 364.20      | HOMO -> LUMO (98 %)   | 0.7407              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S2    | 3.9893      | 310.79      | HOMO-5 -> LUMO (63 %)<br>HOMO-6 -> LUMO (12 %)                          | 0.0068              | $\sigma - \pi^*, n - \pi^*$ |
| S3    | 4.1006      | 302.35      | HOMO-1 -> LUMO (87 %)   | 0.0091              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S4    | 4.1991      | 295.26      | HOMO-2 -> LUMO (94 %)   | 0.0276              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S5    | 4.5545      | 272.22      | HOMO-3 -> LUMO (84 %)   | 0.1813              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S6    | 4.6284      | 267.88      | HOMO-4 -> LUMO (78 %)<br>HOMO -> LUMO+2 (13 %)                          | 0.0012              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S7    | 4.7805      | 259.35      | HOMO-7 -> LUMO (57 %)<br>HOMO-5 -> LUMO (20 %)<br>HOMO-6 -> LUMO (14 %) | 0.0153              | $\sigma - \pi^*, n - \pi^*$ |
| S8    | 4.9605      | 249.94      | HOMO -> LUMO+2 (61 %)<br>HOMO -> LUMO+1 (16 %)<br>HOMO-4 -> LUMO (13 %) | 0.042               | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S9    | 4.9751      | 249.21      | HOMO -> LUMO+1 (70 %)<br>HOMO -> LUMO+2 (15 %)                          | 0.1411              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S10   | 5.1660      | 240.00      | HOMO-6 -> LUMO (59 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (23 %)                          | 0.0736              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |

**Table S2.** Isosurface contour plots of the molecular orbitals of **HL-A** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0^N$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.





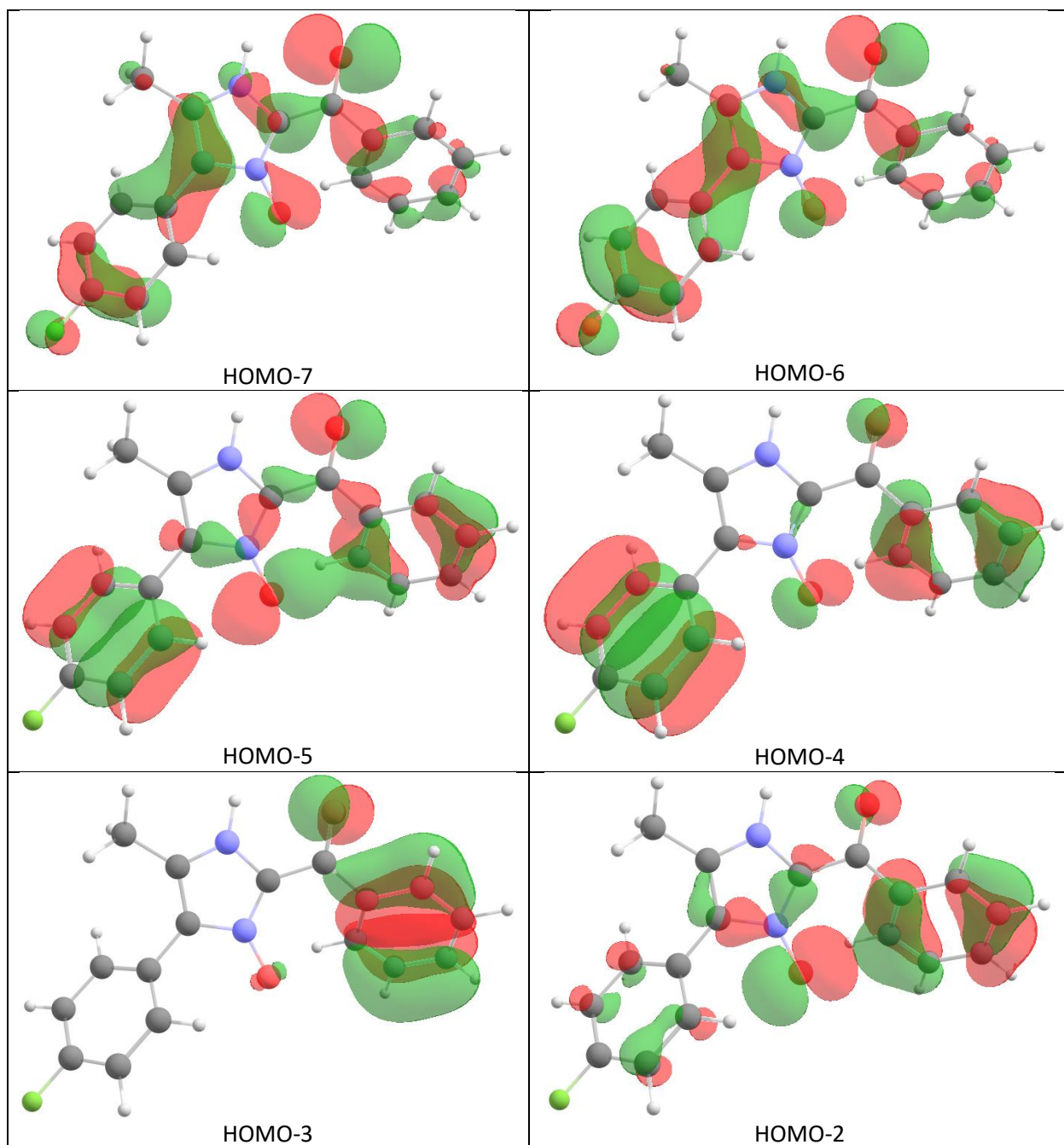


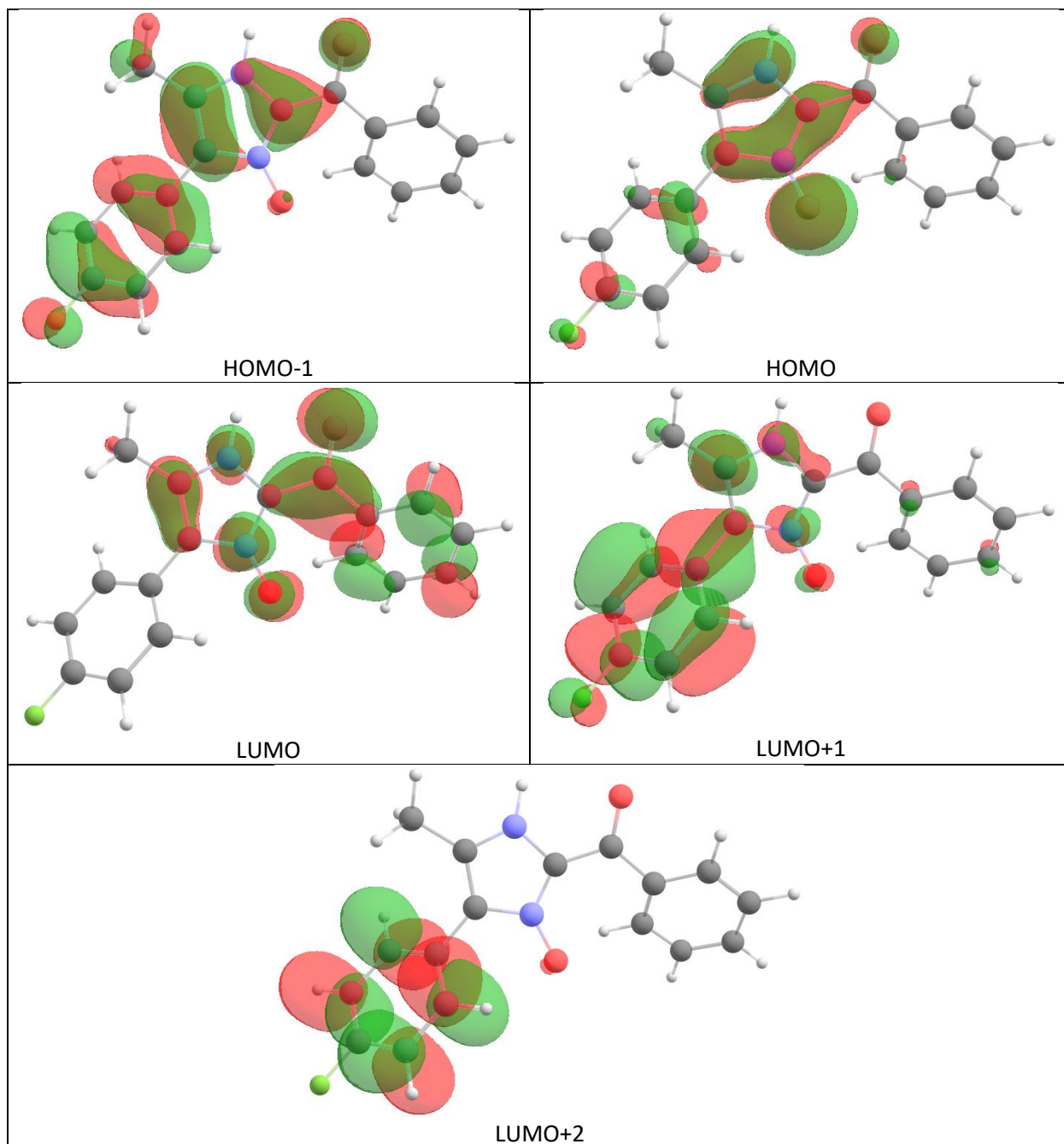
**Table S3.** Excited state properties of **HL-B** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**. Transitions with contribution >10% are shown.

| State | Energy (eV) | Energy (nm) | Contributions (%)  | Oscillator strength | Character                   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| S1    | 3.3590      | 369.11      | HOMO -> LUMO (93 %)  | 0.0571              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S2    | 3.6532      | 339.39      | HOMO-2 -> LUMO (39 %)<br>HOMO-1 -> LUMO (38 %)   | 0.1168              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |
| S3    | 3.7702      | 328.85      | HOMO-1 -> LUMO (58 %)<br>HOMO-2 -> LUMO (25 %)   | 0.2910              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |
| S4    | 3.9382      | 314.82      | HOMO-3 -> LUMO (30 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (28 %)<br>HOMO-6 -> LUMO (18 %)<br>HOMO-2 -> LUMO (16 %) | 0.0439              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |
| S5    | 4.3613      | 284.28      | HOMO-3 -> LUMO (40 %)<br>HOMO-5 -> LUMO (26 %)<br>HOMO-4 -> LUMO (20 %)                          | 0.0208              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |
| S6    | 4.6422      | 267.08      | HOMO-4 -> LUMO (34 %)<br>HOMO-6 -> LUMO (19 %)<br>HOMO-3 -> LUMO (18 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (14 %) | 0.1435              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |
| S7    | 4.7057      | 263.48      | HOMO -> LUMO+1 (91 %)  | 0.0849              | $\pi - \pi^*$               |
| S8    | 4.8007      | 258.26      | HOMO-5 -> LUMO (38 %)<br>HOMO-4 -> LUMO (28 %)   | 0.0043              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$ |

|     |        |        |   |        |                          |
|-----|--------|--------|---|--------|--------------------------|
|     |        |        | HOMO -> LUMO+2 (12 %)   |        |                          |
| S9  | 4.9097 | 252.53 | HOMO -> LUMO+2 (66 %)   | 0.0213 | $\pi - \pi^*$            |
| S10 | 5.0819 | 243.97 | HOMO-1 -> LUMO+1 (31 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (29 %)<br>HOMO-6 -> LUMO (28 %) | 0.1573 | $\pi - \pi^*, n - \pi^*$ |

**Table S4.** Isosurface contour plots of the molecular orbitals of **HL-B** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.



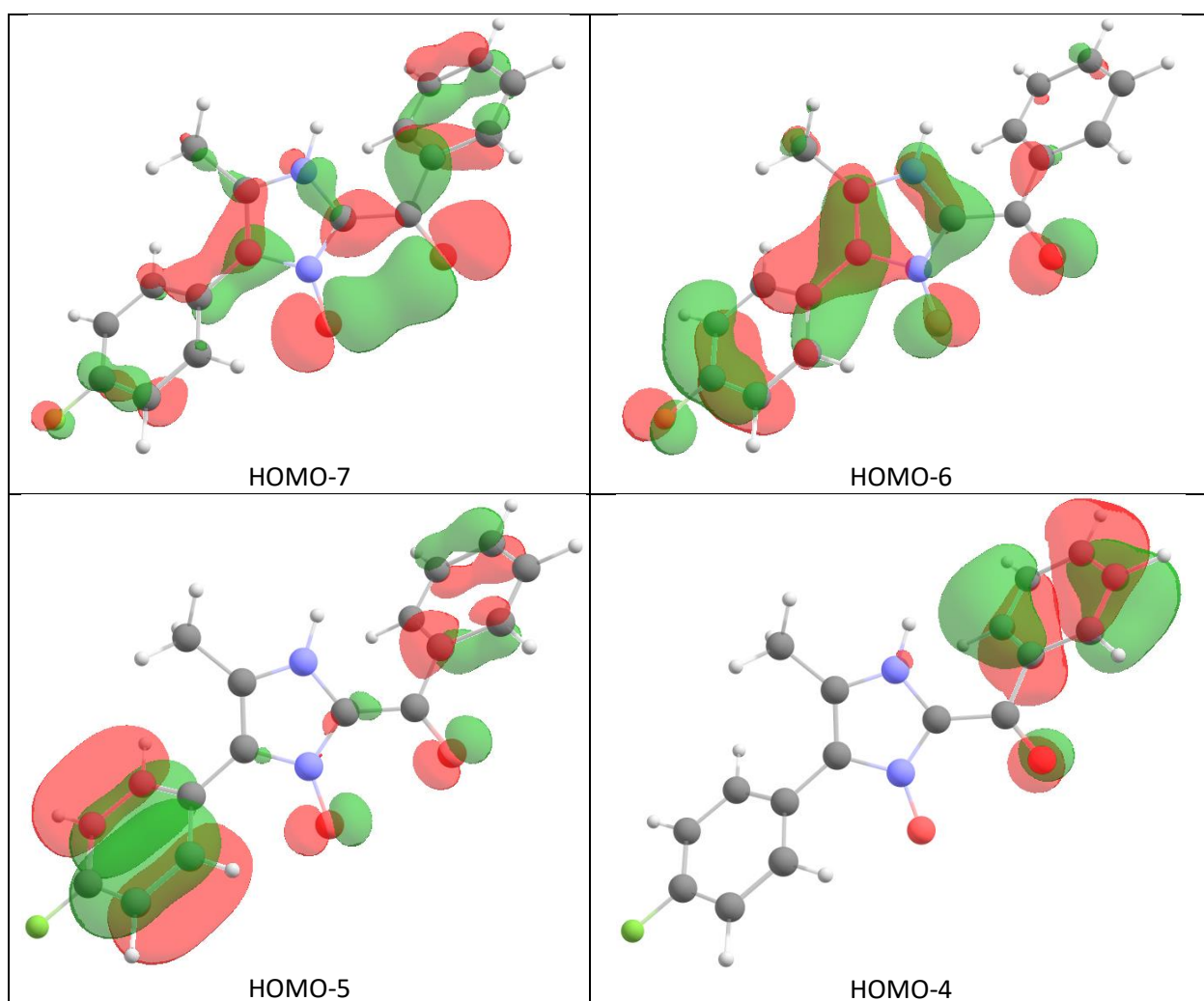


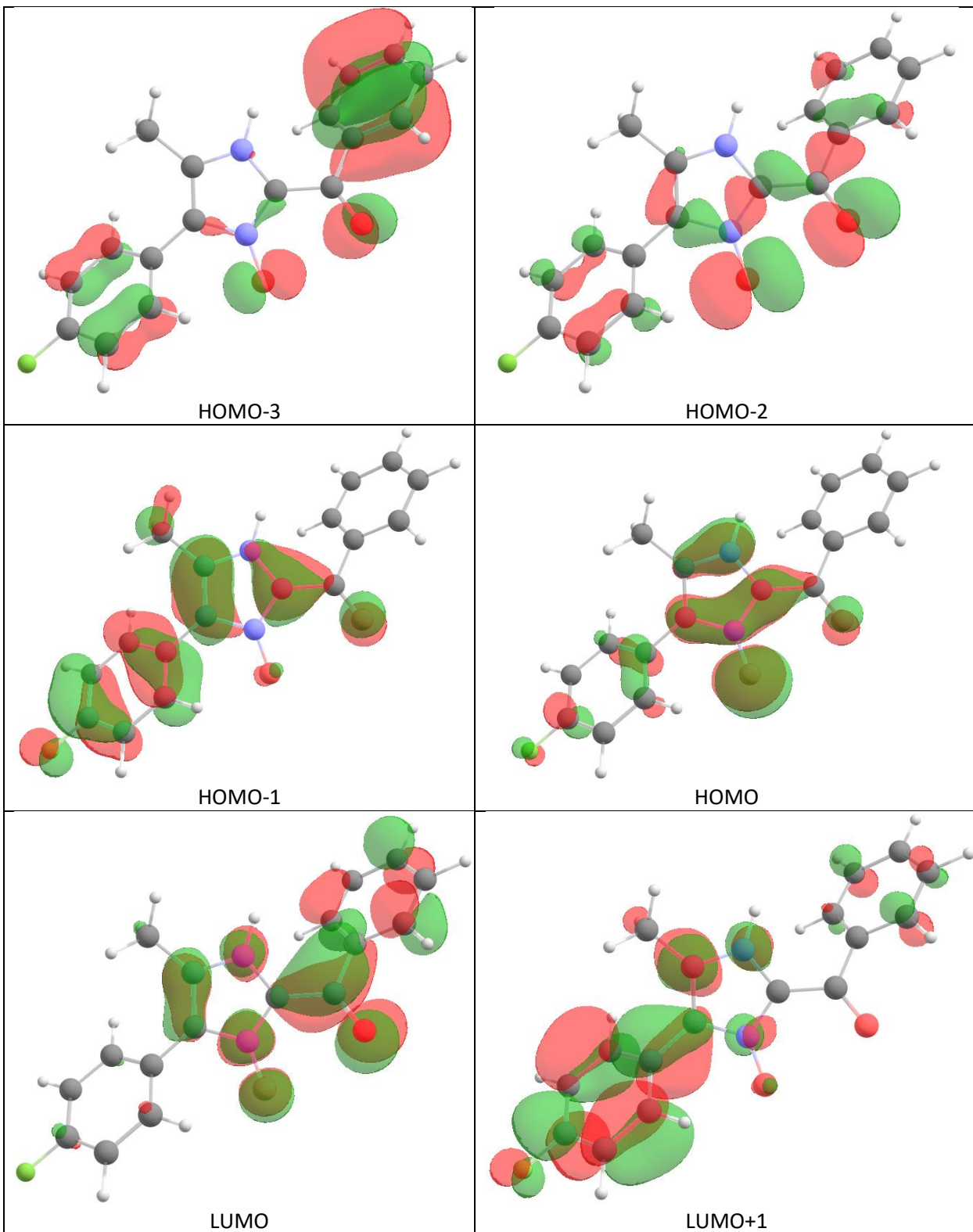
**Table S5.** Excited state properties of **HL-C** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**. Transitions with contribution >10% are shown.

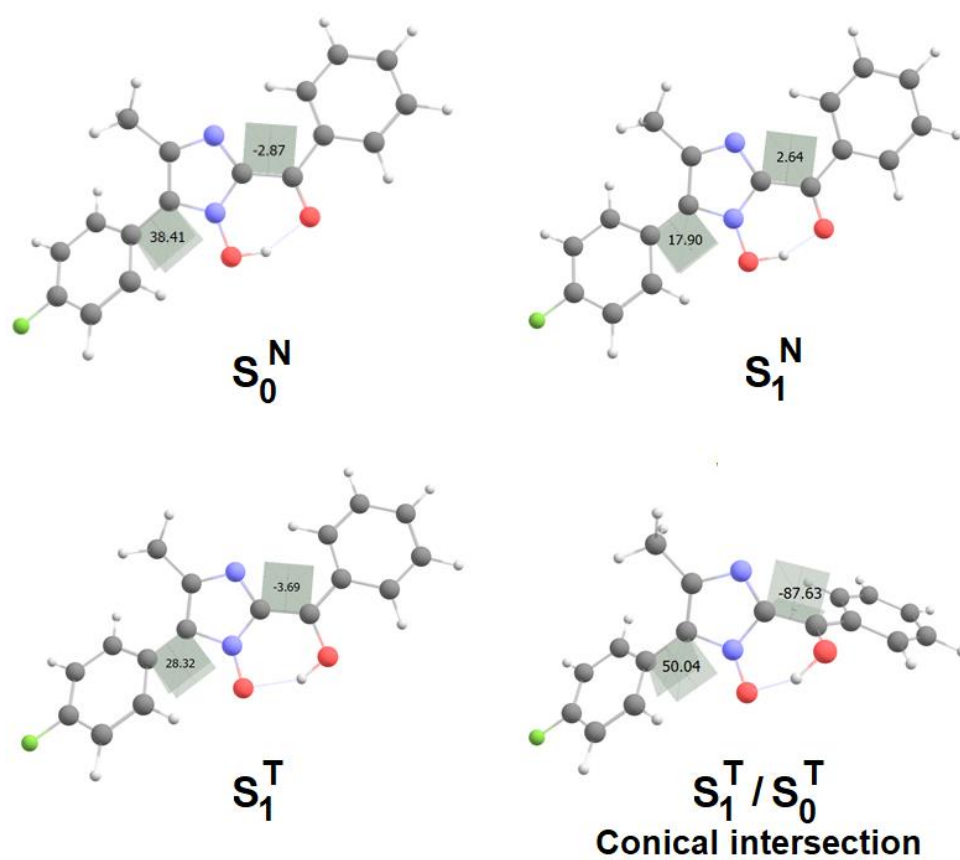
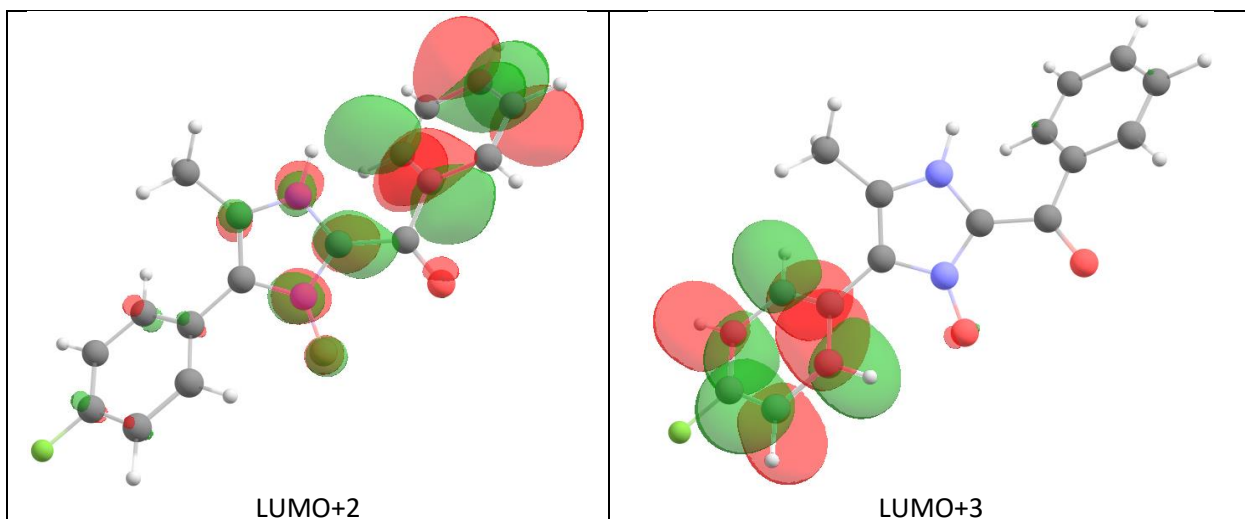
| State | Energy (eV) | Energy (nm) | Contributions (%)                              | Oscillator strength | Character   |
|-------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------|---|
| S1    | 3.4229      | 362.22      | HOMO-2 -> LUMO (79 %)<br>HOMO -> LUMO (12 %)   | 0.0151              | $\sigma - \pi^*$ , $n - \pi^*$                    |
| S2    | 3.6066      | 343.77      | HOMO -> LUMO (86 %)                            | 0.0741              | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |
| S3    | 3.8976      | 318.11      | HOMO-1 -> LUMO (94 %)                          | 0.4738              | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |
| S4    | 4.1955      | 295.52      | HOMO-3 -> LUMO (45 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (38 %) | 0.0419              | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $\sigma - \pi^*$ ,<br>$n - \pi^*$ |
| S5    | 4.5904      | 270.09      | HOMO-4 -> LUMO (67 %)<br>HOMO-3 -> LUMO (19 %) | 0.0105              | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |

|     |        |        |  |        |   |
|-----|--------|--------|--|--------|---|
| S6  | 4.6878 | 264.48 | HOMO -> LUMO+1 (90 %)  | 0.1972 | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |
| S7  | 4.8087 | 257.83 | HOMO-5 -> LUMO (29 %)<br>HOMO-4 -> LUMO (17 %)<br>HOMO-3 -> LUMO (14 %)<br>HOMO-7 -> LUMO (12 %) | 0.0616 | $\pi - \pi^*$ , $\sigma - \pi^*$ ,<br>$n - \pi^*$ |
| S8  | 4.8483 | 255.73 | HOMO -> LUMO+3 (42 %)<br>HOMO-1 -> LUMO+3 (11 %)   | 0.0160 | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |
| S9  | 4.9756 | 249.18 | HOMO-5 -> LUMO (48 %)<br>HOMO -> LUMO+3 (37 %)   | 0.0077 | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |
| S10 | 5.0390 | 246.05 | HOMO -> LUMO+2 (81 %)  | 0.0009 | $\pi - \pi^*$                                     |

**Table S6.** Isosurface contour plots of the molecular orbitals of **HL-C** at the relaxed ground state geometry ( $S_0$ ) as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.





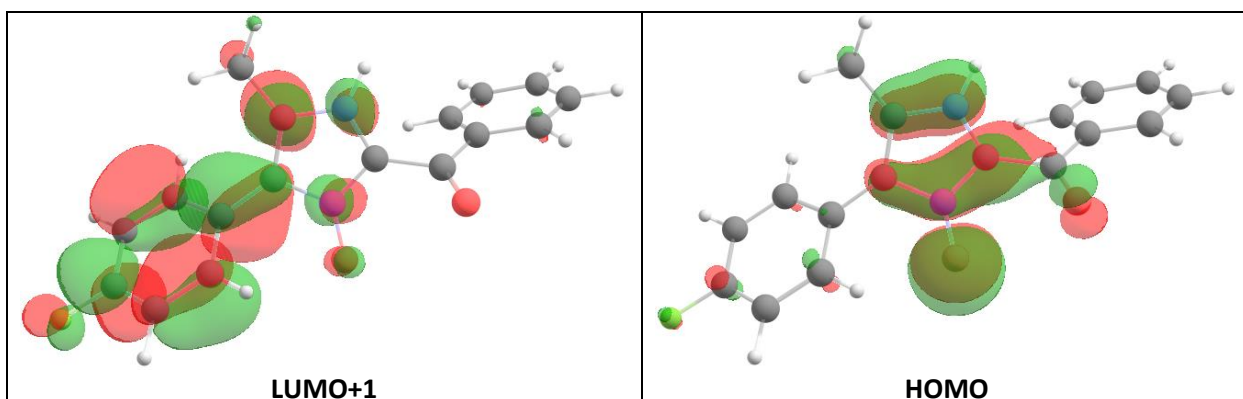


**Figure S15.** The optimized geometries of the ground state ( $S_0^N$ ), of the first singlet excited state in both forms ( $S_1^N$ ,  $S_1^T$ ), of the  $S_1^T/S_0^T$  conical intersection for the **HL-A** molecule. The torsion angles C19–C14–C5–N1 and N3–C2–C6–C7 are also shown.



**Table S7.** Isosurface contour plots of the molecular orbitals of **HL-C** at the relaxed **third singlet excited state** geometry as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

$S_3 \rightarrow S_0$  is LUMO+1  $\rightarrow$  HOMO transition,  $\lambda = 344$  nm,  $f = 0.1569$



**Table S8.** Optimized geometry of the **ground state** of **HL-A (normal form,  $S_0^N$ )** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 3.117099000000  | 0.646992000000  | 14.610070000000 |
| O | -1.132374000000 | 5.196198000000  | 15.951399000000 |
| N | -0.363336000000 | 5.536925000000  | 17.016018000000 |
| O | -2.518938000000 | 7.169701000000  | 16.734273000000 |
| C | -0.629041000000 | 6.541025000000  | 17.911570000000 |
| N | 0.340438000000  | 6.568042000000  | 18.835924000000 |
| C | 1.197753000000  | 5.578825000000  | 18.532391000000 |
| C | 0.774365000000  | 4.897397000000  | 17.372021000000 |
| C | -1.798636000000 | 7.377632000000  | 17.738187000000 |
| C | -2.158432000000 | 8.457293000000  | 18.684125000000 |
| C | -1.598812000000 | 8.587030000000  | 19.964499000000 |
| H | -0.843848000000 | 7.883436000000  | 20.295537000000 |
| C | -2.014819000000 | 9.616951000000  | 20.803742000000 |
| H | -1.582566000000 | 9.707490000000  | 21.796623000000 |
| C | -2.980671000000 | 10.527809000000 | 20.376330000000 |
| H | -3.298686000000 | 11.332344000000 | 21.034469000000 |
| C | -3.540242000000 | 10.404978000000 | 19.102675000000 |
| H | -4.291739000000 | 11.113789000000 | 18.765634000000 |
| C | -3.136981000000 | 9.373010000000  | 18.264940000000 |
| H | -3.568618000000 | 9.264727000000  | 17.274757000000 |
| C | 2.420684000000  | 5.324545000000  | 19.346656000000 |
| H | 2.713421000000  | 6.244195000000  | 19.860931000000 |
| H | 3.256920000000  | 4.990505000000  | 18.724354000000 |
| H | 2.248661000000  | 4.556621000000  | 20.111177000000 |
| C | 1.361930000000  | 3.780808000000  | 16.634001000000 |
| C | 1.973023000000  | 2.730049000000  | 17.335008000000 |
| H | 1.969671000000  | 2.727089000000  | 18.420608000000 |

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| C | 2.569376000000  | 1.669986000000 | 16.659625000000 |
| H | 3.039440000000  | 0.851268000000 | 17.195298000000 |
| C | 2.542251000000  | 1.673401000000 | 15.274053000000 |
| C | 1.945733000000  | 2.689606000000 | 14.542900000000 |
| H | 1.949893000000  | 2.655026000000 | 13.457893000000 |
| C | 1.355604000000  | 3.744501000000 | 15.230113000000 |
| H | 0.892700000000  | 4.549168000000 | 14.668692000000 |
| H | -1.854264000000 | 5.899544000000 | 15.995880000000 |

**Table S9.** Optimized geometry of the **ground state** of **HL-B** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 3.543575000000  | 0.709104000000  | 14.705793000000 |
| O | -0.621580000000 | 5.391088000000  | 15.774634000000 |
| N | -0.125765000000 | 5.547734000000  | 16.945052000000 |
| O | -1.358721000000 | 8.396667000000  | 18.761415000000 |
| C | -0.515762000000 | 6.455821000000  | 17.878053000000 |
| N | 0.312932000000  | 6.296962000000  | 18.948249000000 |
| C | 1.198296000000  | 5.302701000000  | 18.730378000000 |
| C | 0.932736000000  | 4.807637000000  | 17.460538000000 |
| C | -1.478469000000 | 7.550292000000  | 17.868132000000 |
| C | -2.573013000000 | 7.655504000000  | 16.873765000000 |
| C | -3.239045000000 | 6.532440000000  | 16.369915000000 |
| H | -2.905585000000 | 5.535598000000  | 16.638330000000 |
| C | -4.334606000000 | 6.696041000000  | 15.526536000000 |
| H | -4.859883000000 | 5.822612000000  | 15.149493000000 |
| C | -4.753583000000 | 7.975878000000  | 15.161011000000 |
| H | -5.600684000000 | 8.098450000000  | 14.490890000000 |
| C | -4.088003000000 | 9.098799000000  | 15.656479000000 |
| H | -4.412321000000 | 10.096127000000 | 15.371842000000 |
| C | -3.012053000000 | 8.939208000000  | 16.522874000000 |
| H | -2.497215000000 | 9.804440000000  | 16.930833000000 |
| C | 2.225398000000  | 4.910804000000  | 19.729467000000 |
| H | 2.553173000000  | 5.781064000000  | 20.305923000000 |
| H | 3.096461000000  | 4.476500000000  | 19.232576000000 |
| H | 1.833478000000  | 4.168599000000  | 20.434839000000 |
| C | 1.589621000000  | 3.730585000000  | 16.720832000000 |
| C | 1.956232000000  | 2.550444000000  | 17.383781000000 |
| H | 1.706769000000  | 2.417084000000  | 18.432506000000 |
| C | 2.621239000000  | 1.527424000000  | 16.713164000000 |
| H | 2.905724000000  | 0.610341000000  | 17.219484000000 |
| C | 2.902836000000  | 1.699027000000  | 15.367683000000 |
| C | 2.548202000000  | 2.845180000000  | 14.672033000000 |
| H | 2.788060000000  | 2.937593000000  | 13.617226000000 |
| C | 1.890017000000  | 3.861720000000  | 15.356104000000 |
| H | 1.603735000000  | 4.764609000000  | 14.828290000000 |
| H | 0.255215000000  | 6.892342000000  | 19.765097000000 |

**Table S10.** Optimized geometry of the **ground state** of **HL-C** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 2.825278000000  | 0.338922000000  | 15.116551000000 |
| O | -0.770844000000 | 5.531679000000  | 15.797687000000 |
| N | -0.107597000000 | 5.839189000000  | 16.845975000000 |
| O | -1.843457000000 | 8.176003000000  | 16.381837000000 |
| C | -0.325999000000 | 6.910970000000  | 17.653888000000 |
| N | 0.588169000000  | 6.826515000000  | 18.668502000000 |
| C | 1.377395000000  | 5.740638000000  | 18.512928000000 |
| C | 0.936647000000  | 5.086608000000  | 17.371927000000 |
| C | -1.288792000000 | 7.983177000000  | 17.461670000000 |
| C | -1.562950000000 | 8.876443000000  | 18.628139000000 |
| C | -1.716634000000 | 8.381215000000  | 19.929738000000 |
| H | -1.626438000000 | 7.315470000000  | 20.126345000000 |
| C | -2.037146000000 | 9.247798000000  | 20.973281000000 |
| H | -2.172442000000 | 8.855205000000  | 21.977341000000 |
| C | -2.190165000000 | 10.611386000000 | 20.727052000000 |
| H | -2.431913000000 | 11.286850000000 | 21.543408000000 |
| C | -2.040539000000 | 11.108926000000 | 19.430745000000 |
| H | -2.161381000000 | 12.171455000000 | 19.237584000000 |
| C | -1.739954000000 | 10.244498000000 | 18.383863000000 |
| H | -1.632779000000 | 10.619284000000 | 17.369668000000 |
| C | 2.494882000000  | 5.426761000000  | 19.440316000000 |
| H | 2.969085000000  | 6.345389000000  | 19.799458000000 |
| H | 3.252496000000  | 4.822986000000  | 18.935090000000 |
| H | 2.142705000000  | 4.866971000000  | 20.314684000000 |
| C | 1.406403000000  | 3.841273000000  | 16.767384000000 |
| C | 1.747457000000  | 2.753334000000  | 17.584057000000 |
| H | 1.617720000000  | 2.820501000000  | 18.660408000000 |
| C | 2.232606000000  | 1.569011000000  | 17.036174000000 |
| H | 2.495829000000  | 0.722098000000  | 17.662087000000 |
| C | 2.360135000000  | 1.486632000000  | 15.659183000000 |
| C | 2.023919000000  | 2.534553000000  | 14.815156000000 |
| H | 2.138890000000  | 2.426461000000  | 13.741028000000 |
| C | 1.545900000000  | 3.713770000000  | 15.376593000000 |
| H | 1.276493000000  | 4.542800000000  | 14.731720000000 |
| H | 0.716352000000  | 7.541422000000  | 19.372696000000 |

**Table S11.** Optimized geometry of the **ground state** of **HL-D** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| F | 6.783332000000  | 6.955621000000 | 15.229412000000 |
| O | 0.637639000000  | 8.297109000000 | 16.306164000000 |
| N | 0.601192000000  | 7.213900000000 | 17.134046000000 |
| O | -2.460417000000 | 7.446807000000 | 18.914207000000 |

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| C | -0.474737000000 | 6.813118000000  | 17.869602000000 |
| N | -0.127821000000 | 5.784582000000  | 18.630899000000 |
| C | 1.183600000000  | 5.524825000000  | 18.378962000000 |
| C | 1.682643000000  | 6.425953000000  | 17.441957000000 |
| C | -1.828028000000 | 7.415422000000  | 17.863176000000 |
| C | -2.416821000000 | 7.919298000000  | 16.596842000000 |
| C | -2.055648000000 | 7.387179000000  | 15.352725000000 |
| H | -1.293609000000 | 6.615057000000  | 15.288224000000 |
| C | -2.691686000000 | 7.825862000000  | 14.194980000000 |
| H | -2.418564000000 | 7.399402000000  | 13.233636000000 |
| C | -3.676702000000 | 8.810896000000  | 14.270223000000 |
| H | -4.165592000000 | 9.159032000000  | 13.363996000000 |
| C | -4.038000000000 | 9.348321000000  | 15.507842000000 |
| H | -4.803999000000 | 10.116918000000 | 15.565630000000 |
| C | -3.419656000000 | 8.895656000000  | 16.667686000000 |
| H | -3.698943000000 | 9.296303000000  | 17.638083000000 |
| C | 1.889988000000  | 4.390872000000  | 19.042134000000 |
| H | 2.297098000000  | 4.683293000000  | 20.018190000000 |
| H | 2.720021000000  | 4.022065000000  | 18.432088000000 |
| H | 1.189798000000  | 3.567124000000  | 19.210896000000 |
| C | 3.010217000000  | 6.592526000000  | 16.853331000000 |
| C | 3.176200000000  | 6.881291000000  | 15.488998000000 |
| H | 2.306944000000  | 6.999807000000  | 14.850325000000 |
| C | 4.446304000000  | 7.007351000000  | 14.936754000000 |
| H | 4.584547000000  | 7.226221000000  | 13.882492000000 |
| C | 5.547325000000  | 6.836533000000  | 15.762433000000 |
| C | 5.428347000000  | 6.549885000000  | 17.113106000000 |
| H | 6.315714000000  | 6.431243000000  | 17.726965000000 |
| C | 4.151591000000  | 6.433072000000  | 17.653871000000 |
| H | 4.043681000000  | 6.232102000000  | 18.715551000000 |
| H | 0.954241000000  | 9.042232000000  | 16.848638000000 |

**Table S12.** Optimized geometry of the **ground state** of **HL-E** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| F | 3.371447000000  | 0.628083000000 | 14.776779000000 |
| O | -1.021309000000 | 5.061082000000 | 15.998141000000 |
| H | -0.969145000000 | 5.717127000000 | 15.277948000000 |
| N | -0.224297000000 | 5.528152000000 | 17.005311000000 |
| O | -2.309791000000 | 7.730171000000 | 18.880866000000 |
| C | -0.586245000000 | 6.456823000000 | 17.942391000000 |
| N | 0.287296000000  | 6.443404000000 | 18.939132000000 |
| C | 1.199489000000  | 5.475942000000 | 18.656249000000 |
| C | 0.887774000000  | 4.857879000000 | 17.446820000000 |
| C | -1.747796000000 | 7.361927000000 | 17.855198000000 |
| C | -2.196151000000 | 7.832518000000 | 16.517050000000 |
| C | -3.557349000000 | 8.079957000000 | 16.304993000000 |
| H | -4.262179000000 | 7.890577000000 | 17.109729000000 |

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| C | -3.996762000000 | 8.546869000000 | 15.070447000000 |
| H | -5.056205000000 | 8.721297000000 | 14.903763000000 |
| C | -3.078889000000 | 8.790720000000 | 14.047031000000 |
| H | -3.424188000000 | 9.159259000000 | 13.084830000000 |
| C | -1.717975000000 | 8.568861000000 | 14.259578000000 |
| H | -0.999946000000 | 8.778106000000 | 13.471549000000 |
| C | -1.276280000000 | 8.084855000000 | 15.488917000000 |
| H | -0.209996000000 | 7.945970000000 | 15.661904000000 |
| C | 2.354628000000  | 5.208592000000 | 19.560814000000 |
| H | 2.699374000000  | 6.144732000000 | 20.010417000000 |
| H | 3.190508000000  | 4.753888000000 | 19.021103000000 |
| H | 2.076931000000  | 4.532128000000 | 20.378781000000 |
| C | 1.518127000000  | 3.751816000000 | 16.728542000000 |
| C | 1.972249000000  | 2.632138000000 | 17.441549000000 |
| H | 1.817080000000  | 2.575925000000 | 18.514939000000 |
| C | 2.602261000000  | 1.575408000000 | 16.791502000000 |
| H | 2.952721000000  | 0.704305000000 | 17.336142000000 |
| C | 2.764414000000  | 1.651046000000 | 15.417253000000 |
| C | 2.327771000000  | 2.737136000000 | 14.673650000000 |
| H | 2.481356000000  | 2.759568000000 | 13.599291000000 |
| C | 1.705962000000  | 3.788586000000 | 15.338101000000 |
| H | 1.382951000000  | 4.652369000000 | 14.765772000000 |

**Table S13.** Optimized geometry of the **first singlet excited state** of **HL-A (normal form, S<sub>1</sub><sup>N</sup>)** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 3.015945000000  | 0.666227000000  | 14.638685000000 |
| O | -0.475241000000 | 5.910502000000  | 15.761931000000 |
| H | -1.069994000000 | 6.785452000000  | 15.850815000000 |
| N | 0.093855000000  | 5.915849000000  | 16.992775000000 |
| O | -1.612037000000 | 7.930808000000  | 16.497065000000 |
| C | -0.178699000000 | 6.819523000000  | 17.968707000000 |
| N | 0.483701000000  | 6.485544000000  | 19.101637000000 |
| C | 1.130174000000  | 5.342671000000  | 18.853273000000 |
| C | 0.903368000000  | 4.917152000000  | 17.499895000000 |
| C | -1.108312000000 | 7.931136000000  | 17.689003000000 |
| C | -1.440708000000 | 8.942668000000  | 18.645144000000 |
| C | -0.907928000000 | 9.008083000000  | 19.964687000000 |
| H | -0.195856000000 | 8.258741000000  | 20.289463000000 |
| C | -1.294699000000 | 10.021372000000 | 20.829380000000 |
| H | -0.875543000000 | 10.051513000000 | 21.832506000000 |
| C | -2.209202000000 | 11.001832000000 | 20.428046000000 |
| H | -2.503848000000 | 11.792830000000 | 21.112560000000 |
| C | -2.739751000000 | 10.953773000000 | 19.129237000000 |
| H | -3.450682000000 | 11.711244000000 | 18.807226000000 |
| C | -2.367522000000 | 9.950868000000  | 18.253106000000 |
| H | -2.779789000000 | 9.913702000000  | 17.249753000000 |

|   |                |                |                 |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| C | 2.004849000000 | 4.730471000000 | 19.885873000000 |
| H | 2.165509000000 | 5.457310000000 | 20.685830000000 |
| H | 2.976734000000 | 4.431733000000 | 19.479286000000 |
| H | 1.542577000000 | 3.840253000000 | 20.332601000000 |
| C | 1.421282000000 | 3.824052000000 | 16.749721000000 |
| C | 1.929902000000 | 2.674397000000 | 17.419796000000 |
| H | 1.869875000000 | 2.603298000000 | 18.498634000000 |
| C | 2.463290000000 | 1.615592000000 | 16.715475000000 |
| H | 2.839722000000 | 0.731706000000 | 17.219829000000 |
| C | 2.497196000000 | 1.690801000000 | 15.322877000000 |
| C | 2.005506000000 | 2.787632000000 | 14.617626000000 |
| H | 2.056842000000 | 2.800778000000 | 13.533702000000 |
| C | 1.466260000000 | 3.843262000000 | 15.324434000000 |
| H | 1.087491000000 | 4.705374000000 | 14.790079000000 |

**Table S14.** Optimized geometry of the **first singlet excited state** of **HL-A (tautomeric form, S<sub>1</sub><sup>T</sup>)** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 2.960105000000  | 0.627340000000  | 14.638421000000 |
| O | -0.569364000000 | 5.752546000000  | 15.850371000000 |
| H | -1.388188000000 | 7.250912000000  | 15.955638000000 |
| N | 0.007934000000  | 5.863405000000  | 16.995489000000 |
| O | -1.644272000000 | 8.044652000000  | 16.488238000000 |
| C | -0.206932000000 | 6.811086000000  | 17.935484000000 |
| N | 0.522317000000  | 6.523967000000  | 19.030330000000 |
| C | 1.201249000000  | 5.369223000000  | 18.812190000000 |
| C | 0.936105000000  | 4.908147000000  | 17.528368000000 |
| C | -1.103405000000 | 7.931366000000  | 17.716541000000 |
| C | -1.455313000000 | 8.935625000000  | 18.660139000000 |
| C | -0.977135000000 | 8.961198000000  | 19.998921000000 |
| H | -0.302874000000 | 8.184613000000  | 20.338437000000 |
| C | -1.366181000000 | 9.970243000000  | 20.867252000000 |
| H | -0.987015000000 | 9.965610000000  | 21.886476000000 |
| C | -2.233453000000 | 10.986075000000 | 20.452011000000 |
| H | -2.531034000000 | 11.772305000000 | 21.140300000000 |
| C | -2.712853000000 | 10.975606000000 | 19.136491000000 |
| H | -3.388158000000 | 11.758264000000 | 18.798969000000 |
| C | -2.337712000000 | 9.976224000000  | 18.254304000000 |
| H | -2.718082000000 | 9.980081000000  | 17.238413000000 |
| C | 2.121318000000  | 4.817812000000  | 19.846980000000 |
| H | 2.398862000000  | 5.614974000000  | 20.542032000000 |
| H | 3.036189000000  | 4.412819000000  | 19.401560000000 |
| H | 1.651001000000  | 4.016793000000  | 20.430966000000 |
| C | 1.437490000000  | 3.804978000000  | 16.761060000000 |
| C | 1.859653000000  | 2.628480000000  | 17.424168000000 |
| H | 1.748789000000  | 2.543687000000  | 18.499447000000 |
| C | 2.367791000000  | 1.555003000000  | 16.714236000000 |
| H | 2.678020000000  | 0.641690000000  | 17.211185000000 |

|   |                |                |                 |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| C | 2.462224000000 | 1.662828000000 | 15.330295000000 |
| C | 2.067513000000 | 2.801113000000 | 14.635798000000 |
| H | 2.178151000000 | 2.843666000000 | 13.557082000000 |
| C | 1.556542000000 | 3.870040000000 | 15.351519000000 |
| H | 1.262615000000 | 4.773156000000 | 14.829942000000 |

**Table S15.** Optimized geometry of the **first singlet excited state** of **HL-B** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| F | 4.071575000000  | 0.733510000000 | 14.879114000000 |
| O | 0.246517000000  | 5.809814000000 | 15.221277000000 |
| N | 0.345210000000  | 5.749399000000 | 16.471701000000 |
| O | -0.210733000000 | 8.843610000000 | 16.746297000000 |
| C | -0.312067000000 | 6.636639000000 | 17.321583000000 |
| N | 0.016439000000  | 6.245303000000 | 18.540205000000 |
| C | 0.869533000000  | 5.139783000000 | 18.524119000000 |
| C | 1.076432000000  | 4.816180000000 | 17.212302000000 |
| C | -1.021738000000 | 7.855872000000 | 16.888309000000 |
| C | -2.431885000000 | 7.839745000000 | 16.663037000000 |
| C | -3.226050000000 | 6.675930000000 | 16.844176000000 |
| H | -2.764622000000 | 5.746130000000 | 17.172496000000 |
| C | -4.593478000000 | 6.700837000000 | 16.610871000000 |
| H | -5.174166000000 | 5.792708000000 | 16.758098000000 |
| C | -5.229651000000 | 7.875406000000 | 16.190255000000 |
| H | -6.300662000000 | 7.889396000000 | 16.009106000000 |
| C | -4.459390000000 | 9.031976000000 | 16.008288000000 |
| H | -4.938489000000 | 9.952988000000 | 15.682039000000 |
| C | -3.091896000000 | 9.022974000000 | 16.236821000000 |
| H | -2.501781000000 | 9.923660000000 | 16.092805000000 |
| C | 1.386160000000  | 4.544229000000 | 19.774994000000 |
| H | 1.805502000000  | 5.319618000000 | 20.425320000000 |
| H | 2.166287000000  | 3.813885000000 | 19.553587000000 |
| H | 0.584028000000  | 4.040670000000 | 20.327410000000 |
| C | 1.856475000000  | 3.746587000000 | 16.586341000000 |
| C | 1.723134000000  | 2.427984000000 | 17.039448000000 |
| H | 1.017492000000  | 2.193676000000 | 17.831430000000 |
| C | 2.473606000000  | 1.403683000000 | 16.470583000000 |
| H | 2.379759000000  | 0.377262000000 | 16.810380000000 |
| C | 3.343924000000  | 1.721429000000 | 15.439749000000 |
| C | 3.495654000000  | 3.013545000000 | 14.958442000000 |
| H | 4.190525000000  | 3.216096000000 | 14.149744000000 |
| C | 2.745890000000  | 4.029205000000 | 15.540555000000 |
| H | 2.861356000000  | 5.047421000000 | 15.182155000000 |
| H | -0.311479000000 | 6.709269000000 | 19.380180000000 |

**Table S16.** Optimized geometry of the **first singlet excited state** of **HL-C** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| F | 2.786234000000  | 0.628062000000  | 14.556147000000 |
| O | -0.688439000000 | 5.801594000000  | 16.059802000000 |
| N | 0.012434000000  | 5.840182000000  | 17.177012000000 |
| O | -1.728094000000 | 7.681946000000  | 16.648671000000 |
| C | -0.203279000000 | 6.795104000000  | 18.108751000000 |
| N | 0.678535000000  | 6.538404000000  | 19.118912000000 |
| C | 1.444744000000  | 5.441518000000  | 18.808971000000 |
| C | 1.016646000000  | 4.975910000000  | 17.580789000000 |
| C | -1.180823000000 | 7.771875000000  | 17.831233000000 |
| C | -1.570034000000 | 8.854293000000  | 18.721000000000 |
| C | -1.375848000000 | 8.804791000000  | 20.117269000000 |
| H | -0.979263000000 | 7.911946000000  | 20.592061000000 |
| C | -1.760549000000 | 9.871230000000  | 20.921272000000 |
| H | -1.607046000000 | 9.809650000000  | 21.995696000000 |
| C | -2.358469000000 | 11.003637000000 | 20.362976000000 |
| H | -2.657588000000 | 11.833974000000 | 20.996723000000 |
| C | -2.581668000000 | 11.050680000000 | 18.984778000000 |
| H | -3.055558000000 | 11.922328000000 | 18.540091000000 |
| C | -2.198630000000 | 9.991703000000  | 18.171304000000 |
| H | -2.365842000000 | 10.035983000000 | 17.099176000000 |
| C | 2.523510000000  | 4.962641000000  | 19.709659000000 |
| H | 3.049551000000  | 5.808162000000  | 20.165095000000 |
| H | 3.252509000000  | 4.370137000000  | 19.151754000000 |
| H | 2.127120000000  | 4.339606000000  | 20.520646000000 |
| C | 1.460124000000  | 3.835047000000  | 16.782480000000 |
| C | 1.819699000000  | 2.632039000000  | 17.408087000000 |
| H | 1.723708000000  | 2.528545000000  | 18.484764000000 |
| C | 2.275536000000  | 1.547956000000  | 16.663951000000 |
| H | 2.552853000000  | 0.612750000000  | 17.140167000000 |
| C | 2.351388000000  | 1.678869000000  | 15.286483000000 |
| C | 1.990214000000  | 2.844771000000  | 14.628223000000 |
| H | 2.061847000000  | 2.904697000000  | 13.546651000000 |
| C | 1.545955000000  | 3.924203000000  | 15.384106000000 |
| H | 1.265446000000  | 4.845629000000  | 14.883652000000 |
| H | 0.872407000000  | 7.166331000000  | 19.885811000000 |

**Table S17.** Optimized geometry of the **third singlet excited state** of **HL-C** in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in **MeCN continuum solvation model**.

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| F | 2.264972000000  | 0.130575000000 | 15.129404000000 |
| O | -0.686499000000 | 5.738903000000 | 16.040383000000 |
| N | 0.150756000000  | 6.014944000000 | 16.950523000000 |
| O | -0.847915000000 | 8.705764000000 | 16.291830000000 |



|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| C | 0.077616000000  | 7.135706000000  | 17.734176000000 |
| N | 0.974140000000  | 6.978528000000  | 18.690849000000 |
| C | 1.711605000000  | 5.792491000000  | 18.507666000000 |
| C | 1.147829000000  | 5.119115000000  | 17.430198000000 |
| C | -0.772575000000 | 8.331401000000  | 17.451120000000 |
| C | -1.421324000000 | 9.010298000000  | 18.585145000000 |
| C | -1.679517000000 | 8.352109000000  | 19.797573000000 |
| H | -1.404941000000 | 7.309341000000  | 19.932545000000 |
| C | -2.332218000000 | 9.025383000000  | 20.825774000000 |
| H | -2.543313000000 | 8.511018000000  | 21.758737000000 |
| C | -2.716966000000 | 10.355225000000 | 20.654365000000 |
| H | -3.219156000000 | 10.881099000000 | 21.461899000000 |
| C | -2.463388000000 | 11.013673000000 | 19.447660000000 |
| H | -2.764470000000 | 12.049399000000 | 19.318795000000 |
| C | -1.825327000000 | 10.344041000000 | 18.412920000000 |
| H | -1.622206000000 | 10.840591000000 | 17.468700000000 |
| C | 2.838673000000  | 5.449408000000  | 19.401627000000 |
| H | 3.439164000000  | 6.336421000000  | 19.636265000000 |
| H | 3.487833000000  | 4.719206000000  | 18.912186000000 |
| H | 2.504054000000  | 5.015583000000  | 20.355532000000 |
| C | 1.374821000000  | 3.846314000000  | 16.836851000000 |
| C | 1.824941000000  | 2.738097000000  | 17.639139000000 |
| H | 1.899769000000  | 2.852729000000  | 18.717501000000 |
| C | 2.096021000000  | 1.509866000000  | 17.077967000000 |
| H | 2.403682000000  | 0.669451000000  | 17.694581000000 |
| C | 1.949203000000  | 1.344507000000  | 15.688416000000 |
| C | 1.581551000000  | 2.404211000000  | 14.855975000000 |
| H | 1.530921000000  | 2.251525000000  | 13.780555000000 |
| C | 1.307765000000  | 3.642681000000  | 15.404234000000 |
| H | 1.051615000000  | 4.468295000000  | 14.748682000000 |
| H | 1.182217000000  | 7.678294000000  | 19.394389000000 |

**Table S18.** Estimated geometry of the  $S_1/S_0$  conical intersection of HL-A in Cartesian (XYZ) coordinates as calculated in Gaussian at the PBE0/6-31+g(d) level of theory in MeCN continuum solvation model.

|   |                 |                |                 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| F | 1.510360000000  | 0.242800000000 | 15.005614000000 |
| O | -0.429934000000 | 6.294758000000 | 16.356002000000 |
| H | 0.070532000000  | 8.150967000000 | 16.029626000000 |
| N | 0.346442000000  | 6.160110000000 | 17.353094000000 |
| O | 0.114877000000  | 8.945702000000 | 16.618163000000 |
| C | 0.617741000000  | 7.268826000000 | 18.172369000000 |
| N | 1.686724000000  | 7.070012000000 | 18.860686000000 |
| C | 2.116454000000  | 5.749284000000 | 18.558989000000 |
| C | 1.332219000000  | 5.192903000000 | 17.590744000000 |
| C | -0.168560000000 | 8.478744000000 | 17.854800000000 |
| C | -1.206617000000 | 9.008880000000 | 18.639098000000 |
| C | -1.442658000000 | 8.510035000000 | 19.948775000000 |
| H | -0.801819000000 | 7.729704000000 | 20.349336000000 |

|   |                 |                 |                 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| C | -2.474871000000 | 9.022557000000  | 20.719347000000 |
| H | -2.647757000000 | 8.624015000000  | 21.715478000000 |
| C | -3.279908000000 | 10.055778000000 | 20.231134000000 |
| H | -4.079386000000 | 10.461579000000 | 20.844011000000 |
| C | -3.044866000000 | 10.570846000000 | 18.948303000000 |
| H | -3.668998000000 | 11.374601000000 | 18.566414000000 |
| C | -2.033294000000 | 10.059270000000 | 18.155995000000 |
| H | -1.863742000000 | 10.447381000000 | 17.156746000000 |
| C | 3.284455000000  | 5.187400000000  | 19.277109000000 |
| H | 4.096814000000  | 5.921596000000  | 19.304498000000 |
| H | 3.645796000000  | 4.273422000000  | 18.799514000000 |
| H | 3.026503000000  | 4.949632000000  | 20.317371000000 |
| C | 1.362531000000  | 3.896932000000  | 16.904820000000 |
| C | 1.508322000000  | 2.715927000000  | 17.644682000000 |
| H | 1.562867000000  | 2.760380000000  | 18.728721000000 |
| C | 1.566578000000  | 1.477720000000  | 17.010615000000 |
| H | 1.679435000000  | 0.557465000000  | 17.575170000000 |
| C | 1.461074000000  | 1.440988000000  | 15.629577000000 |
| C | 1.304268000000  | 2.585127000000  | 14.862262000000 |
| H | 1.227528000000  | 2.510660000000  | 13.781969000000 |
| C | 1.259553000000  | 3.816572000000  | 15.508616000000 |
| H | 1.149407000000  | 4.721614000000  | 14.919774000000 |