Electronic Supplementary Information

Mechanochromic aromatic hydrocarbons that bear one simple substituent

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1. General	S2
2. Synthesis	S 3
3. Photophysical properties of 1 and 4	S4
4. Structure analyses of 1 and 4	S7
5. Theoretical analyses of 1 and 4	S10
6. Photophysical properties of the ground phases	S11
7. Thermal Responses of 1 and 4	S13
8. Sublimation of 1 and 4	S17
9. References	S19
10. NMR and MS spectra	S20

1. General

All commercially available reagents and solvents are of reagent grade and were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Solvents for the synthesis were purchased from commercial suppliers, degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles and further dried over molecular sieves (4 Å). Purification by column chromatography was performed with a silica gel 60N (spherical, neutral, 40– 100 µm mesh, Kanto chemicals, Japan). NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECA-600 spectrometer (¹H: 600 MHz; ¹³C: 151 MHz) using tetramethylsilane and CDCl₃ as internal standards, respectively. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded on a JASCO V-750 spectrometer. The absorption spectra of the solid samples were recorded on a JASCO V-750 spectrophotometer equipped with JASCO ISV-922 integrating sphere. Emission and excitation spectra were recorded on a JASCO FP-8600 spectrometer. Luminescence microscopic spectra were recorded on a Photonic Hamamatsu PMA-12 Multichannel Analyzer (C14631-01). A cooling/heating stage on JHC 10002L was used for temperature changes of solid samples. The emission quantum yields of the solid samples were recorded on a JASCO ILF-835 integrating sphere that was interfaced with a JASCO, FP-8600 spectrofluorometer. Emission lifetime measurements were recorded on a Hamamatsu Quantaurus-Tau spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Exactive at the Center for analytical instrumentation at Chiba University. Photographs were obtained using Olympus BX53 or SZX10 microscopes with Olympus DP74, Sony α7S digital cameras. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements were recorded on a Shimadzu DSC60 instrument using Al₂O₃ as a reference material. Powder diffraction data were recorded at on a Rigaku SmartLab diffractometer with Cu-K α radiation with a monochrometer. TGA traces were recorded on a Rigaku TG 8121.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction analyses: A suitable crystal was mounted with Paratone oil on a MiTeGen MicroMounts and transferred to the Four-circle Kappa Geometry Goniometer of a RIGAKU XtaLAB Synergy-S system with 1.2 kW PhotonJet-S microfocus rotating anode using graphite monochromated Cu-K_a radiation and HyPix-6000HE detector. Cell parameters were determined and refined, and raw frame data were integrated using CrysAlis^{Pro} (Agilent Technologies). The structures were solved by direct methods with (SHELXT)^[S1] and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques against F^2 (SHELXL-2018/3)^[S2] by using Olex2 software package.^[S3] The intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were placed using AFIX instructions. Simulated powder patterns were generated with Mercury software^[S4] from the structures determined by single-crystal diffraction analyses.

2. Synthesis

Synthesis of 4



After an oven-dried screw neck reaction vial containing a magnetic stir bar was sealed with a screw cap containing a Teflon-coated rubber septum, it was connected to a vacuum/nitrogen manifold through a rubber tube. It was evacuated and then backfilled with nitrogen. This cycle was repeated three times. Then, formic acid (322 mg, 7.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) and acetic anhydride (715 mg, 7.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) were added. The mixture was stirred at 60°C for 2 h for *in-situ* preparation of acetic formic anhydride. A solution of 4-aminopyrene^[S5] (761 mg, 3.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (35 mL) was prepared in another oven-dried two-neck round-bottom flask, and the preformed acetic formic anhydride solution was injected to the 4-aminopyrene solution at 0°C. After stirring the resulting solution at rt for 17 h, sat. aq. NaHCO₃ solution was added to quench the reaction. The resulting precipitate was obtained by filtration and washed with H₂O, MeOH and then Et₂O. The resulting solid was dried under reduced pressure which gave formamide as a white solid. This was used for the next step without further purification.

An oven-dried two-neck round-bottom flask was connected to a vacuum/nitrogen manifold through a rubber tube. It was evacuated and then backfilled with nitrogen. This cycle was repeated three times. This flask was charged with *N*-(pyrene-4-yl)formamide prepared by the above procedure. The CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) and *N*-ethyldiisopropylamine (1.940 g, 15 mmol, 5.0 equiv) were added. POCl₃ (920 mg, 6.0 mmol, 2.0 equiv) was added dropwise at 0°C. After stirring at 0°C for 17 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with CH₂Cl₂, and washed with sat. aq. NaHCO₃ solution. The solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, and then washed with H₂O. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and then evaporated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CH₂Cl₂/hexane = 3:1) to give an analytically pure **4** as white solid (589 mg, 2.6 mmol, 86%).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 8.04 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (s, 1H), 8.25 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 120.7 (*C*H), 123.0 (*C*NAr), 123.7 (*C*), 124.4 (*C*), 125.0 (*C*), 125.9 (*C*H), 126.1 (*C*H), 126.6 (3*C*H), 127.0 (*C*H), 127.50 (*C*H), 127.54 (*C*H), 129.0 (*C*), 130.9 (*C*), 131.1 (*C*), 167.2 (*C*). MS-ESI (*m*/*z*): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₇H₁₀N, 228.0808; found, 228.0806. Anal. Calcd for C₁₇H₉N: C, 89.84; H, 3.99; N, 6.16. Found: C, 89.78; H, 3.95; N, 6.09.

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Synthesis of 1

Pyrene 1 was reported previously,^[S6] and we also prepared 1 according to the procedure described for 4. NMR spectra of 1 agreed well with that previously reported.

3. Photophysical properties of 1 and 4

	$arPhi_{ m em}$ / ½ å	$ au_{\rm av}$ / ns ($\lambda_{\rm em}$ / nm) ^{a,b}	$\tau_1 / ns (A / -)$	$\tau_2 / ns (A / -)$
1	48	61 (495)	61 (1.00)	-
1 in CH ₂ Cl ₂ ^c	30	13 (383)	13 (1.00)	-
4	51	38 (452)	29 (0.72)	52 (0.28)
4 in CH ₂ Cl ₂ ^c	25	17 (379)	17 (1.00)	-
a. $1 - 265$ mm b	-(-24) + -24) $c_0 = 5.0 \text{ mM}$	

Table S1 Photophysical properties of 1 and 4.

^a: $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 365 \text{ nm}$. ^b: $\tau_{\text{av}} = (\tau_1^2 A_1 + \tau_2^2 A_2 + \cdots) / (\tau_1 A_1 + \tau_2 A_2 + \cdots)$. ^c $c = 5.0 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$



Fig. S1 a,c) Absorption and b,d) emission spectra ($\lambda_{ex} = 365 \text{ nm}$) of a monomeric state (in CH₂Cl₂, *c* = 5.0 μ M, red lines) and solid state (black lines) of a,b) **1** and c,d) **4**).



Fig. S2 Concentration-dependent UV-vis absorption spectra of 4 in CH₂Cl₂ (c = 5.0 or 20 μ M). Spectral overlap indicates the monomeric nature of 4 under this concentration range although the absorption band is relatively broad.



Fig. S3 Emission decay profiles of a) **1** and b) **4** in solid and solution state (in CH₂Cl₂, $c = 5.0 \mu$ M). Excitation wavelength: 365 nm. Monitoring emission wavelengths are summarized in Table S1.



Fig. S4 Normalized absorption spectra of the solid sample of 1 (black line) and 4 (red line) based on the diffuse reflection spectra.

4. Structure analyses of 1 and 4

crystal	1 ^e	4
CCDC Number	-	2312583
Empirical Formula	C ₁₇ H ₉ N	C ₁₇ H ₉ N
Formula Weight	227.25	227.25
Crystal System	triclinic	monoclinic
Crystal Size / mm	0.83×0.34×0.12	0.41×0.03×0.03
<i>a</i> / Å	6.8755(4)	3.8023(2)
b / Å	8.5851(4)	17.9097(9)
<i>c</i> / Å	9.9559(6)	15.9061(8)
α / °	105.752(5)	90
eta / °	97.935(5)	93.960(4)
γ / °	98.993(5)	90
$V/Å^3$	548.48(6)	1080.59(10)
Space Group	<i>P</i> -1	$P2_{1}/c$
Z value	2	4
$D_{ m calc}$ / g cm ⁻³	1.376	1.397
Temperature / K	100.00(10)	100.00(10)
$2 heta_{ m max}$ / °	154.694	154.162
μ (Cu K _a) / mm ⁻¹	0.623	0.632
No. of Reflections	6239	5540
R_1^a	0.0422	0.0870
wR_2^{b}	0.1401	0.2583
GOF ^c	1.107	1.119
Max./Mini. peak I ^d / Å ³	0.26/-0.23	0.91/-0.34

Table S2 Summary of X-ray crystallographic data

^a: $I > 2.00\sigma(I)$. ^b: All reflections. ^c: Goodness of Fit Indicator. ^d: in Final Diff. Map. ^e: This crystal structure was reported previously.^[S7]



Fig. S5 Single crystal structure of 1.



Fig. S6 Single crystal structure of 4.

5. Theoretical analyses of 1 and 4



Fig. S7 Optimized structure of a monomer under vacuum condition (b3lyp/6-31+g(d)). All calculations were performed using the Gaussian 09W (revision C.01) and Gaussian 09 program packages.^[S8] In the calculations, the 6-31+g(d) basis set and B3LYP functionals were used and estimated the dipole moment of **1** and **4**. Molecular orbitals were drawn using GaussView 6.1.1.



Fig. S8 Schematic representation of the dipole moment (depicted by the arrows) within the *bc* plane of the crystalline lattice of **4**.

<u>6. Photophysical properties of the ground phases</u>

1	10			
-	48	61 (495)	61 (1.00)	-
1_{after}	37	45 (478)	20 (0.32)	50 (0.68)
4	51	38 (452)	29 (0.72)	52 (0.28)
4 _{after}	33	31 (470)	16 (0.66)	43 (0.34)

Table S3 Photophysical properties of 1, 1after, 4 and 4after.

^a: $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 365 \text{ nm.}$ ^b: $\tau_{\text{av}} = (\tau_1^2 A_1 + \tau_2^2 A_2 + \cdots) / (\tau_1 A_1 + \tau_2 A_2 + \cdots).$



Fig. S9 Emission decay profiles of a) 1 (monitored at 495 nm), 1_{after} (monitored at 478 nm), b) 4 (monitored at 452 nm) and 4_{after} (monitored at 470 nm). Excitation wavelength are 365 nm.



Fig. S10 a) Chemical structure of unsubstituted pyrene. b) Photographs of pyrene before and after mechanical stimulation taken under UV light (365 nm). c) Emission spectra of solid sample of pyrene upon excitation at 365 nm.



Fig. S11 Schematic representation of torsional angle θ_t within the stacked dimer. As reported previously,^[S9] dipole–dipole interactions are affected by θ_t and θ_r as well as dipole moment and relative distance (*r*).

7. Thermal Responses of 1 and 4



Fig. S12 a) Photographs of 1 upon heating and subsequent cooling (under UV light). b) Emission spectra of 1 [the sample denoted as "I" in a), black line], the thermally treated sample [denoted as "III" in a), light blue line] and 1_{after} obtained by grinding (reference, red dotted line). Excitation at 365 nm. c) A simulated powder pattern of 1 [the sample denoted as "I" in a), black line] and PXRD patterns of the thermally treated sample [denoted as "III" in a), light blue line] and 1_{after} obtained by mechanical stimulation (red line; the reference sample). The yellow line in c) is the PXRD pattern of the "intermediate" sample of 1, which was obtained from heating for a short time and then cool to rt This indicates the coexistence of the original 1 and 1_{after} .



Fig. S13 DSC traces of a) 1 and b) 4 with a heating rate of 5.0° C/min.



Fig. S14 Thermogravimetric traces of a) **1** and b) **4** with a heating rate of 4.0°C/min. Note: Below the phase transition temperature (100°C for **1** and 155°C for **4**), **1** and **4** did not show clear decrease of the weight.



Fig. S15 a) Photographs of **4** upon heating and subsequent cooling (under UV light). b) Emission spectra of **4** [the sample denoted as "**I**" in a), black line], the thermally treated sample [denoted as "**III**" in a), light blue line] and **4**_{after} obtained by grinding (reference, red dotted line). Excitation at 365 nm. c) A simulated powder pattern of **4** [the sample denoted as "**I**" in a), black line] and PXRD patterns of the thermally treated sample [denoted as "**III**" in a), light blue line] and **4**_{after} obtained by mechanical stimulation (red line).

8. Sublimation of 1 and 4



Fig. S16 a) Photographs of the solid samples of **1** before and after the sublimation experiment. b) Photographs of the sublimated solid of **1** derived from the upper part of the glassware. Note: Under 2.5 mbar, the flask containing the solid samples of **1** was gradually heated. At 40°C, the sublimation was started. Further increase of the temperature resulted in the sublimation of all the samples of **1** at 100°C. The purity of the sublimated solid was confirmed by the ¹H NMR study after dissolution in CDCl₃ as shown in Fig. S17. The crystallinity of the sublimated sample is implied by the clear birefringence under crossed Nicols observation (data not shown).



Figure S17 NMR spectrum of the sublimated solid of 1 in CDCl₃.



Fig. S18 a) Photographs of the solid samples of **4** before and after the sublimation experiment. b) Photographs of the sublimated solid of **4** derived from the upper part of the glassware. Note: Under 2.5 mbar, the flask containing the solid samples of **4** was gradually heated. At 50°C, the sublimation was started. Further increase of the temperature resulted in the sublimation of almost all the samples of **4** at 120°C. The purity of the sublimated solid was confirmed by the ¹H NMR study after dissolution in CDCl₃ as shown in Fig. S19. The crystallinity of the sublimated sample is implied by the clear birefringence under crossed Nicols observation (data not shown).



Figure S19 NMR spectrum of the sublimated solid of 4 in CDCl₃.

9. References

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