Cd(II) complexes of 9-anthracenyl-4'-benzoate and 4-pyridyl vinyl arenes: effect of steric hindrance in the solid-state photoreactivity

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1. Crystallographic data

| Compd. | 9-AnBzH·DMF | 1 | 2 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| CCDC No. | 2394023 | 2394024 | 2394025 |
| Formula | $C_{24}H_{21}NO_3$ | $\mathrm{C_{70}H_{56}CdN_2O_7}$ | $C_{154}H_{112}Cd_2N_4O_{10}\\$ |
| Formula weight (g.mol ⁻¹) | 371.42 | 1149.58 | 2403.30 |
| Temperature (K) | 298(2) | 298(2) | 298(2) |
| Radiation, λ (Å) | Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$) | Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$) | Mo K α ($\lambda = 0.71073$) |
| Crystal Colour, habit | Colourless, Block | Colourless, Block | Yellow, Block |
| Crystal size (mm ³) | 0.380 x 0.250 x 0.190 | 0.270 x 0.130 x 0.100 | 0.256 x 0.122 x 0.119 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Triclinic | Triclinic |
| Space Group | $P2_{1}/c$ | $P\overline{1}$ | $P\overline{1}$ |
| Unit cell dimensions | | | |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 15.5236(5) | 7.2804(5) | 14.4148(4) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 7.6804(2) | 13.7782(10) | 15.8764(5) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 18.3531(5) | 15.2825(11) | 16.3965(5) |
| α (°) | 90 | 106.655(2) | 61.050(2) |
| β (°) | 114.761(1) | 92.239(2) | 75.044(3) |
| γ (⁰) | 90 | 103.923(2) | 63.886(5) |
| Volume (Å ³) | 1987.02(10) | 1415.88(18) | 2943.5(2) |
| Ζ | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Calculated density (Mg.m ⁻³) | 1.242 | 1.351 | 1.356 |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 0.082 | 0.444 | 0.428 |
| θ range (°) | 2.259 to 26.368 | 2.426 to 26.020 | 2.182 to 26.371 |
| Reflections collected | 19957 | 38719 | 112254 |
| Independent reflections | 4051 | 5533 | 12026 |
| Parameters/ restraints | 297/20 | 369/6 | 771/0 |
| GooF on F ² | 1.058 | 1.123 | 1.110 |
| $R_1[I > 2\sigma(I)]$ | 0.0463 (3176) | 0.0842 (5341) | 0.0317 (10281) |
| wR ₂ (all data) | 0.1343 (4051) | 0.2528 (5533) | 0.0903 (12026) |
| Maximum/minimum residual electron density (e.Å ⁻³) | 0.153/-0.146 | 5.299/-0.782 | 0.619/-0.511 |

Table S1. Crystallographic data for ligand and complexes 1-4

| Compd. | 3 | 4 |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CCDC No. | 2394026 | 2394027 |
| Formula | $C_{152}H_{104}Cd_2N_4O_8\\$ | $C_{86}H_{64}CdN_2O_6$ |
| Formula weight (g.mol ⁻¹) | 2339.22 | 1333.80 |
| Temperature (K) | 298(2) | 295(2) |
| Radiation, λ (Å) | Mo Ka ($\lambda = 0.71073$) | Mo K α (λ = 0.71073) |
| Crystal Colour, habit | Colourless, Block | Yellow, Block |
| Crystal size (mm ³) | 0.230 x 120 x 100 | 0.330 x 0.190 x 0.110 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space Group | C2/c | $P2_{1}/n$ |
| Unit cell dimensions | | |
| <i>a</i> (Å) | 20.408(6) | 15.144(4) |
| <i>b</i> (Å) | 27.538(9) | 14.803(5) |
| <i>c</i> (Å) | 22.646(4) | 15.759(4) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 112.654(8) | 109.241(11) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 |
| Volume (Å ³) | 11745(6) | 3335.5(17) |
| Ζ | 4 | 2 |
| Calculated density (Mg.m ⁻³) | 1.323 | 1.328 |
| μ (mm ⁻¹) | 0.426 | 0.386 |
| θ range (°) | 2.163 to 26.372 | 1.941 to 26.370 |
| Reflections collected | 119334 | 48177 |
| Independent reflections | 12013 | 6818 |
| Parameters/ restraints | 767/44 | 435/1 |
| GooF on F ² | 1.080 | 1.094 |
| $R_1[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$ | 0.0395 (9907) | 0.0372 (5673) |
| wR ₂ (all data) | 0.0943 (12013) | 0.1027 (6818) |
| Maximum/minimum residual electron density (e.Å ⁻³) | 0.444/-0.269 | 1.049/-0.275 |

2. Additional structural diagrams



Fig. S1. Crystal packing of 1 showing C-H··· π weak interactions, viewed approximately along the *a*-direction.



Fig. S2. The observed *head-to-tail* alignment of **4-StPy** is suitable for [2 + 2] photocycloaddition reaction in **1**, where the *head-to-head* alignment of **4-StPy** is unsuitable. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Fig. S3. Packing of 1 viewed along the *a*-direction.



Fig. S4. The intermolecular interactions of $C-H\cdots\pi$, $O-H\cdotsO$ and $\pi\cdots\pi$ interactions observed in **2**. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S5. The $\pi \cdots \pi$ interactions between the observed between naphthalene moieties, and between naphthalene and anthracene moieties in 2. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Fig. S6. The $\pi \cdots \pi$ interactions between the two different 9-AnBz moieties in 2. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Fig. S7. Two neighbouring complexes of **2-NVP** ligands form $C-H\cdots\pi$ interactions with pyridyl C-H bonds and naphthalene moieties in **3**. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S8. The C–H··· π interactions between the two different **9-AnBz** moieties in **3**. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S9. The C–H··· π interactions between the **9-AnBz** and **2-NVP** ring in **3** were observed. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S10. Additional C–H··· π interactions in 3. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S11. Anthracene moieties exert $C-H\cdots\pi$ interactions separately with the phenyl C-H bonds of other 9-AnBz ligands in 3. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S12. The C–H··· π , O–H···O, and π ··· π interactions present in the crystal packing of **4.** Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S13. The C–H…O interaction was observed between the anthracene C–H bonds and carboxyl-O of **9-AnBz** in **4.** Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.



Fig. S14. Additional C–H \cdots π interaction between the methanol and anthracene moiety in **4**. Only selected hydrogen atoms are shown for clarity.

3. Powder X-ray diffraction



Fig. S15. Simulated PXRD pattern of 1 agrees with the experimentally observed pattern.



Fig. S16. Comparison of the simulated and observed PXRD patterns of 2.



Fig. S17. Simulated PXRD pattern of 3 matches with the experimentally observed pattern.



Fig. S18. Simulated and experimentally observed PXRD patterns of 4. Their disagreement suggests the presence of a mixture of compounds.

4. Solid state UV-Vis absorption (DRS)



Fig. S19. Solid-state absorption (DRS) spectra of 1 - 4.

5. NMR spectroscopy



Fig. S21. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6) spectrum of **9-AnBzH**.



Fig. S22. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectrum of **1**.



Fig. S23. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectrum of **1** after exposure to sunlight for a few days suggests the photodimerization of **4-StPy** ligand.



Fig. S25. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectrum of **3**.



Fig. S26. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) spectrum of **4**.

6. Thermogravimetric analysis







Fig. S28. TGA plot of 1.





Fig. S30. TGA plot of 3.



Fig. S31. TGA plot of 4.

7. FT-IR spectroscopy



Fig. S32. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) spectrum of 1.



Fig. S33. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) spectrum of 2.



Fig. S34. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) spectrum of 3.



Fig. S35. FT-IR (KBr, cm⁻¹) spectrum of 4.