Supplementary Information (SI) for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics. This journal is © the Owner Societies 2025

#### **Supporting Information**

# Buchwald-Hartwig Aminated Pyrene-Heterocycles with Host-Guest-Enhanced NIR Phosphorescence: DFT-Guided Design Toward Breast Cancer Imaging Probes

Kaixuan Hu<sup>1, 2†</sup>, Shufeng Chen<sup>2†</sup>, Xinmin Wang<sup>1†</sup>, Lingkai Tang<sup>3</sup>, Yan Cheng<sup>1</sup>, Yuting Song<sup>1</sup>, Hubing Shi<sup>1</sup>, Jing Jing<sup>1</sup>, Jianping Hu<sup>2\*</sup>, Ting Luo<sup>1\*</sup>
<sup>1</sup>Breast Health Medical Research Institute, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

- <sup>2</sup> Key Laboratory of Medicinal and Edible Plants Resources Development of Sichuan Education Department, School of Pharmacy, Chengdu University, Chengdu, China
- <sup>3</sup> College of Chemistry and Life Science, Beijing University of Technology, Beijing, China
- † These authors contributed equally to this work.
- \* Correspondence: hjpcdu@163.com (Jianping Hu); luotingwch@163.com (T.L.)

#### 1 General procedure for the synthesis of target compounds

 $^{1}$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR both were recorded on a Bruker 400 spectrometer.  $^{1}$ H NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm (δ), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublets, dq = doublet of quarter, dt = doublet of triplet, qd = quarter of doublet, qt= quarter of triplet, td = triplet of doublet, tq = triplet of quarter), coupling constant (Hz), relative intensity.  $^{13}$ C NMR data are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm (δ).

#### 1.1 Synthesis of Se-pyrene

Under nitrogen protection, 1-bromopyrene (422.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), 10H-phenoselenazine (553.9 mg, 2.25 mmol), NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (378.0 mg, 4.5 mmol), and tetrakis (triphenylphosphine) palladium (174.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) were dissolved in 1,4-dioxane and water (5:1, 2.5 ml:0.5 ml). The reaction was carried out using a fully automated microwave synthesizer at 120 °C for 1.0 h. When the reaction was complete, the reaction was detected using thin layer chromatography, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and finally the crude product was obtained by distillation of the organic phase under reduced pressure. The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography and eluted with gradient of ethyl acetate/hexane (0-20%) to obtain the brown solid product Se-pyrene. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  8.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.14 – 8.05 (m, 4H), 8.02 – 7.93 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (td, J = 7.4, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.69 – 6.62 (m, 2H), 6.12 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  144.51 (s), 135.27 (s), 131.85 – 130.90 (m), 130.17 (s), 129.35 (t, J = 31.3 Hz), 128.34 (s), 127.21 (d, J = 16.6 Hz), 126.17 (dd, J = 48.8, 21.8 Hz), 124.75 (s), 123.03 (d, J = 7.7 Hz), 117.46 (s), 115.47 (s).

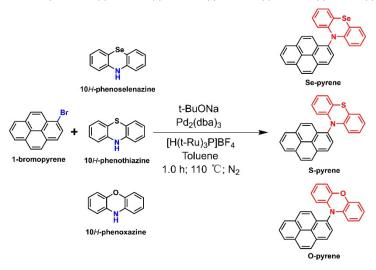
## 1.2 Synthesis of S-pyrene:

Under nitrogen protection, 1-bromopyrene (422.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), 10H-phenothiazine (448.4 mg, 2.25 mmol), NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (378.0 mg, 4.5 mmol), and tetrakis (triphenylphosphine) palladium (174.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) were dissolved in 1,4-dioxane and water (5:1, 2.5 ml:0.5 ml). The reaction was carried out using a fully automated microwave synthesizer at 120 °C for 1.0 h. When the reaction was complete, the reaction was detected using thin layer chromatography, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the crude product was obtained by distillation of the organic phase under reduced pressure. The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography and eluted with gradient of ethyl acetate/hexane (0-20%) to obtain the brown solid product S-pyrene. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  8.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 – 8.07 (m, 5H), 8.05 – 7.96 (m, 3H), 6.99 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (td, J = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 6.63 – 6.56 (m, 2H), 5.88 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  144.16 (s), 134.11 (s), 129.14 (d, J = 14.1 Hz), 128.38 (s), 127.03 (d, J = 18.0 Hz), 126.73 – 126.29 (m), 125.83 (d, J = 4.5 Hz), 122.78 (s), 122.44 (s), 119.66 (s), 115.98 (s), 77.29 (d, J = 11.5 Hz), 77.03 (s), 76.71 (s).

## 1.3 Synthesis of O-pyrene

Under nitrogen protection, 1-bromopyrene (422.0 mg, 1.5 mmol), 10*H*-phenoxazine (412.2 mg, 2.25 mmol), NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (378.0 mg, 4.5 mmol), and tetrakis (triphenylphosphine) palladium (174.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) were dissolved in 1,4-dioxane and water (5:1, 2.5 ml:0.5 ml). The reaction was carried out using a fully automated microwave synthesizer at 120 °C for 1.0 h. When the reaction was complete, the reaction was detected using thin layer chromatography, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, extracted with ethyl acetate, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the crude product was obtained by distillation of the organic phase under reduced pressure. The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography and eluted with gradient of ethyl acetate/hexane (0-20%) to obtain the brown solid product O-pyrene. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.30 (dd, J = 7.9, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.23 – 8.06 (m, 5H), 8.04 – 7.92 (m, 3H), 6.71 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (s, 2H), 6.39 (dd, J = 11.1, 4.3 Hz, 2H)

2H), 5.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H).  $^{13}$ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  144.02 (s), 134.63 (s), 132.13 – 131.17 (m), 129.09 (s), 128.40 (s), 127.10 (s), 126.85 (s), 126.51 (s), 125.83 (d, J = 7.6 Hz), 123.40 (s), 122.40 (s), 121.39 (s), 115.46 (s), 113.61 (s), 77.34 (s), 77.03 (s), 76.71 (s).



Scheme S1. The synthetic route of the Se-pyrene, S-pyrene and O-pyrene compounds.

## 1.4 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) Spectrum of Se-pyrene

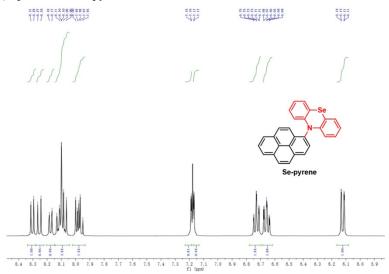


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Se-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

# $1.5\ ^1H$ NMR (400 MHz, CDCl3) Spectrum of S-pyrene

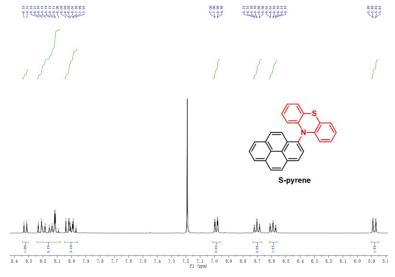


Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

# 1.6 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) Spectrum of O-pyrene

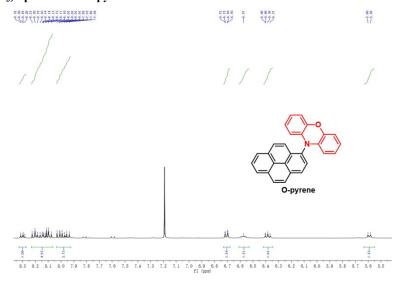


Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

# 1.7 <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) Spectrum of Se-pyrene

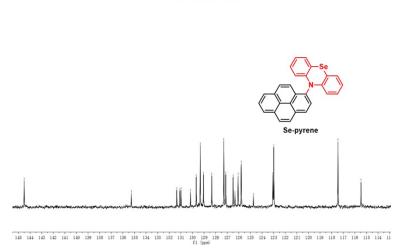


Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Se-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

# 1.8 <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) Spectrum of S-pyrene

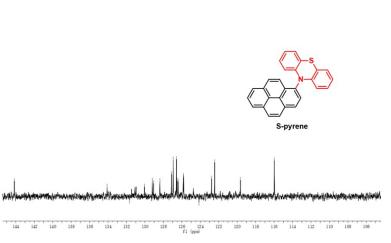


Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of S-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

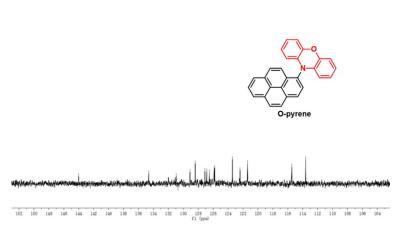


Figure S6. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of O-pyrene (in CDCl<sub>3</sub>).

#### 2 Theoretical calculation

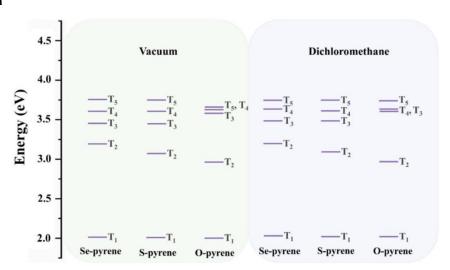


Figure S7. Diagrams of the TD-DFT calculated energy levels

Table S1. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound Se-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level, where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
S <sub>1</sub>	3.986	<u>3.235</u>	3.347
$S_2$	4.014	<u>3.601</u>	3.606
$S_3$	4.033	<u>3.731</u>	3.734
$S_4$	4.219	<u>3.882</u>	4.093
$S_5$	4.648	<u>4.210</u>	4.320
T <sub>1</sub>	2.017	1.577	0.836
$T_2$	3.185	<u>2.580</u>	3.149
$T_3$	3.461	3.277	<u>3.163</u>
$T_4$	3.623	<u>3.352</u>	3.469
T <sub>5</sub>	3.758	3.422	3.487

Table S2. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound S-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level, where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
S <sub>1</sub>	3.910	3.181	3.163
$S_2$	4.013	3.497	<u>3.479</u>
$S_3$	4.033	3.733	<u>3.684</u>
$S_4$	4.151	3.883	<u>3.856</u>
$S_5$	4.593	4.201	<u>4.191</u>
T <sub>1</sub>	2.011	1.577	<u>1.496</u>
$T_2$	3.075	2.469	<u>2.463</u>
$T_3$	3.457	3.231	<u>3.206</u>
$T_4$	3.620	3.320	<u>3.317</u>
$T_5$	3.756	3.421	<u>3.385</u>

Table S3. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound O-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level, where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
S <sub>1</sub>	3.710	3.181	3.172
$S_2$	4.012	<u>3.497</u>	3.683
$S_3$	4.037	<u>3.733</u>	3.786
$S_4$	4.134	3.883	<u>3.857</u>
$S_5$	4.489	<u>4.201</u>	4.263
T <sub>1</sub>	2.007	1.577	<u>1.490</u>
$T_2$	2.968	<u>2.469</u>	2.671
$T_3$	3.616	3.231	<u>3.172</u>
$T_4$	3.620	<u>3.320</u>	3.379
$T_5$	3.659	<u>3.421</u>	3.538

Table S4. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound Se-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level (PCM: dichloromethane), where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
S <sub>1</sub>	3.935	3.256	3.205
$S_2$	4.014	<u>3.667</u>	3.731
$S_3$	4.054	3.803	<u>3.757</u>
$S_4$	4.310	<u>3.859</u>	4.125
$S_5$	4.634	<u>4.297</u>	4.301
T <sub>1</sub>	2.029	1.411	0.865
$T_2$	3.203	<u>2.811</u>	3.172
$T_3$	3.486	3.303	<u>3.172</u>
$T_4$	3.630	<u>3.387</u>	3.486
T <sub>5</sub>	3.746	<u>3.478</u>	3.495

Table S5. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound S-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level (PCM: dichloromethane), where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
S <sub>1</sub>	3.933	<u>3.201</u>	3.322
$S_2$	3.994	3.574	<u>3.508</u>
$S_3$	4.014	3.752	<u>3.559</u>
$S_4$	4.239	<u>3.819</u>	3.845
$S_5$	4.576	4.238	<u>4.151</u>
T <sub>1</sub>	2.024	1.428	1.493
$T_2$	3.094	2.643	<u>2.469</u>
$T_3$	3.482	<u>3.249</u>	3.330
$T_4$	3.629	<u>3.384</u>	3.386
$T_5$	3.746	3.420	<u>3.403</u>

Table S6. The  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  excitation energy (n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in ev of compound O-pyrene calculated at the TD- $\omega$ B97X-D3/6-31G (d, p) level (PCM: dichloromethane), where the smallest  $S_n$  and  $T_n$  energies are underlined.

State	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
$S_1$	3.862	3.102	3.186
$S_2$	3.934	3.740	<u>3.652</u>
$S_3$	4.015	3.838	<u>3.731</u>
$S_4$	4.117	3.885	<u>3.820</u>
$S_5$	4.487	4.304	<u>4.211</u>
T <sub>1</sub>	2.019	<u>1.421</u>	1.482
$T_2$	2.972	2.810	<u>2.620</u>
$T_3$	3.630	<u>3.153</u>	3.171
$T_4$	3.632	<u>3.377</u>	3.381
T <sub>5</sub>	3.735	<u>3.498</u>	3.505

Table S7. Absolute value of SOCMEs (cm<sup>-1</sup>) calculated at TD-ωB97X-D3/def2-TZVP(-f) level of theory of compound Se-pyrene (PCM: dichloromethane).

Transition type	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
$ \langle T_1   H_{SOC}   S_0 \rangle $	0.000	0.558	0.000
$\left \left\langle T_{2}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{0}\right\rangle \right $	147.4	78.79	0.950
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	10.14	43.74	146.8
$\left \left\langle T_{4}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	0.930	35.71	3.170
$\left  \left\langle T_{5}  \middle   H_{SOC}  \middle   S_{0} \right\rangle \right $	0.150	30.60	11.39
$\left \left\langle T_{1}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{1}\right\rangle \right $	0.000	1.262	0.000
$\left \left\langle T_{2}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.282	1.882	0.050
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.010	1.185	0.253
$\left \left\langle T_{4}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.050	0.703	0.070
$\left \left\langle T_{5}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{1}\right\rangle \right $	0.070	2.717	0.140

Table S8. Absolute value of SOCMEs (cm<sup>-1</sup>) calculated at TD-ωB97X-D3/def2-TZVP(-f) level of theory of compound S-pyrene (PCM: dichloromethane).

Transition type	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
$\left \left\langle T_{1}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{0}\right\rangle \right $	0.020	0.244	0.010
$\left  \left\langle T_{2}  \middle   H_{SOC}  \middle   S_{0} \right\rangle \right $	24.99	9.282	2.417
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	2.930	4.177	0.421
$\left  \left\langle T_4  \middle   H_{SOC}  \middle   S_0 \right\rangle \right $	0.210	1.668	0.073
$\left \left\langle T_{5}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	0.040	6.741	1.306
$\left \left\langle T_{1}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.000	0.238	0.262
$\left \left\langle T_{2}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.108	0.591	0.400
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.030	0.325	0.322
$\left \left\langle T_{4}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.040	0.102	0.112
$\left \left\langle T_{5}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.070	0.410	0.580

 $\textbf{Table S9}. \ \ \textbf{Absolute value of SOCMEs (cm$^{-1}$) calculated at $TD$-$\omega$B97X-D3/def2-TZVP(-f) level of theory of compound $\textbf{O-pyrene (PCM: dichloromethane)}.}$ 

Transition type	S <sub>0</sub> geometry	S <sub>1</sub> geometry	T <sub>1</sub> geometry
$ \langle T_1   H_{SOC}   S_0 \rangle $	0.010	0.287	0.108
$\left \left\langle T_{2}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{0}\right\rangle \right $	0.323	0.737	0.720
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	0.240	1.236	1.292
$\left \left\langle T_{4}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{0}\rangle\right $	0.420	0.297	0.249
$\left  \left\langle T_{5}  \middle   H_{SOC}  \middle   S_{0} \right\rangle \right $	0.290	0.721	0.580
$\left \left\langle T_{1}\right H_{SOC}\left S_{1}\right\rangle \right $	0.772	0.601	0.625
$\left \left\langle T_{2}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.850	0.786	0.776
$\left \left\langle T_{3}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.271	0.299	0.271
$\left \left\langle T_{4}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.455	0.191	0.108
$\left \left\langle T_{5}\right H_{SOC}\right S_{1}\rangle\right $	0.242	0.457	0.457