

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR

# Switchable polarity solvent (SPS) systems: probing solvatoswitching with a spiropyran (SP) - merocyanine (MC) photoswitch

Alaina R. Boyd,<sup>a</sup> Philip G. Jessop,<sup>a</sup> Julian M. Dust,<sup>b</sup> and Erwin Buncel<sup>a</sup>

### Contents:

**Table S1:** Table of experimental<sup>a</sup> and calculated<sup>b</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic parameters for the 1,4-methoxide addition product, **11a**.

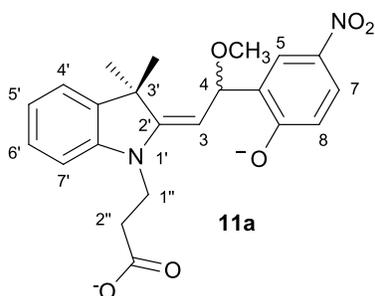
**Table S2:** Table of experimental<sup>a</sup> and calculated<sup>b</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic parameters for the 1,2-methoxide addition product, **11b**.

**Figure S1:** MC, **2**, in PrOH with 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (TMG) (0.01:1 v/v). With the addition of TMG absorbance for MC is reduced and the species at 420 nm is observed.

**Figure S2:** MC, **2**, in PrOH with N-tert-butyl-N',N'-dimethylformamidinium (BDF) (0.01:1 v/v). The BDF reduces the MC absorbance at 545 nm to a lesser extent than TMG or DBU.

**Figure S3:** MC, **2**, in PrOH with pyridine (0.01:1 v/v). The addition of pyridine has no effect on the absorbance of MC at 545 nm or on the rate of reversion back to SP.

**Figure S4:** MC, **2**, in PrOH with N-ethylbutylamine (0.01:1 v/v). The addition of the amine has no effect on the absorbance of MC at 545 nm or on the rate of reversion back to SP.



**Table S1:** Table of experimental<sup>a</sup> and calculated<sup>b</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic parameters for the 1,4-methoxide addition product, **11a**.<sup>1</sup>

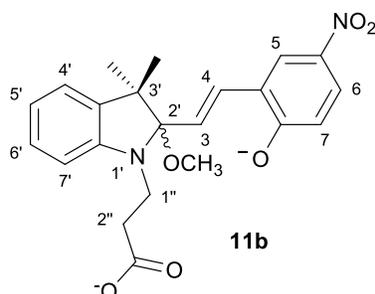
Proton	Experimental	Calculated
H-3	<sup>c</sup>	5.45, d, J = 6.2
H-4	5.91, br s.	4.81, d, J = 6.2
H-5	8.10, d, J = 2.8	8.25, d, J = 1.5
H-7	8.03, d, d, H = 8.7, 2.8	7.99, d, d, J = 7.5, 1.5
H-8	6.79, d, J = 8.7	6.34, d, J = 7.5
H-4'	7.1, m <sup>d</sup>	7.08, d,d, J = 7.5, 1.5
H-5'	<sup>d</sup>	6.69, m, J = 7.5, 7.5, 1.5
H-6'	<sup>d</sup>	7.05, m, J = 7.5, 7.5, 1.5
H-7'	<sup>d</sup>	6.23, d, d, J = 7.5, 1.5
CH <sub>3</sub> O-4	<sup>c</sup>	3.30, s
CH <sub>3</sub> -3'	1.49, 1.69, s	1.69, s
H-1''	<sup>c</sup>	3.39, t, J = 7.1
H-2''	<sup>c</sup>	2.63, t, J=7.1

<sup>a</sup>Recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-300 spectrometer (300.01 MHz), CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CD<sub>3</sub>ONa. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are listed in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) are given in Hertz (Hz).

<sup>b</sup>ChemNMR <sup>1</sup>H Estimation from ChemDraw program using additivity rules for chemical shifts.

<sup>c</sup>Not observed either due to exchange with the medium or overlap with more intense signals of other species in solution.

<sup>d</sup>Unresolved multiplet overlaps other aromatic ring proton signals.



**Table S2:** Table of experimental<sup>a</sup> and calculated<sup>b</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic parameters for the 1,2-methoxide addition product, **11b**.<sup>1</sup>

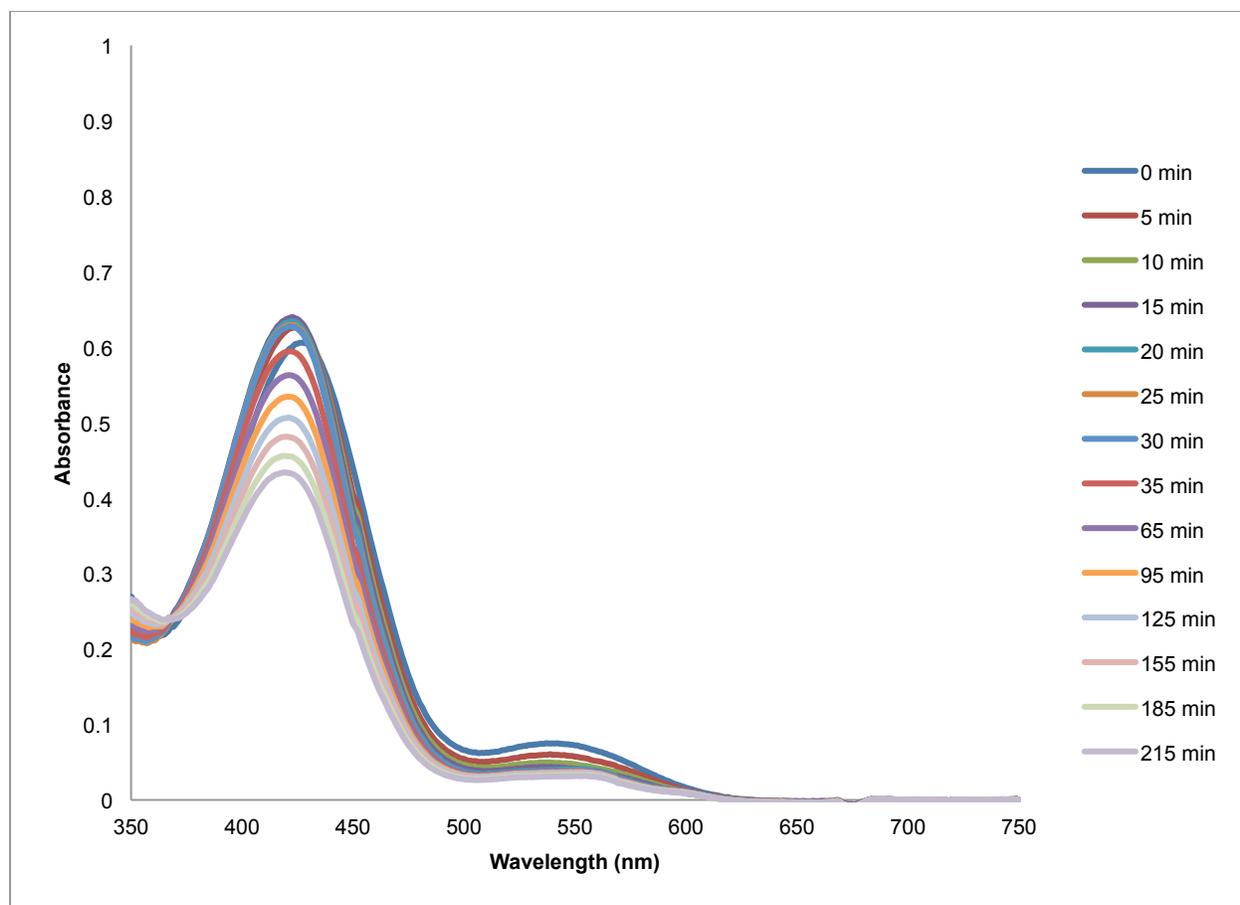
Proton	Experimental	Calculated
H-3	<sup>c</sup>	6.50, d, J = 15.1
H-4	7.1, m <sup>d</sup>	6.76, d, J = 15.1
H-5	8.41, d, J = 3.1	7.93, d, J = 1.5
H-7	7.96, d, d, H = 9.3, 3.1	7.94, d, d, J = 7.5, 1.5
H-8	6.55, d, J = 9.3	6.36, d, J = 7.5
H-4'	7.1, m <sup>d</sup>	7.06, d,d, J = 7.5, 1.5
H-5'	<sup>d</sup>	6.71, m, J = 7.5, 7.5, 1.5
H-6'	<sup>d</sup>	7.07, m, J = 7.5, 7.5, 1.5
H-7'	<sup>d</sup>	6.56, d, d, J = 7.5, 1.5
CH <sub>3</sub> O-4	<sup>c</sup>	3.30, s
CH <sub>3</sub> -3'	1.17, 1.27, s	1.40, s
H-1''	<sup>c</sup>	3.68, t, J = 7.1
H-2''	<sup>c</sup>	2.63, t, J=7.1

<sup>a</sup>Recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-300 spectrometer (300.01 MHz), CD<sub>3</sub>OD/CD<sub>3</sub>ONa. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are listed in parts per million (ppm) and coupling constants (J) are given in Hertz (Hz).

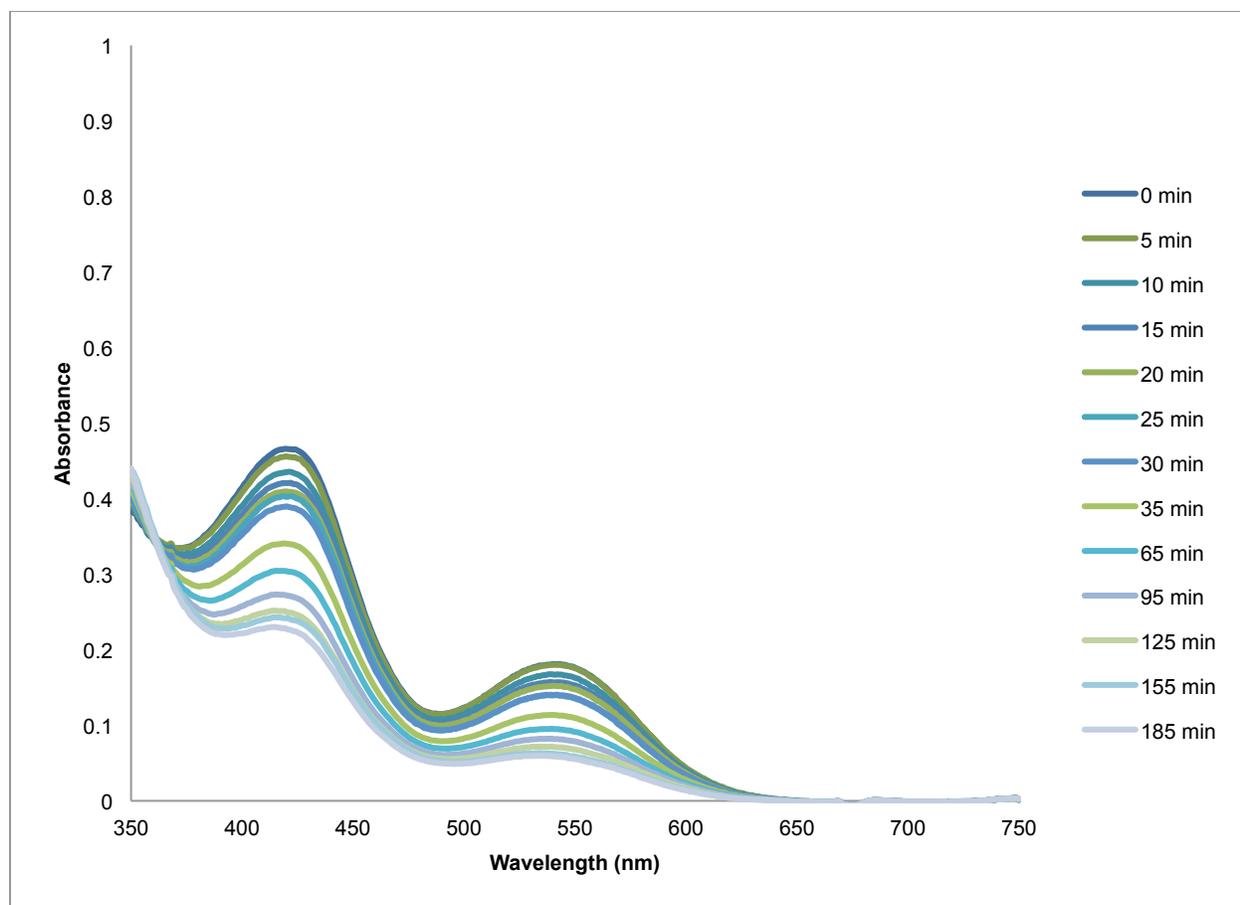
<sup>b</sup>ChemNMR <sup>1</sup>H Estimation from ChemDraw program using additivity rules for chemical shifts.

<sup>c</sup>Not observed either due to exchange with the medium or overlap with more intense signals of other species in solution.

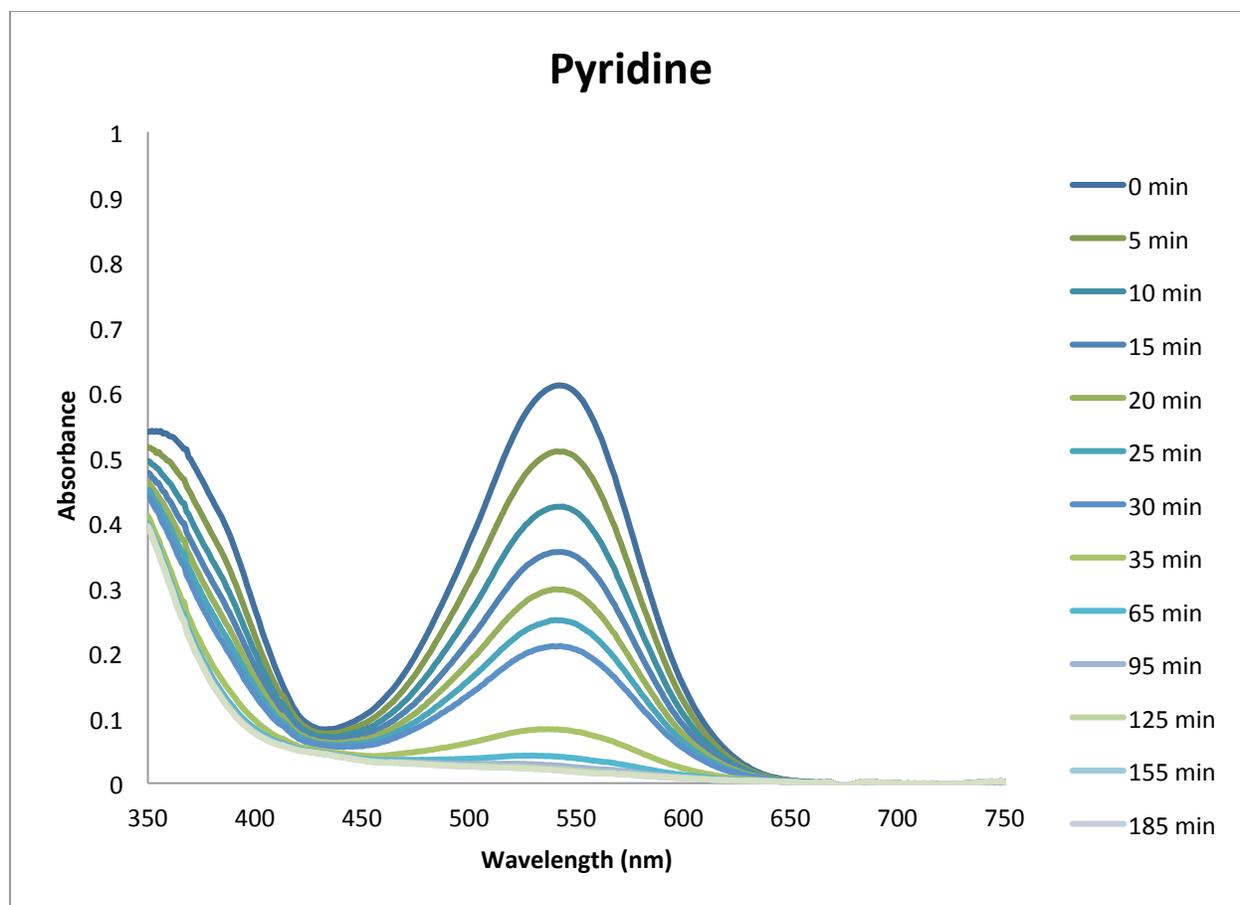
<sup>d</sup>Unresolved multiplet overlaps other aromatic ring proton signals.



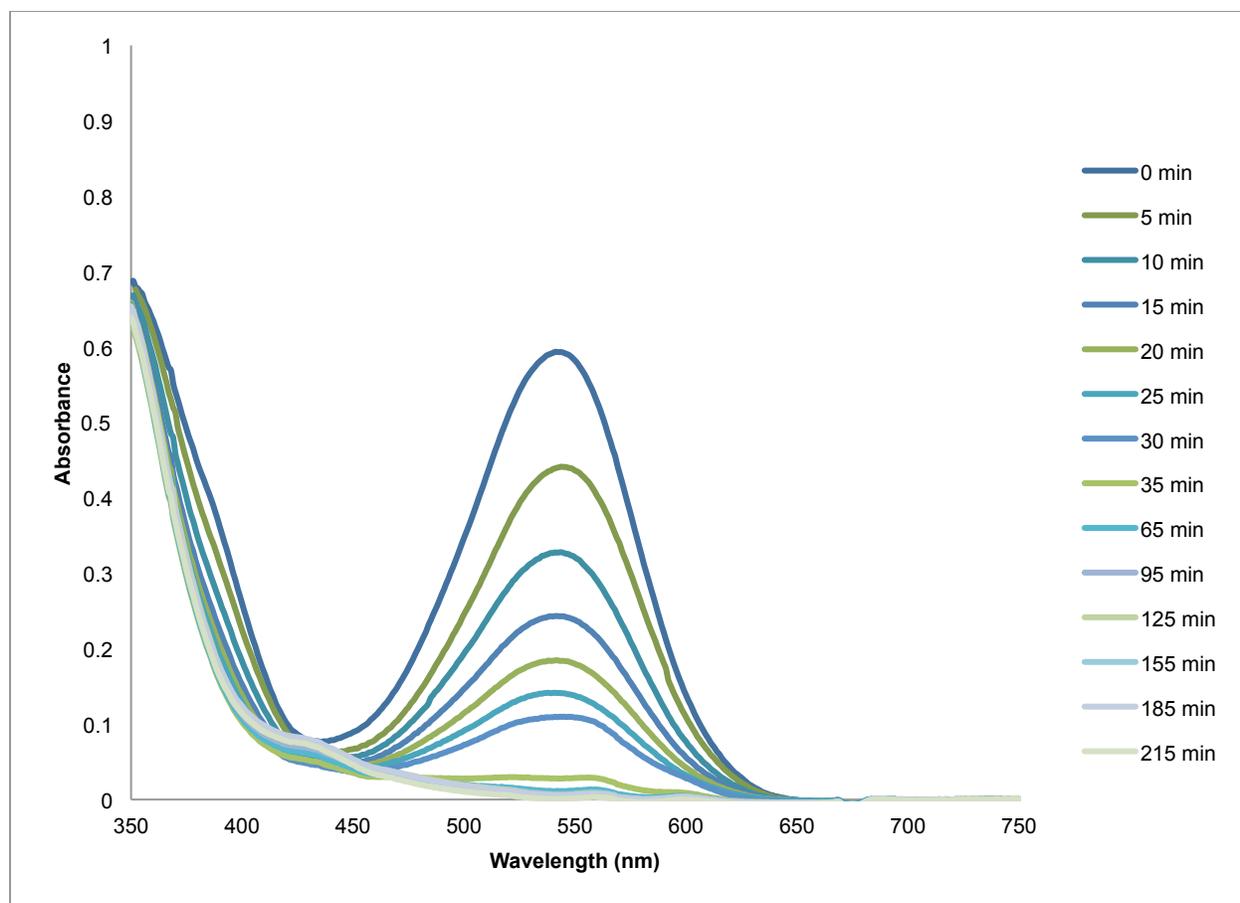
**Figure S1:** MC, 2, in PrOH with 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine (TMG) (0.01:1 v/v). With the addition of TMG absorbance for MC is reduced and the species at 420 nm is observed.



**Figure S2:** MC, 2, in PrOH with N-tert-butyl-N',N'-dimethylformamidine (BDF) (0.01:1 v/v). The BDF reduces the MC absorbance at 545 nm to a lesser extent than TMG or DBU.



**Figure S3:** MC, 2, in PrOH with pyridine (0.01:1 v/v). The addition of pyridine has no effect on the absorbance of MC at 545 nm or on the rate of reversion back to SP.



**Figure S4:** MC, 2, in PrOH with N-ethylbutylamine (0.01:1 v/v). The addition of the amine has no effect on the absorbance of MC at 545 nm or on the rate of reversion back to SP.

## References

1. A. Wasey, Ph.D. Thesis, Queen's University, 2003.