

Large Hydroazaacene Diimides: Synthesis, Tautomerism, Halochromism, and Redox-switchable NIR Optics

Supplementary Information

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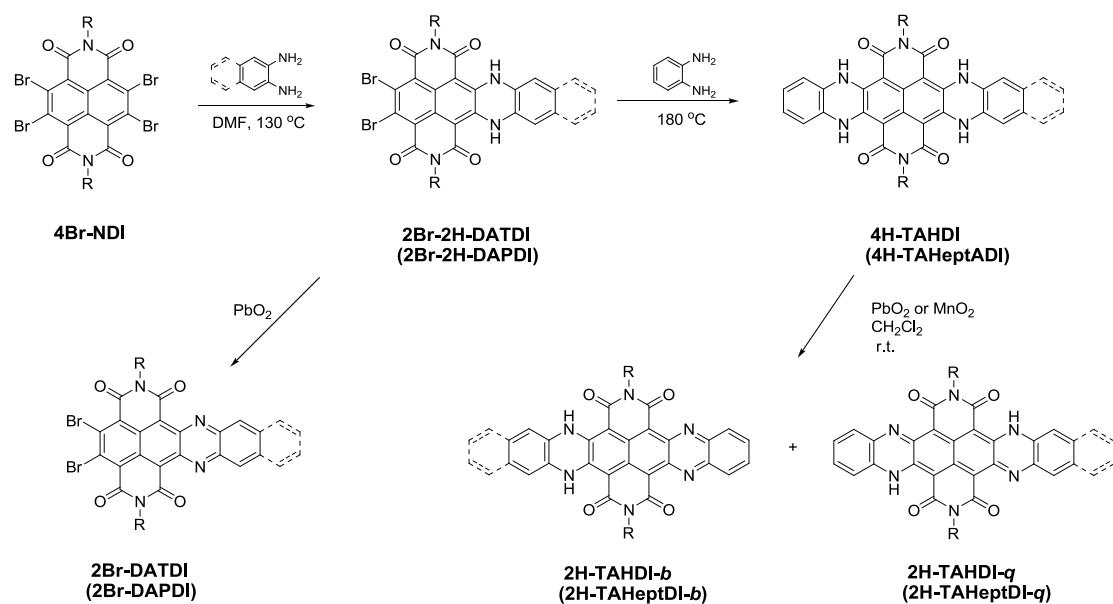
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I. Synthetic Procedures and Characterization Data

General Methods. Chemicals were used as received unless otherwise indicated. All oxygen or moisture sensitive reactions were performed under nitrogen atmosphere using the standard Schlenk method. Reagent-grade tetrahydrofuran (THF) was distilled over sodium and benzophenone. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on Mercury plus 300 (300 MHz), Bruker Avance 400 (400 MHz), or Bruker-500 MHz Avance III (500 MHz), using CDCl_3 as the solvent unless otherwise noted. Chemical shifts in ^1H NMR spectra were reported in parts per million (ppm) with TMS (0 ppm) or residual solvent resonance (7.26 ppm for CDCl_3 and 3.62 ppm for $\text{THF}-d_8$) as the reference. TMS (0 ppm) or CDCl_3 (77.0 ppm) was the reference for ^{13}C NMR spectra. MALDI-TOF mass spectra were recorded on an ABI 4800 Plus MALDI TOF/TOFTM Analyzer. HR-ESI mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker Apex IV Fourier transformation mass spectrometer. Elemental analyses were performed using a German Vario EL III elemental analyzer.

Synthesis route



2Br-2H-DATDI: A mixture of **4Br-NDI**¹ (456 mg, 0.40 mmol) and benzene-1,2-diamine (65 mg, 0.60 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was heated at 130 °C for 1 h. After depletion of **4Br-NDI**, as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was diluted with petroleum ether (50 ml), and then washed with water three times to remove DMF. The organic solution was dried over Na_2SO_4 and then solvents were removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with dichloromethane/petroleum ether (DCM/PE=1/4, v/v) to afford **2Br-2H-DATDI** as a dark purple solid (421 mg, 97%). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 13.06 (s, 2H), 7.03-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.84-6.81 (m, 2H), 4.04 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.92 (br, 2H), 1.23-1.10 (m, 64H), 0.88-0.84 (m, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 164.5, 160.0, 141.6, 127.1, 126.8, 126.4, 121.1, 116.5, 94.9, 44.9, 36.2, 32.0, 31.7, 30.2, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 26.4, 22.7, 14.1.

2Br-DATDI: A mixture of **2Br-2H-DATDI** (80 mg, 0.073 mmol) and PbO_2 (300 mg, 1.25 mmol) in DCM (4 mL) was stirred at 50 °C for 24 h, while the color of the solution turned from purple to yellow. Upon depletion of **2Br-2H-DATDI**, as monitored by TLC, the solution was cooled and filtered to remove the insoluble materials. The solution was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was

purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with DCM to afford **2Br-DATDI** as a yellow solid (74 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 8.43-8.40 (m, 2H), 8.02-7.99 (m, 2H), 4.31 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 2.12 (br, 2H), 1.39-1.22 (m, 64H), 0.88-0.82 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 161.0, 160.0, 145.0, 138.9, 137.4, 133.8, 130.7, 126.4, 126.3, 121.2, 46.2, 36.6, 31.9, 31.7, 30.2, 29.73, 29.66, 29.6, 29.4, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₆₀H₈₇N₄O₄Br₂ 1087.5074 (M + H⁺); Found: 1087.5070. Ele. Anal.: Calcd. for C₆₀H₈₆N₄O₄Br₂: C, 66.29; H, 7.97; N, 5.15. Found: C, 66.47; H, 8.02; N, 5.16.

2Br-2H-DAPDI: A mixture of **4Br-NDI** (456 mg, 0.40 mol), naphthylene-2,3-diamine (90 mg, 0.57 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (120 mg, 0.87 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 2 h. After cooled to r.t., the reaction mixture was diluted with PE (50 mL), washed with water (x3), and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After solvents were removed *in vacuo*, the residue was purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with DCM/PE (1:3, v/v) to afford **2Br-2H-DAPDI** as a dark purple solid (390 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 12.93 (s, 2H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.20-7.18 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 3.93 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.90 (br, 2H), 1.23 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.83 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 164.7, 160.1, 140.1, 131.6, 127.8, 126.8, 126.4, 125.9, 125.8, 121.7, 112.5, 96.0, 44.9, 36.3, 31.9, 31.6, 30.2, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 26.4, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₆₄H₉₀Br₂N₄O₄, 1138.5308 (M⁺); Found: 1138.5310.

2Br-DAPDI: A mixture of **2Br-2H-DAPDI** (15 mg, 0.013 mmol) and PbO₂ (100 mg, 0.42 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (2 mL) was stirred reflux for 1 h. The color of the solution turned from purple to deep yellow. After **2Br-2H-DAPDI** was completely consumed, as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the insoluble materials. The filtrate was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then condensed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with DCM to afford **2Br-DAPDI** as a yellow solid (9.0 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 9.03 (s, 2H), 8.09-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.52 (m, 2H), 4.33 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.17-2.13 (m, 2H), 1.59-1.22 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.82 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 161.2, 160.2, 141.1, 139.3, 137.9, 137.3, 129.2, 129.0, 128.6, 127.1, 126.4, 121.3, 46.3, 36.7, 32.0, 31.7, 30.2, 29.7, 29.4, 26.4, 22.7, 14.2. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₆₄H₈₉Br₂N₄O₄, 1137.5230 (M + H⁺), Found: 1137.5223.

4H-TAHD: A mixture of **4Br-NDI** (342 mg, 0.30 mmol) and benzene-1,2-diamine (3.1 g, 29 mmol) was heated at 180 °C under N₂ atmosphere for 2 d. After water (20 mL) and MeOH (20 mL) being added, and the resultant mixture was extracted with PE for four times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then condensed *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with DCM/PE (1:5, v/v) to afford **4H-TAHD** as a deep green solid (87 mg, 28%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 11.02 (br, 4H), 6.53 (br, 4H), 6.29 (br, 4H), 3.77 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.77 (br, 2H), 1.22 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.83 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 165.2, 138.1, 129.7, 123.7, 117.6, 114.4, 98.6, 43.6, 36.2, 31.98, 31.80, 31.6, 30.2, 29.7, 29.4, 26.5, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₆₆H₉₄N₆O₄ (M⁺): 1034.7331; Found: 1034.7331. Ele. Anal.: Calcd. for C₆₆H₉₄N₆O₄: C, 76.55; H, 9.15; N, 8.12. Found: C, 76.34; H, 9.12; N, 8.09.

2H-TAHD-b/2H-TAHD-q: A mixture of **4H-TAHD** (20 mg, 0.019 mmol) and MnO₂ (100 mg, 1.1 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The color of the solution turned from green to deep blue. After **4H-TAHD** was completely consumed, as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was filtered. The filtrate was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then condensed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified with column chromatography over silica gel, eluted with DCM to afford **2H-TAHD-b/2H-TAHD-q** as a deep blue solid (19 mg, 96%, a mixture of isomers).

2H-TAHD*i***-***b***:** ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 20 °C) δ 14.46 (s, 2H), 8.25-8.23 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.70 (m, 2H), 6.95-6.92 (m, 2H), 6.87-6.84 (m, 2H), 4.23-4.19 (m, 4H), 2.13 (br, 2H), 1.39-1.21 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.83 (m, 12H).

2H-TAHD*i***-***q***:** ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 20 °C) δ 16.77 (s, 2H), 8.08-8.06 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.27 (m, 6H), 4.23-4.19 (m, 4H), 2.13 (br, 2H), 1.39-1.21 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.83 (m, 12H).

2H-TAHD*i***-***b***/2H-TAHD***i***-***q***:** ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 20 °C) δ 165.9, 165.6, 160.3, 159.9, 146.0, 145.3, 141.1, 140.6, 140.5, 137.3, 136.8, 131.5, 131.1, 130.4, 130.2, 127.9, 126.8, 126.5, 125.9, 117.8, 114.2, 106.9, 94.7, 93.2, 44.8, 36.1, 36.0, 31.9, 31.7, 30.3, 29.7, 29.67, 29.4, 26.5, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI): Calcd. for C₆₆H₉₃N₆O₄ (M+H⁺): 1033.7253; Found: 1033.7233. Ele. Anal.: Calcd. for C₆₆H₉₂N₆O₄: C, 76.63; H, 9.06; N, 8.12. Found: C, 76.63; H, 9.10; N, 8.01.

Procedure for the reduction of **2H-TAHD***i***** to **4H-TAHD***i*****: A mixture of **2H-TAHD***i***** (5 mg, 0.0047 mmol), NaBH₄ (5 mg, 0.13 mmol) and CoCl₂·6H₂O (0.1 mg) in CHCl₃/EtOH (1 mL + 1 mL) was stirred at room temperature. The color of the solution turned from deep blue to green very soon. The reaction was monitored by absorption spectra, which showed that **2H-TAHD***i***** was completely converted into **4H-TAHD***i***** in 10 minutes.

4H-DAHeptDI: A mixture of **2Br-2H-DAPDI** (228 mg, 0.020 mmol) and benzene-1,2-diamine (4.0 g, 0.037 mol) was heated at 180 °C under N₂ atmosphere for 2 d. After water (20 mL) and MeOH (20 mL) being added, the reaction mixture was extracted with PE for four times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then condensed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified with column chromatography of silica gel, eluted with DCM/PE (1:5, v/v) to afford **4H-DAHeptDI** as a deep green solid (71 mg, 31%). ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 11.15 (br, 4H), 7.19-7.16 (m, 2H), 6.88 (br, 2H), 6.49 (br, 2H), 6.40 (br, 2H), 6.21 (br, 2H), 3.84 (d, *J* = 7.2Hz, 4H), 1.87 (br, 2H), 1.24 (m, 64H), 0.87-0.83 (m, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 165.2, 165.1, 138.7, 135.4, 131.5, 129.2, 125.8, 124.5, 123.7, 117.6, 114.5, 108.9, 99.6, 43.8, 36.3, 32.0, 31.7, 30.4, 30.24, 30.17, 30.1, 29.9, 29.80, 29.75, 29.5, 29.4, 26.5, 22.7, 14.1. MALDI-TOF MS: Calcd. for C₇₀H₉₆N₆O₄: 1084.7 (M⁺), Found: 1084.9. Ele. Anal.: Calcd. for C₇₀H₉₆N₆O₄: C, 77.45; H, 8.91; N, 7.74. Found: C, 77.34; H, 9.03; N, 7.38.

2H-DAHeptDI: A mixture of **4H-DAHeptDI** (20 mg, 0.018 mmol) and MnO₂ (300 mg, 3.3 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The color of the solution was observed to turn from green to deep blue. After **4H-TAHD***i***** was completely consumed, as monitored by TLC, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the insoluble. The filtrate was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then condensed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified with column chromatography of silica gel, eluted with DCM to afford **2H-DAHeptDI** as a deep blue solid (18 mg, 90%). ^1H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, the major component of the mixture) δ 14.45 (s, 2H), 8.19-8.17 (m, 2H), 7.64-7.61 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.33 (s, 2H), 7.24-7.21 (m, 2H), 4.28 (d, *J* = 7.6Hz, 4H), 2.18 (s, br 2H), 1.60-1.21 (m, 64H), 0.85-0.79 (m, 12H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 50 MHz) δ 165.7, 160.3, 142.3, 140.2, 131.5, 130.4, 130.1, 126.9, 126.6, 124.8, 114.9, 113.8, 111.9, 111.5, 95.4, 44.9, 38.6, 36.2, 33.7, 31.9, 30.3, 29.7, 29.4, 26.7, 22.6, 14.1. MALDI-TOF MS: Calcd. for C₇₀H₉₄N₆O₄: 1082.7 (M⁺), Found: 1082.7. Ele. Anal.: Calcd. for C₆₆H₉₂H₆O₄: C, 77.59; H, 8.74; N, 7.76. Found: C, 77.33; H, 8.95; N, 7.42.

II. Optical Spectra

UV-vis absorption spectra of the compounds were recorded on a Hitachi U-4100 spectrophotometer using 1-cm quartz cell. The solvents, DCM, CHCl_3 and THF, were distilled over CaH_2 or Na prior to use.

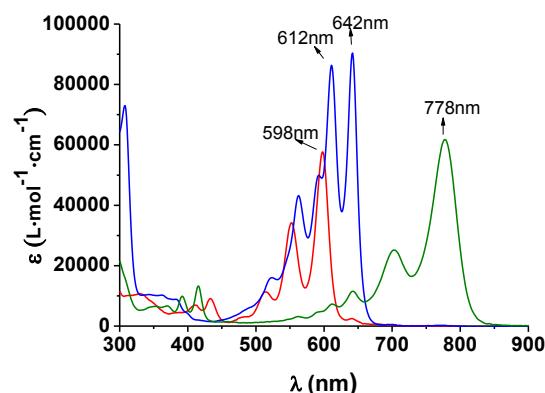


Figure S1. Absorption spectra of **2Br-2H-DATDI** (red), **2H-TAHDHI** (blue), and **4H-TAHDHI** (green) in CH_2Cl_2 .

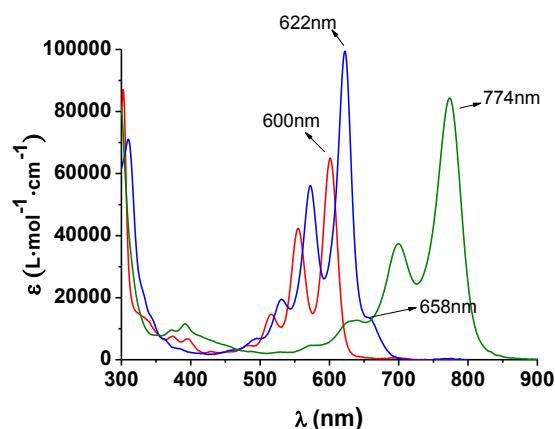


Figure S2. Absorption spectra of **2Br-2H-DAPDI** (red), **2H-TAHeptDI** (blue), and **4H-TAHeptDI** (green) in CH_2Cl_2 .

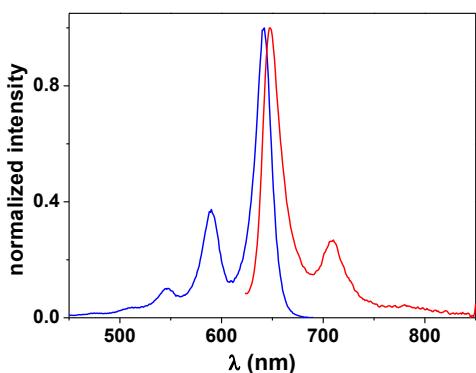


Figure S3. Fluorescence excitation (blue line, with emission monitored at 710 nm) and emission (red line, excited at 590 nm where both tautomers absorb) spectra of **2H-TAHDHI** in CH_2Cl_2 .

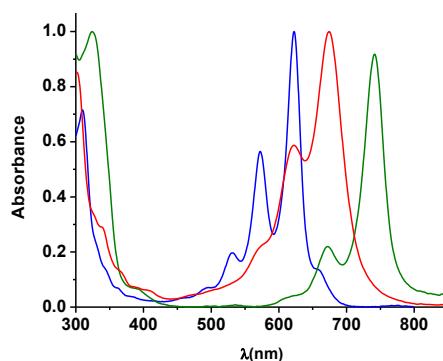


Figure S4. Absorption spectra of **2H-TAHeptDI** in DCM (blue), HOAc (red), H_2SO_4 (green).

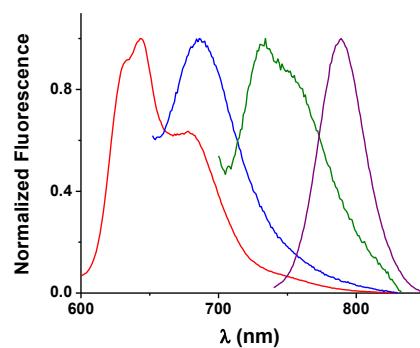


Figure S5. Emission spectra of **2H-TAHeptDI** in DCM (red), HOAc (blue), H_2SO_4 (green) and **4H-TAHeptDI** in DCM (purple).

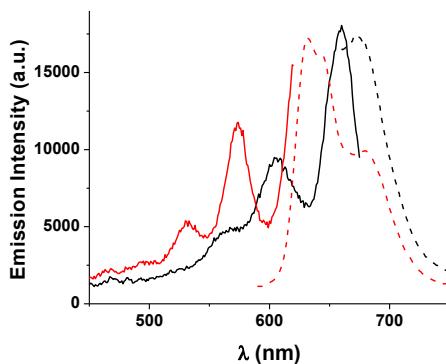


Figure S6. Fluorescence excitation spectra with emission monitored at 685 nm (black solid) and 630 nm (red solid) and emission spectra excited at 575 nm (red dashed) and 650 nm (black dashed) of **2H-TAHeptDI** in CHCl_3 .

Table S1. Summary of optical absorption and emission properties

compd.	Absorption maximum λ_{abs} (nm)	Emission maximum λ_{fl} (nm)	Fluorescence quantum yield
2H-TAHD^I^a	611/642	647	8.25 ^d
(3H-TAHD^I)⁺^b	665	688	13.60
(4H-TAHD^I)²⁺^c	724	741	5.30
4H-TAHD^I^a	778	793	2.85
2H-TAHeptDI^a	621/661	642	1.28 ^e
(3H-TAHeptDI)⁺^b	675	685	0.40
(4H-TAHeptDI)²⁺^c	742	733	0.01
4H-TAHeptDI^a	774	789	1.32

^a In DCM; ^b in HOAc; ^c in H₂SO₄; ^d the quantum yield was estimated for the tautomer mixture, and true quantum yield of the more emissive 2H-TAHD^I-*q* should be approximately doubled; ^e the quantum yield was estimated for the tautomer mixture.

III. Computational Studies

The geometry of the molecules was optimized with Density Functional Theory (DFT) using B3LYP hybrid functional² with a basis set limited to 6-31g+d. Molecular orbital shapes and energies were obtained at optimized geometries. TD-DFT calculation was performed at optimized geometries with theory level at B3LYP/6-31g+d. NICS indexes at the ring centers was calculated at B3LYP/6-31g+d level. Quantum-chemical calculation was performed with the Gaussian03³ package and the orbital pictures were prepared using Gaussview.⁴ All long alkyl substituents were replaced with methyl groups in calculations.

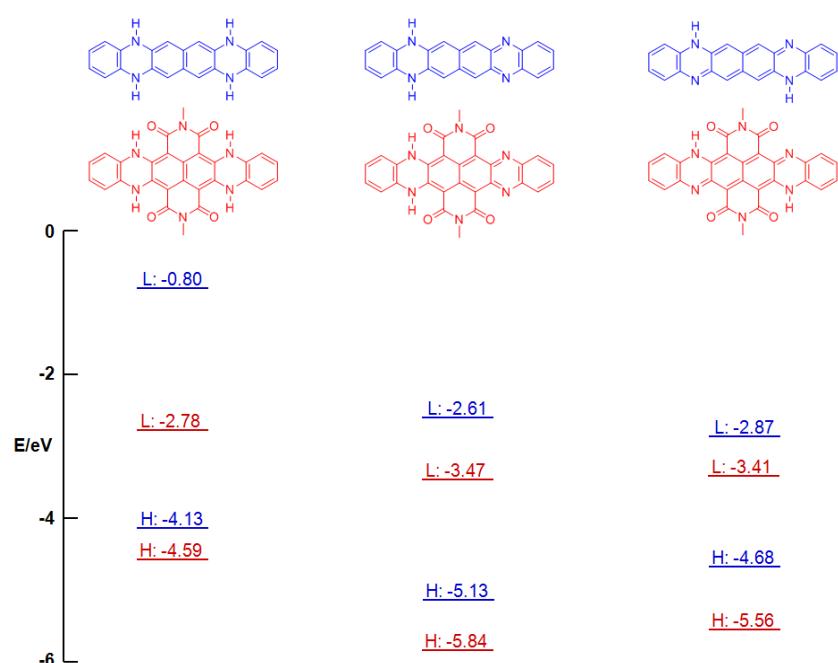


Figure S7. B3lyp/6-31g+d calculated energy levels of frontier molecular orbitals of the dihydro- and tetrahydrotetraazahexacene (in blue) and their diimide derivatives (in red). (Unit: eV; H: HOMO; L: LUMO)

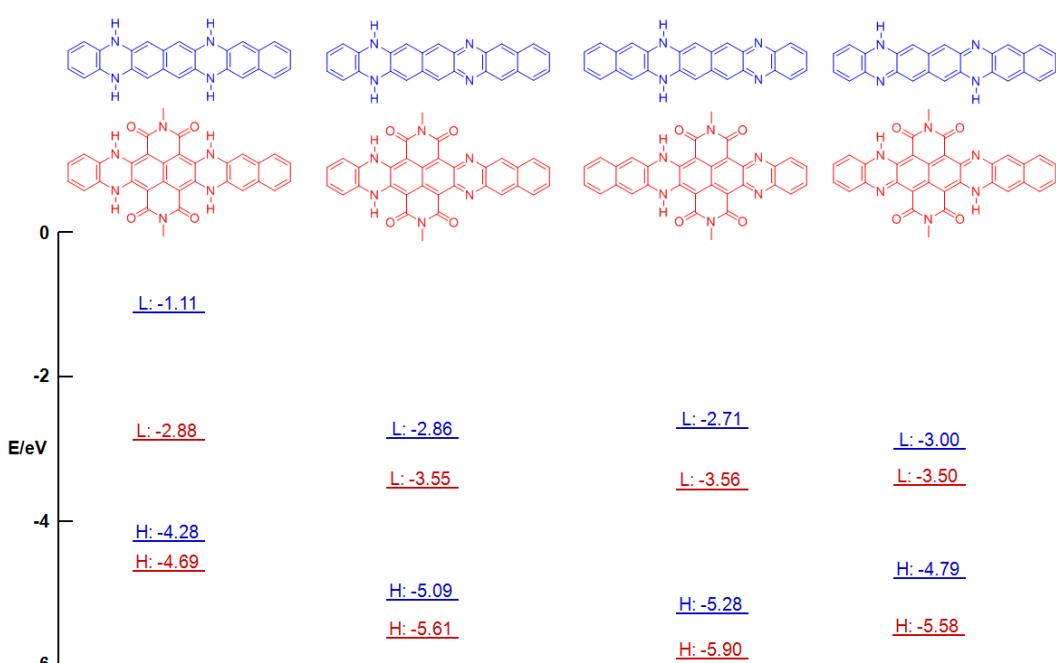


Figure S8. B3lyp/6-31g+d calculated energy levels of frontier molecular orbitals of the dihydro- and tetrahydrotetraazahexacene (in blue) and their diimide derivatives (in red). (Unit: eV; H: HOMO; L: LUMO)

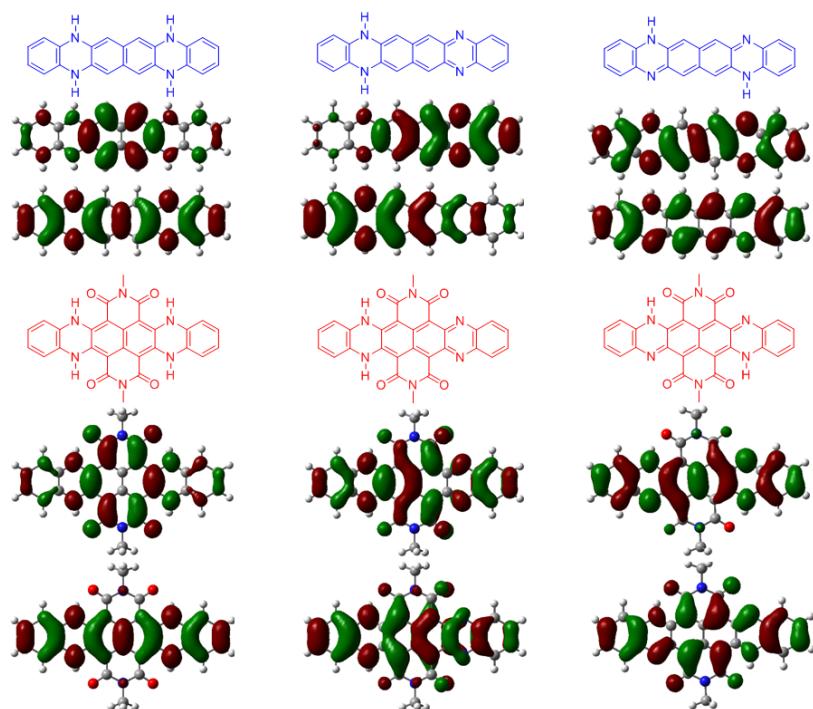


Figure S9. DFT calculated frontier molecular orbitals of tetrahydrotetraazahexacene, benzenoid and quinonoid tautomers of dihydrotetraazahexacene, and those of their corresponding diimide derivatives (LUMO: upper; HOMO: lower).

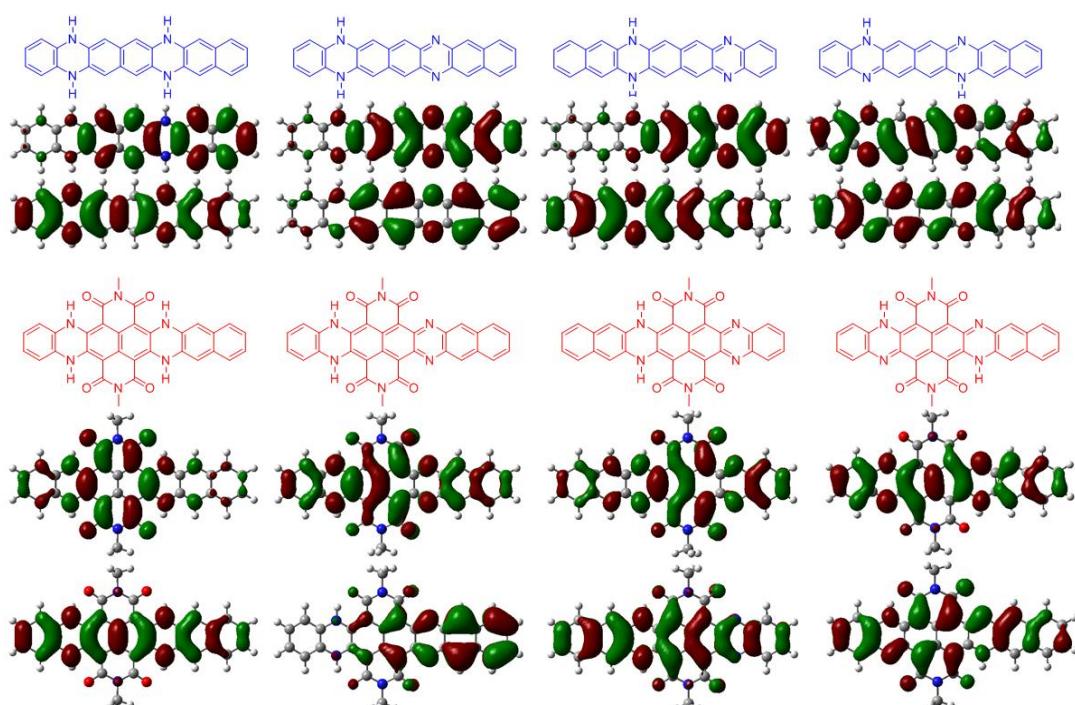


Figure S10. DFT calculated frontier molecular orbitals of tetrahydrotetraazahexacene, benzenoid and quinonoid tautomers of dihydrotetraazahexacene, and those of their corresponding diimide derivatives (LUMO: upper; HOMO: lower).

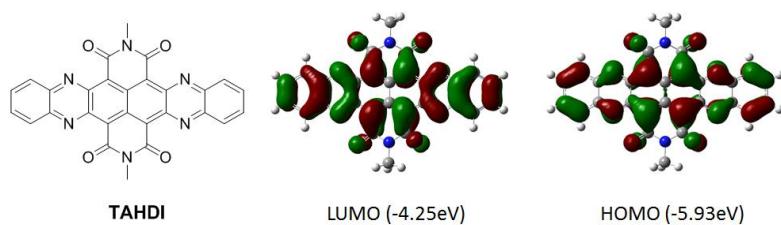


Figure S11. Structure and DFT calculated LUMO and HOMO of TAHDI.

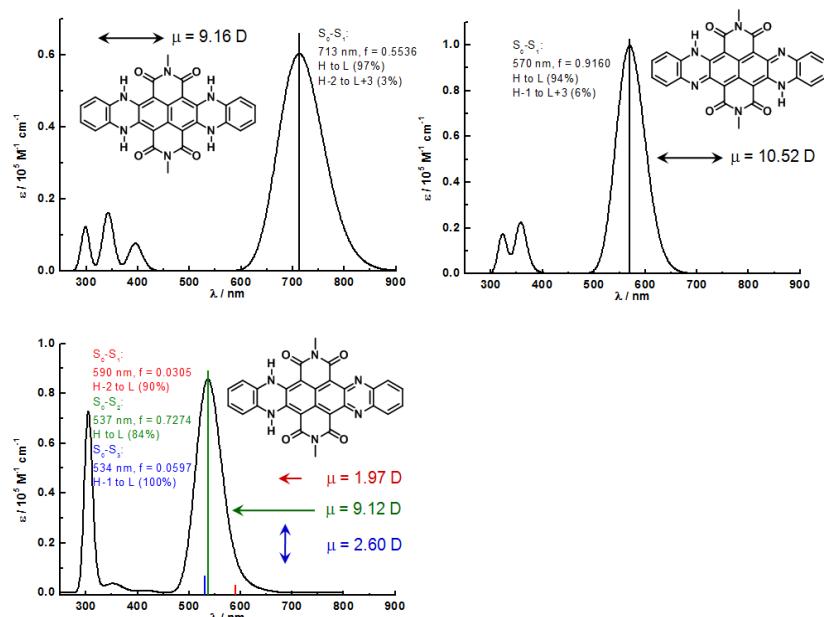


Figure S12. TD-DFT simulated UV-vis spectra with 20 excited states of 4H-TAHDI and different 2H-TAHDI tautomers, with transition energy, oscillator strength (f), assignments, and transition dipole (μ) of low energy transitions as shown (FWHM was set as 1000 cm^{-1}).

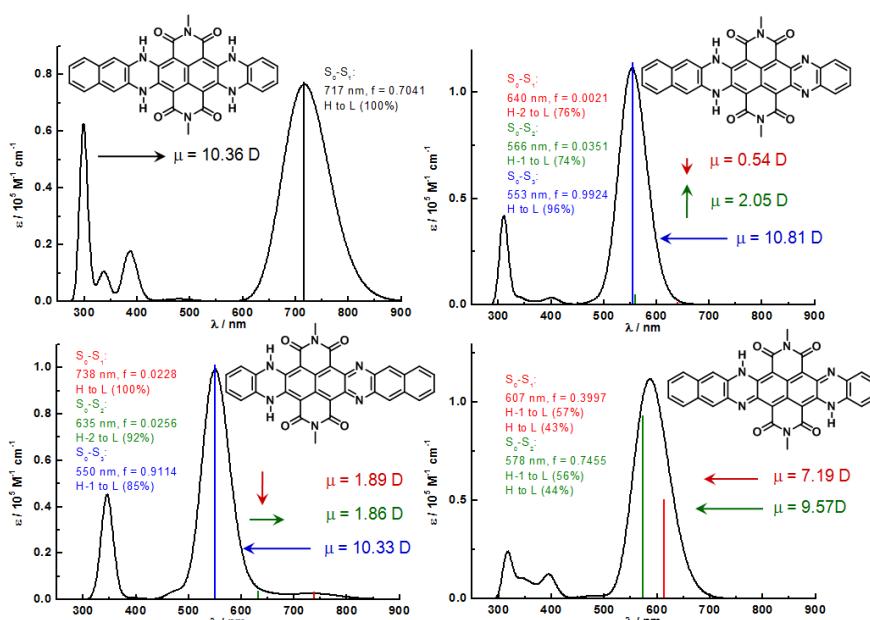


Figure S13. TD-DFT simulated UV-vis spectra with 20 excited states of 4H-TAHeptDI and different 2H-TAHeptDI tautomers, with transition energy, oscillator strength (f), assignments and transition dipole (μ) of low energy transitions as shown (FWHM was set as 1000 cm^{-1}).

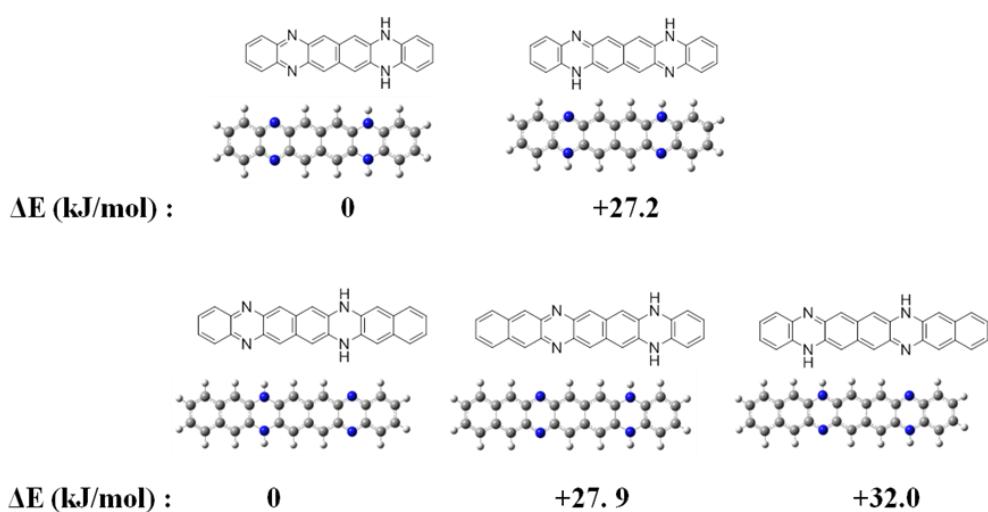


Figure S14. Computed optimized geometries of benzenoid and quinonoid tautomers of **2H-TAH** and **2H-TAHept**, with relative total energy values shown.

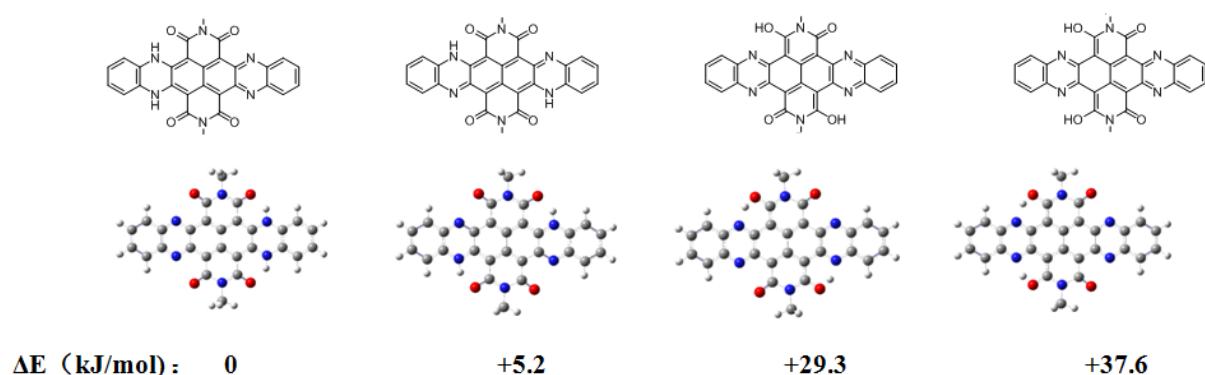


Figure S15. Computed optimized geometries of all possible tautomers of **2H-TAHDI**, with relative total energy values shown.

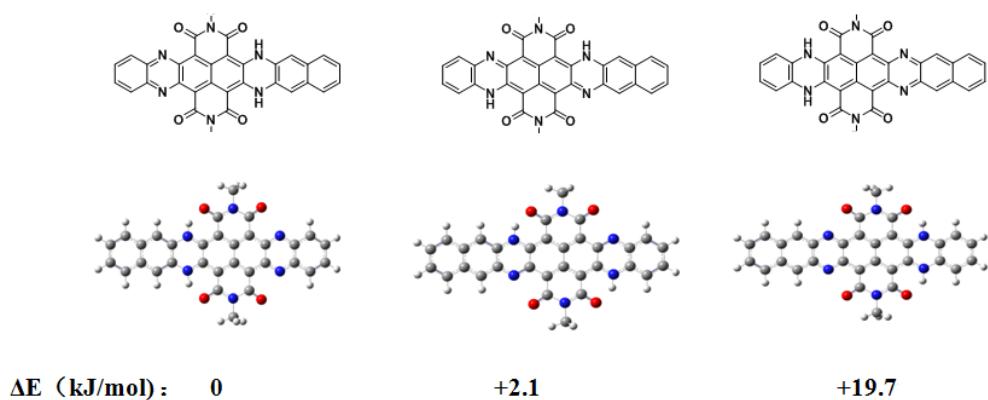
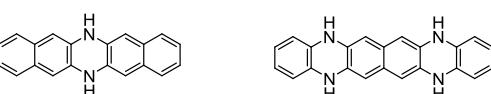
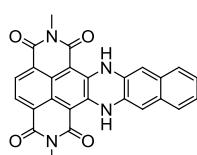


Figure S16. Computed optimized geometries of three possible tautomers of **2H-TAHeptDI**, with relative total energy values shown.



NICS: -6.85, **-5.86, 7.79**

-6.59, **8.49, -4.99**



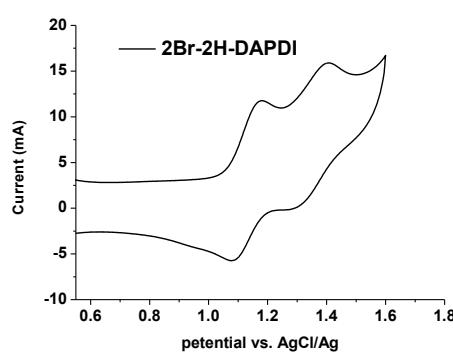
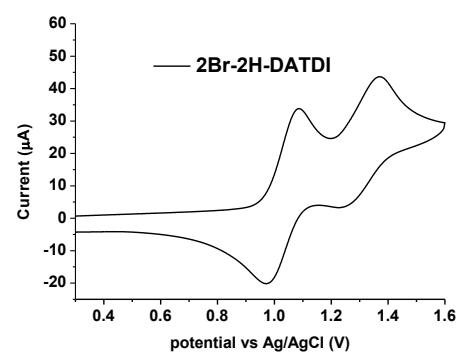
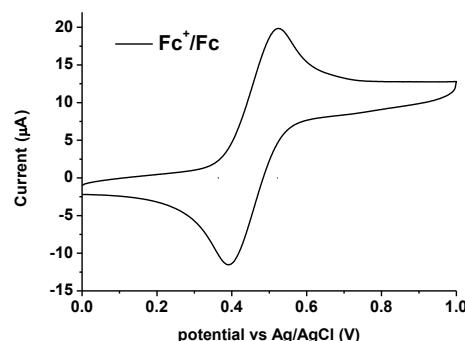
NICS: -6.63, **-1.94, 6.03**, -6.93, -7.33

-6.29, **9.57, -1.95**

Figure S17. Calculated NICS values (in ppm)⁷ of hydroazaacenes and corresponding diimide derivatives

IV. Electrochemical Characterizations

Cyclic voltammetry was performed using BASI Epsilon workstation and measurements were carried out in acetonitrile (for the thin film) or dichloromethane (for the solution) containing 0.1 M n-Bu₄NPF₆ as a supporting electrolyte. Glassy carbon electrode was used as a working electrode and a platinum sheet as a counter electrode. All potentials were recorded versus Ag/AgCl as a reference electrode, and ferrocene/ferrocenium as an external reference. The scan speed was 100 mV s⁻¹. CH₂Cl₂ was freshly distilled over CaH₂ prior to use. The energy level of Fc/Fc⁺ is assumed to be -4.8 eV below the vacuum level.^{5,6} The LUMO levels of **2Br-DATDI** and **2Br-DAPDI** were estimated from the half-wave potentials of the reduction peaks. The half-wave potential of oxidation peak of Fc was measured to be 0.43 V against Ag/AgCl.



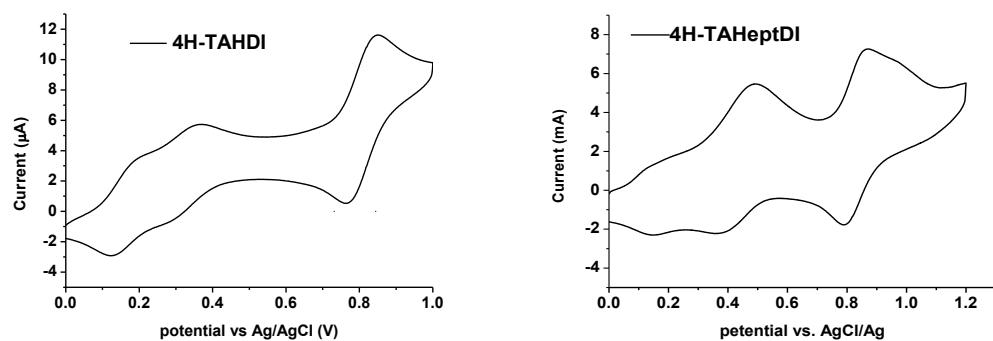


Figure S18. CVs of ferrocene and hydroazaacene diimide derivatives.

Table S2. Summary of electronic data in DCM in comparison with calculated results

Comp.	4H-TAHDI	4H-TAHeptDI	2H-TAHD <i>i</i>	2H-TAHD <i>q</i>
$\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{abs}}$ (nm)	778	774	612	642
HOMO ^a (eV)	-4.49	-4.54	-- ^d	-- ^d
band gap ^b (eV)	1.43	1.42	-- ^d	1.84
LUMO ^c (eV)	-3.06	-3.12	-- ^d	-- ^d
calcd. HOMO-LUMO energy gap (eV)	1.81	1.81	2.36	2.14
calcd. HOMO (eV)	-4.59	-4.69	-5.53	-5.24
calcd. LUMO (eV)	-2.78	-2.88	-3.17	-3.10

^a calculated based on CV; ^b estimated from the onset wavelength of the absorption band; ^c estimated based on the above band gap and HOMO data; ^d unable to determine since the absorption spectra and CV of 2H-TAHD***i*** and 2H-TAHD***q*** were overlapped for coexisting tautomers.

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