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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Photo-controlled bipolar absorption switches based on 5-dimethylamino substituted indoline spiropyrans with semipermanent merocyanines

Anatoly Metelitsa<sup>\*a</sup>, Anatoly Chernyshev <sup>a</sup>, Nikolai Voloshin <sup>a</sup>, Oleg Demidov <sup>b</sup>, Ekaterina Solov'eva <sup>a</sup>, Irina Rostovtseva <sup>a</sup> and Elena Gaeva <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Physical and Organic Chemistry, Southern Federal University,

Stachki Av., 194/2, Rostov on Don, 344090, Russia.

\*E-mail address: avmetelitsa@sfedu.ru.

b North-Caucasus Federal University,
Dzerzhinsky str. 120/3, Stavropol, 355035, Russia.
E-mail address: odemidov@ncfu.ru



Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SPP 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S2. 2D NMR <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of SPP 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.







**Fig. S4.** 2D NMR HSQC <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C spectrum of SPP **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (expansion 4.6 to 9.2 ppm).



Fig. S5. 2D NMR HMBC <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C spectrum of SPP 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SPP 2 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S7.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SPP **2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (expansion 7.0 to 8.2 ppm).



Fig. S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (expansion 6.4 to 8.2 ppm).



Fig. S10. 2D NMR <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S11. 2D NMR <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (expansion 5.6 to 9.4 ppm).



Fig. S12. 2D NMR HSQC <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S13. 2D NMR HSQC <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (expansion 5.2 to 9.4 ppm).



Fig. S14. 2D NMR HMBC <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C spectrum of SPP 3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S15.** Absorption spectra of the equilibrium mixture of cyclic forms **A** and merocyanine isomers **B** of SPPs **1-3** in acetonitrile at 293 K.



**Fig. S16.** Absorption spectra of the equilibrium mixture of cyclic isomers **A** and merocyanines **B** of SPP **1** in different solvents: toluene, acetone and acetonitrile at 293 K.



**Fig. S17.** Absorption spectra of the equilibrium mixture of cyclic isomers **A** and merocyanines **B** of SPP **2** in different solvents: toluene, acetone and acetonitrile at 293 K.



**Fig. S18** Spectral and kinetic profile of the operating cycle of the bipolar absorption switch based on SPP **3** in acetone (insert: Kinetic profile at the maximum of the absorption band of the MC isomer).



**Fig. S19** Spectral and kinetic profile of the operating cycle of the bipolar absorption switch based on SPP **2** in acetone (insert: Kinetic profile at the maximum of the absorption band of the MC isomer).



**Fig. S20** Spectral and kinetic profile of the operating cycle of the bipolar absorption switch based on SPP **1** in acetone (insert: Kinetic profile at the maximum of the absorption band of the MC isomer).