Supplementary Material for

Room temperature synthesis of perylene diimides facilitated by high amic acid solubility

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1. Experimental Procedures

Kinetic Measurements

Analysis of the absorption spectra was performed using MS Excel. For the simple reactions (from 12c to 13c or 9c to 7c), the first spectrum (obtained at t=0) was assumed to be from the starting compound (amic acid) and the last spectrum (obtained at t= 24h) was from the product (imide). Cleanup of the spectrum of the starting compound may be required, because the starting compound already contains small amounts of the reaction product. This cleanup generally comes down to subtracting a fraction of the product spectrum from the starting compound spectrum. The spectra of the reaction mixtures were simulated by a linear combination of the spectra from the starting compound and the reaction product:

Spectrum reaction mixture= x*Spectrum starting compound+(1-x)* Spectrum product

0≤x≤1

The best fit was obtained when the simulated spectra, calculated according to the formula above, were identical to the experimental spectra. This was visualized by subtracting the simulated spectrum from that of the reaction mixture. A flat base line should result and if need be this process is automated by requiring the choice of x such that the sum of all absorption data points is minimised.

For the more complex reaction from diamic acid **5c** to diimide **7c** via the intermediate **9c**, finding the composition of the reaction mixture was less accurate. Here we assume that the first spectrum (obtained at t=0) was from the starting compound (diamic acid **5c**) and the last spectrum (obtained at t= 24h) was from the product (diimide **7c**). The spectrum from the reaction intermediate **9c** was unknown, but is expected to resemble that of compound **9a**. Cleanup of the spectrum of the starting compound may be required, because the starting compound already contains a little of the intermediate product **9c**. This cleanup generally comes down to flattening the spectrum of compound **5c** above 520 nm.

Simulated reaction mixture= x*Spectrum **5c**+ y*Spectrum **9c** +(1-(x+y))* **7c**

 $0 \leq (x+y) \leq 1$

Since the spectrum of **9**c is unknown, various values of x and 1-(x+y) are tested. By subtracting x*5c+(1-(x+y))*7c from the spectrum of the reaction mixture, the spectrum of y*9c is obtained. Doing this in such a manner that the spectrum of **9**c is consistent in shape and resembling that of **9**a, resulted in values of x and y for the different reaction times and thereby the molecular composition. This process is more complex, less accurate (in independently finding x and y) and cannot be automated easily.

2. Kinetic Modelling

In the first part of the reaction from PDA 1 to the diamic acid 5, all steps are second order reactions, as described by Equations S1-3.

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{1}]}{dt} = -2k_1[\mathbf{1}][\mathbf{4}] \approx -k[\mathbf{4}]; \quad k \ll k_1[\mathbf{1}] \qquad eq \ S1$$
$$\frac{d[\mathbf{8}]}{dt} = k[\mathbf{4}] - k_1[\mathbf{8}][\mathbf{4}] \qquad eq \ S2$$
$$\frac{d[\mathbf{5}]}{dt} = k_1[\mathbf{8}][\mathbf{4}] \qquad eq \ S3$$

Because PDA 1 is insoluble (in DMF or DMSO), the conversion to compound 8 is not a second order reaction but a heterogeneous reaction. This reaction is best described as a pseudo-first order reaction, whose rate scales with the concentration of amine 4. The apparent rate constant for this reaction k is much smaller than k_1 [1]. Equations S1 and S3 describe the consumption of PDA 1 and the formation of diamic acid 5. For setting up Eqs S4-S8, we have made the assumption that compound 8, to some extent, is soluble in the reaction mixture and will be consumed by a fast second-order reaction. This reaction consumes a second molecule of amine 4, which results in the relation between [1] and [4] formulated in Equation S4.

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathbf{4}] &= 2[\mathbf{1}]_0 + 2[\mathbf{1}]) & eq \ S4 \\ \frac{d[\mathbf{1}]}{dt} &= -k(2[\mathbf{1}]_0 + 2[\mathbf{1}]) & eq \ S5 \\ [\mathbf{1}] &= 2[\mathbf{1}]_0 \exp^{-2kt} - [\mathbf{1}]_0 & eq \ S6 \\ \frac{d[\mathbf{8}]}{dt} &= k[\mathbf{4}] - k_1[\mathbf{8}][\mathbf{4}] \approx o & eq \ S7 \\ [\mathbf{5}] &= 2[\mathbf{1}]_0 - 2[\mathbf{1}]_0 \exp^{-2kt} & eq \ S8 \end{aligned}$$

The rates of consumption of compound 1 and the rate of formation of compound 5 according to Equations S6 and S8, are depicted in Figure S11. Experimental data concerning the formation of 5c and 5e are obtained from UV experiments are depicted in Figures S4b and S8b, respectively. These experimental data, which demonstrate that formation of amic acid 5 is completed in 15-20 minutes, are crude due to non-reproducible sampling from a heterogeneous reaction mixture and do not correlate well with the prediction from our model.

The imide forming reactions from 9 to 7 and 12 to 13 are first-order reactions. The reaction rate constants for these reactions should be very similar and equal k_2 and k'_2 from the reactions that forms PDI 7 from amic acid 5. The formation of compounds 7 and 13 and the consumption of compounds 9 and 12 are described by simple exponential functions, as illustrated for the latter reaction in Eqs. S9-S12.

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{9}]}{dt} = -k_2[\mathbf{9}] \qquad \text{eq S9}$$

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{7}]}{dt} = -k_2[\mathbf{7}] \qquad \text{eq S10}$$

$$[\mathbf{9}] = [\mathbf{9}] \exp^{-k_2 t} \qquad \text{eq S11}$$

$$[\mathbf{9}] = [\mathbf{9}]_0 \exp^{-2} \qquad \text{eq S11}$$

$$[\mathbf{7}] = [\mathbf{9}]_0 (1 - \exp^{-k_2 t}) \qquad \text{eq S12}$$

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{12}]}{dt} = -k_2[\mathbf{12}] \qquad \text{eq S9}$$

$$\frac{d[\mathbf{13}]}{dt} = k_2[\mathbf{13}] \qquad \text{eq S13}$$

$$[12] = [12]_0 \exp^{-k_2 t}$$
 eq S14
 $[13] = [12]_1 (1 - \exp^{-k_2 t})$ eq S15

$$[13] = [12]_0 (1 - \exp^{-k_2 t})$$
 eq S15

3. Graphs and Figures







137 136 135 134 133 132 131 130 129 128 127 126 125 124 123 122 121 120 119 118 117 116 115 114 113 112 111 f1 (ppm) Figure S2. ^{13}C Spectrum of compound **6a**.



Figure S3. Normalized absorption spectra of compounds **3**, **13c** and **7c** in Chloroform. All compounds are molecularly dissolved and these spectra are representative for PTEs PMIDEs (and corresponding amic esters and amic acids) and PDIs.



Figure S4.a: Absorption spectra taken by adding a fixed volume of the reaction of PDA with amine 4c (Solvent DMF, base DBU, room temperature) in water at regular intervals. The compound that is visible is compound 5c. The baseline is shifted, in particular at short reaction times, due to the presence of insoluble PDA. b: Absorption at 464 nm, corrected for the shifted baseline, as a function of time.



Figure S5. Absorption spectra taken by adding a fixed volume of the reaction of PDA with amine 4c (solvent DMF, base DBU, temperature 60°C) in chloroform at regular intervals. The compounds that are visible are the DBU salt of 5c, (HDBU)₂5c (446 and 475 nm) and 7c (489 and 526 nm).



Figure S6. a: Absorption spectra taken by adding a fixed volume of the reaction of PDA with amine 4e (Solvent DMSO, base K₂CO₃, room temperature) in water at regular intervals. The compound that is visible is compound 5e. The baseline is shifted due to the presence of insoluble PDA. b: Absorption at 464 nm, corrected for the shifted baseline, as a function of time.



Figure S7. Consumption of PDA 1 and formation of diamic acid 5 according to equations 6 and 9. The time axis has arbitrary units.





Figure S8. Spectra taken from the imidization of the DBU salt of **5c** in DMF taken 2, 4 and 6 hours, after diluting the reaction mixture (in green). The spectra of starting compound, the DBU salt of **5c** (black) and final product **7c** (red) are depicted as well. After subtracting the contributions of starting compound, the DBU salt of **5c**, and product **7c** from that of the reaction mixture, the broad, the contributions of the intermediate, the DBU salt of **9c**, are revealed (blue). In this manner the composition of the reaction mixture is determined.



Scheme S1. Imidization of compound **15** using butylamine **4c** via amic acid **9c**. The last step of this reaction has been monitored using absorption spectroscopy.



Figure S9. Absorption spectra as a function of time of the reaction of the DBU salt of amic acid 12c in DMF at concentrations around $1*10^{-5}$ M. Isosbestic points are observed at 462, 479 and 487 nm.



Figure S10. Composition of the reaction mixture obtained from the data displayed in Figure S9. Solid lines represent the theoretical fitting curves obtained using a first-order decay obtained using equations S14 and S15.





Figure S11. Spectrum taken from the acid hydrolysis of compound 5a in DMF after 15, 30 and 60 minutes of reaction (blue). The spectra of starting compound 5a (black) and final product 1 (red) are depicted as well. are After subtracting the contributions of starting compound 5a and product 1 from the absorption spectra of the reaction mixture (green), the contributions of the intermediate 8a are revealed (blue).



Figure S12. Absorption spectra of compound **K9a** (black) in DMF and **9a** (red), formed after acidification with 1 drop 1N HCl. In the time-dependent absorption spectra the reaction from **9a** (λ_{max} = 506 nm) to compound **15** (λ_{max} = 521 and 486 nm) is visible. Please note that the first spectrum after acidification already contains (traces of) compound **15**. Isosbestic points are observed at 479, 493 and 510 nm.



Figure S13. Absorption spectra of compound K12a (black) in DMF and 12a (red), formed after acidification with 1 drop 1N HCl. In the time-dependent absorption spectra the reaction from 12a (λ_{max} = 468 and 441 nm) to compound 11 (λ_{max} = 472 and 501 nm) is visible. Please note that the first spectrum after acidification already contains (traces of) compound 11. An isosbestic points is observed at 475 nm.

4. Syntheses

Table S1

Entry	Perylene	amine	base	solvent	Reaction	Yield, in %
	anhydride				conditions	(conversion)
S1	PDA (1)	4b	DBU	DMF	168h	7b
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	RT	87%
S2	PDA (1)	4b	$Zn(Ac)_2, 0.6$	DMF	24h	7b
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	mmol	4 ml	RT	52%
			DBU, 2			
			mmol			
S3	PDA (1)	4b	Zn(Ac) ₂ , 0.6	DMF	24h	7b
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	mmol	4 ml	60°C	78%
			DBU, 2			
			mmol			
S4	PDA (1)	4b	TEA	DMSO	24h	7b
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	60°C	20%
S5	PDA (1)	4b	K ₂ CO ₃	DMSO	24h	7b
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	60°C	32%
S6	PDA (1)	4c	DBU	DMSO	24h	7c
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	RT	52%
S7	PDA (1)	4d	DBU	DMF	24h	7d
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	RT	89%
S 8	PDA (1)	4 f	DBU	DMF	24h	7f
	0.5 mmol	2 mmol	2 mmol	4 ml	RT	66%

5. UV-Vis Absorption and Fluorescence Spectra

Compound	Solvent	λ_{abs}	λ_{em}	$\Phi_{ m F}$
3	EtOH	468, 440	485, 515	0.86
K ₂ 5a	DMF	475, 443	487	0.16
K ₂ 5a	EtOH	466, 438	477.5, 509	0.93
K ₂ 5a	Water ^a	463, 435	475, 505	1.0
6a	CHL	466, 438	482, 511.5	0.88
6a	EtOH	463, 435	479, 507	0.85
K9a	DMF	521	581	0.14
K9a	EtOH	513	584	0.65
K9a	Water ^a	505	591	0.19
10a	CHL	507, 477,5	530, 566	0.73
10a	EtOH	501, 472	542	0.66
K12a	DMF	481	522	0.19
K12a	EtOH	472, 447	522	0.96
K12a	Water ^a	468, 444	524	~0.6 ^b
14a	CHL	470, 441.5	487, 517	0.92
14a	EtOH	466, 438	484, 512	0.87

Table S3. Spectral data of amic acids, amic acid salts and amic esters

a: 0.01 M K₂CO₃ b: inaccurate measurement due to low solubility



Figure S14. a) Normalized UV-Vis absorption and b) normalized fluorescence emission spectra of the amic acid salts K_{25a} , K9a and K12a in DMF.



Figure S15. a) Normalized UV-Vis absorption and b) normalized fluorescence emission spectra of amic esters 6a, 10a and 14a along with PTE 3 in chloroform.



Figure S16. a) Normalized UV-Vis absorption and b) normalized fluorescence emission spectra of the amic acid salts K_{25a} , K9a and K12a in water.

6 NMR and Mass Spectra













Figure S18. Mass spectrum of 5a. Calculated masses are: 5a²⁻; 481.14, K5a⁻; 963.30.















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Figure S21. Mass spectrum of 6a. Calculated 6a; 594.2730, 6a₂=1188.5460, 6a₃= 1783.8222.


















Figure S26. FTIR spectrum of 7d.

















Figure S30. Mass spectrum of 9a determined by direct injection. Calculated masses are: 9a; 491.16, 9a₂H; 983.33. Compound 15 formed after amic acid hydrolysis has a mass of 447.11.















Figure S33. Mass spectrum of 10a. Calculated masses are: 10a; 548.2311, 10a2; 1096.4622.











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 Figure S35. Mass spectrum of 12a. Calculated masses are:
 12a;
 566.2173 and .













Figure S38. Mass spectrum of compound 13b











Figure S41. Mass spectrum of compound 13c.
























Figure S47. Mass spectrum of compound 13e.























Figure S53. Mass spectrum of 14a. Calculated masses are: 14a; 623.2833.



