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ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### **On the Origin of the Inverted Singlet-Triplet Gap of the 5<sup>th</sup> Generation Light-Emitting Molecules**

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**Table S1** Vertical excitation energies (in eV) calculated at the TDDFT level of theory. The molecular structures were optimized at the B3LYP/def2-TZVPD level.

Molecule →	1		2		3		4		5		6	
Method	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
S-VWN	1.178	1.035	2.696	2.470	1.652	1.470	1.930	1.727	2.150	1.959	2.127	1.927
BP86	-	-	2.666	2.478	1.680	1.456	1.961	1.710	2.184	1.950	2.160	1.918
PBE	1.198	1.024	2.660	2.477	1.677	1.460	1.957	1.715	2.180	1.953	2.156	1.921
TPSS	1.226	1.040	2.735	2.540	1.722	1.488	2.011	1.747	2.241	1.996	2.216	1.961
TPSSH	1.247	1.040	2.863	2.644	1.777	1.512	2.087	1.784	2.333	2.052	2.306	2.012
B3LYP	1.234	1.034	2.902	2.684	1.778	1.517	2.098	1.796	2.352	2.071	2.324	2.028
PBE0	1.262	1.026	3.000	2.750	1.829	1.526	2.161	1.811	2.426	2.101	2.397	2.055
BHLYP	1.342	1.053	3.350	3.042	1.994	1.606	2.371	1.902	2.676	2.242	2.646	2.189
MN15	1.221	1.069	2.984	2.812	1.798	1.580	2.142	1.875	2.409	2.165	2.374	2.118
CAM-B3LYP	1.266	1.011	3.118	2.854	1.875	1.542	2.230	1.839	2.510	2.147	2.478	2.096
tuned-CAM-B3LYP	1.196	1.003	2.852	2.644	1.741	1.490	2.061	1.774	2.313	2.046	2.283	2.000
$\omega$ B97X-D	1.284	1.051	3.146	2.900	1.897	1.586	2.254	1.887	2.536	2.196	2.503	2.142
LH14t-calPBE	1.241	1.033	2.983	2.760	1.778	1.517	2.145	1.829	2.411	2.117	2.379	2.068

**Table S2** Percentage of HOMO-LUMO configuration in the first excited states using different *ab initio* approaches.

Molecule →	1		2		3		4		5		6	
State	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
XMC-CASPT2	81	93	86	90	86	91	75	85	85	93	85	94
CC2	97.9	98.5	96.5	98.1	94.1	97.7	90.9	96.4	89.3	95.6	91.5	97.6
ADC(2)	97.8	98.4	95.8	97.7	94.1	97.6	91.0	96.3	89.4	95.6	91.5	97.5

**Table S3** Vertical, adiabatic, and 0–0 excitation energies calculated at the ADC(2) level of theory (in eV). The molecular structures of ground states were optimized at the MP2/def2-TZVP level of theory, whereas excited state geometries were optimized at the ADC(2)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

Molecule	Vertical		Adiabatic		0–0	
	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
1	0.993	1.132	0.936	1.080	0.955	1.027
2	2.663	2.913	2.582	2.838	2.437	2.551
3	1.540	1.658	1.471	1.591	1.415	1.491
4	1.915	2.002	1.779	1.906	1.692	1.764
5	2.154	2.296	2.013	2.145	1.901	1.995
6	2.087	2.218	2.008	2.142	1.905	2.002

**Table S4** Vertical excitation energies (in eV) calculated at different levels of theory from literature.

Molecule →		1			2		
Ref.	method	E(S <sub>1</sub> )	E(T <sub>1</sub> )	ΔE <sub>ST</sub>	E(S <sub>1</sub> )	E(T <sub>1</sub> )	ΔE <sub>ST</sub>
1	SA-CASSCF/def2-TZVP	0.826	0.936	-0.110	-	-	-
1	SC-NEVPT2/def2-TZVP	1.107	1.259	-0.152	-	-	-
1	SCS-CC2/def2-TZVP	1.110	1.330	-0.220	-	-	-
2	CIS/def2-TZVP	1.797	1.460	0.337	4.328	3.918	0.410
2	CIS(D)/def2-TZVP	1.042	1.322	-0.280	2.627	3.150	-0.523
2	SCS-CC2/def2-TZVP	1.110	1.334	-0.224	2.847	3.226	-0.379
2	SCS-ADC(2)/def2-TZVP	1.080	1.308	-0.228	2.790	3.174	-0.384
3	CIS/cc-pVDZ	1.83	1.50	0.33	-	-	-
3	CIS(D)/cc-pVDZ	1.07	1.37	-0.30	-	-	-
3	ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ	1.04	1.20	-0.16	-	-	-
3	EOM-CCSD/cc-pVDZ	1.09	1.19	-0.10	-	-	-
4	RASSCF/def2-TZVP	0.65	0.93	-0.28	2.56	2.95	-0.39
4	RASPT2/def2-TZVP	0.86	0.89	-0.03	2.54	2.67	-0.13
4	CIS/def2-TZVP	1.64	1.00	0.64	4.35	3.78	0.57
4	CIS(D)/def2-TZVP	0.91	1.12	-0.21	2.49	3.10	-0.61
4	B2PLYP/def2-TZVP	1.12	1.10	0.02	2.75	2.79	-0.04
4	DLPNO-STEOM-CCSD/def2-TZVP	0.61	1.04	-0.43	2.35	3.01	-0.66
5	ADC(3)/cc-pVDZ	0.777	0.869	-0.092	2.665	2.774	-0.109
5	ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ	1.038	1.198	-0.160	2.578	2.856	-0.278
5	EOM-CCSD/cc-pVDZ	1.092	1.191	-0.099	2.791	2.971	-0.180
5	FNO-EOM-CCSD/cc-pVDZ	1.126	1.230	-0.104	3.418	3.632	-0.214
5	DLPNO-NEVPT2(6,6)/def2-SV(P)	1.112	1.301	-0.189	2.552	2.896	-0.344
5	ωB2PLYP/def2-SVP	1.316	1.274	0.042	3.028	3.246	-0.218
5	SA-SF-PBE50/def2-SVP	1.095	1.204	-0.109	2.909	3.090	-0.181
6	ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ	-	-	-	2.569	2.851	-0.282
6	CC2/cc-pVDZ	-	-	-	2.676	2.947	-0.271
6	EOM-CCSD/cc-pVDZ	-	-	-	2.781	2.963	-0.182
6	CASPT2/cc-pVDZ	-	-	-	2.326	2.551	-0.225
7	DFT/MRCL/TZVP	-	-	-	2.59	2.60	-0.01

**Table S5** Vertical excitation energies calculated at various levels of theory (in eV). The molecular structures of ground states were optimized at the CASPT2(12,9)/def2-TZVP level of theory.

Molecule	CASSCF (12,9)		CASSCF (14,14)		CASPT2 (12,9)		CASPT2 (14,14)	
	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
1	1.154	1.317	0.632	1.005	1.165	1.313	0.958	1.064
2	3.199	3.425	1.560	2.202	2.265	2.283		
3	1.846	1.920	0.917	1.353	1.293	1.349		
4	2.487	2.321	1.694	1.777	1.680	1.898		
5	2.775	2.515	1.421	1.834	1.872	2.526		
6	2.675	2.511	1.104	1.674	1.814	1.974		

**Table S6** The triplet excitation energies (in eV) obtained using the SFDFD approach.

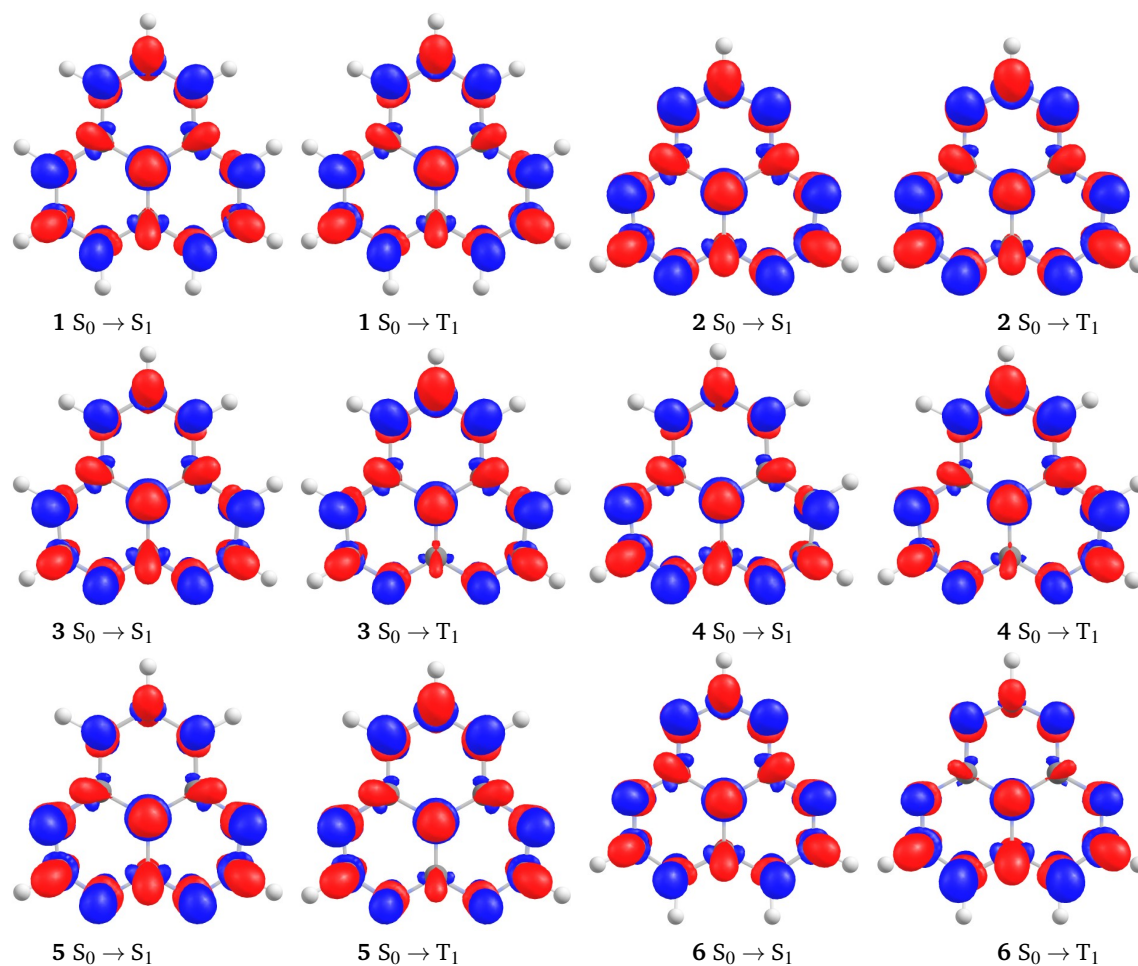
Molecule →	1	2	3	4	5	6
T <sub>1</sub>	1.217	3.045	1.659	1.911	2.146	2.199

**Table S7** Spin contamination of the  $\Delta$ SCF calculations using two DFT functionals and the Hartree-Fock level. The molecular structures were optimized at the B3LYP/def2-TZVPD level.

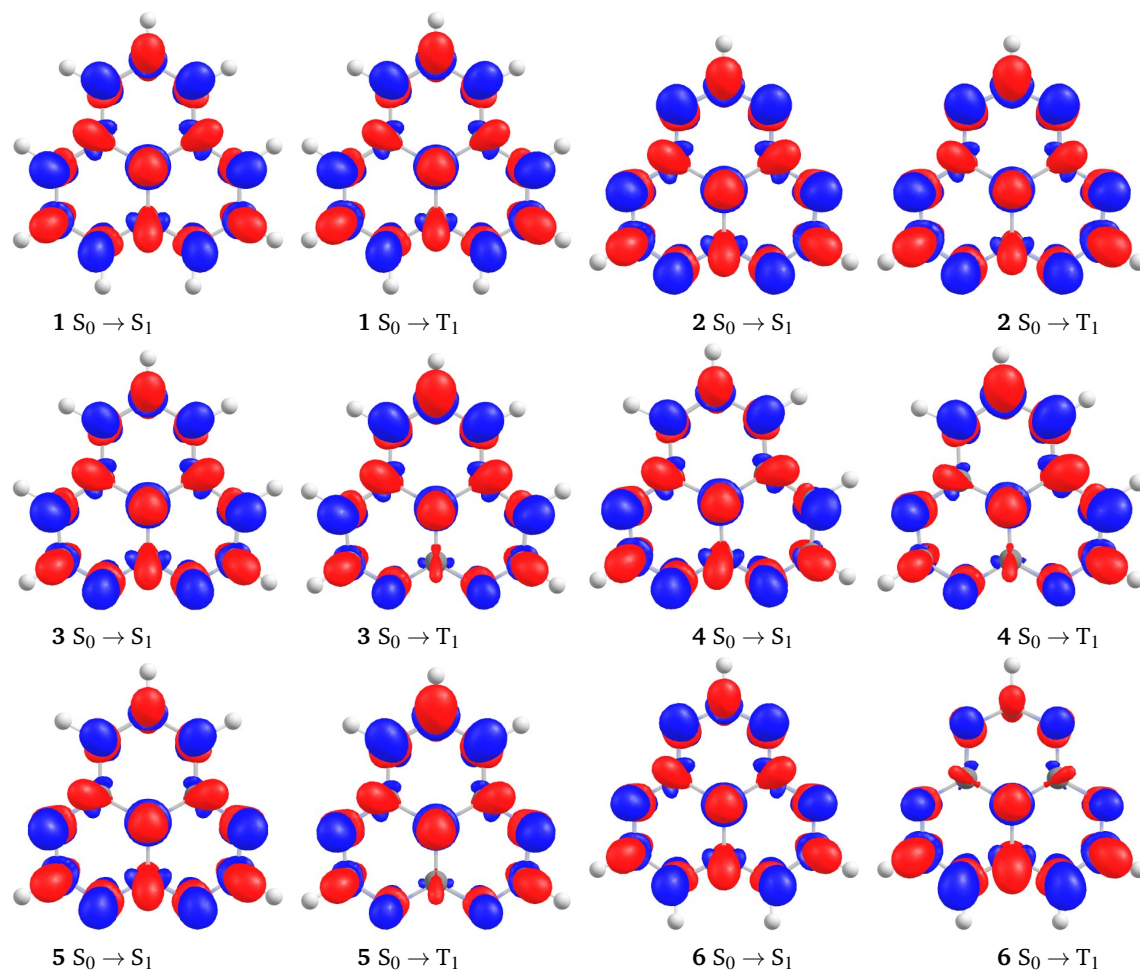
Molecule	B3LYP		$\omega$ B97X-D		HF	
	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
1	1.09	2.01	1.17	2.02	2.01	2.24
2	1.10	2.01	1.17	2.02		
3	1.09	2.01	1.16	2.02		
5	1.09	2.01	1.16	2.02		
6	1.09	2.01	1.16	2.02		

**Table S8** Vertical excitation energies (in eV) calculated with the  $\Delta$ SCF approach employing two DFT functionals. The molecular structures were optimized at the B3LYP/def2-TZVPD level.

Molecule	B3LYP		$\omega$ B97X-D	
	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>
1	0.958	1.074	0.896	1.175
2	2.578	2.732	2.746	3.077
3	1.472	1.565	1.493	1.713
5	2.028	2.126	2.127	2.342
6	1.993	2.081	2.091	2.277



**Fig. S1** Density differences for  $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$  and  $S_0 \rightarrow T_1$  excitations calculated at the DFT B3LYP/def2-TZVPD level of theory. Regions of decreasing density are in blue, red color denotes regions of increasing density (isosurface 0.004).



**Fig. S2** Density differences for  $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$  and  $S_0 \rightarrow T_1$  excitations calculated at the DFT  $\omega$ B97X-D/def2-TZVPD level of theory. Regions of decreasing density are in blue, red color denotes regions of increasing density (isosurface 0.004).

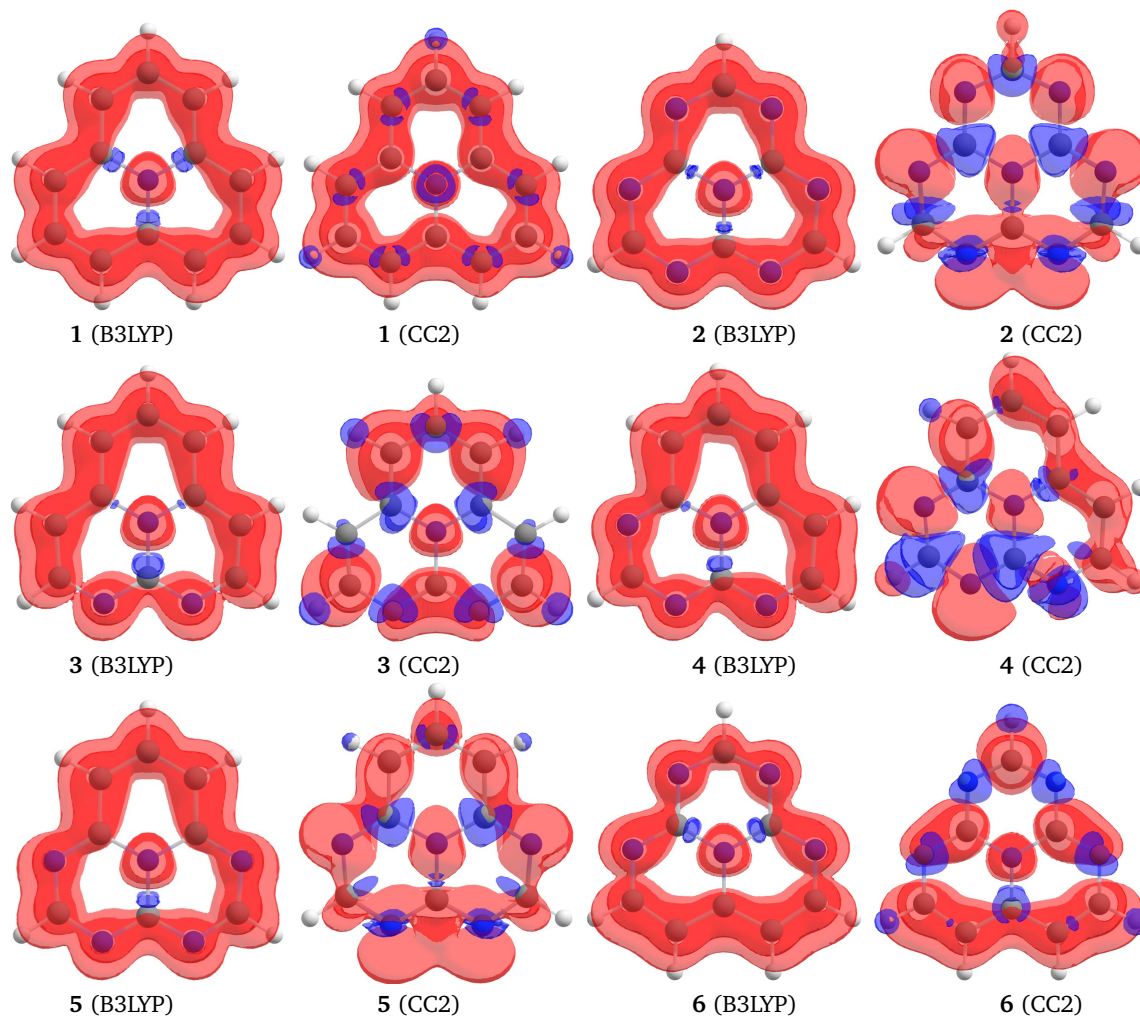


Fig. S3 Spin densities of the lowest  $T_1$  state calculated at the B3LYP/def2-TZVPD and CC2/def2-TZVP levels for molecules 1 to 6.

## Notes and references

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