# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

to

# Magnifying the ESIPT process in tris(salicylideneanilines) by steric effect - a pathway to the molecules with the panchromatic fluorescence

Pawel Gawrys<sup>a</sup>, Olaf Morawski<sup>a\*</sup>, Marzena Banasiewicz<sup>a</sup> and Cristina A. Barboza<sup>a,b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Al. Lotników 32/46, Warsaw, Poland <sup>b</sup>Department of Physical and Quantum Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław, Poland



Figure S1. Full structures of the studied TSANs (two diastereoisomers)

## **Theoretical results**



**Figure S2.** Planar molecular structures for prototype molecules with  $C_{3h}$  symmetry used for theoretical exploration. Twisted molecules have the aniline ring perpendicular to the salicylidene core through the rotation along bonds marked in red by 90 degrees.

**Table S1.** Vertical transition energy ( $\Delta E$ ), oscillator strength (f), dipole moment ( $\mu$ ), and leading electronic configurations of planar and perpendicular *tris*(*N*-salicylideneanilines) computed with ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ method at the MP2/cc-pVDZ equilibrium geometry of the ground state.

	State	$\Delta E/eV$	f	µ/Debye	el. conf.
PO	$S_0$	0.00	-	0.00	$(33a'')^2$
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.33	0.98	1.76	0.82(17a"-19a")
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.33	0.98	1.77	0.82(18a"-19a")
	$^{1}n\pi^{*}$	3.90	0.00	0.00	0.61(16a"-19a")
	$S_0$	0.01	-		$(24a'')^2$
Р2	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.26	0.96	1.85	0.81(23a"-25a")
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.26	0.96	1.85	0.86(23a"-25a")
	$^{1}n\pi^{*}$	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.86(114a'-25a")
Т0	$S_0$	0.52	-	0.00	$(33a'')^2$
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.94	0.70	1.00	0.90(33a"-34a")
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.94	0.70	1.00	0.90(32a"-34a")
	$^{1}n\pi^{*}$	4.36	0.00	0.00	0.65(28a'-34a")
T2	S <sub>0</sub>	0.00	-	0.00	$(45a'')^2$
	$^{1}n\pi^{*}$	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.92(44a"-46a")
	$^{1}\pi\pi^{*}$	3.88	0.68	1.15	0.92(45a"-46a")
	$^{1}n\pi^{*}$	3.88	0.68	1.15	0.83(90a'-46a")



**Figure S3.** Natural transition orbitals computed for the first vertical electronic transition at MP2/ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ level of theory.

**Table S2.** Vertical transition energy ( $\Delta E$ ), oscillator strength (*f*) and dipole moments ( $\mu(S_I)$  and  $\mu(S_0)$ ), computed with ADC(2)/cc-pVDZ method at the equilibrium geometry of the  $S_I$  state of TSANs.

		$\Delta E/eV$	f	$\mu(S_I)$ /Debye	$\mu(S_0)$ /Debye
PO	kkk	3.12	1.15	1.44	0.00
	kke	2.25	0.53	6.57	6.41
P2	kkk	2.89	0.89	1.95	0.89
	kke	2.25	0.53	6.57	6.48
Т0	kkk	3.38	0.52	1.30	0.31
	kke	2.23	0.52	6.97	6.12
T2	kkk	3.38	0.54	1.14	0.17
	kke	2.62	0.30	4.97	6.56

## **Experimental results**



Figure S4. Fluorescence spectra of dH, dMe, dEt and dIPr measured in *n*-hexane, *n*-hexadecane, toluene, THF and ACN solutions.



**Figure S5.** Solvatochromism of the LE and ESIPT fluorescence bands for **dH**, **dMe**, **dEt** and **dIPr** compounds expressed as wavenumber of the maximum of emission band, v<sub>fl</sub>, versus modified Lippert-Mataga polarity parameter  $f(\varepsilon, n) = [(\varepsilon - 1)/(2\varepsilon + 1)] - \frac{1}{2}[(n^2 - 1)/(2n^2 + 1)]$ .

**Table S3.** Parameters of two exponential decays obtained from deconvolution of fluorescence decays for **dH**, **dMe**, **dEt** and **dIPr** in five solvents. Wavelength of decay observation,  $\tau_{obs}$ , is expressed in nanometers and decay times,  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ , in picoseconds. Excitation at 390 nm.

Molecule	Solvent	Flu. band	$\lambda_{obs}/nm$	τ1 <b>/ps</b>	τ2 <b>/ps</b>	A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>2</sub>
	n havana	LE	452	25	263	4.6	17.7
	<i>n</i> -nexane	ESIPT	600	31	251	-21	20.73
	n hovadacana	LE	454	292	523	12.3	2.64
dH	<i>II-Hexadecalle</i>	ESIPT	600	312	614	-16	15.56
	Toluene	LE	457	288			
	THF	LE	456	198			
	ACN	LE	456	164			
	n hovana	LE	444	28	163	16	19.3
	<i>n</i> -nexane	ESIPT	550	29	160	-38	37.8
	n hovadacana	LE	448	23	170	10.4	20
dMo	II-HEXAUECAILE	ESIPT	555	20	165	-31	31.36
uivie	Toluono	LE	450	42	82	5.2	11.9
	Toluelle	ESIPT	600	37	73	-39	39.4
	THF	LE	450	73			
	ACN	LE	450	46			
	<i>n</i> -hexane	LE	430	14	226	40.3	10.92
		ESIPT	600	31	231	-25	26.8
	n have de ser e	LE	481	36	233	16.7	14.51
	<i>n</i> -nexadecane	ESIPT	555	25	236	-42	42.19
dE+	Toluene	LE	450	16	98	33.6	31.6
uEl		ESIPT	600	20.5	101	-28	28.6
	тиг	LE	450	21	113	9.9	7.13
	ITTE	ESIPT	582	27	99	-20	23.9
		LE	450	32	63	14.9	22.2
	ACN	ESIPT	582	31	62	-95	94.9
	n boxana	LE	430	0.53	353	997	5
	<i>II-IIexalle</i>	ESIPT	550	28	354	-16	19.5
	n hovadacana	LE	430	13.5	280	28.7	3.3
	<i>II-Hexadecalle</i>	ESIPT	550	27	127	-9.9	9.74
طاله	Toluono	LE	430	1.5	169	314	7.27
uiri	TOIGETTE	ESIPT	600	31	166	-28	28.2
	тыс	LE	430	2.5	164	247	7.8
		ESIPT	600	30	160	-28	28.05
		LE	420	3.1	84	633	30.9
	ACN	ESIPT	600	28	84	-41	41.54



**Figure S6.** Two exponential decay fit (red line) to fluorescence profile (black) of **dH** in *n*-hexadecane. Fluorescence recorded at 454 nm with temporal resolution 1.53 ps per channel. Excitation pulse (IRF) is plotted in blue, residuals and the autocorrelation function in black.

Relations of the observed fluorescence decay times ( $\tau_1$ ,  $\tau_2$ ) and amplitudes (A, B, C) to rate constants  $k_1$ ,  $k_{12}$ ,  $k_2$ ,  $k_{21}$  and initial population [S1]<sub>0</sub>:

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2} (k_1 + k_{12} + k_2 + k_{21} \mp \sqrt{[(k_2 + k_{21} - k_1 - k_{12})^2 + 4k_{12}k_{21}]})$$
  

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2} (k_1 + k_{12} + k_2 + k_{21} \mp \sqrt{[(k_2 + k_{21} - k_1 - k_{12})^2 + 4k_{12}k_{21}]})$$
(S1)

$$A = [S1]_0 \frac{\lambda_2 - k_1 - k_{12}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} A = [S1]_0 \frac{\lambda_2 - k_1 - k_{12}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}$$
(S2)

$$B = [S1]_0 \frac{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} B = [S1]_0 \frac{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}$$
(S3)  
$$C = [S1]_0 \frac{k_{12}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1} C = [S1]_0 \frac{k_{12}}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}$$

c 
$$[J^{1}]_{\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}}$$
  $[J^{1}]_{\lambda_{2}-\lambda_{1}}$  (S4)  
can be used to determine the sums of rate constants:

$$k_{1} + k_{12} = \frac{A\lambda_{1} + B\lambda_{2}}{A + B}k_{1} + k_{12} = \frac{A\lambda_{1} + B\lambda_{2}}{A + B}$$
(S5)

$$k_{2} + k_{21} = \lambda_{1} + \lambda_{2} - k_{1} - k_{12}k_{2} + k_{21} = \lambda_{1} + \lambda_{2} - k_{1} - k_{12}$$
(S6)

$$k_{21} = \frac{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 - (k_1 + k_{12} - k_2 - k_{21})^2}{4k_{12}} k_{21} = \frac{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 - (k_1 + k_{12} - k_2 - k_{21})^2}{4k_{12}}$$
(S7)

Knowing  $k_1$  for a molecule/solvent where ESIPT does not occur one may calculate with (S5)  $k_{12}$  and then with (S6) and (S7) – the rest of rate constants for this molecule in other solvents.

**Table S4.** Rate constants of the forward and backward ESIPT,  $k_{12}$  and  $k_{21}$  for **dH**, **dMe**, **dEt** and **dIPr** and their deuterated counterparts in *n*-hexane at temperature 21°C. Kinetic isotope effect (KIE) is calculated for both rates: KIE( $k_{12}$ ) =  $k_{12}$ (H)/  $k_{12}$ (D) and KIE( $k_{21}$ ) =  $k_{21}$ (H)/  $k_{21}$ (D).

Compound	k <sub>12</sub> (H)	k <sub>21</sub> (H)	k <sub>12</sub> (D)	k <sub>21</sub> (D)	KIE(k <sub>12</sub> )	KIE(k <sub>21</sub> )
	10 <sup>9</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>					
dH	7.8	27.5	1.2	4.4	6.4	6.2
dMe	53.4	25.2	10.7	11.0	5.0	2.3
dEt	253.7	14.0	55.5	7.5	4.6	1.8
dIPr	1874.0	9.4	281.4	6.0	6.6	1.5



**Figure S7.** The spectra of **dH**, **dMe**, **dEt** and **dIPr** in n-hexane. Total ("in phase") emission (blue line), long-living ("out of phase") emission (red line) at **5 K** and fluorescence spectrum at room temperature (red line). 5 K spectra taken with excitation at 405 nm, for the RT spectrum excitation was at 380 nm.



**Figure S8.** The normalised fluorescence excitation spectra of **dH**, **dMe**, **dEt** and **dIPr** in *n*-hexane at room temperature using indicated excitation wavelengths.

## **Instruments and methods**

1H FT-NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker AVANCE 500 MHz spectrometer. The chemical shifts are given *vs*. TMS as an internal standard. The coupling constants were calculated by using chemical shifts reported in Hz unit (ChemSketch 12.0). FT infrared spectra were recorded using Thermo-Nicolet Nexus 670 FTIR spectrometer. Low and high resolution mass spectra ((LRMS and HRMS ( $EI^+$ )) were obtained with a Waters AutoSpec Premier mass spectrometer. Melting points were obtained with an A. KRÜSS Optronic KSP1N melting point meter. Elemental analysis was conducted with an Elementar Vario EL III analyzer. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis was carried out using Merck Silica gel 60 F 254 TLC plates and spots were visualised under UV light (365 or 254 nm). Silica gel column chromatography (CC) was performed with short 1 inch diameter columns packed with Silica gel 60 (Merck) suspended in hexane.

## Synthesis and purification of compounds

All chemicals and solvents were purchased from Aldrich or Fluorochem with the exception of the 1,3,5-triformylphloroglucinol which was purchased from Carbosynth. All reactants were used as received. None of the reactions and purifications required oxygen, water and ambient light exclusion.

## Synthesis of dH

(2E, 4E, 6E)-2,4,6-tris {[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)amino]methylidene} cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer) and

(2Z)-2,4,6-tris{[(3,4-dimethylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer)



In a one necked round bottoms flask (100 ml) was put magnetic stir bar (ellipsoidal, 10 x 20 mm), 1,3,5-triformylphloroglucinol (0.42 g; 2 mmol) and 3,4-dimethylaniline (0.97 g; 8 mmol; 4 eq.) and 1-propanol (40 ml). The mixture while stirred was heated to reflux. After 30 minutes the product dominated in the reaction mixture reaction mixture (a few drops of the reaction mixture were diluted in acetone, TLC - DCM) and it was manifested by the appearance of the precipitate. Dioxane (10 ml) was added and the reaction was conducted for 4 hours in total. After that, the suspension was cooled below 50 °C and diluted with methanol (~60 ml). The precipitate was filtered off after 15 minutes of stirring on a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). The yellow powder (0.92 g) was then suspended in methanol (75 ml) in a round bottom flask (100 ml) and stirred with reflux for 2 hours and filtered off again after cooling below 50 °C a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml). Finally the product was dried in vacuum desiccator for at least 8 hours (75 °C, 2 mbar). Pale yellow

amorphous solid (858 mg, 82%). The product has very high affinity to the polar and protic solvents. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis indicates that the compound exists in the form of two isomers. The product stains TLC plates with intensive yellow colour (two spots).

## <u>HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>):</u> calculated (M<sup>+</sup>): 519.2516, found: 519.2504, error: -2.31 ppm.

<sup>1</sup><u>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TMS, 298 K, 500 Mhz):</u> 13.34 (doublet, J = 13.1 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 13.30 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 13.34 ppm), 12.92 (doublet, J = 13.0 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.91 (doublet, J = 13.1 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 12.92 ppm), 8.78 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.77 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz. =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.78 ppm): 8.72 (doublet, J = 13.2 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.69 (doublet, J = 12.6 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.72 ppm), 6.98-7.15 (multiplet, 9H, J<sub>ortho</sub> = 8.1 Hz, J<sub>meta</sub> = 2.3 Hz, phenyl substituent), 2.22-2.29 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of several singlets at 2.23 ppm, 2.24 ppm, 2.27 ppm and 2.28 ppm, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub> groups).

<u>IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)</u>: 3013, 2964, 2921, 2855, 1621 (CO), 1601, 1579, 1554, 1512, 1448, 1409, 1339, 1288, 1279, 1249, 1219, 1189, 1168, 1119, 1096, 1039, 1021, 988, 861, 847, 801. Elemental analysis: (C, H, N, Q), calculated: C(76, 28%), H(6, 40%), N(8, 00%), O(9, 24%)

<u>Elemental analysis:</u> (C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), calculated: C(76.28%), H(6.40%), N(8.09%), O(9.24%), found: C(76.20%), H(6.27%), N(8.06%).

Melting point: (dioxane:methanol precipitate): 316-317 °C.

## Synthesis of dMe

# (2E,4E,6E)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-dimethylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer C<sub>3h</sub>) and

(2Z)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-dimethylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer C<sub>s</sub>)



In a one necked round bottoms flask (100 ml) was put magnetic stir bar (ellipsoidal, 10 x 20 mm), 1,3,5-triformylphloroglucinol (0.42 g; 2 mmol) and 2,6-dimethylaniline (0.97 g; 8 mmol; 4 eq.) and 1-propanol (40 ml). The mixture while stirred was heated to reflux. After 30 minutes the product dominated in the reaction mixture reaction mixture (a few drops of the reaction mixture were diluted in acetone, TLC - DCM) and the reaction was conducted for 4 hours in total. After that, the orange-brown solution was cooled below 50 °C and diluted with methanol (~60 ml) and further cooled to the ambient temperature to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate was filtered off after 15 minutes of stirring on a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). The beige powder (0.95 g) was easily dissolved in chloroform (15 ml) (the solubility in dichloromethane is too low for CC) and put onto chromatography column [10 cm high, 50 ml SiO<sub>2</sub> suspended in hexanes, 1 inch wide column]. The product was eluted with chloroform + 4% of ethyl acetate (Chloroform alone is not polar enough to elute the product in a narrow fraction). The bright yellow colour fraction was collected (*ca.* 120 ml) directly into the receiving flask (100 ml) and evaporated to dryness to yield a bright yellow

solid. In the same flask, the product was crystallised by dissolving it in hot tetrahydrofuran (20 ml, Uvasol) and rapid consecutive addition of 1-propanol (20 ml, ACS reagent grade) and methanol (2 x 30 ml, Uvasol). The crystallisation began promptly and the flask was put into the freezer for 24 hours (-25 °C). The next day the crystals were filtered off a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). Finally the product was dried in vacuum desiccator for at least 8 hours (75 °C, 2 mbar). Pale yellow crystalline solid (837 mg, 80%). The product has very high affinity to the polar and protic solvents. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis indicates that the compound exists in the form of two isomers. The product stains TLC plates with poorly visible pale yellow colour (two spots).

# HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>): calculated (M<sup>+</sup>): 519.2516, found: 519.2512, error: -0.77 ppm.

<sup>1</sup><u>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TMS, 298 K, 500 Mhz):</u> 12.88 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.83 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer partially overlaps with signal at 12.88 ppm), 12.52 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, two perfectly overlapping doublets of N-H protons of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.42 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.40 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.42 ppm), 8.35 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.34 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.35 ppm), 7.07-7.15 (multiplet, 9H, phenyl substituent), 2.35-2.42 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of four singlets at 2.36 ppm, 2.38 ppm, 2.39 ppm and 2.41 ppm, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub> groups).

<u>IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>):</u> 3029, 2965, 2922, 2851, 1607 (CO), 1581, 1554, 1473, 1450, 1426, 1380, 1298, 1256, 1244, 1221, 1191, 1165, 1093, 1030, 1007, 991, 922, 835, 772, 738.

<u>Elemental analysis:</u> (C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>33</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), calculated: C(76.28%), H(6.40%), N(8.09%), O(9.24%), found: C(75.07%), H(6.35%), N(7.75%).

Melting point: (THF:1-PrOH:MeOH 1:1:3): 242-244 °C.

## Synthesis of dEt

(2E,4E,6E)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-diethylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer  $C_{3h}$ ) and

(2Z)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-diethylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer C<sub>s</sub>)



In a one necked round bottoms flask (100 ml) was put magnetic stir bar (ellipsoidal, 10 x 20 mm), 1,3,5-triformylphloroglucinol (0.42 g; 2 mmol) and 2,6-diethylaniline (1.19 g; 8 mmol; 4 eq.) and 1-propanol (40 ml). The mixture while stirred was heated to reflux. After 30 minutes the product dominated in the reaction mixture reaction mixture (a few drops of the reaction mixture were diluted in acetone, TLC - DCM) and the reaction was conducted for 4 hours in total. After that, the orange-brown solution was cooled below 50  $^{\circ}$ C and diluted with

methanol (~60 ml) and further cooled in the freezer (-25 °C) to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate was filtered off the next day on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). The beige powder (0.93 g) was easily dissolved in dichloromethane (15 ml) and put onto chromatography column [10 cm high, 50 ml SiO<sub>2</sub> suspended in hexanes, 1 inch wide column]. The product was eluted with dichloromethane + 2% of ethyl acetate (DCM alone is not polar enough to elute the product in a narrow fraction). The bright vellow colour fraction was collected (ca. 120 ml) directly into the receiving flask (100 ml) and evaporated to dryness to yield a yellow resin. In the same flask, the product was crystallised by dissolving it in boiling 1-propanol (30 ml, ACS reagent grade) and rapid consecutive addition of methanol (2 x 30 ml, Uvasol). The flask was put into the freezer for 48 hours (-25 °C). After two days the crystals were filtered off a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). Finally the product was dried in vacuum desiccator for 8 hours (75 °C, 2 mbar). Pale yellow solid (843 mg, 70%). The product has high affinity to the polar and protic solvents. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis indicates that the compound exists in the form of two isomers. The product stains TLC plates with barely visible pale yellow colour (two spots).

<u>HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>)</u>: calculated (M<sup>+</sup>): 603.3455, found: 603.3487, error: 5.30 ppm.

<sup>1</sup><u>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TMS, 298 K, 500 Mhz)</u>: 12.86 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.82 (doublet, J = 13.2 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 12.86 ppm), 12.58 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.57 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer partially overlaps with signal at 12.58 ppm), 8.37 (doublet, J = 13.1 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.37 ppm forming apparent triplet), 8.30 (doublet, J = 13.5 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 8.29 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.37 ppm forming apparent triplet), 8.30 (doublet, J = 13.5 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.30 ppm), 7.12-7.25 (multiplet, 9H, phenyl substituent), 2.65-2.78 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of four quartets, J = 7.5 Hz, 12H, CH<sub>2</sub> groups), 1.20-1.30 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of four triplets, J = 7.5 Hz, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub> groups).

<u>IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>)</u>: 3026, 2966, 2932, 2873, 1602 (CO), 1579, 1550, 1470, 1437, 1378, 1294, 1256, 1215, 1183, 1168, 1105, 1099, 1079, 1059, 1014, 907, 851, 836, 829, 801, 764, 738. <u>Elemental analysis</u>: (C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>45</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), calculated: C(77.58%), H(7.51%), N(6.96%), O(7.95%), found: C(77.25%), H(7.01%), N(7.08%). Malting point: (1 PrOH:MaOH 1:2): 215, 216 °C

Melting point: (1-PrOH:MeOH 1:2): 215-216 °C.

## Synthesis of dIpr

(2E,4E,6E)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer C<sub>3h</sub>) and

(2Z)-2,4,6-tris{[(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)amino]methylidene}cyclohexane-1,3,5-trione (diastereoisomer  $C_s$ )





In a one necked round bottoms flask (100 ml) was put magnetic stir bar (ellipsoidal, 10 x 20 mm), 1,3,5-triformylphloroglucinol (0.42 g; 2 mmol) and 2,6-diethylaniline (1.42 g; 8 mmol; 4 eq.) and 1-propanol (40 ml). The mixture while stirred was heated to reflux. After 30 minutes the product dominated in the reaction mixture reaction mixture (a few drops of the reaction mixture were diluted in acetone, TLC - DCM) and the reaction was conducted for 4 hours in total. After that, the orange solution was cooled below 50 °C and diluted with methanol (~60 ml) and further cooled in the freezer (-25 °C) to obtain a precipitate. The precipitate was filtered off the next day on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). The beige powder (1.1 g) was easily dissolved in dichloromethane (15 ml) and put onto chromatography column [10 cm high, 50 ml SiO<sub>2</sub> suspended in hexanes, 1 inch wide column]. The product was eluted with dichloromethane + 1% of ethyl acetate (DCM alone is not polar enough to elute the product in a narrow fraction). The bright yellow colour fraction was collected (ca. 120 ml) directly into the receiving flask (100 ml) and evaporated to dryness to yield a yellow resin. In the same flask, the product was crystallised by dissolving it in boiling 1-propanol (30 ml, ACS reagent grade) and rapid consecutive addition of methanol (2 x 30 ml, Uvasol). The flask was put into the freezer for 48 hours (-25 °C). After two days the crystals were filtered off a on a sinter funnel (G4, 1 inch wide), washed with methanol (ambient temperature, 4 x 30 ml) and dried in air for 16 h (preferably overnight). Finally the product was dried in vacuum desiccator for 8 hours (75 °C, 2 mbar). Pale vellow microcrystalline solid (841 mg, 61%). The product has high affinity to the polar and protic solvents. <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis indicates that the compound exists in the form of two isomers. The product stains TLC plates with almost not visible pale yellow colour (two spots).

## <u>HRMS (EI<sup>+</sup>)</u>: calculated (M<sup>+</sup>): 687.4394, found: 687.4406, error: 1.75 ppm.

<sup>1</sup><u>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub> + TMS, 298 K, 500 Mhz)</u>: 12.86 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.80 (doublet, J = 13.6 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 12.86 ppm), 12.58 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer), 12.57 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, N-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 12.58 ppm), 8.32 (doublet, J = 13.4 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>s</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.32 ppm), 8.26 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.32 ppm), 8.26 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.32 ppm), 8.26 (doublet, J = 13.3 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.29 ppm), 8.25 (doublet, J = 13.2 Hz, =C-H proton of C<sub>3h</sub> diastereoisomer, partially overlaps with signal at 8.26 ppm), 7.27-7.34 (multiplet, 6H, phenyl substituent), 7.17-7.25 (multiplet, 3H, phenyl substituent), 3.13-3.28 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of four septets, J = 6.8 Hz, 6H, CH groups), 1.19-1.30 (multiplet resulting from the overlap of four doublets, J = 6.9 Hz, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub> groups). IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3072, 2964, 2928, 2872, 1601 (CO), 1580, 1554, 1475, 1461, 1437, 1387,

 $\frac{11}{1365}, 1336, 1291, 1260, 1249, 1218, 1182, 1147, 1100, 1058, 1034, 1015, 935, 836, 801, 758.$ Elemental analysis: (C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>57</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), calculated: C(78.56%), H(8.35%), N(6.11%), O(6.98%), found: C(78.58%), H(8.05%), N(6.20%).

Melting point: (1-PrOH:MeOH 1:2): 288-289 °C.



Spectrum S1. <sup>1</sup>H FT-NMR spectrum of **dH** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (with extended diagnostic region)



Spectrum S2. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY FT-NMR spectrum of **dH** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (diagnostic region)



## Spectrum S3. LR-MS spectrum of dH (EI<sup>+</sup>)

### **Elemental Composition Report**

#### Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 40.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 80.0 Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions 6 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 N: 3-3 O: 3-3 P. Gawrys PGIF319 if\_pg1822h 239 (9.115) Cm (226:242) 06-Jul-2022 17:00:13 Operator: Marian Olejnik Voltage El+ AUTOSPEC 519.2504 151 100-492.9697 542.9688 504.9696 530.9664 520.2546 % 516.9672 493.9715 524.9757528.9713 543.9684 505.9728 498.9780 535.9666 540 9715 512.9784 524.9847 538.9962 0m/z 490.0 505.0 510.0 515.0 520.0 525.0 530.0 535.0 540.0 545.0 550.0 495.0 500.0 Minimum: -1.5 5.0 40.0 Maximum: Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE i-FIT Formula 519.2504 519.2522 -1.8 -3.5 19.0 5.2 C33 H33 N3 O3

Page 1

Spectrum S4. HR-MS spectrum of dH (EI<sup>+</sup>)



Spectrum S5. IR spectrum of dH (KBr)



Spectrum S6. <sup>1</sup>H FT-NMR spectrum of **dMe** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (with extended diagnostic region)



Spectrum S7. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY FT-NMR spectrum of **dMe** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (diagnostic region)



## Spectrum S8. LR-MS spectrum of dMe (EI<sup>+</sup>)

### **Elemental Composition Report**

#### Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 40.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 80.0 Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions 6 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 N: 3-3 O: 3-3 P. Gawrys PGIF320 if\_pg1823h 181 (6.903) Cm (181:200) 06-Jul-2022 17:27:48 Operator: Marian Olejnik Voltage El+ AUTOSPEC 519.2512 95 100-492.9716 542.9642 504.9696 520 2553 530,9664 516.9706 %-528.9679 493.9772497.9700 536.9746 540.9672 505.9731 510.2874 524.9788 548.9821 498 9825 0m/z 490.0 495.0 500.0 505.0 510.0 520.0 525.0 530.0 535.0 540.0 545.0 550.0 515.0 -1.5 80.0 Minimum: 5.0 40.0 Maximum: Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE i-FIT Formula 519.2512 519.2522 -1.0 -1.9 19.0 4.3 C33 H33 N3 O3

Spectrum S9. HR-MS spectrum of dMe (EI<sup>+</sup>)

## Page 1



Spectrum S10. IR spectrum of dMe (KBr)



Spectrum S11. <sup>1</sup>H FT-NMR spectrum of **dEt** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (with extended diagnostic region)



Spectrum S12. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY FT-NMR spectrum of **dEt** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (diagnostic region)



## Spectrum S13. LR-MS spectrum of $dEt (EI^+)$

### **Elemental Composition Report**

#### Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 40.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 80.0 Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions 7 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 N: 3-3 O: 3-3 P. Gawrys PGIF321 if\_pg1824h 251 (9.573) Cm (233:251) AUTOSPEC 06-Jul-2022 17:43:58 Operator: Marian Olejnik Voltage El+ 603.3487 540 100-588.3253 604.3525 % 602.3423 604.9614 592.9633 580.9617 616.9601 624.9681<sup>628.9592630.9601</sup> 593.9615 602.3352 578.9671 586 9712 605.3557 610.9789 631.9720 0-635.0 575.0 590.0 595.0 580.0 585.0 600.0 605.0 610.0 615.0 620.0 625.0 630.0 Minimum: -1.5 5.0 40.0 Maximum: Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE i-FIT Formula 603.3487 603.3461 2.6 4.3 19.0 0.4 C39 H45 N3 O3

## Spectrum S14. HR-MS spectrum of $dEt (EI^+)$

Page 1



Spectrum S15. IR spectrum of dEt (KBr)



Spectrum S16. <sup>1</sup>H FT-NMR spectrum of **dIpr** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (with extended diagnostic region)



Spectrum S17. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY FT-NMR spectrum of **dIpr** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (diagnostic region)



## Spectrum S18. LR-MS spectrum of $dIpr(EI^+)$

### **Elemental Composition Report**

#### Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 40.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 80.0 Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions 8 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 N: 3-3 O: 3-3 C: U-100 P. Gawrys PGIF322 if\_pg1825h 164 (6.255) Cm (163:178) 672.4125 06-Jul-2022 17:59:46 Operator: Marian Olejnik Voltage El+ AUTOSPEC 372 673.4163 % 687.4406 704.9590 674.4182 692.9568 666.9510 680.9568 705.9649 710.9624 716.9603 694.9682698.9766702.9651 685.4141 720.9540724.9448 0-720.0 665.0 670.0 685.0 695.0 700.0 705.0 710.0 715.0 675.0 680.0 690.0 Minimum: -1.5 5.0 40.0 Maximum: Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE i-FIT Formula 687.4406 687.4400 0.6 0.9 19.0 1.1 C45 H57 N3 O3

## Spectrum S19. HR-MS spectrum of **dIpr** (EI<sup>+</sup>)

Page 1



Spectrum S20. IR spectrum of dIpr (KBr)



Spectrum S21. The integration values of NH protons of the studied TSANs used for the determination of the diastereoisomeric composition. It was arbitrarily established that the sum of the integration values of NH protons of the  $C_s$  diastereoisomer is equal to the value of 3.

Note: Percentage values were rounded to the nearest multiple of 5.

**dH** (up left)  $C_{3h} : C_s = 8 : 3 \approx 70\% C_{3h}$  and 30%  $C_s$  **dMe** (up right)  $C_{3h} : C_s = (3.8) : 3 \approx 55\% C_{3h}$  and 45%  $C_s$  **dEt** (down left)  $C_{3h} : C_s = (2.3) : 3 \approx 45\% C_{3h}$  and 55%  $C_s$ **dIpr** (down right)  $C_{3h} : C_s = (6.7) : 3 \approx 70\% C_{3h}$  and 30%  $C_s$