Supporting Information

Structure and isomerization behavior relationship of new push-pull azo-pyrrole photoswitches

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1. General Information

The synthesis of the palladium complex used in the cross-coupling reactions was conducted under argon atmosphere with standard Schlenk techniques as reported elsewhere.ⁱ All temperature given for reaction conditions are externally measured. All reactions were monitored by TLC.

2. Materials

Commercial materials were used as received: CH_2Cl_2 purchased from Sigma-Aldrich in anhydrous form. $CHCl_3$, Methanol were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich in HPLC and/or spectrophotometric quality. ASTM type 1 ultra-pure water (Millipore-Q system, 18.2 M Ω cm) was used as solvent for the aggregation studies. HCl, NaNO₂, *N*-methylpyrrole, pyridine, 4-lodoaniline, Cr(CO)₆, Et₃OBF₄, S₈, NaBH₄, PdCl₂, and K₂CO₃ were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Analytical thin layer chromatography was performed on DC-Fertigfolien ALUGRAM® Xtra SIL G/UV254 MACHEREY-NAGEL. Column chromatography was performed on Silica 60, 0.063-0.2 mm MACHEREY-NAGEL.

3. Methods

Melting points were obtained on a Stuart Melting Point Apparatus SMP10 and they are uncorrected. All compounds were characterized by IR spectra, recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrophotometer provide with an ATR polarization attachment and all data are expressed in wave numbers (cm⁻¹). NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker Avance 300 Spectrometer, at an operating frequency of 300 MHz for ¹H and 75 MHz for ¹³C, using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal reference and CDCl₃ as solvent; chemical shifts values are given in parts per million (ppm), relative to TMS. Mass spectrometry analyses were obtained on a JEOL SX102A (EI⁺ and FAB⁺) and on an AccuTOF JMS-T100LC (DART), the values of the signals are expressed in mass/charge units (m/z), followed by the relative intensity with reference to a 100% base peak. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded at 298 K on a Thermo-Scientific Evolution 60S UV-Vis spectrophotometers, using spectrophotometric grade solvents purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. and 1 cm quartz cell. The solvatochromic study was performed using 10^{-5} M to 10^{-4} M solutions of azopyrrole dyes in several solvents at room temperature. The aggregation study was carried out using $5x10^{-5}$ M solutions of azopyrrole dyes at different MeOH: H₂O ratios, from 100:0 to 20:80 at room temperature.

Synthesis of compound 1: In a 100 mL round-flask, 4-lodoaniline (2.51 g, 11.2 mmol) and *N*-methylpyrrole (1 mL, 11.2 mmol), were dissolved in 6 mL of MeOH, then HCI [1M] (10 mL, 0.01 mol) was added and the mixture was cooled at mixed at 0 °C. Then, an aqueous solution of sodium nitrite (0.93 g, 13.4 mmol in the minimum quantity of water) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 0 °C and then for 30 more minutes at room temperature. A solution of 10% NaOH was added until pH=10 and then, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with hexane. The spectroscopic data agreed with those reported in the literature.ⁱⁱ

2-(4'-lodophenyl-azo)-N-methyl pyrrole (**1a**).



Orange solid. Yield (80 %). mp 98 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 3.95 (s, 3H, H6), 6.30 (t, 1H, H4), 6.72 (d, 1H, H-3), 6.96 (t, 1H, H-5), 7.79, 7.76 (m, 2H, H-11,13), 7.55, 7.52 (m, 2H, H-10,14). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 33.4 (C-6), 95.03 (C-12), 100.6 (C-

4), 110.57 (C-3), 123.7 (C-10,14), 127.5 (C-5), 138.1 (C-11,13), 146.4 (C-2), 153 (C-9). **HR-MS** (FAB+) m/z for $C_{11}H_{10}N_3I$: calculated 310.9919, found 310.9923.

Synthesis of vinyl arenes. In a 100 mL round flask were added 1 g of the corresponding aldehyde, 1.2 equiv. of methyl triphenylphosphonium bromide and 2 equiv. of K₂CO₃ in 40 mL of THF. The mixture reaction was refluxed for 12 h. Afterward, the solvent was removed via a reduced pressure distillation and the crude was redissolved in 20 mL of dichloromethane, washed with water (2 x 20 mL) and dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with hexane. All vinyl arenes synthesized were characterized by NMR and their data agreed with the literature.ⁱⁱⁱ





MeO

4-Vinyl benzonitrile. Colorless liquid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.88 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.45 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 141.9, 135.4, 132.4, 126.7, 117.7, 111.1.

4-Bromo styrene. Colorless liquid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.43 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (dd, J = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (d, J = 10.9 Hz, 1H). ¹³**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 136.5, 135.8, 131.7, 127.8, 121.6, 114.6.

1-Methoxy-4-vinylbenzene. Colorless liquid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 10.9 Hz, 1H), 5.60 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (d, *J* = 10.9 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 159.4, 136.2, 130.5, 127.4, 113.9, 111.6, 55.3.

Vinyl ferrocene._Orange powder. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ d 6.52 (dd, *J* = 16.6, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 4.81 (dd, *J* = 17.3, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (dd, *J* = 10.2, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 4.12 (s, 2H), 4.09 (s, 5H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 135.1, 111.4, 83.9, 69.6, 69.1, 67.1.

3-Vinylpiridine. Colorless liquid: ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 5.35 (d, *J* = 11.0 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (d, *J* = 17.6 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (dd, *J* = 17.6, 11.0 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 4.9 Hz 1H), 7.70 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 2.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.46 (dd, *J* = 4.9, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.73 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 116.2, 123.4, 132.6, 133.0, 133.5, 148.3, 148.9.



4-Vinyl quinoline. Pale yellow liquid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 8.89-7.50 (m, 6 H), 7.45 (q, *J* = 23.0, 14.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.01 (q, *J* = 23.0, 14.4 Hz, 1 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 150.4, 148.6, 143.8, 132.3, 130.1, 129.5, 126.8, 126.4, 123.7, 121.0, 117.6.

Synthesis of Stilbenyl-azopyrroles 2a-d and 3a-d. A 10 mL vial was filled with compound 1 (0.5 mmol), triethylamine (0.75 mmol), the corresponding vinyl arene (0.6 mmol), 5 mL of DMF as solvent and 0.1% mol of the palladium complex.ⁱ The vial was introduced into a stainless-steel reactor and placed in an oil bath at 160 °C. After the reaction is completed, the reactor was cooled to room temperature, the system was decompressed, and the mixture of reaction was diluted with 30 mL of water and extracted with hexane (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was afterwards evaporated under vacuum. The crude was purified by chromatography on silica gel using Hexane-AcOEt.

1-methyl-2-((*E*)-(4-((*E*)-4-(trifluoromethyl)styryl)phenyl)diazenyl) pyrrole (2a).



Orange solid. Yield (71 %) mp 161 °C, **IR** (cm⁻¹) 3123 (C-H pyrrole), 1611 (C=C), 1356 (C-F),1319 (N=N), 1319 (CF₃) ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H, H8), δ 7.54 (m, 6H, H7,13 y 14), 7.16 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 7.09 (d,

J =15, 1H, H11), 6.88 (m, 1H, H5), 6.66 (dd *J* = 3.0, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.24 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H, H4), 3.90 (s, 2H, H1). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 153.41 (C6), 146.73 (C2), 140.68 (C9), 137.52 (C12), 130.60 (C10), 129.59 (q, J_{C-F} = 32.25 Hz, C15), 127.72 (C11), 127.45 (C7), 127.26 (C5), 126.67 (C13), 125.26 (q, J_{C-F} = 269 Hz, C16), 125.69 (q, J_{C-F} = 3.75 Hz, C14), 122.55 (C8), 110.48 (C4), 100.24 (C3), 33.45 (C1). MS (DART⁺ m/z): 356 [M⁺]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₂₀H₁₇F₃N₃: calculated 356.13746, found 356.13658 [M⁺+1].

4-((*E*)-4-((*E*)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl)benzonitrile (**2b**).



Orange-red solid. Yield (73 %) mp 161-164 °C, **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1600 (C=C), 3127 (C-H pyrrole), 2222 (C≡N), 1329 (N=N). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H, H8), 7.68-7.60 (m, 6H, H7,13 y 14),

7.28 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H11), 7.16 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 6.99 (m, 1H, H5), 6.76 (dd, J = 4.2, 1.5 Hz, 1H, H3), 6.34 (dd, J = 4.2, 2.7 Hz, 1H, H4) 4 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C** NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 153.62 (C6), 146.74 (C2), 141.72 (C12), 137.11 (C9), 132.53 (C14), 131.78 (C10), 127.62 (C8), 127.43 (C11), 127.26 (C5), 126.94 (C13), 122.58 (C7), 119.05 (C16), 110.67 (C15), 110.57 (C4), 100.41 (C3), 33.47 (C1). MS (DART⁺ m/z): 313 [M⁺]. HR-MS (ESI+ *m*/z) for C₂₀H₁₇N₄: calculated 313.14532, found 313.14422 [M⁺+1].

2-((E)-(4-((E)-4-bromostyryl)phenyl)diazenyl)-1-methylpyrrole (2c).



Orange solid. Yield (58%) mp 148 °C decomposition. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1616 (C=C), 1323 (N=N), 1070 (Ar-*p*-Br). ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H8), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H7), 7.52 (d, *J*

= 8.4 Hz, 2H, H13), 7.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H14), 7.17 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H11), 7.11 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 6.98 (m, 1H, H5), 6.75 (m, 1H, H3), 6.33 (m, 1H, H4), 4 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 153.15 (C6), 146.72 (C2), 137.92 (C9), 136.17(C12), 131.85 (C13), 128.82 (C11), 128.07 (C10, C14), 127.20 (C8), 127.11 (C5), 122.54 (C7), 121.55 (C15), 110.41 (C4), 100.10 (C3), 33.45 (C1). MS (El⁺ *m/z*): 365 [M⁺], 367 [M⁺+2]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₁₉H₁₇BrN₃: calculated: 366.06058, found 366.05991 [M⁺ + 1].

2-((E)-(4-((E)-4-methoxystyryl)phenyl)diazenyl)-1-methylpyrrole (2d).



Orange solid. Yield (58%) mp 148 °C decomposition. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1601 (C=C), 3115 (Ar-C-H), 1248 (N=N). ¹H **NMR** (300 MHz, CDCI₃, ppm): δ 7.8 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H8), 7.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H7), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.7, 2H, H13), 7.14 (d, *J* =

16.5 Hz, 1H, H11), 7.00 (d, J = 16.5 Hz, 1H, H10), 6.94 (m, 1H, H5), 6.91 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H, H14), 6.70 (m, 1H, H3), 6.30 (m, 1H, H4), 3.97 (s, 3H, H1), 3.84 (s, 3H, H16). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 159.51 (C15), 152.73 (C6), 146.72 (C2), 138.78 (C9), 130.04 (C12), 129.04 (C11), 127.89 (C13), 126.82 (C5 y C7), 126.03 (C10), 122.51 (C8), 114.21 (C14), 110.28 (C4), 99.86 (C3), 55.35 (C16), 33.39 (C1). **EM** (DART⁺ *m/z*): 318 [M⁺+1]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₂₀H₂₀N₃O: calculated 318.16061, found 318.15981 [M⁺ + 1].

2-((E)-(4-((E)-2-(ferrocenyl)phenyl)diazenyl)-1-methylpyrrole (3a).



Black solid. Yield (69 %) mp 148 °C decomposition. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1625 (C=C), 1323 (N=N). ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H8), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H7), 6.95 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 1H, H 11), 6.92 (m,

1H, H5), 6.73 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 6.70 (m, 1H, H3), 6.29 (m, 1H, H4), 4.48 (m, 2H, H13), 4.31 (m, 2H, H14), 4.15 (s, 5H, H15), 3.96 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 152.40 (C6), 146.77 (C2), 139.05 (C9), 128.23 (C11), 126.73 (C5), 126.31 (C7), 125.49 (C10), 122.58 (C8), 110.28 (C4), 99.73 (C3), 83.19 (C12), 69.32 (C14 y C15), 67.05 (C13), 33.43 (C1). **EM** (DART⁺ *m/z*): 396 [M⁺+1]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₂₃H₂₁FeN₃: calculated 395.108485, found 396.11673 [M⁺ + 1].

4-((*E*)-4-((*E*)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl)pyridine (**3b**).



Red solid. Yield (73 %). mp 168 °C. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1626 (C=C), 1324 (N=N). ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl3, ppm) δ 8.59 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H, H14), 7.83 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H, H8), 7.62 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H, H7), 7.38 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 2H, H13),

7.34 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 7.07 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H11), 6.96 (m, 1H, H5), 6.74 (m, 1H, H3), 6.32 (m, 1H, H4), 3.97 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 153.71 (C6), 150.25 (C14), 146.74 (C2), 144.49 (C12), 136.95 (C9), 132.56 (C11), 127.73 (C8), 127.43 (C5), 126.52 (C10), 122.56 (C7), 120.88 (C13), 110.56 (C4), 100.43 (C3), 33.47 (C1). **EM** (EI⁺ m/z): 288 [M⁺]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ m/z) for C₁₈H₁₆N₄: calculated 288.137496, found 289.14580 [M⁺ + 1].

3-((E)-4-((E)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl)pyridine (3c).



Orange solid. Yield (53%). mp 126 °C. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1660 (C=C), 1322 (N=N). ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCI3, ppm) δ 8.76 (s, 1H, H16), 8.52 (m, 1H, H15), 7.85 (m, 3H, H8, H13), 7.63 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H, H7), 7.32 (m, 1H, H14),

7.23 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 7.14 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H11), 6.97 (s, 1H, H5), 6.76 (m, 1H, H3), 6.33 (m, 1H, H4), 3.99 (s, 3H, H1) ¹³**C** NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 153.35 (C6), 148.69 (C16), 148.65 (C15), 146.71 (C2), 137.53 (C9), 132.91 (C12), 132.70 (C13), 130.20 (C11), 127.33 (C7), 127.24 (C5), 125.50 (C10), 123.60 (C14), 122.55 (C8), 110.46 (C4), 100.25 (C3), 33.45 (C1). **EM** (DART⁺ *m/z*): 289 [M⁺ +1]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₁₈H₁₆N₄: calculated 288.137496, found 289.14442 [M⁺ + 1].

4-((*E*)-4-((*E*)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl)quinoline (**3d**).



Red solid. Yield (95%). mp 198 °C decomposition. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 1621 (C=C) 1342 (N=N). ¹**H NMR** (300 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm): δ 8.92 (d, *J* = 5 Hz, 1H, H14), 8.25 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H16), 8.15 (d, *J* = 8 Hz, 1H, H19), 7.89 (m, 3H, H8, H11), 7.73 (m, 3H, H7, H17), 7.62 (m, 2H, H13,

H18), 7.39 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 6.98 (m, 1H, H5), 6.75 (m, 1H, H3), 6.32 (m, 1H, H5), 3.99 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ 151.68 (C6), 150.09 (C15), 149.38 (C14), 146.59 (C2), 134.67 (C9), 131.67 (C12), 130.92 (C11), 129.43 (C16), 128.86 (C17) 127.88 (C7), 127.47 (C5), 126.68 (C10), 125.84 (C20), 123.46 (C18), 123.33 (C19), 122.64 (C8), 117.03 (C13), 110.59 (C4), 100.51 (C3), 33.48 (C1). **MS** (DART⁺ *m/z*): 339 [M⁺ +1]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₂₂H₁₉N₄: calculated 339.16102, found 339.15982 [M⁺ + 1].

Synthesis of compounds 4b-d. In a 50 mL round-flask were added 0.5 mmol of the compound **3** and 5 equiv of Mel in 10 mL of acetonitrile. The mixture was stirred for 24h yielding a dark red solid. The solvent was eliminated by distillation under vacuo and the remanent solid was washed at least three times with diethyl ether, recovered by decantation.

1-methyl-4-((*E*)-4-((*E*)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl) pyridin-1-ium iodide (**4b**).



Brown solid. Yield (90 %). mp 180 °C decomposition. IR (cm⁻¹) 2999 (C(sp³)-H), 1613 (C=C). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 8.89 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H, H14), 8.26 (dd, J = 9 Hz, 2H, H13),

8.08 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 1H, H10), 7.88 (m, 4H, H7, H8), 7.60 (d, *J* = 15 Hz, 2H, H11), 7.38 (m, 1H, H5), 6.67 (m, 1H, H3), 6.35 (dd, *J* = 4 Hz, 1H, H4), 4.27 (s, 3H, H15), 3.96 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C NMR** (75 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 154.47 (C6), 152.74 (C12), 146.73 (C2), 145.59 (C14), 140.23 (C10), 136.39 (C9), 130.03 (C5), 129.70 (C8), 124.31 (C11), 124.06 (C13), 122.80 (C7), 111.26 (C4), 101.17 (C3), 47.44 (C15), 33.65 (C1). **MS** (FAB+ *m/z*): 303 [M⁺]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₁₉H₁₉N₄: calculated 303.16097, found 303.16042 [M⁺].

1-methyl-3-((E)-4-((E)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl) pyridin-1-ium iodide (**4c**).



Orange solid. Yield (82%). mp 125 °C. **IR** (cm⁻¹) 3000 (C(sp³)-H), 1625 (C=C), 1327 (N=N). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 9.31 (s, 1H, H16), 8.86 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H, H15), 8.78 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1H, H13), 8.14 (t, 1H, H14), 7.80 (m, 5H, H7, H8 y

H10), 7.49 (d, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H11), 7.36 (m, 1H, H5), 6.66 (m, 1H, H3), 6.34 (m, 1H, H4), 4.38 (s, 3H, H17), 3.96 (s, 3H, H1) ¹³**C** NMR (75 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 153.83 (C6), 146.62 (C2), 143.80 (C16), 143.72 (C15), 141.43 (C13), 137.50 (C12), 136.89 (C10), 134.99 (C9), 129.62 (C5), 128.70 (C8), 128.03 (C14), 122.80 (C7), 122.62 (11), 111.06 (C4), 100.83 (C3), 48.59 (C17), 33.62 (C1). **MS** (FAB+ *m/z*): 303 [M⁺]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₁₉H₁₉N₄: calculated 303.16097, found 303.16121 [M⁺].

1-methyl-4-((E)-4-((E)-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)diazenyl)styryl)quinolin-1-ium iodide (4d).



Black solid. Yield (76%). mp 280 °C decomposition. IR (cm⁻¹) 3005 (C(sp³)-H), 1614 (C=C), 1319 (N=N). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 9.39 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H, H14), 9.09 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H, H16), 8.54 (d, *J* = 6 Hz, 1H, H19), 8.47 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 1H, H13), 8.40 (d, *J* = 15

Hz, 1H, H11), 8.23 (m, 2H, H10, H17), 8.14 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H, H8), 8.08 (t, 1H, H18), 7.88 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H, H7), 7.39 (m, 1H, H5), 6.68 (m, 1H, H3), 6.36 (m, 1H, H4), 4.56 (s, 3H, H21), 3.97 (s, 3H, H1). ¹³**C** NMR (75 MHz, (CD₃)₂SO, ppm) δ 154.64 (C6), 152.77 (C12), 148.59 (C14), 146.77 (C2), 142.47 (C10), 139.24 (C15), 136.74 (C9), 135.50 (C17), 130.48 (C8), 130.14 (C5), 129.81 (C18), 127.00 (C20), 126.87 (C16), 122.67 (C7), 120.90 (C11), 119.88 (C13), 116.85 (C19), 111.32 (C4), 101.24 (C3), 45.25 (C21), 33.66 (C1). **MS** (FAB+ *m/z*): 353 [M⁺]. **HR-MS** (ESI+ *m/z*) for C₂₃H₂₁N₄: calculated 353.17662, found 353.17747 [M⁺].



Figure S 1 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 1a



Figure S 2 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 1a



Figure S 4 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 2a



Figure S 6 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 2b



Figure S 7 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 2c



Figure S 8 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 2c



Figure S 10 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 2d



Figure S 12 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 3a



Figure S 14 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 3b



Figure S 16 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 3c

F66.0

8.5 8.0

9.0

10.0 9.5



- 3.99

00.0

0.5 0.0

1.5 1.0



100

6.5

F-26.0 F-86.0 7.5 7.0 <u>7</u>,05

2.5 2.0

6.0 5.5 5.0 4.5 4.0 3.5 3.0 f1 (ppm)



Figure S 18 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 3d



Figure S 19 1 H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of compound 4b



Figure S 20 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl₃) of compound 4b





Figure S 21 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of compound 4c



Figure S 22 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of compound 4c

0.00



Figure S 24 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of compound 4d

8. Structure determination by X-ray crystallography

Suitable X-ray quality crystals of **3b** were grown by slow evaporation of chloroform at room temperature. Crystals of each compound were mounted on a glass fiber at room temperature, and then placed on a Bruker Smart Apex CCD, equipped with Mo-K α radiation; decay was negligible in both cases. Details of crystallographic data collected for this compound are provided Table S1. Systematic absences and intensity statistics were used in space group determination. The structure was solved using direct methods.^{iv} Anisotropic structure refinements were achieved using full matrix, least-squares technique on all nonhydrogen atoms. All hydrogen atoms were placed in idealized positions, based on hybridization, with isotropic thermal parameters fixed at 1.2 times the value of the attached atom. Structure solutions and refinements were performed using SHELXTL V6.10.^v

Compound	3b
Empirical formula	$C_{18}H_{16}N_4$
Formula weight (g mol⁻¹)	288.35
Crystal size (nm)	0.41 x 0.27 x 0.096
Color	Orange
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	P-21
<i>a</i> (Å)	11.0543(16)
b (Å)	7.6061(11)
<i>c</i> (Å)	18.348(3)
α (°)	90
в (°)	97.582(3)
γ(°)	90
V (Å ³)	1529.3(4)
Ζ	4
Temperature (ºK)	298
D _{calc} (g/cm ³)	1.252
Number of collected reflections	27079
Number of independent reflections (<i>R</i> _{int})	8576, <i>R</i> _{int} = 0.0683
Maximum and minimum transmission	0.898 and 0.609
Data/parameters	8576 / 400
Final R indices	<i>R</i> = 0.0604
[/>2σ(/)]	w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.1570
R indices (all data)	<i>R</i> = 0.1417, w <i>R</i> ₂ = 0.1186
GoF(<i>F</i> ²)	1.000
Absorption correction method	Multi-scan

Table S1. X-ray Data Collection and Structure Refinement Details for 3b



Figure S 25 ORTEP view of **3b** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability level. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): N(1)-C(1) 1.452(4), N(1)-C(2) 1.378(3), N(1)-C(5) 1.350(4), N(2)-N(3) 1.273(3), N(2)-C(2) 1.385(3), N(3)-C(9) 1.419(3), C(2)-C(3) 1.375(4), C(3)-C(4) 1.383(4), C(4)-C(5) 1.365(4), C(6)-C(12) 1.461(3), C(12)-C(13) 1.321(3), C(13)-C(14) 1.467(4), C(14)-C(15) 1.380(3), C(14)-C(19) 1.391(3), C(15)-C(16) 1.381(4), C(16)-N(17) 1.322(4), N(17)-C(18) 1.323(4), C(18)-C(19) 1.367(4).

X. UV-Visible studies X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound **2a**



Figure S 26 UV-Visible spectra of compound 2a in different solvents.



Figure S 27 UV-vis spectra for **2a** (2.5x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 415 ε = 39381	λ max = 419 ε = 33677		



Figure S 28 UV-visible spectra of compound 2a in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 29 2a was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes.



Figure S30. Estimation of Optical GAP for 2a





Figure S 31 UV-Visible spectra of compound 2b in different solvents.



Figure S 32 UV-vis spectra for **2b** (3.1x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 419 ε = 34210	λ max = 423 ε = 33059		



Figure S 33 UV-visible spectra of compound 2b in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 34 2b was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes.



Figure S35. Estimation of Optical GAP for 2b

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 2c



Figure S 36 UV-Visible spectra of compound 2c in different solvents.



Figure S 37 UV-vis spectra for **2c** (2.8x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
ĽŅ-Ń ^N →Br	λ max = 415	λ max = 420		
2c	ε = 40787	ε = 35366		



Figure S 38 UV-visible spectra of compound 2c in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 39 2c was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes.



Figure S 40. Estimation of Optical GAP for 2c.

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 2d



Figure S 41 UV-Visible spectra of compound 2d in different solvents.



Figure S 42 UV-vis spectra for **2d** (2.7x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 421 ε = 37326	λ max = 424 ε = 32511		



Figure S 43 UV-visible spectra of compound 2d in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 44 2d was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes.



Figure S 45. Estimation of Optical GAP for 2d.

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 3a







Figure S 47 UV-vis spectra for **3a** (3.2x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 413 ε = 30038	λ max = 415 ε = 31226		



Figure S 48 UV-visible spectra of compound 3a in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 49 3a was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes



Figure S 50. Estimation of Optical GAP for 3a

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 3b



Figure S 51 UV-Visible spectra of compound 3b in different solvents.



Figure S 52 UV-vis spectra for **3b** (2.7x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 416 ε = 36146	λ max = 418 ε = 41052		



Figure S 53 UV-visible spectra of compound 3b in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 54 3b was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes



Figure S 55. Estimation of Optical GAP for 3b

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 3c



Figure S 56 UV-Visible spectra of compound 3c in different solvents.



Figure S 57 UV-vis spectra for **3c** (2.7x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 416 ε = 39100	λ max = 417 ε = 25315		



Figure S 58 UV-visible spectra of compound 3c in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 59 3c was irradiated ten times for 2 minute



X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 3d



Figure S 61 UV-Visible spectra of compound 3d in different solvents.



Figure S 62 UV-vis spectra for **3d** (3.8x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.

Compound	Methanol	Chloroform		
	λ max = 418 ε = 25264	λ max = 423 ε = 30749		



Figure S 63 UV-visible spectra of compound 3d in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 64 3d was irradiated ten times for 2 minute



Figure S 65. Estimation of Optical GAP for 3d

.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 4b



Figure S 66 UV-Visible spectra of compound 4b in different solvents.



Figure S 67 UV-vis spectra for **4b** (3x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.





Figure S 68 UV-visible spectra of compound 4b in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 69 4b was irradiated ten times for 2 minute



Figure S 70. Estimation of Optical GAP for 4b

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 4c



Figure S 71 UV-Visible spectra of compound 3c in different solvents.



Figure S 72 UV-vis spectra for **4c** (2.6x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.





Figure S 73 UV-visible spectra of compound 4c in different ratios MeOH/H₂O.



Figure S 74 4c was irradiated ten times for 2 minutes.



Figure S 75. Estimation of Optical GAP for 4c

X.1 UV-Visible studies of compound 4d



Figure S 76 UV-Visible spectra of compound 4d in different solvents.



Figure S 77 UV-vis spectra for **4d** (2.7x 10⁻⁵M, MeOH) after white light irradiation (PSS) and cis-trans return.





Figure S 78 UV-visible spectra of compound 4d in different ratios MeOH/H2O.



Figure S 79 4d was irradiated ten times for 2 minute



Figure S 80. Estimation of Optical GAP for 4d





X.2 Computational studies

In this link

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/fks2387g3gz1np386p75z/xyz.zip?rlkey=qp4jzhuub2el6dqojv5 entvmm&dl=0

the interested reader can download the xyz files of the local minima of the compounds **2a-2g**, **3a-3d** and **4b-4d** optimized in gas phase, in chloroform and in methanol.

Table S2. Values of $\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$ (equation (4) in the main body of the manuscript) for the QTAIM basins within compounds **2a-2g** addressed in this investigation. The atom numbering can be found in the xyz files attached to this document. The atoms for which

2a		2b		2c		2d		2e		2f		2g	
Átomo	$\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$												
N2	0.02												
N3	0.02												
H5	-0.01												
H6	0.01												
H7	-0.01												
C8	0.01												
H10	-0.02												
C13	-0.01												
C16	0.01												
H17	0.01												
C18	0.01												
H19	-0.02												
C20	0.01												
C21	0.01	H22	-0.01	C21	0.01	C21	0.01	C21	0.01	H22	-0.01	C21	0.01
H22	-0.01			H22	-0.01	H22	-0.01	H22	-0.01			H22	-0.01

 $|\Delta Q(\Omega_A)| < 5 imes 10^{-3}$ are not reported. Atomic units are used throughout.

Table S3. Values of $\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$ (equation (4) in the main body of the manuscript) for the QTAIM basins within compounds **3a-3d** addressed in this investigation. The atom numbering can be found in the xyz files attached to this document. The atoms for which

3a		3b		3c		3d	
Átomo	$\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$						
C30	-0.01	N2	0.03	N2	0.02	N2	0.02
C32	-0.01	N3	0.02	N3	0.02	N3	0.02
C35	-0.01	H5	-0.01	H5	-0.01	H5	-0.01
C37	-0.01	H6	0.01	H6	0.01	H6	0.01
Fe38	0.09	H7	-0.01	H7	-0.01	H7	-0.01
C39	-0.01	C8	0.01	C8	0.01	C8	0.01
C40	-0.01	H10	-0.02	H10	-0.02	H10	-0.02
C43	-0.01	C13	-0.01	C13	-0.01	C13	-0.01
C44	-0.01	C16	0.01	C16	0.01	C16	0.01
C47	-0.01	H17	0.01	H17	0.01	H17	0.01
		C18	0.01	C18	0.01	C18	0.01
		H19	-0.02	H19	-0.02	H19	-0.02
		C20	0.01	C20	0.01	C20	0.01
		H22	-0.01	H22	-0.01	C21	0.01
		H28	-0.01	H28	-0.01	H22	-0.01

 $|\Delta Q(\Omega_A)| < 5 \times 10^{-3}$ are not reported. Atomic units are used throughout.

Table S4. Values of $\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$ (equation (4) in the main body of the manuscript) for the QTAIM basins within compounds **4b**, **4c** and **4d** addressed in this investigation. The atom numbering can be found in the xyz files attached to this document. The atoms for which

4b		4c		4d	
Átomo	$\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$	Átomo	$\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$	Átomo	$\Delta Q(\Omega_A)$
N3	0.02	N3	0.02	N3	0.02
C4	-0.01	C4	-0.01	C4	-0.01
H5	0.01	H5	0.01	H5	0.01
H6	0.01	H6	0.01	H6	0.01
H7	0.01	H7	0.01	H7	0.01
C8	0.02	C8	0.03	C8	0.03
C9	0.01	C9	0.01	C9	0.01
H10	0.02	H10	0.02	H10	0.02
C11	0.01	C11	0.02	C11	0.02
H12	0.02	H12	0.02	H12	0.02
C13	0.02	C13	0.02	C13	0.02
H14	0.02	H14	0.02	H14	0.03
C15	0.01	C15	0.01	C15	0.01
H17	0.01	C16	0.01	C16	0.01
C25	-0.02	H17	0.01	H17	0.01
H26	-0.01	H24	0.01	H24	0.01
H28	-0.01	C25	-0.02	C25	-0.02
C29	-0.01	H26	-0.01	H26	-0.01
C30	-0.01	H28	-0.01	C27	0.01
H31	-0.02	C29	-0.01	H28	-0.01
C32	-0.02	C30	-0.02	C29	-0.01
H33	-0.02	H31	-0.03	C30	-0.01
C35	-0.01	C32	-0.01	H31	-0.02
H36	-0.02	H33	-0.02	C32	-0.03
C37	-0.01	C34	-0.04	H33	-0.02
H38	-0.01	H36	-0.02	H36	-0.02
C39	0.01	H38	-0.02	C38	-0.01
H40	-0.01	C39	0.01	C39	-0.01
H41	-0.01	H40	-0.01	C40	-0.01
H42	-0.01	H41	-0.01	H41	-0.02
		H42	-0.01	C42	-0.01
				H43	-0.01
				H44	-0.02
				C45	0.01
				H46	-0.01
				H47	-0.01
				H48	-0.01

 $|\Delta Q(\Omega_A)| < 5 \times 10^{-3}$ are not reported. Atomic units are used throughout.

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