Supporting Information

# A Pyrene-Calix[4]triazolium Conjugate for Fluorescence Recognition of Hydrogen Sulfate

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#### **Author Contributions**

J. Cho performed all experimental work except the DFT calculations and wrote the manuscript and supplementary information. R. Parida and J. Y. Lee performed DFT calculations. C. Lim helped synthesize the compounds. J. S. Kim supervised the project. S. Kim supervised the study and revised the manuscript.

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### 1. Synthesis

General methods. All chemicals were of reagent grade and were used as purchased. Reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere of dry nitrogen using distilled dry solvents. The reaction progress was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) using silica gel 60 F-254 TLC plates. Compound spots were visualized under UV light. The melting points were measured using a Buchi B-540 meltingpoint apparatus without correction. Flash column chromatography was performed using silica gel (230-400 mesh). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL JNM-ECZ400S/L1 (400 MHz) or Bruker Avance III HD (800 MHz) spectrometer at 278 K. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm ( $\delta$ ) units relative to the undeuterated solvent as a reference peak (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: 7.26 ppm/<sup>1</sup>H NMR, 77.16 ppm/<sup>13</sup>C NMR; (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO: 2.50 ppm/<sup>1</sup>H NMR, 39.52 ppm/<sup>13</sup>C NMR; CD<sub>3</sub>OD: 3.31 ppm/<sup>1</sup>H NMR, 49.00 ppm/13C NMR; CD<sub>3</sub>CN: 1.94 ppm/1H NMR, 1.32 and 118.26 ppm/13C NMR). The following abbreviations are used to represent the NMR peak multiplicities: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), m (multiplet), dd (doublet of doublets), and br (broad signal). IR spectra were obtained using an Agilent Technologies 5500 Series FT-IR spectrometer. Optical rotation was measured on a Jasco P-2000 Polarimeter using sodium light (D line 589.3 nm) and a  $3.5 \times 100$  mm or  $3.5 \times 10$  mm cell. The values are reported as the specific optical rotation with the exact temperature, concentration (c (10 mg/mL)), and solvent. High-resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) was performed using fast-atom bombardment (FAB).



To a solution of azido dimer **2** (5.15 g, 12.9 mmol) in acetonitrile (129 mL) was added alkyne **3** (3.34 g, 14.8 mmol), CuI (1.47 g, 7.73 mmol) and DIPEA (2.25 mL, 12.9 mmol) under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 h and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was diluted with dichloromethane and washed sequentially with an NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (25%) and brine. The organic layer was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The crude mixture was purified via column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 1:3 v/v) to give product **1** (7.05 g, 88%) as a white solid. m.p. 128–131°C;  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$  +148.5 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 2H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 5.74 (s, 2H), 5.69 (s, 2H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 5.05 (d, *J* = 26.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.12–3.93 (m, 1H), 1.63 (d, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 3H), 1.54 (s, 3H),

1.47 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 6H), 1.07 (s, 21H) ppm.; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (mixture of rotamers, 100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  153.6 (minor rotamer), 153.1 (major rotamer), 150.6 (both rotamers), 143.3 (both rotamers), 143.1 (both rotamers), 125.4 (both rotamers), 125.0 (both rotamers), 124.0 (minor rotamer), 123.5 (major rotamer), 100.5 (both rotamers), 95.5 (major rotamer), 95.3 (minor rotamer), 89.5 (both rotamers), 82.0 (minor rotamer), 81.3 (major rotamer), 69.9 (major rotamer), 69.2 (minor rotamer), 55.0 (both rotamers), 46.0 (both rotamers), 45.9 (both rotamers), 41.6 (both rotamers), 28.7 (minor rotamer, 3C), 28.5 (major rotamer), 26.4 (major rotamer), 24.9 (minor rotamer), 23.9 (major rotamer), 18.1 (both rotamers, 6C), 12.2 (both rotamers, 3C) ppm.; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\nu_{max}$  3139, 2944, 2867, 2186, 1693, 1462, 1365, 1047 (cm<sup>-1</sup>); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>49</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Si 625.3758 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 625.3766.

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To a solution of trimer 1 (4.00 g, 6.40 mmol) in methanol (64 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (64 mL) at 0 °C and refluxed for 48 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solution was evaporated to dryness and co-evaporated with toluene three times to obtain the deprotected amine. The compound was dissolved in methanol and used in subsequent reaction without further purification.

To a stirred solution of deprotected amine in methanol (64 mL) was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4.42 g, 32.0 mmol), **4** (4.03 g, 19.2 mmol) and CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (16.0 mg, 0.0640 mmol) under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was stirred at ambient temperature. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and filtered through a Celite pad with ethyl acetate. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (hexane/EtOAc, 1:9  $\nu/\nu$ ) to give product **5** (2.35 g, 72%) as a colorless oil. [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>25</sup><sub>D</sub> +59.6 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  8.14 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 8.05 (s, 1H), 5.75 (s, 2H), 5.71 (s, 2H), 5.34 (s, 2H), 4.72 (dd, *J* = 7.2, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (dd, *J* = 11.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (s, 21H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  145.6, 143.2, 143.1, 125.5, 125.0, 124.5, 100.5, 89.5, 65.2, 60.4, 46.09, 46.05, 41.6, 18.9 (6C), 12.2 (3C) ppm.; IR (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\nu_{max}$  3140, 2944, 2866, 2183, 2102, 1555, 1462, 1226, 1040 (cm<sup>-1</sup>); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>12</sub>OSi 511.2826 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 511.2832. 

To a solution of azido trimer **5** (2.35 g, 4.60 mmol) in dichloromethane (46 mL) was added **6** (1.34 g, 5.06 mmol) and Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.92 mL, 13.8 mmol) under nitrogen. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 4 h. After cooling the solution to ambient temperature, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude mixture was purified by silica gel column chromatography (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/acetone, 40:1  $\nu/\nu$ ) to yield product 7 (2.60 g, 76%) as a yellow solid. m.p. 77–81°C; [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>25</sup><sub>D</sub> –87.1 (c 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.26 (d, J = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 8.64 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.34–8.17 (m, 5H), 8.09 (dd, J = 15.9, 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 1H), 7.78 (s, 1H), 5.67 (s, 2H), 5.62 (s, 2H), 5.24 (dd, J = 7.8, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 5.20 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 4.95 (dd, J = 11.6, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (dd, J = 11.6, 7.9 Hz, 1H), 1.06 (s, 21H) ppm.; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.2, 144.0, 141.7, 141.2, 134.7, 131.5, 131.0, 130.4, 129.9, 129.8, 128.7, 127.2, 126.53, 126.46, 126.4, 124.84, 124.77, 124.3, 123.5, 122.8, 122.5, 122.4, 97.1, 90.8, 66.1,56.7, 45.6, 45.5, 41.3, 31.0, 18.6 (6C), 11.1 (3C) ppm.; IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  3068, 2944, 2865, 2114, 1705, 1597, 1463, 1251, 1229 (cm<sup>-1</sup>); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Si 739.3401 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 739.3404.

#### Pyrene-appended calix[4]triazole (8)



To a solution of azido trimer 7 (800 mg, 1.08 mmol) in dimethylformamide (1.08 L) was added KF (629 mg, 10.8 mmol), HBr (367  $\mu$ L, 3.25 mmol) and CuI (124 mg, 0.650 mmol) under nitrogen. After 96 h, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and concentrated *in vacuo*. The obtained crude solid was sequentially washed with MeOH, an NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution (25%), water, and MeOH via centrifugation. The yellow solid obtained after centrifugation was dried *in vacuo* to obtain compound **8** (560 mg, 89%). m.p. is not given (decomposition at over 200 °C); [ $\alpha$ ]<sup>25</sup><sub>D</sub> –209.4 (c 0.1, DMSO); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  8.90 (d, *J* = 9.4 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 8.42–8.30 (m, 4H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.82 (s, 2H), 6.63 (dd, *J* =

9.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 5.84–5.63 (m, 6H), 5.40–5.22 (m, 2H) ppm.; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO)  $\delta$  166.6, 144.6, 144.3, 144.2, 144.0, 134.1, 130.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.73, 129.69, 128.2, 127.2, 126.92, 126.87, 126.6, 124.5, 124.0, 123.9, 123.84 (3C), 123.76, 123.2, 122.7, 122.4, 63.8, 56.3, 45.6, 45.5 ppm.; IR (neat)  $v_{max}$  3131, 2956, 2104, 1710, 1251, 1227, 1130, 1050 (cm<sup>-1</sup>); HRMS (FAB) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 583.2067 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), found 583.2070.

Pyrene-appended calix[4]triazolium (Py-CT4)



The cyclized compound 8 (50.0 mg, 0.0858 mmol) and  $(Me_3O)^+BF_4^-$  (53.0 mg, 0.360 mmol) were placed in a 7 mL stainless steel grinding jar containing two stainless steel balls (5 mm diameter). The reaction mixture was ground at 30 Hz using a vibrational ball mill for 1 h at ambient temperature. The resulting solid mixture was diluted with methanol and the insoluble product was collected by centrifugation. The collected insoluble product was washed several times with methanol by centrifugation. Subsequently, the product was dried overnight via lyophilization to yield Py-CT4 (75.0 mg, 88%) as a pale yellow solid. m.p. is not given (decomposition at over 170 °C);  $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$  –165.1 (c 0.1, DMSO); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN) δ 9.21 (d, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 1H), 8.71 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 8.66 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 8.60 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.42–8.38 (m, 3H), 8.34 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.22 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.2, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 6.26–6.21 (m, 6H), 5.46 (dd, *J* = 12.9, 8.2 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, *J* = 13.0, 4.1 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (s, 3H), 4.40 (s, 3H), 4.36 (s, 3H), 4.34 (s, 3H) ppm.; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (200 MHz, (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) δ 169.0, 138.9, 138.7, 137.6, 135.5, 133.6, 131.7, 131.6, 131.1, 130.6, 130.1, 129.8, 129.6, 129.5, 129.2, 128.4, 127.2, 127.0, 126.7, 126.5, 126.2, 124.6, 124.5, 124.4, 124.0, 123.4, 62.0, 45.8, 45.7, 44.8, 44.5, 30.7, 25.5, 8.6 ppm.; IR (neat) v<sub>max</sub> 3128, 3042, 2992, 1713, 1587, 1453, 1253, 1029 (cm<sup>-1</sup>); HRMS (FAB) m/z calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>34</sub>B<sub>3</sub>F<sub>12</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 903.3032 ( $[M-BF_4^-]^+$ ), found 903.3040.

### 2. Complexation studies between Py-CT4 and HSO<sub>4</sub>-

(1) Fluorescence titration of Py-CT4 with HSO<sub>4</sub>-

**Experiment details.** Stock solutions of **Py-CT4** (10  $\mu$ M) and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (50 mM) in DMSO:water (1:1) were prepared separately. A 3 mL **Py-CT4** solution was transferred to a cuvette, and an initial spectrum was obtained. Aliquots of HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> solutions (0–5  $\mu$ L) were added to the cuvette and the spectrum was recorded after each addition. The binding constant was analyzed using Bindfit, plotting fluorescence emission values at 410 nm against equivalents of **Py-CT4** added.



Fig. S1. Fluorescence spectra of Py-CT4 (10  $\mu$ M) upon titration with HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (0–5  $\mu$ L) in DMSO:water (1:1) ( $\lambda_{ex} = 355$  nm).

#### (2) Association constant calculated by bindfit



**Fig. S2.** Screenshot of the summary window of http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/. This screenshot shows the raw data for fluorescence titration of **Py-CT4** with HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> following the fluorescence emission values at 410 nm vs. the data fitted to a 1:1 UV binding model, the corresponding residual plot and the association constants with the calculated asymptotic standard errors.



Fig. S3. Screenshot of the summary window of http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/. This screenshot shows the raw data for fluorescence titration of **Py-CT4** with  $HSO_4^-$  following the fluorescence emission values at 410 nm vs. the data fitted to a 1:2 UV binding model, the corresponding residual plot and the association constants with the calculated asymptotic standard errors.



**Fig. S4.** Screenshot of the summary window of http://app.supramolecular.org/bindfit/. This screenshot shows the raw data for fluorescence titration of **Py-CT4** with HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> following the fluorescence emission values at 410 nm vs. the data fitted to a 2:1 UV binding model, the corresponding residual plot and the association constants with the calculated asymptotic standard errors.

Table S1. Summary of association constants between Py-CT4 and  $HSO_4^-$  according to different binding models.<sup>a</sup>

binding models		
1:1	1:2	2:1
2.90 x 10 <sup>4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> (± 1.20%) <sup>b</sup>	$K_{11} 4.61 \times 10^4 M^{-1} (\pm 2.18\%)^{b}$	$K_{11} 1.39 \times 10^4 M^{-1} (\pm 6.48\%)^{b}$
	$K_{12} 1.31 \times 10^3 M^{-1} (\pm 5.76\%)^b$	$K_{21} 3.82 \times 10^4 M^{-1} (\pm 19.67\%)^{b}$

<sup>a</sup> Bindfit software from *supramolecular.org* was used for data analysis. <sup>b</sup> Error represents the asymptotic error at the 95% confidence interval level.<sup>S1</sup>

#### (3) Job's plot to determine the binding stoichiometric ratio

**Experiment details.** Stock solutions with equal concentrations of **Py-CT4** (10  $\mu$ M) and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (10  $\mu$ M) in DMSO:water (1:1) were prepared. Ten vials were each filled with a total 10 mL solution of **Py-CT4** and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in the following ratios (**Py-CT4**:HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>): 10:0, 9:1, 8:2, 7:3, 6:4, 5:5, 4:6, 3:7, 2:8, 1:9. A Job's plot was constructed by plotting the change in fluorescence at 410 nm of **Py-CT4** against the molar fraction of the host.



Fig. S5. Job's plot generated from the fluorescence titration data of Py-CT4 with  $HSO_4^-$  in DMSO:water (1:1) solution.



(4) Mass spectroscopic measurement

Fig. S6. ESI-MS spectrum of Py-CT4-HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> complex.

(5) pH dependent fluorescence study



Fig. S7. Fluorescence spectra of Py-CT4 (10  $\mu$ M) upon titration with HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (0–30 equiv.) in DMSO:water (1:1, pH 7.4, 1.0 mM Tris buffer) ( $\lambda_{ex} = 355$  nm).



**Fig. S8.** Fluorescence intensity at 410 nm (excitation at 355 nm) of **Py-CT4** (10  $\mu$ M) and **Py-CT4** (10  $\mu$ M) + 50 equiv. of HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> in DMSO:water (1:1) solution with different pH conditions (a range of 1–14).

### 3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR studies

(1) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **8** in the presence of  $HSO_4^-$ 



Fig. S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 8 in DMSO- $d_6$  (1.5 mM) in the presence of HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> anion (1 equiv.).

#### (2) Hydrogen/deuterium (H/D) exchange of Py-CT4



Fig. S10. (a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of Py-CT4 in CD<sub>3</sub>CN. (b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of Py-CT4 in CD<sub>3</sub>CN:D<sub>2</sub>O (5:1). Triazolium protons (H<sub>a</sub>) disappeared within 20 min.

### 4. Theoretical studies

**Calculation details.** Geometry optimization was performed at the B3LYP level of theory and 6-311+G(d,p) as the basis set. Vibrational frequency analysis was performed at the same level of theory and basis set to ensure the ground-state geometry. To further rationalize the PET process, single-point time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT) calculations were performed on the optimized ground-state geometries of all the studied systems. All calculations were performed using Gaussian  $16^{S2}$  software, with visualization carried out using GaussView  $6.^{S3}$ 



Fig. S11. The dominant nature of each molecular orbital of the Py-CT4 without  $HSO_4^-$  along with their orbital energies.



**Fig. S12.** Illustration of probable PET-based mechanism for **Py-CT4** before (up) and after (down)  $HSO_4^-$  absorption in solvent phase (DMSO and water (1:1) mixture).

### 5. Binding interaction studies

#### (1) Binding interaction of **Py-CT4** with $H_2PO_4^-$

To understand the binding properties of **Py-CT4** to  $H_2PO_4^-$ , <sup>1</sup>H NMR studies were performed (Fig. S13). When  $H_2PO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.) was added to **Py-CT4**, a smaller downfield shift of C5-H (H<sub>a</sub>) was observed compared to when  $HSO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.) was added. This indicates that  $H_2PO_4^-$  induces weaker interaction to **Py-CT4** than  $HSO_4^-$ . In addition, when  $H_2PO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.) was added to **Py-CT4**, the methylene protons (H<sub>b</sub>) of **Py-CT4** appeared as more complex multiple peaks compared to when  $HSO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.) was added. This means that **Py-CT4** forms various conformations in the presence of  $H_2PO_4^-$ , which indirectly indicates that unlike the **Py-CT4**-HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> complex, **Py-CT4** does not provide perfect structural complementarity for binding with  $H_2PO_4^-$ . Therefore, it is thought that  $H_2PO_4^-$  does not exhibit turn-on fluorescence like  $HSO_4^-$  because it has a weak interaction and low structural complementarity with **Py-CT4** compared to  $HSO_4^-$ .



**Fig. S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **Py-CT4** (1.5 mM) in CD<sub>3</sub>CN recorded in the presence of  $HSO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.) and  $H_2PO_4^-$  (1.0 eq.).

#### (2) Binding interaction of **Py-CT4** with $SO_4^{2-}$

To understand the binding properties of **Py-CT4** to  $SO_4^{2-}$ , DFT calculation of binding energy and mode was performed. We calculated the binding energy and mode of **Py-CT4** with  $HSO_4^{-}$  and  $SO_4^{2-}$  in the solvent phase using the PCM model with a 1:1 ratio of DMSO and water. For these calculations, we conducted single-point calculations on geometries optimized in the gas phase, as shown in Table S2. The data in Table S2 indicate the formation of a stable complex of  $HSO_4^-$  with **Py-CT4** in both gas and solvent phases and that  $HSO_4^-$  has a greater interaction force for **Py-CT4** than  $SO_4^{2-}$  in solvent phases.

binding e		energy (eV)
systems gas phase	solvent phase	
	gas phase	(DMSO:water (1:1))
Py-CT4-HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	-0.403	-0.846
Py-CT4-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	-0.878	-0.120

Table S2. The binding energy of studied complexes in the gas and solvent phase

Figures S14 and S15 illustrate the hydrogen bonding within the **Py-CT4**-HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and **Py-CT4**-SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> complexes, respectively, including the hydrogen bond distances in Å. These figures demonstrate that  $SO_4^{2-}$  exhibits relatively weak binding to **Py-CT4** in the solution phase compared to the gas phase.



**Fig. S14.** Optimized geometries of **Py-CT4-** $HSO_4^-$  complex in gas (a, b) and in solvent phase (DMSO:water (1:1)) (c, d) with hydrogen bond lengths in Å.



**Fig. S15.** Optimized geometries of **Py-CT4-SO**<sub>4</sub><sup>2–</sup> complex in gas (a, b) and in solvent phase (DMSO:water (1:1)) (c, d) with hydrogen bond lengths in Å.

## 6. NMR Spectra



Fig. S16. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 1.



Fig. S17. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 1.



Fig. S18. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 5.



Fig. S19. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 5.



Fig. S20. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 7.



Fig. S21. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound 7.



Fig. S22. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound 8.







Fig. S24. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound Py-CT4.



Fig. S25. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound Py-CT4.

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