

## **Thiophene-benzoquinones: synthesis, crystal structures and preliminary coordination chemistry of derived anilate ligands**

Matteo Atzori,<sup>a,b</sup> Flavia Pop,<sup>b</sup> Thomas Cauchy,<sup>b</sup> Maria Laura Mercuri<sup>a</sup> and Narcis Avarvari<sup>b,\*</sup>

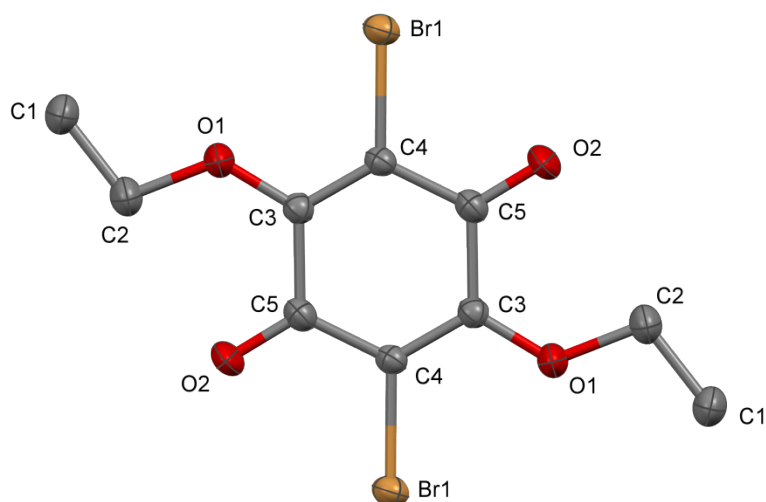
<sup>a</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche e Geologiche, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, S.S. 554 – Bivio per Sestu – I09042 Monserrato (Cagliari), Italy

<sup>b</sup> Laboratoire MOLTECH-Anjou UMR 6200, UFR Sciences, CNRS, Université d'Angers, Bât. K, 2 Bd. Lavoisier, 49045 Angers, France. E-mail: [narcis.avarvari@univ-angers.fr](mailto:narcis.avarvari@univ-angers.fr)

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

## X-Ray structures

### Compound 2a



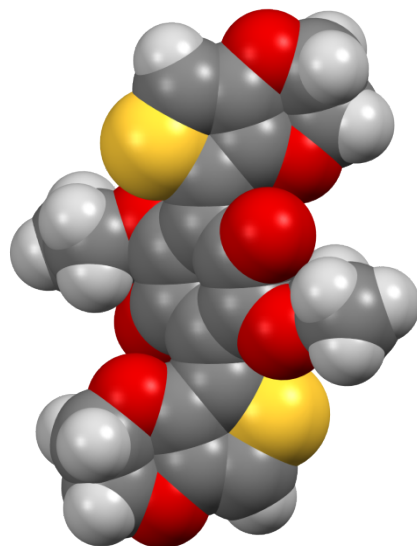
**Figure S1** Ortepe drawing of **2a** with thermal ellipsoids at 30% probability level.

**Table S1** Summary of X-ray crystallographic data for **2a**.

<b>2a</b>	
Empirical formula	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> Br <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
Formula weight	354.00
Crystal size, mm	0.2 x 0.05 x 0.02
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Space group	<i>P21/a</i>
<i>a</i> , Å	8.9370(11)
<i>b</i> , Å	5.0321(2)
<i>c</i> , Å	13.3138(12)
$\alpha$ , deg.	90
$\beta$ , deg.	96.958(8)
$\gamma$ , deg.	90
<i>V</i> , Å <sup>3</sup>	594.34(9)
<i>Z</i>	2
<i>T</i> , K	293(2)
$\rho$ (calc), Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.978
$\mu$ , mm <sup>-1</sup>	6.815
$\theta$ range, deg.	4.33 to 26.98 deg
GooF	1.091
<i>R</i> 1	0.0357
<i>wR</i> 2	0.0568

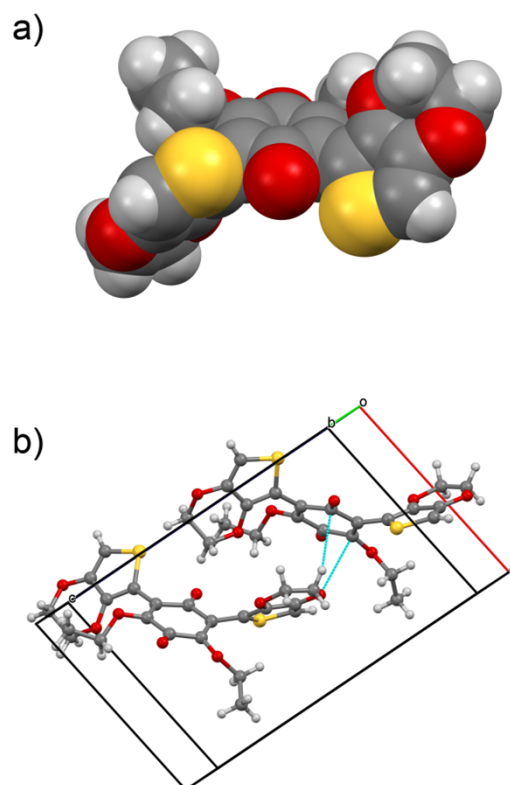
$$R1 = \frac{\sum |F_o| - |F_c|}{\sum |F_o|}, \quad wR2 = \frac{[\sum [w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2] / \sum [w(F_o^2)^2]]^{1/2}}{w}, \quad w = 1 / [\sigma^2(F_o^2) + (aP)^2 + bP], \quad \text{where } P = [\max(F_o^2, 0) + 2F_c^2] / 3.$$

Compound **4a**



**Figure S2** Molecular structure for the compound **4a** in space filling model; the steric hindrance between the 3,4-ethylenedioxy group and the benzoquinone moiety is highlighted.

## Compound 4b



**Figure S3** a) Molecular structure for the compound **4b** in space filling model; b) Stacking interactions between the 3,4-ethylenedioxy fragment and the benzoquinone ring for **4b**: O7...C3 3.19 Å; C18-H...C1 2.86 Å.

**Table S2** Selected bond distances (Å) of the benzoquinone ring for compounds **3a**, **3b**, **4a**, and **4b**.

Bond	3a	3b		4a	4b
C=O	1.223(4)	1.218(4)	1.223(4)	1.222(2)	1.226(5)
		1.227(4)	1.219(4)		1.223(4)
C=C	1.359(4)	1.352(5)	1.368(5)	1.359(2)	1.345(5)
		1.346(5)	1.347(5)		1.343(5)
C-O	1.334(4)	1.361(4)	1.361(4)	1.342(2)	1.342(4)
		1.344(4)	1.342(4)		1.352(4)
C-C	1.479(4)	1.482(5)	1.489(5)	1.475(2)	1.484(5)
		1.500(5)	1.471(5)		1.495(5)
		1.481(5)	1.505(5)		1.481(5)
		1.500(5)	1.488(5)		1.489(5)

## Theoretical calculations

### Computational details

Program and version: Gaussian09 A02; GaussSum 2.2.4; MolIV3D

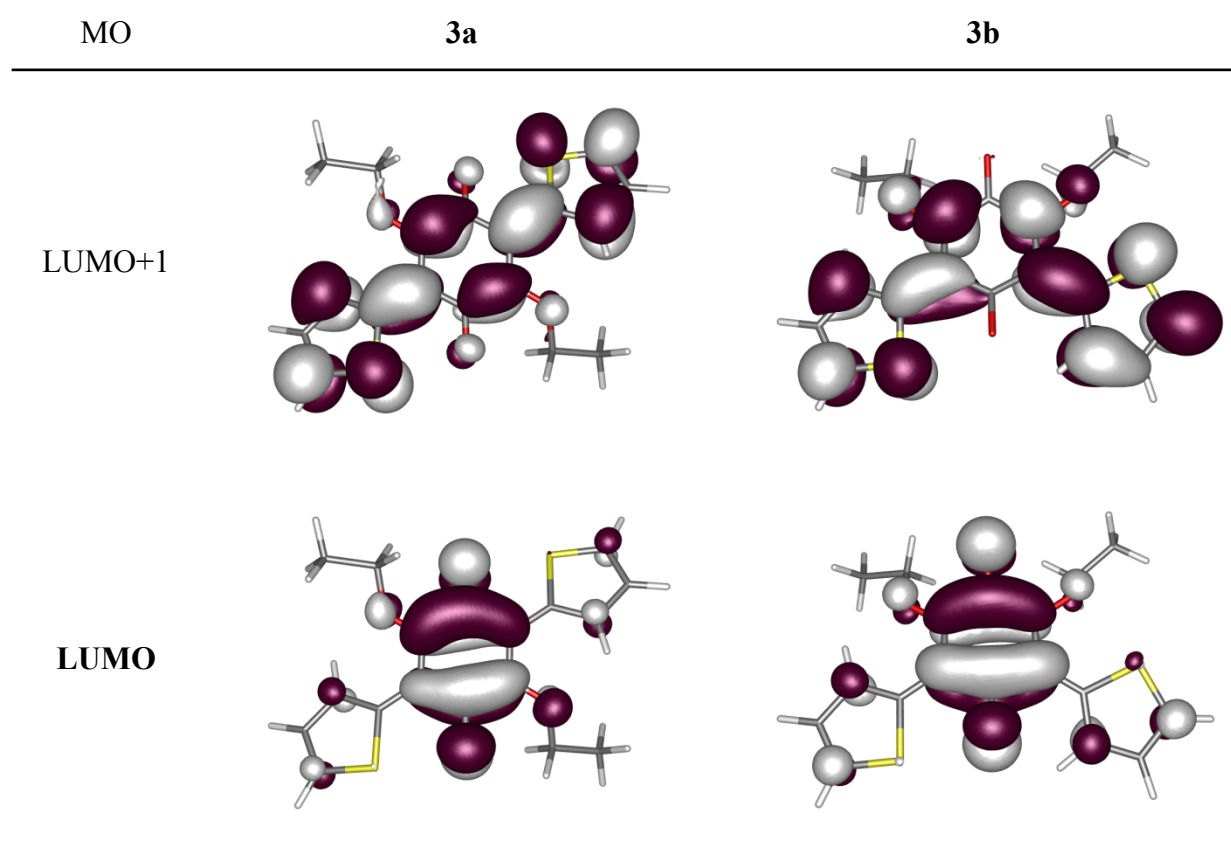
Property n°1: geometry and electronic structure of fundamental state

Method used: OPT in DFT (functional: PBE0); basis set: 6-311++G(3df,2pd) (1708 primitives gaussians); solvation: one test PCM solvent = acetonitrile

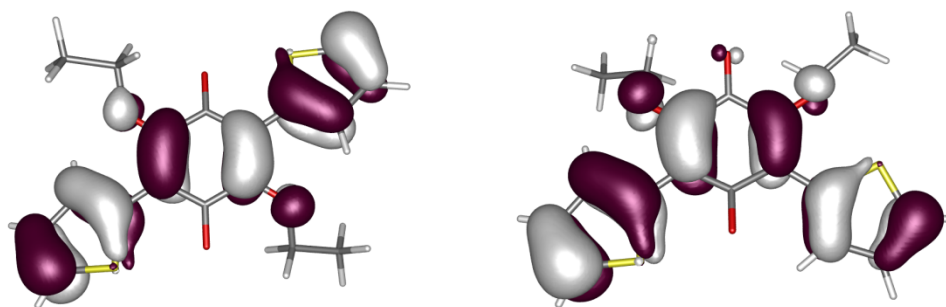
Property n°3: excited states, UV visible absorption

Method used: TD-DFT same details as 1; solvation: one test Non equilibrium LR-PCM solvent = acetonitrile

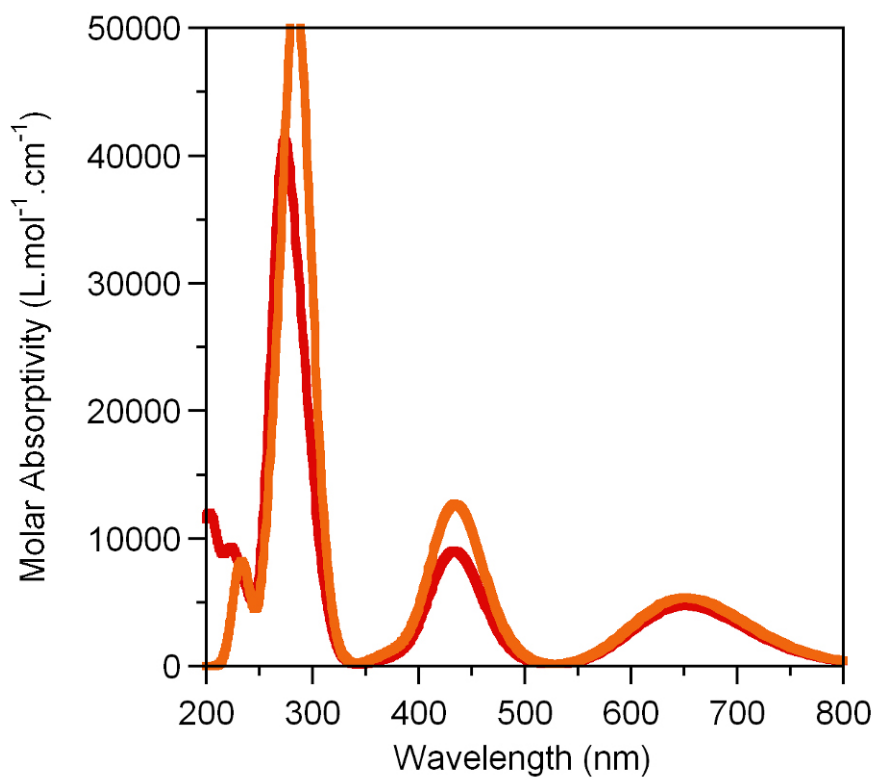
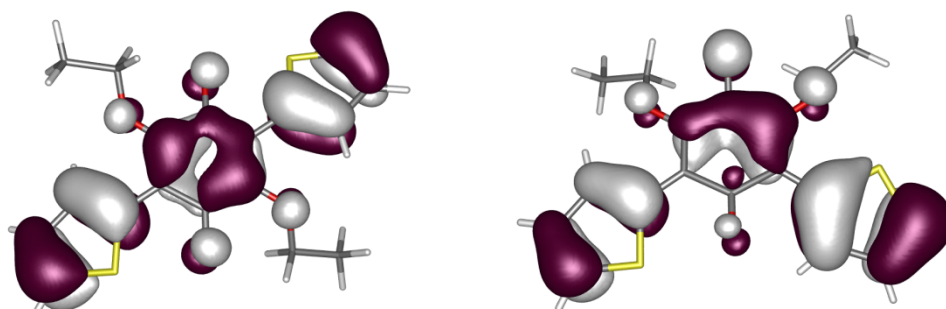
**Table S3** Frontier orbitals plots for **3a** and **3b** with an isovalue chosen to represent 35% of the function.



HOMO



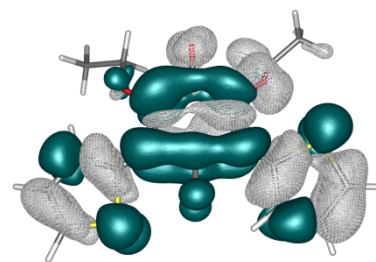
HOMO-1



**Figure S4** Comparison between simulated absorption spectra of **3b** in solution (non-equilibrium LR-PCM) (orange line) and in gas phase (red line).

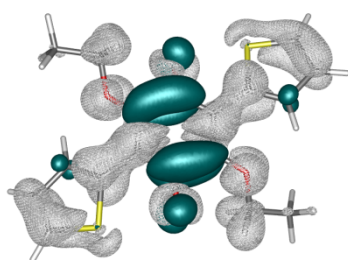
**Table S4** One-electron density difference between the ES and GS. The isocontour value is set to represent 75% of the electron. The solid turquoise (white grid) zones indicate increase (decrease) of density upon electronic transition.

Excitation (Osc. Str.)	<b>3a</b>	Excitation (Osc. Str.)	<b>3b</b>
$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ (0.000)		$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ (0.066)	
$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$ (0.122)		$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$ (0.050) + $S_0 \rightarrow S_4$ (0.050)	
$S_0 \rightarrow S_8$ (0.612)		$S_0 \rightarrow S_8$ (0.088) + $S_0 \rightarrow S_{10}$ (0.410) + $S_0 \rightarrow S_{12}$ (0.071)	

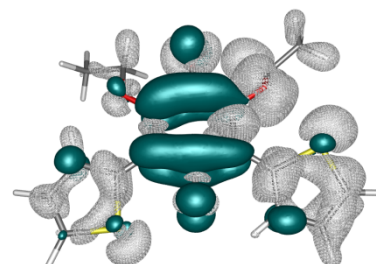
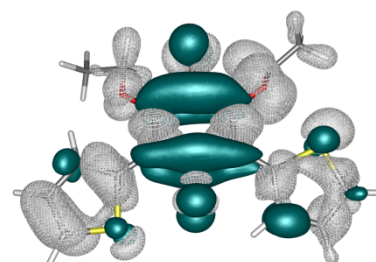


---

$S_0 \rightarrow S_9$   
(0.308)



$S_0 \rightarrow S_9$   
(0.161)  
+  
 $S_0 \rightarrow S_{11}$   
(0.122)



**Compound 3a**



# Table of major excitations with transitions

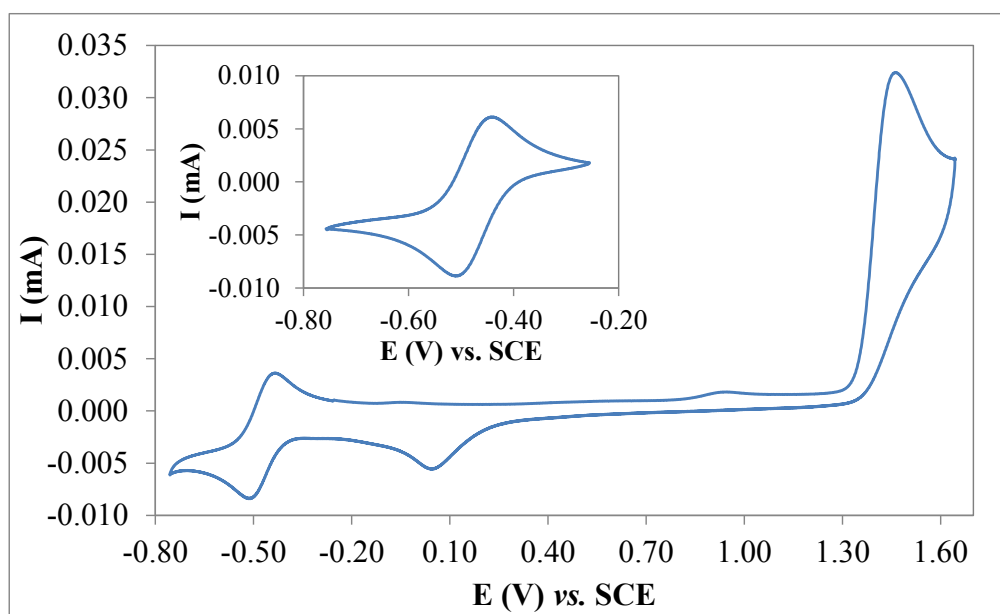
Excitation	Wavelength (nm)	Energy (eV)	Oscillator strength	Transitions		
$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	676	1.83	0.000	99% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	
$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$	463	2.68	0.122	90% HOMO-1	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	6% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_3$	431	2.88	0.000	69% HOMO-4	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-26% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO    3% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_4$	408	3.04	0.012	53% HOMO-5	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-40% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO    -4% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_5$	400	3.10	0.007	59% HOMO-2	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	37% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_8$	312	3.98	0.612	82% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-15% HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_9$	284	4.37	0.308	76% HOMO-7	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	13% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1    3% HOMO-9 $\rightarrow$ LUMO 2% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{13}$	244	5.08	0.044	84% HOMO-3	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	5% HOMO-9 $\rightarrow$ LUMO    -5% HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{16}$	237	5.24	0.054	55% HOMO-9	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-21% HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1    -8% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 6% HOMO-11 $\rightarrow$ LUMO    3% HOMO-12 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{21}$	224	5.53	0.027	72% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+5	-13% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+7    4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4 -3% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3    2% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{24}$	222	5.57	0.108	66% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+7	12% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+5    5% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4 -3% HOMO-12 $\rightarrow$ LUMO    -3% HOMO-9 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{30}$	212	5.86	0.058	52% HOMO-12	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-21% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1    -7% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11 4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+9    3% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+7
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{32}$	210	5.91	0.022	53% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+11	28% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+9    5% HOMO-12 $\rightarrow$ LUMO 3% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{37}$	203	6.10	0.034	60% HOMO-6	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-13% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11    6% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+9 5% HOMO-12 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{39}$	201	6.15	0.030	48% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+14	-24% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2    -8% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6 4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11    -3% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+22    2% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{41}$	201	6.17	0.038	19% HOMO-2	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+2	19% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+16    -15% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6 10% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+8    9% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+14    7% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 -5% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11    4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+13    4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+17
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{45}$	197	6.29	0.090	24% HOMO-2	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+2	19% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+14    -13% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+8 -12% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+13    -6% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3    6% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6 -5% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+17
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{50}$	192	6.46	0.035	23% HOMO-5	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+2	20% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+16    -18% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+17 15% HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+7    -4% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+7    -3% HOMO-8 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 -3% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+14

Compound 3b

# Table of major excitations with transitions

Excitation	Wavelength (nm)	Energy (eV)	Oscillator strength	Transitions		
$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	652	1.90	0.066	98% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	
$S_0 \rightarrow S_2$	440	2.82	0.050	44% HOMO-1	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-30% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				8% HOMO-4	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-3% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_3$	432	2.87	0.026	35% HOMO-2	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	28% HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				13% HOMO-5	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	3% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_4$	429	2.89	0.050	49% HOMO-4	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-34% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
						-10% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_5$	395	3.14	0.003	50% HOMO-2	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-23% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				-5% HOMO-4	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-20% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_7$	306	4.05	0.041	79% HOMO-6	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	9% HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				-2% HOMO-4	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	7% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
$S_0 \rightarrow S_8$	293	4.23	0.088	48% HOMO-7	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-45% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
$S_0 \rightarrow S_9$	288	4.30	0.161	37% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	27% HOMO-8 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				-12% HOMO-6	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	20% HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{10}$	274	4.53	0.410	88% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+2	7% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{11}$	263	4.71	0.122	43% HOMO-8	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	24% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
				-5% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-13% HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
						3% HOMO-9 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
						3% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{12}$	261	4.76	0.071	66% HOMO-1	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-15% HOMO-8 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
				4% HOMO-7	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-8% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{17}$	234	5.31	0.021	72% HOMO-3	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-5% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
				2% HOMO-5	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-4% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						2% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{23}$	224	5.54	0.043	48% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+6	-22% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
				4% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+7	7% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						3% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+5
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{26}$	219	5.66	0.020	74% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+7	-5% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6
				-2% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+8	3% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{34}$	207	6.00	0.053	23% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+10	15% HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
				-9% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+9	9% HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
				6% HOMO-1	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+4	7% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11
						-6% HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
						-5% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						-3% HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{42}$	199	6.23	0.041	35% HOMO-6	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	-14% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+13
				-5% HOMO-14	$\rightarrow$ LUMO	-8% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+14
				4% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+10	-4% HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						4% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+5
						4% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+11
						-2% HOMO-13 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
$S_0 \rightarrow S_{49}$	193	6.42	0.028	37% HOMO-7	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+1	18% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+7
				-5% HOMO	$\rightarrow$ LUMO+15	6% HOMO-15 $\rightarrow$ LUMO
						-5% HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+16
						3% HOMO-8 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						3% HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1
						-3% HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+6

**Electrochemical studies.** Cyclic voltammetry was carried out on a BioLogic potentiostat model SP-150, using a three-electrode cell equipped with a platinum millielectrode with a surface area of 0.126 cm<sup>2</sup>, an Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> pseudoreference and a platinum-wire as counterelectrode. The experiments were performed at room temperature (25 °C), in dry and Nitrogen-degassed CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution containing 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> [(*n*-Bu)<sub>4</sub>N]PF<sub>6</sub> as supporting electrolyte, at 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup> scan rate. All the voltammograms were corrected for the half-wave potential of the ferrocene-ferrocenium couple as internal standard (0.42 V under these conditions).

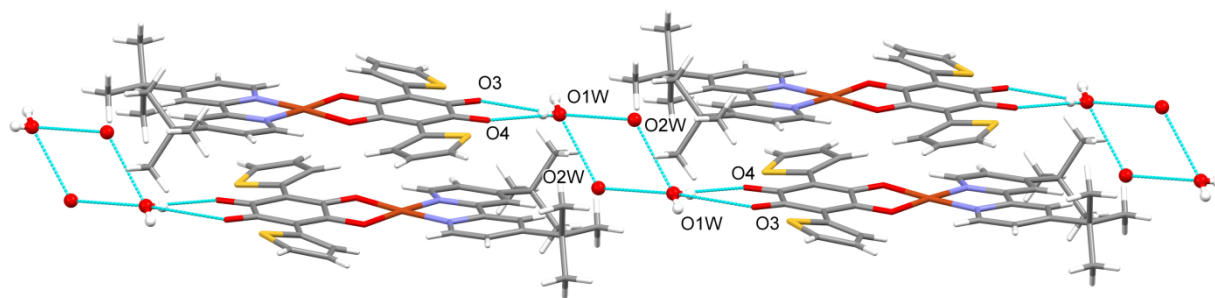


**Figure S5** Cyclic voltammogram (-0.80 - 1.60 V) for **3a** (CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 0.1 mol dm<sup>-3</sup> [(*n*-Bu)<sub>4</sub>N]PF<sub>6</sub>, 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>). Inset shows the reversible reduction peak.

**Table S5** Cyclic Voltammetry data for compounds **3a,b** and **4a,b**.

Redox Potential (vs SCE)	<b>3a</b>	<b>3b</b>	<b>4a</b>	<b>4b</b>
$E_{ox}$	+1.46	+1.47	+1.37	+1.32
$E_{1/2red}$	-0.47	-0.48	-0.55	-0.54

## X-Ray structure of complex 7



**Figure S6** Hydrogen bonding intermolecular interactions between crystallization water molecules and pairs of metal complexes. (Å): O3...O1w 3.04, O4...O1w 2.79, O1w...O2w 2.84, O1w...O2w 2.86.

# <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Spectra

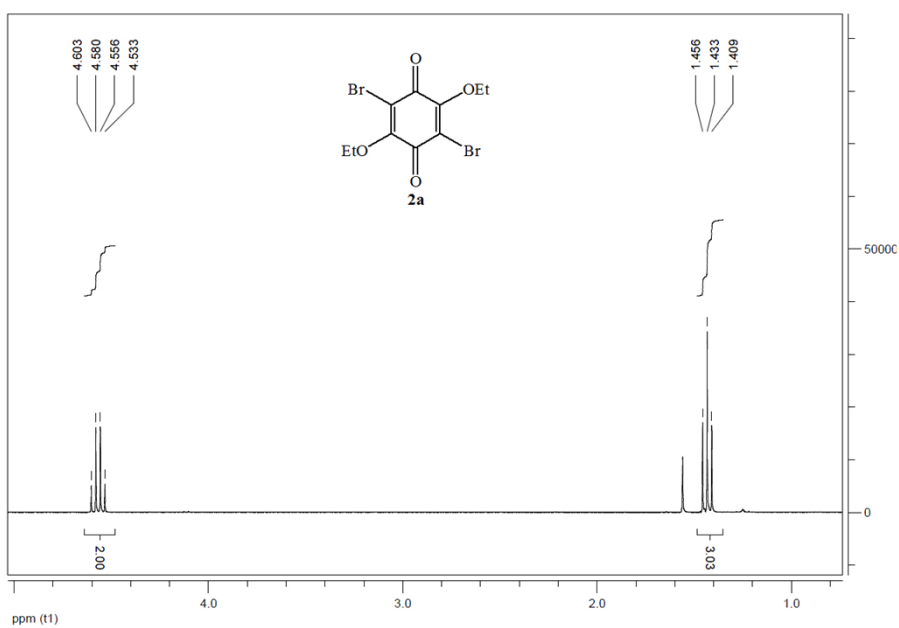


Figure S7 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectrum of **2a**.

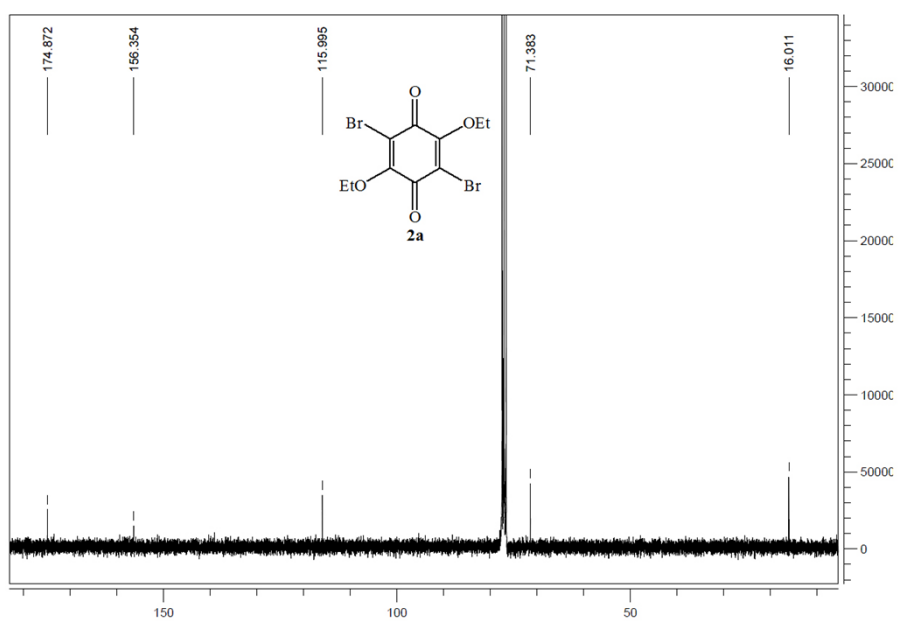


Figure S8 <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectrum of **2a**.

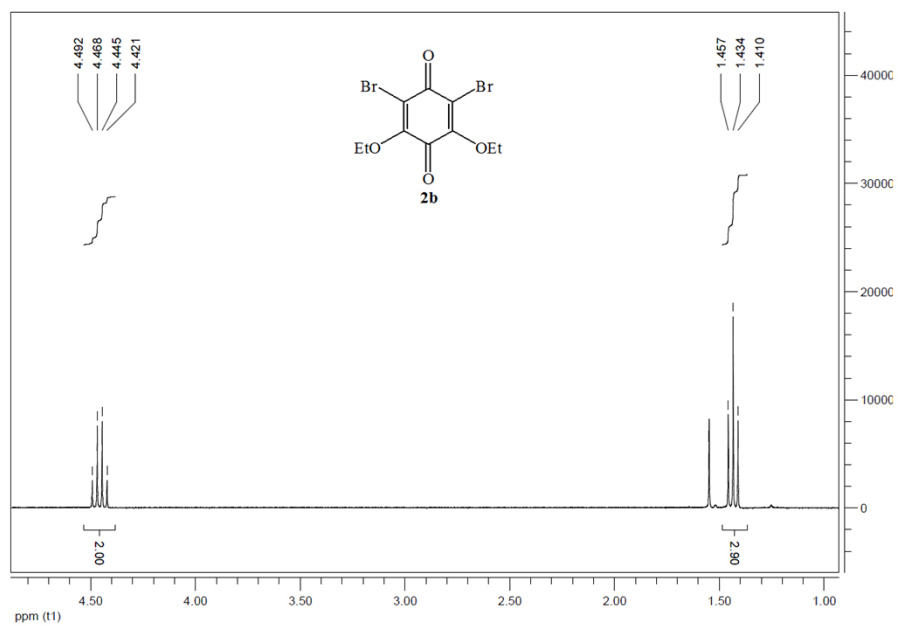


Figure S9  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Spectrum of **2b**.

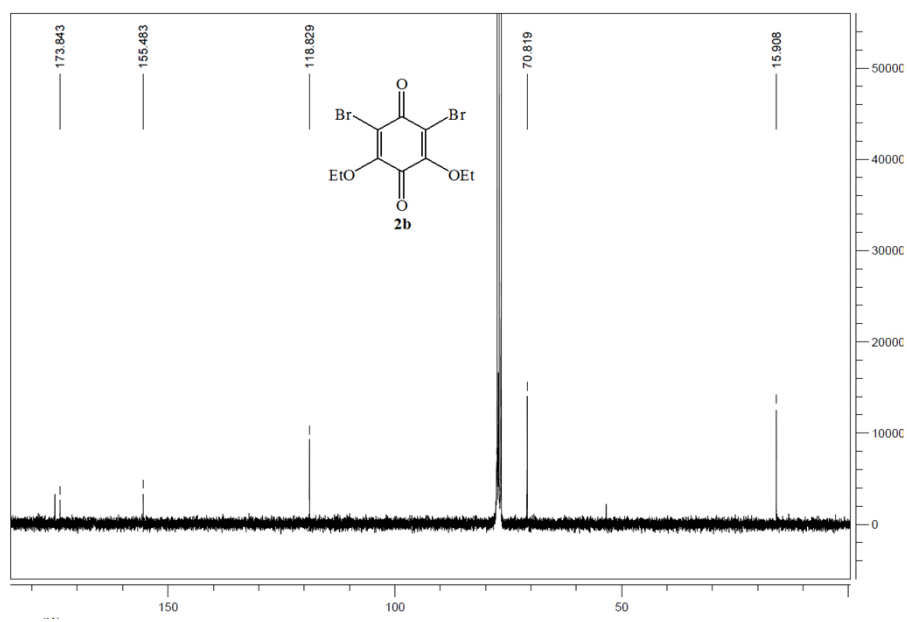
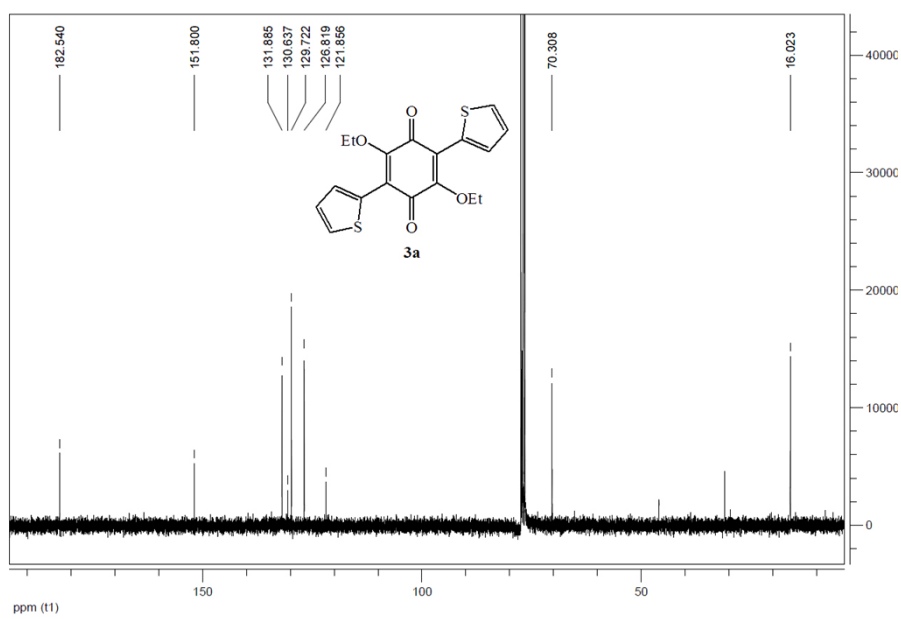
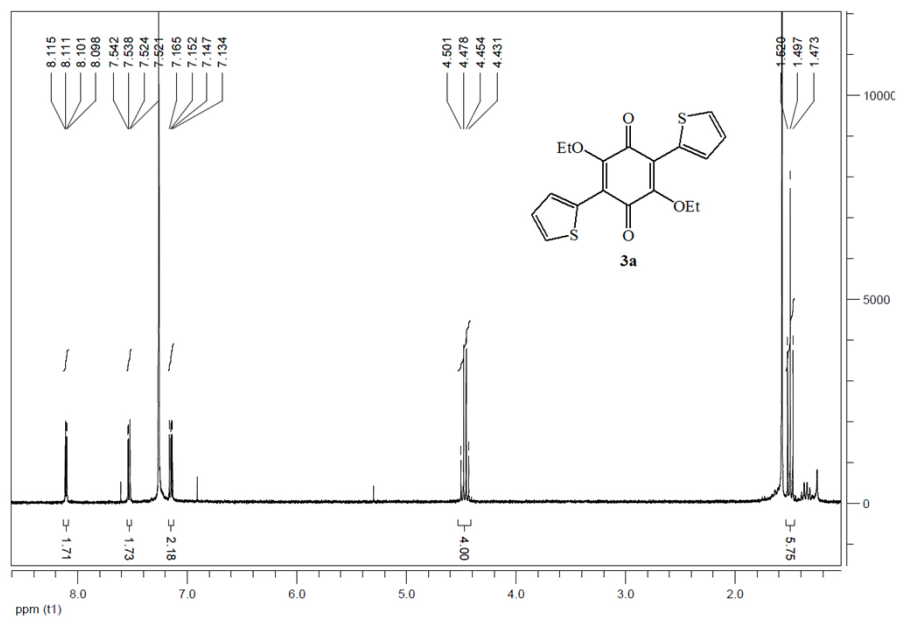
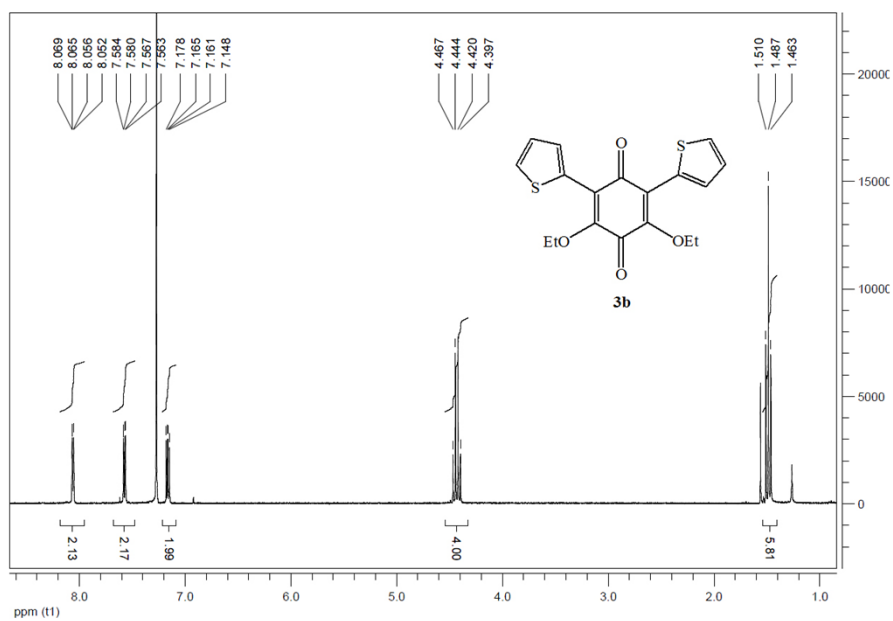
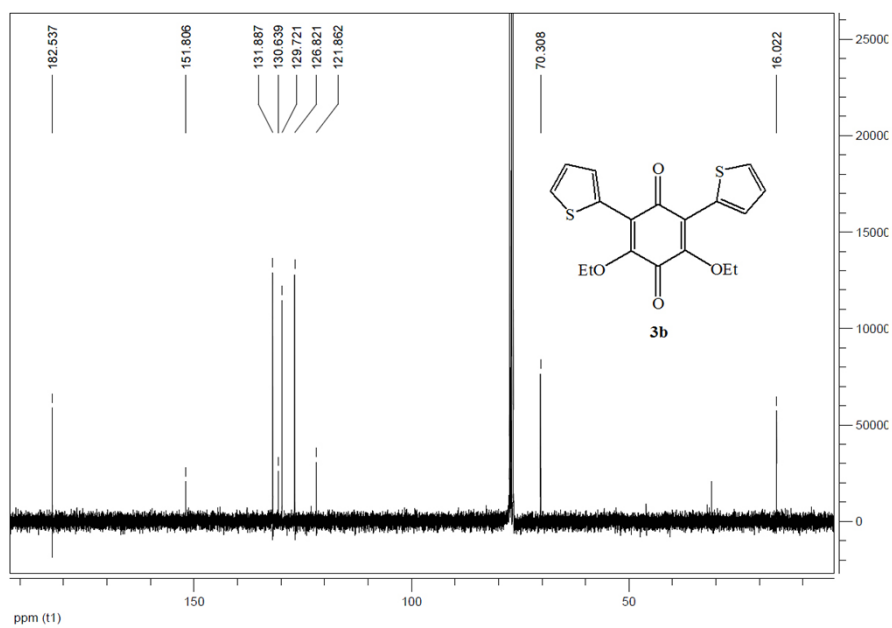


Figure S10  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  Spectrum of **2b**.



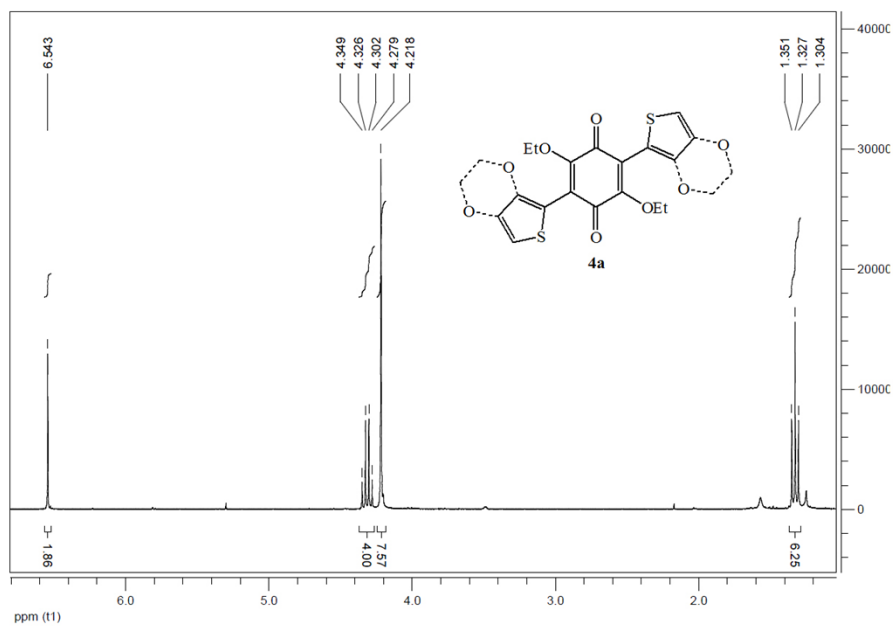


**Figure S13**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Spectrum of **3b**.

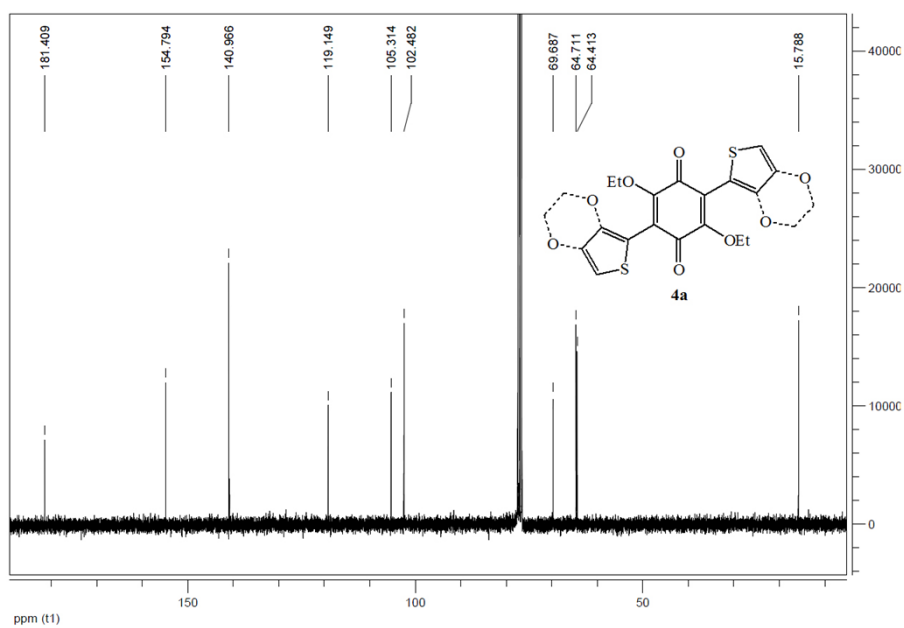


**Figure S14**  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  Spectrum of **3b**.





**Figure S15** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectrum of **4a**.



**Figure S16** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectrum of **4a**.

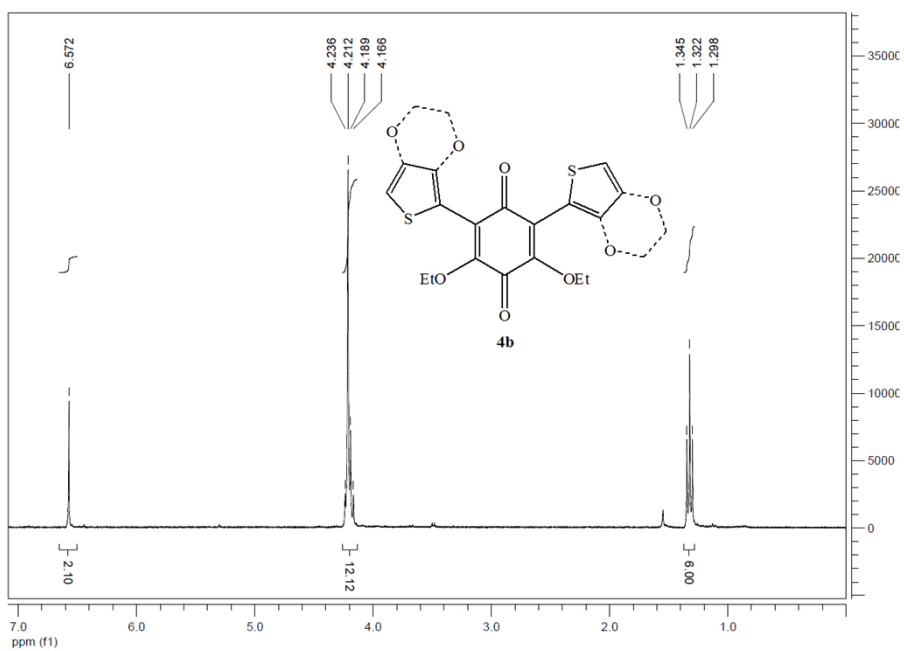


Figure S17 <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectrum of **4b**.

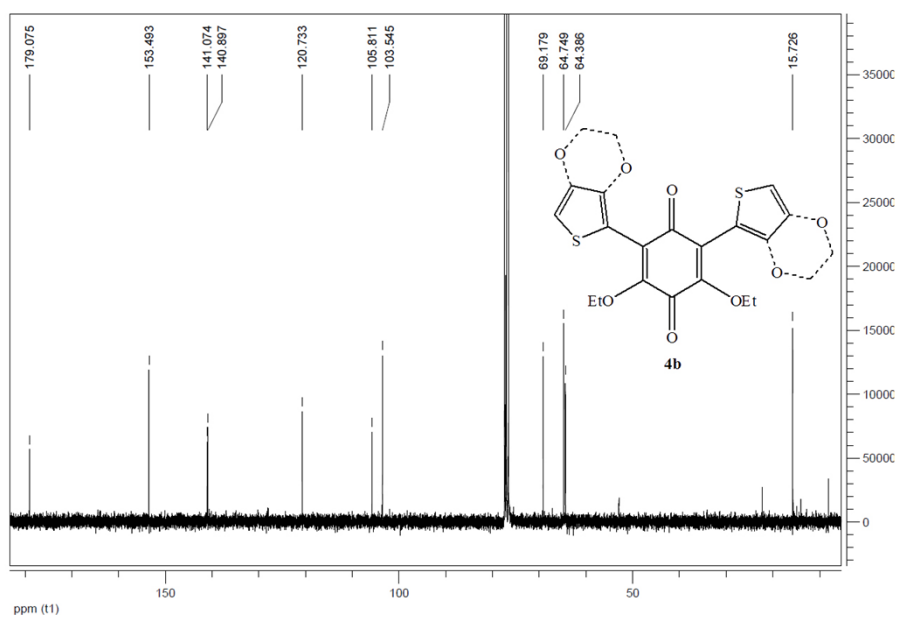
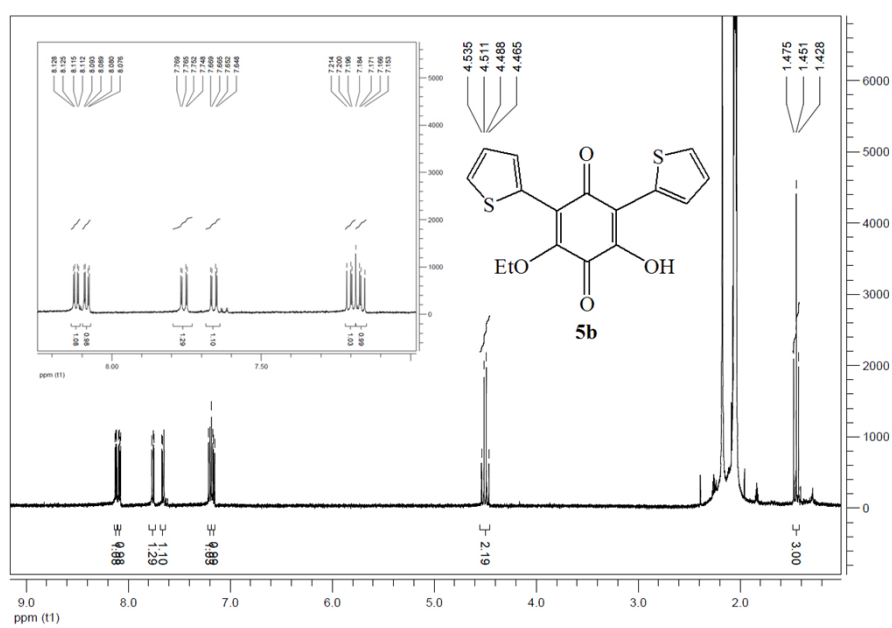
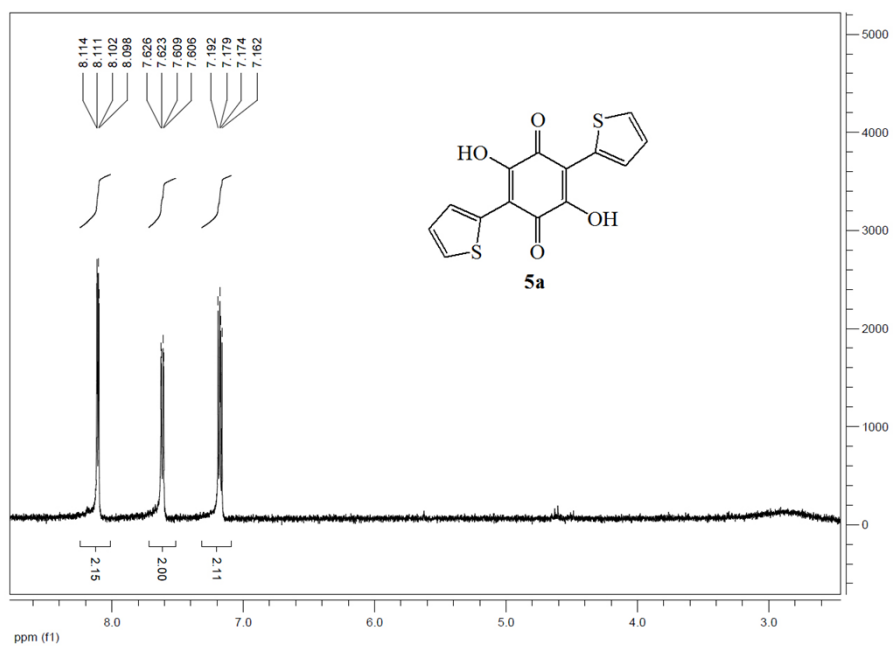


Figure S18 <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectrum of **4b**.



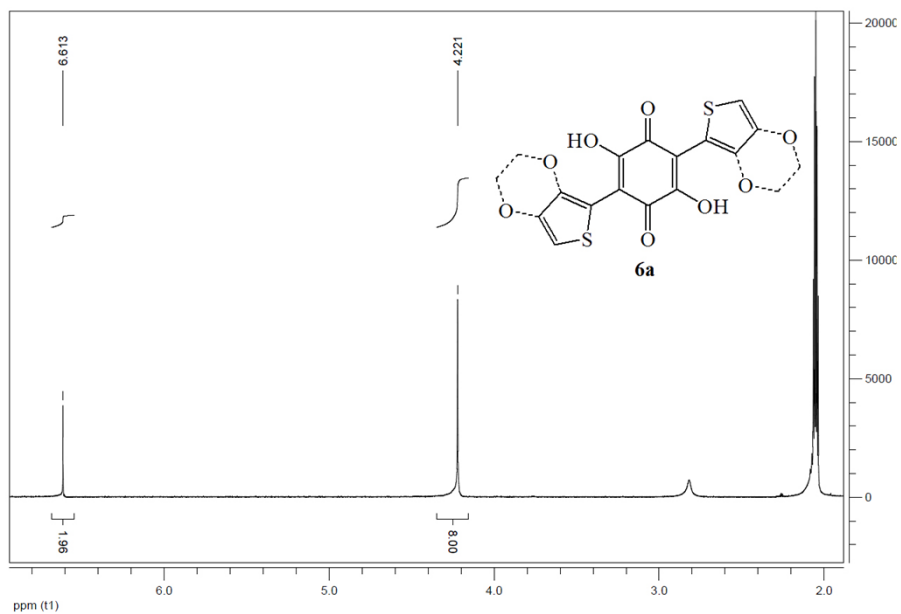


Figure S21  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Spectrum of **6a**.

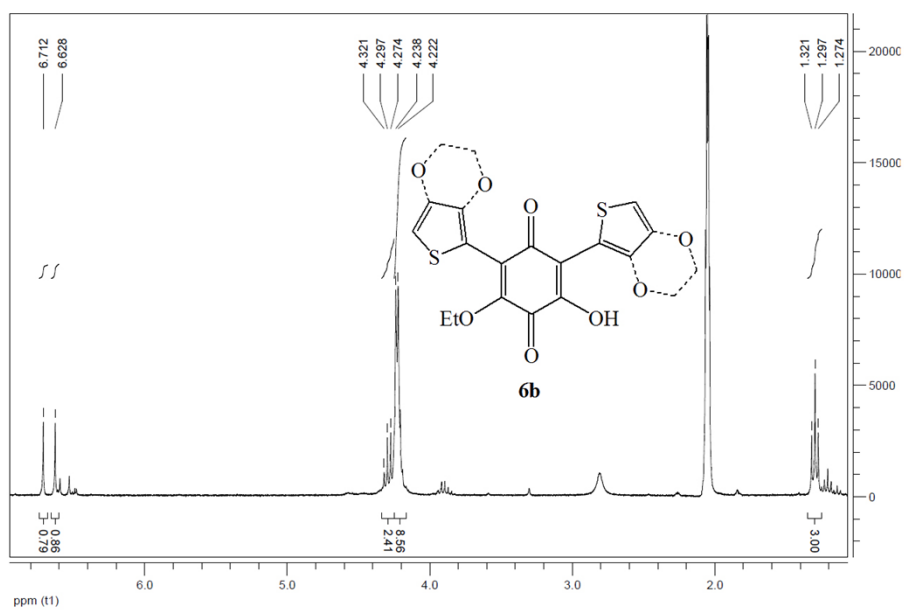


Figure S22  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  Spectrum of **6b**.