

Supporting Information

Macrocyclic Donor–Acceptor Dyads Composed of a Perylene Bisimide Dye Surrounded by Oligothiophene Bridges

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Experimental Section

General Methods

All reactions were performed in standard glass equipment. All used chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers (*abcr/carbolution chemicals*, *Acros Organics*, *Alfa Asear*, *Merck*, *Sigma Aldrich*, *TCI* and *VWR*) and applied without further purification. CH2Cl2, THF and toluene were purified and dried with the commercial purification system PureSolv MD from *Innovative Technology*. Preparative column chromatography was performed with self-packed glass columns of several sizes filled with silica gel 60 M (particle size 0.040-0.063 mm, Merck). The solvents CH₂Cl₂ and methanol were freshly distilled prior to use.

Flash column chromatography was performed on a PuriFLash XS-420 from *Interchim* using columns of the sizes 0012, 0025 and 0040. Silica gel deactivation was achieved by flushing the columns with a solvent mixture of cyclohexane/trimethylamine = 20:1 for two column volumes and subsequent purging with pure cyclohexane for five to ten column volumes prior to the actual purification method.

High-resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectra were measured with a ultrafleXtreme mass spectrometer from *Bruker Daltonics GmbH* using *trans*-2-[3-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-2 methyl-2-propenylidene]malononitrile (DCTB) as a matrix material. High-resolution ESI-TOF mass spectroscopy was carried out using a microTOF focus instrument from *Bruker Daltonics GmbH*. For melting point measurements an *Olympus* BX41 polarisation microscope with a temperature regulator TP84 from *Linkam Scientific* was used. The reported values are uncorrected. The purification by gel permeation chromatography was performed on a *Shimadzu* instrument (LC-20AD Prominence Pump, SPD-MA20A Prominence Diode Array Detector) with two preparative columns (*Japan Analytical Industries Co*., *Ltd)*. Ethanol stabilized CHCl3 (Chromasolv®, *Sigma Aldrich*) was used as eluent.

1H and 13C NMR spectra were recorded on *Bruker* Avance III HD 400 or 600 MHz instruments using deuterated solvents. 13C NMR spectra are broad band proton decoupled. Chemical shifts (*δ*) are listed in parts per million (ppm). Coupling constants (*J*) are stated in Hertz (Hz). The spectra are referenced internally to residual proton

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solvent resonances or natural abundance carbon resonances. Multiplicities are reported as $s =$ singlet, brs = broad singlet, $d =$ doublet, $dd =$ doublet of doublets, $t =$ triplet, dt = doublet of triplets, $q =$ quartet, quin = quintet, sex = sextet, $m =$ multiplet with the chemical shift in the center of the signal.

UV/Vis absorption spectra were recorded for solutions in cuvettes (SUPRASIL®, Hellma® Analytics) on a Jasco V-670 or V-770 spectrometer and fluorescence spectra on a FLS980-D2D2-ST fluorescence spectrometer (*Edinburgh Instruments*) and were corrected against the photomultiplier sensitivity and the lamp intensity.

CV and DPV experiments were carried out with a *BASi* Epsilon potentiostat connected to a microcell apparatus from *rhd instruments* involving a 1.6 mL sample container, a platinum counter- and pseudo-reference electrode as well as a glassy carbon working electrode.

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected at the P11 beamline at DESY. The diffraction data were collected by a single 360° scan *ϕ* sweep at 100 K. The diffraction data were indexed, integrated, and scaled using the XDS program package.^[S1] In order to compensate low completeness due to single-axis measurement, two data sets were merged using the XPREP program from *Bruker*.^[S2] The structures were solved using SHELXT, expanded with Fourier techniques and refined using the SHELX software package.^[S3] Hydrogen atoms were assigned at idealized positions and were included in the calculation of structure factors. All non-hydrogen atoms in the major disorder part of main residues were refined anisotropically. In the crystal structures some of the side chains were disordered and modelled with restraints and constraints using standard SHELX commands RIGU, DELU, ISOR, SADI, SAME, DFIX, DANG, FLAT, SIMU, CHIV and EADP. The solvent molecules in the solvent accessible voids also had disorder and were restrained and/or constrained by a similar set of instructions.

The transient absorption spectrometer setup is based on a femtosecond laser "Solstice" from *Newport-Spectra Physics* with a fundamental wavelength of 800 nm which provides 100 fs long pulses with a repetition rate of 1 kHz. This laser source was used to pump a NOPA to generate the excitation pulses at 530 nm with a pulse length of around 50 fs. The FWHM-bandwidth of the excitation pulse was 8.5 nm and the pulse energy was set to 20 nJ (**(5T)2-PBI**) and 15 nJ (**5T-PBI**). Wire grid polarizers were used to set the pump pulse polarization to 54.7° in relation to the horizontal polarized white light continuum to achieve magic angle conditions. Another part of the laser beam was guided to a TOPAS-C from *Light-Conversion* to obtain a wavelength from 1260 nm (**(5T)2-PBI**) and 1000 nm (**5T-PBI**) which was used to generate the probing white light continuum within a moving CaF2 (**(5T)2-PBI**) or sapphire crystal (**5T-PBI**). To achieve the probe range from 450 nm to 915 nm a dielectrically coated quartz glass short pass filter with 950 nm, thickness 3 mm, from *Edmund-Optics* were used. The sample was dissolved in spectroscopic grade dichloromethane from ACROS organics and the solution was filled in a quartz glass cuvette with an optical path length of 0.2 mm (**(5T)2-PBI**) and 2 mm (**5T-PBI**). The optical density at the excitation wavelength was set to 0.055 for **(5T)2-PBI** and 0.50 for **5T-PBI**. The IRF was ca. 80 fs as measured for stimulated Raman signals of the solvent. Further details on this spectrometer setup are provided in ref^[S4].

Spectroelectrochemical experiments were performed on a Cary 5000 UV/Vis/NIR Spectrometer from *Agilent* in combination with a sample compartment consisting of a custom-made cylindrical PTFE cell with a sapphire window and an adjustable three in one electrode (6 mm platinum disc working electrode, 1 mm platinum counter and Ag/AgCl leak free reference electrode) in reflection mode. The optical path was adjusted to 100 μm with a micrometer screw. Potentials were applied with a reference potentiostat PAR 283 from *Princeton Applied Research.* Upon applying a new potential to the solution an equilibration time of 20 seconds between each measurement was employed.

DFT and TD-DFT calculations were performed by Gaussian 16^[S5] using B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory.

Stannylated precursor compound **10**[S6] and **Ref-PBI**[S7] were synthesized according to literature known procedures. The synthesis of **5T** was recently reported.[S8]

Synthetic Procedure

4-Hexyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)aniline (2)

A solution of 2-bromo-4-hexylaniline (3.71 g, 14.5 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 2-thienylboronic acid (5.00 g, 39.1 mmol, 2.70 eq.) and $Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂$ (1.52 g, 2.17 mmol, 15 mol%) in degassed dioxane (50 mL) was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. Subsequently, 20 mL of aqueous K_2CO_3 (1 M) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed overnight. The suspension was allowed to cool down to room temperature and water (20 mL) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL each) and the combined organic fractions were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude compound was purified by column chromatography (CH2Cl2/*n*-hexane = 1:1) to give compound **2**. **Yield**: 3.56 g, 13.7 mmol, 95%, yellow oil.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 7.35 (dd, *3J* = 5.2 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd, *3J* = 3.5 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (q, *3J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *4J* = 2.1 Hz, *5J* = 0.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, *4J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (brs, 2H), 2.50 (t, *3J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 1.60-1.51 (m, 2H), 1.38 - 1.26 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, $3J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3): *δ*/ppm = 141.8, 141.5, 133.3, 130.8, 129.1, 127.6, 125.8, 125.2, 120.0, 116.1, 35.1, 31.9, 31.8, 29.1, 22.8, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF, positive mode, MeCN/CHCl3 1:1): *m*/*z* calculated for C16H22NS [M+H]⁺: 260.1467, found: 260.1465.

 R_f : 0.63 using CH_2Cl_2/n -hexane = 1:1 as eluent.

4-Hexyl-2,6-di(thiophen-2-yl)aniline (3)

A solution of 4-hexylaniline (2.47 g, 7.38 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 2-thienyl boronic acid $(2.83 g, 22.1 mmol, 3.00 eq.)$ and $Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (777 mg, 1.11 mmol, 15 mol%) in$ degassed dioxane (40 mL) was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. Subsequently, 20 mL of aqueous K_2CO_3 (1 M) was added and the reaction mixture was heated to reflux for three days. The suspension was allowed to cool down to room temperature and water (20 mL) was added. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with CH2Cl2 (50 mL each) and the combined organic fractions were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (gradient of *n*-hexane/CH₂Cl₂ = 4:1 to 3:1) to give the title compound **3**.

Yield: 1.93 g, 5.67 mmol, 77%, brown oil.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 7.38 (dd, *3J* = 5.2 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, *3J* = 3.5 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (dd, *3J* = 5.2 Hz, *4J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 4.28 (brs, 2H), 2.52 (t, *3J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (quin, *3J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.40 - 1.25 (m, 6H), 0.88 (t, $3J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3): *δ*/ppm = 141.3, 140.0, 132.5, 131.0, 127.7, 126.3, 125.5, 120.6, 35.0, 31.9, 31.8, 29.2, 22.8, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF, positive mode, MeCN/CHCl3 1:1): *m/z* calculated for C₂₀H₂₄NS₂ [M+H]⁺: 342.1345, found: 342.1348.

 R_f : 0.46 using CH_2Cl_2/n -hexane = 1:1 as eluent.

*N***,***N***'-Di(4-hexyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (4)**

A suspension of perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride (300 mg, 765 μmol, 1.00 eq.), aniline derivate **2** (794 mg, 3.06 mmol, 4.00 eq.) and Zn(OAc)₂ (42.0 g, 229 umol, 0.30 eq) in imidazole (3.0 g, 44.1 mmol) was stirred for 4 h at 120 °C under microwave irradiation. The crude solid was collected with CH₂Cl₂, adsorbed on celite and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product-celite mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of CH₂Cl₂/nhexane = 0:1 to 1:0) to give compound **4**.

Yield: 492 mg, 562 μmol, 74%, red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.73 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 8.69 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.60 (d, *4J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, *4J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *3J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.15 (dd, *3J* = 3.6 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (dd, *3J* = 5.1 Hz, *4J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H), 6.90 (q, *3J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t, *3J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.76 (quin, *3J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.41 - 1.34 (m, 12H), 0.93 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3): *δ*/ppm = 163.9, 144.6, 139.7, 135.1, 133.2, 132.1, 131.0, 130.2, 129.6, 129.3, 127.3, 126.1, 126.0, 123.5, 123.4, 35.9, 31.9, 31.3, 29.3, 22.8, 14.3.

HRMS (ESI-TOF, positive mode, MeCN/CHCl3 1:1): *m*/*z* calculated for C56H46N2NaO4S2 [M+Na]+: 897.2791, found: 897.2736.

M.p.: >300 °C.

 R_f : 0.32 using CH_2Cl_2 as eluent.

*N***,***N***'-Tetra(4-hexyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (5)**

A suspension of perylene-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic dianhydride (50.0 mg, 127 μmol, 1.00 eq.), aniline derivate **3** (348 mg, 1.02 mmol, 8.00 eq.) and $Zn(OAc)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ (42.0 mg, 229 μmol, 1.30 eq) in imidazole (600 mg, 8.81 mmol) was stirred for 14 h at 135 °C under microwave irradiation. The crude solid was collected with CH_2Cl_2 , ultrasonicated, adsorbed on celite and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product-celite mixture was purified by flash column chromatography (gradient of CH2Cl2/*n*-hexane = 1:1, CH2Cl2) to give compound **5**. **Yield**: 14.6 mg, 14.1 μmol, 11%, red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.57 (d, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 8.69 (d, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, 4H), 7.55 (s, 4H), 7.13 (dd, *3J* = 3.6 Hz, *4J* = 1.1 Hz, 8H), 6.89 (dd, *3J* = 3.6 Hz, 4H), 2.80 (t, *3J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 1.80 (quin, *3J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.50 - 1.35 (m, 12H), 0.93 (t, $3J = 7.0$ Hz, 6H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 164.0, 144.9, 139.8, 135.0, 134.6, 132.0, 131.4, 130.0, 129.0, 127.5, 127.0, 126.8, 126.5, 123.5, 123.2, 36.0, 32.1, 31.6, 29.6, 23.0, 14.3.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl3): *m*/*z* calculated for C64H50N2O4S4 [M]⁺: 1038.2653, found: 1038.2648.

M.p.: >300 °C.

 R_f : 0.40 using CH_2Cl_2 as eluent.

*N***,***N***'-Di(4-hexyl-2-(5-(tributylstannyl)thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-3,4:9,10 tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (6)**

To a solution of perylene bisimide **4** (480 mg, 549 μmol, 1.00 eq.) in dry THF (100 mL) *n*-butyllithium (5.14 mL, 1.6 M in *n*-hexane, 15.0 eq.) was added dropwise under stirring at room temperature and the solution was further stirred for 2 h. Subsequently, Sn(C4H9)3Cl (2.53 mL, 9.32 mmol, 17.0 eq.) was added dropwise at room temperature and the solution was further stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with water (50 mL), extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL each), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified *via* flash column chromatography (deactivated silica gel, gradient of CH_2Cl_2/n -hexane = 0:1 to 1:0) to give the desired compound **6**.

Yield: 355 mg, 244 μmol, 45%, deep red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.73 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 8.69 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.52 (d, *4J* = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (dd, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, *4J* = 2.1 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *3J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (d, *3J* = 3.5 Hz, 2H), 2.77 (t, *3J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 1.77 (quin, *3J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 1.42 - 1.35 (m, 12H), 1.27 - 1.21 (m, 12H), 1.04 (sex, *3J* = 7.4 Hz, 12H), 0.93 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.80 (t, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, 12H), 0.64 (t, $3J = 7.4$ Hz, 18H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl3): *δ*/ppm = 164.0, 145.3, 144.9, 138.4, 135.8, 135.1, 133.5, 131.8, 130.3 (2 signals), 130.0, 128.9, 127.4, 126.8, 123.8, 123.7, 36.1, 32.2, 31.7, 29.6, 29.0, 27.4, 23.1, 14.3, 13.6, 10.9.

HRMS (ESI-TOF, positive mode, MeCN/CHCl3 1:1): *m*/*z* calculated C80H98N2NaO4S2Sn2 [M+Na]+: 1477.4904, found: 1477.4821.

M.p.: 116-118 °C.

R_f: 0.55 using CH₂C_{l₂ as eluent.}

*N***,***N***'-Tetra(4-hexyl-2-(5-(tributylstannyl)thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)-3,4:9,10 tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (7)**

To a solution of perylene bisimide **5** (108 mg, 104 μmol, 1.00 eq.) in dry THF (22 mL) *n*-butyllithium (1.30 mL, 1.6 M in *n*-hexane, 20.0 eq.) was added dropwise under stirring at room temperature and the solution was further stirred for 1 h. Subsequently, Sn(C4H9)3Cl (676 μL, 2.49 mmol, 24.0 eq.) was added dropwise at room temperature and the solution was further stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched with water (15 mL), extracted three times with CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL each), and the combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4 and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified *via* flash column chromatography (deactivated silica gel, gradient of n -hexane/ $CH_2Cl_2 = 1:0$ to 1:1) to yield the desired compound **7**.

Yield: 45.1 mg, 20.5 μmol, 20%, deep red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.65 (d, *3J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 8.62 (d, *3J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.55 (s, 4H), 7.27 (d, *3J* = 3.4 Hz, 4H), 6.94 (d, *3J* = 3.4 Hz, 4H), 2.79 (t, *3J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 1.79 (quin, *3J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.52-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.36 (m, 8H), 1.32 - 1.24 (m, 24H), 1.06 (sex, *3J* = 7.4 Hz, 24H), 0.93 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.82 (t, *3J* = 8.1 Hz, 24H), 0.67 (t, *3J* = 7.2 Hz, 36H).

13C NMR (150 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 164.2, 145.3, 144.8, 138.5, 135.7, 135.3, 134.8, 132.1, 130.2, 130.1, 128.1, 127.9, 127.0, 123.8, 123.6, 36.1, 32.2, 31.6, 29.7, 29.0, 27.4, 23.0, 14.3, 13.7, 11.0.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl3): *m*/*z* calculated C112H154N2NaO4S4Sn4 [M+Na]+: 2221.6772, found: 2221.6771.

M.p.: 183-185 °C.

Rf: 0.73 using CH₂Cl₂/cyclohexane = 2:1 as eluent.

*N***,***N***'-Di(4-hexyl-2-(5-(chloro(1,5-cyclooctadiene)platinum)thiophen-2-yl)phenyl)- 3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (8)**

A solution of **6** (50.0 mg, 34.4 μmol, 1.0 eq.) and Pt(COD)Cl2 (28.3 mg, 75.5 μmol, 2.2 eq.) in degassed toluene (10 mL) was stirred for 2 h at 95 °C. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified *via* flash column chromatography (gradient of CH2Cl2/acetone = 1:0 to 20:1) to yield compound **8**. **Yield**: 31.0 mg, 20.0 μmol, 58%, deep red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, C2D2Cl4): *δ*/ppm = 8.70 (brs, 8H), 7.59 (d, *3J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (dd, *3J* = 1.9 Hz, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (*3J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.08 (d, *3J* = 3.7 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, *3J* = 3.7 Hz, 2H), 5.60-5.52 (m, 4H), 4.96-4.89 (m, 4H), 2.75 (t, *3J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 2.47- 2.12 (m, 16H), 1.74 (quin, *3J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1,38-1.26 (m, 12H), 0.93 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H).

13C NMR (101 MHz, C2D2Cl4): *δ*/ppm = 163.6, 144.3, 141.1, 138.5, 134.7, 133.3, 131.9, 130.3, 129.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.1, 126.3, 126.0, 123.2, 120.2, 112.9, 90.1, 35.7, 31.6, 31.5, 31.2, 30.8, 29.1, 28.3, 22.6, 14.2.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl3): *m*/*z* calculated for C72H68Cl2N2O4Pt2S4 [M]+:1548.3293, found: 1548.3288. **M.p.**: >300 °C.

Rf: 0.29 using CH₂Cl₂/acetone = 20:1 as eluent.

*N***,***N***'-Tetra(4-hexyl-2-(5-(chloro(1,5-cyclooctadiene)platinum)thiophen-2 yl)phenyl)-3,4:9,10-tetracarboxylic acid bisimide (9)**

A solution of **7** (49.6 mg, 22.6 μmol, 1.0 eq.) and Pt(cod)Cl2 (169 mg, 452 μmol, 20.0 eq.) in degassed toluene (25 mL) was stirred overnight at 80 °C. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified *via* flash column chromatography (gradient of CH2Cl2/MeOH = 1:0 to 99:1) to yield compound **9**. **Yield**: 44.4 mg, 217 μmol, 82%, deep red solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, C2D2Cl4): *δ*/ppm = 8.66 (brs, 8H), 7.48 (brs, 4H), 7.10 (brs, 4H), 6.77 (brs, 4H), 5.55 (brs, 8H), 4.85 (brs, 8H), 2.77-2.70 (m, 4H), 2.44-2.36 (m, 8H), 2.32-2.24 (m, 4H), 2.15-2.10 (m, 4H), 1.78-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.34 (m, 12H), 0.96- 0.91 (m, 6H) .

13C NMR (150 MHz, C2D2Cl4): *δ*/ppm = 163.7, 141.2, 138.4, 134.5, 134.2, 132.1, 130.2, 126.5, 123.4, 120.2, 116.7, 116.5, 116.3, 112.9, 100.3, 99.4, 90.0, 35.7, 31.5, 30.8, 29.6, 29.2, 28.3, 22.6, 14.2.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl3): *m*/*z* calculated C96H94Cl4N2O4Pt4S4 [M]+: 2386.3441, found: 2386.3437. **M.p.**: >300 °C.

 R_f : 0.44 using $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 20:1$ as eluent.

To a stirred solution of **8** (31.0 mg, 20.0 μmol, 1.00 eq.) in degassed toluene (40 mL) was added dropwise the stannylated oligothiophene **10** (21.9 mg, 37.8 μmol, 1.10 eq.) in degassed toluene (1.0 mL) *via* a syringe pump over 15 h and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 75 °C. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude residue was washed with *n*-hexane. The crude product was redissolved in degassed CH_2Cl_2 (40 mL) and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (24.4 mg, 75.5 umol, 2.20 eq.) was added. The solution was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in degassed *m*-xylene (40 mL) and stirred overnight at 120 °C. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified *via* flash column chromatography $(CH₂Cl₂/cyclohexane = 1:1 to 1:0)$ and gel permeation chromatography $(CHCl₃)$ to give the desired compound.

Yield: 7.71 mg, 5.99 μmol, 30%, red orange solid.

1H NMR (600 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.70 (s, 8H), 7.79 (d, *4J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, *3J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (dd, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, *4J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *3J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (d, *3J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (s, 2H), 6.88 (s, 2H), 2.80 (t, *3J* = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 2.58 (t, *3J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 1.79 (quin, *3J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.35-1.42 (m, 8H), 1.22-1.31 (m, 20H), 0.94 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H), 0.83 (t, *3J* = 7.0 Hz 6H).

13C NMR (150 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 164.2, 145.0, 141.5, 138.1, 137.8, 135.7, 135.5, 135.1, 132.2, 132.0, 130.7, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 129.2, 128.6, 127.7, 127.0, 126.9, 126.8, 124.1, 123.8, 123.6, 36.2, 32.2, 32.0, 31.7, 30.7, 29.6, 29.5, 23.1, 22.9, 14.3, 14.2.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl₃): *m/z* calculated C₈₀H₇₄N₂O₄S₅ [M]⁺: 1286.4252, found: 1286.4247.

UV/Vis *λ*max (*ε*max): CH2Cl2: 531 nm (64.8 × 103 L mol−1 cm−1).

Fluorescence *λ*max (*λ*ex): Cyclohexane: 528 nm (480 nm). *Φ*fl = <0.1%.

 R_f : 0.32 using CH_2Cl_2 as eluent.

(5T)2-PBI

To a stirred solution of **9** (44.4 mg, 18.5 μmol, 1.00 eq.) in degassed toluene (25 mL) was added dropwise the stannylated oligothiophene **10** (40.7 mg, 40.9 μmol, 2.20 eq.) in degassed toluene (1.0 mL) *via* a syringe pump over 15 h and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 75 °C. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the crude residue was washed with *n*-hexane. The crude product was redissolved in degassed CH2Cl2 (25 mL) and 1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (45.3 mg, 81.7 μmol, 4.40 eq.) was added. The solution was stirred for 6 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in degassed *m*-xylene (25 mL) and stirred overnight at 120 °C. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified *via* flash column chromatography (cyclohexane / $CH_2Cl_2 = 1:0$ to 1:1) and gel permeation chromatography (CHCl₃) to give the desired compound.

Yield: 1.26 mg, 676 nmol, 4%, red orange solid.

1H NMR (400 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 8.84 (d, *3J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 8.74 (d, *3J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.73 (s, 4H), 7.43 (d, *3J* = 3.9 Hz, 4H), 7.20 (d, *3J* = 3.9 Hz, 4H), 7.04 (s, 4H), 6.90 (s, 4H), 2.85 (t, *3J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H), 2.60 (t, *3J* = 7.6 Hz, 8H), 1.84 (quin, *3J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.50-1.27 (m, 44H), 0.95 (t, *3J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 0.88 (t, *3J* = 6.7 Hz, 12H).

13C NMR (150 MHz, CD2Cl2): *δ*/ppm = 164.6, 145.1, 141.3, 138.3, 138.1, 135.9, 135.7, 134.9, 134.0, 132.3, 130.3, 129.7, 129.2, 128.9, 127.2, 127.1, 126.5, 125.8, 124.5, 123.8, 123.7, 36.2, 32.2, 32.0, 31.6, 30.7, 30.1, 29.7, 29.5, 23.1, 23.0, 14.3, 14.2.

HRMS (MALDI-TOF, positive mode, DCTB in CHCl3): *m*/*z* calculated for C112H106N2O4S10 [M+H]+: 1862.5360, found: 1862.5354.

UV/Vis *λ*max (*ε*max): CH2Cl2: 380 nm (93.9 × 103 L mol−1 cm−1).

Fluorescence *λ*max (*λ*ex): Cyclohexane: 528 nm (480 nm). *Φ*fl = <0.1%

 R_f : 0.81 using CH_2Cl_2/c yclohexane = 2:1 as eluent.

S14

1H NMR Spectra Comparison

Figure S1. Aromatic region of the 1H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of **Ref-PBI**, **5T**, **5T-PBI** and **(5T)2-PBI** (from bottom to top) in CD_2Cl_2 at 298 K.

Single Crystal X-ray Analysis

Figure S2. a) Front view of a single **(5T)2-PBI** centrosymmetric molecule A (ORTEP drawing in 50% probability for thermal ellipsoids). PBI chromophore is coloured in red, macrocycle in blue and solubilizing alkyl chains in grey. Crystal packing seen approximately along the *a*-, *c*-, and *b*-axes for b), c) and d), respectively. Heavily disordered aliphatic chains as well as solvent molecules were omitted for clarity.

Figure S3. a) Front, b) side and c) top view onto the unsymmetric molecule B of (5T)₂-PBI. Heavily disordered aliphatic chains as well as solvent molecules were omitted for clarity. d) Unit cell including all structural disorder (violet) and aliphatic chains (grey). The ellipsoids are set to 50% probability.

DFT Calculations

Rotational Barrier:

To estimate the rotational barrier (Figure S4) of the imide substituent of **8**, calculations were conducted only on one half-segment, namely the naphthalene imide part (Figure S4b). In order to estimate the energy cost of this rotation a dihedral angle scan of *α* in 0.5° intervals was performed (Figure S4a). Here, the change of the total energies ∆*E* depending on the torsion angle *α* is plotted. This angle *α*, which was modified during the scan, is highlighted in Figure S4c. The initial *α* of 90° between the phenyl substituent and the naphthalene monoimide core was readily reduced until complete rotation of the substituent. In the starting geometry (Figure S4c) the sulphur atom points away from the naphthalene imide core, whereas during the rotation this subunit undergoes a conformational change at *α* = 59° (Figure S4d) towards the core due to the repulsive hydrogen-core interaction. Further rotation up to -26° leads to an outer plane uplifting of the nitrogen atom (Figure S4e) and an almost perpendicular angle between the thiophene and the phenyl group. This geometry also resembles the structure with the highest total energy level during the entire rotation process and therefore the closest structure to the "real" transition state (TS). This geometry was the basis for the TS calculation of which the result is shown in Figure S4f. The energy difference between this TS geometry and the fully relaxed monoimide is 114 kJ mol−1 and can therefore be considered as the rotational barrier or the Gibbs free energy of activation Δ G^{\ddagger} . To determine the half life time of the rotation event the reaction rate *k*_{rot} according to Eyring has to be determined first (Eq. 1)

$$
k_{\rm rot} = \frac{k_{\rm B}T}{h} \cdot e^{-\frac{\Delta G^{\ddagger}}{RT}} \tag{1}
$$

Here k_B is the Boltzmann constant, T the temperature R and h the Planck constant. For *T* = 298.15 K (room temperature) and 348.15 K (macrocyclization reaction temperature) the resulting *k*_{rot} values are 6.60⋅10⁻⁸ s⁻¹ and 5.70⋅10⁻⁵ s⁻¹, respectively. The half life time *t*1/2 (Eq. 2) can be calculated by the following equation:

$$
t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln(2)}{4k_{\text{rot}}}.\tag{2}
$$

The results of $t_{1/2}$ = 30 days at room temperature (25 °C) and around 51 min at 75 °C show the importance of elevated temperatures during the final macrocyclization reaction towards **5T-PBI**. [S9]

Figure S4. a) Plot of the change in total energy ∆*E* against the dihedral angle α. b) Chemical structure of the molecular fragment used for the calculations. c) Geometry optimized structure of the starting geometry for the rotational scan and the starting angle α incorporated by the planes of the naphthalene (red) and phenylene (blue) subunit. d) Geometry with α = 59 °e) Highest energy geometry with α = -26 °. f) Geometry of the TS. All calculations were conducted with DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory.

Figure S5. Side view (a), view along the *N,N*´-axis (b) and top view (c) onto the PBI π-surface of geometry optimized structures of **5T-PBI** and **(5T)2-PBI** (from top to bottom). The quantum mechanics calculations were carried out on the level of B3LYP density functional with the 6-31G(d) basis set as implemented in with Gaussian 16. Aliphatic chains were replaced by methyl groups. Color code: carbon $=$ light grey, hydrogen = white, nitrogen = blue, oxygen = red, sulfur = yellow.

Strain energies:

The strain energies of the macrocycles **(5T)2-PBI** and **5T-PBI** were calculated as follows: The connecting C-C bonds between two thiophene units of the bridges were removed virtually from the optimized geometries of **(5T)2-PBI** and **5T-PBI** and the obtained radicals were saturated by thiophene capping molecules to retain the local environment of the two ends. Geometry optimization leads to the lowest energy conformation of the resulting structures and complete macrocyclic induced strain release of both subunits. Figure S6 shows the optimized geometries of these open macrocycles **11** and **12** as well as capping bithiophene **13**.

Figure S6. Front view of the optimized geometries of the non-cyclic structures **11** and **12** as well as bithiophene **13**. The quantum mechanics calculations were carried out on the level of B3LYP density functional with the 6-31G(d) basis set as implemented in with Gaussian 16. Aliphatic chains were replaced by methyl groups. Color code: carbon = light grey, hydrogen = white, nitrogen = blue, oxygen $=$ red, sulfur $=$ yellow.

The strain energies of the respective macrocycles (*E*Strain) were determined by comparing the lowest energy conformation of the respective macrocycles (*E***5T-PBI** or *E*(**5T)2-PBI**) to the homodesmic reaction product[S10] of the linear structures **11** and **12** $(E_{11}$ or E_{12}) and the bithiophene cap **13** (E_{13}) :

$$
E_{\text{Strain, (5T)2-PBI}} = (E_{\text{5T2-PBI}} + 2E_{13}) - E_{11} = 30.6 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}
$$
 (3)

$$
E_{\text{Strain, 5T-PBI}} = (E_{\text{5T-PBI}} + E_{\text{13}}) - E_{\text{12}} = 13.9 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}
$$
 (4)

Electrochemistry

Figure S7 Cyclic voltammogram (solid line) initiated in the forward (positive-going) scan direction (marked by an arrow) at a scan rate of 100 mV s^{-1} and differential pulse voltammogram (dashed line) of **Ref-PBI** in CH₂Cl₂ with Bu₄NPF₆ at room temperature ($c_0 = 10^{-4}$ M).

In order to demonstrate the involvement of four electrons in the entire oxidation process of **(5T)2-PBI** we decided to utilize the baseline (recorded prior to the actual measurement) corrected DPV data which was compared to those of **5T-PBI**. It is evident that for respective reduction of both macrocyclic PBI subunits two electrons are transferred. By comparing the PBI's DPV reduction to the oligothiophene's oxidation wave integrals the relative amount of transported charges can be assigned (Figure S8).

Figure S8. DPV measurements of a) **(5T)₂-PBI** and b) **5T-PBI** in CH₂CI₂ solutions with Bu₄NPF₆ at room temperature $(c_0 = 10^{-4} \text{ M})$. The wave integrals for PBI reduction and oligothiophene oxidation are highlighted in red and blue, respectively. The straight black lines mark the integration limits and the values above the waves represent the absolute integral in arbitrary units. The graphs are baseline corrected to ease the integration.

The ratio of both signals in reduction and oxidation determined by integration for **5T-PBI** is 1.62/1.59 = 1.02 ≈ 1 and for $(5T)_2$ -PBI 3.41/1.56 = 2.19 ≈ 2, respectively. The ratios prove that approximately double the amount of charges was transferred in the oxidation process of **(5T)2-PBI** in comparison to the reduction. For **5T-PBI** an equal amount of charges are involved in reduction and oxidation.

Molecular Orbital DFT Calculations

Figure S9. a) LUMO and b) HOMO of **5T-PBI** based on geometry optimized structures from DFT calculations. The quantum mechanics calculations were carried out on the level of B3LYP density functional with the 6-31G(d) basis set as implemented in with Gaussian 16.

Spectroscopy in CH₂Cl₂

Figure S10. Normalized UV/Vis spectra (black lines) and emission spectra with the excitation wavelengths *λ*ex = 400 nm (maroon lines) and *λ*ex = 480 nm (red lines) of a) a 1:1 mixture of **Ref-PBI + 5T**, b) **5T-PBI** and c) **(5T)₂-PBI**. All UV/Vis and emission $(c_0 = 10^{-7}$ M) measurements were carried out in CH2Cl2 at room temperature. d) Photograph of **Ref-PBI**, **5T**, **5T-PBI** and **(5T)2-PBI** (from left to right) in CH2Cl2 under 365 nm UV light irradiation.

Spectroscopy in Cyclohexane

Figure S11. Normalized UV/Vis absorption (black solid) and emission (red: *λ*ex = 480 nm, maroon: *λ*ex = 340/310 nm) spectra of **5T-PBI** (bottom) and **(5T)2-PBI** (top) in cyclohexane at room temperature (*c*0 = 10−7 M). The wavelengths for excitation to obtain the fluorescence spectra are highlighted by arrows.

Table S3. Spectroscopic properties of **5T-PBI** and **(5T)2-PBI** in cyclohexane at room temperature.

	λ abs, max [a] nm	A em, max $^{[a]}$, $[b]$ nm	A em,max $^{[a], [c]}$ nm	(PBI) ^[a] $\Delta \tilde{V}_{\text{Stokes}}$ $cm-$	$\boldsymbol{\phi}_{\text{fl}}$ [a],[d] %
5T-PBI	519	531	528	329	<< 0.1
$(5T)2-PBI$	374	536	528	145	<< 0.1

[a] c_0 = 10⁻⁷ M. [b] λ_{ex} = 340/310 nm. [c] λ_{ex} = 480 nm [d] The fluorescence quantum yields of the PBI were measured relative to *N,N*′-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-1,6,7,12-tetraphenoxy-perylenebis(dicarboximide)^[S11] (96% in CHCl₃) as a reference at four different excitation wavelengths in the spectral region of the PBI absorption band.

Transient Absorption

Figure S12. a) Transient absorption spectra of 5T-PBI in CH₂CI₂ after excitation at 530 nm and b) time scans and fit (red line) at selected wavelengths.

Figure S13. a) Transient absorption spectra of (5T)₂-PBI in CH₂Cl₂ after excitation at 530 nm and b) time scans and fit (red line) at selected wavelengths.

Figure S14. a) Normalized UV/Vis/NIR absorption spectra of **5T-PBI** (black line) upon electrochemical reduction to **5T-PBI⁻** (red line) and electrochemical oxidation to **5T⁺-PBI** (blue line) in CH₂Cl₂ solutions with Bu₄NPF₆ at room temperature (c_0 = 10^{−4} M). b) Evolution associated difference spectra (EADS) and lifetimes from a global fit analysis of the transient spectra of **5T-PBI** obtained by excitation at 530 nm in CH₂Cl₂ (c_0 = 10⁻⁴ M) at room temperature.

Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S16. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2 in CDCl₃ at 298 K.

Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum of **3** in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S18. 13C NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl3 at 298 K.

Figure S19. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4 in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S20. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 4 in CDCl₃ at 298 K.

Figure S22. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 5 in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S24. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 6 in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S25. ¹H NMR spectrum of 7 in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S26. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 7 in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S28. 13H NMR spectrum of **8** in C2D2Cl4 at 298 K.

Figure S30. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 9 in C₂D₂Cl₄ at 298 K. Residual signals of CHCl₃ (79.5 ppm), Hgrease (31.1 pm) and cyclohexane (26.8 ppm).

Figure S33. ¹H NMR spectrum of (5T)₂-PBI in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Figure S34. ¹³C NMR spectrum of $(5T)_2$ -PBI in CD₂Cl₂ at 298 K.

Mass Spectra

Figure S35. HRMS (ESI-TOF, pos. mode, acetonitrile/chloroform 1/1) spectra of **2**.

Figure S37. HRMS (ESI-TOF, pos. mode, acetonitrile/chloroform 1/1) spectra of **4**.

Figure S38. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **5**.

Figure S39. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **6**.

Figure S40. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **7**.

Figure S41. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **8**.

Figure S42. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **9**.

Figure S43. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of **5T-PBI**.

Figure S44. HRMS (MALDI-TOF, pos. mode, DCTB in CHCl3) spectra of (**5T)2-PBI**.

Cartesian Coordinates Received from DFT Calculations

Final geometry:

Total energy: −4708.34654570 Hartrees

Total energy: −7544.84772028 Hartrees

Total energy: ‒9754.49276862 Hartrees

Total energy: -5813.16854119 Hartrees

 13

Total energy: ‒1104.81669881 Hartrees

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