

Supplementary Materials Synthesis, Structure, and Photochemistry of Dibenzylidenecyclobutanones

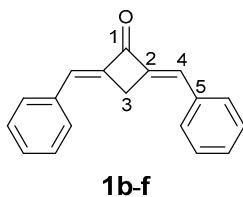
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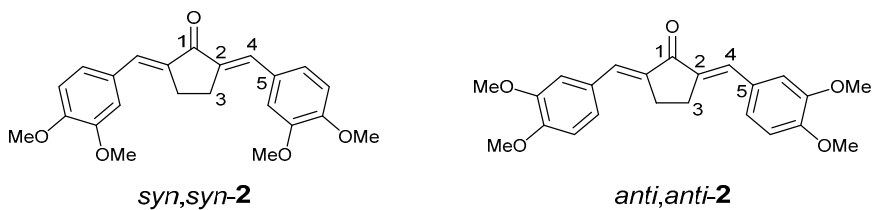
I X-ray diffraction experiments, crystallographic characteristics and structure refinement details (Tables S1-S5)

Table S1. Selected bond lengths (d, Å) and bond angles (ω , °) in molecules **1b-f**.



| Bond/ structure | 1b | 1c | 1d | 1e | 1f (A) | 1f (B) |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| C1-O1 | 1.213(2) | 1.213(3) | 1.219(3) | 1.219(4) | 1.225(2) | 1.223(2) |
| C1-C2 | 1.481(2) | 1.484(3) | 1.480(2) | 1.486(5)/ 1.484(5) | 1.485(2)/ 1.488(2) | 1.486(2)/ 1.488(2) |
| C2-C3 | 1.530(2) | 1.529(3) | 1.530(2) | 1.537(5)/ 1.531(5) | 1.531(2)/ 1.532(2) | 1.534(2)/ 1.526(2) |
| C2-C4 | 1.334(2) | 1.337(3) | 1.335(2) | 1.339(5)/ 1.340(5) | 1.344(2)/ 1.344(2) | 1.339(2)/ 1.340(2) |
| C4-C5 | 1.454(2) | 1.454(3) | 1.451(2) | 1.451(5)/ 1.454(5) | 1.448(2)/ 1.454(2) | 1.453(2)/ 1.455(2) |
| C2-C1-C2 | 91.0(2) | 90.9(2) | 91.1(2) | 91.0(3) | 90.8(1) | 90.8(1) |
| C1-C2-C3 | 90.8(1) | 90.8(2) | 98.8(1) | 90.7(3)/ 91.0(3) | 91.0(1)/ 90.8(1) | 90.7(1)/ 90.9(1) |
| C2-C3-C2 | 87.3(2) | 87.6(2) | 87.3(2) | 87.3(2) | 87.4(1) | 87.6(1) |
| C1-C2-C4 | 128.7(1) | 129.6(2) | 130.1(1) | 132.0(3)/ 132.1(3) | 131.9(1)/ 132.3(1) | 132.5(1)/ 131.8(1) |
| C3-C2-C4 | 140.5(1) | 139.6(2) | 139.0(2) | 137.3(3)/ 136.8(3) | 136.9(1)/ 136.9(1) | 136.8(1)/ 137.2(1) |
| C2-C4-C5 | 131.2(1) | 130.2(2) | 130.6(2) | 128.5(3)/ 128.2(3) | 128.0(1)/ 128.3(1) | 128.5(1)/ 128.4(1) |

TableS2. Selected bond lengths (d, Å) and bond angles (ω , °) in molecules *syn,syn-2* and *anti,anti-2*.



| Bond | d (<i>syn,syn-2</i>) | d (<i>anti,anti-2</i>) | Angle | ω (<i>syn,syn-2</i>) | ω (<i>anti,anti-2</i>) |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| C1-C2 | 1.484(2)/ 1.483(2) | 1.481(3)/ 1.481(3) | C1-C2-C4 | 120.5(1)/ 120.5(1) | 120.7(2)/ 120.4(2) |
| C2-C4 | 1.346/ 1.343(2) | 1.338(3)/ 1.343(3) | C3-C2-C4 | 130.4(1)/ 130.8(1) | 130.0(2)/ 130.3(2) |
| C4-C5 | 1.455/ 1.454(2) | 1.459(2)/ 1.456(3) | C2-C4-C5 | 130.7(1)/ 131.1(1) | 131.0(2)/ 131.0(2) |

Table S3. Crystallographic parameters and X-ray experiment details for **1b-d**.

| Dienone | 1b | 1c | 1d |
|---------|----|----|----|
|---------|----|----|----|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Molecular formula | C ₂₀ H ₁₈ O ₃ , | C ₂₂ H ₂₂ O ₅ , | C ₂₀ H ₁₈ OS ₂ , |
| Molecular weight, g·mol ⁻¹ | 306.34 | 366.40 | 338.46 |
| Temperature, K | 296 | 296 | 296 |
| Crystal system | Monocl. | Monocl. | Monocl. |
| Space group | C2/c | C2/c | C2/c |
| a (Å) | 11.9333(5) | 17.5713(12) | 11.4919(4) |
| b (Å) | 12.6418(5) | 13.7149(11) | 13.3354(5) |
| c (Å) | 11.0532(5) | 8.1128(6) | 11.8054(6) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 108.198(2) | 103.522(3) | 110.904(2) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| V (Å ³) | 1584.07(12) | 1900.9(2) | 1690.09(12) |
| Z | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| ρ _{calc} , g/cm ³ | 1.285 | 1.273 | 1.330 |
| μ(MoKα), mm ⁻¹ | 0.086 | 0.090 | |
| Crystal size | 0.54 × 0.46 × 0.42 | 0.54 × 0.42 × 0.38 | 0.46 × 0.14 × 0.014 |
| Scan range on 2θ, deg. | 4.82 – 52.74 | 3.8 – 54.62 | 4.88–53.38 |
| Index range | -14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, -13 ≤ l ≤ 13 | -22 ≤ h ≤ 22, -17 ≤ k ≤ 17, -10 ≤ l ≤ 10 | -13 ≤ h ≤ 14, -16 ≤ k ≤ 14, -14 ≤ l ≤ 14 |
| Number of measured refl. | 7871 | 9410 | 8466 |
| Number of independent refl. | 1617 [Rint = 0.0406, Rsigma = 0.0298] | 2110 [Rint = 0.0610, Rsigma = 0.0467] | 1747 [Rint = 0.0452, Rsigma = 0.0369] |
| [R(int)] | | | |
| Number of refl with I > 2σ(I) | 1323 | 1577 | 1377 |
| Number of variables | 107 | 126 | 107 |
| GOOF | 1.052 | 1.029 | 1.038 |
| R indices for I > 2σ(I) | R ₁ = 0.0423, wR ₂ = 0.1023 | R ₁ = 0.0520, wR ₂ = 0.1302 | R ₁ = 0.0469, wR ₂ = 0.1086 |
| R indices for all refl. | R ₁ = 0.0522, wR ₂ = 0.1086 | R ₁ = 0.0710, wR ₂ = 0.1427 | R ₁ = 0.0633, wR ₂ = 0.1175 |
| Δρ max/min, eÅ ⁻³ | 0.12/-0.12 | 0.17/-0.23 | 0.21/-0.25 |

Table S4. Crystallographic parameters and X-ray experiment details for **1e** and **1f**.

| Dienone | 1e | 1f |
|--|---|--|
| Molecular formula | C ₂₂ H ₂₄ N ₂ O, | 2(C ₂₆ H ₃₂ N ₂ O), |
| Molecular weight, g·mol ⁻¹ | 332.43 | 388.53 |
| Temperature, K | 150 | 150 |
| Crystal system | Monocl. | Monocl. |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c |
| a (Å) | 7.3571(10) | 17.5050(8) |
| b (Å) | 19.831(3) | 16.6754(9) |
| c (Å) | 12.3034(17) | 15.1879(7) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 96.130(2) | 101.390(2) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 |
| V (Å ³) | 1784.8(4) | 4346.1(4) |
| Z | 4 | 8 |
| ρ _{calc} , g·cm ⁻³ | 1.237 | 1.188 |
| μ(MoKα), mm ⁻¹ | 0.076 | 0.072 |
| Crystal size | 0.36 × 0.28 × 0.18 | 0.42 × 0.26 × 0.14 |
| Scan range on 2θ, deg. | 5.29–56 | 3.69–56.0 |
| Index range | 9 ≤ h ≤ 9, -26 ≤ k ≤ 26, - | -22 ≤ h ≤ 23, -22 ≤ k ≤ 22, - |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| | $16 \leq l \leq 16$ | $17 \leq l \leq 20$ |
| Number of measured refl. | 17935 | 51909 |
| Number of independent refl. | 4225 [Rint = 0.0410, Rsigma = 0.0375] | 10460 [Rint = 0.0465, Rsigma = 0.0412] |
| [R(int)] | | |
| Number of refl with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ | 3321 | 7598 |
| Number of variables | 230 | 571 |
| R indices for $I > 2\sigma(I)$ | $R_1 = 0.0996$, $wR_2 = 0.3008$ | $R_1 = 0.0572$, $wR_2 = 0.1306$ |
| R indices for all refl. | $R_1 = 0.1164$, $wR_2 = 0.3067$ | $R_1 = 0.0882$, $wR_2 = 0.1413$ |
| GOOF | 1.133 | 1.047 |
| $\Delta\rho$ max/min, $e\text{\AA}^{-3}$ | 0.61/-0.346 | 0.47/-0.40 |

Table S5. Crystallographic parameters and X-ray experiment details for **2**.

| Dienone | <i>syn,syn-2</i> | <i>anti,anti-2</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Molecular formula | C ₂₃ H ₂₄ O ₅ | C ₂₃ H ₂₄ O ₅ |
| Molecular weight, g·mol ⁻¹ | 380.42 | 380.42 |
| Temperature, K | 150 | 150 |
| Crystal system | Monocl. | Monocl. |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | P2 ₁ /c |
| a (Å) | 7.9435(2) | 8.7902(4) |
| b (Å) | 7.9435(2) | 14.5194(8) |
| c (Å) | 27.5693(6) | 15.0411(8) |
| α (°) | 90 | 90 |
| β (°) | 92.4020(10) | 95.027(2) |
| γ (°) | 90 | 90 |
| V, Å ³ | 1929.22(8) | 1912.29(17) |
| Z | 4 | 4 |
| ρ_{calc} , g·cm ⁻³ | 1.310 | 1.321 |
| $\mu(\text{MoK}\alpha)$, mm ⁻¹ | 0.092 | 0.092 |
| Crystal size, mm | 0.44 × 0.18 × 0.05 | 0.46 × 0.02 × 0.01 |
| Scan range on 2 θ , deg. | 4.85 to 52.718 | 4.652 to 52.788 |
| Index range | -9 ≤ h ≤ 9, -10 ≤ k ≤ 10, -34 ≤ l ≤ 34 | -10 ≤ h ≤ 10, -18 ≤ k ≤ 18, -18 ≤ l ≤ 18 |
| Number of measured refl. | 18751 | 17719 |
| Number of independent refl. | 3909 [Rint = 0.0361, Rsigma = 0.0298] | 3899 [Rint = 0.0544, Rsigma = 0.0437] |
| [R(int)] | | |
| Number of refl with $I > 2\sigma(I)$ | 3017 | 2960 |
| Number of variables | 338 | 273 |
| R indices for $I > 2\sigma(I)$ | $R_1 = 0.0382$, $wR_2 = 0.0884$ | $R_1 = 0.0496$, $wR_2 = 0.1013$ |
| R indices for all refl. | $R_1 = 0.0546$, $wR_2 = 0.0963$ | $R_1 = 0.0703$, $wR_2 = 0.1094$ |
| GOOF | 1.022 | 1.043 |
| Residuals, min/max, e/Å ³ | 0.18/-0.17 | 0.18/-0.25 |

II The ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR, NOESY NMR and HRMS spectra of compounds 1a-f (Figures S1-S19)

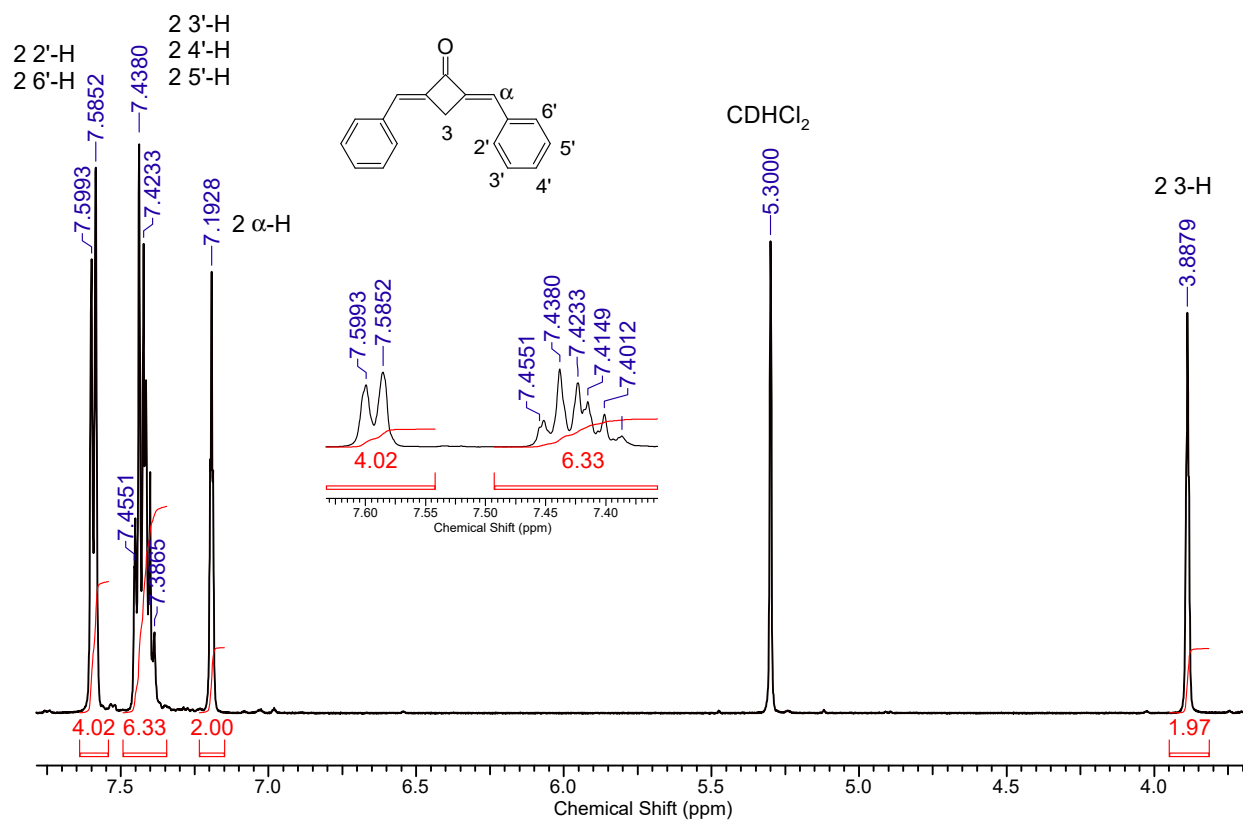


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1a** in CD_2Cl_2 .

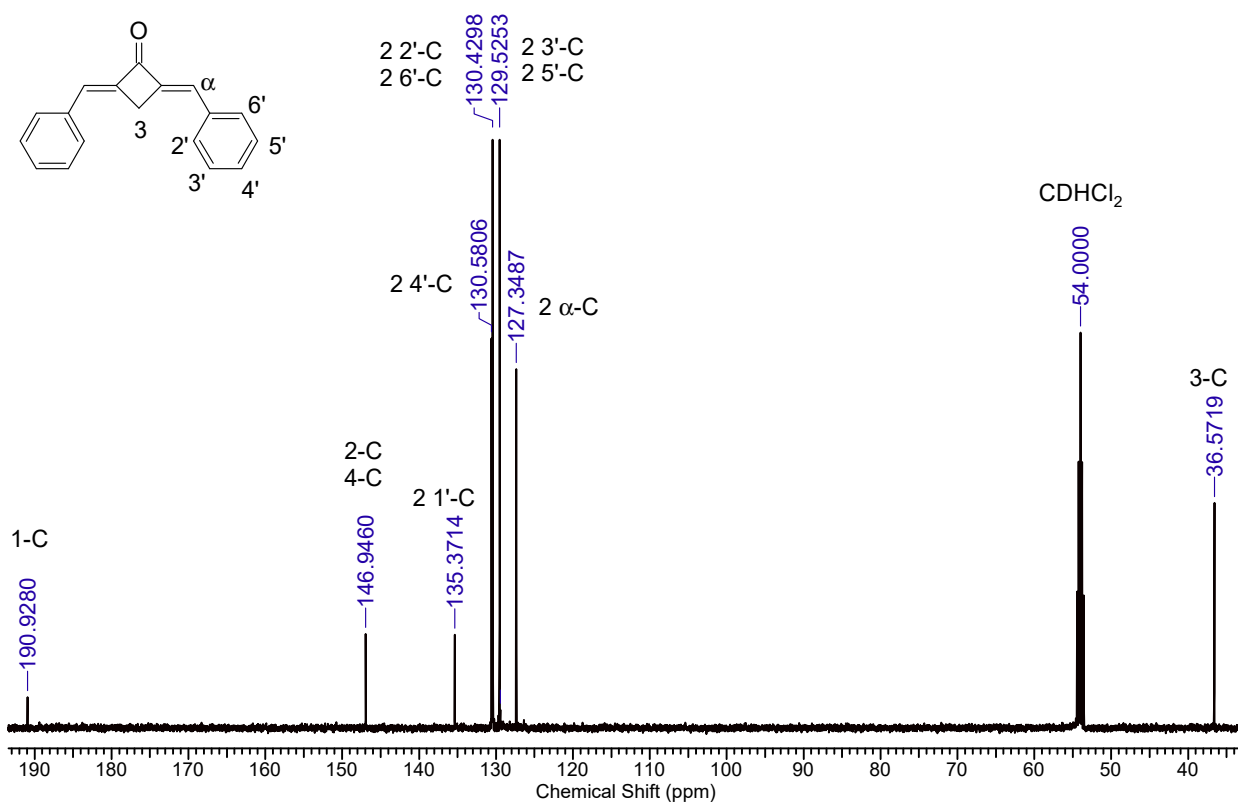


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1a** in CD_2Cl_2 .

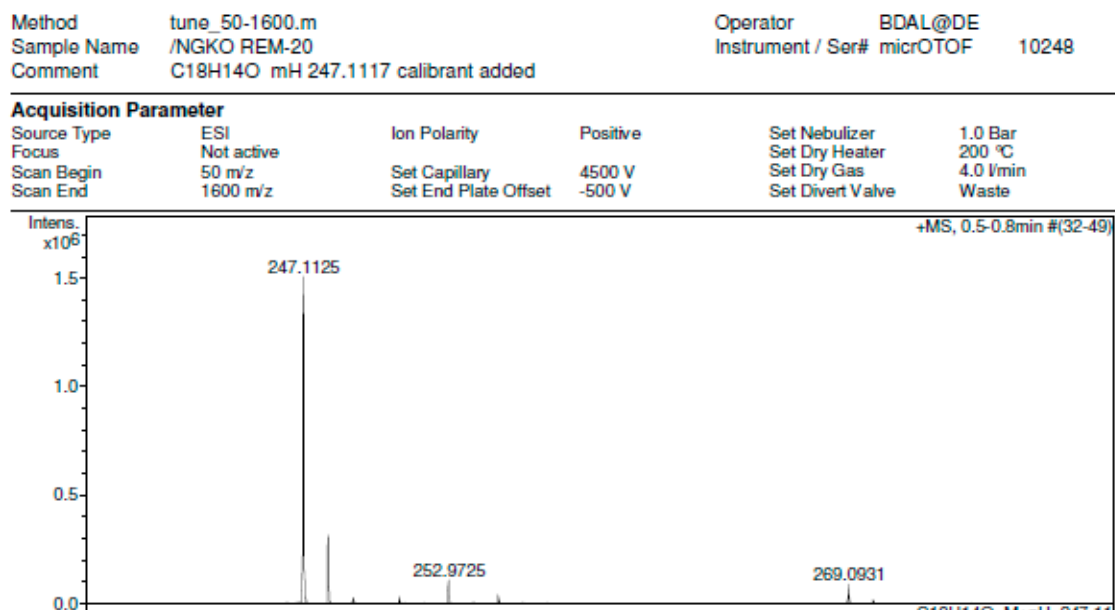


Figure S3. HRMS spectrum of compound **1a**.

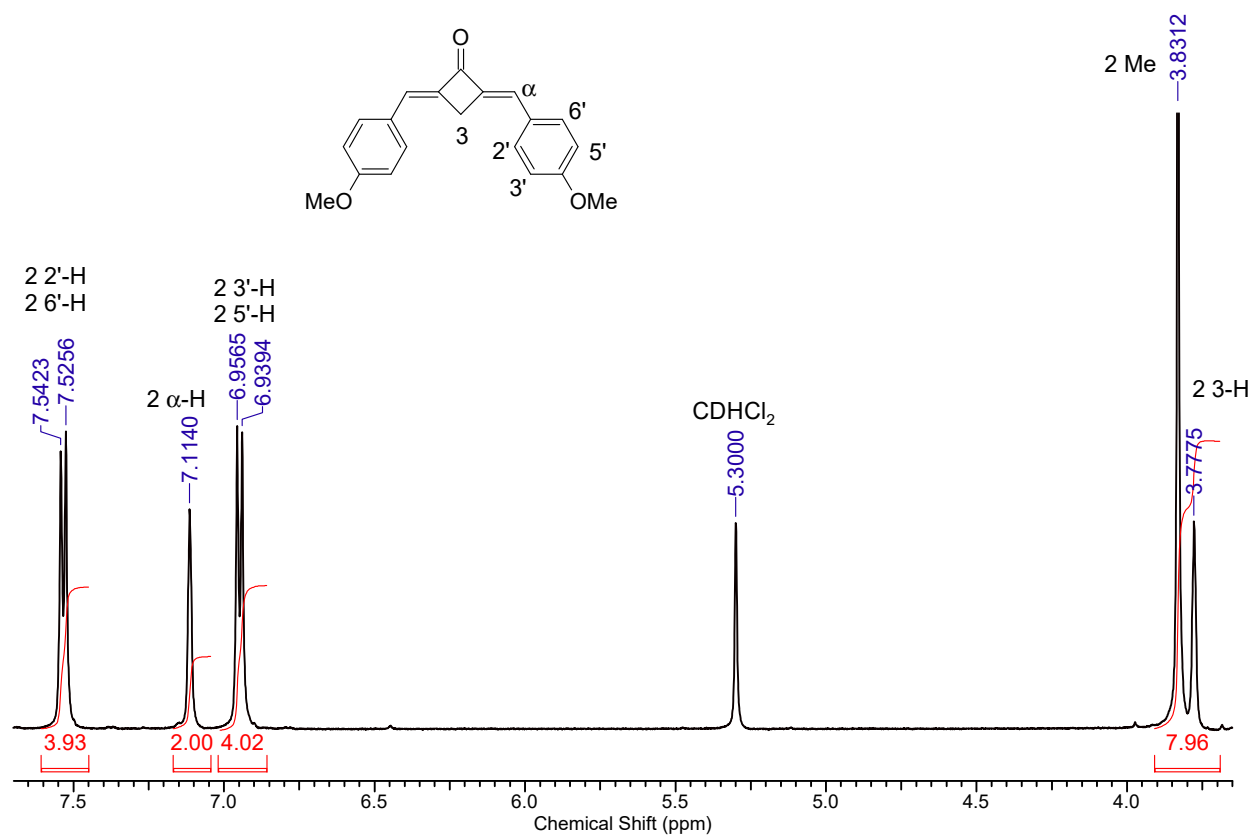


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1b** in CD_2Cl_2 .

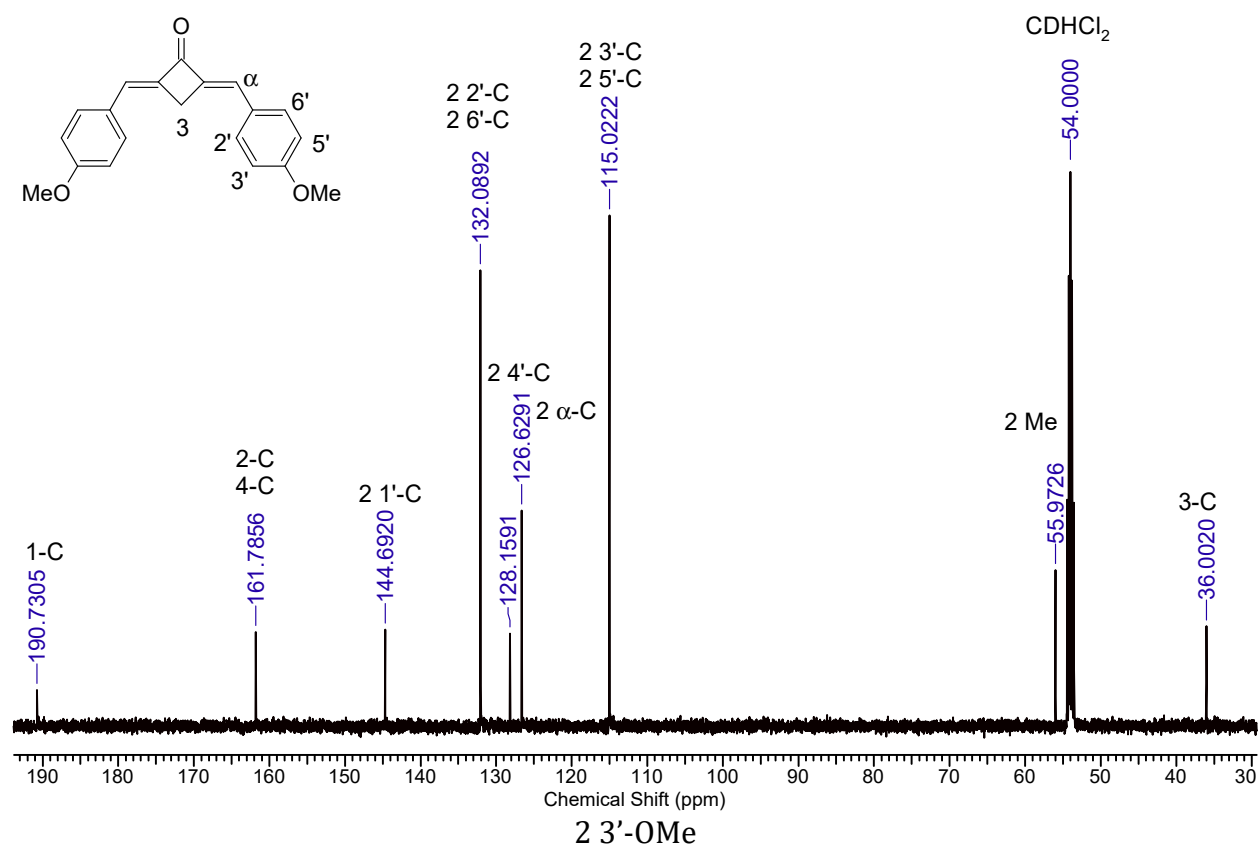


Figure S5. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1b** in CD_2Cl_2 .

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Method | tune_50-1600.m | Operator | BDAL@DE |
| Sample Name | /NGKO REM-19 | Instrument / Ser# | micrOTOF 10248 |
| Comment | C20H18O3 mH 307.1328 calibrant added | | |

Acquisition Parameter

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Source Type | ESI | Ion Polarity | Positive | Set Nebulizer | 1.0 Bar |
| Focus | Not active | | | Set Dry Heater | 200 °C |
| Scan Begin | 50 m/z | Set Capillary | 4500 V | Set Dry Gas | 4.0 l/min |
| Scan End | 1600 m/z | Set End Plate Offset | -500 V | Set Divert Valve | Waste |

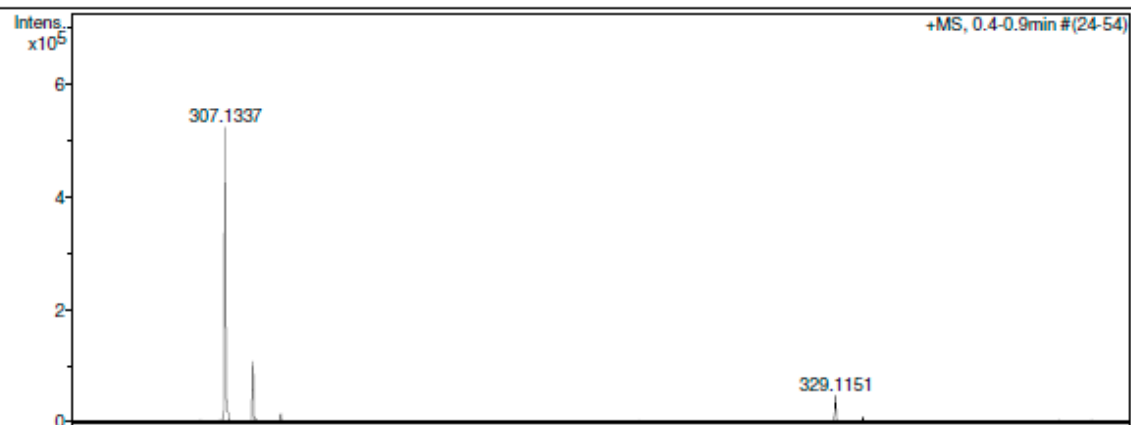


Figure S6. HRMS spectrum of compound **1b**.

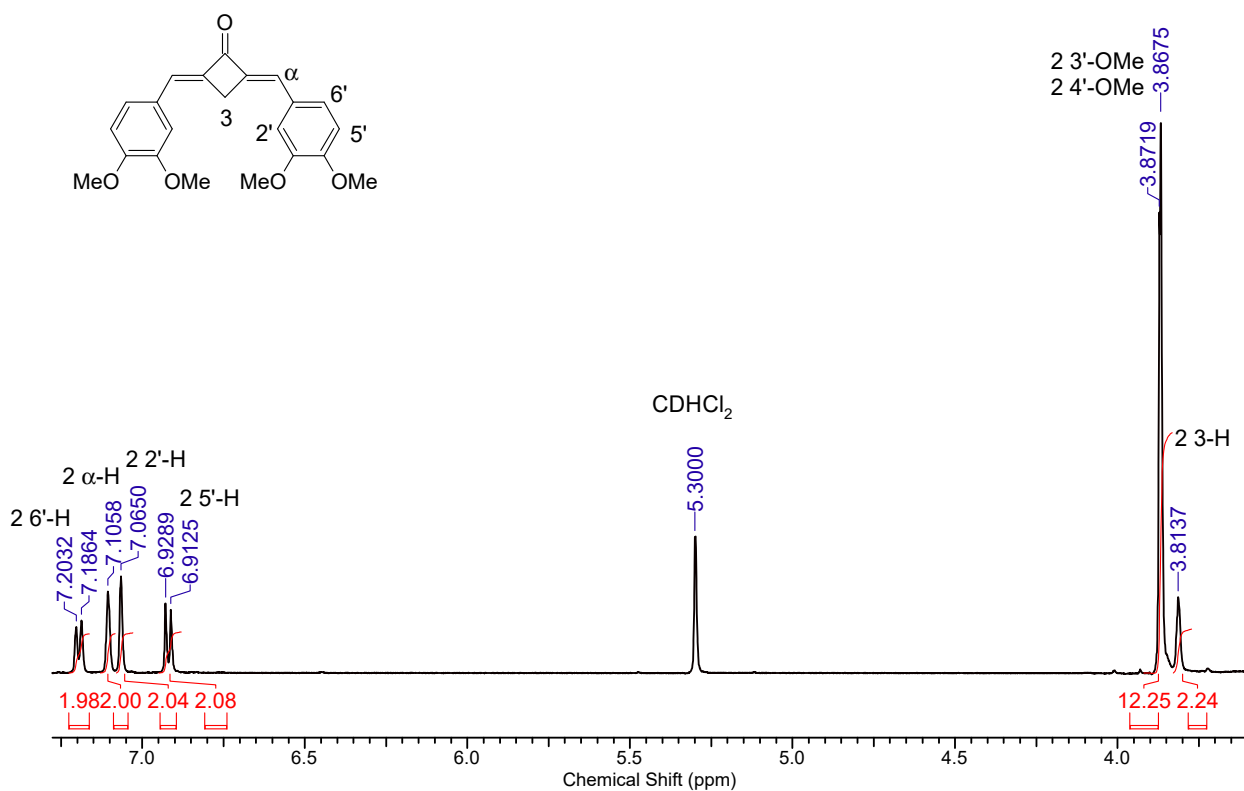


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1c** in CD_2Cl_2 .

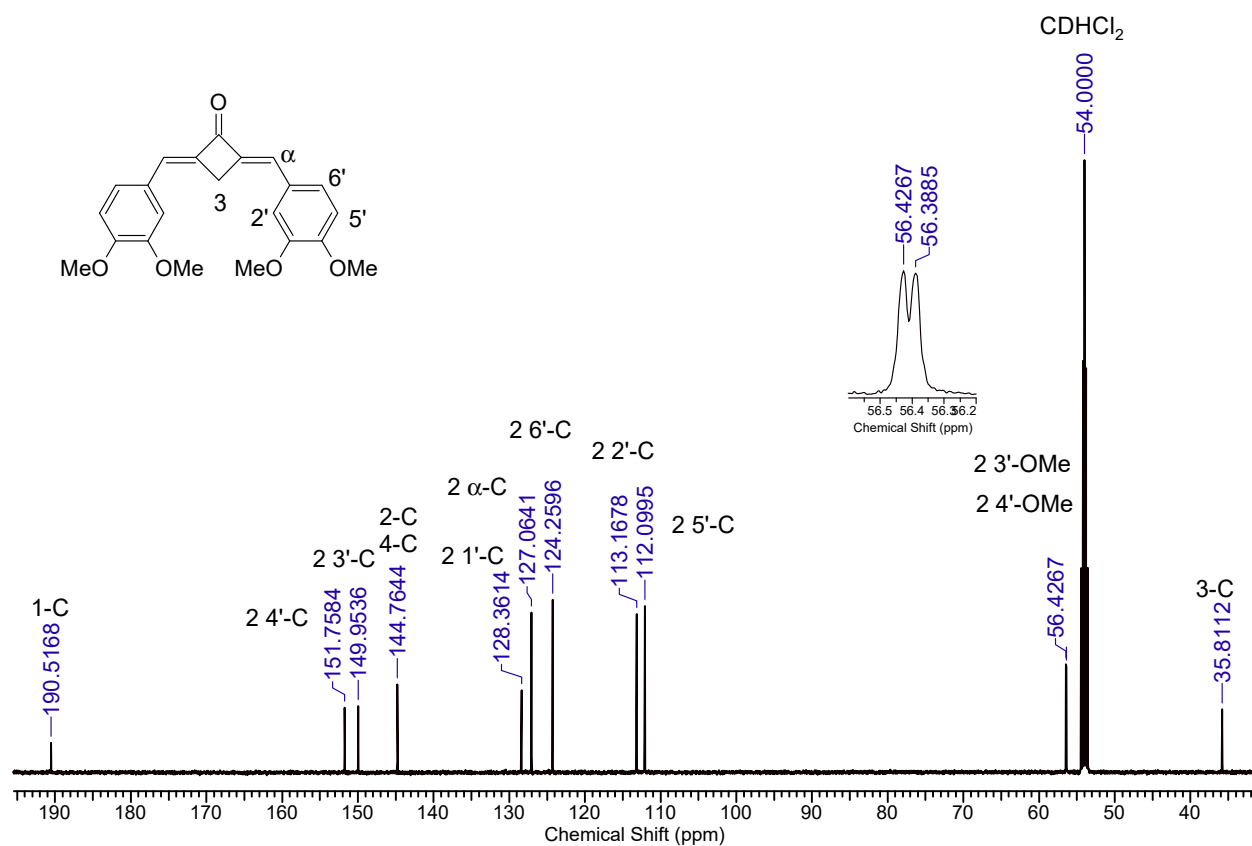
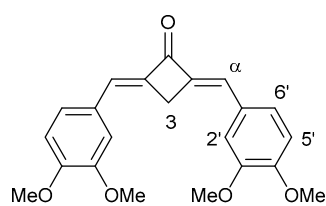


Figure S8. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1c** in CD_2Cl_2 .

NOESY Spectrum



1c

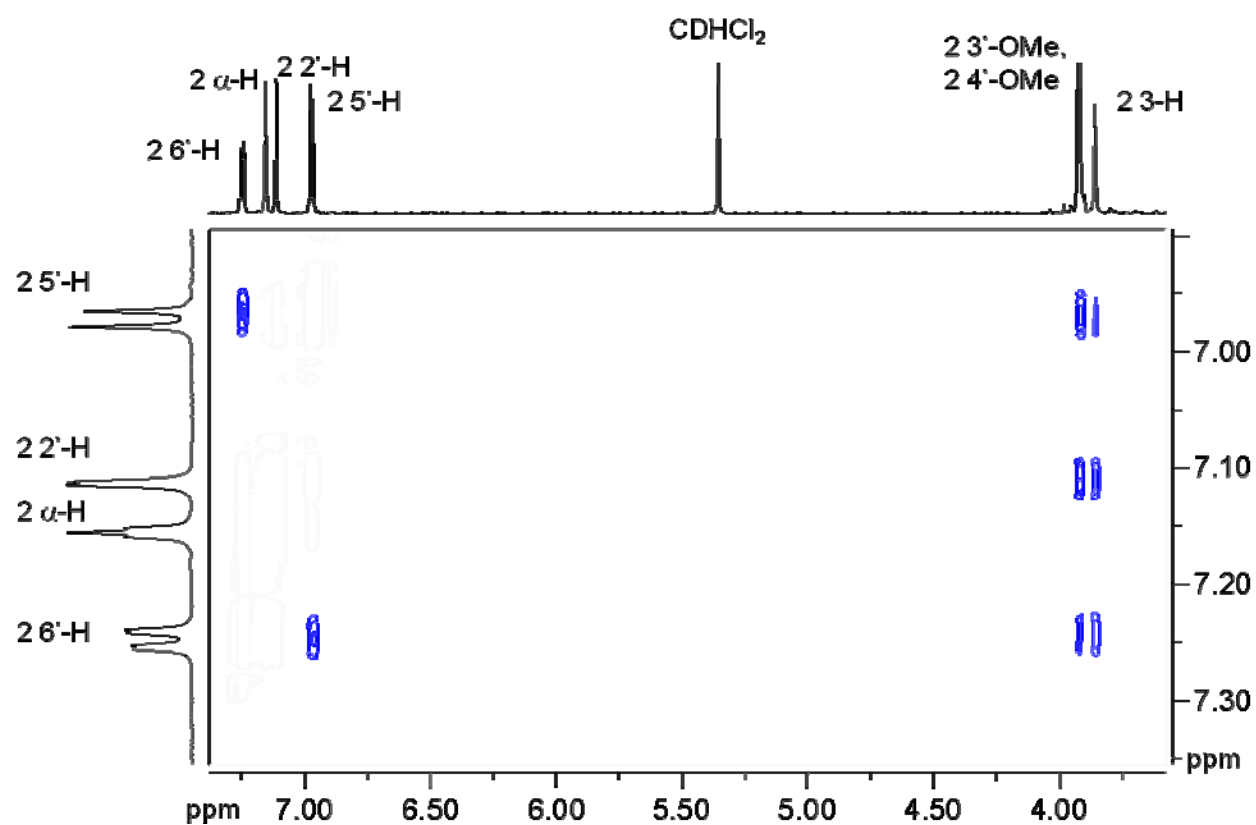


Figure S9. Fragment of the aromatic region of the NOESY (296 K, 600 MHz) spectrum of compound **1c** in CD₂Cl₂.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Method | tune_50-1600.m | Operator | BDAL@DE |
| Sample Name | /NGKO REM-16 | Instrument / Ser# | micrOTOF 10248 |
| Comment | C22H22O5 mH 367.1540 calibrant added | | |

Acquisition Parameter

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Source Type | ESI | Ion Polarity | Positive | Set Nebulizer | 1.0 Bar |
| Focus | Not active | | | Set Dry Heater | 200 °C |
| Scan Begin | 50 m/z | Set Capillary | 4500 V | Set Dry Gas | 4.0 l/min |
| Scan End | 1600 m/z | Set End Plate Offset | -500 V | Set Divert Valve | Waste |

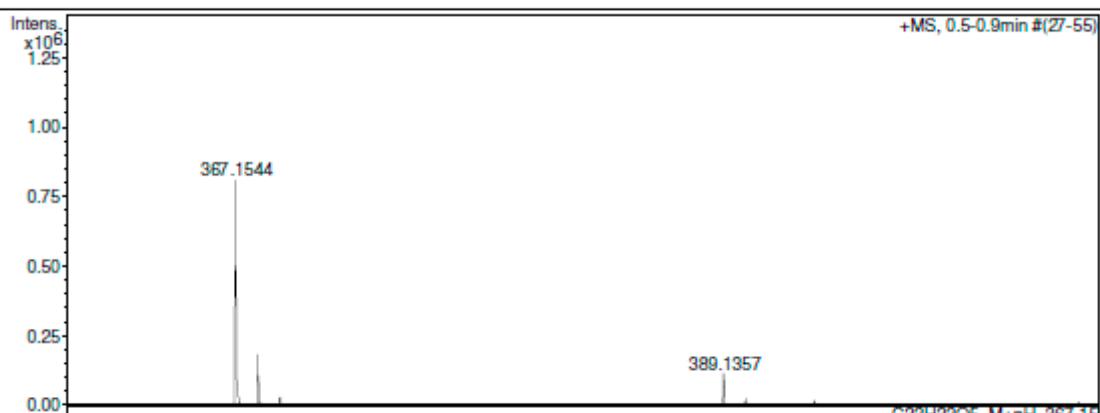


Figure S10. HRMS spectrum of compound **1c**.

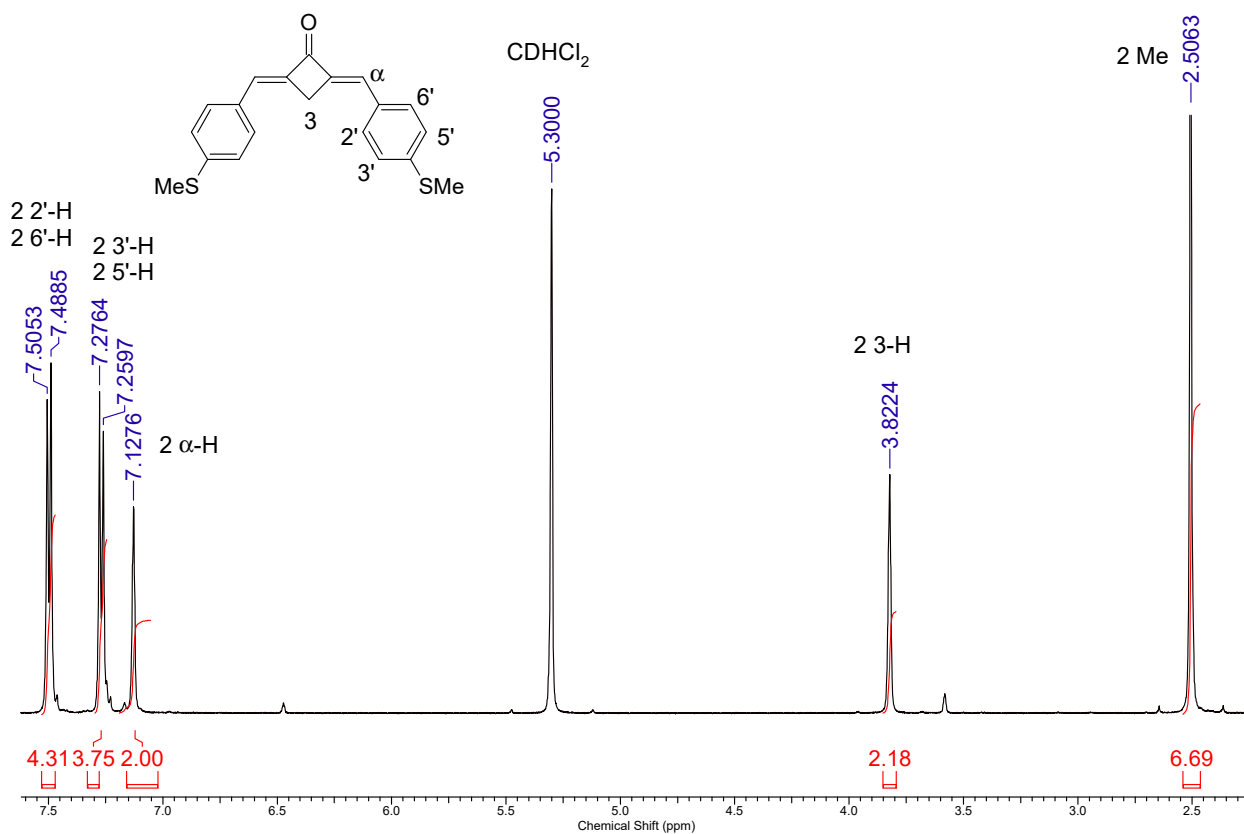


Figure S11. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1d** in CD_2Cl_2 .

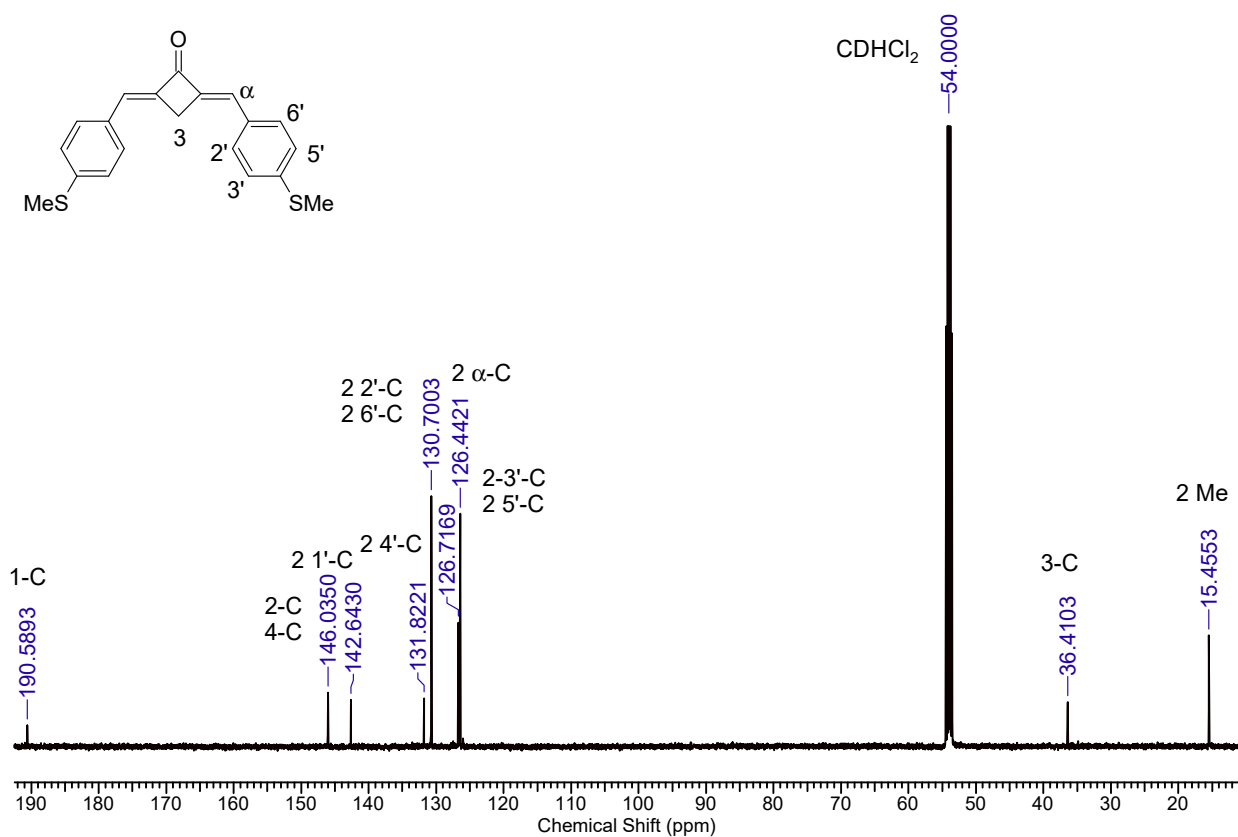


Figure S12. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1d** in CD_2Cl_2 .

Method tune_50-1600.m
Sample Name /NGKO REM-21
Comment C20H18OS2 mH 339.0871 calibrant added

Operator BDAL@DE
Instrument / Ser# microTOF 10248

Acquisition Parameter

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| Source Type | ESI | Ion Polarity | Positive | Set Nebulizer | 1.0 Bar |
| Focus | Not active | | | Set Dry Heater | 200 °C |
| Scan Begin | 50 m/z | Set Capillary | 4500 V | Set Dry Gas | 4.0 l/min |
| Scan End | 1600 m/z | Set End Plate Offset | -500 V | Set Divert Valve | Waste |

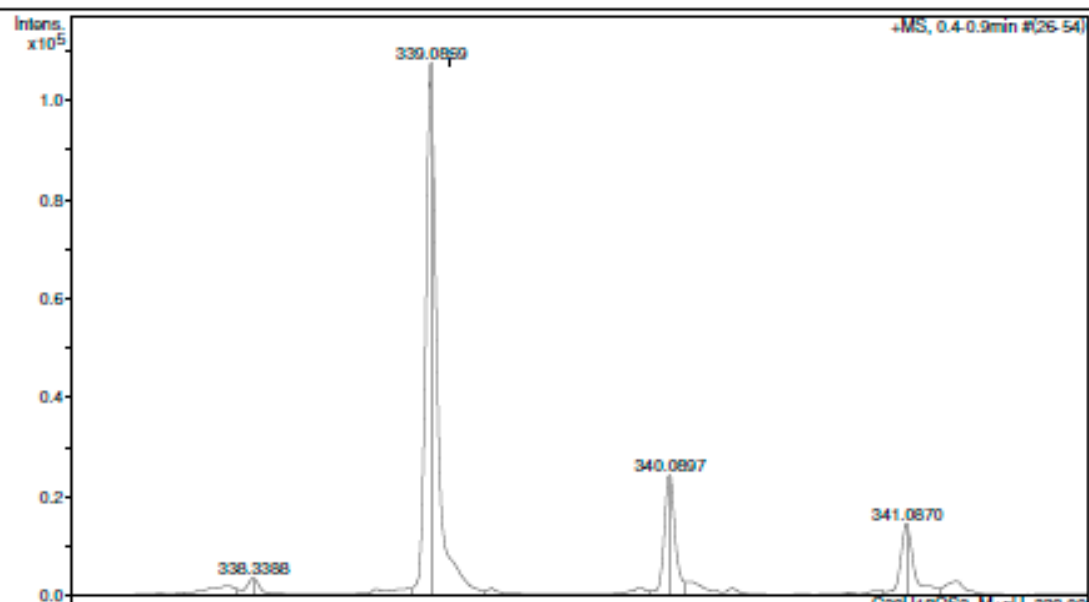


Figure S13. HRMS spectrum of compound **1d**.

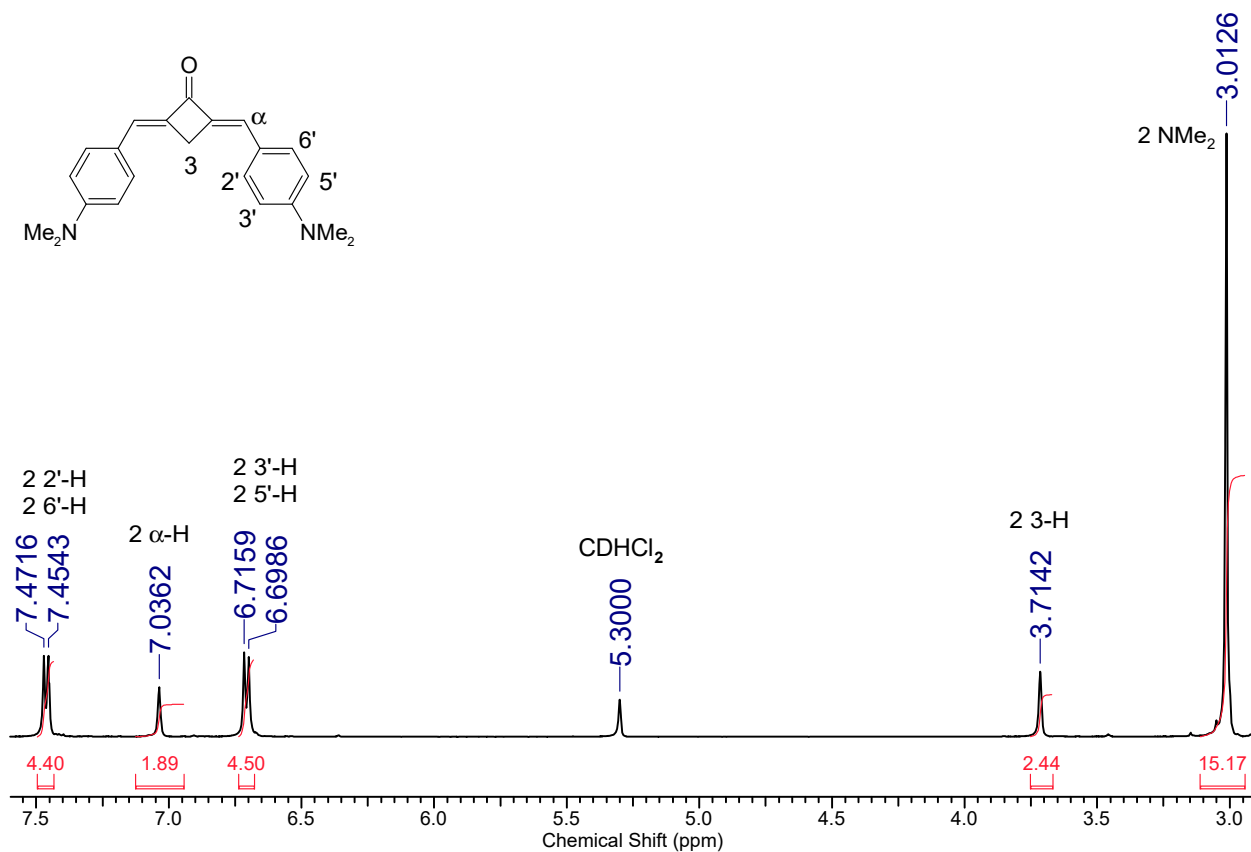


Figure S14. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1e** in CD_2Cl_2 .

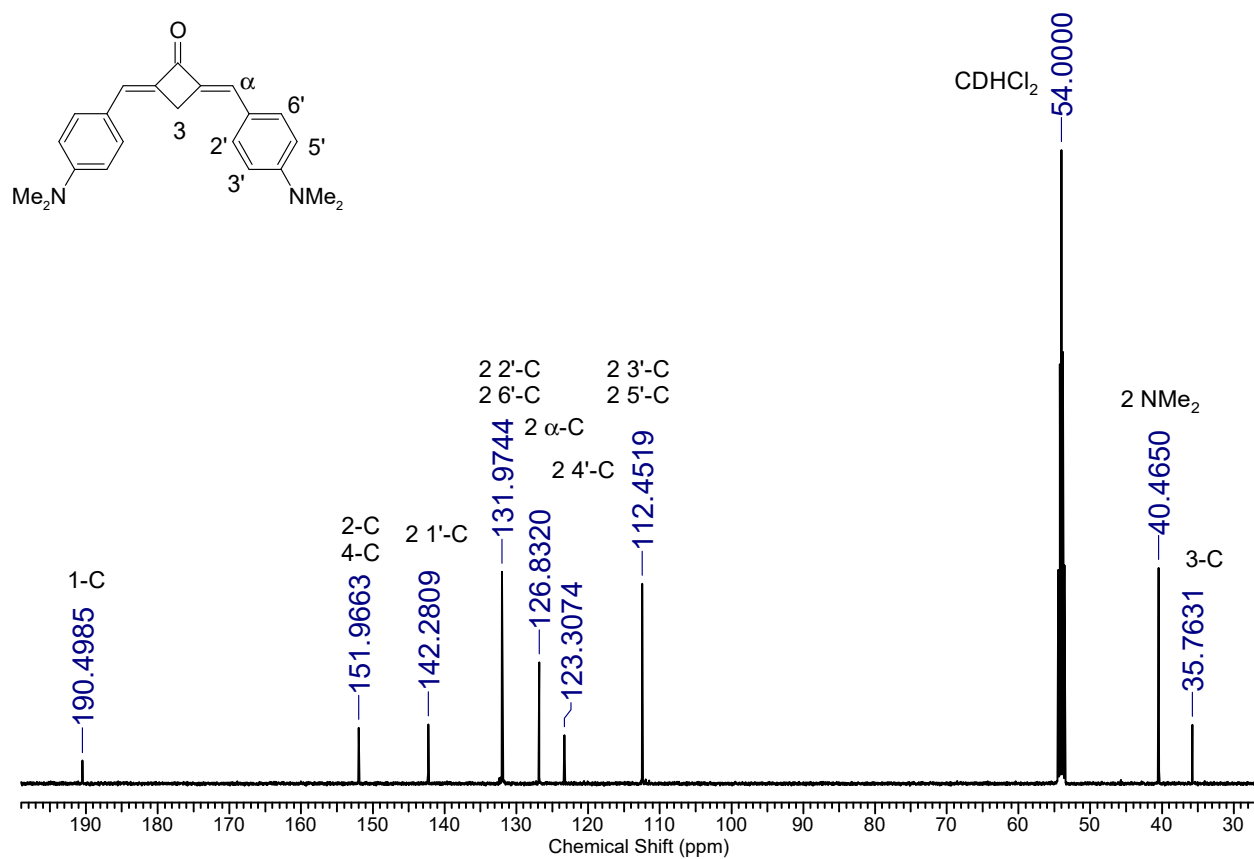


Figure S15. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1e** in CD_2Cl_2 .

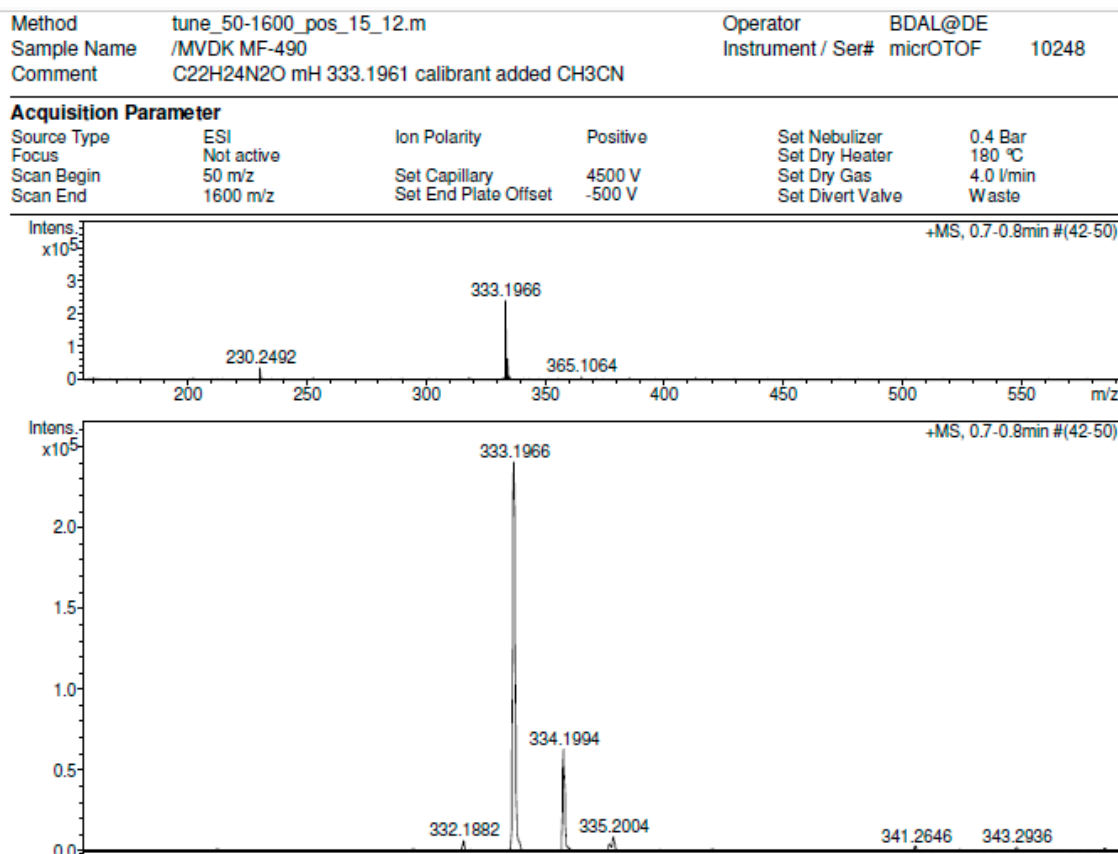


Figure S16. HRMS spectrum of compound **1e**.

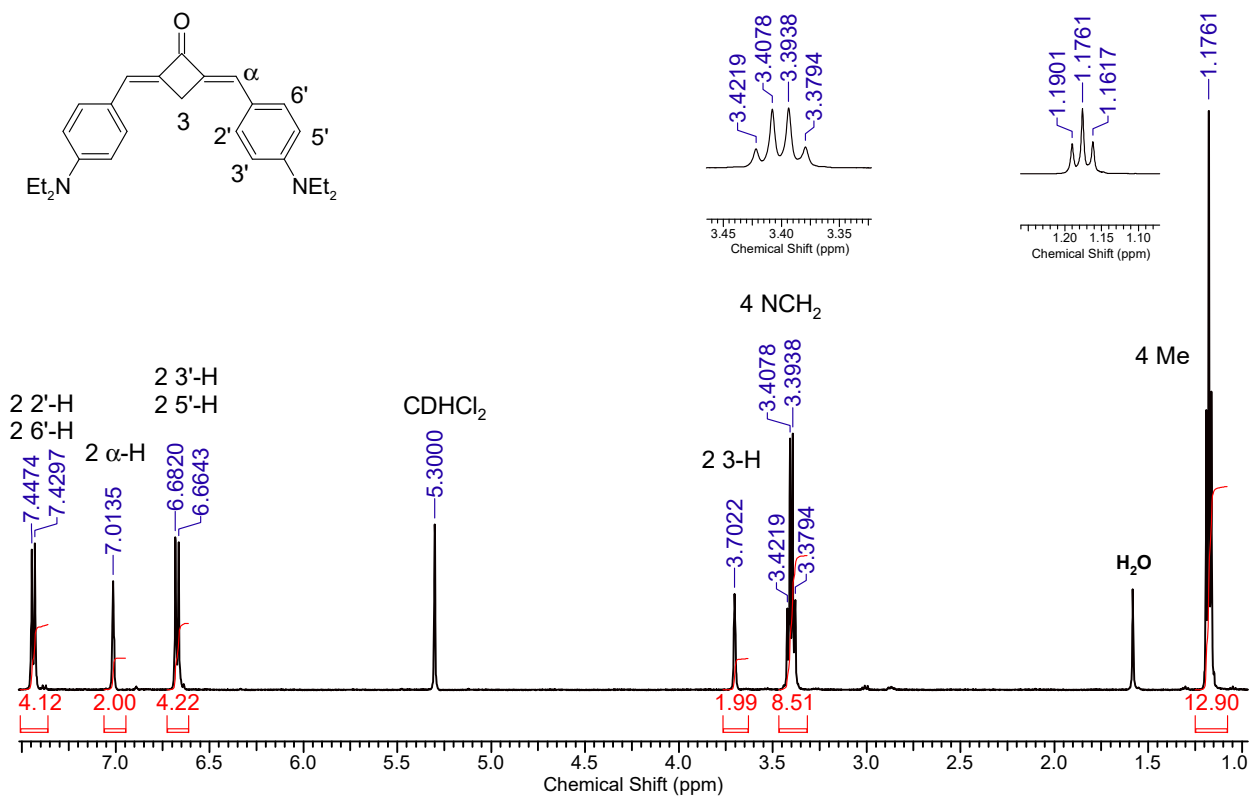


Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **1f** in CD₂Cl₂.

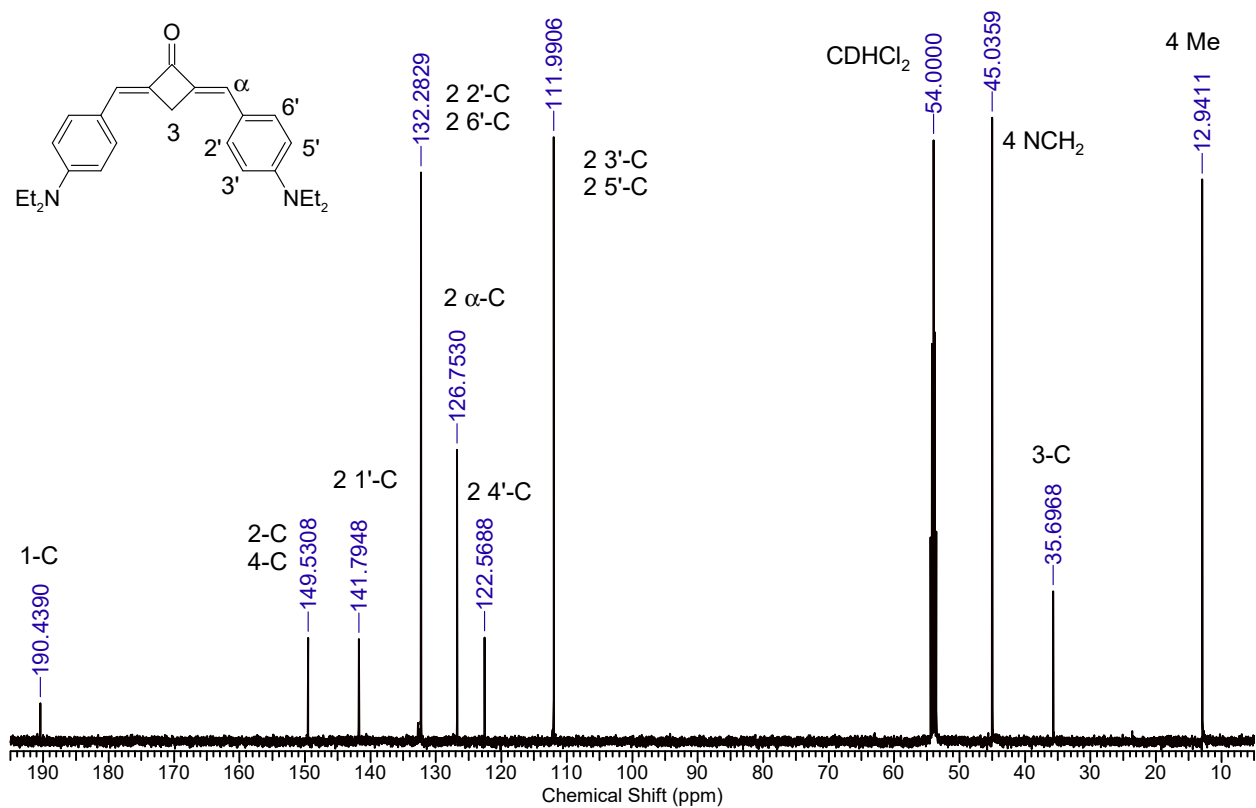


Figure S18. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound **1f** in CD₂Cl₂.

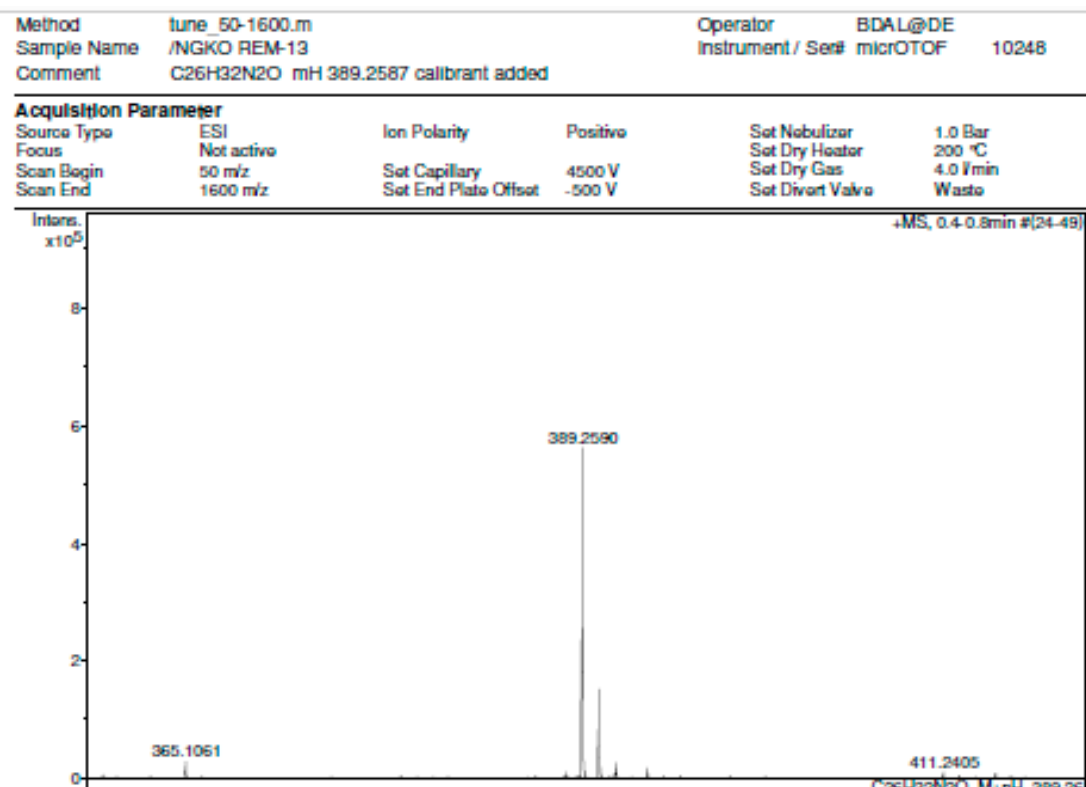


Figure S19. HRMS spectrum of compound 1f.

III Fluorescence spectra of compounds 1c-f (Figure S20)

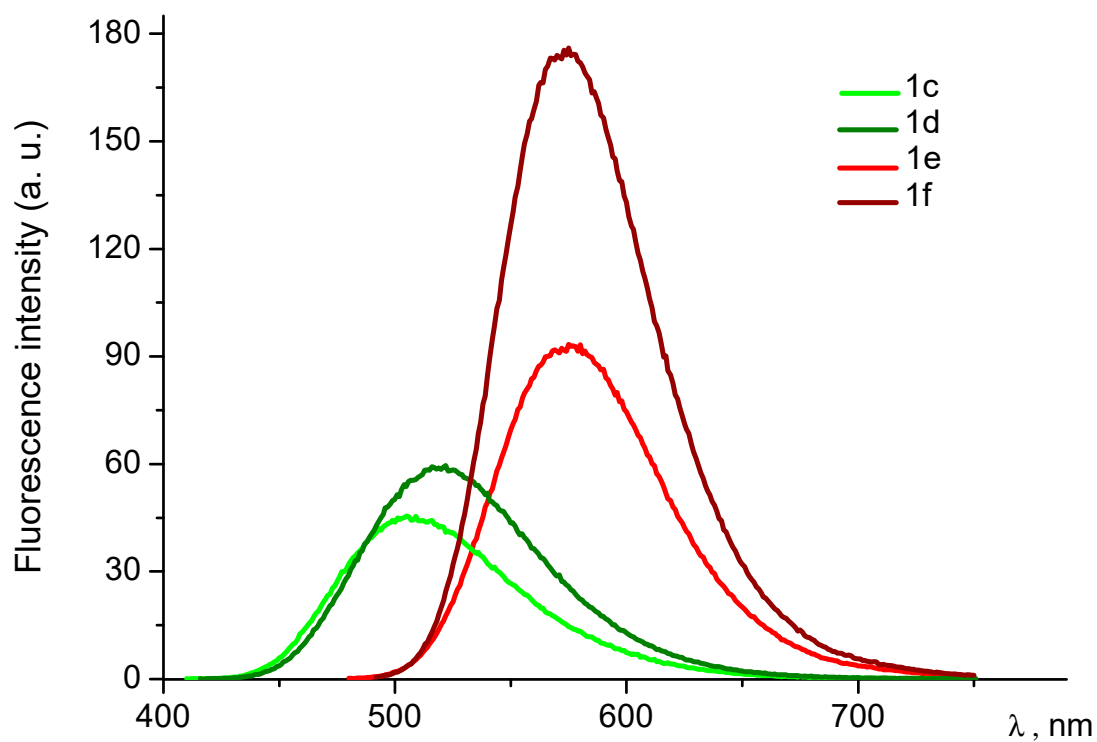
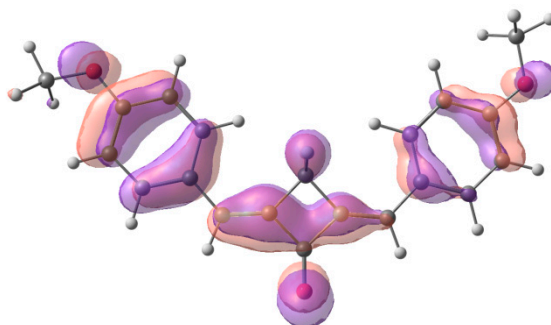
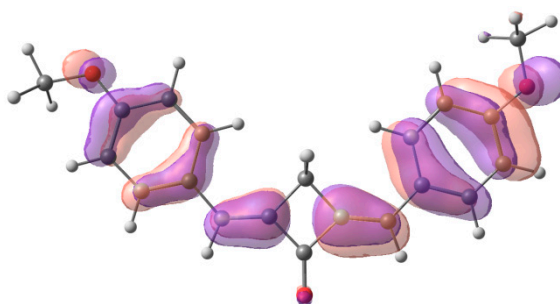


Figure S20. Fluorescence spectra of dienones **1c-f** ($C = 0.5 \times 10^{-6}$ M) in MeCN.

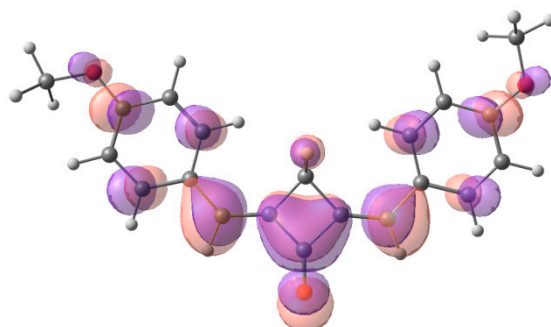
IV Quantum chemical calculations, orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compounds 1b-f (Figures S21-S25)



π orbital (HOMO-1) of compound **1b**

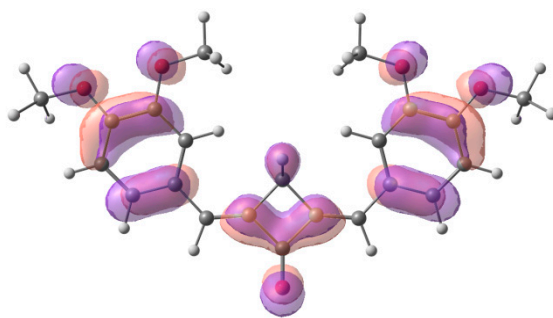


π orbital (HOMO) of compound **1b**

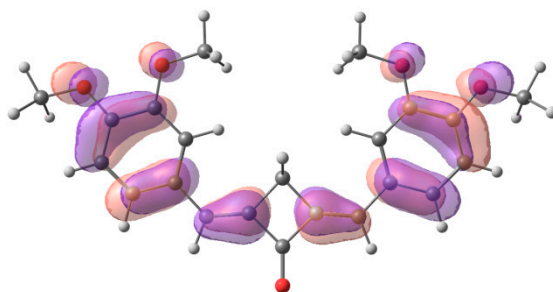


π^* orbital (LUMO) of compound **1b**

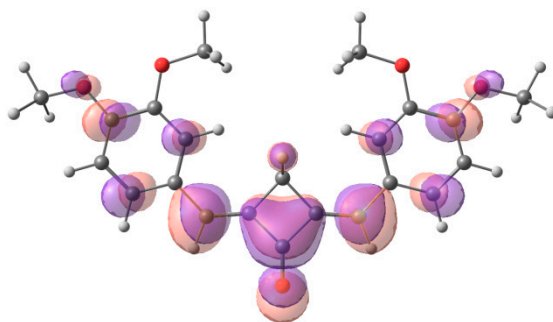
Figure S21. Orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compound **1b**.



π orbital (HOMO-1) of compound **1c**

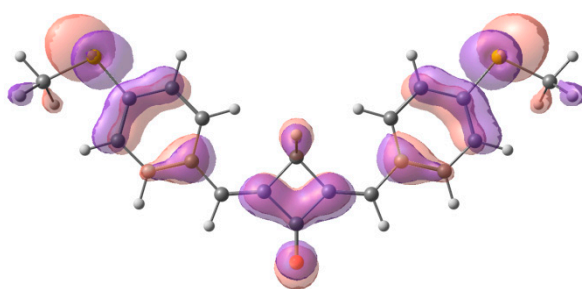


π orbital (HOMO) of compound **1c**

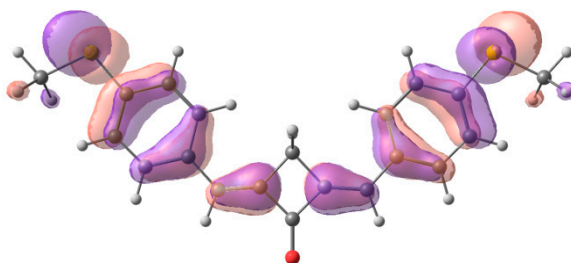


π^* orbital (LUMO) of compound **1c**

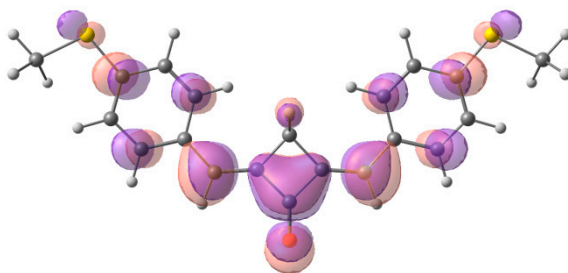
Figure S22. Orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compound **1c**.



π orbital (HOMO-1) of compound **1d**

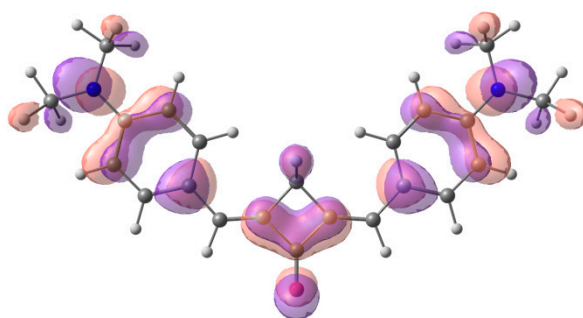


π orbital (HOMO) of compound **1d**

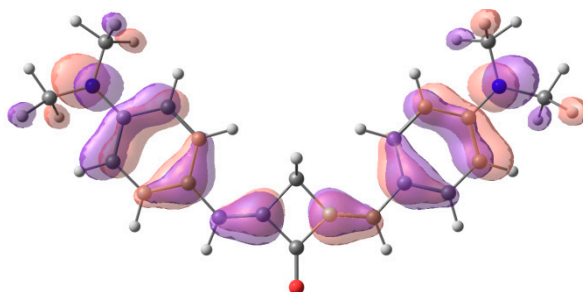


π^* orbital (LUMO) of compound **1d**

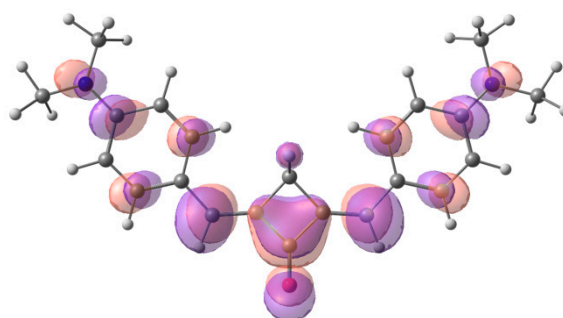
Figure S23. Orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compound **1d**.



π orbital (HOMO-1) of compound **1e**

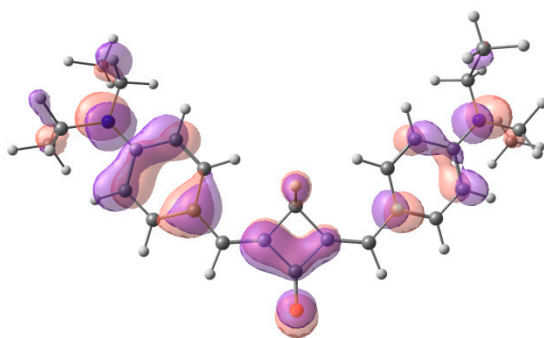


π orbital (HOMO) of compound **1e**

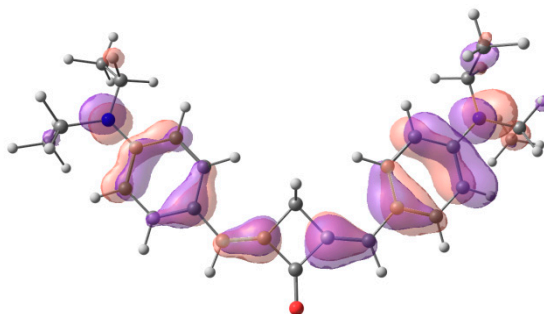


π^* orbital (LUMO) of compound **1e**

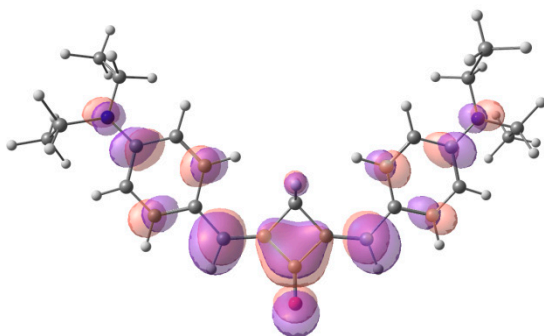
Figure S24. Orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compound **1e**.



π orbital (HOMO-1) of compound **1f**



π orbital (HOMO) of compound **1f**



π^* orbital (LUMO) of compound **1f**

Figure S25. Orbitals involved in the first electron transition of compound **1f**.

V Quantum chemical calculations, potential energy profiles of the ground S0 and lowest excited states of compounds 1a-f (Figures S26-S32)

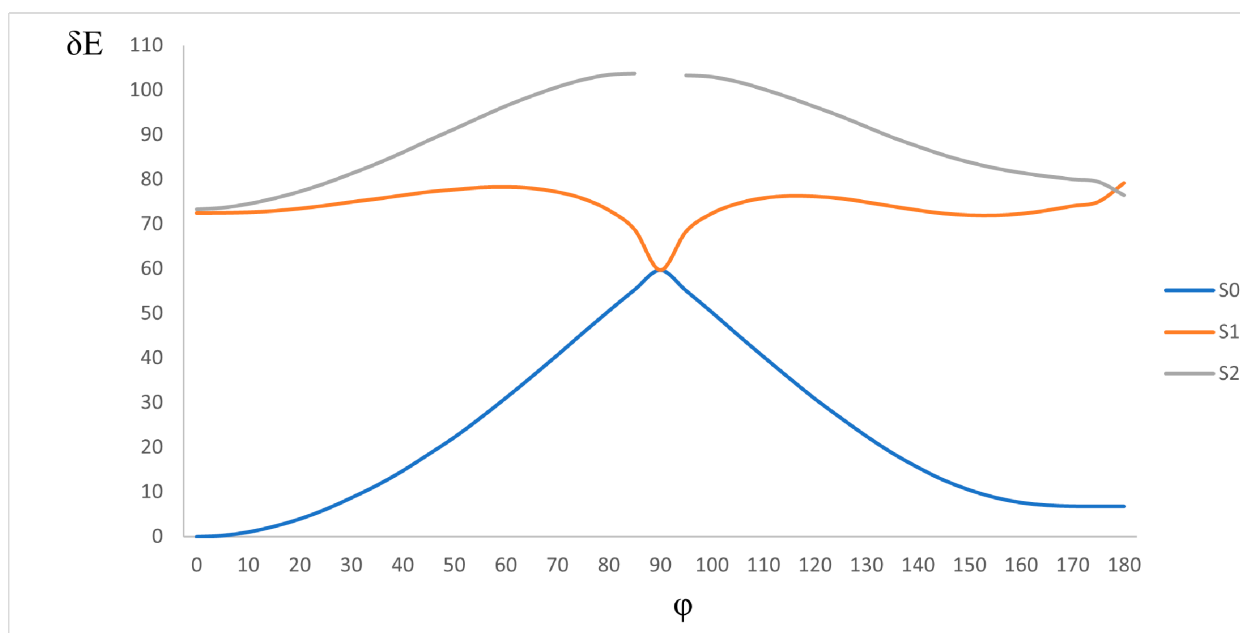


Figure S26. Potential energy profiles of compound **1a**.

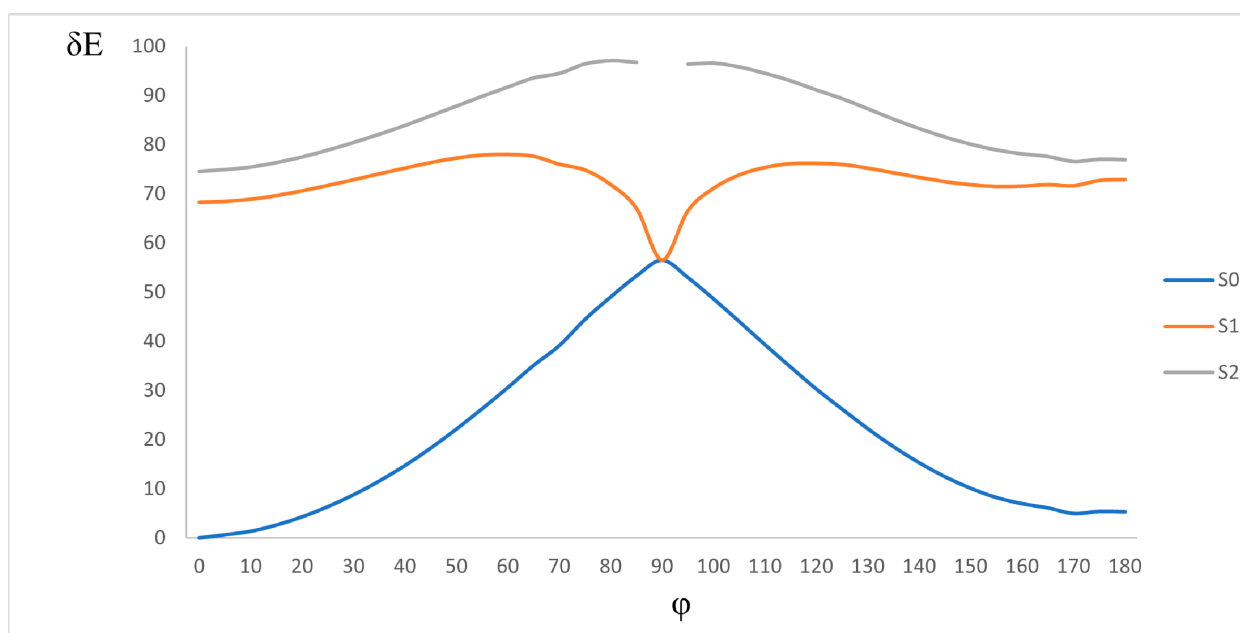


Figure S27. Potential energy profiles of compound **1b**.

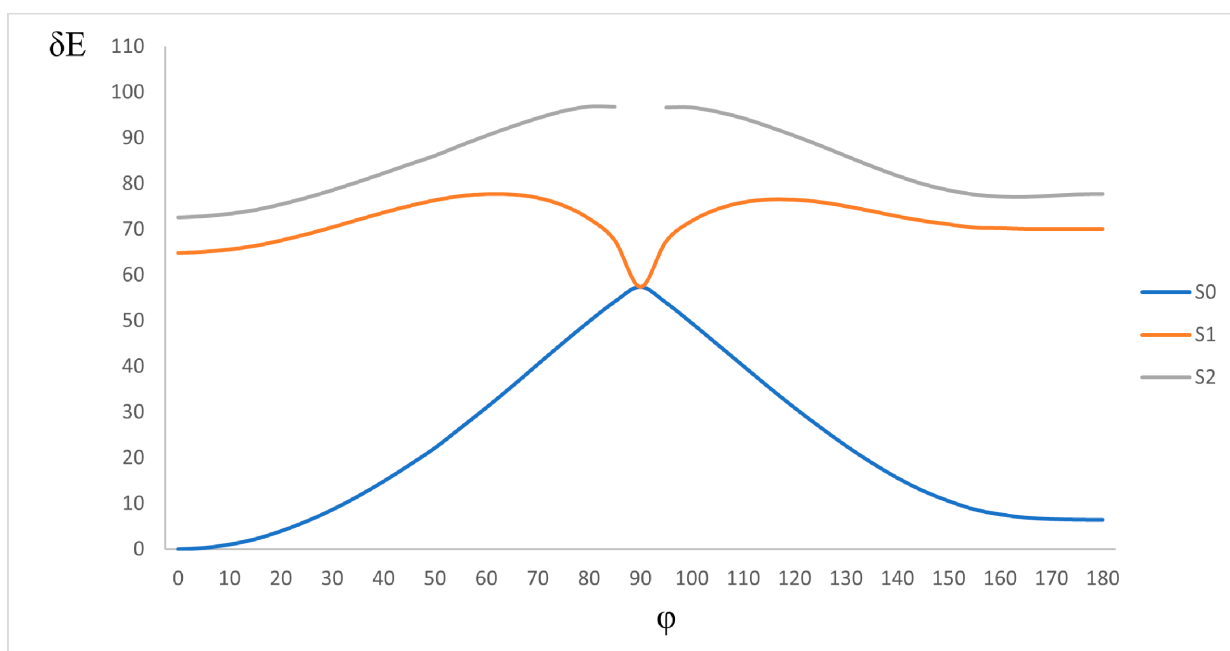


Figure S28. Potential energy profiles of compound **1c**.

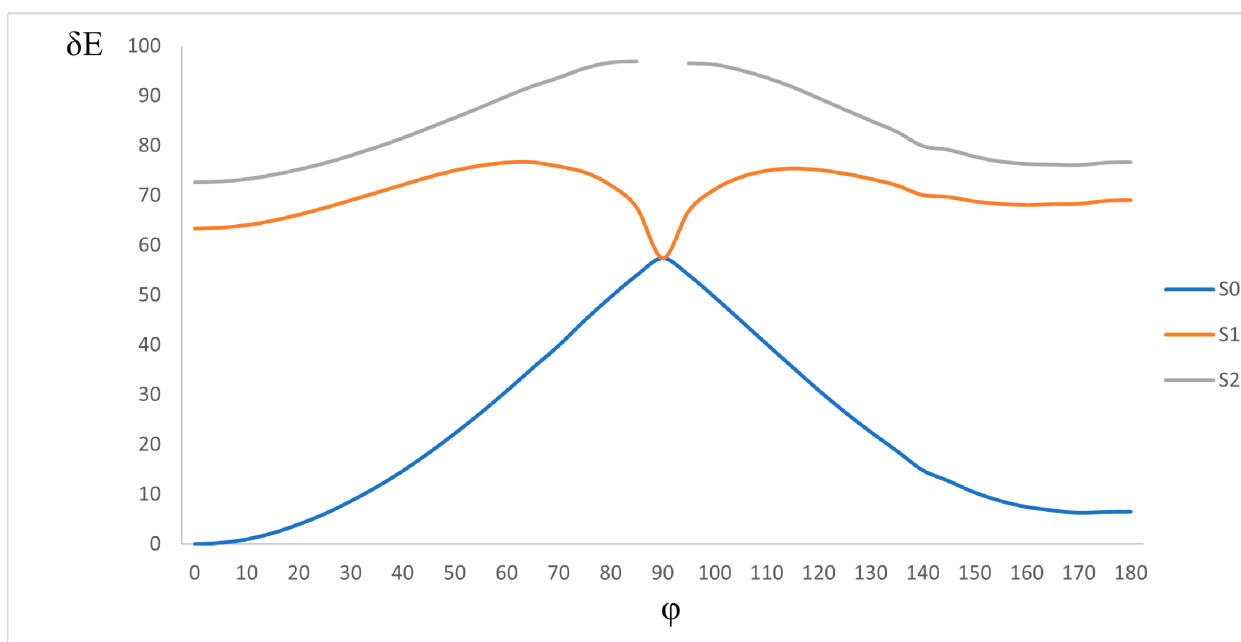


Figure S29. Potential energy profiles of compound **1d**.

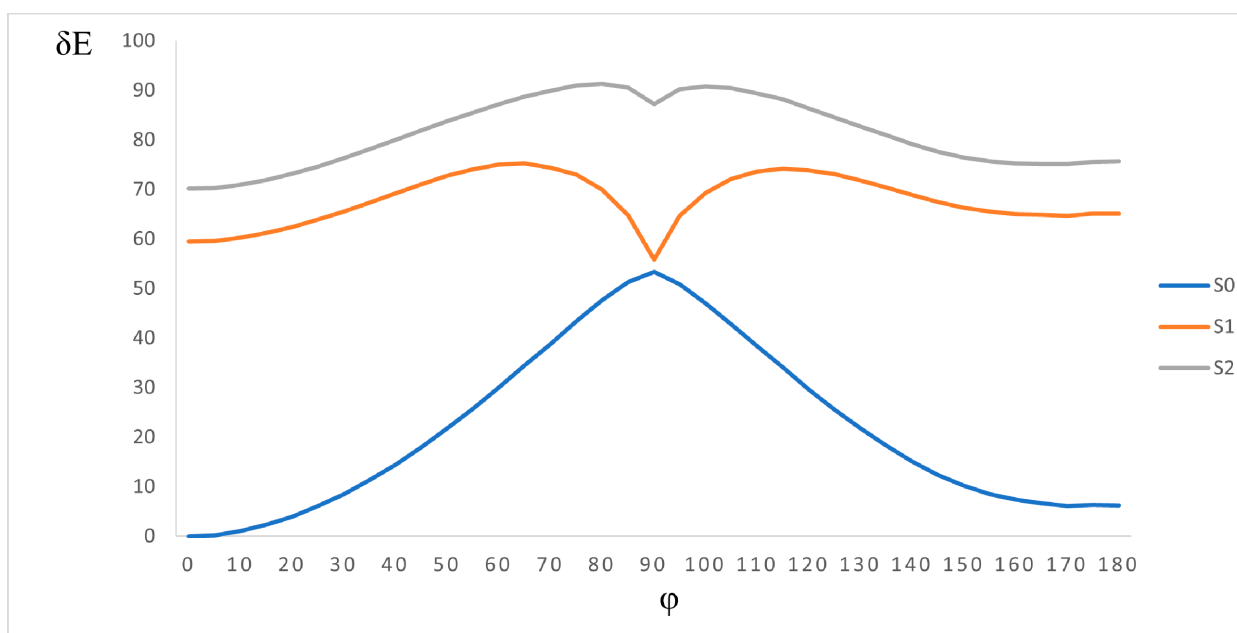


Figure S30. Potential energy profiles of compound **1e**.

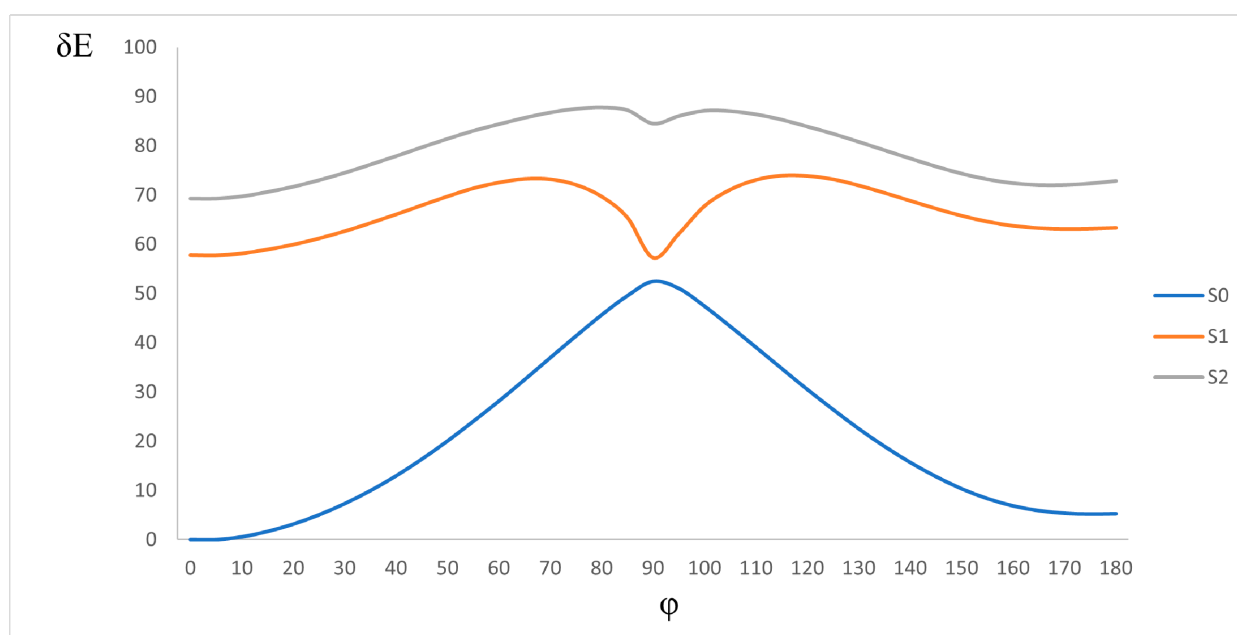


Figure S31. Potential energy profiles of compound **1f**.

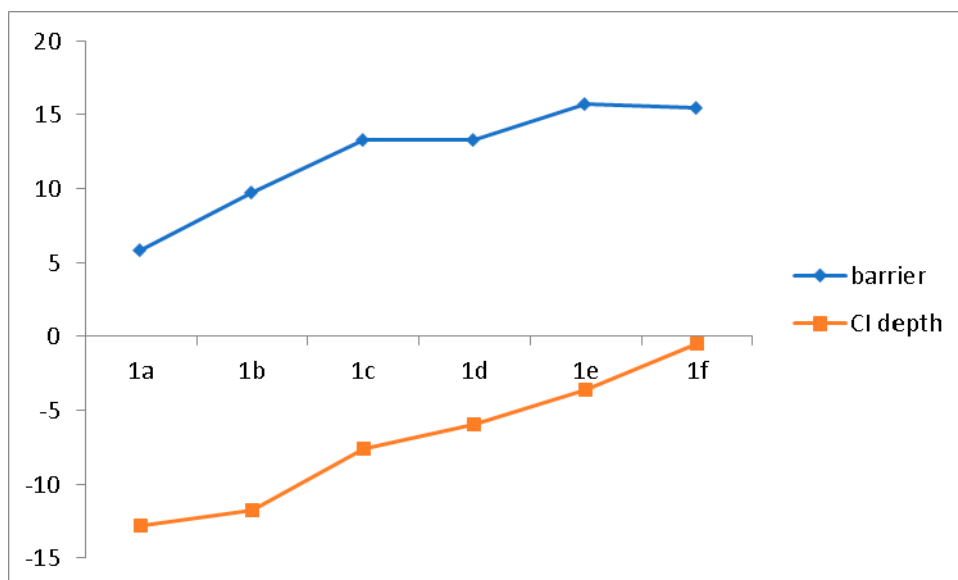


Figure S32. *E-Z* isomerization barrier height and CI depth in the series.

VI Correlations between the calculated frontier orbital energies, ionization potential and electron affinities, and experimental oxidation and reduction potentials (Figures S33-S35)

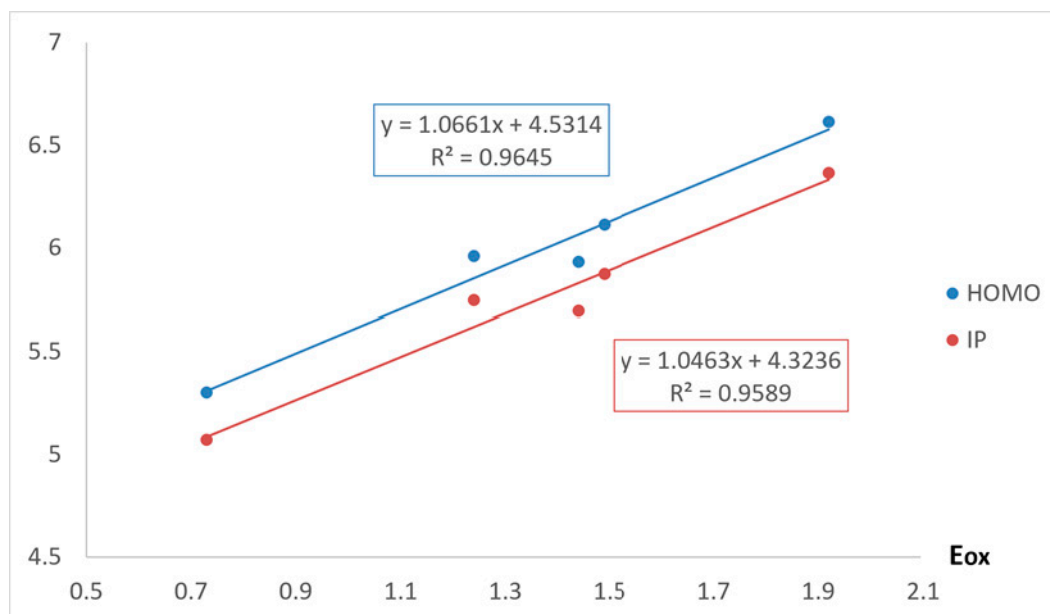


Figure S33. Correlations of HOMO, HOMO-1 energy, and calculated ionization potential with E_{ox} . Color of the frame with regression equation and correlation coefficient corresponds to the color of the trend line.

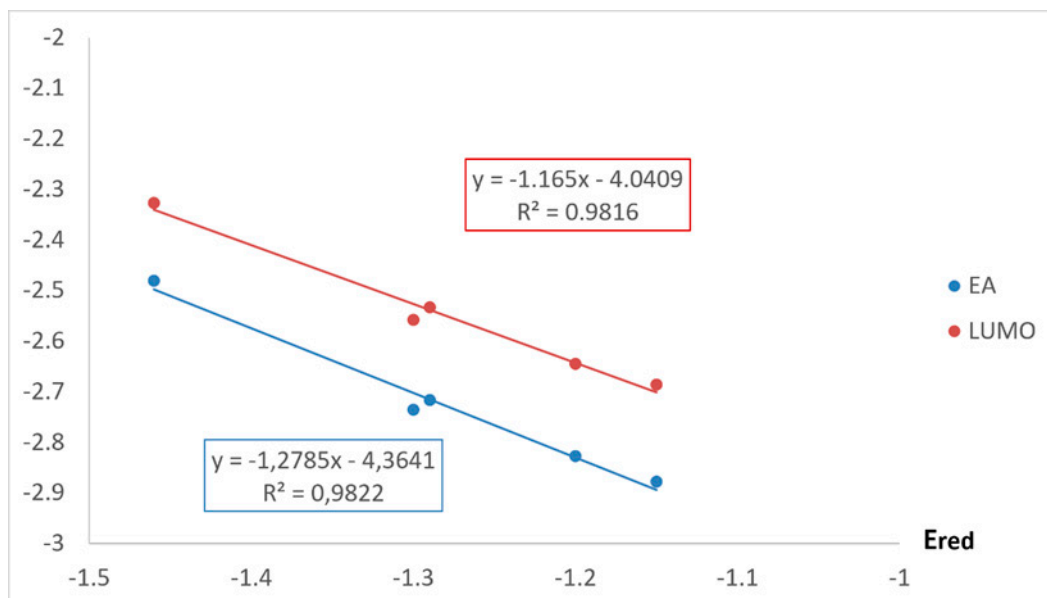


Figure S34. Correlations of LUMO energy and calculated electron affinity with E_{red} . Color of the frame with regression equation and correlation coefficient corresponds to the color of the trend line.

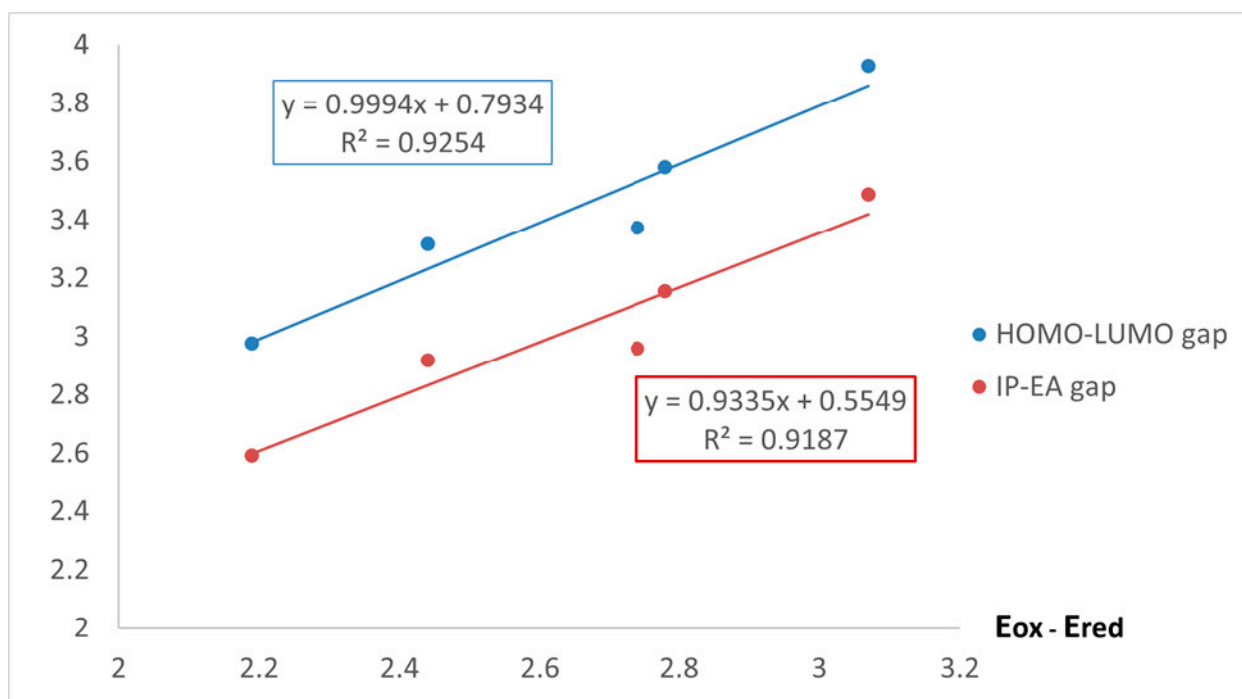


Figure S35. Correlations of the HOMO-LUMO gap and IP-EA difference with $E_{ox} - E_{red}$. Color of the frame with regression equation and correlation coefficient corresponds to the color of the trend line.