

# Mutual complexation between π-π stacked molecular tweezers

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# **Supporting Information**

## Mutual complexation between $\pi$ - $\pi$ stacked molecular tweezers

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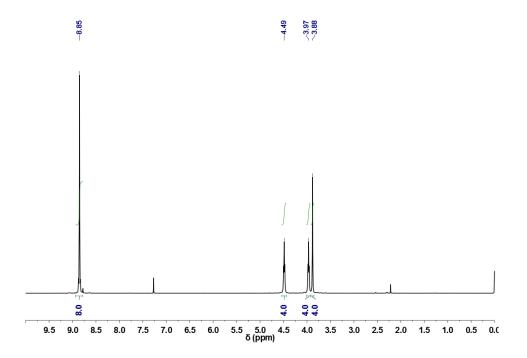


Figure S1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the bis-diimide dianhydride intermediate (Scheme 1).

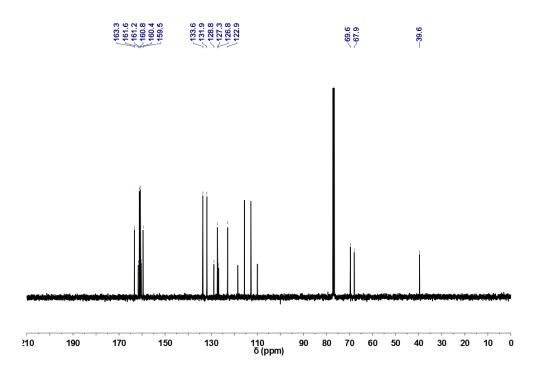
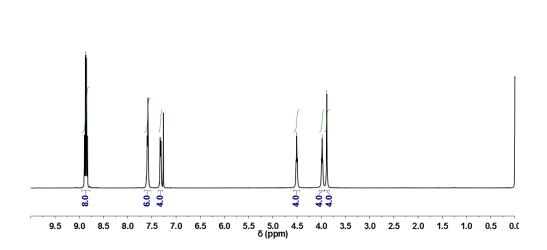


Figure S2: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the bis-diimide dianhydride intermediate (Scheme 1).





**Figure S3:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the phenyl-terminated chain-folding bis-diimide 1.

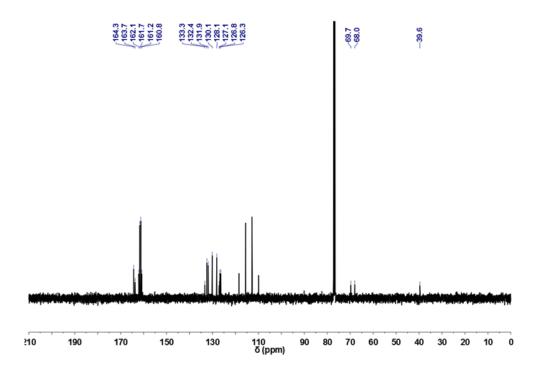
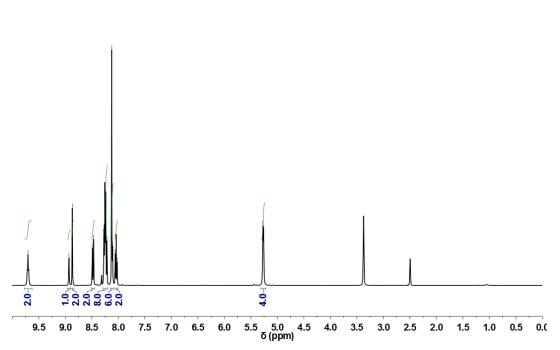


Figure S4: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the phenyl-terminated chain-folding bis-diimide 1.

## Synthesis of bis-pyrenyl tweezer (2)<sup>S1</sup>

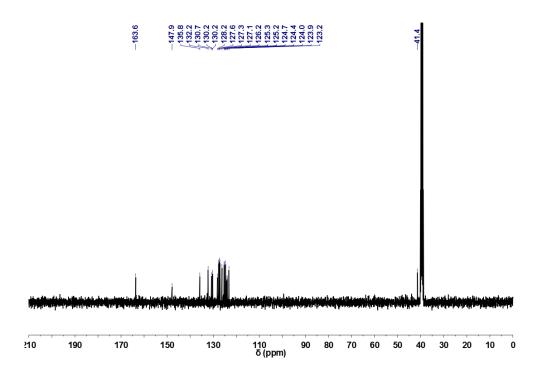
5-Nitro-isophthalic acid (0.40 g,  $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$  mol) was refluxed in thionyl chloride (5 mL). After 4 hours, excess thionyl chloride was evaporated under reduced pressure. The resulting solid residue was then dissolved in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) under argon. Pyrenemethylamine hydrochloride (1.034 g,  $3.8 \times 10^{-3}$  mol) was added as a slurry in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (5 mL). Triethylamine (2 mL) was added dropwise to the stirred reaction mixture. The suspension was then diluted with dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3 mL) and stirred under argon for 24 hours at ambient temperature. The resulting yellow precipitate was then filtered and washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (75 mL) and hot water (150 mL). The precipitate was then filtered off and washed with copious volumes of water and dried under vacuum (100°C, 24 hours) to yield a yellow solid (0.532 g, 44%). m.p. 314 °C. FT-IR  $v_{max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3265, 1651, 1623, 1559, 1534, 1447, 1415, 1452, 1317, 1305, 1290, 1284, 1255; <sup>1</sup>H NMR, (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 9.70, [2H, t, *J*= 5.5 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>NHC(O)], 8.93 [1H, t, *J* = 1.4 Hz, Ar-*H* (*para* to NO<sub>2</sub>)], 8.87 [2H, d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, Ar-*H* (*ortho* to NO<sub>2</sub>)], 8.49 [2H, d, *J* = 9.3 Hz, Ar-*H* (Pyr)], 8.27-8.21 [8H, m, Ar-*H* (Pyr)], 8.12-8.11 [6 H, m, Ar-*H* (Pyr), 8.06-8.02 [2 H, m, Ar-*H* (Pyr)], 5.27 [4H, d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>NHC(O)]; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 MHz):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 163.6, 147.9, 135.8, 132.2, 130.7, 130.2, 128.2, 127.6, 127.3, 127.1, 126.2, 125.3, 125.2, 124.7, 124.4, 124.0, 123.9, 123.2, 41.4.



-5.27



Figure S5: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the bis-pyrenyl tweezer 2.



**Figure S6:** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the bis-pyrenyl tweezer **2**.

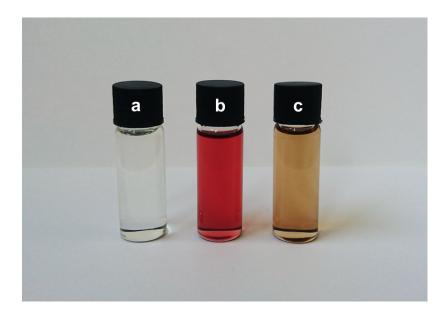


Figure S7: Solutions of (a) the chain-folding bis-diimide (1), (b) the 1:1 complex [1 + 2], and (c) the bis-pyrenyl tweezer-molecule (2). In each case the solvent is CHCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA, 6:1 v/v.

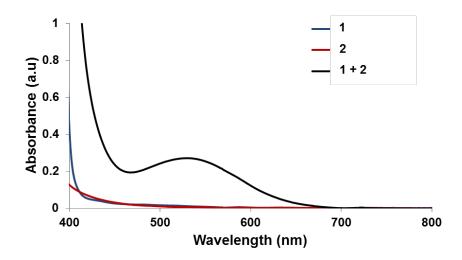
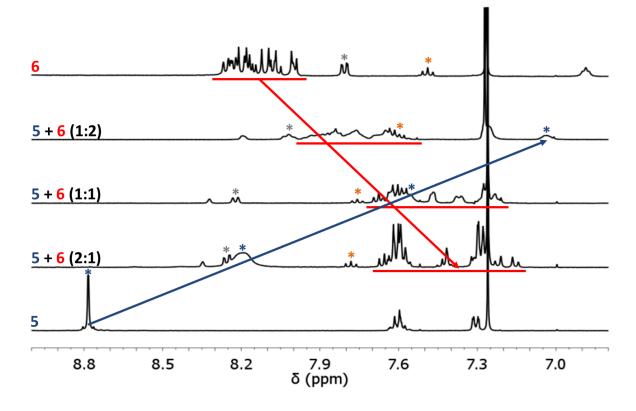


Figure S8: UV-vis spectra of 1 and 2 individually, and of the 1:1 complex [1 + 2].



**Figure S9:** Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz) of chain-folding diimide **1**, bis-pyrenyl tweezer **2** and blends of **1** with **2** at different molar ratios showing upfield shifts of both the diimide (**blue**) and pyrenyl (**red**) resonances. (Spectra obtained in CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA, 9:1 v/v). The broad nature of the proton resonances for both  $\pi$ -electron-rich and  $\pi$ -electron deficient species in the bound state suggests that the system is approaching slow exchange on the NMR timescale. Note also the *downfield* shifts of resonances (\* and \*) associated with the nitroarene residue of component **2**, implying (as demonstrated in the X-ray structure of [**1**+**2**]) that the nitroarene group must lie within the ring-current *deshielding* zone of a complexing diimide residue.

#### Measurement of association constant

The association constant for [1 + 2] was determined by UV-vis spectroscopy according to the method described by Stoddart *et al.* First, a Job plot was constructed by titrating 1 against 2 (Figure S10), which established that the complex is indeed equimolar as predicted. Next, the intensity of the charge transfer absorption associated with complexation of equimolar quantities of the  $\pi$ -electron-rich and  $\pi$ -electron-deficient species was measured at decreasing total concentration. The concentration range was chosen in order to maintain absorbance of below 1 absorbance unit, values thus being within the Beer-Lambert limit. The concentration range used was: [1 + 2] = 0.000400-0.000111 M.

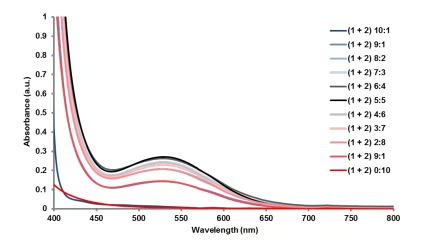
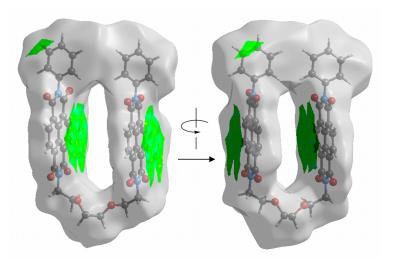
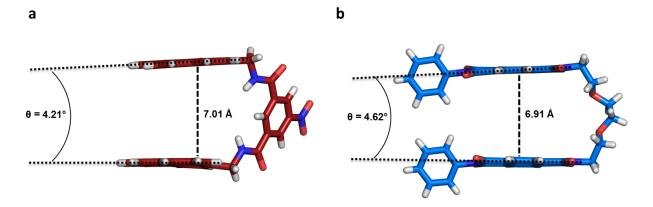


Figure S10: UV-Vis spectra showing the titration of 1 vs. 2 used to construct the Job plot.



**Figure S11:** Hirshfeld surface<sup>S2</sup> for the chain-folded bis-diimide component **1**, viewed from two different angles to show both faces of each diimide residue. Regions of the molecule showing close  $\pi$ - $\pi$ -stacking between the diimide residues shown and the pyrenyl residues of the tweezer-molecule **2** (not shown) are highlighted in green. Three such regions of contact are *within* the supramolecular assembly [1 + 2], with the fourth highlighted region representing contact *between* such assemblies along the crystallographic *a*-direction.



**Figure S12:** Measurements from the crystal structure of [1 + 2]. (a) the divergence of the pyrenyl residues from parallel in 2 (taken from the pyrene mean planess) and the lateral separation (pyrene centroid to centroid) in 2, and (b) the divergence of the diimide residues from parallel in 1 (taken from the diimide mean planes) and the lateral separation (diimide centroid to centroid) in 1.

### **References to Supporting Information**

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