

# ***Supporting Information***

## **Redox-Induced Molecular Actuators: The Case of Oxy-Alternate Bridged Cyclotetraveratrylene ( $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV)**

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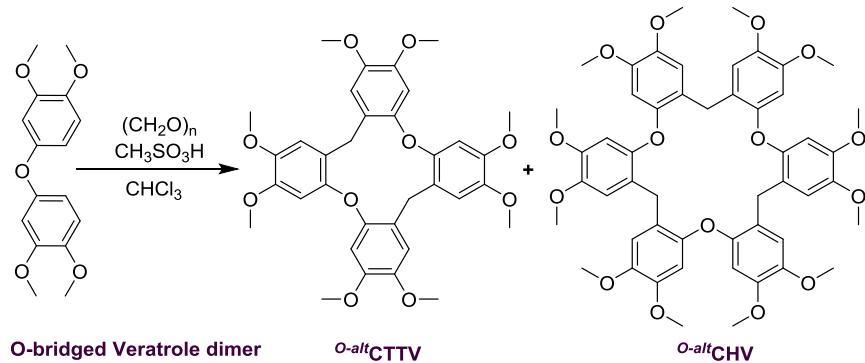
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## S1. General Methods and Synthesis

*General methods:* All commercial reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. UV-vis absorption spectra were collected with an Agilent 8453 diode array spectrometer. Electronic absorption (UV-Vis/NIR) measurements were made on a Cary 5000 instrument. Cyclic and square-wave voltammograms were measured under inert atmosphere with an epsilon EC potentiostat (iBAS) at a scan rate of 100 mV/s with 0.1 M [NBu<sub>4</sub>]PF<sub>6</sub> electrolyte. The three-electrode cell consisted of an Ag/AgCl reference electrode, a platinum auxiliary electrode, and a glassy carbon working electrode. All reactions for the synthesis of starting materials and the oxy-alternate bridged cyclo[n]veratrylenes ( $n = 4$  (<sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV) and  $n = 6$  (<sup>O-alt</sup>CHV)) were carried out under nitrogen atmosphere. NMR spectra were recorded on Varian 300 and 400 MHz NMR spectrometers. Mass spectra were recorded on Bruker Daltonics MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer, and dithranol was used as matrix. The oxy-bridged veratrole dimer (Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ether) is synthesized using the previously reported method.<sup>1</sup> Midwest Micro Lab, LLC, Indianapolis, Indiana 45250, performed all elemental analyses.

**<sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV and <sup>O-alt</sup>CHV synthesis:** To a solution of oxygen-bridged veratrole dimer (Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ether) (4 mmol, 1.2 g) in chloroform (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 40 ml), paraformaldehyde was added (0.24 g, 8 mmol, 2.0 eq) under the nitrogen atmosphere. Then, the methanesulfonic acid (CH<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H, 0.1 ml, 0.15 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at the room temperature for 5 h. The reaction has been quenched by adding water (40 ml) to the Schlenk flask and letting it stir vigorously for 30 min. The organic layer has been separated using the separatory funnel and the CHCl<sub>3</sub> has been evaporated under the vacuum. The product has been purified by column chromatography using pure chloroform to obtain the white solid for both <sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV (0.9 g, yield = 70%) and <sup>O-alt</sup>CHV (0.1 g, yield = 8%). The pure products have been confirmed using the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and MALDI-TOF spectroscopy techniques. Moreover, the crystal structure of <sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV (using slow evaporation method by employing 5:2 mixture of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH solvents at room temperature) is reported.

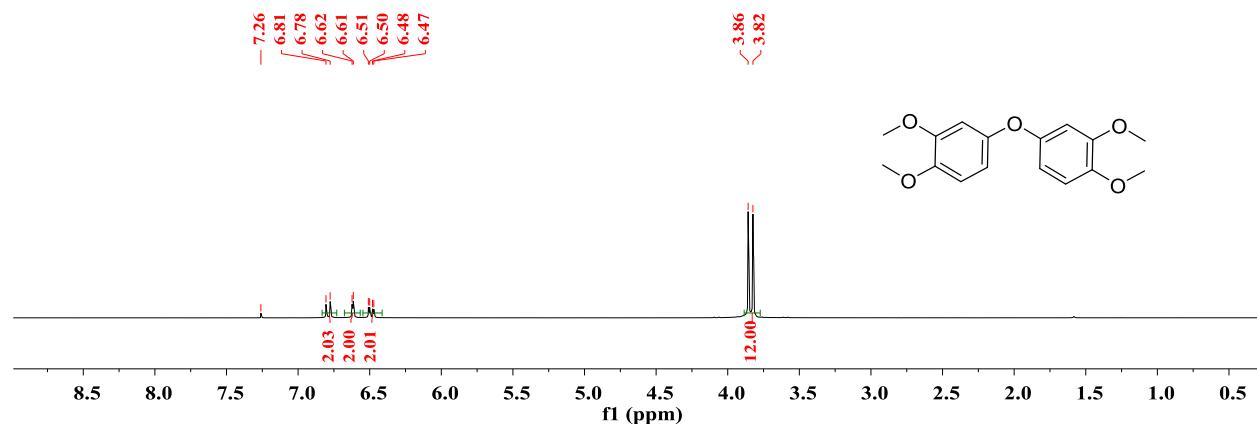


**Cyclotetraveratrylene (<sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV):** white solid; *mp* = 275–277 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (20 °C, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 6.79 (s, 4H), 6.40 (s, 4H), 4.34 (s, 2H), 3.85 (s, 12H), 3.72 (s, 12H), 3.15 (s, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (20 °C, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 148.04, 144.76, 123.70, 114.24, 102.79, 56.63, 56.17, 29.17. Calcd for C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>10</sub>: C, 67.54; H, 6.00. Found: C, 67.61; H, 6.03.

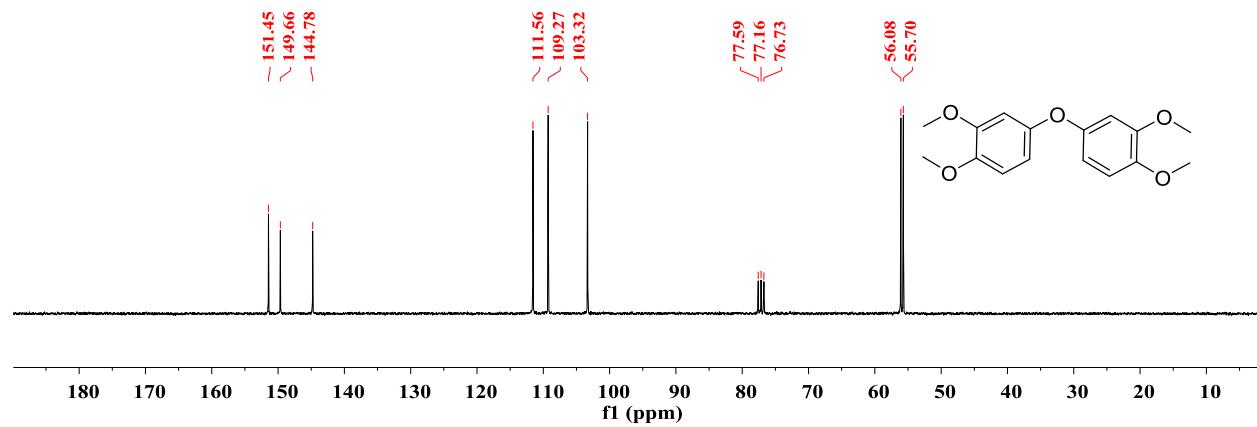
**Cyclohexaveratrylene (<sup>O-alt</sup>CHV):** white solid; *mp* = 204–206 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (20 °C, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 6.61 (s, 6H), 6.17 (s, 6H), 3.82 (s, 6H), 3.76 (s, 18H), 3.64 (s, 18 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (20 °C, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 149.02, 148.03, 144.66, 122.89, 113.87, 102.93, 56.59, 56.11, 29.11. Calcd for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>15</sub>: C, 67.54; H, 6.00. Found: C, 67.44; H, 6.00.

## S2. $^1\text{H}$ - and $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Spectra

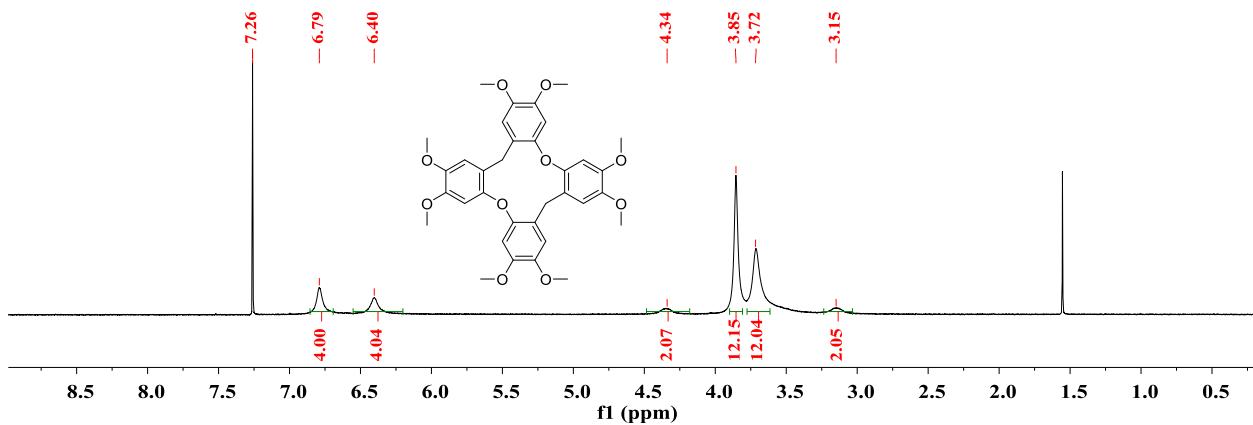
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR of (Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ether) oxy-bridged veratrole dimer ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 20 °C)



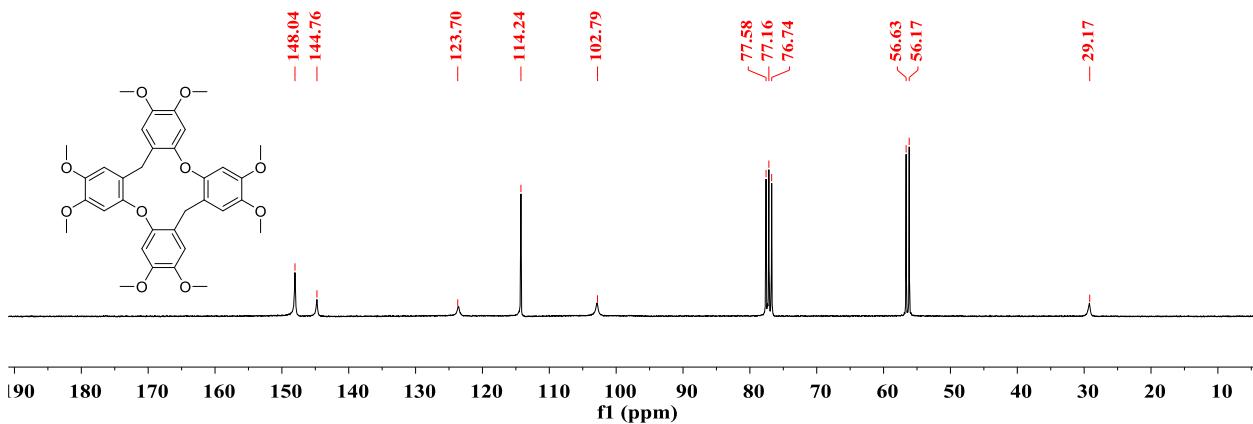
$^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR of (Bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ether) oxy-bridged veratrole dimer ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 20 °C)



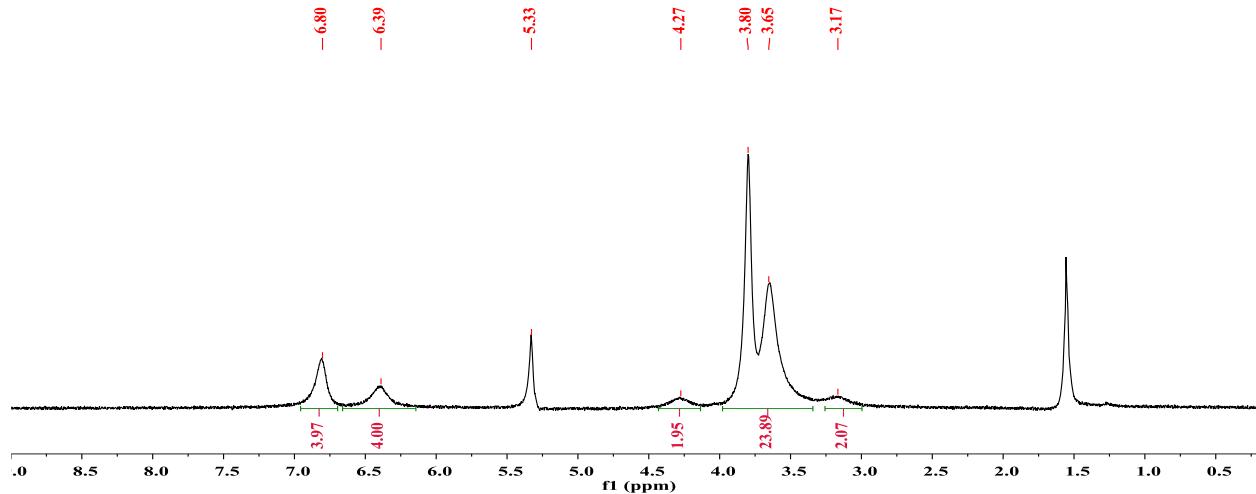
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of *O-alt*CTTV (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 20 °C)



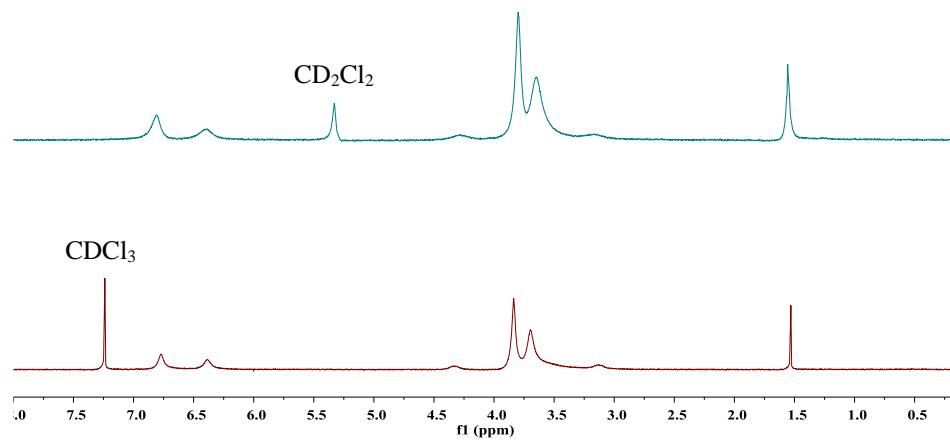
<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of *O-alt*CTTV (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 20 °C)



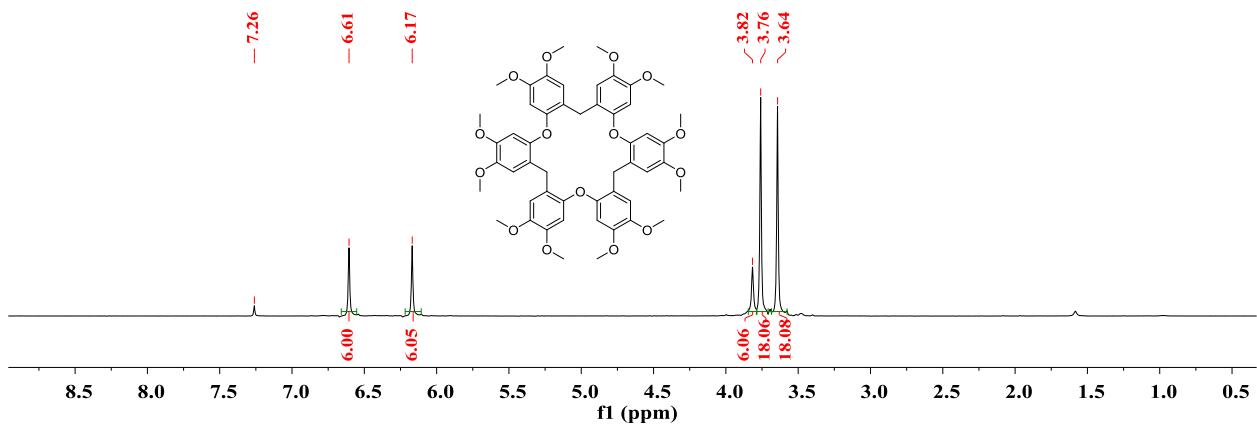
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of <sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 20 °C)



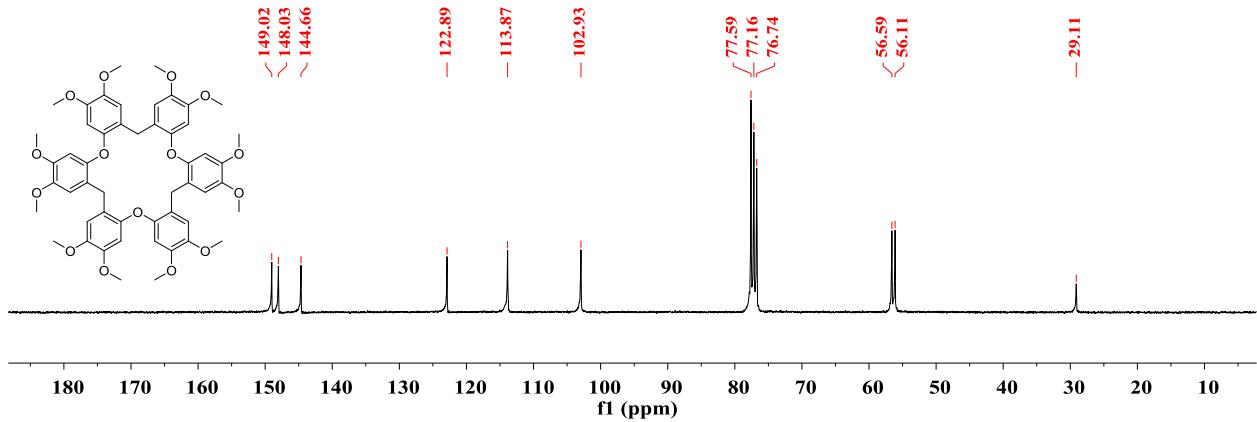
**Figure S1.** Comparing NMR spectra of <sup>O-alt</sup>CTTV in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 °C) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> (20 °C)



<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of *O-alt*CHV (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 20 °C)

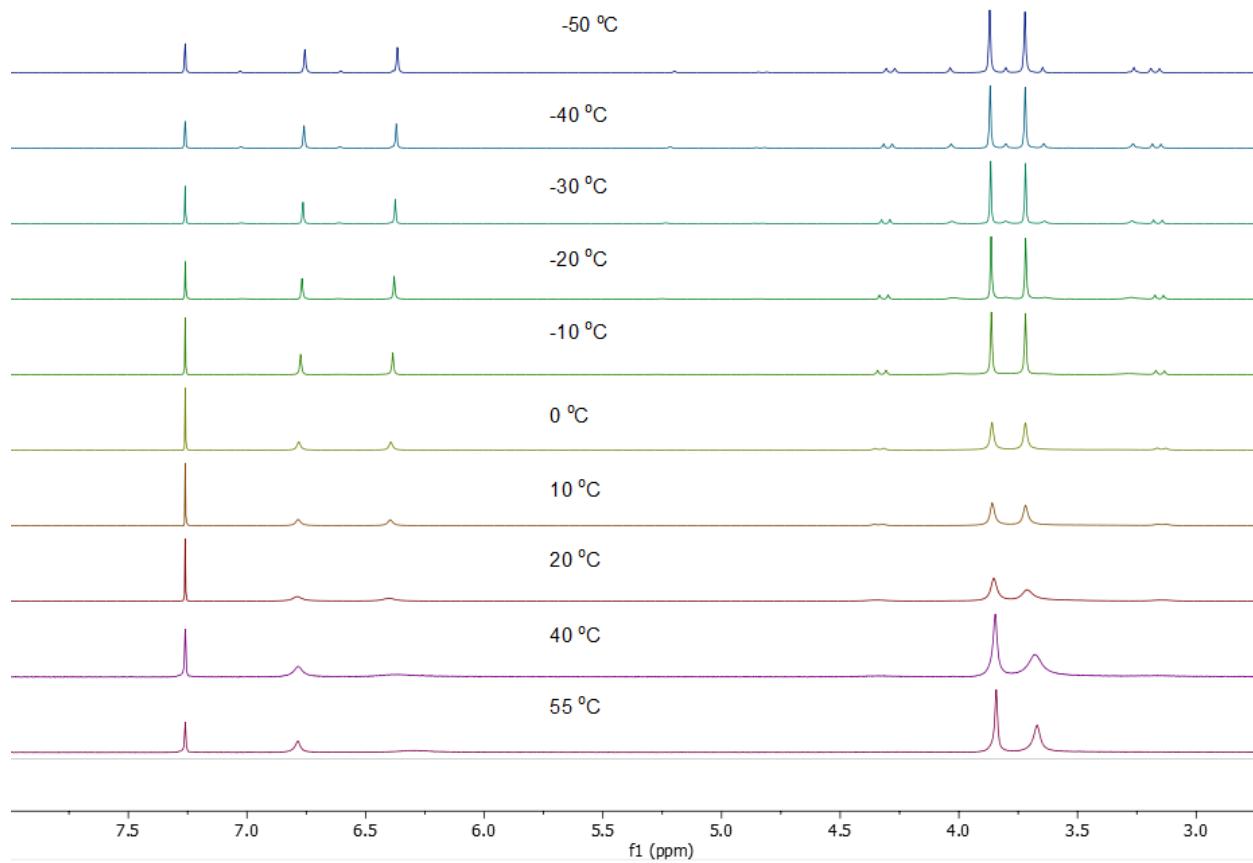


<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of *O-alt*CHV (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 20 °C)

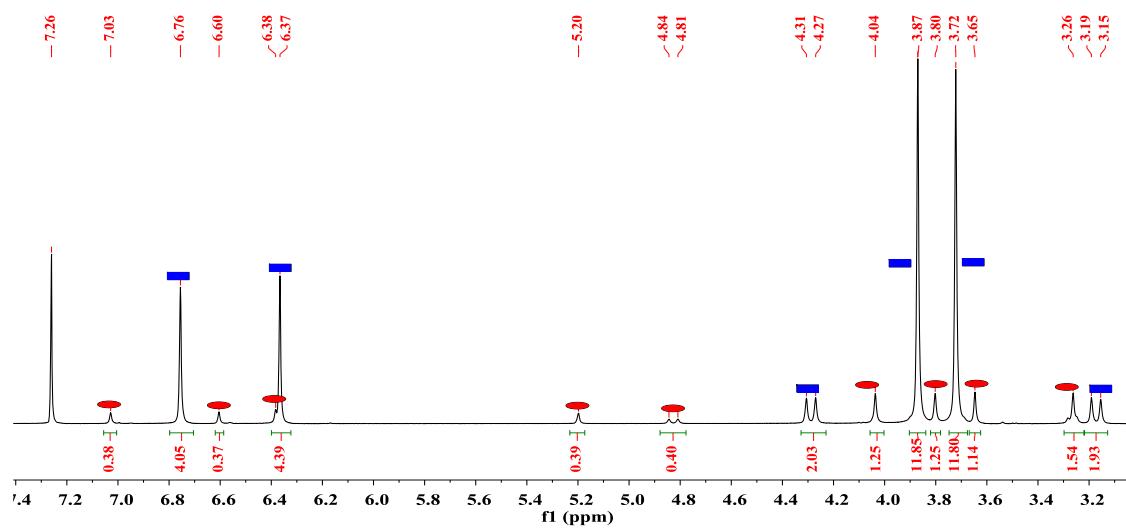


Variable temperature  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR of  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV (from 55 °C to -50 °C in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solvent)

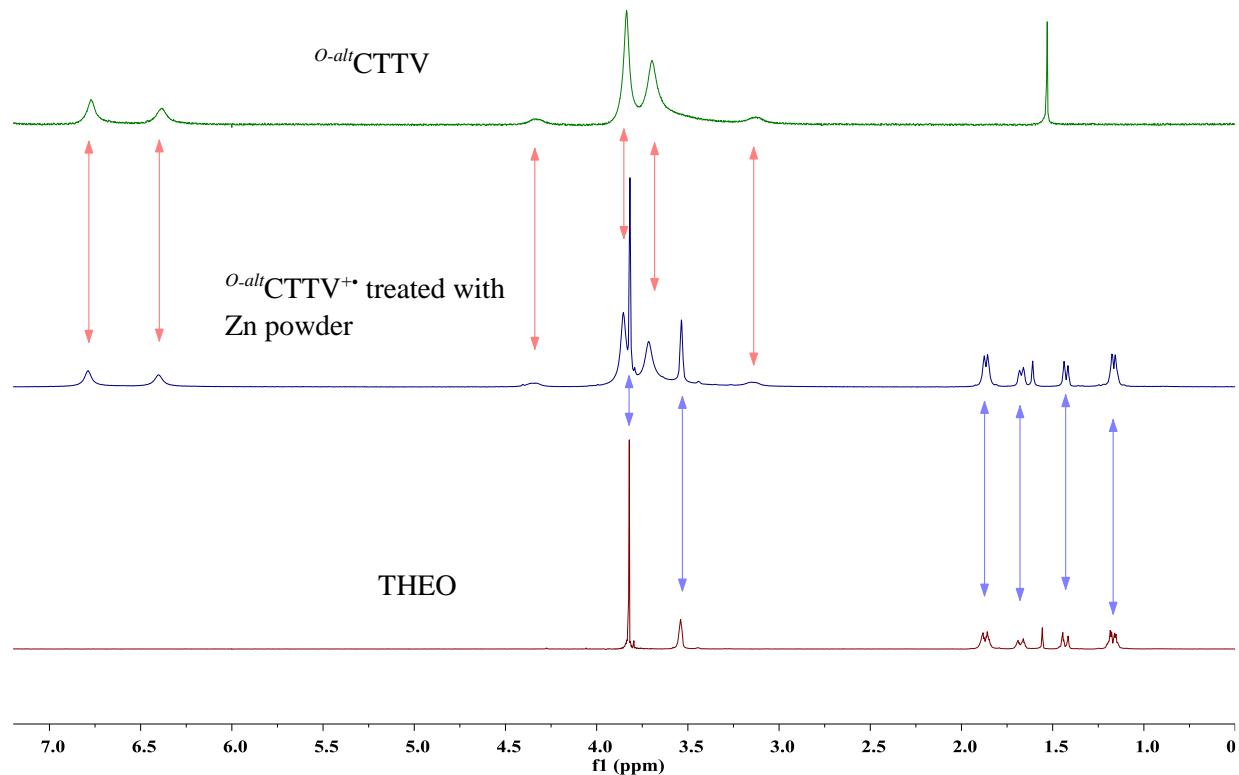
**Figure S2.** Variable temperature (VT) NMR of  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  in the range from 55 to -50 °C.



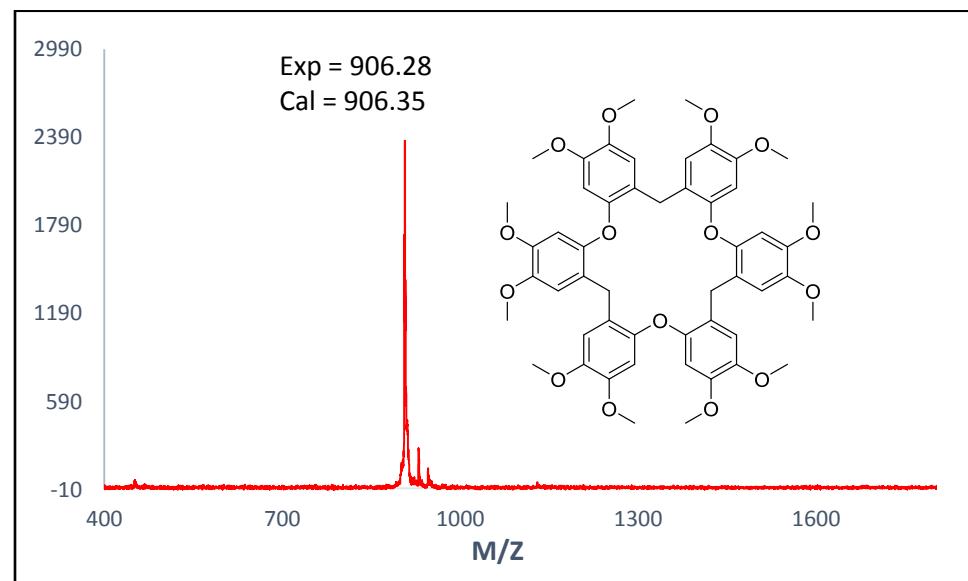
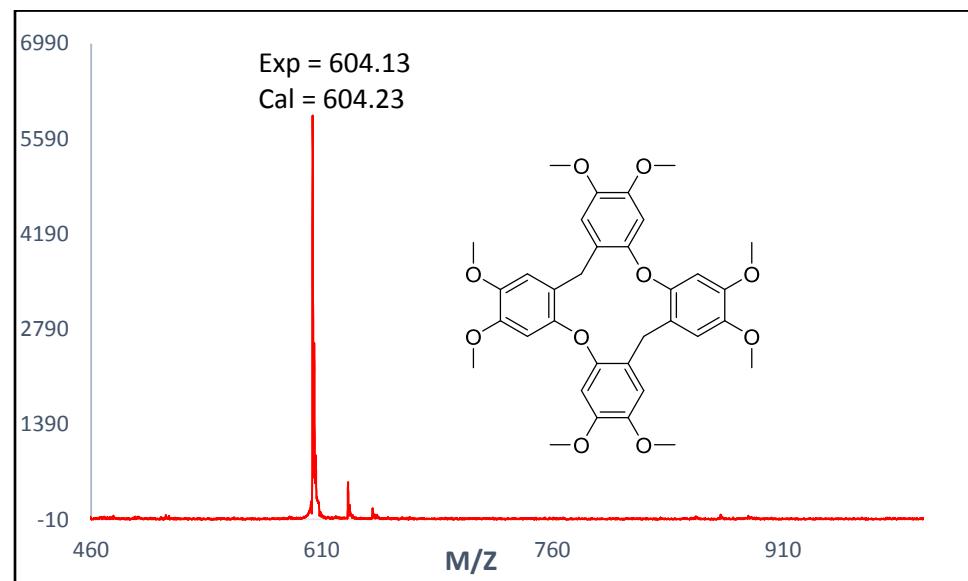
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR of  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , -50 °C)



**Figure S3.** Comparing NMR spectra of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV; reduction product with Zn powder and neutral THEO in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

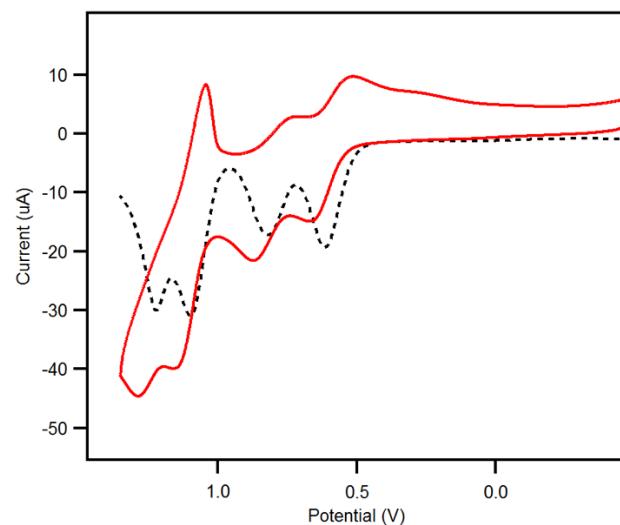


### S3. MALDI-TOF Data



#### S4. Electrochemical Characterization of *O-alt*CTTV

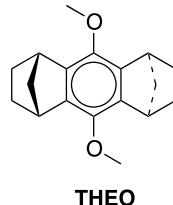
**Figure S4.** Cyclic voltammogram (CVs, solid line) and square wave (SW, dashed line) of 2 mM *O-alt*CTTV in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.1 M n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>) at a scan rate 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup> (V vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>).



## S5. Generation of $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV $^{+}$ by Redox Titrations

Electronic absorption spectra of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV $^{+}$  in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 22 °C were obtained by quantitative redox titrations using robust aromatic oxidant, *i.e.*, [THEO $^{+}$ SbCl<sub>6</sub> $^{-}$ ] (1,4:5,8-dimethano-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octahydro-9,10-dimethoxyanthracene hexachloroantimonate;  $E_{red1}=0.67$  V vs Fc/Fc $^{+}$ ,  $\lambda_{max}=518$  nm,  $\lambda_{max}=7300$  cm $^{-1}$  M $^{-1}$ ).

**Figure S5.** Chemical structures of aromatic oxidant THEO used in redox titrations.

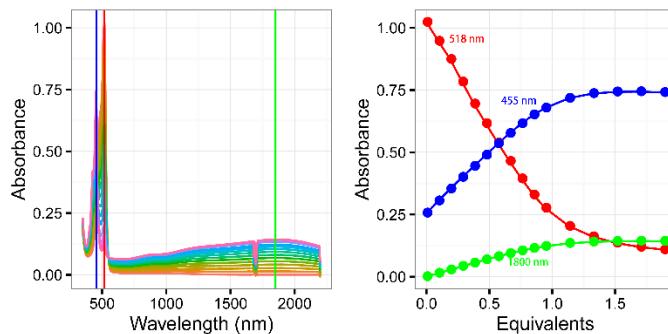


The redox titration experiment has been carried out by an incremental addition of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV to the solution of THEO $^{+}$  where the 1- $e^-$  oxidation of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV and reduction of THEO $^{+}$  can be described by equilibrium equation:



Numerical deconvolution of the absorption spectrum at each increment produced mole fractions of THEO $^{+}$  and  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV $^{+}$  against the added equivalents of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV and confirmed a 1:1 stoichiometry of the redox reaction (**Figure S6** below reproduced from **Figure 4** in the main text). The experimental plots of mole fraction vs equivalent of added donor were fitted by varying  $\Delta G_1 = E_{ox1}^{O\text{-}alt\text{CTTV}} - E_{red}^{\text{THEO}^{+}}$ .

**Figure S6.** Left: Spectral changes attendant upon the oxidation of  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV (1.98 mmol) by THEO $^{+}$ SbCl<sub>6</sub> $^{-}$  (0.140 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 22 °C. Right: Red, green and blue curves correspond to the absorbance at indicated wavelength (nm) against number of equivalents of added  $O\text{-}alt$ CTTV.

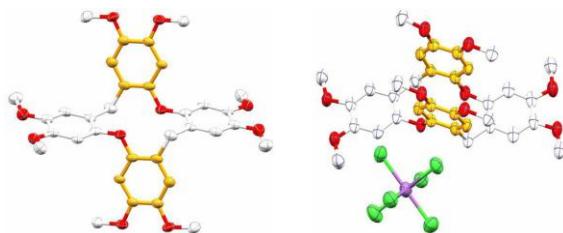


## S6. X-Ray Crystallography Data

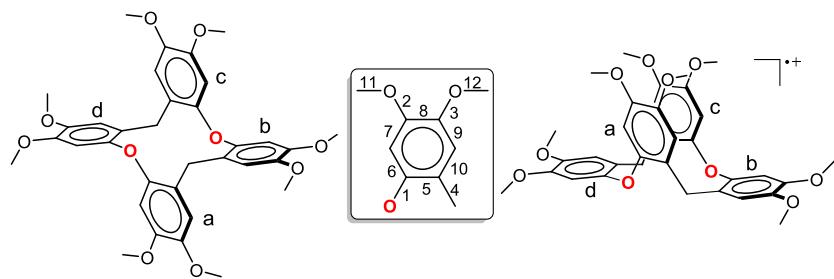
**Table S1.** Summary of X-ray crystallographic data collection and structure refine.

Identification code	kad1k	kad1p
Empirical formula	C <sub>39</sub> H <sub>41</sub> Cl <sub>15</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>40</sub> Cl <sub>10</sub> O <sub>10</sub> Sb
Formula weight	1201.47	1108.93
Temperature/K	100.2(8)	100.00(10)
Crystal system	triclinic	orthorhombic
Space group	P-1	Pbcn
a/Å	12.3355(3)	30.6757(3)
b/Å	13.4478(4)	15.72509(18)
c/Å	16.8786(5)	23.3903(3)
α/°	101.227(2)	90
β/°	107.842(2)	90
γ/°	99.924(2)	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	2532.27(13)	11282.9(2)
Z	2	8
ρ <sub>calc</sub> g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.576	1.306
μ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	7.912	8.594
F(000)	1220.0	4456.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.816 × 0.388 × 0.25	0.466 × 0.173 × 0.083
Radiation	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)	CuKα (λ = 1.54184)
2Θ range for data collection/°	6.918 to 141.402	7.362 to 141.254
Index ranges	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15, -16 ≤ k ≤ 16, -19 ≤ l ≤ 20	-36 ≤ h ≤ 37, -18 ≤ k ≤ 15, -28 ≤ l ≤ 28
Reflections collected	45934	54883
Independent reflections	9609 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0574, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0324]	10692 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0430, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0239]
Data/restraints/parameters	9609/12/505	10692/0/522
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.100	1.046
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0872, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2656	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0618, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1883
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0914, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2690	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0700, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1965
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.94/-0.54	1.09/-1.24

**Figure S7.** The ORTEP diagrams (50% probability) of  $O\text{-alt}$ CTTV in neutral (left) and cation radical state (right). The hydrogen atoms and solvents molecules are omitted for clarity.



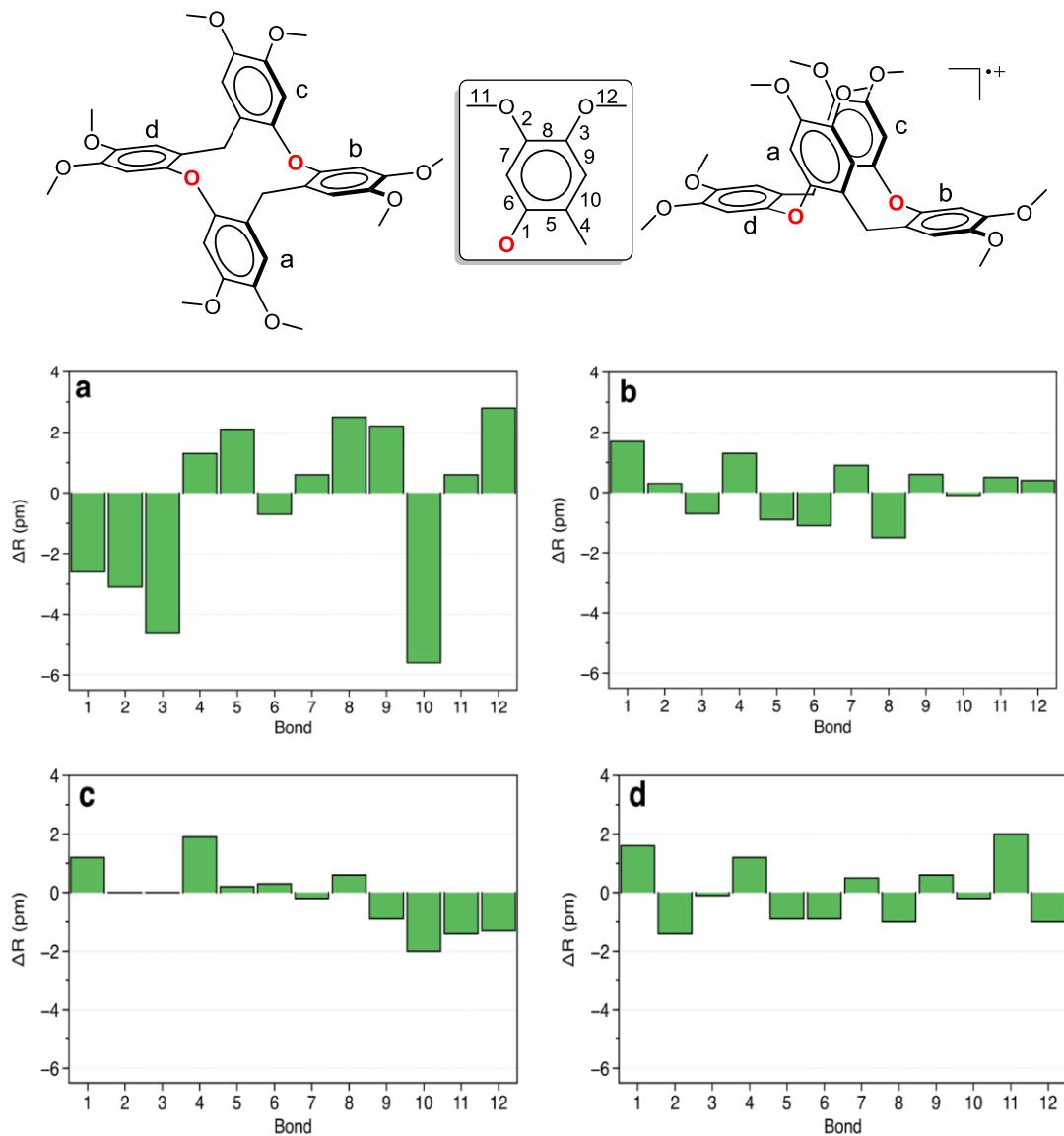
**Table S2.** The bond length (in picometers, pm) analysis of neutral and cation state of  $O\text{-alt}$ CTTV crystal structures.



3 bond	a				b				c				d			
	open- 1	open- 2	Closed <sup>•+</sup>	$\Delta^a$	open- 1	open- 2	Closed <sup>•+</sup>	$\Delta^a$	open- 1	open- 2	Closed <sup>•+</sup>	$\Delta^a$	open- 1	open- 2	Closed <sup>•+</sup>	$\Delta^a$
1	138	139.1	135.3	-3.2	139.1	138.7	140.8	1.9	138	139.1	139.1	0.5	139.1	138.7	140.7	1.8
2	136.5	136.7	133.4	-3.2	137.5	137.3	137.7	0.3	136.5	136.7	136.5	-0.1	137.5	137.3	136.1	-1.3
3	137.8	138.1	133.2	-4.8	136.9	134.8	136.2	0.3	137.8	138.1	137.8	0.1	136.9	134.8	136.8	0.9
4	150.2	152.6	151.5	0.1	151.2	152.1	152.4	0.7	150.2	152.6	152.1	0.7	151.2	152.1	152.4	0.7
5	139.8	137.5	141.9	3.3	138.3	138.6	137.4	1.0	139.8	137.5	140	1.3	138.3	138.6	137.4	1.0
6	139.8	140.7	139.1	-1.2	139.2	139.7	138.1	1.3	139.8	140.7	140.1	0.1	139.2	139.7	138.3	1.1
7	137.6	139.1	138.2	-0.2	137.7	137.6	138.6	0.9	137.6	139.1	137.4	0.9	137.7	137.6	138.2	0.5
8	139.9	140	142.4	2.45	141.3	141.9	139.7	-1.9	139.9	140	140.6	0.6	141.3	141.9	140.3	-1.3
9	137.2	137.9	139.5	1.95	138.2	139.4	138.9	0.1	137.2	137.9	136.4	1.1	138.2	139.4	138.8	0
10	141.6	139.5	136	-4.6	140.4	139.3	140.4	0.5	141.6	139.5	139.6	0.9	140.4	139.3	140.2	0.3
11	143.6	142.6	144.2	1.1	142.1	143.6	142.6	0.2	143.6	142.6	142.3	-0.8	142.1	143.6	144.1	1.2
12	142.8	140.8	145.7	3.9	142.9	142.6	143.3	0.5	142.8	140.8	141.5	-0.3	142.9	142.6	141.9	0.8

<sup>a</sup>  $\Delta = \text{closed}^{•+} - (\text{open-1} + \text{open-2})/2$

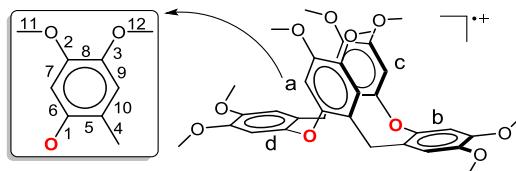
**Figure S8.** The graphical representations of bond length changes ( $\Delta R$  = closed<sup>•+</sup> - open) of  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV crystal structures in picometers (pm).



## S7. Computational Details

All calculations were carried out using Gaussian 16 software package.<sup>2</sup> Two long-range corrected ( $\omega$ B97XD and CAM-B3LYP) and one meta-GGA (M06-2X) hybrid functionals of density functional theory (DFT) are used for all optimizations and subsequent spectroscopy studies.<sup>3-5</sup> In order to include the dispersion effects, the D3 version of Grimme with Becke-Johnson damping factors (D3BJ) are used for the CAM-B3LYP functional.<sup>6</sup> The double-zeta quality basis set include diffuse and polarization functions on heavy atoms and polarization functions on hydrogens (6-31+G(d,p), BS1) is used for all calculations. Moreover, for the sake of accuracy, the single point energy calculations have been carried out for all of the fully optimized structures using double-hybrid B2PLYPD3 functional.<sup>7</sup> This double hybrid functional benefits from using 53% HF exchange and 27% MP2 correlation which showed very reliable energies and low spin contamination for the open shell systems.<sup>8</sup> These single point calculations were done using bigger basis set (6-311++G(2d,2p), BS2). The implicit solvation effects are included using the integral equation formalism variant of the polarizable continuum model (IEF-PCM) with standard parameters of chloroform ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ).<sup>9</sup> Moreover, in order to investigate the effect of implicit solvent polarity on the relative stability of the  ${}^{O\text{-}alt}\text{CTTV}^+$  conformers, the calculations are repeated by employing three more solvents (dichloromethane, acetonitrile, methanol) at the  $\omega$ B97XD/BS1 level of theory. The gauge-independent atomic orbital (GIAO) method<sup>10</sup> is used for  ${}^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shift calculations using the  $\omega$ B97XD functional and BS1. The calculated chemical shieldings are scaled with  ${}^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shift of Tetramethylsilane (TMS, 31.67 ppm) calculated at the  $\omega$ B97XD/BS1+PCM( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) level of theory. The spin density distributions were calculated using the natural bond orbital approach using integrated NBO 3.1 code in Gaussian 16 package.<sup>11</sup> The analysis of TDDFT studies have been carried out using the GaussSum 3.0 software package.<sup>12</sup>

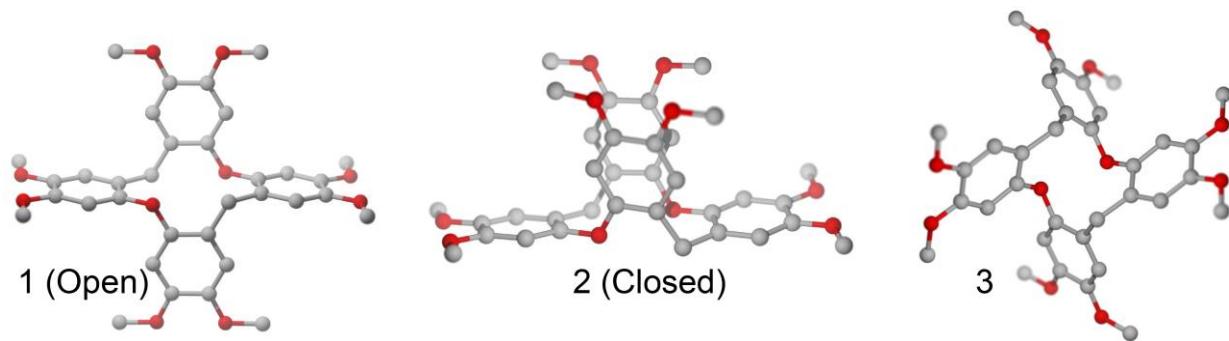
**Table S3.** The experimental (X-ray) and computational ( $\omega$ B97XD/BS1-PCM( $\text{CHCl}_3$ )) bond length of one of the cofacial rings of  ${}^{O\text{-}alt}\text{CTTV}$  in its neutral and cation radical states in picometers (pm).



bond	DFT			X-ray		
	open	closed ${}^{•+}$	$\Delta^a$	open	closed ${}^{•+}$	$\Delta^a$
1	138.2	133.0	-5.1	138.0	135.3	-2.6
2	135.6	131.6	-4.0	136.5	133.4	-3.1
3	136.1	131.5	-4.6	137.8	133.2	-4.6
4	151.7	151.0	-0.8	150.2	151.5	1.3
5	138.7	144.1	5.4	139.8	141.9	2.1
6	140.0	139.4	-0.6	139.8	139.1	-0.7
7	138.8	138.4	-0.4	137.6	138.2	0.6
8	141.2	145.3	4.1	139.9	142.4	2.5
9	138.6	139.9	1.3	137.2	139.5	2.2
10	140.3	137.9	-2.5	141.6	136.0	-5.6
11	141.6	143.2	1.6	143.6	144.2	0.6
12	141.5	143.4	1.9	142.8	145.7	2.8

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta = \text{closed}{}^{•+} - \text{open}$

**Figure S9.** The 3-D representation of possible conformers of  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV.



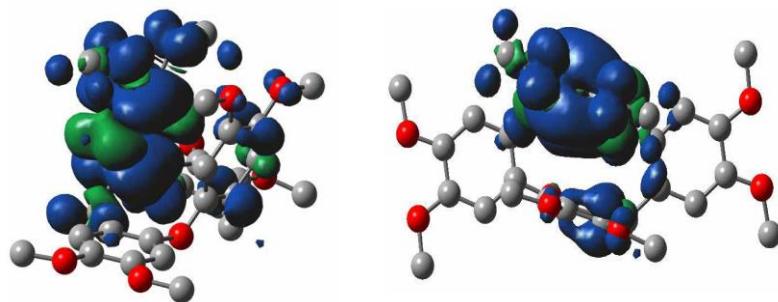
**Table S4.** The calculated relative energies ( $\Delta E + ZPE$ ), enthalpies ( $\Delta H$ ) and free energies ( $\Delta G$ ) of neutral  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV and cation radical  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV $^{\bullet+}$  using B2PLYPD3/BS2+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>)//DFT/BS1+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>) level to theory (in kcal/mol).

	$\omega$ B97XD	CAM-B3LYP-D3BJ	M062X
$^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV			
1 (open)	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]
2 (closed)	0.6 (0.4) [2.1]	0.3 (0.2) [1.5]	1.7 (1.3) [3.9]
3	8.4 (8.4) [8.4]	8.7 (8.7) [8.7]	8.5 (8.5) [8.5]
$^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV $^{\bullet+}$			
1 (open)	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]
2 (closed)	-9.0 (-9.1) [-7.7]	-9.4 (-9.5) [-8.1]	-8.8 (-8.9) [-7.3]
3	7.5 (7.0) [10.7]	4.9 (4.8) [5.5]	10.8 (10.8) [11.4]

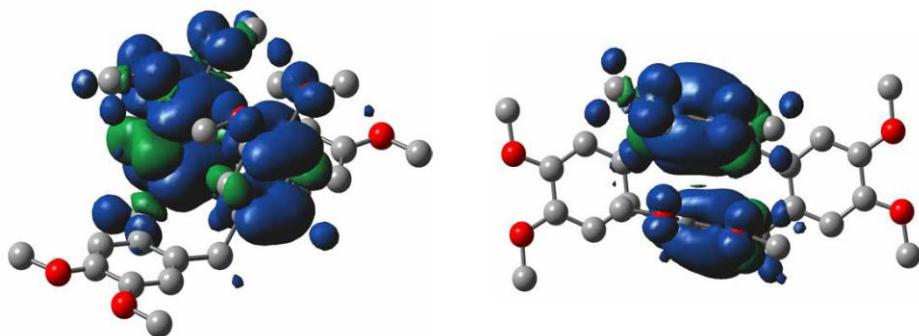
**Table S5.** The calculated relative energies ( $\Delta E + ZPE$ ), enthalpies ( $\Delta H$ ) and free energies ( $\Delta G$ ) of cation radical  $^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV $^{\bullet+}$  using  $\omega$ B97XD/BS1+PCM level to theory employing CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>CN and MeOH solvents (in kcal/mol).

$^{O\text{-}alt}$ CTTV $^{\bullet+}$	CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	MeOH
1 (open)	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]	0.0 (0.0) [0.0]
2 (closed)	-13.2 (-13.2) [-12.0]	-12.7 (-12.8) [-11.4]	-13.6 (-13.7) [-12.3]	-13.6 (-13.7) [-12.1]
3	-3.2 (-4.1) [0.7]	-2.7 (-3.2) [0.5]	-3.4 (-3.8) [-0.2]	-3.1 (-3.7) [-0.3]

**Figure S10.** The calculated spin density (isovalue 0.0004) of *O<sup>-alt</sup>*CTTV<sup>+</sup> cation radical closed conformer using  $\omega$ B97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>) side (left) and top (right) views.



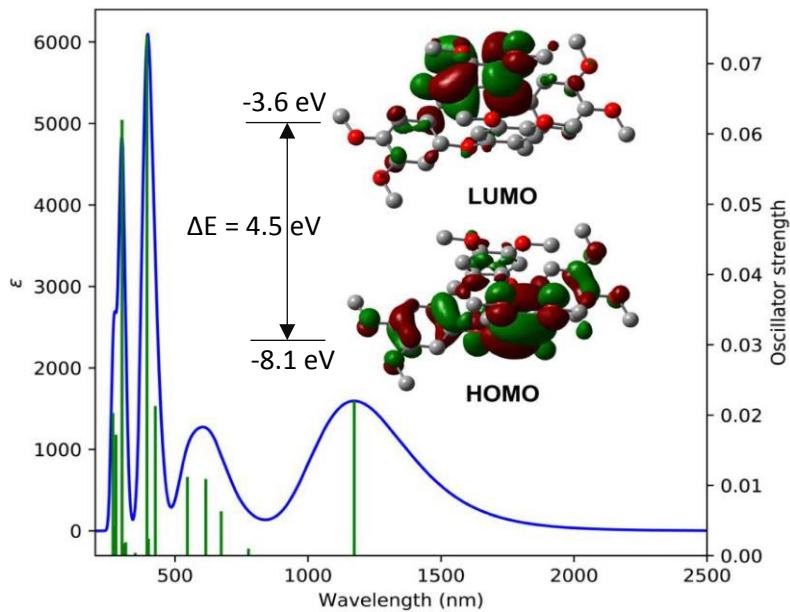
**Figure S11.** The calculated spin density (isovalue 0.0004) of CTTV<sup>+</sup> cation radical closed conformer using  $\omega$ B97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>) side (left) and top (right) views.



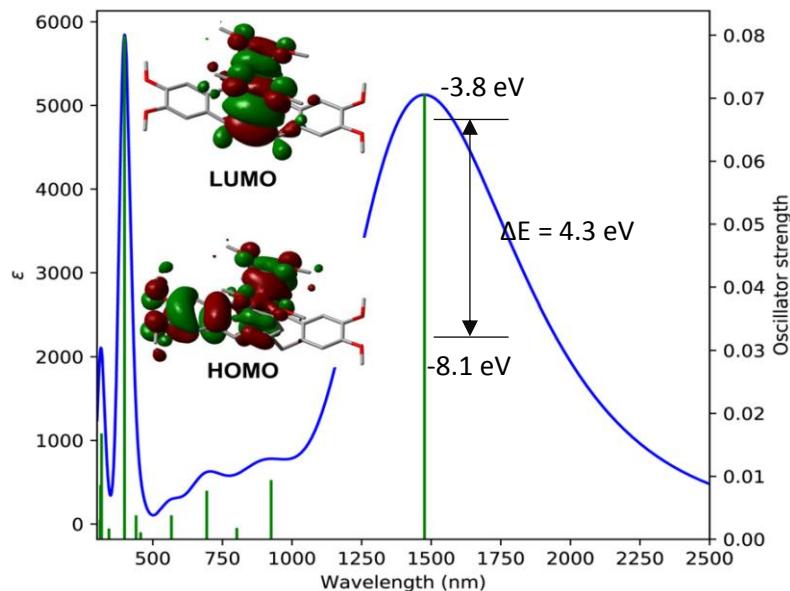
**Table S6.** Comparison of the calculated center-to-center distance (in Å) of cofacially veratrole moieties and the predicted UV-Vis band (in nm) in the near-IR region (NIR) of *O<sup>-alt</sup>*CTTV<sup>+</sup> with experimental data. All calculated values are from the totally optimized geometries using BS1 and PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

	$\omega$ B97XD	CAM-B3LYP-D3BJ	M062X	Experimental
Center-to-center (Å)	3.44	3.46	3.41	3.43
Wavelength (nm)	1173.5	1213.0	1286.0	1850
Wavenumber (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	8521.2	8244.0	7776.0	5405.4

**Figure S12.** The simulated UV-Vis-NIR spectrum of *O<sup>-alt</sup>*CTTV cation radical closed conformer using ωB97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The isovalue for HOMO and LUMO is 0.02. The calculated peak in the near-IR region is 1173.5 nm with the oscillator strength of 0.022 which the major contribution (96%) is from HOMO→LUMO.

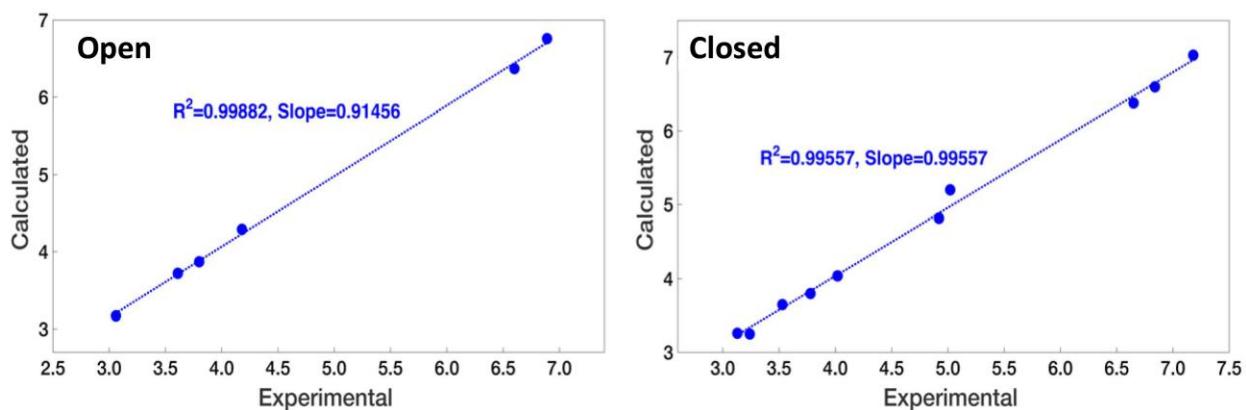


**Figure S13.** The simulated UV-Vis-NIR spectrum of CTTV cation radical closed conformer using ωB97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The isovalue for HOMO and LUMO is 0.02. The calculated peak in the near-IR region is 1476.2 nm with the oscillator strength of 0.071 which the major contribution (53%) is from HOMO→LUMO.



**Table S7.** Comparison of the experimental and calculated (scaled using TMS, see computational details)  $^1\text{H}$  chemical shifts of open and closed conformers of  $^{o\text{-}alt}\text{CTTV}$  using  $\omega\text{B97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl}_3$ .

Open		Closed	
Experimental	Calculated	Experimental	Calculated
6.76	6.89	7.03	7.18
6.37	6.60	6.60	6.84
4.29	4.18	6.38	6.65
3.87	3.80	5.20	5.02
3.72	3.61	4.82	4.92
3.17	3.06	4.04	4.02
		3.80	3.78
		3.65	3.53
		3.25	3.24
		3.26	3.13



**Figure S14.** Linear correlation of experimental and calculated  $^1\text{H}$  chemical shifts of open and closed conformers of  $^{o\text{-}alt}\text{CTTV}$  using  $\omega\text{B97XD/BS1+PCM(CHCl}_3$ .

## S8. References

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