

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Exceptionally Strong Effect of Small Structural Variations in Functionalized 3,4-Phenylenedioxythiophenes on the Surface Nanostructure and Parahydrophobic Properties of Their Electropolymerized Films

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## Experimental Part

### General

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded either on a Bruker Avance 400 or Bruker Avance 500 instruments in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , operating at 400 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) / 100 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) and 500 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) / 125 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ), respectively. Tetramethylsilane (TMS) ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$ ,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  = 0.00 ppm) was used as an internal standard. Electron impact mass spectra (positive mode, EI+) were recorded on a GC-MS system consisting of a HP 5890 gas chromatograph (Hewlett Packard Series II) with a HP 8971 EI-MS detector, operating at 70 keV, or on microTOF LC Bruker Daltonics mass spectrometer. Electrospray (ESI+) mass spectra were recorded on Thermo Finnigan LCQ DECA ion-trap mass spectrometer. MALDI mass-spectra were recorded at the EPSRC National Mass Spectrometer Facility (NMSF), Swansea, UK.

Microwave-assisted reactions were performed on a CEM Discovery SP microwave reactor equipped with an autosampler in temperature-controlled dynamic conditions.

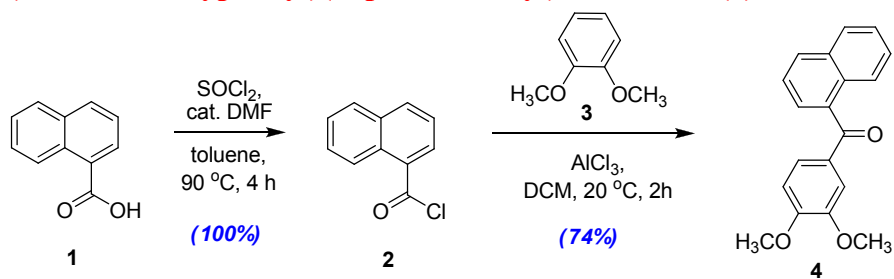
Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using Merck TLC silica gel 60 UV-254 aluminium sheets. Purification of synthesized compounds by flash chromatography was performed on Teledyn ISCO Combiflash Rf 200 flash chromatograph on silica gel 40–60  $\mu\text{m}$  (40–250 mesh).

### DFT calculations

Computational studies were carried out using density functional theory (DFT) with the Gaussian 09 package of programs.<sup>1</sup> The geometries of **1Na-PheDOT**, **2Na-PheDOT** and **9Ant-PheDOT** monomers, and **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** dimer were fully optimized for isolated molecules in a gas phase, with no constraints. Becke's three-parameter hybrid exchange functional<sup>2,3</sup> with the Lee–Yang–Parr gradient-corrected correlation functional (B3LYP)<sup>4</sup> and Pople's 6-31G split valence basis set supplemented by d-polarization functions for heavy atoms were employed.

### Synthesis

#### (3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)(naphthalen-1-yl)methanone (**4**)



**Step 1:** In 250 mL three-neck round bottom flask, 1-naphthoic acid (**1**) (20.04 g, 116 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in toluene (90 mL). To this solution,  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (13 mL, 180 mmol, 1.5 eq.) and catalytic amount of *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) (3 drops) were added and the mixture was heated with stirring at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 hours. The mixture was cooled to warm temperature and toluene and an excess of thionyl chloride were distilled off in vacuum (ca. 20 mbar; heating the mixture at the end to  $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$  to evaporate all volatiles to dryness). The residual 1-naphthoyl chloride (**2**) (22.2 g, 100%; off-white solid) was used in the next step without further purification and characterization.

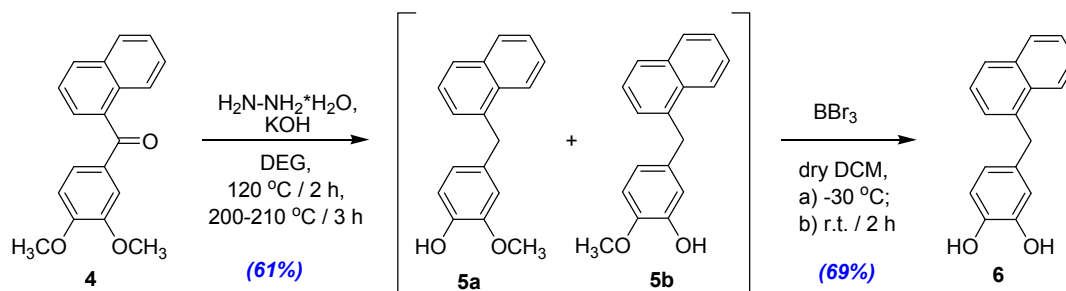
**Step 2:** In 1 L three-neck round bottom flask under nitrogen atmosphere, the obtained 1-naphthoyl chloride (**2**) was dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (DCM) (600 mL) and 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (16 mL, 125 mmol, 1.08 eq.) was added. The stirred mixture was cooled to 0 °C and anhydrous AlCl<sub>3</sub> (18.8 g, 141 mmol, 1.21 eq.) was added in portions over 5–10 minutes, keeping the temperature between 0 and +10 °C. The mixture was allowed warm slowly to room temperature, stirred at room temperature for 1 hour and then stirred under reflux for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, diluted HCl (≈ 1 M concentration; 250 mL) was slowly added to the stirred mixture (*Caution: add HCl slowly in the beginning; the reaction is exothermic, with a gas evolution*), DCM layer was separated and aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 × 150 mL). Combined organic layers were washed with saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (150 mL), dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was dried *in vacuo* (to remove an excess of 1,2-dimethoxybenzene) affording crude product (33.8 g, 99 %) as a viscous orange-brown oil. The crude product was dissolved in DCM and passed through silica gel column (D×H ≈ 4.5 × 9 cm), which was then washed with DCM (800 mL). Solvent evaporation gave crude product (31.6 g, 92.8%) as light-yellow semi-solid. It was recrystallized from a minimum amount of methanol to afford pure compound **4** (25.08 g, 74%) as colorless crystals.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ [ppm] = 7.99 (2H, t, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 7.91 (1H, d, *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.66 (1H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 7.58–7.45 (4H, m), 7.28 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.3, 1.9 Hz), 6.81 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 3.95 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>)

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ [ppm] = 196.76 (C=O), 153.65, 149.14, 136.94, 133.67, 131.19, 130.96, 130.66, 128.34, 127.01, 126.81, 126.42, 126.38, 125.74, 124.38, 111.44, 109.82, 56.11 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 56.07 (OCH<sub>3</sub>)

MS (EI<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* = 292.10 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100 %); calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>3</sub>: 292.11.

#### 4-(Naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)benzene-1,2-diol (**6**)



**Step 1:** In 500 mL round bottom flask, 1-naphthoyl-3,4-dimethoxybenzene (22.1 g, 76 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in diethylene glycol (DEG) (150 mL) with slight heating. To this solution, hydrazine hydrate (60% N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> in H<sub>2</sub>O; 30 mL, 370 mmol, 4.9 eq.) and KOH (19.2 g, 340 mmol, 4.5 eq.) were added and the mixture was stirred with heating at 120 °C for 2 hours. The temperature was raised to 190 °C with distilling off the volatiles (water, an excess of hydrazine and, partially, DEG). The mixture was stirred at 200–210 °C for 3 hours, cooled down to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with DCM several times. Combined DCM extracts were washed with diluted HCl, then with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to dryness to afford crude product (16.32 g, 77.5%) as a brown oil. The crude product was dissolved in minimum amount of toluene and purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting the product with toluene to afford (after solvent evaporation) pure compound **5** (12.2 g, 61%) as yellowish solid. According to <sup>1</sup>H NMR, it represents a mixture of two demethylated regioisomers **5a** and **5b** (in ~ 1:1 ratio). So, apart of reduction of carbonyl group in Wolff-Kishner reaction, partial demethylation occurred during the heating of an intermediate hydrazone in an alkali conditions at high temperature.

### Compounds (5a+5b):

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, TMS, 5120 scans):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.05–7.95 (2H, m, naphthalene), 7.88–7.81 (2H, m, naphthalene), 7.78–7.71 (2H, m, naphthalene), 7.50–7.37 (6H, m, naphthalene), 7.32–7.26 (2H, m, naphthalene), 6.84–6.62 (6H, m, benzene), [5.52 + 5.47] (2H, s, 2×OH), [4.37 + 4.35] (4H, s, 2×CH<sub>2</sub>), [3.84 + 3.78] (6H, s, 2×OCH<sub>3</sub>).

MS (EI<sup>+</sup>):  $m/z$  = 264.15 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100 %); calcd. for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 264.12.

**Step 2:** Under nitrogen atmosphere, in 500 mL three-neck round bottom flask equipped with stirring bar, thermometer, bubbler and dropping funnel, the above product (5a+5b) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (350 mL). The solution was cooled down to –30 °C and, with stirring, a solution of BBr<sub>3</sub> (17.0 mL, 179 mmol, 4.08 eq.) in anhydrous DCM (50 mL) was added dropwise over 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for two hours. The mixture was quenched with water (350 mL) (*caution: in the beginning, add water dropwise and slowly, with continuing stirring*) and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was saturated with sodium chloride, DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM (4 × 150 mL). Combined DCM layers were washed with sodium chloride solution (2 × 500 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated to yield crude compound **6** (8.60 g, 78 %) as a grey crystalline solid. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda$  = 304 and 318 nm) eluting with using DCM:Et<sub>2</sub>O = 1:1 v/v to afford pure compound **6** (7.96 g, yield 69% in the step (B), 40 % overall yield in two steps) as a grey crystalline solid.

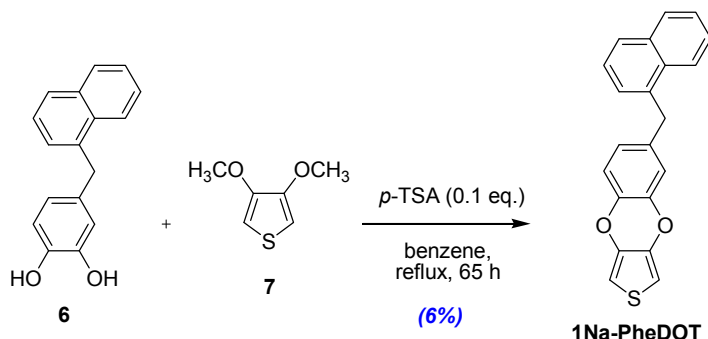
TLC:  $R_f$  = 0.88 (Et<sub>2</sub>O); 0.80 (EtOAc); 0.20 (DCM).

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.98–7.95 (1H, m, naphthalene H-4/5), 7.86–7.84 (1H, m, naphthalene H-5/4), 7.75 (1H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, naphthalene H-8), 7.46–7.39 (3H, m, naphthalene H-3,6,7), 7.29 (1H, d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, naphthalene H-2), 6.77 (1H, d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, benzene H-5), 6.68–6.65 (2H, m, benzene H-3,6), 5.00 (1H, s, OH), 4.99 (2H, s, OH), 4.34 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 143.42, 141.69, 136.73, 133.95, 133.88, 132.10, 128.65, 127.27, 127.16, 125.96, 125.56, 125.54, 124.30, 121.25, 115.78, 115.38, 38.36.

MS (EI<sup>+</sup>):  $m/z$  = 250.09 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100 %); calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 250.10.

### 6-(Naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)benzo[b]thieno[3,4-e]-[1,4]dioxine (1Na-PheDOT)



Under nitrogen atmosphere, 3,4-dimethoxythiophene (**7**) (2.04 g, 13.9 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 4-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)benzene-1,2-diol (**6**) (8.00 g, 32.0 mmol, 2.30 eq.), *p*-toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate (270 mg, 1.40 mmol, 0.10 eq.) and benzene (80 mL) were placed into a 250 mL one-neck round bottom flask equipped with a Soxhlett extractor with an extraction thimble, containing molecular sieves (4Å). The reaction mixture was refluxed (oil bath, 100 °C) for 65 hours. After cooling to room temperature,

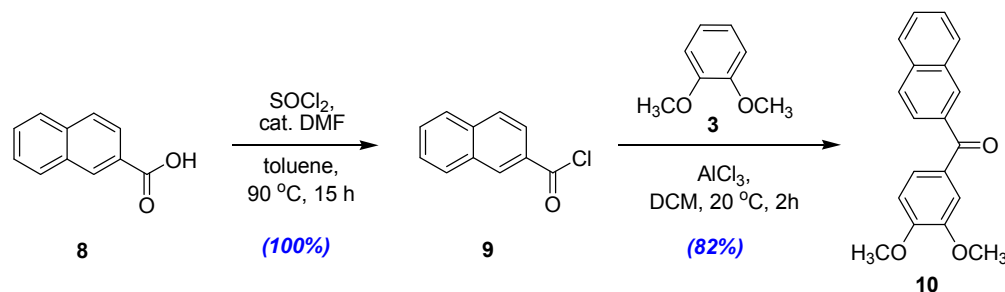
the mixture was filtered through silica gel column (D×H = 4.5 × 8 cm) and eluted with toluene (450 mL). The solvent was evaporated to dryness to yield crude compound (1.36 g, 30%) as a brown oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 284, 305$  nm) using PE:DCM = 1:0.6 v/v as an eluent to afford pure compound **1Na-PheDOT** (279 mg, 6%) as a white crystalline solid.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.95–7.93 (1H, m, naphthalene H-4/5), 7.87–7.85 (1H, m, naphthalene H-5/4), 7.77 (1H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, naphthalene H-8), 7.47–7.41 (3H, m, naphthalene H-3,6,7), 7.30 (1H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, naphthalene H-2), 6.83–6.76 (2H, m, benzene H-5,6), 6.72 (1H, s, benzene H-3), 6.40 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophene H-2/5), 6.37 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophene H-2/5), 4.35 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>).

**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 140.68, 139.15, 139.11, 136.56, 136.08, 133.99, 131.99, 128.73, 128.73, 127.39, 127.35, 126.07, 125.64, 125.54, 124.13, 123.71, 116.86, 116.61, 100.85, 100.79, 38.27.

**MS (EI<sup>+</sup>)**:  $m/z = 330.11$  (M<sup>+</sup>, 100 %); calcd. for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 330.07.

### (3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)(naphthalen-2-yl)methanone (**10**)<sup>[5]</sup>

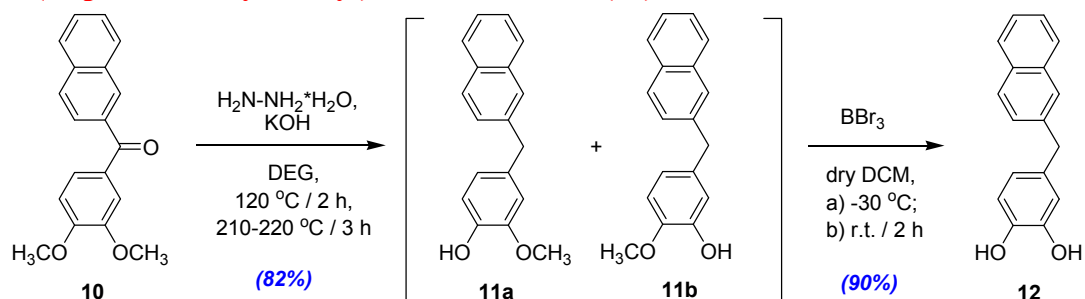


**Step 1:** In 250 mL three-neck round bottom flask, 2-naphthoic acid (**8**) (20.58 g, 120 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in toluene (90 mL). To this solution, SOCl<sub>2</sub> (13 mL, 180 mmol, 1.5 eq.) and catalytic amounts of *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) (3 drops) were added and the mixture was heated with stirring at 90 °C overnight. An excess of SOCl<sub>2</sub> and toluene were distilled off in vacuum (ca. 20 mbar; heating the mixture at the end to ~100 °C to evaporate all the volatiles to dryness). The residual 2-naphthoyl chloride (**9**) (22.78 g, 100%; off-white solid) was used in the next step without further purification and characterization.

**Step 2:** In 1 L three-neck round bottom flask under nitrogen atmosphere, the obtained 1-naphthoyl chloride (**9**) was dissolved in anhydrous dichloromethane (DCM) (600 mL) and 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (17.8 mL, 140 mmol, 1.16 eq.) was added. The stirred mixture was cooled to 0 °C and anhydrous AlCl<sub>3</sub> (18.2 g, 136 mmol, 1.14 eq.) was added in portions over 5–10 minutes, keeping the temperature between 0 and +10 °C. The mixture was allowed warm slowly to room temperature, stirred at room temperature for 1 hour and then stirred under reflux for 24 hours. After cooling to room temperature, diluted HCl (~ 1 M concentration; 250 mL) was slowly added to the stirred mixture (*caution: do it slowly in the beginning; the reaction is exothermic, with a gas evolution*), DCM layer was separated and aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3 × 150 mL). Combined organic layers were washed with saturated Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (150 mL), dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated dryness affording crude product (36.7 g, >100 %) as a viscous light-brown semi-solid. The crude product was recrystallized from ethanol to yield pure product **10** (28.73 g, 82%) as light beige solid.

**<sup>1</sup>H-NMR** (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.23 (1H, s), 7.89 (4H, m), 7.57 (1H, m), 7.52 (2H, m), 7.42 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 6.89 (1H, d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>).

#### 4-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)benzene-1,2-diol (**12**)<sup>5</sup>



**Step 1:** In 500 mL round bottom flask, 1-naphthoyl-3,4-dimethoxybenzene (**10**) (18.78 g, 64.2 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in diethylene glycol (DEG) (150 mL) with slight heating. To this solution, hydrazine hydrate (60%  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ; 25 mL, 305 mmol, 4.8 eq.) and  $\text{KOH}$  (19.2 g, 340 mmol, 4.5 eq.) were added and the mixture was stirred with heating at  $120\text{--}130\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 hours. The temperature was raised to  $170\text{--}180\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with distilling off the volatiles (water, an excess of hydrazine and, partially, DEG). The mixture was then stirred at  $210\text{--}220\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 hours, cooled down to room temperature, diluted with water and extracted with DCM several times. Combined DCM extracts were washed with diluted  $\text{HCl}$ , then with water, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and evaporated to dryness to afford crude product (16.85 g) as a brown oil. The crude product was dissolved (suspended) in DCM, loaded on the top of a silicagel column ( $\text{D} \times \text{H} = 4.5 \times 9\text{ cm}$ ) and eluted with DCM (700 mL) to afford pure product **11** (12.21 g, 72%) as yellowish solid. According to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, it represents a mixture of two demethylated isomers **11a** and **11b** (ca. 2:3 ratio), so apart of reduction of the carbonyl group in Wolff-Kishner reaction, partial demethylation occurred during the heating of an intermediate hydrazone in basic conditions at high temperature.

#### Compounds (**11a**+**11b**):

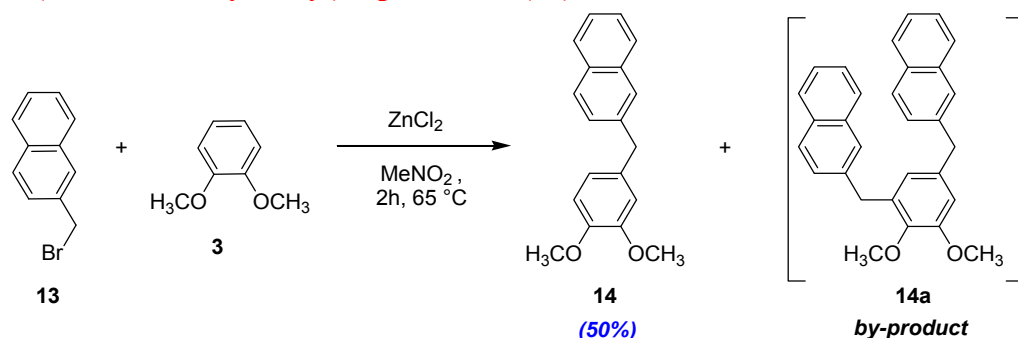
$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS, 5120 scans):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.85–7.66 (6H, m, naphthalene), 7.60–7.53 (2H, m, naphthalene), 7.49–7.35 (4H, m, naphthalene), 7.35–7.26 (2H, m, naphthalene), 6.80–6.65 (6H, m, benzene), [5.55 + 5.49] (2H, s,  $2 \times \text{OH}$ ), [4.06 + 4.03] (4H, s,  $2 \times \text{CH}_2$ ), [3.84 + 3.79] (6H, s,  $2 \times \text{OCH}_3$ ).

MS ( $\text{EI}^+$ ):  $m/z$  = 264.17 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$ : 264.12.

**Step 2:** Under nitrogen atmosphere, in 1 L three-neck round bottom flask equipped with stirring bar, thermometer, bubbler and dropping funnel. the above product (**11a**+**11b**) was dissolved in anhydrous DCM (450 mL). The solution was cooled down to  $-25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and, with stirring, a solution of  $\text{BBr}_3$  (16.7 mL, 176 mmol, 4.00 eq.) in anhydrous DCM (100 mL) was added dropwise over 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for two hours. The mixture was quenched with water (350 mL) (*caution: in the beginning, add water dropwise and slowly, with continuing stirring*) and stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. The mixture was saturated with sodium chloride, DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $6 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ). Combined DCM layers were washed with sodium chloride solution ( $3 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to dryness. Crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: DCM / DCM: $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) to afford pure compound **12** (10.47 g, yield 90% in the step (B), 65 % overall yield in two steps) as a off-white solid.

$^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS, 5120 scans):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.82–7.72 (3H, m, naphthalene), 7.61 (1H, s, naphthalene), 7.48–7.39 (2H, m, naphthalene), 7.30 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.0\text{ Hz}$ , naphthalene), 6.79 (1H, d,  $J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ , benzene), 6.73–6.65 (2H, m, benzene), 5.06 (1H, s, OH), 5.02 (1H, s, OH), 4.03 (2H, s  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

## 2-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzyl)naphthalene (**14**)



1,2-Dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (4.13 g, 29.9 mmol, 2.95 eq.), anhydrous  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  (1.51 g, 11.1 mmol, 1.09 eq.) and anhydrous nitromethane (100 mL) were placed into a 250 mL two-neck round bottom flask under nitrogen. To this mixture, 2-(bromomethyl)naphthalene (**13**) (2.238 g, 10.1 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was added and the mixture was stirred for two hours at  $64^\circ\text{C}$ . Nitromethane was evaporated under reduced pressure, DCM (50 mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (100 mL) were added to the reaction flask and the mixture was left to stir overnight. The DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $2 \times 30$  mL). Combined DCM layers were washed with water ( $3 \times 30$  mL), dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, the solvent was evaporated and the residue was dried *in vacuo* (at 0.02 mbar; to remove an excess 1,2-dimethoxybenzene) to afford crude compound **14** (2.54 g, 90 %) as a brown oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 300$  nm) using gradient eluent PE:DCM (start with PE, by-products are removed with PE:DCM = 1:1, then target product is eluted with PE:DCM = gradient from 1:1 to 1:2) to yield almost pure compound **14** (1.43 g, 50 %) as a light brownish oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.81–7.67 (3H, m, naphthalene H-4,5,8), 7.61 (1H, s, naphthalene H-1), 7.47–7.40 (2H, m, naphthalene H-6,7), 7.31 (1H, d,  $J = 9.9$  Hz, naphthalene H-3), 6.82–6.75 (3H, m, benzene), 4.09 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.86 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.81 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ).

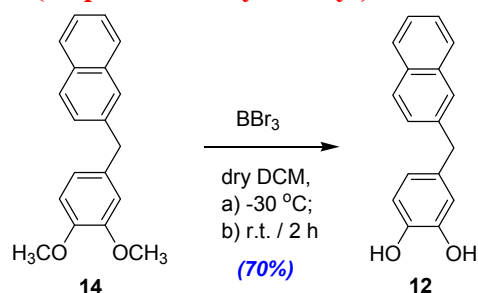
$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 149.00, 147.50, 138.89, 133.62, 133.53, 132.12, 128.06, 127.64, 127.57, 127.54, 126.92, 125.99, 125.35, 121.06, 112.34, 111.25, 55.93, 55.84, 41.68.

MS ( $\text{EI}^+$ ):  $m/z = 278.14$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ : 278.13.

It was also found that dialkylation occurs during the reaction to form by-product **14a**, which was identified by MS. With PE:DCM the spots of **14** and **14a** partly overlap, so the target product **14** was partly contaminated with dialkylated product **14a** (~ 7%), but they can be better separated using toluene as an eluent.

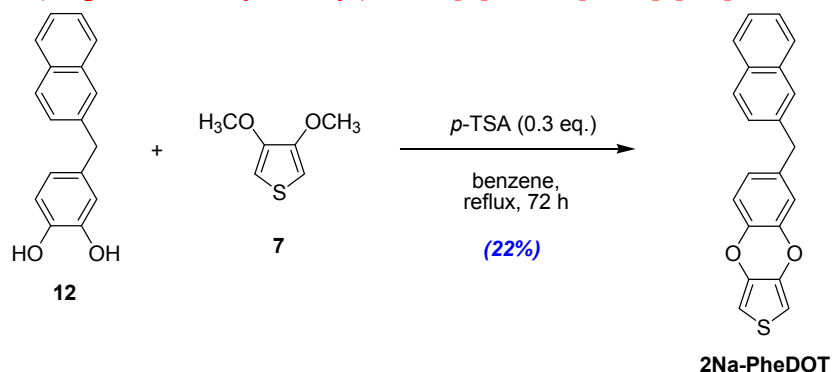
**Compound 14a:** MS ( $\text{EI}^+$ ):  $m/z = 418.16$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_2$ : 418.19.

## 4-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)benzene-1,2-diol (**12**)



Compound **12** can be obtained by demethylation of dimethoxy-derivative **14** with  $\text{BBr}_3$  in similar conditions described above for a mixture of (**11a**+**11b**) with the yield of 70%.

### 6-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)benzo[b]thieno[3,4-e]-[1,4]dioxine, (2Na-PheDOT)



This compound was obtained by us previously by the same reaction within the yield of 5 %.<sup>5</sup> With the below procedure, the yield was increased to 22%.

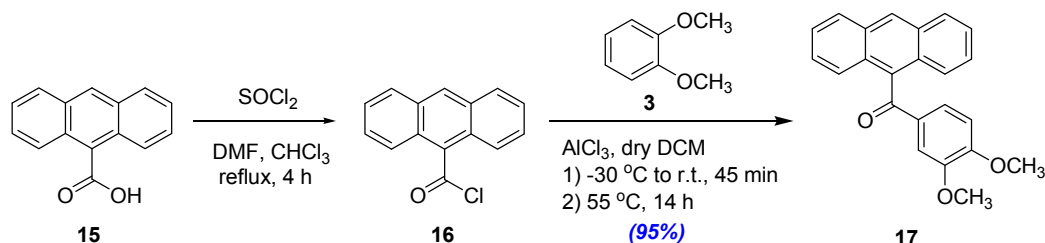
4-(Naphthalen-2-ylmethyl)benzene-1,2-diol (**12**) (10.87g, 43.4 mmol, 3.00 eq.), 3,4-dimethoxythiophene (**7**) (2.10 g, 14.5 mmol, 1.00 eq.), *p*-toluene sulfonic acid monohydrate (832 mg, 4.30 mmol, 0.30 eq.) and benzene (75 mL) were placed into a 250 mL one-neck round bottom flask, under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux for 3 days (oil bath 100 °C). After cooling to room temperature, the dark brown solution was passed through a silica gel column (4 × 7.5 cm), which was then washed with toluene (~350 mL). The solvent was evaporated to yield crude compound **2Na-PheDOT** (1.52 g, 31.7%) as a brown oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 280, 300$  nm) using PE:DCM/1:1 v/v as an eluent to afford pure compound **2Na-PheDOT** (1.04 g, 22 %) as a white crystalline solid.

TLC:  $R_f = 0.65$  (DCM:PE/1:1), 0 (PE).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 7.85–7.72 (3H, m), 7.61 (1H, br.s.), 7.50–7.37 (2H, m), 7.29 (1H, d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz), 6.84 (1H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz), 6.82–6.75 (2H, m), 6.40 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophene H-2/5), 6.38 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophenes H-5/2), 4.04 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 7.82–7.72 (3H, m), 7.61 (1H, br.s.), 7.48–7.38 (2H, m), 7.29 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.4 = 1.6$  Hz), 6.84 (1H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz), 6.82–6.73 (2H, m), 6.40 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophenes H-2/5), 6.38 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophenes H-5/2), 4.04 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>).

### Anthracene-9-yl(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (**17**)



**Step 1:** Under nitrogen, 9-anthracenecarboxylic acid (**15**) (10.3 g, 46.3 mmol, 1.00 eq.), SO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20.0 mL, 276 mmol, 6.0 eq.), DMF (four drops; as catalyst) and chloroform (100 mL) were placed into a 500 mL three-neck round bottom flask equipped with a reflux condenser, thermometer and an oil bubbler. The reaction mixture stirred under reflux for 4 hours (oil bath, 95 °C). Afterwards, chloroform and SOCl<sub>2</sub> were distilled off (oil bath, 120 °C) and the residual SOCl<sub>2</sub> was removed in vacuum (20 mbar, oil bath, 120 °C). The obtained yellow solid of anthracene-9-carbonyl chloride (**16**) (11.2 g, 100%) was used in the next step without purification.

**Step 2:** Under nitrogen, to the flask with obtained anthracene-9-carbonyl chloride (**16**) (11.2 g, 46.4 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (6.42 g, 46.6 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and anhydrous DCM (250 mL) were added. The solution was cooled down to  $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and anhydrous  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (6.47 g, 48.5 mmol, 1.05 eq.) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was brought to room temperature, stirred for 45 minutes and then refluxed for 14 hours. The mixture was cooled down to room temperature, diluted with 5% aqueous HCl (170 mL), stirred for one hour, the DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $2 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ). The combined DCM layers were washed with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (250 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (250 mL), dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to yield pure compound **17** (15.1 g, 95 %) as a yellow solid.

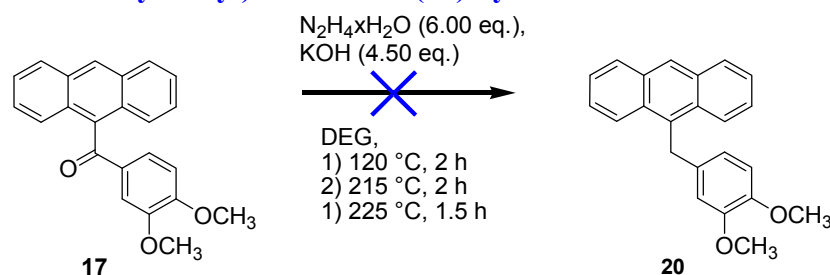
$R_f$  value: 0.43 (DCM); 0 (PE).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.55 (1H, s, anthracene H-10), 8.06 (2H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ , anthracene H-4,5), 7.81 (1H, s, benzene H-3), 7.75 (2H, d,  $J = 8.7\text{ Hz}$ , anthracene H-1,8), 7.47 (2H, t,  $J = 7.4\text{ Hz}$ , anthracene H-3,6), 7.39 (3H, t,  $J = 7.6\text{ Hz}$ , anthracene H-2,7), 7.01 (1H, d (br.),  $J = 7.9\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-6), 6.67 (1H, d,  $J = 8.3\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-5), 3.97 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.88 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 198.71, 154.12, 149.42, 134.33, 131.59, 131.06, 128.71, 128.59, 128.14, 126.90, 126.42, 125.48, 110.31, 110.17, 56.10.

$\text{MS (EI}^+)$ :  $m/z = 342.08$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$ : 342.13.

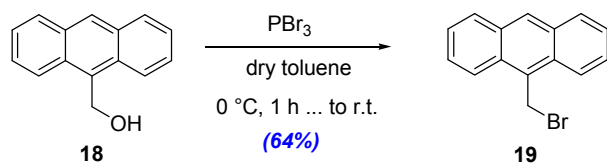
### Unsuccessful reduction of anthracene-9-yl(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (**17**) to 9-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)anthracene (**20**) by Wolff-Kishner reaction



While Wolff-Kishner reduction of carbonyl group by hydrazine in the presence of KOH works well and we successfully used it for reduction of naphthalene derivatives (see above), an attempt to apply this reaction to anthracene derivative **17** was unsuccessful giving a complex mixture of inseparable products. One side process in this case was an elimination of anthracene, which was isolated in 26% yield.

Anthracene-9-yl(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)methanone (**17**) (14.90 g, 43.5 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and hydrazine hydrate (13.0 g, 260 mmol, 6 eq.) were stirred in diethylene glycol (DGE) (150 mL) for 1 h until full dissolution. KOH (11.0 g, 196 mmol, 4.5 eq.) was added and the mixture was stirred at  $120\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 h. The temperature was increased to ca.  $200\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an excess of hydrazine and water were distilled off. The mixture was then stirred at  $215\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 h, and then at  $225\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for additional 1.5 h. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, diluted with water (400 mL) and acidified with concentrated HCl ( $\sim 22\text{ mL}$ ) to pH  $\sim 2$ . Toluene (200 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. Toluene layer was separated and aqueous phase was extracted with  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  ( $4 \times 150\text{ mL}$ ). Organic layers were combined, washed with water ( $3 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and filtered. Diethyl ether was evaporated and the residual toluene solution was passed through silicagel column, which was then washed with toluene to afford crude mixture of products (8.2 g). The crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column ( $\text{H} \times \text{D} = 25 \times 5\text{ cm}$ ) using toluene as an eluent. First isolated fraction was identified as pure anthracene (2.01 g, 26%). Following fractions represented a complex mixture, which was difficult to separate.

### 9-(Bromomethyl)anthracene (**19**)<sup>[6]</sup>

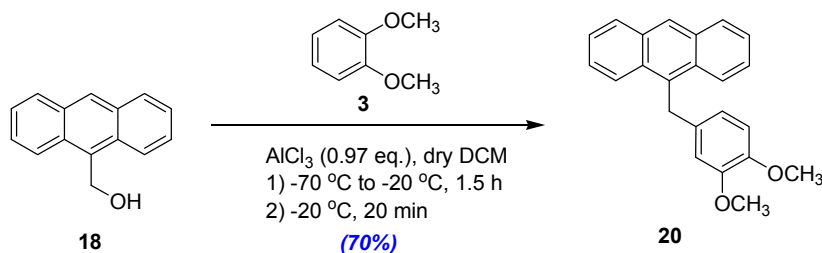


Under nitrogen, into a 1 L three-neck round bottom flask, anthracene-9-ylmethanol (**18**) (15.04 g, 72.2 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in toluene (400 mL) and the solution was cooled to  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . To this solution,  $\text{PBr}_3$  (9.0 mL, 95 mmol, 1.3 eq.) was added dropwise over 20 minutes and the mixture was stirred at  $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for one hour. The mixture was brought to room temperature and diluted with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (170 mL). The toluene layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with toluene ( $2 \times 50\text{ mL}$ ). Combined toluene layers were washed with water ( $2 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ) and then with brine (100 mL), dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, concentrated (by distilling off of some toluene) to a volume of  $\sim 150\text{ mL}$ , and left to crystallize overnight in a fridge at ca.  $+5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with cold toluene (50 mL) and dried to afford of pure 9-(bromomethyl)anthracene (**19**) (12.5 g, 64 %) as a yellow crystalline solid.

$R_f$  value: 0.83 (toluene).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.50 (1H, s, H-10), 8.31 (2H, d,  $J = 8.9\text{ Hz}$ , H-1,8), 8.04 (2H, d,  $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$ , H-4,5), 7.66–7.62 (2H, m, H-2,7), 7.50 (2H, t,  $J = 7.5\text{ Hz}$ , H-3,6), 5.55 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

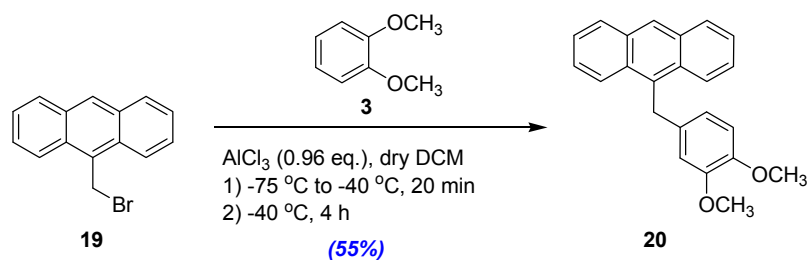
### 9-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzyl)anthracene (**20**)



#### Method A.

Under nitrogen, anthracene-9-ylmethanol (**18**) (510 mg, 2.50 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (402 mg, 2.90 mmol, 1.19 eq.) and anhydrous DCM (45 mL) were placed into a three-neck round bottom flask. The mixture was cooled to  $-70\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and anhydrous  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (318 mg, 2.40 mmol, 0.97 eq.) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to  $-45\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (30 min),  $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (30 min), and  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (30 min). It was stirred at  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 minutes, diluted slowly with 5% aqueous HCl (40 mL) and stirred for 15 minutes. The DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $2 \times 20\text{ mL}$ ). The combined DCM layers were washed with water ( $3 \times 40\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to dryness to afford crude product (830 mg,  $>100\%$ ) as a yellow solid. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (80 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380\text{ nm}$ ) using toluene as an eluent to yield pure compound **20** (550 mg, 70 %) as a yellow solid.

Its NMR spectra and coincide with the product **20** obtained from 9-(bromomethyl)anthracene (**19**) (see below).



### **Method B.**

Under nitrogen, 9-(bromomethyl)anthracene (**19**) (500 mg, 1.80 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (263 mg, 1.90 mmol, 1.03 eq.) and anhydrous DCM (45 mL) were placed into a 100 mL three-neck round bottom flask equipped with a thermometer, stirring bar, oil bubbler and a stopper. The mixture was cooled down to  $-75\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and anhydrous  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (236 mg, 1.80 mmol, 0.96 eq.) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up slowly to  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min, stirred at  $-40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 4 h and diluted slowly with 5% aqueous HCl (40 mL). The DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $2 \times 20\text{ mL}$ ). The combined DCM layers were washed with water ( $3 \times 40\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to dryness to afford crude product (705 mg, >100%) as a yellow semi-solid. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (12 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380\text{ nm}$ ) using toluene as an eluent to yield pure compound **20** (333 mg, 55 %) as a yellow crystalline solid.

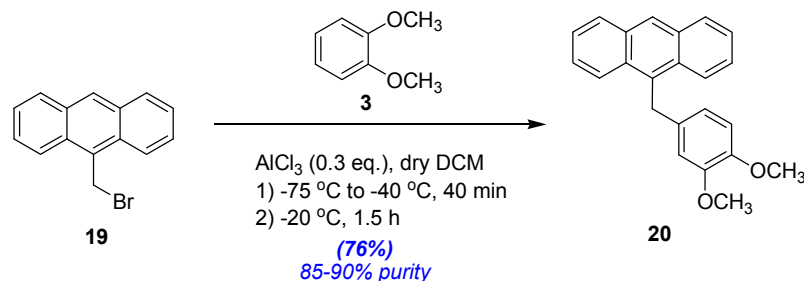
$R_f$  value: 0.7 (DCM); 0.65 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ); 0.3 (toluene).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.44 (1H, s, anthracene H-10), 8.24–8.22 (2H, m, anthracene H-4,5), 8.05–8.03 (2H, m, anthracene H-1,8), 7.48–7.45 (4H, m, anthracene H-2,3,6,7), 6.79 (1H, s, benzene H-3), 6.66 (1H, d,  $J = 8.2\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-5), 6.51 (1H, d,  $J = 8.2\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-6), 4.96 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.78 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.73 (3H, s,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 148.94, 147.29, 133.46, 131.99, 131.68, 130.55, 129.12, 126.53, 125.86, 124.93, 124.80, 120.02, 111.56, 111.25, 55.85, 55.80, 33.10.

MS ( $\text{EI}^+$ ):  $m/z = 328.09$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_2$ : 328.15.

### **Method C. Scaled-up synthesis.**

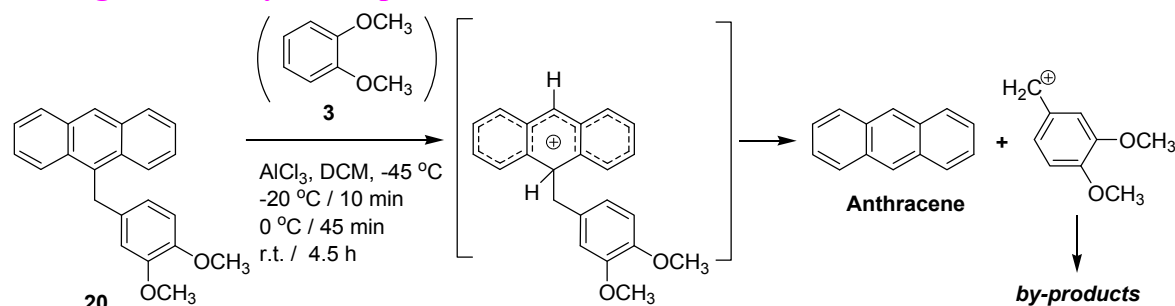


Under nitrogen, 9-(bromomethyl)anthracene (**19**) (10.91 g, 40.2 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (6.11 g, 44.2 mmol, 1.1 eq.) and anhydrous DCM (500 mL) were placed into 1 L three-neck round bottom flask. The mixture was cooled down to  $-75\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and anhydrous  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (1.61 g, 12.0 mmol, 0.3 eq.) was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was brought to  $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 40 min, stirred at  $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1.5 h, diluted slowly with 5% aqueous HCl (500 mL) and stirred for 1 h. The DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ). The combined DCM layers were washed with water ( $3 \times 80\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to dryness to afford crude product (14.2 g, >100%) as yellow-brown oil. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380\text{ nm}$ ) using toluene, eluting first anthracene (567 mg, 6.53%), following by partly purified (still crude) product (12.35 g, 93%). This crude product was additionally purified by flash chromatography

on silica gel (360 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380$  nm; eluent – toluene) to afford compound **20** (10.1 g, 76%) as yellow solid.

According to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, the purity of the sample is ca. 85–90% and it can be used in further synthesis of catechol **21** without further purification.

### Testing the stability of compound **20** in acidic conditions.



When synthesis of compound **20** was performed with warming up the reaction mixture at the end of the reaction to room temperature (before the quenching the mixture with water), the yield of the product was substantially lower. It was also found that some amount of anthracene was formed in the reaction (as monitored by TLC of the reaction mixture or by TLC analysis of the crude product). This assumes low stability of compound **22** in acidic conditions (in presence of  $\text{AlCl}_3$  as a Lewis acid). To check this supposition, we performed the experiment monitoring the transformations of the mixture of pure compound **20** with  $\text{AlCl}_3$  in dry DCM under nitrogen.

Under nitrogen, 9-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)anthracene (**20**) (20 mg, 0.061 mmol) and 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) (17.3 mg, 0.125 mmol) were dissolved in dry DCM (2 mL) and the mixture was cooled down to  $-45$  °C. Dry  $\text{AlCl}_3$  (8.2 mg, 0.061 mmol) was added in one portion and the mixture was stirred with stepwise increase of the temperature and monitoring the reaction by taking the probes for TLC analysis:

$-45$  °C (light yellowish solution) //  $-45$  °C to  $-20$  °C. / 10 min (light brownish solution),

$-20$  °C to  $0$  °C, 10 min (light brown solution) //  $0$  °C, 45 min (brown solution),

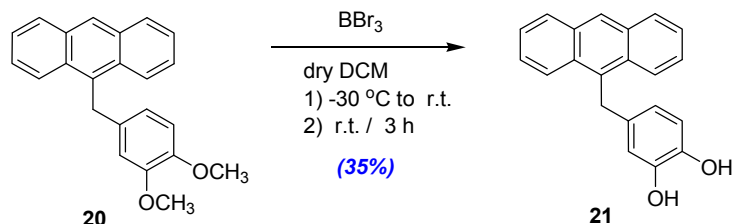
$0$  °C to  $+20$  °C, 10 min (brown solution) //  $+20$  °C, 4.5 h.

Some amount of anthracene was detected by TLC after stirring the reaction mixture at  $0$  °C for 30 min. The relative intensity of the anthracene spot was increased when the mixture was stirred at room temperature, with substantial amount of anthracene to be formed after 1.5–3 h.

This confirms that the target product **20**, obtained by Friedel-Crafts alkylation of 1,2-dimethoxybenzene (**3**) by 9-bromomethylantracene (**19**) is unstable in acidic conditions at room temperature. Therefore, the reaction temperature during alkylation should not exceed  $-20$ – $40$  °C (we failed the alkylation reaction when it was performed with heating and substantial amount of anthracene was detected by TLC in the crude product). This instability is more likely a Brønsted acid-catalyzed reaction: it starts as protonation of C-1 atom of anthracene to form carbocation, following by elimination of 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl cation and re-aromatization of the anthracene ring (other pathways with Lewis acid catalysis are also possible).

This also can (at least partly) explain the low yields of catechol **21** in the demethylation reaction of compound **20** with weaker Lewis acid  $\text{BBr}_3$ .

### 9-(3,4-dihydroxybenzyl)anthracene (**21**)



Under nitrogen, 9-(3,4-dimethoxybenzyl)anthracene (**20**) (7.74 g, 23.6 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and anhydrous DCM (240 mL) were placed into a 500 mL three-neck round bottom flask equipped with stirring bar, thermometer and an oil bubbler. The mixture was cooled to  $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  and a solution of  $\text{BBr}_3$  (9.0 mL, 95 mmol, 4.0 eq.) in anhydrous DCM (22 mL) was added dropwise over 20 minutes via syringe to the reaction flask. The mixture was allowed to warm up to room temperature and stirred for three hours. The reaction mixture was diluted slowly with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (300 mL) and stirred under nitrogen for 45 minutes. The DCM layer was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with DCM ( $3 \times 100\text{ mL}$ ). The combined DCM layers were washed with water ( $4 \times 200\text{ mL}$ ), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated to yield crude compound **21** (6.60 g, 93 %) as a grey-brown solid. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (220 g column, UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 390\text{ nm}$ ) using DCM as an eluent\* to afford pure catechol **21** (2.48 g, 35 %) as a off-white (light brownish) crystalline solid.

\* Repeated syntheses/purification showed that flash chromatography purification of this compound works better in a gradient eluent from toluene to toluene: $\text{Et}_2\text{O} = 4:1$  that gives analytically pure compound **21** as colorless crystalline solid..

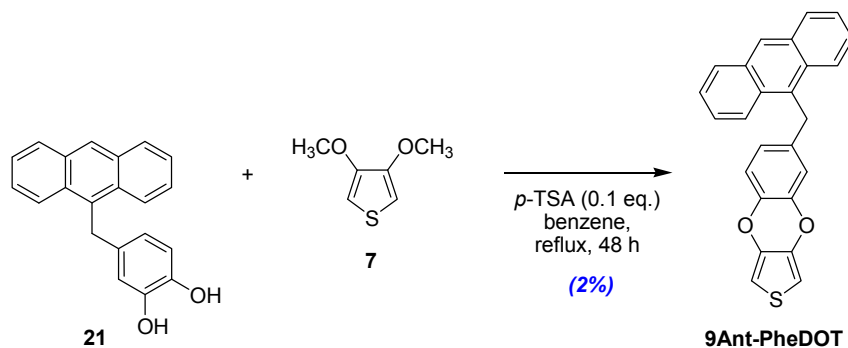
$R_f$  value: 0.68 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ), 0.58 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ :toluene = 1:1), 0.51 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ :toluene = 1:2), 0.24 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ :toluene = 1:4), 0.12 (DCM); 0.07 (toluene); 0.04 ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ :PE = 4:1); 0 (PE);

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , TMS):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.42 (1H, s, anthracene H-10), 8.22–8.17 (2H, m, anthracene H-4,5), 8.04–7.99 (2H, m, anthracene H-1,8), 7.47–7.42 (4H, m, anthracene H-2,3,6,7), 6.71 (1H, d,  $J = 8.2\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-6), 6.64 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.8\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-5), 6.50 (1H, d, dd,  $J = 1.7\text{ Hz}$ , benzene H-3), 4.91 (1H, s, OH), 4.88 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.84 (1H, s, OH).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 143.37, 141.61, 133.98, 132.00, 131.65, 130.46, 129.10, 126.50, 125.89, 124.92, 124.77, 120.69, 115.37, 115.20, 32.72.

$\text{MS (EI}^+)$ :  $m/z = 300.27$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2$ : 300.12.

### 6-(Anthracen-9-ylmethyl)benzo[b]thieno[3,4-e][1,4]dioxine



Under nitrogen atmosphere, 9-(3,4-dihydroxybenzyl)anthracene (**21**) (2.228 g, 7.42 mmol, 1.00 eq.), 3,4-dimethoxythiophene (**7**) (1.338 g, 9.28 mmol, 1.25 eq.) and  $p$ -toluenesulfonic acid monohydrate

(0.142 g, 0.742 mmol, 0.10 eq.) in benzene (18 mL) were heated under reflux for 48 hours (*initial yellow suspension was dissolved when heated to reflux and the mixture changed the color to dark brown during the reaction*). The solvent was removed under vacuum, the residue was transferred onto the column with silica gel (3 × 10 cm) and eluted with PE:toluene, 2:1 to afford crude product (857 mg, ~30 %) as yellow powder.

The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (120 g column; UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380$  nm). First fraction eluted with PE represents anthracene (598 mg, 45%). Further elution with gradient from PE to PE:toluene, 2:1 gave crude compound **9Ant-PheDOT** (123 mg, 4.4%) as yellow powder (~80% purity, according to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR). This product was purified again by flash chromatography ({80 g + 40 g} RediSep™ Gold columns 20–40  $\mu\text{m}$  spherical silica gel; UV-detection at  $\lambda = 285, 380$  nm; PE:toluene, 7:3) to afford pure compound **9Ant-PheDOT** (48 mg, 1.7 %) as light yellowish powder.

At the final step, compound **9Ant-PheDOT** can also be purified by recrystallization from refluxed DCM (cooling to 0 °C) to give analytically pure sample.

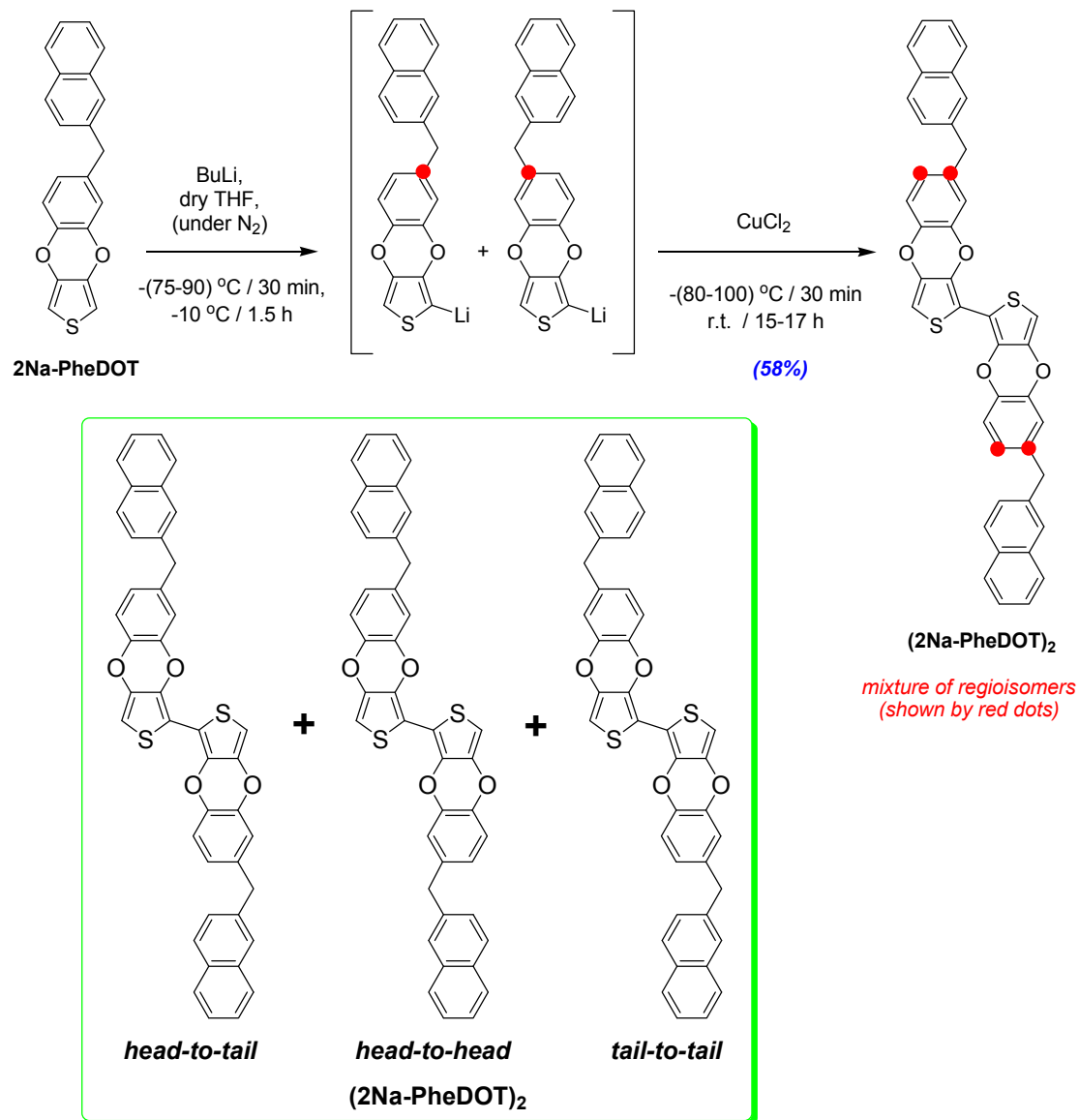
$R_f$  value: 0.46 (PE:toluene = 2:1).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.44 (1H, s, anthracene H-10), 8.24–8.11 (2H, m, anthracene H-4,5), 8.07–8.0 (2H, m, anthracene H-1,8), 7.54–7.41 (4H, m, anthracene H-2,3,6,7), 6.80–6.70 (2H, m, benzene H-5,6), 6.60 (1H, s, benzene H-3), 6.36 (1H, d,  $J = 3.6$  Hz, thiophene), 6.30 (1H, d,  $J = 3.56$  Hz, thiophene), 4.91 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ).

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) 140.71, 139.11, 139.04, 138.97, 136.76, 131.69, 131.28, 130.47, 129.22, 126.82, 126.08, 124.98, 124.55, 123.23, 116.65, 116.37, 100.80, 100.77, 32.64 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ).

MS ( $\text{EI}^+$ ):  $m/z = 380.09$  ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100 %); calcd. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_2\text{S}$ : 380.10.

## 2Na-PheDOT dimer, (2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>



**Synthesis 1:** Under nitrogen, 2Na-PheDOT (160 mg, 0.484 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and anhydrous THF (10 mL) were placed into a dry two-neck round bottom flask. The solution was stirred and cooled down to  $-(80 - 90)^\circ\text{C}$ , and n-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 0.34 mL, 0.544 mmol, 1.12 eq.) was added dropwise over 10 minutes to the reaction flask keeping the temperature in the range of  $-(75 - 80)^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction mixture was allowed to warm slowly to  $+10^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred at this temperature for an additional 1 h. The mixture was cooled again to  $-(80 - 90)^\circ\text{C}$ , anhydrous (oven dried at  $\sim 170^\circ\text{C}$ ) CuCl<sub>2</sub> (70 mg, 0.521 mmol, 1.08 eq.) was quickly added in one portion, the mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature and stirred at this temperature for 17 hours.

Tetrahydrofuran was removed by flushing nitrogen through the mixture, warm toluene (10 mL) was added to the residue and the mixture was filtered through short silica gel plug (3 cm height column) eluting the product with warm toluene ( $5 \times 10$  mL). The solvent was evaporated to yield crude product (100 mg, 62.9%) as a yellow powder. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (40 g silica gel column, eluents: PE (to remove by-products), then toluene, UV-detection at 295, 320 nm) to afford pure dimer (2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub> (60 mg, 38%) as a yellowish powder.

The solubility of the dimer (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>2</sub> is low, so column purification of a large quantity (while efficient) is problematic. The product can be more efficiently purified by recrystallization from benzene or toluene (after initial pre-purification on the short column), - depicted in Synthesis 2..

**Synthesis 2:** Under nitrogen, **2Na-PheDOT** (502 mg, 1.50 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and anhydrous THF (25 mL) were placed into a three-neck round bottom flask. The stirred solution was cooled to -90 °C and nBuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 1.00 mL, 1.60 mmol, 1.05 eq.) was added dropwise over 10 minutes to the reaction flask keeping the temperature of the reaction mixture at -(80 – 90) °C. The mixture was stirred at -(70 – 80) °C for 15 min, then allowed to warm slowly to -10 °C (ca. 1.5 h) and stirred at this temperature for 30 min. The mixture was again cooled to -100 °C and anhydrous (oven dried at ~170 °C) CuCl<sub>2</sub> (220 mg, 1.60 mmol, 1.08 eq.) was added in one portion. The mixture was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature and stirred for 15 hours (under nitrogen). Tetrahydrofuran was evaporated to dryness, water (25 mL) was added to the residue, the mixture was stirred for 30 min and the solid was filtered off, washed with hexane and dried *in vacuo* to yield crude product (567 mg) as a grey (light bluish) solid (the color is from traces of Cu salt).

The crude product was suspended in hot toluene, transferred onto a glass column with silica gel (D×H ~ 2×8 cm) and eluted with hot toluene (~500 mL). Toluene solution was concentrated to the volume of ca. 20 mL and left to crystallize. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with cold toluene (0.5 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford pure dimer (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>2</sub> (290 mg, 58%) as a white crystalline solid.

TLC:  $R_f$  = 0.75 (toluene); 0.23 (PE).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR\* (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) 7.85–7.72 (6H, m, naphthalene H-4,4',5,5',8,8'), 7.61 (2H, br.s., naphthalene H-1,1'), 7.50–7.38 (4H, m, naphthalene H-6,6',7,7'), 7.29 (2H, m, naphthalene H-3,3'), 6.97–6.70 (6H, m, benzene), [6.40 + 6.38 + 6.35] (2H in total, three singlets from the regioisomers, thiophene H-5,5'), [4.05 + 4.04] (4H in total, two singlets from the regioisomers, CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR\* (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) 140.56, 140.54, 140.50, 139.11, 139.05, 139.03, 138.67, 138.61, 138.55, 138.11, 138.05, 137.17, 137.15, 136.90, 136.87, 134.95, 134.81, 133.58, 132.15, 128.23, 127.64, 127.58, 127.56, 127.41, 127.40, 127.38, 127.08, 127.05, 126.08, 125.48, 125.47, 124.45, 124.12, 124.11, 117.52, 117.22, 117.20, 116.96, 116.93, 116.66, 109.89, 109.79, 109.72, 99.48, 99.40, [41.25 + 41.22] (CH<sub>2</sub>).

MS (EI+):  $m/z$  658.18 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100%); calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 658.13.

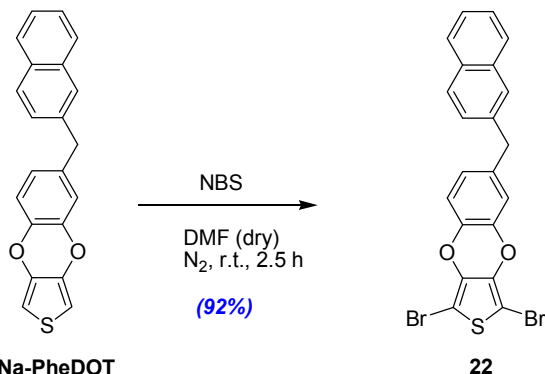
MS (ESI+):  $m/z$  659.3 (MH<sup>+</sup>, 100%); calcd for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 658.13.

Comments:

\* in <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, three thiophene peaks at [6.40 + 6.38 + 6.35] are of similar intensities. After recrystallization from benzene, the sample showed decreased intensities of the peaks at 6.40 and 6.35 ppm with respect to the intensity of the middle signal at 6.38, indicating that one of the regioisomer is of lower solubility and is crystallized first. The total integral of these three peaks are not changed on recrystallization and remains as 2H.

\*\* As the product is a mixture of regioisomers, the total numbers of carbon signals don't coincide with a single isomer structure.

### 1,3-Dibromo-6-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)benzo[b]thieno[3,4-e][1,4]dioxine (22)



Bromination of **2Na-PheDOT** was performed by *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS) in DMF, similar to bromination of unsubstituted **PheDOT**.<sup>7</sup>

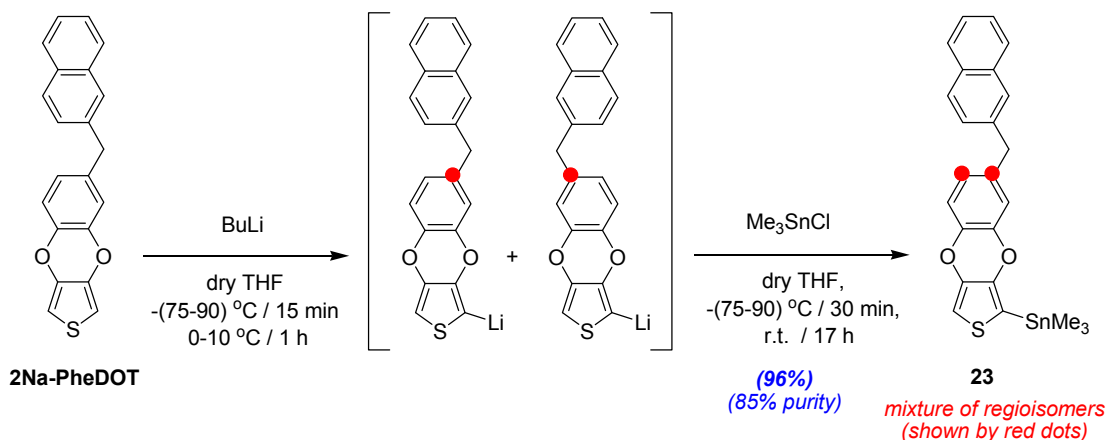
Under nitrogen, **2Na-PheDOT** (100.0 mg, 0.303 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in dry DMF (1 mL) and *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS) (115.3 mg, 0.648 mmol, 2.14 eq.) was added to the reaction mixture in one portion and stirred at room temperature 2.5 hours protecting from the light. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC on silica gel [eluent: PE:DCM = 2:1 v/v]. The resulting white precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with warm water (7 × 6 mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford pure compound **22** (134.5 mg, 92%) as a white powder.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) 7.85–7.75 (3H, m), 7.62 (1H, br.s.), 7.50–7.40 (2H, m), 7.28 (1H, d, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.95 (1H, d, *J* = 8.1 Hz), 6.88 (1H, s), 6.86 (1H, d, *J* = 9.4 Hz), 4.06 (2H, s, CH<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ (ppm) 139.71, 138.24, 137.78, 137.74, 137.45, 137.35, 133.58, 132.17, 128.30, 127.65, 127.55, 127.37, 127.16, 126.14, 125.56, 124.75, 117.36, 116.85, 86.94, 86.84, 41.22 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

MS (EI<sup>+</sup>): *m/z* 487.95 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100%, <sup>79</sup>Br/<sup>79</sup>Br), 489.92 (58.1%, <sup>79</sup>Br/<sup>78</sup>Br), 486.02 (48.5%, <sup>81</sup>Br/<sup>81</sup>Br); calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S: 487.89 (100%, <sup>79</sup>Br/<sup>79</sup>Br), 485.89 (51.4%, <sup>79</sup>Br/<sup>78</sup>Br), 489.89 (48.6%, <sup>81</sup>Br/<sup>81</sup>Br).

### Trimethyl(7-(naphthalen-1-ylmethyl)benzo[b]thieno[3,4-e][1,4]dioxin-1-yl)stannane (23)

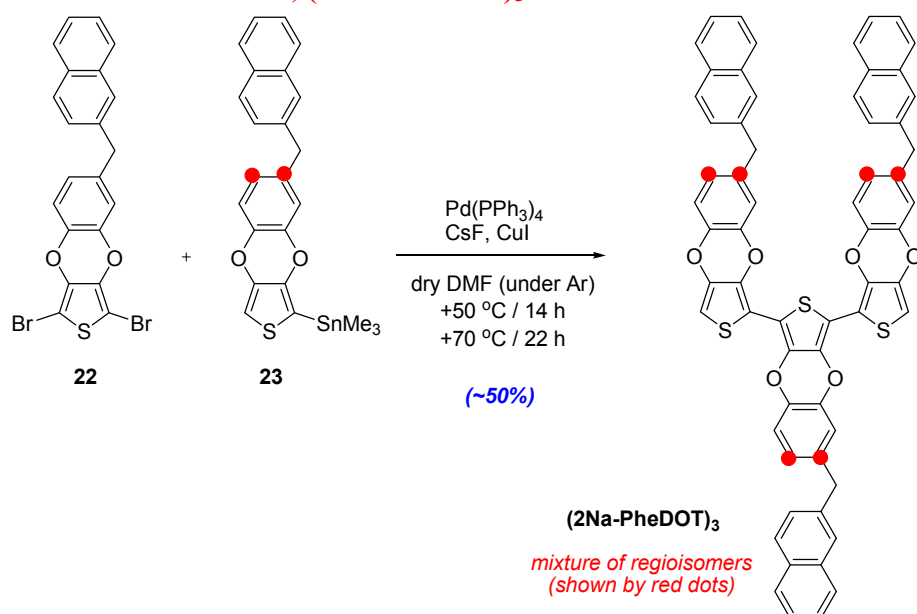


Under nitrogen, in a three-neck flask, **2Na-PheDOT** (243 mg, 0.735 mmol, 1.00 eq.) was dissolved in dry THF (10 mL) and the mixture was cooled  $-(80 - 90)^\circ\text{C}$ . *n*-BuLi (1.6 M in hexane, 0.51 mL, 0.816 mmol, 1.11 eq.) was added dropwise to this solution over a period of 10 min keeping the temperature in the range of  $-(75 - 80)^\circ\text{C}$ . The mixture was allowed to warm slowly to  $+10^\circ\text{C}$  for ca 30 min and stirred at this temperature for an additional 1 h. The solution was then cooled again to  $-(80 - 90)^\circ\text{C}$

and a solution of  $\text{Me}_3\text{SnCl}$  (1.0 M in THF, 0.83 mmol, 1.13 eq.) was added dropwise over 10 min with vigorous stirring. This solution was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for 17 h. The solvent was evaporated by flushing nitrogen through the flask and the residue was diluted with 5 % aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  (20 mL) and hexane (20 mL). Organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with hexane ( $2 \times 8$  mL). Combined organic layers were washed with water (15 mL), filtered through 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  membrane filter, hexane was evaporated and the residue was dried *in vacuo* (0.03 mbar) to afford stannic compound **23** (349 mg, 96%) as yellowish oil. According to  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, the purity of the sample is ~85%. It was used in the next step without further purification.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  (ppm) 7.84–7.72 (3H, m), 7.62 (1H, br.s.), 7.34–7.28 (2H, m), 7.33–7.26 (1H, m), 6.85–6.72 (3H, m), [1H in total, two regioisomers: (6.64, t,  $J_{\text{H-Sn}}$  = 6.6 Hz) + (6.62, t,  $J_{\text{H-Sn}}$  = 6.8 Hz), thiophene H-2/5], 4.04 (2H, s,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), [9H in total, two regioisomers: (0.39, t,  $J_{\text{H-Sn}}$  = 28.8 Hz) + (0.38, t,  $J_{\text{H-Sn}}$  = 29.2 Hz),  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{Sn}$ ].

### 2Na-PheDOT trimer, (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>3</sub>



Under argon, stannic derivative **23** from the above synthesis (340 mg / 85% purity, 0.586 mmol, 2.42 eq.), dibromide **22** (118 mg, 0.242 mmol, 1.00 eq.),  $\text{Pd(PPh}_3)_4$  (28 mg, 0.024 mmol, 0.1 eq.), dry  $\text{CuI}$  (9.1 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.2 eq.) and dry  $\text{CsF}$  (147 mg, 0.968 mmol, 4.0 eq.) were charged to the flask with stirring bar and dried *in vacuo* (<0.05 mbar) for 1 hour. The flask was purged with argon, dry DMF (4 mL) was added and the mixture was stirred + 50 °C for 14 hours and then + 70 °C for additional 22 hours, during which period the color of the mixture (suspension) is changed from light-brown to darker brownish-orange color. The reaction progress was monitored by TLC of the reaction mixture probes.

After completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated to dryness, 10%  $\text{HCl}$  (20 mL) was added to the residue and the mixture was stirred for 10 min. The precipitate was filtered off, washed with warm water ( $10 \times 10$  mL) and dried *in vacuo* to afford crude material (391 mg, > 100%) as a brown solid. The crude product was transferred into Soxhlet apparatus with a short silica gel column ( $D \times H = 2 \times 4$  cm) and washed with hot PE ( $4 \times 300$  mL). After evaporation of PE, starting monomer **2Na-PheDOT** (94 mg) as a white solid was regenerated. The residual product on the silica gel column in the Soxhlet apparatus was then extracted by hot toluene for 2 days to yield (after solvent evaporation) crude trimer (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>3</sub> (99.6 mg, 41.7%) as a light brown solid.

Further extraction of the residue in the Soxhlet apparatus with hot toluene for 1 day gave an additional portion of somewhat less pure trimer (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>3</sub> (19.7 mg, 8.2%) as a light brown solid.

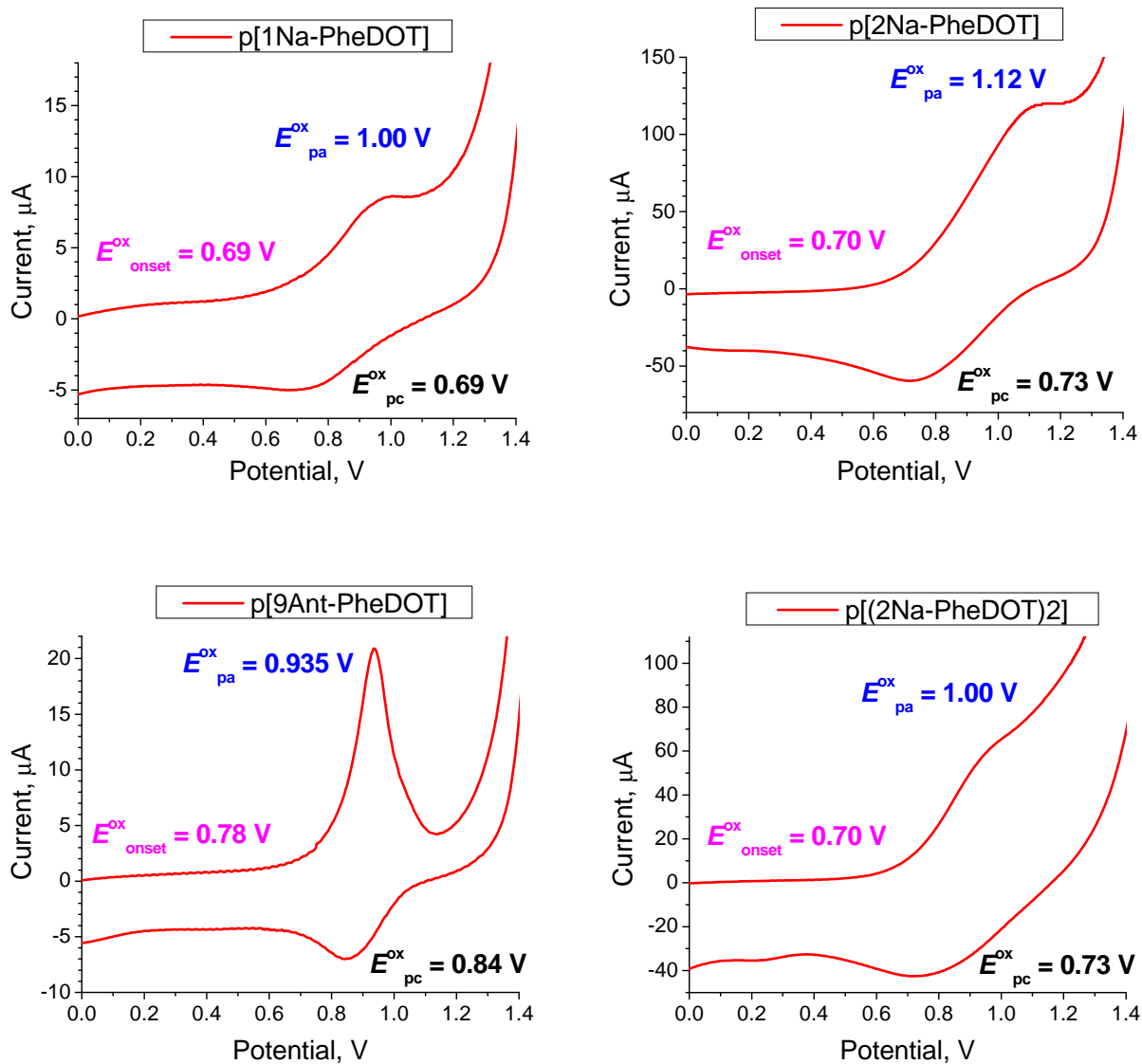
The trimer (**2Na-PheDOT**)<sub>3</sub> is very insoluble material, so we were unable to record a good quality <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for it to identify and properly integrate all the signals. It was characterized by MALDI MS showing good coincidence of experimental and theoretical mass spectra (including isotope mass distribution of the molecular ion; see a copy of its MS in ESI).

MS (MALDI): *m/z*: 986.1841; calcd for C<sub>63</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>6</sub>S<sub>3</sub>: 986.1831.

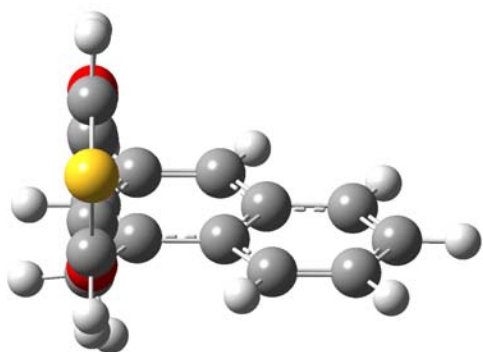
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**Figure S1.** Cyclic voltammograms of electrodeposited films of **p[1Na-PheDOT]**, **p[2Na-PheDOT]**, **p[9Ant-PheDOT]**, and **p[(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>]** polymers in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM, scan rate 20 mV/s. Working electrode: gold plate (2 cm<sup>2</sup>). Potentials are versus SCE reference electrode.



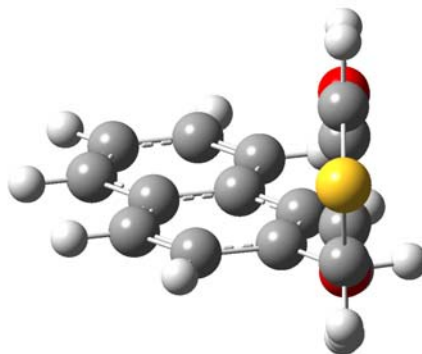
**1Na-PheDOT**

$E_{\text{total}} = -1357.2819824$  Hartree

LUMO =  $-1.041$  eV

HOMO =  $-5.427$  eV

$E_g = 4.386$  eV



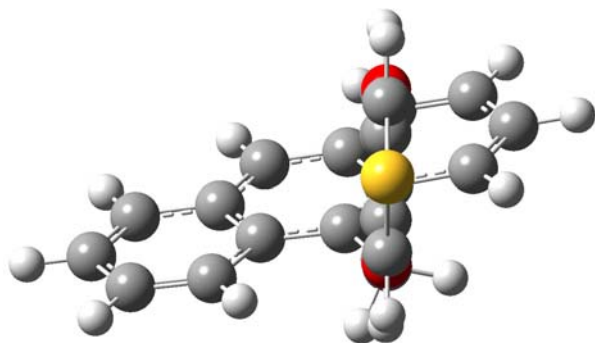
**2Na-PheDOT**

$E_{\text{total}} = -1357.28452$  Hartree

LUMO =  $-1.001$  eV

HOMO =  $-5.435$  eV

$E_g = 4.434$  eV



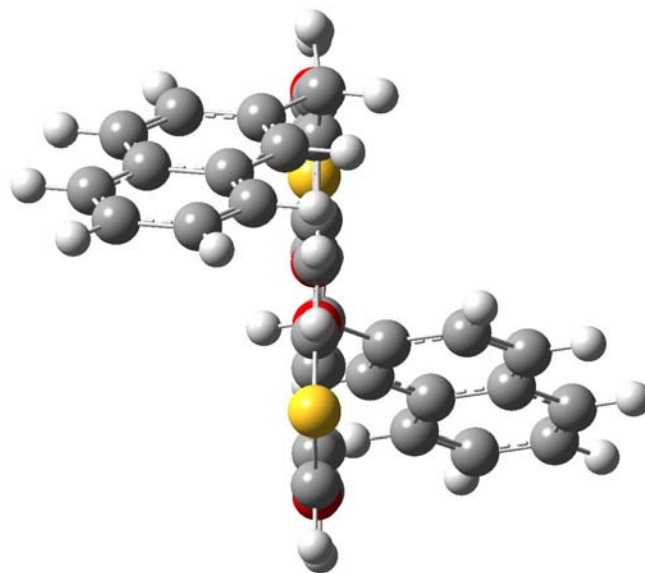
**9Ant-PheDOT**

$E_{\text{total}} = -1510.914667$  Hartree

LUMO =  $-1.735$  eV

HOMO =  $-5.230$  eV

$E_g = 3.495$  eV



**(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>**

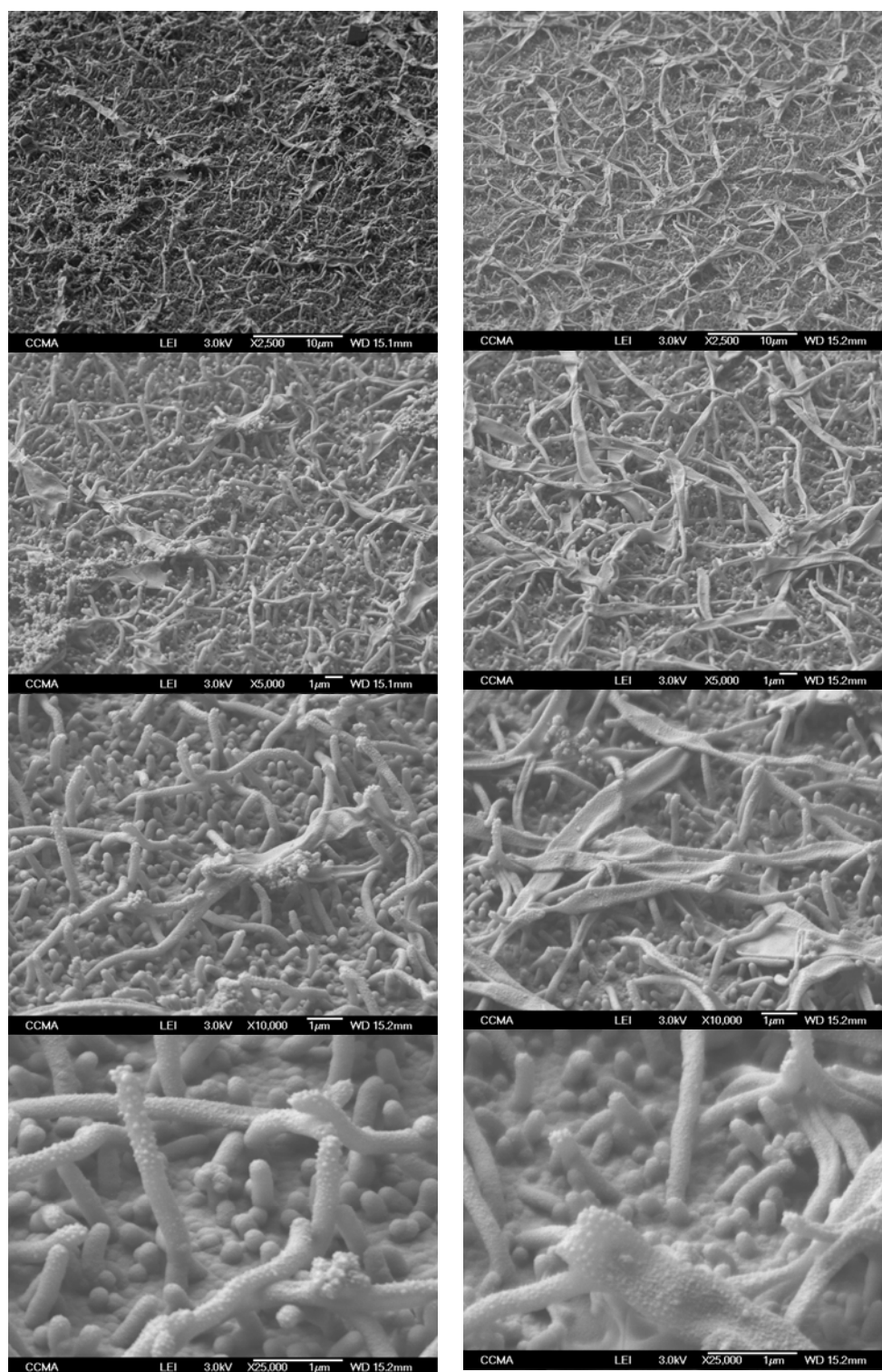
$E_{\text{total}} = -2713.3813966$  Hartree

LUMO =  $-1.186$  eV

HOMO =  $-5.261$  eV

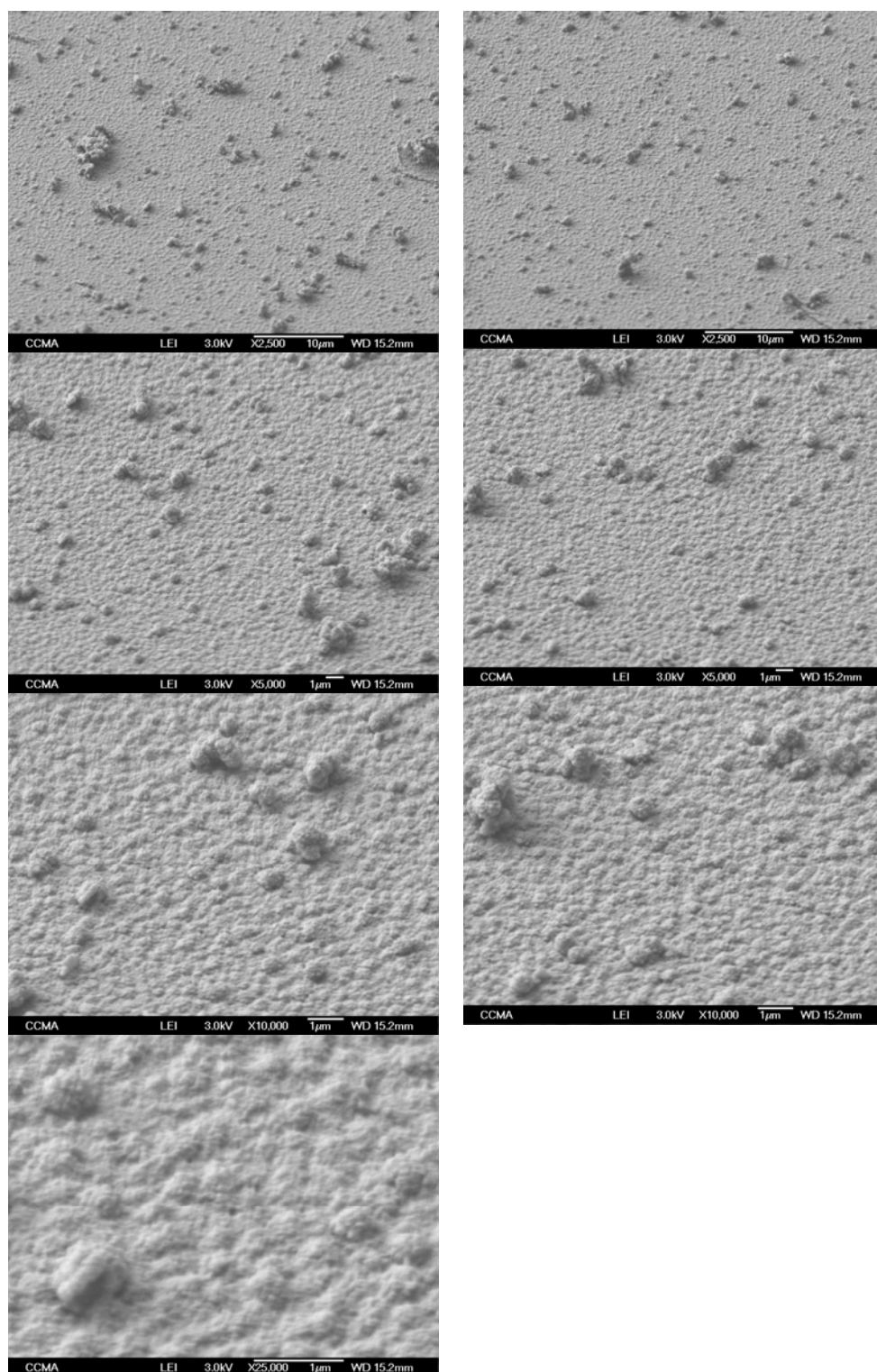
$E_g = 4.075$  eV

**Figure S2.** B3LYP/6-31G(d) optimized geometries (in a gas phase) for **1Na-PheDOT**, **2Na-PheDOT**, **9Ant-PheDOT**, and **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** showing the orientation of naphthalene and anthracene groups out-of-plane of the PheDOT moiety and their HOMO/LUMO energies and the energy gaps ( $E_g$ ). For clarity, the projections of the structures are shown with an orientation of PheDOT moiety to be perpendicular to the plane of the sheet.



**Figure S3.** SEM images of the **p[1Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **1Na-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charge of  $Q_s = 100 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of  $45^\circ$ .

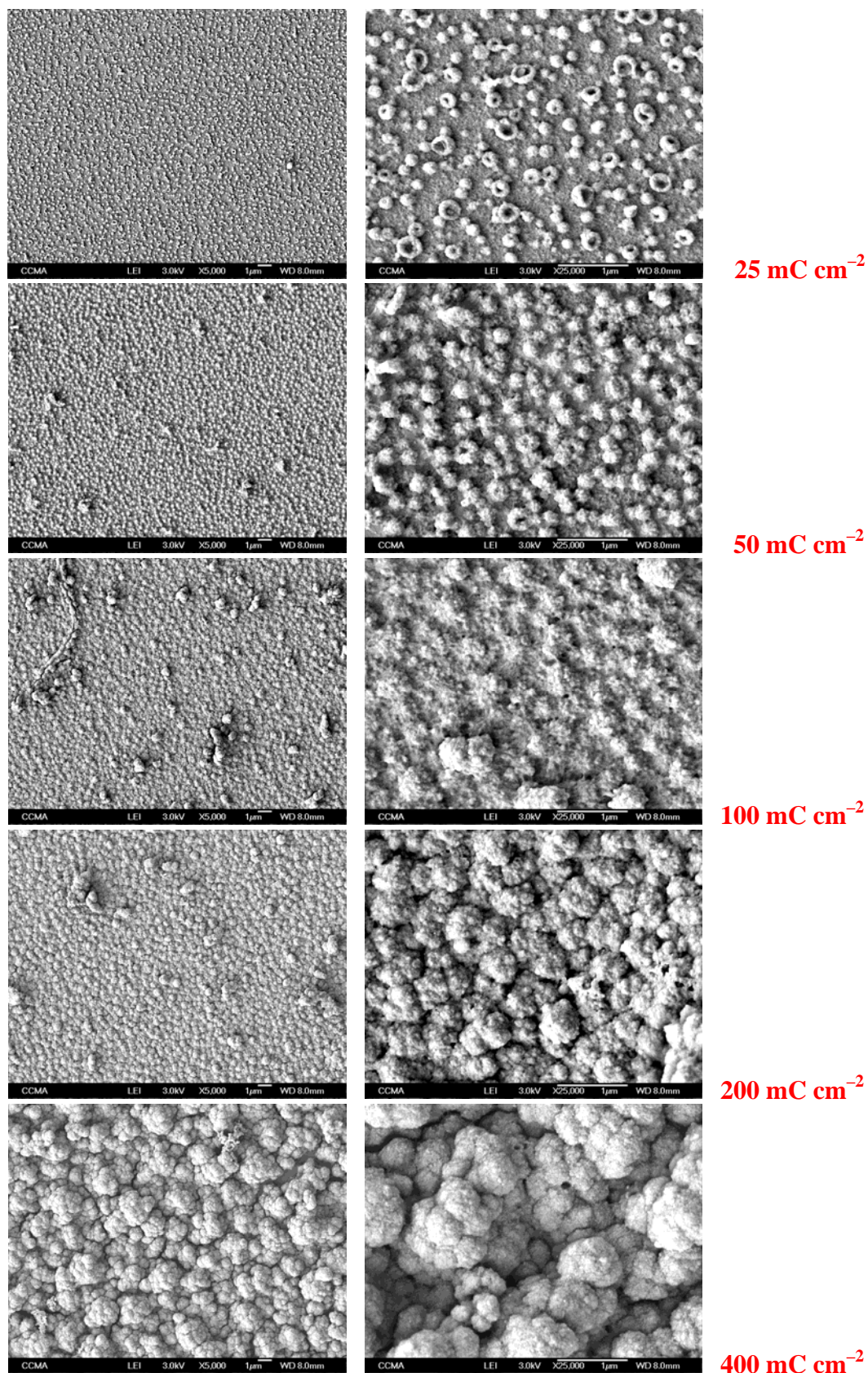
Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ .  
The images in two columns correspond to the different places of the sample.



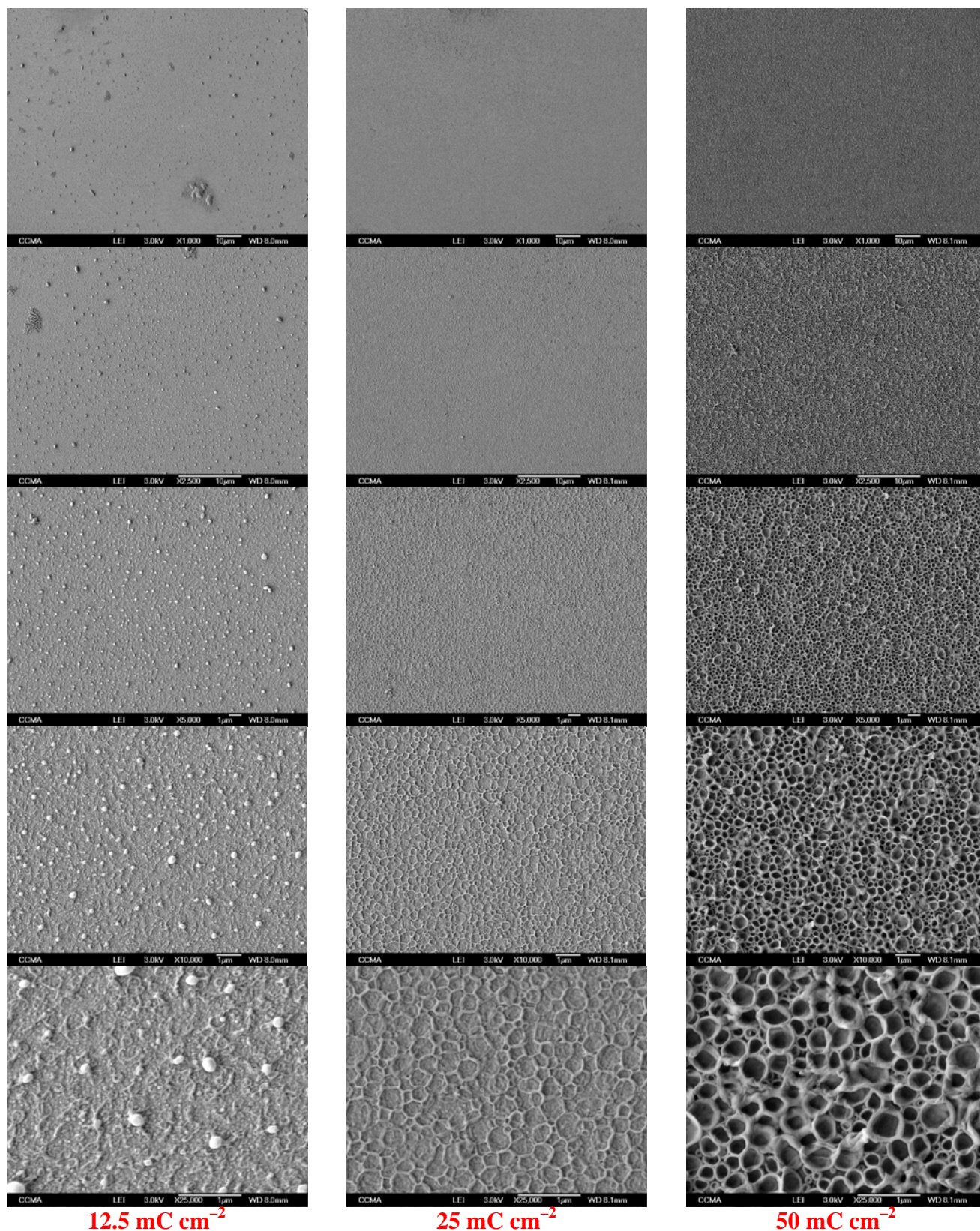
**Figure S4.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of the dimer **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** (0.5 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charge of  $Q_s = 100 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of 45°.

Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ .

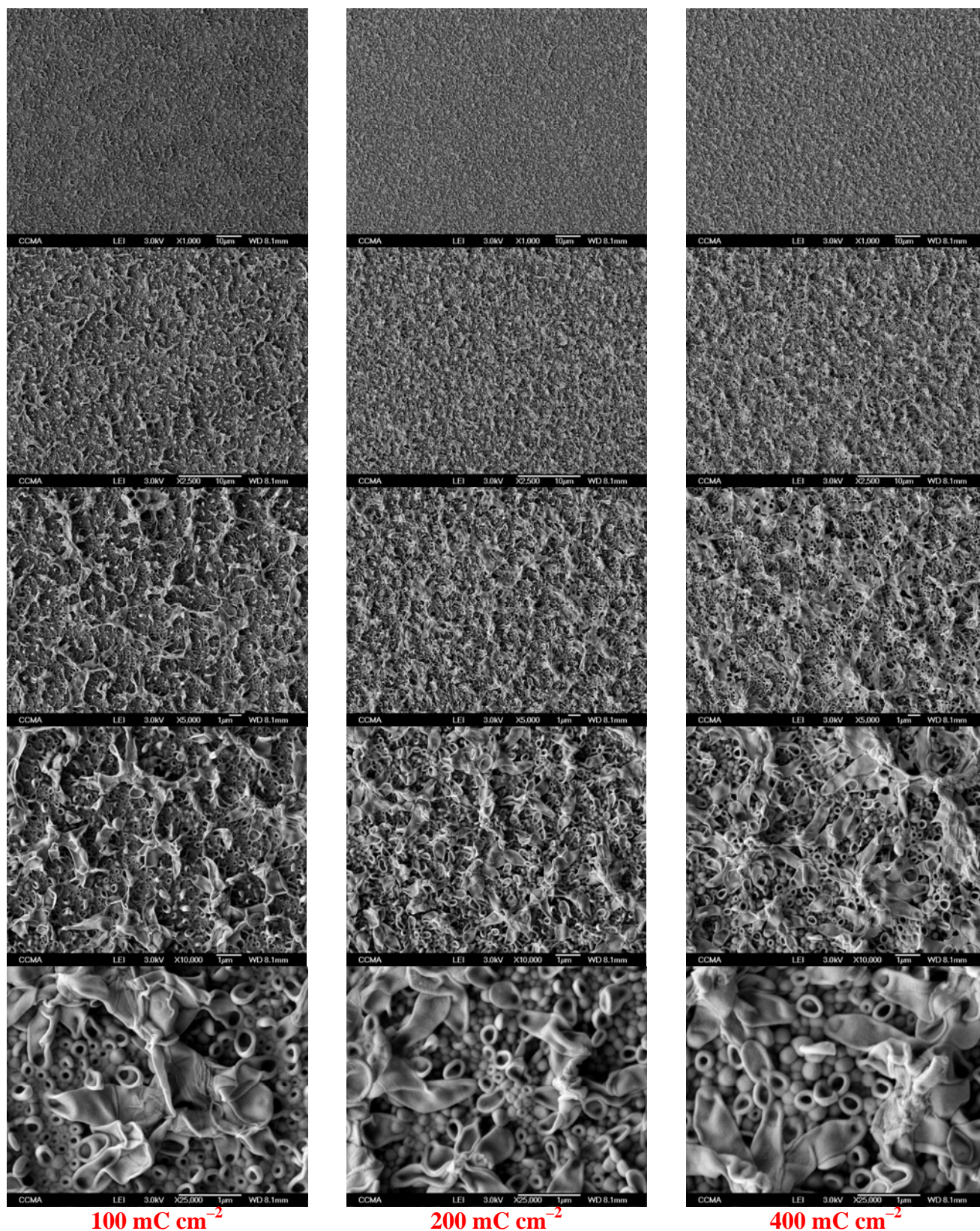
The images in two columns correspond to the different places of the sample.



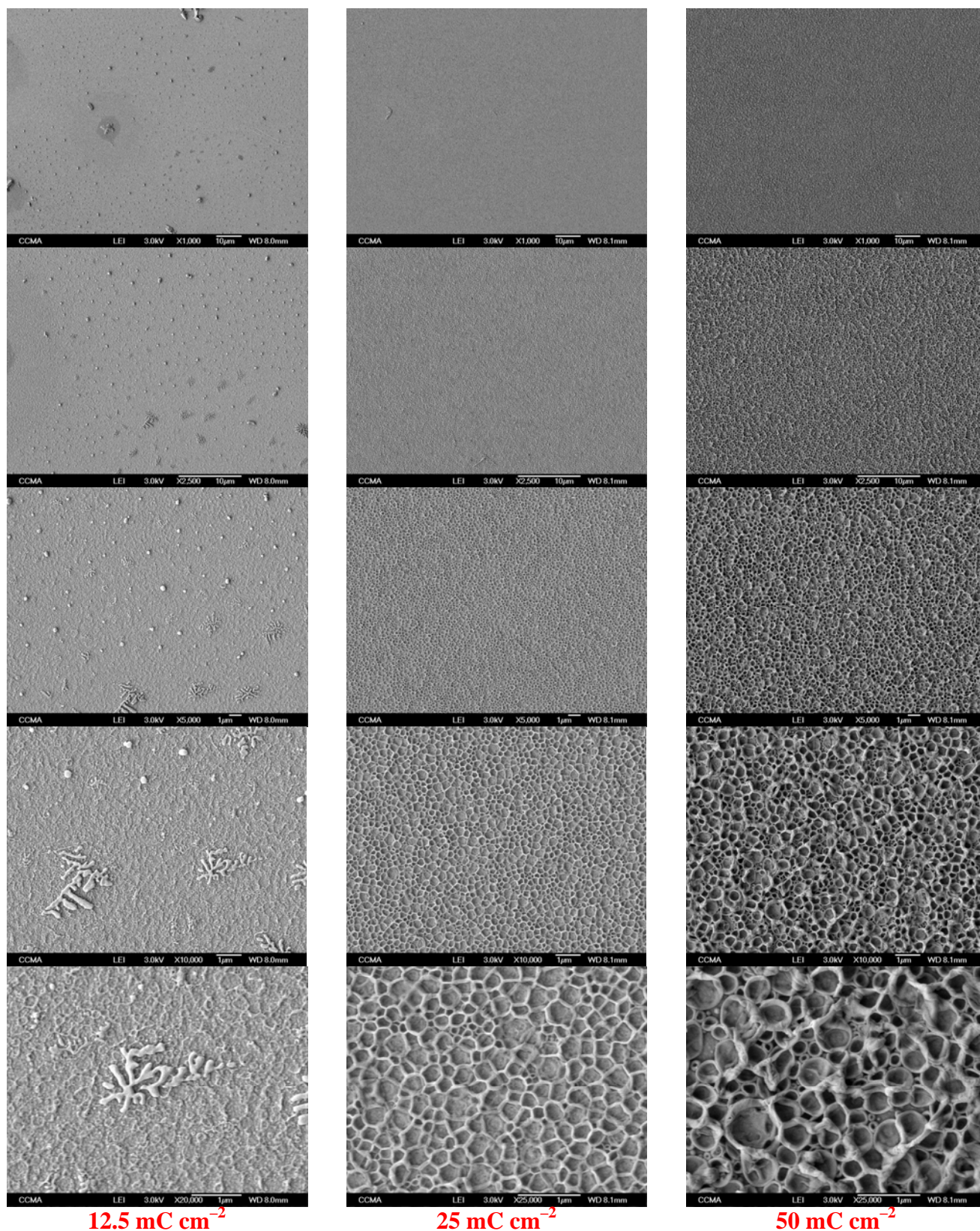
**Figure S5.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of the dimer **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** (0.5 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 25, 50, 100, 200$  and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification:  $\times 5,000$  (left column),  $\times 25,000$  (right column).



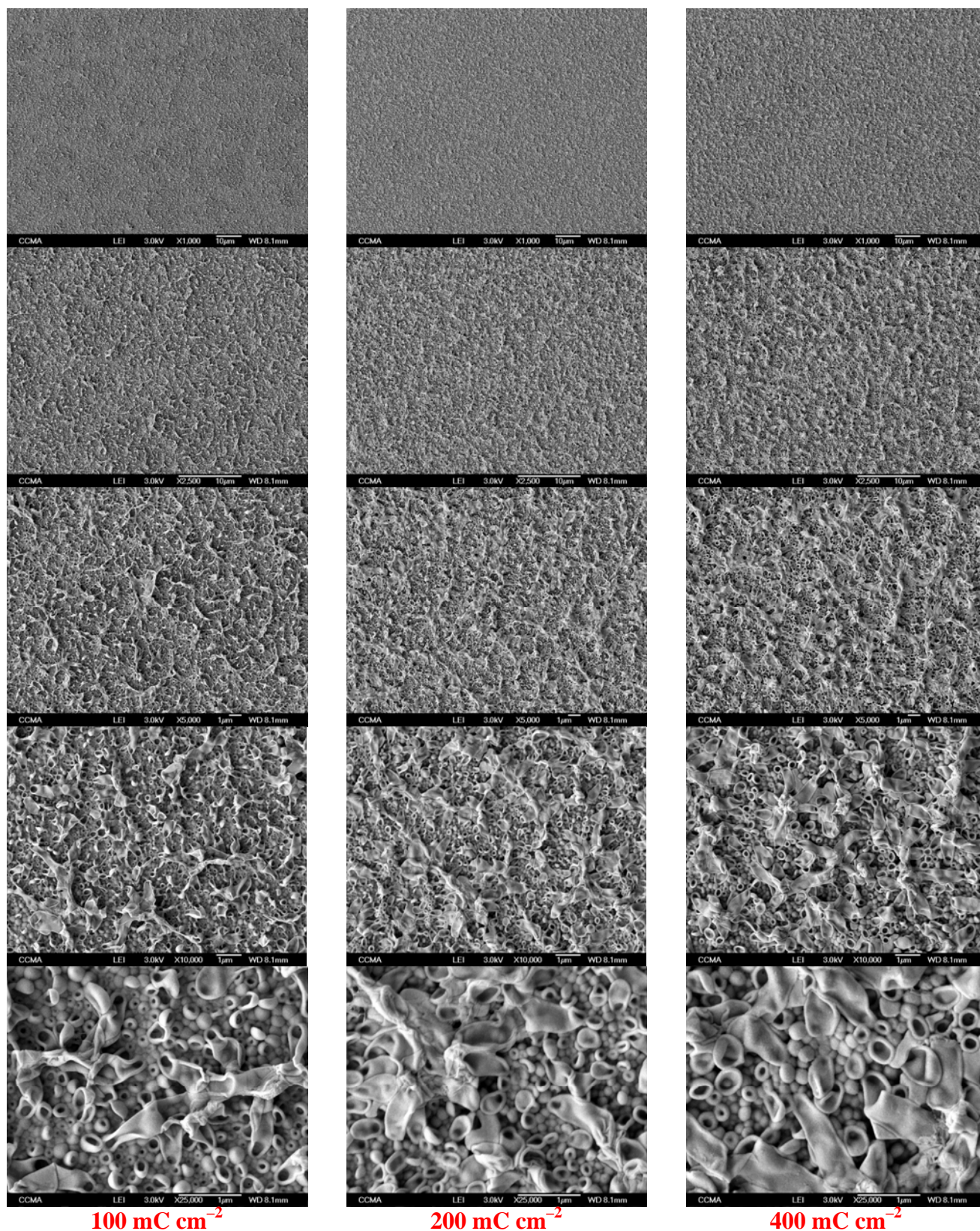
**Figure S6.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 12.5, 25$ , and  $50 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000, \times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ .



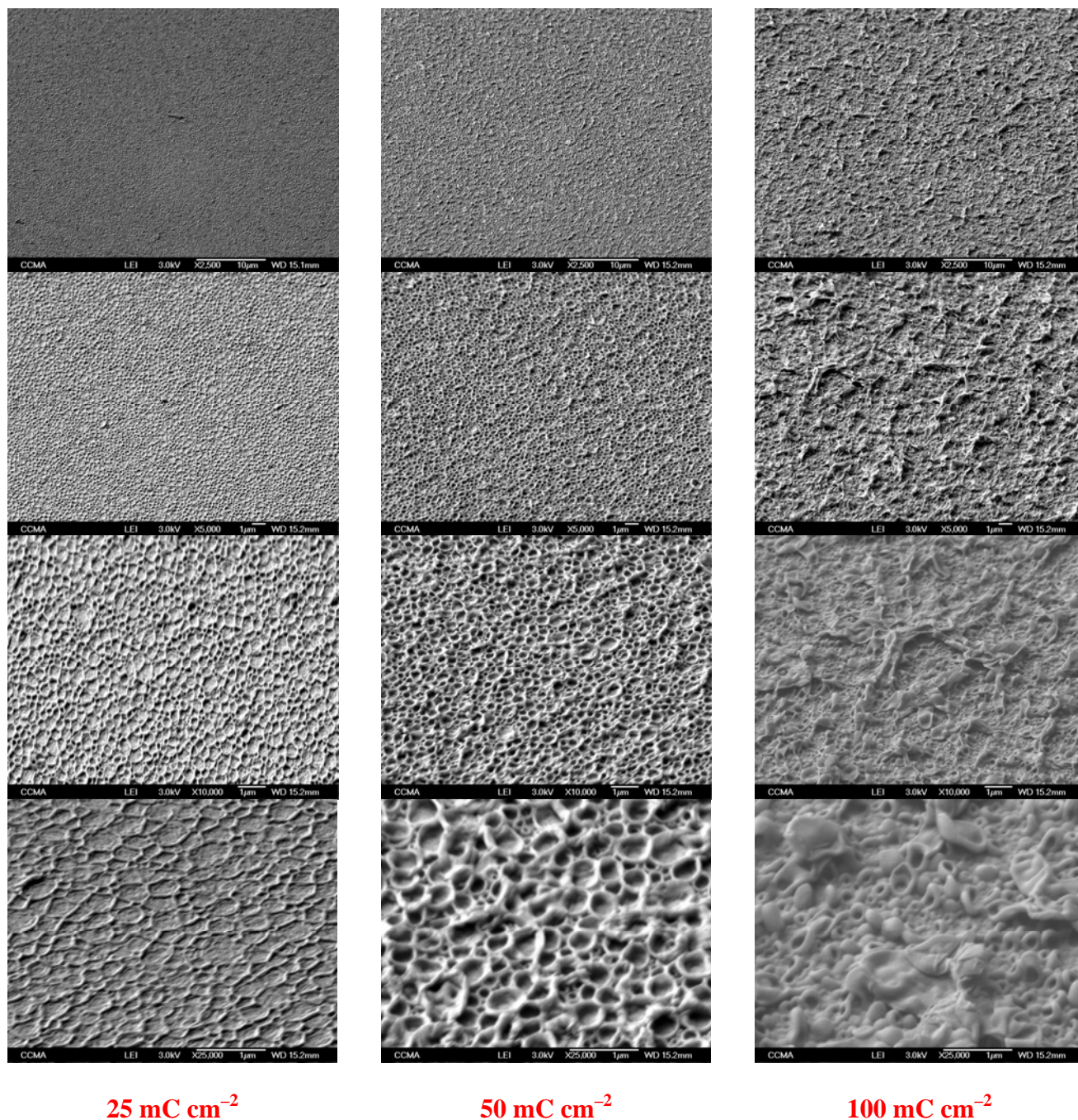
**Figure S7.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70\text{--}1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 100, 200$ , and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000, \times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ .



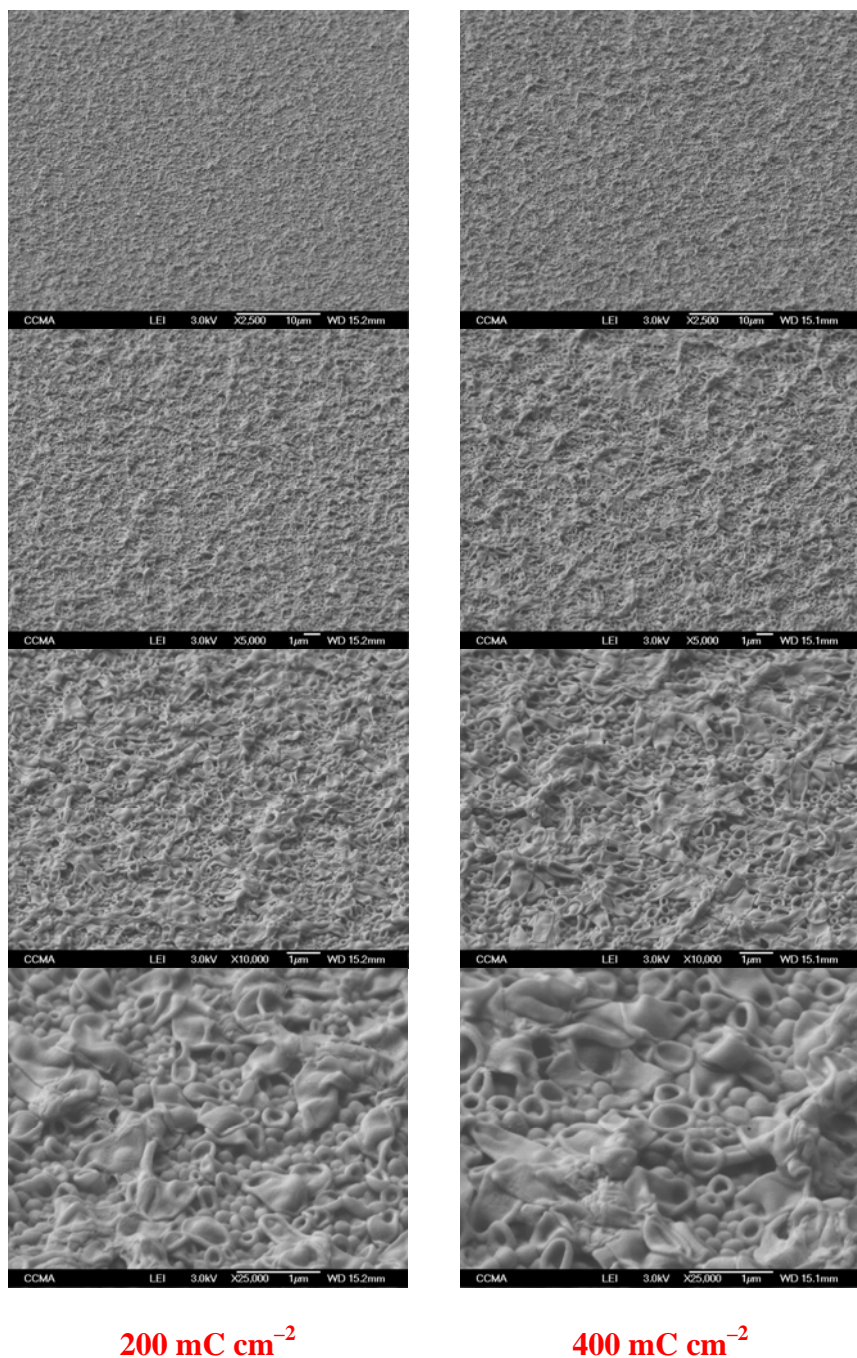
**Figure S8.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 12.5, 25$ , and  $50 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000, \times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ . Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S4) are shown.



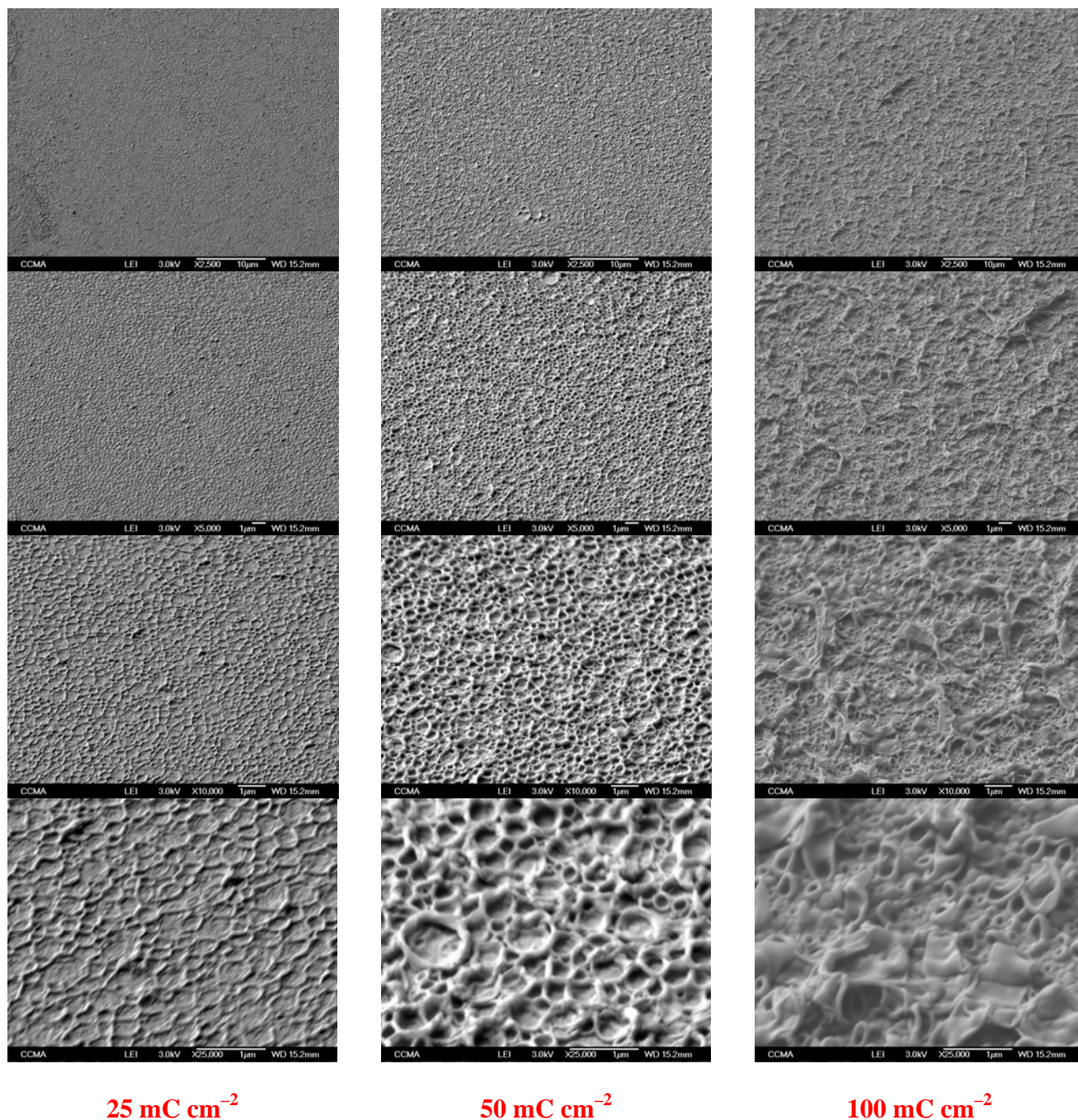
**Figure S9.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70\text{--}1.80$  V vs. SCE and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 100, 200$ , and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000, \times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ . Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S5) are shown.



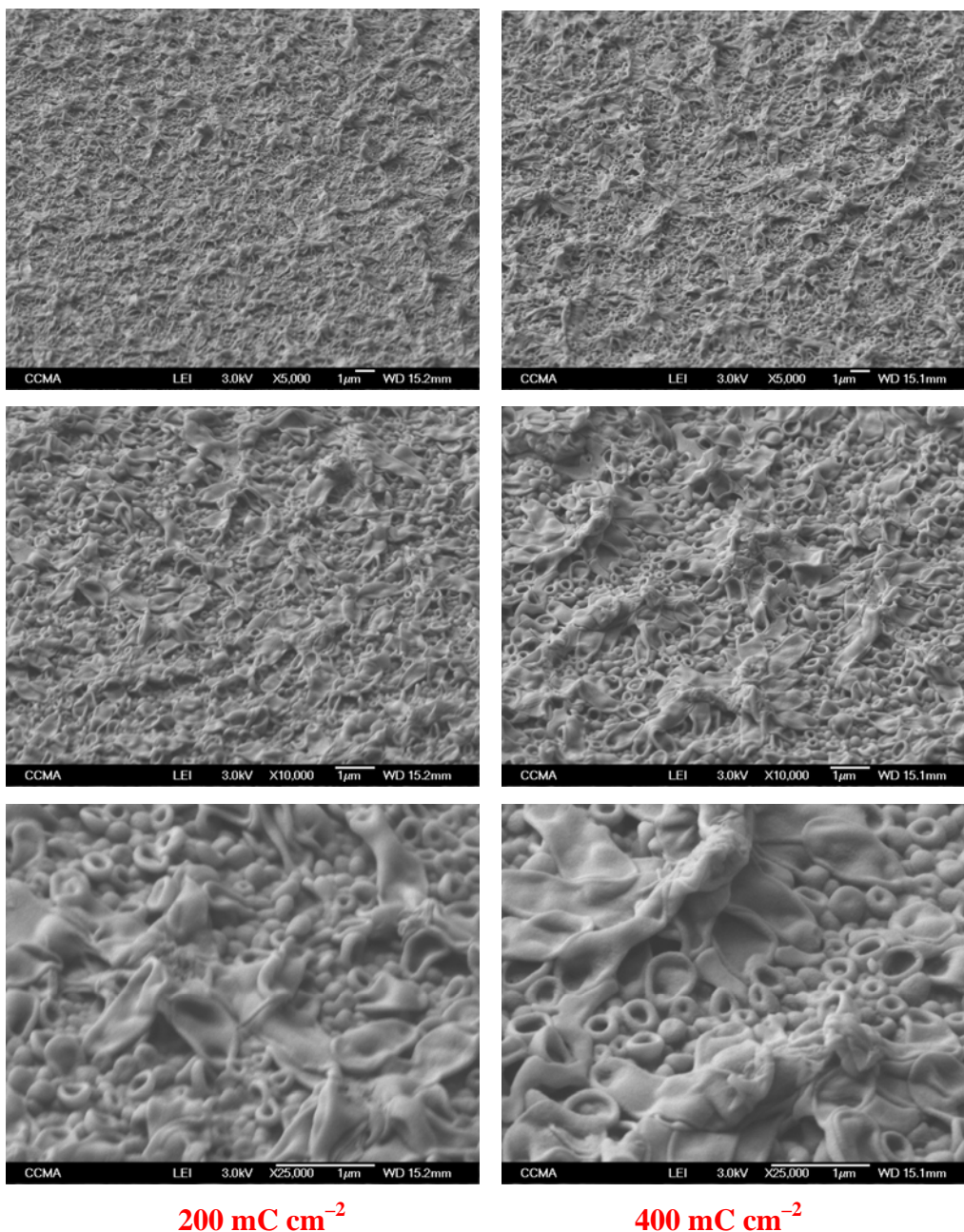
**Figure S10.** SEM images of the p[9Ant-PheDOT] polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 25, 50, \text{ and } 100 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of  $45^\circ$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ .



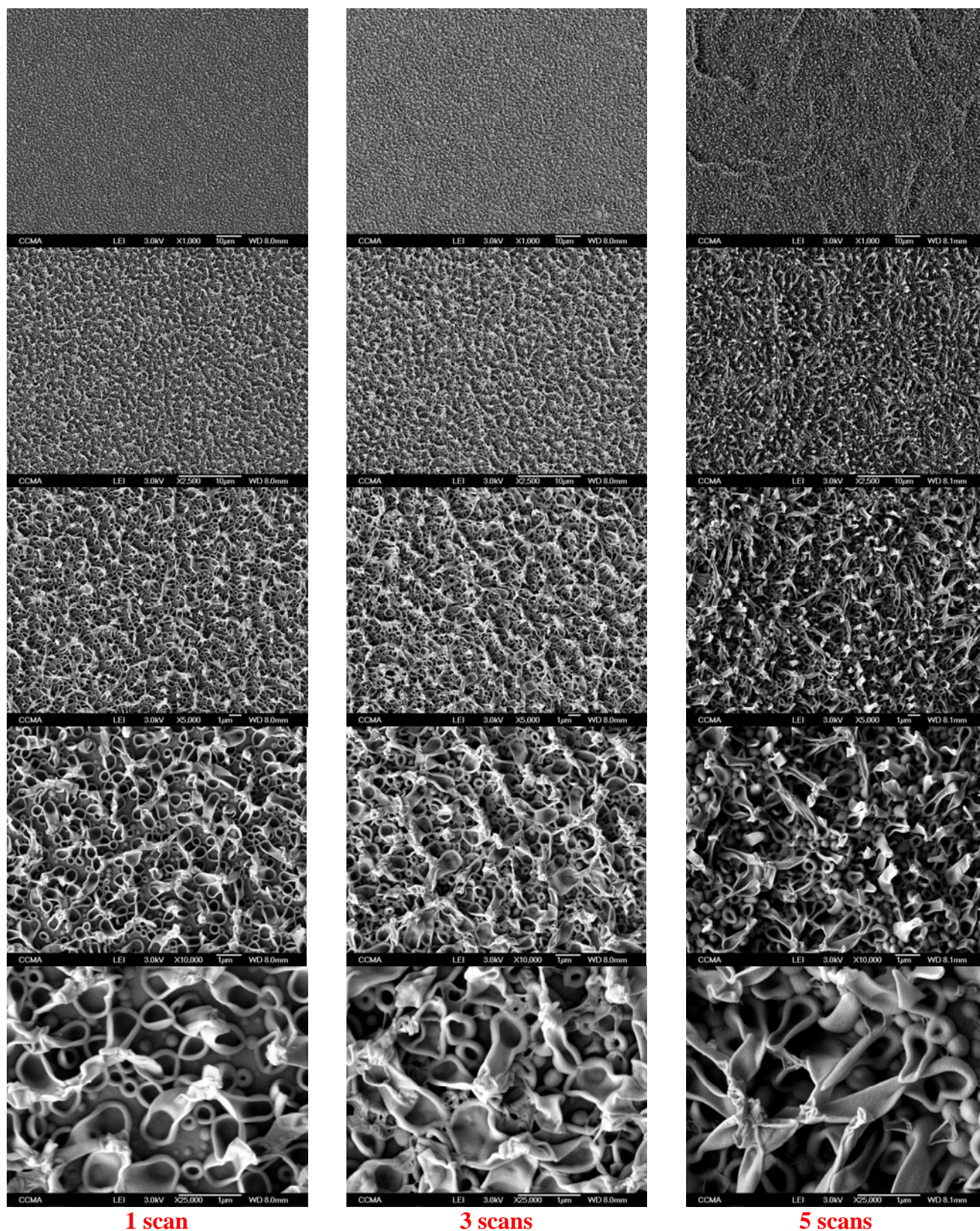
**Figure S11.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 200$  and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of  $45^\circ$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ .



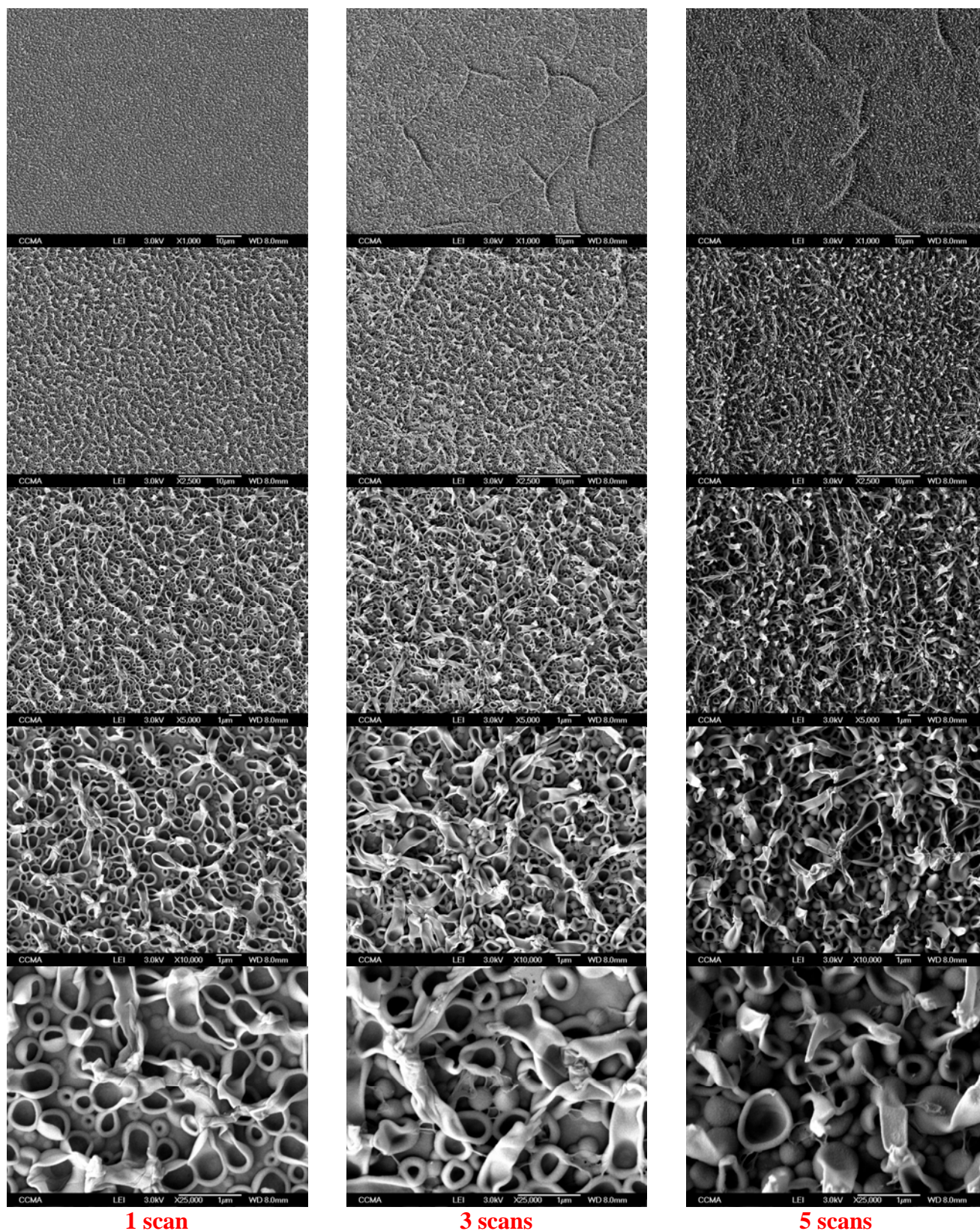
**Figure S12.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 25, 50, \text{ and } 100 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of  $45^\circ$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500, \times 5,000, \times 10,000, \times 25,000$ . Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S8) are shown.



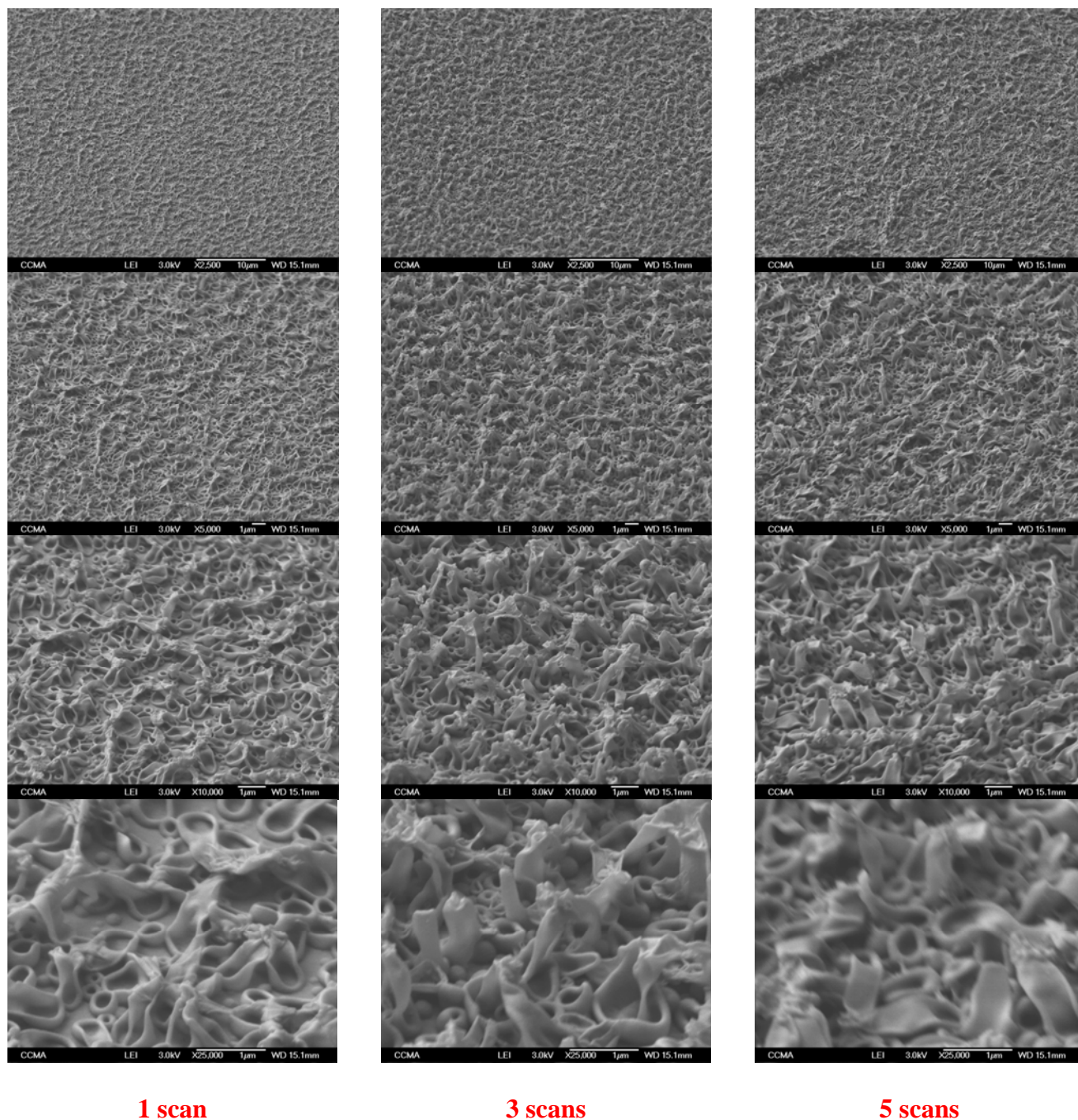
**Figure S13.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 200$  and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ , with a substrate inclination of  $45^\circ$ . Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ . Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S9) are shown.



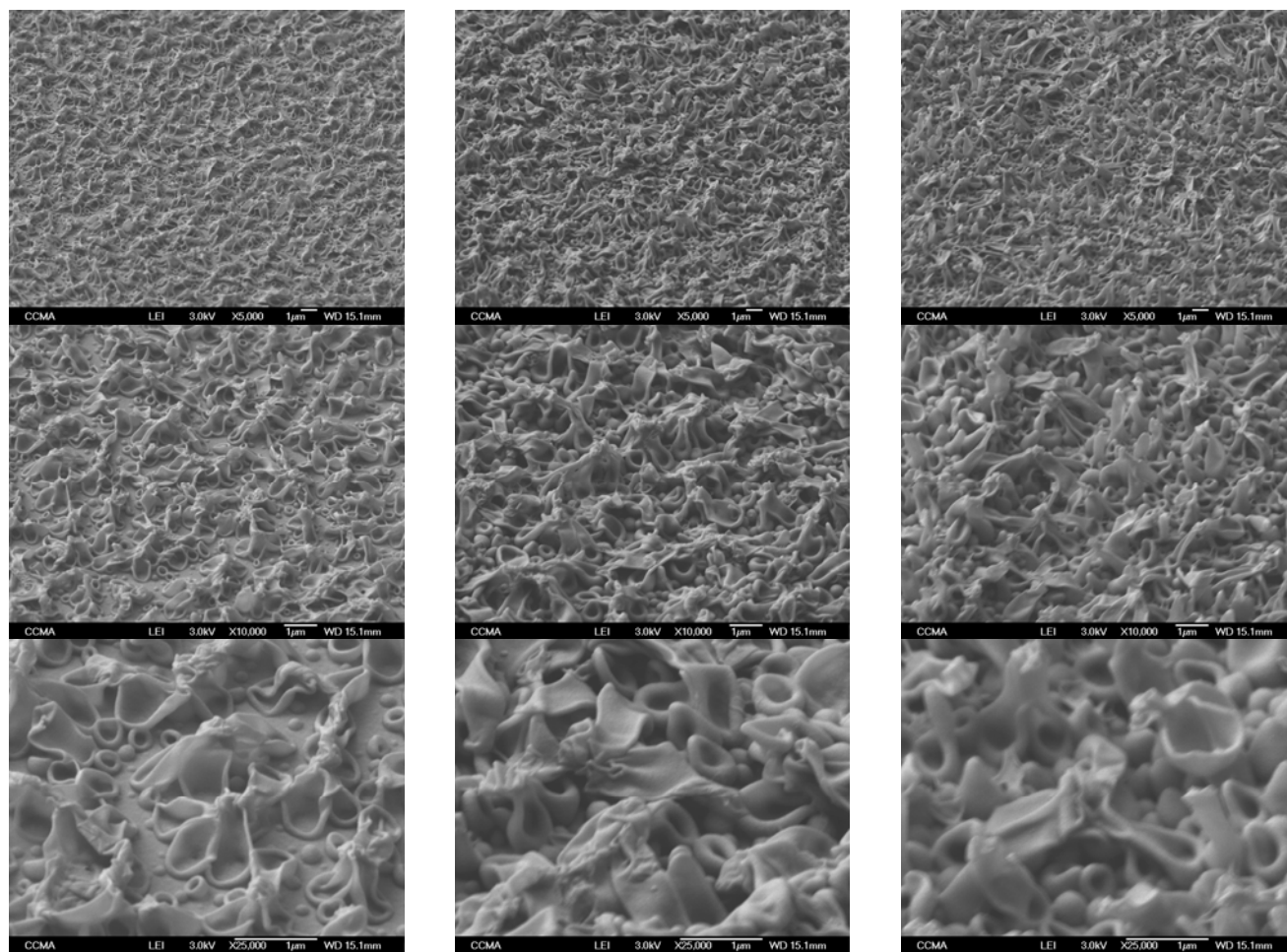
**Figure S14.** SEM images of the p[9Ant-PheDOT] polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of 9Ant-PheDOT (10 mM) in 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub> / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.7-1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions. Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000$ ,  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ .



**Figure S15.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.7-1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions. Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 1,000$ ,  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ . Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S12) are shown.



**Figure S16.** SEM images of the p[9Ant-PheDOT] polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of 9Ant-PheDOT (10 mM) in 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub> / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.7-1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions, with a substrate inclination of 45 °. Magnification from the top to the bottom: ×2,500, ×5,000, ×10,000, ×25,000.



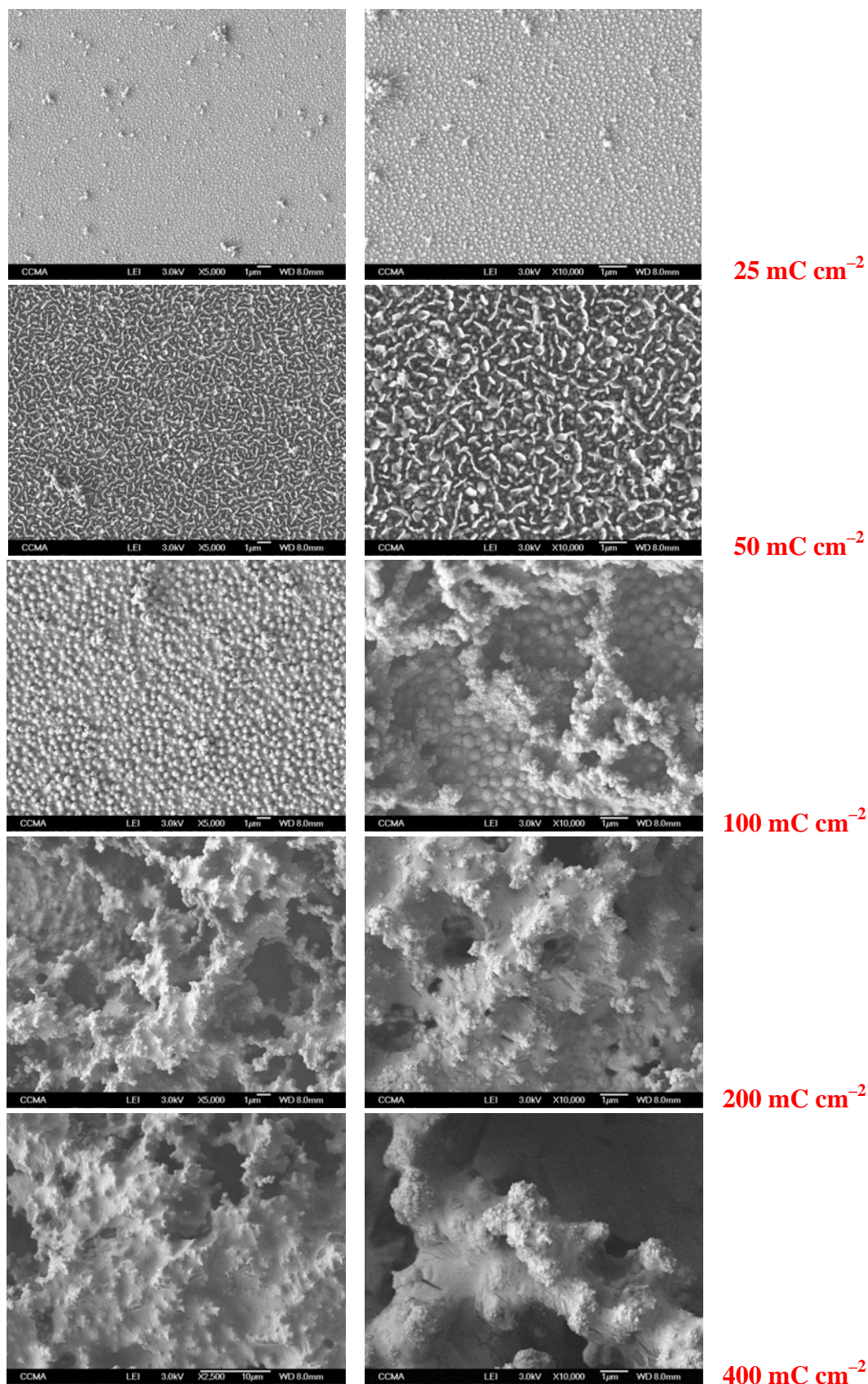
**1 scan**

**3 scans**

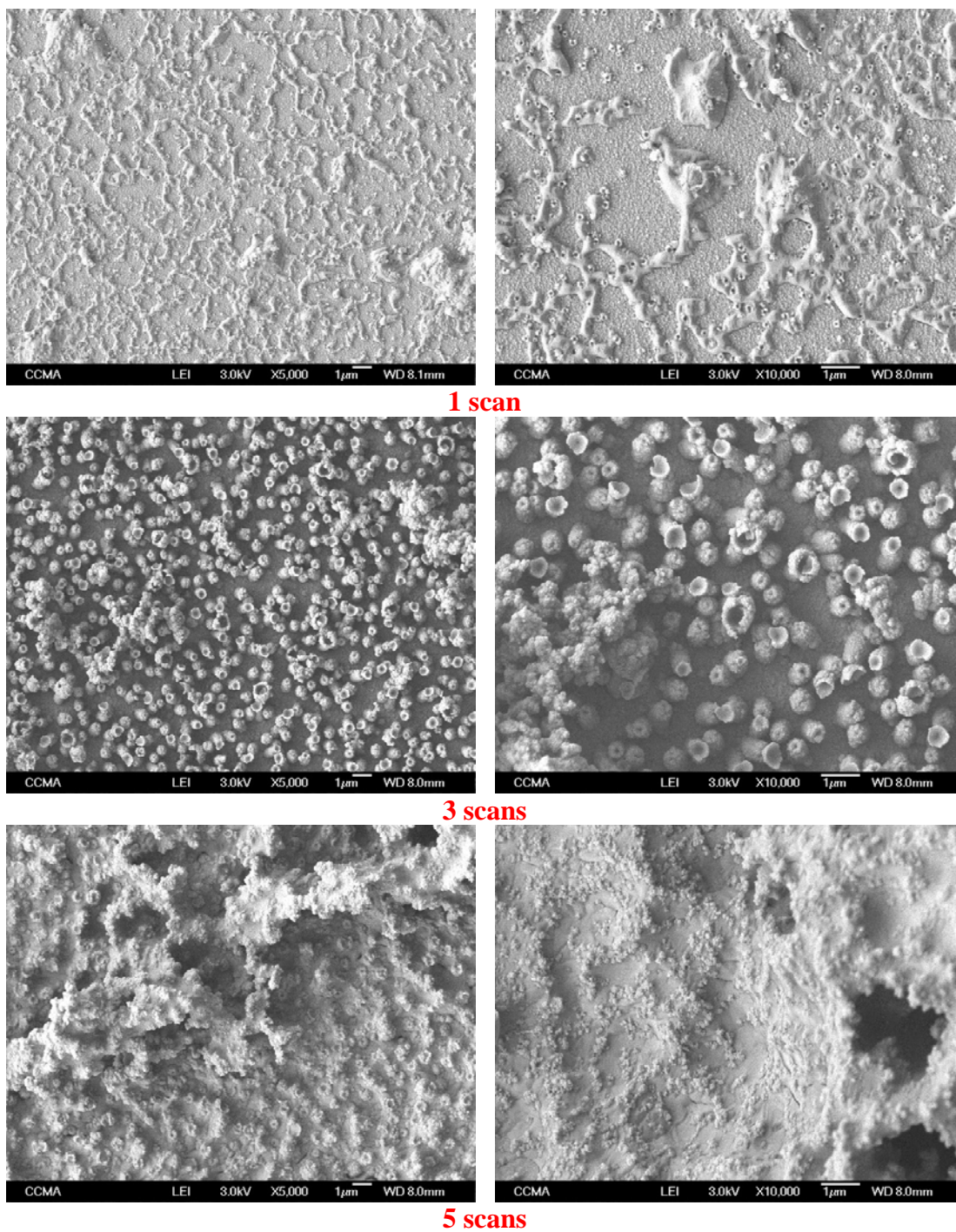
**5 scans**

**Figure S17.** SEM images of the **p[9Ant-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **9Ant-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.7-1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions, with a substrate inclination of 45 °.

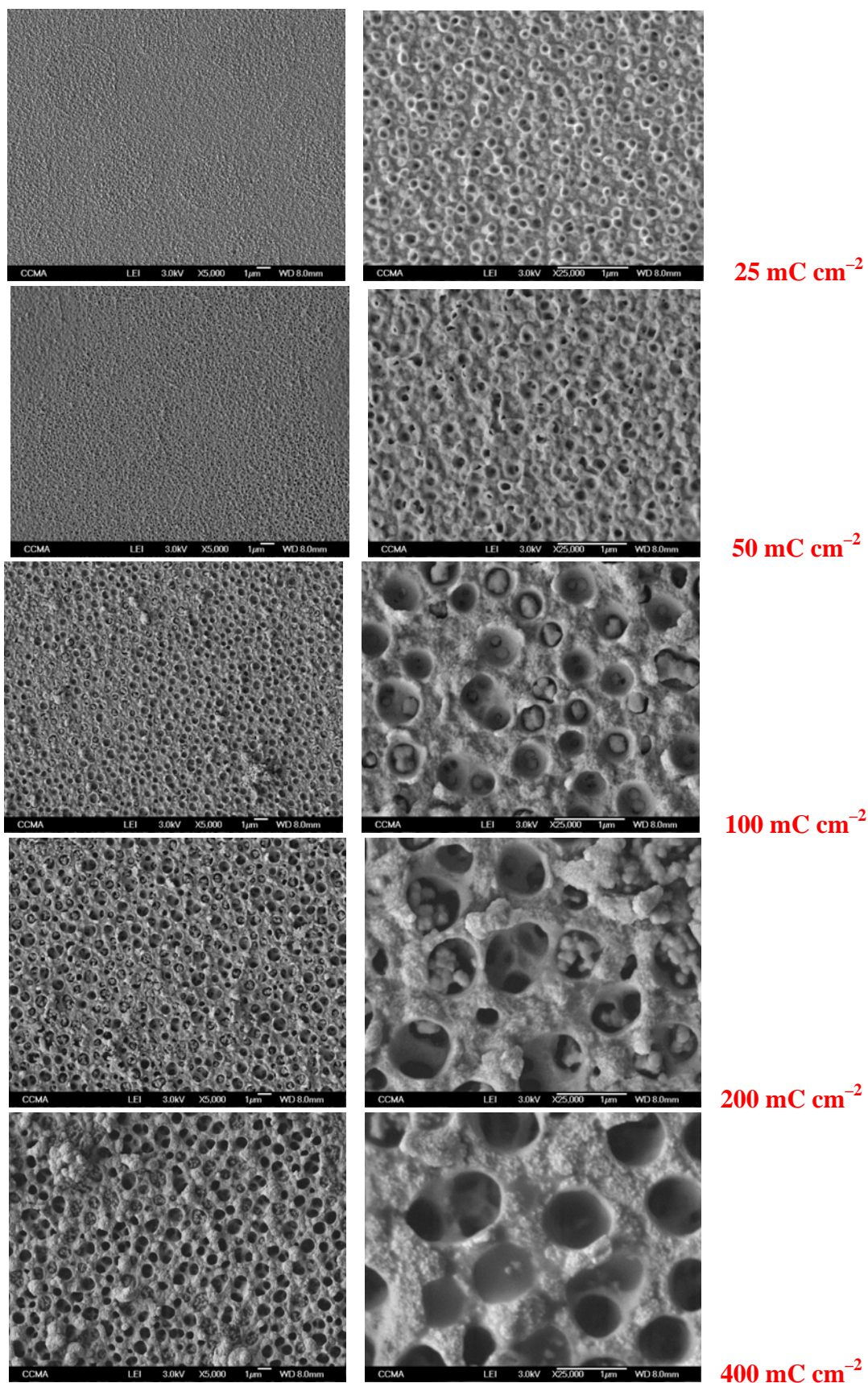
Magnification from the top to the bottom: ×5,000, ×10,000, ×25,000.  
Different areas of the sample (as of Figures S14) are shown.



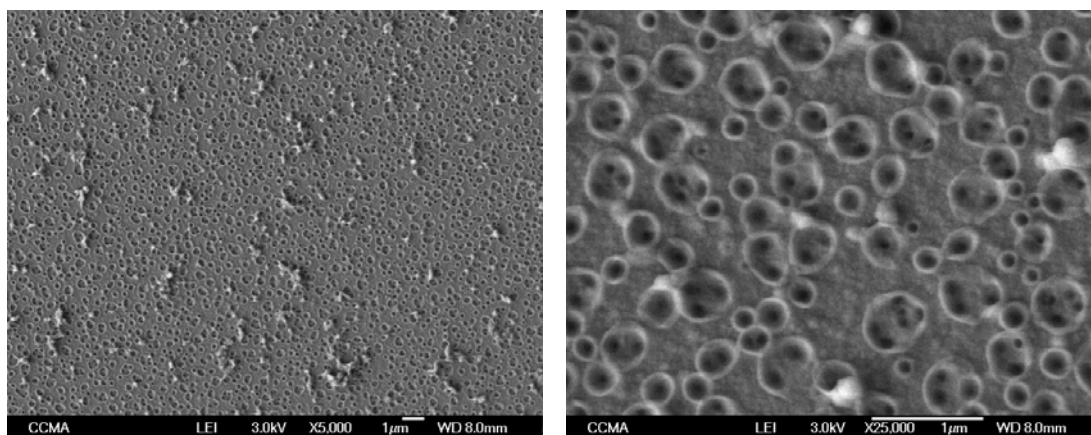
**Figure S18.** SEM images of the **p[1Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **1Na-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} \approx 1.70 - 1.80 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 25, 50, 100, 200$  and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification:  $\times 5,000$  (left column),  $\times 10,000$  (right column).



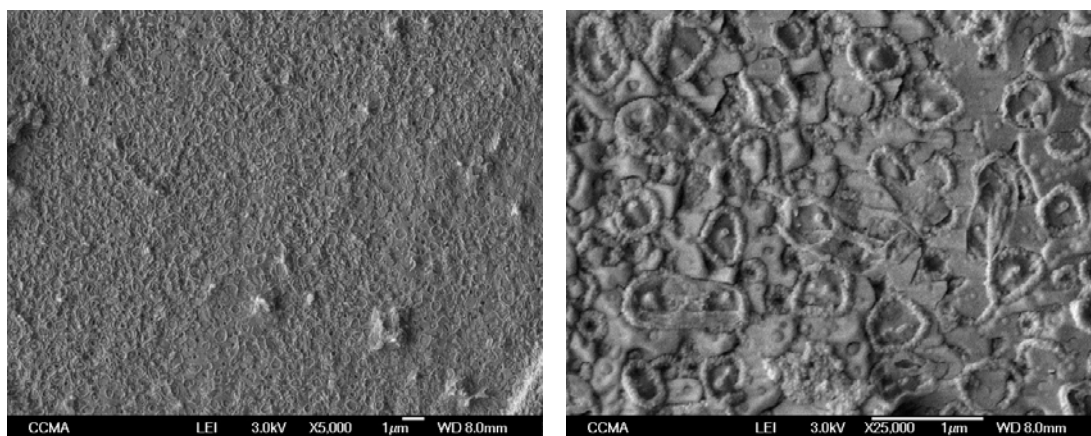
**Figure S19.** SEM images of the **p[1Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **1Na-PheDOT** (10mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>** / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / + 1.70-1.80$  V vs. SCE) after 1, 3 and 5 scans. Magnification:  $\times 5,000$  (left column),  $\times 10,000$  (right column)..



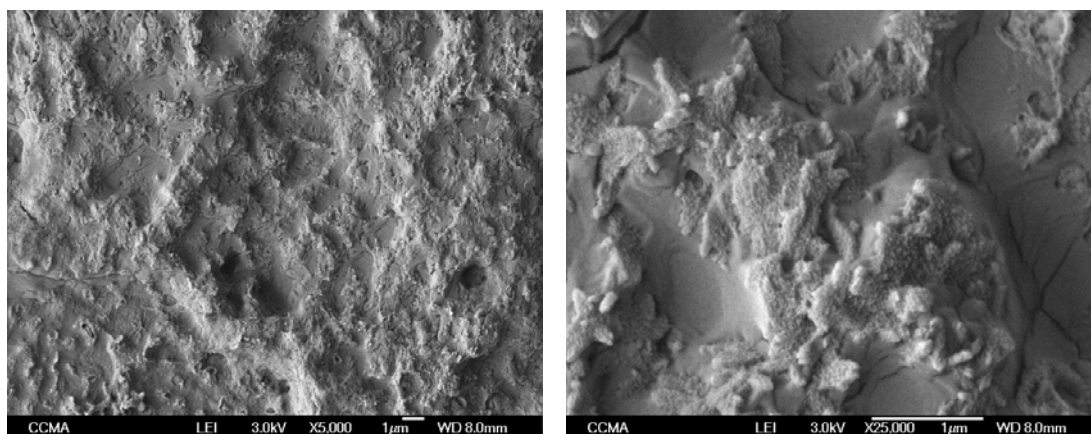
**Figure S20.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of the dimer **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** (0.5 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>** / DCM in potentiostatic conditions at constant potential of  $E^{\text{ox}} = 1.67 \text{ V vs. SCE}$  and the deposition charges of  $Q_s = 25, 50, 100, 200$  and  $400 \text{ mC cm}^{-2}$ . Magnification:  $\times 5,000$  (left column),  $\times 25,000$  (right column).



1 scan

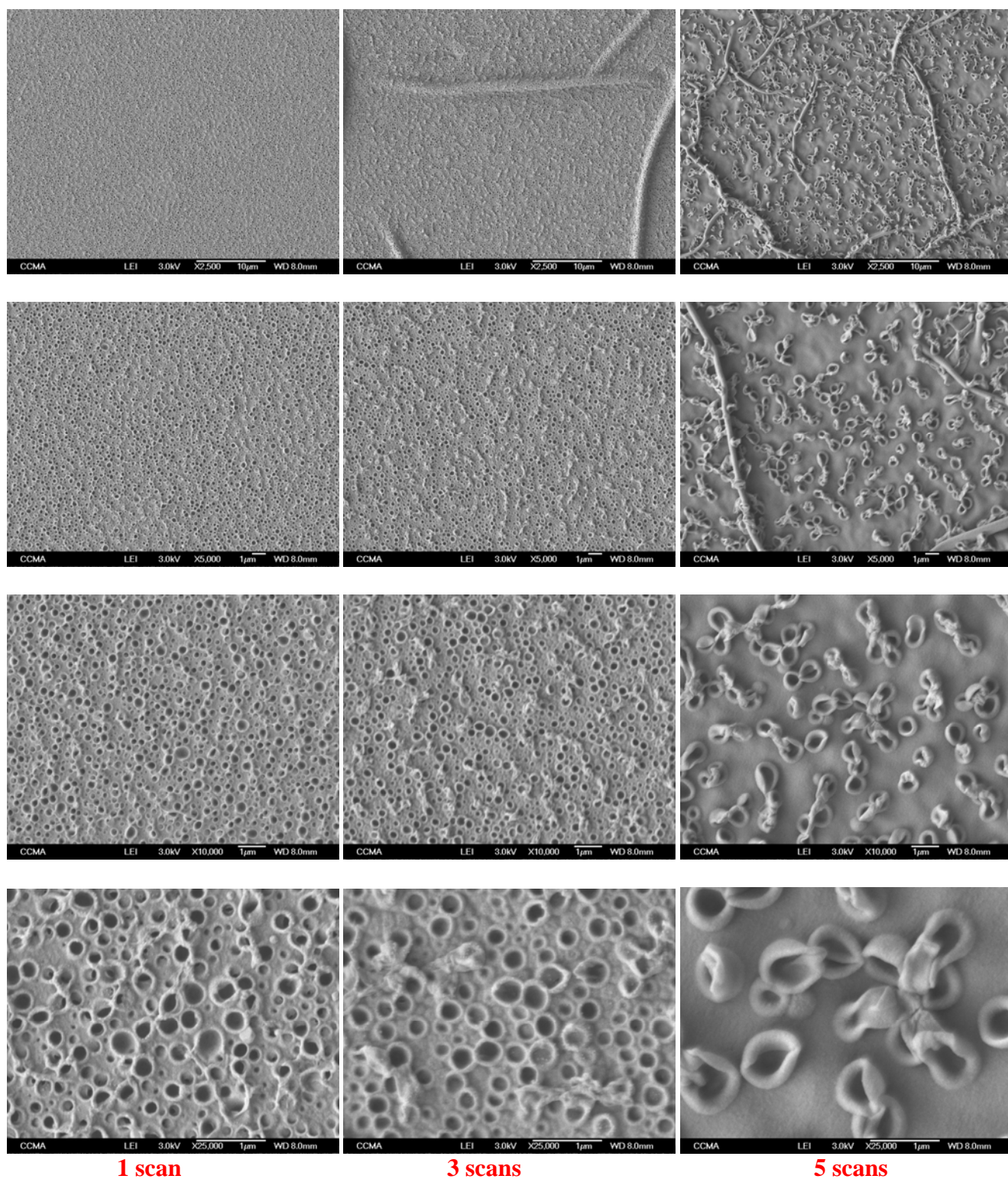


3 scans

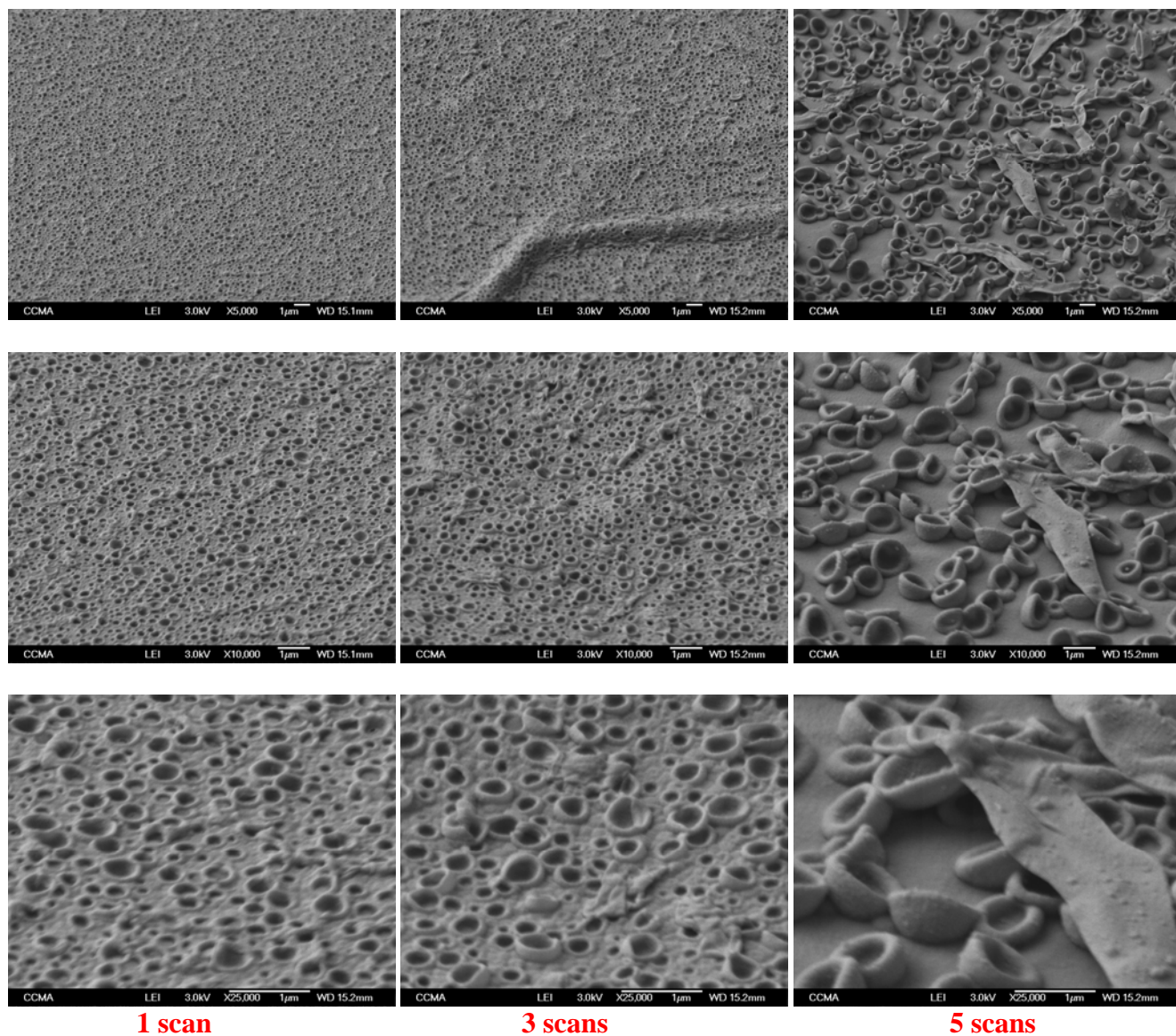


5 scans

**Figure S21.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of the dimer **(2Na-PheDOT)<sub>2</sub>** (0.5 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>** / DCM in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / + 1.67$  V vs. SCE) after 1, 3 and 5 scans. Magnification:  $\times 5,000$  (left column),  $\times 25,000$  (right column).



**Figure S22.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **2Na-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / (DCM + H<sub>2</sub>O) in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions. Magnification from the top to the bottom:  $\times 2,500$ ,  $\times 5,000$ ,  $\times 10,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ .



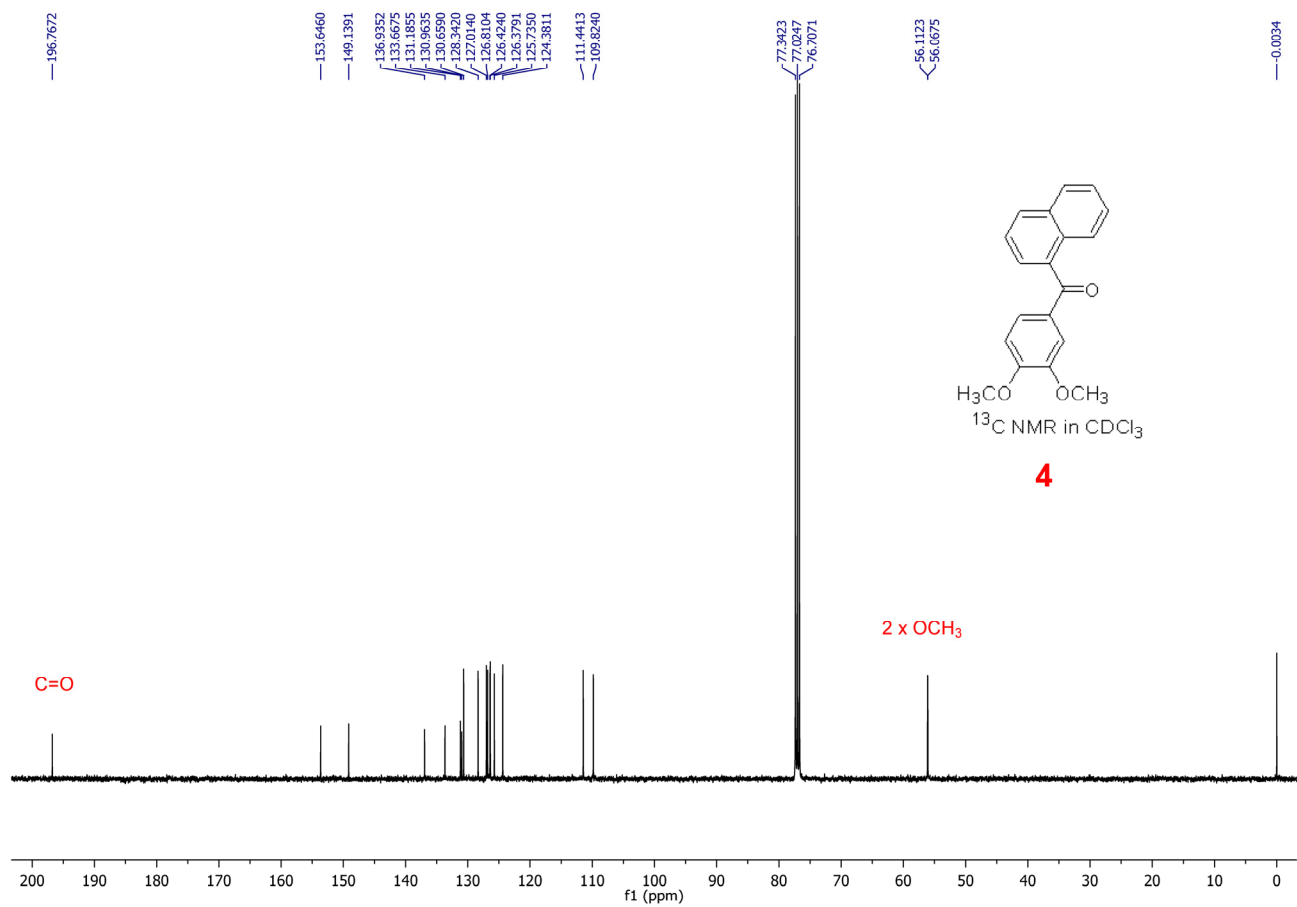
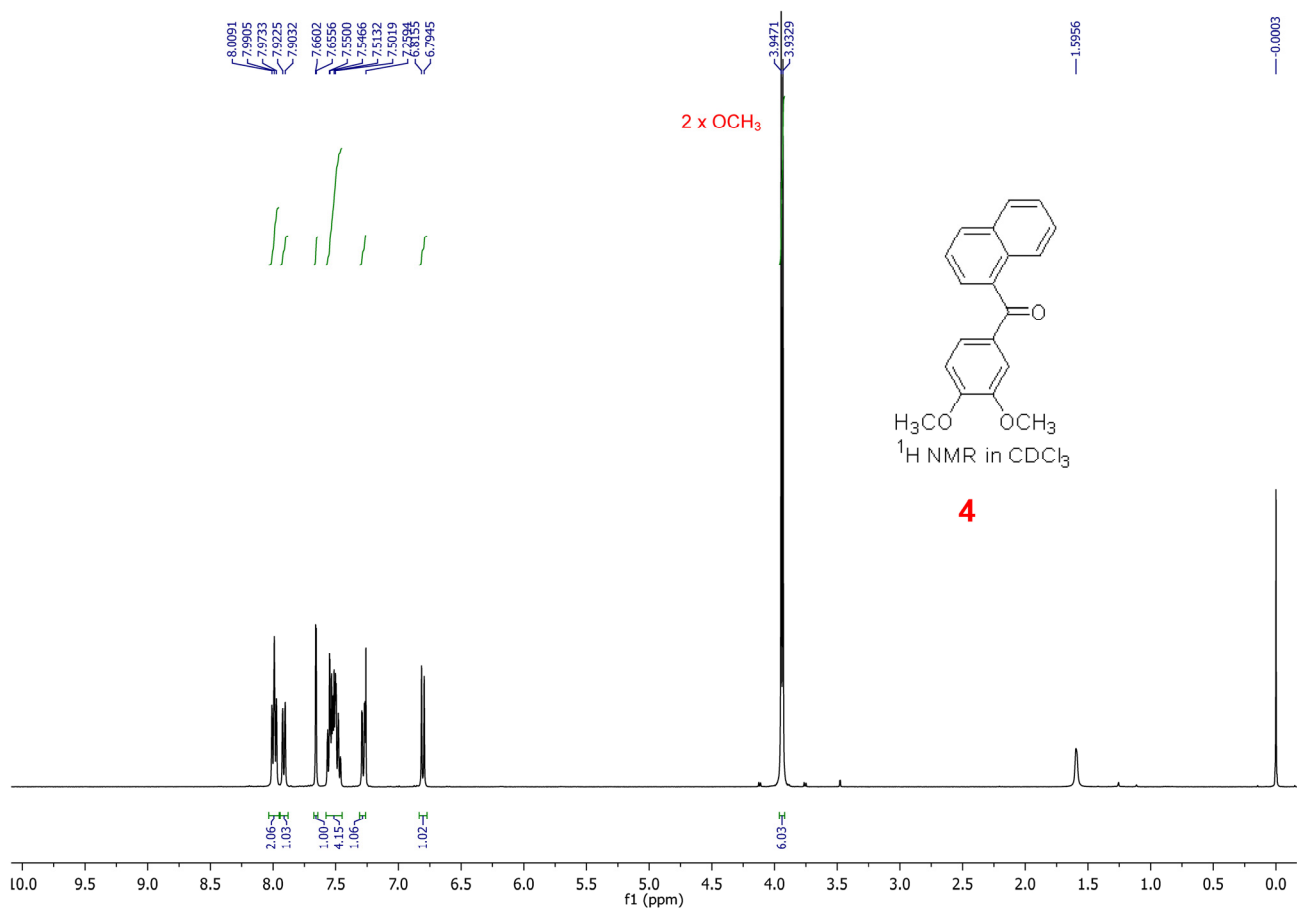
**1 scan**

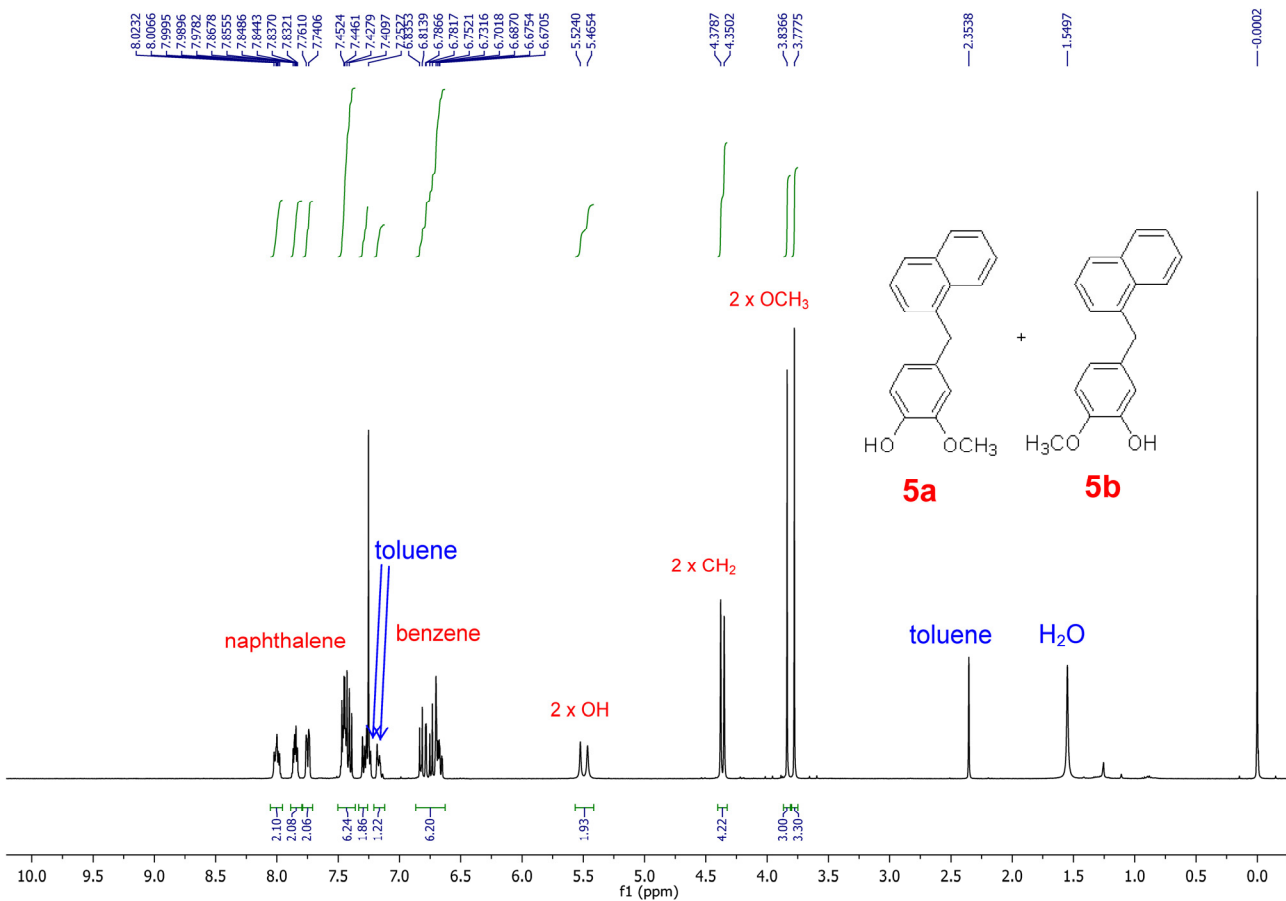
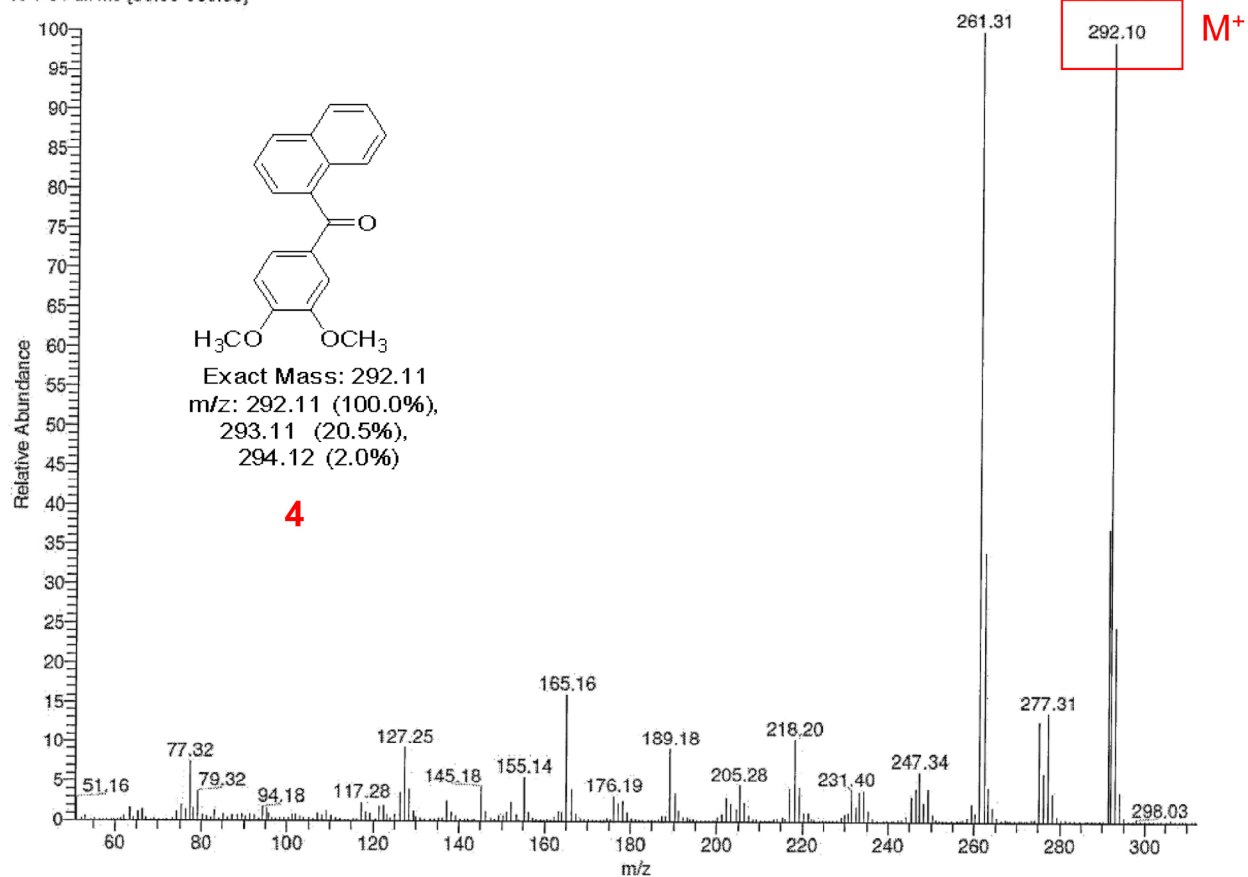
**3 scans**

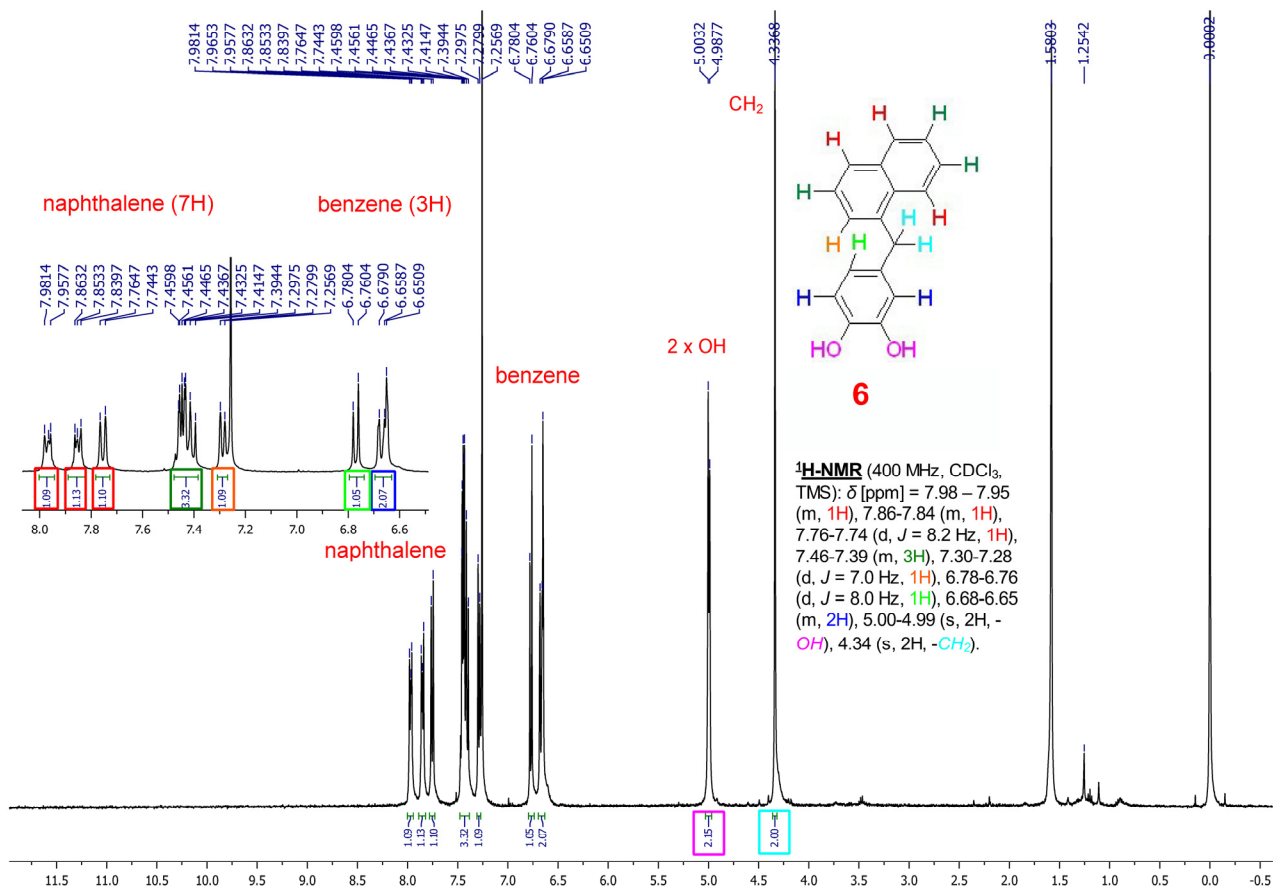
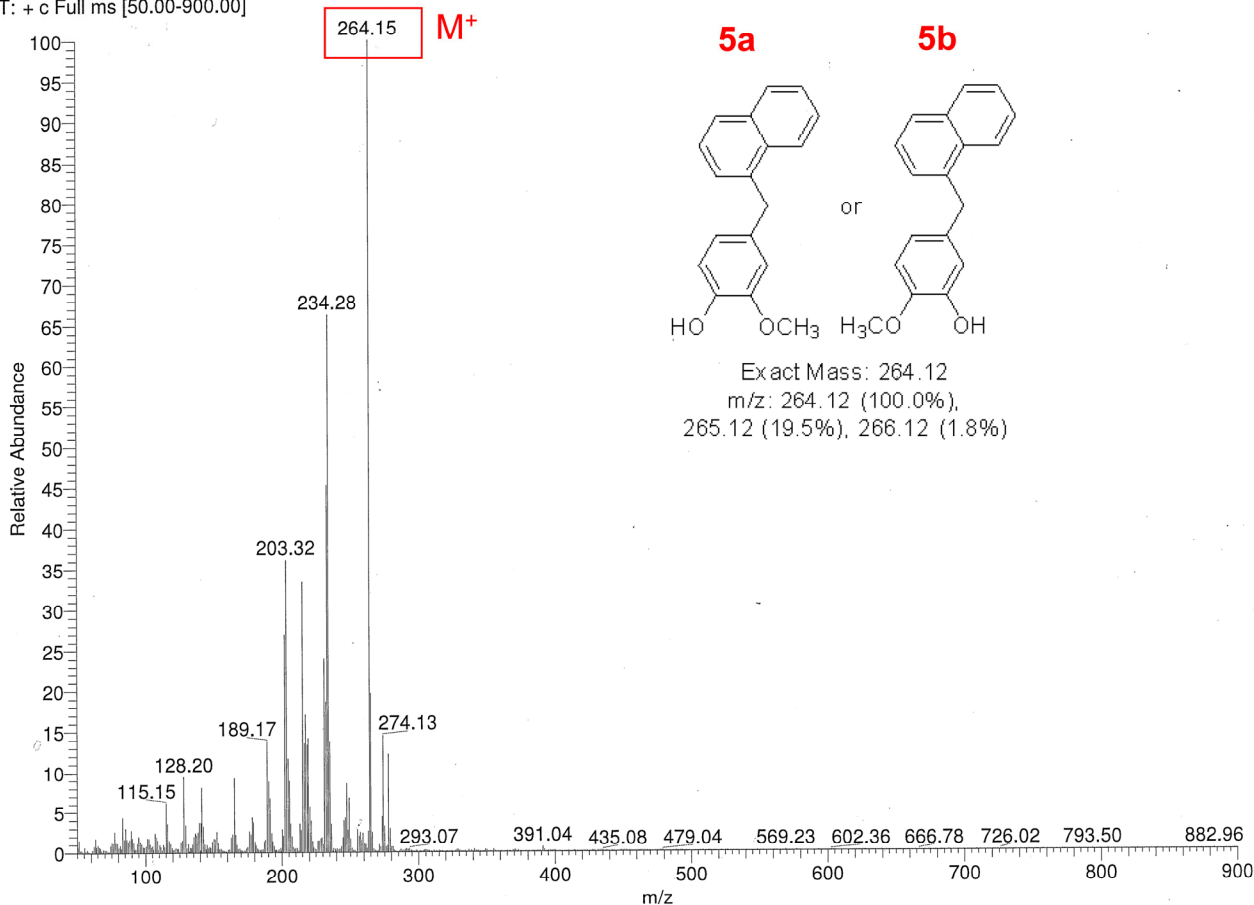
**5 scans**

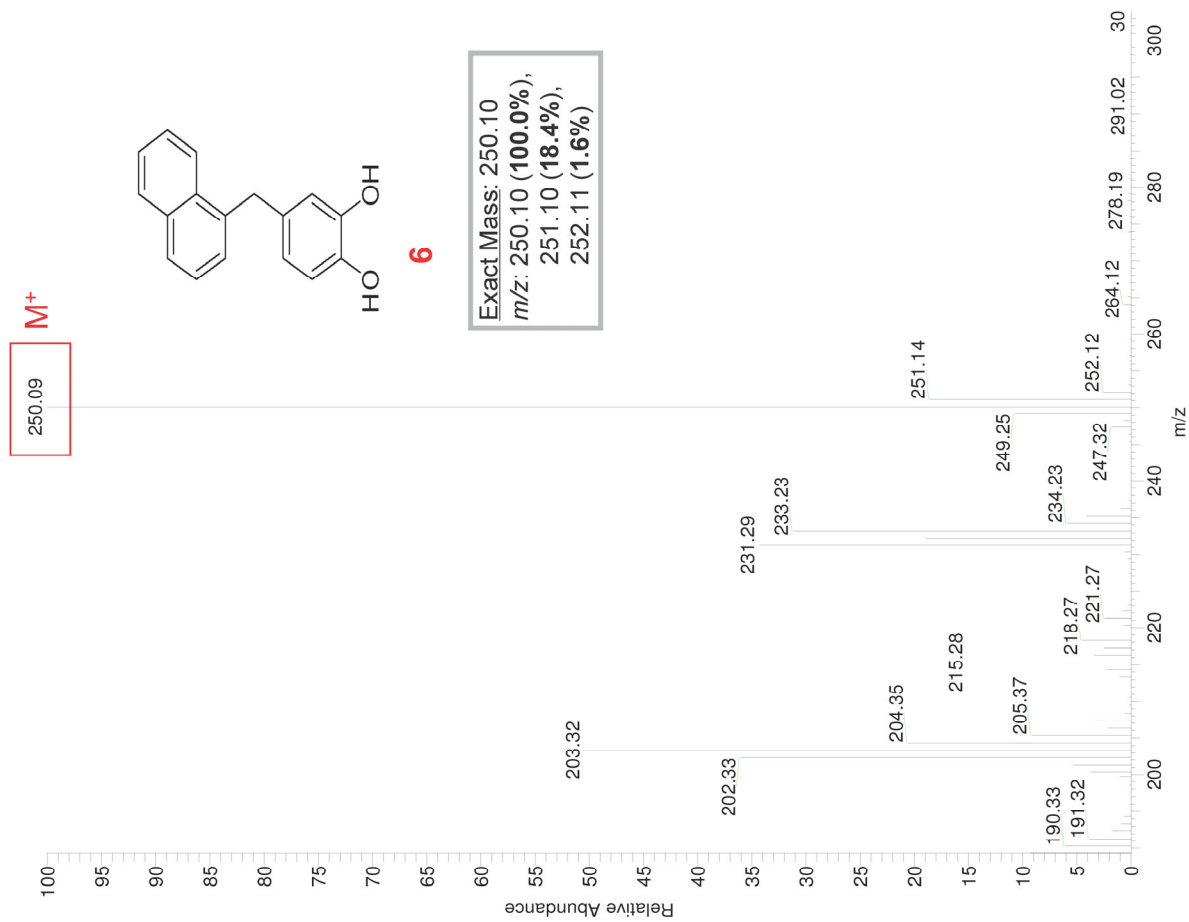
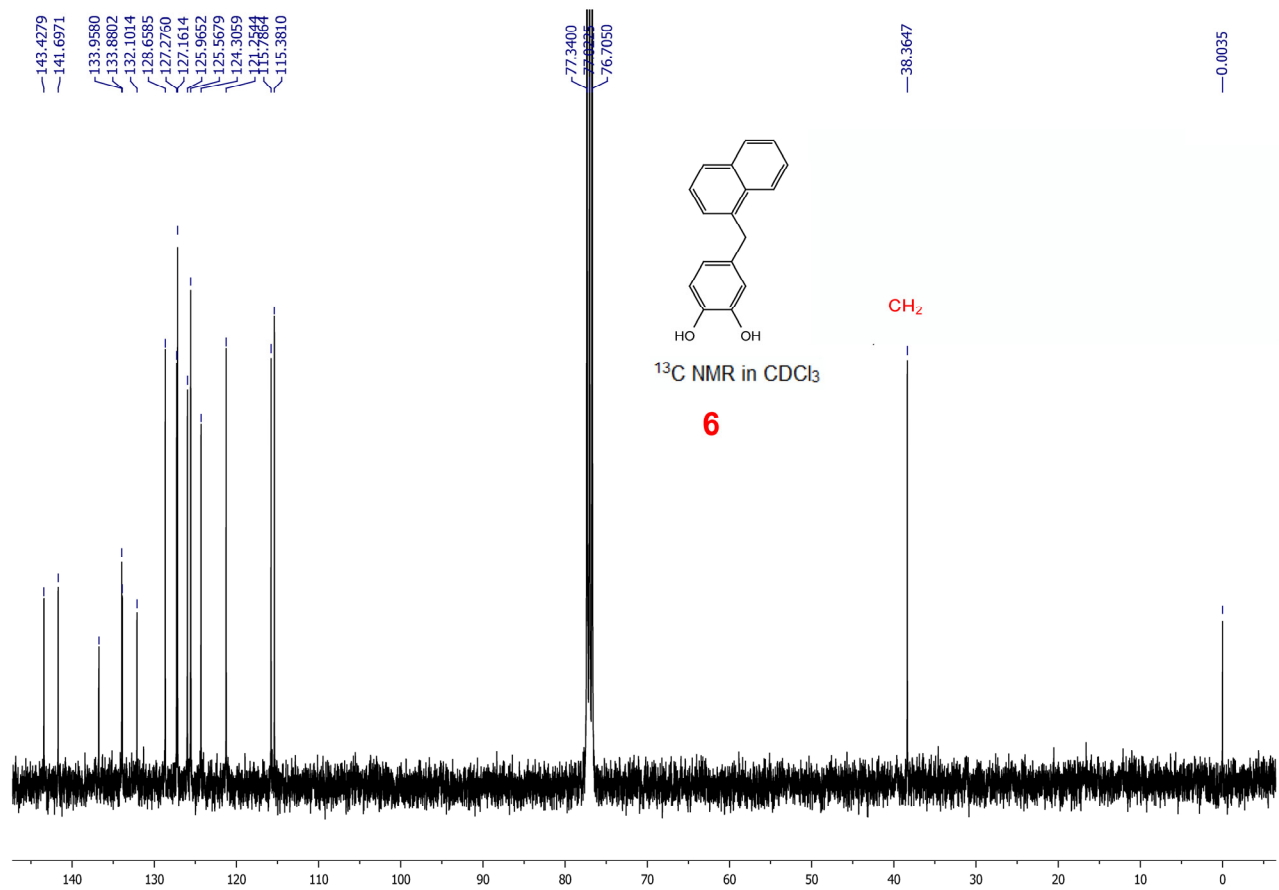
**Figure S23.** SEM images of the **p[2Na-PheDOT]** polymer surfaces obtained by electropolymerization of **2Na-PheDOT** (10 mM) in 0.1 M **Bu<sub>4</sub>NClO<sub>4</sub>** / (DCM + H<sub>2</sub>O) in potentiodynamic conditions by cyclic voltammetry ( $E = -1 / +1.8$  V) after 1, 3 and 5 scans of depositions, with a substrate inclination of 45 °.

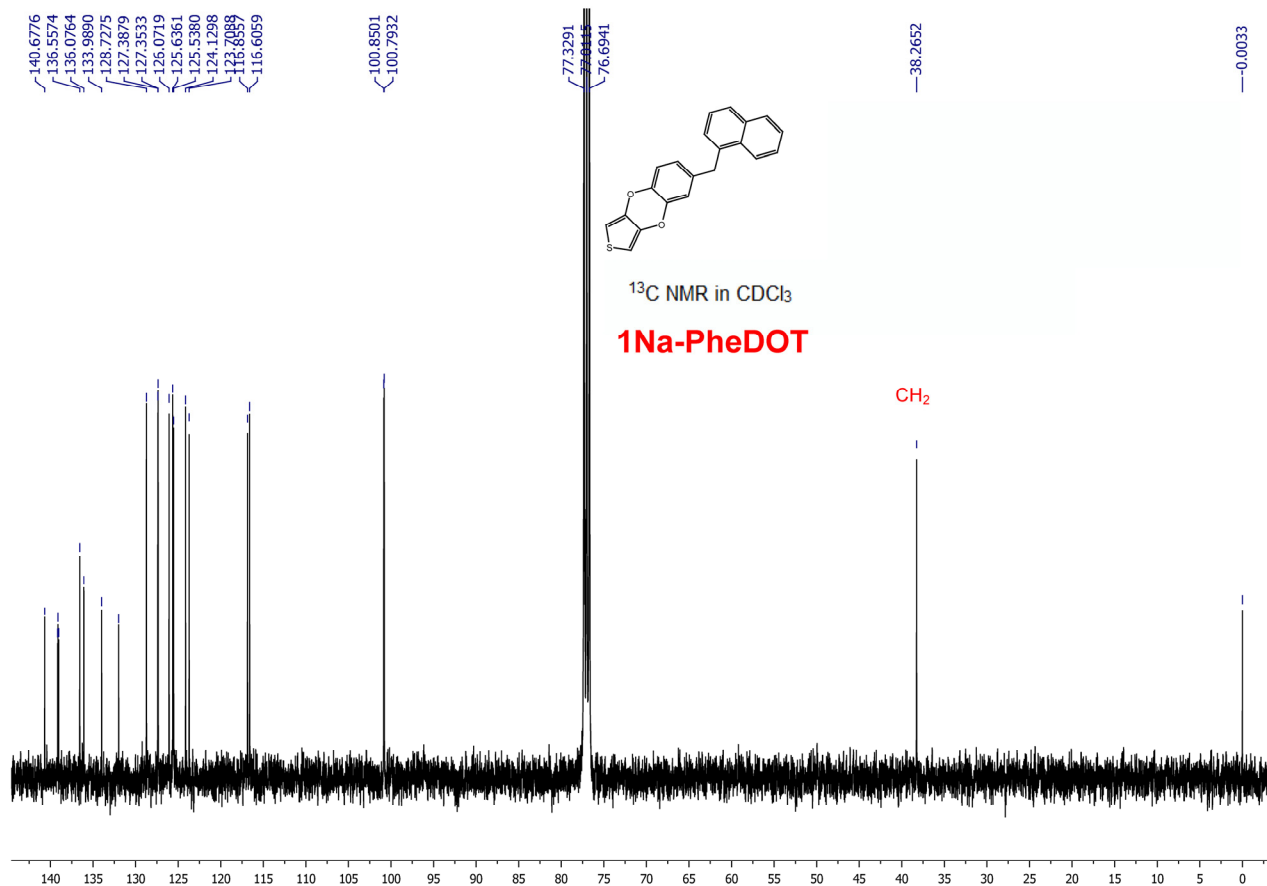
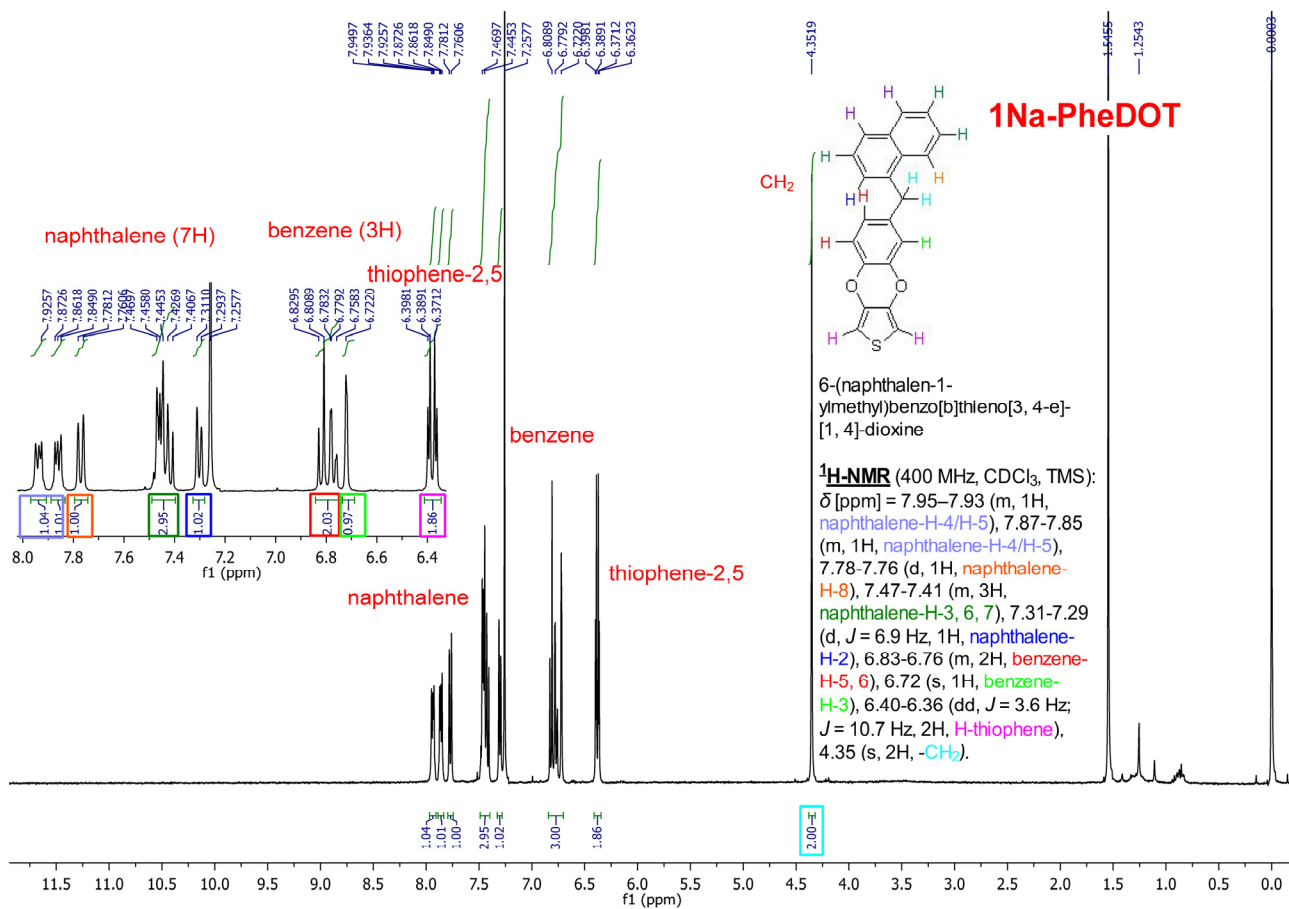
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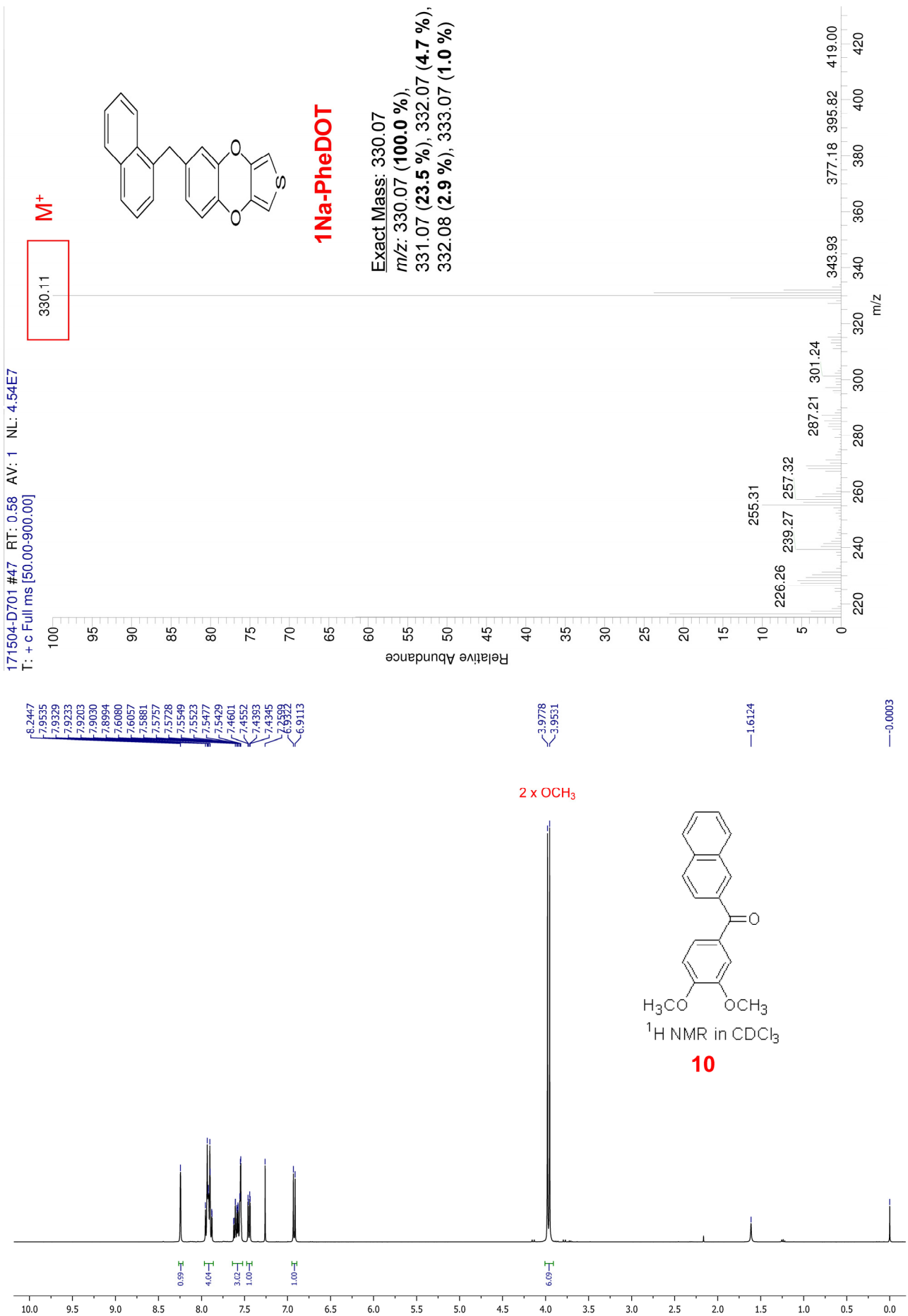


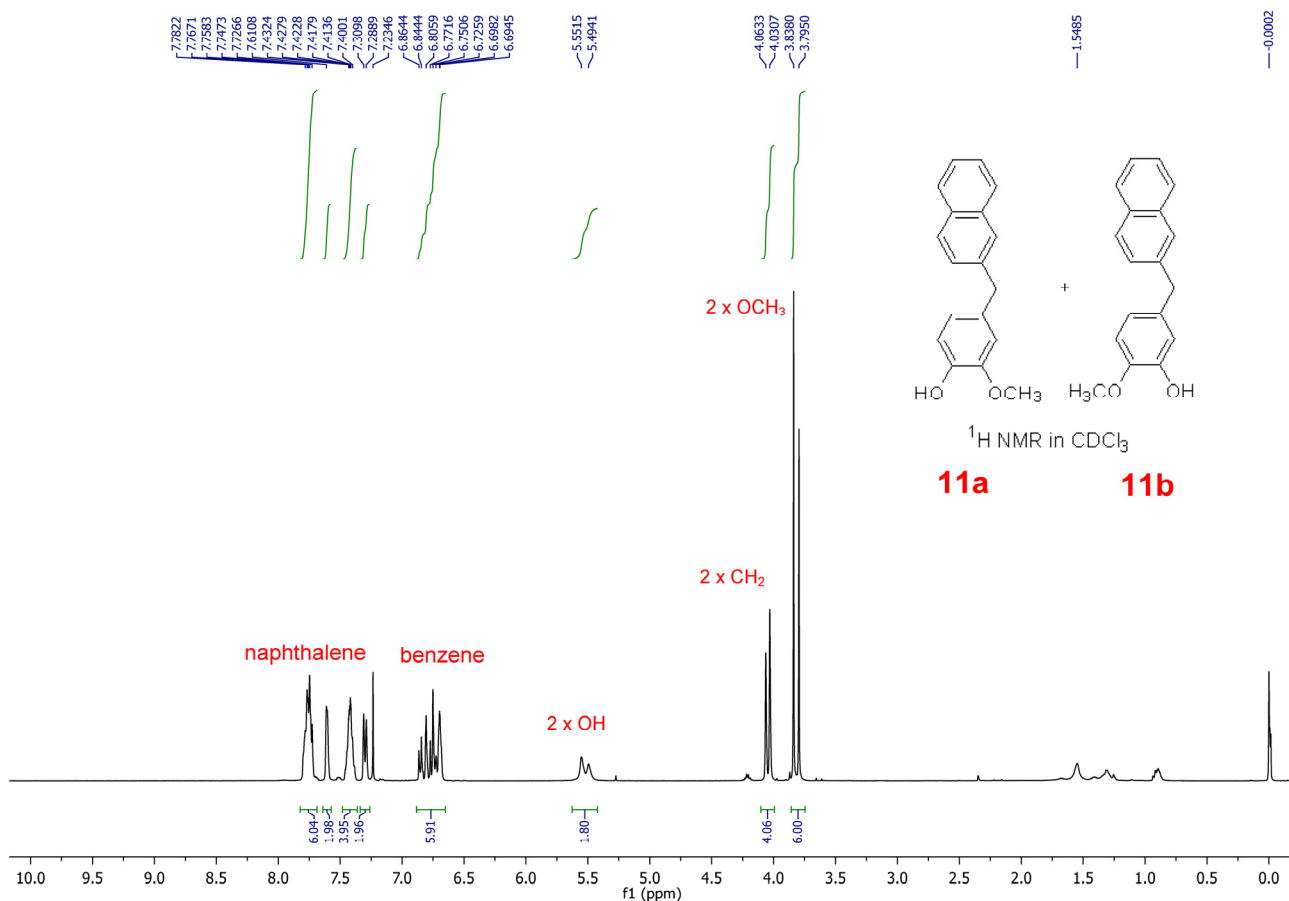




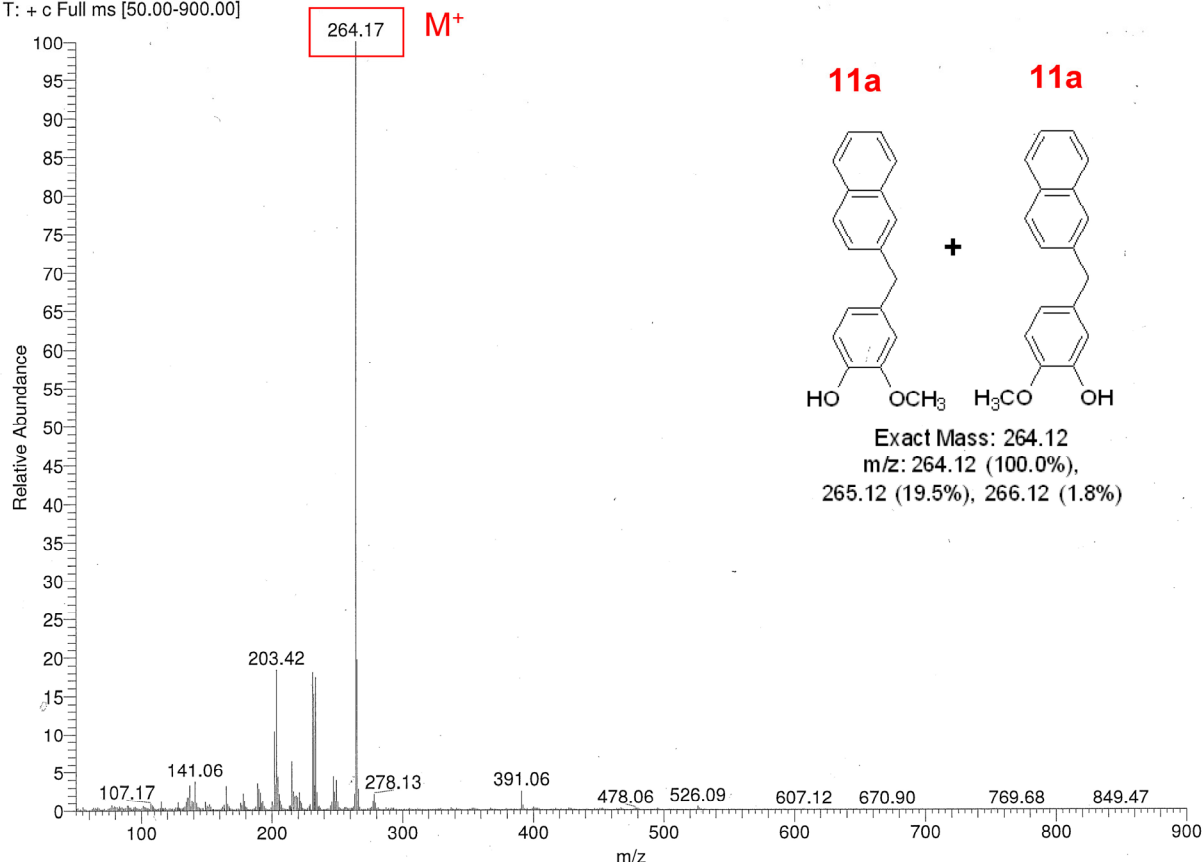


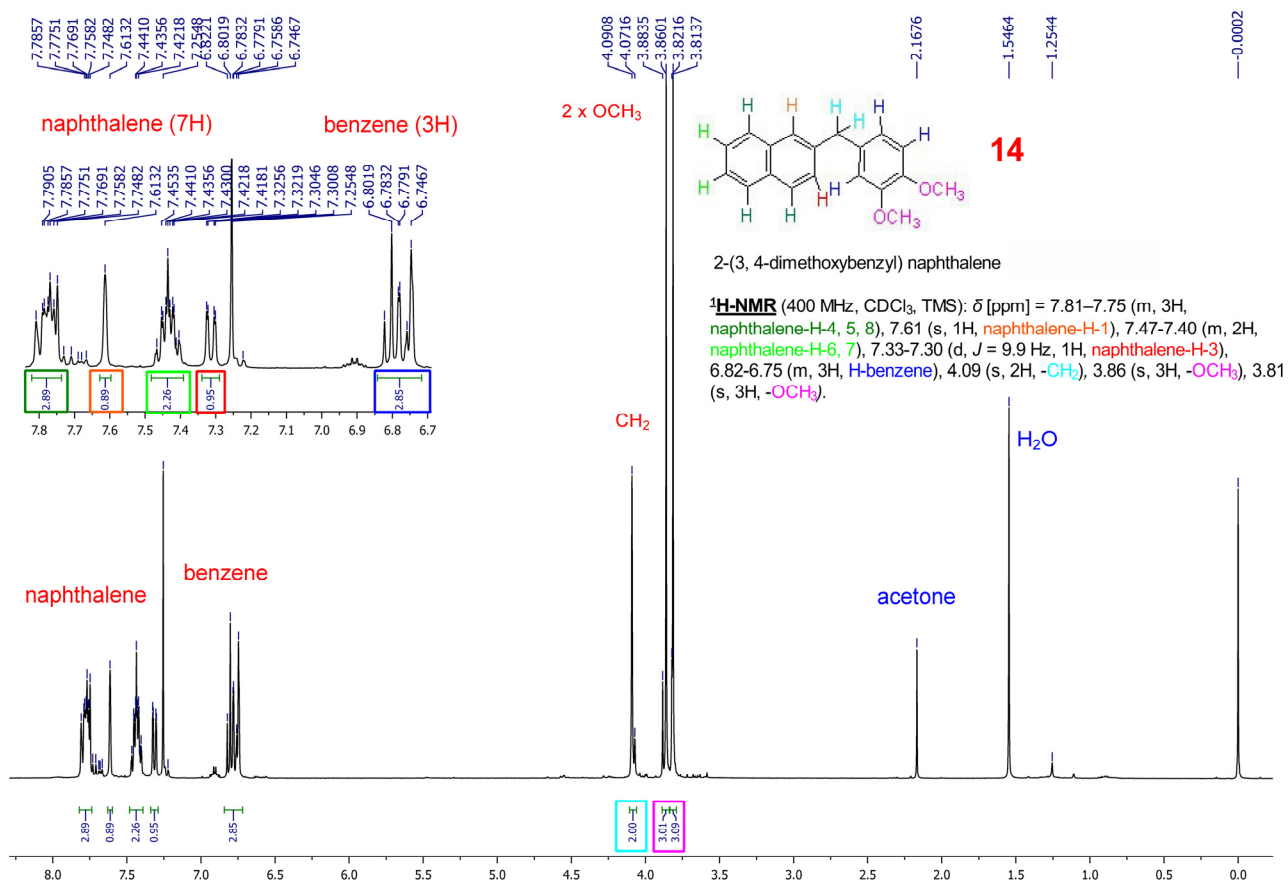
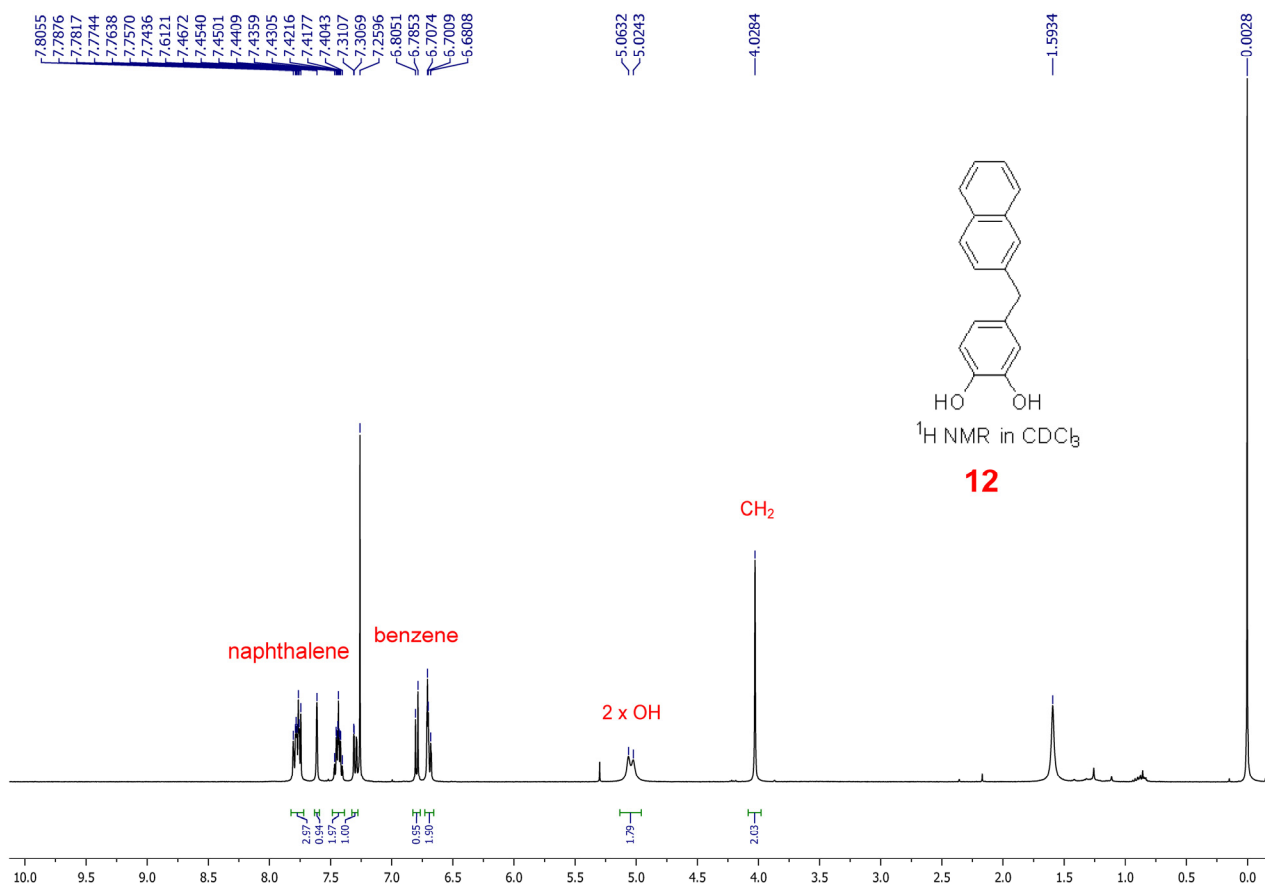


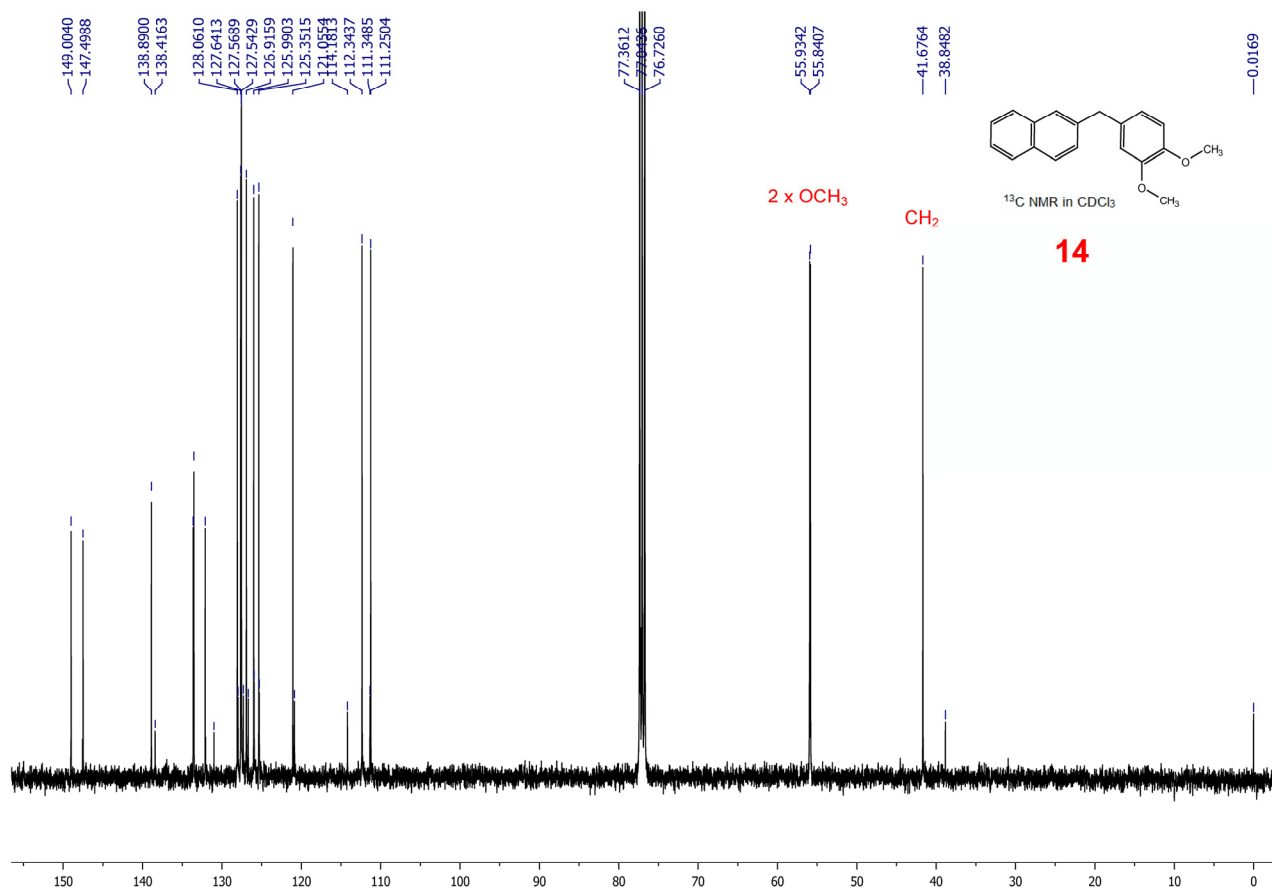
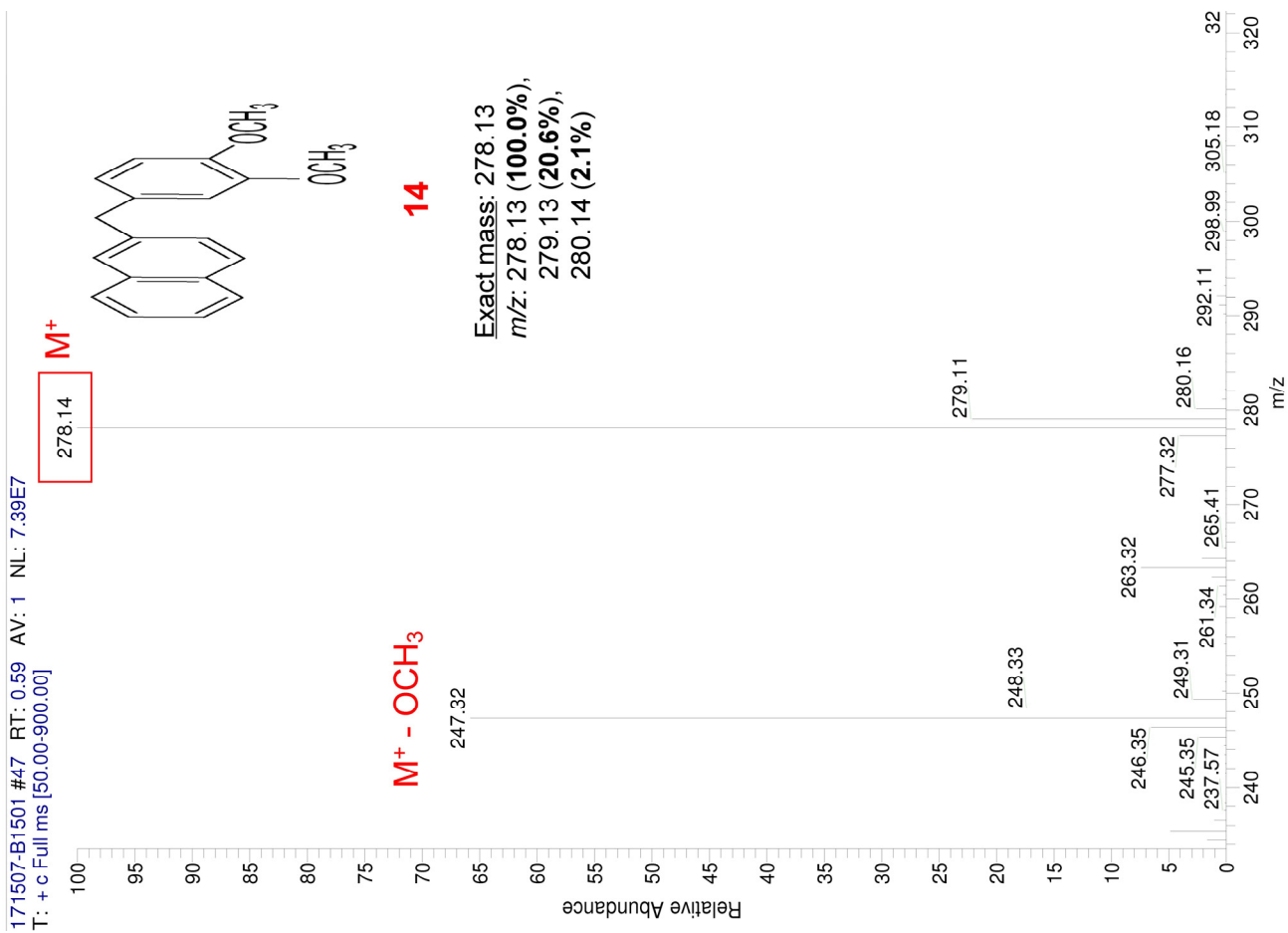


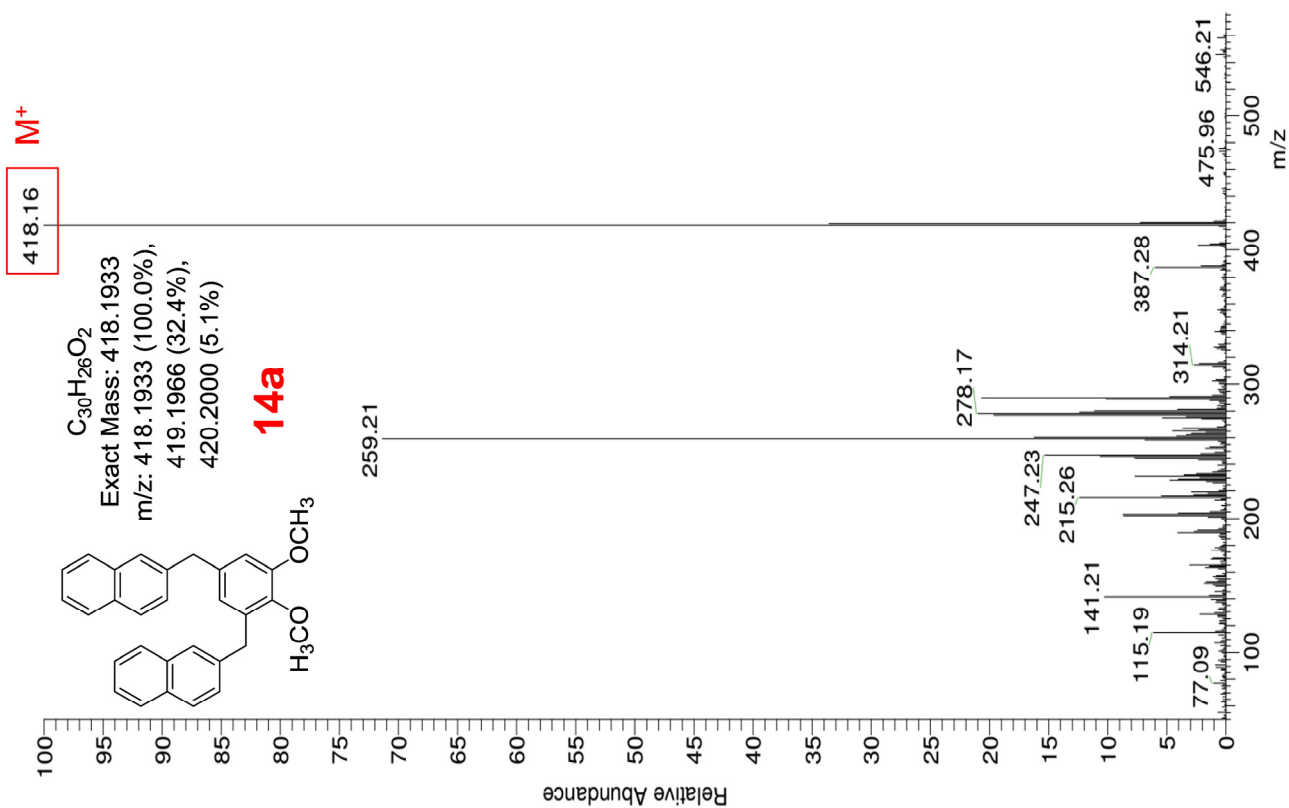
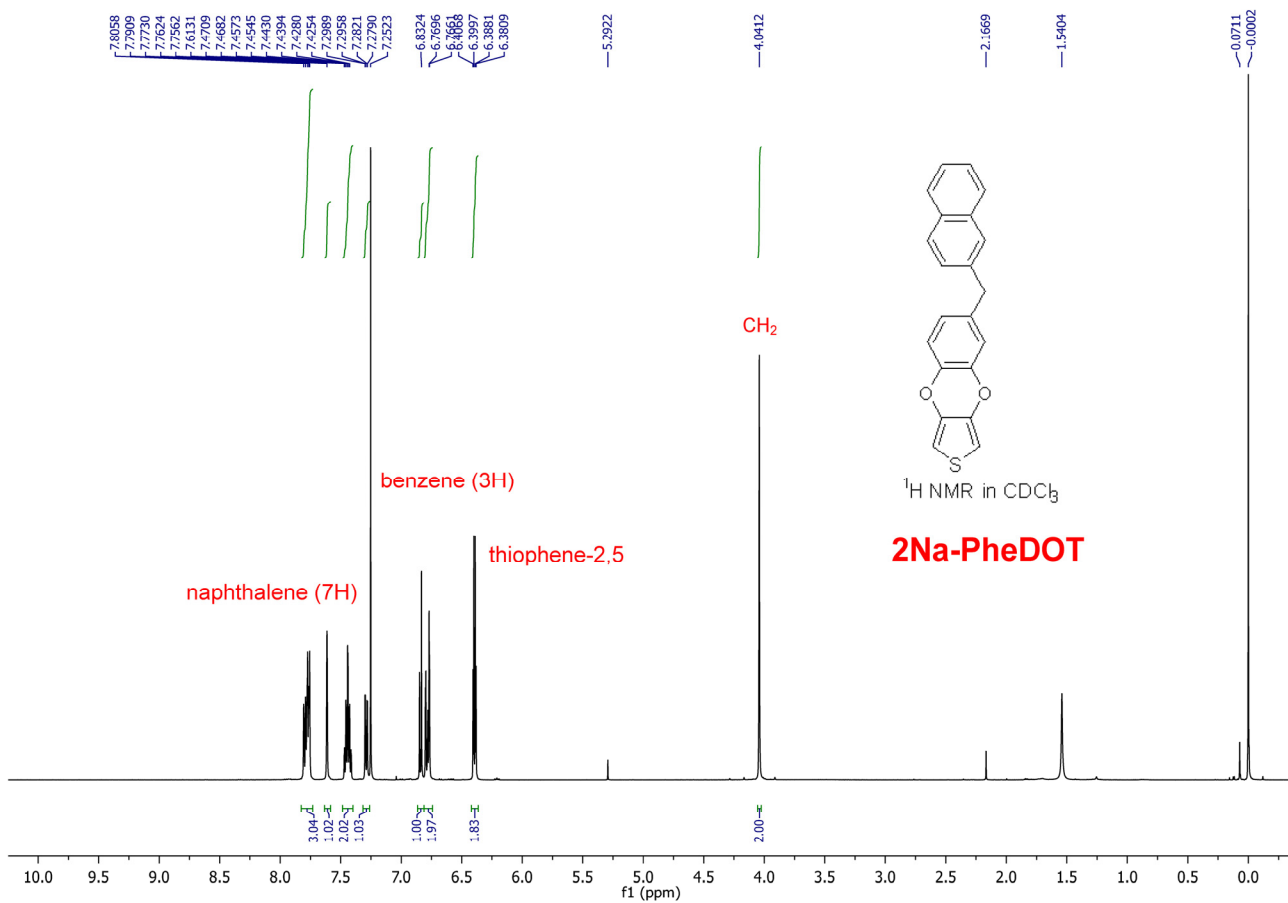


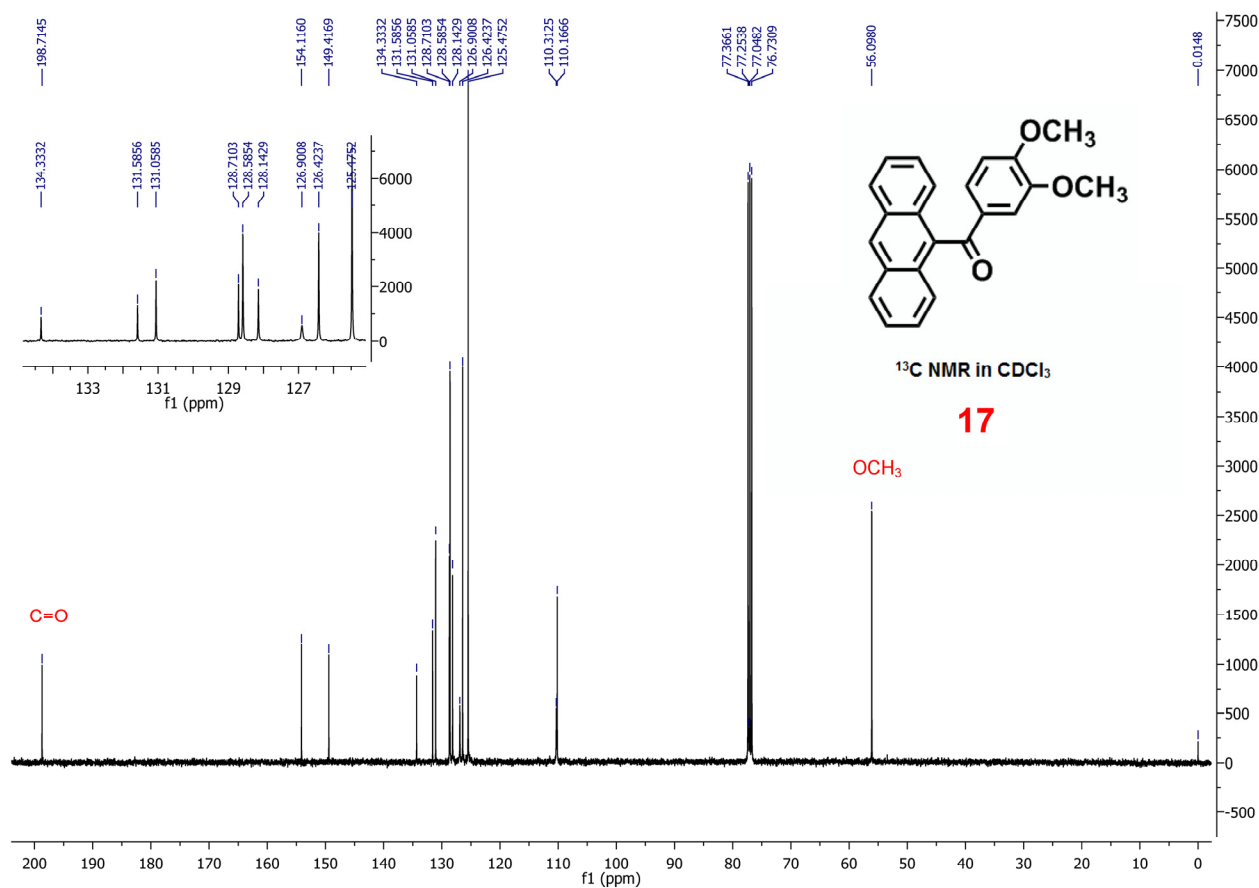
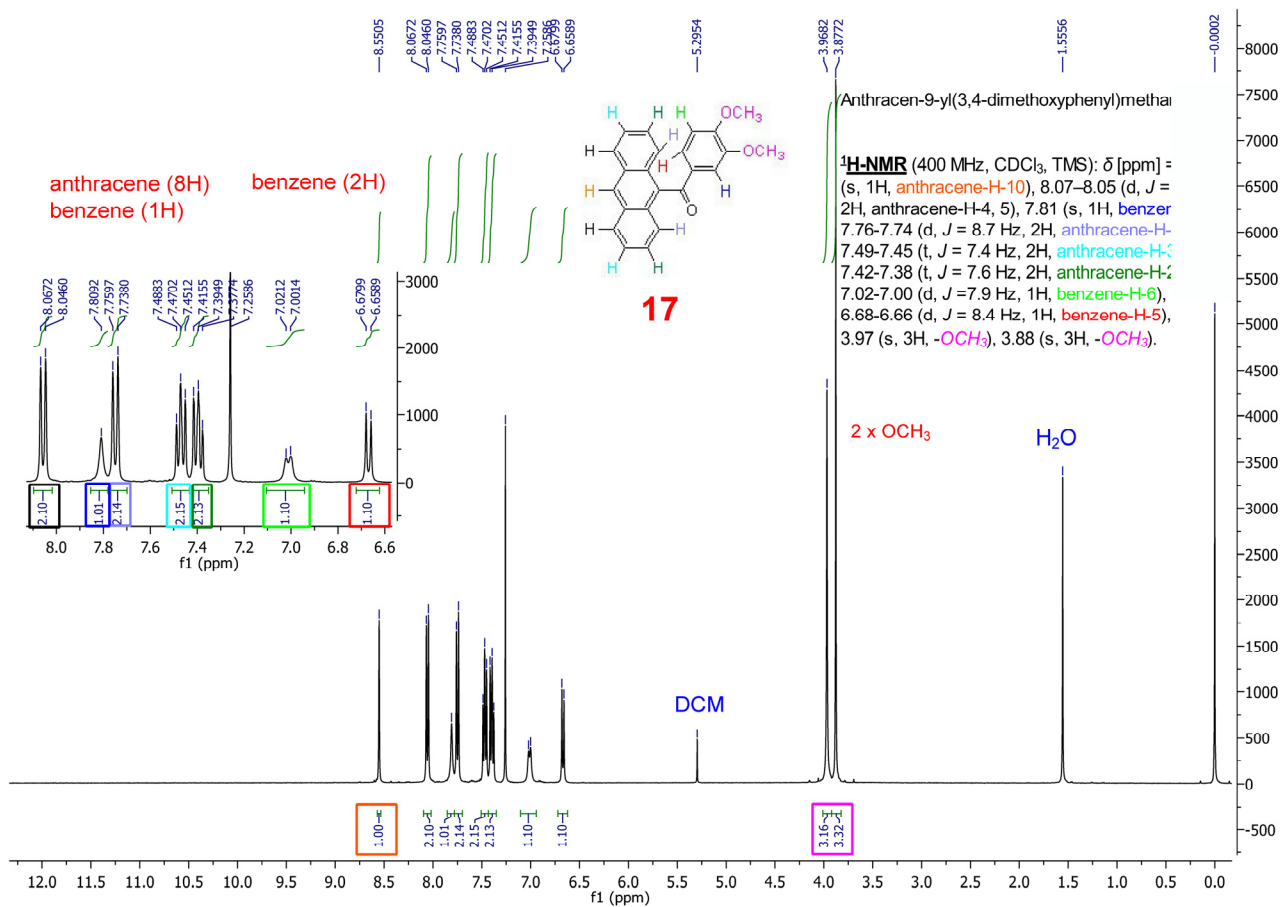
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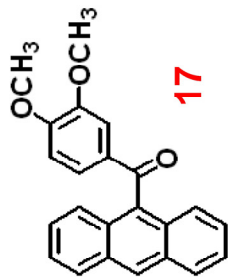






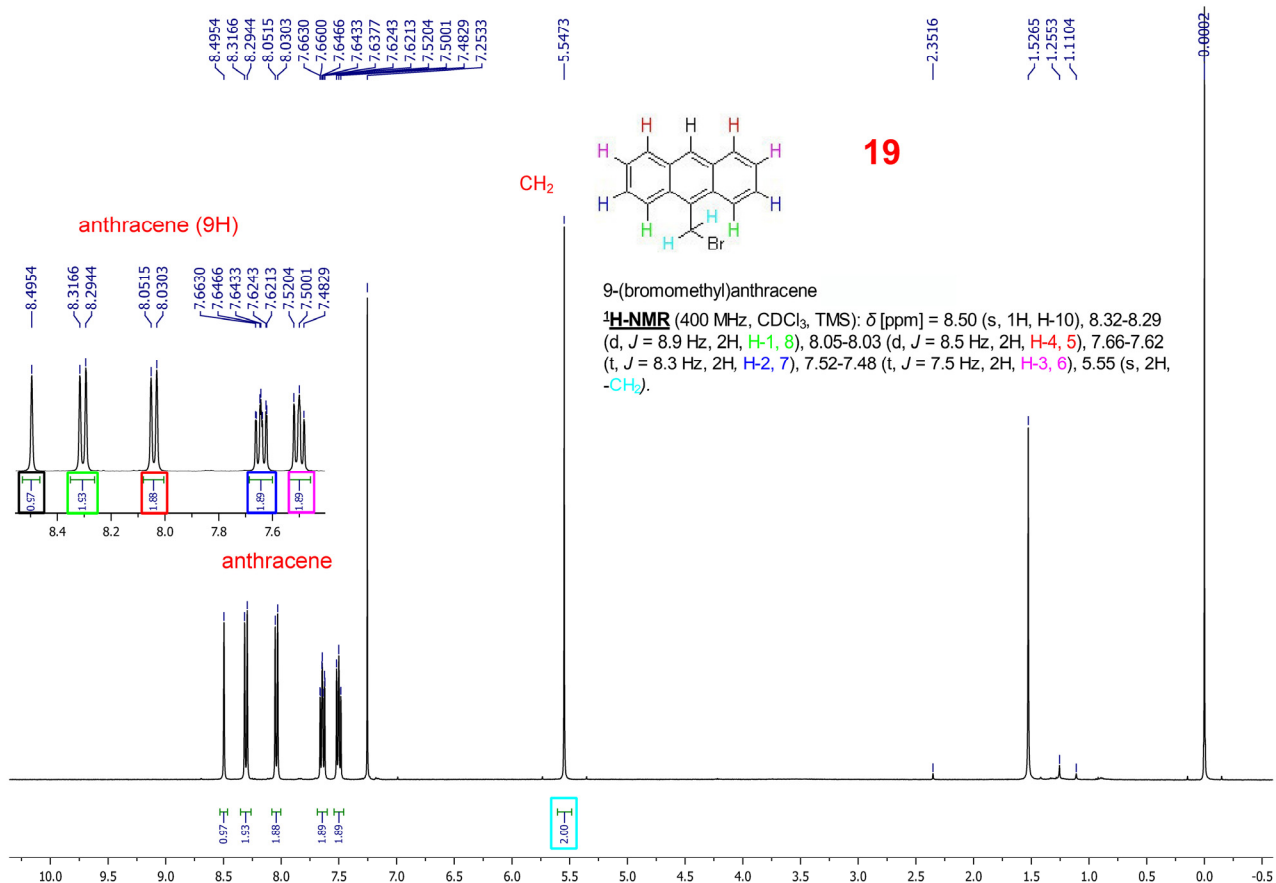
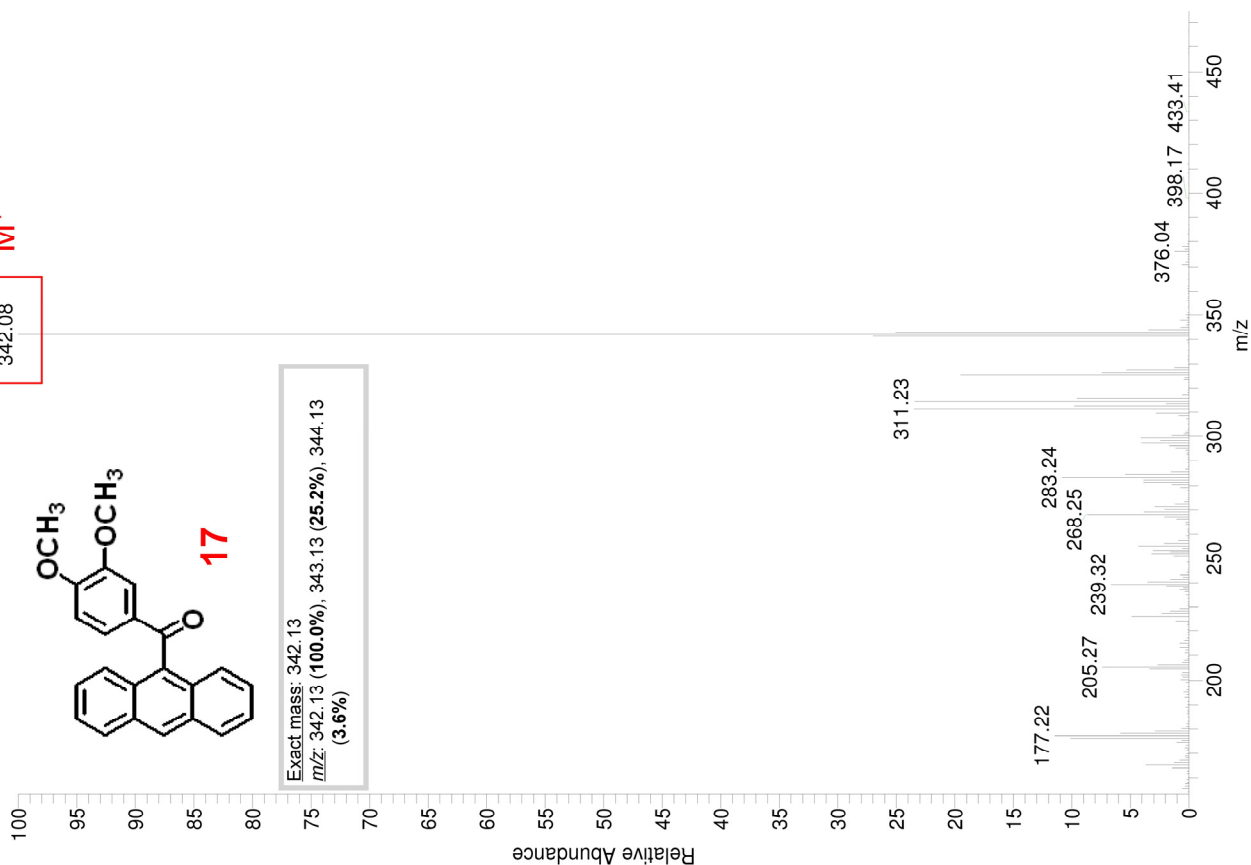
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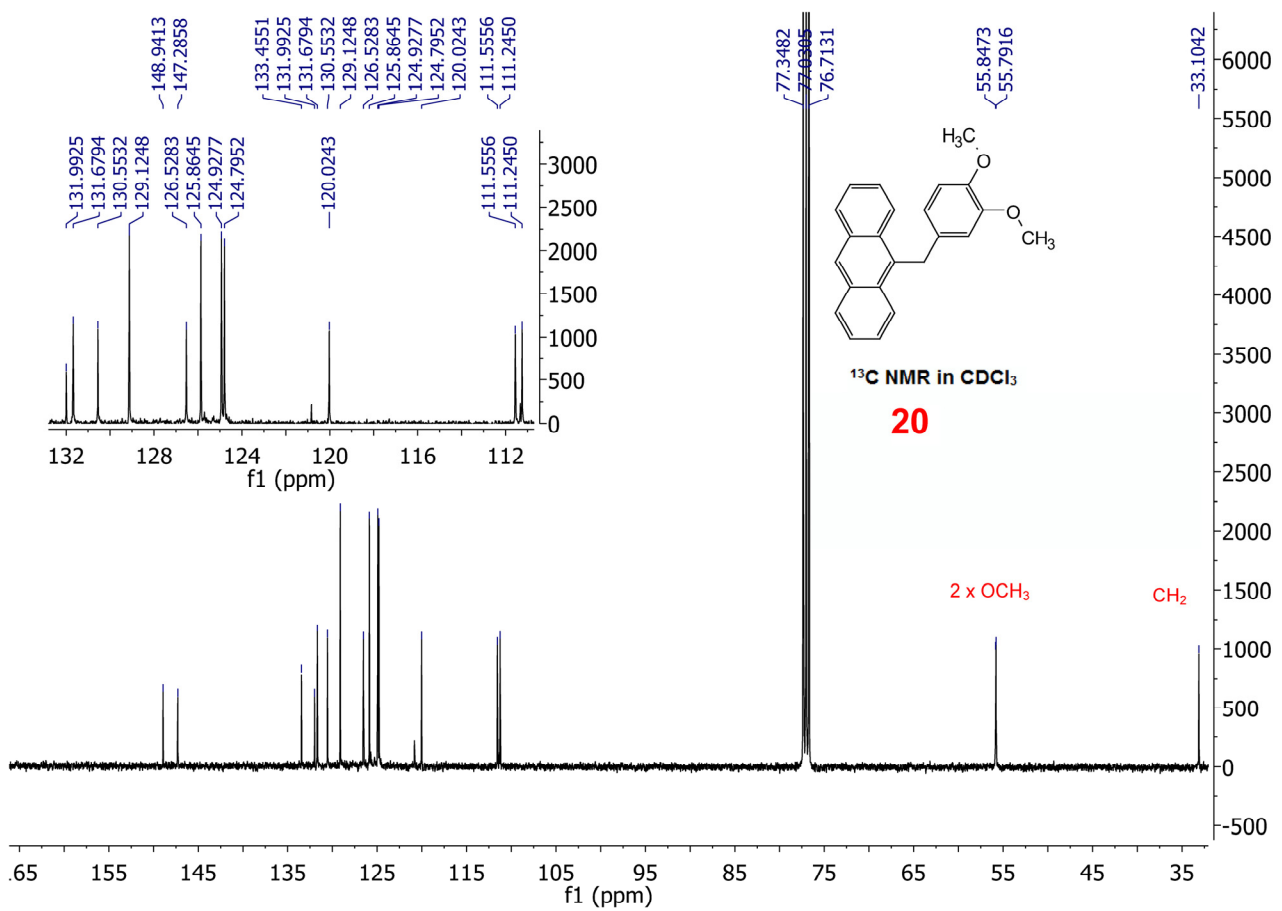
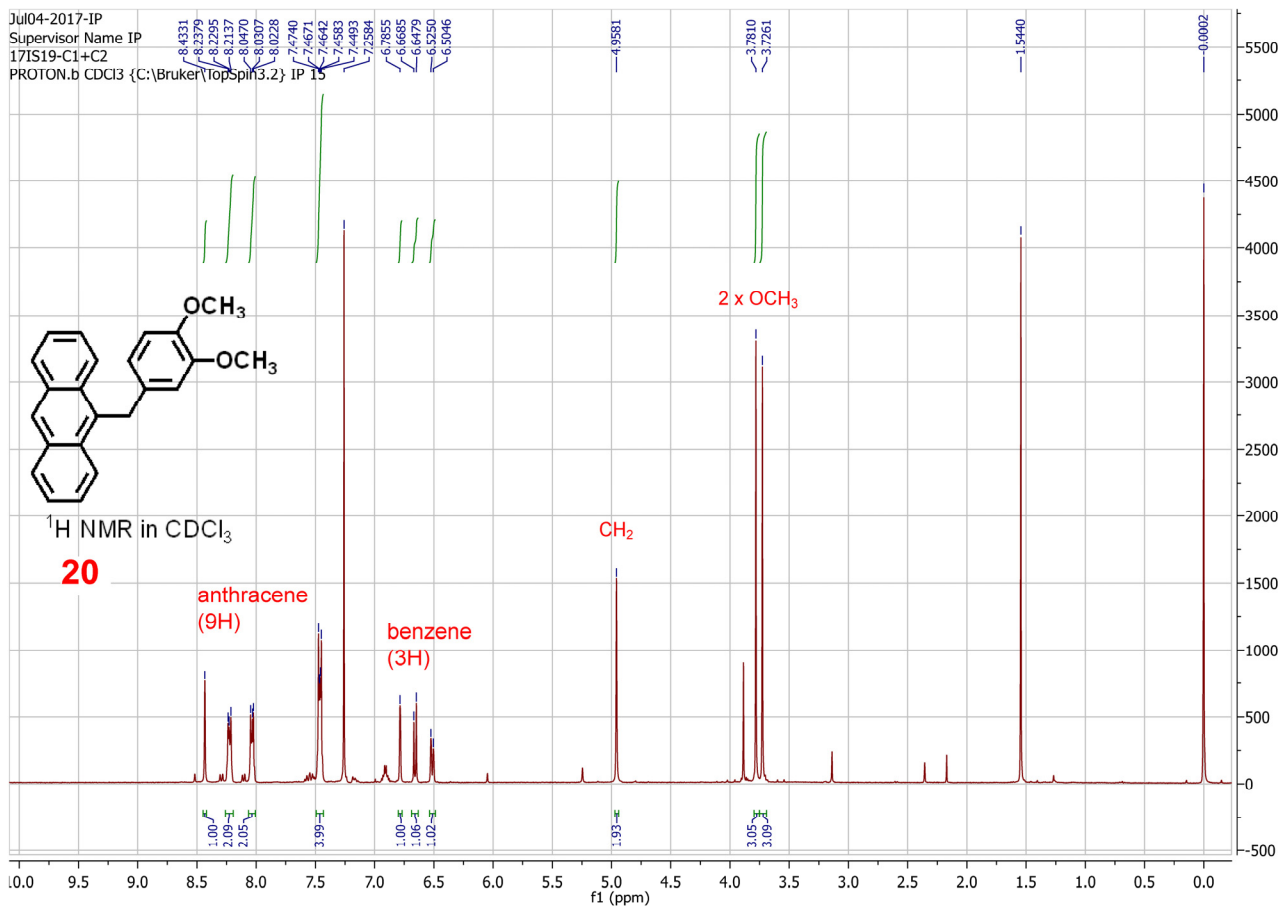
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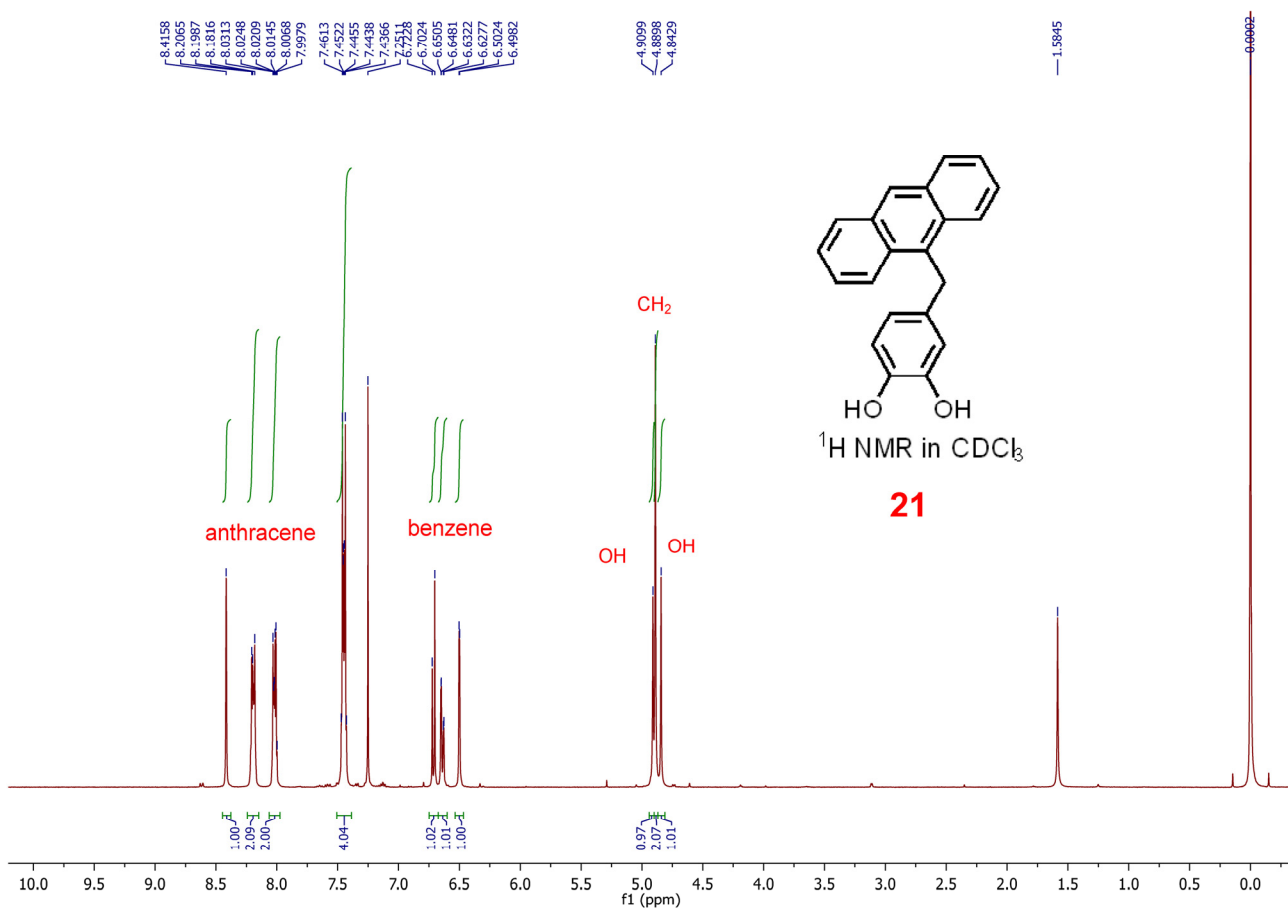


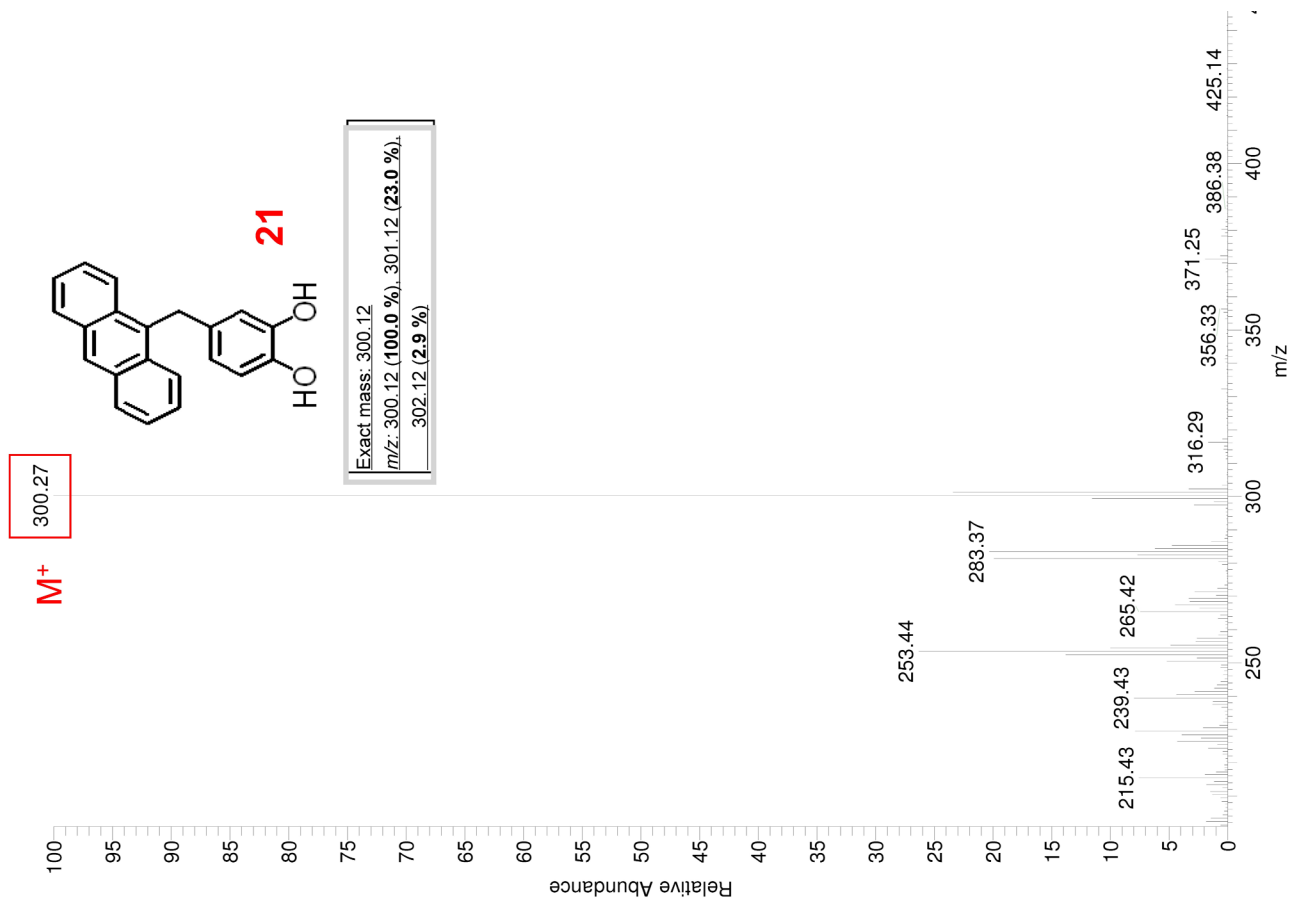
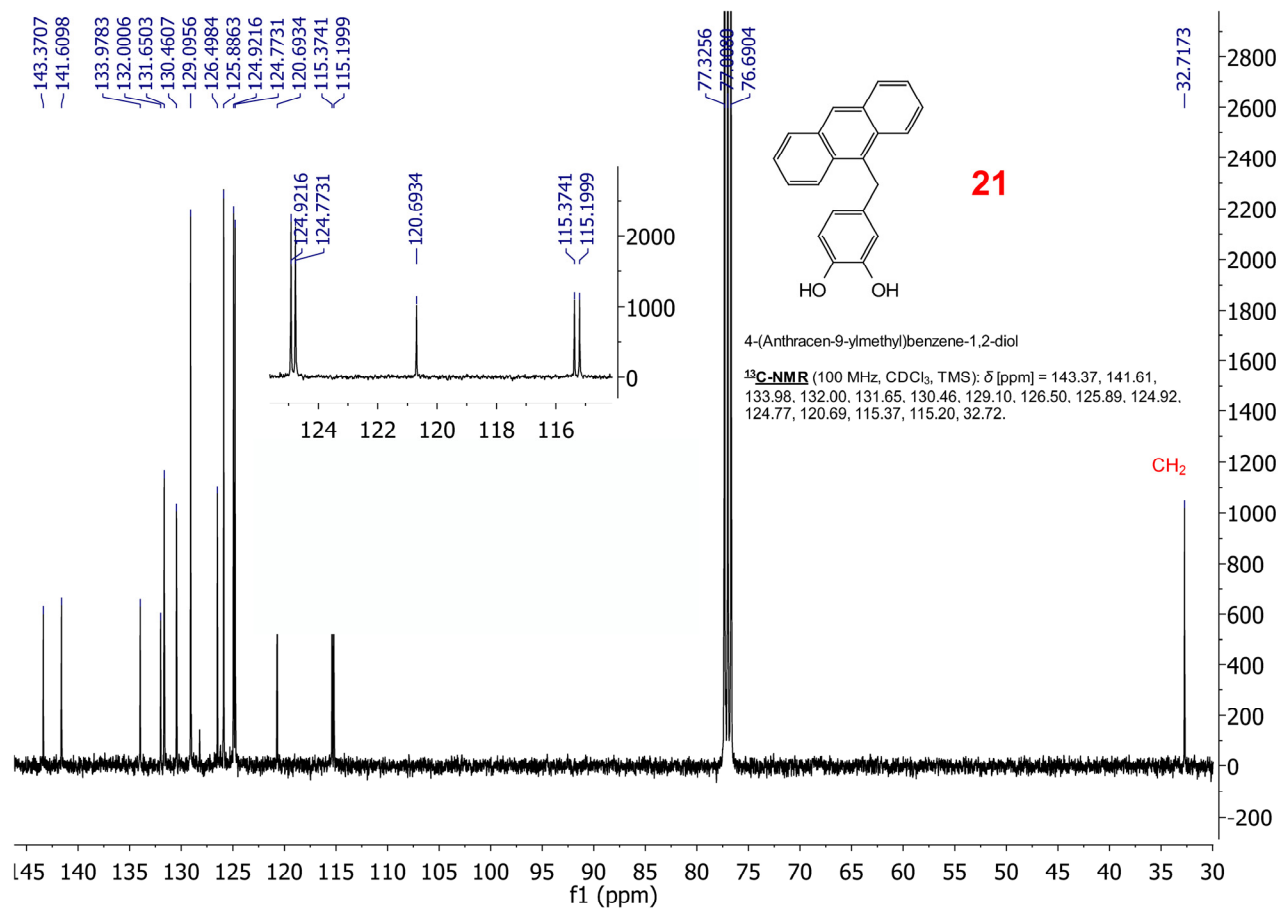
17

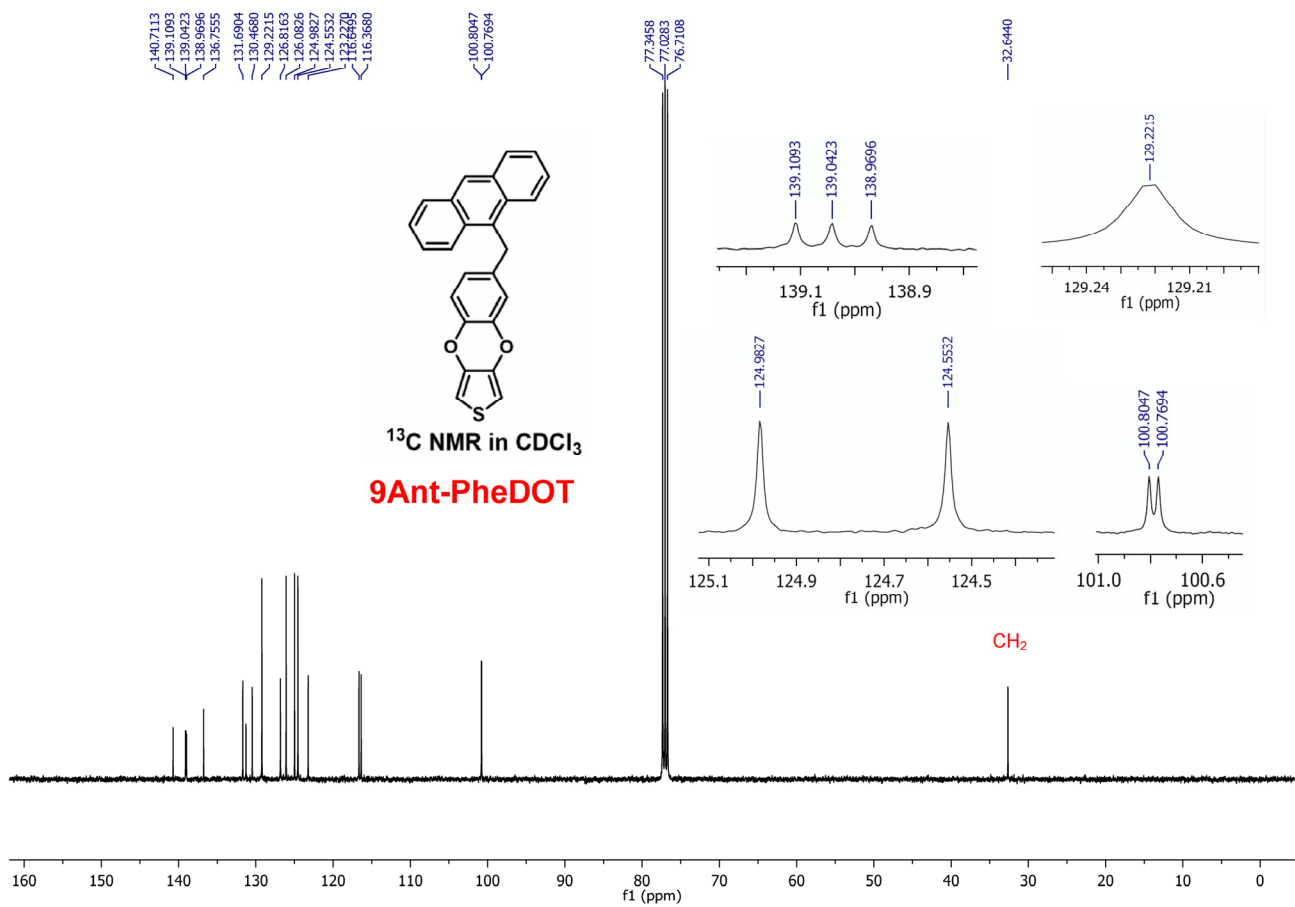
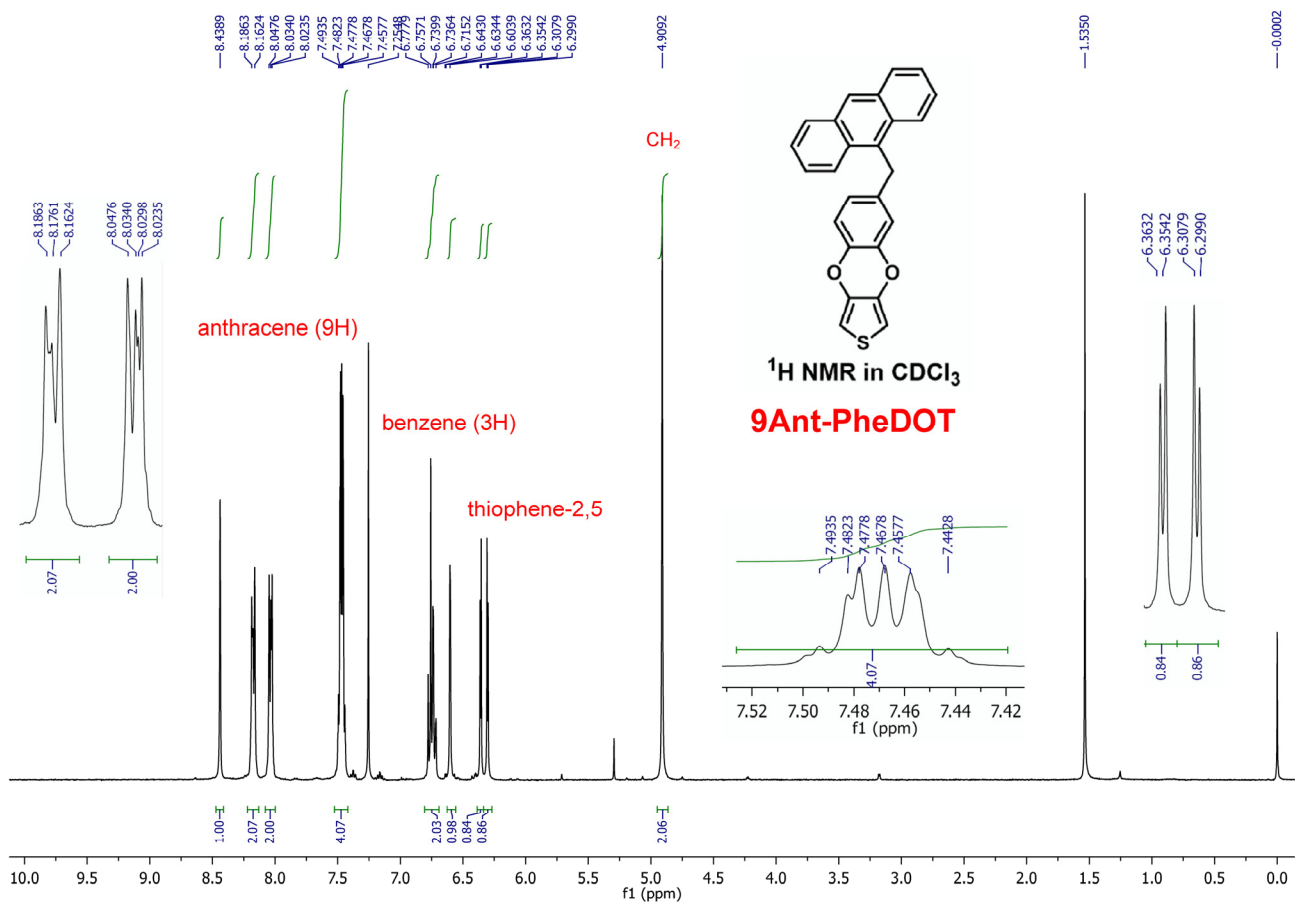
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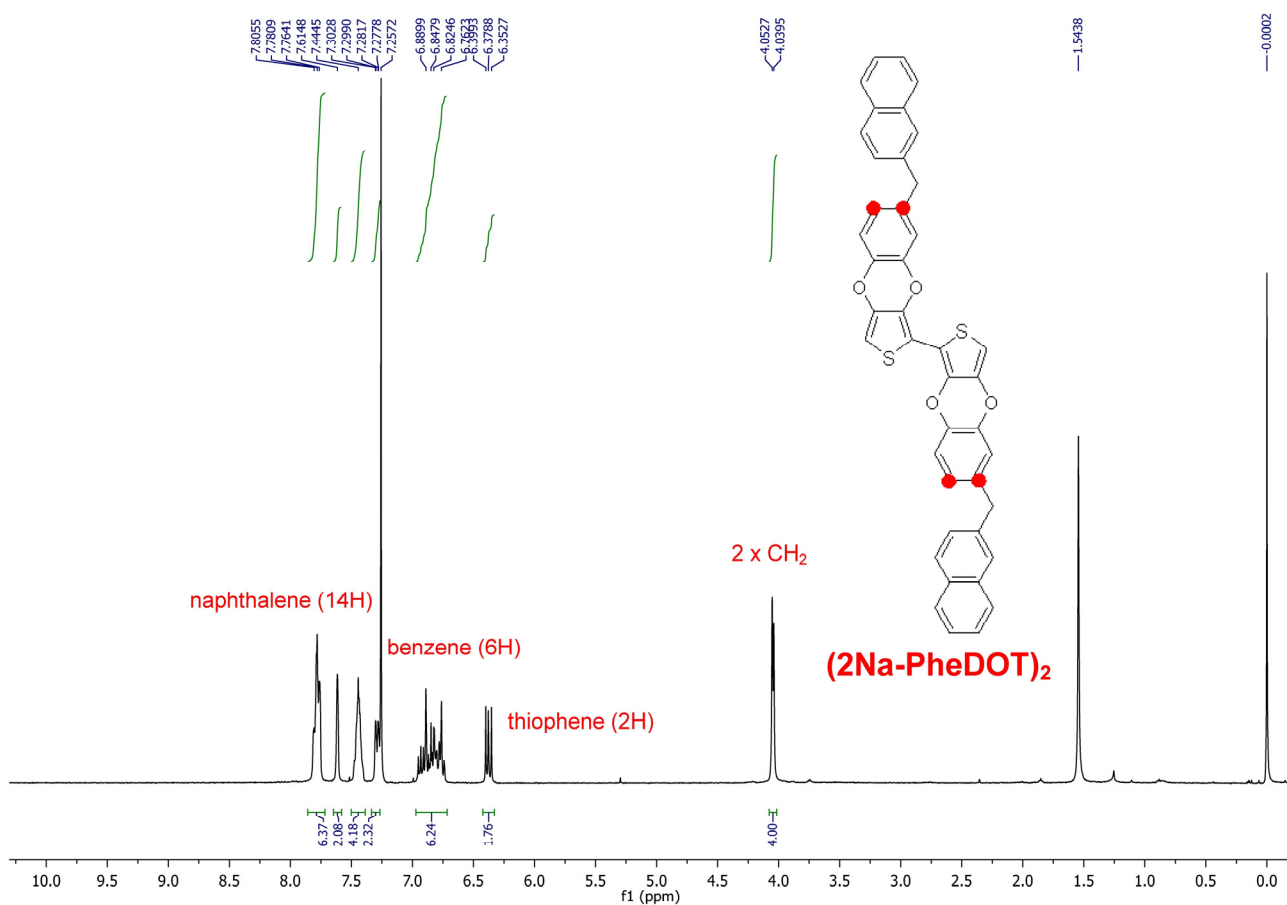
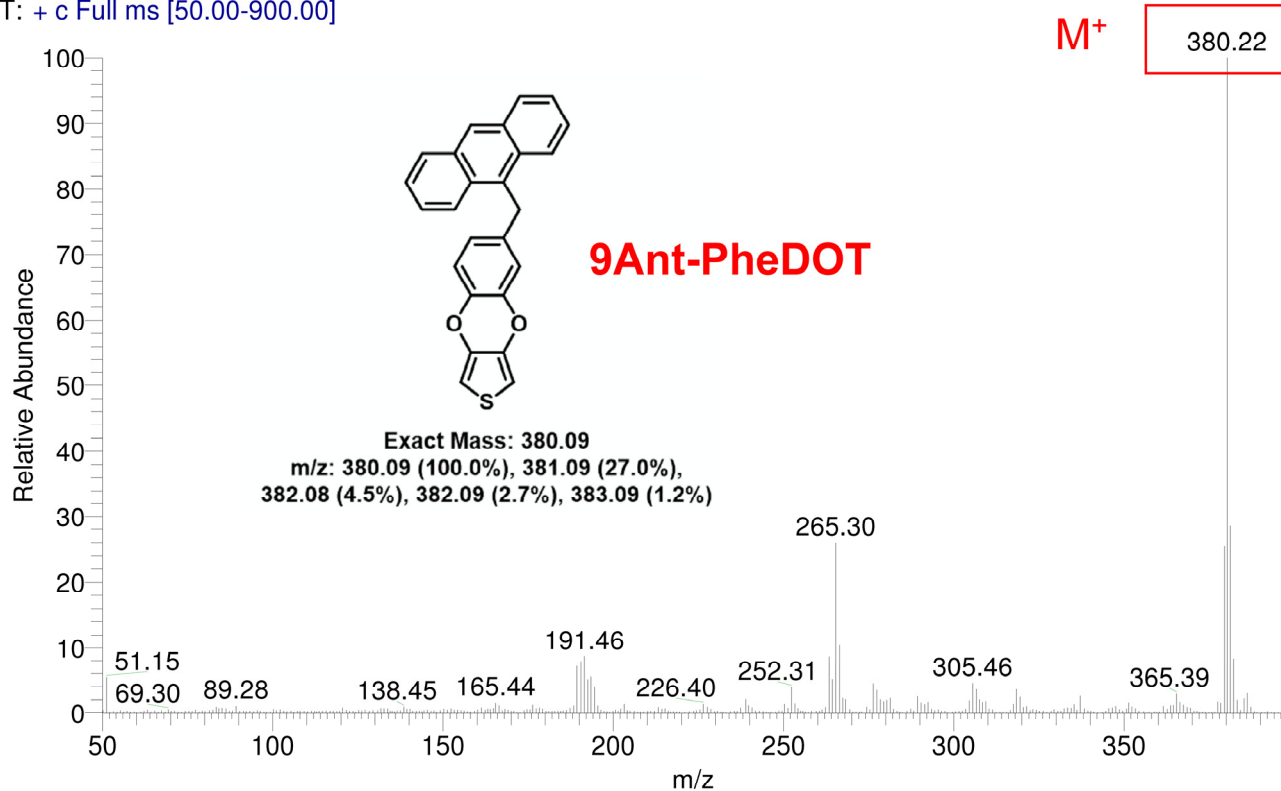


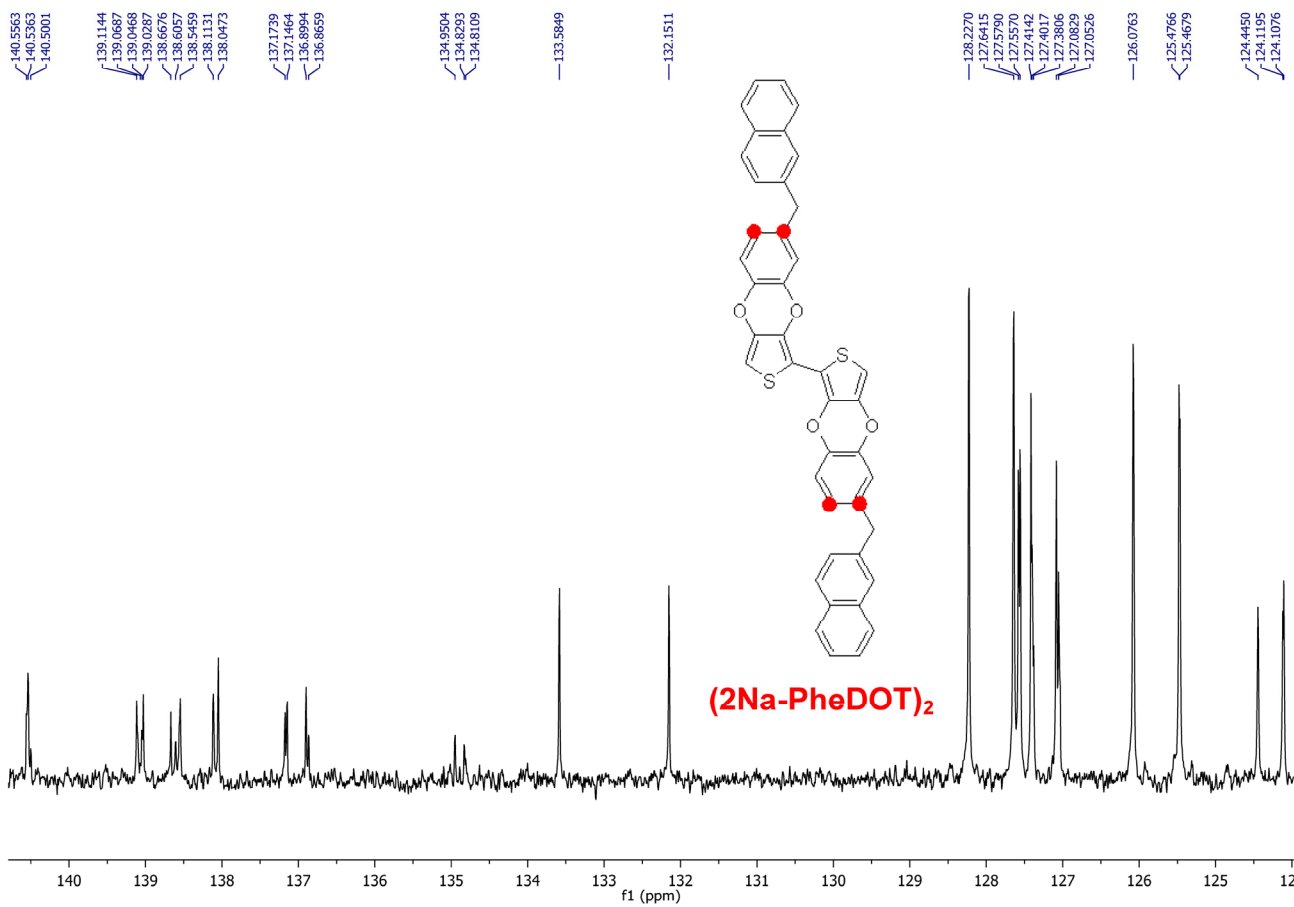
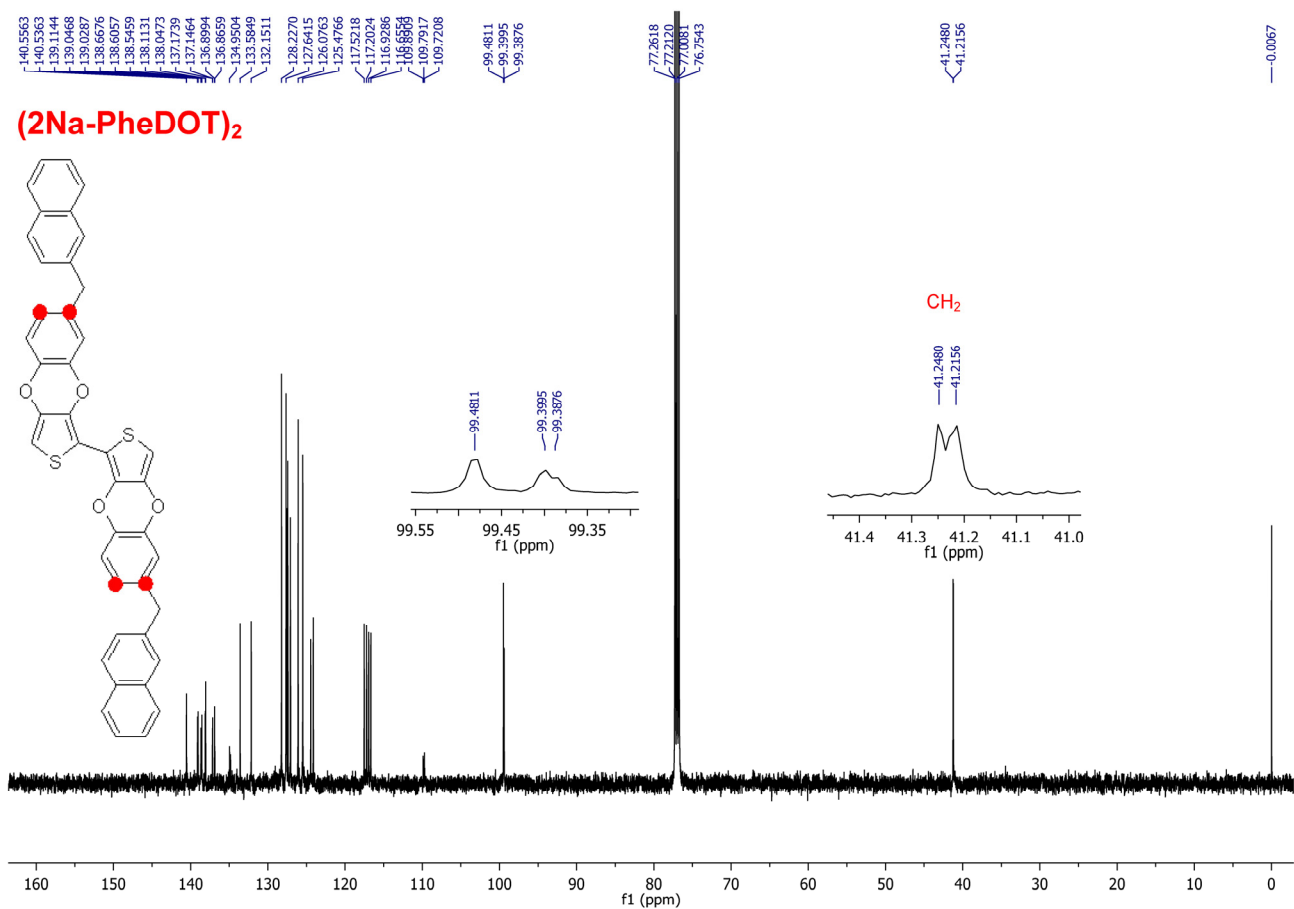


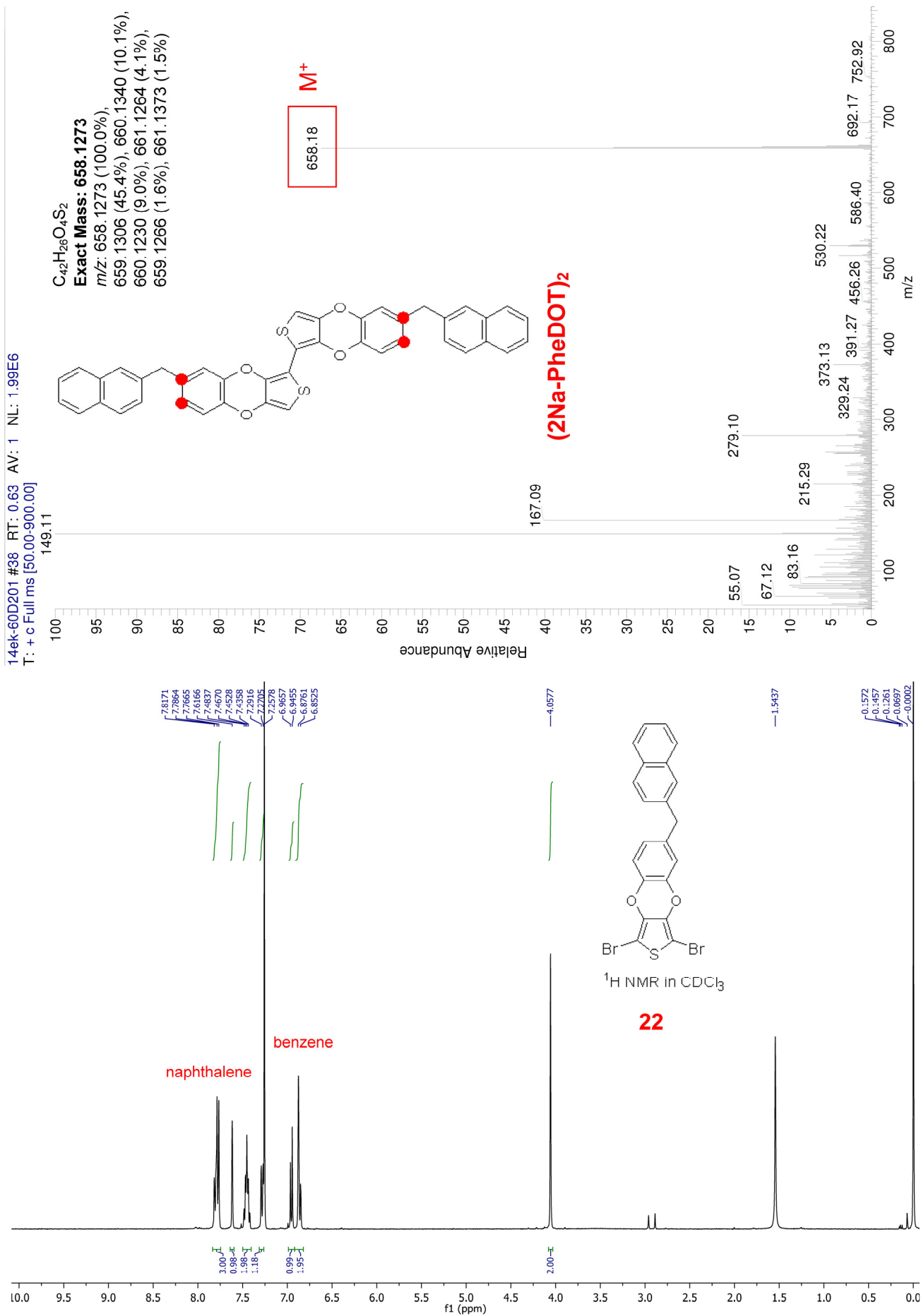


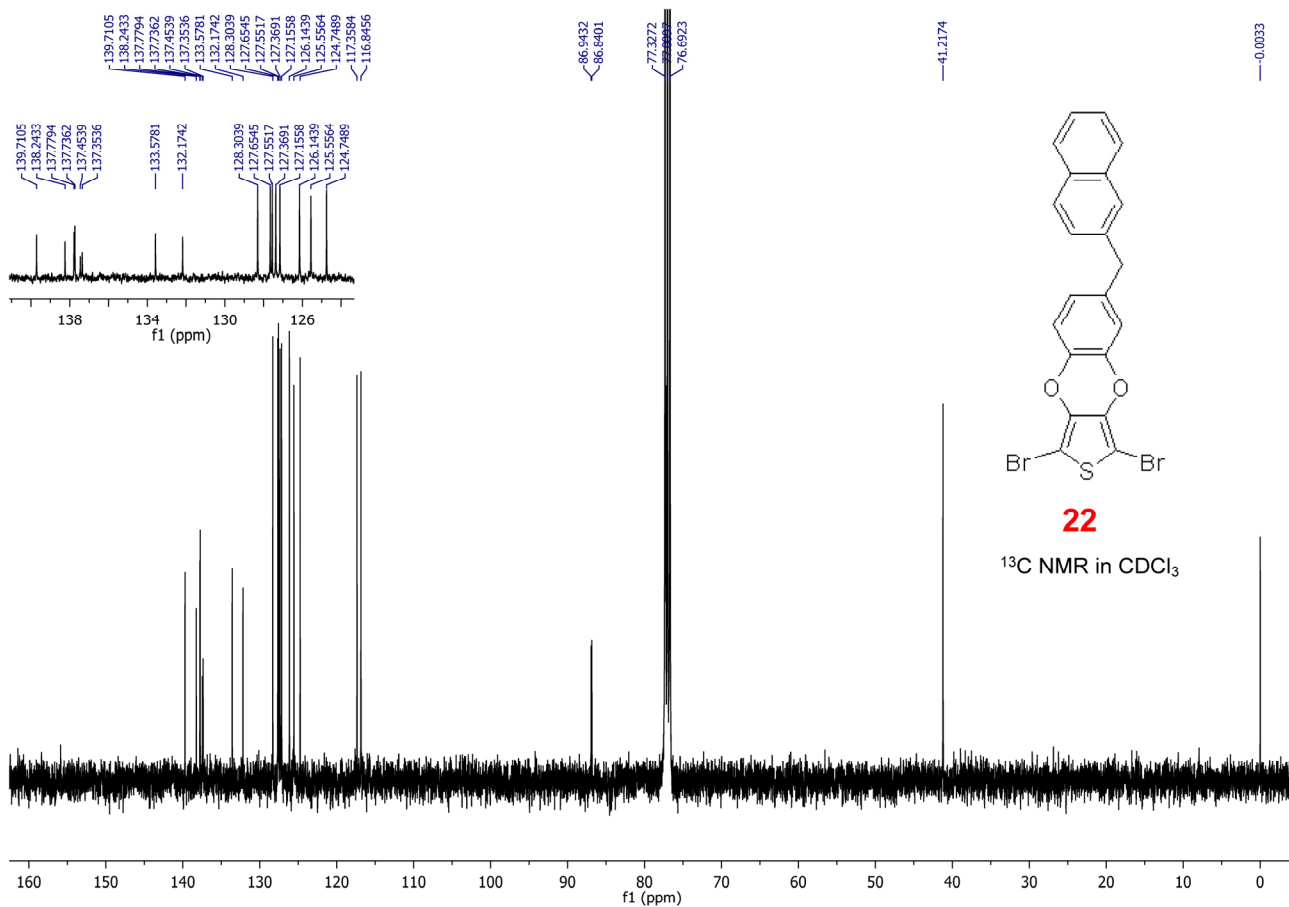
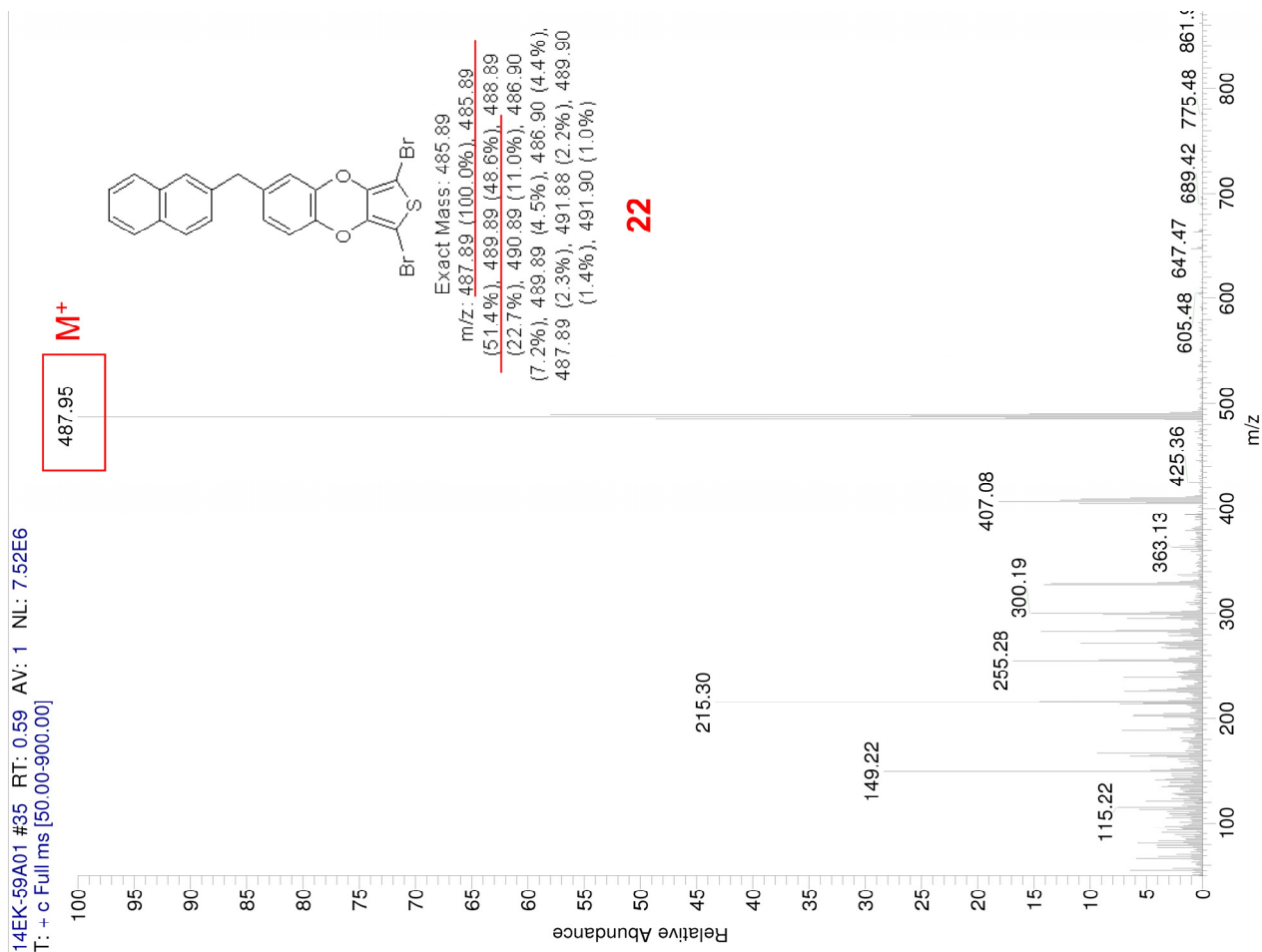


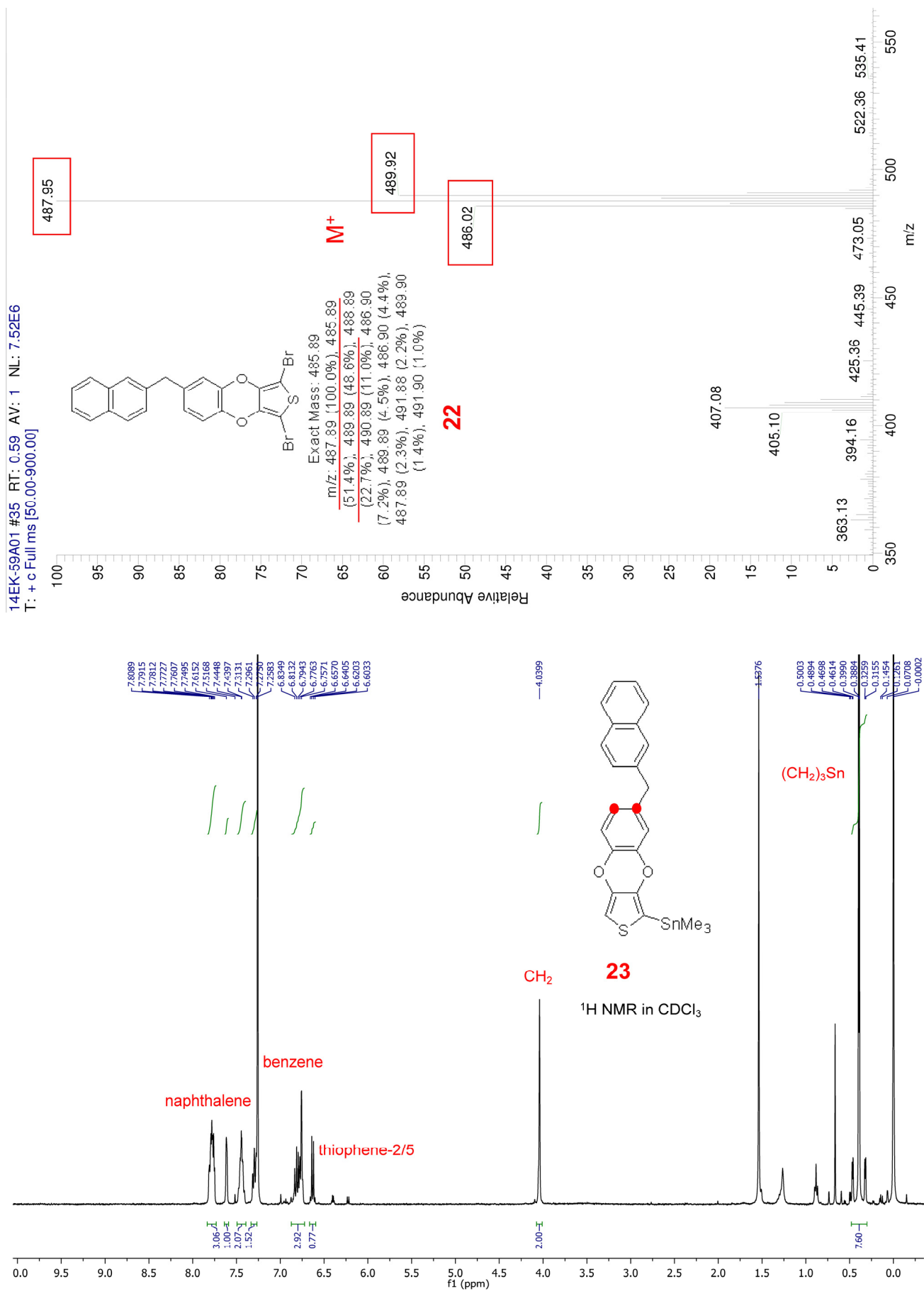
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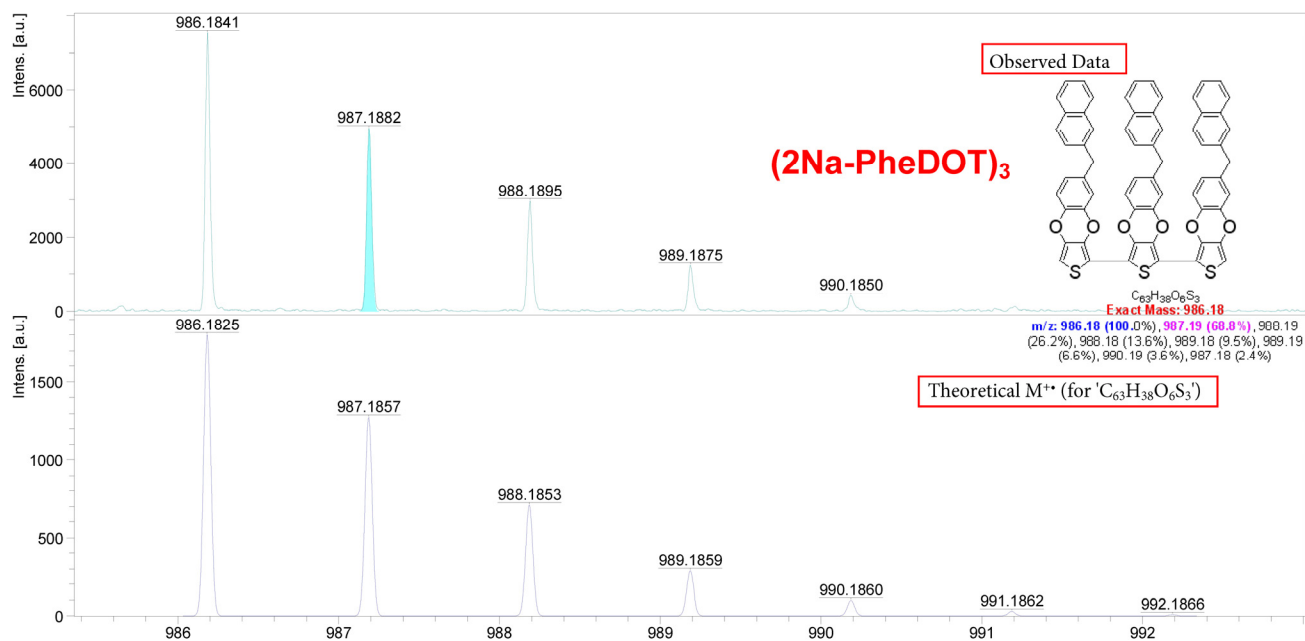




# EPSRC UK National Mass Spectrometry Facility (NMSF), Swansea

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ultrafleXtreme MALDI

Date of Acquisition 2017-08-30T14:11:27.716+01:00

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