

# Capture and Reactivity of an Elusive Carbon-Sulfur Centered Biradical

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## Supporting Information – Part A: Matrix Isolation Spectra & Analytical Data

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1. Matrix isolation experiments on *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (*p*-NBA) dithiane

1.1. IR spectra of *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>

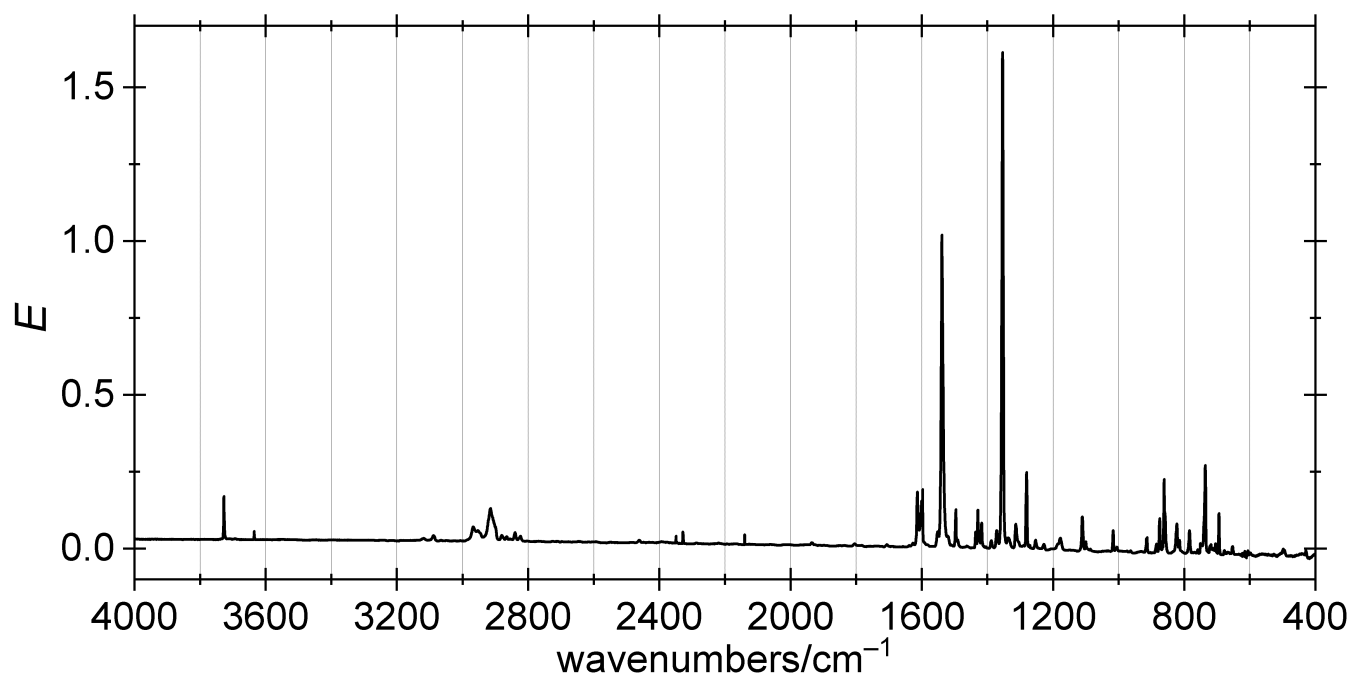


Figure S1: Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K.

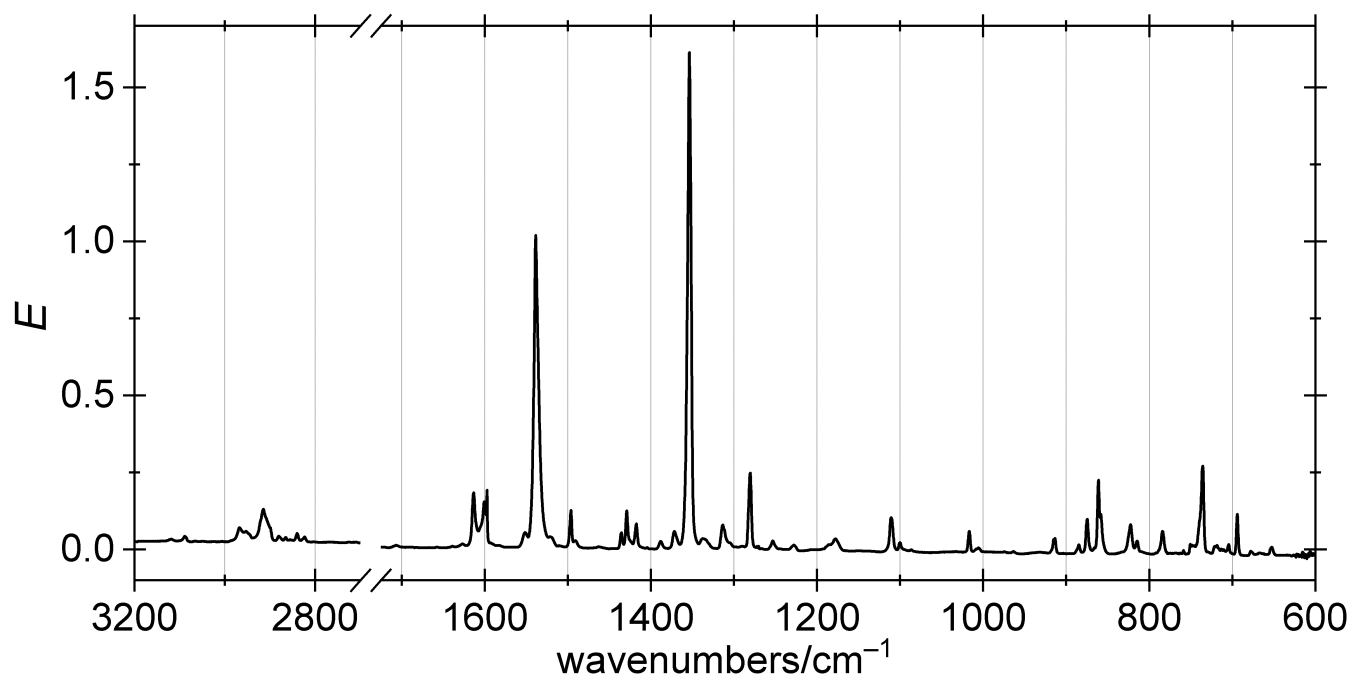
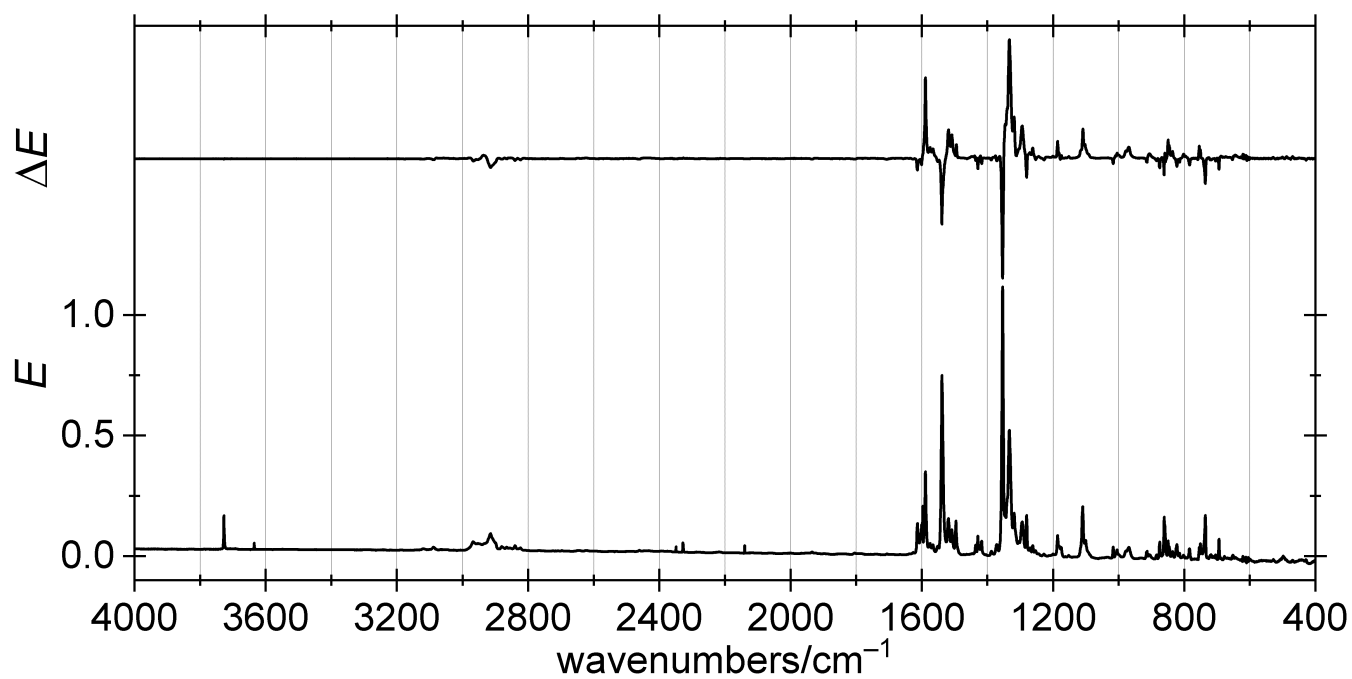
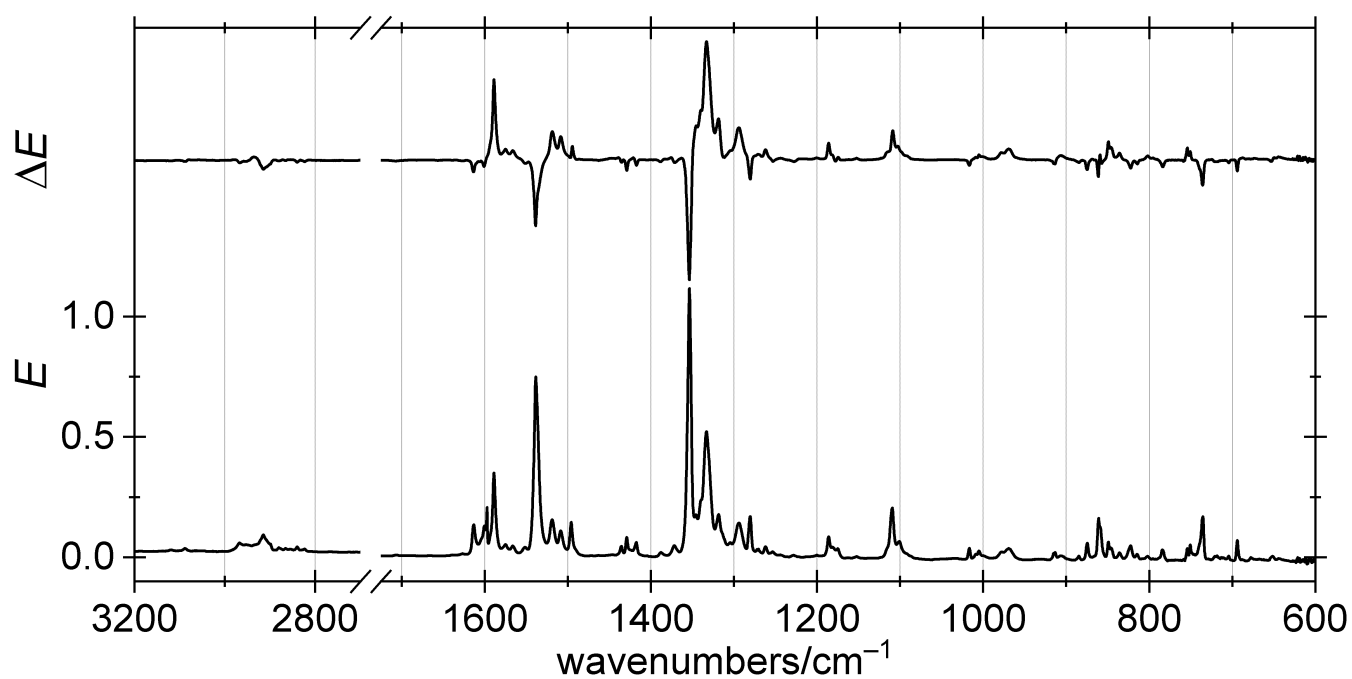


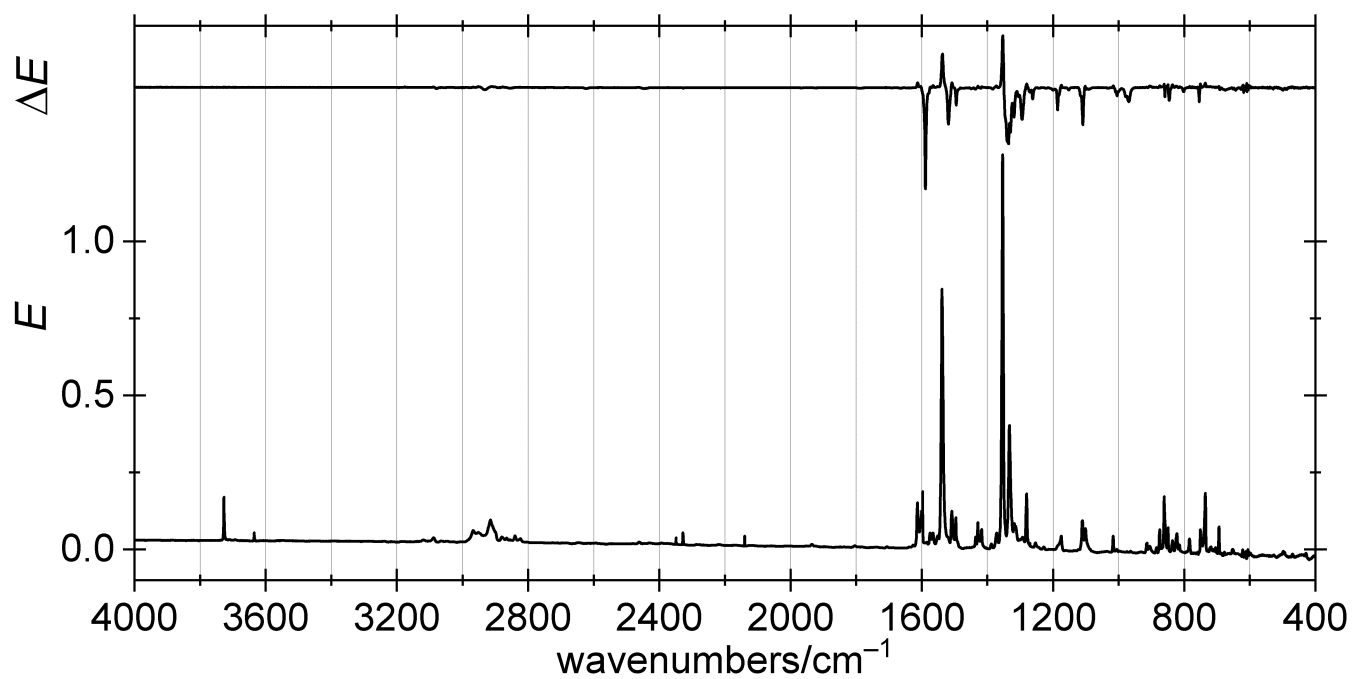
Figure S2: Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K (detail).



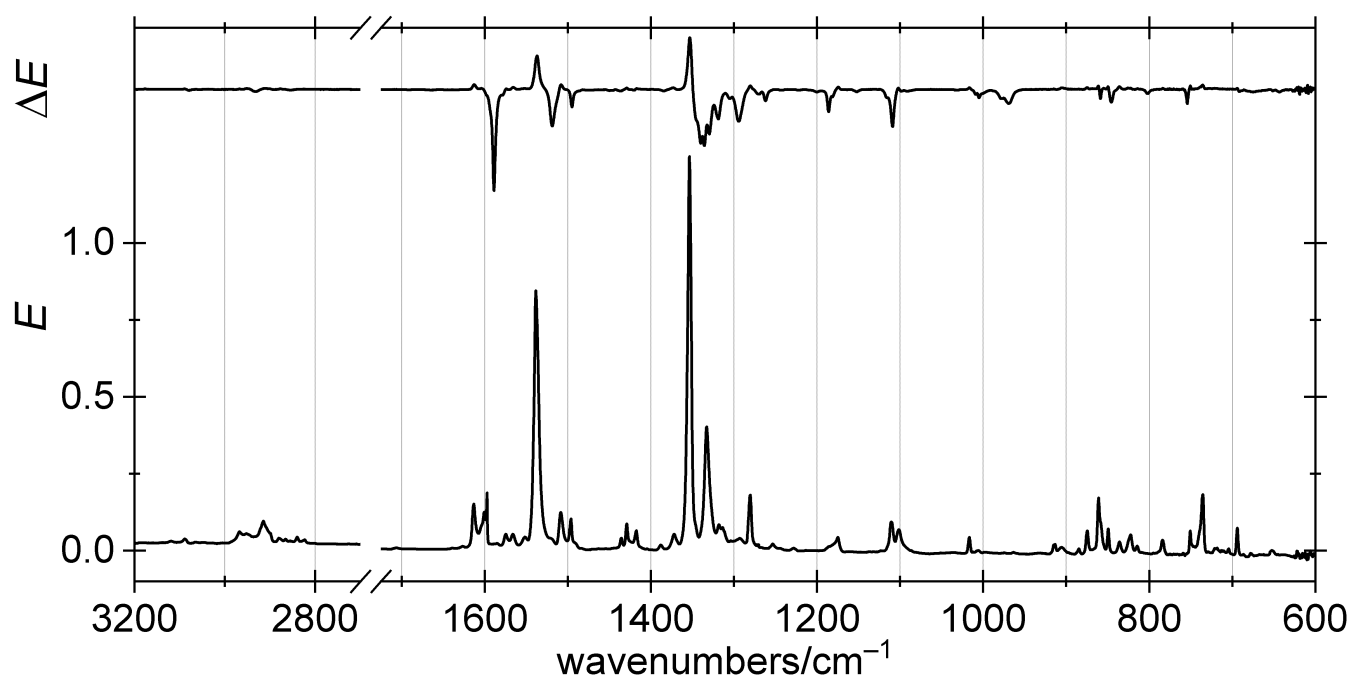
**Figure S3:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



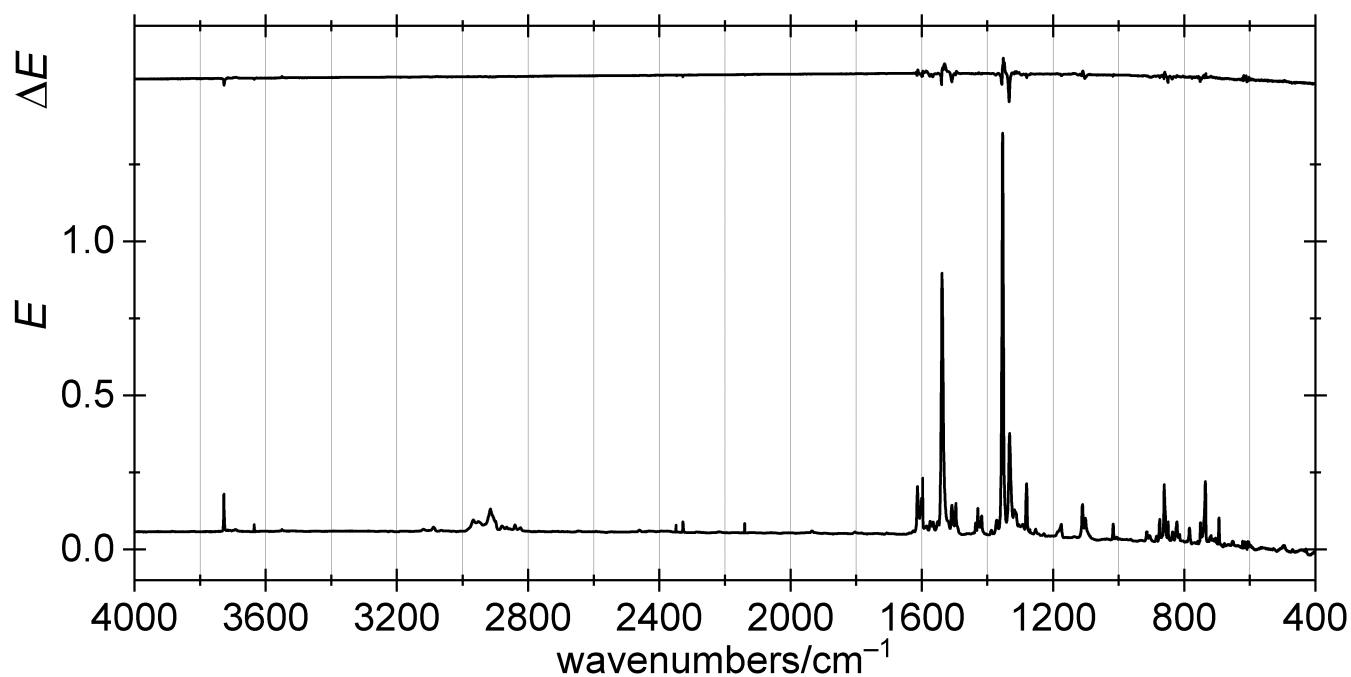
**Figure S4:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



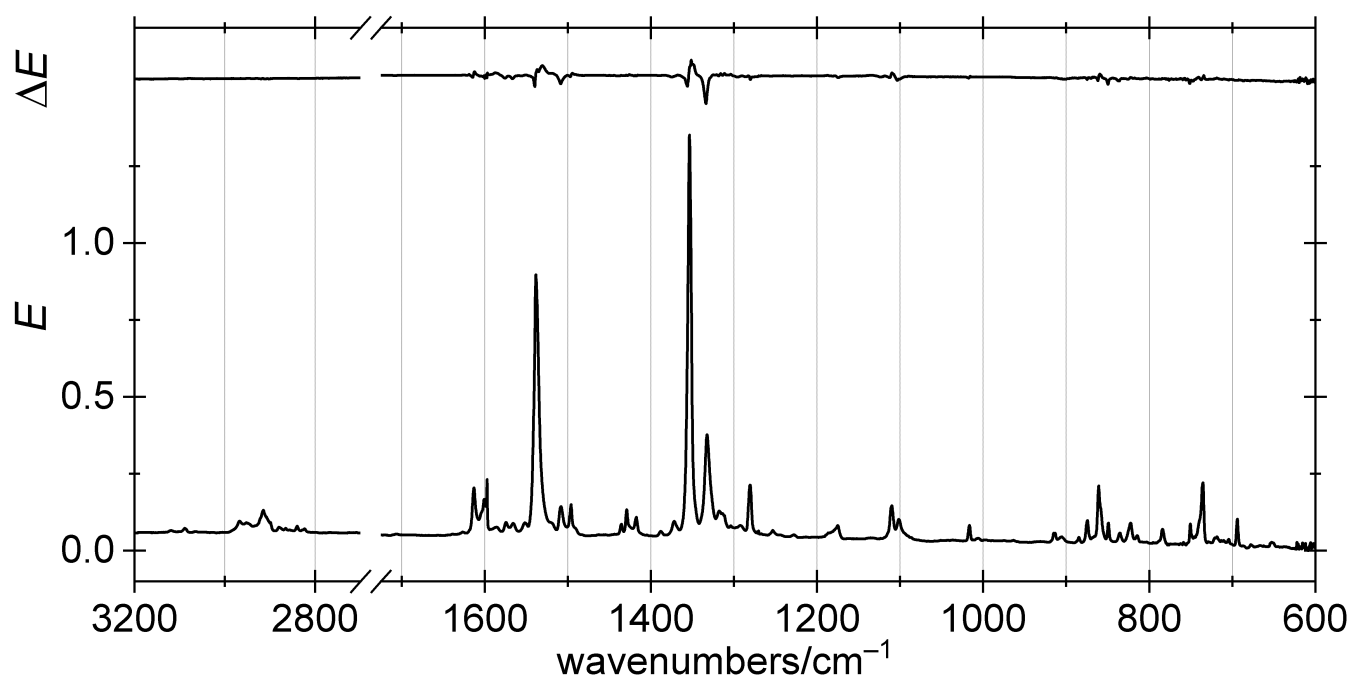
**Figure S5:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 90 s irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.



**Figure S6:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 90 s irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

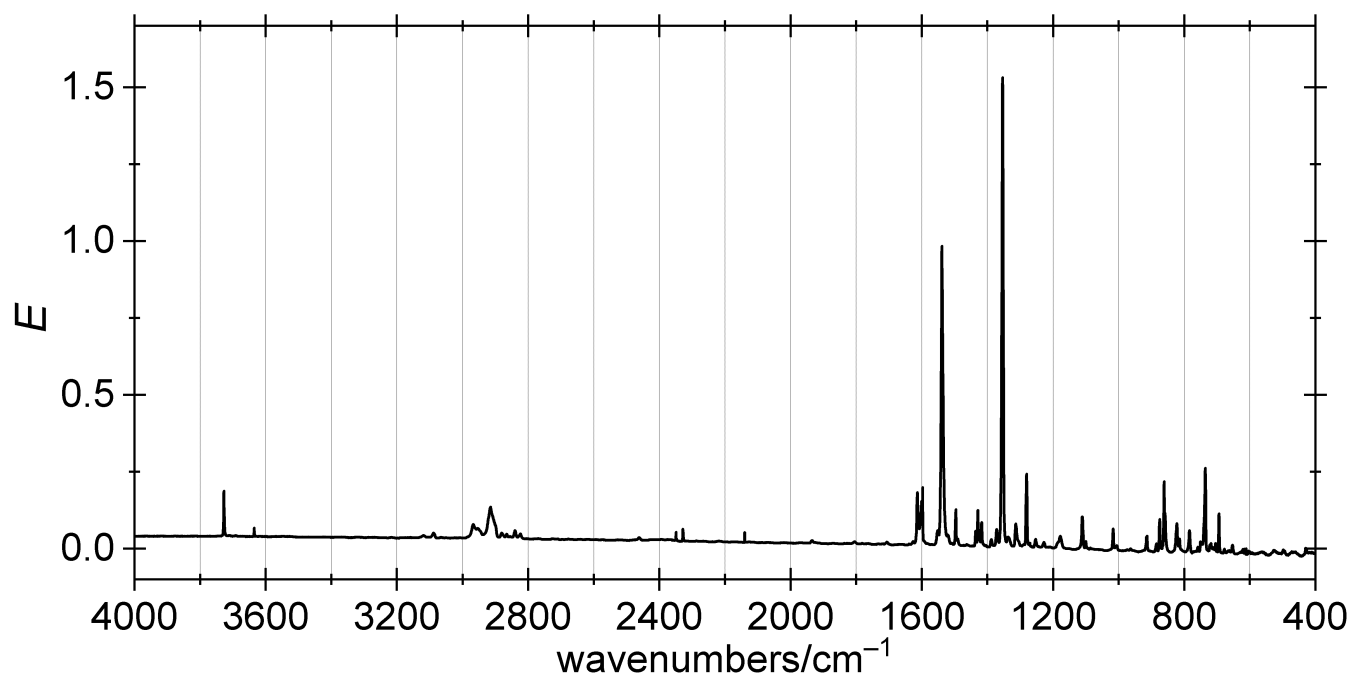


**Figure S7:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 90 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27 K; difference trace (before/after annealing to 27 K) on top.

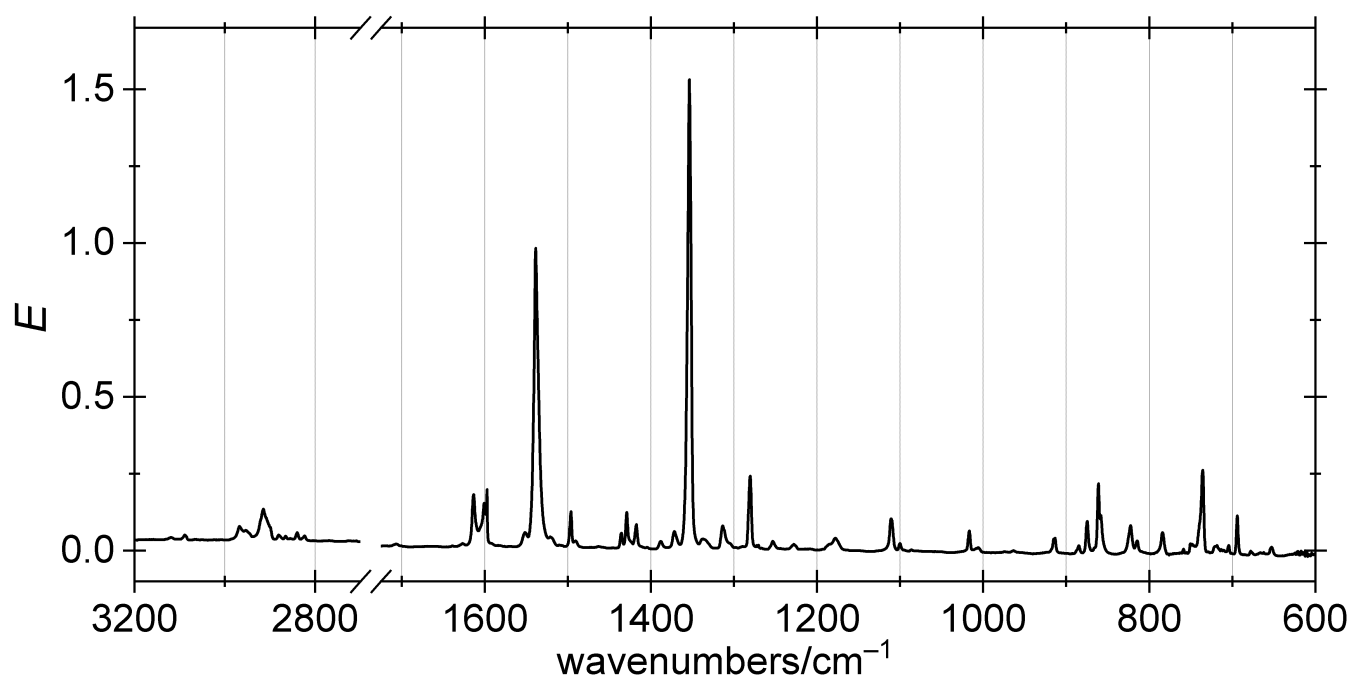


**Figure S8:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 90 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27 K (detail); difference trace (before/after annealing to 27 K) on top.

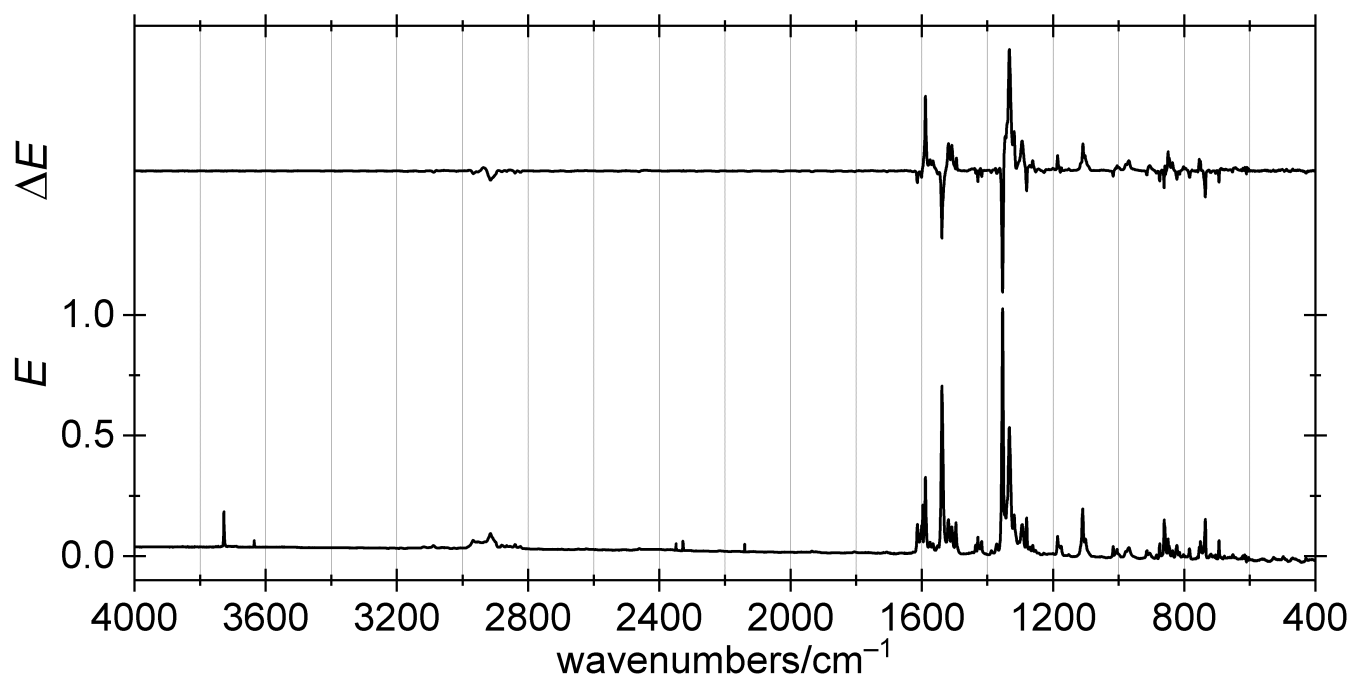
1.2. IR spectra of *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> + 1% O<sub>2</sub>



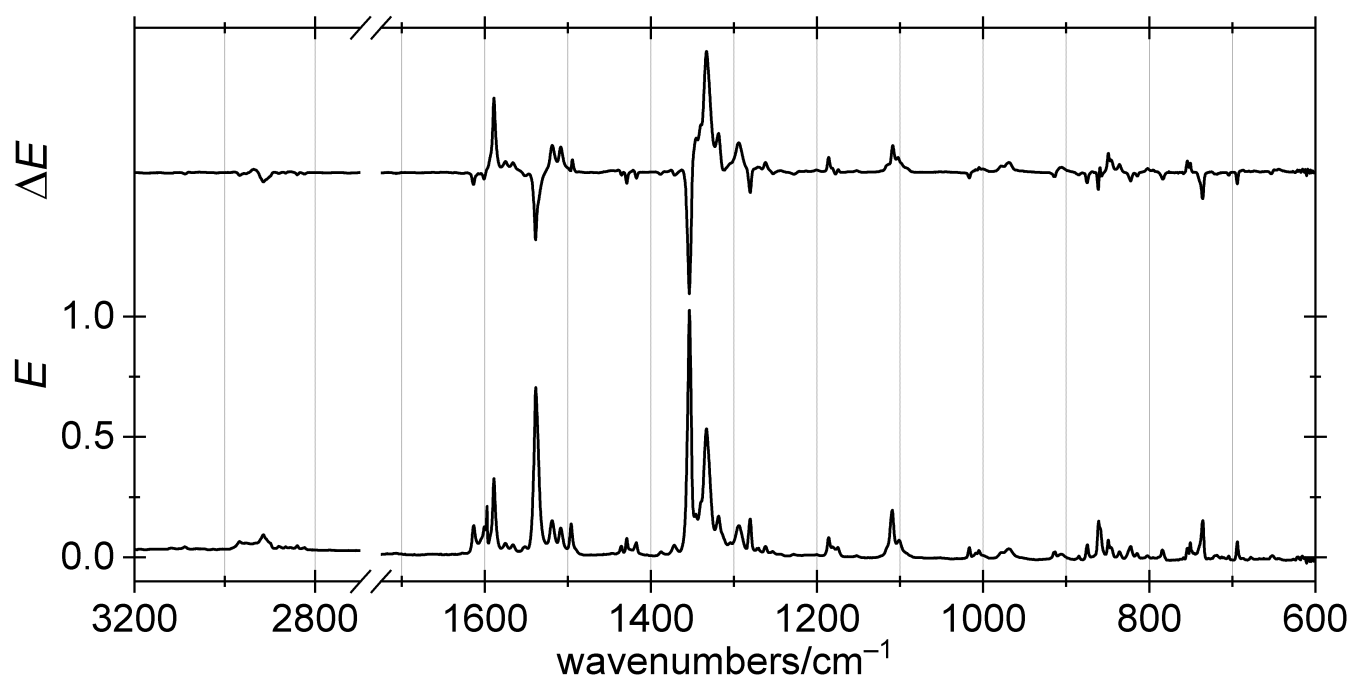
**Figure S9:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> + 1% O<sub>2</sub> at 3 K.



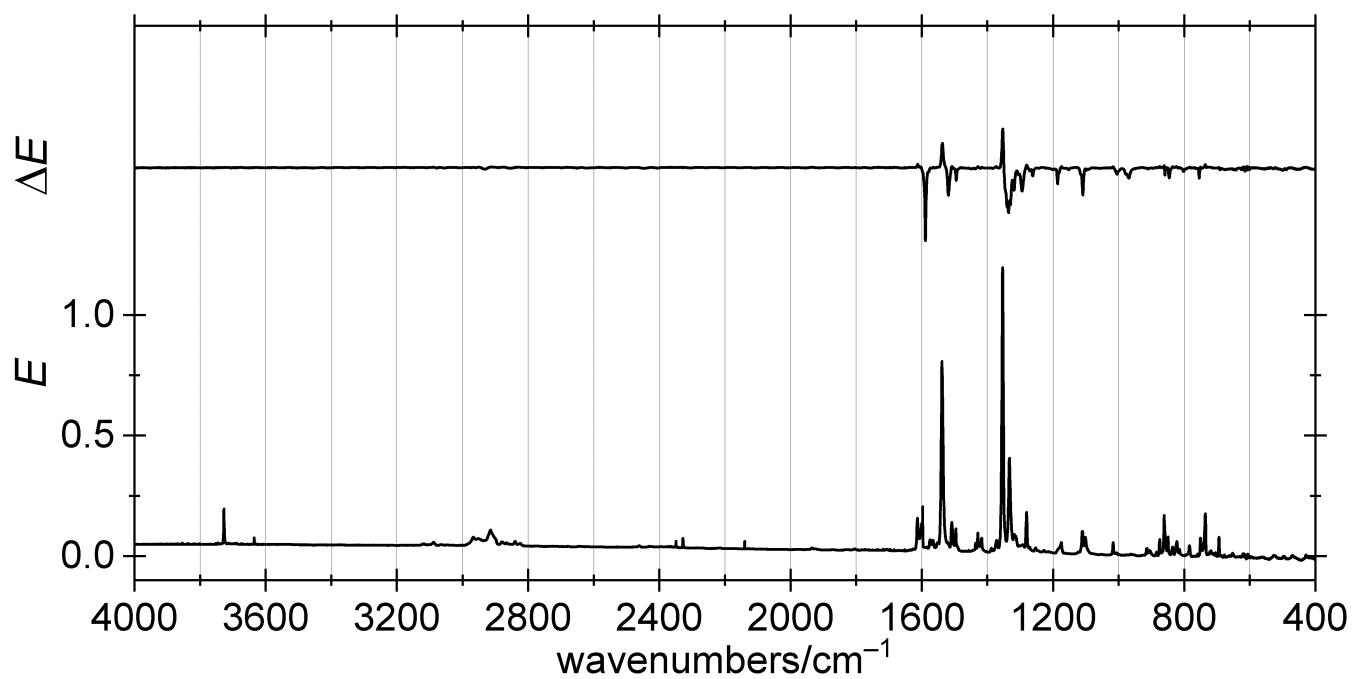
**Figure S10:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> + 1% O<sub>2</sub> at 3 K (detail).



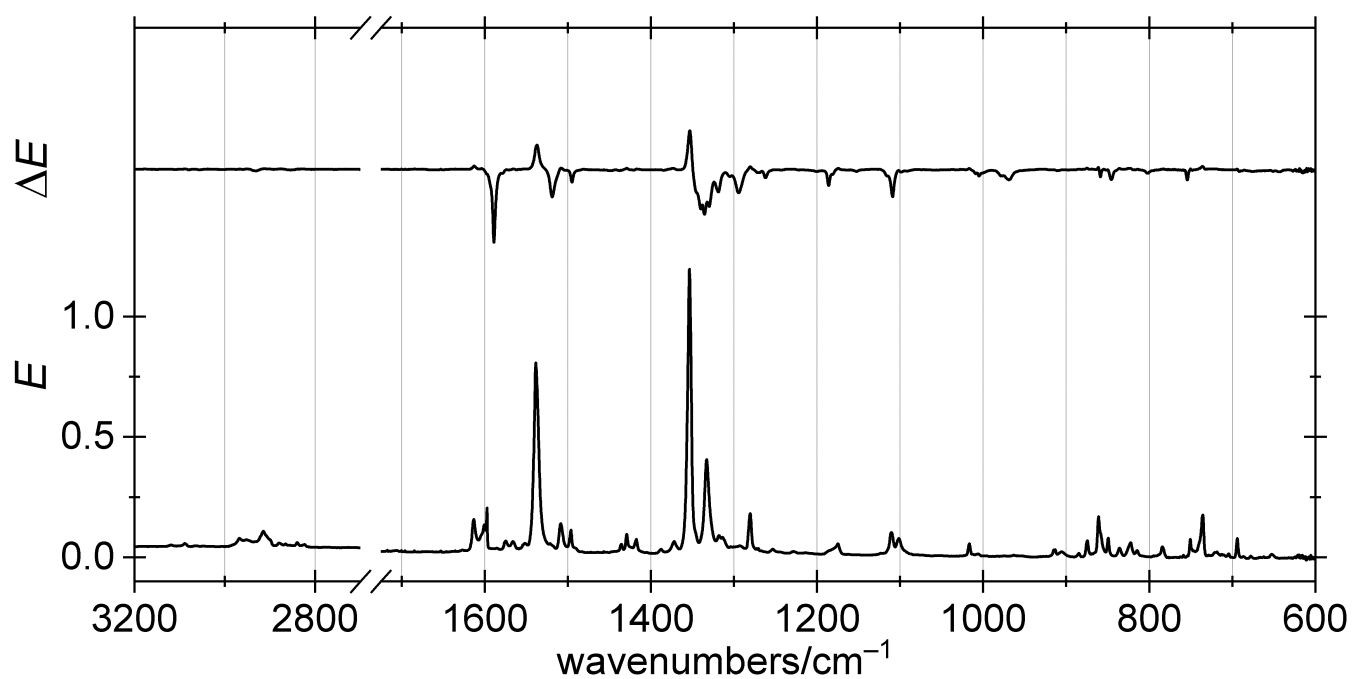
**Figure S11:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



**Figure S12:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.

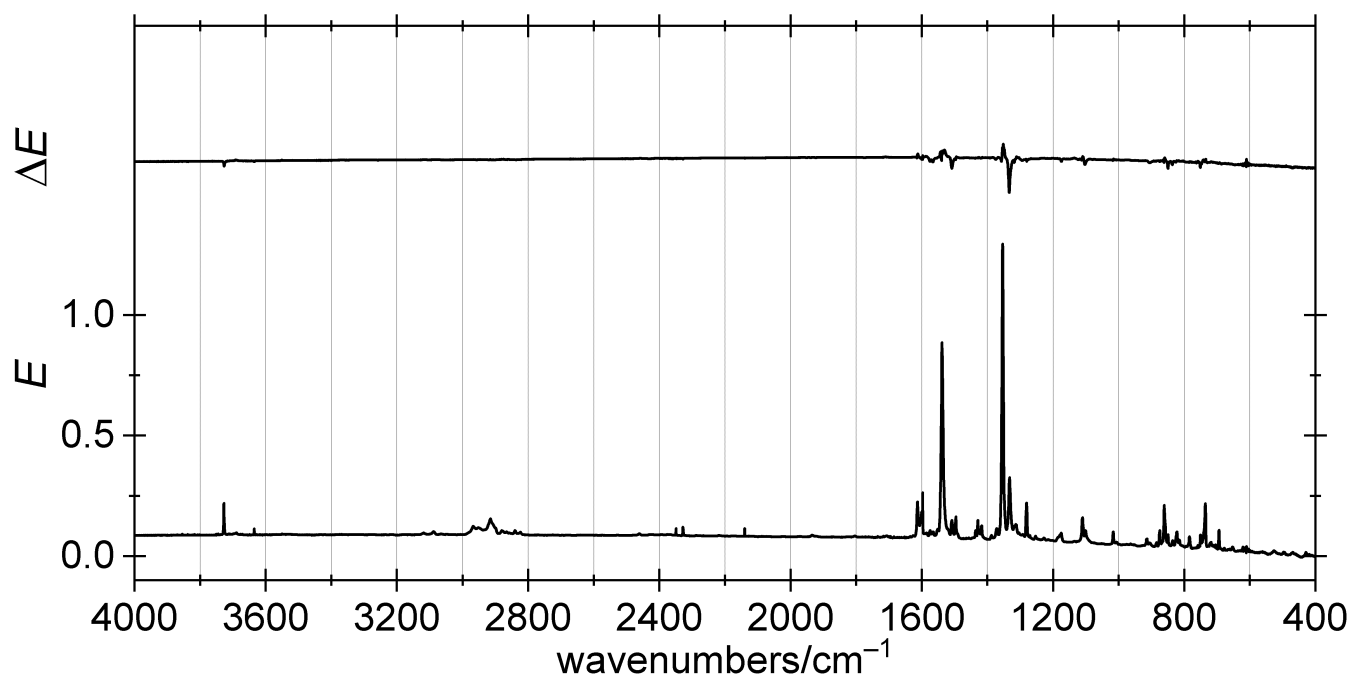


**Figure S13:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 60 s irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

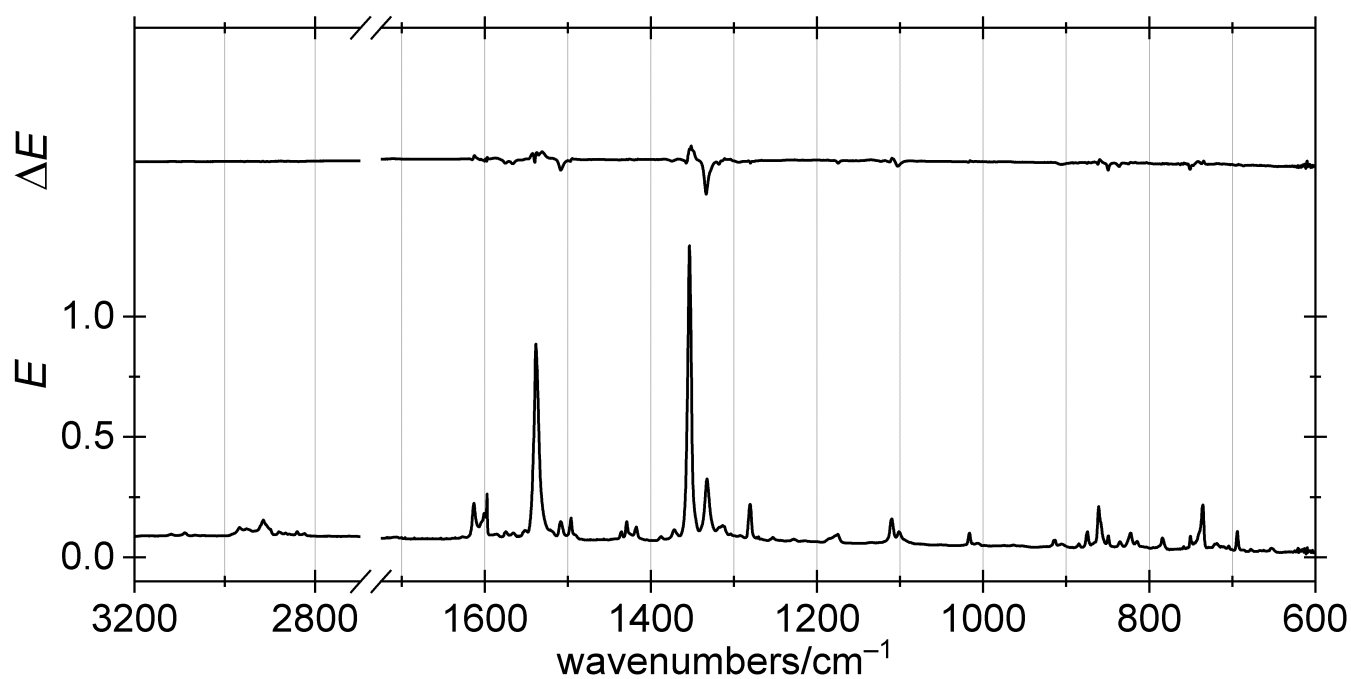


**Figure S14:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 60 s irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

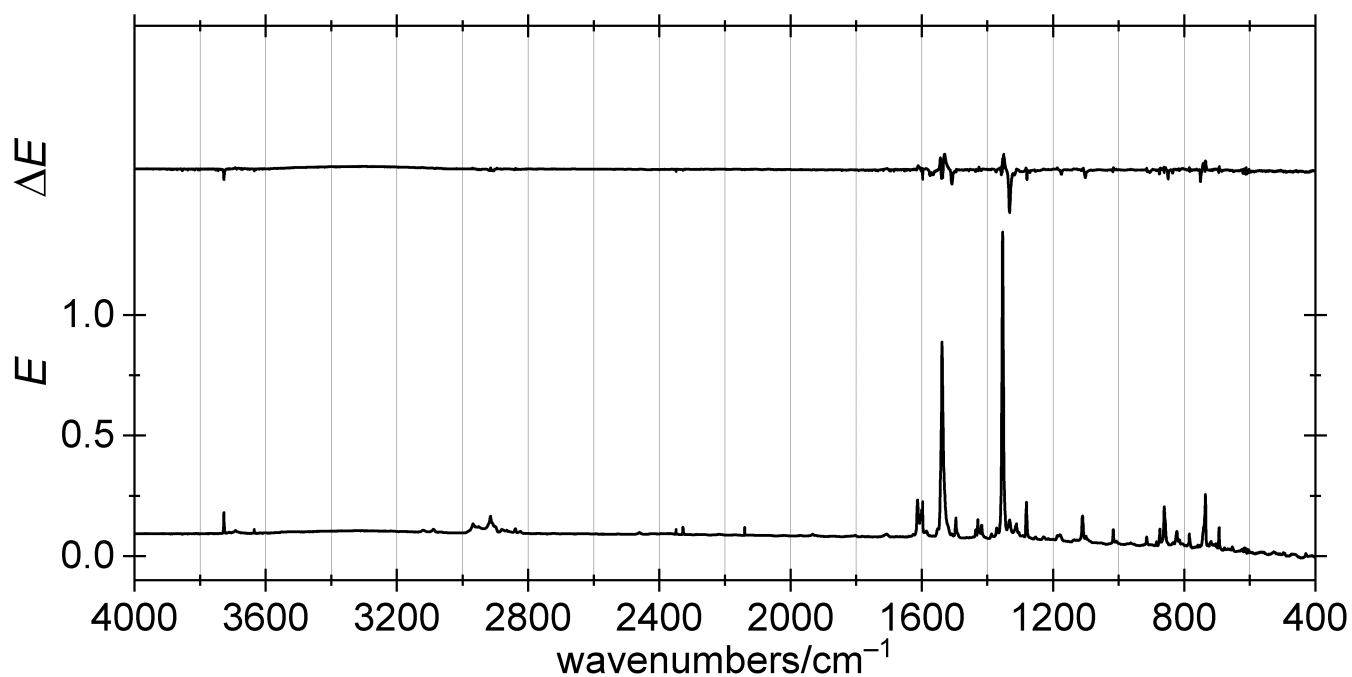




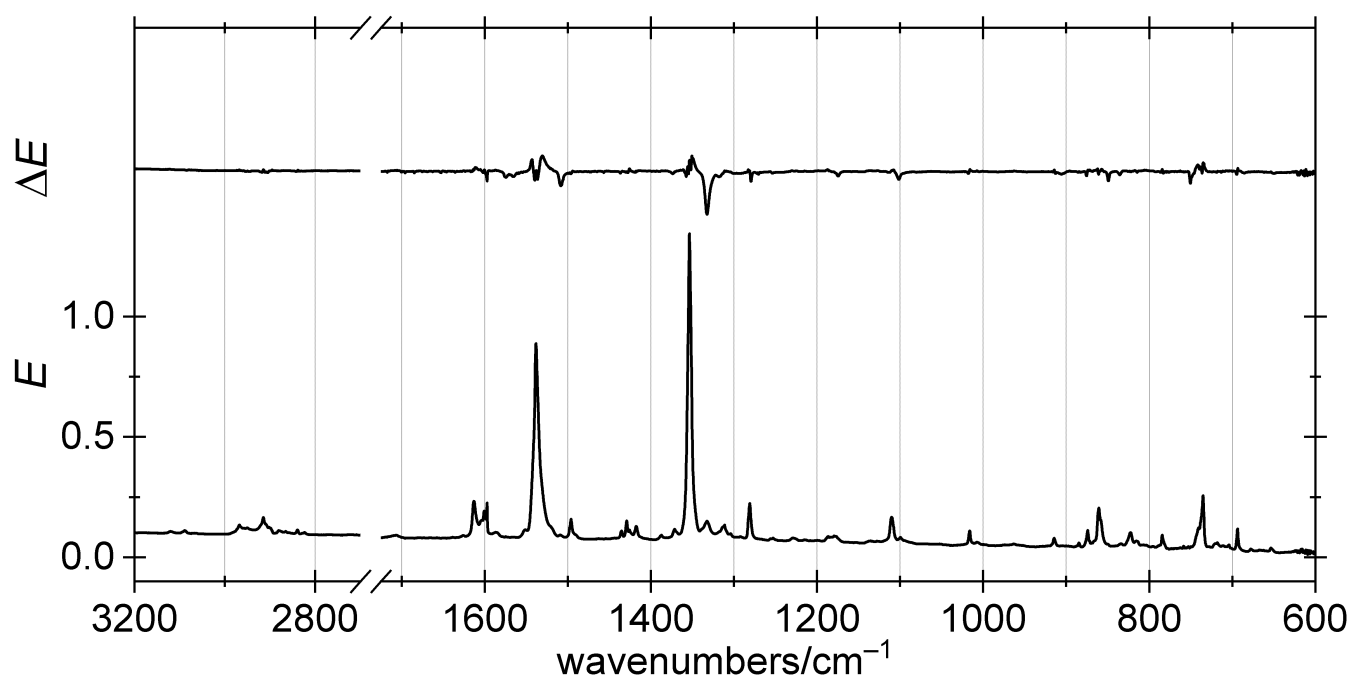
**Figure S15:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27 K; difference trace (before/after annealing to 27 K) on top.



**Figure S16:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27 K (detail); difference trace (before/after annealing to 27 K) on top.

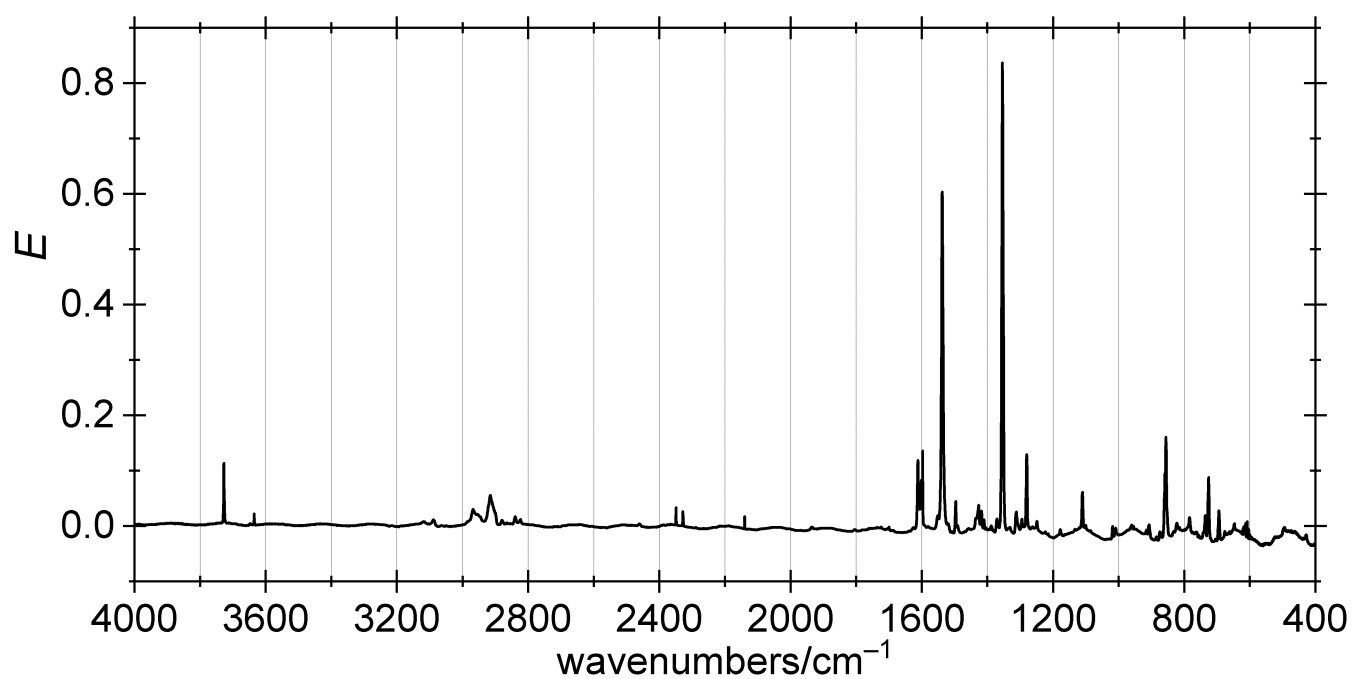


**Figure S17:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27, then 33 K; difference trace (before/after annealing to 33 K) on top.

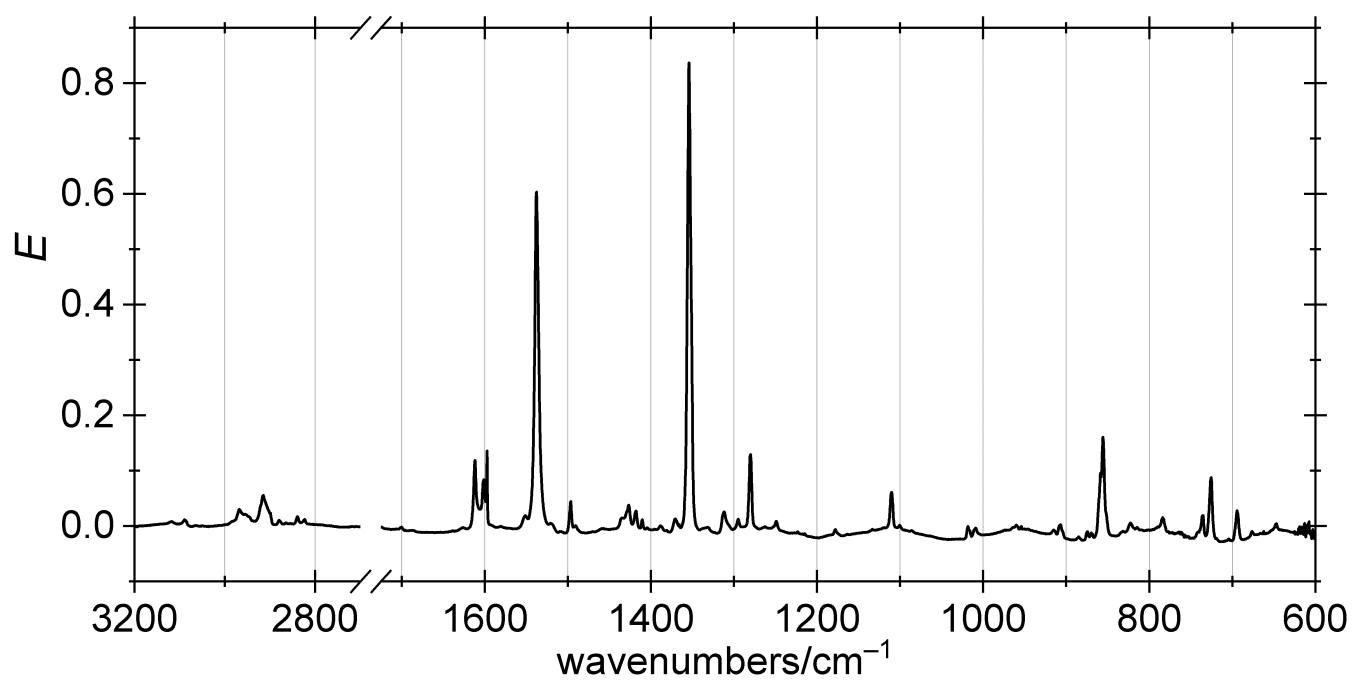


**Figure S18:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2 + 1\% \text{O}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and subsequent annealing to 27, then 33 K (detail); difference trace (before/after annealing to 33 K) on top.

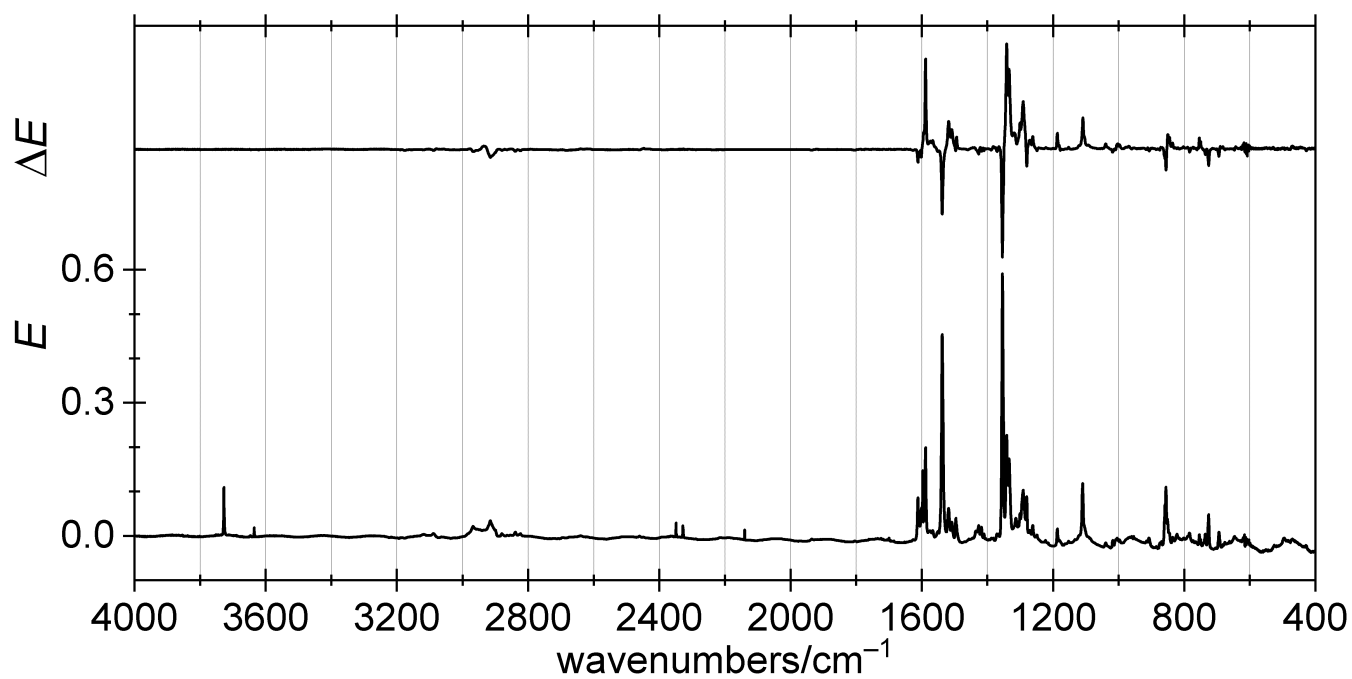
1.3. IR spectra of  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$



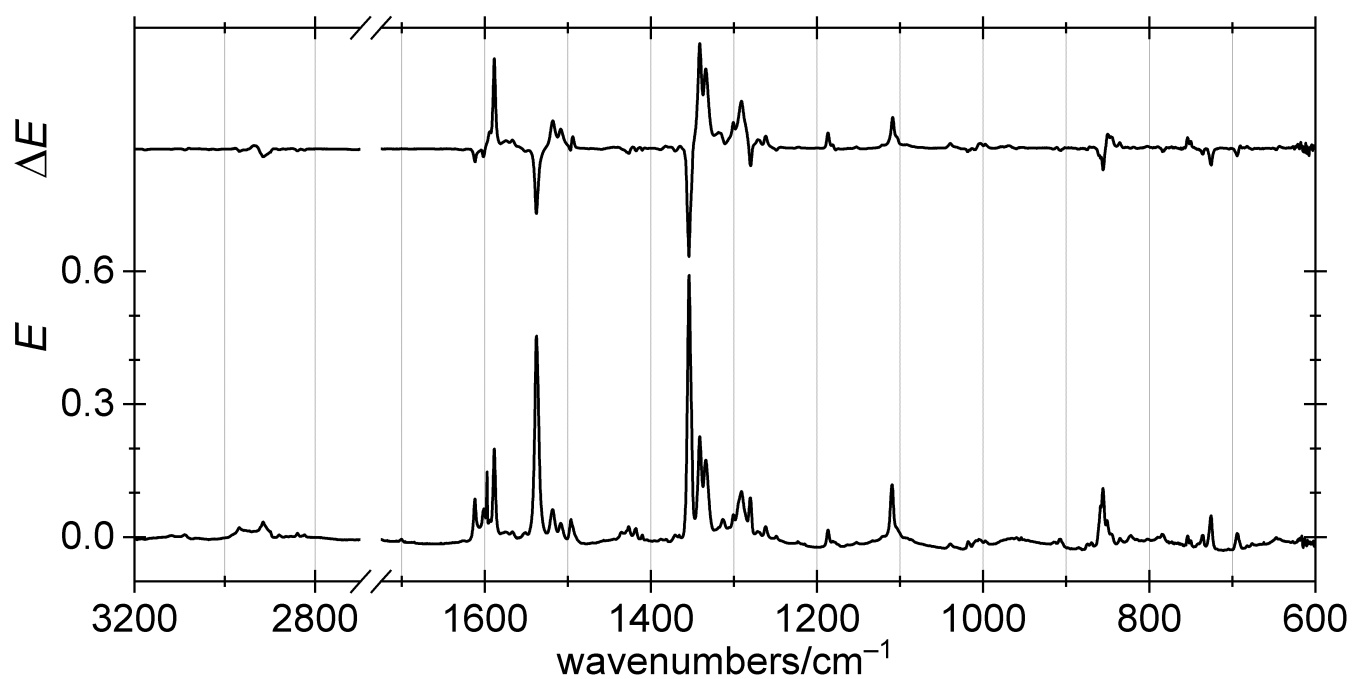
**Figure S19:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K.



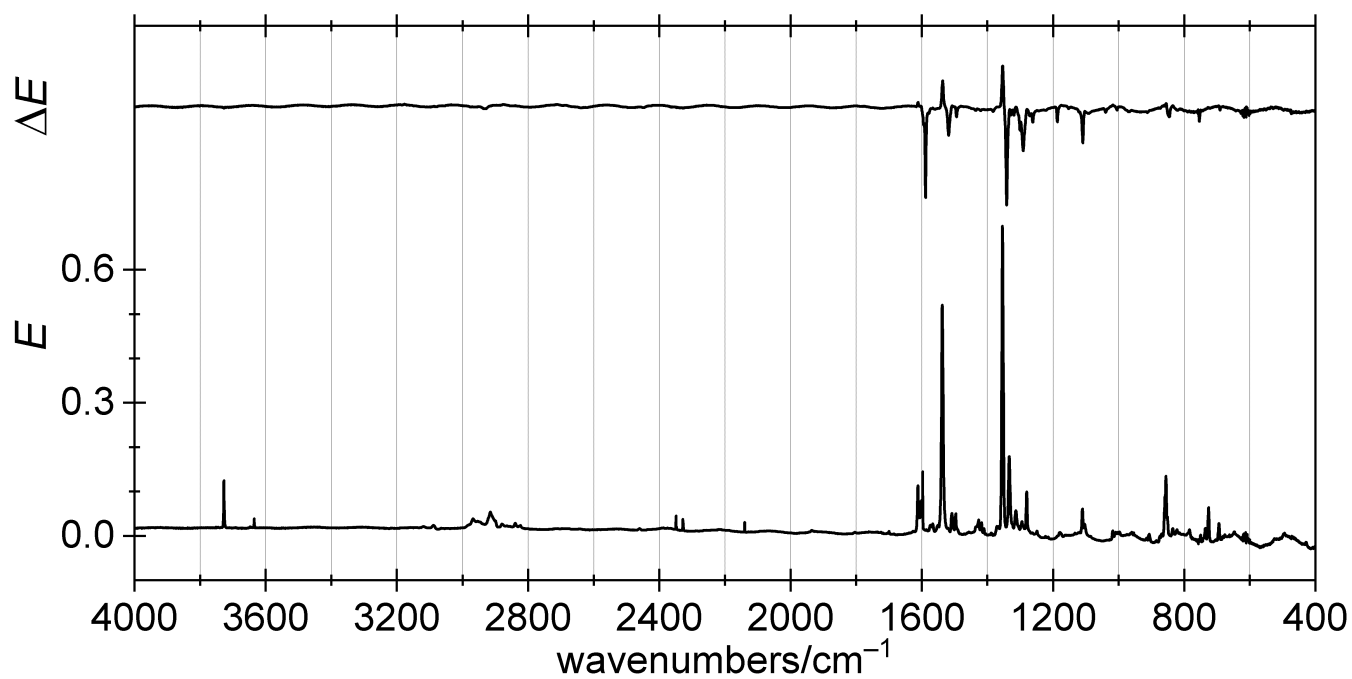
**Figure S20:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K (detail).



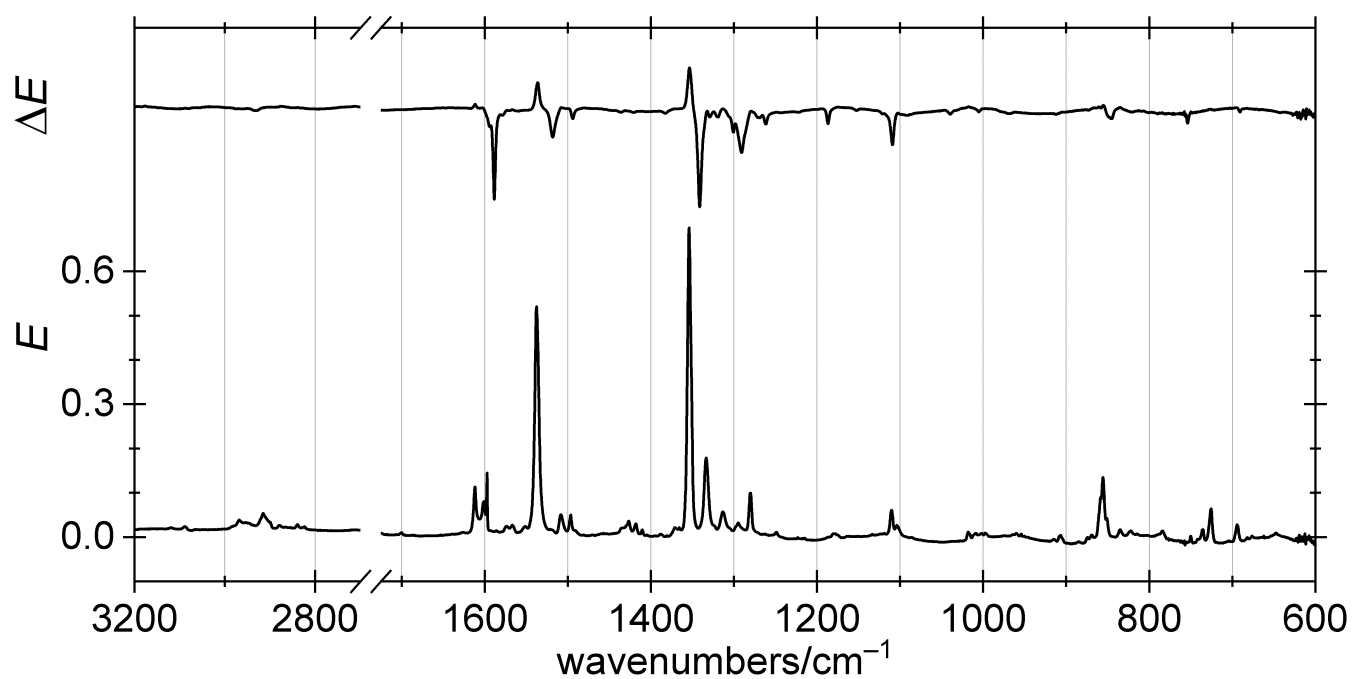
**Figure S21:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



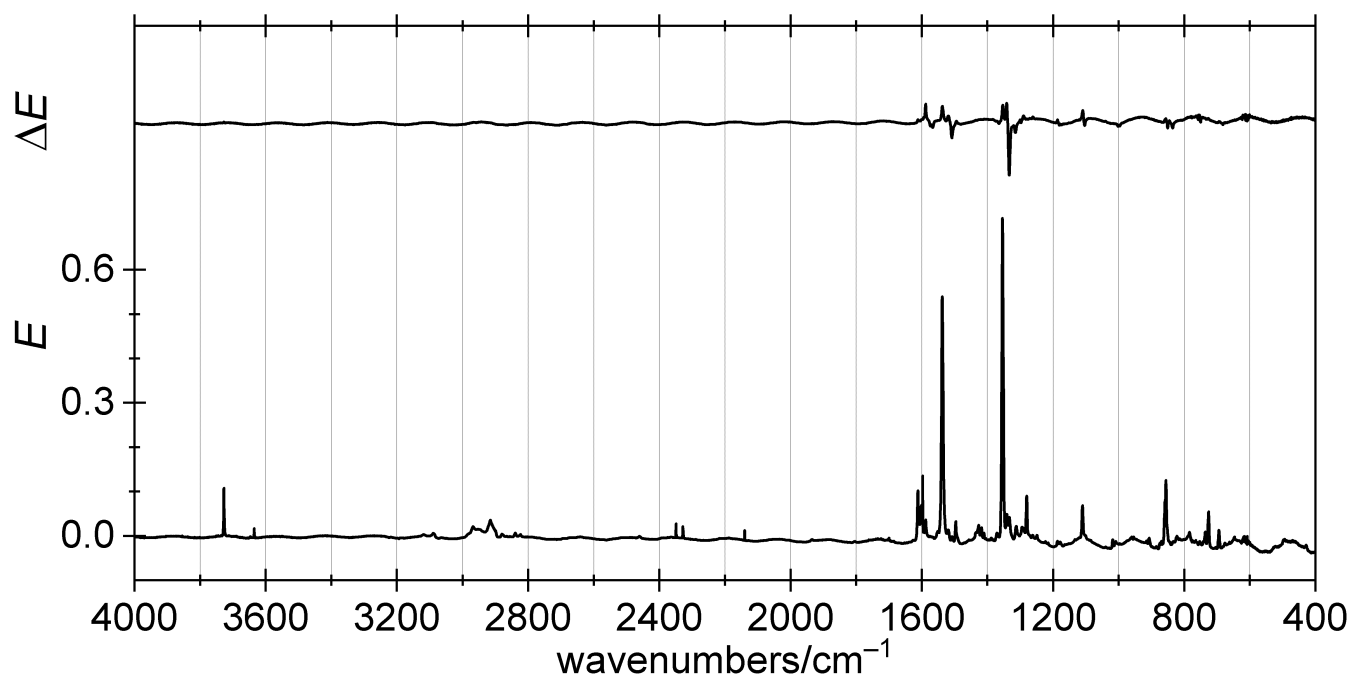
**Figure S22:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



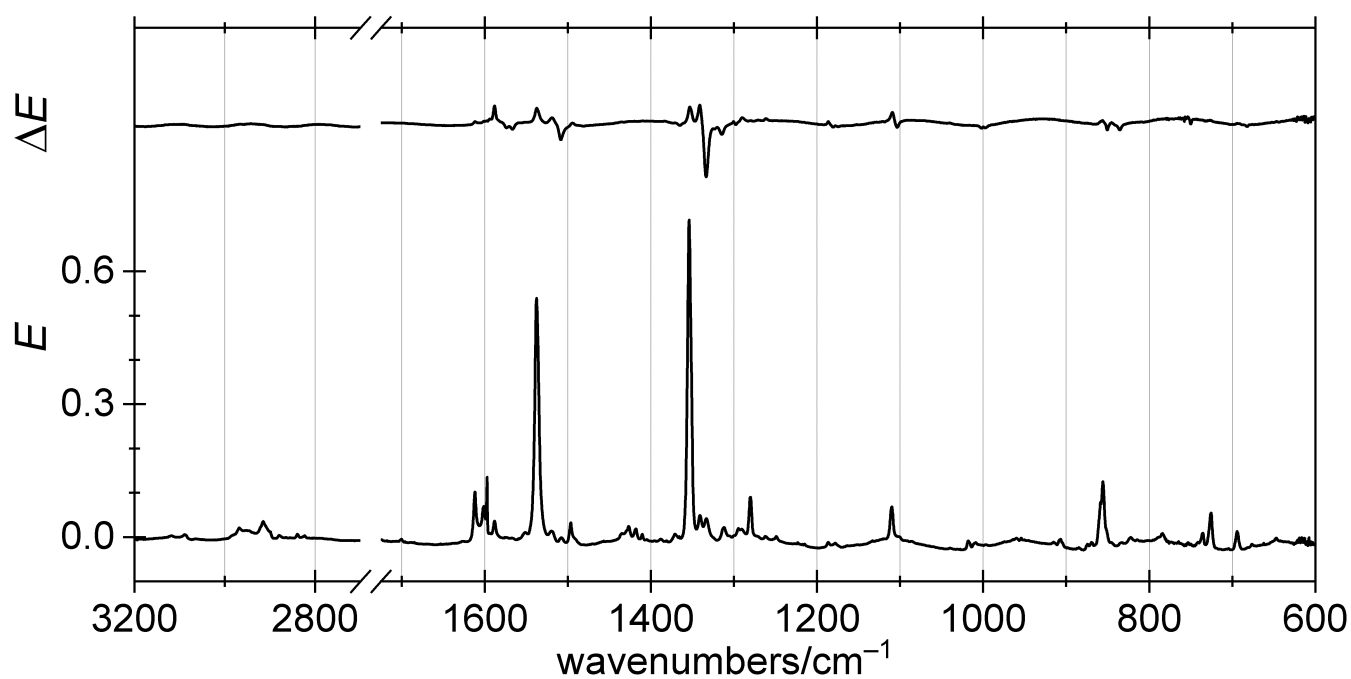
**Figure S23:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm and 60 s irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.



**Figure S24:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm and 60 s irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

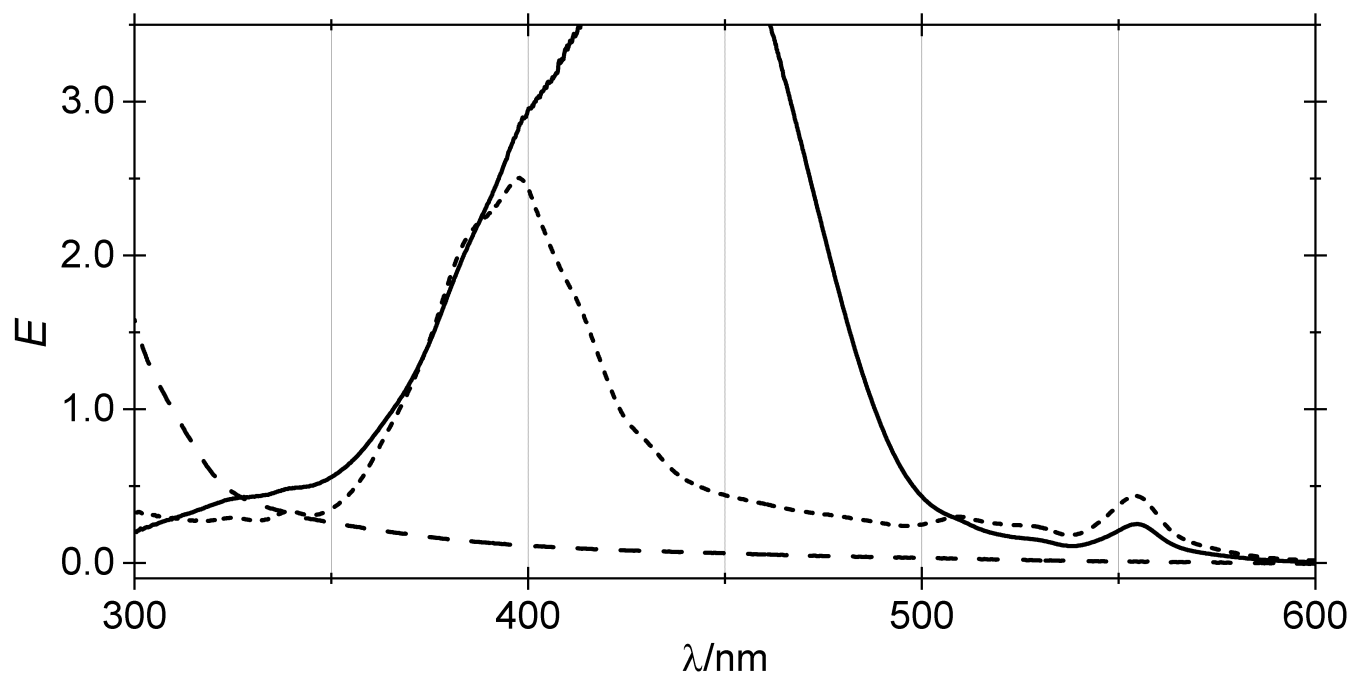


**Figure S25:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and 15 min irradiation at 546 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 546 nm) on top.



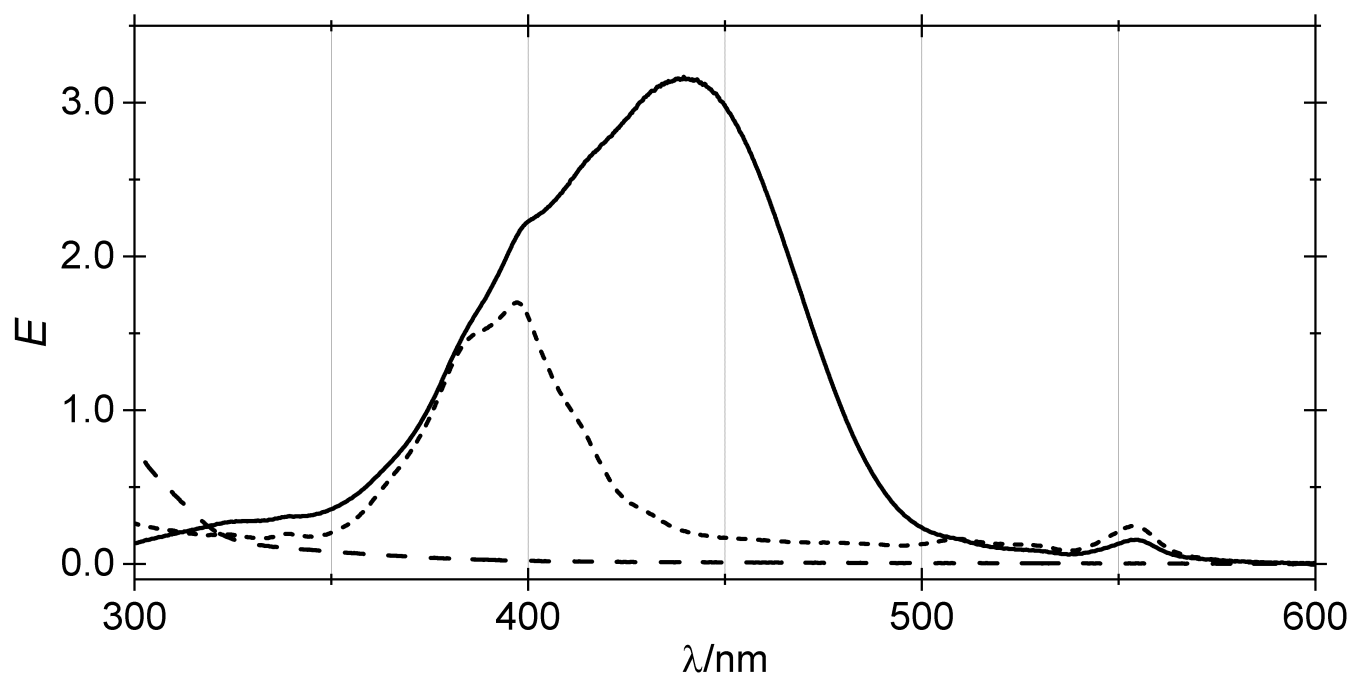
**Figure S26:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ - $p$ -NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm, 60 s irradiation at 436 nm, and 15 min irradiation at 546 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 546 nm) on top.

#### 1.4. UV/Vis spectra of *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S27:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after deposition (dashed trace), after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (solid trace), and after 90 s irradiation at 436 nm (short-dashed trace).

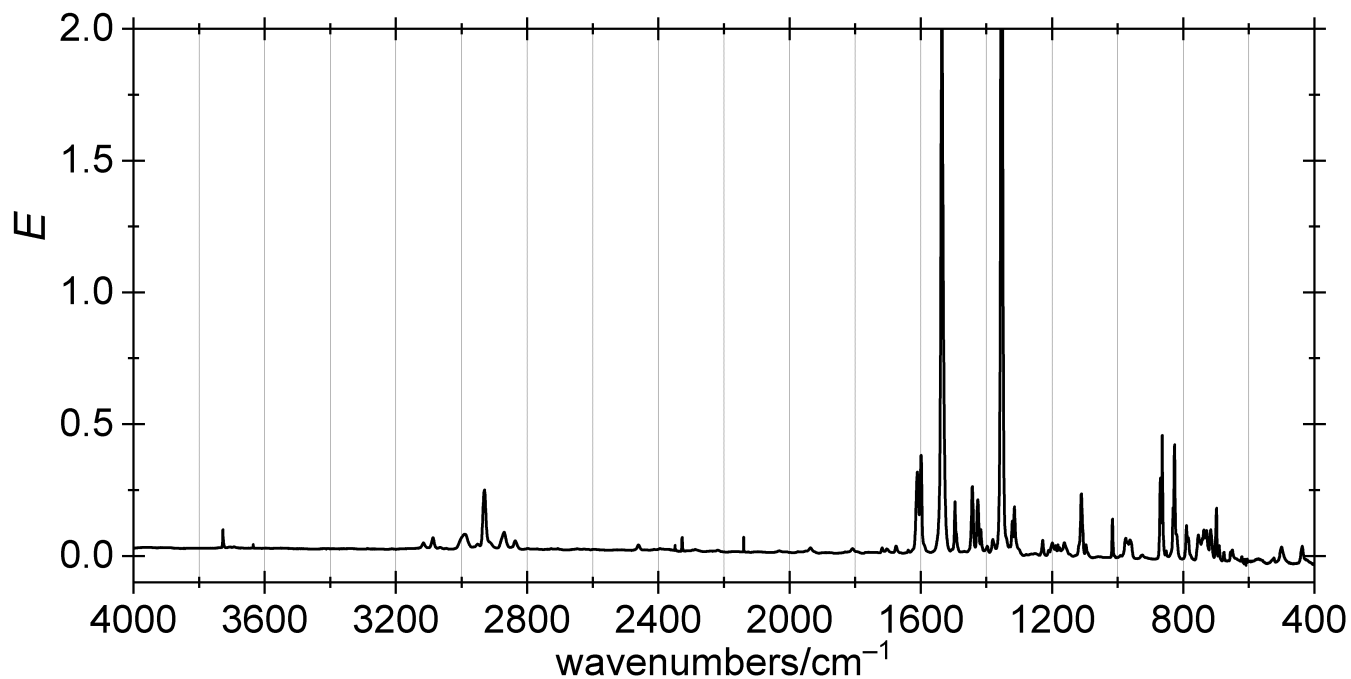
#### 1.5. UV/Vis spectra of *d*<sub>1</sub>-*p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>



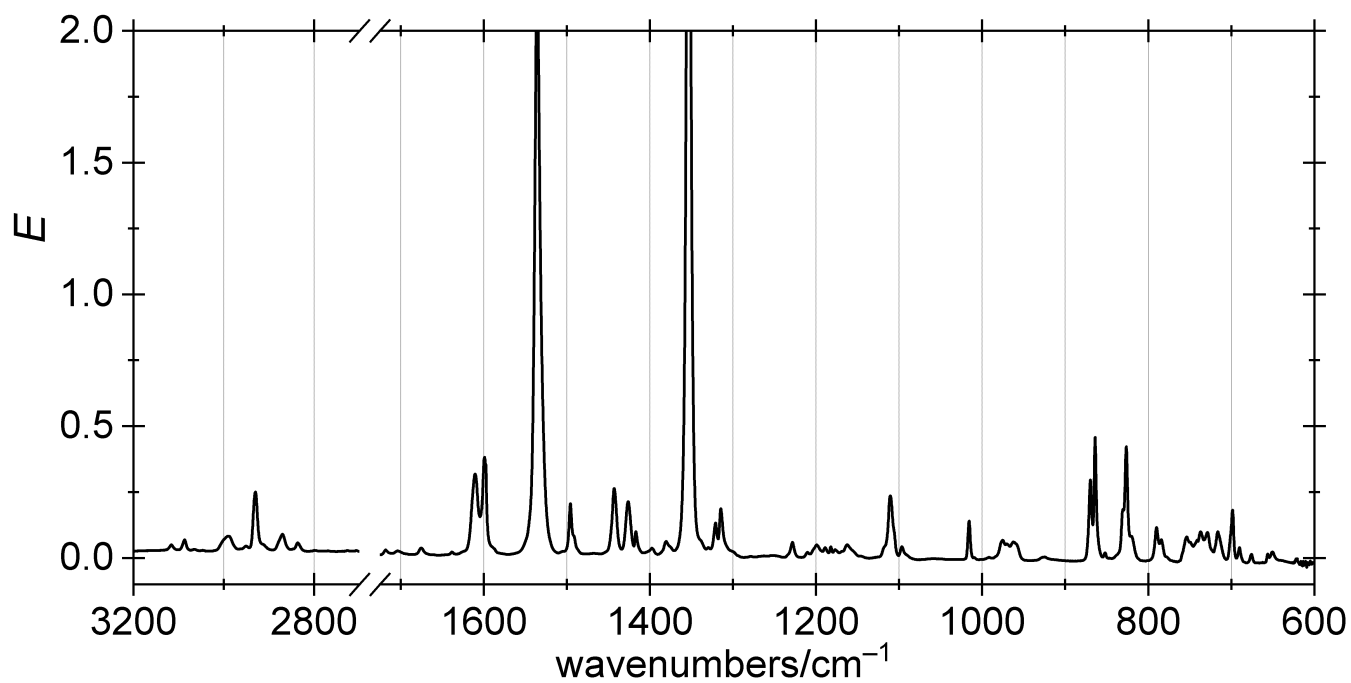
**Figure S28:** Matrix-isolated *d*<sub>1</sub>-*p*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after deposition (dashed trace), after 30 s irradiation at 313 nm (solid trace), and after 60 s irradiation at 436 nm (short-dashed trace).

## 2. Matrix isolation experiments on *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde dimethyl bithioacetal (*p*-NBA-DMTA)

### 2.1. IR spectra of *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub>

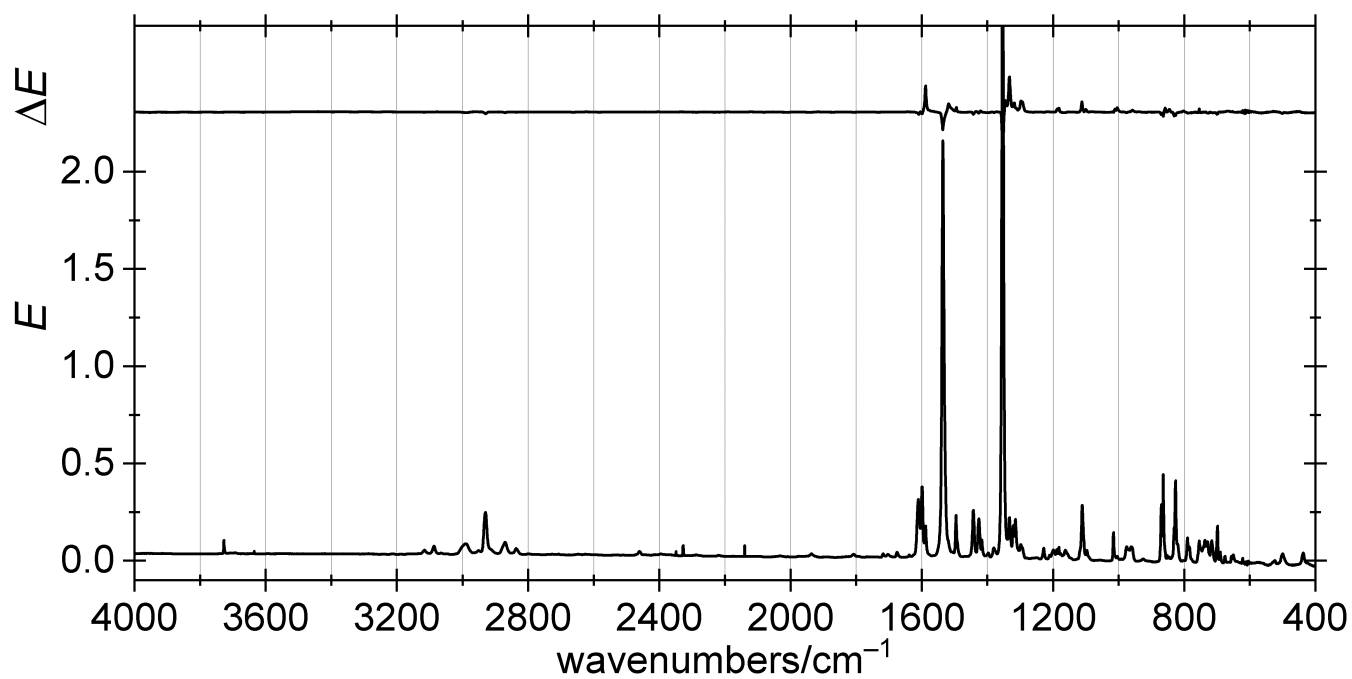


**Figure S29:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K.

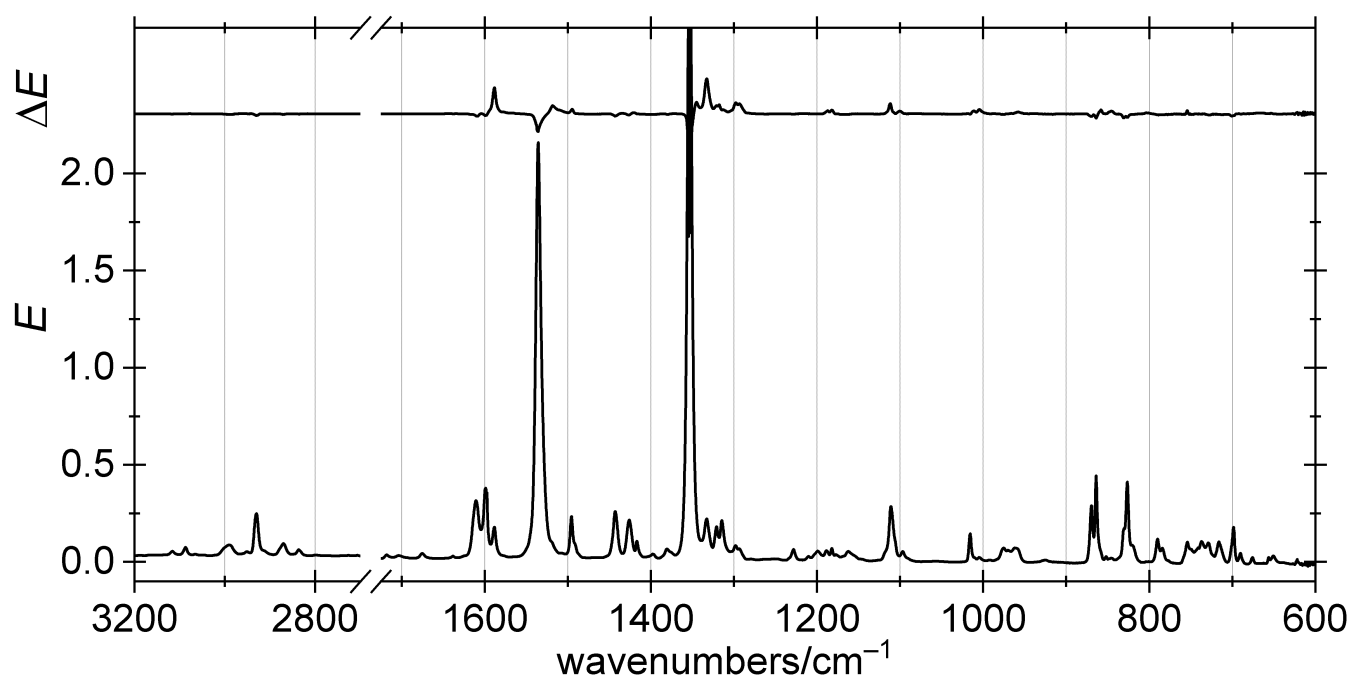


**Figure S30:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K (detail).



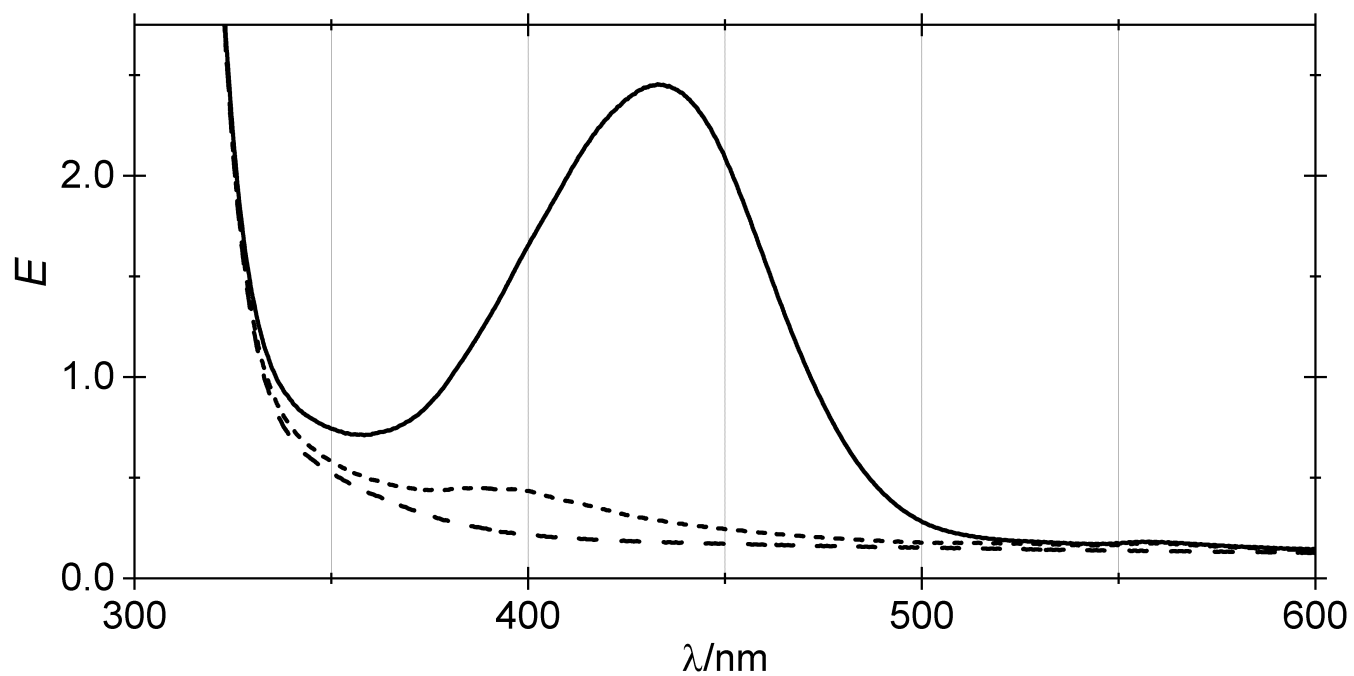


**Figure S31:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



**Figure S32:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.

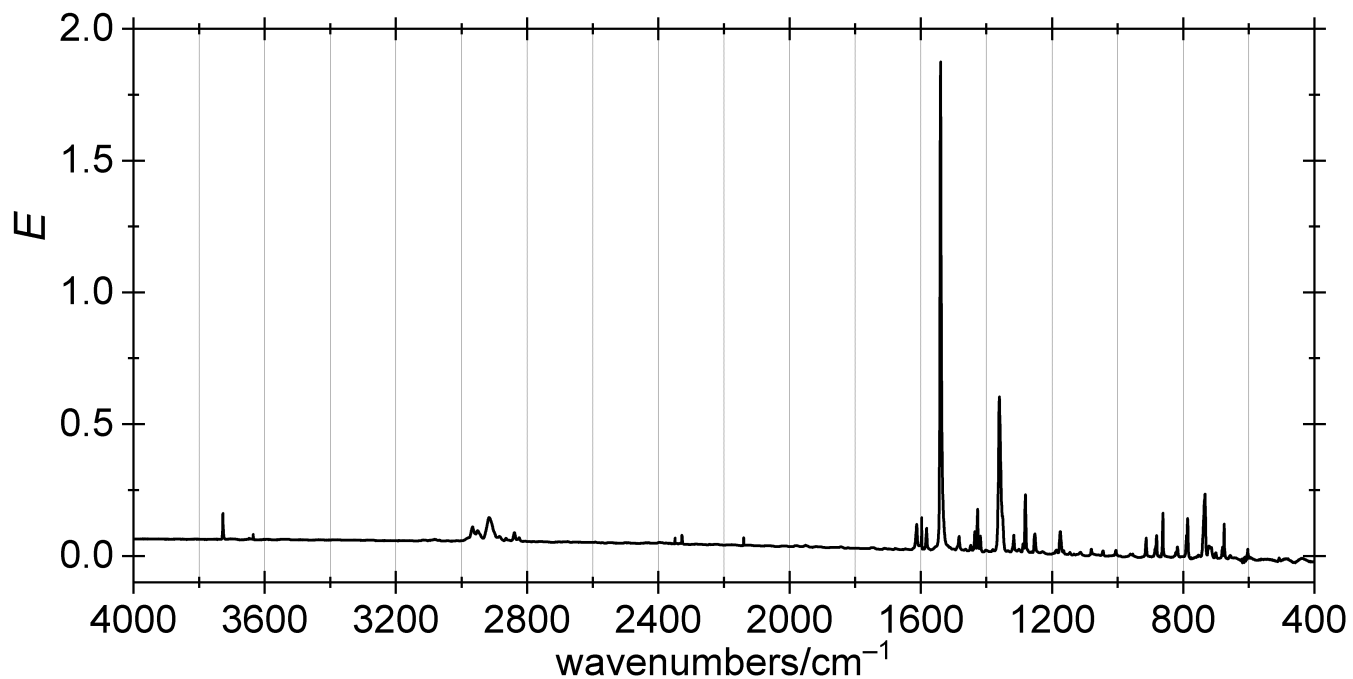
## 2.2. UV/Vis spectra of *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub>



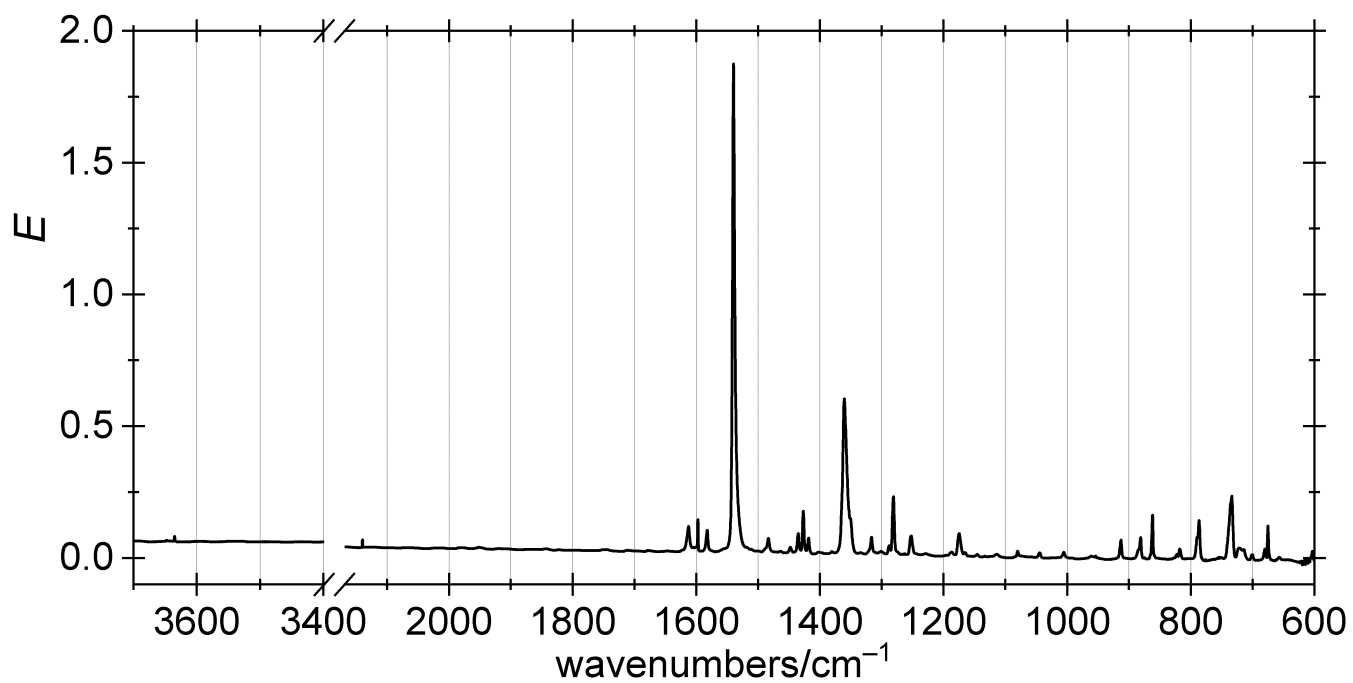
**Figure S33:** Matrix-isolated *p*-NBA-DMTA in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after deposition (dashed trace), after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (solid trace), and after 90 s irradiation at 436 nm (short-dashed trace).

### 3. Matrix isolation experiments on *o*-nitrobenzaldehyde (*o*-NBA) dithiane

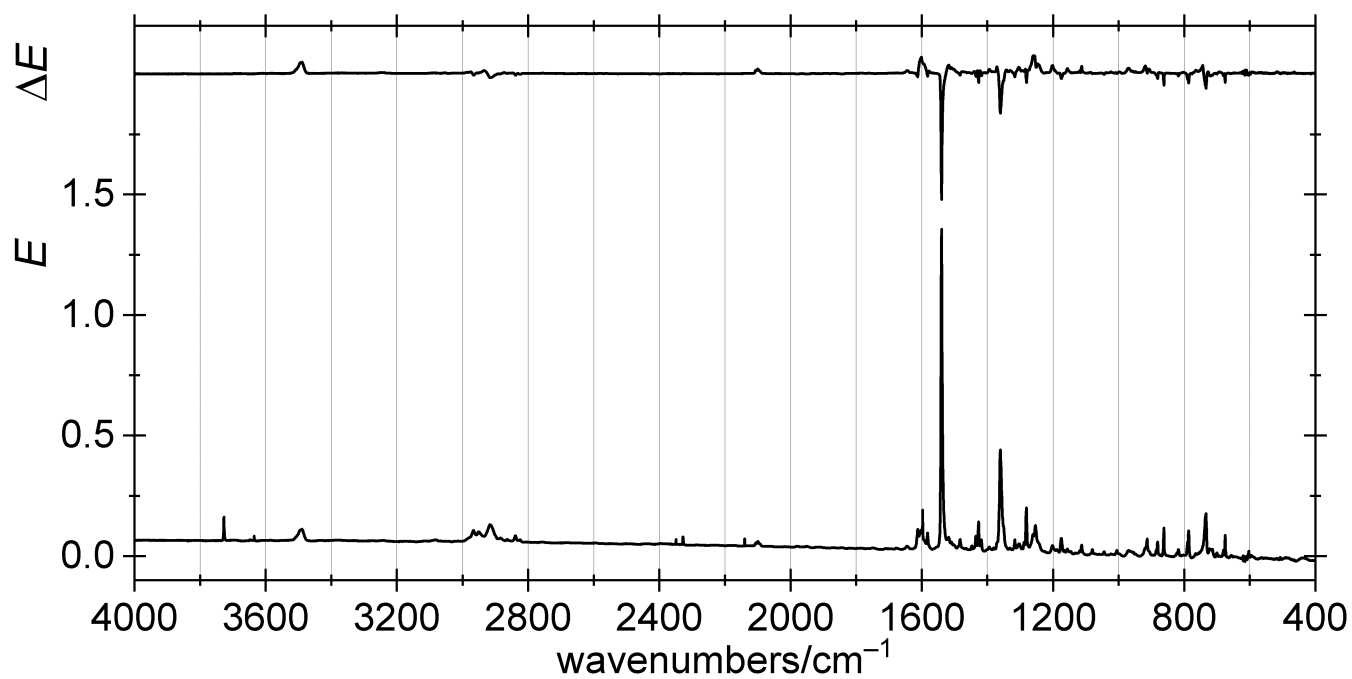
#### 3.1. IR spectra of *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>



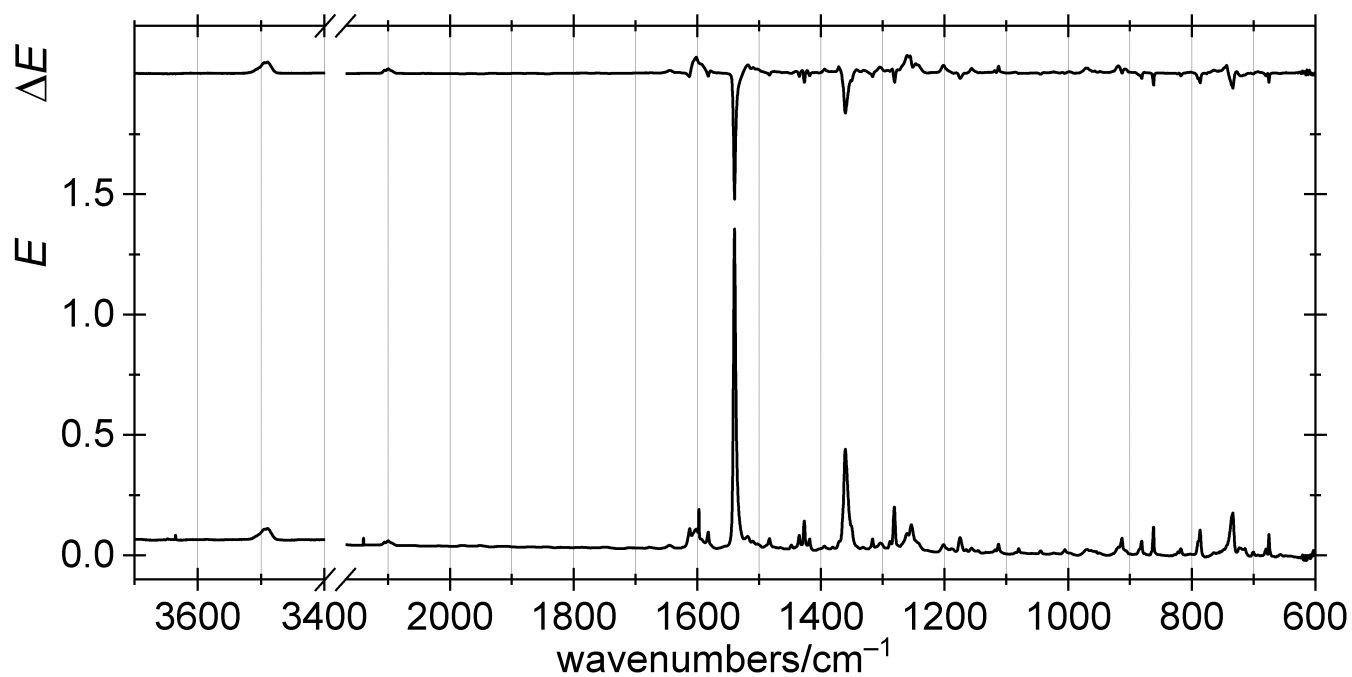
**Figure S34:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K.



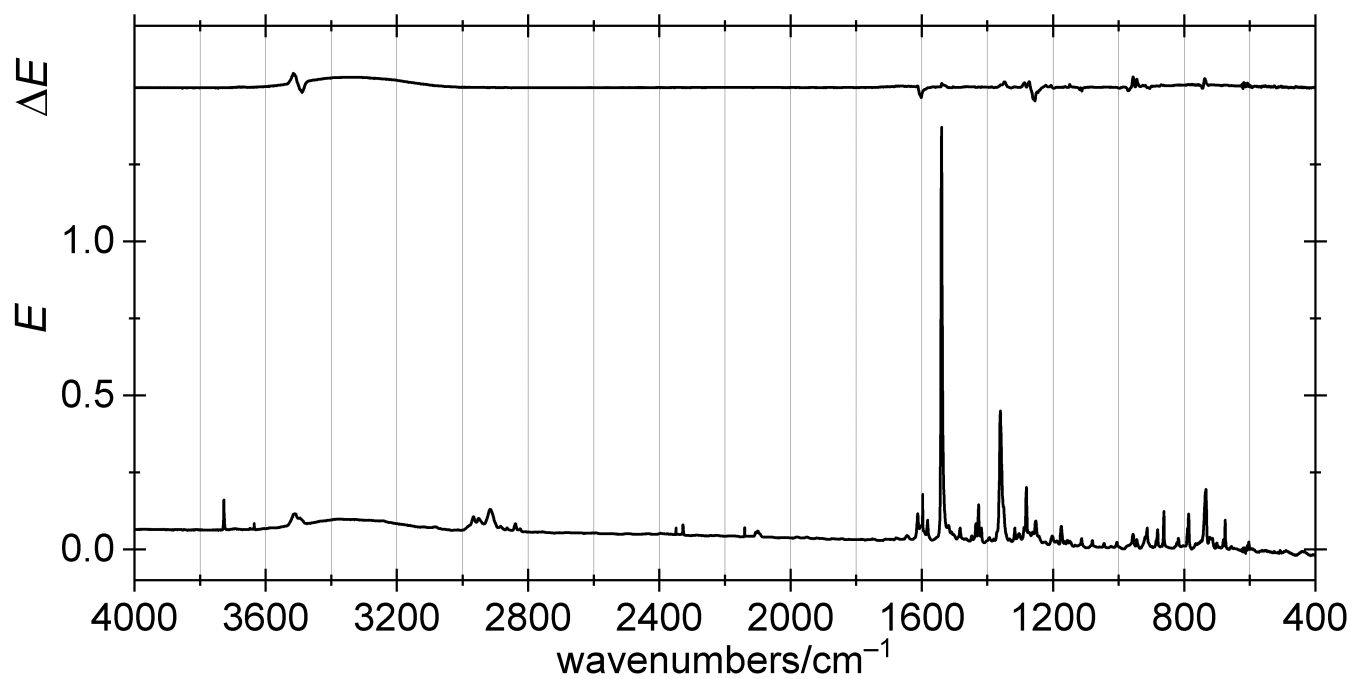
**Figure S35:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K (detail).



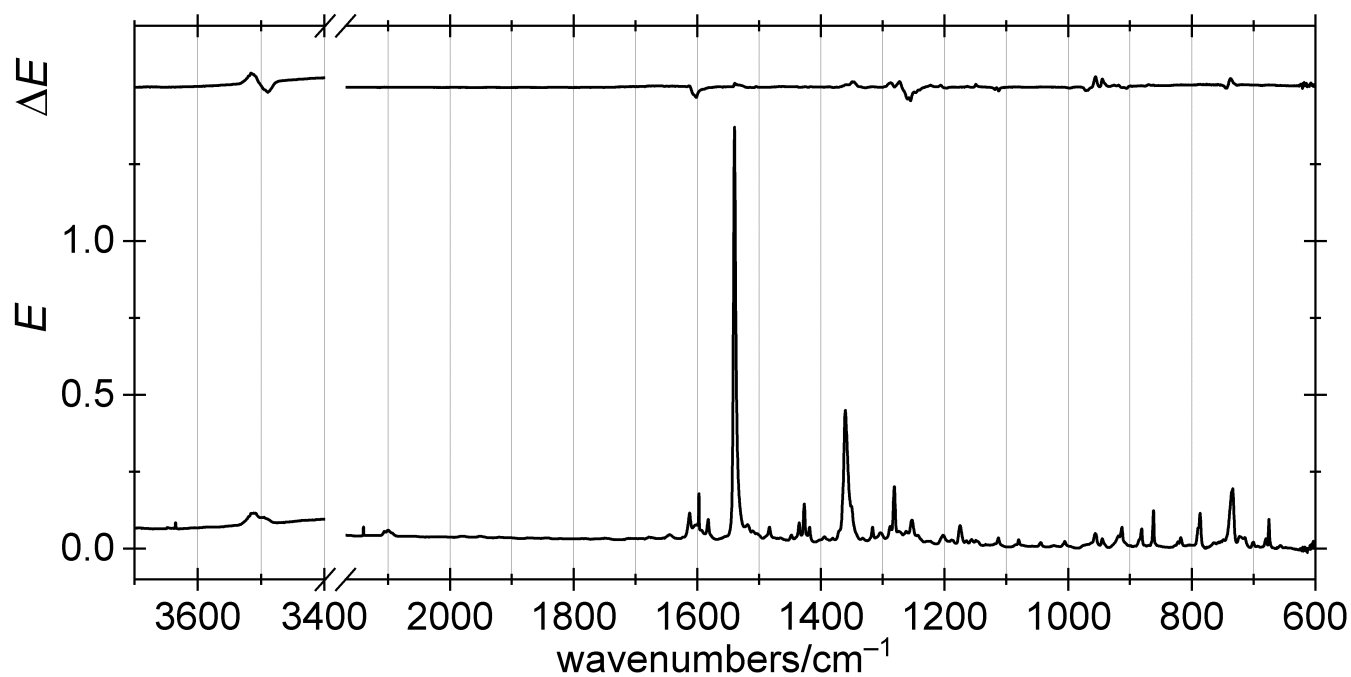
**Figure S36:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



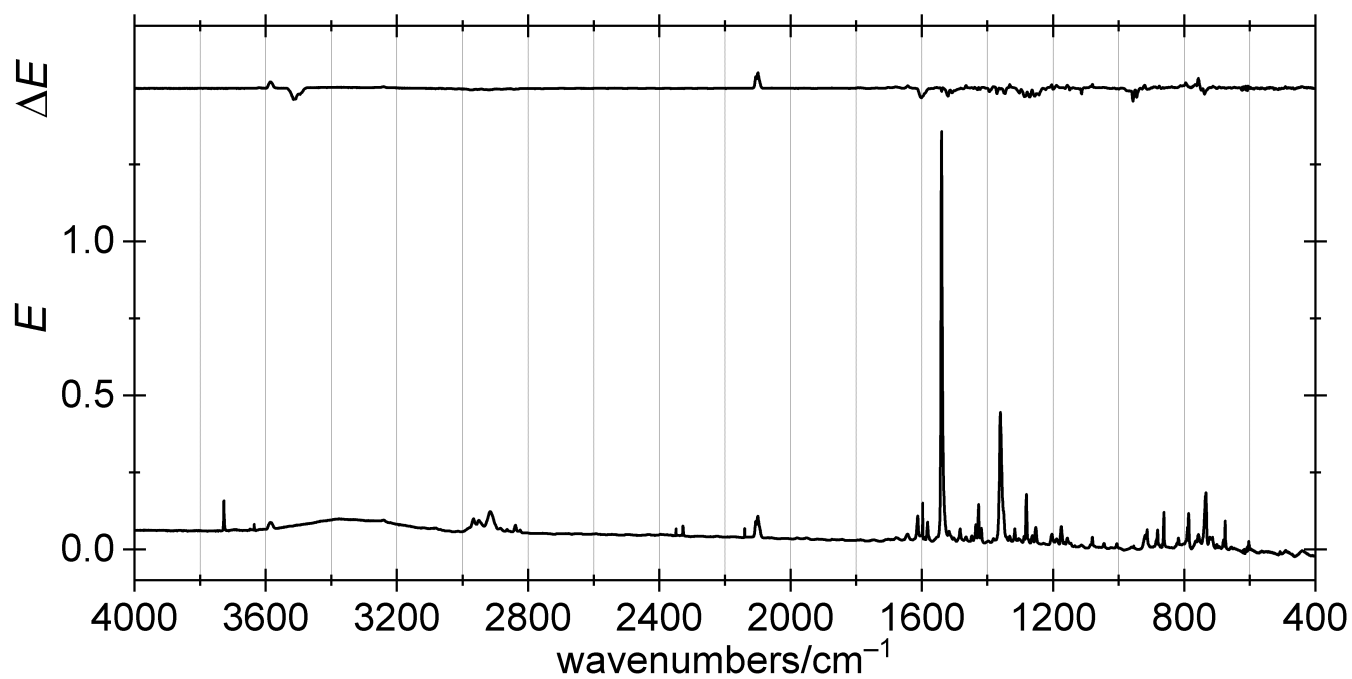
**Figure S37:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail) ; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



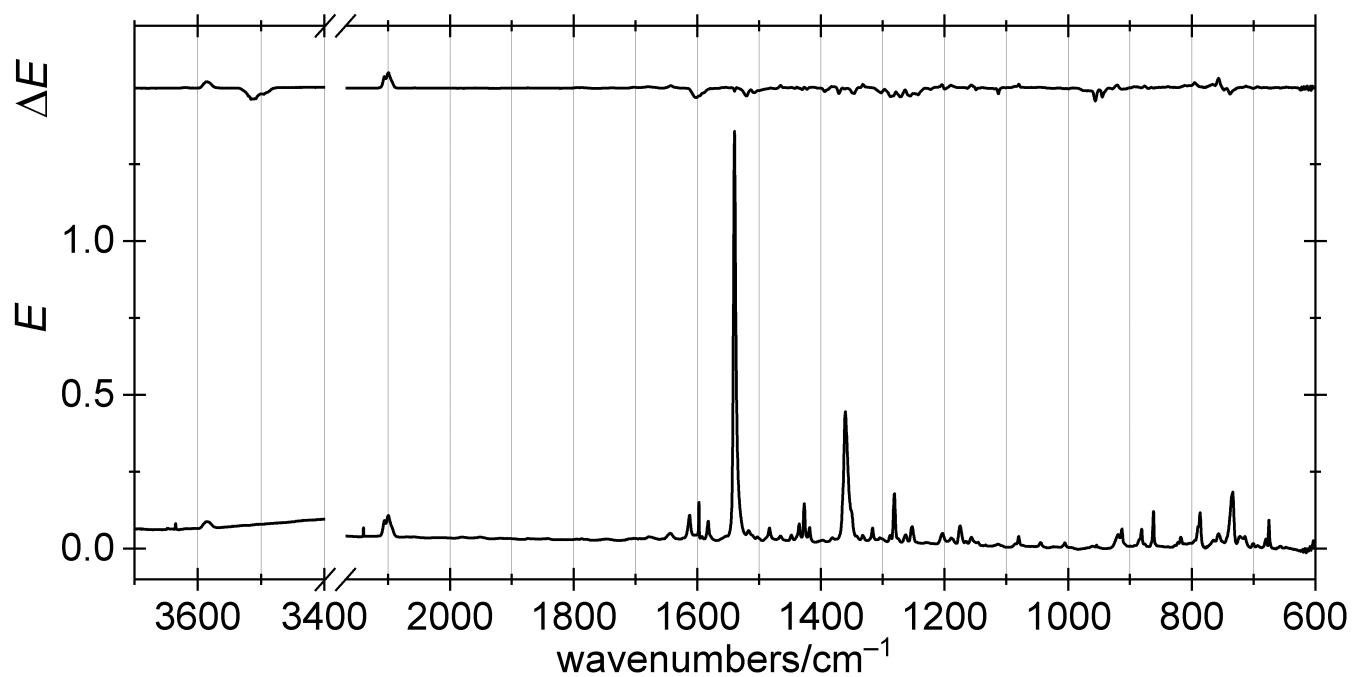
**Figure S38:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 19 h in the dark; difference trace (before/after 19 h in the dark) on top.



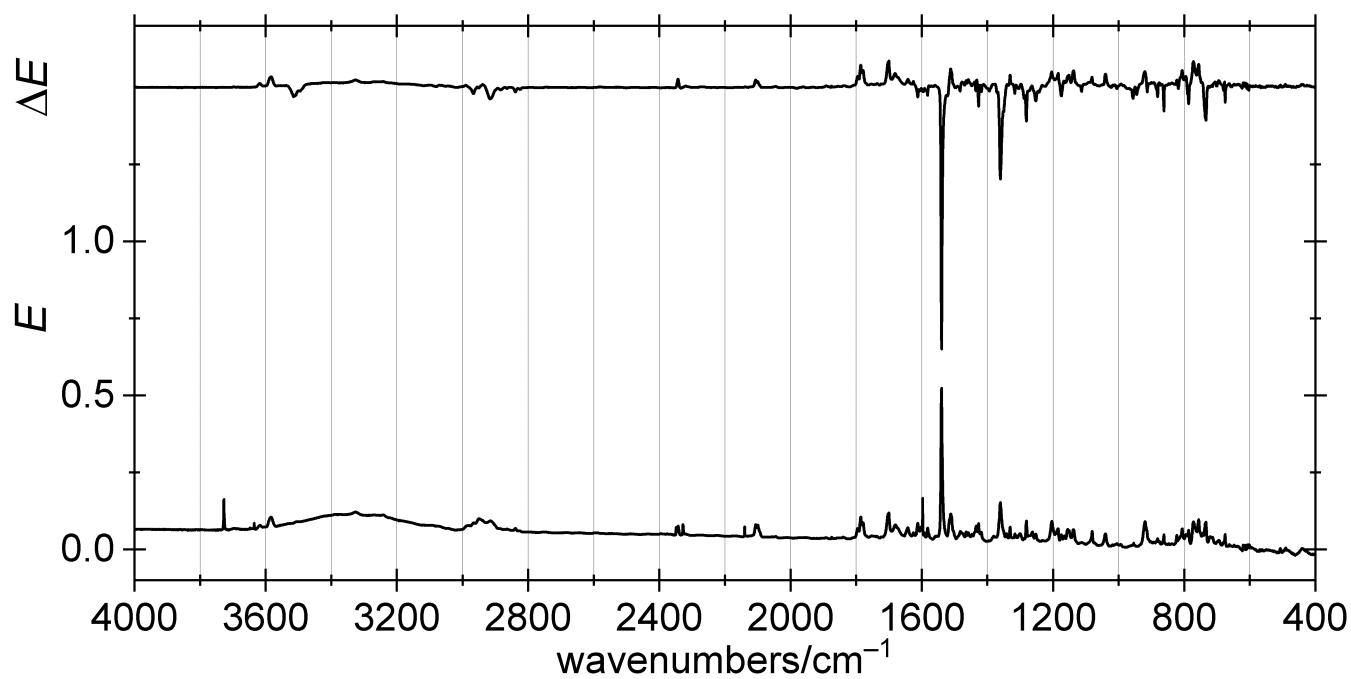
**Figure S39:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 19 h in the dark (detail); difference trace (before/after 19 h in the dark) on top.



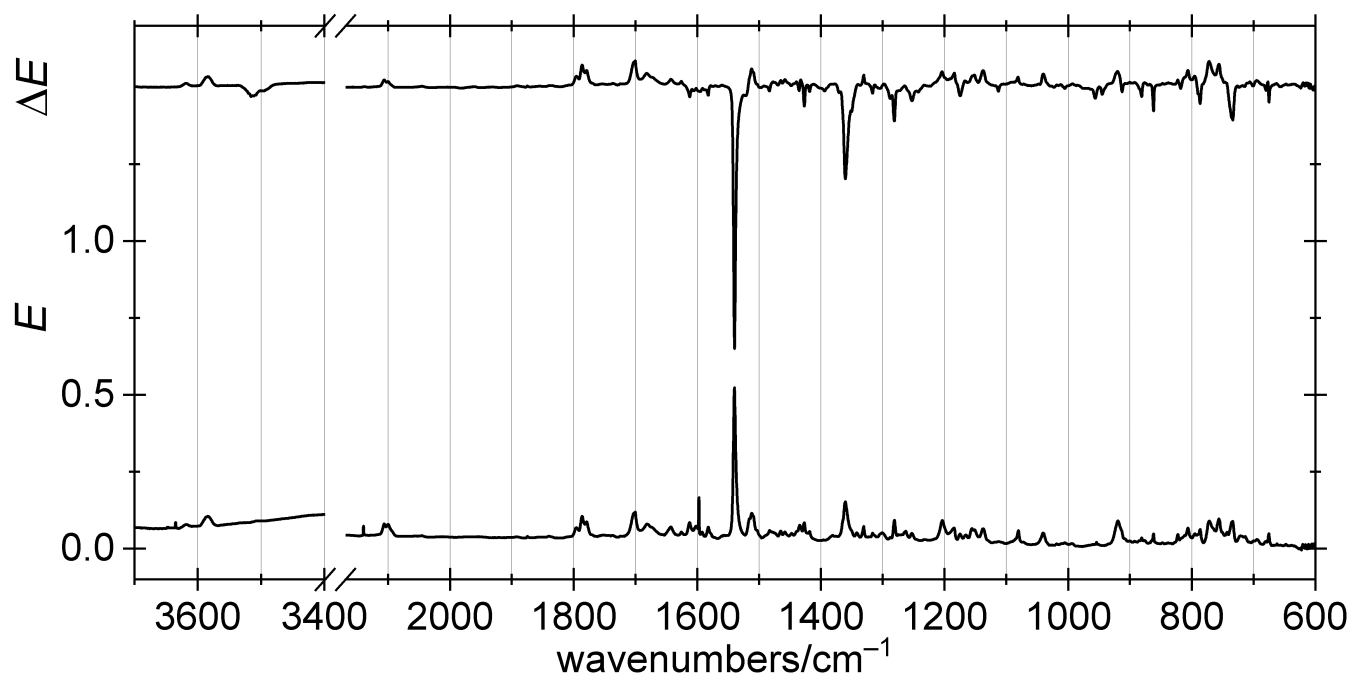
**Figure S40:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 19 h in the dark, and 6 min irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.



**Figure S41:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 19 h in the dark, and 6 min irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

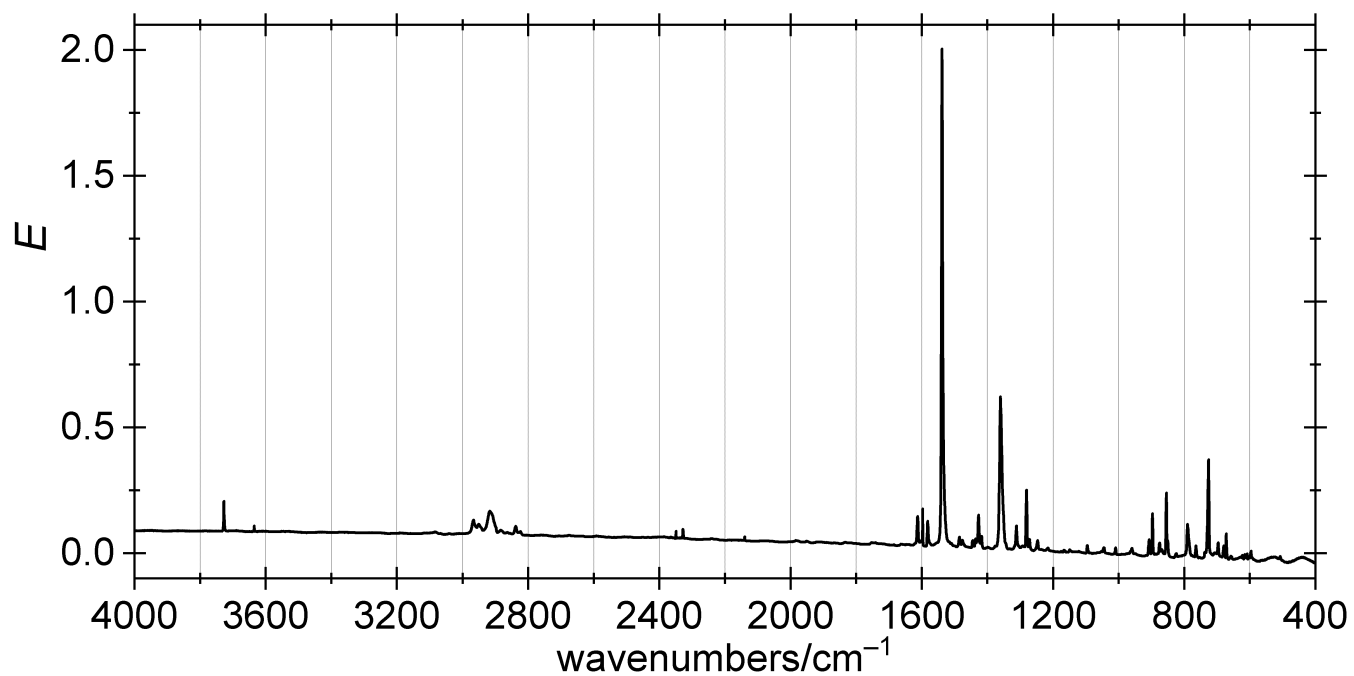


**Figure S42:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 19 h in the dark, and 4 h irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

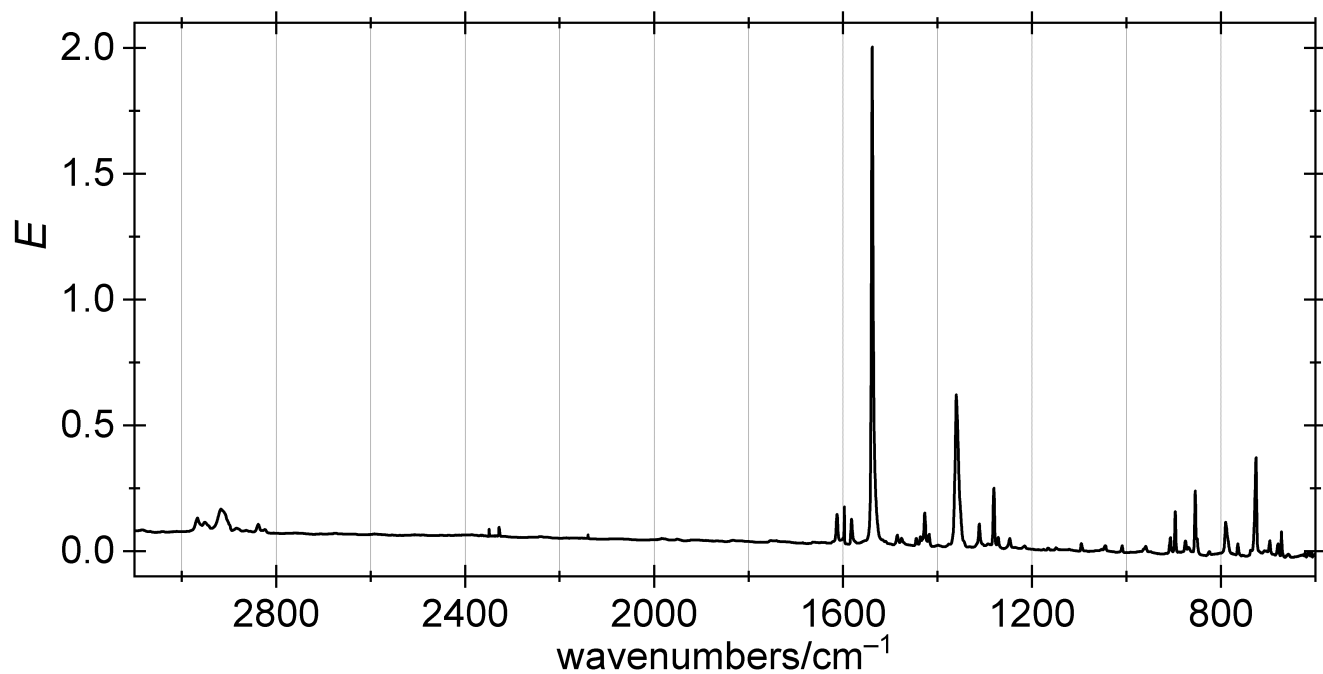


**Figure S43:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 19 h in the dark, and 4 h irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.

### 3.2. IR spectra of $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>

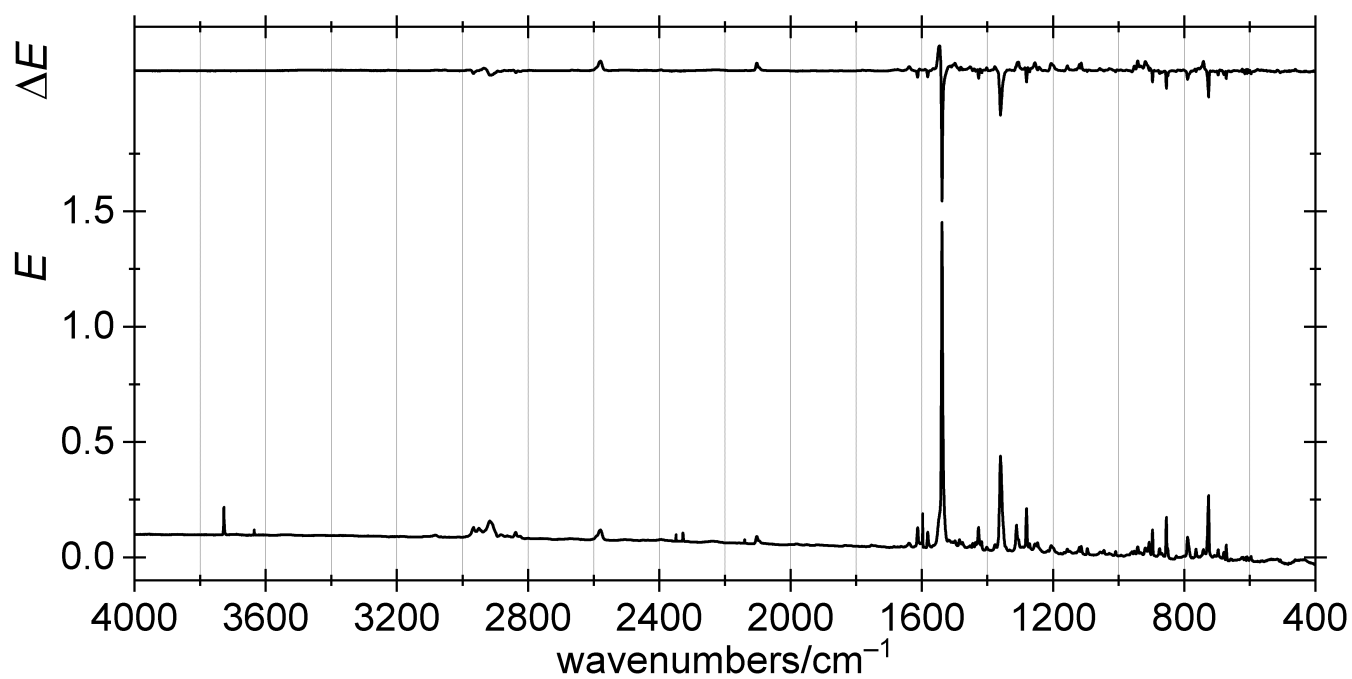


**Figure S44:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K.

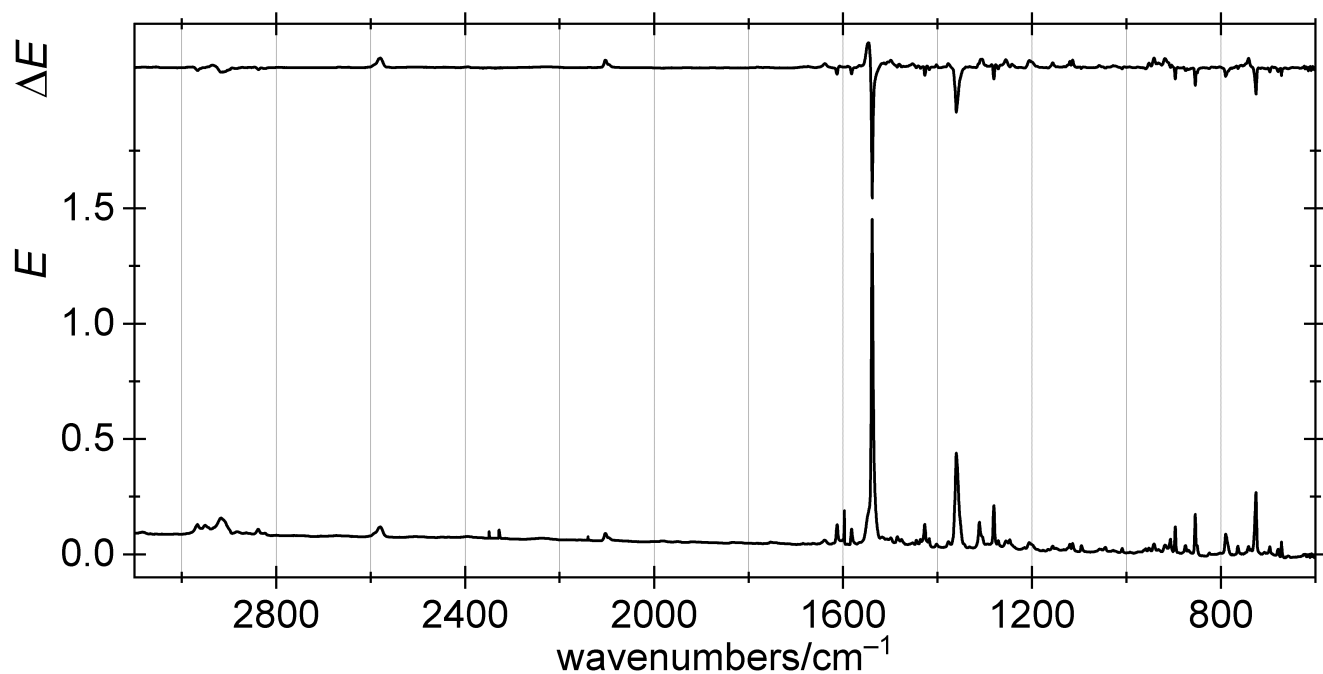


**Figure S45:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K (detail).

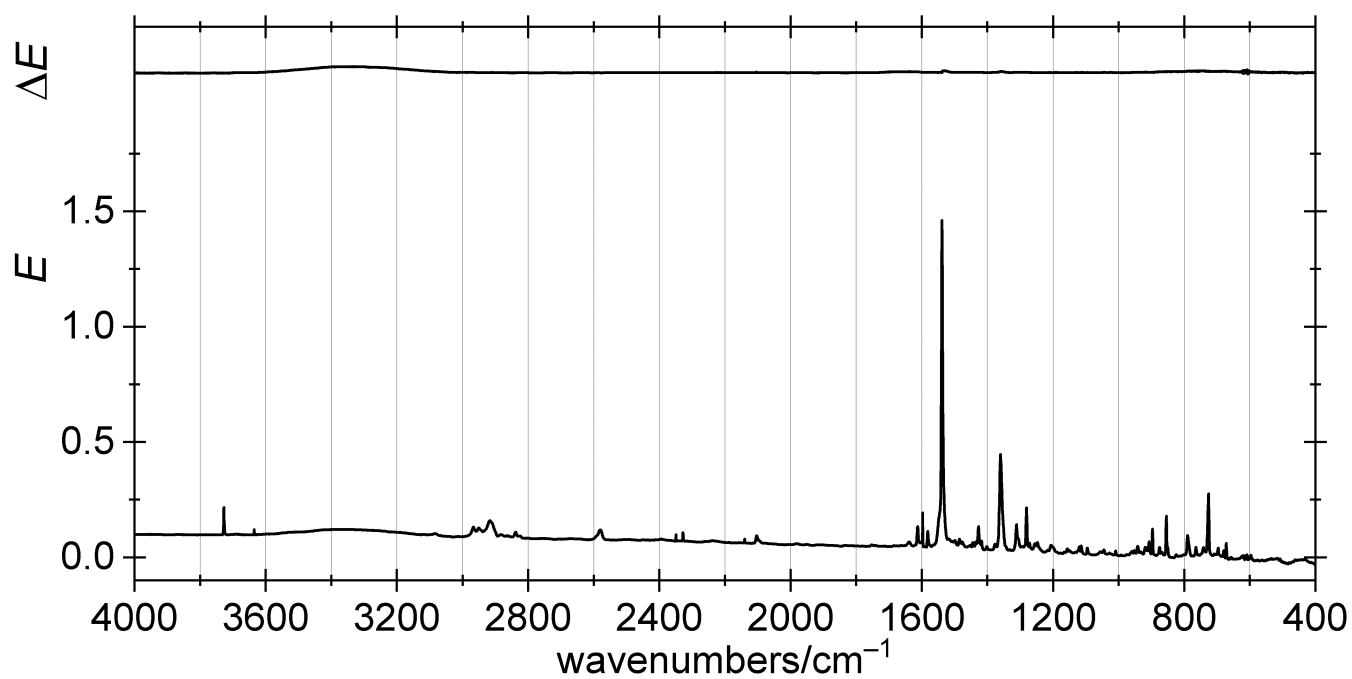




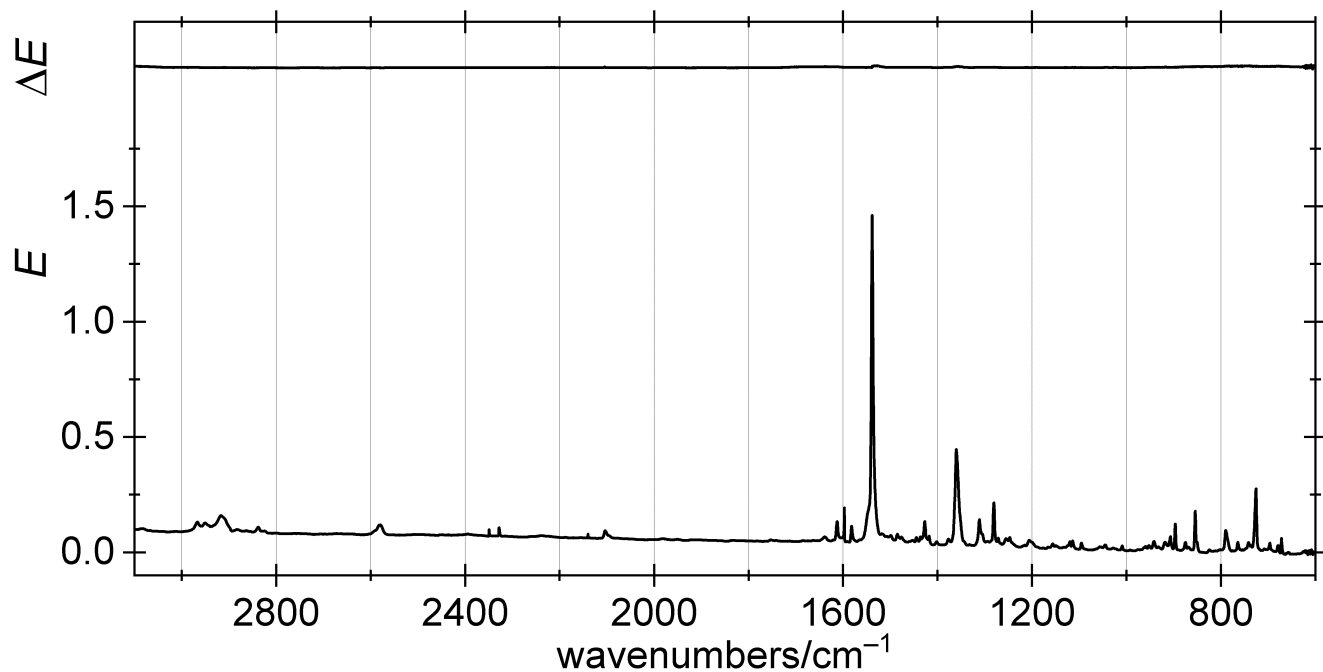
**Figure S46:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



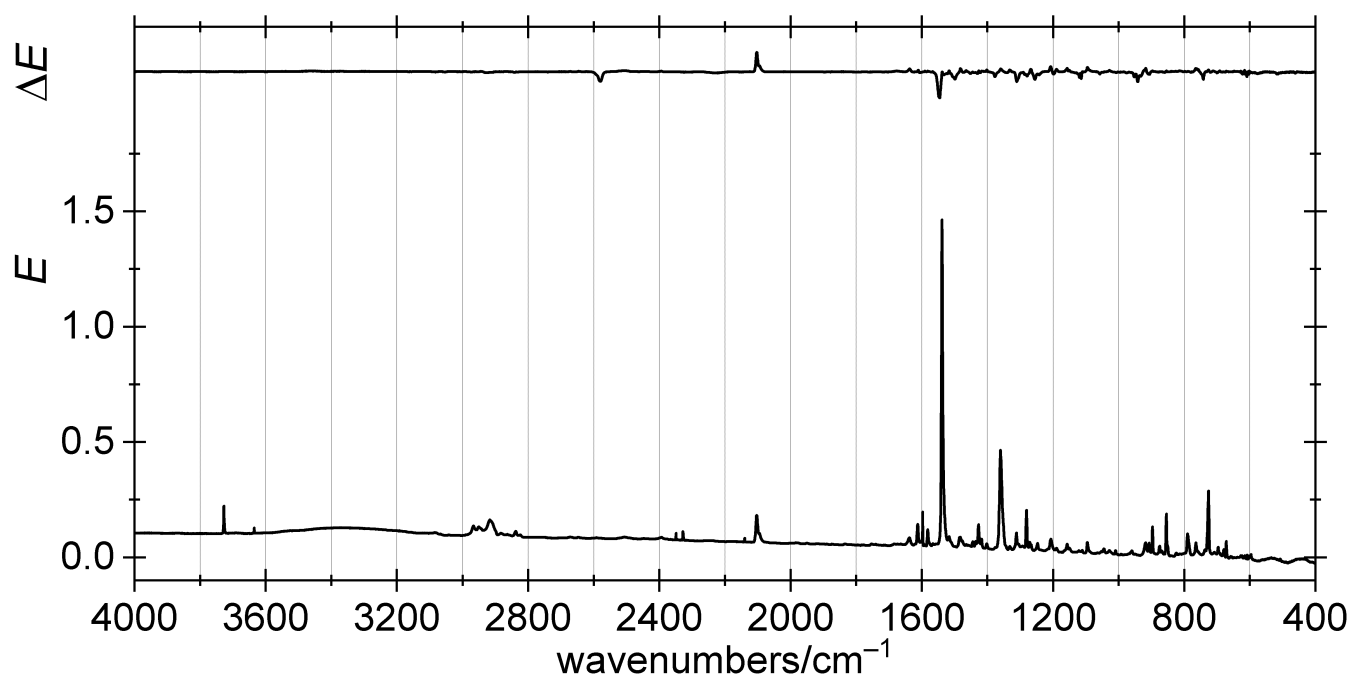
**Figure S47:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 313 nm) on top.



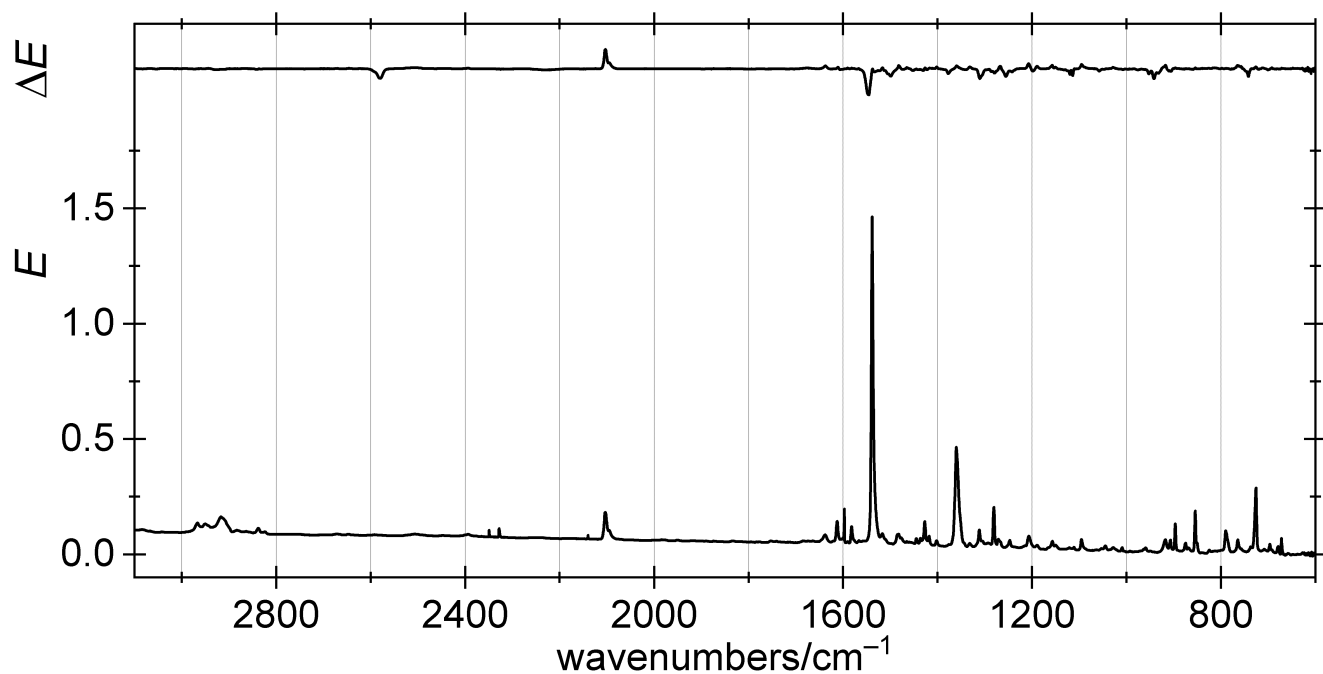
**Figure S48:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 16 h in the dark; difference trace (before/after 16 h in the dark) on top.



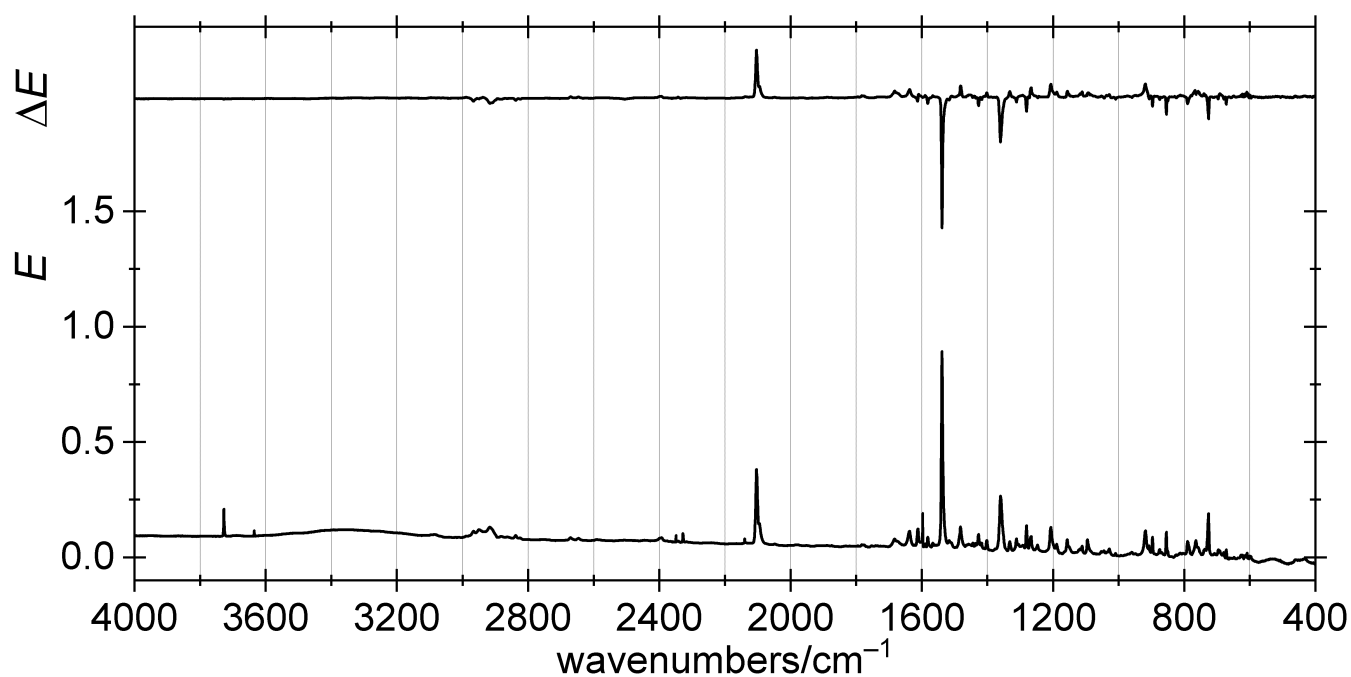
**Figure S49:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $\text{N}_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm and 16 h in the dark (detail); difference trace (before/after 16 h in the dark) on top.



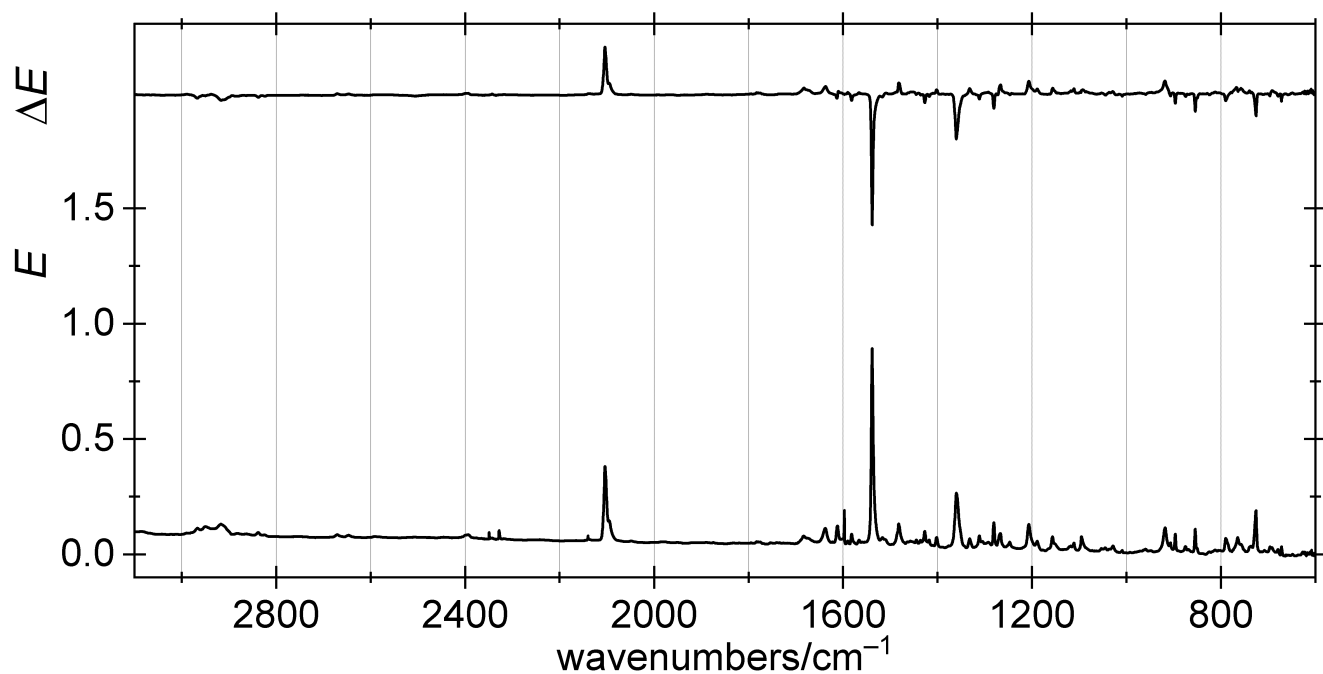
**Figure S50:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, and 4 min irradiation at 436 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.



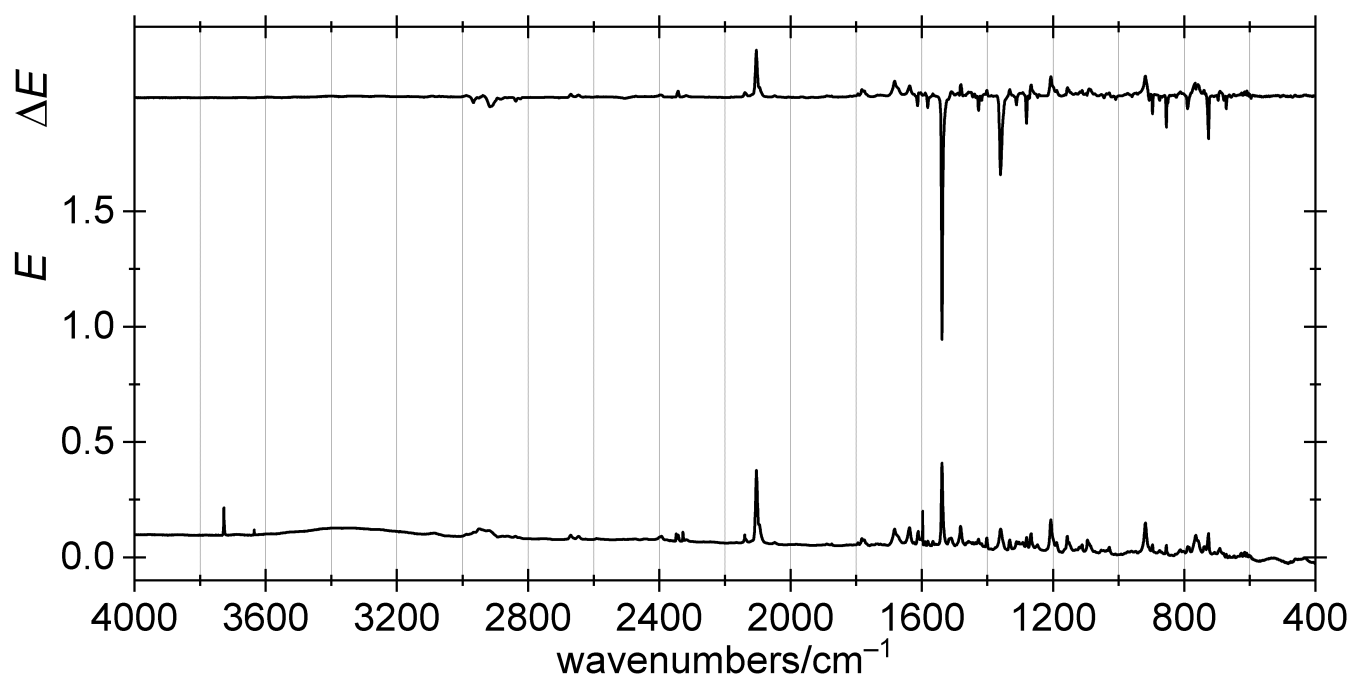
**Figure S51:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, and 4 min irradiation at 436 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 436 nm) on top.



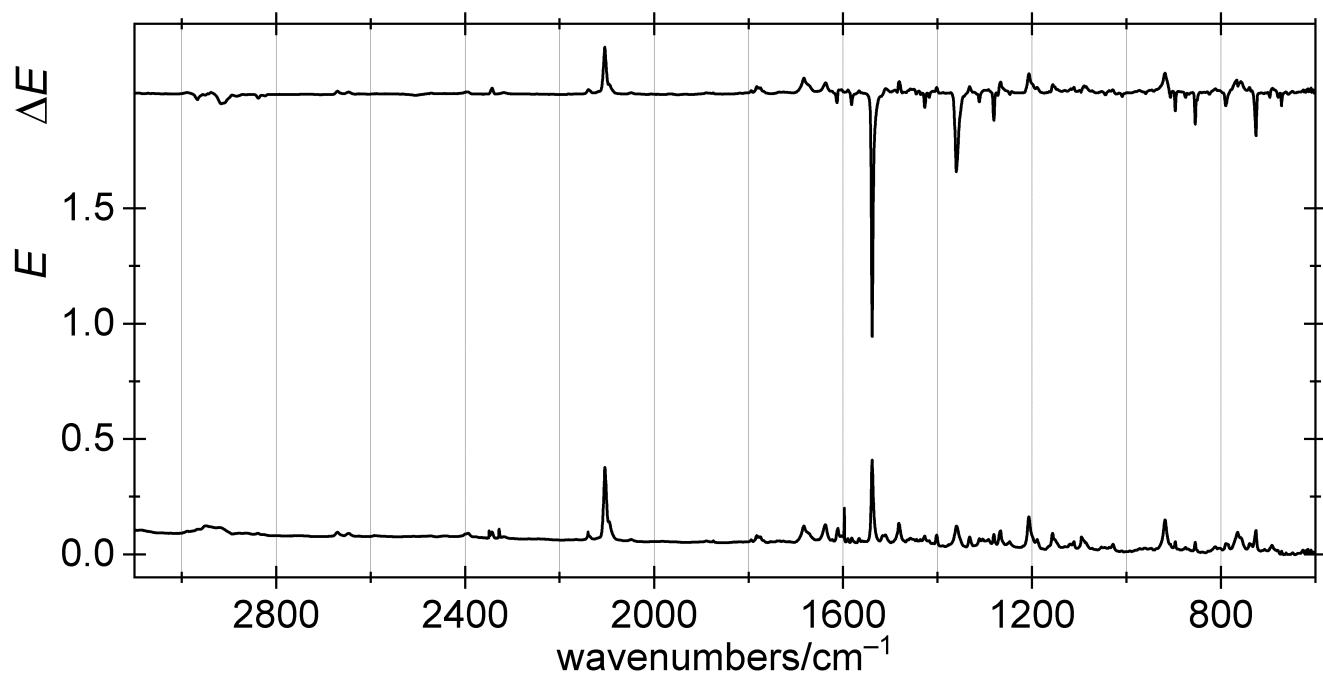
**Figure S52:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, and 20 min irradiation at 405 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 405 nm) on top.



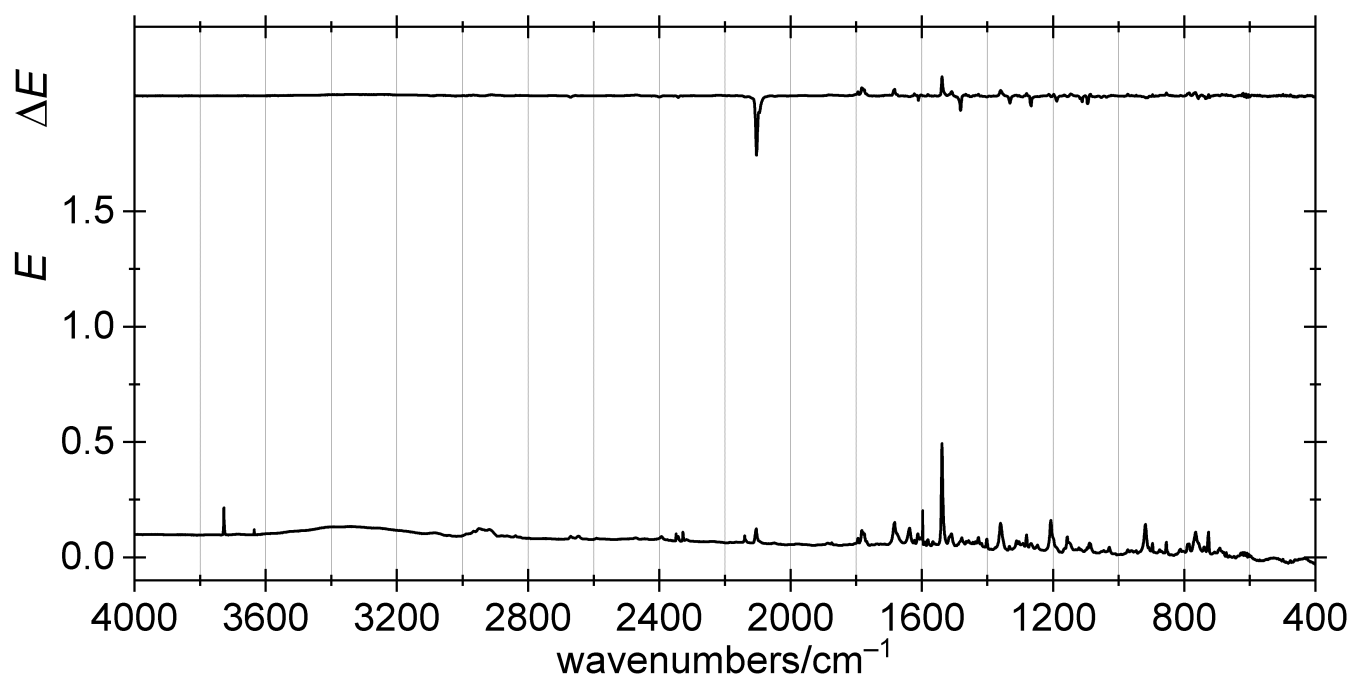
**Figure S53:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, and 20 min irradiation at 405 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 405 nm) on top.



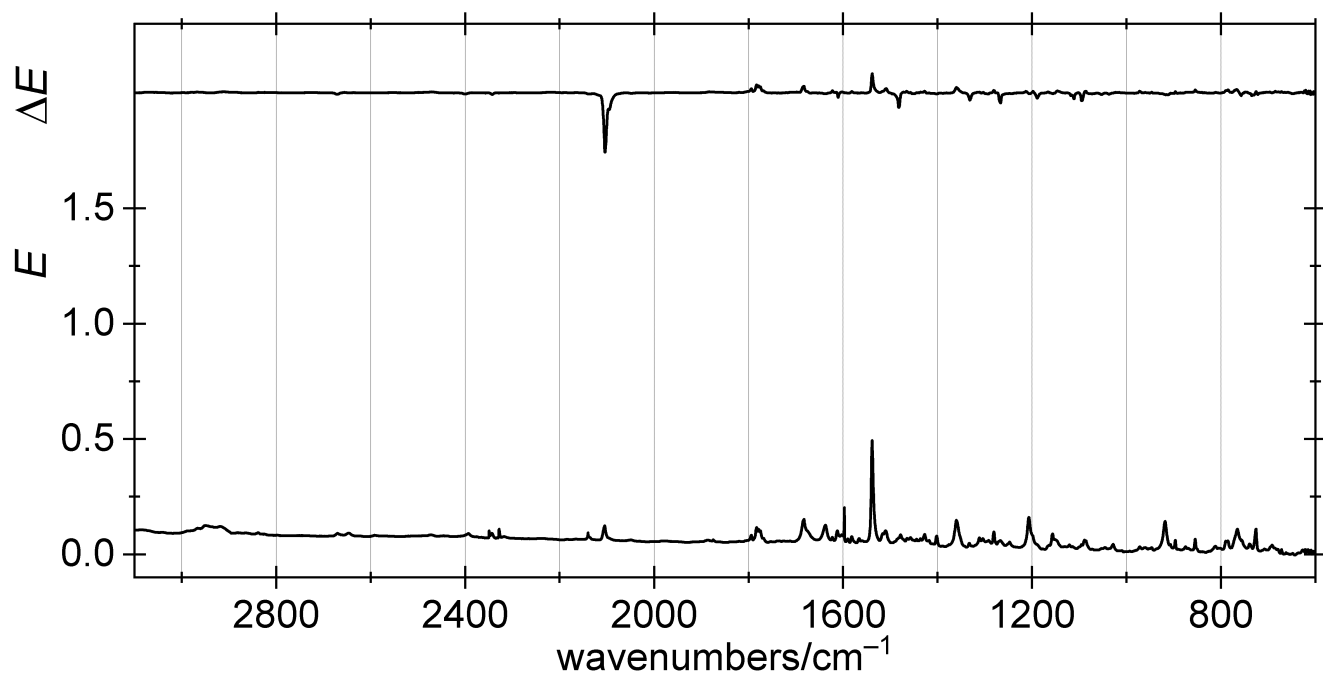
**Figure S54:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, and 60 min irradiation at 405 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 405 nm) on top.



**Figure S55:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, and 60 min irradiation at 405 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 405 nm) on top.

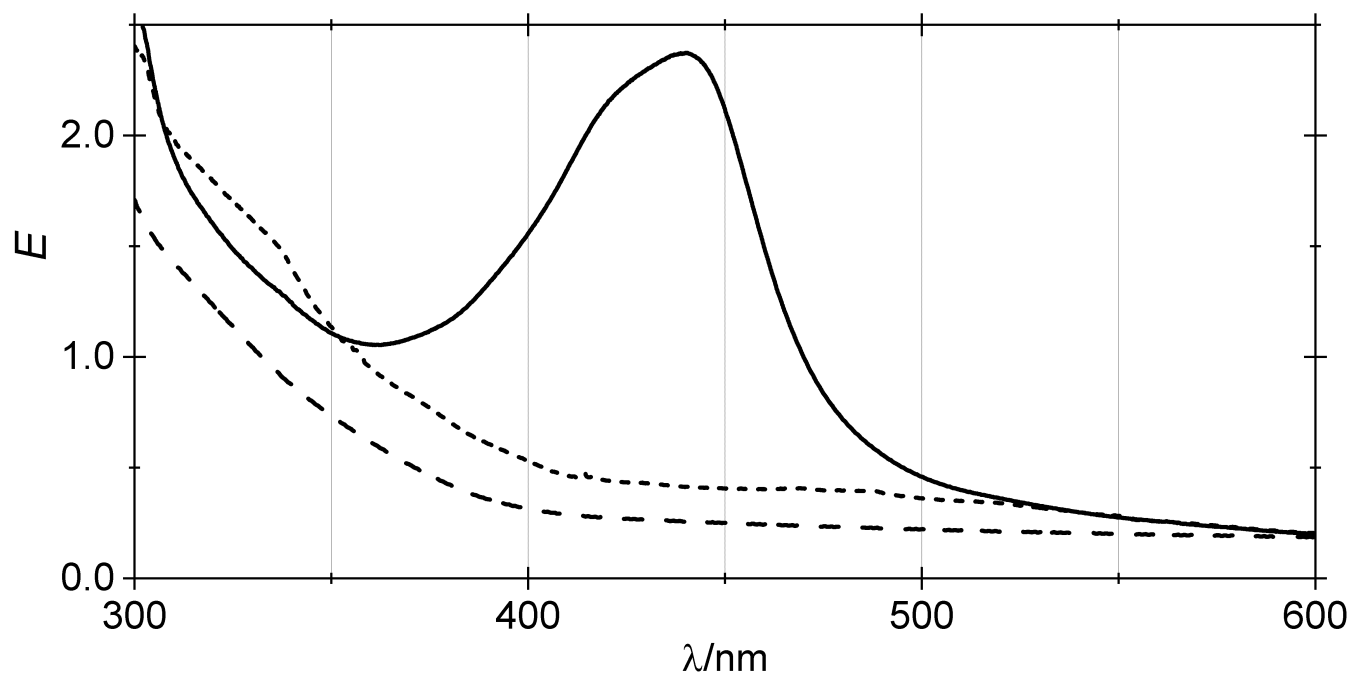


**Figure S56:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, 60 min irradiation at 405 nm, and 125 min irradiation at 546 nm; difference trace (before/after irradiation at 546 nm) on top.



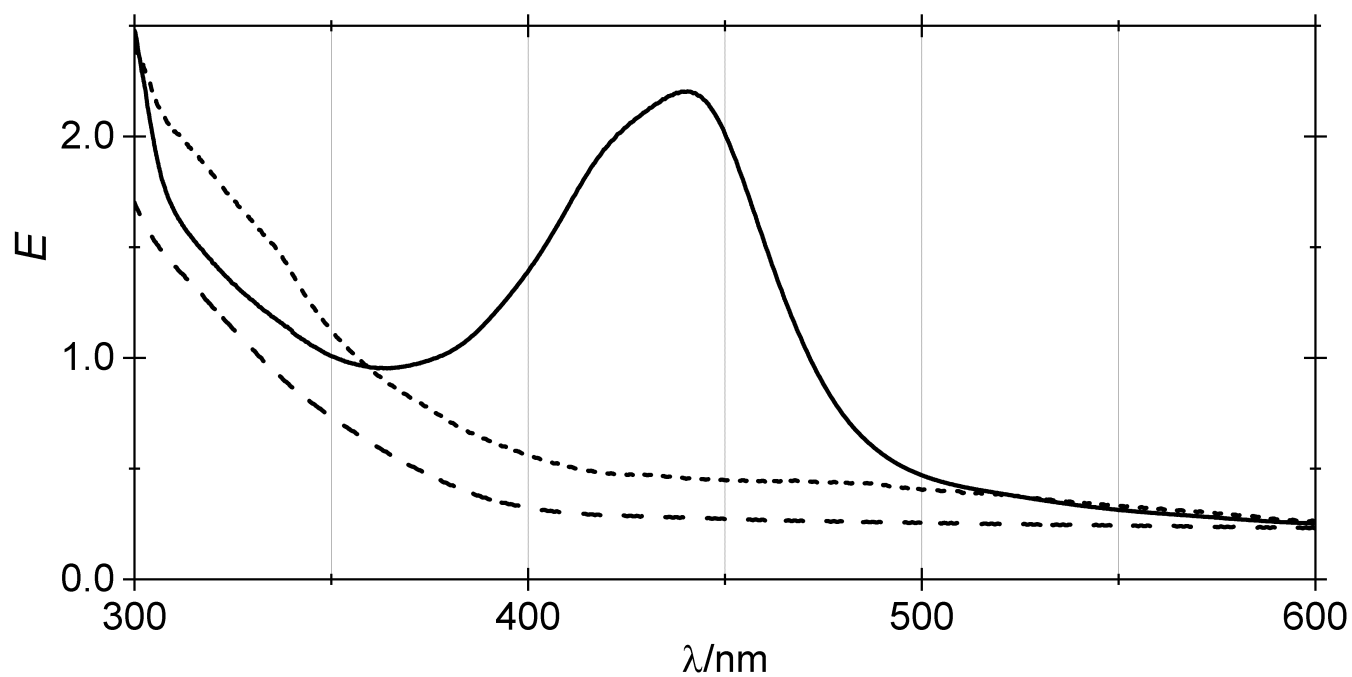
**Figure S57:** Matrix-isolated  $d_1$ -*o*-NBA dithiane in  $N_2$  at 3 K after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm, 16 h in the dark, 4 min irradiation at 436 nm, 60 min irradiation at 405 nm, and 125 min irradiation at 546 nm (detail); difference trace (before/after irradiation at 546 nm) on top.

### 3.3. UV/Vis spectra of *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S58:** Matrix-isolated *o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after deposition (dashed trace), after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (solid trace), and 6 min irradiation at 436 nm (short-dashed trace).

### 3.4. UV/Vis spectra of *d*<sub>1</sub>-*o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub>

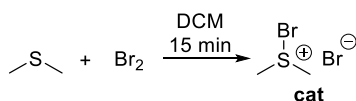


**Figure S59:** Matrix-isolated *d*<sub>1</sub>-*o*-NBA dithiane in N<sub>2</sub> at 3 K after deposition (dashed trace), after 60 s irradiation at 313 nm (solid trace), and 4 min irradiation at 436 nm (short-dashed trace).

#### 4. Compound syntheses and characterization

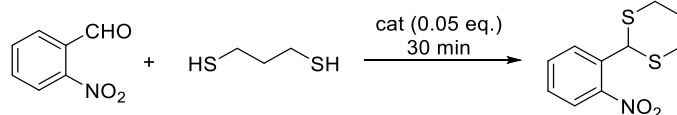
All starting materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used for synthesis without further purification. Solvents for column chromatography, extractions, and filtrations were distilled prior to use. All NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV 400 or AV 400HD spectrometers. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are given in parts per million (ppm) relative to TMS ( $\delta = 0.00$  ppm) as internal standard or to the respective solvent residual peak of D<sub>2</sub>O ( $\delta = 4.79$  ppm). <sup>13</sup>C {<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra in D<sub>2</sub>O are calibrated to 3-(trimethylsilyl)propionic-2,2,3,3-*d*<sub>4</sub> acid sodium salt (TSPA).

##### 4.1. (Bromodimethyl)sulfonium bromide



10 mL (200 mmol) bromine were diluted in 40 mL dry dichloromethane (DCM). A mixture of 15 mL (200 mmol) dimethyl sulfide in 40 mL DCM was added dropwise over 15 min at r. t. The resulting orange powder was washed with hexane and dried in vacuo over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (0.18 mol, 40.3 g, 92%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta = 3.56$  (s, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O):  $\delta = 38.7$  ppm.

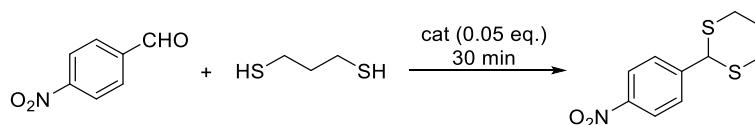
##### 4.2. 2-(2-Nitrophenyl)-1,3-dithiane



1.81 g (12 mmol) 2-nitrobenzaldehyde were dissolved in 1.3 mL (13.2 mmol) 1,3-propane dithiol. 138.9 mg (0.60 mmol, 0.05 eq.) **cat** were added to the yellow-green solution. After 30 min, a yellow gel formed, which was heated to 100 °C in 10 mL isopropanol after the addition of two drops of saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. During cooling, light-yellow crystals formed, which were separated from the gel and washed with isopropanol. This procedure was repeated until no more crystals could be separated from the gel. The product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/*n*-pentane 1:2; *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.63) and dried in vacuo over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (2.07 mmol, 0.50 g, 17%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 7.82$  (m, 2H), 7.55 (m, 1H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 3.10-2.84 (m, 4H), 2.17-1.83 (m, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 133.4, 130.7, 129.0, 124.7, 46.0, 32.3, 25.1$  ppm. Note that quaternary carbon signals were not detected. HRMS (ESI): calcd *m/z* for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 264.0123, found 264.0120.

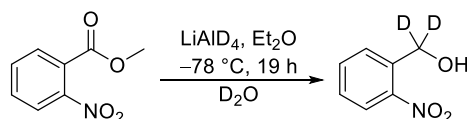


### 4.3. 2-(4-Nitrophenyl)-1,3-dithiane



1.81 g (12 mmol) 4-nitrobenzaldehyde were dissolved in 1.3 mL (13.2 mmol) 1,3-propane dithiol. 139.5 mg (0.63 mmol, 0.05 eq.) **cat** were added to the yellow-green solution. After 30 min, a yellow gel formed, which was heated to 100 °C in 10 mL isopropanol after addition of two drops of saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. During cooling, light-yellow crystals formed, which were separated from the gel and washed with isopropanol. This procedure was repeated until no more crystals could be separated from the gel. The product was purified by column chromatography (DCM;  $R_f$  = 0.73) and dried in vacuo over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (3.36 mmol, 0.81 g, 28%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.19 (m, 2H), 7.67 (m, 2H), 5.23 (s, 1H), 3.12-2.92 (m, 4H), 2.25-1.91 (m, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 147.8, 146.1, 128.9, 124.0, 50.4, 31.8, 24.8 ppm. Chemical shifts agree with a reference spectrum.<sup>1</sup> HRMS (ESI): calcd m/z for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 264.0123, found 264.0126.

### 4.4. 2-Nitrobenzyl- $\alpha,\alpha$ -d<sub>2</sub>-methanol

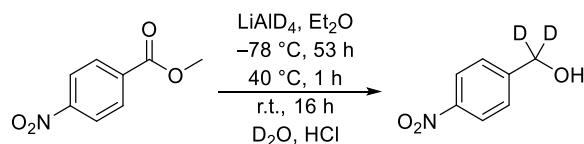


0.30 g (7.15 mmol) lithium aluminium deuteride (LiAlD<sub>4</sub>) were dissolved in 15 mL diethyl ether (Et<sub>2</sub>O) and cooled to -78 °C with acetone/CO<sub>2</sub> dry ice. A mixture of 1.75 mL (12.5 mmol) methyl-2-nitrobenzoate in 5 mL Et<sub>2</sub>O was added dropwise and stirred for 19 h while slowly reaching r. t. D<sub>2</sub>O was added until gas formation had stopped. Diluted aqueous HCl was added until the precipitate had dissolved. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 20 mL Et<sub>2</sub>O. The combined organic phases were washed with 40 mL brine. After evaporation of the solvent, the remaining brown solid was purified by column chromatography (DCM;  $R_f$  = 0.33) and dried in vacuo over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (3.93 mmol, 0.61 g, 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.03 (m, 1H), 7.66 (m, 2H), 7.42 (m, 1H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 147.8, 136.6, 134.2, 130.1, 128.6, 125.0 ppm. Note that the CD<sub>2</sub> carbon signal was not detected. Chemical shifts agree with a reference spectrum.<sup>2</sup> HRMS (ESI): calcd m/z for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>5</sub>D<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 178.0443, found 178.0445.

<sup>1</sup> Ong, B. S. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **1980**, 21, 4225-4228.

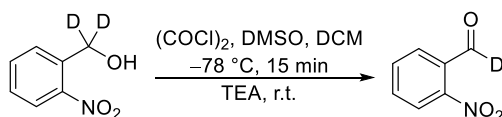
<sup>2</sup> Blanc, A.; Bochet, C. G. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, 9, 2649-2651.

#### 4.5. 4-Nitrobenzyl- $\alpha,\alpha$ - $d_2$ -methanol



0.30 g (7.15 mmol) lithium aluminium deuteride ( $\text{LiAlD}_4$ ) were dissolved in 15 mL diethyl ether ( $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ ) and cooled to  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with acetone/ $\text{CO}_2$  dry ice. A mixture of 2.27 g (12.5 mmol) methyl-4-nitrobenzoate in 20 mL  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 53 h while slowly reaching r. t., subsequently heated to  $40\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, and stirred at r. t. for 16 h.  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  was added until gas formation had stopped. Diluted aqueous  $\text{HCl}$  was added until the precipitate had dissolved. The phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 20 mL  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$ . The combined organic phases were washed with 40 mL of brine. After evaporation of the solvent, the remaining yellow solid was purified by column chromatography (*tert*-butyl methyl ether;  $R_f = 0.28$ ) and dried in vacuo over  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$  (6.97 mmol, 1.08 g, 56%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.15$  (m, 2 H), 7.48 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 148.0$ , 147.4, 127.1, 123.8 ppm. Note that the  $\text{CD}_2$  carbon signal was not detected. Chemical shifts agree with a reference spectrum.<sup>3</sup> HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_7\text{H}_5\text{D}_2\text{NO}_3\text{Na}$   $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  178.0443, found 178.0446.

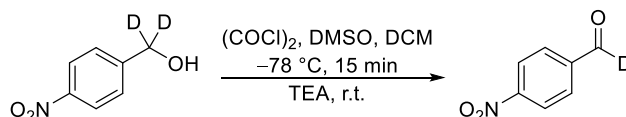
#### 4.6. 2-Nitrobenzyl- $\alpha$ - $d$ -aldehyde



0.5 mL (5.83 mmol) oxalyl chloride  $[(\text{COCl})_2]$  were dissolved in 10 mL DCM and cooled to  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with acetone/ $\text{CO}_2$  dry ice. A mixture of ca. 0.7 mL (9.86 mmol) dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in 2 mL DCM was added. After 5 min, a mixture of 0.6 g (3.87 mmol) 2-nitrobenzyl- $\alpha,\alpha$ - $d_2$ -methanol in 9 mL DCM was added. After another 15 min, 3 mL (21.64 mmol) triethyl amine (TEA) were added to the brown solution. After warming the reaction mixture to r. t., 15 mL water were added. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with 15 mL DCM. The combined organic phases were subsequently washed with 45 mL brine, 15 mL diluted  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 15 mL water, and 15 mL saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . After evaporation of the solvent, the remaining brown-yellow solid was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate;  $R_f = 0.75$ ) and dried in vacuo over  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$  (3.03 mmol, 0.46 g, 78%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.05$  (m, 1H), 7.89 (m, 1H), 7.72 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 134.1$ , 133.7, 129.7, 124.5 ppm. Note that quaternary and CO carbon signals were not detected. HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{DNO}_4\text{Na}$   $[\text{M} + \text{MeOH} + \text{Na}]^+$  207.0486, found 207.0490.

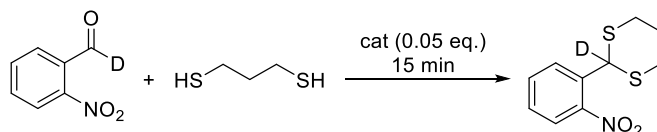
<sup>3</sup> Price, K. E.; Broadwater, S. J.; Walker, B. J.; McQuade, D. T. *J. Org. Chem.* **2005**, *70*, 3980-3987.

#### 4.7. 4-Nitrobenzyl- $\alpha$ -*d*-aldehyde



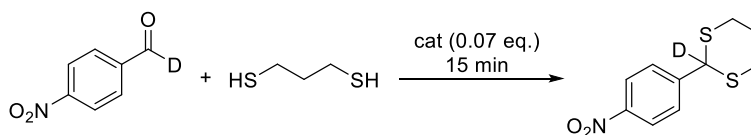
0.6 mL (7.00 mmol) oxalyl chloride  $[(\text{COCl})_2]$  were dissolved in 15 mL DCM and cooled to  $-78\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  with acetone/ $\text{CO}_2$  dry ice. A mixture of 1 mL (14.1 mmol) dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in 3 mL DCM was added. After 5 min, a mixture of 1.0 g (6.45 mmol) 4-nitrobenzyl- $\alpha,\alpha$ - $d_2$ -methanol in 15 mL DCM was added. After another 15 min, 4.5 mL (32.51 mmol) triethyl amine (TEA) were added to the yellow solution. After warming the reaction mixture to r. t., 30 mL water were added. The phases were separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with 30 mL DCM. The combined organic phases were subsequently washed with 70 mL brine, 30 mL diluted  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 30 mL water, and 30 mL saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . After evaporation of the solvent, the remaining yellow solid was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate;  $R_f = 0.78$ ) and dried in vacuo over  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$  (5.06 mmol, 0.77 g, 78%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 8.32$  (m, 2H), 8.03 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 130.5$ , 124.3 ppm. Note that quaternary and CO carbon signals were not detected. HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{DNO}_4\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M} + \text{MeOH} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  207.0486, found 207.0490.

#### 4.8. 2-Deutero-2-(2-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dithiane



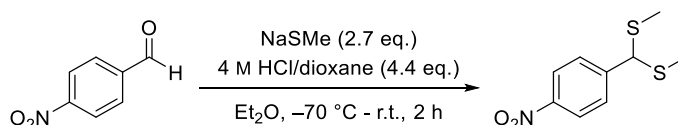
0.21 g (1.38 mmol) 2-nitrobenzyl- $\alpha$ - $d$ -aldehyde were dissolved in 0.15 mL (1.49 mmol) 1,3-propane dithiol. 16.5 mg (0.07 mmol, 0.05 eq.) **cat** were added to the brown solution. After 15 min, a brown gel formed, which was heated to  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in ca. 3 mL isopropanol after addition of two drops of saturated aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ . During cooling, light-yellow crystals formed, which were separated from the gel and washed with isopropanol. This procedure was repeated until no more crystals could be separated from the gel. The product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/ $n$ -pentane 1:2;  $R_f = 0.60$ ) and dried in vacuo over  $\text{P}_4\text{O}_{10}$  (0.62 mmol, 0.15 g, 20%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 7.88$  (m, 2H), 7.62 (m, 1H), 7.44 (m, 1H), 3.17-2.90 (m, 4H), 2.23-1.94 (m, 2H) ppm.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta = 133.5$ , 130.8, 129.1, 124.8, 32.3, 25.0 ppm. Note that quaternary and CD carbon signals were not detected. HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{DNO}_2\text{S}_2\text{Na}$  [ $\text{M} + \text{Na}$ ] $^+$  265.0186, found 265.0183.

#### 4.9. 2-Deutero-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dithiane



0.20 g (1.31 mmol) 4-nitrobenzyl- $\alpha$ - $d$ -aldehyde were dissolved in 0.15 mL (1.49 mmol) 1,3-propane dithiol. 19.0 mg (0.09 mmol, 0.07 eq.) **cat** were added to the brown solution. After 15 min, a yellow gel formed, which was heated to 100 °C in ca. 3 mL isopropanol after addition of two drops of saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>. During cooling, light-yellow crystals formed, which were separated from the gel and washed with isopropanol. This procedure was repeated until no more crystals could be separated from the gel. The product was purified by column chromatography (ethyl acetate/*n*-pentane 1:2;  $R_f$  = 0.49) and the crystals were dried in vacuo over P<sub>4</sub>O<sub>10</sub> (1.53 mmol, 0.37 g, 31%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.19 (m, 2H), 7.66 (m, 2H), 3.12-2.92 (m, 4H), 2.25-1.92 (m, 2H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 147.8, 146.1, 128.9, 124.1, 31.7, 24.8 ppm. Note that the CD carbon signal was not detected. HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>DNO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 265.0186, found 265.0184.

#### 4.10. 4-Nitrobenzaldehyde dimethyl bisthioacetal



Sodium methanethiolate (372.0 mg, 5.3 mmol) was suspended in Et<sub>2</sub>O (5 mL) and cooled to -70 °C. HCl in dioxane (4 M, 2.2 mL, 8.8 mmol) was added dropwise with stirring followed by a solution of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (302.0 mg, 2.0 mmol) in Et<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL). The reaction mixture was allowed to slowly warm to r. t. and stirred for further 2 h. Saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (10 mL) was then added and the reaction mixture was diluted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The phases were separated and the organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (15 mL) and brine (15 mL). Drying over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, and column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 2:1;  $R_f$  = 0.59) afforded 74.0 mg (0.32 mmol, 16%) of the desired product as a yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.20 (m, 2H), 7.59 (m, 2H), 4.83 (s, 1H), 2.12 (s, 6H) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 147.5, 147.3, 128.7, 124.0, 55.8, 15.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI): calcd  $m/z$  for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Na [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 252.0123, found 252.0125.