

Supplementary Information

4-Hydroxy-1-naphthaldehydes: proton transfer or deprotonation.

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1 Solid state analysis of **3**.

The question arises where the acid function arises from, especially at this relative amount of 40%. Obviously, there is oxidation of the aldehyde by oxygen from air. To verify this, two analyses were carried out. The IR spectrum of the solid of compound **3** evolves over time when the powder is kept in air, and new bands at 2750, 1700, 1640 and 1180 cm^{-1} appear (Figure S6). This may well correspond to further H-bonding, C=O and C-O stretching vibrations due to presence of acid. Analysis of the evolution of the X-ray single crystal data over 3 days shows an increase of the relative amount of the acid with respect to the aldehyde in the solid state. This let us to the conclusion that the presence of the acid can be explained by the slow oxidation of the aldehyde in the solid state.

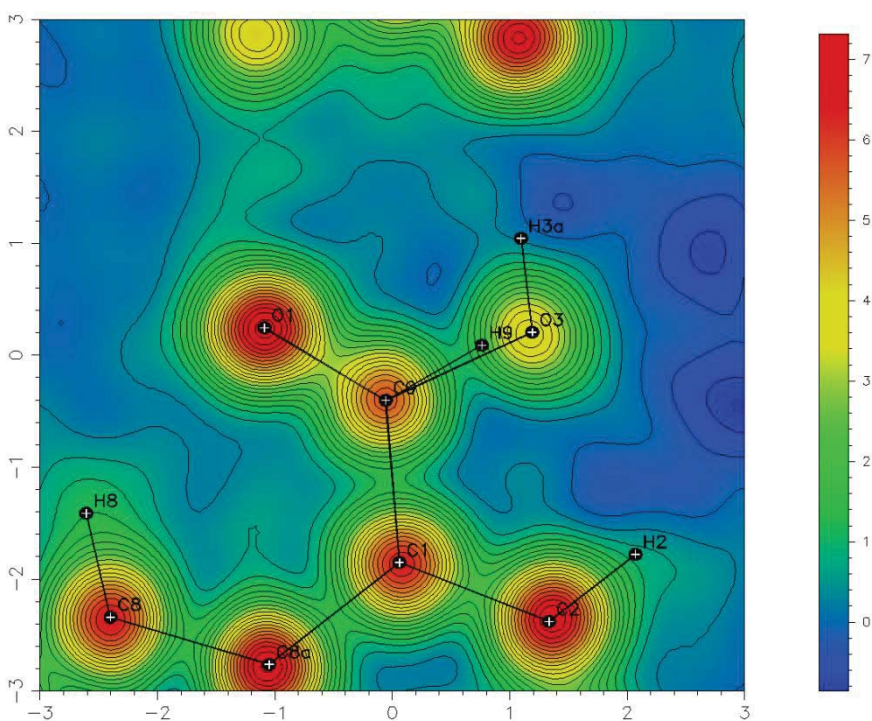


Figure S1. Observed Fourier map with aldehyde and acid functions.

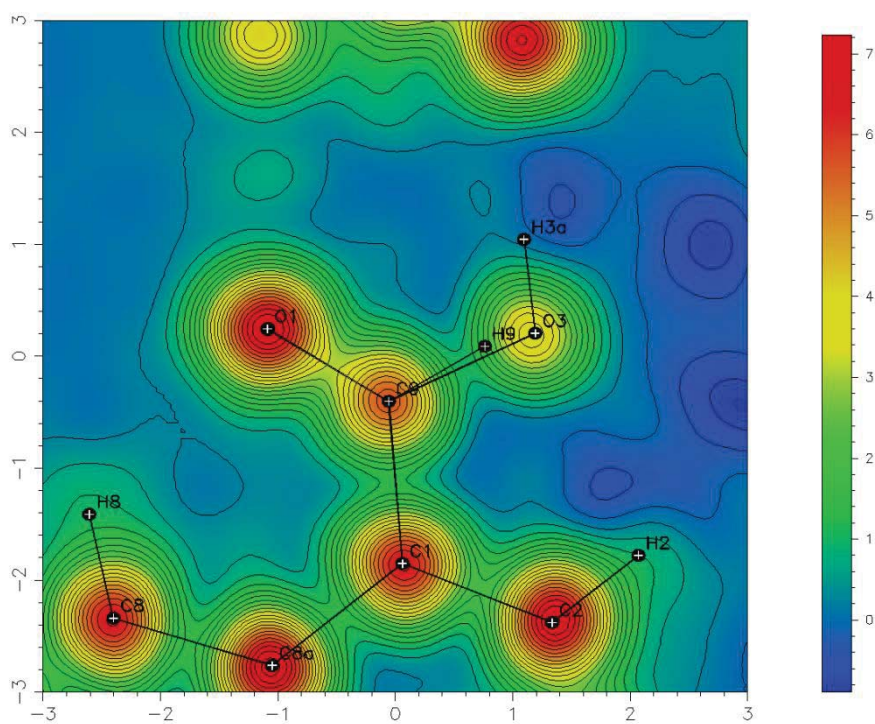


Figure S2. Calculated Fourier map with aldehyde and acid functions.

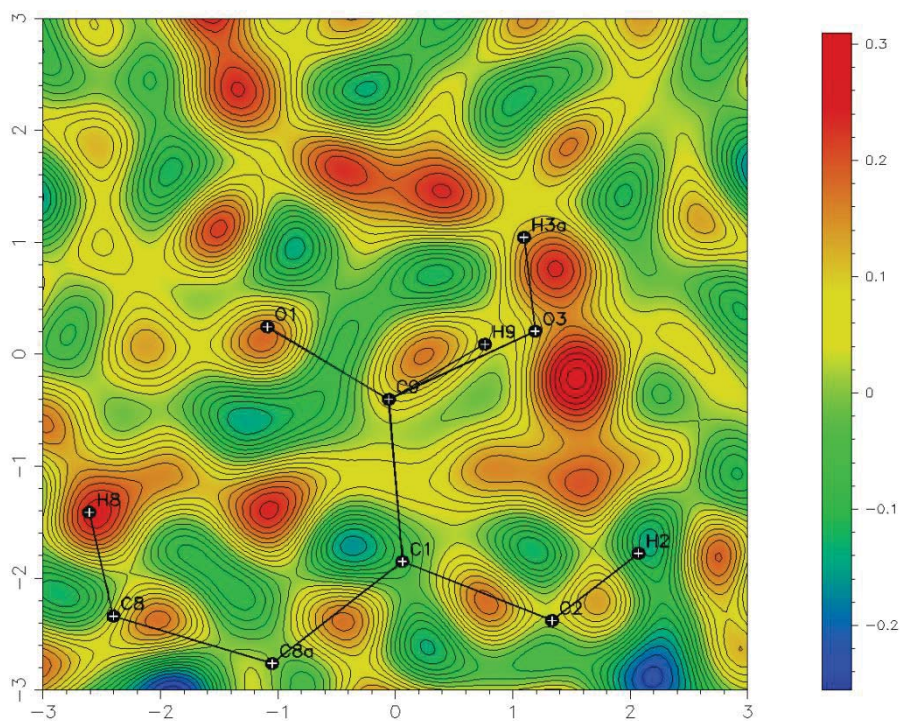


Figure S3. Residue (observed, Figure 1, minus calculated, Figure S1) Fourier map with aldehyde and acid functions.

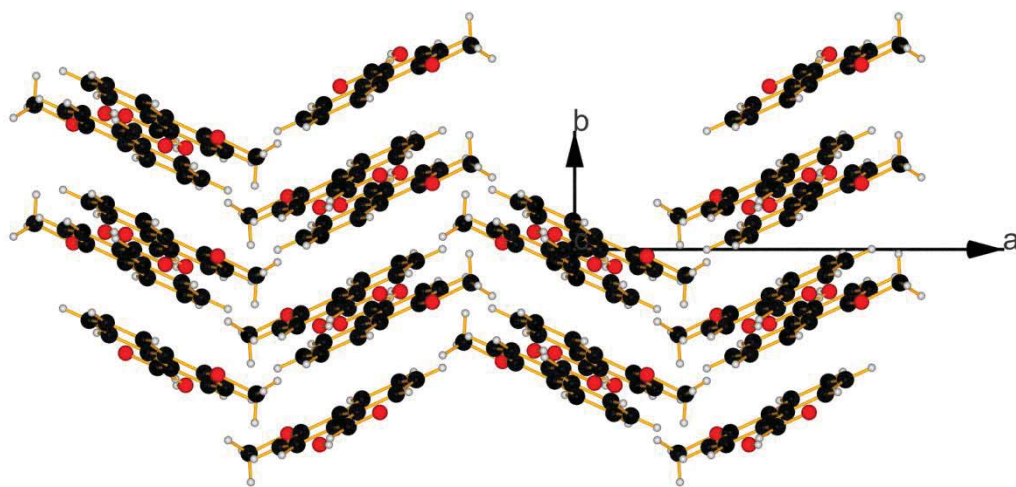


Figure S4. Packing along the *c*-axis

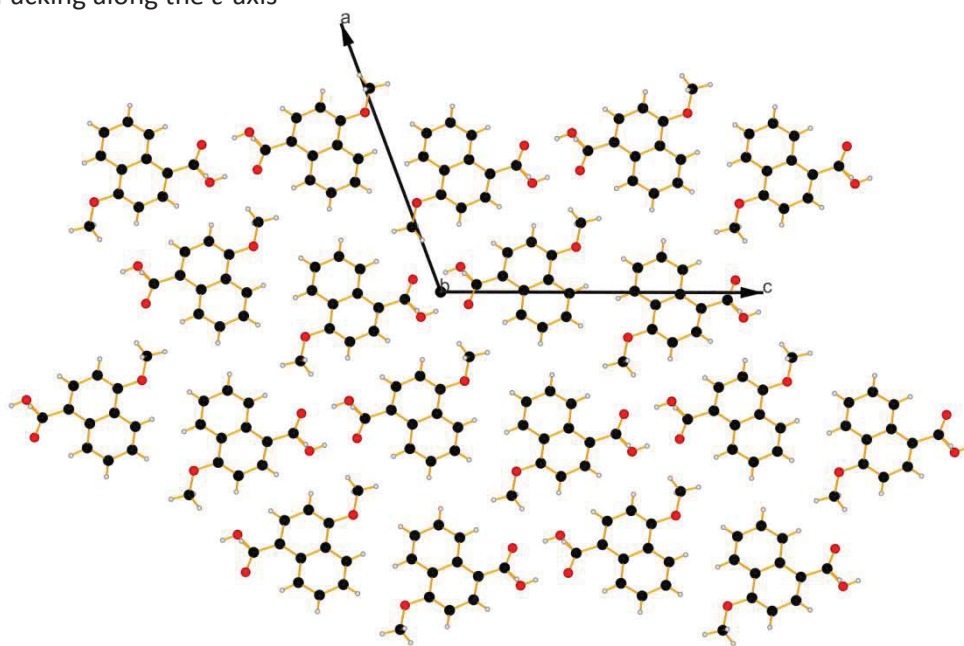


Figure S5. Packing along the *b*-axis

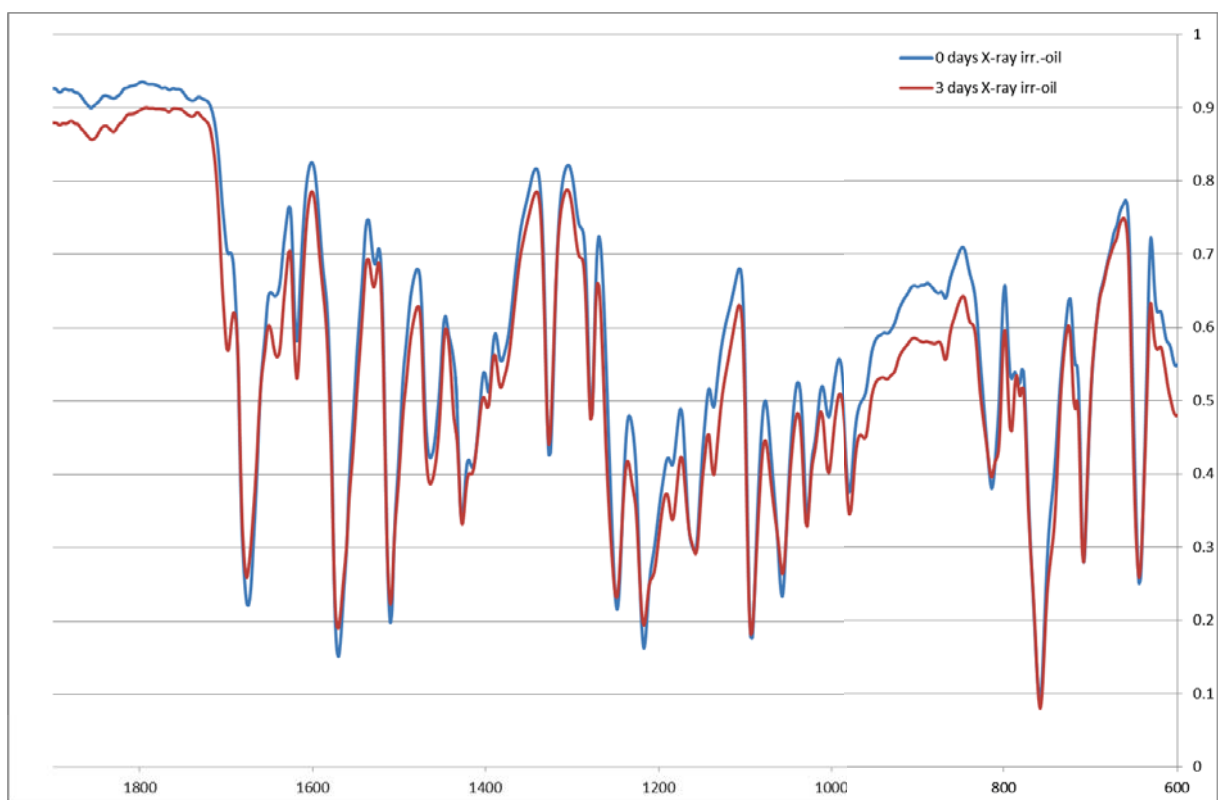
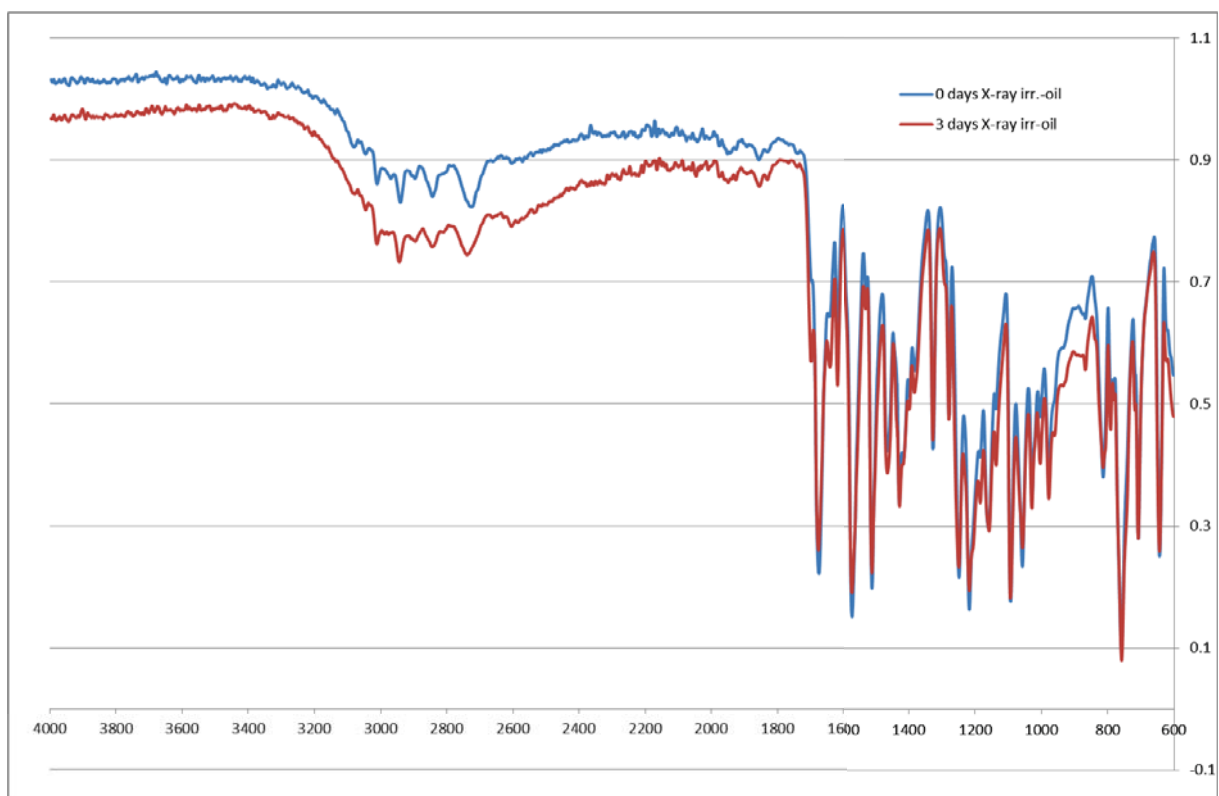


Figure S6. Solid state IR spectra of **3** as it is (blue line) and after 3 days x-ray irradiation (red line).

2 Isomers of **1**, **2** and **4**.

The isomers of **1**, **2** and **4** were studied theoretically in respect of the orientation of the C=O group and in respect of the position of the piperidine units in the case of **2**. As seen the effect of the solvent as PCM model is negligible in both relative stability of the isomers and barriers of rotation. The preference of the form of **2** with intramolecular hydrogen bonding was proven by NMR spectroscopy.

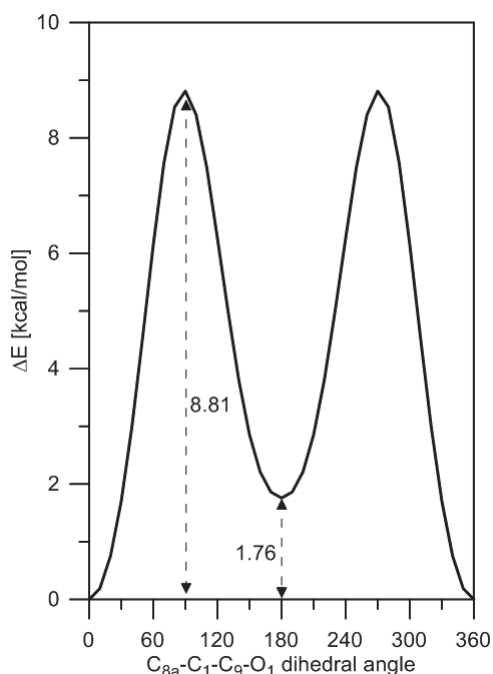


Figure S7. Rotation of the carbonyl group in **1** in gas phase from *syn* (with respect of the second aromatic ring, the dihedral angle is 0°) to *anti* isomer (the dihedral angle is 180°). More details are given in Table S1.

Table S1. Energetics (in kcal/mol units) of the rotation of the carbonyl group in **1** defined as the difference between *anti* and *syn*.

Solvent (PCM model)	ΔE	$\Delta E + ZPE$	ΔG	barrier
Gas phase	1.76	1.62	1.37	8.81
Toluene	1.60	1.47	1.26	8.75
Acetonitrile	1.57	1.43	1.23	8.66
Methanol	1.56	1.42	1.23	8.66

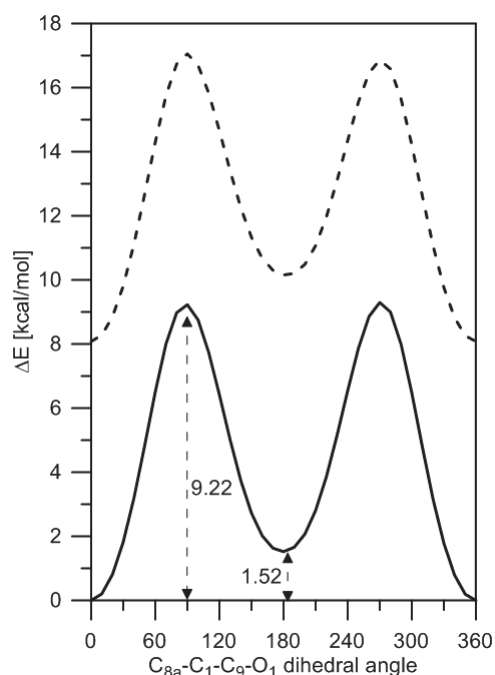


Figure S8. Rotation of the carbonyl group in **2** in gas phase from *syn* (with respect of the second aromatic ring, the dihedral angle is 0°) to *anti* isomer (the dihedral angle is 180°). The lines correspond to the availability of intramolecular hydrogen bonding: solid line - with intramolecular hydrogen bonding (**a**, the nitrogen atom faces the OH group, from Figure 8); dashes - without intramolecular hydrogen bonding (**c**-like structure, the nitrogen atom faces the carbonyl group). The curves are shifted by the difference between *with* and *without* isomers of **2** (8.08 kcal/mol). More details are given in Table S2 and the discussion about NMR results below.

Table S2. Energetics (in kcal/mol units) of the rotation of the carbonyl group in **2** defined as the difference between *anti* and *syn*. The energetic difference between isomers *with* and *without* hydrogen bonding is as follows (ΔE , $\Delta E + \text{ZPE}$, ΔG): 8.08, 7.73, 7.23.

Solvent (PCM model)	C ₄ -C ₃ -C ₁₀ -N ₁ angle = -39.4° with intramolecular hydrogen bonding				C ₄ -C ₃ -C ₁₀ -N ₁ angle = 158.8° without intramolecular hydrogen bonding			
	ΔE	$\Delta E + \text{ZPE}$	ΔG	barrier ^a barrier ^b	ΔE	$\Delta E + \text{ZPE}$	ΔG	barrier ^a barrier ^b
Gas phase	1.52	1.34	1.10	9.22 9.30	2.07	1.82	1.64	8.97 8.78
Toluene	1.45			9.24 9.29	1.93			8.92 8.79
Acetonitrile	1.54			9.23 9.23	1.68			8.73 8.72
Methanol	1.54	1.34	1.10	9.23 9.23	1.68	1.53	1.35	8.72 8.72

^a C_{8a}-C₁-C₉-O₁ angle = 90°; ^b C_{8a}-C₁-C₉-O₁ angle = 270°.

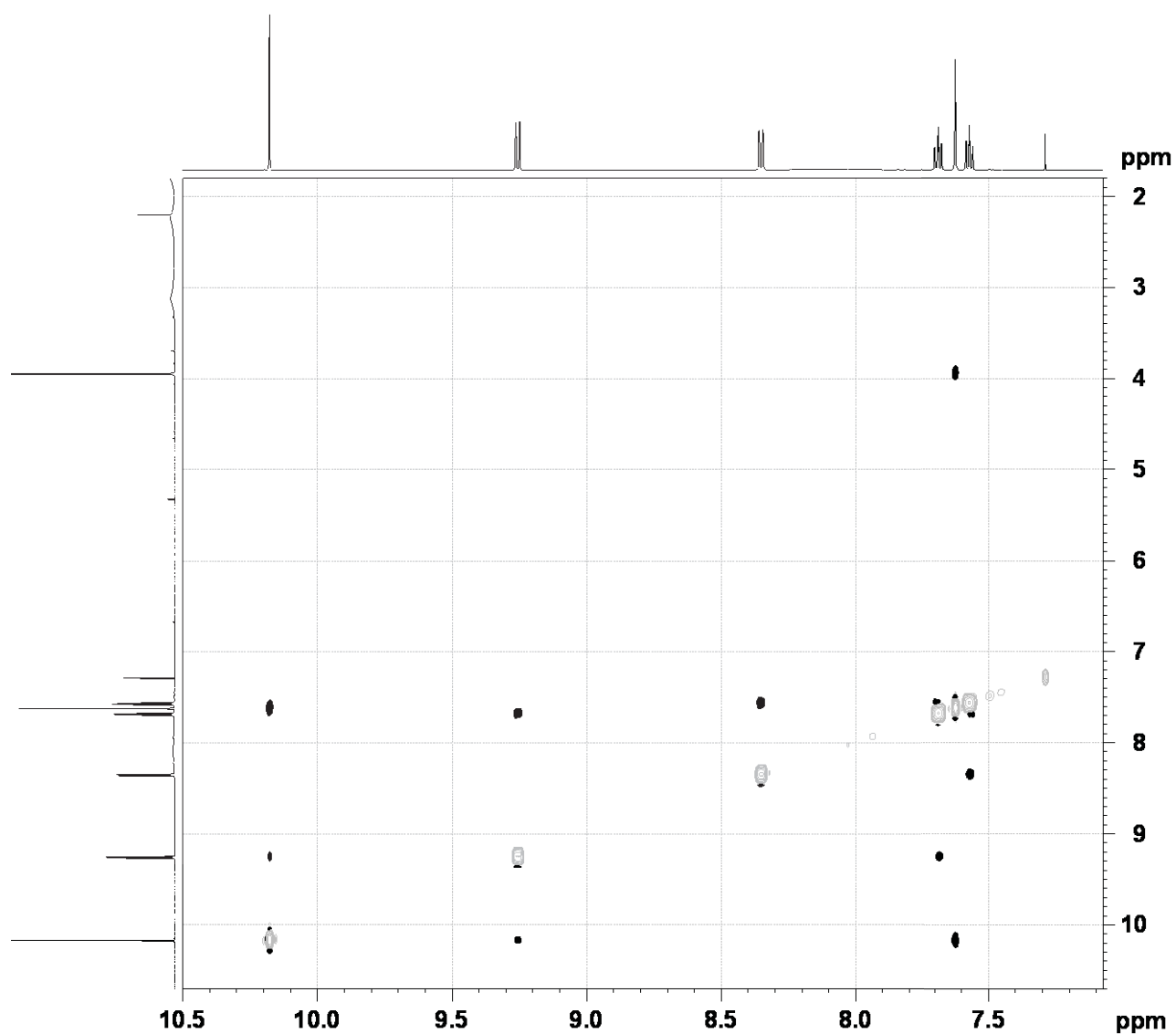
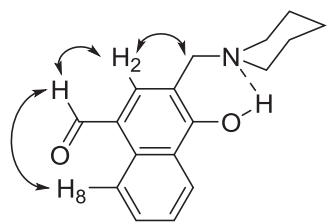


Figure S9. Partial ^1H - ^1H NOESY spectrum of **2** in CDCl_3 .

The steric preferences of the ligand **2** were additionally studied by NOESY NMR experiment (Figure S9). From one side, clean interactions between the singlet for CH-2 and spacer CH_2 (C10) were detected, while no interactions with CH_2 -N groups of piperidine were observed (Scheme S2). The latter can be an indication for fixed by H-bonding conformation with piperidine ring on the hydroxyl side. However, it has to be mentioned that piperidine methylene groups appear as broad signals, which can result in absence of interactions in a reasonable time-scale. From the other side, the interactions of aldehyde proton with CH-2 and CH-8 indicate that the rotation barrier of C-CHO bond is very low.



Scheme S1.

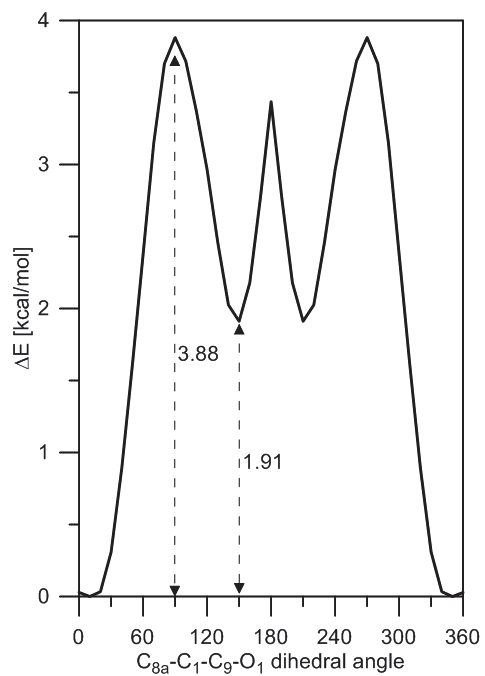


Figure S10. Rotation of the carbonyl group in **4** in gas phase from *syn* (with respect of the second aromatic ring, the dihedral angle is 13.3°) to *anti* isomer (the dihedral angle is 147.9°).

3 Deprotonation of **4**.

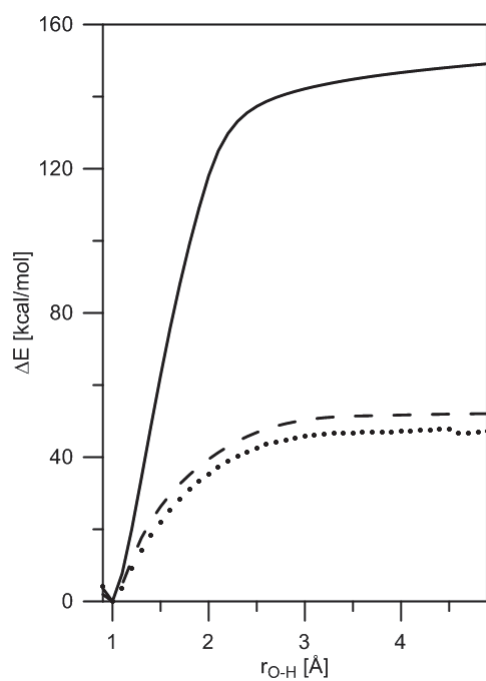


Figure S11. Deprotonation of **4** in gas phase (lines), interacting with acetonitrile in acetonitrile environment (dashes) and methanol molecule in methanol environment (points).

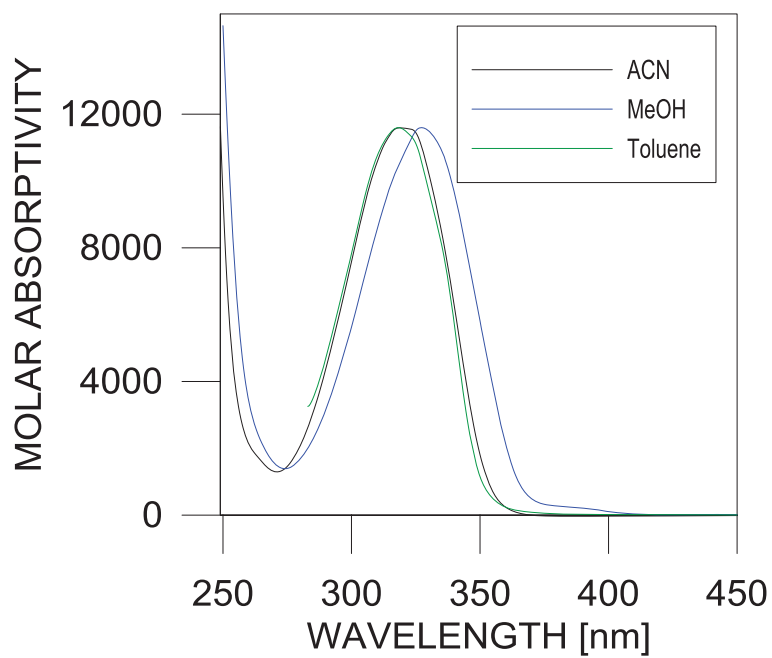
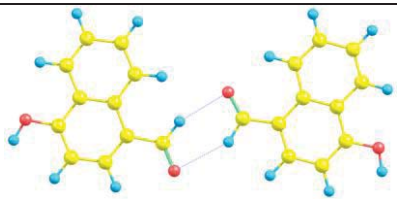
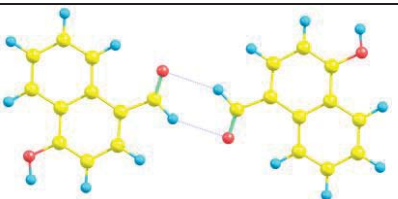
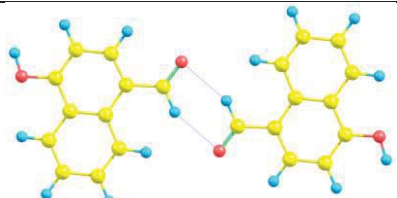
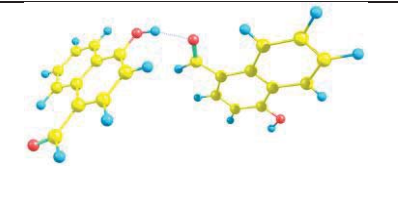
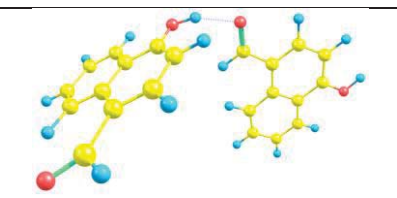
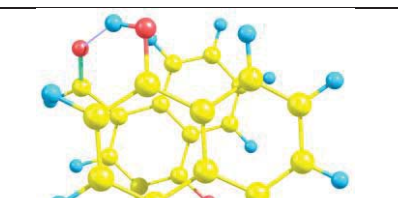
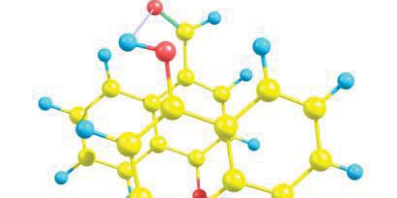
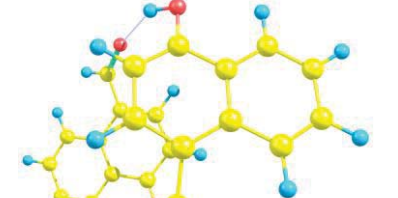
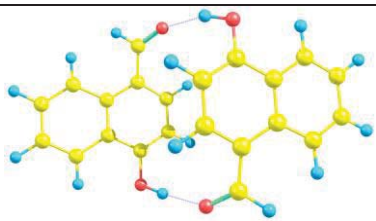


Figure S12. Absorption spectra of **4** in toluene, acetonitrile and methanol.

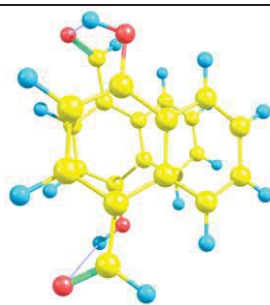
4. Dimerization of **1**.

Table S3. Stable dimer structures of **1** and relative energies (in kcal/mol units) in gas phase.

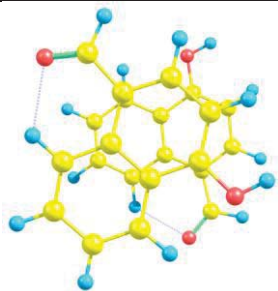
 10.7	 9.93
 11.6	 3.52
 5.13	 0.0
 1.18	 2.81



5.32



4.44



9.22

5. Theoretical prediction of the long-wavelength bands in the absorption spectra of the investigated species.

Table S4. Stabilization energies of the dimers of **1** and predicted long-wavelength bands in gas phase using the optimized M06-2X/def2-TZVP geometry.

Structure	ΔE^a [kcal/mol]	Long-wavelength bands			
		M06-2X/def2-TZVP		PBE0/def2-TZVP	
		λ_{\max} [nm]	Oscillator strength	λ_{\max} [nm]	Oscillator strength
1	0.0	289	0.218	309	0.176
1⁻	-	330	0.233	347	0.133
		296	0.158	311	0.150
2	-	298	0.217	317	0.178
3	-	289	0.246	309	0.198
Cyclic dimer of 1	3.2 (3.2) ^b	292	0.558	311	0.460
Sandwich π - π dimer of 1	10.3 (10.2) ^b	301	0.046	342	0.023
		300	0.086	335	0.037
Head-to-tail dimer of 1	10.4 (10.4) ^b	300	0.371	320	0.292
Sandwich dimer of 1	13.9 (13.9) ^b	332	0.026	336	0.030
		322	0.093	333	0.094

^a Stabilization energy, calculated in respect of the doubled value for **1** ($\Delta E=2 \cdot E_1-E_{\text{dimer}}$), M06-2X/def2-TZVP. Positive value indicates stabilization in respect of the monomer; ^b Using BSSE correction.