Accepted Manuscript

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PII:	80167-7322(17)35905-6
DOI:	doi:10.1016/j.molliq.2018.04.083
Reference:	MOLLIQ 8986
To appear in:	Journal of Molecular Liquids
Received date:	9 December 2017
Revised date:	13 April 2018
Accepted date:	16 April 2018

Please cite this article as: Nesrine Hafedh, Faouzi Aloui, Sondes Raouafi, Vincent Dorcet, Béchir Ben Hassine, New [4]helicene derivatives: Synthesis, characterization and photophysical properties. The address for the corresponding author was captured as affiliation for all authors. Please check if appropriate. Molliq(2017), doi:10.1016/j.molliq.2018.04.083

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New [4]helicene derivatives : Synthesis, characterization and photophysical properties

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ABSTRACT

The design and synthesis of new [4]helicene derivatives were carried out by incorporating well-defined electron donor and acceptor groups at selected positions of the aromatic nuclei, aiming to use them in optical applications. Helicenes have been obtained in good overall yields through a five-step sequence involving mild experimental conditions and easy purification. Photophysical properties of these tetracyclic systems have been evaluated by UV-visible absorption and fluorescence spectroscopies and an emission in the visible region was observed.

Keywords: Helicenes; Photolysis; Cyclization; Photooxidation; Optical properties.

1. Introduction

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) represent an important class of organic compounds which have two or more fused benzene rings. These compounds have received considerable attention due to their fascinating chemistry [1] and unique physical properties [2-3].

Owing to their specific structure and photoelectric properties, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have led also to applications in electronic devices. They have proven to be one of the most important semiconductors [4-7]. Acenes, for example, represent highly attractive compounds with good performance as semiconductors and good emission properties, and they have been widely used in various fields, such as inorganic field-effect transistors [8-9], organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) [10] and organic photovoltaics [11-12].

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