

**Supporting Information**  
for  
**Interactions between photoacidic 3-hydroxy-naphtho[1,2-*b*]quinolizinium and cucurbit[7]uril: Influence on acidity in the ground and excited state**

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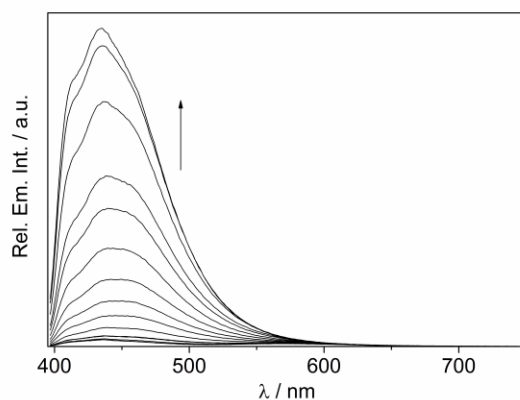
\* Corresponding author

**NMR spectra of compounds 2 and 5; fluorimetric titrations of 2 with acid and CB[7]; determination of 0-0 transition energies; analysis of binding isotherms from photometric titrations of 2 with CB[7]**

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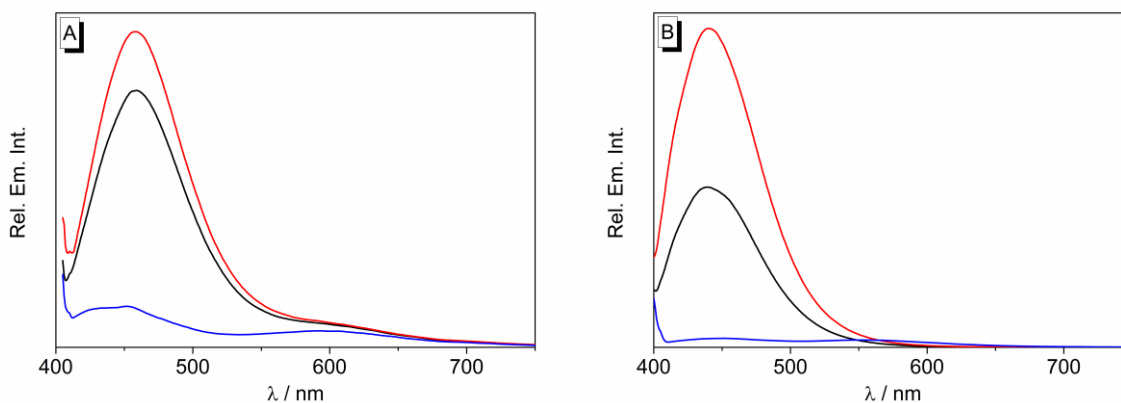
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## 1 Additional spectroscopic data

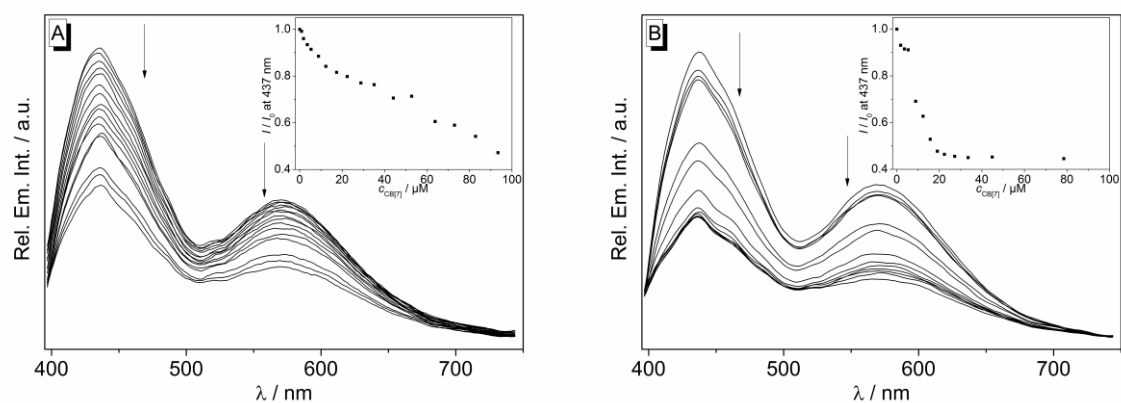


**Figure S1:** Spectrofluorimetric titration of **2** ( $c = 10 \mu\text{M}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) with aq  $\text{HClO}_4$  (70%);  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ .

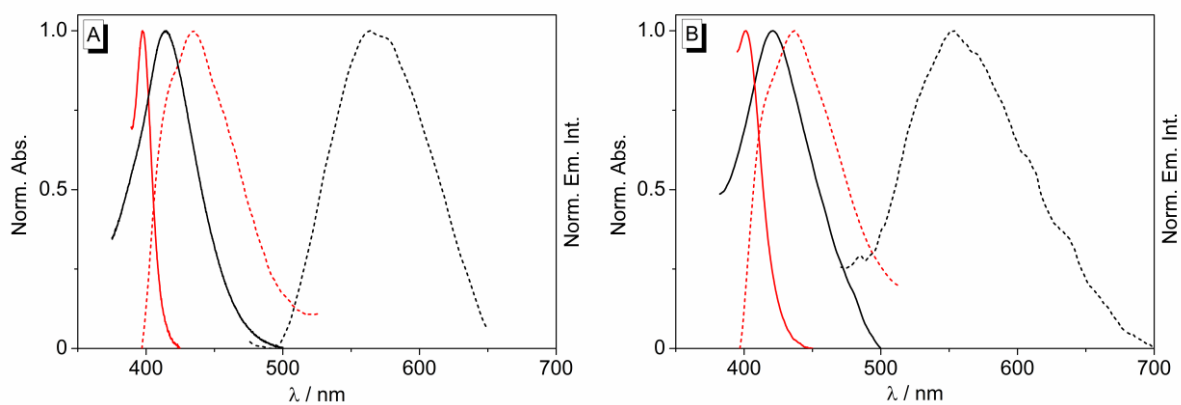
The arrow indicates the changes of the spectrum upon successive addition of  $\text{HClO}_4$ .



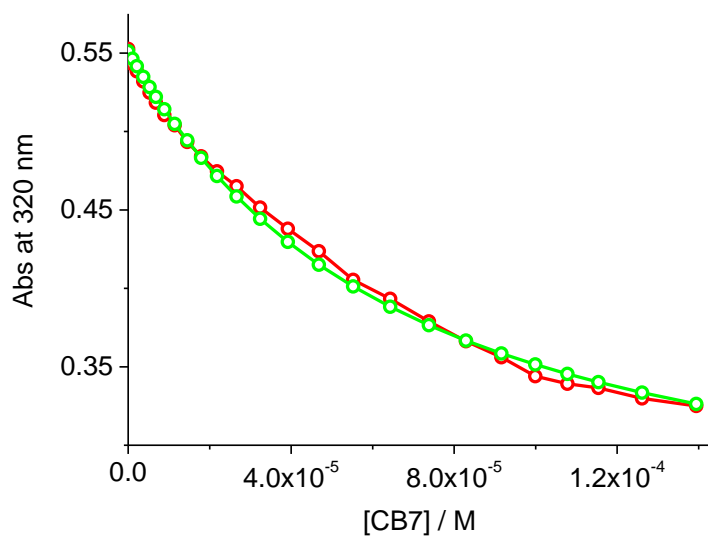
**Figure S2:** Emission spectra of **2** ( $c_L = 10 \mu\text{M}$ ) in MeOH (A,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 400 \text{ nm}$ ) and MeCN (B,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 398 \text{ nm}$ ). Black lines: without addition, red: upon addition of  $\text{CF}_3\text{COOH}$ , blue: upon addition of DBU.



**Figure S3:** Spectrofluorimetric titration ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ ) of CB[7] ( $c = 453 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ ) to naphthoquinolizinium **2** ( $c = 15 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ ) in BPE buffer (with 10% v/v DMSO) at pH 5 (A) and pH 7 (A). Arrows indicate the development of bands with increasing concentration of CB[7]. Insets: Plot of relative emission,  $I/I_0$ , at  $\lambda = 437 \text{ nm}$  versus concentration of CB[7].



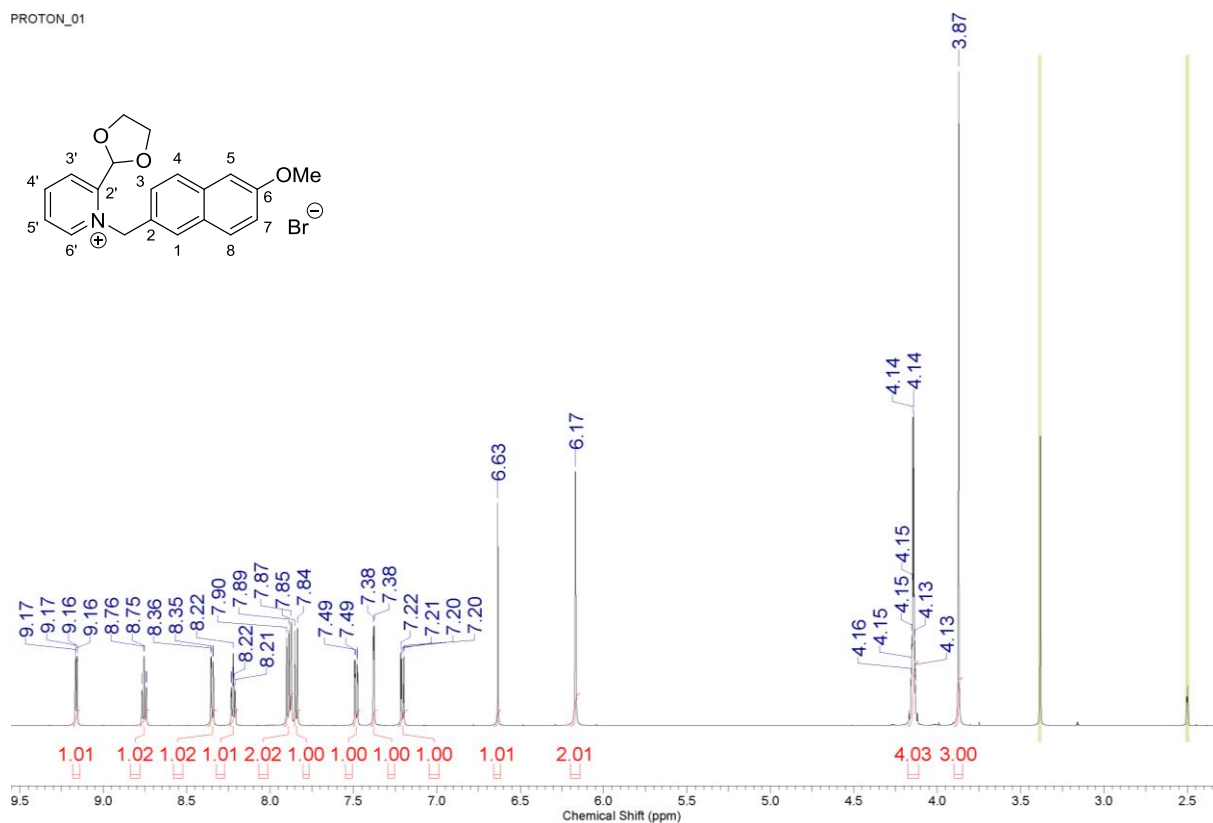
**Figure S4:** Normalized absorption (continuous lines) and emission bands (dashed lines) of naphthoquinolizinium **2** ( $c = 15 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ ) in the absence (A) and in the presence (B) of CB[7] ( $c_{\text{CB[7]}} = 100 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ ); red: major band under acidic conditions, black: major band under alkaline conditions.



**Figure S5:** Binding isotherms, i.e. plot of absorption of **2** at  $\lambda = 320$  nm versus  $c_{\text{CB}[7]}$  obtained from photometric titration of **2** with CB[7] at pH 5; red = experimental data, green: fit to the theoretical model.

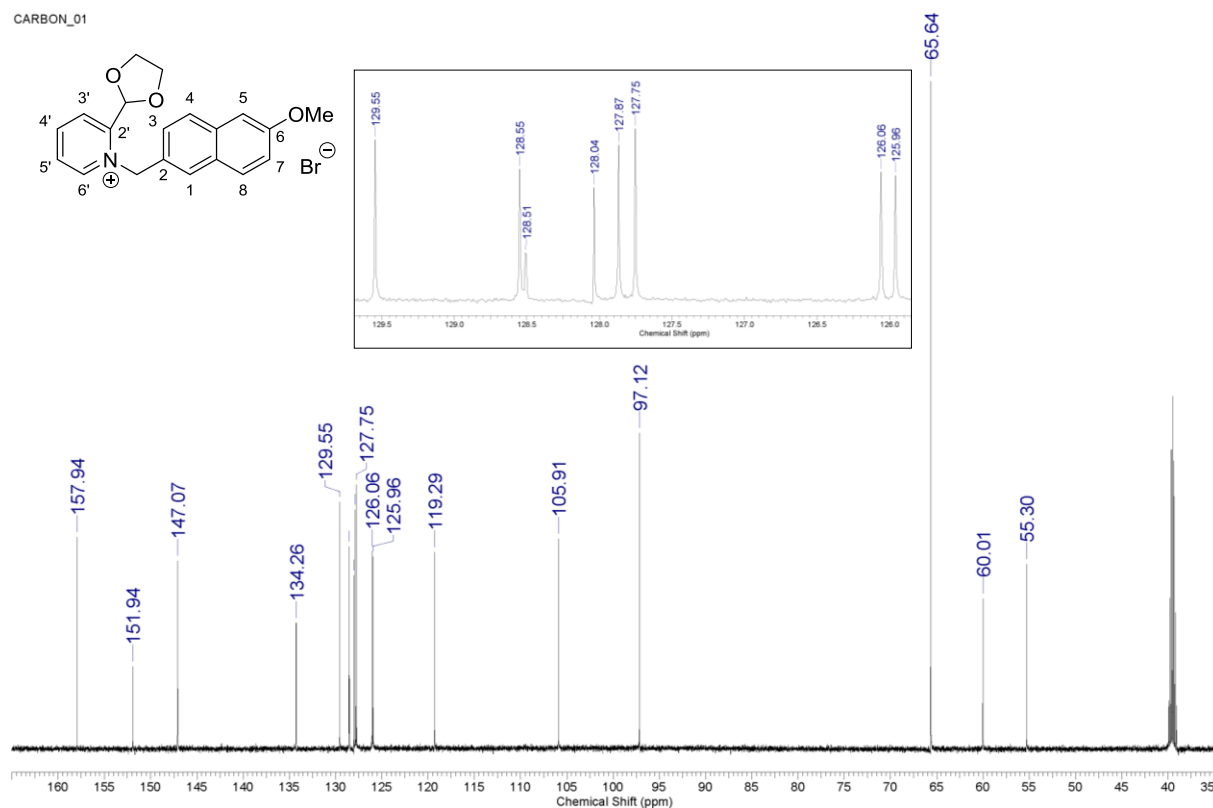
## 2 <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of derivatives 2 and 5

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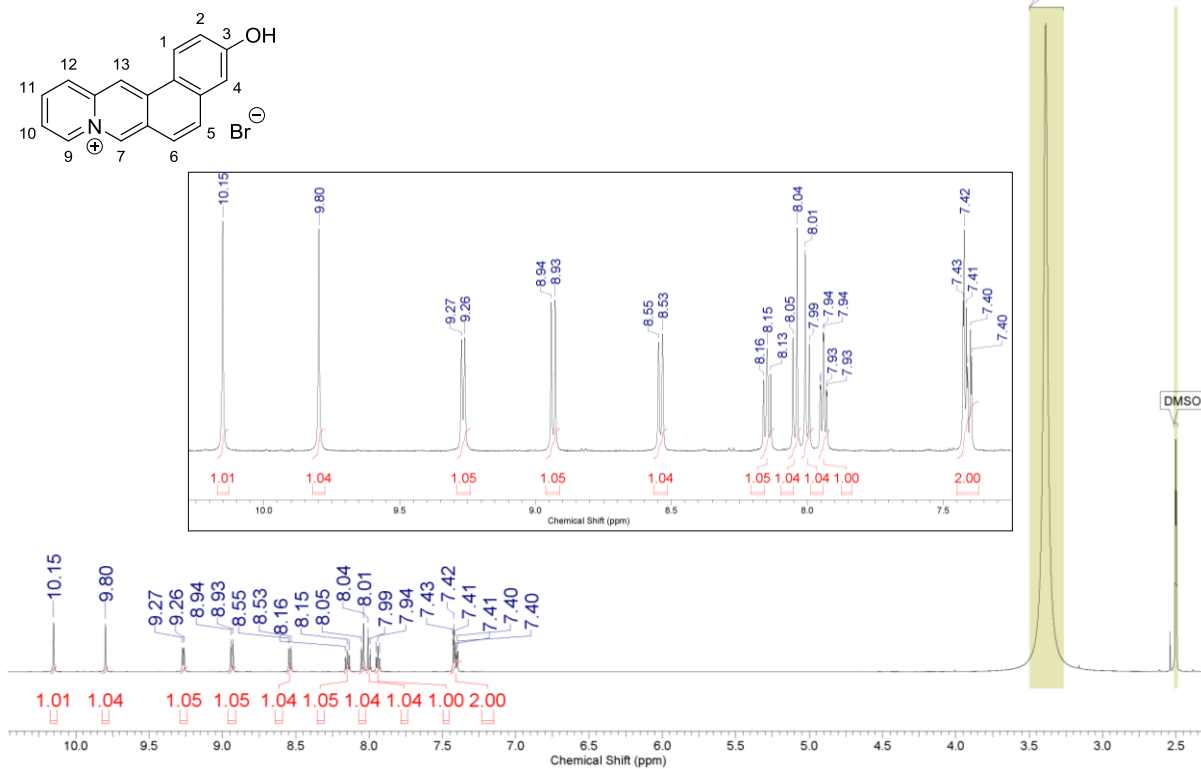
**Figure S6:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-1-[(6-methoxynaphth-2-yl)methyl]pyridinium bromide (5).

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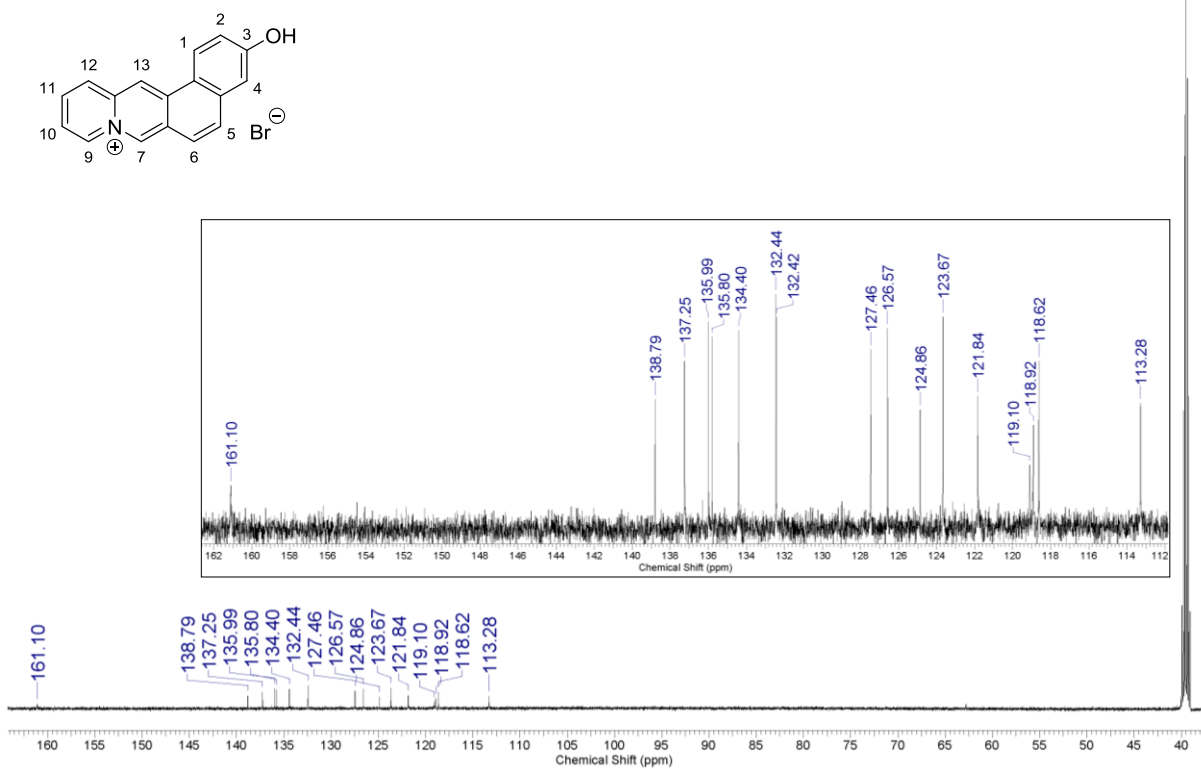
**Figure S7:** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)-1-[(6-methoxynaphth-2-yl)methyl]pyridinium bromide (5).

dd-1-72 1H.esp



**Figure S8:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3-hydroxynaphtho[1,2-*b*]quinolizinium bromide (2).

dd-1-72 13C.esp



**Figure S9:** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 3-hydroxynaphtho[1,2-*b*]quinolizinium bromide (2).