On the supramolecular polymerization of [5]helicenes. Consequences of self-assembly on configurational stability

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1. Supplementary Figures

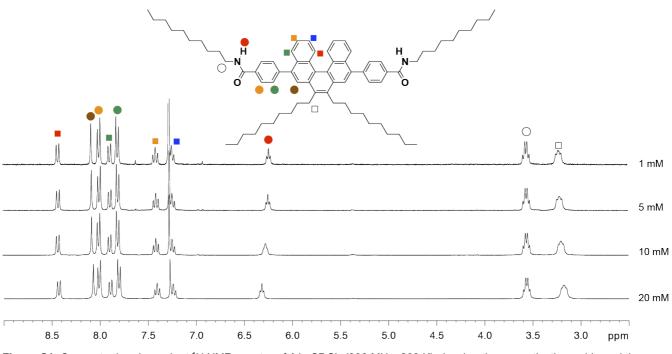


Figure S1. Concentration-dependent ¹H NMR spectra of **1** in CDCl₃ (300 MHz, 298 K) showing the aromatic, the amide and the methylene linked to the nitrogen atom and to the aromatic backbone protons.

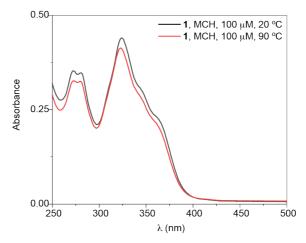


Figure S2. UV-Vis spectra of 1 in MCH at 20 °C (black line) and 90 °C (red line) at a concentration of 100 µM.

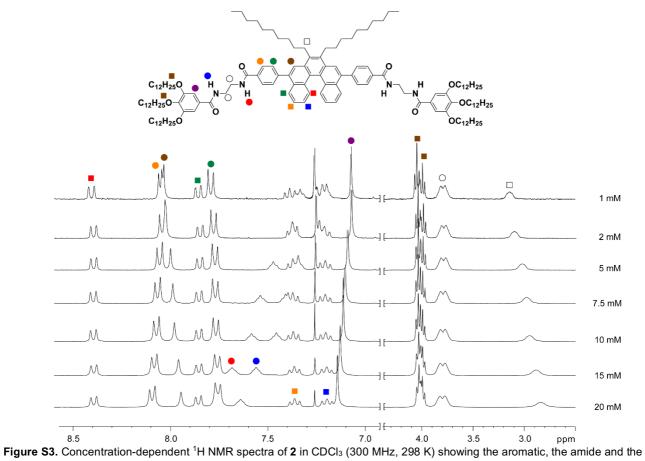


Figure S3. Concentration-dependent ¹H NMR spectra of **2** in CDCI₃ (300 MHz, 298 K) showing the aromatic, the amide and the methylene linked to the nitrogen atom and to the aromatic backbone protons.

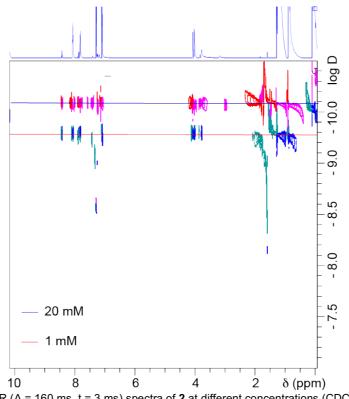


Figure S4. Partial ¹H DOSY NMR (Δ = 160 ms, t = 3 ms) spectra of 2 at different concentrations (CDCl₃, 298 K, 300 MHz).

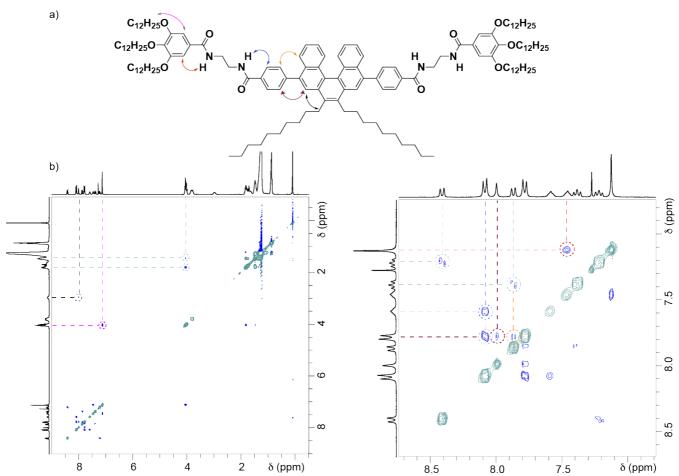


Figure S5. (a) Chemical structure of [5]helicene **2** depicting with curved arrows of different colors the intramolecular through-space coupling signals. (b) ROESY NMR spectra (CDCl3, 300 MHz, 20 x 10⁻³ M, 293 K) of **2**. The dotted coloured lines highlight the intramolecular through-space coupling signals.

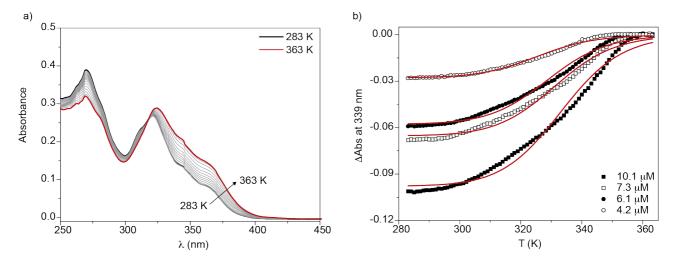


Figure S6. (a) VT-UV-Vis spectra of **2** in MCH ($c_T = 10 \mu$ M; cooling rate = 1Kmin⁻¹). (b) Plots of the variation of the absorbance at λ = 339 nm against temperature at different concentrations. The red curves represent the fit to the EQ model.

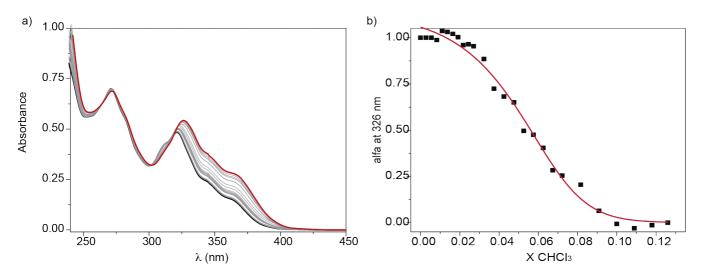


Figure S7. (a) UV-Vis spectra of **2** in MCH/CHCl₃ mixtures ($c\tau = 10 \mu$ M, 208 K). The black and red lines depict the UV-Vis spectra of **1b** in MCH and CHCl₃, respectively. (b) Plot of the degree of aggregation (α) versus the molar fraction of the good solvent CHCl₃. The red line shows the fitting to the SD model.

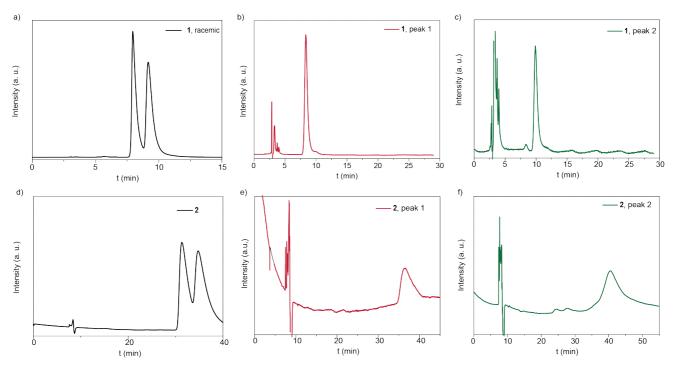


Figure S8. HPLC traces of helicenes **1** (a-c) and **2** (d-f) in their racemic (a, d) and enantiomerically enriched forms (b, c, e, f) on a (R,R)-Whelk 01 chiral column (experimental conditions for **1**: eluents: toluene/2-propanol mixture (97/3) as eluent, flow rate: 5 mL/min; for **2**: hexane/2-propanol (80/20) as eluent; flow rate 2,5 mL/min).

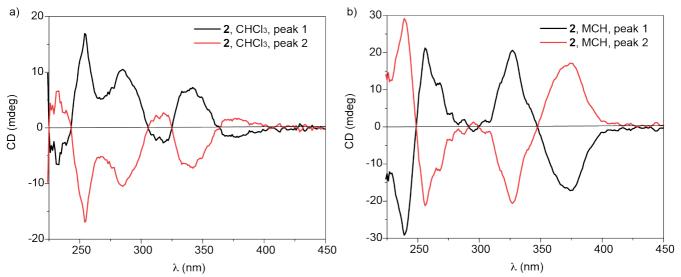


Figure S9. CD spectra of the two *M* and *P* enantiomers of **2** in a molecularly dissolved state (CHCl₃, 298 K, $\sim 1 \times 10^{-5}$ M) (a) and in the aggregated state (MCH, 298 K, $\sim 1 \times 10^{-5}$ M) (b).

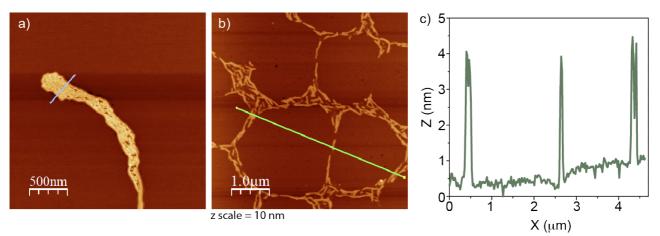


Figure S10. AFM images of the racemic mixture (a) and the *M* enantiomer (b) of **2** (10 μ M, 298 K, mica as surface, z scale = 10 nm). (c) Height profile (green line in panel (b)) of the rod-like structures formed from the self-assembly of *M*-**2**.

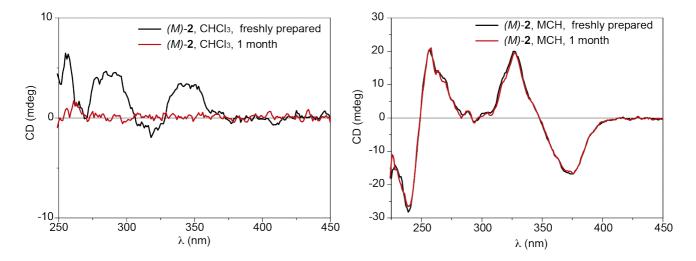


Figure S11. CD spectra of M-2 in CHCl₃ (a) and MCH (b) (cr = 10 mM; T = 283 K) measured at different times upon preparation.

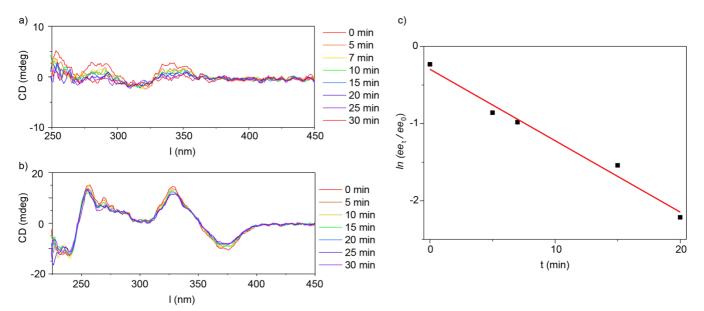


Figure S12. CD spectra of *M*-**2** in CHCl₃ (a) and MCH (b) ($c_T = 10$ mM; T = 328 K). (c) Natural logarithmic plot of the variation of enantiomeric excess of *M*-**2** in CHCl₃ versus time to derive the racemization constant k_{rac} .

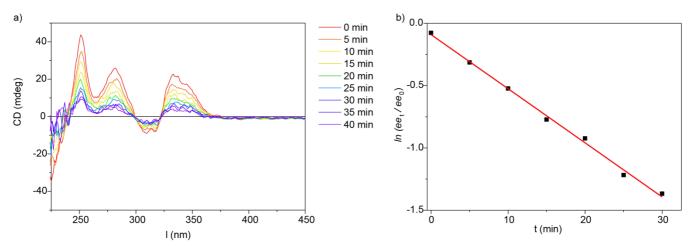


Figure S13. CD spectra of *P*-**1** in MCH (a) (c_T = 10 mM; T = 328 K). (b) Natural logarithmic plot of the variation of the variation of enantiomeric excess versus time to derive the racemization constant k_{rac} .

3. Experimental section

General. All solvents were dried according to standard procedures. Reagents were used as purchased. All air-sensitive reactions were carried out under argon atmosphere. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 (1H: 300 MHz; 13C: 75 MHz), spectrometer at 298 K using partially deuterated solvents as internal standards. Coupling constants (J) are denoted in Hz and chemical shifts (δ) in ppm. Multiplicities are denoted as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, br = broad. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 (ATR device) spectrometer. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a FTMS Bruker APEX Q IV spectrometer. UV-Vis spectra were registered on a Jasco-V630 spectrophotometer equipped with a Peltier thermoelectric temperature controller. The spectra were recorded in the continuous mode between 220 and 450 nm, with a wavelength increment of 1 nm, a response time of 4 s, and a bandwidth of 1 nm. A 1 cm path length quartz cuvette (Hellma) was used. Thermal experiments were performed at constant heating rates of 1 K min⁻¹ in methylcyclohexane. Circular dichroism (CD) measurements were performed on a Jasco-1500 dichrograph equipped with a Peltier thermoelectric temperature controller. The spectra were recorded in the continuous mode between 220 and 450 nm, with a wavelength increment of 1 nm, a response time of 4 s, and a bandwidth of 1 nm. A 1 cm path length quartz cuvette (Hellma) was used. The spectra were recorded in the continuous mode between 350 and 600 nm, with a wavelength increment of 1 nm, a response time of 4 s, and a bandwidth of 1 nm. A 1 cm path length quartz cuvette (Hellma) was used. A 1 cm path length quartz cuvette (Hellma) was used. HPLC experiments were conducted using a (R,R)-Whelk 01 (5/100) chiral column (25 cm × 10 mm) with toluene/2-propanol mixture (97/3) for compound 1 and hexane/2propanol (80/20) for compound 2 as eluents. Atomic Force Microscopy was performed on a SPM Nanoscope IIIa multimode microscope working on tapping mode with a RTESPA tip (Veeco) at a working frequency of ~235 kHz.

Racemization Experiments in solution

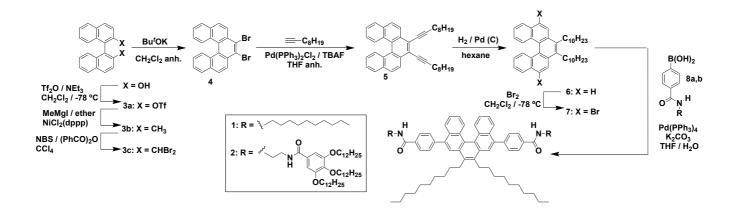
The value of the Gibbs activation energy of enantiomerization $\Delta G^{\ddagger}(T)$ for compounds *P*-1 and *M*-2 were obtained by resolution of the corresponding enantiomers in HPLC and by following the decay of the enantioenriched sample dissolved in MCH, for *P*-1, and CHCl₃ for *M*-2 at a determined temperature (328 K) over time (t) by monitoring the change in the maximum (332, for , for *P*-1, and 349 nm for *M*-2) of the circular dichroism spectrum. The value *ee*₀ corresponds to the maximum at 349 nm at 293 K, and it relates to the enantiopure sample as shown by HPLC. Considering that the racemization process follows a first-order kinetics, the representation of *In* (*ee*₁ / *ee*₀) versus t (where *ee*_t corresponds to the CD signal at the maximum at different times) allows to obtain the *k*_{rac} as these parameters are related through the equation $In(ee_t / ee_0) = -k_{rac}t$. The constant k_{rac} is also used to calculate the half-time of the process according to $t_{1/2} = \ln 2 / k_{rac}$.

The free activation energy $\Delta G^{\ddagger}(328\text{K})$ for the racemization is calculated by using the Eyring equation $\Delta G^{\ddagger}(T)=-RT \ln(k_eh/\kappa k_B T)$ where k_e is the constant of enantiomerization ($k_e=k_{rac}/2$), R is the gas constant ($R = 8.31441 \text{ J K}^{-1}$), h is the Planck constant ($h = 6.626176.10^{-34} \text{ Js}$), k_B is the Boltzmann constant ($k_B = 1.380662.10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$), and κ is the transmission coefficient ($\kappa = 0.5$). The transmission coefficient $\kappa = 0.5$ in the Eyring equation was used because the enantiomerization process is defined as a reversible first order reaction.¹

The data derived for *P*-1 are: $k_{rac} = (4.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$ $t_{\frac{1}{2}} = 16.0 \pm 0.4 \text{ min}$ $k_e = (2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$ $\Delta G^{\ddagger}(328K) = 100 \pm 3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} = 24.0 \pm 0.6 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$

The data derived for *M*-2 are: $k_{rac} = (9.2 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$ $t \approx 7.5 \pm 0.6 \text{ min}$ $k_{e} = (4.6 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$ $\Delta G^{\ddagger}(328K) = 98 \pm 8 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} = 23 \pm 2 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$ [1] a) G. Schoetz, O. Trapp, V. Schurig, *Electrophoresis* 2001, 22, 3185–3190. (b) K. J. Laidler, *Chemical Kinetics*, 3rd ed.; Harper & Row: New York, 1987.

4. Synthetic details and characterization

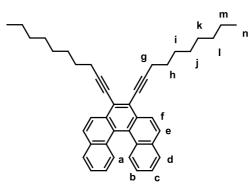


Scheme S1. Synthesis of the 5,7,8,10-tetrasubstituted [5]helicenes 1 and 2.

Compounds 4^2 , $8a^3$ and $8b^4$ were prepared according to previously reported synthetic procedures and showed identical spectroscopic properties than those reported therein.

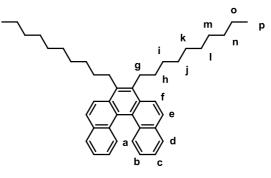
a) T. Ooi, M. Kameda and K. Maruoka, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2003, *125*, 5139. b) S. Goretta, C. Tasciotti, S. Mathieu, M. Smet, W. Maes, Y. M. Chabre, W. Dehaen, R. Giasson, J. M. Raimundo, C. R. Henry, C. Barth, and M. Gingras, *Org.Lett.* 2009, *11*, 3846.
F. García, J. Buendía, S. Ghosh, A. Ajayaghosh and L. Sánchez, *Chem. Comm.* 2013, *49*, 9278.
E. E. Greciano and L. Sánchez, *Chem. Eur. J.* 2016, *22*, 13724.

Synthesis of (±)-7,8-di(1-decynyl)[5]helicene.



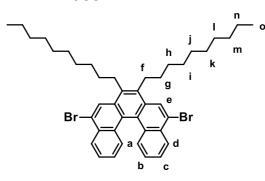
Compound **4** (290 mg, 0.67 mmol), PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (70 mg, 9.6 x10⁻² mmol) and Cul (10 mg, 4.8x10⁻² mmol) are dissolved in anhydrous THF (18 mL) under argon atmosphere and subjected to vacuum/argon cycles. Subsequently, 2 mL of a 1 M solution of tetrabutylammonium fluoride in THF (2 mmol) are added and the resulting mixture is subjected to vacuum/argon cycles. After that, 1-decyne (0.29 mL, 1.6 mmol) is charged and the solution is stirred under reflux overnight. After 24 hours, a new amount of PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (70 mg), Cul (10 mg) and 1-decyne (0.15 mL) is added and the mixture is stirred and refluxed overnight. The solvent is evaporated and the residue is redissolved in CHCl₃ and washed with 1M aqueous HCl, sat. NH₄Cl and brine. The organic layer is dried with MgSO₄, and further filtration and removal of the solvent affords a residue which is subjected to a silica gel chromatography column (hexane as eluent) obtaining **5** as a pale yellow solid in a 62% yield (230 mg, 0.42 mmol). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) $\overline{0}$ (ppm): 8.49 (d, ³*J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H_a), 8.33 (d, ³*J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H_{eort}), 7.97 (d, ³*J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H_{fore}), 7,94 (d, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H, H_d) 7.51 (ddd, ³*J* = 7.6 Hz, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.1 Hz, 2H, H_{bore}), 7.25 (ddd, ³*J* = 8.8 Hz, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.3 Hz, 2H, H_{eorb}), 2.71 (t, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 4H, H_g), 1.86-1.75 (m, 4H, H_h), 1.65-1.56 (m, 4H, H_h), 1.41-1.33 (m, 16H, H_h·m), 0.91 (t, ³*J* = 6.5 Hz, 6H, H_n). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) $\overline{0}$ (ppm): 132.7, 131.8, 130.7, 129.5, 128.0, 127.8, 126.6, 126.5, 124.6, 124.1, 100.4, 78.7, 32.1, 29.5, 29.5, 29.3, 29.2, 22.9, 20.3, 14.3. FTIR v (cm⁻¹): 2926, 2856, 2222, 1514, 1461, 1431, 1384, 1343, 1262, 817, 751, 664. HRMS m/z: C4₂H₄₆ [M]⁺ calculated 550.3600; found 550.3616.

Synthesis of compound (±)-7,8-didecyl[5]helicene.



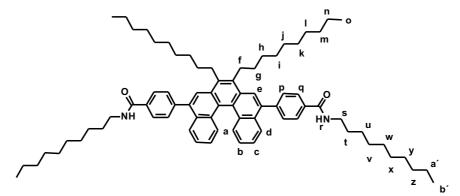
A solution of **5** (240 mg, 0.44 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) is bubbled with argon for 10 minutes in absence of light. After that, 10% Pd/C (14 mg, 0.13 mmol) is added, and hydrogen is passed through the solution during 4 hours. After the removal of the catalyst with celite and subsequent elimination of the solvent, the residue is purified with a silica gel column chromatography (hexane as eluent), affording **6** as a light yellow solid in a 60% yield (140 mg, 0.25 mmol).¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm): 8.28 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H_a), 8.14 (d, ³*J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H_{e or f}), 7.96 (d, ³*J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H, H_{for e}), 7.93 (d, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H, H_d), 7.47 (ddd, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, ³*J* = 7.4 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.1 Hz, 2H, H_c), 7.21 (ddd, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.3 Hz, 2H, H_b), 3.22 (t, ³*J* = 8.3 Hz, 4H, H_g), 1.77 (m, 4H, H_h), 1.62 (m, 4H, H_i), 1.51-1.25 (m, 24H, H_{j-o}), 0.93 (t, ³*J* = 7.0 Hz, 6H, H_p). ¹³C-RMN (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 135.1, 131.6, 131.3, 130.9, 129.9, 127.4, 127.1, 126.2, 125.9, 124.4, 122.4, 32.1, 31.5, 30.6, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 22.9, 14.3. FTIR v (cm⁻¹): 2923, 2853, 1513, 1461, 1376, 1249, 1124, 808, 750. HRMS m/z: C4₂H₅₄ [M]⁺ calculated 558.4226; found 558.4240.

Synthesis of compound (±)-5,10-dibromo-7,8-didecyl[5]helicene.



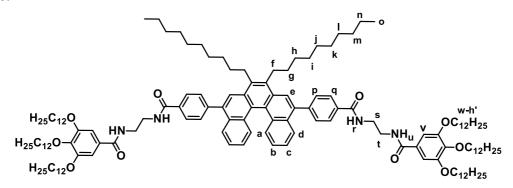
A solution of **6** (0.13 g, 0.31 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) is cooled down to -78 °C and a solution of bromine (36 µL, 0.69 mmol) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (8 mL) is added dropwise. After 10 minutes, the mixture is allowed to reach room temperature and is stirred overnight. The resulting organic phase is washed with sat. Na₂S₂O₃ and dried with MgSO₄. Further filtration and removal of the solvent affords a residue that is purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane as eluent) giving **7** as a waxy pale yellow solid in a 77% yield (171 mg, 0.24 mmol). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm): 8.34 (s, 2H, H_e), 8.29 (dd, ³*J* = 8.5 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.6 Hz, 2H, H_a), 8.09 (d, ³*J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H_d), 7.49 (ddd, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, ³*J* = 7.5 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H, H_c), 7.15 (ddd, ³*J* = 8.5 Hz, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, ⁴*J* = 1.2 Hz, 2H, H_b), 3.07 (t, ³*J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H, H_f), 1.65 (m, 4H, H_g), 1.53 (m, 4H, H_h), 1.50-1.24 (m, 24H, H_{i-n}), 0.90 (t, ³*J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H, H_o). ¹³C-RMN (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 135.2, 132.2, 131.5, 130.0, 129.9, 127.2, 126.9, 126.3, 125.8, 125.5, 122.3, 32.1, 31.4, 30.4, 29.9, 29.8, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 22.9, 14.3. FTIR v (cm⁻¹): 2924, 2853, 1592, 1462, 1329, 1210, 865, 759. HRMS m/z: C₄₂H₅₂Br₂ [M]⁺ calculated 716.2436; found 716.2466.

Synthesis of (±)-4,4⁻-(7,8-didecyl[5]helicene-5,10-diyl)bis(N-decylbenzamide).



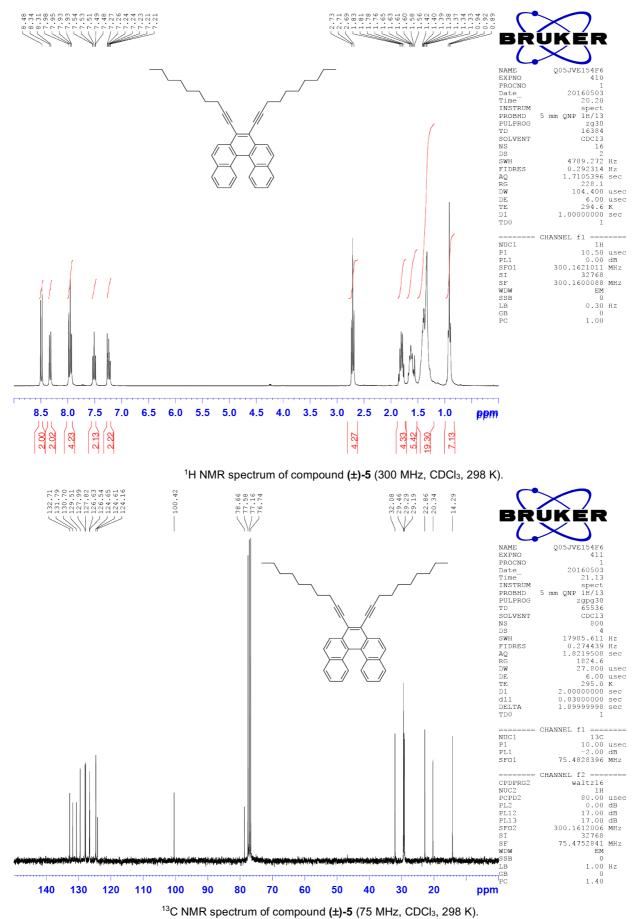
To a deoxygenated solution of **7** (80 mg, 0.11 mmol) and **8a** (86 mg, 0.28 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (24 mL), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (13 mg, 1.12 x10⁻² mmol), and an aqueous solution of K₂CO₃ (230 mg, 1.68 mmol in 4 mL of water) are added and the resulting mixture is deoxygenated again. The reaction is refluxed for 4 hours, and the crude is extracted with chloroform. The organic layer is washed with 1M aqueous HCl, NH₄Cl and brine. After drying and removal of the solvent, the crude is purified by silica gel column chromatography (gradient from chloroform to chloroform/methanol 10:0.1). The product obtained is further purified by precipitation in methanol, affording **1** as a yellow solid in a 34% yield (40 mg, 0.03 mmol). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm): 8.42 (d, ³J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, H_a), 8.07 (s, 2H, H_e), 8.01 (d, ³J = 8.2 Hz, 4H, H_q), 7.89 (d, ³J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, H_d), 7.80 (d, 4H, ³J = 8.2 Hz, H_p), 7.40 (ddd, ³J = 8.3 Hz, ³J = 7.7 Hz, ⁴J = 1.0 Hz, 2H, H_c), 7.24 (ddd, ³J = 8.2 Hz, ³J = 7.7 Hz, ⁴J = 1.2 Hz, 2H, H_b), 6.30 (t, ³J = 5.8 Hz, 2H, H_r), 3.55 (m, 4H, H_s), 3.18 (m, 4H, H_f), 1.80-1.22 (m, 64H, H_{g-n+ba}), 0.94-0.84 (m, 12H, H_{0+b}). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 167.5, 144.5, 137.9, 135.6, 134.0, 131.9, 130.5, 130.3, 130.0, 127.2, 126.2, 125.8, 125.7, 124.7, 123.2, 40.4, 32.0, 31.5, 30.4, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 27.2, 22.8, 14.3. FTIR v (cm⁻¹): 3322, 2956, 2923, 2853, 1635, 1546, 1503, 1461, 1309, 1262, 1095, 1020, 856, 801, 765. HRMS m/z: C₇₆H₁₀₄N₂O₂ [M]⁺ calculated 1076.8098; found 1076.8046.

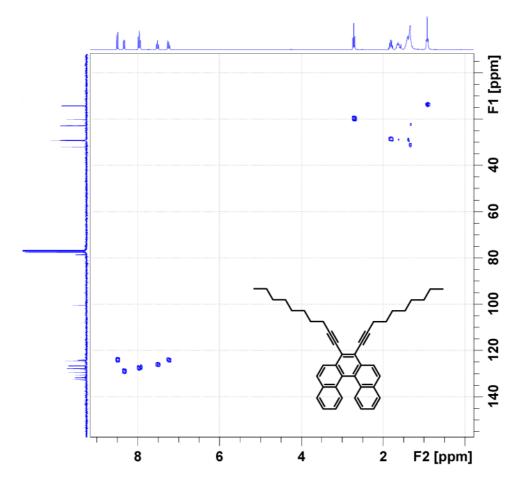
Synthesis of (±)-*N*,*N*'-((((4,4'-(7,8-didecyl[5]helicene-5,10-diyl)bis(benzoyl))bis-(azanediyl))bis(ethane-2,1-diyl))bis(3,4,5-tris(dodecyloxy)benzamide



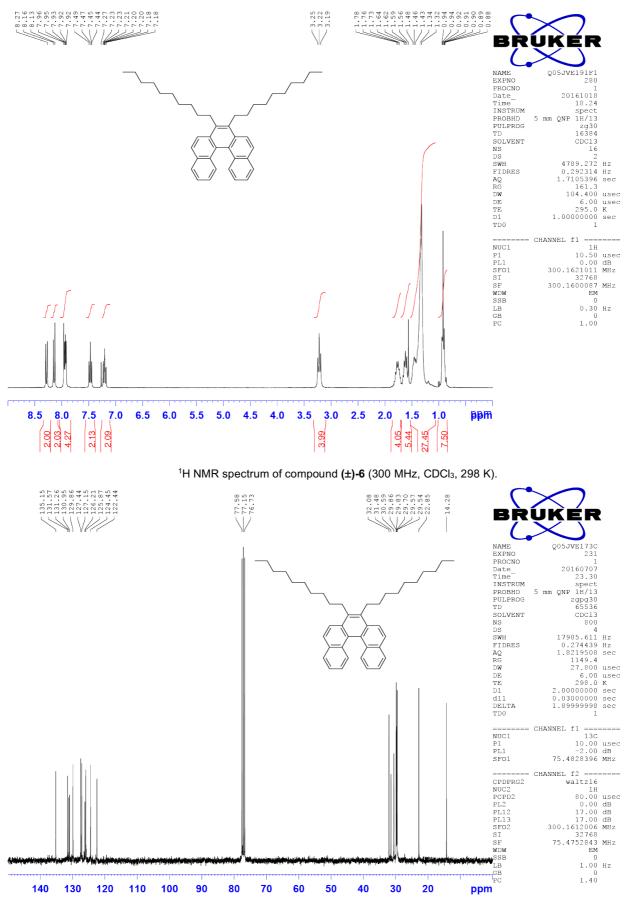
To a deoxygenated solution of **7** (50 mg, 0.07 mmol) and **8b** (150 mg, 0.17 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (15 mL), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (8 mg, 7.00 x10⁻³ mmol), and an aqueous solution of K₂CO₃ (140 mg, 1.05 mmol in 3 mL of water) are added and the resulting mixture is deoxygenated again. The reaction is refluxed for 4 hours, and the crude is extracted with chloroform. The organic layer is washed with 1M aqueous HCl, NH₄Cl and brine. After drying and removal of the solvent, the crude is purified by silica gel column chromatography (gradient from chloroform to chloroform/methanol 10:0.1) and the product obtained is precipitated in methanol, affording **2** as a dark yellow solid in a 44% yield (70 mg, 0.03 mmol). ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ (ppm): 8.39 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H_a), 8.09 (d, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H, H_q), 7.95 (s, 2H, H_e), 7.86 (d, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H_d), 7.76 (d, ³*J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H, H_p), 7.81-7.70 (br, 2H, H_{roru}), 7.61-7.69 (br, 2H, H_{uorr}), 7.36 (dd, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, ³*J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H_b), 7.20 (dd, ³*J* = 8.4 Hz, ³*J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H, H_b), 7.14 (s, 4H, H_v), 4.3 (m, 12H, H_w), 3.81 (m, 8H, H_{8-t}), 2.86 (br, 4H, H_t), 1.81-1.13 (m, 32H + 120H, H_{g-n + x-r}), 0.94-0.79 (m, 6H + 18H, H₀+h⁻¹). ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ (ppm): 168.9, 168.8, 153.2, 144.9, 141.2, 137.7, 135.5, 132.9, 131.9, 130.5, 130.4, 130.4, 129.9, 128.8, 127.6, 126.2, 126.8, 125.5, 124.7, 123.2, 105.7, 73.6, 69.3, 43.6, 41.4, 41.1, 32.1, 32.0, 31.3, 30.5, 30.4, 29.9, 29.9, 29.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 26.3, 26.2, 22.8, 22.8, 14.3, 14.2. FTIR v (cm⁻¹): 3307, 3020, 2923, 2853, 1631, 1581, 1544, 1498, 1467, 1344, 1304, 1265, 1215, 1115, 858, 752, 668. HRMS m/z: C₁₄₆H₂₂₆N₄O₁₀ [M + Na]⁺ calculated 2218.7197; found 2218.7236.

Collection of NMR spectra

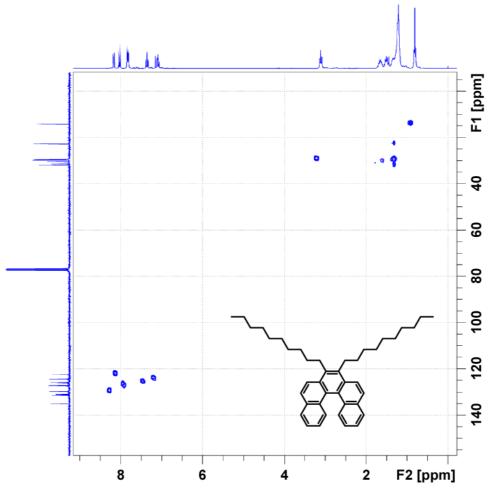




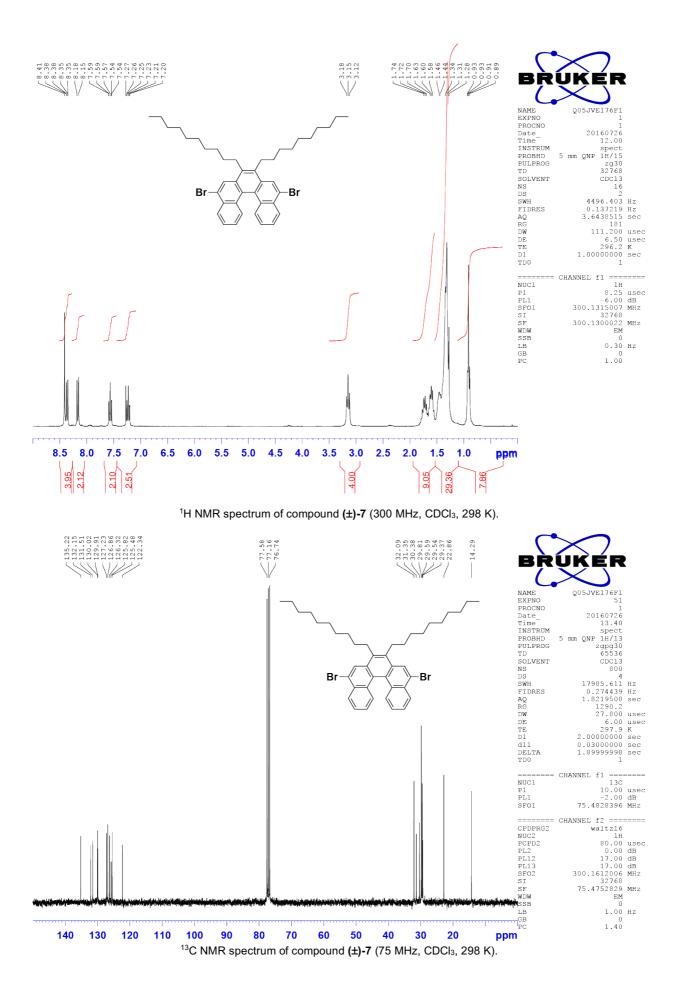
 $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC spectrum of compound (±)-5 (CDCl_3, 298 K).

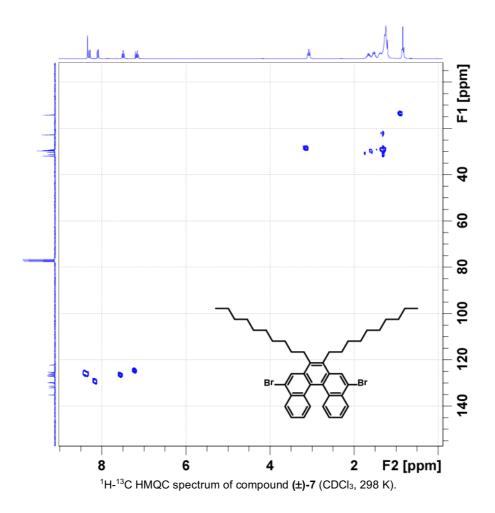


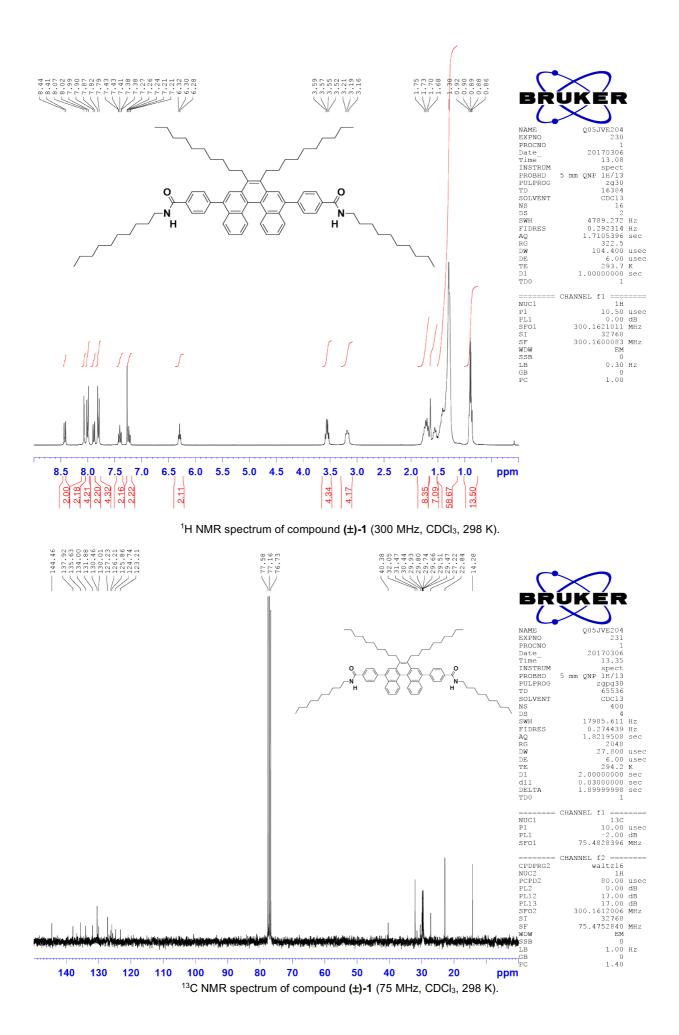
¹³C NMR spectrum of compound (±)-6 (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K).

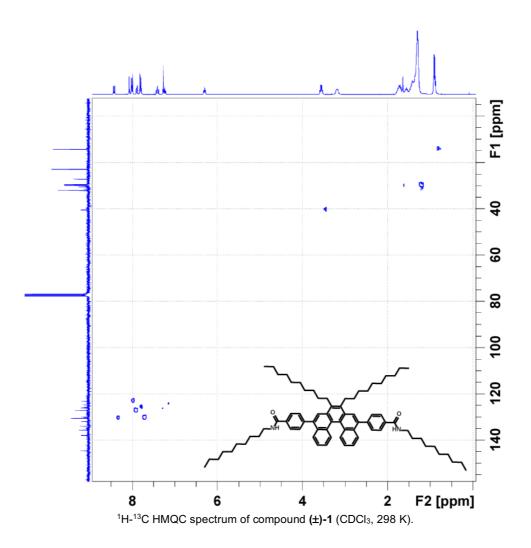


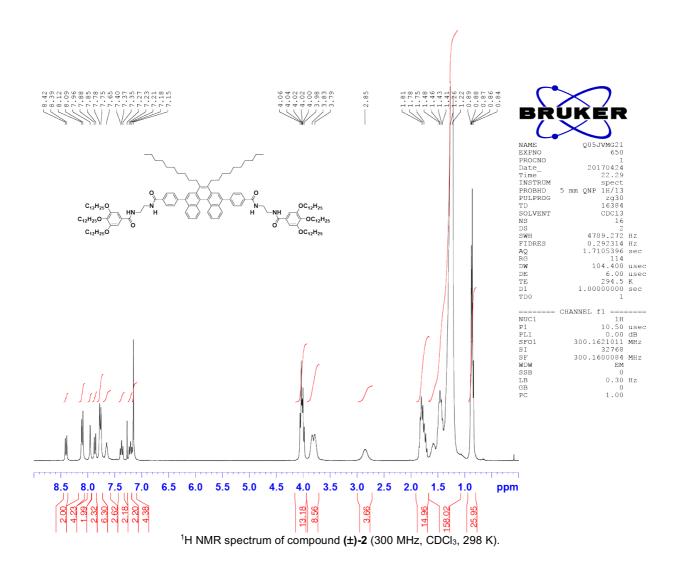
¹H-¹³C HMQC spectrum of compound (±)-6 (CDCl₃, 298 K).



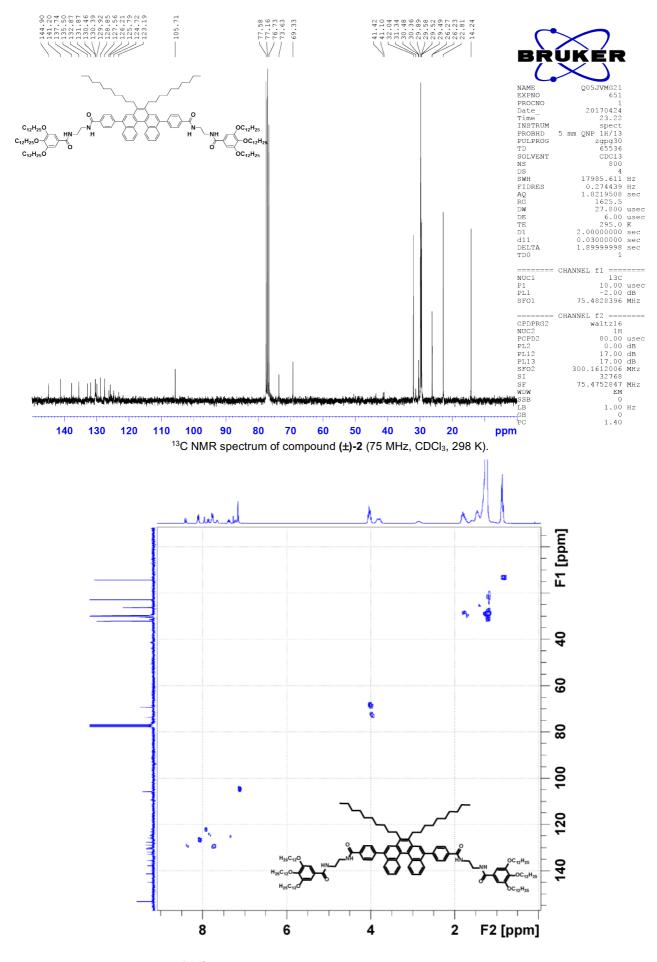








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 $^1\text{H-}{}^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC spectrum of compound (±)-2 (CDCl_3, 298 K).