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Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713618290>

Role of Alkylthio Substituents on Tetrathiafulvalene and 1,3-Dithiole Rings: A Theoretical Study

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To cite this Article Andreu, Raquel , Garín, Javier and Orduna, Jesús(2005) 'Role of Alkylthio Substituents on Tetrathiafulvalene and 1,3-Dithiole Rings: A Theoretical Study', *Phosphorus, Sulfur, and Silicon and the Related Elements*, 180: 5, 1429 — 1430

To link to this Article: DOI: 10.1080/10426500590912862

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10426500590912862>

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Role of Alkylthio Substituents on Tetrathiafulvalene and 1,3-Dithiole Rings: A Theoretical Study

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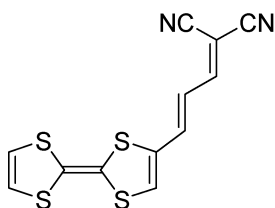
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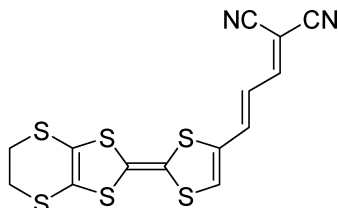
The effect of alkylthio substituents on the redox and nonlinear optical behavior of tetrathiafulvalenes has been studied by Density Functional Theory Calculations.

Keywords Density Functional Theory; nonlinear optics; tetrathiafulvalene

Alkylthio substituents commonly considered as donor groups cause increased oxidation potentials when attached to tetrathiafulvalenes and are consequently regarded as electron-withdrawing groups relative to this strong donor. However, the recent discovery of tetrathiafulvalene-derived donor–acceptor molecules with second order nonlinear optical activity¹ questions that assumption because the introduction of alkylthio groups renders tetrathiafulvalene a better donor and increases the nonlinear optical activity of these molecules.



$E_1 = 0.54\text{V}$; $E_2 = 0.84\text{V}$
 $\mu\beta(0) = 470 \cdot 10^{-48} \text{ esu}$
 $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 633 \text{ nm}$



$E_1 = 0.59\text{V}$; $E_2 = 0.90\text{V}$
 $\mu\beta(0) = 560 \cdot 10^{-48} \text{ esu}$
 $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 612 \text{ nm}$

Received July 9, 2004; accepted October 5, 2004.

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To clarify the effect of alkylthio groups on these processes, we have performed DFT calculations. The results obtained reveal that alkylthio groups behave as weak electron donors and the unexpectedly high oxidation potentials are mainly due to solvent effects. Furthermore, PCM-DFT calculations provide an accurate prediction of the oxidation potential of alkylthio-substituted tetrathiafulvalenes. On the other hand, solvent effects in 1,4-bis(alkylthio)-1,3-dithole-2-ones are not large enough to overcome the electron-donor character of alkylthio groups and these compounds are calculated to have lower oxidation potentials than the unsubstituted 1,3-dithiol-2-thione.

Concerning the nonlinear optical behavior, the lowest energy absorption is mainly contributed from the HOMO \rightarrow LUMO transition, but there are also contributions from HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO and HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO. Charge transfer from the substituents to the LUMO is explained by the large participation of substituent sulfur atoms to HOMO-1 and HOMO-2 and gives rise to increased excited state dipole moments and larger hyperpolarizabilities compared to unsubstituted TTF-derived NLO-phores.

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