

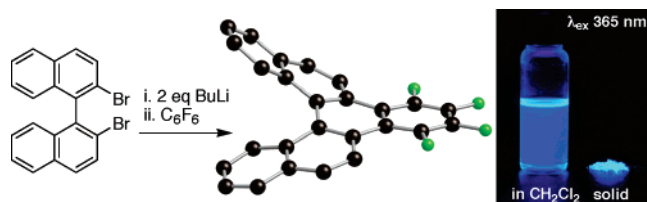
## 7:8,9:10-Dibenzo-1,2,3,4-tetrafluoro-triphenylene: Synthesis, Structure, and Photophysical Properties of a Novel [5]Helicene

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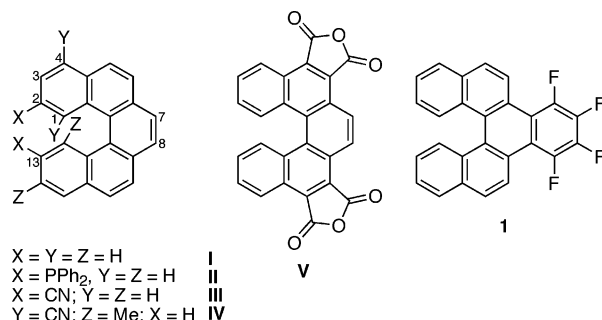
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A simple and efficient synthesis and crystallographic analysis of the partially fluorinated 7:8,9:10-dibenzo-1,2,3,4-tetrafluorotriphenylene, **1**, in 59% yield is reported. Compound **1** is a blue luminescent [5]helicene in both solution and the solid state. It spontaneously forms enantiomorphous single crystals from racemic samples and exhibits slipped, face-to-face F $\cdots$ C $\pi$  contacts within the stacks of molecules.

The helicenes<sup>1</sup> have attracted general interest due to their repeating structural motif of ortho-fused aromatic rings that result in a unique combination of features: helical chirality, inherently strong chromophores, and the possibility for steric/electronic interactions between overlapping rings. Helicene derivatives have thus found applications as ligands in asymmetric catalysis,<sup>2,3</sup> as enantioselective fluorescent sensors,<sup>4</sup> as components in chiral discotic liquid crystalline materials,<sup>5</sup> and in organic materials exhibiting second-order nonlinear optical properties.<sup>6</sup> Helicenes derived from all benzene rings have traditionally been prepared by the oxidative photocyclization of stilbene derivatives, although yields for these key steps are generally poor (e.g., 8–34% for some

[5]helicene derivatives).<sup>1,7</sup> Renewed interest in helical molecules has led to the development of higher yielding synthetic routes, including Diels–Alder cyclizations between 1,4-distyryl benzene derivatives and quinone dienophiles,<sup>8</sup> cyclotrimerizations of benzyne,<sup>9</sup> Sn-mediated tandem radical cyclization of (*Z,Z*)-1,4-bis(2-iodostyryl)-benzene derivatives,<sup>10</sup> and Co(I)-catalyzed isomerization of aromatic (*Z,Z*)-dienetriynes.<sup>11</sup>



Despite the importance of helicene derivatives in many areas, X-ray crystallographic studies of helicenes are relatively rare. Structurally characterized examples of [5]helicene **I**, the smallest member of the helicene family, and its derivatives are particularly uncommon. Kuroda reported the unequivocal crystal structures of two racemic crystal forms of the parent [5]helicene **I** in 1982.<sup>12</sup> To our knowledge, the only other crystallographic studies of [5]helicene derivatives are the diphosphine [5]Heliphos **II**,<sup>2</sup> three mixed cyano- and methyl-substituted [5]helicenes (of which **III** and **IV** are examples),<sup>7</sup> and the dianhydride **V**,<sup>13</sup> all of which crystallized in racemic crystal forms. We now report a simple and efficient synthesis and crystallographic study of 7:8,9:10-dibenzo-1,2,3,4-tetrafluorotriphenylene **1**, a blue luminescent [5]helicene that spontaneously forms enantiomorphous single crystals from racemic samples.

Treatment of racemic 2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl (DBBN)<sup>14</sup> with 1 equiv of *n*-BuLi in THF and quenching into excess C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub> gave 2-bromo-2'-pentafluorophenyl-1,1'-binaphthyl **2** in 76% yield (Scheme 1). The structure of **2** was verified by <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>19</sup>F, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction studies.<sup>15</sup> Subsequent treatment of **2** with *n*-BuLi followed by workup and chromatography

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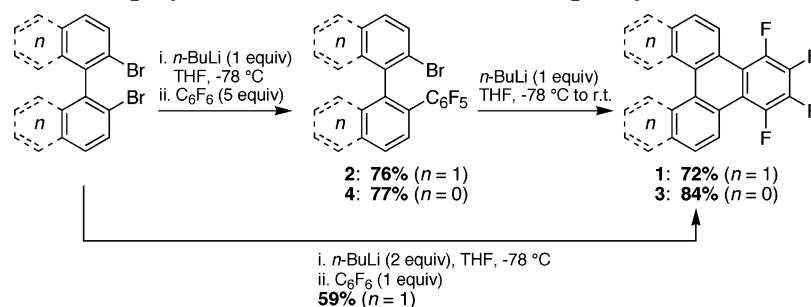
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SCHEME 1. One- and Two-Step Syntheses of **1** and Tetrafluorotriphenylene **3**

gave **1** as pale yellow, microcrystalline needles in 72% (55% overall from DBBN). In a one-step procedure, DBBN was treated with 2 equiv of *n*-BuLi at -78 °C and quenched with 1 equiv of C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub> to give **1** in 59% yield. Tetrafluorotriphenylene **3**<sup>16</sup> was also prepared from 2,2'-dibromobiphenyl (DBBP) via the two-step procedure of monolithiation and quenching with C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>6</sub> to form **4** in 77% yield, then further treatment with *n*-BuLi to give **3** as fairly insoluble, fine needles in 84% yield (65% overall from DBBP). Watson and co-workers recently reported a similar one-step synthesis of **3** in a comparable 68% yield.<sup>17</sup>

We also attempted the synthesis of optically enriched [5]helicene **1** via the two-step protocol in Scheme 1. Thus, (*R*)-(+)-**2** prepared from (*R*)-(+)-DBBN (>98% ee) was treated with *n*-BuLi in THF to give (+)-**1** with very low specific rotation at all wavelengths tested ( $[\alpha]_{\lambda} \leq 5$ ). It is known that although [5]helicene (-)-**1** can be isolated in optically enriched form ( $[\alpha]_{436} = -4950$ ,  $[\alpha]_{578} = -1670$ )<sup>18</sup> by its separation from the 1:1 complex of (+)-**1**:(+)-TAPA at 0 °C, the barrier for its racemization is low ( $\Delta\Delta G = 24.1$  kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup> at 293 K)<sup>19</sup> and proceeds at ambient temperatures ( $t_{1/2} \sim 14$  h at 298 K and 62.7 min at 330 K).<sup>20</sup> We therefore assume that **1** prepared from optically pure starting materials is nearly racemic based on the low specific rotation observed.

Single needle crystals (0.71 × 0.07 × 0.05 mm) of **1** suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by very slow evaporation of a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane solution, and the molecular structure is shown in Figure 1. Racemic **1** crystallizes in the chiral, noncentrosymmetric space group *P*2<sub>1</sub> (No. 4) in which there are two molecules of (*P*)-**1** in the unit cell related by a 2-fold crystallographic rotation axis. To our knowledge, compound **1** is the only example of a [5]helicene derivative that spontaneously forms homochiral crystals from a racemic sample. The twisted central C(5)–C(6)–C(7)–C(16)–C(17)–C(26) ring of the tetrafluorotriphenylene core of **1** has a torsion angle, C(15)–C(16)–C(17)–C(18), of 35.6° and correspondingly longer C–C bonds (average of 1.436 Å) indicative of reduced aromaticity relative to the other rings in the structure.

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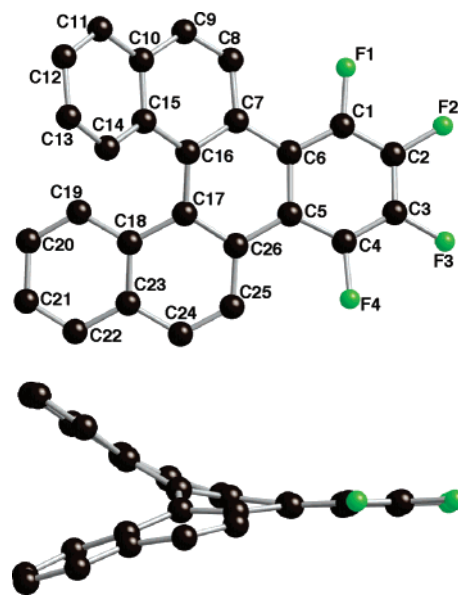
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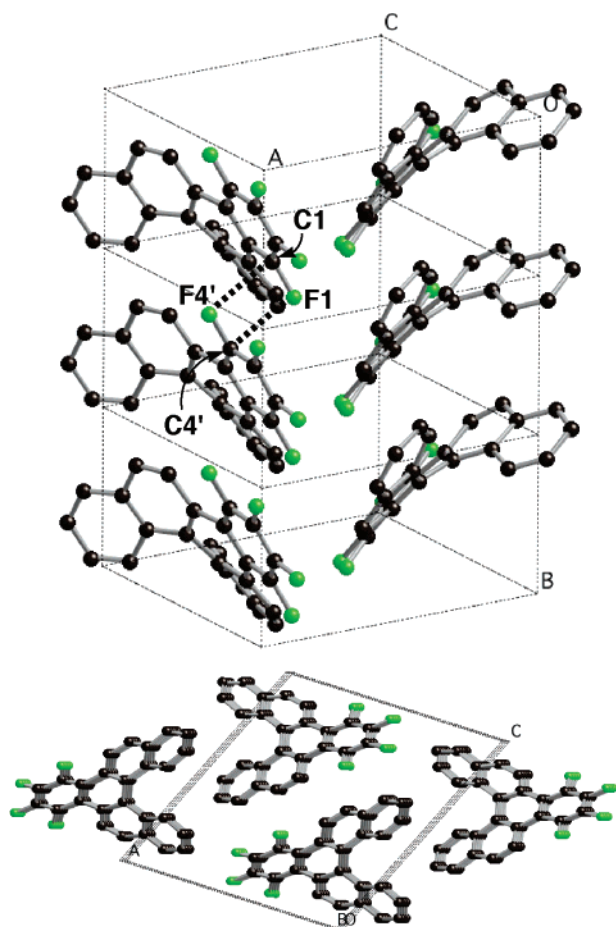
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The packing diagram (Figure 2) reveals a highly ordered structure of 1-D columns of molecules of (*P*)-**1** with slipped face-to-face C–F···C<sub>π</sub> intermolecular interactions (F(4')···C(1), 3.14 Å; F(1)···C(4'), 3.26 Å) along the columns.

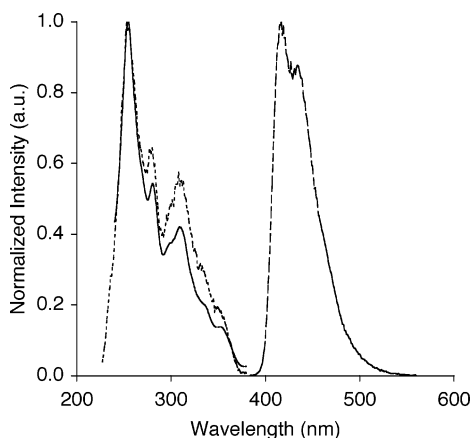
Solid and solution samples of **1** are pale yellow and exhibit blue fluorescence (Figure 3). There is a large Stokes shift ( $\Delta\lambda = 163$  nm) between the absorption maximum ( $\lambda_{\max} = 254$  nm,  $\epsilon = 41000$  M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) and the emission maximum ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 417, 435(\text{sh})$  nm). Although the quantum yield for fluorescence of **1** was modest ( $\varphi_{\text{F}} = 0.15$  relative to 9,10-diphenylanthracene in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature), the emission band is narrow ( $h_{1/2} = 47$  nm) indicating a high purity blue emission. Interestingly, the emission of **1** is only slightly red-shifted relative to the parent (nonfluorinated) 7:8:9:10-dibenzotriphenylene<sup>21</sup> ( $\lambda_{\max} \sim 260$  nm;  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 410, 426(\text{sh})$  nm) indicating that the fluorine atoms in **1** do not exert a



**FIGURE 1.** (Top) Crystal maker depiction of the molecular structure of **1**. Selected bond lengths for the triphenylene core (Å): C(1)–C(2), 1.354(4); C(1)–C(6), 1.397(4); C(2)–C(3), 1.374(5); C(3)–C(4), 1.369(4); C(4)–C(5), 1.402(4); C(5)–C(6), 1.442(4); C(5)–C(26), 1.461(4); C(6)–C(7), 1.453(4); C(7)–C(8), 1.428(4); C(7)–C(16), 1.407(4); C(8)–C(9), 1.347(4); C(9)–C(10), 1.421(4); C(16)–C(17), 1.457(4); C(17)–C(18), 1.462(4); C(17)–C(26), 1.398(4); C(23)–C(24), 1.415(4); C(24)–C(25), 1.351(4); C(25)–C(26), 1.426(4). Average distance around the C(10)–C(15) ring, 1.396 Å. Average distance around the C(18)–C(23) ring, 1.393 Å. Average C–F distance, 1.351 Å. (Bottom) Side view of **1** showing the *P* helical twist in the [5]helicene unit. Torsion angle: C(15)–C(16)–C(17)–C(18) = 35.6°.



**FIGURE 2.** Top: View of homochiral (*P*) 1-D stacks of **1**. The dominant intermolecular interactions along a stack are slipped, face-to-face F $\cdots$ C $\pi$  contacts: F(4') $\cdots$ C(1), 3.136 Å; F(1) $\cdots$ C(4'), 3.255 Å. Bottom: View of the packing diagram of **1** showing 1-D columns down the *b* axis.



**FIGURE 3.** Solution UV-vis (solid line; left), excitation ( $\lambda_{em} = 417$  nm; dashed, left), and emission ( $\lambda_{ex} = 254$  nm; dashed, right) spectra of **1** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 298 K.

significant electronic perturbation of the [5]helicene chromo-/fluorophore.

In conclusion, we have prepared a novel [5]helicene **1** and tetrafluorotriphenylene **3** in high yield by lithium-

bromine exchange of 2,2'-dibromobiaryls and nucleophilic substitutions of aromatic fluorines via one- or two-step protocols. Higher [*n*]helicenes should be accessible from suitable 2,2'-dihalobiaryls using this methodology. The partially fluorinated [5]helicene **1** is a rare example of a structurally characterized [5]helicene and is the only derivative known to crystallize in an enantiomorphous space group. The ease of preparation of **1**, its high purity blue emission combined with a large Stokes shift, and the ease of substitution of aromatic fluorine atoms should allow access to derivatives suitable as fluorescent labels.

## Experimental Section

**2-Bromo-2'-pentafluorophenyl-1,1'-binaphthyl (2).** *n*-BuLi (2.11 mL, 3.37 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise to a dry THF solution (35 mL, 0.1 M) of racemic 2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl (1.39 g, 3.37 mmol) under an argon atmosphere at  $-78$  °C. The resulting yellow solution was stirred for 1 h at  $-78$  °C and then transferred via cannula to a solution of  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  (1.95 mL, 16.9 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) at 0 °C. The yellow color was rapidly consumed upon addition to the  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  solution, and the resulting light peach colored mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (30 mL) and repeatedly extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 50$  mL). The combined organic layer was then dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel column chromatography gave analytically pure **2** (100% hexanes;  $R_f = 0.18$ ) as a colorless oil that solidified on standing (1.28 g, 76%). Recrystallization from pentane at  $-35$  °C gave block crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction studies.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (399.9 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.12 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.59 (m, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.38 (m, 1H), 7.28–7.20 (m, 3H).  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$  (*o*- and *m*-fluorines appear diastereotopic due to presumed hindered rotation of the  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  ring at room temperature; 282.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -136.6 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 23.3$  Hz, *o*-F), -137.5 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 23.3$  Hz, *o*-F), -155.0 (t,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 21.2$  Hz, *p*-F), -162.5 (m, *m*-F), -163.0 (m, *m*-F).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  138.2, 135.1, 134.1, 134.0, 132.6, 132.2, 130.2, 130.1, 129.1, 128.5, 128.20, 128.16, 127.43, 127.37, 127.0, 126.9, 126.80, 126.76, 126.5, 125.4, 123.5 (aryl C-F resonances were not located). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_5\text{Br}$ : C, 62.55; H, 2.42. Found: C, 62.03; H, 2.09.

**(*R*)-(+)-2.** Preparation of (*R*)-(+)-**2** was performed as described above using (*R*)-(+)-2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl ( $[\alpha]_D^{20} = 34$  {*c* 0.010, pyridine}; >98% ee). Samples for optical rotation were recrystallized from pentane at  $-35$  °C. No degradation of the optical purity was expected during this synthesis since 2-bromo-2'-lithio-1,1'-binaphthyl is known to be configurationally stable at  $-78$  °C. (*R*)-(+)-**2**:  $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +46$  (*c* 0.060,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

**7,8,9,10-Dibenzo-1,2,3,4-tetrafluorotriphenylene (1).** *n*-BuLi (1.80 mL, 2.88 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise to a dry THF solution (60 mL, 0.05 M) of **2** (1.40 g, 2.80 mmol) under an argon atmosphere at  $-78$  °C. The resulting yellow solution was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature over a period of 18 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (30 mL) and repeatedly extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 50$  mL), and the combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel column chromatography gave **1** (100% hexanes;  $R_f = 0.34$ ) as a pale yellow solid with blue fluorescence (0.80 g, 72%). Samples for elemental analysis and spectrophotometric studies were obtained by layering  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions with hexane at  $-35$  °C and isolation of the microcrystalline needles by vacuum filtration. Single-needle crystals suitable for X-ray diffraction were obtained by very slow evaporation of a  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ /hexane solution at room temperature. UV-vis ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\lambda_{max}/nm$  ( $\epsilon/M^{-1} \text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 254 (41000), 279 (21400), 310 (16900). Emission ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\lambda_{ex} = 254$  nm,  $9.00 \times 10^{-7}$  M)  $\lambda_{em}/nm$ : 417, 435 (sh).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.99 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 9.1$  Hz, 2H), 8.07 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 9.1$  Hz, 2H), 7.97 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 7.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d,  $J_{\text{H-H}} = 8.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.23

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(m, 2H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -138.4 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 16.0$  Hz, 2F), -157.0 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 16.0$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  145.6 (dm,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 257$  Hz, aryl C-F), 139.5 (dm,  $^1J_{\text{C-F}} = 254$  Hz, aryl C-F), 132.6, 130.8, 129.9, 128.9, 127.7, 127.1, 126.9, 126.1, 125.3, 122.8 (m), 117.0 (m). HRMS (EI, 70 eV): calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_4$  400.08751, found 400.09053. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{12}\text{F}_4$ : C, 78.00; H, 3.02. Found: C, 77.12; H, 2.88.

**One-Step Synthesis of 1.** *n*-BuLi (1.64 mL, 2.62 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise to a dry THF solution (30 mL, 0.05 M) of 2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl (0.54 g, 1.31 mmol) under argon at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . The resulting yellow solution was stirred for 1 h at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ .  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  (0.175 mL, 1.52 mmol) was then added to the solution, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature slowly over a period of 18 h. Workup and purification by silica gel column chromatography as described above gave **1** as a pale yellow solid (0.31 g, 59%).

**Attempted Synthesis of Optically Active 1.** The synthesis of **1** via either the sequential two-step synthesis of **1** from (*R*)-(+)-2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl and (*R*)-(+)-**2** or the one-step protocol from (*R*)-(+)-2,2'-dibromo-1,1'-binaphthyl gave samples of **1** with very low optical activity at all wavelengths tested ( $[\alpha]_{20}^{\lambda} \leq +5$  {c 0.05,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ }) indicating nearly complete racemization.

**2-Bromo-2'-pentafluorophenylbiphenyl (4).** *n*-BuLi (4.0 mL, 6.4 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise to a dry THF solution (64 mL, 0.1 M) of 2,2'-dibromobiphenyl (2.0 g, 6.4 mmol) under an argon atmosphere at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . The resulting yellow solution was stirred for 1 h at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and then transferred via cannula to a solution of  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  (3.7 mL, 32 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . The yellow color was rapidly consumed upon addition to the  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_6$  solution, and the light peach colored mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with water (30 mL) and repeatedly extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 50$  mL), and the combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated in vacuo. Silica gel column chromatography gave **4** (100% hexanes;  $R_f = 0.35$ ) as a colorless oil that solidified on standing (1.97 g, 77%). Recrystallization from diethyl ether yielded analytically pure colorless crystals.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.1 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.60–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.46–7.33 (m, 2H), 7.24–7.09 (m, 3H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (*o*- and *m*-fluorines appear diastereotopic due to presumed hinder rotation of the  $\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$  ring; 282.4 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  -138.8 (dd,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 23.3$ ,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 8.3$ , *o*-F), -139.2 (dd,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 23.3$ ,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 8.3$ , *o*-F), -155.1 (t,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 21.2$ , *p*-F), -162.2 (m, *m*-F), -163.0 (m, *m*-F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  141.8, 140.5, 132.7, 132.6, 131.3, 131.0, 129.4, 129.2, 128.1, 127.1, 126.9, 125.9, 123.1 (aryl C-F resonances not located). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{F}_5\text{Br}$ : C, 54.16; H, 2.02. Found: C, 54.02; H, 2.10.

**1,2,3,4-Tetrafluorotriphenylene (3).** *n*-BuLi (2.0 mL, 3.26 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) was added dropwise to a dry THF

solution (60 mL, 0.05 M) of **4** (1.30 g, 3.26 mmol) at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  under an argon atmosphere. The resulting grayish pink solution was allowed to warm slowly to room temperature over a period of stirring for 18 h. The large amount of colorless microcrystalline precipitate that had formed was collected by vacuum filtration and washed with water and then cold  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , and the mixed filtrate was extracted repeatedly with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 40$  mL). The combined organic layer was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated in vacuo to give a colorless powder. Silica gel column chromatography gave **3** as a colorless microcrystalline solid (100% hexanes,  $R_f = 0.43$ ) that was combined with the material isolated by filtration (total yield: 0.82 g, 84.0%). Recrystallization from hot  $\text{CHCl}_3$  gave analytically pure, colorless microcrystalline needles.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectral data in warm  $\text{CDCl}_3$  matched that reported previously by Watson et al.<sup>17</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300.1 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  8.83 (m, 2H), 8.24 (m, 2H), 7.33 (m, 4H).  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (282.4 MHz,  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ):  $\delta$  -138.5 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 16.0$  Hz, 2F), -157.8 (dm,  $J_{\text{F-F}} = 16.0$  Hz, 2F).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100.6 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  130.4, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 127.6, 126.0, 123.3 (aryl C-F resonances not located). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_8\text{F}_4$ : C, 72.00; H, 2.69. Found: C, 71.61; H, 2.69.

**Quantum Yield Measurement.** The relative quantum yield for fluorescence of compound **1** was determined relative to 9,10-diphenylanthracene in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at 298 K ( $\varphi_{\text{F}} = 0.95$ ).<sup>22</sup> A range of concentrations of solutions of **1** and 9,10-diphenylanthracene were measured such that absorbances were less than 0.10 at the excitation wavelength ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 254$  nm). The quantum yield was then determined by known methods.<sup>23</sup>

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental details and tables of crystal data, atomic coordinates, bond lengths, and angles, diagrams, and anisotropic displacement parameters for **1** and **2**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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