

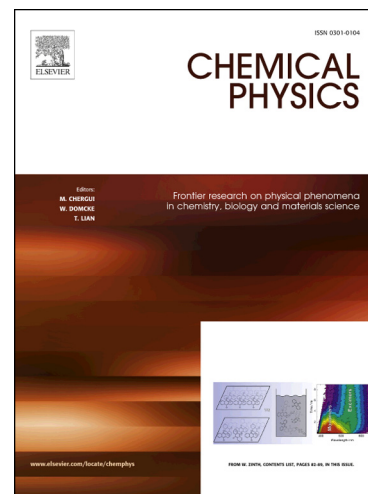
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Electronic structures and population dynamics of excited states of xanthione and its derivatives

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Abstract

A new compound, 1,3-dimethoxy xanthione (DXT), has been synthesized and its absorption (stationary and transient) and luminescence spectra have been measured in n-hexane and compared with xanthione (XT) spectra. The pronounced broadening of xanthione vibronic absorption band related to the electronic transition to the second singlet excited state has been observed. Distinctions between the spectra of xanthione and its methoxy derivatives are discussed. Quantum chemical calculations of these compounds in the ground and excited electronic states have been accomplished to clarify the nature of electronic spectra changes due to modification of xanthione by methoxy groups. Appearance of a new absorption band of DXT caused by symmetry changes has been discussed. Calculations of the second excited state structure of xanthione and its methoxy derivatives confirm noticeable charge transfer (about 0.1 of the charge of an electron) from the methoxy group to thiocarbonyl group. Fitting of the transient spectra of XT and DXT has been fulfilled and the time constants of internal conversion $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ and intersystem crossing $S_1 \rightarrow T_1$ have been determined. A considerable difference between the time constants of internal conversion $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ in XT and DXT is uncovered.

Keywords: higher excited states, molecular electronic devices, charge transfer

1. INTRODUCTION

Development of molecular scale electronic devices is one of the most promising contemporary technologies in microelectronics [1, 2]. The organic molecules can be used to construct such key electronic devices as spatial light modulators, thin-film transistors, light-emitting diodes, sensors, solar cells, optical switches and others [3]. Among these molecular size electronic devices the optical switches are one of the most challenging. The nanoscale electronic switches can open the new generation of tiny electronic devices far beyond the modern silicon-based technology [4].

The optical switches are the particular devices capable to switch between two stable and selectively chosen states with different physical properties which can be flipped by the direct optical impulse. Molecular triad of type acceptor_L–donor–acceptor_R ($A_L - D - A_R$) is one of the possible implementations of optical switches [5]. In such molecular triads there are two locally excited electronic states of donor enabling the electron transfer to selectively switch between “right” (A_R) or “left” (A_L) acceptor addressing to the wavelength of excitation pulse. The molecular systems in which the photoreactions involving some excited states may proceed are intensively investigated during past decade [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20]. The latest researches [5, 14, 15] were focused on molecular switches based on systems where zinc-porphyrin (ZnP) and imide play the role of electron donor and electron acceptor, respectively. The principal challenge being interfered the development of optical switches containing ZnP-imide systems is a problem of low ions quantum yield of photoinduced charge transfer (PCT) from the second excited state S_2 of ZnP to the covalently-bounded acceptor. The results of computer simulations of PCT in such systems [14, 15, 18] show that the low efficiency of charge separation is determined by the ultrafast recombination to the first excited state of ZnP during the “hot” stage when nuclear subsystems of reactants and solvent are far from equilibrium. All known studies of PCT demonstrate low quantum yield of thermalized ion products (about 20%) from the second excited state despite the fact that the rate of electron transfer significantly exceeds the rate of non-radiative relaxation [5]. Thus, the yield of ionic products is limited by the ultrafast ion recombination to the first excited state S_1 . The conclusion is confirmed by the experimental data showing that ultrafast fluorescence decay of second excited state being accompanied by the competing fluorescence decay from the first excited state.

Since the lifetime of the second excited state of the ZnP derivatives is not strongly shorter than the characteristic time of internal conversion (approximately 2 ps) the quantum yield of charge separation states is considerably less than unity. The strong coupling between the local excited S_2 and ionic states is necessary for effective competition between charge transfer and internal conversion. That causes in the effectiveness of hot charge recombination to the S_1 state [14, 15]. The latest results attest that the high quantum yield of thermalized ionic state can be only achieved in molecular systems with lifetimes of S_2 state significantly greater than 2 ps.

Molecular systems based on azulene or thioketone derivatives may be used as an alternative to the systems containing ZnP-imide. According to Refs. [8] research of mechanisms of luminescence quenching in azulene faces even greater complexity. Despite the longer lifetime of S_2 state (approximately few nanoseconds) the definition of the states where the electron passes to is complicated due to the interference of ion absorption spectra with absorption of azulene from S_2 [21]. The measurement of the kinetics of S_1 population is also problematic in consequence of its short lifetime (less than 1 ps). It was ascertained that the internal conversion to the ground state is the primary channel of the S_1 -state decay. Hence at the moment the thioketones looks more promising as a compounds of the optical molecular switches. Their S_2 lifetimes can be as large as hundred picoseconds [21] therefore the S_2 -state quenching, that is, photoinduced charge separation, can be much more effective than that in porphyrins. For example, the lifetime of S_1 -state of xanthione (XT) molecule is short but it decays into the triplet state with quantum yield close to 1. In literature there is some information on the electron structure and optical spectra of XT [22, 23, 24] whereas donor-acceptor dyads and triads containing XT are still not studied. A rather effective bimolecular electron transfer quenching of xanthione S_2 state by series of electron donor in acetonitrile solution was observed [8].

Thus, to develop effective high-speed optical molecular switches the next steps would be essential: 1) theoretical study of molecular structures to select potentially perspective heterocyclic compounds with electron-donor or electron-acceptor substituents; 2) synthesis and following experimental and theoretical research of physical and chemical properties of the compounds suitable for constructing molecular electronic devices.

The aims of this paper are: (i) measurements and analysis of stationary absorption and luminescence spectra of XT and its newly synthesized methoxy derivatives, (ii) quantum chemical calculations of energetic struc-

ture and geometry of XT and a few of its methoxy derivatives, (iii) measurements and analysis of transient spectra of XT and 1,3-dimethoxy xanthione (DXT), (iv) fitting of the transient spectra of XT and DXT and calculation of the second excited state lifetime, (v) determination of the time constants of internal conversion $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ and intersystem crossing $S_1 \rightarrow T_1$.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Computational methods

The simulations were performed using MOPAC 2016 [25, 26, 27, 28]. A semiempirical Parametric Method Number 3 (PM3) [25, 29] was used to provide full geometry optimization and compute electronic structures of XT molecule and its methoxy derivatives. The choice of PM3 is justified by the fact that the method was parameterized for enthalpy and geometry characteristics calculations of the molecules similar to benzene [27]. The systems considered here belong to the same class. The calculations of the heat of formation ($\Delta_f H^\circ$) were carried out in the approximation of isolated molecule in the gas phase at 298 K. COSMO [30] solvent model was employed to take it implicitly into the account. Hexane with dielectric permittivity $\epsilon = 1.89$ was chosen as a solvent.

Approach based on the many-electron configuration interaction MECI [31] was used to calculate the vertical energies of transitions to the ground electronic state. To specify the number of occupied energy levels in MECI calculation the MOPAC keyword value for configuration interaction calculations, C.I., is chosen to be: 4, 6, 8 and 9. The approach allows the excited states energy calculation accounting for solvent within the COSMO solvent model. Additionally it takes into account the quadratic influence of the refractive index on the dielectric energy of the excited states. In the calculations we used following value of keyword accounting for squared refractive index: $N^2 = 1.89$. The rest of the parameters was chosen to be default.

2.2. Experimental methods

Xanthion was synthesized from xanthone being acted by the Lawessons reagent. The xanthone dimethoxy derivative (1,3-dihydroxy-xanthone) was synthesized in the reaction of phloroglucinol with salic acid in presence of fresh melted zinc chloride and phosphate chloride. Obtained 1,3-dihydroxy xanthone acting with excess of dimethyl sulfate in presence of potassium carbonate produces 1,3-dimethoxy xanthone. The latter smoothly turns into

143 DXT being acted by the Lawassons reagent. Registration of the electronic
144 absorption and luminescence spectra of compounds was carried out in 1 cm
145 quartz cuvettes by spectrophotometer Cary-500 (USA) and spectrofluorime-
146 ter (Solar, Belarus). n-hexane (Aldrich, USA) was used as a solvent.

In the literature there is large scattering of the values of molar extinction coefficient [32]. This is the reason why this quantity was measured in this work. Molar extinction coefficients were determined by weighing three samples for each thioketone and subsequent dissolving in certain volume of n-hexane. The electronic spectra were recorded for obtained solution of XT and DXT using spectrometer Cary-500 (USA). The oscillator strengths shown in Table 3 of the manuscript were calculated using the following equation [33]:

$$f = 1.3 \cdot 10^{-8} \frac{9n}{(n^2 + 2)^2} \int \varepsilon(\nu) d\nu$$

147 where n is the refractive index of the solvent (for n-hexane $n = 1.375$), $\varepsilon(\nu)$
148 is the molar extinction coefficient, and ν is the wave number in cm^{-1} .

149 Pump-probe measurement setup was exploited as described elsewhere [34,
150 35]. The laser pulses of 140 fs duration of the second harmonic of $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 : \text{Ti}^{3+}$
151 laser (395 nm) with the energy in a range 10 – 30 μJ was used as a pump.
152 A 2 mm thick cell filled with a solvent at a dye concentration of 10^{-4} M
153 was utilized as a sample. The probe was a white continuum ranging from
154 400 nm to 1100 nm generated in water by a fraction of the fundamental
155 laser beam at 790 nm. The spectra of the signal probe and reference pulses
156 were recorded by a polychromator equipped with silicon CCD matrix and
157 transmitted to a computer. The differential absorbance signal $\Delta D(\lambda, \Delta t)$
158 is obtained as $\Delta D(\lambda, \Delta t) = \lg(\tilde{T}_0/\tilde{T})$, where $\tilde{T} = E_{\text{prob}}/E_{\text{ref}}$ and $\tilde{T}_0 =$
159 $E_{\text{prob}}^0/E_{\text{ref}}^0$ are the energy ratios of the probe and reference pulses passed
160 through the sample with and without preceding pump, respectively. The
161 pump and the probe beam diameters of 1 mm and 0.7 mm, respectively,
162 with nearly Gauss intensity distribution have been controlled by a CCD
163 camera. To show the stability of samples the stationary absorption spectra
164 were measured before and after pump-probe measurements. No changes
165 were detected. The transient spectra were corrected for the group velocity
166 dispersion of the probe pulse. The group velocity dispersion function has
167 been measured, a software was elaborated to automatically account for this
168 correction.

169 For stationary measurements the concentrations of molecular oxygen,
170 XT and DXT dissolved in n-hexane are $\text{C}_{\text{O}_2} = 1.56 \cdot 10^{-2}$ mol/L, $\text{C}_{\text{XT}} =$

171 $C_{DXT} = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol/L, correspondingly. For non-stationary measurements
 172 the concentrations of XT and DXT are $C_{XT} = C_{DXT} = 10^{-4}$ mol/L. The
 173 excitation wavelength is $\lambda_{exc} = 340$ nm.

174 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

175 3.1. Energetic and electronic properties of xanthione derivatives

Table 1: Physical characteristics of methoxy derivatives of XT in the ground state. Here $\Delta_f H^\circ$ (in kcal/mol), E_{tot} , IP , E_{HOMO} , E_{LUMO} (in eV), μ (in Db) are the formation heat, total energy, ionization potential, energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital, energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital, dipole moment, respectively.

No	Comp.	R_1	R_2	A_1	A_2	$\Delta_f H^\circ$ ($\Delta_f H^\circ_{gas}$)	E_{tot}	μ	IP	E_{HOMO}	E_{LUMO}
1	I	H	H	119.8	119.7	52.60 (54.19)	-2140.964	4.11	9.00	-9.009	-1.973
2	II	H ₃ CO(cis)	H	114.0	119.7	13.16(15.22)	-2583.905	3.66	8.95	-8.955	-1.914
3	II	H ₃ CO(trans)	H	117.9	119.7	13.05(15.12)	-2583.910	5.54	8.94	-8.943	-1.908
4	III	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO	113.9	122.8	-17.20(-14.52)	-3026.452	4.45	8.80	-8.805	-1.714
5	III	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO	125.1	122.9	-17.46(-14.85)	-3026.464	5.05	8.80	-8.806	-1.713
6	IV	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO(cis)	125.1	113.6	-24.78(-22.43)	-3026.781	2.87	8.92	-8.927	-1.946
7	IV	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO(trans)	125.2	125.1	-23.97(-21.47)	-3026.746	4.34	8.91	-8.919	-1.922
8	IV	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO(cis)	125.3	113.7	-24.92(-22.56)	-3026.781	2.87	8.92	-8.927	-1.946
9	IV	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO(trans)	125.2	125.1	-24.09(-21.57)	-3026.751	6.47	8.90	-8.906	-1.916

Table 2: The atomic charges of the XT skeleton. The charges are presented in the units of the elementary charge. The numbers in the first column correspond to the numeration of conformers given in Table 1.

No	C ₁	C ₂	C ₃	C ₄	C ₅	C ₆	C ₇	C ₈	C ₉	C ₁₀	C ₁₁	C ₁₂	C ₁₃	O	S
1	-0.1	-0.04	-0.03	0.07	-0.11	-0.05	0.11	0.07	-0.03	-0.04	-0.10	-0.05	-0.11	-0.08	-0.42
2	-0.14	-0.03	-0.10	0.10	-0.19	0.14	0.10	0.06	-0.01	-0.002	-0.10	-0.04	-0.11	-0.07	-0.40
3	-0.14	-0.06	-0.07	0.11	-0.17	0.10	0.10	0.10	-0.02	-0.02	-0.09	-0.04	-0.12	-0.07	-0.41
4	-0.22	0.17	-0.09	0.10	-0.22	0.15	0.10	0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.10	-0.06	-0.10	-0.08	-0.33
5	-0.18	0.15	-0.08	0.10	-0.25	0.15	0.10	0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.10	-0.06	-0.10	-0.09	-0.32
6	-0.17	-0.06	-0.07	0.11	-0.13	0.10	0.10	0.07	-0.01	-0.09	0.08	-0.05	-0.09	-0.07	-0.41
7	-0.17	-0.06	-0.08	0.11	-0.13	0.10	0.10	0.07	-0.01	-0.05	0.08	-0.09	-0.09	-0.07	-0.41
8	-0.14	-0.06	-0.06	0.11	-0.16	0.09	0.10	0.07	-0.01	-0.10	0.08	-0.05	-0.09	-0.07	-0.40
9	-0.14	-0.06	-0.06	0.11	-0.16	0.09	0.10	0.07	-0.01	-0.06	0.08	-0.09	-0.08	-0.07	-0.40

176 The results of energetic and electronic properties calculations of following
 177 molecules: (I) 9H-xanthene-9-thione, (II) 3-methoxy-9H-9-thione, (III) 1,3-
 178 dimethoxy-9H-xanthene-9-thione, (IV) 2,6-dimethoxy-9H-xanthene-9-thione
 179 and their possible conformers are listed in Table 1 and 2. Geometry struc-
 180 tures of the molecules I, II and IV are shown in Fig. 1. The geometry

characteristics of plain XT skeleton are almost stay the same with attachment of methoxy groups in cis- or trans-configurations. In Fig. 1 the parameters are shown only for compound I ($R_1 = R_2 = H$). For compounds II ($R_1 = H$, $R_2 = OCH_3$) and IV ($R_1 = OCH_3$, $R_2 = OCH_3$) the bond lengths and angles differ from that listed in Fig. 1 for values $\pm 0.02 \text{ \AA}$ and $\pm 2^\circ$, respectively. Figure 2 demonstrates the geometry structure of compound III ($R_1 = OCH_3$, $R_2 = OCH_3$) characterized by considerable deformation of the XT skeleton. There is a noticeable deviation from plain structure. The latter leads a bond angle $C_2 - C_7 - C_{10}$ to vary from value 172° in the compounds I, II and IV up to 155° in the compound III. It should be also noted a significant deviation of sulfur atom from the XT skeleton plane that leads to variation of the bond angle $O - C_7 - S$ from 180° in the compounds I, II, IV to 159° in compound III. Such a deformation of the XT plane may result in appearance of the enantiomer properties for compound III.

Conformers of xanthione methoxy derivatives are defined by different arrangement of the methyl fragments of methoxy groups relatively the XT skeleton. Configuration of $C_1 - C_6 - O - CH_3$ may be in cis- or trans-positions. The angles A_1 and A_2 are shown in Figures 1 and 2 since they vary more than 2° for cis- and trans-configurations. Their values are listed in Table 1.

Values of formation heat, $\Delta_f H^\circ$, calculated for the compounds I–IV are in good agreement with experimental values in liquid, $\Delta_f H_{liq}^\circ$, at standard conditions for benzene and its methoxy derivatives. According to NIST database[36], the quantity of $\Delta_f H_{liq}^\circ$ for benzene is positive and equals 49 kJ/mol [37]. Attachment of a methoxy group to benzene results in considerable decreasing the quantity $\Delta_f H_{liq}^\circ$ and for anisole it equals -120 kJ/mol [38]. Attachment of the second methoxy group to anisole further reduces the value of $\Delta_f H_{liq}^\circ$ and according to NIST for molecule 1,2-dimethoxy-benzene it achieves -290 kJ/mol [39]. The values of formation heat of xanthione methoxy derivatives shown in Table 1 manifest similar decreasing tendency with growing the number of attached methoxy groups. The formation heat in gas phase, $\Delta_f H_{gas}^\circ$, at the standard conditions evaluated by NIST for the thioxanthone molecule which geometry structure close to compounds under consideration is positive and equals 95 kJ/mol [40].

Additional calculation of the thioxanthone molecule with full geometry optimization in gas phase gives the value of the heat of formation 115.5 kJ/mol which is pretty close to the experimental data. Thus we deduce that selected method reproduces the values of the heat of formation for xanthione-

like molecules with precision ± 20 kJ/mol. The heats of formations in gas and liquid phase for compounds I–IV are also shown in Table 1. The differences of $\Delta_f H^\circ$ between the gas and liquid phases for considered compounds are about 2 – 3 kcal/mol. It seems that in COSMO model the hexane solvent influences negligibly on the geometry structure of the compounds.

The correlation of the ionization potential, IP, the energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO), E_{HOMO} , and the energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO), E_{LUMO} , with NIST data is also pronounced. The ionization potentials of methoxy derivatives measured in gas phase decrease with attaching a methoxy group to the benzene: from 9.24 eV (benzene) to 8.20 eV (anisole). However the attachment of the next methoxy group to anisole influences negligibly on IP: 8.20 eV (anisole) $\rightarrow$ 8.14 eV (1,3-dimethoxy-benzene) whereas attachment of a group in the neighbor position leads to the significant decrease of IP: 7.8 eV (1,2-dimethoxy-benzene). The very similar picture one obtains with IP of the XT methoxy derivatives (Table 1).

Analysis of the Mulliken charges at atoms of XT skeleton (Table 2) shows a strong polarization of the compounds that is confirmed by high magnitudes of the dipole moments presented in Table 1. The high magnitudes of the dipole moments are also observed for all the conformers. According to the Table 2, the negative charges at the carbon atoms C_6 and C_{11} in the compound I increase by 0.2 units and become positive after attaching methoxy groups. At the same time at the oxygen atoms of the methoxy groups negative charge reaches -0.19 . The latter leads to change both in magnitude and in direction of the dipole moment (see Figures 1 and 2). The influence of the methoxy group attachment on charges of the other atoms of the compounds II and IV is negligible. However in the compound III the methoxy groups attachment to the carbons C_2 , C_6 affects the charges of all carbon atoms of the benzene fragment (from C_1 to C_6). The fragment is strongly polarized resulting in its distortion in comparison with the opposite benzene fragment (C_8 – C_{13}). A comparison of the results of both the formation heat and the dipole moment of the compounds II and IV shows the conformers with smaller dipole moment to be energetically favorable whereas compound III to demonstrate the opposite situation.

3.2. Xanthione and its methoxy derivatives absorption and fluorescence spectra

The calculations for several versions of the configuration interactions with different number of molecular orbitals were carried out: C.I. = 4, 6, 8, 9. Figure 3 shows the absorption and fluorescence spectra of the XT only for C.I. = 9 (the rest results are presented in supporting information in Figure S1). The absorption spectra obtained for C.I. = 9 are characterized by four well-defined lines corresponding to the main experimental bands. The energy diagram of XT is shown in Figure 4. The transitions between S_0 and S_2 , S_4 , S_9 states of XT molecule have considerably lower oscillator strengths comparing with the transition $S_{15} \leftarrow S_0$. Due to the symmetry of the molecule the oscillator strength of $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ transition equals to zero. The fluorescence bands are calculated for optimized geometry of the S_2 and S_3 excited states.

The absorption and fluorescence spectra as well as energy diagram of two conformers of DXT are shown in Figures 5 and 6. The intensity of a transition to the first excited state does not equal to zero. That can be explained by broken symmetry of the compound due to the attachment of a methoxy group to a XT molecule. The transitions $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$ and $S_{15} \leftarrow S_0$ have oscillator strengths of the same order. For both conformers an additional line appears in the absorption spectra. Comparing the MECI calculations of the absorption band at 380–400 nm which is mainly due to $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ and $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$ transitions for DXT with the experimental spectra we can conclude that in experimental spectrum both transition bands seem to have similar intensities. Therefore the mirror symmetry of absorption and fluorescence bands is broken. It should be noted that conformational changes influence slightly on the spectrum of the compound III. The latter can be explained by the fact that the conformational changes in the compounds III do not distort the XT skeleton in the ground electronic state. Comparing fluorescence spectra presented in Figures 3 and 5, one can see that the vibrational structure is smoothed in DXT although it is seen in the XT spectrum. Appearance of the additional line in the calculated absorption and fluorescence spectra can explain the reason of vibrational structure smoothing due to the overlap of two transitions.

In the case of XT there are minor shifts of the calculated lines relatively to that observed in experiments. For the compound III the simulated spectrum well reproduces a shift of the $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ transition line to the blue in accordance with the experiment. The experimentally observed broadening of the band

Table 3: The experimental and calculated (in parentheses) oscillator strengths of electronic transitions in XT and DXT. ε_{abs}^{max} is the extinction coefficient.

Compound	ε_{abs}^{max} , M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹	$S_1 \leftarrow S_0$	$S_2 \leftarrow S_0$	$S_3 \leftarrow S_0$	$S_4 \leftarrow S_0$	$S_{5(15)} \leftarrow S_0$
XT	10700	0 (0)	0.31 (4.52)	0.03 (1.13)	0.46 (5.27)	1.34 (26.41)
DXT	10000	0(10 ⁻⁵)	0.45 (0.44)	0.45 (5.51)	0.58 (2.25)	1.59 (11.02)

in the vicinity of 360 nm for the compound III relatively to the XT band can be associated with the appearance of additional transition $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$.

The luminescence spectra of XT and DXT shown in Figures 3 and 5 are consisted of two parts: fluorescence, $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$, being in the spectral region 400 – 600 nm and phosphorescence, $T_1 \rightarrow S_0$, (600–800 nm) [22]. The luminescence spectrum of DXT as well as its absorption spectrum reveals the hypsochromic shift relative to XT luminescence one. However, the shift $\Delta\nu_{fl} \simeq 300$ cm⁻¹ evaluated as difference between $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ fluorescence maxima of XT and DXT is 6 times smaller than $\Delta\nu_{abs} \simeq 1800$ cm⁻¹ for $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ absorption maxima. This fact can be explained by considerable variation of the normal vibrational frequencies of XT accompanying electronic excitation $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$. It is also interesting to note that there is a difference of full experimental widths at the half maximum of vibronic bands between XT ($\Delta\nu_{h/2} = 2950$ cm⁻¹) and DXT ($\Delta\nu_{h/2} = 4730$ cm⁻¹). At the same time the difference for the fluorescence bands (4200 cm⁻¹ and 4800 cm⁻¹) is drastically smaller. The reason is the superposition of the two absorption bands $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ and $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$. Increasing absorption band width in DXT is in agreement with quantum chemical calculations. The prediction of nonzero oscillator strength for $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$ transition that overlaps with $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ transition explains the broadening of the band. At the same time fluorescence of DXT occurs from a single state that results in practically identical fluorescence band widths in XT and DXT. This is also supported by small hypsochromic shift of $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ maximum from 448 nm to 442 nm and much larger shift (27 nm) for $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$. The parameters of stationary absorption and luminescence bands are listed in Table 4. Here the shifts $\Delta\nu_{band}$ are determined as the differences between corresponding experimental band maxima of DXT and XT, pictured in Figures 5 and 3.

The phosphorescence, $T_1 \rightarrow S_0$, in XT and DXT, also exhibits a hyp-

Table 4: The characteristics of the stationary absorption and luminescence bands of the XT and DXT. The energy ($E_{\max}^{\text{band}}$) and the wavelength ($\lambda_{\max}$) of the corresponding band maximum. The shifts of the band maxima DXT relative to XT, $\Delta\nu_{\text{band}}$.

band	XT		DXT		DXT vs XT
	$E_{\max}^{\text{band}}$, eV	$\lambda_{\max}$, nm	$E_{\max}^{\text{band}}$, eV	$\lambda_{\max}$, nm	$\Delta\nu_{\text{band}}$, cm^{-1}
ph	1.851	670	1.968	630	950
abs1	1.962 ^a	632	— ^b	—	—
fl2	2.755	450	2.805	442	406
abs2	3.100	400	3.221	385	975
abs3	4.039	307	4.052	306	105
abs4	4.863	255	4.769	260	−758
abs5	5.415	229	5.322	233	−750

^athe value was taken from ref. 41

^bthe band was not observed

sochromic shift of the vibronic maximum from 670 nm in XT to 630 nm in DXT that amounts to $\Delta\nu_{\text{ph}} \approx 950 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. That shift is 2.4 times larger than $\Delta\nu_{\text{f}} \approx 400 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ for fluorescence maxima of XT and DXT.

Comparing the allowed $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ and $T_1 \rightarrow S_0$ transitions of $\pi\pi^*$ type with the forbidden $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ transition of $n\pi^*$ type, it can be assumed that attached methoxy groups weakly influence on $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ transition. The quantum chemical calculations confirm the conclusion (see Figures 4 and 6). Consequently, the energy of S_1 state in DXT is close to that of XT. Since the locations of $S_1 n\pi^*$ and $T_1 \pi\pi^*$ states in XT[22] are 15970 cm^{-1} and 15130 cm^{-1} , respectively, the energies of these two states coincide with that in DXT. Therefore due to the intersystem crossing the total excitation energy of S_1 state deactivates through T_1 state.

The bands of absorption spectra for $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ transition in Figures 3 and 5 are not shown since they are very weak. For example for XT the molar extinction coefficient $20 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ and an oscillator strength of 0.0003 [42]. There is some difference between calculated and experimental results. The positions of the calculated absorption lines are shifted to the long-wave region, 740 nm, whereas in the experimental spectra such maxima $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$ are observed in the vicinity of 630 nm for XT [41].

To understand the nature of the spectra of the considered compounds,

Table 5: The characteristics of the XT and DXT compounds in the electronic states: S_0 , S_2 , and S_3 . Here q is a charge of corresponding atom. The dimensions of the quantities are the same as in Table 1. * The results presented in row 6 are obtained at the geometry termination optimization criteria: GNORM = 3. ** Results obtained at GNORM = 17.

No	Comp.	R_1	R_2	State	$\Delta_f H^\circ$	E_{tot}	μ	q_{C3}	q_{C7}	q_{C9}	q_S	$q_{O(R1)}$	$q_{O(R2)}$
1	I	H	H	S_0	34.18	-2141.762	3.875	-0.16	0.05	-0.16	-0.16	-	-
2	I	H	H	S_2	102.54	-2138.798	5.917	-0.1	-0.03	-0.1	-0.31	-	-
3	I	H	H	S_3	113.25	-2138.334	6.198	-0.11	-0.19	-0.11	-0.28	-	-
4	III	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO	S_0	-33.13	-3027.143	4.251	-0.22	0.07	-0.16	-0.17	-0.19	-0.15
5	III	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO	S_2	34.48	-3024.211	5.451	-0.12	-0.02	-0.12	-0.29	-0.17	-0.12
6*	III	H ₃ CO(cis)	H ₃ CO	S_3	41.75	-3023.895	6.233	-0.14	-0.16	-0.08	-0.25	-0.19	-0.08
7	III	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO	S_0	-33.15	-3027.144	4.925	-0.22	0.07	-0.16	-0.17	-0.19	-0.15
8	III	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO	S_2	42.13	-3023.879	6.888	-0.15	-0.11	-0.12	-0.25	-0.2	-0.05
9**	III	H ₃ CO(trans)	H ₃ CO	S_3	41.98	-3023.886	7.269	-0.14	-0.17	-0.09	-0.26	-0.2	-0.05

calculations of energies of the excited states S_2 and S_3 were performed with full geometry optimization. The results are listed in Table 5. According to the calculations, the excitation of S_2 state results in considerable variation of the sulfur charge and increase of the bond length between C₇ and the sulfur by 0.2 Å. The charges on C₃ and C₉ also slightly vary. Since the area where a variation of the atomic charges is not bulky the alteration of the dipole moment is not strong. In XT derivatives containing a methoxy group the oxygen charge may noticeably vary but only for some their conformers. Thus, methoxy group demonstrates its electron-donor origin.

3.3. Transient spectra of XT and DXT

The transient time-resolved spectra of XT and DXT do not have great differences. Our femtosecond measurements of XT and DXT in n-hexane at room temperature allowed to reveal the transient absorption spectra at $\lambda_{max} \simeq 650$ nm and gain spectra at $\lambda_{max} \simeq 480$ nm. The kinetics of TA signal at 475 nm consist of two components: the short component with a lifetime about 20 ps and very long-lived one exceeding 100 ps. Apparently, the first short lifetime of 20 ps associates with the excited S_2 state decay and long time constant probably characterizes rising the triplet-triplet $T_k \leftarrow T_1$ absorption.

The femtosecond measurements of XT and DXT in n-hexane at room temperature in the wavelength domain from $\lambda = 400$ to 740 nm in the time window from 1 ps to 100 ps were carried out. The transient time-resolved spectra of XT and DXT are presented in Figures 7.

361 The complex dynamics of experimental transient spectra shown in Fig. 7
 362 leads to the supposition that there are several constituents. Among them
 363 the most pronounced are: two excited-state absorption bands, $S_2 \rightarrow S_n$ and
 364 $S_1 \rightarrow S_m$, stimulated emission, $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$, triplet-triplet absorption, $T_1 \rightarrow T_k$
 365 and the bleach (the bleach is not shown because it was out of the experimental
 366 spectral window). The transient spectra of DXT pictured in Fig. 7 are similar
 367 to XT spectra but there are differences. DXT spectra consist at least of
 368 six constituents: two excited-state absorption bands, $S_2 \rightarrow S_n$, the excited
 369 state absorption $S_1 \rightarrow S_m$, stimulated emission, $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ and triplet-triplet
 370 absorption, $T_1 \rightarrow T_k$ and the bleach.

371 For quantitative description of spectral evolution the theory reported in
 372 ref [43] has been adopted. The transitions $S_2 \rightarrow S_1 \rightarrow T_1$ are considered to
 373 be exponential. The simulations confirm the adopted schema of electronic
 374 transitions in excited XT and DXT: the initially excited S_2 states decay due
 375 to internal conversion to S_1 state with time constant τ_{IC} that subsequently
 376 decays due to intersystem crossing to populate the triplet state T_1 with time
 377 constant τ_{ISC} .

378 The transient absorption signal ΔA in the pump-probe technique can be
 379 represented as follows [43]

$$\Delta A(\omega_e, \omega_p, \tau) = \sum_i \Delta A_i(\omega_e, \omega_p, \tau) P_j(\tau) \quad (1)$$

where the subscript i runs through the values $i = \{\text{ESAK}, \text{TTA}, \text{SE}, \text{BL}\}$ ac-
 counting for the k -th excited-state absorption, ΔA_{ESAK} , the triplet-triplet
 absorption, ΔA_{TTA} , stimulated emission, ΔA_{SE} , and bleach, ΔA_{BL} , the in-
 dex j can take any value from the following list of the electronic states
 $\{S_2, S_1, T_1, S_0\}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta A_i(\omega_e, \omega_p, \tau) = & \omega_p w_i \frac{V_p^2}{P} \frac{\pi \tau_p}{\sigma_i(\tau)} \sum_{n,m} P_n \frac{e^{-\xi_i} \xi_i^m}{m!} \times \\ & \times \exp \left[-\frac{(\delta \omega_{mi} - Q_{ni}(\tau))^2}{2\sigma_i^2(\tau)} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

381 Here w_i is the weight of corresponding band, $\sigma_i(\tau)$ and $Q_{ni}(\tau)$ are the values
 382 of the time-dependent half-width and the coordinate of the center-of-gravity
 383 of the corresponding band:

$$\sigma_i^2(\tau) = \tau_p^{-2} + 2E_{ri}k_B T - (2E_{ri}k_B T X(\tau)/\sigma_e^2)^2, \quad (3)$$

$$Q_{ni}(\tau) = 2E_{ri}X(\tau)(1 - \delta_{i,BL} + \delta\omega_{ne}k_BT/\sigma_e^2), \quad (4)$$

where E_{ri} is the reorganization energy of the solvent for i -th transition, $\xi_i = E_{rhi}/\Omega_{hf}$ is the Huang-Rhys factor, E_{rhi} and Ω_{hf} are the reorganization energy and frequency of the high-frequency mode for a corresponding transition. The rest of parameters is $\delta\omega_{ne} = \omega_e + \Delta G_{SE} - E_{rSE} - n\Omega_{hf}$, $\delta\omega_{mESAk} = \omega_p + \Delta G_{ESAk} - E_{rESAk} - m\Omega_{hf}$, $\delta\omega_{mTTA} = \omega_p + \Delta G_{TTA} - E_{rTTA} - m\Omega_{hf}$, $\delta\omega_{mSE} = \omega_p + \Delta G_{SE} + E_{rSE} + m\Omega_{hf}$, $\delta\omega_{mBL} = \omega_p + \Delta G_{SE} - E_{rSE} - m\Omega_{hf}$, where ΔG_i are the free energies for ESAk, TTA, SE, and BL. $P = \sum P_n$, where P_n is the probability of the transition generating n vibrational quanta during the pump stage:

$$P_n = \frac{\pi V_e^2 \tau_e}{\sigma_e} \frac{e^{-\xi_{SE}} \xi_{SE}^n}{n!} \exp \left[-\frac{(\delta\omega_{ne})^2}{2\sigma_e^2} \right], \quad (5)$$

$\sigma_e^2 = \tau_e^{-2} + 2E_{rSE}k_BT$. Here τ_p and ω_p are the duration and frequency of the probe pulse, τ_e and ω_e are the duration and carrier frequency of the pump pulse, $\delta_{i,BL}$ is the Kronecker delta, k_B and T – the Boltzmann constant and the temperature, respectively, the Planck constant is set to be equal to unity, $\hbar = 1$. V_e and $\mathbf{V}_p$ are the matrix elements of the dipole interaction with the electromagnetic wave field strength for the pump and probe pulses. The spectral dynamics is supposed to be much slower than the intramolecular vibrational redistribution and relaxation. This is the reason why the vibrational relaxation is considered to be instant. $X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^2 x_i e^{-t/\tau_i}$ is the relaxation function of the solvent. The populations kinetics of the excited states S_2 , S_1 , and T_1 are

$$P_{S2}(t) = e^{-t/\tau_{IC}}, \quad (6)$$

$$P_{S1}(t) = \frac{(e^{-t/\tau_{IC}} - e^{-t/\tau_{ISC}})\tau_{IC}}{\tau_{IC} - \tau_{ISC}}, \quad (7)$$

$$P_{T1}(t) = 1 - \frac{e^{-t/\tau_{IC}}\tau_{IC} - e^{-t/\tau_{ISC}}\tau_{ISC}}{\tau_{IC} - \tau_{ISC}}, \quad (8)$$

where τ_{IC} and τ_{ISC} are the internal conversion and the intersystem crossing time constants, respectively. The nonradiative channel $S_2 \leftarrow S_0$ is too weak to be include in consideration. The model does not take into account the ground state recovery because the main channel of decay of S_2 is $S_2 \rightarrow S_1 \rightarrow T_1$ and the lifetime of T_1 is much larger than the timescale of the transient

absorption experiment. That is the reason why the ground state does not recovery, hence, its population is constant, $P_{S0} = 1$.

The parameters fixed for all calculations are following: $k_B T = 0.25$ eV, $\Omega_{hf} = 0.15$ eV, $\omega_e = 3.1$ eV, $\tau_e = \tau_p = 100$ fs, $V_p = 0.005$ eV. The parameters are set to satisfy the experimental setup. The vibrational frequency is determined from the structure of the XT fluorescence band. The dynamics of the experimental transient spectra is not very fast and the solvent relaxation does not manifest itself. This means that the time scale of the solvent relaxation is much shorter than that of electronic transitions. Since the dielectric solvation in nonpolar solvents is insignificant, the response of a solvent on the alteration of volume of a molecule accompanying electronic transition is an important part of the reorganization of such solvents. The relaxation of such a response should correlate with its viscosity [44]. The dynamics parameters of n-hexane are not known. Since n-hexane has rather low viscosity its relaxation is expected to be fast: $\tau_1 = 100$ fs, $\tau_2 = 600$ fs, $x_1 = 0.6$, $x_2 = 0.4$. The parameters obtained in the fitting are listed in Tables 6 and 7. A similar approach to transient absorption spectra modelling was used in recent publication [45].

Table 6: The model parameters are fitted from TA spectra of XT. E_{max} is the energy of the maximum of the corresponding band. All the energies are in eV.

No	i	w_i	j	E_{ri}	E_{rhi}	ΔG_i	E_{max}
1	ESA2	1.4	S2	0.1	0.12	-1.82	2.04
2	ESA1	1.4	S1	0.1	0.12	-1.88	2.10
3	SE	0.8	S2	0.1	0.37	-2.97	2.50
4	TTA	0.8	T1	0.1	0.16	-2.57	2.83
5	BL	0.2	S0	0.1	0.37	-2.97	3.44

Table 7: The model parameters are fitted from TA spectra of DXT. E_{max} is the energy of the maximum of the corresponding band. All the energies are in eV.

No	i	w_i	j	E_{ri}	E_{rhi}	ΔG_i	E_{max}
1	ESA3	0.6	S2	0.12	0.18	-1.70	2.00
2	ESA2	1.15	S2	0.12	0.12	-2.72	2.96
3	ESA1	1.15	S1	0.12	0.12	-2.72	2.96
4	SE	0.5	S2	0.12	0.38	-2.92	2.34
5	TTA	0.3	T1	0.12	0.14	-2.46	2.72
6	BL	0.5	S0	0.12	0.37	-2.97	3.46

For both XT and DXT the negative signal in the area around 480 nm

predominantly consists of the stimulate emission $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ but there is a considerable overlapping with ESA k and TTA bands. Triplet-triplet absorption leads to a positive signal in the area of 450 nm when time exceeds 10 and 40 ps in XT and DXT, correspondingly. For XT the wavelength of triplet-triplet absorption is in good agreement with data from reference [32]. Overlapping of the bands requires modelling of transient spectra for determining the time constants of the internal conversion $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ and intersystem crossing $S_1 \rightarrow T_1$. Analysis of decay kinetics of the signal at 499 gives $\tau_{IC} = 20.0$ and at 523 nm gives $\tau_{IC} = 28.0$ ps. The fitting by using Eq. 1 allows determination of both the internal conversion and intersystem crossing time constants. They are $\tau_{IC} = 14.0$ and $\tau_{ISC} = 17.0$ ps for XT and $\tau_{IC} = 26.0$ and $\tau_{ISC} = 20.0$ ps for DXT. Larger difference in estimations of τ_{IC} for XT is caused by larger overlapping of the stimulated emission $S_2 \rightarrow S_0$ and excited state absorption bands from the S_1 and S_2 states in the red wing.

To fit the transient spectra of XT and DXT a few ESA bands are exploited. The energies of ESA k maxima obtained from the fitting are listed in Tables 6 and 7. Their values well correlate with data obtained from stationary absorption spectra. For example, ESA from the second excited state has a maximum at 2.04 eV that is close to the difference of the energies $E_{max}^{abs4} - E_{max}^{fl2} = 4.86 - 2.75 = 2.11$ eV (see Table 4). ESA from the first excited state has a maximum at 2.10 eV that is close to the difference of the energies $E_{max}^{abs3} - E_{max}^{ph} = 4.04 - 1.85 = 2.19$ eV. Similar correlations can be obtained for DXT if one supposes that the S_1 energy level is higher than the T_1 level by a few $k_B T$.

The kinetic curves for several selected wavelengths are shown in Figures 8 and 9 for XT and DXT. The figures also demonstrate the contributions of the constituents to the total signal depicted by colored curves. The necessity of accounting for $S_1 \rightarrow S_n$ absorption in XT is well seen from the signal kinetics at 599 and 635 nm pictured in Figure 8. $S_2 \rightarrow S_n$ absorption in DXT is also seen at 419 and 433 nm in Figure 9.

Despite the simplicity of the kinetic model Eqs. 6 – 8 applied to each separate constituent, the total signal at selected wavelengths is well reproduced in whole. The negligible deviations of the simulated curves from experimental data are apparently caused by weak excited state absorption bands that are not included in the model.

465 4. CONCLUSIONS

466 The quantum chemical calculations of methoxy derivatives of the XT
 467 molecule in the ground electronic state reveal an influence of methoxy groups
 468 on the XT geometry and electronic structure. It is ascertained that only
 469 the compound III demonstrates remarkable geometry changes. Therefore
 470 the deformation of the XT skeleton plane may result in the appearance of
 471 enantiomer properties.

472 A comparison of MECI calculations of the pure XT and its methoxy
 473 derivative shows a shift and pronounced broadening of absorption spectra
 474 band of newly synthesized compound III relatively to the band of the com-
 475 pound I. The experimentally observed broadening for the compound III can
 476 apparently be associated with the manifestation of transition $S_3 \leftarrow S_0$ that
 477 is forbidden in XT. The calculations of the second excited state of XT and
 478 its methoxy derivative confirm noticeable charge transfer (about 0.1 of the
 479 charge of an electron) from the methoxy group to the thiocarbonyl group.

480 The fitting of the transient spectra measured in n-hexane has shown that
 481 the decay time constants of XT and DXT S_2 state population considerably
 482 differ amounting 14.0 and 26.0 ps, respectively. That presumably evidences
 483 that the charge transfer in DXT is not sufficiently large to effectively quench
 484 the second excited electronic state by electron transfer. The primary channel
 485 of the second excited state deactivation is the internal conversion in the both
 486 XT and DXT with subsequent intersystem crossing to T_1 . The time constants
 487 of the intersystem crossing $S_1 \rightarrow T_1$ for XT and DXT amount to 17.0 and 20
 488 ps, correspondingly and is comparable with the lifetime of S_2 state.

489 Noticeable enlarging the S_2 state lifetime in DXT relatively to XT is prob-
 490 ably caused by the increase of the energy gap between the first and second
 491 excited states and partial charge transfer from the methoxy to thiocarbonyl
 492 groups. Thus, methoxy derivatives of XT may be perspective molecules for
 493 molecular devices exploiting the second excited state.

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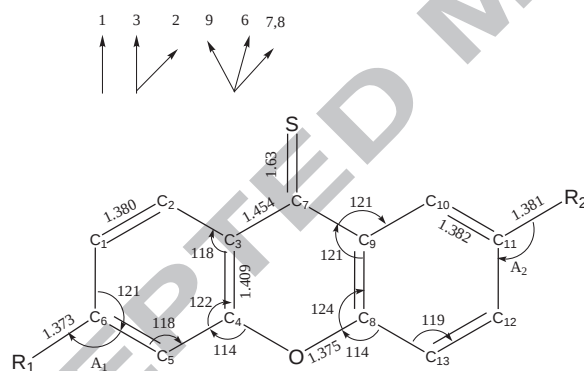


Figure 1: The geometry structure of XT derivatives in the ground state for compounds: I, II, and IV. The arrows show the dipole moment directions for a number of conformers. The conformer numeration is given in Table 1.

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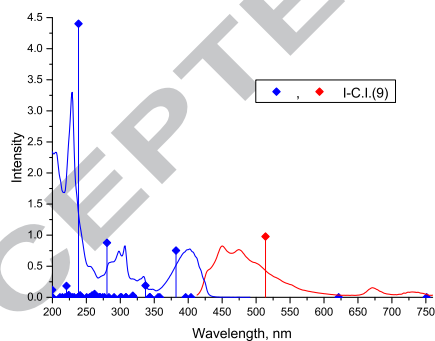


Figure 3: The absorption and luminescence spectra of XT in n-hexane solvent. The solid lines correspond to experimental results for absorption (blue) and luminescence (red). The vertical lines show the results of calculation. The numbers of C.I. are listed in Figure.

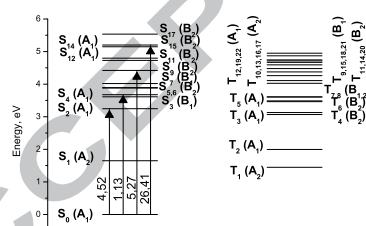


Figure 4: The energy level diagram of XT for C.I. = 9. The arrows show only the transitions with considerable oscillator strength. The numbers correspond to the values of the non-normalized oscillator strength as MOPAC 2016 produces.

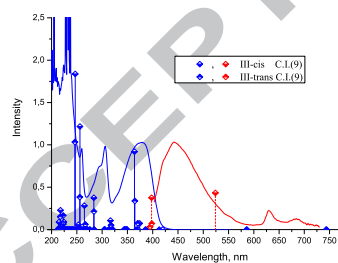


Figure 5: The absorption and luminescence spectra of DXT in n-hexane solvent. The solid lines correspond to experimental results for absorption (blue) and luminescence (red). The vertical lines show the results of calculation for $C.I. = 9$.

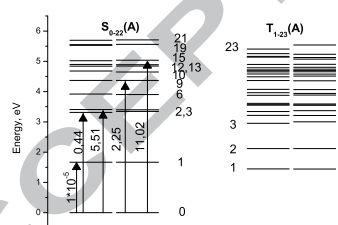


Figure 6: The energy level diagram of the DXT for C.I. = 9. The left and right columns correspond to the cis- and trans-conformers. The arrows show only the transitions with considerable oscillator strength. The numbers correspond to the values of the non-normalized oscillator strength as MOPAC 2016 produces.

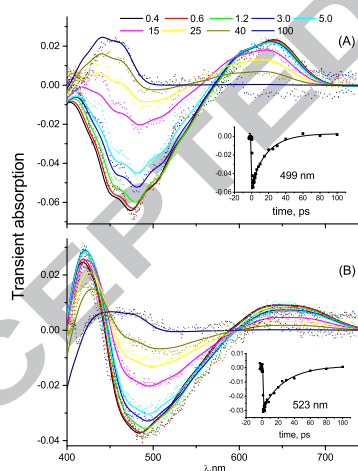


Figure 7: The experimental (dotted lines) and simulated (solid lines) transient absorption spectra of XT (Frame A) and DXT (Frame B) in n-hexane. The theoretical curves were calculated by using model given by Eq. 6–8. In the inserts the kinetic curve at 499 nm (A) and 523 nm (B) are shown with dots and their biexponential fitting are pictured. The energetic parameters obtained in the fitting are listed in the text.

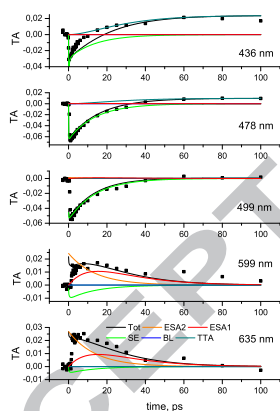


Figure 8: The experimental (dotted lines) and simulated (solid lines) kinetic curves at several wavelengths for XT in n-hexane. The constituents of the total signal are shown colored lines. The calculation parameters obtained from the fitting are listed in the text.

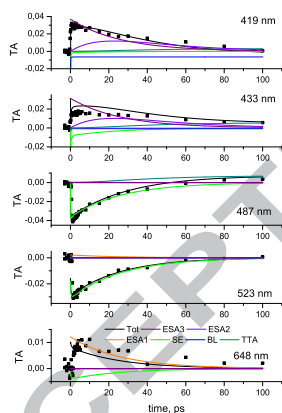
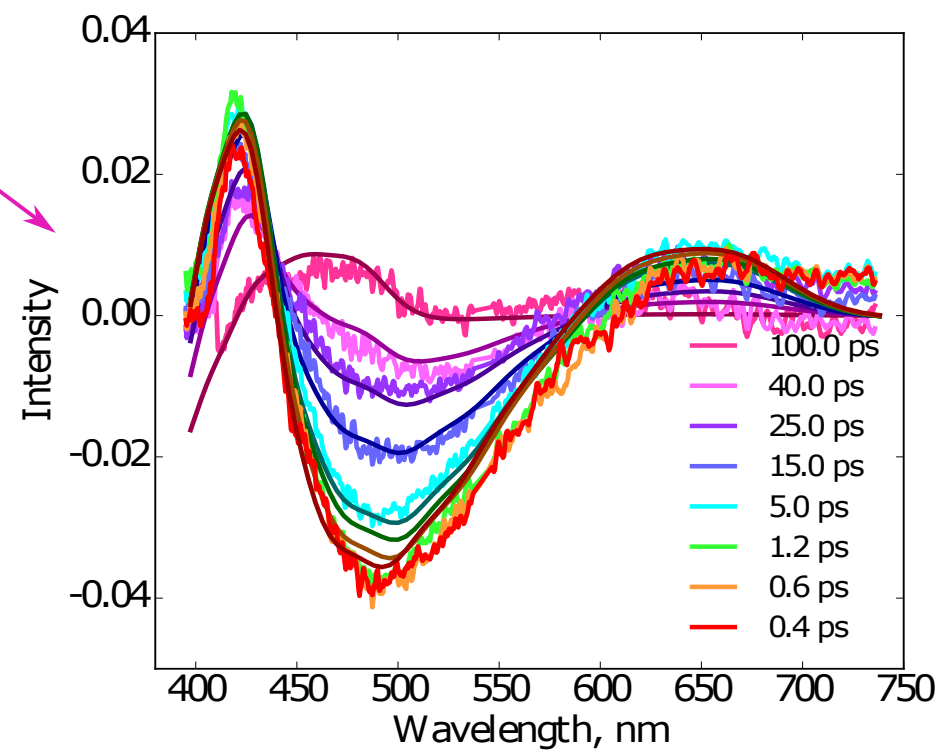
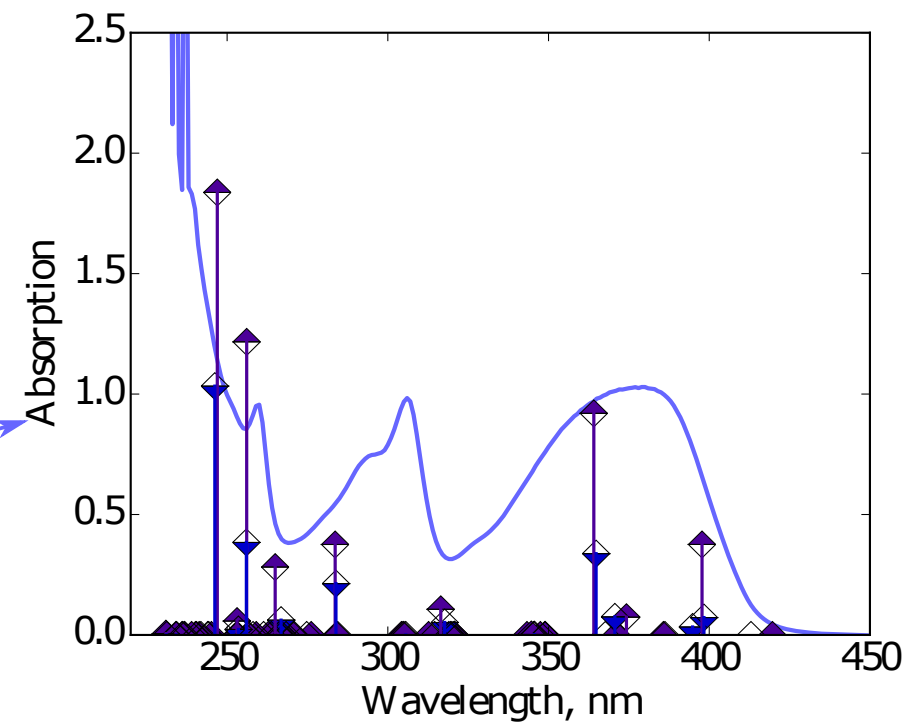
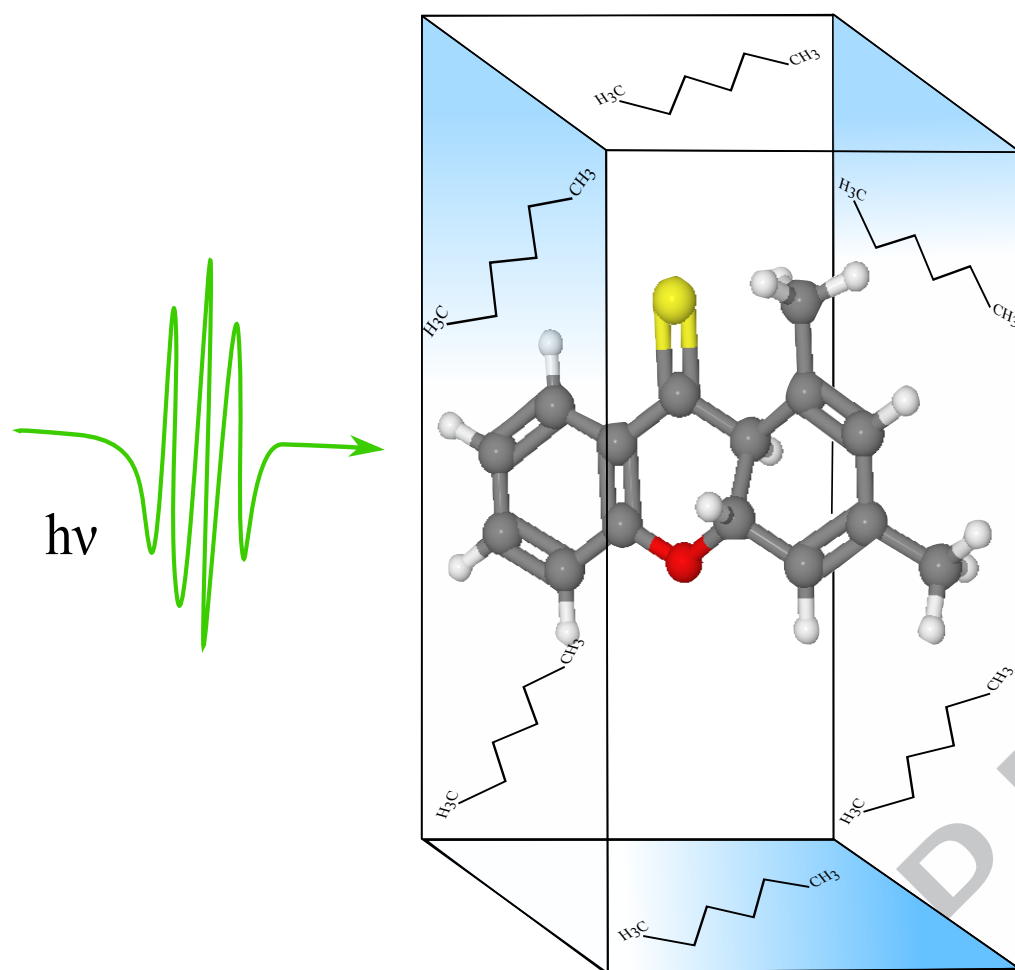


Figure 9: The experimental (dotted lines) and simulated (solid lines) kinetic curves at several wavelengths for DXT in n-hexane. The constituents of the total signal are shown colored lines. The calculation parameters obtained from the fitting are listed in the text.

1,3-dimethoxy-9H-xanthene-9-thione



Highlights

- A methoxy derivative of xantone was synthesized its stationary and transient spectra were measured.
- Time constants of internal conversion $S_2 \rightarrow S_1$ and intersystem crossing $S_1 \rightarrow T_1$ are determined for xantone and its methoxy derivative.
- Attachment of methoxy groups to xantone increases the S_2 state lifetime.