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# Synthesis and Properties of Tetrathiafulvalenes Bearing 6-Aryl-1,4-dithiafulvenes

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## Abstract

Novel multistage redox TTFs bearing 6-aryl-1,4-dithiafulvene moieties were synthesized by using the palladium-catalyzed direct C-H arylation. In the presence of a catalytic amount of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>•HBF<sub>4</sub>, and excess amount of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, the C-H arylation of TTF with several aryl bromides bearing 1,3-dithiol-2-ylidenes took place efficiently to produce the corresponding  $\pi$ -conjugation molecules. We also succeeded in estimation of the oxidation potentials and number of electrons involved in each oxidation step of the obtained compounds by the digital simulations.

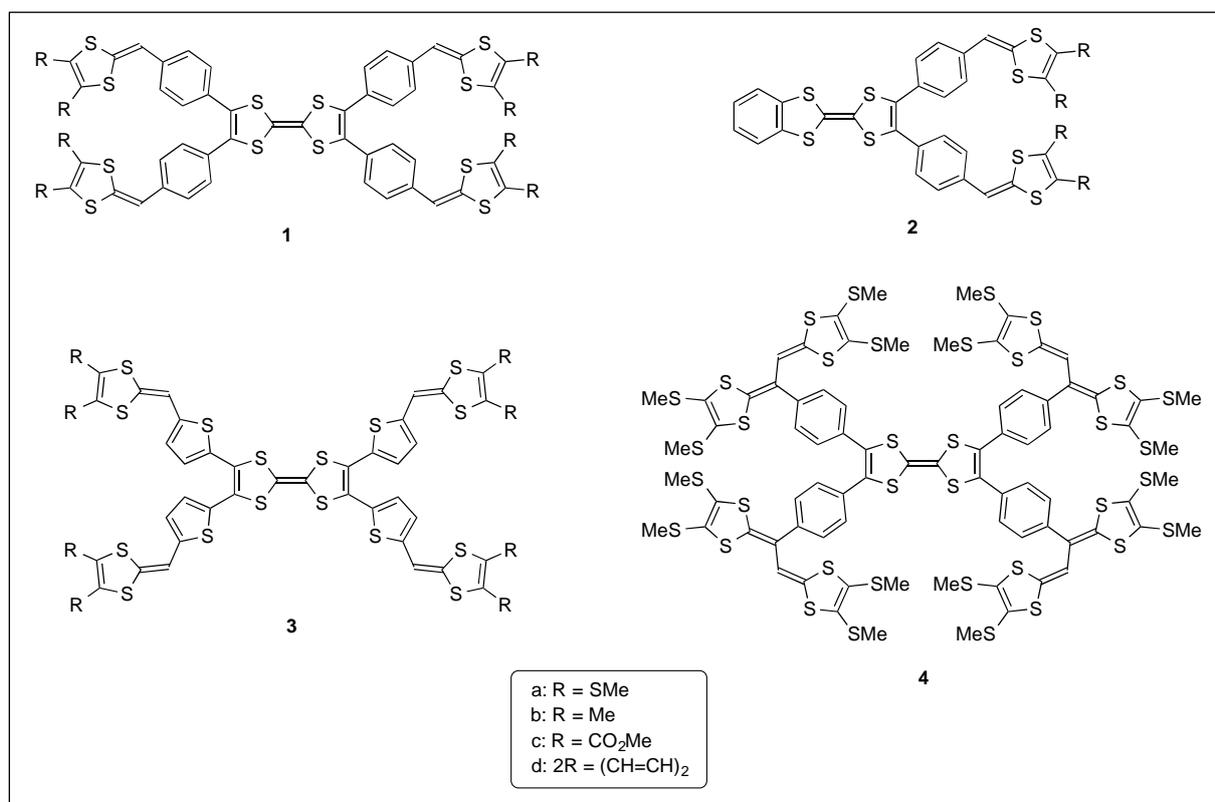
## Keywords

tetrathiafulvalene; extended  $\pi$ -conjugation; cross-conjugated systems; electrochemical properties; digital simulation analysis

## Introduction

Tetrathiafulvalene (TTF) with extended  $\pi$ -conjugation have attracted attention as possible components for functional materials such as molecular conductors, field-effect transistor (FET), and positive electrode materials for rechargeable batteries, because the TTF moiety has strong electron-donating properties attributed to the formation of stable aromatic 1,3-dithiol-2-ylidenes (1,3-dithiole rings) by one- and two-electron oxidation [1-16]. Considerable efforts have been devoted to the development of peripherally benzene- or thiophene-substituted TTFs. As for peripherally benzene-functionalized TTFs, some synthetic approaches, crystal and electron structures, electrochemical and optical properties, and the nature of ion-radical complexes with DDQ or iodine were reported [17-24]. Peripherally thiophene-functionalized TTFs as potential precursors to conducting polymers and organic metals were also prepared and characterized [25-29]. To design more tempting molecules, 1,3-dithiole rings on aromatic rings appears very appealing since they allow to produce novel multistage redox systems. However, such molecules could not be synthesized by conventional approaches. In 2011, a breakthrough synthesis of arylated TTF derivatives by using palladium-catalyzed direct C-H arylation was reported and their structural and electrochemical properties were clarified [30]. This motivated us to synthesize the novel multistage redox TTFs bearing 1,3-dithiole rings on aromatic rings **1–3** (Chart 1).

In addition, we have focused on cross-conjugated systems with 1,3-dithiole rings, which are of interest as novel multistage redox systems as well as donor component for organic conductors [1,31-41]. The palladium-catalyzed C-H arylation might offer new cross-conjugated molecules bearing conjugated moieties at the peripheral part of TTF, such as **4** (Chart 1), and its electrochemical property should be brought to light. Herein, we report the synthesis and electrochemical properties of **1-4**.



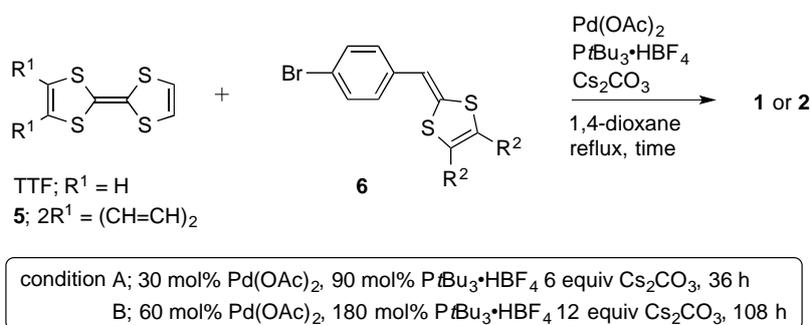
**Chart 1:** Target compounds.

## Results and Discussion

We tried to synthesize compounds **1** and **2** in one step from pristine TTF and **5**, respectively, through the palladium-catalyzed C-H arylation (Table 1). Aryl bromides **6a,b** were allowed to react with TTF under the condition A, the products **1a,b** were produced in 46 and 48% yields, respectively (entries 1 and 2). In contrast, **1c,d** were

obtained in low yields as a mixture of hardly separable mono-, di-, tri-, and tetraarylated TTFs under the conditions both A and B (entries 3 and 4). The palladium-catalyzed C-H arylation of **5** with **6a,b** also proceeded to give **2a,b** in 75 and 86% yields, respectively (entries 5 and 6). On the other hand, it was difficult to produce **3** in the same manner because 2-bromothiophenes **7** bearing a 1,3-dithiole ring at the 5-position were unstable, for example, **7c** was decomposed at around 67 °C (Scheme 1a). Therefore, we could achieve the synthesis of **3a** by the Pd-catalyzed thienylation of TTF using acetal-protected **8** and the following deprotection using PTSA•H<sub>2</sub>O and the P(OEt)<sub>3</sub>-mediated cross coupling with **11** (Scheme 1b). Cross-conjugated molecule **4** was prepared in two procedures, one is the palladium-catalyzed C-H arylation of TTF with bromide **12** (Scheme 2a) and the other is the Vilsmeier-Haack reaction of **1a** and the following triethyl phosphite-mediated cross coupling with **11** (Scheme 2b).

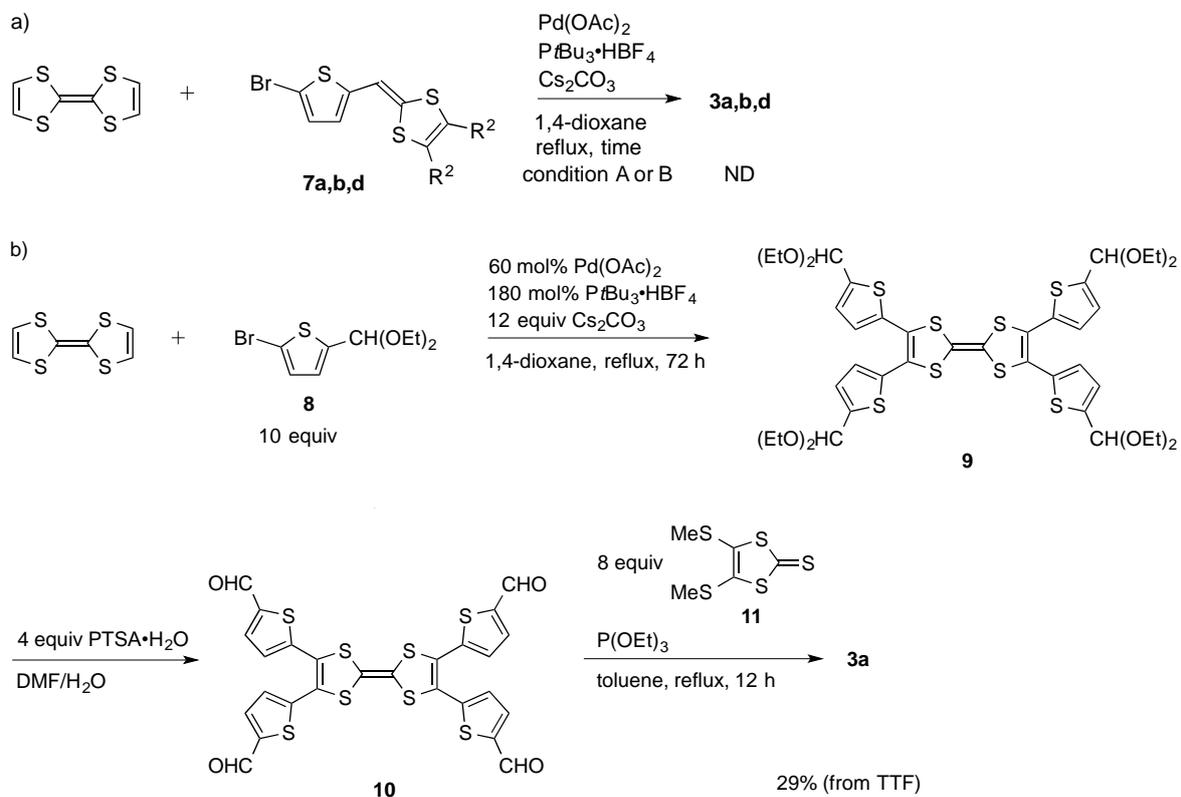
**Table 1:** Synthesis of compounds **1** and **2**.



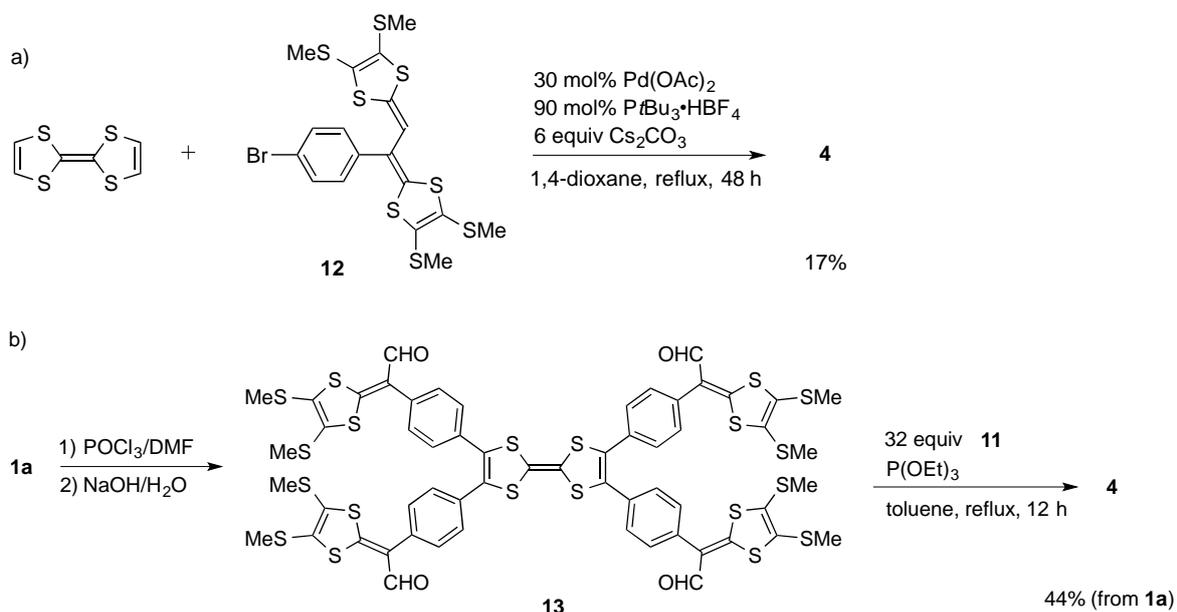
entry	TTF or <b>5</b>	<b>6</b> (equivalent)	condition	yields of <b>1</b> or <b>2</b> (%)
1	TTF	<b>6a</b> (5)	A	<b>1a</b> ; 46
2	TTF	<b>6b</b> (5)	A	<b>1b</b> ; 48
3	TTF	<b>6c</b> (5)	A or B	<b>1c</b> ; 0 (mixture)
4	TTF	<b>6d</b> (5)	A or B	<b>1d</b> ; 0 (mixture)
5	<b>5</b>	<b>6a</b> (2.5)	A <sup>a)</sup>	<b>2a</b> ; 75

6	5	6b (2.5)	A <sup>a</sup>	2b; 86
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<sup>a</sup> 24 h.

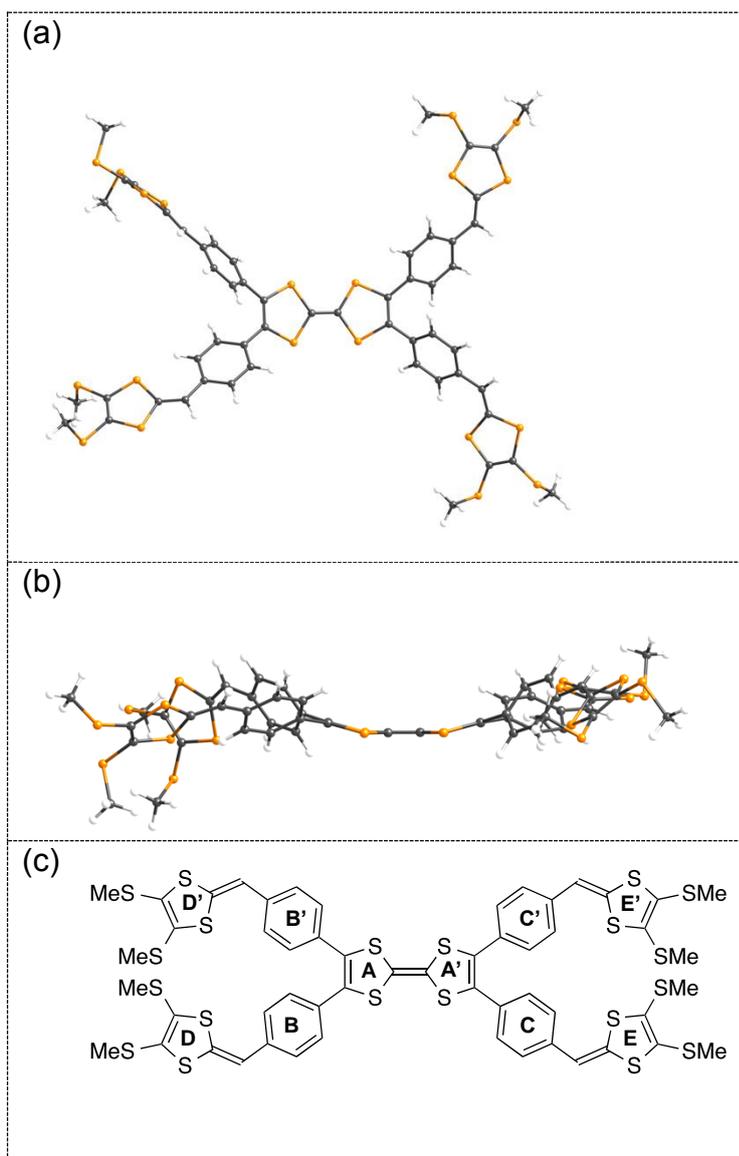


**Scheme 1:** Synthesis of compound 3.



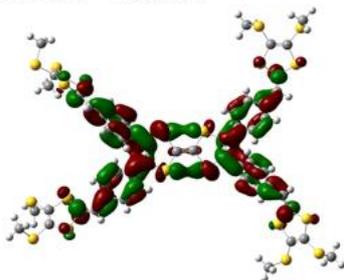
### Scheme 2: Synthesis of compound **4**.

The molecular orbital calculation of **1a**, **3a** and **4** has been carried out by using B3LYP/6-31G(d) method [42]. Figure 1 shows an optimized geometry of **1a**, and 1,3-dithiophene rings are labeled with A–E and A'–E'. This molecule adopts a nonplanar structure. The angles between two 1,3-dithiophene rings in the center (A–A') is 155.5°. The dihedral angles between A and B, A and B', A' and C, and A' and C' were 137.9°, 48.5°, 48.6°, and 136.6°, respectively. The HOMO, HOMO–1, and LUMO of **1a** are shown in Figure 2. The HOMO of **1a** is mainly located on the TTF moiety, whereas the HOMO–1 is located on the benzene and outer 1,3-dithiophene rings at the peripheral part of TTF. The LUMO of **1a** spreads over the whole molecule except the outer 1,3-dithiophene rings. The orbital energy of HOMO of **1a** (–4.33 eV) is higher than that of TTF (–6.38 eV). If the oxidation relates to the orbital energy, the first oxidation of **1a** might occur at lower potential than TTF [43].

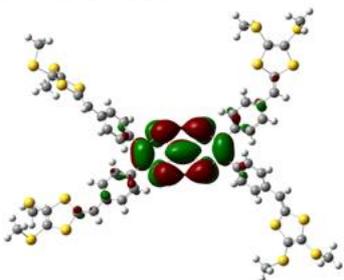


**Figure 1:** An optimized structure of **1a**; (a) top view, (b) side view, and (c) labeling of the 1,3-dithiole rings.

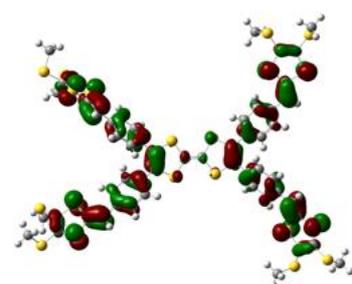
LUMO:  $-1.55$  eV



HOMO:  $-4.33$  eV



HOMO-1:  $-4.95$  eV

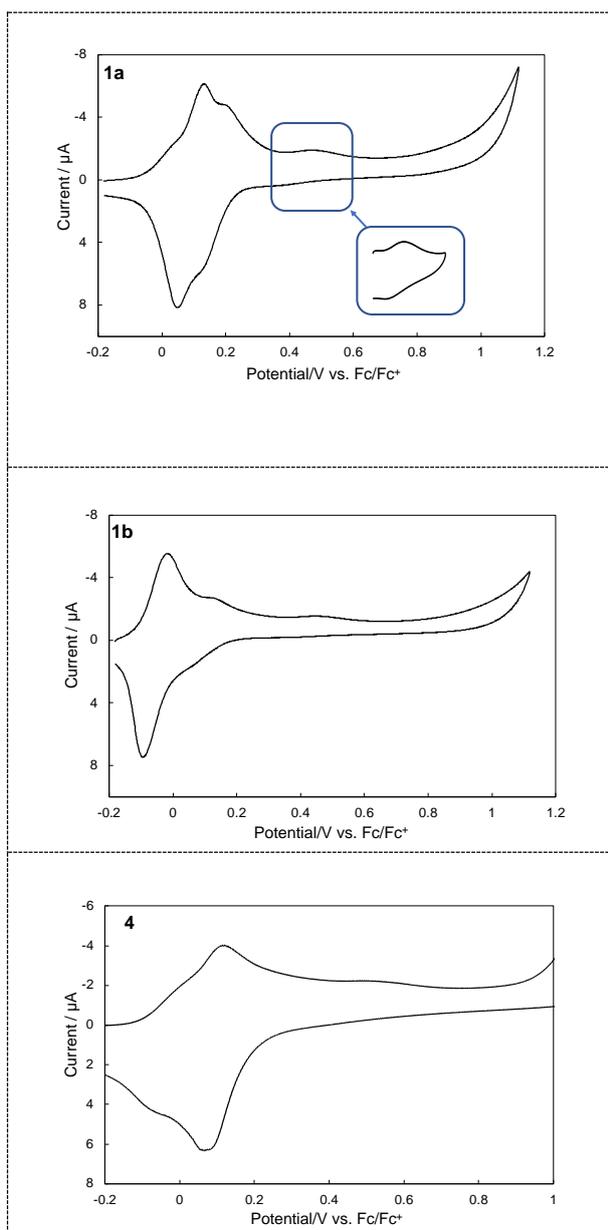


**Figure 2:** Molecular orbitals of **1a**.

The redox behaviors of **1–4** were investigated by cyclic voltammetry. Compounds **1a** and **1b** exhibited four and three pairs of redox waves, respectively (around  $+0.03$  V,  $+0.10$ ,  $+0.17$ , and  $+0.42$  V vs.  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$  for **1a**;  $-0.05$ ,  $+0.10$ , and  $+0.46$  V vs.  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$  for **1b**) (Figure 3). The redox potentials of **1a,b** are summarized in Table 2 together with the related compound TTF. The redox waves observed at  $+0.42$  V for **1a** and  $+0.46$  V for **1b** are almost derived from the second redox of the TTF moiety, because they are close to the  $E_2$  of TTF ( $+0.37$  V). The remaining redox processes observed at around  $+0.03$ ,  $+0.10$ , and  $+0.17$  V for **1a**, and  $-0.05$  and  $+0.10$  V for **1b** might be derived from

the first redox of the TTF moiety and the redox of the four outer 1,3-dithiole rings. To extract the exact oxidation potentials and number of electrons involved in each oxidation step, a digital simulation technique was applied [44]. As the result, the observed redox waves of **1a** were well reproduced by the simulated waves (Table 2). It was indicated that the redox wave at +0.10 V was observed as overlap of sequential two stages of one- and two-electron transfer waves at +0.07 and +0.12 V, while the other waves correspond to one-electron transfer processes. The simulation results of **1a** also showed that the redox wave simulated at +0.02 V might be derived from the TTF moiety because of the close  $\Delta E$  values of them ( $\Delta E = +0.40$  V for **1a**; +0.46 V for TTF). The same discussion could be applicable for **1b**. In addition, the potentials in which the outer 1,3-dithiole rings of **1a,b** participate are influenced by their substituents, that is, **1b** bearing electron-donating methyl groups has more negative redox potentials than **1a**. As a consequence, the one-electron redox process of the TTF moiety and multi-electron redox processes of the outer 1,3-dithiole rings might overlap in **1b**. Compound **4** exhibited three pairs of redox waves (around  $-0.09$ ,  $+0.09$ , and  $+0.53$  V vs.  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ ). The redox potentials of **4** and the simulation results are also summarized in Table 2 together with their related compounds TTF and **14**. The redox process observed at  $+0.53$  V is almost derived from the second redox of the TTF moiety, because it is the closest in the value to the  $E_2$  of TTF ( $+0.37$  V) out of all of the potentials of the related compounds, TTF and **14**. The remaining redox processes observed at around  $-0.09$  and  $+0.09$  V might be derived from the first redox of the TTF moiety, and the overall redox of **14**-like sites, respectively. The observed potentials of **4** were generally consistent with the simulated ones. The results of a digital simulation also showed that the redox wave observed at around  $-0.09$  V and  $+0.09$  V correspond to three stages of one-electron transfer and six stages of one-electron transfer

processes, respectively. In addition to overlap of the first redox of TTF and the redox of **14**-like sites, each redox potential of the succeeding eight-electron oxidations of four **14**-like sites might slightly shift due to the non-equivalence of four **14**-like sites. Also, the small  $\Delta E$  value ( $\Delta E = 0.16$  V) of **14** makes the redox wave overlap. For these reasons, the first and second redox waves of **4** are broad, compared to those of **1a** and **1b**. The redox waves of **1a,b** and **4** derived from the second redox of the TTF moiety (+0.42 V for **1a**; +0.46 V for **1b**; +0.53 V for **4**) shifted to higher potentials than the second redox of TTF because of the instability of the hexacationic state of **1a,b** and decacationic state of **4** compared to the dicationic states of TTF caused by on-site Coulomb repulsion between positive charges in the central TTF moiety and the outer 1,3-dithiole rings. In addition, the observed peak currents of **1a** and **4** in high potential region at +0.4 – +0.5 V were smaller than those of the simulated waves. This phenomenon might be understood by considering that electron transfer of this redox reaction is slow enough to become a rate-determining step because of the crowded structure which the TTF core participating in this redox process is surrounded by extended aromatic rings bearing 1,3-dithiol rings. More details of the redox mechanisms of **1–4** are under investigation.

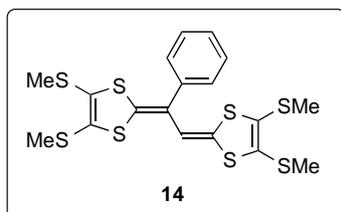


**Figure 3:** Cyclic voltammograms of **1a,b** and **4** in PhCN/ $\text{CS}_2$  (1/1, V/V) solution.

**Table 2:** Redox potentials of **1**, **4**, and related compounds<sup>a</sup>.

Compound	observed or simulated value	$E_1$	$E_2$	$E_3$	$E_4$	$E_5$	$E_6$	$E_7$	$E_8$	$E_9$	$E_{10}$
<b>1a</b>	observed	around +0.03 <sup>b</sup>	+0.10			+0.17	+0.42				
	simulated	+0.02	+0.07	+0.12		+0.20	+0.42				
<b>1b</b>	observed	-0.05				+0.10	+0.46 <sup>b</sup>				
<b>4</b>	observed	around -0.09			+0.09						+0.53 <sup>b</sup>
	simulated	-0.06	-0.03	+0.01	+0.047	+0.053	+0.098	+0.102	+0.11	+0.18	+0.50
TTF <sup>c</sup>	observed	-0.09	+0.37								
<b>14<sup>c</sup></b>	observed	-0.07	+0.09								

<sup>a</sup>In PhCN/CS<sub>2</sub> (1/1, V/V) containing 0.1 M <sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>. <sup>b</sup>Anodic peak. <sup>c</sup>In PhCN containing 0.1 M <sup>n</sup>Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub>. All potentials measured against Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode and converted to vs. Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>.

**Chart 2:** Related compound **14**.

## Supporting Information

Supporting Information File 1:

File Name: DT-Aryl-TTF\_SI

File Format: PDF

## Acknowledgements

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43. The optimized geometry and the LUMO, HOMO, and HOMO–1 levels of **3a** and **4** are shown in Figure S4.
44. The digital simulations were performed using DigiElch 7 Prof software.