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## Supporting Information

## Pancake Bonding in $\pi$-Stacked Trimers in a Salt of Tetrachloroquinone Anion

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# Two-electron / multicentre - pancake bonding in $\pi$-stacked trimers in a salt of tetrachloroquinone anion 

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#### Abstract

The crystal structure of [4-damp] $)_{2}\left[\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}_{3}\right.$ (4-damp $=4$-dimethylamino- $N$-methylpyridinium, $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}=$ tetrachloroquinone) salt is built up from slipped columnar stacks of quinoid rings composed of closely bound trimers with the intra-trimer separation distance of $2.84 \AA$ and total charge of -2 whereas the inter-trimer distance is $3.59 \AA$. The inidividual rings exhibit partial negative charges that are distributed unevenly among the three $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Qs}$ in the trimer. The strong interactions within a trimer $\left(\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}\right)_{3}{ }^{2-}$ have a partially covalent character with two-electrons / multi-centered bonding, that is extended over three rings, plausibly termed as 'pancake bonding'. The electron pairing within this multicentre bond leads to the fact that the crystals are diamagnetic and act as insulators. The studies of the structure and nature of bonding are based on X-ray charge density analysis and density functional theory.


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## Experimental Procedures

## Preparation and crystallization

All reagents and solutions used were purchased from commercial sources (Merck, Sigma Aldrich, Kemika), were of p.a. grade and were used without further purification.
4-dimethylamino- $N$-methylpyridinium iodide was prepared by slowly adding a solution of methyl iodide in acetone ( 20 mmol in 10 mL ) to an acetone solution of 4-dimethylaminopyridine ( 20 mmol in 10 mL ) with stirring. Colorless crystalline solid stared to appear after ca. 30 min . After mixing of the reagents, the solution was left to cool to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, after which 4-dimethylamino- $N$-methylpyridinium iodide was filtered and washed with cold acetone. The title compound was prepared by adding excess of solid 4-dimethylamino- $N$ methylpyridinium iodide into a saturated solution of tetrachloroquinone in cold acetone ( 20 mL , at $5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) after a previously described method [1]. Diffraction-quality single crystals were grown in $3 h$; acetone solution was then decanted and the crystals were dried.
Main Text Paragraph.

## Magnetic measurements

Temperature-dependent magnetic susceptibility measurements were carried out with a Quantum-Design MPMS-XL-5 SQUID magnetometer equipped with a 5 T magnet in the range from 295 K to 2 K . The crystalline sample was contained in a Teflon bucket and fixed in a nonmagnetic sample holder. Each raw data file for the magnetic moment was corrected for the diamagnetic contribution of the sample holder and the Teflon bucket. The molar susceptibility data was corrected for the diamagnetic contribution. Simulation of the experimental data with full-matrix diagonalization of exchange coupling and Zeeman splitting was performed with the julX program [2].


Figure S1. Temperature dependence of magnetization for the title compound.

## Electrical measurements

The electrical conductivity of the single crystal in two orientations, [010] (along the direction of stacking) and [100] (normal to the stacks) was measured by impedance spectroscopy (Novocontrol Alpha-N dielectric analyser) in the frequency range $0.01 \mathrm{~Hz}-1 \mathrm{MHz}$ at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. For electrical contact, silver paint electrodes were applied on the opposite surfaces of the crystal [i.e. (100) and ( $\overline{100)}$ for one direction and ( 010 ) and ( $0 \overline{1} 0$ ) for the other). The impedance spectra was analysed by equivalent circuit modelling using the complex nonlinear least-squares fitting procedure (ZView software). The complex impedance plane in both crystal orientations displays an arc which can be modelled by an equivalent circuit consisting of a resistor and a capacitor in parallel. The parameters of the equivalent circuit [electrical resistance $(R)$ and capacitance (C)] obtained from the fitting are shown in Figure S2. From the values of electrical resistance (R) and crystal dimensions, DC conductivities were calculated. The electrical conductivity of the single crystal along both directions at $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ equals to $\approx 6.4 \times 10^{-13}\left(\Omega \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right.$.


Figure S2. Complex impedance plane of the crystal (measured in the direction [010]) and the corresponding equivalent circuit.

## X-ray diffraction and multipolar refinement

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data was collected using a Rigaku Oxford Diffraction XtaLAB Synergy-S diffractometer equipped with a PhotonJET microfocus molybdenum source and a PILATUS3 R 200K-A photon counting detector. The crystal was kept at 100.01 (10) K during data collection. MoKa radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073$ $\AA$ ) was used and the data collection strategy involved several $\omega$ scans to achieve a completeness of over $99 \%$ to a resolution of $0.48 \AA .6632$ frames were recorded over 76 hours. A total of 182639 reflections were measured, of which 18072 were unique (completeness of $99.9 \%$, average redundancy of $10.1, R_{\text {int }}=0.042, R_{\sigma}=$ 0.022, average $\left.\left\langle F^{2} / \sigma\left(F^{2}\right)\right\rangle=33.4\right)$.

The software program CrysAlis Pro (Version 1.171.39) [3] was used for data collection and processing. After integration and scaling, absorption correction methods were applied which included applying a numerical absorption correction based on gaussian integration over a multifaceted crystal model as well as empirical absorption correction using spherical harmonics as implemented in SCALE3 ABSPACK scaling algorithm. Using Olex2, [4] the structure was solved with the ShelXT [5] structure solution program using Intrinsic Phasing and refined with the ShelXL [5] refinement package using Least Squares minimisation.

Multipolar refinement was carried out with program package MoPro [6] vs. all reflections $F^{2 *} 2$ up to $s=0.95 \AA^{-1}$; in the later stages of refinement, reflections beyond this resolution were omitted due to $Y_{\text {obs }} / Y_{\text {calc }}$ improper scaling. The lengths of the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds in the cation were constrained to 1.083 and 1.077 A for methyl and aromatic protons, respectively. Hydrogen atoms were refined as anisotropic, with their $U_{\text {iso's }}$ constrained to values derived from quantum chemical calculations; the vibrational modes were estimated by the SHADE3 server. [7] Vibrations of chlorine atoms were refined as anharmonic using third-order Gram-Charlier coefficients.

Geometry and charge-density calculations were performed by MoPro; [6] molecular graphic were prepared using MoProViewer [8] and ORTEP-3. [9] Crystallographic and refinement data are shown in Table S1. Topological bond orders were calculated using the fitted formula [10]

$$
n_{\mathrm{topo}}=a+b \lambda_{3}+c\left(\lambda_{1}+\lambda_{2}\right)+d \rho_{\mathrm{cp}}
$$

Coefficients $a, b, c$ and $d$ were taken from the literature: for C-C bonds $a=-0.522, b=-1.695, c=0.00, d=8.473$; [14] for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{O}$ bonds $a=-0.427, b=-0.240, c=$ 0.280, $d=6,464$; [12] for C-N bonds $a=-0.284, b=0.331, c=0.559, d=6.569$; [11] for $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bonds $a=-0.153, b=-0.481, c=0.983, d=8.087$. [13]

Table S1. Crystallographic, data collection and charge-density refinement details.

| Compound | 1 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{Cl}_{6} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ |
| Formula wt. / g mol${ }^{-1}$ | 505.99 |
| Crystal dimensions / mm | $0.181 \times 0.074 \times 0.059$ |
| Space group | $P \overline{1}$ |
| a/Å | 9.7152(1) |
| $b / A$ | 10.2504(2) |
| $c / A$ | 11.9006(2) |
| $\alpha /{ }^{\circ}$ | 115.207(1) |
| $\beta 1{ }^{\circ}$ | 94.618(1) |
| $\gamma^{10}$ | 111.666(1) |
| $z$ | 2 |
| $V / \AA^{3}$ | 955.85(3) |
| $D_{\text {calc }} / \mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.759 |
| $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 0.922 |
| $\Theta$ range $/{ }^{\circ}$ | 2.35-48.28 |
| T/K | 100.01(10) |
| Radiation wavelength | 0.71073 (MoKa) |
| Diffractometer type | XtaLAB Synergy-S |
| Range of $\mathrm{h}, \mathrm{k}, \mathrm{l}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -20<h<20 ; \\ & -21<k<21 ; \\ & -24<1<24 \end{aligned}$ |
| Reflections collected | 183679 |
| Independent reflections | 26230 |
| reflections with $\mathrm{I} \geq 2 \sigma$ | 21336 |
| Absorption correction | Gaussian |
| $T_{\text {min }}, T_{\text {max }}$ | 0.552, 1.000 |
| Weighting scheme | $w=1 /\left[1.9641 \sigma^{2}\left(F_{0}^{2}\right)\right]$ |
| Rint | 0.0417 |
| $R(F)$ | 0.0312 |
| $R_{w}\left(F^{2}\right)$ | 0.0647 |
| Goodness of fit | 1.010 |
| H atom treatment | constrained, anisotropic parameters constrained to calculated values |
| No. of parameters | 961 |
| No. of restraints | 454 |



Figure S3. XDRK plot showing the fit of $\left\langle Y_{\text {obs }}\right\rangle v s<Y_{\text {calc }}>$ as a function of resolution.


Figure S4. XDRK plot showing the expected and experimental $Y_{\text {obs }}-Y_{\text {calc }}$ data profile.

## Results and Discussion

Details on crystal structure


Figure S5. ORTEP drawings of two symmetry-independent quinone anions and the cation. Displacement ellipsoids were drawn to the probability of $50 \%$ and hydrogen atoms are shown as spheres of arbitrary radii.


Figure S6. Deformation densities of two symmetry-independent quinoid anions. Positive density is shown in blue and negative in red; yellow dotted lines represent zero density. Contours are drawn for $0.05 \mathrm{e}^{-1}$. Computed from XRD based densities.


Figure S7. Deformation density of the $N$-methyl-4-dimethylaminopyridinium cation. Positive density is shown in blue and negative in red; yellow dotted lines represent zero density. Contours are drawn for $0.05 \mathrm{e}^{-1}$. Computed from XRD based densities.


Figure S8. Electrostatic potential derived from X-ray charge density in of the $N$-methyl-4-dimethylaminopyridinium cation plotted onto an electron density isosurface of $0.5 \mathrm{e}^{-3}$. Potential varies from -0.1 (dark red) to +0.8 (dark blue).


Figure S9. Critical points in 1. ( $3,-1$ ) critical points are drawn as red spheres, $(3,+1)$ as light blue and $(3,+3)$ as purple; bond paths are shown as red lines. Computed from XRD based densities.


Figure S10. A detail of crystal packing of $\mathbf{1}$ showing two stacked triplets of quinoid rings. Short intra-triplet contact (pancake bond) is marked as A and the long, inter-triplet contact is marked as $B$.


Figure S11. Crystal packing of $\mathbf{1}$ viewed in the direction [010].

SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Table S2 Atomic charges (e) in the quinoid moieties derived from $P_{\text {val }}$ : $Q=N_{\text {val }}$ - $P_{\text {val }}$ difference between number of valence electrons in neutral and refined multipolar atom. Esd's were obtained after refinement vs. all variables. Values for neutral $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}$ and semiquinone radical [14] are given for comparison. Computed from XRD based densities.

| Atom | Quinone 1 |  | Quinone 2 | Neutral |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}$ [14] |  | [14] |
| O1 | -0.248 | O3 | -0.253 | O1 | -0.159 | O1 | -0.123 |
| Cl1 | -0.023 | Cl5 | -0.006 | Cl1 | -0.020 | Cl1 | -0.170 |
| Cl 2 | -0.038 | Cl 6 | -0.022 | Cl 2 | -0.027 | Cl 2 | -0.173 |
| C1 | +0.032 | C7 | +0.031 | C1 | +0.305 | C1 | -0.154 |
| C2 | -0.022 | C8 | -0.108 | C2 | -0.131 | C2 | +0.048 |
| C3 | +0.024 | C9 | -0.023 | C3 | -0.061 | C3 | +0.048 |
| O2 | -0.177 |  |  |  |  | O2 | -0.147 |
| Cl 3 | -0.118 |  |  |  |  | Cl 3 | -0.171 |
| Cl 4 | +0.075 |  |  |  |  | Cl 4 | -0.172 |
| C4 | -0.058 |  |  |  |  | C4 | -0.100 |
| C5 | +0.083 |  |  |  |  | C5 | +0.119 |
| C6 | -0.117 |  |  |  |  | C6 | +0.070 |
| Total charge | -0.587 |  | -0.762 |  | 0 |  | -0.925 |

Table S3. Atomic charges (e) in the $N$-methyl-4-dimethylaminopyridinium cation derived from $P_{\text {val }}: Q=N_{\text {val }}-P_{\text {val }}$ difference between number of valence electrons in neutral and refined multipolar atom. Computed from XRD based densities. Esd's were obtained after refinement vs. all variables.

| Atom | $P_{\text {val }}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| N1 | -0.072 |
| N2 | +0.105 |
| C10 | -0.021 |
| C11 | +0.073 |
| C12 | -0.169 |
| C13 | +0.075 |
| C14 | -0.022 |
| C15 | -0.341 |
| C16 | -0.210 |
| C17 | -0.341 |
| H10 | +0.089 |
| H11 | +0.089 |
| H13 | +0.091 |
| H14 | +0.089 |
| H15A | +0.220 |
| H15B | +0.173 |
| H15C | +0.208 |
| H16A | +0.123 |
| H16B | +0.117 |
| H16C | +0.137 |
| H17A | +0.228 |
| H17B | +0.113 |
| H17C | +0.218 |
| Total charge | $+0,972$ |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Table S4. Bond lengths ( $\AA$ ) and Cremer-Pople puckering parameters ( T ) [15] of quinoid rings. Lengths of corresponding bonds in neutral $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathrm{Q}$ and tetrachlorosemiquinone radical anion from our recent $X$-ray charge density study [14] are given for comparison. Symmetry operator i) $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$.

| Quinone 1 |  | Quinone 2 |  | $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathbf{Q}$ |  | $\mathrm{Cl}_{4} \mathbf{Q}$ <br> radical <br> anion |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C1-C2 | 1.4762(1) | C7-C8 | 1.4555(1) | C1-C2 | 1.4901(6) | C1-C2 | 1.4564(4) |
| C2-C3 | 1.3624(1) | C8-C9 | 1.3724(1) | C2-C3 | 1.3467(5) | C2-C3 | 1.3702(3) |
| C3-C4 | 1.4740(1) | C9-C7 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 1.4548(1) | C1-C3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 1.4897(6) | C3-C4 | 1.4563(4) |
| C4-C5 | 1.4752(1) |  |  |  |  | C4-C5 | 1.4571(3) |
| C5-C6 | 1.4746(1) |  |  |  |  | C5-C6 | 1.3701 (3) |
| C6-C1 | 1.3607(1) |  |  |  |  | C6-C1 | 1.4552(4) |
| C1-O1 | 1.2336(1) | C7-O3 | 1.2517(1) | C1-O1 | 1.2125(8) | C1-O1 | 1.2483(3) |
| C4-O2 | 1.2320(1) |  |  |  |  | C4-O2 | 1.2510(3) |
| C2-Cl1 | 1.7143(1) | C8-Cl5 | 1.7174(1) | C2-Cl1 | 1.6984(5) | C2-Cl1 | 1.7222(3) |
| C3-Cl2 | 1.7145(1) | C9-Cl6 | 1.7219(1) | C3-Cl2 | 1.7000(5) | C3-Cl2 | 1.7243(2) |
| C5-Cl3 | 1.7125(1) |  |  |  |  | C5-Cl3 | 1.7215(3) |
| C6-Cl4 | 1.7147(1) |  |  |  |  | C6-Cl4 | 1.7230 (3) |
| T/ ${ }^{\circ}$ | 3.8 |  | 2.7 |  | 0.0 |  | 3.6 |

Table S5. Topology of electron density in chemical bonds. Computed from XRD based densities.

| Bond | Length ( $\dot{\text { A }}$ ) | Electron Density $\left(\mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}\right) \rho_{\mathrm{cp}}$ | Laplacian <br> ( $\mathrm{e}^{-3}$ ) | Ellipticity | Bond order $n_{\text {topo }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C1-01 | 1.2339(3) | 2.778 | -26.4 | 0.03 | 1.41 |
| C4-O2 | 1.2323(3) | 2.920 | -33.8 | 0.10 | 1.60 |
| C1-C2 | 1.4760(4) | 1.870 | -13.3 | 0.23 | 0.97 |
| C2-C3 | 1.3622(3) | 2.231 | -21.3 | 0.35 | 1.57 |
| C3-C4 | 1.4738(4) | 1.866 | -13.4 | 0.25 | 0.94 |
| C4-C5 | 1.4752(3) | 1.883 | -13.8 | 0.15 | 0.96 |
| C5-C6 | 1.3604(3) | 2.236 | -20.9 | 0.31 | 1.53 |
| C6-C1 | 1.4746(4) | 1.802 | -12.1 | 0.23 | 0.87 |
| C2-Cl1 | 1.7145(3) | 1.422 | -3.6 | 0.07 |  |
| C3-Cl2 | 1.7146(2) | 1.428 | -4.0 | 0.06 |  |
| C5-Cl3 | 1.7127(3) | 1.344 | -1.5 | 0.18 |  |
| C6-Cl4 | 1.7151(3) | 1.486 | -4.0 | 0.07 |  |
| C7-O3 | 1.2524(1) | 2.676 | -26.7 | 0.03 | 1.45 |
| C7-C8 | 1.5441(1) | 1.941 | -14.1 | 0.16 | 1.05 |
| C7-C9* | 1.3725(1) | 2.165 | -19.4 | 0.30 | 1.06 |
| C8-C9 | 1.4545(1) | 1.932 | -14.5 | 0.22 | 1.45 |
| C8-Cl5 | 1.7175(1) | 1.384 | -2.5 | 0.19 |  |
| C9-Cl6 | 1.7221(1) | 1.405 | -3.2 | 0.07 |  |
| C10-N1 | 1.3526(1) | 2.157 | -22.5 | 0.10 | 1.20 |
| C14-N1 | 1.3581(1) | 2.161 | -22.5 | 0.11 | 1.20 |
| N1-C15 | 1.4689(1) | 1.696 | -10.7 | 0.05 | 1.02 |
| C12-N2 | 1.3417(1) | 2.431 | -21.5 | 0.32 | 1.42 |
| N2-C16 | 1.4626(1) | 1.687 | -7.8 | 0.09 | 1.05 |
| N2-C17 | 1.4633(1) | 1.697 | -8.5 | 0.09 | 1.05 |
| C10-C11 | 1.3692(1) | 2.149 | -18.5 | 0.25 | 1.40 |
| C11-C12 | 1.4226(1) | 2.002 | -16.0 | 0.17 | 1.16 |
| C12-C13 | 1.4250(1) | 1.983 | -16.0 | 0.17 | 1.14 |
| C13-C14 | 1.3681(1) | 2.153 | -18.6 | 0.24 | 1.42 |
| C10-H10 | 1.0830 | 1.746 | -19.6 | 0.06 | 0.85 |
| C11-H11 | 1.0830 | 1.737 | -16.8 | 0.06 | 0.92 |
| C13-H13 | 1.0830 | 1.719 | -16.6 | 0.06 | 0.91 |
| C14-H14 | 1.0830 | 1.748 | -19.4 | 0.06 | 0.85 |
| C15-H15A | 1.0770 | 1.668 | -15.9 | 0.10 | 0.94 |
| C15-H15B | 1.0770 | 1.626 | -17.3 | 0.11 | 1.01 |


| C15-H15C | 1.0770 | 1.649 | -15.4 | 0.10 | 0.94 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C16-H16A | 1.0770 | 1.525 | -9.9 | 0.21 | 0.96 |
| C16-H16B | 1.0770 | 1.681 | -13.6 | 0.21 | 1.03 |
| C16-H16C | 1.0770 | 1.625 | -12.8 | 0.20 | 0.99 |
| C17-H17A | 1.0770 | 1.651 | -15.9 | 0.10 | 0.91 |
| C17-H17B | 1.0770 | 1.690 | -14.3 | 0.11 | 1.00 |
| C17-H17C | 1.0770 | 1.672 | -16.0 | 0.10 | 0.93 |

Table S6 Intermolecular critical points in the title compound. Computed from XRD based densities.

| A...B | Rho tot | Laplacian | type | Symm. operation on $A$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Trimer |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Cl} 1 \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 5$ | 0.0322 | 0.41 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl1} \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 6$ | 0.0575 | 0.72 | (3,-1) | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl2} \ldots \mathrm{Cl} 6$ | 0.0455 | 0.57 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| O1..C7 | 0.0473 | 0.61 | (3,-1) | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C2...C9 | 0.0771 | 0.81 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C8...Cl1 | 0.0317 | 0.40 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C9...Cl1 | 0.0539 | 0.67 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C9...Cl2 | 0.0428 | 0.55 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| 01...C8 | 0.0427 | 0.55 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C4 $\cdots$ C9 | 0.0647 | 0.78 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C6...C7 | 0.455 | 0.56 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| C6...C9 | 0.0695 | 0.76 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| Inter-trimers |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{Cl} 1 \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 3$ | 0.0425 | 0.54 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl2} \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 4$ | 0.0383 | 0.51 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C14 $\cdots$ C3 | 0.0391 | 0.47 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C1 $\cdots$ C5 | 0.0257 | 0.28 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C5 ..C3 | 0.0226 | 0.26 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl} 1 \cdots \mathrm{C} 5$ | 0.0245 | 0.29 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{Cl} 3 \cdots \mathrm{C} 1$ | 0.0245 | 0.29 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| Cl4 $\cdots$ C4 | 0.0194 | 0.22 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C2 $\cdots$ C6 | 0.0226 | 0.26 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C3 $\cdots$ C1 | 0.0194 | 0.22 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| C3...C6 | 0.0186 | 0.21 | $(3,+1)$ | $1-x, 2-y, 1-z$ |
| Other contacts |  |  |  |  |
| CI4 $\cdots$ C16 | 0.0256 | 0.34 | (3,-1) | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| H16A $\cdots$ O1 | 0.0455 | 0.61 | $(3,-1)$ | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| H11 $\cdots \mathrm{Cl} 6$ | 0.0589 | 0.66 | (3,-1) | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |

Table S7 Geometric parameters of hydrogen bonds.

|  | $D-\mathrm{H} / \AA \therefore$ | $\mathrm{H} \cdots A / \AA$ | $D \cdots A / \AA$ | $D-\mathrm{H} \cdots A / \varrho$ | Symm. op. on $A$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C} 10-\mathrm{H} 10 \cdots \mathrm{O} 3$ | 1.08 | 2.21 | $2.9744(1)$ | 126 | $x, y, z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 11-\mathrm{H} 11 \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 6$ | 1.08 | 2.81 | $3.5363(1)$ | 124 | $1-x, 1-y, 1-z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 13-\mathrm{H} 13 \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 5$ | 1.08 | 2.72 | $3.7663(5)$ | 162 | $-x,-y,-z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 14-\mathrm{H} 14 \cdots \mathrm{O} 1$ | 1.08 | 2.32 | $3.1908(1)$ | 136 | $-1+x,-1+y,-1+z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 15-\mathrm{H} 15 \mathrm{~A} \cdots \mathrm{O} 2$ | 1.08 | 2.33 | $3.3464(1)$ | 157 | $-x, 1-y,-z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 15-\mathrm{H} 15 \mathrm{C} \cdots \mathrm{O} 2$ | 1.08 | 2.39 | $3.4665(1)$ | 174 | $x, y, z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 16-\mathrm{H} 16 \mathrm{~B} \cdots \mathrm{O} 2$ | 1.08 | 2.57 | $3.3428(1)$ | 128 | $x,-1+y, z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 17-\mathrm{H} 17 \mathrm{~B} \cdots \mathrm{O} 3$ | 1.08 | 2.29 | $3.3615(1)$ | 176 | $-x,-y,-z$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 17-\mathrm{H} 17 \mathrm{C} \cdots \mathrm{Cl} 5$ | 1.08 | 2.79 | $3.8109(1)$ | 157 | $x,-1+y,-1+z$ |

## Orbital analogy between the $\sigma$-allyl cation and m-stacked trimers of tetrachloroquinone anions

The analogy with the $\sigma$-allyl radical and the $\sigma$-allyl cation are illustrated in Figure S12. Here the local $\pi$-orbital bearing atom may be a carbon or silicon that overlap with their neighbour(s) via $\sigma$-bonding. The major difference with respect to the presented trimer is the absence of the - $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)_{3}-$ alkyl linked cages which provide through bond stabilization for the symmetrical $\sigma$-allyl radical and $\sigma$-allyl cation. The insight of Olson was that by using silicon as the provider of the (two in the case of the cation and three in the case of the radical) electrons delocalized bonding interaction occurs in the lowest $\sigma$-allyl orbital illustrated in Figure S12c providing the driving force for equal bond distances among the Si atoms maintaining a $\mathrm{D}_{3 \mathrm{~h}}$ symmetry. In the case of carbons the symmetry is lowered to $\mathrm{C}_{3 \mathrm{v}}$. Presumably due to the smaller atomic size localized electron pair bonding is preferred in the cases with carbon atoms providing the local $\pi$-orbitals and $\pi$-electrons. By analogy to the quinone trimer, both our experiments and computations indicate that the symmetrical arrangement is preferred.
a

b

C


Figure S12. Local $\pi$-orbitals are the basis to provide three delocalized orbitals in the model of a $\sigma$-allyl radical (three $\pi$-electrons) and a $\sigma$-allyl cation (two $\pi$ electrons). In the quinone trimer dianions the overlap is similar but the role of the single atomic orbitals are played by the delocalized LUMO orbitals of the quinone.

Cartesian coordinates of the converged geometries and the corresponding absolute energies (in Hartrees).

Table S8 Cartesian coordinates of the converged geometries and the corresponding absolute energies (in Hartrees).

| 17 | 2.687002000 | 3.483987000 | 1.592721000 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 17 | 2.687037000 | 3.483053000 | -1.593218000 |
| 17 | -2.687037000 | 3.483053000 | -1.593218000 |
| 17 | -2.687002000 | 3.483987000 | 1.592721000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 3.263400000 | 2.688485000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 3.263248000 | -2.688911000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 3.241674000 | 1.474060000 |
| 6 | 1.241927000 | 3.291146000 | 0.675903000 |
| 6 | 1.241939000 | 3.290848000 | -0.676341000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 3.241390000 | -1.474487000 |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

| 6 | -1.241939000 | 3.290848000 | -0.676341000 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 6 | -1.241927000 | 3.291146000 | 0.675903000 |
| 17 | 2.696343000 | 0.000000000 | 1.590931000 |
| 17 | 2.696373000 | 0.000000000 | -1.589979000 |
| 17 | -2.696373000 | 0.000000000 | -1.589979000 |
| 17 | -2.696343000 | 0.000000000 | 1.590931000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 0.000000000 | 2.705991000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 0.000000000 | -2.705073000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 0.000000000 | 1.486405000 |
| 6 | 1.231323000 | 0.000000000 | 0.679988000 |
| 6 | 1.231324000 | 0.000000000 | -0.679061000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 0.000000000 | -1.485491000 |
| 6 | -1.231324000 | 0.000000000 | -0.679061000 |
| 6 | -1.231323000 | 0.000000000 | 0.679988000 |
| 17 | 2.687002000 | -3.483987000 | 1.592721000 |
| 17 | 2.687037000 | -3.483053000 | -1.593218000 |
| 17 | -2.687037000 | -3.483053000 | -1.593218000 |
| 17 | -2.687002000 | -3.483987000 | 1.592721000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | -3.263400000 | 2.688485000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | -3.263248000 | -2.688911000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | -3.241674000 | 1.474060000 |
| 6 | 1.241927000 | -3.291146000 | 0.675903000 |
| 6 | 1.241939000 | -3.290848000 | -0.676341000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | -3.241390000 | -1.474487000 |
| 6 | -1.241939000 | -3.290848000 | -0.676341000 |
| 6 | -1.241927000 | -3.291146000 | 0.675903000 |
|  |  |  |  |

Min-2A. UM05-2X/6-311G (d,p), -6659.89681878 a.u.

|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | 1.756073000 | 3.636536000 | -0.921053000 |
| 17 | 0.016247000 | 3.995764000 | -3.581760000 |
| 17 | -4.452688000 | 2.884963000 | -0.793218000 |
| 17 | -2.698856000 | 2.531864000 | 1.859814000 |
| 8 | 0.155516000 | 2.636940000 | 1.295894000 |
| 8 | -2.797466000 | 3.445298000 | -3.113608000 |
| 6 | -0.513650000 | 2.830784000 | 0.301011000 |
| 6 | 0.077108000 | 3.261948000 | -0.985818000 |
| 6 | -0.662490000 | 3.43069000 | -2.10057400 |
| 6 | -2.127684000 | 3.229100000 | -2.126394000 |
| 6 | -2.728495000 | 2.917941000 | -0.811018000 |
| 6 | -1.991601000 | 2.748951000 | 0.305551000 |
| 17 | -3.107204000 | -0.350026000 | 0.074298000 |
| 17 | -1.354323000 | -0.756633000 | 2.715798000 |
| 8 | -1.510313000 | 0.658350000 | -2.153334000 |
| 6 | -0.820599000 | 0.316193000 | -1.186583000 |
| 6 | -1.39236000 | -0.114585000 | 0.083440000 |
| 6 | -0.636282000 | -0.389047000 | 1.186578000 |
| 17 | 3.107204000 | 0.350026000 | -0.074298000 |
| 17 | 1.354323000 | 0.756633000 | -2.715798000 |
| 8 | 1.510313000 | -0.658350000 | 2.153334000 |
| 6 | 0.820599000 | -0.316193000 | 1.186583000 |
| 6 | 1.394236000 | 0.114585000 | -0.083440000 |
| 6 | 0.636282000 | 0.389047000 | -1.18657800 |
| 17 | -1.756073000 | -3.636536000 | 0.921053000 |
| 17 | -0.016247000 | -3.995764000 | 3.581760000 |
| 17 | 4.452688000 | -2.884963000 | 0.793218000 |
| 17 | 2.698856000 | -2.531864000 | -1.859814000 |
| 8 | -0.155516000 | -2.636940000 | -1.295894000 |
| 8 | 2.797466000 | -3.445298000 | 3.113608000 |
| 6 | 0.513650000 | -2.830784000 | -0.301011000 |
| 6 | -0.077108000 | -3.261948000 | 0.985818000 |
| 6 | 0.662490000 | -3.430696000 | 2.100574000 |
| 6 | 2.127684000 | -3.229100000 | 2.126394000 |
| 6 | 2.728495000 | -2.917941000 | 0.811018000 |
| 6 | 1.991601000 | -2.748951000 | -0.305551000 |
|  |  |  |  |

Min-2B. UM05-2X/6-311G (d,p), -6659.90684782 a.u.

| 17 | 1.710055000 | 3.668366000 | -1.004510000 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | -0.039257000 | 4.195536000 | -3.613444000 |
| 17 | -4.512777000 | 3.098285000 | -0.814135000 |
| 17 | -2.746823000 | 2.573319000 | 1.783236000 |
| 8 | 0.114481000 | 2.651618000 | 1.215883000 |
| 8 | -2.890193000 | 3.791633000 | -3.138577000 |
| 6 | -0.573602000 | 2.961419000 | 0.238085000 |
| 6 | -0.000027000 | 3.413119000 | -1.024011000 |
| 6 | -0.753442000 | 3.664479000 | -2.129844000 |
| 6 | -2.207623000 | 3.541593000 | -2.145793000 |
| 6 | -2.784484000 | 3.165914000 | -0.858956000 |
| 6 | -2.030861000 | 2.914032000 | 0.246650000 |
| 17 | -3.109853000 | -0.447242000 | 0.046457000 |
| 17 | -1.369405000 | -0.654370000 | 2.751733000 |
| 8 | -1.454332000 | 0.311208000 | -2.204978000 |
| 6 | -0.792989000 | 0.134842000 | -1.216197000 |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

| 6 | -1.414084000 | -0.209182000 | 0.095718000 |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| 6 | -0.688688000 | -0.307316000 | 1.218401000 |
| 17 | 3.109853000 | 0.447242000 | -0.046457000 |
| 17 | 1.369405000 | 0.654370000 | -2.751733000 |
| 8 | 1.454332000 | -0.311208000 | 2.204978000 |
| 6 | 0.792989000 | -0.134842000 | 1.216197000 |
| 6 | 1.414084000 | 0.209182000 | -0.095718000 |
| 6 | 0.688688000 | 0.307316000 | -1.218401000 |
| 17 | -1.710055000 | -3.668366000 | 1.004510000 |
| 17 | 0.039257000 | -4.195536000 | 3.613444000 |
| 17 | 4.512777000 | -3.098285000 | 0.814135000 |
| 17 | 2.746823000 | -2.573319000 | -1.783236000 |
| 8 | -0.114481000 | -2.651618000 | -1.215883000 |
| 8 | 2.890193000 | -3.791633000 | 3.138577000 |
| 6 | 0.573602000 | -2.961419000 | -0.238085000 |
| 6 | 0.000027000 | -3.413119000 | 1.024011000 |
| 6 | 0.753442000 | -3.664479000 | 2.129844000 |
| 6 | 2.207623000 | -3.541593000 | 2.145793000 |
| 6 | 2.784484000 | -3.165914000 | 0.858956000 |
| 6 | 2.030861000 | -2.914032000 | -0.246650000 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Min-3. (Face-to-edge) $\mathbf{U M} 05-2 \mathrm{X} / 6-311 \mathrm{G}(\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{p}),-6659.90522498$ a.u. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| 17 | 2.685402000 | -1.976175000 | 3.201050000 |
| 17 | 2.696900000 | -3.810013000 | 5.813484000 |
| 17 | -2.696900000 | -3.810013000 | 5.813484000 |
| 17 | -2.685402000 | -1.976175000 | 3.201050000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | -1.331550000 | 2.305499000 |
| 8 | 0.00000000 | -4.448269000 | 6.36873000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | -2.044980000 | 3.318287000 |
| 6 | 1.221423000 | -2.499746000 | 3.958531000 |
| 6 | 1.219703000 | -3.284046000 | 5.073476000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | -3.739419000 | 5.725228000 |
| 6 | -1.219703000 | -3.284046000 | 5.073476000 |
| 6 | -1.221423000 | -2.499746000 | 3.958531000 |
| 17 | 2.704385000 | -1.255693000 | -0.993492000 |
| 17 | 2.704385000 | 1.25693000 | 0.993492000 |
| 17 | -2.704385000 | 1.255693000 | 0.993492000 |
| 17 | -2.704385000 | -1.255693000 | -0.993492000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | -2.101581000 | -1.609616000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 2.101581000 | 1.609616000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | -1.139089000 | -0.892496000 |
| 6 | 1.271145000 | -0.520346000 | -0.414455000 |
| 6 | 1.271145000 | 0.520346000 | 0.444455000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 1.139089000 | 0.892496000 |
| 6 | -1.271145000 | 0.520346000 | 0.414455000 |
| 6 | -1.271145000 | -0.520346000 | -0.414455000 |
| 17 | 2.6969000000 | 3.810013000 | -5.813484000 |
| 17 | 2.685402000 | 1.976175000 | -3.201050000 |
| 17 | -2.685402000 | 1.976175000 | -3.201050000 |
| 17 | -2.696900000 | 3.810013000 | -5.813484000 |
| 8 | 0.00000000 | 4.448269000 | -6.736873000 |
| 8 | 0.000000000 | 1.331550000 | -2.305499000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 3.739419000 | -5.725228000 |
| 6 | 1.219703000 | 3.284046000 | -5.073476000 |
| 6 | 1.221423000 | 2.499746000 | -3.958531000 |
| 6 | 0.000000000 | 2.044980000 | -3.318287000 |
| 6 | -1.221423000 | 2.499746000 | -3.958531000 |
| 6 | -1.219703000 | 3.284046000 | -5.073476000 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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