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# Mode-selective internal conversion of perylene

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We observed fluorescence excitation spectra and dispersed fluorescence spectra for single vibronic level excitation of jet-cooled perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ , and carefully examined the vibrational structure of the  $S_0$   $^1A_g$  and  $S_1$   $^1B_{2u}$  states. We performed vibronic assignments on the basis of the results of ab initio calculation, and found that the vibrational energies in the  $S_1$  state are very similar to those in the  $S_0$  state, indicating that the potential energy curves are not changed much upon electronic excitation. We conclude that the small structural change is the main cause of its slow radiationless transition and high fluorescence quantum yield at the zero-vibrational level in the  $S_1$  state. It has been already reported that the lifetime of perylene is remarkably short at specific vibrational levels in the  $S_1$  state. Here, we show that the mode-selective nonradiative process is internal conversion (IC) to the  $S_1$  state, and the  $\nu_{16}(a_g)$

in-plane ring deforming vibration is the promoting (doorway) mode in the  $S_1$  state which enhances vibronic coupling with the high-vibrational level ( $b_{2u}$ ) of the  $S_0$  state.

**Keywords:** perylene; vibrational structure; internal conversion; mode selectivity; ab initio calculation

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## 1. Introduction

Perylene is one of the prototypical large polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and has been the subject of extensive spectroscopic studies in condensed media and cold matrix.<sup>1–5</sup> It shows strong absorption in the violet and ultraviolet regions as well as strong fluorescence. The high fluorescence quantum yield is curious, because nonradiative relaxation is expected to be fast in a large polyatomic molecule due to its high density of coupling levels. Further, the perylene molecule does not conform to Hückel’s rule, and its molecular structure is considered to be easily distorted. Radiationless transitions are generally enhanced by structural flexibility. Clearly, we stand to learn much through investigating the isolated molecule. There have also been extensive studies on jet-cooled perylene<sup>6–10</sup>; These experimental results demonstrated that the fluorescence quantum yield was high, and that radiationless transitions such as predissociation, intersystem crossing (ISC) to the triplet state, and internal conversion (IC) to the  $S_0$  state, were all slow in the  $S_1$  state even for the isolated perylene molecule.

We have recently shown through a rotational analysis that the  $S_1$  state is  ${}^1B_{2u}$  and is approximately expressed by the configuration of HOMO  $\rightarrow$  LUMO one-electron excitation, and that the slow nonradiative processes can be attributed to the fact that structural change occurs on such a small scale upon  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  electronic excitation.<sup>11</sup> It is still necessary to investigate the potential energy curves or vibrational energies in both the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states. As shown below, a theoretical approach predicts that the probable nonradiative process is IC to the  $S_0$  state. If the potential energy curves of the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states are identical, the IC rate in the  $S_1$  state is zero because the vibrational overlap between the  $S_1$  zero-vibrational level and  $S_0$  high-vibrational levels is vanishing. Kaziska et al. found that the fluorescence lifetime was remarkably short in specific vibrational levels of the  $S_1$  state.<sup>8</sup> The lifetimes were reported to be 8.88, 3.54, 1.46, and 0.38 ns for excitations of the 0, 353, 705, and 900  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  bands, respectively. It indicates that the radiationless transition is selective for a specific vibrational mode. We observed fluorescence excitation spectra and dispersed fluorescence

spectra of the  $S_1 \leftrightarrow S_0$  transitions of jet-cooled perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ , and carefully analyzed their vibronic structures in the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states on the basis of ab initio theoretical calculation. In this article, we present the results of these jet spectroscopy experiments and ab initio calculations, and discuss the structure and excited-state dynamics in the  $S_1$   $^1B_{2u}$  state of the isolated perylene molecule.

## 2. Experiment

Commercially obtained perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$  (Wako Chemical, 98%) were used without further purification. The solid sample was heated to 150°C in a stainless steel container. The vapor was mixed with Ar gas and expanded into a vacuum chamber through a pulsed nozzle (an automobile fuel injector) to generate a supersonic jet. The jet was crossed with a pulsed laser beam at right angles. As a light source, we employed a tunable dye laser (Lambda Physik LPD 3002,  $\Delta E = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , Exalite 398 and 416) pumped by an excimer laser (Coherent Compex Pro 110, 308 nm, 200 mJ). The laser beam was focused to 3 mm<sup>2</sup> by a lens, and the pulse energy was reduced to less than 1 mJ to avoid saturation. Fluorescence from the excited molecules was collected using a lens to a photomultiplier tube (Hamamatsu R928), of which the output was processed using a boxcar integrator (Stanford Research SR200). The change in fluorescence intensity in response to the laser wavelength was recorded as a fluorescence excitation spectrum using the LabView system. The output power of the dye laser changed with wavelength more than twice, so that the fluorescence intensity was normalized by the laser power. A dispersed fluorescence spectrum was observed using a scanning monochromator (Nikon P250).

## 3. Results and Discussion

The molecular structure of perylene and its coordinate axes are illustrated in Figure 1. The aromatic stability of a PAH molecule is predicted by Hückel's

$4n + 2$  rule, which states that cyclic planar molecules in which each atom has a p orbital are aromatic if they contain  $4n + 2$   $\pi$  electrons. Perylene possesses 20  $\pi$  electrons and does not have any aromatic stabilization. We have, however, demonstrated that the isolated perylene molecule is planar ( $D_{2h}$  symmetry) in its  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states by experimentally obtaining its rotational constants.<sup>11</sup> All three axes possess a two-fold axis ( $C_2$ ) and two mirror planes ( $\sigma_h$ ) and ( $\sigma_v$ ) although the rotational constant values are all different (an asymmetric top). The axis notation is, therefore, important to express the electronic and vibrational irreducible representations distinctly. Here, we assign the  $x$  and  $y$  axes to the in-plane short and long axes, respectively. The  $z$  axis is perpendicular to the molecular plane. Although this notation is different from the conventional one, it is convenient for the expression of electronic transition and is consistent with linear polyacenes such as naphthalene and anthracene. The  $y$  axis is parallel to the center C=C double bonds. The  $S_1$  state of perylene is represented as  ${}^1B_{2u}$ . The transition moment is large along this direction and the  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  transition is strong, which is identified as  ${}^1L_a$ .<sup>12</sup> Fluorescence excitation spectra of the  $S_1$   ${}^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0$   ${}^1A_g$  transition of perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$  in supersonic jets are shown in Figure 2. The vibrational energies of observed vibronic bands are listed in Table 1. The  $0_0^0$  band ( $24059 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $415.53 \text{ nm}$ ) is very strong, suggesting that the structural change upon  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  electronic excitation. Surprisingly, the transition wavenumber of the  $0_0^0$  band of perylene- $d_{12}$  was identical to that of perylene- $h_{12}$ . A number of low-frequency bands appeared when we reduced the stagnation pressure of Ar gas and raised the vibrational temperature of the supersonic jet. The observed spectrum was similar to the cavity ringdown spectrum, for which the vibronic assignments are almost complete.<sup>9</sup> The prominent vibronic bands are assigned to totally symmetric  $a_g$  bands.<sup>7</sup> The newly appearing bands represent the transitions between vibrational energy levels of out-of-plane ring torsion  $\nu_{52}$  ( $a_u$ ), butterfly  $\nu_{60}$  ( $b_{1u}$ ), and in-plane ring deforming  $\nu_{75}$  ( $b_{2u}$ ) modes, for instance,  $52_n^n$ ,  $52_n^n 75_1^1$ ,  $16_0^1 75_n^n$ , and so on. The assignments and shifts from the  $0_0^0$  band are tabulated in Table 2. These are *ungerade* vibrations in which the fundamental bands are forbidden, whereas the overtone and hot bands are allowed. In order

to investigate the vibrational structure in the  $S_0$  state, we observed dispersed fluorescence spectra tuning the laser wavelength to each  $0_0^0$  band of perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ . The results are shown in Figure 3, and the vibrational energies of observed bands are listed in Table 3. The prominent vibronic bands are assigned to the transitions of the  $a_g$  vibrational levels in the same manner as the excitation spectrum.

We analyzed these spectroscopic results with the assistance of ab initio theoretical calculation using the Gaussian 09 program package.<sup>13</sup> The  $S_1$  state has been identified as  $^1B_{2u}$  through an analysis of selection rules for rotational transitions. The  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  absorption is an allowed strong transition of which the moment is parallel to the long ( $y$ ) axis. Ab initio calculation of vibrational energies is required to analyze the vibronic structure. We examined several methods of calculation in order to identify the one which yielded rotational constant values closest to those obtained experimentally. We then calculated the normal vibrational energies with the optimized geometrical structure.

The rotational constants in the  $S_0$   $^1A_g$  state of perylene- $h_{12}$  have been reported as  $A = 0.021132$ ,  $B = 0.0111077$ , and  $C = 0.0072744$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .<sup>11</sup> We have shown that the RHF/6-311+G(d,p) calculation yields  $A = 0.021113$ ,  $B = 0.011106$ , and  $C = 0.0072775$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The difference between the experimental and calculated values is only 0.09% for the  $A$  value. The calculated  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates of each atom are tabulated in Table 4. The calculated vibrational energies exhibit good conformity with the observed vibrational energies in the dispersed fluorescence spectrum using a scaling factor of 0.955, which has been determined by a least-squares fit of the observed vibrational energies. The resultant values are listed in Table 5 together with the experimental values. The assignments of vibronic bands are also shown in Table 3. The vibrational energies calculated using the Gaussian 09 program provides the harmonic energies, and the 5% reducing factor might be due to an anharmonic effect. The fundamental bands observed in the spectrum are all shown to occur due to the  $a_g$  mode. The assignments of perylene- $h_{12}$  are reliable because the vibrational energies are in fairly good agreement with the calculated ones. Although the  $a_g$  C-H stretch band is forbidden for the

infrared absorption, a strong  $b_{2u}$  or  $b_{3u}$  band was observed at  $3065\text{ cm}^{-1}$  through infrared cavity ringdown spectroscopy.<sup>14</sup> Our calculated value is  $3074$  or  $3076\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is also in good agreement with this experimental value. In general, many normal mode energies are remarkably reduced by deuterium substitution in PAH molecules.<sup>15,16</sup> The observed vibrational energies of perylene- $d_{12}$  are also in good agreement with the calculated ones with the identical structure and scaling factor.

The rotational constants in the  $S_1\ ^1B_{2u}$  state are  $A = 0.020847$ ,  $B = 0.0112638$ , and  $C = 0.0073044\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which are not much different from those in the  $S_0$  state. Typically, rotational constants in the  $S_1$  state are slightly smaller than those in the  $S_0$  state because the antibonding character increases upon  $\pi\pi^*$  electronic excitation. In the perylene molecule, however, the changes in rotational constants are very small and the  $B$  and  $C$  values in the  $S_1$  state are rather greater than that in the  $S_0$  state. By the RCIS/6-31+G(d,p) method, we obtained  $A = 0.020783$ ,  $B = 0.011252$ , and  $C = 0.0073000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  values, which are in good coincidence with the experimental values. The difference is only 0.3% for the  $A$  value. The calculated vibrational energies in the  $S_1$  state, which were scaled by a factor of 0.918, were in good agreement with the excess energies of vibronic bands observed in the fluorescence excitation spectrum. The resultant values are listed in Table 5. On the basis of these results of ab initio calculation, we assigned the vibronic bands as shown in Tables 1 and 2. We conclude that the stable equilibrium structure and potential energy curves of perylene are not changed much by  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  electronic excitation. The change in each bond order resulting from the HOMO  $\rightarrow$  LUMO electronic excitation is expected to be small, because the  $\pi$  wavefunction is uniformly distributed over the whole molecule, and the changes are diluted with a large number of  $\pi$  electrons. This feature is considered to be common to large PAH molecules.

We discuss here the radiationless transition in the  $S_1$  state of perylene. If the equilibrium structure and potential energy curves are similar between the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states, it is generally expected that fluorescence lifetime is long and quantum yield is high. The fluorescence lifetime at the zero-vibrational level in the  $S_1$



state of perylene is 8.88 ns,<sup>8</sup> and the fluorescence quantum yield is almost unity.<sup>9</sup> These facts indicate that radiationless transitions such as predissociation, ISC to the triplet state, and IC to the  $S_0$  state are all slow in the isolated perylene molecule. The bond energies are much larger than the  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  excitation energy, and predissociation is not expected to occur in the  $S_1$  state. The ISC to the triplet state is theoretically considered to be slow by El-Sayed's rule that spin-orbit interaction between the  $^1\pi\pi^*$  and  $^3\pi\pi^*$  is weak for a planar molecule.<sup>17</sup> It has been experimentally confirmed by means of magnetic moment measurement using ultrahigh-resolution Zeeman spectroscopy for benzene,<sup>18,19</sup> naphthalene,<sup>20,21</sup> anthracene,<sup>15</sup> pyrene,<sup>16</sup> and perylene itself.<sup>11</sup> The Zeeman splitting in the external magnetic field was found to be very small. The Hamiltonian for spin-orbit interaction is expressed as<sup>22</sup>

$$H_{SO} = \frac{e^2}{2m^2c^2} \sum_i^n \sum_k^m \frac{Z_k(\mathbf{r}_{ik} \times \mathbf{p}_i) \cdot \mathbf{s}_i}{r_{ik}^3}, \quad (1)$$

and can be written for each electron as

$$\frac{e^2}{2m^2c^2} \left[ \left( \sum_k^m \frac{Z_k \mathbf{l}_{xk}}{r_k^3} \right) \mathbf{s}_x + \left( \sum_k^m \frac{Z_k \mathbf{l}_{yk}}{r_k^3} \right) \mathbf{s}_y + \left( \sum_k^m \frac{Z_k \mathbf{l}_{zk}}{r_k^3} \right) \mathbf{s}_z \right], \quad (2)$$

since  $\mathbf{s}_i$  is independent of space coordinates. For the  $\pi\pi^*$  state composed of  $2p_z$  atomic orbitals, the nonzero element arises from the operator  $H_z$ , which is expressed in the form

$$\frac{ie^2\hbar^2}{4m^2c^2} \frac{Z}{r_k^3} \left[ (x - x_k^0) \frac{\partial}{\partial y} - (y - y_k^0) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right]. \quad (3)$$

The spin-orbit matrix element is vanishing for the  $S_1$  and  $T_1$  states of the same symmetry (the same irreducible representation). Even in different configurations, the one- and two-center integrals are vanishing between the  $^1\pi\pi^*$  and  $^3\pi\pi^*$  states. In contrast, large Zeeman broadening and shifts of the rotational lines by the external magnetic field were observed in pyrazine<sup>23</sup> and glyoxal,<sup>24</sup> in which the  $S_1(^1n\pi^*)$  and  $T_2(^3\pi\pi^*)$  states are close in energy. In perylene, however, it has been shown that the singlet-triplet interaction is very weak and that the ISC is very slow at the  $S_1$  zero-vibrational level.<sup>11</sup> Zeeman broadening of rotational

lines was actually observed in benzene, naphthalene, and anthracene, in which the magnetic moment is induced by  $J - L$  interaction ( $L$ -uncoupling interaction) between the  ${}^1B_{2u}$  and  ${}^1B_{3u}$  states, and the magnitude of Zeeman broadening is given by

$$ZS(S_1 {}^1B_{2u} vJK_c) = \frac{8CK_c^2}{J+1} \frac{|\langle S_2 {}^1B_{3u} | L_y | S_1 {}^1B_{2u} \rangle|^2}{E(S_2) - E(S_1)} \mu_B H. \quad (4)$$

The actual broadening was found to be on the order of  $0.005 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 0.5 Tesla for the  $J = K_c = 40$  level in anthracene. In perylene, the broadening is expected to be much smaller than this, because of its smaller rotational constants and larger energy difference between the  ${}^1B_{2u}$  and  ${}^1B_{3u}$  states.

The IC at the  $S_1$  zero-vibrational level is caused by vibronic interaction with the  $S_0$  high-vibrational levels. The IC rate at a vibronic level of the  $S_1$  state is represented as<sup>25–27</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} W_{IC} &\propto \sum_i \left| \left\langle \phi_{S_0} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial Q_i} \right| \phi_{S_1} \right\rangle \right|^2 \left| \left\langle \chi_{S_0}^{v''} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial Q_i} \right| \chi_{S_1}^{v'} \right\rangle \right|^2 \delta(E_{S_1}^{v'} - E_{S_0}^{v''}) \\ &\approx \frac{\sum_i \left| \left\langle \phi_{S_0}(r, Q_0) \left| \left( \frac{\partial U(r, Q)}{\partial Q_i} \right)_{Q_0} \right| \phi_{S_1}(r, Q_0) \right\rangle \right|^2}{(E_{S_1}(Q_0) - E_{S_0}(Q_0))^2} \\ &\quad \times \left| \left\langle \chi_{S_0}^{v''}(Q_i) \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial Q_i} \right| \chi_{S_1}^{v'}(Q_i) \right\rangle \prod_{j \neq i} \left\langle \chi_{S_0}^{v''}(Q_j) \left| \chi_{S_1}^{v'}(Q_j) \right\rangle \right|^2 \\ &\quad \times \delta(E_{S_1}^{v'} - E_{S_0}^{v''}). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Here,  $\phi_{S_0}$  and  $\phi_{S_1}$  represent the electronic wavefunctions of the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states, respectively.  $\chi_{S_0}^{v''}$  is the vibrational wavefunction of the high-vibrational level in the  $S_0$  state, and  $\chi_{S_1}^{v'}$  is that of the vibrational level in the  $S_1$  state.  $\delta$  is the Dirac delta function, and  $Q_i$  is a normal coordinate. The second and third matrix elements are the adiabatic Franck-Condon factor for a promoting mode ( $i$ ) and the Franck-Condon factor of other modes ( $j$ ), respectively. Although the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states are coupled by a  $b_{2u}$  vibration, these vibrational overlaps are vanishing when the potential energy curves are identical for the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states. There are two situations that can induce enhancement: one of these is change

in the equilibrium molecular structure (displacement). The edge of the potential curve approaches that for the  $S_1$  state, so that the overlap of wavefunctions becomes larger. Yet the experimentally determined rotational constants at the zero-vibrational level of the  $S_1$  state are very similar to those of the  $S_0$  state<sup>11</sup>; consequently, the displacement in the perylene molecule is considered to be very small. The other situation that can induce enhancement is change in the slope of the potential energy curve (distortion). We have demonstrated in the present work that the vibrational energies of the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states are very similar in the perylene molecule. This observation indicates that the distortion is very small. Eventually, all radiationless transitions in the perylene molecule are considered to be slow due to the small scale of change in the molecular structure and potential energy curve. This is similar to the situation in the pyrene molecule, which possesses 16  $\pi$  electrons rather than the stable aromatic system of Hückel’s rule.<sup>15</sup> The fluorescence lifetime of pyrene (1400 ns) is much longer than that of perylene (8.88 ns).<sup>27</sup> Pyrene’s long lifetime is due to its radiative lifetime, because the  $S_1$  state is  $^1B_{3u}(^1L_b)$  and the  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  transition moment is small.<sup>12</sup> The radiationless transitions are remarkably slower than the radiative transition and the fluorescence quantum yield is high.

In perylene, a number of low-frequency normal modes exist; this feature makes perylene unique among PAH molecules. The four normal vibrational modes, shown in Figure 4, are important for radiative and nonradiative processes in the  $S_1$  state. The fundamental vibrational energy of  $\nu_{52}$  ( $a_u$ ) is the smallest in any of the 90 normal modes. The major change in this vibration occurs in the bond angles around the C(4)-C(5) bond. The C(4)-C(5) bond order increases upon  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  excitation. Consequently, the shape of the potential energy curve differs between the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states. The large intensity of the  $52_n^{n+2}$  hot bands strongly suggests this significant change in the potential energy curves. The slope in the  $S_1$  state is, however, rather steeper than that in the  $S_0$  state, so that the vibrational overlap between the  $S_1$  zero-vibrational level and  $S_0$  high-vibrational levels is expected to be small. This mode is not considered to be important in the IC process in the  $S_0$  state.

Another out-of-plane vibration in the symmetric phase is the  $\nu_{60}$  ( $b_{1u}$ ) butterfly mode. The fundamental energy is slightly reduced in the  $S_1$  state, and the vibrational overlap between the  $S_0$  high-vibrational levels is expected to be larger. These two out-of-plane modes are radiatively active for the two-quanta transition and hot bands, but is impossible for either of them to be a promoting mode of vibronic coupling between the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states because they are coupled by the  $b_{2u}$  vibration.

Next, we consider a few of the in-plane modes which are important for the IC in the  $S_1$  state of perylene. It has been reported that the fluorescence lifetime is remarkably short at the  $16^1$ ,  $16^2$ , and  $14^1 16^1$  levels,<sup>8</sup> and this indicates that the  $\nu_{16}$  ( $a_g$ ) mode is a promoting (doorway) mode of vibronic coupling in the  $S_1$  state. As shown in Figure 3(c), all of the C atoms move mainly in the direction of the molecular long axis ( $y$ ). The vibrational energy is relatively small because this mode is mainly represented by the change of bond angles. The observed energy of the  $S_1$  state, however, is almost identical to that of the  $S_0$  state, indicating that the shapes of the potential energy curves of these two electronic states are similar. It is supposed, however, that the stable geometrical structure is slightly different with respect to this normal coordinate. The experimentally determined rotational constants suggest that the molecule shrinks and expands along its long and short molecular axes, respectively. This structural change is also suggested by the relatively strong intensity of the  $16_0^1$  and  $16_0^2$  bands in the fluorescence excitation spectrum.

The  $\nu_{75}$  ( $b_{2u}$ ) mode is another in-plane ring deforming vibration in the anti-symmetric phase. The C atoms also move mainly in the  $y$  direction, whereas the C-H bonds oscillating in the  $x$  direction. Any ( $b_{2u}$ ) modes are potential promoting modes of vibronic coupling between the  $S_0$   $^1A_g$  and  $S_1$   $^1B_{2u}$  states. In particular, the  $\nu_{75}$  mode, which is the  $b_{2u}$  mode with the least energy, is considered to be the most important vibration for the IC process in the  $S_1$  state because the  $\nu_{16}$  ( $a_g$ ) mode is the promoting (doorway) vibration in which the C atoms mainly move along the long molecular axis ( $y$ ). Thus, it is concluded that the IC in the  $S_1$  state of perylene is enhanced mainly by the in-plane vibrational motion along the

long molecular axis with the promoting mode of  $\nu_{75}$  ( $b_{2u}$ ) in the  $S_0$  state and the promoting (doorway) mode of  $\nu_{16}$  ( $a_g$ ) in the  $S_1$  state.

In these in-plane deforming vibrations, the energy is small and the displacement is large. The structural change resulting from zero-point vibration is, therefore, sufficiently large to provide effective moments of inertia which are greater than the moments of inertia of a frozen molecule.<sup>29,30</sup> As a result, the rotational constants at the zero-vibrational level are altered to give a nonzero value of inertial defect, which is zero for a frozen planar molecule. Large planar molecules generally exhibit negative inertial defects<sup>31</sup>; the perylene molecule, in contrast, exhibits a positive inertial defect, suggesting that the in-plane vibrations have an important influence on the averaged molecular structure over zero-point vibration.<sup>11</sup> If the molecule is distorted out-of-plane, or if out-of-plane vibration makes a large contribution to the effective moment of inertia, the value of the inertial defect becomes negative and appreciably large. The perylene molecule is, therefore, considered to be planar and the low-frequency out-of-plane modes such as ring torsion and butterfly are not considered to be important for the inertial defect.

#### 4. Summary

We observed fluorescence excitation spectra and dispersed fluorescence spectra of the  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0$  transition of jet-cooled perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ . We assigned vibronic bands to their corresponding transitions using the reliable results of ab initio theoretical calculation, which yielded rotational constant values approximately equal to those obtained experimentally. We employed RHF/6-311+G(d,p) and RCIS/6-31+G(d,p) for the  $S_0$   $^1A_g$  and  $S_1$   $^1B_{2u}$  states, respectively. The observed vibrational energies of the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states of perylene- $h_{12}$  are in good agreement with the calculated vibrational energies using scaling factors of 0.955 and 0.918, respectively.

We conclude that, in perylene, the molecular structure and potential energy curves are approximately identical for the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states. The extremely small

deuterium shift of the  $S_1 \leftarrow S_0 0_0^0$  band also indicates that the vibrational energies for the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states are almost identical as well. The slow IC process and high fluorescence quantum yield in the  $S_1$  state are attributed to the small scale of the structural change that occurs upon electronic excitation. The abnormally short lifetime in the vibrational levels concerned with the  $\nu_{16}(a_g)$  ring-deforming normal mode is attributed to strong vibronic interaction with the high-vibrational levels in the  $S_0$  state. The IC process is remarkably enhanced by this promoting (doorway) mode in the  $S_1$  state and the  $b_{2u}$  promoting modes in the  $S_0$  state.

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Table 1. Vibrational energies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and assignments of the bands observed in the fluorescence excitation spectra of the  $S_1 \ ^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0 \ ^1A_g$  transition of perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ . The accuracy is  $\pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Vibrational energy		Assignment
$h_{12}$	$d_{12}$	
0	0	$0_0^0$ (24059 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ both for $h_{12}$ and $d_{12}$ )
75	72	
94	90	$52_0^2(a_u)$
164	155	
180	170	
193	183	$60_0^2(b_{1u})$
350	331	$16_0^1(a_g)$
424	401	$15_0^1(a_g)$
447	421	$16_0^1(a_g)52_0^2(a_u)$
547	515	$14_0^1(a_g)$
703	663	$16_0^2(a_g)$
777	732	$15_0^1(a_g)16_0^1(a_g)$
793	748	$13_0^1(a_g)$
898		$14_0^1(a_g)16_0^1(a_g)$
976	846	$12_0^1(a_g)$
1003		
1053	995	$16_0^3(a_g)$
1100		$11_0^1(a_g)$
1144		
1191		$10_0^1(a_g)$
1241		
1293		$9_0^1(a_g)$
1397	1293	$7_0^1(a_g)$
1553		$5_0^1(a_g)$
1601		
1644	1601	$4_0^1(a_g)$
1748		

Table 2. Assignment and shift ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) from the  $0_0^0$  band of the observed bands in the fluorescence excitation spectra of the  $S_1 \ ^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0 \ ^1A_g$  transition of perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$  at a higher vibrational temperature. The accuracy is  $\pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Assignment	$n$	Shift ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	
		$h_{12}$	$d_{12}$
$75_n^n(b_{2u})$	0	0	0
	1	-9	-8
	2	-17	-15
$37_n^n(b_{2g})60_1^1(b_{1u})$	0	-11	-10
	1	-33	-31
	2	-53	-50
$52_n^n(a_u)75_1^1(b_{2u})$	0	-9	-8
	1	12	11
	2	32	31
	3	52	
	4	74	
$52_n^n(a_u)$	0	0	0
	1	22	21
	2	43	40
	3	62	59
	4	81	75
$52_n^{n+2}(a_u)$	0	95	90
	1	119	113
	2	141	134
	3	162	152
	4	181	171
	5	200	189
$16_0^1(a_g)75_n^n(b_{2u})$	0	350	331
	1	341	322
	2	333	314
$16_0^1(a_g)52_n^n(a_u)75_1^1(b_{2u})$	0	341	322
	1	363	343
	2	384	363
$16_0^1(a_g)52_n^n(a_u)$	0	350	331
	1	373	353
	2	393	371
	3	412	390
	4		407

Table 3. Vibrational energies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and assignments of the bands observed in the dispersed fluorescence spectra for excitation of the  $S_1 \ ^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0 \ ^1A_g \ 0_0^0$  bands of perylene- $h_{12}$  and perylene- $d_{12}$ . The accuracy is  $\pm 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

Vibrational energy		Assignment
$h_{12}$	$d_{12}$	
0	0	$0_0^0$ ( $24059 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ both for $h_{12}$ and $d_{12}$ )
55	45	$52_2^0(a_u)$
361	337	$16_1^0(a_g)$
413		$16_1^0(a_g)52_2^0(a_u)$
438	401	$15_1^0(a_g)$
562	528	$14_1^0(a_g)$
722	675	$16_2^0(a_g)$
819	741	$13_1^0(a_g)$
926		$14_1^0(a_g)16_1^0(a_g)$
1083	1018	$16_3^0(a_g)$
1135	926	$11_1^0(a_g)$
1339	1102	$9_1^0(a_g)$
1413	1370	$7_1^0(a_g)$
1677	1603	$5_1^0(a_g)$
1773	1627	$4_1^0(a_g)$
1854	1786	
2081		
2167		
2240	1993	
2289		
2454	2352	
2766	2416	
2836		
2945	2830	
3017		
3095		
3171	3010	

Table 4. Calculated coordinates ( $\text{\AA}$ ) of each atom in the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states of perylene.

	$S_0 \ ^1A_g^a$		$S_1 \ ^1B_{2u}^b$	
	$x$	$y$	$x$	$y$
C( 1)	1.2286	3.5577	1.2264	3.5394
C( 2)	2.4021	2.8781	2.4241	2.8492
C( 3)	2.4067	1.4706	2.4402	1.4674
C( 4)	1.2468	0.7428	0.2368	0.7203
C(18)	0.0000	2.8541	0.0000	2.8484
C(19)	0.0000	1.4412	0.0000	1.4174
H(21)	1.2140	4.6831	1.2213	4.6151
H(22)	3.3390	3.4059	3.3538	3.3898
H(23)	3.3595	0.9801	3.3882	0.9697

<sup>a</sup> Calculated by RHF/6-311+G(d,p).

<sup>b</sup> Calculated by RCIS/6-31+G(d,p).

Table 5. Normal modes and vibrational energies ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) of perylene.

Symmetry	Number	Vibration type	$S_0 \ ^1A_g$		$S_1 \ ^1B_{2u}$	
			$h_{12}$ Calc. <sup>a</sup> (Obs.) <sup>b</sup>	$d_{12}$ Calc. <sup>a</sup> (Obs.) <sup>b</sup>	$h_{12}$ Calc. <sup>c</sup> (Obs.) <sup>d</sup>	$d_{12}$ Calc. <sup>c</sup> (Obs.) <sup>d</sup>
$a_g$	1	C-H stretch	3237	2410	3151	2327
	2	C-H stretch	3194	2388	3094	2292
	3	C-H stretch	3173	2361	3076	2272
	4	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1698 (1773)	1650 (1627)	1631 (1644)	1593 (1601)
	5	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1690 (1677)	1576 (1603)	1565 (1553)	1507
	6	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1508	1444	1483	1436
	7	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1426 (1413)	1314 (1370)	1386 (1397)	1245 (1293)
	8	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1398	1397	1365	1341
	9	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1359 (1339)	1142 (1102)	1286 (1293)	1114
	10	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1240	1008	1203 (1191)	966
	11	C-C stretch	1139 (1135)	930 ( 926)	1110 (1100)	895
	12	ring deform	1006	867	981 ( 976)	835 ( 846)
	13	ring deform	819 ( 819)	772 ( 741)	795 ( 793)	740 ( 748)
	14	ring breathing	556 ( 562)	539 ( 528)	540 ( 547)	519 ( 515)
	15	ring deform	441 ( 438)	418 ( 401)	428 ( 424)	402 ( 401)
	16	ring deform	349 ( 361)	348 ( 337)	347 ( 350)	333 ( 331)
$b_{1g}$	17	C-H stretch	3210	2397	3121	2311
	18	C-H stretch	3188	2383	3090	2288
	19	C-H stretch	3170	2357	3073	2268
	20	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1738	1725	1594	1574
	21	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1594	1549	1563	1505
	22	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1531	1442	1459	1337
	23	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1363	1294	1314	1259
	24	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1255	1064	1219	1015
	25	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1242	1083	1167	1085
	26	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1159	937	1124	890
	27	ring deform	1021	872	1058	850
	28	ring deform	986	865	944	831
	29	ring deform	643	630	614	597
	30	ring deform	552	534	525	503
	31	ring deform	367	358	360	348
$b_{2g}$	32	oop C-C bend C-H wag	1047	869	996	814
	33	oop C-C bend C-H wag	964	782	877	702
	34	oop C-C bend C-H wag	804	630	747	592
	35	oop C-C bend	656	573	581	496
	36	oop ring deform	447	415	374	345
	37	oop ring deform	216	199	189	173
$b_{3g}$	38	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	1052	881	998	822
	39	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	972	840	909	767
	40	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	865	808	779	722
	41	oop C-C bend	782	659	701	591
	42	oop C-C bend	681	617	606	555
	43	oop C-C bend	472	417	473	415
	44	oop ring deform	310	293	276	260
	45	oop ring deform	126	115	135	122

TABLE 5. (*continued*).

Symmetry	Number	Vibration type	$S_0 \ ^1A_g$		$S_1 \ ^1B_{2u}$	
			$h_{12}$ Calc. <sup>a</sup> (Obs.) <sup>b</sup>	$d_{12}$ Calc. <sup>a</sup> (Obs.) <sup>b</sup>	$h_{12}$ Calc. <sup>c</sup> (Obs.) <sup>d</sup>	$d_{12}$ Calc. <sup>c</sup> (Obs.) <sup>d</sup>
$a_u$	46	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	1044	872	992	817
	47	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	956	815	869	736
	48	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	817	685	765	648
	49	oop C-C bend	671	557	622	504
	50	oop C-C bend	555	494	497	442
	51	oop ring deform	251	226	228	203
	52	oop ring torsion	12 (28)	11 (23)	44 (47)	42 (45)
$b_{1u}$	53	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	1055	884	1003	828
	54	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	981	826	914	761
	55	oop C-C bend + C-H wag	864	790	782	714
	56	oop C-C bend	808	675	719	591
	57	oop C-C bend	581	527	516	472
	58	oop C-C bend	494	441	477	423
	59	ring deform	183	171	173	160
	60	butterfly	99 (107)	94 (101)	85 (96)	79 (91)
$b_{2u}$	61	C-H stretch	3210	2397	3121	2311
	62	C-H stretch	3192	2385	3092	2290
	63	C-H stretch	3172	2360	3076	2272
	64	C-C stretch	1701	1664	1589	1513
	65	C-C stretch	1693	1688	1563	1557
	66	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1515	1422	1454	1343
	67	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1447	1329	1397	1208
	68	C-C stretch	1387	1366	1234	1279
	69	C-C bend + C-H wag	1268	1089	1203	1046
	70	C-C bend + C-H wag	1198	897	1148	859
	71	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1123	914	1098	879
	72	ring deform	840	803	795	759
	73	ring deform	811	757	790	724
	74	ring deform	603	580	563	536
	75	ring deform	475	444	452	421
$b_{3u}$	76	C-H stretch	3237	2410	3150	2325
	77	C-H stretch	3190	2386	3091	2289
	78	C-H stretch	3170	2358	3073	2268
	79	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1718	1693	1573	1518
	80	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1581	1555	1491	1387
	81	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1559	1477	1375	1284
	82	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1376	1303	1312	1209
	83	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1322	1187	1232	1198
	84	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1242	1072	1191	1010
	85	C-C stretch + C-H wag	1179	1035	1139	947
	86	ring deform + C-H wag	1146	871	1075	823
	87	ring deform	1060	933	989	895
	88	ring deform	797	757	753	714
	89	ring deform	551	539	511	497
	90	ring deform	258	244	245	231

<sup>a</sup> Results of RHF/6-311+G(d,p) are scaled by 0.955.

<sup>b</sup> Determined using the dispersed fluorescence spectrum with an accuracy of  $\pm 3 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

<sup>c</sup> Results of RCIS/6-31+G(d,p) are scaled 0.918.

<sup>d</sup> Determined using the fluorescence excitation spectrum with an accuracy of  $\pm 1 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

## Figure captions

**Figure 1.** Molecular structure and coordinate axes of perylene.

**Figure 2.** Fluorescence excitation spectra of  $S_1 \ ^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0 \ ^1A_g$  transition of jet-cooled (a) perylene- $h_{12}$  and (b) perylene- $d_{12}$  (blue traces). Red traces indicate spectra at higher vibrational temperature with lower Ar gas pressure level.

**Figure 3.** Dispersed fluorescence spectra for excitations of  $S_1 \ ^1B_{2u} \leftarrow S_0 \ ^1A_g \ 0_0^0$  bands of jet-cooled (a) perylene- $h_{12}$  and (b) perylene- $d_{12}$ .

**Figure 4.** Normal coordinates of four low frequency modes.



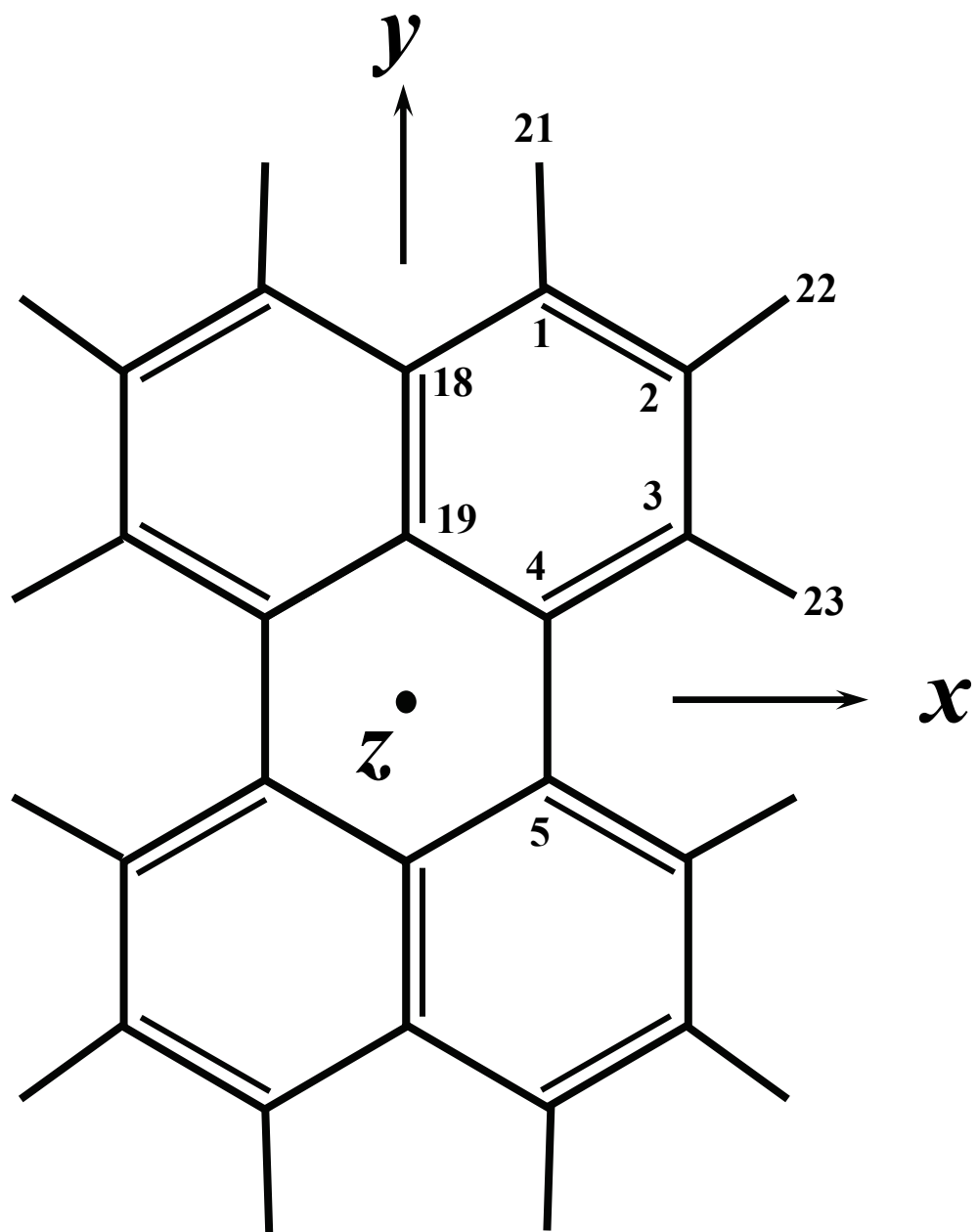
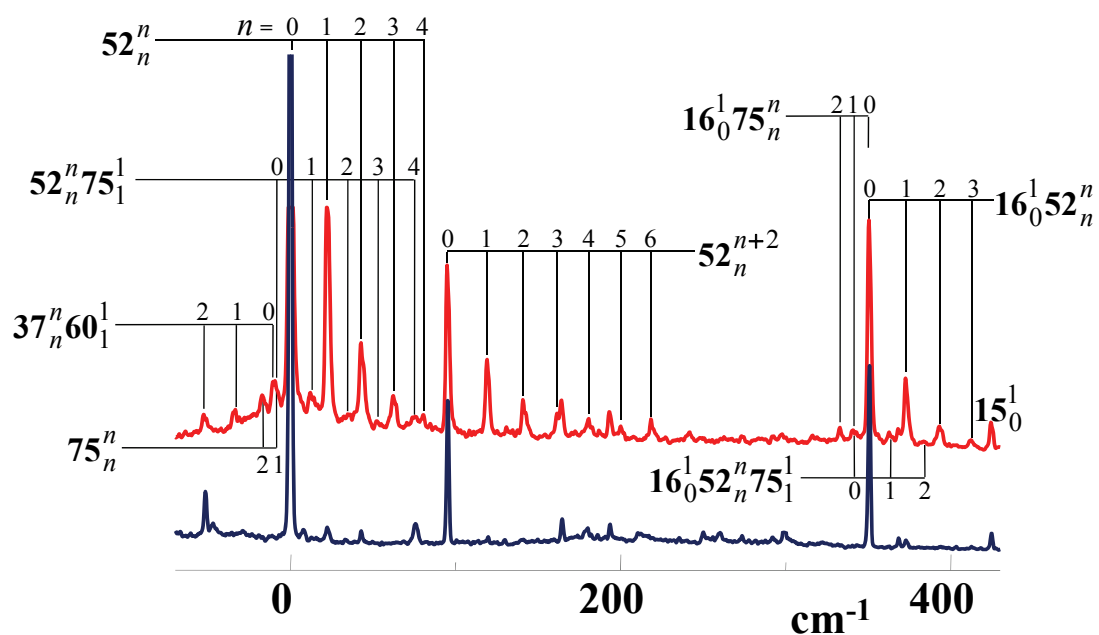


Figure 1. Y. Suganuma *et al.*

### (a) Perylene-*h*<sub>12</sub>



### (b) Perylene-*d*<sub>12</sub>

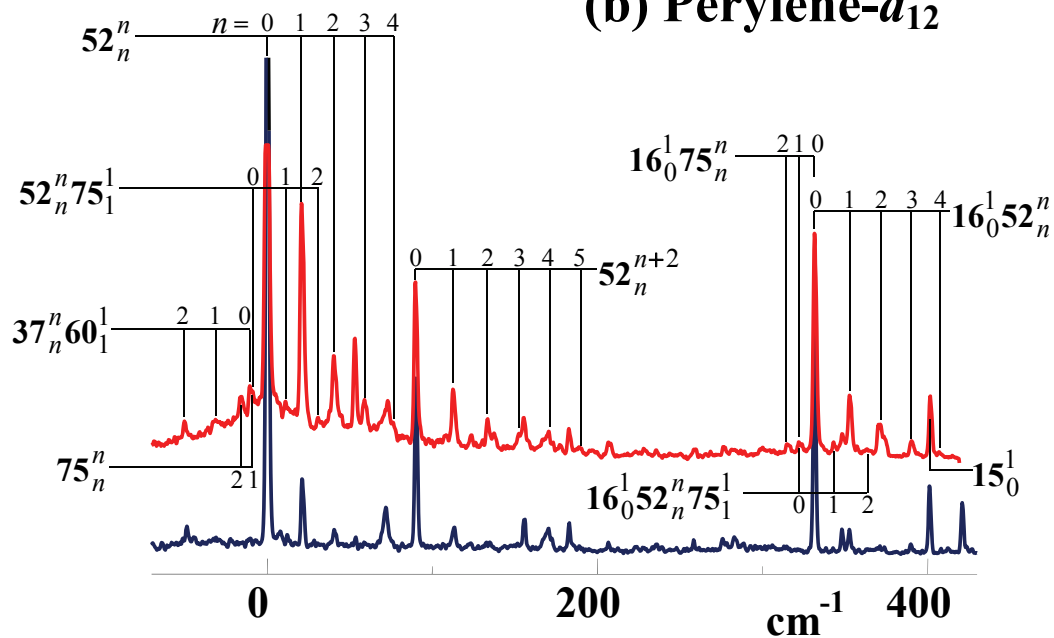


Figure 2. Y. Suganuma *et al.*

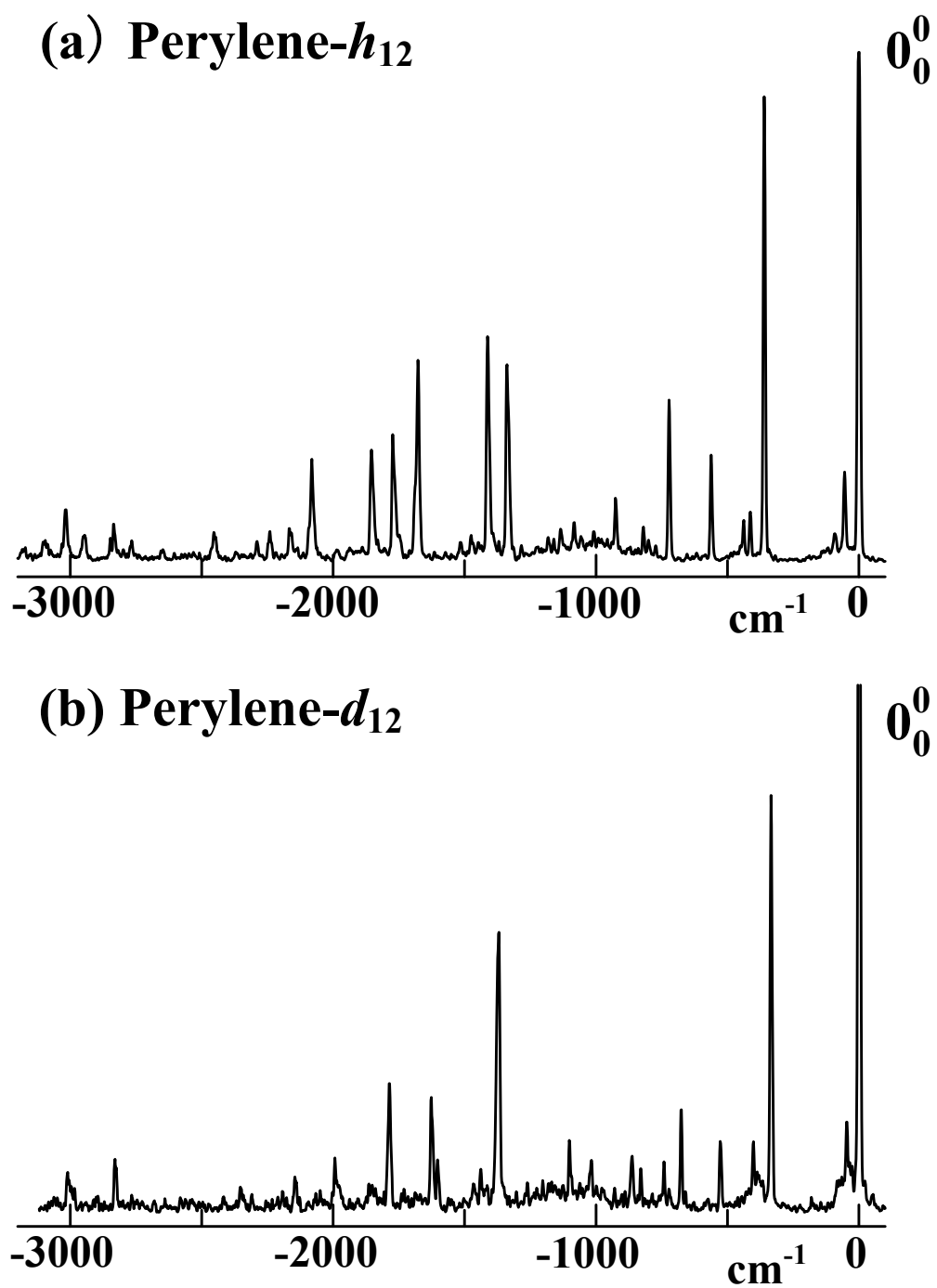


Figure 3. Y. Sugauma *et al.*

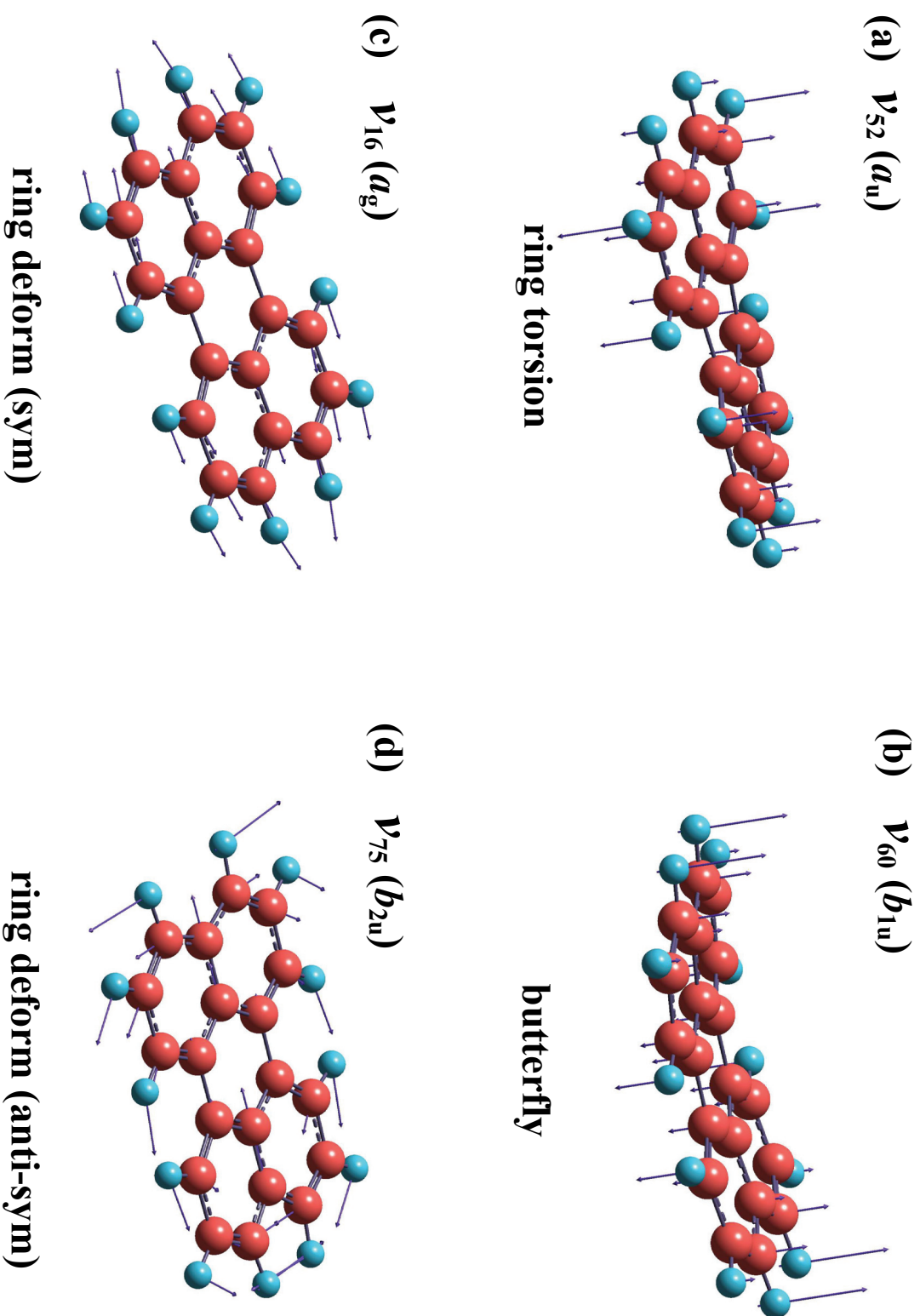


Figure 4. Y. Suganuma *et al.*