

# A photoelectron imaging and quantum chemistry study of the deprotonated cyan fluorescent protein chromophore anion

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## 1 Velocity map imaging images

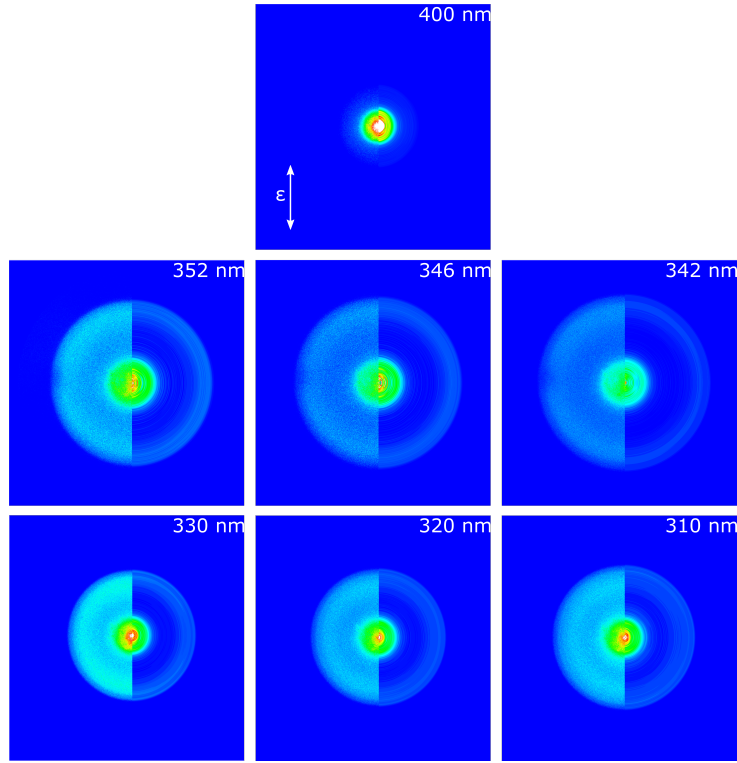


Figure S1: Photoelectron images recorded following photodetachment from the deprotonated CFP anion. The left side of each image is the raw image while the right-hand side has the inverted image. Wavelengths of the detaching laser are indicated for each image and the direction of the electric field of the laser is shown in the 400 nm image.

## 2 Optimised geometries

| Atom | Anion     |           |           | Neutral   |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      | $x$       | $y$       | $z$       | $x$       | $y$       | $z$       |
| C    | -4.443797 | -1.576752 | 0.00037   | 4.471694  | -1.544013 | 0.000005  |
| C    | -3.053333 | -1.510568 | 0.000495  | 3.074502  | -1.515511 | -0.000061 |
| C    | -2.434001 | -0.256446 | 0.000255  | 2.443211  | -0.277032 | -0.000031 |
| C    | -3.225669 | 0.924463  | -0.000139 | 3.196679  | 0.913386  | 0.000066  |
| C    | -4.619837 | 0.848658  | -0.000287 | 4.578398  | 0.890647  | 0.000134  |
| C    | -5.222622 | -0.406239 | -0.000019 | 5.210522  | -0.359532 | 0.000101  |
| H    | -4.938239 | -2.549533 | 0.000512  | 4.991646  | -2.501082 | -0.00001  |
| H    | -2.462889 | -2.428224 | 0.000698  | 2.506005  | -2.445161 | -0.000121 |
| H    | -5.214534 | 1.762837  | -0.000622 | 5.149336  | 1.817482  | 0.00021   |
| H    | -6.311008 | -0.485657 | -0.000155 | 6.29907   | -0.409299 | 0.000155  |
| C    | -1.060992 | 0.206266  | -0.000012 | 1.050376  | 0.149723  | -0.000033 |
| C    | -1.186547 | 1.637371  | 0.000507  | 1.138599  | 1.621172  | -0.000093 |
| H    | -0.3464   | 2.328355  | 0.000469  | 0.280196  | 2.287188  | -0.000096 |
| N    | -2.43459  | 2.069497  | -0.000442 | 2.356253  | 2.058348  | 0.000091  |
| C    | 0.086401  | -0.587778 | -0.000243 | -0.069148 | -0.656822 | -0.000057 |
| H    | -0.070365 | -1.670266 | -0.000308 | 0.074134  | -1.738547 | -0.000059 |
| C    | 2.505658  | -1.204349 | -0.000516 | -2.530529 | -1.212964 | -0.000204 |
| C    | 3.241989  | 0.933625  | -0.000033 | -3.208851 | 0.921089  | -0.000074 |
| C    | 1.42583   | -0.238588 | -0.000299 | -1.407442 | -0.25183  | -0.000111 |
| N    | 3.653089  | -0.390928 | 0.000087  | -3.654379 | -0.37816  | 0.000024  |
| N    | 1.954967  | 1.062553  | -0.000227 | -1.900083 | 1.028419  | -0.00018  |
| O    | 2.54647   | -2.440591 | -0.000351 | -2.54871  | -2.430652 | -0.000028 |
| C    | 4.218543  | 2.058751  | 0.000339  | -4.143458 | 2.073581  | 0.000015  |
| H    | 3.659745  | 2.998833  | 0.00003   | -3.564896 | 2.999959  | -0.000038 |
| H    | 4.869506  | 2.030924  | 0.887108  | -4.793235 | 2.050764  | -0.885492 |
| H    | 4.870319  | 2.030817  | -0.885828 | -4.793076 | 2.050764  | 0.885639  |
| C    | 4.993197  | -0.909584 | 0.000263  | -5.018965 | -0.857638 | 0.000263  |
| H    | 5.552795  | -0.596249 | -0.893172 | -5.556099 | -0.521037 | 0.895141  |
| H    | 5.552559  | -0.596319 | 0.893868  | -5.556416 | -0.52098  | -0.894402 |
| H    | 4.903559  | -2.001628 | 0.000198  | -4.973047 | -1.95062  | 0.00022   |

Table S1: CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ optimised geometries of the *cis-trans* deprotonated CFP chromophore anion and corresponding neutral radical.

| Atom | Anion     |           |           | Neutral   |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  |
| C    | 2.949946  | 2.206404  | -0.000009 | 4.471694  | -1.544013 | 0.000005  |
| C    | 1.838334  | 1.368394  | -0.000016 | 3.074502  | -1.515511 | -0.000061 |
| C    | 2.037644  | -0.017732 | -0.000004 | 2.443211  | -0.277032 | -0.000031 |
| C    | 3.362913  | -0.539379 | 0.000017  | 3.196679  | 0.913386  | 0.000066  |
| C    | 4.470209  | 0.311793  | 0.000025  | 4.578398  | 0.890647  | 0.000134  |
| C    | 4.255549  | 1.685985  | 0.000012  | 5.210522  | -0.359532 | 0.000101  |
| H    | 2.80611   | 3.288336  | -0.000018 | 4.991646  | -2.501082 | -0.00001  |
| H    | 0.826697  | 1.767483  | -0.000029 | 2.506005  | -2.445161 | -0.000121 |
| H    | 5.477019  | -0.107145 | 0.000043  | 5.149336  | 1.817482  | 0.00021   |
| H    | 5.107758  | 2.368125  | 0.000019  | 6.29907   | -0.409299 | 0.000155  |
| C    | 1.176848  | -1.186535 | -0.000003 | 1.050376  | 0.149723  | -0.000033 |
| C    | 2.107413  | -2.281118 | 0.000004  | 1.138599  | 1.621172  | -0.000093 |
| H    | 1.81373   | -3.333484 | 0.000007  | 0.280196  | 2.287188  | -0.000096 |
| N    | 3.377061  | -1.932576 | 0.000031  | 2.356253  | 2.058348  | 0.000091  |
| C    | -0.203166 | -1.401066 | -0.000016 | -0.069148 | -0.656822 | -0.000057 |
| H    | -0.494788 | -2.455965 | -0.000014 | 0.074134  | -1.738547 | -0.000059 |
| C    | -2.664441 | -1.076661 | -0.000065 | -2.530529 | -1.212964 | -0.000204 |
| C    | -2.582613 | 1.18181   | -0.000021 | -3.208851 | 0.921089  | -0.000074 |
| C    | -1.306757 | -0.565205 | -0.000039 | -1.407442 | -0.25183  | -0.000111 |
| N    | -3.442101 | 0.092946  | 0.000006  | -3.654379 | -0.37816  | 0.000024  |
| N    | -1.33595  | 0.839152  | -0.000061 | -1.900083 | 1.028419  | -0.00018  |
| O    | -3.14592  | -2.216338 | -0.00001  | -2.54871  | -2.430652 | -0.000028 |
| C    | -3.088786 | 2.58298   | 0.000008  | -4.143458 | 2.073581  | 0.000015  |
| H    | -2.229494 | 3.259469  | -0.000008 | -3.564896 | 2.999959  | -0.000038 |
| H    | -3.706157 | 2.792185  | -0.886561 | -4.793235 | 2.050764  | -0.885492 |
| H    | -3.706112 | 2.792168  | 0.886611  | -4.793076 | 2.050764  | 0.885639  |
| C    | -4.879086 | 0.089928  | 0.000086  | -5.018965 | -0.857638 | 0.000263  |
| H    | -5.288433 | 0.583333  | 0.893609  | -5.556099 | -0.521037 | 0.895141  |
| H    | -5.288526 | 0.583413  | -0.89335  | -5.556416 | -0.52098  | -0.894402 |
| H    | -5.18755  | -0.961439 | 0.000056  | -4.973047 | -1.95062  | 0.00022   |

Table S2: CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ optimised geometries of the *cis-cis* deprotonated CFP chromophore anion and corresponding neutral radical.



| Atom | Anion     |           |           | Neutral   |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  |
| C    | 4.41538   | -1.680967 | 0.00009   | -4.43585  | -1.651852 | -0.000194 |
| C    | 3.024884  | -1.603508 | 0.00005   | -3.039056 | -1.602656 | -0.00018  |
| C    | 2.415039  | -0.345678 | 0.000041  | -2.425278 | -0.356019 | -0.000065 |
| C    | 3.214183  | 0.828398  | 0.000077  | -3.195343 | 0.821746  | 0.000026  |
| C    | 4.607537  | 0.743037  | 0.000118  | -4.576924 | 0.780035  | 0.000018  |
| C    | 5.201835  | -0.516301 | 0.000123  | -5.191712 | -0.478378 | -0.000098 |
| H    | 4.902433  | -2.657436 | 0.000101  | -4.941486 | -2.616594 | -0.000262 |
| H    | 2.428252  | -2.517368 | 0.000033  | -2.458607 | -2.525011 | -0.000218 |
| H    | 5.208145  | 1.653254  | 0.000145  | -5.16012  | 1.699209  | 0.000098  |
| H    | 6.289646  | -0.603063 | 0.000157  | -6.27945  | -0.543509 | -0.000103 |
| C    | 1.041881  | 0.127116  | 0.000032  | -1.033437 | 0.089766  | 0.000095  |
| C    | 1.17857   | 1.561885  | -0.000024 | -1.146015 | 1.562505  | -0.000068 |
| H    | 0.340344  | 2.254285  | -0.000048 | -0.299409 | 2.242423  | 0.000001  |
| N    | 2.430941  | 1.978957  | 0.000066  | -2.371348 | 1.977418  | 0.000166  |
| C    | -0.08392  | -0.6929   | 0.000042  | 0.061866  | -0.745153 | 0.000169  |
| H    | 0.130343  | -1.766171 | 0.000063  | -0.147182 | -1.816759 | 0.000155  |
| C    | -2.193254 | 0.797218  | 0.000011  | 2.195198  | 0.797918  | 0.00028   |
| C    | -3.547578 | -1.01817  | -0.00005  | 3.538988  | -0.998258 | 0.000088  |
| C    | -1.452172 | -0.44624  | 0.000027  | 1.44254   | -0.479389 | 0.000221  |
| N    | -3.532267 | 0.367545  | -0.000101 | 3.52803   | 0.373919  | -0.000067 |
| N    | -2.358895 | -1.526136 | 0.000037  | 2.335779  | -1.522392 | 0.000302  |
| O    | -1.873233 | 1.992419  | -0.000053 | 1.845076  | 1.965848  | 0.000066  |
| C    | -4.819216 | -1.794917 | -0.000105 | 4.798731  | -1.782277 | -0.00006  |
| H    | -4.570663 | -2.860187 | -0.000071 | 4.552499  | -2.846525 | 0.000097  |
| H    | -5.43293  | -1.573429 | 0.886221  | 5.405891  | -1.550283 | -0.885835 |
| H    | -5.432836 | -1.573461 | -0.886504 | 5.406212  | -1.550095 | 0.885445  |
| C    | -4.648661 | 1.27227   | -0.000243 | 4.657732  | 1.277471  | -0.000427 |
| H    | -5.276843 | 1.145104  | -0.893931 | 5.275577  | 1.135569  | 0.894315  |
| H    | -5.277065 | 1.145098  | 0.893286  | 5.275197  | 1.135358  | -0.895397 |
| H    | -4.228473 | 2.283996  | -0.000191 | 4.254409  | 2.294075  | -0.000459 |

Table S3: CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ optimised geometries of the *trans-trans* deprotonated CFP chromophore anion and corresponding neutral radical.

| Atom | Anion     |           |           | Neutral   |           |           |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|      | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  | <i>x</i>  | <i>y</i>  | <i>z</i>  |
| C    | 3.100026  | 2.126781  | 0.000051  | 3.076766  | 2.140838  | 0.0001    |
| C    | 1.944428  | 1.350785  | 0.000093  | 1.918477  | 1.356445  | 0.000063  |
| C    | 2.066699  | -0.043805 | 0.000009  | 2.05329   | -0.029391 | -0.000111 |
| C    | 3.363391  | -0.631444 | -0.000119 | 3.34737   | -0.603404 | -0.000263 |
| C    | 4.516133  | 0.156911  | -0.000161 | 4.492104  | 0.168824  | -0.000231 |
| C    | 4.376453  | 1.53983   | -0.000074 | 4.343178  | 1.560702  | -0.000044 |
| H    | 3.011658  | 3.214453  | 0.000113  | 2.983101  | 3.226072  | 0.000245  |
| H    | 0.957892  | 1.80898   | 0.000184  | 0.937737  | 1.818773  | 0.000175  |
| H    | 5.497384  | -0.318619 | -0.000259 | 5.473123  | -0.30279  | -0.000348 |
| H    | 5.26383   | 2.175648  | -0.000106 | 5.228317  | 2.196564  | -0.000013 |
| C    | 1.14386   | -1.172483 | -0.000023 | 1.135535  | -1.171891 | -0.000129 |
| C    | 2.030371  | -2.309989 | -0.000025 | 2.05472   | -2.329713 | -0.000532 |
| H    | 1.684331  | -3.346611 | -0.000048 | 1.715139  | -3.36667  | -0.000634 |
| N    | 3.311508  | -2.025065 | -0.000186 | 3.304708  | -2.020892 | -0.000432 |
| C    | -0.232876 | -1.402493 | -0.000003 | -0.218522 | -1.441305 | 0.000029  |
| H    | -0.460903 | -2.473515 | -0.00002  | -0.441948 | -2.510857 | -0.00008  |
| C    | -1.760924 | 0.725834  | 0.000074  | -1.762147 | 0.727418  | 0.000609  |
| C    | -3.605548 | -0.591733 | 0.000056  | -3.588109 | -0.574879 | 0.000277  |
| C    | -1.428085 | -0.685577 | 0.000041  | -1.427617 | -0.715973 | 0.000326  |
| N    | -3.166821 | 0.721916  | 0.000036  | -3.160707 | 0.72769   | 0.000065  |
| N    | -2.628662 | -1.434962 | 0.000046  | -2.599617 | -1.436413 | 0.000496  |
| O    | -1.111469 | 1.778502  | 0.000031  | -1.086211 | 1.741956  | 0.000203  |
| C    | -5.053548 | -0.943793 | 0.000069  | -5.025934 | -0.941493 | 0.000139  |
| H    | -5.141514 | -2.034109 | 0         | -5.112626 | -2.030391 | -0.000016 |
| H    | -5.570453 | -0.545875 | 0.886475  | -5.534826 | -0.537207 | 0.885921  |
| H    | -5.570503 | -0.545754 | -0.886252 | -5.534778 | -0.536928 | -0.885538 |
| C    | -3.954282 | 1.924028  | 0.00005   | -3.962067 | 1.931942  | -0.000369 |
| H    | -4.591608 | 1.993781  | -0.893464 | -4.593689 | 1.98393   | -0.895207 |
| H    | -4.591387 | 1.993917  | 0.893715  | -4.593735 | 1.984533  | 0.894405  |
| H    | -3.245737 | 2.759359  | -0.000092 | -3.269084 | 2.777923  | -0.000626 |

Table S4: CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ optimised geometries of the *trans-cis* deprotonated CFP chromophore anion and corresponding neutral radical.

### 3 Vibrational frequencies used in the ezSpectrum calculation

| $\nu$ | Anion     | Neutral   | $\nu$ | Anion     | Neutral   |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 1     | 41.6733   | 41.7726   | 43    | 1051.2879 | 1050.5956 |
| 2     | 53.5146   | 51.0945   | 44    | 1095.0158 | 1081.408  |
| 3     | 66.8288   | 71.9685   | 45    | 1123.2063 | 1119.4579 |
| 4     | 105.9377  | 106.1101  | 46    | 1149.6218 | 1151.2995 |
| 5     | 129.1618  | 116.0395  | 47    | 1155.7096 | 1166.1533 |
| 6     | 153.0717  | 141.1119  | 48    | 1196.9301 | 1192.4886 |
| 7     | 166.9598  | 169.5014  | 49    | 1204.1454 | 1196.8168 |
| 8     | 182.2887  | 171.2616  | 50    | 1226.8041 | 1211.8884 |
| 9     | 203.0391  | 210.8027  | 51    | 1246.8613 | 1243.9223 |
| 10    | 226.0138  | 221.6715  | 52    | 1298.9125 | 1257.956  |
| 11    | 233.511   | 225.1227  | 53    | 1325.7054 | 1311.6332 |
| 12    | 269.2234  | 270.4018  | 54    | 1345.7756 | 1332.7576 |
| 13    | 279.4905  | 273.5631  | 55    | 1380.0635 | 1367.6722 |
| 14    | 329.6371  | 330.9747  | 56    | 1391.5831 | 1379.2512 |
| 15    | 356.29    | 349.0263  | 57    | 1398.9885 | 1396.991  |
| 16    | 445.1974  | 433.2379  | 58    | 1418.1338 | 1433.8824 |
| 17    | 468.6923  | 465.3304  | 59    | 1440.2672 | 1440.6276 |
| 18    | 503.3753  | 490.9585  | 60    | 1456.4839 | 1457.0298 |
| 19    | 560.227   | 558.5385  | 61    | 1462.8554 | 1462.1664 |
| 20    | 575.9789  | 573.1437  | 62    | 1486.87   | 1487.7715 |
| 21    | 605.0036  | 596.3018  | 63    | 1490.7421 | 1490.1178 |
| 22    | 618.2665  | 602.9533  | 64    | 1499.8229 | 1496.7367 |
| 23    | 628.6121  | 627.0849  | 65    | 1501.1388 | 1507.1438 |
| 24    | 667.5761  | 663.7888  | 66    | 1516.253  | 1519.2344 |
| 25    | 694.9407  | 690.187   | 67    | 1542.5246 | 1540.9165 |
| 26    | 723.223   | 708.82    | 68    | 1616.4017 | 1580.1233 |
| 27    | 757.2955  | 739.4447  | 69    | 1636.4884 | 1622.5226 |
| 28    | 761.5858  | 770.3366  | 70    | 1670.6379 | 1663.474  |
| 29    | 781.3137  | 777.825   | 71    | 1681.6699 | 1680.7385 |
| 30    | 787.0941  | 790.4472  | 72    | 1731.4451 | 1772.7399 |
| 31    | 811.4626  | 812.1471  | 73    | 3031.2214 | 3061.2919 |
| 32    | 837.9921  | 821.0697  | 74    | 3037.477  | 3067.6484 |
| 33    | 878.108   | 877.4503  | 75    | 3085.3911 | 3123.0539 |
| 34    | 888.5531  | 900.4098  | 76    | 3088.7656 | 3138.635  |
| 35    | 935.2689  | 948.2844  | 77    | 3148.0827 | 3176.2422 |
| 36    | 955.6419  | 970.8193  | 78    | 3164.4968 | 3190.2583 |
| 37    | 966.1023  | 972.2409  | 79    | 3166.0002 | 3195.3823 |
| 38    | 991.8745  | 985.9133  | 80    | 3168.1428 | 3196.8068 |
| 39    | 1003.8541 | 1017.2127 | 81    | 3176.4521 | 3205.4221 |
| 40    | 1015.2084 | 1024.9605 | 82    | 3189.4833 | 3219.21   |
| 41    | 1039.7544 | 1032.5453 | 83    | 3200.9077 | 3228.1205 |
| 42    | 1050.0266 | 1045.1757 | 84    | 3236.3874 | 3257.7823 |

Table S5: Harmonic wavenumbers for the *cis-trans* deprotonated CFP anion and neutral radical calculated using the CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ method.

## 4 ezSpectrum calculations

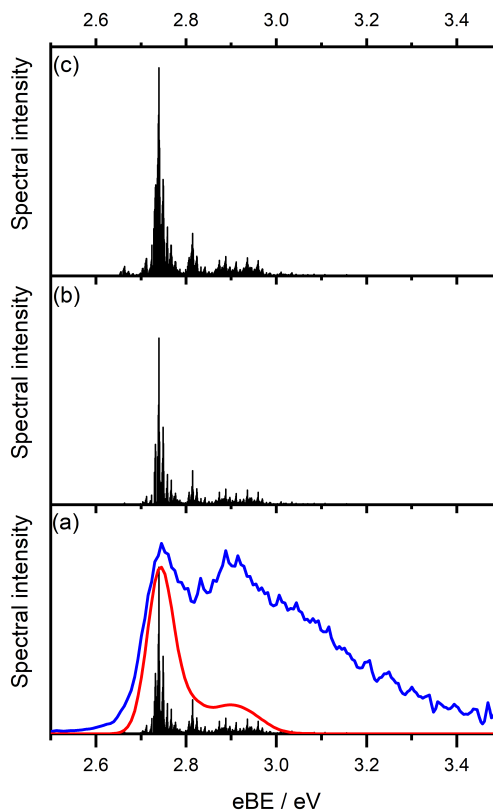


Figure S2: Comparison between ezSpectrum calculations at different vibrational temperatures and quanta for the *cis-trans* isomer. (a) 300 K with maximum numbers of vibrational quanta in the anion and neutral set to 3 and 4 respectively. The blue line is the experimental spectrum recorded at 330 nm and the red line is a convolution of the stick spectrum with a Gaussian instrument function. (b) 300 K with maximum numbers of vibrational quanta in the anion and neutral set to 2 and 4 respectively. (c) 600 K with maximum numbers of vibrational quanta in the anion and neutral set to 3 and 4 respectively. The equilibrium geometries, harmonic frequencies and normal mode vectors of the deprotonated CFP chromophore anions and corresponding neutral radicals were calculated using the CAM-B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ method.

## 5 Excited State Calculations

|       |                    | VEE ( $f$ )  | Main configuration                                                              |
|-------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $S_1$ | <i>cis-trans</i>   | 3.46 (1.31)  | $0.98 (\pi_{63} \rightarrow \pi_{65}^*)$                                        |
|       | <i>trans-trans</i> | 3.53 (1.25)  | $0.97 (\pi_{63} \rightarrow \pi_{65}^*)$                                        |
| $S_2$ | <i>cis-trans</i>   | 4.22 (0.002) | $0.85(\pi_{63} \rightarrow \pi_{71}^*) - 0.65(\pi_{62} \rightarrow \pi_{65}^*)$ |
|       | <i>trans-trans</i> | 4.22 (0.003) | $0.70(\pi_{63} \rightarrow \pi_{71}^*) - 0.65(\pi_{62} \rightarrow \pi_{65}^*)$ |

Table S6: TDDFT CAM-B3LYP/6-31+G\* calculated vertical excitation energies (VEEs) of the lowest two singlet states of the deprotonated CFP chromophore anions with non-negligible oscillator strengths,  $f$ . All values are in eV.

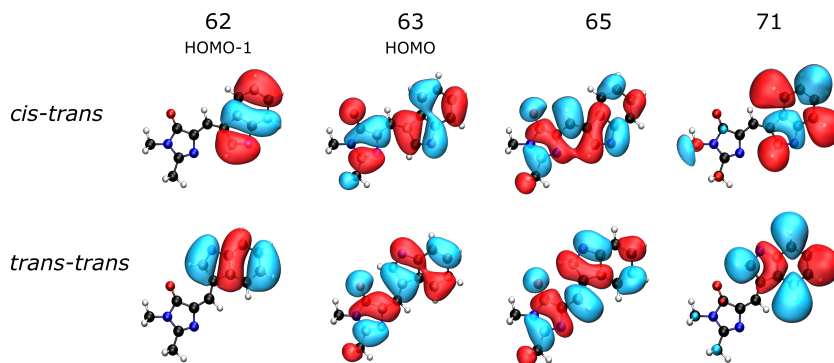


Figure S3: TD-DFT CAM-B3LYP/6-31+G\* molecular orbitals of the *cis-trans* (top) and *trans-trans* (bottom) isomers of the deprotonated CFP chromophore anion.