

Superconductivity in just four pairs of (BETS)₂-GaCl₄ molecules

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I. Synthesis and Characterization of λ -(BETS)₂GaCl₄

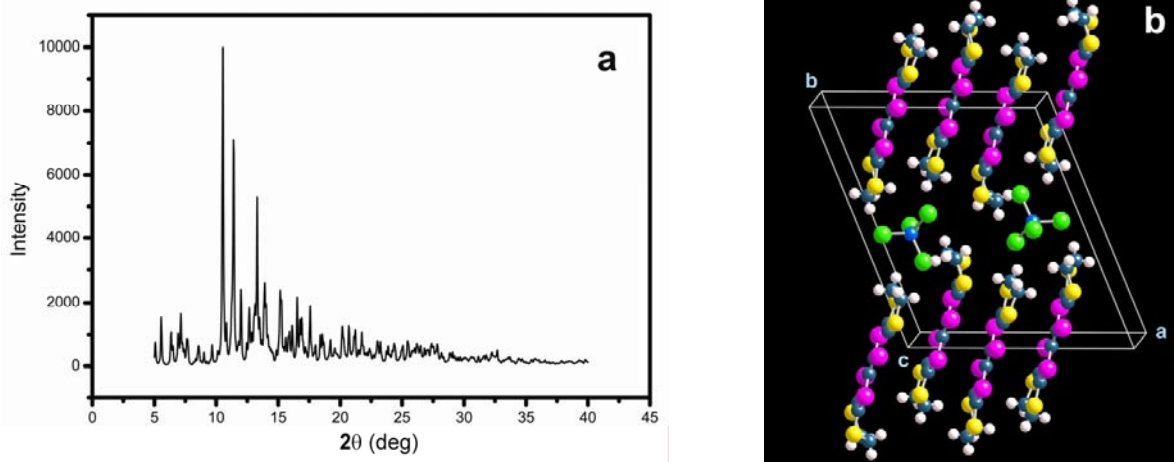


Fig. S1. **a**, X-ray diffraction pattern of custom synthesized λ -(BETS)₂GaCl₄ crystals, and **b**, the crystal structure of λ -(BETS)₂GaCl₄.

Needle shape single crystals of λ -(BETS)₂GaCl₄ have been synthesized by an electrochemical oxidation method (see methods in the manuscript for details). The x-ray diffraction measurements were carried out at room temperature using a Rigaku AFC7R diffractometer. Peaks in the diffraction pattern (Fig. S1a) indicate a triclinic crystal structure with a unit cell shown in Fig. S1b. The BETS molecules (donors) are stacked along 'a' and 'c' axes, and the GaCl₄ molecules (acceptors) are located between the BETS chains.

II. Superconducting Curve Fits

The superconducting curve fits were performed by using the formula:

$$\frac{dI}{dV} \propto \int_0^{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \text{Re} \left[\frac{|E - i\Gamma|}{\sqrt{(E - i\Gamma)^2 - \Delta_0^2}} \right] f(\theta) dE d\theta$$

where $\Delta_0 = \Delta \cos 2\theta$, and $\Delta_0 = \Delta \sin 2\theta$ were used for the $d_{x^2-y^2}$ and d_{xy} symmetries, respectively^{1,2}. The best curve fit was obtained using d_{xy} symmetry with $\theta \sim \pi/4$, $2\Delta = 12$ meV, and $\Gamma = 0.6$.

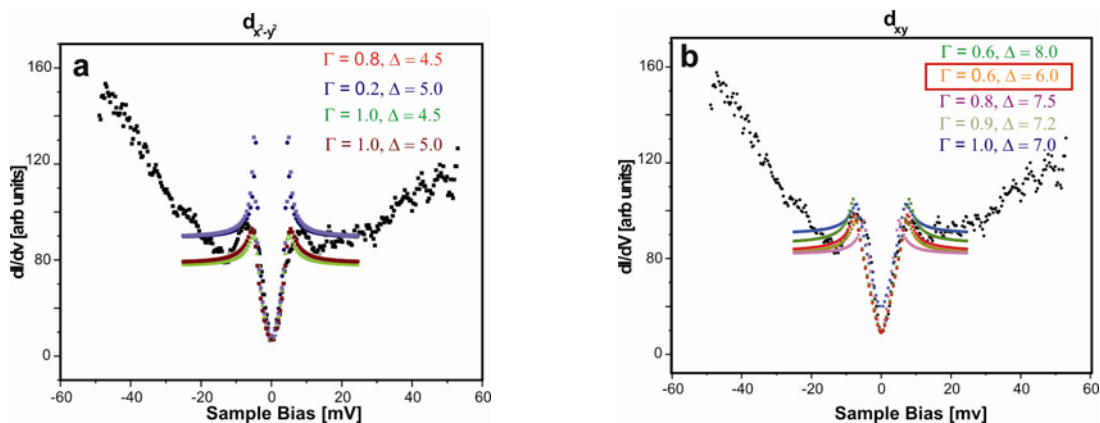


Fig. S2. Superconducting curve fittings for, **a**, $d_{x^2-y^2}$ and, **b**, d_{xy} symmetries. The best fit is the orange curve in the d_{xy} symmetry, and the corresponding Γ and Δ values are indicated with a rectangle in ‘b’.

III. Site Dependent Superconducting Gaps

We determine the site dependent superconducting gaps by positioning the STM tip on top of the BETS molecules and on the GaCl_4 located between the two BETS chains as indicated in fig. S3a. The dI/dV - V tunneling spectroscopy data exhibit a superconducting gap together with the two edge states on BETS chains. A superconducting gap state is still observed on GaCl_4 however, the two edge states in the gap have disappeared (Fig. S3b).

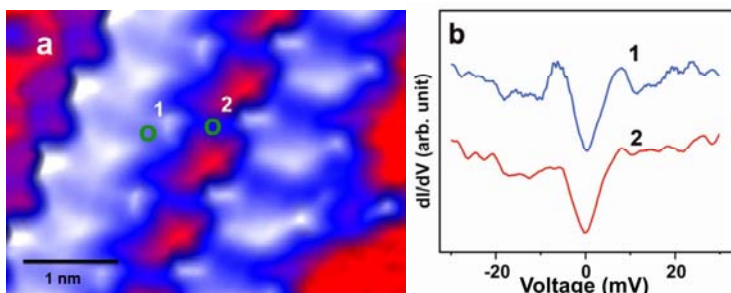


Fig. S3. **a**, An STM image of two BETS chains with GaCl_4 in between [$V_t = 0.6\text{V}$, $I_t = 8.6 \times 10^{-10}\text{A}$], and **b**, the superconducting gaps measured on BETS and GaCl_4 locations indicated in ‘a’ as ‘1’ and ‘2’, respectively.

IV. Nodal Direction

The nodal direction is oriented parallel to the 'a' lattice vector and located between the chains as shown in Fig. S4. At these locations the superconducting coherence peaks are minimized. The antinodal states are located on top of the BETS molecules making a 45° orientation with the nodal direction.

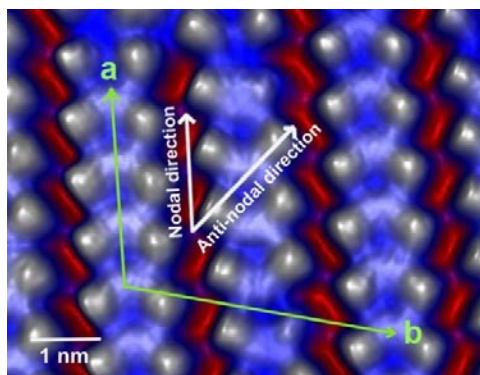


Fig. S4. An STM image of λ -(BETS)₂GaCl₄ molecular layer on Ag(111). The orientation of nodal and anti-nodal directions with respect to the BETS chains are indicated with white arrows. The light green arrows indicate the crystallographic 'a' and 'b' directions.

V. I-V Tunneling Spectroscopy of Superconducting and Metallic States

I-V and dI/dV-V tunneling spectroscopy data of molecular chains were simultaneously recorded (using a Stanford Instrument SR830 Lock-In Amplifier for the latter case) at different temperatures but at the same locations. I-V curves of molecular chains at 5.8 K exhibit a superconducting gap state around the Fermi energy, i.e. 0 mV (Fig. S5a). When the temperature was raised, this gap state disappeared in the I-V data (Fig. S5b). The I-V curve at 15K (Fig. S5b) shows a continuous increase of current as the bias is increased, indicating a metallic character.

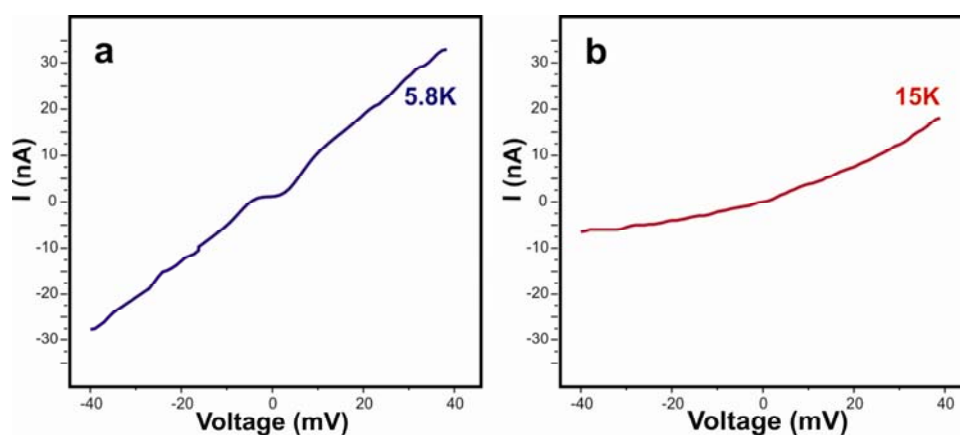


Fig. S5. I-V tunneling spectroscopy curves of superconducting (a), and metallic (b) states.

VI. Chain-Length Dependent Superconducting Gap

The dI/dV - V tunneling spectroscopy data of smaller molecular islands on Ag(111) reveal that the superconducting gap is not uniform across the islands, but it is dependent on the length of the molecular chains. Fig. S6a presents an example case. Here, the shorter chain having 12 molecular units is labeled 'S' while a longer chain located next to it composed of 14 molecular units is marked as 'L'. The dI/dV data acquired on these two chains are illustrated in Fig. S6b. Both molecular chains exhibit a superconducting gap however the longer chain has a ~ 7 mV gap while the neighboring shorter chain has a ~ 6 mV gap. Therefore, the superconducting gap observed here is dependent on the chain length.

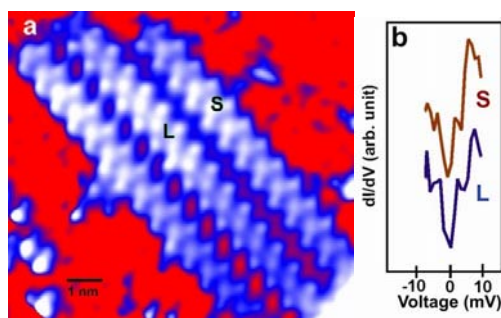


Fig. S6. **a.** An STM image of a smaller cluster containing three molecular chains [$V_t = 0.6\text{V}$, $I_t = 8.6 \times 10^{-10}\text{A}$]. **b.** The averaged dI/dV data showing superconducting gaps correspond to the chains, 'L' and 'S'.

References

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2. Ichimura, K. & Nomura, K. d-wave pair symmetry in the superconductivity of κ -(BEDT-TTF)₂X. *J. Phys. Soc. Japan* **75**, 051012 (2006).