Electronic Supplementary Information

Visible-Light Responsive Hydrogen-Bonded Supramolecular Polymers Based on ortho-Tetrafluorinated Azobenzene

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Table of Contents

Synthesis and Characterizations .................................................................2

Fig. S1-S2 1H NMR spectra of the PSS_E mixtures and PSS_Z mixtures of 1 in a mixed solvent ..............................5

Fig. S3 Repeated switching of UV-Vis absorption spectra of 1 ........................................................................6

Fig. S4 Time lapse absorption spectra of the PSS_Z mixtures of 1 ........................................................................6

Fig. S5 The high-resolution ESI-MS spectrum of (Z)-1 dimer .................................................................6

Fig. S6 The dilution 1H NMR spectra of the PSS_E mixtures of 1 .................................................................7

Fig. S7 The dilution 1H NMR spectra of the PSS_Z mixtures of 1 .................................................................7

Fig. S8-S14 1H NMR and 13C NMR spectra of intermediates and 1 .................................................................8-11
**Compound 3.** The solution of CF₃COOEt (1.15 g, 8.07 mmol) in 30 mL CH₂Cl₂ was added dropwise to the solution of compound 2 (0.589 g, 7.96 mmol) in 30 mL CH₂Cl₂ via 1 hours at 0 °C. The resulting mixture was further stirred at room temperature until the reaction was completed. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in 60 mL CH₂Cl₂, to which 6 mL of CH₂Cl₂ solution that containing Boc₂O (1.77 g, 8.10 mmol) was added dropwise through a dropping funnel, and the resulting mixture was further stirred at room temperature for another 1 hours. After the reaction was completed (monitored by TLC), 50 mL ethyl acetate was added to quench the reaction. The reaction solution was first washed by saturated sodium bicarbonate, and then extracted with ethyl acetate (30 mL × 3), the organic phase was combined and washed by brine and dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solution was concentrated after removing the desiccant, and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography with an eluent of CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 10/1, compound 3 was obtained as white solid (1.50 g, 69%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 7.98/6.76 (s, 1H), 3.49 (s, 2H), 3.48 (s, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H). MS (ESI) m/z: 271.1 [M+H]⁺.

**Compound 4.** Compound 3 (1.00 g, 3.70 mmol) was dissolved in 14.4 mL CH₃OH, to which 1.60 mL H₂O and K₂CO₃ (0.326 g, 2.36 mmol) were added successively. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. Cooling down and the solvent was evaporated and the residue was further extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL × 3), the combined organic phase was washed by water and brine successively, and then dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing of solvent and desiccant, the residue was purified by flash column chromatography with an eluent of CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 20/1. Compound 4 can be isolated as red oil (0.257 g, 40%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 3.23 (br, 2H), 2.84 (br, 3H), 2.78 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 1.46 (s, 9H). MS (ESI) m/z: 175.1 [M+H]⁺.

**Compound 6.** Compound 4 (0.170 g, 0.977 mmol) and 5 (0.267 g, 0.882 mmol) were
dissolved in 3 mL CHCl₃, the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 4 hours. Then 10 mL CHCl₃ was added to quench the reaction, and the resulting mixture was washed successively by 10 mL diluted HCl (1M), saturated sodium bicarbonate and brine, and the organic phase was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent and desiccant, the residue was stirred in CH₃OH for 20 min, the mixture was filtrated and the precipitate was collected, which was further purified by flash column chromatography with an eluent of CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 80/1. Compound 6 can be isolated as a white solid (0.217 g, 60%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 13.17 (s, 1H), 11.95/11.92 (s, 1H), 10.35/10.30 (s, 1H), 5.77 (s, 1H), 3.40 (br, 4H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.32-2.20 (m, 1H), 1.69-1.47 (m, 3H), 1.30-1.18 (m, 4H), 0.89-0.83 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 173.0, 156.9, 155.7, 155.4, 154.8, 106.4, 97.3, 79.1, 48.1, 48.0, 45.5, 37.9, 37.8, 35.1, 34.5, 32.9, 29.3, 28.3, 26.6, 22.5, 13.9, 11.7. MS (ESI) m/z: 410.3 [M+H]+. HRMS (ESI) Calcd For C₂₀H₃₆N₅O₄ [M+H]+: 410.2762, Found: 410.2748.

**Compound 7.** Compound 6 (0.142 g, 0.347 mmol) was dissolved in 5 mL CH₂Cl₂, to which 2 mL CF₃COOH was added and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1.5 hours. After the reaction was completed, the solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was dissolved in 10 mL CH₂Cl₂, washed by sodium bicarbonate and brine, and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent and desiccant, compound 7 can be obtained as a white solid (0.073 g, 68%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 13.05 (br, 1H), 11.95 (s, 1H), 10.19 (br, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 3.48 (q, J = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 2.99 (br, 2H), 2.57 (s, 3H), 2.34-2.25 (m, 1H), 1.71-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.20 (m, 4H), 0.96-0.85 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 173.4, 157.0, 155.8, 154.4, 106.2, 50.0, 45.4, 38.7, 35.1, 32.9, 29.3, 26.6, 22.5, 13.9, 11.7. MS (ESI) m/z: 310.3 [M+H]+. HRMS (ESI) Calcd For C₁₅H₂₈N₅O₂ [M+H]+: 310.2238, Found: 310.2234.

**Compound 1.** Compound 8 (0.034 g, 0.099 mmol), PyBOP (0.104 mg, 0.200 mmol) and 0.5 mL DIPEA were dissolved in 5 mL DMF, the resulting mixture was stirred at
room temperature for 10 min. Compound 7 (0.071 g, 0.230 mmol) was added and the reaction solution was further stirred for another 4 hours. After quenching by ethyl acetate, the reaction solution was washed by brine (30 mL × 3) and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the desiccant and concentrated, the residue was further purified by flash column chromatography with an eluent of CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH = 80/1. The crude compound 1 was collected and washed with hot CH₃OH for twice, the pure compound 1 could be obtained as orange solid (0.046 g, 50%). After filtrating, compound 1 was obtained as an orange solid (0.046 g, 50%).

$^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, 298K) δ (ppm): 11.64 (s, 1H), 11.36 (s, 1H), 10.10 (s, 1H), 9.93 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.20 (m, 6H), 5.75 (s, 1H), 5.71 (s, 1H), 3.64-3.58 (m, 2H), 3.50-3.44 (br, 2H), 3.42-3.39 (br, 2H), 3.34-3.30 (br, 2H), 2.27-2.17 (br, 2H), 1.57-1.39 (m, 8H), 1.26-1.05 (m, 8H), 0.81-0.72 (m, 12H).

$^{19}$F NMR (564 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, 298K) δ (ppm): -120.0 (d), -120.2 (d).

$^{13}$C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$, 298K) δ (ppm): 171.3 (br), 167.8, 167.6, 161.4 (br), 155.8, 155.2 (br), 154.1, 152.1 (br), 141.6 (br), 131.2 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 131.0 (t, $J = 9.0$ Hz), 112.1 (dd, $J = 21.6$, 4.5 Hz), 105.7 (br), 50.4, 48.4 (br), 47.2, 37.8, 37.4, 37.0, 33.5, 32.9, 29.5, 29.4, 27.0, 22.6, 14.23, 12.2, 12.1.

**Fig. S1** $^1$H NMR spectra (600 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$/CDCl$_3$ = 4/1, 2.5 mM, 298K) of a) the mixture solution of 0.1 mL blue light (410 nm)-irradiated CDCl$_3$ solution of 1 (12.5 mM) and 0.4 mL DMSO-$d_6$, and b) the mixture solution of 0.1 mL yellow light ($\lambda > 500$ nm)-irradiated CDCl$_3$ solution of 1 (2.5 mM) and 0.4 mL DMSO-$d_6$.

**Fig. S2** $^1$H NMR spectra (600 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$/CDCl$_3$ = 4/1, 10 mM, 298K) of a) the mixture solution of 0.1 mL blue light (410 nm)-irradiated CDCl$_3$ solution of 1 (50 mM) and 0.4 mL DMSO-$d_6$, and b) the mixture solution of 0.1 mL yellow light ($\lambda > 500$ nm)-irradiated CDCl$_3$ solution of 1 (50 mM) and 0.4 mL DMSO-$d_6$. 
Fig. S3  (a) UV/Vis absorption spectra and (b) plot of corresponding absorption at 461 nm of 1 (0.1 mM in CHCl₃) upon the alternating irradiation by a blue light (λ = 410 nm, 23 W/m²) for 10 min, and a yellow light (λ > 500 nm, 221 W/m²) for 20 min at room temperature.

Fig. S4 (a) Time lapse absorption spectra of light (λ > 500 nm)-irradiated 1 (0.1 mM) in CHCl₃ at room temperature under dark; (b) plot of change in absorption A at 417 nm versus the recording time.

Fig. S5 The high-resolution ESI-MS spectrum of (Z)-1 dimer.
**Fig. S6** The dilution $^1$H NMR spectra (600 MHz, CDCl$_3$, 298K) of 1: a) 3.2 mM; b) 12.5 mM; c) 25 mM; and d) 50 mM. The solution was irradiated with blue light ($\lambda = 410$ nm, 23 W/m$^2$) for 20 min before submitting to the NMR spectrometer.

**Fig. S7** The dilution $^1$H NMR spectra (600 MHz, CDCl$_3$, 298K) of 1: a) 3.2 mM; b) 12.5 mM; c) 25 mM; and d) 50 mM. The solution was irradiated with yellow light ($\lambda > 500$ nm, 221 W/m$^2$) for 50 min before submitting to the NMR spectrometer.
Fig. S8 $^1$H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 6.

Fig. S9 $^{13}$C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 6.
Fig. S10 $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 7.

Fig. S11 $^{13}$C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl$_3$) spectrum of compound 7.
**Fig. S12** $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$) spectrum of compound (E)-1. The solution of (E)-1 was obtained after the blue light ($\lambda = 410$ nm) irradiated solution of 1 was heated at 65 °C in dark for 3 days.

**Fig. S13** $^{19}$F NMR (564 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$) spectrum of compound (E)-1.
Fig. S14 $^{13}$C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO-$d_6$) spectrum of compound $(E)$-1.