Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Aggregation-induced emission logic gates based on metal ion sensing of phenanthroline-tetrphenylethene conjugates

Wen-Liang Gong, Matthew P. Aldred*, Guo-Feng Zhang, Chong Li,
Ming-Qiang Zhu*

Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics,
College of Optical and Electronic Information,
Huazhong University of Science and Technology,
Wuhan 430074, P. R. China
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1. Experimental

All commercially available starting materials, reagents and solvents were used as supplied, unless otherwise stated, and were purchased from Aladdin, Acros Organics and Puyang Huicheng Chemical Co. Ltd. All reactions were carried out under a dry nitrogen atmosphere unless water was used as a solvent or reagent and the temperatures were measured externally. THF was dried using sodium wire and benzophenone indicator. Reported yields are isolated yields. Purification of most intermediates and all final products was accomplished in most cases by gravity column chromatography, using silica gel. For qualitative purity tests of all intermediates and final products, a single spot (visualised using UV-light at 254 nm and 365 nm) was obtained. Elemental analysis was used for quantitative purity checks of all final products. $^1$H NMR spectra are reported in parts per million (PPM) relative to tetramethylsilane as an internal standard.

KCl, NaCl, AlCl$_3$, MgCl$_2$, CdCl$_2$, AgNO$_3$, InCl$_3$, PbCl$_2$, CaCl$_2$, Zn(CH$_3$COO)$_2$, FeCl$_2$, FeCl$_3$, CuCN, CuCl$_2$, SnCl$_2$ and LiCl NaNO$_3$, NaNO$_2$, CH$_3$COONa, Na$_2$SO$_4$ were of analytical grade.

(a) INSTRUMENTATION

UV-VIS: Shimadzu UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (UV-3600)
PL: Edinburgh instruments (FLSP920 spectrometers)
$^1$H NMR: (Bruker AV400).
Mass Spectrometry: Agilent (1100 LC/MSD Trap), MALDI-TOF
Elemental Analysis: Elementar (Vario Micro-cube).

(b) SYNTHESIS

Synthesis of 3-bromo-1,10-phenanthroline (1) and 3,8-dibromo-1,10-phenanthroline (2)

1 and 2 were synthesis by one reaction in the following procedure:

A solution of 1, 10-phenanthroline (5.00g, 21.3mmol) in nitrobenzene (10mL) was heated to 130-140°C in a 100mL 3-neck flask. Bromine (6.82g, 42.6mmol in 5mL nitrobenzene) was added drop-wise over a period of 1h. Upon the addition of bromine, 1, 10-phenanthroline was added into the reacting solution. After stirring for 3h at the same temperature, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, treated with concentrated ammonium hydroxide (50mL) and extracted with DCM (3×25mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO$_4$) and filtered. Concentration in vacuum afforded a suspension of the products in nitrobenzene. The nitrobenzene was removed by dissolving the suspension in DCM (5mL). The mixture was purified by column chromatography using DCM: EA=1:1 as eluent. 1 and 2 were obtained successfully with yield 42% and 35%.

$^1$H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl$_3$, ppm) for 1: δ9.19 (d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ8.42 (d, J=2Hz, 1H), δ8.28(t, J=2Hz, 1H), δ7.86(d, J=9.2Hz, 1H), δ7.74(d, J=8.8Hz, 1H), δ7.69(m, 1H)
ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C$_{12}$H$_7$BrN$_2$:259.10 [M], found 258.8 and 260.7 [M+H]$^+$

$^1$H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl$_3$, ppm) for 2: δ9.19 (d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ8.42(d, J=2.4Hz, 2H), δ7.77(s, 2H)
ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C$_{12}$H$_6$Br$_2$N$_2$:338 [M], found 338.9 [M+H]$^+$
1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene and TPE boronic acid

The synthesis procedure could be found in our former research work.14, 15

Phen-1TPE (3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline) (4)

In a 50mL 2-neck flask, 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene (0.45g 1.2mmol), 3-bromo-1, 10-phenanthroline (0.26g, 1.0mmol), potassium carbonate (0.83g, 6.0mmol) and Pd(Pph3)4 (0.10g, 0.09mmol) as the catalyst were dissolve in 10mL toluene and 5mL water. The mixture was heated to 90°C, protected under atmosphere of N2 and stirred for 2 days. When the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature, washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO4) and filtered. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography using Me thanol: DCM=5:95 as eluent, and 0.36g yellow solid was obtained, yield 70.6%.

1H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl3, ppm) for 4: δ 9.41(d, J=2Hz, 1H), δ 9.22(d, J=3.2Hz, 1H), δ 8.37(d, J=30.8Hz, 1H), δ 8.29(d, J=8Hz, 1H), δ 7.83(d, J=1.6Hz, 2H), δ 7.67(m, 1H), δ 7.56(d, J=8.4Hz, 2H), δ 7.0-7.22(m, 17H)

13-C-NMR (400MHz, CDCl3, ppm) for 4:
- δ 123.01
- δ 126.58
- δ 126.63
- δ 126.69
- δ 126.72
- δ 126.92
- δ 127.69
- δ 127.81
- δ 127.90
- δ 128.62
- δ 131.33
- δ 131.36
- δ 131.40
- δ 132.28
- δ 133.17
- δ 136.18
- δ 140.15
- δ 141.69
- δ 143.54
- δ 143.58
- δ 144.17
- δ 149.21
- δ 150.35

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C38H26N2:510.63 [M], found 511.3 [M+H] +

Elemental Analysis: Anal calcd for C38H26N2 C, 89.38; H, 5.13; N, 5.49 Found: C, 89.26; H, 5.16; N, 5.54

Phen-2TPE (3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline) (5)

In a 25mL 2-neck flask, 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-1, 2, 2-triphenylethylene (0.24g 0.65mmol), 3, 8 dibromo-1, 10-phenanthroline (0.11g, 0.32mmol), potassium carbonate (0.27g, 2.0mmol) and Pd(Pph3)4 (0.1g, 0.09mmol) as the catalyst were dissolved in 5mL toluene and 2.5mL water. The mixture was heated to 90°C, protected under atmosphere of N2 and stirred for 2 days. When the reaction was finished, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature, washed with water (3×25mL), dried (MgSO4) and filtered. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography using Methanol: DCM=10:90 as eluent. 0.20g light yellow solid was obtained, yield 74.1%.

1H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl3, ppm) for 5: δ 9.46 (s, 2H), δ 8.42(s, 4H), δ 7.88(s, 2H), δ 7.56 (d, J=8Hz, 4H), δ 7.00-7.23(m, 34H)

13-C-NMR (400MHz, CDCl3, ppm) for 5:
- δ 126.59
- δ 126.65
- δ 126.68
- δ 126.74
- δ 127.12
- δ 127.69
- δ 127.82
- δ 127.91
- δ 128.53
- δ 131.33
- δ 131.36
- δ 131.40
- δ 132.28
- δ 133.17
- δ 136.18
- δ 140.13
- δ 141.73
- δ 143.54
- δ 143.58
- δ 144.17
- δ 149.20

ESI (+)-MS: Calcd for C38H26N2:510.63 [M], found 511.3 [M+H] +

Elemental Analysis: Anal calcd for C38H26N2 C, 91.40; H, 5.27; N, 3.33 Found: C, 91.35; H, 5.32; N, 3.36

(c)Preparation of the solutions

Both Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE are dissolved in distilled THF with concentration equals to 10⁻³mol/L. To a 2mL solution with different f_w, 20μL of the above solutions are added by a microsyringe (V_max = 25μL). In this way, Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE solutions with f_w (0%- 95 %) and concentration equal to 10⁻⁵mol/L are made.
Metal ion solutions are prepared by dissolving 0.1mmol the metal salts in 10ml distilled water to obtain solution with concentration of 10^2 mol/L, and then diluted to 2×10^3 mol/L. The amount of metal salts is used as below:


During the titration experiment, metal ions are added into gradually with a fixed interval of 2min.

For titration experiments in THF, Phen-1TPE is prepared with concentration equals to 10^-4 mol/L and Phen-2TPE 5×10^-5 mol/L. Metal salts including Zn(CH₃COO)₂, CdCl₂, InCl₃, and SnCl₂ are dissolved in THF: Methanol = 25:1(v:v) with concentration equals to 2×10^3 mol/L. The titration experiment is similar to the former experiment.
2. Fluorescent and UV-Vis spectra of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE titration with metal ions

2.1(a) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90\%$ (2 mL, $10^{-5}$ mol/L) titrating with different amount of metal aqueous solution ([M$^{+}$] = $2 \times 10^{-3}$ mol/L)

![Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]](image)

**Fig. S1.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]

![UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]](image)

**Fig. S2.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]
Fig.S3. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Fe$^{3+}$]

Fig.S4. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Fe$^{3+}$]

Fig.S5. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]
Supplementary Information

**Fig. S6.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]

**Fig. S7.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Zn$^{2+}$]

**Fig. S8.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Zn$^{2+}$]
**Fig. S9.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]

**Fig. S10.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]
2.1(b) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-1TPE (2mL, 10^{-4} mol/L) titrating with different metal ions in THF

**Fig. S11.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [In^{3+}]

**Fig. S12.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [In^{3+}]
**Fig. S13.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with \([\text{Sn}^{2+}]\)

**Fig. S14.** UV-vis spectra titrating with \([\text{Sn}^{2+}]\)
Fig. S15. Fluorescent spectra titrating with $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$.

Fig. S16. UV-vis spectra titrating with $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$. 
Fig. S17. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd^{2+}]

Fig. S18. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd^{2+}]
2.2(a) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$ (2mL, $10^{-5}$mol/L) titrating with different amount of metal aqueous solution ([M$^{n+}$] = $2 \times 10^{-3}$mol/L)

**Fig. S19.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]

**Fig. S20.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]
**Fig. S21.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Fe³⁺]

**Fig. S22.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Fe³⁺]
Fig. S23. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]

Fig. S24. UV-vis spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]
Fig. S25. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]

Fig. S26. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]
Fig. S27. Fluorescent spectra titrating with $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$.

Fig. S28. UV-vis spectra titrating with $[\text{Zn}^{2+}]$. 
Fig.S29. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cu\textsuperscript{2+}]

Fig.S30. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cu\textsuperscript{2+}]
2.2(b) Fluorescent and UV-vis spectra of Phen-2TPE (2mL, $5 \times 10^{-6}$ mol/L) titrating with different metal ions in THF

![Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]](image)

Fig. S31. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]

![UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]](image)

Fig. S32. UV-vis spectra titrating with [Cd$^{2+}$]
Supplementary Information

Fig. S33. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]

Fig. S34. UV-vis spectra titrating with [In$^{3+}$]

Fig. S35. Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]
**Fig.S36.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Sn$^{2+}$]

**Fig.S37.** Fluorescent spectra titrating with [Zn$^{2+}$]

**Fig.S38.** UV-vis spectra titrating with [Zn$^{2+}$]
3. Fluorescence spectra of Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90\% \ (10^{-5}\text{mol/L}, 2\text{mL})$
titrating with different anions

![Fluorescence spectra graph]

**Fig.S39.** FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90\% \ (2\text{mL}, 10^{-5}\text{ mol/L})$ titration with 10 equivalent Na$_2$SO$_4$, NaCl, NaNO$_3$ and NaNO$_2$ and CH$_3$COONa
4. UV-vis Absorption and FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in THF (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}), f_w = 90 \% (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}), f_w = 90 \% (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}) + \text{Cu}^{2+}

**Fig.S40.** (A) UV-vis absorption of Phen-1TPE in pure THF (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}), f_w = 90 \% (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}), and in f_w = 90 \% (10^{-5} \text{mol/L}) after adding 1 equivalent Cu^{2+}, (B) FL spectra of Phen-1TPE in f_w = 90 \%, adding 1equiv Cu^{2+}, and 1equiv Cu^{2+} + 3equiv EDTA.
5. DLS measurement

Fig.S41 DLS column diagrams of Phen-1TPE, Phen-2TPE (10^{-5} mol/L) in $f_w = 90\%$ and Phen-1TPE (10^{-5} mol/L) in $f_w = 90\% + 1$ equiv Cu^{2+}
### 6. Table of metal ion test in THF for Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metal ions</th>
<th>Phen-1TPE</th>
<th>Phen-2TPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Li⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mg²⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca²⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al³⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pb²⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In³⁺</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cd²⁺</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zn²⁺</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sn²⁺</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe²⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe³⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cu²⁺</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig.S42** Table of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in THF adding different metal ions. “×” means after adding the corresponding metal ions into it, no fluorescent enhancement is observed or detected; “√” means after adding the corresponding metal ions into it, fluorescence enhancement is observed or detected.
7. Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$ metal ion titration

**Fig.S43.** FL spectra (A) and column diagram (B) of Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$ by adding 1 equivalent amount of metal ions (1) Blank, (2) K$^+$, (3) Na$^+$, (4) Mg$^{2+}$, (5) Al$^{3+}$, (6) Cd$^{2+}$, (7) Ag$^+$, (8) In$^{3+}$, (9) Pb$^{2+}$, (10) Ca$^{2+}$, (11) Zn$^{2+}$, (12) Fe$^{2+}$, (13) Fe$^{3+}$, (14) Cu$^+$, (15) Cu$^{2+}$, (16) Sn$^{2+}$, (17) Li$^+$
8. The effect of pH to Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90\%$

Fig. S44 (A) Fluorescent spectra of Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 99\%$ at pH values from 2.72 to 8.3, (B) fluorescent intensity at 494nm at different pH from 2.72 to 8.3.
9. Fluorescence quantum yield and fluorescence lifetime

9.1 fluorescence quantum yield of Phen-1TPE in THF, \( f_w = 90\% \), \( f_w = 90\% + \text{Cu}^{2+} \), Phen-2TPE in THF and Phen-2TPE in \( f_w = 90\% \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Phen-1TPE</th>
<th>Phen-2TPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In THF</td>
<td>In ( f_w = 90% )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \Phi_F ) (%)</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>36.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig.S45 (A) UV-vis, (B) FL spectra and (C) fluorescence quantum yield (\( \Phi_F \)) of Phen-1TPE in THF, in \( f_w = 90 \% \), in \( f_w = 90 \% + \text{Cu}^{2+} \), Phen-2TPE in THF and Phen-2TPE in \( f_w = 90\% \) using DPA as standard (in cyclohexane, \( \Phi_F = 0.9 \)),

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9.2 Fluorescence lifetime ($\tau$) of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90\%$

![Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-1TPE (red) and Phen-2TPE (blue) in $f_w = 90\%$](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phen-1TPE in $f_w = 90%$</th>
<th>Phen-2TPE in $f_w = 90%$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluorescence lifetime $\tau$ (ns)</td>
<td>$\tau_1 = 1.508$, 66.46%, $\tau_2 = 4.607$, 33.53% $\chi^2 = 1.422$</td>
<td>$\tau_1 = 1.578$, 59.76%, $\tau_2 = 3.983$, 40.24% $\chi^2 = 1.218$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig.S46 (A)** Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-1TPE (red) and Phen-2TPE (blue) in $f_w = 90\%$ ($10^{-5} M$, $k_{ex} = 340nm$ and $k_{em} = 494nm$) (B) table list for the corresponding spectra
9.3 Fluorescence lifetime (τ) of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE in THF by adding metal ions (Cd²⁺, Zn²⁺, In³⁺ and Sn²⁺)

**Fig. S47 (A)** Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-1TPE in THF by adding metal ions (10⁻⁵M, k_{ex} = 340nm and k_{em} Cd²⁺ (513 nm), Zn²⁺ (556 nm), In³⁺ (580 nm)) and Sn²⁺ (616 nm), **(B)** Fluorescence decay curves of Phen-2TPE in THF by adding metal ions (10⁻⁵M, k_{ex} = 340 nm and k_{em} Cd²⁺ (538 nm), Zn²⁺ (537 nm), In³⁺ (588 nm) and Sn²⁺ (624 nm), **(C)** table list for the corresponding spectra.
10. SEM image of Phen-1TPE and Phen-2TPE

**Fig S48** SEM image of Phen-1TPE (upside) and Phen-2TPE (downside) prepared from \( f_w = 90\% \), concentration equals 10-5mol/L
11. $^1$H-NMR and $^{13}$C-NMR Spectra

**Fig S49.** $^1$H-NMR spectrum of 3-bromo-1,10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$

**Fig S50.** $^1$H-NMR spectrum of 3,8-dibromo-1,10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$
Fig S51. $^1$H-NMR spectrum of 3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$
Fig S52. $^1$H-NMR Spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$
**Fig S53.** $^{13}$C-NMR Spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$

**Fig S54.** $^{13}$C-NMR spectrum of 3, 8-ditetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline in CDCl$_3$
12. Mass Spectra

Fig.S55 Mass spectrum of 3-bromo-1, 10-phenanthroline
Fig S56. Mass spectrum of 3, 8-dibromo-1, 10-phenanthroline
Fig S57. Mass spectrum of 3, 8-diTPE-1, 10-phenanthroline
Fig S58. Mass spectrum of 3-tetraphenylethene-1, 10-phenanthroline