

Supporting Information

Synthesis and photophysics of selective functionalized π -conjugated, blue light emitting highly fluorescent C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives

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Table S1. Absorptivity variation data along with quantum yield of the compounds **3a** to **3e** and **4a** to **4r** studied in acetonitrile at 25 °C.

Entry	Fluorophore	$\Phi_{fl} \pm 0.009^*$	ϵ at $\Lambda=312\text{nm}$
1	3a	0.97	18860.3
2	3b	0.94	21030.6
3	3c	0.49	18282.1
4	3d	0.49	21184.3
5	3e	1.00	11130.3
6	4a	1.00	13471.0
7	4b	0.88	17489.5
8	4c	0.87	23466.5
9	4d	0.93	22254.0
10	4e	0.91	11688.3
11	4f	1.00	12887.0
12	4g	0.51	24949.0
13	4h	0.92	20657.0
14	4i	0.81	18604.6
15	4j	0.91	23557.2
16	4k	0.88	24038.5
17	4l	0.87	14570.1
18	4m	0.82	13946.6
19	4n	0.82	14409.4
20	4o	1.00	18406.5
21	4p	0.86	15174.4
22	4q	0.87	18080.0
23	4r	0.77	18251.9

*for OD = 0.09 at λ_{ex} = 315 nm, reference used 9,10-diphenylanthracene.

Table S2. Detailed photophysical data of the compounds **6a** to **6f** and **7a** to **7e** studied in acetonitrile at 25 °C.

Entry	Fluorophore	λ_{abs} [nm]	λ_{em} [nm]	$\Delta\lambda$ ($\lambda_{em} - \lambda_{abs}$) [nm]	$\Phi_{fl} \pm 0.009^*$	ϵ at $\Lambda=312\text{nm}$
1	6a	387.4	448.0	60.6	0.98	15456.8
2	6b	387.6	448.2	60.6	0.99	12073.5
3	6c	388.2	448.2	60.0	0.98	14819.7
4	6d	388.0	448.2	60.2	0.97	13613.9
5	6e	385.4	449.2	63.8	1.00	11851.2
6	6f	388.6	448.6	60.0	0.98	16544.7
7	7a	364.0	423.0	59.0	0.95	15758.4
8	7b	370.7	429.4	58.7	0.99	24859.3
9	7c	371.5	430.0	58.5	0.92	13423.6
10	7d	370.5	425.6	55.1	1.00	16961.9
11	7e	367.0	423.4	56.4	0.97	13323.0

*for OD = 0.09 at λ_{ex} = 315 nm, reference used 9,10-diphenylanthracene.

Detailed photophysical results of the compounds **6a** to **6f** and **7a** to **7e** were illustrated in Table S2. From the results it was clearly observed that the compounds derived (**6a-6f**) from 9,10-phenanthraquinone absorption comparatively in the longer wavelengths (λ_{abs}) region (385.4-388.6 nm), and also emit comparatively in longer wavelengths (λ_{em}) region (448.0-449.2 nm) with high absorptivity and quantum yields Φ_{fl} . The derivatives prepared from o-phenelenediamine (**7a-7e**) show similar types of absorption spectra in the UV region (364.0-371.5 nm), and comparatively emission occurs in shorter wavelengths (λ_{em}) region (423.0-430.0 nm) with high quantum yields Φ_{fl} (Table S2).

Table S3. Detailed photophysical properties and data of the compounds **2a** and **2b** studied in acetonitrile at 25 °C.

Entry	Compound	λ_{abs} [nm]	λ_{em} [nm]	$\Phi_{\text{fl}} \pm 0.009^*$	ε at $\lambda = 312\text{nm}$
1	2a	362.0	437.2	0.06	4000.0
2	2b	365.6	439.6	0.09	5427.8

*for OD = 0.09 at λ_{ex} = 315 nm, reference used 9,10-diphenylanthracene.

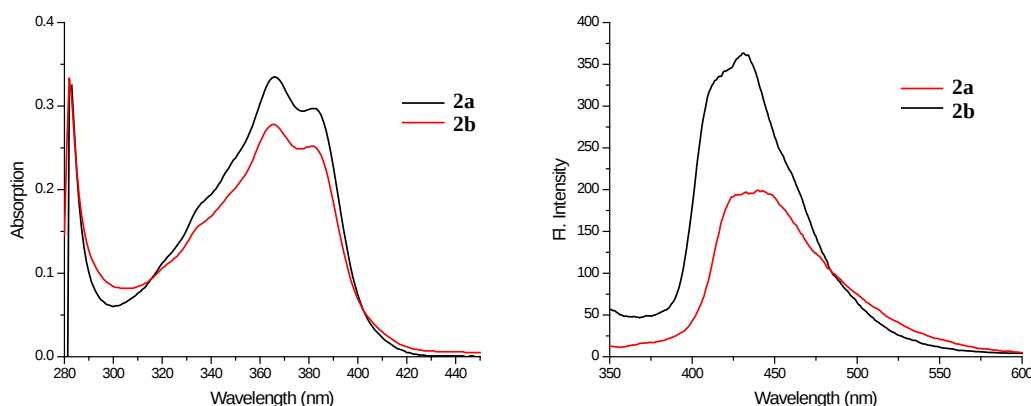


Figure S1. Normalized absorption and emission spectra of **2a** and **2b**, in air-equilibrated solutions of acetonitrile at 25 °C.

A comparative photophysical study of the fluorophores (**3a**, **4c** and **4k**) were also investigated in a wide variety of solvents starting from aprotic polar DMSO to nonpolar xylene and protic methanol also at 25 °C by UV/Vis and fluorescence spectroscopy. The absorption and emission spectra has been given in the Figure S2.

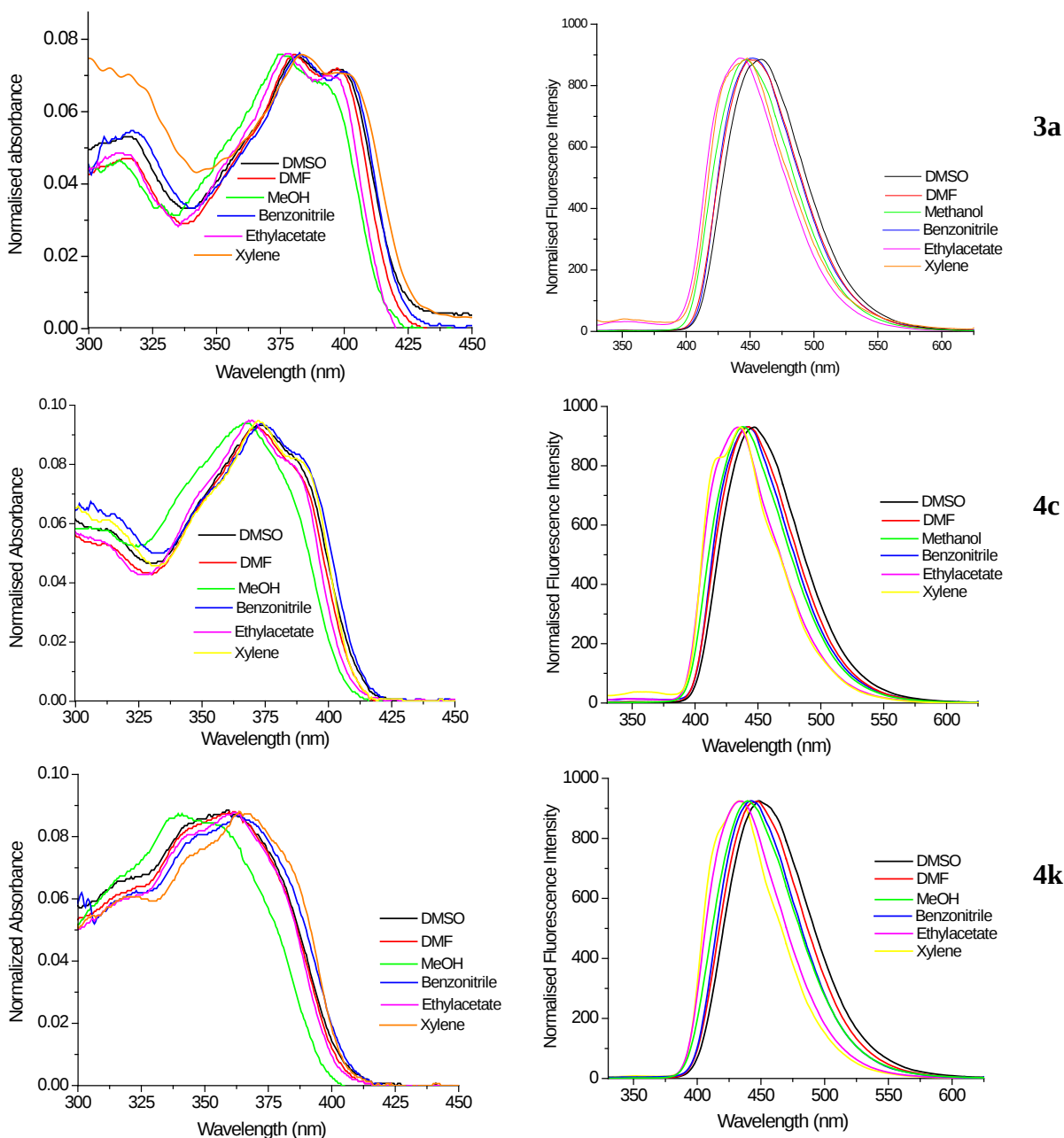
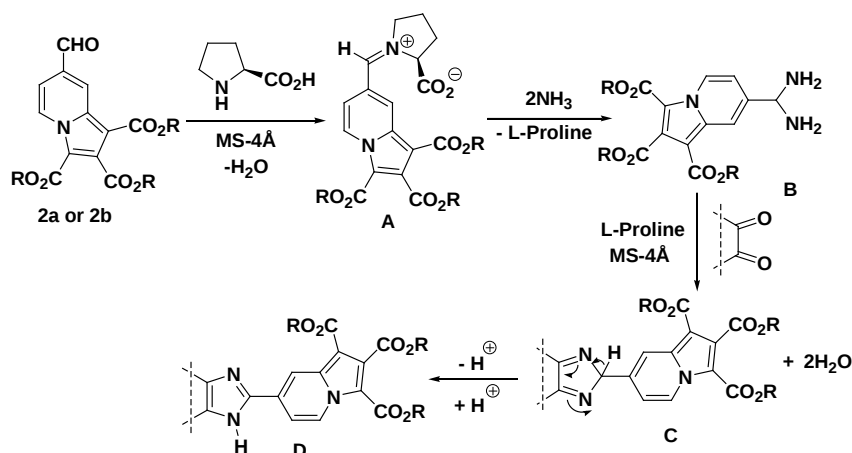


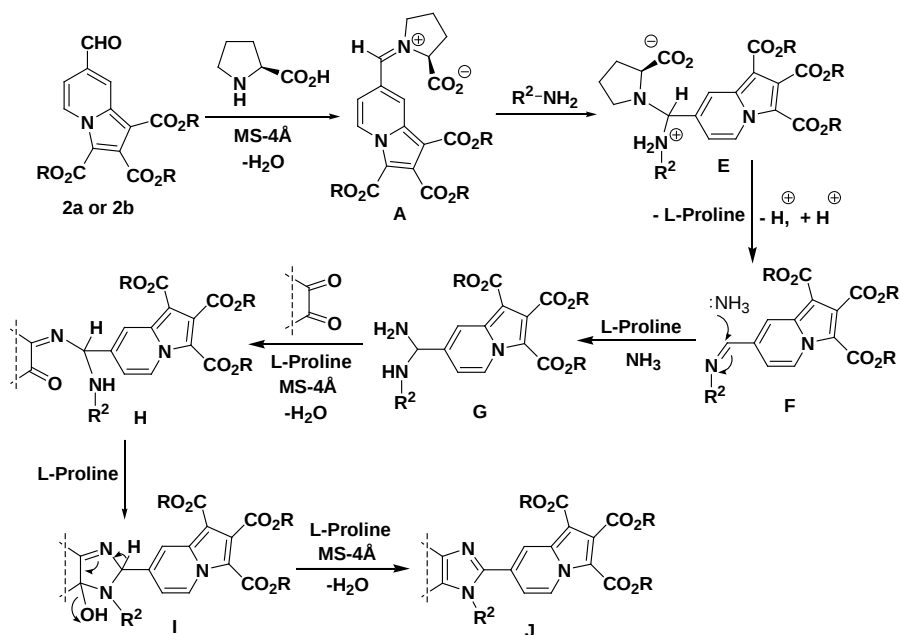
Figure S2. Normalized absorption spectra and emission spectra of **3a** (Top), **4c** (middle) and **4k** (below) respectively, in air-equilibrated solutions of various solvents at 25 °C.

A most plausible reaction mechanism was proposed for this L-proline mediated synthesis of C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives has been illustrated in Scheme S1.¹ Initially, amination of trialkyl-7-formylindolizine-1,2,3-tricarboxylate (**2a** or **2b**) to a diamine intermediate **B**, through the formation of **A**, catalyzed by L-proline in presence of molecular sieves (4Å). In the next step, the diamine intermediate **B** condenses with the carbonyl carbons of the 1,2-diketone to afford the intermediate **C**, catalyzed by L-proline. Finally, it (**C**) rearranges to the ultimate tri substituted C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives, **D** (**3a-3e**) as a product.



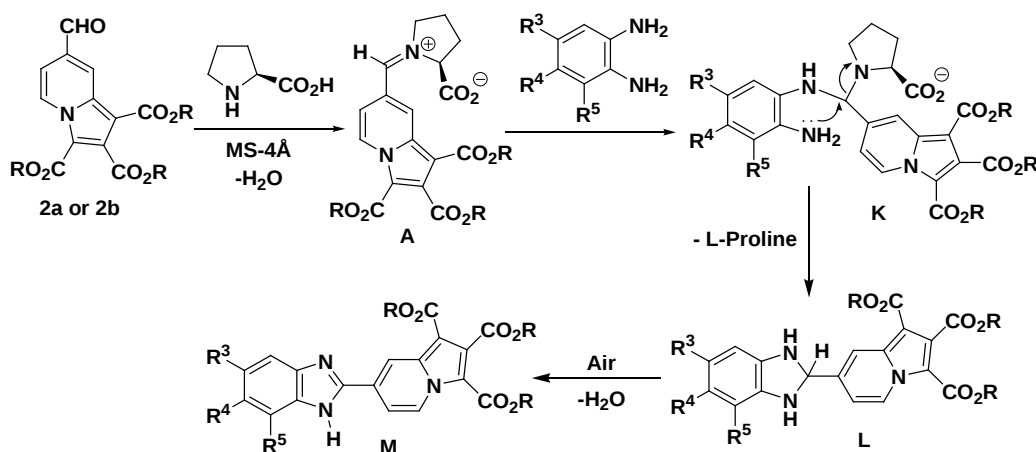
Scheme S1. Mechanism of the formation of 2,4,5-trisubstituted C7-imidazo indolizines, **3a-3e**.

In the case of tetrasubstituted C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives (**4a-4r** and **6a-6f**) the reaction precedes through almost the similar pathway as for trisubstituted C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives, **J** shown in Scheme S2.²



Scheme S2. Mechanism of the formation of C7-imidazo indolizine derivatives **4a-4r** and **6a-6f**.

The formation of tri-substituted benzimidazo indolizine derivatives (**7a-7e**) catalyzed by L-proline in presence of 4Å molecular sieves also described in Scheme S3.² Here, simple dehydration followed by proton rearrangement furnishes the corresponding product, **M** (**7a-7e**).



Scheme S3. Mechanism of the formation of 2-substituted C7-benzimidazo indolizines, **7a-7e**.

Reference

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