

## Electronic Supplementary Information

### Benzo[5]helicene-based conjugated polymers: synthesis, photophysical properties, and application for the detection of nitroaromatic explosives

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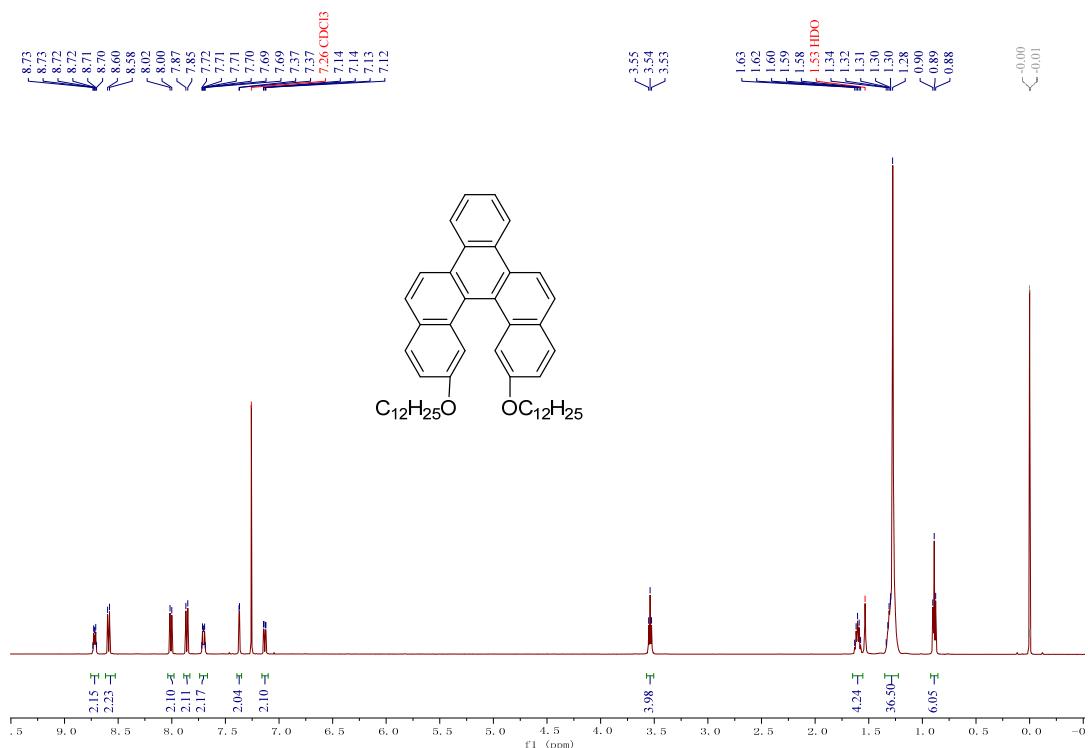
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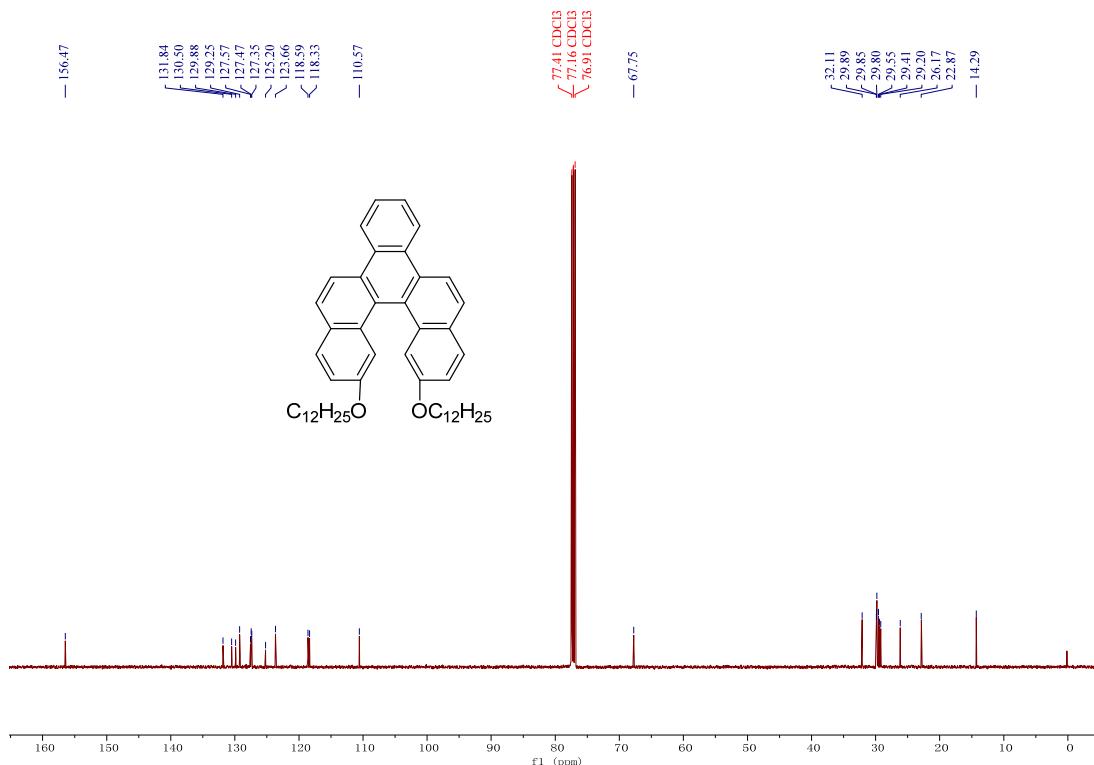
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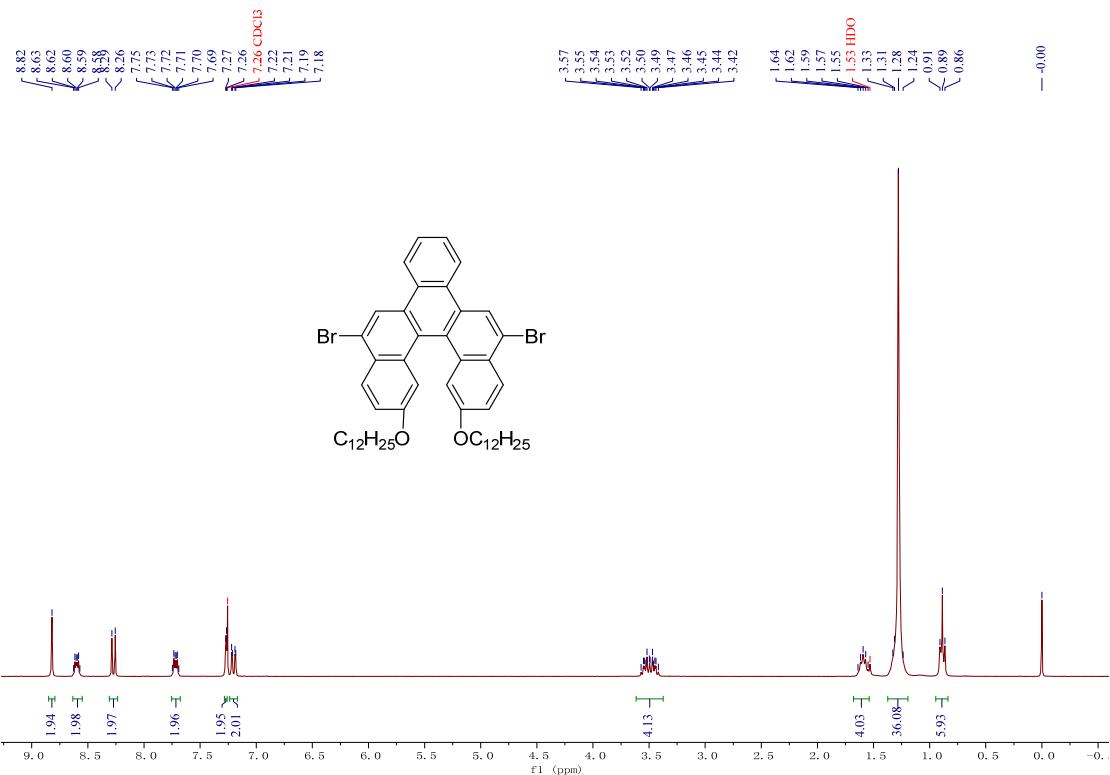
## S1. Copies of the $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra



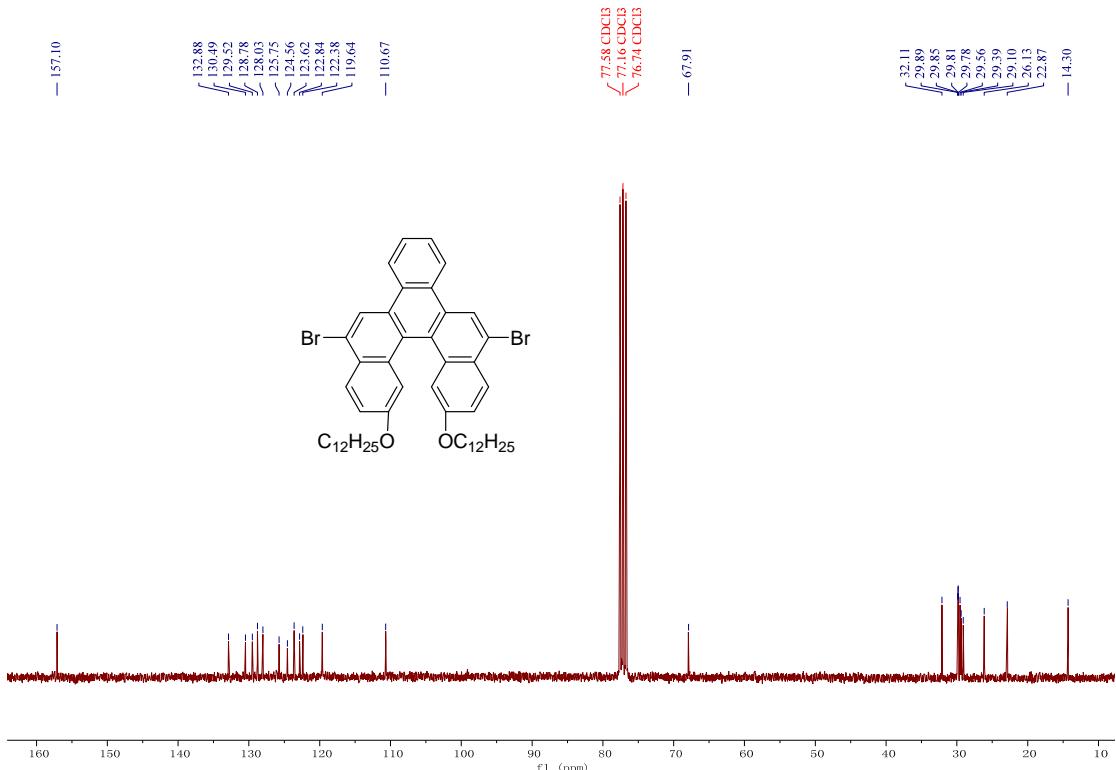
**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **2**.



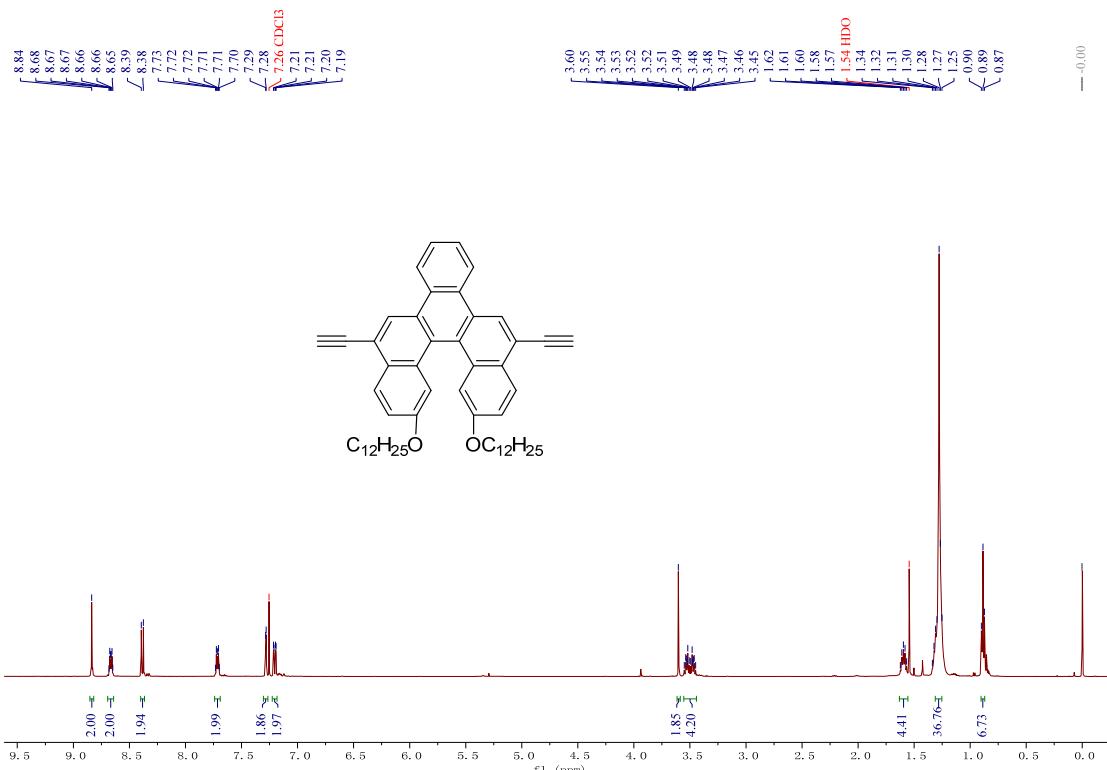
**Fig. S2**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of **2**.



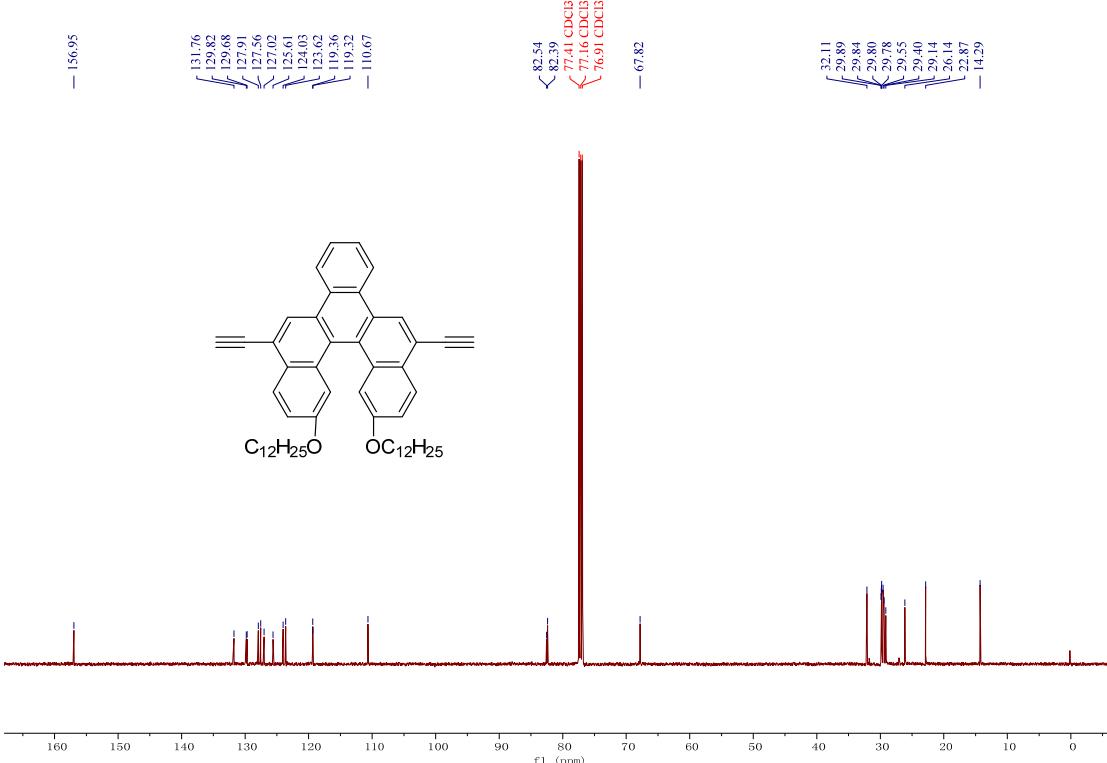
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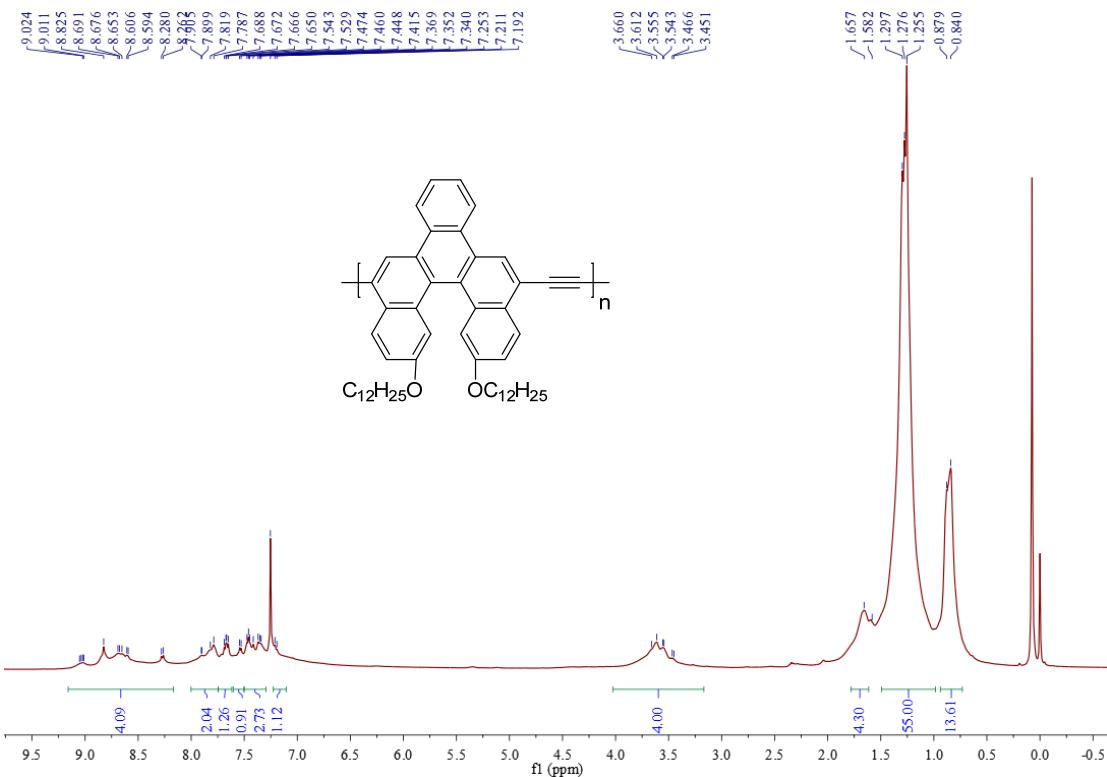
**Fig. S4** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **3**.



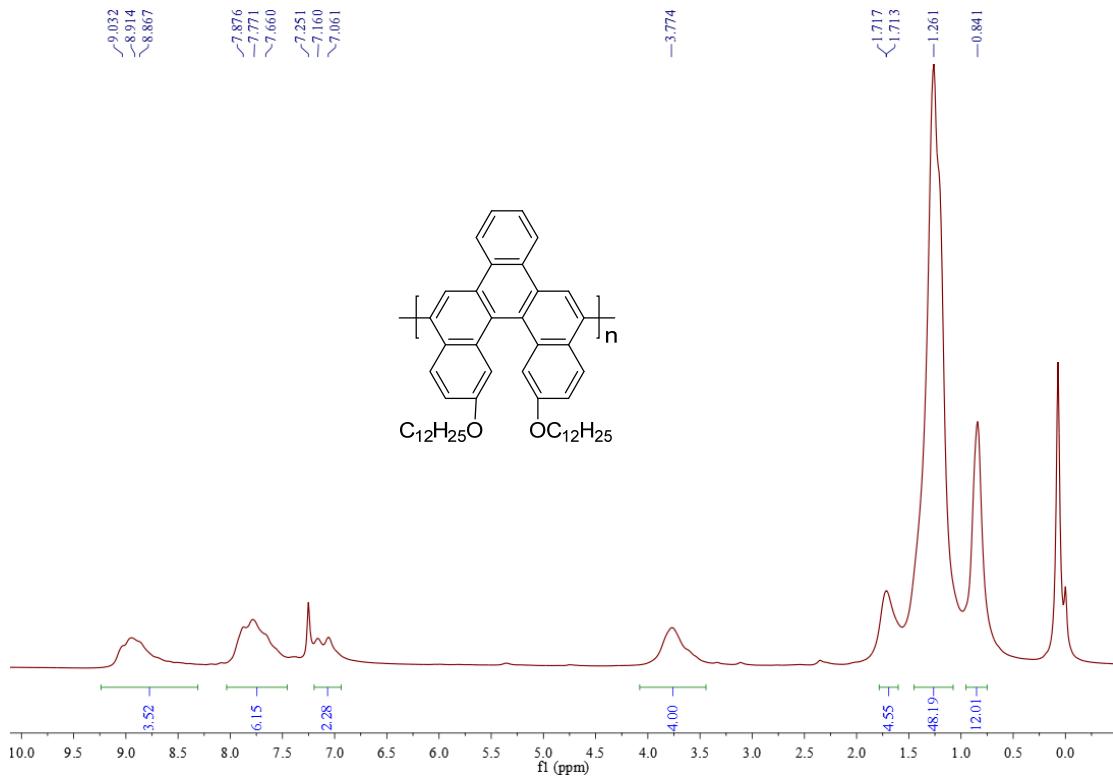
**Fig. S5** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **4**.



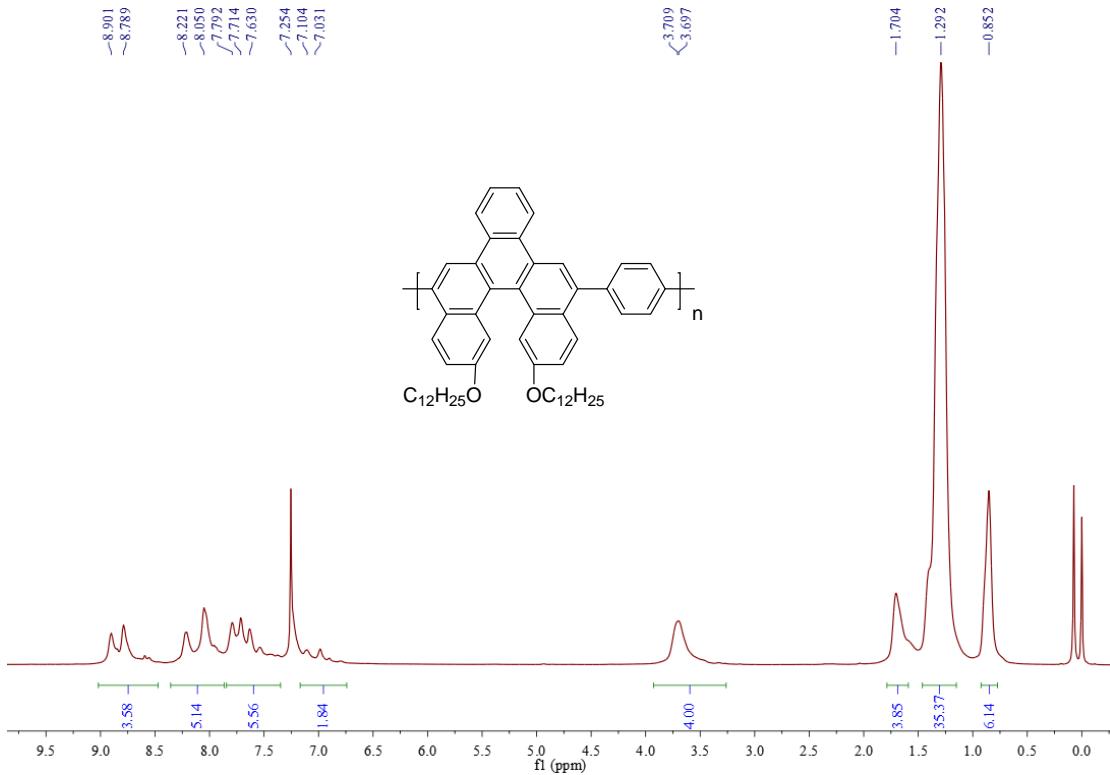
**Fig. S6** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of **4**.



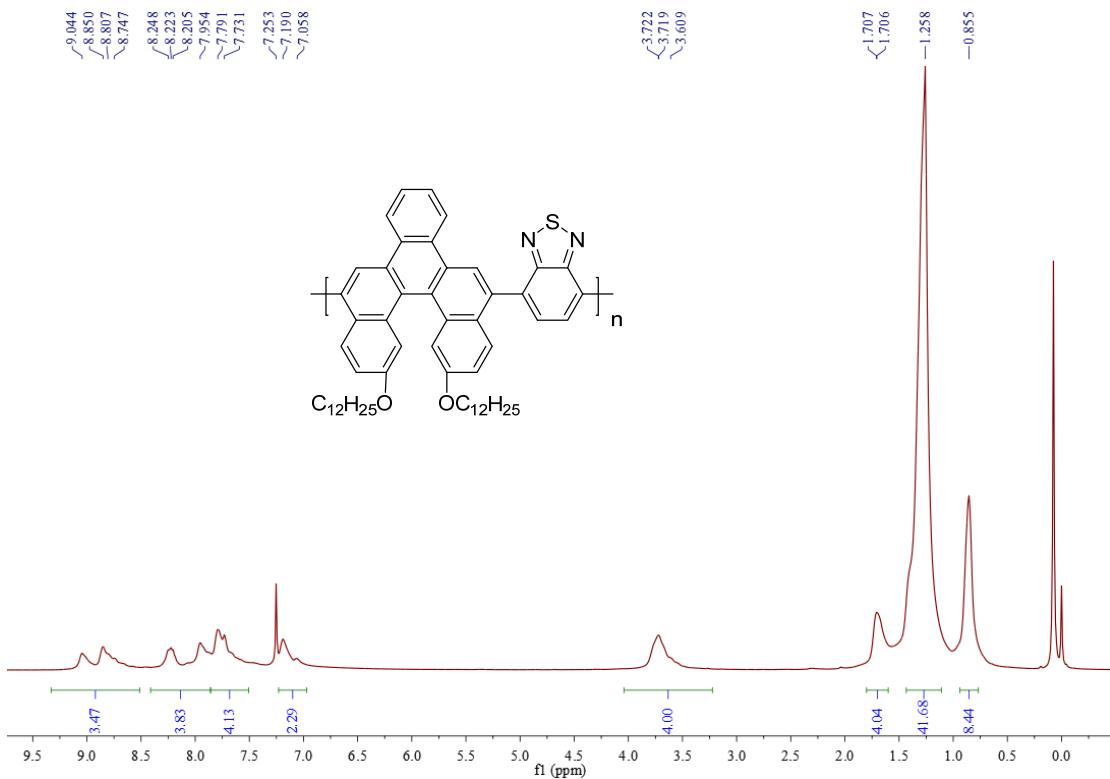
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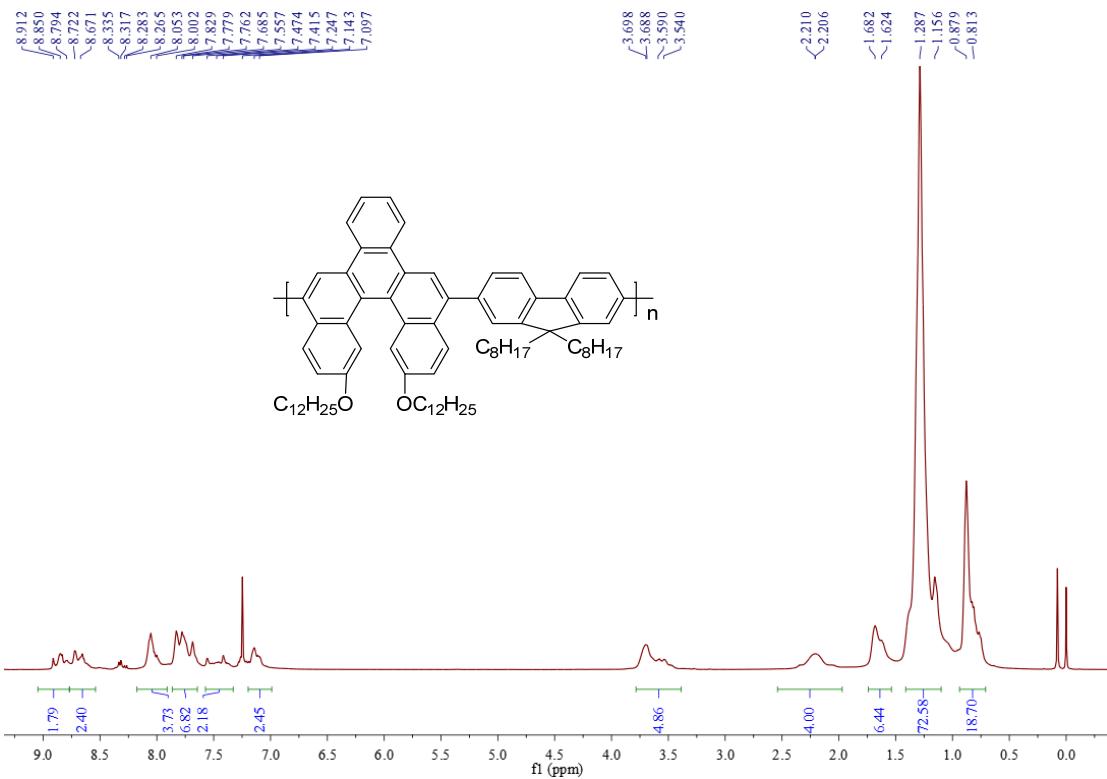
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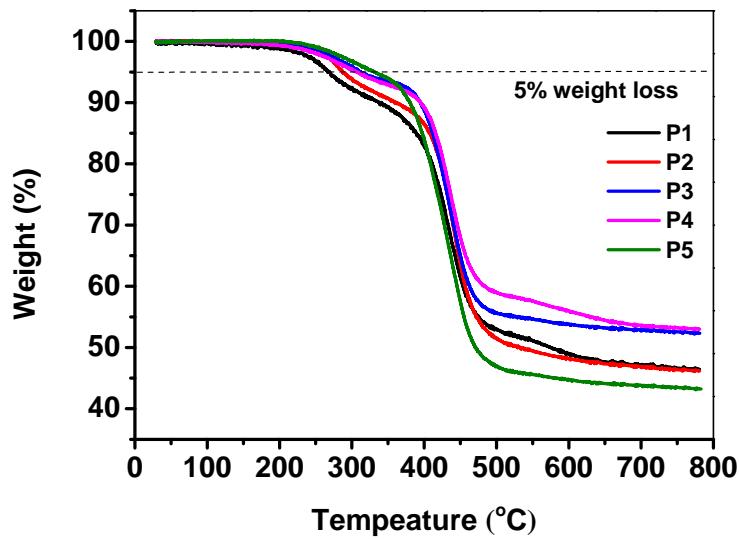
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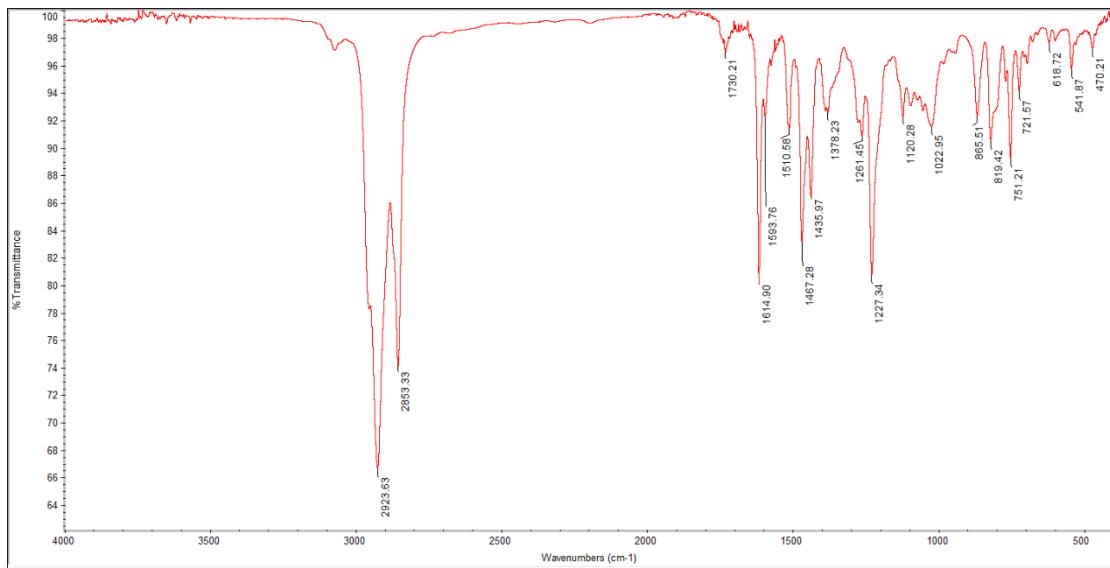


## S2. TGA thermogram of the polymers

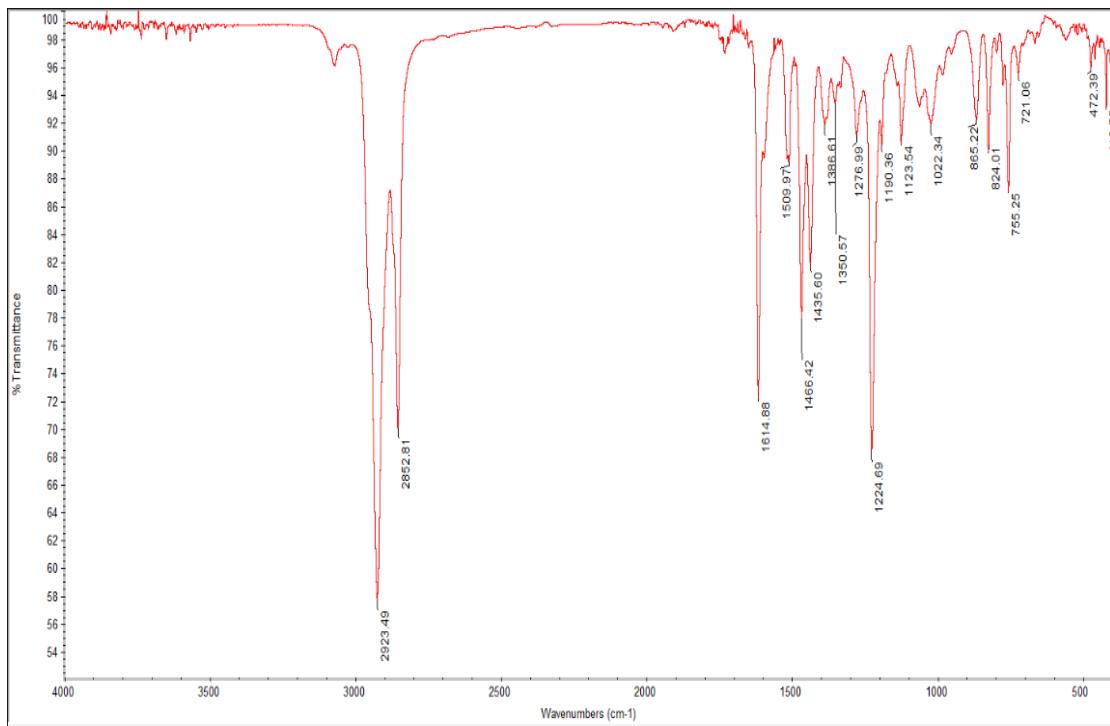


**Fig. S12** TGA plots of the polymers with a heating rate of  $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$  under nitrogen.

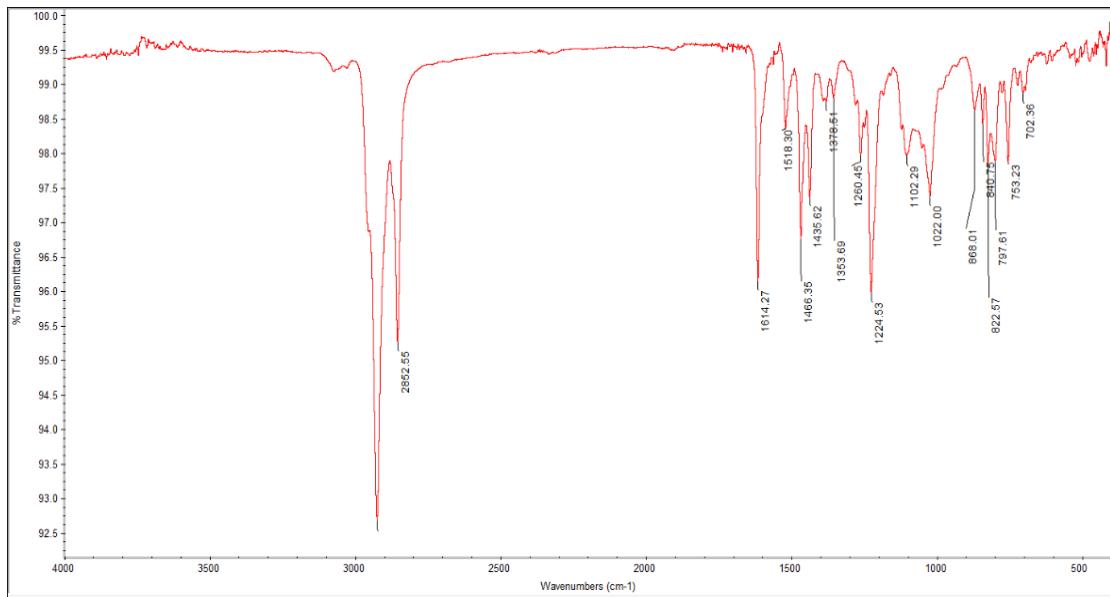
### S3. IR spectra of the polymers



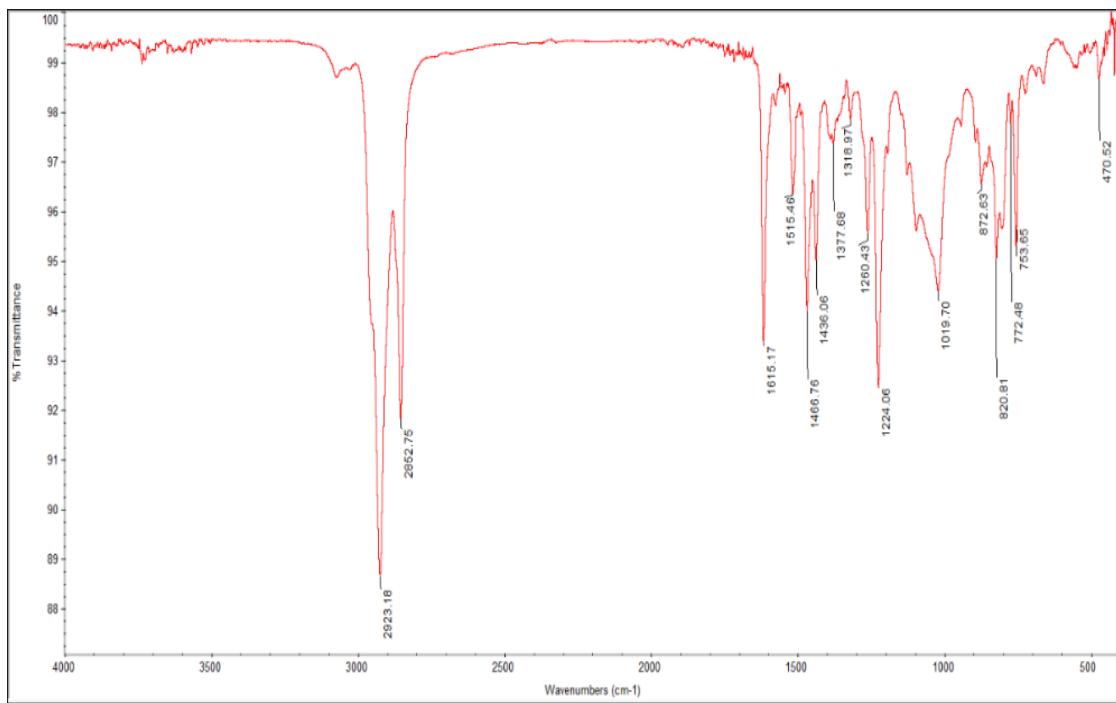
**Fig. S13** IR spectrum of **P1**.



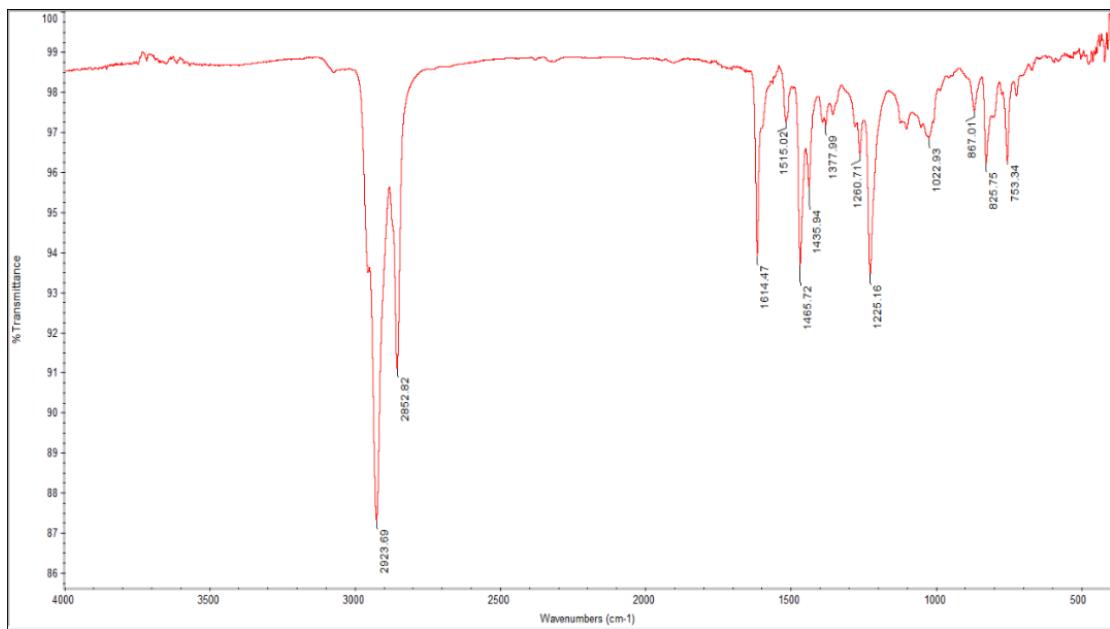
**Fig. S14** IR spectrum of **P2**.



**Fig. S15** IR spectrum of P3.

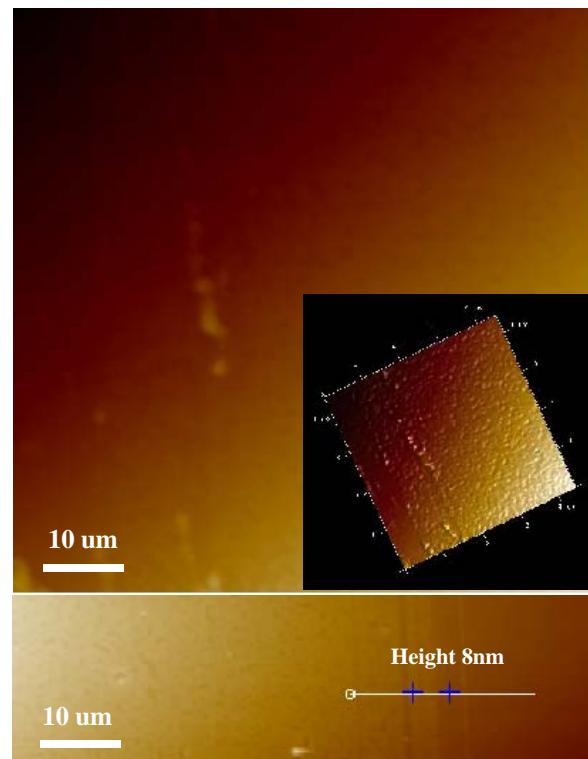


**Fig. S16** IR spectrum of P4.



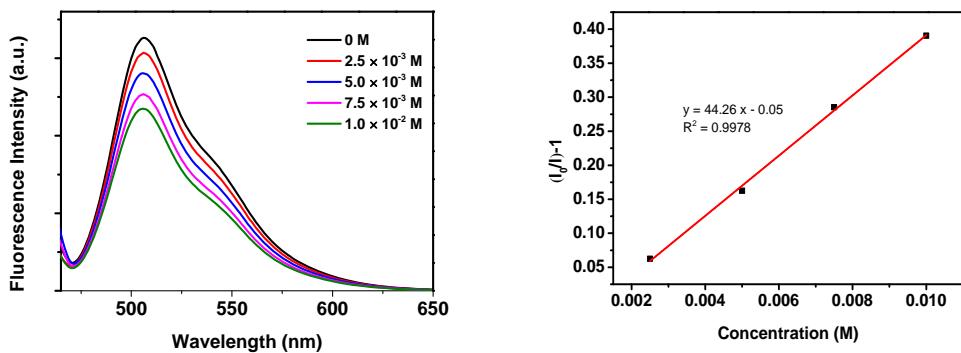
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**S4. AFM topography image of the spin-coated film of P2**

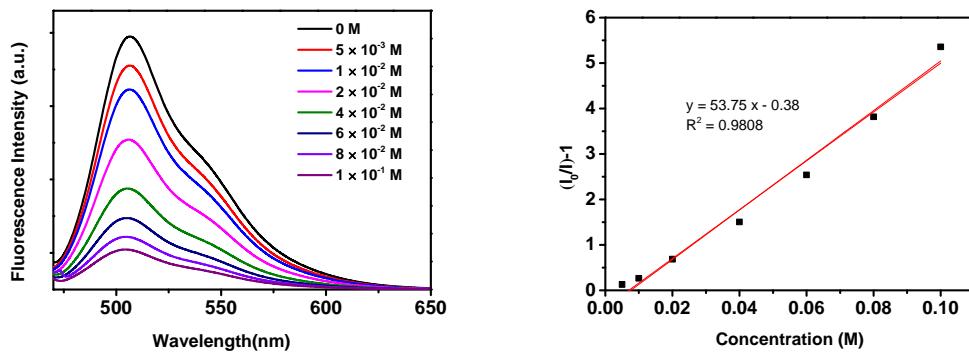


**Fig. S18** AFM topography image of the spin-coated film of **P2** and the thickness of the film.

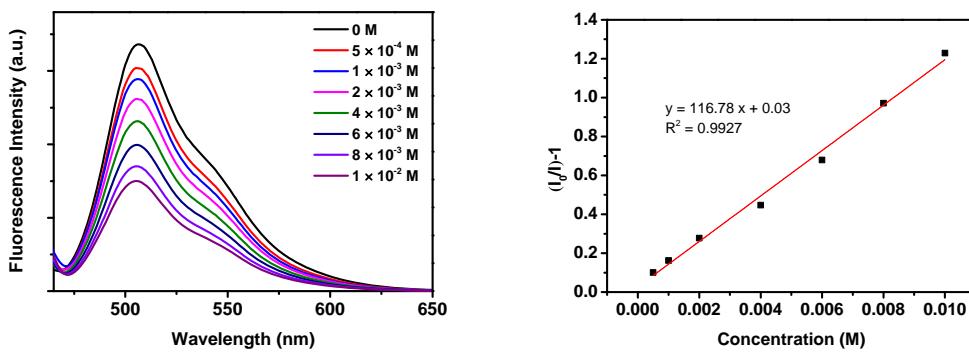
**S5. Fluorescence spectra of the polymers in presence of different concentrations of the analytes in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and their corresponding Stern-Volmer plots**



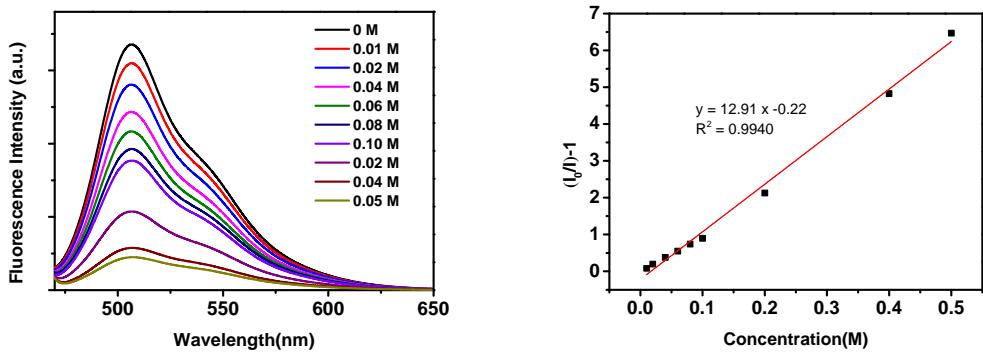
**Fig. S19** Fluorescence spectra of **P1** in presence of different concentrations of TNT in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).



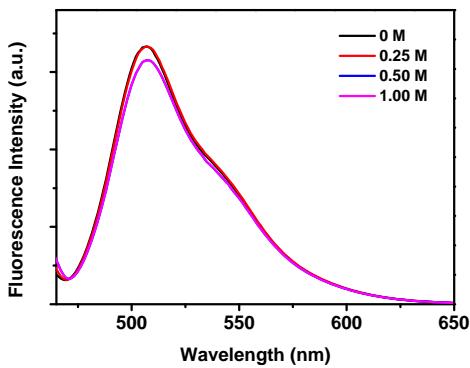
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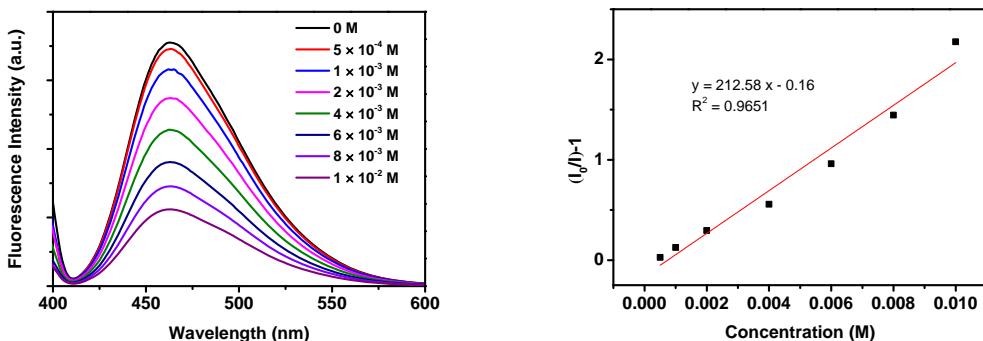
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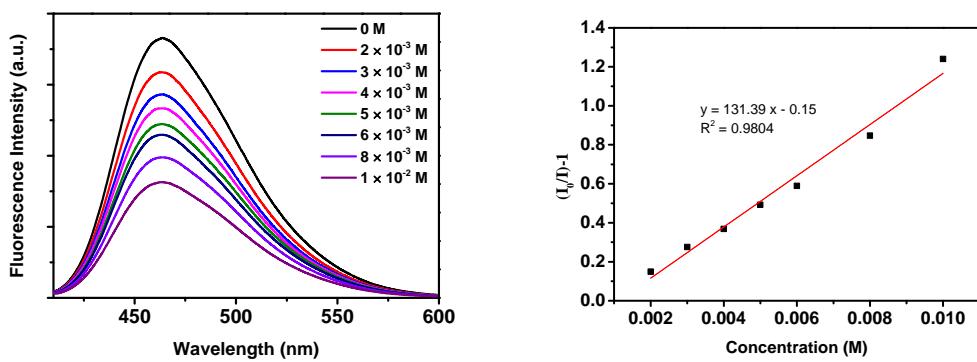
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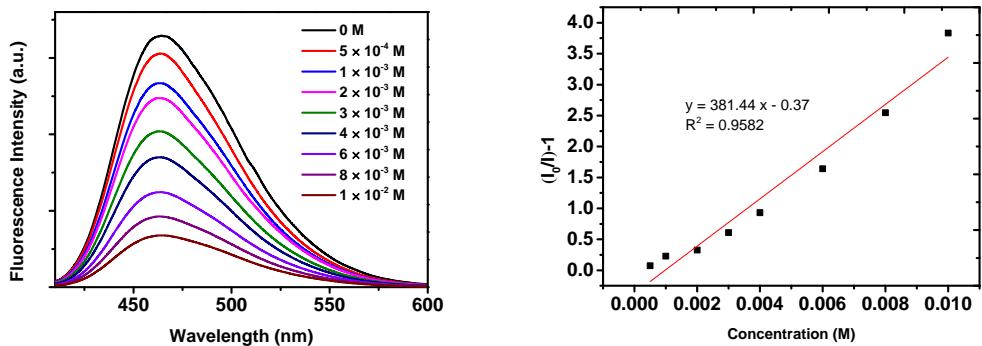
**Fig. S23** Fluorescence spectra of **P1** in presence of different concentrations of BP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



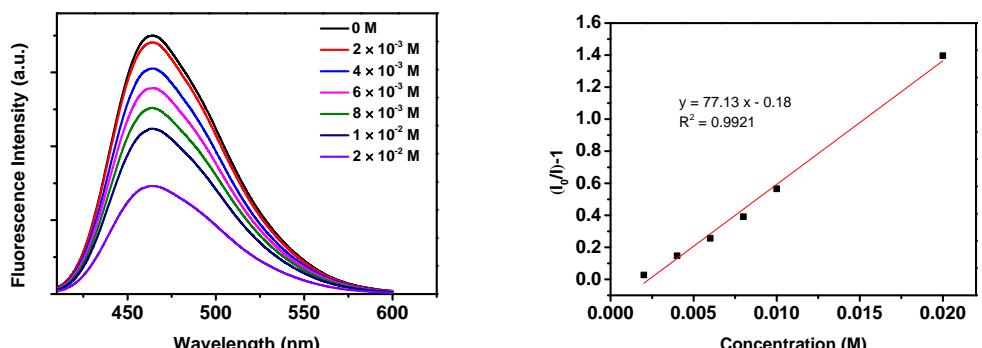
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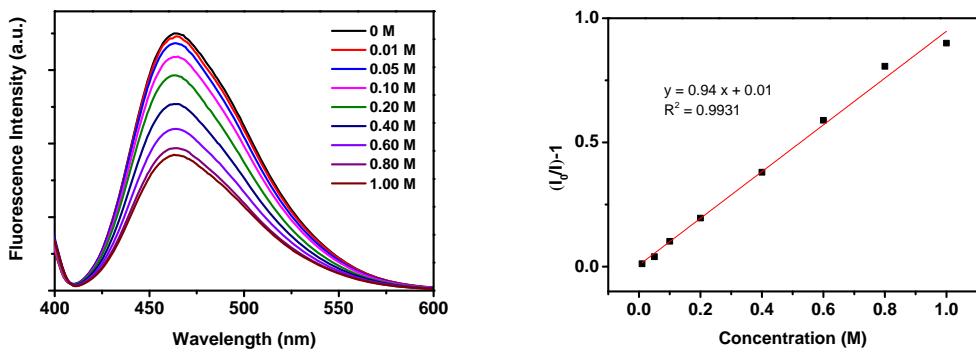
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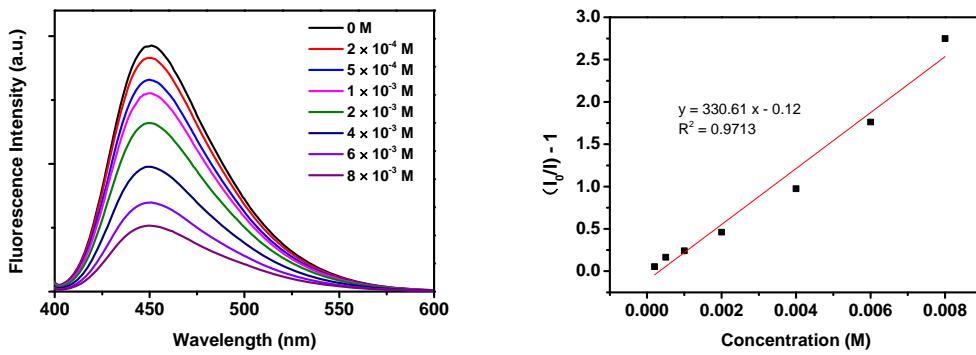
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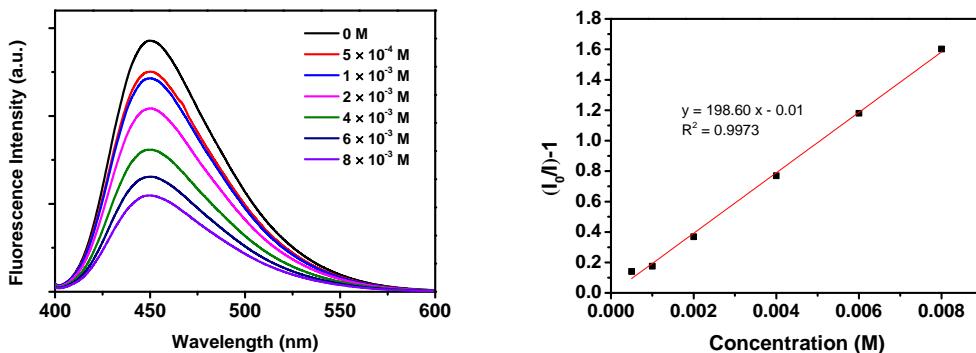
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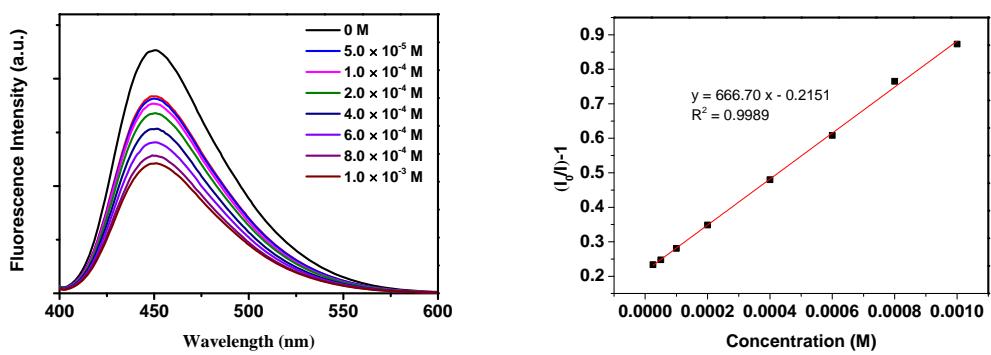
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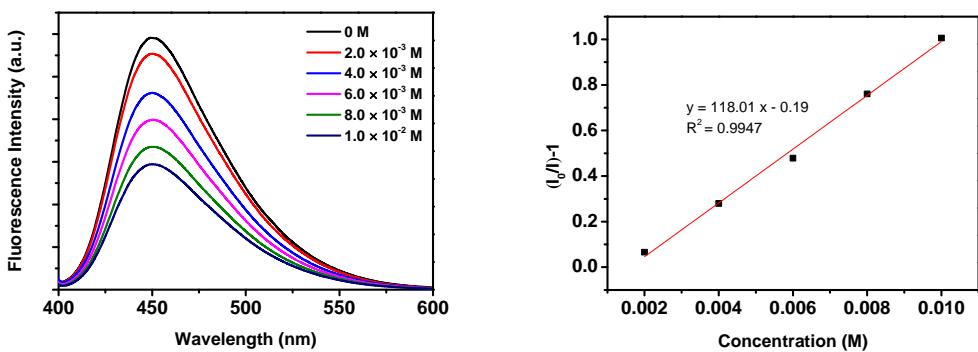
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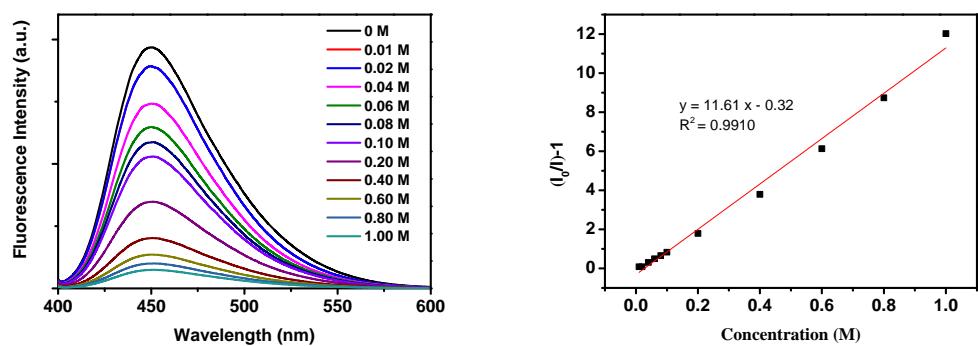
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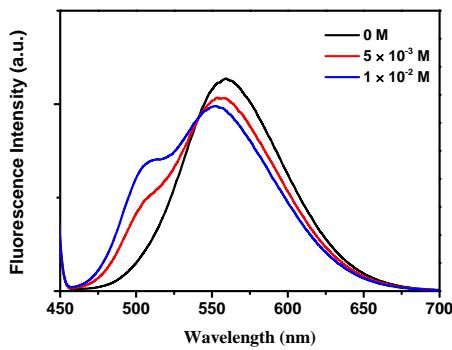
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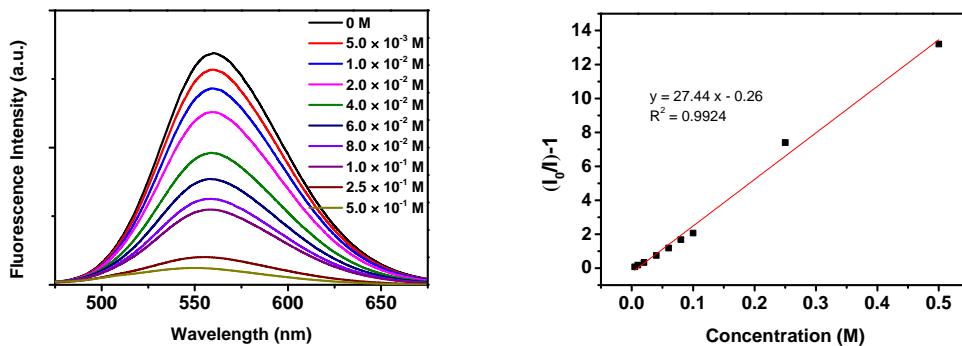
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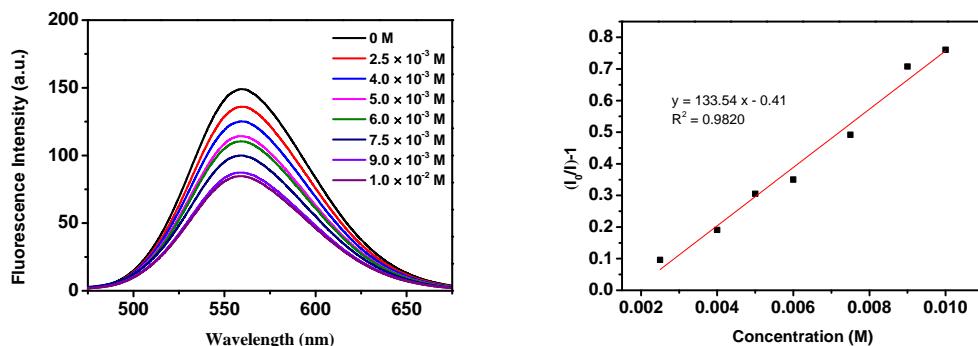
**Fig. S33** Fluorescence spectra of **P3** in presence of different concentrations of BP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).



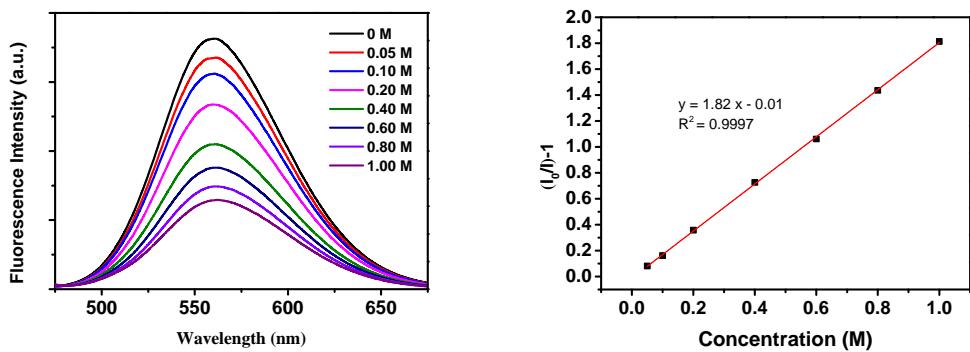
**Fig. S34** Fluorescence spectra of **P4** in presence of different concentrations of TNT in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



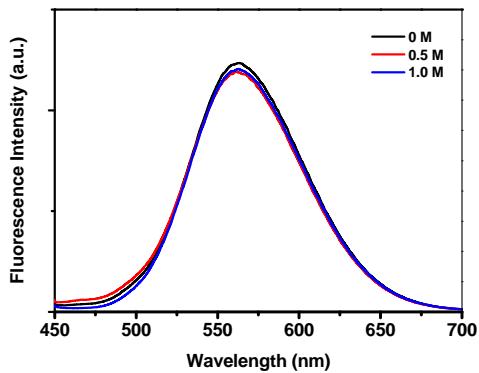
**Fig. S35** Fluorescence spectra of **P4** in presence of different concentrations of DNT in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).



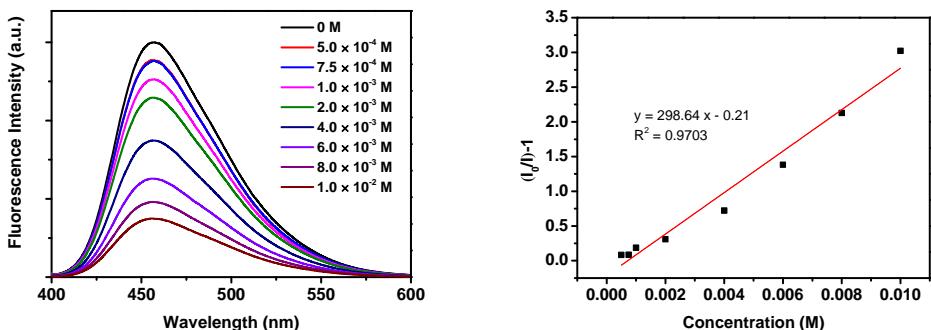
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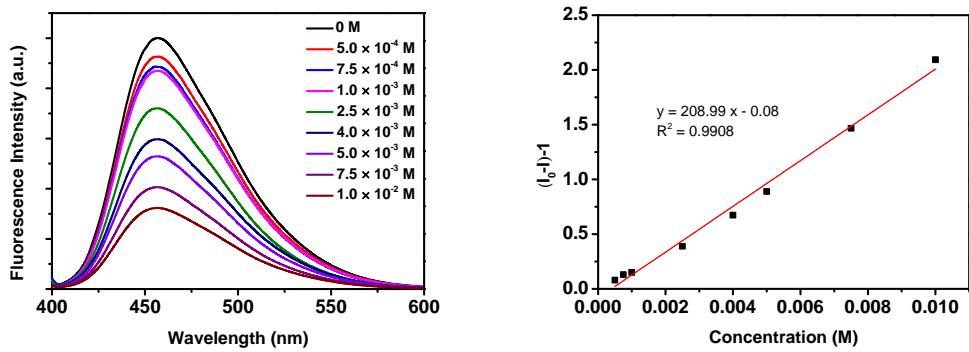
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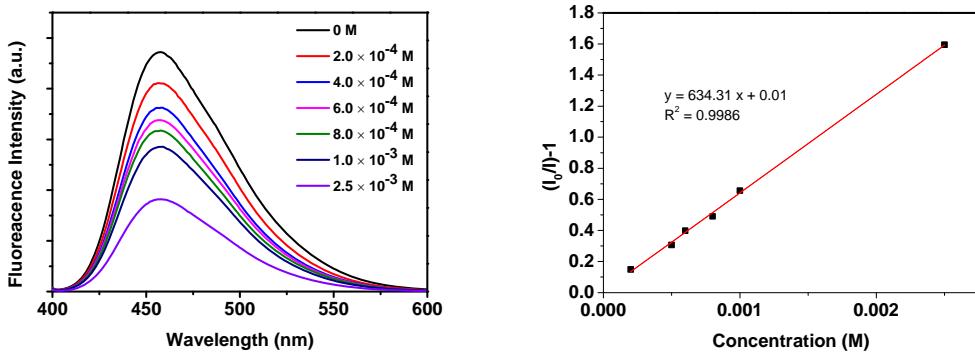
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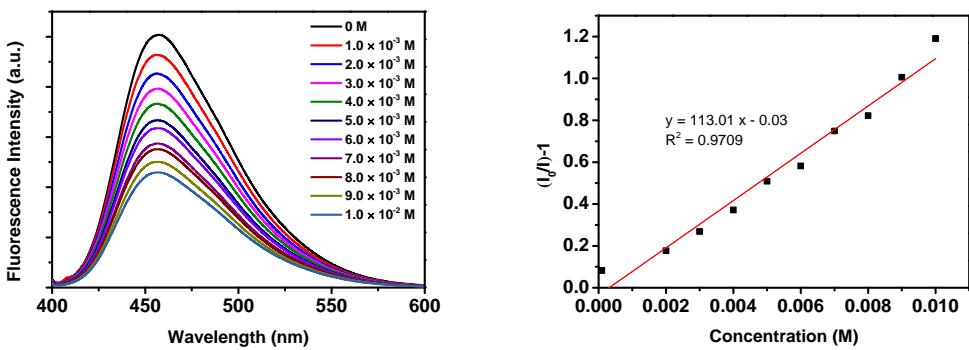
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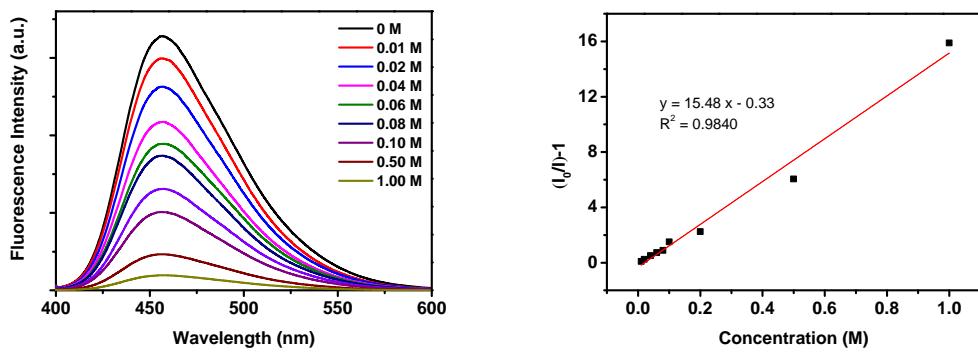
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**Fig. S41** Fluorescence spectra of **P5** in presence of different concentrations of PA in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).

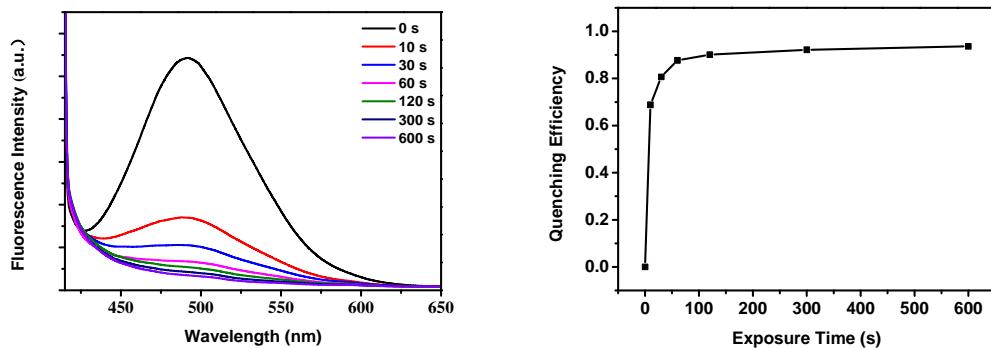


**Fig. S42** Fluorescence spectra of **P5** in presence of different concentrations of NT in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).

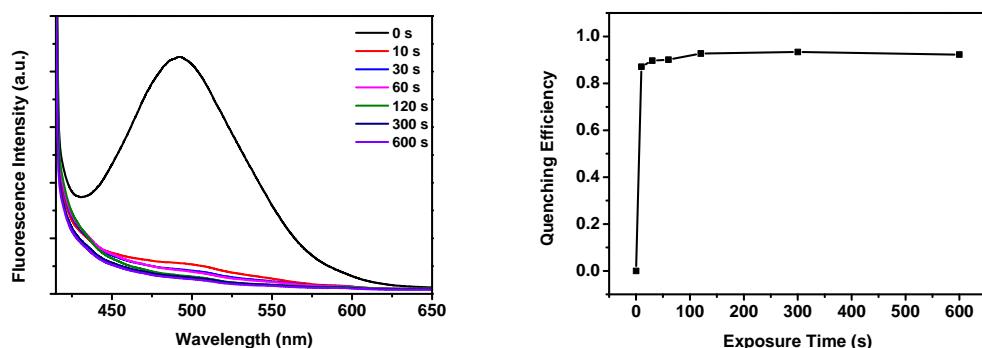


**Fig. S43** Fluorescence spectra of **P5** in presence of different concentrations of BP in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (left) and its corresponding Stern-Volmer plot (right).

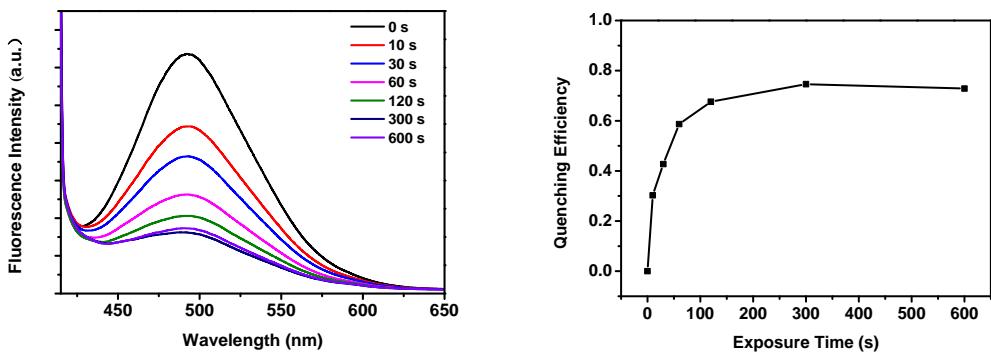
**S6. Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of the analytes at diffident time interval and their corresponding quenching efficiency against time**



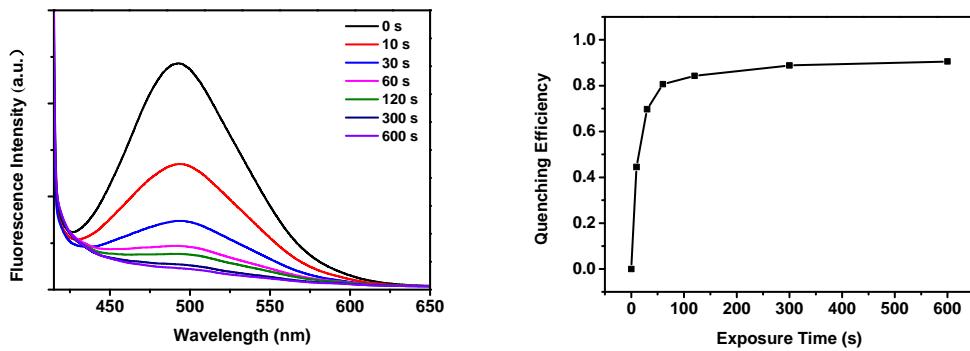
**Fig. S44** Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of TNT at diffident time interval (left) and quenching efficiency against time (right).



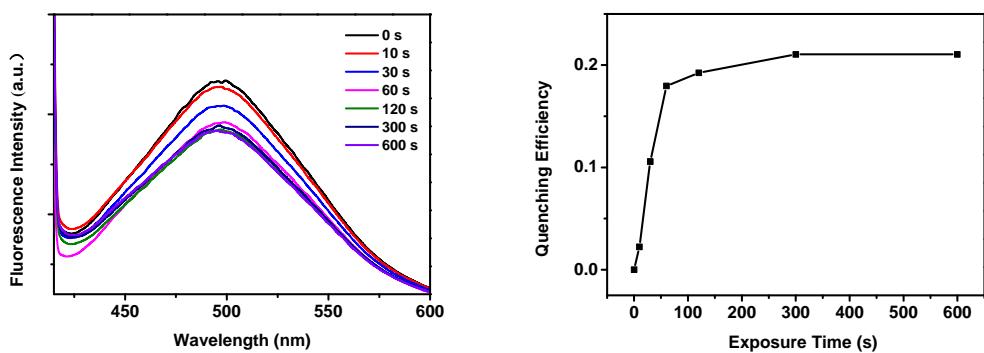
**Fig. S45** Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of DNT at diffident time interval (left) and quenching efficiency against time (right).



**Fig. S46** Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of PA at diffident time interval (left) and quenching efficiency against time (right).

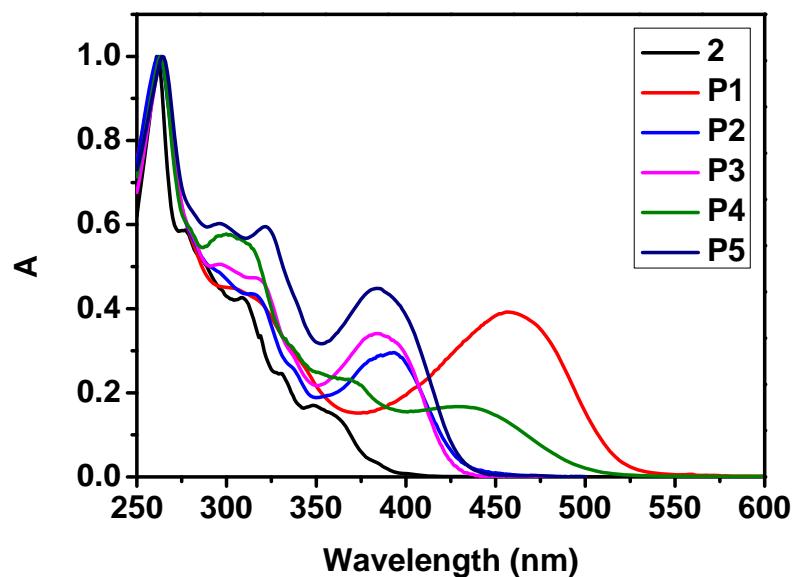


**Fig. S47** Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of NT at diffident time interval (left) and quenching efficiency against time (right).



**Fig. S48** Fluorescence spectra of the film of **P2** upon exposure to the saturated vapor of BP at diffident time interval (left) and quenching efficiency against time (right).

**S7. Absorption spectra of compound 2 and the polymers**



**Fig. S49** The absorption spectra of compound 2 and the polymers in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  at  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M.