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# **Electronic Supplementary Information**

# Indolo-Quinoline Boron Difluoride Dyes: Synthesis and Spectroscopic Properties

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Table of Contents	Page
1. General Information	S2
2. Experimental Section	S2
2.1 General procedure for Povarov-type reaction	S2
2.2 General procedure for Suzuki reaction	S4
2.3 General procedure for synthesis of $BF_2$ complexes	85
2.4 The procedure for the preparation of 9i	S7
3. Nomorlized Absorption and Fluorescent Spectra of BF2 Complexes	S10
4. Quantum Yield Calculation of BF <sub>2</sub> Complexes	S10
5. NMR Spectra	S11
6. Reference	S32

#### 1. General Information

All solvents were purified by standard methods. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on 400 MHz and 101 MHz spectrometer, respectively. Chemical shifts (in ppm) were calibrated with the solvent residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> peak or/and referenced to tetramethylsilane ( $\delta = 0$  ppm) in deuterated chloroform. The following abbreviations were used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. All reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis, which was visualized by UV light (254 nm) and acidic ceric ammonium molybdate. HRMS (ESI) data were obtained using a Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer. Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (300-400 mesh). All commercially available starting materials were used directly without further purification.

**DFT calculations.** The ground state structures of dyes **9a**, **9c**, **9f**, **9g**, **9i**, **10**, **11** were optimized using DFT with B3LYP functional and 6-31G(d) basis set. The geometry of the molecules were optimized with Gaussian 09 package<sup>1</sup> at B3LYP/6-31G(d) computational level. The minimum nature of the structure was confirmed by frequency calculations at the same computational level. The excited state related calculations (UV-vis absorption) were carried out with the time dependent DFT (TDDFT) with the optimized structure of the ground state (DFT/6-31+G(d,p)). The excitation of the fluorophores was calculated based on the optimized excited state geometry. All of these calculations were performed with Gaussian 09 (Revision A.02).

#### 2. Experimental Section

### 2.1 General procedure for Povarov-type reaction.



To a solution containing aromatic aldehyde (7) (0.22 mmol, 2.2 eq.), cyclopropene (6) (0.10 mmol, 1.0 eq.) and aniline (5) (0.20 mmol, 2.0 eq.) in 1.0 mL of toluene was added triflic acid (0.005 mmol, 5 mol%), and the resulting mixture was stirred for 5-14 h at 110 °C using Dean-Stark trap. Then the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution at 0 °C. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc to give product **8**.

### Ethyl 2-(1H-indol-7-yl)-5-methoxy-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1H-cyclopropa[c]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8a).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 20/1), affording **8a** (17.0 mg, 45% yield).  $R_f = 0.53$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.43 (s, 1H), 7.80 (dd, J = 7.6, 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.25 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.41 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.1, 160.6, 158.9, 135.4, 134.4, 130.7, 130.3, 128.9, 124.8, 124.1, 122.4, 120.4, 119.2, 112.7, 111.4, 102.2, 61.3, 55.6, 31.6, 30.6, 28.2, 16.8, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>23</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 375.1709; Found 375.1708. MP: 162–163 °C.

#### Ethyl 5-bromo-2-(1H-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1H-cyclopropa[c]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8b).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **8b** (16.0 mg, 38% yield).  $R_f = 0.49$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.35 (s, 1H), 7.84 (dd, J = 7.6, 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 – 7.47 (m, 2H), 7.38 (dd, J = 3.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 3.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.79 (s, 3H), 1.39 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.5, 163.8, 140.4, 134.5, 131.1, 130.7, 130.4, 129.0, 128.9, 125.02, 124.96, 123.1, 120.5, 120.0, 119.3, 102.3, 61.5, 31.1, 30.6, 28.2, 16.8, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Br [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 423.0708; Found 423.0704. MP: 151–153 °C.

Ethyl2-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-9c-methyl-7-oxo-1,1a,7,9c-tetrahydrocyclopropa[c]pyrano[3,2-f]quinoline-1-<br/>carboxylate (8c).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 5/1), affording **8c** (13.0 mg, 32% yield).  $R_f = 0.15$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.29 (s, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 - 6.61 (m, 1H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.51 - 4.23 (m, 2H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (s, 1H), 1.68 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 3H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.2, 163.2, 159.9, 154.0, 141.0, 138.4, 134.4, 133.0, 129.1, 126.6, 125.3, 125.1, 123.3, 119.8, 119.4, 117.4, 117.0, 116.1, 102.5, 61.8, 31.4, 27.5, 24.7, 22.9, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>21</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 413.1501; Found 413.1504. MP: 235–237 °C.

Ethyl 8-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-6b-methyl-3a<sup>1</sup>,5a<sup>1</sup>,6b,7a-tetrahydro-7*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]phenaleno[1,9-*gh*]quinoline-7-carboxylate (8d).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **8d** (9.0 mg, 19% yield).  $R_f = 0.50$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow green solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.44 (s, 1H), 9.05 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.21 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (s, 2H), 8.03 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, J = 2.8, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.2, 162.4, 135.1, 134.3, 131.3, 131.0, 130.1, 129.0, 128.4, 128.2, 127.8, 127.1, 127.0, 126.2, 125.6, 125.4, 125.0, 124.8, 124.7, 124.5, 123.5, 122.9, 122.2, 121.3, 119.6, 102.5, 61.4, 32.6, 32.3, 29.2, 17.7, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 471.2067; Found 471.2068.

#### 2.2 General procedure for Suzuki reaction.



A mixture of **8b** (0.10 mmol), aromatic boronic acid (0.12 mmol) and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.0010 mmol) in THF (2.0 mL), and aqueous  $K_2CO_3$  (1 N, 1.0 mL) was refluxed for 5 h under an argon atmosphere. After the **8b** had been completely consumed, as indicated by TLC, the organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc to give product **8e–8h**.

Ethyl 2-(1H-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-5-phenyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1H-cyclopropa[c]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8e).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **8e** (40.0 mg, 95% yield).  $R_f = 0.52$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.48 (s, 1H), 7.86 – 7.83 (m, 3H), 7.72 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 7.60 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.36 (m, 2H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, J = 3.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.9, 163.3, 140.7, 140.6, 140.2, 134.5, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.5, 127.1, 126.3, 124.9, 124.7, 124.5, 123.0, 120.3, 119.3, 102.3, 61.4, 31.6, 30.9, 28.5, 17.0, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 421.1916; Found 421.1916. MP: 178–179 °C.

Ethyl 6-[(2,2'-bithiophen)-5-yl]-2-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8f).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **8f** (45.0 mg, 89% yield).  $R_f = 0.50$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow green solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.44 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.81 (m, 3H), 7.63 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (dd, *J* = 2.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.51 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.47 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.8, 163.2, 142.5, 140.9, 137.3, 137.1, 134.5, 133.0, 129.9, 129.6, 129.0, 127.9, 125.0, 124.8, 124.72, 124.68, 124.5, 124.1, 123.7, 123.0, 122.9, 120.2, 119.3, 102.3, 61.4, 31.5, 30.9, 28.5, 16.9, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>25</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 509.1357; Found 509.1354. MP: 95–97 °C.

Ethyl 5-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-2-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8g).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **8g** (42.0 mg, 91% yield).  $R_f = 0.41$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.50 (s, 1H), 7.85 – 7.80 (m, 3H), 7.66 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 – 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.56 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.63 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.49 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.1, 162.4, 150.2, 140.4, 139.7, 134.6, 129.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.5, 127.7, 125.3, 124.9, 124.4, 123.4, 122.7, 120.5, 119.3, 112.8, 102.2, 61.3, 40.5, 31.7, 30.9, 28.5, 17.0, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 464.2338; Found 464.2337. MP: 195–197 °C.

Ethyl 5-{4-[2-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1-(propionyloxy)-1a,7b-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinolin-5-yl] phenyl}-2-(1*H*-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinoline-1- carboxylate (8h).



The reaction was performed at 0.05 mmol scale according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE /EtOAc = 10/1), affording **8h** (32.0 mg, 84% yield).  $R_f = 0.43$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.50 (s, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 7.80 (s, 4H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (dd, J = 9.6, 6.0 Hz, 2H), 6.65 (t, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.55 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 1.92 (s, 6H), 1.50 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.9, 163.4, 140.8, 139.7, 139.5, 134.5, 129.7, 129.6, 129.0, 127.5, 126.2, 125.0, 124.8, 124.4, 123.0, 120.3, 119.3, 102.3, 61.4, 31.6, 30.9, 28.5, 17.0, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>43</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>[M+H]<sup>+</sup> 763.3284; Found 763.3296. MP: 178–180 °C.

## 2.3 General procedure for synthesis of BF<sub>2</sub> complexes.



Ligand **8** (0.05 mmol) was dissolved in dry toluene (1 mL). *N*,*N*-Diisopropylethylamine (0.15 mmol) and boron trifluoride diethyl ether complex (0.15 mmol) were added to the solution and the mixture was refluxed for 6 h. Then water was added to the solution. The solution was extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After concentration of solvent, the residue was purified via chromatography on silica gel to give product **9**.

#### Compound 9a (BF<sub>2</sub>@8a-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **9a** (20.0 mg, 95% yield).  $R_f = 0.43$  (PE/EtOAc = 10/1); yellow green solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.62 (dd, J = 9.6, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 3H), 7.15 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (dd, J = 9.6, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, J = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.87 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.76 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.9, 163.0, 159.4, 135.5, 132.2, 129.8, 129.6,

129.0, 127.9 (t, J = 10.5 Hz), 127.7, 122.9, 119.8, 112.7, 111.9, 104.4, 62.0, 55.6, 31.7, 30.3, 29.8, 16.7, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>F<sub>2</sub>[M+H]<sup>+</sup> 423.1692; Found 423.1685.

Compound 9b (BF<sub>2</sub>@8b-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 10/1), affording **9b** (23.0 mg, 98% yield).  $R_f = 0.40$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow green solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.53 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.75 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.3, 165.6, 135.8, 133.2, 132.2, 131.2, 130.7, 130.0, 129.3, 129.1, 127.7 (t, J = 7.0 Hz), 123.7, 122.5, 120.1, 112.4, 104.7, 62.2, 31.2, 30.7, 29.8, 16.7, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>Br [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 471.0689; Found 471.0659.

Compound 9c (BF<sub>2</sub>@8c-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 1/1), affording **9c** (21.0 mg, 91% yield).  $R_f = 0.30$  (PE/EtOAc = 1/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.85 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 8.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.57 (d, J = 10.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44 – 4.34 (m, 2H), 3.67 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.10 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.0, 165.0, 159.2, 154.1, 140.0, 135.9, 131.3, 131.2, 130.2, 129.6 (t, J = 13.5 Hz), 129.3, 128.3, 124.0, 120.2, 117.5, 117.2, 116.9, 112.5, 104.9, 62.6, 29.8, 26.9, 26.5, 22.3, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 461.1484; Found 461.1479.

Compound 9e (BF<sub>2</sub>@8e-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 10/1), affording **9e** (23.0 mg, 98% yield).  $R_f = 0.42$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.75 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.86 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.69 – 7.65 (m, 4H), 7.52 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 1H), 7.28 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.82 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.7, 165.1, 141.3, 139.4, 135.7, 133.3, 130.6, 130.3, 130.0, 129.2, 129.0, 128.2, 127.1, 126.7, 126.5 (t, J = 12.0 Hz), 124.6, 123.46, 119.96, 112.6, 104.6, 62.1, 31.8, 30.8, 30.0, 16.9, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 469.1899; Found 469.1913.

### Compound 9f (BF<sub>2</sub>@8f-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **9f** (26.0 mg, 94% yield).  $R_f = 0.41$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); orange solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.66 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.17 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, J = 4.8, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.80 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.7, 164.7, 141.0, 138.1, 137.0, 135.7, 134.2, 133.2, 130.9, 130.3, 129.9, 129.2, 128.0, 126.7 (t, J = 12.0 Hz), 125.1, 124.84, 124.78, 124.0, 123.4, 122.7, 120.0, 112.6, 104.6, 62.1, 31.6, 30.8, 29.9, 16.8, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>24</sub>BN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 557.1340; Found 557.1311.

Compound 9g (BF<sub>2</sub>@8g-H).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 15/1), affording **9g** (23.0 mg, 90% yield).  $R_f = 0.35$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); orange red solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.68 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 4H), 7.27 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.73 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.81 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.0, 164.1, 150.5, 141.4, 135.6, 132.1, 130.5, 129.91, 129.85, 129.1, 127.7, 126.9, 126.4 (t, J = 10.7 Hz), 125.5, 123.22, 123.16, 119.8, 112.8, 112.6, 104.4, 62.0, 40.4, 31.9, 30.6, 30.0, 16.9, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>29</sub>BN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 512.2321; Found 512.2321. **Compound 9h (BF<sub>2</sub>@8h–H).** 



The reaction was performed at 0.025 mmol scale according to the general procedure, after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 1/1), affording **9h** (20.0 mg, 93% yield).  $R_f = 0.21$  (PE/EtOAc = 1/1); yellow green solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.78 (dd, J = 8.4, 4.0 Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (s, 4H), 7.73 (dd, J = 8.8, 2.0 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 2H), 4.30 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 3.96 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.98 (s, 6H), 1.84 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  169.7, 165.2, 140.5, 139.2, 135.8, 133.6, 130.9, 130.8, 130.4, 130.0, 129.2, 127.7, 126.6, 124.4, 123.5, 120.0, 112.6, 104.6, 62.1, 31.8, 30.8, 30.0, 16.9, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>50</sub>H<sub>41</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>F<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 859.3245; Found 859.3249.

### 2.4 The procedure for the preparation of 9i.

Methyl 4-bromo-1*H*-indole-7-carboxylate (13).



The compound **12** (4.92 g, 19 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in dry THF (20 mL) and the solution was cooled to -60 °C under an argon atmosphere. Then, a solution of bromoethenyl-magnesium in THF (20.0 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min. The resulting mixture was allowed to warm to r.t. and stirred for 12 h. Then the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give **13** as white solid (1.44 g, 30% yield). R<sub>f</sub> = 0.42 (PE/EtOAc = 5/1): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.96 (br, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  167.5, 135.7, 129.8, 125.8, 125.0, 122.3, 121.2, 111.9, 103.1, 52.0. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub> [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 251.9660; Found 251.9658. MP: 139–140 °C.

(4-Bromo-1H-indol-7-yl)methanol (14).



The compound **13** (1.39 g, 5.50 mmol, 1.0 eq.) was dissolved in dry THF (10.0 mL) and the solution was cooled to 0 °C under an argon atmosphere. Then, a solution of DIBAL (14.0 mmol, 2.5 eq.) in THF (10.0 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for about 4 h at r.t. Then the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution at 0 °C. After removal of the solvent, the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate and washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The dried solution was filtered and the filtrate was concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel eluting with petroleum ether/EtOAc (2:1) to give **14** as white solid (1.03 g, 83% yield).  $R_f = 0.33$  (PE/EtOAc = 2/1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.08 (br, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.61 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 4.97 (s, 2H), 2.00 (br, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  134.8, 129.1, 124.8, 122.5, 122.2, 120.8, 114.4, 102.9, 64.1. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrNO [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 223.9711; Found 223.9713. MP: 88–89 °C.

4-Bromo-1H-indole-7-carbaldehyde (15).



To a solution of compound 14 (1.50 g, 6.67 mmol, 1.0 eq) in dichloromethane (15.0 mL), Dess-Martin-Periodinane (DMP) (7.10 g, 16.7 mmol, 2.5 eq) was added at 0 °C. After 10 min the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. After completion of the reaction, the mixture was poured into saturated aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution (15 mL) and stirred well for at least 10 min. After filtration from precipitated benzoic acid the layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with 15 mL of ether. The organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give 15 as white solid (1.35 g, 91% yield). R<sub>f</sub> = 0.45 (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.25 (br, 1H), 10.09 (s, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  192.8, 133.5, 130.1, 129.2, 126.5, 123.4, 122.8, 119.6, 103.2. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrNO [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 221.9555; Found

#### 221.9558. MP: 129-131 °C.

Ethyl 6-bromo-2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)-1*H*-indol-7-yl)-7b-methyl-1a,7b-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8j).



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure (section 2.1), after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 25/1), affording **8j** (21.0 mg, 45% yield).  $R_f = 0.56$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); light yellow solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.47 (s, 1H), 7.74 (t, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 –7.48 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 1.38 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  171.3, 163.2, 140.2, 134.5, 131.1, 130.8, 130.5, 129.7, 128.9, 125.6, 123.8, 122.4, 120.8, 119.6, 119.3, 102.8, 61.6, 31.1, 30.5, 28.1, 16.8, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Br<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 500.9813; Found 500.9810. MP: 186–187 °C.

Ethyl 6-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-2-[4-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-1*H*-indol-7-yl]-7b-methyl-1a,7bdihydro-1*H*-cyclopropa[*c*]quinoline-1-carboxylate (8i).



The reaction was performed at 0.050 mmol scale according to the general procedure (section 2.2), after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 6/1), affording **8i** (26.0 mg, 89% yield).  $R_f = 0.22$  (PE /EtOAc = 5/1); orange solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.75 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (dd, J = 8.0, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.91 – 6.84 (m, 5H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.53 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (s, 6H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.49 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.2, 162.1, 150.1, 150.0, 140.01, 139.9, 138.4, 135.1, 129.7, 129.4, 129.3, 128.8, 128.5, 127.7, 126.7, 125.3, 124.7, 123.4, 118.6, 118.4, 112.7, 112.5, 102.1, 61.2, 40.5, 31.7, 30.9, 28.6, 17.0, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>39</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 583.3073; Found 583.3070. MP: 234–235 °C. **Compound 9i (BF<sub>2</sub>@8i–H).** 



The reaction was performed according to the general procedure (section 2.3), after purification by column chromatography on silica gel (PE/EtOAc = 5/1), affording **9i** (27.0 mg, 86% yield).  $R_f = 0.18$  (PE/EtOAc = 5/1); red solid: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.65 (dd, J = 8.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.78 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 7.63 – 7.58 (m, 3H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.28 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (s, 6H), 3.03 (s, 6H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.82 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 1.31 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  170.1, 162.6, 150.7, 150.4, 144.2, 140.8, 136.3, 132.4, 130.3, 130.0, 129.5, 127.7, 127.5, 127.2, 126.1 (t, J = 9.7 Hz), 125.8, 125.5, 124.2, 123.3, 119.4, 112.7, 112.3, 111.0, 104.8, 61.9, 40.5, 40.4, 31.7, 30.8, 30.0, 16.9, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>38</sub>BN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 631.3056; Found 631.3081.

## 3. Nomorlized Absorption and Fluorescent Spectra of BF<sub>2</sub> Complexes.



Figure S1. Nomorlized absorption (a) and fluorescent spectra (b) of BF<sub>2</sub> complexes.

### 4. Quantum Yield Calculation of BF<sub>2</sub> Complexes.

DCM (4-(Dicyanomethylene)-2-methyl-6-(4-dimethylaminostyryl)-4H-pyran) was chosen as a reference compound for the determination of quantum yield. Quantum yields of the standard sample:  $\phi_{DCM\_443nm} = 0.44$ ,  $\phi_{DCM\_520nm} = 0.45$ . The quantum yield was calculated using the following equation:

$$\phi_U = \phi_S \frac{Grad_U}{Grad_S} \frac{n_u^2}{n_s^2}$$

Where  $\phi$  is the fluorescence quantum yield, *Grad* is the gradient from the plot of integrated fluorescence intensity vs. absorbance. Subscripts S and U refer to the standard and to the unknown, respectively. For compounds **9a-c** and **9e-h**, the excitation wavelength is at 443 nm; for compound **9i**, the excitation wavelength is at 520 nm.



Figure S2. Linear plots of standard sample a (DCM) and test samples b (9a) in dichloromethane. Conditions: excitation wavelength = 443 nm.

$$\phi_{9a} = 0.44 \frac{17605}{51572} \frac{1.333^2}{1.333^2} = 0.15$$

The other fluorescence quantum yield is caculated in accordance with 9a.

# 5. NMR Spectra.

 $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) spectra of 8a











































 $^1\text{H}$  NMR (CDCl\_3, 400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (CDCl\_3, 100 MHz) spectra of 9h







S28











### 6. Reference:

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