Supporting Information

Organic Solid Fluorophores Regulated by Subtle Structure Modification:

Color-Tunable and Aggregation-Induced Emission

Jing Nan Zhang,^a Hui Kang,^a Nan Li,^a Shi Ming Zhou,^c Hua Ming Sun,^a Shi Wei Yin,^a Na Zhao^{*a} and Ben Zhong Tang^{*b}

^aKey Laboratory of Macromolecular Science of Shaanxi Province and School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an 710119, China ^bDepartment of Chemistry, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China. ^cHefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at the Microscale, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China.

Table of Contents

1. General Information	3
2. Target Compounds Chart	.4
3. Experimental Procedure and Characterization Data	.6
4. UV-vis Spectra	.17
5. Theoretical Calculation Based on the Single Crystal	18
5. Photoluminescence Properties	.20
7. Mechanochromic Luminescence Properties	.30
8. X-ray Single Crystals Data and their Packing Mode	.32
9. NMR Spectroscopy	.39

1. General Information

Ethyl ether (Et₂O), tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene were distilled over sodium and benzophenone. DMF was distilled over CaH₂. Petroleum ether and ethyl acetate for chromatography were distilled before used. All other reagents and solvents were used directly from the corresponding supplier without further purification. All starting materials were purchased from Alfa Aesar, Aladdin, Energy, Accela and use directly. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out using commercial silica gel plated (GF254). Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (¹H, ¹³C NMR) were recorded on a Bruker AV 300 (¹H at 300 MHz and ¹³C at 75 MHz), a Bruker Ascend 400 (¹H at 400 MHz, ¹³C at 101 MHz) or a Bruker Ascend 600 (¹H at 600 MHz, ¹³C at 151 MHz). The chemical shifts are reported as ppm and solvent residual peaks were shown as following: $CDCl_3 \delta H (7.26 \text{ ppm})$ and δC (77.16 ppm); d_6 -DMSO δH (2.50 ppm) and δC (39.52 ppm). UV-visible absorption spectra were measured on Purkinje TU-1950 spectrometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Hitachi F-7000 spectrometer. Fluorescence quantum yields were measured using Hamamatsu C9920-02G. Fluorescence lifetime was measured using Edinburgh FLS980 spectrometer. Single crystal was collected on Oxford diffraction Eos CCD detector or Bruker CMOS PHOTON 100 detector, respectively. Powder X-Ray diffraction (XRD) was performed on a Hao Yuan DX-2700. The single crystal pictures were taken on Olympus DP80 fluorescent microscopy. Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) was carried out on Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS90. High-resolution Mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Bruker Maxis and Microflex and reported as m/z (relative intensity). Accurate masses are presented as molecular ion $[M+Na]^+$ or $[M+H]^+$, respectively.

2. Target Compounds Charts





3. Experimental Procedure and Characterization Data

3.1 Reaction procedures



A round-bottom flask was charged with 1,4-dimethoxybenzene (0.692 g, 5.01 mmol), Et₂O (15.0 mL), tetramethylethylenediamine (TMEDA, 3.78 mL, 24.8 mmol) under N₂. Then *n*-BuLi (15.0 mL, 37.5 mmol, 2.5 M solution in hexane) was added dropwise (the resulting mixture turned to yellow). The mixture was allowed to reflux for 23 hrs. After that, the solution was cooled with ice-water bath, and DMF (2.5 mL, 32.3 mmol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for another 15 minutes, and warmed up to room temperature. Aqueous solution of NH₄Cl (25.0 mL, 5% *w/v*), water (100.0 mL) were added, and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×50.0 mL). Combined organic phase was washed with water (100.0 mL), brine (100.0 mL), and then dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and residue was recrystalized from ethanol (first crop, 100.0 mL; second crop 15.0mL). Both crops were combined to give yellow crystals in 28 % yield.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.50 (s, 2H, CHO), 7.46 (s, 2H, Ar H), 3.94 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 189.40, 155.86, 129.25, 111.02, 56.35.



To a stirred solution of 2,5-dimethoxyterephthaladehyde (0.100 g, 0.52 mmol) in 10.0 mL CH_2Cl_2 at -78°C was added BBr₃ solution (130 µL in 1.0 mL CH_2Cl_2). The mixture was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 3hrs before the reaction was quenched by water. Then the reaction mixture was adjusted to pH = 10.0 by 2.0 M NaOH and kept the

solution at that pH for 10 minutes. After that, the mixture adjusted to pH = 5.0 using 2 M HCl. The resulting solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20.0 mL), and combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was recrystalized from ethyl acetate to give the desired product in 50% yield. ¹H-NMR (600 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 10.30 (s, 2H), 10.29 (s, 2H), 7.22 (s, 2H, Ar H);

¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 190.21, 152.76, 127.64, 115.13.



Imidazole (79.7)1.17 added mg, mmol) to a stirred solution of was 2,5-dihydroxyterephthalaldehyde (50.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMF (5.0 mL) at 50 °C. Then tert-butylchlorodiphenylsilane (0.23 mL, 0.9 mmol) in 3.0 mL DMF was added dropwise to the reaction mixture and kept the reaction stirred overnight at 50°C. After the reaction was complete based on TLC, Et₂O (10.0mL) and saturated NaHCO₃ solution (5.0mL) were added. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et₂O (2×5.0 mL). Combined organic layer was then successively washed with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution, water and brine. Then organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography to give 54% yield.

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.45 (s, 2H, CHO), 7.67-7.65 (m, 8H, Ar H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 4H, Ar H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 8H, Ar H), 1.09 (s, 18H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 188.94, 152.23, 135.62, 131.48, 131.00, 130.59, 128.23, 119.19, 26.77, 19.82. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₄₀H₄₂O₄Si₂Na, 665.2519, found, 665.2523.



The 2,5-dihydroxyterephthalaldehyde (74 mg, 0.45 mmol) in 6.0 mL anhydrous DMF was added dropwise to a stirred solution of NaH (79 mg, 1.96 mmol) in anhydrous DMF (6.0 mL) at 0°C. After the addition was completed, the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 hr. Then reaction was warmed up to room temperature and stirred for another 15 minutes to give a clear solution. Then the reaction was recooled to 0 °C and chloromethyl methyl ether (0.107 μ L, 1.25mmol) was added slowly via syringe. After that, the mixture was warmed up to room temperature overnight. Then the reaction was quenched by saturated NH₄Cl (20.0 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 × 10.0 mL). Combined organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The resulting residue was purified by column chromatography to give the desired product in71% yield.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.50 (s, 2H, CHO), 7.66 (s, 2H, Ar H), 5.29 (s, 4H, CH₂), 3.51 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 189.02, 154.07, 130.19, 114.66, 95.21, 56.68. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₀H₁₀O₄Na, 277.0688, found, 277.0688.



The bromine (5.4 mL, 105 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of *p*-xylene (6.2 mL, 50 mmol) and iodine (63 mg, 0.25 mmol) at 0°C under dark. After stirred at room temperature for 16 hrs, 20% KOH solution (100.0 mL) was added. Then the aqueous solution was decanted and the resulting residue was recrystallized from EtOH (2×30.0 mL) to

give the desired product in 91% yield.

¹H-NMR (600MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.39 (s, 2H, Ar H), 2.33 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 137.12, 134.08, 123.49, 22.23.



The sulfuric acid (28.0 mL) was added dropwise to a suspension containing 1,4-dibromo-2,5-dimethylbenzene (8.0 g, 0.03 mol), acetic acid (40.0 mL) and acetic anhydride (80.0 mL) at 0°C. Then CrO_3 (12.0 g, 0.12 mol) was added to the reaction mixture in portions. The resulting solution was stirred vigorously at 0°C for further 5 hrs until the reaction was completed. Then the greenish slurry was poured into ice-water bath and filtered. The white solid was washed with water and cold methanol. After that, the intermediate of diacetate was hydrolyzed under refluxing in a mixture of water (40.0 mL), ethanol (40.0 mL) and sulfuric acid (4.0 mL) for 5 hrs. Then the reaction cooled, the pale yellow product was separated by filtration and the crude product was purified by recrystallization from chloroform in 28% yield.

¹H-NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.35 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.16 (s, 2H, Ar H); ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 189.94, 137.54, 135.16, 125.63.



Method I: 2,5-Dibromobenzene-1,4-dicarbaldehyde (58.4 mg, 0.2 mmol) was dissolved in DMF (0.27 mL). To this solution was added 2M sodium carbonate (0.4 mmol, 2.0 equiv), deionized water (0.13 mL) and corresponding boronic acid (0.5 mmol, 2.5 equiv). Then the solution was stirred for 10 minutes. After that, the palladium acetate (4.2 mg, 0.01 mmol,

0.05 equiv) was added under N_2 . The resulting solution was kept stirring for at least 12 hrs based on the TLC. Then the organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give the corresponding product.

Method II: 2,5-Dibromobenzene-1,4-dicarbaldehyde (200.00 mg, 0.69 mmol), corresponding boronic acid (2.5 eq), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.05eq), PPh₃ (0.12eq) and 2.0 mL Na₂CO₃ solution (2M) in 10.0 mL toluene was refluxed for 48 hrs under N₂, After the reaction was completed based on the TLC, poured the reaction mixture into water and extracted with EtOAc. The organic layer was washed with brine, water and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The crude product was purified by flash column chromatography and then recrystallized form EtOH to give desired product.



Imidazole (65.4)96 added stirred of mg, mmol) was to a solution 4,4"-dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldehyde (30.0 mg, 0.094 mmol) in DMF (5.0mL) at 0 °C. Then tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (141.7 mg, 0.94mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture and kept the reaction stirred overnight at room temperature. After the reaction was completed based on TLC, Et₂O (6.0mL) and saturated NaHCO₃ solution (3.0mL) were added. The organic layer was separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with Et_2O (2×5.0mL). Combined organic layer was then successively washed with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl solution, water and brine. Then organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by column chromatography to give 77% yield.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.09 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.06 (s, 2H, Ar H), 7.29 (d, 4H,

J= 8.3 Hz, Ar H), 6.97 (d, 4H, J= 8.3 Hz, Ar H), 1.02 (s, 18H, CH₃), 0.26 (s, 12H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 192.34, 156.55, 144.08, 136.60, 131.45, 130.20, 129.50, 120.51, 25.81, 18.41. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{32}H_{42}O_4Si_2Na$, 569.2519, found, 569.2521.



To a stirred solution of corresponding dialdehyde (1.00 equiv) in ethanol were added malononitrile (2.05 equiv) and a drop of 1M NaOH. Then the reaction stirred at room temperature for certain hours. After the reaction was completed based on TLC, the product was purified by either recrystalization or column chromatography.

3.2 Compound data



[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldehyde (Method I): 58% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.09 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.11 (s, 2H, Ar H), 7.55-7.49 (m, 6H, Ar H), 7.48-7.44 (m, 4H, Ar H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 191.92, 144.72, 136.69, 136.62, 130.33, 130.21, 128.91, 128.85.



2.5-Di(cvclopenta-1,4-dien-1-vl)terephthalaldehvde (Method II): 88% yield. ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.29 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.05 (s, 2H), 7.61-7.59 (m, 4H), 6.64-6.63 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (101

MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 191.58, 144.17, 141.81, 137.05, 135.15, 130.23, 121.65, 112.07. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for C₁₆H₁₀O₄Na, 289.0477, found, 289.0477.



4,4''-Dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldeh yde (Method II): 58% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.08 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.06 (s, 2H), 7.36 (d, 4H, *J* =

8.3Hz, Ar H), 7.04 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar H), 3.89 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 192.25, 160.24, 143.94, 136.67, 131.45, 130.29, 128.90, 114.39, 55.58.



Di-tert-butyl-2,2'-(2,5-diformyl-1,4-phenylene)bis(1H-pyrrol e-1-carboxylate) (**Method II**): 22% yield. ¹H-NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 9.99 (s, 2H, CHO), 7.95 (s, 2H, Ar H), 7.46 (s, 2H), 6.32-6.31 (m, 4H), 1.35 (s, 18H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101

MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 191.23, 148.90, 137.64, 136.80, 130.37, 128.81, 123.46, 117.71, 111.22, 84.88, 27.75. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m*/*z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₈N₂O₆Na, 487.1845, found, 487.1846.



4,4''-Dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-dicarbaldeh yde (Method II): 62% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 9.97 (s, 2H), 9.85 (s, 2H), 7.86 (s, 2H,

Ar H), 7.32 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, Ar H), 6.93 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, Ar H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 191.77, 158.04, 143.00, 136.01, 131.34, 129.72, 126.73, 115.70. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₁₄O₄Na, 341.0790, found, 341.0784.



2,5-bis(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)terephthalaldehyde (Method II): 67% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 10.27 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.08 (s, 2H, Ar H), 6.91 (d, 2H , J = 3.4 Hz), 6.83

(d, 2H, *J* = 2.9 Hz), 2.57 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 191.63, 143.49, 137.03, 136.76, 135.21, 130.72, 130.26, 126.59, 15.57.





2,2'-((2-((tert-butyldiphenylsilyl)oxy)-5-(2,2-dimethyl-1,1-diphen ylpropoxy)-1,4-phenylene)bis(methanylylidene))dimalononitrile: 78% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.98 (s, 2H), 7.57 (d, 8H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, Ar H), 7.47 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.4 Hz, Ar H), 7.40-7.36

(m, 10H, Ar H), 1.13 (s, 18H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 152.54, 149.79, 135.77, 130.95, 130.48, 128.46, 128.25, 119.13, 113.47, 111.36, 84.64, 26.73, 19.66. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₄₆H₄₂N₄O₂Si₂Na, 761.2744, found, 761.2739. Compounds chart NMR



2,2'-((2,5-bis(methoxymethoxy)-1,4-phenylene)Bis(methanylylid ene))dimalononitrile: 81% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.25 (s, 2H), 8.08 (s, 2H), 5.28 (s, 4H, CH₂), 3.52 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 152.84, 151.27,

126.51, 114.61, 113.47, 112.18, 95.89, 85.94, 56.91. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₈H₁₄N₄O₄Na, 373.0913, found, 373.0908. <u>Compounds chart</u> <u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>



NMR

chart

2,2'-((2,5-dimethoxy-1,4-phenylene)bis(methanylylidene))dimalononitri
le: 56% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.29 (s, 2H), 7.84 (s, 2H, Ar H), 3.95 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 152.85, 152.56, 125.89, 113.50, 112.82, 110.86, 84.99, 56.82. Compounds X-ray



2,2'-([1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-diylbis(methanylylidene))dimal ononitrile: 71% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 8.35 (s, 2H), 8.21 (s, 4H), 7.62-7.56 (m, 6H, Ar H), 7.50 (d, 4H, J =7.3 Hz, Ar H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 160.26, 141.51, 136.97, 132.99, 130.77, 129.93, 129.05, 113.58, 112.91,

87.55, 79.19. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{14}N_4Na$, 405.1116, found, 405.1117. <u>Compounds chart</u> <u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>



2,2'-((2,5-di(furan-3-yl)-1,4-phenylene)bis(methanylylidene))Dim alononitrile: 63% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.24 (s, 2H), 8.05 (s, 2H), 7.64(t, 2H, *J* = 1.6 Hz), 7.55 (s, 2H), 6.62-6.61 (m, 2H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 157.36, 145.09, 142.34, 134.28, 132.85, 130.21, 122.40, 112.82, 111.99, 111.35,

87.65. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{22}H_{10}N_4O_2Na$, 385.0701, found, 385.0703.

Compounds chart NMR

MR <u>X-ray</u>



2,2'-((4,4''-bis((tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy)-[1,1':4
',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-diyl)Bis(methanylylidene))di
malononitrile: 82% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz,
CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.21 (s, 2H), 7.85 (s, 2H), 7.21 (d,
4H, J = 8.5 Hz, Ar H), 7.00 (d, 4H, J = 8.5 Hz, Ar H),

1.02 (s, 18H, CH₃), 0.28 (s, 12H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 158.87, 157.43, 142.93, 132.73, 131.51, 130.77, 129.48, 121.00, 113.07, 112.31, 86.49, 25.77, 18.37, -4.16. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₃₈H₄₂N₄O₂Si₂Na, 665.2744, found, 665.2745. <u>Compounds chart</u> <u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>



2,2'-((4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-diyl)Bi s(methanylylidene))dimalononitrile: 69% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.22 (s, 2H), 7.84 (s, 2H), 7.27 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, Ar H), 7.07 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.5 Hz, Ar H), 3.91 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm):

160.97, 158.77, 142.91, 132.79, 131.50, 130.76, 128.94, 115.03, 113.09, 112.29, 86.53, 55.69. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₈H₁₈N₄O₂Na, 465.1327, found, 465.1330.

Compounds chart 1

<u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>



Di-tert-butyl-2,2'-(2,5-bis(2,2-dicyanovinyl)-1,4-phenylene)bi s(1H-pyrrole-1-carboxylate): 59%. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.17 (s, 2H), 7.68 (s, 2H), 7.46-7.45 (t, 2H, J =2.6 Hz), 6.35 (d, 4H, J = 3.2 Hz), 1.47 (s, 18H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 158.87, 157.44, 142.93, 132.73,

131.51, 130.77, 129.48, 121.01, 113.07, 112.31, 86.48, 25.77, 18.37, -4.16. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{32}H_{28}N_6O_4Na$, 538.2070, found, 538.2074. Compounds

chart <u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>



2,2'-((4,4''-dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-2',5'-diyl)Bi s(methanylylidene))dimalononitrile: 45% yield. ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, d_6 -DMSO) δ (ppm): 9.95 (s, 2H, OH), 8.30 (s, 2H), 8.10 (s, 2H), 7.28 (d, 4H, J = 8.5 Hz, Ar H), 6.96 (d, 4H, J = 8.5 Hz, Ar H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, d_6 -DMSO)

δ(ppm): 160.61, 158.44, 140.90, 132.61, 131.35, 130.24, 127.63, 115.84, 113.71, 113.02, 86.61. HRMS (ESI-TOF) *m/z*: [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₁₄N₄O₂Na, 437.1014, found, 437.1017.

Compounds chart NMR

CN

NĆ

2,2'-((2,5-bis(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)-1,4-phenylene)Bis(metha nylylidene))dimalononitrile: 75% yield. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 8.22 (s, 2H), 8.08 (s, 2H), 6.89 (s, 4H), 2.59 (s, 6H, CH₃); ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 157.93, 145.48, 135.83, 135.50, 132.32, 130.89, 130.77, 127.40, 113.02, 111.95,

87.32, 15.67. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{24}H_{14}N_4S_2Na$, 445.0558, found, 445.0563. Compounds chart <u>NMR</u> <u>X-ray</u>

4. UV-vis Spectra



Fig. S1 UV-vis spectra of compounds 1a-1d (10 μ M) in acetone.



Fig. S2 UV-vis spectra of compounds 2a-2g (10 μ M) in acetone.

5. Theoretical Calculation Based on the Single Crystal



Table S1. Molecular orbital amplitude plots of both HOMO and LUMO

^aThe energy gap between HOMO and LUMO of corresponding single crystal were calculated at the CAM-B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level of theory.

Table S2.	Calculated	dipole	moments	for	corresponding	crystals
					1 0	2

Compound	$\mu_{\rm g}\left({\rm D}\right)^{\rm a}$	$\mu_{\rm e} \left({\rm D} ight)^{\rm b}$	$\Delta \mu (D)^{c}$
1a	0.0023	0.0050	0.0027
1c	0.0110	0.0103	-0.0007
1d	0.0051	0.0048	-0.0003
2a	0.0036	0.0217	0.0181
2b	0.0022	0.0032	0.0010
2c	0.0145	0.0421	0.0276
2d-g	0.0044	0.0486	0.0442
2d-0	0.0024	0.0108	0.0084
2e	0.0102	0.0216	0.0114
2g	0.001	0.0312	0.0302

 ${}^{a}\mu_{g}$ = ground state dipole moment. ${}^{b}\mu_{e}$ = excited state dipole moment. ${}^{c}\Delta\mu = \mu_{e}-\mu_{g}$

6. Photoluminescence Properties

6.1 Solid state emission and their CIE diagram



Fig. S3 (A) PL spectra of **1a-1d** in the solid states. (B) PL spectra of compounds **1a-1d** plotted on a CIE 1931 chromaticity diagram.



Fig. S4 (A) PL spectra of **2a-2g** in the solid states. (B) PL spectra of compounds **2a-2g** plotted on a CIE chromaticity diagram.

Table S3. Coordinates of compounds 1a-1d and 2a-2g on CIE diagram.

Compound	$\lambda_{em} (nm)$	Coordinate (X)	Coordinate (Y)
1 a	467	0.1314	0.0459
1b	502	0.0049	0.5871
1c	570	0.4441	0.5547
1d	620	0.6915	0.3083
2a	464	0.1374	0.0374
2b	514	0.0328	0.8029
2c	533	0.1778	0.7917
2d	545	0.2658	0.7243
2e	566	0.4158	0.5826
2f	584	0.5385	0.4607
2g	622	0.6954	0.3045

6.2 Single crystal emission



Fig. S5 Normalized PL spectra of corresponding single crystals.

6.3 Summary of the optical properties

Table S4. The fluorescence lifetime of all compounds.

Compd.	Lifetime in solution (ns)	Lifetime in solid sate (ns)	Lifetime in Crystal (ns)
1a	$\tau_1 = 1.10$	$\tau_1 = 1.11 (65.33\%)$ $\tau_2 = 3.83 (34.67\%)$	$\tau_1 = 1.08 (66.58\%)$ $\tau_2 = 6.18 (33.42\%)$
1b	$\tau_1 = 5.21$	$ au_1 = 1.57$	
1c	$\tau_1 = 7.31$	$\tau_1 = 2.46$	$\tau_1 = 1.67 (34.15\%)$ $\tau_2 = 5.18 (65.85\%)$
1d	$\tau_1 = 10.62$		$\tau_1 = 1.68 (36.96\%)$ $\tau_2 = 10.70 (63.04\%)$
2a	$\tau_1 = 2.95$	$\tau_1 = 0.47 (79.65\%)$ $\tau_2 = 2.70 (20.35\%)$	$\tau_1 = 2.86$
2b	$ \tau_1 = 0.42 (30.58\%) $ $ \tau_2 = 4.40 (69.42\%) $	$\tau_1 = 1.73 (66.34\%),$ $\tau_2 = 4.66 (33.66\%)$	$ au_1 = 0.14 (50.15\%) \ au_2 = 3.14 (49.85\%)$
2c	$ au_1 = 0.81$	$\tau_1 = 2.84 (13.92\%)$ $\tau_2 = 9.08 (86.08\%)$	$\tau_1 = 4.51 (25.99\%)$ $\tau_2 = 9.31 (74.01\%)$
2d	$\tau_1 = 0.41 (47.59\%)$ $\tau_2 = 3.09 (52.41\%)$	$ au_1 = 6.27$	$\tau_1 = 6.29 \ (2d-g)$ $\tau_1 = 3.89 \ (2d-o)$
2e	n. d	$\tau_1 = 0.21 (29.14\%)$ $\tau_2 = 7.47 (70.86\%)$	$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &= 5.09 \; (5.24\%) \\ \tau_2 &= 11.06 \; (94.76\%) \end{aligned}$
2f	n. d	$\tau_1 = 4.15$	
2g	$\tau_1 = 1.75$	$\tau_1 = 2.61$	$\tau_1 = 1.73 (32.07\%) \tau_2 = 6.40 (67.93\%)$

Constant	, Solution		Solid state		Crystal	
Compa.	$k_{\rm r} ({\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm nr}~({\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm r} ({\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm nr}({\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm r} ({\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm nr} ({\rm s}^{-1})$
1 a	7.272×10^{6}	9.02×10^8	6.439×10 ⁷	4.234×10^{8}	1.489×10^{7}	4.256×10^{8}
1b	3.013×10 ⁸	1.618×10 ⁸	7.197×10^7	5.650×10 ⁸		
1c	7.647×10^7	6.03×10^7	9.756×10 ⁶	3.967×10^8	5.528×10^{6}	2.458×10^8
1d	7.185×10^{7}	2.232×10^{7}	4.986×10 ⁶	1.297×10^{8}	6.532×10^{6}	1.293×10^{8}
2a	4.034×10^7	2.986×10 ⁸	1.445×10^8	9.424×10^8	3.240×10 ⁷	3.160×10 ⁸
2b	4.717×10^{6}	3.097×10^8	6.728×10^7	3.003×10 ⁸	3.963×10 ⁷	5.701×10^8
2c	4.938×10 ⁶	1.229×10 ⁹	5.554×10^{7}	6.626×10^7	6.675×10^7	5.732×10^7
	4.072×10^{6}	5.475×10^8	2.080×10^7	1.296×10^8	7.790×10^7 (2d-y)	8.108×10 ⁷ (2d-y)
20	4.972×10	5.475×10	2.089×10	1.380×10	2.031×10 ⁷ (2d-o)	2.368×10 ⁸ (2d-o)
2e			4.856×10^7	8.786×10^7	4.009×10^7	5.293×10 ⁷
2 f			4.182×10^7	1.776×10 ⁹		
2g	2.229×10^7	5.49×10 ⁸	2.813×10 ⁷	2.122×10^8	4.306×10 ⁷	1.608×10^8

Table S5. The rate constants for radiative (k_r) and nonradiative decay (k_{nr}) were calculated from the Φ and τ values according to the formulae $k_r = \Phi_F/\tau$ and $k_{nr} = (1-\Phi_F)/\tau$.

6.4 Solvent effect of Target Compounds



Fig. S6 UV-vis and PL spectra of compounds 1b-1d in different solution.



Fig. S7 UV-vis and PL spectra of compounds 2a-2g in different solution.

6.5 Aggregation-induced emission properties of target compounds

Nanoaggregates preparation: 1 mM stock solutions of target compounds in acetone were firstly prepared. Then aliquots of above stock solution were transferred into 5 mL volumetric flasks. And appropriate amounts of water were added to obtain 10 μ M solution with different water fractions (0 vol%, 30 vol%, 50 vol%, 70 vol%, 90 vol%, 99 vol%). After that, the PL measurements of the resulting solutions were performed immediately.



Fig. S8 (A) PL spectra of **1a** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **1a**. Inset: photograph of **1a** in acetone/water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **1a** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S9 (A) PL spectra of **1b** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **1b**. Inset: photograph of **1b** in acetone/water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **1b** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S10 (A) PL spectra of **1c** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **1c**. Inset: photograph of **1c** in acetone/water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **1c** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S11 (A) PL spectra of 1d (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of 1d. Inset: photograph of 1d in acetone/water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of 1d (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S12 (A)PL spectra of **2a** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **2a**. Inset: photograph of **2a** in acetone/water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **2a** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S13 (A) PL spectra of **2b** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/watermixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **2b**. Inset: photograph of **2b** in acetone/ water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **2b** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S14 (A) PL spectra of 2c (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of 2c. Inset: photograph of 2c in acetone/ water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of 2c (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S15 (A) PL spectra of 2d (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of 2d. Inset: photograph of 2d in acetone/ water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of 2d (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S16 (A) PL spectra of **2f** (10 μ M) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of **2f**. Inset: photograph of **2f** in acetone/ water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of **2f** (10 μ M) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).



Fig. S17 (A) PL spectra of 2g (10 µM) in acetone and acetone/water mixtures with different water fractions (f_w). (B) Plots of emission intensity versus the composition of the water mixtures of 2g. Inset: photograph of 2g in acetone/ water mixtures with f_w values of 0, and 99% under irradiation of 365 nm UV light. (C) Particle size distribution of 2g (10 µM) in acetone/water (1:99, v/v).

7. Mechanochromic Luminescence Properties



Fig. S18 (A) Normalized PL spectra of **2b** under different condition. (B) Powder XRD diffractions of **2b**. Inset: photograph of **2b** taken under illumination with UV light (365 nm) at different conditions. (C) Reversible switching of emission by repeated grinding/fuming cycles.



Fig. S19 (A) Normalized PL spectra of 2c under different condition. (B) Powder XRD diffractions of 2c. Inset: photograph of 2c taken under illumination with UV light (365 nm) at different conditions. (C) Reversible switching of emission by repeated grinding/fuming cycles.



Fig. S20 (A) Normalized PL spectra of 2d under different condition. (B) Powder XRD diffractions of 2d.

8. X-ray Single Crystals Data and Their Packing Mode

8.1 single crystal data summary

Table S6. Crystallographic data of series 1.

Crystal	1 a	1c	1d
formula	$C_{14}H_6N_4$	$C_{18}H_{14}N_4O_4$	$C_{16}H_{10}N_4O_2$
crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	P 1 21/n 1	P 1 21/c 1	P 1 21/c 1
a [Å]	6.9562(4)	10.1736(3)	3.9933(4)
b[Å]	8.6030(4)	4.9312(2)	16.4932(9)
<i>c</i> [Å]	10.0638(8)	17.7827(8)	10.7618(6)
β [deg]	104.584(7)	96.441(4)	93.630(6)
V [Å ³]	582.86(6)	886.49(7)	707.37(9)
Ζ	2	2	2
$\mu \text{ [mm}^{-1}\text{]}$	0.671	0.797	0.776
<i>T</i> [K]	293	293	293
θ_{\min} - θ_{\max} [deg]	7.0050-71.6570	4.8090-71.9580	5.3750-71.2330
R	0.0457	0.0396	0.0433
wR_2	0.1345	0.1161	0.1314
GOOF	1.050	1.028	1.044
crystal pictures ^a		and the second s	P
CCDC number	1056239	1056280	1403124
	Compounds chart	Compounds chart	Compounds chart
	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>
	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>

^aThe fluorescent pictures of corresponding single crystals were taken by Olympus DP-80 fluorescence microscopy under UV irradiation.

Crystal	2a	2b	2c	2e	2g
formula	$C_{26}H_{14}N_4$	$C_{22}H_{10}N_4O_2$	$C_{38}H_{42}N_4O_2Si_2\\$	$C_{32}H_{28}N_6O_4$	$C_{24}H_{14}N_4S_2$
crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	P 1 21/n 1	C 2/c	P -1	C 1 2/c 1	P 1 21/c 1
<i>a</i> [Å]	12.4262 (9)	10.8800 (4)	9.7516 (5)	20.3875 (9)	9.0866 (3)
$b[\text{\AA}]$	7.2914 (5)	7.8430 (3)	12.8129 (6)	6.9526 (2)	10.3527 (4)
c[Å]	12.8993 (8)	21.0513 (10)	16.8155 (9)	21.3637 (7)	11.6224 (4)
β [deg]	118.312 (3)	91.528 (4)	99.248 (5)	95.544 (3)	104.969 (4)
V [Å ³]	1028.92 (12)	1795.71 (13)	1981.19 (18)	3014.04 (19)	1056.23 (7)
Ζ	2	4	2	4	2
$\mu \ [\mathrm{mm}^{-1}]$	0.075	0.732	1.079	0.683	2.423
<i>T</i> [K]	293	291	293	293	293
θ_{\min} - θ_{\max} [deg]	3.1390-26.4140	4.1730-69.5230	4.6380-68.5880	5.7680-66.1850	3.9370-71.5460
R	0.0770	0.0405	0.0770	0.0430	0.0389
wR_2	0.2330	0.1209	0.2412	0.1208	0.1118
GOOF	1.094	1.074	1.036	1.037	1.036
crystal pictures ^a	43°		A. C.	- Par	
CCDC number	1439334	1439332	1443616	1442948	1442404
	Compounds chart	Compounds chart	Compounds chart	Compounds chart	Compounds chart
	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>Data</u>
	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>	<u>NMR</u>

Table S7. Crystallographic data of series 2.

^a The fluorescent pictures of corresponding single crystals were taken by Olympus DP-80 fluorescence microscopy under UV irradiation.

Crystal	2d-g	2d-0		
formula	$C_{28}H_{18}N_4O_2$	$C_{28}H_{18}N_4O_2$		
crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic		
space group	P 1 21/c 1	P -1		
a [Å]	6.7023 (2)	6.5174 (4)		
<i>b</i> [Å]	14.1338 (4)	9.8469 (5)		
<i>c</i> [Å]	12.7266 (4)	10.3476 (5)		
β [deg]	100.447 (3)	95.997 (5)		
V [Å ³]	1185.58 (7)	575.82 (7)		
Ζ	2	11		
$\mu \ [\mathrm{mm}^{-1}]$	0.646	0.665		
<i>T</i> [K]	293	293		
θ_{\min} - θ_{\max} [deg]	8.7080-71.9270	8.4320-72.4360		
R	0.0505	0.0418		
wR_2	0.1373	0.1177		
GOOF	1.048	1.0717		
CCDC number	1472574	1499316		
	Compounds chart			
	Data			
	<u>NMR</u>			

Table S8. Crystallographic data of **2d-g** and **2d-o**.

8.2 X-ray single crystallographic packing of the corresponding compounds



Fig. S21 Side and top view of crystal packing mode of 1a (A) and 1c (B). Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in gray, white, and blue, respectively.



Fig. S22 Side and top view of crystal packing mode as well as short contacts of **2a** (A) and **2b** (B). Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in gray, white, and blue, respectively.



Fig. S23 Side and top view of crystal packing mode as well as short contacts of 2c (A) and 2g (B). Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in gray, white, and blue, respectively.



Fig.S24 Side and top view of crystal packing mode as well as short contacts of **2d-y** (A) and **2d-o** (B). Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in gray, white, and blue, respectively.



Fig.S25 Illustration of short contacts of **2c**. Carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen atoms are shown in gray, white, and blue, respectively.

9. NMR Spectra



































































Compounds chart <u>Data</u>

















S58





S59











