

## Supplementary Information for:

### The effect of different binding sites on the optical and electronic properties of tetraphenylethylene-substituted thiophene isomers

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## 1. General characterizations

### 1.1 $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra

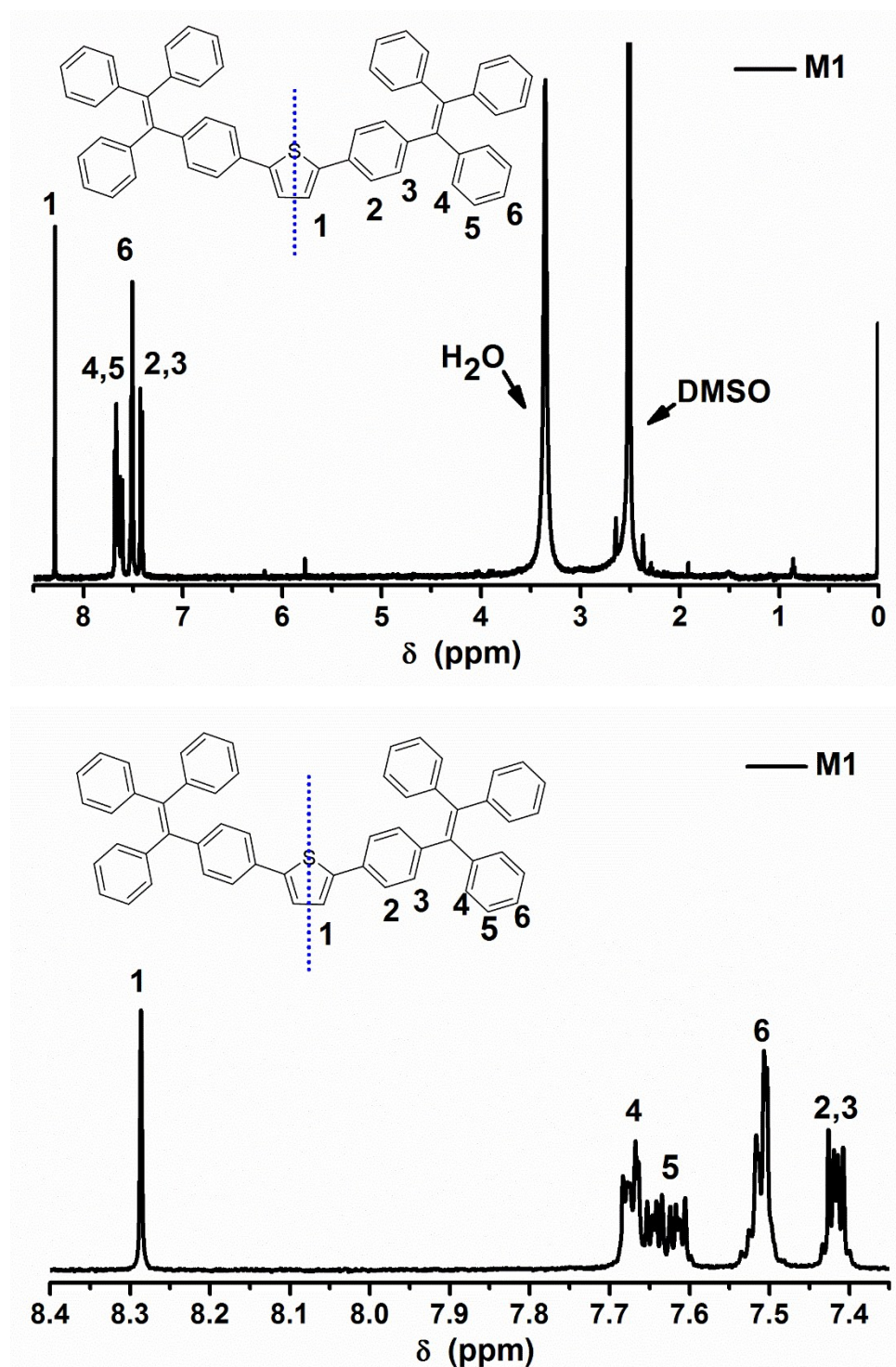


Fig. S1  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of M1 in DMSO at room temperature.

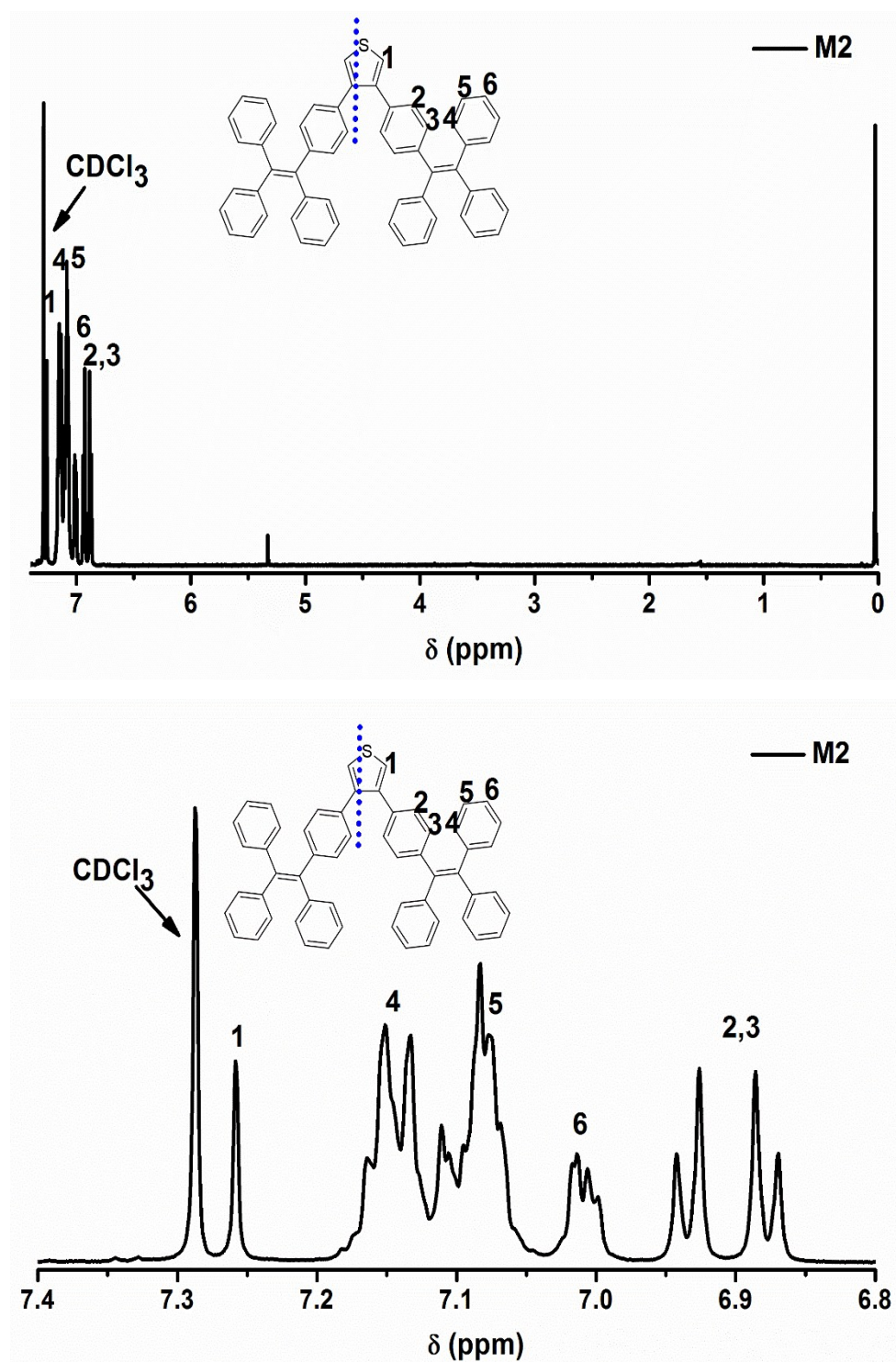


Fig. S2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of M2 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature.

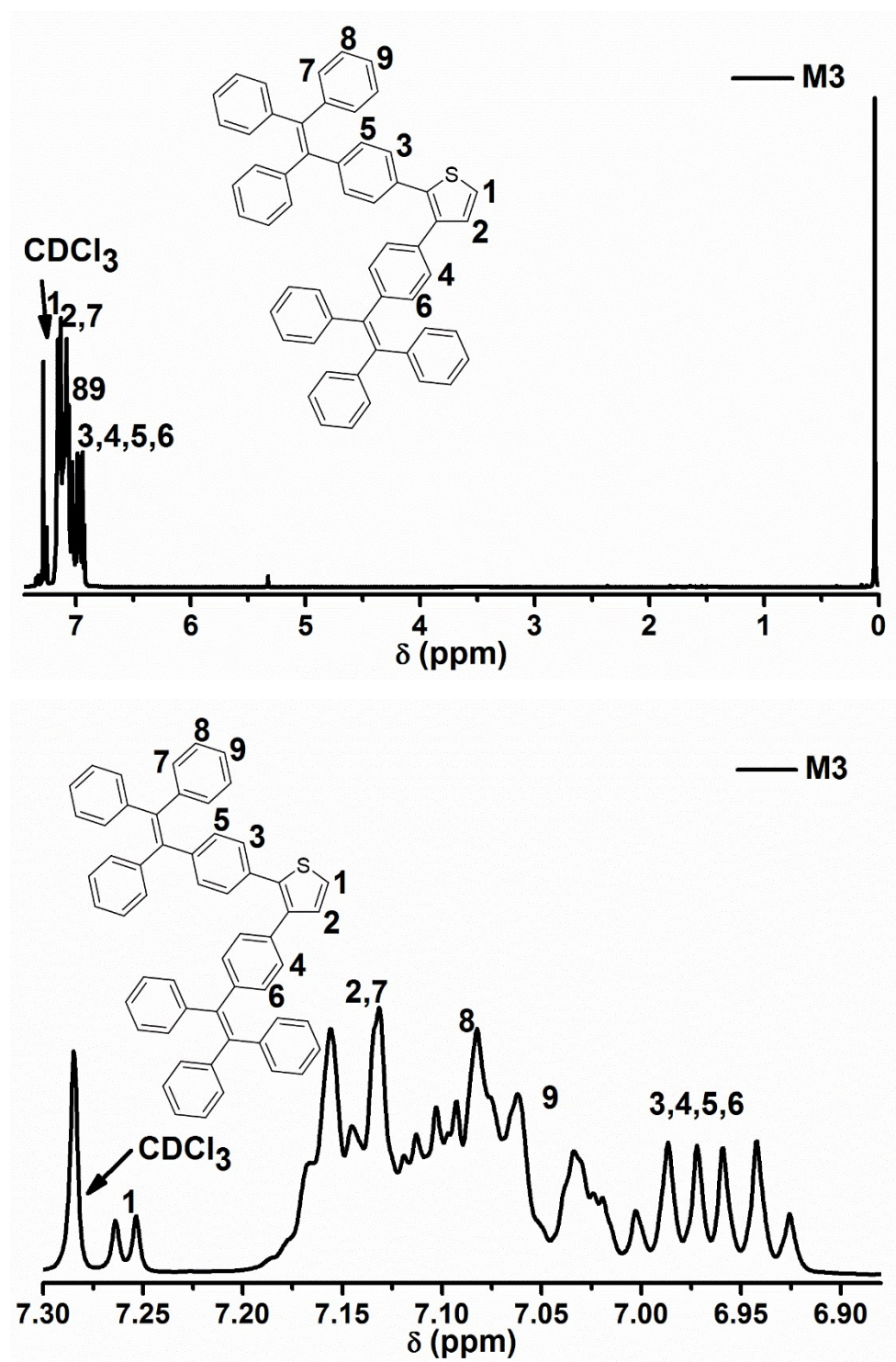


Fig. S3  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of M3 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature.

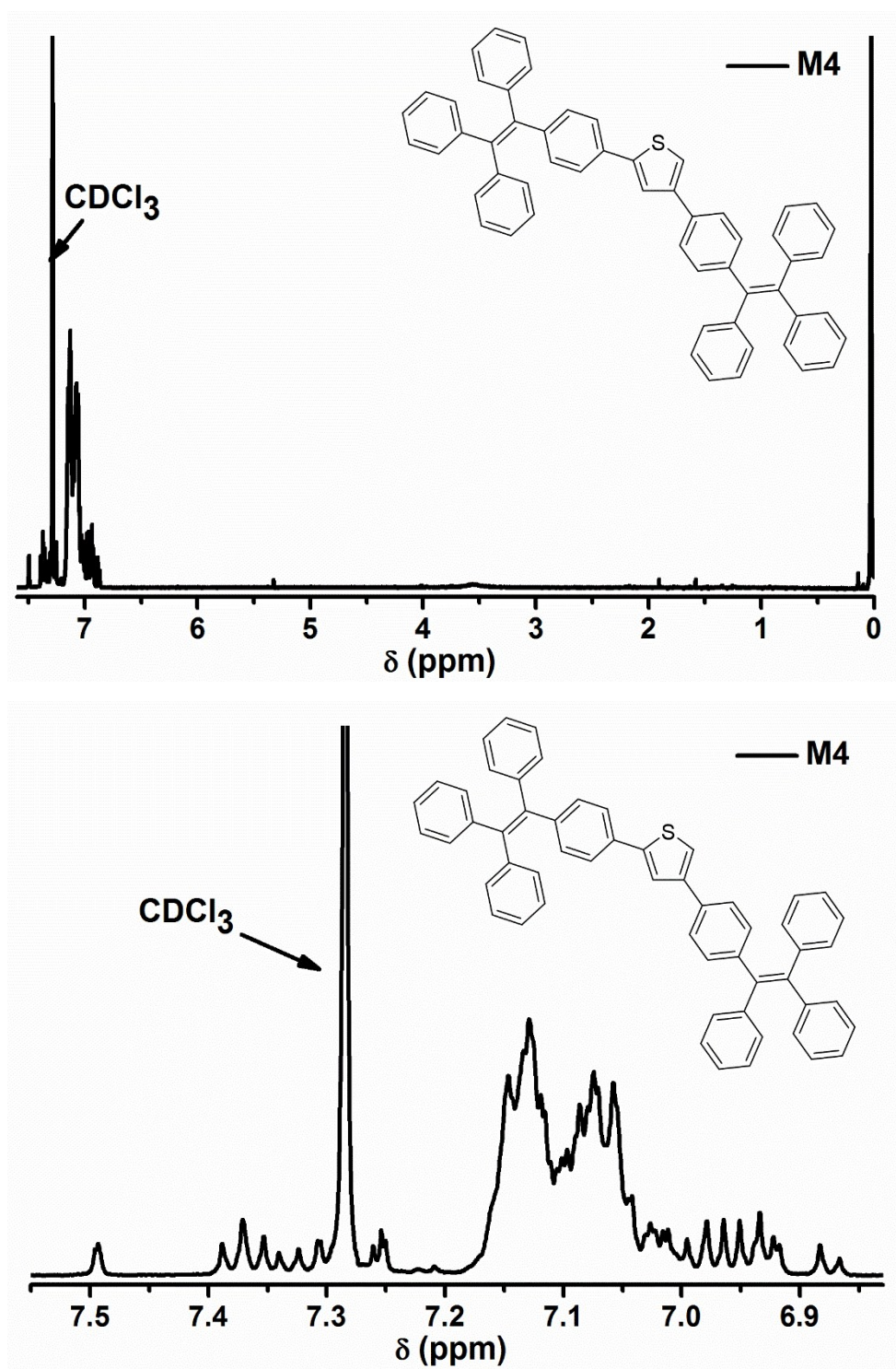


Fig. S4  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of M4 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature.

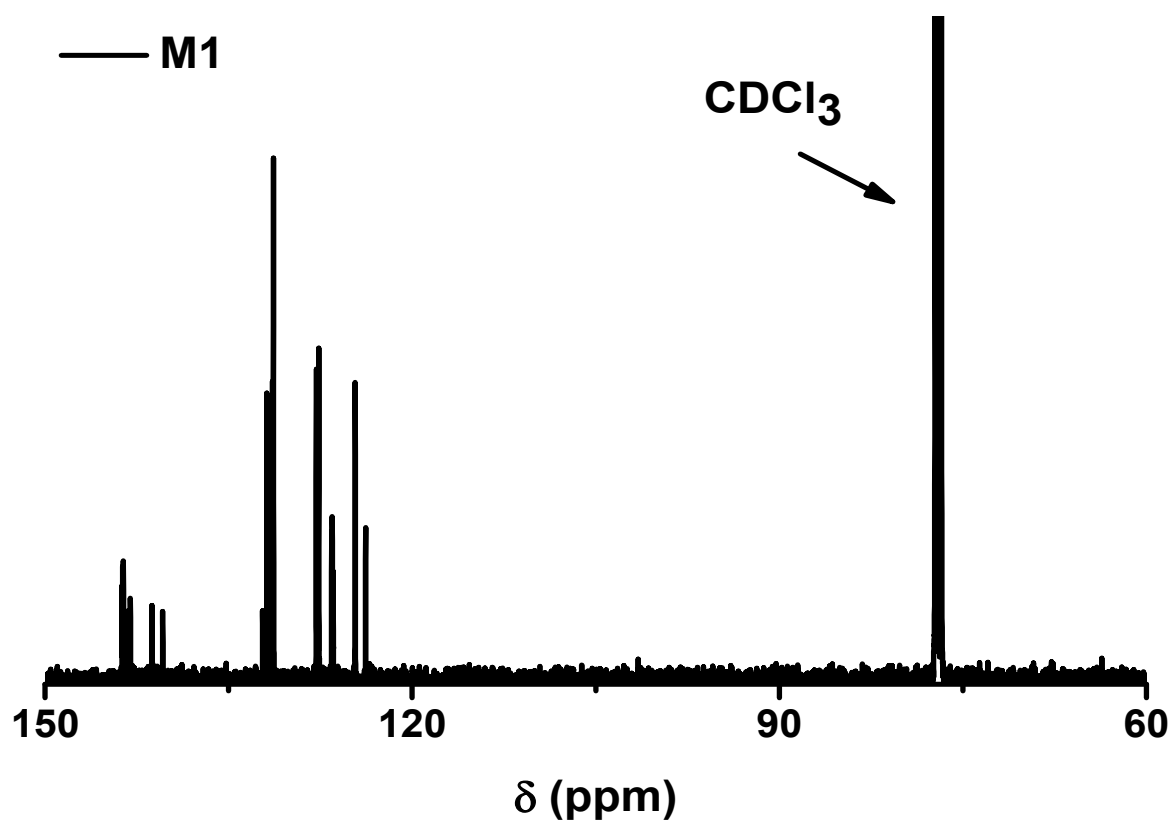


Fig. S5  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of M1 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature.

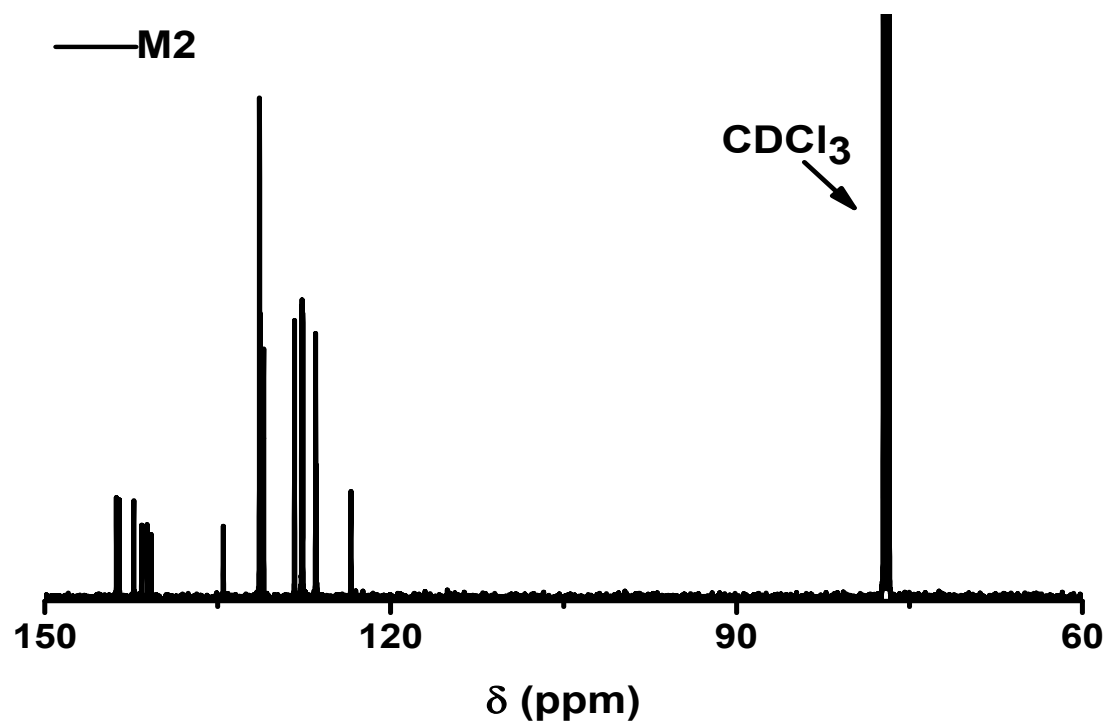


Fig. S6  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of M2 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at room temperature.

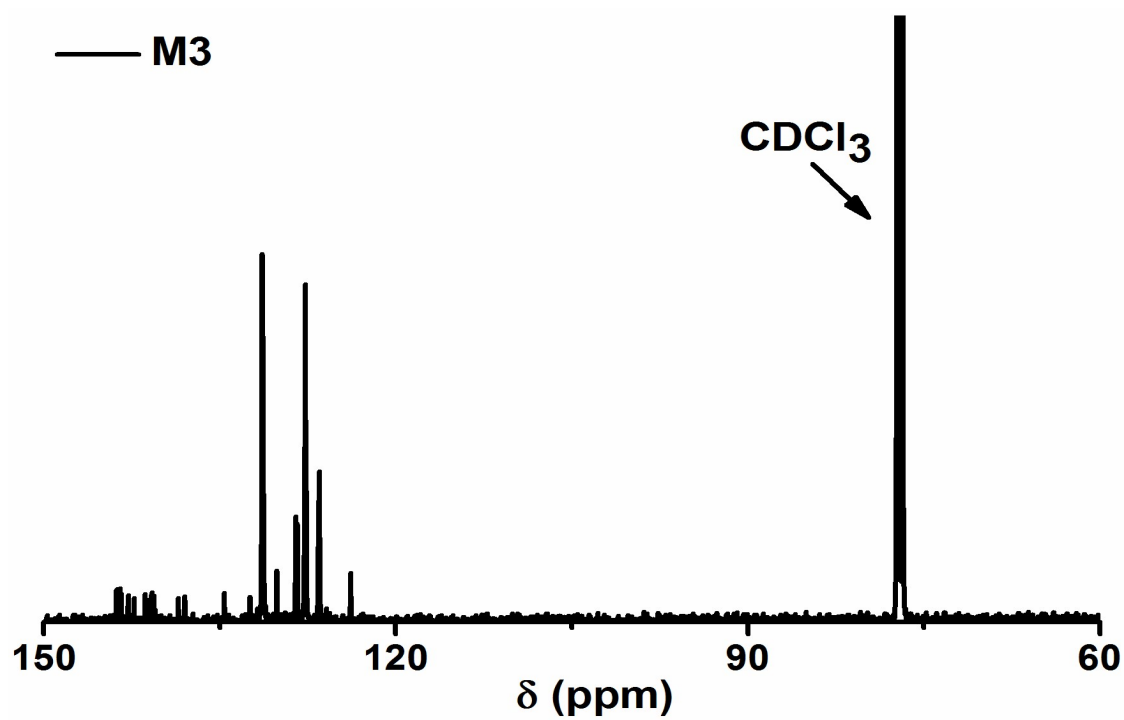


Fig. S7 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of M3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.

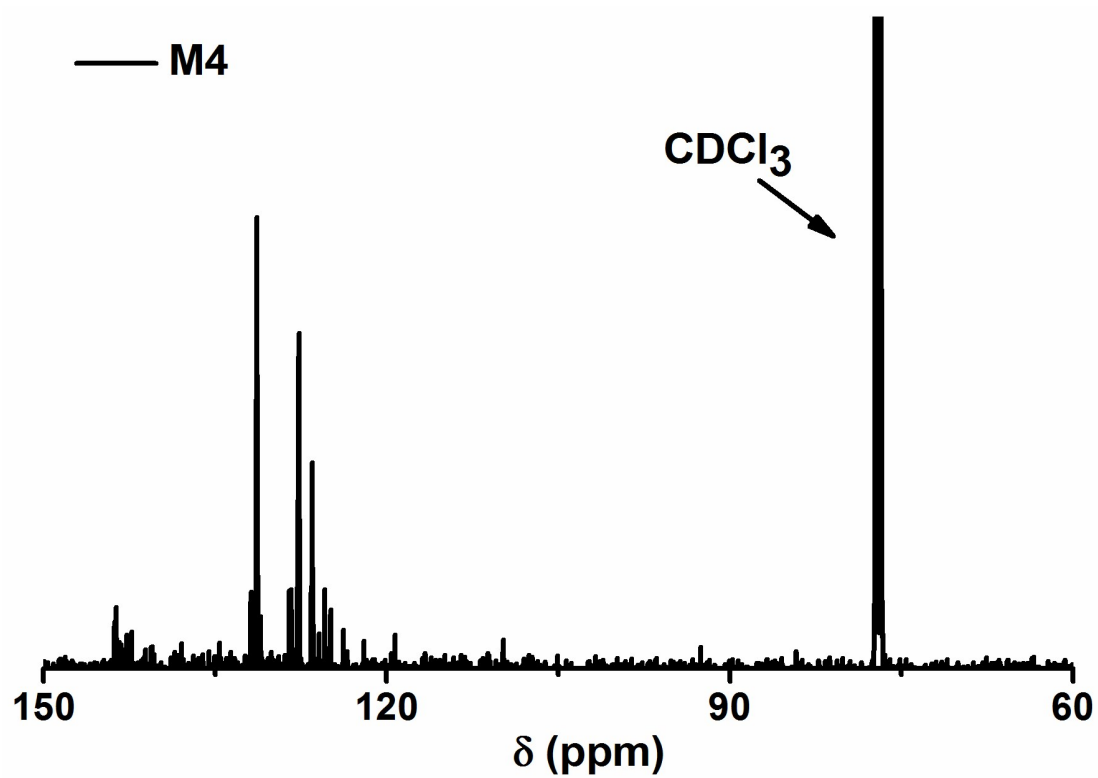
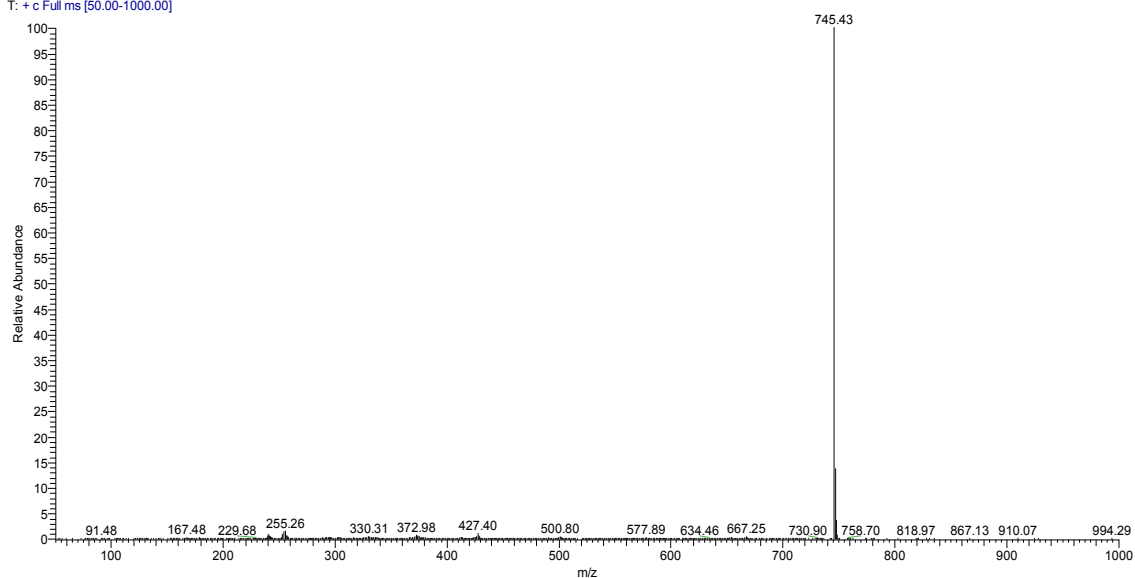


Fig. S8 <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of M4 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.

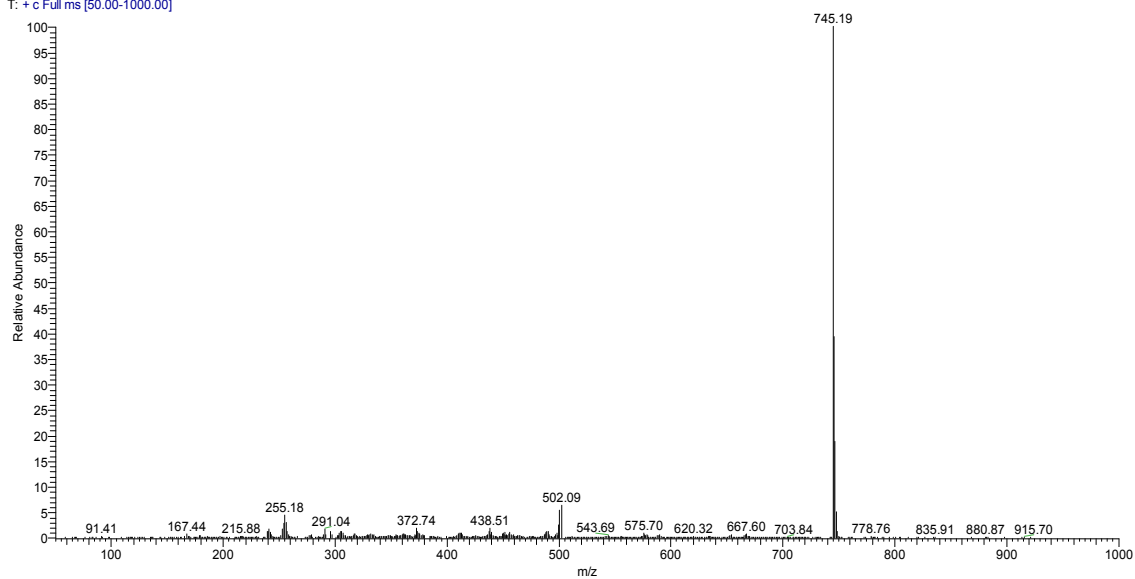
## 1.2 Mass spectra

2016061407 #408 RT: 5.77 AV: 1 NL: 5.93E6  
T: + c Full ms [50.00-1000.00]



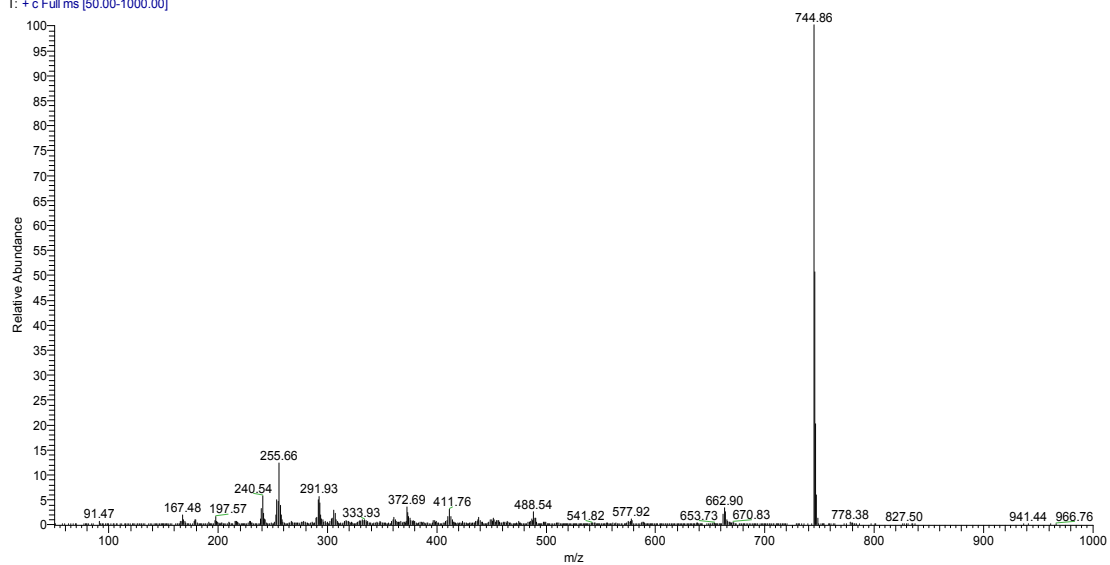
**Fig. S9** Mass spectra of M1.

2016061406 #366 RT: 5.02 AV: 1 SB: 1 4.19 NL: 2.50E6  
T: + c Full ms [50.00-1000.00]



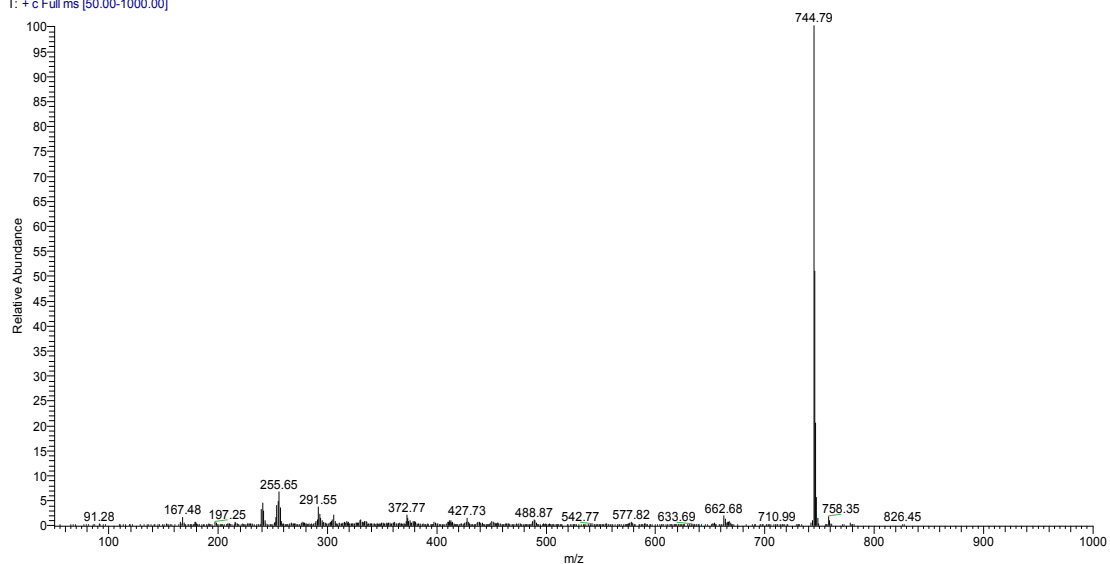
**Fig. S10** Mass spectra of M2.

2016101901 #344 RT: 4.74 AV: 1 NL: 2.77E6  
T: + c Full ms [50.00-1000.00]



**Fig. S11** Mass spectra of M3.

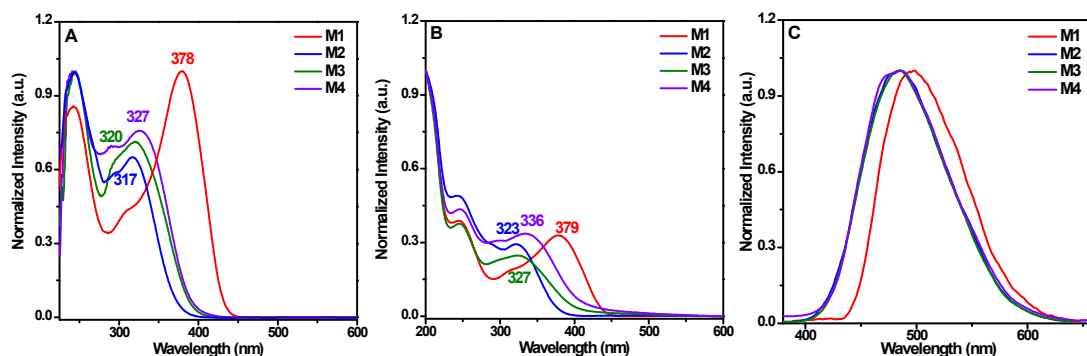
2016101902 #333 RT: 4.70 AV: 1 NL: 1.30E5  
T: + c Full ms [50.00-1000.00]



**Fig. S12** Mass spectra of M4.

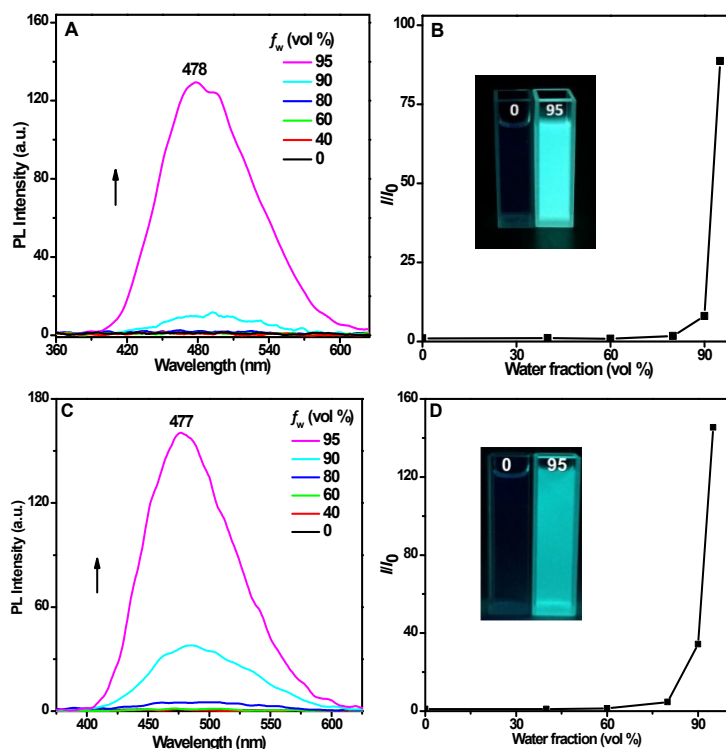
## 2. Photophysical property of M1-M4

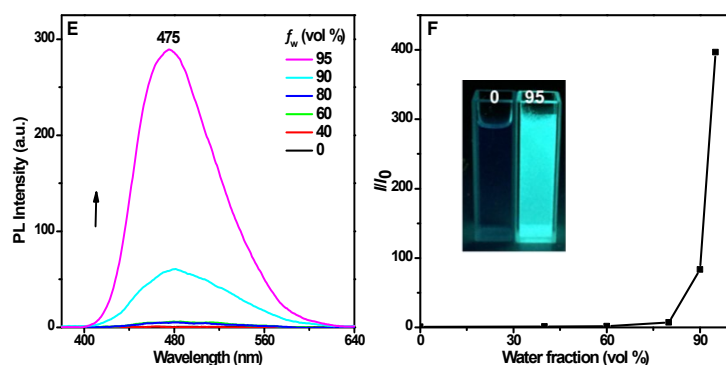
### 2.1 Photophysical property



**Fig. S13** (A) Normalized UV spectra of M1-M4 in dilute THF ( $10^{-5}$  M) solution. (B) and (C) Normalized UV and PL spectra of M1-M4 in thin films spin-coated from  $10^{-3}$  M THF solution at 1500 rpm, respectively.

### 2.2 AIE property





**Fig. S14** (A), (C) and (E) are PL spectra of M2, M3 and M4, respectively, in THF-water mixtures with different water fractions ( $f_w$ ). (B), (D) and (F) are plots of the relative PL intensity ( $I/I_0$ ) versus the compositions of THF-water mixtures of M2, M3 and M4, respectively. M2, M3 and M4 concentration: 10  $\mu$ M; excitation wavelength: 317 nm, 320 nm and 327 nm. Inset in (B), (D) and (F) are the fluorescent photographs at  $f_w = 0$  and 95% taken under a 365 nm UV lamp.

### 3. EL property of M1-M4

#### 3.1 EL performance of M1-M4

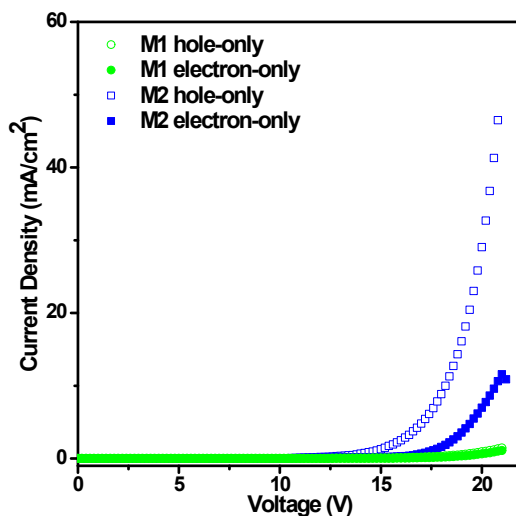
We have constructed the devices of different emissive isomers with the same device structure. One is ITO/PEDOT-PSS (30 nm)/NPB (50 nm)/EML (20 nm)/TPBi (30 nm)/LiF (1.2 nm)/Al (100 nm), another is ITO/HATCN (6 nm)/TAPC (50 nm)/EML (20 nm)/TPBi (30 nm)/LiF (1.2 nm)/Al (100 nm). The data are shown below.

**Table S1** EL performance of M1-M4.

| Isomers | HTL <sup>[a]</sup> | $V_{on}^{[b]}$<br>[V] | $L_{max}^{[c]}$<br>[cd·m <sup>-2</sup> ] | $LE_{max}^{[d]}$<br>[cd·A <sup>-1</sup> ] | $\lambda_{EL, max}^{[e]}$<br>[nm] | EQE <sup>[f]</sup><br>[%] |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| M1      | NPB                | 3.5                   | 65210                                    | 11.21                                     | 492                               | 4.49                      |
|         | TAPC               | 3.4                   | 22010                                    | 8.28                                      | 480                               | 3.68                      |
| M2      | NPB                | 4.3                   | 4070                                     | 2.22                                      | 440                               | 1.65                      |
|         | TAPC               | 3.9                   | 9630                                     | 5.79                                      | 472                               | 3.00                      |
| M3      | NPB                | 3.5                   | 16050                                    | 4.95                                      | 460                               | 2.56                      |
|         | TAPC               | 3.5                   | 15340                                    | 6.07                                      | 492                               | 2.53                      |
| M4      | NPB                | 3.5                   | 18100                                    | 6.86                                      | 464                               | 3.03                      |
|         | TAPC               | 3.4                   | 17400                                    | 8.62                                      | 492                               | 3.48                      |

Abbreviation: [a] HTL = Hole-transporting layer; [b]  $V_{on}$  = turn on voltage; [c]  $L_{max}$  = the maximum luminance; [d]  $LE_{max}$  = the maximum luminance efficiency; [e]  $\lambda_{EL, max}$  = the maximum electroluminescent wavelength; [f] EQE = the maximum external quantum efficiency.

### 3.2 Single-carrier devices of M1 and M2



**Fig. S15** Current density-voltage characteristics of hole-only and electron-only devices of M1 and M2, respectively.

### 3.3 Summary of EL performance

**Table S2** Summary of key EL performance data of OLEDs using TPE and thiophene derivatives as the emitters in recent years.

| Materials                     | $V_{on}^a$<br>[V] | $L_{max}^b$<br>[cd·m <sup>-2</sup> ] | $LE_{max}^c$<br>[cd·A <sup>-1</sup> ] | $\lambda_{EL,max}^d$<br>[nm] | $EQE^e$<br>[%] | CIE (x,y)     | Ref.      |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| M1                            | 3.5               | 65210                                | 11.21                                 | 492                          | 4.49           | (0.232,0.398) | this work |
| M2                            | 3.9               | 9630                                 | 5.79                                  | 472                          | 3.00           | (0.192,0.279) | this work |
| M3                            | 3.5               | 15340                                | 6.07                                  | 492                          | 2.53           | (0.222,0.371) | this work |
| M4                            | 3.4               | 17400                                | 8.62                                  | 492                          | 3.48           | (0.223,0.365) | this work |
| TPE                           | ~2.9              | 1800                                 | 0.45                                  | 445                          | ~0.4           | -             | 1         |
| TPEBPh                        | 5.0               | 10680                                | 5.15                                  | 476                          | 2.56           | -             | 1         |
| TPTPE                         | 4.2               | 10800                                | 5.8                                   | 488                          | 2.7            | -             | 2         |
| BTPTPE                        | 5.2               | 3530                                 | 2.8                                   | 448                          | 1.6            | -             | 2         |
| BTPE                          | 4.0               | 11180                                | 7.26                                  | 488                          | 3.17           | -             | 3         |
| 3,4-BTPEMTPS                  | 6.2               | 3980                                 | 4.96                                  | 520                          | 1.66           | -             | 3         |
| 2,5-BTPEMTPS                  | 5.2               | 12560                                | 6.40                                  | 552                          | 1.98           | -             | 3         |
| 2,5-BTPEMTPS<br>(20 wt%):BTPE | 4.6               | 10480                                | 7.02                                  | 544                          | 2.18           | -             | 3         |
| TPEPy                         | 3.6               | 13400                                | 7.3                                   | 484                          | 3.0            | -             | 4         |

|                                     |     |        |       |         |      |               |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--------|-------|---------|------|---------------|----|
| TPEBPy                              | 4.6 | 25500  | 6.0   | 516     | 2.1  | -             | 4  |
| TPE-2-Np                            | 3.8 | 19800  | 7.3   | 492     | 2.7  | -             | 4  |
| TTPEPy                              | 3.6 | 36300  | 12.3  | 488     | 4.95 | -             | 5  |
| BPBAPE                              | 8.1 | -      | 10.33 | 475     | -    | (0.195,0.303) | 6  |
| TPVAn                               | 4.9 | 4165   | 5.3   | 456     | 5.3  | (0.14,0.12)   | 7  |
| DPDPyE                              | 3.2 | 49830  | 10.2  | 516     | 3.3  | -             | 8  |
| 2TPATPE                             | 3.2 | 33770  | 13.0  | 512     | 4.4  | -             | 9  |
| 3TPETPA                             | 4.5 | 6935   | 4.0   | 499,513 | 1.5  | -             | 10 |
| 4TPEDTPA                            | 4.1 | 10723  | 8.0   | 488     | 3.7  | -             | 10 |
| DTDAE                               | 3.6 | 40940  | 11.2  | 524     | -    | -             | 11 |
| TPECaP                              | 4.4 | 12930  | 5.5   | 496     | 2.2  | -             | 12 |
| TTPECaP                             | 3.6 | 9048   | 6.3   | 490     | 2.3  | -             | 12 |
| (Z)-o-BCaPTPE                       | 4.5 | 8010   | 7.9   | 492     | 3.1  | -             | 13 |
| BTPEBCF                             | 5.5 | 13760  | 7.2   | 508     | 2.6  | (0.24,0.42)   | 14 |
| BAnBCF                              | 4.4 | 8170   | 2.2   | 472     | 1.0  | (0.19,0.24)   | 14 |
| TPESiPh <sub>3</sub>                | 5   | 5672   | 2.1   | 452     | 1.6  | -             | 15 |
| VP <sub>3</sub> ·(TPE) <sub>3</sub> | 6   | 1908   |       | 474     | -    | (0.18,0.31)   | 16 |
| BTPEAn                              | 4.8 | 7900   | 3.2   | 464     | 2.1  | -             | 17 |
| BTPETD                              | 3.9 | 13540  | 5.2   | 540     | 1.5  | -             | 18 |
| BTPETTD                             | 5.4 | 8330   | 6.4   | 592     | 3.1  | -             | 18 |
| BTPEBTTD                            | 4.4 | 1640   | 0.4   | 668     | 1.0  | -             | 18 |
| F1-TPE                              | 5.8 | 1300   | 2.6   | 468     | -    | -             | 19 |
| 1TPE                                | 3.5 | 2585   | 3.5   | 492     | -    | (0.18,0.34)   | 20 |
| BTPEPBN                             | 6.4 | 1375   | 4.43  | 516     | 1.52 | -             | 21 |
| TPE(PF) <sub>2</sub>                | 4.6 | 14500  | 7.2   | 510     | 2.6  | -             | 22 |
| DBTO- <i>p</i> TPE                  | 4.3 | 21984  | 8.66  | -       | 3.62 | -             | 23 |
| TPE-TPDB                            | 4.1 | 46030  | 5.1   | 485     | 2.6  | (0.18,0.29)   | 24 |
| TPE-2PN2PB                          | 3.4 | 11665  | 8.3   | 543     | 2.6  | (0.37,0.54)   | 25 |
| TPE-TPAPBI                          | 3.2 | 125300 | 16.8  | 520     | 5.8  | (0.27,0.50)   | 26 |
| TPE-DPBI                            | 4.0 | 53070  | 6.6   | 518     | 2.3  | (0.25,0.46)   | 26 |
| CFT2P                               | 2.2 | 48800  | 11.15 | 509     | 0.46 | (0.27,0.61)   | 27 |
| CFTP                                | 4.1 | 7277   | 2.48  | 480     | 0.16 | (0.16,0.36)   | 27 |
| TPE-NPB                             | 3.9 | 12607  | 13.1  | 516     | 4.2  | -             | 28 |
| CzPySiTPE                           | 3.0 | 1063   | 1.51  | 468     | 1.12 | (0.16,0.17)   | 29 |
| IV                                  | 3.6 | 10954  | 6.82  | 484     | 3.3  | -             | 30 |
| 6                                   | 4.0 | 1200   | 1.13  | 485     | 0.61 | (0.170,0.331) | 31 |
| Si- <i>p</i> TPE                    | 3.5 | 28718  | 7.40  | 512     | 2.92 | (0.21,0.37)   | 32 |
| Si- <i>m</i> TPE                    | 3.7 | 4411   | 1.39  | 432     | 1.21 | (0.16,0.12)   | 32 |
| SFTPE                               | 2.6 | 8196   | 3.33  | 466     | -    | (0.18,0.24)   | 33 |
| TTPEBTTD                            | 4.2 | 3750   | 2.4   | 650     | 3.7  | (0.67,0.32)   | 34 |
| PDA-TPE                             | 2.4 | 53600  | 15.9  | 523     | 5.9  | -             | 35 |
| TPA-TPE                             | 2.6 | 58300  | 14.3  | 515     | 4.5  | -             | 35 |
| N                                   | 4.2 | 65150  | 8.60  | 513     | 3.28 | (0.23,0.46)   | 36 |

|                            |     |       |      |     |      |             |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|------|-----|------|-------------|----|
| TPE-PNPB                   | 3.2 | 49993 | 15.7 | 516 | 5.12 | (0.27,0.51) | 37 |
| TPE-NB                     | 3.3 | 42924 | 10.5 | 544 | 3.24 | (0.35,0.55) | 37 |
| <i>o</i> TPE- <i>p</i> TPE | 3.9 | 3166  | 2.2  | 454 | 1.7  | (0.16,0.14) | 38 |
| <i>m</i> TPE- <i>p</i> TPE | 4.1 | 3266  | 2.8  | 459 | 1.9  | (0.16,0.16) | 38 |
| TPE-BFDB                   | 3.2 | 92810 | 12.2 | 497 | 5.3  | (0.20,0.37) | 39 |
| DPE-BFDB                   | 5.0 | 33610 | 10.9 | 530 | 3.6  | (0.29,0.53) | 39 |

Abbreviations:  $^aV_{\text{on}}$  = turn on voltage;  $^bL_{\text{max}}$  = the maximum luminance;  $^c\text{LE}_{\text{max}}$  = the maximum luminance efficiency;  $^d\lambda_{\text{EL,max}}$  = the maximum electroluminescent wavelength;  $^e\text{EQE}$  = the maximum external quantum efficiency.

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## 4. Stacking modes and crystal data and structure refinements of M2, M3 and M4

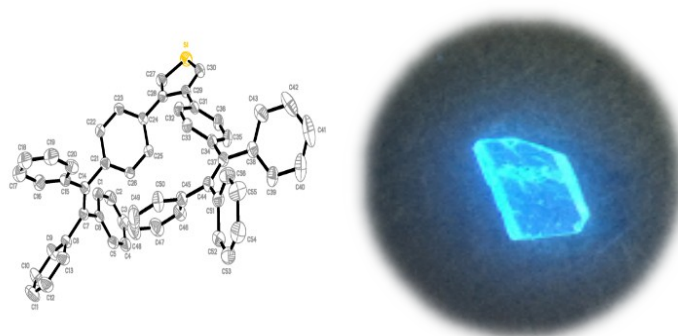
### 4.1.1 Crystal data and structure refinements of M2.

**Table S3** Crystal data and structure refinements of M2.

| Compound                                   | M2                                |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chemical formula                           | C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>40</sub> S |
| Formula weight                             | 744.94                            |
| T/K                                        | 293                               |
| Crystal system                             | Triclinic                         |
| Space group                                | <i>P</i> -1                       |
| <i>a</i> [Å]                               | 12.154(2)                         |
| <i>b</i> [Å]                               | 13.157(3)                         |
| <i>c</i> [Å]                               | 14.471(3)                         |
| $\alpha$ [°]                               | 67.38(3)                          |
| $\beta$ [°]                                | 83.54(3)                          |
| $\gamma$ [°]                               | 79.95(3)                          |
| <i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ]                 | 2100.7(7)                         |
| <i>Z</i>                                   | 2                                 |
| $\lambda$ [Å]                              | 0.71073                           |
| <i>F</i> [000]                             | 784                               |
| Density/mg·m <sup>-3</sup>                 | 1.178                             |
| Absorption coefficient [mm <sup>-1</sup> ] | 0.114                             |
| $\theta$ [°]                               | 3.05-27.47                        |
|                                            | -15≤ <i>h</i> ≤15                 |
| Limiting indices                           | -14≤ <i>k</i> ≤17                 |
|                                            | -18≤ <i>l</i> ≤18                 |
| Reflections collected / unique             | 20511/9430                        |
| GOF                                        | 0.985                             |

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| $R_1 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$  | 0.0602 |
| $wR_2 [I > 2\sigma(I)]$ | 0.1576 |
| $R_1$ (all data)        | 0.1261 |
| $wR_2$ (all data)       | 0.1962 |

#### 4.1.2 The ORTEP of M2 and its crystal photograph



**Fig. S16** ORTEP representation of M2 and its crystal photograph taken under the optical microscope under a 365 nm UV lamp.

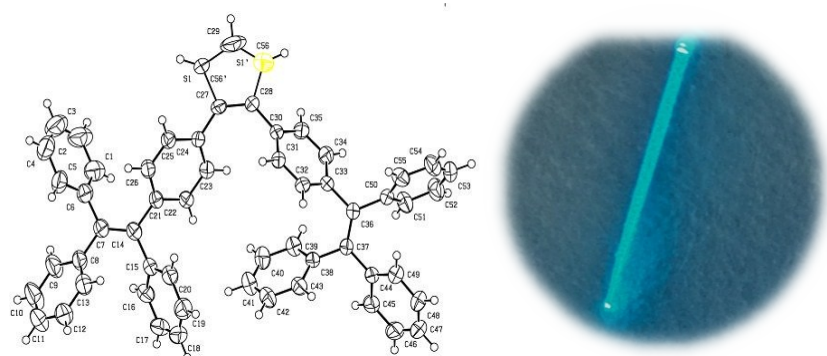
#### 4.2.1 Crystal data and structure refinements of M3.

**Table S4** Crystal data and structure refinements of M3.

| Compound                                   | <b>M3</b>            |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chemical formula                           | $C_{56}H_{40}S$      |
| Formula weight                             | 744.94               |
| T/K                                        | 293                  |
| Crystal system                             | Triclinic            |
| Space group                                | $P-1$                |
| $a$ [Å]                                    | 11.335(2)            |
| $b$ [Å]                                    | 11.899(2)            |
| $c$ [Å]                                    | 16.207(3)            |
| $\alpha$ [°]                               | 78.13(3)             |
| $\beta$ [°]                                | 76.41(3)             |
| $\gamma$ [°]                               | 86.87(3)             |
| $V$ [Å <sup>3</sup> ]                      | 2079.3(7)            |
| $Z$                                        | 2                    |
| $\lambda$ [Å]                              | 0.71073              |
| $F$ [000]                                  | 784                  |
| Density/mg·m <sup>-3</sup>                 | 1.190                |
| Absorption coefficient [mm <sup>-1</sup> ] | 0.116                |
| $\theta$ [°]                               | 3.05-25.00           |
|                                            | $-13 \leq h \leq 13$ |

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Limiting indices               | -14≤k≤14   |
|                                | -19≤l≤19   |
| Reflections collected / unique | 15383/7084 |
| GOF                            | 1.044      |
| R <sub>1</sub> [I > 2σ(I)]     | 0.0583     |
| wR <sub>2</sub> [I > 2σ(I)]    | 0.1505     |
| R <sub>1</sub> (all data)      | 0.1138     |
| wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)     | 0.1778     |

## 4.2.2 The ORTEP of M3 and its crystal photograph



**Fig. S17** ORTEP representation of M3 and its crystal photograph taken under the optical microscope under a 365 nm UV lamp.

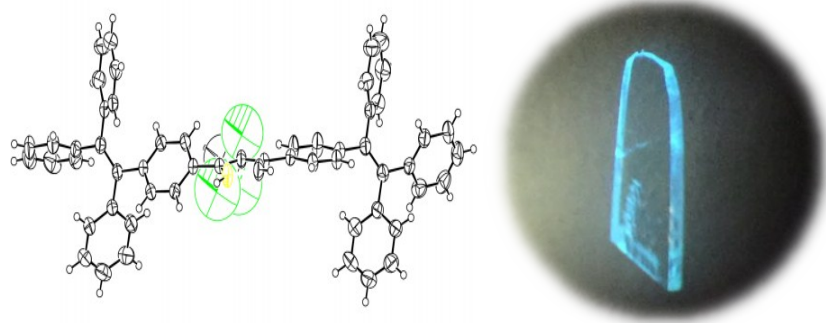
## 4.3.1 Crystal data and structure refinements of M4.

**Table S5** Crystal data and structure refinements of M4.

| Compound                   | <b>M4</b>                                                                             |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chemical formula           | C <sub>56</sub> H <sub>40</sub> S+C <sub>0.5</sub> H <sub>0.5</sub> Cl <sub>1.5</sub> |
| Formula weight             | 804.62                                                                                |
| T/K                        | 293                                                                                   |
| Crystal system             | Triclinic                                                                             |
| Space group                | <i>P</i> -1                                                                           |
| <i>a</i> [Å]               | 9.4004(19)                                                                            |
| <i>b</i> [Å]               | 11.442(2)                                                                             |
| <i>c</i> [Å]               | 21.172(4)                                                                             |
| <i>α</i> [°]               | 82.07(3)                                                                              |
| <i>β</i> [°]               | 84.57(3)                                                                              |
| <i>γ</i> [°]               | 87.47(3)                                                                              |
| <i>V</i> [Å <sup>3</sup> ] | 2244.2(8)                                                                             |
| <i>Z</i>                   | 2                                                                                     |
| <i>λ</i> [Å]               | 0.71073                                                                               |
| <i>F</i> [000]             | 842                                                                                   |

|                                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Density/mg·m <sup>-3</sup>                 | 1.191        |
| Absorption coefficient [mm <sup>-1</sup> ] | 0.198        |
| $\theta$ [°]                               | 3.01-25.00   |
| Limiting indices                           | -10 ≤ h ≤ 11 |
|                                            | -13 ≤ k ≤ 13 |
|                                            | -25 ≤ l ≤ 25 |
| Reflections collected / unique             | 17582/7843   |
| GOF                                        | 1.002        |
| R <sub>1</sub> [I > 2σ(I)]                 | 0.0713       |
| wR <sub>2</sub> [I > 2σ(I)]                | 0.2139       |
| R <sub>1</sub> (all data)                  | 0.1313       |
| wR <sub>2</sub> (all data)                 | 0.2663       |

#### 4.3.2 The ORTEP of M4 and its crystal photograph



**Fig. S18** ORTEP representation of M4 and its crystal photograph taken under the optical microscope under a 365 nm UV lamp.