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High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS)


Figure S1. HRMS of mFI-Cb-H.


Figure S2. HRMS of mFl-Cb-Ph.


Figure S3. HRMS of DmFI-Cb.


Figure S5. HRMS of $\mathbf{p F I}-\mathrm{Cb}-\mathrm{Ph}$.

Table S1. Structural refinement data of crystals

|  | mFl-Cb-Ph* | DmFl-Cb ${ }^{\text {\& }}$ | pFl-Cb- $\mathrm{H}^{\text {\# }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CCDC number | 1527646 | 1527647 | 1536124 |
| Formula | $\mathrm{C}_{23} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{~B}_{10}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{36} \mathrm{~B}_{10}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{~B}_{10}$ |
| Crystal system | triclinic | triclinic | tetragonal |
| Space group | P-1 | P-1 | 141/a |
| a, $\AA$ | 10.2378(4) | 10.7377(4) | 29.1255(9) |
| b, Å | 10.7582(5) | 15.4048(6) | 29.1255(9) |
| c, $\AA$ A | 11.6502(6) | 18.3711(7) | 14.6448(5) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 90.007(2) | 90.481(2) | 90.00 |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 102.099(2) | 97.830(2) | 90.00 |
| $Y\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 110.257(2) | 91.483(2) | 90.00 |
| $\mathrm{V}, \AA^{3}$ | 1173.35(9) | 3009.3(2) | 12423.1(7) |
| $\rho / \mathrm{g} . \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.168 | 1.167 | 0.985 |
| z | 2 | 4 | 16 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{mm}^{-1}\right)$ | 0.059 | 0.061 | 0.051 |
| F(000) | 432.0 | 1112.0 | 3839 |
| R1(reflections) | 0.0668 | 0.0489 | 0.0890 |
| wR2(reflections ) | 0.1491 | 0.1145 | 0.3329 |
| GOOF | 0.939 | 0.994 | 0.826 |

* Crystals of mFI-Cb-Ph were grown from slow evaporation of ethanol solution
\& Crystals of DmFI-Cb were grown from a hot methanol/ethanol (1:1) solution
\# Crystals of pFI-Cb-H were grown from a saturated chloroform solution. Disordered lattice solvent molecules could not be modelled (even at 120 K ) and were therefore removed from the refinement using PLATON SQUEEZE ${ }^{1}$. The molecular structure of $\mathbf{p F I - C b}-\mathrm{H}$ was confirmed despite the poor diffraction data.


Figure S6. Crystal packing of mFI-Cb-Ph.


Figure S7. Crystal packing of DmFI-Cb including both cis- and trans- (gray) conformers.


Figure S8. Unit cell of pFI-Cb-H. Hydrogens have been omitted for clarity.


Figure S9. Emission spectra (excitation at 300 nm ) of $\mathrm{Fl}-\mathrm{Cb}$ analogues in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ (left) and $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ (right). The quantum efficiency is around 0.1\%.


Figure S10. Absorption and emission spectra (excitation at 350 nm ) of quinine sulfate solution and DmFl-Cb aggregates (10-5 $\mathrm{mol} / \mathrm{L})$ in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(4: 6)$ solution. The quantum yield was estimated using quinine sulfate as a standard ( $\Phi=0.55$ ).


Figure S11. PL decay of the solid $\mathrm{Fl}-\mathrm{Cb}$ analogues, $\mathbf{m F l}-\mathrm{Cb}-\mathrm{Ph}(\mathrm{a}), \mathrm{DmFI}-\mathrm{Cb}(\mathrm{b})$ and $\mathrm{pFI}-\mathrm{Cb}-\mathrm{Ph}(\mathrm{c})$.


Figure S12. Simulated infrared spectrum of mFl-Cb-Ph. Selected vibrations relative to the aggregation are shown in colored arrows.


Figure S13. Calculated oscillator strengths $(f)$ of electronic transitions from different excited states $\left(S_{1}\right)$ to the ground state $\left(S_{0}\right)$ of the mFI-Cb-Ph monomer. Excited-state structures were obtained by TD-DFT optimization varying the cage C-C bond lengths from $1.75 \AA$ to 2.30 Å.

Table S2. Calculated electronic transitions of mFl-Cb-Ph from the ground state to the lowest five excited states for different aggregations.


| 261.52 | 1.0051 | $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (47.7\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+1 (46.3\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 246.04 | 0.0000 |  |
| 245.68 | 0.1030 | $\mathrm{H}-5 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}(14.7 \%) ; \mathrm{H}-4 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (14.7\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+4$ (20\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+7$ (7\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+5 (19\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+6$ (19\%) |
| 240.85 | 0.0000 |  |
|  | mFl-Cb-Ph dimer-Ph |  |
| $\lambda_{\text {calc }}$ | $f$ | Assignment (> 5\%) |
| ( nm ) |  |  |
| 262.63 | 1.3438 | $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (47.9\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+1 (49.4\%) |
| 261.30 | 0.0001 |  |
| 245.26 | 0.1224 | $H-9 \rightarrow L+1$ (6.9\%); H-8 $\rightarrow$ L (7.2\%); H-6 $\rightarrow$ L+1 (11.6\%); H-5 $\rightarrow$ ( $10.2 \%$ ); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+4$ (25\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+5$ (24.6 \%) |
| 245.14 | 0.0000 |  |
| 239.91 | 0.0002 |  |
| mFl-Cb-Ph trimer |  |  |
| $\lambda_{\text {calc }}$ | $f$ | Assignment (>5\%) |
| ( nm ) |  |  |
| 266.83 | 0.0081 |  |
| 262.35 | 1.6397 | $\mathrm{H}-2 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (65.8\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (20.4\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+2$ (13.7\%) |
| 261.09 | 0.1306 | $\mathrm{H}-2 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (35.1\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (29.8\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+2$ (35.2\%) |
| 245.98 | 0.0001 |  |
| 245.62 | 0.1169 | $\mathrm{H}-8 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (13.2\%); $\mathrm{H}-6 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+2$ (15.4\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+6$ (20.5\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+9$ (7.1\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+8$ (27.9\%) |
| $\mathrm{mFI}-\mathrm{Cb}-\mathrm{Ph}$ tetramer |  |  |
| $\lambda_{\text {calc }}$ | $f$ | Assignment (> 5\%) |
| ( nm ) |  |  |
| 266.97 | 0.0156 | $\mathrm{H}-3 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}(16.1 \%) ; \mathrm{H}-3 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (5.9\%); H-2 $\rightarrow$ L (5.9\%); H-2 $\rightarrow$ L+1 (16.2\%); H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+2 (27.5\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+3$ (28.4\%) |
| 266.66 | 0.0000 |  |
| 262.05 | 2.2075 | $\mathrm{H}-3 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (20.2\%); $\mathrm{H}-3 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (7.4\%); $\mathrm{H}-2 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}$ (7.4\%); $\mathrm{H}-2 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (20.2\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+2$ (22\%); $\mathrm{H} \rightarrow \mathrm{L}+3$ (22.8\%) |
| 260.96 | 0.0000 |  |
| 245.97 | 0.0001 |  |

Table S3. Calculated electronic transitions of cis-DmFI-Cb tetramer from the ground state to the lowest five excited states.

| $\lambda_{\text {calc }}(\mathrm{nm}$ | $f$ | Assignment (> 4\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ) |  |  |
| 271.86 | 0.7101 | $\mathrm{H}-7 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}(12.2 \%) ; \mathrm{H}-6 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+1$ (7\%); H-6 $\rightarrow$ L+3 (4.2\%); H-5 $\rightarrow$ L (17.9\%); H-5 $\rightarrow$ L+2 (5.7\%); H-5 $\rightarrow$ L+4 (10.2\%); H-4 $\rightarrow$ |
|  |  | L+1 (5.2\%); H-4 $\rightarrow$ L+3 (6.5\%); $\mathrm{H}-4 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+5$ (11\%); H-4 $\rightarrow$ L+7 (4.4\%); H-1 $\rightarrow$ L (4.4\%); H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+4 (4.8\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+1 (6.6\%) |
| 269.53 | 0.0000 |  |
| 269.39 | 0.7311 | $\mathrm{H}-7 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+2$ (6.6\%); H-6 $\rightarrow$ L+3 (4.9\%); H-3 $\rightarrow$ L+2 (10.4\%); H-3 $\rightarrow$ L+6 (8.2\%); H-2 $\rightarrow$ L+3 (8.5\%); H-2 $\rightarrow$ L+5 (5.4\%); |
|  |  | $\mathrm{H}-2 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+7$ (5.2\%); $\mathrm{H}-1 \rightarrow \mathrm{~L}+2$ (7.4\%); H-1 $\rightarrow$ L+6 (6.6\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+1 (6.7\%); H $\rightarrow$ L+7 (4.8\%) |


| 268.25 | 0.0000 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 262.65 | 0.0000 |

Table S4. Selected energy levels of mFI-Cb-Ph for different
Table S5. Selected energy levels of cis-DmFI-Cb
aggregations.

|  | monomer | dimer-FI | dimer-Ph | trimer | tetramer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{L + 3}$ | 1.483 | 0.973 | 1.091 | 0.979 | 0.467 |
| $\mathbf{L + 2}$ | 1.161 | 0.954 | 1.003 | 0.463 | 0.452 |
| $\mathbf{L + 1}$ | 0.910 | 0.396 | 0.390 | 0.410 | 0.410 |
| $\mathbf{L}$ | 0.309 | 0.387 | 0.378 | 0.380 | 0.410 |
| $\mathbf{H}$ | -8.030 | -7.897 | -7.960 | -7.839 | -7.842 |
| $\mathbf{H - 1}$ | -8.863 | -7.903 | -7.965 | -7.883 | -7.846 |
| $\mathbf{H - 2}$ | -9.089 | -8.693 | -8.800 | -7.968 | -7.882 |
| $\mathbf{H - 3}$ | -9.204 | -8.709 | -8.801 | -8.645 | -7.882 |

for different aggregations.

|  | monomer | dimer | tetramer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| L+7 | 2.137454 | 1.328732 | 0.421232 |
| L+6 | 1.989696 | 1.31431 | 0.412797 |
| L+5 | 1.918947 | 1.237029 | 0.376333 |
| L+4 | 1.901803 | 1.230499 | 0.32953 |
| L+3 | 1.437305 | 0.444906 | 0.200276 |
| L+2 | 1.339344 | 0.399463 | 0.174697 |
| L+1 | 0.521642 | 0.222317 | 0.115648 |
| L | 0.288713 | 0.143132 | 0.071566 |
| H | -7.89076 | -7.94219 | -7.97538 |
| H-1 | -7.94572 | -8.00613 | -7.97538 |
| H-2 | -8.8007 | -8.0113 | -8.023 |
| H-3 | -8.84098 | -8.08722 | -8.023 |
| H-4 | -9.0701 | -8.86465 | -8.05049 |
| H-5 | -9.11908 | -8.92778 | -8.08341 |
| H-6 | -9.7746 | -8.93241 | -8.12287 |
| H-7 | -9.86494 | -8.93268 | -8.12314 |



Figure S13. Electronic transition of the $\mathbf{P h} \mathbf{- C b}-\mathbf{m F I}$ monomer corresponding to the lowest energy absorption.


Figure S14. Electronic transition of the Fl -stacked dimer Ph -Cb-mFI corresponding to the lowest energy absorption.


Figure S15. Electronic transition of the Ph-stacked dimer Ph-Cb-mFI corresponding to the lowest energy absorption.


Figure S16. Electronic transition of the Ph-Cb-mFI trimer corresponding to the lowest energy absorption.


Figure S17. (left) Views of cis-DmFl-Cb illustrating the $\pi$-overlap. View 2 is rotated $90^{\circ}$ compared with view 1 . The overlap ratio ( $3.2 \%$ ) was calculated with Adobe Photoshop 2017 v.18.0.1 using the integrals of overlap and FI. (right) HOMO of cis-DmFl-Cb.


Figure S18. (left) Views of cis-DmFI-Cb emphasizing the other adjacent pair of FI moieties; no overlap is observed. (right) LUMO of cis-DmFl-Cb.


Figure S19. (left) Views of trans-DmFI-Cb illustrating adjacent FI moieties. View 2 is rotated $90^{\circ}$ compared with view 1. The overlap ratio (1.7\%) was calculated with Adobe Photoshop 2017 v.18.0.1 using the integrals of overlap and Fl. (right) HOMO and LUMO of trans-DmFl-Cb.

## Reference

1. A.L. Spek, Acta Crystallogr., Sect. C: Struct. Chem., 2015, 71, 9.
