Styryl dye formation promoted by catalytic centers of piperazine bound to silica surface traced by single molecule fluorescence microscopy

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Supplementary Information

Reagents, solvents and surfactants were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Fischer or PanReach Co. and were used as received unless otherwise specified.

Synthesis of (E) -2- [3- [4- (diphenylamine) phenyl] -1- (p-tolyl) - allylidene] -malononitrile (DFTAM). 126 mg of 4-diphenilamino benzaldehyde and 78 mg of 2- [1- (4-methylphenyl) ethylidene]-malononitrile (Aldrich Co.) were mixed in 5 mL of absolute ethanol and 15 μ L of the catalyst piperidine was added. The reacting system was refluxed during 6 h. The product DFTAM was obtained in a net yield of 57 % and it was initially purified in a chromatographic silica column using toluene as eluent.

HPLC coupled to Mass spectra determination of (E) -2- [3- [4- (diphenylamine) phenyl] -1- (p-tolyl) - allylidene] -malononitrile (DFTAM) were performed with a Water® equipment (separation module 2695 with a column C_{18-4} Inertsil and methanol/water operating gradient; UV detector 2996; hexapole Micromass analizer model ZQ). Agilent spectrometer model 500/54 was used to adquire the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of dye in CDCl₃. FTIR characterization was achieved on a Shimadzu model IRAffinity 1 spectrometer with the dye dispersed on KBr pellet.



DFTAM molecular structure



Figure S1. HPLC data of DFTAM and the corresponding mass spectrum showing $[M+H]^+$ m/z = 437.9 of the DFTAM ($C_{31}H_{23}N_3$) molecular ion.



Figure S2. FTIR spectrum of DFTAM





Figure S3. NMR ¹H and ¹³C spectra of DFTAM in CDCI₃

Position	¹³ C (ppm)	¹ H (ppm)
1	126.9	6.83 (d, <i>J</i> = 15.4 Hz)
2	130.6	-
3	130.3	7,27 (d, <i>J</i> = 8.1 Hz)
4	120.6	6,96 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.9 Hz)
5	151.2	-
6	120.6	6,96 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.9 Hz)
7	130.3	7,27 (d, <i>J</i> = 8.1 Hz)
8	121.7	7,42 (d, <i>J</i> = 15.4 Hz)
9	-	-
10	148.8	-
11	126.0	7.15 (m)
12	129.6	7.34 (m)
13	129.5	7.15 (m)
14	129.6	7.34 (m)
15	126.0	7.15 (m)
16	146.2	-
17	126.0	7.15 (m)
18	129.6	7.34 (m)
19	129.5	7.15 (m)
20	129.6	7.34 (m)
21	126.0	7.15 (m)
22	171.4	-
23	79.1	-
24	113.6	-
25	114.2	-
26	126.9	-
27	129.0	7.34 (m)
28	124.8	7.34 (m)
29	141.4	-
30	124.8	7.34 (m)
31	129.0	7.34 (m)
32	21.5	2.46 (s)

Table S1. NMR ^{13}C and ^{1}H peaks of DFTAM in CDCl₃





Figure S4. Intensity-time trajectories of catalytic regions showing different behavior during Knoevenagel condensation reaction forming the fluorescent DFTAM observed in TIRFM in the absence of added water traps. (A) Discrete transitions to lower dye number; (B)SM bursting events after a long inert period; (C) trajectory of a high emissive catalytic region with possible photo bleaching of the dye. Integrated intensity image with indication of the three spots analyzed. $2\mu m$ scale bar.