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Supporting Information for

## **Control of Aggregation-Induced Emission versus Fluorescence Aggregation-Caused**

# Quenching by the Bond Existence at the Single Site in Boron Pyridinoiminate

### Complexes

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#### **Experimental Section**

Measurements: <sup>1</sup>H (400 MHz), <sup>13</sup>C (100 MHz), and <sup>11</sup>B (128 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on JEOL JNM-EX400 spectrometers. In <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra, tetramethylsilane (TMS) was used as an internal standard in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra were referenced externally to BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (sealed capillary). TGA was performed on an EXSTAR TG/DTA6220, Seiko Instrument, Inc., with the heating rate of 10 °C/min under nitrogen flowing (200 mL/min). UV-vis spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU UV-3600 spectrophotometer. Fluorescence emission spectra were measured with a HORIBA JOBIN YVON Fluoromax-4P spectrofluorometer. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was carried out on a BAS ALS-Electrochemical-Analyzer Model 600D with a glassy carbon working electrode, a Pt counter electrode, an Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode, and the ferrocene/ferrocenium external reference at a scan rate of 0.05 Vs<sup>-1</sup>. All reactions were performed under argon. Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were taken by using CuKa radiation with a Rigaku Miniflex. X-ray crystallographic analyses were carried out by a Rigaku R-AXIS RAPID-F graphite-monochromated Mo Kα radiation diffractometer with an imaging plate. A symmetry-related absorption correction was carried out by using the program ABSCOR.<sup>1</sup> The analysis was carried out with direct methods (SHELX97<sup>2</sup> or SIR92<sup>3</sup>) using Yadokari-XG<sup>4</sup>. The program ORTEP35 was used to generate the X-ray structural diagram<sup>5</sup>. DSC thermograms were carried out on a SII DSC 6220 instrument. The sample on the aluminum pan was heated at the rate of 10 °C/min under nitrogen flowing (30 mL/min). Elemental analysis was performed at the Microanalytical Center of Kyoto University.

**Materials:** 2-Methylpyridine (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo, Co.), *N*-methoxy-*N*-methylbenzamide (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo, Co.), aniline (Wako Chemical, Co.), trifluoroacetic acid (Wako Chemical, Co.), 6(5*H*)-phenanthridinone (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo, Co.), phosphorus pentachloride (Tokyo Kasei Kogyo, Co.), *n*-butyllithium (1.64 mol/L in *n*-hexane, Kanto Chemical, Co., Inc.) and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF3·OEt2, Aldrich Chemical, Co.) were used as received. Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and triethylamine were

purified using a two-column solid-state purification system (Glasscoutour System, Joerg Meyer, Irvine, CA).

**Compound 1a.** *n*-Butyllithium (7.2 mL, 11.8 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution of 2methylpyridine (1 g, 10.7 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at -78 °C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 1 h and subsequently at room temperature for 1 h. Next, N-methoxy-Nmethylbenzamide (2.0 g, 10.7 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was added to the solution at -78 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 12 h, the solution was poured into an excess amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solution was washed with brine three times and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator, the obtained product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with hexane/ethyl acetate = 3/2) to give pure **1a** as a yellow solid (1.52 g, 52%). In deuterated chloroform solution, the compound exists as a mixture of keto and enol tautomers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta =$ 8.55 (1H, d, J = 4.2 Hz, Ar-H, ketone), 8.26 (1H, d, J = 5.1 Hz, Ar-H, enol), 8.05 (2H, dd, J = 8.0, 1.0 Hz, Ar-H, ketone), 7.84 (2H, tt, J = 6.6, 3.9 Hz, Ar-H, enol), 7.63–7.51 (4H, m, Ar-H, ketone+enol), 7.45– 7.36 (4H, m, Ar-H, ketone+enol), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 3.9 Hz, Ar-H, ketone), 7.14 (1H, m, Ar-H, ketone), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, Ar-H, enol), 6.9 (1H, m, Ar-H, enol), 6.04 (1H, s, -CH=, enol), 4.48 (2H, s, - $CH_2$ -, ketone) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 196.9, 164.3, 158.6, 155.3, 149.6, 144.3, 137.1, 136.6, 136.5, 133.3, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.3, 125.5, 124.2, 121.9, 121.6, 118.5, 94.2, 48.4 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 198.0913; found, m/z 198.0911.

**Compound 2a.** Aniline (0.7 g, 0.69 mL, 7.5 mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid (1 mL) were added to the solution of **1a** (1.5 g, 7.5 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 h, and the generated water was removed using a Dean-Stark apparatus. After the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator, the obtained product was poured into an excess amount of  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The solution was washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> solution three times and brine and dried over anhydrous

magnesium sulfate. After the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator, the obtained product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with hexane/ethyl acetate = 3/1) to give pure **2a** as a yellow solid (1.5 g, 74%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 11.7 (1H, s, -N*H*-), 7.78 (1H, d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.50–7.45 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.29–7.25 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.06–7.02 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 6.86 (1H, m, Ar-*H*), 6.78 (1H, t, *J* = 14.6 Hz, Ar-*H*), 6.68 (2H, d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, Ar-*H*), 5.57 (1H, s, -C*H*=) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 158.6, 148.4, 147.3, 142.4, 138.2, 135.9, 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 128.0, 122.9, 120.9, 120.8, 118.4, 103.5 ppm. HRMS (NSI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 273.1386; found, m/z 273.1382.

**BPI.** BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (6.8 mL, 7.8 g, 55.1 mmol) and triethylamine (7.7 mL, 5.6 g, 55.1 mmol) were added to the solution of **2a** (1.5 g, 5.5 mmol) in toluene (30 mL) at ambient temperature, and the solution was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After precipitates were removed by filtration, the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator. The obtained product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with hexane/ethyl acetate = 3/1). The product was purified by recrystallization from methanol. The precipitate collected by filtration was dried *in vacuo* to give pure **BPI** as a yellow crystal (1.3 g, 25%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.33 (1H, d, *J* = 6.1 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.69 (1H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.30–7.25 (2H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.20–7.16 (4H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.13–7.09 (2H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.06–7.04 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 6.99 (1H, m, Ar-*H*), 5.71 (1H, s, -*CH*=) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 157.5, 151.0, 142.8, 138.7, 138.6, 137.6, 129.1, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 127.7, 124.7, 122.1, 117.1, 95.5 ppm. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 1.95 (t, *J* = 31.3 Hz) ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 321.1369; found, m/z 321.1364. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>15</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 71.28; H, 4.72; N, 8.75. Found: C, 71.12; H, 4.65; N, 8.70.

**Compound 1b.** Phosphorus pentachloride (6.2 g, 29.9 mmol) was added to the solution of 6(5H)-phenanthridinone (5.3 g, 27.2 mmol) in toluene (60 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred under argon atmosphere at 100 °C for 24 h. After the solution was cooled to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed by vacuum distillation. Sodium hydrogen carbonate and toluene were added to the residue for

neutralization. Precipitates were removed by filtration, and then the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator to give desired product **1b** as a pale yellow solid (1.4 g, 86%). The product was used for the next reaction without further purification.

**Compound 2b.** *n*-Butyllithium (15.3 mL, 23.6 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution of 2methylpyridine (2 g, 21.5 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at –78 °C under argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred at –78 °C for 1 h and additionally at room temperature for 2 h. Next, **1b** (4.6 g, 21.5 mmol) in THF (50 mL) was added to the solution at –78 °C. After stirring at room temperature for 12 h, the solution was poured into an excess amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The solution was washed with brine three times and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator, the obtained product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluted with hexane/ethyl acetate = 1/1) to give pure **2b** as a yellow solid. (1.7 g, 29%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.54–8.45 (3H, m, Ar-*H*), 8.32 (1H, d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, Ar-*H*), 8.18 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.71–7.67 (2H, m, Ar-*H*), 7.11 (2H, tt, *J* = 19.8, 15.4 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.41 (1H, t, *J* = 13.9 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.19 (1H, d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, Ar-*H*), 7.02 (1H, t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, Ar-*H*), 4.93 (2H, s, -CH<sub>2</sub>-) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 159.1, 159.1, 149.1, 143.6, 136.3, 133.0, 130.2, 129.7, 128.5, 127.2, 127.2, 126.6, 125.4, 123.8, 123.1, 122.1, 121.8, 121.3, 46.2 ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 271.1230; found, m/z 271.1223.

**FBPI.** BF<sub>3</sub>·OEt<sub>2</sub> (5.5 mL, 6.3 g, 44.4 mmol) and triethylamine (6.2 mL, 4.5 g, 44.4 mmol) were added to the solution of **2b** (1.2 g, 4.4 mmol) in toluene (50 mL) at ambient temperature, and the solution was stirred at 100 °C for 12 h. After precipitates were removed by filtration, the solvent was removed by a rotary evaporator. The obtained product was dissolved in a small amount of CHCl<sub>3</sub>, and then the product was reprecipitate from methanol. The product was purified by recrystallization from CHCl<sub>3</sub> and hexane. The precipitate collected by filtration was dried in vacuum to give pure **FBPI** as a red crystal (1.2 g, 90%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  = 8.40 (1H, m, Ar-*H*), 8.27–8.22 (2H, m, Ar-*H*), 8.18 (1H, d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, Ar-*H*), 8.14

(1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz, Ar-H), 7.64 (1H, t, J = 15.4 Hz, Ar-H), 7.54–7.45 (3H, m, Ar-H), 7.25 (1H, t, J = 15.1 Hz, Ar-H), 7.07 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, Ar-H), 6.84 (1H, t, J = 13.4 Hz, Ar-H), 6.28 (1H, s, -CH=) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 149.8$ , 147.5, 138.6, 138.0, 137.7, 131.8, 131.1, 129.4, 129.29, 127.9, 125.6, 125.5, 124.8, 123.0, 122.2, 121.6, 121.2, 114.8, 85.4 ppm. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta = 3.23$  (t, J = 37.5 Hz) ppm. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 319.1213; found, m/z 319.1204. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>13</sub>BF<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>: C, 71.73; H, 4.12; N, 8.81. Found: C, 71.62; H, 4.14; N, 8.69.





(a)

(b)



Figure S1. (a)  ${}^{1}$ H, (b)  ${}^{13}$ C and (c)  ${}^{11}$ B NMR spectra of BPI in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



(b)

(a)



9



(c)

**Figure S2.** (a)  ${}^{1}$ H, (b)  ${}^{13}$ C and (c)  ${}^{11}$ B NMR spectra of **FBPI** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S3.** Cyclic voltammograms of **BPI** and **FBPI** from (a) 0 V to -2.4 V (b) 0 V to 1.2 V in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>  $(1.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M})$  with 0.1 M Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> as a supporting electrolyte, AgCl/Ag as a reference electrode, Pt as working and counter electrodes, and scan rate at 100 mV/s. (c) Energy diagrams of **BPI** and **FBPI** calculated by CV measurements.

	$E_{\rm Ox}^{\ a}$	$E_{\rm red}^{\ b}$	HOMO <sup>c</sup>	$LUMO^d$
	[V]	[V]	[eV]	[eV]
BPI	0.62	-2.24	-5.42	-2.56
FBPI	0.16	-2.18	-4.96	-2.62

**Table S1.** Electrochemical results with **BPI** and **FBPI** fromCV measurements

 $^{a}E_{\text{Ox}}$  is the onset potential of first oxidation wave.

 ${}^{b}E_{\rm red}$  is the onset potential of first reduction wave.

<sup>c</sup> Calculated from the empirical formula<sup>6</sup>, HOMO =  $-E_{Ox} - 4.80$  (eV).

<sup>*d*</sup> Calculated from the empirical formula<sup>6</sup>, LUMO =  $-E_{red} - 4.80$  (eV).



**Figure S4.** Structures and molecular orbital diagrams for the LUMO and HOMO of **BPI** and **FBPI** ((B3LYP/6-31G+ (d, p)//B3LYP/6-31G+ (d, p)).



**Figure S5.** PL spectra of (a) **BPI** and (b) **FBPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at r.t. (solid line) and at 77 K (dashed line). (c) Photographs of **BPI** and **FBPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at r.t. under UV irradiation. (d) Photographs of **BPI** and **FBPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at 77 K under UV irradiation.

Table S2. PL	properties	of BPI	and	FBPI
in 2-Me-THF	$(1.0 \times 10^{-5})$	M)		

	$\lambda_{\mathrm{PL, r.t.}}$	$\lambda_{\rm PL, 77K}$
	[nm]	[nm]
BPI	459	443
FBPI	490	485



**Figure S6.** PL spectra of (a) **BPI** and (b) **FBPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at 77 K delayed after 1 ms. (c) Photographs of **BPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at 77K under UV irradiation and immediately after tuning off UV irradiation. (d) Photographs of **FBPI** in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at 77 K under UV irradiation and immediately after tuning off UV irradiation.

Table S3. Phosphorescence properties of BPI and FBPI in 2-Me-THF  $(1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  at 77K

	$\lambda_{_{ m PL}}$
	[nm]
BPI	537
FBPI	589



Figure S7. PL spectra of (a) BPI and (b) FBPI in acetonitrile / H<sub>2</sub>O mixture solvents ( $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  M).

Front view

Side view



# Packing structure



Figure S8. ORTEP drawings of the BPI dimer and the packing structures.

### Table S4. Crystallographic data of BPI<sup>*a*</sup>

Empirical formula	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>15</sub> BF <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub>
Formula weight	320.14
Temperature (K)	93(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71075
Crystal system, space group	triciclinic, P -1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 6.418(3)
	b = 8.632(4)
	c = 14.198(6)
	$\alpha = 74.951(6)$
	$\beta = 81.658(7)$
	$\gamma = 751.3(6)$
$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	751.3(6)
Z, calculated density (Mg $m^{-3}$ )	2, 1.415
Absorption coefficient	0.100
<i>F</i> (000)	332
Crystal size (mm)	0.10 imes 0.10 imes 0.10
$\theta$ range for data collection	3.175 –27.485
Limiting indices	$-8 \le h \le 8, -10 \le k \le 11, -17 \le l \le 18$
Reflections collected (unique)	6456/3230 [R(int) = 0.0818]
Completeness to theta $= 27.48$	0.985
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.036
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]^b$	$R_1 = 0.0596, wR_2 = 0.1541$
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0713, wR_2 = 0.1623$

<sup>*a*</sup> The structures were solved by direct method (SIR97) and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures based on  $F^2$  (SHELX-97). <sup>*b*</sup>  $R_1 = \Sigma(|F_0| - |F_c|) / \Sigma |F_0|$ .  $wR_2 = [\Sigma w (F^2_0 - F^2_c)^2 / \Sigma w (F^2_0)^2]^{1/2}$ .  $w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F^2_0) + [(ap)^2 + bp]]$ , where  $p = [\max(F^2_0, 0) + 2F^2_c]/3$ .

# Front view

Side view







Figure S9. ORTEP drawings of the FBPI dimer and the packing structures.

Empirical formula	$C_{19}H_{13}BF_2N_2$
Formula weight	318.12
Temperature (K)	93(2)
Wavelength (Å)	0.71075
Crystal system, space group	monoclinic, $P 2_1/n$
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.2376(8)
	b = 11.5433(11)
	c = 13.4497(11)
	$\alpha = 90$
	$\beta = 98.264(7)$
	$\gamma = 90$
$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	1419.3(2)
Z, calculated density (Mg m <sup>-3</sup> )	4, 1.489
Absorption coefficient	0.106
<i>F</i> (000)	656
Crystal size (mm)	0.10 imes 0.10 imes 0.10
$\theta$ range for data collection	3.061 –27.477
Limiting indices	$-10 \le h \le 11, -14 \le k \le 14, -17 \le l \le 17$
Reflections collected (unique)	13004/5674 [ $R(int) = 0.0646$ ]
Completeness to theta $= 27.48$	0.996
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.087
Final <i>R</i> indices $[I > 2\sigma(I)]^b$	$R_1 = 0.0490, wR_2 = 0.1448$
<i>R</i> indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0627, wR_2 = 0.1720$

<sup>*a*</sup> The structures were solved by direct method (SIR97) and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures based on  $F^2$  (SHELX-97). <sup>*b*</sup>  $R_1 = \Sigma(|F_0| - |F_c|) / \Sigma |F_0|$ .  $wR_2 = [\Sigma w (F^2_0 - F^2_c)^2 / \Sigma w (F^2_0)^2]^{1/2}$ .  $w = 1/[\sigma^2 (F^2_0) + [(ap)^2 + bp]]$ , where  $p = [\max(F^2_0, 0) + 2F^2_c]/3$ .



Figure S10. TGA profiles of BPI and FBPI.



Figure S11. DSC profiles of (a) BPI and (b) FBPI.

Table S6. Thermal properties of BPI and FBPI

	$T_{5d}{}^a$	$T_{\rm cr}$	T <sub>m</sub>
BPI	256	92	141
FBPI	312	-	205

<sup>a</sup>Decomposition temperature with 5 wt% weight losses.



Figure S12. XRD patterns of (a) BPI and (b) FBPI crystalline and amorphous states.



Figure S13. Photographs of BPI and FBPI in the amorphous state under UV irradiation.



Figure S14. PL spectra of (a) BPI and (b) FBPI in crystalline and amorphous states.



**Figure S15.** PL spectra of amorphous and crystalline (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> vapor or heating) samples of **BPI.** 

**Table S7.** PL properties of amorphous and crystal $(CH_2Cl_2 \text{ vapor or heating})$  samples of **BPI** 

	$\lambda_{ m PL}$	$\lambda_{ m PL}$	$\lambda_{ m PL}$
	(amorphous)	(CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> vapor)	(heating)
	[nm]	[nm]	[nm]
BPI	491	502	506



**Figure S16.** XRD patterns of amorphous and the treated (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> vapor or heating) samples of **BPI**.



**Figure S17.** (a) UV–vis absorption and (b) PL spectra of **BPI** and **FBPI** in a polymer matrix (1 wt% in PMMA). (c) Photographs under UV irradiation.

<b>Table S8.</b> PL properties of <b>BP1</b> and <b>FBP1</b> in a polymer matrix					
	$\lambda_{abs}$ [nm]	$\lambda_{\rm PL}$ [nm]	${{{{\varPhi}}_{{{ ext{PL}}}}}^c}$	7 [n	.d s]
BPI	404	464 <sup>a</sup>	0.31	2.72 (52%)	5.78 (48%)
FBPI	483	520 <sup>b</sup>	0.35	3.2 (44%)	5.87 (56%)

Table S8. PL properties of BPI and FBPI in a polymer matrix

<sup>*a*</sup> Excited at  $\lambda_{abs}$ . <sup>*b*</sup> Excited at 453 nm.

<sup>c</sup> Determined as an absolute value.

<sup>d</sup>Excited at 375 nm.

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