

# Photoprotection or Photodamage: a Direct Observation of Nonradiative Dynamics from 2-Ethylhexyl 4- Dimethylaminobenzoate Sunscreen Agent

## Supporting Information

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### Equation of log-normal line shape function

Log-normal line shape function used to simulate the experimentally measured fs-TRF spectra in CH<sub>3</sub>OH and CH<sub>3</sub>OD is as following:

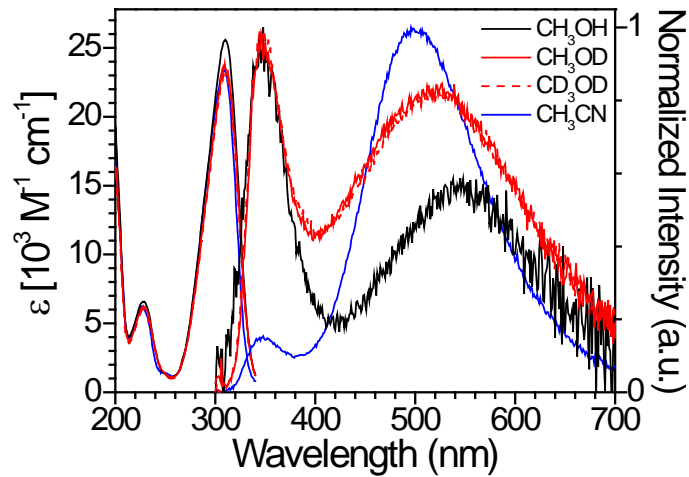
$$F(\nu) = \begin{cases} \exp[-\ln(2)\{\ln(1+\alpha)/\gamma\}^2] & \alpha > -1 \\ 0 & \alpha \leq -1 \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha \equiv 2\gamma(\nu - \nu_p) / \Delta$$

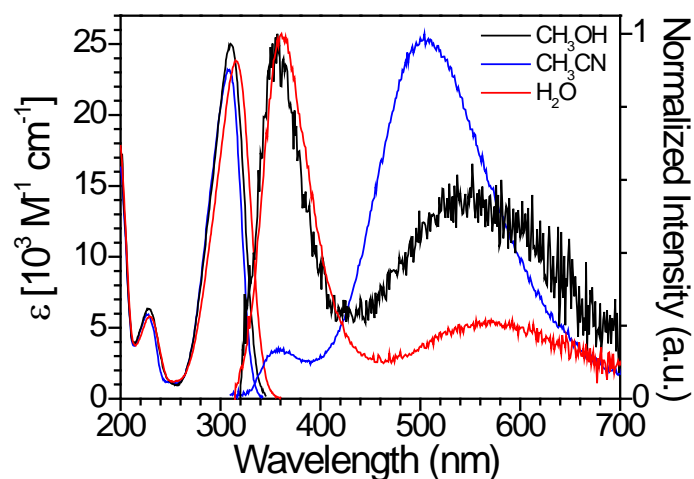
The four parameters, the peak height  $h$ , the peak frequency  $\nu_p$ , the asymmetry parameter  $\gamma$  and the width parameter  $\Delta$  are adjusted in a nonlinear least-square fitting to simulate the spectral profile of the steady state and fs-TRF spectra. Prior to the spectral simulation, the spectra have to convert from the unit of wavelength ( $\lambda$  in nm) to wavenumber ( $\nu$  in cm<sup>-1</sup>) by using a relation  $F(\nu) = \lambda^2 F(\lambda)$ .

The log-normal simulation can also produce the integrated intensity ( $I$ ) of the spectra as expressed in the following equation:

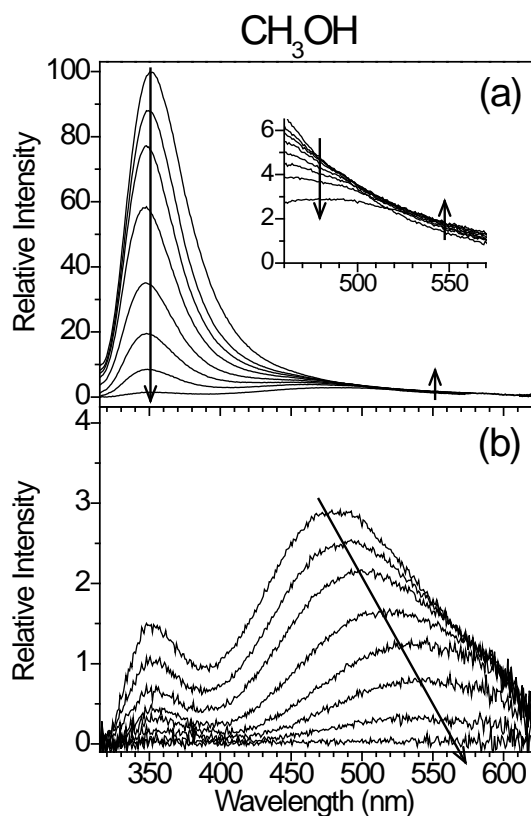
$$I = \left(\frac{\pi}{4\ln(2)}\right)^{1/2} h\Delta \exp\left(\frac{\gamma^2}{4\ln(2)}\right)$$



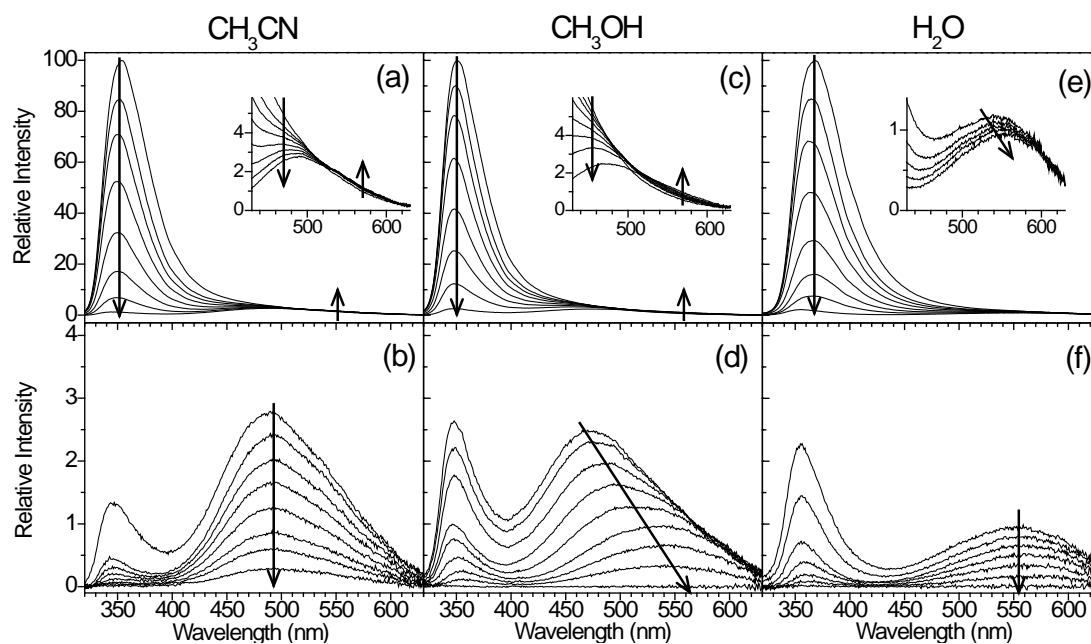
**Figure S1** Steady state UV-Visible absorption and normalized fluorescence spectra of MDMABA in CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>OD, CD<sub>3</sub>OD and CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



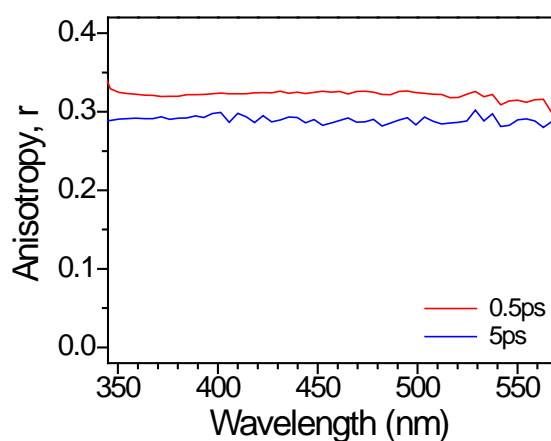
**Figure S2** Steady state UV-Visible absorption and normalized fluorescence spectra of EDMABA in CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>CN and 70% H<sub>2</sub>O/30% CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



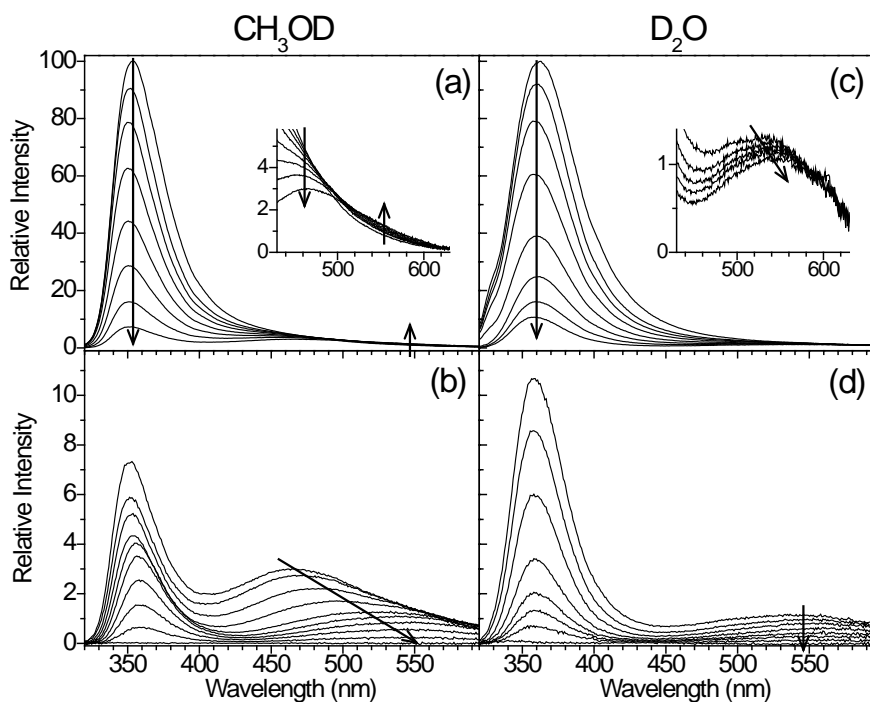
**Figure S3** Temporal evolution of fs-TRF spectra of MDMABA recorded at (a) 0-5 ps (0, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1, 1.25, 1.75, 2, 2.5, 5 ps) and (b) 5-500 ps (5, 7, 10, 17.5, 35, 85, 200, 500 ps) in CH<sub>3</sub>OH after photo-excitation. The scale of the “Relative Intensity” is enlarged ~25 times in (b) relative to (a). The inset in (a) shows the magnified view of the spectral evolution. The arrows represent the temporal evolution of the spectra.



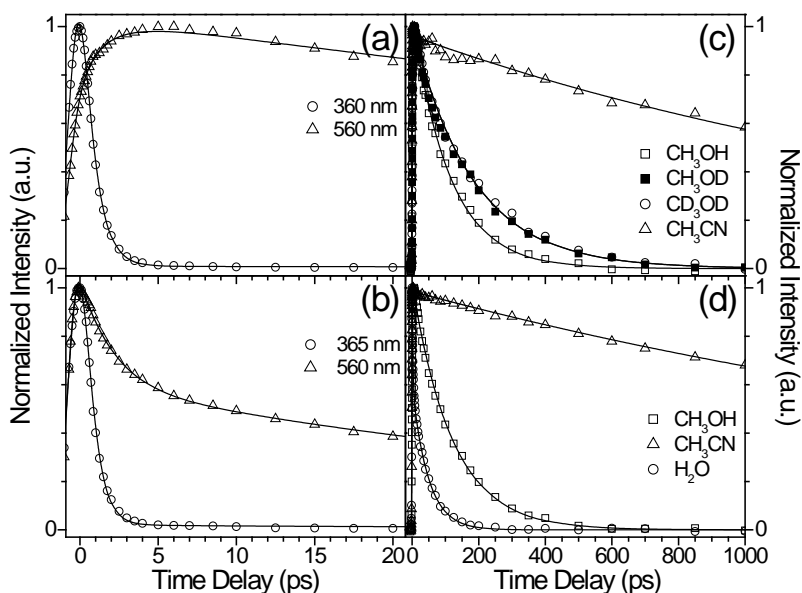
**Figure S4** Temporal evolution of fs-TRF spectra of EDMABA recorded at (a) 0-5 ps (0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.85, 1.25, 1.75, 2.5, 5 ps) and (b) 5-6000 ps (4, 200, 700, 1250, 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ; (c) 0-5 ps (0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.85, 1.25, 1.75, 2.5, 5 ps) and (d) 5-1000 ps (5, 6, 8.5, 12.5, 20, 40, 85, 175, 300, 1000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ ; (e) 0-5 ps (0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.85, 1.25, 1.75, 2.5, 5 ps) and (f) 5-300 ps (5, 10, 17.5, 30, 50, 85, 300 ps) in 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  after photo-excitation. The scale of the “Relative Intensity” is enlarged  $\sim 25$  times in both (b) relative to (a), (d) relative to (c) and (f) relative to (e). The inset in (e) displays the enlarged view of the fs-TRF spectra at  $\sim 2.5$  to 5 ps in 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  after photo-excitation. The arrows represent the temporal evolution of the spectra.



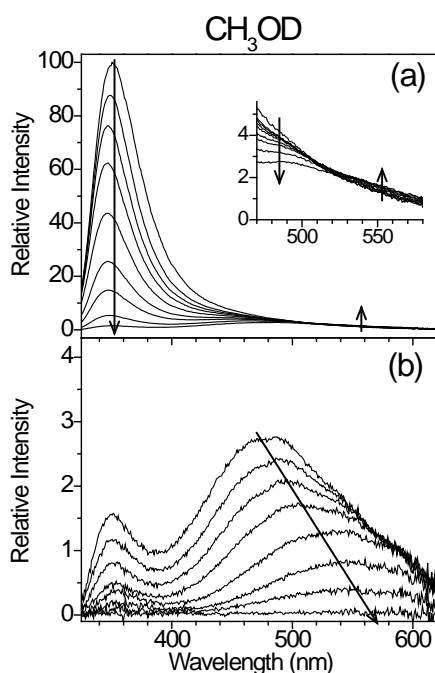
**Figure S5** fs-TRF anisotropy spectra of EHDMA in 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  recorded at 0.5 and 5 ps after photo-excitation.



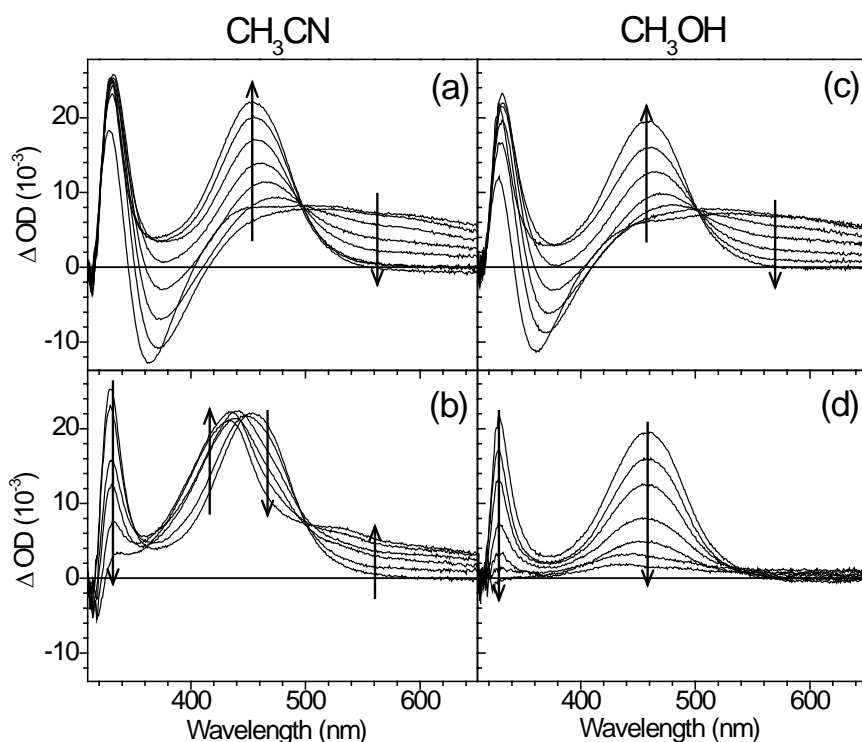
**Figure S6** Temporal evolution of fs-TRF spectra of EHDMAA recorded at (a) 0-4 ps (0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.85, 1.25, 1.75, 2.5, 4 ps) and (b) 4-2000 ps (4, 5, 8.5, 15, 30, 50, 100, 200, 400, 2000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OD}$ ; (c) 0-4 ps (0, 0.4, 0.6, 0.85, 1.25, 1.75, 2.5, 4 ps) and (d) 4-1000 ps (4, 8.5, 20, 50, 85, 125, 200, 1000 ps) in 70% $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  after photo-excitation. The scale of the “Relative Intensity” is enlarged  $\sim 8$  times in both (b) relative to (a) and (d) relative to (c). The arrows represent the temporal evolution of the spectra.



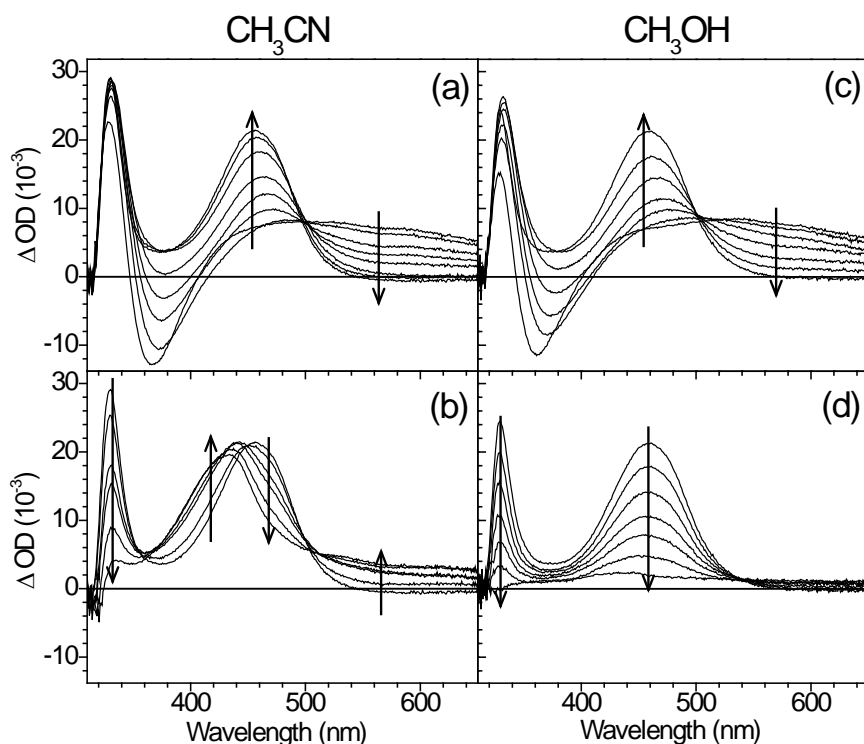
**Figure S7** Experimental and fitted kinetic intensity decays of fs-TRF at early time delay for (a) MDMABA in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  and (b) EDMABA in 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  up to  $\sim 20$  ps; and comparison of  $\sim 560$  nm fs-TRF decay for (c) MDMABA in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  ( $\square$ ),  $\text{CH}_3\text{OD}$  ( $\blacksquare$ ),  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$  ( $\circ$ ) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  ( $\Delta$ ); and (d) EDMABA in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  ( $\square$ ),  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  ( $\Delta$ ) and 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  ( $\circ$ ) at late time delay up to  $\sim 1$  ns.



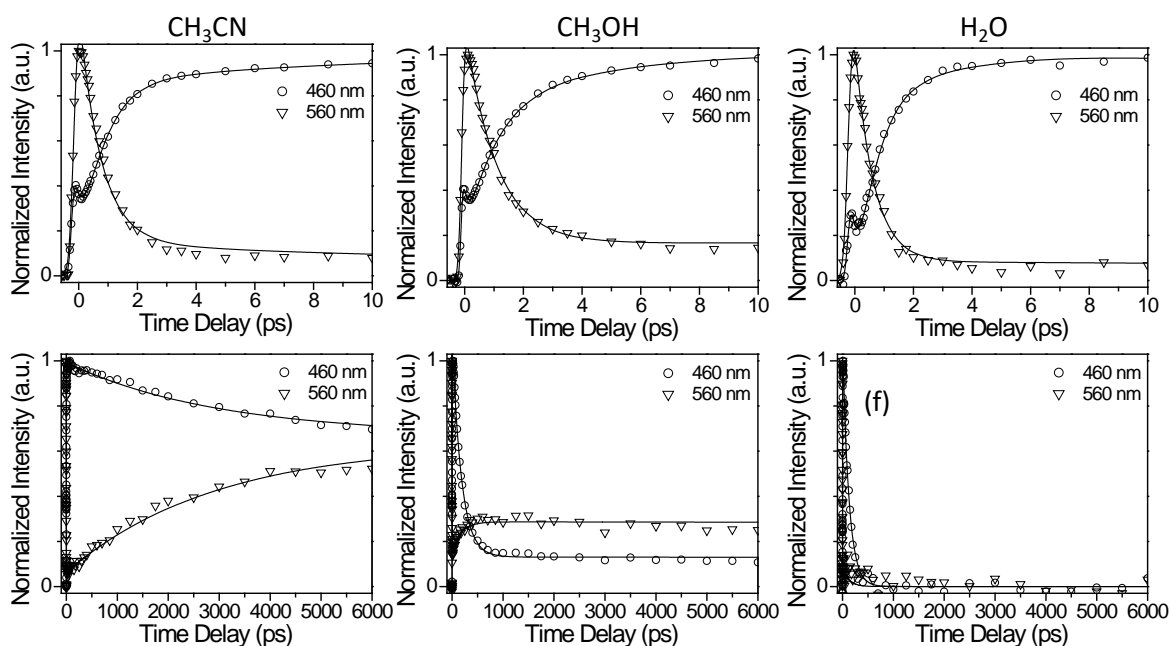
**Figure S8** Temporal evolution of fs-TRF spectra of MDMABA recorded at (a) 0-5 ps (0, 0.5, 0.7, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 5 ps) and (b) 5-700 ps (5, 7, 10, 15, 30, 100, 250, 700 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OD}$  after photo-excitation. The scale of the “Relative Intensity” is enlarged  $\sim 25$  times in (b) relative to (a). The insets in (a) shows the magnified view of the spectral evolution. The arrows represent the temporal evolution of the spectra.



**Figure S9** Temporal evolution of broadband fs-TA of MDMABA recorded at (a) 0-100 ps (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.85, 1.25, 3, 12.5, 100 ps), (b) 100-6000 ps (100, 500, 1500, 2000, 3500, 6000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , and recorded at (c) 0-20 ps (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.85, 1.5, 3, 20 ps), (d) 20-6000 ps (20, 60, 100, 175, 250, 400, 6000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  after photo-excitation. The arrows indicate temporal evolution of the spectra.



**Figure S10** Temporal evolution of broadband fs-TA of EDMABA recorded at (a) 0-100 ps (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.85, 1.25, 3, 12.5, 100 ps), (b) 100-6000 ps (100, 500, 1500, 2000, 3500, 6000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ , and recorded at (c) 0-20 ps (0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.85, 1.5, 3, 20 ps), (d) 20-6000 ps (20, 60, 100, 150, 200, 300, 6000 ps) in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  after photo-excitation. The arrows indicate temporal evolution of the spectra.



**Figure S11** Experimental (circle, triangle) and fitted (line) kinetic trace of the fs-TA of EDMABA at early (a, c, e) and late (b, d, f) times after the excitation in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (a, b),  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (c, d) and 70% $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ /30% $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  (e, f).