

# **Cage Carbon-substitute Does Matter for Aggregation-Induced Emission Features of *o*-Carborane-Functionalized Anthracene Triads**

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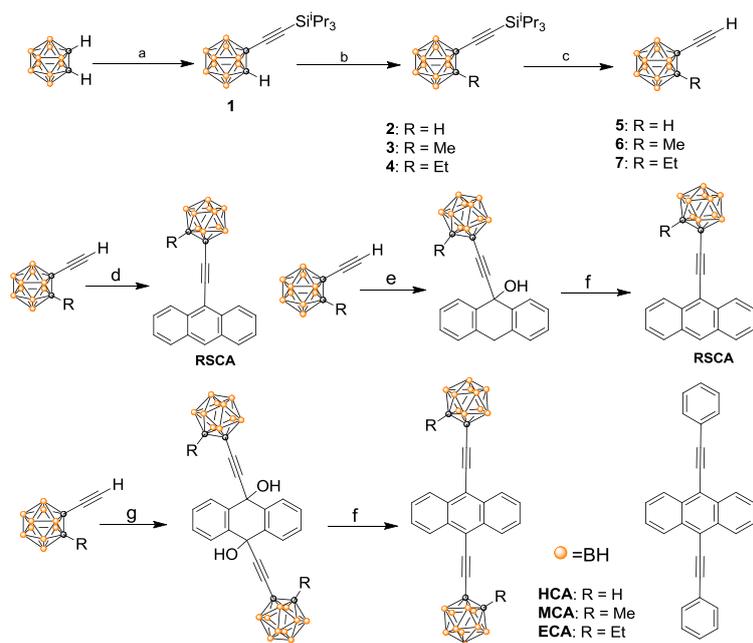
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## 1. Synthesis



**Scheme S1.** (a) *n*-BuLi, Ether, THF, 0 °C, CuCl, r.t. 1-bromo-2-triisopropylsilylacetylene, Reflux, 83%; (b) *n*-BuLi, THF, 0 °C, RI, 0 °C, 90%; (c) KF, *n*-Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O; (d) 9-Bromoanthracene, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, PPh<sub>3</sub>, CuI, NEt<sub>3</sub>, Ar, 90 °C, 8 h; (e) *n*-BuLi, Tol, 0 °C, Anthrone, 100 °C, H<sub>2</sub>O; (f) SnCl<sub>2</sub>, Tol, 50 °C; (g) *n*-BuLi, Tol, 0 °C, 9,10-Anthracenedione, 100 °C, H<sub>2</sub>O.

### Synthesis of 1-triisopropylsilylethynyl-*o*-carborane (1).

This compound was synthesized using the modified procedures reported in literature.<sup>1</sup> To a mixed ether/THF solution (150 mL in 1/1) of *o*-carborane (5.77 g, 40 mmol) was slowly added *n*-BuLi (30 mL, 48 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. After addition of anhydrous CuCl (7.13 g, 72 mmol), the mixture was vigorously stirred for 2 h at room temperature and then heated to reflux for 30 min. To the above solution was slowly added 1-bromo-2-triisopropylsilylacetylene (12.54 g, 48 mmol) with vigorous stirring at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then heated to reflux for 2 h. The reaction was then quenched with aqueous HCl (20 mL, 3 N) with stirring. The organic layer was separated, washed with water and then dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Removal of solvents under reduced pressure yielded a crude oil. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using hexane as eluent to give **1** as colorless oil (10.78 g, 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 3.97 (s, 1H) (cage H), 1.06 (br m, 21H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 100.27, 83.56 (C≡C), 63.85, 61.77 (cage C), 18.66, 11.42 (iPr). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -5.01 (1B), -6.76 (1B), -11.81 (2B), -12.75 (4B), -15.72 (2B). HRMS: *m/z* calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>32</sub>B<sub>10</sub>Si [M]<sup>+</sup>: 324.3279. Found: 324.3278.

### Synthesis of 1-triisopropylsilylethynyl-2-alkyl-*o*-carborane (2 and 3).

A representative procedure. To a diethyl ether solution (30 mL) of 1-triisopropylsilylethynyl-*o*-carborane (3.25 g, 10 mmol) was slowly added *n*-BuLi (7.5 mL, 12 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 h. The above solution was cooled to 0 °C, to which was slowly added alkyl iodide (15 mmol) with vigorous stirring, and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. After hydrolysis with water and

extraction with diethyl ether (3 × 30 mL), the ether solutions were combined and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using n-hexane as eluent to give the products **2** and **3**.

1-Triisopropylsilylethynyl-2-methyl-*o*-carborane (**2**): Yield 94%. Colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.08 (br m, 21H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 98.93, 87.30 (C≡C), 77.12, 67.04 (cage C), 24.27, 18.67, 11.44. <sup>11</sup>B NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -3.37 (1B), -6.73 (1B), -8.30 (2B), -10.11 (6B). HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>34</sub>B<sub>10</sub>Si[M]<sup>+</sup>: 338.3436. Found: 338.3433.

1-Triisopropylsilylethynyl-2-ethyl-*o*-carborane (**3**): Yield 98%. Colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 2.47 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.18 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H), 1.06 (br m, 21H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 98.66, 87.33 (C≡C), 82.92, 67.83 (cage C), 30.06, 18.61, 14.14, 11.39. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -3.74 (1B), -5.99 (1B), -9.27 (2B), -10.38 (4B), -11.88 (2B). HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>36</sub>B<sub>10</sub>Si [M]<sup>+</sup>: 352.3593. Found: 352.3595.

#### Synthesis of 1-ethynyl-2-alkyl-*o*-carboranes (**4-6**). A representative procedure.

All compounds were synthesized using the modified procedures reported in literature 3 1-Triisopropylsilylethynyl-2-alkyl-*o*-carborane (5.0 mmol), KF (2.91 g, 50 mmol), Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol), water (10 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL) were mixed and stirred vigorously at room temperature overnight until all of the starting materials had disappeared. The lower layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL). The combined CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions were dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using n-hexane as eluent to give the desired products **4-6**.

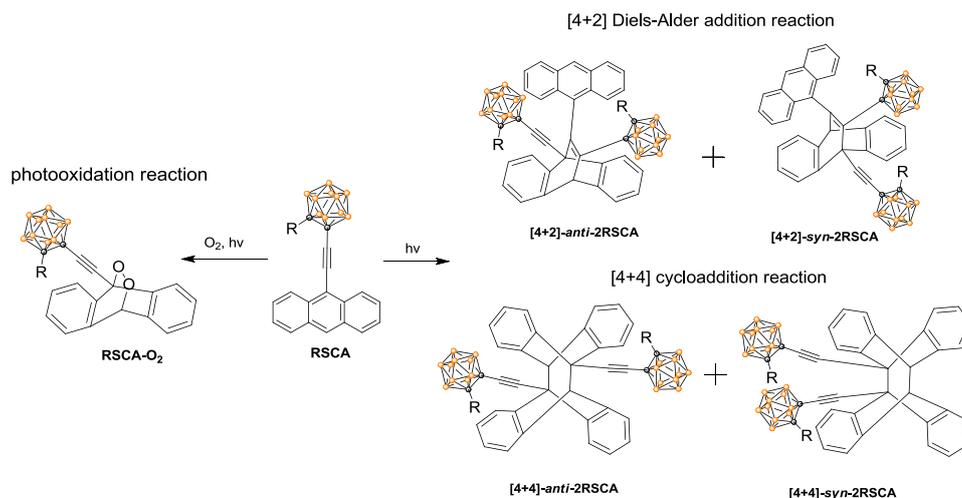
1-Ethynyl-*o*-carborane (**4**): Yield 90%. White solid. Mp: 84.1-86.3 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 3.99 (s, 1H), 2.34 (s, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 77.49, 68.16 (C≡C), 63.38, 60.20 (cage C). <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -2.64 (1B), -4.04 (1B), -9.49 (2B), -10.98 (4B), -13.41 (2B). HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>14</sub>B<sub>10</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 168.1939. Found: 168.1938.

1-Ethynyl-2-methyl-*o*-carborane (**5**): Yield 91%. White solid. M.p: 118.7-119.8 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 2.57 (s, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 77.21, 71.92 (C≡C), 76.37, 65.55 (cage C), 24.28. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -2.57 (1B), -6.23 (1B), -8.10 (2B), -9.67 (6B). HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>14</sub>B<sub>10</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 182.2093. Found: 182.2091.

1-Ethynyl-2-ethyl-*o*-carborane (**6**): Yield 95%. Colorless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 2.56 (s, 1H), 2.47 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.20 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ 82.98, 71.91 (C≡C), 76.14, 65.38 (cage C), 30.10, 14.24. <sup>11</sup>B{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (128 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>): δ -3.52 (1B), -6.10 (1B), -9.56 (2B), -10.40 (4B), -12.09 (2B). HRMS: m/z calcd for C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>16</sub>B<sub>10</sub> [M]<sup>+</sup>: 196.2253. Found: 196.2252

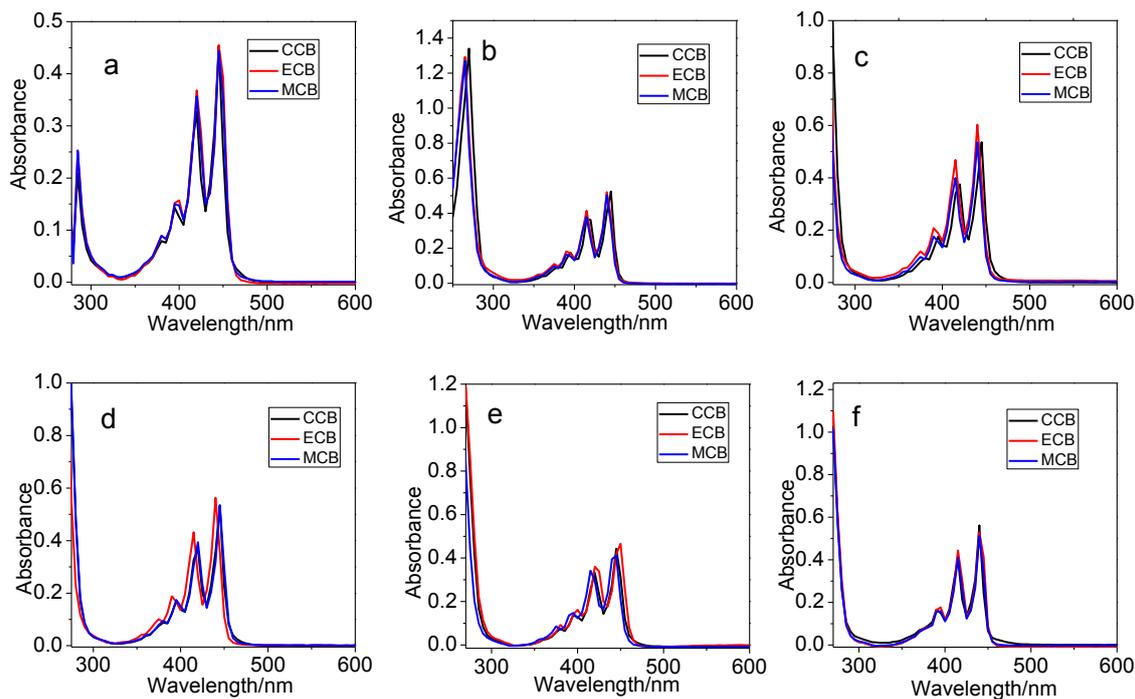
#### Synthesis of pentacenediols (**7-9**). A representative procedure.

To a toluene solution (30 mL) of 1-ethynyl-2-alkyl-*o*-carborane **4-6** (3.0 mmol) was added nBuLi (1.88 mL, 3.0 mmol, 1.6 M in hexane) dropwise at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred for 12 h at room temperature. Compound 9,10-Dioxoanthracene (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol) was added to the above solution and the reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C for 12 h. The reaction was then quenched with water (5 mL) and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL). The organic solutions were combined, washed with brine, and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. After removal of the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using n-hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1/1 in v/v) as eluent to give the desired products **7-9** and the product were used without further purification.

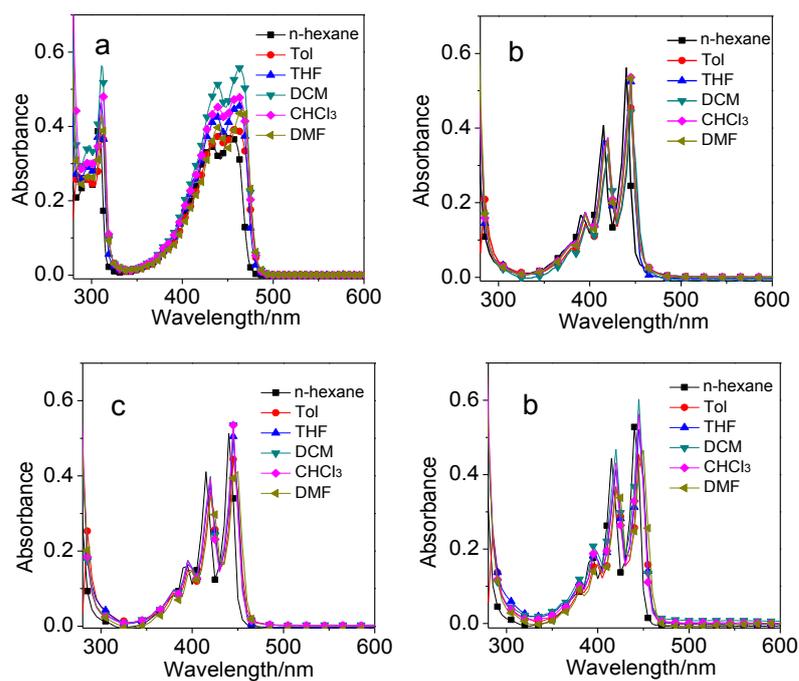


**Scheme S2.** The possible pathways of destroy the chemical structure of the mono-*o*-carboranyl complexes.

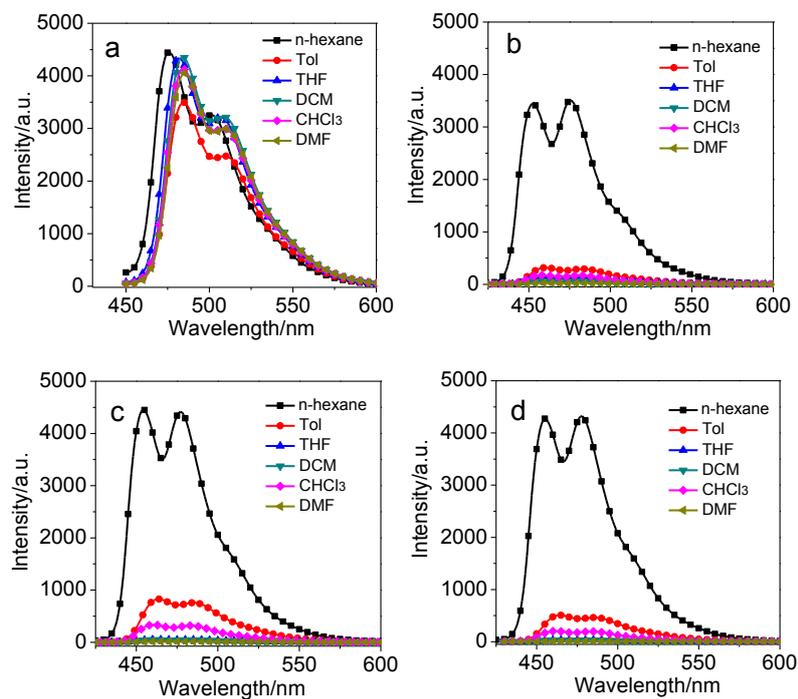
## 2. UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectra



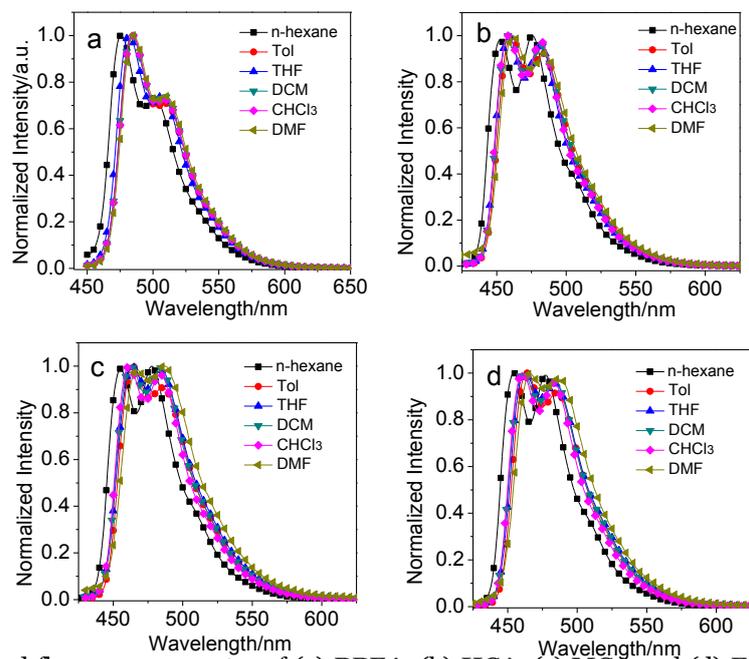
**Fig.S1** UV-Vis absorption of **HCA**, **ECA** and **MCA** in (a) Toluene, (b) THF, (c) DCM, (d) Chloroform, (e) DMF, (f) n-hexane.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



**Fig.S2** UV-Vis absorption of (a) **BPEA**, (b) **HCA**, (c) **MCA** and (d) **ECA** in different solvents.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.

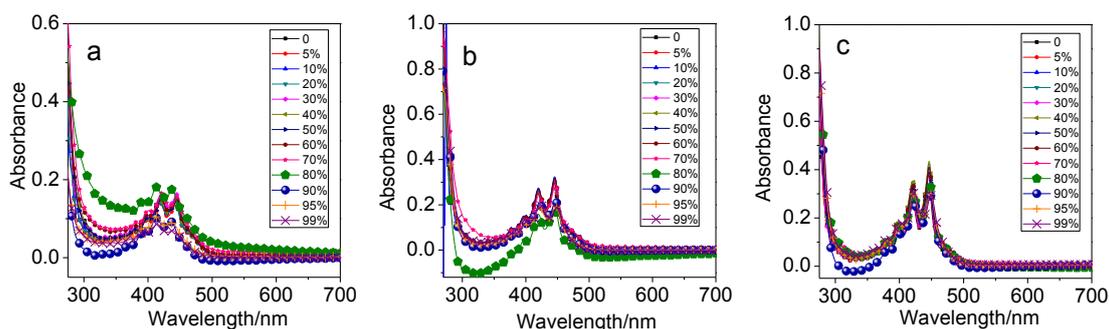


**Fig.S3** Fluorescence spectra of (a) **BPEA**, (b) **HCA**, (c) **MCA** and (d) **ECA** in different solvents. ( $\lambda_{ex} = 420$  nm).  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.

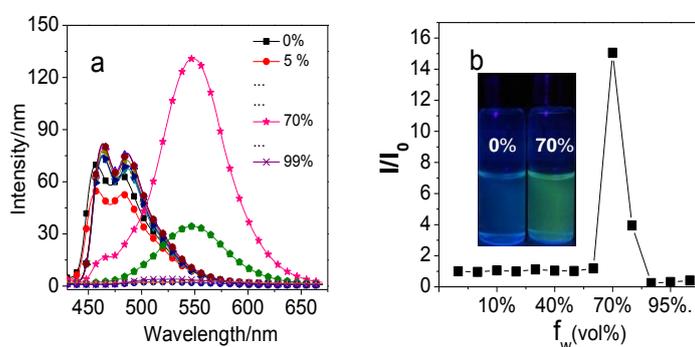


**Fig.S4** Normalized fluorescence spectra of (a) **BPEA**, (b) **HCA**, (c) **MCA** and (d) **ECA** in different solvents. The compounds were excited at the  $\lambda_{\text{max,abs}}$ .  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.

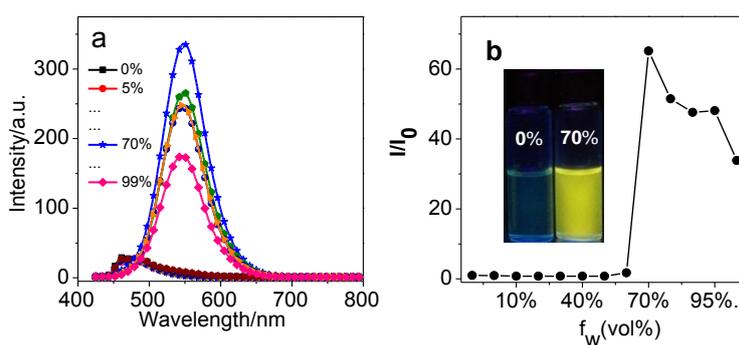
### 3. AIE attributes of the triads



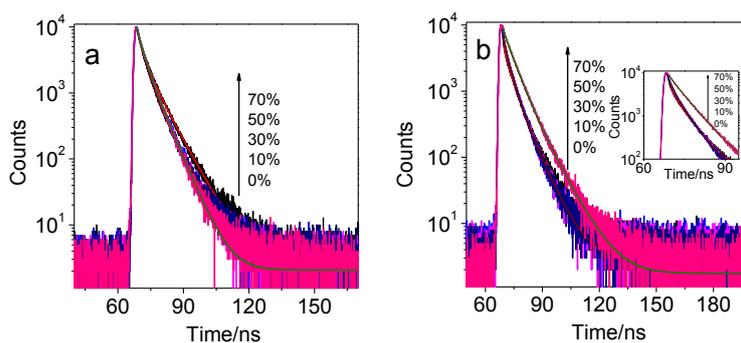
**Fig.S5** UV-vis spectra of (a) **HCA**, (b) **MCA** and (c) **ECA** in THF/water mixtures with different water fractions ( $f_w$ ).



**Fig.S6** (a) Fluorescence spectra of **HCA** in THF/water mixtures with different water volume fractions, (b) PL intensity enhancement ratio  $I/I_0$  versus water fraction curves, where  $I_0$  is the PL intensity in pure THF solution. Inset: photographs taken under UV illumination for **HCA** in the different water fractions. ( $\lambda_{ex} = 420$  nm),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M,  $20$  °C.



**Fig.S7** (a) Fluorescence spectra of **ECA** in THF/water mixtures with different water volume fractions, (b) PL intensity enhancement ratio  $I/I_0$  versus water fraction curves, where  $I_0$  is the PL intensity in pure THF solution. Inset: photographs taken under UV illumination for **ECA** in the different water fractions. ( $\lambda_{ex} = 420$  nm),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M,  $20$  °C.

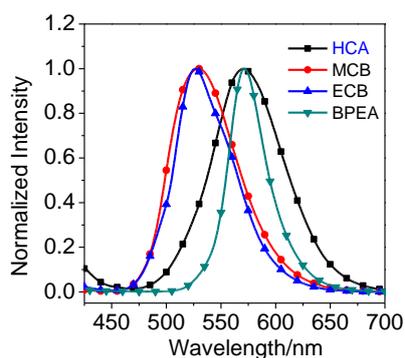


**Fig.S8** Decay profiles of fluorescence lifetime measurement of (a) **HCA** ( $E_m = 555$  nm), (b) **MCA** ( $E_m = 550$  nm) in THF with various water volume fractions ( $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M). 20 °C.

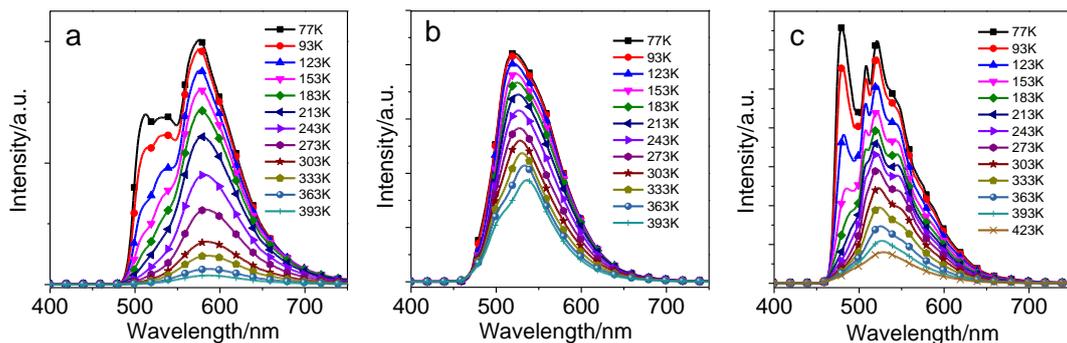
**Table S1.** Photoluminescence lifetime of **HCA**, **MCA** and **ECA** in different water fractions.

$f_w$	$\tau^a$ (ns)		
	<b>HCA</b>	<b>MCA</b>	<b>ECA</b>
0%	0.63(40.7%), 7.61(50.3%)	0.48(75.1%), 8.41(24.9%)	0.43(78.7%), 6.05(21.3%)
10%	2.91(51.0%), 6.62(41.0%)	0.70(44.6%), 6.53(55.4%)	0.62(45.0%), 5.27(55.0%)
30%	2.89(50.9%), 6.48(49.1%)	2.68(35.3%), 6.01(64.7%)	0.52(10.8%), 4.74(89.2%)
50%	2.92(53.4%), 7.16(46.6%)	2.79(21.8%), 6.83(78.2%)	0.50 (8.3%), 4.61(91.7%)
70%	2.80(63.4%), 6.68(36.6%)	4.72(63.3%), 8.05(36.7%)	3.86(60.1%), 7.75(39.9%)

<sup>a</sup> Fluorescence lifetime.

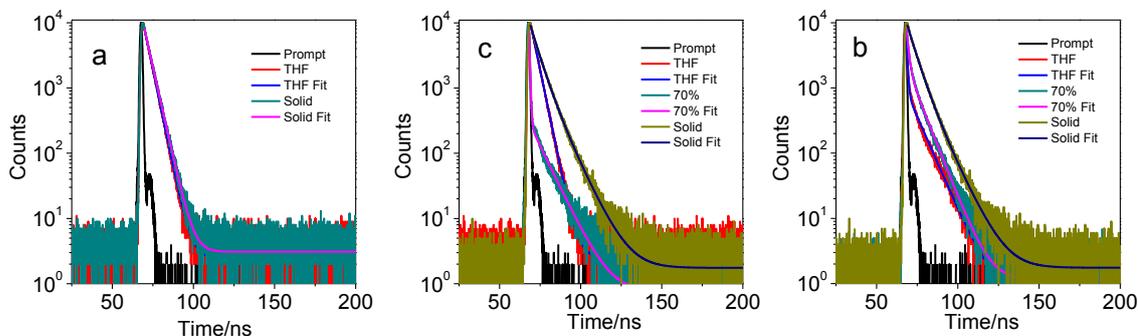


**Fig.S9** Normalized fluorescence spectra of **BPEA**, **HCA**, **MCA** and **ECA** in the solid state. ( $\lambda_{ex} = 420$  nm), 20 °C.



**Fig.S10** PL spectra of (a) HCA, (b) MCA and (c) ECA in the solid state during heating from 77 to 393 K.

#### 4. Time-resolved Fluorescence Measurements



**Fig.S11** Decay profiles of fluorescence lifetime measurement of (a) BPEA, (b) HCA and (c) ECA in various state. 20 °C.

**Table S2.** Photoluminescence lifetime of BPEA, HCA, MCA and ECA in different conditions.

Compound	$\tau^a$ (ns)		
	Sol <sup>b</sup>	Agg <sup>c</sup>	Solid <sup>d</sup>
BPEA	3.92(100%)	— <sup>e</sup>	4.73(100%)
HCA	0.63(40.7%), 7.61(50.3%)	2.80(63.4%), 5.68(36.6%)	4.19(77.1%), 7.81(22.9%)
MCA	0.48(65.1%), 8.41(34.9%)	4.64(61.6%), 8.55(38.4%)	4.38(87.9%), 18.4(12.1%)
ECA	0.43(78.7%), 6.05(21.3%)	4.72(63.3%), 8.05(36.7%)	4.39(81.0%), 14.5(19.0%)

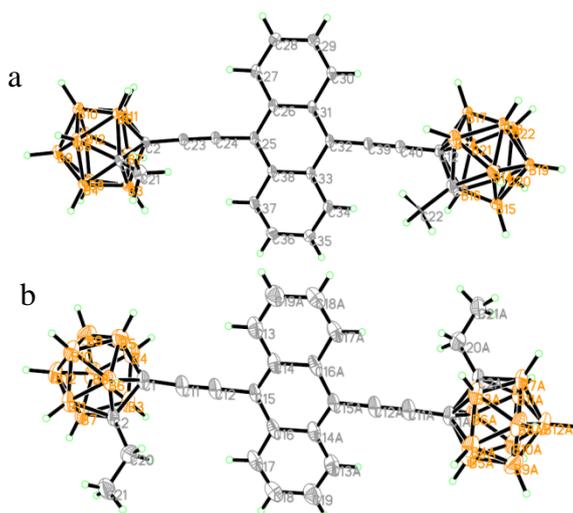
<sup>a</sup> Fluorescence lifetime. <sup>b</sup> In pure THF. <sup>c</sup>  $f_w=70\%$ . <sup>d</sup> In the solid state. <sup>e</sup> Not applicable or not observed.

**Table S3.** Emission properties of compounds in different states

Compound	State	$k_r$ <sup>d</sup> (10 <sup>7</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	$k_{nr}$ <sup>d</sup> (10 <sup>7</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>BPEA</b>	Sol <sup>a</sup>	21.70	3.81
	Agg <sup>b</sup>	– <sup>e</sup>	– <sup>e</sup>
	Solid <sup>c</sup>	5.34	15.80
<b>HCA</b>	Sol <sup>a</sup>	0.77	23.72
	Agg <sup>b</sup>	1.04	20.58
	Solid <sup>c</sup>	1.40	18.59
<b>MCA</b>	Sol <sup>a</sup>	0.28	30.49
	Agg <sup>b</sup>	1.40	1.49
	Solid <sup>c</sup>	7.06	9.41
<b>ECA</b>	Sol <sup>a</sup>	0.50	60.82
	Agg <sup>b</sup>	1.61	15.23
	Solid <sup>c</sup>	5.01	10.10

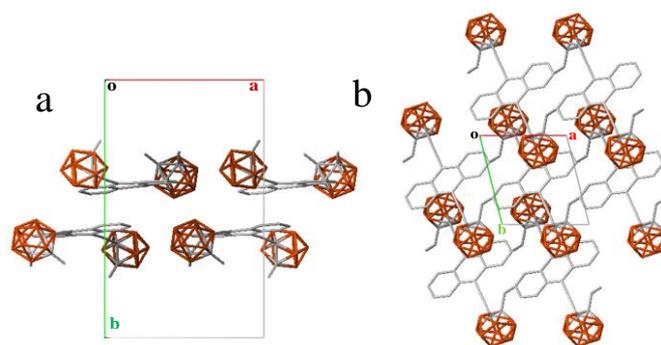
<sup>a</sup> In pure THF. <sup>b</sup>  $f_w=70\%$ . <sup>c</sup> In the solid state. <sup>d</sup> Fluorescence emission rate constant ( $k_r$ ) and non-radiative decay rate constant ( $k_{nr}$ ) were calculated as follows:  $k_r=\Phi_f/\tau_f$ ,  $k_{nr}=(1-\Phi_f)/\tau_f$ . <sup>e</sup> Not detected.

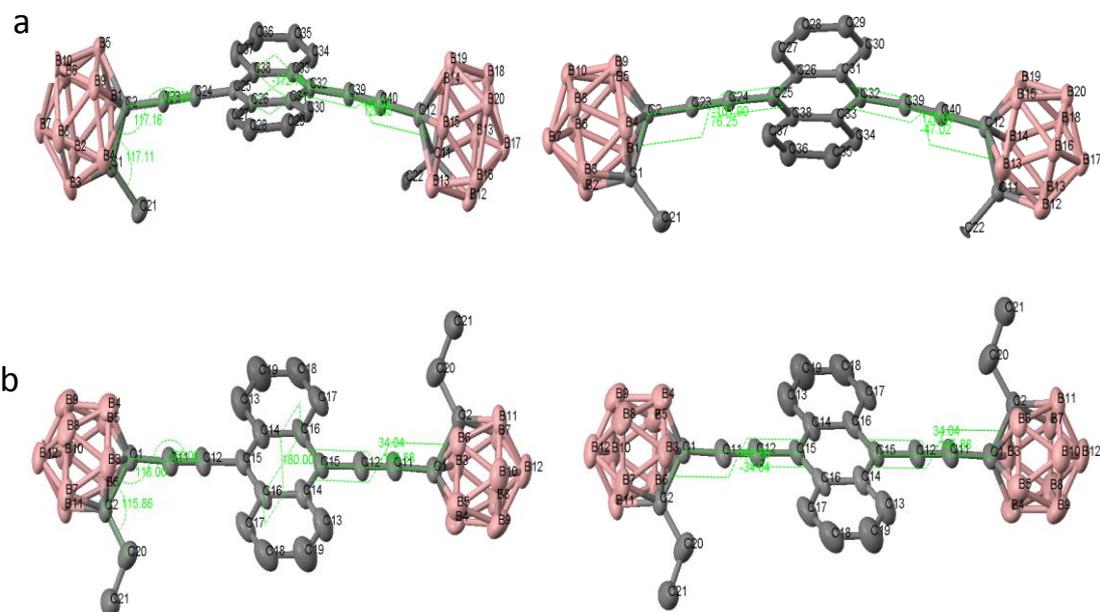
## 5. Crystal Packing from X-ray Crystallography

**Fig.S12** ORTEP plots showing the crystal structures of (a) **MCA** and (b) **ECA** with ellipsoids at 30% probability and atom numbering scheme.

**Table S4.** Crystal data and structure refinement for **MCA** and **ECA**.

Compounds	<b>MCA</b>	<b>ECA</b>
CCDC	1545548	1545547
Empirical formula	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>34</sub> B <sub>20</sub>	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>38</sub> B <sub>20</sub>
Formula weight	538.71	566.76
Temperature, K	173(2)	298(2)
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Triclinic
Space group	P2(1)/c	P-1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 13.1826(13) Å. b = 20.410(2) Å. c = 13.5543(14) Å. α = 90 ° β = 118.359(2) ° γ = 90 °	a = 6.8517(4) Å b = 7.8881(6) Å c = 16.0370(11) Å α = 83.056(2) ° β = 86.331(2) ° γ = 76.6190(10) °
Volume, Å <sup>3</sup>	3209.1(6)	836.45(10)
Z	4	2
Calculated density, g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.115	1.125
Absorption coefficient, mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.054	0.054
F(000)	1112	294
Crystal size, mm <sup>3</sup>	0.50 × 0.40 × 0.30	0.40 × 0.30 × 0.20
Theta range, degree	1.98–25.25°	2.56–25.25°
Limiting indices	-15 ≤ h ≤ 15 -24 ≤ k ≤ 24 -15 ≤ l ≤ 12	-8 ≤ h ≤ 8 -9 ≤ k ≤ 9 -19 ≤ l ≤ 19
Reflections collected / unique	32464 / 5645 [R(int) = 0.0364]	22732 / 3015 [R(int) = 0.0377]
Data / restraints / parameters	5645 / 0 / 402	3015 / 2 / 273
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.090	1.054
Final R indices [I > 2 σ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0687, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1999	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0732, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1946
R indices (all data)	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0875, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2242	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0942, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.2124
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.814 and -0.256 e·Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.232 and -0.250 e·Å <sup>-3</sup>

**Fig.S13** Molecular packings of **MCA** (a) in the c-axis and **ECA** (b) in the c-axis in a single unit cell by the Mercury program. Carbon (gray) and boron (orange), hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

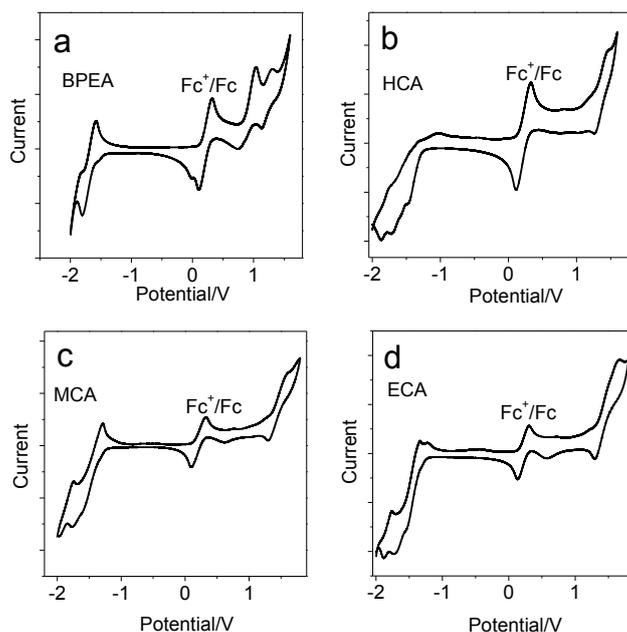


**Fig.S14** Selected bond length and torsion angles for (a) **MCA** and (b) **ECA** by the Mercury program. Carbon (gray) and boron (orange), hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

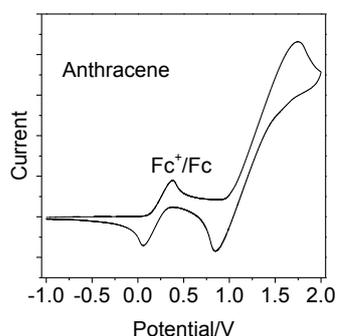
**Table S5.** Selected bond length [ $\text{\AA}$ ] and torsion angles [ $^\circ$ ] for **MCA** and **ECA**.

	Bond lengths [ $\text{\AA}$ ]		Bond angles [ $^\circ$ ]		Torsion angles [ $^\circ$ ]	
<b>MCA</b>	C(1)-C(2)	1.689(3)	C(21)-C(1)-C(2)	117.1(2)	C(11)-C(12)-C(32)-C(33)	-47.02
					C(1)-C(2)-C(25)-C(38)	76.25
	C(2)-C(23)	1.432(3)	C(23)-C(2)-C(1)	117.2(19)	C(11)-C(12)-C(32)-C(31)	-126.03
	C(23)-C(24)	1.196(3)	C(24)-C(23)-C(2)	178.2(3)	C(1)-C(2)-C(25)-C(26)	-101.90
<b>ECA</b>	C(1)-C(2)	1.687(3)	C(11)-C(1)-C(2)	118.0(2)	C(2)-C(1)-C(15)-C(16)	34.04
	C(1)-C(11)	1.430(3)	C(20)-C(2)-C(1)	115.87(19)	C(2)-C(1)-C(15)-C(14)	-145.88
	C(11)-C(12)	1.185(3)	C(12)-C(11)-C(1)	176.0(3)	C(18)-C(16)-C(16A)-C(18A)	180.00

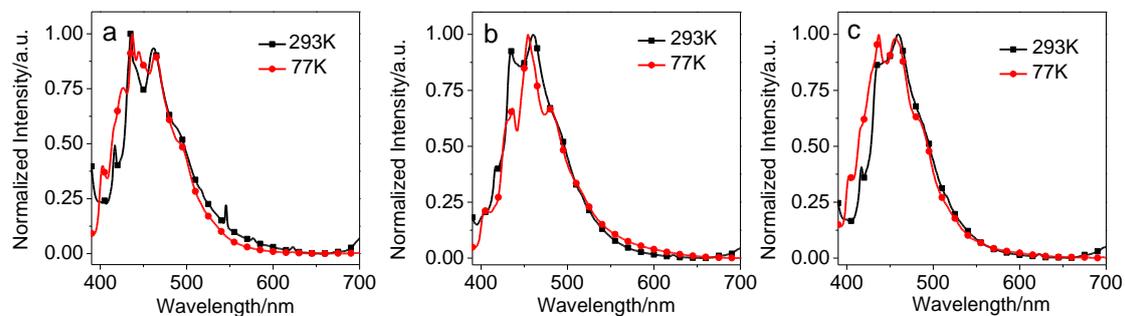
## 6. Electrochemical studies of the compounds



**Fig. S15** Cyclic voltammogram of (a) BPEA, (b) HCA, (c) MCA, (d) ECA. For (a)–(d),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M. In deaerated  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions containing the compounds, 0.10 M  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as supporting electrode,  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgNO}_3$  as reference electrode, Scan rates: 100 mV/s. For all compounds Ferrocene (Fc) ( $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M) was used as internal reference. 20 °C.

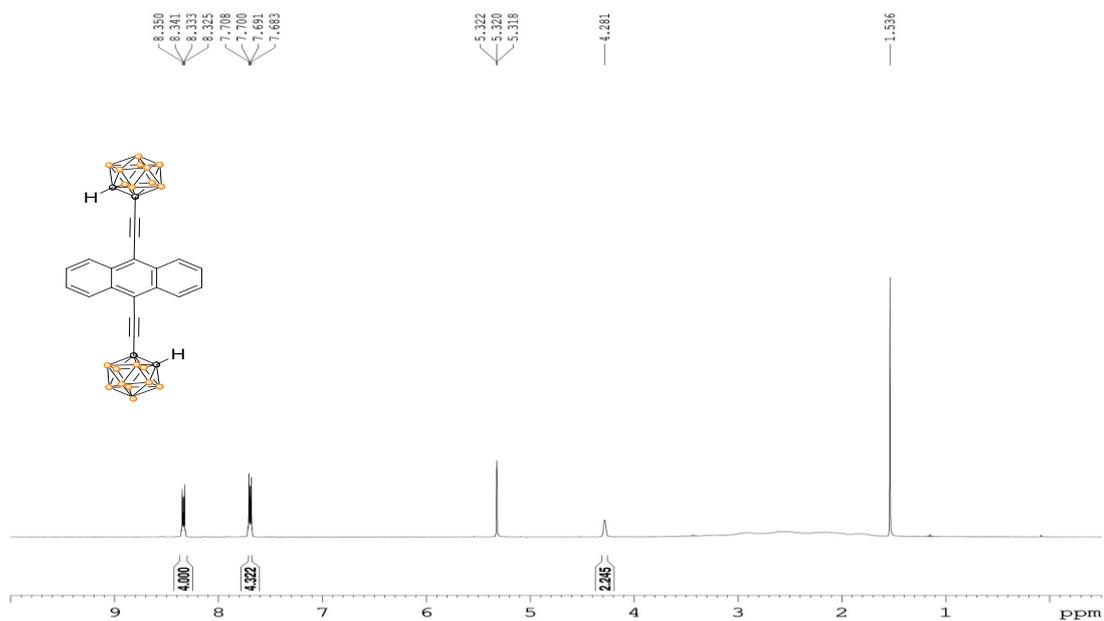


**Fig. S16** Cyclic voltammogram of Anthracene,  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M. In deaerated  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions containing the compounds, 0.10 M  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as supporting electrode,  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgNO}_3$  as reference electrode, Scan rates: 100 mV/s. Ferrocene (Fc) ( $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M) was used as internal reference. 20 °C.

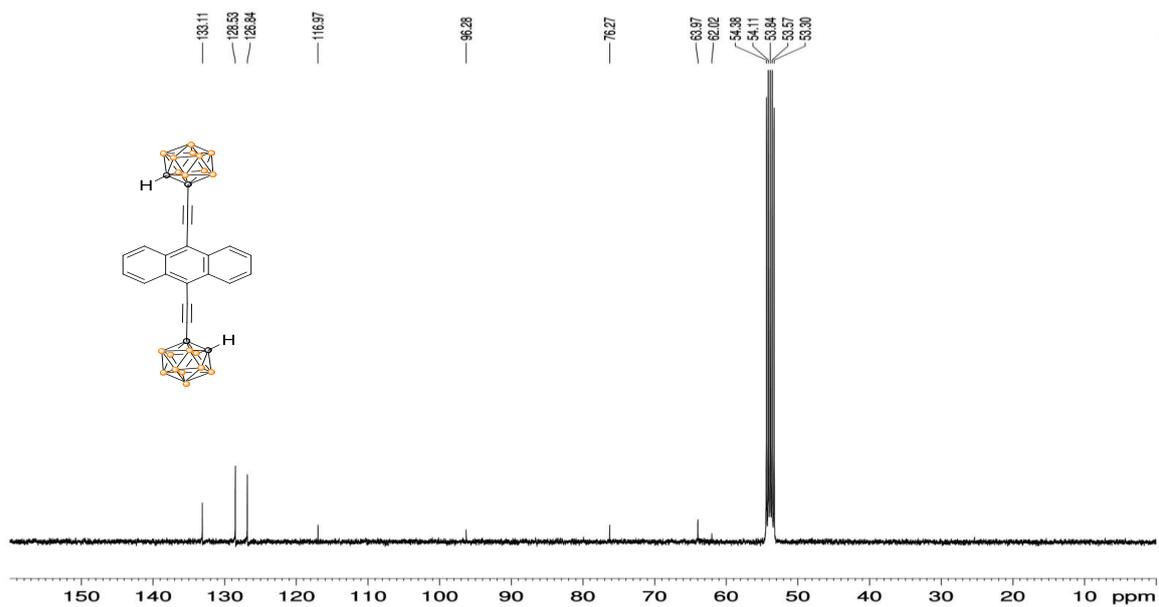


**Fig. S17** Normalized PL spectra of (a) HCA, (b) MCA, (c) ECA in 2-MeTHF at r.t. (black line) and 77 K (red line).

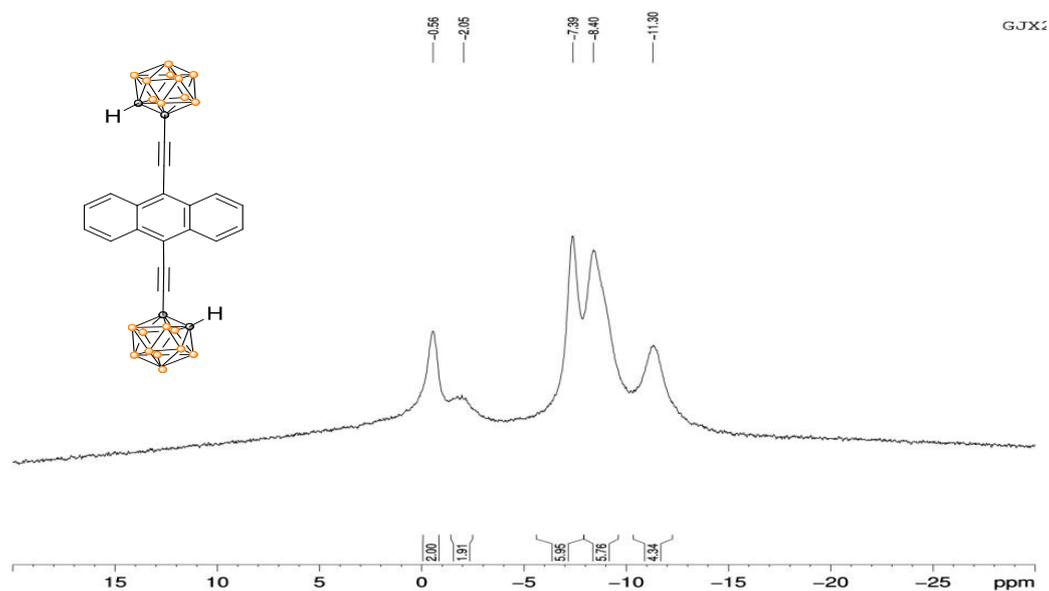
## 7. NMR Spectra of all target compounds



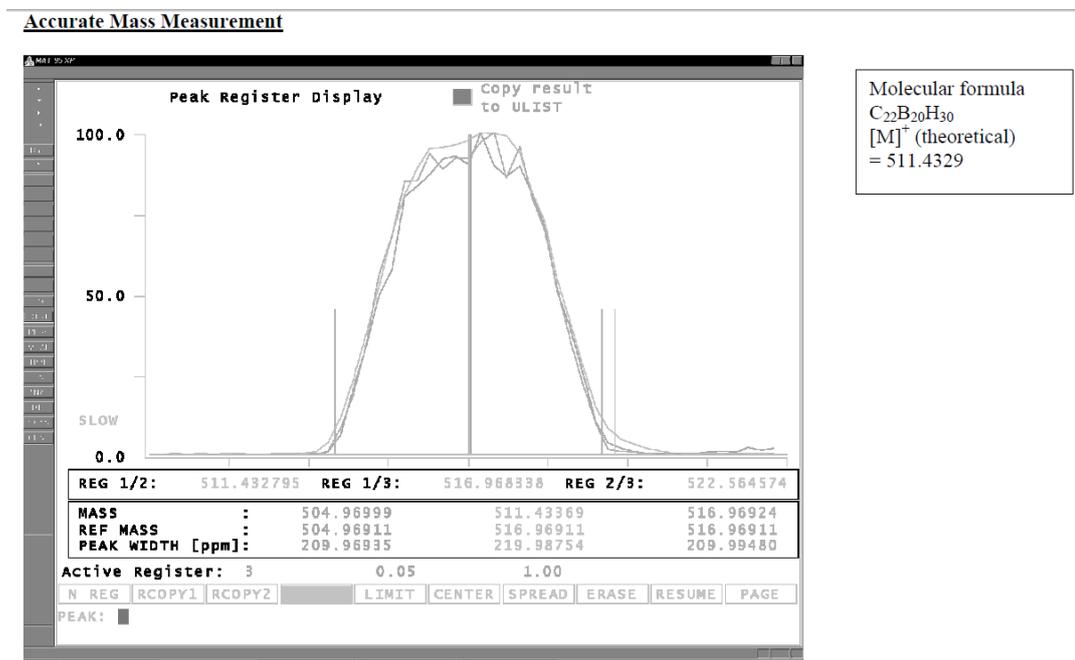
**Fig. S18**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of HCA (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



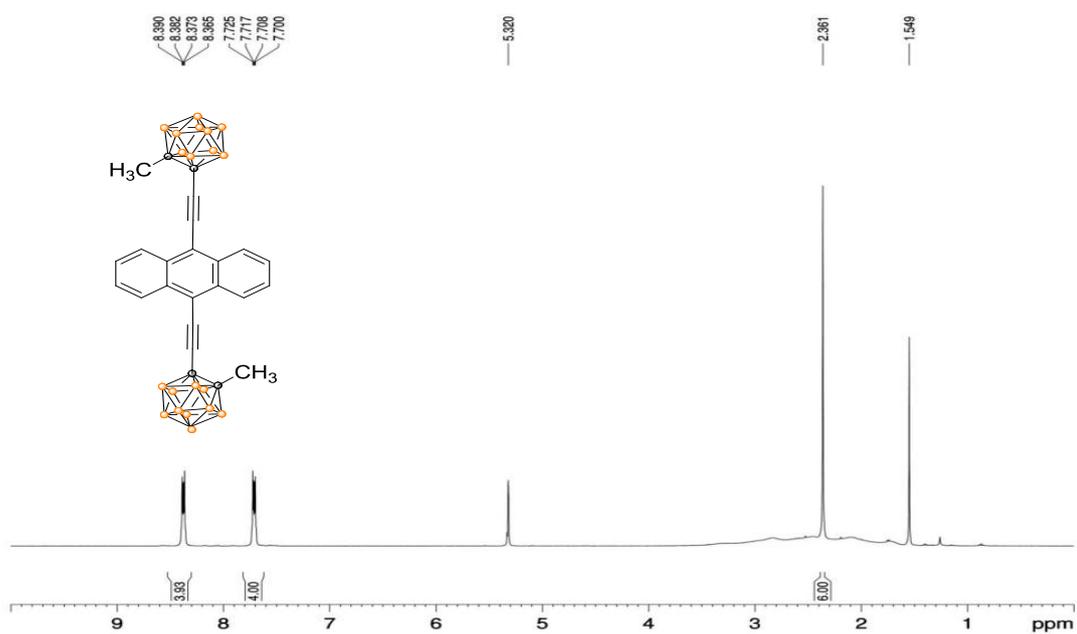
**Fig. S19**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of HCA (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



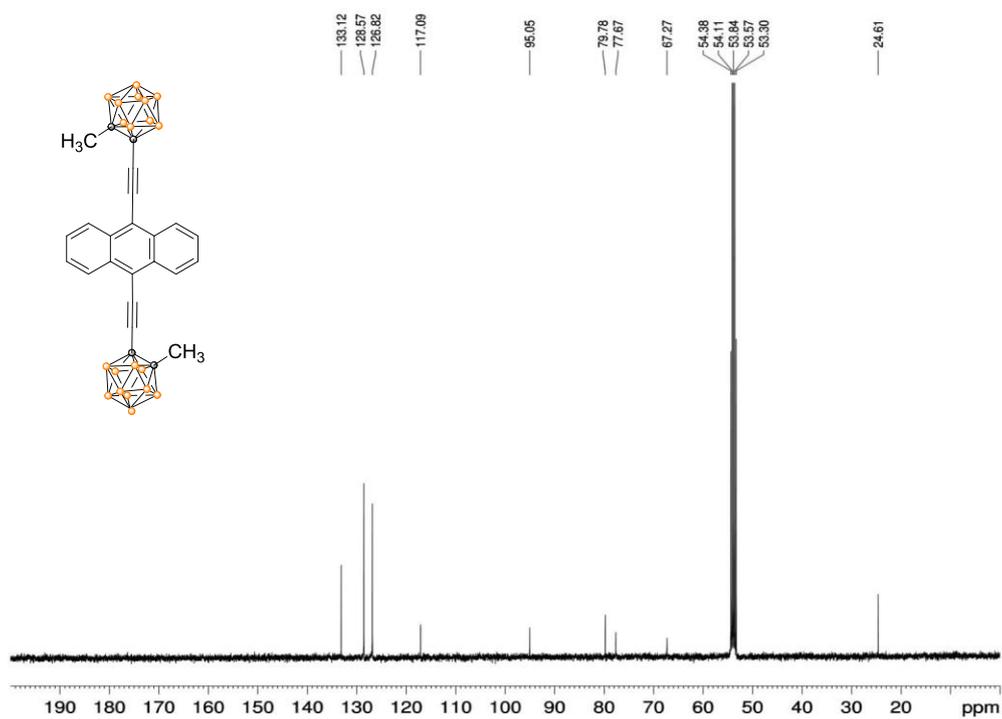
**Fig. S20**  $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of HCA (128 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



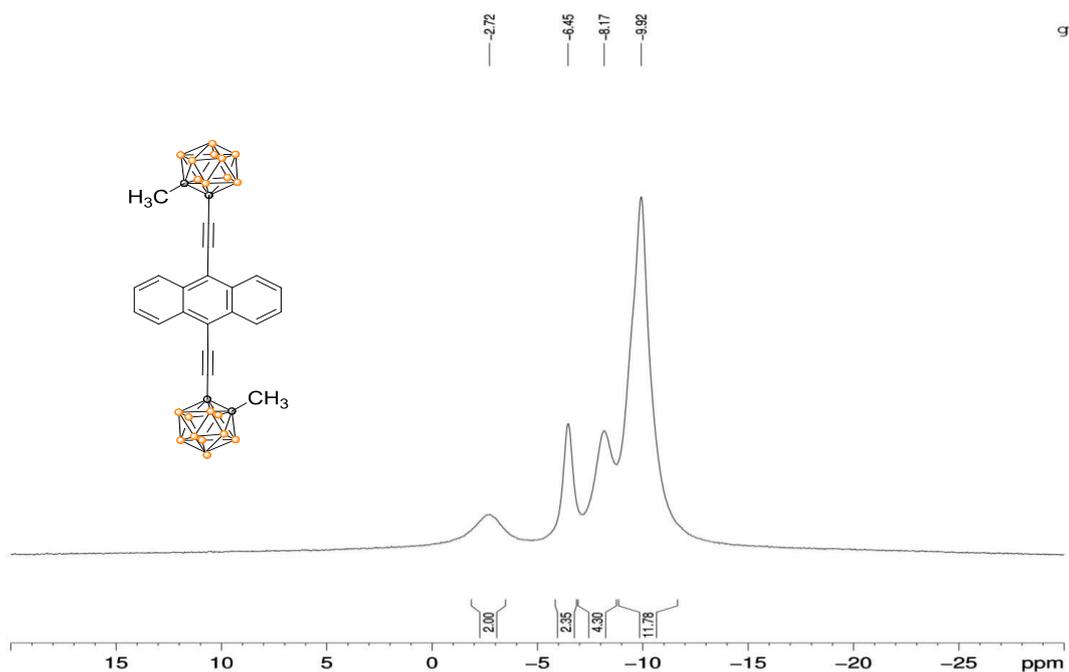
**Fig. S21** HRMS of HCA.



**Fig. S22**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of MCA (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

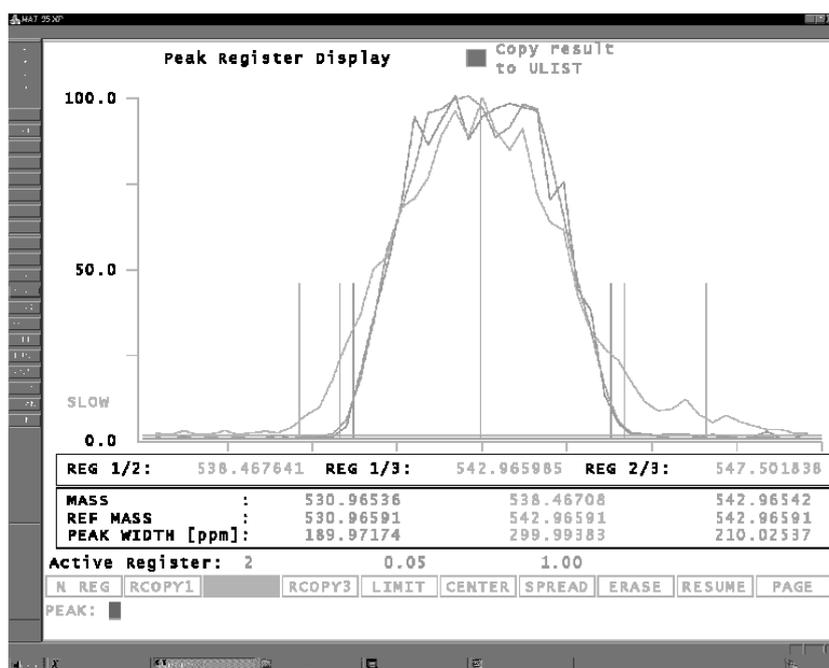


**Fig. S23**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of MCA (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



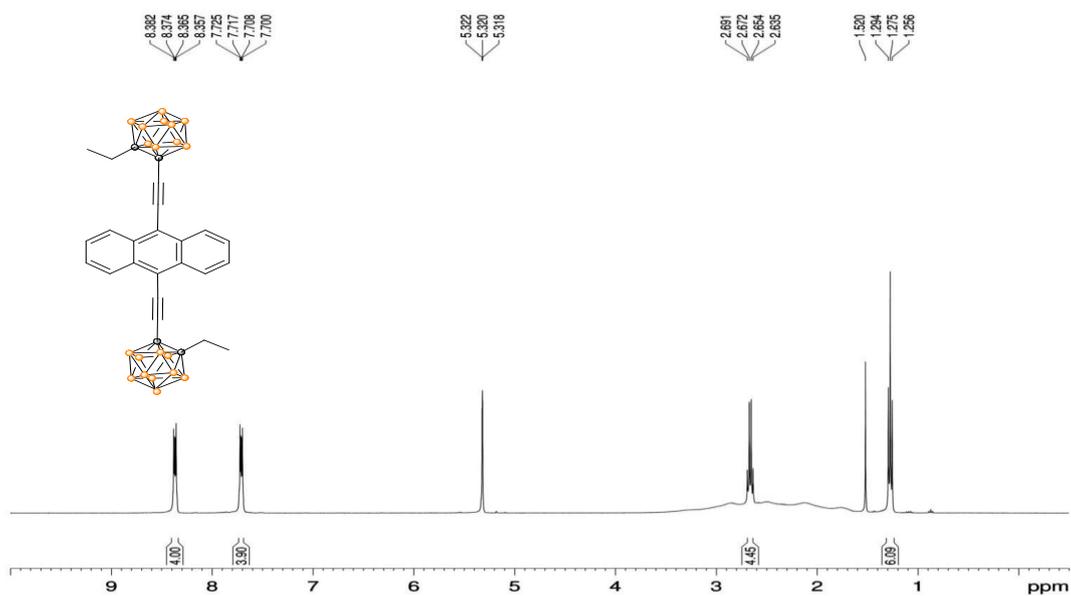
**Fig. S24**  $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of MCA (128 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).

**Accurate Mass Measurement**

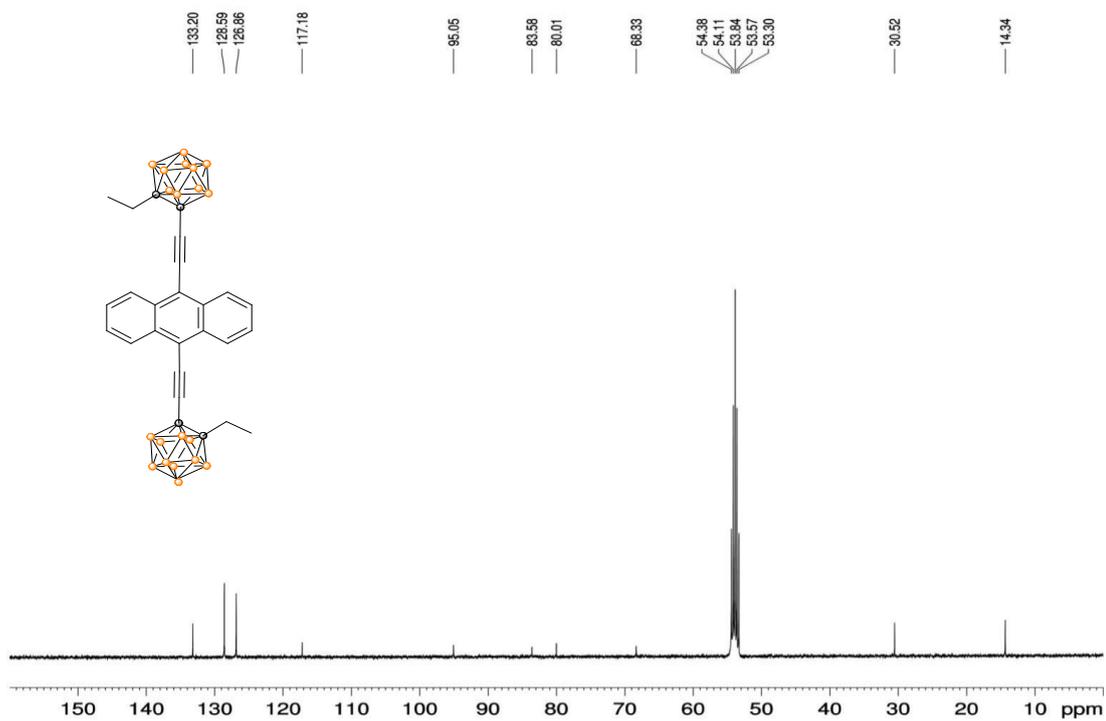


Molecular formula  
 $\text{C}_{24}\text{B}_{20}\text{H}_{34}$   
 $[\text{M}]^+$  (theoretical)  
 = 538.4675

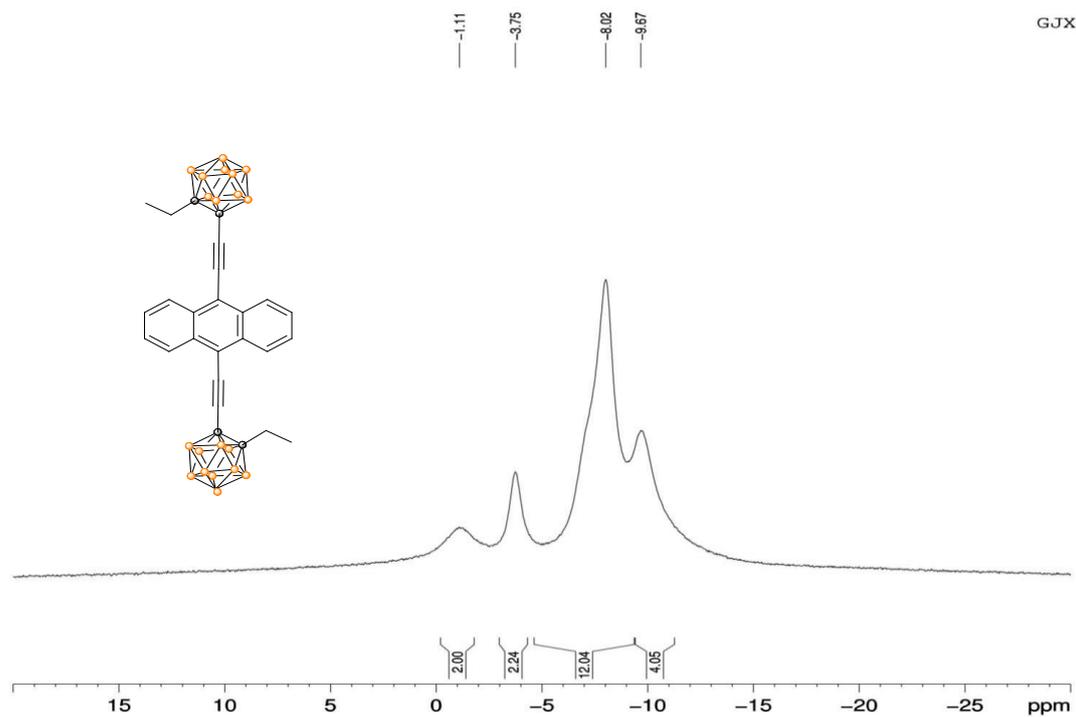
**Fig. S25** HRMS of MCA.



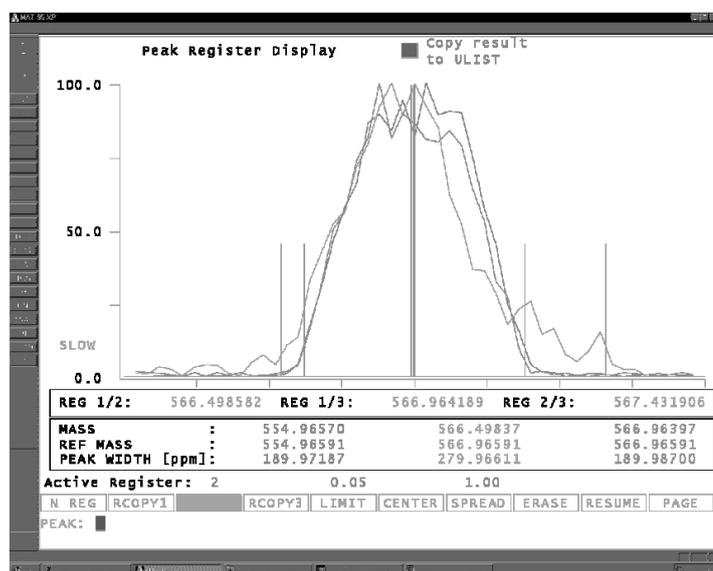
**Fig. S26**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of ECA (400 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



**Fig. S27**  $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of ECA (100 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



**Fig. S28**  $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$  NMR of ECA (128 MHz,  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ).



Molecular formula  
 $\text{C}_{26}\text{B}_{20}\text{H}_{38}$   
 $[\text{M}]^+$  (theoretical)  
 = 566.4989

**Fig. S29** HRMS of ECA.

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Analytic functional testing

varioELcube

serial number:19152022

Statistic report

No. Name	C [%]	H [%]	N [%]	S [%]
59 wuxueyanECA	54.90	6.306	2.03	0.096
60 wuxueyanECA	55.24	6.418	2.08	0.002
Mean caule	55.07	6.362	2.06	0.049
Deviation, abs.	0.24	0.080	0.04	0.067
Deviation, rel. [%]	0.44	1.244	1.87	135.725
Detal [%]	0.34	0.112	0.05	0.094
61 wuxueyanMCA	53.49	6.605	2.13	0.028
62 wuxueyanMCA	54.78	6.543	2.08	0.013
Mean caule	54.14	6.574	2.10	0.021
Deviation, abs.	0.91	0.044	0.04	0.011
Deviation, rel. [%]	1.69	0.667	1.69	51.287
Detal [%]	1.29	0.062	0.05	0.015
63 wuxueyanHCA	51.70	5.874	2.08	0.015
64 wuxueyanHCA	51.98	5.852	2.08	0.021
Mean caule	51.84	5.863	2.08	0.018
Deviation, abs.	0.20	0.016	0.00	0.005
Deviation, rel. [%]	0.3	0.265	0.05	25.105
Detal [%]	0.28	0.022	0.00	0.006

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Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH

**Fig. S30** The elemental analysis of compounds of **HCA**, **MCA** and **ECA**.

Reference:

[1] (a) J. A. DuPont and M. F. Hawthorne, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1964, 86, 1642–1643; (b) J. Guo, D. Liu, J.

Zhang, J. Zhang, Q. Miao and Z. Xie. *Chem. Commun.*, 2015, 51, 12004–12007.