Electronic Supplementary Information

Red-to-blue photon up-conversion with high efficiency based on

a TADF fluorescein derivative

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1, General Information

The steady-state absorption spectra were recorded on a Cary 60 UV-Vis spectrophotometer from Agilent Tech at room temperature. Fluorescence spectra were measured by using a Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer from Agilent Tech at room temperature. Up-converted emission spectra were recorded on Cary Eclipse fluorescence spectrophotometer with the excitation source using an external,

adjustable, continuous semiconductor laser (635 nm, MRL-III-635-500mW). The

luminescence decay was carried out on HORIBA DeltaFlex-01-NL with the SpectraLED laser (452 nm). Compound DCF-MPYM was synthesized and purified according to our reported work.¹

2 Calculation of Triplet -Triplet Annihilation Up-conversion Quantum Yield

Steady-state absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy

The steady-state absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy were recorded with a UV-Visible spectrometer named Cary 60 and a fluorometer named Cary Eclipse from Agilent Tech at room temperature, respectively. The data were obtained under the control of a Windows-based PC running the manufacturers' supplied software.

Determination of TTA-UC quantum yield The TTA-UC quantum yield (Φ_{UC}) was calculated in tetrahydrofuran (THF) with the following equation². The prompt

fluorescence of methylene blue (MB) ($\Phi_{MB} = 0.03$ in methanol) was as reference³.

$$\Phi_{\rm UC} = 2\Phi_{\rm Std} \times \frac{1 - 10^{-A_{\rm Std}}}{1 - 10^{-A_{\rm Sam}}} \times \frac{I_{\rm Sam}}{I_{\rm Std}} \times \frac{\eta_{\rm Sam}}{\eta_{\rm Std}}$$

where $\Phi_{\chi} A_{\chi} I$ and η is represents the quantum yield absorbance, integrated photoluminescence intensity and refractive index. The corresponding terms for the subscript std are for the reference quantum counter and sam for the sample of the TTA-UC system. The equation is multiplied by a factor of 2 so as to set the maximum quantum yield to unity.



Figure S1. Normalized absorption (black line) and emission (red line); (a) DCF-MPYM (λ_{ex} = 615 nm) (b) Perylene (λ ex= 388 nm);(c) DPA in tetrahydrofuran (THF) (λ_{ex} = 354 nm).



Figure S2. (a) Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of DCF-MPYM (2.0×10^{-5} M) in THF deaerated by argon bubbling for about 30 min (λ_{ex} = 635 nm); (b) Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of perylene (2.0×10^{-4} M) in THF deaerated by argon bubbling for about 30 min (λ_{ex} = 635 nm); (c) Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of DPA (1.6×10^{-3} M) in deaerated THF by argon bubbling for about 30 min (λ_{ex} = 635 nm).



Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum of DCF-MPYM (in DMSO-*d*₆)

References:

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- 2. Z. Wang, J. Zhao, A. Barbon, A. Toffoletti, Y. Liu, Y. An, L. Xu, A. Karatay, H. G. Yaglioglu, E. A. Yildiz and M. Hayvali, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 2017, **139**, 7831-7842.
- 3. J. Olmsted, *The Journal of Physical Chemistry*, 1979, **83**, 2581-2584.