Electronic Supporting Information for

# Mechano-responsive luminescent emissions of an organic molecular crystal: Effects of aromatic stacking interactions and solid state packing

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#### 1. General experimental techniques.

All chemicals were commercially available from Sigma-Aldrich and/or Merck and used as received. Solvents for spectroscopic experiments were distilled under nitrogen atmosphere before use. All <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR were measured on a 300 MHz Bruker spectrometer, and reported in  $\delta$ /ppm. The absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-vis spectrophotometer (Model UV-1800), and fluorescence spectra were recorded using a Hitachi F2500 fluorimeter. The FTIR measurements were performed on a Bruker ALPHA II spectrometer, equipped with Multireflection-ATR module with horizontal ZnSe crystal. The TGA measurements were performed on a Mettler-Toledo TGA (STARe) equipment, equipped with silica/platinum crucibles. The single crystal X-ray Diffraction data were collected on a Bruker SMART APEX II CCD diffractometer equipped with a graphite monochromator and a Mo- $K_{\alpha}$  fine-focus sealed tube ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Data integration was done using SAINT. Intensities for absorption were corrected using SADABS. Structure solution and refinement were carried out using Bruker SHELXTL. The Powder X-ray Diffraction (PXRD) measurements were performed on a Rigaku Ultima IV X-ray powder diffractometer operating a Cu- $K_{\alpha}$  X-ray source, equipped with a Ni filter to suppress  $K_{\beta}$  emission and a D/teX Ultra high-speed position sensitive detector, and measurements were performed at room temperature, with a scan range  $2\theta = 5-50^{\circ}$ , step size of  $0.02^{\circ}$ , and scan rate of  $2^{\circ}$  min<sup>-1</sup>.

#### 2. Synthetic Procedures

Synthesis of 2-NOH-S: To a stirred solution of semicarbazide hydrochloride (2, 1.0 mmol) and sodium acetate (1 mmol) in  $H_2O$  (2 ml) was added a solution of the 2-hydroxynaphthaldehyde (1, 1 mmol) in MeOH (2 ml). After being stirred at room temperature for 10 min, the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The solid residue was rinsed with chloroform and recrystallised from aqueous methanol.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta_{\rm H}$  = 11.24 (1H, s, -OH), 10.27( 1H, s, urea NH), 8.85 (1H, s, aldimine-CH), 8.38 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 *Hz*, aromatic CH), 7.83 (1H, d, *J* = 8.8 *Hz*, aromatic CH), 7.54 (2H, d, *J* = 7.2 *Hz*, aromatic CH), 7.36 (1H, t, *J* = 7.2 *Hz*, aromatic CH), 7.17 (1H, d, *J*= 8.8 *Hz*, aromatic CH), 6.41 (1H, t, aromatic CH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (300 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 155.78, 139.81, 131.43, 131.17, 128.61, 127.85, 127.47, 123.25, 121.99, 118.24, 109.64 ppm; ES-MS: m/z 230.06 calc. for (M+H<sup>+</sup>)



### Crystallization of C-M and C-T

A known amount of the compound, **2-NOH-S**, was dissolved in a suitable solvent and the clear solution kept for crystallization at room temperature. In certain cases, the sample could be dissolved in the corresponding solvent, upon gentle heating at 60°C. The clear solution was kept at room temperature for crystallization.

Unless otherwise stated, the evaporation of solvent(s) was controlled by keeping the sample solutions in closed glass vial(s).



Figure S1: (a) UV-visible and (b) fluorescence spectra of 2NOH-S (conc. 0.9 µM) in different solvents.



**Figure S2**: Packing diagram of **C-M** showing the intermolecular interactions between the **2-NOH-S** molecules in the lattice



**Figure S3**: Packing diagram of **C-T** showing the intermolecular interactions between the **2-NOH-S** molecules in the lattice, showing the herringbone arrangements.



**Figure S4**. Images of needle-like and block shaped crystals of **C-T** and **C-M** respectively (a,b) under 10x magnification, and (c,d) when illuminated with 365 nm UV-light.



Figure S5: Powder XRD patterns of C-M and C-T, as compared to the pristine sample of 2-NOH-S



**Figure S6**: Changes in the powder XRD patterns of **C-T**, before and after grinding, as compared to the pristine sample of **2-NOH-S** 



**Figure S7**: Effect of applied mechanical pressure on the solid state fluorescence spectra of (a) **C-M**, (b) **C-T** in comparison to pristine **2-NOH-S** sample



**Figure S8**: Calculated HOMO-LUMO energies for the **C-M** and **C-T** forms (from the crystal geometries), as compared to the optimized structure for **2-NOH-S** along with the corresponding emission maxima. The calculations were performed using Density Functional Theory (DFT) at B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of theory.





Figure S10: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of 2-NOH-S in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>

![](_page_7_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure S11: ES-MS spectra of 2-NOH-S, m/z 230.06 calc. for (M+H+)

![](_page_8_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S12**: FTIR spectra of **C-M** and **C-T** forms, as compared to pristine sample of **2NOH-S**, depicting the variations in the absorptions due to the amide, imine and phenolic hydroxyl (recorded in the transmittance mode)

![](_page_8_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure S13: Variations observed in the FTIR spectra of C-M form after mechanical grinding, as function of grinding time

![](_page_9_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S14**: Changes in FTIR spectra of C-T upon mechanical stimulation; (a) C-T form, (b,c) after application of 0.9 MP and 3.0 MP pressure, as compared to (d) the pristine **2-NOH-S** sample.

![](_page_9_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Figure S15**: Effect of solvent vapour (methanol and tetrahydrofuran) on the mechano-luminescent emissions of the pristine form **2-NOH-S**. In a typical experiment, the mechano-luminescent phase was put on a glass slide, and kept in a closed petridish previously saturated with 3 mL of the solvent (covered with a petridish).

![](_page_10_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Figure S16**: Thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA) of **C-M** showing the weight loss corresponding to the removal of methanol from the sample.

![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Figure S17**: Thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA) of C-T, which shows partial decomposition of the sample beyond approx. 250°C.

![](_page_10_Figure_4.jpeg)

Figure S18: Comparison of TGA curves of C-M and C-T forms with the pristine form of 2-NOH-S.

![](_page_11_Figure_0.jpeg)

Figure S19: Representative powder XRD patterns obtained for the pristine form C-M and C-T when subjected to slurry experiments.

# Table S1. Crystallographic parameters for C-M and C-T forms

Crystal	С-М	С-Т
Empirical formula	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> .CH <sub>3</sub> OH	$C_{12} H_{11} N_3 O_2$
Formula weight	261.28	229.24
Temperature	296(2) K	296(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Monoclinic
Space group	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /n	P 2 <sub>1</sub> /c
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 10.2378(11) \text{ Å}, \alpha = 90^{\circ}$	$a = 16.1385(17) \text{ Å}, \alpha = 90^{\circ}$
	$b = 10.1117(9) \text{ Å}, \beta = 92.895(5)^{\circ}$	$b = 4.7309(5)$ Å, $\beta = 114.296(5)^{\circ}$
	$c = 13.0302(10) \text{ Å}, \ \gamma = 90^{\circ}$	$c = 15.7978(17) \text{ Å}, \gamma = 90^{\circ}$
Volume	1347.2(2) Å <sup>3</sup>	1099.3(2) Å <sup>3</sup>
Ζ	4	4
Density (calculated)	1.288	1.385
Absorption coefficient	0.094	0.098
F(000)	552	480
Theta range for data collection	3.131 to 26.393°	1.384 to 29.100°
	-12<=h<=6,	-21<=h<=22,
Index ranges	-12<=k<=12,	-6<=k<=6,
	-16<=1<=16	-21<=1<=19
Reflections collected	11012	10447
Independent reflections	2740	2915
Completeness to theta = $25.242^{\circ}$	99.6%	98.6%
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	Full-matrix least-squares on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	2740/0/193	2915/0/171
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.127	1.125
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0436, wR2 = 0.0588	R1 = 0. 0602, wR2 = 0.0893
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1258, wR2 = 0.1450	R1 = 0.1476, wR2 = 0.1743
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.19, -0.26 Å <sup>3</sup>	0.45,0.36 Å <sup>3</sup>