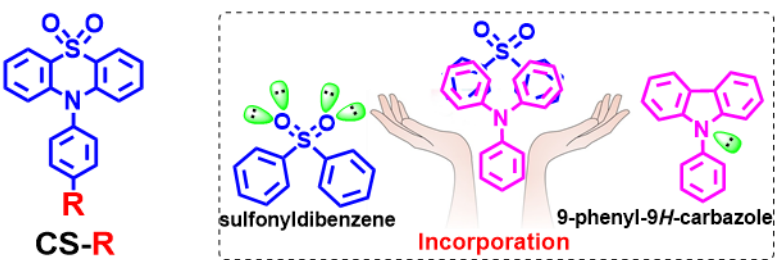


## Electronic Supporting Information

### The odd-even effect of alkyl chain in organic room temperature phosphorescence luminogens and the corresponding *in vivo* imaging

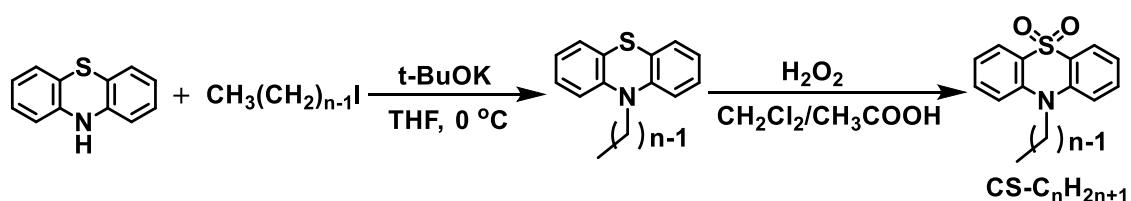
Jie Yang,<sup>#ab</sup> Heqi Gao,<sup>#c</sup> Yunsheng Wang,<sup>a</sup> Yun Yu,<sup>b</sup> Yanbin Gong,<sup>b</sup> Manman Fang,<sup>ab</sup> Dan Ding,<sup>\*c</sup> Wenping Hu,<sup>a</sup> Ben Zhong Tang,<sup>ad</sup> and Zhen Li<sup>\*ab</sup>



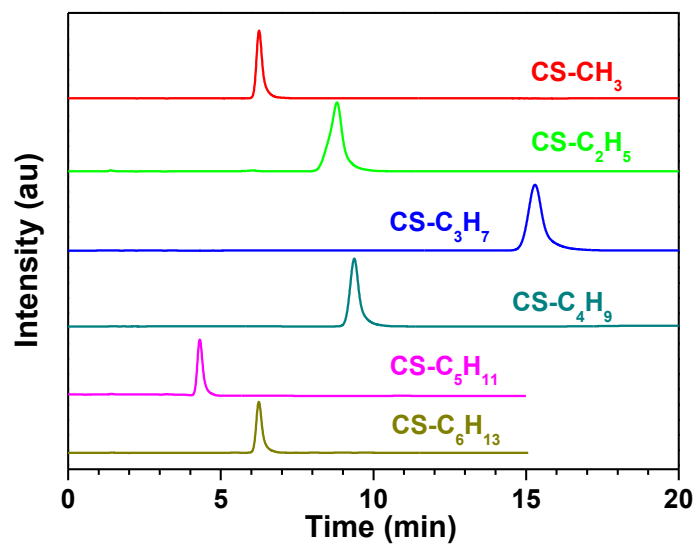
The diagram shows the chemical structure of CS-R (10-phenyl-10H-phenothiazine 5,5-dioxide derivative) and a schematic of the 'Incorporation' process. The incorporation involves the reaction of sulfonyldibenzene and 9-phenyl-9H-carbazole to form the CS-R structure.

R	OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	Br	Cl	F
Abbreviation	CS-OCH <sub>3</sub>	CS-CH <sub>3</sub>	CS-H	CS-Br	CS-Cl	CS-F
$\tau$ (solid, RT)	88 ms	96 ms	188 ms	268 ms	256 ms	410 ms
$\lambda_p$ (solid, RT)	509 nm	516 nm	525 nm	525 nm	500 nm	483 nm

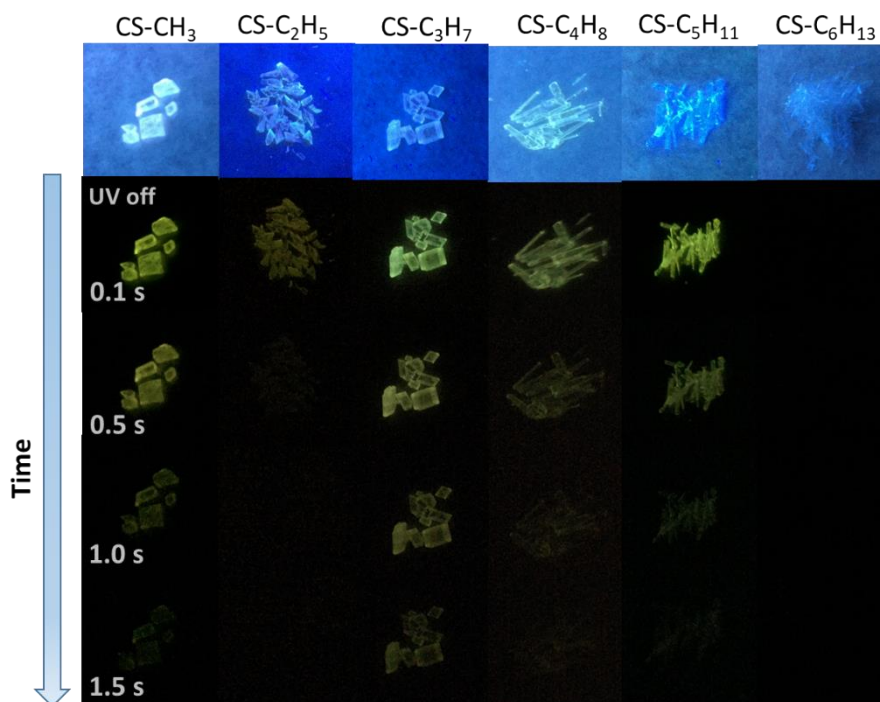
**Chart S1** The previous work based on 10-phenyl-10H phenothiazine 5,5-dioxide derivatives with RTP effect.



**Scheme S1** The synthetic routes of the six target luminogens.



**Figure S1** HPLC spectra of the six target compounds.

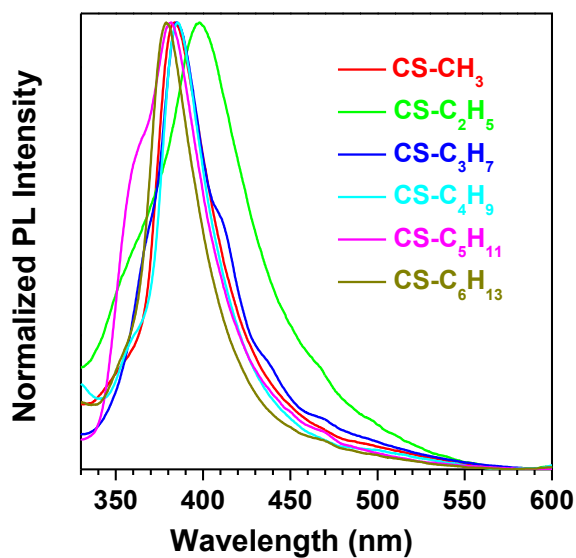


**Figure S2** The RTP behaviors of the six luminogens.

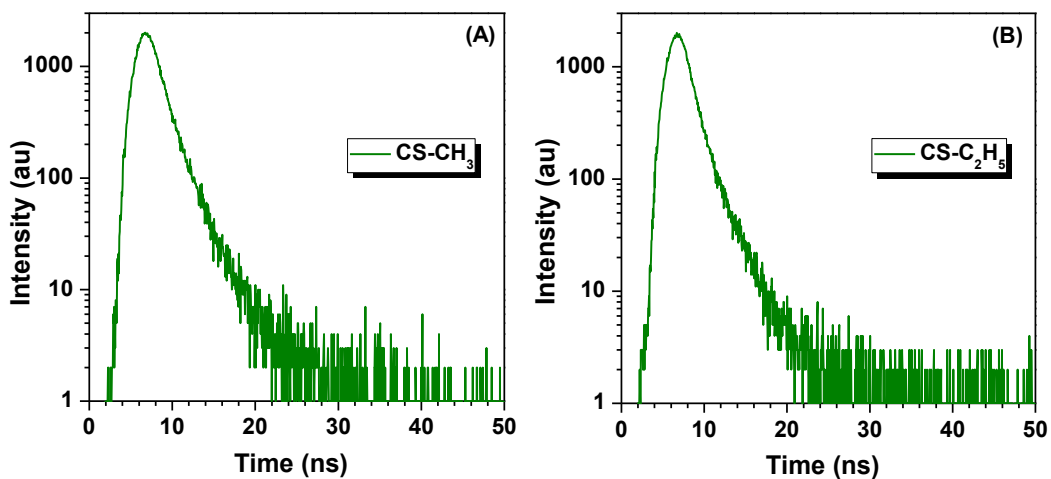
**Table S1** The photophysical data of CS-CH<sub>3</sub>, CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> and CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub> in solutions and crystals.

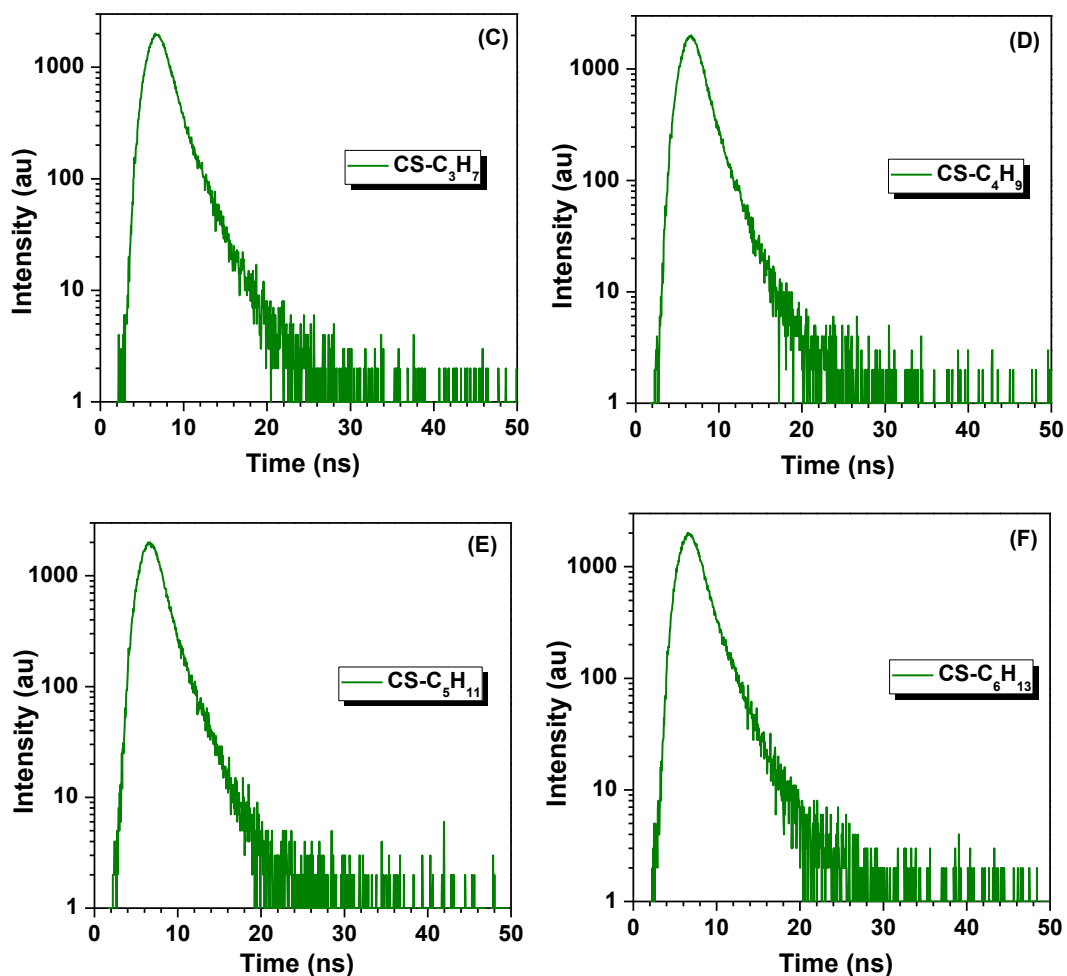
Compound	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}^{\text{a}}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{F}}^{\text{b}}$ (nm)	$\tau_{\text{F}}^{\text{b}}$ (ns)	$\lambda_{\text{P}}^{\text{b}}$ (nm)	$\tau_{\text{P}}^{\text{b}}$ (ms)	$\lambda_{\text{P}}^{\text{c}}$ (nm)	$\tau_{\text{P}}^{\text{c}}$ (ms)	$\Phi_{\text{PL}}^{\text{b}}$ (%)
CS-CH <sub>3</sub>	332	384	0.99	515	245	396,405	253	3.83
CS-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	335	398	0.65	476,515	92	393,407	273	3.50
CS-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	335	385	0.90	414,435,490	327	395,407	268	5.68
CS-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	335	385	0.71	509	181	391,407	269	2.99
CS-C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	336	382	0.66	415,442,516	205	395,405	246	5.51
CS-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	336	378	0.86	510	/	391,406	249	2.93

<sup>a</sup> Observed from absorption spectra in dilute dichloromethane solution. <sup>b</sup> Determined in crystal at room temperature. <sup>c</sup> Determined in solution at 77K.

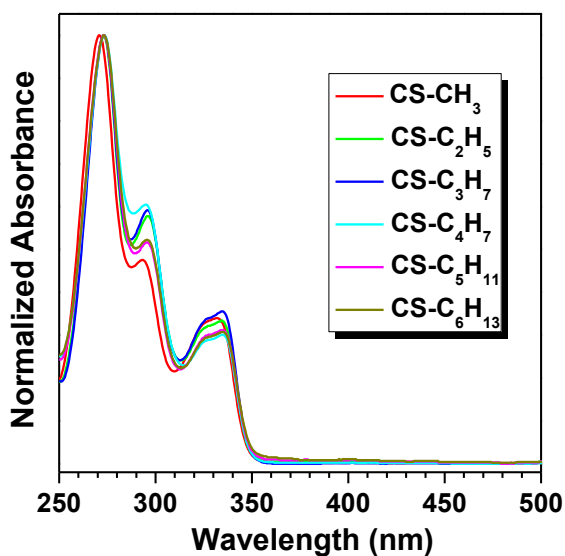


**Figure S3** The normalized fluorescence spectra of the six luminogens in crystal state.

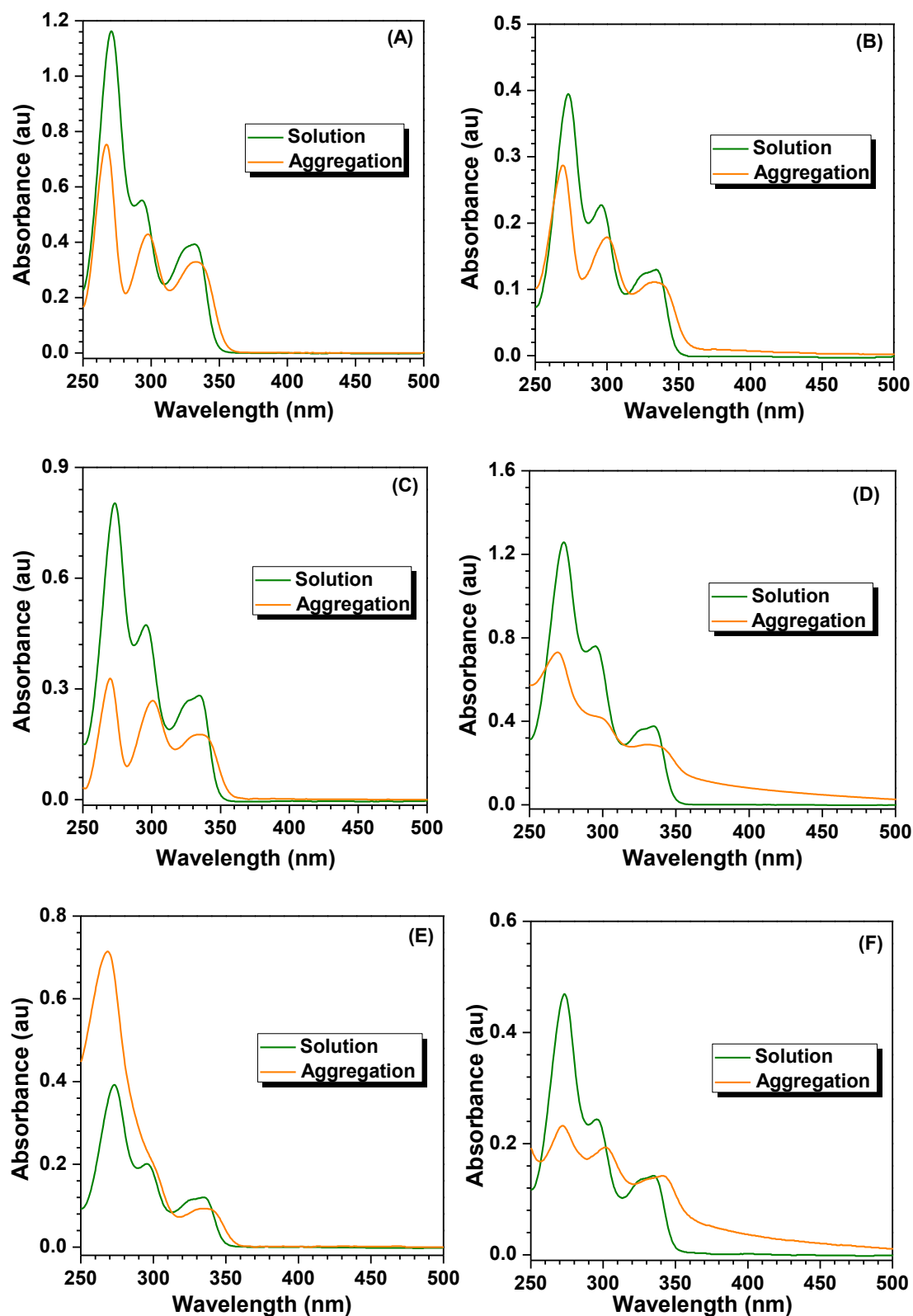




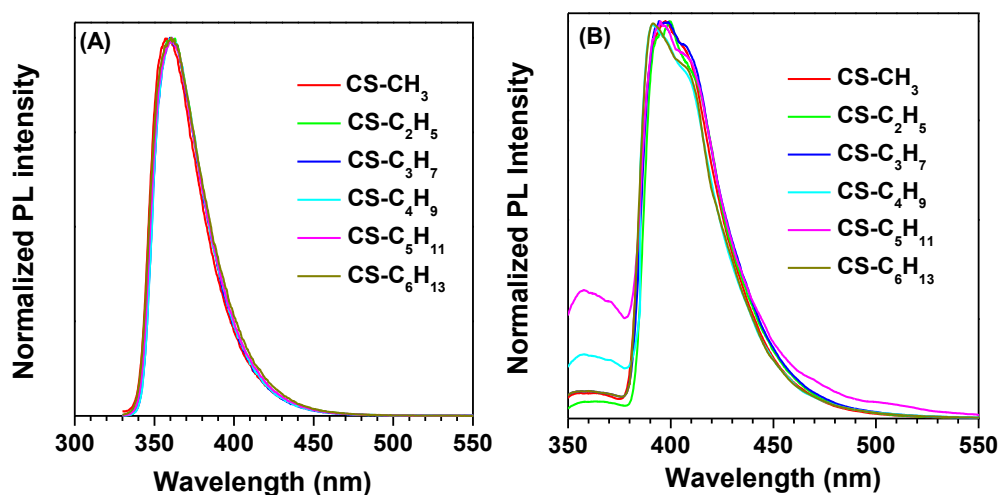
**Figure S4** Time-resolved PL-decay curves for their fluorescence in crystal state of CS-CH<sub>3</sub> @384 nm (A), CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> @398 nm (B), CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> @385 nm (C), CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> @385 nm (D), CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> @382 nm (E) and CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub> @378 nm (F).



**Figure S5** The UV-visible absorption spectra of the six luminogens in THF solutions.



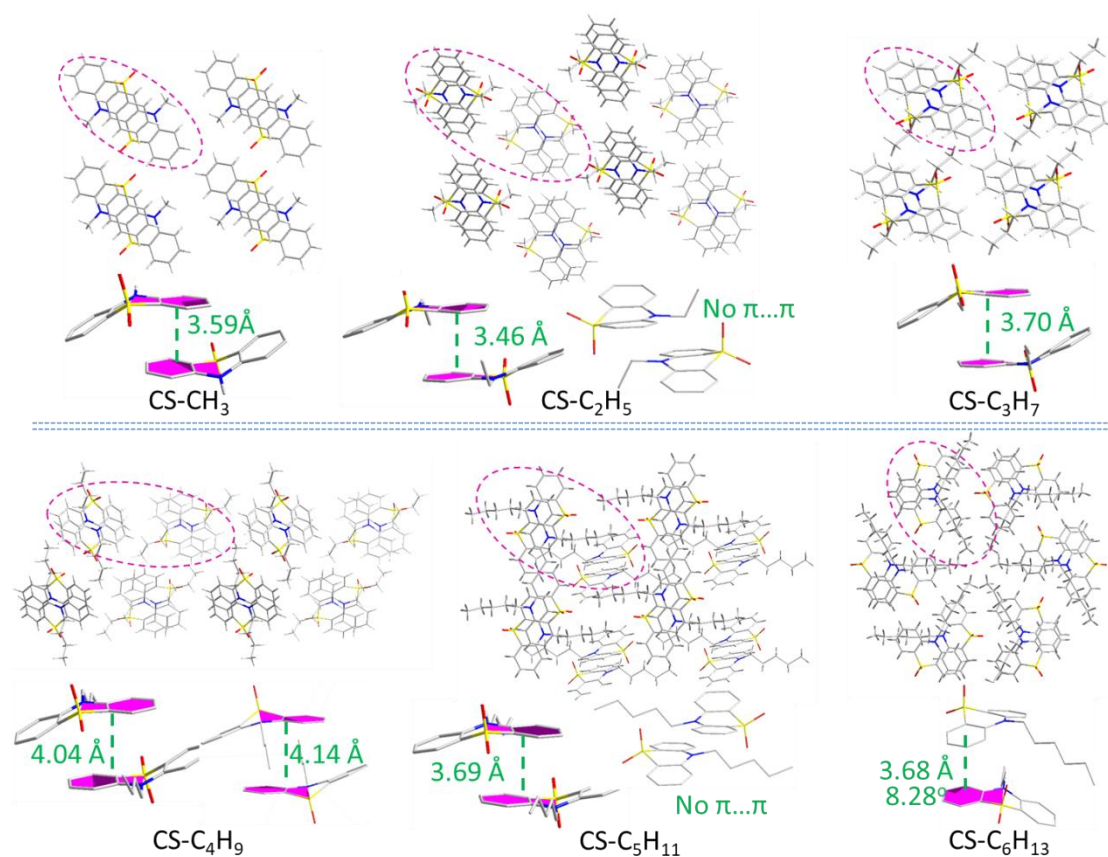
**Figure S6** The UV-visible absorption spectra of THF solutions and aggregations (THF/water mixtures with  $f_{\text{water}} = 99\%$ ) of CS-CH<sub>3</sub> (A), CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> (B), CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> (C), CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> (D), CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> (E) and CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub> (F).



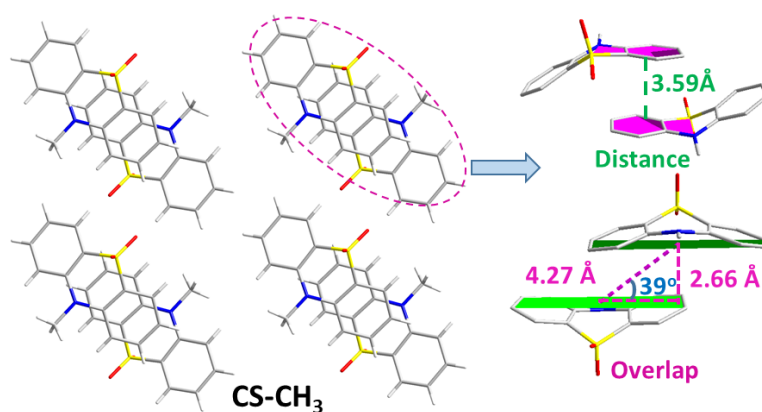
**Figure S7** (A) Steady-state photoluminescence spectra of the six target luminogens in THF solution at room temperature; (B) Steady-state photoluminescence spectra of the six target luminogens in dichloromethane solution at 77K, concentration:  $10^{-5}$  M.

**Table S2** Structural data of single crystals of CS-CH<sub>3</sub>, CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>, CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>, CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> and CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>.

Name	CS-CH <sub>3</sub>	CS-C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	CS-C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub>	CS-C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub>	CS-C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	CS-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>
Formula	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S
Wavelength (Å)	0.71073	1.54184	1.54184	1.54184	0.71073	0.71073
Space Group	P21/n	P21/n	P-1	P 21/c	P21/n	R3c
Cell Lengths (Å)	a=8.78316(19) b=11.4642(2) c=11.1048(2)	a=7.9027(3) b=11.1576(4) c=13.5298(6)	a=7.7584(7) b=9.0839(8) c=10.0043(9)	a=18.9325(7) b=9.4253(3) c=17.2146(6)	a=11.377(3) b=9.712(3) c=13.362(4)	a= 26.477(7) b= 26.477(7) c= 12.475(3)
Cell Angles (°)	$\alpha$ =90 $\beta$ =91.3006(19) $\gamma$ =90	$\alpha$ =90 $\beta$ =93.338(4) $\gamma$ =90	$\alpha$ =109.128(8) $\beta$ =97.408(8) $\gamma$ =103.752(8)	$\alpha$ =90 $\beta$ =114.976(4) $\gamma$ =90	$\alpha$ =90 $\beta$ =95.331(4) $\gamma$ =90	$\alpha$ =90 $\beta$ =90 $\gamma$ =120
Cell Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	1117.88(4)	1190.97(8)	630.39(10)	2784.58(19)	1470.0(7)	7574(4)
Z	4	4	2	8	4	18
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	1.457	1.446	1.440	1.371	1.362	1.245
F(000)	512.0	544.0	288.0	1216.0	640.0	3024.0
h <sub>max</sub> , k <sub>max</sub> , l <sub>max</sub>	10,14,13	9,13,16	9,10,11	22,11,20	15,13,18	32,32,15
CCDC Number	1879164	1879165	1879166	1879167	1879168	1879169

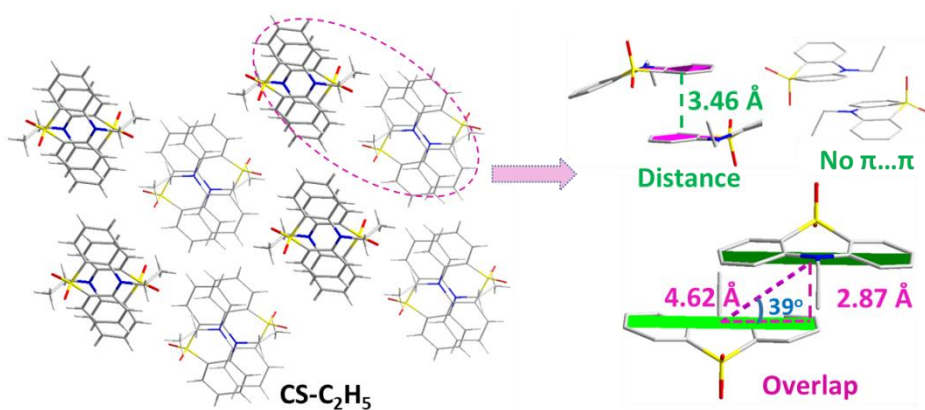


**Figure S8** Single-crystal structures of the six luminogens. Entire (upper) and local (down) packing modes of the crystals: the local packing pictures were selected from the parts in cycles of corresponding entire ones.

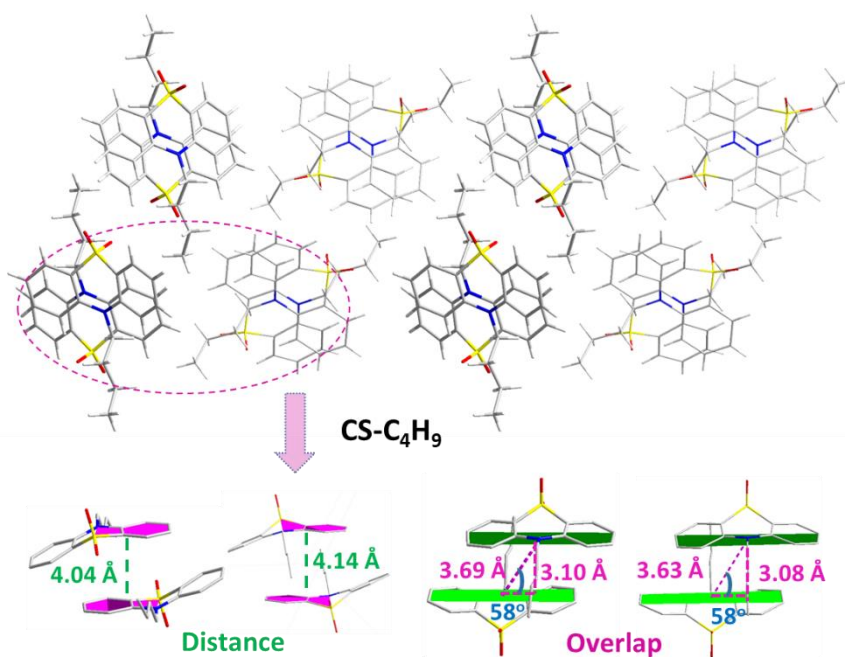


**Figure S9** Analyses of single crystal for CS-CH<sub>3</sub> with the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  distance and overlap labeled.

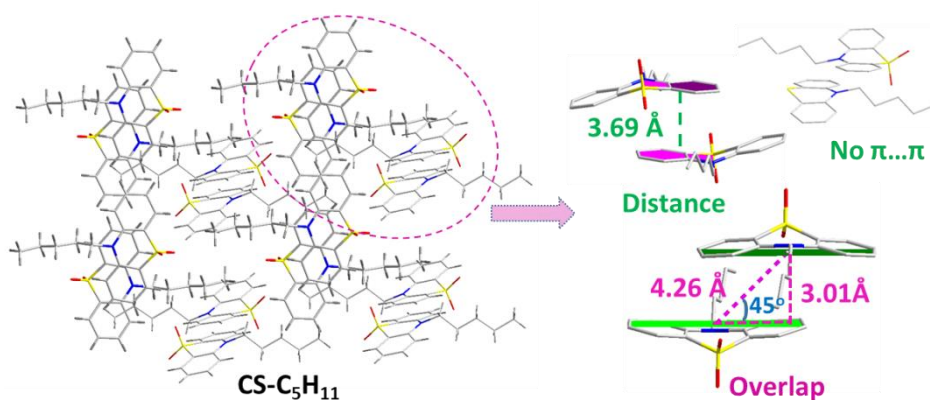




**Figure S10** Analyses of single crystal for CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> with the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  distance and overlap labeled.

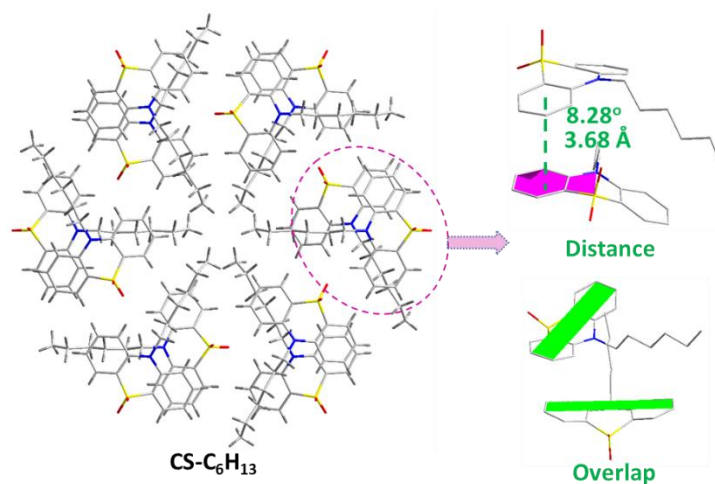


**Figure S11** Analyses of single crystal for CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> with the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  distance and overlap labeled.

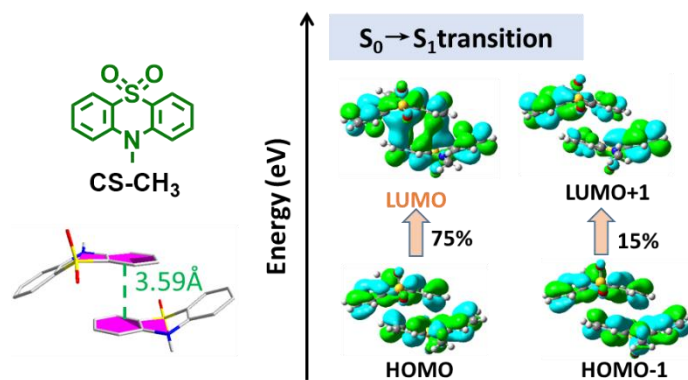


**Figure S12** Analyses of single crystal for CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> with the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  distance and overlap labeled.

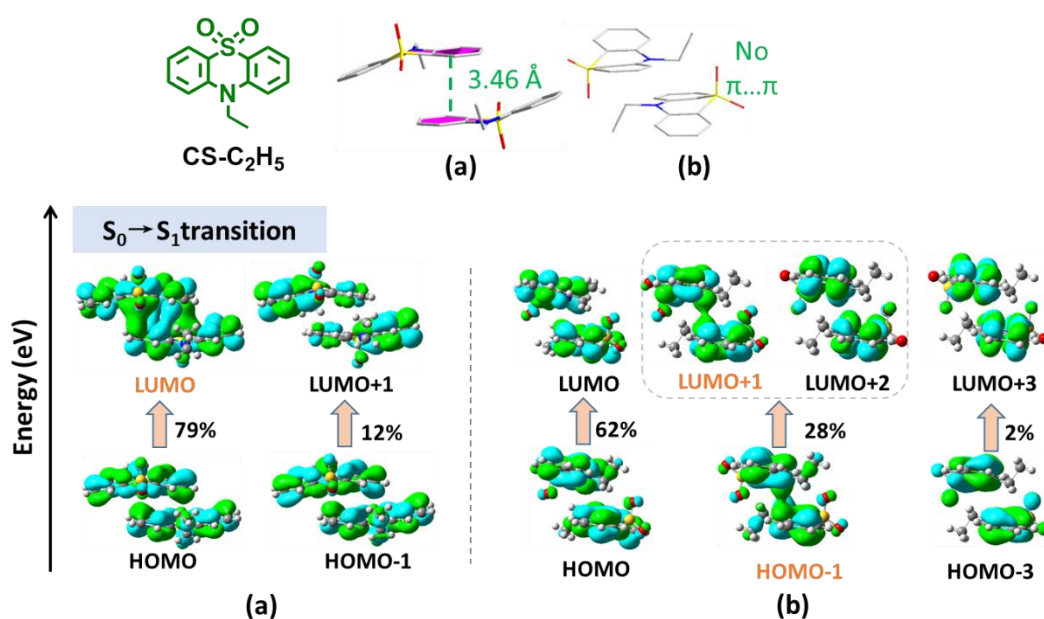




**Figure S13** Analyses of single crystal for CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub> with the  $\pi$ - $\pi$  distance and overlap labeled.

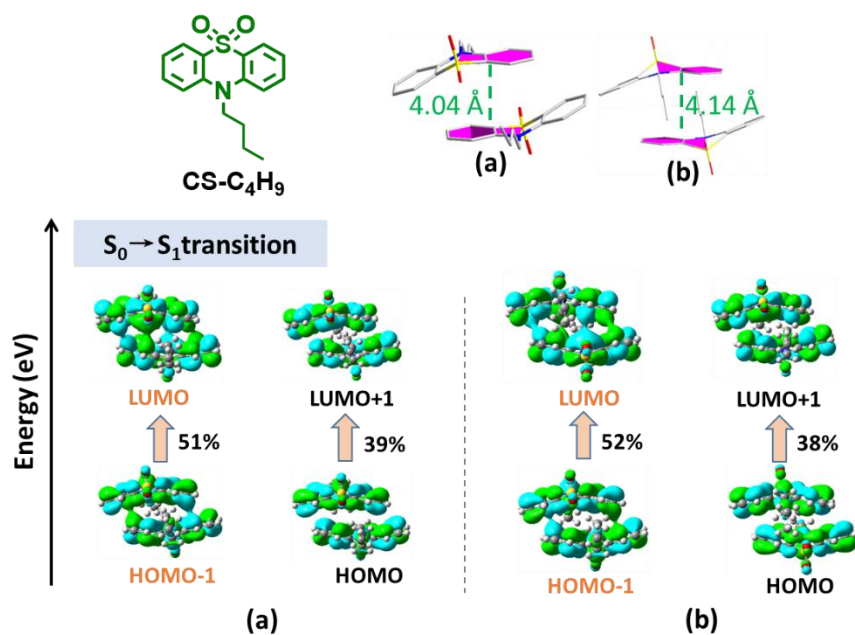


**Figure S14** The energy transitions for  $S_0$  to  $S_1$  state of CS-CH<sub>3</sub> estimated by TD-DFT calculations at the m062x/6-31g\* level and the frontier molecular orbitals with intermolecular interaction of  $\pi$ -electron cloud labeled in orange.

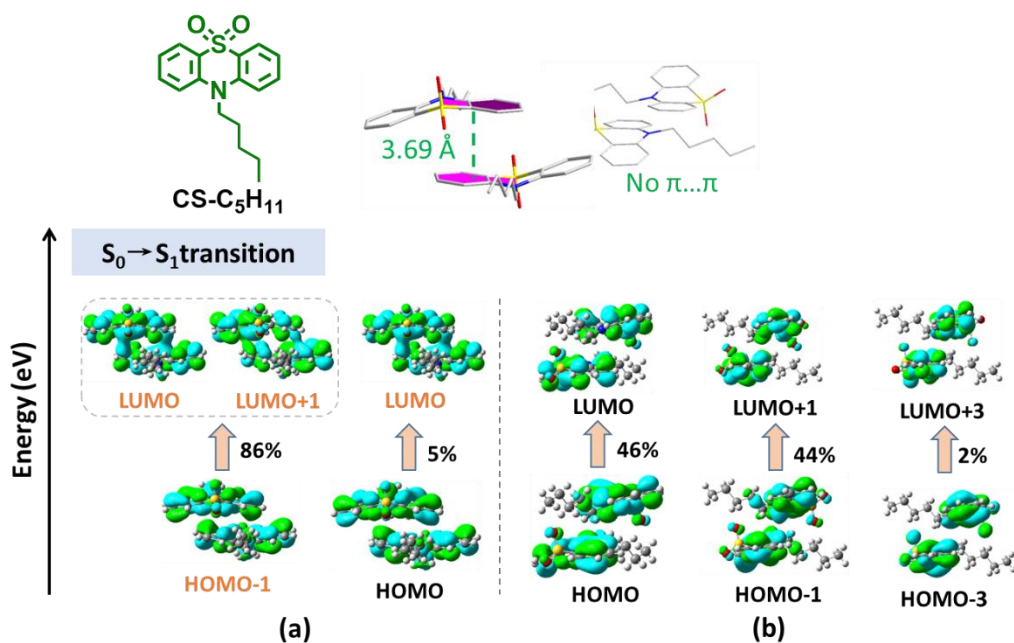


**Figure S15** The energy transitions for  $S_0$  to  $S_1$  state of CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> estimated by TD-DFT calculations

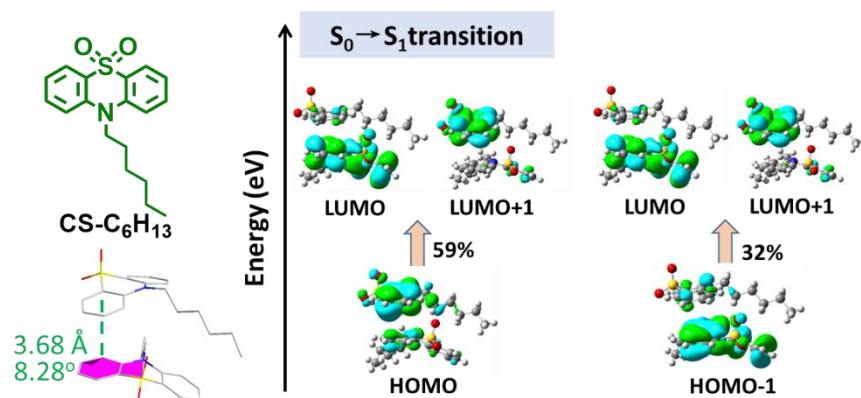
at the m062x/6-31g\* level and the frontier molecular orbitals with intermolecular interaction of  $\pi$ -electron cloud labeled in orange.



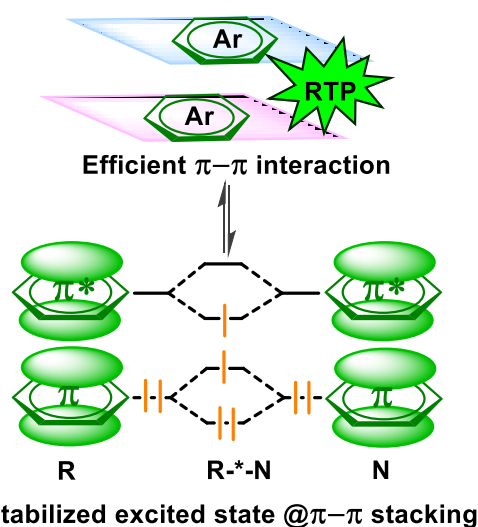
**Figure S16** The energy transitions for  $S_0$  to  $S_1$  state of CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub> estimated by TD-DFT calculations at the m062x/6-31g\* level and the frontier molecular orbitals with intermolecular interaction of  $\pi$ -electron cloud labeled in orange.



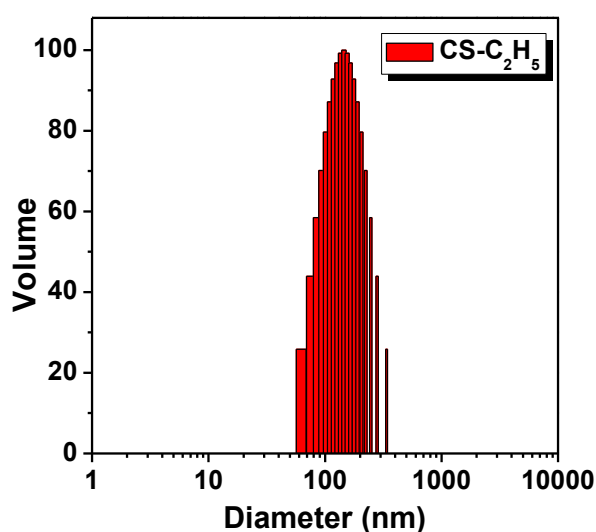
**Figure S17** The energy transitions for  $S_0$  to  $S_1$  state of CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub> estimated by TD-DFT calculations at the m062x/6-31g\* level and the frontier molecular orbitals with intermolecular interaction of  $\pi$ -electron cloud labeled in orange.



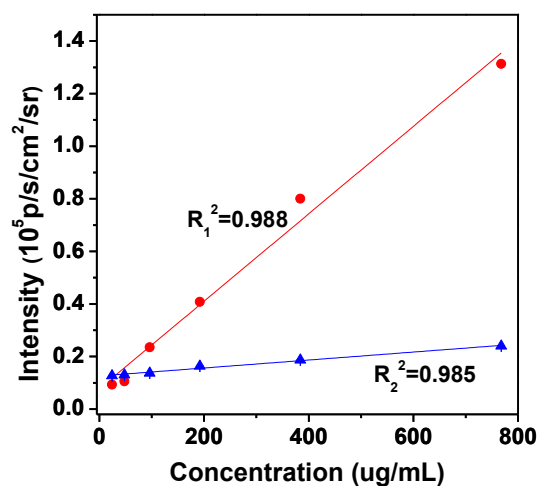
**Figure S18** The energy transitions for  $S_0$  to  $S_1$  state of  $CS-C_6H_{13}$  estimated by TD-DFT calculations at the m062x/6-31g\* level and the frontier molecular orbitals with intermolecular interaction of  $\pi$ -electron cloud labeled in orange.



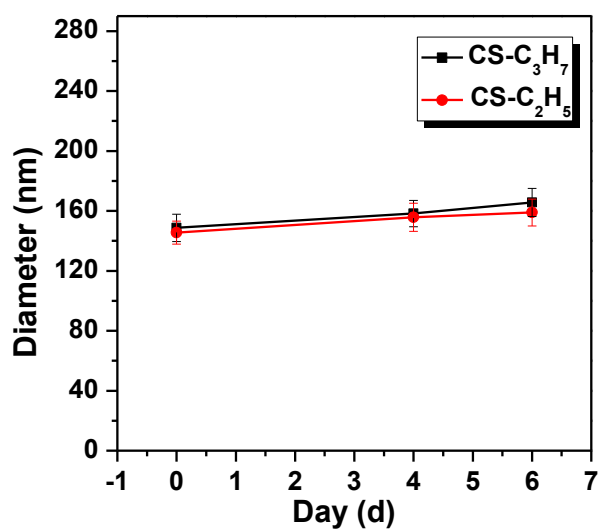
**Figure S19** The proposed RTP mechanism based on the classical perturbation theory.



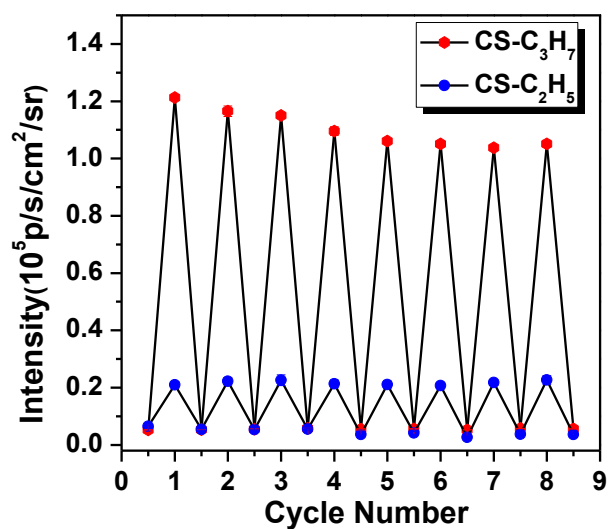
**Figure S20** Particle size distribution of  $CS-C_2H_5$  NPs.



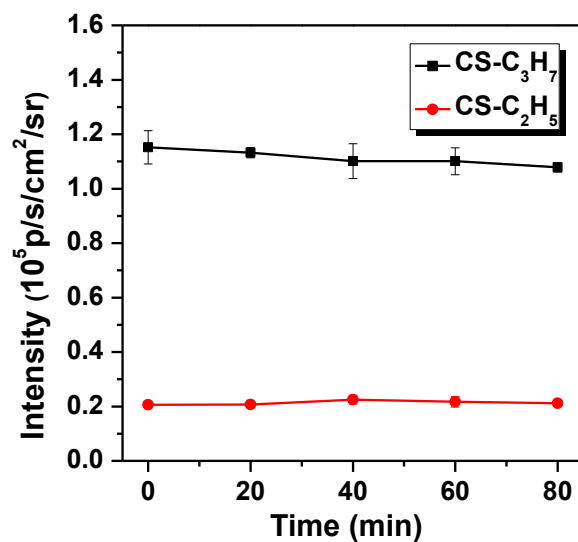
**Figure S21** The ultralong phosphorescence intensities as a function of the concentrations of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> and CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.



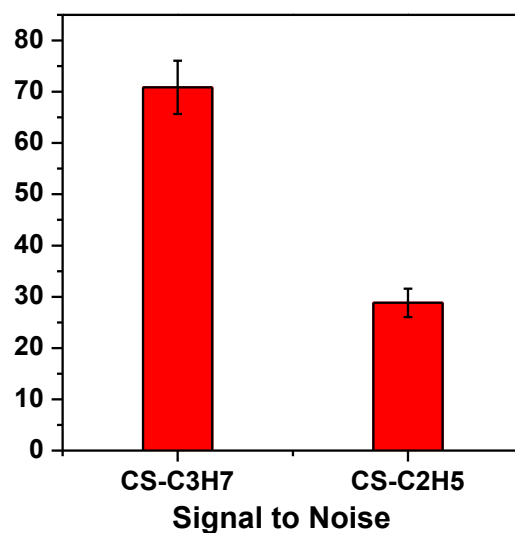
**Figure S22** The diameters of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> and CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> NPs after storage at 4 °C in dark for 4 and 6 days, respectively.



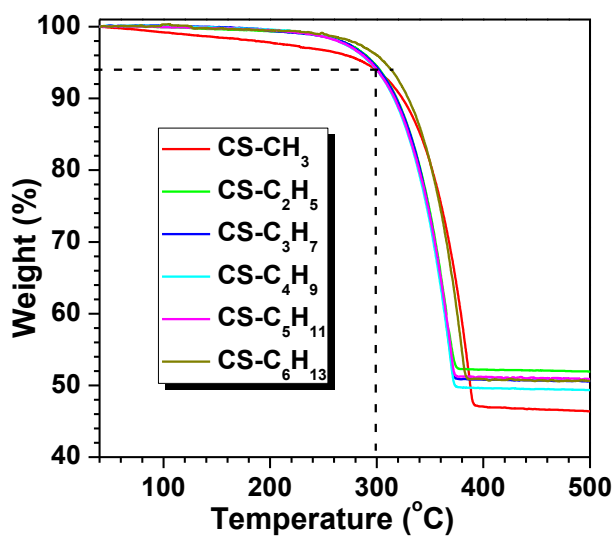
**Figure S23** The ultralong phosphorescence intensities of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> and CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> NPs solutions as a function of the cycle number of light activation.



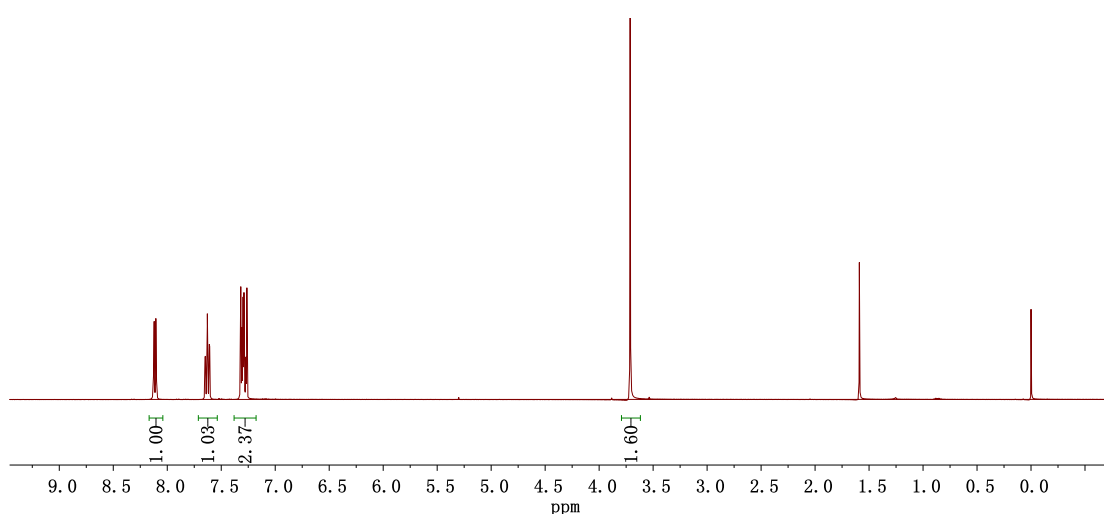
**Figure S24** The ultralong phosphorescence intensities of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> and CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> NPs under continuous light irradiation for 80 min (the power density: 10 mW cm<sup>-2</sup>).



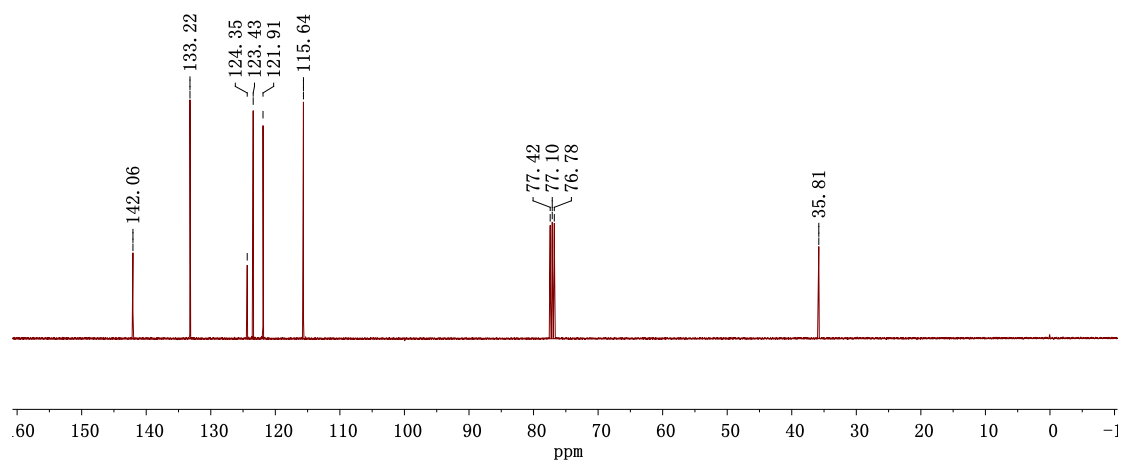
**Figure S25** The signal to noise of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub> and CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> NPs for *in vivo* imaging.



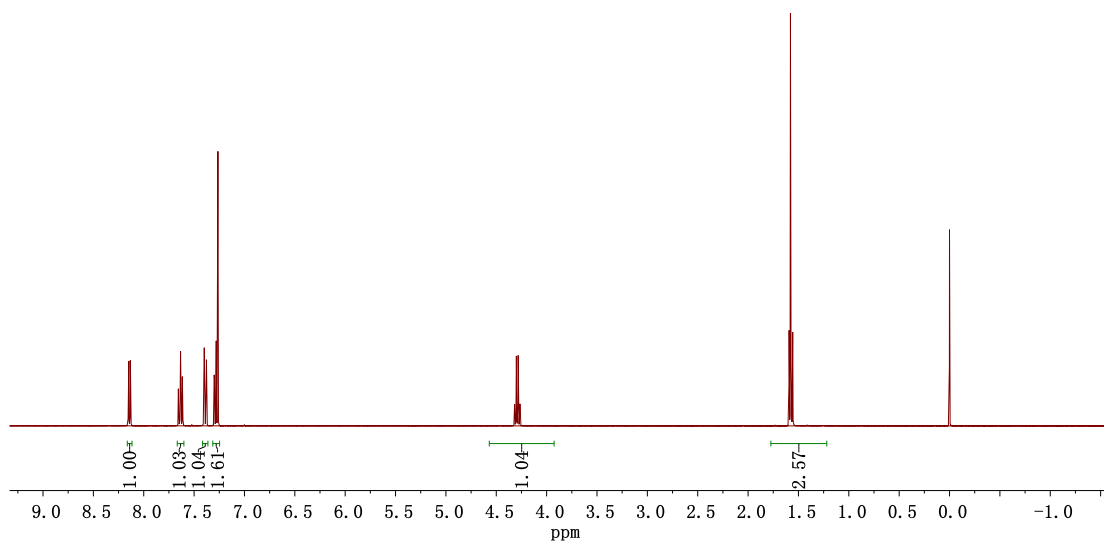
**Figure S26** TGA curves of the six target compounds.



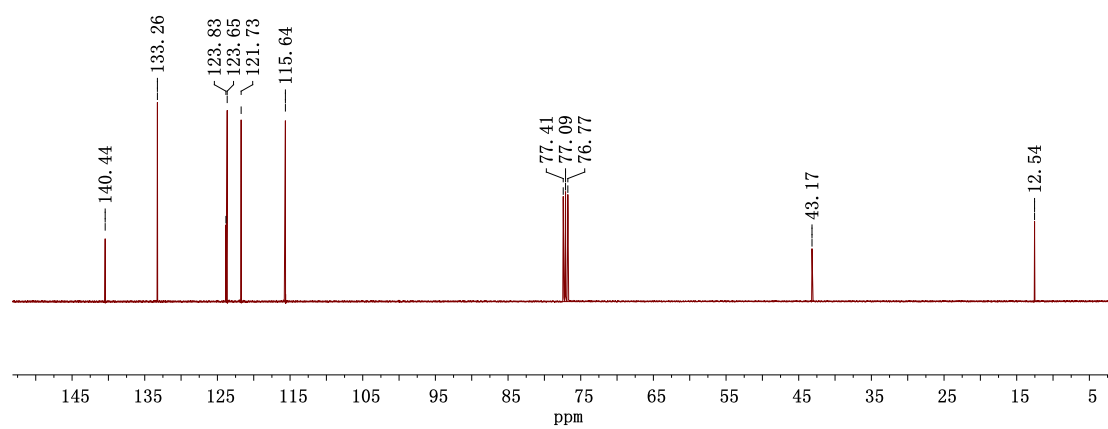
**Figure S27** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of CS-CH<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S28**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CS- $\text{CH}_3$ .

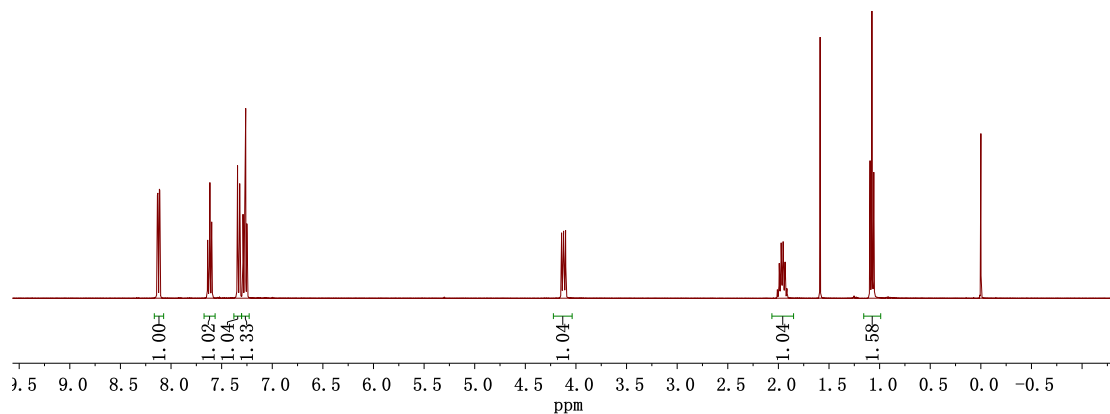


**Figure S29**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of CS- $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

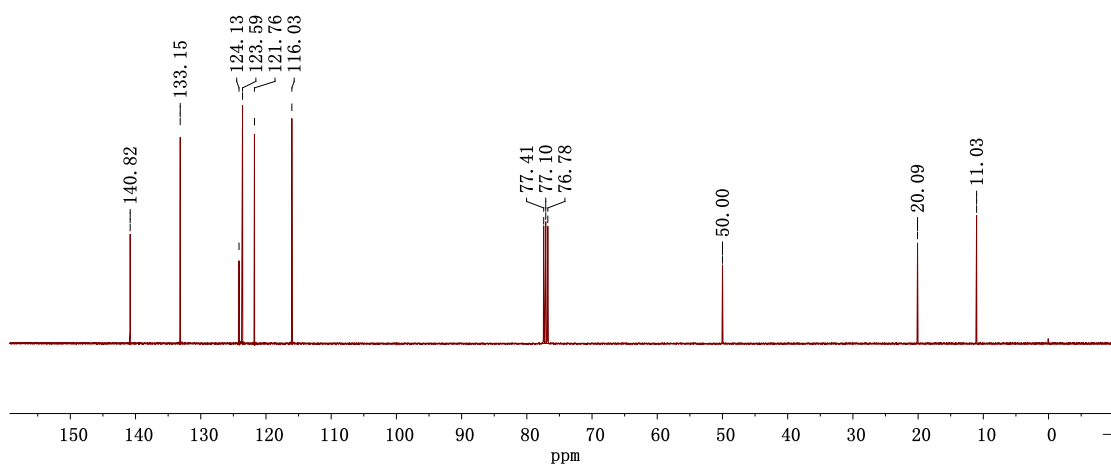


**Figure S30**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CS- $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$ .

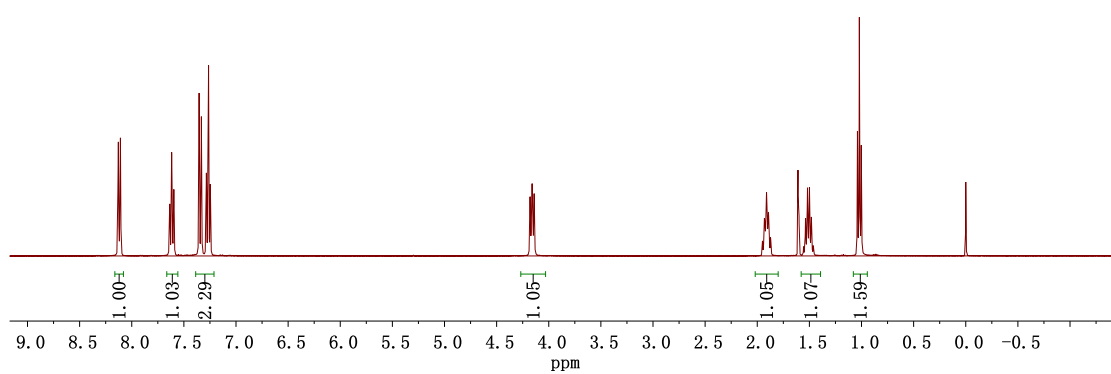




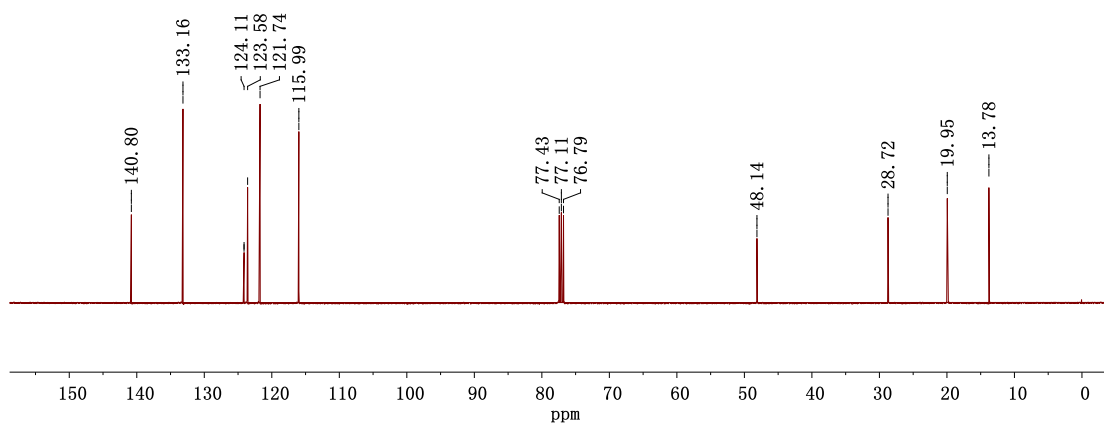
**Figure S31**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{CS-C}_3\text{H}_7$ .



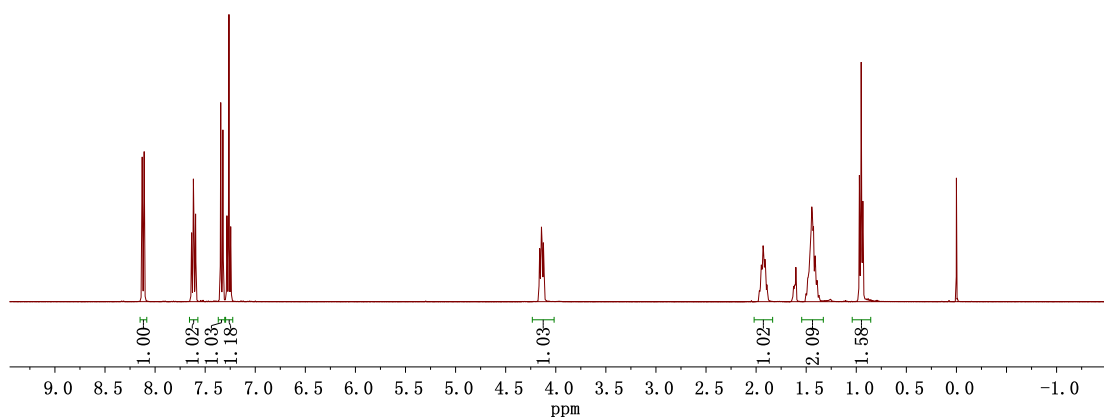
**Figure S32**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{CS-C}_3\text{H}_7$ .



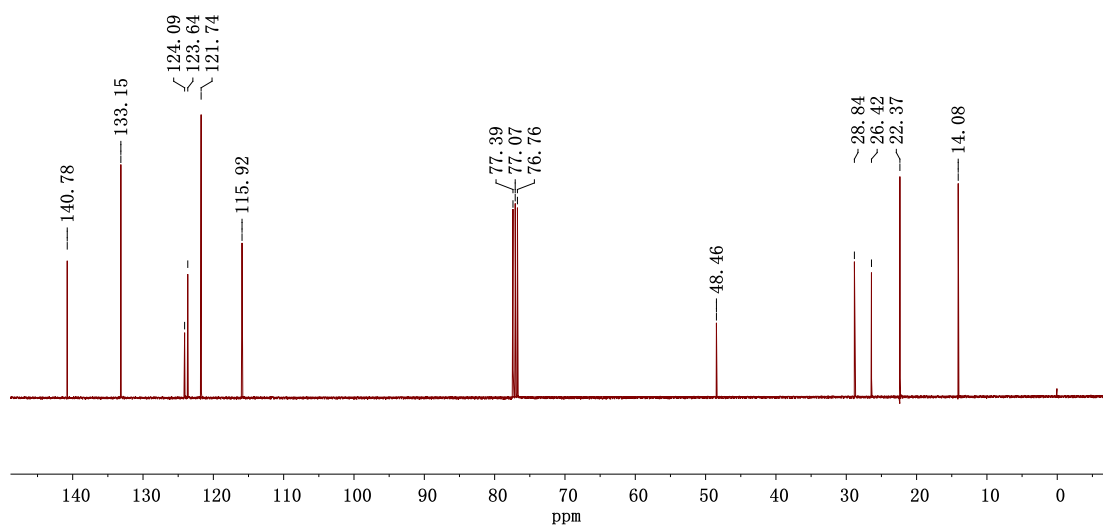
**Figure S33**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{CS-C}_4\text{H}_9$ .



**Figure S34**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>.



**Figure S35**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>.



**Figure S36**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>.

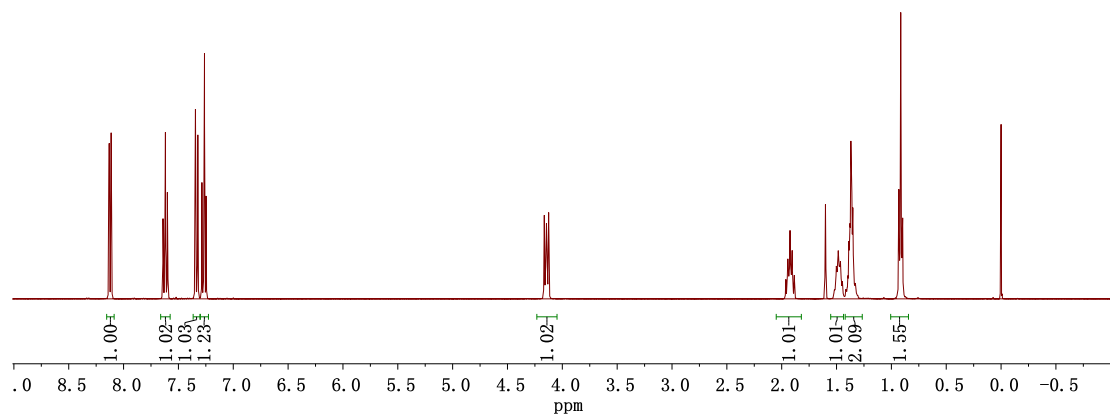


Figure S37  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of CS- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ .

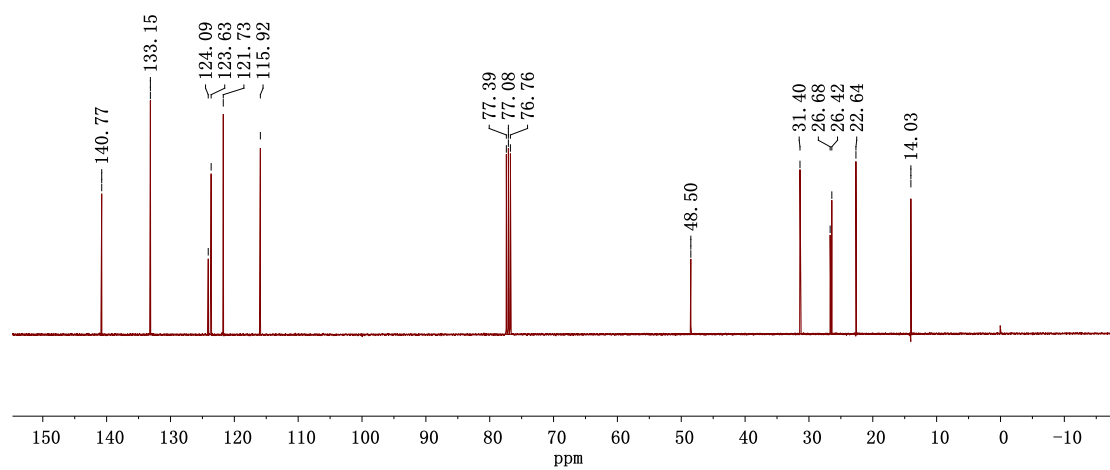
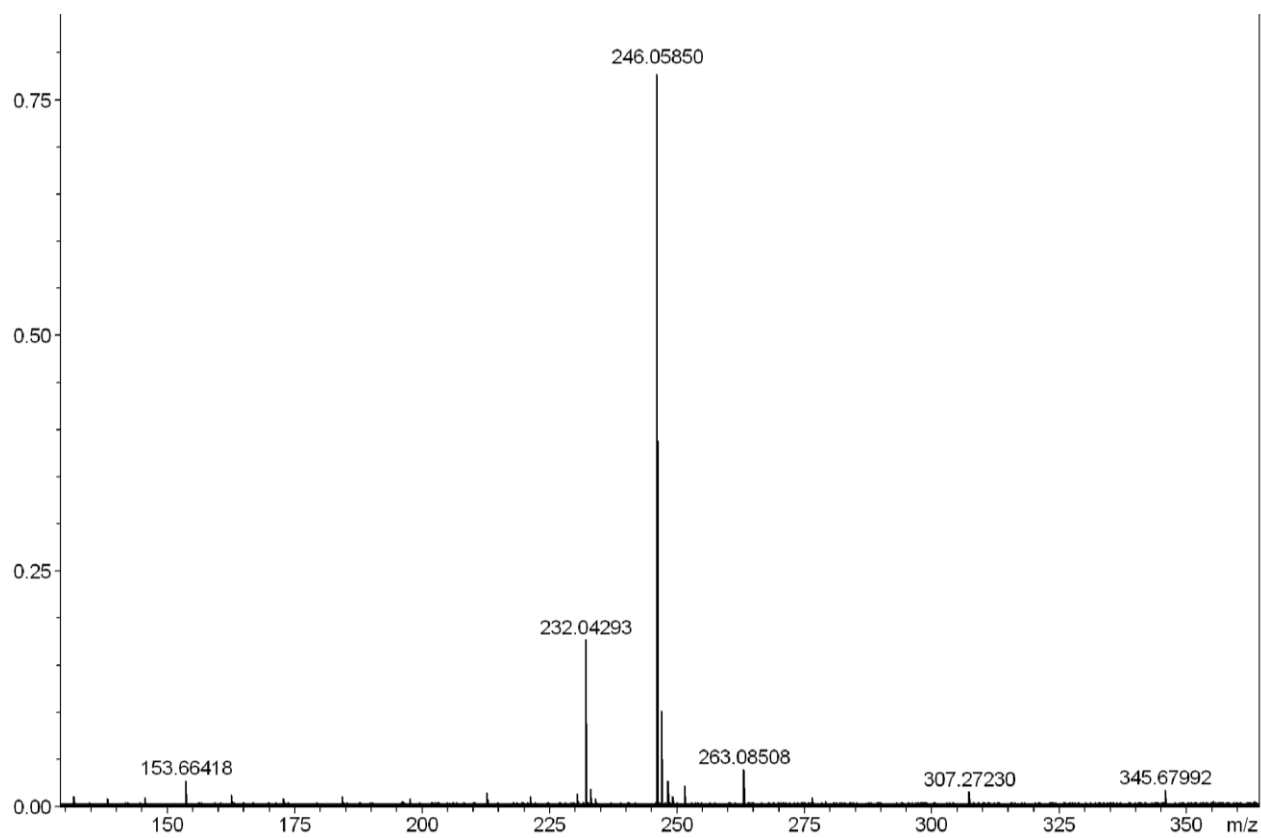
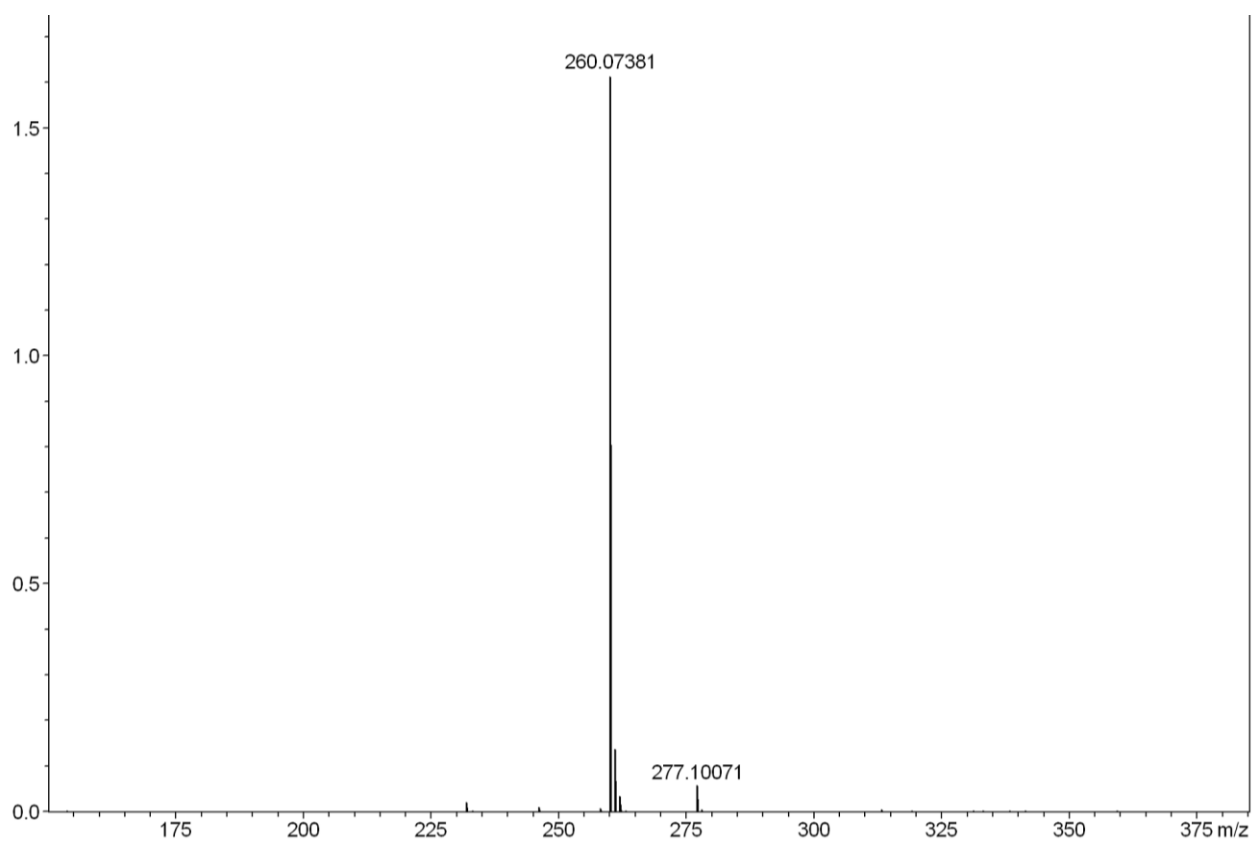


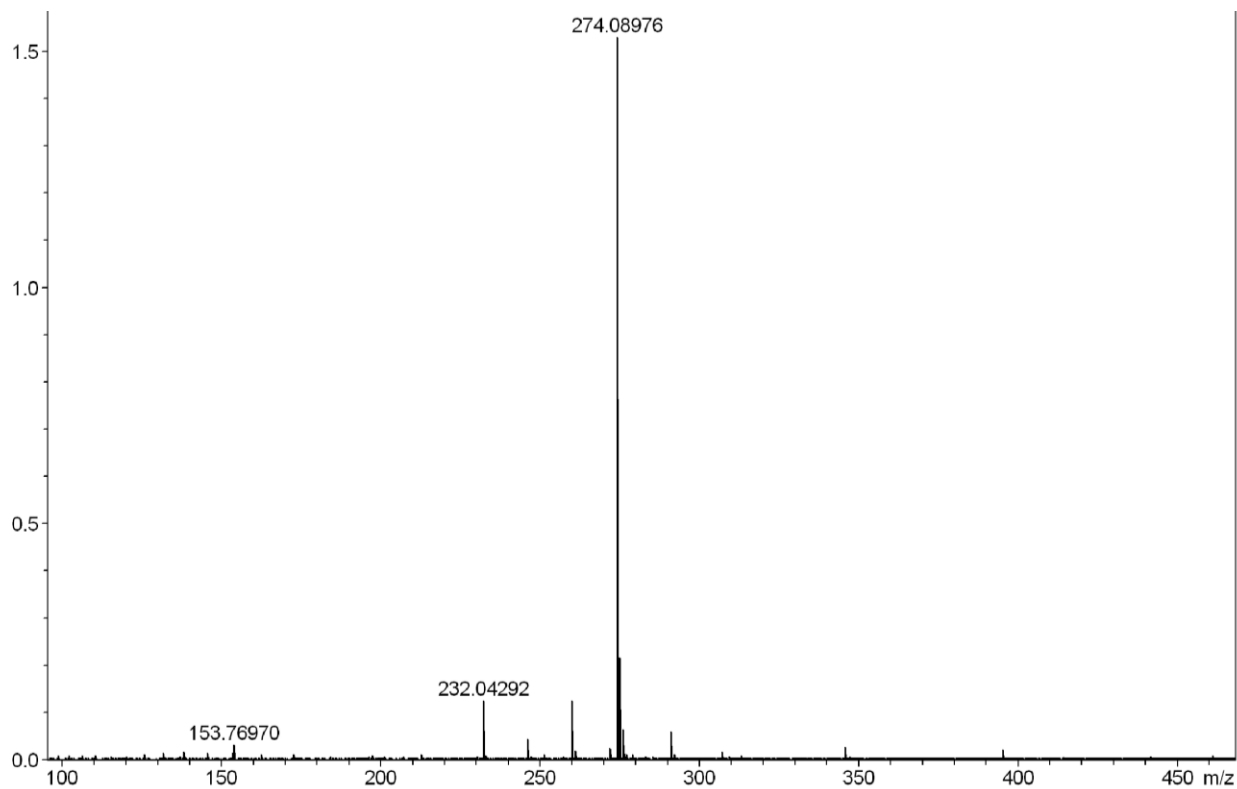
Figure S38  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of CS- $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{13}$ .



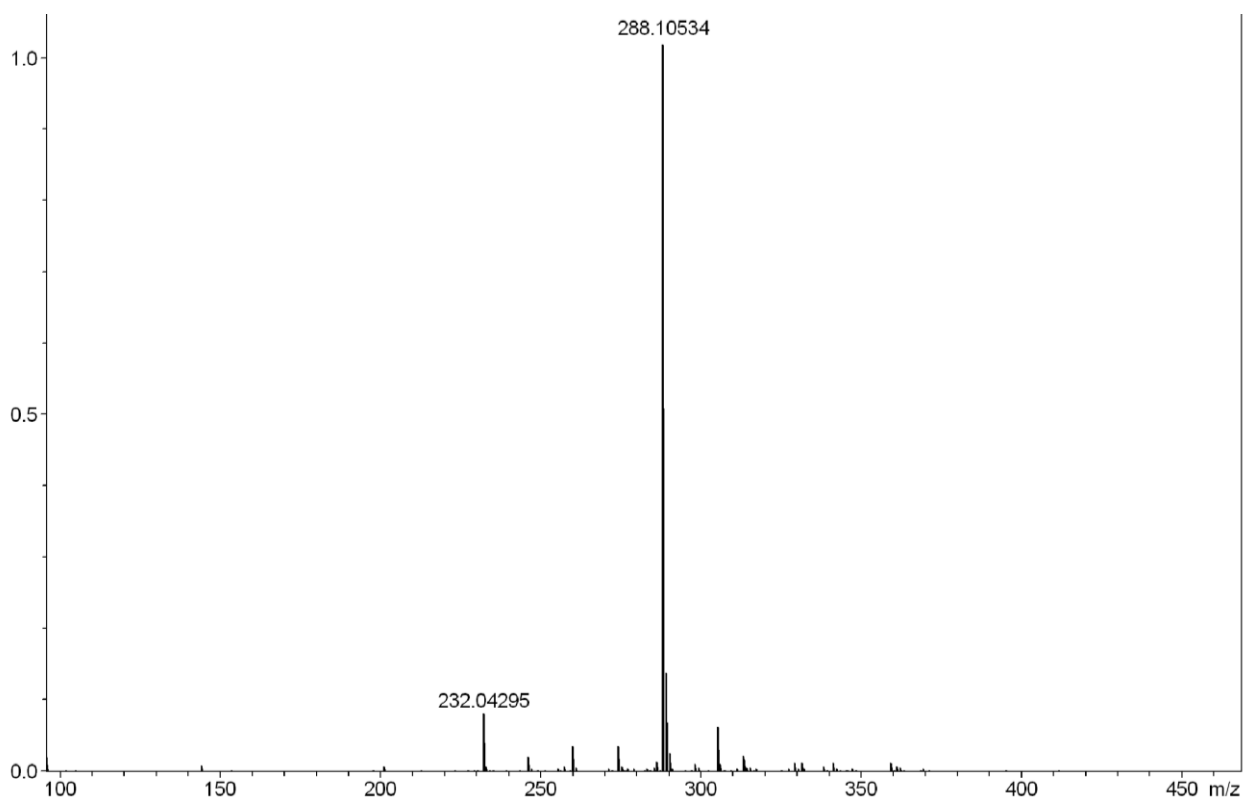
**Figure S39** HRMS spectrum of CS-CH<sub>3</sub>.



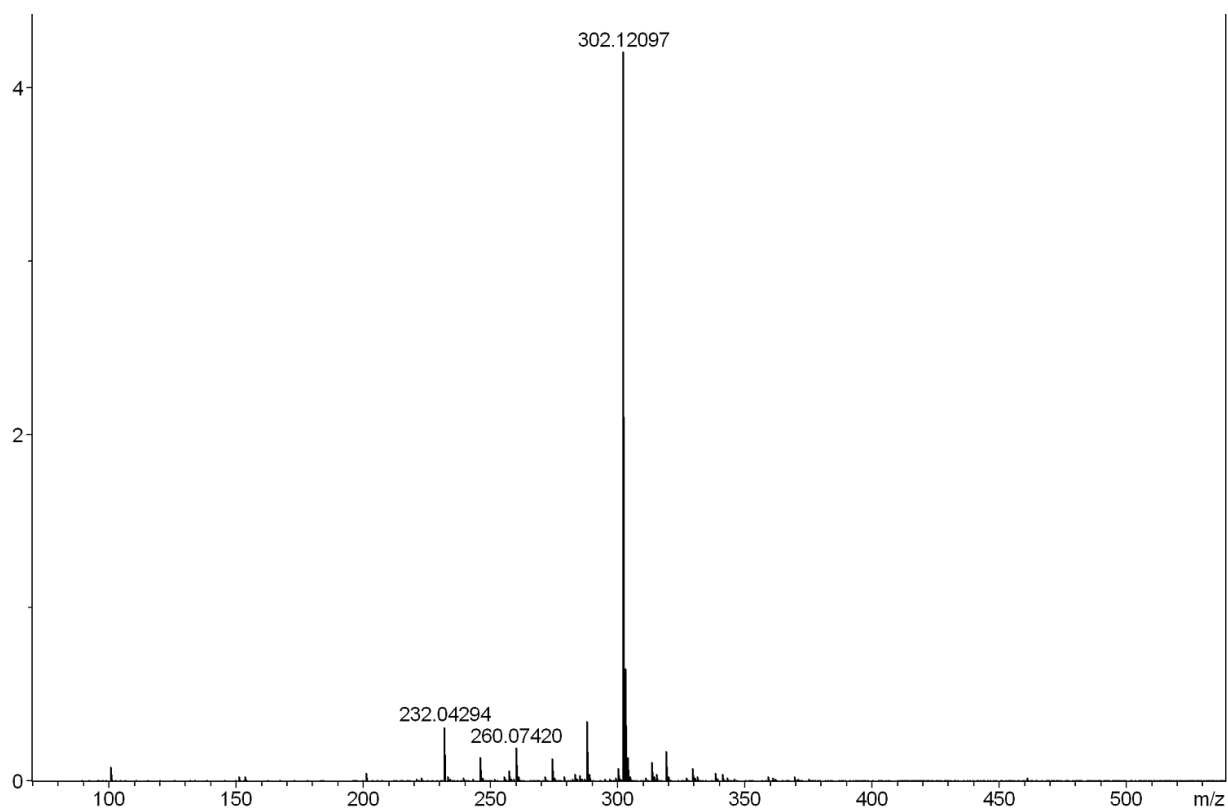
**Figure S40** HRMS spectrum of CS-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.



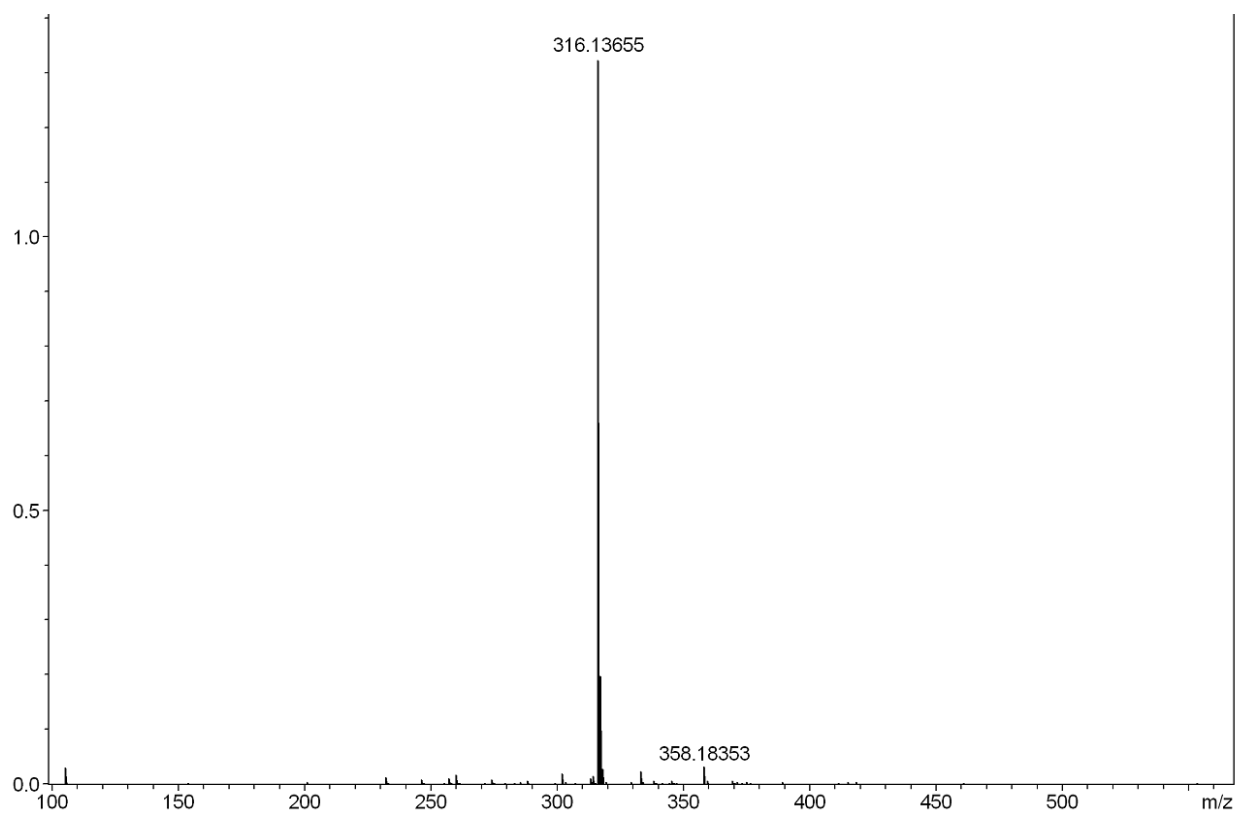
**Figure S41** HRMS spectrum of CS-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>7</sub>.



**Figure S42** HRMS spectrum of CS-C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>.



**Figure S43** HRMS spectrum of CS-C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>11</sub>.



**Figure S44** HRMS spectrum of CS-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>13</sub>.