## **Supporting Information**

## For

## Axially chiral 1,4-dihydropyridine derivatives: aggregation-

## induced emission and application as viscosity probe

Zeren Yang,<sup>a</sup> Yanmin Huo,<sup>a</sup> Yanke Liu,<sup>a</sup> Guifen Du,<sup>a</sup> Wenhao Zhang,<sup>a</sup> Lijie Zhou,<sup>a</sup> Lihui Zhan,<sup>a</sup> Xuerui Ren,<sup>a</sup> Wenzeng Duan,<sup>a, \*</sup> Shuwen Gong<sup>a, \*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institute of Functional Organic Molecules and Materials, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Liaocheng University, No.1 Hunan Road, Liaocheng, People's Republic of China; E-mail: <u>duanwenzeng@lcu.edu.cn</u>; <u>gongshw@</u>lcu.edu.cn.



Scheme S1. Proposed conformation O (opened) in solvents and conformation C (closed) in glycol, THF-H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Figure S1**. Absorption spectra of compounds (*R*)-**2** (a) and (*S*)-**2** (b) in various solvents (50  $\mu$ M) such as hexane, toluene, dichloromethane (DCM), tetrahydrofuran (THF), ethanol, acetonitrile (ACN), *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), and glycol, respectively.



Figure S2. Emission spectra of (R)-2 in water/THF mixtures ( $f_w$  = 90 %, 50  $\mu$ M) with varied excitation wavelength.



Figure S3. The molecular dynamic simulation of (R)-2 in THF solution: (a) 0 ns of the molecular conformation and (b) 1 ns of the molecular conformation.



Figure S4. The molecular dynamic simulation of (*R*)-2 in THF/water mixtures: (a) 0 ns of the molecular conformation and (b) 1 ns of the molecular conformation.



Figure S5. Calculated orbital energy levels, energy gaps and electron density contours of HOMOs and LUMOs for (R)-2 at their S<sub>0</sub> equilibrium geometries in solution.



Figure S6. Calculated optical emission spectra for (R)-2 in conformation C.



Figure S7. Absorption spectra of compounds (*R*)-2 (a) and (*S*) -2 (b) in THF/water mixtures (50  $\mu$ M) with varied volumetric fractions of water ( $f_w$ ).



Figure S8. Fluorescence spectra of (R)-2 in THF/hexane mixtures (50  $\mu$ M) with varied volumetric fractions of hexane.



Figure S9. Effect of concentration on the fluorescence spectra of (R) -2 (a) and (S)-2 (b) in THF.



**Figure S10**. The absorption (a) and emission (b) spectra of (R)-/(S)-2 in solid-state; Inset in (b): the photo-pictures of (R)-/(S)-2 in the drop-cast film and powder state ( $\lambda_{ex}$  = 365 nm using a UV lamp).

NMR spectra



