

## †Electronic Supporting Information

for

### Aggregation-induced emission compounds based on 9, 10-diheteroarylanthracene and their applications in cell imaging

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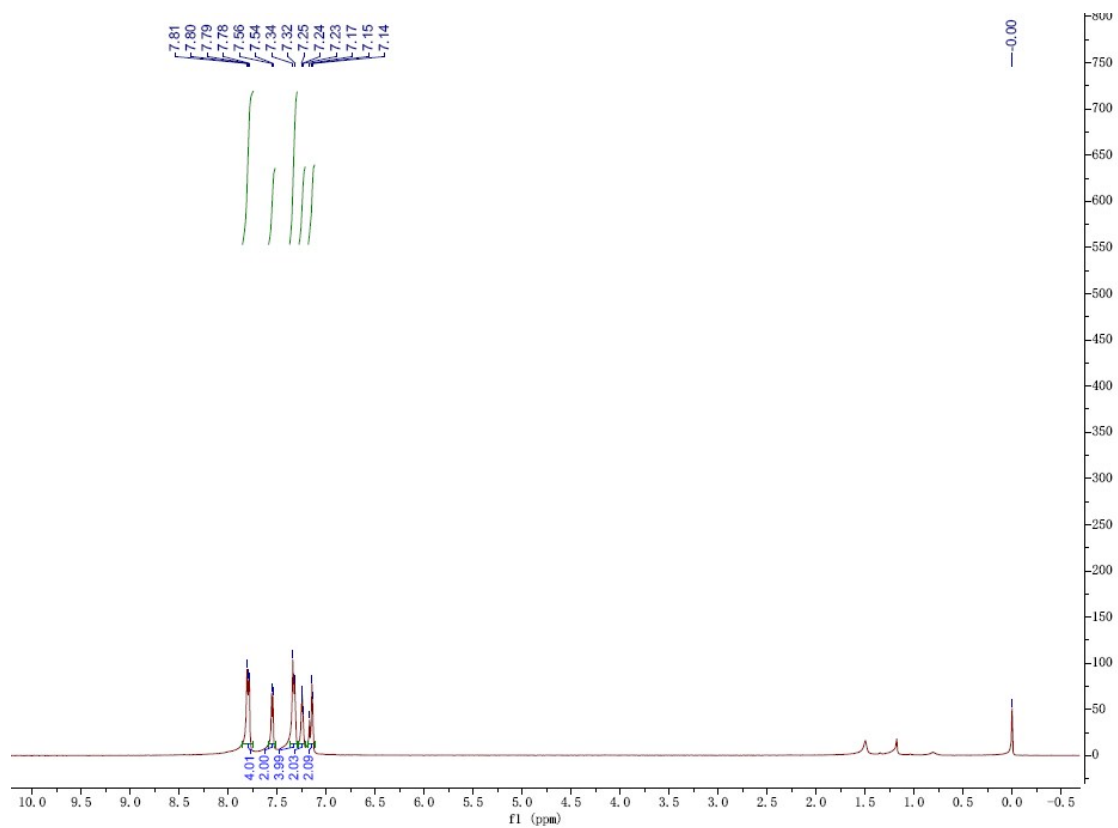
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<sup>§</sup> These authors contributed equally.

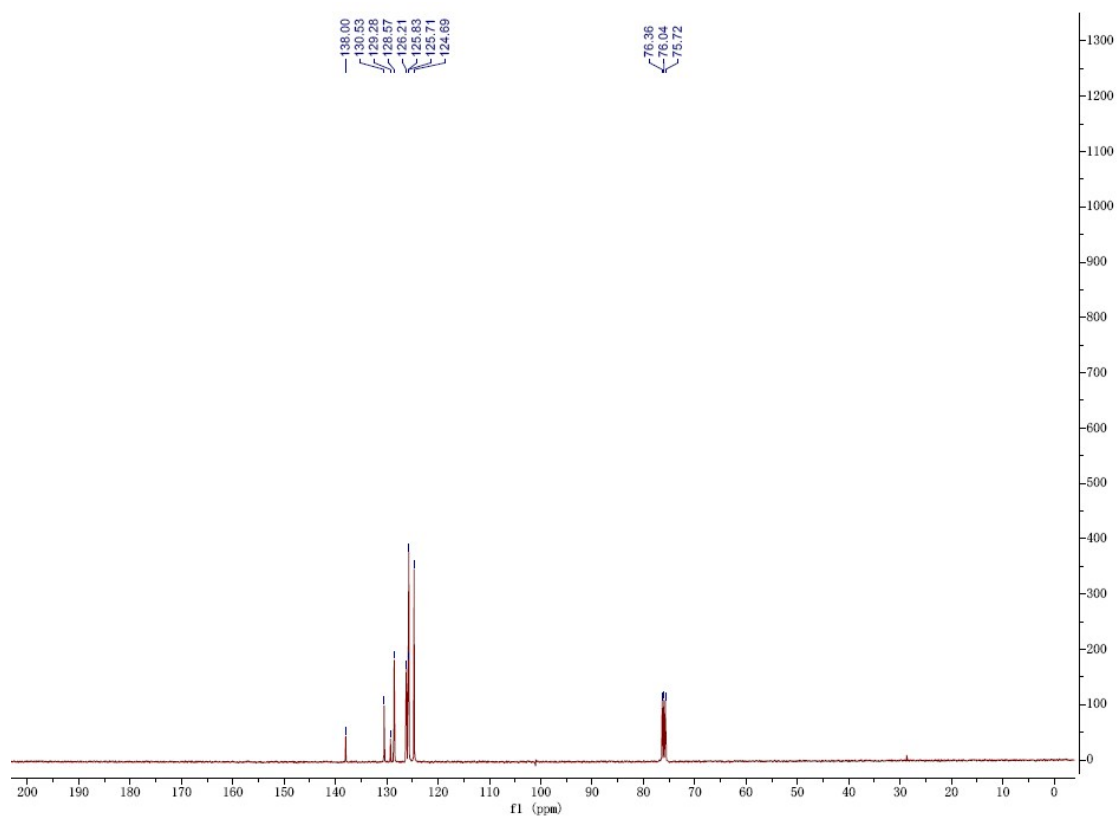
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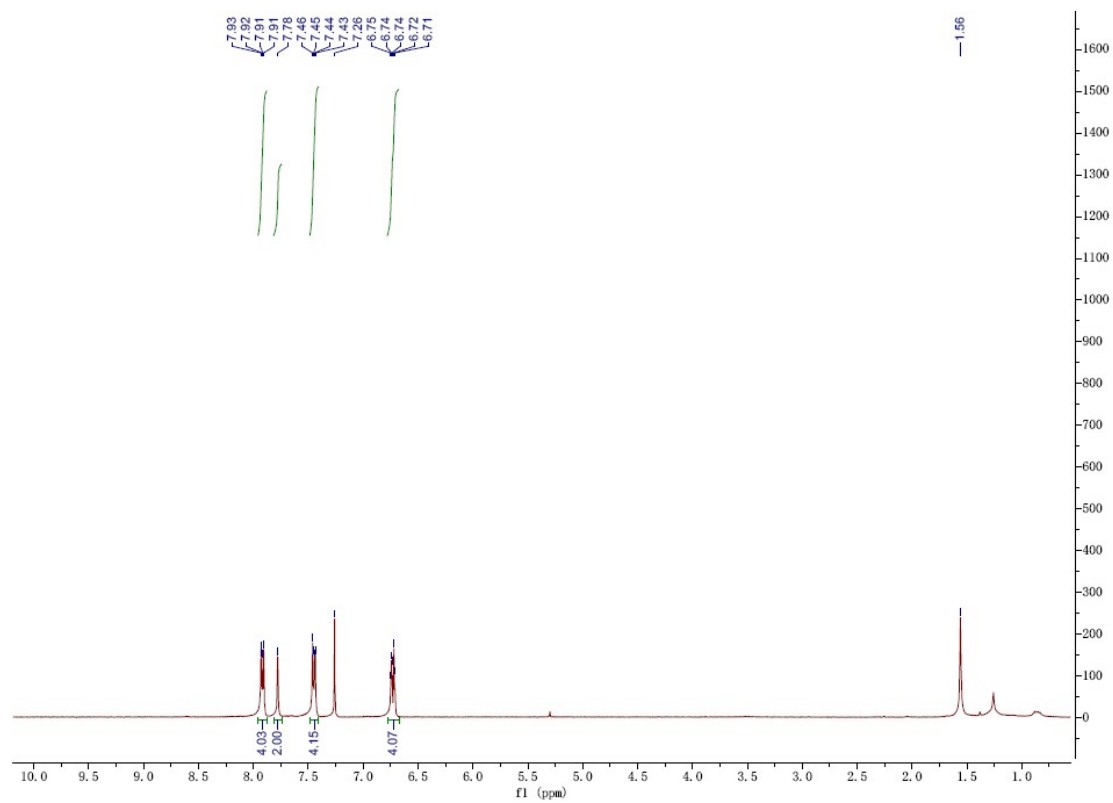


(A)

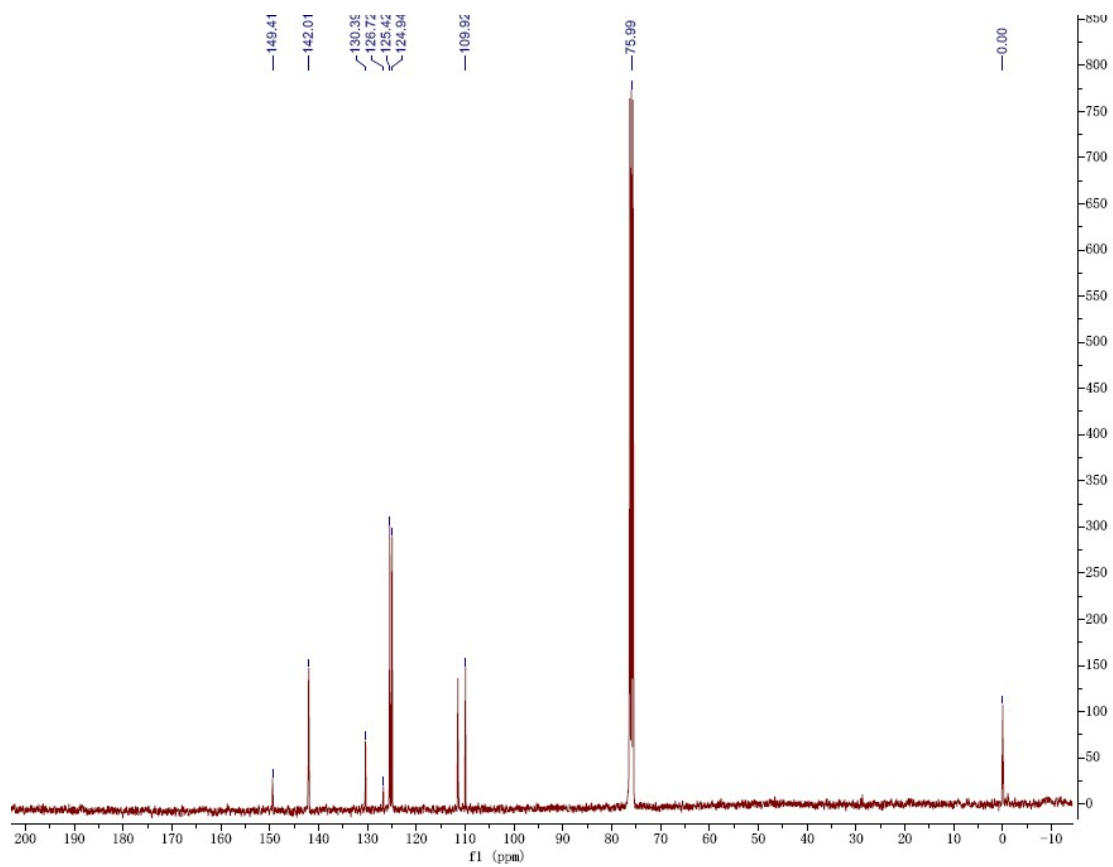


(B)

**Figure S1.** NMR spectra data for DTA: (A)  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra; (B)  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra.

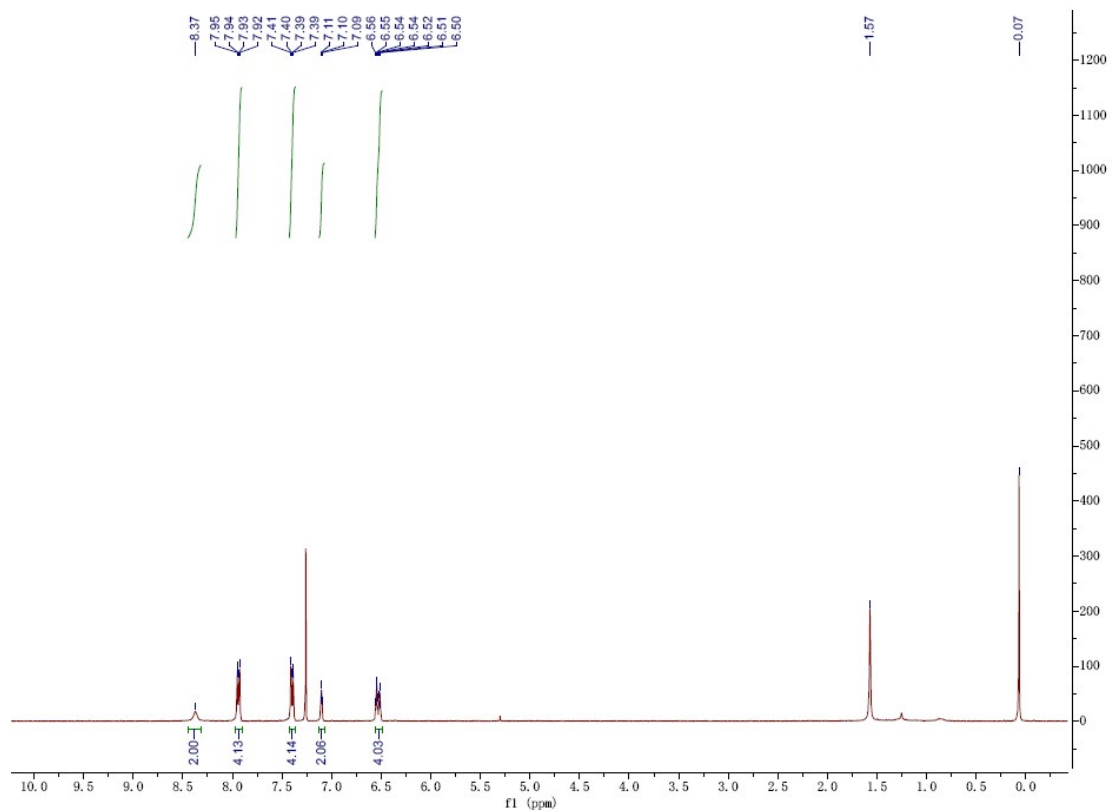


(A)

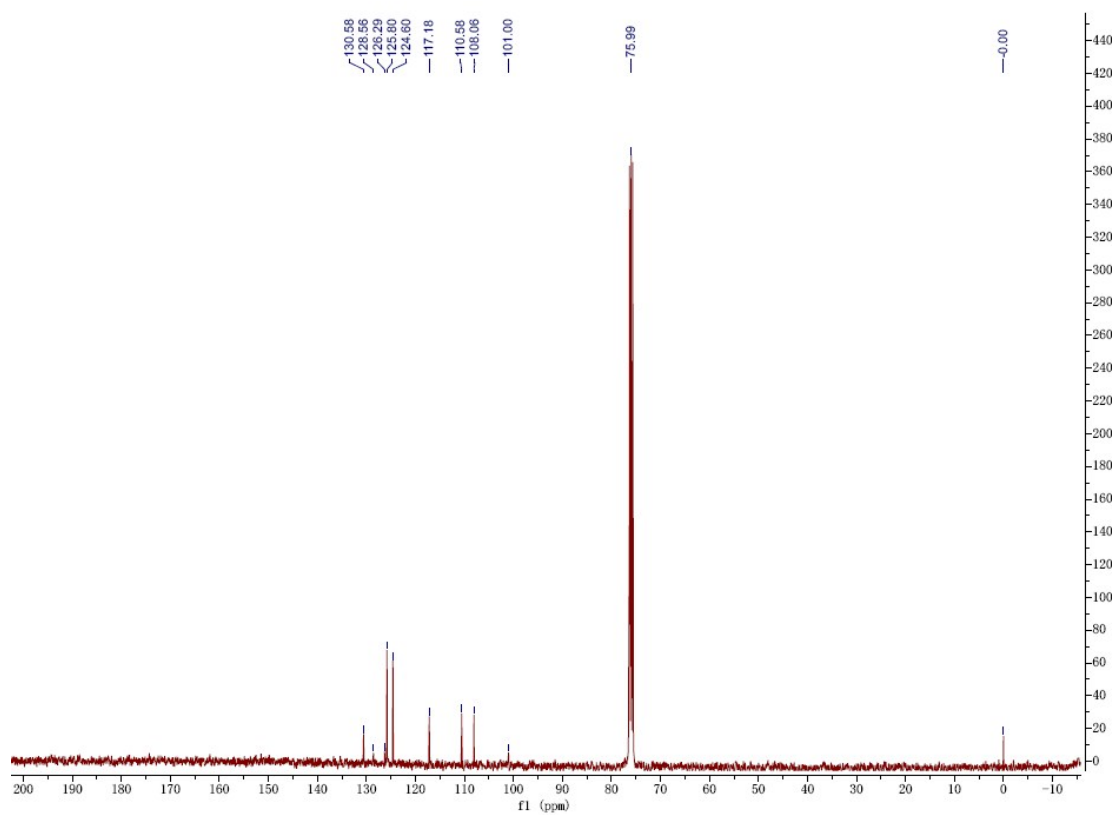


(B)

Figure S2. NMR spectra data for DFA: (A)  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra; (B)  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra.

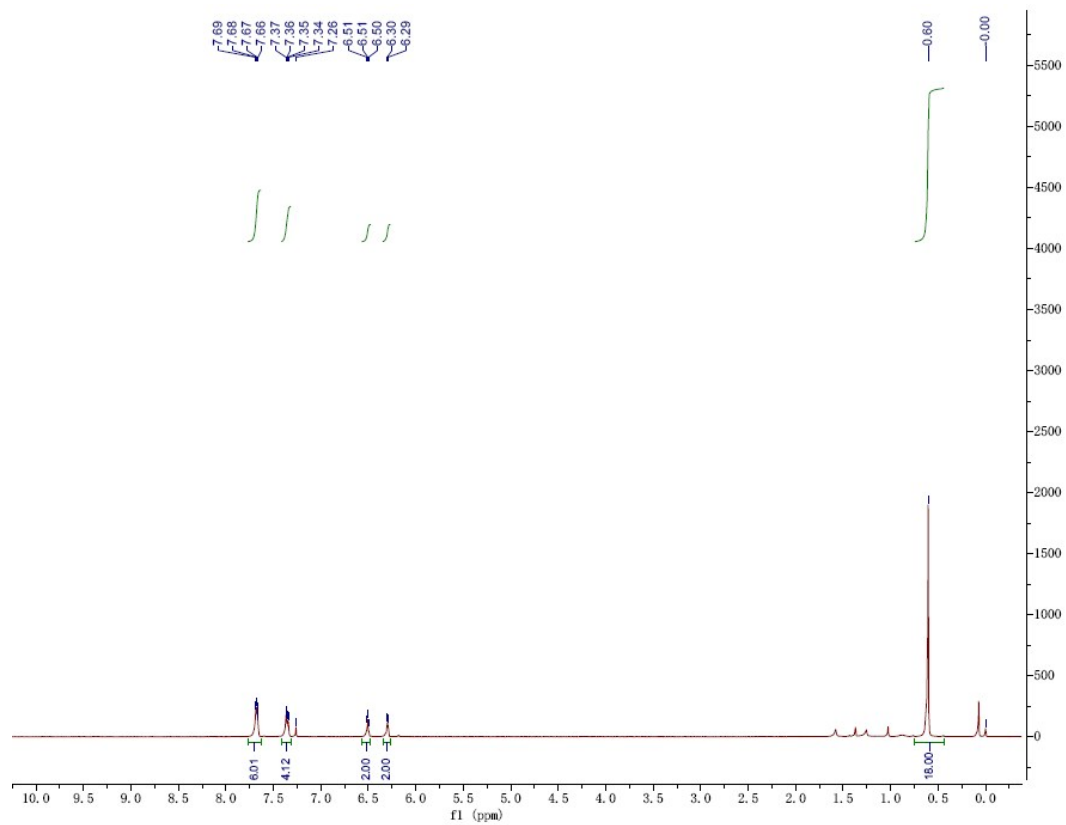


(A)

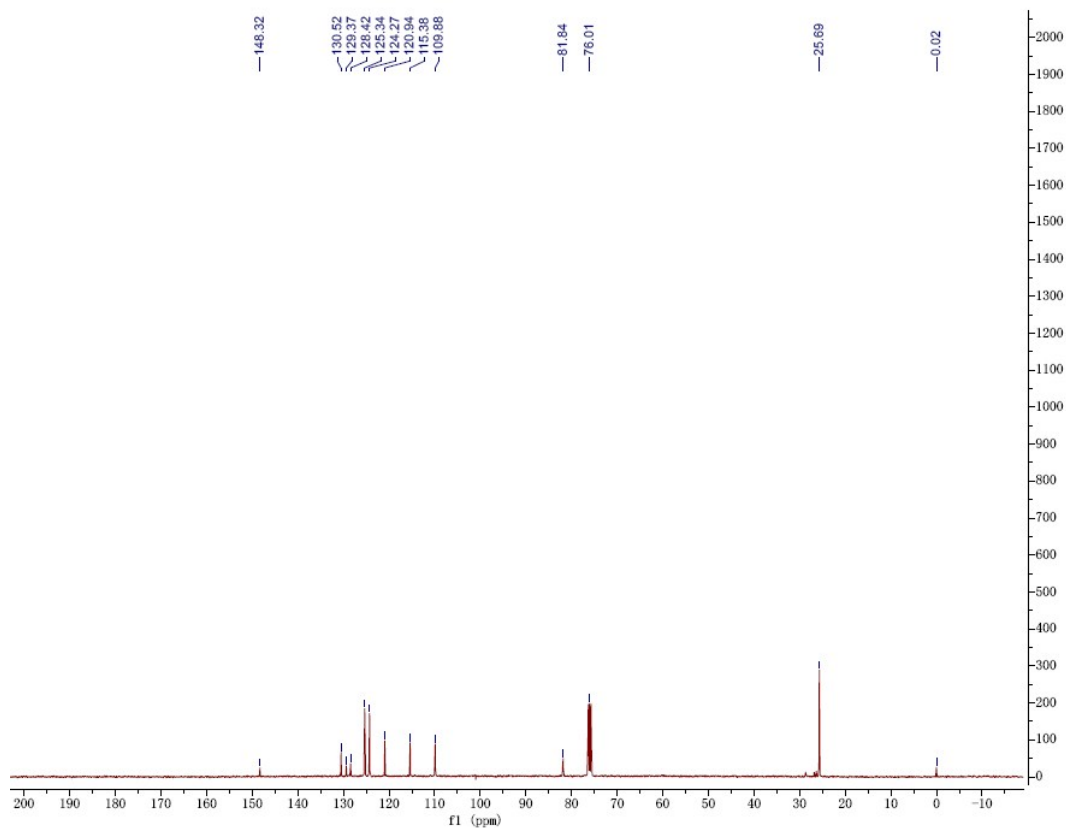


(B)

**Figure S3.** NMR spectra data for DPA: (A)  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra; (B)  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra.

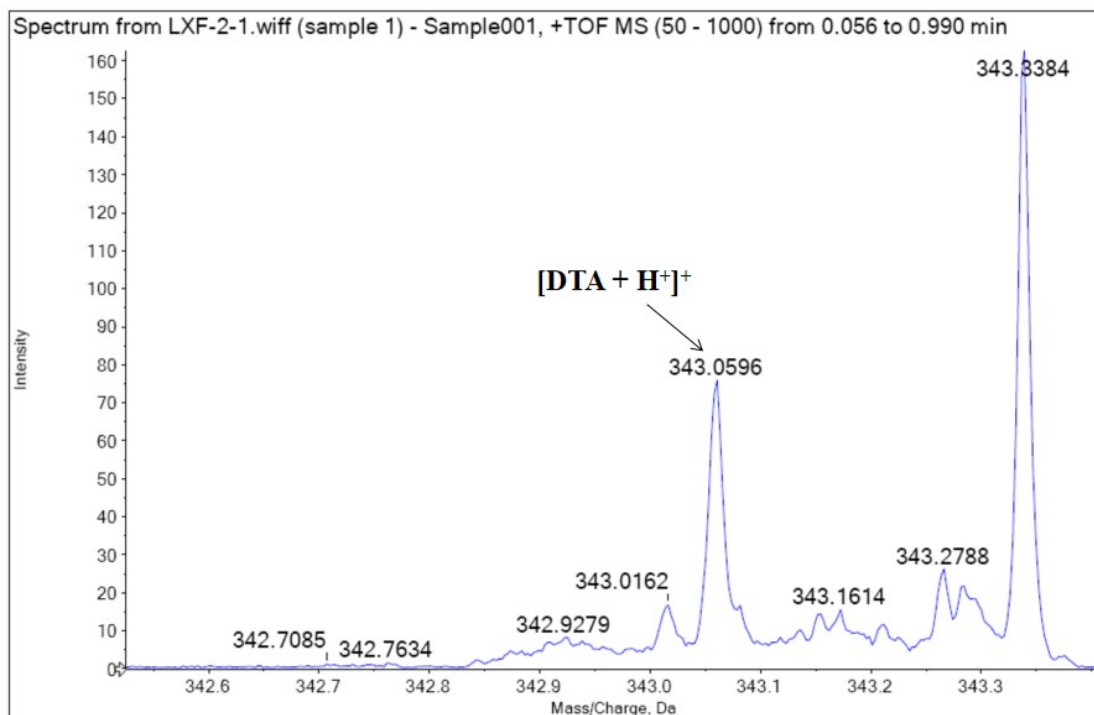


(A)

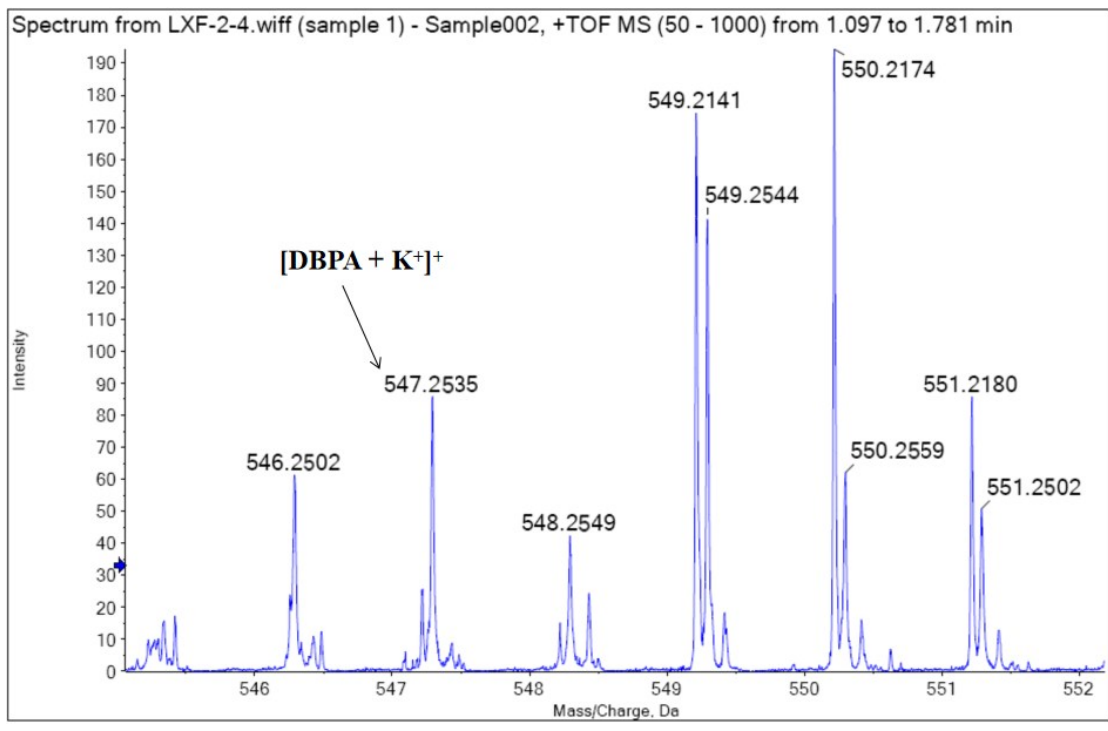


(B)

**Figure S4.** NMR spectra data for **DBPA**: (A)  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectra; (B)  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra.

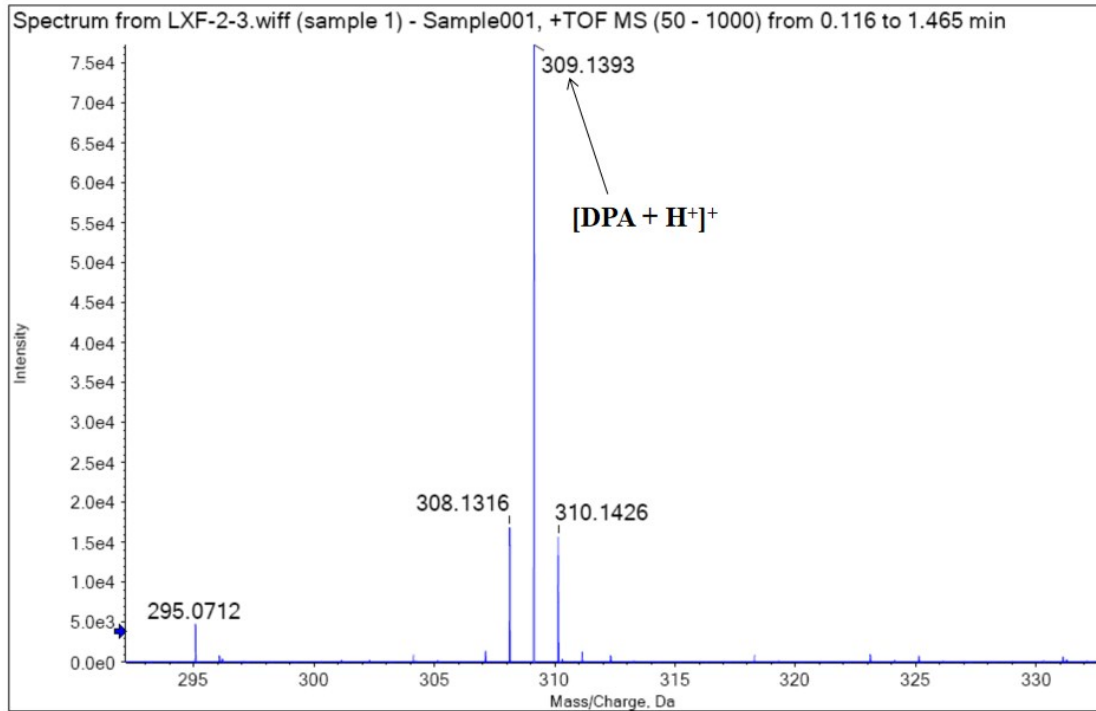


**Figure S5.** HRMS-ESI spectra of **DTA**.

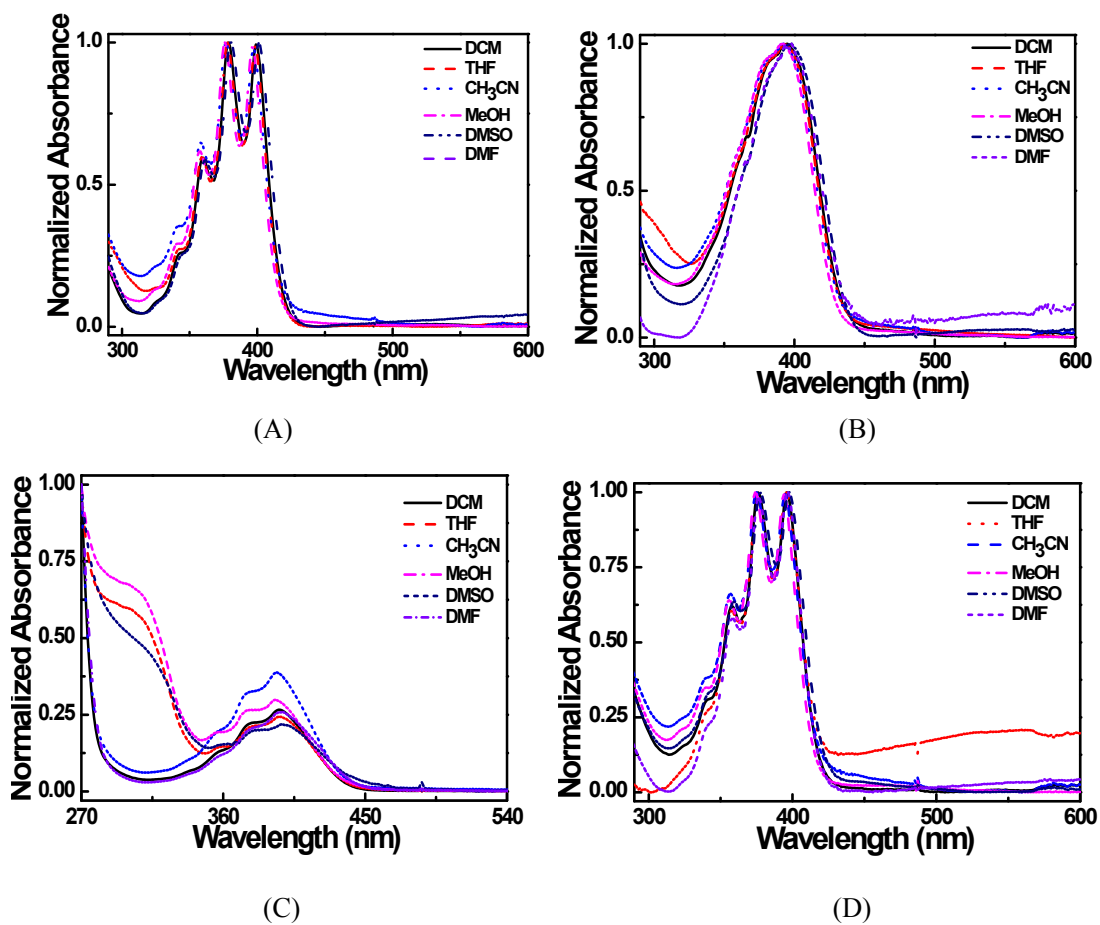


**Figure S6.** HRMS-ESI spectra of **DBPA**.





**Figure S7.** HRMS-ESI spectra of **DPA**.



**Figure S8.** (A) Normalized absorption spectra of **DTA** (A), **DFA** (B), **DPA** (C) and **DBPA** (D) ( $C = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) in different solvents.

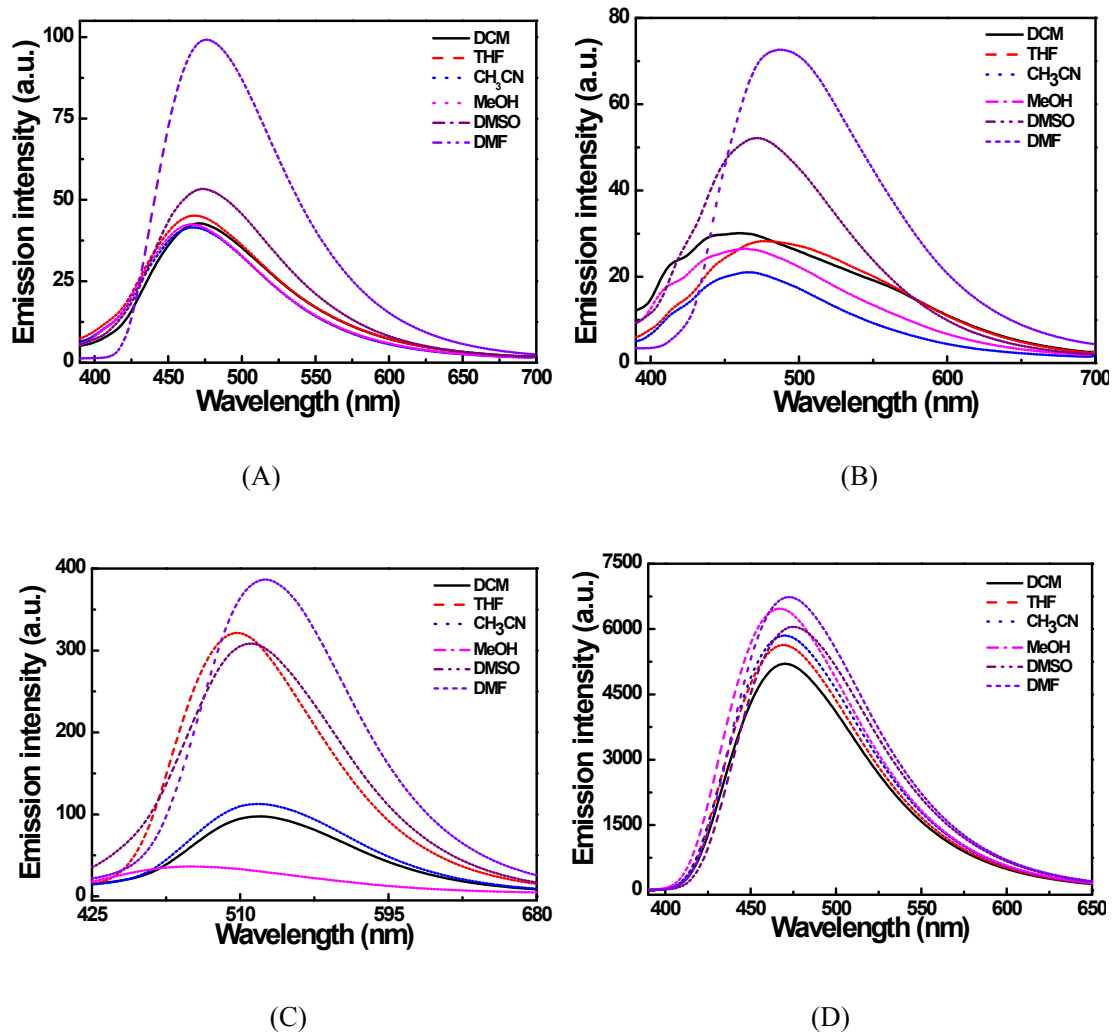
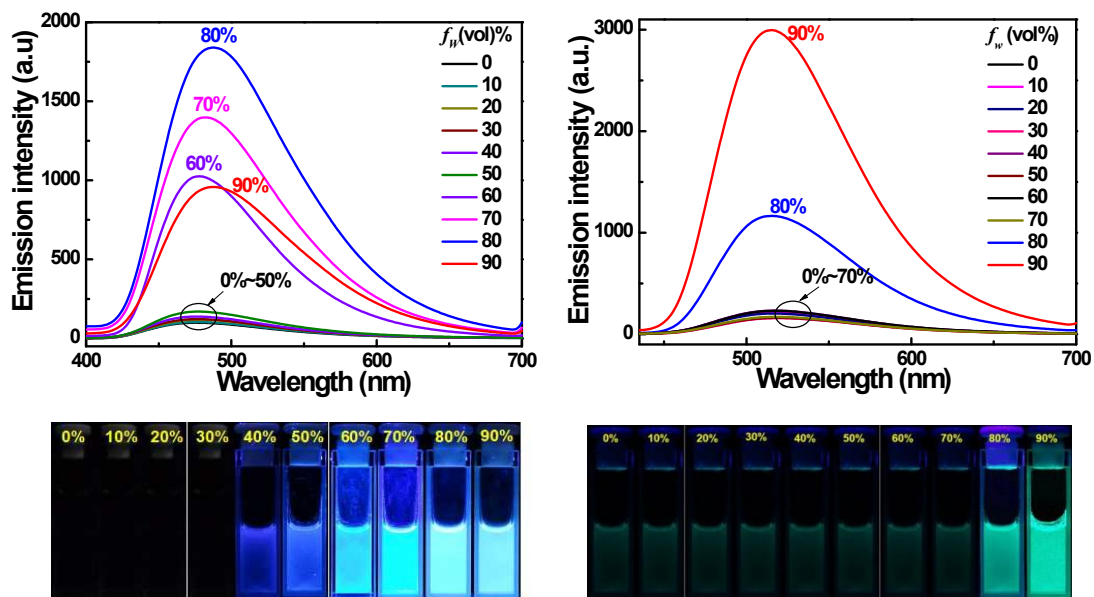
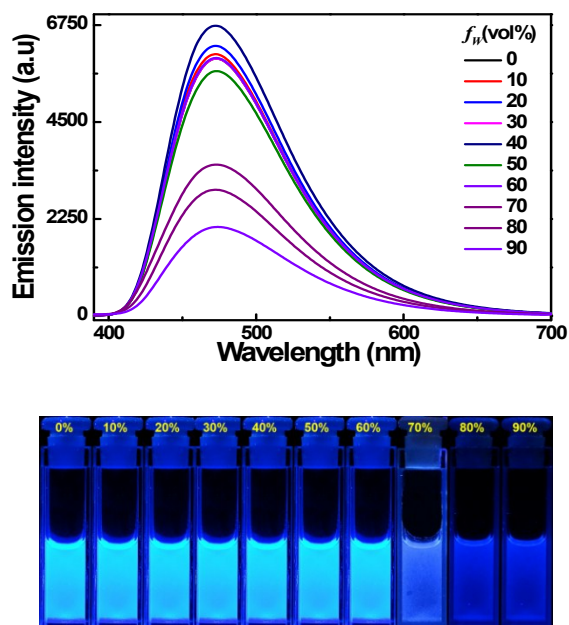


Figure S9. PL spectra of DTA (A), DFA (B), DPA (C) and DBPA (D) ( $C = 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) in different solvents ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 355$  nm).



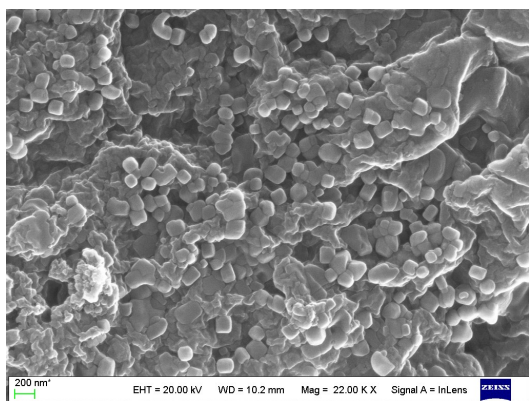
(A)

(B)

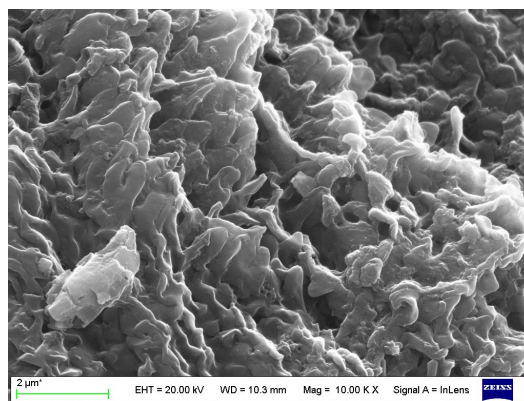


(C)

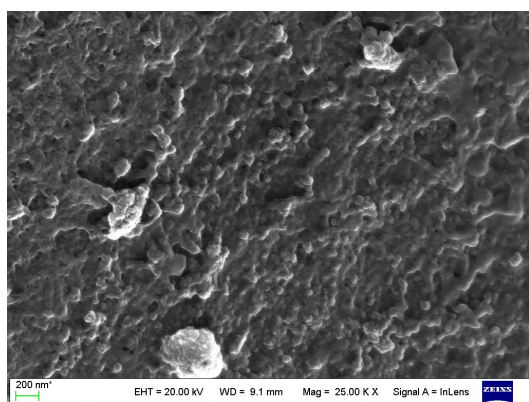
**Figure S10.** Changes of fluorescence spectra and color of **DTA** (A), **DPA** (B) and **DBPA** (C) (20  $\mu$ M) in the different DMF/H<sub>2</sub>O fraction solutions ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 355$  nm).



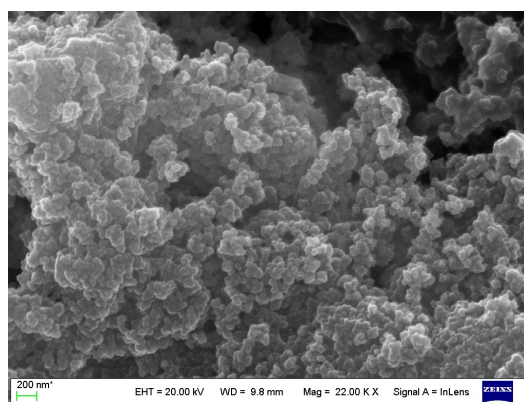
(A)



(B)

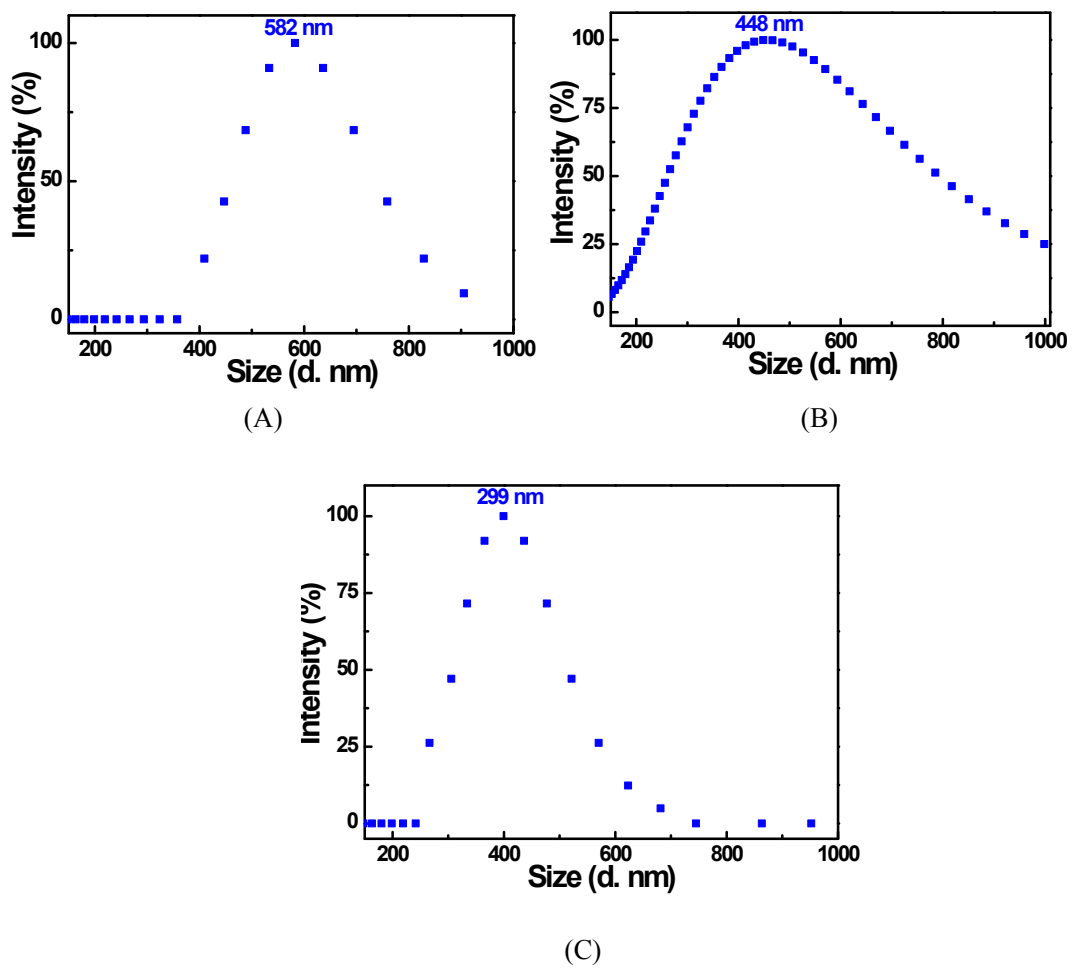


(C)

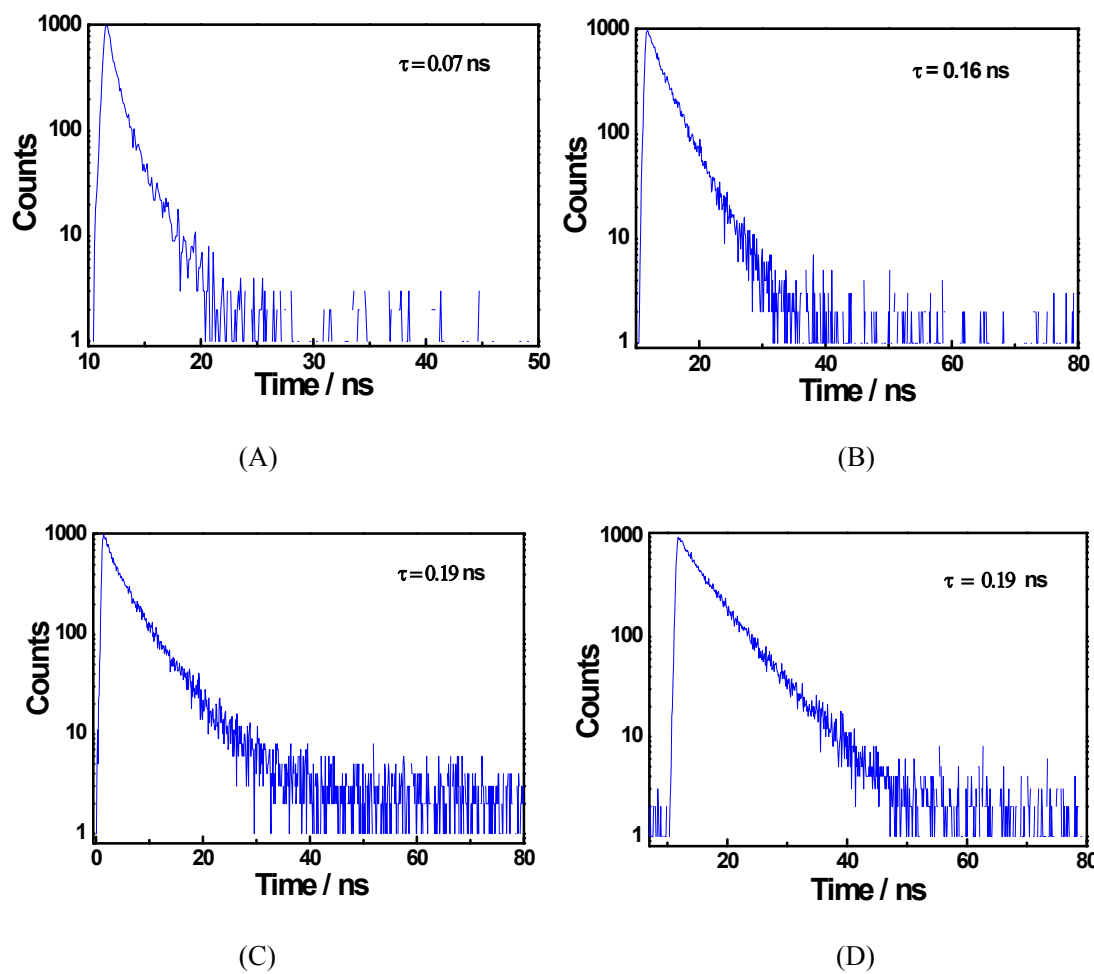


(D)

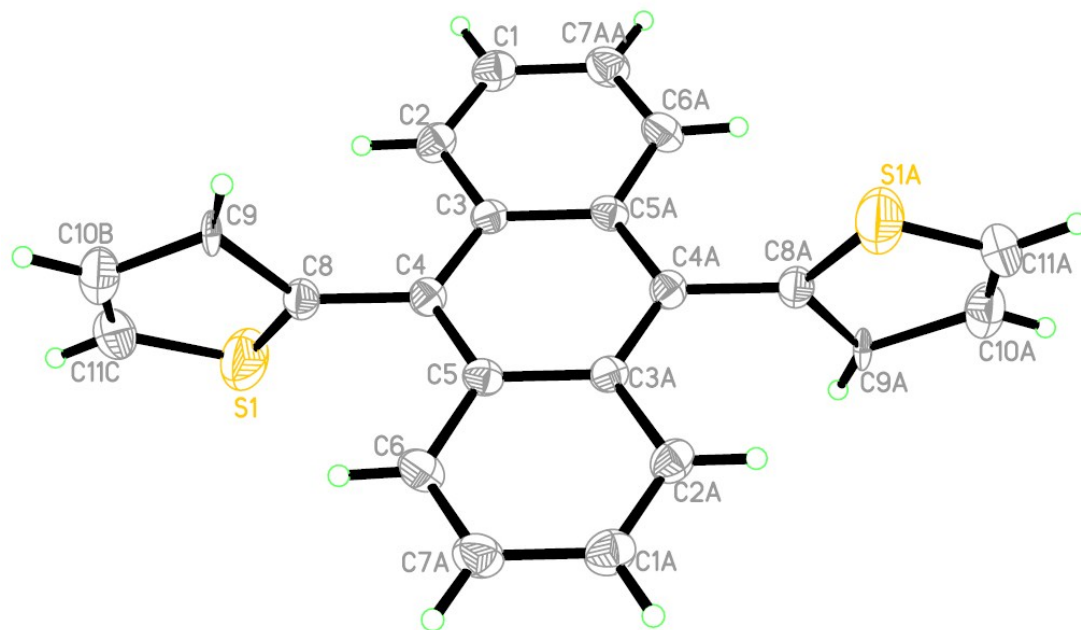
**Figure S11.** SEM images of **DHA** compound: (A) **DTA**; (B) **DFA**; (C) **DPA** and (D) **DBPA** (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) formed from DMF/water mixture ( $f_w=90\%$ ).



**Figure S12.** Size distribution curve of DHA compounds: (A) DTA, (B) DFA and (C) DPA (20  $\mu$ M) in DMF/water mixtures with 90% volume fraction of water.

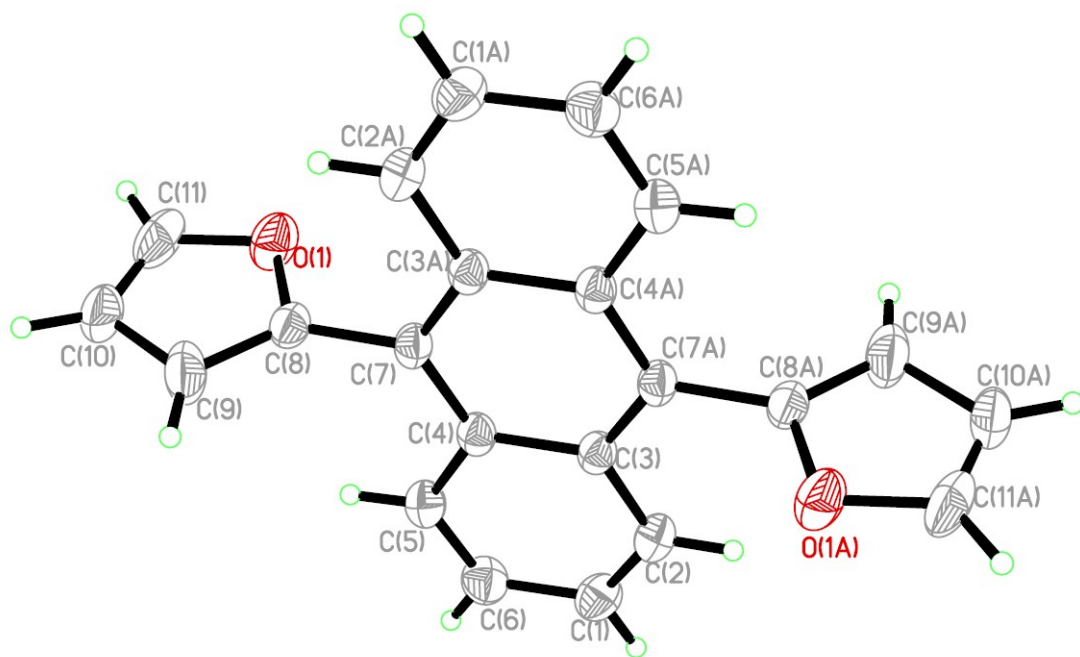


**Figure S13.** Decay curve of **DHA** compounds: (A) **DTA**, (B) **DFA** and (C) **DPA**, and **DBPA** (D) in solid state ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ ).

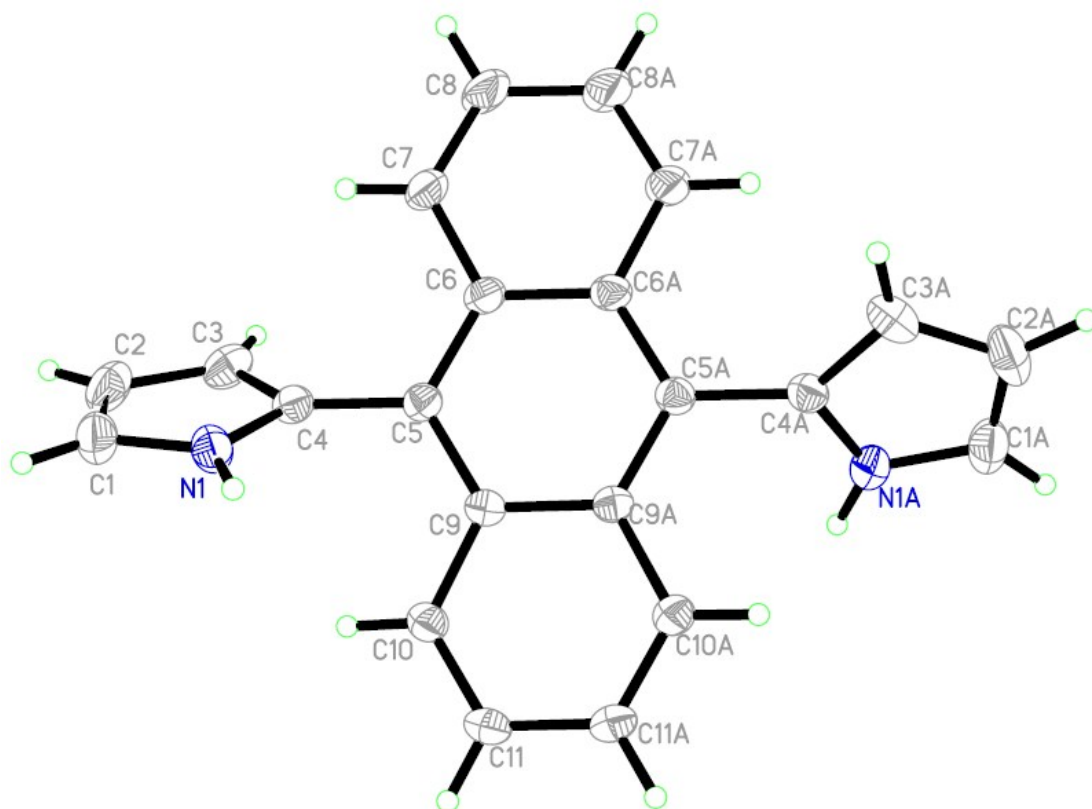


**Figure S14.** ORTEP drawings of crystal of **DTA** showing about 30% probability displacement ellipsoids.





**Figure S15.** ORTEP drawings of crystal of **DFA** showing about 30% probability displacement ellipsoids.



**Figure S16.** ORTEP drawings of crystal of **DPA** showing about 30% probability displacement ellipsoids.

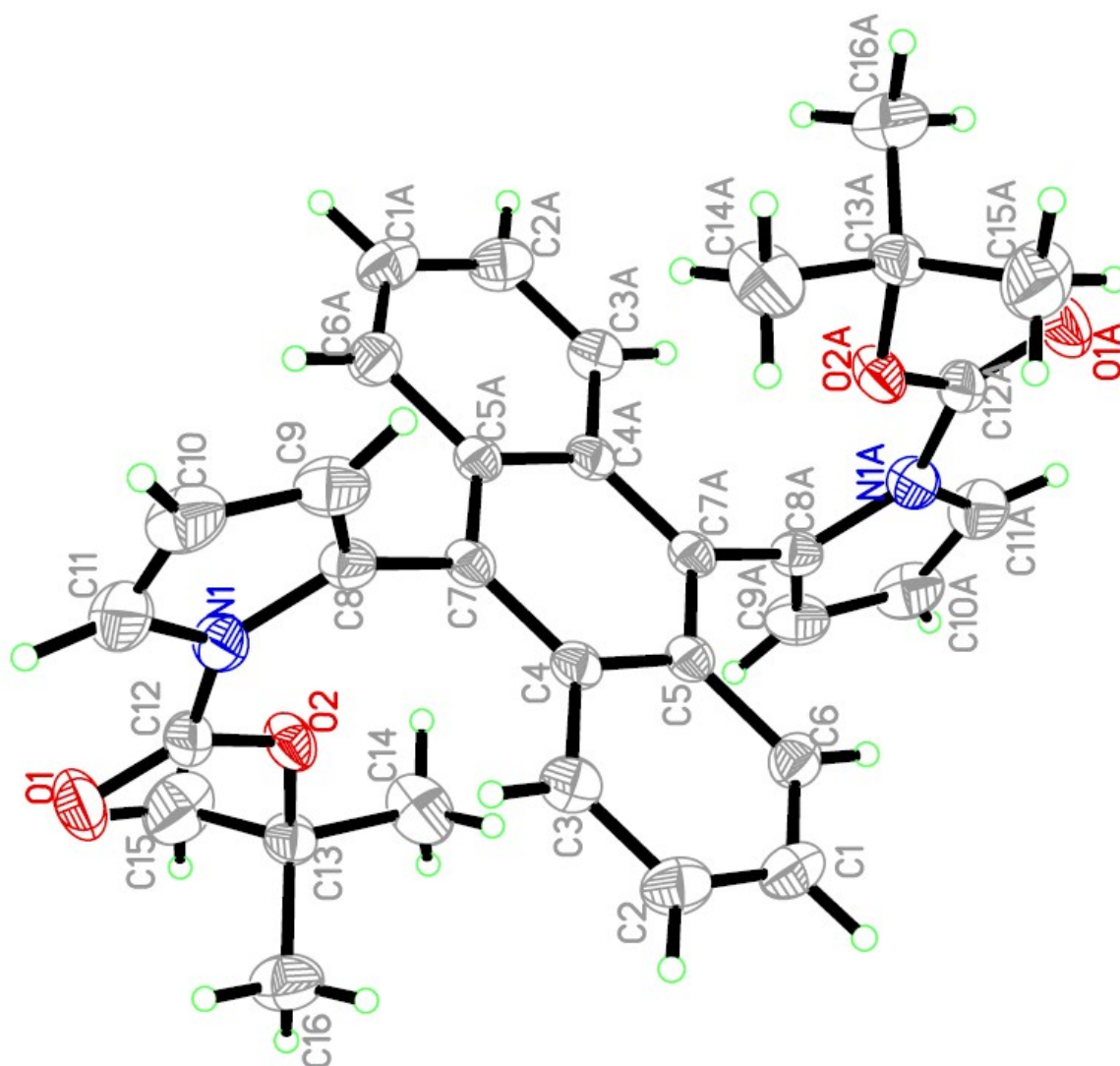
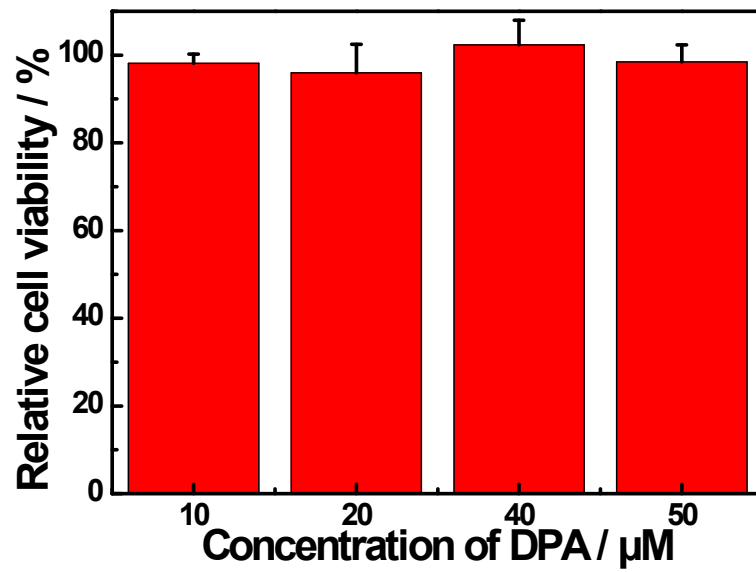


Figure S17. ORTEP drawings of crystal of DBPA showing about 30% probability displacement ellipsoids.



**Figure S18.** % cell viability of HeLa cells treated with different concentrations (10→50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) of **DPA** for 24 h determined by MTT assay.

**Table S1.** Absorption and fluorescence spectral properties of **DHA** compounds in different solvents.

| Solvents         | DTA   |                             | DFA   |                             | DPA  |                             | DBPA  |                             |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|                  | $\lambda_{em}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup><br>$I_{max}$ | $\lambda$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\lambda_{em}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup><br>$I_{max}$ | $\lambda$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\lambda_{em}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup> $I_{max}$ | $\lambda$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> | $\lambda_{em}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup><br>$I_{max}$ | $\lambda$ (nm) <sup>b</sup> |
| <i>n</i> -Hexane | 467, 53.59                                    | 376, 396                    | 448, 270.9                                    | 393                         | 512, 61.95                                 | 394                         | 464, 3835                                     | 376, 396                    |
| DCM              | 470, 42.76                                    | 379, 399                    | 459, 30.09                                    | 395                         | 522, 97.51                                 | 396                         | 470, 5202                                     | 376, 396                    |
| THF              | 468, 45.16                                    | 378, 398                    | 481, 28.2                                     | 393                         | 508, 312.4                                 | 396                         | 469, 5633                                     | 374, 394                    |
| Acetonitrile     | 468, 41.5                                     | 377, 397                    | 468, 21.02                                    | 392                         | 519, 112.6                                 | 394                         | 470, 5850                                     | 375, 395                    |
| DMSO             | 473, 53.36                                    | 381, 401                    | 473, 52.14                                    | 398                         | 516, 308.4                                 | 397                         | 475, 6050                                     | 378, 398                    |
| DMF              | 476, 99.21                                    | 379, 399                    | 488, 72.62                                    | 398                         | 525, 386.5                                 | 398                         | 473, 6734                                     | 375, 395                    |
| <sup>a</sup>     | Fluorescence                                  | emission                    |   | wavelength;                 | <sup>b</sup>                               | Absorption                  |   | wavelength.                 |

**Table S2.** Crystal data for **DHA** compounds.

|  | Compounds                                      |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
|  | <b>DTA</b>                                     | <b>DFA</b>                                     | <b>DPA</b>                                     | <b>DBPA</b>   |
| Formula  | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>14</sub> S <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> | C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>32</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> |
| Formula weight   | 342.45   | 310.33   | 308.37   | 508.60  |
| Temperature  | 296(2)   | 296(2)   | 296(2)   | 296(2)  |
| Crystal system   | Monoclinic                                     | Monoclinic                                     | Orthorhombic                                   | Monoclinic  |
| Space group  | P2(1)/c  | P2(1)/n  | Pbcn   | P2(1)/n   |
| Unit cell dimensions <i>a</i><br>(Å)                     | 9.8461(12)                                     | 9.1632(14)                                     | 18.3966(19)                                    | 9.3335(10)  |
| <i>b</i> (Å)   | 9.2276(11)                                     | 8.9491(14)                                     | 11.3788(12)                                    | 10.1341(12)   |
| <i>c</i> (Å)   | 10.1454(12)                                    | 10.3448(16)                                    | 7.4311(8)                                      | 15.0800(18)   |
| $\alpha$ (°)   | 90.00  | 90.00  | 90.00  | 90.00   |
| $\beta$ (°)  | 115.242(2)                                     | 111.284(2)                                     | 90   | 101.550(2)  |
| $\gamma$ (°)   | 90.00  | 90.00  | 90.00  | 90.00   |
| Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )                                 | 833.75(17)                                     | 790.4(2)                                       | 1555.6(3)                                      | 1397.5(3)   |
| <i>Z</i>   | 2  | 2  | 4  | 2   |
| Density (calcd.) (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )                    | 1.364  | 0.083  | 1.317  | 1.209   |
| Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>                 | 2.478  | 1.049  | 0.942  | 1.015   |
| Final <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2s( <i>I</i> )] | 0.1595   | 0.0421   | 0.0449   | 0.0487  |
| <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> [ <i>I</i> > 2s( <i>I</i> )]      | 0.4885   | 0.1127   | 0.1228   | 0.1205  |
| <i>R</i> <sub>1</sub> (all data)                         | 0.1733   | 0.0577   | 0.0644   | 0.0803  |
| <i>wR</i> <sub>2</sub> (all data)                        | 0.5128   | 0.1248   | 0.1433   | 0.1432  |

**Table S3.** Symbolic Z-Matrix of DTA.

|   |          |         |         |
|---|----------|---------|---------|
| S | -0.78906 | 0.8125  | 0       |
| C | -1.50956 | 2.2483  | -2.3208 |
| H | -1.54766 | 2.8618  | -3.0187 |
| C | -0.20906 | 4.4334  | 0.0853  |
| C | 0.30194  | 3.2901  | -0.5515 |
| C | 1.67584  | 3.1886  | -0.8635 |
| C | 2.19964  | 2.0268  | -1.5151 |
| H | 1.63804  | 1.3139  | -1.719  |
| C | -0.63576 | 2.1938  | -0.9351 |
| C | -1.58046 | 4.5635  | 0.4588  |
| H | -2.16476 | 3.8639  | 0.2736  |
| C | 3.52564  | 1.9659  | -1.8381 |
| H | 3.85844  | 1.2184  | -2.2801 |
| C | -2.05426 | 5.6634  | 1.0691  |
| H | -2.95906 | 5.7256  | 1.2738  |
| C | -2.26556 | 0.8826  | -2.0455 |
| H | -2.91836 | 0.5808  | -2.6346 |
| C | -1.96156 | 0.185   | -0.9819 |
| H | -2.38366 | -0.6212 | -0.7881 |
| S | 3.14484  | 7.8937  | -0.4331 |
| C | 3.86534  | 6.4579  | 1.8876  |
| H | 3.90334  | 5.8444  | 2.5856  |
| C | 2.56474  | 4.2728  | -0.5185 |
| C | 2.05384  | 5.4161  | 0.1184  |
| C | 0.67984  | 5.5176  | 0.4304  |
| C | 0.15604  | 6.6794  | 1.0819  |
| H | 0.71764  | 7.3923  | 1.2858  |
| C | 2.99144  | 6.5124  | 0.502   |
| C | 3.93614  | 4.1427  | -0.892  |
| H | 4.52044  | 4.8423  | -0.7067 |
| C | -1.16986 | 6.7403  | 1.4049  |
| H | -1.50276 | 7.4878  | 1.8469  |
| C | 4.40994  | 3.0428  | -1.5022 |
| H | 5.31484  | 2.9806  | -1.7069 |
| C | 4.62134  | 7.8236  | 1.6123  |
| H | 5.27414  | 8.1254  | 2.2015  |
| C | 4.31734  | 8.5212  | 0.5488  |
| H | 4.73944  | 9.3274  | 0.3549  |

**Table S4.** Total energies of **DTA**.

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Zero-point correction                       | 0.287010 (Hartree/Particle) |
| Thermal correction to Energy                | 0.305716                    |
| Thermal correction to Enthalpy              | 0.30666                     |
| Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy     | 0.237965                    |
| Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies   | -1643.074475                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Energies      | -1643.055769                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies    | -1643.054825                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | -1643.12352                 |



**Table S5.** Symbolic Z-Matrix of DFA.

|   |          |          |         |
|---|----------|----------|---------|
| O | -0.66406 | 0.89062  | 0       |
| C | 0.18384  | 3.12212  | -2.3226 |
| C | 0.70494  | 2.00772  | -1.6363 |
| C | 1.04784  | 4.22072  | -2.6496 |
| C | -0.18586 | 0.88582  | -1.2682 |
| C | -1.18796 | 3.19762  | -2.7205 |
| H | -1.75626 | 2.48492  | -2.5363 |
| C | 0.48034  | 5.35342  | -3.3177 |
| H | 1.02234  | 6.08062  | -3.5236 |
| C | -0.83306 | 5.38512  | -3.6557 |
| H | -1.18156 | 6.13322  | -4.0843 |
| C | -1.67556 | 4.28912  | -3.3612 |
| H | -2.57166 | 4.31662  | -3.6088 |
| C | -1.44846 | -0.23438 | 0.1111  |
| H | -1.90516 | -0.48278 | 0.8827  |
| C | -1.46856 | -0.90108 | -0.9945 |
| H | -1.92576 | -1.69328 | -1.1615 |
| C | -0.65646 | -0.18328 | -1.9006 |
| H | -0.48126 | -0.41858 | -2.7834 |
| O | 3.78114  | 5.28632  | -3.9342 |
| C | 2.93314  | 3.05482  | -1.6116 |
| C | 2.41214  | 4.16922  | -2.2979 |
| C | 2.06914  | 1.95622  | -1.2845 |
| C | 3.30284  | 5.29112  | -2.666  |
| C | 4.30504  | 2.97932  | -1.2137 |
| H | 4.87324  | 3.69202  | -1.3978 |
| C | 2.63664  | 0.82352  | -0.6164 |
| H | 2.09474  | 0.09632  | -0.4106 |
| C | 3.95004  | 0.79182  | -0.2785 |
| H | 4.29854  | 0.04372  | 0.1501  |
| C | 4.79254  | 1.88782  | -0.573  |
| H | 5.68864  | 1.86032  | -0.3254 |
| C | 4.56544  | 6.41132  | -4.0453 |
| H | 5.02224  | 6.65972  | -4.8169 |
| C | 4.58554  | 7.07802  | -2.9397 |
| H | 5.04274  | 7.87022  | -2.7727 |
| C | 3.77354  | 6.36022  | -2.0336 |
| H | 3.59824  | 6.59552  | -1.1508 |

**Table S6.** Total energies of **DFA**.

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Zero-point correction                       | 0.293742 (Hartree/Particle) |
| Thermal correction to Energy                | 0.311371                    |
| Thermal correction to Enthalpy              | 0.312315                    |
| Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy     | 0.246901                    |
| Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies   | -997.097435                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Energies      | -997.079805                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies    | -997.078861                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | -997.144276                 |

**Table S7.** Symbolic Z-Matrix of **DPA**.

|   |           |          |         |
|---|-----------|----------|---------|
| C | -1.67969  | 1.73437  | 0       |
| H | -0.92709  | 2.09997  | 0.4063  |
| C | -1.68609  | 0.92397  | -1.0775 |
| H | -0.93809  | 0.62997  | -1.5455 |
| C | -3.03119  | 0.59977  | -1.3711 |
| H | -3.32679  | 0.05427  | -2.0635 |
| C | -3.82229  | 1.23827  | -0.4452 |
| C | -5.28669  | 1.24047  | -0.2359 |
| C | -5.98459  | 0.02147  | -0.0981 |
| C | -5.31779  | -1.23653 | -0.1479 |
| H | -4.39249  | -1.25593 | -0.2406 |
| C | -5.99569  | -2.40093 | -0.0647 |
| H | -5.53519  | -3.20783 | -0.1054 |
| C | -5.99159  | 2.46037  | -0.1427 |
| C | -5.35749  | 3.72347  | -0.356  |
| H | -4.46309  | 3.74337  | -0.6099 |
| C | -6.02239  | 4.89067  | -0.1977 |
| H | -5.58899  | 5.69647  | -0.3645 |
| N | -2.96829  | 1.92187  | 0.3871  |
| H | -3.23859  | 2.47807  | 1.0574  |
| C | -11.71089 | 1.73437  | 0.0193  |
| H | -12.46349 | 2.09997  | -0.387  |
| C | -11.70449 | 0.92397  | 1.0968  |
| H | -12.45249 | 0.62997  | 1.5647  |
| C | -10.35939 | 0.59977  | 1.3903  |
| H | -10.06379 | 0.05427  | 2.0828  |
| C | -9.56829  | 1.23827  | 0.4644  |
| C | -8.10389  | 1.24047  | 0.2551  |
| C | -7.40599  | 0.02147  | 0.1174  |
| C | -8.07279  | -1.23653 | 0.1672  |
| H | -8.99809  | -1.25593 | 0.2599  |
| C | -7.39489  | -2.40093 | 0.0839  |
| H | -7.85539  | -3.20783 | 0.1247  |
| C | -7.39899  | 2.46037  | 0.162   |
| C | -8.03309  | 3.72347  | 0.3752  |
| H | -8.92749  | 3.74337  | 0.6291  |
| C | -7.36819  | 4.89067  | 0.217   |
| H | -7.80159  | 5.69647  | 0.3838  |
| N | -10.42229 | 1.92187  | -0.3679 |
| H | -10.15199 | 2.47807  | -1.0382 |

**Table S8.** Total energies of **DPA**.

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Zero-point correction                       | 0.318959 (Hartree/Particle) |
| Thermal correction to Energy                | 0.337061                    |
| Thermal correction to Enthalpy              | 0.338005                    |
| Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy     | 0.271924                    |
| Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies   | -957.352745                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Energies      | -957.334642                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies    | -957.333698                 |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | -957.39978                  |

**Table S9.** Symbolic Z-Matrix of **DBPA**.

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| C | -0.5567  | -0.44714 | -3.6222  |
| H | -0.97039 | -0.78202 | -4.56534 |
| C | 0.55398  | 0.4527   | -3.62195 |
| H | 0.96698  | 0.78899  | -4.5649  |
| C | 1.08616  | 0.88275  | -2.44199 |
| H | 1.92773  | 1.57158  | -2.4456  |
| C | 0.56183  | 0.45297  | -1.18235 |
| C | -0.56273 | -0.45108 | -1.18261 |
| C | -1.08799 | -0.87897 | -2.44249 |
| H | -1.92954 | -1.56782 | -2.4465  |
| C | 1.11352  | 0.88902  | 0.0387   |
| C | 2.23497  | 1.86208  | 0.03903  |
| C | 2.14808  | 3.22988  | 0.07159  |
| H | 1.21936  | 3.78221  | 0.10382  |
| C | 3.46953  | 3.77663  | 0.03987  |
| H | 3.73727  | 4.82301  | 0.0531   |
| C | 4.34199  | 2.73076  | -0.01178 |
| H | 5.41737  | 2.68486  | -0.04379 |
| C | 4.27696  | 0.29879  | -0.04488 |
| C | 3.87584  | -2.1219  | -0.03989 |
| C | 2.56151  | -2.8985  | 0.03001  |
| H | 2.76516  | -3.97216 | 0.0039   |
| H | 2.01966  | -2.67221 | 0.95296  |
| H | 1.91739  | -2.64574 | -0.816   |
| C | 4.74692  | -2.40527 | 1.18776  |
| H | 4.96729  | -3.47302 | 1.23642  |
| H | 5.69066  | -1.85847 | 1.14855  |
| H | 4.21535  | -2.12152 | 2.10356  |
| C | 4.60617  | -2.39091 | -1.35743 |
| H | 4.83922  | -3.45861 | -1.43305 |
| H | 3.97229  | -2.13157 | -2.20892 |
| H | 5.53718  | -1.83142 | -1.41988 |
| N | 3.60955  | 1.54617  | -0.01227 |
| O | 5.4815   | 0.2303   | -0.10245 |
| O | 3.41124  | -0.70722 | -0.00702 |
| C | 0.55673  | 0.43435  | 3.69908  |
| H | 0.98324  | 0.76922  | 4.64222  |
| C | -0.55396 | -0.43988 | 3.69883  |
| H | -0.97976 | -0.77617 | 4.64178  |
| C | -1.09895 | -0.86992 | 2.51887  |
| H | -1.94052 | -1.54595 | 2.52248  |
| C | -0.56181 | -0.45294 | 1.25922  |

|   |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| C | 0.56275  | 0.4511   | 1.25949  |
| C | 1.10082  | 0.86618  | 2.51937  |
| H | 1.94239  | 1.54222  | 2.52338  |
| C | -1.1135  | -0.88899 | 0.03818  |
| C | -2.23494 | -1.86206 | 0.03785  |
| C | -2.14803 | -3.22987 | 0.06935  |
| H | -1.21931 | -3.78219 | 0.10119  |
| C | -3.46948 | -3.77663 | 0.03701  |
| H | -3.7372  | -4.82302 | 0.0494   |
| C | -4.34195 | -2.73078 | -0.01384 |
| H | -5.41733 | -2.68489 | -0.04589 |
| C | -4.27696 | -0.2988  | -0.04482 |
| C | -3.8759  | 2.12189  | -0.03699 |
| C | -2.5616  | 2.89853  | 0.03406  |
| H | -2.76528 | 3.97218  | 0.00893  |
| H | -1.91723 | 2.64663  | -0.81201 |
| H | -2.01998 | 2.67141  | 0.95695  |
| C | -4.60604 | 2.39243  | -1.35433 |
| H | -4.83926 | 3.46017  | -1.42862 |
| H | -5.53695 | 1.83279  | -1.41764 |
| H | -3.97195 | 2.13431  | -2.20606 |
| C | -4.74719 | 2.40369  | 1.19086  |
| H | -4.96745 | 3.47138  | 1.24086  |
| H | -4.21581 | 2.11874  | 2.10642  |
| H | -5.69099 | 1.85698  | 1.15078  |
| N | -3.60952 | -1.54618 | -0.01335 |
| O | -5.4815  | -0.23034 | -0.10255 |
| O | -3.41127 | 0.70722  | -0.0058  |

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**Table S10.** Total energies of **DBPA**.

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|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Zero-point correction                       | 0.571287 (Hartree/Particle) |
| Thermal correction to Energy                | 0.606308                    |
| Thermal correction to Enthalpy              | 0.607252                    |
| Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy     | 0.501016                    |
| Sum of electronic and zero-point Energies   | -1648.917864                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Energies      | -1648.882843                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Enthalpies    | -1648.881899                |
| Sum of electronic and thermal Free Energies | -1648.988135                |

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