

Supplementary Information

NIR-Emitting Benzene-Fused Oligo-BODIPYs for Bioimaging

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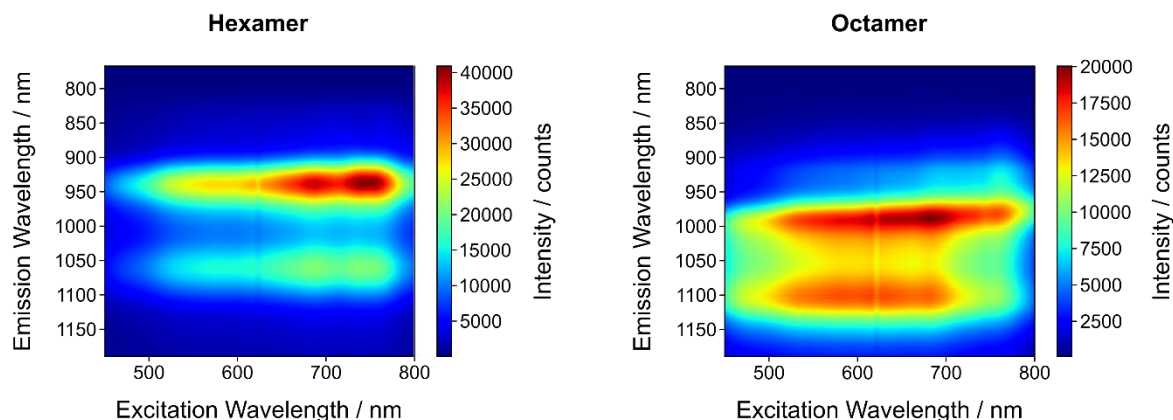


Figure S1: 2D spectra of NIR dyes. 2D excitation-emission spectra of the hexamer and octamer NIR dyes. Due to the cut-on wavelength of the dichroic mirror in our setup, the emission features resulting from excitation wavelengths > 800 nm are not measured. Therefore, the maxima for both hexamer and octamer samples are not observable.

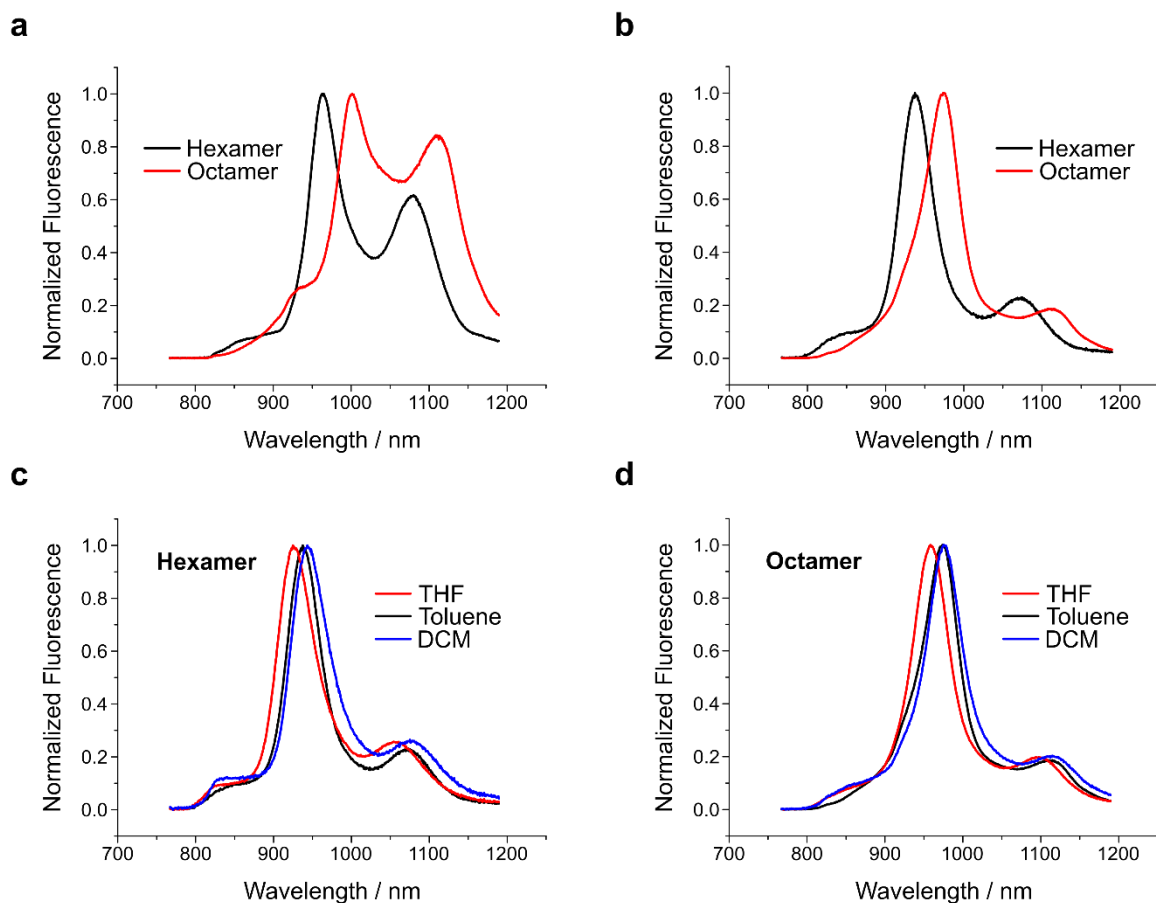


Figure S2: Concentration effects and solvatochromism. **a** Normalized fluorescence emission of highly concentrated samples ($\approx 5 \mu\text{M}$) of hexamer and octamer in dichloromethane (DCM). **b** Normalized fluorescence emission of diluted samples ($\approx 0.5 \mu\text{M}$) of hexamer and octamer in DCM show an altered ratio of the two largest peaks, as well as a hypsochromic shift and peak broadening, compared to more concentrated batches. **c** Solvent-dependent peak shifts in the emission profile of the hexamer-BODIPY in tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene and DCM. **d** Solvent-dependent peak shifts in the emission profile of the octamer-BODIPY in THF, toluene and DCM.

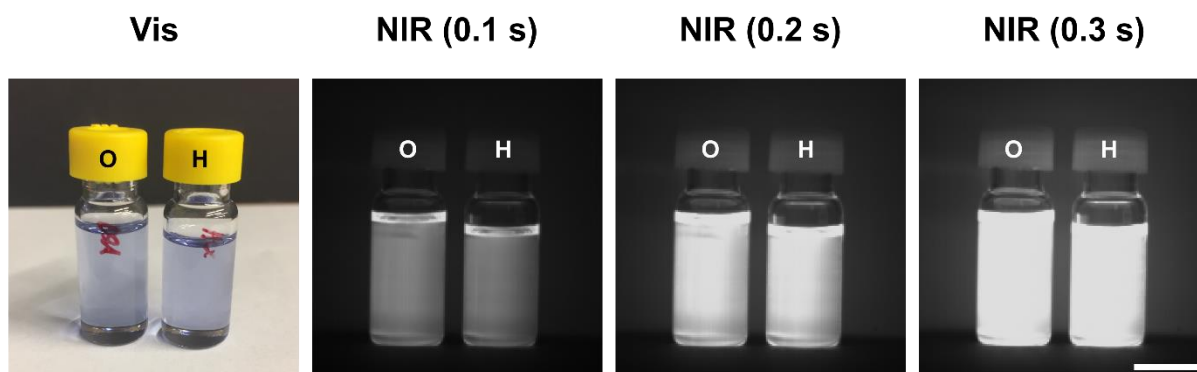


Figure S3: Stand-off NIR images of highly concentrated octamer- (O) and hexamer- (H) BODIPYs. NIR fluorescence images of highly concentrated solutions ($\approx 5 \mu\text{M}$) of octamer and hexamer dyes in toluene. Acquisition was performed with our home-built stand-off setup at maximum illumination power and at different exposure times: while $t = 0.1 \text{ s}$ is already sufficient to notice the bright fluorescence of the samples, with $t = 0.3 \text{ s}$ pixel saturation of the NIR camera starts becoming observable. Scale bar = 1 cm.

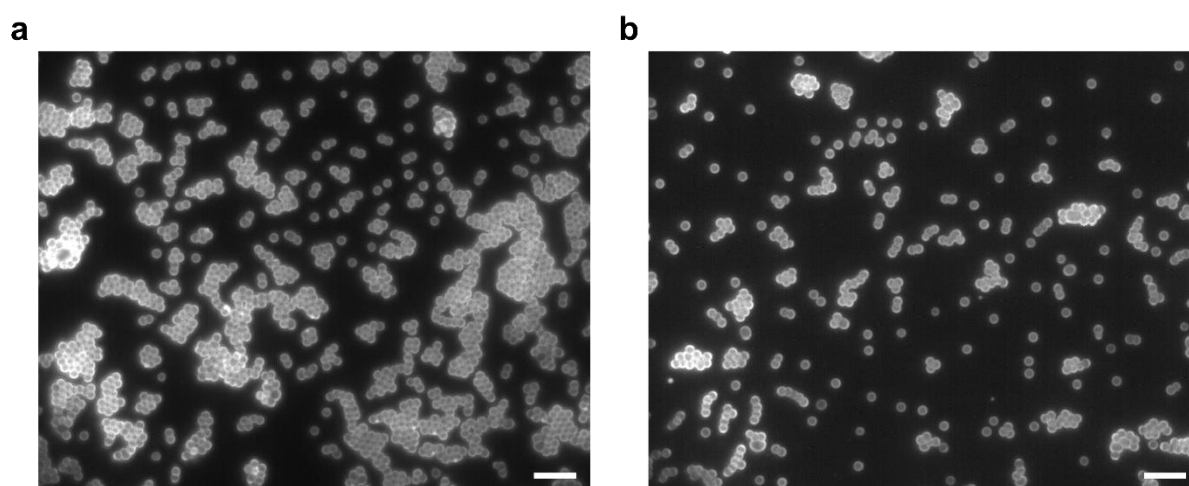


Figure S4: NIR images of hexamer-coated lower-size PS beads. NIR fluorescence images of higher (a) and lower (b) concentrations of PS beads with diameter $\approx 1.5 \mu\text{m}$. These beads were tracked in actin networks of different concentrations thanks to their NIR fluorescent coating. Scale bar = 10 μm .

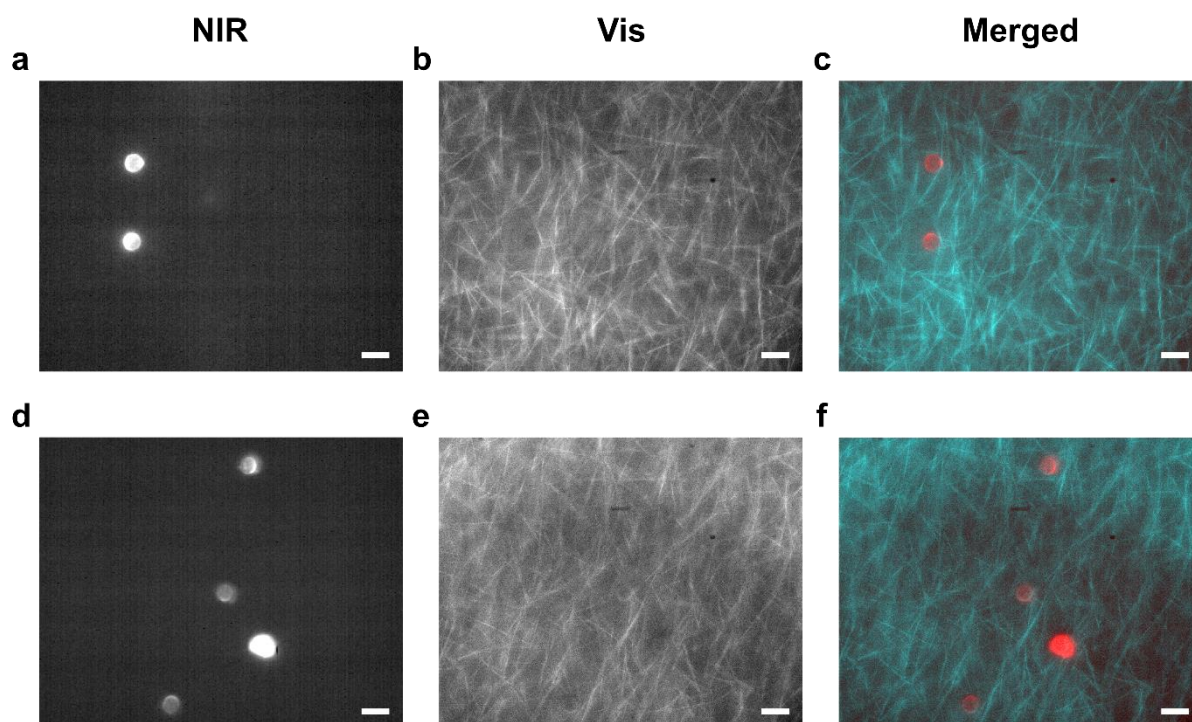


Figure S5: Coating of the hexamer-BODIPY dye on silica beads and dual-color imaging in actin networks. Besides the PS beads, also plain silica beads of diameter $\approx 6 \mu\text{m}$ were successfully coated and embedded into actin filaments, proving the versatility of the NIR dye. Different imaging channels (**a-c**, **d-f**) are shown: NIR (**a,d**) for detection of the hexamer-BODIPY, Vis (**b,e**) for detection of the actin filaments labelled with a Vis dye, and the merging of the channels in false colors (**c,f**) for co-localization. Scale bar = $10 \mu\text{m}$.

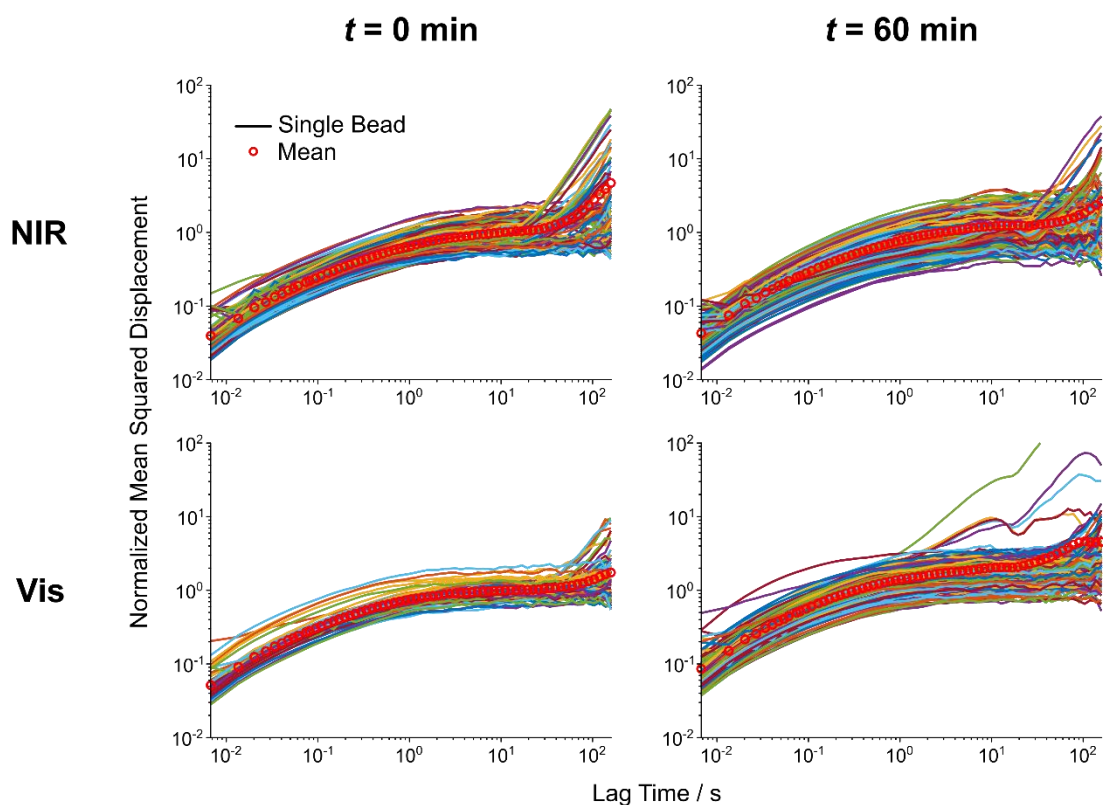


Figure S6: Single mean squared displacement (MSD) curves for actin degradation experiments. Single (colored lines) and mean (red circles) MSD curves resulting from video-particle tracking (VPT) of PS beads in actin networks after 60 min of continuous illumination. PS microspheres coated either with our NIR hexamer-BODIPY (NIR) or with a commercially available visible (Vis) dye (fluorescent red PS microspheres, 545/566 nm, FRP5000, Lab 261) were employed for this study. The 60 min datasets were normalized to the respective 0 min MSD at lag time = 10 s (i.e. in the middle of the plateau region). For the NIR dataset, $n = 114$ beads at $t = 0$ min and 169 beads at $t = 60$ min. For the Vis dataset, $n = 103$ beads at $t = 0$ min and 184 beads at $t = 60$ min. $N = 5$ independent samples.

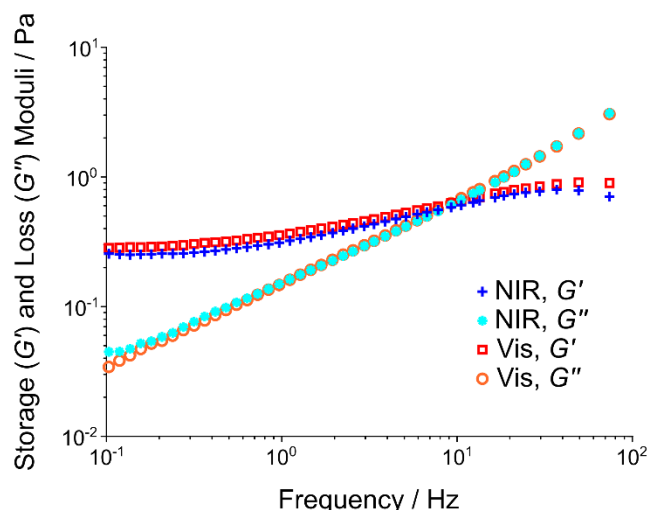


Figure S7: Storage and loss moduli for actin degradation experiments. Storage (G') and loss (G'') moduli for both visible (Vis) and near-infrared (NIR) beads tracked in an actin network for 60 min under continuous illumination. The shown data corresponds to $t = 0$ min.

Table S1: Emission features of hexamer (H) and octamer (O) benzene-fused oligo-BODIPYs at high concentrations. The first ($\lambda_{em,1}$) and second ($\lambda_{em,2}$) emission peaks as well as the respective full widths at half maximum ($FWHM_{em,1}$ and $FWHM_{em,2}$) of highly concentrated (“high”, $\approx 5 \mu M$) dye samples in dichloromethane (DCM) are reported.

Sample	$\lambda_{em,1}$ (high) / nm (cm^{-1})	$FWHM_{em,1}$ (high) / nm (cm^{-1})	$\lambda_{em,2}$ (high) / nm (cm^{-1})	$FWHM_{em,2}$ (high) / nm (cm^{-1})
H	963 (10389)	62.6 (408.7)	1080 (9260)	93.0 (828.6)
O	1002 (9985)	68.2 (637.6)	1108 (9009)	134.7 (1069.9)

Table S2: Emission features of hexamer (H) and octamer (O) benzene-fused oligo-BODIPYs at low concentrations. The first ($\lambda_{em,1}$) and second ($\lambda_{em,2}$) emission peaks as well as the respective full widths at half maximum ($FWHM_{em,1}$ and $FWHM_{em,2}$) of diluted (“low”, $\approx 0.5 \mu M$) dye samples in dichloromethane (DCM) are reported.

Sample	$\lambda_{em,1}$ (low) / nm (cm^{-1})	$FWHM_{em,1}$ (low) / nm (cm^{-1})	$\lambda_{em,2}$ (low) / nm (cm^{-1})	$FWHM_{em,2}$ (low) / nm (cm^{-1})
H	938 (10667)	49.6 (579.5)	1074 (9315)	98.1 (1177.6)
O	974 (10264)	56.0 (594.2)	1108 (9022)	125.0 (931.3)

Table S3: Solvatochromism of hexamer (H) and octamer (O) benzene-fused oligo-BODIPYs. The first ($\lambda_{em,1}$) and second ($\lambda_{em,2}$) emission peaks of the dyes dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (THF), toluene and dichloromethane (DCM) are reported.

Sample	$\lambda_{em,1}$ (THF) / nm (cm ⁻¹)	$\lambda_{em,2}$ (THF) / nm (cm ⁻¹)	$\lambda_{em,1}$ (toluene) / nm (cm ⁻¹)	$\lambda_{em,2}$ (toluene) / nm (cm ⁻¹)	$\lambda_{em,1}$ (DCM) / nm (cm ⁻¹)	$\lambda_{em,2}$ (DCM) / nm (cm ⁻¹)
H	925 (10813)	1054 (9485)	938 (10667)	1074 (9315)	943 (10601)	1075 (9301)
O	958 (10434)	1097 (9113)	974 (10264)	1115 (9022)	976 (10247)	1115 (8971)