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1. Synthesis and Characterization

Melting points were taken on Opti-Melt (Automated melting point system). The FT-IR spectra were recorded as KBr pellet on Shimadzu in the range of 3800-600 cm⁻¹. Microanalysis was performed on Perkin-Elmer PE 2400 CHN analyser. The texture images were studied on a trinocular optical polarising microscope (POM) equipped with a heating stage. ¹H NMR spectra and ¹³C NMR was recorded on a 400 MHz in Bruker Advance 400 in the range of 0.5 ppm-16 ppm using CDCl₃ solvent. Thermo gravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed using a Perkin Elmer-STA 6000 apparatus under high purity nitrogen. Mass Spectrometry was carried out using High Resolution Mass Spectrometer. The phase transition temperatures were measured using Shimadzu DSC-50 at heating and cooling rates of 10°C min⁻¹. The samples were heated from room temperature to 550°C at 10°C/min. X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements were performed on a Rigaku-Ultima IV powder diffractometer equipped with a Cu k α source ($\lambda = 1.5418$ Ű and 1.6 kW, X-ray tube with applied voltage and current values as 40 kV and 30 mA power) and also Philips X'PERT MPD. The absorption spectra were studied by using Jasco V-570 UV-Vis recording spectrophotometer with a variable wavelength between 200 and 800 nm. The fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Jasco FP-6500 spectrofluorometer. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) experiments were performed on a CH Instruments electrochemical workstation. The reference electrode was calibrated with the ferrocene/ferrocenium (Fc/Fc⁺) redox couple (absolute energy level of -4.80 eV to vacuum).

Preparation of 3,6-diamino-9H-carbazole (2)

3,6-diamino-9H-carbazole (2) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 3,6-dinitro-9H-carbazole (1) with 10% Pd/C in methanol and glacial acetic acid was hydrogenated at atmospheric pressure under a balloon for 6 h.¹ Yield 79 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3303, 2918, 2850, 1240, 1126. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 7.41 (s, 2H, Ar), 6.96 (d, 2H, Ar), 7.86 (d, 2H, Ar), 8.43 (s, 1H, -NH), 4.62 (s, 4H, -NH₂). ¹³C NMR: 144.6, 131.2, 113.2, 106.4, 101.3.

Preparation of 3,4,5-trihexyloxy benzaldehyde (3a)

3,4,5-trihexyloxy benzaldehyde (**3a**) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 3,4,5trihydroxy benzaldehyde (1 equiv.) with hexyl bromide (3 equiv.) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (3 equiv.) in dry acetone for 2 hr.² Yield 86 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 2970, 2861, 1664, 1234, 876, 771. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 9H, CH₃), 1.26-1.47 (m, 18H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 6H, CH₂), 4.06 (t, 6H, CH₂), 7.10 (s, 2H, Ar), 10.03 (s, 1H, CHO). ¹³C NMR: 177.6, 164.1, 144.6, 108.1, 77.8, 31.4, 29.8, 22.7.

Preparation of 3,4,5-trioctyloxy benzaldehyde (3b)

3,4,5-trioctyloxy benzaldehyde (**3b**) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 3,4,5-trihydroxy benzaldehyde (1 equiv.) with octyl bromide (3 equiv.) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (3 equiv.) in dry acetone for 2 hr.² Yield 82 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 2943, 2801, 1660, 1234, 872, 776, 663. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 9H, CH₃), 1.26-1.47 (m, 30 H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 6H, CH₂), 4.06 (t, 6H, CH₂), 7.10 (s, 2H, Ar), 10.03 (s, 1H, CHO). ¹³C NMR: 177.6, 164.1, 144.6, 141.5, 108.1, 77.8, 31.4, 29.8, 22.7, 19.4.

Preparation of 3,4,5-tridecyloxy benzaldehyde (3c)

3,4,5-tridecyloxy benzaldehyde (**3c**) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 3,4,5trihydroxy benzaldehyde (1 equiv.) with decyl bromide (3 equiv.) and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (3 equiv.) in dry acetone for 2 hr.² Yield 87 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 2905, 2867, 1650, 1442, 1210, 1120, 872, 776, 663. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 9H, CH₃), 1.26-1.47 (m, 42 H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 6H, CH₂), 4.08 (t, 6H, CH₂), 7.34 (s, 2H, Ar), 10.06 (s, 1H, CHO). ¹³C NMR: 177.6, 164.1, 144.6, 141.5, 108.1, 77.8, 31.4, 29.8, 22.7, 19.4.

Preparation of 3,4,5-tridodecyloxy benzaldehyde (3d)

3,4,5-tridodecyloxy benzaldehyde (**3d**) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 3,4,5-trihydroxy benzaldehyde (1 equiv.) with decyl bromide (3 equiv.) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (3 equiv.) in dry acetone for 2 hr.² Yield 78 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 2915, 2867, 1640, 1440, 1212, 1121, 821, 756, 663, 632. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 9H, CH₃), 1.26-1.47 (m, 48 H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 6H, CH₂), 4.08 (t, 6H, CH₂), 7.34 (s, 2H, Ar), 10.06 (s, 1H, CHO). ¹³C NMR: 177.6, 164.1, 144.6, 141.5, 108.1, 77.8, 31.4, 29.8, 22.7, 19.4.

Preparation of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4a)

9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4a) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (2) (1 equiv.) with 3,4,5-trihexyloxy benzaldehyde (3a) (2 equiv.) in ethanol with presence of few drops of acetic acid for 3 hr.³ Yield 72 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3321, 3068, 2906, 2860, 1440, 1241, 884, 761. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 36H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.22 (d, 4H, Ar), 7.43 (s, 2H, Ar), 6.41 (s, 2H, Ar), 7.61 (s, 2H, Ar), 8.08 (s, 2H, - CH=N), 8.62 (s, 1H, -NH). ¹³C NMR: 166.4, 144.6, 140.8, 133.4, 131.2, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 31.8, 29.6.

Preparation of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trioctyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4b)

9H-Carbazole-bis-(trioctyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4b) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (2) (1 equiv.) with 3,4,5-

trioctyloxy benzaldehyde (**3b**) (2 equiv.) in ethanol with presence of few drops of acetic acid for 3 hr.³ Yield 76 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3320, 3018, 2936, 2861, 1430, 1240, 896, 760, 664. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 52H, CH₂), 1.73 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.22 (d, 4H, J = 6 Hz, Ar), 7.43 (s, 2H, J = 2.6 Hz, Ar), 6.41 (s, 2H, J = 2.4 Hz, Ar), 7.63 (s, 2H, Ar), 8.10 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 8.61 (s, 1H, -NH). ¹³C NMR: 166.4, 144.6, 140.8, 133.4, 131.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 31.6, 29.6.

Preparation of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(tridecyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4c)

9H-Carbazole-bis-(tridecyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (**4c**) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (**2**) (1 equiv.) with 3,4,5-trioctyloxy benzaldehyde (**3c**) (2 equiv.) in ethanol with presence of few drops of acetic acid for 3 hr.³ Yield 78 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3321, 3018, 2930, 2836, 1440, 1241, 890, 730, 668. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 62H, CH₂), 1.73 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.21 (d, 4H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.44 (s, 2H, J = 2.8 Hz, Ar), 6.84 (s, 2H, J = 2.6 Hz, Ar), 7.63 (s, 2H, Ar), 8.12 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 8.61 (s, 1H, -NH). ¹³C NMR: 166.4, 144.6, 140.8, 133.4, 131.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 31.6, 29.6.

Preparation of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(tridodecyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4d)

9H-Carbazole-bis-(tridodecyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (4d) was synthesized by refluxing the reaction mixture of 9H-Carbazole-bis-(trihexyloxy phenyl schiff-base) (2) (1 equiv.) with 3,4,5-trioctyloxy benzaldehyde (3d) (2 equiv.) in ethanol with presence of few drops of acetic acid for 3 hr.³ Yield 69 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3330, 3018, 2930, 2861, 1430, 1240, 896, 734, 661. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 74H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.22 (d, 4H, J = 6 Hz, Ar), 7.43 (s, 2H, J = 2.6 Hz, Ar), 6.41 (s, 2H, J = 2.4 Hz,

Ar), 7.67 (s, 2H, Ar), 8.12 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 8.63 (s, 1H, -NH). ¹³C NMR: 166.4, 144.6, 140.8, 133.4, 131.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 31.6, 29.6.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis (trihexyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (5a)

4,4'-(bis (trihexyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (**5a**) were prepared by the Ullman reaction of compound (**4a**) with 4-bromo benzaldehyde in 1,2-dichloro benzene solution in the presence of anhydrous K₂CO₃ and CuI catalyst at 180°C for 18 h.⁴ Yield 71 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3018, 2930, 2861, 1630, 1430, 1310, 1240, 891, 734, 668. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 36H, CH₂), 1.71 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.58 (d, 4H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.83 (s, 2H, J = 2.8 Hz, Ar), 6.41 (s, 2H, J = 3.6 Hz, Ar), 7.67 (s, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.22-7.26 (s, 4H, Ar), 8.10 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 9.13 (s, 1H, -CHO). ¹³C NMR: 171.5, 166.4, 146.6, 133.7, 129.9, 126.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 69.0, 31.6, 25.6.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis (trioctyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (5b)

4,4'-(bis (trioctyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (**5b**) were prepared by the Ullman reaction of compound (**4b**) with 4-bromo benzaldehyde in 1,2-dichloro benzene solution in the presence of anhydrous K₂CO₃ and CuI catalyst at 180°C for 18 h.⁴ Yield 74 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3018, 2932, 2860, 1630, 1440, 1310, 1240, 891, 734, 634. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 52H, CH₂), 1.73 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.06 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.54 (d, 4H, J = 6.4 Hz, Ar), 7.81 (s, 2H, J = 2.8 Hz, Ar), 6.47 (s, 2H, J = 3.8 Hz, Ar), 7.67 (s, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.22-7.26 (s, 4H, Ar), 8.12 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 9.10 (s, 1H, -CHO). ¹³C NMR: 171.5, 166.4, 146.6, 133.7, 129.9, 126.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 69.1, 31.8, 25.6.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis (tridecyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (5c)

4,4'-(bis (tridecyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (**5c**) were prepared by the Ullman reaction of compound (**4c**) with 4-bromo benzaldehyde in 1,2-dichloro benzene solution in the presence of anhydrous K₂CO₃ and CuI catalyst at 180°C for 18 h.⁴ Yield 67 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3018, 2932, 2860, 1630, 1460, 1320, 1243, 896, 734, 710, 639. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 62H, CH₂), 1.73 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.06 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.57 (d, 4H, J = 6.4 Hz, Ar), 7.82 (s, 2H, J = 2.8 Hz, Ar), 6.32 (s, 2H, J = 3.8 Hz, Ar), 7.67 (s, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.22-7.24 (s, 4H, Ar), 8.10 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 9.12 (s, 1H, -CHO). ¹³C NMR: 171.5, 166.4, 146.6, 133.3, 129.8, 126.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.2, 69.4, 31.6, 25.6.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis (tridodecyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (5d)

4,4'-(bis (tridodecyloxy benzylidene amino)-9H-carbazole-9-yl) benzaldehyde (**5d**) were prepared by the Ullman reaction of compound (**5d**) with 4-bromo benzaldehyde in 1,2-dichloro benzene solution in the presence of anhydrous K₂CO₃ and CuI catalyst at 180°C for 18 h.⁴ Yield 64 %, FT-IR (KBr) in cm⁻¹: 3018, 2932, 2860, 1630, 1440, 1310, 1240, 891, 734, 634. ¹H NMR CDCl₃ (400 MHz): 0.89 (t, 18H, CH₃), 1.36-1.46 (m, 74H, CH₂), 1.73 (p, 12H, CH₂), 4.06 (t, 12H, CH₂), 7.52 (d, 4H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.80 (s, 2H, J = 2.6 Hz, Ar), 6.48 (s, 2H, J = 3.6 Hz, Ar), 7.63 (s, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.22-7.26 (s, 4H, Ar), 8.10 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 9.12 (s, 1H, -CHO). ¹³C NMR: 171.5, 166.4, 146.6, 133.7, 129.9, 126.2, 114.7, 112.8, 108.3, 73.6, 69.1, 31.8, 25.6.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis(trihexyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (6a)

4,4'-(bis(trihexyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (**6a**) is prepared by the one pot synthesis of derivative (**5a**) with 9, 10-phenanthrene quinone and 4butoxy aniline in presence of ammonium acetate and acetic acid under N₂ (gas).⁵ The resultant final crude was purified by using column chromatography on silica gel using methanol: chloroform (1:4, v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 64 %; FT-IR (KBr pellet) in cm⁻¹: 3013, 2920, 2866, 1508, 1440, 1234, 713, 686, 563;¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 0.89-0.91 (t, 21H, CH₂), 1.27-1.47 (m, 39H, CH₂), (q, 4H), 1.71 (t, 14H, CH₂), 4.08 (t, 14H, CH₂), 8.61 (s, 1H, Ar), 8.71 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 7.02 (d, 4H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.62 (d, 6H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.51 (d, 4H, J = 6.6 Hz, Ar), 7.22 (s, 2H, Ar). ¹³C NMR: 158.6, 153.6, 146.4, 141.8, 133.5, 128.1, 125.5, 122.4, 114.4, 77.4, 77.0, 68.7, 31.8, 22.6. MALDI Tof MS for compound **6a** (M+1) Calculated: 1414.8814 Found 1415.5838.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis(trioctyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (6b)

4,4'-(bis(trioctyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (**6b**) is prepared by the one pot synthesis of derivative (**5b**) with 9, 10-phenanthrene quinone and 4butoxy aniline in presence of ammonium acetate and acetic acid under N₂ (gas).⁵ The resultant final crude was purified by using column chromatography on silica gel using methanol: chloroform (1:4, v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 67 %; FT-IR (KBr pellet) in cm⁻¹: 3010, 2903, 2826, 1508, 1440, 1310, 1234, 794, 563;¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 0.89-0.91 (t, 21H, CH₂), 1.27-1.47 (m, 76H, CH₂), (q, 4H), 1.71 (t, 12H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 14H, CH₂), 8.61 (s, 1H, Ar), 8.75 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 7.43 (d, 4H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.61 (d, 6H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.56 (d, 4H, J = 6.8 Hz, Ar), 7.22 (s, 2H, Ar). ¹³C NMR: 158.6, 152.6, 144.4, 141.8, 133.5, 128.1, 125.5, 122.4, 114.4, 77.4, 77.0, 68.7, 31.8, 22.6. MALDI Tof MS for compound **6b** (M+1) Calculated: 1583.0712 Found 1584.3492.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis(tridecyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (6c)

4,4'-(bis(tridecyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (6c) is prepared by the one pot synthesis of derivative (5c) with 9, 10-phenanthrene quinone and 4butoxy aniline in presence of ammonium acetate and acetic acid under N₂ (gas).⁵ The resultant final crude was purified by using column chromatography on silica gel using methanol: chloroform (1:4, v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 61 %; FT-IR (KBr pellet) in cm⁻¹: 3012, 2920, 2866, 1508, 1440, 1234, 713, 686, 563;¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 0.89-0.91 (t, 21H, CH₂), 1.27-1.43 (m, 87H, CH₂), (q, 4H), 1.73 (t, 14H, CH₂), 4.08 (t, 14H, CH₂), 8.43 (s, 1H, Ar), 8.63 (s, 2H, -CH=N), 7.08 (d, 4H, J = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.62 (d, 6H, J = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.51 (d, 4H, J = 6.6 Hz, Ar), 7.26 (s, 2H, Ar). ¹³C NMR: 155.8, 153.6, 144.4, 141.8, 133.5, 128.1, 125.5, 122.4, 114.4, 77.4, 77.0, 68.7, 31.8, 22.6. MALDI Tof MS for compound **6c** (M+1) Calculated: 1751.2642 Found 1752.4241.

Preparation of 4,4'-(bis(tridodecyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (6d)

4,4'-(bis(trihexyloxy benzylideneamino)-9H-carbazole-butoxy phenthroimidazole (**6a**) is prepared by the one pot synthesis of derivative (**5a**) with 9, 10-phenanthrene quinone and 4butoxy aniline in presence of ammonium acetate and acetic acid under N₂ (gas).⁵ The resultant final crude was purified by using column chromatography on silica gel using methanol: chloroform (1:4, v/v) as the eluent. Yield: 64 %; FT-IR (KBr pellet) in cm⁻¹: 3013, 2990, 2861, 1508, 1446, 1234, 913, 742, 686, 577;¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): 0.93 (t, 21H, CH₂), 1.27-1.47 (m, 104H, CH₂), (q, 4H), 1.71 (t, 14H, CH₂), 4.04 (t, 14H, CH₂), 8.61 (s, 1H, Ar), 8.71 (s, 2H, - CH=N), 7.02 (d, 4H, *J* = 6.2 Hz, Ar), 7.62 (d, 6H, *J* = 6.0 Hz, Ar), 7.51 (d, 4H, *J* = 6.6 Hz, Ar), 7.22 (s, 2H, Ar). ¹³C NMR: 155.8, 151.6, 144.4, 141.8, 133.5, 128.1, 125.5, 122.4, 114.4, 77.4, 77.0, 68.7, 31.8, 22.7. MALDI Tof MS for compound **6d** (M+1) Calculated: 1919.4514 Found 1920.8244.

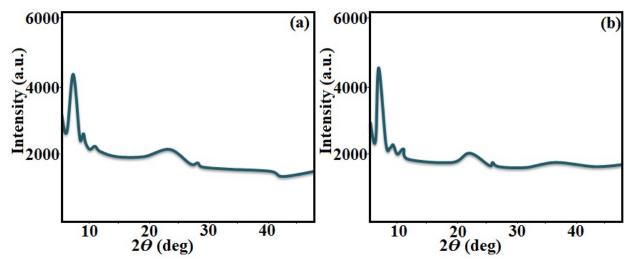


Figure S₁. XRD profiles depicting the intensity against the 2Θ obtained for the Col_h phase of compound **6c** at 46.0 °C (a); Col_h phase of compound **6d** at 36.0 °C (b) on cooling from isotropic temperature; the insert shows the image pattern obtained.

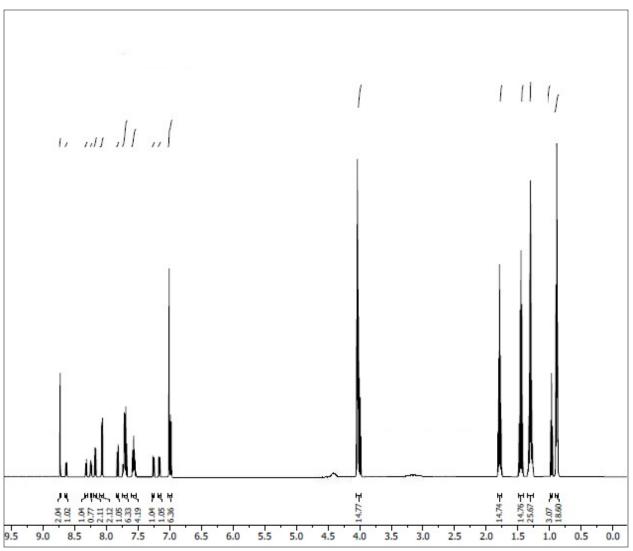


Figure S₂. ¹H NMR of compound 6a

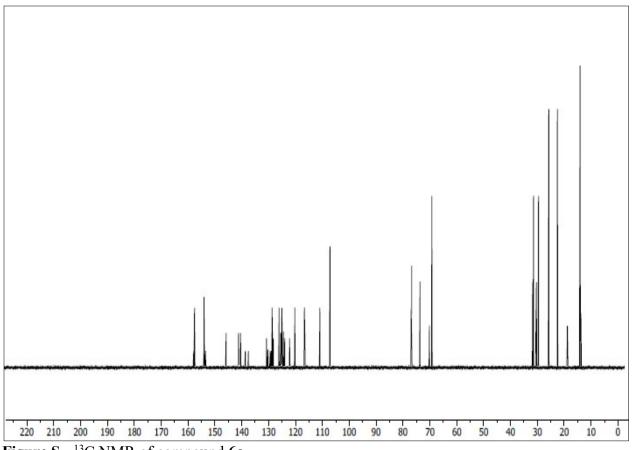


Figure S₃. ¹³C NMR of compound 6a

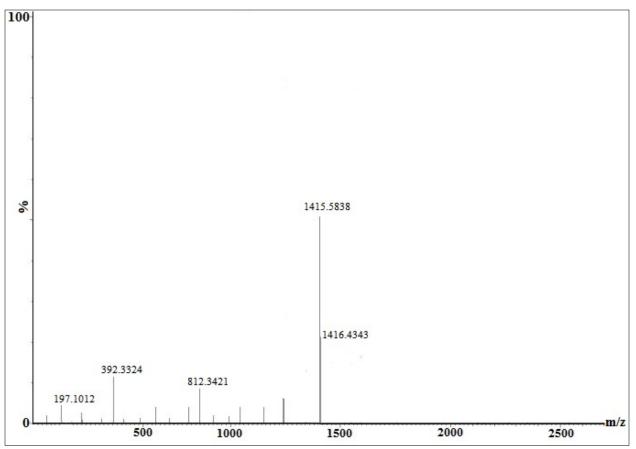


Figure S₄. HRMS of compound 6a

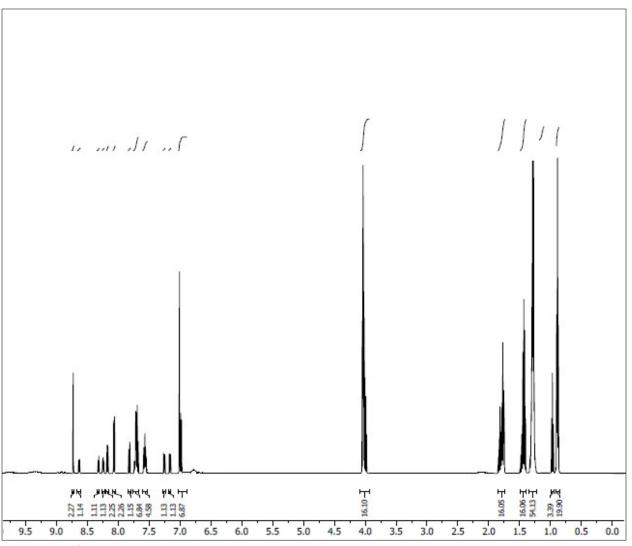
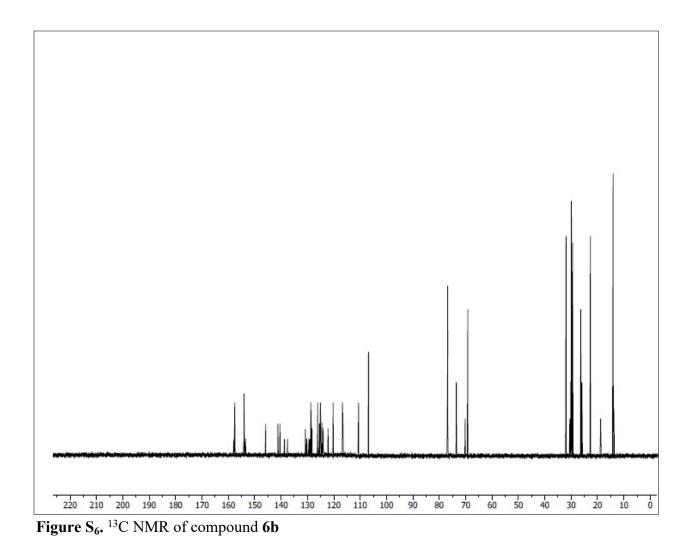


Figure S₅. ¹H NMR of compound 6b



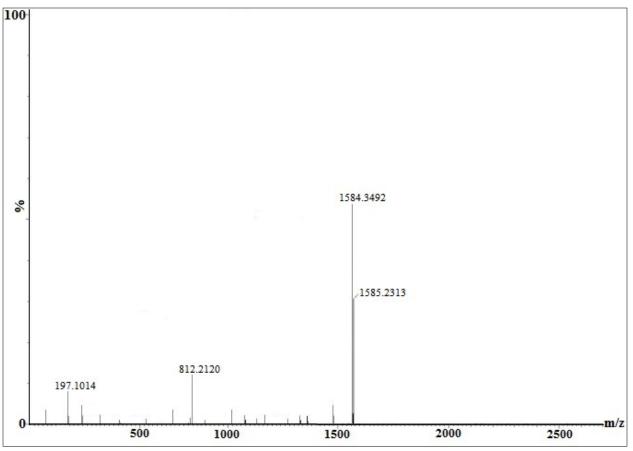


Figure S7. HRMS of compound 6b

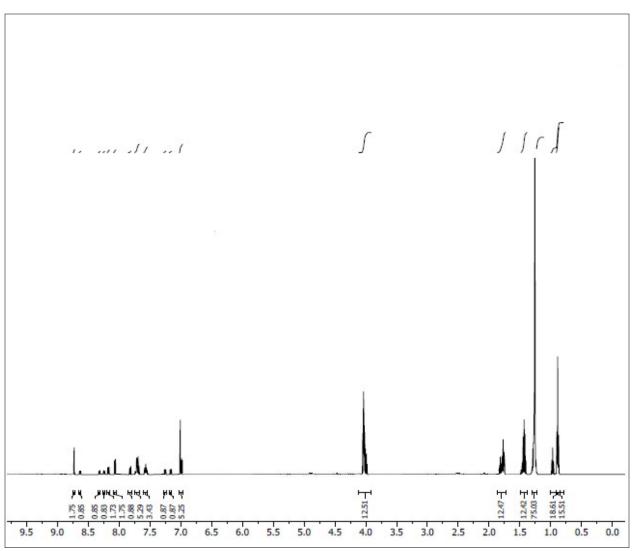


Figure S₈. ¹H NMR of compound 6c

Figure S₉. ¹³C NMR of compound 6c

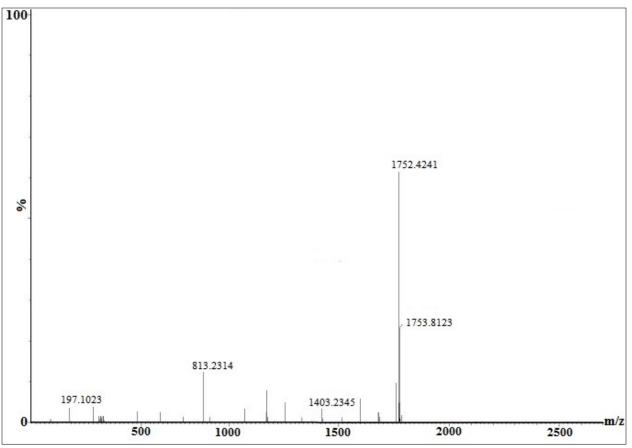


Figure S₁₀. HRMS of compound 6c

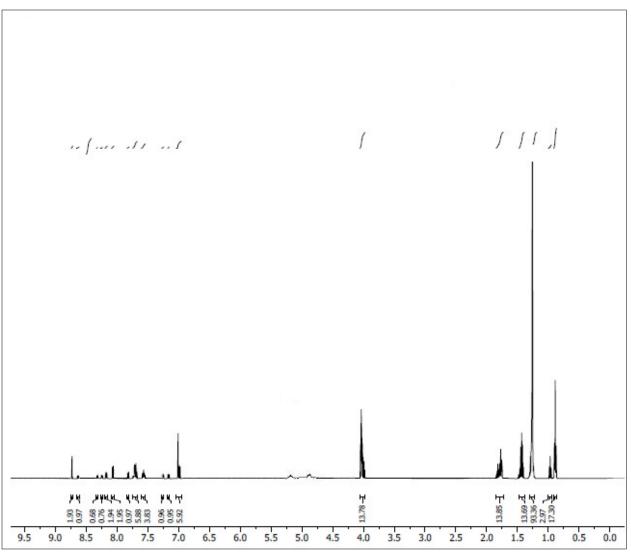


Figure S₁₁. ¹H NMR of compound 6d

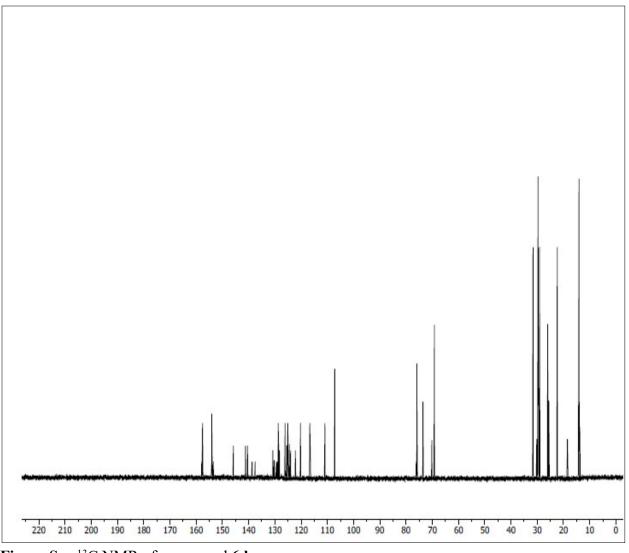


Figure S₁₂. ¹³C NMR of compound 6d

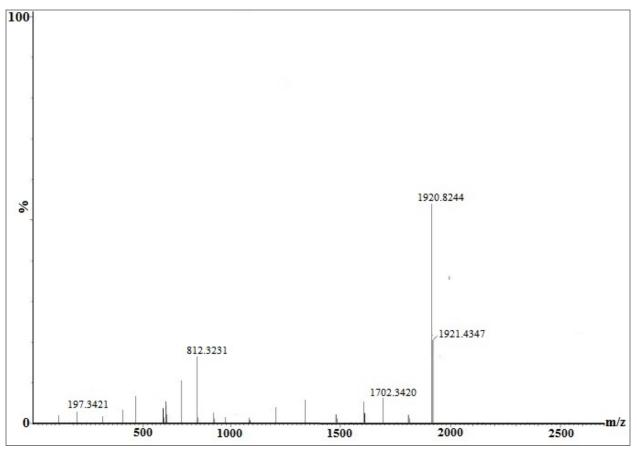


Figure S₁₃. HRMS of compound 6d

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