

# Supporting Information

## **Manipulation of the Electronic and Structural Effects on the Solid-State Emission of Multiple Linked Anthracenyl-*o*- Carborane Dyads**

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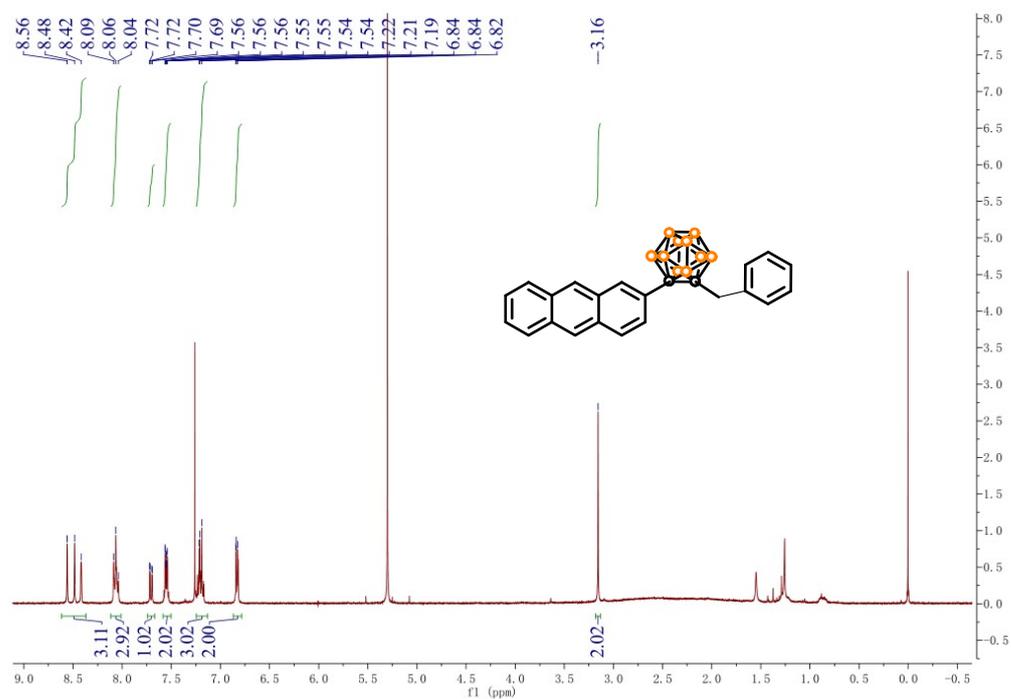


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopies of CA1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

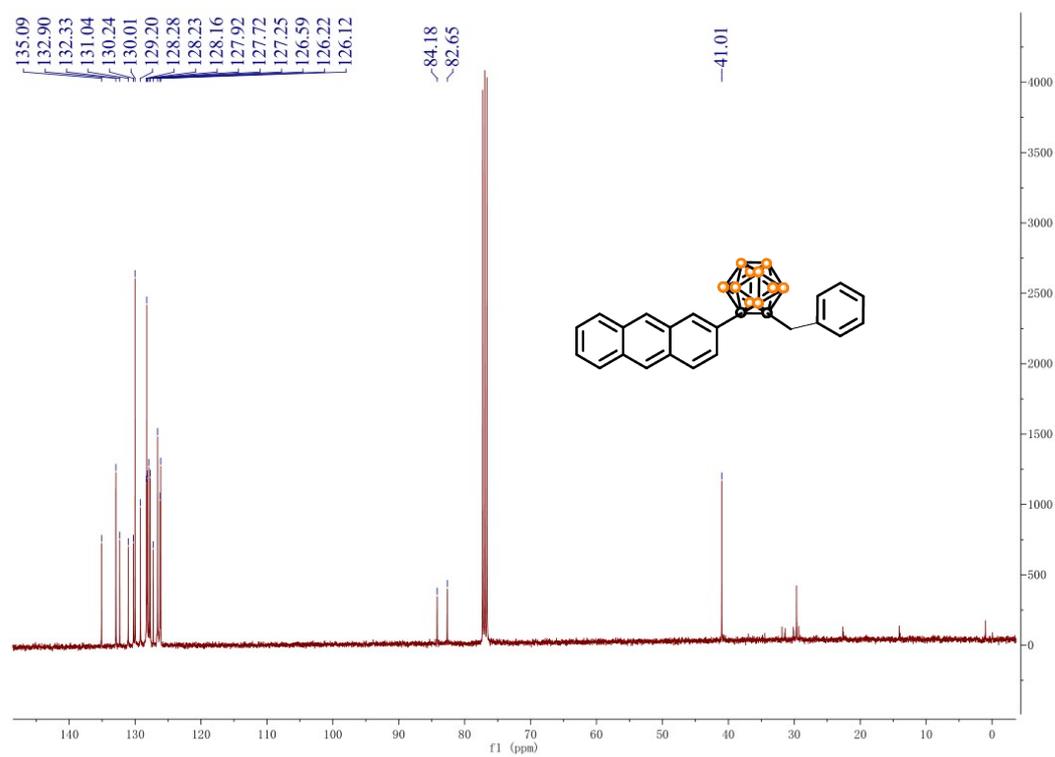
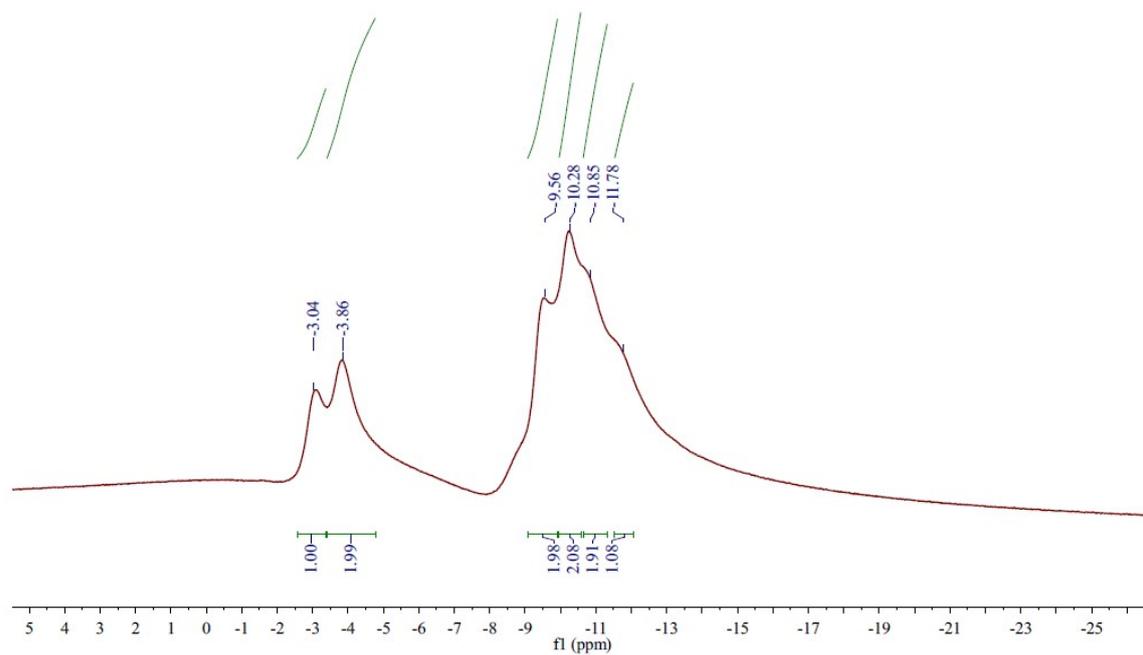
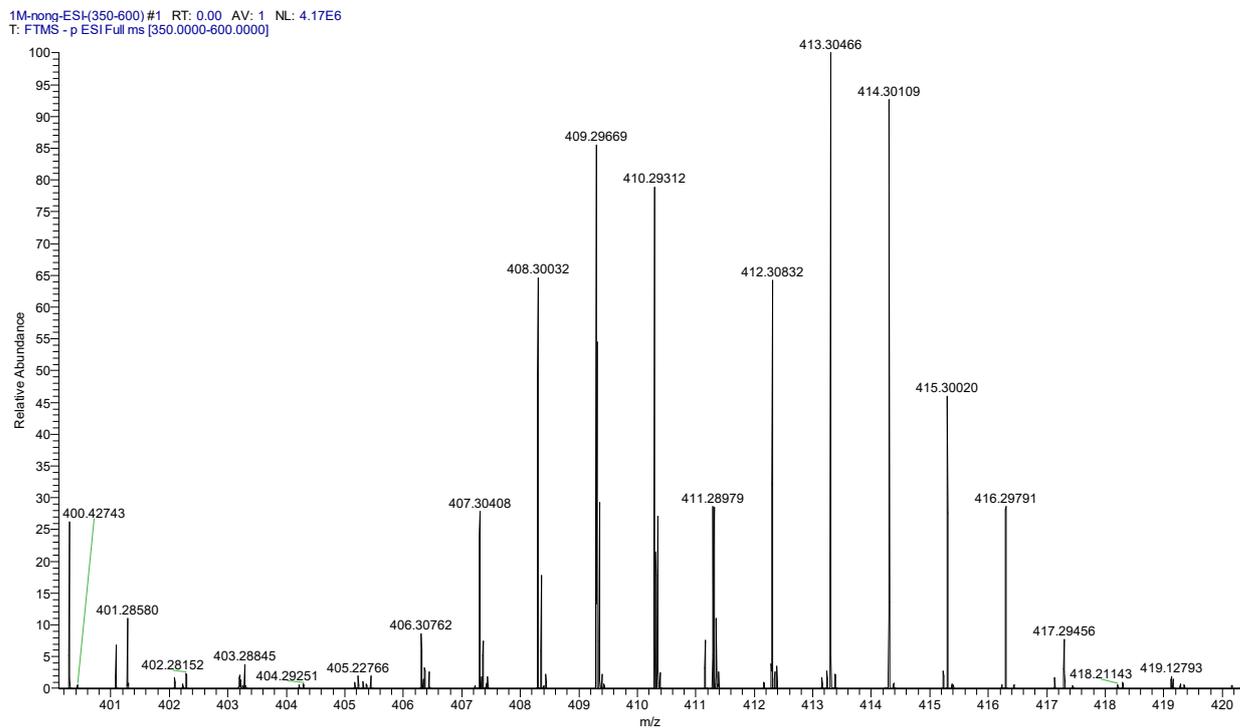


Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopies of CA1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S3.**  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectroscopies of CA1 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Figure S4.** HRMS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) spectrum of CA1.

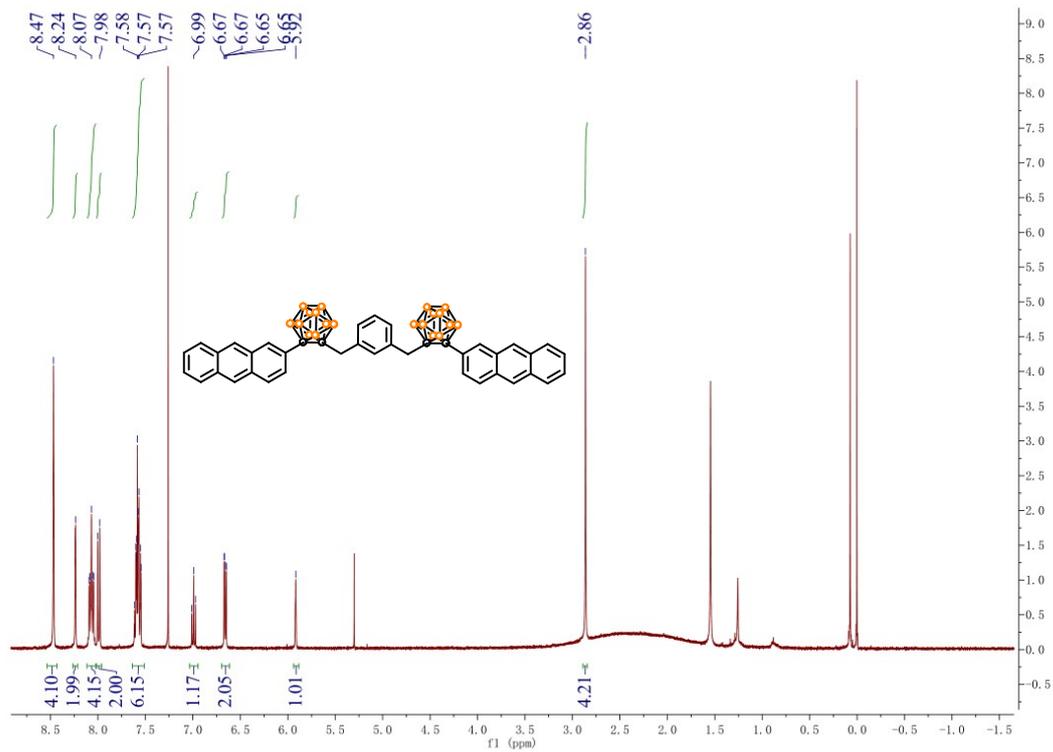


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopies of CA2 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

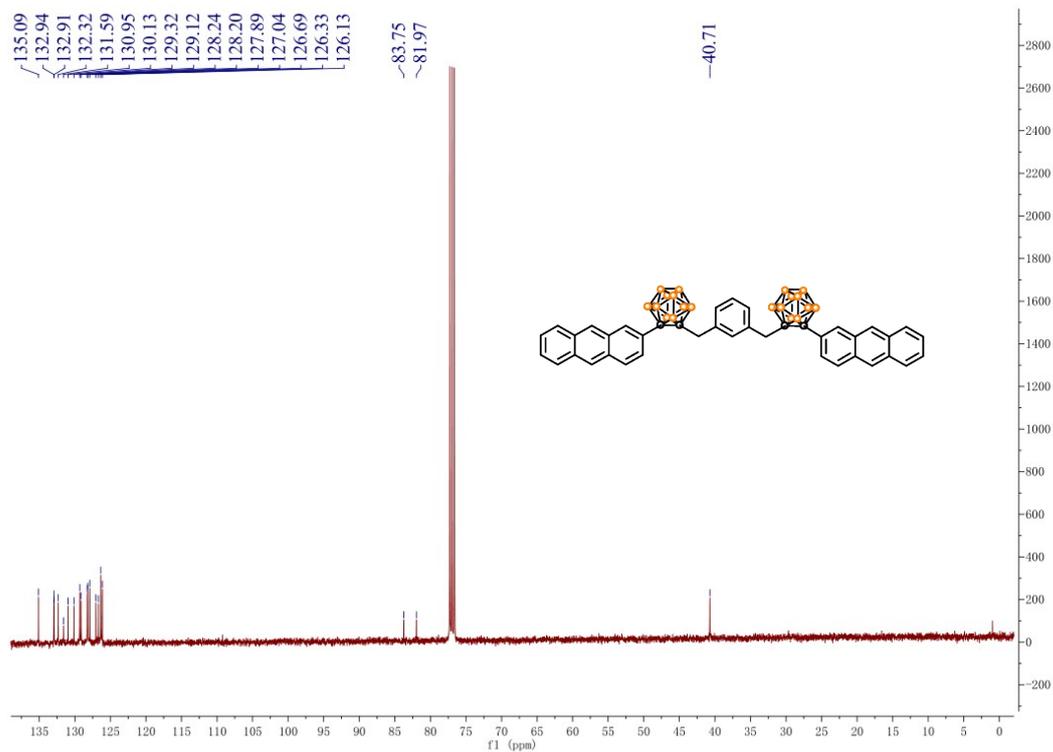
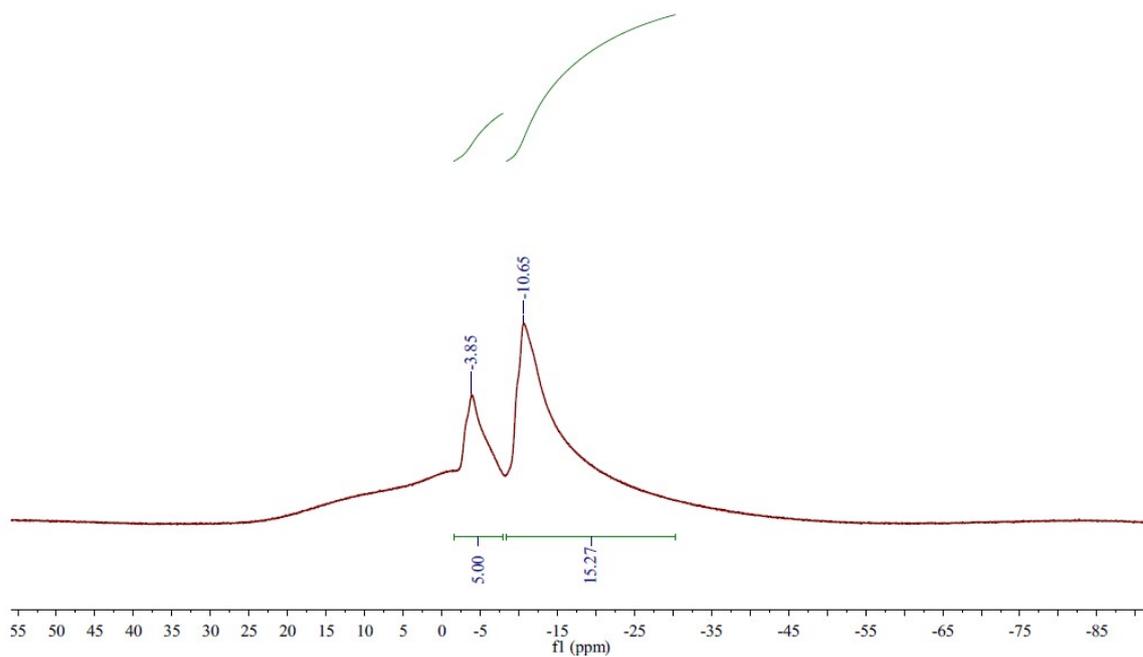
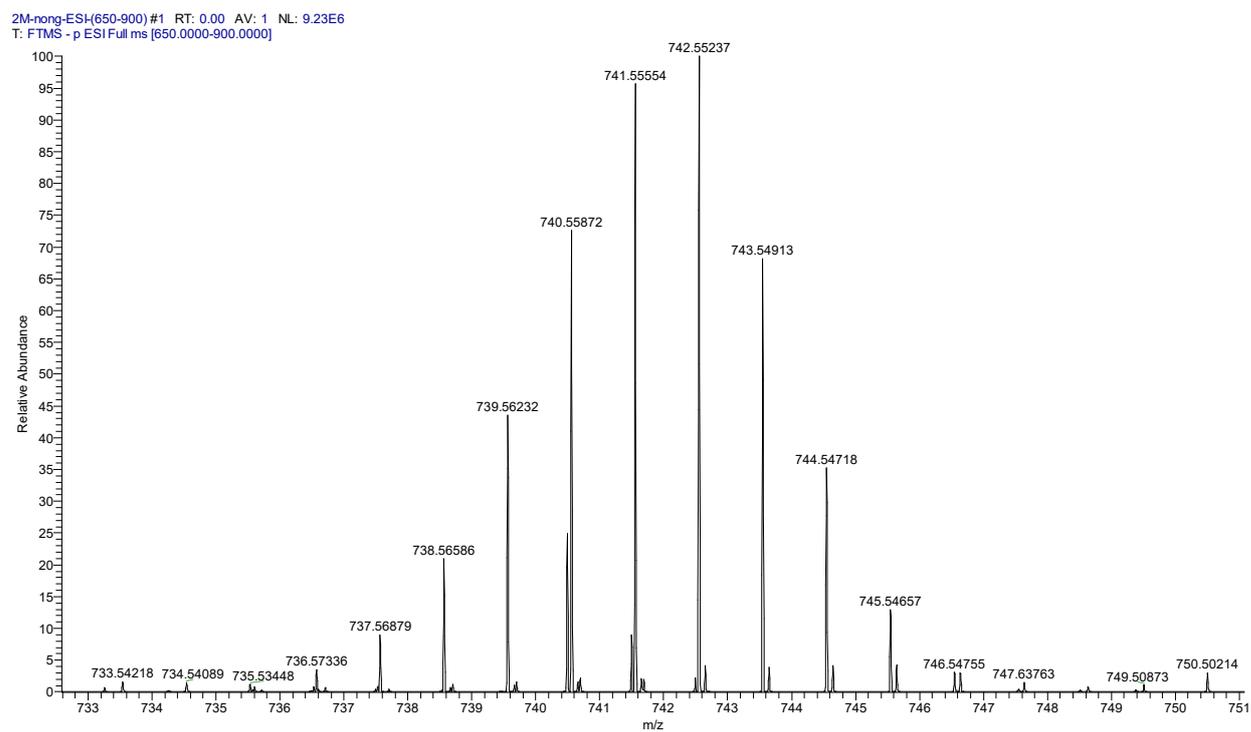


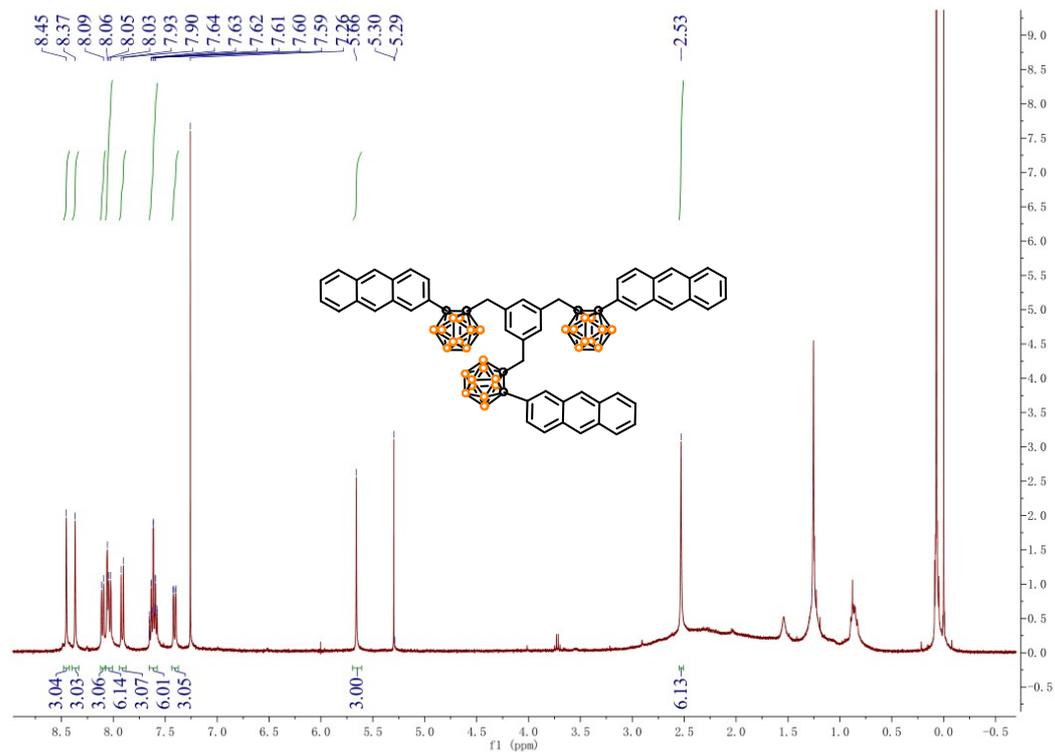
Figure S6.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopies of CA2 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



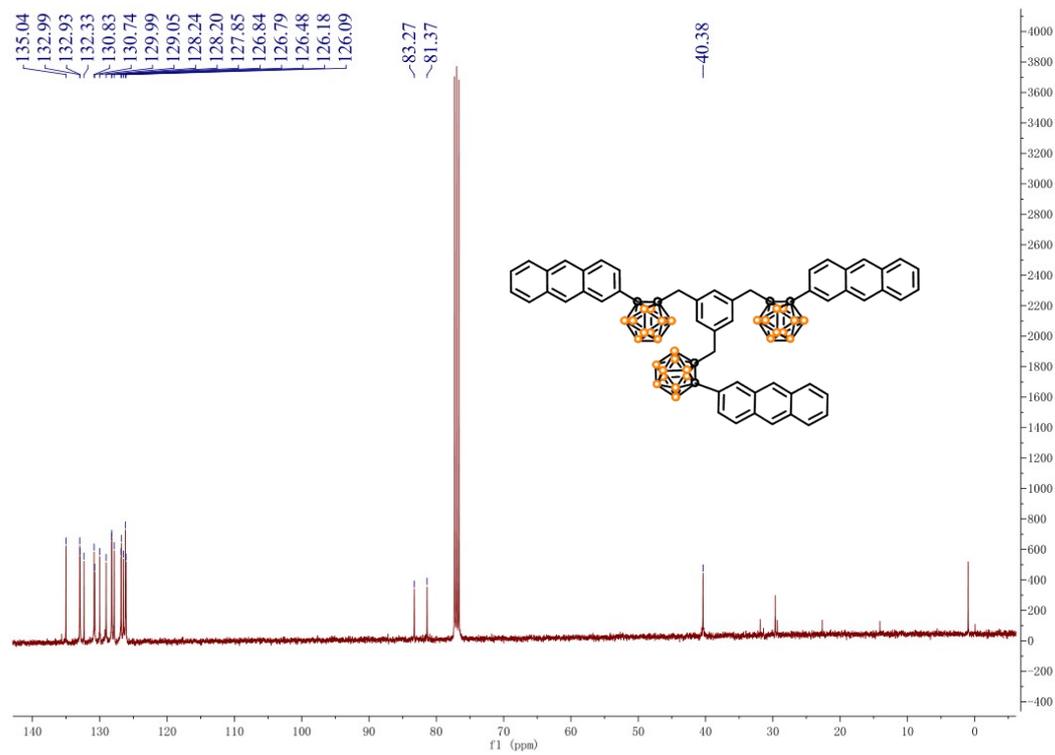
**Figure S7.**  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectroscopies of CA2 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



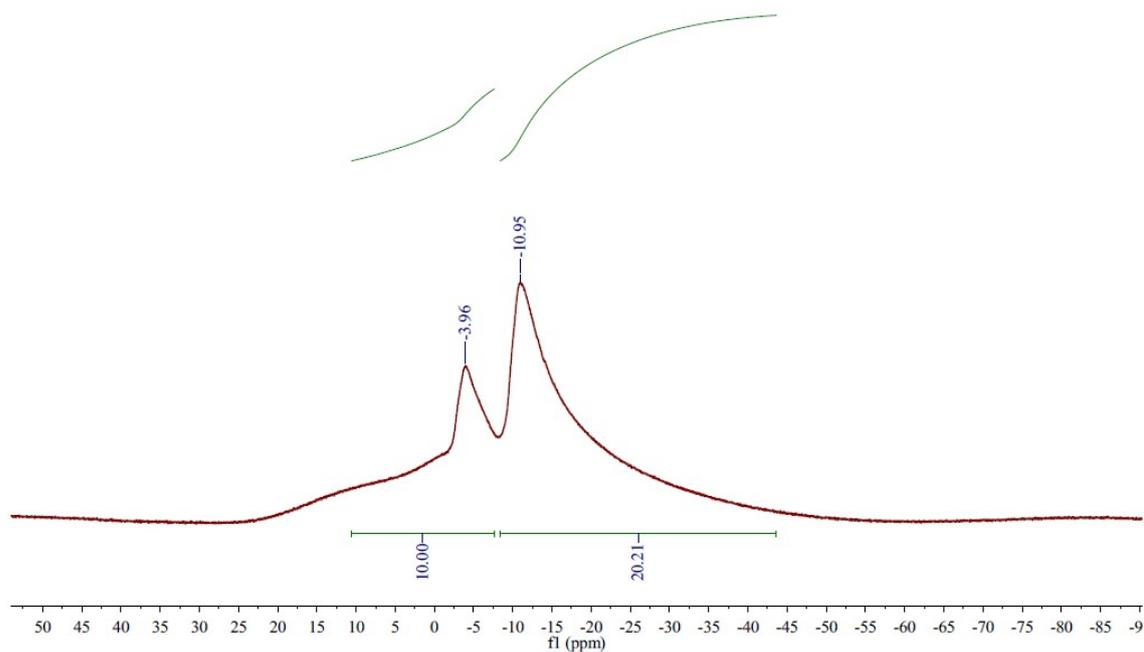
**Figure S8.** HRMS (ESI $^-$ ) spectrum of CA2.



**Figure S9.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopies of CA3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

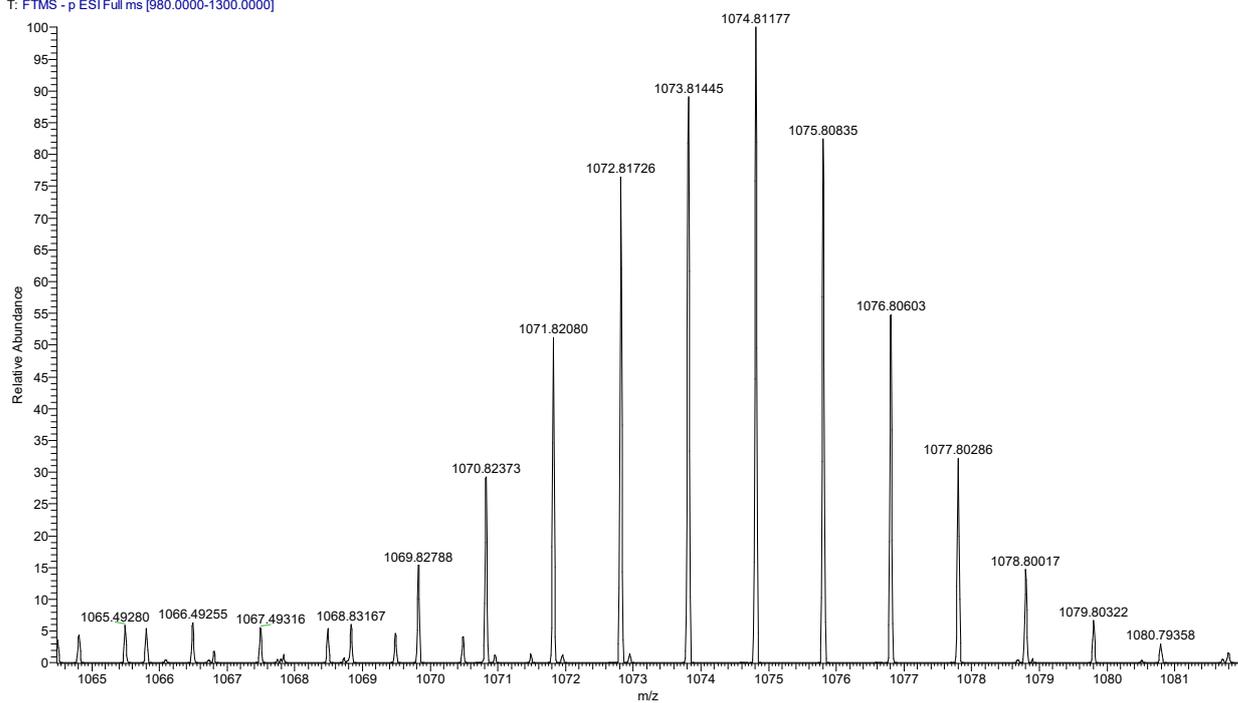


**Figure S10.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopies of CA3 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S11.**  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectroscopies of CA3 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

3M-nong-ESI(980-1300)#1 RT: 0.00 AV: 1 NL: 1.21E6  
T: FTMS -p ESI Full ms [980.0000-1300.0000]

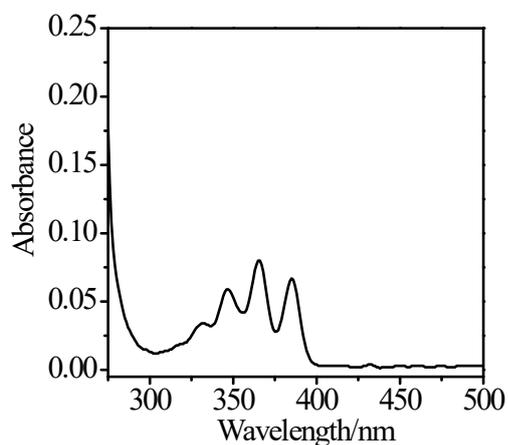


**Figure S12.** HRMS (ESI<sup>-</sup>) spectrum of CA3

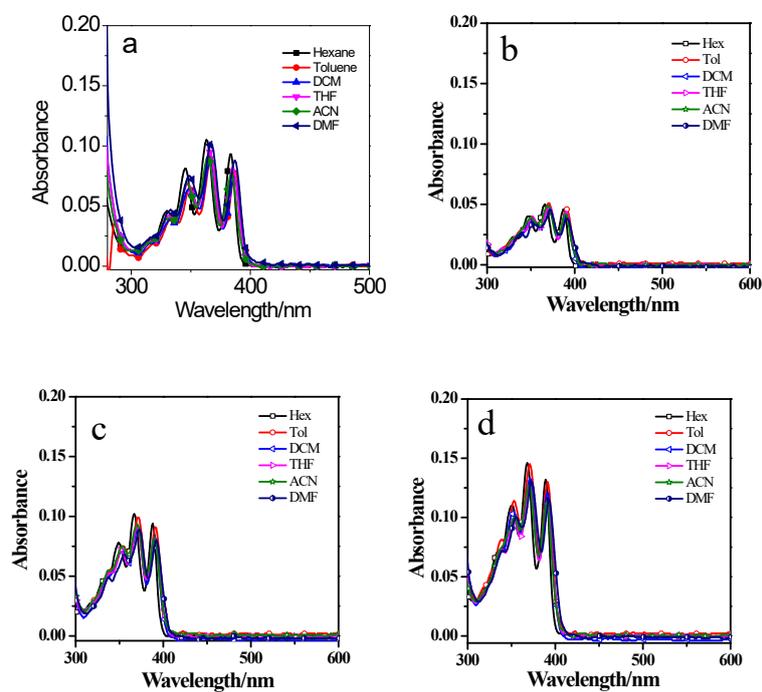
### Synthesis of compound CAH

To a THF solution (5 mL) of *o*-carborane (288 mg, 2.0 mmol) was slowly added *i*-PrMgCl (1.2 M in THF, 1.2 mL, 2.4 mmol) at 0 °C under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere for 3 h, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 h. After the replacement of THF with toluene (10 mL), and addition of 2-bromanthracene (617 mg, 2.4 mmol, 1.2 eq.) and NiCl<sub>2</sub> (26 mg, 0.2 mmol) the reaction mixture was heated to 105 °C with stirring for 12 h in a closed flask. Then, the reaction was quenched with water (10 mL) and the organic layer was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL) and dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified using silica gel column chromatography using DCM/petroleum ether (1/6, v/v) as the eluent to obtain colorless compound CAH.

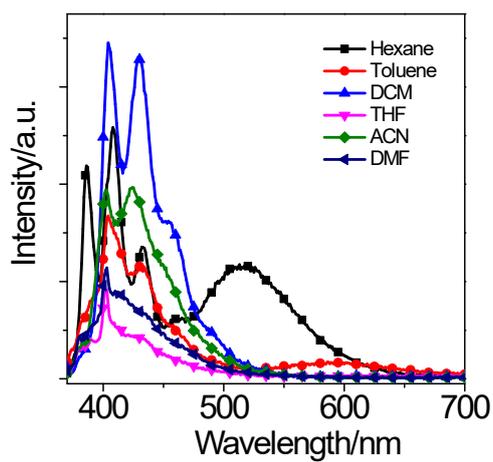
**CAH:** Orange yellow solid, Yield: 84%. M.p.:147.3-148.4 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 8.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.06-8.00 (m, 3 H), 7.55-7.51 (m, 3 H), 4.25 (s, 1 H, carborane C-H), 3.18-1.60 (10 H, br, B-H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\delta$  (ppm) 132.31, 133.02, 130.40, 129.82, 129.49, 128.77, 127.83, 127.77, 126.98, 126.05, 125.83, 125.75, 123.28, 76.73, 60.42. HRMS: *m/z* calcd for [C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>B<sub>10</sub>-H]<sup>-</sup>: *m/z* = 321.2417. Found: *m/z* = 321.2424.



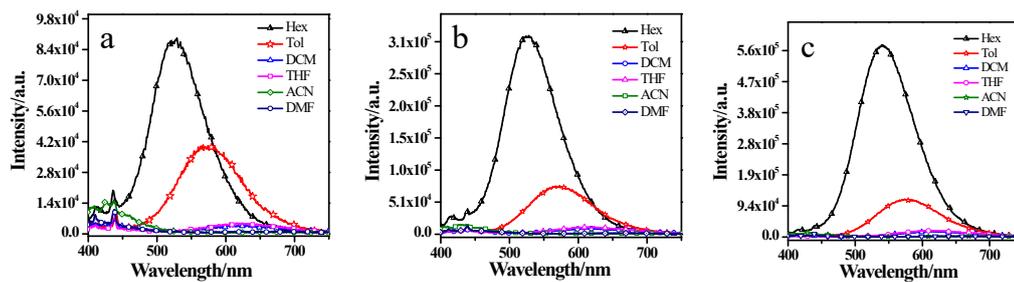
**Figure S13.** UV-Vis absorption spectra of CAH in THF solution,  $c=1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



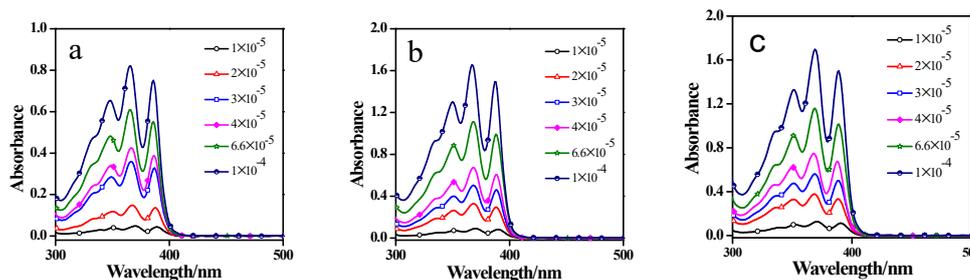
**Figure S14.** UV-Vis absorption of (a) CAH, (b) CA1 (c) CA3 and (d) CA3 in different solvents.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



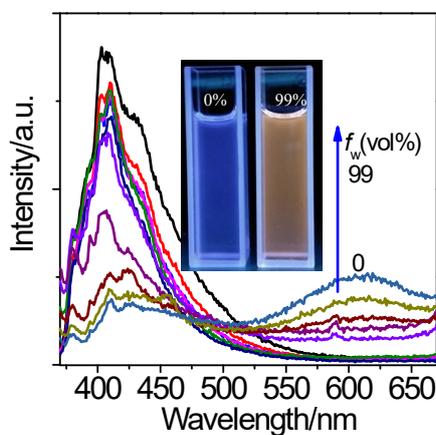
**Figure S15.** The emission spectra of CAH in various solvents, the excitation wavelength are 360 nm,  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



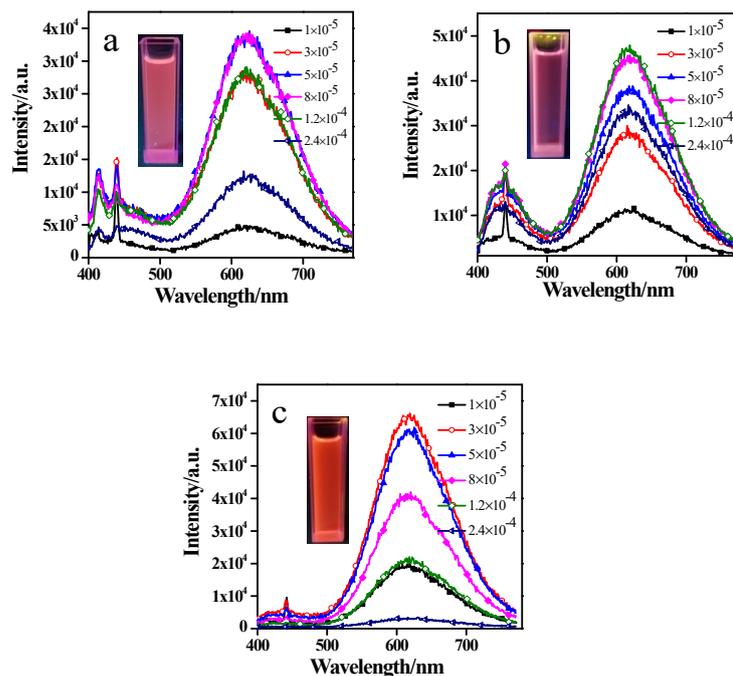
**Figure S16.** Fluorescence spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 in different solvents. ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}}=390$  nm),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



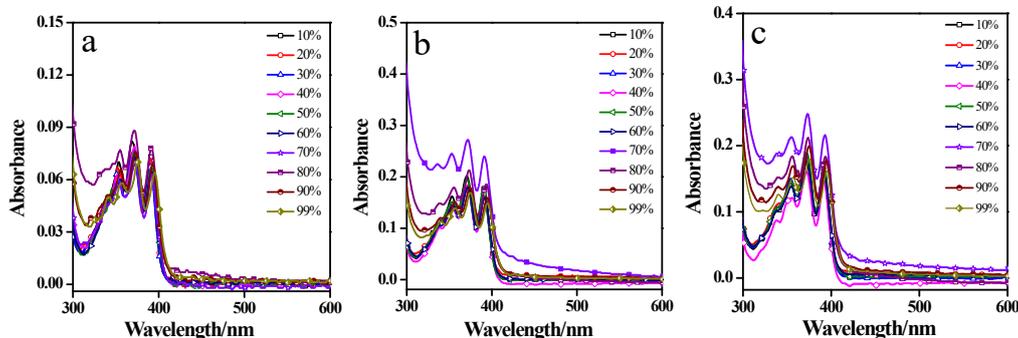
**Figure S17.** UV-Vis spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 as a function of concentration, 20 °C.



**Figure S18.** Fluorescence spectra of CAH, in THF/water mixtures with different water volume fractions ( $f_w$ ), the excitation wavelength are 360 nm,  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.



**Figure S19.** Fluorescence spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 as a function of concentration in THF, the excitation wavelength are 390 nm, 20 °C.



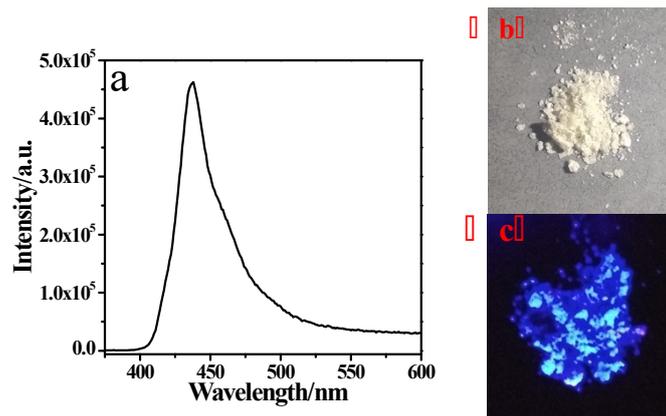
**Figure S20.** UV-Vis absorption of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 in solution with different water content.  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, 20 °C.

**Table S1.** The photophysical properties of CAH.

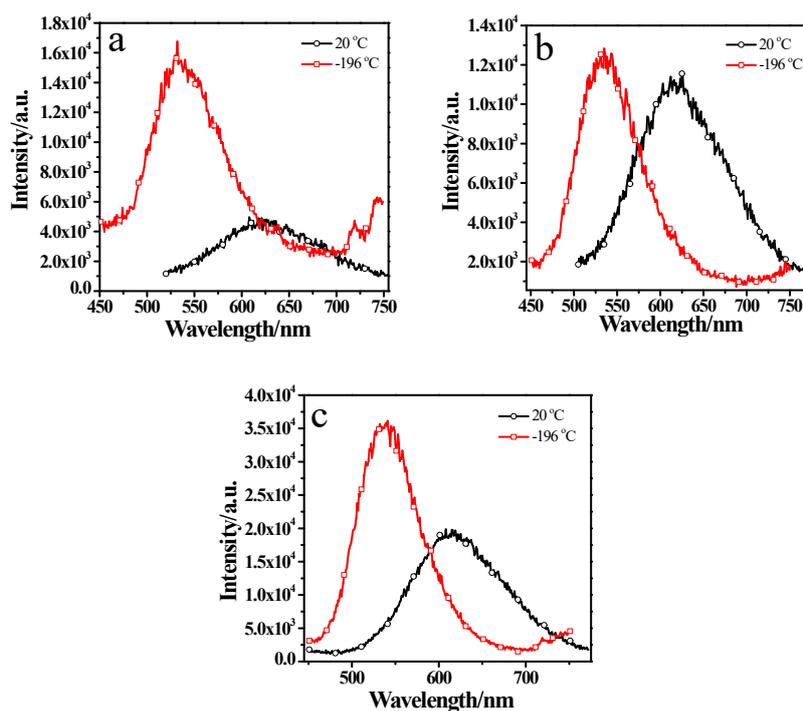
Sample	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}(\text{nm})^a$	$\lambda_{\text{em}}(\text{nm})^{a,b}$	$\tau_F(\text{ns})^c$	$\Phi_F(\%)$	$k_{\text{rad}}(10^7 \text{ s}^{-1})^f$	$k_{\text{nr}}(10^7 \text{ s}^{-1})^f$
CAH	348, 366, 385	402, 434	3.0, <sup>d</sup> 2.4 <sup>e</sup>	0.5, <sup>a</sup> 1.2, <sup>d</sup> 4.3 <sup>e</sup>	0.4, <sup>d</sup> 1.8 <sup>e</sup>	32.9, <sup>d</sup> 39.9 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Measured in THF solution ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M) at room temperature. <sup>b</sup> Taken by excitation at 365 nm. <sup>c</sup> For lifetimes excited at 370 nm. <sup>d</sup>  $f_w = 99\%$

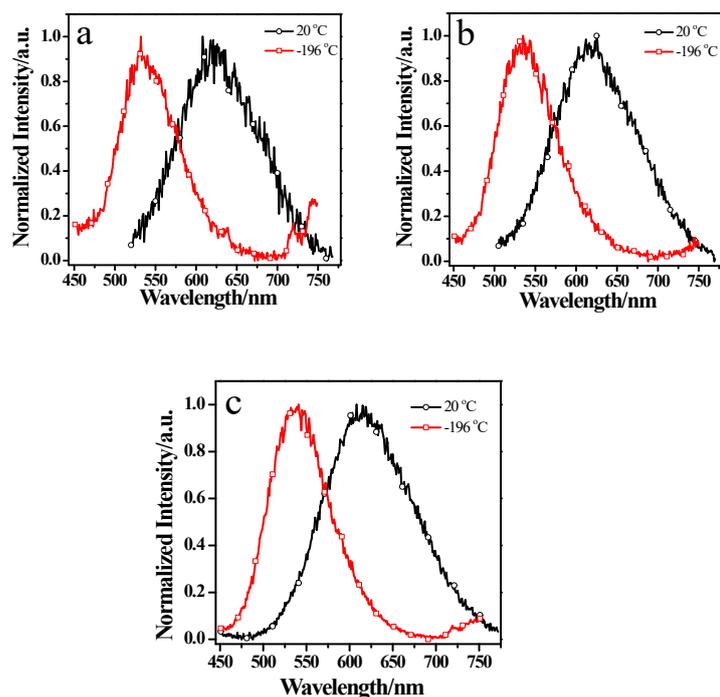
<sup>e</sup> In the solid state. <sup>f</sup> Values of  $k_{\text{rad}}$  and  $k_{\text{nr}}$  were calculated according to the equations,  $k_{\text{rad}} = \Phi_F/\tau_F$  and  $k_{\text{nr}} = (1/\tau_F) - k_{\text{rad}}$ , respectively.



**Figure S21.** (a) The emission spectra of CAH in the solid state,  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 360$  nm, (b) Photos of compounds CAH as solid powders under room light and (c) fluorescence images under UV illumination (365 nm), 20 °C.



**Figure S22.** PL spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 in 2-MeTHF at r.t. (black line) and  $-196$  °C (red line),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M.



**Figure S23.** Normalized PL spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 in 2-MeTHF at r.t. (black line) and  $-196\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (red line),  $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}\text{ M}$ .

**Table S2.** Photoluminescence lifetime of CA1, CA2 and CA3 in different conditions.

compound	$\tau_f^a$ (ns)		
	<i>Sol</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Agg</i> <sup>c</sup>	<i>Solid</i> <sup>d</sup>
CA1	0.47(72.70%)	5.41(26.62%)	13.29(92.50%)
	6.68(27.30%)	14.09(73.38%)	19.29(7.50%)
CA2	3.65(14.80%)	8.72(23.36%)	8.41(39.33%)
	0.81(85.20%)	20.15(76.64%)	16.94(60.67%)
CA3	0.89(43.77%)	7.78(16.92%)	8.27(36.86%)
	2.09(56.23%)	20.11(83.08%)	16.81(63.14%)

<sup>a</sup> Fluorescence lifetimes, <sup>b</sup> In THF, <sup>c</sup>  $f_w=99\%$ , <sup>d</sup> In the solid state.

**Table S3.** Photophysical optical properties of CA1, CA2 and CA3 in various states.

Compound	State	$K_r$ ( $10^7\text{ s}^{-1}$ ) <sup>d</sup>	$K_{nr}$ ( $10^8\text{ s}^{-1}$ ) <sup>d</sup>
CA1	<i>Sol</i> <sup>a</sup>	0.3	4.5
	<i>Agg</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.3	0.6
	<i>Solid</i> <sup>c</sup>	2.5	0.5
CA2	<i>Sol</i> <sup>a</sup>	1.8	8.2
	<i>Agg</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.8	0.5
	<i>Solid</i> <sup>c</sup>	2.9	0.3
CA3	<i>Sol</i> <sup>a</sup>	2.0	6.1
	<i>Agg</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.4	0.5
	<i>Sol</i> <sup>a</sup>	3.8	0.2

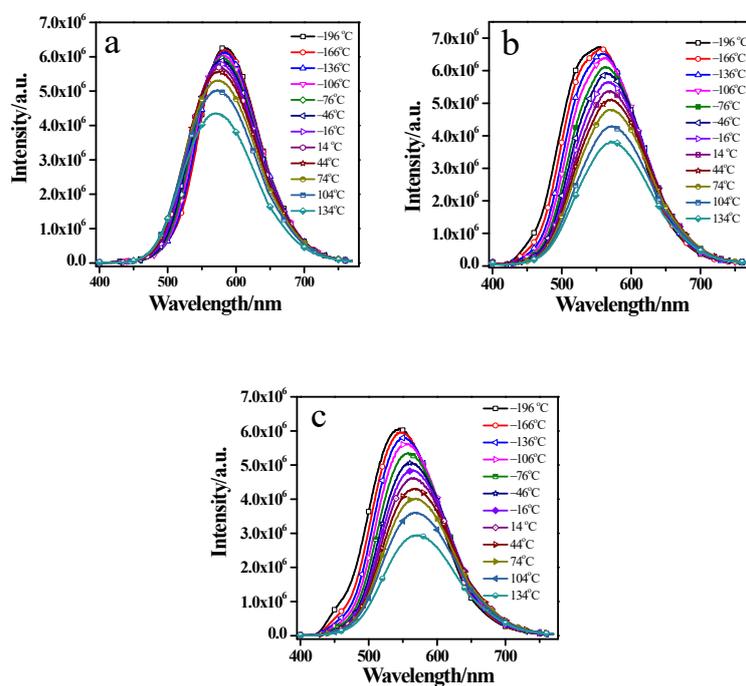
<sup>a</sup> In THF, <sup>b</sup>  $f_w=99\%$ , <sup>c</sup> In the solid state, <sup>d</sup> Fluorescence emission rate constant ( $k_r$ ) and non-radiative decay rate constant ( $k_{nr}$ ) were calculated as follows:  $k_r=\Phi_f/\tau_f$ ,  $k_{nr}=(1-\Phi_f)/\tau_f$ .

**Table S4.** Selected parameters for the UV-vis absorption and Singlet state (Fluorescence) energy of the CA1, CA2 and CA3. Electronic excitation energies (eV), oscillator strengths ( $f$ ), and configurations of the low-lying excited states were calculated using TDDFT//B3LYP/6-31G (d, p), based on the optimized ground state geometries.

Comp	Electronic transition <sup>a</sup>		TDDFT/B3LYP/6-31G (d,p)			
			Excitation energy	$f^b$	Composition <sup>c</sup>	CI <sup>d</sup>
CA1	Abs	S <sub>0</sub> →S <sub>1</sub>	3.1649 eV (392 nm)	0.2454	H→L	0.6671
	Fl	S <sub>1</sub> →S <sub>0</sub>	2.250 eV (551 nm)	0.5641	H→L	0.7012
CA2	Abs	S <sub>0</sub> →S <sub>1</sub>	3.1750 eV (390 nm)	0.2354	H→L	0.6846
	Fl	S <sub>1</sub> →S <sub>0</sub>	2.1634 eV (573 nm)	0.2447	H→L	0.6923
CA3	Abs	S <sub>0</sub> →S <sub>1</sub>	3.1244 eV (397 nm)	0.3446	H→L	0.7064
	Fl	S <sub>1</sub> →S <sub>0</sub>	2.1903 eV (566 nm)	0.4265	H→L	0.6850

<sup>a</sup> Only selected excited states were considered. Numbers in parentheses are the excitation energy in wavelength.

<sup>b</sup> Oscillator strength. <sup>c</sup> H stands for the HOMO and L stands for the LUMO. Only the main configurations are presented. <sup>d</sup> Coefficient of the wave function for each excitation. CI coefficients are given in absolute values.



**Figure S24.** PL spectra of (a) CA1, (b) CA2 and (c) CA3 in the solid state during heating from -196 to 134 °C.