Supporting information for

# Synthesis of 9,9-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) fluorene Catalyzed by

# **Bifunctional Ionic Liquid**

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#### **1. Functionalized ILs preparation**

The ILs based on 1-methylimidazole, 2-mercapto-1-methylimidazole, pyridine, 2-mercaptopyridine, benzothiazole, 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, 2-mercapto-5-methyl-1,3,4-thiadiazole and 2,5-dimercapto-1,3,4-thiadiazole were synthesized by two-step method.



Scheme S1 The synthetic of functionalized ionic liquids

Table S1 The yield of zwitterions and ionic liquids			
ILs	The yield of zwitterions(%)	The yield of ILs (%)	Total yield(%)
1	91.5	97.8	89.5
2	85.6	98.9	84.7
3	78.2	97.7	76.4
4	89.9	98.9	88.9
5a	73.3	91.3	66.9
5b		98.1	71.9
6a	82.1	97.2	79.8
6b		98.1	80.5
6c		98.5	80.9
6d		92.2	75.7
6e		96.4	79.1
7	65.8	98.3	64.7
8	60.5	97.9	59.2

In the two-step synthesis of ionic liquid, the yields of each step and the total reaction are as follows:

# 2. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance II 400 MHz with TMS as an internal standard.

## 2.1 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of zwitterionic precursors

2.1.1 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Z1



Figure S2 <sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z1

## 2.1.2 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Z2



Figure S4<sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z2



Figure S6<sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z3

## 2.1.4 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Z4



210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)

Figure S8<sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z4



Figure S10 <sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z5



Figure S12 <sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z6

## 2.1.7 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Z7



Figure S14 <sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z7

## 2.1.8 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of Z8



Figure S16<sup>13</sup>C NMR for Z8

#### 2.2 <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of ILs

Spectra of (1): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.30 (s, 1H), 7.10 (s, 1H), 7.04 (s, 1H), 3.94 (t, 2H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 2.51 (t, 2H), 1.89 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 135.82, 123.54, 121.88, 47.45, 47.02, 35.50, 24.80.

Spectra of (2): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.13 (d, 1H), 7.09 (d, 1H), 3.48 (s, 3H), 2.81 (t, 2H), 2.62 (t, 2H), 1.60 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 139.42, 125.03, 120.30, 48.60, 34.76, 33.13, 24.49.

Spectra of (**3**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.55 (d, 2H), 8.25 (t, 1H), 7.77 (t, 2H), 4.45 (t, 2H), 2.64 (t, 2H), 2.14 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 145.79, 144.19, 128.28, 59.70, 46.90, 25.95.

Spectra of (4): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.35 (d, 1H), 8.19 (t, 1H), 7.79 (d, 1H), 7.53 (t, 1H), 3.29 (t, 2H), 2.90 (t, 2H), 2.01 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 156.10, 145.53, 141.56, 125.56, 122.50, 49.05, 30.25, 23.43.

Spectra of (**5a**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.12 (m, 2H), 7.79 (t, 1H), 7.60 (t, 1H), 4.81 (t, 2H), 2.93 (t, 2H), 2.32 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 162.27, 139.95, 131.19, 130.15, 128.97, 124.53, 116.50, 51.32, 47.27, 24.01.

Spectra of (**5b**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 10.31 (s, 1H), 8.26 (d, 1H), 8.22 (d, 1H), 7.89 (t, 1H), 7.79 (t, 1H), 4.96 (t, 2H), 3.00 (t, 2H), 2.95 (t, 2H), 2.58 (t, 2H), 2.47 (m, 2H), 1.95 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 140.00, 131.20, 130.21, 129.04, 124.60, 116.58, 51.32, 49.45, 47.29, 28.38, 24.03, 23.58, 22.53.

Spectra of (**6a**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 6.93 (d, 1H), 6.70 (m, 2H), 6.62 (t, 1H), 2.72 (t, 2H), 2.42 (t, 2H), 1.58 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 176.35, 141.77, 129.03, 128.12, 125.93, 121.69, 115.96, 48.74, 33.24, 23.15.

Spectra of (**6b**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 7.25 (d, 1H), 7.09 (d, 1H), 7.04 (t, 1H), 6.95 (t, 1H), 2.98 (t, 2H), 2.76 (t, 2H), 1.90 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 174.05, 145.10, 130.77, 127.74, 125.66, 121.64, 117.43, 49.15, 32.97, 23.63.

Spectra of (**6c**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 7.20 (d, 1H), 7.11 (d, 2H), 7.00 (d, 1H), 6.95 (t, 1H), 6.88 (t, 1H), 6.64 (d, 2H), 2.93 (t, 2H), 2.64 (t, 2H), 1.82 (m, 2H), 1.74 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS)  $\delta$  (ppm): 176.17, 142.44,

141.60, 139.28, 129.55, 128.84, 128.29, 126.13, 124.91, 121.93, 116.39, 48.96, 48.67, 33.38, 23.37, 20.20.

Spectra of (**6d**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 7.20 (d, 1H), 7.01 (d, 1H), 6.98 (t, 1H), 6.89 (t, 1H), 2.99 (t, 2H), 2.69 (t, 2H), 1.86 m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 176.10, 142.55, 129.56, 128.21, 126.07, 121.82, 116.39, 48.97, 33.38, 28.12, 23.40.

Spectra of (**6e**): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 7.52 (d, 1H), 7.33 (d, 2H), 7.27 (t, 1H), 7.17 (t, 1H), 3.20(t, 2H), 2.93 (t, 2H), 2.88 (t, 2H), 2.51 (t, 2H), 2.09 (m, 2H), 1.88 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 174.06, 145.90, 131.41, 127.90, 125.86, 121.94, 117.92, 49.45, 49.32, 33.13, 28.37, 23.84, 22.52.

Spectra of (7): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 3.02 (t, 2H), 2.65 (t, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H), 1.80 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 170.97, 170.36, 48.96, 32.96, 23.53, 14.18.

Spectra of (8): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 2.62 (t, 4H), 2.31 (t, 4H), 1.42 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, TMS) δ (ppm): 168.14, 48.70, 32.83, 23.42.

#### 3. MS spectra of ILs

IR spectra were recorded on a Q-TOF Micro.

MS: calcd for 1, m/z 301.0 (M-H), found 301.1; calcd for 2, m/z 303.0 (M-H), found 303.1; calcd for 3, m/z 298.0 (M-H), found 298.0; calcd for 4, m/z 330.0 (M-H), found 330.0; calcd for 5a, m/z 354.0 (M-H), found 354.0; calcd for 6a, m/z 386.0 (M-H), found 386.0; calcd for 7, m/z 351.0 (M-H), found 351.0; calcd for 8, m/z 490.9 (M-HSO<sub>4</sub>-2H), found 491.0.













#### 4. Determination of -SH

The sulfhydryl content of ILs was evaluated by determination of Ellman's method using UV-vis spectrometer with 5-sulfhydryl-2-nitrobenzoic acid as indicator. Figure S25 shows the reaction principle of the Ellman's method. Figure S26 shows the maximum absorbance of unprotonated indicator in UV-vis spectra at 412 nm.



Figure S25 The maximum absorbance of indicator at 412 nm



Figure S26 The maximum absorbance of indicator at 412 nm

#### 5. Determination of conversion and selectivity

As shown in Figure S27, the reaction was analyzed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (Agilent 1100). The HPLC-system was equipped with a Supersil OSD2 C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm, 5  $\mu$ m).

The mobile phase A (methanol) and the mobile phase B ( $H_2O$ ) was pumped through the column whose temp was maintained at 30°C, with a flow rate 1.0 mL/min. A:B

(60:40, v:v) gradient rises to A:B (100:0, v:v) from 0 minutes to 30 minutes. 9-Fluorenone is detected at 257 nm. BHPF, by-product B and C are detected at 275 nm.

The conversion of 9-fluorenone is calculated as follows:

$$Con. (9-fluorenone) = \frac{n (9-fluorenone)_{I} - n (9-fluorenone)_{T}}{n (9-fluorenone)_{I}} \times 100\%$$

where n (9-fluorenone)<sub>I</sub> and n (9-fluorenone)<sub>T</sub> are the molar of 9-fluorenone at initial and terminal reaction time. As shown in Figure S27 (b), when 9-fluorenone is converted completely, there is no peak of 9-fluorenone in HPLC spectrum.

Selectivity of product are calculated as follows:

$$Sel.(BHPF) = \frac{n (BHPF)}{n (BHPF) + n (B) + n (C)} \times 100\%$$

where n (BHPH), n (B) and n (C) are the molar of BHPF, B and C.



Figure S27 HPLC spectra of reaction, 257 nm. (a) 9-fluorenone is not completely converted, (b) 9-fluorenone is completely converted.