

Tunable mechanochromic luminescence via surface protonation of pyridyl-substituted imidazole crystals

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Table of contents

1. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements.....	S2
2. Supplementary fluorescence spectra	S2
3. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns	S3
4. Theoretical calculations.....	S4
5. Supplementary absorption and fluorescence spectra.....	S6
6. Supplementary excitation spectra.....	S7
7. Fluorescence microscopy.....	S8
8. Reference.....	S9
NMR spectra.....	S10

1. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements

DSC thermograms of 1 and 2

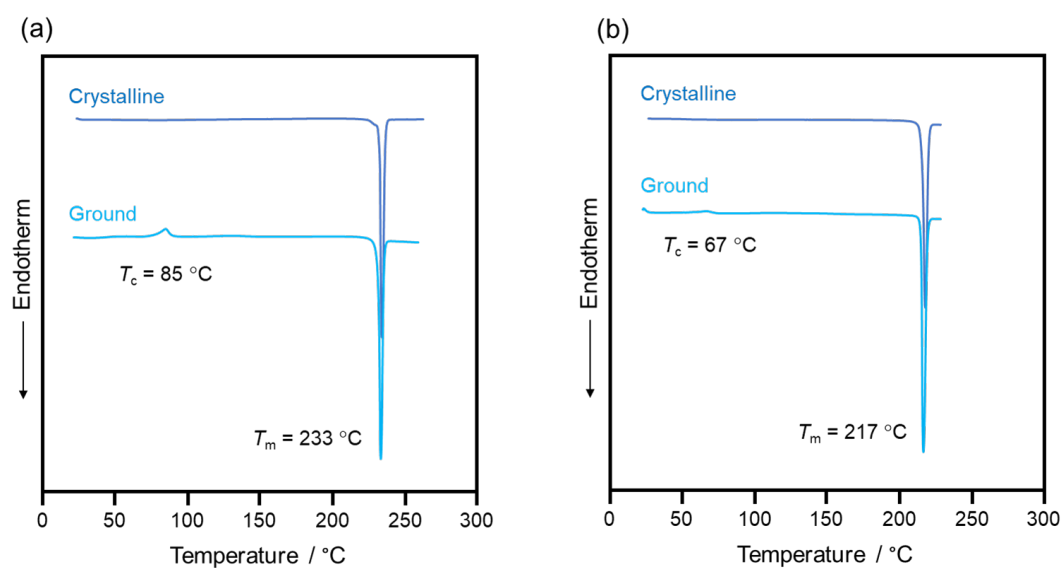


Fig. S1 DSC thermograms for crystalline and ground samples of (a) **1** and (b) **2**. T_c and T_m values are noted near the corresponding peaks.

2. Supplementary fluorescence spectra

Fluorescence spectra for the stimuli-responsive luminescence of 2 and 2•HCl

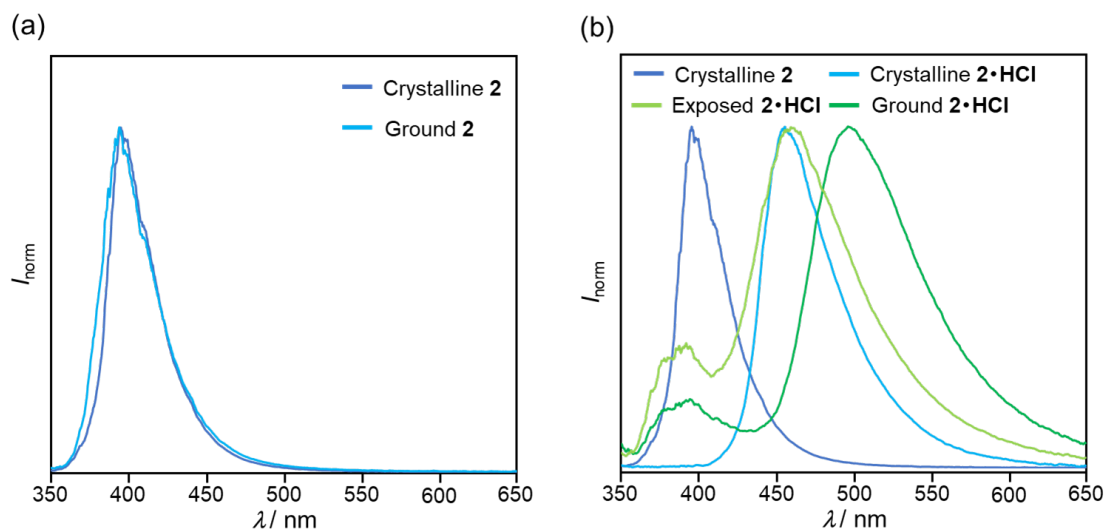


Fig. S2 Fluorescence spectra of (a) crystalline and ground **2** and (b) crystalline **2**, crystalline **2•HCl**, exposed **2•HCl**, and ground **2•HCl** under UV (310 nm) irradiation.

Fluorescence spectra for crystalline 2, crystalline 2•HCl, and crushed 2•HCl

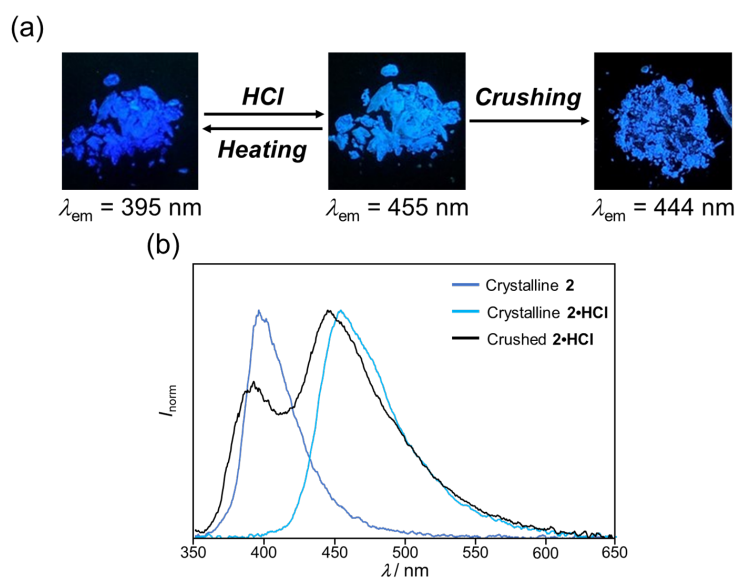


Fig. S3 (a) Photographs of 2, 2•HCl, and crushed 2•HCl under UV (365 nm) irradiation. (b) Fluorescence spectra of 2, 2•HCl, and crushed 2•HCl ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 310 \text{ nm}$).

Fluorescence spectra of ground 1•HCl with 1 (0–2 equivalents)

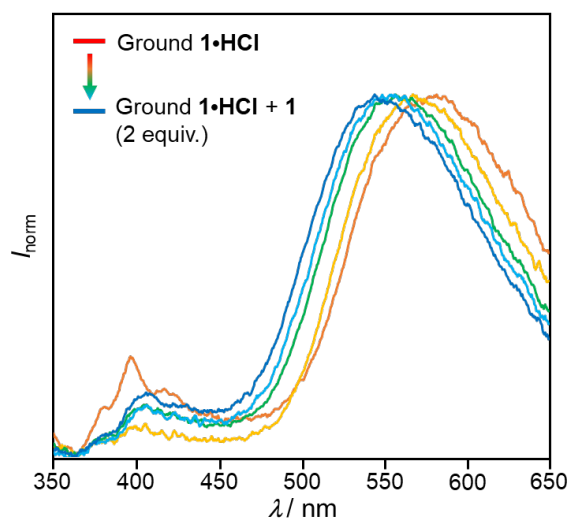


Fig. S4 Fluorescence spectra of ground 1•HCl with 1 (0–2 equivalents) excited at 310 nm.

3. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns

PXRD patterns of **2** and **2**•HCl

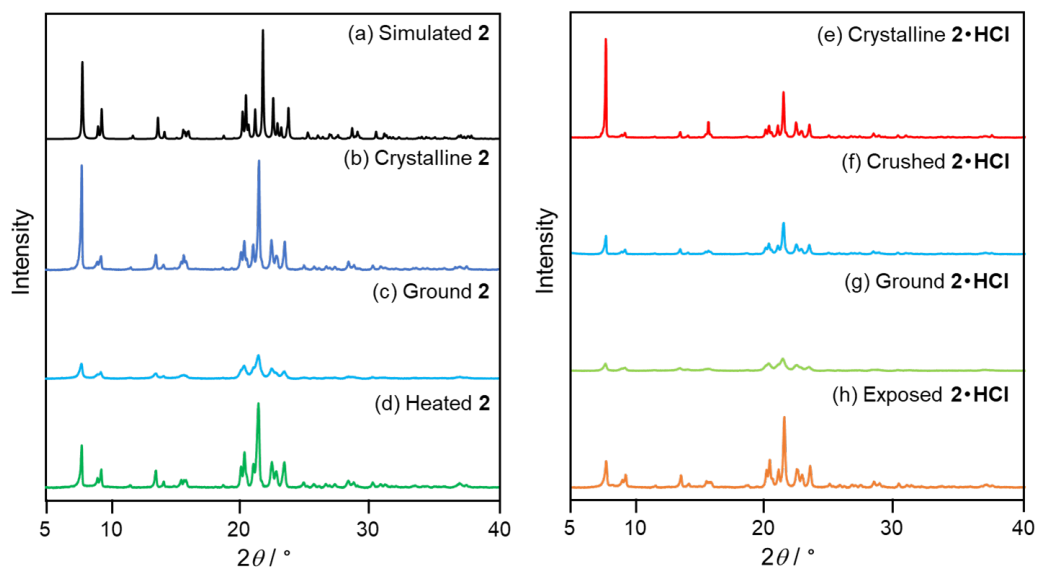


Fig. S5 (a) Simulated PXRD patterns of **2** calculated from the single-crystal X-ray diffraction structures prepared from CHCl_3 /hexane. Experimental PXRD patterns for (b) crystalline, (c) ground, and (d) heated samples of **2** and (e) crystalline, (f) crushed, (g) ground, and (h) exposed to ethyl acetate samples of **2**•HCl.

PXRD patterns of **1**•HCl

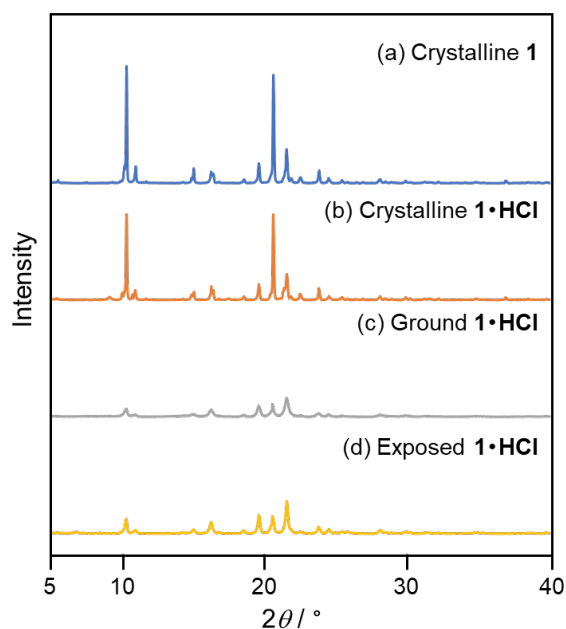


Fig. S6 PXRD patterns of (a) crystalline **1**, (b) crystalline **1**•HCl, (c) ground **1**•HCl, and (d) exposed **1**•HCl.

4. Theoretical calculations

Experimental absorption maxima and the results of DFT and TD-DFT calculations at the CAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory are shown in Table S1. The HOMO and LUMO of **1**, **1•H⁺**, **2**, and **2•H⁺** are shown in Fig. S7.

Table S1 Experimental absorption maxima and calculated absorption properties.

Compd.	Absorption in CHCl ₃ λ_{abs} (nm)	Calcd absorption λ_{abs} (nm)	Transition from HOMO to LUMO	Oscillator strength	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	Dipole moment (D)
1	333	296.02	0.589	0.3874	−6.66	−0.16	4.64
1•H⁺	428	432.04	0.696	0.7495	−9.39	−4.83	13.83
2	318	273.77	0.673	0.4344	−6.77	0.07	5.32
2•H⁺	396	414.89	0.694	0.5817	−9.50	−4.73	13.68

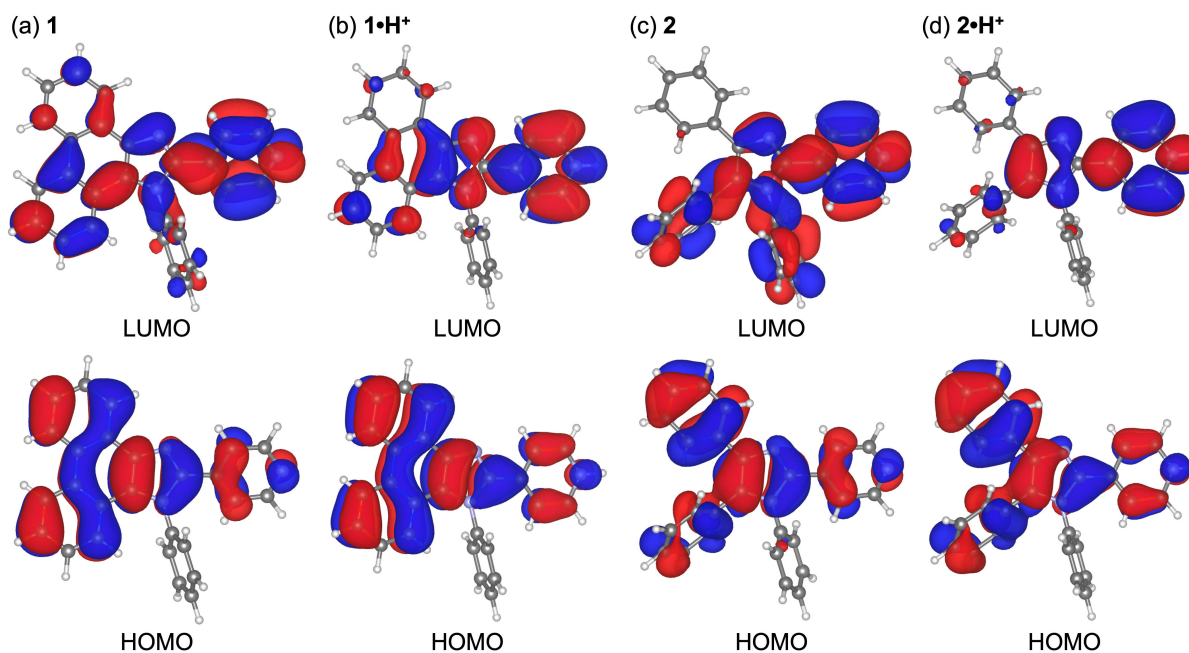


Fig. S7 HOMO and LUMO of **1** (a), **1•H⁺** (b), **2** (c), and **2•H⁺** (c) calculated at the CAM-B3LYP/6-31G(d) level. The structures are drawn by VESTA.¹

5. Supplementary absorption and fluorescence spectra

Absorption and fluorescence spectra of **2** and **2•HCl** in chloroform solution

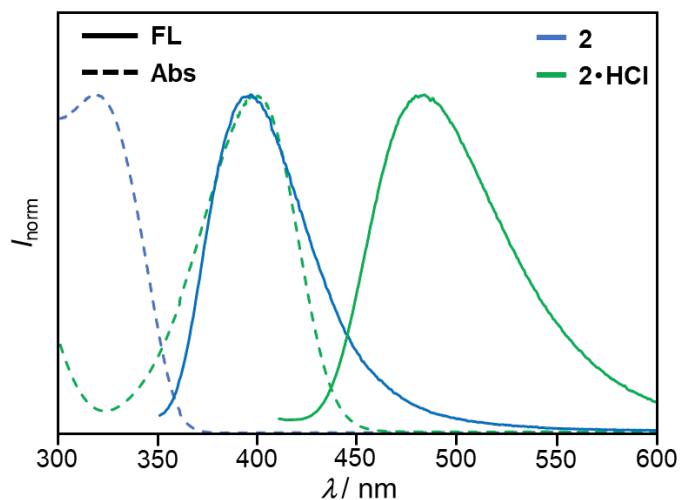


Fig. S8 Absorption (dotted line) and fluorescence (solid line) spectra of **2** and **2•HCl** in chloroform solution. Excitation wavelengths are 319 nm and 397 nm for **2** and **2•HCl**, respectively.

Fluorescence spectra of **1** and **1•HCl** (after exposing to HCl vapor for 30 min) in chloroform

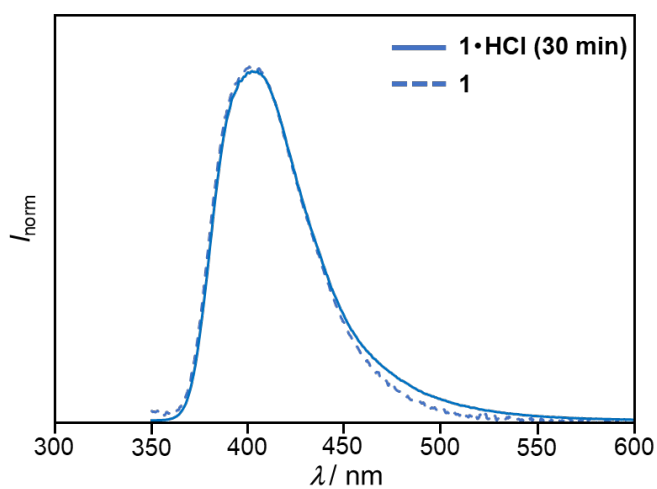


Fig. S9 Fluorescence spectra of **1** and **1•HCl** after exposing to HCl vapor for 30min. Excitation wavelengths are 331 nm and 333 nm for **1** and **1•HCl**, respectively.

Absorption spectra for solid-state samples

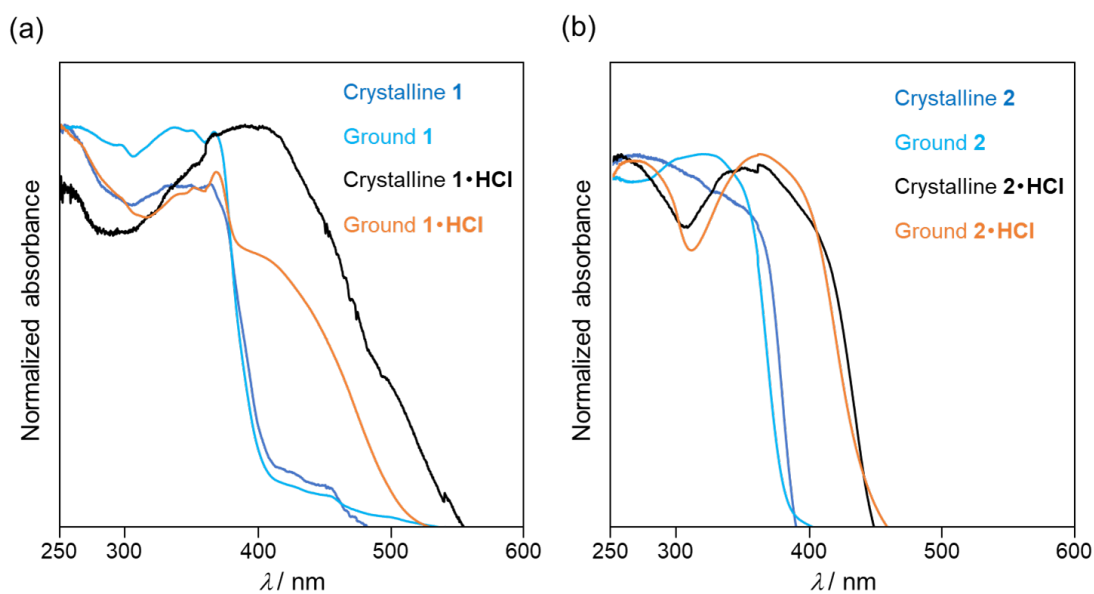


Fig. S10 Absorption spectra of crystalline and ground samples of (a) **1** and **1•HCl** and (b) **2** and **2•HCl**.

6. Supplementary excitation spectra

Absorption and excitation spectra of **1**, **1•HCl**, **2**, and **2•HCl** in chloroform solution

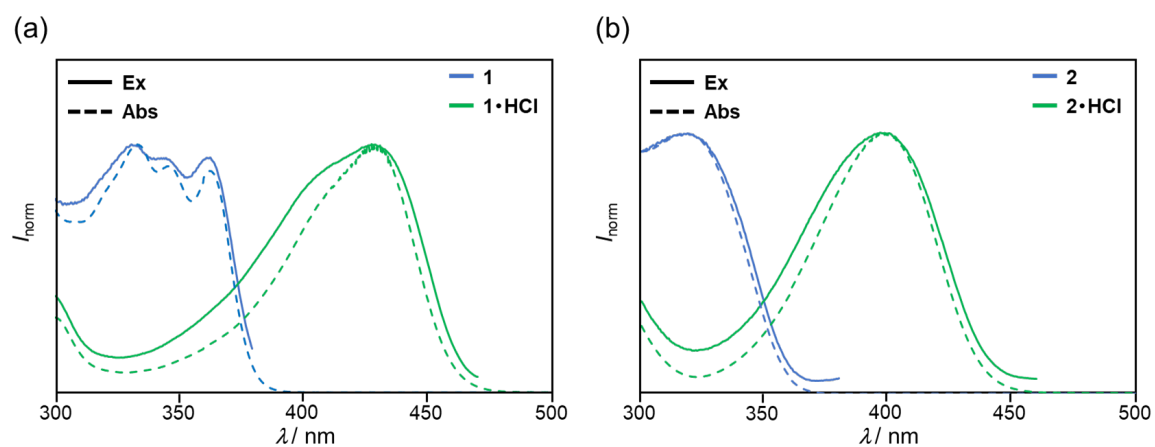


Fig. S11 Absorption (dotted line) and fluorescence (solid line) spectra of (a) **1** and **1•HCl** and (b) **2** and **2•HCl**.

7. Fluorescence microscopy

Fluorescence decay profiles

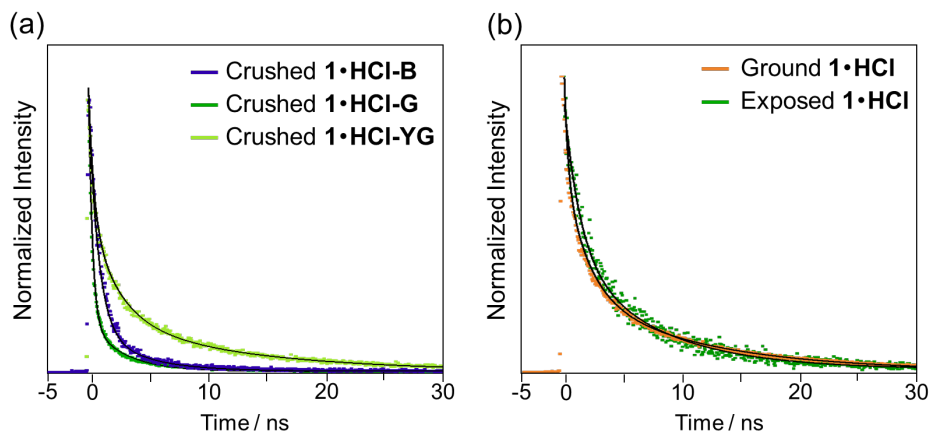


Fig. S12 Fluorescence decay profiles recorded by spatially resolved fluorescence microscopy ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 405$ nm). (a) Crushed 1•HCl-B, 1•HCl-G, and 1•HCl-YG. (b) Ground and exposed 1•HCl. The black lines indicate multi-exponential curves fitted to the time profiles.

Fluorescence spectra recorded by fluorescence microscopy

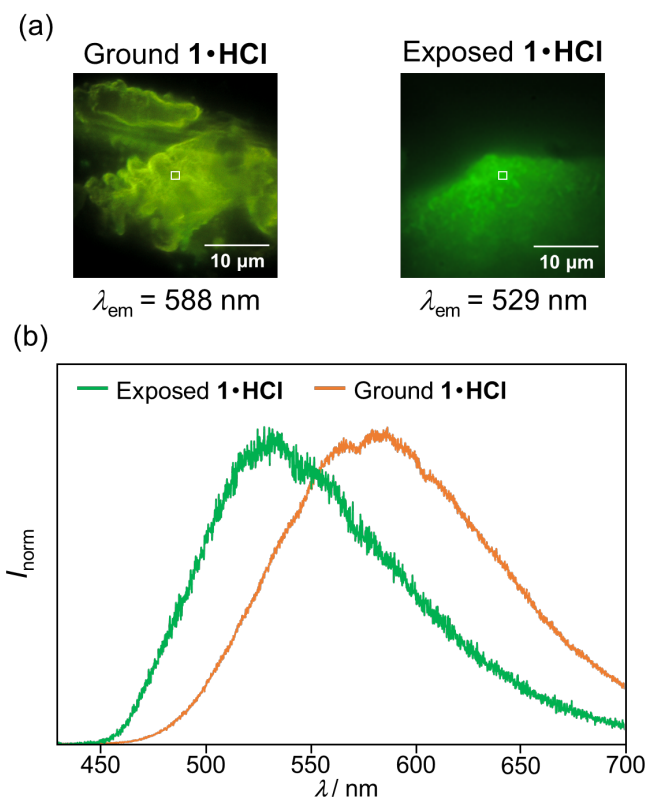
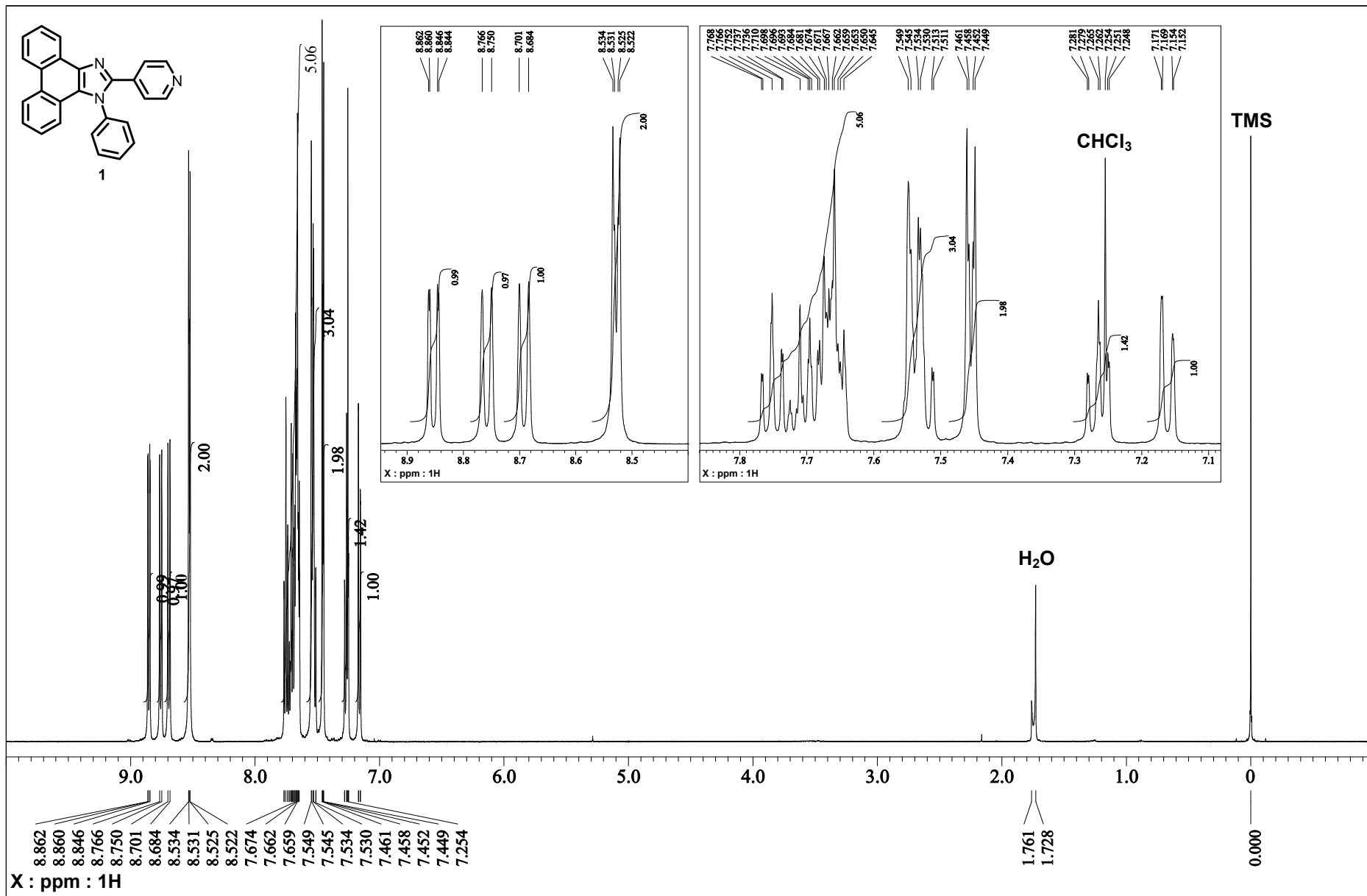


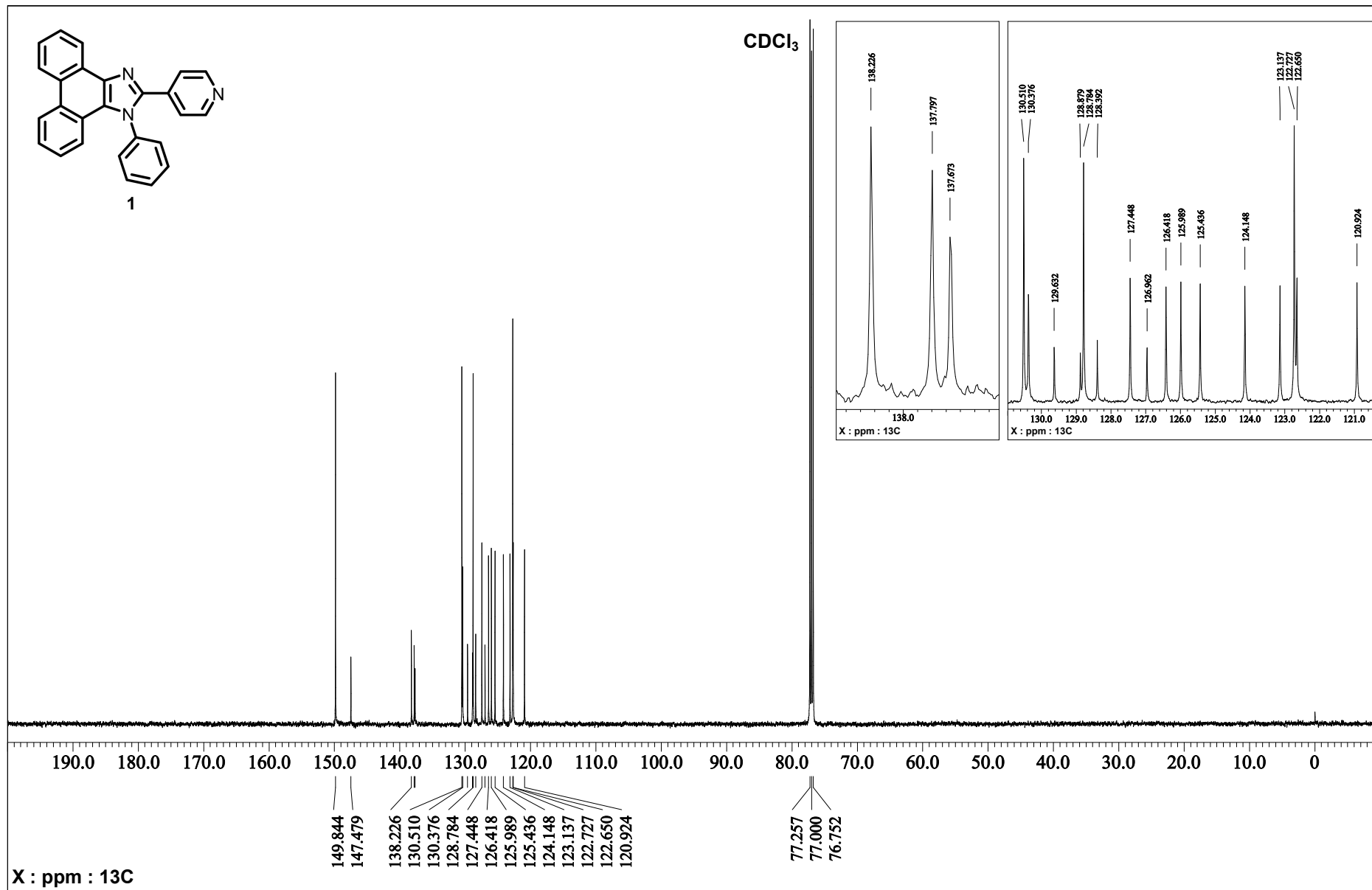
Fig. S13 (a) Photographs and (b) fluorescence spectra of ground and exposed 1•HCl recorded by fluorescence microscopy ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 405$ nm). The square marks indicate the measured locations of fluorescence spectra and fluorescence decay profiles.

Reference

- 1) K. Momma and F. Izumi, *J. Appl. Crystallogr.*, 2011, **44**, 1272.

¹H NMR spectrum of **1** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, rt)





¹H NMR spectrum of **2** (500 MHz, CDCl₃, rt)

