Electronic Supplementary Information for

# Artificial supramolecular light-harvesting systems based on a pyrene derivative for photochemical catalysis

Ying Wang,<sup>†a</sup> Rongxin Zhu,<sup>†a</sup> Yu Hang,<sup>b</sup> Rongzhou Wang,<sup>a</sup> Ruizhi Dong,<sup>a</sup> Shengsheng Yu,<sup>\*a</sup> and

Ling-Bao Xing\*a

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shandong University of Technology, Zibo

255000, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup> Weifang Inspection and Certification Co., Ltd, Weifang 261021, P. R. China

\*Corresponding author: Tel. /fax: +86 533 2781664. E-mail: ssyu@sdut.edu.cn; lbxing@sdut.edu.cn.

<sup>†</sup>Equal contribution to this work.

#### Experimental

Materials: Unless specifically mentioned, all chemicals are commercially available and were used as received.

**Characterizations:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer (400 MHz) at 298 K, and the chemical shifts (δ) were expressed in ppm, and J values were given in Hz. UV-vis spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu UV-1601PC spectrophotometer in a quartz cell (light path 10 mm) at 298 K. Steady-state fluorescence measurements were carried out using a Hitachi 4500 spectrophotometer. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) and zeta potential are measured on Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS90. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images were obtained on a JEM 2100 operating at 120 kV. Samples for TEM measurement were prepared by dropping the mixed aqueous solution on a carbon-coated copper grid (300 mesh) and drying by slow evaporation.



Scheme S1. Synthetic route of NPyP.

Synthesis of PyP: 2,7-dibromopyrene (0.50 g, 1.39 mmol), 4-pyridinyl boronic acid (0.51 g, 4.2 mmol), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.092 g, 0.08 mmol) were added into the mixed solution of tetrahydrofuran (7 mL), toluene (1 mL) and 3 mL of 2 mol/L aqueous potassium carbonate. The mixture was refluxed under nitrogen for 3 days, filtered, and the precipitate was collected and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O and methanol. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.80 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H), 8.47 (s, 4H), 8.22 (s, 4H), 7.83 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 4H).

Synthesis of NPyP: NPyP was obtained through the reaction between 2-(bromomethyl)naphthalene and PyP at 85 °C for 3 days in acetonitrile. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  9.45 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 9.09 (s, 4H), 8.89 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 8.43 (s, 4H), 8.17 (s, 2H), 8.05 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.62 – 7.59 (m, 4H), 6.09 (s, 4H). Energy-transfer efficiency calculation: The energy-transfer efficiency ( $\Phi_{ET}$ ) was calculated from excitation fluorescence spectra through the equation S1:  $\Phi_{ET} = 1 - I_{DA}/I_D$ . Where  $I_{DA}$  and  $I_D$  are the fluorescence intensities of the emission of NPyP-CB[8]+RhB or NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 assembly (donor and acceptor) and NPyP-CB[8] assembly (donor) respectively when excited at 324 nm. The energy-transfer efficiency ( $\Phi_{ET}$ ) was calculated as 50% and 49% in an aqueous environment, measured under the condition of [NPyP] =  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [CB[8]] =  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [RhB] =  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M, [SR101] =  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M.

Antenna effect calculation: The antenna effect of NPyP-CB[8]-RhB system was calculated based on the excitation spectra using equation S2: Antenna effect =  $(I_{DA,324} - I_{D,324}) / I_{DA,550}$ . Where  $I_{D,324}$  and  $I_{DA,550}$  are the fluorescence intensities at 580 nm with the excitation of the donor at 324 nm and the direct excitation of the acceptor at 550nm, respectively.  $I_{DA,324}$  is the fluorescence intensities of the NPyP-CB[8] assembly, which was normalized with the NPyP-CB[8]-RhB assembly at 540 nm. The antenna effect value was calculated as 0.92 in water, measured under the condition of [NPyP] =  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [CB[8]] =  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [RhB] =  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M.

The antenna effect of NPyP-CB[8]-SR101 system was calculated based on the excitation spectra using equation S3: Antenna effect =  $(I_{DA,324} - I_{D,324}) / I_{DA,580}$ . Where  $I_{D,324}$  and  $I_{DA,580}$  are the fluorescence intensities at 610 nm with the excitation of the donor at 324 nm and the direct excitation of the acceptor at 580nm, respectively.  $I_{DA,324}$  is the fluorescence intensities of the NPyP-CB[8] assembly, which was normalized with the NPyP-CB[8]-SR101 assembly at 540 nm. The antenna effect value was calculated

as 0.81 in water, measured under the condition of  $[NPyP] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}, [CB[8]] = 1.0$ 

 $\times$  10<sup>-5</sup> M, [SR101] = 2.5  $\times$  10<sup>-6</sup> M.

General procedure for the photo-dehalogenation reaction of *a*-bromoacetopheone and its derivatives: *a*-Bromoacetophenone or its derivatives (0.20 mmol), diethyl-2,6dimethyl-1,4-dihydropyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (Hantzsch ester) (56 mg, 0.22 mmol), and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (70 µl, 0.40 mmol) were dissolved in the newly prepared NPyP-CB[8]+RhB or NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 solution (0.25 mol%, [NPyP]=  $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [CB[8]]=  $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [RhB]= $1.25 \times 10^{-5}$  M, [SR101]= $1.25 \times$  $10^{-5}$  M, 10 mL). The mixture was degassed with nitrogen and then irradiated with white LED (10 W) at room temperature for 8 hours. Then, the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane and dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Then the organic solution was concentrated in a vacuum and purified by rapid column chromatography to obtain the corresponding product.



Fig. S1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of NPyP in DMSO- $d_6$ .



Fig. S2 UV-vis absorption spectra of NPyP with the gradual addition of CB[8] in aqueous solution.



Fig. S3 Job's plot of NPyP-CB[8] system.



Fig. S4 Zeta potential of NPyP before and after the addition of 1.0 equiv. CB[8].



**Fig. S5** (a) CIE chromaticity coordinates of NPyP-CB[8]+RhB system. (b) CIE chromaticity coordinates of NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 system.



Fig. S6 Red line represents the fluorescence emission spectra of NPyP-CB[8] in an aqueous solution, which was normalized according to the fluorescence intensity at 540 nm of the black line (donor emission,  $\lambda_{ex} = 324$  nm), the black line represents the fluorescence spectrum of NPyP-CB[8]+RhB, (acceptor emission,  $\lambda_{ex} = 324$  nm), the blue line represents the fluorescence spectrum of NPyP-CB[8]+RhB with the direct excitation at 550 nm.



Fig. S7 Red line represents the fluorescence emission spectra of NPyP-CB[8] in an aqueous solution, which was normalized according to the fluorescence intensity at 540 nm of the black line (donor emission,  $\lambda_{ex} = 324$  nm), the black line represents the fluorescence spectrum of NPyP-CB[8]+SR101, (acceptor emission,  $\lambda_{ex} = 324$  nm), the blue line represents the fluorescence spectrum of NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 with the direct excitation at 580 nm.

	Br W	hite Light , 8h	0
	DIPEA	A , Hantzsch ester Water , rt	2a
Entry	Catalyst	Conditions	Yield <sup>b</sup> /%
1	NPyP-CB[8]+SR101	0.05 mol%	64%
2	NPyP-CB[8]+RhB	0.05 mol%	51%
3	NPyP-CB[8]+SR101	0.15 mol%	86%
4	NPyP-CB[8]+RhB	0.15 mol%	84%
5	NPyP-CB[8]+SR101	0.25 mol%	98%
6	NPyP-CB[8]+RhB	0.25 mol%	89%

**Table S1.** Comparative data on catalyst dosage for the dehalogenation reaction of  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenone <sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions:  $\alpha$ -bromoacetophenone (40 mg, 0.20 mmol), Hantzsch ester (56 mg, 0.22 mmol), N,N-diisopropylethylamine (DIPEA) (52 mg, 0.40 mmol), NPyP-CB[8]+RhB or NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 aqueous solution (10 mL),10 W white LEDs, room temperature, N<sub>2</sub>, 8 h. <sup>b</sup> Isolated yields.



**Fig. S8** (a) Fluorescence emission spectra of NPyP-CB[8]+RhB system in water with the addition of DIPEA. (b) Fluorescence emission spectra of NPyP-CB[8]+SR101 system in water with the addition of DIPEA.

#### <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of 2a-2e

# 2a. acetophenone



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.02 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.61 – 7.52 (m, 1H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 2.61 (s, 3H).

## 2b. 4-methyl acetophenone



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.86 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H), 2.59

(s, 2H).

### 2c. 2-methoxy acetophenone



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H), 6.99 (q, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.62 (s, 3H).

#### 2d. 4-fluoroacetophenone



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.00 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s,

3H).

# 2e. 4-(trifluoromethyl)acetophenone



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 2.62

(s, 3H).



Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S10 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2b in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2c in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S12 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2d in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S13 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2e in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.