

1 General methods

Synthetic route of F-PzPh, CF₃-PzPh and OCH₃-PzPh refers to previous work^[1]. H-PzPh was purchased from Adamas-beta company and used without further purification. 9H-Xanthen-9-one was purchased from Aladdin Company and purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether: dichloromethane = 1:1) to obtain the white powder. Other reagents used for the synthesis or measurements were commercially available without further purification. Water used in tests was ultrapure. 1,4-dioxane was dried with 4 Å molecular sieves and further distilled for the related experiments. ¹H NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer. The UV-Vis absorption spectra of solution were obtained on a Cary 60 (Agilent Technologies) spectrophotometer. The UV-Vis absorption spectra of solid powder were obtained by the Shimadzu-2600 spectrophotometer. Fluorescence, phosphorescence and lifetime of delayed emission spectra were recorded on an Agilent Cary Eclipse spectrophotometer. Photoluminescence spectra were record on HORIBA FluoroMax-4 spectrometer. Delayed emission spectra and time-decay curves from 77K to room-temperature were recorded on EDINBURGH FLS-1000. Absolute PL quantum yields were determined with a spectrometer C11347-11 (Hamamatsu, Japan). Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) was performed on a D/max2550V. Density functional theory calculations were carried out on the G09 program at B3LYP/6-31G*.

2 Synthesis of target compounds

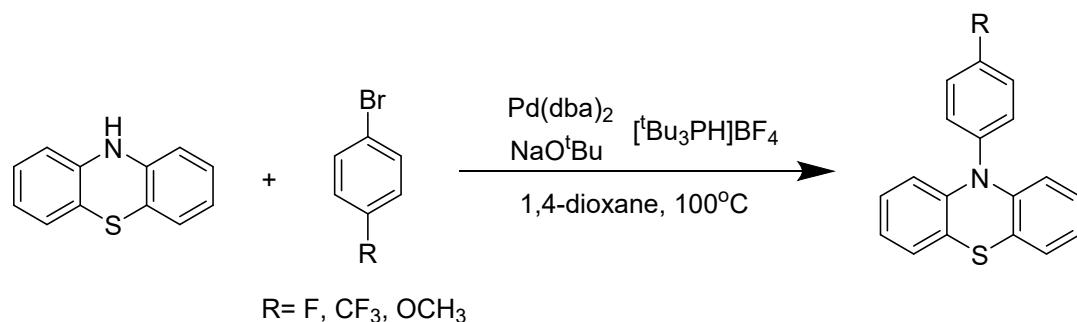


Figure S1 Synthetic route of target compounds.

F-PzPh: 10H-phenothiazine (362 mg, 1.815 mmol), 1-bromo-4-fluorobenzene (289 mg, 1.65 mmol), Pd(dba)₂ (48 mg, 6 mol%), tri-tert-butylphosphane tetrafluoroborate (25 mg, 6 mol%) and sodium tert-butoxide (182.5 mg, 1.9 mmol) were dissolved in dry 1,4-dioxane (5 mL). The solution was degassed with nitrogen for 5 min. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C (oil bath temperature) for 7 h. After cooling to room temp deionized water (30 mL), and dichloromethane (30 mL) were successively added. The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (3 × 5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvents were removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 30: 1) to give compound F-PzPh (464 mg, 96%). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.36-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.00-7.02 (d, 2H), 6.80-6.86 (m, 4H), 6.15-6.17 (d, 2H). ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 163.3, 160.9, 144.3, 136.8, 133.0, 132.9, 126.9, 126.8, 122.6, 120.2, 117.9, 117.7, 115.8. HRMS (ESI+), m/z: [M⁺], calc. for C₁₈H₁₂FNS, 293.0669. Found, 293.0662.

CF₃-PzPh: 10H-phenothiazine (151 mg, 0.758 mmol), 1-bromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzene (204 mg, 0.909 mmol), Pd(dba)₂ (26 mg, 6 mol%), tri-tert-butylphosphane tetrafluoroborate (13 mg, 6

mol%) and sodium tert-butoxide (145 mg, 1.52 mmol) were dissolved in dry 1,4-dioxane (5 mL). The solution was degassed with nitrogen for 5 min. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C (oil bath temperature) for 5 h. After cooling to room temp deionized water (30 mL), and dichloromethane (30 mL) were successively added. The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (3×5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvents were removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether) to give compound CF₃-PzPh (250 mg, 96%). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.65-7.71 (d, 2H), 7.31-7.36 (d, 2H), 7.20-7.24 (q, 4H), 6.96-7.10 (m, 4H), 6.65-6.70 (d, 2H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 145.19, 141.67, 126.76, 126.30, 126.26, 126.08, 125.38, 123.50, 123.30, 119.65. HRMS (ESI+), m/z: [M⁺], calc. for C₁₉H₁₂F₃NS, 343.0637. Found 343.0629.

OCH₃-PzPh: 10H-phenothiazine (177 mg, 0.89 mmol), 1-bromo-4-methoxybenzene (166 mg, 0.89 mmol), Pd(dba)₂ (28 mg, 6 mol%), tri-tert-butylphosphane tetrafluoroborate (15 mg, 6 mol%) and sodium tert-butoxide (100 mg, 1.02 mmol) were dissolved in dry 1,4-dioxane (5 mL). The solution was degassed with nitrogen for 5 min. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 100°C (oil bath temperature) for 4 h. After cooling to room temp deionized water (30 mL), and dichloromethane (30 mL) were successively added. The aqueous phase was extracted with dichloromethane (3×5 mL). The combined organic phases were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the solvents were removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 80: 1) to give compound OCH₃-PzPh (243 mg, 90%). ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 7.29-7.31 (d, 2H), 7.09-7.11 (d, 2H), 6.97-6.99 (d, 2H), 6.77-6.83 (m, 4H), 6.17-6.20 (d, 2H), 3.89 (s, 3H). ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (ppm): 159.3, 144.7, 133.4, 132.3, 126.9, 126.7, 122.3, 119.7, 115.9, 115.7, 55.6. HRMS (ESI+), m/z: [M⁺], calc. for C₁₉H₁₅NOS, 305.0869. Found, 305.0862.

3 Characterization of H-PzPh, F-PzPh, CF₃-PzPh, OCH₃-PzPh and 9H-Xanthen-9-one

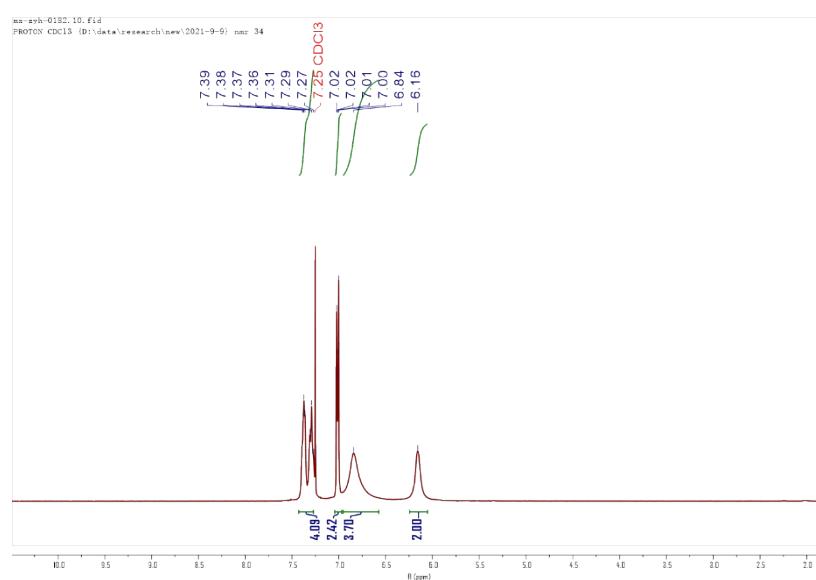


Figure S2 ¹H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of F-PzPh in CDCl₃.

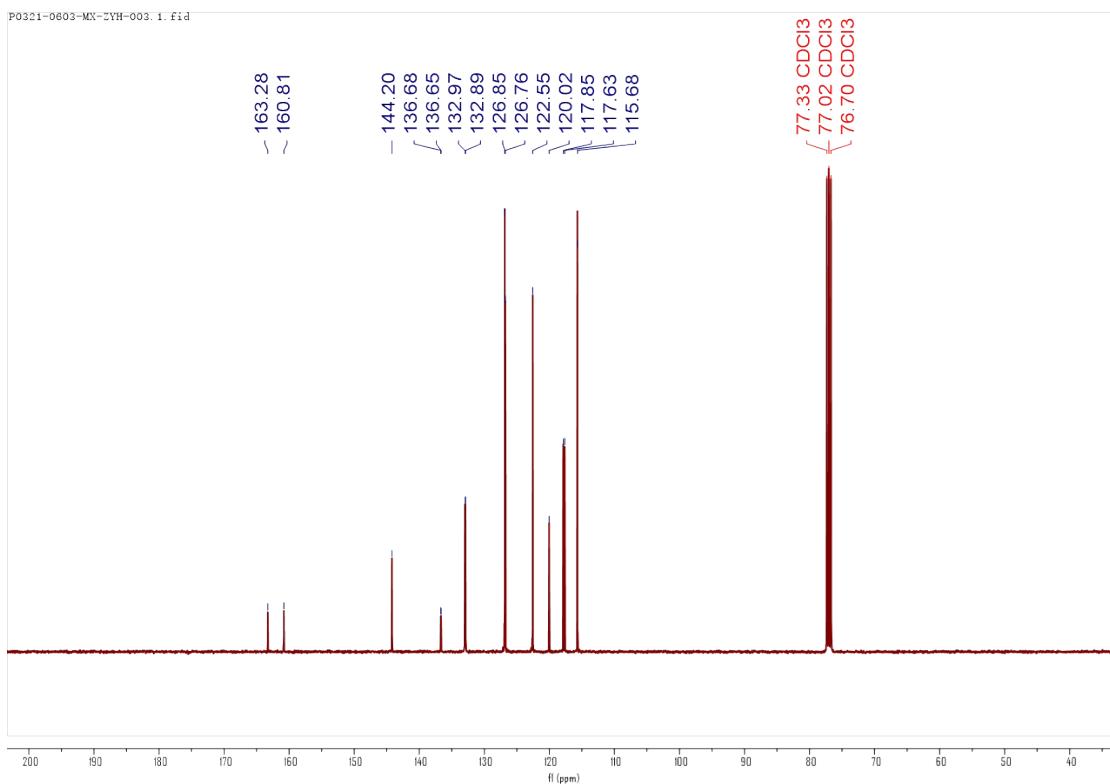


Figure S3 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of F-PzPh in CDCl₃.

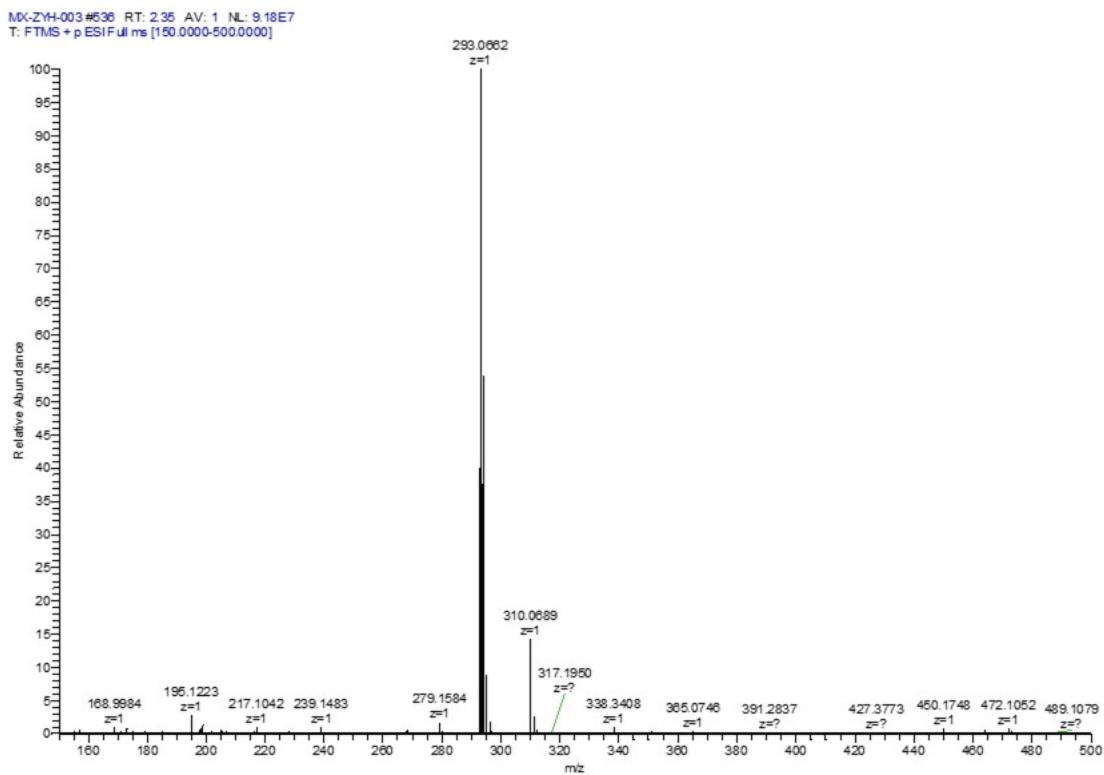


Figure S4 HRMS spectrum of F-PzPh.

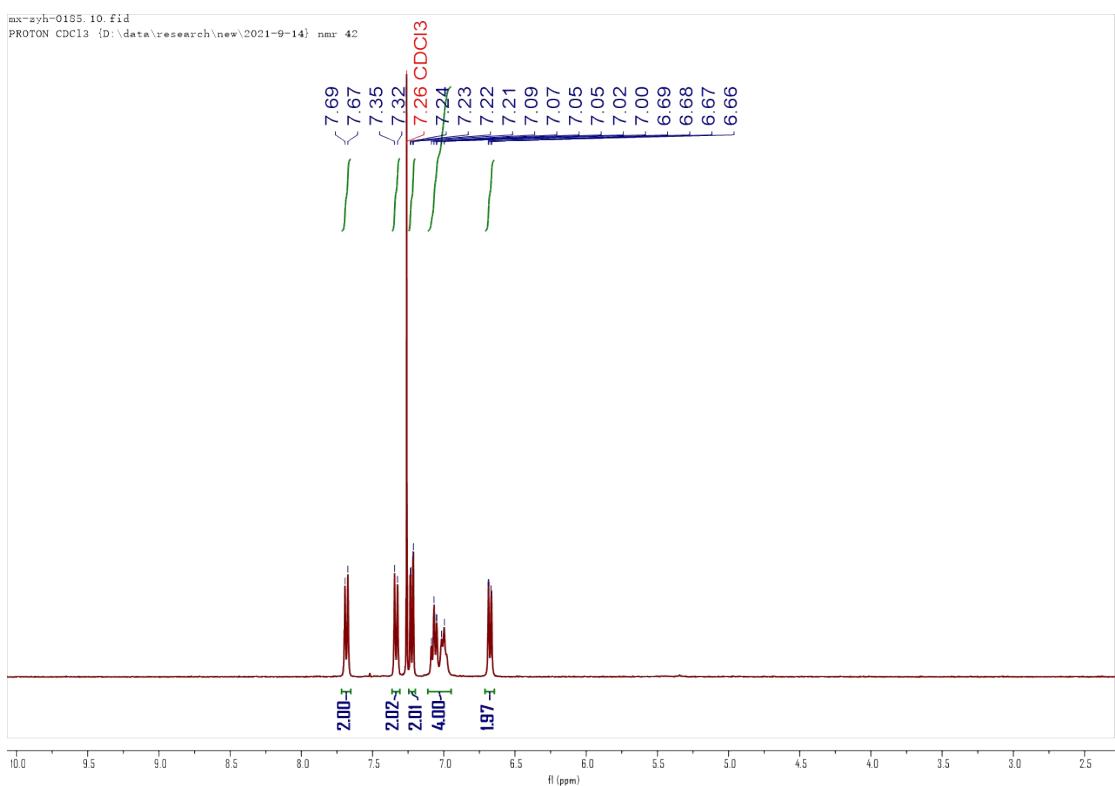


Figure S5 ¹H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of CF₃-PzPh in CDCl₃.

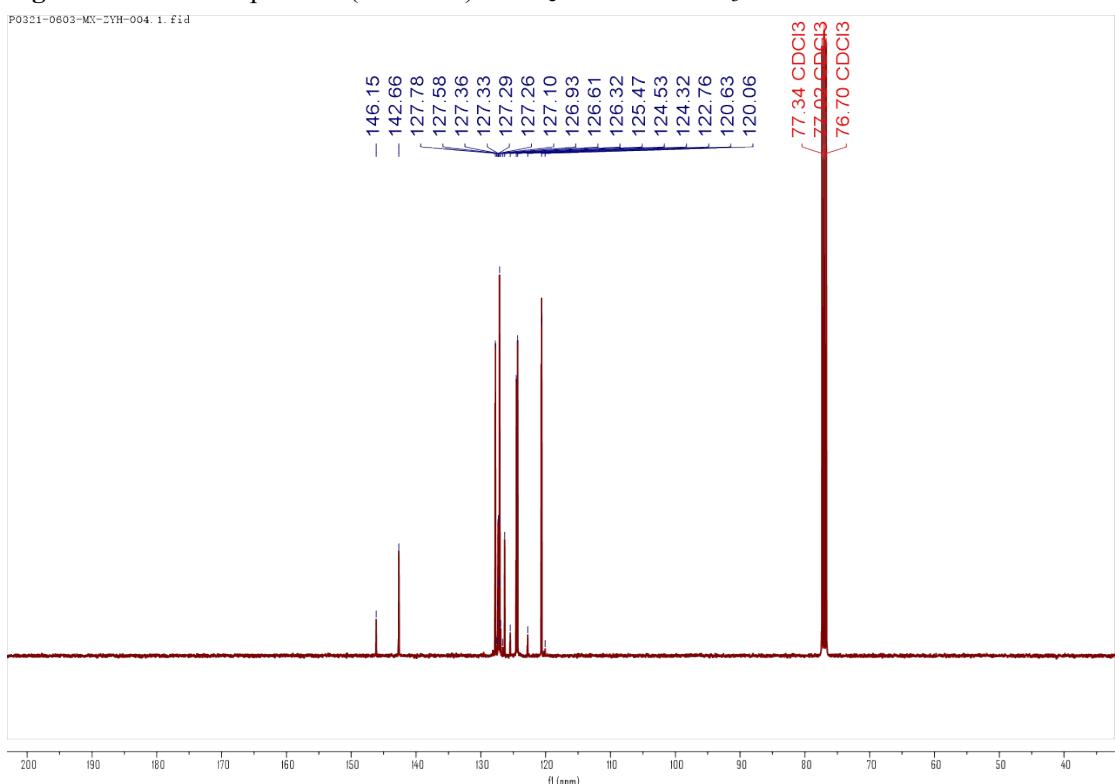


Figure S6 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of CF₃-PzPh in CDCl₃.

MX-ZYH-004 #634 RT: 2.78 AV: 1 NL: 2.93E7
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [150.0000-500.0000]

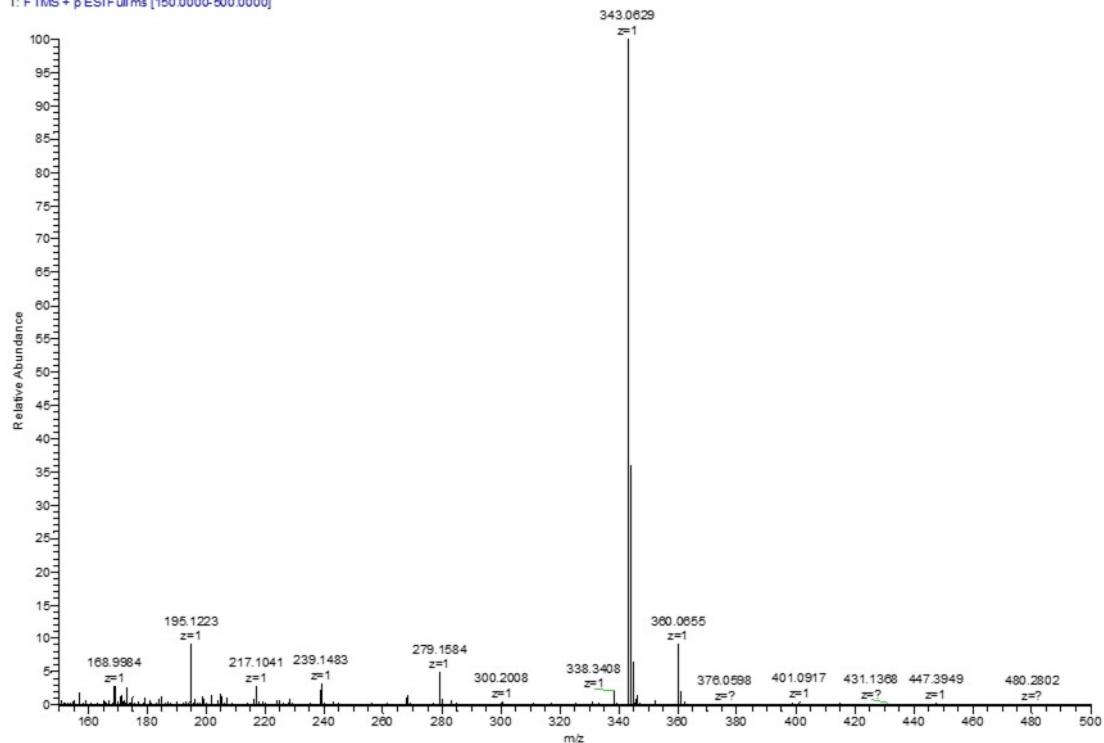


Figure S7 HRMS spectrum of **CF₃-PzPh**.

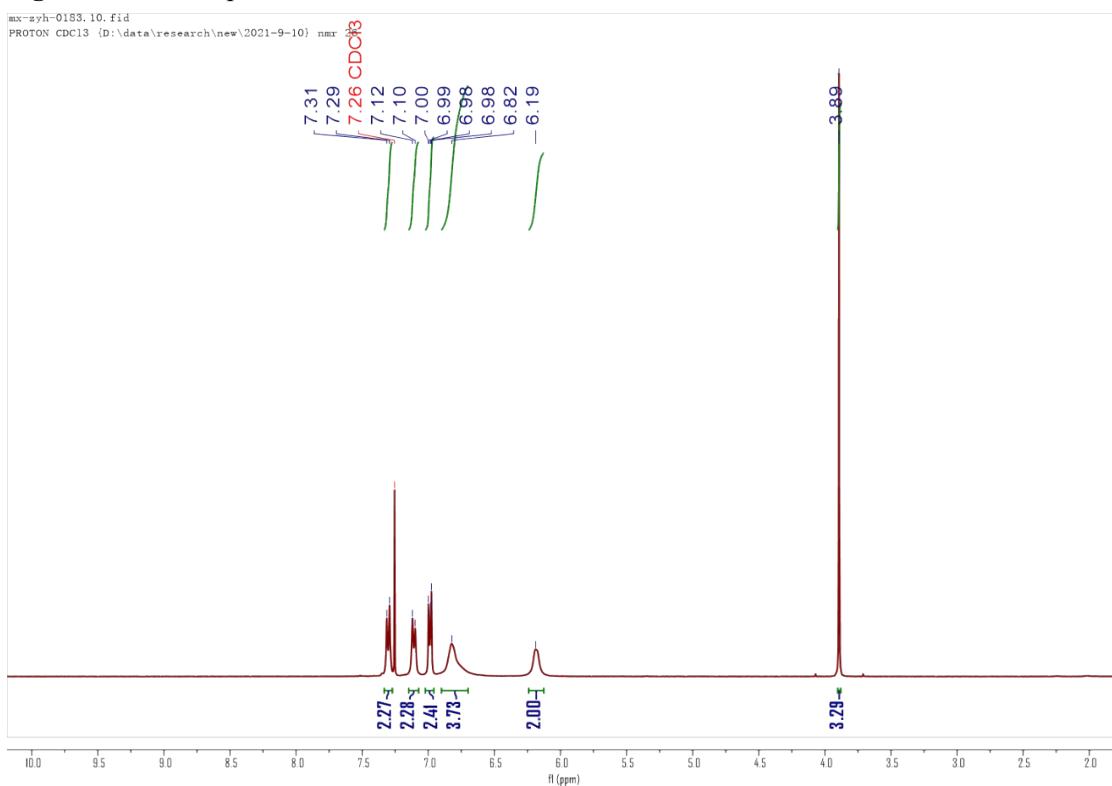


Figure S8 ¹H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of **OH₃-PzPh** in CDCl₃.

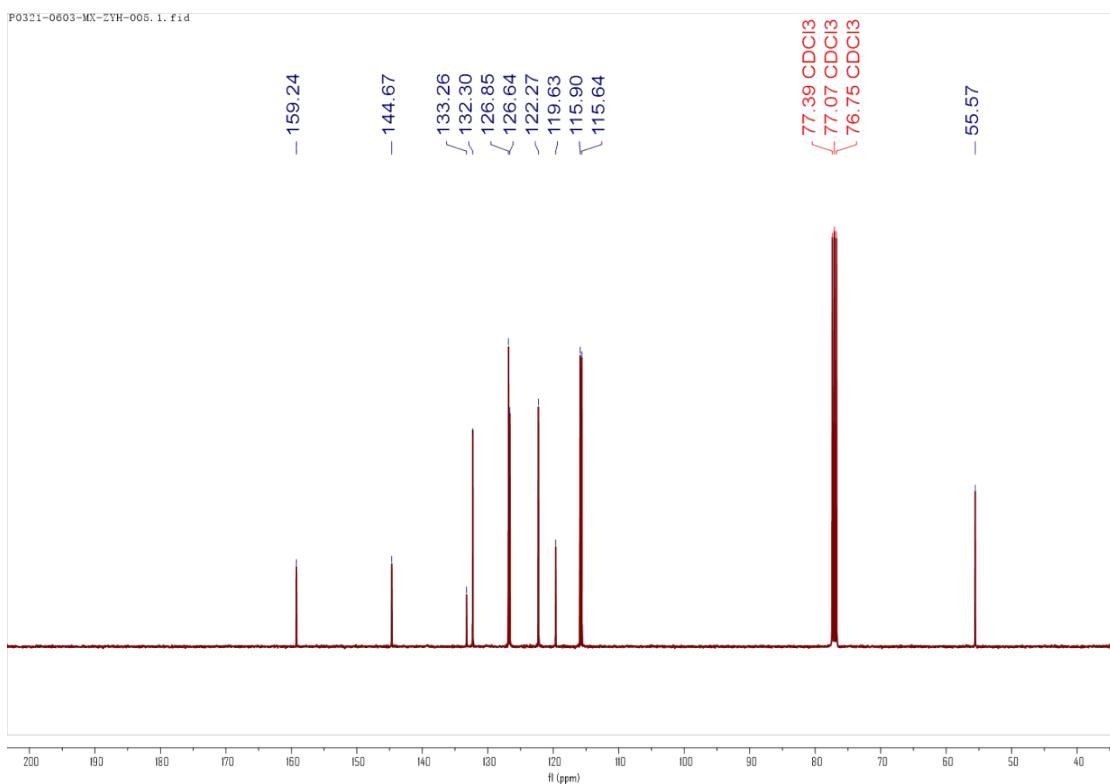


Figure S9 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of $\text{OH}_3\text{-PzPh}$ in CDCl_3 .

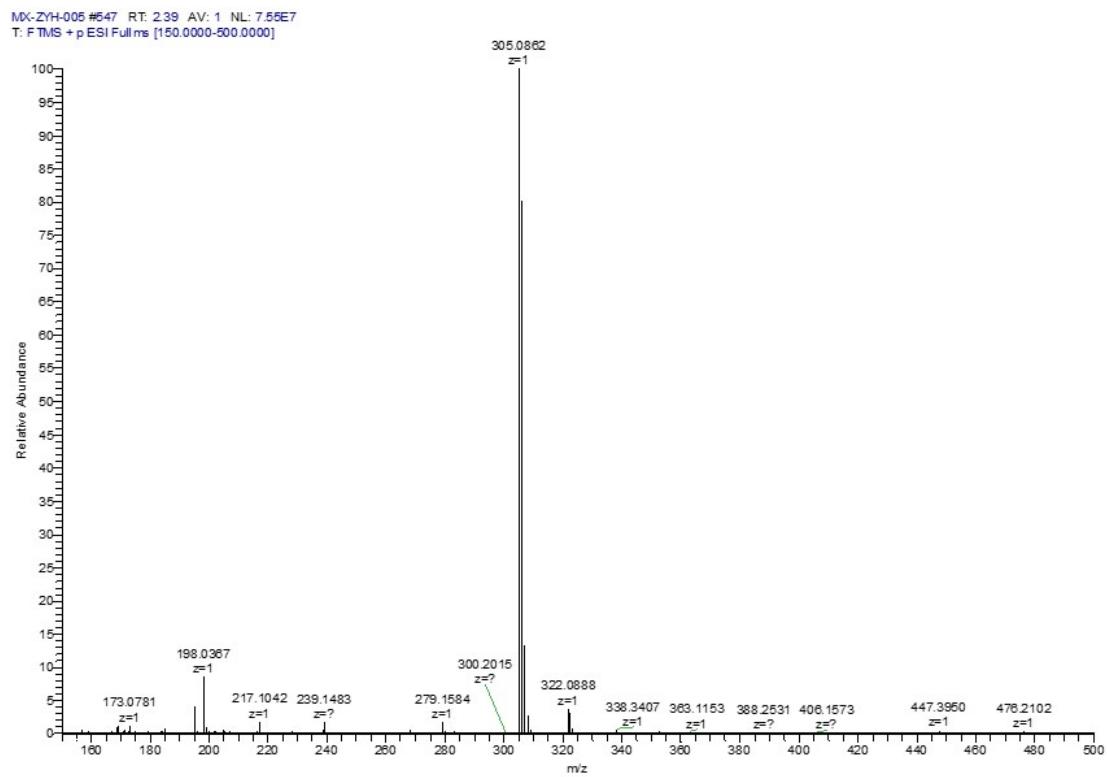


Figure S10 HRMS spectrum of $\text{OH}_3\text{-PzPh}$.

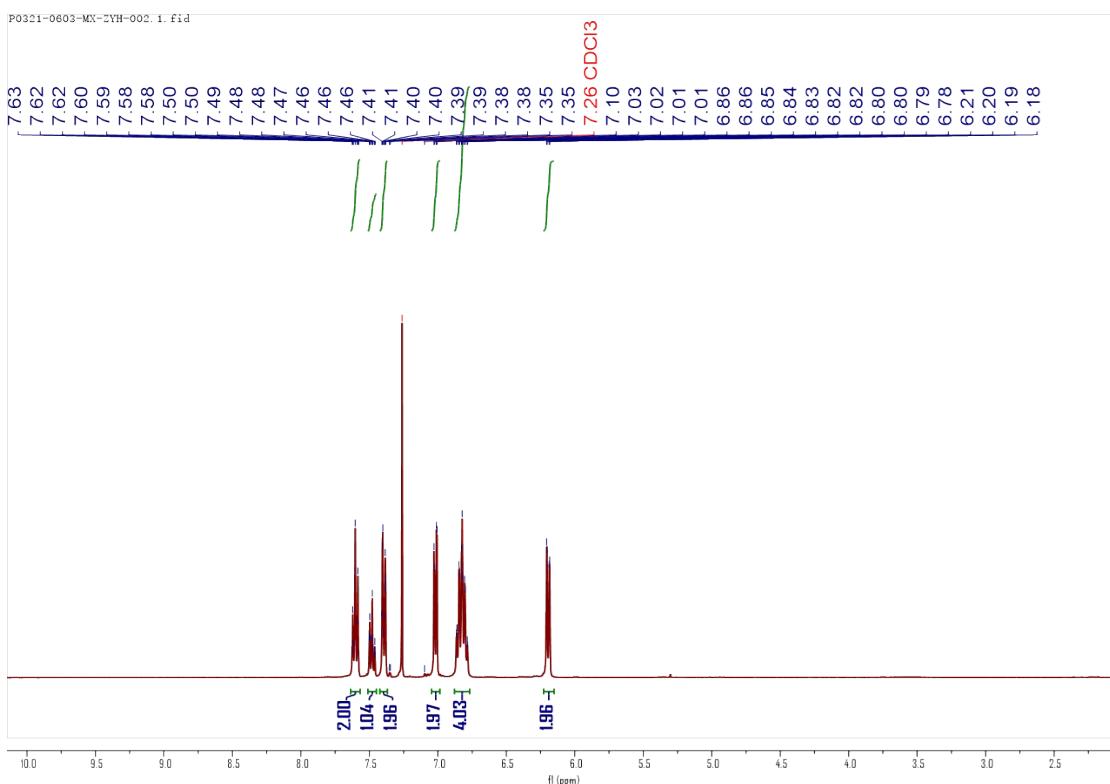


Figure S11 ^1H -NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of H-PzPh in CDCl_3 .

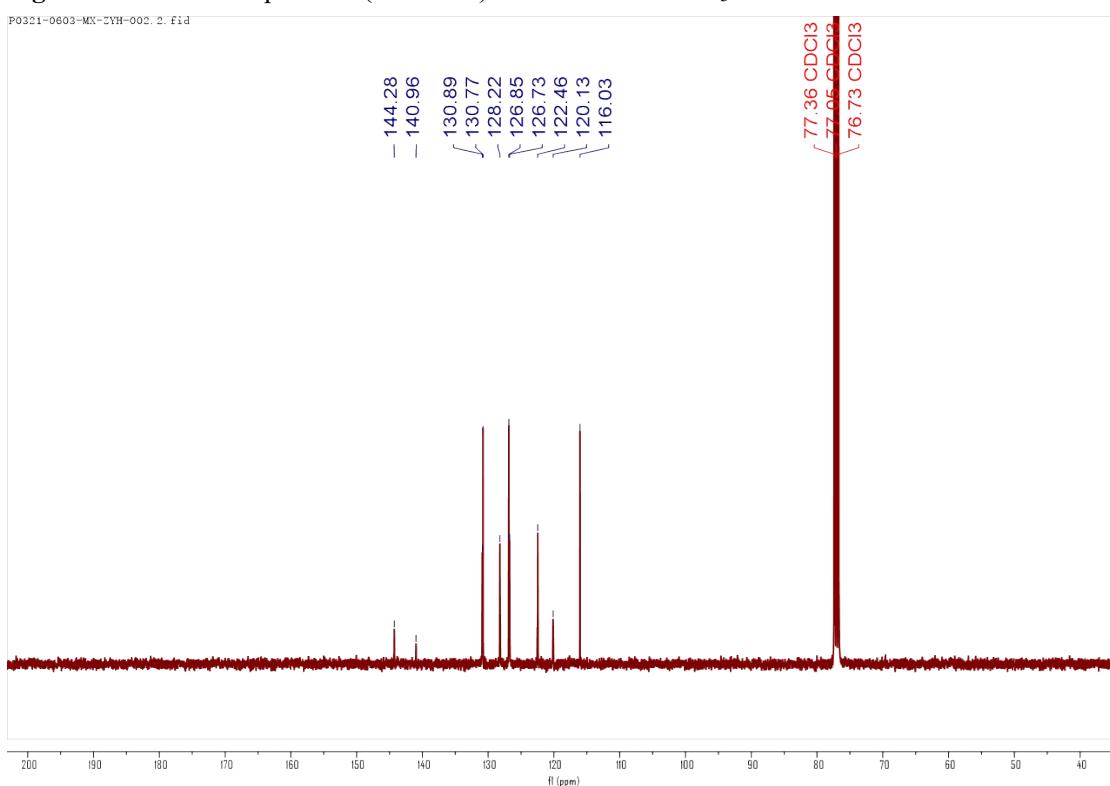


Figure S12 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of H-PzPh in CDCl_3 .

MX-ZYH-002 #538 RT: 2.35 AV: 1 NL: 7.13E 7
T: FTMS + p ESI Full ms [150.0000-500.0000]

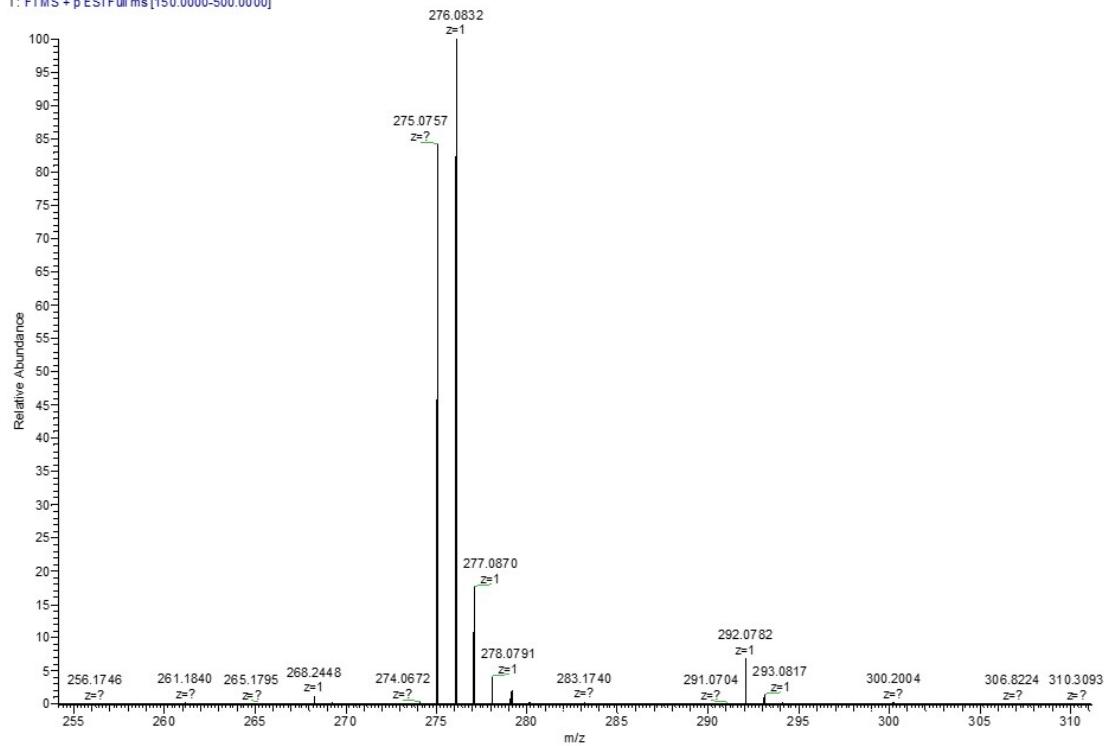


Figure S13 HRMS spectrum of **H-PzPh**.

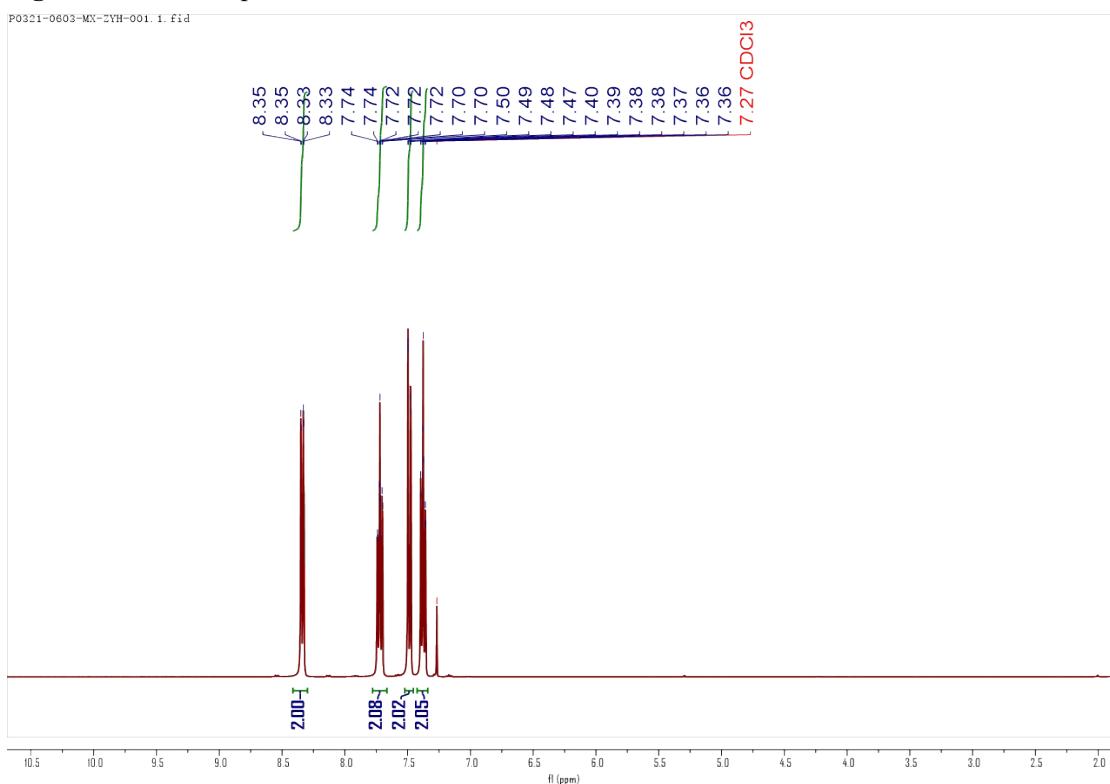


Figure S14 ¹H-NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of **9H-Xanthen-9-one** in CDCl₃.

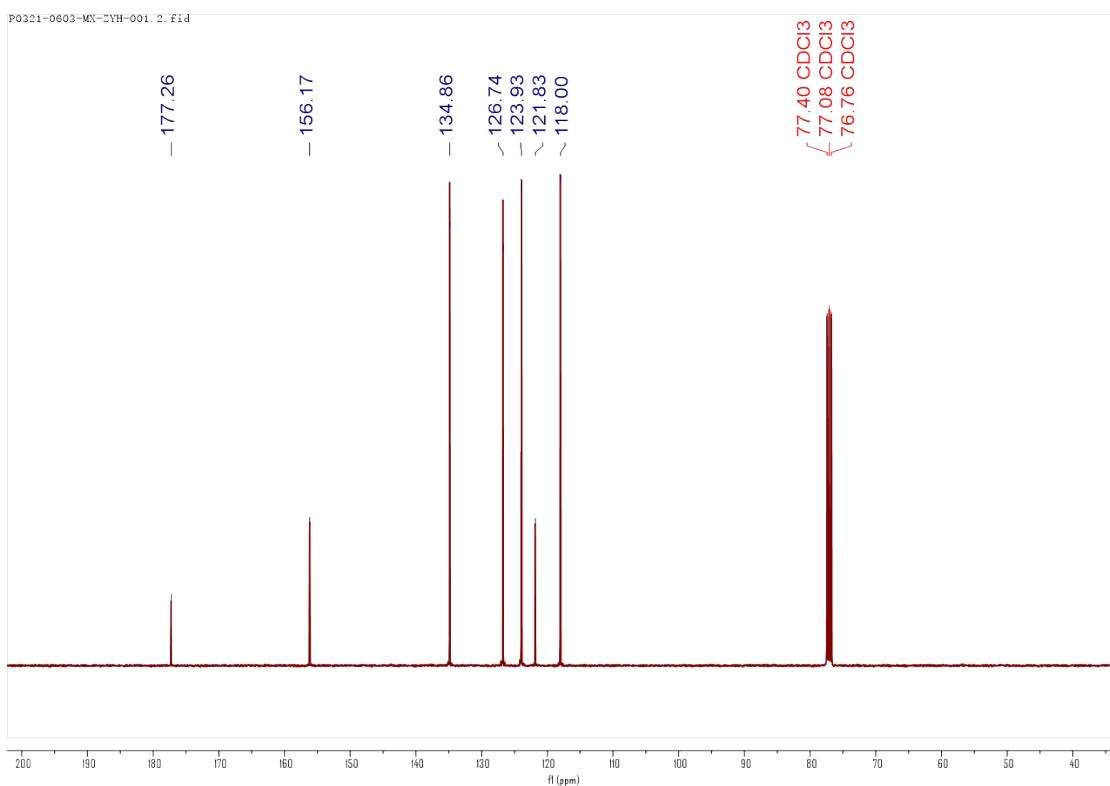


Figure S15 ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of **9H-Xanthen-9-one** in CDCl_3 .

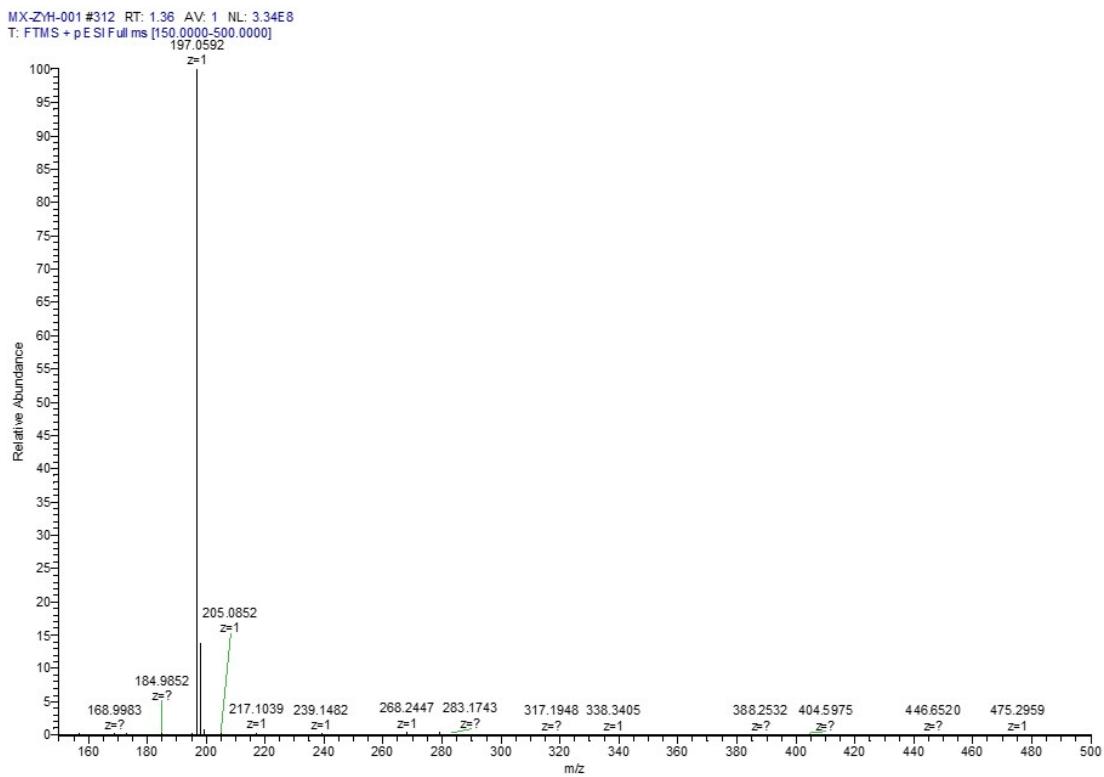


Figure S16 HRMS spectrum of **9H-Xanthen-9-one**.

4 Photophysical spectra

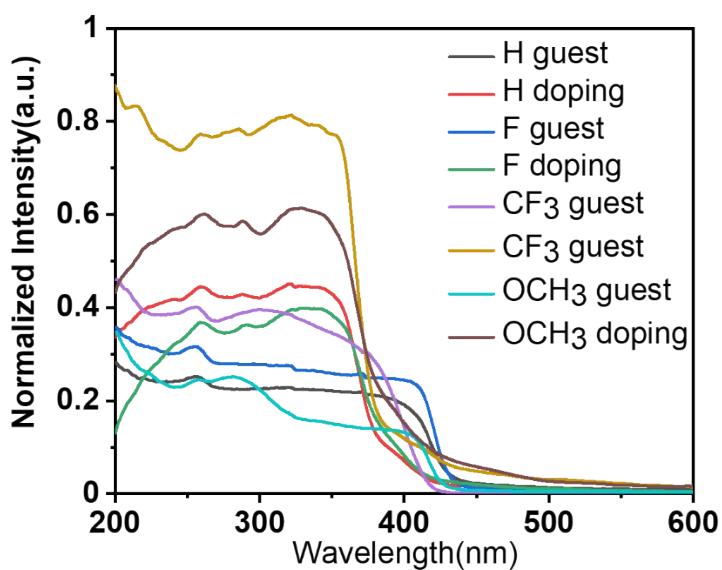


Figure S17 Absorption spectra of different guest powder and different doping systems powder.

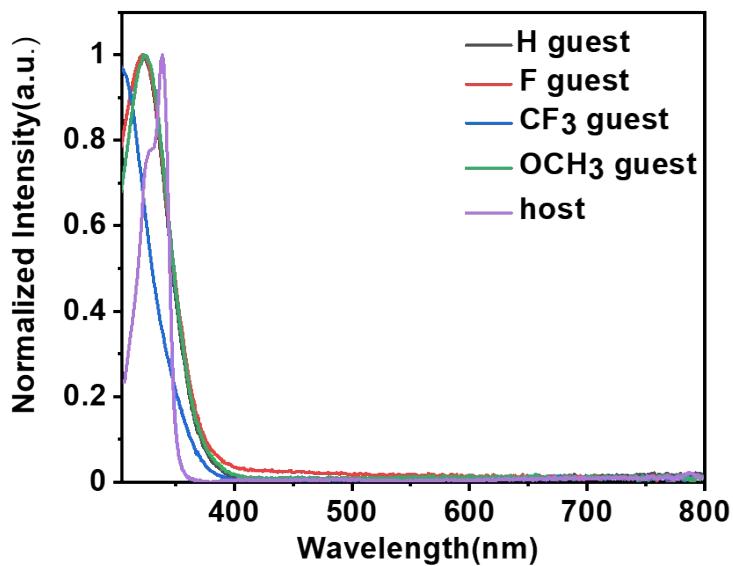


Figure S18 Normalized absorption spectra of different guests and host in toluene ($C = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ M).

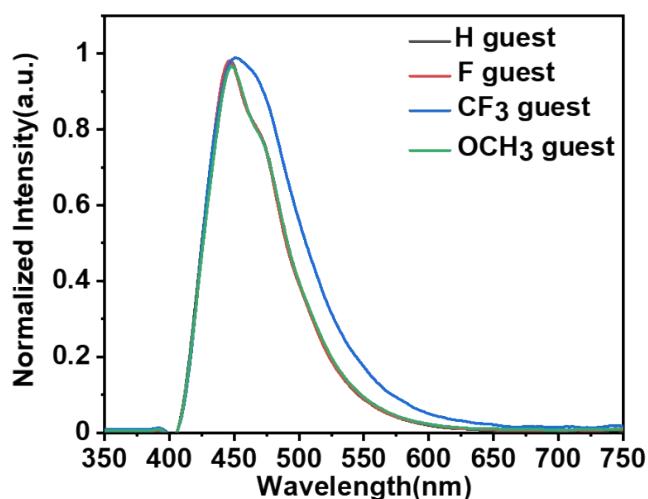


Figure S19 Normalized photoluminescence spectra of different guests in toluene ($C = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ M). Excitation wavelength: 330 nm.

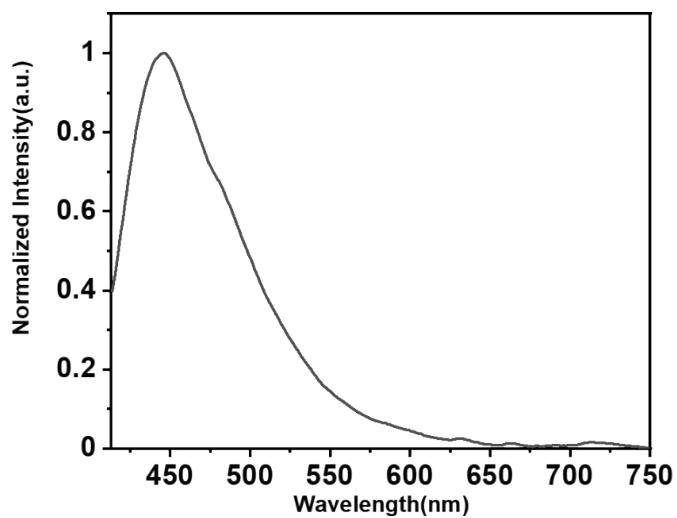


Figure S20 Normalized photoluminescence spectra of host powder. Excitation wavelength: 330 nm

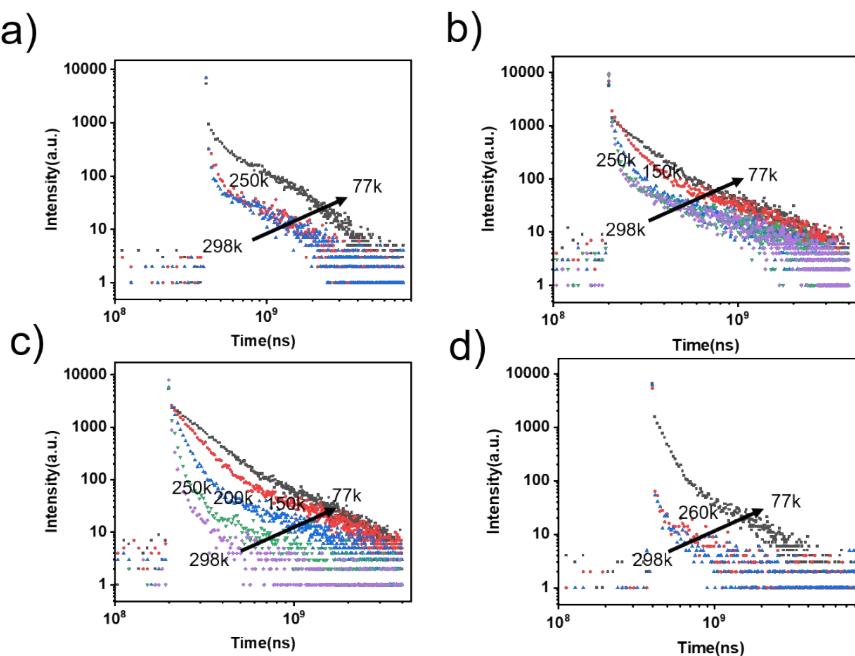


Figure S21 Emission decay profiles of a) H-doping powder (535nm), b) F-doping powder (530nm), c) CF₃-doping powder (520nm) and d) OCH₃-doping powder (540nm) from 298K to 77K.

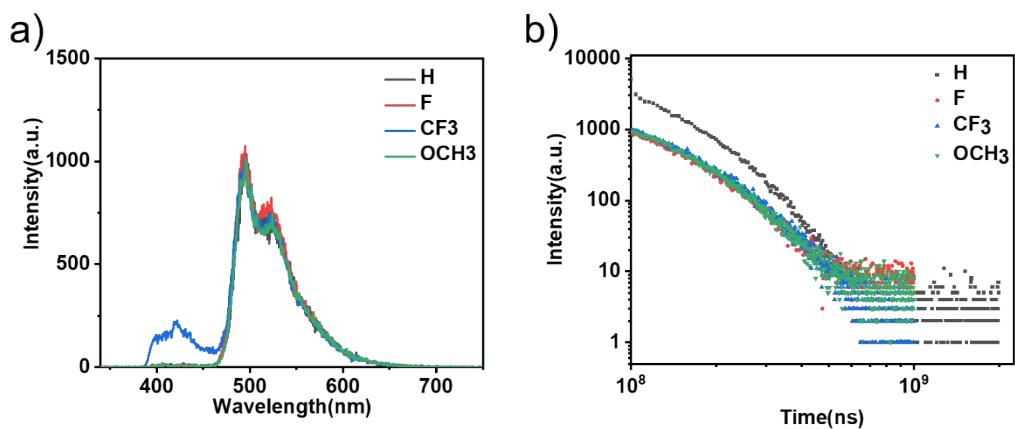


Figure S22 a) Gated-emission spectra (delay time=0.1 ms) of different guests in toluene at 77K. Excitation wavelength: 330 nm. b) Emission decay profiles of different guests in toluene at 77K.

5 Others

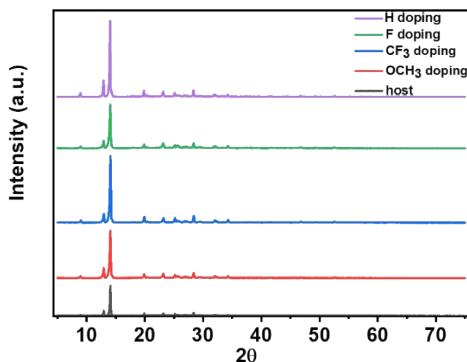


Figure S23 XRD patterns of different doping systems (1 mol%) and host powder.

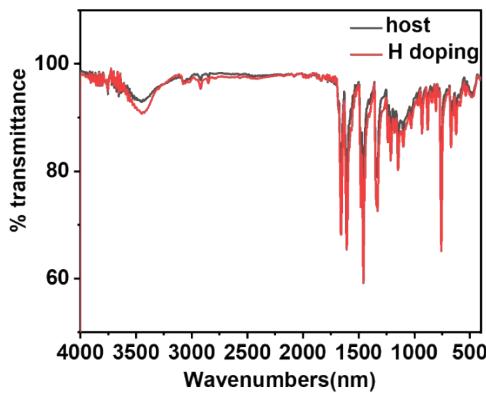


Figure S24 The FT-IR spectra of host powder and H-doping system (1 mol%) (KBr tablet).

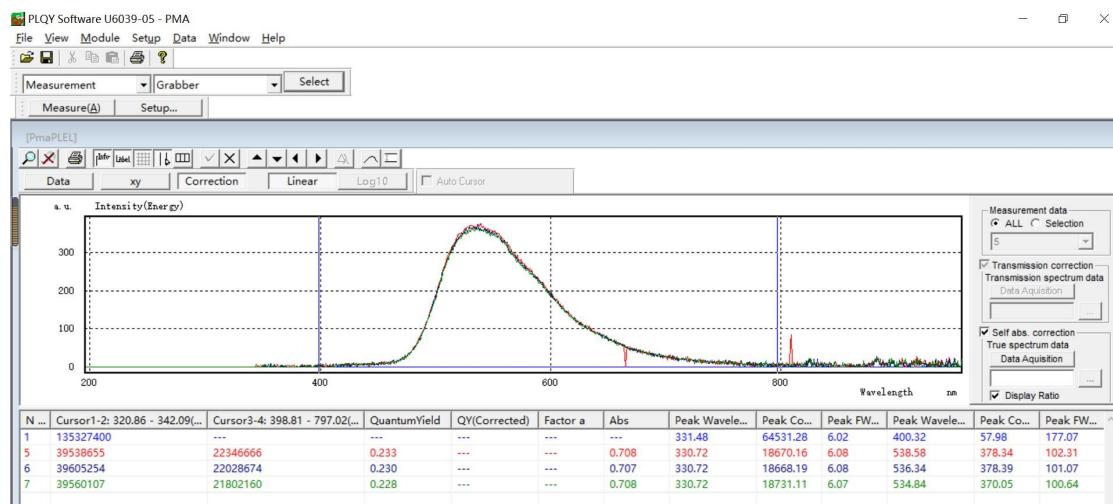


Figure S25 The quantum yield of H-PzPh doping system.

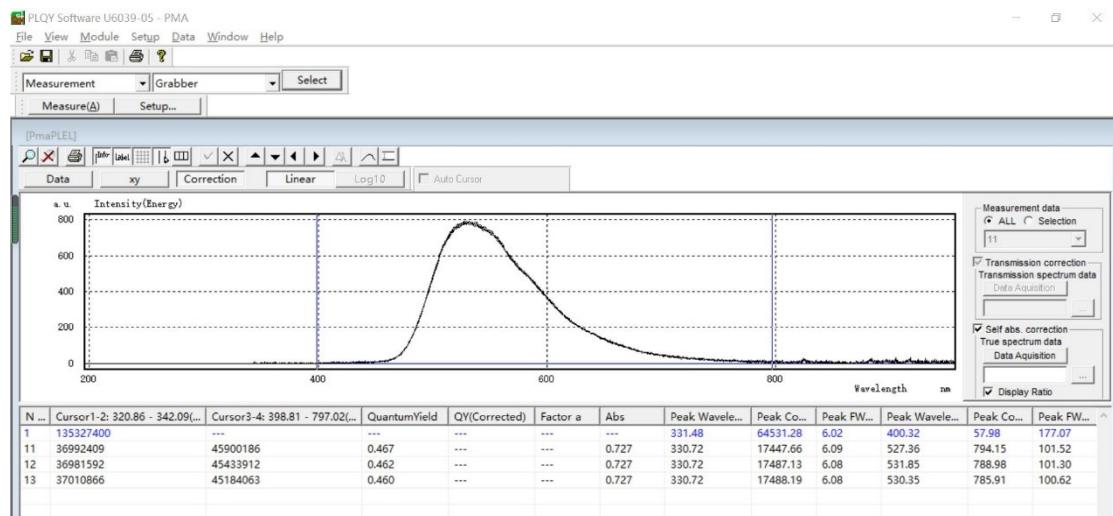


Figure S26 The quantum yield of F-PzPh doping system.

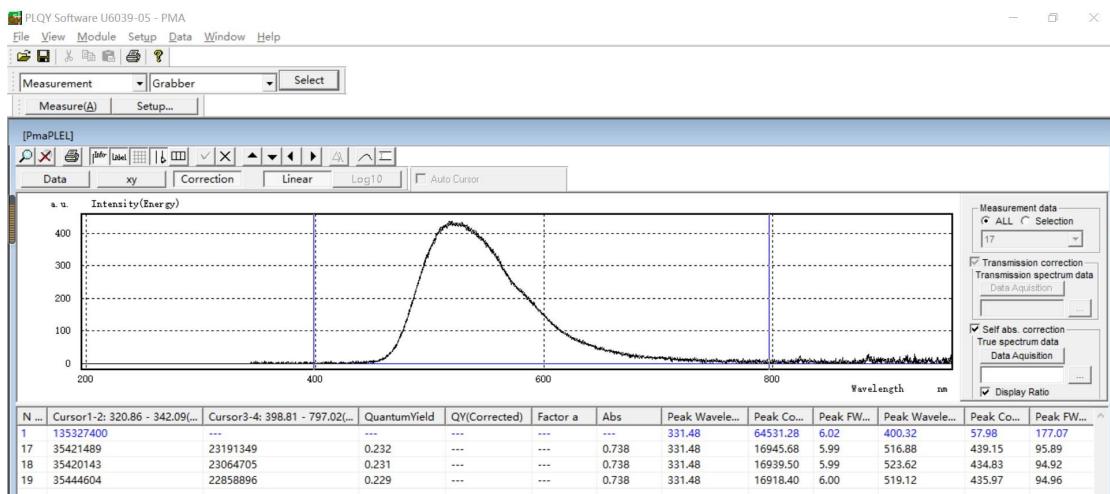


Figure S27 The quantum yield of CF₃-PzPh doping system.

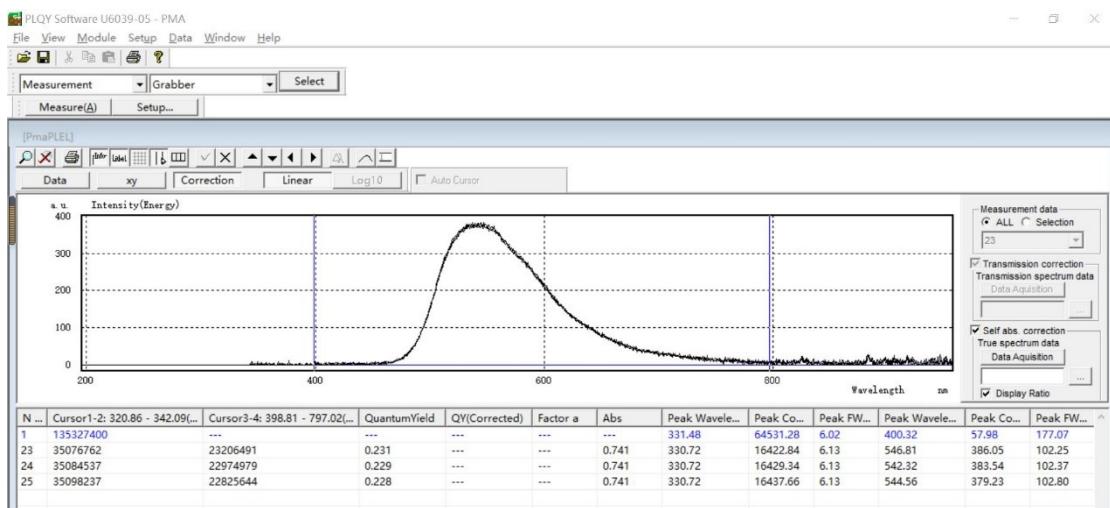


Figure S28 The quantum yield of OCH₃-PzPh doping system.

6 Reference

- [1]. Mayer, L.; May, L.; Müller, T. J. J., The interplay of conformations and electronic properties in N-aryl phenothiazines. *Organic Chemistry Frontiers* **2020**, 7 (10), 1206-1217.