

Supporting Information

Control of Photoluminescence Quantum Yield and Long-lived Triplet Emission Lifetime in Organic Alloys

*Zhen Xu,[‡] Duane Hean,[‡] Jennifer Yuan, and Michael O. Wolf**

Department of Chemistry, 2036 Main Mall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC,
V6T 1Z1, Canada

General

Solvents were reagent grade and used without any further purification. HPLC grade solvents were used for analyses. 9-H carbazole was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (China) and purity was confirmed by HPLC. Other purchased chemicals were used without further purification. **CBZ-Br** and **CBZ-Me** were synthesized according to the literature procedure.^[1] Afterglow photos were taken using Nikon D750 equipped with Sigma 35 mm F1.4 DG HSM lens (F:1.4, Exposure time: 0.1 s and ISO: 1600). HPLC was performed using an Agilent Technologies 1260 Infinity and an Agilent ZORBAX Extend-C18 column with 4.6 × 150 mm dimensions. The isocratic mobile phase was composed of 25 % acetonitrile, 75 % water with a flow rate of 3 mL/min. The detector wavelength was set to 292 and 360 nm. Electrochemical experiments were performed using a Pine AFCBP1 bipotentiostat in an airtight three-electrode cell with a glassy carbon working electrode, platinum mesh counter electrode, and silver wire pseudo-reference electrode. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was performed in an electrolyte solution consisting of 0.1 M (n-Bu₄N)PF₆ (recrystallized 4 times from EtOH) in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ sparged with N₂ prior to use. CV experiments were executed with sweep rates of 100 mV s⁻¹. Potentials were recorded vs. ferrocene as an added internal standard.

X-Ray Diffraction

Single crystal X-ray data were collected using a Bruker APEX DUO diffractometer with graphite monochromated Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) at 100 K. Raw frame data were processed using APEX2.^[2] The program SAINT+, v. 7.683 was used to reduce the data and the program SADABS^[3] was used to make corrections to the empirical absorptions. Space group assignments were made using XPREP^[4] on all compounds. In all cases, the structures were solved in the Olex2^[5] suite of programs using Intrinsic Phasing^[6] and refined using full-matrix least-squares/difference Fourier techniques on F² using SHELXL.^[6] All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Diagrams and publication material were generated using CrystalMaker.

POM Microscopy

Microscopy images were collected on an Olympus BX53M polarizing microscope with an Olympus UC90 camera equipped with a $\lambda = 530 \text{ nm}$ filter.

Spectroscopy

¹H NMR experiments were collected using a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer and referenced first to TMS and then to the residual protonated solvent peak. NMR solvents (Sigma Aldrich) were used as received. Steady-state and time-resolved photoluminescence spectra were collected using a Photon Technology International (PTI) QuantaMaster 400 fluorimeter utilizing a 75 W Xe arc lamp and a Horiba 359 nm Spectral LED as the sources, respectively. Fluorescence lifetime data were collected using QuantaMaster 400 with a 375 nm pulsed laser. Phosphorescence lifetime data were collected using Horiba Yvon Fluorocube with a 359 nm Horiba spectral LED with band-pass and long-pass filters. The photoluminescence lifetime data were fitted using the DAS6 Data Analysis software package. Samples for low-temperature spectroscopy and lifetime measurements were cooled using an Oxford Instruments Optistat DN.

Quantum yields

Quantum yields (QY) were measured using an Edinburgh Instruments barium sulfate coated integrating sphere (diameter, SC-30 sample module) fitted on a FS5 spectrofluorometer. Single crystal samples were placed in the middle of a 10 mm diameter PTFE sample holder (tray), enclosed by a quartz cap (Figure S1). The typical size of crystals was approximately 0.5 × 0.5 × 0.5 mm. The excitation wavelength was set to 380 nm. The sample was excited by direct illumination. The settings were set for maximization of the emission signal before saturating the detector with excitation light (excitation bandwidth = 12 nm, emission bandwidth 0.55-0.60 nm). The reference sample was measured with just the tray and cap (no single crystal). Each sample was run in triplicate, with each quantum yield measurement coming from a new crystal (if available). Measurements proved repeatable and errors are given as standard deviations.

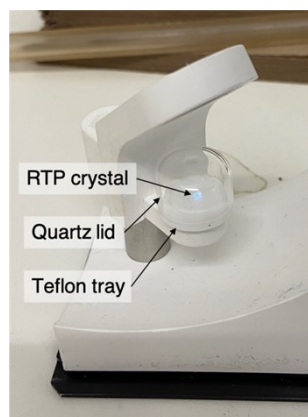


Figure S1. Pull-out drawer for Edinburgh Instruments SC-30 sample module with solid sample holder (PTFE tray) and quartz cap. The crystal is under 365 nm excitation under ambient lighting.

Crystallography

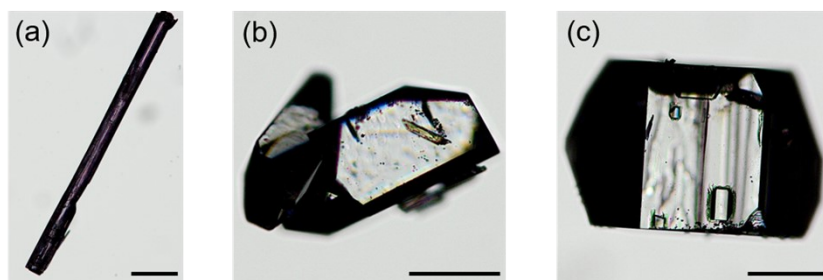


Figure S2. Typical crystal morphology of (a) **CBZ-Br** (RTP) (b) **CBZ-Br** (TADF) and (c) **CBZ-Me**. Scale bars are 200 μm .

Table S1. Literature unit cell parameters of **CBZ-Br** (RTP), **CBZ-Br** (TADF) and **CBZ-Me**.

	CBZ-Br (RTP)	CBZ-Br (TADF)	CBZ-Me
CCDC No.	2016853	1533213	1503835
a (\AA)	19.509(4)	11.5066(15)	11.6578(3)
b (\AA)	5.1417(10)	10.2017(13)	10.0346(3)
c (\AA)	15.023(3)	12.349(16)	12.3140(4)
α ($^\circ$)	90	90	90
β ($^\circ$)	103.54(3)	95.332(4)	94.619(3)
γ ($^\circ$)	90	90	90
Volume (\AA^3)	1465.07	1443.42	1435.83
Space group	P21/c	P21/n	P21/n

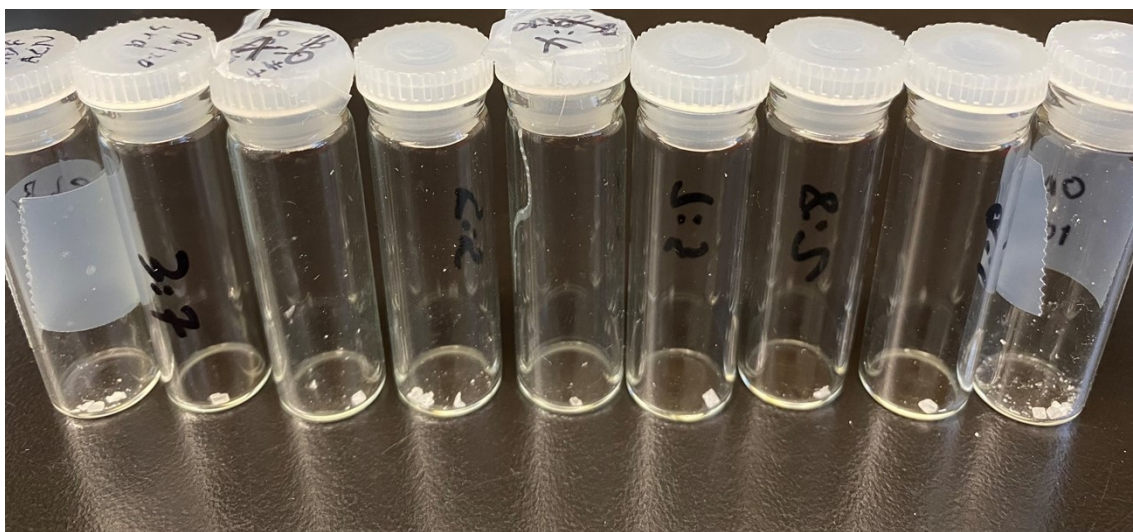


Figure S3. Molecular crystals of **CBZ-Br** and organic alloy **Me_xBr_{10-x}** where $x = 3$ to 10 , grown from slow evaporation of acetonitrile crystallization experiments

Table S2: Unit cell parameters for organic alloy **Me_xBr_{10-x}** where $x = 3$ to 10 .

	Me₃Br₇	Me₄Br₆	Me₅Br₅	Me₆Br₄	Me₇Br₃	Me₈Br₂	Me₉Br₁
a (Å)	11.5265(6)	11.5680(7)	11.5657(6)	11.5850(7)	11.5964	11.6030(8)	11.6141(6)
					(10)		
b (Å)	10.1543(5)	10.1429(5)	10.1316(5)	10.1100(6)	10.0911(8)	10.0711(6)	10.0515(5)
c (Å)	12.3229(7)	12.3305(7)	12.3187(6)	12.3005(7)	12.3080(1)	12.3038(8)	12.2961(6)
β (°)	95.063(2)	95.097(3)	95.031(2)	94.882(4)	94.854(2)	94.846(2)	94.745(1)
Volum	1436.69(13)	1441.05	1437.92(12)	1435.46(4)	1435.1(2)	1432.62(16)	1430.52(12)
e (Å ³)		(14)					

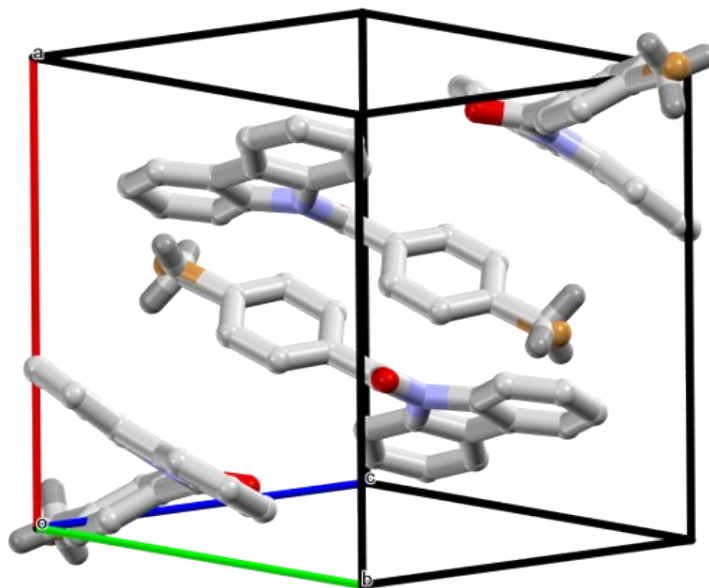


Figure S4. Representative superposition of the binary assemblies for organic alloy Me_5Br_5 in the unit cell. C light gray, H dark gray, N blue, O red, Br brown. Aromatic hydrogens are excluded for clarity.

Table S3. Mole ratio and site occupancy factors for organic alloy $\text{Me}_x\text{Br}_{10-x}$ where $x = 3$ to 10, and the corresponding photophysical parameters.

	<i>CBZ-Me: CBZ-Br Ratio</i>			<i>Lifetime</i>				<i>PLQY (%)</i>
	Mole Ratio	Site Occupancy Factor	^1H NMR Integration Ratio	Ambient Conditions		Long lived under He	Long lived at 77 K	
				Long lived (ms) (Chi-squared)	Fluorescence (ns)	(ms)	(ms)	
Me_3Br_7	30:70	35.91(15) : 64.09(15)	29.35 : 70.65	107 (1.00)	1.38	133	29.3 (0.03), 271 (0.421), 558 (0.549)	14.0
Me_4Br_6	40:60	43.99(12) :56.01(12)	40.1 : 59.9	119 (0.89)	1.38	135	291. (0.036), 302 (0.479), 570 (0.585)	10.2
Me_5Br_5	50:50	52.76(12) : 47.24(12)	50.9 : 49.1	126 (0.93)	1.26	142	37.1 (0.01), 353 (0.431), 621 (0.559)	19.7

Me_6Br_4	60:40	55.70(2) : 44.30(2)	61.35 : 38.65	134 (0.83)	1.25	167	36.6 (0.012), 370 (0.4), 657 (0.588)	10.8
Me_7Br_3	70:30	71.32(11) : 28.68(11)	72.2 : 27.8	140 (1.02)	1.19	171	44.2 (0.01), 387 (0.349), 693 (0.641)	26.9
Me_8Br_2	80:20	81.25(9) : 18.75(9)	75.95 : 24.05	170 (1.07)	1.02	178	670	24.1
Me_9Br_1	90:10	91.21(8) : 8.790(8)	89.85 : 10.15	197 (1.05)	0.9	205	548 (0.456), 785 (0.544)	26.7

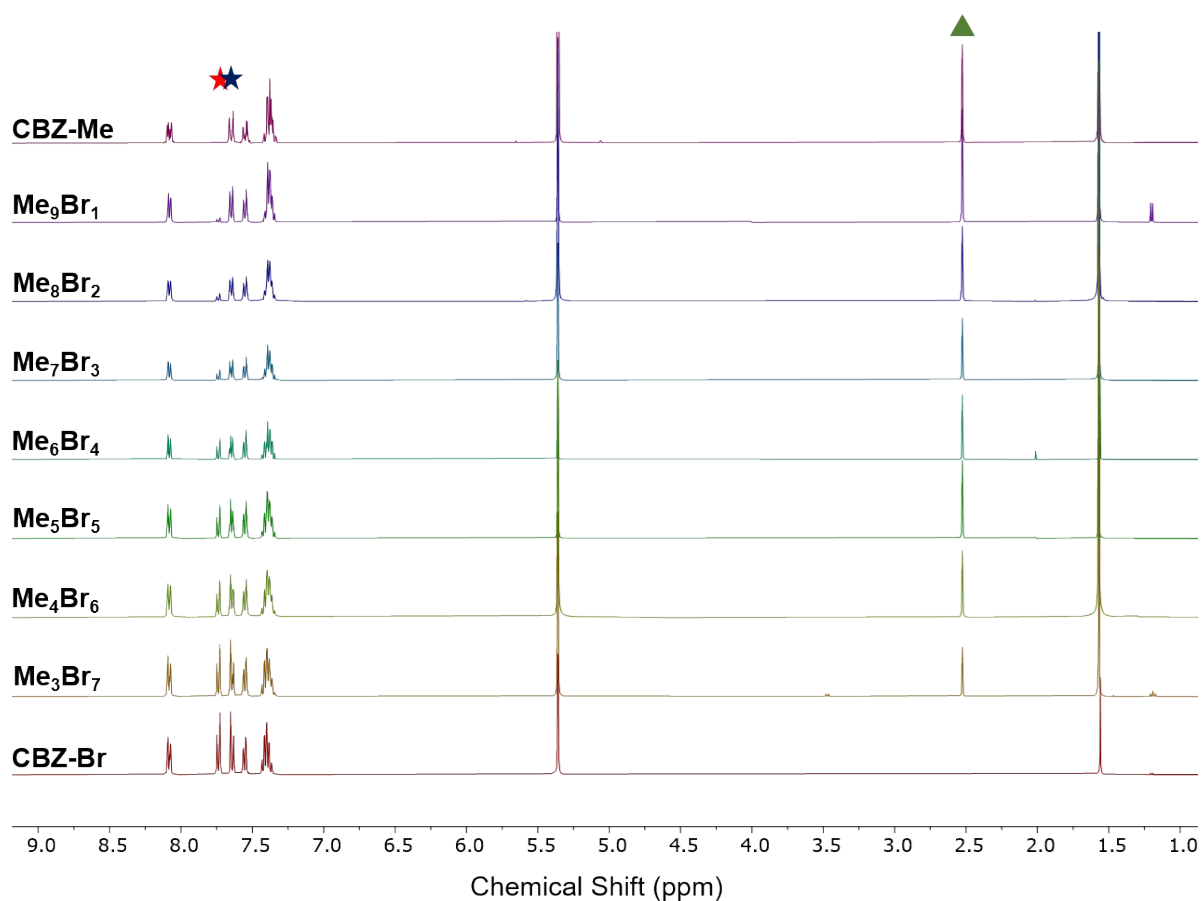


Figure S5. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of **CBZ-Me**, **CBZ-Br** and the organic alloys **Me_xBr_{10-x}** where $x = 3$ to 10 , in CD_2Cl_2 . Peaks marked with stars and triangles were used in integration analysis to determine the ratio of **CBZ-Me** : **CBZ-Br** in each organic alloy crystal sample. Peaks at 5.3 ppm and 1.5 ppm correspond to residual solvent and water respectively. Peaks between 1.0 ppm and 2.0 ppm are impurity peaks resulting from paratone oil used to mount

crystals on a loop for x-ray diffraction.

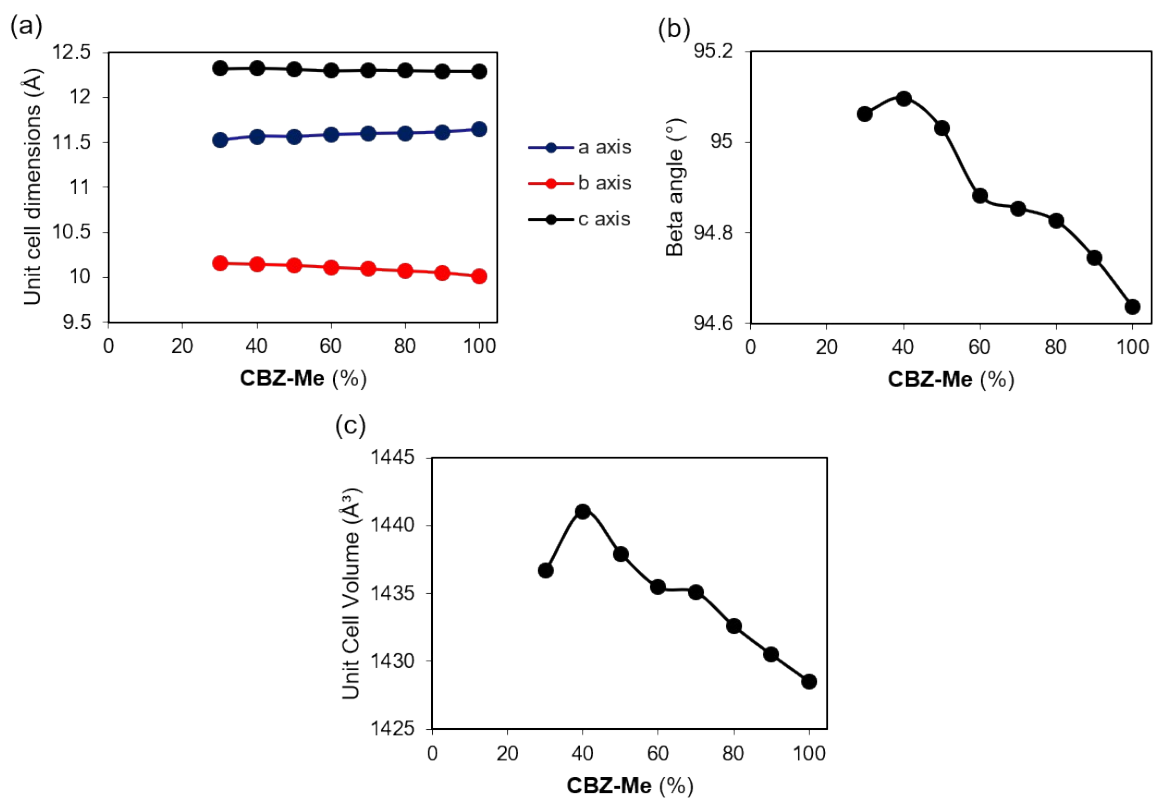


Figure S6. (a) Unit cell dimension variation with increasing **CBZ-Me** composition. (b) Decreasing β angle with increasing **CBZ-Me** composition (c) Decreasing unit cell volume with increasing **CBZ-Me** composition.

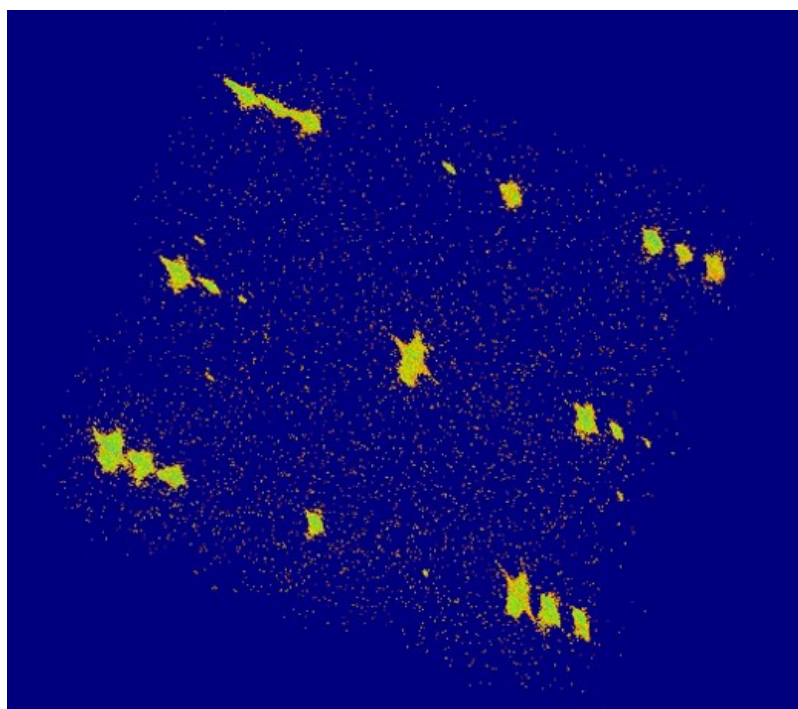


Figure S7. Representative diffraction pattern of Me_5Br_5 showing Bragg peaks and noise from the detector as view in MAX3D (Britten/Guan). The absence of diffuse scattering peaks or streaks indicates that the amount of short range order in the disordered regions is very low.

Photophysics of Parent Compounds

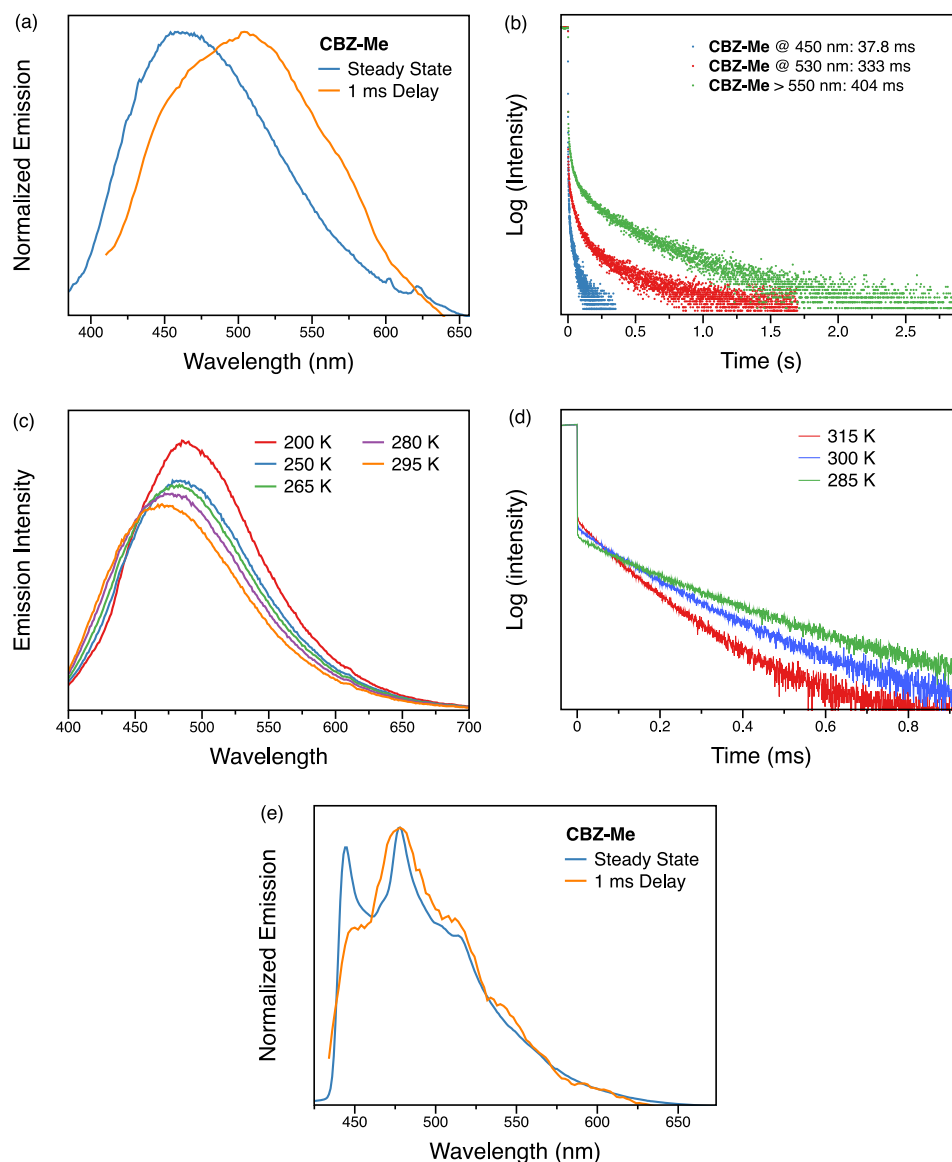


Figure S8. Steady state (blue line) and 1 ms delay (orange line) photoluminescence spectrum of **CBZ-Me** (a) under air at room temperature and (e) under Helium at 77 K. (b) Phosphorescence decay of **CBZ-Me** measured under air at room temperature at 450 nm, 530 nm and above 550 nm. Variable-temperature (c) steady state photoluminescence spectrum and (d) phosphorescence decay of **CBZ-Me** under helium atmosphere.

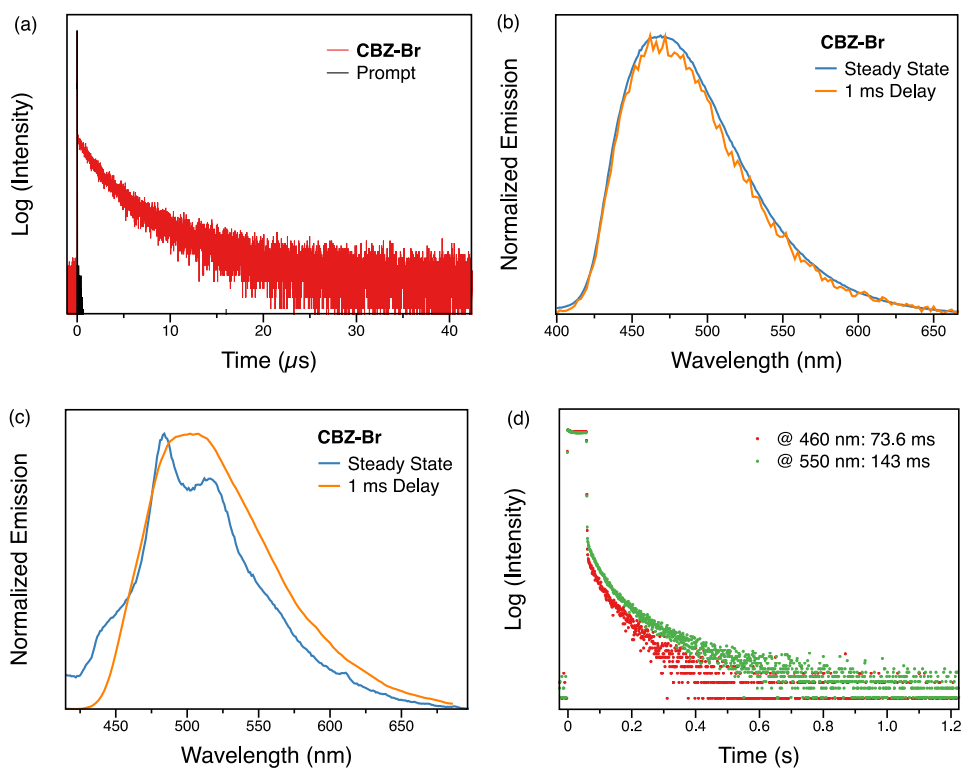
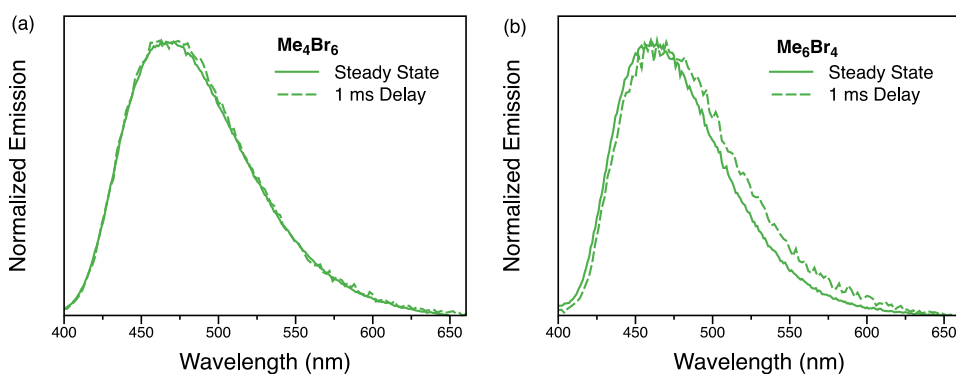


Figure S9. (a) Microsecond photoluminescence decay of **CBZ-Br** under air at room temperature. Steady state (blue line) and 1 ms delay (orange line) photoluminescence spectrum of **CBZ-Br** (b) under air at room temperature and (c) under helium at 77 K. (d) Millisecond photoluminescence decay of **CBZ-Br** above 500 nm under air at room temperature

Photophysics of Organic Alloys



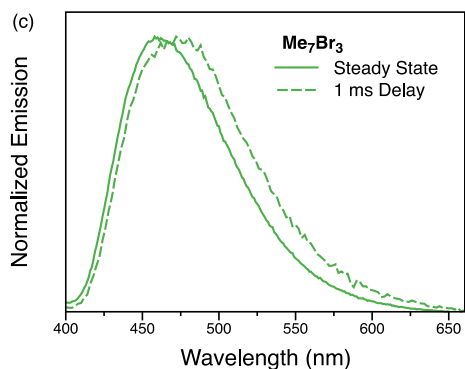


Figure S10. Steady state (solid line) and 1 ms delay (dashed line) photoluminescence spectrum of (a) Me_4Br_6 , (b) Me_6Br_4 and (c) Me_7Br_3 under air at room temperature.

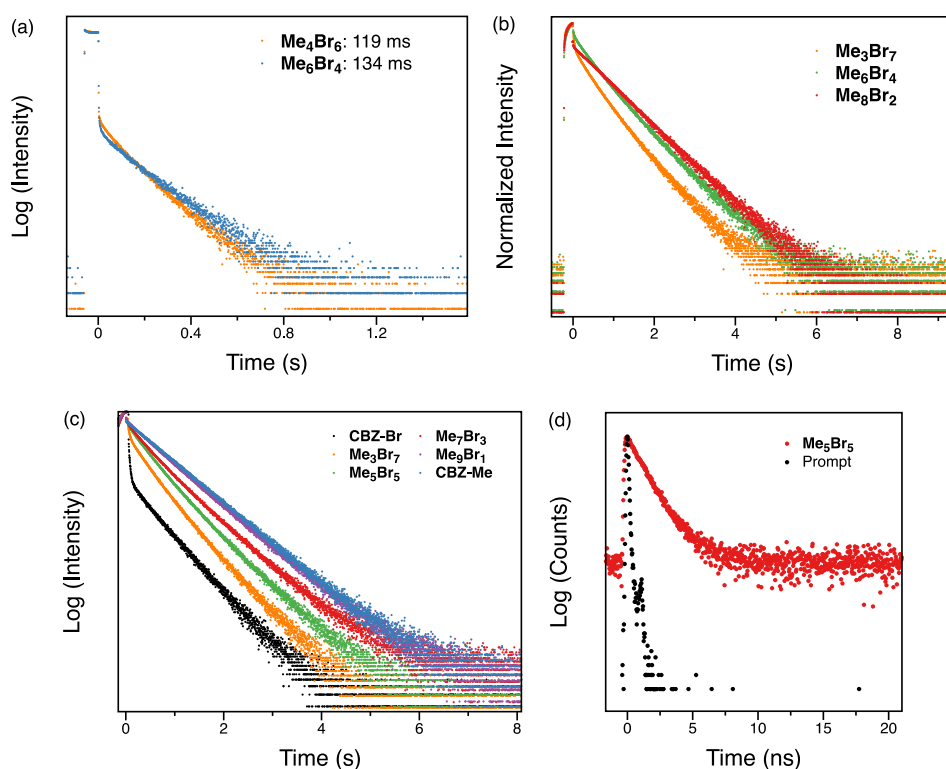


Figure S11. Phosphorescence decay of (a) Me_4Br_6 and Me_6Br_4 under air at room temperature and (b) Me_4Br_6 , Me_6Br_4 and Me_8Br_2 at 77 K. (c) Phosphorescence decay of CBZ-Br , Me_3Br_7 , Me_5Br_5 , Me_9Br_1 and CBZ-Me at 77 K. (d) fluorescence decay of Me_5Br_5 under air at room temperature.

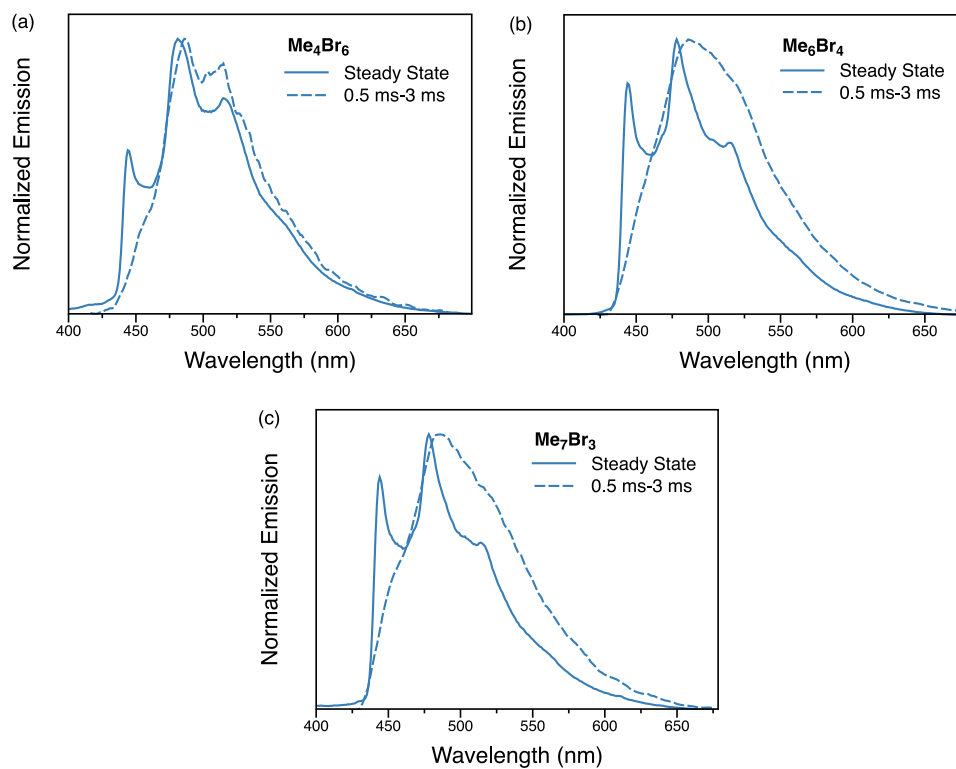


Figure S12. Steady state (solid line) and 1 ms delay (dashed line) photoluminescence spectra of (a) Me_4Br_6 , (b) Me_6Br_4 and (c) Me_7Br_3 under air at 77 K.

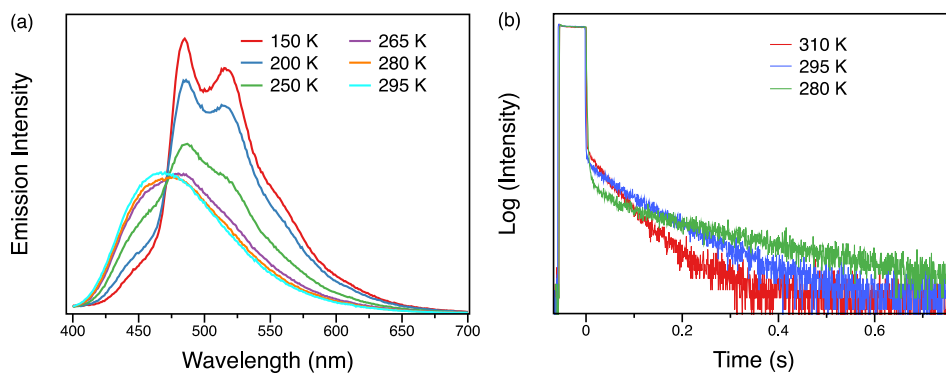


Figure S13. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_3Br_7 under helium atmosphere.

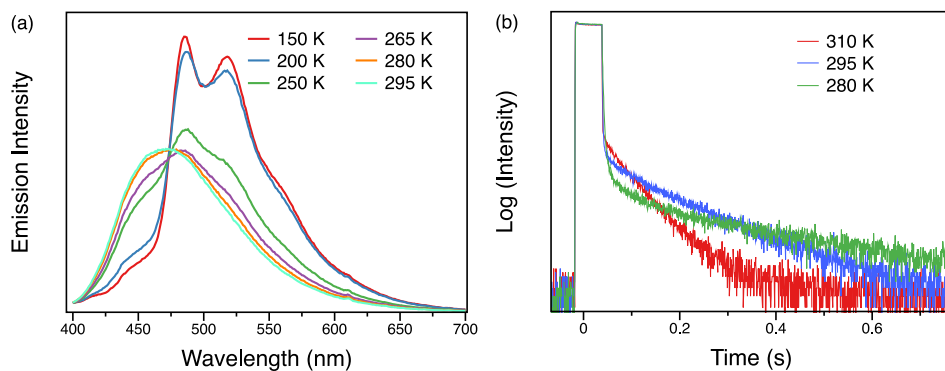


Figure S14. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_4Br_6 under helium atmosphere.

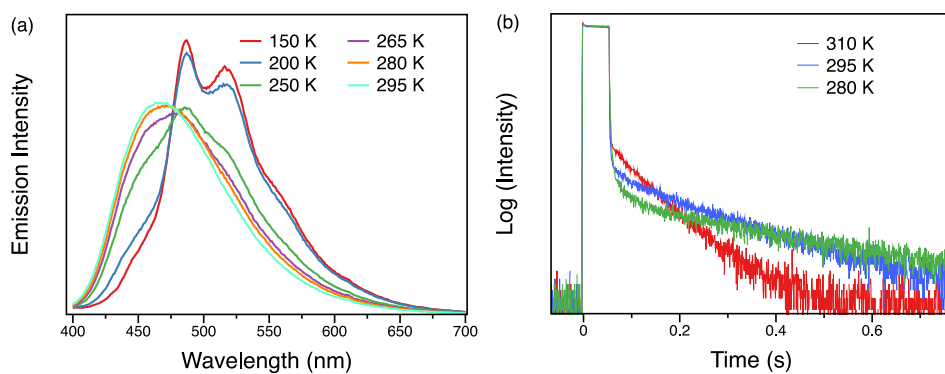


Figure S15. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_6Br_4 under helium atmosphere.

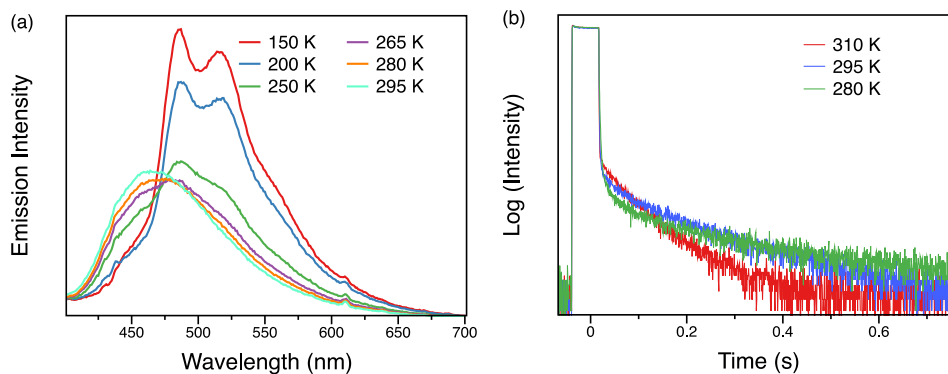


Figure S16. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_7Br_3 under helium atmosphere.

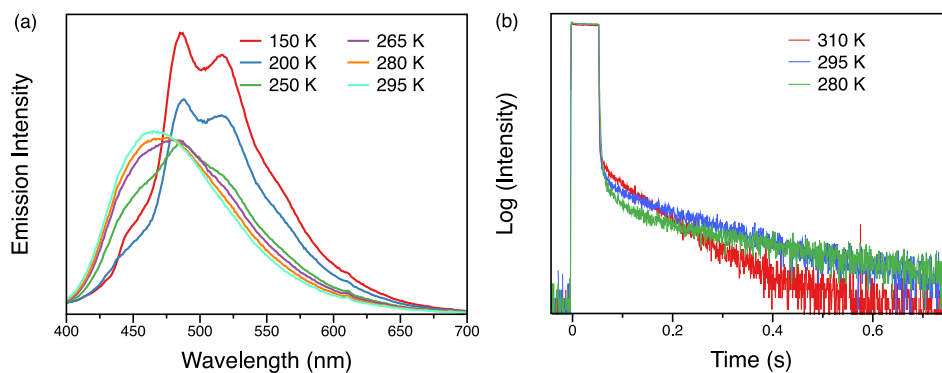


Figure S17. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_8Br_2 under helium atmosphere.

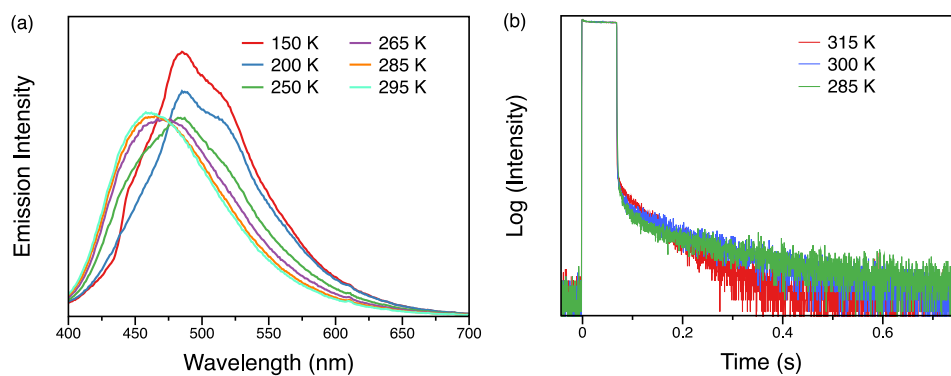


Figure S18. Variable-temperature (a) steady state photoluminescence spectra and (b) phosphorescence decay of Me_9Br_1 under helium atmosphere.

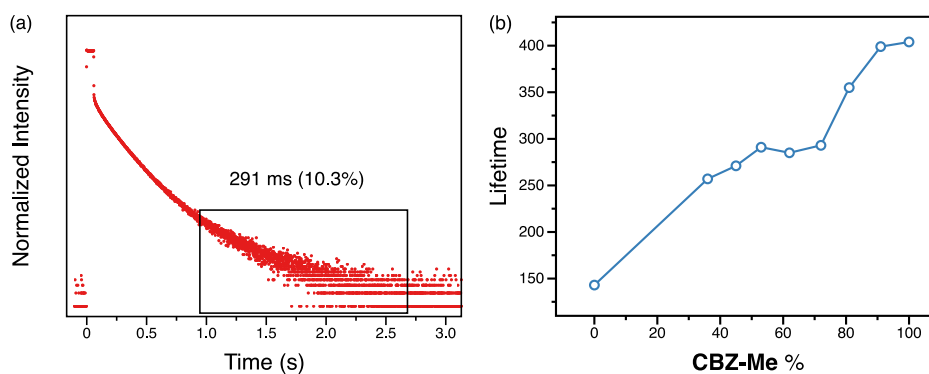


Figure S19. (a) Phosphorescence decay of Me_5Br_5 at 550 nm under air at room temperature. (b) Plots of longest decay lifetimes at 550 nm under air at room temperature against **CBZ-Me** ratios.

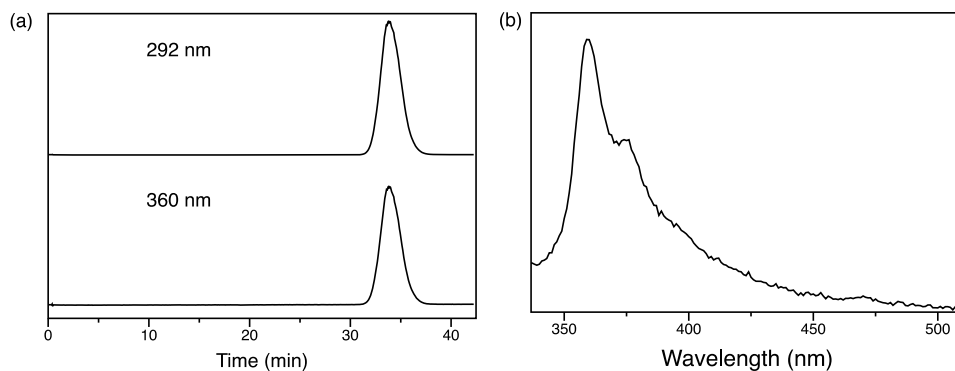


Figure S20. (a) HPLC trace of recrystallized 9-H carbazole starting materials monitored at 292 and 360 nm. (b) Fluorescence spectrum of carbazole crystals.

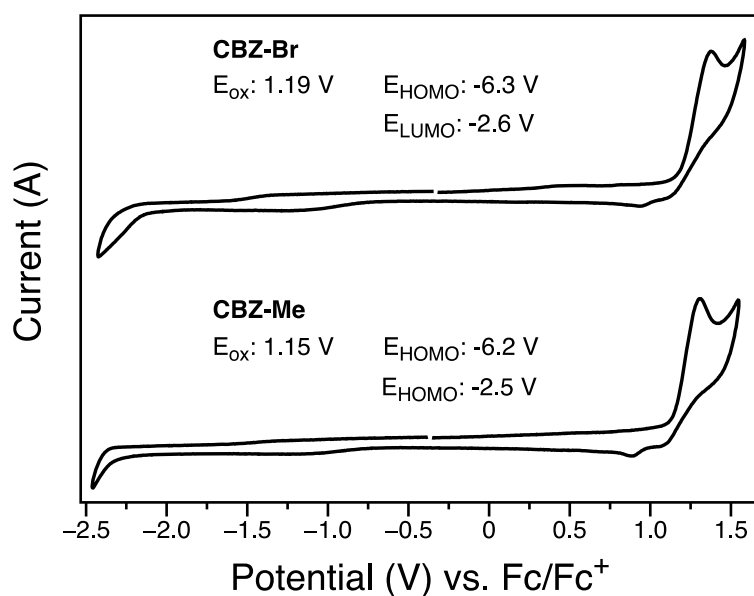


Figure S21. Cyclic voltammetry of **CBZ-Br** and **CBZ-Me** in CH_2Cl_2 at 1×10^{-3} M. The numbers were onset values by tangents.

Table S4. Crystal data for organic alloy **Me_xBr_{10-x}** where x = 3 to 10.

Compound	Me ₃ Br ₇	Me ₄ Br ₆	Me ₅ Br ₅	Me ₆ Br ₄	Me ₇ Br ₃	Me ₈ Br ₂	Me ₉ Br ₁
Empirical formula	C _{19.36} H _{13.07} Br _{0.64}	C _{19.44} H _{13.32} Br _{0.56}	C _{19.47} H _{13.41} Br _{0.53}	C _{19.56} H _{13.67} Br _{0.44}	C _{19.71} H _{14.14} Br _{0.29}	C _{19.81} H _{14.44} Br _{0.19}	C _{19.91} H _{14.74} Br _{0.09}
	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Formula weight	327.01	321.66	319.55	314.04	303.98	297.49	291.01
Temperature/K	100	120.0	100	100.0	100.0	100.15	100
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n	P2 ₁ /n
a/Å	11.5265(6)	11.5680(7)	11.5657(6)	11.5850(7)	11.5964(10)	11.6030(8)	11.6141(6)
b/Å	10.1543(5)	10.1429(5)	10.1316(5)	10.1100(6)	10.0911(8)	10.0711(6)	10.0515(5)
c/Å	12.3229(7)	12.3305(7)	12.3187(6)	12.3005(7)	12.3080(1)	12.3038(8)	12.2961(6)
α/°	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
β/°	95.063(2)	95.097(2)	95.031(2)	94.882(4)	94.854(2)	94.846(2)	94.7450(10)
γ/°	90	90	90	90	90	90	90

Volume/Å³	1436.69(13)	1441.05(14)	1437.93(12)	1435.46(15)	1435.1(2)	1432.62(16)	1430.52(12)
Z	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{cm}^3$	1.512	1.483	1.476	1.453	1.407	1.379	1.351
μ/mm^{-1}	1.868	1.633	1.546	1.313	0.881	0.604	0.326
F(000)	667.0	658.0	655.0	646.0	630.0	620.0	609.0
Crystal size/mm³	0.399 × 0.389 × 0.379	0.381 × 0.38 × 0.379	0.398 × 0.378 × 0.222	0.399 × 0.345 × 0.322	0.389 × 0.365 × 0.312	0.387 × 0.345 × 0.312	0.399 × 0.389 × 0.378
Radiation	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)	MoK α (λ = 0.71073)
2θ range for data collection/°	4.638 to 61.126	4.628 to 61.08	4.632 to 61.112	4.638 to 61.402	4.634 to 61.074	4.634 to 61.134	4.636 to 61.232
Index ranges	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -9 ≤ k ≤ 14, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -14 ≤ k ≤ 11, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -14 ≤ k ≤ 13, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 15, -14 ≤ k ≤ 14, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -14 ≤ k ≤ 9, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -14 ≤ k ≤ 13, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17	-16 ≤ h ≤ 16, -14 ≤ k ≤ 14, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17
Reflections collected	24000	27288	25444	25359	23841	25717	25534
Independent	4369 [R _{int} =	4402 [R _{int} =	4414 [R _{int} =	4401 [R _{int} =	4369 [R _{int} =	4386 [R _{int} =	4395 [R _{int} =

reflections	0.0369, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0225$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0266$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0981$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0234$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0336$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0198$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0292]$	0.0166]	0.0194]	0.0902]	0.0182]	0.0270]	0.0144]
Data/restraints/parameters	4369/354/204	4402/351/210	4414/0/210	4401/351/192	4369/351/210	4386/0/210	4395/0/210
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.043	1.024	1.027	1.046	1.066	1.041	1.040
Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$]	$R_1 = 0.0339$, $wR_2 = 0.0775$	$R_1 = 0.0284$, $wR_2 = 0.0667$	$R_1 = 0.0300$, $wR_2 = 0.0716$	$R_1 = 0.0682$, $wR_2 = 0.1966$	$R_1 = 0.0370$, $wR_2 = 0.0893$	$R_1 = 0.0367$, $wR_2 = 0.0980$	$R_1 = 0.0388$, $wR_2 = 0.1028$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0455$, $wR_2 = 0.0815$	$R_1 = 0.0355$, $wR_2 = 0.0696$	$R_1 = 0.0388$, $wR_2 = 0.0752$	$R_1 = 0.0919$, $wR_2 = 0.2147$	$R_1 = 0.0458$, $wR_2 = 0.0931$	$R_1 = 0.0448$, $wR_2 = 0.1020$	$R_1 = 0.0449$, $wR_2 = 0.1071$
Largest diff. peak/hole / $e \text{ \AA}^{-3}$	0.59/-0.41	0.38/-0.25	0.37/-0.24	1.19/-1.15	0.38/-0.25	0.42/-0.23	0.48/-0.23

References

- [1] (a) Y. Xie, Y. Ge, Q. Peng, C. Li, Q. Li, Z. Li, *Adv. Mater.* **2017**, *29*, 1606829; (b) S. Cai, H. Shi, J. Li, L. Gu, Y. Ni, Z. Cheng, S. Wang, W. Xiong, L. Li, Z. An, W. Huang, *Adv. Mater.* **2017**, *29*, 1701244.
- [2] APEX2 (Version 2014.11-0), Bruker AXS Inc. Madison, Wisconsin, **2014**.
- [3] SADABS (Version 2014/5), Bruker AXS Inc. Madison, Wisconsin, **2014**.
- [4] SAINT+ (Version 8.43A), Bruker AXS Inc. Madison, Wisconsin, **2013**.
- [5] O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard, H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2009**, *42*, 339–341.
- [6] G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Crystallogr. Sect. C Struct. Chem.* **2015**, *71*, 3–8.