

## Supplementary Information

### One F atom matters: synthesis, aggregation-induced emission and stimuli responsiveness of three isomers of fluoro/formyl substituted tetraphenylethene derivatives

Tianrui Li<sup>a</sup>, Jinling Miao<sup>\*b</sup>, Chunyue Xu<sup>a</sup>, Yong Nie<sup>\*a</sup>, Wei Liu<sup>a</sup>, Yexin Li<sup>b</sup>, Guangning Liu<sup>b</sup>,  
Xuchuan Jiang<sup>\*a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Institute for Smart Materials & Engineering, University of Jinan, No. 336 Nanxinzhuan West Road,  
250022 Jinan, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup>School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Shandong Provincial Key Laboratory of Fluorine  
Chemistry and Chemical Materials, University of Jinan, No. 336 Nanxinzhuan West Road, 250022  
Jinan, P. R. China

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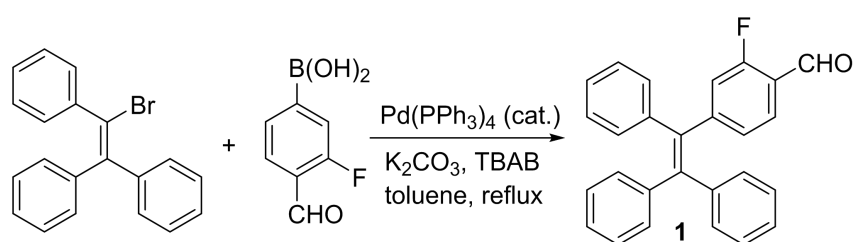
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## Experimental section

### General

Standard Schlenk techniques were used for the synthetic reactions under Ar. The solvents were commercially available and used without further purification. IR spectra were recorded in the range 450-4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  on a Perkin Elmer Tensor II spectrometer using KBr pellets.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR analyses were performed using a Bruker Avance III 600 MHz spectrometer. As internal references for  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectroscopy the signals of  $\text{CDCl}_3$  were used and calculated relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS).  $^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR spectra were recorded in dichloromethane solutions ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$  was added for locking) on a Bruker AVANCE III 500 spectrometer. Melting points were measured with a SGW X-4 apparatus and are not corrected. The high resolution mass spectra were measured with a Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ FTICR-MS instrument (DART positive ion mode). UV-Vis spectra were recorded using a UV-9000S spectrometer. Emission spectra were measured with an Edinburgh FLS920 fluorimeter using a front-face solid sample configuration for solid samples. Absolute fluorescence quantum yields were obtained using an integrating sphere. For the variable temperature emission spectra of the powder samples, a temperature controller (TCB1402C) made by Techcomp company was applied, and for the silica gel composites on TLC plates, a hot plate was used to heat up the TLC plates and the emission spectra were then measured as soon as possible. The dynamic light scattering measurements were conducted on a Malvern Zetasizer Nano ZS.

### Synthesis of compound 1

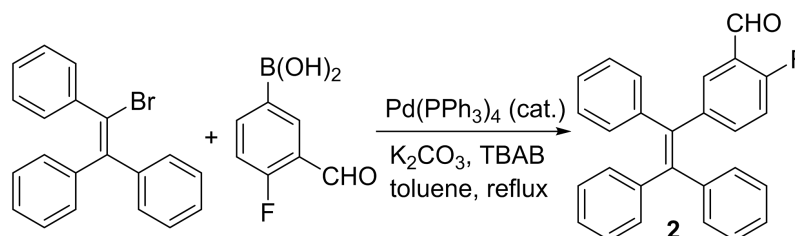


Under argon, triphenylvinylbromide (670.14 mg, 2.00 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (89 mg, 0.27 mmol), 3-fluoro-4-formylphenyl boronic acid (403.2 mg, 2.40 mmol), anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (830.2 mg, 6.00 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (106.0 mg, 0.092 mmol) and 20 mL of toluene and 5 mL of water were added to a Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux (oil bath 120  $^\circ\text{C}$ ) for 6 h. A small amount of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was added and the mixture was filtered, from the filtrate the organic phase was separated, and the water phase was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL  $\times$  2). The organic phases were combined and dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and separated using column chromatography (eluent

CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*) to obtain a yellow greenish solid (compound **1**).

**1**: 692 mg, yield 91.5%; m.p.183.1-183.9 °C; *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.52 (eluent CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*); IR (KBr, *v/cm*<sup>-1</sup>): 3071, 3051, 2854, 2760, 1690 (C=O), 1612, 1557, 1490, 1442, 1261 (C-F); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.23 (s, 1H), 7.58 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.19 – 7.08 (m, 10H), 7.07 – 6.96 (m, 7H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 12 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd, *J* = 11.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 187.03 (d, *J* = 5.03 Hz), 165.26, 163.55, 153.24, 153.18, 144.06, 142.82, 142.73, 142.45, 138.85 (d, *J* = 1.34 Hz), 131.35, 131.31, 131.27, 128.23 (d, *J* = 5.03 Hz), 127.96, 127.95, 127.92, 127.88, 127.87, 127.57, 127.25, 122.20, 122.14, 119.18, 119.04; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ -123.52; DART-MS *m/z* (%): calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FO, 379.1493 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 379.1487.

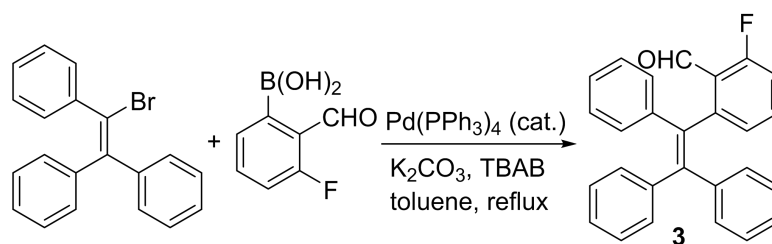
### Synthesis of compound **2**



Under argon, triphenylvinylbromide (672.7 mg, 2.0 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (92.1 mg, 0.28 mmol), 4-fluoro-3-formylphenyl boronic acid (407.8 mg, 2.40 mmol), anhydrous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (831.7 mg, 6.0 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (102 mg, 0.088 mmol) and 20 mL of toluene and 5 mL of water were added to a Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux (oil bath 120 °C) for 16 h. A small amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added and the mixture was filtered, from the filtrate the organic phase was separated, and the water phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL × 2). The organic phases were combined and dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and separated using column chromatography (eluent CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*) to obtain a white solid (compound **2**).

**2**: 722 mg, yield 95.5%; m.p.157.6-158.1 °C; *R<sub>f</sub>* = 0.33 (eluent CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*); IR (KBr, *v/cm*<sup>-1</sup>): 3073, 3020, 2860, 2763, 1693 (C=O), 1599, 1489, 1258 (C-F); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.19 (s, 1H), 7.52 (dd, *J* = 6.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 – 7.08 (m, 10H), 7.04 – 6.97 (m, 6H), 6.89 (dd, *J* = 10.1, 8.6 Hz, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 187.30 (d, *J* = 6.10 Hz), 164.02, 162.30, 143.10, 143.06, 142.72, 142.66, 140.80 (d, *J* = 4.04 Hz), 139.30, 139.24, 138.69, 131.62, 131.38, 131.30, 131.26, 128.13, 127.90, 127.07 (d, *J* = 4.45 Hz), 126.94, 123.73, 123.68, 116.11, 115.97; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (377 MHz, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) δ -124.92; DART-MS *m/z* (%): calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FO, 379.1493 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 379.1487.

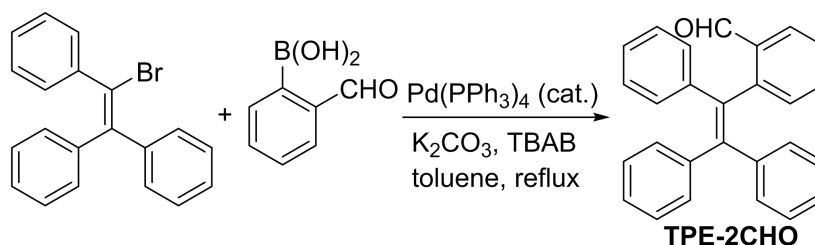
### Synthesis of compound 3



Under argon, triphenylvinylbromide (671.2 mg, 2.0 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (79.8 mg, 0.25 mmol), 3-fluoro-2-formylphenyl boronic acid (403.6 mg, 2.40 mmol), anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (830.3 mg, 6.0 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (108.8 mg, 0.094 mmol) and 20 mL of toluene and 5 mL of water were added to a Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux (oil bath 120 °C) for 16 h. A small amount of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was added and the mixture was filtered, from the filtrate the organic phase was separated, and the water phase was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 mL  $\times$  2). The organic phases were combined and dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and separated using column chromatography (eluent  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{hexane} = 1/1$ ,  $V/V$ ) to obtain a light yellow solid (compound 3).

**3:** 638.2 mg, yield 84 %; m.p. 105.7-106.3 °C;  $R_f = 0.31$  (eluent  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{hexane} = 1/1$ ,  $V/V$ ); IR (KBr,  $\nu/\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3071, 3051, 2854, 2767, 1699 (C=O), 1603, 1568, 1490, 1465, 1240 (C-F);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.25 (s, 1H), 7.35 (td,  $J = 8.0, 5.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 3.42$  Hz, 4H), 7.08 (m, 9H), 7.03 – 6.98 (m, 4H), 6.95 (m, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  188.50 (d,  $J = 4.60$  Hz), 164.61, 162.89, 147.77, 143.25, 142.83, 142.52, 141.87, 137.07, 134.46, 134.39, 131.27, 130.98, 130.70, 128.95 (d,  $J = 3.29$  Hz), 127.98, 127.88, 127.17 (d,  $J = 3.87$  Hz), 126.98, 123.73, 123.68, 115.26, 115.12;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (377 MHz,  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ )  $\delta$  -118.94; DART-MS  $m/z$  (%): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{19}\text{FO}$ , 379.1493  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ , found 379.1486.

### Synthesis of compound TPE-2CHO



Under argon, triphenylvinylbromide (671.7 mg, 2.0 mmol), tetrabutylammonium bromide (66.7 mg, 0.2 mmol), 2-formylphenyl boronic acid (329.9 mg, 2.20 mmol), anhydrous  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (832.3 mg, 6.0 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (115.8 mg, 0.1 mmol), and 20 mL of toluene and 5 mL of water were added to a

Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was stirred under reflux (oil bath 120 °C) for 12 h. A small amount of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added and the reaction mixture was filtered, from the filtrate the organic phase was separated, and the water phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL × 2). The organic phases were combined and dried with anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and separated using column chromatography (eluent CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*) to obtain a light yellow solid (compound **TPE-2CHO**).

**TPE-2CHO**: 615.2 mg, yield 85 %; m.p. 95.7-96.0 °C; *R*<sub>f</sub> = 0.41 (eluent CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane = 1/1, *V/V*); IR (KBr, *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3051, 3024, 2833, 2739, 1693 (C=O), 1593, 1441, 754, 700; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.33 (s, 1H), 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.42 (td, *J* = 6.3, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 8.06 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 3.42 Hz, 4H), 7.20, 7.16 - 7.15 (m, 3H), 7.10 - 7.07 (m, 5H), 7.04 - 7.03 (m, 3H), 7.01 - 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.93 - 6.91 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.73 (d, *J* = 3.04 Hz), 147.16, 144.55, 142.69, 142.51, 142.47, 136.31, 134.13, 133.49, 132.66, 131.14, 130.89, 130.82, 127.97, 127.95, 127.85, 127.64, 127.44, 127.12, 126.99, 126.90; EI-MS *m/z* (%): calcd. for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O, 361.46 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>, found 361.40 (100%).

**Table S1** Crystal data and structure refinement for **2**

Empirical formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>19</sub> FO
Formula weight	378.42
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub>
<i>a</i> /Å	10.2779(7)
<i>b</i> /Å	9.1125(5)
<i>c</i> /Å	11.3260(6)
<i>α</i> /°	90
<i>β</i> /°	106.418(7)
<i>γ</i> /°	90
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1017.51(11)
<i>Z</i>	2
<i>ρ</i> <sub>calc</sub> /cm <sup>3</sup>	1.235
<i>μ</i> /mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.08
F(000)	396
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.1 × 0.1 × 0.1

Radiation	Mo K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
2 $\Theta$ range for data collection/ $^\circ$	6.51 to 50.698
Index ranges	$-12 \leq h \leq 12$ , $-10 \leq k \leq 10$ , $-13 \leq l \leq 13$
Reflections collected	6090
Independent reflections	3498 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0276$ , $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0535$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	3498/1/262
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	0.97
Final R indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.0485$ , $wR_2 = 0.1093$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0836$ , $wR_2 = 0.1258$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e $\text{\AA}^{-3}$	0.27/-0.18
Flack parameter	-0.1(7)
CCDC deposition number	2100022

**Table S2** Crystal data for **3**

Empirical formula	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>19</sub> FO
Formula weight	378.42
Temperature/K	293(2)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> /n
a/ $\text{\AA}$	12.0247(7)
b/ $\text{\AA}$	9.3443(5)
c/ $\text{\AA}$	21.2636(16)
$\alpha/^\circ$	90
$\beta/^\circ$	93.711(6)
$\gamma/^\circ$	90
Volume/ $\text{\AA}^3$	2384.2(3)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}/\text{g/cm}^3$	1.053
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.07
F(000)	1096
Crystal size/ $\text{mm}^3$	$0.25 \times 0.15 \times 0.1$
Radiation	Mo K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )

**Table S3** Selected bond lengths (Å) and torsion angles (°) for **2** and **3**.

	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
bond lengths	C8-C15 1.355	C8-C15 1.347
	C3-F2 1.361	C3-F1 1.355
	C6-C8 (F-Ar) 1.478	C7-C8 (F-Ar) 1.502
	C8-C9 (Ph) 1.488	C8-C9 (Ph) 1.507
	C15-C16 (Ph) 1.486	C15-C16 (Ph) 1.496
	C15-C22 (Ph) 1.488	C15-C22 (Ph) 1.497
Selected torsion angles	C15-C8-C6-C5 (C=C-(F-Ar)) 42.86	C15-C8-C7-C6 (C=C-(F-Ar)) -69.81
	C15-C8-C9-C14 (C=C-Ph) 50.855	C15-C8-C9-C14 (C=C-Ph) -51.44
	C8-C15-C16-C17 (C=C-Ph) 47.566	C8-C15-C16-C17 (C=C-Ph) -46.76
	C8-C15-C22-C27 (C=C-Ph) 48.295	C8-C15-C22-C27 (C=C-Ph) -51.61

**Table S4** Diagrams of the frontier MOs of **1-3** and their non-fluorinated analogs <sup>a</sup>

Compounds	Frontier orbitals and energy gap
<b>1</b>	<p>HOMO E = -5.68 eV LUMO E = -2.01 eV ΔE = 3.67 eV</p>
<b>TPE-4CHO</b>	<p>HOMO E = -5.58 eV LUMO E = -1.90 eV ΔE = 3.68 eV</p>
<b>2</b>	<p>HOMO E = -5.60 eV LUMO E = -1.73 eV ΔE = 3.87 eV</p>
<b>TPE-3CHO</b>	<p>HOMO E = -5.56 eV LUMO E = -1.67 eV ΔE = 3.89 eV</p>





6	4.1557	298.34	0.0046	HOMO - 1→LUMO (83.2%) HOMO - 3→LUMO (82.0%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (7.8%)
7	4.3635	284.14	0.0140	HOMO - 1→LUMO (5.0%) HOMO - 7→LUMO (8.1%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (13.4%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (7.1%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (52.6%) HOMO - 3→LUMO (2.2%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (6.1%) HOMO→LUMO + 4 (2.6%)
8	4.3975	281.94	0.0285	HOMO - 7→LUMO (6.8%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (32.6%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (4.0%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (25.3%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (26.6%)
9	4.5014	275.44	0.1000	HOMO - 7→LUMO (40.9%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (37.5%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (9.1%) HOMO→LUMO + 3 (7.1%)
10	4.5977	269.67	0.1660	HOMO - 7→LUMO (33.3%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (6.5%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (2.2%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (48.5%)

<sup>a</sup> calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level of theory.

**Table S7** Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **2** from TD-DFT calculations in

THF <sup>a</sup>				
state	E (eV)	$\lambda$ (nm)	$f$	transitions
1	3.1996	387.50	0.0322	HOMO→LUMO (98.5%)
2	3.6508	339.61	0.4705	HOMO→LUMO + 1 (97.3%)
3	3.6859	336.38	0.0087	HOMO - 6→LUMO (3.7%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (54.9%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (33.3%)
4	4.3424	285.52	0.0185	HOMO - 2→LUMO (12.8%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1 (80.2%)
5	4.3859	282.69	0.0308	HOMO - 3→LUMO (2.4%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (11.8%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1 (6.8%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1 (6.8%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (64.8%)
6	4.4346	279.58	0.0151	HOMO - 3→LUMO (4.7%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (65.9%) HOMO - 2→LUMO + 1 (2.7%)

7	4.5095	274.94	0.0432	HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1 (6.3%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 2 (14.9%) HOMO - 3→LUMO (80.4%) HOMO - 1→LUMO +1 (3.5%) HOMO→LUMO +2 (8.9%)
8	4.5656	271.56	0.0379	HOMO - 6→LUMO (3.2%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (3.3%) HOMO - 4→LUMO + 1 (2.2%) HOMO - 3→LUMO (6.1%) HOMO - 3→LUMO + 1 (4.7%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1(10.3%) HOMO→LUMO + 3 (61.0%)
9	4.5826	270.55	0.0403	HOMO - 3→LUMO (2.0%) HOMO - 1→LUMO (2.1%) HOMO - 1→LUMO + 1 (59.8%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (2.7%) HOMO→LUMO + 3 (12.0%) HOMO→LUMO + 4 (11.4%) HOMO→LUMO + 5 (2.5%)
10	4.6246	268.10	0.0757	HOMO - 7→LUMO (15.5%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (7.6%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (10.0%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (23.5%) HOMO - 2→LUMO + 1 (12.6%) HOMO→LUMO + 3 (11.4%) HOMO→LUMO + 4 (4.6%) HOMO→LUMO + 6 (2.0%)

<sup>a</sup> calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level of theory.

**Table S8** Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **3** from TD-DFT calculations in

THF <sup>a</sup>

state	E (eV)	$\lambda$ (nm)	$f$	transitions
1	3.0910	401.11	0.1101	HOMO→LUMO (97.2%)
2	3.4807	356.21	0.0048	HOMO - 7→LUMO (3.9%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (2.1%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (51.9%) HOMO - 4→LUMO + 1 (3.5%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (6.0%) HOMO - 1→LUMO (25.0%)
3	3.9234	316.01	0.3431	HOMO→LUMO +1 (96.8%)
4	4.1228	300.73	0.0459	HOMO - 6→LUMO (2.3%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (7.9%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (23.7%) HOMO - 1→LUMO (59.8%)

5	4.2380	292.55	0.0199	HOMO - 3→LUMO (89.7%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (3.5%) HOMO→LUMO +2 (2.5%)
6	4.2400	292.42	0.0002	HOMO - 5→LUMO (2.5%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (18.2%) HOMO - 3→LUMO (3.1%) HOMO - 2→LUMO (62.1%) HOMO - 1→LUMO (9.8%)
7	4.3995	281.82	0.0149	HOMO - 6→LUMO (21.2%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (21.0%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (4.0%) HOMO→LUMO + 2(44.9%)
8	4.4923	275.99	0.0031	HOMO - 6→LUMO (19.8%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (61.7%) HOMO→LUMO + 2 (6.3%) HOMO→LUMO + 3 (6.2%)
9	4.5631	271.71	0.2944	HOMO - 8→LUMO (2.1%) HOMO - 6→LUMO (45.6%) HOMO - 5→LUMO (3.4%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (2.3%) HOMO→LUMO +2 (48.5%)
10	4.6529	266.46	0.0032	HOMO - 8→LUMO (3.7%) HOMO - 7→LUMO (73.7%) HOMO - 4→LUMO (5.0%) HOMO - 4→LUMO + 1 (3.7%) HOMO - 1→LUMO +1 (3.0%) HOMO→LUMO +4 (4.5%)

<sup>a</sup> calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G (d, p) level of theory.

#### Reference for the Gaussian package for the DFT calculations:

M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, B. Mennucci, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, M. Caricato, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, A. F. Izmaylov, J. Bloino, G. Zheng, J. L. Sonnenberg, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, V. G. Zakrzewski, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, J. Cioslowski, and D. J. Fox, Gaussian 09, Revision A.02, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2009.

**Table S9** Emission lifetime data of solid samples of **1-3**

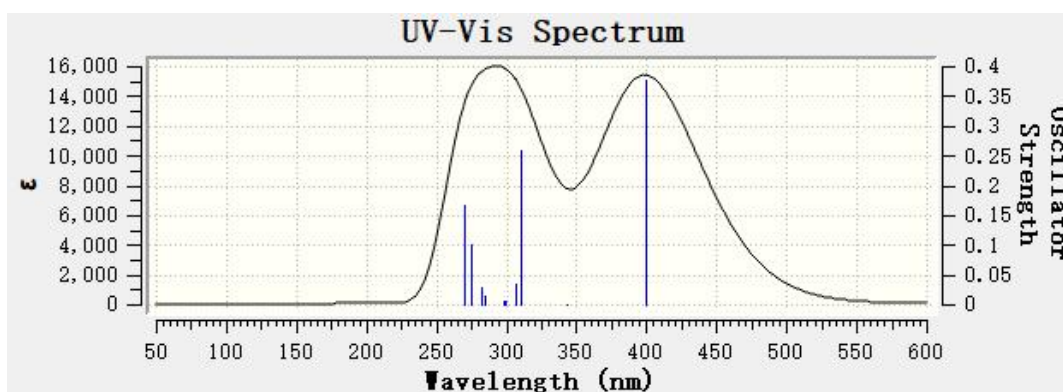
Compounds	$\tau_1$ (ns)	percent	$\tau_2$ (ns)	percent	$\tau$ (ns)
<b>1</b>	0.4682	86.05	2.0303	13.95	0.69
<b>2</b>	0.5165	41.64	1.0344	58.36	0.82
<b>3</b>	0.2819	91.72	0.4686	8.28	0.38

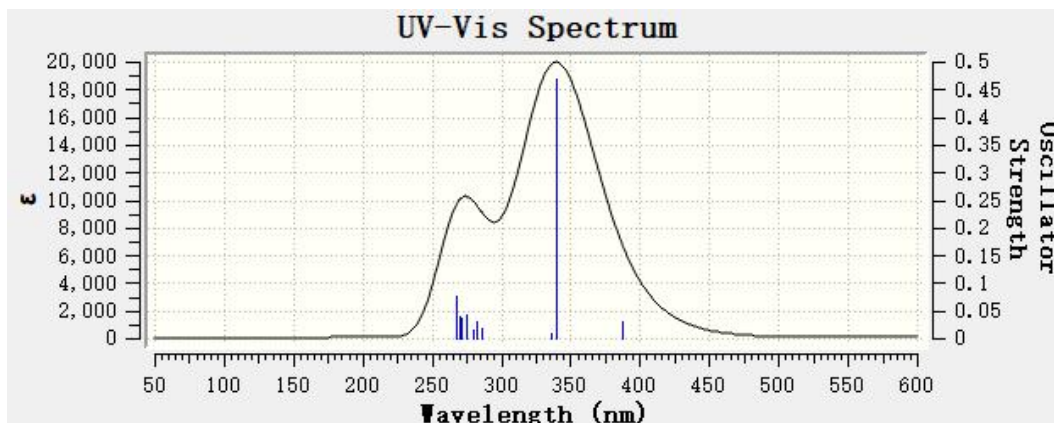
**Table S10** Photophysical data for **1**, **TPE-4CHO**, **2** and **TPE-3CHO** at different temperatures

Compounds	$\lambda_{em}^a$ (nm)					
	r. t.	70 °C	100 °C	120 °C	140 °C	cooling to r. t.
<b>1</b>	482	477	474	471	470	481
<b>2</b>	460	452	451	450	448	458
<b>TPE-3CHO</b>	462	460	458	458	458	458
<b>TPE-4CHO</b>	486	486	486	-	486	486

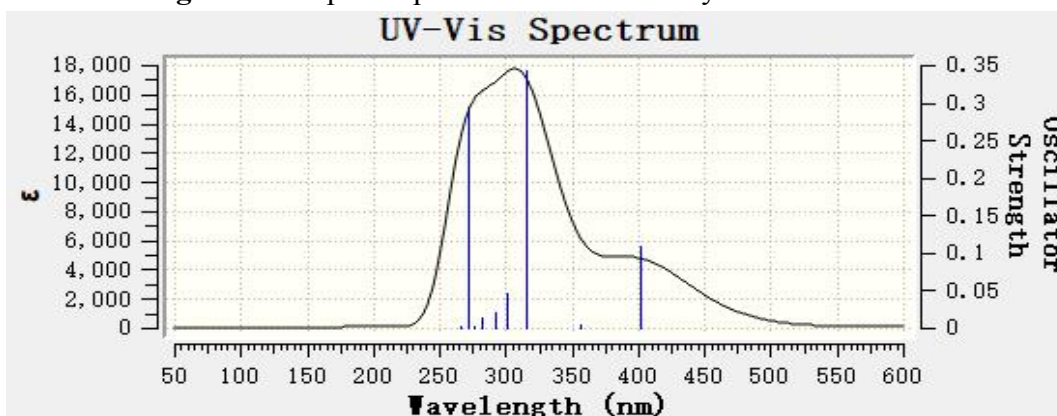
<sup>a</sup>  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 380 nm**Table S11** Photophysical data for the silica gel composites with **1**, **TPE-4CHO** and **2** at different temperatures

Composite	$\lambda_{em}^a$ (nm)				
	r. t.	70 °C	100 °C	120 °C	140 °C
<b>1</b>	521	516	510	503	498
<b>2</b>	496	501	502	501	501
<b>TPE-4CHO</b>	512	510	512	511	511

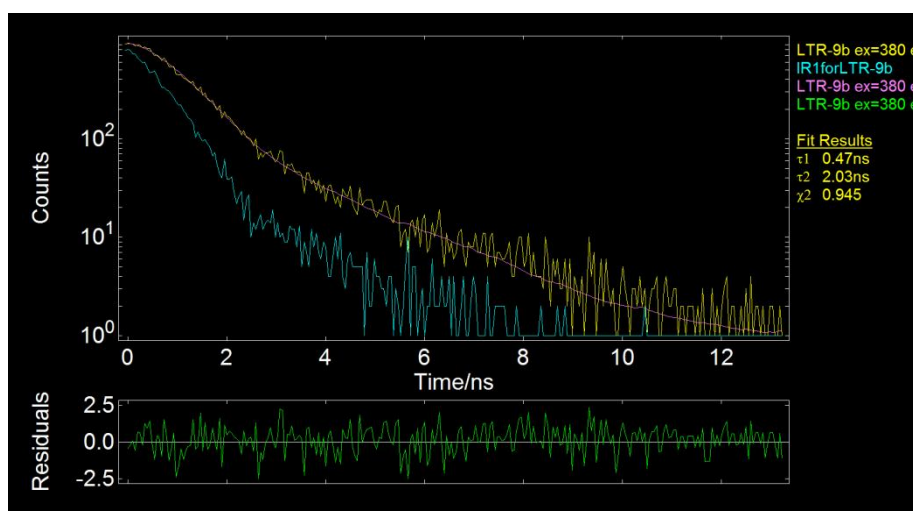
<sup>a</sup>  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 380 nm**Fig. S1** Absorption spectrum of **1** in THF by DFT calculation



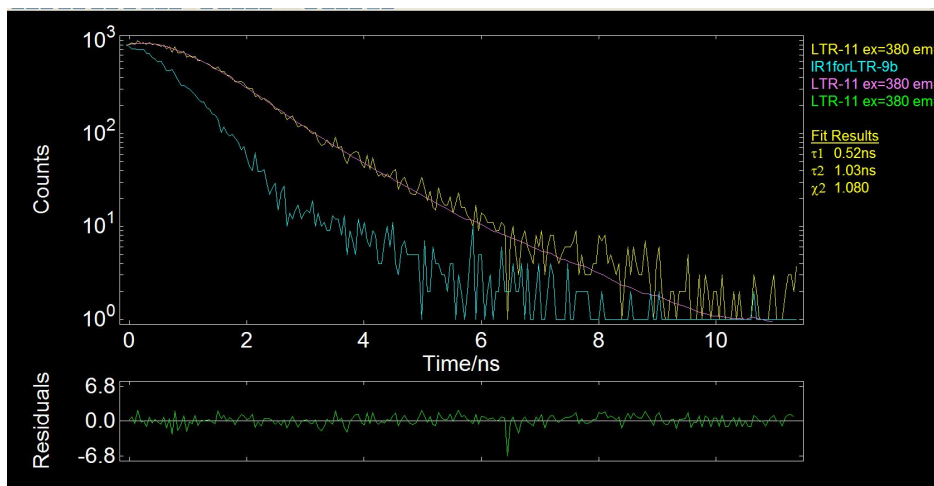
**Fig. S2** Absorption spectrum of **2** in THF by DFT calculation



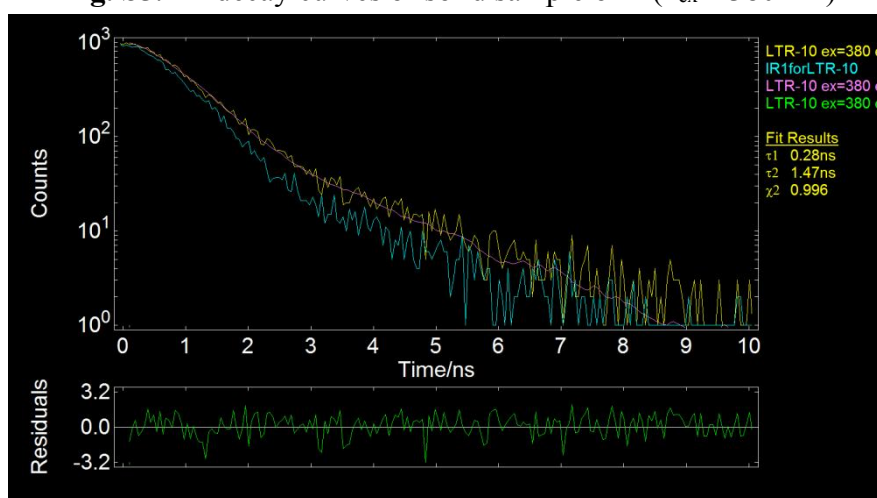
**Fig. S3** Absorption spectrum of **3** in THF by DFT calculation



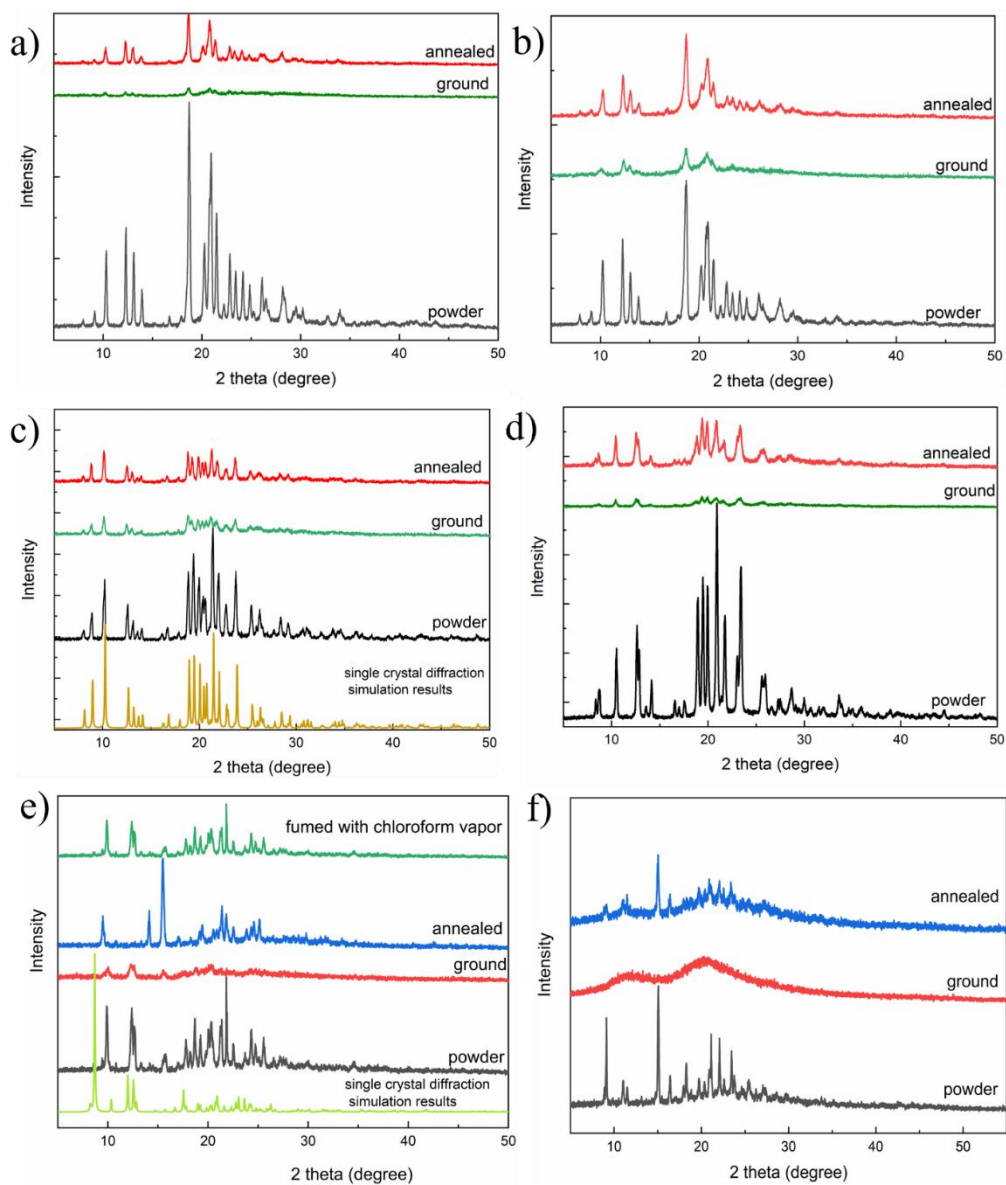
**Fig. S4.** PL decay curves of solid sample of **1** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ )



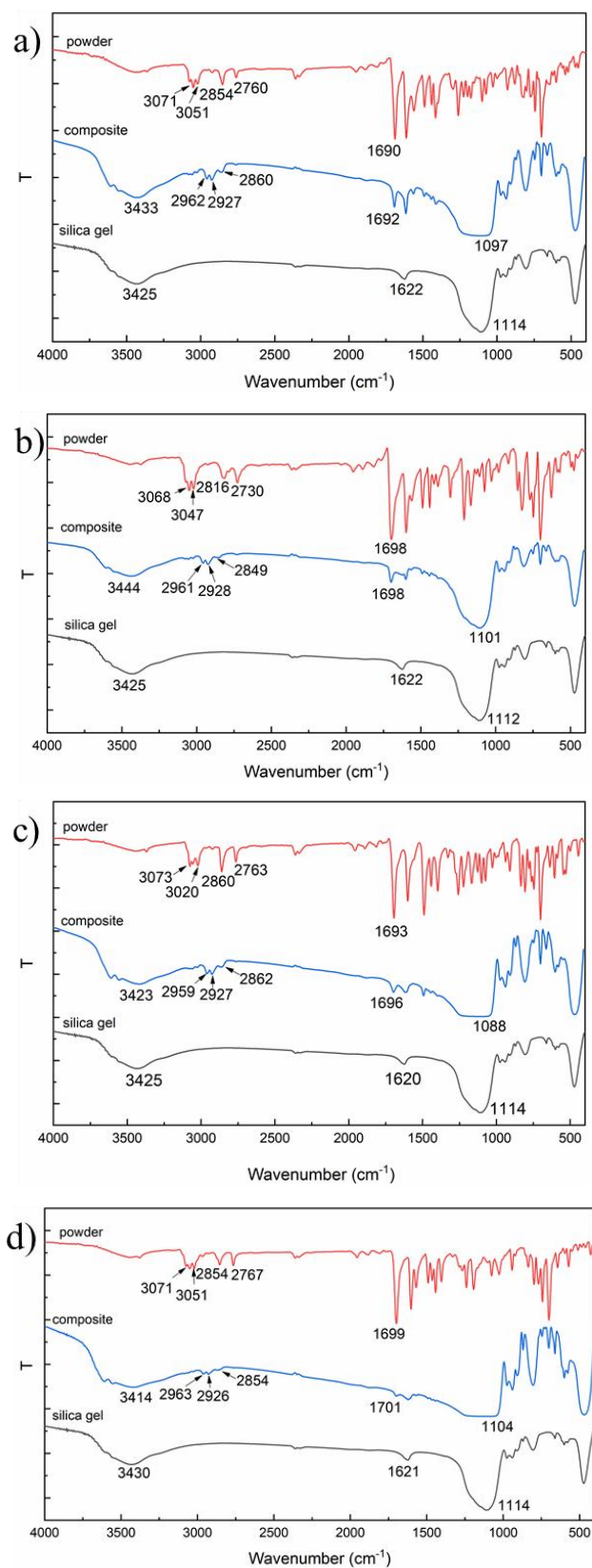
**Fig. S5.** PL decay curves of solid sample of **2** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ )



**Fig. S6.** PL decay curves of solid sample of **3** ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 380 \text{ nm}$ )

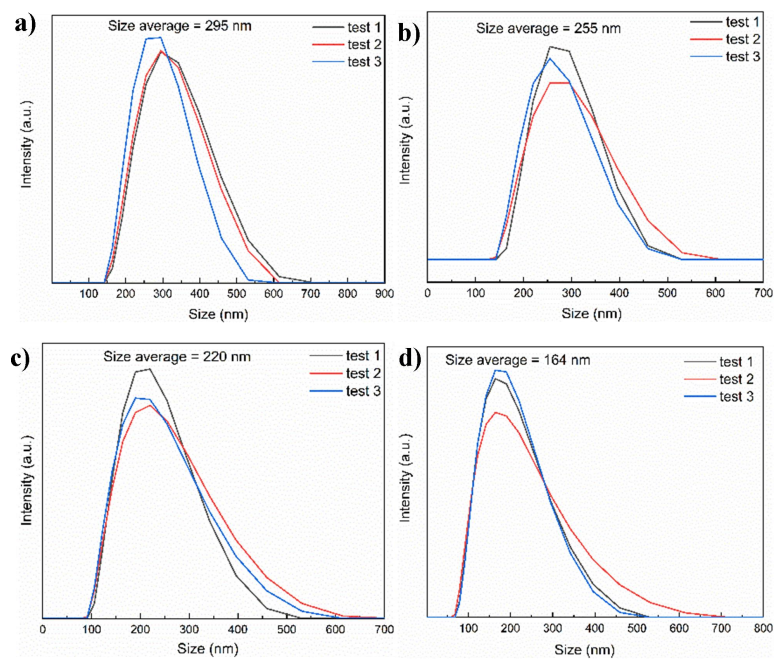


**Fig. S7** PXRD patterns of a) **1**, b) **TPE-4CHO**, c) **2**, d) **TPE-3CHO** e) **3** and f) **TPE-2CHO** before and after grinding, and then annealed/fumed

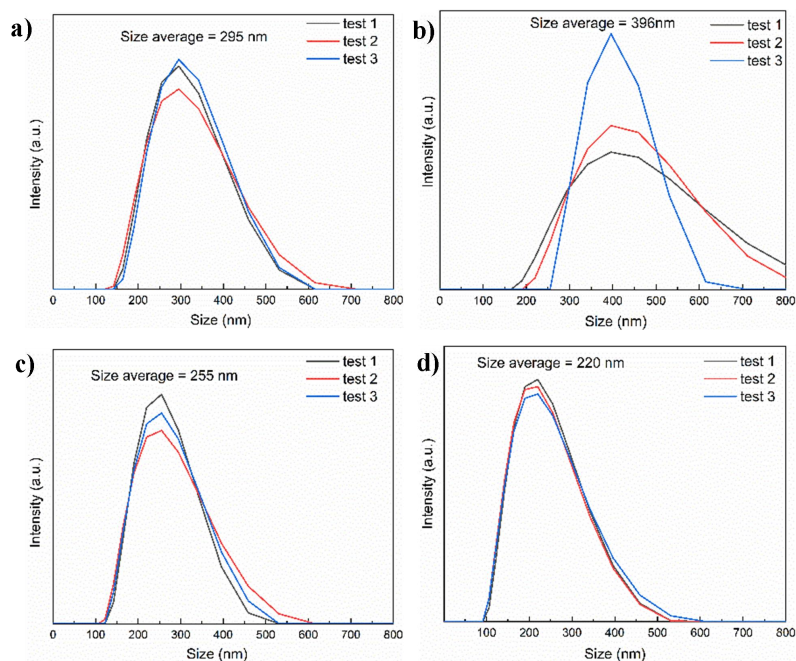


**Fig. S8** FT-IR spectra of silica gel composites of a) **1**, b) **TPE-4CHO**, c) **2** and d) **3** at room temperature

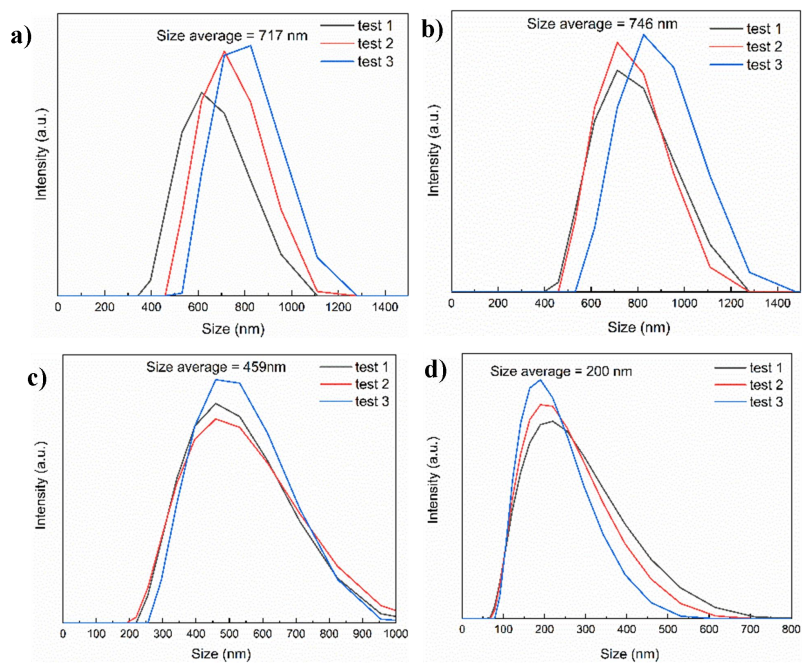




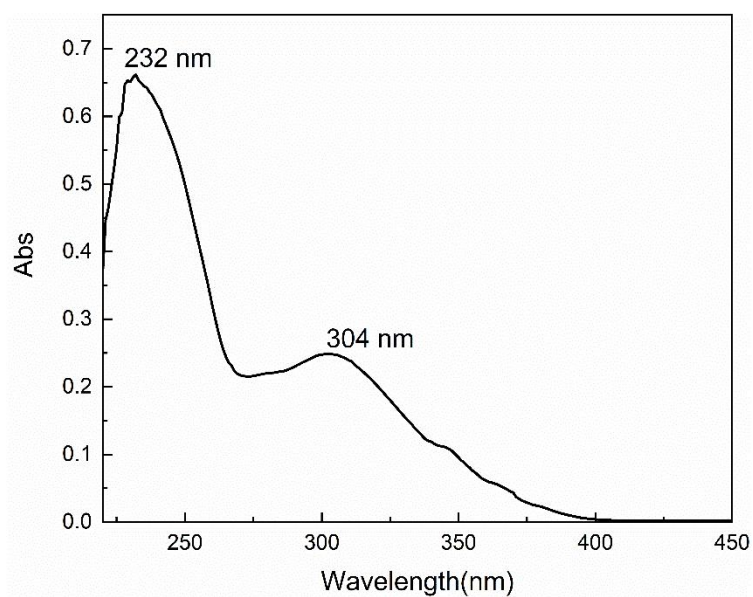
**Fig. S9** DLS results of the aggregates of compound 1 with water fractions of a) 90%, b) 92%, c) 95% and d) 96%



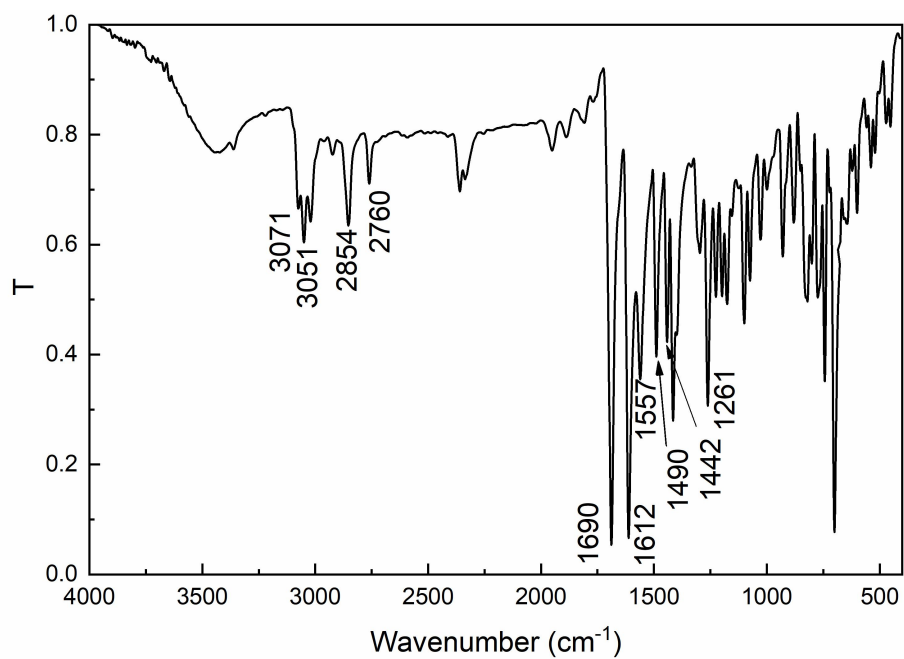
**Fig. S10** DLS results of the aggregates of compound 2 with water fractions of a) 90%, b) 92%, c) 95% and d) 96%



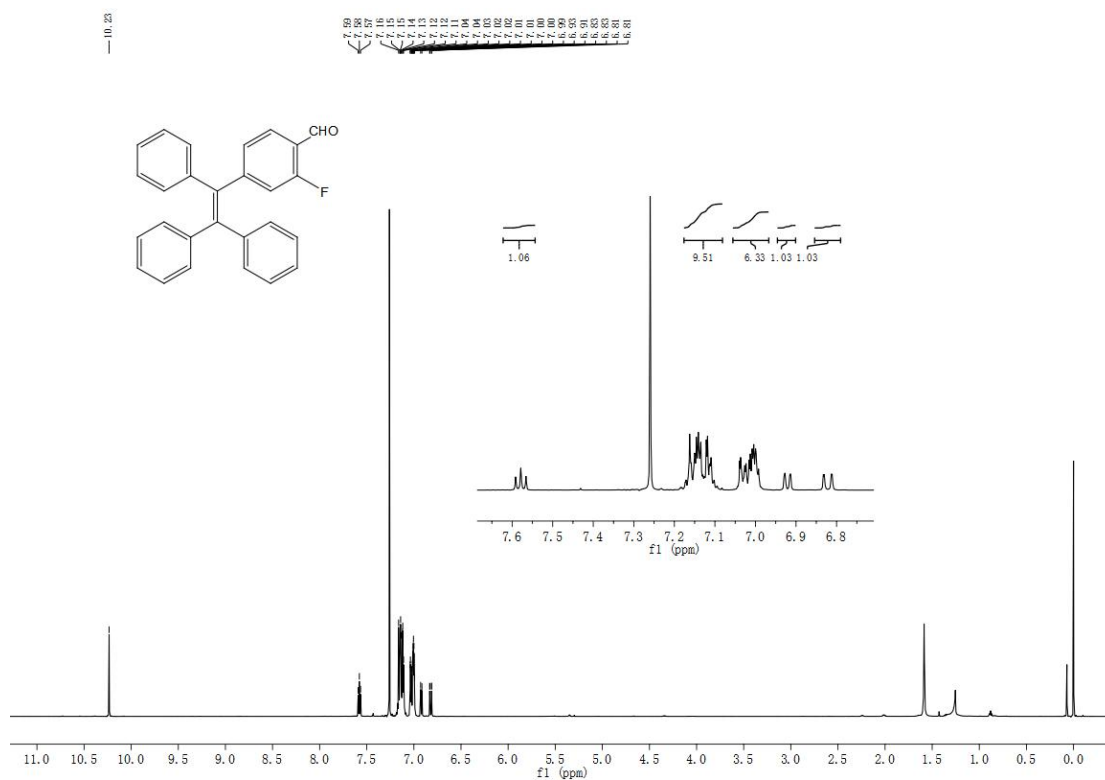
**Fig. S11** DLS results of the aggregates of compound **3** with water fractions of a) 90%, b) 92%, c) 95% and d) 96%



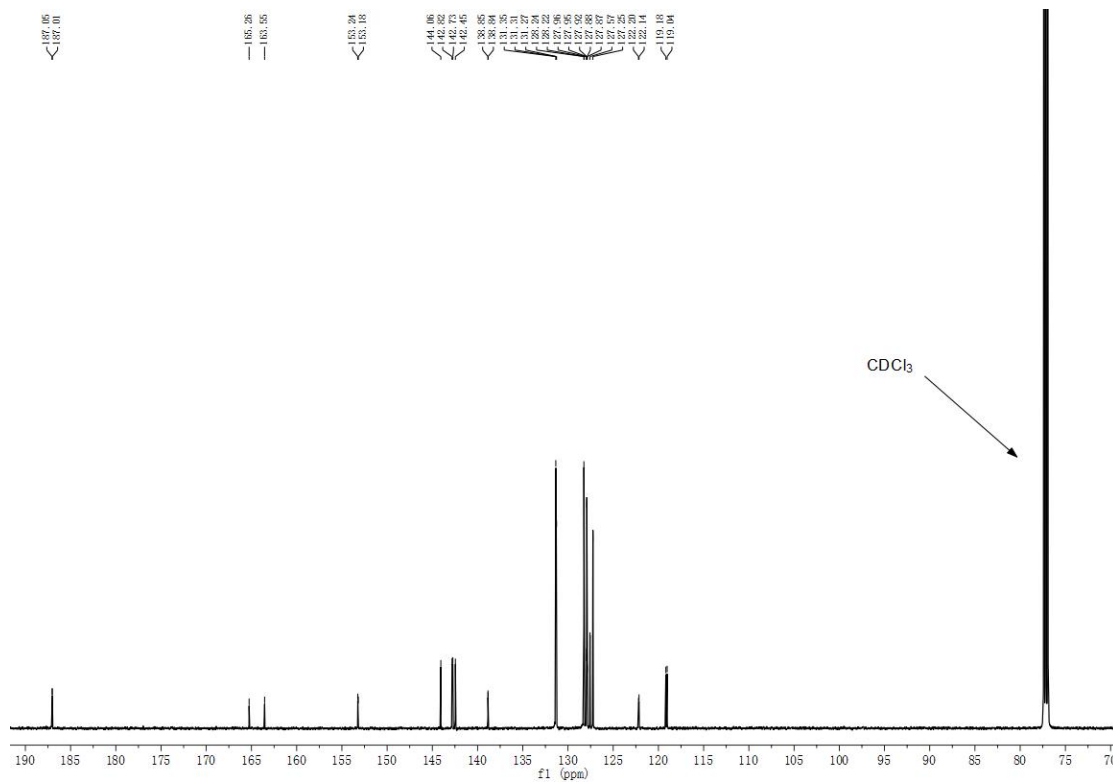
**Fig. S12** Absorption spectrum of **TPE-2CHO** in THF ( $2 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L)



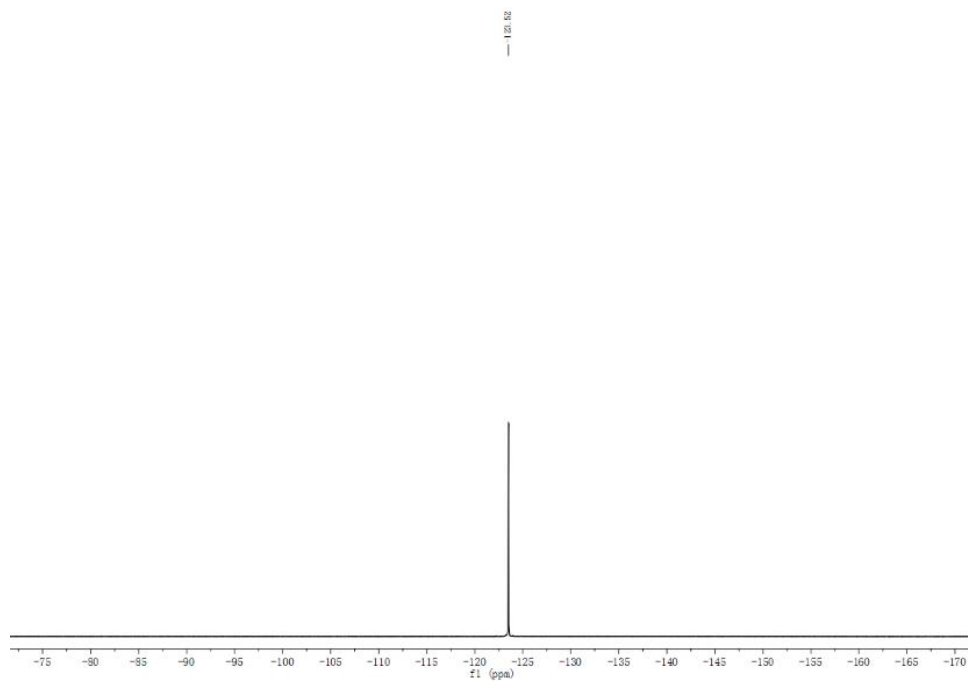
**Fig. S13** FT-IR spectrum of **1** (KBr pellet)



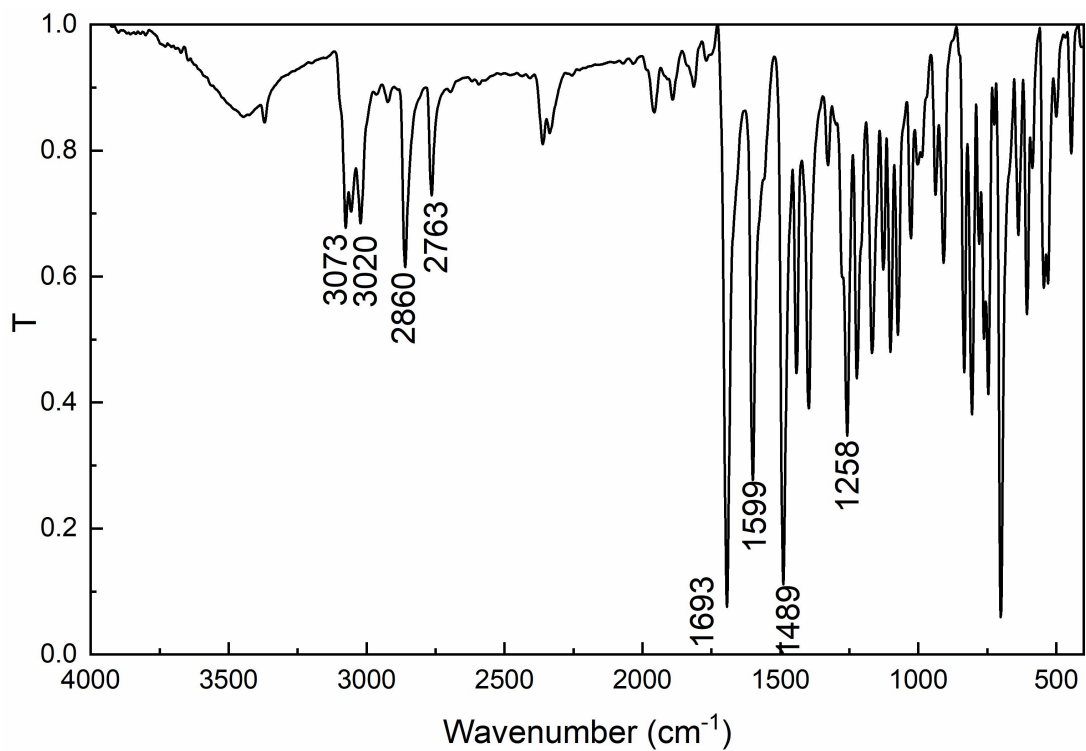
**Fig. S14**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$



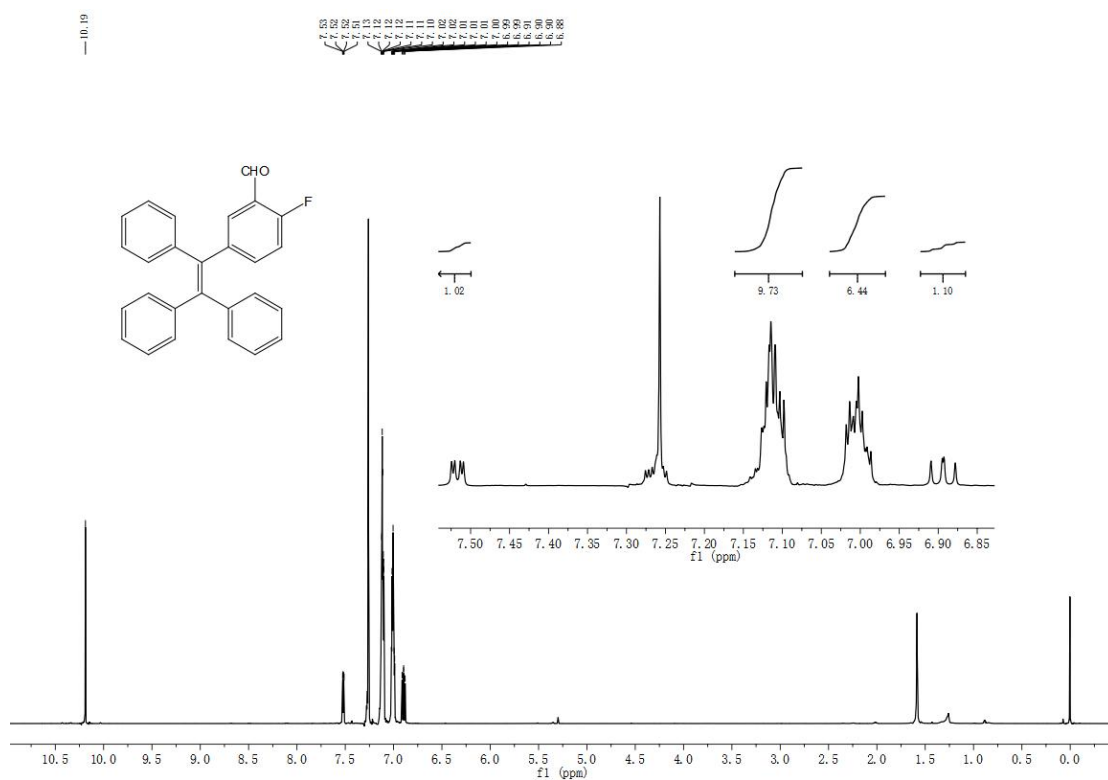
**Fig. S15** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



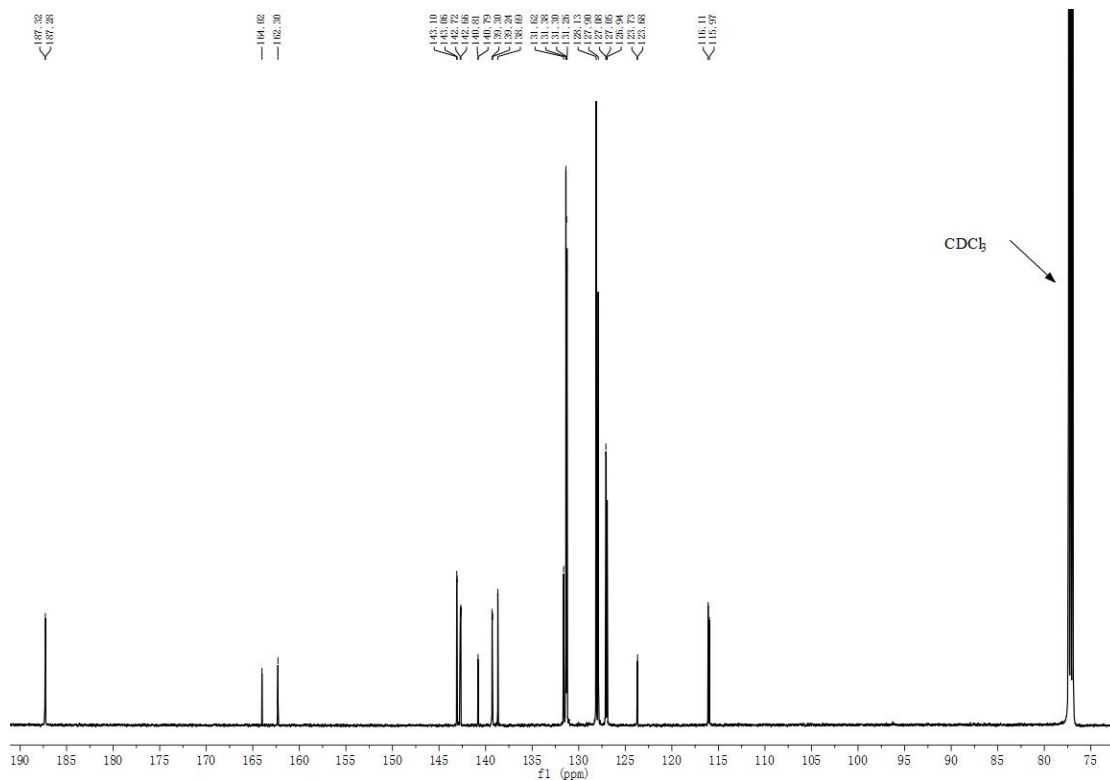
**Fig. S16** <sup>19</sup>F-NMR spectrum of **1** in dichloromethane



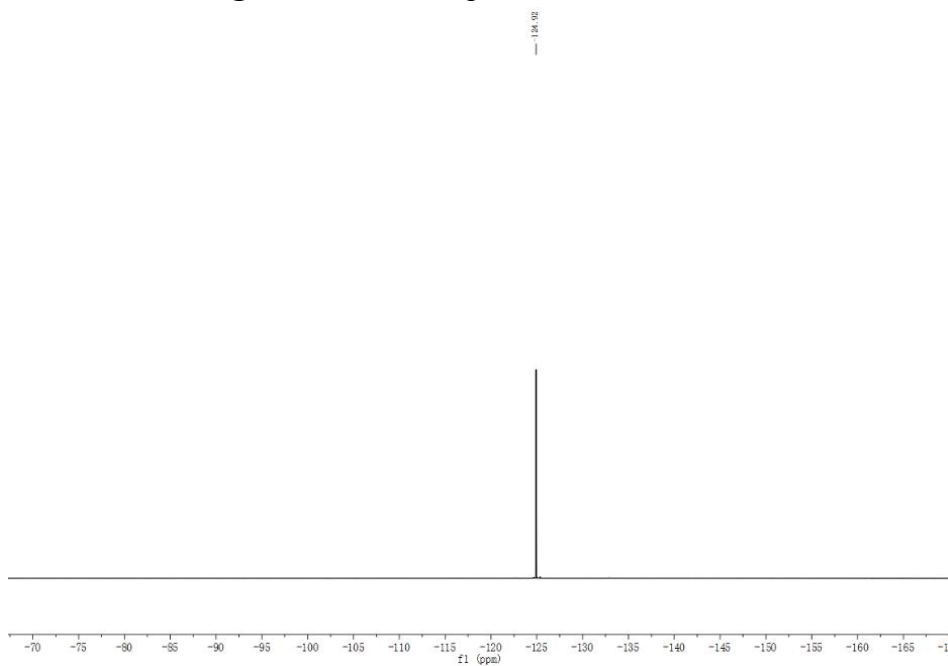
**Fig. S17** FT-IR spectrum of **2** (KBr pellet)



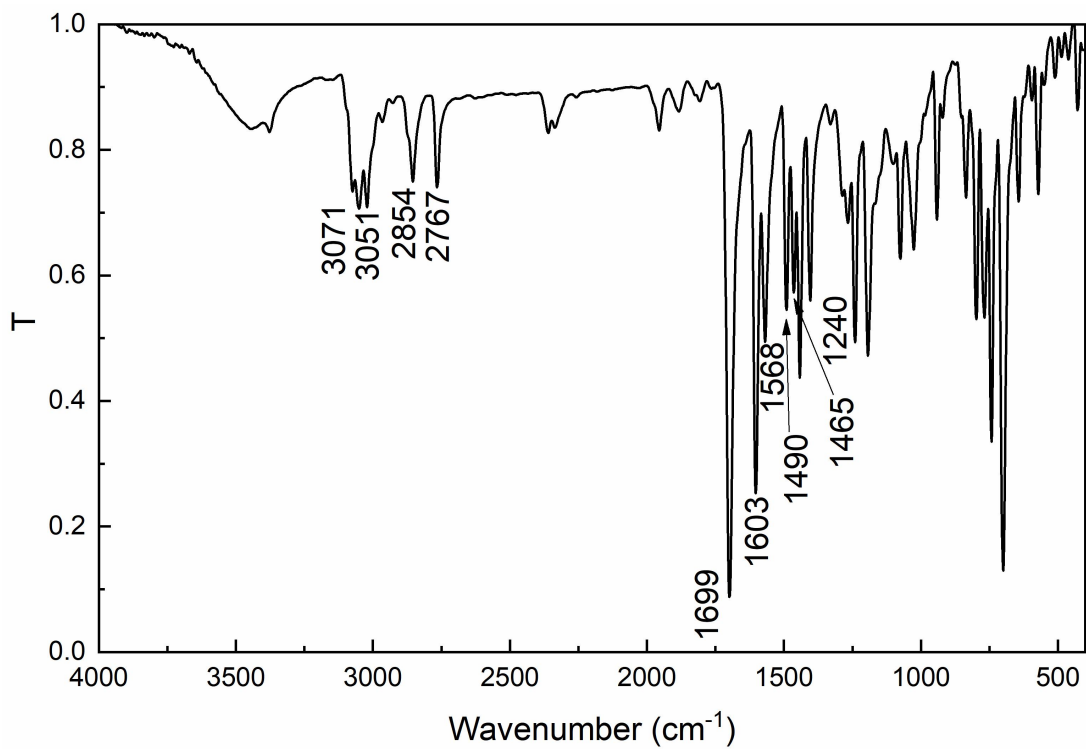
**Fig. S18** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



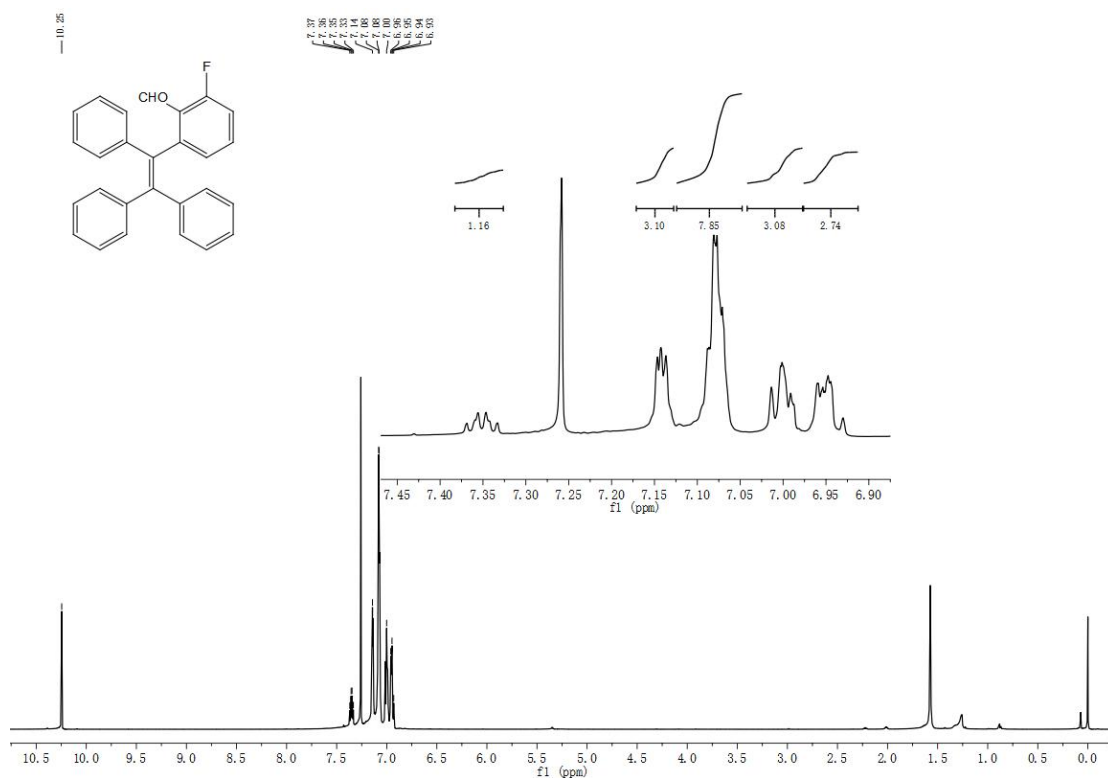
**Fig. S19** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



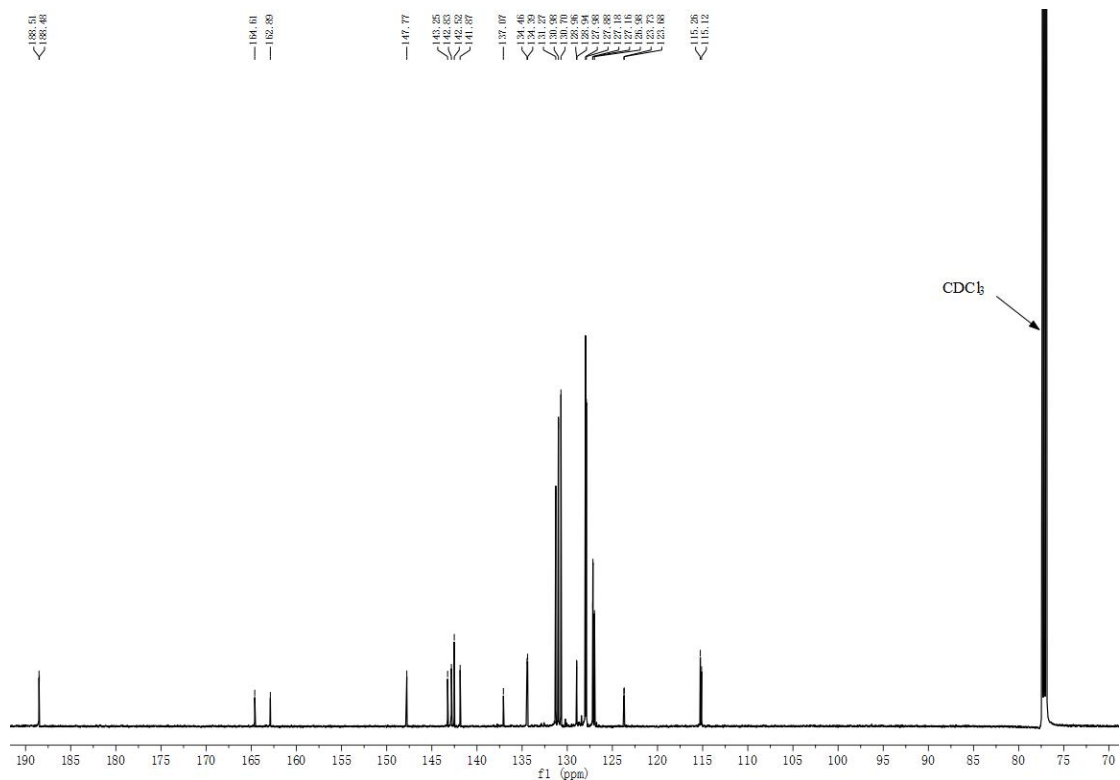
**Fig. S20** <sup>19</sup>F-NMR spectrum of **2** in dichloromethane



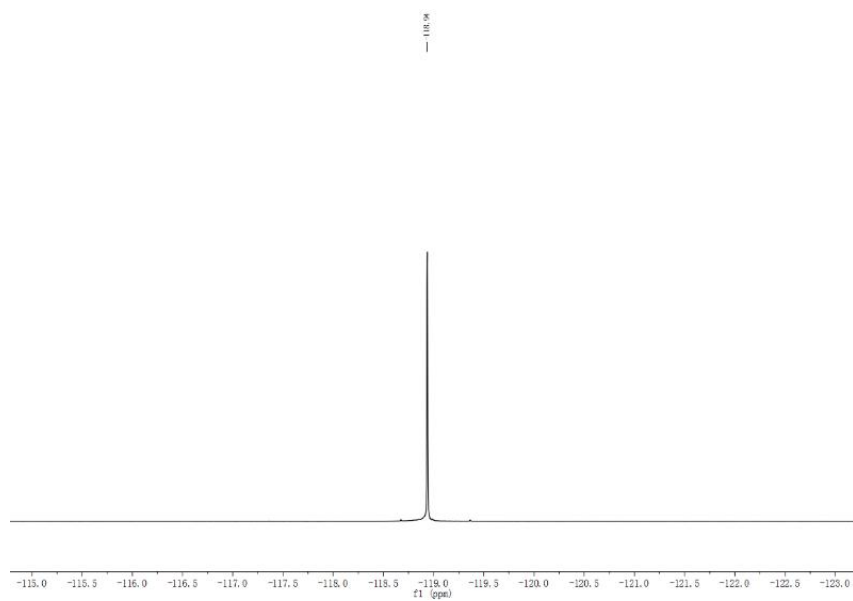
**Fig. S21** FT-IR spectrum of **3** (KBr pellet)



**Fig. S22**  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

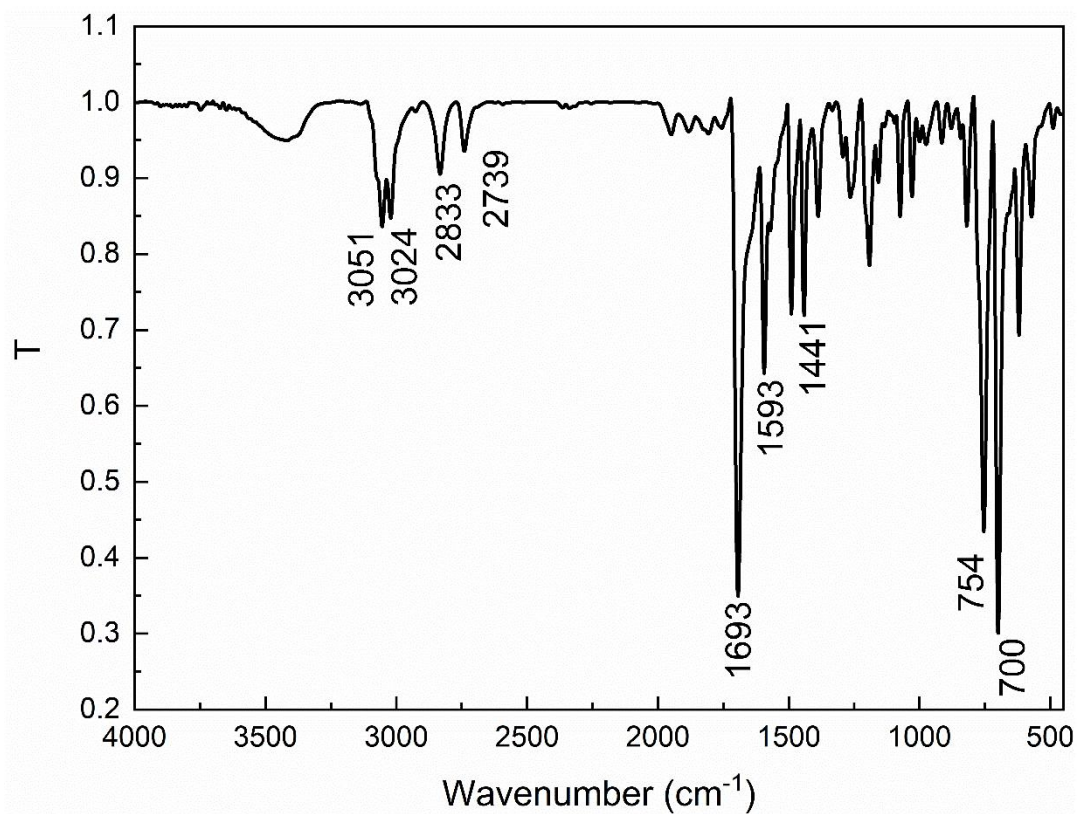


**Fig. S23**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

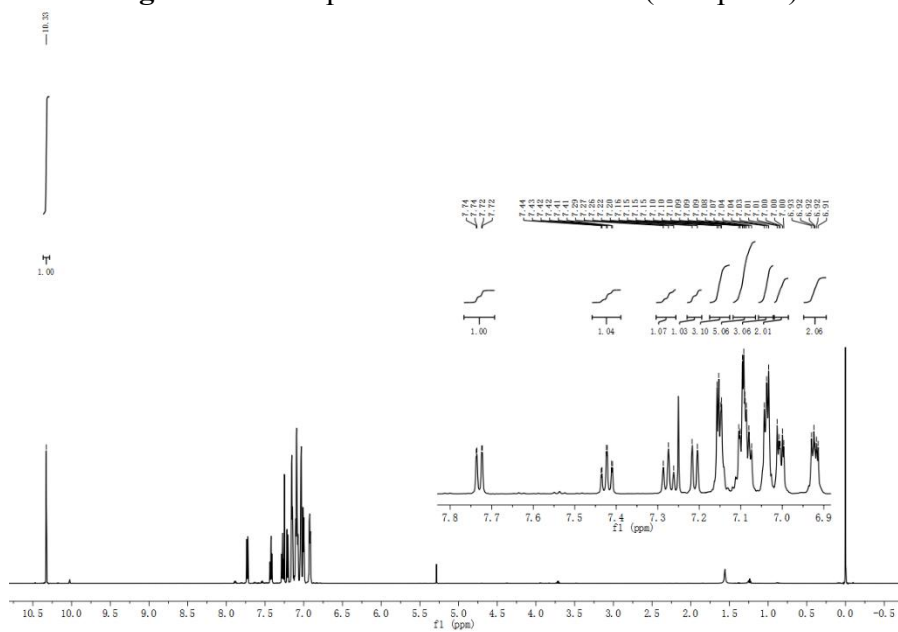


**Fig. S24**  $^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR spectrum of **3** in dichloromethane

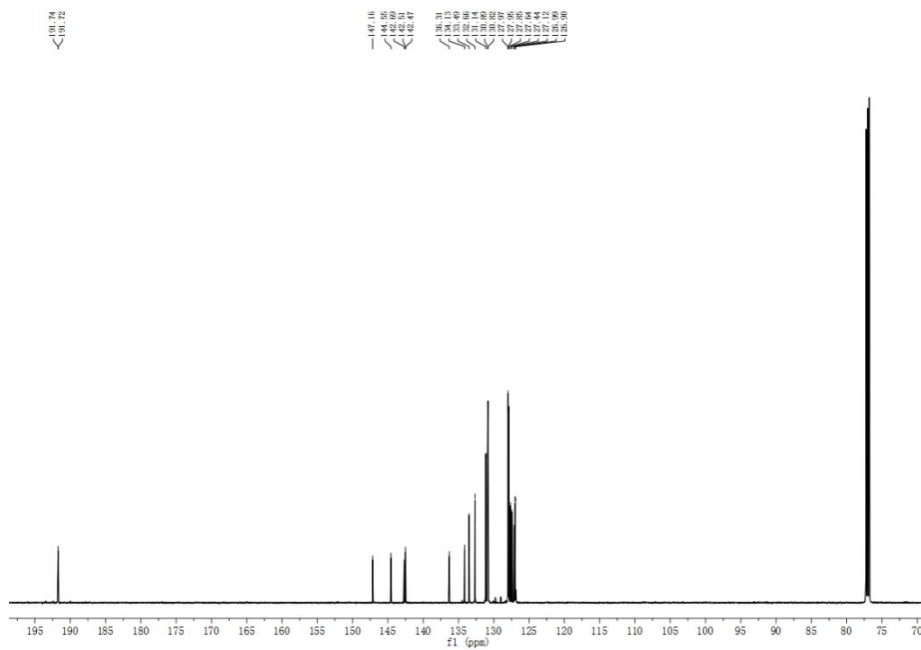




**Fig. S25** FT-IR spectrum of **TPE-2CHO** (KBr pellet)



**Fig. S26** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **TPE-2CHO** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



**Fig. S27**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of **TPE-2CHO** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$