

## Supporting Information for:

### Fluorescent Phosphine Oxide-Containing Hyperbranched Polyesters: Design, Synthesis and Its Application for Fe<sup>3+</sup> Detection

Jian Sun<sup>a</sup>, Yu-Lin Hong<sup>a</sup>, Xiu-Qin Fang<sup>a</sup>, Chang Wang<sup>a</sup>, Cheng-Mei Liu <sup>a,\*</sup>

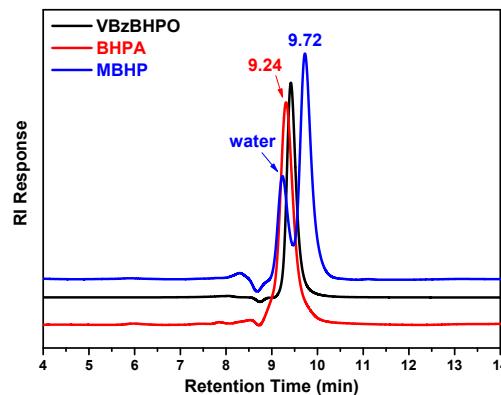


Figure. S1 HPLC elution curves of VBzBHPO, BHPA and MBHP.

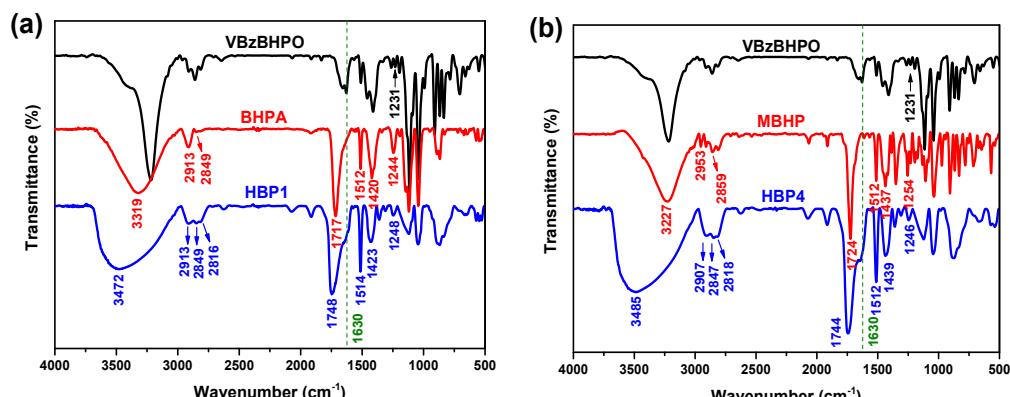


Figure. S2 FT-IR spectra of VBzBHPO, (a) BHPA and HBP1 and (b) MBHP and BHP4.

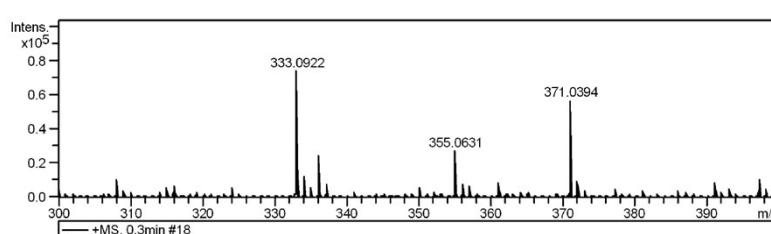
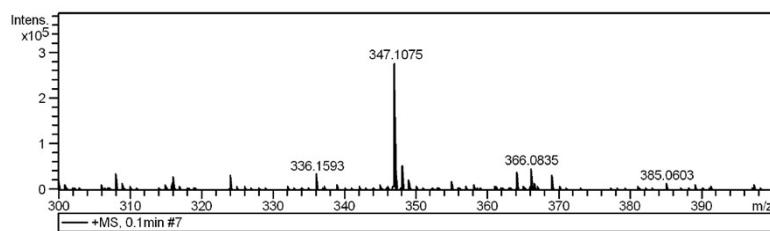
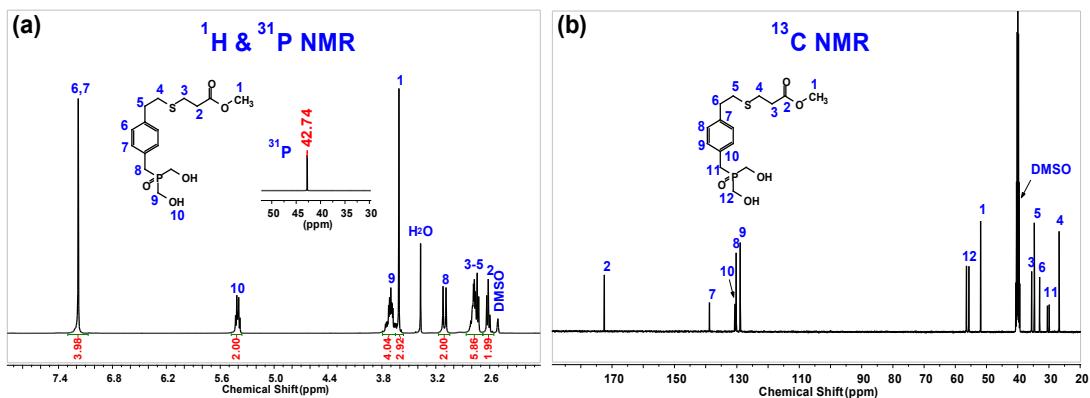


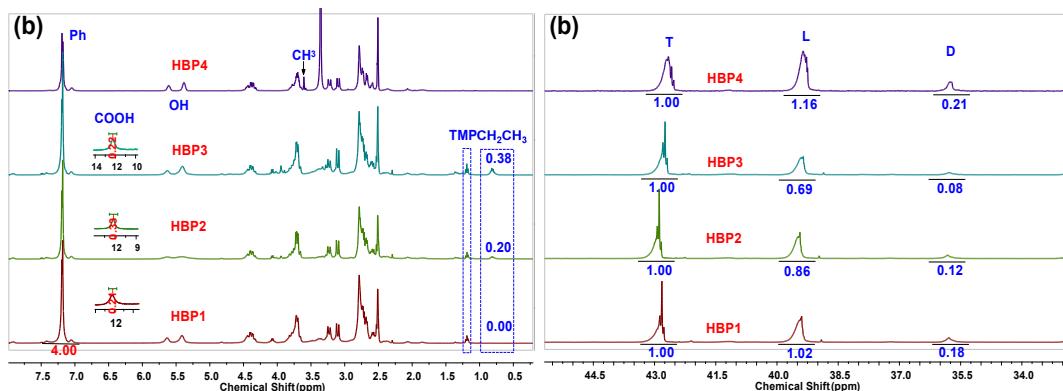
Figure. S3 Mass spectrum of BHPA.



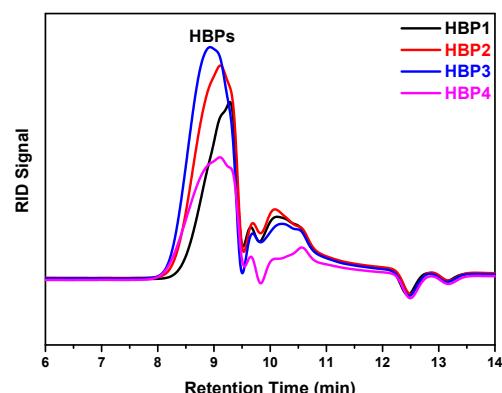
**Figure. S4** Mass spectrum of MBHP.



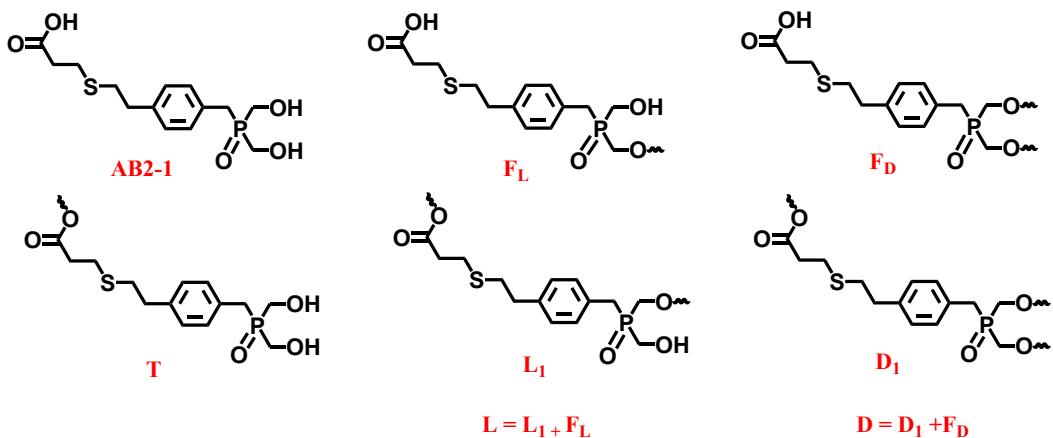
**Figure. S5** (a) <sup>1</sup>H and (b) <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of MBHP.



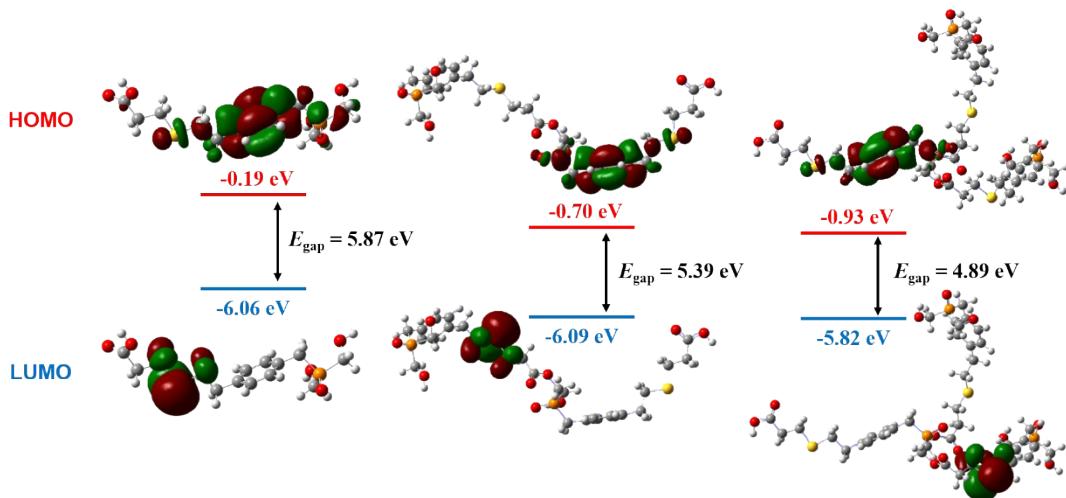
**Figure. S6** (a) <sup>1</sup>H and (b) <sup>31</sup>P NMR spectra of HBPs.



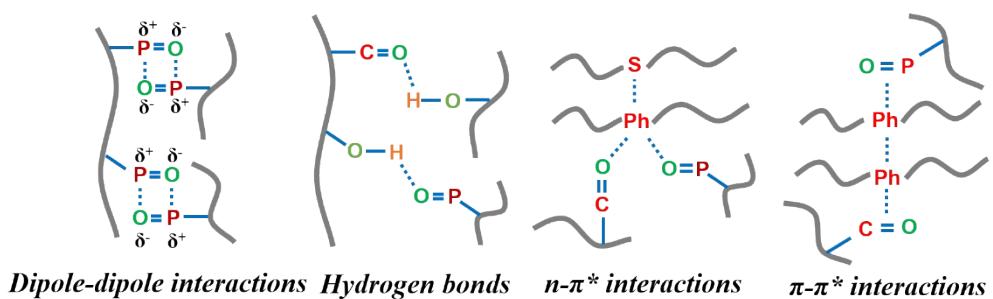
**Figure. S7** GPC elution curves of HBPs.



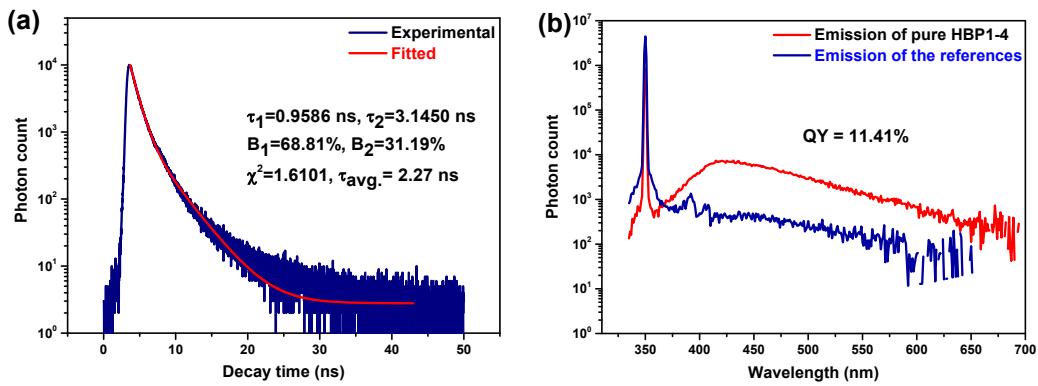
**Figure. S8** Possible repeating units in the HBPs



**Figure. S9** Theoretical calculations based on single polymer chains of HBPs with  $n = 1, 2$  and  $3$  constitutional units at (TD-DFT) B3LYP/6-31 (d) level. HOMO: the highest occupied molecular orbital, LUMO: Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital, E<sub>gap</sub>: energy gap between LOMO and HUMO.



**Figure. S10** The possible interaction models in the clusters of HBPs



**Figure. S11** (a) Transient photoluminescence decay curve and (b) absolute fluorescence quantum yield of pure HBP2.  $\lambda_{ex} = 350$  nm.

The fluorescence lifetime of HBP2 was calculated as follows:

$$R(\tau) = A + B_1 \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{\tau_1}\right) + B_2 \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{\tau_2}\right)$$

$$\tau = (B_1 \tau_1^2 + B_2 \tau_2^2) / (B_1 \tau_1 + B_2 \tau_2)$$