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Solvatochromic and Aggregation-Induced Emission Active Nitrophenyl-Substituted Pyrrolidinone-Fused-1,2-Azaborine with a Pre-Twisted Molecular Geometry

Albert D. Campbell, Jr.,^a Kaia Ellis,^a Lyric K. Gordon,^a Janiyah E. Riley,^a VuongVy Le,^b Kimberly K. Hollister,^{b,e} Stephen O. Ajagbe,^c Samer Gozem,^c Robert B. Hughley,^a Adeline M. Boswell,^a Ophelia Adjei-sah,^a Prioska D. Baruah,^a Ra'Nya Malone,^a Logan Whitt,^d Robert J. Gilliard, Jr.,^e and Carl Jacky Saint-Louis^a*

^aDepartment of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, 30144, United States. E-mail: csaintlo@kennesaw.edu; Tel: 1-470-578-6048

^bDepartment of Chemistry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 22904, United States ^cDepartment of Chemistry, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, 30302, United States

^dDepartment of Chemistry & Biochemistry, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35487, United States

^eDepartment of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA, 02139, United States

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General Information. Organic solutions were concentrated by rotary evaporation at ca. 12 Torr. 5-bromo-2-methylbenzoic acid was purchased from AmBeed. N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) and 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU) were purchased from TCI America, Inc. Anhydrous THF solvent was purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. and used without distillation. Solvents for workup and column chromatography, such as hexanes (Hex), petroleum ether (PET), ethyl acetate (EA), dichloromethane (DCM), and other chemicals such as benzene were obtained from commercial vendors and used without further purification. Regarding Pd-catalyzed cross coupling reaction reagents: (PPh₃)₂PdCl₂, 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-phenyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane, 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane-2-yl)benzonitrile, and 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,2-dioxaborolane were purchased from Fisher Scientific Warehouse. The NMR solvents, CDCl₃ was purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories; and DMSO-d₄ was purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Starting materials were produced in the laboratory and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers as reagent grade unless noted otherwise. Benzo-azaborine and **nitrobenzo-azaborine** were prepared by following the experimental procedure used by Huggins.¹ All NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz, ¹³C{¹H} spectra at 100 MHz, and ¹¹B{¹H} spectra (sodium tetraphenylborate as standard) at 128 MHz; chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ scale) downfield from TMS (δ = 0.00) and are referenced to residual protium in the NMR solvent (DMSO: δ = 2.50 and CDCl₃: δ = 7.26) for ¹H NMR, relative to the central CDCl₃ (δ = 77.16) and DMSO-d₄ (δ = 39.52) for ¹³C{¹H} NMR and sodium tetraphenylborate as standard (δ = -6.61) for ¹¹B{¹H} NMR. Data are presented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances), coupling constant in Hertz (Hz), integration. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum 100 FTIR spectrometer. All samples were placed over the detector and crushed using the anvil attached on the Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FTIR spectrometer featuring an attenuated total reflection (ATR) sampler equipped with a diamond crystal. Spectra were obtained in the range of 600-4000 cm⁻¹. Melting points were recorded using Mpa161 Digimelt Melting Point apparatus from Stanford Research Systems. Reactions were performed at room temperature (25 °C) or with heat using a silicone oil bath, and reaction condition temperatures were those of the oil bath unless noted otherwise. Pd-cross coupling reactions were performed under a nitrogen (N₂) atmosphere in Schlenk flask glassware that had been oven-dried for 24 h. N₂ gas was purchased from Airgas. All reactions and manipulations involving air-sensitive compounds were performed using standard Schlenk techniques. Thin-layer chromatography was performed using TLC silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ aluminum sheets from Sorbtech. Flash column chromatography was performed using CombiFlash[®] R_f from Teledyne ISCO. Celite 545 was purchased from Sigma Aldrich and was used in filtrations to remove fine Pd particles from Pd-catalyzed cross coupling reaction crude mixtures.

UV-vis data were collected on a Cary 60 UV-vis spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Inc.) and fluorescence data were collected on a HORIBA Fluorolog QM-75-11-C Spectrofluorometer. Absolute fluorescence quantum yields were determined using a Hamamatsu C11347-11 Quantaurus-QY Absolute PL Quantum Yield Spectrometer. Samples were prepared inside the glovebox in quartz Petri dishes (solid sample) or 1 cm square quartz cuvettes (solutions). Solutions were collected with absorbance values below 0.1. To prepare the solid samples, the

PFAs were dissolved in CHCl₃, then a drop of the concentrated solution was pipetted onto a glass followed by solvent evaporation until only the solid remained.

Computational Methods. The geometries of PFAs **1**, **2**, and **3** were each optimized using density functional theory (DFT) with the B3LYP and 6-311+G* basis.^{2,3} The calculations were also repeated using the CAM-B3LYP functional and 6-31+G* basis set.⁴ Solvent effects were included using the conductor-like polarizable continuum model (C-PCM).^{5–7} The dielectric constant and optical dielectric for THF were obtained from the Minnesota solvent descriptor database.⁸ Vibrational frequency calculations were run to determine that the optimized geometries yield all positive frequencies. Vertical electronic excitation energies (VEEs) were computed with time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT) using the B3LYP/6-31+G* functional and basis set in THF. The Tamm-Dancoff Approximation was used for TD-DFT.⁹ The C-PCM solvation model was also used for TD-DFT, although the non-equilibrium linear response formalism was used to account for the effect of solvation on the excitations.¹⁰ Fluorescence wavelengths were computed as VEEs after optimizing the fluorescent (excited-state) geometry. Natural transition orbitals (NTOs) were computed to provide a more compact description of the excitation orbital character.¹¹ All calculations in this work were performed with the Q-Chem 5.3.1 electronic structure software package.¹²

Synthesis protocols

Preparation of methyl 5-bromo-2-methylbenzoate (4).



5-bromo-2-methylbenzoic acid (3.79 g, 17.62 mmol) was placed in a 500 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in methanol (300 mL). Sulfuric acid (2 mL) was then added to the flask, and the mixture was allowed to reflux for 24 h. After 24 h, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and the excess methanol was removed under reduced pressure resulting in a yellow oil. The yellow oil was then dissolved in EA (40 mL), followed by the addition of 5% NaHCO₃ (150 mL) and stirred vigorously. The mixture was transferred to a separatory funnel and the organic layer was extracted using EA (3x40 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, gravity filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield product (**4**) as a tan solid (3.73 g, 16.30 mmol, 93%). R_f: 0.88 (Hex:EA 4:1). M.p.: 45.70 – 46.40 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.04 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (dd, J = 2.2 Hz, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 2.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 166.68, 139.17, 134.79, 133.33, 133.28, 131.19, 119.10, 52.09, 21.20.

Preparation of methyl 4-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (5)



Compound **4** (2.00 g, 8.73 mmol), 4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-2-phenyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (1.87 g, 9.18 mmol, 1.05 eq.), (PPh₃)₂PdCl₂ (0.31 g, 0.44 mmol, 0.05 eq.), and a magnetic stir bar were added

to a 200 mL Schlenk flask dried overnight in an oven. The Schlenk flask was evacuated and flushed with N_2 three times over 3-minute intervals. The Schlenk flask was then filled with N_2 , sealed, followed by the addition of anhydrous THF (40 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to 65 °C while stirring to dissolve the starting materials, followed by the addition of K_2CO_3 (164 mL, 2 M). The mixture rapidly turned black, and it was left to stir at 65 °C under N₂ atmosphere for 24 h. The completion of the reaction was indicated via silica TLC in (H:EA 10:1). After 24 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the excess THF was removed under reduced pressure. The aqueous layer was transported into a 500 mL separatory funnel, followed by the addition of EA (40 mL) and the organic layers were extracted with EA (3x40 mL). The combined organic layers were filtered through celite and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The residual EA was removed under reduced pressure to yield the crude product as a yellow oil. The crude yellow oil was purified via silica flash column chromatography on a combiflash using hexanes and EA as eluents. The impurities were first separated with hexanes as the mobile phase, followed by the increase of the mobile phase polarity to 5% EA to elute the desired product. The excess solvent was removed under reduced pressure to produce pure product (5) as colorless oil (1.79 g, 7.91 mmol, 91%). R_f: 0.62 (Hex:EA 10:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃ 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.15 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 – 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃ 25 °C): δ (ppm) 168.03, 140.07, 139.11, 138.77, 132.22, 130.41, 129.95, 129.20, 128.83, 127.45, 126.95, 51.90, 21.39.

Preparation of methyl 4'-cyano-4-methyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (6)

NC-

Following the experimental procedure of compound (**5**) presented above, Compound **4** (4.00 g, 17.46 mmol), 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzonitrile (3.81 g, 16.63 mmol, 0.95 eq.), and (PPh₃)₂PdCl₂ (0.61 g, 0.87 mmol, 0.05 eq.) were reacted together. After the reaction work up, the crude light-yellow solid was purified *via* flash column chromatography using a combi flash (5% EA, 80 g silica column). The pure product (**6**) was obtained as a colorless solid (2.98 g, 11.85 mmol, 71%). M.p.: 94.50 – 96.80 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.14 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (dd, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.93 (s, 3H), 2.64 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 167.54, 144.37, 140.71, 136.60, 132.63, 132.60, 130.34, 130.28, 129.25, 127.45, 118.80, 111.07, 52.03, 21.47.

Preparation of methyl 4- methyl-4'-nitro-[1,1'-biphenyl]-3-carboxylate (7)

Following the experimental procedure of compound (5) presented above, Compound 4 (2.00 g, 8.73 mmol), 4,4,5,5-tetrmethyl-2-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (2.28 g, 9.16 mmol, 1.05 eq.) and $(PPh_3)_2PdCl_2$ (0.31 g, 0.44 mmol, 0.05 eq.) were reacted for 24 h at 65 °C. After the reaction completion and work up, the colorless crude solid was recrystallized in hot ethanol to afford the pure product (7) as a colorless crystal (2.08 g, 7.70 mmol, 88%). M.p.: 124.60–126.40

°C. $R_f = 0.45$ (Hex:EA 7:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.31 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (dd, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (s, 3H), 2.67 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 167.57, 147.20, 146.43, 141.05, 136.31, 132.66, 130.46, 129.46, 127.61, 124.20, 52.10, 21.52.

Preparation of 6-phenylisoindolin-1-one (11)



A 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with compound **5** (1.03 g, 4.55 mmol), NBS (0.81 g, 4.55 mmol, 1.0 eq.), benzoyl peroxide (0.03 g, 0.14 mmol, 0.03 eq.), benzene (15 mL), and a magnetic stir bar. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir vigorously at 75 °C under N₂ atmosphere for 24 h. The completion of the reaction was indicated via silica TLC in (Hex:EA 10:1). The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, followed by cooling to 0 °C for 30 minutes in an ice bath. The colorless precipitate was removed by gravity filtration to remove the succinimide, and the excess benzene was removed under reduced pressure to yield the crude product containing both mono- and di-brominated isomers as a brown oil. The crude oil was purified via silica column chromatography on a combiflash in (Hex:DCM 1:1) to separate the two isomers, and the pure mono- brominated isomer (**8**) was obtained as a colorless solid (0.70 g, 2.30 mmol, 51%). R_f: 0.51 (1:1 Hex/DCM). M.p.: 56.30 – 62.10 °C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.20 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.72 (dd, J = 2.1 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 3.97 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 166.97, 141.57, 139.38, 137.99, 132.25, 130.90, 129.97, 129.47, 128.95, 128.03, 127.08, 52.38, 31.41.

A 50 mL round bottom flask was charged with the brominated product **(8)** (0.891 g, 2.92 mmol), 7 N NH₃ in methanol (30 mL) and a magnetic stir bar. The reaction mixture was cooled to -5 °C in an ice-brine bath. The mixture was allowed to stir vigorously under N₂ atmosphere overnight while slowly warming to room temperature. The progression of the reaction was monitored by silica TLC (100 %, EA). After 24 h, the colorless precipitate formed was isolated by vacuum filtration, yielding the crude product as colorless solids. The desired product was purified via recrystallization in hot ethanol to produce the pure product (**11**) as colorless crystals (0.49 g, 2.34 mmol, 80%). R_f: 0.56 (100%, EA). M.p.: Decomposes at 246.0 °C. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.11 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (dd, J = 1.6 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (s, N-H, 1H), 4.51 (s, 2H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 171.45, 142.39, 141.55, 140.17, 132.66, 130.88, 128.96, 127.76, 127.25, 123.52, 122.26, 45.36.

Preparation of 4-(3-oxoisoindolin-5-yl)benzonitrile (12)



Following the experimental procedure of compound (**8**) presented above, compound (**6**) (2.88 g, 11.46 mmol), NBS (2.04 g, 11.46 mmol, 1.0 eq.), and benzoyl peroxide (0.083 g, 0.34 mmol, 0.03 eq.) were dissolved in benzene (60 mL) and reacted together at 75 °C under N₂ atmosphere. After the reaction work up, the crude yellow oil containing both mono- and di-brominated isomers was purified via flash column chromatography using a combi flash (15% EA, 80 g silica column) to separate the two isomers. The pure mono-brominated isomer (**9**) was obtained as a colorless solid (2.07 g, 6.27 mmol, 55%). M.p. 105.60 – 107.90° C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.20 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (s, 2H), 3.99 (s, 3H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 166.58, 143.77, 139.55, 139.41, 132.78, 132.57, 130.91, 130.08, 129.89, 127.73, 118.61, 111.80, 52.56, 30.87.

Compound **(9)** (1.88 g, 5.69 mmol) was dissolved in 7 N NH₃ in methanol (57 mL) and stirred for 24 hr. The colorless solid was washed with cold methanol and filtered to yield the pure product (**12**) as a colorless solid (1.26 g, 5.37 mmol, 94%). M.p. 266.00 – 269.00° C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.11 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (dd, J = 1.7 Hz, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (s, N-H, 1H), 4.54 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 170.74, 144.59, 143.63, 139.55, 132.99, 132.80, 130.85, 127.89, 123.99, 122.58, 118.70, 111.57, 45.35. ATR-FTIR (cm⁻¹): 3409 (w), 3190 (m), 3062 (w), 2934 (w), 2857 (w), 2230 (m), 1705 (s), 1628 (m), 1608 (m), 1584 (w), 1482 (m), 1461 (s), 1404 (w), 1360 (m), 1327 (w), 1293 (w), 1146 (w), 853 (m), 818 (s), 771 (s), 717 (m). HRMS (DART) *m*/z: Calcd for C₁₅H₁₀N₂O, 235.0871 (M + H)⁺; Found: 235.1667 (M + H)⁺.

Preparation of 6-(4-nitrophenyl) isoindolin-1-one (13)



Following the experimental procedure of compound (8) presented above, compound (7) (2.00 g, 7.37 mmol), NBS (1.31 g, 7.37 mmol, 1.0 eq.), benzoyl peroxide (0.053 g, 0.221 mmol, 0.03 eq.) and benzene (24 mL) were reacted for 24 h at 75 °C under N₂ atmosphere. After the reaction completion and work up, the crude colorless solid containing both mono- and di-brominated isomers was purified via flash column chromatography using a combiflash to separate the two isomers. The sample was run with a constant (Hex:EA 15:1) gradient with a 24-gram silica column. The pure mono-brominated product (10) was obtained as a colorless solid (1.33 g, 3.80 mmol, 52%) M.p.: 130.00 – 133.00 °C. $R_f = 0.16$ (Hex:EA 15:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C) δ (ppm) 8.33 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.23 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.78 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (s, 2H), 4.00 (s, 3H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C) δ (ppm) 166.53, 147.57, 145.67, 139.81, 139.02, 132.61, 131.06, 130.22, 129.94, 127.88, 124.28, 52.60, 30.81.

The brominated product **(10)** (1.00 g, 2.86 mmol) was dissolved in 7 N NH₃ in MeOH (30 mL) and reacted. After the reaction completion and work up, the white precipitate was vacuum filtered, washed with cold methanol and dried to afford the pure product **(13)** as a colorless solid (0.603 g, 2.37 mmol, 83%). M.p.: 237.60 – 241.80 °C $R_f = 0.12$ (Hex:EA 1:1). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 8.68 (s, N-H, 1H), 8.32 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.06 – 8.01 (m, 4H), 7.74 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (s, 2H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 169.47, 146.87, 146.05, 144.84, 137.68, 133.74, 130.49, 128.21, 124.70, 124.18, 121.36, 44.93. ATR-FTIR (cm⁻¹): 3417 (w), 3195

(w), 3075 (w), 2932 (w), 1710 (s), 1628 (w), 1597 (m), 1582 (w), 1512 (s), 1482 (w), 1465 (m), 1447 (w), 1346 (s), 1204 (w), 1112 (w), 859 (w), 851 (m), 825 (m), 772 (m), 750 (s), 625 (w). HRMS (DART) m/z: Calcd for C₁₄H₁₀N₂O₃, 255.0769 (M + H)⁺; Found: 255.1667 (M + H)⁺.

Preparation of 5-hydroxy-9-phenylbenzo[3,4][1,2]azaborinino[6,1-*a*]isoindol-7(5*H*)-one (1)



Compound 11 (0.44 g, 2.10 mmol) and (2-formylphenyl)boronic acid (0.25 g, 1.68 mmol, 0.8 eq.) were placed in a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in ethanol (17 mL, 200 proof). DBU (1.90 g, 12.48 mmol, 1.88 mL, 6.0 eq.) was added to the mixture resulting in a yellow solution. The yellow reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux under N₂ atmosphere for 48 h. After 48 h, the color of the solution changed from yellow to dark red. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was placed in an ice-water bath for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of HCl (35 mL, 1 M) resulting in an off-white precipitate. The mixture was then cooled below 0 °C for 24 h. After 24 h, the precipitate was filtered and washed with cold DI water to yield the pure product (1) (0.413 g, 1.28 mmol, 77%) M.p.: 177 – 183 °C. ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.18 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (s, 1H), 7.91 (dd, J = 1.5 Hz, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (td, J = 1.3 Hz, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.42 (td, J = 1.4 Hz, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.88 (s, 1H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ(ppm) 174.79, 142.84, 141.44, 139.56, 137.66, 134.57, 133.46, 133.10, 132.32, 130.00, 129.08, 128.20, 128.15, 127.12, 127.07, 123.12, 120.96, 107.55. ¹¹B {¹H} NMR (sodium tetraphenyl borate as standard, 128 MHz, acetone-d₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 30.82. ATR-FTIR (cm⁻¹): 3452 (w), 3051 (w), 1695 (s), 1644 (w), 1474 (w), 1355 (m), 1283 (w), 1194 (w), 1120 (m), 1082 (w), 957 (w), 841 (w), 794 (w), 729 (m), 689 (s), 617 (w). HRMS (ESI) m/z: Calcd for C₂₁H₁₄BNO₂, 324.1196 (M + H)⁺; Found: 324.1667 (M + H)⁺. UV-vis (acetonitrile, λ_{max} , ε , concentration, path length): 380 nm, 1.7 x 10⁴ M⁻¹ cm⁻¹, 2.68 x 10⁻⁶ M, 1 cm. Emission (acetonitrile, λ_{max}): 443 nm.

Preparation of 5-hydroxy-9-(4-nitrophenyl) benzo [3,4] [1,2] azaborinino[6,1-a] isoindol-7(5H)-one (2).



Following the experimental procedure of compound (1) presented above, compound (10) (0.38 g, 1.50 mmol), (2-formylphenyl) boronic acid (0.18 g, 1.20 mmol, 0.8 eq.) and EtOH (40 mL, 200 proof) were added to a clean 250 mL round bottom flask. The starting materials were stirred under N₂ atmosphere followed by the addition of DBU (1.37 g, 1.34 mL, 9.00 mmol). The reaction mixture turned clear yellow reaction mixture and was allowed to reflux for 48 h. After 48 h, the red reaction mixture was left to cool to room temperature. Once cooled, the reaction mixture was placed in an ice bath for 15 min while stirring followed by the slow addition of HCl (40 mL, 1 M) resulting in an orange precipitate. The orange mixture was then cooled below 0 °C in freezer for 24 h. After 24 h, the orange precipitate was vacuumed filtered then the crude product was

purified by triturated in hot EtOH yielding a yellow-orange solid (0.392 g, 1.06 mmol, 88%). M.p.: 333 – 338°C. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.36 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 8.20 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.96 – 7.91 (m, 3H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 7.62 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H) 7.44 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (s, 1H). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO): δ (ppm) 172.26, 147.53, 145.64, 141.63, 139.66, 139.08, 135.20, 133.84, 133.64, 132.73, 130.23, 128.74, 128.66, 127.41, 124.62, 123.29, 122.48, 108.27. ¹¹B {¹H} NMR (sodium tetraphenyl borate as standard, 128 MHz, acetone-d₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 30.39. ATR-FTIR (cm⁻¹): 3474 (w), 3076 (w), 1716 (s), 1642 (w), 1596 (m), 1511 (s), 1473 (m), 1451 (w), 1397 (m), 1375 (m), 1340 (s), 1287 (m), 1187 (w), 1111 (m), 1078 (m), 954 (m), 860 (m), 828 (s), 792 (s), 752 (m), 726 (s), 683 (s), 617 (m). HRMS (DART) *m*/z: Calcd for C₂₁H₁₃BN₂O₄, 369.1048 (M + H)⁺; Found: 369.1667 (M + H)⁺. UV-vis (acetonitrile, λ_{max} , ε , concentration, path length): 380 nm, 3.7 x 10³M⁻¹cm⁻¹, 2.97 x 10⁻⁶ M, 1 cm. Emission (acetonitrile, λ_{max}): 445, weak emission 655 nm.

Preparation of 4-(5-hydroxy-7-oxo-5,7-dihydrobenzo[3,4][1,2]azaborinino[6,1-*a*]isoindol-9-yl)benzonitrile (**3**)



Following the experimental procedure of compound (1) presented above, compound (12) (0.41 g, 1.75 mmol) and (2-formylphenyl)boronic acid (0.21 g, 1.40 mmol, 0.8 eq.) were placed in a 100 mL round bottom flask and dissolved in ethanol (15 mL, 200 proof). DBU (1.60 g, 10.51 mmol, 1.56 mL, 6.0 eq.) was added to the mixture resulting in a yellow solution. The yellow reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux under N2 atmosphere for 48 h. After 48 h, the color of the solution changed to dark red. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was placed in an ice-water bath for 10 minutes, followed by the addition of HCl (35 mL, 1 M) resulting in an off-white precipitate. The mixture was then cooled below 0 °C for 24 h. After 24 h, the precipitate was filtered and washed with cold DI water to yield the pure product (0.316 g, 0.910 mmol, 65%). ¹H NMR: (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) 8.19 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.13 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (td, J = 1.3 Hz, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (td, J = 1.0 Hz, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (s, 1H). ¹³C {¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ(ppm) 174.30, 143.96, 141.20, 140.56, 138.80, 134.14, 133.56, 133.01, 132.88, 132.46, 130.26, 128.35, 127.76, 127.42, 123.41, 121.34, 118.57, 111.93, 108.43. ¹¹B {¹H} NMR (sodium tetraphenyl borate as standard, 128 MHz, acetone-d₆, 25 °C): δ (ppm) 29.70. ATR-FTIR (cm⁻¹): 3445 (w), 3053 (w), 2227 (m), 1710 (s), 1644 (m), 1605 (m), 1472 (m), 1450 (w), 1400 (m), 1375 (m), 1346 (s), 1282 (s), 1182 (w), 1137 (m), 1117 (s), 1084 (s), 957 (m), 852 (m), 822 (s), 792 (s), 769 (m), 738 (m), 722 (s), 686 (s). HRMS (ESI) *m*/z: Calcd for C₂₂H₁₃BN₂O₂ , 349.1148 (M + H)⁺; Found: 349.1667 (M + H)⁺. UV-vis (chloroform, λ_{max} , ϵ , concentration, path length): 385 nm, 1.8 x 10^4 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹, 3.11 x 10^{-6} M, 1 cm. Emission (acetonitrile, λ_{max}): 445 nm.



 $^{13}\text{C}\left\{^{1}\text{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum (100 MHz) of 4 in CDCl3













 $^{13}\text{C}\left\{^{1}\text{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum (100 MHz) of 10 in CDCl_3



S16



 $^{13}\text{C}\left\{^{1}\text{H}\right\}\text{NMR}$ spectrum (100 MHz) of 12 in CDCl_3



S18





S20



S21















S26





 $^{11}\text{B}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum (128 MHz) of $\boldsymbol{3}$ in acetone d_6





HRMS (DART) of compound 2



HRMS (DART) of compound 12









PerkinElmer Spectrum IR Version 10.6.2 Saturday, April 1, 2023 1:52 PM



FTIR of compound 12

PerkinElmer Spectrum IR Version 10.6.2 Wednesday, May 17, 2023 12:54 PM



FTIR of compound 13







Normalized solid-state excitation spectra of compounds 1-3, benzo- and nitrobenzo-azaborines



Normalized emission spectra of compounds 1-3 in acetonitrile, DMSO, THF, CHCl $_3$, and methanol



AIE Experiment for PFAs 1 and 3

AlE experiment of **PFA 1** in acetonitrile/water, no evidence of AlE via J-aggregation for **PFA 1** was observed. As the f_w of water is increased, the λ_{max} at 443 nm stayed consistent. The decrease in emission intensity is due to the dilution of the sample as the volume fractions of water from $f_w = 0$ to 0.95 at 0.10 increments is increased.



J-aggregation experiment of **PFA 3** in acetonitrile/water, no evidence of AIE via J-aggregation for **PFA 3** was observed. As the f_w of water is increased, the λ_{max} at 443 nm stayed consistent. The decrease in emission intensity is due to the dilution of the sample as the volume fractions of water from $f_w = 0$ to 0.95 at 0.10 increments is increased.

AIE Experiment for nitrobenzo-azaborine





Normalized solid-state emission spectra of 1(A), 2(B), 3(C), benzo-azaborine(D) and nitrobenzoazaborine(E)

X-RAY CRYSTAL DATA FOR PFA 3

Table S1. Crystal data and structure re	efinement for PFA 3 . CCDC:
Empirical formula	$C_{22}H_{13}BN_2O_2$
Formula weight	348.15
Temperature/K	100.00(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	P21/c
a/Å	11.6124(5)
b/Å	16.0428(7)
c/Å	8.9292(3)
α/°	90
β/°	99.327(4)
γ/°	90
Volume/Å ³	1641.48(12)
Z	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.409
µ/mm⁻¹	0.727
F(000)	720.0
Crystal size/mm ³	$0.08 \times 0.07 \times 0.02$
Radiation	Cu Kα (λ = 1.54184)
20 range for data collection/°	7.716 to 154.554
Index ranges	-14 ≤ h ≤ 14, -19 ≤ k ≤ 17, -10 ≤ l ≤ 9
Reflections collected	9711
Independent reflections	3267 [$R_{int} = 0.0698$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0730$]
Data/restraints/parameters	3267/0/245
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.066
Final R indexes [I>=2σ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0569$, $wR_2 = 0.1103$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0976$, $wR_2 = 0.1297$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³	0.24/-0.24

Table	S2 .	Fractional	Atomic	Coordinates	(×10 ⁴)	and	Equivalent	Isotropic	Displacement
Param	eters	s (Ų×10³) fo	or PFA 3 . l	J _{eq} is defined a	as 1/3 o	f the t	race of the o	orthogonal	ised U _{IJ} tensor.

Atom	X	у	Ζ	U(eq)
01	3695.0(16)	4834.8(13)	12570.3(19)	31.7(5)
02	2183.7(16)	4748.9(12)	9761(2)	30.3(4)
N1	4037.7(18)	4173.6(13)	10212(2)	24.9(5)
N004	-1233(3)	3656.4(17)	-1653(3)	45.7(7)
C8	4759(2)	3728.9(16)	9363(3)	24.0(5)
C9	4110(2)	3645.4(16)	7822(3)	23.9(5)
C21	2975(2)	4371.5(17)	9298(3)	24.8(6)
C20	3027(2)	4035.9(16)	7776(3)	24.8(6)
C19	2217(2)	4066.5(16)	6461(3)	25.5(6)
C18	903(2)	4357.1(17)	3292(3)	26.8(6)

26.1(6)
/ - >
24.7(5)
25.6(6)
28.0(6)
27.3(6)
26.6(6)
28.4(6)
27.7(6)
30.4(6)
30.3(6)
33.4(6)
33.2(7)
32.1(6)
30.7(6)
33.2(7)
26.3(6)

Table S3. Anisotropic Displacement Parameters ($Å^2 \times 10^3$) for **PFA 3**. The Anisotropic displacement factor exponent takes the form: $-2\pi^2[h^2a^{*2}U_{11}+2hka^*b^*U_{12}+...]$.

Atom	U ₁₁	U ₂₂	U ₃₃	U ₂₃	U ₁₃	U ₁₂
01	29.9(10)	40.9(12)	23.0(9)	-4.1(8)	0.1(7)	5.5(9)
02	27.5(10)	35.4(11)	27.2(9)	-2.5(8)	1.7(8)	6.9(9)
N1	22.7(11)	27.3(12)	23.9(11)	-0.5(9)	1.4(8)	1.0(9)
N004	58.0(17)	37.8(15)	34.1(13)	0.8(12)	-14.3(12).	-2.5(13)
C8	25.2(13)	24.8(14)	21.2(12)	1.1(10)	1.4(10)	0.5(11)
C9	23.9(13)	23.2(13)	22.9(12)	3.4(10)	-1.4(10)	-0.5(11)
C21	27.1(14)	24.3(13)	21.5(13)	4.0(10)	-1.0(10)	0.9(11)
C20	27.7(14)	22.5(13)	22.9(13)	0.6(10)	0.6(10)	-2.1(11)
C19	25.7(13)	23.1(13)	25.7(13)	1.7(11)	-1.5(10)	0.3(11)
C18	29.2(14)	28.1(14)	22.1(13)	-2.5(11)	1.6(10)	1.0(11)
C12	32.6(14)	24.8(14)	21.7(12)	1.8(11)	0.6(11)	0.4(11)
C1	28.4(14)	25.9(14)	22.7(12)	0.6(11)	0.5(10)	-4.8(11)
C6	23.7(13)	24.3(14)	25.0(12)	2.0(10)	0.1(10)	-3.4(11)
C13	27.5(14)	27.8(14)	20.4(12)	1.2(11)	0.9(10)	0.2(11)
C11	30.9(14)	28.6(15)	23.4(13)	-1.4(11)	1.2(11)	4.8(12)
C7	27.3(14)	29.2(15)	25.0(13)	1.2(11)	3.2(11)	-0.8(11)
C16	28.1(14)	30.3(15)	19.4(12)	2.8(11)	-2.1(10)	-1.7(12)
C17	28.5(14)	29.3(14)	26.2(13)	1.7(11)	0.8(11)	2.7(12)
C10	29.7(14)	29.7(15)	22.7(13)	2.1(11)	0.8(10)	4.0(12)
C3	35.4(15)	29.6(15)	22.6(13)	0.7(11)	-6.1(11)	-2.8(12)
C5	28.8(14)	32.7(15)	27.4(13)	4.2(12)	-1.1(11)	3.5(12)
C00M	36.9(16)	32.1(16)	29.5(14)	-0.3(12)	-0.1(12)	-0.2(13)
C14	39.2(16)	31.0(16)	26.3(14)	-1.7(12)	-4.3(12)	6.0(13)

C4	24.3(14)	34.9(16)	33.9(15)	3.4(12)	-4.7(11)	-0.1(12)
C2	31.9(15)	35.2(17)	23.5(13)	1.6(11)	-0.1(11)	-3.0(12)
C15	39.4(17)	30.7(15)	27.6(14)	-7.8(12)	-0.4(12)	2.5(12)
B1	30.2(16)	27.1(16)	20.8(14)	-0.6(12)	1.4(12)	-3.5(13)

C12

Table S4. Bond Lengths for PFA 3.

Atom	Atom	Length/ Å
01	B1	1.362(4)
02	C21	1.226(3)
N1	C8	1.411(3)
N1	C21	1.402(3)
N1	B1	1.446(4)
N004	C00M	1.144(4)
C8	C9	1.464(3)
C8	C7	1.346(4)
C9	C20	1.400(4)
C9	C10	1.389(4)
C21	C20	1.472(3)
C20	C19	1.381(3)
C19	C12	1.398(4)
C18	C13	1.398(4)
C18	C17	1.380(4)
C12	C13	1.484(3)

Table S5.	Bond Angles for PFA 3	

		0	-				
Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°	Atom	Atom	Atom	Angle/°
C8	N1	B1	122.7(2)	C1	C6	C7	120.1(2)
C21	N1	C8	110.17(19)	C5	C6	C1	119.4(2)
C21	N1	B1	127.2(2)	C5	C6	C7	120.5(2)
N1	C8	C9	107.0(2)	C18	C13	C12	121.3(2)
C7	C8	N1	121.4(2)	C14	C13	C18	118.2(2)
C7	C8	C9	131.7(2)	C14	C13	C12	120.5(2)
C20	C9	C8	108.0(2)	C10	C11	C12	122.9(2)
C10	C9	C8	131.8(2)	C8	C7	C6	121.9(2)
C10	C9	C20	120.1(2)	C17	C16	C00M	120.8(3)
02	C21	N1	123.5(2)	C15	C16	C17	119.9(2)
02	C21	C20	129.6(2)	C15	C16	C00M	119.2(3)
N1	C21	C20	106.9(2)	C18	C17	C16	120.0(3)
C9	C20	C21	107.9(2)	C11	C10	C9	117.9(2)
C19	C20	C9	121.7(2)	C2	C3	C4	119.6(2)
C19	C20	C21	130.3(2)	C4	C5	C6	120.7(3)
C20	C19	C12	118.8(2)	N004	C00M	C16	177.9(3)
C17	C18	C13	120.8(2)	C15	C14	C13	121.4(3)
C19	C12	C13	121.4(2)	C5	C4	C3	120.5(3)

C1	C6	1.423(4)
C1	C2	1.397(4)
C1	B1	1.546(4)
C6	C7	1.449(3)
C6	C5	1.396(4)
C13	C14	1.391(4)
C11	C10	1.379(3)
C16	C17	1.393(4)
C16	C00M	1.443(4)
C16	C15	1.383(4)
C3	C4	1.389(4)
C3	C2	1.385(4)
C5	C4	1.379(4)
C14	C15	1.385(4)

Atom Atom Length/Å

1.406(4)

C11

C19	C1	.2	C11	118.6(2)	C3	C2	C1		121.4(3)		
C11	C1	.2	C13	120.0(2)	C16	C15	C14		119.6(3)		
C6	C1		B1	118.6(2)	01	B1	N1		121.2(2)		
C2	C1		C6	118.4(3)	01	B1	C1		123.5(2)		
C2	C1		B1	122.9(3)	N1	B1	C1		115.3(2)		
Tabl	able S6. Torsion Angles for PFA 3.										
Α	В	С	D	Angle/°	Α	В	С	D	Angle/°		
02	C21	C20	C9	-179.1(3)	C6	C1	B1	01	-179.6(3)		
02	C21	C20	C19	1.2(5)	C6	C1	B1	N1	1.1(4)		
N1	C8	C9	C20	0.0(3)	C6	C5	C4	C3	1.0(4)		
N1	C8	C9	C10	-179.8(3)	C13	C18	C17	C16	0.9(4)		
N1	C8	C7	C6	0.5(4)	C13	C12	C11	C10	-179.5(3)		
N1	C21	C20	C9	0.3(3)	C13	C14	C15	C16	0.1(5)		
N1	C21	C20	C19	-179.4(3)	C11	C12	C13	C18	-145.0(3)		
C8	N1	C21	02	179.1(3)	C11	C12	C13	C14	34.9(4)		
C8	N1	C21	C20	-0.3(3)	C7	C8	C9	C20	178.5(3)		
C8	N1	B1	01	178.0(2)	C7	C8	C9	C10	-1.3(5)		
C8	N1	B1	C1	-2.7(4)	C7	C6	C5	C4	179.8(3)		
C8	C9	C20	C21	-0.2(3)	C17	C18	C13	C12	178.2(3)		
C8	C9	C20	C19	179.5(2)	C17	C18	C13	C14	-1.7(4)		
C8	C9	C10	C11	179.7(3)	C17	C16	C15	C14	-0.9(4)		
C9	C8	C7	C6	-177.9(3)	C10	C9	C20	C21	179.7(2)		
C9	C20	C19	C12	1.3(4)	C10	C9	C20	C19	-0.6(4)		
C21	N1	C8	C9	0.2(3)	C5	C6	C7	C8	177.0(3)		
C21	N1	C8	C7	-178.5(2)	C00M	C16	C17	C18	-177.7(3)		
C21	N1	B1	01	-1.4(4)	C00M	C16	C15	C14	177.3(3)		
C21	N1	B1	C1	177.9(2)	C4	C3	C2	C1	0.1(4)		
C21	C20	C19	C12	-179.1(3)	C2	C1	C6	C7	179.9(3)		
C20	C9	C10	C11	-0.1(4)	C2	C1	C6	C5	0.8(4)		
C20	C19	C12	C13	178.8(2)	C2	C1	B1	01	1.7(4)		
C20	C19	C12	C11	-1.2(4)	C2	C1	B1	N1	-177.6(3)		
C19	C12	C13	C18	34.9(4)	C2	C3	C4	C5	-0.4(4)		
C19	C12	C13	C14	-145.2(3)	C15	C16	C17	C18	0.4(4)		
C19	C12	C11	C10	0.6(4)	B1	N1	C8	C9	-179.3(2)		
C18	C13	C14	C15	1.2(4)	B1	N1	C8	C7	2.0(4)		
C12	C13	C14	C15	-178.7(3)	B1	N1	C21	02	-1.4(4)		
C12	C11	C10	C9	0.1(4)	B1	N1	C21	C20	179.2(2)		
C1	C6	C7	C8	-2.0(4)	B1	C1	C6	C7	1.1(4)		
C1	C6	C5	C4	-1.2(4)	B1	C1	C6	C5	-177.9(3)		
C6	C1	C2	C3	-0.3(4)	B1	C1	C2	C3	178.4(3)		

Table S7. Hydrogen Atom Coordinates ($Å \times 10^4$) and Isotropic Displacement Parameters ($Å^2 \times 10^3$) for **PFA 3**.

Atom	X	У	Z	U(eq)
H1	3057.6	4930.39	12004.29	48
H19	1492.57	4344.01	6445.67	31
H18	924.09	4823.97	3950.38	32
H11	3758.1	3035.28	4333.42	34
H7	6283.52	3159.2	9394.23	33
H17	-341.77	4824.96	1650.52	34
H10	5124.68	3001.75	6542.77	33
H3	7455.91	3930.52	15706.11	36
H5	7792.47	2944.99	11631.92	36
H14	2051.12	2524.82	3023.37	40
H4	8532.64	3173.77	14172.2	39
H2	5645.07	4478.2	14672.93	37
H15	764.39	2513.84	735.73	40

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