

# Electronic Supplementary Information

## Urea-fused and $\pi$ -extended single-benzene fluorophores with ultralarge Stokes shifts

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### Experimental Section

**General Considerations.** All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used as received unless otherwise noted. All air-sensitive manipulations were carried out under inert atmosphere by Schlenk-line techniques. All microwave-assisted synthesis was performed in a Biotage® Initiator+ microwave synthesizer. Spectroscopic grade dichloromethane, cyclohexane, toluene, EtOAc, and MeOH were used for solvent-dependent photophysical measurements. All air-sensitive manipulations were carried out under argon atmosphere by standard Schlenk-line techniques. The compounds 1,1'-(2,3-diamino-1,4-phenylene)bis(ethan-1-one) (*o*-DAPA),<sup>1</sup> 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)benzene-1,2-diamine,<sup>2</sup> 2,1,3-benzothiadiazole-4,7-bis(boronic acid pinacol ester) (**1**),<sup>3</sup> and 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzo[*c*][1,2,5]thiadiazole (**5**)<sup>4</sup> were prepared according to the reported procedures.

**Physical Measurements.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a 400 MHz Agilent 400-MR DD2 Magnetic Resonance System and a 500 MHz Varian/Oxford As-500 spectrometer. Chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent peaks for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Spectrum Two FT-IR Spectrophotometer. High-resolution electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were obtained on a Thermo Scientific LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer. UV-vis spectra were recorded on an Agilent 8453 UV-vis spectrophotometer with ChemStation software. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Photon Technology International Quanta-Master 400 spectrofluorometer with FelixGX software. Quantum yields were determined by using a 3.2-inch K-Sphere Petite integrating sphere attached to the spectrofluorometer. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction (SC-XRD) studies were carried out using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation on an XtaLAB AFC12 (RINC): Kappa dual home/near diffractometer.

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<sup>2</sup> I. Pochorowski, J. Milić, D. Kolarski, C. Gropp, W. B. Schweizer and F. Diederich, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 3852–3858.

<sup>3</sup> H. Wang, G. Zhou, H. Gai and X. Chen, *Chem. Commun.*, 2012, **48**, 8341–8343.

<sup>4</sup> Z. Ni, H. Wang, H. Dong, Y. Dang, Q. Zhao, X. Zhang and W. Hu, *Nat. Chem.*, 2019, **11**, 271–277.

**Computational Studies.** All density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) calculations were performed with Gaussian 16 program suite.<sup>5</sup> Ground-state and excited-state geometry optimizations were carried out with DFT and TD-DFT calculations using B3LYP hybrid functional with Grimme’s D3 dispersion correction<sup>6</sup> (B3LYP-D3) and 6-31++G(d,p) basis set. Vibrational frequency calculations were performed to confirm that all optimized geometries converged to minima or saddle points for transition states. Zero-point and thermal corrections were made to the electronic energies to obtain Gibbs free energies of the optimized geometries. Solvation was considered by self-consistent reaction field (SCRF) calculations with conductor-like polarizable continuum model (CPCM) of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $\epsilon = 8.93$ ).<sup>7</sup> The S<sub>1</sub> potential energy curves of **BZ-1**, **BZ-2**, and **BZ-3'** (Fig. S1) are constructed by a relax scan along the fixed NH $\cdots$ X<sub>acceptor</sub> distance (29 points; step = 0.05 Å). The 2D S<sub>1</sub> potential energy surface of **BZ-3'** (Fig. 3b) was constructed by a relax scan along the fixed N1 $\cdots$ H1 and N1' $\cdots$ H1' distances (196 points; step = 0.1 Å). The minimum energy path of the ESIPT reaction (Fig. 3b, white line) was constructed by a relaxed scan of geometries with fixed N1 $\cdots$ H1 distance (from S<sub>1,N\*</sub> to S<sub>1,T\*</sub>) and fixed N1' $\cdots$ H1' distance (from S<sub>1,T\*</sub> to S<sub>1,TT\*</sub>) generated by linear interpolation between the stationary points. The proton transfer reaction coordinate (Fig. 3c) is represented by a cumulative distance of the minimum energy path (Fig. 3b, white line) starting from S<sub>1</sub> FC. The S<sub>1</sub> potential energy curve of protonated **BZ-3'** (Fig. S7) is constructed by a relax scan along the fixed C7–C6–C5–N1 dihedral angle (step = 20°) (9 points; step = 20°).

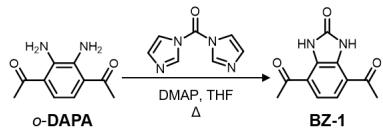
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<sup>5</sup> M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, X. Li, M. Caricato, A. V. Marenich, J. Bloino, B. G. Janesko, R. Gomperts, B. Mennucci, H. P. Hratchian, J. V. Ortiz, A. F. Izmaylov, J. L. Sonnenberg, D. Williams-Young, F. Ding, F. Lipparini, F. Egidi, J. Goings, B. Peng, A. Petrone, T. Henderson, D. Ranasinghe, V. G. Zakrzewski, J. Gao, N. Rega, G. Zheng, W. Liang, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, K. Throssell, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. J. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. N. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. A. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. P. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, C. Adamo, R. Cammi, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman, and D. J. Fox, Gaussian 16 (Revision B.01), Gaussian Inc., Wallingford, CT, 2016.

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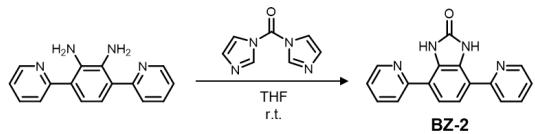
<sup>7</sup> J. Tomasi, B. Mennucci, and R. Cammi, *Chem. Rev.*, 2005, **105**, 2999–3094.

**Scheme S1.** Synthetic route to **BZ-1**.



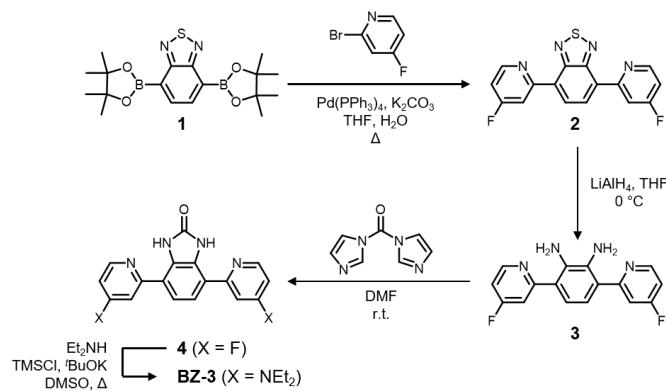
**1,1'-(2-Oxo-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazole-4,7-diyl)bis(ethan-1-one) (BZ-1).** A 50 mL round-bottom was charged with 1,1'-(2,3-diamino-1,4-phenylene)bis(ethan-1-one) (*o*-DAPA) (91.1 mg, 0.474 mmol), 4-dimethylaminopyridine (10 mg, 0.081 mmol), 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (174 mg, 1.07 mmol), and THF (8 mL). The mixture was heated at reflux for 1 d. After cooling to r.t., the precipitate was gathered by filtration to furnish **BZ-1** as a yellow solid (25.0 mg, 0.115 mmol, yield = 24%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  10.95 (s, 2H), 7.65 (s, 2H), 2.63 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  198.42, 156.26, 130.69, 121.65, 120.87, 28.02. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3744, 3711, 3629, 3312, 3192, 3006, 2988, 2923, 2851, 2650, 2374, 2337, 2325, 2287, 2186, 2163, 2051, 2020, 1981, 1966, 1711, 1665, 1597, 1497, 1462, 1370, 1319, 1276, 1259, 1221, 1200, 1143, 992. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>11</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 219.0764, found 219.0767.

**Scheme S2.** Synthetic route to **BZ-2**.



**4,7-Di(pyridin-2-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-one (BZ-2).** A 20 mL vial was charged with 3,6-di(pyridin-2-yl)benzene-1,2-diamine (0.128 g, 0.381 mmol), 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (98.0 mg, 0.762 mmol), and THF (4 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 d, diluted with MTBE (100 mL) and the precipitate was isolated by filtration to furnish **BZ-2** as a white solid (91.1 mg, 0.316 mmol, yield = 83%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  10.38 (s, 2H), 8.70 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.9, 1.0 Hz, 2H), 7.99 (dt, *J* = 8.1, 1.1 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (td, *J* = 7.8, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (s, 2H), 7.27 (ddd, *J* = 7.4, 4.8, 1.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  155.66, 154.59, 148.98, 136.95, 129.56, 122.03, 119.78, 119.20, 117.99. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3745, 3363, 3218, 3060, 3012, 2920, 2851, 2325, 2187, 2163, 2139, 2115, 2087, 2051, 1980, 1967, 1868, 1782, 1686, 1620, 1609, 1586, 1566, 1518, 1473, 1457, 1432, 1415, 1384, 1358, 1321, 1303, 1272, 1253, 1211, 1180, 1160, 1129, 1088, 1049, 988, 981, 936, 913, 893, 877. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 289.1084, found 289.1085.

**Scheme S3.** Synthetic route to **BZ-3**.



**4,7-Bis(4-fluoropyridin-2-yl)benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole (2).** A 250 mL 3-neck round-bottom flask was charged with benzothiadiazole-4,7-bis(boronic acid pinacol ester) (**1**) (1.00 g, 2.58 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.145 g, 0.129 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.75 g, 12.7 mmol), water (5 mL) and dry THF (50 mL) under an argon atmosphere. A portion of 2-bromo-4-fluoropyridine (0.56 mL, 5.4 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred at 80 °C for 19 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water (100 mL), and extracted into CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL  $\times$  3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhyd Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1, v/v) furnished **2** as a yellow solid (0.544 g, 1.67 mmol, yield = 65%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  8.80 – 8.70 (m, 4H), 8.70 – 8.62 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 5.5, 2.4, 1.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  170.65, 168.58, 156.94, 156.87, 154.05, 152.40, 152.35, 130.26, 113.60, 113.44, 111.40, 111.27. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3711, 3103, 3072, 3006, 2988, 2924, 2853, 2650, 2317, 2287, 2186, 2163, 2141, 2051, 2012, 1982, 1716, 1670, 1591, 1576, 1565, 1543, 1462, 1417, 1374, 1345, 1295, 1275, 1261, 1211, 1169, 1113, 1081, 1006, 972, 867, 840, 824. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 327.0510, found 327.0515.

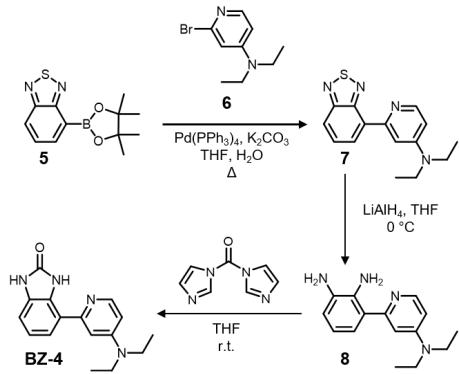
**3,6-Bis(4-fluoropyridin-2-yl)benzene-1,2-diamine (3).** An oven-dried 100 mL 2-neck round-bottom flask was charged with **2** (0.963 g, 2.95 mmol) and dry THF (100 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was stirred at 0 °C, and dry LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (2 M in THF solution), (10 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 5 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 h and quenched with water (10 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was poured CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (200 mL), dried over anhyd Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (hexane:EtOAc = 100:0 to 50:50, v/v) furnished **3** as an orange solid (0.472 g, 1.58 mmol, yield = 54%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  8.63 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 5.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (dd, *J* = 10.9, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 1.0 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (ddd, *J* = 8.3, 5.7, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 5.70 (s, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  170.47, 168.39, 162.57, 162.51, 150.57, 150.51, 137.13, 122.21, 122.18, 118.78, 110.06, 109.93, 109.50, 109.36. FT-IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3745, 3647, 3104, 3072, 2924, 2853, 2347, 2325, 2286, 2187, 2163, 2140, 2116, 2074, 2051, 1982, 1600, 1591, 1576, 1565, 1543, 1494, 1462, 1417, 1345, 1295, 1274, 1263, 1211, 1169, 1113, 1081, 1006, 972, 867, 840, 824. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>12</sub>F<sub>2</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 299.1103, found 299.1105.

**4,7-Bis(4-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-one (4).** A 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with **3** (95.0 mg, 0.318 mmol), 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (155 mg, 0.956 mmol), and DMF (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 d, diluted with MTBE (60 mL), and the precipitate was isolated by filtration to furnish **4** as a white solid (73.0 mg, 0.225

mmol, yield = 71%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  10.39 (s, 2H), 8.66 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 5.6 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (dd,  $J$  = 10.5, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (s, 2H), 7.02 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 5.6, 2.3 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  170.47, 168.42, 158.61, 158.55, 155.22, 152.62, 152.56, 129.58, 119.57, 119.54, 119.49, 110.67, 110.53, 108.70, 108.56. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3186, 3006, 2971, 2925, 2870, 2852, 2692, 2341, 2325, 2287, 2187, 2163, 2143, 2074, 2051, 2023, 1981, 1701, 1594, 1537, 1508, 1454, 1377, 1357, 1304, 1273, 1255, 1197, 1176, 1159, 1138, 1097, 1079, 1059, 1027, 986, 869, 834, 809. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{10}\text{F}_2\text{N}_4\text{O}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  325.0895, found 325.0902.

**4,7-Bis(4-(diethylamino)pyridin-2-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[d]imidazol-2-one (BZ-3).** A 10–20 mL Biotage® Microwave Reaction Vial was charged with **4** (49.3 mg, 0.152 mmol), diethylamine (0.5 mL, 10 mmol),  $\text{TMSCl}$  (0.1 mL, 0.8 mmol),  $\text{KO}_t\text{Bu}$  (34.6 mg, 0.308 mmol), and  $\text{DMSO}$  (5 mL) under a argon sparge. The mixture was heated by microwave irradiation at 100 °C with stirring for 12 h, cooled to r.t., poured into  $\text{EtOAc}$  (100 mL), and washed with water (75 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over anhyd  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  ( $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2:\text{MeOH}$  = 10:0 to 9:1, v/v) furnished **BZ-3** as a white solid (58.3 mg, 0.135 mmol, yield = 89%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  10.52 (s, 2H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.05 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.45 (dd,  $J$  = 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 8H), 1.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 12H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  156.07, 155.11, 152.85, 149.17, 129.74, 120.22, 117.82, 105.28, 102.14, 44.16, 12.55. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3745, 3243, 3004, 2972, 2931, 2894, 2325, 2193, 2164, 2140, 2116, 2051, 1982, 1967, 1690, 1593, 1538, 1493, 1474, 1425, 1377, 1354, 1308, 1297, 1274, 1260, 1197, 1156, 1137, 1094, 1080, 1028, 988, 913, 836. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{30}\text{N}_6\text{O}$  [ $\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  431.2554, found 431.2562.

**Scheme S4.** Synthetic route to **BZ-4**.



**2-Bromo-*N,N*-diethylpyridin-4-amine (6).** A 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with 2-bromo-4-fluoropyridine (3.0 mL, 29 mmol), diethylamine (6.0 mL, 58 mmol),  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (8.00 g, 57.9 mmol), and DMF (60 mL). The solution was stirred at 65 °C for 1 d, and concentrated under reduced pressure at 70 °C. The reaction mixture was poured into water (100 mL), and extracted into  $\text{EtOAc}$  (150 mL × 3). The combined organic layer dried over anhyd  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  (hexane: $\text{EtOAc}$  = 100:0 to 50:50, v/v) furnished **6** as a yellow liquid (6.56 g, 28.7 mmol, yield = 99%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  7.88 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 6.58 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (dd,  $J$  = 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.31 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.15 (t,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  153.80, 149.58, 143.45, 108.82, 106.00, 44.17, 12.28. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3728, 3647, 3417, 3172,

3146, 3088, 3037, 2972, 2932, 2899, 2871, 2760, 2664, 2559, 2525, 2504, 2446, 2380, 2363, 2347, 2325, 2275, 2204, 2164, 2144, 2103, 2087, 2051, 2012, 1981, 1904, 1771, 1733, 1661, 1585, 1514, 1503, 1476, 1448, 1401, 1378, 1358, 1307, 1288, 1273, 1252, 1193, 1167, 1129, 1093, 1074, 1015, 974, 923, 808. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_9H_{13}BrN_2$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 229.0335 and 231.0314, found 229.0337 and 231.0314.

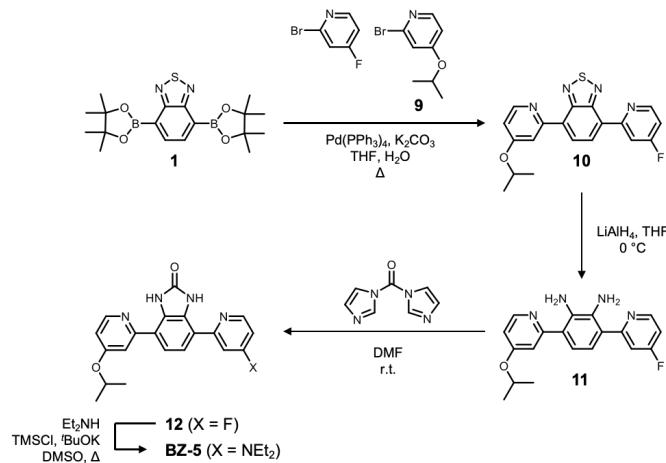
**2-(Benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazol-4-yl)-N,N-diethylpyridin-4-amine (7).** A 100 mL 3-neck round-bottom flask was charged with 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole (**5**) (0.512 g, 1.95 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.126 g, 0.109 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1.34 g, 9.70 mmol), **6** (0.509 g, 2.22 mmol), water (5 mL), and dry THF (25 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was stirred at 80 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was poured into water (100 mL), and extracted into EtOAc (100 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhyd Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:acetone = 9:1 to 7:3, v/v) furnished **7** as a yellow gummy mareial (0.313 g, 1.10 mmol, yield = 56%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 8.37 – 8.32 (m, 2H), 8.02 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 155.79, 154.29, 153.16, 152.60, 149.85, 133.49, 129.72, 128.93, 121.45, 108.13, 105.52, 105.50, 44.15, 12.46. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3347, 3171, 3133, 3088, 3062, 3039, 2969, 2928, 2895, 2870, 2569, 2513, 2398, 2325, 2292, 2186, 2163, 2115, 2080, 2051, 1981, 1939, 1904, 1840, 1733, 1707, 1668, 1601, 1583, 1539, 1495, 1477, 1447, 1406, 1377, 1357, 1327, 1285, 1265, 1244, 1197, 1156, 1134, 1115, 1095, 1078, 1022, 983, 914, 896, 855, 832, 805. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>N<sub>4</sub>S [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 285.1168, found 285.1170.

**3-(4-(Diethylamino)pyridin-2-yl)benzene-1,2-diamine (8).** An 100 mL oven-dried 2-neck round-bottom flask was charged with **7** (0.200 g, 0.703 mmol) and dry THF (20 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was stirred at 0 °C, and dry LiAlH<sub>4</sub> (2 M in THF solution), (2.8 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 1 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 h and quenched with water (3 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was poured into CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (200 mL), dried over anhyd Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH = 100:0 to 9:1, v/v) furnished **8** as a red solid (0.111 g, 0.435 mmol, yield = 62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 8.23 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (dt, *J* = 6.8, 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.80 – 6.57 (m, 3H), 6.42 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.45 – 3.37 (m, 4H), 1.21 (td, *J* = 7.1, 1.4 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 159.91, 153.08, 148.67, 135.38, 135.31, 126.12, 121.10, 118.42, 116.59, 105.53, 104.60, 44.04, 12.57. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3395, 3329, 3088, 3061, 3029, 2971, 2929, 2894, 2870, 2719, 2522, 2455, 2389, 2325, 2288, 2178, 2163, 2139, 2103, 2087, 2051, 2023, 2009, 1981, 1908, 1731, 1591, 1535, 1502, 1462, 1431, 1395, 1377, 1358, 1293, 1259, 1241, 1196, 1158, 1126, 1094, 1077, 1020, 987, 950, 913, 881, 845. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 257.1761, found 257.1763.

**2-(Benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazol-4-yl)-N,N-diethylpyridin-4-amine (BZ-4).** A 20 mL vial was charged with **10** (0.111 g, 0.435 mmol), 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (82.9 mg, 0.522 mmol), and DMF (12 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 d, poured into EtOAc (100 mL), and washed with water (75 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over anhyd Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>:MeOH = 10:0 to 9:1, v/v) furnished **BZ-4** as a yellow solid (87.2 mg, 0.309 mmol, yield = 71%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 9.91 (s, 1H), 8.23 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.13 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 1.29 – 1.20 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K): δ 156.40, 156.23, 152.87, 149.24, 130.37, 128.61, 121.21, 120.81, 118.15, 109.73, 105.31, 102.03, 44.12, 12.55. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3172, 3074, 3022, 2972, 2926, 2870, 2853, 2767, 2690, 2531, 2346, 2324, 2243, 2187, 2179, 2163, 2115, 2087, 2051, 2039, 2011,

1980, 1919, 1892, 1871, 1846, 1827, 1794, 1694, 1620, 1592, 1537, 1505, 1480, 1448, 1398, 1377, 1357, 1303, 1267, 1252, 1197, 1177, 1159, 1138, 1097, 1078, 1059, 1027, 986, 911, 875, 834, 809. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_{16}H_{18}N_4O$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 283.1553, found 283.1555.

**Scheme S5.** Synthetic route to **BZ-5**.



**2-Bromo-4-isopropoxypyridine (9).** A 250 mL round-bottom flask was charged with 2-bromo-4-hydroxypyridine (3.72 g, 21.4 mmol), 2-bromopropane (6 mL, 50 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (5.99 g, 43.4 mmol), and MeCN (100 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 d, filtered with glass frit and Celite, washed with acetone, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $SiO_2$  (hexane:EtOAc = 10:0 to 8:2, v/v) furnished **9** as a yellow liquid (4.20 g, 19.4 mmol, yield = 91%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  8.14 (d,  $J$  = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd,  $J$  = 5.8, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 4.60 (p,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 1.36 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  165.33, 150.66, 142.99, 142.97, 114.37, 111.07, 70.86, 21.63. FT-IR(ATR,  $cm^{-1}$ ): 3797, 3647, 3421, 3160, 3133, 3059, 2979, 2934, 2878, 2768, 2699, 2647, 2606, 2534, 2497, 2325, 2291, 2219, 2186, 2164, 2140, 2103, 2051, 2012, 1981, 1916, 1867, 1768, 1668, 1577, 1542, 1468, 1422, 1383, 1357, 1331, 1302, 1268, 1255, 1231, 1179, 1140, 1105, 1061, 984, 960, 914, 882, 868, 854, 835, 817, 800. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $C_8H_{10}BrNO$  [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 216.0019 and 217.9998, found 216.0021 and 218.0000.

**4-(4-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-7-(4-isopropoxypyridin-2-yl)benzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole (10).**<sup>8</sup> A 250 mL 3-neck round-bottom flask was charged with benzothiadiazole-4,7-bis(boronic acid pinacol ester) (**1**) (2.45 g, 6.30 mmol), **9** (2.72 g, 12.6 mmol),  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  (0.383 g, 0.331 mmol),  $K_2CO_3$  (4.36 g, 31.6 mmol), water (6 mL), and dry THF (60 mL) under an argon atmosphere. 2-bromo-4-fluoropyridine (0.62 mL, 6.0 mmol) was added and the solution was stirred at 80 °C for 1 d. The reaction mixture was poured into water (100 mL), and extracted into  $CH_2Cl_2$  (150 mL × 3). The combined organic layer was dried over anhyd  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $SiO_2$  (hexane:EtOAc = 10:0 to 1:1, v/v) furnished **10** as a yellow solid (0.614 g, 1.68 mmol, yield = 27%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  8.76 (dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (d,  $J$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.68 – 8.57 (m, 3H), 8.29 (d,  $J$  = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (ddd,  $J$  = 7.9, 5.6, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.85 (dd,  $J$  = 5.7, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 4.80 (hept,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 1.46

<sup>8</sup> To compensate for the reactivity difference between 2-bromo-4-fluoropyridine and 2-bromo-4-isopropoxypyridine, an optimized molar ratio of 0.95:2 was used for the synthesis of **10**.

(d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  170.26, 168.18, 164.80, 156.95, 156.88, 155.35, 153.85, 153.65, 151.91, 151.86, 150.98, 133.09, 130.11, 129.63, 113.28, 113.13, 113.01, 110.98, 110.85, 110.50, 70.40, 21.97. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3727, 3185, 3104, 3064, 2978, 2924, 2852, 2633, 2359, 2342, 2325, 2287, 2187, 2163, 2141, 2051, 1981, 1912, 1716, 1593, 1570, 1544, 1493, 1460, 1424, 1406, 1386, 1374, 1346, 1313, 1298, 1276, 1261, 1224, 1179, 1140, 1112, 1053, 1006, 999, 991, 973, 945, 898, 872, 848, 819. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{15}\text{FN}_4\text{OS} [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  367.1026, found 367.1026.

**3-(4-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-6-(4-isopropoxypyridin-2-yl)benzene-1,2-diamine (11).** An oven-dried 250 mL 3-neck round-bottom flask was charged with **10** (0.532 g, 1.45 mmol) and dry THF (80 mL) under an argon atmosphere. The solution was stirred at 0 °C, and dry  $\text{LiAlH}_4$  (2 M in THF solution) (6 mL), was added dropwise over a period of 5 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 h and quenched with water (6 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was poured  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (150 mL), dried over anhyd  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  (hexane:EtOAc = 2:1 to 1:1, v/v) furnished **11** as an orange solid (0.374 g, 1.00 mmol, yield = 76%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  8.62 (dd,  $J = 9.0, 5.6$  Hz, 1H), 8.46 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dd,  $J = 11.0, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.17 (d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 2H), 6.95 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 5.7, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.73 (dd,  $J = 5.8, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 5.64 (s, 4H), 4.72 (hept,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.41 (d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  170.44, 168.36, 165.00, 162.80, 162.75, 160.95, 150.52, 150.46, 149.57, 137.08, 136.51, 124.22, 121.72, 121.69, 118.98, 118.82, 109.98, 109.93, 109.79, 109.31, 109.18, 109.14, 70.11, 21.96. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3710, 3402, 3277, 3069, 2978, 2932, 2647, 2511, 2374, 2360, 2342, 2325, 2187, 2163, 2139, 2051, 1999, 1981, 1963, 1919, 1847, 1590, 1574, 1560, 1492, 1462, 1443, 1395, 1375, 1326, 1301, 1258, 1229, 1179, 1159, 1140, 1107, 1059, 994, 948, 909, 867, 841, 821. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{19}\text{FN}_4\text{O} [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  339.1616, found 339.1617.

**4-(4-Fluoropyridin-2-yl)-7-(4-isopropoxypyridin-2-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-one (12).** A 20 mL vial was charged with **11** (105 mg, 0.311 mmol), 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole (198 mg, 1.22 mmol), and THF (10 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 2 d and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  (hexane:EtOAc = 100:0 to 0:100, v/v) furnished **12** as a white solid (95.6 mg, 0.262 mmol, yield = 84%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  10.54 (s, 2H), 10.34 (s, 2H), 8.64 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 5.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.47 (dd,  $J = 5.7, 1.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd,  $J = 10.6, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.56 (dd,  $J = 7.2, 5.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (ddd,  $J = 8.2, 6.0, 2.4$  Hz, 1H), 6.76 (dd,  $J = 5.7, 2.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.74 (h,  $J = 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.43 (dt,  $J = 6.0, 1.0$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K):  $\delta$  170.51, 168.42, 164.97, 159.03, 158.98, 157.08, 154.90, 151.55, 151.49, 150.45, 129.84, 129.76, 120.13, 118.24, 118.12, 110.16, 110.03, 109.30, 107.74, 107.49, 107.34, 70.35, 21.94. FT-IR(ATR,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3388, 3197, 3145, 3071, 3021, 2979, 2937, 2635, 2325, 2284, 2239, 2163, 2103, 2051, 2040, 2013, 1980, 1951, 1914, 1854, 1743, 1720, 1629, 1598, 1573, 1520, 1485, 1467, 1412, 1387, 1360, 1313, 1274, 1261, 1222, 1172, 1139, 1109, 1077, 1013, 997, 981, 957, 932, 913, 881, 857, 825. HRMS (ESI) calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{17}\text{FN}_4\text{O}_2 [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  365.1408, found 365.1412.

**4-(4-(Diethylamino)pyridin-2-yl)-7-(4-isopropoxypyridin-2-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-2-one (BZ-5).** A 10–20 mL Biotage® Microwave Reaction Vial was charged with **12** (71.0 mg, 0.195 mmol), diethylamine (0.8 mL, 4 mmol), TMSCl (0.4 mL, 3 mmol),  $\text{KO}_t\text{Bu}$  (50.3 mg, 0.448 mmol), and DMSO (7 mL) under argon sparge. The mixture was heated by microwave irradiation at 100 °C with stirring for 12 h, cooled to r.t., poured into EtOAc (100 mL), and washed with water (75 mL × 3). The organic layer was dried over anhyd  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. Flash column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  (hexane:acetone = 10:0 to 1:1, v/v) furnished **BZ-5** as a white-yellow solid (33.6 mg, 0.0805 mmol, yield = 41%).  $^1\text{H}$

NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  10.44 (s, 1H), 8.46 (d,  $J$  = 5.9 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.53 (s, 2H), 7.38 (d,  $J$  = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.76 – 6.71 (m, 1H), 6.46 (d,  $J$  = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.77 – 4.71 (m, 1H), 3.46 (q,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.42 (d,  $J$  = 6.1 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K):  $\delta$  164.89, 157.59, 156.01, 155.05, 152.85, 150.43, 149.29, 129.85, 129.72, 120.76, 119.05, 117.89, 117.85, 109.00, 107.46, 105.40, 102.18, 70.26, 44.14, 29.84, 21.95, 12.57. FT-IR(ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3746, 3356, 3088, 3073, 2973, 2924, 2870, 2854, 2524, 2325, 2287, 2239, 2163, 2139, 2115, 2083, 2066, 2051, 2011, 1992, 1980, 1967, 1943, 1910, 1896, 1868, 1811, 1780, 1767, 1704, 1642, 1588, 1557, 1537, 1522, 1500, 1468, 1434, 1416, 1377, 1357, 1303, 1252, 1226, 1194, 1159, 1140, 1109, 1084, 1027, 1010, 994, 988, 937, 910, 874, 863, 801. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 418.2238, found 418.2239.

**X-ray Crystallographic Studies on BZ-3.** Single crystals of **BZ-3** were prepared by slow diffusion of methyl *tert*-butyl ether into a CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution of this material. A colorless crystal (approximate dimensions 0.587 × 0.416 × 0.357 mm<sup>3</sup>) was placed onto a nylon loop with Paratone-N oil, and mounted on an XtaLAB AFC12 (RINC): Kappa dual home/near diffractometer. The data collection was carried out using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation and the crystal was kept at  $T$  = 93 K. A total of 19770 reflections were measured ( $7.896^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 158.828^\circ$ ). The structure was solved with SHELXT<sup>9</sup> using direct methods, and refined with SHELXL<sup>10</sup> refinement package of OLEX2.<sup>11</sup> A total of 5672 unique reflections were used in all calculations. The final  $R1$  was 0.0657 ( $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ) and  $wR2$  was 0.1841 (all data). CCDC 2367198 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this structure.

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<sup>9</sup> G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst.*, 2015, **A71**, 3–8.

<sup>10</sup> G. M. Sheldrick, *Acta Cryst.*, 2015, **C71**, 3–8.

<sup>11</sup> O. V. Dolomanov, L. J. Bourhis, R. J. Gildea, J. A. K. Howard, and H. Puschmann, *J. Appl. Cryst.*, 2009, **42**, 339–341.

**Table S1.** Photophysical properties of compounds **BZ-1**, **BZ-2**, **BZ-3**, **BZ-4** and **BZ-5** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  at  $T = 298$  K.

	$\lambda_{\text{max,abs}}$ (nm) <sup>a</sup>	$\varepsilon$ ( $\text{M}^{-1}$ $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\Delta\nu$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	$\lambda_{\text{max,em}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_F$ <sup>b</sup>
<b>BZ-1</b>	380	9000	3894	446	0.01
<b>BZ-2</b>	324	56800	—	—	—
<b>BZ-3</b>	312	25800	12405	509	0.21
<b>BZ-4</b>	314	6220	12123	507	0.24
<b>BZ-5</b>	314	22800	12579	519	0.22

<sup>a</sup> The longest absorption wavelength.

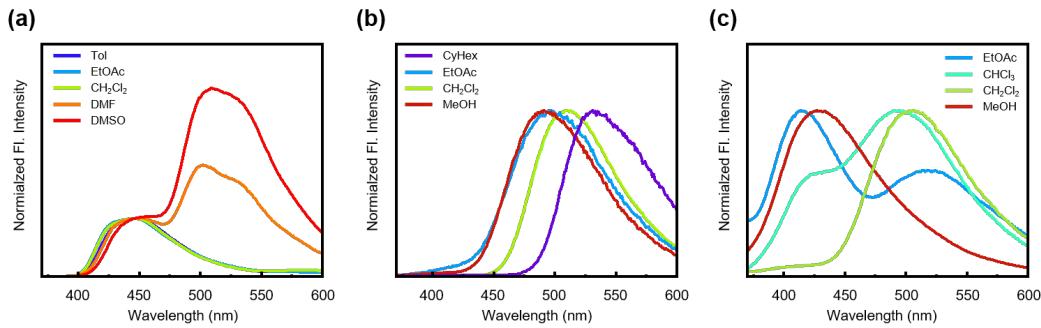
<sup>b</sup> Absolute fluorescence quantum yields determined by a calibrated integrating sphere system.

**Table S2.** Solvent-dependent photophysical properties of **BZ-3** ( $T = 298$  K).

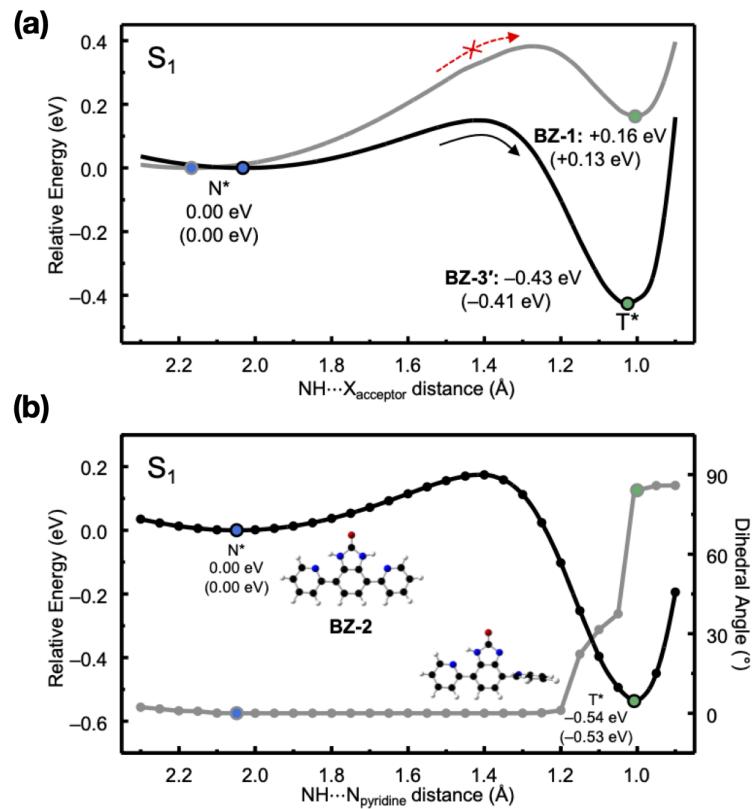
solvent	$\lambda_{\text{max,abs}}$ (nm)	$\lambda_{\text{max,em}}$ (nm)	$\nu_{\text{max,em}}$ ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
cyclohexane	313	531	18832
EtOAc	312	491	20366
$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	310	509	19646
MeOH	312	497	20120

**Table S3.** Summary of X-ray crystallographic data of **BZ-3**.

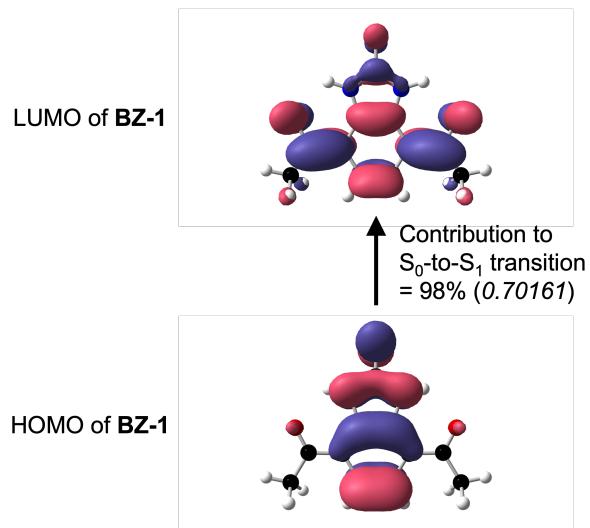
	<b>BZ-3 · CHCl<sub>3</sub></b>
Chemical formula	C <sub>25</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O · CHCl <sub>3</sub>
Formula weight	549.92
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> /n
Color of crystal	colorless
<i>a</i> (Å)	12.18070(10)
<i>b</i> (Å)	11.62690(10)
<i>c</i> (Å)	19.3144(2)
$\beta$ (°)	102.2310(10)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	2673.29(4)
<i>Z</i>	4
<i>R</i> <sub>int</sub>	0.0741
Final <i>R</i> indices [ <i>I</i> > 2σ( <i>I</i> )]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0657, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1816
Final <i>R</i> indices [all data]	<i>R</i> 1 = 0.0676, <i>wR</i> 2 = 0.1841
Goodness-of-fit on <i>F</i> <sup>2</sup>	1.065



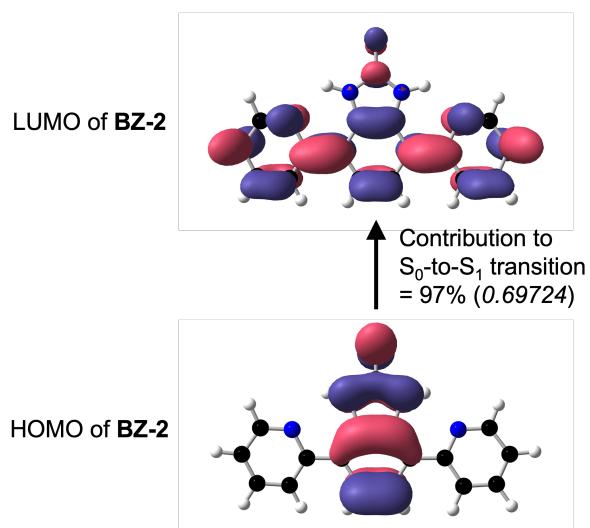
**Fig. S1.** Normalized emission spectra of (a) **BZ-1**, (b) **BZ-3**, and (c) **BZ-4** in different solvents at  $T = 298$  K.



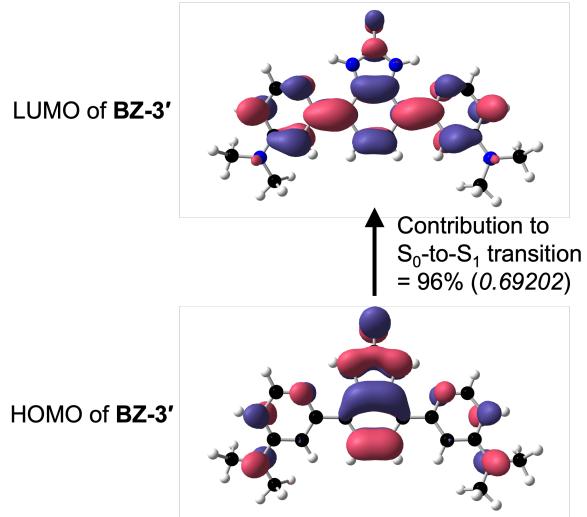
**Fig. S2.** (a) Potential energy curves of the  $S_1$  state constructed at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  by a relaxed scan along the fixed  $\text{NH}\cdots\text{X}_{\text{acceptor}}$  distance (step = 0.05 Å). X = O (**BZ-1**); N (**BZ-3'**). (b) Potential energy curve (black line) and dihedral angle between the benzimidazolone and pyridine (gray line) of **BZ-2** in the  $S_1$  state constructed at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  by a relaxed scan along the fixed  $\text{NH}\cdots\text{N}_{\text{pyridine}}$  distance (step = 0.05 Å). Relative electronic energies of the stationary points (lined circles) are given, and the numbers in parenthesis indicate relative Gibbs free energy values.



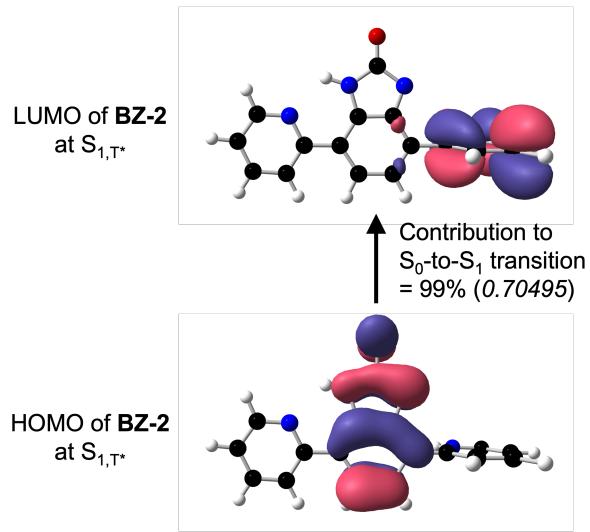
**Fig. S3.** Frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) involved in the transition to the  $S_1$  excited state of **BZ-1** calculated at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31G++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The contribution of the HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO electronic transition to the  $S_0$ -to- $S_1$  transition is shown, with the number in parentheses denoting the CI (configurational interaction) expansion coefficient.



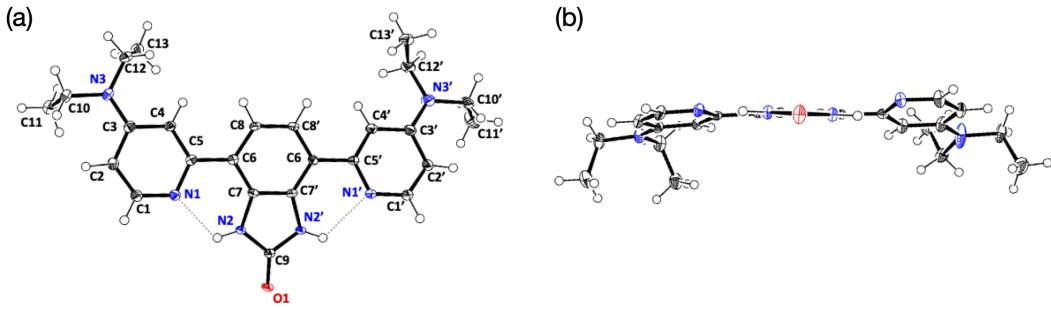
**Fig. S4.** Frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) involved in the transition to the  $S_1$  excited state of **BZ-2** calculated at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31G++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The contribution of the HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO electronic transition to the  $S_0$ -to- $S_1$  transition is shown, with the number in parentheses denoting the CI (configurational interaction) expansion coefficient.



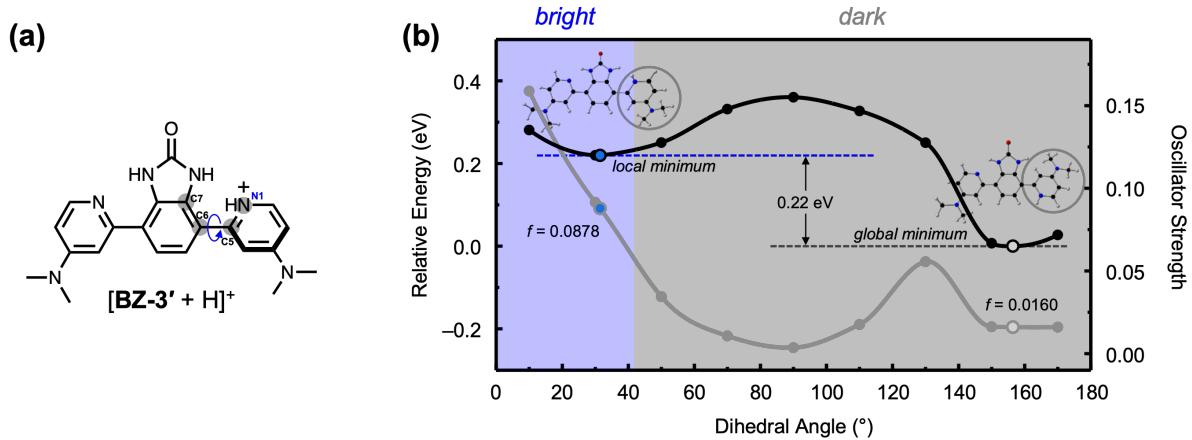
**Fig. S5.** Frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) involved in the transition to the  $S_1$  excited state of **BZ-3'** calculated at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31G++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The contribution of the HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO electronic transition to the  $S_0$ -to- $S_1$  transition is shown, with the number in parentheses denoting the CI (configurational interaction) expansion coefficient.



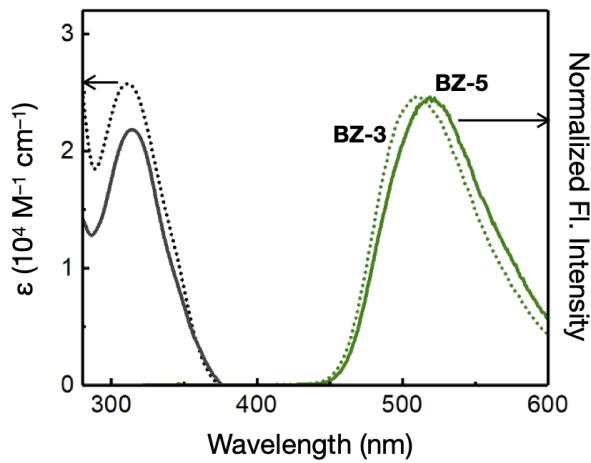
**Fig. S6.** Frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) involved in the transition to the  $S_1$  excited state of **BZ-2** at  $T^*$  geometry calculated at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31G++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . The contribution of the HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO electronic transition to the  $S_0$ -to- $S_1$  transition is shown, with the number in parentheses denoting the CI (configurational interaction) expansion coefficient.



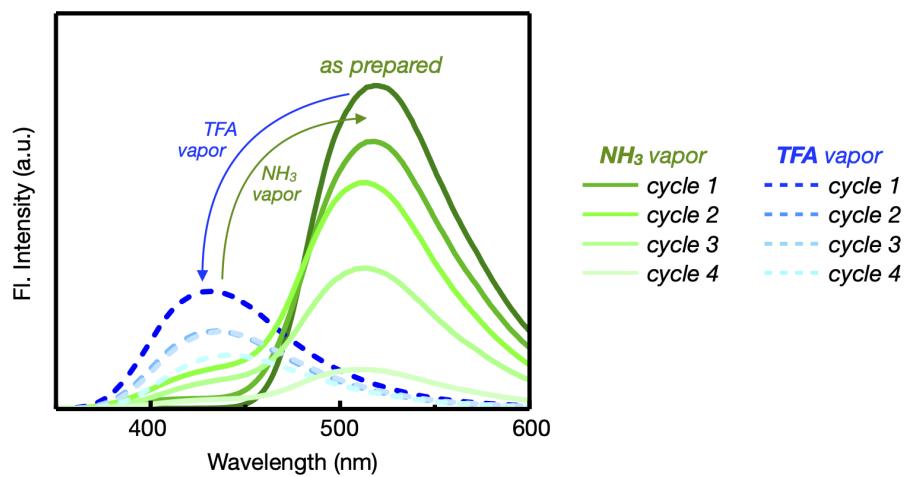
**Fig. S7.** X-ray structure of **BZ-3** as ORTEP diagrams with thermal ellipsoids at the 50% probability level: (a) face-on view; (b) edge-on view. Interatomic distances: N1···N2, 2.709(3) Å; N1'···N2', 2.809(2) Å. Dihedral angles: 10.54° (N1–C5–C6–C7); 20.93° (N1'–C5'–C6'–C7'). One of the ethyl groups is disordered over two positions, for which only one is shown for clarity.



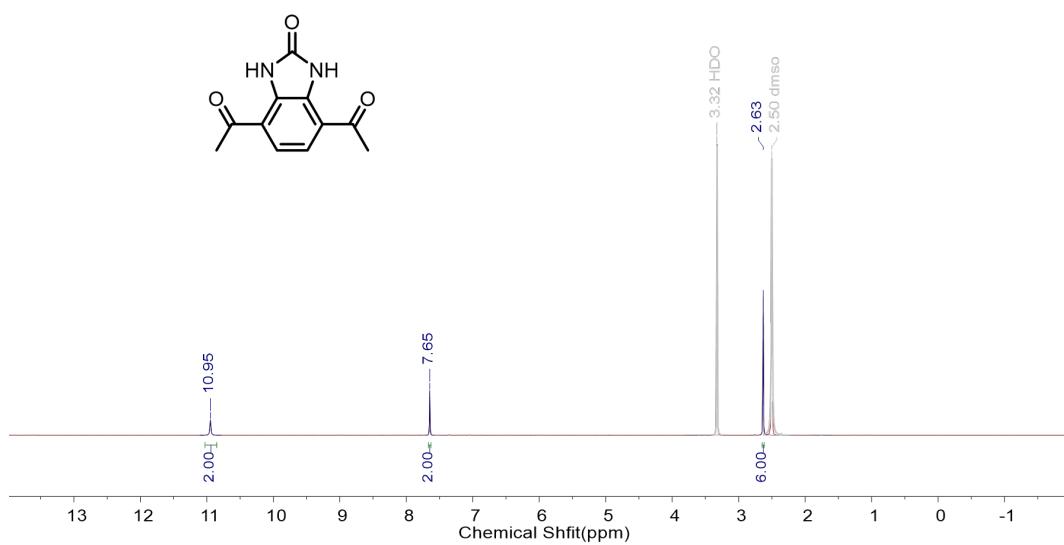
**Fig. S8.** (a) Chemical structure of the protonated DFT model **BZ-3'**. In scanning the dihedral angle, the C–C bond denoted with a blue arrow was rotated. (b) Potential energy curve (black line) and oscillator strength ( $f$ ; gray line) of **BZ-3'** at the  $S_1$  state, constructed at the TD-B3LYP-D3/6-31++G(d,p) level of theory with implicit solvation (CPCM) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , by a relaxed scan along the fixed C7–C6–C5–N1 dihedral angle (step = 20°). Blue and gray lined circles indicate stationary points with optimized geometries shown next. Blue and gray shades indicate bright ( $f > 0.06$ ) and dark ( $f < 0.06$ ) regions, respectively.



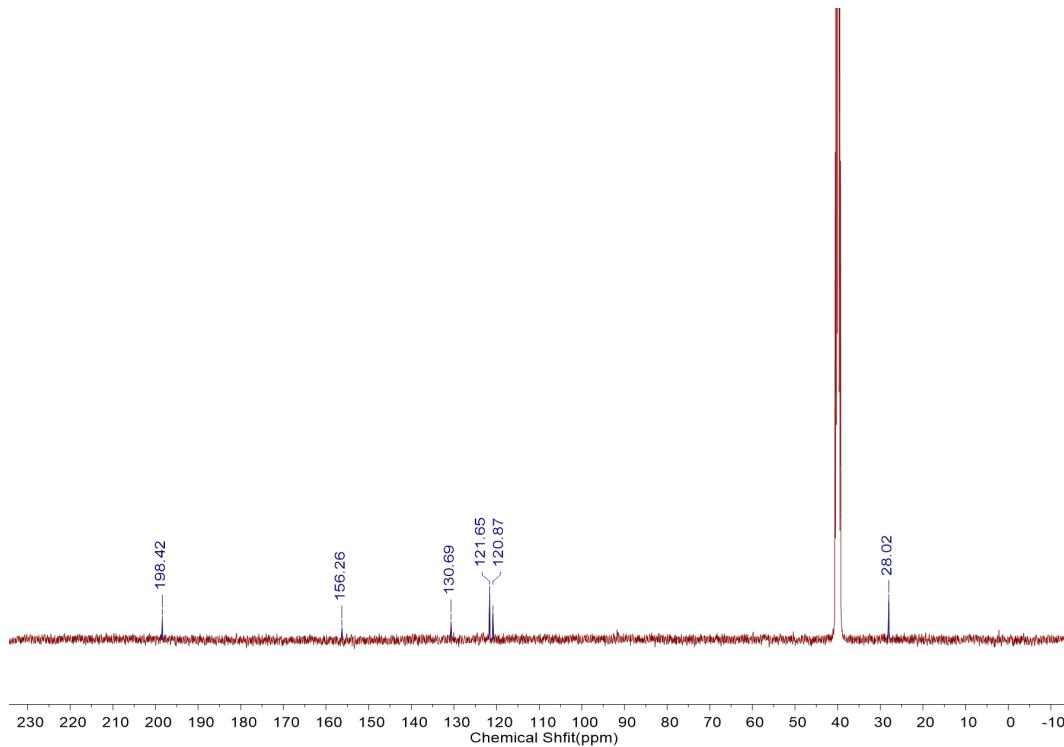
**Fig. S9.** Absorption and normalized emission spectra of **BZ-5** (solid lines) and **BZ-3** (dotted lines) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .  $T = 298 \text{ K}$ .



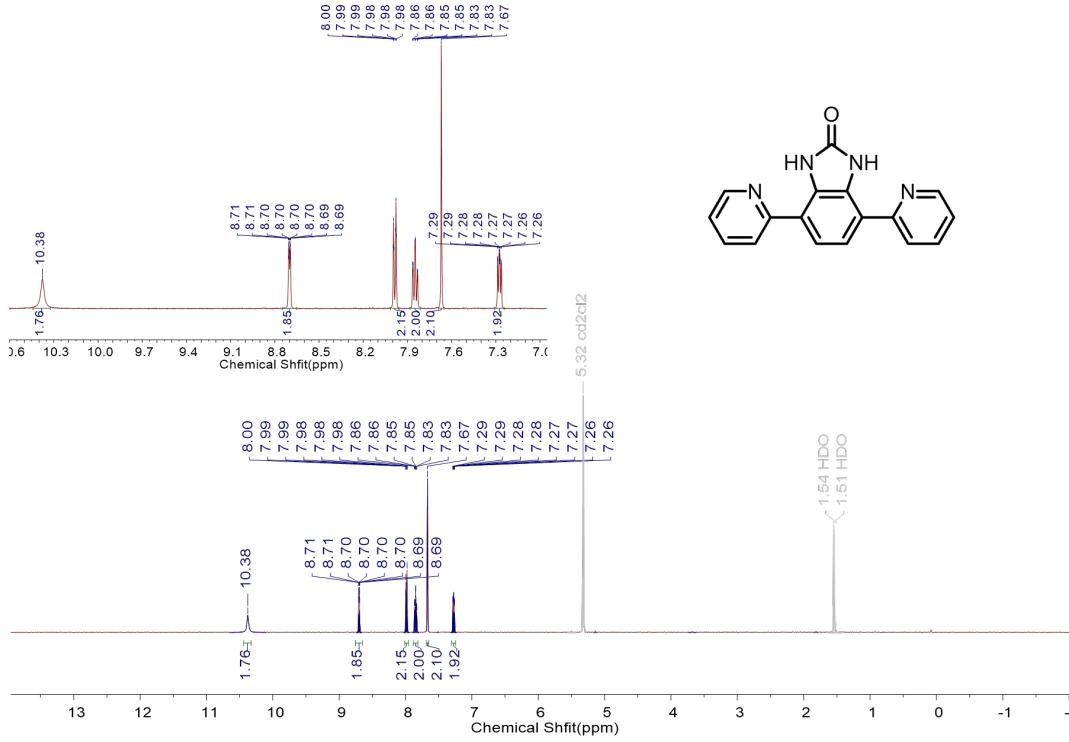
**Fig. S10.** Emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 310 \text{ nm}$ ) of the **BZ-5**-doped (10 wt%) PMMA film obtained during alternative cycles of exposure to saturated TFA (1 min) and  $\text{NH}_3$  (5 min) repeated under ambient conditions.



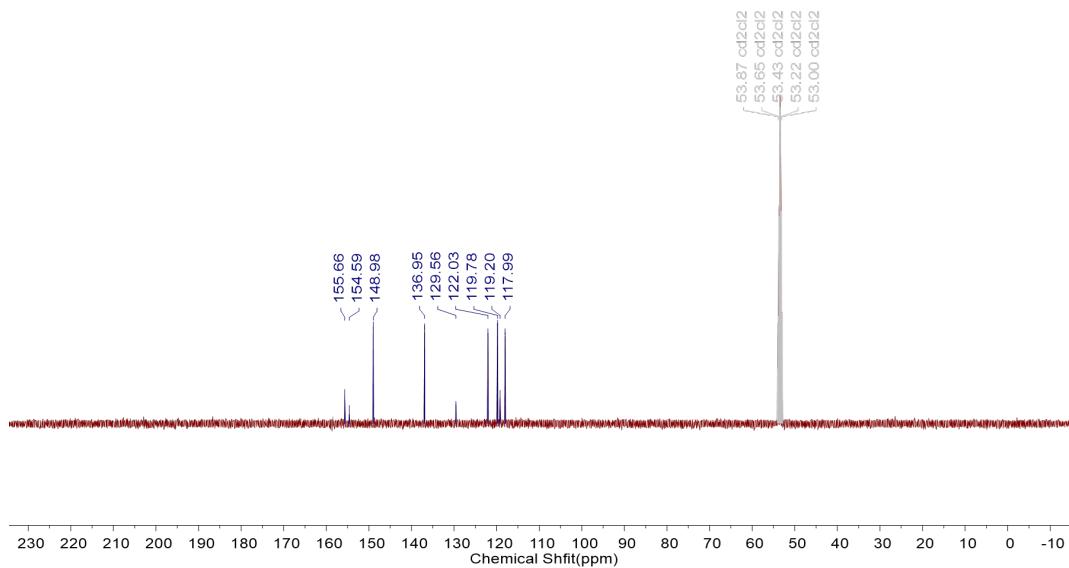
**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-1** in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



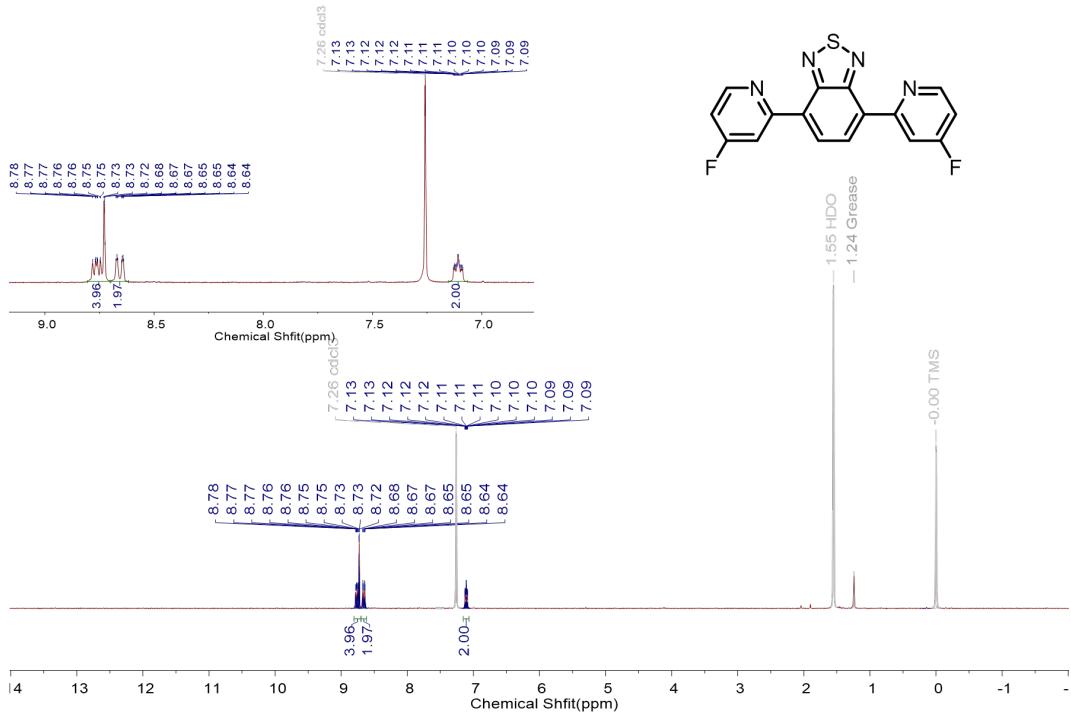
**Figure S12.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-1** in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



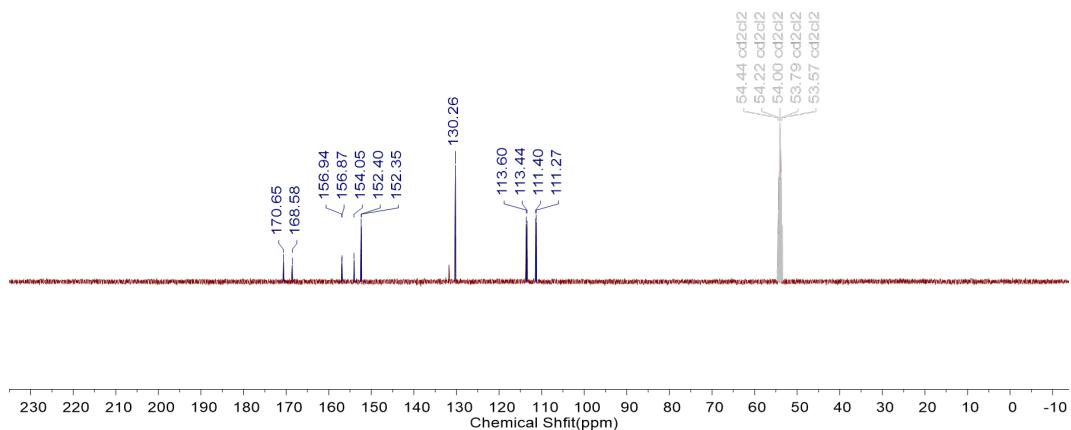
**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



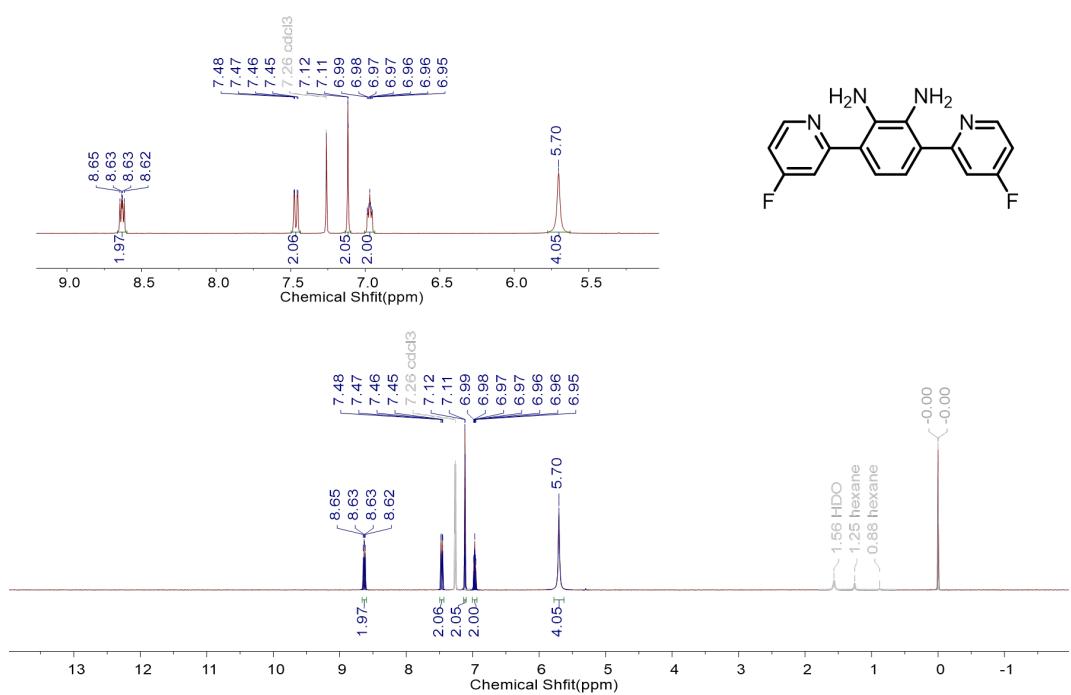
**Figure S14.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $T = 298$  K).



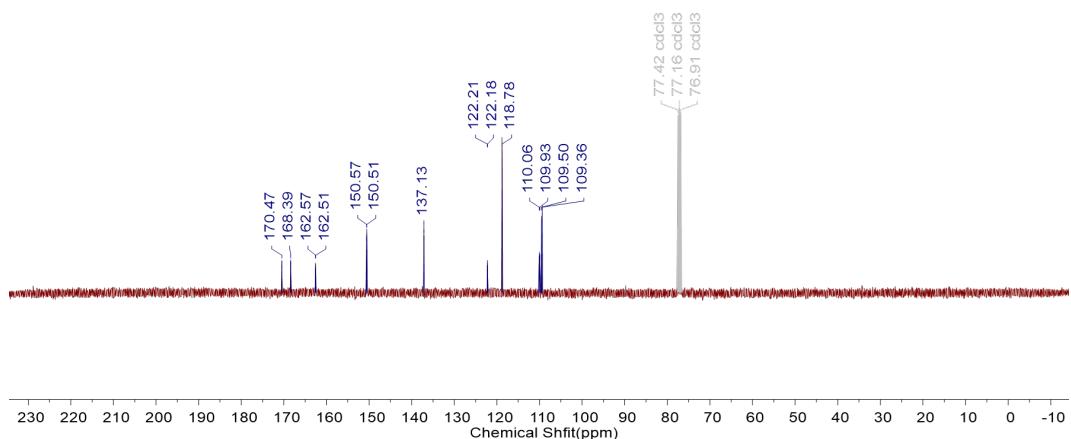
**Figure S15.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298$  K).



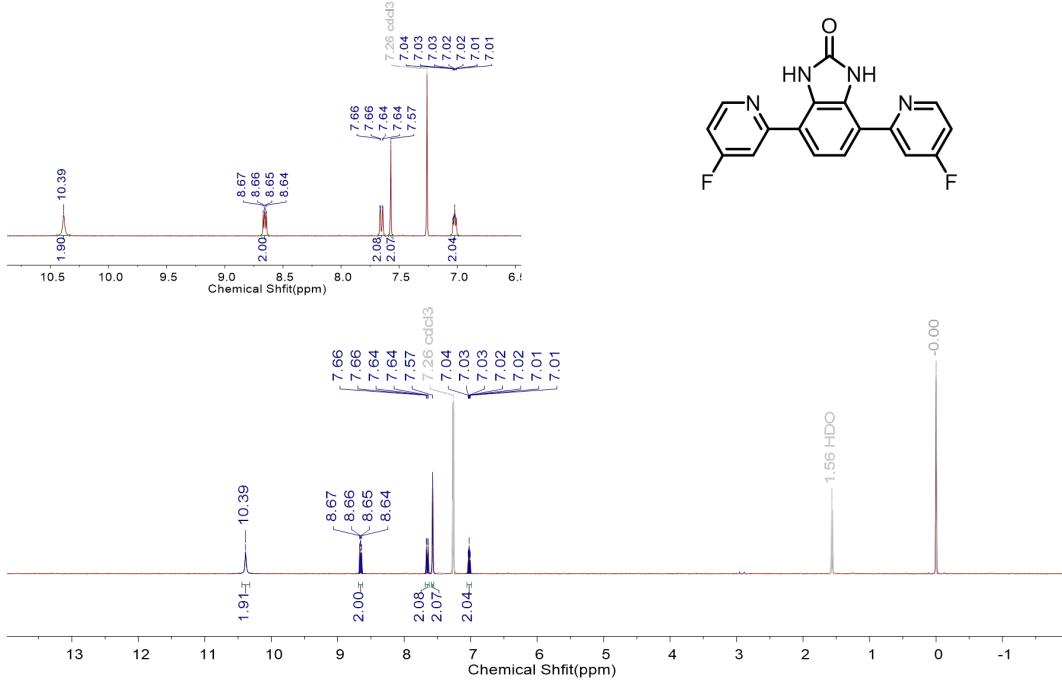
**Figure S16.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **2** in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $T = 298$  K).



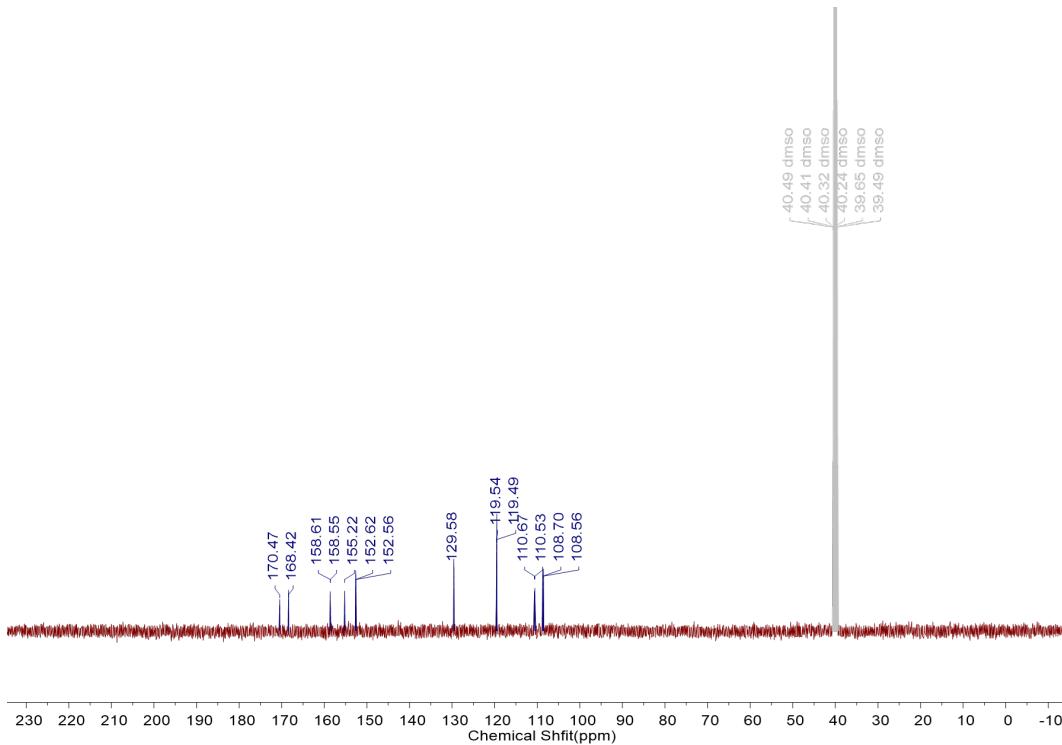
**Figure S17.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298$  K).



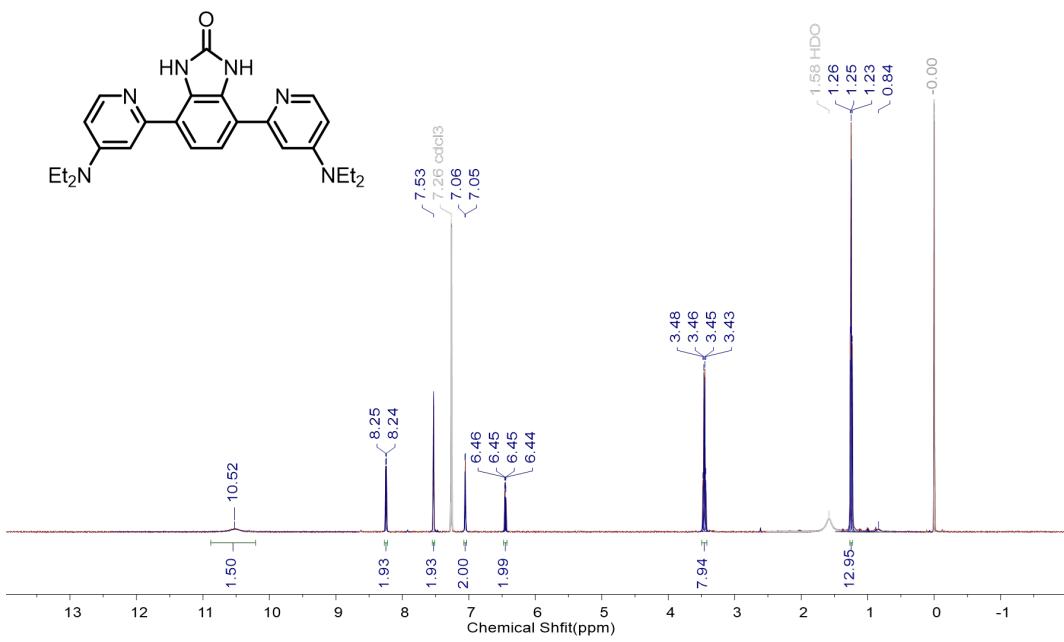
**Figure S18.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298$  K).



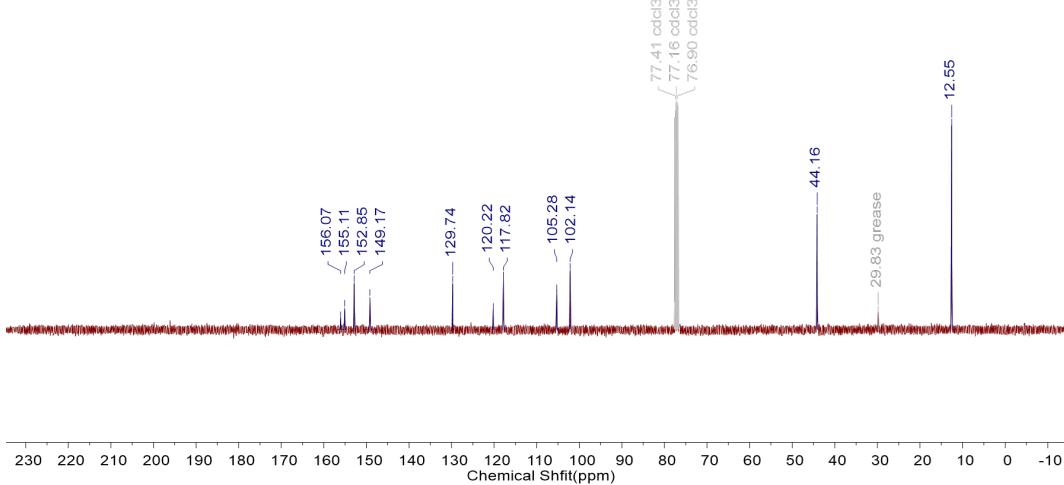
**Figure S19.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **4** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



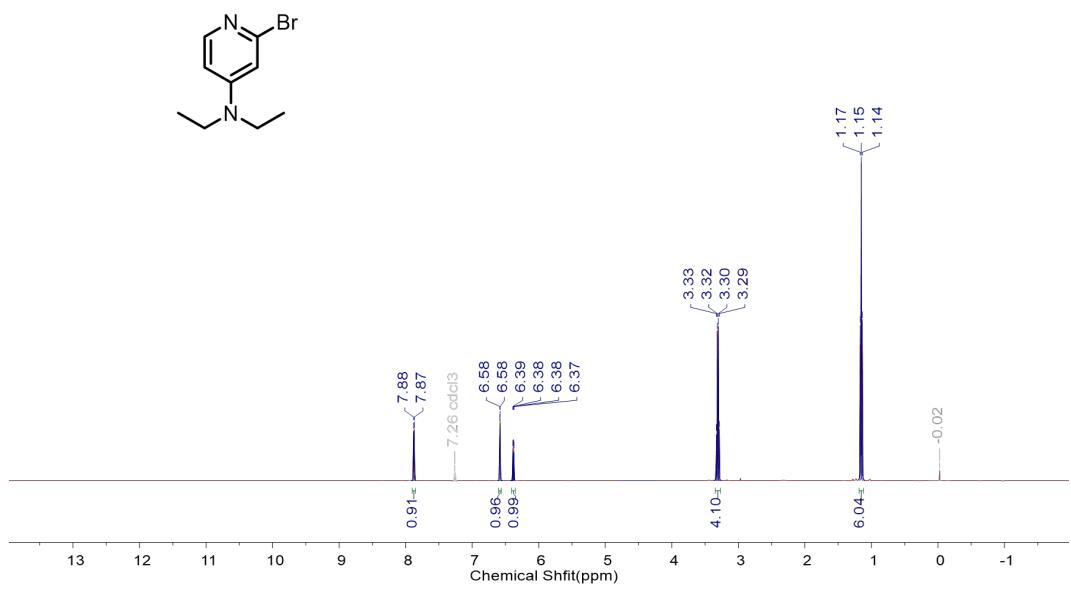
**Figure S20.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **4** in  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



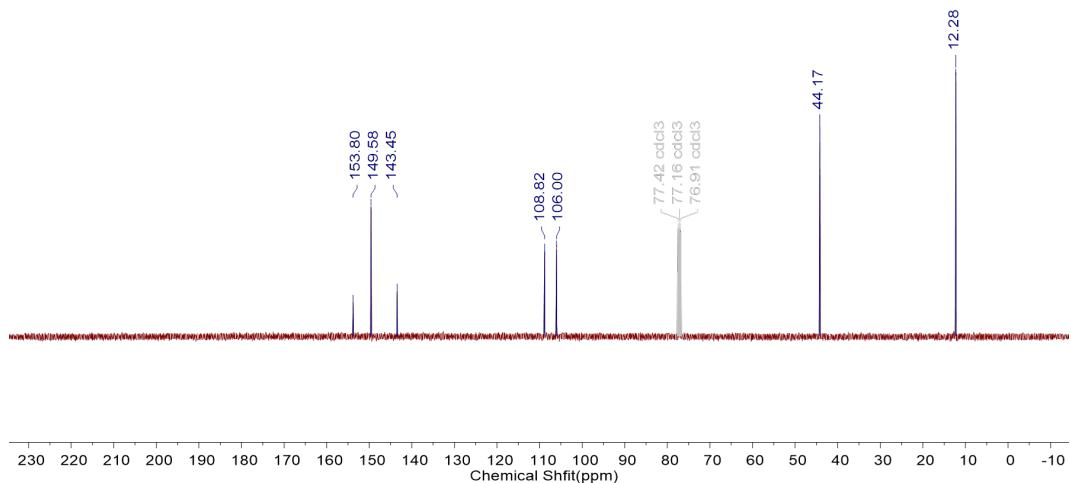
**Figure S21.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



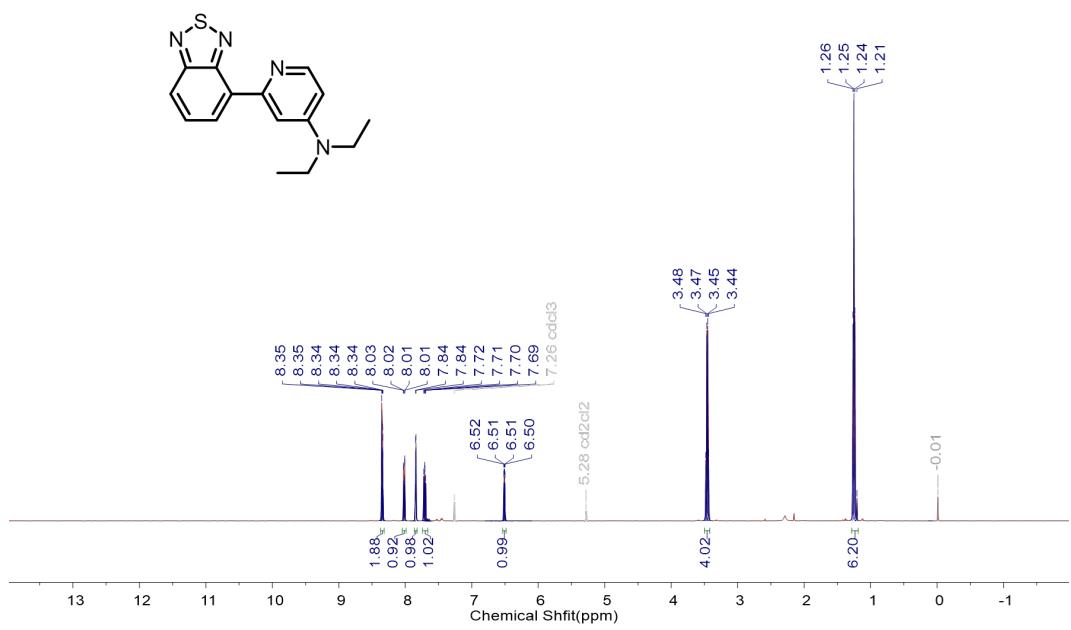
**Figure S22.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).



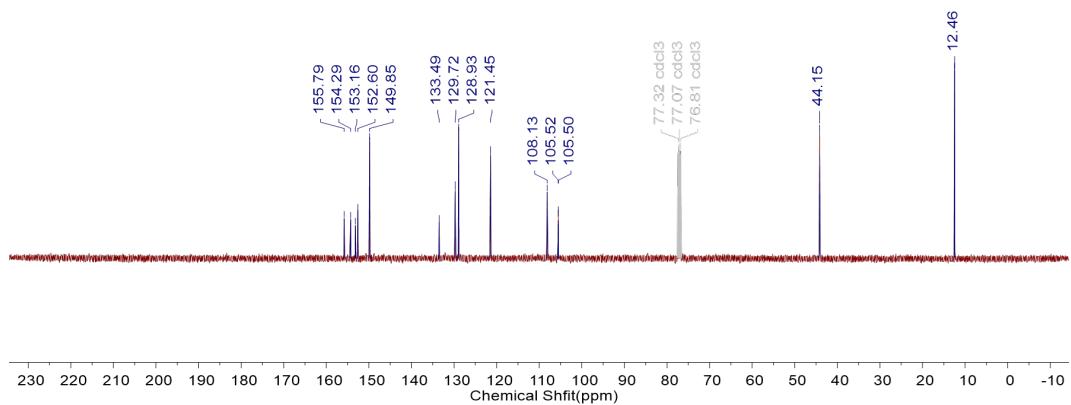
**Figure S23.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **6** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



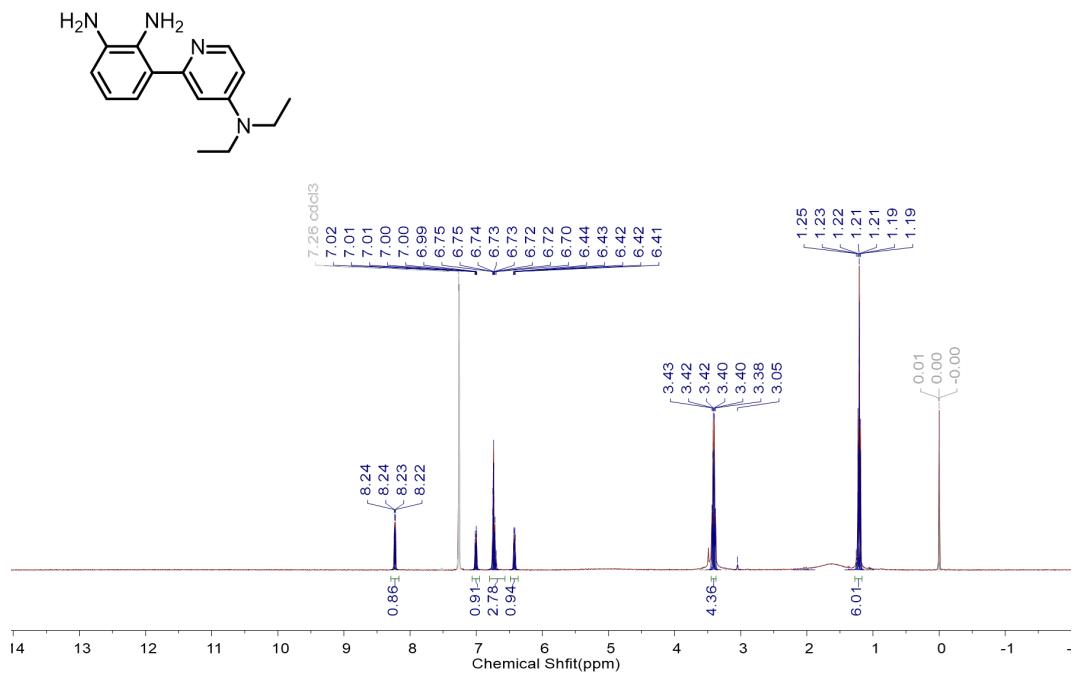
**Figure S24.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **6** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



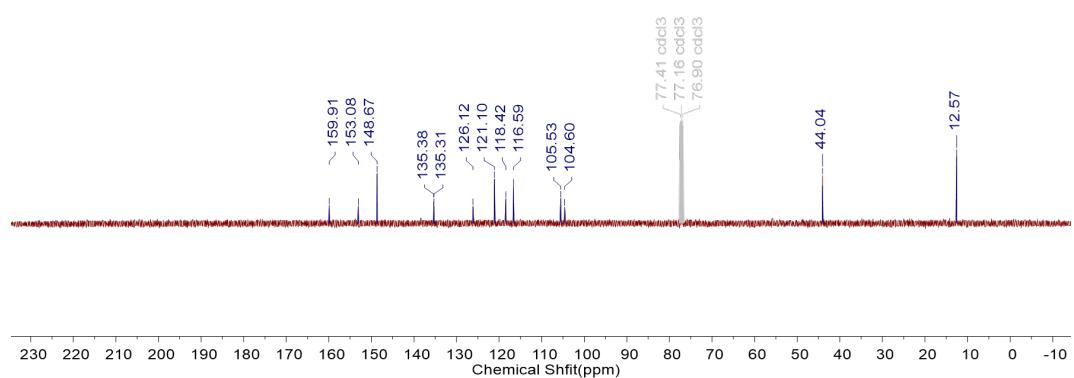
**Figure S25.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **7** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (*T* = 298 K).



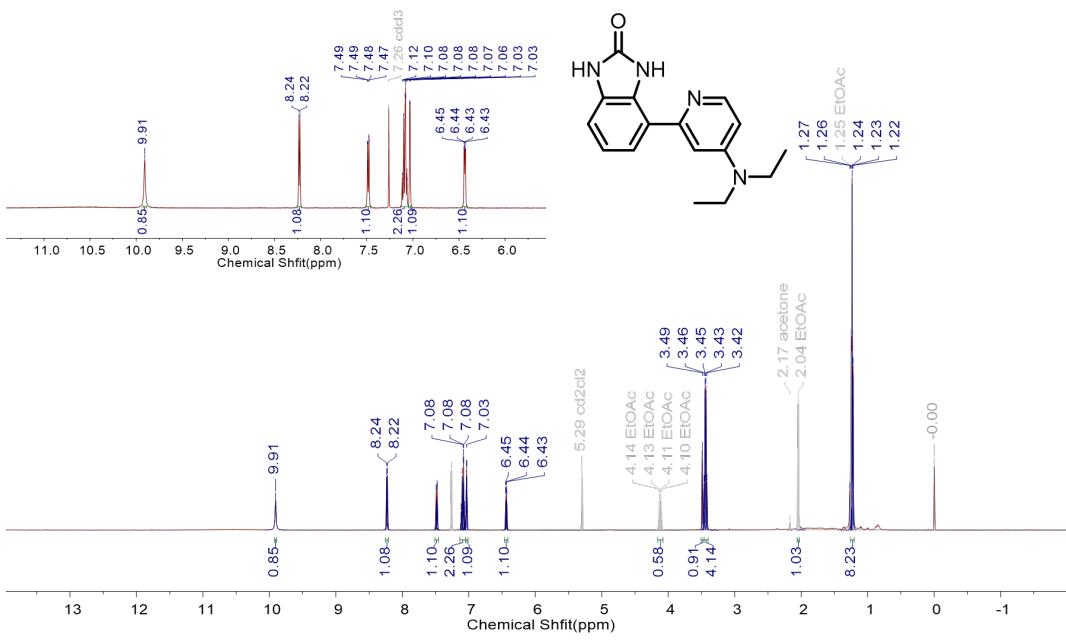
**Figure S26.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **7** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (*T* = 298 K).



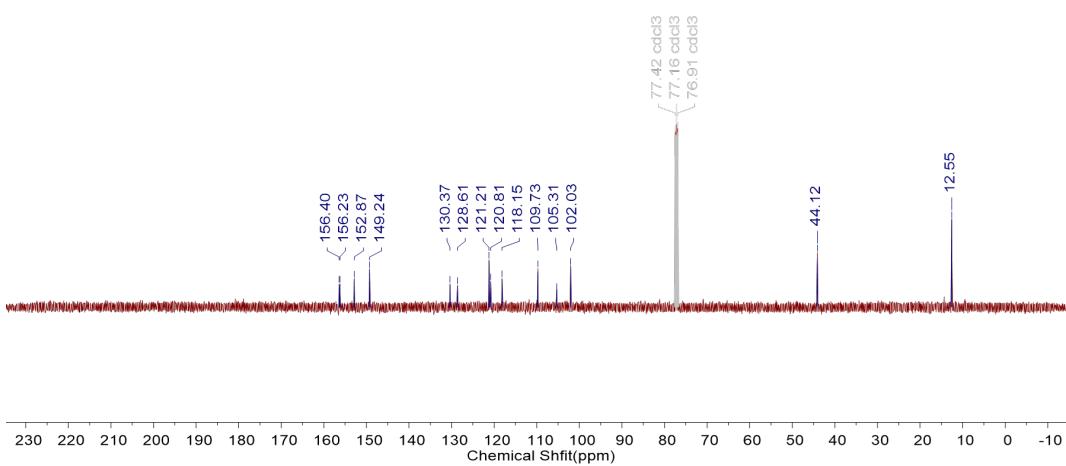
**Figure S27.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $400\text{ MHz}$ ) spectrum of **8** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).



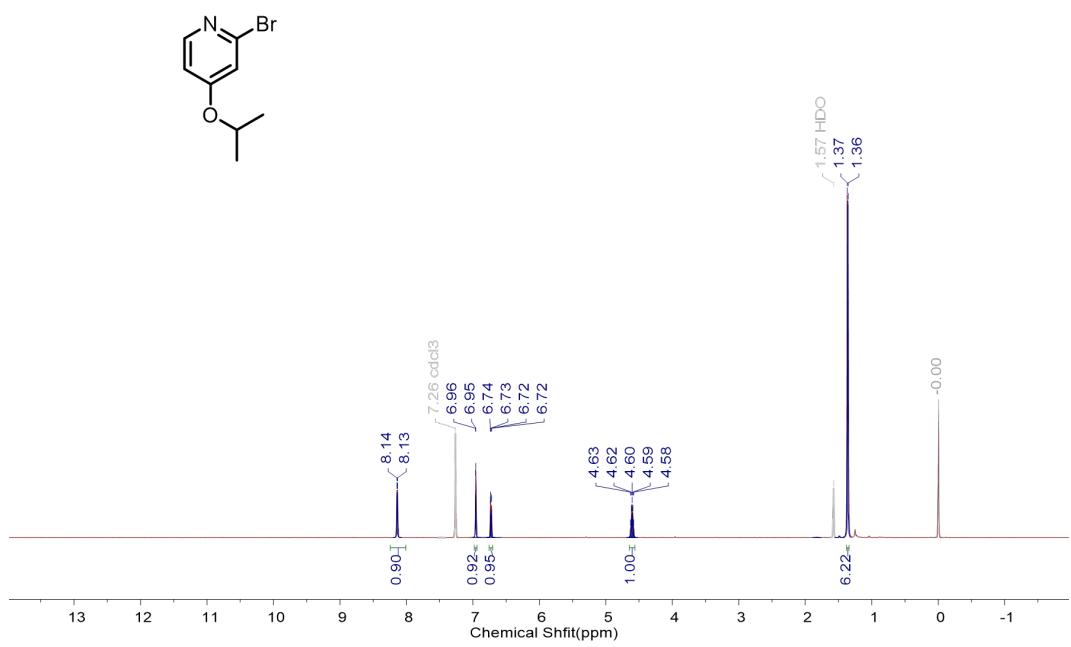
**Figure S28.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $125\text{ MHz}$ ) spectrum of **8** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).



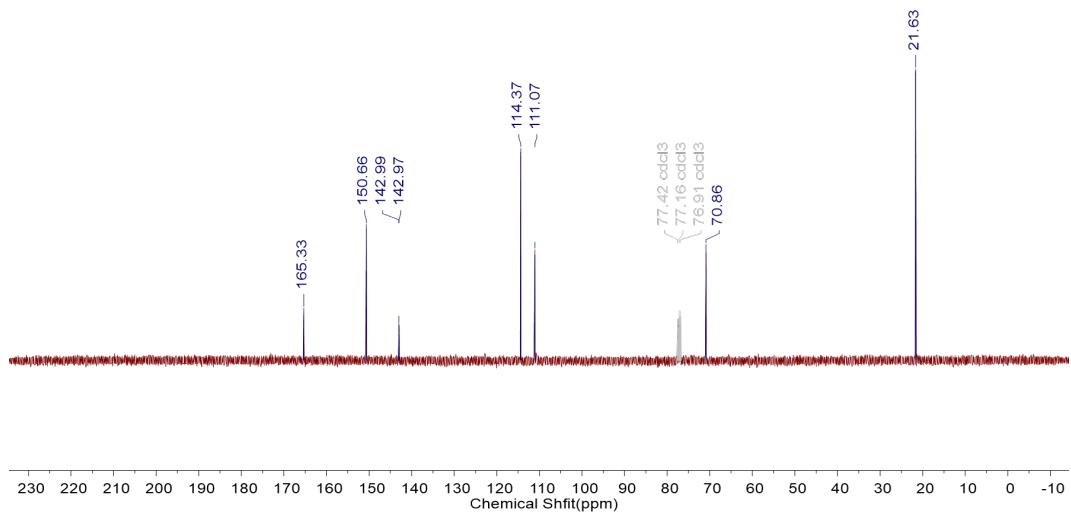
**Figure S29.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of BZ-4 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



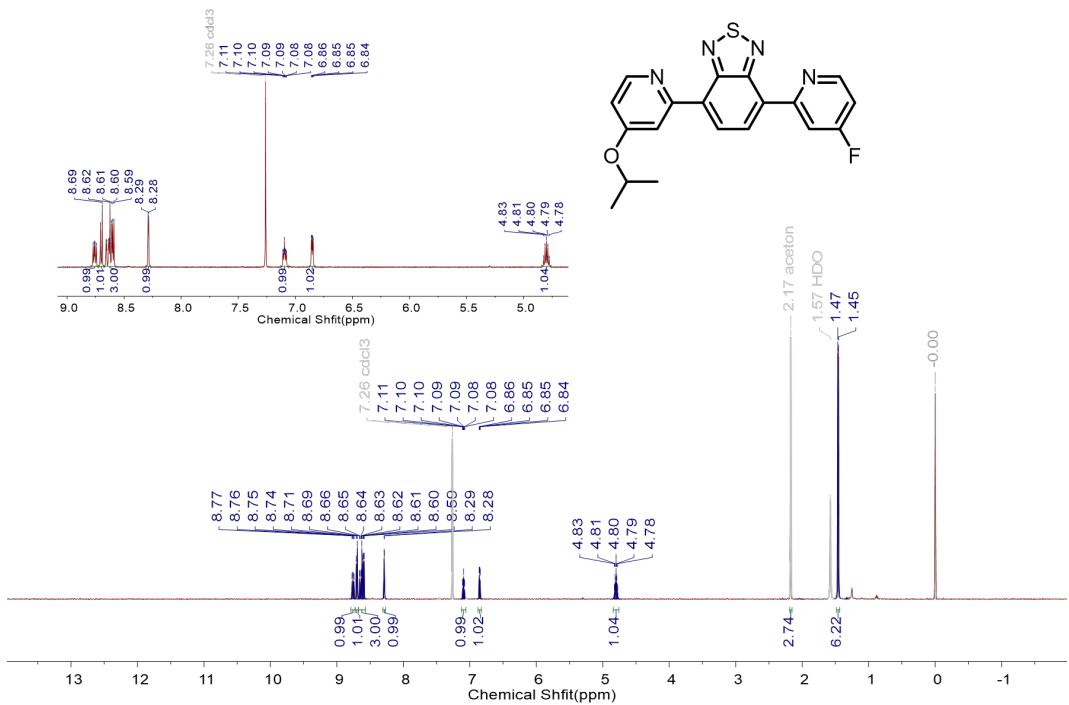
**Figure S30.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of BZ-4 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).



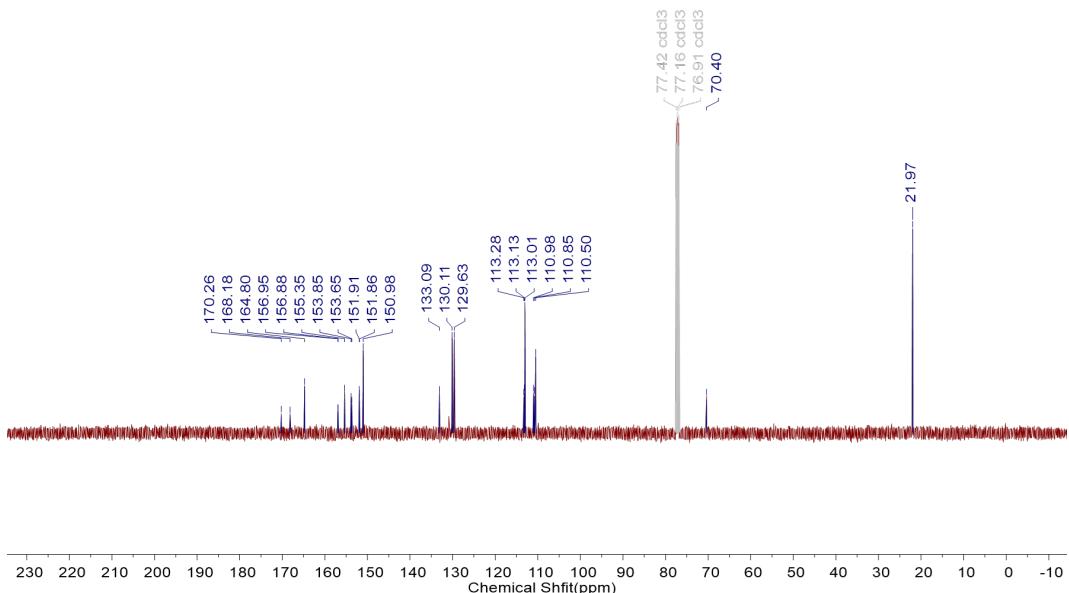
**Figure S31.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **9** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



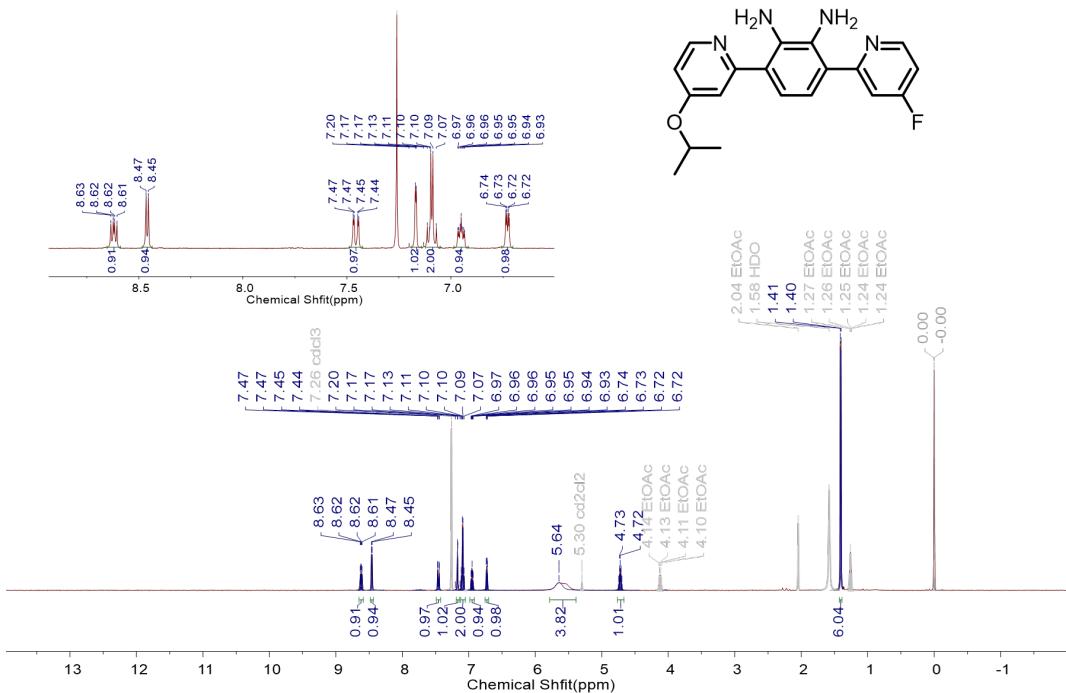
**Figure S32.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **9** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



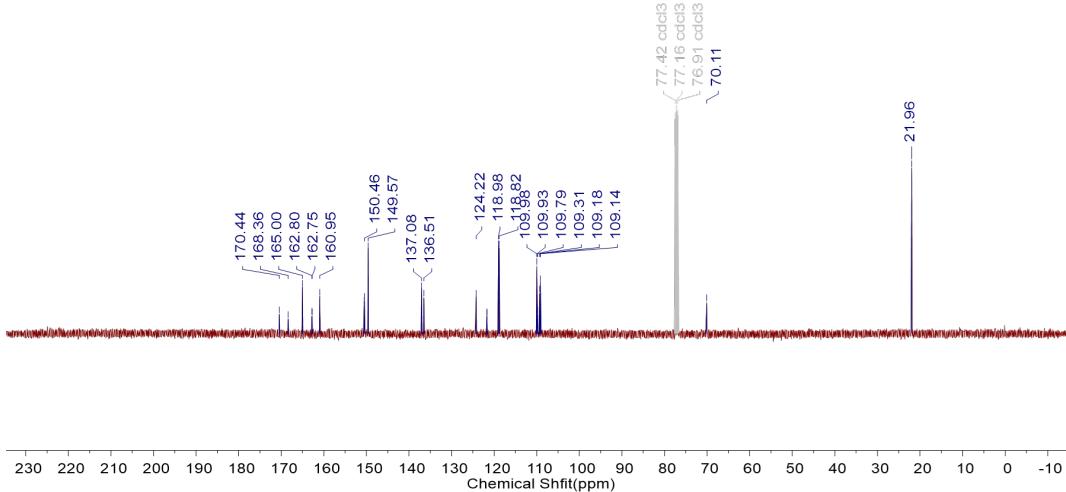
**Figure S33.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **10** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



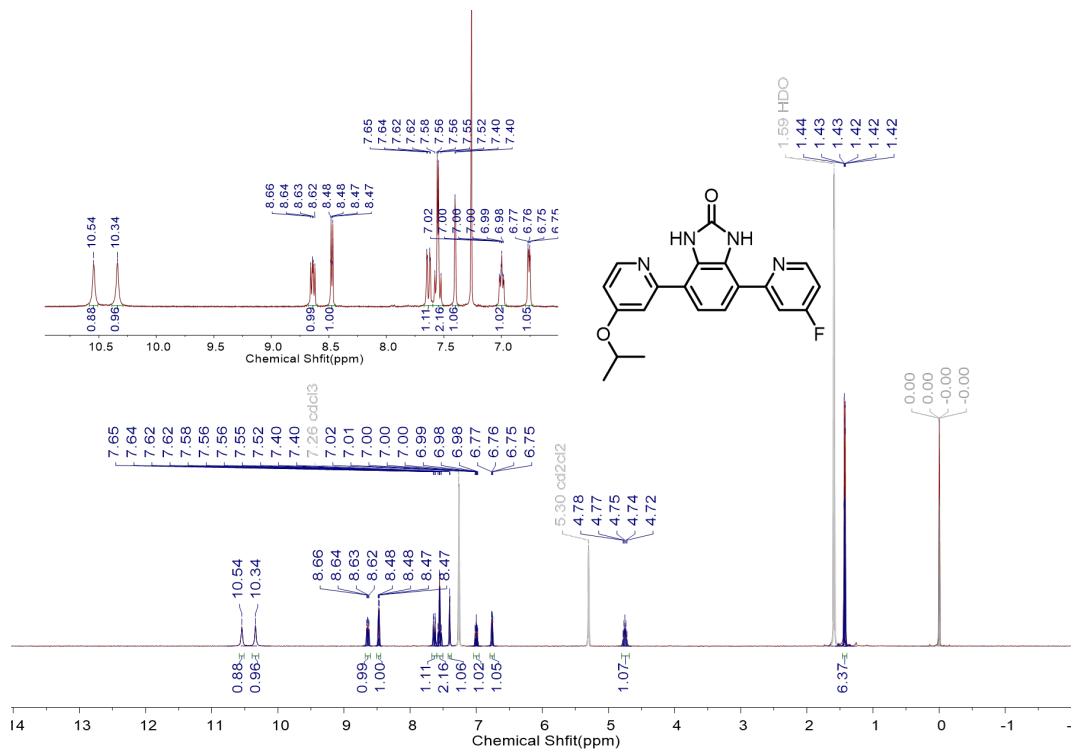
**Figure S34.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **10** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



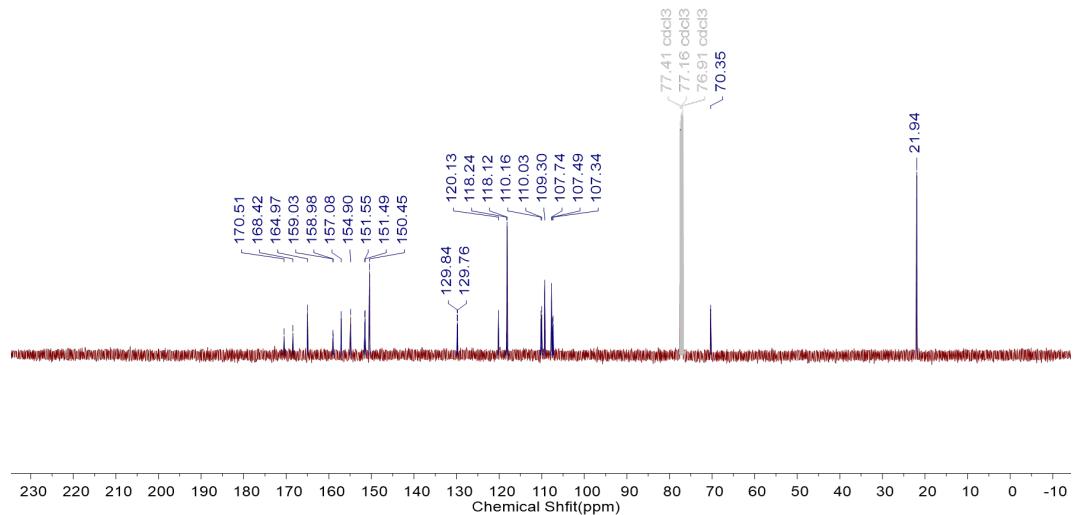
**Figure S35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **11** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



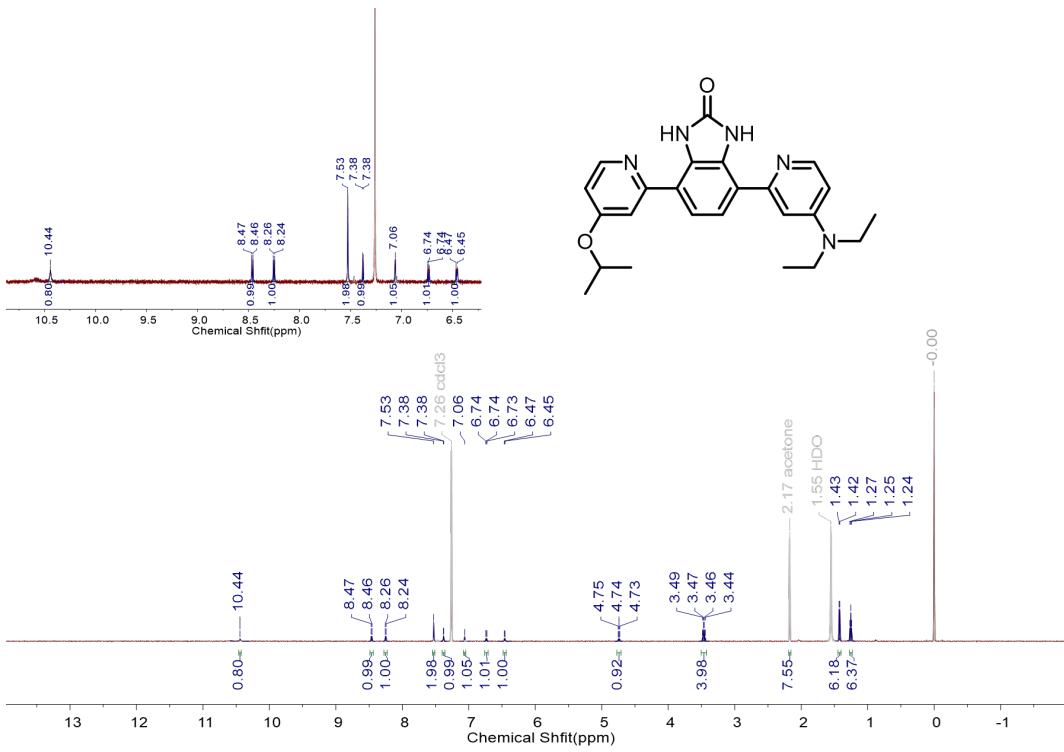
**Figure S36.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **11** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298$  K).



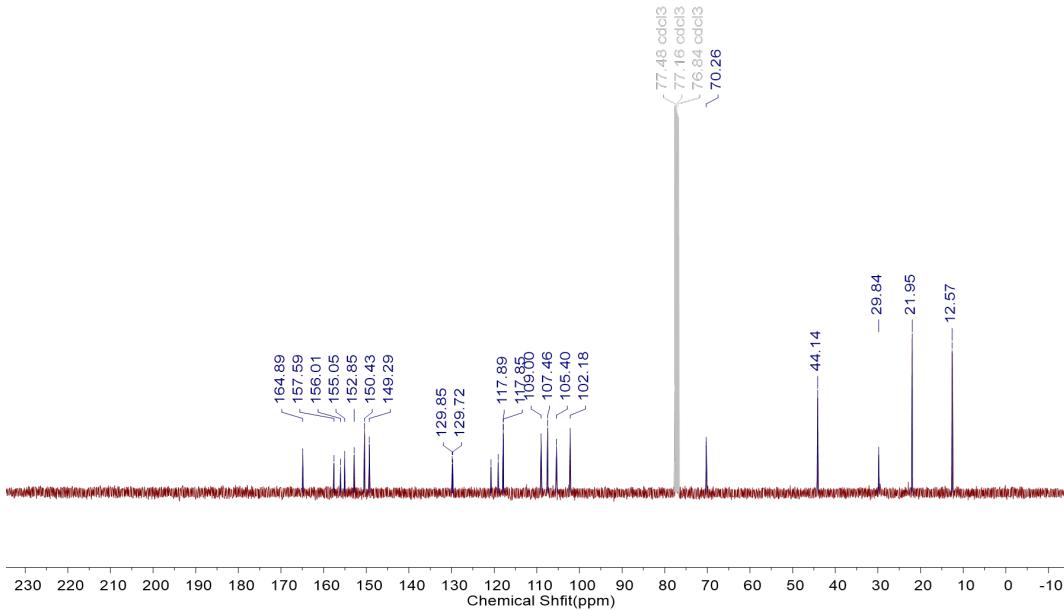
**Figure S37.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz) spectrum of **12** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



**Figure S38.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **12** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).



**Figure S39.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-5** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298 \text{ K}$ ).



**Figure S40.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (125 MHz) spectrum of **BZ-5** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $T = 298\text{ K}$ ).

**Table S4.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-1** at  $S_{1,N^*}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -760.404690967$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.000000	0.707656	0.420371	C	0.000000	-2.945909	-0.723641
C	0.000000	1.493011	-0.776077	O	0.000000	-3.533421	0.390642
C	0.000000	0.713092	-1.941239	C	0.000000	-3.736776	-2.013485
C	0.000000	-0.713092	-1.941239	H	0.000000	1.204084	-2.908090
C	0.000000	-1.493011	-0.776077	H	0.000000	-1.204084	-2.908090
C	0.000000	-0.707656	0.420371	H	0.000000	-2.083104	2.000945
N	0.000000	-1.105607	1.723852	H	0.000000	2.083104	2.000945
C	0.000000	0.000000	2.577855	H	0.883254	3.510618	-2.623077
N	0.000000	1.105607	1.723852	H	-0.883254	3.510618	-2.623077
O	0.000000	0.000000	3.801454	H	0.000000	4.801265	-1.773761
C	0.000000	2.945909	-0.723641	H	0.883254	-3.510618	-2.623077
C	0.000000	3.736776	-2.013485	H	0.000000	-4.801265	-1.773761
O	0.000000	3.533421	0.390642	H	-0.883254	-3.510618	-2.623077

**Table S5.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-1** at  $S_{1,T^*}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -760.398736993$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.723484	0.454511	-0.001244	C	-2.844333	-0.834961	-0.006918
C	1.537120	-0.721028	0.000278	O	-3.511343	0.322566	0.004862
C	0.821089	-1.920054	0.001456	C	-3.718320	-2.036375	0.000972
C	-0.600584	-1.970064	-0.000410	H	1.350036	-2.865769	0.003966
C	-1.414249	-0.817938	-0.005412	H	-1.058121	-2.952482	0.004606
C	-0.704753	0.414373	-0.003390	H	-2.868896	1.095695	0.007168
N	-1.232189	1.664961	-0.002578	H	1.983545	2.129765	0.001946
C	-0.171446	2.538215	0.000092	H	3.617661	-2.499858	0.884821
N	1.039147	1.763322	0.000151	H	3.617549	-2.500503	-0.882238
O	-0.173003	3.770551	0.002058	H	4.891139	-1.620224	0.000897
C	3.006157	-0.624831	0.000547	H	-4.258040	-2.104693	0.955845
C	3.834447	-1.889743	0.001056	H	-4.475351	-1.946463	-0.787409
O	3.547820	0.491656	-0.000140	H	-3.167689	-2.964267	-0.149019

**Table S6.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-2** at  $S_{1,N^*}$ . $E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -949.307139839$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.000085	-0.711779	0.507431	C	0.000003	-5.730707	-0.427888
C	-0.000041	0.710996	-1.839634	N	0.000307	-3.543491	0.597670
C	0.000110	-1.509028	-0.683993	C	-0.000270	-3.759230	-1.819546
C	-0.000085	0.711779	0.507431	C	-0.000339	-5.138716	-1.707330
C	-0.000110	1.509028	-0.683993	C	0.000273	-4.878334	0.677398
C	0.000041	-0.710996	-1.839634	H	-0.000046	1.186713	-2.813659
N	-0.000169	1.104075	1.811488	H	0.000046	-1.186713	-2.813659
C	0.000000	0.000000	2.664345	H	0.000040	2.098565	2.049889
N	0.000169	-1.104075	1.811488	H	-0.000040	-2.098565	2.049889
O	0.000000	0.000000	3.890184	H	0.000030	6.806940	-0.296479
C	0.000000	2.956817	-0.646388	H	0.000414	3.301554	-2.802284
C	-0.000003	5.730707	-0.427888	H	-0.000568	5.289875	1.685161
C	0.000270	3.759230	-1.819546	H	-0.000030	-6.806940	-0.296479
N	-0.000307	3.543491	0.597670	H	-0.000414	-3.301554	-2.802284
C	-0.000273	4.878334	0.677398	H	0.000568	-5.289875	1.685161
C	0.000339	5.138716	-1.707330	H	-0.000567	-5.755812	-2.600803
C	0.000000	-2.956817	-0.646388	H	0.000567	5.755812	-2.600803

**Table S7.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-2** at  $S_{1,T^*}$ . $E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -949.326868619$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	-0.754912	0.574002	0.034979	C	-5.732071	-0.506576	-0.051263
C	0.716970	-1.769469	0.091396	N	-3.579382	0.568638	0.040368
C	-1.489437	-0.629583	0.033837	C	-3.721162	-1.827708	-0.073883
C	0.695979	0.615195	0.063125	C	-5.111474	-1.756858	-0.097997
C	1.445272	-0.596356	0.096935	C	-4.917492	0.623780	0.015003
C	-0.705683	-1.787140	0.068867	H	1.241522	-2.718870	0.114200
N	1.148135	1.874196	0.048721	H	-1.184287	-2.758616	0.086814
C	0.012594	2.687351	0.019871	H	2.987448	-0.520153	-1.986782
N	-1.141680	1.870527	0.012971	H	-2.113550	2.160005	0.014044
O	-0.015822	3.915530	0.005021	H	6.797155	-0.592082	-0.255242
C	2.932558	-0.578706	0.100800	H	3.204373	-0.702922	2.186905
C	5.718670	-0.576995	-0.138765	H	5.340006	-0.473176	-2.270338
C	3.706087	-0.640476	1.227146	H	-6.811849	-0.406983	-0.068457
N	3.551739	-0.467484	-1.153497	H	-3.234930	-2.794505	-0.116857
C	4.944809	-0.510452	-1.264847	H	-5.353147	1.619252	0.049275
C	5.127845	-0.631043	1.153438	H	-5.701057	-2.666522	-0.154769
C	-2.973425	-0.638812	0.000257	H	5.732445	-0.691729	2.047699

**Table S8.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at  $S_{0,\min}$ .

$E(\text{B3LYP}) = -1217.41195480$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	-0.005574	0.706683	1.349012	C	0.604541	5.211535	-3.355391
C	0.000830	-0.696063	-1.020258	C	-0.604541	-5.211535	-3.355391
C	0.000000	1.461418	0.168817	C	-0.435766	-7.314203	-1.973040
C	0.005574	-0.706683	1.349012	H	0.009933	-1.197591	-1.980759
C	0.000000	-1.461418	0.168817	H	-0.009933	1.197591	-1.980759
C	-0.000830	0.696063	-1.020258	H	0.061123	-2.074118	2.945468
N	0.006784	-1.097430	2.679167	H	-0.061123	2.074118	2.945468
C	0.000000	0.000000	3.521890	H	-0.024632	-6.770104	0.479607
N	-0.006784	1.097430	2.679167	H	-0.355683	-3.178570	-1.916727
O	0.000000	0.000000	4.757003	H	0.267721	-5.318860	2.424459
C	-0.015139	-2.945714	0.190362	H	0.024632	6.770104	0.479607
C	-0.028541	-5.697426	0.339150	H	0.355683	3.178570	-1.916727
C	-0.201957	-3.690595	-0.978876	H	-0.267721	5.318860	2.424459
N	0.150206	-3.530607	1.403678	H	-0.488579	7.725577	-1.550217
C	0.136946	-4.871844	1.441068	H	1.278313	7.644225	-1.351356
C	-0.205729	-5.106306	-0.939429	H	0.564434	7.732366	-2.970620
C	0.015139	2.945714	0.190362	H	-0.228161	4.549895	-3.622619
C	0.028541	5.697426	0.339150	H	0.689212	5.973926	-4.128845
N	-0.150206	3.530607	1.403678	H	1.530018	4.620515	-3.353175
C	0.201957	3.690595	-0.978876	H	-0.689212	-5.973926	-4.128845
C	0.205729	5.106306	-0.939429	H	0.228161	-4.549895	-3.622619
C	-0.136946	4.871844	1.441068	H	-1.530018	-4.620515	-3.353175
N	-0.373878	-5.859016	-2.068185	H	-1.278313	-7.644225	-1.351356
N	0.373878	5.859016	-2.068185	H	0.488579	-7.725577	-1.550217
C	0.435766	7.314203	-1.973040	H	-0.564434	-7.732366	-2.970620

**Table S9.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at  $S_{1,N^*}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -1217.28973664$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.000340	0.711234	1.327626	C	-0.161673	5.328796	-3.363439
C	-0.000783	-0.710998	-1.018985	C	0.161673	-5.328796	-3.363439
C	0.000000	1.512362	0.136839	C	0.209509	-7.381900	-1.931151
C	-0.000340	-0.711234	1.327626	H	-0.003396	-1.185786	-1.993755
C	0.000000	-1.512362	0.136839	H	0.003396	1.185786	-1.993755
C	0.000783	0.710998	-1.018985	H	-0.003339	-2.100653	2.864114
N	-0.000928	-1.103472	2.632974	H	0.003339	2.100653	2.864114
C	0.000000	0.000000	3.485148	H	0.019952	-6.793283	0.544619
N	0.000928	1.103472	2.632974	H	0.039275	-3.258367	-1.962404
O	0.000000	0.000000	4.712897	H	-0.002807	-5.301663	2.481762
C	0.001007	-2.960996	0.176692	H	-0.019952	6.793283	0.544619
C	0.008819	-5.724313	0.382352	H	-0.039275	3.258367	-1.962404
C	0.017532	-3.748503	-1.000194	H	0.002807	5.301663	2.481762
N	-0.008971	-3.535959	1.425381	H	-1.199247	7.618758	-1.514623
C	-0.001962	-4.871816	1.481261	H	0.552440	7.842981	-1.294641
C	0.007819	-5.153231	-0.925133	H	-0.133684	7.837192	-2.918664
C	-0.001007	2.960996	0.176692	H	-1.137986	4.831773	-3.465876
C	-0.008819	5.724313	0.382352	H	-0.083017	6.097423	-4.132262
N	0.008971	3.535959	1.425381	H	0.622376	4.587437	-3.551949
C	-0.017532	3.748503	-1.000194	H	0.083017	-6.097423	-4.132262
C	-0.007819	5.153231	-0.925133	H	1.137986	-4.831773	-3.465876
C	0.001962	4.871816	1.481261	H	-0.622376	-4.587437	-3.551949
N	-0.008649	-5.943564	-2.052434	H	-0.552440	-7.842981	-1.294641
N	0.008649	5.943564	-2.052434	H	1.199247	-7.618758	-1.514623
C	-0.209509	7.381900	-1.931151	H	0.133684	-7.837192	-2.918664

**Table S10.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at S<sub>1,TS1</sub>.

$E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -1217.28423438$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	-0.698048	1.212525	0.003272	C	-5.469073	-3.324471	-0.054523
C	0.774956	-1.072861	-0.028011	C	5.455995	-3.283644	0.085085
C	-1.465037	-0.003451	0.003267	C	7.470355	-1.792710	0.107265
C	0.713427	1.280895	-0.010732	H	1.291771	-2.026157	-0.042917
C	1.538587	0.114580	-0.025583	H	-1.090314	-2.130085	-0.016733
C	-0.646808	-1.140007	-0.013692	H	1.971122	2.949010	-0.014859
N	1.009747	2.617987	-0.004885	H	-2.399694	2.322637	0.029497
C	-0.165178	3.380208	0.012085	H	6.807855	0.665615	-0.049293
N	-1.217266	2.462169	0.017118	H	3.346323	-1.939800	-0.012963
O	-0.239551	4.609925	0.020781	H	5.260817	2.557940	-0.050246
C	2.990961	0.188801	-0.037084	H	-6.722657	0.658809	0.049988
C	5.743803	0.472484	-0.051909	H	-3.314717	-2.038515	-0.003078
C	3.808335	-0.963776	-0.033304	H	-5.130415	2.523464	0.051778
N	3.525024	1.450799	-0.045973	H	-7.833751	-1.152225	0.749672
C	4.860021	1.545405	-0.050343	H	-7.717308	-1.302783	-1.020092
C	5.211882	-0.849698	-0.053648	H	-7.946952	-2.741724	-0.008968
C	-2.905510	0.073170	0.019551	H	-4.767801	-3.537714	0.760609
C	-5.663451	0.444486	0.046401	H	-6.285445	-4.043126	0.009765
N	-3.434844	1.356043	0.034970	H	-4.945560	-3.478042	-1.008977
C	-3.759499	-1.053730	0.016844	H	6.247057	-4.028934	0.003399
C	-5.157029	-0.898220	0.039717	H	4.719853	-3.491361	-0.699215
C	-4.765868	1.499223	0.045432	H	4.963297	-3.404496	1.061255
N	6.031804	-1.954259	-0.079531	H	7.898113	-1.149369	-0.668601
N	-6.007220	-1.974200	0.059118	H	7.950799	-2.768005	0.029696
C	-7.448223	-1.774581	-0.065163	H	7.715710	-1.362081	1.088750

**Table S11.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at  $S_{1,T^*}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF/TD-DFT}) = -1217.30540166$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.702079	1.398831	-0.008587	C	5.253822	-3.388955	0.008539
C	-0.730065	-0.976202	-0.118758	C	-5.281793	-3.374862	0.110251
C	1.473512	0.182408	-0.053430	C	-7.366545	-1.970450	0.125721
C	-0.727094	1.374251	-0.017209	H	-1.208404	-1.947432	-0.173325
C	-1.512619	0.180696	-0.063827	H	1.169403	-1.947325	-0.168799
C	0.691037	-0.976027	-0.115431	H	-2.083319	2.956892	0.025195
N	-1.106108	2.679855	0.034017	H	3.011007	2.238455	0.001734
C	0.042872	3.493404	0.069122	H	-6.809750	0.510927	-0.023275
N	1.158838	2.678615	0.044782	H	-3.237063	-1.936283	0.004287
O	0.012653	4.733809	0.115022	H	-5.346126	2.468243	-0.059407
C	-2.980253	0.201340	-0.055102	H	6.809830	0.491541	0.014945
C	-5.738140	0.364546	-0.036423	H	3.215990	-1.952150	-0.038736
C	-3.741104	-0.981729	-0.026419	H	5.355618	2.474018	0.028116
N	-3.564296	1.433274	-0.067561	H	7.821807	-1.356473	-0.575434
C	-4.903899	1.473593	-0.055477	H	7.561817	-1.613367	1.167919
C	-5.151715	-0.931795	-0.028868	H	7.765360	-2.994017	0.071927
C	2.922267	0.166784	-0.041021	H	4.529603	-3.520472	-0.802925
C	5.738154	0.361686	-0.007977	H	6.010224	-4.166965	-0.089600
N	3.591036	1.393556	-0.020190	H	4.730354	-3.528964	0.966029
C	3.718575	-0.997142	-0.041865	H	-6.044477	-4.151466	0.059872
C	5.120296	-0.948173	-0.041099	H	-4.746952	-3.476053	1.065406
C	4.942621	1.472326	0.001676	H	-4.569672	-3.551518	-0.703817
N	-5.918106	-2.069528	-0.024450	H	-7.808708	-1.382847	-0.686343
N	5.894292	-2.082124	-0.078053	H	-7.650646	-1.509310	1.081877
C	7.333208	-1.998058	0.164296	H	-7.798014	-2.970263	0.085681

**Table S12.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at  $S_{1,\text{TS}2}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF}/\text{TD-DFT}) = -1217.29106113$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.700541	-1.306979	-0.008886	C	5.460632	3.276792	0.028376
C	-0.663197	1.146557	-0.027033	C	-5.499134	3.303218	-0.012463
C	1.501172	-0.113174	-0.024272	C	-7.472982	1.732194	0.014055
C	-0.720246	-1.216885	-0.002440	H	-1.112918	2.133996	-0.035791
C	-1.463683	0.003934	-0.010172	H	1.279161	2.031221	-0.050499
C	0.757722	1.080428	-0.034524	H	-2.480459	-2.251280	0.016963
N	-1.235448	-2.462992	0.012104	H	2.923543	-2.225604	-0.023130
C	-0.125922	-3.341824	0.014213	H	-6.723595	-0.689896	0.029651
N	1.065397	-2.616844	0.001381	H	-3.335131	2.033092	-0.015769
O	-0.223025	-4.584174	0.026155	H	-5.111026	-2.541777	0.035605
C	-2.917816	-0.065744	-0.000531	H	6.811366	-0.678777	-0.019677
C	-5.665992	-0.467120	0.020808	H	3.347088	1.948053	-0.016660
C	-3.771993	1.044886	-0.004660	H	5.256410	-2.583718	-0.017242
N	-3.432934	-1.342586	0.014094	H	7.700349	1.355496	1.118347
C	-4.764744	-1.512387	0.024235	H	7.906258	1.129106	-0.636398
C	-5.174818	0.877294	0.005962	H	7.948483	2.751114	0.051646
C	2.948782	-0.151271	-0.030522	H	4.946283	3.432627	0.988144
C	5.747574	-0.493266	-0.029639	H	6.257492	4.014329	-0.060880
N	3.549996	-1.410748	-0.031627	H	4.743629	3.457138	-0.780348
C	3.801218	0.969006	-0.029119	H	-6.328274	4.009291	-0.013348
C	5.199596	0.846672	-0.041966	H	-4.892511	3.486765	-0.908122
C	4.896120	-1.561528	-0.026045	H	-4.881300	3.502057	0.872220
N	-6.027284	1.942593	0.002473	H	-7.804206	1.172940	-0.869326
N	6.030508	1.938758	-0.073932	H	-7.973209	2.699623	0.009023
C	7.468398	1.776192	0.130210	H	-7.792236	1.188356	0.911359

**Table S13.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of **BZ-3'** at  $S_{1,TT^*}$ .

$E(\text{TD-HF}/\text{TD-DFT}) = -1217.30174925$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	0.000000	0.719900	1.368709	C	0.000000	5.341930	-3.349439
C	0.000000	-0.706907	-1.022566	C	0.000000	-5.341930	-3.349439
C	0.000000	1.480567	0.148297	C	0.000000	-7.401416	-1.893686
C	0.000000	-0.719900	1.368709	H	0.000000	-1.191636	-1.992602
C	0.000000	-1.480567	0.148297	H	0.000000	1.191636	-1.992602
C	0.000000	0.706907	-1.022566	H	0.000000	-2.936364	2.207812
N	0.000000	-1.164165	2.645048	H	0.000000	2.936364	2.207812
C	0.000000	0.000000	3.429499	H	0.000000	-6.799386	0.567160
N	0.000000	1.164165	2.645048	H	0.000000	-3.265483	-1.965876
O	0.000000	0.000000	4.681929	H	0.000000	-5.289887	2.512725
C	0.000000	-2.929034	0.143526	H	0.000000	6.799386	0.567160
C	0.000000	-5.730986	0.409396	H	0.000000	3.265483	-1.965876
C	0.000000	-3.745238	-0.999312	H	0.000000	5.289887	2.512725
N	0.000000	-3.558159	1.378965	H	-0.890778	7.758630	-1.363387
C	0.000000	-4.905403	1.499531	H	0.890778	7.758630	-1.363387
C	0.000000	-5.150832	-0.911330	H	0.000000	7.843596	-2.888890
C	0.000000	2.929034	0.143526	H	-0.890276	4.719333	-3.504614
C	0.000000	5.730986	0.409396	H	0.000000	6.129448	-4.101451
N	0.000000	3.558159	1.378965	H	0.890276	4.719333	-3.504614
C	0.000000	3.745238	-0.999312	H	0.000000	-6.129448	-4.101451
C	0.000000	5.150832	-0.911330	H	0.890276	-4.719333	-3.504614
C	0.000000	4.905403	1.499531	H	-0.890276	-4.719333	-3.504614
N	0.000000	-5.945258	-2.020848	H	-0.890778	-7.758630	-1.363387
N	0.000000	5.945258	-2.020848	H	0.890778	-7.758630	-1.363387
C	0.000000	7.401416	-1.893686	H	0.000000	-7.843596	-2.888890

**Table S14.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of the local minimum ( $\tau = 31.5^\circ$ ) of protonated **BZ-3'** in  $S_1$  state.

$E(\text{TD-HF}/\text{TD-DFT}) = -1217.74795827$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	1.465815	0.079011	0.318884	C	4.914890	1.241428	1.091283
C	-1.511094	0.100555	0.084832	C	5.114771	-0.956518	0.054202
C	0.733834	1.258656	0.069795	H	6.775652	0.374431	0.678743
C	0.651527	-1.060988	0.420626	H	3.209280	-1.824184	-0.489375
C	-0.765120	-1.053619	0.296798	H	5.322327	2.133915	1.550789
C	-0.697681	1.273043	-0.033317	O	0.068167	4.571485	-0.656978
H	1.124764	-2.014660	0.628962	N	-6.006198	-1.942853	0.121097
H	-1.263076	-2.010322	0.396829	N	5.912743	-1.998558	-0.372376
N	-1.064646	2.542151	-0.306683	C	-7.455015	-1.790231	0.006575
C	0.054729	3.379874	-0.407126	H	-7.927451	-2.761484	0.145383
N	1.146279	2.543973	-0.164667	H	-7.740618	-1.409669	-0.981540
H	-2.060598	2.766033	-0.426828	H	-7.846909	-1.108116	0.770625
H	2.105256	2.862151	-0.224779	C	-5.438319	-3.262984	0.380009
C	-2.977618	0.173847	-0.027605	H	-4.755818	-3.568537	-0.422596
C	-5.704758	0.443323	-0.261501	H	-4.890988	-3.284652	1.330711
N	-3.489859	1.411024	-0.271562	H	-6.243723	-3.993771	0.435473
C	-3.782813	-0.961476	0.109721	C	5.285853	-3.135600	-1.035479
C	-5.191105	-0.858114	-0.006015	H	6.038364	-3.902486	-1.218735
C	-4.822329	1.507317	-0.380150	H	4.512746	-3.572878	-0.396133
H	-6.765146	0.628641	-0.366656	H	4.826864	-2.857945	-1.997110
H	-3.326413	-1.919822	0.307518	C	7.327404	-1.756649	-0.656178
H	-5.211453	2.503554	-0.575768	H	7.469964	-1.012706	-1.453016
C	2.911176	0.049800	0.457238	H	7.787670	-2.692895	-0.971522
C	5.704569	0.246239	0.616782	H	7.856756	-1.417664	0.238281
C	3.713449	-0.994205	-0.013675	H	3.026938	1.720951	1.705854
N	3.535579	1.194831	1.005124				

**Table S15.** Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of the global minimum ( $\tau = 156.4^\circ$ ) of protonated **BZ-3'** in  $S_1$  state.

$E(\text{TD-HF}/\text{TD-DFT}) = -1217.75602423$  Hartree

Atom	x	y	z	Atom	x	y	z
C	-1.317467	-0.710163	-0.160881	C	-4.338771	-2.766524	-0.723301
C	1.545764	-0.043983	0.009557	C	-5.114734	-0.634163	0.127047
C	-0.829434	0.623991	-0.212240	H	-6.384226	-2.369714	-0.423848
C	-0.284341	-1.698537	-0.038202	H	-3.521859	0.723674	0.633174
C	1.058183	-1.380858	0.049253	H	-4.481495	-3.775193	-1.091470
C	0.530979	0.938194	-0.123650	O	-0.864400	4.087543	-0.658143
H	-0.559127	-2.743749	0.062513	N	6.330409	-1.246894	0.184778
H	1.752383	-2.202482	0.185553	N	-6.139160	0.169857	0.532308
N	0.633304	2.317343	-0.266473	C	7.719813	-0.919421	-0.111746
C	-0.603639	2.893266	-0.470984	H	8.176758	-1.778904	-0.604571
N	-1.496973	1.836715	-0.414687	H	8.255682	-0.733240	0.826887
H	1.513914	2.811324	-0.216898	H	7.787442	-0.049734	-0.759990
H	-2.464174	1.951832	-0.673669	C	6.049906	-2.639164	0.512289
C	2.961276	0.293623	0.076886	H	5.278443	-2.704469	1.278081
C	5.646268	1.083729	0.213112	H	5.718497	-3.166188	-0.391221
N	3.296248	1.613161	0.121570	H	6.967489	-3.105029	0.869251
C	3.978437	-0.688516	0.084130	C	-5.856883	1.516216	1.018883
C	5.324457	-0.294130	0.156713	H	-6.794497	2.021221	1.245469
C	4.581719	1.975478	0.194721	H	-5.247168	1.496011	1.931625
H	6.660337	1.444276	0.312460	H	-5.327495	2.105102	0.260177
H	3.725201	-1.732666	-0.019836	C	-7.516765	-0.321868	0.545420
H	4.773499	3.043646	0.243392	H	-7.857025	-0.589544	-0.461362
C	-2.704935	-1.056130	-0.223155	H	-8.168760	0.464667	0.922055
C	-5.382473	-1.973292	-0.354664	H	-7.626179	-1.195529	1.198575
C	-3.773942	-0.222367	0.179830	H	-2.327558	-2.933898	-1.039629
N	-3.048883	-2.337902	-0.659736				