Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Tetraphenylethylene or Naphthalimide-Functionalized Dendritic Carbazole AIEgens: Self-Assembly Visualization, Three Disparate Force-Triggered Fluorescence Responses, and Advanced Anticounterfeiting Applications

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1. Experimental Section

Materials and methods

All synthetic experiments were carried out under an argon atmosphere applying standard Schlenk techniques, unless otherwise noted. The reactive materials N-(4iodophenyl)acetamide, (2-(4-bromophenyl)ethene-1,1,2-triyl)tribenzene, 6-bromo-2hexyl-3a,4-dihydro-1*H*-benzo[*de*]isoquinoline-1,3(2*H*)-dione, Pd₂(dba)₃, *t*-BuONa, P(t-Bu)₃ were purchased directly from commercial companies (J&K Chemical Ltd., Innochem and Alfa aesar). All the other starting substances and all reagents were commercially available and used without further purification. The intermediates I, II, and III were synthesized according to the corresponding literature.¹ The expected solid products were acquired from relevant intermediates by substitution reactions.² Thin-layer chromatography analysis was performed using pre-coated glass plates. Silica gel (200-300 mesh) was used for column chromatography. All nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) tests were measured on Bruker AVANCE NEO 500 MHz FT-NMR Spectrometer [CDCl₃ as a solvent and tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal standard]. ¹H NMR spectra were reported as followed: chemical shift in ppm (δ) relative to the chemical shift of TMS at 0.00 ppm, integration, multiplicities (s = $\frac{1}{2}$ singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet), and coupling constant (Hz). ¹³C NMR chemical shifts reported in ppm (δ) relative to the central line of triplet for CDCl₃ at 77 ppm. High-Resolution Mass Spectrometer (HRMS) spectra were recorded by Bruker AmaZon SL Ion Trap Mass spectrometer. The Agilent 8453 ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) spectrophotometer was used to measure UV-vis absorption spectra. Photoluminescence spectra were measured by a Hitachi-F-4600 fluorescence spectrophotometer or a photoluminescence (PL) spectrometer FLS1000 (Edinburgh Instruments). The aggregate behaviors of six carbazole AIEgens in DMF/water mixture (water content: 90%) and the poor solvent-induced self-assembly property of **3CzB2Nap** were investigated by scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Zeiss, Sigma). The X-ray crystal-structure determination of carbazole derivative 3CzB2TPE was performed on a Bruker APEX DUO CCD system, and the corresponding crystallographic data of 3CzB2TPE have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplemental publication CCDC 2419146. The powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) data were recorded on a Shimadzu XRD-6000 diffractometer using Ni-filtered and graphite-monochromated Cu K α radiation (λ = 1.54 Å, 40 kV, 30 mA). Fluorescence lifetimes and the absolute fluorescence quantum yields were recorded on Edinburgh Instruments FLS1000 spectrophotometer. DSC data were recorded on Simultaneous Thermal Analyzer (Mettler Toledo, DSC1 Star System). Density functional theory calculations were carried out using Gaussian 16 programs throughout this article. The optimizations of positions of H atoms in singlecrystal XRD data were performed using B3LYP hybrid functional³ with Grimme's dispersion correction of D3 version (Becke-Johnson damping)⁴. The standard 6-31G* basis set^{5,6} for all atoms was used. It is said that the reasonable HOMO- LUMO gaps can be obtained at this theoretical level.⁷ The isosurfaces of canonical molecular orbitals are obtained by Multiwfn⁸ and VMD⁹ program.

Synthesis of carbazole derivatives 1CzB2TPE, 3CzB2TPE and 7CzB2TPE:

compounds were synthesized in a similar manner. Taking the synthetic procedure of **1CzB2TPE** as a representative example. The mixture of **1** (1234.0 mg, 3.0 mmol), Pd2(dba)₃ (57.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), *t*-BuONa (384.4 mg, 4.0 mmol) in toluene (60 mL), and the corresponding intermediate compound **I** (258.3 mg, 1.0 mmol) in toluene (80 mL) were refluxed with stirring for 48 hours. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the crude product was poured into water and filtrated out by dichloromethane, organic layer was washed by brine and dried sodium sulfate. The objective solid was gained by silica gel column chromatography.

1CzB2TPE: yellow-green solid, yield: 71%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.07 (d, J = 12.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 4H), 7.28 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.22-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.09-6.99 (m, 28H), 6.97-6.95 (m, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 145.3, 144.0, 143.7, 143.5, 141.0, 140.7, 140.5, 138.7, 132.3, 131.4, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.4, 125.8, 124.2, 123.4, 123.2, 120.2, 119.7, 109.8. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 919.4054; "molecular formula C₇₀H₅₀N₂" requires [M + H]⁺ 919.4047.

3CzB2TPE: faint green solid, yield: 66%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.19 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.59 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 2H), 7.45-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.31 (m, 8H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16 (d, J =2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.00 (m, 26H), 7.98-7.96 (m, 4H), 6.90-6.88 (m, 4H), 6.84 (t, J =4.5 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 147.4, 145.2, 144.0, 143.6, 143.5, 142.8, 140.9, 140.5, 139.0, 132.4, 131.4, 131.4, 131.3, 130.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 126.5, 126.4, 125.9, 123.7, 123.1, 120.3, 119.7,111.38, 109.7. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 1250.5251; "molecular formula C₉₄H₆₄N₄" requires [M + H]⁺ 1250.5238.

7CzB2TPE: faint green solid, yield: 62%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.45 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 8.24 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 4H), 8.09 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 8H), 7.75 (t, J= 5.3 Hz, 2H), 7.60 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 4H), 7.33 (t, J = 3.8 Hz, 16H), 7.22-7.19 (m, 10H), 7.08-7.01 (m, 30H), 6.98-6.96 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 147.7, 145.1, 144.0, 143.6, 143.5, 141.8, 141.6, 141.5, 141.0, 140.4, 139.2, 132.4, 131.4, 131.4, 131.3, 130.2, 127.7, 127.7, 127.6, 126.6, 126.5, 126.4, 126.3, 125.9, 123.8, 123.8, 123.1, 120.3, 119.9, 119.8, 119.7, 111.9, 111.2, 109.7, 29.7. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 1910.6461; "molecular formula C₁₄₂H₉₂N₈" requires [M + H]⁺ 1910.7552.

Synthesis of carbazole derivatives **1CzB2Nap**, **3CzB2Nap** and **7CzB2Nap**: compounds were synthesized in a similar manner. Taking the synthetic procedure of **1CzB2Nap** as a representative example. To a solution of **2** (1086.8 mg, 3.0 mmol), Pd₂(dba)₃ (57.4 mg, 0.1 mmol), *t*-BuONa (384.4 mg, 4.0 mmol) in toluene (60 mL) was added corresponding intermediate compound **I** (258.3 mg, 1.0 mmol) and toluene solution of P(*t*-Bu)₃ (2 mL), and refluxed for 48 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The collected organic layer was washed with brine, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated in vacuum. In the end, the pure product was obtained by purification with silica gel column chromatography.

1CzB2Nap: orange solid, yield: 68%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) =

8.63 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.55 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.29 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 6H), 7.30 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.18 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.74 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 1.44 (s, 4H), 1.35 (s, 8H), 0.90 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCI₃): δ (ppm) = 164.0, 163.4, 131.9, 131.7, 128.4, 127.4, 126.0, 125.0, 124.6, 123.4, 120.4, 120.2, 109.5, 40.5, 31.5, 28.1, 26.8, 22.6, 14.1. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 817.3744; "molecular formula C₅₄H₄₈N₄O₄" requires [M + H]⁺ 817.3749.

3CzB2Nap: orange solid, yield: 65%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.65 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 8.58 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 8.34 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.28 (s, 2H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.69-7.63 (m, 8H), 7.49 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41-7.37 (m, 8H), 7.29 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 7.24 (s, 2H), 4.19 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 1.76-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.45 (s, 4H), 1.35 (s, 8H), 0.91, (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 163.9, 163.4, 149.8, 141.7, 140.4, 131.9, 130.6, 127.5, 126.3, 125.9, 125.2, 124.0, 123.2, 120.4, 120.3, 119.8, 119.8, 111.1, 109.6, 40.6, 31.5, 28.1, 26.8, 22.6, 14.1. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 1147.4906; "molecular formula C₇₈H₆₂N₆O₄" requires [M + H]⁺ 1147.4906.

7CzB2Nap: orange solid, yield: 60%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) =
8.67 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 8.58 (t, J = 17.3 Hz, 4H), 8.37 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.30 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 4H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 8H), 7.86 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.73-7.60 (m, 12H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.39 (s, 18H), 7.29 (t, J = 13.0 Hz, 8H), 4.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 1.75 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 1.44 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 1.35 (s, 18H), 4.20 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H), 1.75 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 1.44 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 1.35 (s)

8H), 0.91 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 163.9, 163.4, 149.7, 141.8, 141.5, 141.0, 130.1, 126.3, 125.9, 123.9, 123.8, 123.1, 120.6, 120.3, 119.9, 119.7, 111.1, 109.6, 40.6, 31.5, 28.1, 26.8, 22.6, 14.1. HRMS-ESI (m/z): Found: [M + H]⁺ 1808.7250; "molecular formula C₁₂₆H₉₀N₁₀O₄" requires [M + H]⁺ 1808.7253.

2. Scheme S1



Scheme S1. Synthetic routes of carbazole derivatives 1CzB2TPE, 3CzB2TPE, 7CzB2TPE,
1CzB2Nap, 3CzB2Nap and 7CzB2Nap. Reagents and conditions: (i) carbazole, Cu₂O, DMAc,
24 h; (ii) H₂SO₄, H₂O, THF, MeOH, 2 h; (iii) carbazole dendron Cu₂O, DMAc, 24 h.



3. Figures S1-S6

Figure S1. UV-Vis absorption spectra of compounds $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1})$ in DMF/water mixtures with different f_w values: (a) 1CzB2TPE; (b) 3CzB2TPE; (c) 7CzB2TPE; (d) 1CzB2Nap; (e) 3CzB2Nap; (f) 7CzB2Nap.



Figure S2. PL spectra of compounds $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1})$ in DMF/water mixtures with different f_w values. Excitation wavelength = 365 nm. The insets show the fluorescence images of compounds $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1})$ in pure DMF as well as 90% water content under 365 nm UV light: (a) **1CzB2TPE**; (b) **7CzB2TPE**; (c) **3CzB2Nap**; (d) **7CzB2Nap**.



Figure S3. SEM images of compounds $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol } \text{L}^{-1})$ formed from DMF/water mixture ($f_w = 90\%$): (a) 1CzB2TPE; (b) 3CzB2TPE; (c) 7CzB2TPE; (d) 1CzB2Nap; (e) 7CzB2Nap.



Figure S4. Plot of the relationship between maximum emission peak intensity and the f_W value of

luminogen 1CzB2TPE, 3CzB2TPE, 7CzB2TPE, 1CzB2Nap, 3CzB2Nap or 7CzB2Nap.



Figure S5. PL spectra of compounds in different solid states. Excitation wavelength = 365 nm: (a)
1CzB2TPE; (b) 7CzB2TPE; (c) 7CzB2Nap. Photographic images of fluorogens in different solid states under 365 nm UV light: (d) 1CzB2TPE; (e) 7CzB2TPE; (f) 7CzB2Nap.



Figure S6. Photographic images of solids 3CzB2TPE and 1CzB2Nap before and after heating under 365 nm UV light: (a) 3CzB2TPE; (b) 1CzB2Nap.

4. Tables S1 and S2

Table S1. The maximum emission	wavelength (λ_{max})	values of six rep	oorted compounds	in various
solid states.				

Compound	λ _{max} (before grinding)	λ _{max} (after grinding)	$\Delta \lambda$ (before and after grinding)	λ _{max} (fuming with CH ₂ Cl ₂)	Δλ (ground solid before and after fuming)
1CzB2TPE	510 nm	519 nm	9 nm	518 nm	1 nm
3CzB2TPE	483 nm	517 nm	34 nm	517 nm	0
7CzB2TPE	512 nm	513 nm	1 nm	١	١
1CzB2Nap	563 nm	583 nm	20 nm	561 nm	22 nm
3CzB2Nap	581 nm	582 nm	1 nm	١	١
7CzB2Nap	576 nm	588 nm	12 nm	573 nm	15 nm

Table S2. The absolute fluorescence quantum yields ($\Phi_{\rm F}$) values and average fluorescence

lifetimes of six reported compounds before and after grinding

Compound	$arPsi_{ m F}$ (before grinding)	$arPsi_{ m F}$ (after grinding)	Average fluorescence lifetime (<τ>, before grinding)	Average fluorescence lifetime (<t>, after grinding)</t>
1CzB2TPE	43%	21%	3.22 ns	2.70 ns
3CzB2TPE	37%	20%	2.49 ns	2.65 ns
7CzB2TPE	28%	17%	2.93 ns	2.67 ns
1CzB2Nap	30%	18%	3.68 ns	3.84 ns
3CzB2Nap	26%	16%	7.59 ns	8.00 ns
7CzB2Nap	17%	10%	8.61 ns	9.80 ns

5. Figures S7-S15



Figure S7. Powder XRD patterns of solids in various solid states. (a) 1CzB2TPE; (b) 7CzB2TPE;

(c) 7CzB2Nap.



Figure S8. Decay curves of solid **1CzB2TPE** before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of solid **1CzB2TPE** before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S9. Decay curves of solid 3CzB2TPE before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of

solid **3CzB2TPE** before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S10. Decay curves of solid 7CzB2TPE before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of

solid **7CzB2TPE** before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S11. Decay curves of solid 1CzB2Nap before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of

solid **1CzB2Nap** before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S12. Decay curves of solid 3CzB2Nap before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of

solid **3CzB2Nap** before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S13. Decay curves of solid 7CzB2Nap before (a) and after (b) grinding. Fitting data of

solid 7CzB2Nap before (c) and after (d) grinding. Excitation wavelength: 375 nm.



Figure S14. Simulated powder XRD pattern of 3CzB2TPE crystal and powder XRD pattern of





Figure S15. (a) Normalized PL spectra of **3CzB2TPE** crystals before grinding, after grinding, and after treatment with dichloromethane vapor. Excitation wavelength: 365 nm. (b) Photographic photographs of **3CzB2TPE** crystals before grinding, after grinding, and after treatment with dichloromethane vapor under 365 nm UV light.



6. NMR spectra and HRMS spectra of carbazole derivatives



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HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 1CzB2TPE







¹³C NMR spectrum of carbazole derivative **3CzB2TPE**



HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 3CzB2TPE











HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 7CzB2TPE







¹³C NMR spectrum of carbazole derivative **1CzB2Nap**



HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 1CzB2Nap









HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 3CzB2Nap





¹³C NMR spectrum of carbazole derivative 7CzB2Nap



HRMS spectrum of carbazole derivative 7CzB2Nap

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