## Electronic Supporting Information

### Influence of substituent on nitrogen atom

of 3-[2-(4-aminophenyl)benzoxazol-5-yl]alanine derivatives

on their photophysical properties - solvatochromic studies

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#### Synthesis

# 1 4-(N-Phenylamino)benzaldehyde and 4-(N-methyl-N-phenylamino)benzaldehyde - general procedure

A magnetically stirred solution of the appropriate amine (diphenylamine or N-methyl-N-phenylamine, 1 mmol) in 1,2-dichlorobenzene (3.5 mL) was cooled in an ice bath and 1.2 mmol of 1,1-dichloromethyl methyl ether and 1.4 mmol of TiCl<sub>4</sub> were subsequently added. The reaction was continued for 1 h in the ice bath. Then the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temp. and poured onto ice (35 g) and concentrated HCl (2.5 mL). The organic layer was diluted with dichloromethane, washed with a 5% aqueous solution of HCl and with water and dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After evaporation the residue was purified by column chromatography (Merck, Silica gel 60, 0.040–0.063 mm), giving the desired compound which was used in the next step of the synthesis.

#### 2 3-(2-Benzoxazol-5-yl)alanine derivatives – general procedure

A mixture of *N*-Boc-3-nitro-L-tyrosine methyl ester and 10% palladium on active charcoal in methanol was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere at room temperature for about 90 min. (TLC monitoring, Merck silica-gel plates (Kieselgel 60  $F_{254}$ ), (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH/AcOH 100:10:1),  $R_f = 0.9$  (*N*-Boc-3-nitro-L-tyrosine methyl ester),  $R_f = 0.72$  (*N*-Boc-3-amino-L-tyrosine methyl ester)). The catalyst was filtered off and the solvent was evaporated to give a brownish oily product, which was dissolved in anhydrous ethanol and mixed with the solution of the appropriate aldehyde (1 eq) in anhydrous ethanol. The mixture was stirred at room temp. overnight (TLC monitoring (AcOEt/petroleum ether 1:3). After this time, the solvent was removed by evaporation, the Schiff base obtained was dissolved in DMSO, and lead tetraacetate (1.5 eq) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temp. for about 2 h (TLC

monitoring (AcOEt/petroleum ether 1:3) and then dissolved in AcOEt and washed in turns with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl (1x), a 5% aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2x), a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl (3x), and dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was evaporated and the product was isolated by means of column chromatography (Merck, Silica gel 60, 0.040–0.063 mm), using a mixture of AcOEt/petroleum ether 1:3 (compounds (1) and (3)) or AcOEt/petroleum ether 1:2 (compound (2)) as an eluent. The crude product (2) was recrystallized from a mixture of AcOEt/petroleum ether, giving a colorless solid with 48 % yield. In the cases of compounds 1 and 3, an additional purification by means of RP-HPLC was necessary (gradient 50-100% B over 120 min (A = 0.01% water solution of trifluoroacetic acid, B = 80% of acetonitrile in A), Kromasil column, C-8, 5  $\mu$ m, 250mm long, i.d. = 20 mm). Compounds 1 and 3 were obtained as colorless solids with 18 % and 3 % yield, respectively. The purity of the obtained compounds was checked by means of analytical RP-HPLC (Kromasil column, C-8, 5 µm, 250mm long, i.d. = 4.5 mm) with detection at  $\lambda$  = 223 nm. The mobile phase was a gradient running from 0 to 100% of B over 60 min plus 100% of B over 10 min ( $t_R = 61.5 \text{ min}$  (1),  $t_{R t} = 50.3 \text{ min}$  (2),  $t_R = 1000 \text{ min}$ 57.8 min (3)). The identification of the products was based on the <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Varian, Unity 500 plus spectrometer (500 MHz) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> and mass spectra (Bruker Biflex III (MALDI-TOF)).

Compound 1:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\bar{\delta}_{H}$ /ppm = 1.44 (s, 9H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 3.16-3.29 (m, 2H, C<sup>β</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 3.43 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.65 (d, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H, J=7.33 Hz), 5.04 (d, 1H, NH, J=7.81 Hz), 6.91

(d, 2H, C<sup>3</sup>'H, C<sup>5</sup>'H, J=8.79 Hz), 7.08 (d, 1H, C<sup>4</sup>"H, J=8.30 Hz), 7.21-7.27 (m, 3H, C<sup>6</sup>H, C<sup>2</sup>"H, C<sup>6</sup>"H), 7.42-7.49 (m, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H, C<sup>7</sup>H, C<sup>3</sup>"H, C<sup>5</sup>"H), 8.07 (d, 2H, C<sup>2</sup>'H, C<sup>6</sup>'H, J=8.79 Hz); MS: m/z 501.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).

Compound 2:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta_{H}/\text{ppm} = 1.44$  (s, 9H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 3.10 (s, 6H, N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), 3.18-3.26 (m, 2H, C<sup>β</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.65 (dd, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H, J=5.85 Hz, J=13.19 Hz), 5.04 (d, 1H, NH, J=7.81 Hz), 6.80 (d, 2H, C<sup>3</sup>H, C<sup>5</sup>H, J=8.79 Hz), 7.05 (dd, 1H, C<sup>6</sup>H, J=1.46 Hz, J=8.30 Hz), 7.45 (d, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H, C<sup>7</sup>H, J=8.30 Hz), 8.11 (d, 2H, C<sup>2</sup>H, C<sup>6</sup>H, J=9.28 Hz); MS: m/z 440.2 (MH<sup>+</sup>).

Compound 3:



<sup>1</sup>H NMR:  $\delta_{H}$ /ppm = 1.44 (s, 9H, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 3.22-3.28 (m, 2H, C<sup>β</sup>H<sub>2</sub>), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.66 (d, 1H, C<sup>α</sup>H, J=6.35 Hz), 5.05 (d, 1H, NH, J=7.82 Hz), 7.09-7.14 (m, 5H, C<sup>3</sup>'H, C<sup>5</sup>'H, C<sup>6</sup>H, C<sup>7</sup>H, NH<sub>Ar</sub>), 7.22 (d, 1H, C<sup>2</sup>"H, C<sup>6</sup>"H, J=7.81 Hz), 7.361-7.40 (m, 2H, C<sup>3</sup>"H, C<sup>5</sup>"H), 7.47-7.51 (m, 2H, C<sup>4</sup>H, C<sup>4</sup>"H), 8.12 (d, 2H, C<sup>2</sup>'H, C<sup>6</sup>'H, J=8.79 Hz); MS: m/z 487.1 (M<sup>+</sup>).



Fig. 1S Normalized UV absorption spectra of 2 in 12 selected solvents.



Fig 2S Normalized fluorescence spectra of 2 in 12 selected solvents.

|    | solvent                | $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{a}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup> | $\widetilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\mathrm{f}}/\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ | QY   | τ/ns         | α            | $\chi^2_R$ | $\Delta \tilde{\mathcal{V}} / cm^{-1}$ | k₅/10 <sup>8</sup><br>s⁻¹ | k <sub>nr</sub> /10 <sup>7</sup> /<br>s <sup>-1</sup> |
|----|------------------------|---|---|------|--------------|--------------|------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| 1  | methanol               | 28860                                       | 24783   | 0.81 | 1.26         | 1.00         | 1.02       | 4077                                   | 6.43                      | 15.10   |
| 2  | ethanol                | 28852                                       | 24814   | 0.98 | 1.35         | 1.00         | 0.99       | 4038                                   | 7.26                      | 1.48  |
| 3  | 1-butanol              | 28910                                       | 25031   | 0.99 | 1.29         | 1.00         | 0.97       | 3879                                   | 7.67                      | 0.77  |
| 4  | 2-methylpropan-1-ol    | 29028                                       | 25221   | 1.00 | 1.29         | 1.00         | 1.13       | 3807                                   | 7.75                      | 0   |
| 5  | 2-propanol             | 29078                                       | 25189   | 1.00 | 1.30         | 1.00         | 0.92       | 3889                                   | 7.69                      | 0   |
| 6  | 1-pentanol             | 29180                                       | 25740   | 1.00 | 1.25         | 1.00         | 0.92       | 3440                                   | 8.00                      | 0   |
| 7  | 1-hexanol              | 28935                                       | 25126   | 1.00 | 1.32         | 1.00         | 0.99       | 3827                                   | 7.57                      | 0   |
| 8  | cyclohexanol           | 28860                                       | 25063   | 0.91 | 1.28         | 1.00         | 1.01       | 3797                                   | 7.11                      | 7.03  |
| 9  | 1-heptanol             | 28927                                       | 25221   | 1.00 | 1.29         | 1.00         | 1.10       | 3706                                   | 7.75                      | 0   |
| 10 | ethane-1,2-diol        | 28417                                       | 24480   | 0.76 | 1.13         | 1.00         | 1.07       | 3937                                   | 6.72                      | 21.23   |
| 11 | propane-1,2-diol       | 28612                                       | 24480   | 0.99 | 1.32         | 1.00         | 1.09       | 4132                                   | 7.50                      | 0.76  |
| 12 | formamide              | 28620                                       | 24301   | 0.71 | 1.14         | 1.00         | 0.99       | 4319                                   | 6.23                      | 25.43   |
| 13 | acetone                | 29146                                       | 25349   | 1.00 | 1.26         | 1.00         | 0.97       | 3797                                   | 7.94                      | 0   |
| 14 | acetonitrile           | 29121                                       | 25284   | 0.95 | 1.32         | 1.00         | 0.97       | 3837                                   | 7.20                      | 3.79  |
| 15 | trichloromethane       | 29019                                       | 26178   | 0.68 | 0.79         | 1.00         | 1.14       | 2841                                   | 8.61                      | 40.50   |
| 16 | dichloromethane        | 29028                                       | 25773   | 1.00 | 1.23         | 1.00         | 1.03       | 3255                                   | 8.13                      | 0   |
| 17 | n-pentane              | 30039                                       | 26738   | 0.95 | 1.12         | 1.00         | 1.02       | 3301                                   | 8.48                      | 4.46  |
| 18 | 3-methyl-pentane       | 30030                                       | 26702   | 0.92 | 1.02         | 1.00         | 0.99       | 3328                                   | 9.02                      | 7.84  |
| 19 | cyclohexane            | 29842                                       | 26525   | 1.00 | 1.06         | 1.00         | 1.00       | 3317                                   | 9.43                      | 0   |
| 20 | n-hexane               | 29976                                       | 26667   | 0.93 | 1.04         | 1.00         | 1.10       | 3309                                   | 8.94                      | 6.73  |
| 21 | 2,2,4-trimethylpentane | 30030                                       | 26667   | 0.95 | 1.02         | 1.00         | 1.03       | 3363                                   | 9.31                      | 4.90  |
| 22 | n-nonane               | 29860                                       | 26596   | 1.00 | 1.08         | 1.00         | 1.06       | 3264                                   | 10.10                     | 0   |
| 23 | n-decane               | 29860                                       | 26525   | 0.93 | 1.09         | 1.00         | 1.16       | 3335                                   | 8.53                      | 6.427   |
| 24 | 1,2-dimethoxyethane    | 29078                                       | 25284   | 0.70 | 0.88         | 1.00         | 1.04       | 3794                                   | 7.95                      | 34.09   |
| 25 | 1,4-dioxane            | 29343                                       | 26525   | 1.00 | 1.21         | 1.00         | 1.17       | 2818                                   | 8.26                      | 0   |
| 26 | tetrahydrofuran        | 29257                                       | 25543   | 0.88 | 1.21         | 1.00         | 0.97       | 3714                                   | 7.27                      | 9.92  |
| 27 | 2-methyl-              | 29507                                       | 26008   | 1.00 | 1.15         | 1.00         | 0.96       | 3499                                   | 8.69                      | 0   |
|    | tetrahydrofuran        |   |   |      |              |              |            |  |                           |   |
| 28 | diethyl ether          | 29568                                       | 26350   | 0.99 | 1.24         | 1.00         | 0.86       | 3218                                   | 7.98                      | 0.81  |
| 29 | di-i-propyl ether      | 29455                                       | 25806   | 1.00 | 1.20         | 1.00         | 0.94       | 3649                                   | 8.33                      | 0   |
| 30 | 4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan- | 28977                                       | 24752   | 1.00 | 1.41         | 1.00         | 1.84       | 4225                                   | 7.23                      | 0   |
|    | 2-one                  |   |   |      | 1.38<br>6.14 | 1.00<br>0.00 | 1.15       |  |                           |   |
| 31 | benzene                | 29155                                       | 26631   | 0.97 | 1.08         | 1.00         | 0.93       | 2524                                   | 8.98                      | 2.78  |
| 32 | methylbenzene          | 29240                                       | 26702   | 0.90 | 1.04         | 1.00         | 0.90       | 2538                                   | 8.65                      | 9.61  |
| 33 | 1,2-dimethylbenzene    | 29291                                       | 26810   | 0.99 | 1.07         | 1.00         | 0.87       | 2481                                   | 9.25                      | 9.34  |
| 34 | ethyl acetate          | 29438                                       | 26212   | 1.00 | 1.19         | 1.00         | 0.95       | 3226                                   | 8.40                      | 0   |
| 35 | N,N-                   | 28860                                       | 24969   | 0.92 | 1.28         | 1.00         | 1.15       | 3891                                   | 7.19                      | 6.25  |
|    | dimethylformamide      |   |   |      |              |              |            |  |                           |   |
| 36 | dimethyl sulfoxide     | 28694                                       | 24480   | 1.00 | 1.26         | 1.00         | 1.09       | 4214                                   | 7.93                      | 0   |

#### Table 1S Spectroscopic and photophysical properties of **2** in 36 solvents studied.





Fig. 3S Normalized UV absorption spectra of 3 in 12 selected solvents.



Fig. 4S Normalized fluorescence spectra of **3** in 12 selected solvents.

|    | solvent          | ${	ilde{\mathcal{V}}}_{abs}/cm^{	extsf{-1}}$ | $\widetilde{\mathcal{V}}_{	ext{ fluo}}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup> | QY   | au/ns                | α                    | $\chi^2_R$ | $\Delta \widetilde{\mathcal{V}}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup> |
|----|------------------|--|---|------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|--|
| 1  | methanol         | 28288  | 21882   | 0.01 | 0.43                 | 1.00                 | 14.98      | 6346   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.29<br>1.76         | 0.98<br>0.02         | 1.18       |  |
| 2  | ethanol          | 28074  | 22051   | 0.05 | 0.800                | 1.00                 | 4.90       | 6023   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.40<br>1.04         | 0.72<br>0.28         | 1.18       |  |
| 3  | 1-butanol        | 27939  | 22650   | 0.76 | 2.00                 | 1.00                 | 15.77      | 5289   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.27<br>0.20         | 0.32<br>0.69         | 0.97       |  |
| 4  | 2-methyl-propan- | 27941  | 22831   | 0.78 | 2.23                 | 1.00                 | 8.95       | 5110   |
|    | 1-ol             |  |   |      | 2.40<br>0.21         | 0.29<br>0.71         | 1.00       |  |
| 5  | 2-propanol       | 28129  | 22701   | 0.69 | 2.43                 | 1.00                 | 7.43       | 5428   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.51<br>0.29         | 0.47<br>0.53         | 1.05       |  |
| 6  | 1-pentanol       | 28137  | 23585   | 0.61 | 2.89                 | 1.00                 | 3.23       | 4552   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.98<br>0.27         | 0.46<br>0.54         | 0.99       |  |
| 7  | 1-hexanol        | 27840  | 23310   | 0.48 | 2.41                 | 1.00                 | 12.37      | 4530   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.73<br>0.35         | 0.30<br>0.70         | 0.96       |  |
| 8  | cyclohexanol     | 28003  | 22727   | 0.29 | 2.23                 | 1.00                 | 15.86      | 5276   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.52<br>0.35         | 0.32<br>0.68         | 1.05       |  |
| 9  | 1-heptanol       | 27816  | 23015   | 0.50 | 2.23                 | 1.00                 | 11.94      | 4801   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.49<br>0.36         | 0.33<br>0.66         | 1.00       |  |
| 10 | ethane-1,2-diol  | 27941  | 22573   | 0.03 | 2.95                 | 1.00                 | 17.11      | 5368   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.17<br>1.52         | 0.99<br>0.01         | 1.37       |  |
| 11 | propane-1,2-diol | 28106  | 22831   | 0.09 | 0.54                 | 1.00                 | 24.43      | 5275   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.38<br>4.59         | 0.99<br>0.01         | 3.24       |  |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.28<br>0.98<br>1.30 | 0.90<br>0.06<br>0.04 | 1.19       |  |
| 12 | formamide        | 28106  | 22371   | 0.01 | 1.70                 | 1.00                 | 105.77     | 5735   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.33<br>4.98         | 0.95<br>0.05         | 3.44       |  |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 0.17<br>2.21<br>7.78 | 0.96<br>0.03<br>0.01 | 1.15       |  |
| 13 | acetone          | 28694  | 22753   | 0.62 | 2.96                 | 1.00                 | 1.12       | 5941   |
| 14 | acetonitrile     | 28868  | 22124   | 0.34 | 2.26                 | 1.00                 | 1.15       | 6744   |
| 15 | trichloromethane | 28802  | 23809   | 0.79 | 2.26                 | 1.00                 | 5.22       | 4993   |
|    |                  |  |   |      | 2.46<br>0.60         | 0.54<br>0.46         | 1.11       |  |

#### Table 2S. Spectroscopic and photophysical properties of 3 in 36 solvents studied.

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| 16 | dichloromethane    | 28935 | 24067 | 0.69 | 3.10                 | 1.00                 | 1.74 | 4868 |
|----|--------------------|-------|-------|------|----------------------|----------------------|------|------|
|    |                    |       |       |      | 3.18<br>0.58         | 0.74<br>0.26         | 0.97 |      |
| 17 | n-pentane          | 29507 | 26178 | 1.00 | 1.14                 | 1.00                 | 1.46 | 3329 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 1.10<br>2.79         | 0.98<br>0.02         | 1.02 |      |
| 18 | 3-methyl-pentane   | 29472 | 26111 | 1.00 | 1.03                 | 1.00                 | 1.02 | 3361 |
| 19 | cyclohexane        | 29308 | 26178 | 0.99 | 1.23                 | 1.00                 | 2.46 | 3130 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 1.06<br>0.44         | 0.94<br>0.06         | 1.10 |      |
| 20 | n-hexane           | 29507 | 26076 | 1.00 | 1.02                 | 1.00                 | 1.02 | 3431 |
| 21 | 2,2,4-             | 29507 | 26042 | 1.00 | 1.01                 | 1.00                 | 1.07 | 3465 |
|    | trimethylpentane   |       |       |      |                      |                      |      |      |
| 22 | n-nonane           | 29386 | 26008 | 0.98 | 1.06                 | 1.00                 | 1.07 | 3378 |
| 23 | n-decane           | 29412 | 25974 | 1.00 | 1.09                 | 1.00                 | 1.17 | 3438 |
| 24 | 1,2-               | 28417 | 22727 | 0.08 | 0.90                 | 1.00                 | 2.42 | 5690 |
|    | dimethoxyethane    |       |       |      | 0.41<br>0.99         | 0.47<br>0.53         | 1.21 |      |
| 25 | 1,4-dioxane        | 28789 | 24360 | 1.00 | 1.83                 | 1.00                 | 1.12 | 4429 |
| 26 | tetrahydrofuran    | 28498 | 23866 | 0.62 | 2.68                 | 1.00                 | 2.42 | 4632 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 0.51<br>2.78         | 0.33<br>0.67         | 1.00 |      |
| 27 | 2-methyl-          | 28727 | 23529 | 0.55 | 2.75                 | 1.00                 | 5.96 | 5198 |
|    | tetrahydrofuran    |       |       |      | 2.06<br>4.08         | 0.79<br>0.21         | 0.96 |      |
| 28 | diethyl ether      | 28868 | 24420 | 0.67 | 2.27                 | 1.00                 | 1.92 | 4448 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 0.59<br>2.35         | 0.26<br>0.74         | 1.08 |      |
| 29 | di-i-propyl ether  | 28571 | 23474 | 0.69 | 2.48                 | 1.00                 | 2.72 | 5097 |
| 30 | 4-methyl-1 3-      | 28257 | 21858 | 0 31 | 2.58<br>0.41<br>1.98 | 0.62<br>0.38<br>1.00 | 1.04 | 6399 |
| 50 | dioxolan-2-one     | 20201 | 21000 | 0.01 | 2.95                 | 0.17                 | 2.00 | 0000 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 1.68                 | 0.83                 | 1.03 |      |
| 31 | benzene            | 28827 | 25094 | 0.95 | 1.42                 | 1.00                 | 1.08 | 3733 |
| 32 | methylbenzene      | 28852 | 24907 | 0.85 | 1.34                 | 1.00                 | 1.09 | 3945 |
| 33 | 1,2-               | 28868 | 24907 | 0.92 | 1.35                 | 1.00                 | 1.06 | 3961 |
|    | dimethylbenzene    |       |       |      |                      |                      |      |      |
| 34 | ethyl acetate      | 28852 | 24272 | 0.71 | 2.46                 | 1.00                 | 0.97 | 4580 |
| 35 | N,N-               | 28233 | 22346 | 0.62 | 2.45                 | 1.00                 | 1.28 | 5887 |
|    | dimethylformamide  |       |       |      | 2.47<br>0.32         | 0.80<br>0.20         | 1.08 |      |
| 36 | dimethyl sulfoxide | 27941 | 21763 | 0.41 | 1.92                 | 1.00                 | 1.54 | 6178 |
|    |                    |       |       |      | 1.30<br>2.09         | 0.33<br>0.67         | 1.14 |      |

Table 3S. The values of the estimated coefficients ( $y_0$  and a) and their standard errors as well as the regression coefficients (r) obtained from the linear fit of the photophysical properties { $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ,  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$  and QY} of **1** versus  $E^{N}_{T}$  solvent polarity scale. Np. denotes a number of solvents used in the analysis.

|  |                           | Compound 1 |                              |        |    |
|--|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------|--------|----|
|  |                           | equation j | equation $y=y_0 + a^* E^N_T$ |        |    |
|  |                           | Уo         | а                            |        |    |
| $(\tilde{v}_{abs})/cm^{-1}$            | all solvents              | 29020±70   | -(990±160)                   | 0.7474 | 32 |
|  | aprotic                   | 29100±90   | -(1590±340)                  | 0.7387 | 22 |
|  | protic                    | 29230±330  | -(1240±510)                  | 0.6293 | 10 |
|  | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 23880±350  | -(6940±820)                  | 0.8475 | 31 |
| $(\tilde{v}_{fluo}) / \text{ cm}^{-1}$ | aprotic                   | 24790±230  | -(12740±910)                 | 0.9571 | 21 |
|  | protic                    | 23920±1540 | -(6030±2440)                 | 0.6582 | 10 |
|  | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 5130±330   | 5970±780                     | 0.8223 | 31 |
| $\Delta \tilde{v}$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>   | aprotic                   | 4320±250   | 11140±980                    | 0.9368 | 21 |
|  | protic                    | 5200±550   | 4980±2460                    | 0.5817 | 10 |
|  | all solvents <sup>b</sup> | 0.85±0.05  | -(1.23±0.10)                 | 0.9072 | 30 |
| QY                                     | aprotic                   | 0.97±0.04  | -(1.96±0.16)                 | 0.9474 | 20 |
|  | protic                    | 0.61±0.09  | -(0.73±0.15)                 | 0.8670 | 10 |

<sup>a</sup> without formamide <sup>b</sup> without formamide and 1,2-dimethoxyethane



Fig. 5S Plot of dependence of absorption maximum position (top left), fluorescence maximum position (top right), Stokes shift (bottom left), and fluorescence quantum yield (bottom right) of **1** as a function of the solvent polarity parameter  $E^{N}_{T}$  for all solvents (green), aprotic solvents (blue), and protic solvents (red). The point(s) in green circle denotes these which were not included in the regression analysis.

Table 4S. The values of estimated coefficients ( $y_0$  and a) and their standard errors as well as regression coefficients (r) obtained from the linear fit of photophysical properties { $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ,  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ ,  $\tau$ , and QY} of **2** *versus* the  $E^{N}_{T}$  solvent polarity scale. *Np*. denotes a number of solvents used in the analysis.

|  | Compound 2                |            |                     |        |    |  |  |  |
|--|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------|----|--|--|--|
|  |                           | equation j | $y_0 + a^* E^{N_T}$ | r      | Np |  |  |  |
|  |                           | Уо         | а                   |        |    |  |  |  |
| $(\tilde{v}_{abs})$ /cm <sup>-1</sup>  | all solvents              | 29645±64   | -(1360±150)         | 0.8577 | 32 |  |  |  |
|  | aprotic                   | 29700±70   | -(1745±240)         | 0.8502 | 22 |  |  |  |
|  | protic                    | 29935±320  | -(1700±500)         | 0.7669 | 10 |  |  |  |
|  | all solvents              | 26610±110  | -(2840±260)         | 0.8916 | 32 |  |  |  |
| $(\tilde{v}_{fluo})$ /cm <sup>-1</sup> | aprotic                   | 26725±120  | -(3681±414)         | 0.8935 | 22 |  |  |  |
|  | protic                    | 26810±530  | -(2906±840)         | 0.7753 | 10 |  |  |  |
|  | all solvents              | 3080±110   | 1480±260            | 0.7229 | 32 |  |  |  |
| $\Delta \tilde{v} / \text{cm}^{-1}$    | aprotic                   | 2970±140   | 1936±474            | 0.6748 | 22 |  |  |  |
|  | protic                    | 3128±340   | 1208±530            | 0.6248 | 10 |  |  |  |
|  | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 1.12±0.02  | 0.25±0.06           | 0.6434 | 29 |  |  |  |
| <i>t</i> /ns                           | aprotic <sup>a</sup>      | 1.07±0.02  | 0.54±0.07           | 0.8702 | 19 |  |  |  |
|  | protic                    | 1.52±0.12  | -(0.39±0.19)        | 0.5707 | 10 |  |  |  |
|  | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 0.99±0.02  | -(0.11±0.05)        | 0.3645 | 29 |  |  |  |
| QY                                     | aprotic <sup>a</sup>      | 1.43±0.15  | 0.05±0.06           | 0.1896 | 19 |  |  |  |
|  | protic                    | 1.43±0.15  | -(0.79±0.24)        | 0.7449 | 10 |  |  |  |

<sup>a</sup> without trichloromethane, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, and formamide



Fig. 6S Plot of dependence of absorption maximum position ( $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ) (top left), fluorescence maximum position ( $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ) (top right), Stokes shift  $\Delta \tilde{v}$  (middle left), fluorescence quantum yield (middle right), and fluorescence lifetime (bottom left) of **2** as a function of the solvent polarity parameter  $E^{N}_{T}$  for all solvents (green), aprotic solvents (blue), and protic solvents (red). The point(s) in green circle denotes these which were not included in the regression analysis.

Table 5S. The values of estimated coefficients ( $y_0$  and a) and their standard errors as well as regression coefficients (r) obtained from the linear fit of photophysical properties {( $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ), ( $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ),  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ , and QY} of **1** versus the  $E^{N}_{T}$  solvent polarity scale. Np. denotes a number of solvents used in the analysis.

|                                   |                           | Compound 3 |                     |        |    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------|----|
|                                   | _                         | equation y | $= y_0 + a^* E^N_T$ | r      | Np |
|                                   |                           | Уо         | b                   |        |    |
| $(\tilde{v}_{abs})/cm^{-1}$       | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 29130±80   | -(1690±190)         | 0.8514 | 31 |
|                                   | aprotic <sup>a</sup>      | 29210±100  | -(2020±400)         | 0.7544 | 21 |
|                                   | protic                    | 27800±230  | 390±350             | 0.3453 | 10 |
|                                   | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 25130±240  | -(4430±560)         | 0.8204 | 31 |
| <i>(ṽ <sub>fluo</sub>) /</i> cm⁻¹ | aprotic <sup>a</sup>      | 25790±200  | -(8630±810)         | 0.9252 | 21 |
|                                   | protic                    | 24380±840  | -(2670±1310)        | 0.5619 | 10 |
|                                   | all solvents <sup>a</sup> | 4000±210   | 2730±500            | 0.7551 | 31 |
| Δ <i>ν̃</i> /cm⁻¹                 | aprotic <sup>a</sup>      | 3420±150   | 6610±590            | 0.9329 | 21 |
|                                   | protic                    | 3410±930   | 3060±1440           | 0.5778 | 10 |
|                                   | all solvents <sup>b</sup> | 0.98±0.05  | -(1.08±0.13)        | 0.8816 | 31 |
| QY                                | aprotic                   | 0.99±0.04  | -(1.28±0.13)        | 0.9153 | 21 |
|                                   | protic                    | 1.93±0.45  | -(2.48±0.72)        | 0.7757 | 10 |

<sup>a</sup> without formamide <sup>b</sup> without 1,2-dimethoxyethane



Fig. 7S Plot of dependence of absorption maximum position ( $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ) (top left), fluorescence maximum position ( $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ) (top right), Stokes shift ( $\Delta \tilde{v}$ ) (bottom left), and fluorescence quantum yield (bottom right) of **3** as a function of the solvent polarity parameter  $E^{N}_{T}$  for all solvents (green), aprotic solvents (blue), and protic solvents (red). The point in green circle denotes that which was not included in the regression analysis.

Table 6S The slopes ( $m_1$  and  $m_2$ ) of the linear fit of the Stokes shift ( $\Delta \tilde{v}$ ) versus solvent polarity function f (Eq. 6) and ( $\tilde{v}_{abs} + \tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ) versus solvent polarity functions f + 2g (Eq. 7) and the appropriate correlation coefficients.

| compound                  | <i>m</i> <sub>1</sub> | r      | <i>m</i> <sub>2</sub> | r      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| ( <b>1</b> ) <sup>a</sup> | 5018±239              | 0,9665 | 6720±327              | 0.9652 |
| (2)                       | 1110±146              | 0.7936 | 3264±208              | 0.9371 |
| ( <b>3</b> ) <sup>b</sup> | 2549±239              | 0,8774 | 5181±375              | 0.9213 |

<sup>a</sup> without 1,2-dimethoxyethane and formamide

<sup>b</sup> without 1,2-dimethoxyethane



Fig. 8S The dependence of the Stokes shift ( $\Delta \tilde{v}$ ) (top) and the sum of absorption and fluorescence wavenumber ( $\tilde{v}_{abs} + \tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ) (bottom) of **1** on two solvent polarity functions.

Table 7S. Estimated from eq. **3** coefficients ( $y_o$ .  $a_{SPP}$ ,  $b_{SA}$ ,  $c_{SB}$ ); their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ,  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ , QY,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$  of **1** as function of the Catalán three-parameter solvent scale.

| у              | Уо                          | <b>a</b> <sub>SPP</sub>        | b <sub>SA</sub>          | C <sub>SB</sub>            | r                |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Va             | 30148±221<br>30110±205      | -(1863±329)<br>-(1771±274)     | -(484±191)<br>-(463±177) | -(97±158)                  | 0.7441<br>0.7382 |
| V <sub>f</sub> | 31511±850<br>31639±815      | -(11940±1267)<br>-(12131±1213) | -(447±737)               | -(1153±608)<br>-(1259±576) | 0.8890<br>0.8875 |
| Δv             | -(1333±1000)<br>-(1254±951) | 10025±1490<br>9906±1416        | -(262±850)               | 1426±703<br>1370±668       | 0.8964<br>0.8960 |
| QY             | 1.88±0.09                   | -(1.66±0.13)                   | -(0.32±0.07)             | -(0.29±0.06)               | 0.9767           |

Table 8S. Estimated from eq. **2** coefficients ( $y_o$ ,  $a_{\pi^*}$ ,  $b_\alpha$ ,  $c_\beta$ ,), their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $v_{abs}$ ,  $v_{fluo}$ , QY,  $\Delta \tilde{V}$ , of **1** as a function of the Kamlet-Taft three-parameter solvent scale.

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Comparing the correlation coefficients obtained using four and three-parameter solvents scales, it should be noted that four-parameter solvent scale gives better results (higher correlation coefficient) than that of three-parameter solvent scale regardless of whether it is the old Catalán or Kamlet-Taft scale (Tables 7S and 8S).

For last two scales, in the correlation of spectral and photophysical properties the same type of solvent parameters are important, although the values of corresponding coefficients are different (Tables 7S and 8S).

Table 9S. Estimated coefficients ( $y_o$ ,  $a_{SPP}$   $b_{SA}$ ,  $c_{SB}$ ; see eq. **3**), their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ ,  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ ,  $\tau$ , and QY of **2** as a function of the Catalán three-parameter solvent scale.

| У                    | Уo        | <b>a</b> <sub>SPP</sub> | b <sub>SA</sub> | C <sub>SB</sub> | r      |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| $\tilde{V}_{abs}$    | 30980±175 | -(2230±260)             | -(743±154)      | -(89±122)       | 0.8808 |
|                      | 30955±168 | -(21661±227)            | -(688±147)      |                 | 0.8731 |
| $	ilde{V}_{fluo}$    | 28804±318 | -(3628±472)             | -(1528±280)     | -(299±222)      | 0.8968 |
|                      | 28945±323 | -(4004±435)             | -(1528±282)     |                 | 0.8777 |
| $\Delta \tilde{\nu}$ | 2177±400  | 1390±595                | 426±276         | 736±346         | 0.7570 |
| Τ                    | 0.85±0.12 | 0.30±0.18               | -(0.01±.11)     | 0.20±0.08       | 0.6627 |
|                      | 0.85±0.12 | 0.31±0.17               |                 | 0.21±0.08       | 0.6625 |
| QY                   | 1.00±0.10 | -(0.13±0.15)            | -(0.19±0.08)    | 0.15±0.07       | 0.4644 |
|                      | 0.92±0.03 |                         | -(0.22±0.08)    | 0.12±0.06       | 0.4444 |

Table 10S. Estimated coefficients ( $y_o$ .  $a_{\pi^*}$ ,  $b_{\alpha}$ ,  $c_{\beta}$ ; see eq. **2**) their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ .  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ , r, and QY of **2** as a function of the Kamlet-Taft three-parameter solvent scale.

| У                         | Уо                     | $a_{\pi^*}$  | bα           | Cβ                     | r                |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}$ abs  | 29871±38               | -(1058±68)   | -(378±66)    | -(129±90)              | 0.9447           |
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}$ fluo | 26862±142              | -(1309±254)  | -(539±245)   | -(972±323)             | 0.7935           |
| $\Delta \tilde{v}$        | 3009±144<br>3066±119   | 250±257      | 162±248      | 845±336<br>1095±223    | 0.6800<br>0.6629 |
| Т                         | 1.04±0.04<br>1.05±0.03 | -(0.00±0.07) | -(0.04±0.06) | 0.34±0.09<br>0.31±0.06 | 0.6978<br>0.6937 |
| QY                        | 0.94±0.03              | -(0.13±0.06) | -(0.12±0.06) | -(0.20±0.08)           | 0.5087           |

The correlation analysis of the spectral and photophysical properties of (2) applying a three-parameter solvent polarity scale reveals (Tables 9S and 10S, ESI) that the

Kamlet-Taft as well as the old Catalan scale give much lower correlation coefficients than that of four-parameter Catalán solvent polarity scale. Moreover, the contributions of various parameters characterizing the solvent in eqs. **2** and **3** are different. In the Kamlet-Taft correlation of the absorption and emission maxima all  $a_{\pi}$ ,  $b_{\alpha}$  and  $c_{\beta}$  coefficients have significant influence on the correlation, whereas in the Catalán correlation the solvent basicity has no impact. The differences also exist for the correlation of Stokes shift, fluorescence quantum yield and fluorescence lifetime (Tables 9S and 10S, ESI). It seems that this is the result of poor correlation, small values of estimates burdened with large standard errors.

Table 11S. Estimated coefficients ( $y_o$ ,  $a_{SPP}$ ,  $b_{SA}$ ,  $c_{SB}$ ; see eq. **3**), their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $\tilde{V}_{abs}$ ,  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ , and QY of **3** as a function of the Catalán three-parameter solvent scale.

| У                          | Уо                     | <b>a</b> <sub>SPP</sub>       | b <sub>SA</sub>              | C <sub>SB</sub>            | r                |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}_{abs}$ | 33013±199              | -(1345±261)                   | -(691±175)                   | -(935±139)                 | 0.9033           |
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}$ fluo  | 32202±747<br>32373±710 | -(9887±1110)<br>-(10146±1053) | -(518±660)                   | -(1352±522)<br>-(1457±501) | 0.8822<br>0.8795 |
| Δv                         | 18±587<br>-(12±506)    | 6300±872<br>6377±644          | -(17±507)                    | 72±405                     | 0.8719<br>0.8717 |
| QY                         | 1.61±0.23<br>1.60±0.22 | -(1.19±0.34)<br>-(1.16±0.29)  | -(0.77±0.20)<br>-(0.76±0.19) | 0.02±0.16                  | 0.8232<br>0.8231 |

Table 12S. Estimated coefficients ( $y_o$ .  $a_{\pi^*}$ ,  $b_{\alpha}$ ,  $c_{\beta}$ ; see eq. **2**), their standard errors and correlation coefficients (r) for the multiple linear regression analysis of  $\tilde{v}_{abs}$ .  $\tilde{v}_{fluo}$ ,  $\Delta \tilde{v}$ , and QY of **3** as a function of the Kamlet-Taft three-parameter solvent scale.

| У                         | Уо                     | $a_{\pi^*}$                  | bα                           | $C_{eta}$                  | r                |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}$ abs  | 29395±56               | -(589±6)                     | -(254±3)                     | -(1050±132)                | 0.9211           |
| $	ilde{\mathcal{V}}$ fluo | 26898±237<br>26885±231 | -(3447±423)<br>-(3457±416)   | -(165±408)                   | -(3213±523)<br>-(3064±407) | 0.8830<br>0.8824 |
| $\Delta \tilde{\nu}$      | 3422±217<br>3440±213   | 1917±383<br>1931±383         | -(225±374)                   | 1424±507<br>1221±375       | 0.8250<br>0.8226 |
| QY                        | 1.01±0.08<br>0.99±0.07 | -(0.56±0.15)<br>-(0.59±0.14) | -(0.31±0.14)<br>-(0.36±0.11) | -(0.11±0.19)               | 0.7655<br>0.7626 |

Comparing the correlation coefficients obtained using four and three-parameter solvents scales (Tables 11S and 12S, ESI), it should be noted that, as for previously described compounds, four-parameter solvent scale gives better results (higher correlation coefficient) than that of three-parameter solvent scale regardless of whether it is the old Catalán or Kamlet-Taft scale. For these two scales in the correlation of absorption and fluorescence maxima positions and fluorescence quantum yield the same type of solvent properties are important in the correlation although their values, also in this case, are different (Table 11S and 12S; ESI). Different solvent parameters are responsible for Stokes shift correlation. The correlation according to Kamlet-Taft equation shows that the acidity of the solvent can be omitted (the correlation using Catalán equation both the basicity and acidity of the solvent can be omitted, as in the case of a four-parameter correlation (the correlation coefficient r=0.8717 whereas for the original fit r=0.8719).