

## Supporting Information for:

### Evaluation of form birefringence in chiral nematic mesoporous materials

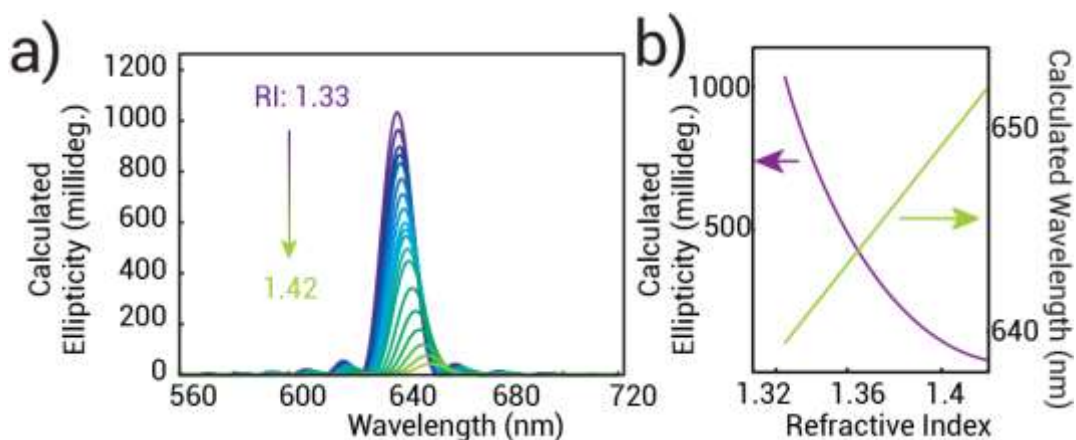
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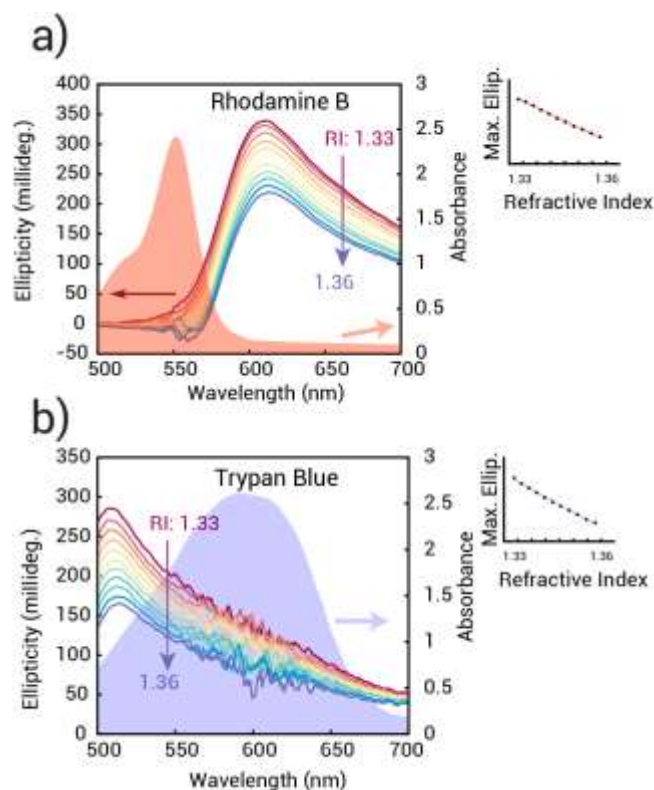
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**Figure S1:** a) Calculated CD spectra for a chiral nematic mesoporous organosilica film based on the form birefringence model. b) Calculated response of the maximum intensity and wavelength as a function of the solution refractive index.



**Figure S2:** Refractometric sensing performance of chiral nematic mesoporous organosilica in opaque solutions spiked with Rhodamine B (a, absorption spectra shaded orange) and Trypan Blue (b, absorption spectra shaded blue). When the absorbance is greater than 2 (*i.e.*, 99% of the light absorbed by the dye), the signal/noise ratio of the circular dichroism feature decreases, but the wide breadth of the chiral nematic band ensures that the refractometric performance is retained.