

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### Photophysics of Proton Transfer in Hydrazides: A Combined Theoretical and Experimental Analysis towards OLED Device Application

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## Characterization details

### **T2:** (*E*)-*N'*-([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-ylmethylene)thiophene-2-carbohydrazide

Yield: 76 %, melting point: 210 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 11.88 (br. s; 1H), 8.59 (s; 1H), 8.01 (m; 1H), 7.89 (br. s; 1H), 7.6 (d; *J*=4.8, 1H), 7.45 (d; *J* = 3.8, 1H), 7.33 (d; *J* = 3.8; 1H), 7.23 (dd; *J*=4.8, 1H), 7.14 (dd; *J*=4.9, 3.8, 1H), FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3186 (NH), 1622 (CH=N), ESI-MS Calculated: 318.00, Obtained: 318.90(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### **P2:** (*E*)-*N'*-([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-ylmethylene)nicotinohydrazide

Yield: 79 %, melting point: 234 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 12.03 (s; 1H), 9.05 (m; 1H), 8.77 (m; 1H), 8.6 (s; 1H), 8.25 (s; 1H), 7.59 (m; 2H), 7.47 (dd; *J* = 6.7,3.7; 2H), 7.34 (d; *J*= 3.7; 1H), 7.14 (s; 1H), FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1638 (CH=N), ESI-MS Calculated: 313.39, Obtained: 313.95(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### **F2:** (*E*)-*N'*-([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-ylmethylene)furan-2-carbohydrazide

Yield: 82%, melting point: 221 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 11.90 (br. s; 1H), 8.61 (br. s; 1H), 7.96 (s; 1H), 7.6 (d; *J* = 5; 1H), 7.46 (d; *J*= 3.5, 1H), 7.43 (d; *J* = 3.8, 1H), 7.32 (m; 2H), 7.15 (m; 1H), 6.72 (br.s; 1H), FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3224 (NH), 3065 (Ar-CH), 1640 (CH=N), ESI-MS Calculated: 302.02, Obtained: 303.00(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### **T3:** *N',N'''*-((1*E*,1'*E*)-thiophene-2,5-diylbis(methaneylylidene))bis(thiophene-2-carbohydrazide)

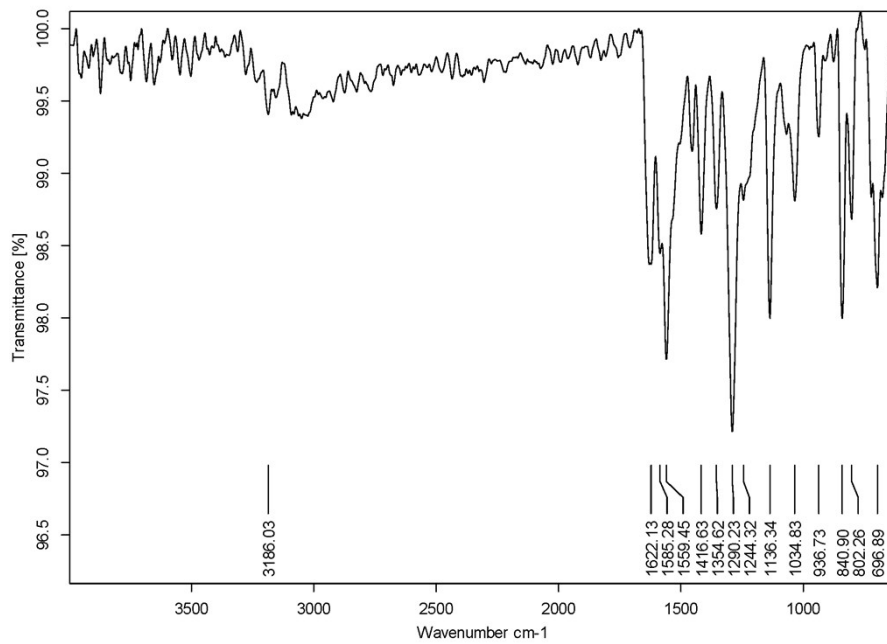
Yield: 72 %, melting point: 252 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 7.24 (br. s; 2H), 7.49 (s; 2H), 7.9 (br. s; 2H), 8.06 (d; *J* = 1.7; 2H), 8.27 (br. s; 1H), 8.65 (br. s; 1H), 11.98 (br. s; 2H). FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2939 (NH), 2902 (Ar-CH), 1641 (CH=N). ESI-MS Calculated: 388.48, Obtained: 389(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### **P3:** *N',N'''*-((1*E*,1'*E*)-thiophene-2,5-diylbis(methaneylylidene))di(nicotinohydrazide)

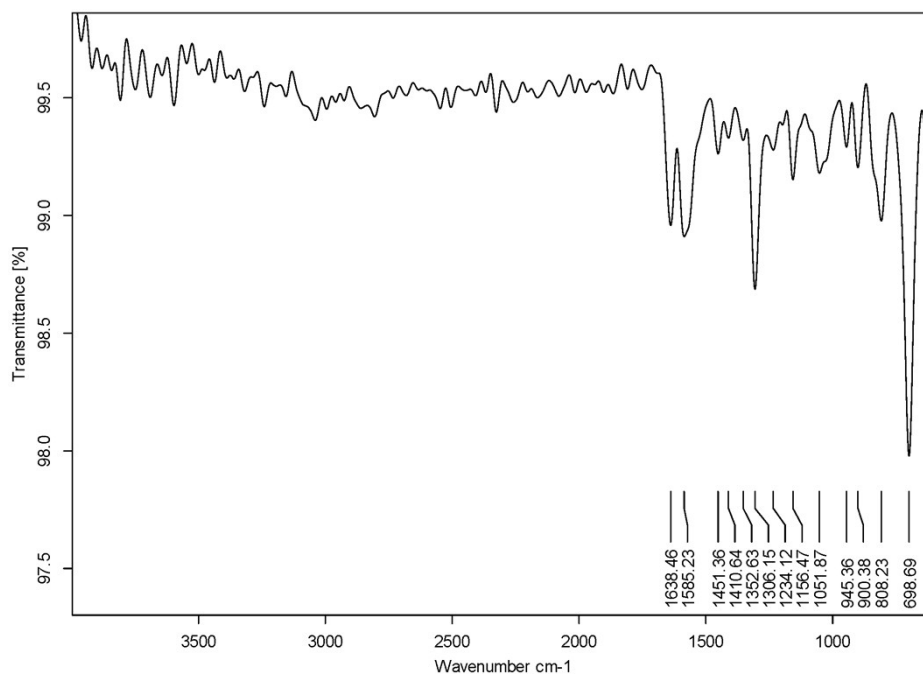
Yield: 78%, melting point: 276 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 7.58 (m; 4H), 8.26 (d; *J* = 8.1, 2H), 8.66 (s; 2H), 8.78 (m; 2H), 9.06 (s; 2H), 12.12 (m; 2H). FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3209 (NH), 3054 (Ar-CH), 1639 (CH=N). ESI-MS Calculated: 378.41, Obtained: 379.10(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### **F3:** *N',N'''*-((1*E*,1'*E*)- thiophene- 2,5-diylbis (methaneylylidene)) bis (furan-2-carbohydrazide)

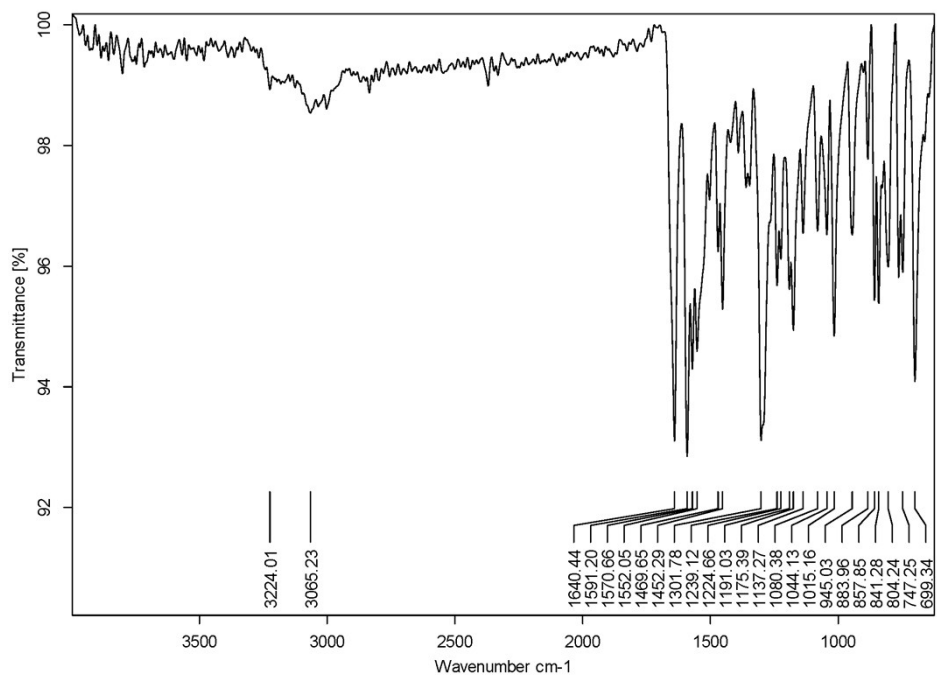
Yield: 76 %, melting point: 260 °C, <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO- *d*<sub>6</sub>, 400 MHz, ppm): δ 6.76 (m; 2H), 7.34 (m; 2H), 7.53 (m; 2H), 7.97 (br. s; 2H), 8.65 (br. s; 2H), 11.98 (br. s; 1H), 11.89 (m; 1H). FTIR (ATR) (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3135 (NH), 1604 (CH=N). ESI-MS Calculated: 356.36, Obtained: 357(M+H<sup>+</sup>).



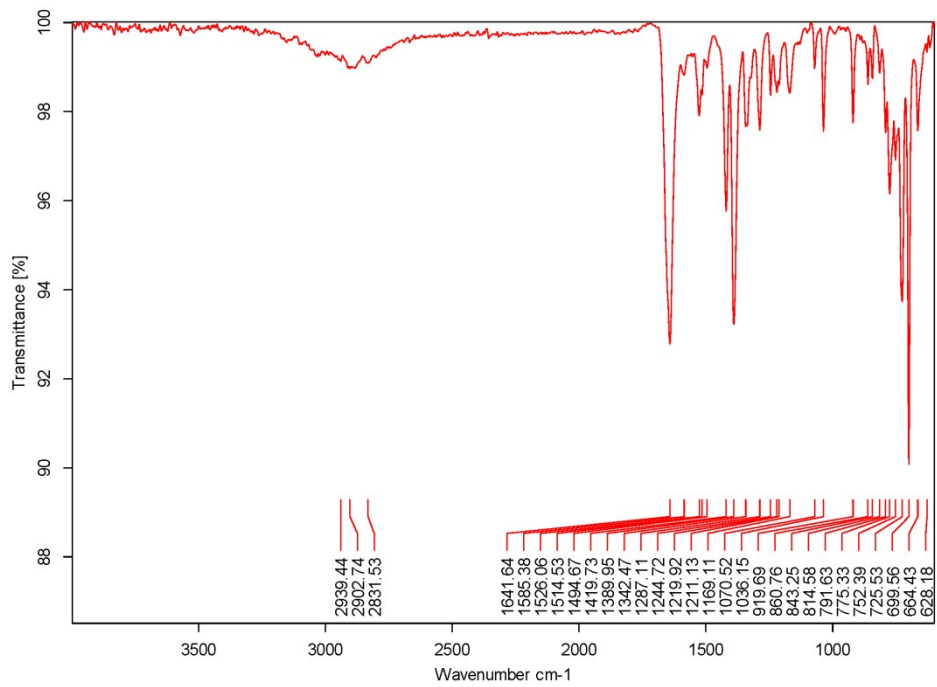
**Figure S1.** FT-IR spectra of **T2**



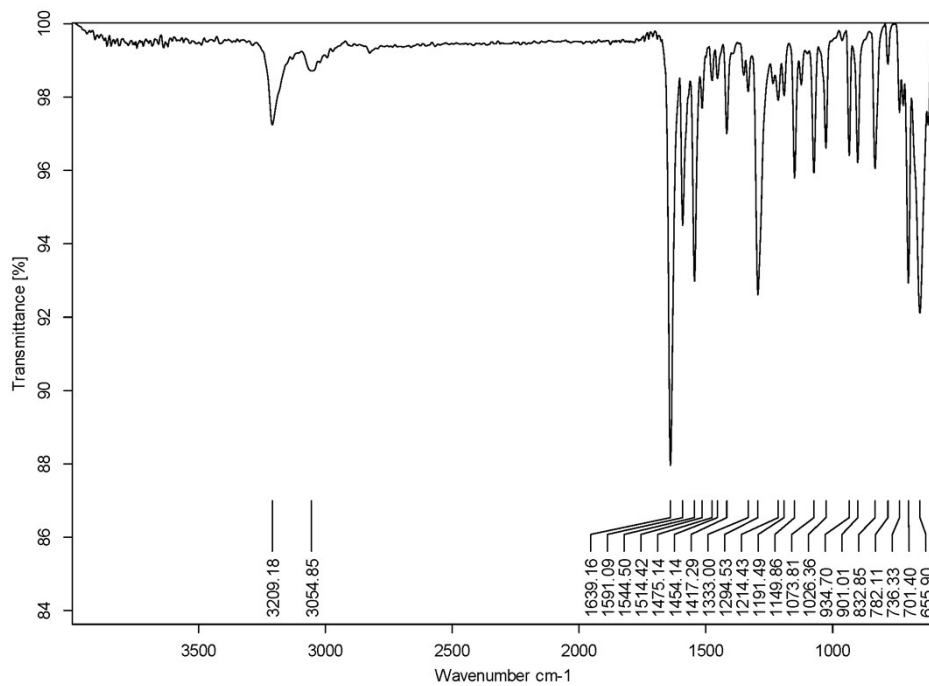
**Figure S2.** FT-IR spectra of **P2**



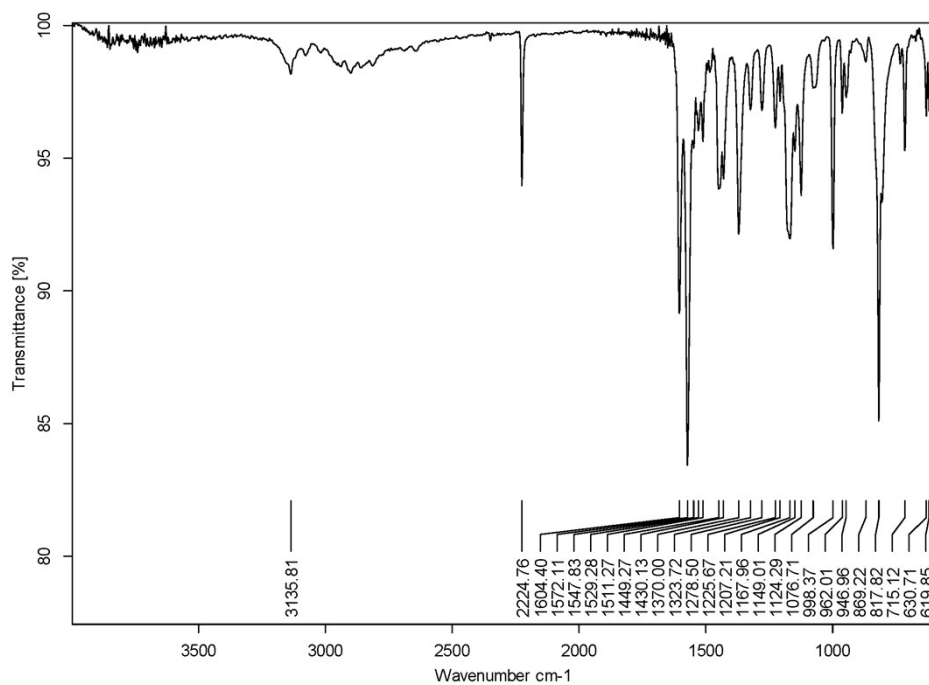
**Figure S3.** FT-IR spectra of **F2**



**Figure S4.** FT-IR spectra of **T3**



**Figure S5.** FT-IR spectra of **P3**



**Figure S6.** FT-IR spectra of **F3**

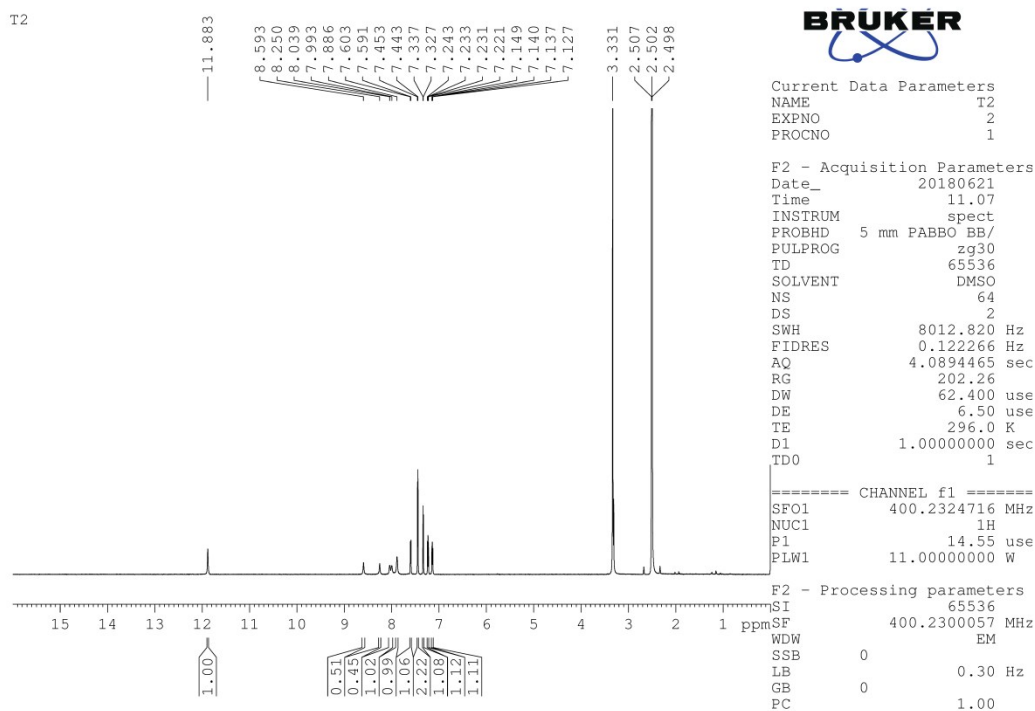


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of T2

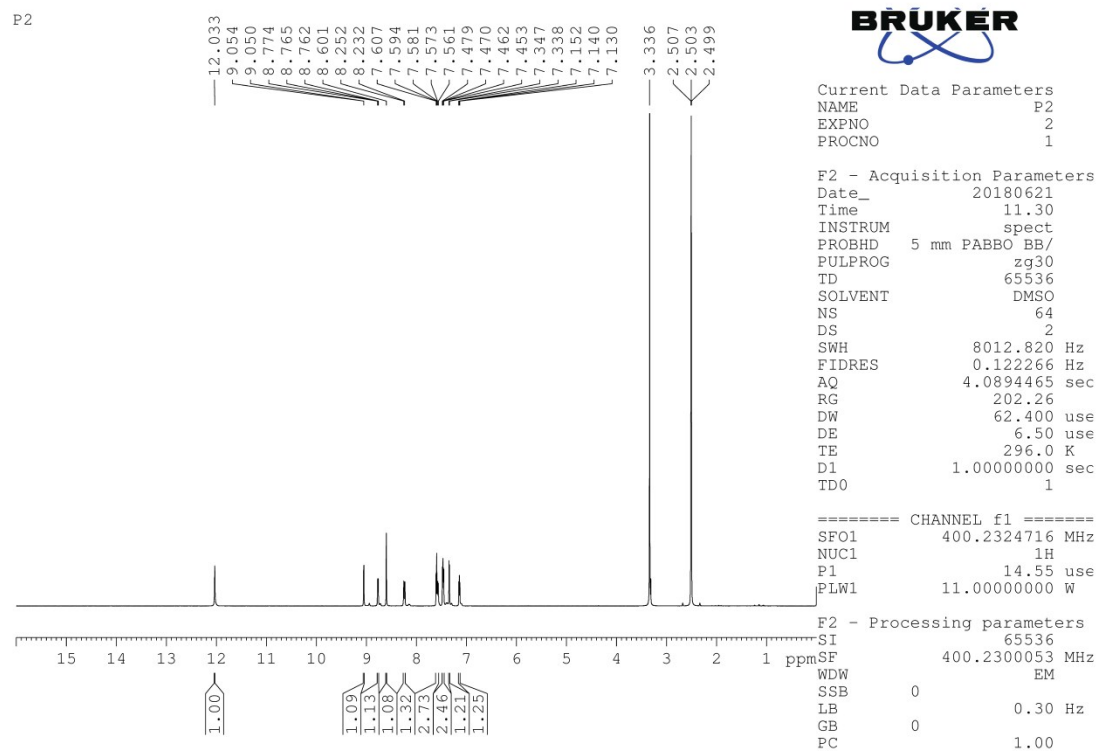


Figure S8. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of P2



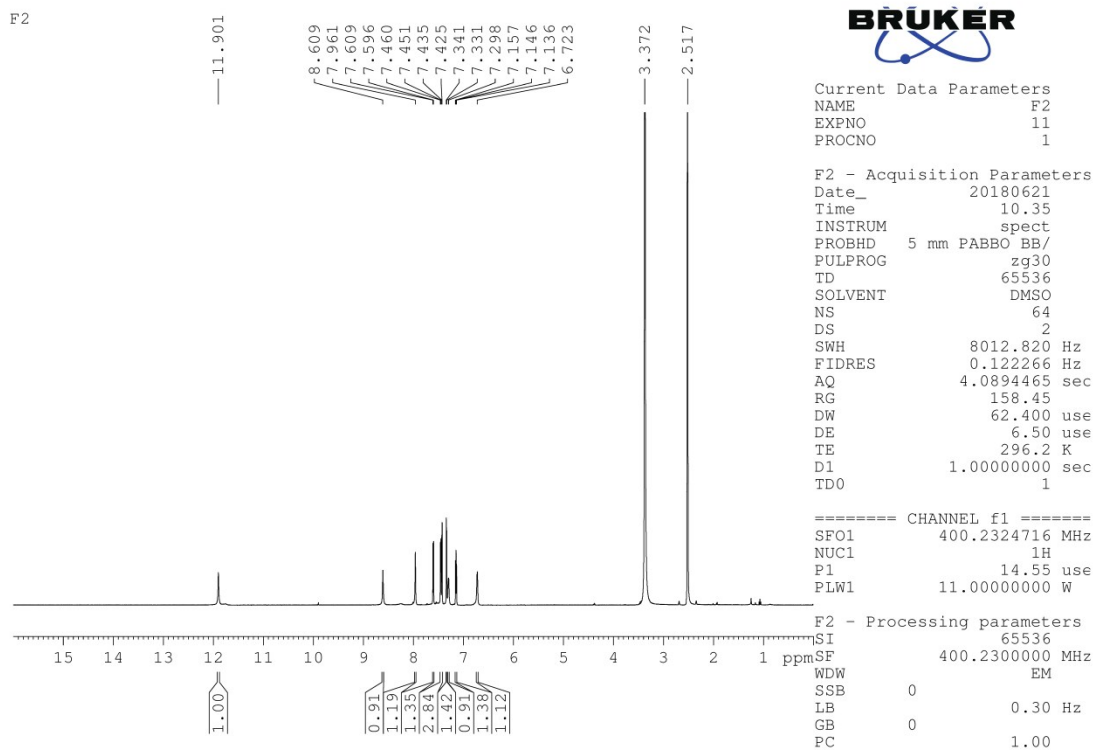


Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of F2

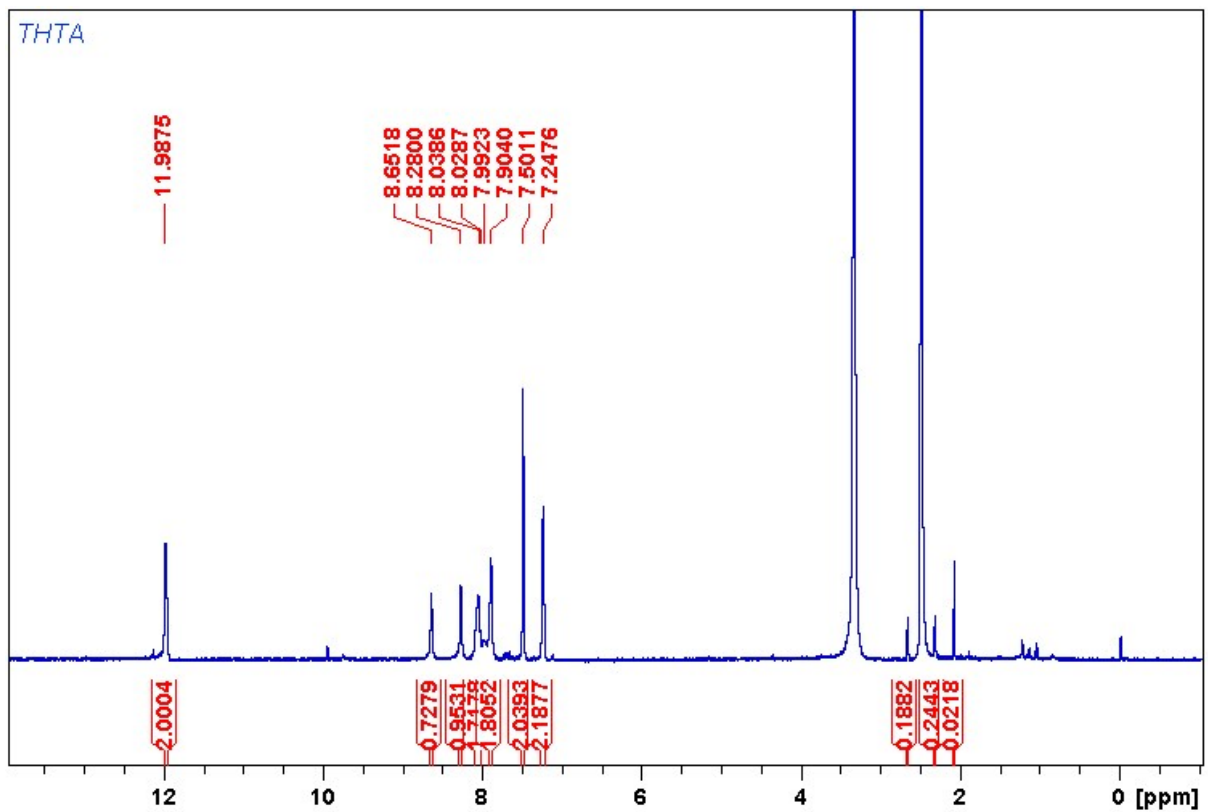


Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of T3

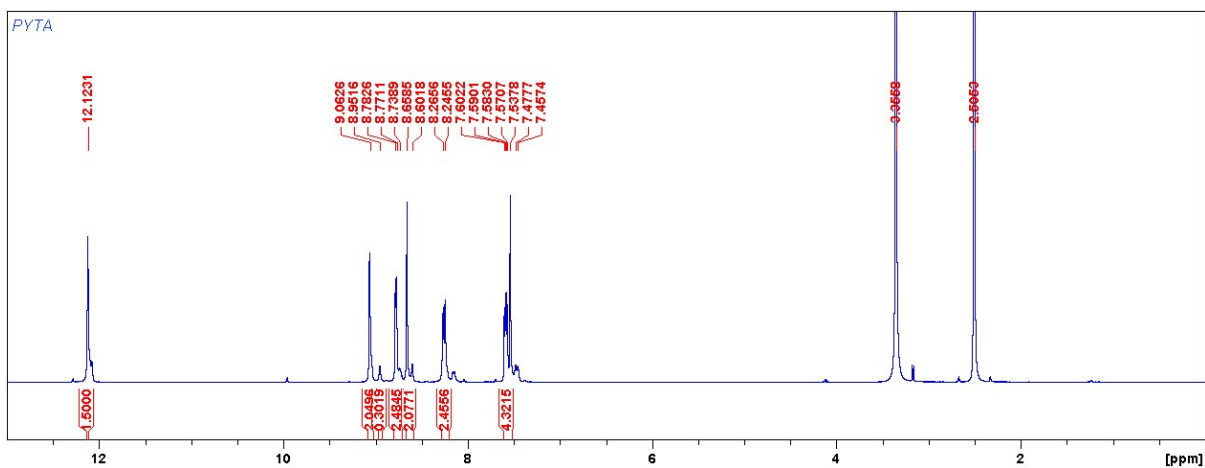


Figure S11.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of P3

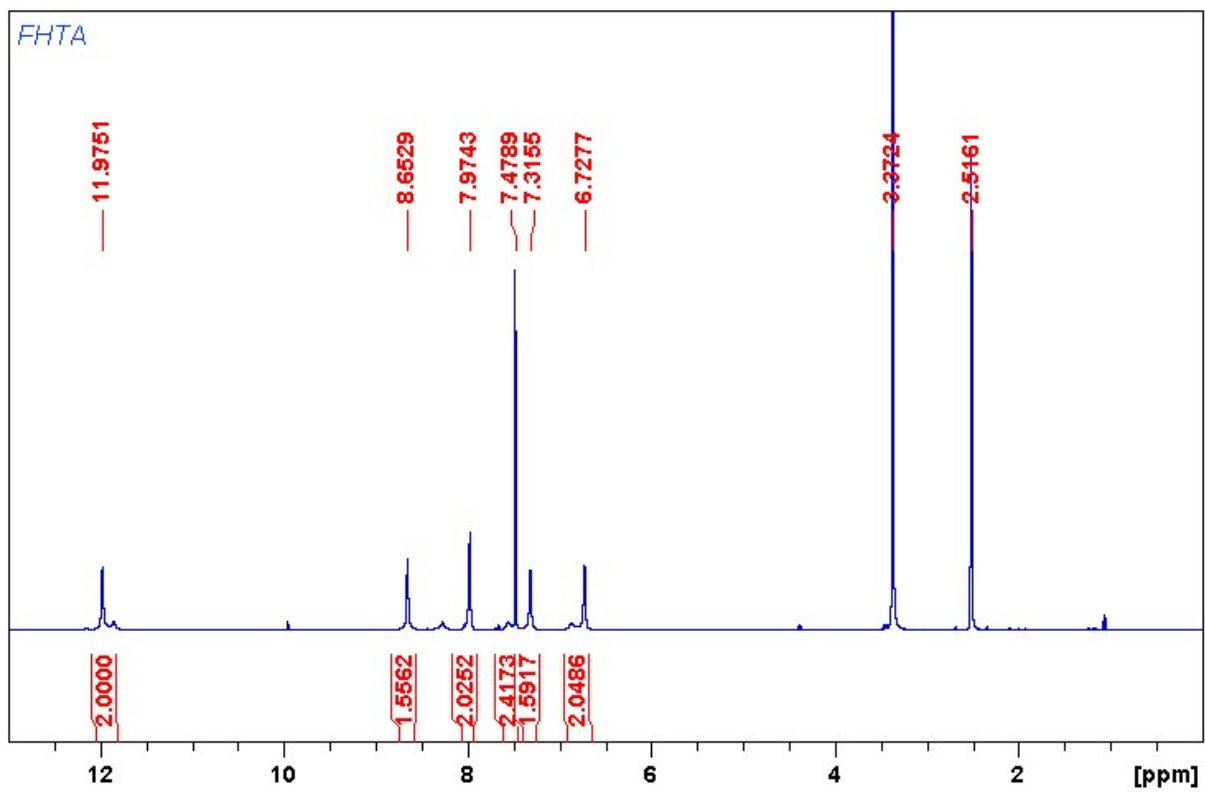
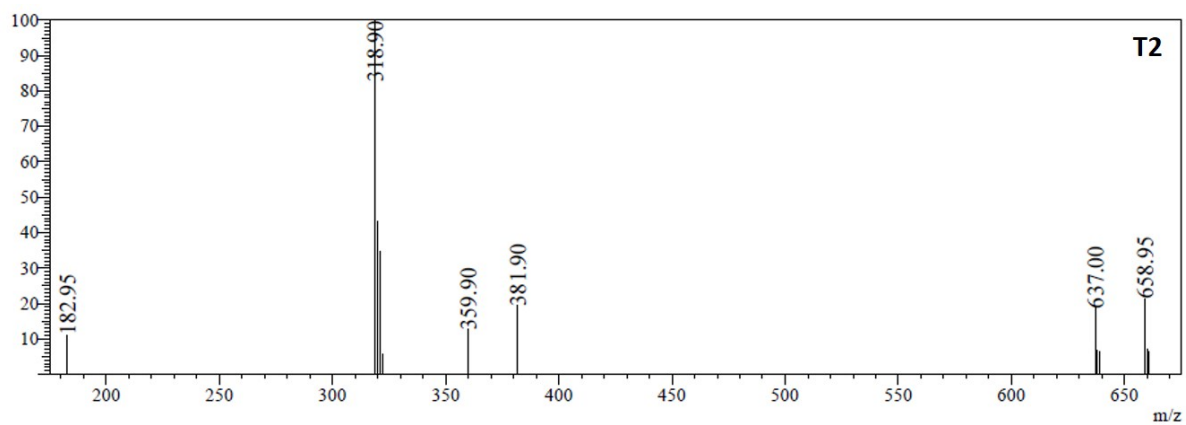
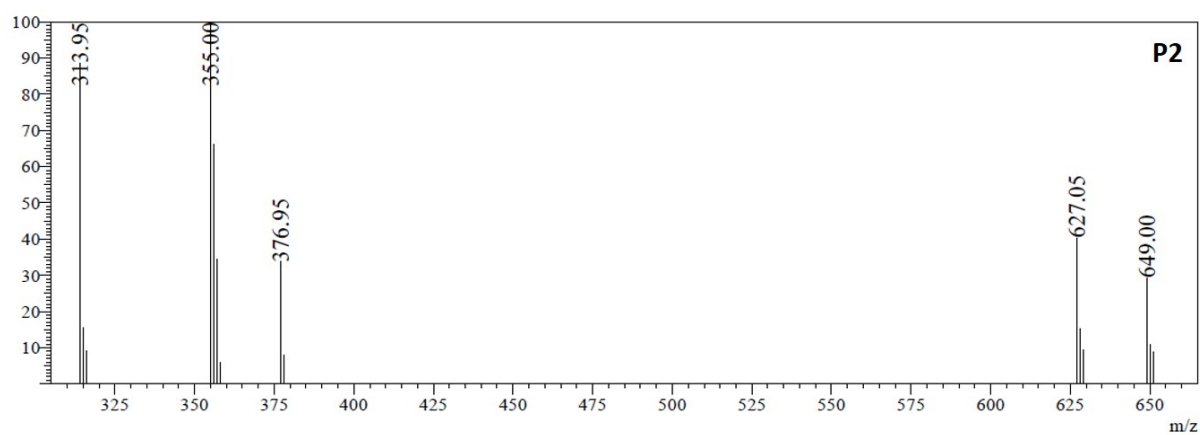


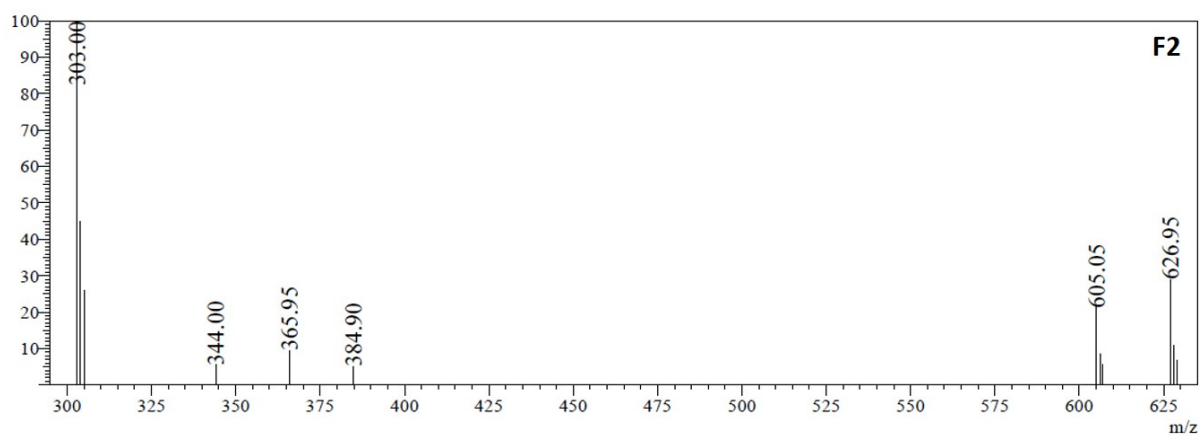
Figure S12.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of F3



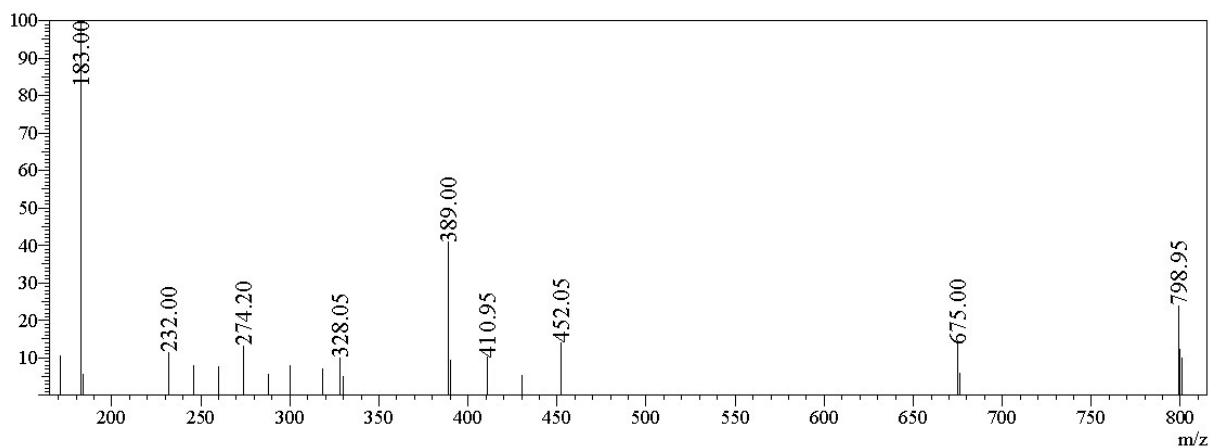
**Figure S13.** ESI-MS spectra of T2



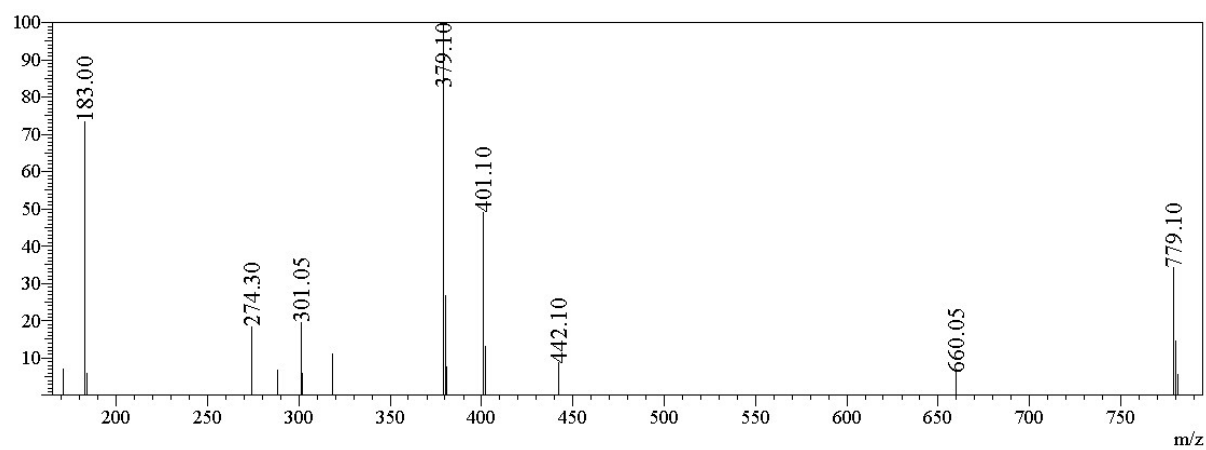
**Figure S14.** ESI-MS spectra of P2



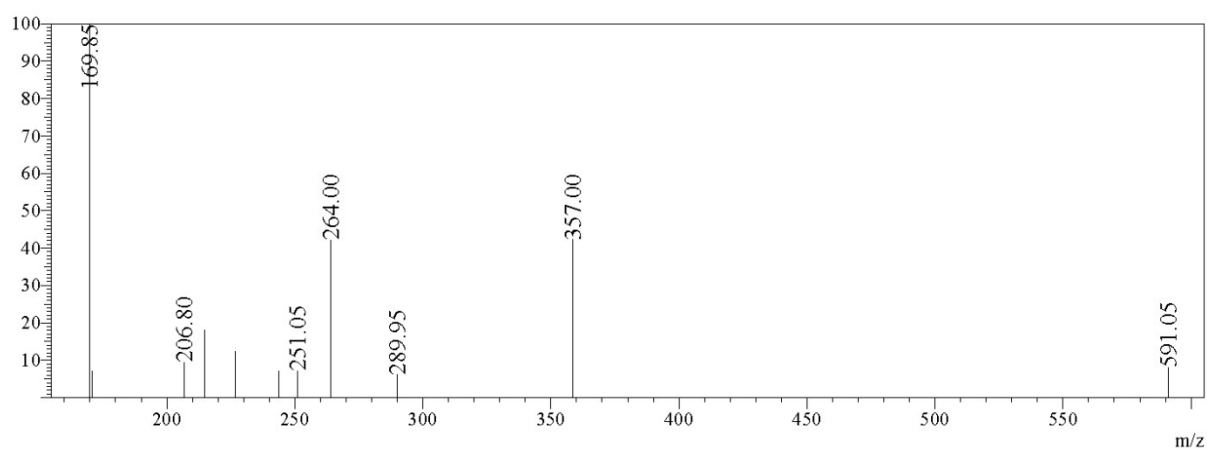
**Figure S15.** ESI-MS spectra of F2



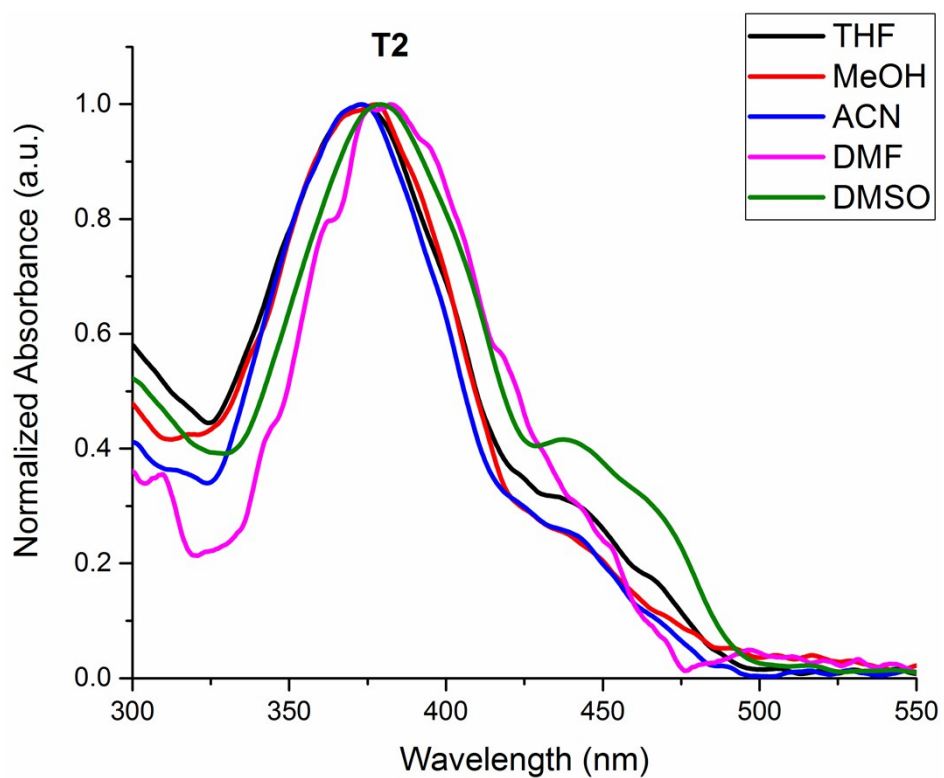
**Figure S16.** ESI-MS spectra of T3



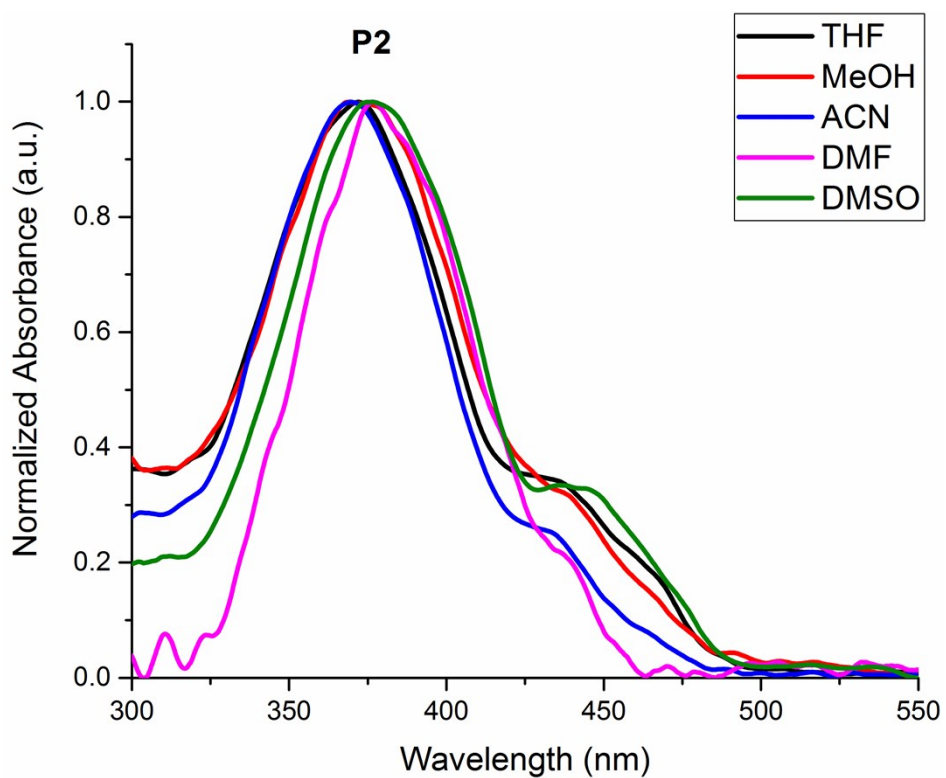
**Figure S17.** ESI-MS spectra of P3



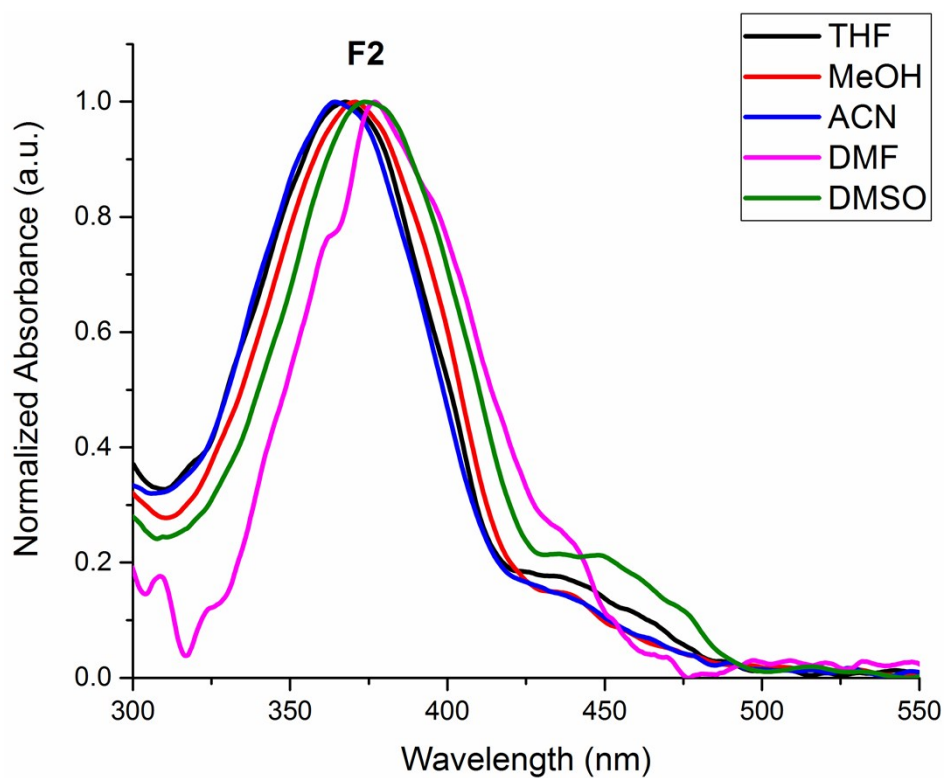
**Figure S18.** ESI-MS spectra of F3



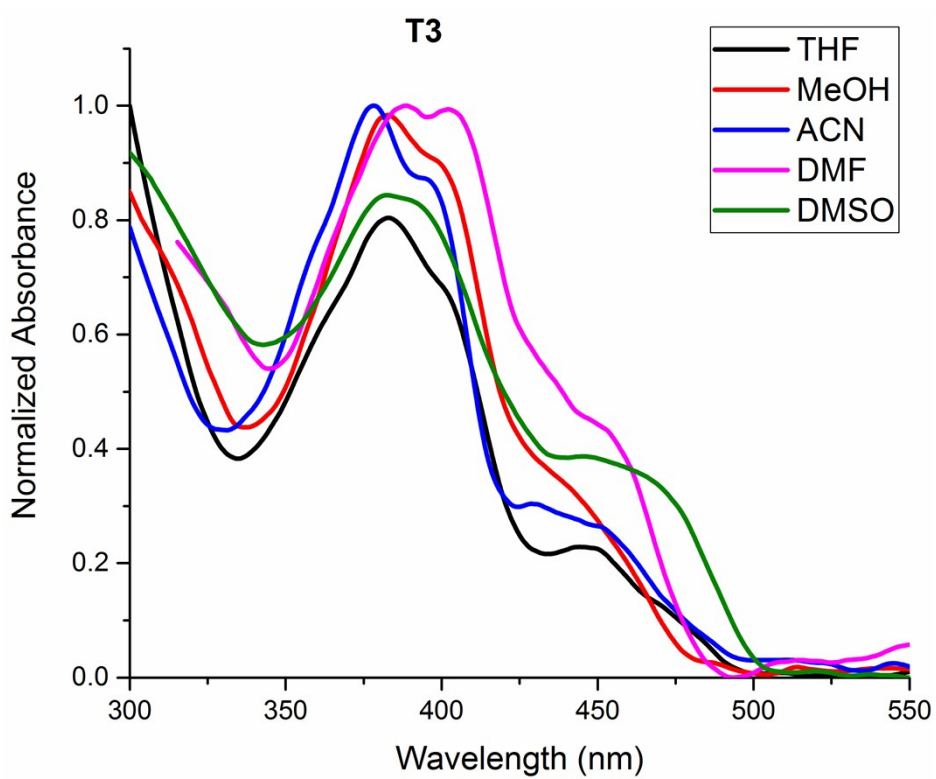
**Figure S19.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **T2** in solvent of varying polarity.



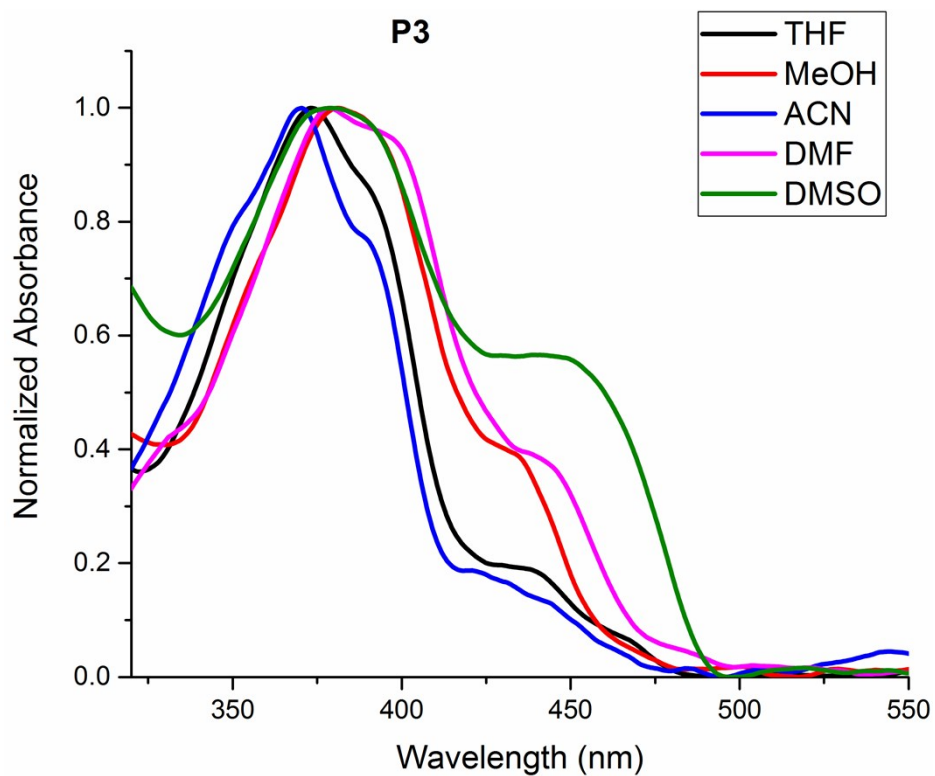
**Figure S20.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **P2** in solvent of varying polarity.



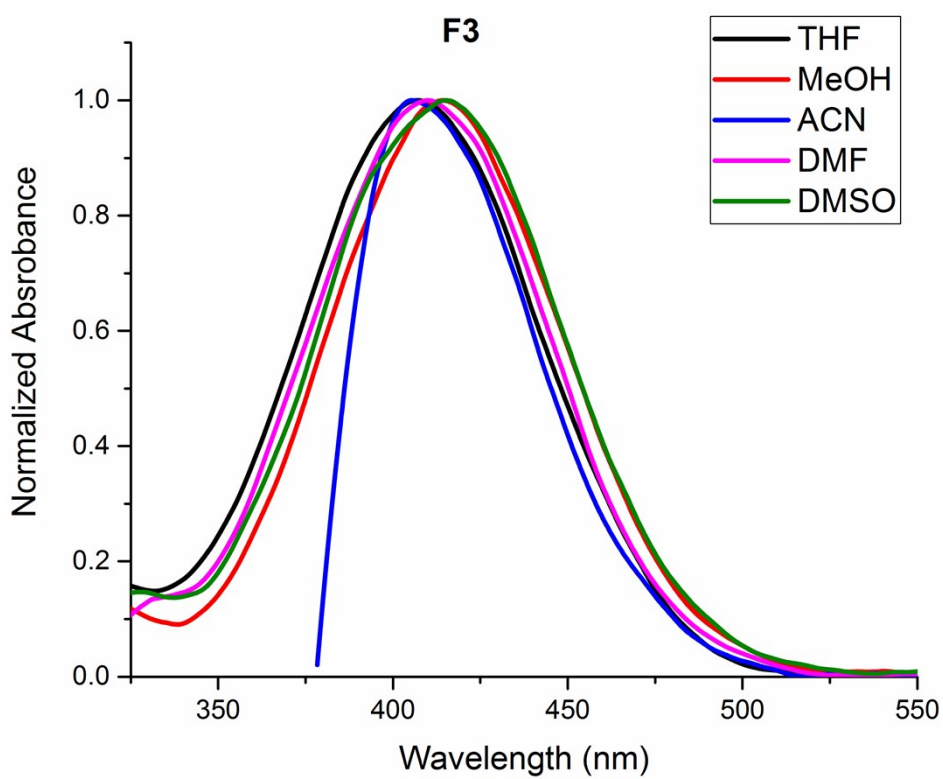
**Figure S21.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **F2** in solvent of varying polarity.



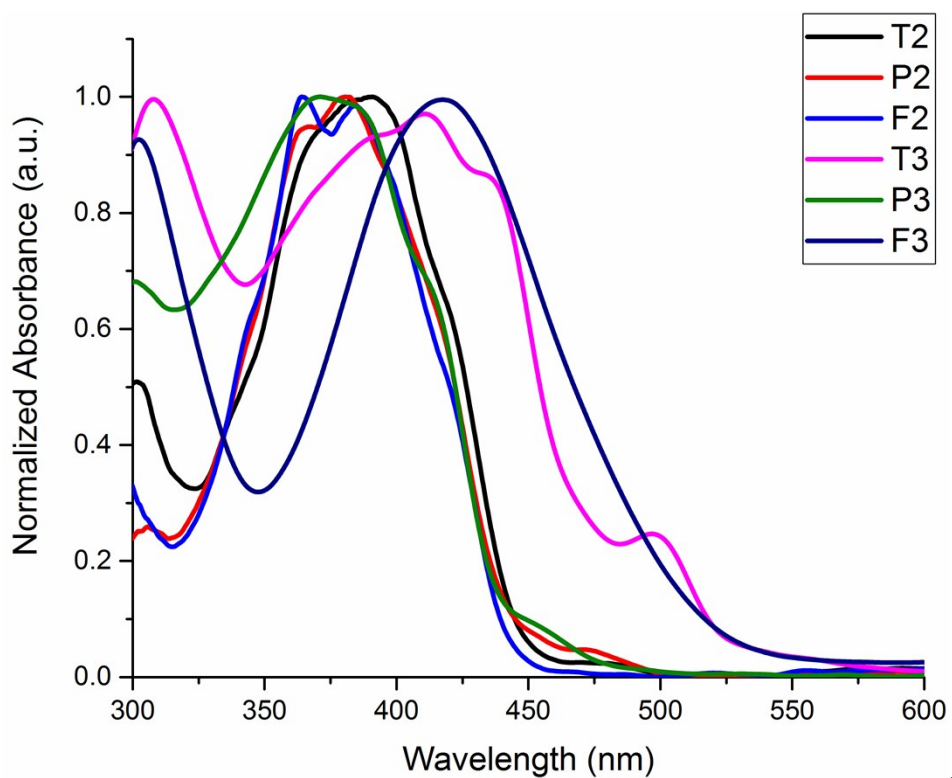
**Figure S22.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **T3** in solvent of varying polarity.



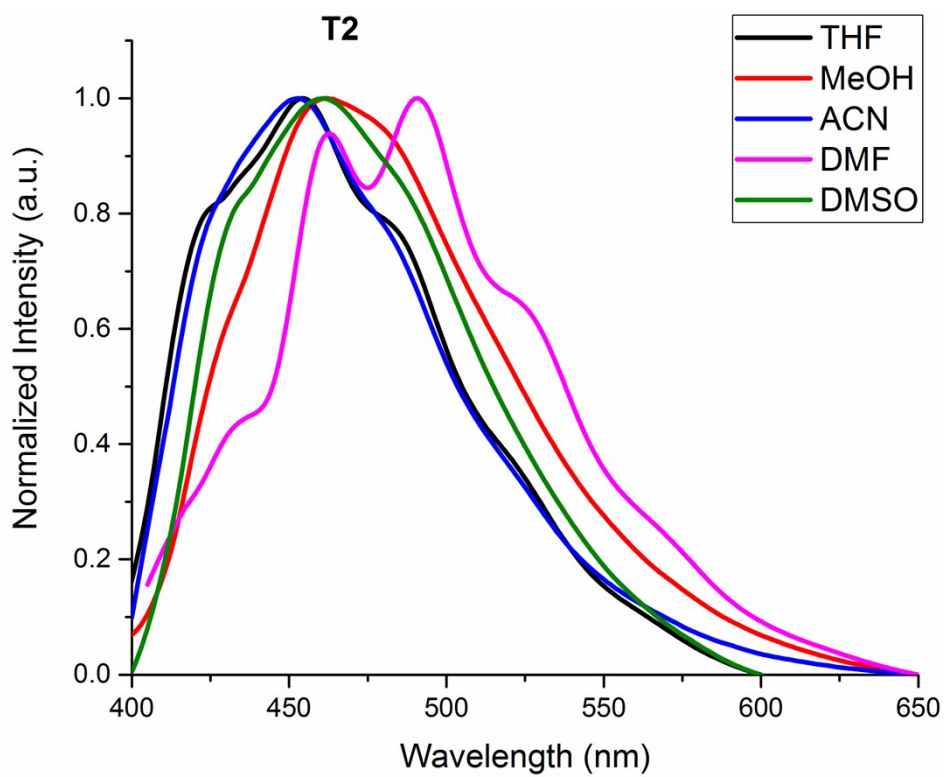
**Figure S23.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **P3** in solvent of varying polarity.



**Figure S24.** UV-Vis absorbance spectra of molecule **F3** in solvent of varying polarity.

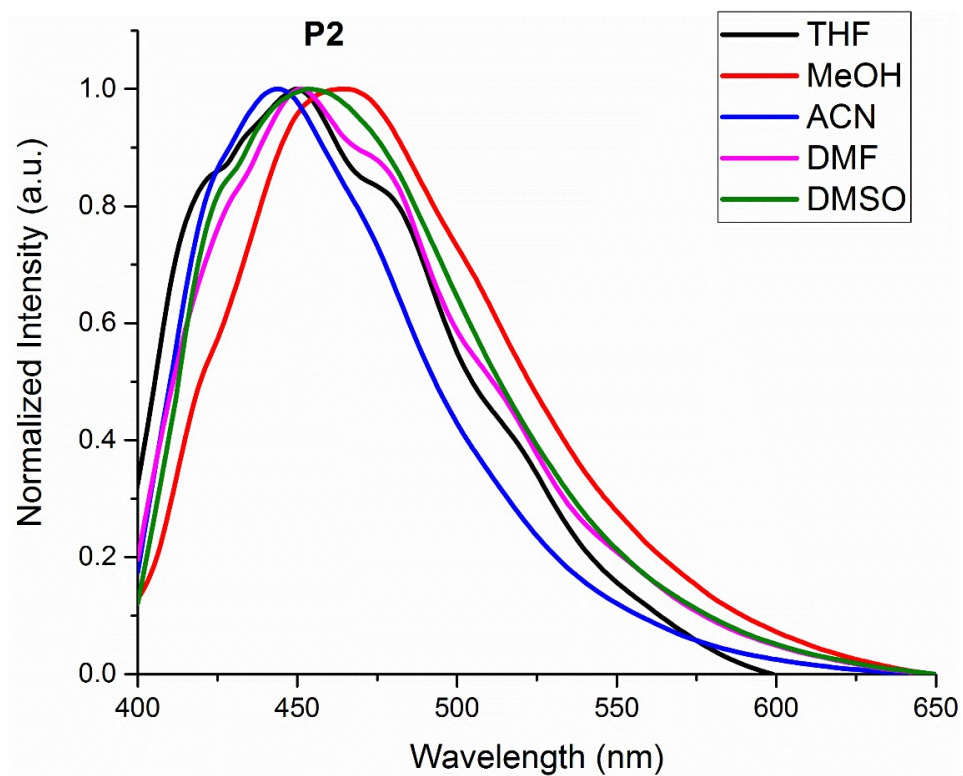


**Figure S25.** Solid State UV-Vis absorbance spectra of all the molecules of the series

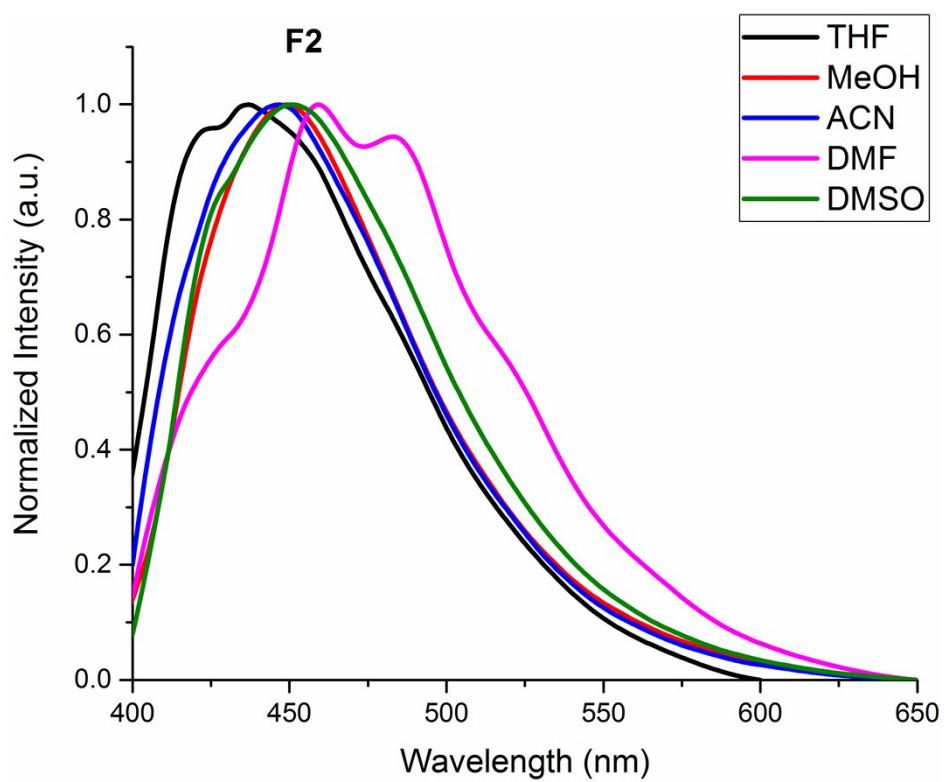


**Figure S26.** PL spectra of molecule T2 in solvent of varying polarity.

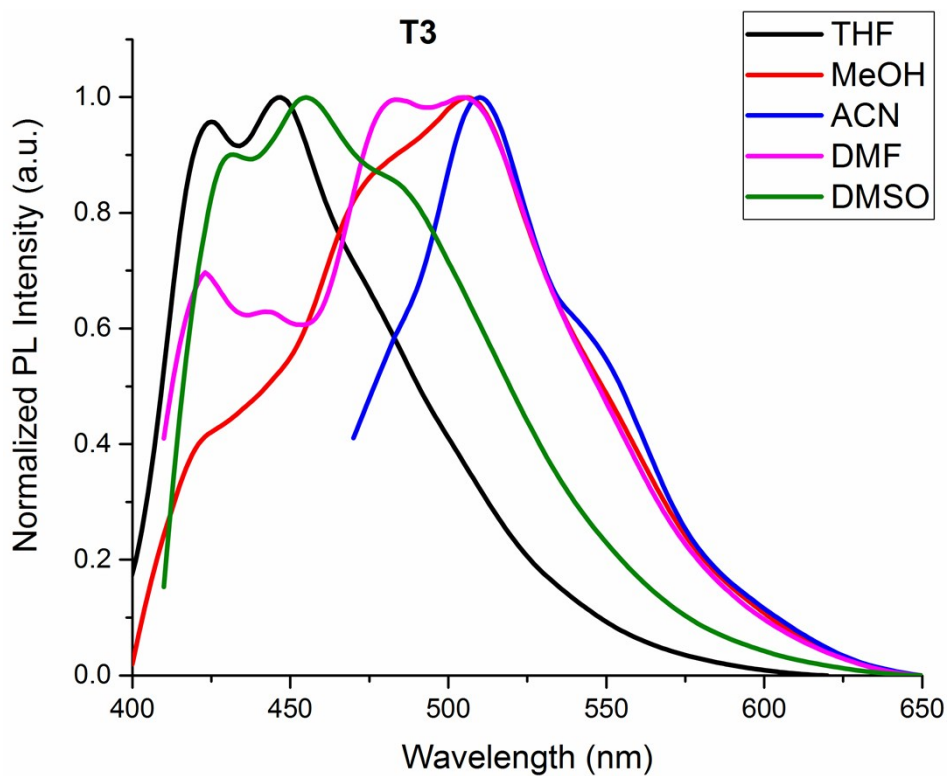




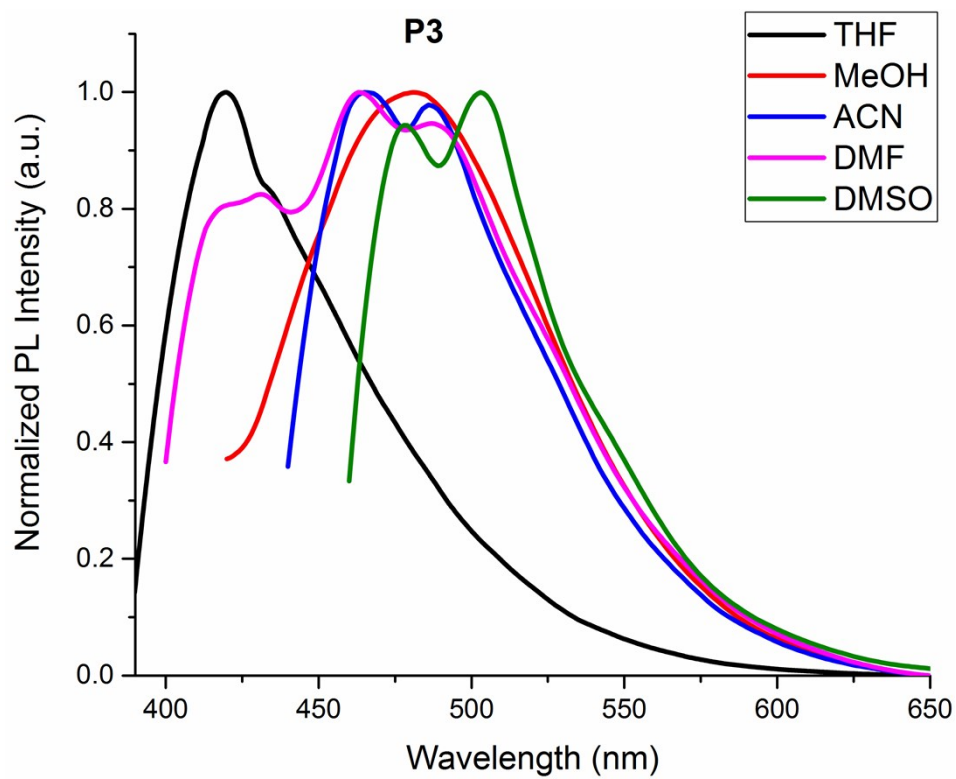
**Figure S27.** PL spectra of molecule **P2** in solvent of varying polarity.



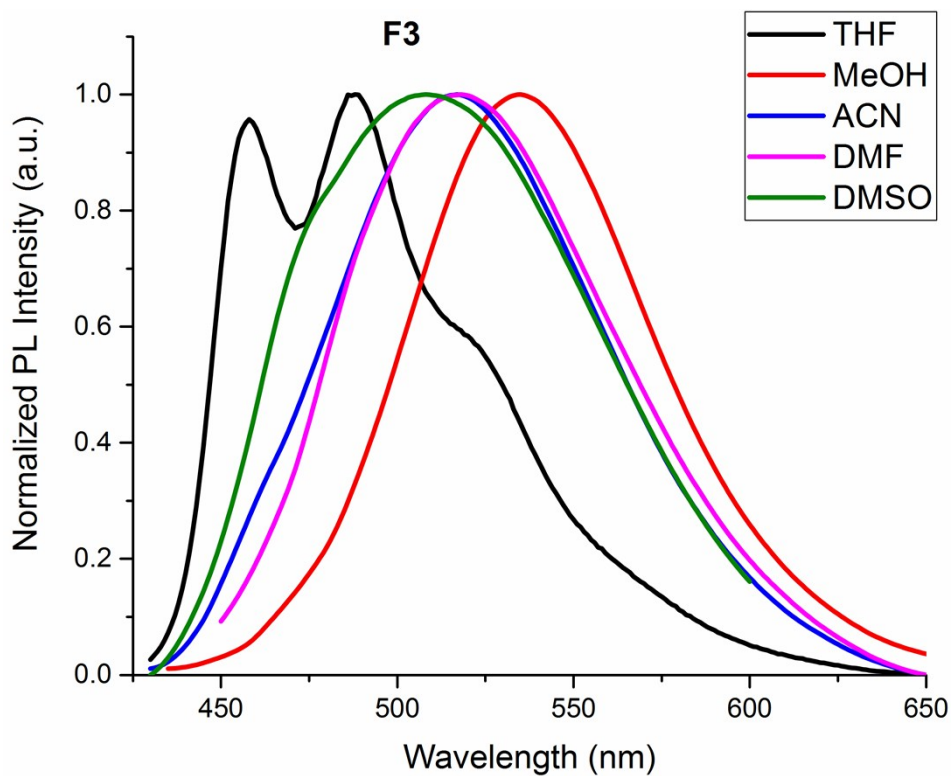
**Figure S28.** PL spectra of molecule **F2** in solvent of varying polarity.



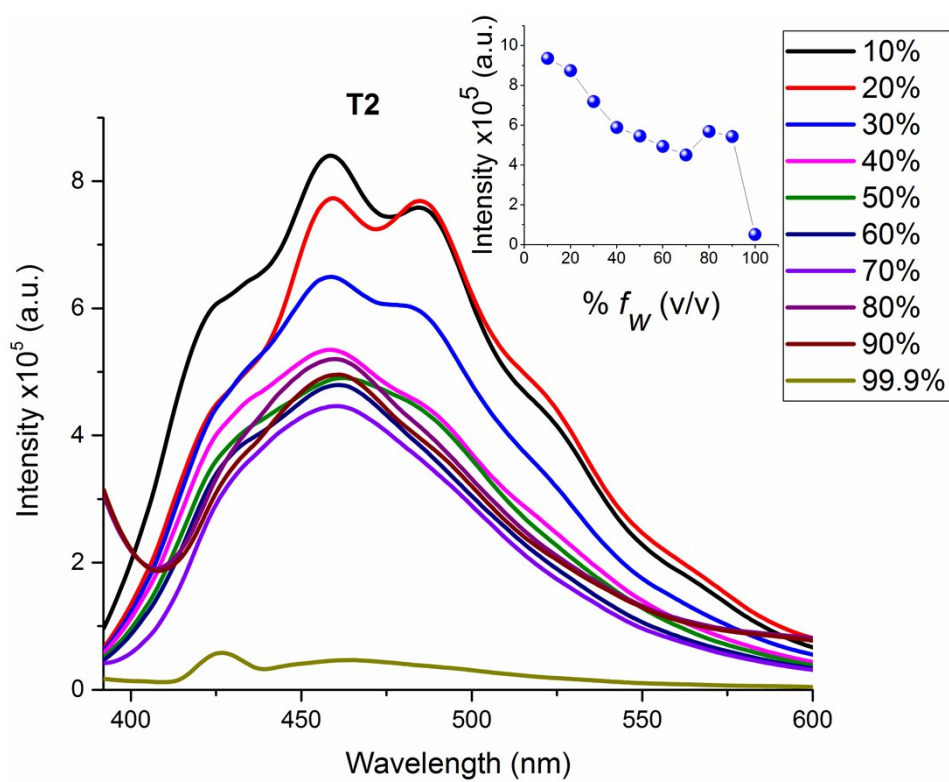
**Figure S29.** PL spectra of molecule **T3** in solvent of varying polarity.



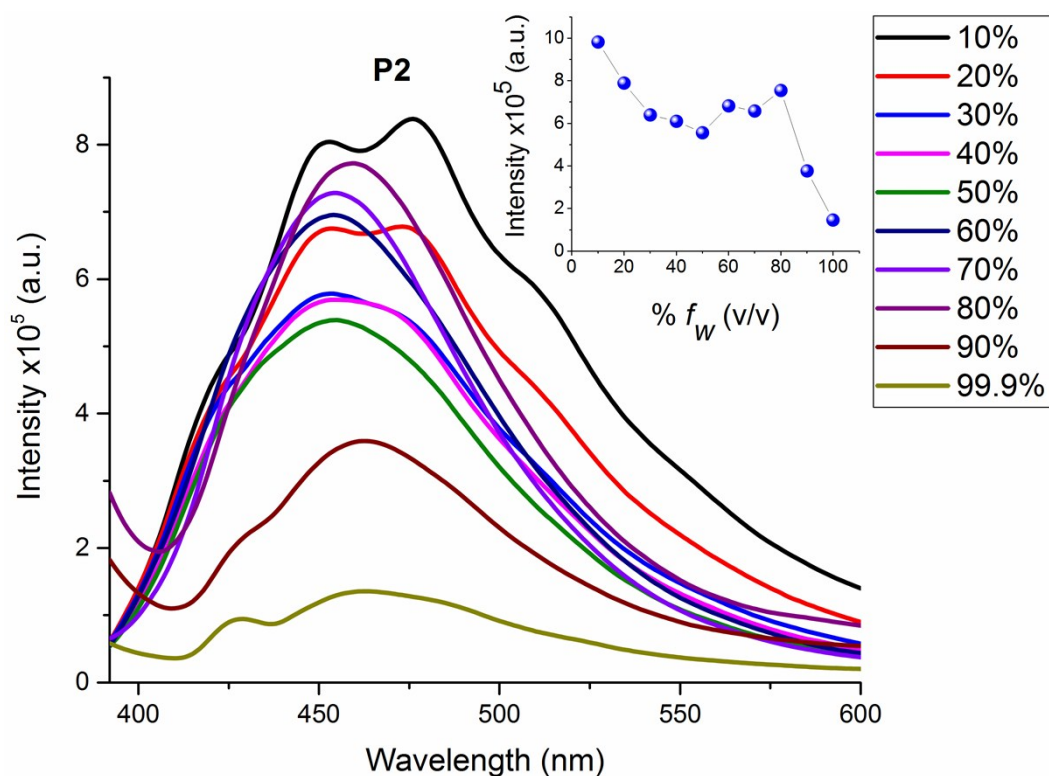
**Figure S30.** PL spectra of molecule **P3** in solvent of varying polarity.



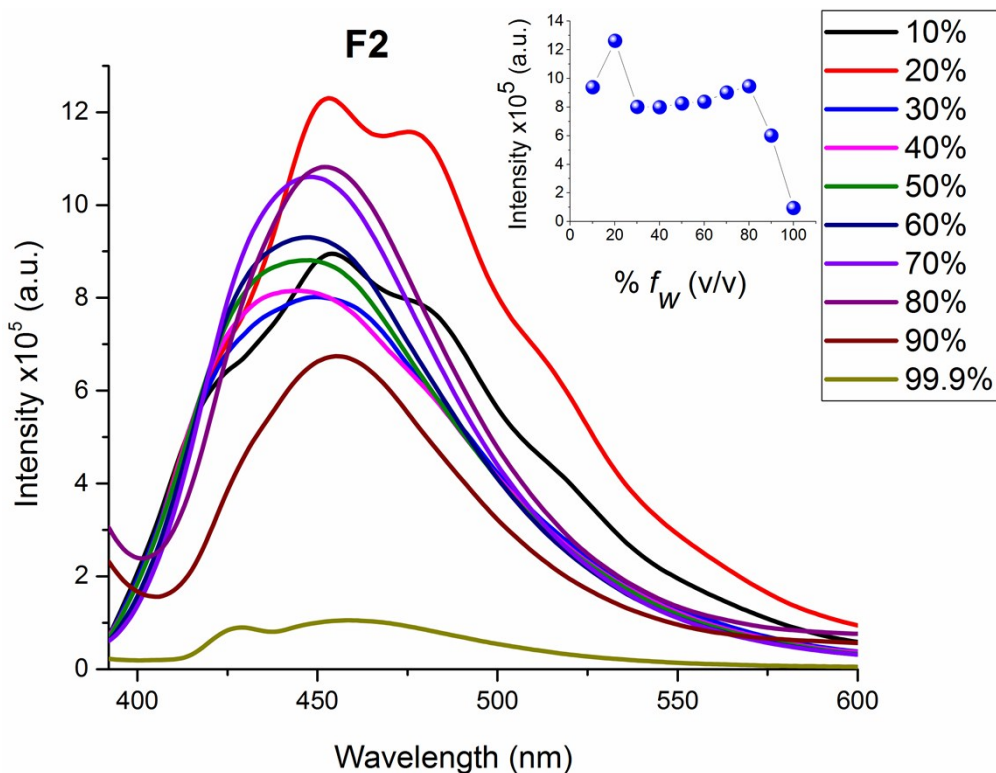
**Figure S31.** PL spectra of molecule **F3** in solvent of varying polarity.



**Figure S32.** Fluorescence emission spectrum of **T2** with varying  $f_w$  and inset gives the intensity value with varying  $f_w$

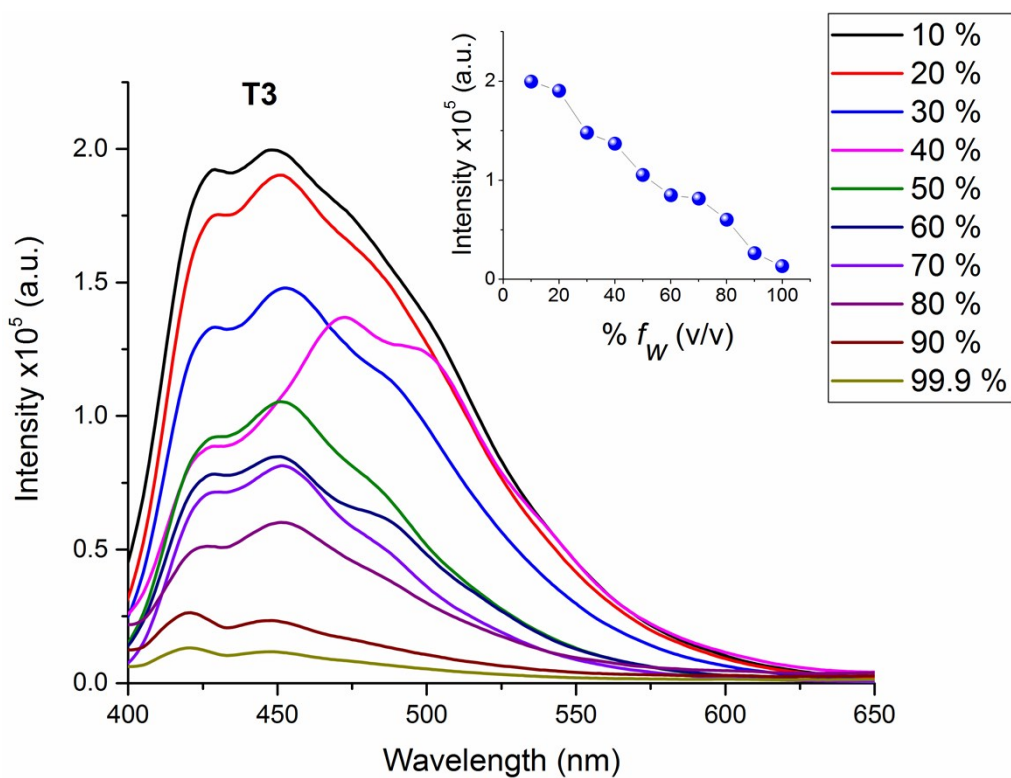


**Figure S33.** Fluorescence emission spectrum of **P2** with varying  $f_w$  and inset gives the intensity value with varying  $f_w$

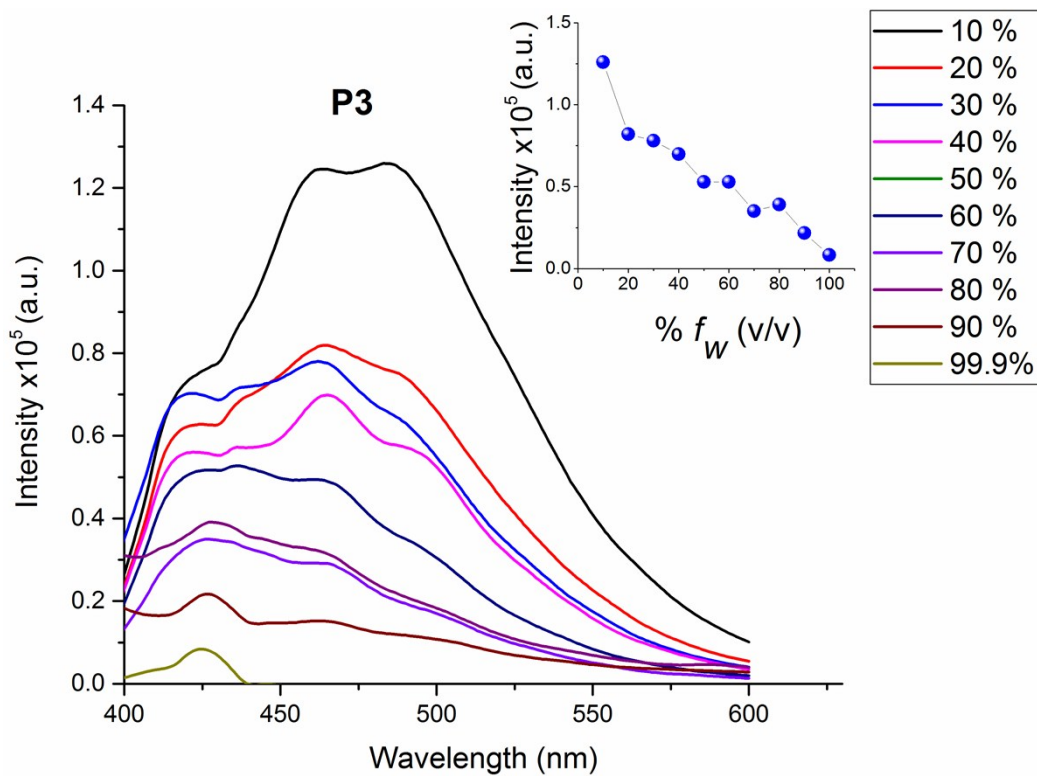


**Figure S34.** Fluorescence emission spectrum of **F2** with varying  $f_w$  and inset gives the intensity value with varying  $f_w$

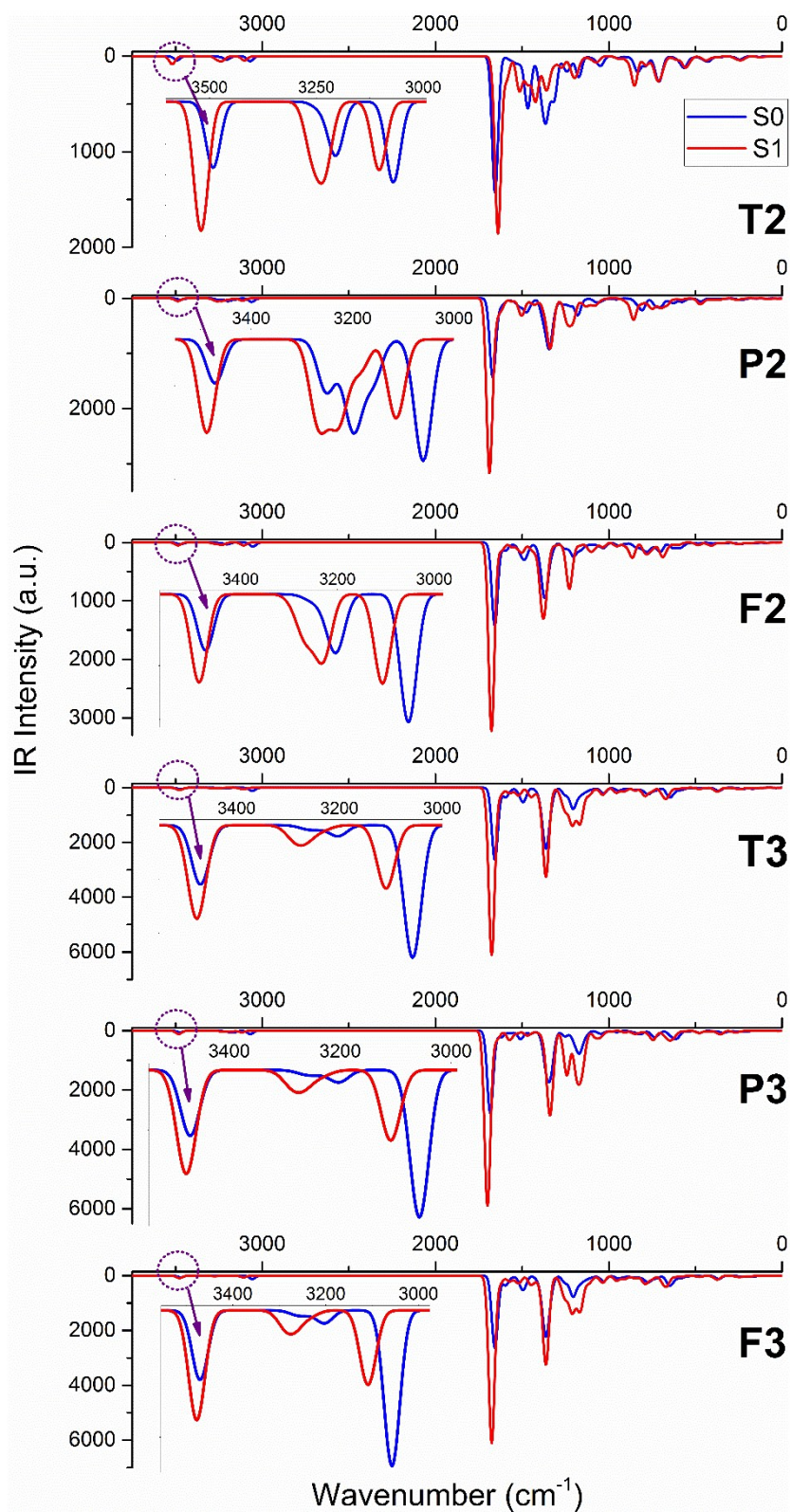




**Figure S35.** Fluorescence emission spectrum of T3 with varying  $f_w$  and inset gives the intensity value with varying  $f_w$

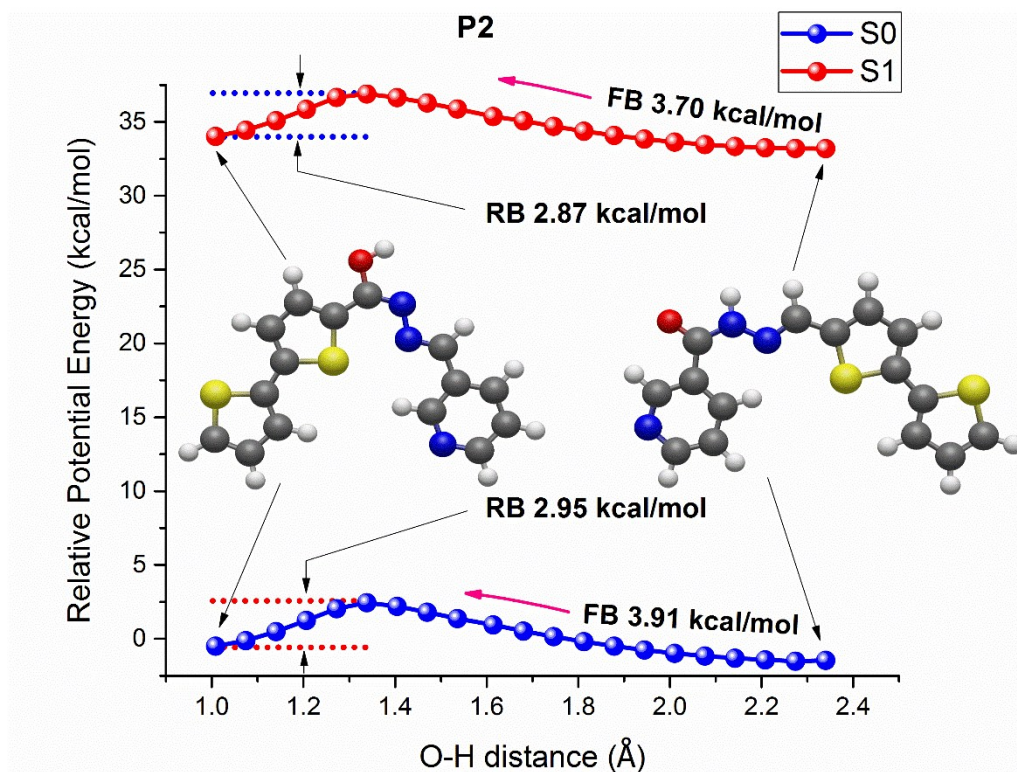


**Figure S36.** Fluorescence emission spectrum of P3 with varying  $f_w$  and inset gives the intensity value with varying  $f_w$

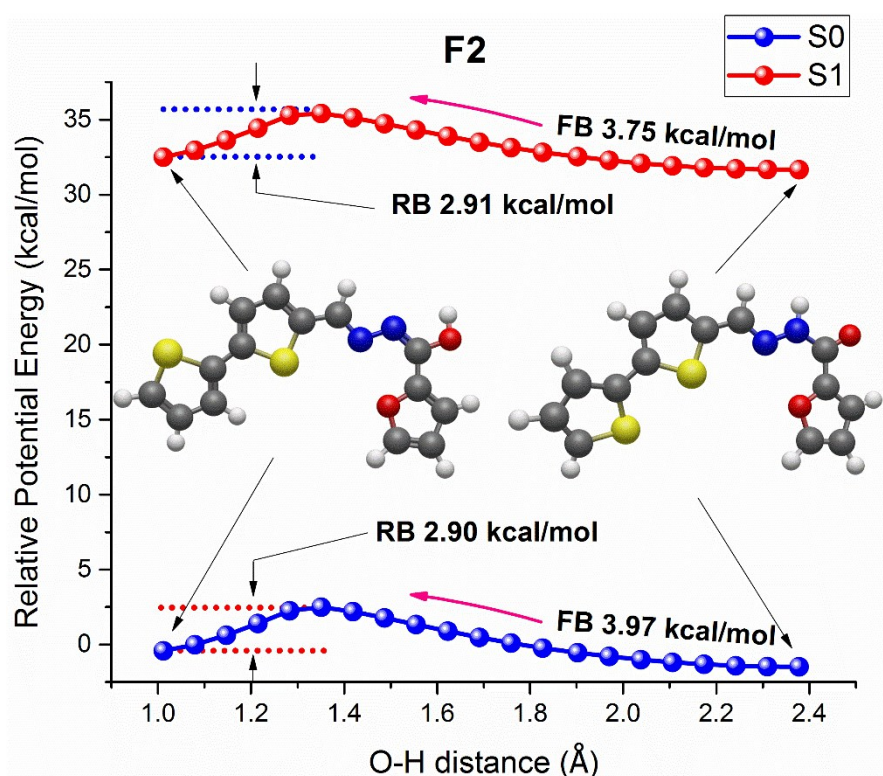


**Figure S37.** Vibrational stretching frequency of all the molecules in  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states; specifically focusing N-H stretching frequency

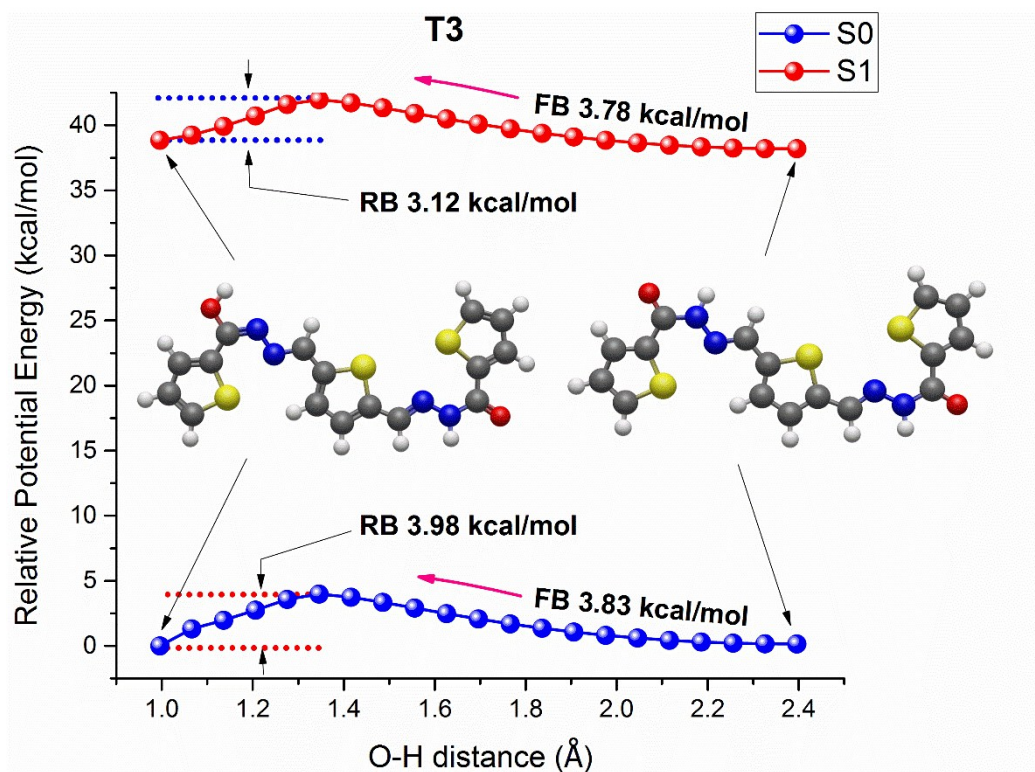




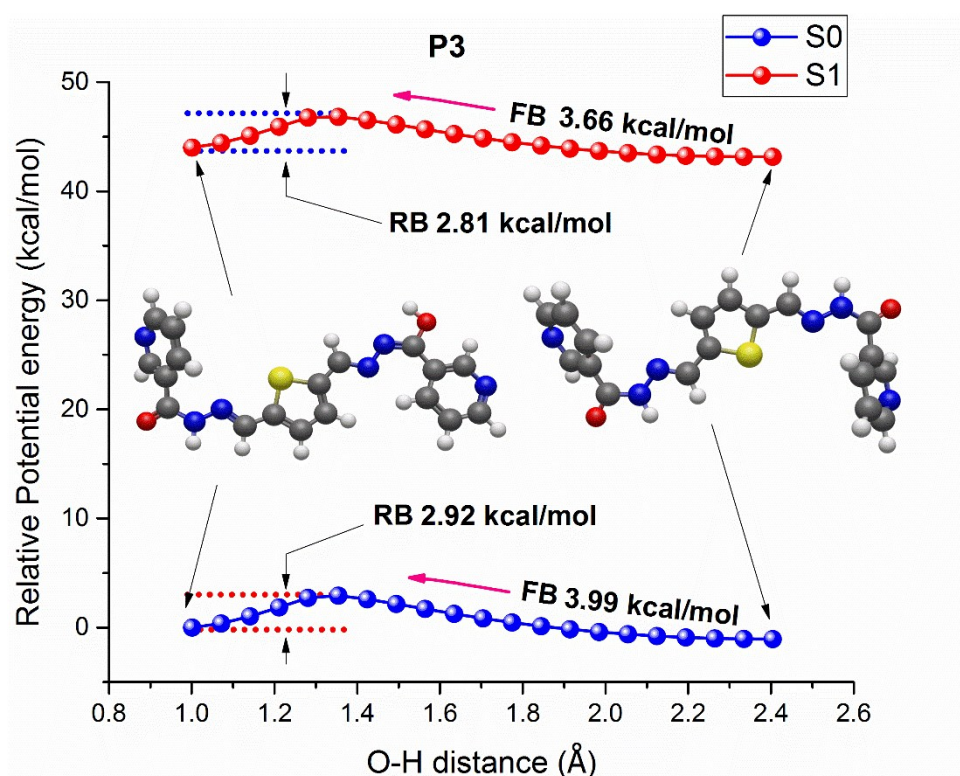
**Figure S38.** Single point energies of molecule P2 in the S<sub>0</sub> and S<sub>1</sub> states calculated by B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP



**Figure S39.** Single point energies of molecule F2 in the S<sub>0</sub> and S<sub>1</sub> states calculated by B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP



**Figure S40.** Single point energies of molecule **T3** in the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states calculated by B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP



**Figure S41.** Single point energies of molecule **P3** in the  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  states calculated by B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP



**TABLE S1.** Vibrational –NH stretching frequency of all molecules at state  $S_0$  and  $S_1$ 

Molecule	N-H Stretching ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )		Shift ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
	$S_0$	$S_1$	
<b>T1</b>	3488	3464	-23
<b>P1</b>	3477	3456	-21
<b>F1</b>	3473	3455	-18
<b>T2</b>	3473	3486	13
<b>P2</b>	3473	3488	15
<b>F2</b>	3471	3486	15
<b>T3</b>	3485	3489	4
<b>P3</b>	3475	3482	7
<b>F3</b>	3469	3477	8

**TABLE S2.** Computed optical parameters of molecules, keto absorbance and emission, enol emission, oscillator strengths, composition and CI(%) calculated at DFT/B3LYP and TD-DFT/CAM-B3LYP for ground and excited state

Molecule	Type	Transition	Energy (nm)	Oscillator strength	Composition	CI (%)
<b>T2</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	362	0.9357	H(82) $\rightarrow$ L(83)	93.37
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	402	1.0520	H(82) $\rightarrow$ L(83)	96.76
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	428	0.9304	H(82) $\rightarrow$ L(83) H-1(81) $\rightarrow$ L+1(84)	96.34 2.33
<b>P2</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	367	0.9721	H(81) $\rightarrow$ L(82)	93.61
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	407	1.0776	H(81) $\rightarrow$ L(82)	96.74
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	426	1.1281	H(81) $\rightarrow$ L(82)	96.51
<b>F2</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	352	0.9325	H(78) $\rightarrow$ L(79)	94.00
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	392	1.044	H(78) $\rightarrow$ L(79)	97.02
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	421	1.145	H(78) $\rightarrow$ L(79) H-1(77) $\rightarrow$ L+1(80)	96.62 2.15
<b>T3</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	363	1.3251	H(100) $\rightarrow$ L(101)	93.36
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	402	1.4021	H(100) $\rightarrow$ L(101)	96.2
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	430	1.5366	H(100) $\rightarrow$ L(101) H-1(99) $\rightarrow$ L+1(102)	94.65 3.05
<b>P3</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	350	1.3135	H(98) $\rightarrow$ L(99)	95.05
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	389	1.3953	H(98) $\rightarrow$ L(99)	96.81
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	410	1.5919	H(98) $\rightarrow$ L(99)	96.52

<b>F3</b>	k abs	$S_0 \rightarrow S_1$	358	1.3541	H(92 $\rightarrow$ L(93)	93.73
	k emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	397	1.4234	H(92 $\rightarrow$ L(93)	96.38
	e emission	$S_1 \rightarrow S_0$	420	1.6346	H(92 $\rightarrow$ L(93) H-1(91) $\rightarrow$ L+1(94)	96.23 2.14