

**A triphenylamine-based aggregation-enhanced emission probe for viscosity and
polarity analysis of lubricating oils**

Pengxiao Jia,^{‡a,b} Fu Wang,^{‡a} Wei Zeng,^{b*} Zhaofeng Wang^{a*}

*^aState Key Laboratory of Solid Lubrication, Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics,
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000, China*

*^bKey Laboratory of Eco-functional Polymer Materials of the Ministry of Education,
Key Laboratory of Eco-environmental Polymer Materials of Gansu Province, College
of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Northwest Normal University, 967 Anning
East Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730070, China*

*Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed:

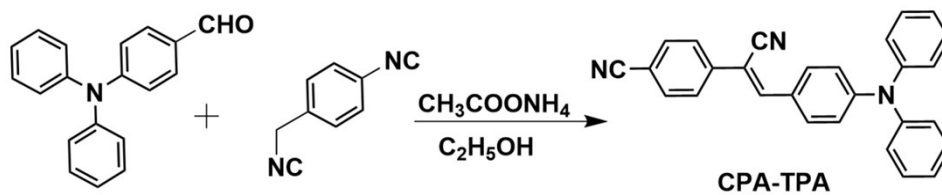
Dr. Zhaofeng Wang, Tel: +86-931-4968682; Email: zhfwang@licp.cas.cn

Dr. Wei Zeng, Email: zengwei.science@gmail.com

Supplementary information

Contents

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Synthesis and structure of CPA-TPA. | Scheme S1 |
| 2. ^1H , ^{13}C NMR and HRMS spectra for CPA-TPA. | Figure S1-S3 |
| 3. Particle size distribution of CPA-TPA in $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{DMF}$ mixtures. | Figure S4 |
| 4. Normalized emission spectra of CPA-TPA. | Figure S5 |
| 5. Kinematic viscosity of PAO4/PAO40 mixtures. | Table S1 |
| 6. Kinematic viscosity of ester oil/PAO4 mixtures. | Table S2 |



Scheme S1 Synthesis and structure of CPA-TPA.

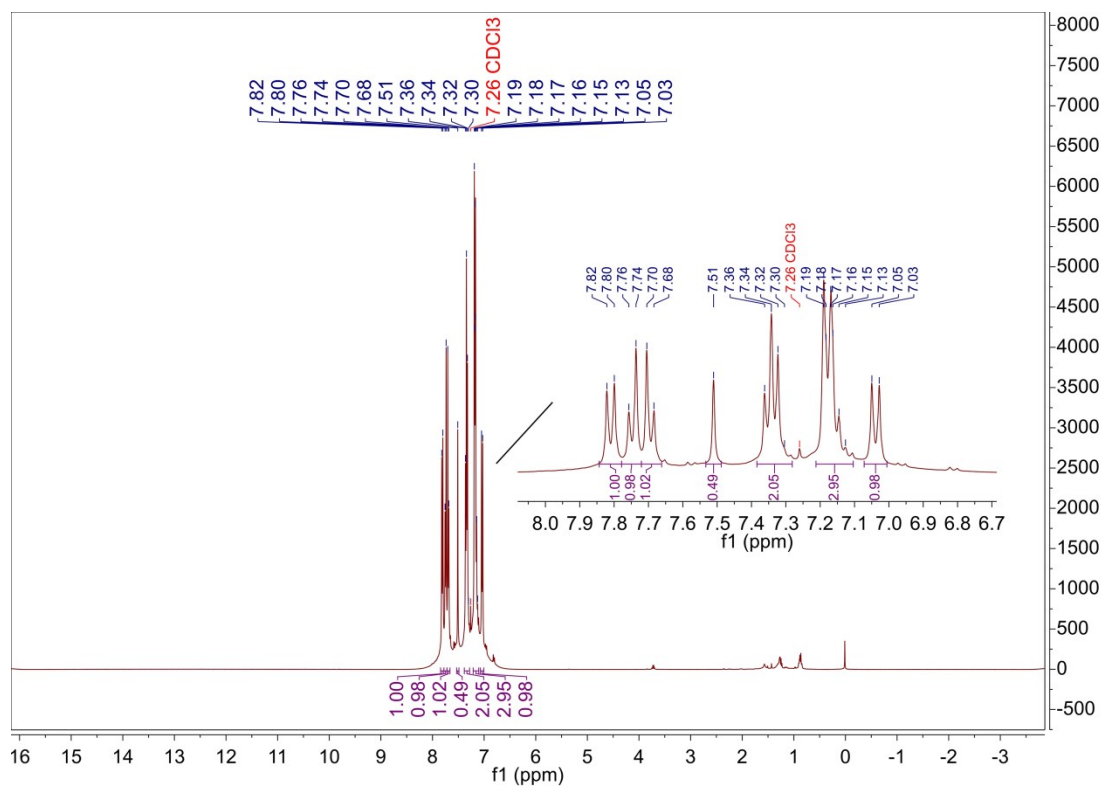


Fig. S1 ^1H NMR spectrum of compound CPA-TPA in CDCl_3 .

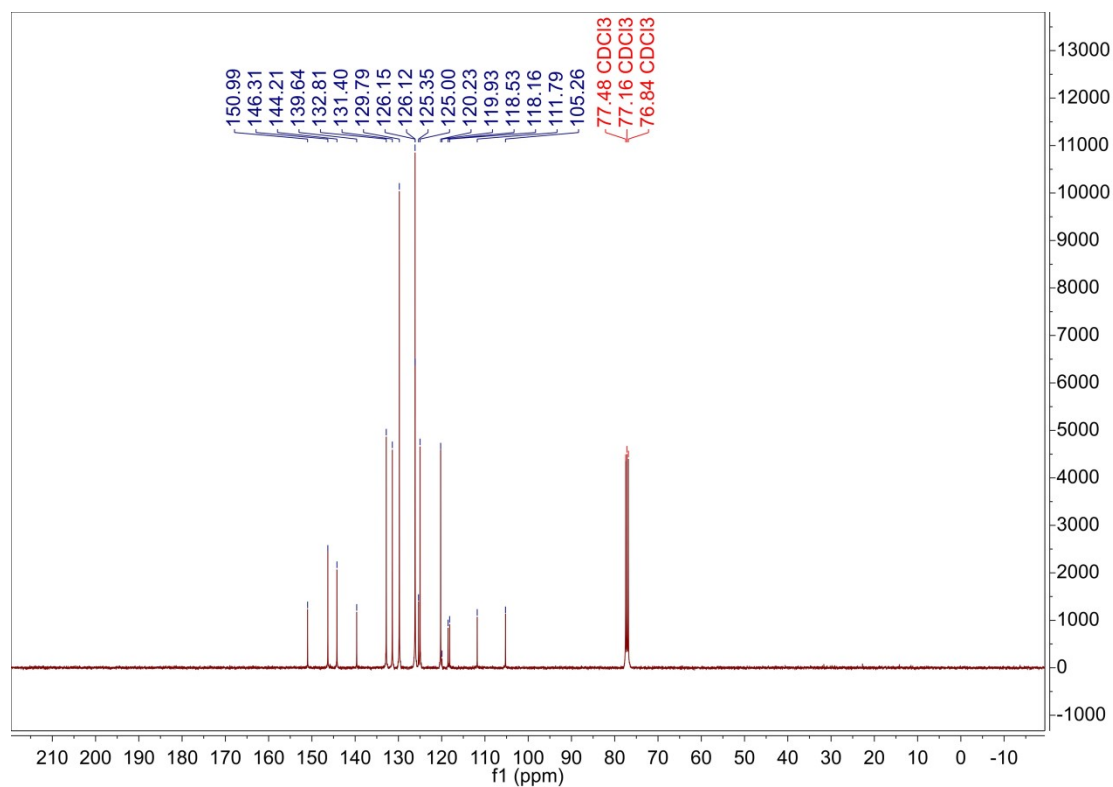


Fig. S2 ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound CPA-TPA in CDCl₃.

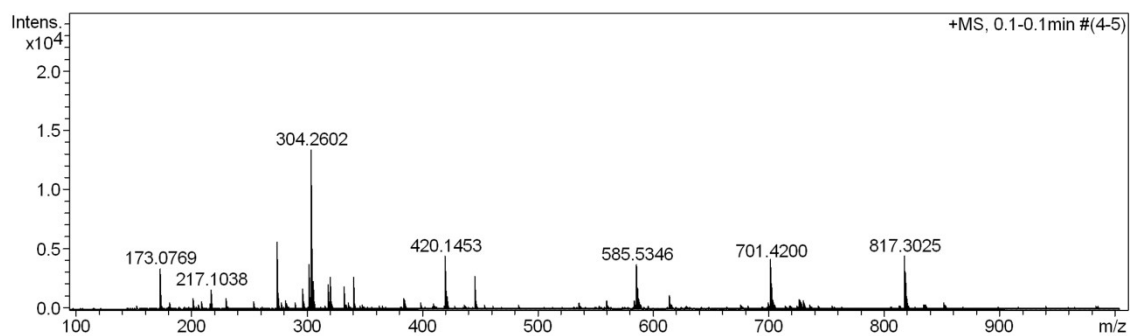


Fig. S3 HRMS spectrum of compound CPA-TPA.

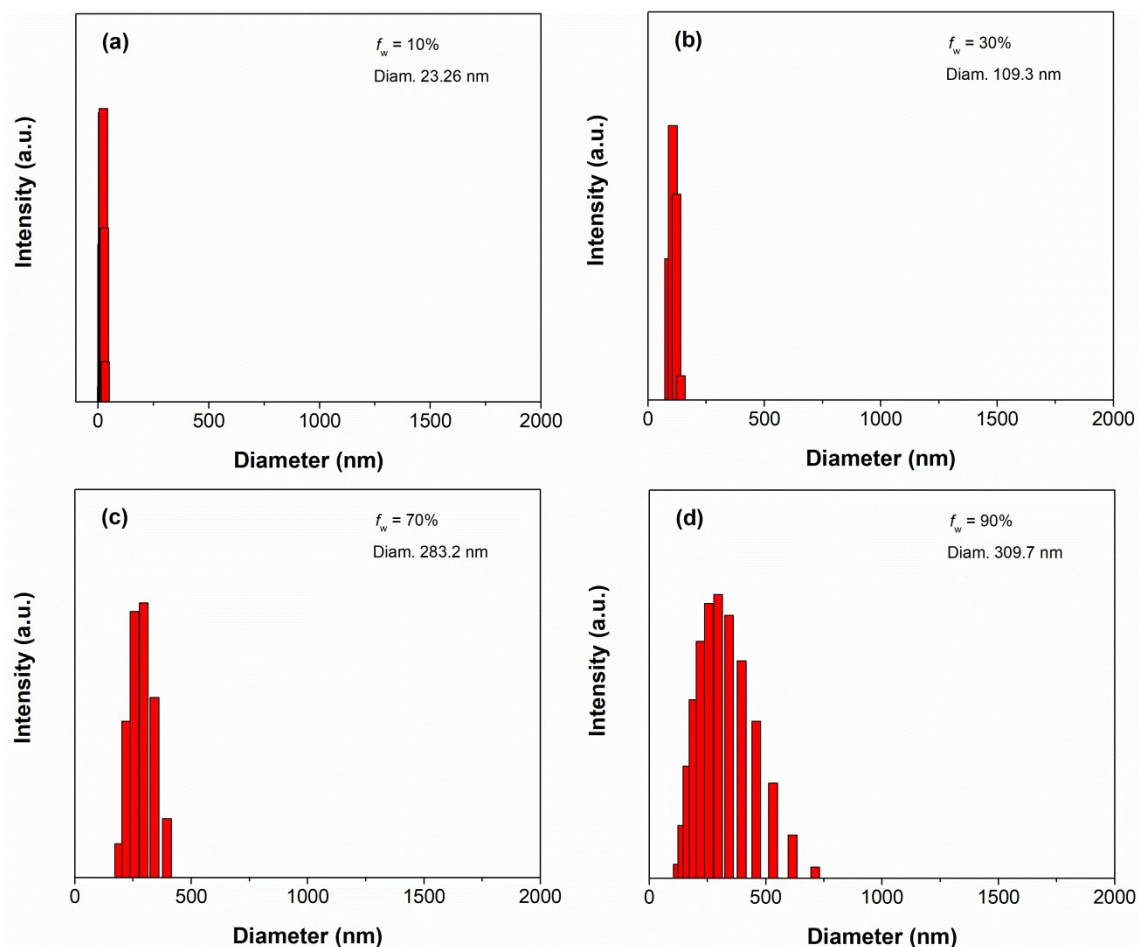


Fig. S4 Particle size distribution of CPA-TPA aggregates in H₂O/DMF mixtures with varying water proportions: (a) $f_w = 10\%$, (b) $f_w = 30\%$, (c) $f_w = 70\%$, and (d) $f_w = 90\%$.

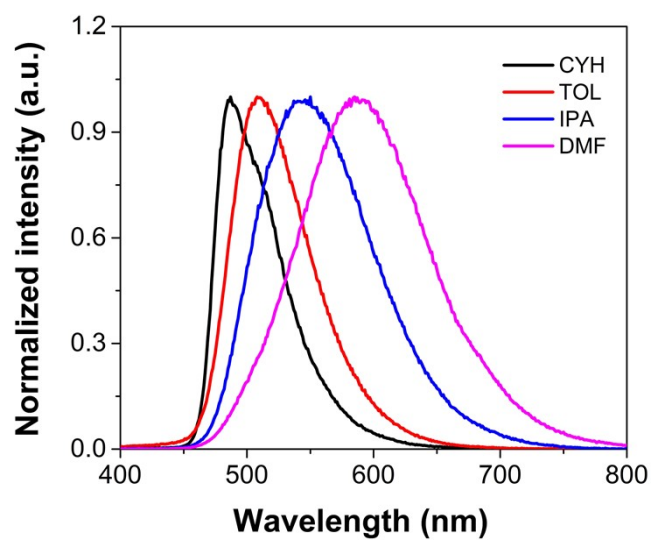


Fig. S5 Normalized emission spectra of standard solution B in solvents with varying polarity.

Table. S1 Real kinematic viscosity, ν_r , of PAO40/PAO4 mixtures and the kinematic viscosity (ν_a and ν_b) of PAO40/PAO4 mixtures after adding standard solution A or B.

| wt. % PAO40/PAO 4 | ν_r mm ² /s | ν_a mm ² /s | ν_b mm ² /s |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| PAO40 | 708.18 | 572.90 | 317.86 |
| 90 % | 472.94 | 394.13 | 244.74 |
| 80 % | 304.01 | 278.29 | 162.48 |
| 70 % | 230.39 | 195.81 | 119.42 |
| 60% | 154.27 | 137.17 | 85.88 |
| 50% | 111.16 | 99.72 | 63.79 |
| 40% | 78.46 | 73.77 | 47.61 |
| 30% | 60.65 | 54.54 | 33.02 |
| 20% | 44.90 | 38.30 | 24.04 |
| 10% | 30.31 | 28.30 | 19.10 |
| PAO4 | 22.17 | 22.17 | 15.12 |

Table. S2 Real kinematic viscosity of ester oil/PAO4 mixtures.

| wt. % ester/PAO4 | ν_r mm ² /s (TMP) | ν_r mm ² /s (DA) | ν_r mm ² /s (PE) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ester | 24.65 | 34.51 | 28.36 |
| 80 % | 23.55 | 29.88 | 27.37 |
| 60 % | 22.82 | 26.40 | 26.08 |
| 40 % | 22.39 | 24.05 | 24.81 |
| 20% | 22.12 | 21.92 | 22.48 |
| PAO4 | 20.79 | 20.79 | 20.79 |