

Supporting Information

**Development of a New Type of Multi-Functional
Mechanochromic Luminescence Materials by Infusing
a Phenyl Rotator into the Structure of 3,4-
diphenylmaleic anhydride**

Zexin Wang ^{a,b}, Liwei Chen ^b, Xiang Lin ^b, Wei Liu ^b, Jun Han ^c, Nannan Chen ^b, Hong Jiang ^b,
Shitao Sun ^a, Zhenli Li ^a, Jinle Hao ^a, Bin Lin ^a, Renfu Li ^d, Xueyuan Chen ^d, Xin Zhai ^{*,a}, and
Lijun Xie^{*,b}

^aKey Laboratory of Structure-based Drug Design and Discovery, Ministry of Education, School
of Pharmaceutical Engineering, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, Shenyang, Liaoning
110016, P. R. China

^bFujian Provincial Key Laboratory of Screening for Novel Microbial Products, Fujian Institute of
Microbiology, Fuzhou, Fujian 350007, P. R. China

^cDepartment of Physics, Southern University of Science and Technology, Huiyuan Bldg 1, 1088
Xueyuan Blvd, Nanshan, Shenzhen 518055, P. R. China

^dCAS Key Laboratory of Design and Assembly of Functional Nanostructures, and Fujian Key
Laboratory of Nanomaterials, Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, Chinese
Academy of Sciences, Fuzhou, Fujian 350002, P.R. China

Table of Contents

| Section | Title | Page |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Figure S1-S21 | Characterization of compounds | S3 |
| Figure S22 | Solvatochromism of W1 , W4 and W6 | S13 |
| Table S1 | The photophysical data of W1 , W4 and W6 in different solvents | S14 |
| Figure S23 | Aggregation-induced emission of W1 , W4 and W6 | S15 |
| Table S2 | Solid state fluorescence QY of W1 , W4 and W6 | S15 |
| Figure S24 | The normalized PL intensity of crystals W6R and W6Y | S16 |
| Figure S25-27 | Molecular conformation of W1 , W6R and W6Y | S16 |
| Figure S28 | The ORTEP plot of W6R and W6Y | S18 |
| Table S3-S5 | Crystal data and structure refinement for W1 , W6R and W6Y | S19 |
| Figure S29, S30 | Mechanochromic luminescence of W4 and W6 | S22 |
| Figure S31 | Differential scanning calorimetry of W4 and W6 | S24 |
| Figure S32 | Sensing properties toward protonic acids of W6 | S24 |
| Figure S33 | Vapochromism of W1 | S25 |

Characterization of W1

Synthesis of W1. (General procedure) Piperidine, 3 drops, was added to a mixture of 0.140 g (0.0004 mol) of intermediate (**W**) and 0.140 g of 2-Morpholinobezaldehyde in 10 ml of MeOH, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h in dark atmosphere. The mixture was then cooled, and the precipitate was filtered off and washed with MeOH. The yellow powder (**W1**, 0.13 g) was obtained with the yield 92%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 8.14 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.23 – 7.14 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 3.47 (s, 4H), 2.81 (t, $J = 4.3$ Hz, 4H), 2.29 (s, 3H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 168.2, 152.4, 149.0, 147.9, 142.1, 139.3, 136.2, 131.0, 130.8, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.1, 126.6, 126.3, 125.2, 123.8, 119.7, 109.1, 66.8, 53.1, 43.8, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_5\text{S}$: 502.1683 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found:502.1687.

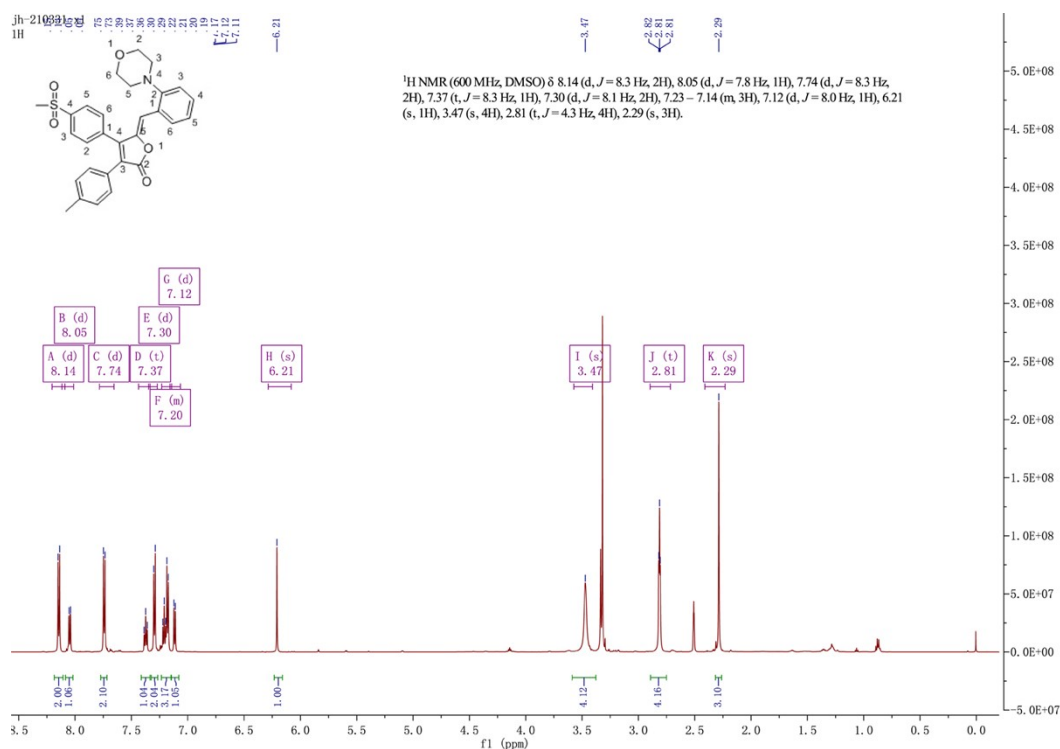


Figure S1. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of **W1** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (600 MHz, 298K).

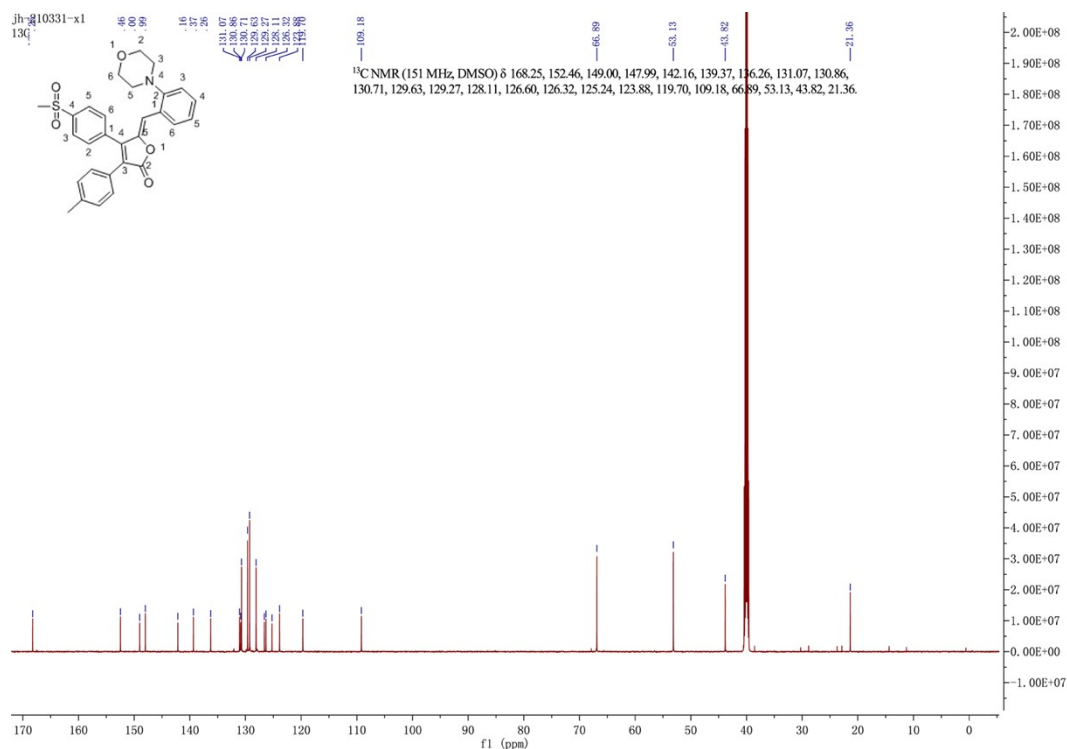


Figure S2. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **W1** in DMSO-*d*₆ (151 MHz, 298K).

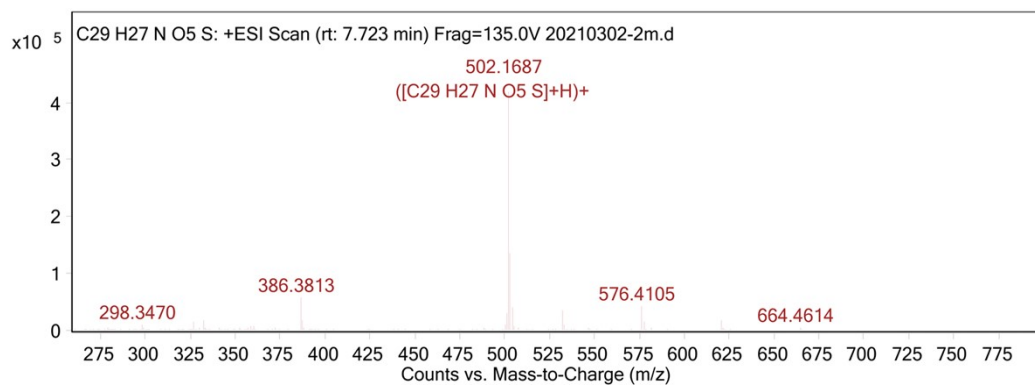


Figure S3. HRMS spectrum of **W1**

Characterization of **W2**

Synthesis of W2. The orange-red powder (**W2**, 0.12 g) was synthesized following the the general procedure with the yield 83%. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.71 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.97 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 4H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 3.25 (s, 4H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 168.2, 151.7, 148.6, 145.4, 141.9, 138.8, 135.9, 132.5, 130.7, 129.4, 129.30, 128.0, 126.7, 123.8, 123.5, 114.6, 114.0, 66.3, 47.4, 43.7, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₂₉H₂₇NO₅S: 502.1683 ([M+H]⁺), found:502.1688.

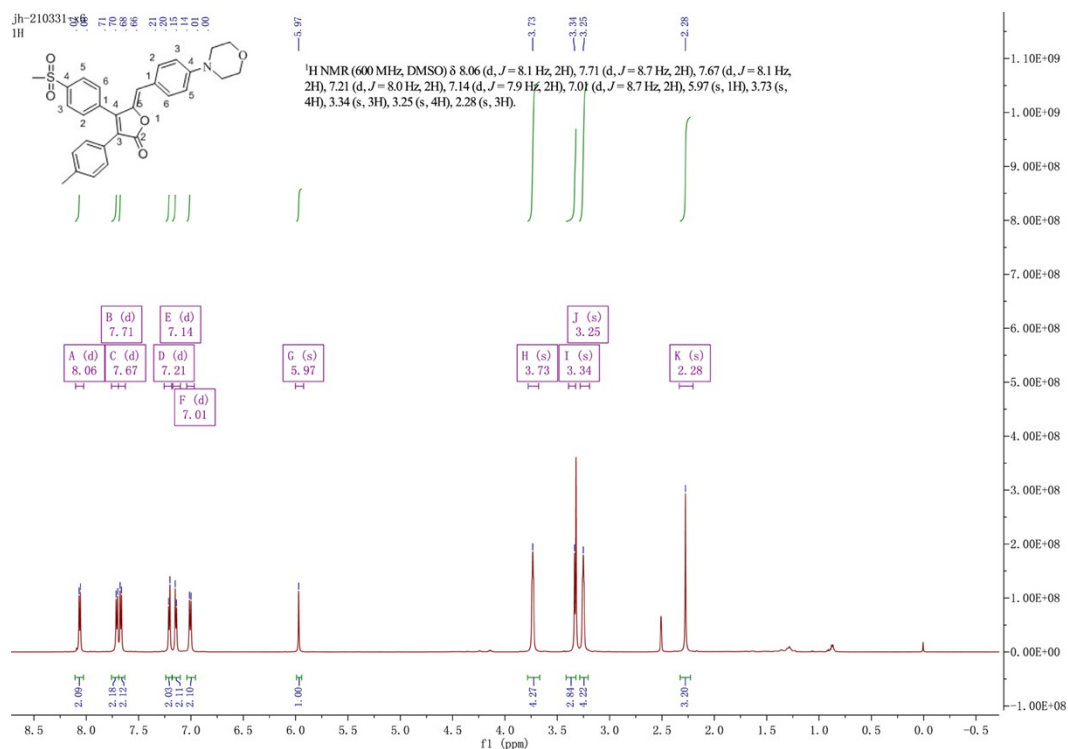


Figure S4. ^1H NMR spectrum of **W2** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (600 MHz, 298K).

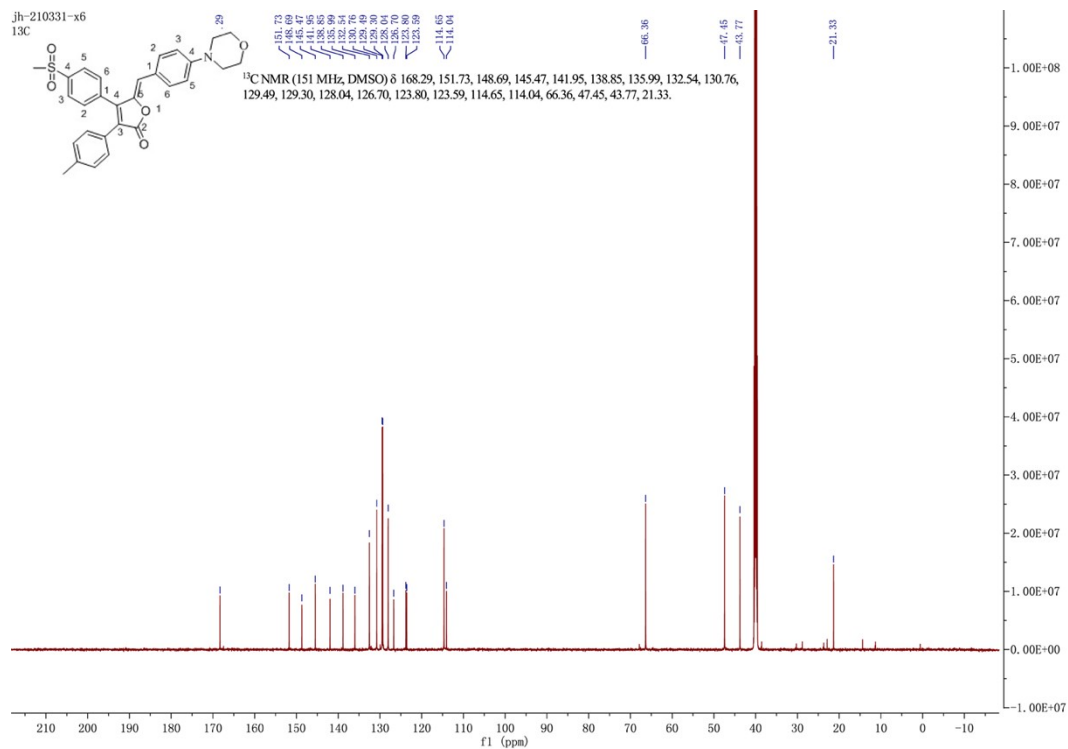


Figure S5. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **W2** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (151 MHz, 298K).

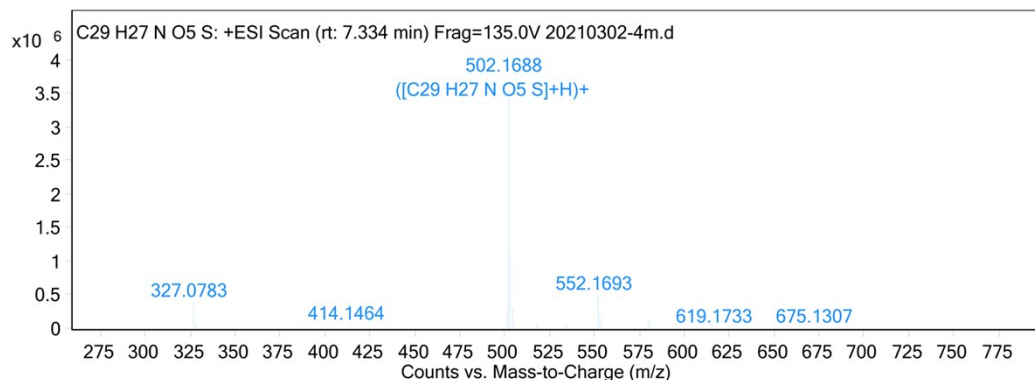


Figure S6. HRMS spectrum of **W2**

Characterization of **W3**

Synthesis of W3. The red powder (**W3**, 0.10 g) was synthesized following the general procedure with the yield 72% ¹H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.68 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 3.28-3.38 (m, 4H), 2.44 (s, 4H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.22 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 168.3, 151.6, 148.6, 145.3, 141.9, 138.8, 136.0, 132.5, 130.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.0, 126.7, 123.6, 123.1, 114.7, 114.1, 54.8, 47.0, 46.1, 43.7, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₀H₃₀N₂O₄S: 515.1999 ([M+H]⁺), found:515.1998.

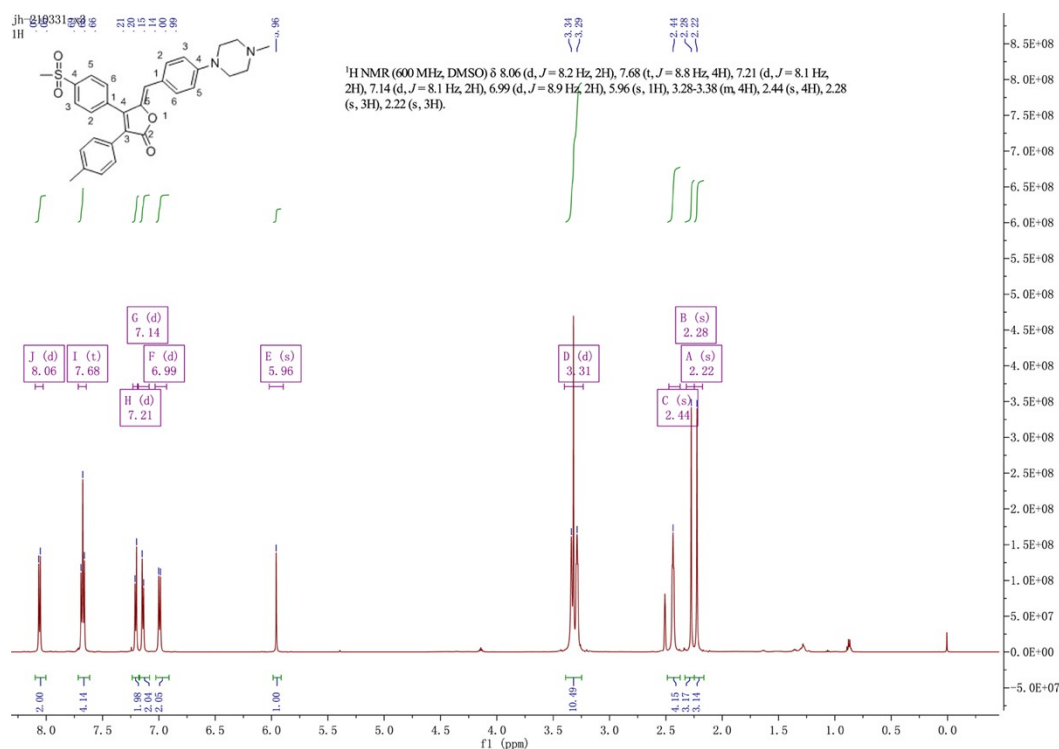


Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of **W3** in DMSO-*d*₆ (600 MHz, 298K).

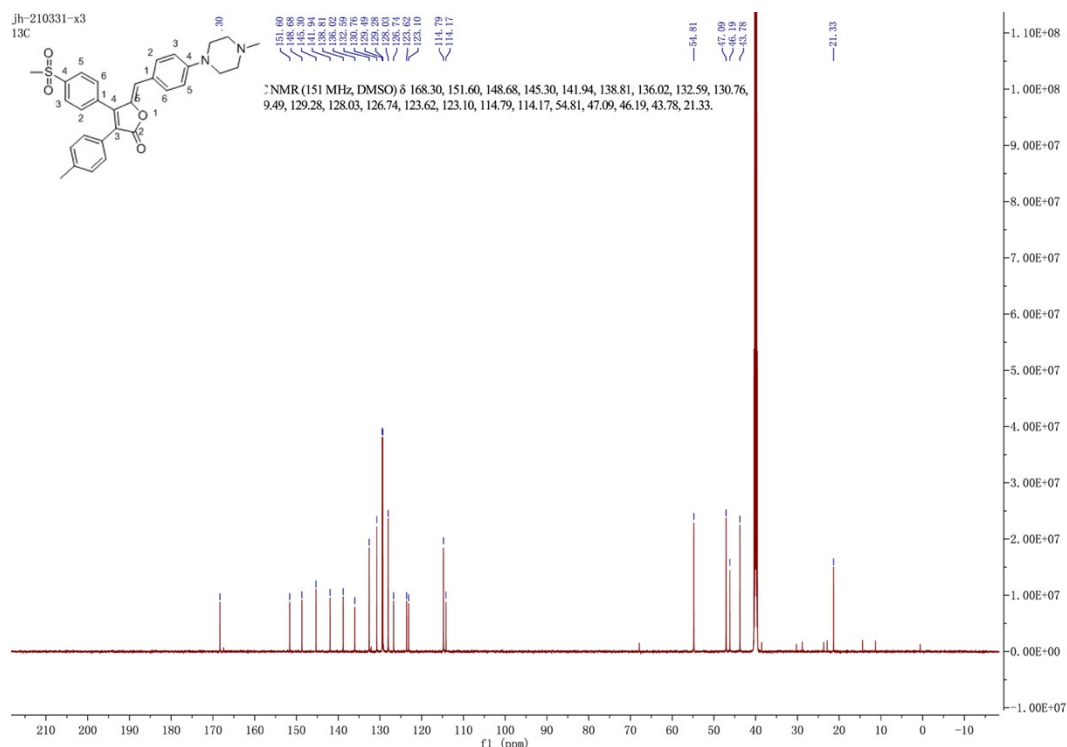


Figure S8. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **W3** in DMSO- d_6 (151 MHz, 298K).

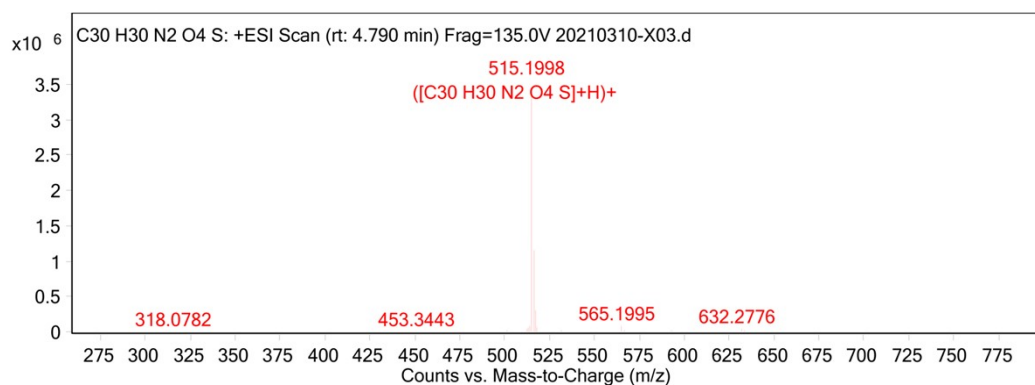


Figure S9. HRMS spectrum of **W3**

Characterization of **W4**

Synthesis of W4. The orange powder (**W4**, 0.12 g) was synthesized following the general procedure with the yield 88%. ^1H NMR (600MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.75 – 7.66 (m, 5H), 7.40 – 7.34 (m, 4H), 7.21 (d, J = 8.2Hz, 2H), 7.18 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.11 (d, J = 7.5Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, J = 8.9Hz, 2H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR(151MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 168.1, 148.7, 148.6, 146.6, 146.3, 142.0, 139.0, 135.8, 132.4, 132.1, 132.0, 130.7, 130.2, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.0, 126.5, 126.4, 125.7, 124.8, 124.5, 121.2, 113.2, 67.8, 43.7, 30.2, 28.8. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$: 584.1890 ([M+H]⁺), found:584.1881.

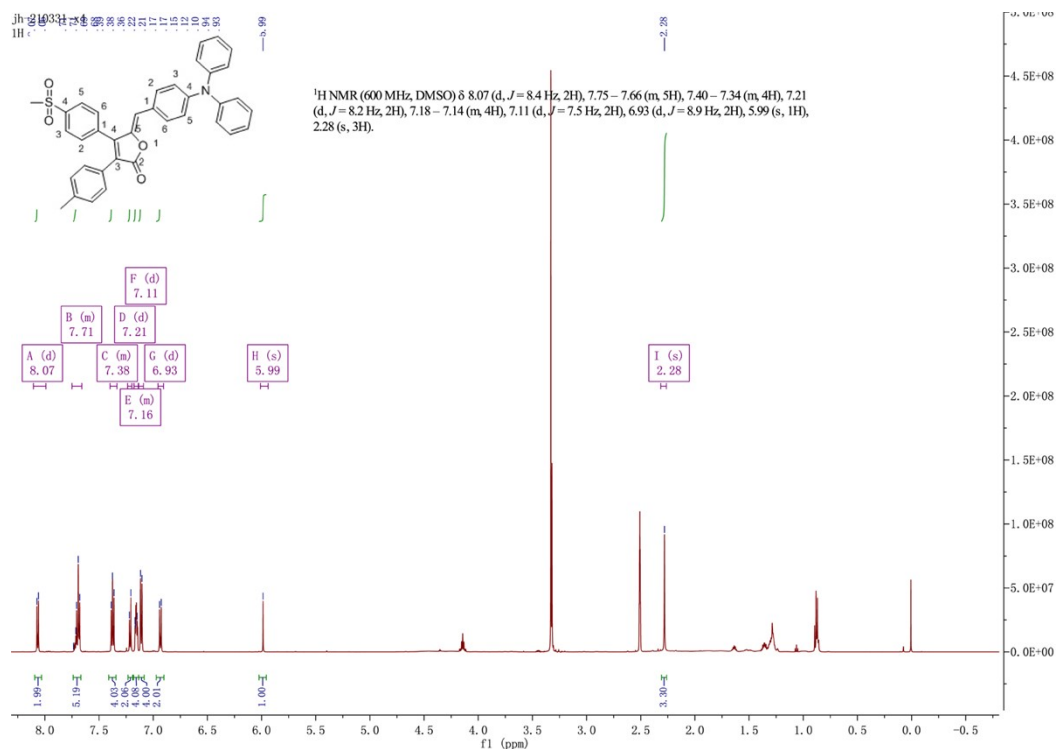


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of **W4** in DMSO-*d*₆ (600 MHz, 298K).

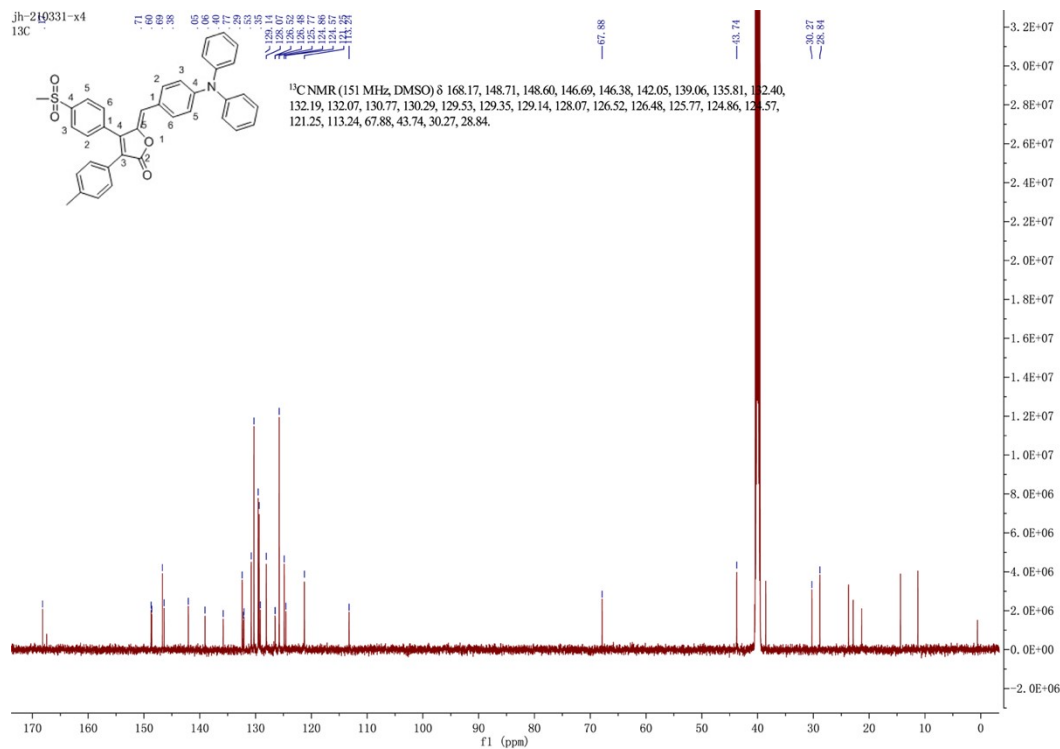


Figure S11. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **W4** in DMSO-*d*₆ (151MHz, 298K).

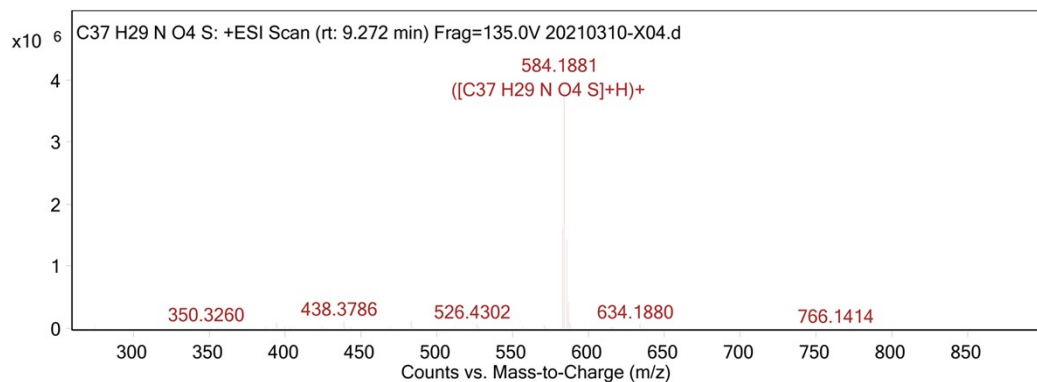


Figure S12. HRMS spectrum of **W4**

Characterization of **W5**

Synthesis of W5. The red powder (**W5**, 0.12 g) was synthesized following the general procedure with the yield 88%. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 8.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.76 – 7.53 (m, 4H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.77 (d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.01 (s, 6H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 168.3, 151.2, 148.6, 144.5, 141.8, 138.6, 136.1, 132.8, 130.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.0, 126.9, 122.8, 120.9, 114.8, 112.4, 67.8, 43.7, 30.2, 28.8, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$: 460.1577 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found:460.1612.

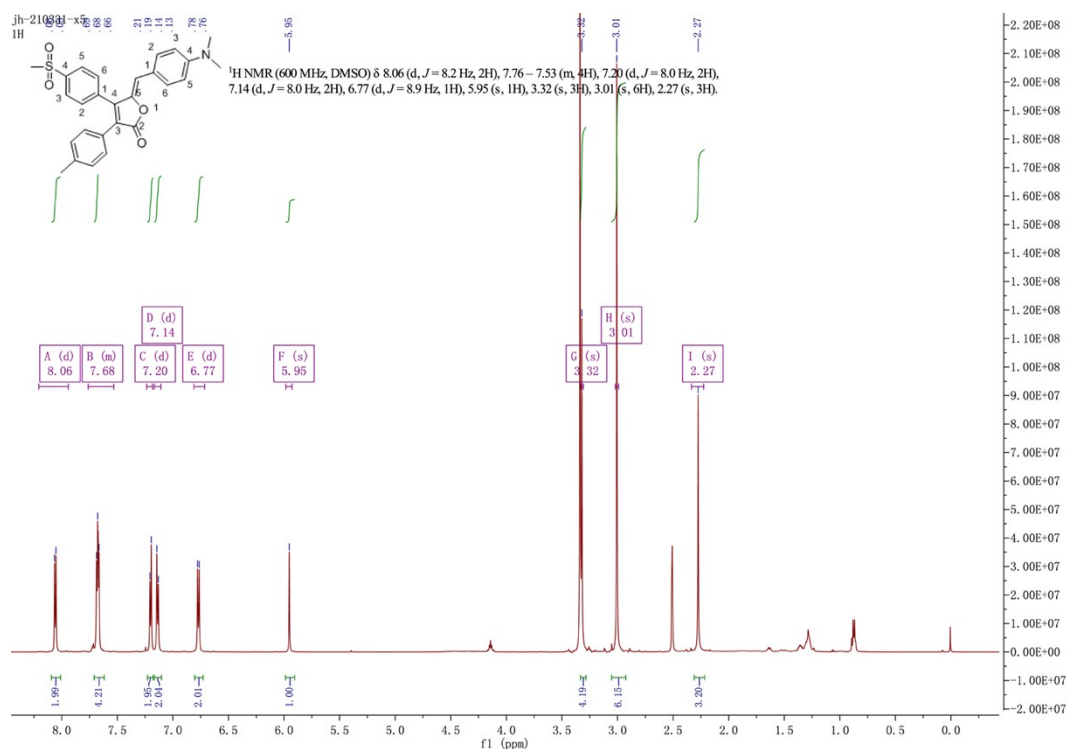


Figure S13. ^1H NMR spectrum of **W5** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (600 MHz, 298K).

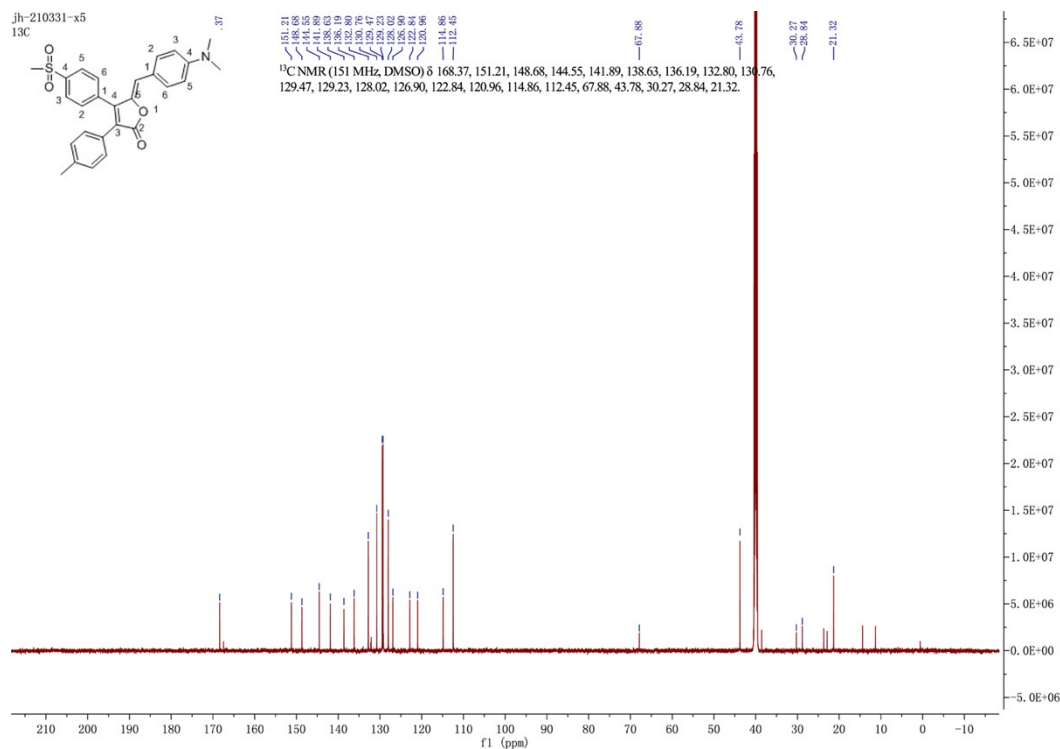


Figure S14. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **W5** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (151 MHz, 298K).

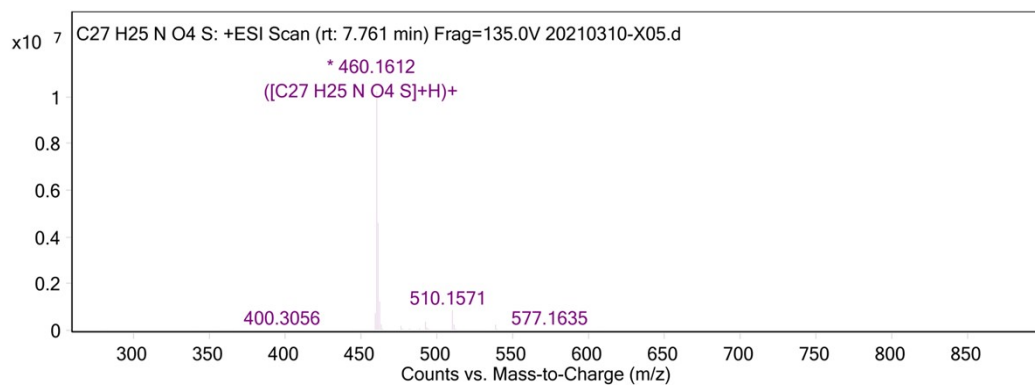


Figure S15. HRMS spectrum of **W5**

Characterization of **W6**

Synthesis of **W6.** The orange powder (**W6**, 0.12 g) was synthesized following the general procedure with the yield 83%. ^1H NMR (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 8.12 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 8.05 (d, $J = 9.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 2H), 7.34 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.17 (dd, $J = 15.5, 7.9$ Hz, 3H), 7.08 (d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, 1H), 6.21 (s, 1H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 2.74 (s, 4H), 2.29 (s, 3H), 1.45 – 1.22 (m, 6H). ^{13}C NMR (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 168.2, 153.8, 149.1, 147.7, 142.1, 139.3, 136.2, 130.9, 130.7, 129.6, 129.2, 128.0, 126.6, 126.3, 125.0, 123.3, 119.8,

109.5, 56.5, 54.1, 43.8, 26.3, 23.9, 21.3, 19.0. HRMS (ESI): calcd for C₃₀H₂₉NO₄S: 500.1890
 ([M+H]⁺), found:500.1884.

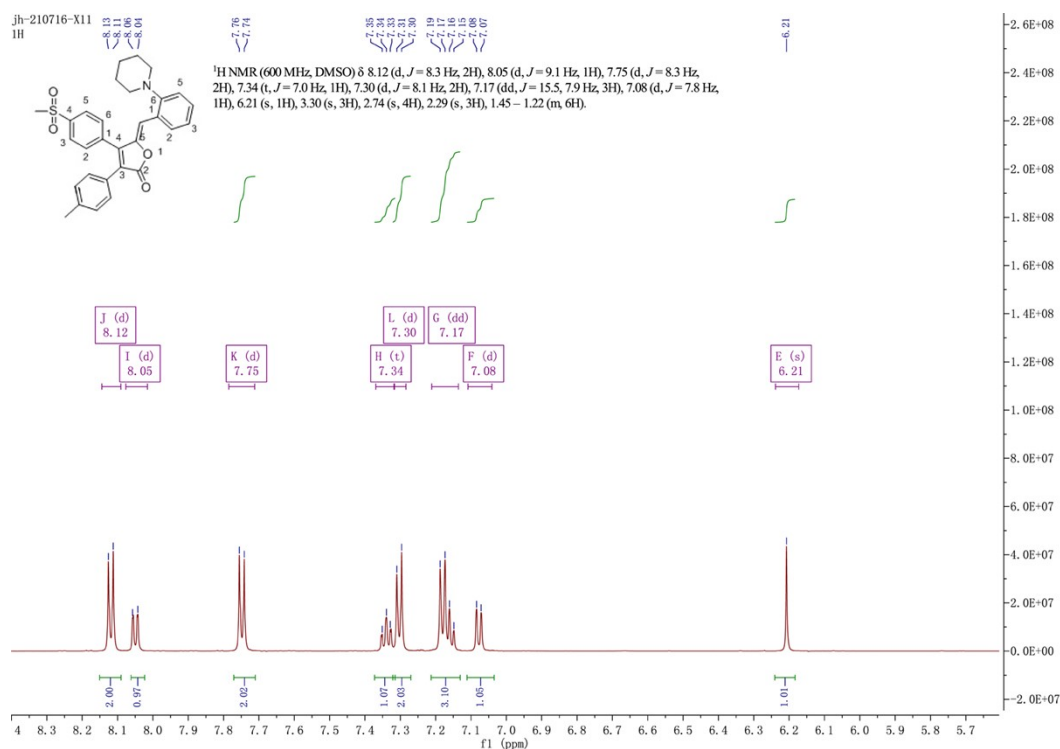


Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of **W6** in DMSO-*d*₆ (600 MHz, 298K).

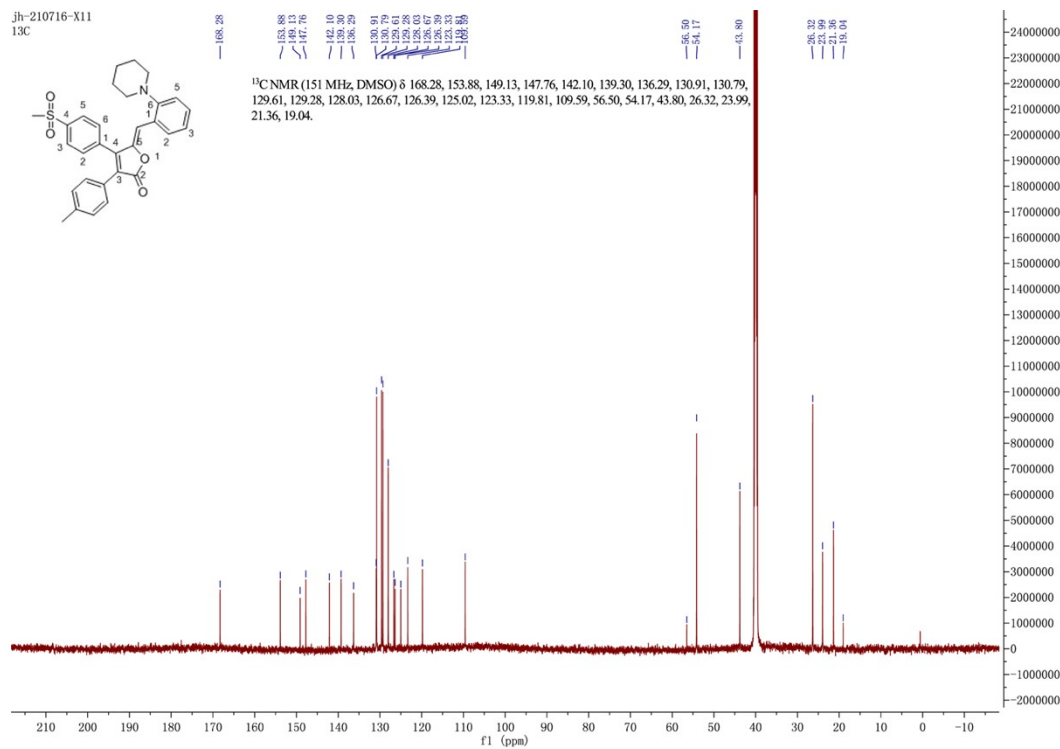


Figure S17. ¹³C NMR spectrum of **W6** in DMSO-*d*₆ (151 MHz, 298K).

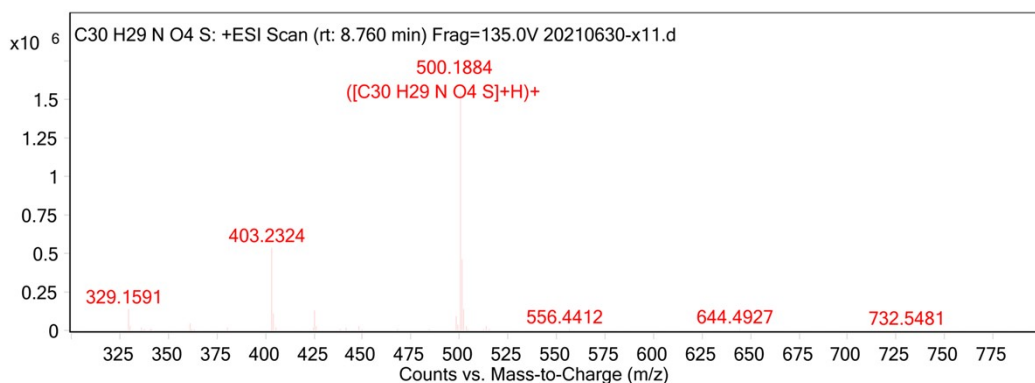


Figure S18. HRMS spectrum of **W6**

Characterization of **W7**

Synthesis of **W7.** The red powder (**W7**, 0.12 g) was synthesized following the general procedure with the yield 85%. $^1\text{H NMR}$ (600 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 8.06 (d, $J = 8.2$ Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 4H), 7.20 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.34 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 4H), 1.59 (s, 6H). $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (151 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ 168.3, 151.7, 148.6, 145.0, 141.9, 138.7, 136.0, 132.7, 130.7, 129.4, 129.2, 128.0, 126.8, 123.2, 122.3, 114.7, 114.3, 48.3, 43.7, 25.4, 24.4, 21.3. HRMS (ESI): calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_4\text{S}$: 500.1890 ($[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$), found:500.1887.

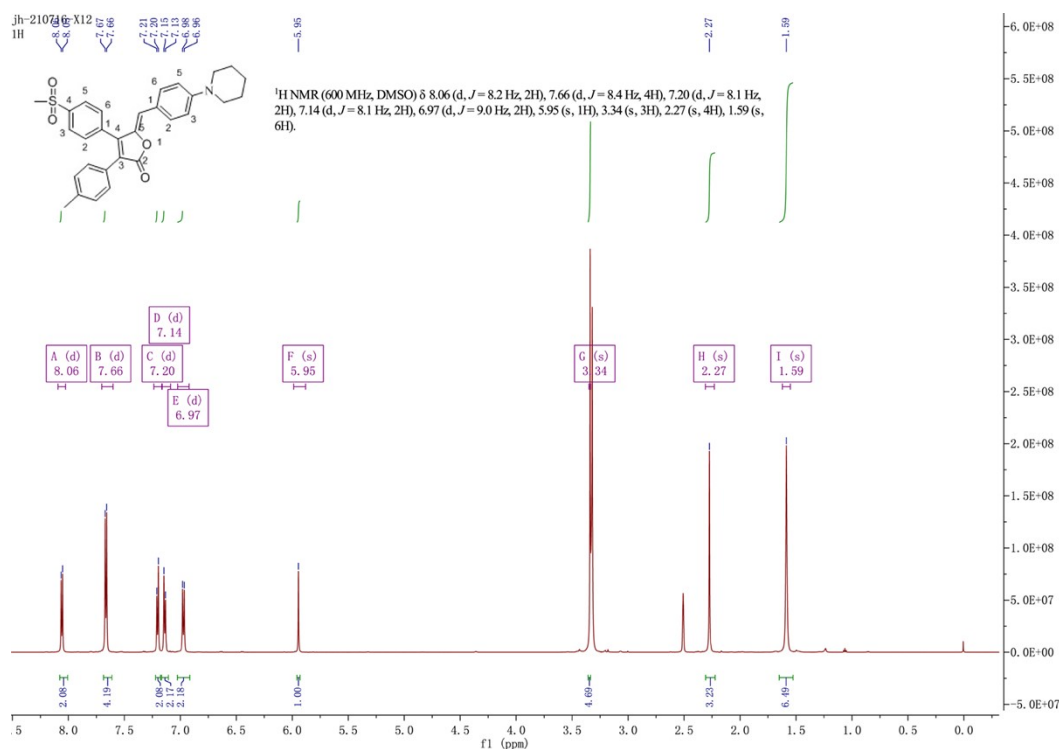


Figure S19. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum of **W7** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (600 MHz, 298K).

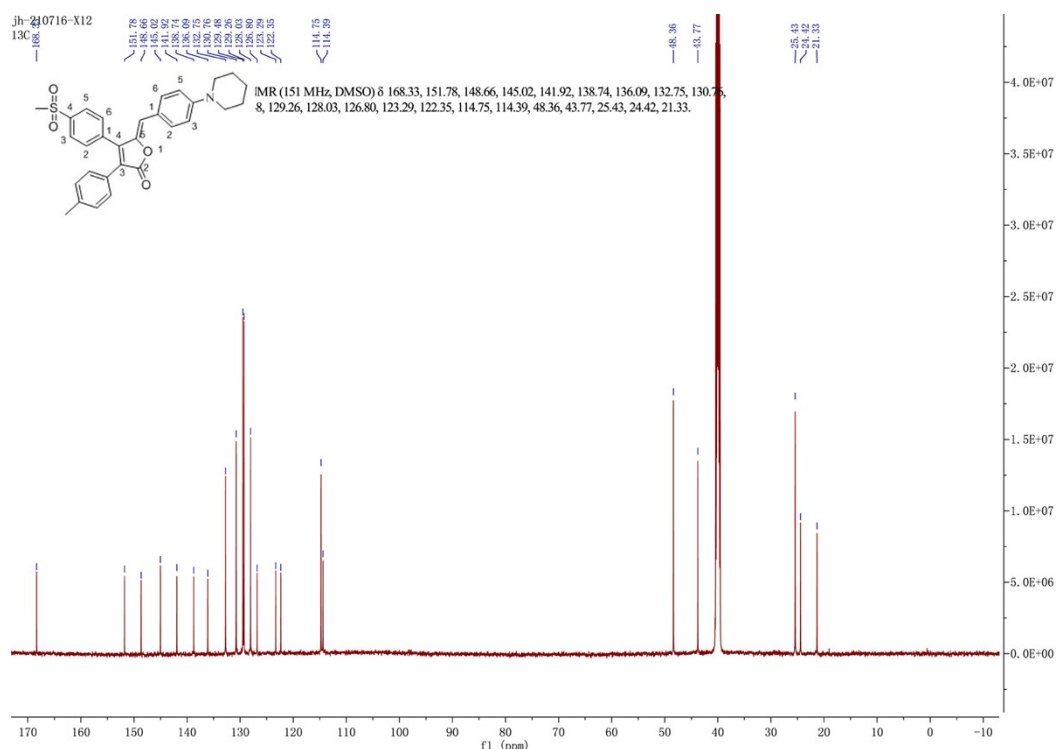


Figure S20. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **W7** in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ (151 MHz, 298K).

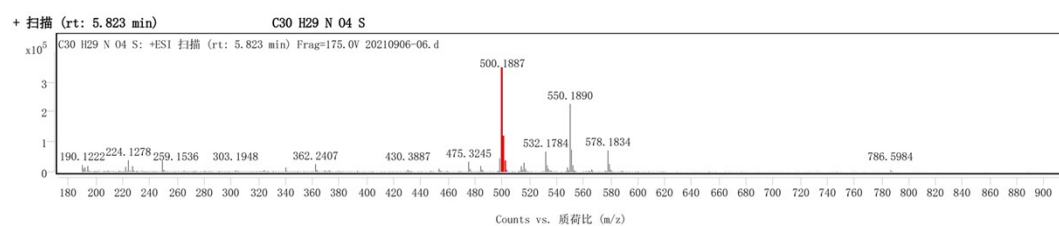


Figure S21. HRMS spectrum of **W7**

Solvatochromism of **W1**, **W4** and **W6**

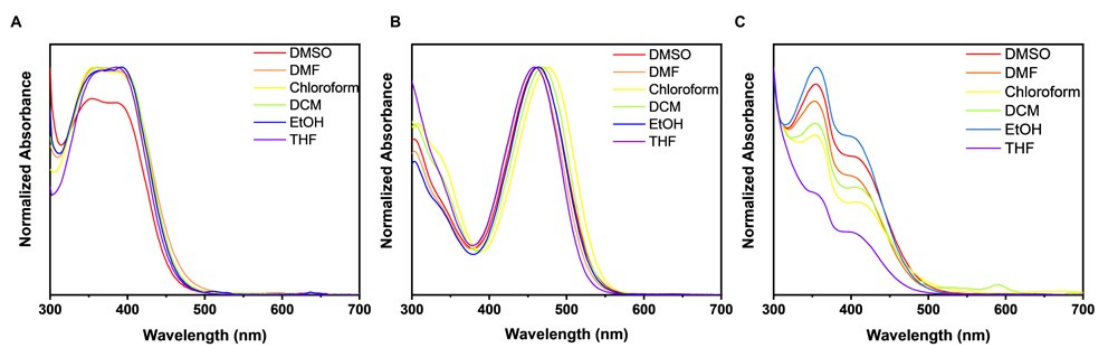


Figure S22. Normalized absorption of compounds (A) **W1**, (B) **W4** and (C) **W6** in various solvents at the concentration of $50\ \mu\text{M}$, such as DMSO, DMF, chloroform, DCM, EtOH, THF, respectively.

Table S1. The photophysical data of **W1**, **W4** and **W6** in different solvents

| compounds | Solvents | λ_{abs} (nm) ^a | λ_{em} (nm) ^b | $\Delta\nu$ (cm ⁻¹) ^c | Stokes shifts (nm) ^d |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| W1 | chloroform | 389 | 600 | 9040 | 211 |
| | DCM | 392 | 614 | 9224 | 222 |
| | THF | 354 | 620 | 12120 | 266 |
| | EtOH | 386 | 646 | 10427 | 260 |
| | DMF | 356 | 656 | 12846 | 300 |
| | DMSO | 358 | 682 | 13270 | 324 |
| W4 | chloroform | 476 | 624 | 4983 | 148 |
| | DCM | 469 | 644 | 5894 | 175 |
| | THF | 458 | 626 | 5860 | 168 |
| | EtOH | 464 | 656 | 6308 | 192 |
| | DMF | 458 | 676 | 7041 | 218 |
| | DMSO | 462 | 690 | 7152 | 228 |
| W6 | chloroform | 352 | 610 | 12016 | 258 |
| | DCM | 354 | 630 | 12376 | 276 |
| | THF | 354 | 628 | 12325 | 274 |
| | EtOH | 356 | 654 | 12799 | 298 |
| | DMF | 352 | 674 | 13572 | 322 |
| | DMSO | 354 | 690 | 13756 | 336 |

^a Absorption maxima, ^b PL intensity maxima, ^c $\Delta\nu$, were calculated using the equation

$1/\lambda_{\text{abs}} - 1/\lambda_{\text{em}}$, ^d Stokes shifts

Aggregation-induced emission of W1, W4 and W6

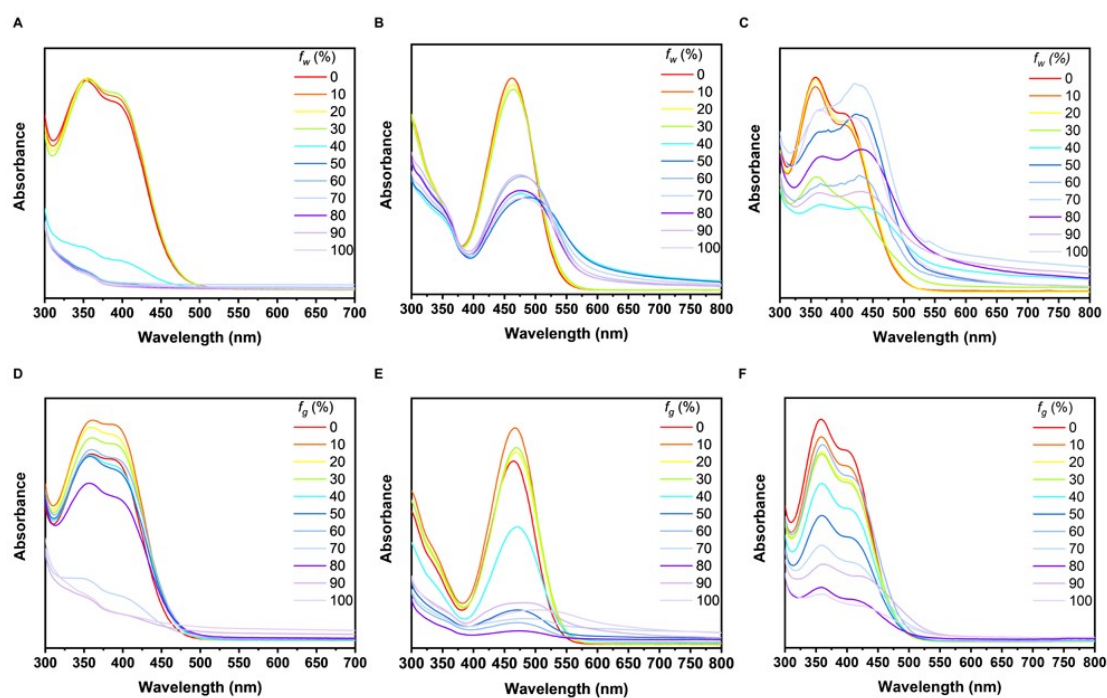


Figure S23. Absorption spectra of (A) **W1**, (B) **W4** and (C) **W6** in DMSO/water mixtures with varied f_w . Absorption spectra of (D) **W1**, (E) **W4** and (F) **W6** ethanol/glycerol mixtures with varied f_g .

Table S2. Solid state fluorescence QY of **W1**, **W4** and **W6**

| compounds | QY |
|-----------|-----|
| W1 | 39% |
| W4 | 5% |
| W6 | 49% |

The normalized PL intensity of crystals W6R and W6Y

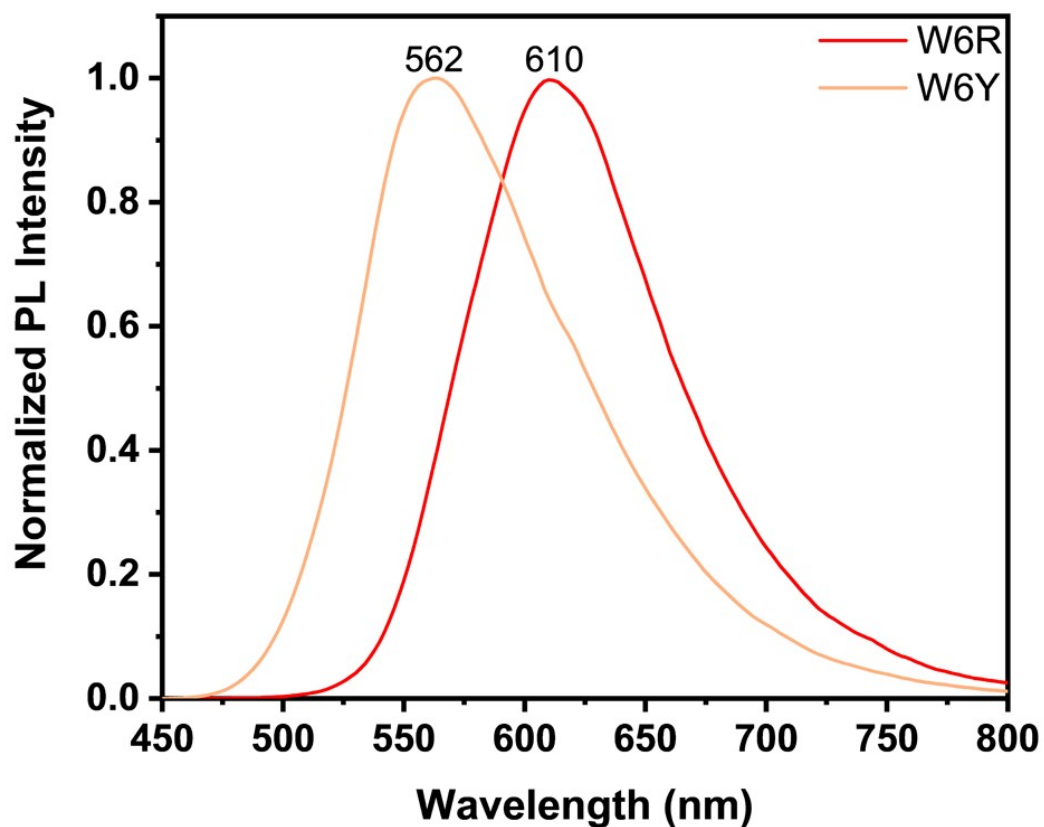


Figure S24. The normalized PL intensity of crystals W6R and W6Y

Molecular conformation of W1, W6R and W6Y

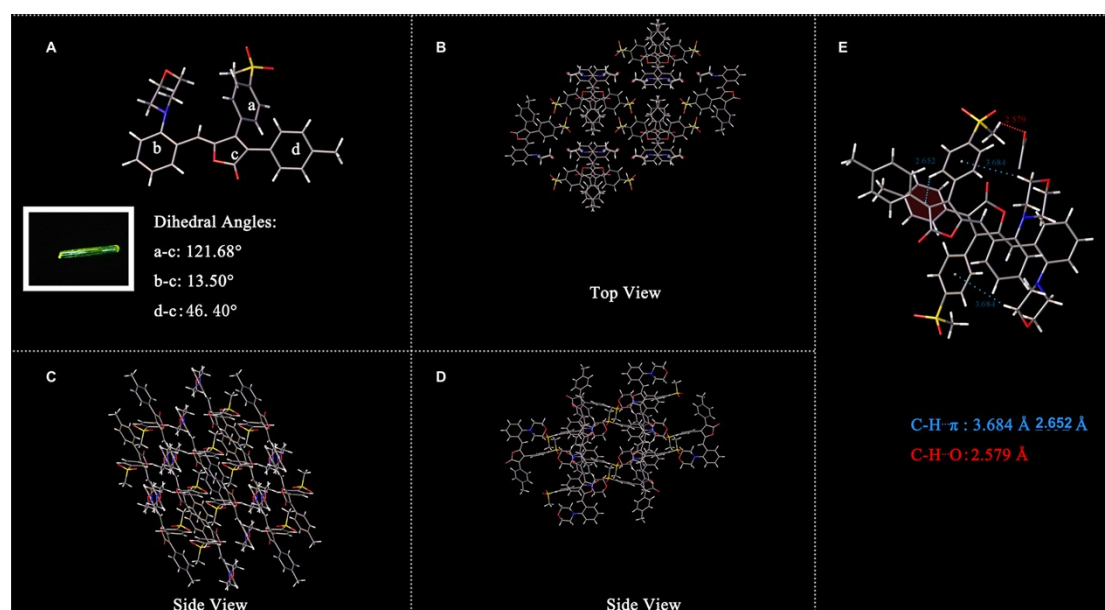


Figure S25. (A-E) Crystal structures. (A) Single crystal structure and taken photograph of crystal in normal light. (B) Top view and (C,D) side view of packing structure of W1 crystal, (E) dimer

structure.

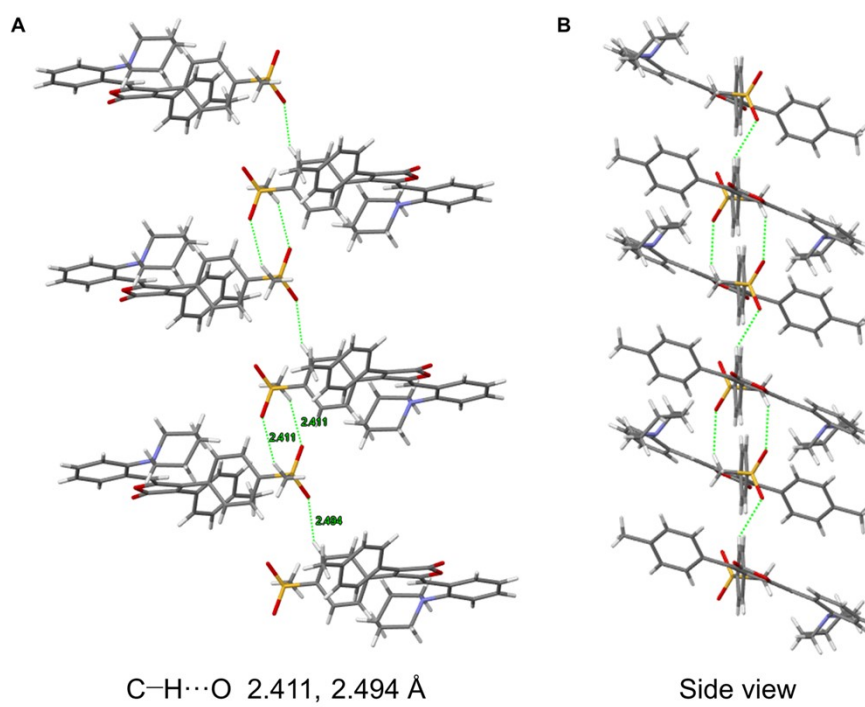


Figure S26. (A) Various intermolecular interactions in crystals of **W6R**. (B) Side view of packing structure of **W6R** crystal.

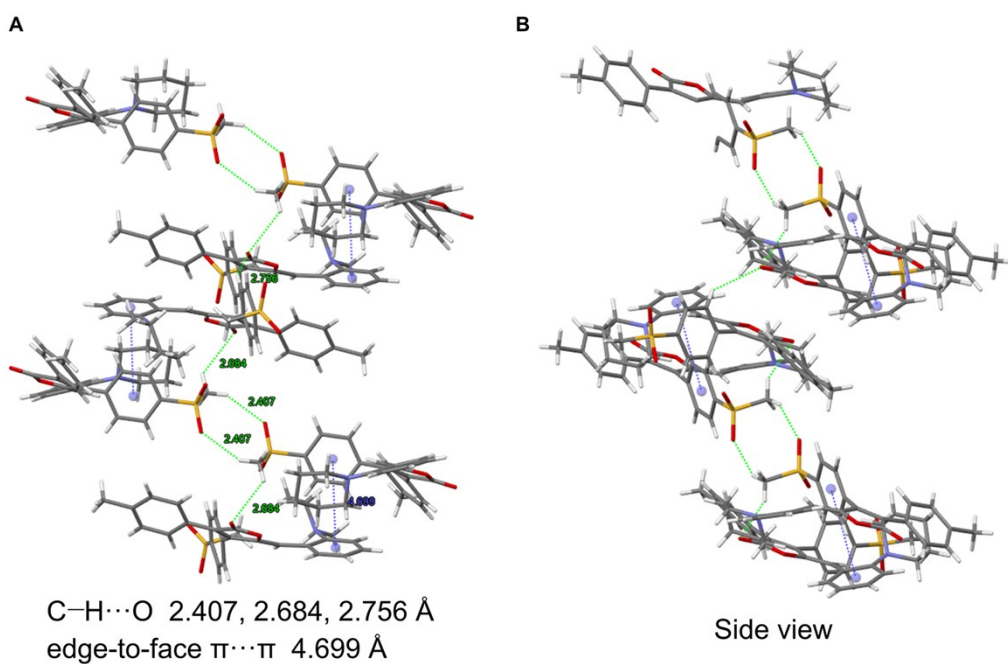


Figure S27. (A) Various intermolecular interactions in crystals of **W6Y**. (B) Side view of packing structure of **W6Y** crystal.

The ORTEP plot of W6R and W6Y

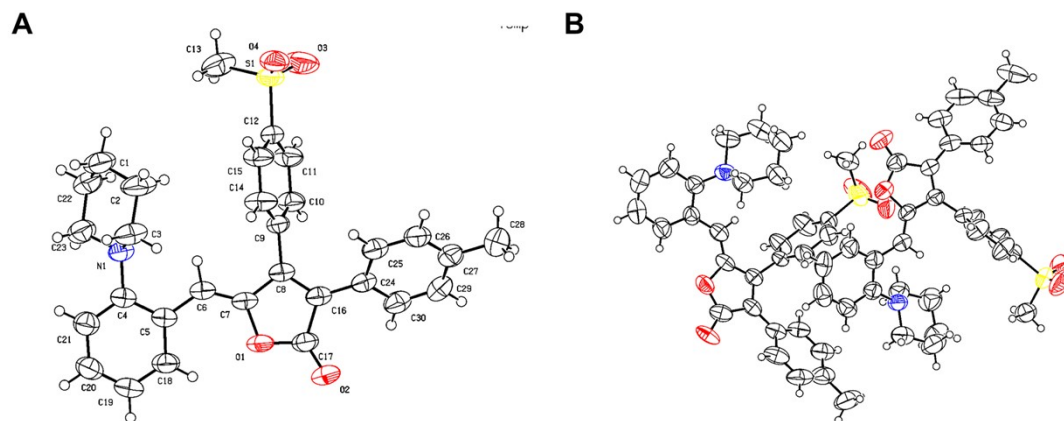


Figure S28. The ORTEP plot of (A) **W6R** and (B) **W6Y**.

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for **W1**.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Identification code | X1 |
| Empirical formula | C ₂₉ H ₂₇ NO ₅ S |
| Formula weight | 559.65 |
| Temperature/K | 150.01 |
| Crystal system | monoclinic |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c |
| a/Å | 13.478(3) |
| b/Å | 21.218(4) |
| c/Å | 10.7645(18) |
| α/° | 90 |
| β/° | 112.505(6) |
| γ/° | 90 |
| Volume/Å ³ | 2844.0(10) |
| Z | 4 |
| ρ _{calc} /cm ³ | 1.307 |
| μ/mm ⁻¹ | 0.160 |
| F(000) | 1184.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.5 × 0.1 × 0.1 |
| Radiation | MoKα (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2θ range for data collection/° | 4.524 to 54.206 |
| Index ranges | -17 ≤ h ≤ 17, -27 ≤ k ≤ 27, -13 ≤ l ≤ 13 |
| Reflections collected | 51550 |
| Independent reflections | 6276 [R _{int} = 0.3675, R _{sigma} = 0.1960] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 6276/5/353 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.021 |
| Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)] | R ₁ = 0.0898, wR ₂ = 0.1496 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R ₁ = 0.2198, wR ₂ = 0.2025 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³ | 0.39/-0.31 |

Table S4. Crystal data and structure refinement for **W6R**.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Identification code | mo_X11R_0m_a |
| Empirical formula | C ₃₀ H ₂₉ NO ₄ S |
| Formula weight | 499.60 |
| Temperature/K | 299(2) |
| Crystal system | triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 |
| a/Å | 9.9460(6) |
| b/Å | 12.0390(7) |
| c/Å | 13.2743(8) |
| α/° | 104.081(3) |
| β/° | 103.545(3) |
| γ/° | 113.710(3) |
| Volume/Å ³ | 1309.20(14) |
| Z | 2 |
| ρ _{calc} /cm ³ | 1.267 |
| μ/mm ⁻¹ | 0.160 |
| F(000) | 528.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.2 × 0.1 × 0.1 |
| Radiation | MoKα (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2θ range for data collection/° | 4.522 to 55.076 |
| Index ranges | -12 ≤ h ≤ 12, -15 ≤ k ≤ 15, -17 ≤ l ≤ 17 |
| Reflections collected | 41761 |
| Independent reflections | 5999 [R _{int} = 0.0908, R _{sigma} = 0.0520] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 5999/0/327 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.127 |
| Final R indexes [I >= 2σ (I)] | R ₁ = 0.0606, wR ₂ = 0.1675 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R ₁ = 0.1060, wR ₂ = 0.2004 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³ | 0.30/-0.44 |

Table S5. Crystal data and structure refinement for **W6Y**.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Identification code | mo_X11Y_0ma |
| Empirical formula | C30H29NO4S |
| Formula weight | 999.20 |
| Temperature/K | 299.03 |
| Crystal system | triclinic |
| Space group | P-1 |
| a/Å | 13.4521(16) |
| b/Å | 14.1057(17) |
| c/Å | 14.1605(17) |
| α /° | 90 |
| β /° | 90 |
| γ /° | 92.405(4) |
| Volume/Å ³ | 2684.6(6) |
| Z | 2 |
| ρ calcg/cm ³ | 1.236 |
| μ /mm ⁻¹ | 0.156 |
| F(000) | 1056.0 |
| Crystal size/mm ³ | 0.3 × 0.2 × 0.1 |
| Radiation | MoK α (λ = 0.71073) |
| 2 θ range for data collection/° | 5.782 to 55.032 |
| Index ranges | -17 ≤ h ≤ 17, -18 ≤ k ≤ 18, -18 ≤ l ≤ 18 |
| Reflections collected | 36815 |
| Independent reflections | 12259 [Rint = 0.2392, Rsigma = 0.2818] |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 12259/0/653 |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 0.958 |
| Final R indexes [$I \geq 2\sigma(I)$] | R1 = 0.0941, wR2 = 0.1525 |
| Final R indexes [all data] | R1 = 0.3417, wR2 = 0.2424 |
| Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å ⁻³ | 0.21/-0.22 |

Mechanochromic luminescence of W4 and W6

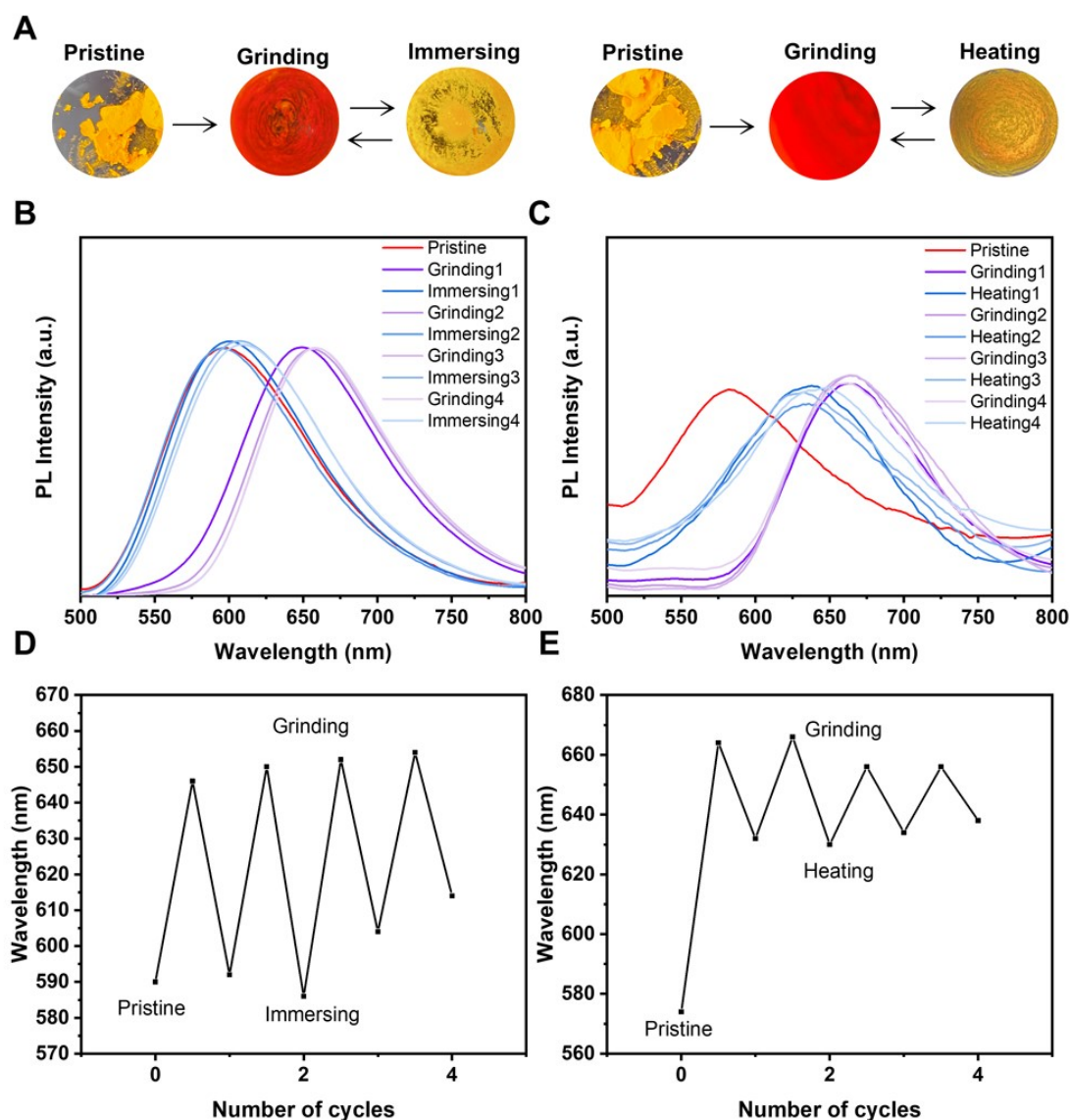


Figure S29. (A) The photographs of **W4** were taken under a 365 nm with hand-held UV lamp at different states. Normalized PL spectra of **W4** at (B) grinding-immersing and (C) grinding-heating process. The process of (D) grinding-immersing treatment and (E) grinding-heating treatment by 4 cycles.

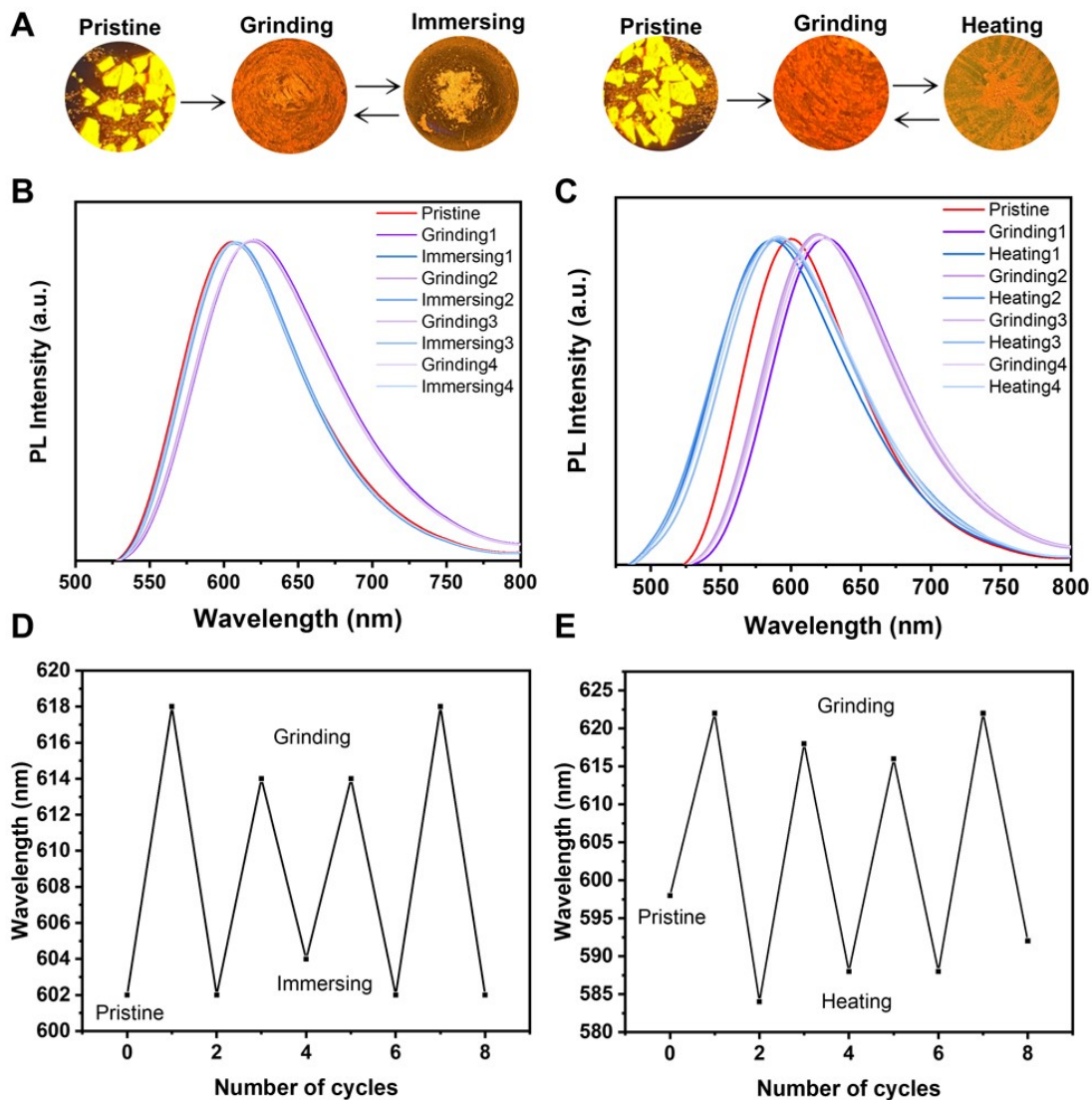


Figure S30. (A) The photographs of **W6** were taken under a 365 nm with hand-held UV lamp at different states. Normalized PL spectra of **W6** at (B) grinding-immersing and (C) grinding-heating process. The process of (D) grinding-immersing treatment and (E) grinding-heating treatment by 4 cycles.

Differential scanning calorimetry of W1 and W6

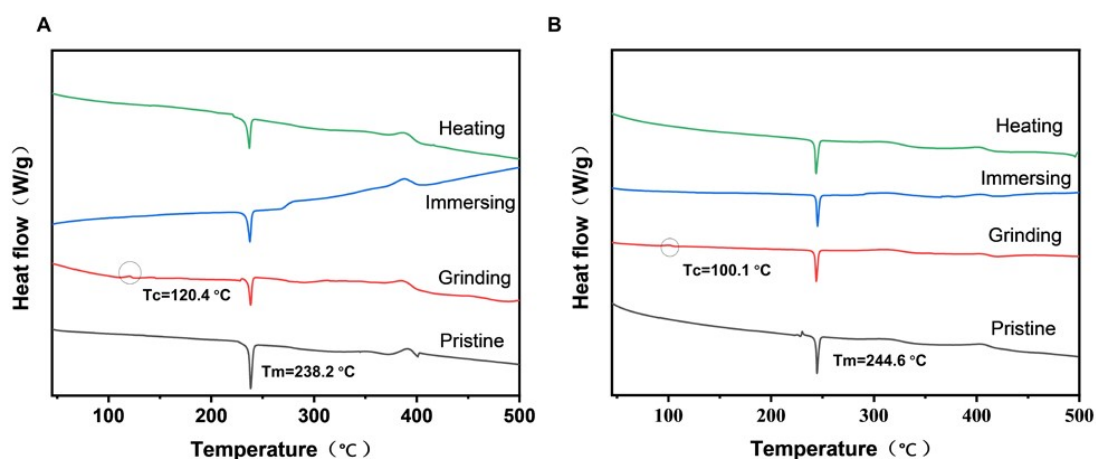


Figure S31. (A) DSC of **W1** in different states: pristine (black line), grinding (red line), immersing with acetone (blue line) and heating (green line). (B) DSC of **W6** in different states: pristine (black line), grinding (red line) immersing with acetone (blue line) and heating (green line).

Sensing properties toward protonic acids of W6

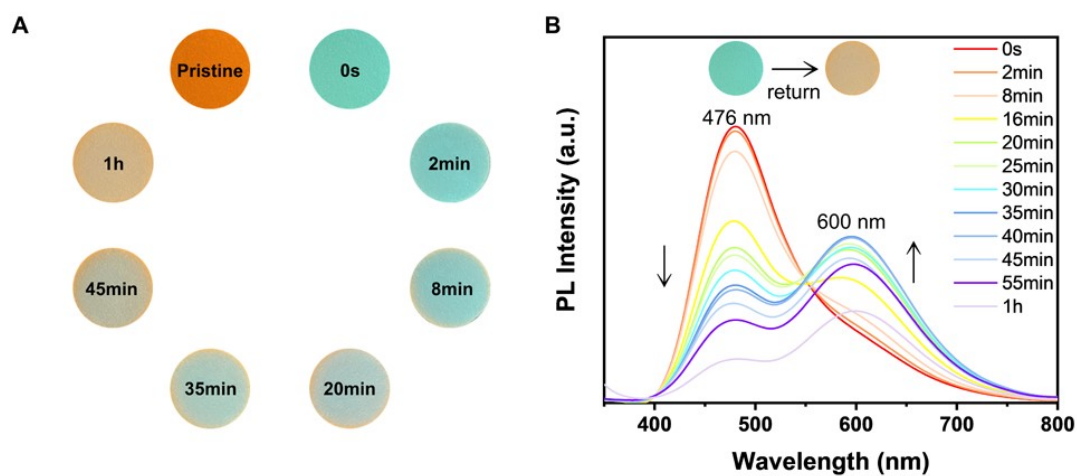


Figure S32. (A) The color change process of **W6** (500 μM) in DCM solvent coated on filter paper with gradually decrease of TFA concentration. (B) spectra of **W6** (500 μM) in DCM solvent coated on filter paper with gradually decrease of TFA concentration and the color change process on filter paper taken under a 365 nm hand-held UV lamp showed in the inset.

Vapochromism of W1

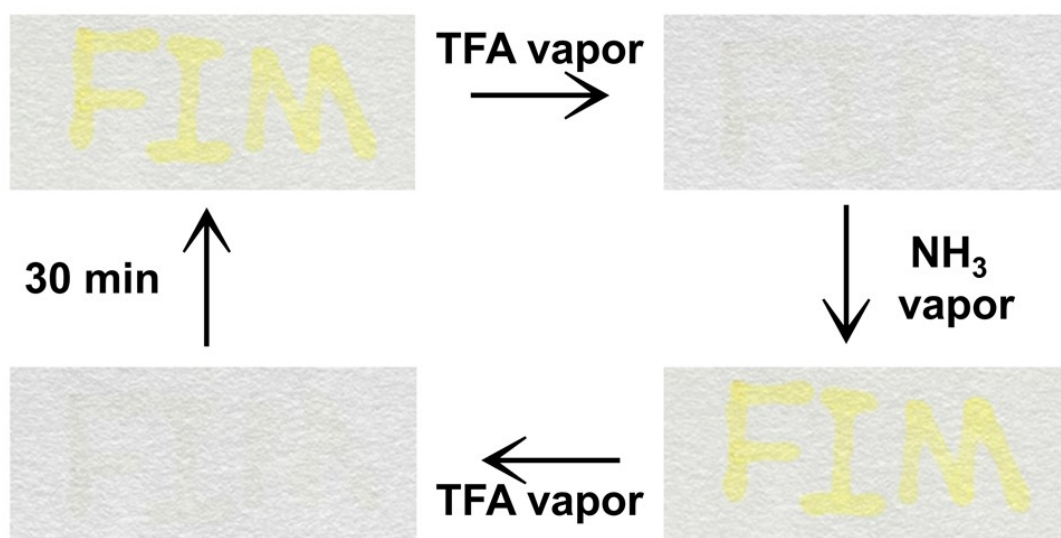


Figure S33. Photographs of filter papers coated with **W1** (10 mM) in DCM solution under different conditions.