

**Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

**Dark to Bright Fluorescence State by Inter-connecting Fluorophores:**

**Concentration Dependent Blue to NIR emission and Live Cell Imaging Application**

Parthasarathy Gayathri,<sup>a</sup> Siva Bala Subramaniyan,<sup>a</sup> Anbazhagan Veerappan,<sup>a</sup> Anwarhussaini Syed,<sup>b</sup> Subbalakshmi Jayanty,<sup>b</sup> Mehboobali Pannipara,<sup>c,d</sup> Abdullah G. Al-Sehemi,<sup>c,d</sup> Dohyun Moon<sup>\*e</sup> Savarimuthu Philip Anthony<sup>\*a</sup>

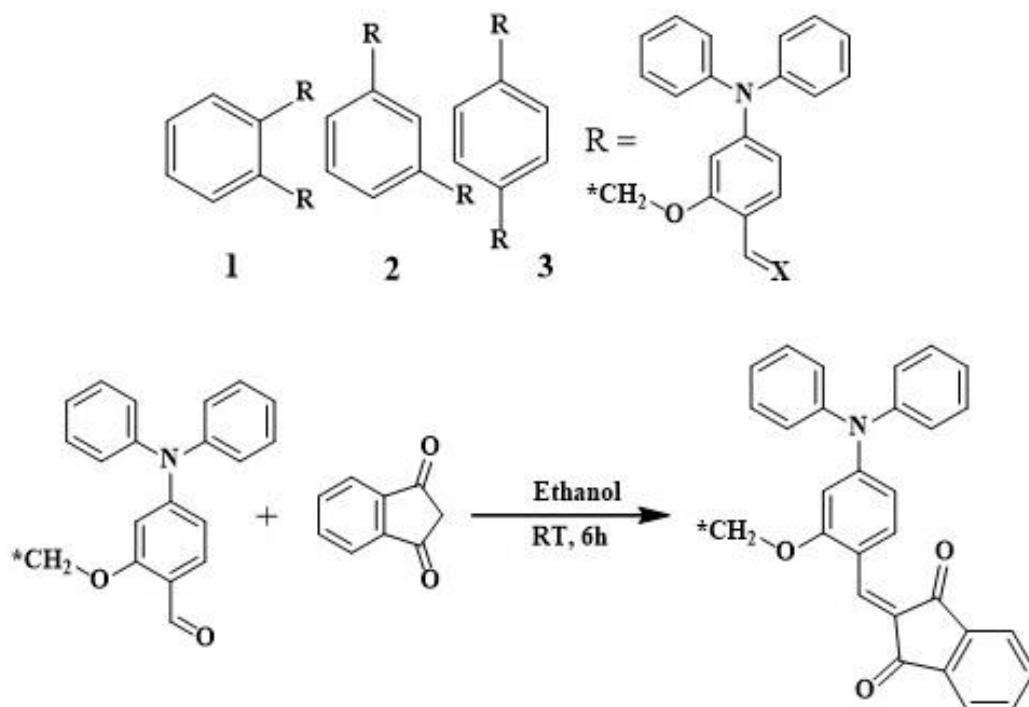
<sup>a)</sup>School of Chemical & Biotechnology, SAstra Deemed University, Thanjavur-613401, Tamil Nadu, India. Fax: +914362264120; Tel: +914362264101; E-mail: philip@biotech.sastra.edu

<sup>b)</sup> Department of Chemistry, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani-Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad - 500078, India

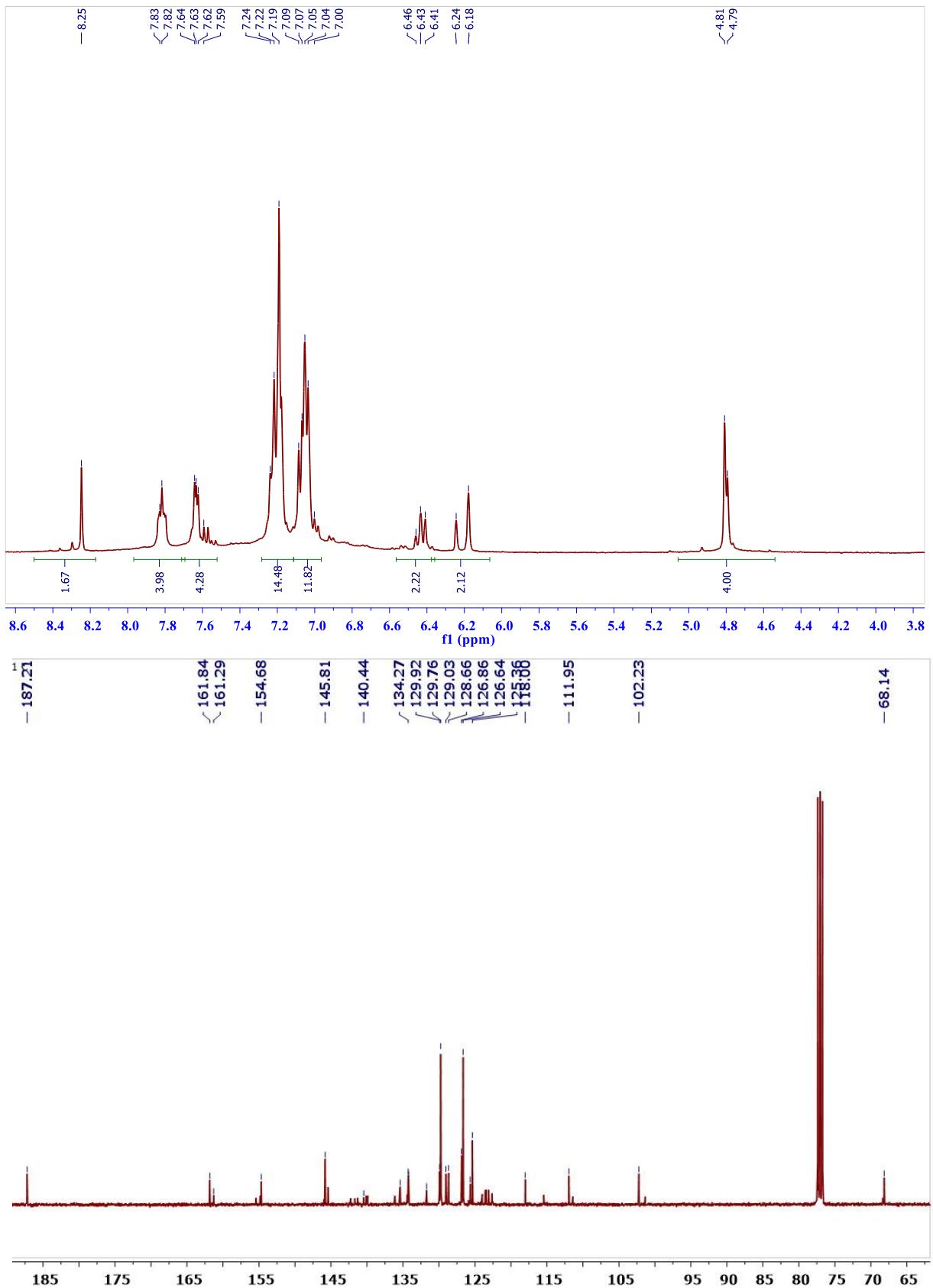
<sup>b)</sup>Department of chemistry, King Khalid University, Abha 61413, Saudi Arabia.

<sup>c)</sup>Research center for Advanced Materials Science, King Khalid University, Abha 61413, Saudi Arabia.

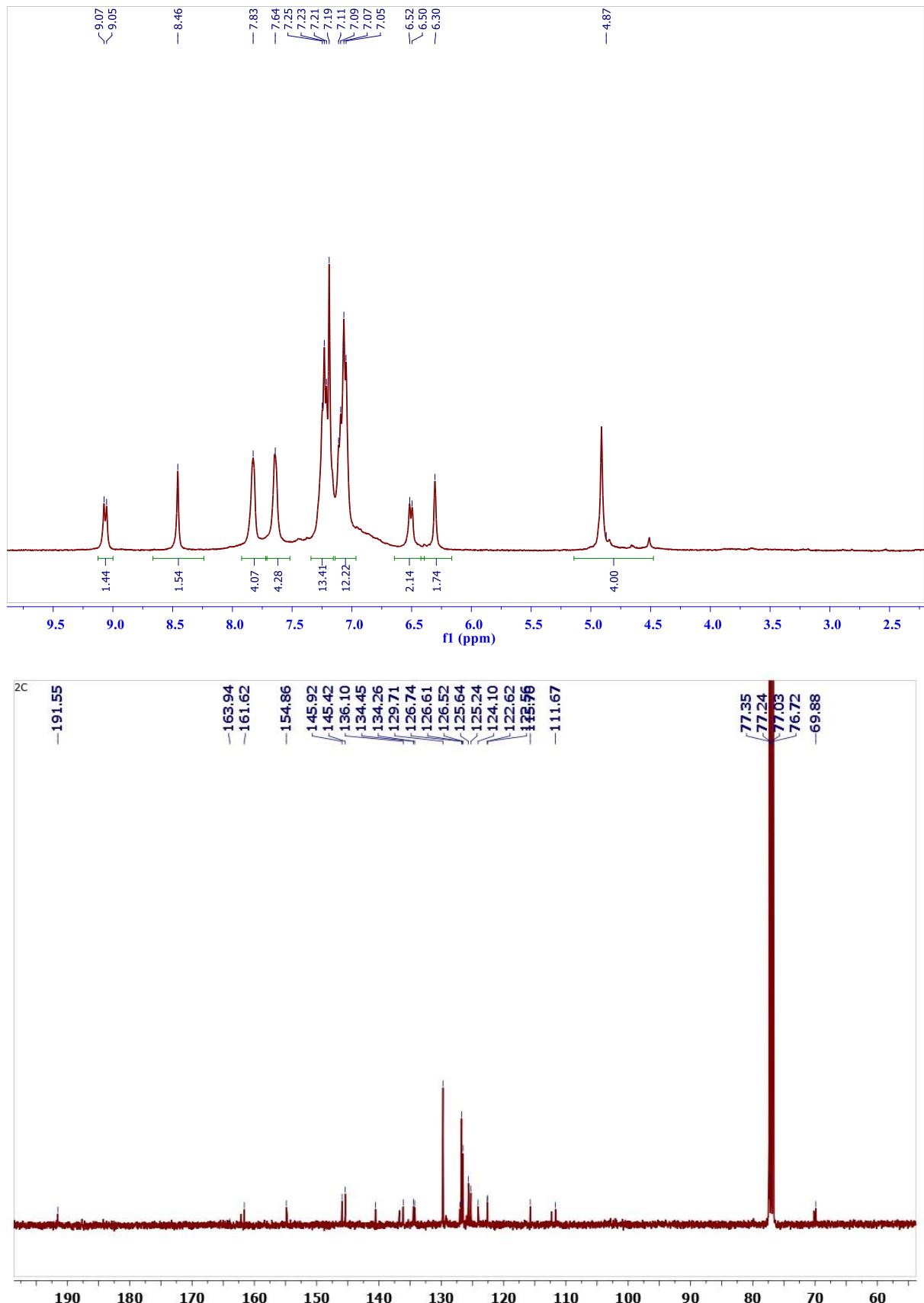
<sup>b)</sup>Beamline Department, Pohang Accelerator Laboratory, 80 Jigokro-127beongil, Nam-gu, Pohang, Gyeongbuk, Korea, Email: dmoon@postech.ac.kr



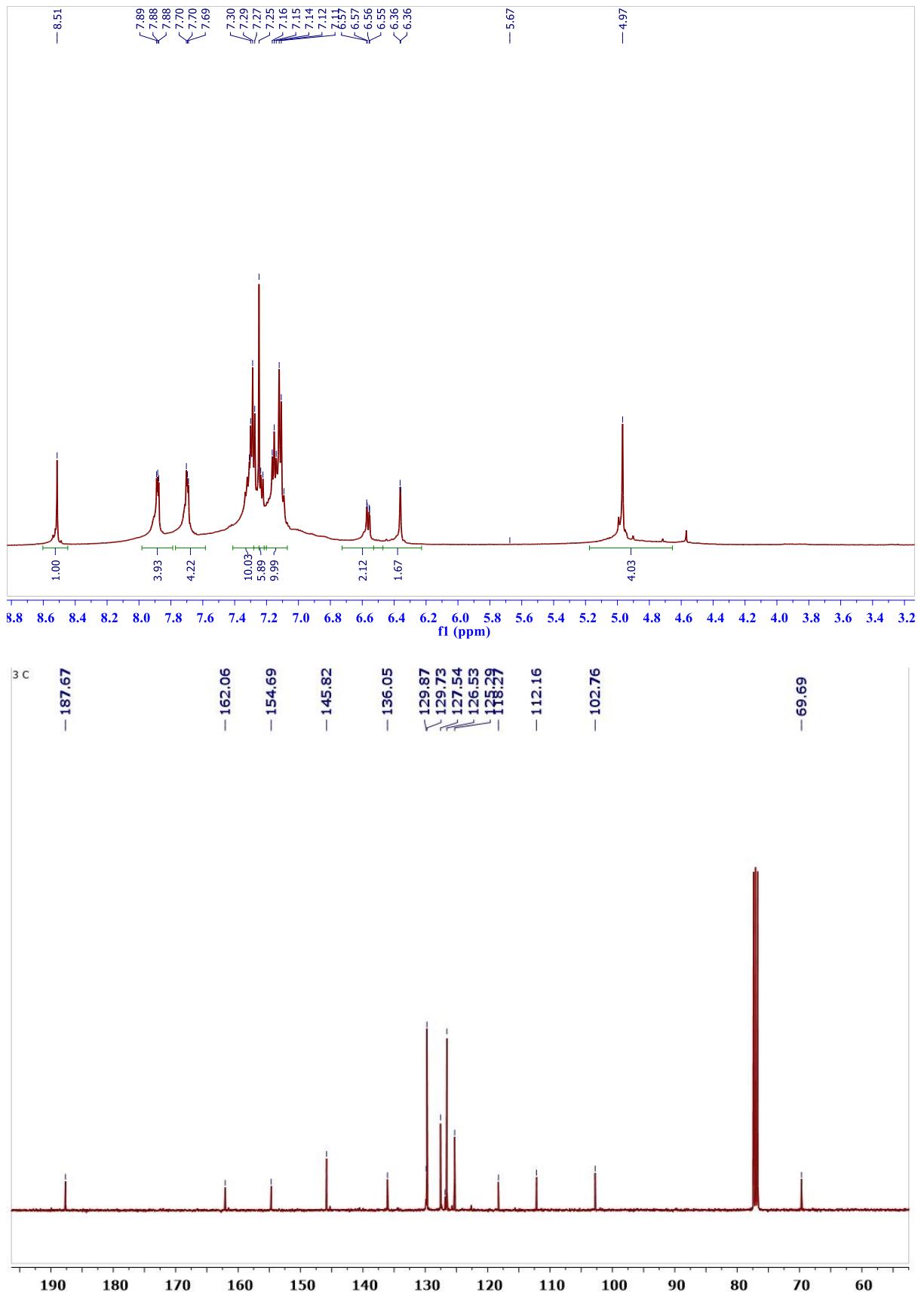
Scheme S1. Synthesis of isomers 1-3.



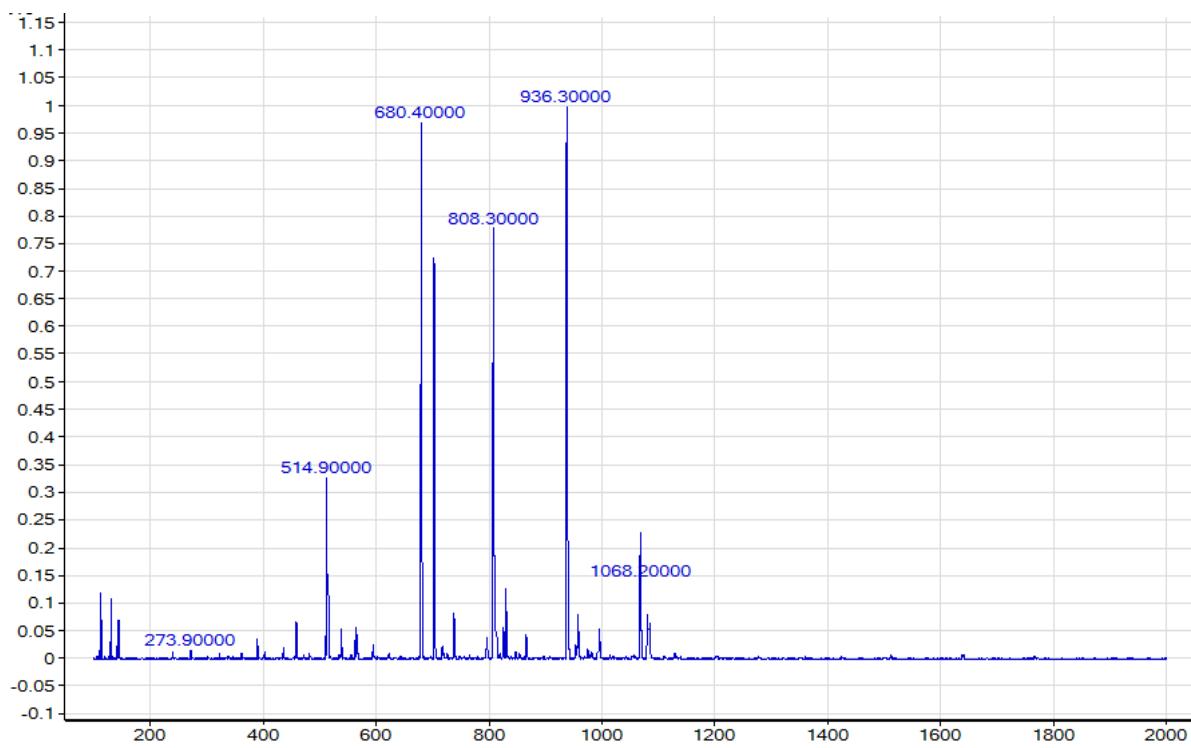
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **I**.



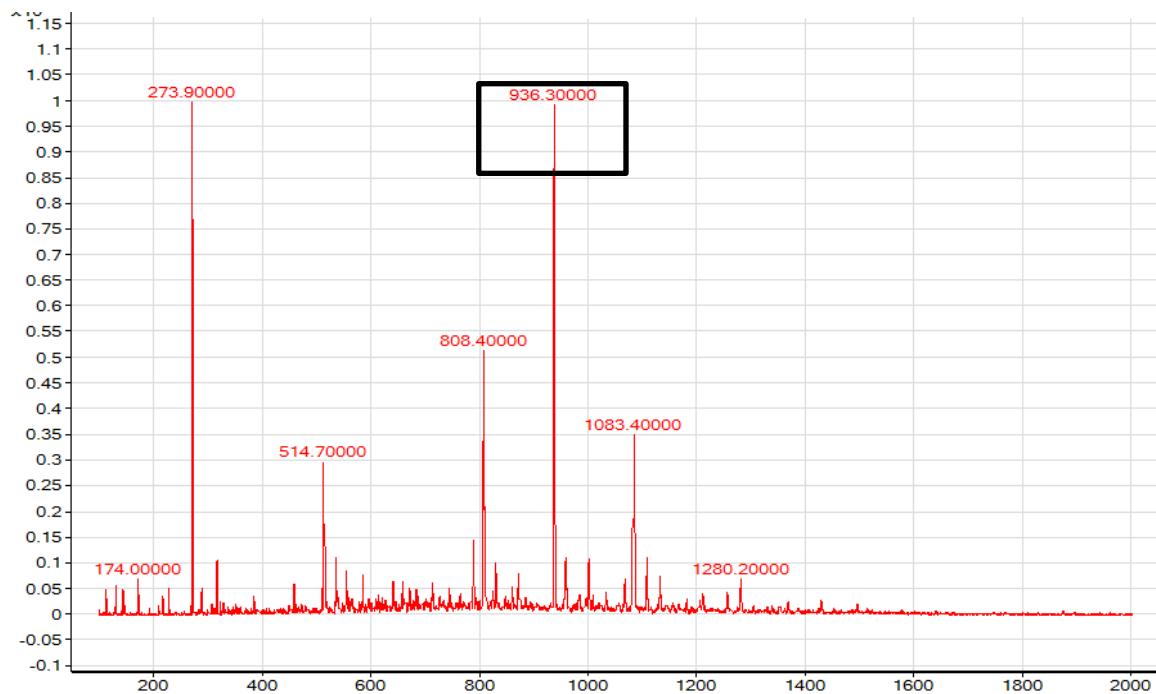
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR of 2.



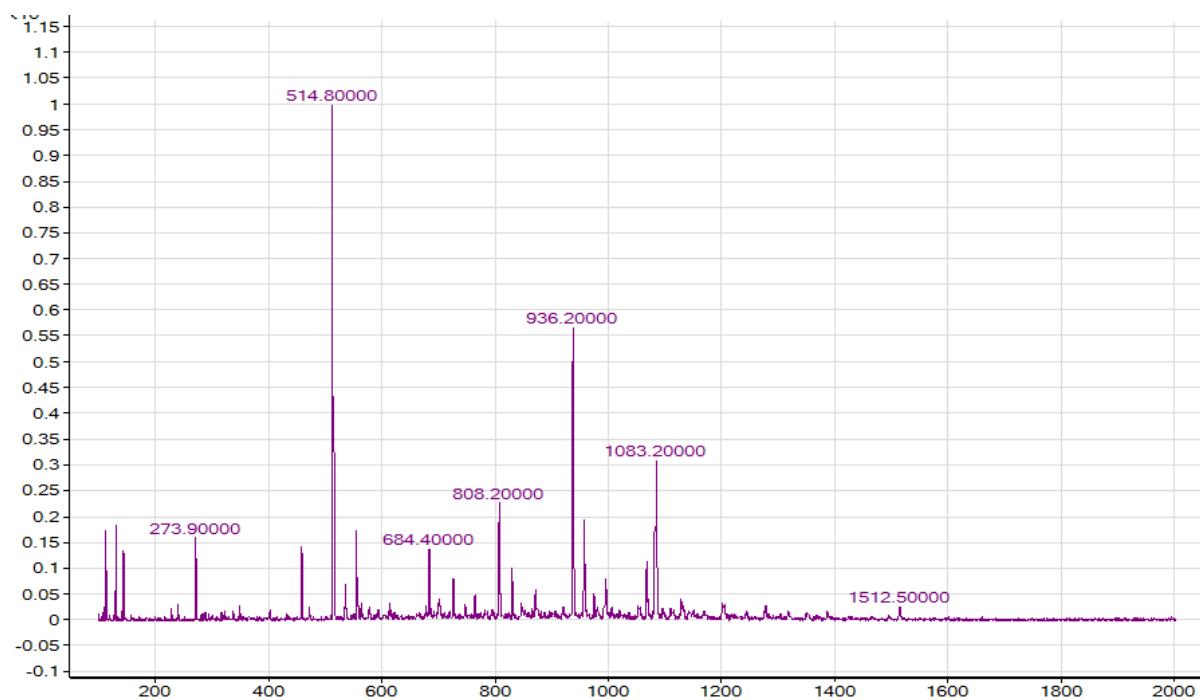
$^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR of 3.



1:  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{64}H_{44}N_2O_6$  ( $M + H$ ): 936.32, found: 936.30.



2:  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{64}H_{44}N_2O_6$  ( $M + H$ ): 936.32, found: 936.30.



**3:**  $m/z$  calcd for  $C_{64}H_{44}N_2O_6$  ( $M + H$ ): 936.32, found: 936.20.

Table S1. **1-3** fluorescence efficiency in solution compared to fluorescein.

S.NO	Solvents	Quantum yield ( $\Phi_F$ ) compared to Fluorescein		
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
1	CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.005	0.008	0.006
2	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	0.047	0.078	0.074
3	DMF	0.016	0.029	0.021
4	DMSO	0.013	0.016	0.014
5	Ethyl acetate	0.021	0.037	0.028
6	Ethanol	0.005	0.004	0.003
7	Methanol	0.002	0.001	0.001
8	THF	0.021	0.045	0.060
9	Toluene	0.089	0.090	0.085

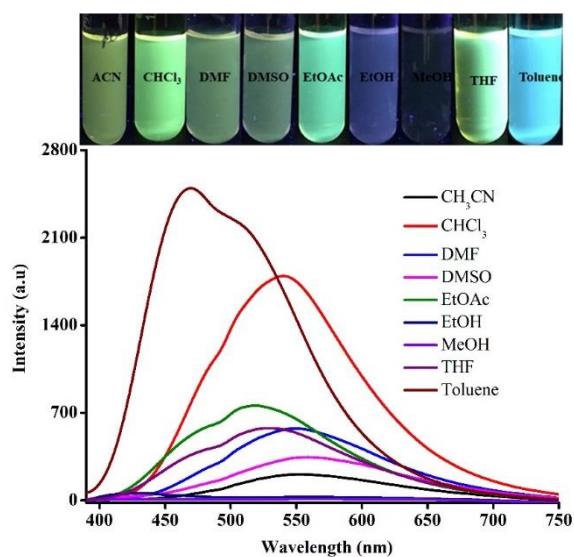


Figure S1. Digital images and fluorescence spectra of **3** in different solvents.

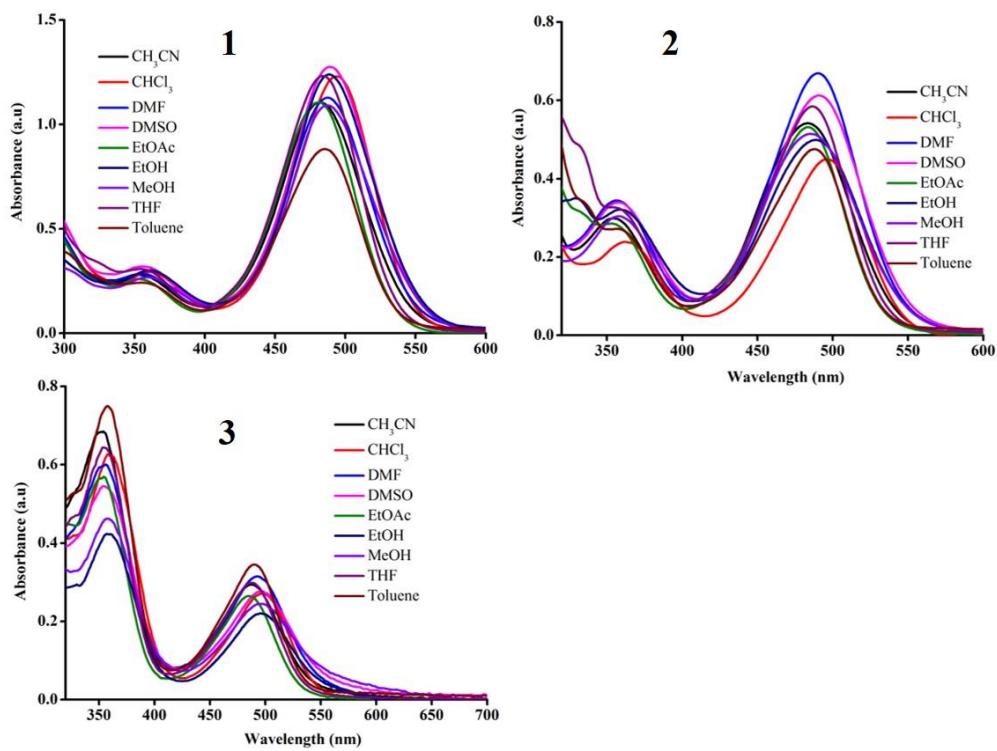


Figure S2. Absorption spectra of **1-3** in different solvents.

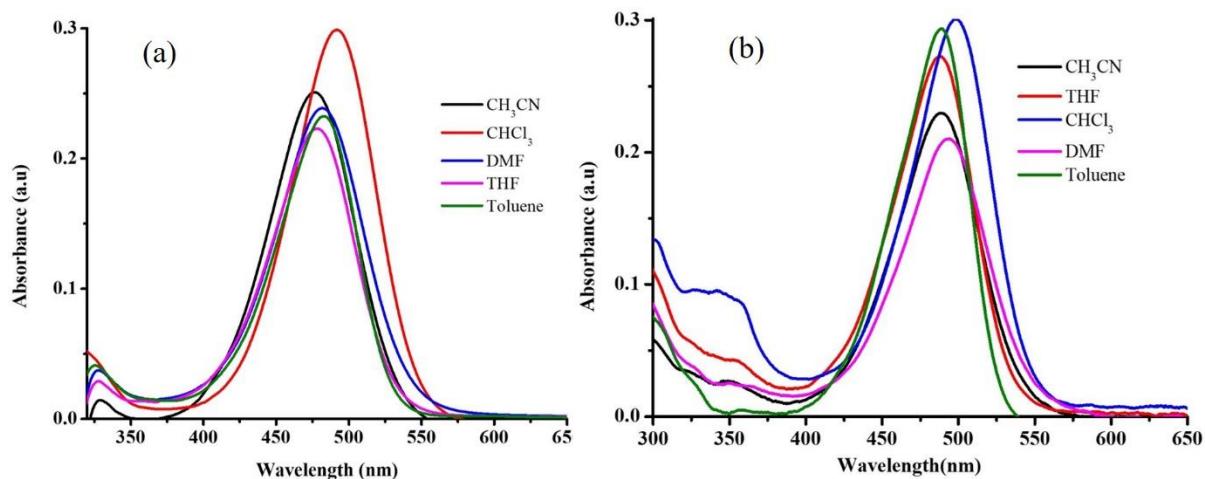


Figure S3. Absorption spectra of (a) TPA-indanedione and (b) 3-OCH<sub>3</sub>TPA-indanedione.

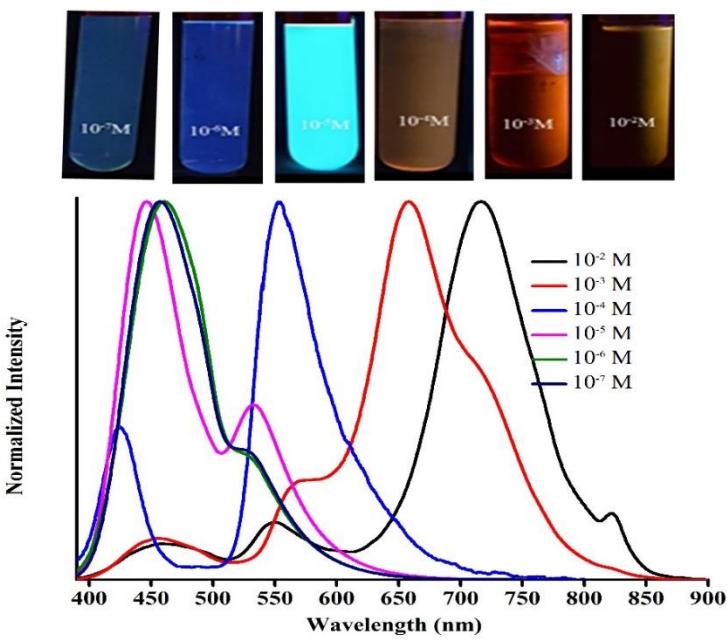


Figure S4. Concentration dependent fluorescence digital images and spectra of **2** ( $10^{-7} - 10^{-2}$  M) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 365$  nm (for digital images) and 370 nm (for spectra).

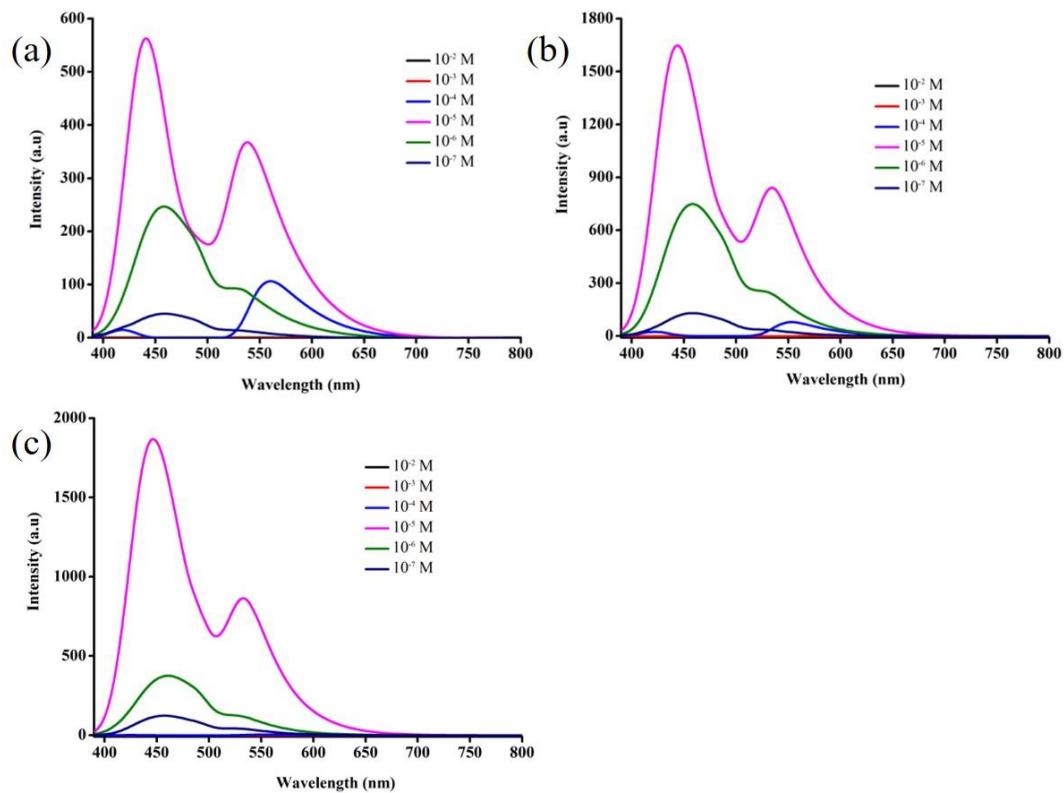


Figure S5. Concentration dependent fluorescence spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2** and (c) **3** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .

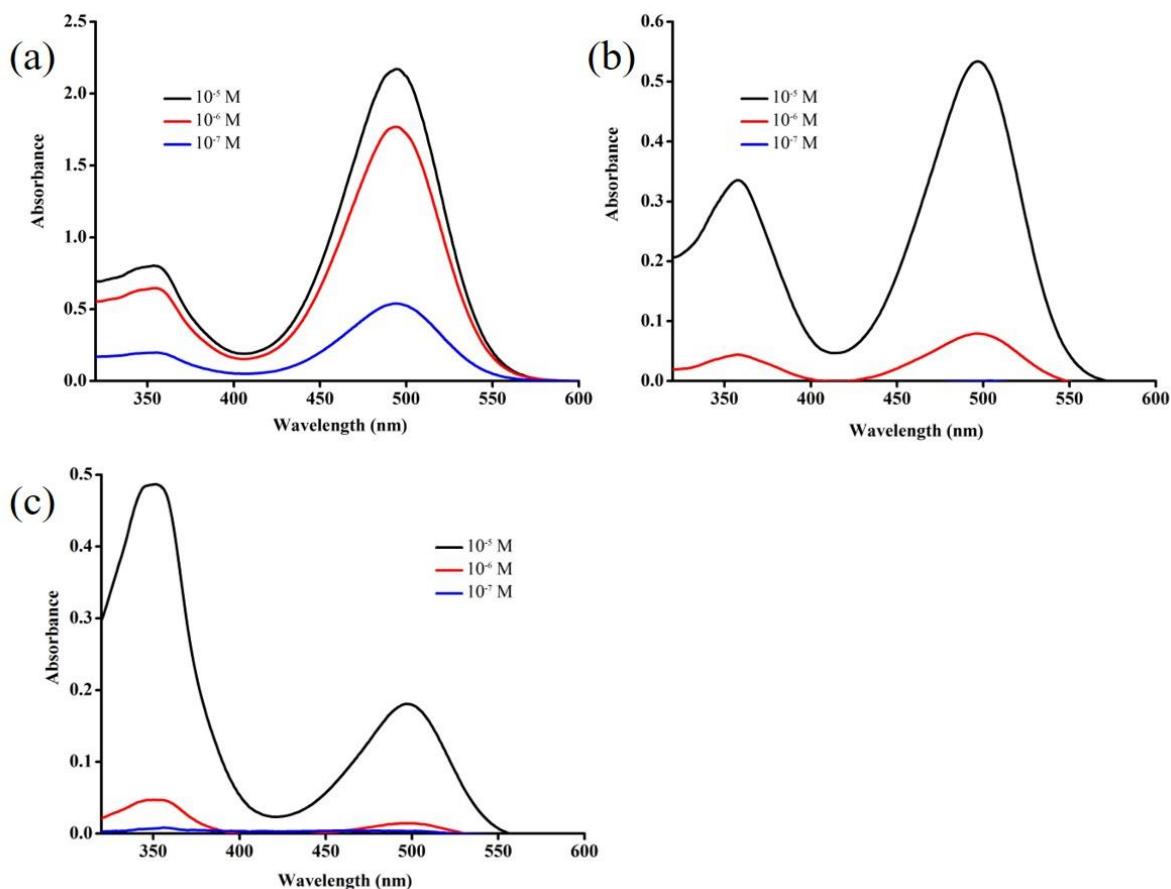


Figure S6. Concentration dependent absorption spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **2** and (c) **3** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .

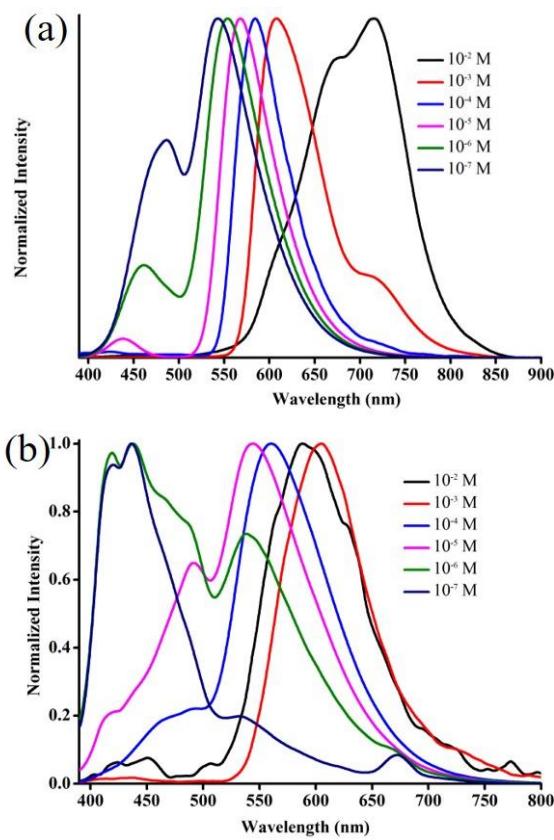


Figure S7. Concentration dependent fluorescence spectra of **1** in (a) THF and (b) DMSO.

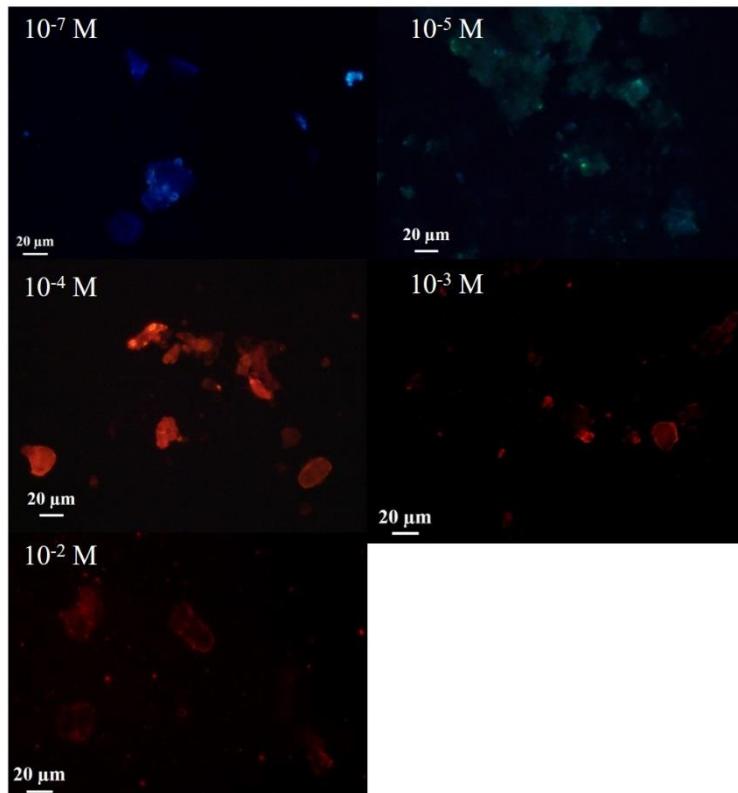


Figure S8. Confocal fluorescence microscopic images of **1**-PMMA composite thin films from different concentration.

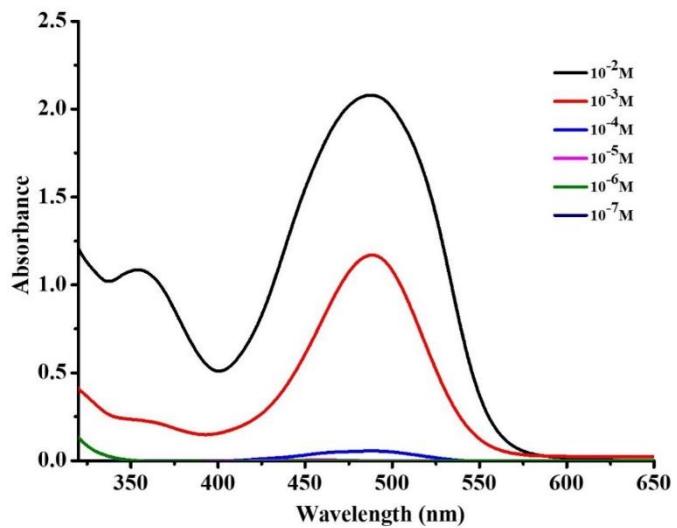


Figure S9. Concentration dependent absorption spectra of **1** in PMMA film.

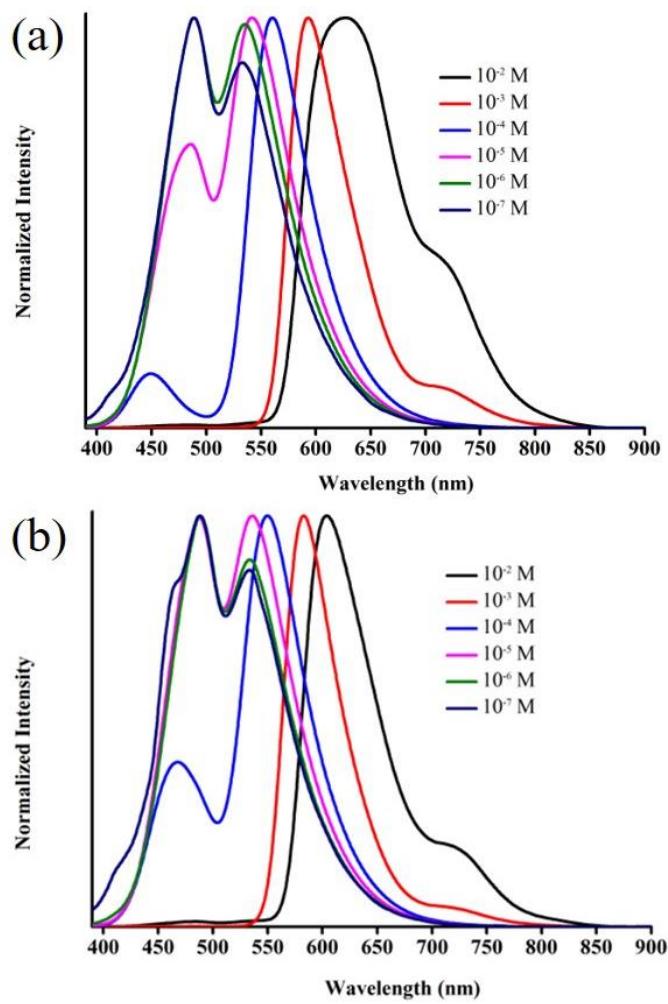


Figure S10. Concentration dependent fluorescence spectra of (a) **2** and (b) **3** in THF.

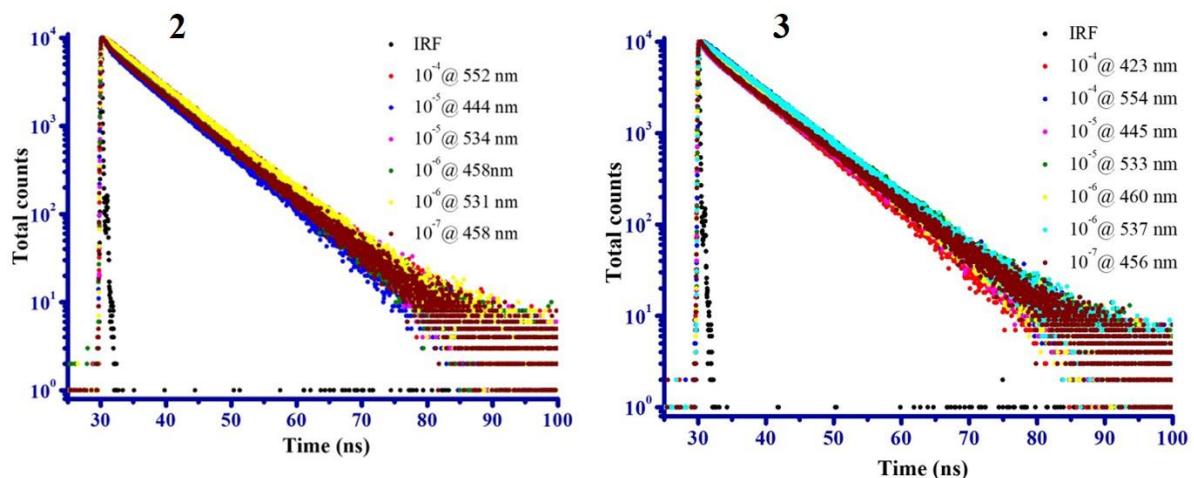


Fig. S11. Lifetime decay plot of **2** and **3** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  from  $10^{-4}$  to  $10^{-7}$  M.

**Table S2.** Fluorescence lifetime data of **2** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  at different concentration.

Conc.	$\lambda_{\text{em}}$ (nm)	B <sub>1</sub> (%)	B <sub>2</sub> (%)	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$\chi^2$
$10^{-4}$	552	0.61	99.39	$3.774 \pm 0.065$	$7.240 \pm 0.033$	1.1
$10^{-5}$	444	5.83	94.17	$0.97 \pm 0.061$	$7.103 \pm 0.02$	1.02
$10^{-5}$	534	1.78	98.22	$3.695 \pm 0.082$	$7.226 \pm 0.034$	1.08
$10^{-6}$	458	4.36	95.64	$1.16 \pm 0.091$	$7.354 \pm 0.021$	1.11
$10^{-6}$	531	1.12	98.88	$3.919 \pm 1.548$	$7.421 \pm 0.038$	1.17
$10^{-7}$	458	4.81	95.19	$1.073 \pm 0.080$	$7.353 \pm 0.02$	1.06

**Table S3.** Fluorescence lifetime data of **3** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  at different concentration.

Conc.	$\lambda_{\text{em}}$ (nm)	B <sub>1</sub> (%)	B <sub>2</sub> (%)	$\tau_1$ (ns)	$\tau_2$ (ns)	$\chi^2$
$10^{-4}$	423	4.57	95.43	$1.009 \pm 0.0822$	$7.298 \pm 0.019$	1.02
$10^{-4}$	554	2.7	97.3	$3.803 \pm 0.065$	$7.308 \pm 0.034$	1.14
$10^{-5}$	445	3.94	96.06	$0.874 \pm 0.069$	$7.558 \pm 0.022$	1.05
$10^{-5}$	533	0.82	99.18	$3.966 \pm 0.067$	$7.662 \pm 0.035$	1.07
$10^{-6}$	460	3.46	96.54	$1.103 \pm 0.114$	$7.554 \pm 0.019$	1.1
$10^{-6}$	537	10.13	89.87	$6.670 \pm 2.791$	$7.695 \pm 0.189$	1.13
$10^{-7}$	456	5.48	94.52	$1.242 \pm 0.072$	$7.691 \pm 0.022$	1.06

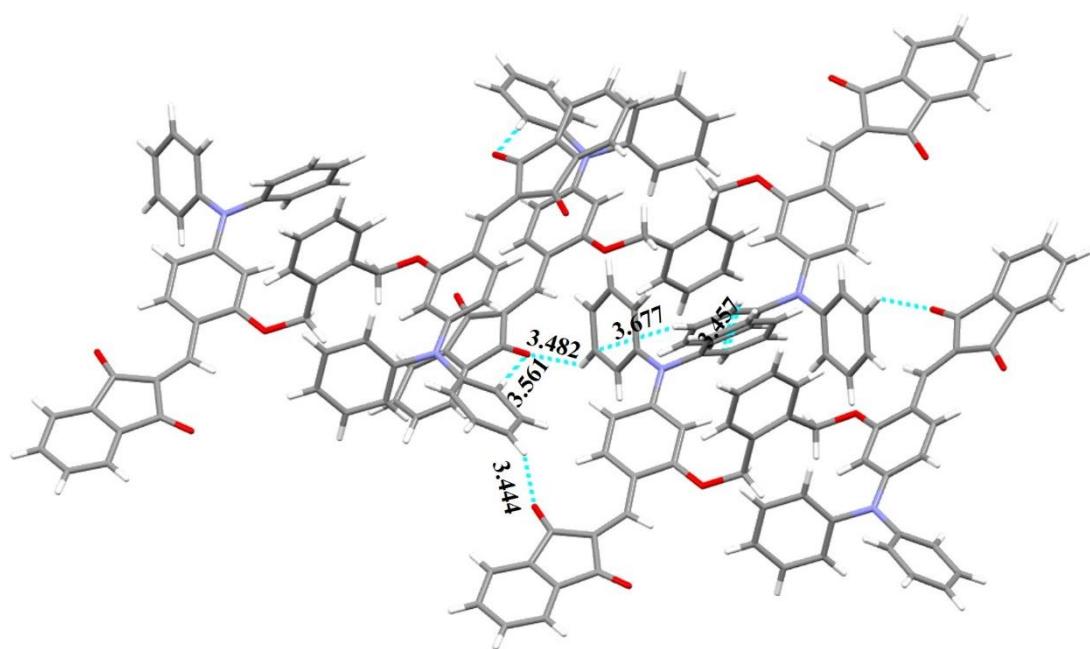


Fig. S12. Intermolecular interactions in the crystal lattice of **1**. C (grey), H (white), O (red) and N (blue). Dotted lines indicate the H-bonding and C-H... $\pi$  interactions in Å.

Table S4. Solid state fluorescence data of 1-3 and corresponding single AIEgen.

1		2		3		3-OMe-TPA	
$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_f$ (%)	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_f$ (%)	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_f$ (%)	$\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_f$ (%)
498, 622, 708	2.3	434, 536	5.3	439, 594	4.0	611	19.4

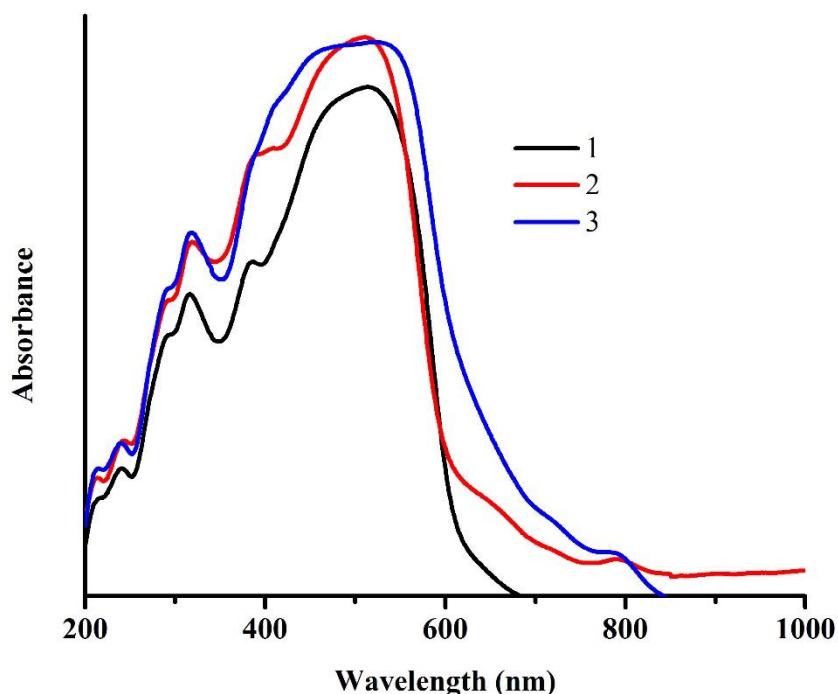


Figure S13. Solid state absorption spectra of **1-3**.

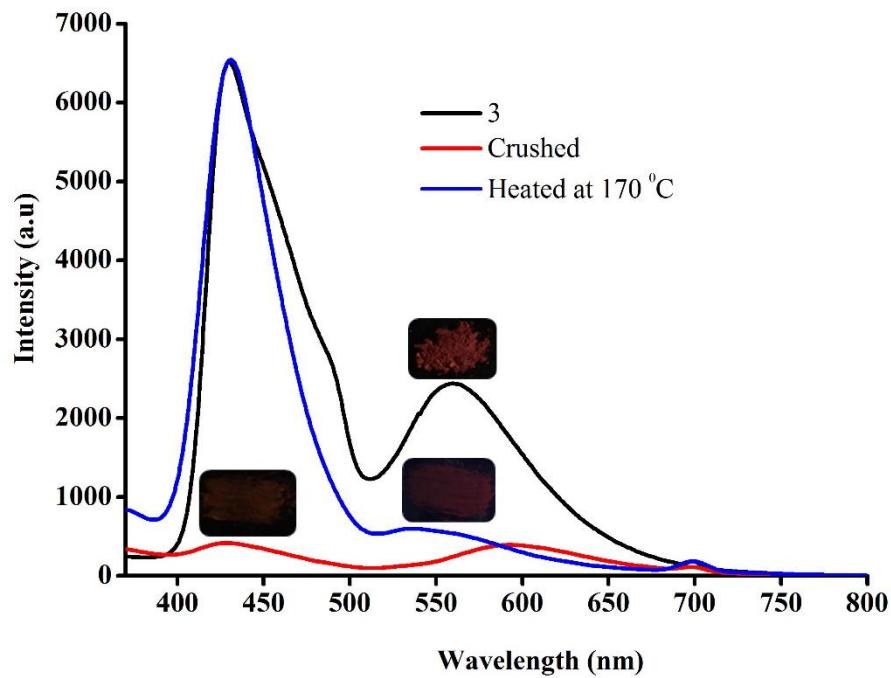


Figure S14. Mechanofluorochromism of **3**.

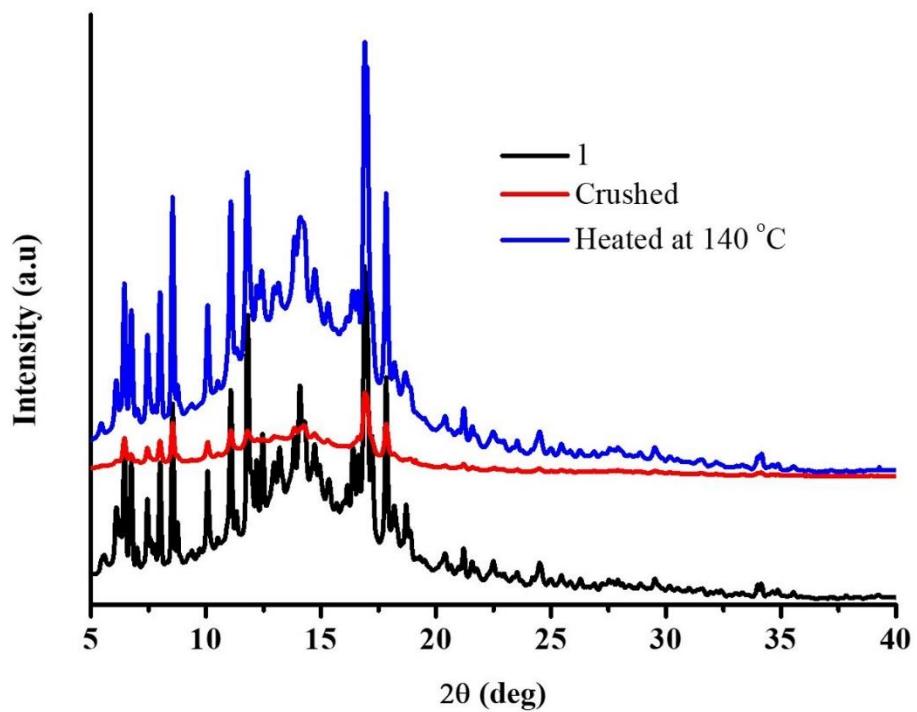


Figure S15. PXRD pattern of **1**.

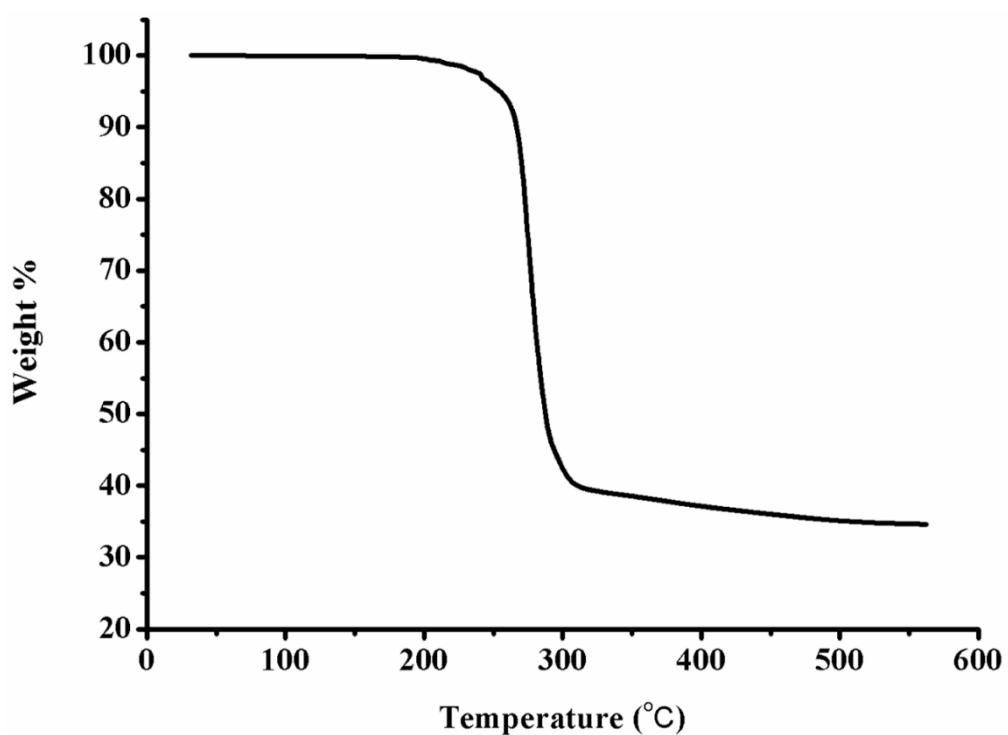


Figure S16. Thermogravimeric analysis of **1**.