## Supporting Information

# Synthesis of Fluorescent Poly(silyl indole)s via Borane-Catalyzed C-H Silylation of Indoles 

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## 1. General information

All syntheses and manipulations of air- and moisture-sensitive materials were carried out in flamed Schlenk-type glassware on a dual-manifold Schlenk line, a high-vacuum line, or an argon-filled glovebox. Toluene, tetrahydrofuran and benzene were refluxed over sodium/potassium alloy, followed by distillation under nitrogen atmosphere. Hexane and dichloromethane were refluxed over $\mathrm{CaH}_{2}$, followed by distillation under nitrogen atmosphere. All solvents were stored over molecular sieves $4 \AA . \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ was dried over molecular sieves $4 \AA$. NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance II $500\left(500 \mathrm{MHz},{ }^{1} \mathrm{H} ; 126 \mathrm{MHz},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\right)$ instrument at room temperature (RT). Chemical shifts for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ spectra were referenced to internal solvent resonances and reported as parts per million in relative to $\mathrm{SiMe}_{4}$. Air sensitive NMR samples were conducted in Teflon-valve sealed J. Young-type NMR tubes. High Resolution Mass Spectra (HRMS) were recorded on the Bruker MicroTOF Q II. Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded using Bruker VERTEX 80 V in the wavenumber range of $400-4000 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ with KBr as the background. Polymer number-average molecular weight $\left(M_{\mathrm{n}}\right)$ and molecular weight distributions (PDI = $M_{\mathrm{w}} / M_{\mathrm{n}}$ ) were measured by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) at $35^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a flow rate of $1 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$, with THF (HPLC grade) as an eluent on a Waters 1515 instrument equipped with Waters $4.6 \times 30 \mathrm{~mm}$ guard column and three Waters WAT054466, WAT044226, WAT044223 columns. The instrument was calibrated with PS standards, and chromatograms were processed with Waters Breeze2 software. Thermal properties were measured by thermogravimetry analysis (TGA) on a TA Q50
instrument under a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere at a heating rate of $10{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \mathrm{min}^{-1}$ from room temperature to $800^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Unless stated otherwise, all chemicals were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Hydrosilanes were purchased from Adamas. $n-\operatorname{BuLi}(2.5 \mathrm{M}$ solution in hexane) was purchased from J\&K. Dioxane was purchased from Titan. Boron trichloride (1.0 M solution in hexanes) was purchased from Alfa Aesar. Substituted indoles were purchased from Energy Chemical. All of chemicals were used as received unless otherwise specified as follows. Tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane, $\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5}\right)_{3}$, was prepared according to literature procedures. ${ }^{1,2}$

## 2. Preparation of monomers

## 2.1 biindole monomers



1a: $R_{1}=M e$
1b: $R_{1}=E t$


Bromo substituted $N$-methylindole and indolylboronic acids were prepared according to modified literature methods. ${ }^{3,4}$ Under Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reaction condition, the coupling between bromo substituted N -methylindole and indolylboronic acids afforded biindole monomers. Bromo substituted N -methylindole
( 24 mmol ), corresponding indolylboronic acids $(20 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(6.91 \mathrm{~g}, 50 \mathrm{mmol})$, dioxane $(80 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ were mixed in a $200-\mathrm{mL}$ flask. The mixture was degassed with nitrogen by freeze-pump-thaw cycle then $\operatorname{Pd}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(1.16 \mathrm{~g}, 1 \mathrm{mmol})$ was added. The reaction mixture was kept at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h before it was cooled to room temperature. Water was added and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with dichloromethane. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane and ethyl acetate (10:1) as an eluent to afford biindole monomers as a white solid.

## 1,1'-dimethyl-5,5'-biindole (1a)

The product was obtained in an $82 \%$ yield as a white solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.92\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.59\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.42(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.11\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.58\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.86\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 135.9,134.3,129.3,129.0,122.0,119.5,109.3,101.2$, 32.9. HRMS ( $\mathrm{ESI}^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$261.1386, found 261.1388.

## 1,1'-diethyl-5,5'-biindole (1b)

The product was obtained in an $85 \%$ yield as a white solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $(500 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.95\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.59\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.46(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.19\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.60\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.25(\mathrm{q}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.54\left(\mathrm{t}, J=7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ $\delta 134.8,134.3,129.2,127.4,121.8,119.6,109.3,101.3,41.1,15.6$. HRMS $\left.^{(E S I}{ }^{+}\right):$ calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{21} \mathrm{~N}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$289.1699, found 289.1693.

## 1,1'-dimethyl-6,6'-biindole (1c)

The product was obtained in an $85 \%$ yield as a white solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 500 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.74\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.63\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.52(\mathrm{dd}, J=8.2,1.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.11\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.56\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.89(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 137.4, 136.6, 129.2, 127.4, 120.9, 119.8, 108.0, 100.8, 32.9. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{17} \mathrm{~N}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$261.1386, found 261.1388.

### 2.2 AB-type monomers bearing both silyl and indole groups



All of the AB-type monomers are synthesized by a similar route, the detailed steps of 7-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole are given as representative.

Synthesis of 7-bromo-1,5-dimethyl-indole. In a Schlenk flask, 7-bromo-5-methyl-1H-indole ( $6.3 \mathrm{~g}, 30 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0 \mathrm{eq}$ ) was dissolved in DMF ( 120 $\mathrm{mL})$ and cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. $\mathrm{NaH}(1.5 \mathrm{~g}, 36 \mathrm{mmol}, 60 \%$ dispersion in mineral oil, 1.2 eq$)$ was added in portions and the resulting suspension was stirred at RT for 30 minutes. The mixture was cooled down to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ again and MeI ( $5.2 \mathrm{~g}, 36 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2 \mathrm{eq}$ ) was added dropwisely. The reaction mixture was stirred at RT overnight. After consumption of the starting material (TLC monitoring), water was added and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane as
an eluent to afford 7-bromo-1,5-dimethyl-indole as a colorless oil in a $98 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.34\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.22\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.98(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.39\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.15\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 2.42\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ $\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 131.8,131.5,130.0,127.9,120.0,103.4,100.5,36.7$, 20.8. HRMS ( $\mathrm{ESI}^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{BrN}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$224.0069, found 224.0060.

Synthesis of (1,5-dimethyl-indol-7-yl)boronic acid. In a Schlenk flask, 7-bromo-1,5-dimethyl-indole ( $4.5 \mathrm{~g}, 20 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0 \mathrm{eq}$ ) was dissolved in THF ( 50 mL ) and cooled down to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{n} \mathrm{BuLi}(2.5 \mathrm{M}, 9.6 \mathrm{~mL}, 24 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2 \mathrm{eq})$ was added dropwisely and the resulting suspension was stirred at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 60 minutes. Then $\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{i}} \mathrm{Pr}\right)_{3}(4.5 \mathrm{~g}, 24 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2$ eq) was added dropwisely and the reaction mixture was stirred at RT overnight. The mixture was quenched by aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ solution and the product was extracted with diethyl ether. The combined extracts were dried over $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and crystallization to afford (1,5-dimethyl-indol-7-yl)boronic acid as a yellow solid in an $85 \%$ yield. The crude product was used without further purification. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.90-$ 7.87 (m, 1H, Har), 7.68 (s, 1H, Har), 7.51 (s, 1H, Har), 7.21 (s, 1H, Har), 7.08 (d, $J=$ $\left.3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.04\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.54\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.45(\mathrm{~d}$, $\left.J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.83\left(\mathrm{br}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}\right), 3.97\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 3.88\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right)$, $2.52\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 2.47\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$. HRMS (ESI $\left.{ }^{+}\right)$: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{10} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{BNO}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ 190.1034, found 190.1025.

Synthesis of 7-(4-bromophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole. (1,5-dimethyl-indol-7yl)boronic acid ( $3.0 \mathrm{~g}, 16 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0 \mathrm{eq}$ ), 1-bromo-4-iodobenzene ( $5.7 \mathrm{~g}, 20 \mathrm{mmol}$,
$1.25 \mathrm{eq}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(5.5 \mathrm{~g}, 40 \mathrm{mmol}, 2.5 \mathrm{eq})$, dioxane $(80 \mathrm{~mL})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{~mL})$ were mixed together in a 200 mL flask. The mixture was degassed with nitrogen by freeze-pump-thaw cycle, then $\mathrm{Pd}_{( }\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{4}(924 \mathrm{mg}, 0.8 \mathrm{mmol}, 0.05 \mathrm{eq})$ was added. The reaction mixture was kept at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h before it was cooled to RT. Water was added and the aqueous layer was extracted three times with dichloromethane. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane and ethyl acetate (50:1) as an eluent to afford 7-(4-bromophenyl)-1,5- dimethyl-indole as a white solid in an $81 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.59\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.46\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.36(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $\left.=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.98\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.87\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.50\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.34(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 2.50\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \operatorname{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 139.5, 132.3, 131.7, $131.1,130.8,130.2,128.4,125.7,125.7,125.0,121.3,120.2,100.7,36.9,21.1$. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{16} \mathrm{H}_{15} \mathrm{BrN}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$300.0382, found 300.0375 .

Synthesis of 7-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole (2c). In a Schlenk flask 7-(4-bromophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole ( $1.5 \mathrm{~g}, 5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.0 \mathrm{eq}$ ) was dissolved in THF ( 40 mL ) and cooled down to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The ${ }^{n} \mathrm{BuLi}(2.5 \mathrm{M}, 2.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 6$ mmol, 1.2 eq) was added dropwise and the resulting suspension was stirred at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . Then $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{SiClH}(710 \mathrm{mg}, 7.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5 \mathrm{eq})$ was added dropwisely and the reaction mixture was stirred at RT overnight. The mixture was quenched by aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ solution and the product was extracted with diethyl ether. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane as an eluent to afford

7-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole in a $92 \%$ yield as a colorless oil that eventually crystalized on standing at RT . ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.62(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $\left.7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.47\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.44\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.97\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, 6.89 (s, 1H, HAr), 6.49 (s, 1H, HAr), 4.56-4.50 (m, 1H, SiH), 3.33 (s, 3H, NCH3), 2.48 $\left(\mathrm{s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.44\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ $141.4,135.9,133.3,132.4,131.0,129.5,128.3,126.3,125.9,119.9,100.6,36.8,21.1$, -3.7. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{22} \mathrm{NSi}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$280.1516, found 280.1517 .

## Synthesis of 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole

It was prepared from (1-methyl-indol-5-yl)boronic acid according to the above procedure to afford 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole as a white solid in a $72 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.85\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.57\left(\mathrm{q}, J=10.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $7.47\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.41\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.12(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), $6.58\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.85\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}(126 \mathrm{MHz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 141.6,136.4,131.7,131.6,129.7,128.9,127.4,121.1,120.4,119.3,109.6$, 101.4, 33.0. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{BrN}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$286.0226, found 286.0218.

## Synthesis of 5-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2a)

It was prepared from 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole according to the above procedure to afford 5-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole in a $90 \%$ yield as a colorless oil that eventually crystalized on standing at RT. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.92\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.73\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.68\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.55$ (d, $J=10.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}$ ), $7.43(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}), 7.13(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr})$, $6.61-6.58\left(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.58-4.52(\mathrm{~m}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiH}), 3.86\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.45(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7$
$\left.\mathrm{Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 143.5, 136.4, 134.8, 134.5, 132.6, 129.5, 126.9, 121.4, 119.5, 109.5, 101.4, 33.0, -3.6. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NSi}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$266.1360, found 266.1367.

## Synthesis of 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole

It was prepared from (1-methyl-indol-6-yl)boronic acid according to the above procedure to afford 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole as a white solid in a $68 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.72\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.63-7.56(\mathrm{~m}, 4 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.51\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.37\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.13\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $6.55\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.87\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$ $\delta 141.5,137.2,133.8,131.7,129.8,129.0,128.1,121.2,120.7,118.9,107.6,100.9$, 32.9. $\mathrm{HRMS}\left(\mathrm{ESI}^{+}\right)$: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{BrN}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$286.0226, found 286.0224.

## Synthesis of 6-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2b)

It was prepared from 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole according to the above procedure to afford 6-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole in a $88 \%$ yield as a colorless oil that eventually crystalized on standing at RT. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.76-7.71\left(\mathrm{~m}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.68\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.57\left(\mathrm{~s}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.43(\mathrm{~d}, J=$ $\left.9.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.12\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.55\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, 4.57-4.50 (m, 1H, SiH), $3.88\left(\mathrm{~s}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.44\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 143.4,137.2,135.2,135.0,134.5,129.6,128.0,127.0$, 121.1, 119.2, 107.8, 100.9, 32.9, -3.6. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NSi}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ 266.1360, found 266.1361 .

## Synthesis of 5-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole

It was prepared from (1-methyl-indol-5-yl)boronic acid according to the above procedure to afford 5-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole as a white solid in a $73 \%$ yield. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.84\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.60(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.46\left(\mathrm{t}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.41\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.32(\mathrm{t}, J=7.8$ $\left.\mathrm{Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.12\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.57\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.86(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 144.8,136.5,131.3,130.3,130.1,129.7$, 129.1, 129.0, 125.9, 122.8, 121.1, 119.5, 109.6, 101.5, 33.0. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{15} \mathrm{H}_{13} \mathrm{BrN}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$286.0226, found 286.0221.

## Synthesis of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2d)

Starting from 5-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole, 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole was prepared according to the similar procedure and produced in a $93 \%$ yield as a colorless oil that eventually crystalized on standing at RT. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.87\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=11.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.70(\mathrm{~d}$, $\left.J=7.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.55-7.50\left(\mathrm{~m}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.48\left(\mathrm{t}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.43(\mathrm{~d}, J$ $\left.=8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.12\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 6.58\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=2.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, 4.57-4.50 (m, 1H, SiH), $3.86\left(\mathrm{~s}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.44\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 142.1,137.7,136.3,133.1,133.0,132.0,129.5,129.0$, 128.4, 128.2, 121.5, 119.5, 109.5, 101.4, 33.0, -3.6. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{17} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NSi}^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$266.1360, found 266.1362.

### 2.3 Synthesis of trisilane monomer (3b)



In a Schlenk flask 4,4"-dibromo-5'-(4-bromophenyl)-1,1':3',1"-terphenyl (2.7 g, 5 $\mathrm{mmol}, 1.0 \mathrm{eq})$ was dissolved in THF ( 60 mL ) and cooled to $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The ${ }^{n} \mathrm{BuLi}(2.5 \mathrm{M}$, $2.4 \mathrm{~mL}, 6 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.2 \mathrm{eq}$ ) was added dropwisely and the resulting suspension was stirred at $-78^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h . Then $\mathrm{Me} 2 \mathrm{SiClH}(710 \mathrm{mg}, 7.5 \mathrm{mmol}, 1.5 \mathrm{eq})$ was added dropwisely and the reaction mixture was stirred at RT overnight. The mixture was quenched by aqueous $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{Cl}$ solution and the product was extracted with diethyl ether. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane as an eluent to afford the trisilane monomer in an $81 \%$ yield as a yellow solid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.83(\mathrm{~s}$, $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), $7.74-7.69\left(\mathrm{~m}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.53$ (hept, $\left.J=3.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, 3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiH}\right), 0.44(\mathrm{~d}, J=3.7$ $\left.\mathrm{Hz}, 18 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 142.3,141.9,136.7,134.6$, 126.8, 125.3, -3.7. HRMS ( $\mathrm{ESI}^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{30} \mathrm{H}_{37} \mathrm{Si}_{3}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$481.2198, found 481.2190 .

## 3. Preparation of the model compounds.

## Synthesis of model compounds 1 (MC1)



Into a 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added dimethyl(phenyl)silane ( $85.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.63 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), 1,1'-dimethyl-5,5'-biindole (1a, 78.1 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{B}(\mathrm{C} 6 \mathrm{~F} 5)_{3}(3.1 \mathrm{mg}, 6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$, and 1 mL of toluene in a glovebox. The Schlenk tube was taken out of the glovebox, and the reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h . Afterward, the system was cooled to RT, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum to give a precipitate. The solid was collected by filtration, then washed with hexane, and dried in vacuo to afford 3,3'-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1,1'-dimethyl-5,5'-biindole as a white solid in an $84 \%$ yield ( 133 mg ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.79$ (s, 2H, $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), 7.69-7.63 (m, 4H, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.49\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4,2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.43-7.34\left(\mathrm{~m}, 8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.06\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.83(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.64\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 139.4, 137.6, $136.8,134.5,134.0,133.4,128.9,127.8,122.0,120.8,109.4,107.3,32.9,-1.3$. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{37} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} 529.2490$, found 529.2486.

## Synthesis of model compounds 2 (MC2)



A 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stir bar were added 1,4-bis(dimethylsilyl)benzene (3a, $58.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.3 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), 1-methyl-5-phenyl-indole
( $130.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.63 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F} 5\right) 3(3.1 \mathrm{mg}, 6 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$, and 1 mL of toluene in a glovebox. The Schlenk tube was taken out of the glovebox, and the reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 12 h . Afterward, the system was cooled down to RT, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum to give a precipitate. The solid was collected by filtration, then washed with hexane, and dried in vacuo to afford 1,4-bis(dimethyl(1-methyl-5-phenyl-indol-3-yl)silyl)benzene as a white solid in an $82 \%$ yield ( 153 mg ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.82$ ( $\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), 7.67 ( $\mathrm{s}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{Har}^{2}$ ), $7.60\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.51\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.42(\mathrm{t}, J=7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.31\left(\mathrm{t}, J=7.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.08\left(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.81\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.67(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 142.6, 140.0, 138.1, 137.1, 133.4, 133.0, 128.6, 127.4, 126.2, 121.5, 120.6, 109.6, 107.4, 32.9, -1.2. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$): calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{41} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$605.2803, found 605.2802.

## Synthesis of model compounds 3 (MC3)

We investigated the influence of concentration on the cyclization reactions of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2d). As shown in Table S1, the cyclization reactions were carried out at different concentrations and the typical procedure of Table S1, entry 3 is given below as an example.

In a glovebox, 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2d, $26.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ was added to a $0.5 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}$ solution of $\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5}\right)_{3}(2.6 \mathrm{mg}, 5 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ in a J . Young-type NMR tube. The NMR tube was taken out of the glovebox, and the reaction mixture was heated to $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2.5 h . After completion of the reaction and measurement of NMR, the reaction mixture was concentrated under vacuum to give a
white precipitate. The solid was collected by filtration, then washed with hexane, and dried in vacuo to afford MC3 as a white solid in a $49 \%$ yield ( 13 mg ). The molecular structure of MC3 was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 8.43$ ( $\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$, 8.27 ( $\mathrm{s}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{HAr}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), 7.56 (t, $J=8.1 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.41\left(\mathrm{q}, J=8.4,7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.35\left(\mathrm{~d}, J=8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.20(\mathrm{~s}, 2 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}$ ), $3.81\left(\mathrm{~s}, 6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.76\left(\mathrm{~s}, 12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ $142.2,140.1,138.1,136.0,133.7,133.3,131.3,128.2,128.1,121.4,121.2,109.5$, 108.1, 32.9, -2.1. HRMS (ESI ${ }^{+}$: calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{35} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}{ }^{+}[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+} 527.2333$, found 527.2332.

Table S1. Influence of concentration on the cyclization reaction of 2d. ${ }^{\text {a }}$

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Carried out in $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}(500 \mu \mathrm{~L})$ under argon in the presence of $\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5}\right)_{3}$ at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for $2.5 \mathrm{~h} .\left[\mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5}\right)_{3}\right] /[\mathbf{2 d}]=5 \%$. ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Conversion and yields were determined by ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectroscopy.

## 4. Synthesis and characterization of polymers

All the polymerizations were carried out under argon atmosphere using a standard Schlenk technique. A typical procedure for the polymerization of $\mathbf{1 a}$ and $\mathbf{2 a}$
is given below as an example. A 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirrer were added with 1a ( $130.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathbf{2 a}(97.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.5 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{B}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~F}_{5}\right)_{3}(12.8$ $\mathrm{mg}, 0.025 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and 0.5 mL of toluene in a glovebox. The Schlenk tube was taken out of the glovebox, and the reaction mixture was stirred at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 72 h . Afterward, the system was cooled down to RT , and poured into 20 mL of hexane under vigorously stirring. The precipitate was filtered, washed with hexane, and vacuum-dried at $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 24 h to afford the polymer product. The polymerizations of other monomers adopted the same procedure under varied conditions.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.91\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.66\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.49\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$,
$7.36\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.01\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.71\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.66\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 140.0,137.6,136.9,134.4,133.4,122.0,120.7,109.5,107.2$, 32.8, -1.3.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.90\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.64\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.47\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $7.37\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.06\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 4.10\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{2}\right), 1.43\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.63(12 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta$ 136.6, 135.2, 134.5, 133.7, 133.4, 133.1, $121.8,120.9,109.5,107.2,41.1,15.4,-1.3$.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.68,\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.65\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.57\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $7.45\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.05\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.80\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.64\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}$ $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 140.0,139.1,136.8,136.6,133.4,131.8,122.1,119.9,108.3$, 106.8, 32.8, -1.3.


P4
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.89,\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.70\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.63\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $7.53\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.40\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.09\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.81\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.69\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right)$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 143.2,138.2,137.1,136.6,134.5,133.0,126.9$, 121.5, 120.7, 109.6, 107.7, 32.9, -1.1.


P5
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 7.71,\left(5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.58\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.41\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $7.13\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.86\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.70\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR ( 126 MHz , $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 143.0,139.1,137.1,134.5,133.5,132.4,126.9,122.2,119.4,108.0,107.0$, 100.8, 32.9, -1.2.


P6
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.70,\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.47\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.01\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $6.93\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 3.35\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 2.43\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.69\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ ) $\delta 140.8,138.8,138.1,134.3,134.1,133.4,129.4,128.3,126.8$, 125.9, 121.0, 106.1, 36.8, 21.3, -1.2.

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H} \operatorname{NMR}\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 7.74\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.43\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right), 7.08\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{H}_{\mathrm{Ar}}\right)$, $3.72\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{NCH}_{3}\right), 0.70\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{SiCH}_{3}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\} \mathrm{NMR}\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right) \delta 142.3$, 141.6, 138.6, 137.6, 136.9, 134.7, 133.5, 126.8, 125.2, 122.0, 120.8, 109.5, 107.1, 101.2, 32.8, -1.1.

## 5. FT-IR spectra of polymers


b




Figure S1. FT-IR spectra of (a) 3a, (b) 1a, and (c) P1.



Figure S2. FT-IR spectra of (a) 2a and (b) P4.

## 6. X-ray single-crystal structure of MC1 and MC3.

Single crystals were quickly covered with a layer of Paratone-N oil (Exxon, dried and degassed at $120^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / 10^{-6}$ Torr for 24 h ) after decanting the mother liquor. A crystal was then mounted on a thin glass fiber and transferred into the cold nitrogen stream of a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined using the Bruker SHELXTL program library by full-matrix least squares on $F^{2}$ for all reflections (SHELXTL, Version 6.12; Bruker Analytical X-ray Solutions: Madison, WI, 2001). The structure was refined by full-matrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ for all reflections. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters, whereas hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factor calculations at idealized positions (Sheldrick, G. M. Acta Crystallogr., Sect. A. 1990, 46, 467-473 \& 2008, 64, 112-122.).


Figure S3. X-ray crystal structure of 3,3'-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1,1'-dimethyl-5,5' -biindole (MC1). Hydrogen and fluorine atoms are omitted for clarity and ellipsoids drawn at $50 \%$ probability.


Figure S4. X-ray crystal structure of 3,3'-bis(dimethyl(phenyl)silyl)-1,1'-dimethyl-5,5' -biindole (MC3). Hydrogen and fluorine atoms are omitted for clarity and ellipsoids drawn at $50 \%$ probability.

Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for MC1 (CCDC 2167809) and MC3 (CCDC 2167804).

| Identification code | MC1 | MC3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{36} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{2} \mathrm{Si}_{2}, \mathrm{CCl}_{3}$ |
| MW | 528.83 | 645.17 |
| wavelength, $\AA$ | 0.71073 | 0.71073 |
| crystal system | Triclinic | monoclinic |
| space group | $\mathrm{P}-1$ | $\mathrm{C} 2 / \mathrm{c}$ |
| a, $\AA$ | $8.4884(6)$ | $25.255(2)$ |
| b, $\AA$ | $11.5493(9)$ | $9.0380(6)$ |
| c, $\AA$ | $15.4564(12)$ | $16.9105(17)$ |
| $\alpha, \operatorname{deg}$ | $89.802(2)$ | 90.00 |
| $\beta$, deg | $82.731(2)$ | $120.591(5)$ |
| $\gamma, \operatorname{deg}$ | $77.808(2)$ | 90.00 |
| V, $\AA^{3}$ | $1468.77(19)$ | $3322.7(5)$ |


| Z | 2 | 34 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{D}_{\text {calc, }} \mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.196 | 1.290 |
| $\mu, \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 0.146 | 0.375 |
| $\mathrm{F}(000)$ | 564 | 2292.0 |
| crystal size, mm | $0.28 \times 0.22 \times 0.16$ | $0.12 \times 0.08 \times 0.06$ |
| $\theta$ range, deg | 1.33-28.37 | 5.14-56.5 |
| limiting indices | $-10<=\mathrm{h}<=11$ | $-33<=\mathrm{h}<=33$ |
|  | $-15<=\mathrm{k}<=15$ | $-12<=\mathrm{k}<=11$ |
|  | $-20<=1<=19$ | $-22<=1<=22$ |
| reflections collected | 10951 | 40811 |
| independent reflection | 7301 | 4104 |
|  | $[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.0258]$ | $[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.0257]$ |
| absorption correction | None |  |
| data/restraints/para's | 7301/0/349 | 4104/0/198 |
| goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{2}$ | 1.010 | 1.046 |
| final R indices | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0484$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0318$ |
| [ $\mathrm{I}>2 \sigma(\mathrm{I})]^{[\mathrm{a}]}$ | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1039$ | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.0811$ |
| R indices (all data) ${ }^{[a]}$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0834$ | $\mathrm{R}_{1}=0.0369$ |
|  | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.1178$ | $\mathrm{wR}_{2}=0.0858$ |
| peak $_{\text {max }} /$ hole $_{\text {min }}\left(\mathrm{e} \AA^{-3}\right)$ | 0.35 and -0.36 | 0.47 and -0.36 |

Table S3. Bond lengths $[\AA]$ and angles $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ for MC1.

| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1.447(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $1.399(3)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1.372(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | $1.408(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1.378(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | $1.378(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | $1.453(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(19)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | $1.862(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | $1.854(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(20)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | $1.869(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1.394(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{C}(26)$ | $1.396(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | $1.398(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{C}(22)$ | $1.401(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $1.410(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | $1.877(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $1.492(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(22)-\mathrm{C}(23)$ | $1.390(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $1.378(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(23)-\mathrm{C}(24)$ | $1.379(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $1.397(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(24)-\mathrm{C}(25)$ | $1.384(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $1.417(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(25)-\mathrm{C}(26)$ | $1.388(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1.379(2)$ | $\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | $1.866(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | $1.451(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(28)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | $1.867(2)$ |


| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 1.368(3) | C(29)-C(30) | 1.400(3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 1.374(3) | C(29)-C(34) | 1.401(3) |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 1.458(3) | $\mathrm{C}(29)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 1.879(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 1.853(2) | $\mathrm{C}(30)-\mathrm{C}(31)$ | 1.384(3) |
| C(13)-C(14) | $1.395(3)$ | $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{C}(32)$ | 1.378(3) |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 1.405(3) | $\mathrm{C}(32)-\mathrm{C}(33)$ | 1.383(3) |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 1.407(3) | C(33)-C(34) | 1.388(3) |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | 1.379(3) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 111.97(17) | $\mathrm{C}(26)-\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 123.35(16) |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 104.38(16) | $\mathrm{C}(22)-\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 119.96(15) |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 125.73(15) | $\mathrm{C}(23)-\mathrm{C}(22)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 121.8(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 128.80(14) | $\mathrm{C}(24)-\mathrm{C}(23)-\mathrm{C}(22)$ | 119.9(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 120.19(17) | $\mathrm{C}(23)-\mathrm{C}(24)-\mathrm{C}(25)$ | 119.7(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | 119.38(17) | $\mathrm{C}(24)-\mathrm{C}(25)-\mathrm{C}(26)$ | 120.0(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 119.45(17) | $\mathrm{C}(25)-\mathrm{C}(26)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 121.8(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 121.18(17) | $\mathrm{C}(30)-\mathrm{C}(29)-\mathrm{C}(34)$ | 116.78(18) |
| $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | 122.26(18) | $\mathrm{C}(30)-\mathrm{C}(29)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 121.49(15) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 117.42(17) | $\mathrm{C}(34)-\mathrm{C}(29)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 121.59(15) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 118.48(17) | $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{C}(30)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 121.6(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 133.73(17) | $\mathrm{C}(32)-\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{C}(30)$ | 120.3(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 107.78(16) | $\mathrm{C}(31)-\mathrm{C}(32)-\mathrm{C}(33)$ | 119.9(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | 130.13(18) | $\mathrm{C}(32)-\mathrm{C}(33)-\mathrm{C}(34)$ | 119.7(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 107.61(16) | $\mathrm{C}(33)-\mathrm{C}(34)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 121.8(2) |
| $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 122.25(17) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 108.24(16) |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 112.23(17) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 126.40(17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 104.25(17) | $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 125.23(17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 122.89(15) | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | 107.93(16) |
| $\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)$ | 132.36(15) | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | 126.71(17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 119.73(18) | $\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | 125.35(17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 119.66(17) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(19)$ | 109.14(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | 121.46(18) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(20)$ | 108.98(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | 118.86(17) | $\mathrm{C}(19)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(20)$ | 109.65(10) |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 122.47(18) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 111.67(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(18)$ | 116.78(18) | $\mathrm{C}(19)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 107.78(10) |
| $\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | 118.30(17) | $\mathrm{C}(20)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 109.60(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 107.53(17) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(27)$ | 112.73(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 134.17(18) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(28)$ | 110.01(9) |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | 128.91(18) | $\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(28)$ | 108.55(10) |
| $\mathrm{N}(2)-\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 108.05(16) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 105.82(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{C}(18)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 123.04(18) | $\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 109.76(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(26)-\mathrm{C}(21)-\mathrm{C}(22)$ | 116.69(19) | $\mathrm{C}(28)-\mathrm{Si}(2)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 109.93(9) |

Table S4. Bond lengths $[\AA]$ and angles $\left[{ }^{\circ}\right]$ for MC3.

| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 1.4524(17) | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 1.4127(17) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 1.3798(17) | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | $1.3976(16)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1.3728(17)$ | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 1.3966 (17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $1.4480(16)$ | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | $1.4033(16)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 1.8480(13) | $\mathrm{C}(12)^{1}-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 1.8804(12) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)$ | $1.3902(16)$ | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(1)^{1}$ | $1.8805(12)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 1.4080(16) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | 1.3997(17) |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | $1.4132(17)$ | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | $1.3915(18)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | $1.4876(16)$ | $\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 1.3908(18) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | $1.3826(18)$ | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 1.8669(13) |
| $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | $1.3938(18)$ | $\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 1.8731(14) |
| $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $1.3784(16)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 111.38(11) | $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 120.86(11) |
| $\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 128.89(9) | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)$ | 122.54(11) |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)$ | 126.16(9) | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(1)^{1}$ | 121.69(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 104.79(11) | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{Si}(1)^{1}$ | 120.94(9) |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 119.66(11) | $\mathrm{C}(11)-\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)$ | 117.26(11) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | 120.10(11) | $\mathrm{C}(12)-\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 121.18(11) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)$ | 119.90(11) | $\mathrm{C}(13)-\mathrm{C}(14)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 120.29(12) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(10)$ | 120.00(11) | $\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(14)$ | 120.28(12) |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | 121.92(12) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(12)^{1}$ | 111.96(5) |
| $\mathrm{C}(6)-\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 117.32(12) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 108.27(6) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 107.65(11) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(16)$ | 108.93(6) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(7)$ | 129.62(12) | $\mathrm{C}(17)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(12)^{1}$ | 108.76(6) |
| $\mathrm{C}(7)-\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 122.67(11) | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(12)^{1}$ | 108.58(6) |
| $\mathrm{C}(4)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 118.48(11) | $\mathrm{C}(16)-\mathrm{Si}(1)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 110.35(7) |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 107.77(10) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(8)$ | 108.40(10) |
| $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{C}(9)-\mathrm{C}(4)$ | 133.75(11) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 126.66(11) |
| $\mathrm{C}(5)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 120.71(11) | $\mathrm{C}(8)-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 124.89(12) |
| $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{C}(10)-\mathrm{C}(11)$ | 118.43(11) |  |  |

[^1]7. NMR spectra of compounds

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1 '-dimethyl-5,5'-biindole (1a) ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1 '-dimethyl-5,5'-biindole (1a) ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1 '-diethyl-5,5'-biindole (1b) ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )



${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1 '-diethyl-5,5'-biindole (1b) $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1 '-dimethyl-6,6'-biindole (1c) $\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 1,1'-diethyl-6,6'-biindole (1c) $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2a) (500 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2a) (126 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

| 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 <br> ppm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 6-(4-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 6-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2b) ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 6-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2b) (126 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of (1,5-dimethyl-indol-7-yl)boronic acid ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

|  |
| :---: |
|  |  |




${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 7-(4-bromophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 7-(4-bromophenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole ( 126 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 7-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole (2c) ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )



| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | -2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{ppm}^{-2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 7-(4-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1,5-dimethyl-indole (2c) ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole ( $500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )


| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-bromophenyl)-1-methyl-indole (126 MHz, $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2d) ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

## 


${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (2d) (126 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (3b) ( 500 MHz , $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of 5-(3-(dimethylsilyl)phenyl)-1-methyl-indole (3b) (126 $\mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{MC} 1\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{MC} 1\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

$\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\infty}$
$\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{6}$


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{MC} 2\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

$\stackrel{\stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{2}}{\stackrel{1}{2}}$

| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | -1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of MC2 $\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{MC} 3\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of MC3 (126 MHz, CDCl 3 )
( )


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 1\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

## 

| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 <br> ppm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 1\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


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$\stackrel{\ominus}{7}$
$\underset{\sim}{\text { m }}$
1

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 2\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | $-\mathbf{1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 3\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | $-\quad$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of P3 ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 4\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | $-\quad$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 4\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 5\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | -2 <br> ppm |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of P5 ( $126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ )

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 6\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$


| 00 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 | 0 | $-\quad$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ppm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of P6 (126 MHz, $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 7\left(500 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathrm{P} 7\left(126 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right)$

## 8. References

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[^1]:    ${ }^{1} 1 / 2-X, 3 / 2-Y, 1-Z$.

