

## **Supramolecular Cuboctahedra with Aggregation-Induced Emission Enhancement and External Binding Ability**

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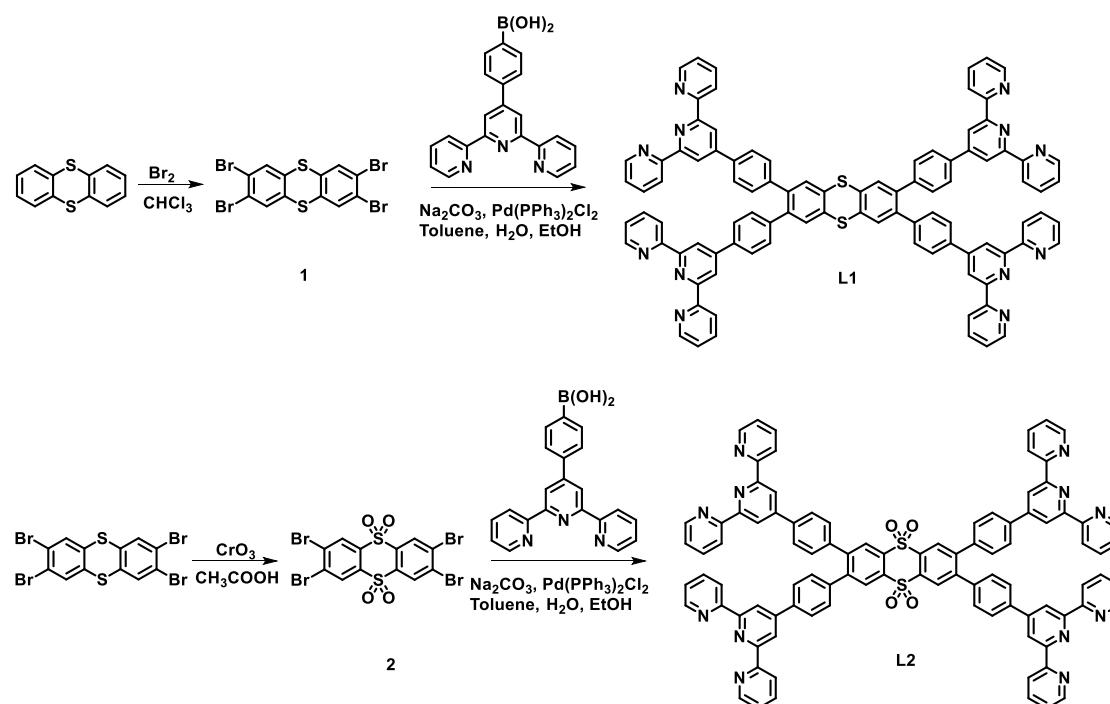
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## Table of content

1. Schemes of preparation of ligands .....	3
2. Experimental section .....	3
3. Synthesis of the compounds and supramolecules .....	6
4. Synthesis of Porphyrin Zn .....	10
5. $^1\text{H}$ NMR, $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR, 2D COSY NMR, 2D NOESY NMR, 2D DOSY NMR .....	12
6. ESI-MS spectra data of supramolecules ( $\text{NTf}_2^-$ as counterion).....	23
7. TEM images of supramolecules ( $\text{NTf}_2^-$ as counterion).....	32
8. Fluorescence emission measurement .....	36
9. Crystallographic data of ligands .....	41
References .....	45

## 1. Schemes of preparation of ligands



Scheme S1. Synthesis route of ligand L1 and L2

## 2. Experimental section

**General Procedures.** Reagents and solvents were purchased from Energy Chemical, Bidepharm and used without purification. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on flexible sheets (Greagent) precoated with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (IB-F) and  $\text{SiO}_2$  (IB2-F) and visualized by UV light. Column chromatography was conducted using neutral  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (200-300 mesh)  $\text{SiO}_2$  (200-300 mesh).  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , 2D COSY, 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR and 2D DOSY NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker NMR 400, 500, 600 MHz. Different NMR solvents were purchased from J&K scientific and Sigma/Aldrich. ESI-MS and TWIM-MS were recorded with a Waters Synapt G2-Si tandem mass spectrometer, using solutions of 0.01 mg sample in 1 mL of  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (1:3, v/v) for ligands or 0.5 mg sample in 1 mL of  $\text{DMF}/\text{MeOH}$  (3:1, v/v) for complexes.

**TWIM-MS.** The TWIM-MS experiments were performed under the following conditions: ESI capillary voltage, 2 kV; sample cone voltage, 35 V; source offset, 42V; source temperature 150 °C; desolvation temperature, 250 °C; cone gas flow, 10 L/h; desolvation gas flow, 700 L/h ( $\text{N}_2$ ); source gas flow, 0 mL/min; trap gas flow, 3 mL/min;

helium cell gas flow, 120 mL/min; ion mobility (IM) cell gas flow, 30 mL/min; sample flow rate, 8  $\mu$ L/min; IM traveling wave height, 25 V; and IM traveling wave velocity, 1200 m/s. Q was set in rf-only mode to transmit all ions produced by ESI into the triwave region for the acquisition of TWIM-MS data. Data were collected and analyzed by using Mass Lynx 4.2 and Drift Scope 2.9.

**gMS<sup>2</sup>.** Gradient tandem mass spectrometry was performed under the following conditions: 17+ charged ions of complexes, 17+ charged ions of **S1 (S2)  $\rightarrow$  G** were isolated by quadrupole for the following collision induced dissociation (CID), in which collision energy was gradually increased by changing the voltage of trap cell depended on different complexes.

**TEM.** Transmission electron microscopy tests were performed on the JEOL JEM-2100F equipment. The sample solutions were drop-casted on to a lacey carbon covered Cu grid (300 mesh, purchased from Beijing Zhongjingkeyi Technology Co., Ltd.) and the extra solution was absorbed by filter paper to avoid aggregation.

**AFM.** AFM imaging was performed on a Bruker Dimension Icon AFM system with ScanAsyst and the data was processed by NanoScope Analysis version 2.0 (Bruker Software, Inc.) The sample was diluted to a concentration of  $10^{-6}$  M using DMF, dropped on freshly cleaved mica surface, and then dried in the air. Silicon cantilevers tip with spring constant of around 0.1 N/m was used for the experiments.

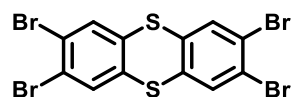
**DLS.** Dynamic light scattering (DLS) was carried out on a Nano-ZS90 instrument at room temperature. The sample was diluted to a concentration of  $10^{-6}$  M using DMF.

**Molecular Modeling.** Energy minimization of the macrocycles was conducted with the Materials Studio version 6.0 program, using the Anneal and Geometry Optimization tasks in the Forcite module (Accelrys Software, Inc.). The counterions were omitted.

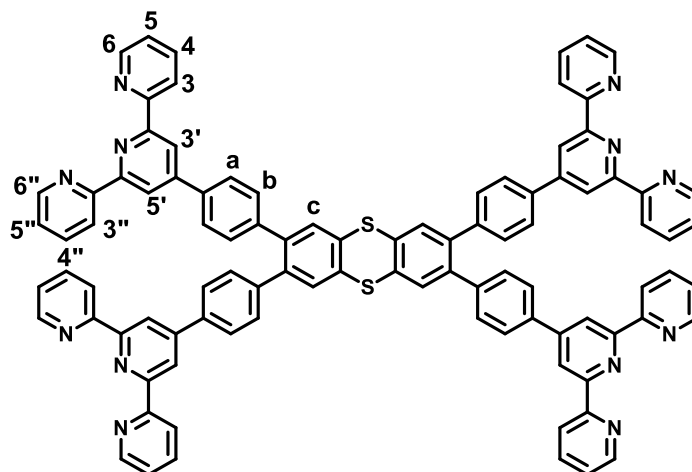
**UV-vis absorption and fluorescence properties.** UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded on a Thermo Fisher Scientific Evolution 201 spectrophotometer at room temperature (0.5  $\mu$ M in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  or DMF) and were corrected with the background spectrum of the solvent. Fluorescence properties were performed on HITACHI Exciter F-4600 at room temperature. (1  $\mu$ M in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  or DMF).

**Single crystal X-ray diffraction.** Structural confirmation of **L1** and **L2** were provided by X-ray crystallographic analysis. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data for **L1** and **L2** were collected on a XtaLAB Synergy diffractometer using a mirror monochromated Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation. Two suitable crystals of **L1 and L2** were selected and tested on Bruker P4 diffractometer. These crystals were kept at 100.00 K corresponding to **L1 and L2** during data collection. Using Olex2, the structures were solved with the SIR2004 [2] structure solution program using Direct Methods and refined with the XH [3] refinement package using CGLS minimisation. The structures were solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  with anisotropic displacement using the SHELXTL software package. Details on crystal data collection and refinement were summarized in Table S3. CCDC: 2132604 (**L1**), 2132525 (**L2**).

### 3. Synthesis of the compounds and supramolecules

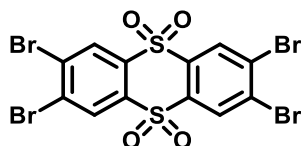


**Compound 1:** To a stirred solution of thianthrene (2.2 g, 10.0 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (60 mL) at 0 °C, a solution of  $\text{Br}_2$  (19.2 g, 120 mmol) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (10 mL) was added dropwise. After stirring at 25 °C for 48 h, the reaction mixture was washed with saturated  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3$  solution until colorless, dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and then concentrated in vacuo to give the product as 3.20 g white solid (yield: 60%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 K):  $\delta = 7.23$  (s, 4 H, Ph- $H^a$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 300 K):  $\delta = 138.91, 132.44, 125.27$ .<sup>1-2</sup> ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_4\text{Br}_4\text{S}_2+\text{H}^+]=532.90$ , Found: 532.91.

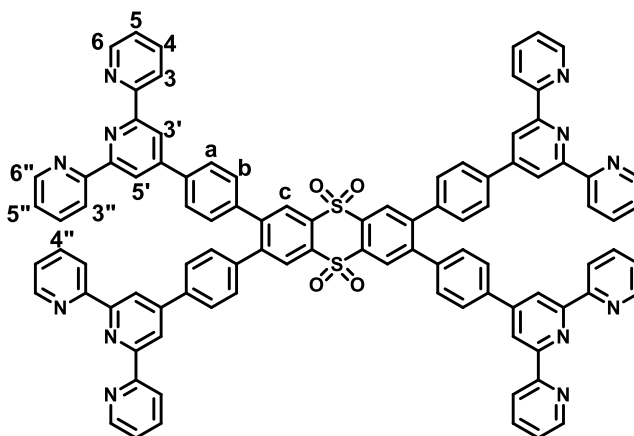


**L1:** The mixture of compound **1** (595.9 mg, 1 mmol), 4'-(4-boronatophenyl)-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (2.12 g, 6 mmol),  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1.27 g, 12 mmol), and  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2\text{Cl}_2$  (140.2 mg, 0.2 mmol) in the solution of MeOH (80 mL),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (120 ml) and toluene (200 mL) were refluxed for 96 h under  $\text{N}_2$ . After separating the toluene layer, the aqueous layer was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  ( $3 \times 50$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was washed with methanol, collected and crystallized in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and methanol to give pure light blue solid: 896.0 mg (yield: 65%);  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K, ppm) 8.81 (s, 8H, tpy- $H^{3',5'}$ ), 8.67 (d,  $J_{6,6''-5,5''}=4.8$  Hz, 8H, tpy- $H^{6,6''}$ ), 8.6 (d,  $J_{3,3''-4,4''}=8.5$  Hz, 8H, tpy- $H^{3,3''}$ ), 7.85 (d,  $J_{a-b}=8.4$  Hz, 8H, Ph- $H^a$ ), 7.80 (m, 8H, tpy- $H^{4,4''}$ ), 7.73 (s, 4H, Ph- $H^c$ ), 7.37 (d,  $J_{b-a}=8.7$  Hz, 8H, Ph- $H^b$ ), 7.34 (m, 8H, tpy- $H^{5,5''}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  156.10, 156.05,

149.09, 149.03, 138.77, 138.55, 138.39, 136.77, 136.07, 129.00, 128.26, 128.22, 125.24, 123.78, 121.28, 118.84. ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[C_{96}H_{60}N_{12}S_2] = 1445.77$ , Found: 1445.78.

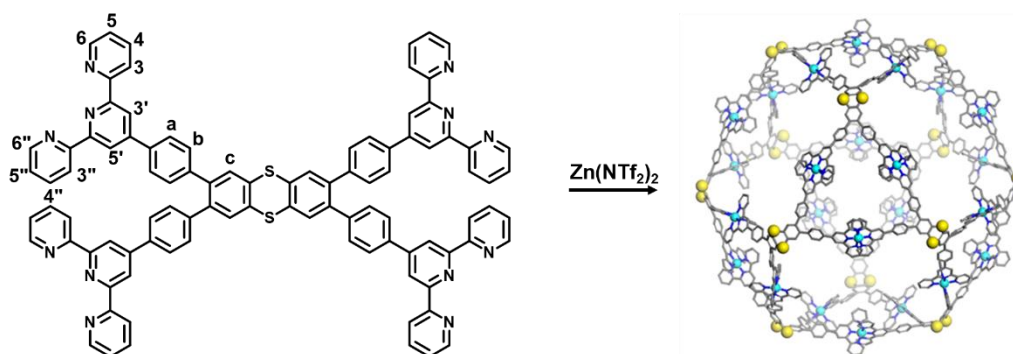


**Compound 2:** A solution of compound 1 and excess chromic oxide in acetic acid was heated at 100°C for 24 h. It was then cooled and the resulting white solid was collected by filtration. The compound is difficult to purify by the column as it is insoluble in most of the solvents and used without further purification for next step.<sup>3-4</sup> ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[C_{12}H_4Br_4O_4S_2+Na^+]=618.89$ , Found: 618.92.

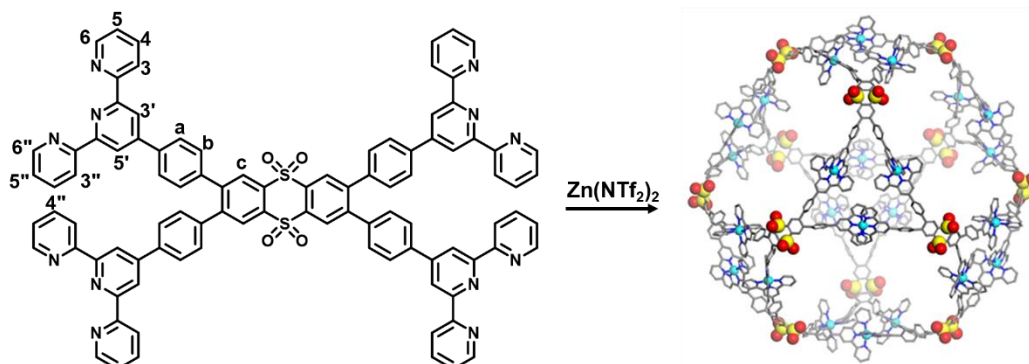


**L2:** The mixture of compound 2 (537.5 mg, 1 mmol), 4'-(4-boronatophenyl)-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (1.91 g, 6 mmol),  $Na_2CO_3$  (1.145 g, 12 mmol), and  $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$  (208.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) in the solution of EtOH (80 mL),  $H_2O$  (120 mL) and toluene (200 mL) was refluxed for 48 h under Ar. After separating the toluene layer, the aqueous layer was extracted with  $CHCl_3$  (150 mL,  $3 \times 50$  mL). The combined organic layers were dried ( $MgSO_4$ ), and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was washed with methanol, collected and crystallized in methanol to give pure light blue solid: 896.0 mg;  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , 298 K, ppm) 8.74 (s, 8H, tpy- $H^{3,5'}$ ), 8.68 (d,  $J_{6,6''-5,5''} = 4.8$  Hz, 8H, tpy- $H^{6,6''}$ ), 8.64 (d,  $J_{3,3''-4,4''} = 8.5$  Hz, 8H, tpy- $H^{3,3''}$ ), 8.44 (s, 4H, Ph- $H^c$ ), 7.90 (d,  $J_{a-b} = 8.4$  Hz, 8H, Ph- $H^a$ ), 7.84 (m, 8H, tpy- $H^{4,4''}$ ), 7.38 (d,  $J_{b-a} = 8.7$  Hz, 8H, Ph- $H^b$ ), 7.32 (m, 8H, tpy- $H^{5,5''}$ ).  $^{13}C$  NMR (125 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , ppm):  $\delta$  156.10, 156.05, 149.09, 149.03, 138.77, 138.55, 138.39, 136.77, 136.07, 129.00, 128.26, 128.22, 125.24, 123.78, 121.28, 118.84.

ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[C_{96}H_{60}N_{12}O_4S_2] = 1509.71$ , Found: 1509.73.



**S1:** A methanol solution of  $Zn(NTf_2)_2$  (37.63 mg, 0.06 mmol) was added slowly drop by drop into a stirred solution of **L1** (42.0 mg, 0.03 mmol) in  $CHCl_3$  and MeOH (1:1, 20 mL). The mixture was stirred at  $55^\circ C$  for 8 h, then 10-fold excess  $LiNTf_2$  was added for the anion exchange. The residue was filtered, washed with water (10 mL  $\times$  3) and MeOH (10 mL  $\times$  3), and dried *in vacuo* to give complex **3**, as pale yellow solid (76.8 mg, 98%), ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): 2662.14  $[M-11 NTf_2^-]^{11+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 2662.14), 2416.89  $[M-12NTf_2^-]^{12+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 2416.89), 2209.45  $[M-13NTf_2^-]^{13+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 2209.45), 2031.63  $[M-14NTf_2^-]^{14+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 2031.63), 1877.53  $[M-15NTf_2^-]^{15+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1877.53), 1742.69  $[M-16NTf_2^-]^{16+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1742.69), 1623.65  $[M-17NTf_2^-]^{17+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1623.65), 1517.90  $[M-18NTf_2^-]^{18+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1517.90), 1423.28  $[M-19NTf_2^-]^{19+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1423.28), 1338.12  $[M-20NTf_2^-]^{20+}$  (calcd  $m/z$ : 1338.12);  $^1H$  NMR (500 MHz,  $CD_3CN/DMF-d_7$  (v/v, 4:1), 298 K, ppm) 9.01 (s, 96H, tpy- $H^{3',5'}$ ), 8.73 (d,  $J_{3,3''-4,4''} = 8.5$  Hz, 96H, tpy- $H^{3,3''}$ ), 8.18 (d,  $J_{a-b} = 8.1$  Hz, 96H, Ph- $H^a$ ), 8.09 (m, 96H, tpy- $H^{4,4''}$ ), 8.01 (s, 48H, Ph- $H^c$ ), 7.85 (d,  $J_{6,6''-5,5''} = 4.5$  Hz, 96H, tpy- $H^{6,6''}$ ), 7.66 (d,  $J_{b-a} = 8.6$  Hz, 96H, Ph- $H^b$ ), 7.36 (m, 96H, tpy- $H^{5,5''}$ ).

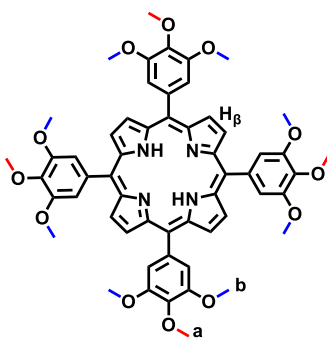


**S2:** A methanol solution of  $Zn(NTf_2)_2$  (22.88 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added slowly drop by drop into a stirred solution of **L2** (27.2 mg, 0.02 mmol) in  $CHCl_3$  and MeOH (1:1,

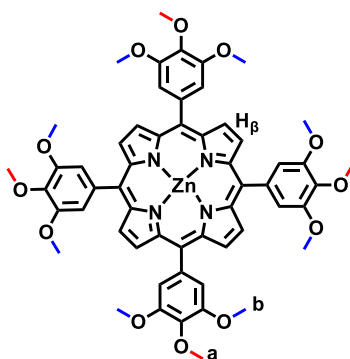


20 mL). The mixture was stirred at 55°C for 8 h, then 10-fold excess LiNTf<sub>2</sub> was added for the anion exchange. The residue was filtered, washed with water (10 mL × 3) and MeOH (10 mL × 3), and dried *in vacuo* to give complex **3**, as light blue solid (48.7 mg, 98%), ESI-TOF (*m/z*): 2731.95 [M-11NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>11+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 2731.95), 2840.95 [M-12NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>12+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 2840.95), 2268.50 [M-13NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>13+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 2268.50), 2086.48 [M-14NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>14+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 2086.48), 1928.71 [M-15NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>15+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1928.71), 1790.68 [M-16NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>16+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1790.68), 1668.82 [M-17NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>17+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1668.82), 1560.56 [M-18NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>18+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1560.56), 1643.68 [M-19NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>19+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1643.68), 1376.51 [M-20NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>20+</sup> (calcd *m/z*: 1376.51); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN/DMF-*d*<sub>7</sub> (v/v, 4:1), 298 K, ppm) 9.02 (s, 96H, tpy-*H*<sup>3',5'</sup>), 8.75 (d, *J*<sub>3,3''-4,4''</sub> = 8.9 Hz, 96H, tpy-*H*<sup>3,3''</sup>), 8.62 (s, 48H, Ph-*H*<sup>c</sup>), 8.24 (d, *J*<sub>a-b</sub> = 7.3 Hz, 96H, Ph-*H*<sup>a</sup>), 8.10 (m, 96H, tpy-*H*<sup>4,4''</sup>), 7.86 (d, *J*<sub>6,6''-5,5''</sub> = 4.5 Hz, 96H, tpy-*H*<sup>6,6''</sup>), 7.74 (d, *J*<sub>b-a</sub> = 7.5 Hz, 96H, Ph-*H*<sup>b</sup>), 7.38 (m, 96H, tpy-*H*<sup>5,5''</sup>).

#### 4. Synthesis of Porphyrin Zn



**5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin.**<sup>5-7</sup> In a three-necked round bottom flask, a mixture of the 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzaldehyde (2.00 g, 10.19 mmol), and pyrrole (0.67 g, 10.19 mmol),  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{Et}_2\text{O}$  (498  $\mu\text{L}$ , 4.08 mmol) were added to 500 mL dichloromethane and 5 mL ethanol. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 120 mins then 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinona (DDQ) (2.28 g, 10.19 mmol) was added and kept the solution stirring for 4 h. In the end, triethylamine (5.7 mL, 40.76 mmol) was injected into the obtained solution. The mixture was concentrated to 80 mL under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified was subjected to column chromatography on  $\text{SiO}_2$  with dichloromethane and concentrated under reduced pressure. Expected compound was obtained as a purple solid (373 mg, yield 15%) after washing with acetone and dried.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.96 (s, 8H,  $\text{H}^\beta$ -pyrro), 7.47 (s, 8H, *Ph*), 4.18 (s, 12H,  $-\text{OCH}_3^{\text{a}}$ ), 3.97 (s, 24H,  $-\text{OCH}_3^{\text{b}}$ ), -2.78 (s, 2H, -NH).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  151.67, 138.04, 137.24, 120.33, 113.31, 60.92, 56.72, 31.12. ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{54}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{12} + \text{H}^+]$ : 976.06. Found:976.10.



**5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin zinc (Guest).** In a round bottom flask, 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin (100 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in 60 mL chloroform and a solution of  $\text{Zn}(\text{OAc})_2$  (55 mg, 0.30

mmol) in 8 mL methanol was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 h. The crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with methanol and dried under vacuum to get the dark purple solid (97.9 mg, 92%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.94 (s, 8H,  $\text{H}^\beta$ -pyrro), 7.51 (s, 8H, *Ph*), 4.00 (s, 12H,  $-\text{OCH}_3^a$ ), 3.90 (s, 24H,  $-\text{OCH}_3^b$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ )  $\delta$  151.35, 149.79, 138.77, 137.71, 132.10, 120.59, 113.25, 60.93, 56.67. ESI-TOF ( $m/z$ ): Calcd. for  $[\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{52}\text{N}_4\text{O}_{12}\text{Zn}]$ : 1038.43. Found: 1038.46.

5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, 2D COSY NMR, 2D NOESY NMR, 2D DOSY NMR

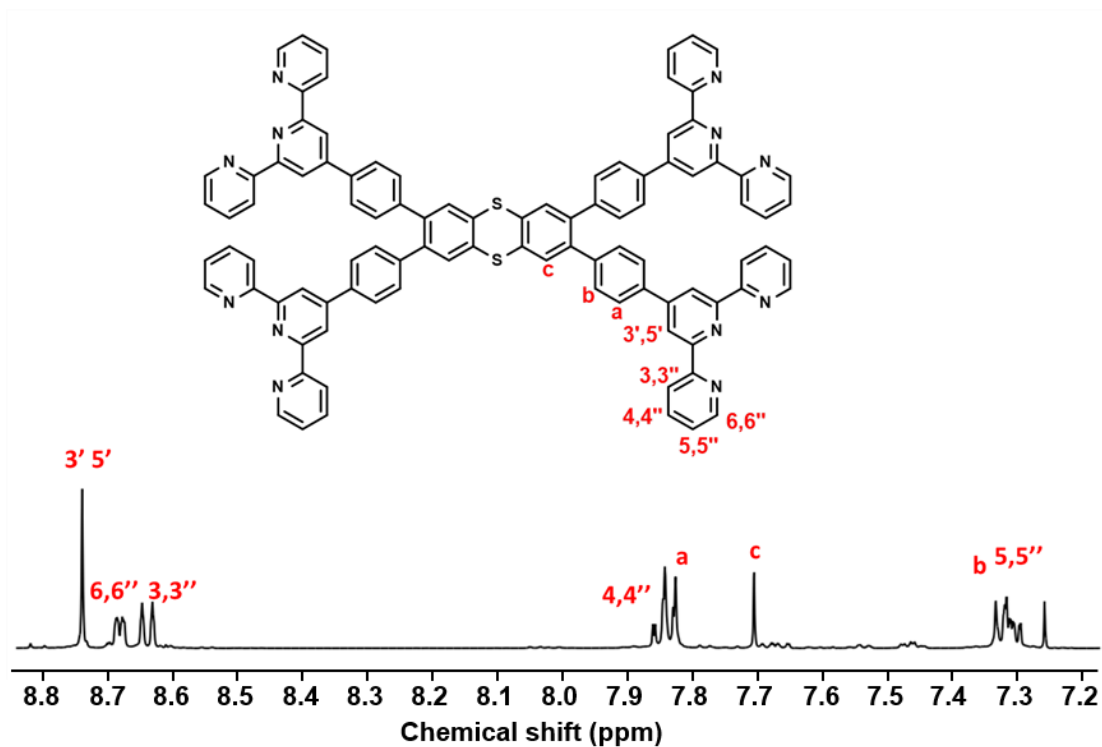


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **L1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

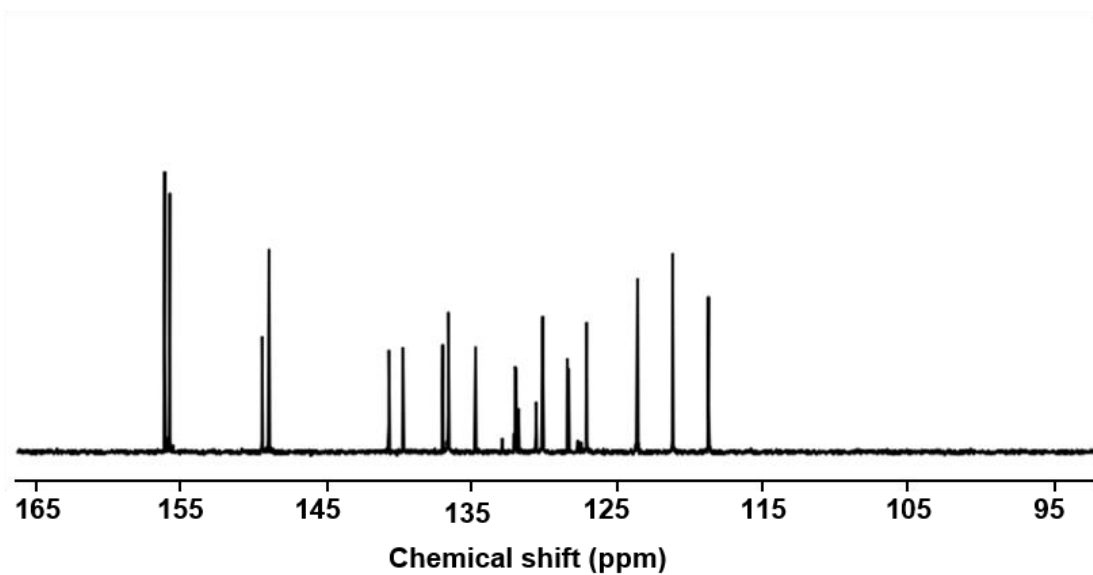


Figure S2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (125 Hz, 298 K) of **L1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

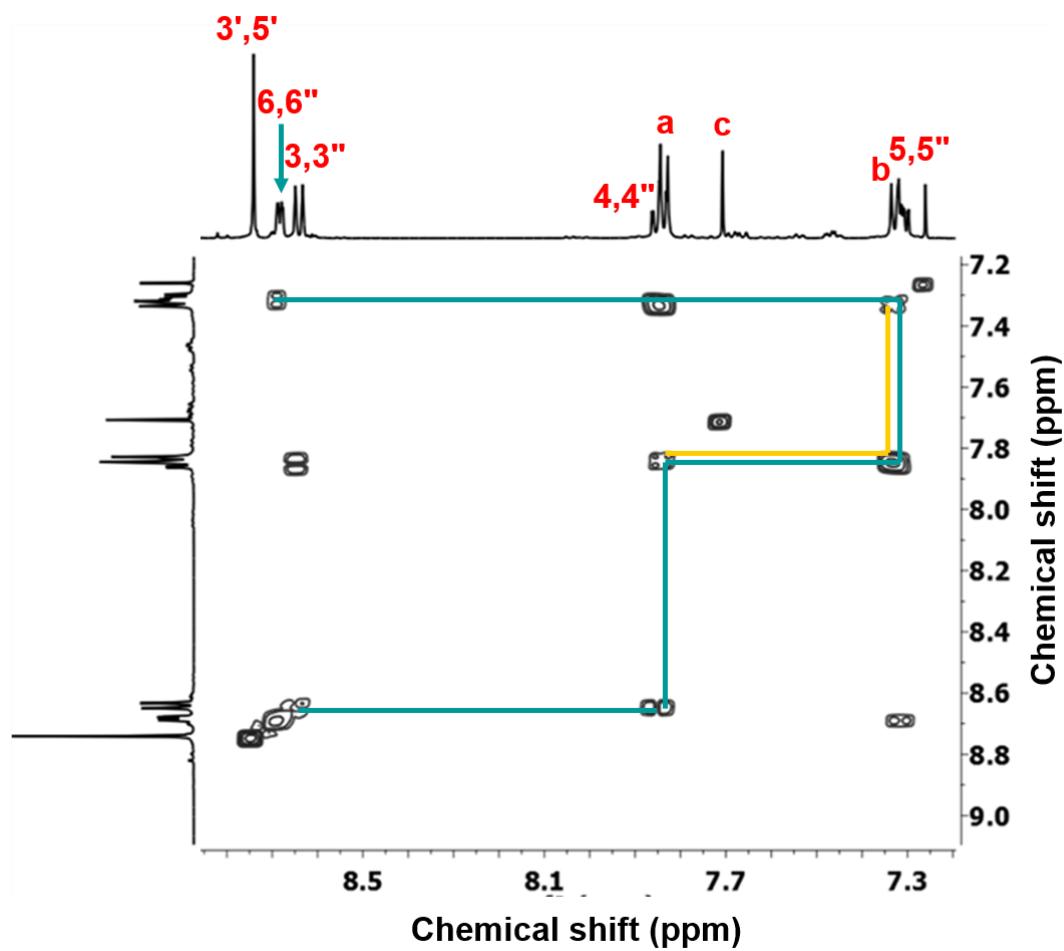


Figure S3. 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of L1 in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

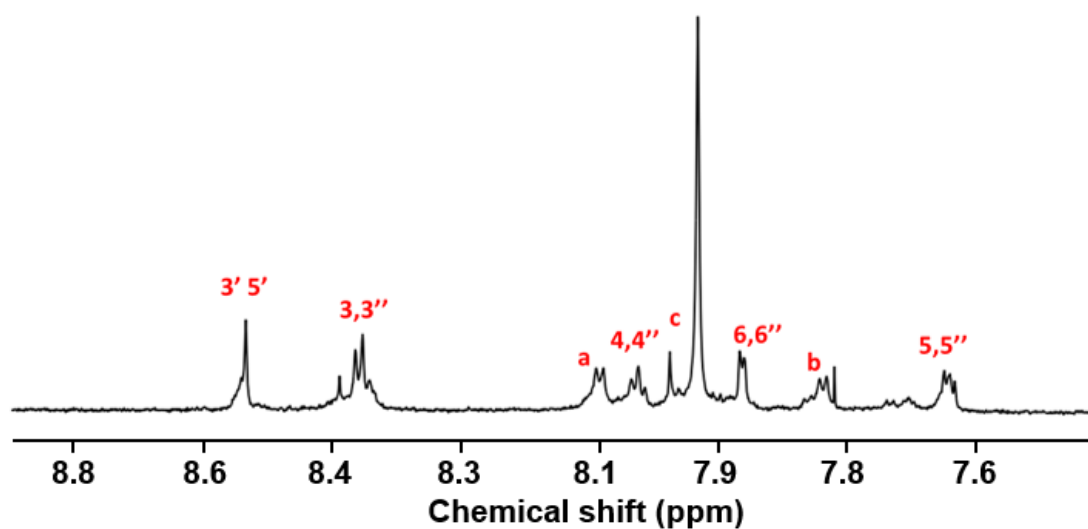
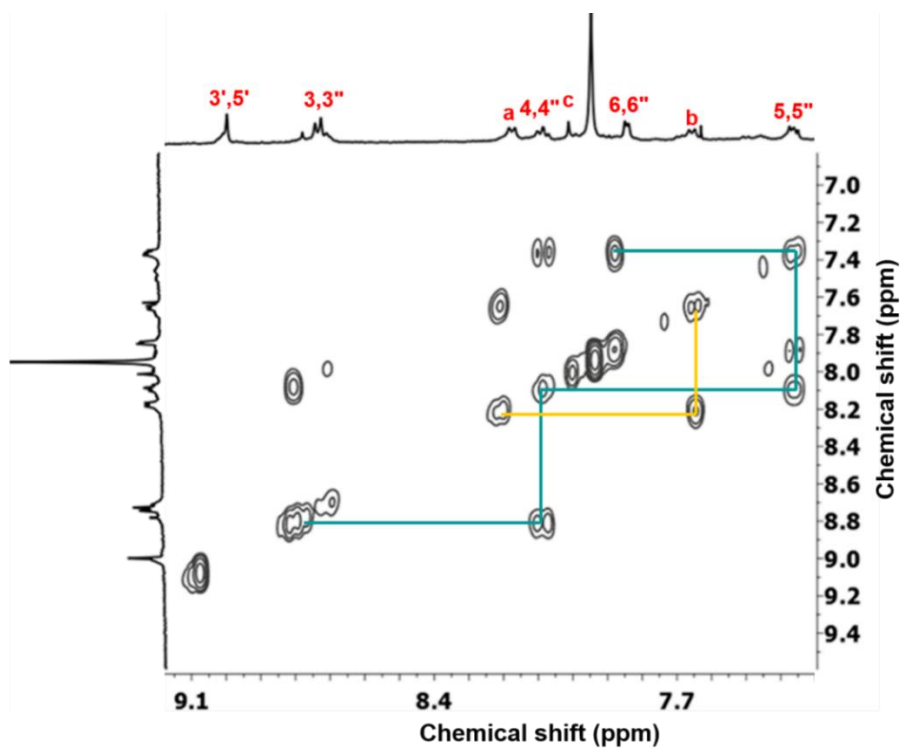
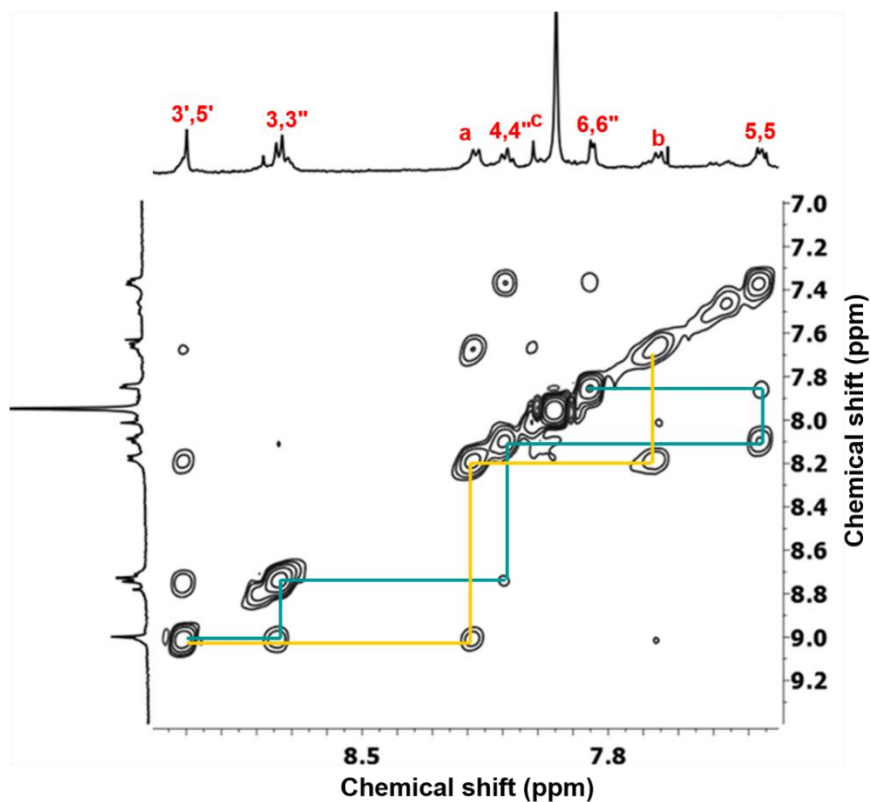


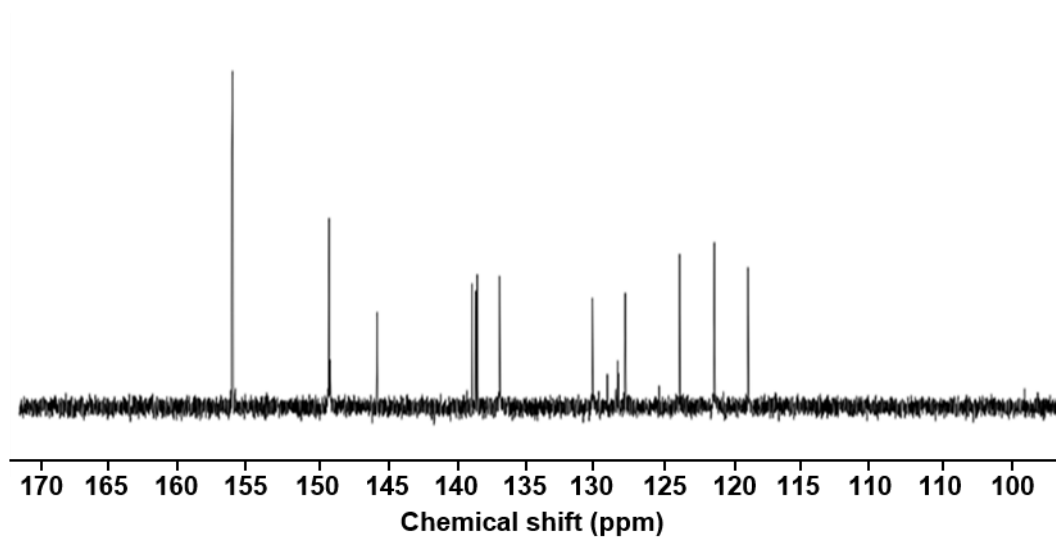
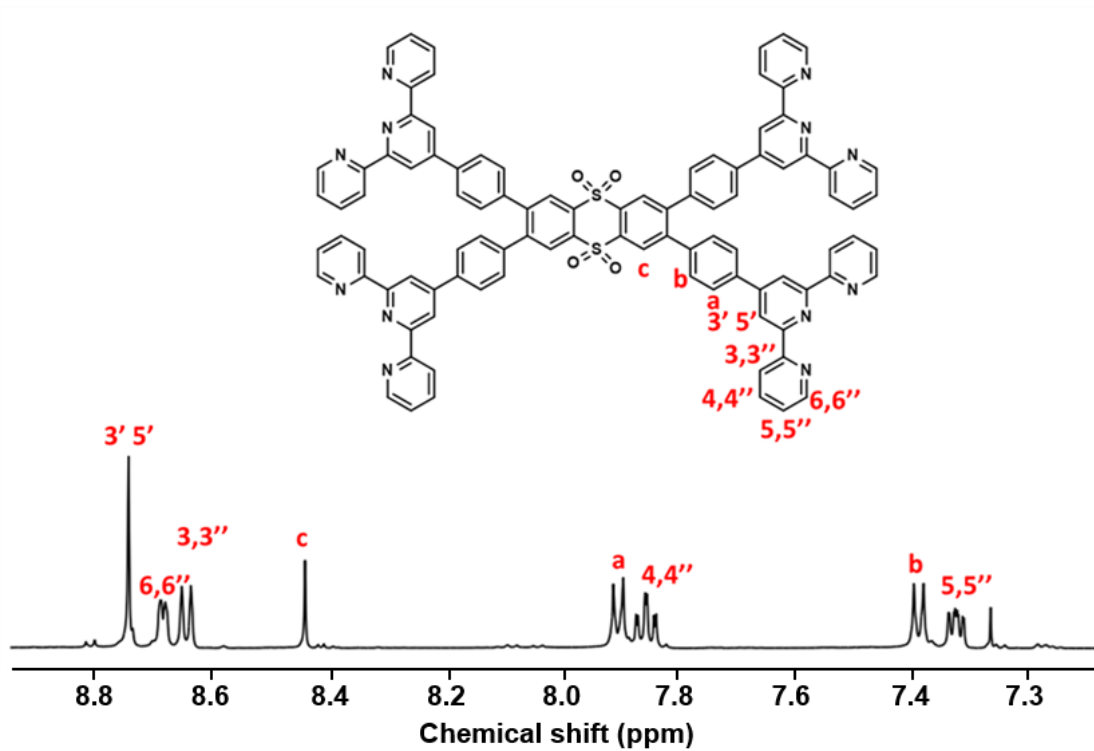
Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K) of S1 in  $\text{DMF-d}_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4,  $v/v$ ).



**Figure S5.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **S1** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).



**Figure S6.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **S1** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).



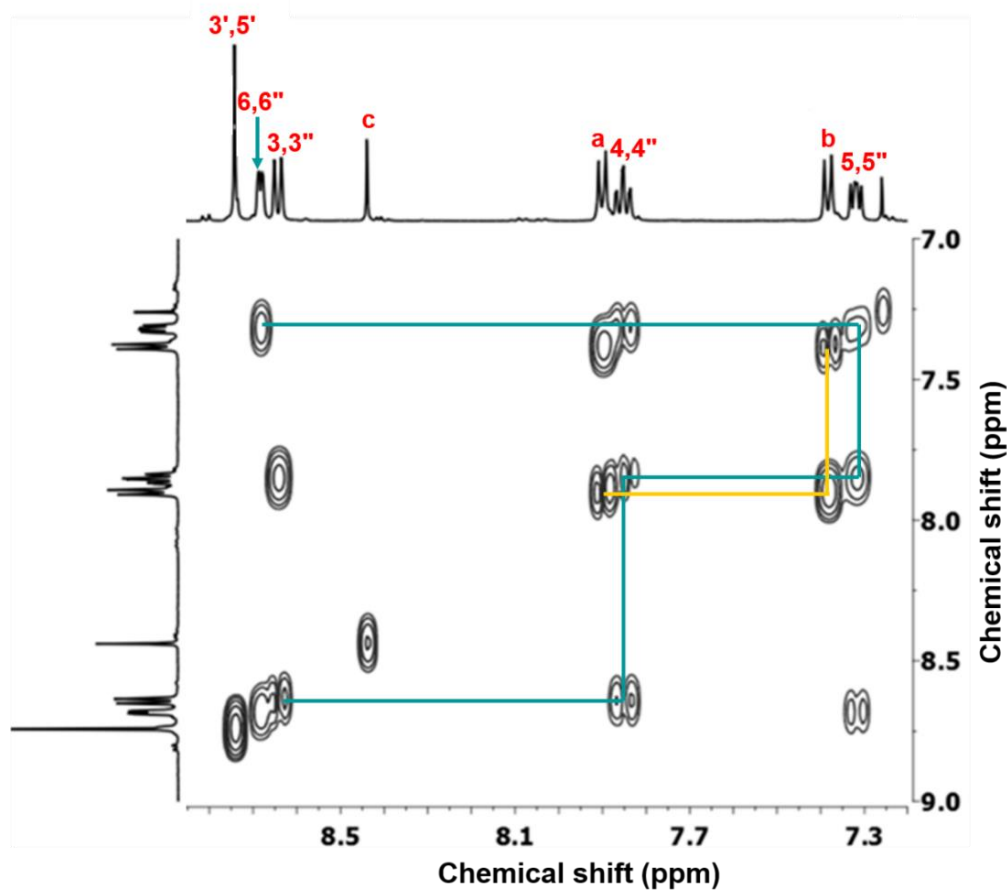


Figure S9. 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **L2** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

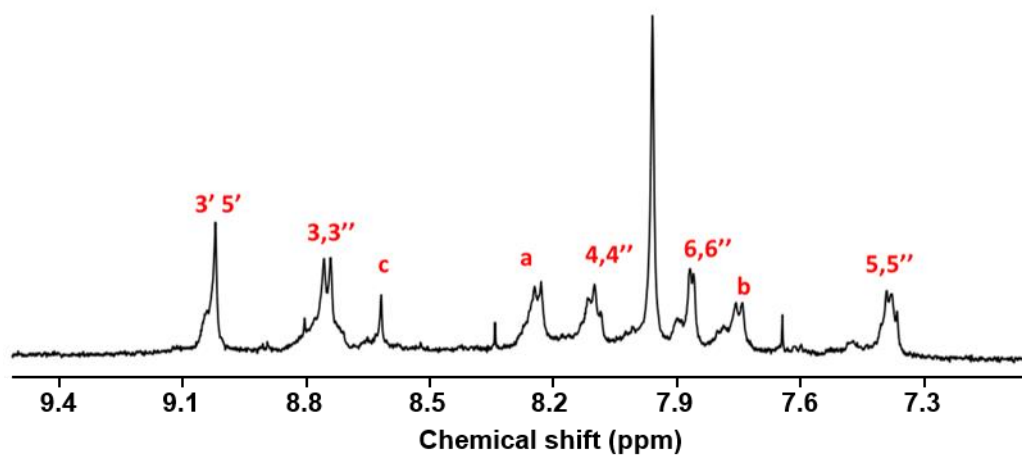
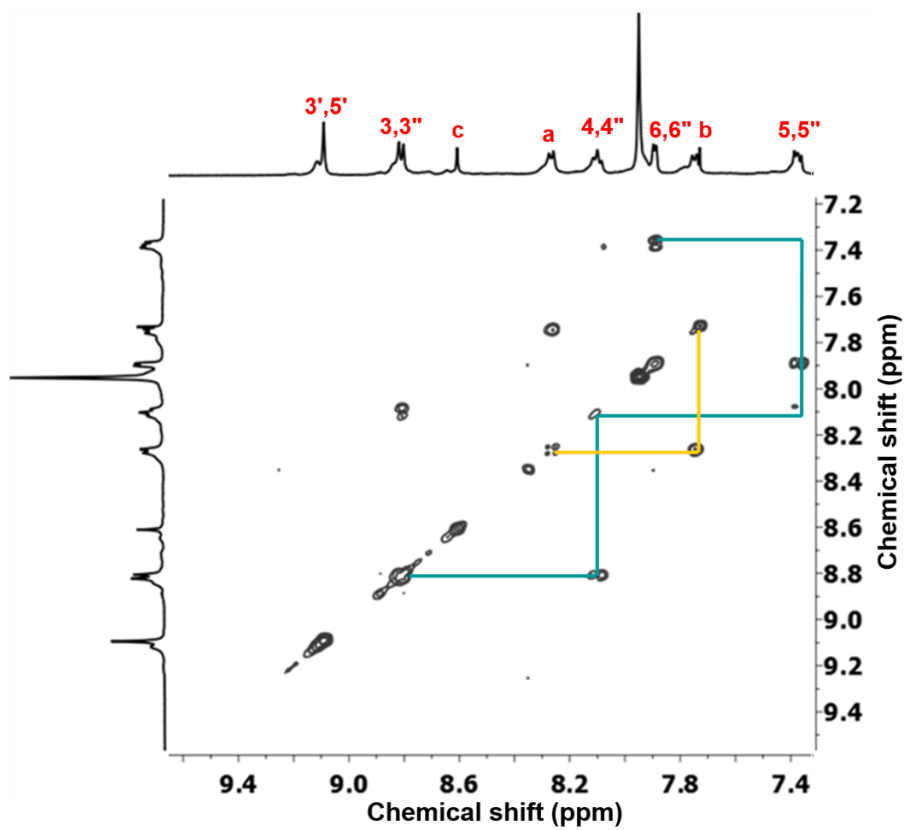
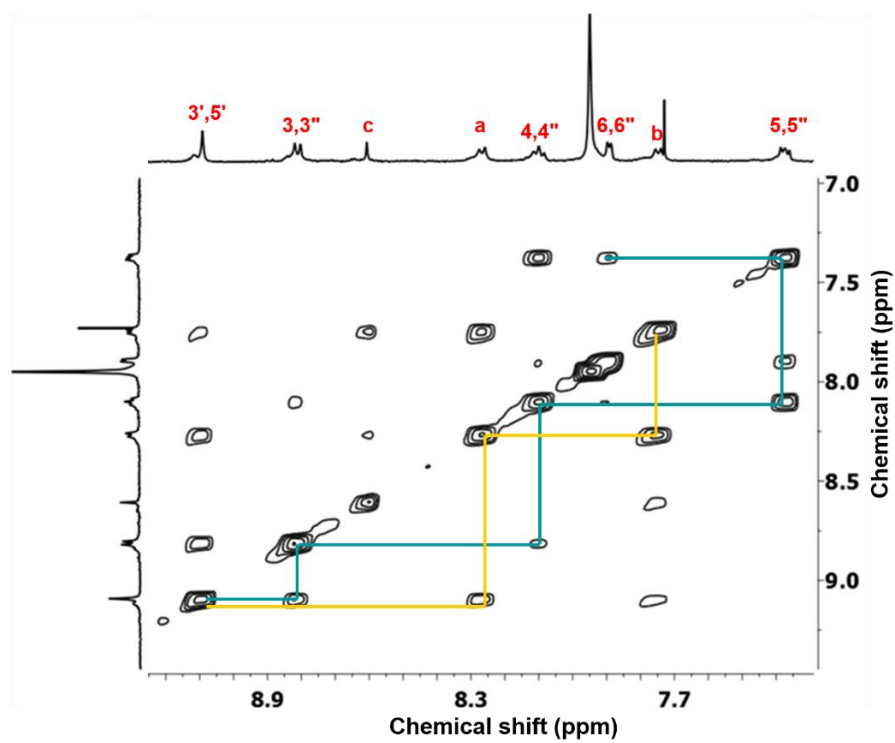


Figure S10.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K) of **S2** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).

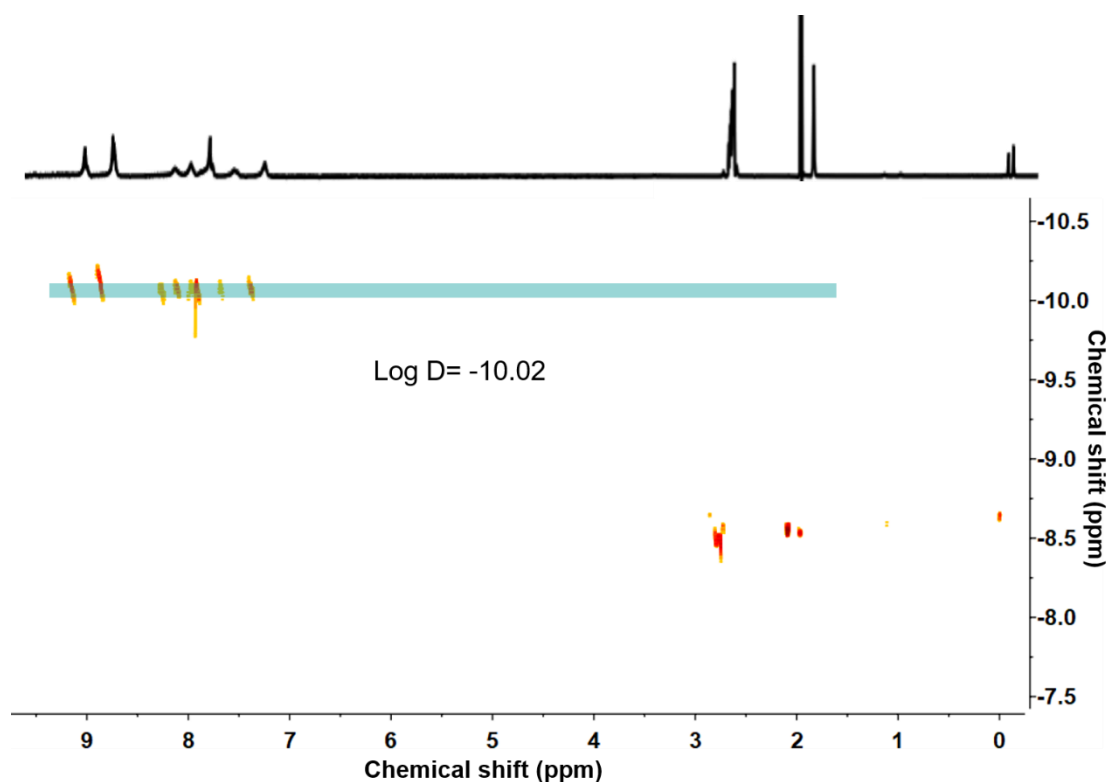




**Figure S11.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **S2** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4,  $v/v$ ).



**Figure S12.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  NOESY NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K) of **S2** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4,  $v/v$ ).



**Figure S13.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  DOSY NMR spectrum of **S1** in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).

The sphere hydrodynamic radius can be estimated as follow according to the Stokes-Einstein Equation. Where  $D$  is the diffusion constant,  $k$  is the Boltzmann's constant,  $T$  is the temperature,  $\mu$  is the viscosity of solvents, and  $R$  is the radius of the sphere-like particles:

$$D = \frac{kT}{6\pi\mu R}$$

$$D = 10^{-10.02} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

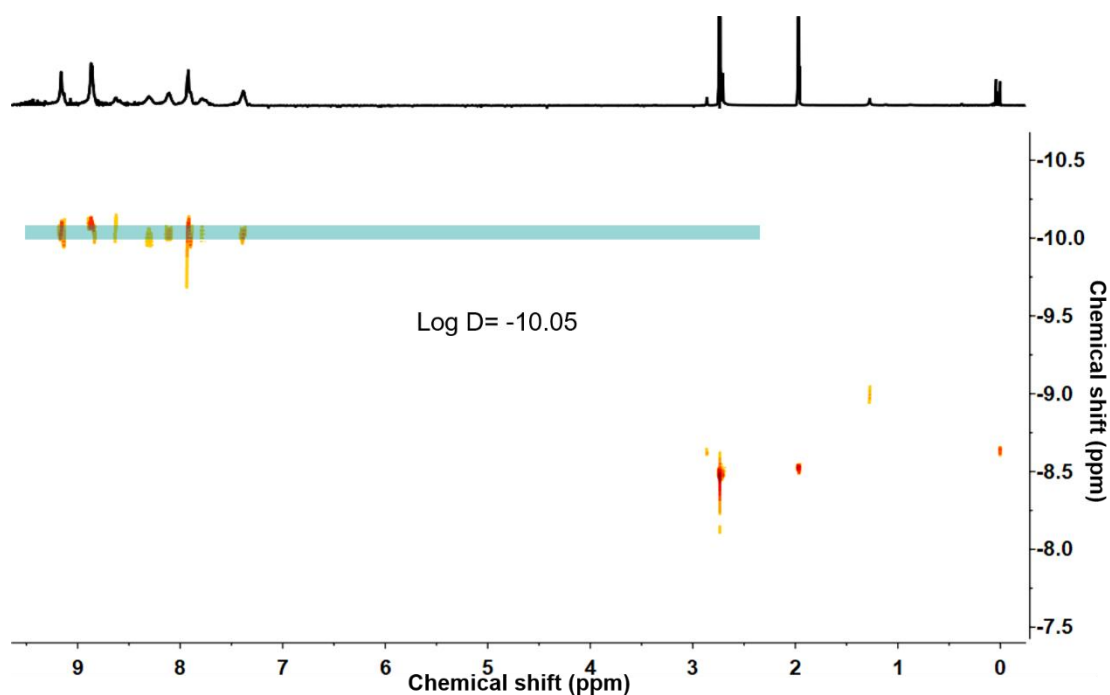
$$k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ N m K}^{-1}$$

$$T = 298 \text{ K}$$

$$\mu = 4.22 \times 10^{-4} \text{ N m}^{-2} \text{ s (CD}_3\text{CN/DMF (4:1, v/v))}^8$$

$$r = \frac{kT}{6\pi\mu D} = 2.90 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} = 2.72 \text{ nm}$$

The radius of the spherical **S1** is 5.44 nm, which is consistent with the result of computer modeling.



**Figure S14.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  DOSY NMR spectrum of **S2** in DMF- $d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).

The sphere hydrodynamic radius can be estimated as follow according to the Stokes-Einstein Equation. Where  $D$  is the diffusion constant,  $k$  is the Boltzmann's constant,  $T$  is the temperature,  $\mu$  is the viscosity of solvents, and  $R$  is the radius of the sphere-like particles:

$$D = \frac{kT}{6\pi\mu R}$$

$$D = 10^{-10.05} \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ N m K}^{-1}$$

$$T = 298 \text{ K}$$

$$\mu = 4.22 \times 10^{-4} \text{ N m}^{-2} \text{ s (CD}_3\text{CN/DMF (4:1, v/v))}^8$$

$$r = \frac{kT}{6\pi\mu D} = 2.90 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} = 2.91 \text{ nm}$$

The radius of the spherical **S2** is 5.82 nm, which is consistent with the result of computer modeling.

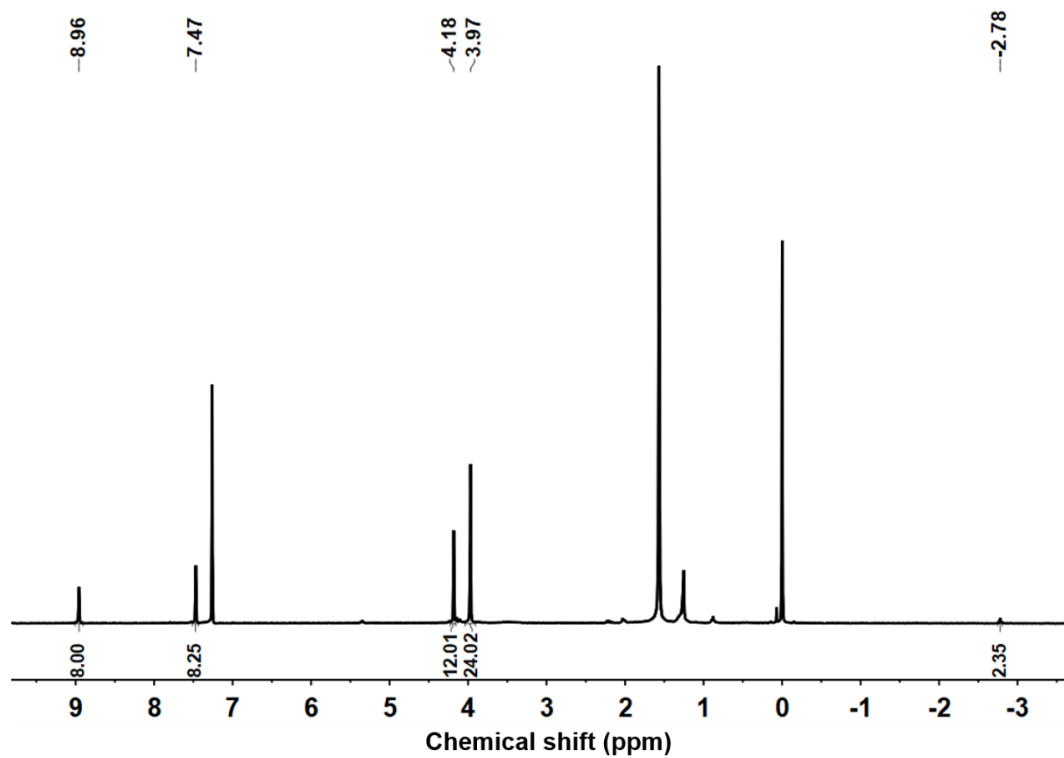


Figure S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K) of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

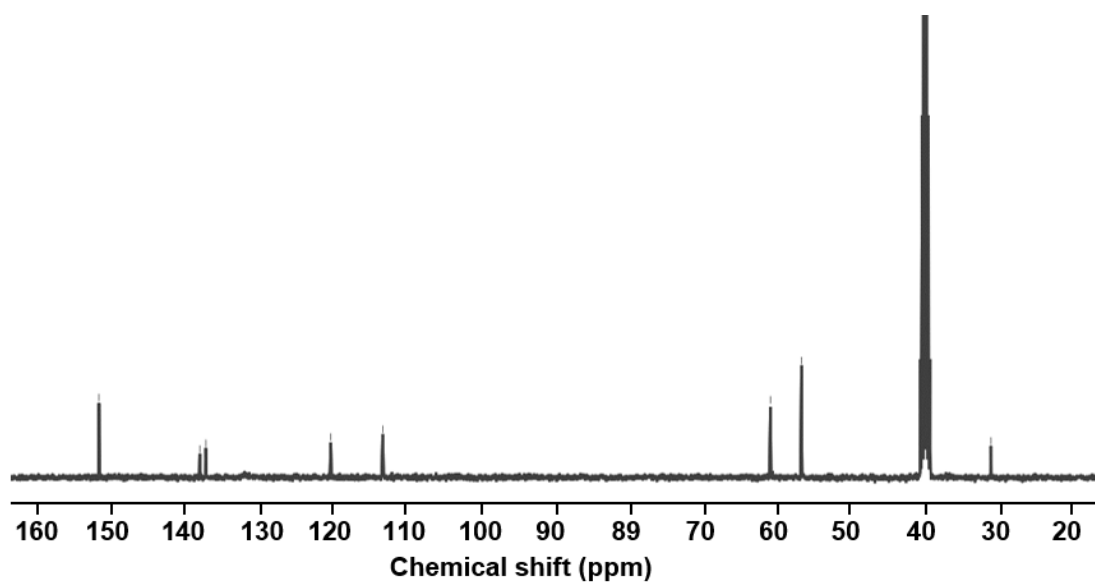
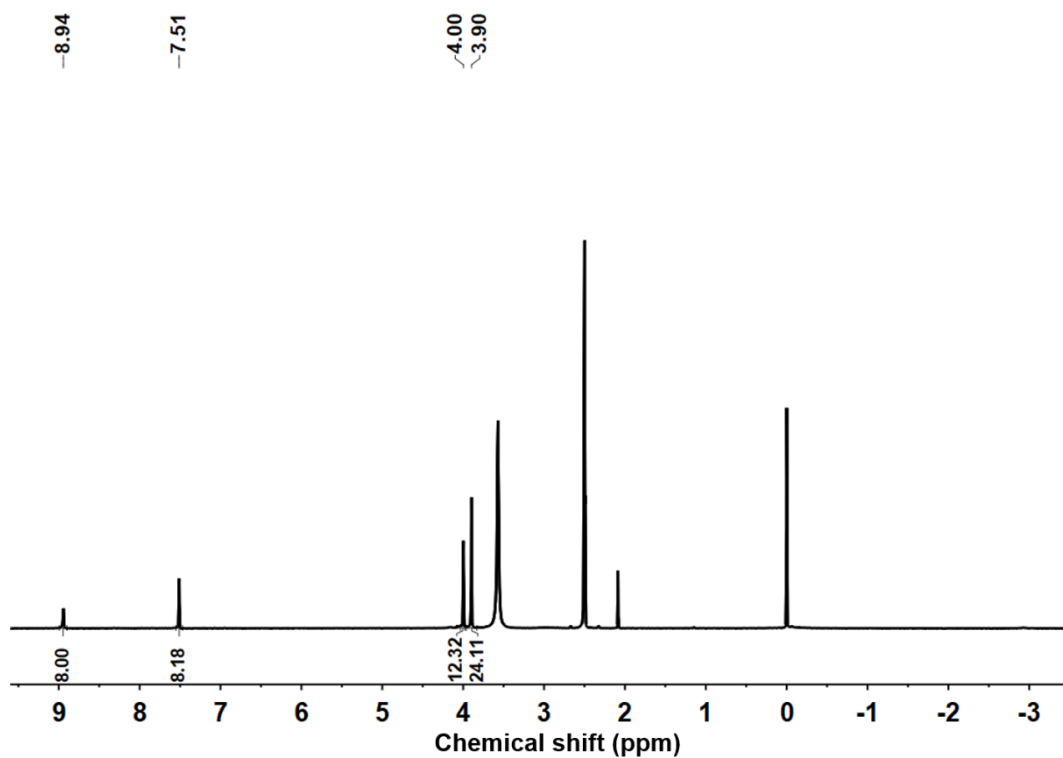
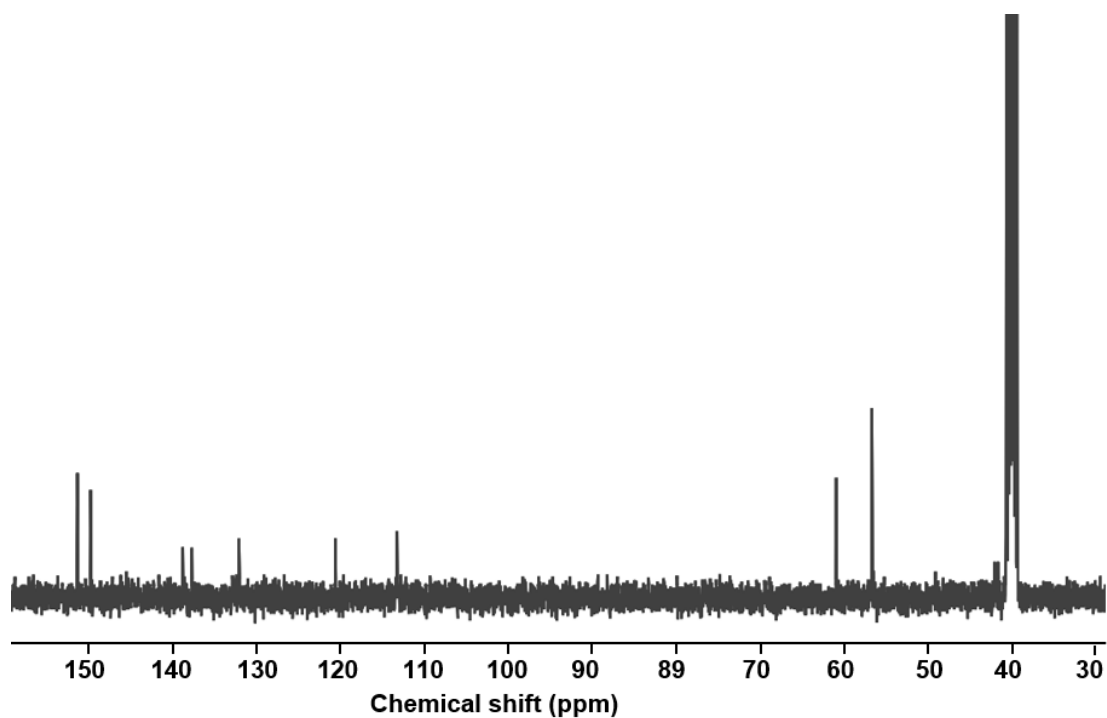


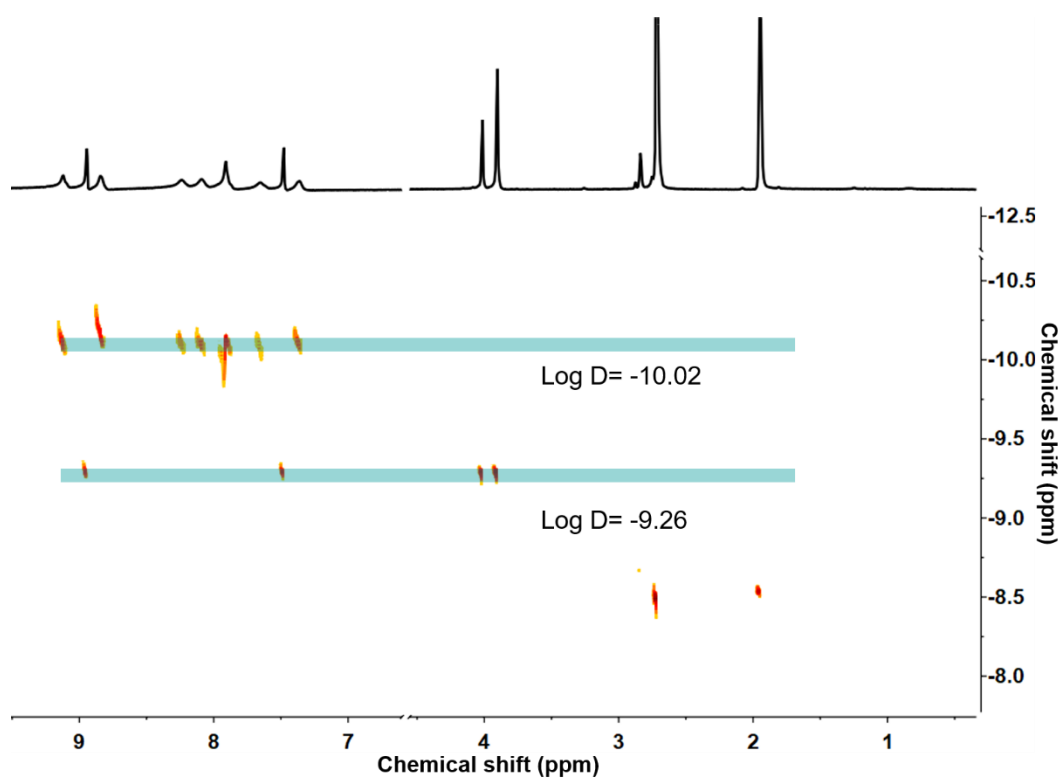
Figure S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, 298 K) of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



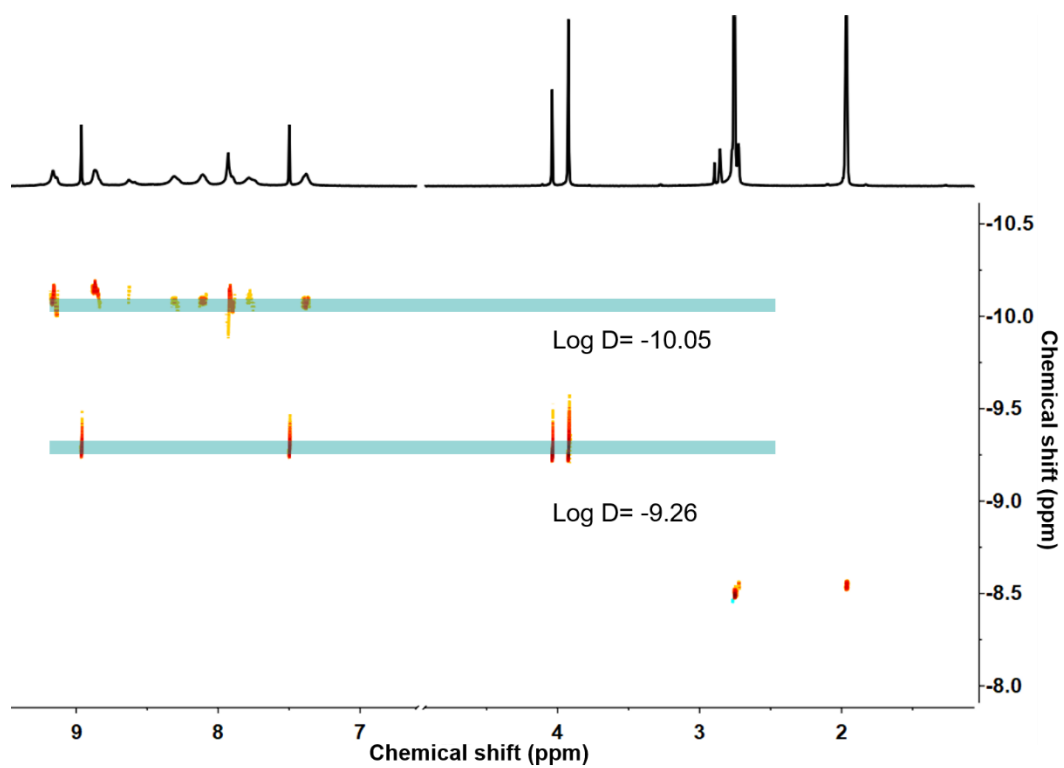
**Figure S17.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K) of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) porphyrin zinc in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



**Figure S18.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (100 MHz, 298 K) of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl) zinc porphyrin in  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ .



**Figure S19.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  DOSY NMR spectrum of **S1** combining zinc porphyrin in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).



**Figure S20.** 2D  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  DOSY NMR spectrum of **S2** combining zinc porphyrin in  $\text{DMF-}d_7$  and  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1:4, v/v).

6. ESI-MS spectra data of supramolecules (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> as counterion)

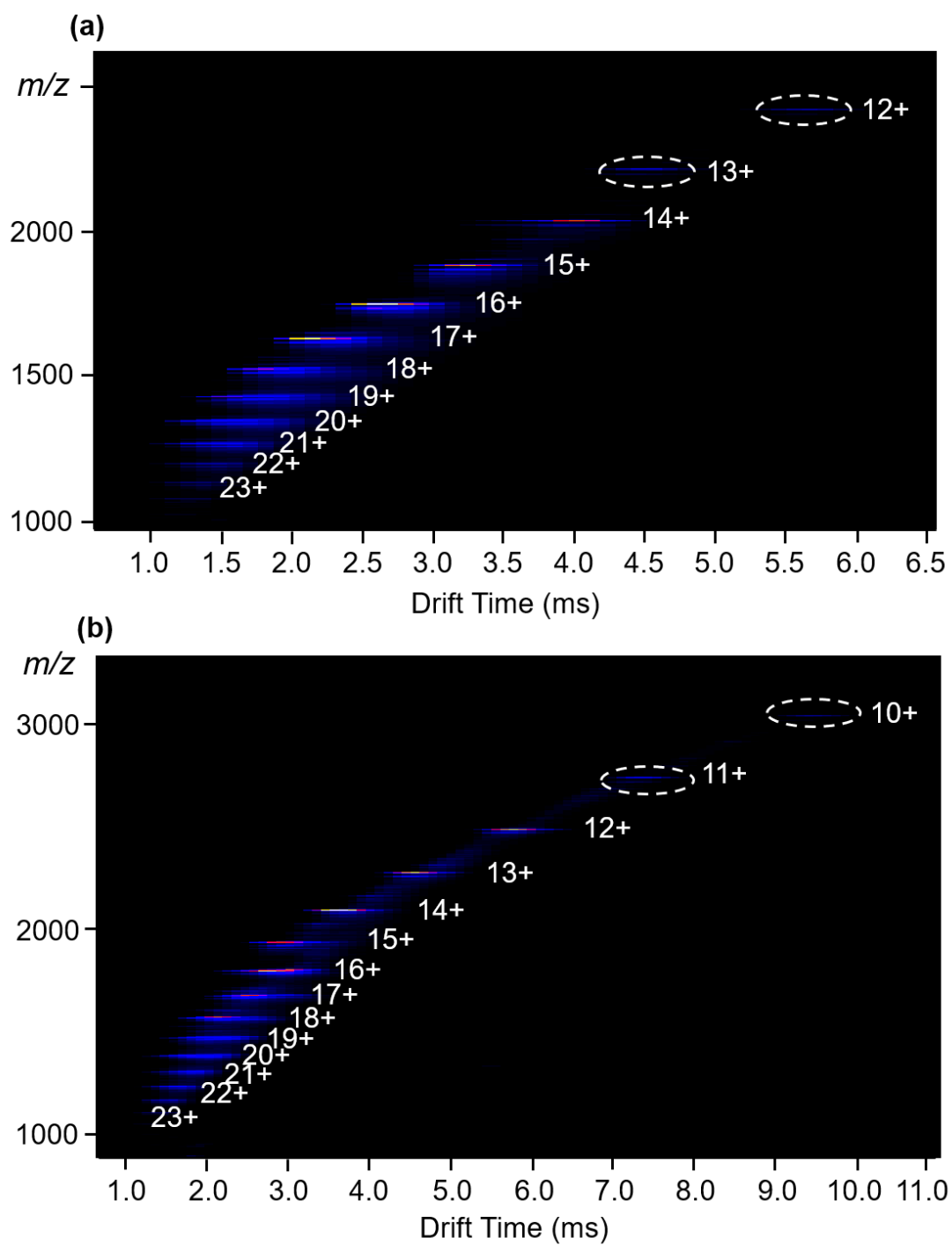
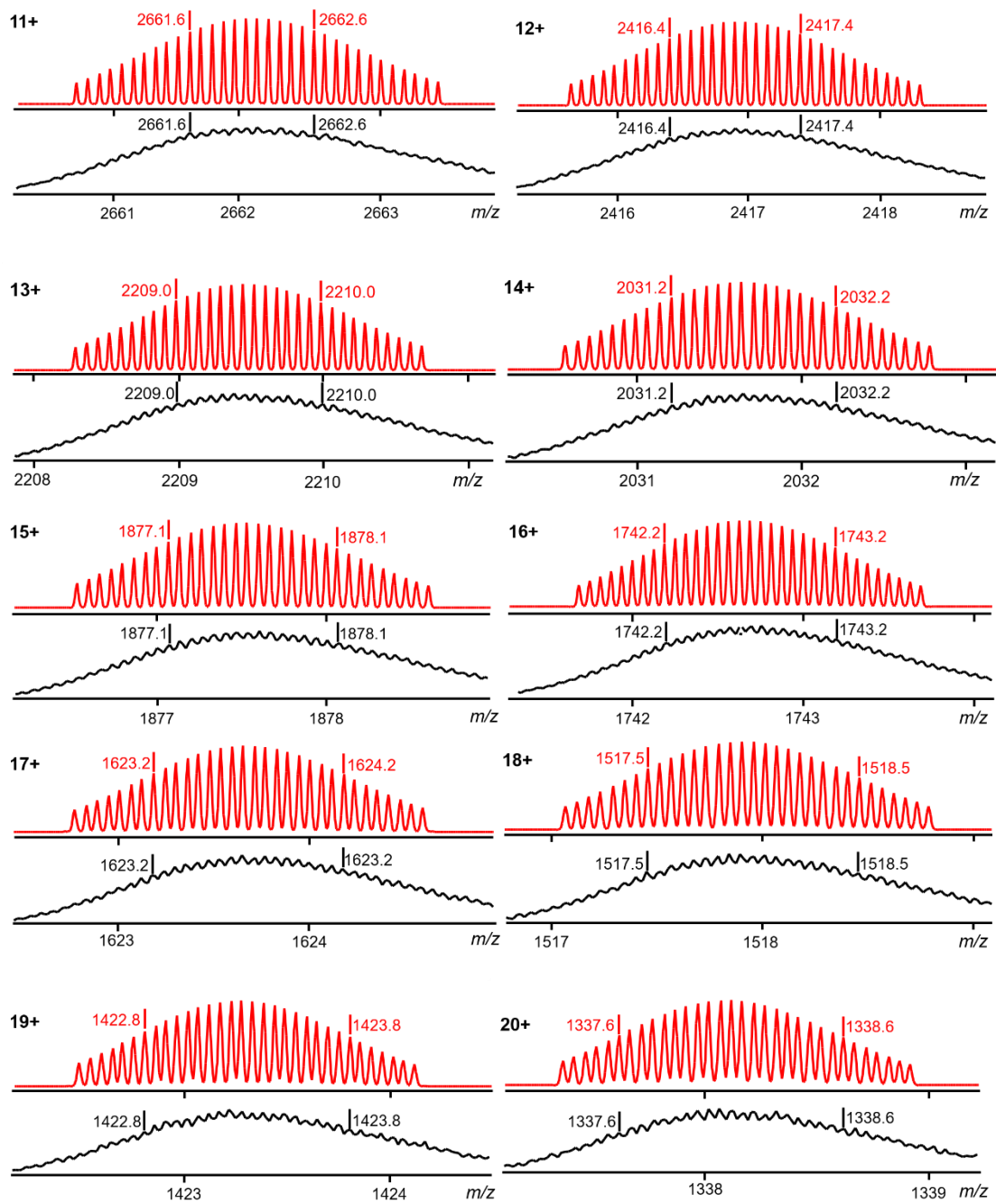
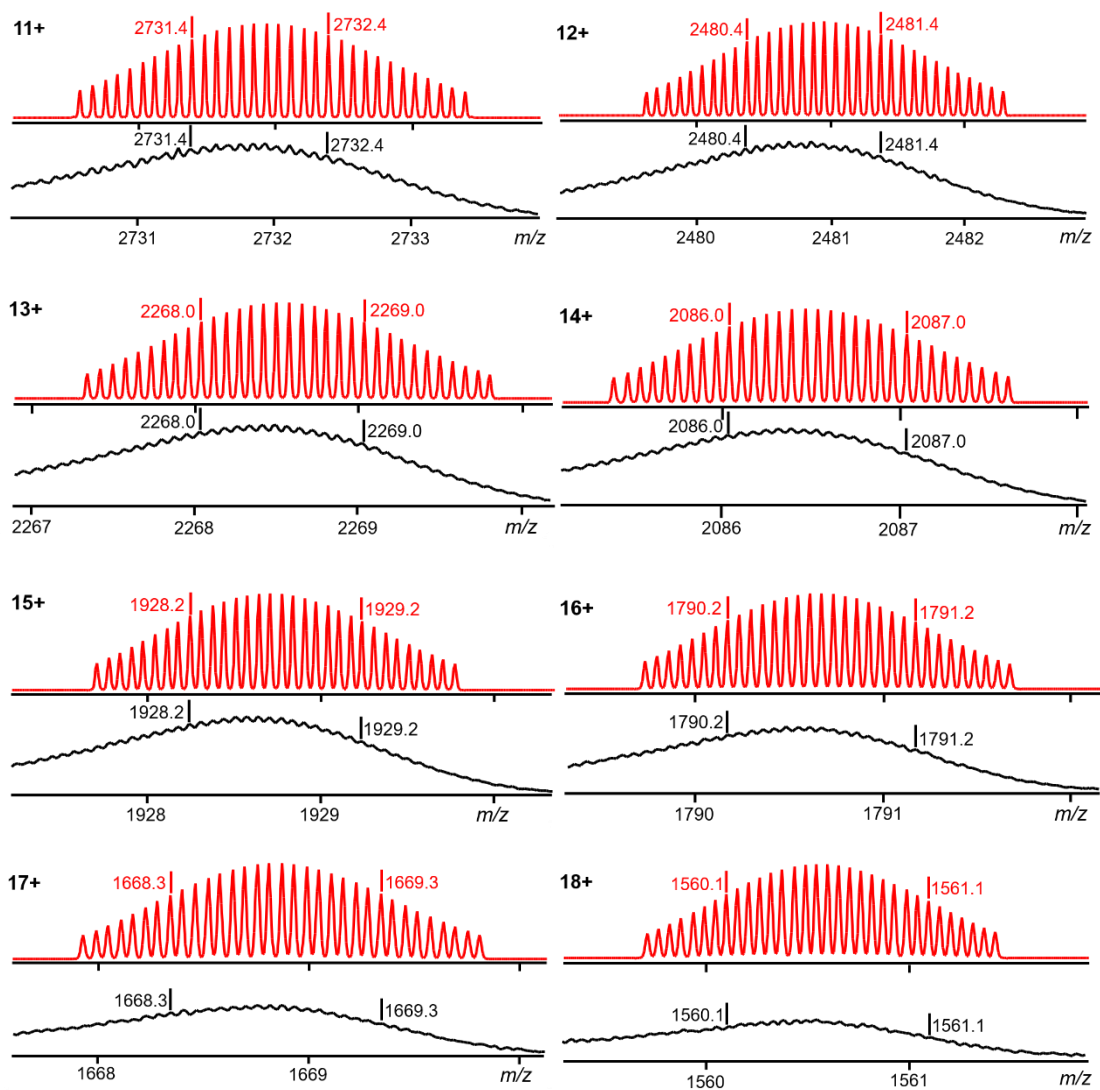


Figure S21. TWIM-MS plot ( $m/z$  vs drift time) of S1 (a) and S2 (b).



**Figure S22.** Measured (bottom) and calculated (top) isotope patterns for different charge states observed from S1 (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> as counterion).





**Figure S23.** Measured (bottom) and calculated (top) isotope patterns for different charge states observed from S2 (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> as counterion).

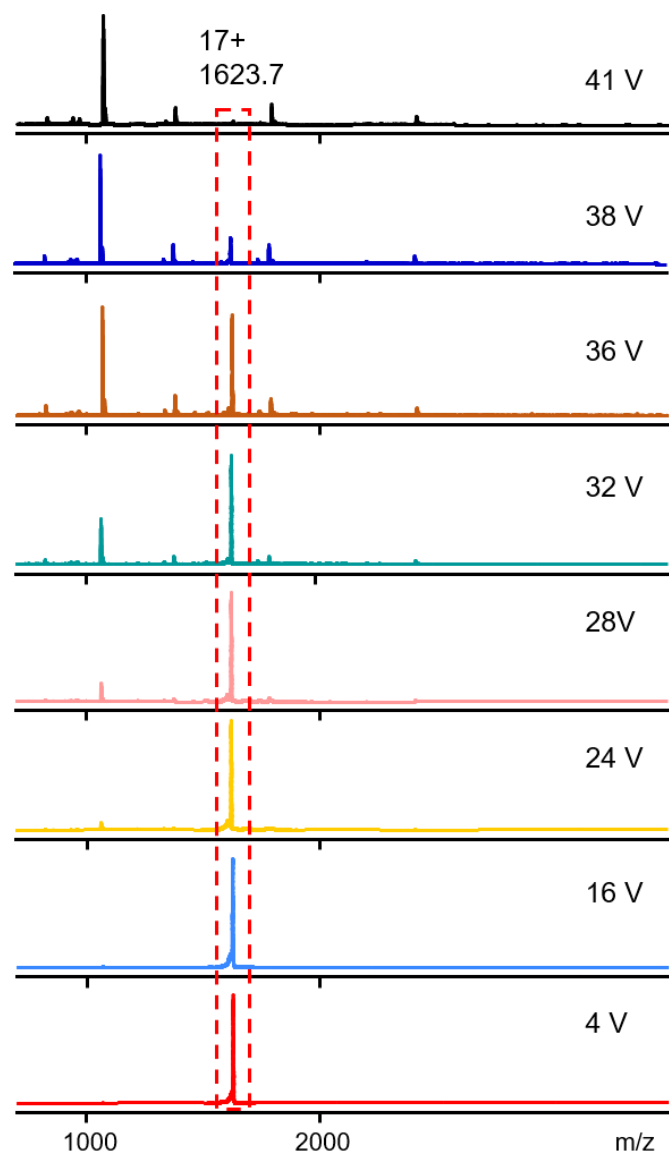
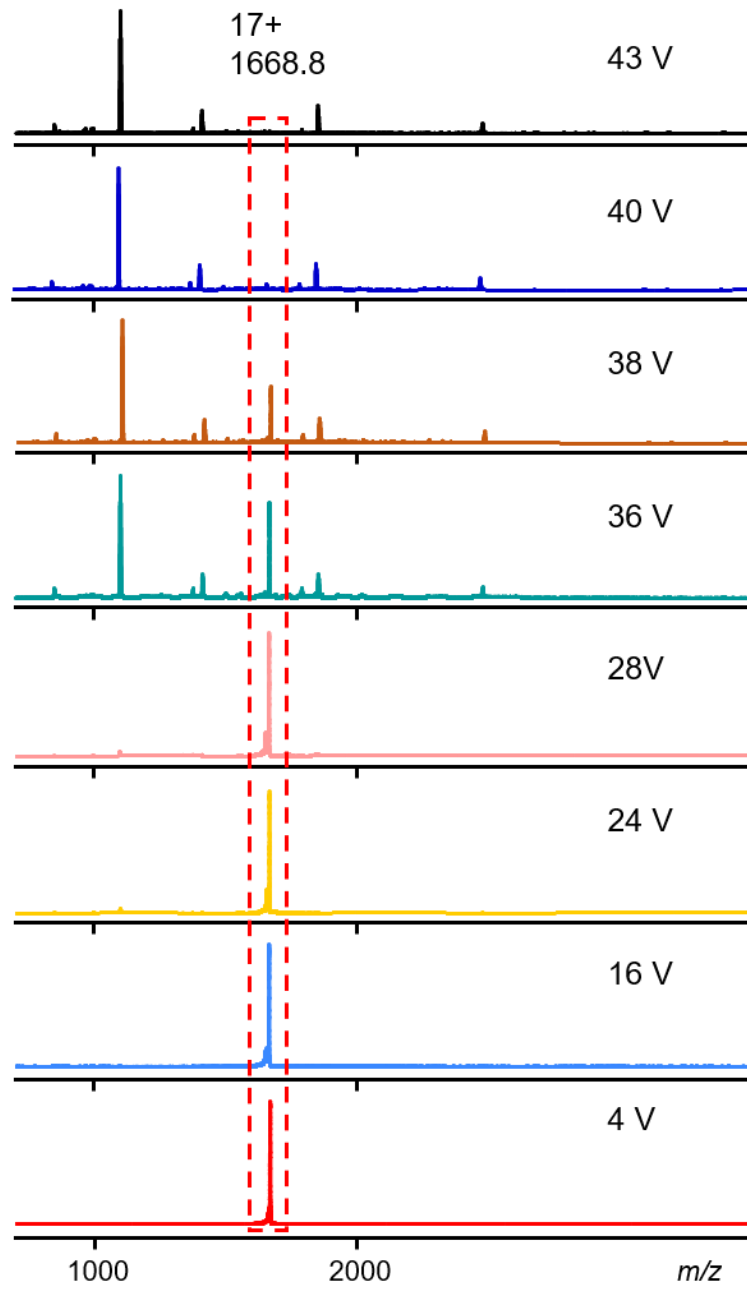
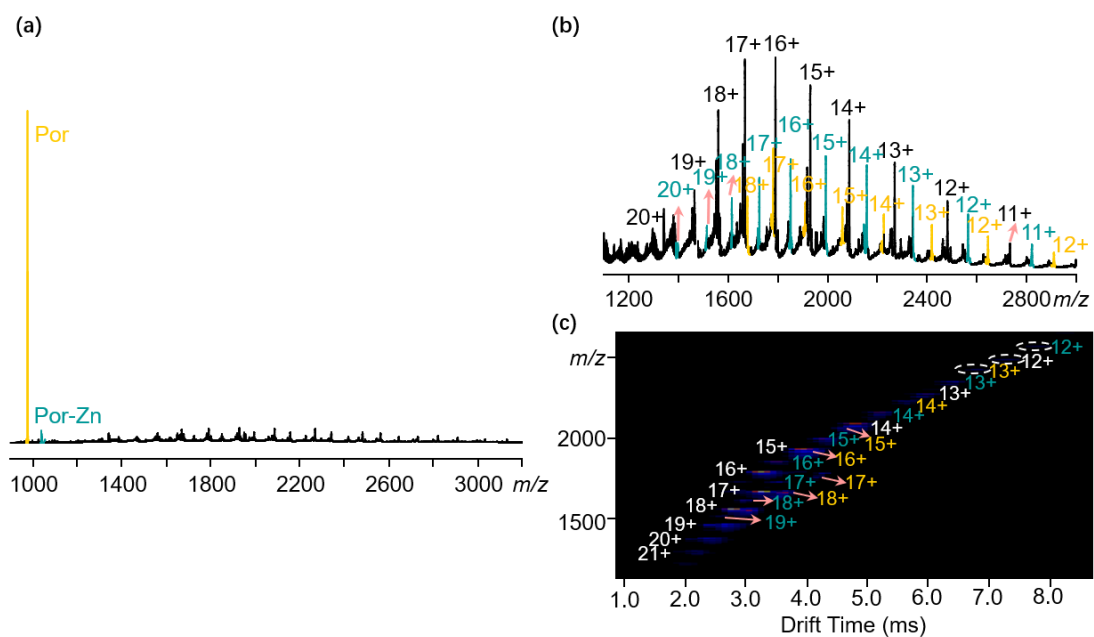


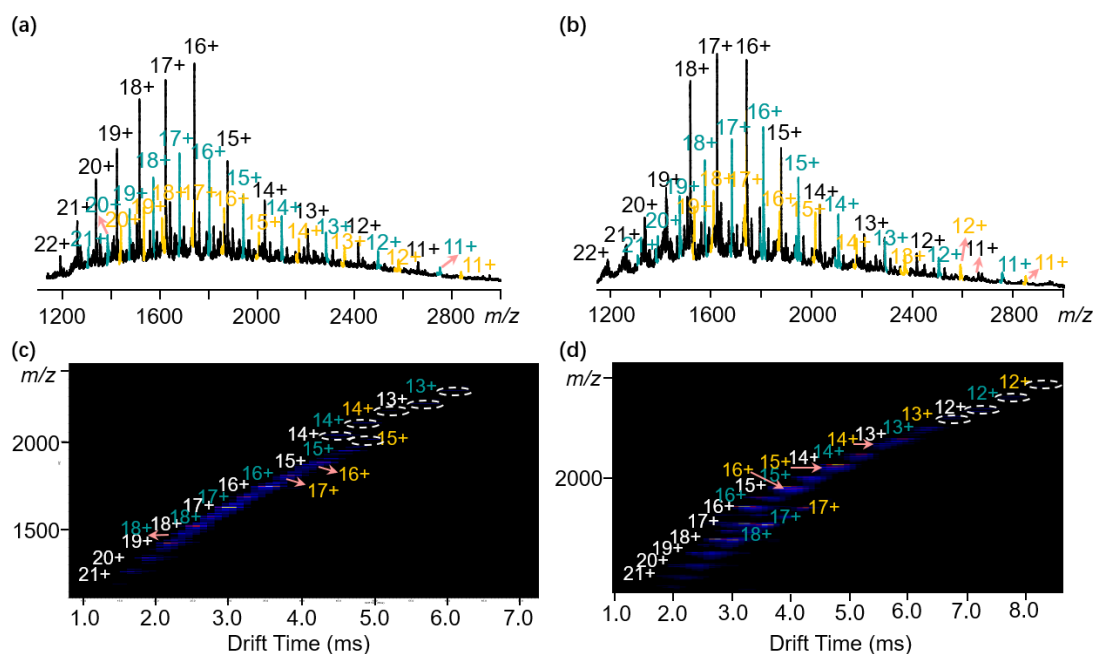
Figure S24. gMS<sup>2</sup> of S1 at *m/z* 1623.7 with different collision energies.



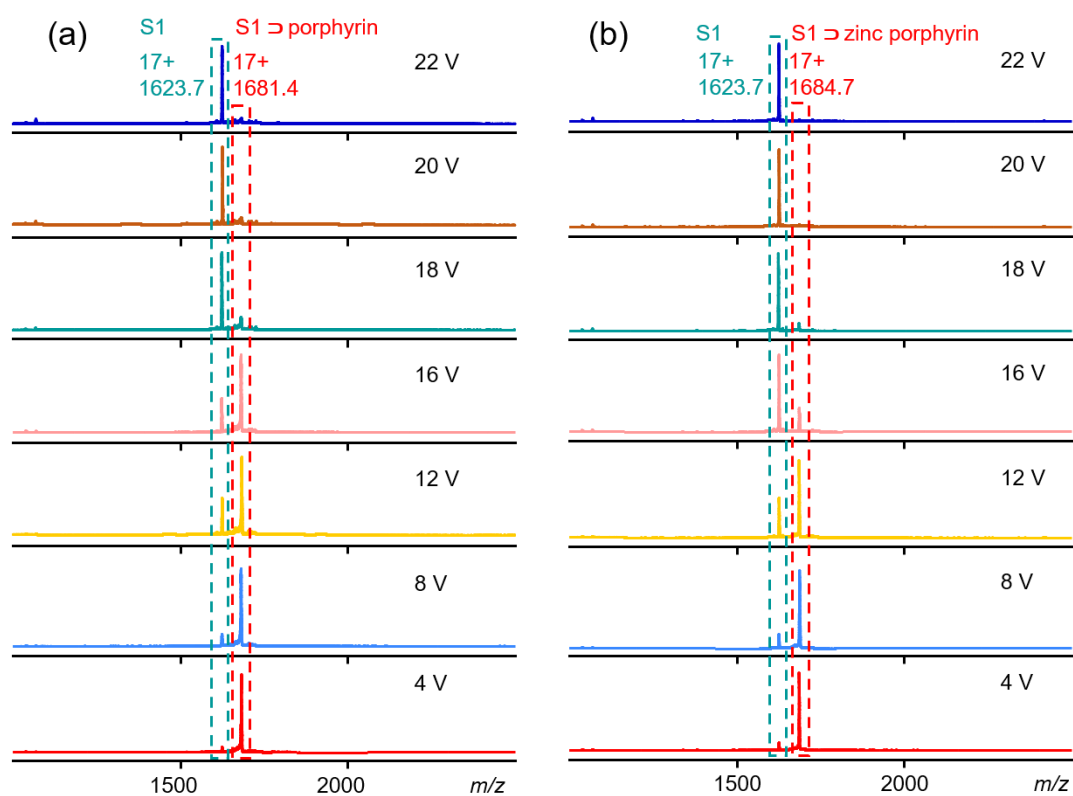
**Figure S25.** gMS<sup>2</sup> of S2 at  $m/z$  1668.8 with different collision energies.



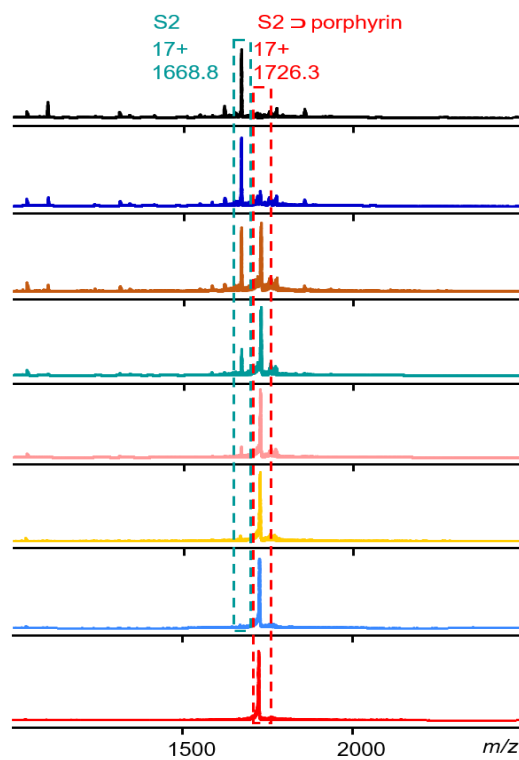
**Figure S26.** (a) ESI-MS (full spectra) of one porphyrin adducts  $S1 \supset G$ , (b) ESI-MS of free  $S1$  (black), one zinc porphyrin adducts  $S1 \supset G$  (green), two zinc porphyrin adducts  $S1 \supset G_2$  (yellow), (c) TWIM-MS of free  $S1$  (black), one zinc porphyrin adducts  $S1 \supset G$  (green), two zinc porphyrin adducts  $S1 \supset G_2$  (yellow).



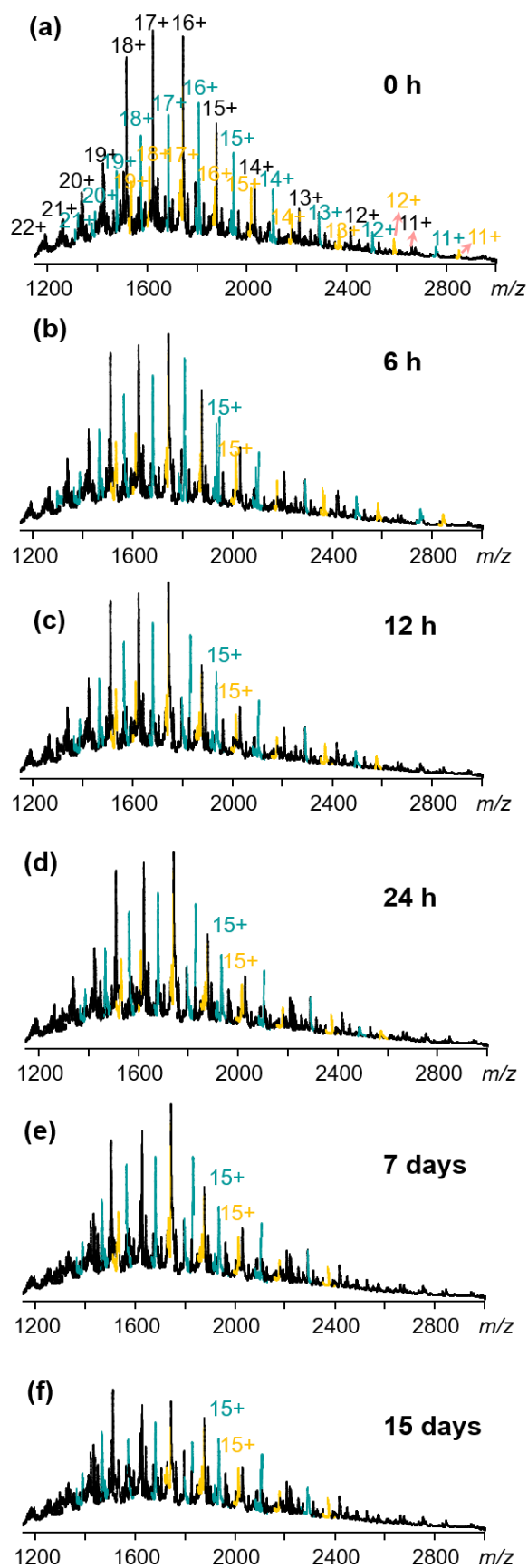
**Figure S27.** (a) (b) ESI-MS of free  $S1$  ( $S2$ ) (black), one porphyrin adducts  $S1$  ( $S2$ )  $\supset G$  (green), two porphyrin adducts  $S1$  ( $S2$ )  $\supset G_2$  (yellow), (c) (d) TWIM-MS of free  $S1$  ( $S2$ ) (black), one porphyrin adducts  $S1$  ( $S2$ )  $\supset G$  (green), two porphyrin adducts  $S1$  ( $S2$ )  $\supset G_2$  (yellow).



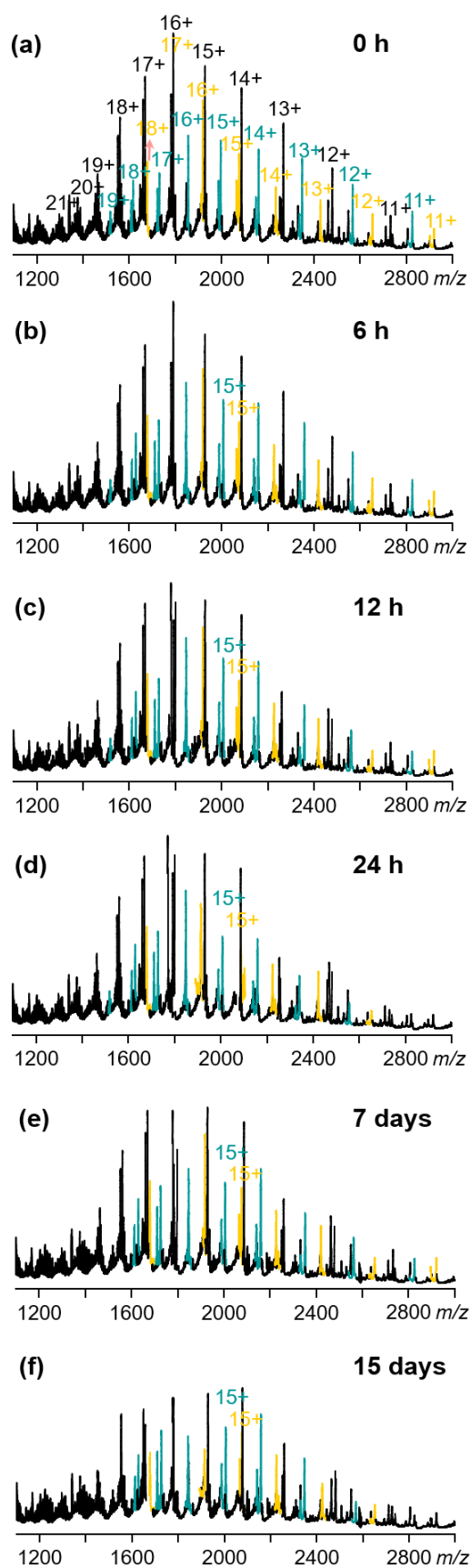
**Figure S28.** (a) gMS<sup>2</sup> of one porphyrin adducts S1 ⊃ G (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) at *m/z* 1681.4 with different collision energies; (b) gMS<sup>2</sup> of one zinc porphyrin adducts S1 ⊃ G (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) at *m/z* 1684.7 with different collision energies.



**Figure S29.** gMS<sup>2</sup> of one porphyrin adducts S2 ⊃ G (NTf<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>) at *m/z* 1726.3 with different collision energies.



**Figure S30.** (a) ESI-MS of porphyrin adducts of **S1** with different times. (a) 0 h, (b) 6 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h (e) 7 days, (f) 15 days.



**Figure S31.** (a) ESI-MS of porphyrin adducts of **S2** with different times. (a) 0 h, (b) 6 h, (c) 12 h, (d) 24 h (e) 7 days, (f) 15 days.

## 7. TEM images of supramolecules ( $\text{NTf}_2^-$ as counterion)

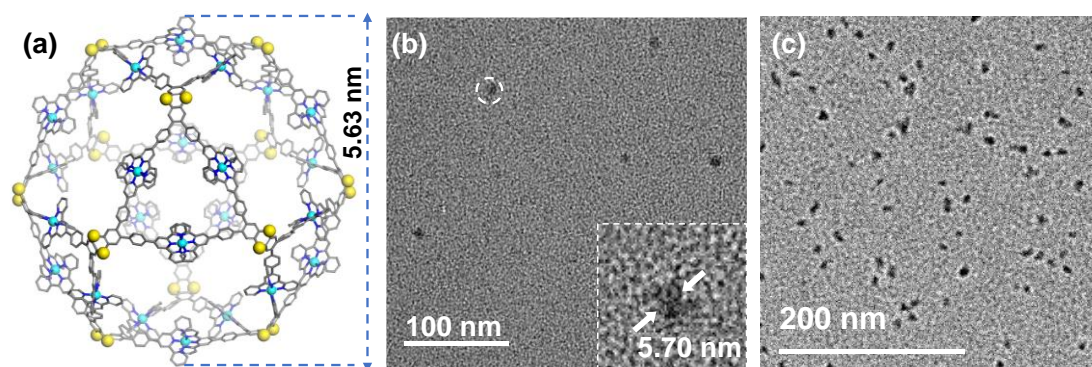


Figure S32. TEM images of S1 on the lacey carbon coated Cu grid.

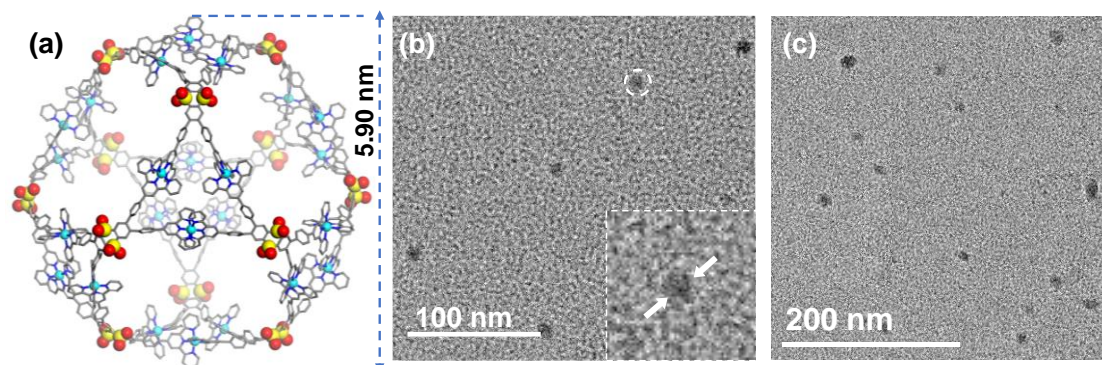


Figure S33. TEM images of S2 on the lacey carbon coated Cu grid.

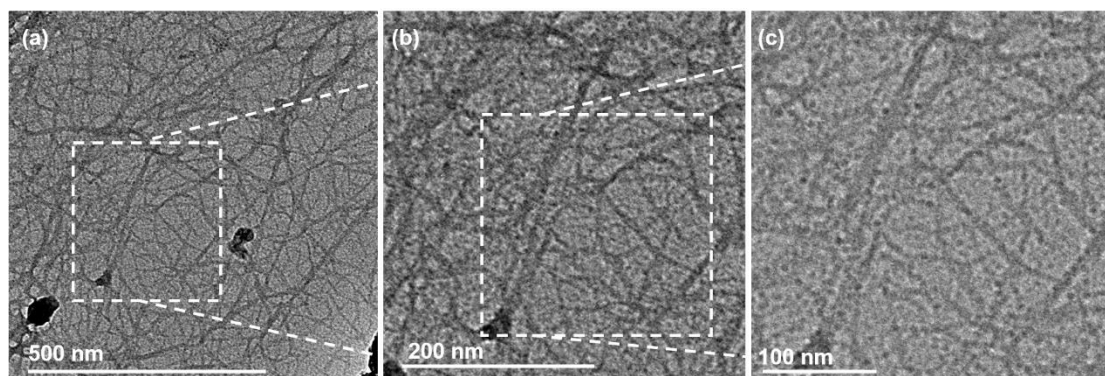
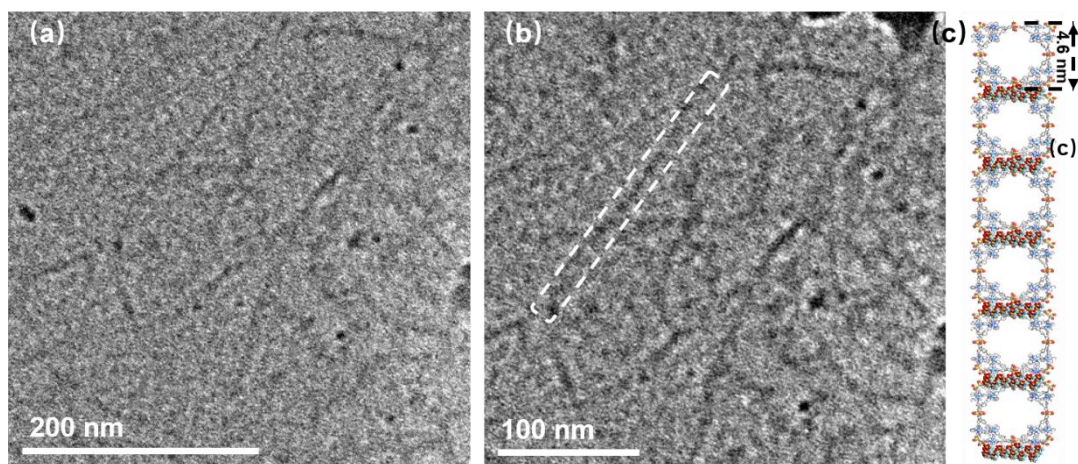
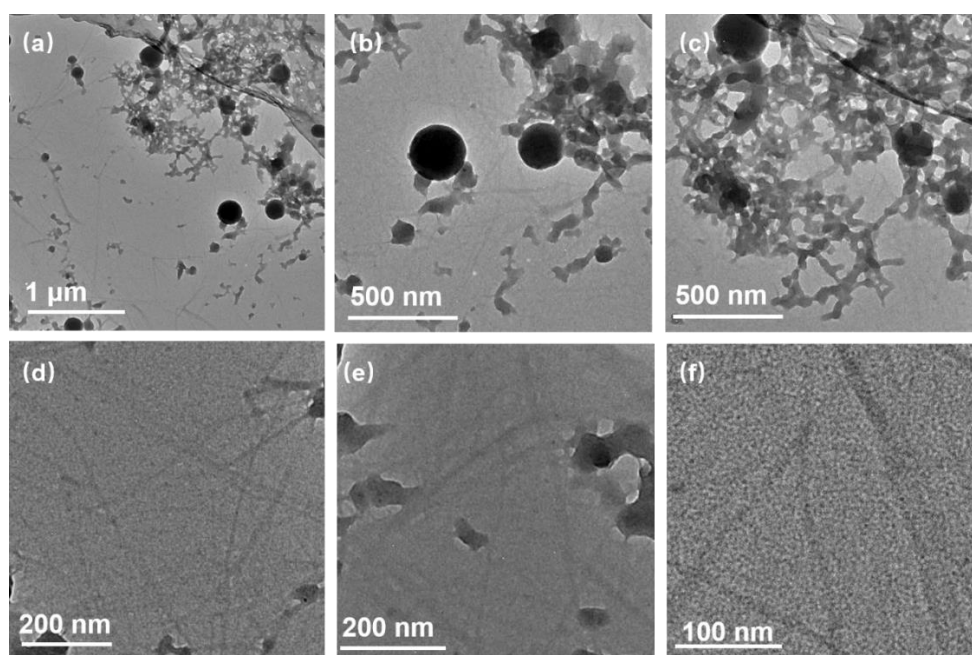


Figure S34. TEM images of nanofibers assembled by S1.

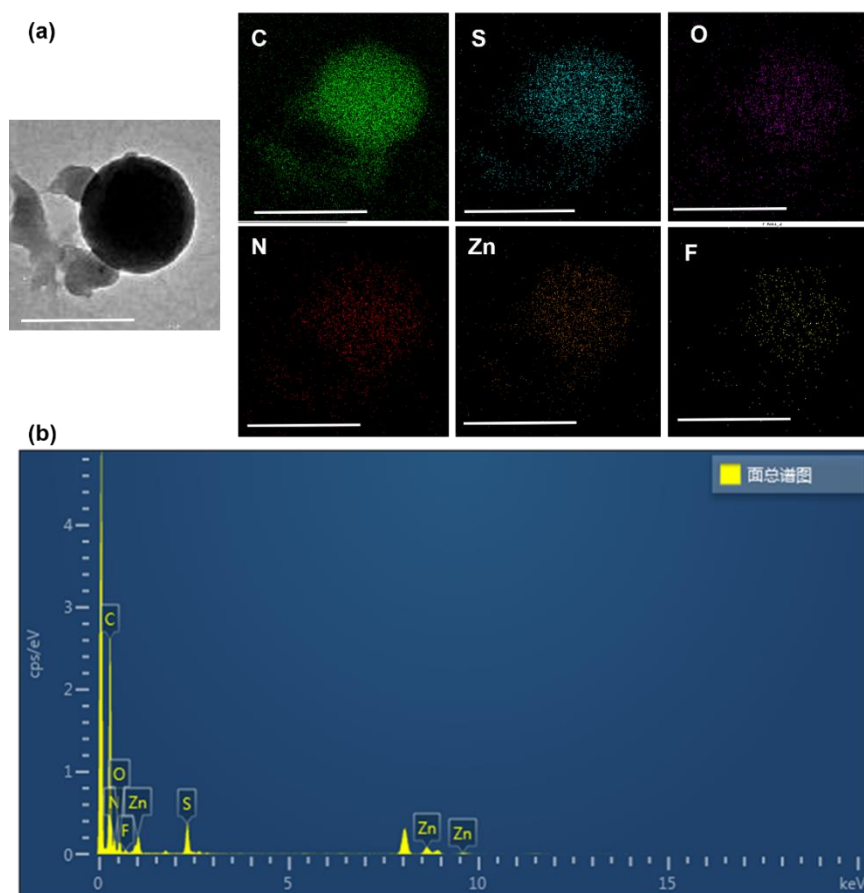




**Figure S35.** (a) (b) TEM images of nanofibers assembled by S2 (2 mg/ml in DMF solution under ethyl ether vapor); (c) the probable stacking approaches of S2 (stacking with square surfaces as contact surfaces).



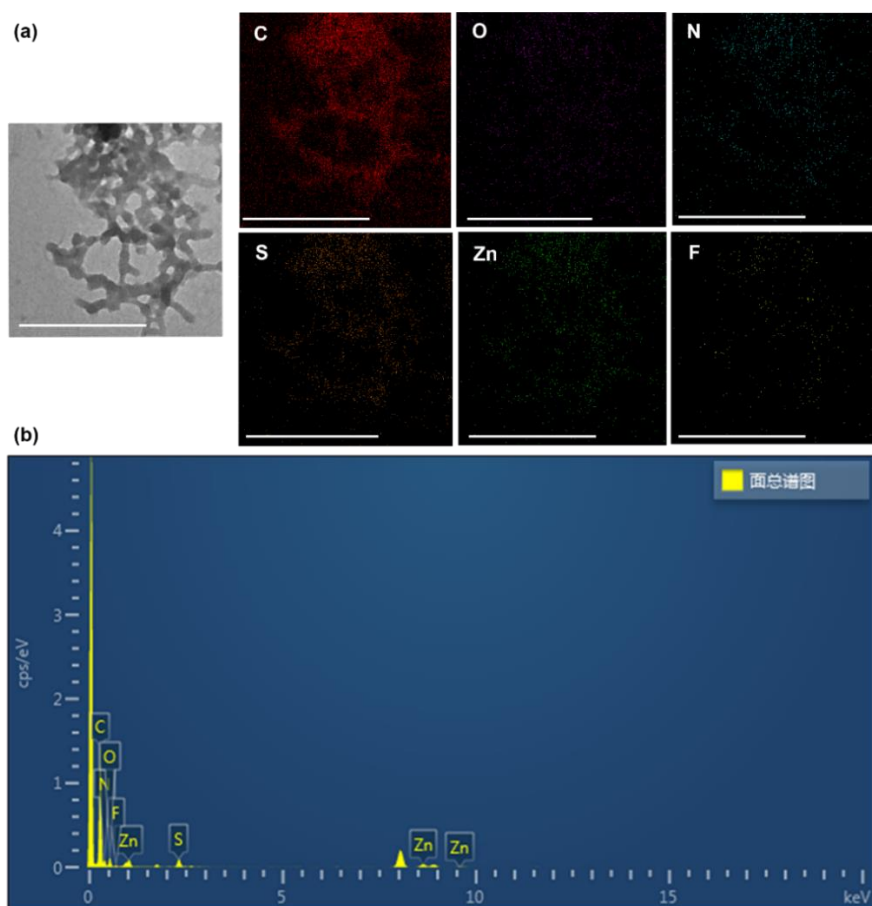
**Figure S36.** The TEM images of the same S2 sample captured under different areas, which may reveal the possible growing processes of the nanofibers for S2.



**Figure S37.** (a) Element mapping of selected areas. (b) TEM-EDX spectrum of the nanowires of S2 collected on a lacey carbon covered Cu grid.<sup>9</sup>

**Table S1.** Atomic ratios of the elements in the nanowires of S2 collected on a lacey carbon covered Cu grid by TEM-EDS

element	k	Absorption correction	wt%	wt% Sigma	Element analysis %
C	2.74533	1.00	80.10	0.52	46.32
N	3.46969	1.00	4.57	0.48	8.31
O	2.00298	1.00	4.61	0.22	9.49
F	1.70760	1.00	0.79	0.12	16.91
S	0.99241	1.00	6.64	0.17	11.89
Zn	1.32169	1.00	3.28	0.15	7.08
Total amount:			100.00		

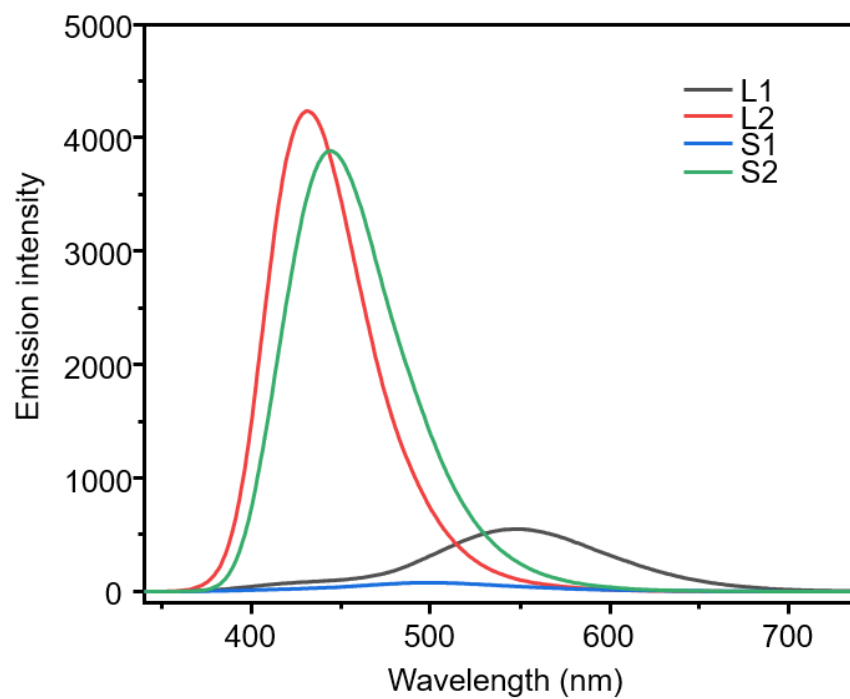


**Figure S38.** (a) Element mapping of selected areas. (b) TEM-EDX spectrum of the transferred nanowires collected on a lacey carbon covered Cu grid.

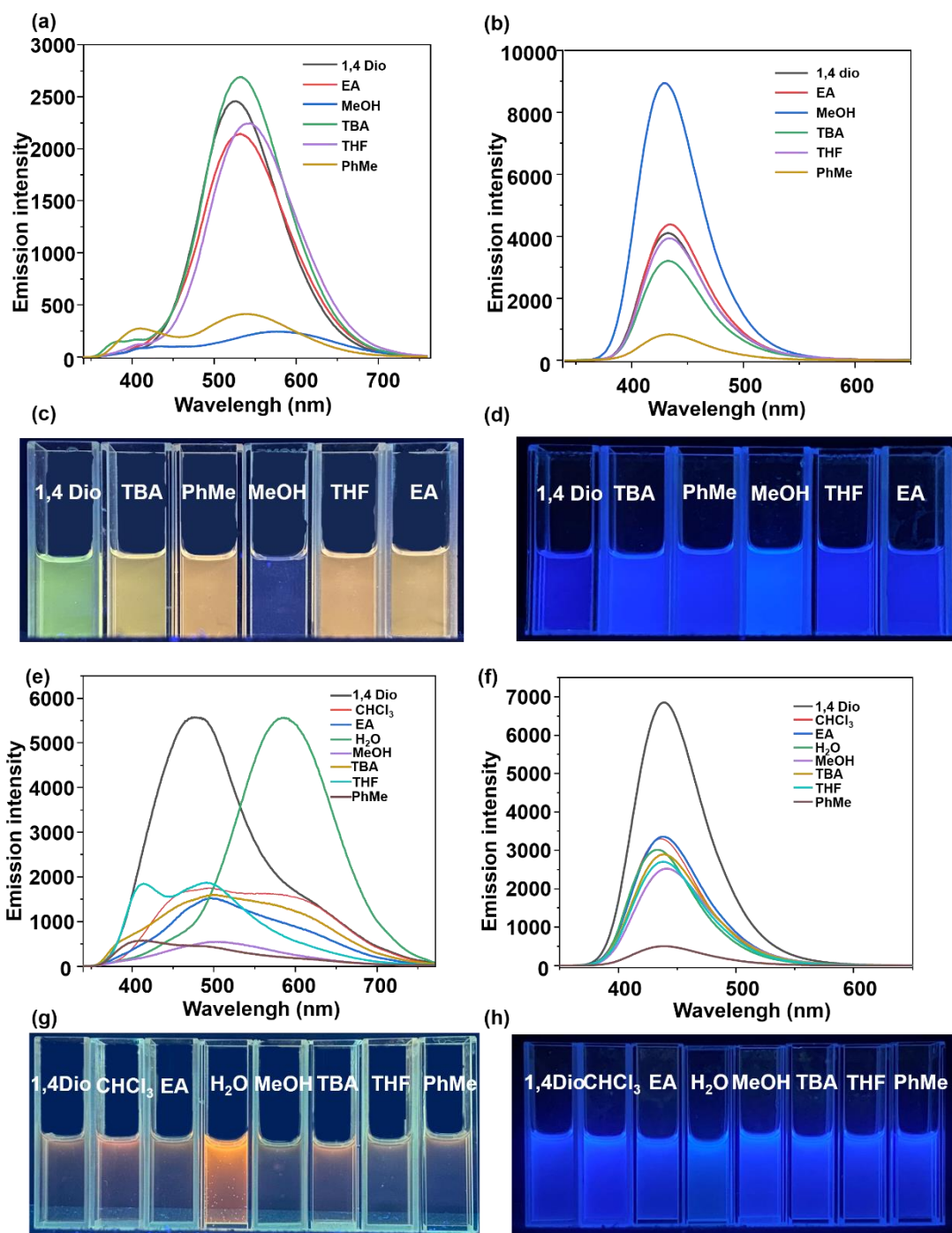
**Table S2.** Atomic ratios of the elements in the nanowires of S2 collected on a lacey carbon covered Cu grid by TEM-EDS

element	k	Absorption correction	wt%	wt% Sigma	Element analysis %
C	2.74533	1.00	84.95	0.50	45.24
N	3.46969	1.00	3.40	0.46	8.12
O	2.00298	1.00	5.09	0.21	11.59
F	1.70760	1.00	0.56	0.10	16.51
S	0.99241	1.00	3.36	0.12	11.61
Zn	1.32169	1.00	2.64	0.13	6.93
Total amount:			100.00		

## 8. Fluorescence emission measurement

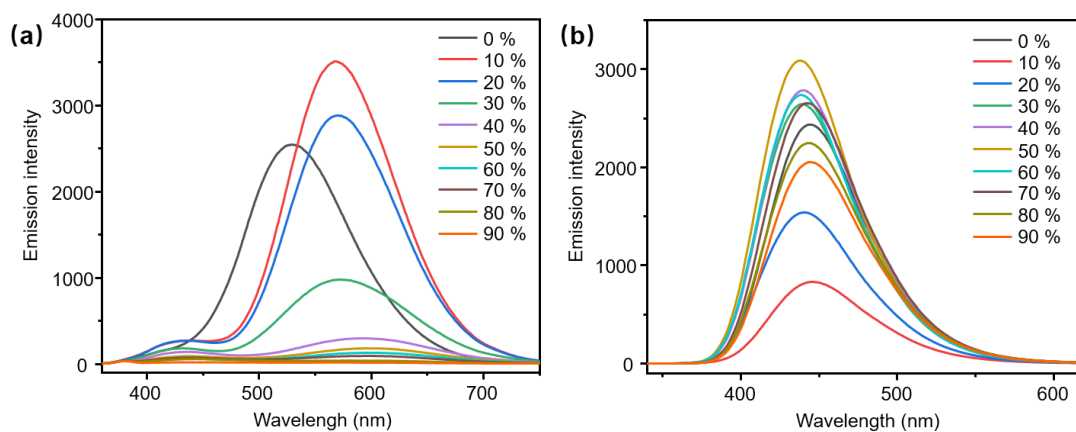


**Figure S39.** Fluorescence spectrum ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ ,  $c = 1.0 \mu\text{M}$ ) of ligands **L1**, **L2** and complexes **S1**, **S2**.

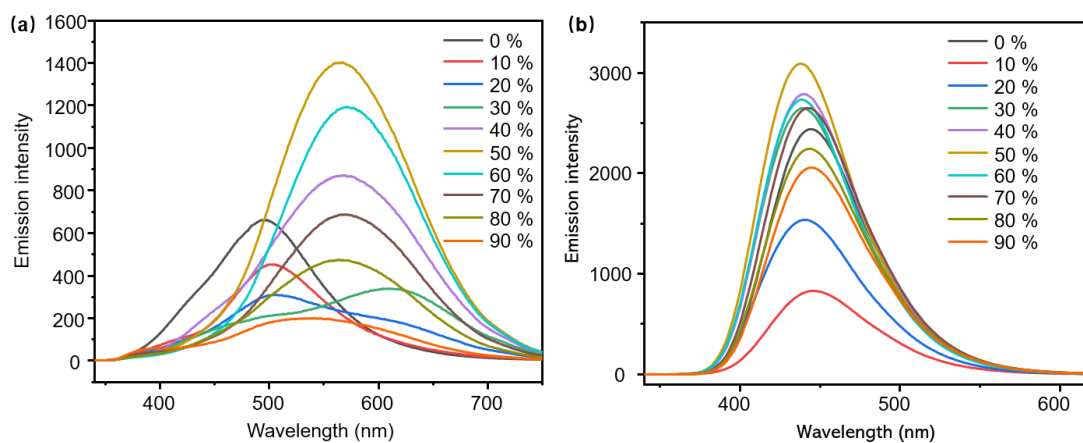


**Figure S40.** (a) (b) Fluorescence spectrum of L1 and L2 in different poor solvents (60%) ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0 \mu\text{M}$ ) (1,4 dioxane, ethyl acetate, methanol, tert-butanol, tetrahydrofuran, toluene); (c) (d) Photographs of fluorescence changes of L1 and L2; (e) (f) Fluorescence spectrum of S1 and S2 in different poor solvents (60%) ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0 \mu\text{M}$ ) (1,4 dioxane, chloromethane, ethyl acetate, water, methanol, tert-butanol, tetrahydrofuran, toluene); (g) (h) Photographs of fluorescence changes of S1 and S2.

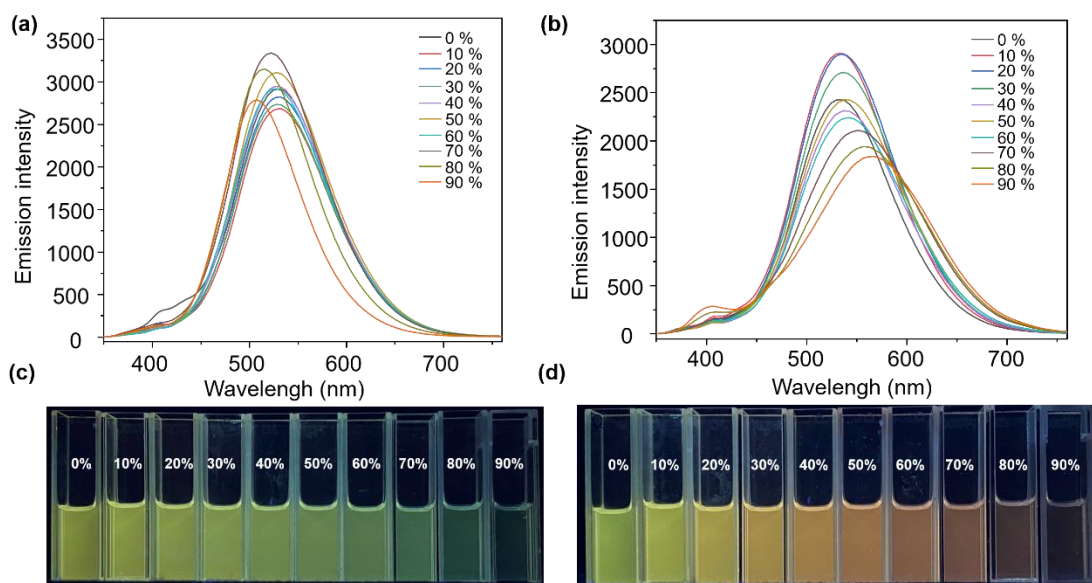




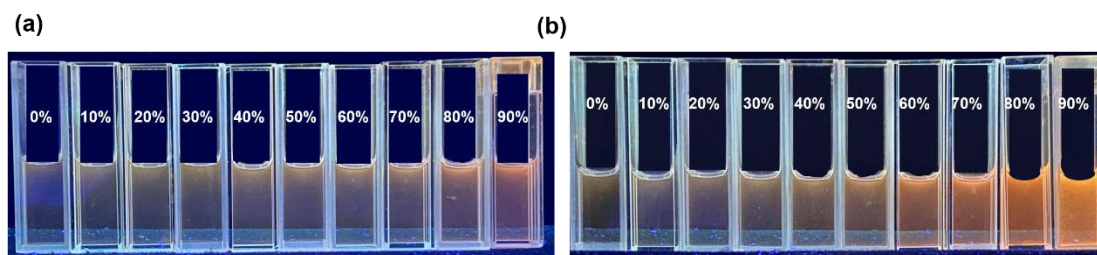
**Figure S41.** Fluorescence spectrum of (a) L1 ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0$   $\mu$ M) at PMT Voltage 500 V and (b) L2 ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0$   $\mu$ M) at PMT Voltage 400 V with various methanol content.



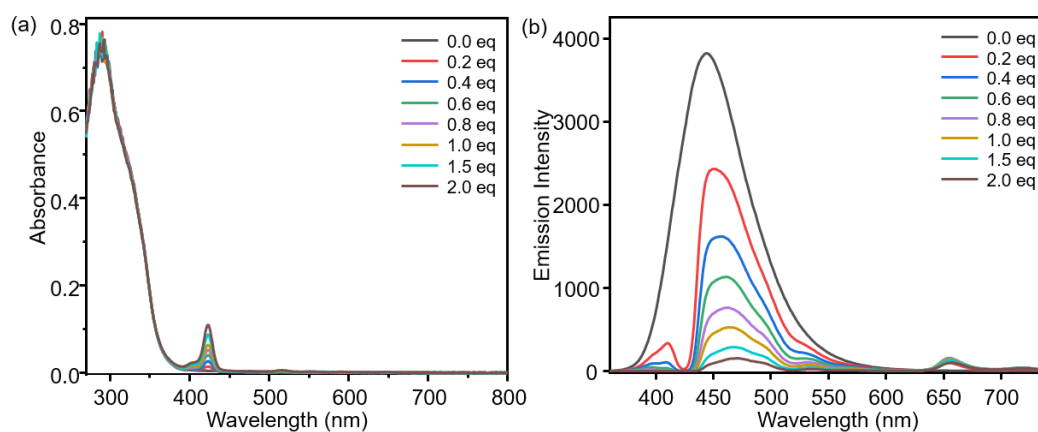
**Figure S42.** Fluorescence spectrum of (a) S1 ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0$   $\mu$ M) at PMT Voltage 500 V and (b) S2 ( $\lambda_{ex} = 340$  nm,  $c = 1.0$   $\mu$ M) at PMT Voltage 350 V with various H<sub>2</sub>O content.



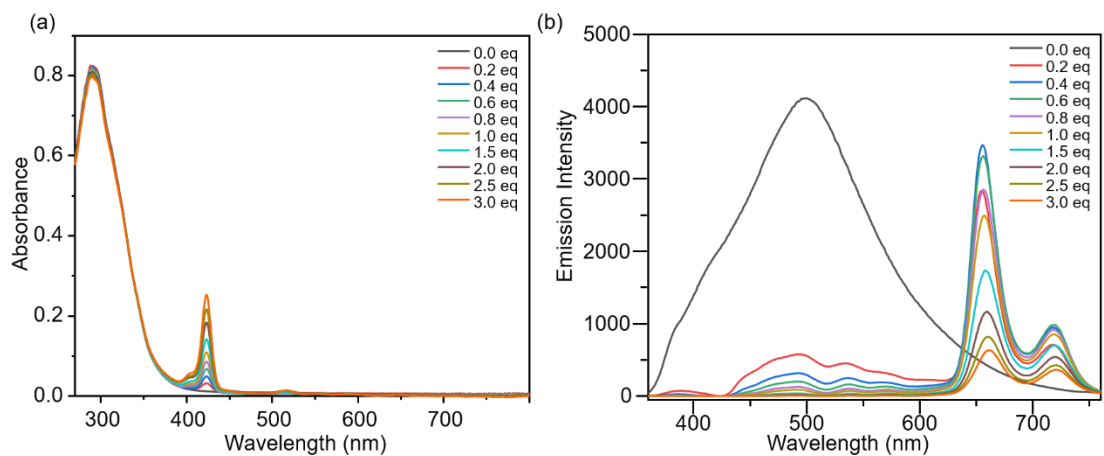
**Figure S43.** (a) (b) Fluorescence spectrum ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ ,  $c = 1.0 \mu\text{M}$ ); (c) (d) photographs of **L1** in  $\text{CHCl}_3/1,4\text{-dioxane}$  and in  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{THF}$  with various 1,4-dioxane or THF content.



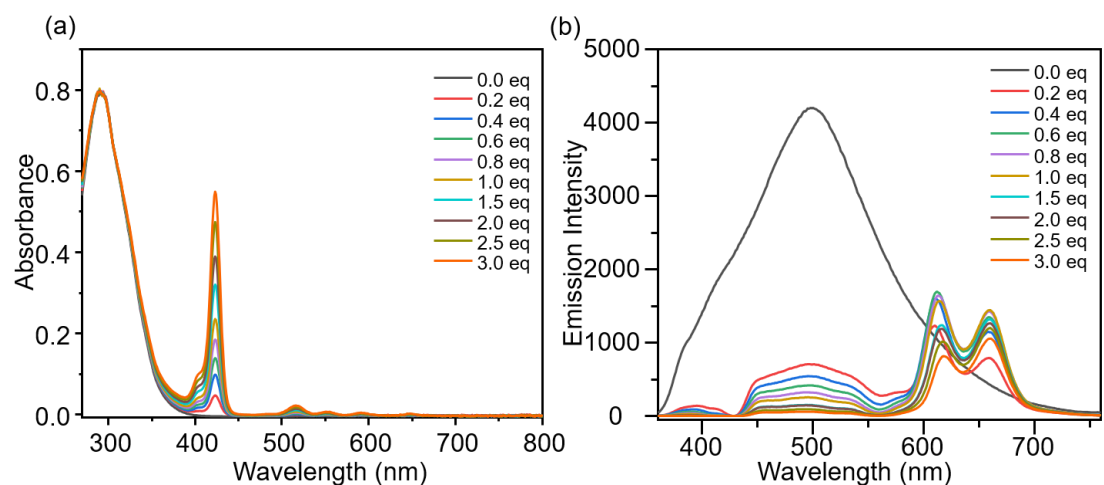
**Figure S44.** (a) photographs of **S1** in DMF/THF with various THF content, (b) (a) photographs of **S1** in DMF/tert-butanol with various tert-butanol content.



**Figure S45.** (a) UV-vis (0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S2** and different amounts of porphyrin were added to **S2**; (b) Emission (0.5  $\mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S2** and different amounts of porphyrin were added to **S2**.



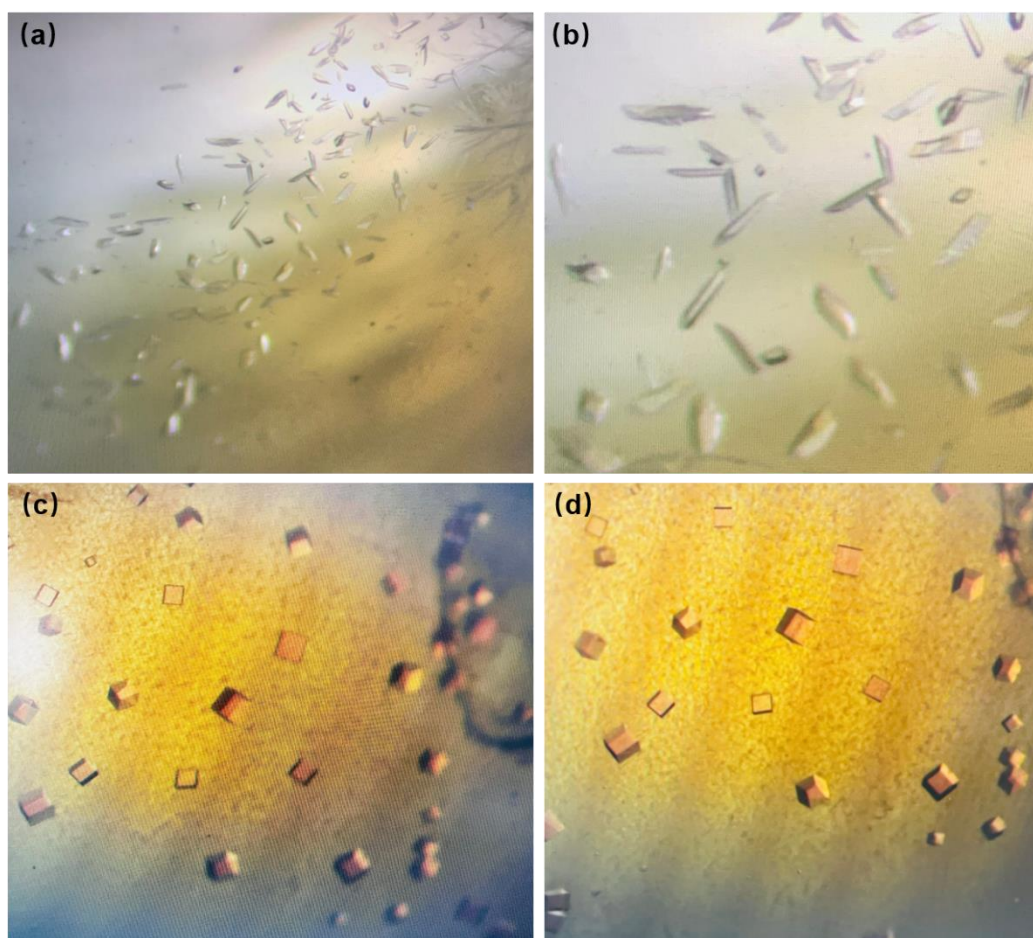
**Figure S46.** (a) UV-vis ( $0.5 \mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S1** and different amounts of porphyrin were added to **S1**; (b) Emission ( $0.5 \mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S1** and different amounts of porphyrin were added to **S1**.



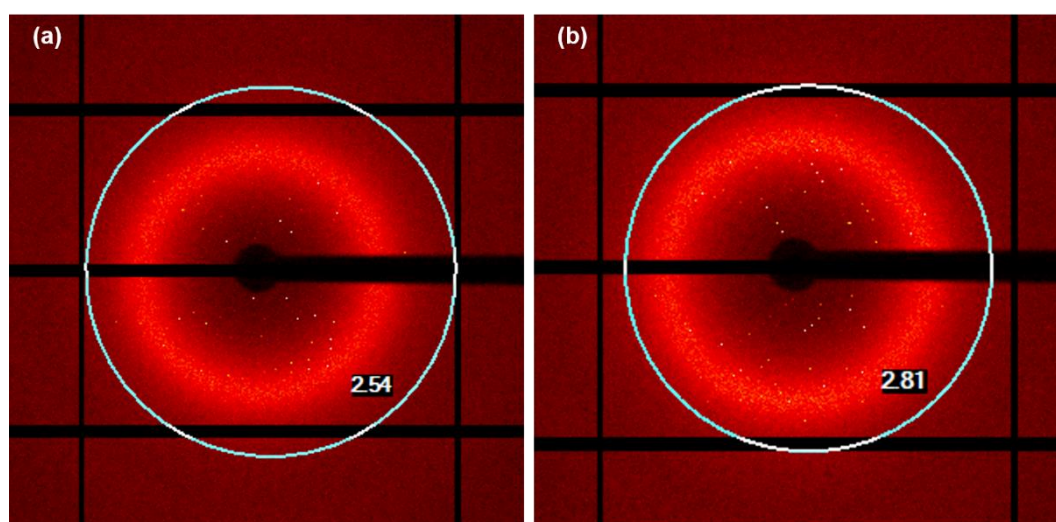
**Figure S47.** (a) UV-vis ( $0.5 \mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S1** and different amounts of zinc porphyrin were added to **S1**; (b) Emission ( $0.5 \mu\text{M}$  in DMF) of free **S1** and different amounts of zinc porphyrin were added to **S1**.



## 9. Crystallographic date of ligands



**Figurer S48.** The crystal structure photograph of (a) (b) S1 and (c) (d) S2.

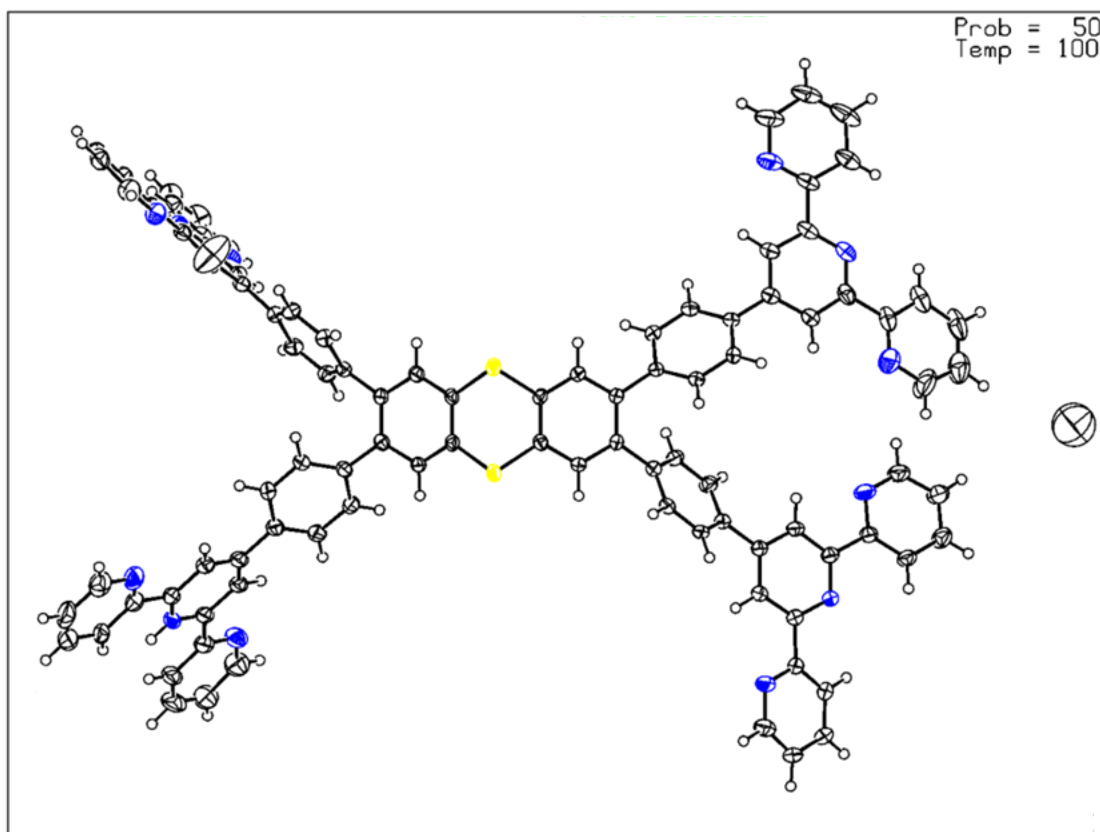


**Figure S49.** The diffraction points of the S2 crystal.

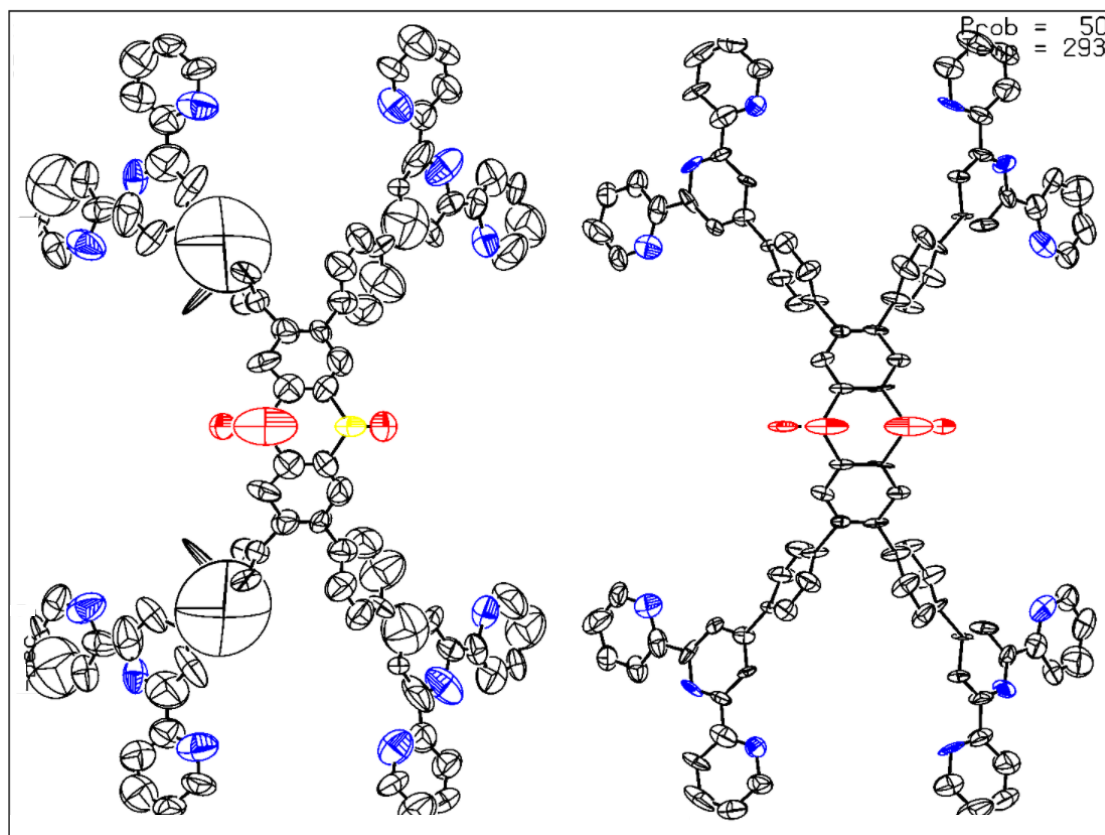
**Table S3.** Crystallographic data of **L1, L2**

Identification code	Compound <b>L1</b>	Compound <b>L2</b>
CCDC number	2132604	2132525
Empirical formula	$C_{96}H_{60}N_{12}S_2$	$C_{96}H_{60}N_{12}O_4S_2$
Formula weight	1470.70	1504.73
Temperature/K	100(2) K	100(2) K
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>Cm</i>
Unit cell dimensions	$a = 13.8636(3) \text{ \AA}$	$a = 9.1813(8) \text{ \AA}$
	$b = 15.9137(3) \text{ \AA}$	$b = 32.2736(14) \text{ \AA}$
	$c = 20.4987(4) \text{ \AA}$	$c = 40.651(3) (4) \text{ \AA}$
	$\alpha = 83.865(2)^\circ$	$\alpha = 90^\circ$
	$\beta = 73.294(2)^\circ$	$\beta = 96.354(8)^\circ$
	$\gamma = 85.019(2)^\circ$	$\gamma = 90^\circ$
Volume	4299.28(16) $\text{\AA}^3$	11971.5(15)
<i>Z</i>	2	154
Density (calculated)	1.136 $\text{g/m}^3$	1.604 $\text{g/m}^3$
Absorption coefficient	0.115 $\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.767 $\text{mm}^{-1}$
<i>F</i> (000)	1530.0	5852.0
Crystal size	0.2 × 0.05 × 0.05 $\text{mm}^3$	0.4 × 0.08 × 0.08 $\text{mm}^3$
Radiation	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )	MoK $\alpha$ ( $\lambda = 0.71073$ )
Theta range for data collection	4.324 to 62.46°	4.638 to 62.348°
Index ranges	$-19 \leq h \leq 19,$	$-11 \leq h \leq 12,$
	$-22 \leq k \leq 22,$	$-43 \leq k \leq 43,$
	$-29 \leq l \leq 28$	$-57 \leq l \leq 54$
Reflections collected	70881	76442

Independent reflections	22440 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.0470$ , $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0635$ ]	28020 [ $R_{\text{int}} = 0.1854$ , $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.2404$ ]
Data / restraints / parameters	22440/0/1004	28020/650/883
Goodness-of-fit on $F^2$	1.358	2.242
Final $R$ indexes [ $I \geq 2\sigma(I)$ ]	$R_1 = 0.1209$ , $wR_2 = 0.3490$	$R_1 = 0.2743$ , $wR_2 = 0.5503$
Final $R$ indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.1655$ , $wR_2 = 0.3759$	$R_1 = 0.4547$ , $wR_2 = 0.5918$
Largest diff. peak/hole	1.95/-0.41 e $\cdot\text{\AA}^{-3}$	3.03/-0.86 e $\cdot\text{\AA}^{-3}$
Flack parameter	-0.07(8)	-0.09(9)



**Figure S50.** ORTEP Drawing of L1. The thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability



**Figure S51.** ORTEP Drawing of L2. The thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50% probability

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