

## Supplementary information.

### **Molecular asymmetry and rigidification as strategies to activate and enhance thermally activated delayed fluorescence in deep-blue MR-TADF emitters**

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## 1. Experimental Section

*Theoretical calculations.* Calculations were firstly performed using Density Functional Theory (DFT) within Gaussian 16 revision A. 03<sup>1</sup> and then with the second order algebraic diagrammatic construction Spin-Component Scaling (ADC(2)-SCS)<sup>2</sup> method using the Turbomole/7.5 package.<sup>3</sup> For the DFT calculations, the ground state and excited singlet state were optimized using the PBE0<sup>4</sup> functional and the 6-31G(d,p) basis set,<sup>5</sup> and the excited-state calculations were performed using Time-Dependent DFT within the Tamm-Dancoff approximation (TDADFT)<sup>6,7</sup> with the same functional and basis set as for the ground-state geometry optimization in the gas phase. The molecular orbital distributions were visualized with Gaussview 5.0.<sup>8</sup> For the ADC(2) calculations, the ground states was optimized using the ADC(2)-SCS functional and the cc-pVDZ basis set in the gas phase based on the geometry calculated by DFT.<sup>2</sup> Vertical transitions to the excited states were performed based on the ground-state optimized structure. Difference density plots were used to visualize change in electronic density between the ground and excited state and were visualized using the VESTA package.<sup>9</sup> The calculations were submitted and processed using the Silico v4 software package,<sup>10</sup> which incorporates a number of publicly available software libraries, including: cclib<sup>11</sup> for parsing of result files, VMD<sup>12</sup> and Tachyon<sup>13</sup> for 3D rendering, Matplotlib<sup>14</sup> for the plotting of graphs, Open Babel<sup>15</sup> and Pybel<sup>16</sup> for file interconversion. For spin-orbit coupling (SOC) matrix elements between singlet and triplet excited states, S<sub>0</sub>, S<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> geometry optimizations were performed at the PBE0/6-31G(d,p) level of theory<sup>4,5</sup> in the gas phase, using Gaussian 16 revision A. 03.<sup>1</sup> TDA-DFT<sup>6,7</sup> calculations at the PBE0/6-31G(d,p) level<sup>4,5</sup> and SCS-CC2<sup>17</sup> calculations with cc-pVDZ<sup>5</sup> basis set were used for SOC matrix element calculation using ORCA 5.0.3 program.<sup>18</sup>

*General synthetic procedures.* All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received. Air-sensitive reactions were performed under a nitrogen atmosphere using Schlenk techniques, no special precautions were taken to exclude air or moisture during work-up. DCM was obtained from a MBraun SPS5 solvent purification system. Flash column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (Silica-P from Silicycle, 60 Å, 40-63 µm). Analytical thin-layer-chromatography (TLC) was performed with silica plates with aluminum backings (250 µm with F-254 indicator). TLC visualization was accomplished by 254/365 nm UV lamp. HPLC analysis was conducted on a Shimadzu LC-40 HPLC equipped with a Shim-pack GIST 3µm C18 reverse phase analytical column. GCMS analysis was conducted using a Shimadzu QP2010SE GC-MS equipped with a Shimadzu SH-Rtx-1 column (30 m × 0.25 mm). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Advance spectrometer (400 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and either 101 or 126 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C). The following abbreviations have been used for multiplicity assignments: “s” for singlet, “d” for doublet, “t” for triplet, “m” for multiplet, and “dd” for doublet of doublets. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra

were referenced residual solvent peaks with respect to TMS ( $\delta = 0$  ppm). Melting points were measured using open-ended capillaries on an Electrothermal 1101D Mel-Temp apparatus and are uncorrected. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) was performed in the School of Chemistry of the University of Leeds. HPLC analysis was conducted on a Shimadzu LC-40 HPLC equipped with a GPC using a Shim-pack GPC-803 column with THF as mobile phase.

*Electrochemistry Measurements.* Cyclic Voltammetry (CV) analysis was performed on an Electrochemical Analyzer potentiostat model 620E from CH Instruments at a sweep rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) was conducted with an increment potential of  $0.01 \text{ V}$  and a pulse amplitude, width, and period of  $50 \text{ mV}$ ,  $0.06$ , and  $0.5 \text{ s}$ , respectively. Samples were prepared as dichloromethane solutions, degassed by sparging with dichloromethane  $\text{N}_2$  for 5 minutes before measurements. All measurements were performed using  $0.1 \text{ M}$  dichloromethane solution of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate ( $[\text{nBu}_4\text{N}]\text{PF}_6$ ). An  $\text{Ag}/\text{Ag}^+$  electrode was used as the reference electrode, while a glassy carbon electrode and a platinum wire were used as the working electrode and counter electrode, respectively. The redox potentials are reported relative to a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) with a ferrocenium/ferrocene ( $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ ) redox couple as the internal standard ( $0.46 \text{ V vs. SCE}$ ).<sup>19</sup> The HOMO and LUMO energies were determined using the relation  $E_{\text{HOMO/LUMO}} = -(E_{\text{ox}} / E_{\text{red}} + 4.8) \text{ eV}$ , where  $E_{\text{ox}}$  and  $E_{\text{red}}$  are the onset of anodic and cathodic peak potentials, respectively calculated from DPV relative to  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$ .<sup>20</sup>

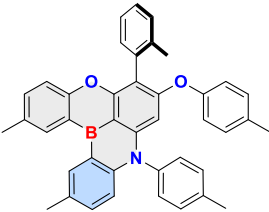
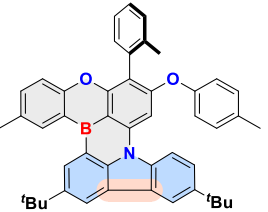
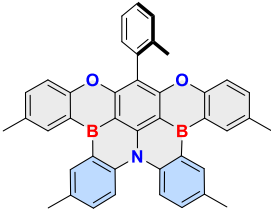
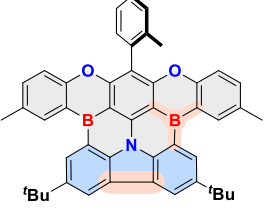
*Photophysical measurements.* Optically dilute solutions of concentrations on the order of  $10^{-5}$  were prepared in spectroscopic or HPLC grade solvents for absorption and emission analysis. Organic thin films for photophysical measurements (except for streak camera measurements) were fabricated on quartz substrates, which were pre-cleaned using acetone and isopropanol followed by 15 min UV treatment (NL-UV253, Nippon Laser & Electronics Lab., Japan) just prior to the film preparation to remove adsorbed organic species before deposition. Thin films for the streak camera measurements were prepared on silicon substrates. All the films were fabricated by vacuum thermal evaporation at a pressure below  $10^{-4} \text{ Pa}$ . UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded at room temperature using a Lambda 950-PKA spectrophotometer (Perkin-Elmer, USA).  $1 \text{ cm}$  quartz cuvettes were used for the solutions. Stead-state emission spectra were recorded using an FP-8600 fluorometer (JASCO, Japan). Phosphorescence measurements were taken at  $77 \text{ K}$  (delay  $115 \text{ ms}$ , gate  $150 \text{ ms}$ ). A Quantaaurus-QY C11347-01 (Hamamatsu Photonics, Japan) integrating sphere was used to measure the absolute PL quantum yields. The transient photoluminescence decay characteristics were measured with a Quantaaurus-Tau C11367-03 (Hamamatsu Photonics, Japan) instrument and a streak camera system (C10910-01, Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan) with a third harmonic YAG laser ( $355 \text{ nm}$ ,  $10 \text{ Hz}$ , PL-2250, EKSPLA, Lithuania) as an excitation source. The thicknesses of all the films were measured using Variable-angle spectroscopic ellipsometry with an M-

2000U (J.A. Woollam Co. Inc., USA) instrument. The angular dependent PL properties were simulated using SETFOS 5.1 (Fluxim) software to determine the dipole orientation of the doped films and consequently to determine the light outcoupling efficiency. ( $EQE = \gamma \times \eta_v \times \Phi_{PL} \times \eta_{OC}$ , where  $\gamma$  is the charge balance and  $\eta_v$  denotes the efficiency of radiative exciton production).

*Device fabrication and measurement of electroluminescence characteristics.* OLEDs were fabricated on glass substrates coated with a patterned transparent ITO conductive layer (50 nm). ITO glass substrates were cleaned using detergent, followed by de-ionized water, acetone, and isopropanol and dried with isopropanol. Then, they were subjected to the UV treatment for 15 min just prior to the device fabrication. The devices were fabricated by using vacuum deposition under  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa. The current density-voltage-luminance ( $J$ - $V$ - $L$ ) characteristics of the OLEDs were assessed using a source meter (Keysight B2911A, Keysight Technologies, USA) and a luminance meter (CS-2000, Konica Minolta, Japan) at a constant DC current at room temperature.

## 2. Synthesis and Characterization

Table S1. Molecular structures of **1B-DTACrs**, **2B-DTACrs**, **1B-CzCr**s, and **2B-CzCr**s.

	Diphenylamine-containing compounds <sup>21</sup> (Previous study)	Carbazole-containing compounds (This study)
Asymmetric	 <p><b>1B-DTACr</b></p>	 <p><b>1B-CzCr</b></p>
Symmetric	 <p><b>2B-DTACr</b></p>	 <p><b>2B-CzCr</b></p>

The synthetic route to **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs** is outlined in Figure S1. 4,4'-((5-Bromo-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))bis(methylbenzene) (compound **1**), of which the synthesis was reported in our previous study<sup>21</sup> was first reacted with 3,6-di-*tert*-butylcarbazole (compound **2**) by palladium-catalyzed Buchwald-Hartwig cross-coupling reaction. Then, bromination of compound **3** was performed using N-bromosuccinimide at low temperatures. The brominated compound **4** was further coupled with *o*-tolylboronic acid, resulting in compound **5** in a good yield (95%). **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs** were obtained following a bora-Friedel-Crafts reaction with the help of BI<sub>3</sub>, in 15 and 12% yield, respectively.

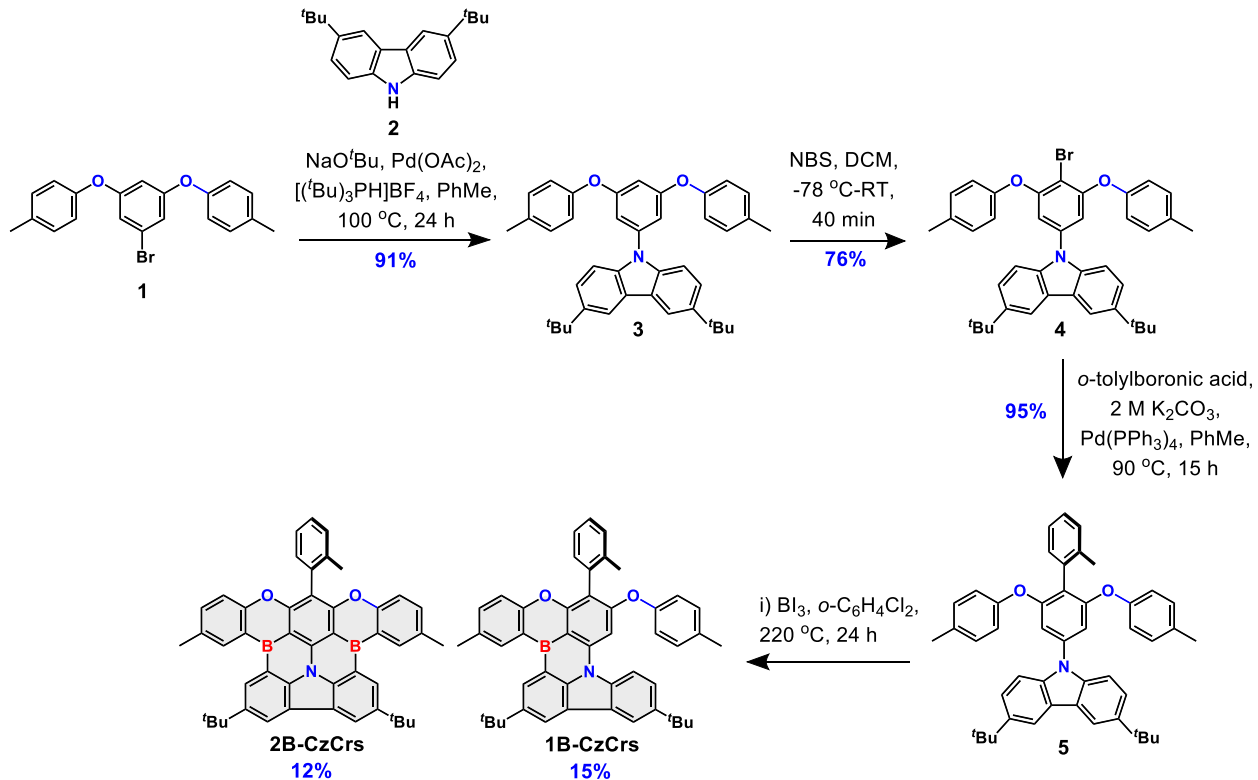
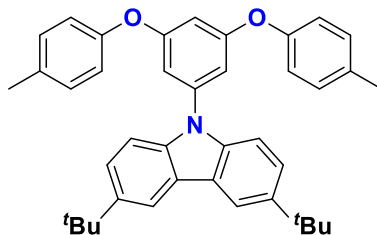


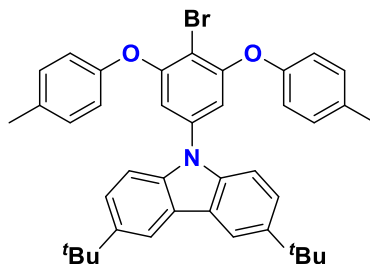
Figure S1. The synthetic route of the **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs**.

### 9-(3,5-bis(p-tolyloxy)phenyl)-3,6-di-*tert*-butyl-9H-carbazole (3)



To a Schlenk flask under nitrogen was added, 4,4'-((5-bromo-1,3-phenylene)bis(oxy))bis(methylbenzene) (**1**) (12.35 g, 33.45 mmol, 1 equiv.), 3,6-di-*tert*-butyl-9H-carbazole (11.21 g, 40.13 mmol, 1.2 equiv.), Sodium *tert*-butoxide (9.64 g, 100.3 mmol, 3.00 equiv.), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.660 g, 2.943 mmol, 0.088 equiv.), [(*t*Bu)<sub>3</sub>PH]BF<sub>4</sub> (0.349 g, 1.204 mmol, 0.036 equiv.) and 100 mL toluene. After stirring at 110 °C for 24 h, the reaction mixture was brought to RT and extracted with 200 mL DCM. This was then washed 3 times with 150 mL DI water and the organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate. The crude mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography using DCM:hexane = 2:8. The corresponding fractions were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a white solid (17.3 g), which was filtered and dried. **Yield:** 91%. **R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.39 (DCM:hexane = 20:80 on silica gel). **Mp:** 176-179 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ 8.12 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 0.6 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 0.7 Hz, 2H), 7.21 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.07 – 7.01 (m, 4H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 1.48 (s, 18H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)** δ **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, Chloroform-*d*)** δ 160, 153, 143, 140, 138, 133, 130, 123, 123, 119, 116, 110, 109, 106, 34, 32, 20. **HR-MS [M]<sup>+</sup> Calculated:** (C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>42</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) 568.3216; **Found:** 568.3201.

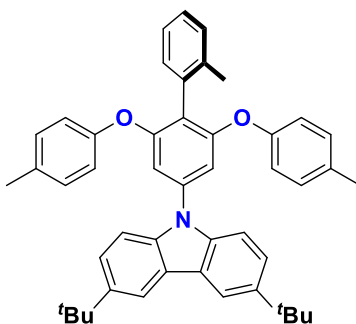
### 9-(4-bromo-3,5-bis(p-tolyloxy)phenyl)-3,6-di-*tert*-butyl-9H-carbazole (4)



Compound **3** (5.00 g, 8.80 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added to 50 mL DCM in an RB flask in air and cooled to -78 °C. To this solution, *N*-bromosuccinimide (1.72 g, 9.69 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) was added and stirred at that temperature for 10 min, followed by stirring at RT for 30 min. The completion of the reaction was confirmed by thin layer chromatography. The reaction was quenched by the addition of 50 mL DCM and 100 mL 5%

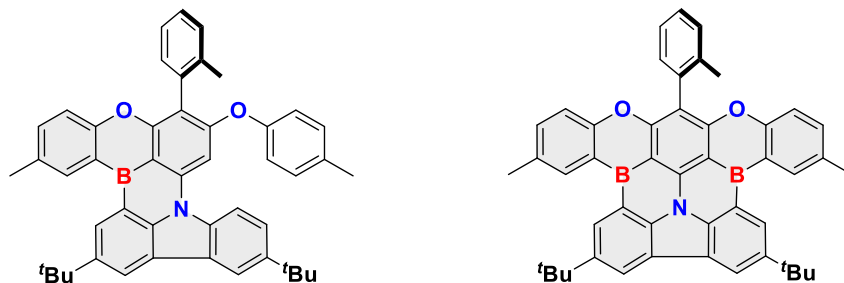
NaOH solution. The organic layer was then separated and washed with DI water (100 mL  $\times$  2). The DCM layer was then concentrated under reduced pressure followed by sonication in 50 mL methanol for 10 min. The resultant white solid was filtered and washed with methanol (30 mL) to give 4.5 g of compound 4. **Yield:** 79%. **R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.54 (DCM:hexane = 20:80 on silica gel). **Mp:** 185-188 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  8.06 (dd,  $J$  = 1.9, 0.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.25 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 7.20 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 7.07 – 7.00 (m, 4H), 6.81 (d,  $J$  = 0.8 Hz, 2H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.44 (s, 18H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  157, 143, 138, 138, 134, 130, 123, 123, 119, 116, 111, 109, 103, 34, 31, 20. **HR-MS [M]<sup>+</sup> Calculated:** (C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>41</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>) 646.2315; **Found:** 646.2313.

### 3,6-di-*tert*-butyl-9-(2'-methyl-2,6-bis(*p*-tolyl-*oxy*)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-9H-carbazole (5)



Compound 4 (8.00 g, 12.37 mmol, 1.00 equiv.), *o*-tolylboronic acid (4.04 g, 18.5 mmol, 1.5 equiv.), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (5.13 g, 37.1 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were added to a nitrogen degassed mixture of toluene and water (50 mL:10 mL) in an RB flask. To this solution under the protection of nitrogen, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.714 g, 0.618 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) was added and stirred at 90 °C. After 24 h, the reaction mixture was cooled to RT and extracted with DCM (150 mL). The organic layer was then washed with water (100 mL  $\times$  3) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The crude mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography using DCM:hexane = 2:8. The corresponding fractions were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford a white solid, which was cooled at -20 °C for 2 h and filtered to obtain the product as a white solid (7.70 g). **Yield:** 95%. **R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.28 (DCM:hexane = 20:80 on silica gel). **Mp:** 212-214 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J$  = 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (dd,  $J$  = 8.7, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 3.9 Hz, 3H), 7.35 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.12 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 4H), 6.97 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 6.94 (s, 2H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.32 (s, 6H), 1.52 (s, 18H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)**  $\delta$  157, 154, 143, 138, 138, 137, 133, 132, 130, 130, 127, 125, 123, 123, 123, 122, 119, 116, 110, 109, 134, 32, 20, 20. **HR-MS [M]<sup>+</sup> Calculated:** (C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>48</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>) 658.3685; **Found:** 658.3659.

**2,11,14-trimethyl-6-(*o*-tolyl)-7-(*p*-tolyl)-5-oxa-8b-aza-15b-borabenz[*a*]naphtho[1,2,3-*hi*]aceanthrylene (1B-Cz-Crs); 2,5,8,16-tetramethyl-12-(*o*-tolyl)-11,13-dioxa-3a2-aza-6b,17b-diboraindeno[4',3',2',1':3,4,5]phenanthro[2,1,10,9-fghi]pentacene (2B-Cz-Crs)**



Compound **5** (1.5 g, 2.8 mmol, 1 equiv.), BI<sub>3</sub> (4.46 g, 11.4 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) and 2,6-di-*tert*-butylpyridine (1.53 mL, 6.84 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) were dissolved in 10 mL of 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene in a Schlenk under nitrogen at 0 °C. After stirring at 220 °C for 24 h, the cold reaction mixture was diluted with 150 mL of DCM. To this solution, 20 mL saturated 20% sodium acetate solution was added with stirring. The organic layer was then separated and washed with water (3 × 100 mL) followed by drying over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After concentrating the organic layer in vacuo, the crude product was dissolved in toluene (5 mL) and acetic acid (5 mL) at room temperature. After stirring at 80 °C for 18 h, saturated sodium carbonate (100 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, and then the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (50 mL, 3×). The crude mixture was purified by silica gel flash column chromatography using DCM:hexane = 3:7; to afford **1B-CzCrs** (220 mg) (**Yield:** 15%) and **2B-CzCrs** (180 mg) (**Yield:** 12%) both as a yellow solid.

**1B-CzCrs:** **R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.56 (DCM:hexane = 3:7 on silica gel). **Mp:** 269-271 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)** δ 8.96 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.63 – 8.57 (m, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.24 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.29 (m, 3H), 7.26 – 7.18 (m, 3H), 7.09 – 7.00 (m, 2H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 9H), 1.51 (s, 9H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)** δ 160, 158, 157, 154, 144, 144, 142, 141, 138, 137, 134, 133, 133, 133, 131, 131, 130, 129, 129, 127, 126, 125, 124, 123, 120, 119, 117, 117, 114, 113, 113, 97, 35, 34, 32, 31, 21, 20, 20. **Anal. Calcd. For C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>44</sub>BNO<sub>2</sub>:** C, 84.80%; H, 6.66%; N, 2.10%. **Anal. Found:** C, 84.83%; H, 6.46%; N, 2.01. **HR-MS [M+H]<sup>+</sup> Calculated:** (C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>45</sub>BNO<sub>2</sub>) 666.3543; **Found:** 666.3555. 99.7% pure on HPLC analysis, retention time 13.1 minutes in 75% THF 25% water.

**2B-CzCrs:** **R<sub>f</sub>:** 0.48 (DCM:hexane = 3:7 on silica gel). **Mp:** > 290 °C. **<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)** δ 8.93 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2H), 8.61 (m, 2H), 8.55 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.58 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.44 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.27 (s, 1H), 2.57 (s, 6H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 18H). **<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)** δ





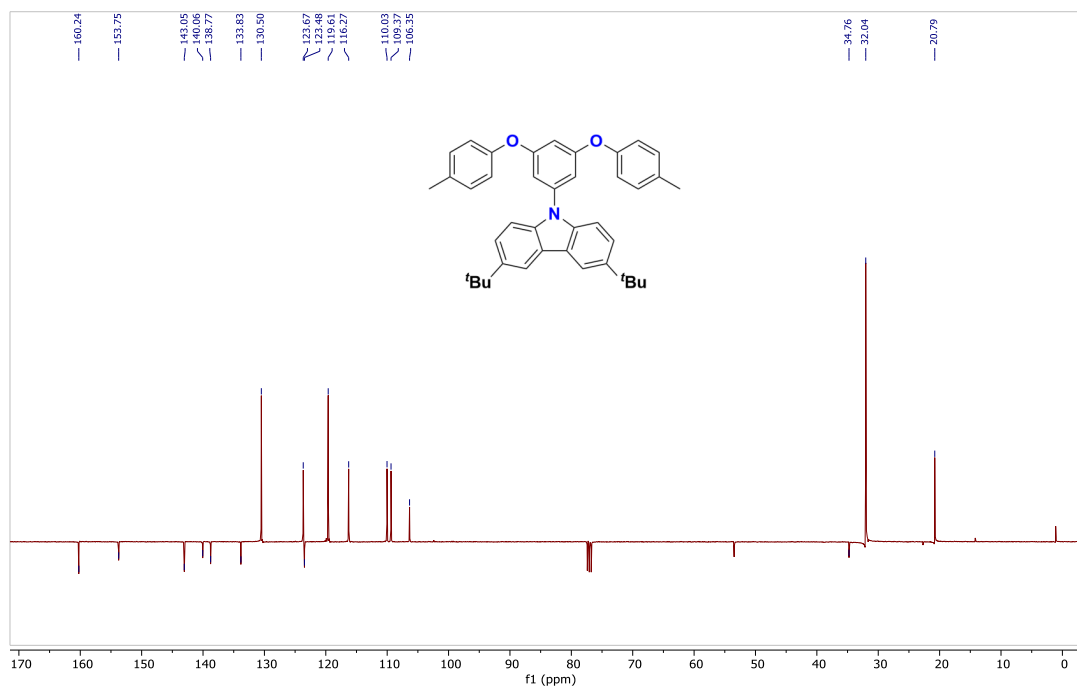


Figure S3. <sup>13</sup>DEPTq-135 (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **3**.

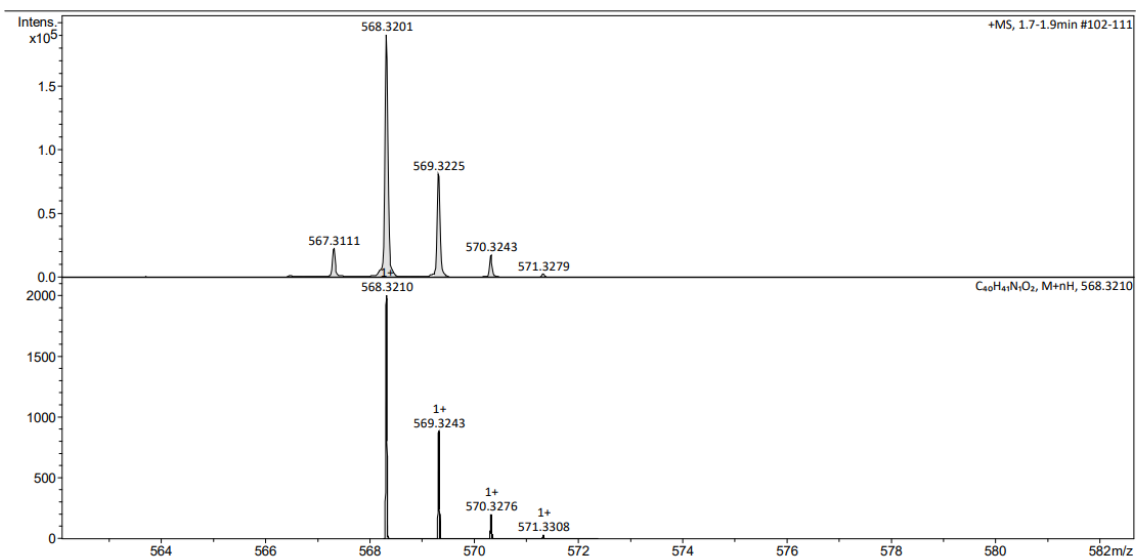


Figure S4. HRMS of compound **3**.

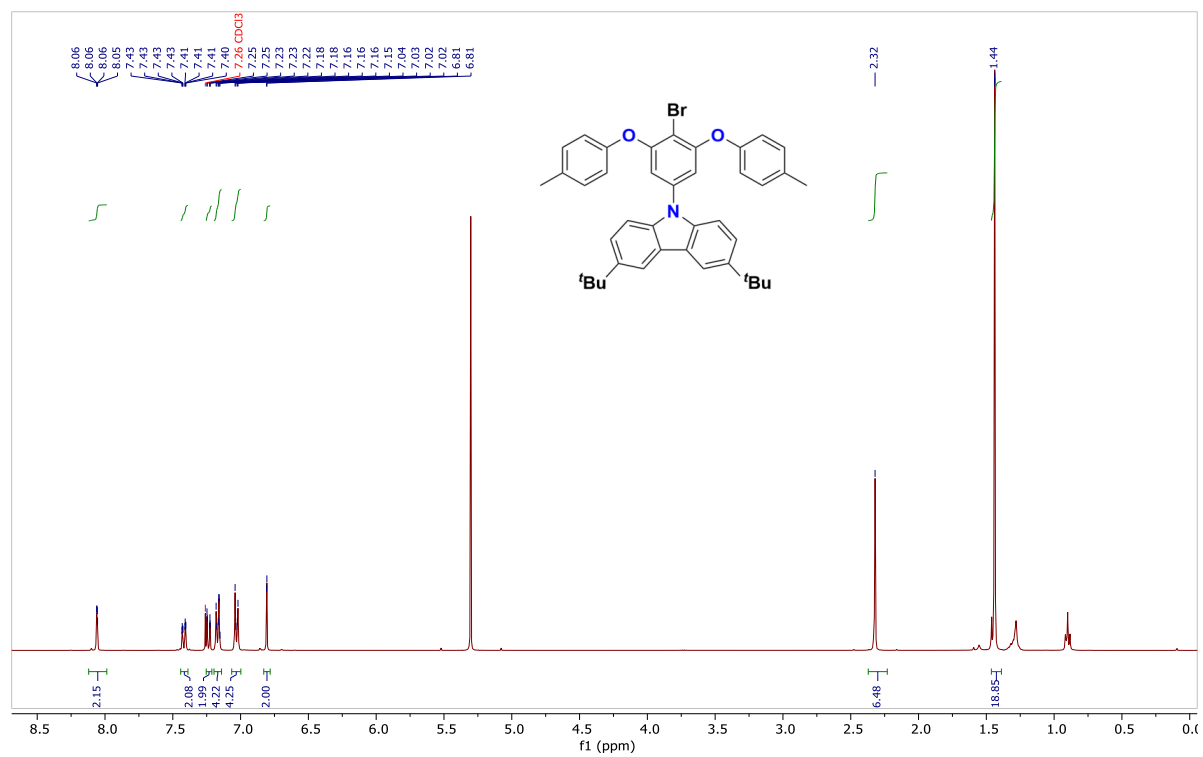


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of **4**.

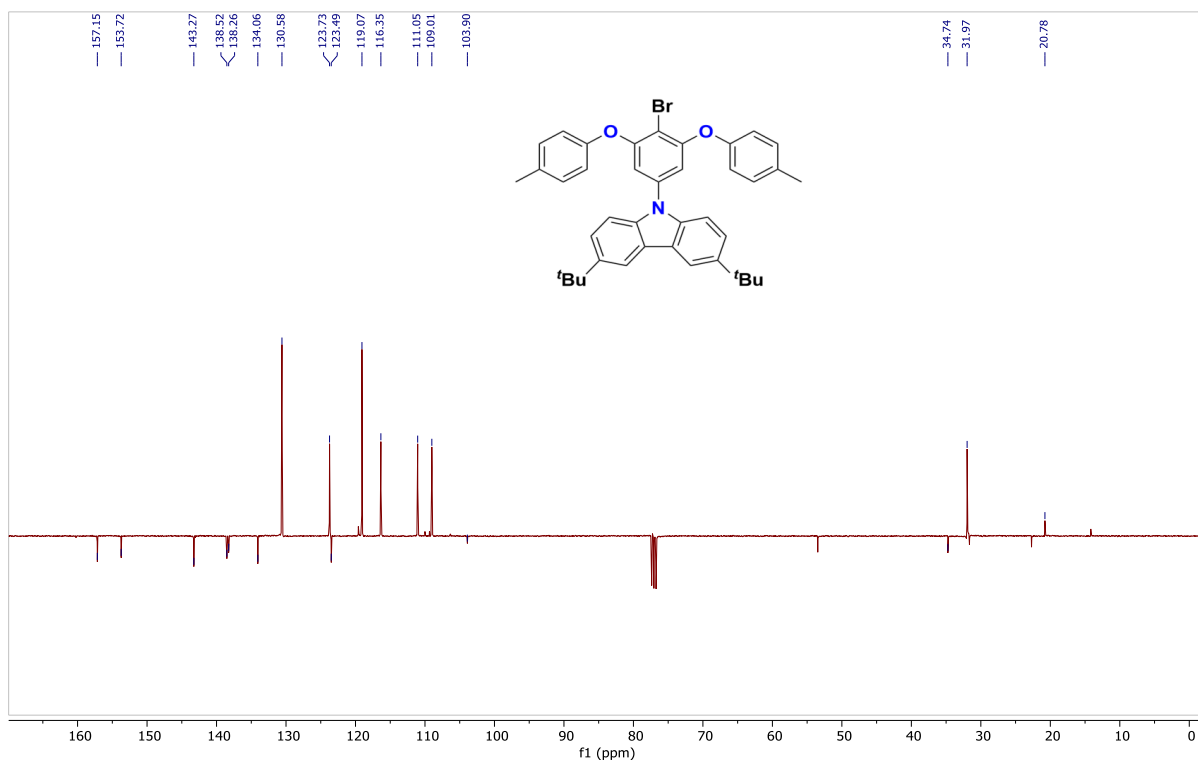


Figure S6. DEPTq-135 (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of **4**.

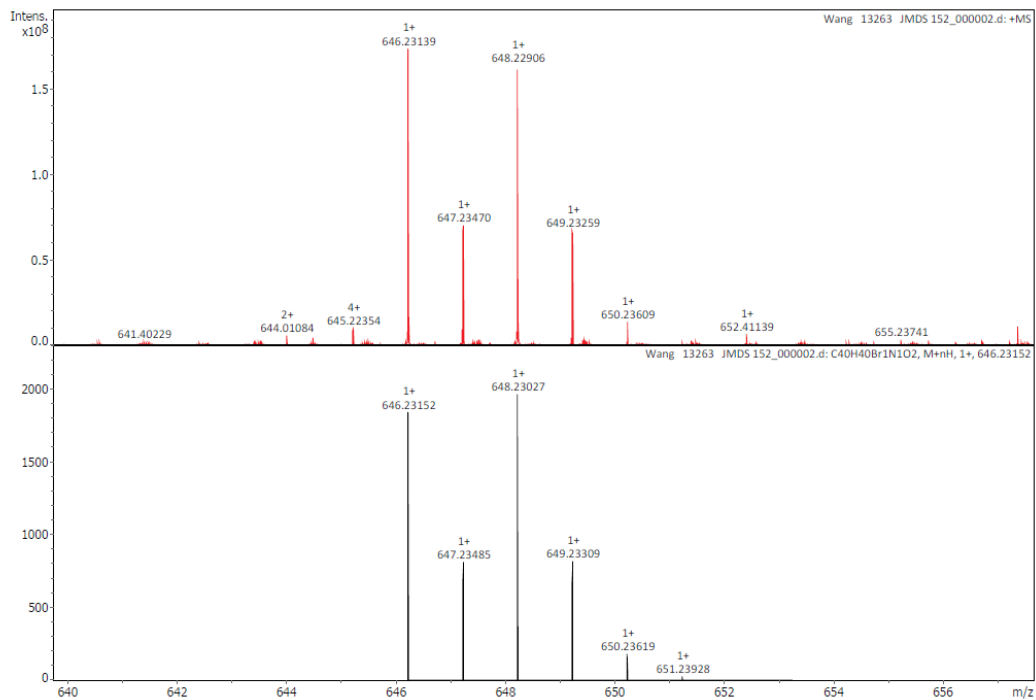


Figure S7. HRMS of compound **4**.

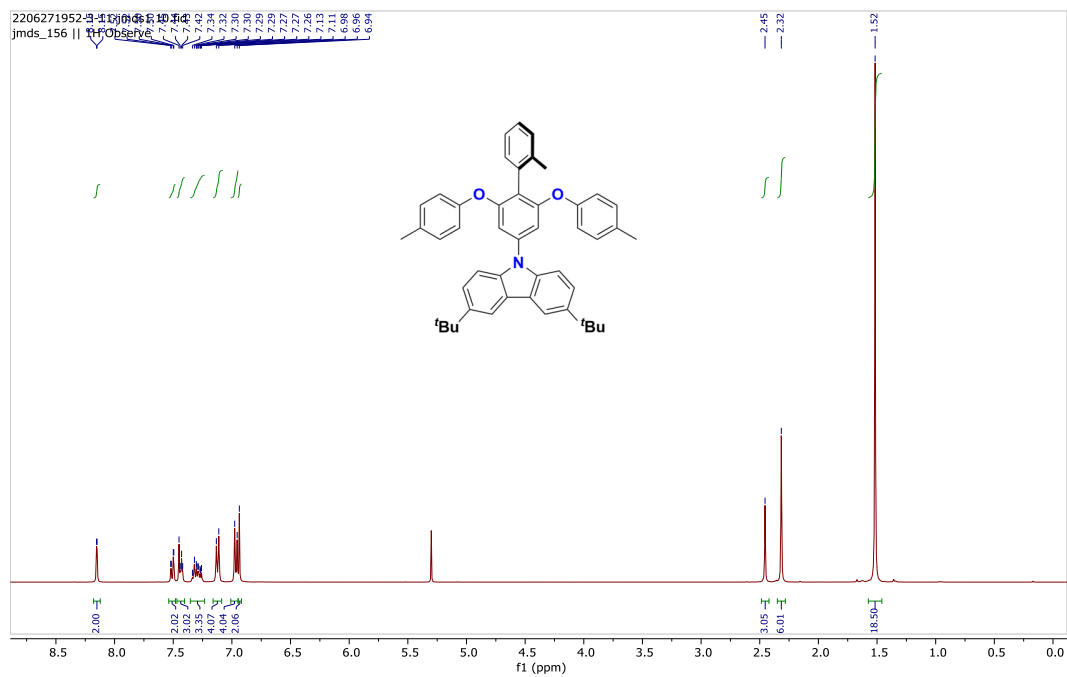


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) spectrum of **3**.

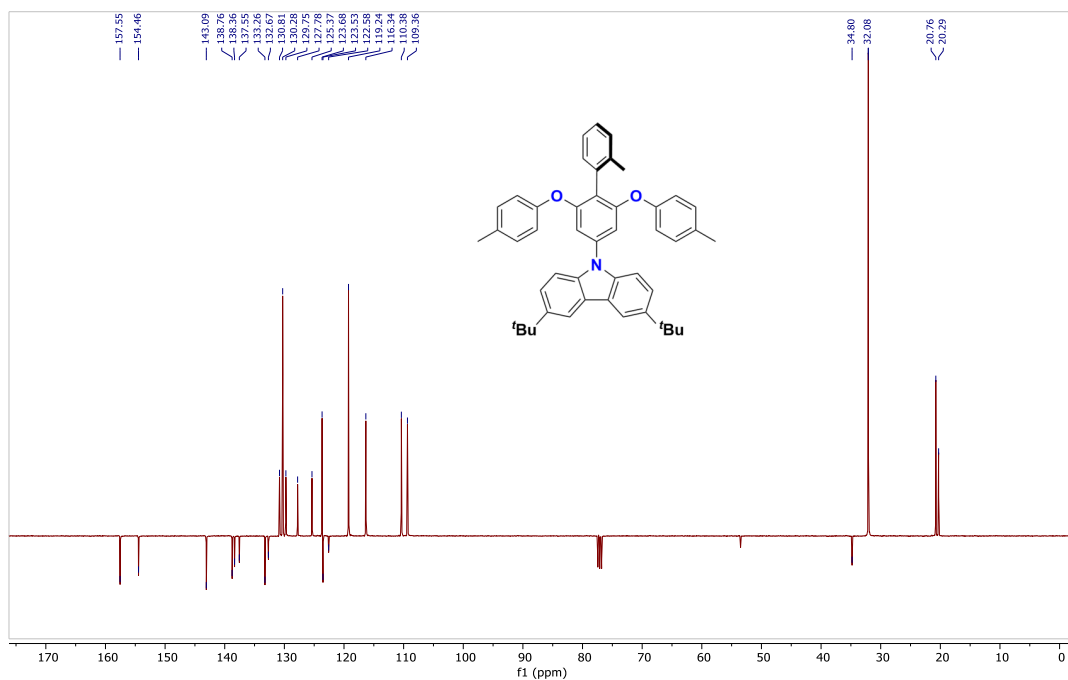


Figure S9. DEPTq-135 (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **5**.

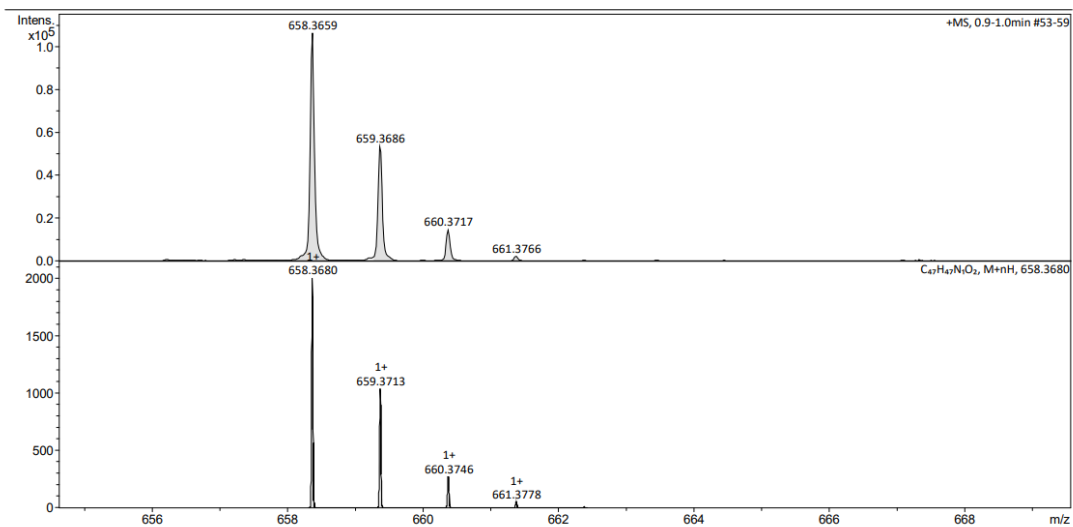


Figure S10. HRMS of compound **5**.

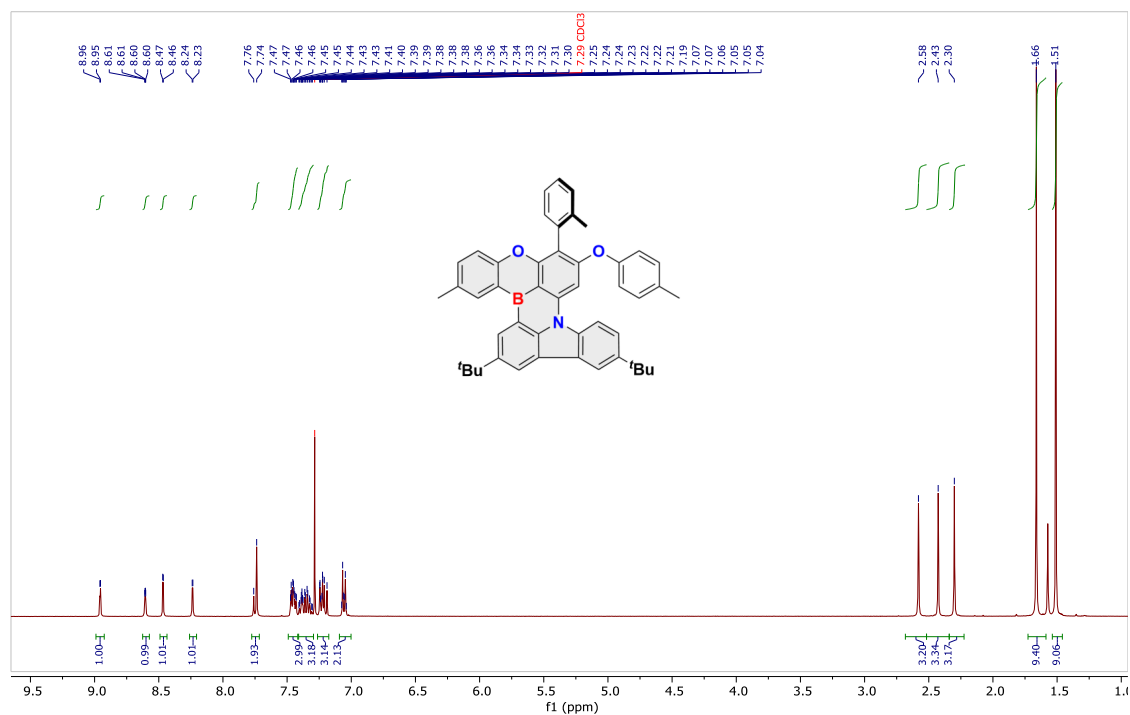


Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **1B-CzCrS**.

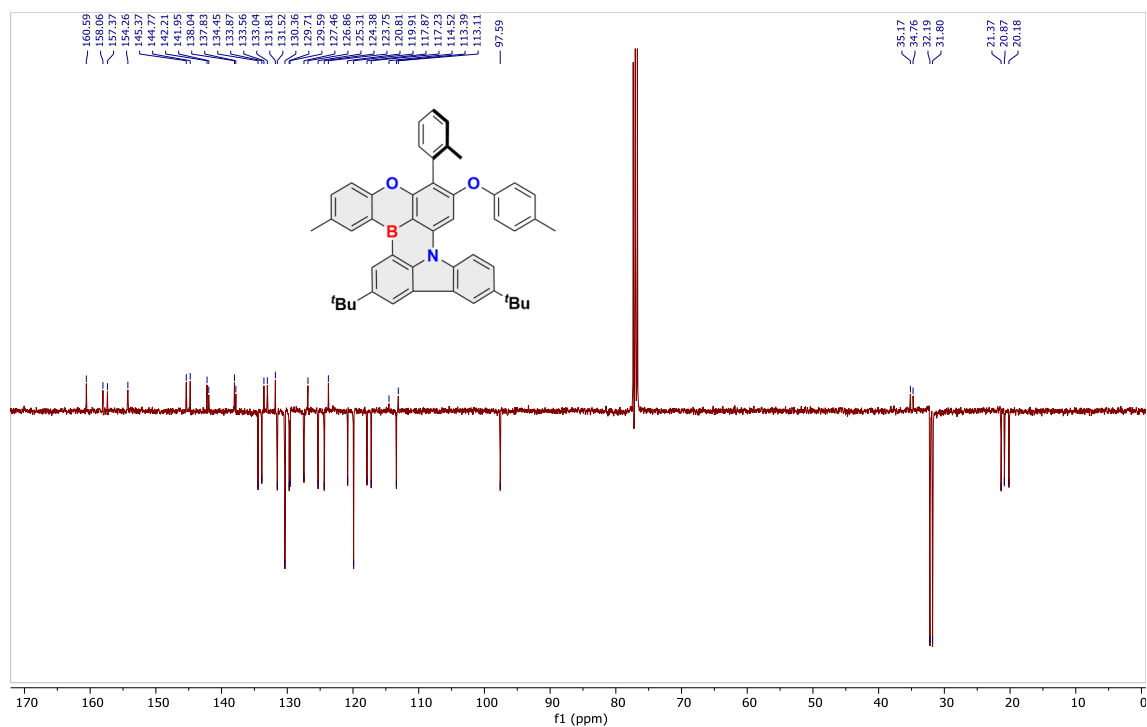


Figure S12. DEPTq-135 (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **1B-CzCrS**.

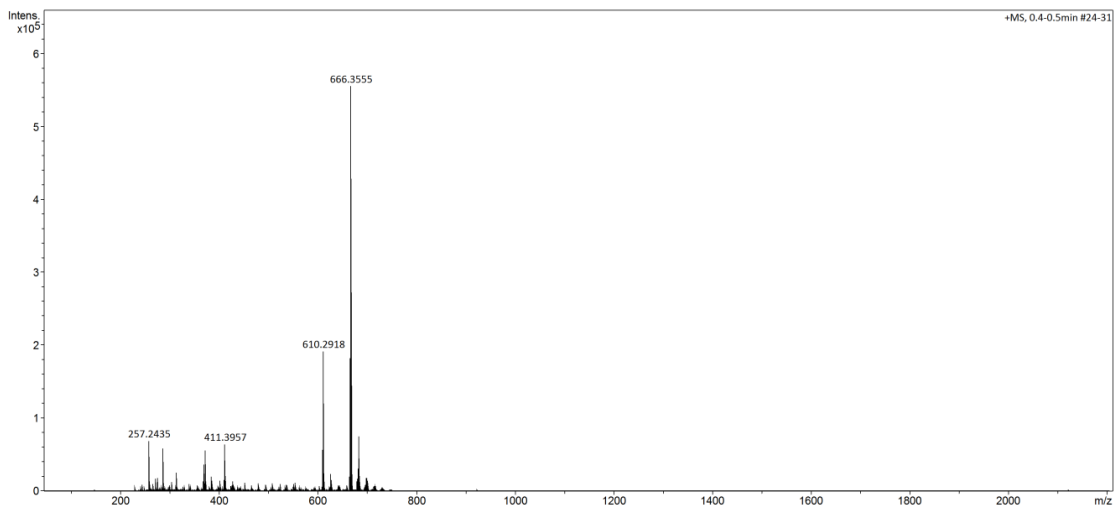


Figure S13. HRMS of compound **1B-CzCr**.

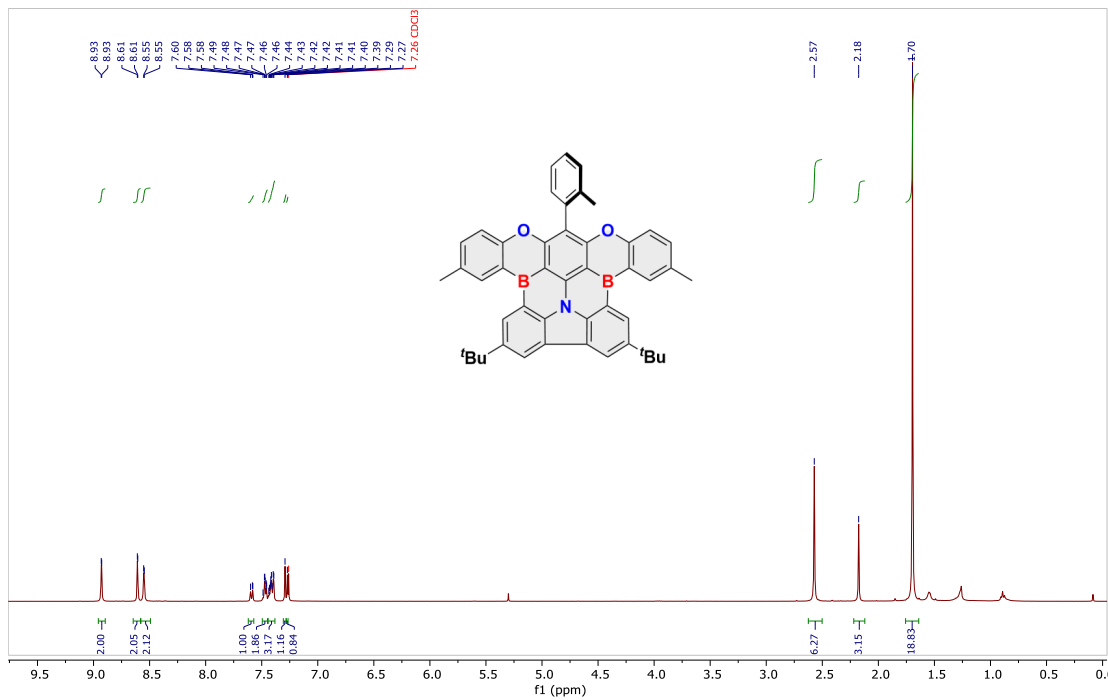


Figure S14. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **2B-CzCr**.

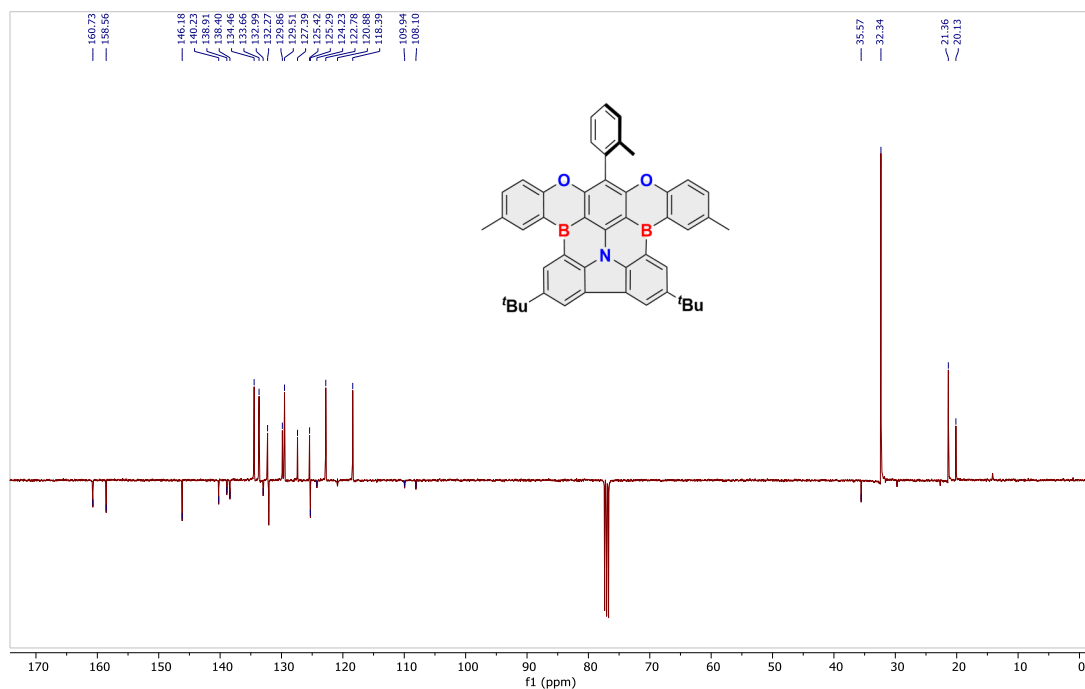


Figure S15. DEPTq-135 (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of **2B-CzCrs**.

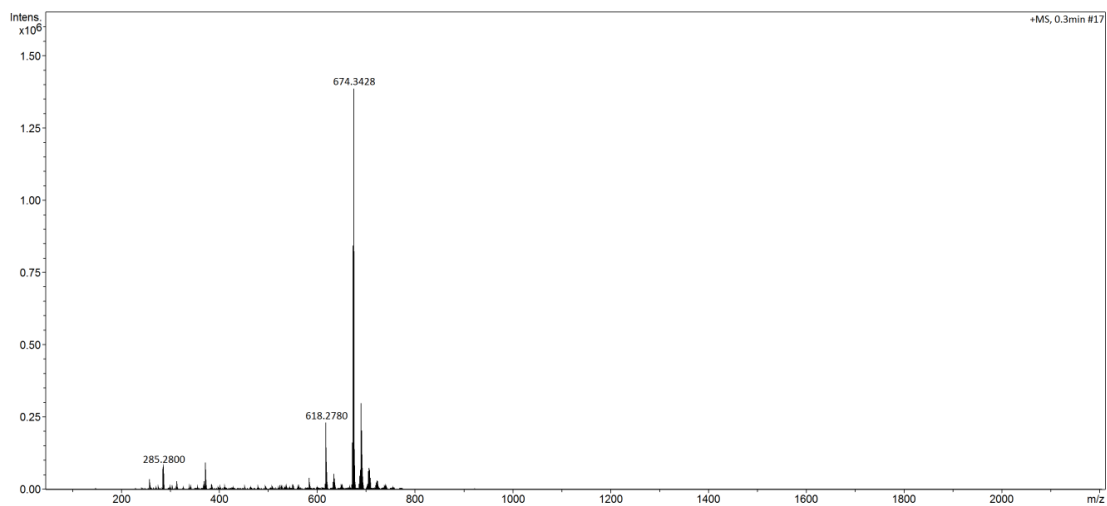
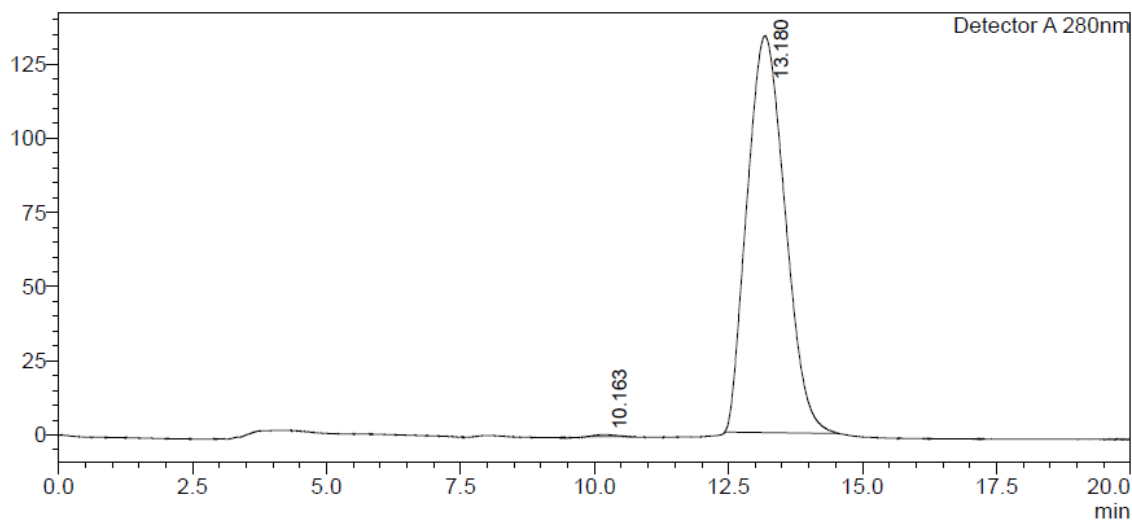


Figure S16. HRMS of compound **2B-CzCrs**.



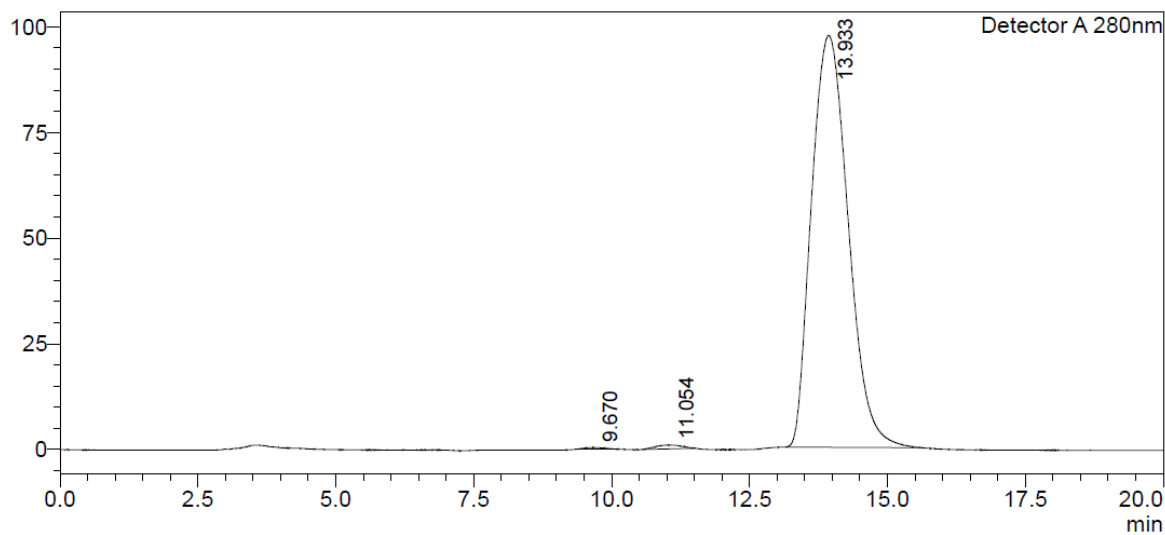


**<Peak Table>**

Detector A 280nm

Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Area/Height	Width at 5% Height
1	10.163	19109	650	0.289	29.389	0.829
2	13.180	6589289	133749	99.711	49.266	1.540
Total		6608399	134400	100.000		

Figure S17. HPLC trace of **1B-CzCrs**.



**<Peak Table>**

Detector A 280nm

Peak#	Ret. Time	Area	Height	Area%	Area/Height	Width at 5% Height
1	9.670	10229	391	0.225	26.153	0.711
2	11.054	29624	897	0.651	33.028	0.894
3	13.933	4512316	97386	99.125	46.334	1.461
Total		4552169	98674	100.000		

Figure S18. HPLC trace of **2B-CzCRs**.

### 3. Electrochemistry

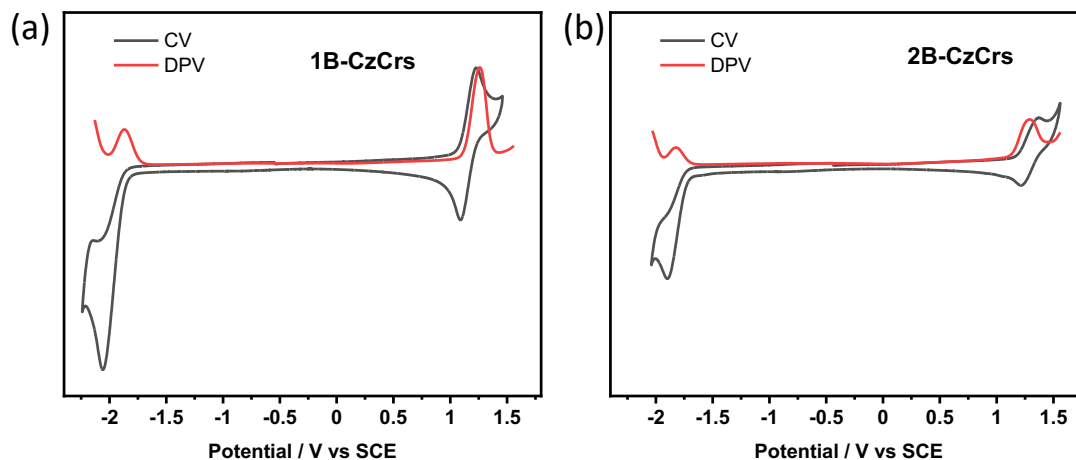


Figure S19. Cyclic and differential pulse voltammograms (CV and DPV) of (a) **1B-CzCrS** and (b) **2B-CzCrS**, measured in degassed DCM with 0.1 M  $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as the supporting electrolyte and  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$  as the external reference (0.46 V vs SCE);<sup>19</sup> Scan rate = 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .

Table S2. Electrochemical data of **1B-CzCrS** and **2B-CzCrS**.

Compound	$E_{\text{ox}}^a$ / V	$E_{\text{red}}^a$ / V	HOMO <sup>b</sup> / eV	LUMO <sup>b</sup> / eV	$\Delta E^c$ / eV
<b>1B-CzCrS</b>	0.80	-2.33	-5.60	-2.47	3.13
<b>2B-CzCrS</b>	0.82	-2.28	-5.62	-2.52	3.10
<b>1B-DTACrS</b> <sup>d</sup>	1.07	-2.10	-5.42	-2.24	3.17
<b>2B-DTACrS</b> <sup>d</sup>	1.17	-1.89	-5.51	-2.46	3.05

<sup>a</sup> Potential values obtained from the DPV peak values, measured in degassed dichloromethane with 0.1 M  $n\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$  as the supporting electrolyte and referenced with respect to SCE ( $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+ = 0.46$  eV).<sup>19</sup> <sup>b</sup> HOMO and LUMO energy levels determined using the relation  $E_{\text{HOMO/LUMO}} = -(E_{\text{ox}}/E_{\text{red}} + 4.6)$  eV (using  $\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+$  as the external reference);<sup>14</sup> <sup>c</sup>  $\Delta E = |\text{HOMO-LUMO}|$  eV. <sup>d</sup> Reported values from the literature.<sup>21</sup>

#### 4. Thermal gravimetric analysis

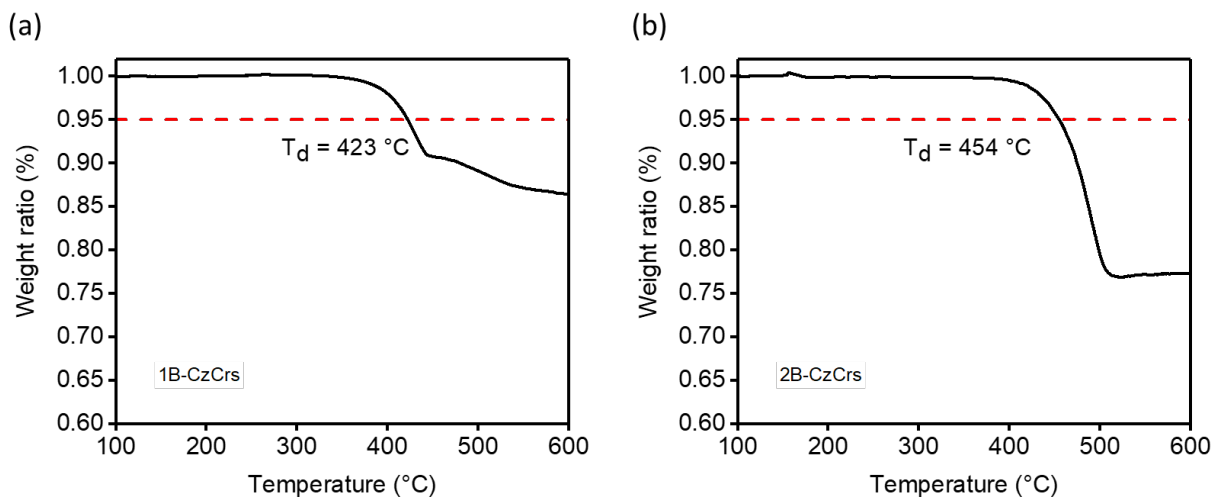


Figure S20. Thermal stability of **1B-CzCrS** (a) and **2B-CzCrS** (b) determined by thermogravimetric analysis (the decomposition temperature,  $T_d$  determined from the temperature at 5 wt% mass loss).

#### 5. Theoretical Calculations and Photophysical Properties

Table S3. HOMO, LUMO, and  $E_g$  values of **1B-CzCrS**, **2B-CzCrS**, and **1B-DTACrS**.

Compound	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	$E_g$ (eV)
<b>1B-CzCrS</b>	-5.39	-1.51	3.77
<b>2B-CzCrS</b>	-5.47	-1.69	3.88
<b>1B-DTACrS</b> <sup>a</sup>	-5.27	-1.24	4.03
<b>2B-DTACrS</b> <sup>a</sup>	-5.38	-1.47	3.91

<sup>a</sup> Reported values from the literature.<sup>21</sup>

Table S4. Estimated  $S_1$ ,  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ , and  $\Delta E_{ST}$  values for **1B-CzCrs**, **2B-CzCrs**, and **1B-DTACrs** using different calculation methods in the gas phase.

	at SCS-CC2/cc-pVDZ			at TDADFT-PBE0/6-31G**		
	1B-CzCrs (eV)	2B-CzCrs (eV)	1B-DTACrs <sup>a</sup> (eV)	1B-CzCrs (eV)	2B-CzCrs (eV)	1B-DTACrs (eV)
$S_1$	3.00	3.00	3.38	3.11	3.03	3.24
$T_1$	2.84	2.83	3.18	2.78	2.62	2.69
$T_2$	3.29	3.02	3.72	2.99	2.95	3.42
$\Delta E_{S_1-T_1}$	0.16	0.17	0.2	0.33	0.40	0.55
$\Delta E_{S_1-T_2}$	-0.29	-0.02	-0.34	0.13	0.08	-0.18

<sup>a</sup> Reported values in literature.<sup>21</sup>

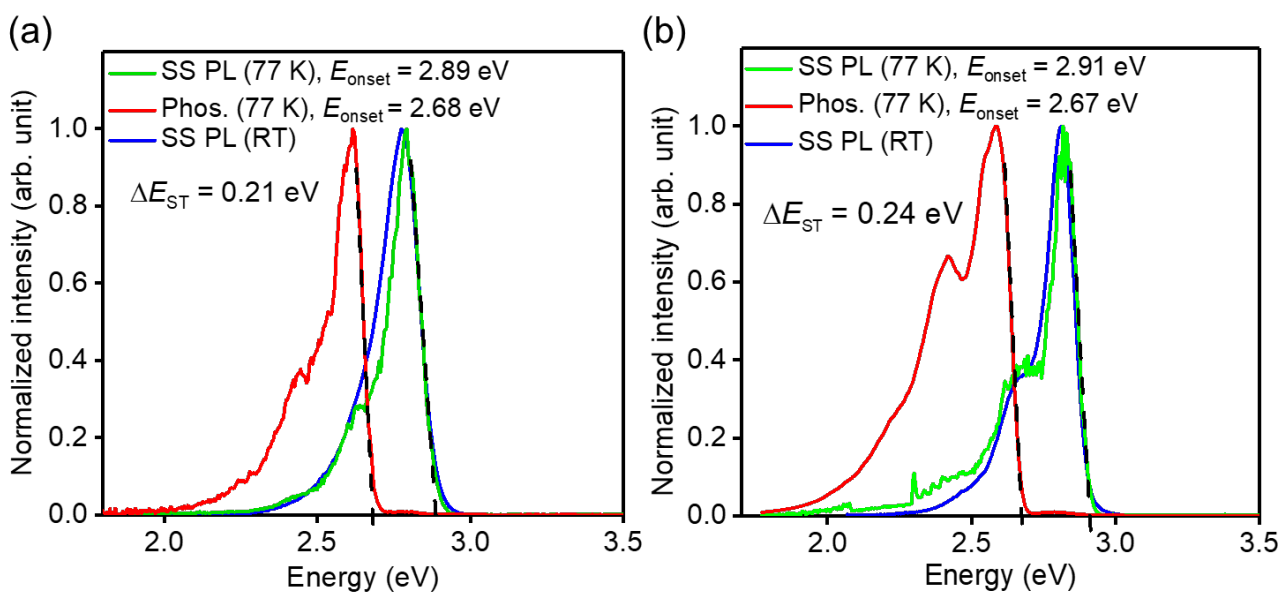


Figure S21. Energy scale representation<sup>16</sup> of steady-state (SS) PL at RT and 77 K and phosphorescence spectra (delay: 115 ms, gate: 150 ms) for (a) **1B-CzCrs** and (b) **2B-CbzCrs** in toluene. ( $\lambda_{exc} = 310$  nm).

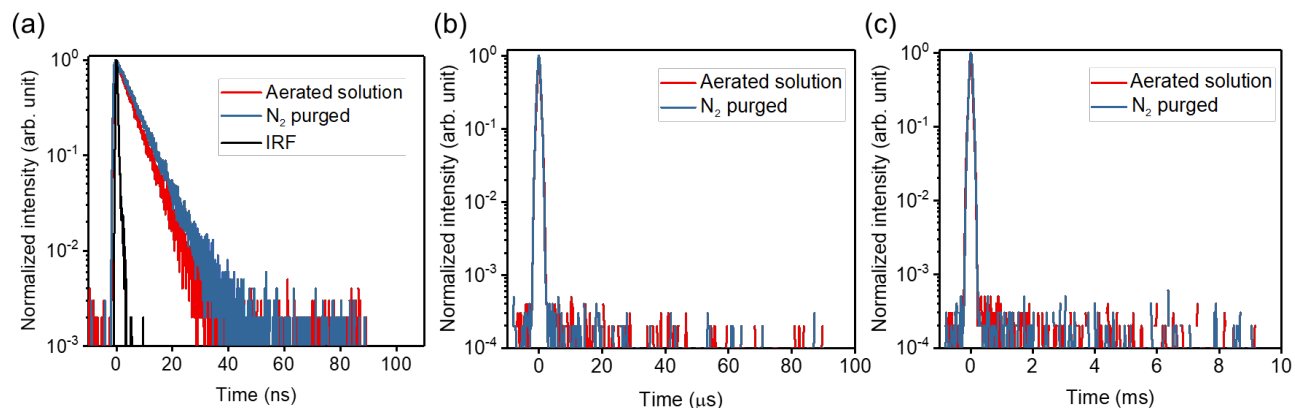


Figure S22. Transient decays of **1B-CzCrS** in toluene at (a) 100 ns, (b) 100  $\mu$ s, and (c) 10 ms time ranges under aerated (red) and  $N_2$ -purged (blue) conditions. (Prompt time range measurements (100 ns) were taken with Quanturus-Tau at  $\lambda_{exc} = 340$  nm, while 100  $\mu$ s and 10 ms range measurements were taken using the Streak camera measurement system at  $\lambda_{exc} = 355$  nm).

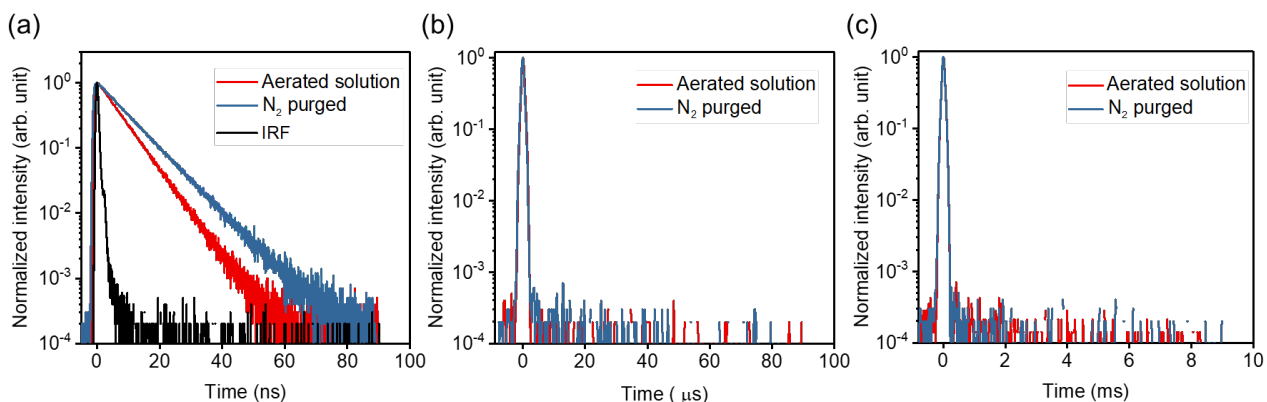


Figure S23. Transient decays of **2B-CzCrS** in toluene at (a) 100 ns, (b) 100  $\mu$ s, and (c) 10 ms time ranges under aerated (red) and  $N_2$ -purged (blue) conditions. (Prompt time range measurements (100 ns) were taken with Quanturus-Tau at  $\lambda_{exc} = 340$  nm, while 100  $\mu$ s and 10 ms range measurements were taken using the Streak camera measurement system at  $\lambda_{exc} = 355$  nm).

Table S5. Photophysical data of 5 wt% doped **1B-CzCr**s, **2B-CzCr**s, **1B-DTACr**s, and **2B-DTACr**s in **mCBP** host.

Emitter	$\Phi_{\text{PL(Ar)}}$ <sup>a</sup> (%)	$\lambda_{\text{PL}}$ <sup>b</sup> (nm)	$S_1$ <sup>c</sup> (eV)	$T_1$ <sup>d</sup> (eV)	$\Delta E_{\text{ST}}$ <sup>c,d</sup> (eV)	FWHM (nm)	$\tau_p$ <sup>e</sup> (ns)	$\tau_d$ <sup>e</sup> (ms)	$k_{\text{RISC}}$ ( $10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ )
<b>1B-CzCr</b> s	67	451	2.89	2.69	0.20	28	5.08	0.33	3.36
<b>2B-CzCr</b> s	59	449	2.91	2.67	0.24	28	8.63	2.98	0.41
<b>1B-DTACr</b> s <sup>f</sup>	83	443	-	-	0.21	28	10	-	-
<b>2B-DTACr</b> s <sup>f</sup>	74	448	-	-	0.16	24	2	0.013	130.0

<sup>a</sup> Absolute  $\Phi_{\text{PL}}$  of thin films was measured using an integrating sphere. <sup>b</sup> Fluorescence maximum at RT ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=310 \text{ nm}$ ). <sup>c</sup> Obtained from the onset of the PL spectrum at 77 K. <sup>d</sup> Obtained from the onset of the phosphorescence at 77 K (delay 115 ms, gate 150 ms,  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 310 \text{ nm}$ ). <sup>e</sup> Observed at emission peak wavelength. <sup>f</sup> Reported values from the literature.<sup>21</sup>

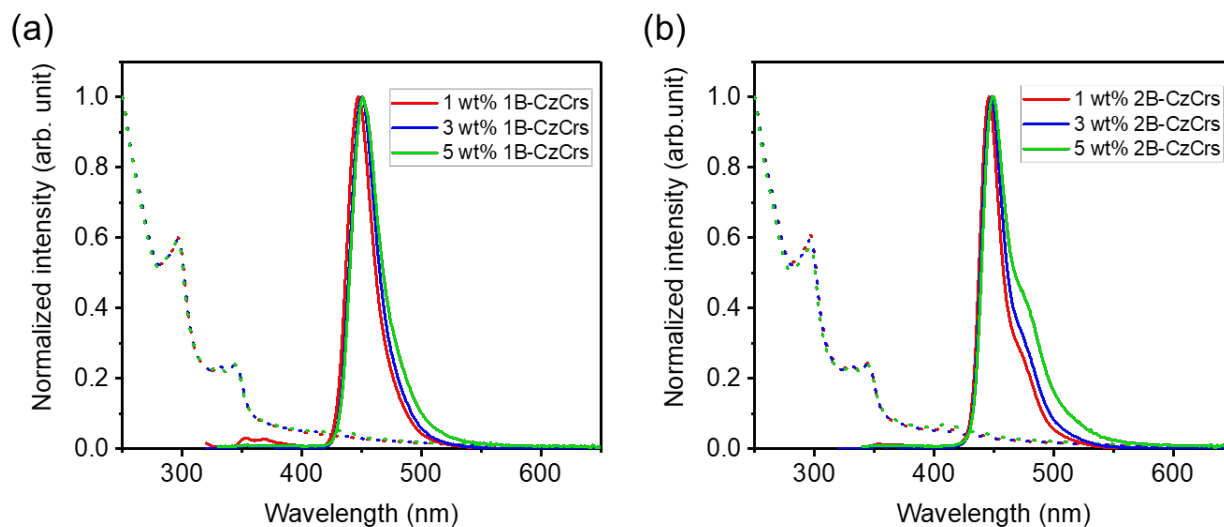


Figure S24. Absorption (dotted lines) and fluorescence (solid lines) spectra of (a) **1B-CzCr**s and (b) **2B-CzCr**s doped **mCBP** films at the various concentrations ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=310 \text{ nm}$ ).

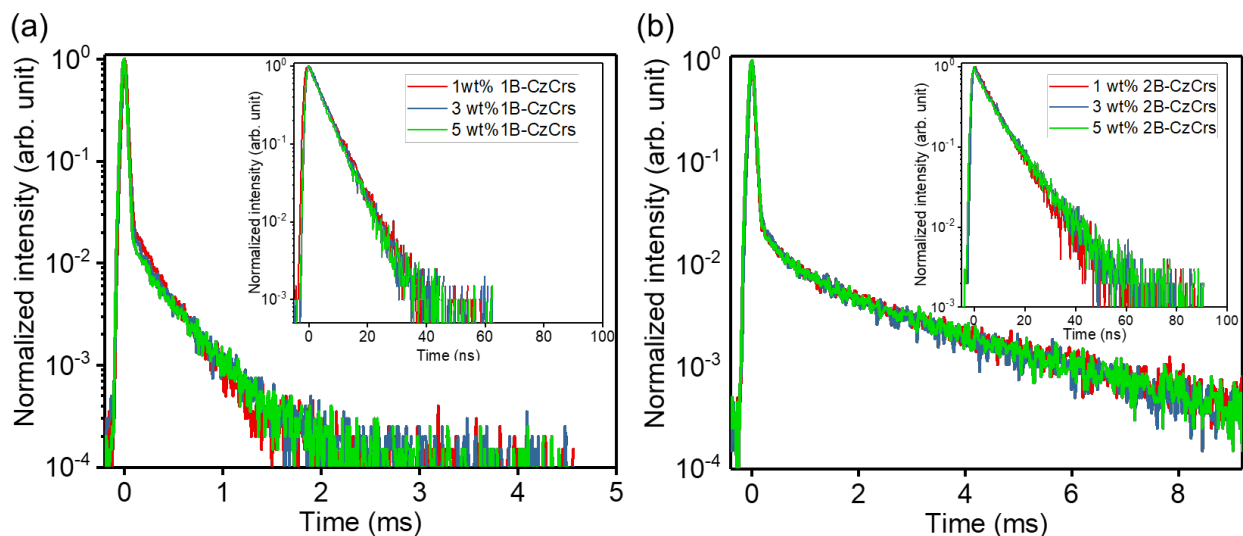


Figure S25. Time-resolved PL decays of (a) **1B-CzCrs** and (b) **2B-CzCrs** doped **mCBP** films at various concentrations. Insets: Prompt PL decay curves ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=355$  nm).

Table S6. Photophysical data of 1, 3, and 5 wt% doped films of **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs** in **mCBP** host and the corresponding CIE coordinate values.

Emitter	wt%	$\Phi_{\text{PL(Ar)}}$ <sup>a</sup> (%)	$\lambda_{\text{PL}}$ <sup>b</sup> (nm)	FWHM (nm)	CIE (x,y)	$\tau_{\text{p}}$ <sup>c</sup> (ns)	$\tau_{\text{d}}$ <sup>c</sup> (ms)
<b>1B-CzCrs</b>	1	76	447	25	0.151, 0.037	5.44	0.274
	3	83	450	26	0.148, 0.043	5.13	0.308
	5	67	451	28	0.151, 0.065	5.05	0.329
<b>2B-CzCrs</b>	1	87	446	20	0.149, 0.043	7.79	2.61
	3	73	448	23	0.147, 0.053	8.24	2.70
	5	59	449	28	0.150, 0.088	8.63	2.88

<sup>a</sup> Absolute  $\Phi_{\text{PL}}$  of thin films was measured using an integrating sphere at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=340$  nm. <sup>b</sup> Fluorescence maximum at RT ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=310$  nm). <sup>c</sup> Under vacuum condition ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=355$  nm).

Table S7. Estimated SOC values for **1B-CzCrs**, **2B-CzCrs**, and **1B-DTACrs** based on each optimized geometry by TDA-DFT with PBE0/6-31G(d,p) level of theory.

	<b>S<sub>0</sub> optimized</b>		<b>S<sub>1</sub> optimized</b>		<b>T<sub>1</sub> optimized</b>		<b>T<sub>2</sub> optimized</b>	
	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_1 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_2 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_1 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_2 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_1 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_2 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_1 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$\langle S_1   H_{\text{SOC}}   T_2 \rangle$ (cm <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>1B-CzCrs</b>	0.0374	0.1342	0.0640	0.1315	0.1187	0.0995	0.1187	0.0995
<b>2B-CzCrs</b>	0.0000	0.0592	0.0000	0.1005	0.0592	0.0600	0.0500	0.1005
<b>1B-DTACrs</b>	0.0748	0.4730	0.0671	0.3750	0.0458	0.3746	0.0458	0.3746
<b>2B-CzCrs</b>	0.0300	0.9111	0.1217	0.8810	0.3713	0.8108	0.37135	0.8108

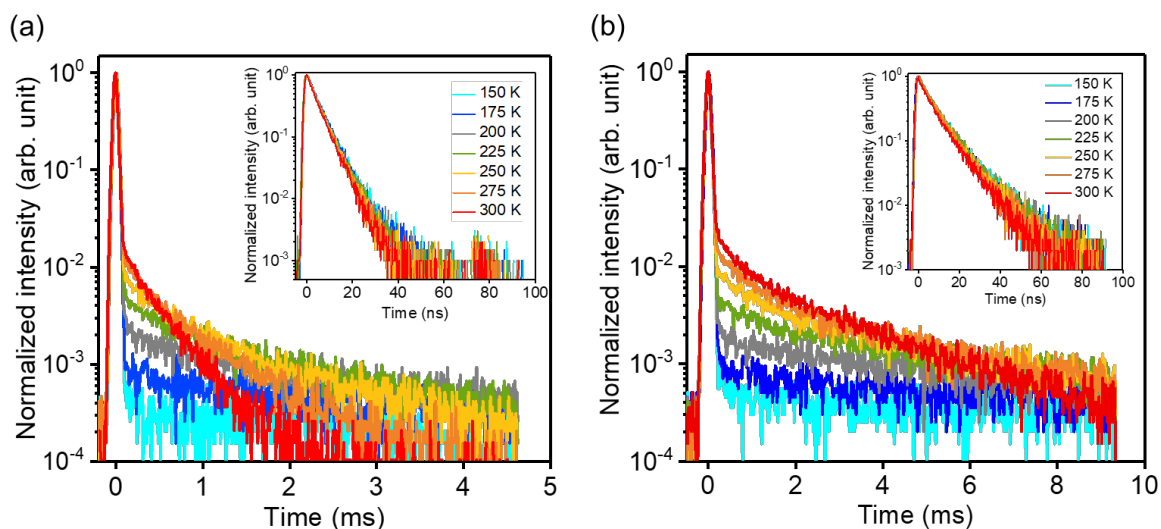


Figure S26. Temperature-dependent transient PL decays of 5 wt% of (a) **1B-CzCrs**, (b) **2B-CzCrs** in **mCBP** under vacuum; insets, prompt PL decay curves ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ ).

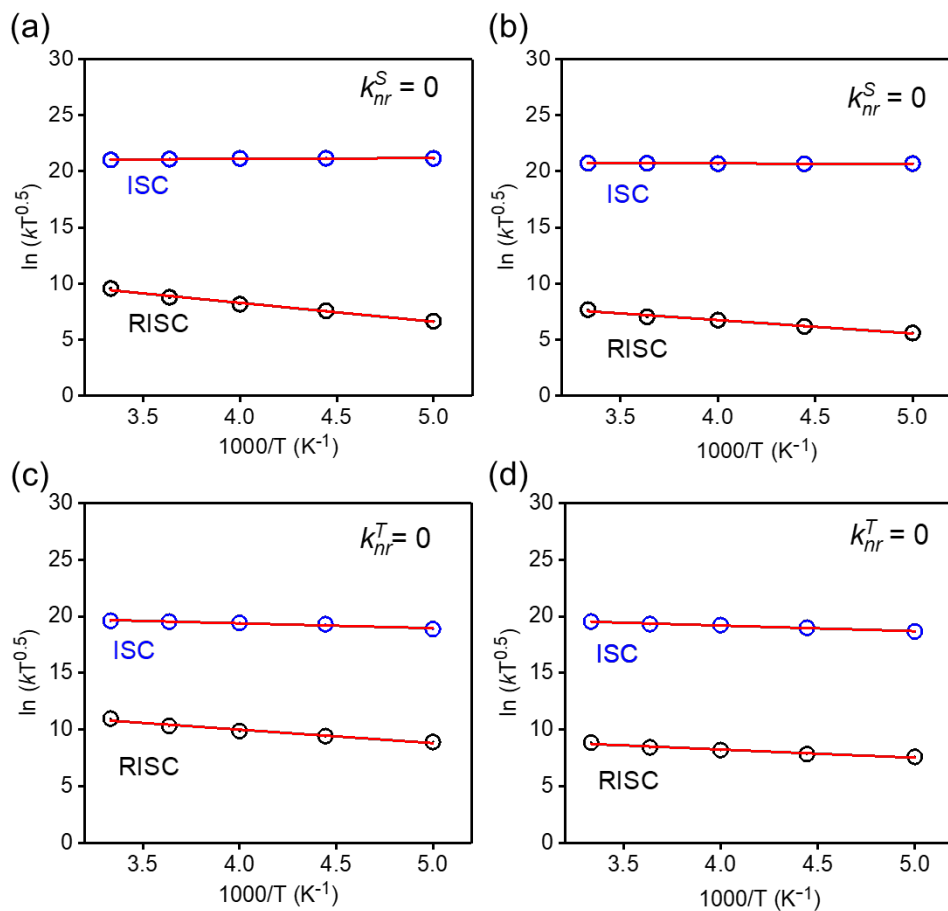


Figure S27. Marcus plots (for ISC and RISC) for 5 wt% doped films of **1B-CzCrs** (a, c) and **2B-CzCrs** (b, d) in **mCBP**, at the limit conditions of  $k_{nr}^S = 0$  (a, b) and  $k_{nr}^T = 0$  (c, d).



Table S8. Results of Marcus analysis for 5 wt% doped films of **1B-CzCrS** and **2B-CzCrS** in **mCBP**.

	$E_a^{\text{ISC}}$ (meV)		$E_a^{\text{RISC}}$ (meV)		$\Delta E_{\text{ST}}^a$ (meV)		Effective SOCME <sup>b</sup> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	
	$k_{nr}^S = 0$	$k_{nr}^T = 0$	$k_{nr}^S = 0$	$k_{nr}^T = 0$	$k_{nr}^S = 0$	$k_{nr}^T = 0$	$k_{nr}^S = 0$	$k_{nr}^T = 0$
<b>1B-CzCrS</b>	-6.4	36.7	145.1	102.5	151.5	65.9	0.0181	0.0173
<b>2B-CzCrS</b>	2.4	43.1	102.8	63.0	100.4	19.9	0.0029	0.0027

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta E_{\text{ST}} = E_a^{\text{RISC}} - E_a^{\text{ISC}}$ , <sup>b</sup> SOCME =  $\sqrt{e^{\ln \beta} \hbar (4\pi \lambda k_B)^{0.5} / 2\pi}$  where  $\beta$  is intercept of Marcus plot for  $k_{\text{RISC}}$ ,  $\hbar$  is Dirac constant,  $\lambda$  is reorganization energy provided by  $E_a^{\text{ISC}} + E_a^{\text{RISC}} + 2\sqrt{E_a^{\text{ISC}} E_a^{\text{RISC}}}$  (assuming under Marcus's normal region), and  $k_B$  is Boltzmann constant.<sup>17, 18</sup>

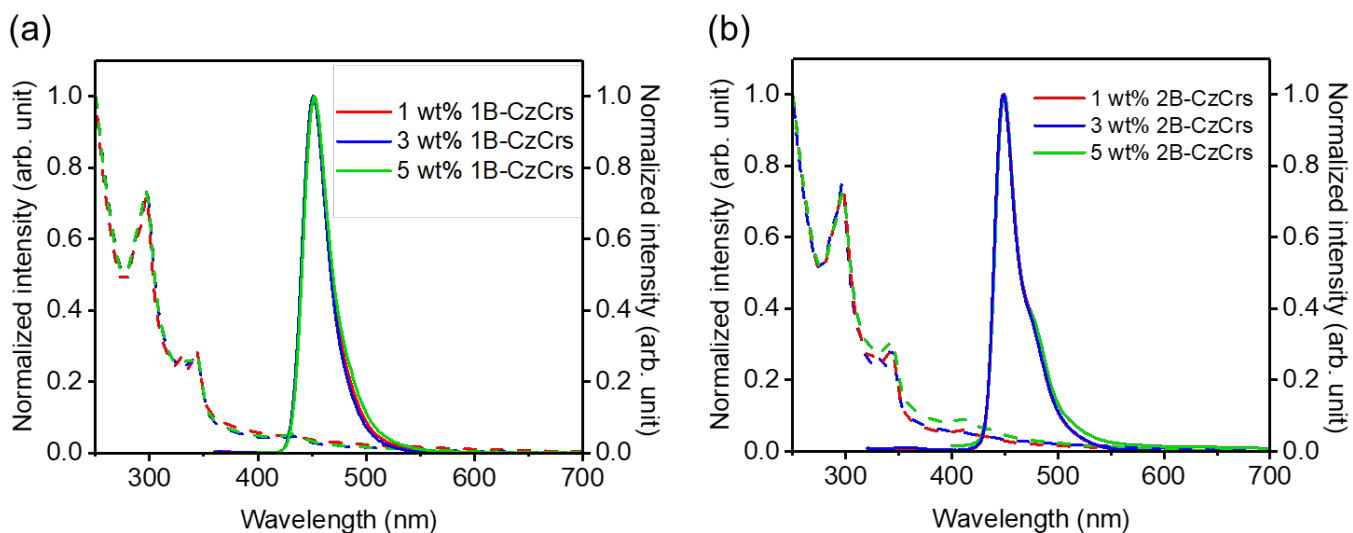


Figure S28. Steady-state absorption (dashed lines) and PL spectra (solid lines) of (a) **1B-CzCrS** and (b) **2B-CzCrS** at different doping concentrations in **mCP**. ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 310$  nm).

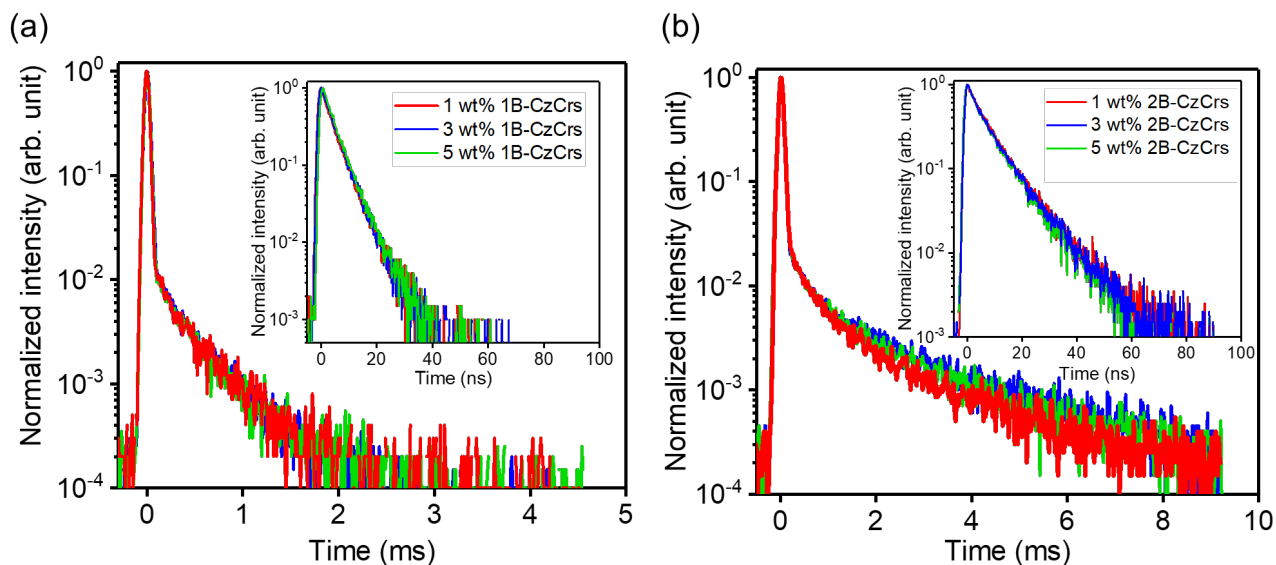


Figure S29. PL decays of (a) **1B-CzCrs** and (b) **2B-CzCrs** at different doping concentrations in **mCP**. Insets: Prompt PL decay curves. ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ )

Table S9. Steady-state photophysical properties of **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs** at different doping concentrations in **mCP** host and the corresponding CIE coordinates.

Emitter	wt%	$\Phi_{\text{PL(Ar)}}^a$ (%)	$\lambda_{\text{PL}}^b$ (nm)	FWHM (nm)	CIE (x,y)	$\tau_p^c$ (ns)	$\tau_d^c$ (ms)
<b>1B-CzCrs</b>	1	72	451	28	0.146, 0.054	4.63	0.389
	3	79	451	28	0.145, 0.052	4.65	0.362
	5	75	452	29	0.145, 0.063	4.58	0.383
<b>2B-CzCrs</b>	1	65	448	25	0.141, 0.056	8.87	1.76
	3	64	448	25	0.144, 0.060	8.85	2.01
	5	62	449	26	0.145, 0.062	8.71	1.86

<sup>a</sup> Absolute  $\Phi_{\text{PL}}$  of thin films was measured using an integrating sphere at  $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 340 \text{ nm}$ . <sup>b</sup> Fluorescence maximum at RT. ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 310 \text{ nm}$ ). <sup>c</sup> Under vacuum condition ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 355 \text{ nm}$ ).

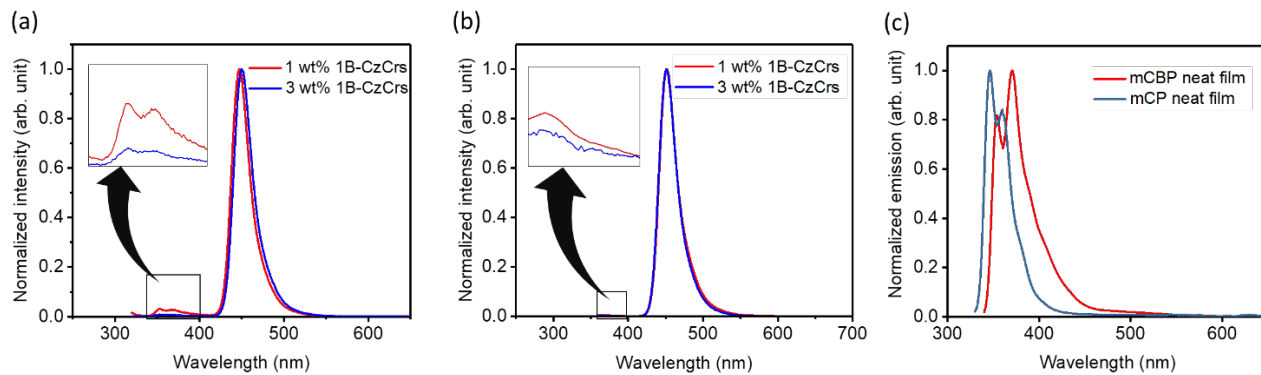


Figure S30. The emission profiles of 1 wt% (red line) and 2 wt% (blue line) of **1B-CzCrS** in different hosts; (a) **mCBP** and (b) **mCP**. (c) PL spectra of the **mCBP** (red line) and **mCP** neat films (blue line).

## 6. Device Properties

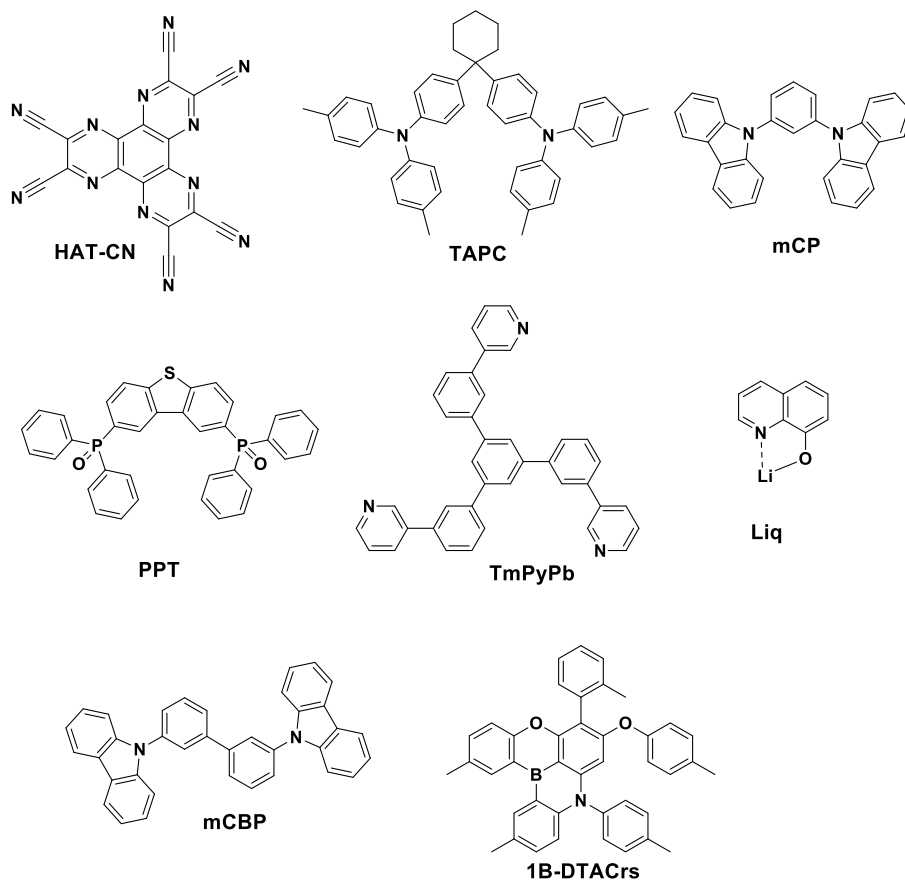


Figure S31. Chemical structures of the compounds used for OLEDs.

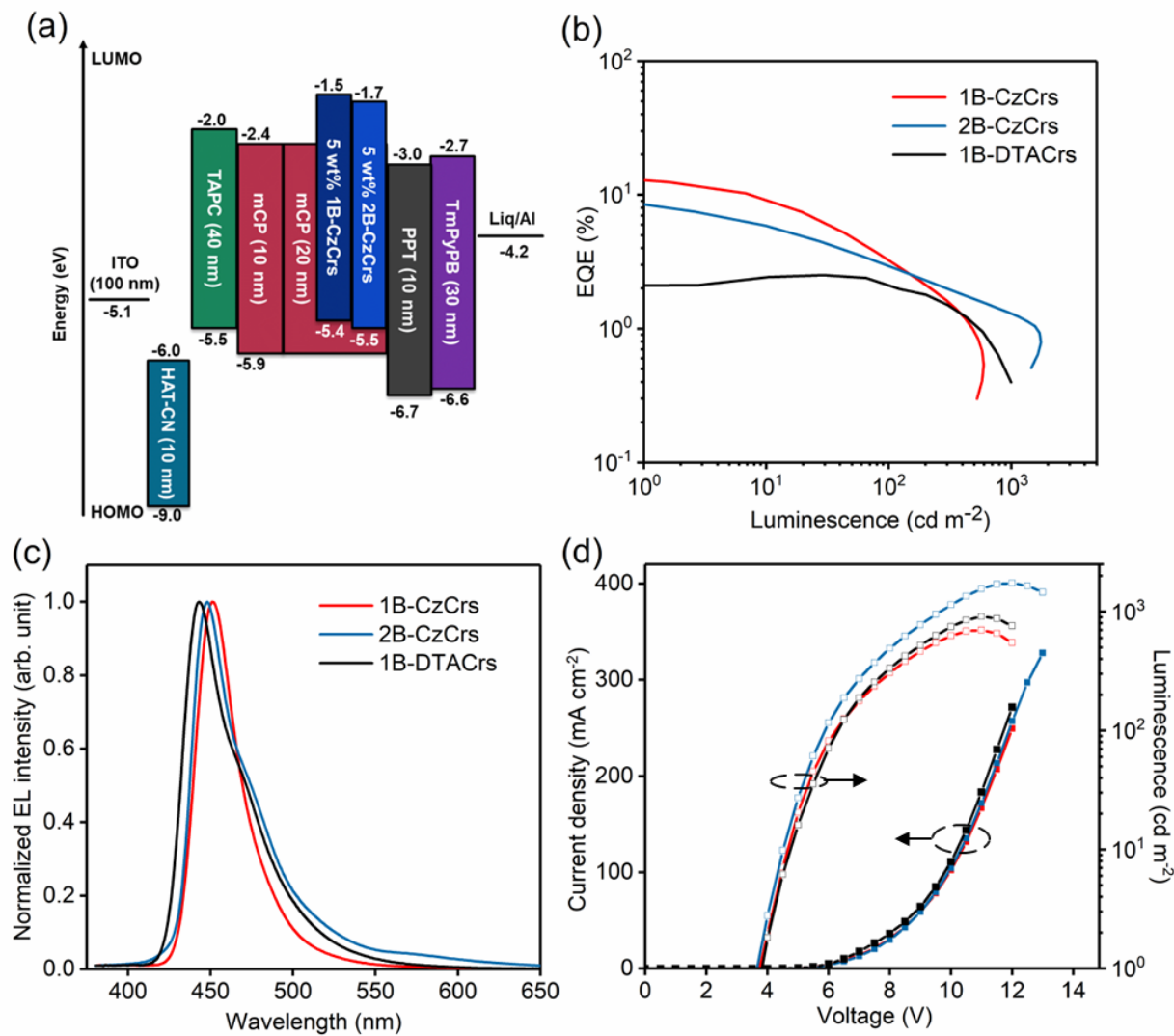


Figure S32. Performance of devices with **1B-CzCrS** (red line), **2B-CzCrS** (blue line) and **1B-DTACrS** (black line) in **mCBP**. (a) Device structure, (b) EQE-Luminescence plot (b) EL spectra, and (d)  $J$ - $V$ - $L$  properties; current density (closed square) and luminance (open square).

Table S10. Device performance with an EML consisting of 5 wt% **1B-CzCrS** and **2B-CzCrS** in **mCP**.

	$V_{on}^a$ (V)	$EQE_{max}$ (%)	$EQE_{10/100/1000}$ (%)	$\lambda_{EL}$ (nm)	FWHM (nm)	$Lum_{max}$ ( $cd\ m^{-2}$ )	$CIE_{x,y}$
<b>1B-CzCrS</b>	3.8	12.8 <sup>b</sup>	9.1/ 3.3/ -	451	30	688	0.146, 0.062
<b>2B-CzCrS</b>	3.7	8.4 <sup>b</sup>	5.9/ 2.9/ 1.3	450	36	1712	0.153, 0.143
<b>1B-DTACrS</b>	3.9	2.5 <sup>c</sup>	2.4/ 2.0/ 0.4	443	39	902	0.155, 0.079

<sup>a</sup> Estimated at 1  $cd\ m^{-2}$ . <sup>b</sup> Estimated at 1  $cd\ m^{-2}$ . <sup>c</sup> Estimated at 28  $cd\ m^{-2}$ .

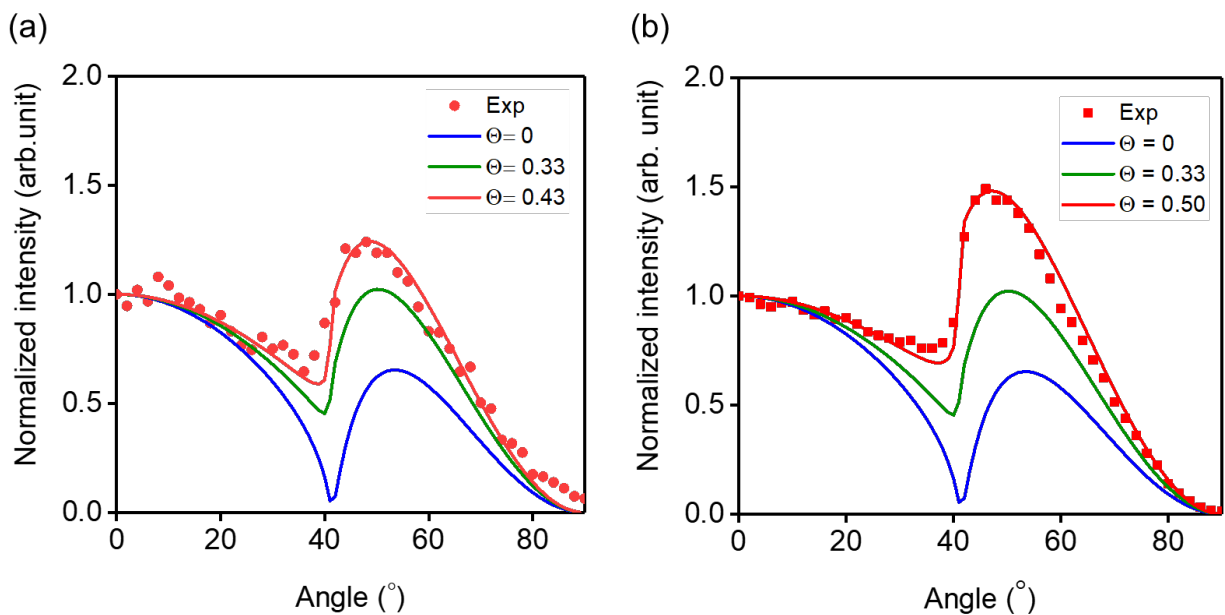


Figure S33. Angular-dependent PL profiles of 5 wt% (a) **1B-CzCrs** and (b) **2B-CzCrs** doped in **mCP**. The horizontal (blue line), isotropic (green line), and fitting curves (red line) for the experimental data (scattered plot) were provided using the optical simulation software SETFOS 5.1 (Fluxim).

Table S11. Estimated  $\eta_{oc}$ , theoretical EQE, and the experimental EQE for the device with **mCP** host.

	$\eta_{oc}^b$ (%)	$EQE_{Theoretical}^b$ (%)	$EQE_{Experimental}$ (%)
<b>1B-CzCrs</b>	17.7	13.3	12.8
<b>2B-CzCrs</b>	15.3	9.5	8.4

<sup>a</sup> Estimated with optical simulation software SETFOS 5.1 (Fluxim), <sup>b</sup> Calculated with  $EQE = \eta_{CB}\eta_{\gamma}\Phi_{PL}\eta_{OC}$ , where  $\eta_{CB}$  is the charge balance factor and  $\eta_{\gamma}$  is the efficiency of radiative exciton production.<sup>10</sup>, assuming  $\eta_{CB} = \eta_{\gamma} = 1$ .

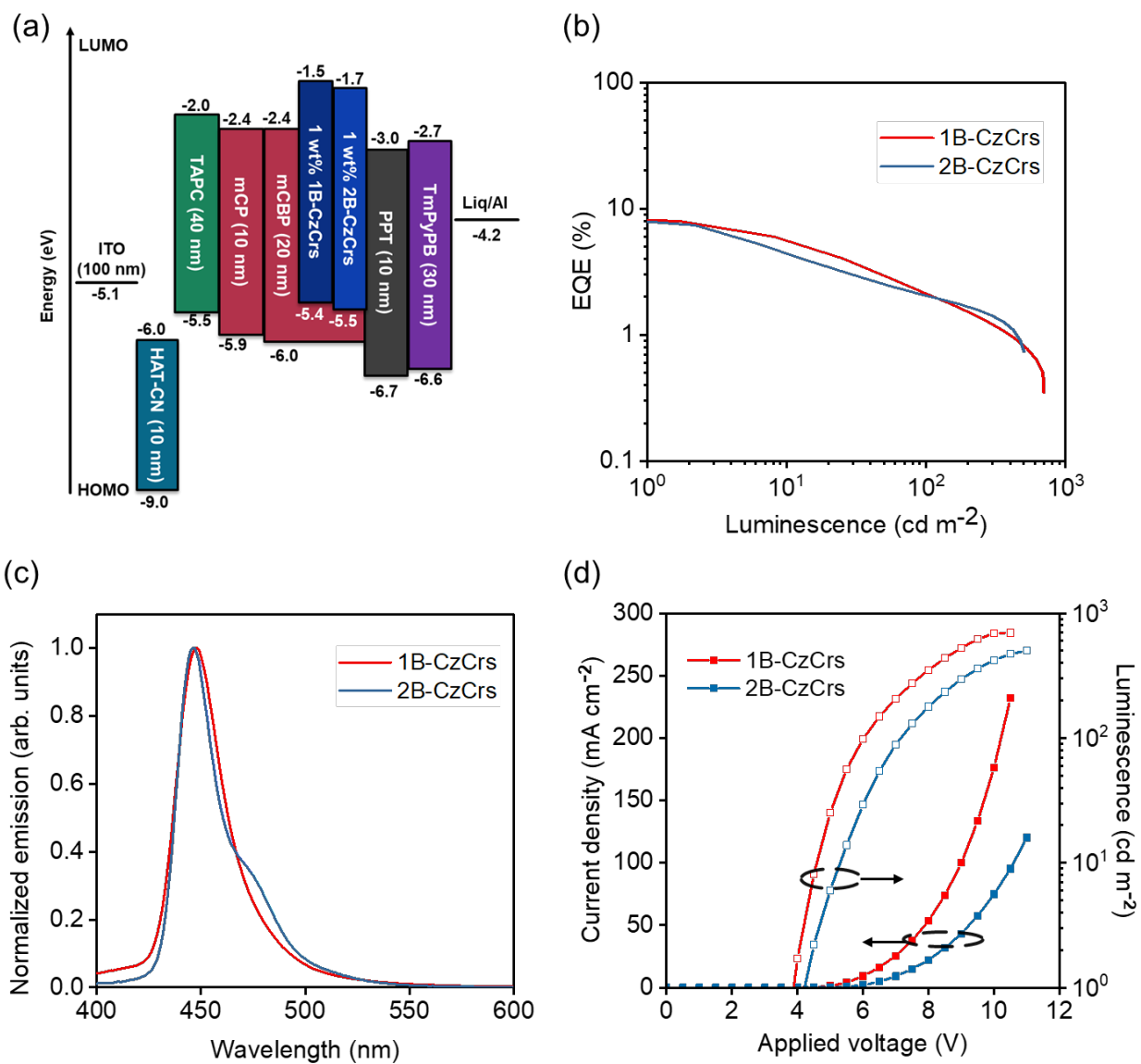


Figure S34. Performance of devices with **1B-CzCrs** and **2B-CzCrs** in **mCBP**. (a) Device structure, (b) EQE-Luminescence plot, (c) EL spectra, and (d)  $J-V-L$  properties; current density (closed square) and luminance (open square).

Table 12. Device performance with an EML consisting of 1 wt% **1B-CzCrS** and **2B-CzCrS** in **mCBP**.

Emitter	$V_{on}^a$ (V)	$EQE_{max}^b$ (%)	$EQE_{10/100}$ (%)	$\lambda_{EL}$ (nm)	FWHM (nm)	$Lum_{max}$ ( $cd\ m^{-2}$ )	$CIE_x$	$CIE_y$
<b>1B-CzCrS</b>	3.9	8.1	5.6/ 2.2	448	26	705	0.152	0.048
<b>2B-CzCrS</b>	4.2	7.7	4.3/ 2.0	447	22	485	0.150	0.049

<sup>a</sup> Estimated as  $1\ cd\ m^{-2}$ . <sup>b</sup> Estimated at  $1\ cd\ m^{-2}$ .

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