

Supporting Information for

Donor–acceptor cross-conjugated phenazine macrocycle with large

Stokes shift for “turn-on” sensing transition metal ions

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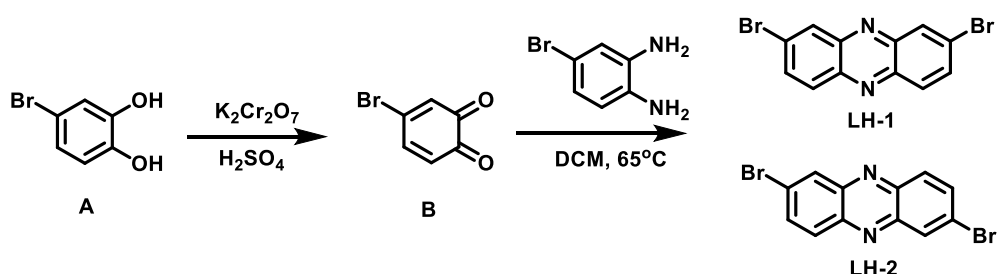
1. Experimental section

1.1 General

^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR analyses were performed using a Bruker Avance III 600 spectrometer (^1H NMR, 600 MHz; ^{13}C NMR, 151 MHz). As internal references for ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR spectroscopy the signals of CDCl_3 were used and calculated relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS). The high resolution mass spectra were measured with a Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ FTICR-MS instrument (DART positive ion mode). UV-Vis spectra were recorded using a UV-3600-plus spectrometer. Emission spectra were measured with an Edinburgh FLS1000 fluorimeter using a front-face solid sample configuration for solid samples. Absolute fluorescence quantum yields were obtained using an integrating sphere. All starting materials were purchased from commercial without further purification. Solvents used for optical record were spectroscopic grade. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of nitrogen unless otherwise noted.

1.2. Synthetic procedures and characterization data

Synthesis of compound LH-1

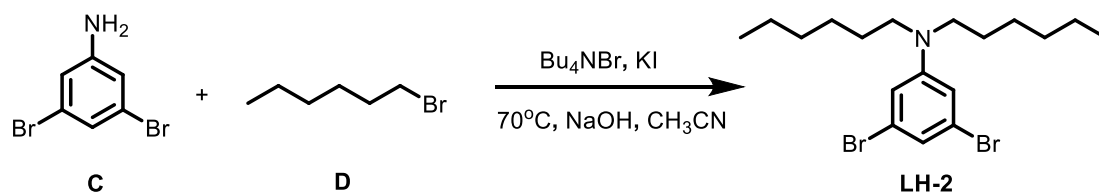


Potassium dichromate (3.53 g, 12.00 mmol, 2 eq), 4-bromo-1,2-benzenediol (1.128 g, 6.00 mmol, 1 eq), 36 mL of dilute sulfuric acid, and 200 mL of dichloromethane were added to a 500 mL round-bottomed flask. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. When the reaction was completed, the organic phase was isolated, and dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . To the dried organic solution were added 4-bromo-1,2-benzene diamine (1.116 g, 6.00 mmol, 1 eq) and 1 mL of acetic acid to accelerate the reaction rate. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 10 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted

with dichloromethane and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate /petroleum ether (1/15, *V/V*) as eluent, yielding 0.20 g (9.83%) of **LH-1** as a yellow solid.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.44 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.11 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.92 (dd, $J = 9.3, 2.1$ Hz, 2H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 144.0, 142.2, 134.8, 131.8, 131.1, 126.0 ppm. ES+-HRMS m/z (%): calcd. 338.8976 for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_7\text{N}_2\text{Br}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 338.8955.

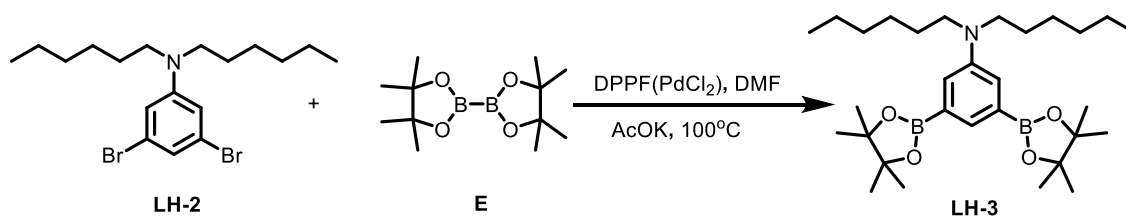
Synthesis of compound LH-2



3,5-dibromoaniline (6.414 g, 25.56 mmol, 1 eq), 1-bromohexane (1.128 g, 64.10 mmol, 2.5 eq), tetrabutylammonium bromide (0.824 g, 2.55 mmol, 0.1 eq), and potassium iodide (0.424 g, 2.55 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added to a 100 mL reaction vial. The air was exhausted and replaced three times with nitrogen, and then 20 ml of acetonitrile with sodium hydroxide (8.704 g, 217.60 mmol, 8.5 eq) was added under nitrogen protection. The reaction mixture was stirred at reflux for 22 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After removing the solvents, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using dichloromethane/petroleum ether (1/10, *V/V*) as eluent, yielding 3.95 g (37.3%) of **LH-2** as a yellow oil.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 6.86 (s, 1H), 6.63 (s, 2H), 3.21 (t, $J = 3.8$ Hz, 4H), 1.57 – 1.53 (m, 4H), 1.34 – 1.30 (m, 12H), 0.90 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 150.1, 123.7, 120.1, 113.1, 51.1, 31.7, 27.0, 26.8, 22.8, 14.1 ppm. ES+-HRMS m/z (%): calcd. 420.0667 for $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{30}\text{NBr}_2$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 420.0646.

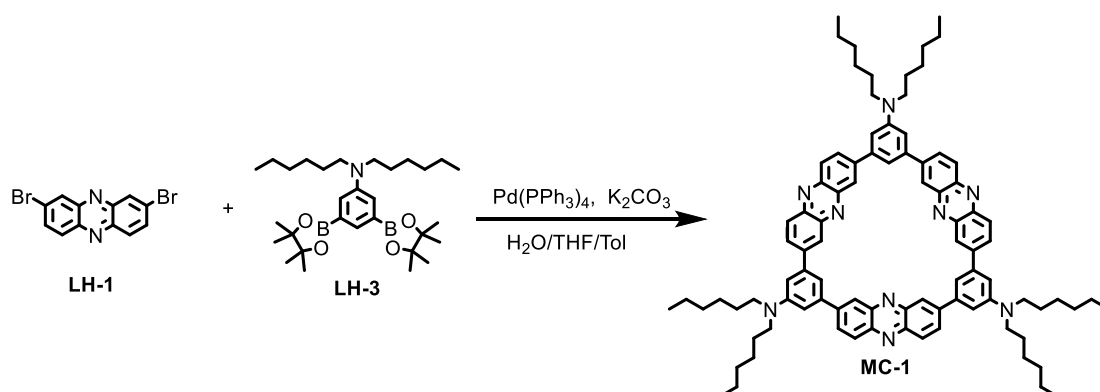
Synthesis of compound LH-3



LH-2 (1.098 g, 2.63 mmol, 1 eq), bis(pinacolato)diboron (1.33 g, 5.26 mmol, 2 eq), potassium acetate (1.289 g, 13.15 mmol, 5 eq), and 1,1-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene palladium(II) dichloride (0.19 g, 0.26 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added to 100 mL of a reaction flask. The air was exhausted and replaced three times with nitrogen, and then 25 mL of N,N-dimethylformamide was added under nitrogen protection. The reaction mixture (100°C, oil bath) was stirred for 20 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with dichloromethane and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate /petroleum ether (1/10, *V/V*) as eluent, yielding 1.178 g (87.3%) of **LH-3** as a white solid.

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (s, 1H), 7.21 (s, 2H), 3.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H), 1.56 -1.54 (m, 4H), 1.32 (s, 36H), 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.4, 128.7, 121.9, 83.6, 50.7, 31.8, 27.2, 26.9, 25.0, 22.8, 14.2 ppm. ES⁺-HRMS *m/z* (%): calcd. 514.4161 for C₃₀H₅₄B₂NO₄, [M+H]⁺, found 514.4278.

Synthesis of compound MC-1¹

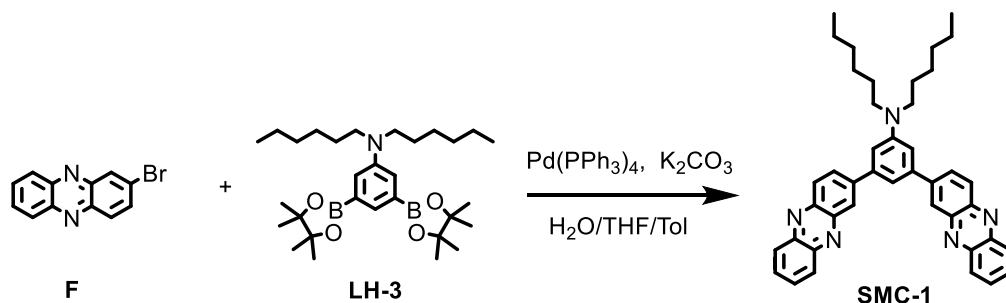


LH-1 (50 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 eq.), anhydrous K₂CO₃ (123 mg, 0.89 mmol, 6 eq), and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (17.2 mg, 0.015 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added to a 100 mL reaction vial, and vacuumed to change nitrogen for three times. Reaction solvents (15 mL of

tetrahydrofuran, 6 mL of water, and 5 mL of toluene) were successively added. Toluene solution of **LH-3** (76.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 eq, in 4 mL of toluene) was added dropwise using a microsyringe with the drop time of 30 min. The reaction mixture (100°C, oil bath) was stirred under nitrogen protection for 22 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvents, purified for isolation by preparative thin-layer chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 4:1, *V/V*), yielding 4 mg (2.0%) of **MC-1** as an orange solid.

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.60 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 6H), 8.35 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 6H), 8.12 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 6H), 7.48 (s, 3H), 7.04 (s, 6H), 3.47 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 12H), 1.75-1.72 (m, 12H), 1.42-1.40 (m, 12H), 1.38-1.35 (m, 24H), 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 18H). ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.2, 144.6, 144.4, 143.0, 142.4, 131.5, 130.0, 128.3, 127.3, 111.0, 51.5, 31.9, 27.4, 27.1, 22.9, 14.2. ES+-HRMS *m/z* (%): calcd. 1312.8493 for C₉₀H₁₀₆N₉, [M+H]⁺, found 1312.8605.

Synthesis of compound SM-1

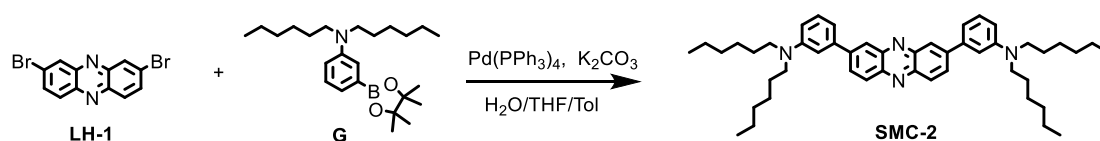


2-bromophenazine (50 mg, 195.31 μmol, 2 eq), **LH-3** (50 mg, 97.28 μmol, 1 eq), anhydrous K₂CO₃ (81 mg, 586.11 μmol, 6 eq), and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (11.28 mg, 9.73 μmol, 0.1 eq) were added to a 100 ml reaction flask, evacuated for nitrogen three times. Under the protection of nitrogen, 9 mL of tetrahydrofuran, 6 mL of water, and 9 mL of toluene were added sequentially, and the reaction mixture was stirred (100 °C, oil bath) for 20 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent, purified for isolation by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 4:1, *V/V*), yielding 75 mg (62.4%) of **SMC-1**.

1 as an orange solid.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.56 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.37 (d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, 2H), 8.29 – 8.24 (m, 6H), 7.87 – 7.86 (m, 4H), 7.51 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 2H), 3.49 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 4H), 1.76 – 1.71 (m, 4H), 1.43 – 1.37 (m, 12H), 0.93 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 149.5, 144.1, 143.9, 143.6, 143.2, 141.6, 131.3, 130.8, 130.5, 130.1, 130.0, 129.7, 126.7, 114.5, 111.0, 51.4, 31.9, 27.5, 27.1, 22.9, 14.3 ppm. ES+-HRMS m/z (%): calcd. 618.3518 for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_5$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 618.3573.

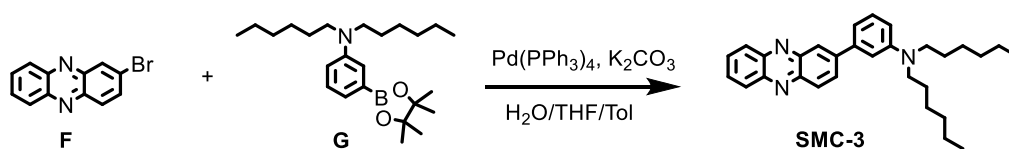
Synthesis of compound SMC-2



LH-1 (50 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 eq), **G** (126 mg, 0.31 mmol, 2 eq), anhydrous K_2CO_3 (123 mg, 0.89 mmol, 6 eq), and $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (17.20 mg, 0.015 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added to a 100 ml reaction vial. Under the protection of nitrogen, 9 ml of tetrahydrofuran, 6 ml of water, and 9 mL of toluene were sequentially added. The reaction mixture was stirred (100 °C, oil bath) for 18 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After removing the solvent, purified for isolation by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 4:1, as a V/V), yielding 68 mg (65.7%) of **SMC-2** as an orange solid.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (600 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 8.45 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.31 (d, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 2H), 8.15 (dd, $J = 9.2, 2.0$ Hz, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 2H), 7.08 – 7.07 (m, 4H), 6.76 – 6.73 (m, 2H), 3.38 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 8H), 1.68 – 1.63 (m, 8H), 1.39 – 1.32 (m, 24H), 0.92 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 12H) ppm. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (151 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 148.9, 144.5, 144.2, 143.0, 140.7, 131.2, 130.1, 130.0, 126.2, 114.8, 112.1, 110.8, 51.3, 31.9, 27.4, 27.1, 22.9, 14.2 ppm. ES+-HRMS m/z (%): calcd. 699.5287 for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{67}\text{N}_4$, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$, found 699.5363.

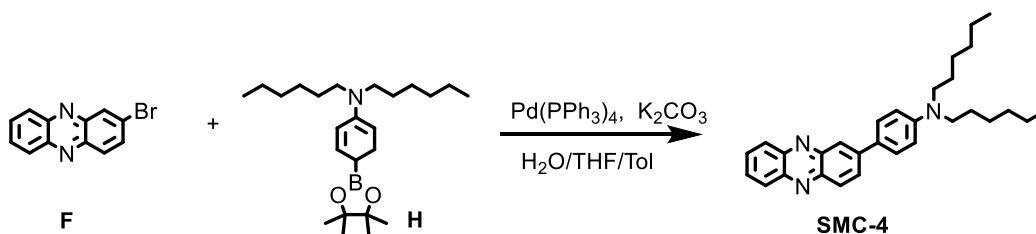
Synthesis of compound SMC-3



F (70 mg, 0.27 mmol, 1 eq), **G** (110 mg, 0.27 mmol, 1 eq), anhydrous K_2CO_3 (225 mg, 1.63 mmol, 6 eq), and $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (31 mg, 0.027 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added in a 100 mL reaction flask, evacuate and replace nitrogen three times under nitrogen protection. Under the protection of nitrogen, 9 mL of tetrahydrofuran, 6 mL of water, and 9 mL of toluene were added sequentially, and the reaction mixture (100°C, oil bath) was stirred for 22 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na_2SO_4 . After removing the solvent, purified for isolation by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 4:1, *V/V*), yielding 104 mg (86.5%) of **SMC-3** as an orange solid.

1H -NMR (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 8.44 (d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 8.30 – 8.25(m, 3H), 8.16 (dd, $J = 9.0, 2.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 – 7.83 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.07 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.75 (dd, $J = 8.3, 3.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.37 (t, $J = 7.74$ Hz, 4H), 1.66 – 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.39 – 1.34 (m, 12H), 0.92 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 6H) ppm. ^{13}C -NMR (151 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 148.9, 144.5, 143.9, 143.3, 143.1, 140.6, 131.5, 131.0, 130.3, 130.1, 129.8, 129.8, 129.6, 126.3, 114.8, 112.1, 110.8, 51.3, 31.9, 27.4, 27.0, 22.8, 14.2 ppm. ES+-HRMS *m/z* (%): calcd. 440.2987 for $C_{30}H_{38}N_3$, $[M+H]^+$, found 440.3042.

Synthesis of compound SMC-4



2-Bromophenazine (102 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1 eq), **H** (120 mg, 0.39 mmol, 1 eq), anhydrous K_2CO_3 (327 mg, 2.36 mmol, 6 eq), and $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (45 mg, 0.039 mmol, 0.1 eq) were added in a 100 mL reaction flask. The reaction flask was evacuated to change nitrogen three times. Under the protection of nitrogen, 9 mL of tetrahydrofuran, 6 mL

of water, and 9 mL of toluene were added sequentially. The reaction mixture (100°C, oil bath) was stirred for 22 h. Upon the completion of the reaction, the reaction mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and washed with water. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄. After removing the solvent, purified for isolation by column chromatography on silica gel (eluent: petroleum ether: ethyl acetate = 4:1, *V/V*), yielding 134 mg (76.5%) of **SMC-4** as an orange solid.

¹H-NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.35 (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 8.24 – 8.21 (m, 3H), 8.18 (dd, *J* = 9.2, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.75 (m, 4H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 3.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 4H), 1.67 – 1.62 (m, 4H), 1.39 – 1.33 (m, 12H), 0.93 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (151 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 144.4, 144.0, 143.1, 143.0, 143.0, 130.8, 130.4, 129.8, 129.7, 129.5, 128.5, 125.3, 123.1, 112.1, 51.2, 31.7, 27.4, 27.0, 22.9, 14.3 ppm. ES+-HRMS *m/z* (%): calcd. 440.2987 for C₃₀H₃₈N₃, [M+H]⁺, found 440.2987.

1.3 Preparation of the solutions for optical test and titration.

The solvents and concentrations used in this study: 1) **MC-1** and **SMC-1–4** solutions in dichloromethane at a concentration of 1.0 × 10⁻⁵ mol L⁻¹; 2) phloroglucinol (**THB**), 1,3,5-tribromobenzene (**TBB**), folic acid (**FA**), and cyanuric acid (**CA**) in acetonitrile at a concentration of 0.01 mol L⁻¹; 3) perchlorate salts (Fe³⁺、Hg²⁺、Pb²⁺、Cu²⁺、Fe²⁺、Co²⁺、Zn²⁺、Ni²⁺、Mn²⁺) in acetonitrile at a concentration of 0.01 mol L⁻¹. The total added volume of metal ion solutions during the titration was controlled within the permissible error.

Detection method: The detection of Fe³⁺ was performed using a 1 cm path length quartz cell at room temperature with a fluorescence excitation wavelength of 388 nm. The selectivity for Fe³⁺ sensing of **MC-1** was conducted by adding 15 μL of the metal ions solutions (Fe³⁺, Hg²⁺, Pb²⁺, Cu²⁺, Fe²⁺, Co²⁺, Zn²⁺, Ni²⁺, and Mn²⁺ ions) at a concentration of 0.01 mol L⁻¹ to 3 mL of the **MC-1** solution. The fluorescence emission or absorbance spectra were recorded after reaction for 1 min at room temperature. The same procedure was used for **SMC-1–4**.

The titration of Fe³⁺ ion in the presence of MC-1: 3 mL of MC-1 was taken in the quartz cell, followed by the addition of 1–150 μL of Fe³⁺ ion solution, and the fluorescence intensity or absorbance was recorded after the 1 min of interaction time.

Job's plot: The complexation ratio of MC-1 molecule with Fe³⁺ was determined by isomolar continuous change method (Job's plot). The total concentration of MC-1 and Fe³⁺ in the solution system was fixed at 10⁻⁵M, and the change of fluorescence intensity was determined by changing the composition ratio of MC-1 and Fe³⁺.²

2. Photophysical data of MC-1 and fragment molecules in solution.

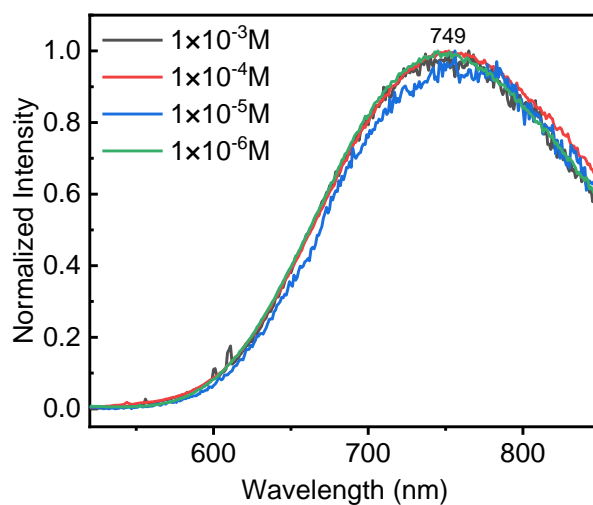


Figure S1. Emission spectra of MC-1 in dichloromethane, were recorded at different concentrations.

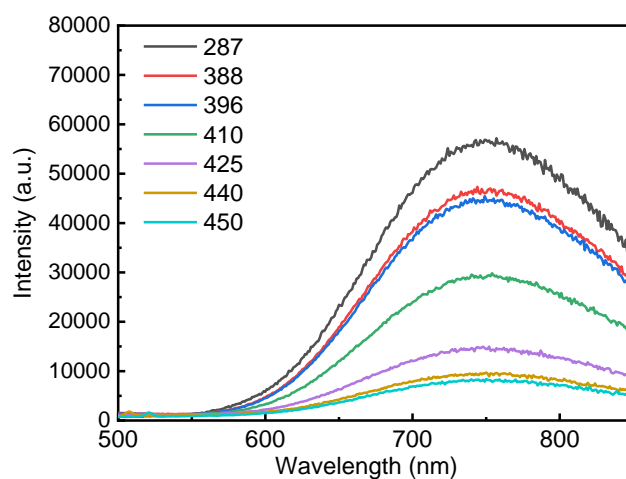


Figure S2. Emission spectra of MC-1 in dichloromethane ($1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$, room temperature), were recorded at different excitation wavelengths (unit: nm).

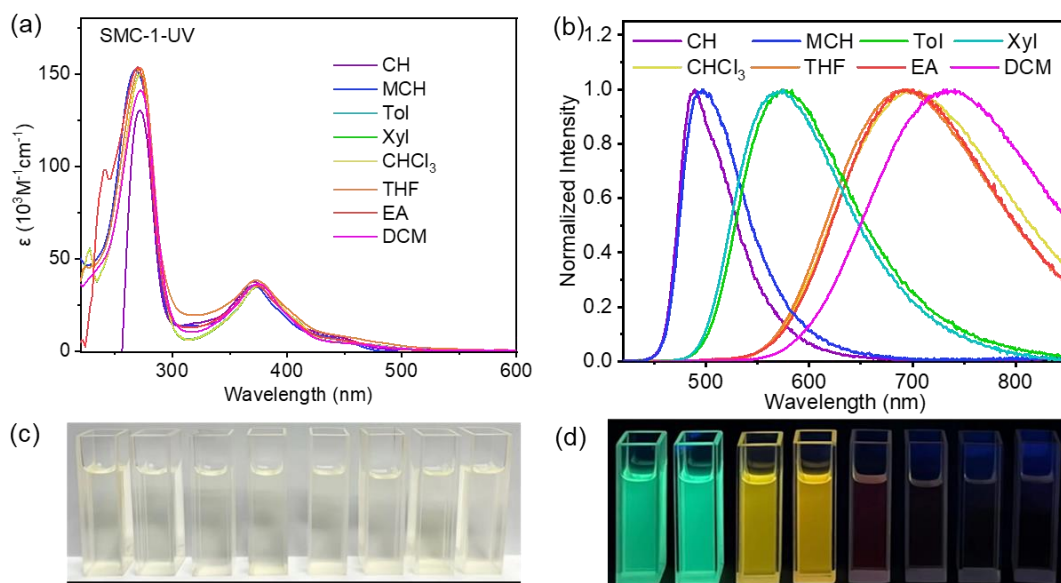


Figure S3. (a) Absorption and (b) Emission spectra of **SMC-1** in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-1** (1×10^{-5} M) in different solvents under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d). (from left to right cyclohexane (CH), methylcyclohexane (MCH), xylene (Xyl), toluene (Tol), tetrahydrofuran (THF), trichloromethane (CHCl_3), ethyl acetate (EA), dichloromethane (DCM))

Table S1 Photophysical data for **SMC-1** in different solvents

| Solvents | λ_{ab} (nm) ^a | λ_{em} (nm) ^a | Φ_{fl} (%) ^b | τ (ns) ^c | Stokes shift (cm^{-1}) ^a | FWHM (nm) ^d | K_{r} (10^7 s^{-1}) ^e | K_{nr} (10^8 s^{-1}) ^f |
|-----------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|
| CH | 370 | 500 | 17.12 | 4.26 | 7027 | 59.32 | 4.02 | 1.95 |
| MCH | 370 | 505 | 14.83 | 5.17 | 7225 | 71.38 | 2.87 | 1.65 |
| Tol | 375 | 575 | 18.57 | 8.79 | 9275 | 126.08 | 2.11 | 0.93 |
| Xyl | 376 | 571 | 10.07 | 7.78 | 9082 | 126.77 | 1.29 | 1.16 |
| CHCl_3 | 374 | 693 | 3.04 | 2.63 | 12307 | 179.21 | 1.15 | 3.69 |
| THF | 374 | 692 | 4.74 | 4.46 | 12287 | 182.06 | 1.06 | 2.14 |
| EA | 373 | 699 | 0.92 | 2.90 | 12503 | 191.76 | 0.32 | 3.42 |
| DCM | 376 | 741 | 4.98 | 2.99 | 13100 | 210.14 | 1.67 | 3.18 |

^aMeasured in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M) at 300 K; ^bAbsolute fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_{fl}) evaluated using an integrating sphere under air; ^cFluorescence lifetimes (τ) measured under air at 300 K; ^dFull width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the fluorescence spectrum, given in wavelength; ^eRate constant of fluorescence radiative decay: $K_{\text{r}} = \Phi_{\text{fl}}/\tau$; ^fRate constant of nonradiative: $K_{\text{nr}} = (1 - \Phi_{\text{fl}})/\Phi_{\text{fl}}$

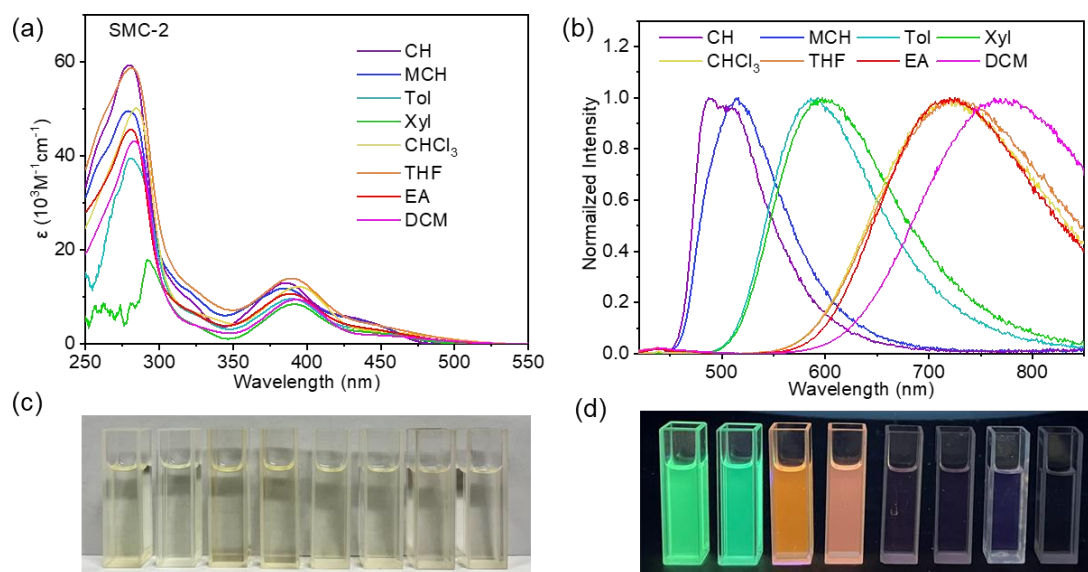


Figure S4. (a) Absorption and (b) Emission spectra of **SMC-2** in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-2** (1×10^{-5} M) in different solvents under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

Table S2 Photophysical data for **SMC-2** in different solvents

| Solvents | λ_{ab} (nm) ^a | λ_{em} (nm) ^a | Φ_f (%) ^b | τ (ns) ^c | Stokes shift (cm ⁻¹) ^a | FWHM (nm) ^d | K_r (10 ⁷ s ⁻¹) ^e | K_{nr} (10 ⁸ s ⁻¹) ^f |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| CH | 386 | 516 | 18.69 | 17.71 | 6526 | 90.19 | 1.05 | 0.46 |
| MCH | 385 | 502 | 9.81 | 11.6 | 6053 | 78.82 | 0.84 | 0.79 |
| Tol | 390 | 591 | 12.61 | 11.16 | 8720 | 120.98 | 1.13 | 0.78 |
| Xyl | 390 | 600 | 9.58 | 9.17 | 8974 | 135.2 | 1.04 | 0.99 |
| CHCl ₃ | 388 | 722 | < 0.1 | 3.26 | 11922 | 184.91 | — | — |
| THF | 389 | 722 | 8.72 | 4.06 | 11856 | 190.1 | 2.15 | 2.25 |
| EA | 388 | 729 | < 0.1 | 3.34 | 12055 | 200.89 | — | — |
| DCM | 392 | 774 | < 0.1 | 2.78 | 12590 | 220.3 | — | — |

^aMeasured in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M) at 300 K; ^bAbsolute fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_f) evaluated using an integrating sphere under air; ^cFluorescence lifetimes (τ) measured under air at 300 K; ^dFull width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the fluorescence spectrum, given in wavelength; ^eRate constant of fluorescence radiative decay: $K_r = \Phi_f/\tau$; ^fRate constant of nonradiative: $K_{nr} = (1 - \Phi_f)/\tau$

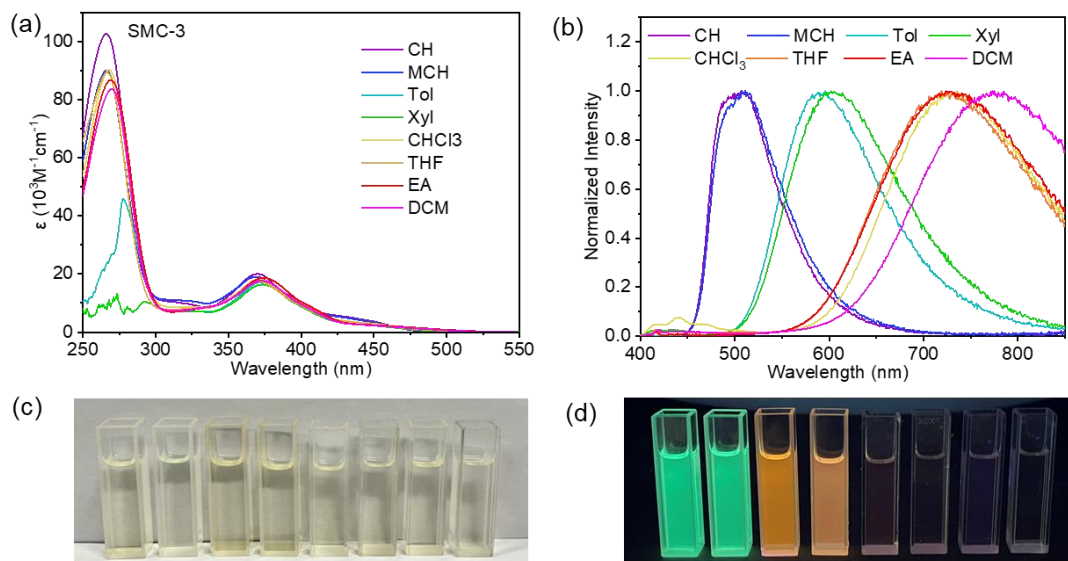


Figure S5. (a) Absorption and (b) Emission spectra of **SMC-3** in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-3** (1×10^{-5} M) in different solvents under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

Table S3 Photophysical data for **SMC-3** in different solvents

| Solvents | λ_{ab} (nm) ^a | λ_{em} (nm) ^a | Φ_f (%) ^b | τ (ns) ^c | Stokes shift (cm ⁻¹) ^a | FWHM (nm) ^d | K_r (10 ⁷ s ⁻¹) ^e | K_{nr} (10 ⁸ s ⁻¹) ^f |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| CH | 369 | 504 | 9.2 | 7.39 | 7259 | 82.95 | 1.24 | 1.23 |
| MCH | 370 | 509 | 10.52 | 7.34 | 7380 | 88.08 | 1.43 | 1.22 |
| Tol | 373 | 593 | 9.79 | 9.77 | 9946 | 125.78 | 1.00 | 0.92 |
| Xyl | 373 | 607 | 12.17 | 7.57 | 10335 | 141.57 | 1.61 | 1.16 |
| CHCl ₃ | 374 | 731 | 0.5 | 3.06 | 13058 | 193.99 | 0.16 | 3.25 |
| THF | 371 | 730 | 2.17 | 3.77 | 13255 | 205.24 | 0.58 | 2.59 |
| EA | 371 | 734 | < 0.1 | 3.04 | 13330 | 205.24 | — | — |
| DCM | 374 | 770 | 0.17 | 2.72 | 13751 | 221.6 | 0.06 | 3.68 |

^aMeasured in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M) at 300 K; ^bAbsolute fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_f) evaluated using an integrating sphere under air; ^cFluorescence lifetimes (τ) measured under air at 300 K; ^dFull width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the fluorescence spectrum, given in wavelength; ^eRate constant of fluorescence radiative decay: $K_r = \Phi_f/\tau$; ^fRate constant of nonradiative: $K_{nr} = (1 - \Phi_f)/\tau$

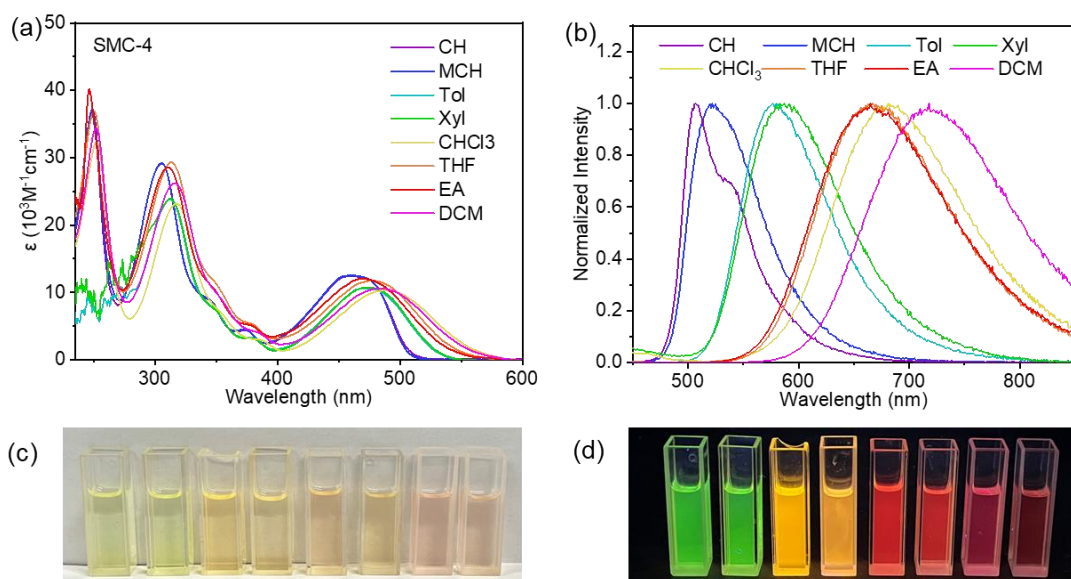


Figure S6. (a) Absorption and (b) Emission spectra of **SMC-4** in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-4** (1×10^{-5} M) in different solvents under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

Table S4 Photophysical data for **SMC-4** in different solvents

| Solvents | λ_{ab} (nm) ^a | λ_{em} (nm) ^a | Φ_f (%) ^b | τ (ns) ^c | Stokes shift (cm ⁻¹) ^a | FWHM (nm) ^d | K_r (10 ⁷ s ⁻¹) ^e | K_{nr} (10 ⁸ s ⁻¹) ^f |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| CH | 461 | 528 | 21.26 | 2.78 | 2752 | 78.64 | 7.65 | 2.83 |
| MCH | 461 | 528 | 39.21 | 2.82 | 2752 | 62.5 | 13.90 | 2.16 |
| Tol | 475 | 582 | 53.35 | 7.96 | 3870 | 91.69 | 6.70 | 0.57 |
| Xyl | 475 | 590 | 55.24 | 6.47 | 4103 | 108.04 | 8.54 | 0.69 |
| CHCl ₃ | 486 | 686 | 21.98 | 4.26 | 5998 | 127.3 | 5.16 | 1.83 |
| THF | 477 | 670 | 34.04 | 6.07 | 6038 | 144.94 | 5.61 | 1.09 |
| EA | 475 | 668 | 25.6 | 5.18 | 6082 | 142.45 | 4.94 | 1.43 |
| DCM | 485 | 712 | 17.79 | 4.65 | 6574 | 111.56 | 3.83 | 1.77 |

^aMeasured in different solvents (1×10^{-5} M) at 300 K; ^bAbsolute fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_f) evaluated using an integrating sphere under air; ^cFluorescence lifetimes (τ) measured under air at 300 K; ^dFull width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the fluorescence spectrum, given in wavelength; ^eRate constant of fluorescence radiative decay: $K_r = \Phi_f/\tau$; ^fRate constant of nonradiative: $K_{nr} = (1 - \Phi_f)/\tau$

3. Lippert-Mataga Analysis

To better evaluate the effects of solvents on the emission features, the relationship between the solvent polarity parameter and the Stokes shift according to the Lippert-Mataga equation was investigated.²

$$\Delta\nu = \nu_a - \nu_e = \frac{2(\mu_e - \mu_g)^2}{hca^3} \Delta f + \text{constant} \quad (1)$$
$$\Delta f = \frac{\varepsilon - 1}{2\varepsilon + 1} - \frac{n^2 - 1}{2n^2 + 1}$$

where $\Delta\nu$ stands for the Stokes shift, ν_a and ν_e represent the maximum absorption and emission wavenumbers (cm^{-1}), respectively. The letter h is Planck's constant, c is the speed of light in a vacuum, a is the Onsager radius. μ_e and μ_g are the permanent dipole moments of the excited state and the ground state, respectively. The letter ε is the static dielectric constant of the solvent, n is the refractive index, and Δf is the orientational polarizability.

Figure S7–S11 show the plots of the Stokes shifts ($\Delta\nu$) versus orientational polarizability (Δf) for **MC-1** and **SMC-1–4**, respectively. According to the Lippert-Mataga equation, the slope of the best-fit line was related to the dipole moment change between the ground state and the excited state ($\Delta\mu = \mu_e - \mu_g$).

Upon simplifying equation (1), we get the following equation:

$$\Delta\mu = 0.00487 \times (V \times m)^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

where V is the volume of the fluorophore in \AA^3 (Volumes were calculated by molecular mechanics in Spartan) and m is the slope of the linear fit obtained upon plotting vs Δf in cm^{-1} , $\Delta\mu$ in debye (D)

Table S5. Molecular volumes (V), slopes of the linear fit (m), and dipole moment changes ($\Delta\mu$) of **MC-1** and **SMC-1–4**.

| Componds | V (\AA^3) | m | $\Delta\mu$ (D) |
|--------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| MC-1 | 1467 | 24383 | 29 |
| SMC-1 | 677 | 22352 | 19 |
| SMC-2 | 822 | 23661 | 21 |
| SMC-3 | 505 | 24415 | 17 |
| SMC-4 | 505 | 15936 | 14 |

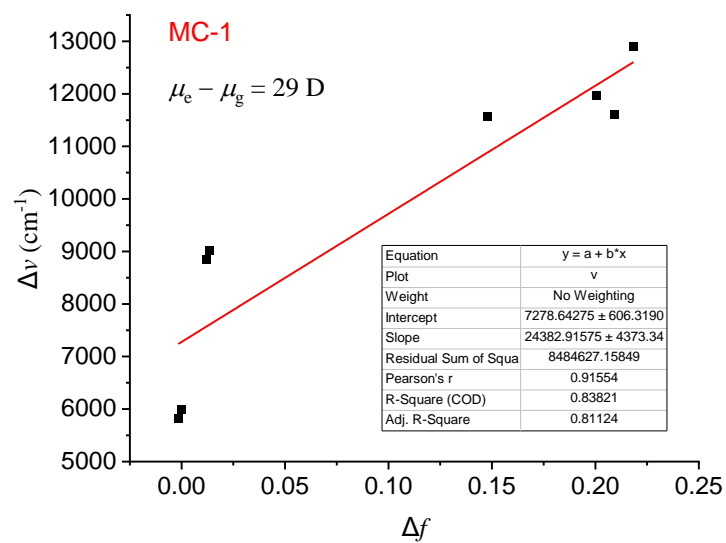


Figure S7. Lippert-Mataga plot of emission maxima of **MC-1** in different solvents against solvent orientation polarizabilities

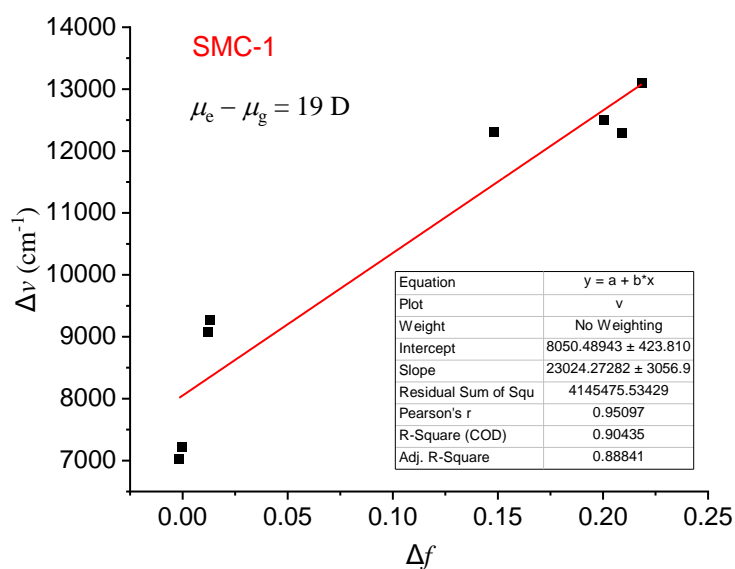


Figure S8. Lippert-Mataga plot of emission maxima of **SMC-1** in different solvents against solvent orientation polarizabilities

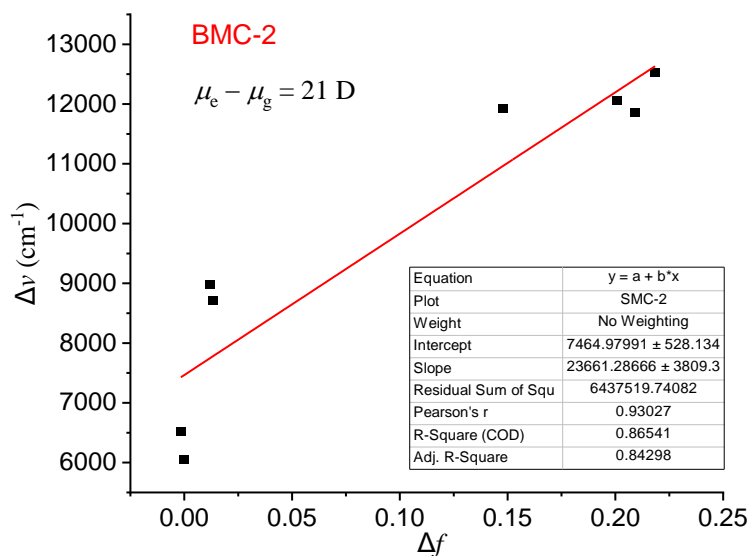


Figure S9. Lippert-Mataga plot of emission maxima of **SMC-2** in different solvents against solvent orientation polarizabilities

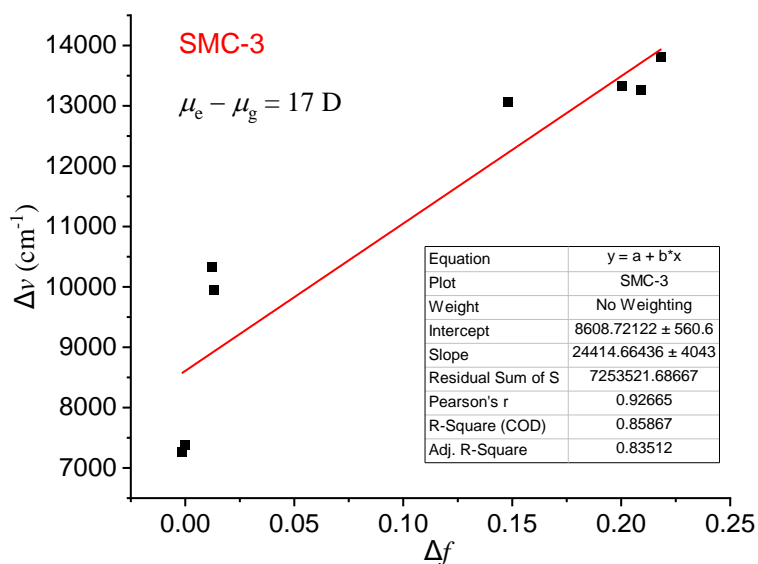


Figure S10. Lippert-Mataga plot of emission maxima of **SMC-3** in different solvents against solvent orientation polarizabilities

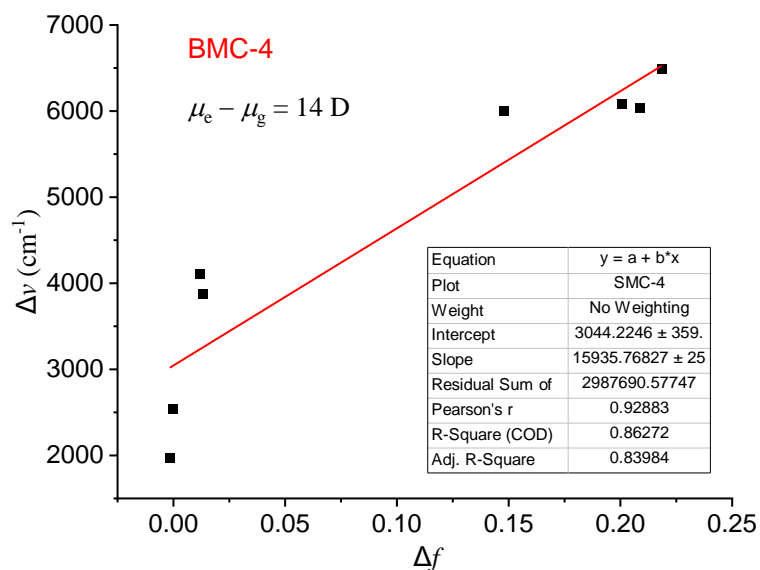


Figure S11. Lippert-Mataga plot of emission maxima of **SMC-4** in different solvents against solvent orientation polarizabilities

4. Theoretical Calculations.

DFT calculations were performed with the Gaussian 09 software package.³ Geometry optimizations and vertical excitations were calculated by means of hybrid density functional B3LYP with the basis set of 6-31G(d,p). The input files and orbital representations were generated with Gaussview 5.0. Excitation energies and oscillator strengths for the optimized structures were calculated using TD-DFT (B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)). The frontier molecular orbitals of **MC-1** and **SMC-1-4** were calculated using simplified model molecules **MC-1'** and **SMC-1'-4'**, which have smaller methyl groups replacing the *n*-hexyl groups to reduce the computational cost.

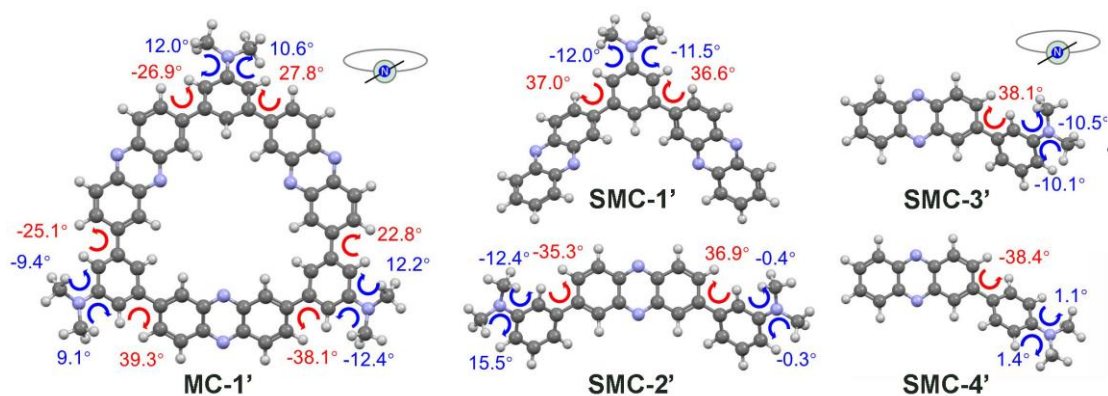


Figure S12. Calculated excited state geometries of **MC-1'** and **SMC-1'-4'** (DFT-B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)) using the simplified models with torsion angles labeled. The *n*-hexyl groups are simplified as methyl groups.

Table S6 Torsion angles of **MC-1'** at ground state and excited state.^a

| C-C single bond | | | C-N single bond | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Ground state (°) | Excited state (°) | $\Delta\theta$ (°) | Ground state (°) | Excited state (°) | $\Delta\theta$ (°) |
| -28.9 | -26.9 | 2 | -9.9 | 12.0 | 21.9 |
| 28.8 | 27.8 | 1 | 9.2 | 10.6 | 1.4 |
| 24.3 | 22.8 | 1.5 | 9.2 | 12.2 | 3 |
| -38.3 | -38.1 | 0.2 | -9.6 | -12.4 | 2.8 |
| 38.5 | 39.3 | 0.8 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 0.2 |
| -24.5 | -25.1 | 0.6 | -9.4 | -9.4 | 0 |

^aTorsion angle values were obtained from the optimized structure of **MC-1'** at ground state and excited state.

Table S7 Torsion angles of **SMC-1'-4'** at ground state and excited state.^a

| | C-C single bond | | | C-N single bond | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Ground state (°) | Excited state (°) | $\Delta\theta$ (°) | Ground state (°) | Excited state (°) | $\Delta\theta$ (°) |
| SMC-1 | 38.7 | 37.0 | 1.7 | -1.6 | -12.0 | 10.4 |
| | 38.7 | 36.6 | 2.1 | -1.6 | -11.5 | 9.9 |
| SMC-2 | -37.6 | -35.3 | 2.3 | -9.8 | -12.4 | 2.6 |
| | | | | 11.7 | 15.5 | 3.8 |
| | 37.6 | 36.9 | 0.7 | 9.7 | -0.4 | 10.1 |
| | | | | -11.7 | -0.3 | 11.4 |
| SMC-3 | 37.7 | 38.1 | 0.4 | 9.6 | -10.5 | 20.1 |
| | | | | -11.4 | -10.1 | 1.3 |
| SMC-4 | -33.3 | -38.4 | 5.1 | -8.1 | 1.1 | 9.2 |
| | | | | 9.5 | 1.4 | 8.1 |

^aTorsion angle values were obtained from the optimized structure of **MC-1'** at ground state and excited state.

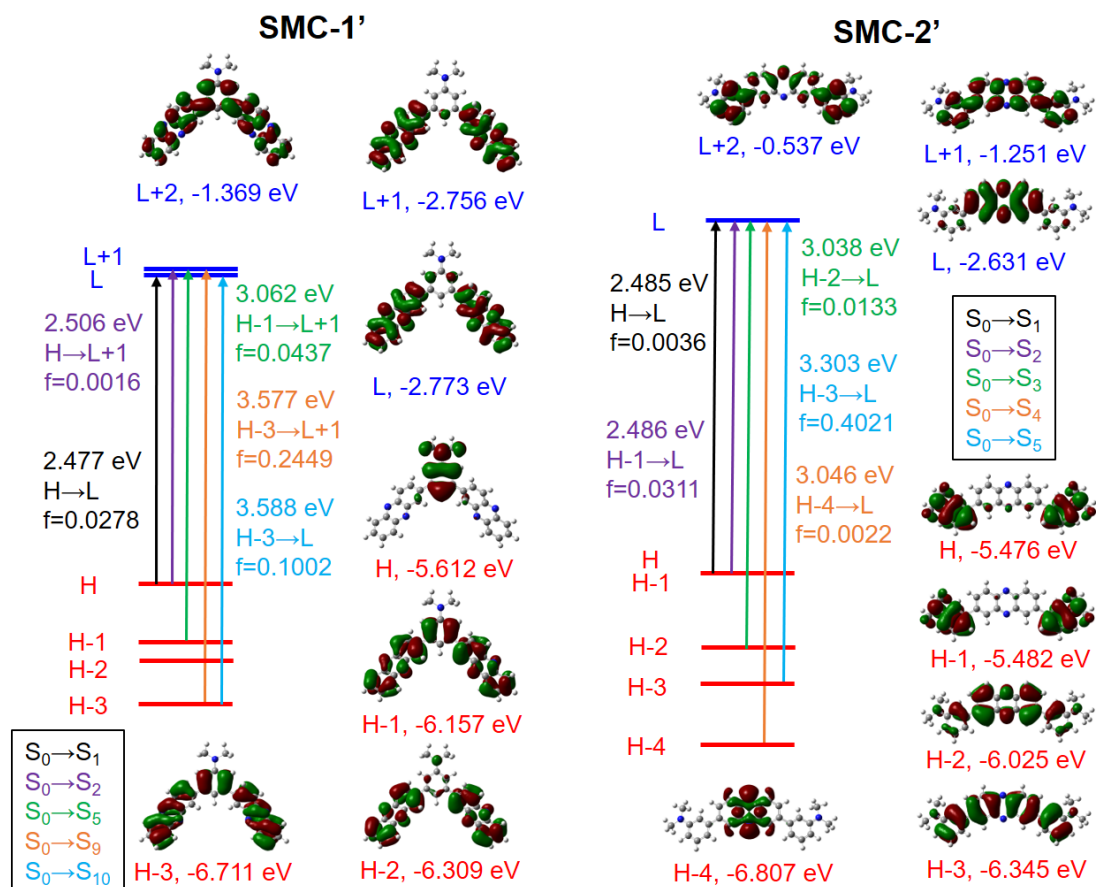


Figure S13. Energy-level diagrams and pictorial representation of frontier molecular orbitals of SMC-1' and SMC-2' in its optimized ground-state geometry, calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level in gas phase. The *n*-hexyl groups are simplified as methyl groups. H = HOMO; L = LUMO.

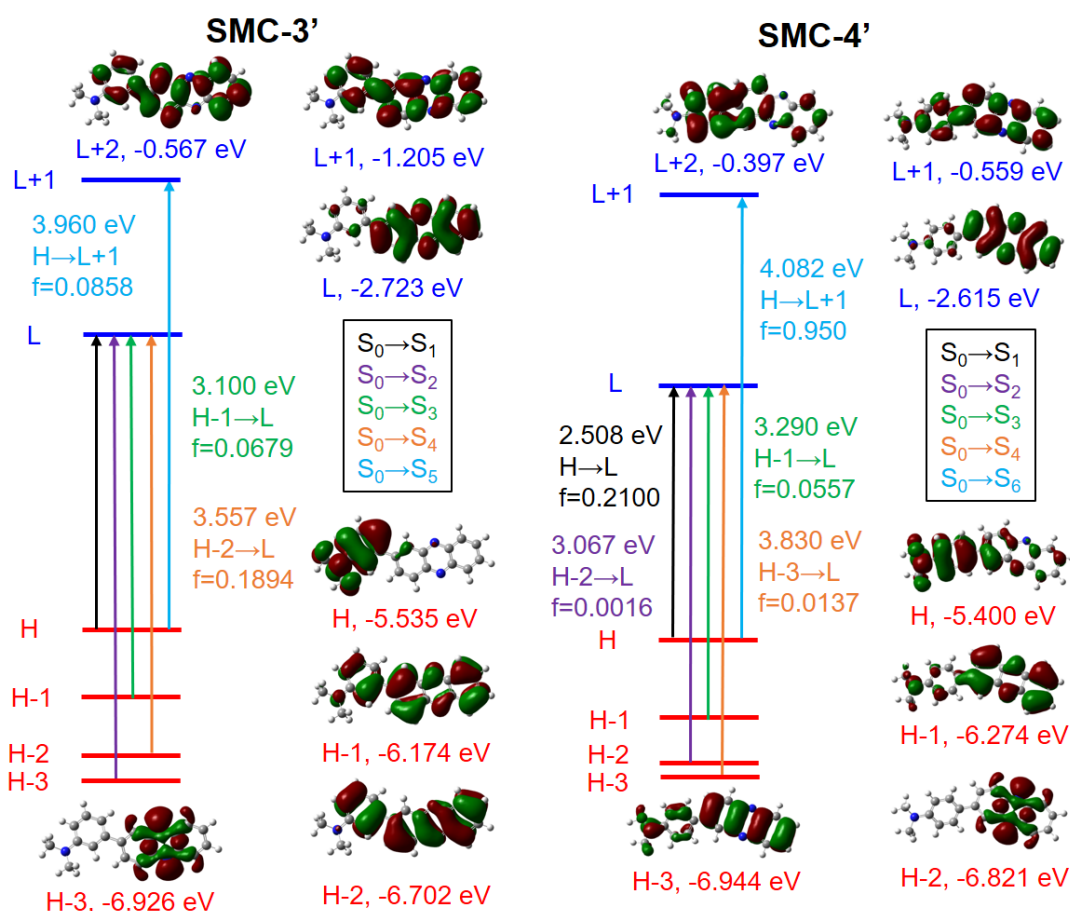


Figure S14. Energy-level diagrams and pictorial representation of frontier molecular orbitals of SMC-3' and SMC-4' in its optimized ground-state geometry, calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level in gas phase. The *n*-hexyl groups are simplified as methyl groups. H = HOMO; L = LUMO.

Table S8 Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for MC-1 from TD-DFT calculations

| State | Excitation energy | | Oscillator strength (<i>f</i>) | Excitation | Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | [eV] | [nm] | | | |
| 1 | 2.4821 | 499.51 | 0.0004 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.18877 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 | -0.11153 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.22719 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.61818 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | -0.1257 |
| 2 | 2.4893 | 498.07 | 0.0052 | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.23045 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | -0.29357 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | 0.46867 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | -0.369 |
| 3 | 2.4896 | 498.01 | 0.0028 | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.40833 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.13928 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | 0.26591 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.48693 |
| 4 | 2.4946 | 497.01 | 0.0076 | HOMO-2→LUMO | -0.16505 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 | -0.40955 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.10764 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.53378 |
| 5 | 2.5005 | 495.83 | 0.0118 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.53193 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|--------|--------|----------------|----------|
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 | -0.16494 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | -0.10993 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | -0.3895 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | -0.11879 |
| 6 | 2.501 | 495.74 | 0.0113 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.14933 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | -0.35025 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.42627 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | 0.39739 |
| 7 | 2.6951 | 460.03 | 0.0002 | HOMO-2→LUMO | -0.15434 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.32527 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.39365 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | -0.25081 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | -0.17134 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.13756 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | -0.30201 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | -0.1013 |
| 8 | 2.6961 | 459.86 | 0.0001 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.30528 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.20204 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.20696 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.45933 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | -0.22931 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | -0.16975 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.15441 |
| 9 | 2.7013 | 458.97 | 0.0000 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.1112 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 | 0.53626 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.17442 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.40032 |
| 10 | 2.9442 | 421.12 | 0.0018 | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | 0.16235 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.64982 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+2 | -0.15595 |
| 11 | 2.9571 | 419.28 | 0.0024 | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.51409 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+2 | 0.35273 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | 0.29422 |
| 12 | 2.9841 | 415.48 | 0.0046 | HOMO-9→LUMO | 0.10623 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO | -0.3431 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | 0.48519 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+2 | 0.31564 |
| 13 | 2.9952 | 413.94 | 0.0004 | HOMO-4→LUMO+2 | 0.50447 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | -0.46672 |
| 14 | 3.0189 | 410.7 | 0.0489 | HOMO-11→LUMO | 0.25721 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO | -0.27585 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO+2 | 0.10344 |
| | | | | HOMO-9→LUMO+1 | 0.38939 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO+1 | -0.1086 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.24257 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+2 | -0.20461 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | -0.25999 |
| 15 | 3.0267 | 409.64 | 0.0080 | HOMO-11→LUMO+1 | 0.29873 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO+1 | -0.32905 |
| | | | | HOMO-9→LUMO | 0.43724 |
| | | | | HOMO-9→LUMO+2 | -0.14729 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+2 | -0.26808 |
| 16 | 3.0312 | 409.03 | 0.0020 | HOMO-11→LUMO | 0.16488 |
| | | | | HOMO-11→LUMO+2 | 0.48808 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO | 0.17907 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO+2 | 0.43551 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|--------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| 17 | 3.0395 | 407.9 | 0.0652 | HOMO-11→LUMO | -0.20123 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO | 0.20191 |
| | | | | HOMO-9→LUMO+1 | -0.29269 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.37721 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+2 | -0.24244 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | -0.32693 |
| 18 | 3.0425 | 407.5 | 0.0773 | HOMO-11→LUMO+1 | 0.10709 |
| | | | | HOMO-10→LUMO+1 | -0.11802 |
| | | | | HOMO-9→LUMO | 0.15741 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO+2 | -0.11309 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | -0.38603 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.21716 |
| 19 | 3.1596 | 392.4 | 0.0043 | HOMO-7→LUMO+1 | -0.10585 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO | 0.56423 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | 0.28353 |
| 20 | 3.2025 | 387.14 | 0.0003 | HOMO-5→LUMO | 0.68987 |
| 21 | 3.2199 | 385.05 | 0.0789 | HOMO-6→LUMO+1 | 0.2629 |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+2 | 0.62977 |
| 22 | 3.2209 | 384.94 | 0.0585 | HOMO-6→LUMO+2 | -0.20328 |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+1 | 0.65988 |
| 23 | 3.2285 | 384.03 | 0.1816 | HOMO-6→LUMO+1 | 0.59826 |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+2 | -0.28257 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.13976 |
| 24 | 3.2322 | 383.59 | 0.1750 | HOMO-6→LUMO | -0.11734 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO+2 | 0.62271 |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+1 | 0.21165 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.11731 |
| 25 | 3.5597 | 348.3 | 0.0622 | HOMO-8→LUMO+1 | -0.13199 |
| | | | | HOMO-7→LUMO | 0.60912 |
| | | | | HOMO-7→LUMO+2 | -0.13129 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO+1 | 0.1684 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+3 | -0.1312 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+3 | -0.10247 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+4 | -0.10476 |

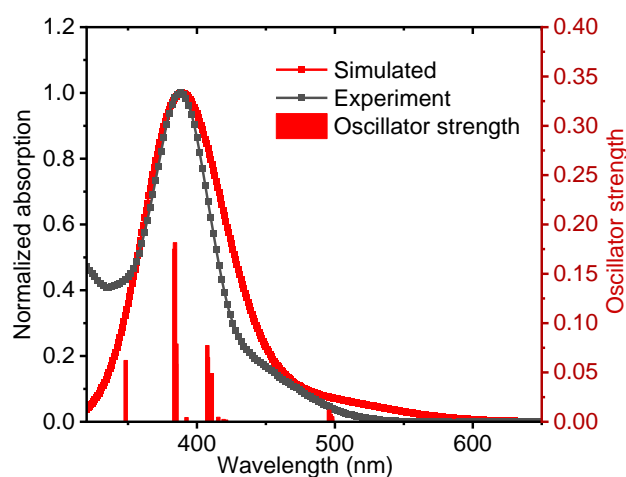


Figure. S15 Experimental UV-vis absorption spectrum in DCM solution (black line) and simulated spectrum (red line) of **MC-1**. Spectra were normalized at the intensity of the lowest energy absorption maxima.

Table S9 Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **SMC-1'** from TD-DFT calculations

| State | Excitation energy | | Oscillator strength (<i>f</i>) | Excitation | Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | [eV] | [nm] | | | |
| 1 | 2.4772 | 500.51 | 0.0278 | HOMO→LUMO | 0.70540 |
| 2 | 2.5064 | 494.67 | 0.0016 | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.70562 |
| 3 | 3.051 | 406.38 | 0.0080 | HOMO-5→LUMO+1 | -0.41116 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.41796 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | -0.37452 |
| 4 | 3.054 | 405.97 | 0.0036 | HOMO-5→LUMO | 0.49556 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | -0.49162 |
| | | | | HOMO-5→LUMO+1 | -0.27224 |
| 5 | 3.0618 | 404.94 | 0.0437 | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.27395 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO | -0.12904 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.5708 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | -0.15835 |
| 6 | 3.082 | 402.28 | 0.0730 | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.67819 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.68119 |
| 7 | 3.2356 | 383.19 | 0.0233 | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.14980 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.68096 |
| 8 | 3.2551 | 380.89 | 0.0006 | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.16394 |
| | | | | HOMO-6→LUMO | 0.19038 |
| 9 | 3.5774 | 346.58 | 0.2449 | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | 0.64017 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+2 | 0.12097 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+3 | 0.11125 |
| 10 | 3.5883 | 345.52 | 0.1002 | HOMO-6→LUMO+1 | 0.15635 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.64 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+3 | -0.13358 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | -0.17409 |

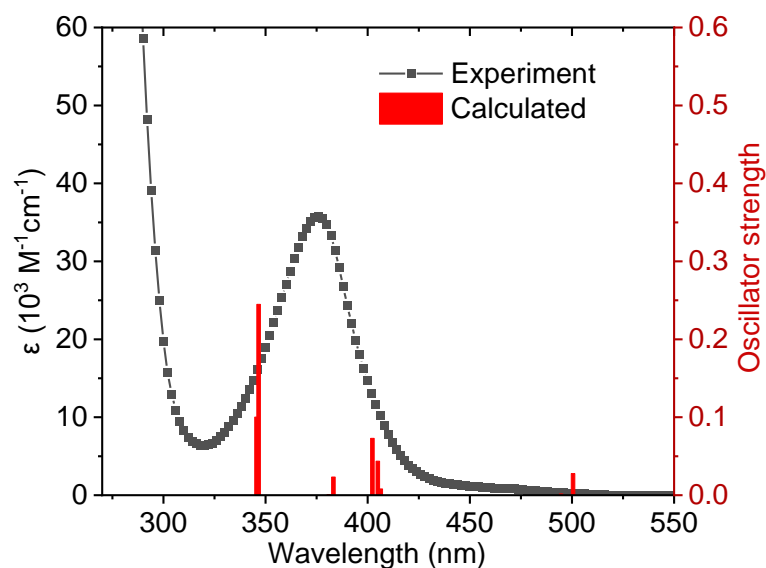


Figure S16. Experimental UV-vis absorption spectrum in DCM solution and oscillator strengths of **SMC-1**

Table S10. Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **SMC-2'** from TD-DFT calculations

| State | Excitation energy | | Oscillator strength (<i>f</i>) | Excitation | Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | [eV] | [nm] | | | |
| 1 | 2.4848 | 498.97 | 0.0036 | HOMO-1→LUMO | -0.12673 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.69381 |
| 2 | 2.4859 | 498.76 | 0.0311 | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.69417 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO | 0.12663 |
| 3 | 3.0384 | 408.06 | 0.0133 | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.15833 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.68257 |
| 4 | 3.046 | 407.04 | 0.0022 | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.68432 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO | -0.15713 |
| 5 | 3.303 | 375.37 | 0.4021 | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.67757 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.16555 |
| 6 | 3.8821 | 319.37 | 0.1538 | HOMO-6→LUMO | -0.14335 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.67339 |
| 7 | 3.8884 | 318.86 | 0.0165 | HOMO-5→LUMO | -0.29085 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.62818 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | -0.10225 |
| 8 | 3.9771 | 311.75 | 0.0059 | HOMO-6→LUMO | 0.61229 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.26059 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+3 | 0.1156 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.14532 |
| 9 | 3.9817 | 311.39 | 0.0400 | HOMO-5→LUMO | 0.63088 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.28897 |
| 10 | 4.301 | 288.27 | 0.3985 | HOMO-7→LUMO | 0.5659 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO | -0.11056 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.37194 |

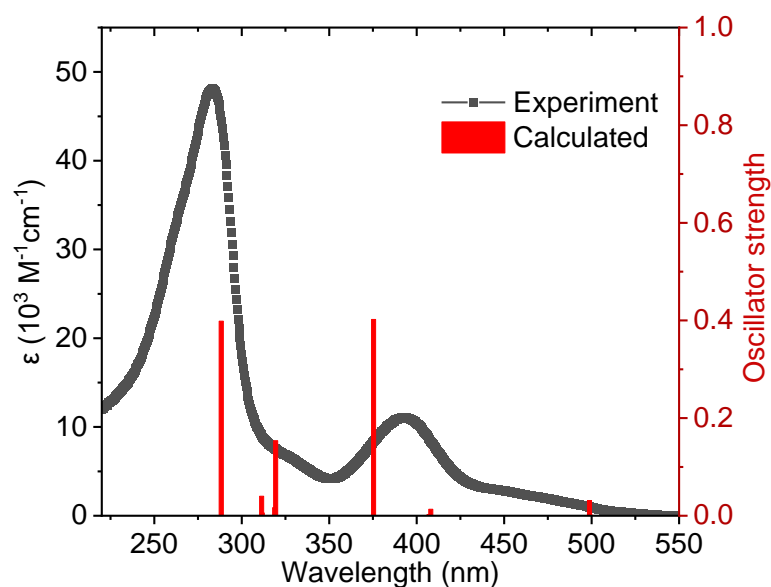


Figure S17. Experimental UV-vis absorption spectrum in DCM solution and oscillator strengths of **SMC-2**

Table S11. Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **SMC-3'** from TD-DFT calculations

| State | Excitation energy | | Oscillator strength (<i>f</i>) | Excitation | Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | [eV] | [nm] | | | |
| 1 | 2.454 | 505.23 | 0.0146 | HOMO→LUMO | 0.70555 |
| 2 | 3.0581 | 405.42 | 0.0023 | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.69754 |
| 3 | 3.0995 | 400.01 | 0.0679 | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.69610 |
| 4 | 3.5568 | 348.59 | 0.1894 | HOMO-2→LUMO HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.66056 -0.20322 |
| 5 | 3.9598 | 313.11 | 0.0858 | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.68674 |
| 6 | 4.003 | 309.73 | 0.0119 | HOMO-5→LUMO | -0.17141 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.62568 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.21038 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+2 | 0.11363 |
| 7 | 4.2558 | 291.33 | 0.0253 | HOMO-5→LUMO | 0.65514 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.11142 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.17024 |
| 8 | 4.6334 | 267.59 | 0.0114 | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.66532 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+3 | 0.15658 |
| 9 | 4.6832 | 264.74 | 0.0026 | HOMO-7→LUMO | 0.62946 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | 0.305 |
| 10 | 4.7102 | 263.22 | 0.0449 | HOMO-7→LUMO | -0.30871 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+1 | 0.59183 |
| | | | | HOMO-3→LUMO+2 | 0.11215 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.11781 |

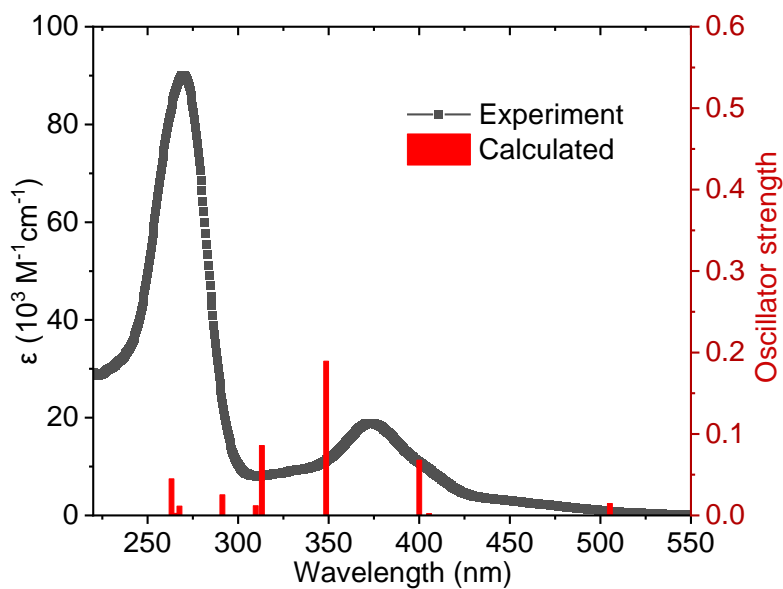


Figure S18. Experimental UV-vis absorption spectrum in DCM solution and oscillator strengths of **SMC-3**

Table S12. Computed excitation energies and oscillator strengths for **SMC-4'** from TD-DFT calculations

| State | Excitation energy | | Oscillator strength (<i>f</i>) | Excitation | Weight |
|-------|-------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | [eV] | [nm] | | | |
| 1 | 2.508 | 494.36 | 0.2100 | HOMO→LUMO | 0.70331 |
| 2 | 3.0672 | 404.23 | 0.0016 | HOMO-2→LUMO | 0.70313 |
| 3 | 3.2904 | 376.8 | 0.0557 | HOMO-1→LUMO | 0.69395 |
| 4 | 3.8303 | 323.69 | 0.0137 | HOMO-3→LUMO | 0.55008 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | 0.25877 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.32653 |
| 5 | 4.0341 | 307.34 | 0.0124 | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.67861 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.10224 |
| 6 | 4.0815 | 303.77 | 0.9496 | HOMO-3→LUMO | -0.29203 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | -0.13437 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+1 | 0.61087 |
| 7 | 4.1061 | 301.95 | 0.0001 | HOMO-5→LUMO | 0.67772 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO | 0.10685 |
| 8 | 4.4551 | 278.29 | 0.0286 | HOMO-4→LUMO | -0.13132 |
| | | | | HOMO-4→LUMO+1 | 0.13763 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.59265 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+3 | -0.29824 |
| 9 | 4.6925 | 264.22 | 0.0003 | HOMO-7→LUMO | 0.64675 |
| | | | | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.27288 |
| 10 | 4.7151 | 262.95 | 0.1168 | HOMO-2→LUMO+1 | 0.23348 |
| | | | | HOMO-1→LUMO+1 | -0.18887 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+2 | 0.2733 |
| | | | | HOMO→LUMO+3 | 0.54015 |

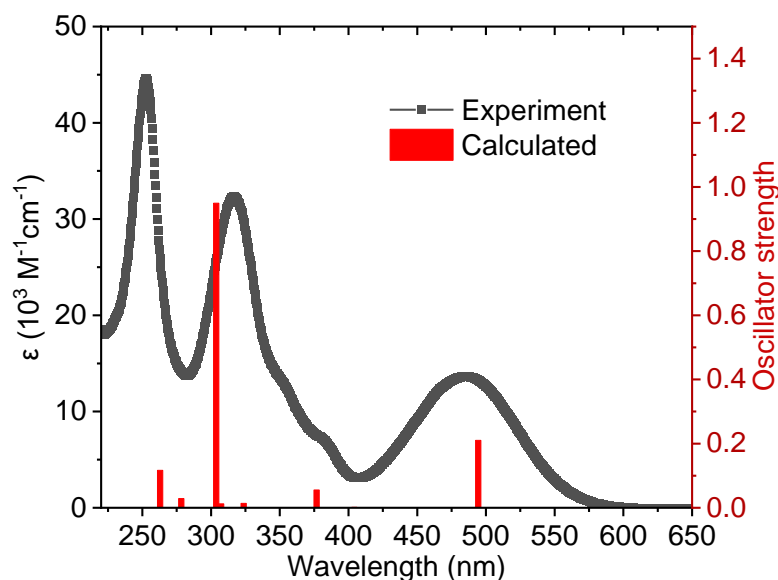


Figure S19. Experimental UV-vis absorption spectrum in DCM solution and oscillator strengths of **SMC-4**

5. Sensing properties

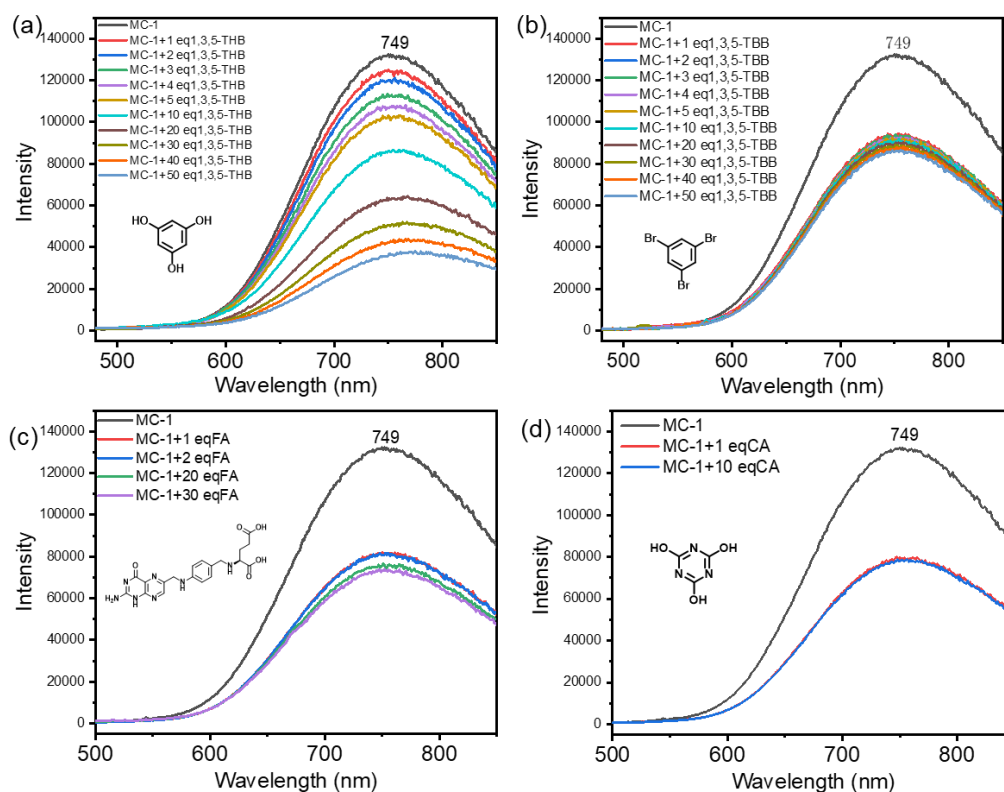


Figure S20. PL spectrum changes of MC-1 (1×10^{-5} M) when different amounts of (a) phloroglucinol (THB), (b) 1,3,5-tribromobenzene (TBB), (c) folic acid (FA), and (d) cyanuric acid (CA) are added.

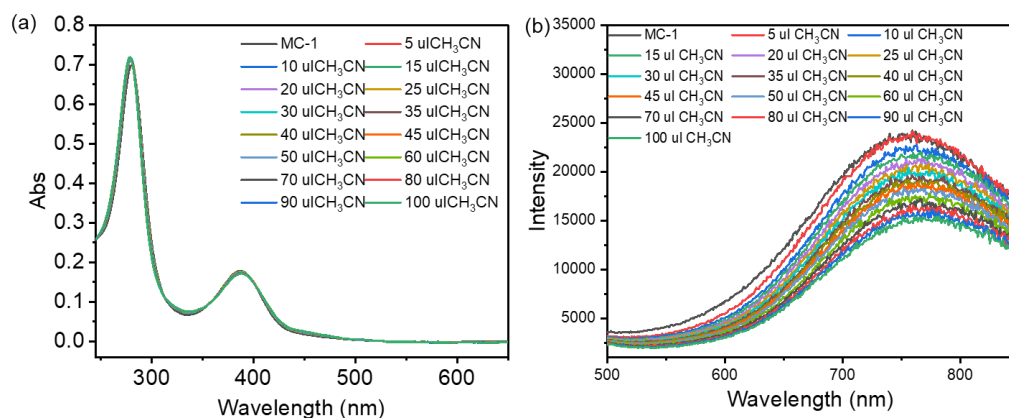


Figure S21. (a) Absorption and (b) emission spectra of MC-1 in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) recorded when different amounts of acetonitrile (CH₃CN) were added.

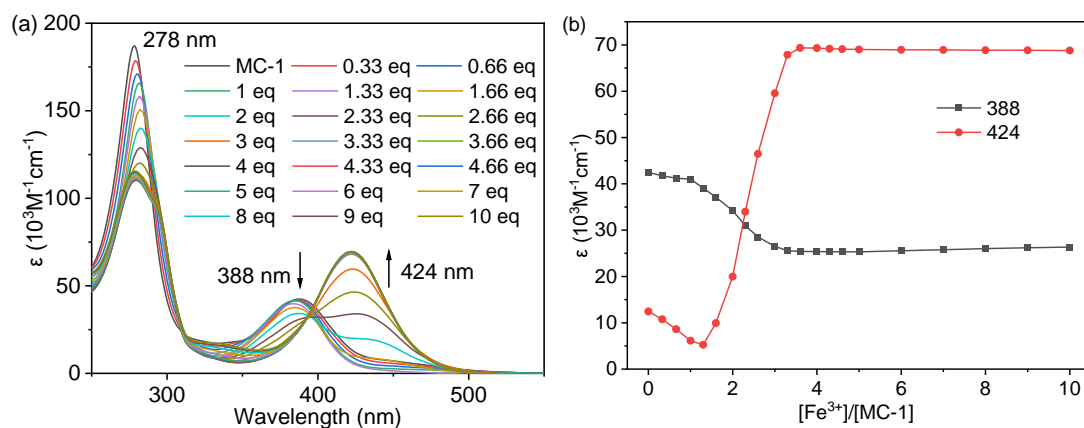


Figure S22. (a) Absorption spectra of **MC-1** in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) with different equivalents of Fe^{3+} . (b) Molar extinction coefficient (ϵ) of **MC-1** solution versus different Fe^{3+} equivalents at 388 nm and 424 nm.⁴

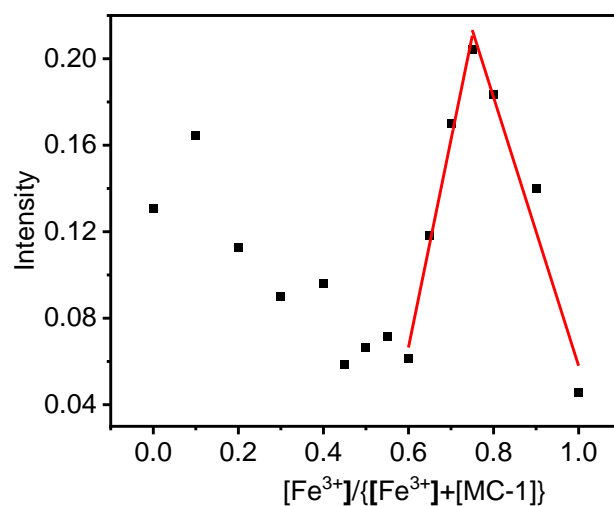


Figure S23. Job's plot of fluorescence intensity of **MC-1** at 545 nm versus the mole fraction of Fe^{3+} ion. The largest fluorescence intensity appeared at the mole fraction of 0.75, indicating that the ratio of **MC-1** to Fe^{3+} is 1:3.

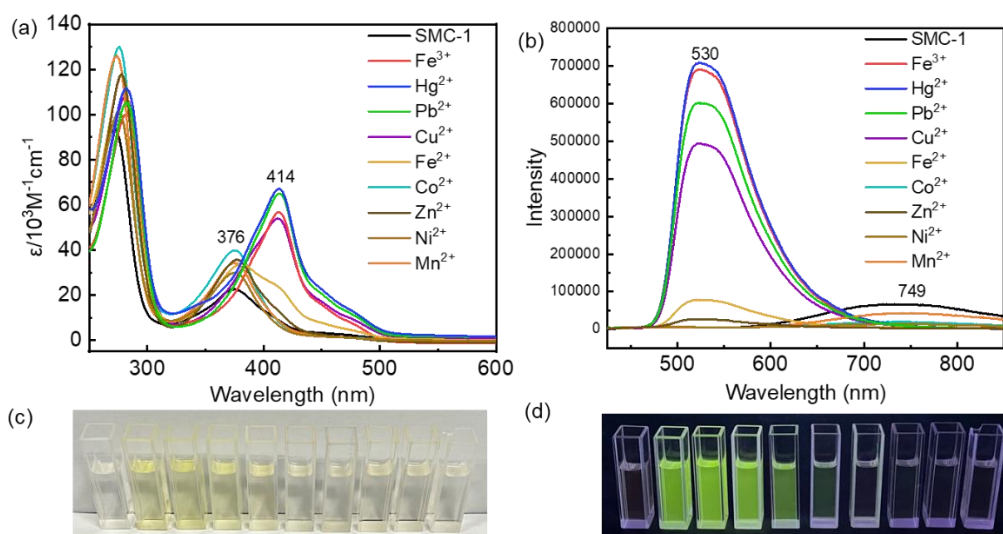


Figure S24. (a) Absorption and (b) emission spectra of **SMC-1** in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions (5 equivalents). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-1** (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

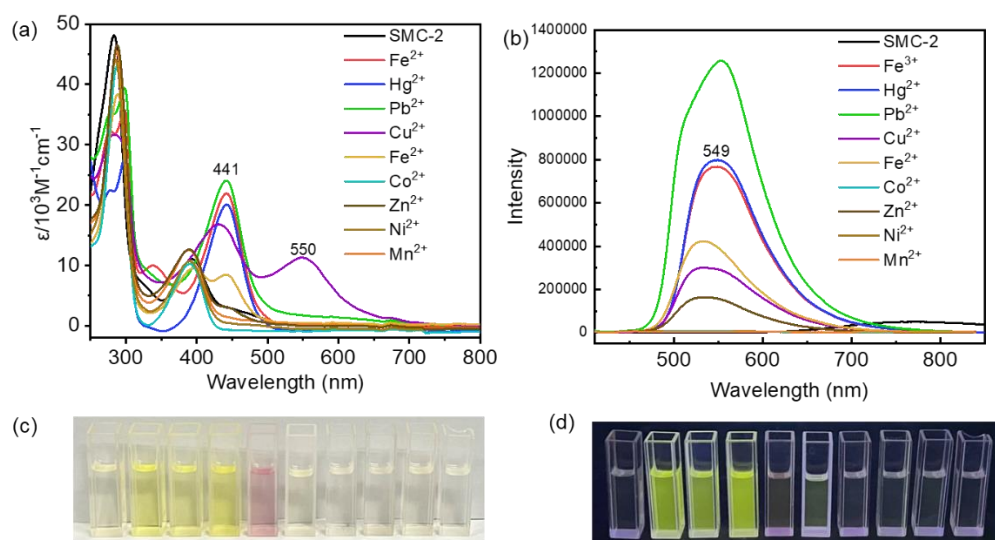


Figure S25. (a) Absorption and (b) emission spectra of **SMC-2** in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions (5 equivalents). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-2** (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

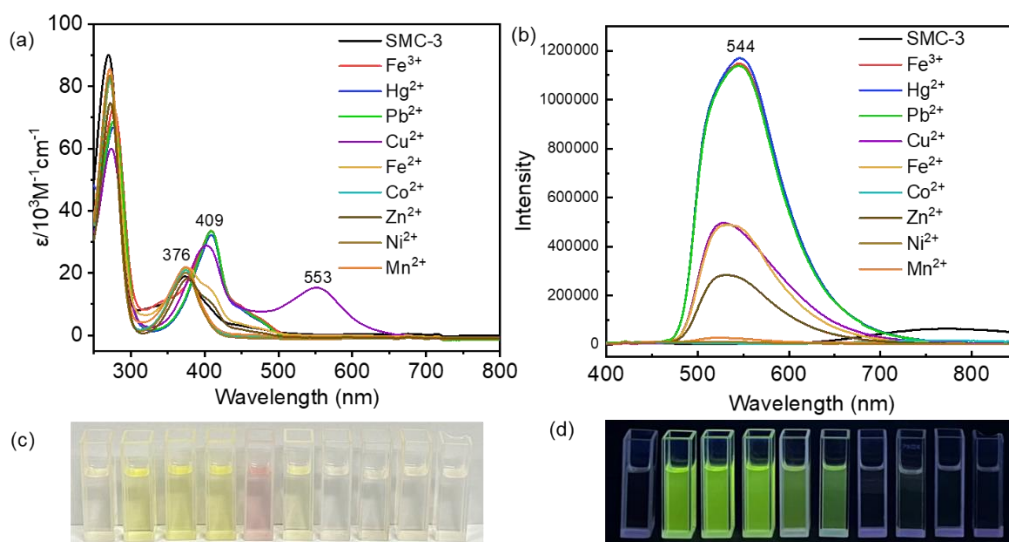


Figure S26. (a) Absorption and (b) emission spectra of **SMC-3** in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions (5 equivalents). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-3** (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

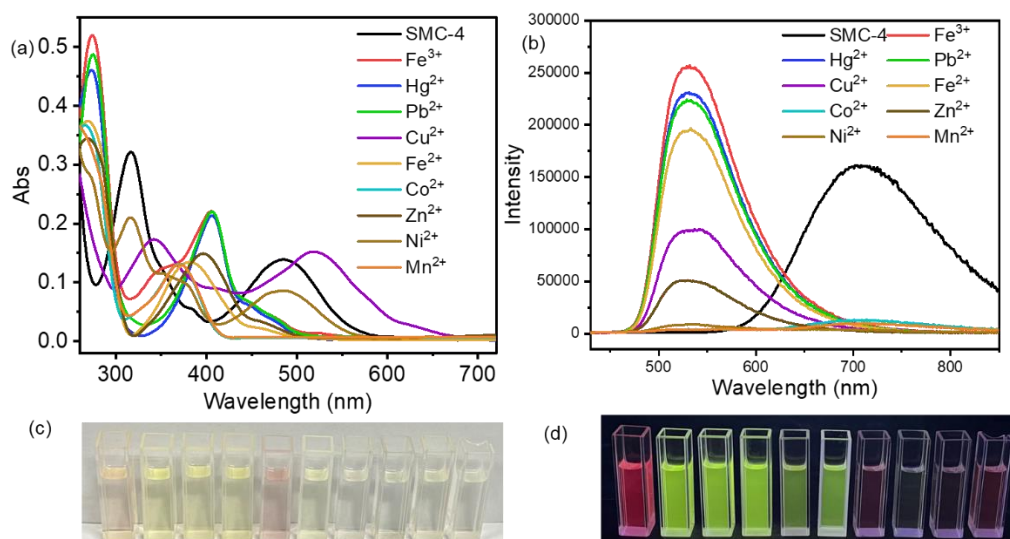


Figure S27. (a) Absorption and (b) emission spectra of **SMC-4** in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions (5 equivalents). (c,d) Images of solutions of **SMC-4** (1×10^{-5} M) with various metal ions under ambient (c) and UV light (365 nm) (d).

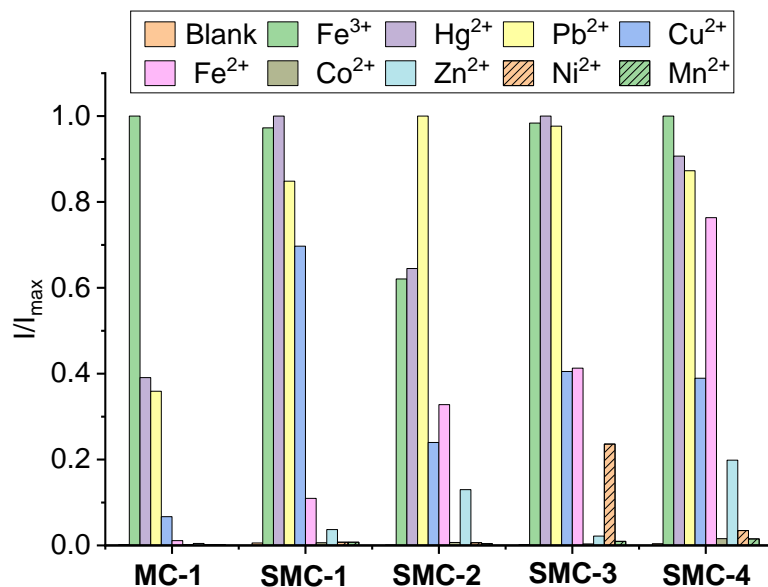


Figure S28. Comparison of normalized fluorescence intensity of MC-1 and SMC-1–4 in DCM (1×10^{-5} M) at the most enhanced wavelengths (545, 523, 545, 544, and 531 nm, respectively) with various metal ions (5 equivalents). MC-1 shows a better selectivity.

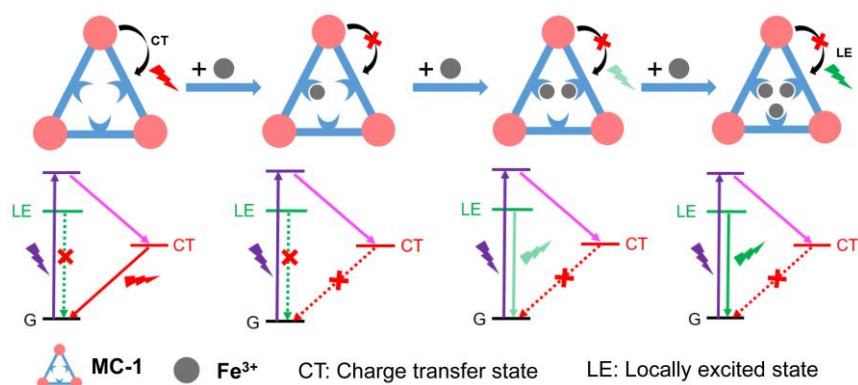


Figure S29. Schematic diagram of the proposed mechanism of MC-1 recognizing Fe³⁺ ion and the corresponding excited state decay pathway.

6. ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR spectra

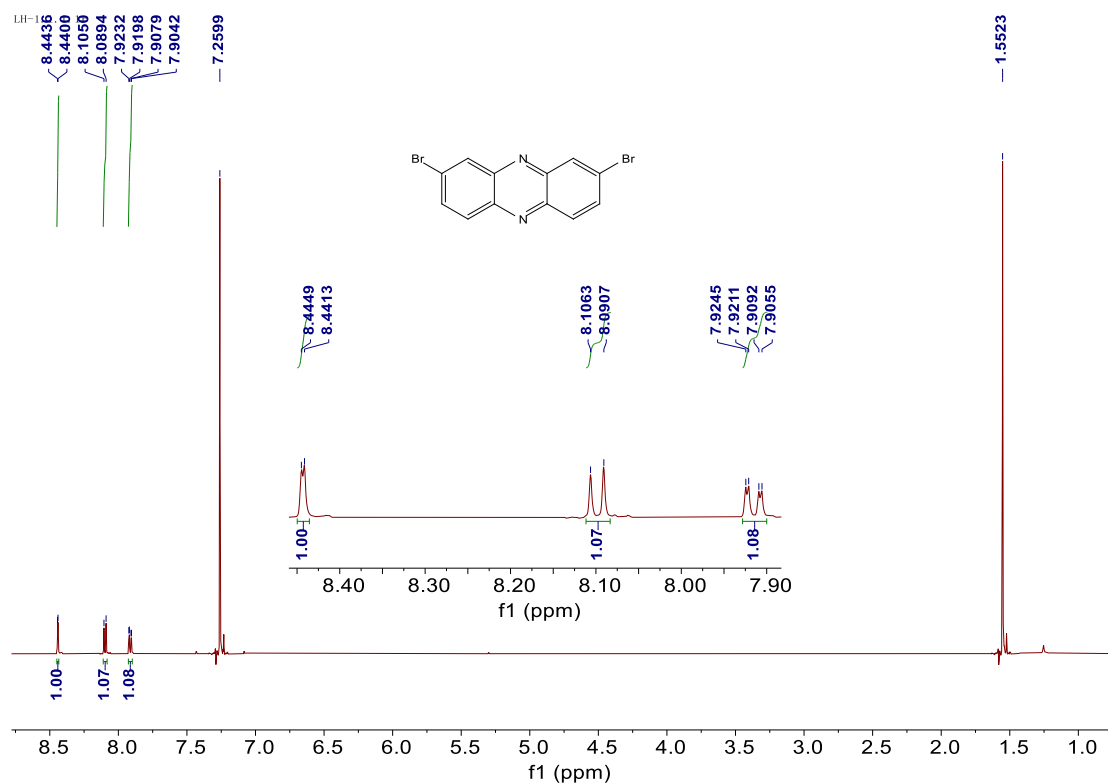


Figure S30. ^1H -NMR spectrum of LH-1 in CDCl_3

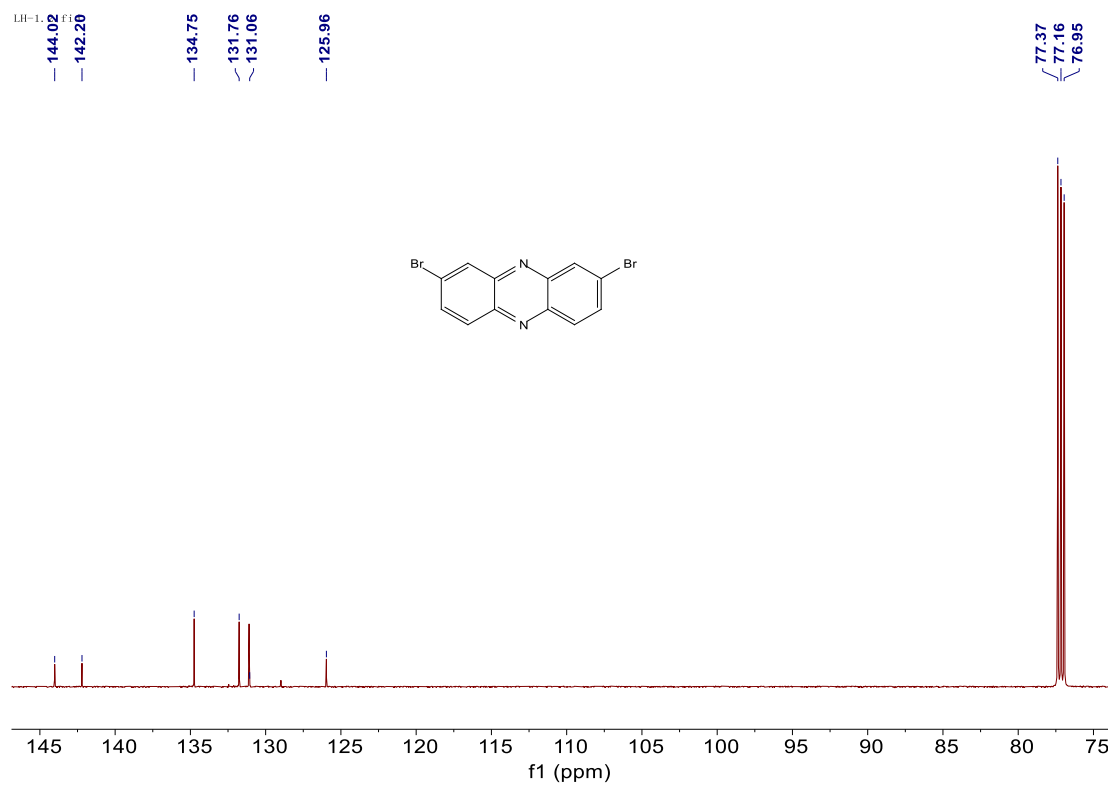


Figure S31. ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of LH-1 in CDCl_3

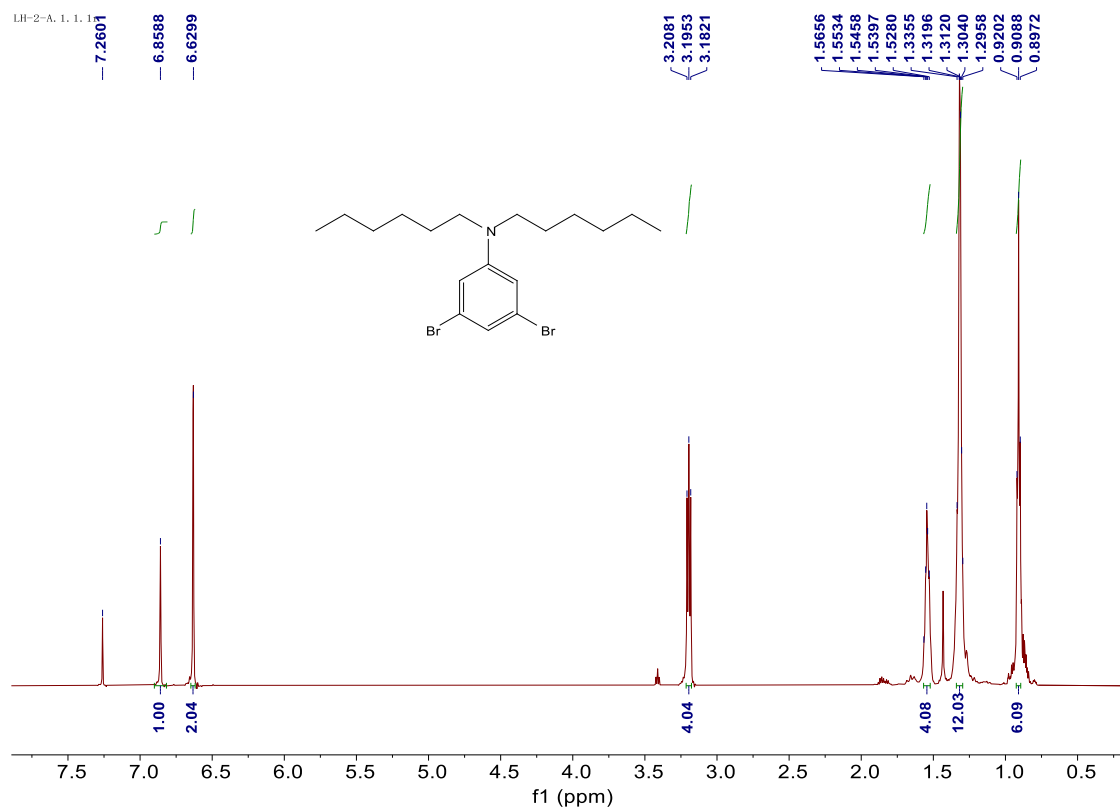


Figure S32. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of LH-2 in CDCl_3

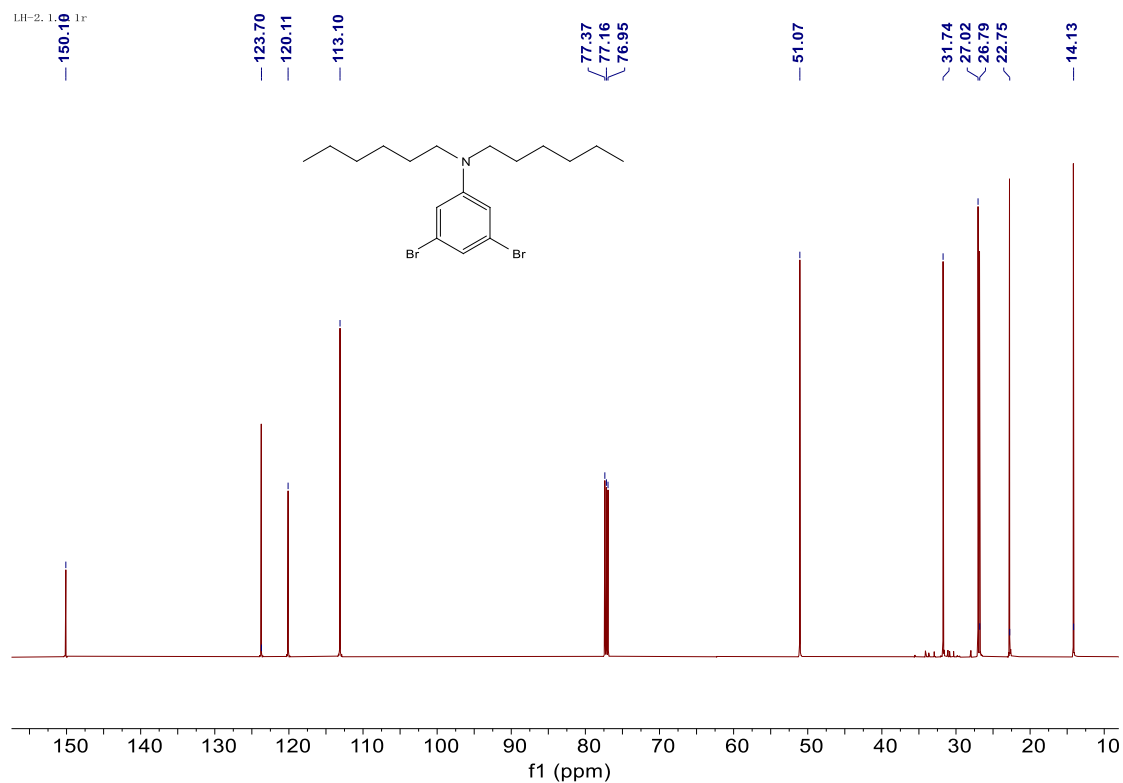


Figure S33. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of LH-2 in CDCl_3

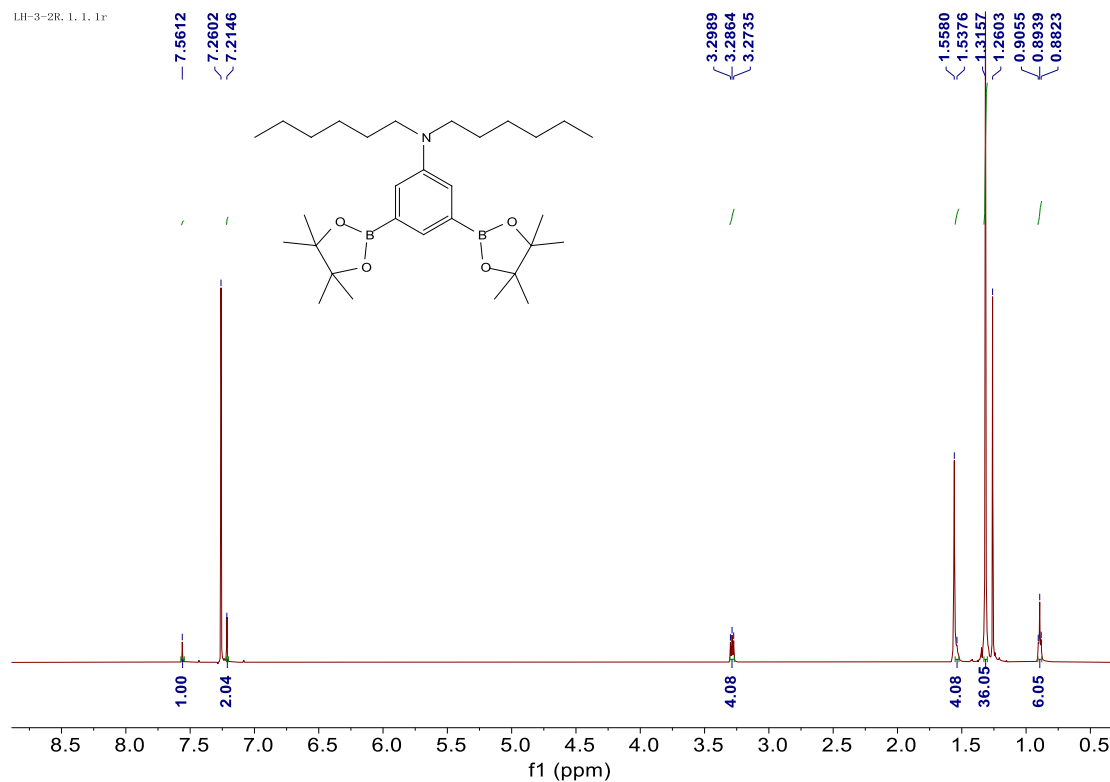


Figure S34. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of LH-3 in CDCl_3

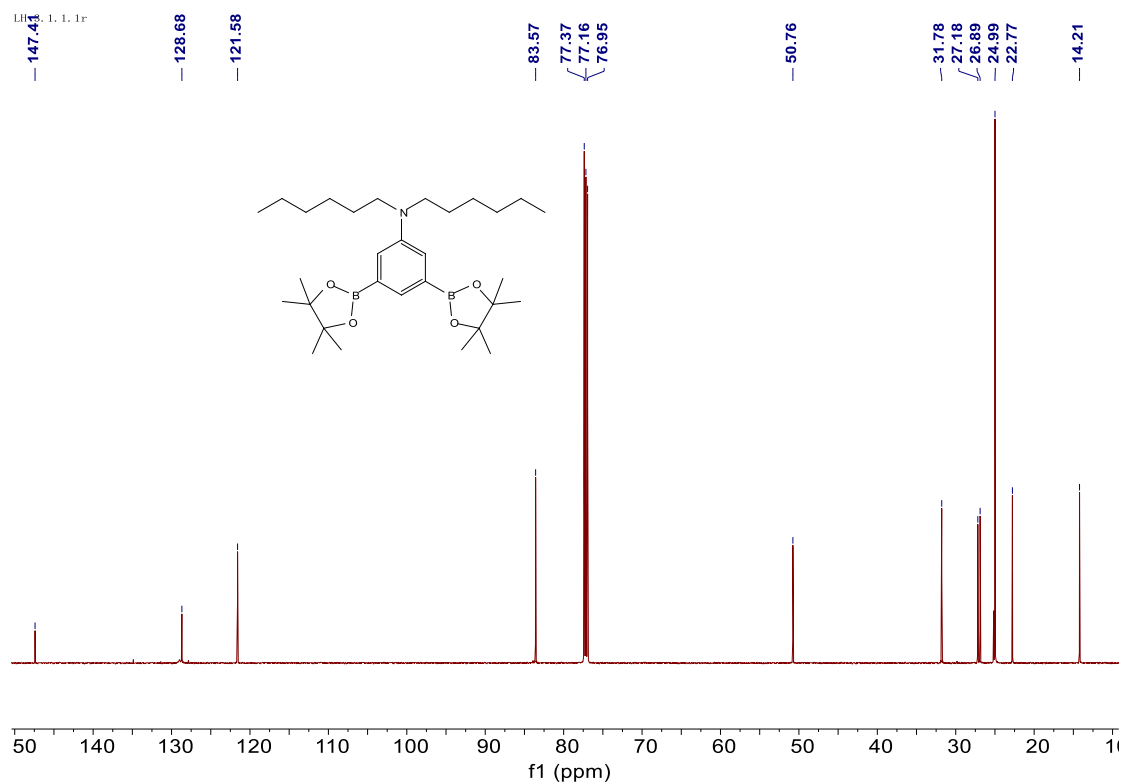


Figure S35. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of LH-3 in CDCl_3

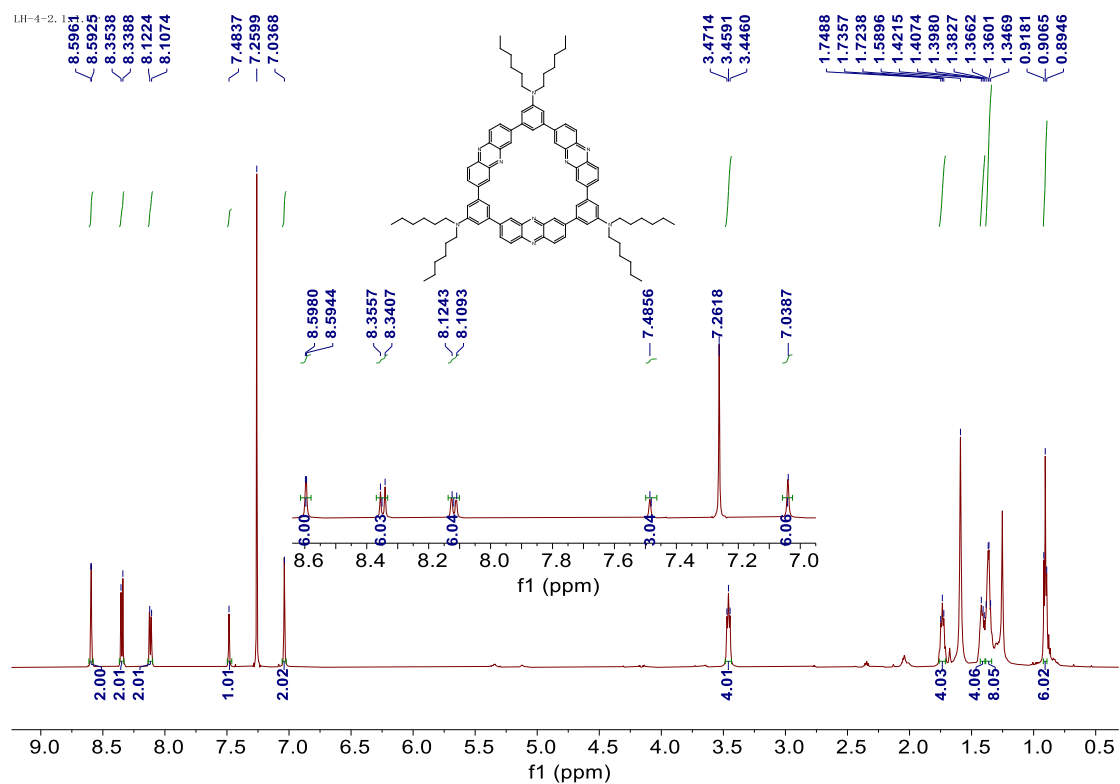


Figure S36. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of MC-1 in CDCl_3

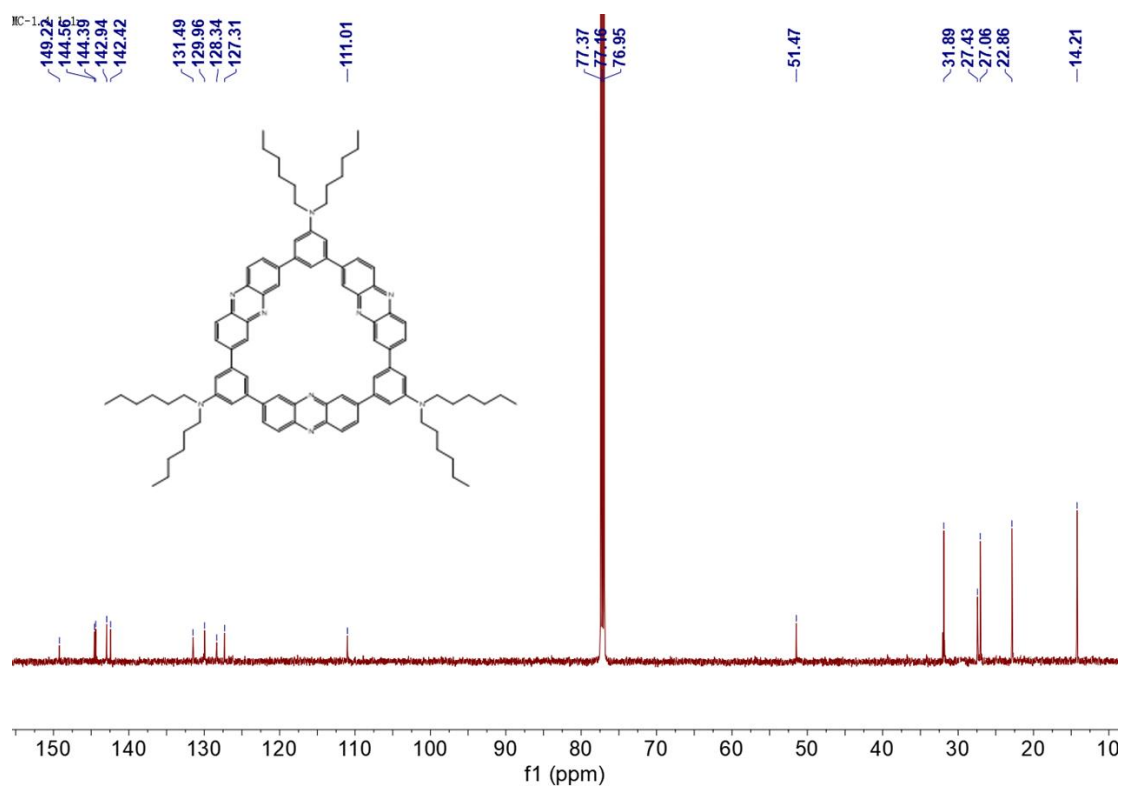


Figure S37. $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ spectrum of MC-1 in CDCl_3

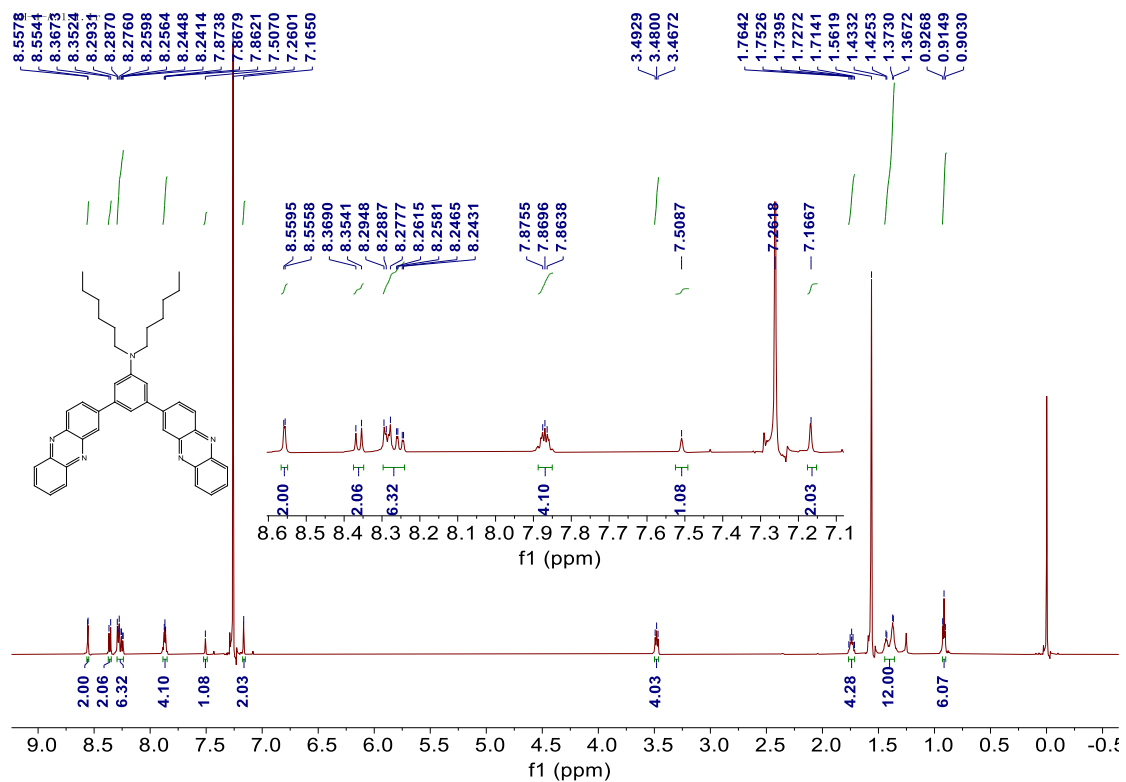


Figure S38. ¹H-NMR spectrum of SMC-1 in CDCl₃

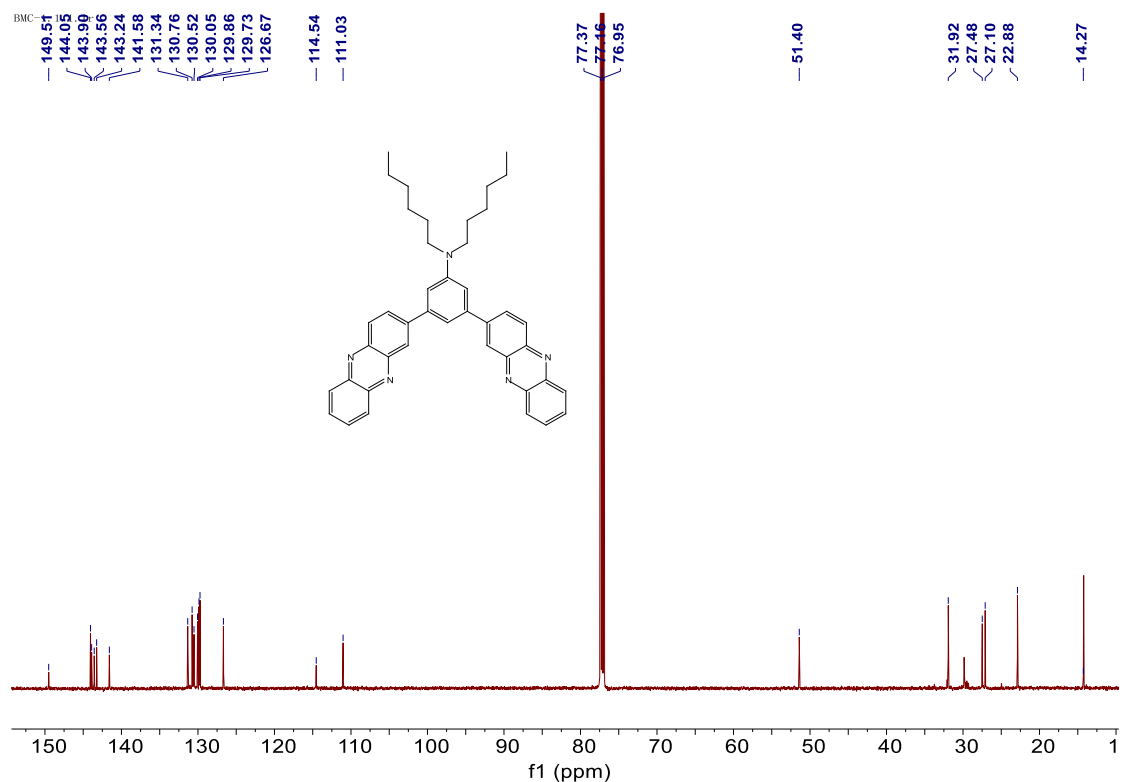


Figure S39. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of SMC-1 in CDCl₃

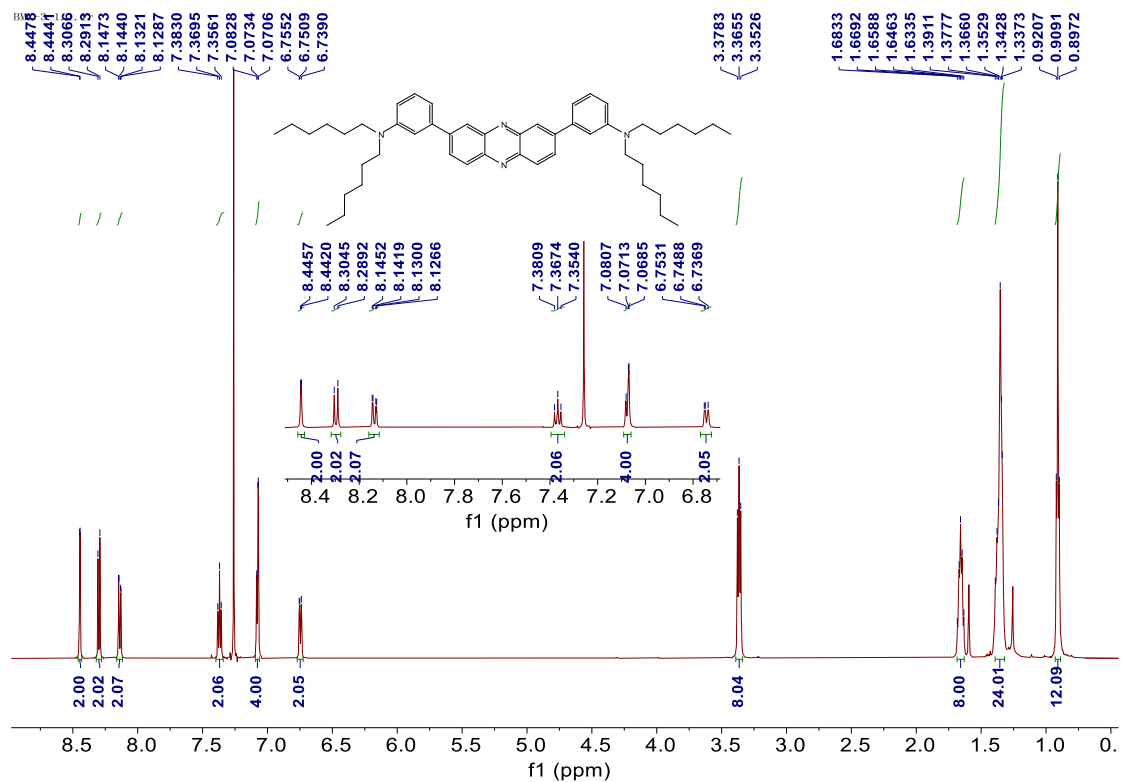


Figure S40. ¹H-NMR spectrum of SMC-2 in CDCl₃

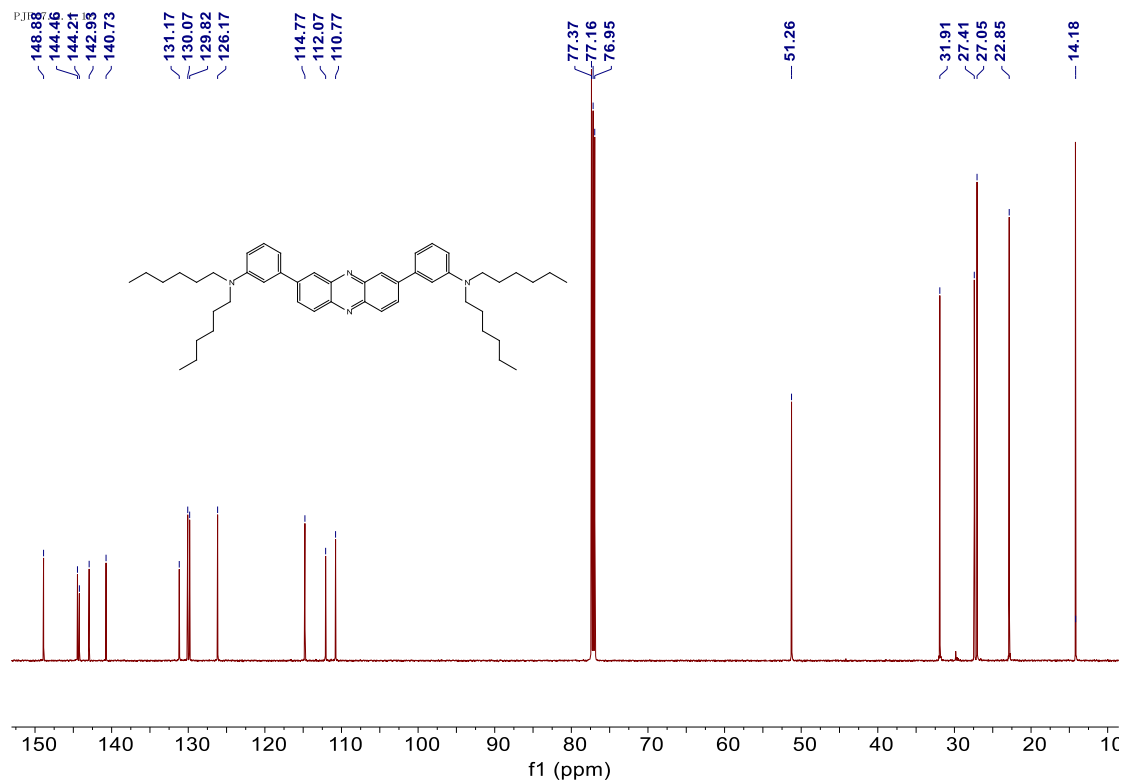


Figure S41. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of SMC-2 in CDCl₃

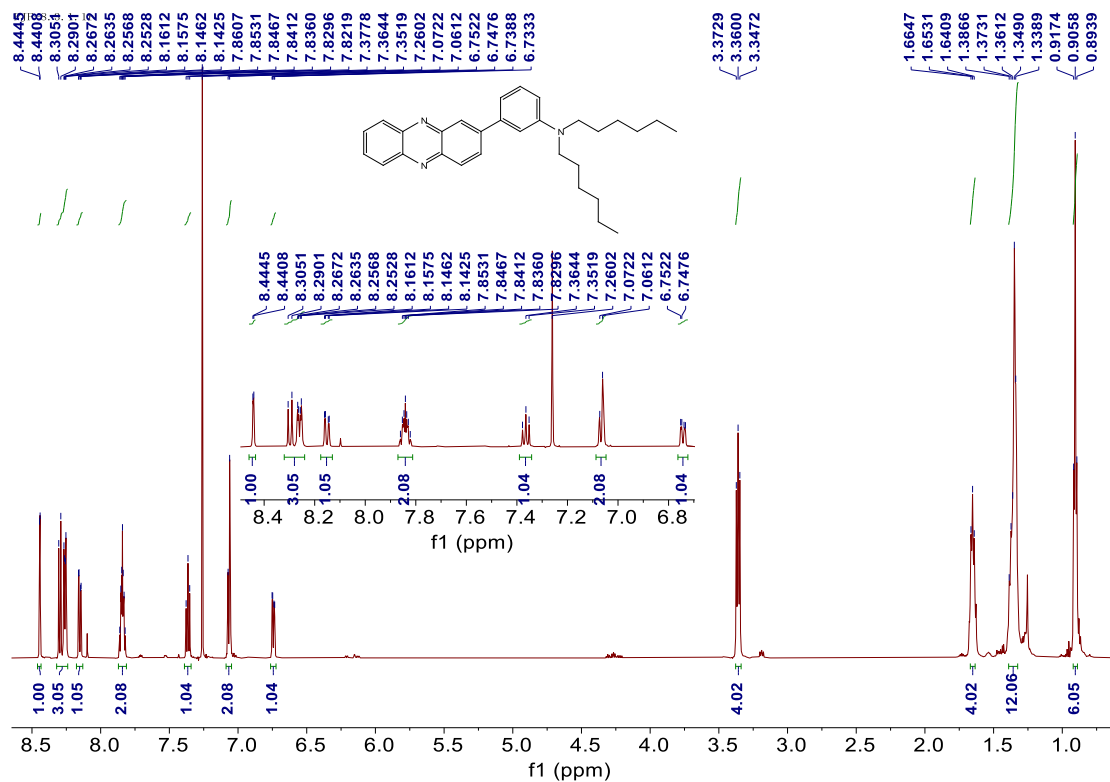


Figure S42. ¹H-NMR spectrum of SMC-3 in CDCl₃

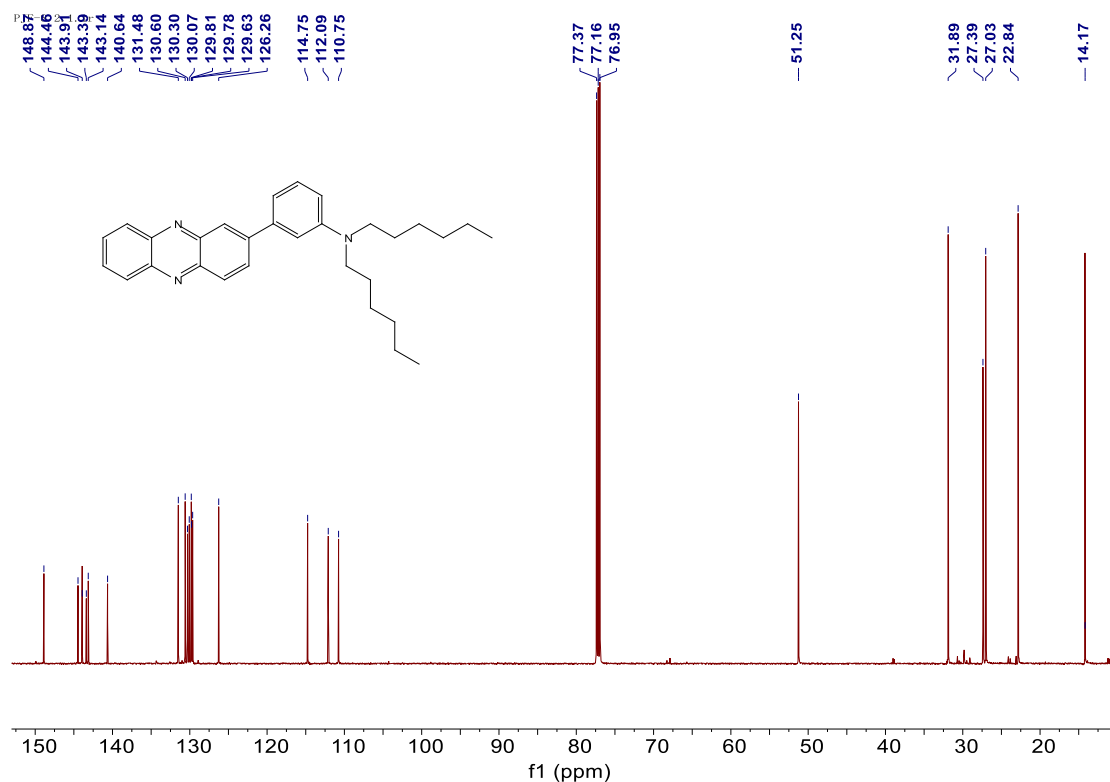
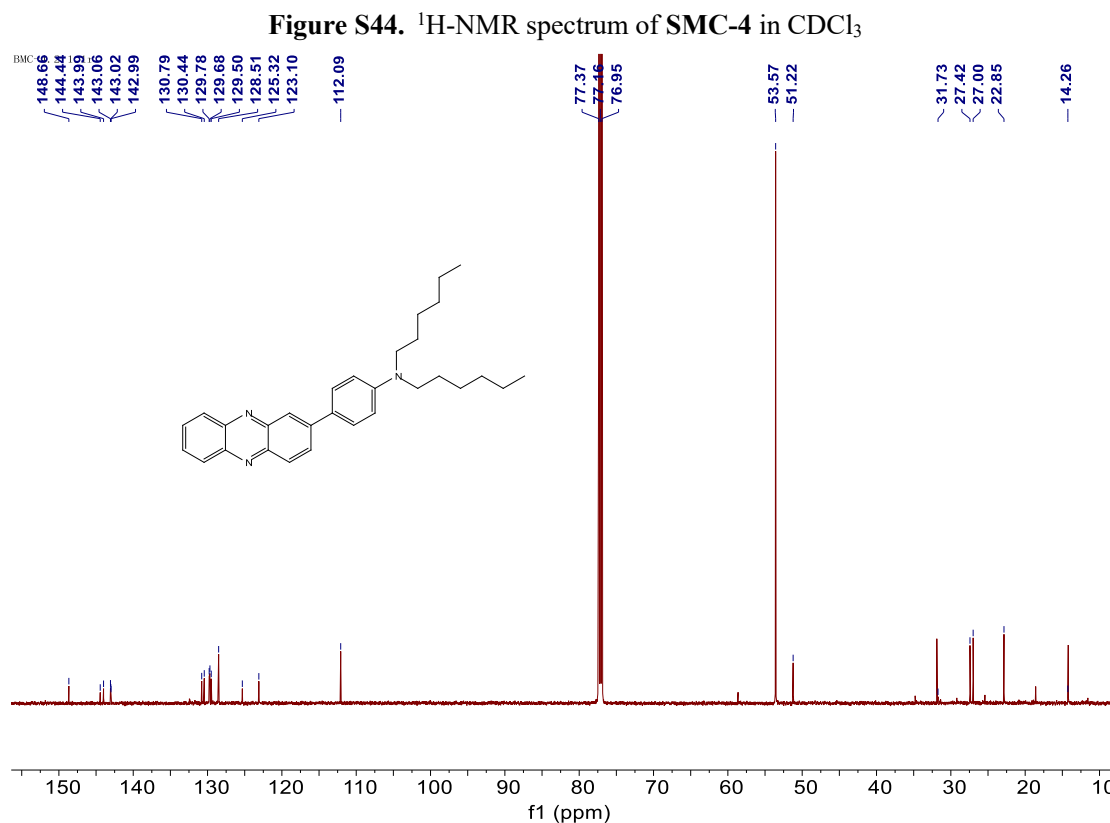
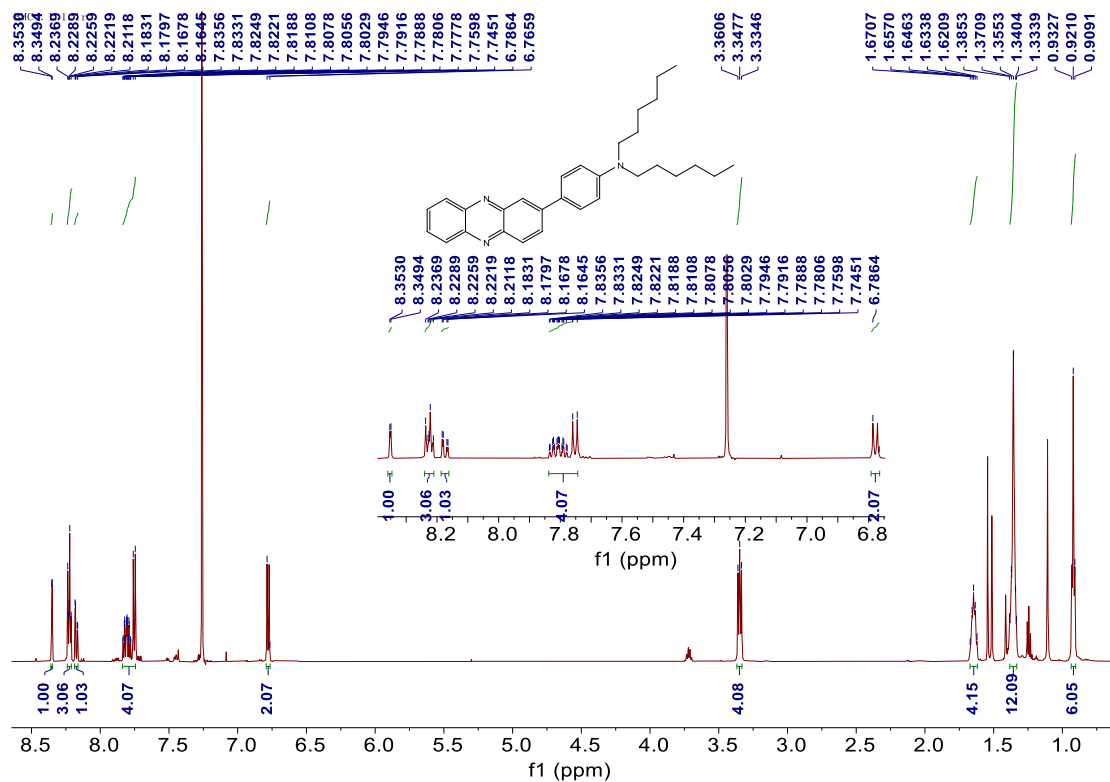


Figure S43. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of SMC-3 in CDCl₃



7. References

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