Monopyrrolotetrathiafulvalene and their TCNQ chargetransfer complex based supramolecular gels with multiple stimulus responsiveness

Supporting Information

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1. Instrumentation

Gelation study

A weight amount of the gelator 1 with or without TCNQ adding a measured volume of the solvent were placed in a sealed test tube and made a clear solution by heating. And then, the system left at room temperature. The transition temperatures (T_{gel}) were determined by ball-drop method.

NMR experiments

All solution state NMR studies were carried out on Bruker AV-300 Spectrometer (300 MHz for ¹H and 75 MHz for ¹³C) and chemical shifts were referenced relative to tetramethylsilane $(\delta_{H}/\delta_{C}=0)$.

FT-IR spectroscopy

IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu FT-IR Prestige-21 instrument with the KBr disk technique.

MALDI-TOF-MS spectrometry

Mass spectra were performed on a Shimadzu Axima CFRTM Plus using a 1,8,9-anthracenetriol (DITH) and β -phenylacrylic acid (CHCA) matrix.

ESI-MS spectrometry

The high-resolution mass spectra were obtained using a Bruker microTOF II focus spectrometer (ESI).

Cyclic voltametry

Cyclic voltammetry was performed with CHI660D instruments in a mixture of CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (1:1, 1 mM) with 0.1 M Bu_4NPF_6 as the supporting electrolyte and a scan rate of 100 mVs⁻¹. Counter and working electrodes were made of Pt and glass carbon, respectively, and an Ag/AgCl was used as the reference electrode. A small amount of the gel or CT gel was carefully put on the glass carbon electrode, which was left in air for 24h.

UV-vis spectroscopy

UV-vis spectra were recorded on a Hitachi U-3010 spectrophotometer.

Thermogravimetric analysis

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) curve was measured by DTG60 at a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ under N₂ atmosphere.

Field emission scanning electron microscopy

The gel samples were placed on silicon wafer, and dried for 24h under room temperature before imaging. A layer of gold was sputtered on top to form a conducting surface and finally the specimen was transferred into the Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FE-SEM, Joel Scanning Microscope-JSM-6700F and Hitachi Scanning Microscope-3500N).

Small-angle X-ray scattering

Small-angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) measurements were carried out at 298 K on a beamline 1W2A synchrotron radiation X-ray small angle system at Beijing Synchrotron Radiation Facility($\lambda = 1.54$ Å).

Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy

The EPR spectra were obtained on a JES-FA 200 EPR spectrometer. The instrumental parameters were as follows: scanning frequency, 9.45 GHz; central field, 3371.44 G; scanning width, 8000 G; scanning power, 0.998 mW; scanning temperature, 25°C.

2. Synthesis and characterization of organic compounds

All solvents were purified and dried according to literature methods. The compound 6 was synthesized according to the literature procedure.¹

2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5-(3-bromopropyl)-5*H*-[1,3]d-ithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrrole (5): Compound 6 (311.3 mg, 0.7417 mmol) and NaH (106.8 mg, 4.4502 mmol) were suspended in anhyd DMF (8.0 mL) and degassed (N₂, 20 min). Then, 1, 3-Dibromopropane was added in one portion. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3.0 h at room temperature. After addition of saturated brine (20 mL), the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, and the extract was washed with brine and dried (MgSO₄). After concentration, the resulting crude product was purified through flash column chromatography (silica gel, dichloromethane/ petroleum ether, v: v=1:6) to give 337.2 mg (84.0%) of **5** as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 6H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.67 (m, 4H), 2.17-2.25 (m, 2H), 2.83 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 3.31 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 4.04 (br, 2H), 6.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 128.35, 127.48, 119.33, 112.56, 48.13, 35.98, 33.94, 31.80, 30.01, 21.69, 13.66; MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* Calcd for C₂₁H₃₀BrNS₆: 538.96. Found: 538.52 ([M]⁺, 100).

5-(3-azidopropyl)-2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]d-ith-iolo[4,5-*c*]pyrrole (4): Compound 5 (337.2 mg, 0.6236 mmol) and NaN₃ (608.2 mg, 9.39 mmol) were suspended in anhyd DMF (11.0 mL), then stirred and heated to 90 °C react for 12.0 h. After addition of saturated brine (50 mL), the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, and the extract was washed with brine and dried (MgSO₄). After concentration, the resulting crude product was purified through flash column chromatography (silica gel, dichloromethane/ petroleum ether, v: v=1:3) to give 286.2 mg (91.0%) of **4** as yellow oil. ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 6H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.66 (m, 4H), 1.90-1.99 (m, 2H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 3.26 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 3.94 (br, 2H), 6.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 127.47, 119.65, 119.31, 112.51, 111.14, 47.97, 47.33, 35.96, 31.80, 30.60, 21.68, 13.64; MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* Calcd for C₁₉H₂₆N₄S₆: 502.05. Found: 501.65 ([M]⁺, 100).

3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5H[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-c]pyr-rol-5-yl)propan-1-

amine (3): Compound **4** (286.2 mg, 0.5692 mmol) and PPh₃ (328.4 mg, 1.1384 mmol) were dissolved in THF (14.0 mL), H₂O (102.5 μ L, 5.6920 mmol) was added to this solution. The mixture was stirred and heated to 45 °C react, after 17.0 h the reaction mixture was concentrated. Purification of the product was conducted by flash column chromatography (silica gel, dichloromethane/ methanol, v: v=20:1) to give 255.7 mg (94.2%) of **3** as orange-yellow solid. ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) $\Box \delta 0.92$ (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 6H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.56-1.66 (m, 4H), 1.90-1.99 (m, 2H), 2.74 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 2H), 2.82 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 3.21 (br, 2H), 3.94 (br, 2H), 6.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 127.45, 119.69, 118.85, 112.56, 110.82, 48.03, 38.53, 35.95, 33.71, 31.71, 21.68, 13.58. MALDI-TOF MS *m/z* Calcd for C₁₉H₂₈N₂S₆: 476.06. Found: 476.03 ([M]⁺, 100).

4-((3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrrol-5- yl)propyl)amino)-4-oxobutanoic acid (2): Compound 3 (189.4 mg, 0.3972 mmol) and N,N- Diisopropylethylamine (138.3 µL, 0.7944 mmol) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10.0 mL). Under stirring, Succinic anhydride (198.6 mg, 1.9860 mmol) was dropped in the solution, overnight. The reaction mixture was concentrated, and Purification of the product was conducted by flash column chromatography (silica gel, dichloromethane/ methanol, v: v=20:1) to give 181.7 mg (81.3%) of **2** as yellow solid. ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) \Box δ 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.0Hz, 6H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.63 (br, 4H), 1.86 (br, 2H), 2.42 (br, 2H), 2.64 (br, 2H), 2.90 (br, 4H), 3.20 (br, 2H), 6.16 (br, 1H), 6.50 (br, 2H), 8.83 (br, 1H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 176.74, 172.94, 37.12, 31.98, 31.71, 30.60, 29.58, 21.71, 13.67; MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* Calcd for C₂₃H₃₂N₂O₃S₆: 576.07. Found: 575.73 ([M]⁺, 100).

N^{*I*}**-(3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5***H***-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-***c***]pyrrol-5-yl) propyl)-***N***^{***A***}-butylsuccinamide (1a): Compound 2 (181.7 mg, 0.3230 mmol), EDCI (120.8 mg, 0.6460 mmol), HOBt (85.2 mg, 0.6460 mmol) and** *n***-Butylamine (61.4 μL, 0.6460 mmol) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10.0 mL) and stirred for 8.0 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was poured into 50 mL water. The organic layer was dried with MgSO₄. After concentration, the crude product was purified through flash column chromatography (silica gel, dichloromethane/methanol, v: v=100:1) to give 158.5 mg (77.7%) of 1a** as yellow solid. m.p.: 142.5 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ0.89-0.94 (m, 9H), 1.25-1.52 (m, 10H), 1.57-1.67 (m, 4H), 1.87-1.96 (m, 2H), 2.46 (br, 4H), 2.83 (br, 4H), 3.23 (q, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 5.85 (br, 1H), 6.33 (br, 1H), 6.50 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ 172.70, 172.25, 127.52, 119.09, 112.50, 48.10, 39.84, 36.75, 36.02, 31.84, 29.71, 29.42, 27.05, 22.75, 21.72, 14.18, 13.66; MALDI-TOF MS *m/z* Calcd for C₂₇H₄₁N₃O₂S₆: 631.15. Found: 630.79 ([M]⁺, 100).

*N*¹-(3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrr-ol- 5-yl)propyl) -*N*⁴-octylsuccinamide (1b): This compound was prepared in a fashion similar to 1a. Yield: 58.6%. m.p.: 131.4 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ0.86-0.94 (m, 9H), 1.27 (br, 10H), 1.40-1.49 (m, 6H), 1.58-1.68 (m, 6H), 1.88-1.96 (m, 2H), 2.50 (br, 4H), 2.84 (br, 4H), 3.22 (q, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 5.84 (br, 1H), 6.32 (br, 1H), 6.51 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ172.74, 172.22, 39.92, 36.76, 31.94, 31.73, 29.72, 29.58, 29.37, 29.32, 26.95, 22.70, 21.82, 14.13, 13.63; MALDI-TOF MS *m/z* Calcd for C₂₇H₄₁N₃O₂S₆: 687.40. Found: 687.21 ([M]⁺, 100).

*N*¹-(3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrr-ol-5-yl)propyl)-*N*⁴-dodecylsuccinamide (1c): This compound was prepared in a fashion similar to 1a. Yield: 83.4%. m.p.: 130.7 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ0.86-0.94 (m, 9H), 1.25 (br, 20H), 1.37-1.49 (m, 6H), 1.60-1.64 (m,4H), 1.89-1.97 (m, 2H), 2.50 (br, 4H), 2.84 (t, *J* = 3.0Hz, 4H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 5.95 (br, 1H), 6.12 (br, 1H), 6.51(s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ172.84, 172.38, 127.65, 119.22, 112.63, 48.23, 39.98, 36.88, 36.15, 32.11, 31.98, 31.92, 29.87, 29.84, 29.79, 29.55, 27.18, 22.88, 21.85, 14.32, 13.79; MALDI-TOF MS *m/z* Calcd for C₂₇H₄₁N₃O₂S₆: 743.5. Found: 744.2 ([M]⁺, 100).

*N*¹-(3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrr-ol-5-yl)propyl)-*N*⁴-hexadecylsuccinamide (1d): This compound was prepared in a fashion similar to 1a. Yield: 64.8%. m.p.: 130.1 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ0.87-0.96 (m, 9H), 1.26 (br, 28H), 1.39-1.48 (m, 6H), 1.63 (br, 4H), 1.93 (br, 2H), 2.52 (br, 4H), 2.88 (br, 2H), 3.14-3.27 (m, 4H), 5.79 (br, 1H), 6.29 (br, 1H), 6.54 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ172.76, 172.24, 48.44, 39.98, 36.83, 31.98, 29.76, 29.67, 29.63, 29.58, 29.41, 29.37, 26.99, 22.74, 21.76, 14.17, 13.66; MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* Calcd for C₂₇H₄₁N₃O₂S₆: 799.7. Found: 800.3 ([M]⁺, 100).

*N*¹-(3-(2-(4,5-bis(butylthio)-1,3-dithiol-2-ylidene)-5*H*-[1,3]dithiolo[4,5-*c*]pyrr-ol-5-yl)propyl)-*N*⁴-octadecylsuccinamide (1e): This compound was prepared in a fashion similar to 1a. Yield: 71.4%. m.p.:129.9 °C; ¹H NMR (300MHz, CDCl₃) δ0.86-0.94 (m, 9H), 1.25 (br, 30H), 1.37-1.40 (m, 6H), 1.60-1.67 (m, 6H), 1.89-1.96 (m, 2H), 2.49 (br, 4H), 2.85 (br, 4H), 3.21 (q, *J* = 6.0Hz, 4H), 5.80 (br, 1H), 6.31 (br, 1H), 6.51 (s, 2H); ¹³C NMR(75MHz, CDCl₃) δ172.88, 172.33, 127.26, 118.20, 108.67, 43.15, 40.03, 36.98, 36.05, 32.05, 31.84, 31.70, 29.83, 29.70, 29.64, 29.48, 29.43, 27.05, 22.81, 21.91, 14.25, 13.75; MALDI-TOF MS *m*/*z* Calcd for C₂₇H₄₁N₃O₂S₆: 827.6. Found: 828.4 ([M]⁺, 100).

3. Gelation tests

Solvents	1a ^a	CGC ^b	1b	CGC	1c	CGC	1d	CGC	1e	CGC
Cyclohexane	TG	1.0	OG	2.5	Р		Р		Р	_
МСН	OG	1.1	Р	—	PG	—	Р	—	Р	
<i>n</i> -Hexane	IS	_	IS	_	IS	_	IS	_	IS	_
<i>n</i> -Octane	IS	_	IS	—	Р	—	Р	_	Р	—
EtOAc	S	—	S	—	Р	—	Р	—	Р	
CH ₂ Cl ₂	S	_	S	_	S	_	S	_	S	_
CHCl ₃	S	—	S	—	S	—	S	—	S	
CCl ₄	S	—	S		S		S		S	—
Benzene	S	—	S	—	S	—	S	_	S	_
Toluene	S	—	S	—	Р	—	Р		Р	—
DMSO	S	—	S		S		Р		Р	—
DMF	S	—	S		S		S		S	—
THF	S	—	S		S		S		S	_
Methanol	Р	—	Р	—	Р	—	Р		Р	—
Ethanol	S	—	S	—	Р	—	Р		Р	—
CH ₃ CN	Р		Р	—	Р		Р	—	Р	—

 Table S1 Gelation properties of 1 in various solvents.

 ${}^{a}TG$ = transparent gel; OG = opaque gel; P = precipitation; S = soluble; IS = insoluble;

PG = partial gel

^bCGC = the critical gelation concentrations (mg/mL) at room temperature.

4. Image of gel-sol transition



Figure S1 The photographs of gelators (a) **1a** in cyclohexane, (b) **1a** in MCH, (c) **1b** in cyclohexane and corresponding to the CT complex gels a', b' and c', respectively.

5. T_{gel} of CT complex gel



Figure S2 Plots of T_{gel} versus the concentration of CT complex (**1a** : TCNQ = 1: 1, mole ratio) in cyclohexane (**a**) and MCH (**•**).

6. TGA curves



Figure S3 TGA curve of 1b (a), 1c (b), 1d (c) and 1e (d) with a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ under N₂.

Table S2 Therma	l properties of molecules.
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Temperature	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e
$T_{\rm m}$ (°C)	142.5	131.4	130.7	130.1	129.9
$T_{\rm d}$ (°C)	252.6	251.7	249.4	248.3	247.9

7. SAXS analysis



Figure S4 SAXS patterns of xerogel **1a** (a) and **1a**/TCNQ (mole ratio = 1:1, b) from MCH; xerogel **1b** (c) and **1b**/TCNQ (mole ratio = 1:1, d) from cyclohexane.

8. FT-IR Spectra





Figure S5 FT-IR spectra of (a) **1a** in CHCl₃ solution (black) and xerogel from MCH (red); (b) **1b** in CHCl₃ solution (black) and xerogel from cyclohexane (red); (c) the CT complex xerogel of **1a** with TCNQ (1: 1) from MCH (red) and **1b** with TCNQ (1: 1) from cyclohexane (blue).

9. ¹H NMR spectra of 1a



Figure S6 Variable-concentration ¹H-NMR spectra of 1a in CDCl_{3.}

10. Oxidation Potentials

		TCNQ					TTF		
Properties	Olx		0X					0X	
1	E	(V)	E	(V)	E	E	(V)	E	
	ох					(V)			
	(V)								
1a in cyclohexane						0.564		0.021	
Cyclohexane gel								0.931	
CT complex gel							0 512	0.005	
Solution of TCNQ						0.513		0.885	
	-0.71	3	-0.206	C).355	(0.524	0.837	
	-0.76	7	-0.3	0).269	-			

Table S3 Half-Wave Oxidation Potentials (V).

11. CV curves



Figure S7 Cyclic voltammograms and differential pulse voltammetry (inset) of compounds **1a-c** $(1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M})$ in CH₂Cl₂-CH₃CN (1:1, v/v) containing 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆. Scan rate was 100 mV s⁻¹.

12. FT-IR spectra of addition of I₂



Figure S8 FT-IR spectra of xerogel 1a (red line) and after addition of iodine (black line).

13. Colorimetric changes of redox reactions



Figure S9 Colorimetric changes of 1a (10⁻⁴ M) in ethanol by chemical redox process.

14. oxidants-responsive properties of CT complex gel



Figure S10 oxidants-responsive properties of CT complex gel of 1a and TCNQ.

15. UV-vis spectra of Fe^{3+}/Cu^{2+} —Vc Sensitive





Figure S11 UV-vis absorption spectra of **1a** $(5 \times 10^{-5} \text{M})$ during chemical oxidation by successive addition of (a) FeCl₃ (0~6 eq. red line) (b) Cu(ClO₄)₂ (0~8 eq. red line) and reduction by addition of ascorbic acid (2~6 eq. and 2~100 eq., respectively, blue line) in ethanol.

16. Gel-sol transition by adding TFA



Figure S12 Schematic of gel transformation after addition of TFA (0~3 eq.) in cyclohexane.

17. Gel-sol transition by CH₃COOH/HCOOH-TEA stimuli



Figure S13 The irreversible gel-sol transitions of organogel (1a/cyclohexane) triggered by CH₃COOH/HCOOH-TEA stimuli.

18. ESI-MS spectra of TFA with 1a



Figure S14 ESI-MS spectra of 1a after addition of 10 equiv. TFA in CHCl₃.

19. UV-vis spectra of TFA-TEA Sensitive



Figure S15 UV-vis absorption spectra of **1a** (10⁻⁴ M) before (black line) and after successive addition of TFA (1~20 eq. red line), then titration TEA (1~ 60 eq. blue line) in CHCl₃ solution.

20. Gel-sol transition of CT complex gel by adding TFA-TEA



Figure S16 Schematic of CT complex gel of **1a** and TCNQ transformation after addition of TFA and TEA in cyclohexane.

21. Colorimetric changes by TFA-TEA stimuli



Figure S17 Colorimetric changes of 1a (10⁻⁴ M) in CHCl₃ by TFA-TEA stimuli.

22. ¹H, ¹³C NMR and MALDI-TOF-MS Spectra



Figure S18 ¹H NMR spectra of compound 5











Figure S22 ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 4



Figure S23 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 4



Figure S24 ¹H NMR spectra of compound 3



Figure S26 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 3







Figure S28 ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 2



Figure S29 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 2



Figure S30 ¹H NMR spectra of compound 1a







Figure S32 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 1a







Figure S35 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 1b











Figure S38 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 1c



Figure S40 ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 1d



Figure S41 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 1d











Figure S44 MALDI-TOF-MS spectra of compound 1e