## Electronic supplementary information (ESI) of the manuscript entitled

 "Construction of luminogen exhibiting multicolored emission switching through combination of twisted conjugation core and donor-acceptor units" by Haiyan Tian, Xi Tang and Yong Qiang DongCorresponding author:
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Table S1 Crystal data and structure refinement for the single crystal of 1GC

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{24} \mathrm{~N}_{4}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 560.63 |
| Temperature | 100(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 A |
| Crystal system, space group | Orthorhombic, P2(1)2(1)2(1) $a=7.907$ (2) A $\quad$ alpha $=90$ deg. |
| Unit cell dimensions | $\begin{array}{ll} \mathrm{b}=14.819(4) \mathrm{A} & \text { beta }=90 \mathrm{deg} . \\ \mathrm{c}=26.414(7) \mathrm{A} & \text { gamma }=90 \mathrm{deg} . \end{array}$ |
| Volume | 3095.1(13) A^3 |
| Z, Calculated density | $4,1.203 \mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{\wedge} 3$ |
| Absorption coefficient | $0.072 \mathrm{~mm}^{\wedge}-1$ |
| F(000) | 1168 |
| Crystal size | $0.410 \times 0.200 \times 0.110 \mathrm{~mm}$ |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.066 to 25.250 deg . |
| Limiting indices | $-9<=\mathrm{h}<=9,-17<=\mathrm{k}<=17,-31<=1<=29$ |
| Reflections collected / unique | $17606 / 5609$ [ $\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.0522]$ |
| Completeness to theta $=25.242$ | 99.90\% |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.75 and 0.64 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 5609 / 0 / 397 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ | 1.031 |
| Final R indices [ $\mathrm{I}>2$ sigma(I)] | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0525, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1259$ |
| R indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0717, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1387$ |
| Absolute structure parameter | 0.1(10) |
| Extinction coefficient | n/a |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.891 and -0.204 e. $\mathrm{A}^{\wedge}-3$ |

Table S2 Crystal data and structure refinement for the single crystal of 1YC

| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{32} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 632.73 |
| Temperature | 100(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 A |
| Crystal system, space group | Monoclinic, P2(1) |
|  | $a=10.3034(16) \mathrm{A} \quad$ alpha $=90$ deg. |
| Unit cell dimensions | $\mathrm{b}=23.763(4) \mathrm{A} \quad$ beta $=104.447(3) \mathrm{deg}$. |
|  | $\mathrm{c}=13.737(2) \mathrm{A} \quad$ gamma $=90 \mathrm{deg}$. |
| Volume | $3257.0(8) \mathrm{A}^{\wedge} 3$ |
| Z, Calculated density | $4,1.290 \mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{\wedge} 3$ |
| Absorption coefficient | $0.078 \mathrm{~mm}^{\wedge}$-1 |
| F(000) | 1328 |
| Crystal size | $0.400 \times 0.370 \times 0.300 \mathrm{~mm}$ |
| Theta range for data collection | 1.714 to 25.249 deg . |
| Limiting indices | $-12<=h<=6,-27<=k<=28,-16<=1<=16$ |
| Reflections collected / unique | $18602 / 11381[\mathrm{R}(\mathrm{int})=0.0358]$ |
| Completeness to theta $=25.242$ | 99.90\% |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.75 and 0.65 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 11381/1/883 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ | 1.045 |
| Final R indices [ $\mathrm{I}>2$ sigma(I)] | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0533, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1270$ |
| R indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0650, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.1358$ |
| Absolute structure parameter | -1.1(10) |
| Extinction coefficient | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.415 and -0.280 e.A^-3 |

Table S3 Crystal data and structure refinement for the single crystal of 10C

| Empirical formula | C40 H24 N4 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Formula weight | 560.63 |
| Temperature | 100(2) K |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 A |
| Crystal system, space group | Orthorhombic, Pben $a=22.459(5) \mathrm{A} \quad$ alpha $=90 \mathrm{deg}$. |
| Unit cell dimensions | $\begin{array}{ll} \mathrm{b}=16.839(4) \mathrm{A} & \text { beta }=90 \mathrm{deg} . \\ \mathrm{c}=7.8968(18) \mathrm{A} & \text { gamma }=90 \mathrm{deg} . \end{array}$ |
| Volume | 2986.5(12) A^3 |
| Z, Calculated density | $4,1.247 \mathrm{Mg} / \mathrm{m}^{\wedge} 3$ |
| Absorption coefficient | $0.074 \mathrm{~mm}^{\wedge}$-1 |
| F(000) | 1168 |
| Crystal size | $0.350 \times 0.340 \times 0.100 \mathrm{~mm}$ |
| Theta range for data collection | 1.813 to 27.522 deg. |
| Limiting indices | $-29<=\mathrm{h}<=20,-21<=\mathrm{k}<=21,-10<=\mathrm{l}<=10$ |
| Reflections collected / unique | $18984 / 3436$ [R(int) $=0.0441$ ] |
| Completeness to theta $=25.242$ | 100.00\% |
| Absorption correction | Semi-empirical from equivalents |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.75 and 0.66 |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 3436 / 0 / 200 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $\mathrm{F}^{\wedge} 2$ | 1.037 |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0407, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.0875$ |
| R indices (all data) | $\mathrm{R} 1=0.0570, \mathrm{wR} 2=0.0958$ |
| Extinction coefficient | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.261 and -0.217 e. $\mathrm{A}^{\wedge}-3$ |



Figure S1. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{1 Y C}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ solvent.


Figure S2. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{1 Y C}$ after heating at $90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in vacuum in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ solvent.


Figure S3. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of $\mathbf{1}$ in DMSO solvent.


Figure S4. The HRMS spectrum of compound 1.


Figure S5. TGA thermograms of the $\mathbf{1}$ recorded under nitrogen at a heating rate of 10 K/min.



Figure S6. (A)The UV-vis absorption spectra of $\mathbf{1}$ in DCM versus different concentration ( $\mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ ). (B) Linear fitting about absorption intensity versus concentration (mol/L), $\mathrm{R}^{2}=0.992$.


Figure S7. Photographs taken under 365 nm UV light illumination. (A) PL spectra of $\mathbf{1}$ in acetonitrile/water mixtures with different water fractions ( $f_{w}$, vol \%). (B) Plots of maximum emission intensity versus water fractions. Concentration: $1 \mu \mathrm{M}$; excitation wavelength: 370 nm ; exposure time: 2 second.


Table S4 Torsion angle of phenyl rings in three single crystals of compound 1.

| Samples | $\lambda_{\mathrm{em}}(\mathrm{nm})$ | $\theta_{1}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $\theta_{2}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $\theta_{3}\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1GC | 506 | 41.99 | 50.36 | 73.85 |
| 1YC | 537 | 34.35 | 46.21 | 67.79 |
| 1OC | 585 | 43.03 | 43.03 | 73.27 |

Dihedral angle of $\mathbf{1}$ in different crystals. $\theta_{1}$, dihedral angle between benzene ring plane $P_{1}$ and double bond plane; $\theta_{2}$, dihedral angle between benzene ring plane $P_{2}$ and double bond plane; $\theta_{3}$, dihedral angle of plane $P_{1}$ and $P_{2}$.


Figure S8. View of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ (green dashed line) and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ (red dashed line) intermolecular interactions in single crystal of 1OC. The dark-red dots refer to the center of benzene rings.
Table S5 Summarization of the $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ Interactions in the Crystal of 10C.

| Interactions | $\mathrm{d} / \AA^{[\mathrm{al]}}(\mathrm{N})^{[\mathrm{b}]}$ | $\mathrm{A} /{ }^{\circ}{ }^{[\mathrm{cc}]}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | $2.673(4)$ | 155.016 |
| $2 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $2.726(4)$ | 159.282 |
| $3 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.042(4)$ | 125.192 |
| $4 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.058(4)$ | 138.157 |
| $5 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.106(4)$ | 122.975 |
| $6 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.119(4)$ | 156.444 |
| $7 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.197(4)$ | 160.526 |
| $8 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.374(4)$ | 124.254 |
| $9 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.390(4)$ | 122.774 |
| $10 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.439(4)$ | 120.326 |

[a] Distance of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction. [b] Number of the intermolecular interactions. [c] Angel of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction.


Figure S9. View of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ (green dashed line) and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ (red dashed line) intermolecular interactions in single crystal of 1GC. The dark-red dots refer to the center of benzene rings.

Table S6 Summarization of the $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ Intermolecular Interactions in the Crystal of 1GC.

| Interactions | $\mathrm{d} / \AA^{[\mathrm{al}}(\mathrm{N})^{[\mathrm{b}]}$ | $\mathrm{A} /{ }^{\circ}[\mathrm{c}]$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | $2.667(2)$ | 123.372 |
| $2 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $2.745(2)$ | 139.18 |
| $3 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $2.774(2)$ | 152.432 |
| $4 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $2.787(2)$ | 143.257 |
| $5 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.079(2)$ | 128.045 |
| $6 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.130(2)$ | 137.635 |
| $7 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.173(2)$ | 169.382 |
| $8 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.179(2)$ | 169.559 |
| 9C-H $\cdots \pi$ | $3.232(2)$ | 148.758 |
| $10 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.359(2)$ | 163.27 |
| $11 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.394(2)$ | 167.583 |
| $12 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | $3.548(2)$ | 140.914 |

[a] Distance of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction. [b] Number of the intermolecular interactions. [c] Angel of $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction.


Figure S10. View of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ (purple dashed line), $\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ (green dashed line) and C$H \cdots \pi$ (red dashed line) intermolecular interactions in single crystal of 1YC. The darkred dots refer to the center of benzene rings.

Table S7 Summarization of the $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ Intermolecular Interactions in the crystal of $\mathbf{1 Y C}$.

| Interactions | $\mathrm{d} / \AA^{\text {[a] }}(\mathrm{N})^{[b]}$ | $\mathrm{A} /{ }^{\text {[ }}$ [] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1--H..O | 2.573 (2) | 139.779 |
| $2 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ | 2.660 | 141.589 |
| $3 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}$ | 2.612 | 145.501 |
| $4 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.719(2) | 164.219 |
| $5 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.790(2) | 149.293 |
| $6 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.546(2) | 155.263 |
| $7 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.739(2) | 158.635 |
| $8 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.694(2) | 157.567 |
| $9 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \cdots$ | 2.667(2) | 153.592 |
| $10 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.666(2) | 152.324 |
| $11 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.800 | 161.529 |
| $12 \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.691(2) | 127.869 |
| $13 \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ | 2.699(2) | 127.791 |
| 14C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.020(3) | 132.551 |
| 15C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 2.826(2) | 142.937 |
| 16C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.404(2) | 154.303 |
| 17C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 2.858(2) | 163.874 |
| 18C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.148(2) | 145.282 |
| 19C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.130(2) | 149.187 |
| 20C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.143 (3) | 128.328 |
| $21 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | 3.524(2) | 124.632 |
| $22 \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ | 2.765(2) | 165.666 |
| 23C-H $\cdots \pi$ | 3.187(2) | 144.7355 |

[a] Distance of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction. [b] Number of the intermolecular interactions. [c] Angel of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N} \cdots \mathrm{H}$ or $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \pi$ interaction.


Figure S11. (A) Normalized PL spectra of fumed solid of $\mathbf{1}$ in the three repeating cycles; excitation wavelength: 370 nm . (B) Switching the fluorescence of $\mathbf{1}$ by repeated fuming with EA ( I ) and THF ( II ) on the quartz plate. (C) Digital photograph three repeating cycles under illuminant of 365 nm .


Figure S12. (A) Normalized PL spectra of heated and fumed solid of $\mathbf{1}$ in the three repeating cycles. Excitation wavelength: 370 nm . (B) Switching the fluorescence of $\mathbf{1}$ by repeated annealing at $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, ( I ) and fuming with THF, ( II ) on the quartz plate. (C) Digital photograph of the three repeating cycles under illuminant of 365 nm .


Figure S13. (A) Normalized PL spectra, (B) DSC curves and (C) PXRD patterns of $\mathbf{1}$ in the first repeating cycle: (a) 1OC, (b) 1 YC annealed at $140^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, (c) 1 YC .

