

# **Supporting Information**

for

Preparation of anthracene-based tetraperimidine hexafluorophosphate and selective recognition of chromium(III) ions

Qing-Xiang Liu, Feng Yang, Zhi-Xiang Zhao, Shao-Cong Yu and Yue Ding

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Supporting crystallographic data, fluorescence, UV, HRMS, and IR spectra of 3 and 3·Cr<sup>3+</sup>, general considerations, characterization data, and copies of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of all compounds

#### **Table of contents**

- 1. CCDC numbers for compound 3.
- 2. Crystal data and structure refinements for 3 (Table S1).
- 3. Crystal packing of compound 3 (Figure S1(a) and Figure S1(b).
- 4. Fluorescence and UV-vis spectroscopy for compound 3 (Figures S2-S9).
- 5. Figure S10  $\pi_{13}^{15}$  bond of perimidine.
- 6. Figure of HRMS for **3**·Cr<sup>3+</sup> (Figure S11).
- 7. Infrared spectra of **3** and  $3 \cdot \text{Cr}^{3+}$  (Figure S12).
- 8. Figure of HRMS for **3** (Figure S13).
- 9.  $^{1}$ H NMR and  $^{13}$ C NMR spectra of intermediate and compound 3 (Figures S14–S22).

### 1. CCDC number for compound 3.

CCDC 1918752 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for compound The data can be obtained free of charge via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving. html, or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (+44) 223-336-033; or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam. ac. uk.

### 2. Crystal data and structure refinements for 3

Table S1: Crystal data and structure refinements for 3

Chemical formula	C <sub>76</sub> H <sub>76</sub> N <sub>10</sub> P <sub>4</sub> F <sub>24</sub> ·4CH <sub>3</sub> CN	F(000)	968
Formula weight	1875.57	Cryst size, mm	$0.25 \times 0.15 \times 0.14$
Cryst syst	Triclinic	$ heta_{ ext{min}}$ , $ heta_{ ext{max}}$ , $ ext{deg}$	3.74, 67.06
Space group	$P\overline{1}$	T/K	172.9(1)
a/Å	11.850(5)	No. of data collected	14087
b/Å	12.401(6)	No. of unique data	7439
c/Å	14.951(5)	No. of refined params	579
α/deg	92.4(1)	Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2 a}$	1.048
β/deg	94.3(1)	Final $R$ indices <sup>b</sup> $[I > 2\sigma(I)]$	
γ/deg	107.3(4)	$R_1$	0.0754
$V$ /Å $^3$	2086.65(1)	$wR_2$	0.1986
Z	1	R indices (all data)	
$D_{\rm calcd}$ , Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.493	$R_1$	0.1117
Abs coeff, mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.797	$wR_2$	0.2238

a  $GOF = [\Sigma \omega (F_0{}^2 - F_c{}^2)^2 / (n - p)]^{1/2}$ , where *n* is the number of reflection and *p* is the number of parameters refined. b  $R_1 = \Sigma (||F_o| - |F_c||)/\Sigma |F_o|$ ;  $wR_2 = [\Sigma [w(F_0{}^2 - F_c{}^2)^2]/\Sigma w(F_0{}^2)^2]^{1/2}$ .

### 3. Crystal packing of compound 3

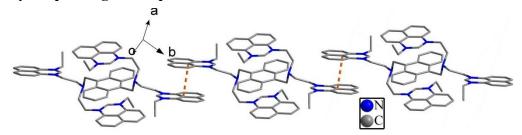


Figure S1(a): 1D supermolecular chain of 3.

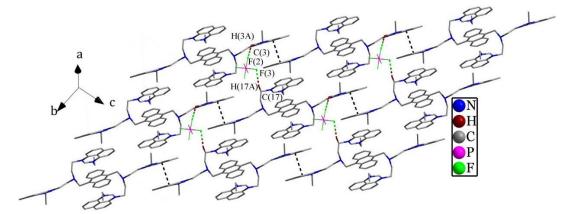
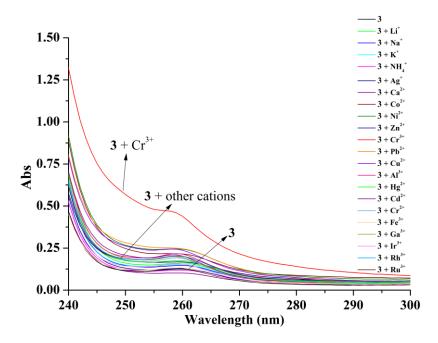
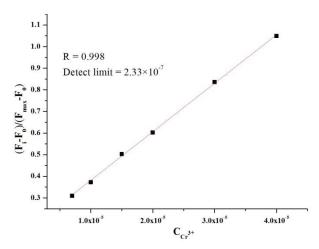


Figure S1(b): 2D supermolecular layer of 3.

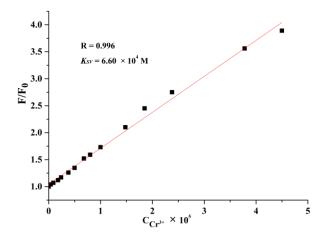
### 4. Fluorescence and UV-vis spectroscopy for compound 3



**Figure S2:** UV–vis absorption change of **3** (5.0 × 10<sup>-6</sup> mol/L) upon the addition of the nitrate salts of K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Hg<sup>+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Rh<sup>3+</sup>, Ir<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>2+</sup>, Ga<sup>3+</sup>, Ru<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> (5 × 10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L) in acetonitrile at 25 °C.



**Figure S3:** Emission (at 423 nm) of **3** at different concentrations of  $Cr^{3+}$  (0.7, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.0,  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) added, normalized between the minimum emission (0.0 M  $Cr^{3+}$ ) and the emission  $4.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L  $Cr^{3+}$ . The detection limit was determined to be  $2.33 \times 10^{-7}$  mol/L.



**Figure S4:** Stern–Volmer plot of **3** (5.0  $\times$  10<sup>-6</sup> mol/L) in the presence of Cr<sup>3+</sup> in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v:v) at 25 °C, and the linear range is from 0.0–4.5  $\times$  10<sup>-5</sup> mol/L.

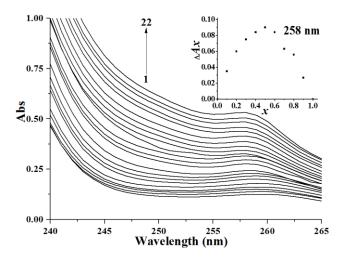
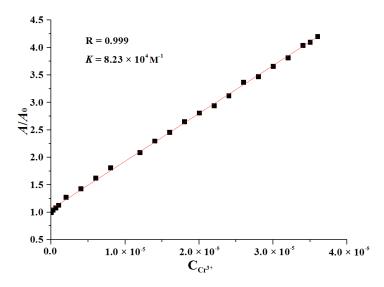
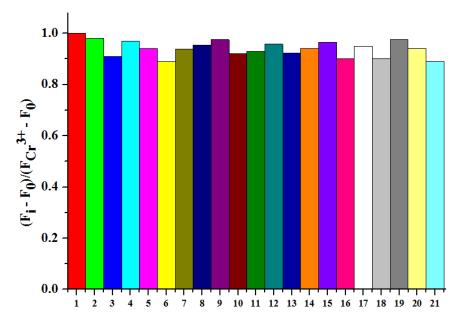


Figure S5: The UV-vis absorption spectra of 3  $(5.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mol/L})$  in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO

9:1 (v/v) at 25 °C.  $C_{Cr}^{3+}$  for curves 1–22 are 0, 0.02, 0.06, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, 3.0, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 and  $3.6 \times 10^{-5}$ . Inset: the Job's plot for  $3 \cdot Cr^{3+}$  complex in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v/v) at 258 nm.

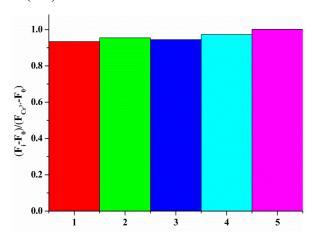


**Figure S6:** Benesi–Hildebrand plot of **3** ( $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L) at 258 nm in the presence of Cr<sup>3+</sup> in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v/v) at 25 °C.

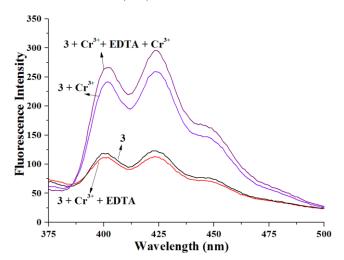


**Figure S7:** Change ratio  $((F_i - F_0)/(F_{Cr^{3+}} - F_0))$  of fluorescence intensity of **3** (5.0 ×  $10^{-6}$  mol/L) at 423 nm upon the addition of 30 equiv  $Cr^{3+}$  in the presence of 30 equiv background cations. 1:  $Cr^{3+}$ ; 2:  $Cr^{3+} + Li^+$ ; 3:  $Cr^{3+} + Na^+$ ; 4:  $Cr^{3+} + K^+$ ; 5:  $Cr^{3+} + NH_4^+$ ; 6:  $Cr^{3+} + Ag^+$ ; 7:  $Cr^{3+} + Ca^{2+}$ ; 8:  $Cr^{3+} + Co^{2+}$ ; 9:  $Cr^{3+} + Ni^{2+}$ ; 10:  $Cr^{3+} + Zn^{2+}$ ; 11:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 12:  $Cr^{3+} + Cd^{2+}$ ; 13:  $Cr^{3+} + Pb^{2+}$ ; 14:  $Cr^{3+} + Hg^{2+}$ ; 15:  $Cr^{3+} + Al^{3+}$ ; 16:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 17:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 18:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 19:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 10:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 10:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 11:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 12:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 13:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 14:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 15:  $Cr^{3+} + Al^{3+}$ ; 16:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 17:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 18:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 19:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 10:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 11:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 11:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 12:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 13:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 14:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 15:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 16:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 17:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 18:  $Cr^{3+} + Cu^{2+}$ ; 19:  $Cr^{3+$ 

 $Rh^{3+};\ 17:\ Cr^{3+}+Ir^{3+};\ 18:\ Cr^{3+}+Cr^{2+};\ 19:\ Cr^{3+}+Ga^{3+};\ 20:\ Cr^{3+}+Ru^{3+};\ 21:\ Cr^{3+}+Fe^{3+}$  in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v/v) at 25 °C.



**Figure S8:** Fluorescence intensity of **3** ( $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L) in various mixtures of different Cr<sup>3+</sup> salts (1: CrCl<sub>3</sub>, 2: CrBr<sub>3</sub>, 3: Cr<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, 4: Cr(OAc)<sub>3</sub>, 5: Cr(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>;  $3.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v/v) at 25 °C.



**Figure S9:** Fluorescence reversibility of **3** upon the detection of  $Cr^{3+}$ . Fluorescent changes of **3** after the addition of  $Cr^{3+}$ , EDTA,  $Cr^{3+}$  in that order in CH<sub>3</sub>CN/DMSO 9:1 (v/v) at 25 °C.

# 5. The Figure S10 $\,\pi_{13}^{15}\,$ bond of perimidine

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 & 0 & R \\
\hline
0 & 0 & R \\
\hline
0 & 0 & R
\end{array}$$

Figure S10:  $\pi_{13}^{15}$  bond of perimidine.

## 6. Figure of HRMS for 3·Cr<sup>3+</sup>

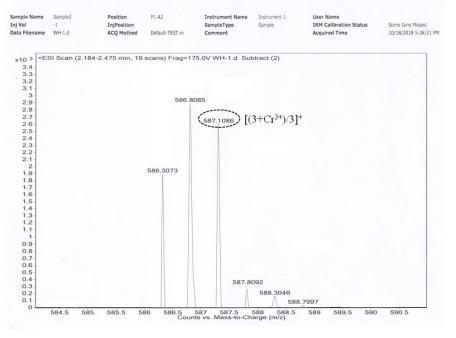


Figure S11: HRMS for  $3 \cdot \text{Cr}^{3+}$ .

## 7. Infrared spectra of 3 and 3·Cr<sup>3+</sup>

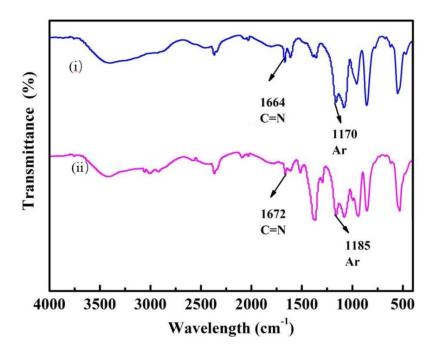


Figure S12: Infrared spectroscopy of 3 (top) and 3·Cr<sup>3+</sup> (bottom).

# 8. Figure of HRMS for 3

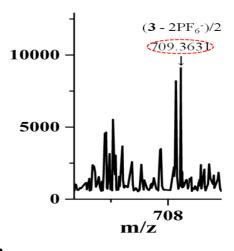
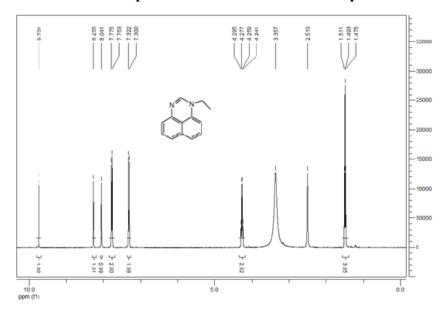
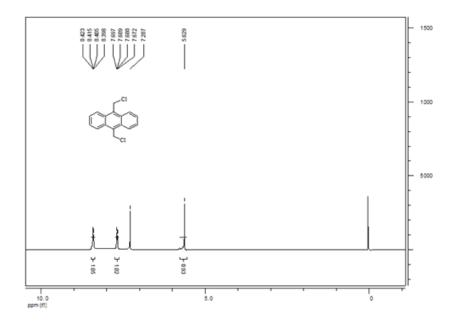


Figure S13: HRMS for 3.

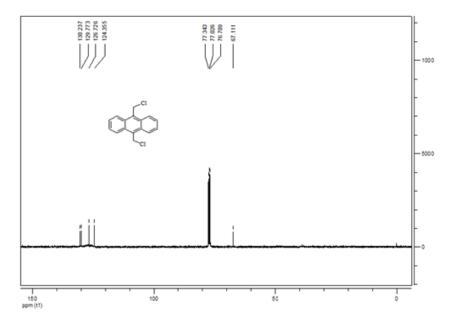
## 9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of intermediate and compound 3



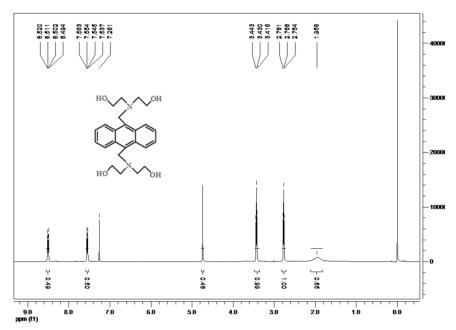
**Figure S14:** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) spectra of 1-ethylperimidine.



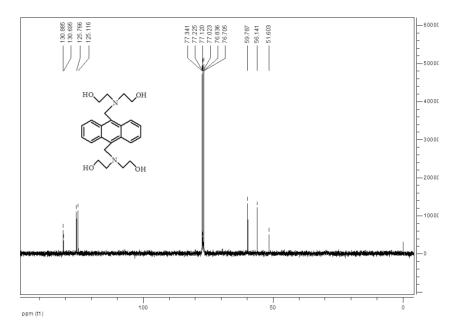
**Figure S15:** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of 9,10-bis(chloromethyl)anthracene.



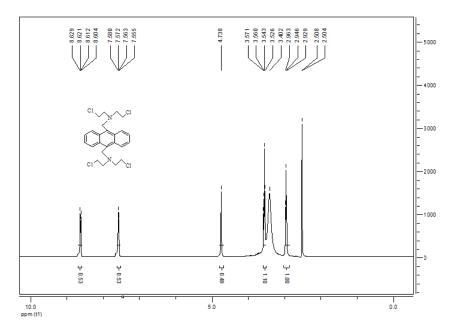
**Figure S16:** The <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of 9,10-bis(chloromethyl)anthracene.



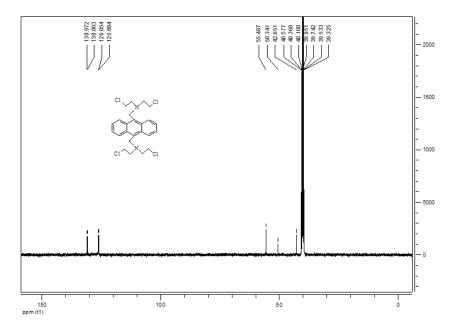
**Figure S17:** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of 9,10-bis[{*N,N*-di(2-hydroxyethyl)amino}methyl]anthracene.



**Figure S18:** The <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectra of 9,10-bis[{*N,N*-di(2-hydroxyethyl)amino}methyl]anthracene.



**Figure S19:** The  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of 9,10-bis[{ $N,N-di(2-chloroethyl)amino}$ } methyl]anthracene.



**Figure S20:** The  $^{13}$ C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectra of 9,10-bis[{ $N,N-di(2-chloroethyl)amino}$ } methyl]anthracene.

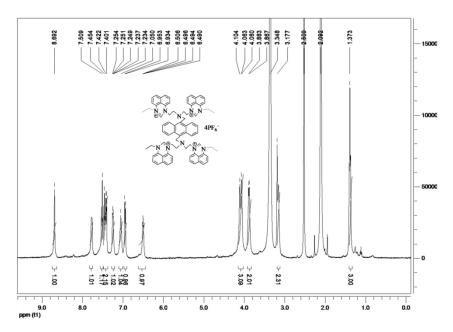


Figure S21: The  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (600 MHz, DMSO- $d_{6}$ ) spectrum of 3.

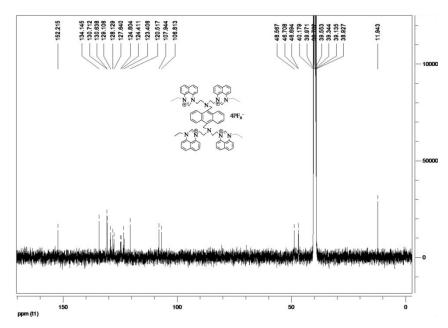


Figure S22: The  $^{13}$ C NMR (150 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) spectrum of 3.