



# Bifunctional luminescent conjugated microporous polymers containing BODIPY and tetraphenylethene units for highly efficient energy storage and enhanced sensing of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions

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## ABSTRACT

Here, using the Sonogashira coupling technique, a new fluorescent tetraphenylethene (TPE) and borondipyrromethene (BODIPY)-based CMP (TPE-BODIPY-CMP) was built and developed for usage in supercapacitors and Cu<sup>2+</sup> ion detection. XPS, ssNMR, and FTIR techniques were used to validate the presence of the functional groups, aromatic carbons, and atoms [Si, B, C, N, O, and F] in the TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework. In the TPE-BODIPY-CMP, the calculated pore size, S<sub>BET</sub>, and carbon residue were 1.52–2.82 nm, 300 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, and 67%, respectively. As per our electrochemical test, the capacitance stability [83.23% after 5000 cycles], and specific capacity of 176 F g<sup>-1</sup> (0.5 A g<sup>-1</sup>) for TPE-BODIPY-CMP. We performed photoluminescence (PL) experiments on TPE-BODIPY-CMP to evaluate its capacity in cation detection [Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Al<sup>3+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Ce<sup>3+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, and Ag<sup>+</sup>] and a limit of detection (LOD) of TPE-BODIPY-CMP toward Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions was 2.5 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M.

## 1. Introduction

Due to their unique properties such as low maintenance costs, high power density, extended cycle stability, and quick charge/discharge rates, supercapacitors (SCs) are gaining a lot of interest as environmentally friendly energy storage devices [1–16]. Electrical double-layer capacitors (EDLCs) and pseudo-capacitors with immediately reversible redox processes are the two primary kinds of SCs [17–20]. Activated carbon (ACs) is known for its high surface area, porous structure, outstanding conductivity, and remarkable electrochemical stability. These attributes are frequently the foundation of the latter. An electrical

double layer is created to store electrical energy [21]. Pseudocapacitors have benefits, however they are limited by things like capacitance and relatively poor energy density.

One potential solution to these constraints is the creation of materials with large surface areas and hierarchical porous structures [22]. In such structures, micropores enhance the capacitance of EDLCs, mesopores create low-resistance paths for ion migration within porous materials, and macropores act as ion buffering reservoirs, reducing ion diffusion distances. In addition to porous architectures, heteroatom doping, involving elements like nitrogen [23], sulfur [24], boron [25], fluorine [26], and others, emerges as an effective technique for enhancing

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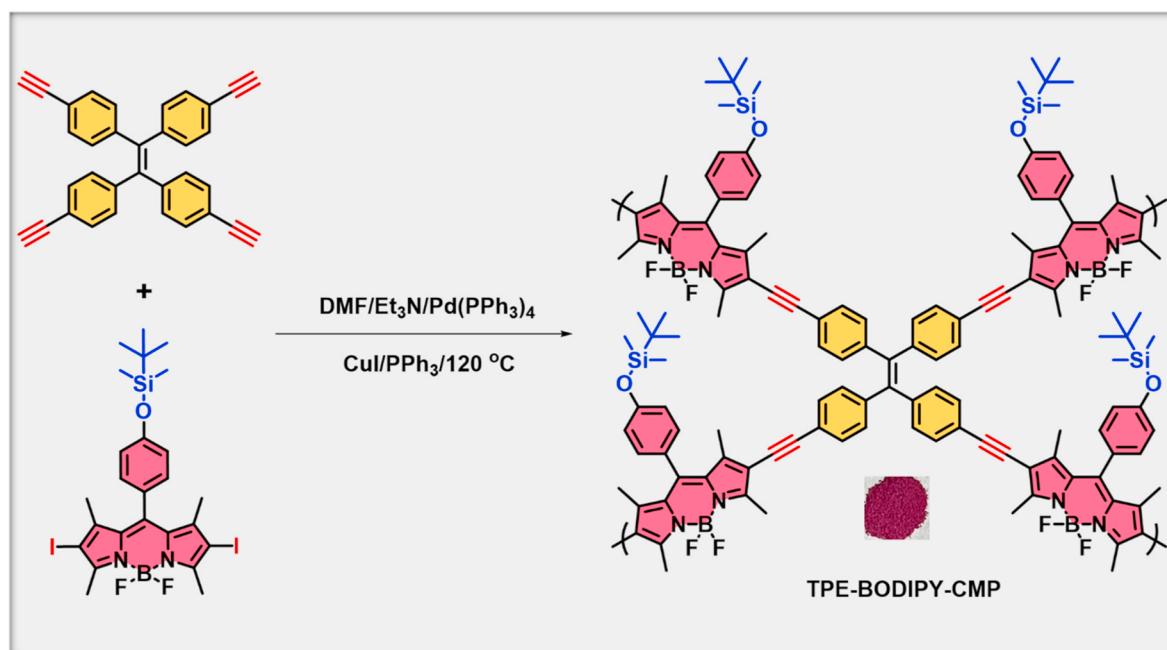


Fig. 1. The synthetic approach of TPE-BODIPY-CMP through the Sonogashira reaction.

material properties, spanning gas separation and electrical performance [27]. The introduction of boron, with its lower electronegativity and one fewer electron in the valence layer compared to carbon, influences the oxidation and conductive characteristics of materials. Nitrogen doping contributes to improved electrical performance through the pseudocapacitance effect of nitrogen atoms [28]. Meanwhile, the exceptionally high electronegativity of fluorine makes it valuable in energy conversion and storage systems, enhancing rate capability, cycle stability, and wettability [29]. Furthermore, co-doping, involving the introduction of multiple heteroatoms, proves advantageous over solitary heteroatom doping by exerting a synergistic impact, enhancing the overall performance of electrode materials [30,31].

Over an extensive period, CMPs are the focus of much investigation. A wide range of applications are made possible by their chemical stability, significant  $S_{BET}$ , varied pore sizes, improved electrical conductivity, and reduced density in comparison to inorganic materials [32–35]. These include pollutant removal, H<sub>2</sub> evolution, sensing of metal ions, energy storage, and utilization as positive electrode materials in lithium-sulfur batteries. The pi-conjugated structure of CMPs, coupled with their redox activity, imparts outstanding electrochemical performance and luminous properties [36–40]. Furthermore, various techniques, such as Yamamoto coupling, Sonogashira-Hagihara, and oxidative polymerization, can be employed for the production of CMPs, leading to diverse structures and characteristics in the resulting materials [40–45].

Among the huge number of known fluorescent dyes, boron-dipyrromethene (hereafter known as BODIPY) chromophores have attracted the attention of chemists, physicists, and biochemists after their discovery by Treibs and co-workers [46]. The extensive  $\pi$ -system they possess exhibits high molar absorption coefficients ( $>70 \text{ m M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and absorbs light in the green segment of the visible spectrum. The bathochromically shifted S<sub>0</sub>→S<sub>1</sub> absorption can be moved up to the far-red or near-infrared region by a suitable substitute offering further electronic delocalization. After being excited, BODIPYs release light with high luminescence quantum yields and modest Stokes shifts (10 and 20 nm). If substituents lack heavy atoms that induce intersystem crossing and do not contain groups that might initiate photoinduced electron transfer, the latter parameter can approach unity. BODIPY dyes demonstrate relative stability when potent acids or nucleophiles are

avoided [47–49]. A variety of applications for BODIPY dyes have been reported including biomolecular labeling [50], chromogenic cation probes [51,52], photodynamic therapy [53], fluorescent switches [54], electroluminescent materials [55], laser dyes [56], light-harvesters [57] and photosensitizers for solar cells [58]. Conversely, due to their good photophysical characteristics and possible uses in functional materials, BODIPY-related compounds are trendy study subjects [59,60]. POPs were prepared with BODIPY units in a limited number of studies, and their use was exclusive to heterogeneous photocatalysis, CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, water treatment, and I<sub>2</sub> adsorption [61–65].

TPE stands out as a promising ingredient for creating vibrant materials due to its uncomplicated and uniform chemical composition [61–63]. Employing the McMurry coupling technique allows for the straightforward production of both pristine TPE and its various topological variations. As a representative AIE luminophore, TPE possesses a propeller-like structure and a straightforward molecular arrangement, establishing it as an archetype for luminogens. While the solution state fluorescence emission of TPE and its derivatives appear subdued, aggregation state conditions lead to heightened fluorescence emission [64–66]. Copper (Cu<sup>2+</sup>) cations play a vital role in many of the biological processes. It's important for electron transfer in cellular respiration, and functions as redox regulators [67]. However, its abnormal level is responsible for various diseases including Wilson [68] and Alzheimer's [69]. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the maximum acceptable concentration of Cu<sup>2+</sup> in water for drinking is 20  $\mu\text{M}$  [70]. Recently, analytical techniques based on fluorescence emission attracted scientists' attention for detecting different analytes due to their advantages such as high sensitivity, no reference requirement, rapid detection, and bioimaging capability [71–76]. Until now, there hasn't been any documented information on the synthesis of POP, incorporating TEP and BODIPY functionalities as building monomers. This polymer has the potential for utilization as an electrode material in energy storage and for chemical sensing applications, particularly in detecting Cu<sup>2+</sup>.

Utilizing the Sonogashira coupling process in conjunction with the previously provided information, we successfully synthesized the distinctive TPE-BODIPY-CMP as a purple solid, incorporating both TPE and BODIPY units. This synthesis involved the reaction of TPE-T with BODIPY-I<sub>2</sub> in a DMF/Et<sub>3</sub>N solution, utilizing Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> as a catalyst

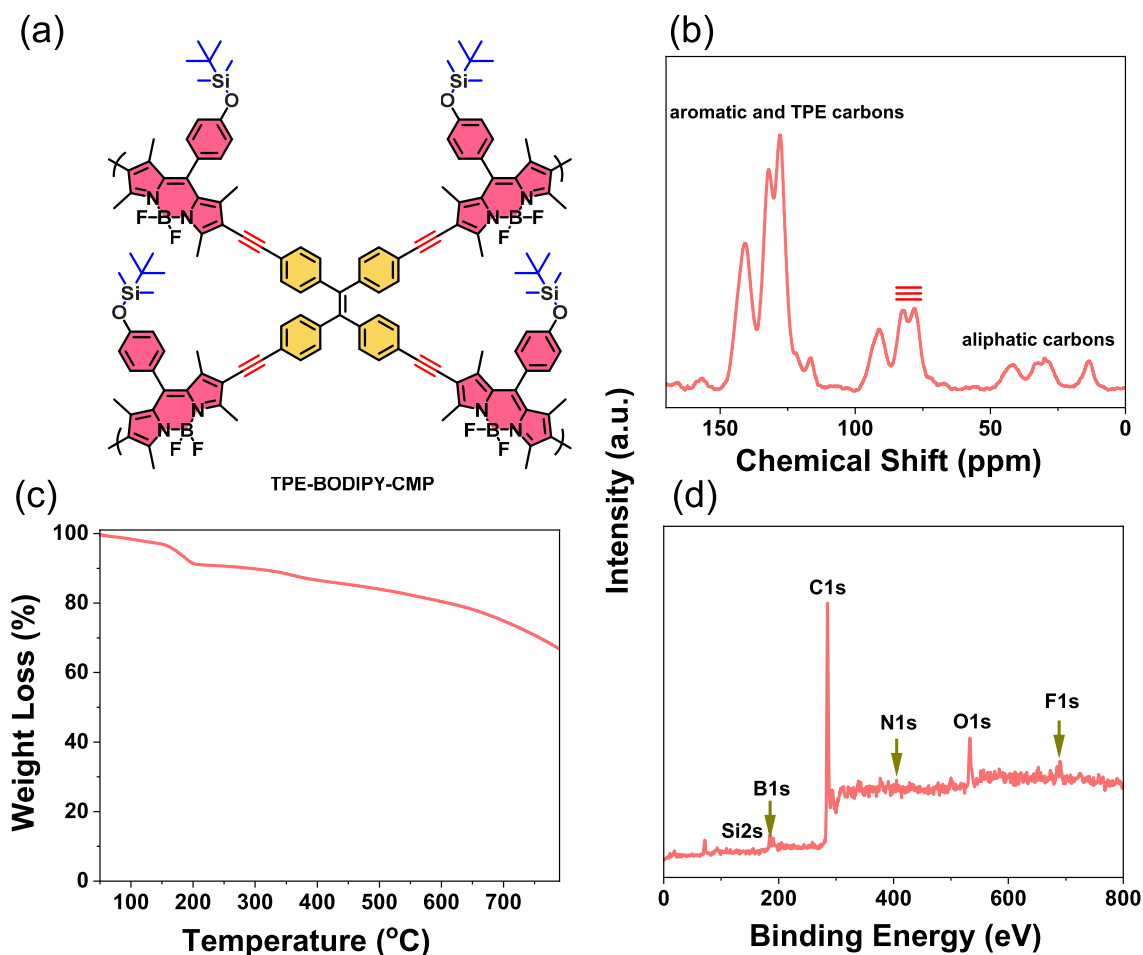


Fig. 2. (a) The molecular chemical structure, (b) FTIR, (c) TGA, and (d) XPS profiles of TPE-BODIPY-CMP.

[Fig. 1]. The framework structure of TPE-BODIPY-CMP was scrutinized through XPS, ssNMR, and FTIR. Additionally, the thermal behavior of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP architecture was assessed using TGA. Furthermore, TPE-BODIPY-CMP exhibited a  $S_{\text{BET}}$  of  $300 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  and a pore size of ca 1.52–2.82 nm. Based on our testing results, TPE-BODIPY-CMP showed an excellent capacitive of  $176 \text{ F g}^{-1}$  at  $0.5 \text{ A g}^{-1}$  concerning electrochemical performance. It is noteworthy that even after 5000 cycles, this TPE-BODIPY-CMP retains an astounding 83.23% of its capacitance. The detection of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework toward different cations [ $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Ag}^+$ ] was carefully examined through PL tests. Its extraordinary sensitivity to  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions was highlighted by the findings, which showed a LOD of  $2.5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$ . In summary, the TPE-BODIPY-CMP material exhibits exceptional thermal properties, porosity, and electrochemical characteristics, rendering it a highly attractive option for various applications, such as the detection of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions and supercapacitors.

## 2. Experimental section

### 2.1. Materials

The specified materials were sourced from Sigma-Aldrich and Across, including Zn, 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ, 98%), trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, 99%), *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (*tert*-BDSiCl<sub>2</sub>, 98%), triethylamine (Et<sub>3</sub>N, 99.5%), 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (98%), benzophenone (99%), titanium tetrachloride (TiCl<sub>4</sub>, 99.9%), methanol (MeOH), N-iodosuccinimide (95%), tetrahydrofuran (THF), 2,4-dimethylpyrrole (DMPy, 97%), N,N-

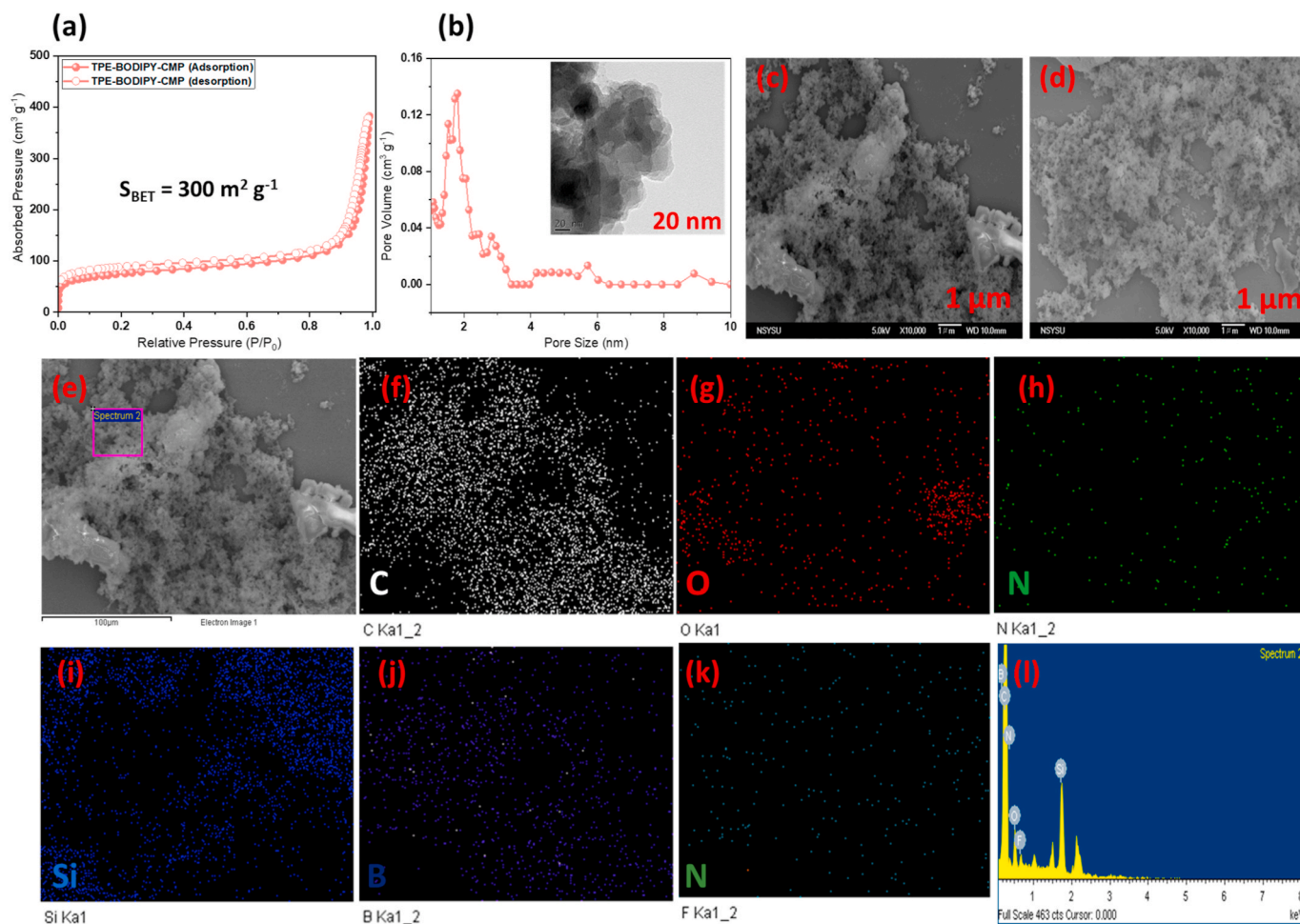
dimethylformamide (DMF), boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF<sub>3</sub>OEt<sub>2</sub>), triphenylphosphine (PPh<sub>3</sub>, 99%), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>), copper(I) iodide (CuI, 99.5%), and dichloromethane (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). Synthesis of TPE-TMS and TPE-T was performed according to known protocols described in the literature and their spectroscopic data [including NMR and FTIR, Scheme S1 and Figs. S1–S6] [77–79].

### 2.2. Synthesis of 4-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyloxy)benzaldehyde [*tert*-BDMSi-BZ]

Dissolving *tert*-BDSiCl<sub>2</sub> (3.92 g, 24.4 mmol), Et<sub>3</sub>N (3.6 ml, 24.4 mmol), 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (2 g, 16.4 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (80 mL) and the reaction solution was kept and stirred for 10 h. The resulting solution was extracted with H<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. After the workup process, the product was subjected to purification using a column chromatography method (hexane/EtOAc = 10/1), resulting in the *tert*-BDMSi-BZ as a yellow oil (3.48 g, 90%, Scheme S2). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Fig. S7):  $\delta$  9.79 (s, 1H), 7.69 (d, 2H), 6.85 (d, 2H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 0.15 (s, 6H).

### 2.3. Synthesis of *meso*-(*tert*-butyldimethyl(phenoxy)silane) appended BODIPY [*tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY]

In the presence of an argon atmosphere, *tert*-BDMSi-BZ (2.0 mmol, 0.47 g) and DMPy (4.5 mmol, 0.43 g) in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (25 mL). Two drops of TFA were added to the reaction mixture [kept stirring for 12 h at 25 °C]. Following this, a solution of DDQ (2.0 mmol, 0.45 g) in 10 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added dropwise for 30 min. Subsequently, 6 mL of BF<sub>3</sub>OEt<sub>2</sub> and 6 mL of Et<sub>3</sub>N were sequentially introduced and kept the reaction for



**Fig. 3.** (a) BET, (b) pore size, (c, d) SEM, (e–l) SEM-EDS mapping profiles [for Si, B, C, N, O, F atoms] of TPE-BODIPY-CMP. [photo inset Fig. 3(b) for TEM image of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP].

10 h. After purifying the crude product using column chromatography (EtOAc: hexane = 1:10), a red solid product was produced [Scheme S3]. Yield: 0.7 g (35%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, Fig. S8)  $\delta$  6.83 (dd,  $J = 47.6, 8.4$  Hz, 4H), 5.75 (s, 2H), 2.33 (s, 6H), 1.22 (s, 6H), 0.79 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (126 MHz, Fig. S9)  $\delta$  156.47, 155.26, 143.13, 141.93, 131.77, 129.20, 127.96, 121.10, 25.68, 18.34, 14.56, 14.40,  $-4.40$ . ESI-TOF mass spectrum 455.25 (57 %,  $\text{M}^+ + 1$ , Fig. S10).

#### 2.4. Synthesis of 2,6-diiodo-substituted meso-(tert-butyl)dimethyl (phenoxy)silane appended BODIPY [BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$ ]

With stirring, *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY (0.2 g, 0.44 mmol) and *N*-iodosuccinimide (0.48 g, 2.1 mmol) were mixed with dry DCM (30 mL) in the dark at RT for 12 h in room temperature. The red solution was washed using  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (100 mL  $\times$  2). The BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$  was purified using a similar method to the *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY to give a red solid (0.11 g, 66%, Scheme S4). FTIR (Fig. S11): 3031.78, 2925.58, 2843.41  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (Fig. S12)  $\delta$  7.07 (dd,  $J = 48.4, 8.0$  Hz, 4H), 2.66 (s, 6H), 1.48 (s, 6H), 1.04 (s, 9H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (Fig. S13)  $\delta$  155.94, 155.56, 144.30, 140.62, 130.62, 128.07, 126.59, 120.42, 84.53, 24.65, 17.35, 16.00, 14.98,  $-5.45$ . ESI-TOF mass spectrum 678.04 (100%,  $\text{M}^+$ , Fig. S14).

#### 2.5. Synthesis of TPE-BODIPY-CMP

In a Pyrex tube, DMF (10 mL) and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  (10 mL) were introduced to a mixture containing TPE-T (0.3 g, 0.7 mmol), BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$  (0.99, 1.4 mmol), CuI (3 mg),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (5 mg), and  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (1.5 mg, 0.013 mmol).

Following three cycles of freeze, pump, and thaw, the resulting liquid was homogenized and then heated to 110  $^\circ\text{C}$  for three days. The mixture underwent filtration and subsequent washing with MeOH, and acetone as part of the Sonogashira coupling process to form TPE-BODIPY-CMP as a violet powder with a yield of 75%.

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Synthesis and characterization of BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$ and TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework

Schemes S2-S4 carried out the synthesis of the monomer BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$ . Initially, the phenolic OH group of 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde was protected by *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride, yielding *tert*-BDMSi-BZ. Subsequently, *tert*-BDMSi-BZ underwent a reaction with 2,4-dimethylpyrrole in dried DCM under argon protection, followed by oxidation using DDQ and reaction with  $\text{BF}_3\text{OEt}_2$  to produce *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY. The final BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$  was obtained by reacting *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY with *N*-iodosuccinimide in the absence of light. The synthetic substances' molecular structures were validated through  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, and HR-mass spectra. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *tert*-BDMSi-BZ exhibited signals characteristic of aromatic protons (4H), aliphatic *tert*-butyl protons (9H), and highly shielded protons (6H) attached to silicon atoms. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY revealed signals characteristic of meso substituent and pyrrole moiety protons (2H), with the pyrrole protons (2H) disappearing in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of BODIPY- $\text{I}_2$ , confirming the diiodonation of BODIPY. Furthermore, the

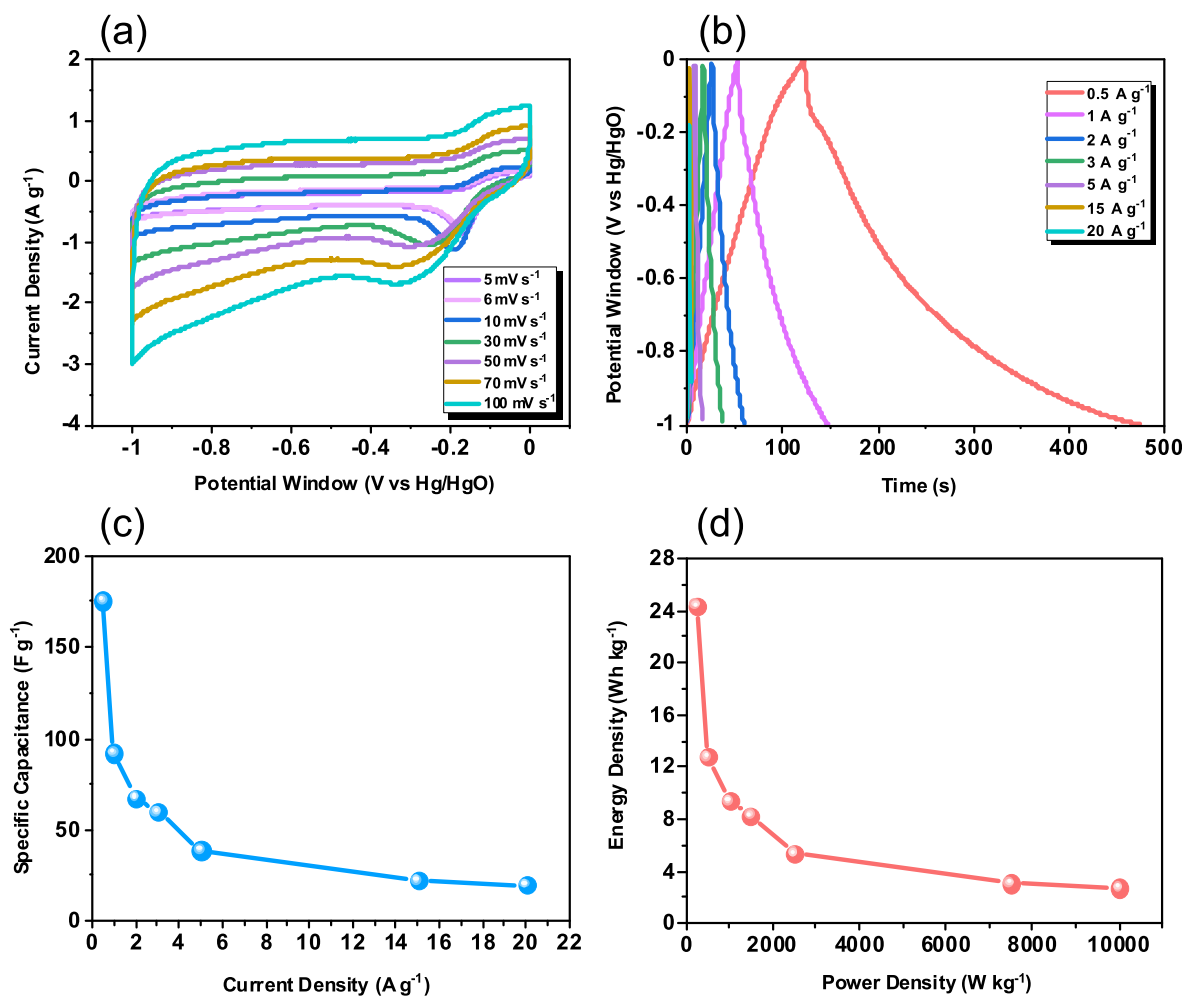


Fig. 4. (a) CV, (b) GCD, (c) specific capacitance, and (d) Ragone plot of TPE-BODIPY-CMP.

chemical structures of *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY and BODIPY-I<sub>2</sub> were validated by their emission spectra. *tert*-BDMSi-BODIPY exhibited a strong emission at 515 nm upon excitation at 480 nm, whereas BODIPY-I<sub>2</sub> showed fluorescence quenching (Fig. S15) due to spin-orbital coupling of iodine atoms. The TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework was synthesized through the Sonogashira coupling method, which involved combining TPE-T and BODIPY-I<sub>2</sub> in a mixture of DMF and Et<sub>3</sub>N (1:1 by volume). The resulting mixture was subjected to heating at 120 °C for 72 h. Subsequently, the obtained TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework was isolated as a purple powder, exhibiting insolubility in various solvents such as acetone, THF, DMF, MeOH, DCM, and EtOH, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

The chemical structure of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework (depicted in Fig. 2(a)) reveals characteristic signals in the aromatic carbon region for both BODIPY and TPE units (in the range of 157.18–116.68 ppm) [Fig. 2(b)]. Additionally, the signals corresponding to internal and terminal alkyne units are observed at 81.86 and 77.63 ppm, respectively. The <sup>13</sup>C CP/MAS spectrum [Fig. 2(b)] displays aliphatic groups within the BODIPY moiety, ranging from 40.93 to 13.59 ppm. Further confirmation of the aromatic CH, aliphatic CH, and alkyne units is evident in the TPE-BODIPY-CMP as displayed in FT-IR spectra (Fig. S16), where absorption bands at 3023, 2933, 2854, and 2024 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, support their presence. Furthermore, the thermal stability of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework was evidenced by its resistance to decomposition up to 291 °C. The carbon residue obtained from the TGA profile approached approximately 67 wt%, as illustrated in Fig. 2(c). Finally, the analysis of XPS data [Fig. 2(d)] confirmed the presence of Si, B, C, N, O, and F elements in the TPE-BODIPY-CMP sample. The peaks

corresponding to these elements appeared at 154.95, 186.22, 285.73, 403.02, 533.8, and 686.62 eV, respectively, indicating the presence of Si, B, C, N, O, and F atoms in the framework.

Moreover, to assess the porosity of TPE-BODIPY-CMP, nitrogen adsorption tests were conducted at 77 K. The characteristic microporosity of TPE-BODIPY-CMP was evident from the reversible type-I isotherm, displaying a pronounced uptake within the low-pressure range. For TPE-BODIPY-CMP, the total pore volumes at  $P/P_0 = 0.99$  were measured at 0.6 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, and the Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area was determined to be 300 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> (refer to Fig. 3(a)). The pore size distribution curve for TPE-BODIPY-CMP, illustrated in Fig. 3 (b), indicates pore diameters (PD) of 1.52, 1.78, and 2.82 nm. The TEM image visually confirms the porous structure of TPE-BODIPY-CMP [inset Fig. 3(b)]. Furthermore, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) data [Fig. 3(c) and (d)] reveal a homogeneous granular-shaped aggregation morphology for TPE-BODIPY-CMP. The SEM-EDS mapping of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP sample revealed the presence of all elements—Si, B, C, N, O, and F—with respective atomic percentages of 3.39, 23.75, 68.68, 1.6, 2, and 0.58%. This distribution is illustrated in Fig. 3(e-l).

### 3.2. Electrochemical performance of TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework

The electrochemical performance of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP material was assessed using a three-electrode system, considering its boron, nitrogen, trace fluorine, and silicon content, as well as its attractive morphological properties and rational pore size distribution architecture. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) experiments were conducted on the

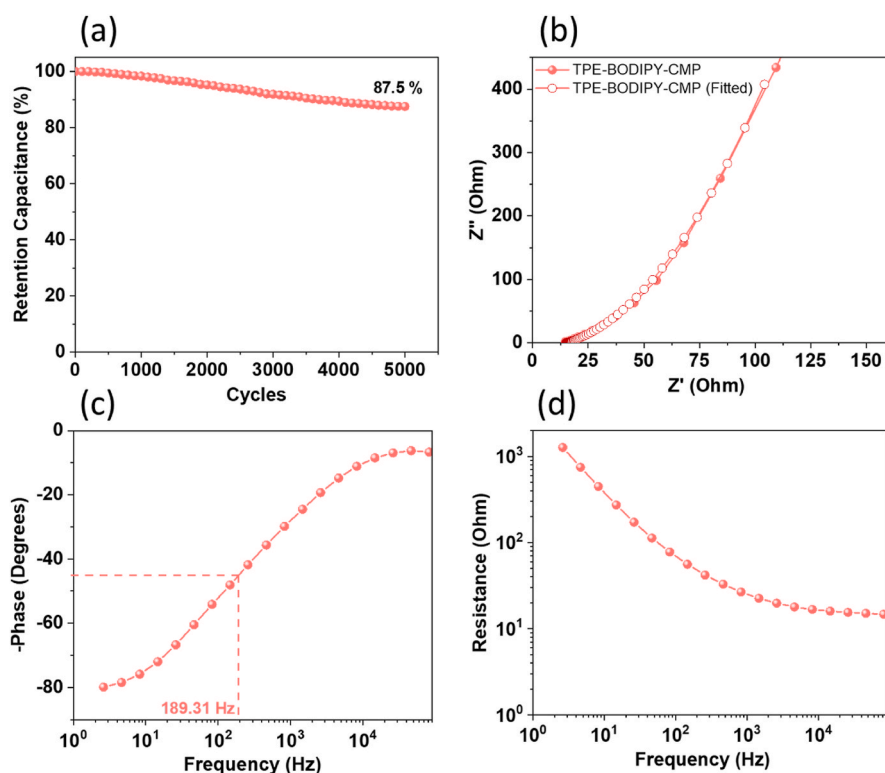


Fig. 5. (a) Retention capacitance, (b) Nyquist plots, (c) Bode plot of frequency-dependent resistance (magnitude), and (d) Bode plot of frequency-dependent phase angles of TPE-BODIPY-CMP.

constructed supercapacitor with different scan rates ( $5\text{--}100\text{ mV s}^{-1}$ ) in 1 M aqueous KOH to investigate the electrochemical behavior of TPE-

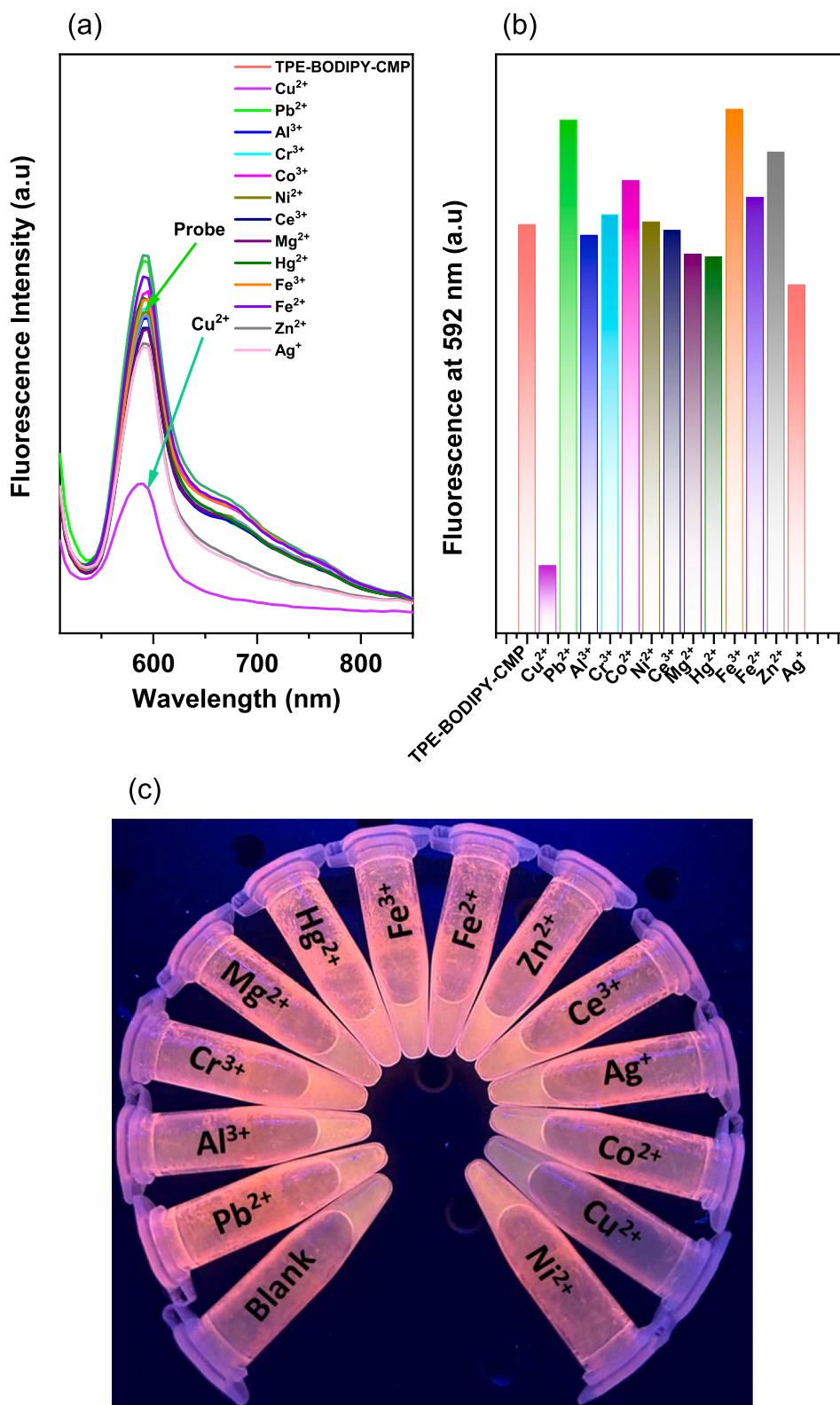
BODIPY-CMP [Fig. 4(a)]. The TPE-BODIPY-CMP exhibited a quasi-rectangular voltammogram form with redox peaks (Fig. 4(a)), indicating a combination of electric double-layer capacitance and pseudo-capacitance properties [80–82]. Notably, TPE-BODIPY-CMP displayed a distinctive humped shape resembling a rectangle, maintaining consistency across the scan rate range. This suggests the stability of TPE-BODIPY-CMP during current sweeps, demonstrating capacitance from EDLCs. The 2D network, abundant heteroatoms, and short diffusion routes within TPE-BODIPY-CMP electrodes facilitated fast charge percolation, ensuring stable and reversible CV even at high scan rates. Galvanostatic charge/discharge (GCD) profiles of TPE-BODIPY-CMP at various current density ranges ( $0.5\text{--}20\text{ A g}^{-1}$ ) revealed triangular forms, indicating the predominant energy storage mechanism as EDLC and pseudo-capacitance [Fig. 4(b)]. TPE-BODIPY-CMP exhibited longer discharge times for all currents, demonstrating its superior specific capacitance value ( $176\text{ F g}^{-1}$ ) at  $0.5\text{ A g}^{-1}$  [Fig. 4(c)]. The comparison of TPE-BODIPY-CMP's capacity value with various published information concerning three electrode supercapacitor materials is shown in Table S1. Based on the calculation, the TPE-BODIPY-CMP supercapacitor's energy density was determined to be  $24.39\text{ Wh kg}^{-1}$ , as shown in Fig. 4(d). The durability during cycling at  $10\text{ A g}^{-1}$  for 5000 cycles showcased excellent cycling stability, with a capacitance retention rate of 83.23% for TPE-BODIPY-CMP [Fig. 5(a)]. To assess electric resistance, electrochemical impedance spectroscopy was employed, presenting a Nyquist plot with fitted circuits in Fig. 5(b). The TPE-BODIPY-CMP electrode exhibited an initial ohmic resistance of  $14.65\text{ Hz}$ . The Bode plot illustrated the capacitive characteristics of TPE-BODIPY-CMP, with slant lines at low frequency indicating a negative slope and modest resistances at high frequency [Fig. 5(c)]. Furthermore, the frequency-dependent phase angle graphs of various electrodes were presented in Fig. 5(d), with knee frequencies calculated

at a phase angle of  $-45^\circ$ . The TPE-BODIPY-CMP electrode displayed a knee frequency of  $189.31\text{ Hz}$  [Fig. 5(c)], suggesting improved rate performance. Above the knee frequency, the supercapacitor exhibited elevated resistance, aligning with the diffusion of electrolyte ions through the porous network structure of TPE-BODIPY-CMP [83].

### 3.3. Sensory behavior of TPE-BODIPY-CMP towards metal ions

The emission characteristics of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP exhibit excitation-independent emission patterns across a broad wavelength spectrum ranging from EX 440 to EX 570 [Fig. S17(a)]. This emission behavior is typical in fluorophores or nanomaterials with core-shell structures [84]. Similarly, in larger CMP, the intricate network and incorporation of doped heteroatoms contribute significantly to these fluorescence properties. Furthermore, analysis using the chromaticity color chart [Fig. S17(b)] indicates that the fluorescence colors are predominantly distributed within the near-IR 1 range. The sensory response of TPE-BODIPY-CMP was investigated concerning various cations, including  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Al}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ce}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Ag}^+$ , in aqueous solutions at neutral pH (7.2). Upon excitation at  $480\text{ nm}$ , the polymer exhibited fluorescence emission centered at  $592\text{ nm}$ , originating from the BODIPY units. Notably, among the examined cations, only  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  demonstrated a quenching effect on the emission of TPE-BODIPY-CMP (quenching efficiency,  $\text{QE} = 53\%$ ), as illustrated in Fig. 6(a) and (b). The observed quenching by  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  was attributed to its paramagnetism, leading to an energy transfer from coordinated BODIPY units [85]. Fig. 6(c) provides compelling evidence of the distinctive quenching of the hue of TPE-BODIPY-CMP in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  cations under UV light, contrasting with the behavior observed with other cations.

An evaluation was carried out to examine the influence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions on the fluorescence of TPE-BODIPY-CMP under ideal experimental conditions. To detect the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ions, a series of



**Fig. 6.** Effect of cations (aqueous) on (a) the emission spectrum, (b) the emission at 592 nm of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP (water: THF (1:1), HEPES buffer ( $10^{-3}$  M), and (c) the color of TPE-BODIPY-CMP with cations under UV lamp ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 480$  nm). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

concentrations ranging from 1  $\mu\text{M}$  to 500  $\mu\text{M}$  were prepared, and the fluorescence intensity of TPE-BODIPY-CMP was measured at 530 nm [see Fig. S18]. Fig. S18 demonstrates the decrease in fluorescence intensity of TPE-BODIPY-CMP with the increasing concentration of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$

ions. Furthermore, the sensitivity of TPE-BODIPY-CMP in detecting  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  was assessed by plotting the titration of emission at 592 nm against the concentration of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , as depicted in Fig. 7.  $\text{LOD} = 3\sigma/b$ , where  $b$  is the slope of the titration plot and  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of several

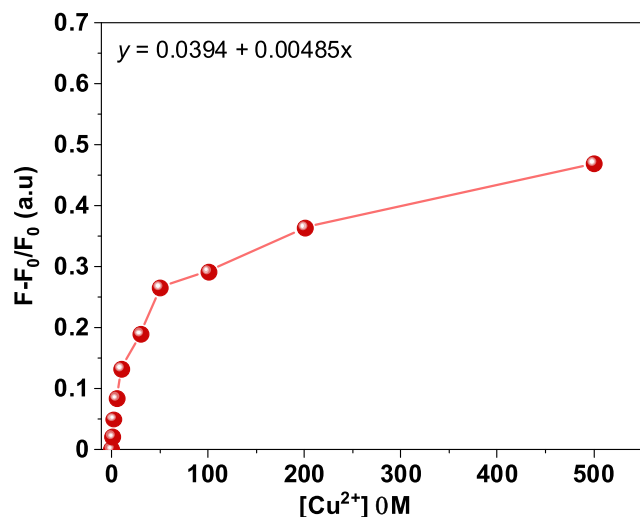


Fig. 7. Effect of  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  concentration on the emission at 592 nm of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP (water: THF (1:1), HEPES buffer ( $10^{-3}$  M),  $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 480$  nm).

measurements of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP'S emission at 592 nm, was used to calculate LOD. The computed LOD was  $2.5 \times 10^{-7}$  M.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this investigation, the Sonogashira coupling method was employed for the synthesis of a novel TPE-BODIPY-CMP incorporating TPE and BODIPY moieties. The chemical structure of the TPE-BODIPY-CMP framework was verified using FTIR, ssNMR, and XPS techniques. Through BET analysis, it was determined that the TPE-BODIPY-CMP possesses pore diameters ranging from 1.52 to 2.82 nm, a  $S_{\text{BET}}$  of  $300 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ , and a uniform granular morphology of the aggregation. The outstanding porosity and fluorescence exhibited by TPE-BODIPY-CMP make it suitable for applications in both electrochemical and sensory fields. Strikingly, TPE-BODIPY-CMP revealed an exceptional capacitance retention, retaining 83.23% of their capacitance even after 5000 cycles. Moreover, among all the cations under the study, only  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  quenched the fluorescence emission of TPE-BODIPY-CMP achieving a LOD of  $2.5 \times 10^{-7}$  M.

#### CRediT authorship contribution statement

**Awad I. Said:** Formal analysis, Conceptualization. **Mohamed Gamal Mohamed:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Supervision, Methodology, Investigation, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Manivannan Madhu:** Formal analysis, Conceptualization. **Poonam Nagendr Singh:** Investigation. **Swetha V Chaganti:** Investigation. **Mohamed Hammad Elsayed:** Data curation. **Wei Lung Tseng:** Supervision. **Françisco M. Raymo:** Supervision. **Shiao-Wei Kuo:** Supervision.

#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Data availability

The data that has been used is confidential.

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#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polymer.2024.126988>.

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