scientific reports

OPEN

Check for updates

Deep-red circularly polarised luminescent C₇₀ derivatives

Haruka Kano¹, Hironobu Hayashi¹, Kyohei Matsuo¹, Michiya Fujiki², Hiroko Yamada^{1⊠} & Naoki Aratani^{1⊠}

Optically active fullerenes, including C₆₀ and C₇₀ derivatives carrying organic substituents, are used in a range of applications because of their unique spectroscopic, catalytic, and chiral recognition properties. However, their inherent photoexcited chirality is yet to be elucidated because of their very poor fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_f). We synthesised a new chiral C₇₀ derivative, X70A, with 20% yield, by reacting bis-borylated xanthene with C₇₀ in a one-step double addition reaction, followed by a successful optical resolution. The isolation of two separate X70A enantiomers was confirmed by mirror-image circular dichroism spectroscopy in the range of 300–750 nm. In toluene, the enantiomeric pair of X70A clearly revealed mirror-image circularly polarised luminescence (CPL) spectra with a high $|g_{lum}|$ value of 7.0 × 10⁻³ at 690 nm. The first fullerene-based deep-red CPL of X70A should provide a new guideline for the design of chiral nanocarbon materials.

Achiral buckminsterfullerene (C_{60}) and [5,6]-fullerene (C_{70}) adopt highly symmetrical spherical and elliptical structures, respectively, allowing them to be utilised as *n*-type molecular semiconductors and building blocks of molecular conductors/magnets owing to the uniqueness of their energetically low-lying lowest unoccupied molecular orbitals (LUMOs)^{1,2}. The LUMO characteristics of C_{60} and C_{70} in solution permit reversible acceptance and release of up to six electrons via an electrochemical redox process³. In addition, $K_3C_{60}^4$ and $Rb_3C_{60}^5$ have been shown to exhibit superconductivity at critical temperatures (T_c) of ~ 20 and 30 K, respectively. In addition, a recent study indicated the possibility of $T_c = ~150$ K when femtosecond laser pulses excite the phonon modes of K_3C_{60} at 0.3 GPa⁶. Furthermore, the charge-transfer (CT) complex of C_{60} with an electron-donating molecule has been reported to undergo a paramagnetic-ferromagnetic transition at $T_c = ~17$ K⁷. Moreover, photoinduced CT processes between fullerene derivatives and π -conjugated polymers have been found to efficiently generate electron and hole carriers with enhanced mobilities, thereby improving the performances of organic photovoltaic solar cells^{8,9}.

Early photoluminescence (PL) studies have elucidated that fullerenes can emit fluorescence (FL), but in very low quantum yields (Φ_f)¹⁰⁻¹³, and that the singlet (S₁)-triplet (T₁) intersystem crossing (ISC) occurs nearly quantitatively due to large spin–orbit coupling (SOC)¹⁴. Thus, a thermally activated delayed FL (TADF) is possible owing to the small S₁–T₁ energy gap (ΔE_{S-T})^{15–19}. However, the lack of a high Φ_f at the S₁–S₀ transition remains an obstacle when fullerene derivatives are applied to several photonic applications.

Molecular chirality and helicity play key roles in biomolecular and human-made materials science, facilitating the introduction of a perturbation to the photoexcited and ground states. In solution, the majority of chiral organic luminophores exhibit circularly polarised luminescence (CPL) in the UV–visible region²⁰. For example, a few helicenes, as helical nanocarbon molecules, have been shown to emit CPL in the visible region up to 800 nm^{21,22}. However, nanocarbon materials that exhibit a large dissymmetry factor over long wavelength regions, such as the deep-red region, have rarely been investigated. This is due to the fact that the molecular design that can simultaneously achieve chirality and an effective π -conjugation whose absorption reaches the deep-red region is still unexplored. In this context, we attempt the rational design of the π surfaces of C_{70}^{23-25} to produce chiral deep-red luminophores. As a result, a chiral C_{70} derivative, **X70A**, was synthesised by reacting bis-borylated xanthene with C_{70} in a one-step double addition reaction, followed by successful purification by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) using a chiral separation column.

Thus, we herein report the first deep-red mirror-image CPL spectra at 690 nm, originating from a pair of chiral fullerene derivatives, which are associated with the corresponding mirror-image circular dichroism (CD) spectra upon the dissolution of left-handed and right-handed **X70A** in toluene. We believe that the results obtained for this CPL-exhibiting **X70A** will provide useful guidelines for the future material design of nano-carbon light-emitting materials that emit in the deep-red to near infrared (NIR) region with high *g*-values²⁶⁻²⁸.

¹Division of Materials Science, Nara Institute of Science and Technology, 8916-5 Takayama-cho, Ikoma, Nara 630-0192, Japan. ²Division of R&D, True2Materials PTE. Ltd., 8916-5 Takayama-cho, Ikoma, Nara 630-0192, Japan. ^Eemail: hyamada@ms.naist.jp; aratani@ms.naist.jp



Figure 1. Schematic representation of the short distance tether-directed remote functionalisation of C_{70} . (a) Ball-and-stick model of C_{70} with carbon labels: *a* (red), *b* (orange), *c* (yellow), *d* (green), and *e* (purple). (b) Sequential reaction of the tethered-substrate with C_{70} , which is bound to carbon *a* in the first addition reaction. Here, the second addition reaction is limited to the β site. The reaction leads to chiral racemic products given the equivalence of the β sites on the two sides adjacent to the α site. (c) Reaction of C_{70} with bis-borylated xanthene **1** to afford **X70***n*. cod = cyclooctadiene.

Results

Molecular and reaction design. Due to the fact that C_{70} possesses five non-equivalent carbon atoms (*a*-*e*, see Fig. 1a), the *a* and *b* atoms, which have a high angular distortion because of their proximities to the two poles, inherently exhibit a high reactivity toward several nucleophiles²⁹. The reactivities of the α -site (*a*-*b* double bond) and the β -site (*c*-*c* double bond) are higher than those of other sites, facilitating the rational design of double bond-selective reactions³⁰⁻³³. It should be noted here that when two C–C double bonds are inequivalent to a symmetrical plane, C_{60} and C_{70} form chiral electronic structures due to symmetry breaking. In 1998, Diederich et al. synthesised racemic mixtures of bis-adducts of C_{60} and C_{70} by the Bingel reaction³⁴, leading to the success-ful resolution of enantiomerically pure compounds.

Following a nucleophilic reaction of the substrate on the most reactive carbon *a* of C_{70} , the second addition reaction can be performed regioselectively on the successive β -site (*c*-*c* double bond), which produces a chiral bis-adduct (Fig. 1b). This tether-directed remote functionalisation^{35–37} was first achieved for the selective preparation of a tris-adduct of C_{60}^{35} . In this study, we reacted two boronic acids, with a fixed short distance, on C_{70} with a rhodium catalyst using Itami's method^{38,39}. The xanthene skeleton was selected as a very short-tethered boronic acid. Bis-borylated xanthene **1** was prepared from 4,5-dibromo-2,7-di-*tert*-butyl-9,9-dimethylxanthene in 72% yield⁴⁰.

Isolation and characterisation of the X70 family. Bis-borylated xanthene **1** was reacted with C_{70} in the presence of a catalytic amount of $[Rh(cod)(MeCN)_2]BF_4$ in H_2O/o -dichlorobenzene (1/4) at 60 °C for 6 h to yield the desired xanthene adducts (Fig. 1c)³⁹. The obtained chromatogram (toluene/hexane = 1:1, ν/ν , COS-MOSIL Buckyprep column, Nacalai Tesque Inc.) of the reaction mixture is shown in Supplementary Fig. S1. Mass spectrometric analysis of the products revealed that the first eluent contained bis-xanthene adducts, while the subsequent fractions contained the six mono-xanthene adducts (Supplementary Figs. S2–S7), i.e., **X70A**, **X70B**, **X70C**, **X70D**, **X70E**, and **X70F**. The obtained yield of **X70A** was moderately high (~20%).

The ¹H and ¹³C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra of **X70A**, **X70B**, and **X70F** are shown in Fig. 2 and Supplementary Figs. S8–S13. In Fig. 2, the red and blue circles indicate the proton peaks of xanthene and fullerene, respectively. Asymmetric **X70A** was characterised by four doublet peaks arising from the xanthene component, and two singlet peaks originating from the fullerene framework. The two singlet peaks observed for the fullerene framework indicate that the C_{70} carbon atoms at the 1,3-positions (carbons *a* and *c*) reacted preferentially. Formation of the highly symmetric **X70B** was confirmed by the observation of two doublet peaks cor-



Figure 2. ¹H NMR spectra of a series of **X70***n* and illustration of the replacement positions on C_{70} . (a) **X70A** in CDCl₃, (b) **X70B** in CDCl₃, and (c) **X70F** in CDCl₃. * indicates an impurity peak. Red circles are assigned to the peaks of xanthene, blue circles are assigned to the peaks of the fullerene protons, and a purple circle is assigned to the peak of the hydroxy group. C^a, C^b, and C^c represent the xanthene carbon atoms; H^a, H^b, and H^c represent the hydrogen atoms attached to carbons *a*, *b*, and *c*, respectively. The structures of **X70A**, **X70B**, and **X70F** determined by the single-crystal X-ray analysis are shown in Fig. 3.



Figure 3. Structures of **X70A**, **X70B**, and **X70F**. Molecular structures of (a) **X70A**, (b) **X70B**, and (c) **X70F** and their ORTEP diagrams for single-crystal X-ray structures of (d) **X70A**, (e) **X70B**, and (f) **X70F** with 25% thermal ellipsoids. Solvent molecules and disordered parts are omitted for clarity.



X70F2

Figure 4. Schlegel diagrams of **X70A**, **X70B**, and **X70F** with enantiomeric numbering schemes: systematic numbering recommended by IUPAC; arrows indicate the direction of the numbering commencement. The full names for these compounds are listed in the Supplementary Information.

responding to x anthene, and one singlet peak originating from the fullerene framework, indicating that the equivalent carbon b had reacted.

The structures of **X70A** and **X70B** were determined by single-crystal X-ray structure analysis (Fig. 3a,b,d,e, and Supplementary Tables S1–S2). **X70A** is a product of double addition reactions at the 1,3-positions of the top six-membered ring of C_{70} , which results in the generation of a chiral structure. Alternatively, **X70B** was formed from the addition reaction at carbon *b* at the 1,4-positions of C_{70} , as supported by the ¹H NMR results. **X70A** and **X70B** were named using the official fullerene IUPAC nomenclature²⁵, as indicated in Fig. 4 and Supplementary Fig. S14.

High-resolution matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionisation time-of-flight mass spectrometry (HR-MALDI-TOF-MS) of **X70E** and **X70F** detected **X70A** plus 16 and 32 mass units, respectively, suggesting that one and two oxygen atoms are inserted into the mono-xanthene adducts. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **X70F**

X70F1



Figure 5. UV–visible absorption and CD spectra. (a) UV–vis absorption spectra of **X70A** (blue line), **X70F** (red line), and for comparison, C_{70} (black line) in toluene. (b) Blue and red lines represent the CD spectra in toluene for the first (**X70A1**: 9.6×10^{-6} M) and second (**X70A2**: 5.1×10^{-6} M) fractions, respectively. (c) Blue and red lines represent the CD spectra in toluene of the first (**X70F1**: 6.1×10^{-6} M) and second (**X70F2**: 5.1×10^{-6} M) fractions, respectively.

in CDCl₃ was similar to that of **X70A**, exhibiting four doublet peaks originating from the xanthene component, in addition to two singlet peaks at 6.44 and 4.86 ppm (Fig. 2c).

The structure of **X70F** was unambiguously determined by X-ray diffraction analysis, where it was found that one of the C–C bonds was cleaved by oxygen (Figs. 3c,f, 4; Supplementary Table S3). This compound possesses one hydroxyl group on the xanthene moiety, and one oxygen atom at the β -site, indicating the presence of an epoxide structure. We confirmed that the singlet peak at 6.44 ppm in its ¹H NMR spectrum disappeared after the addition of methanol- d_4 , indicating that this peak is derived from the hydroxyl group.

Although the formation mechanism of **X70F** remains unclear, we observed the conversion of **X70A** to **X70F** in solution under air, and so, **X70F** is considered to be produced by the air oxidation of **X70A** following its generation. The plausible structures and names for **X70C**, **X70D**, and **X70E** estimated from ¹H and ¹³C NMR analyses (Supplementary Figs. S15–S19) are shown in Supplementary Fig. S20.

Photophysical properties of the enantiomerically purified X70A and X70F. The UV-visible absorption spectra of **X70A**, **X70F**, and pristine C_{70} are shown in Fig. 5a and Supplementary Table S4. In the UV-visible absorption spectra of **X70A** and **X70F**, the characteristic peaks of C_{70} were greatly suppressed and broadened, exhibiting the typical absorption shape of monosubstituted fullerenes, as reported in the literature³⁰.

Subsequently, the racemates of **X70A** and **X70F** were subjected to enantiomeric resolution using chiral separation column chromatography. Although the chromatogram of **X70A** in hexane/*i*-PrOH (4:1) did not show well-separated peaks after 24 cycles of the racemate, the first and second halves of the peaks clearly provided mirror-signed CD spectral profiles, indicating that enantiomeric resolution was possible (Supplementary Fig. S21). Furthermore, four repetitions of the enantiomeric resolution process using the first half of the peak succeeded in isolating mostly enantiomerically purified **X70A**^{41,42}. Another chiral **X70A** was obtained using the second half of the peak of **X70A**, following six repetitions of the recycling enantiomeric resolution process (Supplementary Fig. S22). Enantiomerically purified **X70Fs** were obtained using the same separation procedure (Supplementary Figs. S23, S24). As a result, **X70A1** and **X70A2**, as the first and second fractions, respectively, revealed ideal mirror-image CD spectra between 300 and 750 nm (Fig. 5b). The first and second fractions of **X70F** were named **X70F1** and **X70F2**, respectively (Fig. 5c).

To determine the absolute structures of chiral fullerenes **X70A** and **X70F**, we compared the experimental CD spectra with the density functional theory (DFT)-calculated spectra between 300 and 750 nm using the SpecDis software package (Supplementary Figs. S25–S27; Supplementary Tables S5–S7)^{43,44}. Both CD spectra (i.e. for **X70A** and **X70F**) were simulated with high similarity factors (0.89 for **X70A** and 0.81 for **X70F**, respectively), and thus, the absolute structure of the second eluent **X70A2** was determined with high accuracy as (${}^{ts}A$)-7,25-xantheno-7,8,22,25-tetrahydro(C_{70} - D_{5h})[5,6]fullerene, and the first eluent **X70A1** was determined as (${}^{ts}C$)-7,25-xantheno-7,8,22,25-tetrahydro(C_{70} - D_{5h})[5,6]fullerene (Fig. 4). In addition, the absolute structure of the second eluent **X70F2** was determined as (${}^{ts}C$)-25-(5'-hydroxyxanthenyl)-7,22-epoxy-7,8,22,25-tetrahydro(C_{70} - D_{5h})[5,6]fullerene, while the first eluent **X70F1** was determined to be (${}^{ts}A$)-25-(5'-hydroxyxanthenyl)-7,22-epoxy-7,8,22,25-tetrahydro(C_{70} - D_{5h})[5,6]fullerene.

The FL spectra of **X70A** and **X70F** are depicted in Fig. 6a along with that of C_{70} excited at 500 nm in degassed toluene at 20 °C for comparison. As indicated, **X70A** and **X70F** exhibit similar broad FL bands with vibronic shoulders in the range 600–850 nm. Based on a previous report that the Φ_f of C_{70} in toluene at 20 °C





.....

was ~ 0.06%¹³, the relative $\Phi_{\rm f}$ values of **X70A** and **X70F** were determined to be 0.1 and 0.2%, respectively (Fig. 6a). These enhancements are probably due to a lowering symmetry accompanying a weak polarity led by two substituents of the fullerene π -systems; C₇₀ adopts achiral D_{5h} , while **X70A** and **X70F** are chiral C_1 -symmetry. Although the FL emission at ~ 700 nm cannot be detected with the naked eye, photosensitivity experiments carried out using a crystal silicon-based digital camera with detection up to 950 nm allowed the deep-red emission to be captured (inset of Fig. 6a). The FL lifetimes of **X70A** and **X70F** in deaerated toluene (3.0×10^{-5} M) were determined to be 0.99 and 1.31 ns, respectively, from which, we can determine the radiative (k_f) and non-radiative (k_{nr}) rate constants to be 1.0×10^6 s⁻¹ and 1.0×10^9 s⁻¹ for **X70A** and 1.5×10^6 s⁻¹ and 1.5×10^6 s⁻¹ for **X70F**, respectively.

X70A1 and **X70A2** clearly display mirror-image CPL spectra (Fig. 6b). To the best of our knowledge, these CPL spectra are the first ones observed for fullerene-based compounds, although optically active C_{76}^{45} and C_{60} adducts⁴⁶ were previously found to exhibit FL. The absolute g_{lum} values of **X70A1** and **X70A2**, $|g_{lum}|$, were moderately high: 7.0×10^{-3} ($\lambda_{ex} = 410$ nm, $\lambda_{em} = 690$ nm). It should be noted here that this g_{lum} value is among the highest in the deep-red to NIR regions for purely organic compounds that do not contain lanthanide metals⁴⁷. No obvious CPL signals were observed for **X70F1** and **X70F2** (Fig. 6c). To account for this observation, we calculated the intersection of the electric and magnetic transition dipole moments of **X70A** and **X70F**. Interestingly, although **X70F** possesses two orthogonal electric and magnetic dipole moments, **X70A** does not (Supplementary Fig. S28). The orthogonal electric and magnetic dipole moments should result in the cancellation of the $|g_{lum}|$ values, thereby accounting for the reduced CPL observed for these compounds⁴⁸. Since the π-conjugated systems of both **X70A** and **X70F** are identical, the reason for the difference in the angles between the two types of moments can be attributed to the subtle electronic and steric effects of the substituents. In recent years, molecular design to control the angle and strength of the two transition moments has been studied intensively^{49,50}.

Discussion

To date, investigations into the photochemistry of fullerenes have mainly focused on subsequent electron transfer after photoexcitation and triplet energy transfer, for example, through the generation of singlet oxygen. In this study, we successfully synthesised and characterised a family of xanthene-attached C_{70} derivatives, **X70n**, via a facile one-step reaction from C_{70} . Furthermore, enantiomeric separation from the racemates of **X70A** and **X70F** was also achieved, and these compounds were found to exhibit significantly strong emission properties than C_{70} . The enantiomeric pair of **X70A** clearly revealed ideal mirror-image CPL spectra ranging from the deep-red to NIR regions with a high $|g_{lum}|$ value of 7×10^{-3} at 690 nm as a purely organic fluorophore. The corresponding $\Phi_{\rm f}$ values are small because the singlet excited state of C_{70} is converted to the triplet excited state with an efficiency close to 100%. Also, the deep-red emission $\Phi_{\rm f}$ of the fluorophores is small, owing to the smooth non-radiative pathway; hence, it is reasonable to aim for a molecular design that gives a large dissymmetry factor (*g*-value) for the deep-red luminophore.

It is well known that the transition electric dipole moment (μ) is larger than the transition magnetic dipole moment (m), and the g_{lum} value is inversely proportional to the absolute value of μ from the following relationship:

$g_{\text{lum}} = 4|\boldsymbol{m}|\cos\theta/|\boldsymbol{\mu}|$

As can be seen from this equation, the molar absorption coefficient, which is directly proportional to the absolute value of μ , and the *g*-value generally have a trade-off relationship⁵¹. Thus, fullerenes with smaller molar absorption coefficients should be used for the S₀–S₁ forbidden transitions to achieve chiral luminophores with high *g*-values.

Although the Φ_f value of **X70A** is small, this is the first step in developing chiral fullerene luminescence. In this study, by comparing C_{70} with **X70A** and **X70F**, we have found that the improvement of fluorescence quantum yield can be achieved by a lower symmetrization on the fullerene π -system associated with an introduction of polar substituent(s), and that the difference of substituted pattern on the fullerene also changes the strength and angle of electric and magnetic transition dipole moments (Supplementary Fig. S28) and thus greatly affects the dissymmetry factor. We believe that the strategy for developing a molecule that can exhibit a high *g*-value in the deep-red region is valuable and can be applied for molecular design in the near future²⁶⁻²⁸.

Methods

General methods. C_{70} (purchased from SES Research Inc.) was purified using a Buckyprep column and degassed at 20 °C prior to carrying out any spectroscopic measurements. See the Supplementary Methods for further details.

Syntheses of X70A–X70F. A Schlenk flask was flame-dried under vacuum and filled with argon. Dry *o*-dichlorobenzene (140 mL) and H₂O (36 mL) were added to this flask under a stream of argon. After performing three freeze–pump–thaw cycles, [Rh(cod)(MeCN)₂]BF₄ (45 mg, 0.18 mmol), C₇₀ (500 mg, 0.59 mmol), and 2,7-di-*tert*-butyl-9,9-dimethylxanthene-4,5-diboronic acid (275 mg, 0.71 mmol) were added to the flask under a stream of argon. After stirring the mixture at 60 °C for 6 h, it was cooled to 20 °C. The organic layer was separated, passed through a pad of Celite and silica gel, and washed with toluene. The filtrate was concentrated and purified using a Buckyprep column (toluene/hexane (ν/ν)=1:1 eluent) to afford **X70A** (140 mg, 20%), **X70B** (0.8 mg, 0.1%), **X70C** (12 mg, 1.0%), **X70D** (13 mg, 1.1%), **X70E** (0.7 mg, 0.1%), and **X70F** (3.1 mg, 0.3%) as brown solids. Spectral data for all compounds are provided in the Supplementary Information.

HPLC purification. Preparative HPLC system was constructed using a $\phi 10 \times 250$ mm Buckyprep column (Nacalai Tesque Inc., Kyoto, Japan), a JASCO UV-2075 Plus detector, and a JASCO PU-2086 Plus pump. Eluent: toluene/hexane = 1/1, ν/ν Temperature: 20 °C, flow rate: 3.0 mL/min, injection volume: 3.0 mL, and detection: UV absorption at 326 nm. Chiral resolutions of **X70A** and **X70F** were performed at 20 °C using a $\phi 10 \times 250$ mm Cholester column (Nacalai Tesque Inc.) fitted to a recycling preparative HPLC system, which was constructed using a JASCO UV-2075 Plus detector and a JASCO PU-2086 Plus pump. Eluent: hexane/*i*-PrOH=4/1 (ν/ν), flow rate: 4.5 mL/min, injection volume: 3.0 mL, and detection: UV absorption at 326 nm.

CD measurements. The CD spectra were recorded using a JASCO J-820 spectropolarimeter.

CPL measurements and analysis. Artefact-free PL and CPL spectra were obtained using a JASCO CPL-200 spectrofluoropolarimeter, which allowed us to avoid second- and third-order stray light due to diffraction grating. The spectrofluoropolarimeter was designed as a prism-based spectrometer with a forward scattering angle of 0°, and it was equipped with focusing and collecting lenses. In addition, a movable cuvette holder fitted on an optical rail enabled adjustment of the best focal point to maximise the PL and CPL signals. Simultaneous CPL and PL measurements allowed the quantitative evaluation of the degree of CPL efficiency relative to the PL, known as Kuhn's dissymmetry factor (g_{lum}), which is defined as $g_{lum} = (I_L - I_R)/[(I_L + I_R)/2]$, where I_L and I_R refer to the intensities of the left- and right-handed CPL, respectively. The g_{lum} value was evaluated as $g_{lum} = [ellipticity$ (mdeg)/32,980/ln10] / PL amplitude (Volts) at the CPL extremum.

Data availability

The authors declare that the data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper and its supplementary information file. For full characterisation of new compounds and experimental details, see Supplementary Methods and Figures in the Supplementary Information file. The X-ray crystallographic coordinates for structures **X70A**, **X70B**, and **X70F** reported in this study have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) under deposition numbers 2013940–2013942. These data can be obtained free of charge from the CCDC via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif. All other data are available from the authors upon request.

Received: 14 April 2021; Accepted: 27 May 2021 Published online: 08 June 2021

References

- 1. Kroto, H. W., Heath, J. R., O'Brien, S. C., Curl, R. F. & Smalley, R. E. C₆₀: Buckminsterfullerene. *Nature* 318, 162–163 (1985).
- 2. Hirsch, A. & Brettreich, M. Fullerenes: Chemistry and Reactions (Wiley, 2005).
- 3. Echegoyen, L. & Echegoyen, L. E. Electrochemistry of fullerenes and their derivatives. Acc. Chem. Res. 31, 593-601 (1998).
- Hebard, A. F., Rosseinsky, M. J., Haddon, R. C., Murphy, D. W. & Glarum, S. H. Superconductivity at 18 K in potassium-doped C₆₀. Nature 350, 600–601 (1991).
- 5. Rosseinsky, M. J. et al. Superconductivity at 28 K in Rb_xC₆₀. Phys. Rev. Lett. 66, 2830–2832 (1991).

- 6. Cantaluppi, A. et al. Pressure tuning of light-induced superconductivity in K₃C₆₀. Nat. Phys. 14, 837-841 (2018).
- Tanaka, K. *et al.* Magnetic properties of TDAE-C₆₀ and TDAE-C₇₀, where TDAE is tetrakis(dimethylamino)ethylene. *Phys. Rev.* B 47, 7554–7559 (1993).
- Saricifici, N. S., Smilowtz, L., Heeger, A. J. & Wudl, F. Photoinduced electron transfer from a conducting polymer to buckminsterfullerene. *Science* 258, 1474–1476 (1992).
- Yu, G., Gao, J., Hemmelen, J. C., Wudl, F. & Heeger, A. J. Polymer photovoltaic cells: Enhanced efficiencies via a network of internal donor-acceptor heterojunctions. Science 270, 1789–1791 (1995).
- 10. Arbogast, J. W. & Foote, C. S. Photophysical properties of C70. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 113, 8886-8889 (1991).
- Kim, D., Lee, M., Suh, Y. D. & Kim, S. K. Observation of fluorescence emission from solutions of C₆₀ and C₇₀ and measurement of their excited-state lifetimes. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 114, 4429–4430 (1992).
- 12. Catalán, J. & Elguero, J. Fluorescence of C₆₀ and C₇₀. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 115, 9249-9252 (1993).
- Sun, Y.-P. & Bunker, C. E. Fluorescence of (5,6)-fullerene-C₇₀ in room-temperature solutions: Quantum yields and well-resolved spectra as a function of excitation wavelength. J. Phys. Chem. 97, 6770–6773 (1993).
- Huertas-Hernando, D., Guinea, F. & Brataas, A. Spin-orbit coupling in curved graphene, fullerenes, nanotubes, and nanotube caps. Phys. Rev. B 74, 155426 (2006).
- 15. Berberan-Santos, M. N. & Garcia, J. M. M. Unusually strong delayed fluorescence of C70. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 118, 9391-9394 (1996).
- Benedetto, A. F., Bachilo, S. M., Weisman, R. B., Nossal, J. R. & Billups, W. E. Photophysical studies of 1,2–C₇₀H₂. J. Phys. Chem. A 103, 10842–10845 (1999).
- Benedetto, A. F., Bachilo, S. M., Weisman, R. B., Nossal, J. R. & Billups, W. E. Time-resolved thermally activated delayed fluorescence in C₇₀ and 1,2–C₇₀H₂. J. Phys. Chem. A 104, 11265–11269 (2000).
- 18. Baleizão, C. et al. An optical thermometer based on the delayed fluorescence of C70. Chem. Eur. J. 13, 3643-3651 (2007)
- Palmeira, T., Miranda, A. S., Marcos, P. M. & Berberan-Santos, M. N. Calixarenes as high temperature matrices for thermally activated delayed fluorescence: C₇₀ in dihomooxacalix[4]arene. *Molecules* 23, 558–566 (2018).
- Chen, N. & Yan, B. Recent theoretical and experimental progress in circularly polarized luminescence of small organic molecules. Molecules 23, 3376 (2018).
- Zhao, W.-L., Li, M., Lu, H.-Y. & Chen, C.-F. Advances in helicene derivatives with circularly polarized luminescence. *Chem. Commun.* 55, 13793–13803 (2019).
- Liu, B., Böckmann, M., Jiang, W., Doltsinis, N. L. & Wang, Z. Perylene diimide-embedded double [8]helicenes. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 142, 7092–7099 (2020).
- Hawkins, J. M., Meyer, A. & Nambu, M. Asymmetric bisosmylation of C₆₀: Novel chiral π-systems. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 115, 9844– 9845 (1993).
- Thilgen, C., Gosse, I. & Diederich, F. Chirality in fullerene chemistry. In *Topics in Stereochemistry, Vol 23* (ed. Denmark, S. E.) 1–124 (Wiley, 2003).
- Thilgen, C. & Diederich, F. Structural aspects of fullerene chemistry—a journey through fullerene chirality. Chem. Rev. 106, 5049–5135 (2006).
- Sánchez-Carnerero, E. M. et al. Circularly polarized luminescence by visible-light absorption in a chiral O-BODIPY dye: Unprecedented design of CPL organic molecules from achiral chromophores. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 136, 3346–3349 (2014).
- Sánchez-Carnerero, E. M. et al. Circularly polarized luminescence from simple organic molecules. Chem. Eur. J. 21, 13488–13500 (2015).
- 28. Tanaka, H. et al. Symmetry-based rational design for boosting chiroptical responses. Commun. Chem. 1, 38 (2018).
- 29. Bingel, C. Cyclopropanierung von fullerenen. Chem. Ber. 126, 1957 (1993).
- Heymann, D., Bachilo, S. M. & Weisman, R. B. Ozonides, epoxides, and oxidoannulenes of C₇₀. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 124, 6317–6323 (2002).
- 31. Vidal, S. et al. Photochemical site-selective synthesis of [70] methanofullerenes. Chem. Commun. 52, 12733-12736 (2016).
- 32. Umeyama, T. *et al.* Regioisomer effects of [70] fullerene mono-adduct acceptors in bulk heterojunction polymer solar cells. *Chem. Sci.* 8, 181–188 (2017).
- 33. Umeyama, T. & Imahori, H. Isomer effects of fullerene derivatives on organic photovoltaics and perovskite solar cells. Acc. Chem. Res. 52, 2046–2055 (2019).
- Goto, H., Harada, N., Crassousb, J. & Diederich, F. Absolute configuration of chiral fullerenes and covalent derivatives from their calculated circular dichroism spectra. J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 2, 1719–1723 (1998).
- Isaacs, L., Haldimann, R. F. & Diederich, F. Tether-directed remote functionalization of buckminsterfullerene: Regiospecific hexaadduct formation. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 33, 2339–2342 (1994).
- 36. Taki, M. et al. Selective functionalization on [60] fullerene governed by tether length. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 119, 926-932 (1997).
- Kuwahara, S. *et al.* Conclusive determination of the absolute configuration of chiral C₆₀-fullerene *cis*-3 bisadducts by X-ray crystallography and circular dichroism. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 44, 2262–2265 (2005).
- Nambo, M., Noyori, R. & Itami, K. Rh-catalyzed arylation and alkenylation of C₆₀ using organoboron compounds. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 129, 8080–8081 (2007).
- Nambo, M., Segawa, Y., Wakamiya, A. & Itami, K. Selective introduction of organic groups to C₆₀ and C₇₀ using organoboron compounds and rhodium catalyst: A new synthetic approach to organo(hydro)fullerenes. *Chem. Asian J.* 6, 590–598 (2011).
- Aikawa, K. & Nagata, T. Synthesis of a dinucleating ligand xanthene-bis(tris(2-pyridylmethyl)amine) and its manganese complex. Inorg. Chim. Acta 306, 223–226 (2000).
- Shoji, Y., Tashiro, K. & Aida, T. Sensing of chiral fullerenes by a cyclic host with an asymmetrically distorted π-electronic component. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 128, 10690–10691 (2006).
- Shoji, Y., Tashiro, K. & Aida, T. One-pot enantioselective extraction of chiral fullerene C₇₆ using a cyclic host carrying an asymmetrically distorted, highly π-basic porphyrin module. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 132, 5928–5929 (2010).
- Bruhn, T., Schaumlöffel, A., Hemberger, Y. & Bringmann, G. SpecDis: Quantifying the comparison of calculated and experimental electronic circular dichroism spectra. *Chirality* 25, 243–249 (2013).
- Bruhn, T. & Pescitelli, G. Good computational practice in the assignment of absolute configurations by TDDFT calculations of ECD spectra. *Chirality* 28, 466–474 (2016).
- Guldi, D. M., Liu, D. & Kamat, P. V. Excited states and reduced and oxidized forms of C₇₆(D₂) and C₇₈(C_{2v}). J. Phys. Chem. A 101, 6195–6201 (1997).
- Liu, K.-Q., Wang, J.-J., Yan, X.-X., Niu, C. & Wang, G.-W. Regioselective electrosynthesis of tetra- and hexafunctionalized [60] fullerene derivatives with unprecedented addition patterns. *Chem. Sci.* 11, 384–388 (2020).
- MacKenzie, L. E., Pålsson, L.-O., Parker, D., Beeby, A. & Pal, R. Rapid time-resolved circular polarization luminescence (CPL) emission spectroscopy. *Nat. Commun.* 11, 1676 (2020).
- Sato, S. et al. Chiral intertwined spirals and magnetic transition dipole moments dictated by cylinder helicity. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 114, 13097–13101 (2017).
- Kubo, H. et al. Tuning transition electric and magnetic dipole moments: [7] helicenes showing intense circularly polarized luminescence. J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 12, 686–695 (2021).
- 50. Mori, T. Chiroptical properties of symmetric double, triple, and multiple helicenes. Chem. Rev. 121, 2373-2412 (2021).

51. Dekkers, H. P. M. & Closs, L. E. The optical activity of low-symmetry ketones in absorption and emission. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 98, 2210–2219 (1976).

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI Grant nos. JP20H02816 (H.H.), JP19H04584, JP19K22112, JP20H02711 (N.A.), JP20H00379, JP20H05833 (H.Y.), and CREST JST (no. JPMJCR15F1, H.Y.). We thank Yoshiko Nishikawa and Yasuo Okajima (NAIST) for the MS and FL lifetime measurements, respectively. We would like to thank Editage (www.editage.com) for English language editing.

Author contributions

H.K. performed the synthetic experiments and collected the central data. M.F. conducted the CPL measurements. N.A. determined the crystal structures. H.K. and K.M. performed the detailed DFT and TD-DFT calculations. N.A. and H.Y. designed and directed the project. H.H., K.M., H.Y., and N. A. conducted the methodology and validation. N.A. wrote the manuscript, and all authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-91451-5.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to H.Y. or N.A.

Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints.

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2021