

ARTICLE

Received 25 Apr 2013 | Accepted 4 Oct 2013 | Published 11 Nov 2013

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3717

OPEN

Efficient and tunable white-light emission of metal-organic frameworks by iridium-complex encapsulation

Chun-Yi Sun^{1,*}, Xin-Long Wang^{1,*}, Xiao Zhang², Chao Qin¹, Peng Li¹, Zhong-Min Su¹, Dong-Xia Zhu¹, Guo-Gang Shan¹, Kui-Zhan Shao¹, Han Wu¹ & Jing Li²

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are well known for their tunable structure and porosity. Many studies have shown they are promising for various important applications, for which their performance can be further enhanced by encapsulating functional species, such as luminescent guest molecules, within the frameworks. Although numerous MOFs are luminescent, very few emit white light and their quantum yield is usually low. Here we report a strategy to achieve efficient white-light emission by encapsulating an iridium complex in the MOF cavity. A mesoporous blue-emitting MOF is prepared as host to encapsulate a yellow-emitting iridium complex, $[Ir(ppy)_2(bpy)]^+$. The resultant composites emit bright white light with good colour quality (for example, Commission International de l'Eclairage coordinates, colour-rendering index and correlated colour temperature of (0.31, 0.33), 84.5 and 5409 K, respectively), and high quantum yield up to 115 °C. This strategy may open new perspectives for developing high-performance energy-saving solid-state lighting materials.

¹Key Laboratory of Polyoxometalate, Science of Ministry of Education, Department of Chemistry, Local United Engineering Lab for Power Battery, Northeast Normal University, Changchun 130024, China. ² Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, USA. * These authors contributed equally to this work. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Z-M.S. (email: zmsu@nenu.edu.cn) or to J.L. (email: jingli@rutgers.edu).