

## Supplementary Information

### Divergent Synthesis of 3-Substituted Thieno[3,4-b]thiophene Derivatives via Hydroxy-based Transformations

Yue Zhou, Jie Hao and Dongbing Zhao\*

State Key Laboratory and Institute of Elemento-Organic Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Nankai  
University, 94 Weijin Road, Tianjin 300071 (China).  
E-mail: dongbing.chem@nankai.edu.cn

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## 1. Materials and instrumentation methods

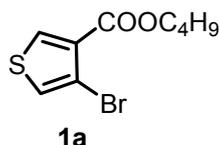
All reactions were carried out in a dry reaction vessel under a positive pressure of nitrogen, unless otherwise stated. Dry solvents (<50 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O) were purchased from Acros Organics, Sigma-Aldrich or Carl Roth and stored over molecular sieves under argon atmosphere and were transferred under argon. Starting materials were obtained from Acros Organics, Aldrich Chemical Co., J&K and Energy Chemical and were used without further purification. Anhydrous THF and toluene were distilled over Na/benzophenone prior to use. Anhydrous DMF was distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub> prior to use. These dry solvents stored over molecular sieves under argon atmosphere and were transferred under argon.

UV-vis was recorded with SPECORD® 210 PLUS spectrometers. Fluorescence spectrometry was recorded with Spectrofluorometer FS5. Cyclicvoltammetry (CV) was performed with a CHI660E potentiostat. All measurements were carried out in a one-compartment cell under a nitrogen atmosphere, equipped with a glassy-carbon electrode, a platinum counter-electrode, and an Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> reference electrode with a scan rate of 100 mV s<sup>-1</sup>. The supporting electrolyte was a 0.1 mol/L acetonitrile solution of tetrabutylammoniumhexafluorophosphate. All potentials were corrected against Fc/Fc<sup>+</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV 300, Bruker AV 400, Varian 500 MHz INOVA or Varian Unity plus 600 in solvents as indicated. Chemical shifts (δ) for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra are given in ppm relative to TMS. The residual solvent signals were used as references for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and the chemical shifts converted to the TMS scale (CDCl<sub>3</sub>: δ<sub>H</sub> = 7.26 ppm, δ<sub>C</sub> = 77.16 ppm; (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO: δ<sub>H</sub> = 2.50 ppm, δ<sub>C</sub> = 39.52 ppm). Elemental analyses were performed with vario EL CUBE from elementar.. HRMS spectra were recorded on Varian 7.0T FTMS. GPC spectra were performed with Waters 1525.

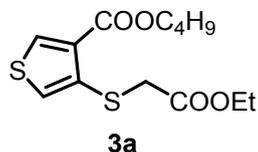
## 2. Detailed experimental procedures

Compound **1a** was synthesized according to the procedure in the literature.<sup>1</sup>



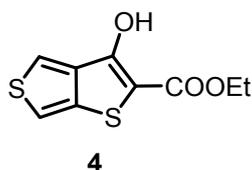
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 4.30 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.74 (dt, *J* = 14.6, 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (dt, *J* = 14.6, 7.4 Hz, 2H),

0.97 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.37, 134.06, 131.48, 125.20, 110.76, 64.82, 30.62, 19.21, 13.66. HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{BrO}_2\text{S}$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 284.9561, found: 284.9558. Anal. Calca. for  $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{11}\text{BrO}_2\text{S}$ : C: 41.08; H: 4.21; Found: C: 41.09; H: 4.57.



### Butyl 4-((2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)thio)thiophene-3-carboxylate (3a)

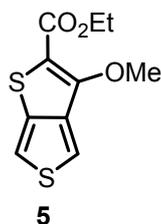
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer were placed butyl 4-bromothiophene-3-carboxylate (**1a**, 1.31g, 5 mmol, 1.0 eq),  $\text{Pd}_2\text{dba}_3$  (0.46 g, 10 mol%), XantPhos (0.58 g, 20 mol%), DIPEA (1.2 mL, 1.5 eq) and anhydrous toluene (28 mL), After stirring for a few minutes, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate (1.1 mL, 2.0 eq) was added drop by drop, then the reaction mixture was refluxed at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred for 24 h. Then, it was cooled at room temperature and the precipitate was collected by filtration, washed with saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$ , extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . After drying over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , the residue was purified by column chromatography (PE:EA= 10:1) as eluent to obtain **3a** (1.45 g, 96%) as yellow oily liquid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.15 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.04 (d,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, 1H), 4.27 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 4.18 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.67 (s, 2H), 1.75 – 1.67 (m, 2H), 1.46 (dt,  $J = 14.9, 7.4$  Hz, 2H), 1.24 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H), 0.95 (t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  169.52 (s), 162.13 (s), 134.57 (s), 133.86 (s), 131.25 (s), 119.50 (s), 64.75 (s), 61.60 (s), 35.82 (s), 30.65 (s), 19.20 (s), 14.04 (s), 13.68 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_4\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 325.0544, found: 325.0543.



### Ethyl 3-hydroxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (4)

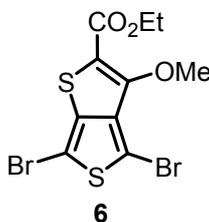
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, to a solution of  $^t\text{BuOK}$  (1.55 g, 2.1 eq), in THF (18 mL), after stirring for a few minutes, butyl 4-((2-ethoxy-2-oxoethyl)thio)thiophene-3-carboxylate (**3a**, 2 g, 6.6 mmol, 1.0 eq) of THF solution was added dropwise at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with sat.  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ , and washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . After drying over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , the solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The crude product was

purified by column chromatography (PE:acetone= 5:1) as eluent to obtain **4** (1.21 g, 80.1%) as green oily liquid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.29 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (d,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.39 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.84 (s), 154.81 (s), 138.66 (s), 135.22 (s), 117.24 (s), 112.26 (s), 105.79 (s), 61.38 (s), 14.28 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8\text{Br}_2\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 250.9813, found: 250.9843.



### Ethyl 3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**5**)

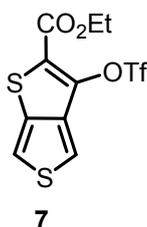
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were placed ethyl 3-hydroxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**4**, 2.28 g, 10.0 mmol, 1.0 eq), DMF (50 mL), and DBU (1.64 mL, 1.1eq), after stirring for ten minutes,  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$  (3.1 mL, 5eq) was added at r.t. and stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , extracted with EA, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE:EA= 20:1) as eluent to obtain **5** (507 mg, 20.9%) as yellow solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.68 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d,  $J$  = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (q,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.26 (s, 3H), 1.37 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.41 (s), 151.58 (s), 139.93 (s), 135.61 (s), 116.64 (s), 111.88 (s), 60.99 (s), 60.75 (s), 14.30 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 264.9969, found: 264.9967. Anal. Calca. for  $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$ : C: 49.57; H: 4.16; Found: C: 49.47; H: 4.59.



### Ethyl 4,6-dibromo-3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**6**)

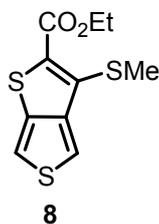
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were placed ethyl 3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**5**, 48 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq), and DMF (1 mL), then NBS (88 mg, 0.5 mmol, 2.5 eq) in DMF (1 mL) was added at r.t. and stirred for 24 h and the reaction was protected from light. The reaction mixture was quenched with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the

solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE:EA=50:1) as eluent to obtain **6** (47.8 mg, 60.3%) as light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.36 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.46 (s), 151.80 (s), 139.01 – 138.81 (m), 136.43 (s), 101.86 (s), 98.01 (s), 63.03 (s), 61.56 (s), 14.13 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 420.8179, found: 420.8178.



### Ethyl 3-(((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)oxy)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**7**)

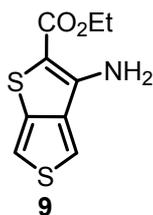
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added ethyl 3-hydroxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**4**, 1.6 g, 7.0 mmol, 1.0 eq), dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (35 mL) and pyridine (2.37 mL, 2.0 eq), then Tf<sub>2</sub>O (1.1 mL, 2.0 eq) at 0 °C was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h at room temperature, quenched with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>= 5:1) as eluent to obtain **7** (1.75 g, 70%) as yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.41 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 160.70 (s), 137.63 (s), 134.72 (s), 133.80 (s), 128.71 (s), 123.32 (s), 120.13 (s), 116.94 (s), 116.34 (s), 113.61 (s), 62.52 (s), 14.06 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>F<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 382.9305, found: 382.9305.



### Ethyl 3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**8**)

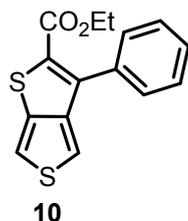
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added ethyl 3-hydroxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**7**, 36 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mg, 0.006mmol, 6mol%), XantPhos (7 mg, 0.012mmol, 12mol%), toluene (2 mL), DIPEA (31 mg, 1.2 eq) and NaSMe (aq., 20%) (55 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.5 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 100 °C. Then quenched with saturated

NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: EA= 20:1) as eluent to obtain **8** (23.5mg, 91%) as oily liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.75 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.40 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.51 (s), 147.42 (s), 137.04 (s), 132.25 (d, J = 19.9 Hz), 117.29 (s), 111.55 (s), 61.51 (s), 17.57 (s), 14.28 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 280.9741, found: 280.9740.



### Ethyl 3-aminothieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**9**)

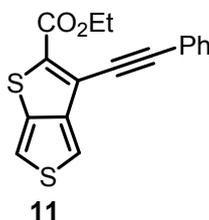
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added (**7**, 180 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1.0 eq), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (46 mg, 0.05 mmol, 10 mol%), XantPhos (29 mg, 0.05 mmol, 10 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (212.2 mg, 1.0 mmol, 2.0 eq), toluene (10 mL) and diphenylmethanimine (0.125 mL, 0.76 mmol, 1.52 eq). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. Then, it was cooled at room temperature, quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with EA, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was dissolved in methanol stirring for 1 h and was added ice water, extracted with EA, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: EA= 5:1) as eluent to obtain **10** (98 mg, 86%) as light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 5.83 (s, 2H), 4.32 (dd, J = 13.9, 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 165.89 (s), 143.22 (s), 140.95 (s), 136.40 (s), 115.04 (s), 111.88 (s), 102.42 (s), 60.35 (s), 14.46 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 249.9972, found: 249.9972. Anal. Calca. for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C: 47.56; H: 3.99; N: 6.16; Found: C: 47.89; H: 4.59; N: 6.17.



### Ethyl 3-phenylthieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**10**)

In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added (**7**, 72 mg, 0.2 mmol,

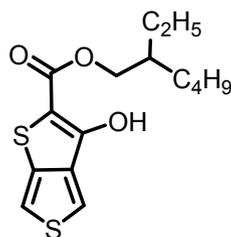
1.0 eq), phenylboronic acid (32 mg, 0.26 mmol, 1.3 eq), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (7.0 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol%), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (68 mg, 0.32 mmol, 1.6 eq) and 1,4-dioxane (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 110 °C. Then, it was cooled at room temperature, quenched with sat. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>= 5:1) as eluent to obtain **10** (56 mg, 97%) as light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.48 (dtd, *J* = 10.8, 3.8, 1.9 Hz, 5H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.21 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.90 (s), 149.02 (s), 137.55 (s), 136.98 (s), 134.64 (s), 132.97 (s), 129.14 (s), 128.22 (s), 127.98 (s), 117.19 (s), 111.39 (s), 61.27 (s), 13.92 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 311.0176, found: 311.0175.



### Ethyl 3-(phenylethynyl)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (**11**)

In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added (**7**, 72 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 eq), phenylacetylene (31 mg, 0.3 mmol, 1.5 eq), PdCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (4.2 mg, 0.006 mmol, 3 mol%), 0.12 mL Et<sub>3</sub>N, 2 mL DMF, the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at 90 °C. Then, it was cooled at room temperature, quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>= 3:1) as eluent to obtain **11** (57 mg, 91%) as yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.63 (dd, *J* = 6.5, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 3H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 162.42 (s), 147.33 (s), 139.70 (s), 136.48 (s), 131.92 (s), 129.00 (s), 128.45 (s), 122.75 (s), 117.08 (s), 116.88 (s), 112.22 (s), 98.11 (s), 82.92 (s), 61.70 (s), 14.34 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 335.0176, found: 335.0275.

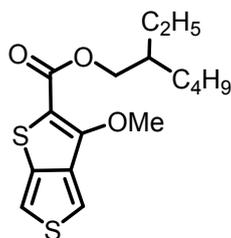
Compounds of **12**, **13**, **15** and **16** were synthesized with corresponding starting materials by similar procedure for preparation of **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, and **8**.



12

**2-Ethylhexyl 3-hydroxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (12)**

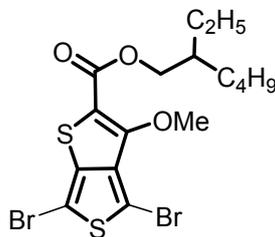
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  10.26 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.24 (d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, 2H), 1.69 (dd,  $J = 11.8, 5.9$  Hz, 1H), 1.44 – 1.30 (m, 8H), 0.94 (dd,  $J = 13.2, 5.7$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.92 (s), 154.66 (s), 138.69 (s), 135.29 (s), 117.21 (s), 112.20 (s), 105.97 (s), 67.64 (s), 38.77 (s), 30.39 (s), 28.89 (s), 23.84 (s), 22.92 (s), 14.01 (s), 11.04 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 335.0752, found: 335.0750.



13

**2-Ethylhexyl 3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (13)**

$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.69 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.22 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 4.26 (s, 3H), 4.20 (dd,  $J = 5.5, 2.9$  Hz, 2H), 1.73 – 1.61 (m, 1H), 1.43 – 1.28 (m, 8H), 0.93 (dd,  $J = 13.6, 6.1$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  162.59 (s), 151.50 (s), 139.83 (s), 135.70 (s), 116.66 (s), 116.24 (s), 111.86 (s), 67.21 (s), 60.67 (s), 38.85 (s), 30.49 (s), 28.92 (s), 23.91 (s), 22.97 (s), 14.05 (s), 11.09 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}_2$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 349.0908, found: 349.0906.

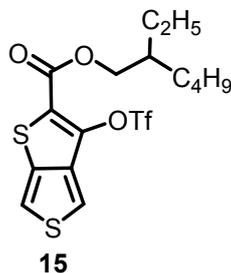


14

**2-Ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (14)**

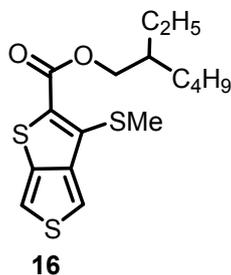
$^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  4.22 (s, 2H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 1.73 – 1.64 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.31 (m, 8H), 0.97 – 0.88 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  161.57 (s), 151.75 (s), 138.94 (s), 136.50 (s), 122.62 (s), 101.80 (s), 98.00 (s), 67.77 (s), 63.11 (s), 38.85

(s), 30.42 (s), 28.93 (s), 23.85 (s), 22.94 (s), 14.02 (s), 11.03 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{20}Br_2O_3S_2$   $[M+Na]^+$ : 504.9118, found: 504.9118.



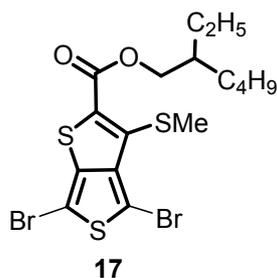
**2-Ethylhexyl-3-(((trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl)oxy)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (15)**

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.65 (d,  $J = 2.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d,  $J = 2.7$  Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd,  $J = 6.0, 1.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.74 (dt,  $J = 12.3, 6.1$  Hz, 1H), 1.45 – 1.30 (m, 8H), 0.92 (dt,  $J = 10.4, 7.2$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  160.60 (s), 137.54 (s), 135.04 (s), 133.84 (s), 128.19 (s), 123.31 (s), 120.12 (s), 116.93 (s), 116.30 (s), 113.54 (s), 68.72 (s), 38.57 (s), 30.20 (s), 28.76 (s), 23.65 (s), 22.90 (s), 13.95 (s), 10.85 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{19}F_3O_5S_3$   $[M+Na]^+$ : 467.0244, found: 467.0242. Anal. Calca. for  $C_{16}H_{19}F_3O_5S_3$ : C: 43.23; H: 4.31; Found: C: 43.21; H: 4.23.



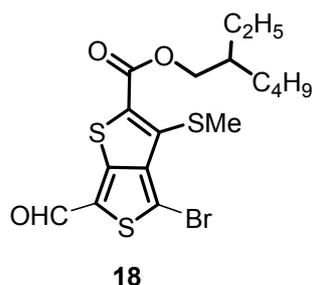
**2-Ethylhexyl 3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (16)**

$^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.75 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 4.27 – 4.21 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 1.74 – 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.45 – 1.28 (m, 8H), 0.93 (dd,  $J = 14.5, 6.8$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.64 (s), 147.40 (s), 137.09 (s), 132.26 (d,  $J = 13.8$  Hz), 117.26 (s), 111.50 (s), 67.73 (s), 38.82 (s), 30.47 (s), 28.90 (s), 23.91 (s), 22.95 (s), 17.53 (s), 14.03 (s), 11.08 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $C_{16}H_{22}O_2S_3$   $[M+Na]^+$ : 365.0680, found: 365.0678.



**2-Ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (17)**

In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added (**16**, 1.24 g, 3.6 mmol, 1.0 eq), DMF (15 mL), then a solution of NBS (1.92 g, 10.8 mmol, 3.0 eq) in DMF (10 mL) was added at r.t. and stirred for 24 h and the reaction was protected from light. The reaction mixture was quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O, extracted with saturated salt water and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>= 5:1) as eluent to obtain **17** (894 mg, 49%) as light yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 4.27 (d, *J* = 4.2 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (s, 3H), 1.75 – 1.65 (m, 1H), 1.40 (dd, *J* = 26.2, 14.5 Hz, 8H), 0.94 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 6.9 Hz, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 161.49 (s), 143.10 (s), 139.42 (s), 138.43 (s), 131.64 (s), 103.13 (s), 97.42 (s), 72.07 – 71.87 (m), 68.16 (s), 38.82 (s), 30.44 (s), 29.63 – 29.43 (m), 28.92 (s), 23.88 (s), 22.94 (s), 21.60 – 21.40 (m), 20.39 (s), 14.40 – 14.20 (m), 14.03 (s), 11.06 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>20</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>: 520.8890, found: 520.8888.

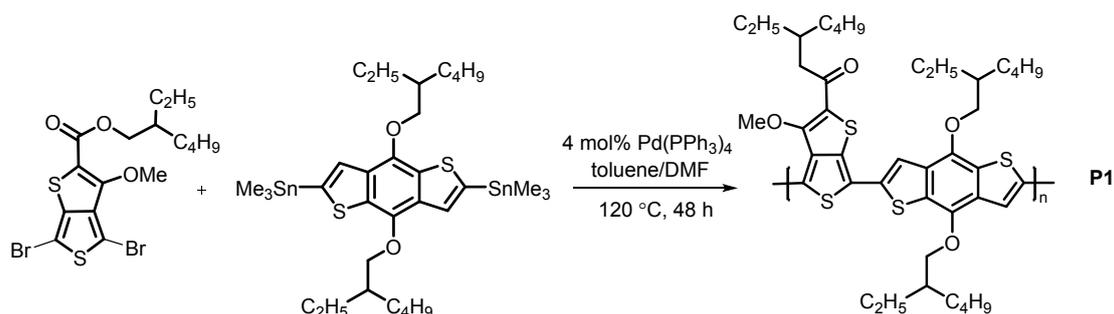


**2-Ethylhexyl 4-bromo-6-formyl-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (18)**

A solution of **16** in 1,2-dichloroethane (DCE, 100 mL) was degassed with argon for 15 min and then the Vilsmerier reagent (was prepared according to the literature)<sup>2</sup> was added into the reaction slowly and stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The reaction solution was stirred at 100 °C for another 24 h. Then saturated sodiumacetate solution was added slowly to quench the reaction. The reaction solution was washed with water for three times and extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,

filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: EA=10:1) as eluent to obtain 2-ethylhexyl 6-formyl-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate (5.3 g, 91%) as yellow solid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.89 (s, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 4.23 (dd,  $J = 10.4, 5.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.71 (s, 3H), 1.68 (dt,  $J = 12.1, 6.0$  Hz, 1H), 1.44 – 1.28 (m, 8H), 0.94 – 0.88 (m, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  179.63 (s), 162.07 (s), 148.11 (s), 143.12 (s), 133.55 (s), 132.25 (s), 127.58 (s), 127.02 (s), 68.05 (s), 53.41 (s), 38.81 (s), 30.41 (s), 28.93 (s), 23.85 (s), 22.94 (s), 17.96 (s), 14.05 (s), 11.05 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_3\text{S}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 393.0629, found: 393.0624.

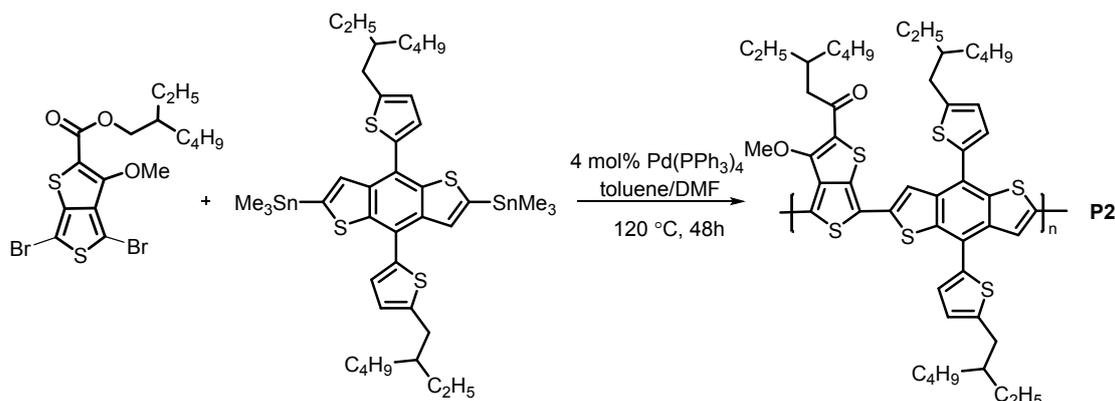
In a Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer, were added 2-ethylhexyl 6-formyl-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate ( 5.0 g, 14 mmol, 1.0 eq), DMF (50 mL), then NBS (3.7 g, 21 mmol, 1.5 eq) was added one-pot at 0 °C and then stirred for 24 h and the reaction was protected from light. The reaction solution was washed with water for three times and extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (PE: EA=10:1) as eluent to obtain **18** (2.89 g, 91%) as yellow-brown viscous liquid.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  9.81 (s, 1H), 4.28 (t,  $J = 4.5$  Hz, 2H), 2.55 (s, 3H), 1.74 – 1.68 (m, 1H), 1.47 – 1.31 (m, 8H), 0.94 (dd,  $J = 15.1, 7.5$  Hz, 6H).  $^{13}\text{C NMR}$  (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  178.31 (s), 161.30 (s), 144.44 (s), 143.04 (s), 139.71 (s), 131.04 (s), 126.72 (s), 117.14 (s), 68.34 (s), 38.85 (s), 30.43 (s), 28.93 (s), 23.87 (s), 22.93 (s), 20.42 (s), 14.02 (s), 11.04 (s). HRMS (ESI): calcd. for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{BrO}_3\text{S}_3$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ : 470.9734, found: 470.9730.



### The procedure for preparation and purification of Polymer P1

In a 100 mL Schlenk flask, 2-ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate **14** (202 mg, 0.417 mmol) and (4,8-bis((2-ethylhexyl)oxy)benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-2,6-diyl)bis(trimethylstannane) (322 mg, 0.417 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous toluene (10 mL) and DMF (2.5 mL).

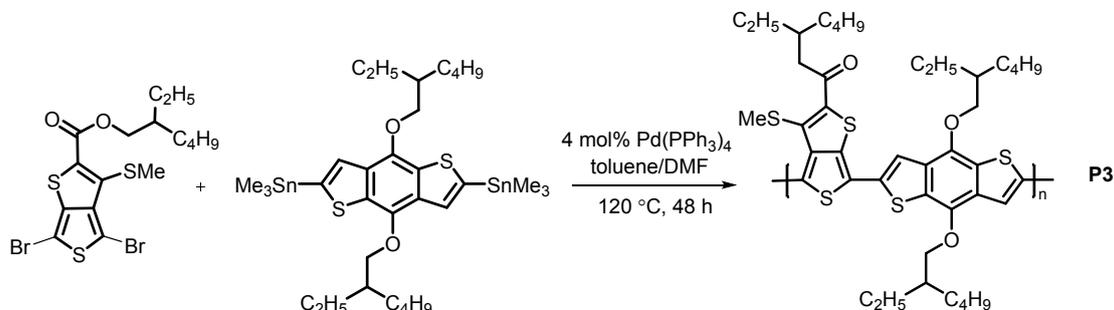
After being purged with nitrogen for 20 min, 21 mg (4.0 mol%) of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> was added into the flask as the catalyst, and then the reaction mixture was purged with nitrogen for another 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred and heated to reflux (120 °C) for 48 h under an nitrogen atmosphere (according to the procedure in the literature)<sup>3</sup>. After the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, 41 mg of tributyl(thiophen-2-yl)stannane was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was refluxed for another 10 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise to 100 mL methanol. The precipitate was collected and further purified by Soxhlet extraction with methanol, acetone, hexane, and chloroform in sequence. The polymer was recovered as solid from the chloroform fraction by precipitation from methanol. The solid was dried under vacuum to get polymer **P1** (276 mg, yield 87%). GPC: Mw = 30.1 KD, PDI= 2.1.



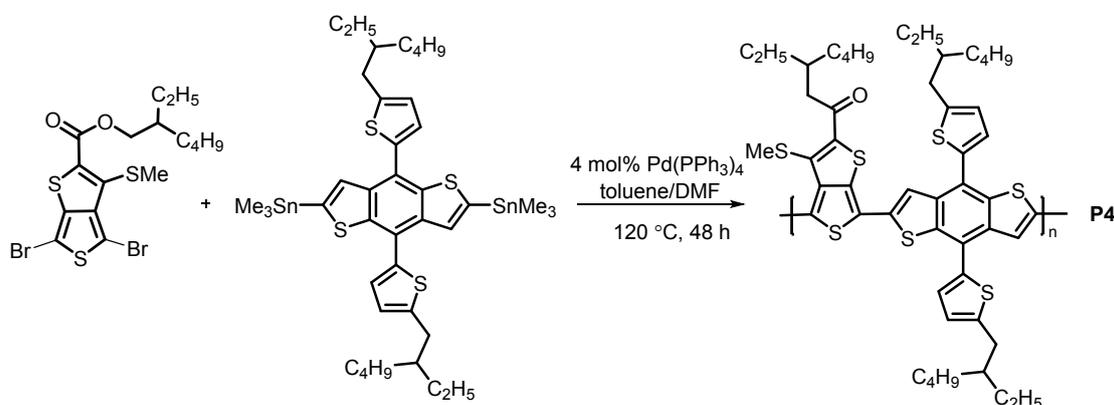
### The procedure for preparation and purification of Polymer P2

In a 25 mL pressure tube, 2-ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-methoxythieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate **14** (97 mg, 0.2 mmol) and (4,8-bis(5-(2-ethylhexyl)thiophen-2-yl)benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-2,6-diyl)bis(trimethylstannane) (181 mg, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous toluene (4 mL) and DMF (1.0 mL). After being purged with nitrogen for 20 min, 10 mg (4.0 mol%) of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> was added into the flask as the catalyst, and then the reaction mixture was purged with nitrogen for another 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred and heated to reflux (120 °C) for 48 h under an nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, 20 mg of tributyl(thiophen-2-yl)stannane was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was refluxed for another 10 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise to 100 mL methanol. The precipitate was collected and further purified by

Soxhlet extraction with methanol, acetone, hexane, and chloroform in sequence. The polymer was recovered as solid from the chloroform fraction by precipitation from methanol. The solid was dried under vacuum to get polymer **P2** (148 mg, yield 84%). GPC:  $M_w = 20.4$  KD, PDI= 1.9.

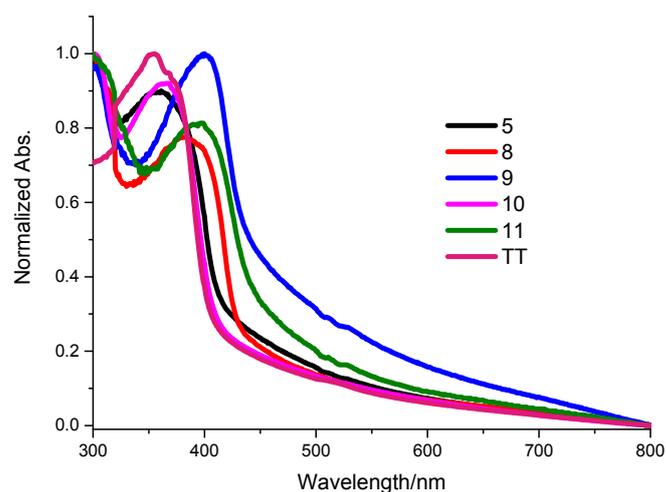


In a 100 mL Schlenk flask, 2-ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate **17** (200 mg, 0.4 mmol) and (4,8-bis((2-ethylhexyl)oxy)benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-2,6-diyl)bis(trimethylstannane) (309 mg, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous toluene (8 mL) and DMF (2 mL). After being purged with nitrogen for 20 min, 18.5 mg (4.0 mol%) of  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  was added into the flask as the catalyst, and then the reaction mixture was purged with nitrogen for another 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred and heated to reflux (120 °C) for 48 h under an nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, 40 mg of tributyl(thiophen-2-yl)stannane was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was refluxed for another 10 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise to 100 mL methanol. The precipitate was collected and further purified by Soxhlet extraction with methanol, acetone, hexane, and chloroform in sequence. The polymer was recovered as solid from the chloroform fraction by precipitation from methanol. The solid was dried under vacuum to get polymer **P3** (152 mg, yield 48%). GPC:  $M_w = 39.8$  KD, PDI= 1.9.

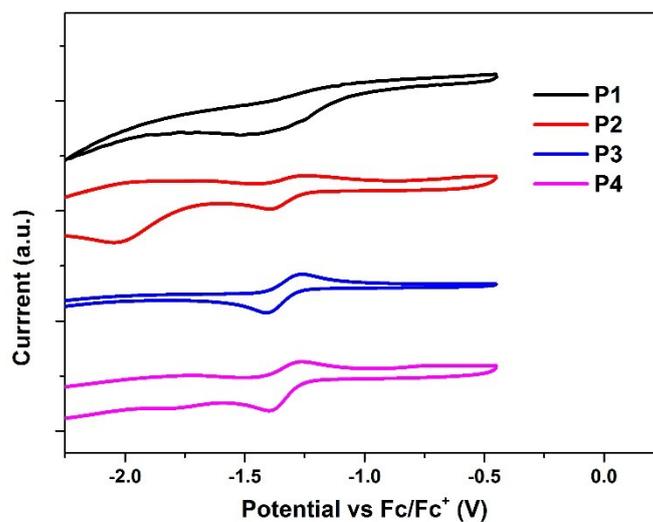


In a 25 mL pressure tube, 2-ethylhexyl 4,6-dibromo-3-(methylthio)thieno[3,4-b]thiophene-2-carboxylate **17** (150 mg, 0.3 mmol) and (4,8-bis(5-(2-ethylhexyl)thiophen-2-yl)benzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophene-2,6-diyl)bis(trimethylstannane) (272 mg, 0.3 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous toluene (6 mL) and DMF (1.5 mL). After being purged with nitrogen for 20 min, 15 mg (4.0 mol%) of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> was added into the flask as the catalyst, and then the reaction mixture was purged with nitrogen for another 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred and heated to reflux (120 °C) for 48 h under an nitrogen atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was cooled down to room temperature, 31 mg of tributyl(thiophen-2-yl)stannane was added under nitrogen atmosphere and the reaction was refluxed for another 10 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and added dropwise to 100 mL methanol. The precipitate was collected and further purified by Soxhlet extraction with methanol, acetone, hexane, and chloroform in sequence. The polymer was recovered as solid from the chloroform fraction by precipitation from methanol. The solid was dried under vacuum to get polymer **P4** (242 mg, yield 89%). GPC: M<sub>w</sub> = 25.8 KD, PDI= 2.1.

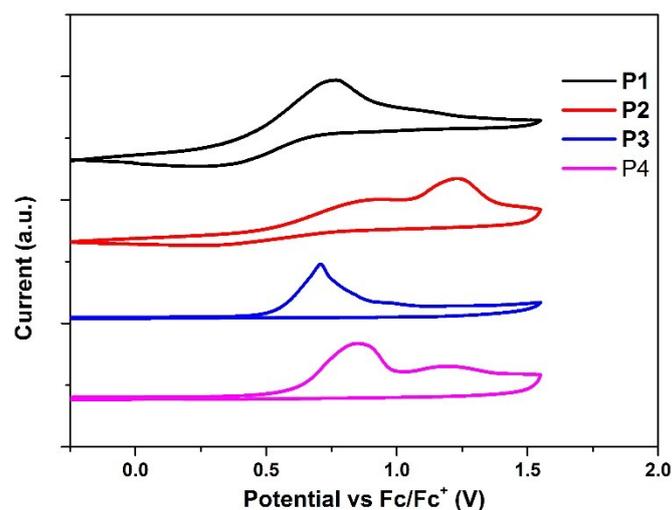
### 3. Optoelectronic properties



**Figure S1.** Normalized UV/Vis absorption spectra of **5**, **8**, **9**, **10**, **11** and **TT** as a film



**Figure S2.** Reductive CV curves of **P1**, **P2**, **P3** and **P4** film in diluted  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  solution with a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S3.** Oxidative CV curves of **P1**, **P2**, **P3** and **P4** in film in diluted  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  solution with a scan rate of  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .

#### 4. References

1. WO 2008011337A1, Jan 24, 2008.
2. H. Gao, Y. Sun, X. Wan, B. Kan, X. Ke, H. Zhang, C. Li, and Y. Chen. *Sci. China Mater.* 2017, **60**, 819.
3. Q. V. Hoang, C. E. Song, S. J. Moon, S. K. Lee, J.C. Lee, B. J. Kim, and W. S. Shin. *Macromolecules.* 2015, **48**, 3918.

## 5.GPC and NMR spectra

### Cirrus GPC Sample Injection Report

Generated by: Administrator

Friday, November 03, 2017 9:48 AM

Workbook: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20140701.plw

#### Sample Details

LWLP1

Acquired: 11/2/2017 6:33:27 PM

Batch Name: 20171102

Filename: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20171102-0004.cgrm

#### Workbook Details

Eluent: TCB stabilised with 0.0125% BHT

Flow Rate: 1.00 ml/min

Column Set: 3 x PLgel MIXED-B LS 300 x 7.5 mm

Temperature: 150

Detector: RI

Injection Volume: 200.0 ul

#### Analysis Using Method: 20171022

Comments:

#### Calibration Used: 10/26/2017 2:28:28 PM

High Limit MW RT: 16.35 mins

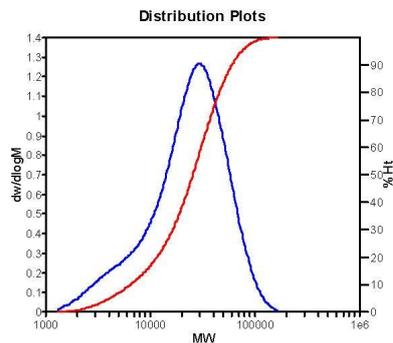
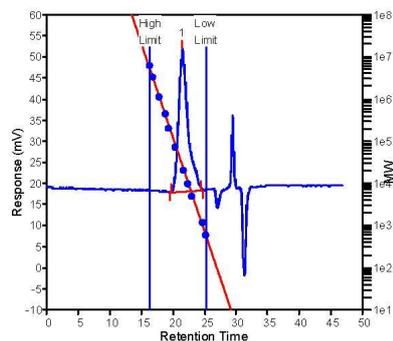
Low Limit MW RT: 25.32 mins

High Limit MW: 5198272

Low Limit MW: 529

K: 17.5000

Alpha: 0.6700



#### MW Averages

Peak No	Mp	Mn	Mw	Mz	Mz+1	Mv	PD
1	29839	14430	30109	46670	62875	27568	2.08656

#### Processed Peaks

Peak No	Name	Start RT (mins)	Max RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Pk Height (mV)	% Height	Area (mV.secs)	% Area
1		19.72	21.40	24.43	33.9192	100	3608.57	100

Sample Injection Report

**Peak Detection**

Peak No	Type	St Detect Code	End Detect Code	Is St Mod	Is Max Mod	Is End Mod
1	0	1	1	No	No	No

**Baseline Detection**

No	Start RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Start Height	End Height	Is St Mod	Is End Mod
1	19.62	24.80	17.89	18.42	No	No

## Cirrus GPC Sample Injection Report

Generated by: Administrator

Friday, November 03, 2017 9:46 AM

Workbook: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20140701.plw

### Sample Details

LWLP2

Acquired: 11/2/2017 7:24:11 PM

Batch Name: 20171102

Filename: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20171102-0005.cgrm

### Workbook Details

Eluent: TCB stabilised with 0.0125% BHT

Flow Rate: 1.00 ml/min

Column Set: 3 x PLgel MIXED-B LS 300 x 7.5 mm

Temperature: 150

Detector: RI

Injection Volume: 200.0 ul

### Analysis Using Method: 20171022

Comments:

### Calibration Used: 10/26/2017 2:28:28 PM

High Limit MW RT: 16.35 mins

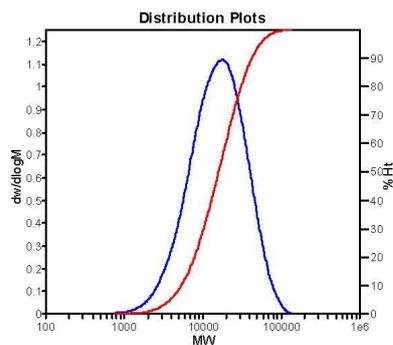
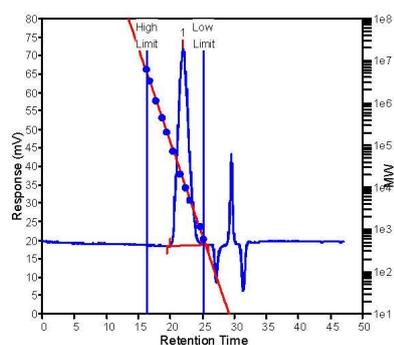
Low Limit MW RT: 25.32 mins

High Limit MW: 5198272

Low Limit MW: 529

K: 17.5000

Alpha: 0.6700



### MW Averages

Peak No	Mp	Mn	Mw	Mz	Mz+1	Mv	PD
1	17872	10824	20474	33440	47648	18676	1.89154

### Processed Peaks

Peak No	Name	Start RT (mins)	Max RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Pk Height (mV)	% Height	Area (mV.secs)	% Area
1		19.92	21.88	24.97	53.4705	100	6436.14	100

Sample Injection Report

**Peak Detection**

Peak No	Type	St Detect Code	End Detect Code	Is St Mod	Is Max Mod	Is End Mod
1	0	1	1	No	No	No

**Baseline Detection**

No	Start RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Start Height	End Height	Is St Mod	Is End Mod
1	19.48	25.97	18.34	18.68	No	No

### Cirrus GPC Sample Injection Report

Generated by: Administrator

Friday, November 03, 2017 10:06 AM

Workbook: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20140701.plw

#### Sample Details

LWLP3

Acquired: 11/2/2017 8:14:55 PM

Batch Name: 20171102

Filename: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20171102-0006.cgsm

#### Workbook Details

Eluent: TCB stabilised with 0.0125% BHT

Flow Rate: 1.00 ml/min

Column Set: 3 x PLgel MIXED-B LS 300 x 7.5 mm

Temperature: 150

Detector: RI

Injection Volume: 200.0 ul

#### Analysis Using Method: 20171022

Comments:

#### Calibration Used: 10/26/2017 2:28:28 PM

High Limit MW RT: 16.35 mins

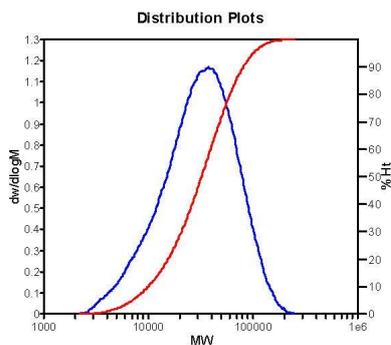
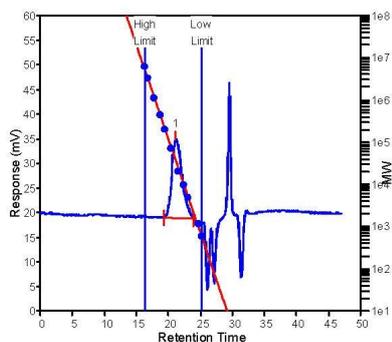
Low Limit MW RT: 25.32 mins

High Limit MW: 5198272

Low Limit MW: 529

K: 17.5000

Alpha: 0.6700



#### MW Averages

Peak No	Mp	Mn	Mw	Mz	Mz+1	Mv	PD
1	37261	21203	39819	62768	86502	36486	1.87799

#### Processed Peaks

Peak No	Name	Start RT (mins)	Max RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Pk Height (mV)	% Height	Area (mV.secs)	% Area
1		19.32	21.17	23.92	15.9741	0	1839.83	100

Sample Injection Report

**Peak Detection**

Peak No	Type	St Detect Code	End Detect Code	Is St Mod	Is Max Mod	Is End Mod
1	0	1	1	No	No	No

**Baseline Detection**

No	Start RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Start Height	End Height	Is St Mod	Is End Mod
1	19.32	23.92	19.03	18.70	No	No

**Cirrus GPC Sample Injection Report**

Generated by: Administrator Friday, November 03, 2017 10:07 AM  
 Workbook: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20140701.plw

**Sample Details**

LWLP4  
 Acquired: 11/2/2017 9:05:39 PM  
 Batch Name: 20171102  
 Filename: F:\Cirrus Workbooks\20140701\20171102-0007.cgrm

**Workbook Details**

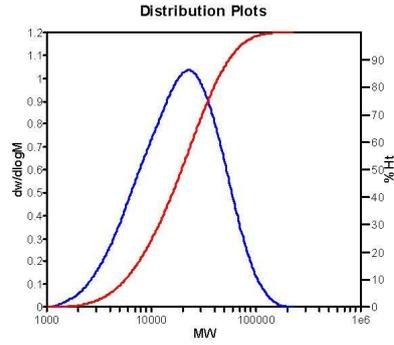
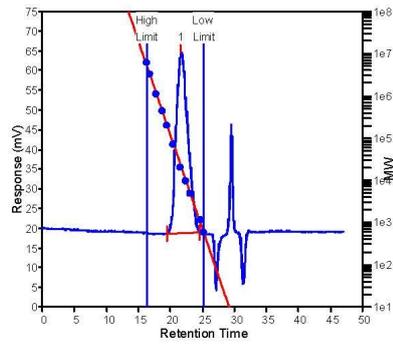
Eluent: TCB stabilised with 0.0125% BHT Flow Rate: 1.00 ml/min  
 Column Set: 3 x PLgel MIXED-B LS 300 x 7.5 mm Temperature: 150  
 Detector: RI Injection Volume: 200.0 ul

**Analysis Using Method: 20171022**

Comments:

**Calibration Used: 10/26/2017 2:28:28 PM**

High Limit MW RT: 16.35 mins Low Limit MW RT: 25.32 mins  
 High Limit MW: 5198272 Low Limit MW: 529  
 K: 17.5000 Alpha: 0.6700



**MW Averages**

Peak No	Mp	Mn	Mw	Mz	Mz+1	Mv	PD
1	22701	12322	25793	44821	65579	23198	2.09325

**Processed Peaks**

Peak No	Name	Start RT (mins)	Max RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Pk Height (mV)	% Height	Area (mV.secs)	% Area
1		19.42	21.65	24.65	45.8947	0	5979.9	100

Sample Injection Report

**Peak Detection**

Peak No	Type	St Detect Code	End Detect Code	Is St Mod	Is Max Mod	Is End Mod
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**Baseline Detection**

No	Start RT (mins)	End RT (mins)	Start Height	End Height	Is St Mod	Is End Mod
1	19.42	24.65	18.64	18.94	No	No

