Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Modulation of the Near-Infrared Photochromic Behavior in a Donor-Acceptor Diarylethene by a Cyanide Anion

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Experimental section

Materials and instrumentations

The synthesis of 1-(5-chloro-2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-formyl-2-methyl -3- thienyl) cyclopentene and phosphonium salt were based on the literature method¹⁻². All purchased chemicals and reagents were of high commercially available grade. Solvents were purified by standard procedures.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer in CDCl₃ solutions using tetramethylsilane as the internal standard (chemical shifts in departs per million). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters LCT Premier XE spectrometer using standard conditions (ESI, 70eV). All UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectrum were recorded with a Varian Cray 500 and a Varian Cary Eclipse, respectively.



Scheme S1 Synthetic routine of compounds 1a and 1b.

Synthesis of 1-(5-chloro-2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-(triphenylamine-1-yl)vinyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**4a**)

To a stirring solution of **3** (1.4g, 4.5mmol) and phosphonium salt (3.0g, 5mmol) in DMF (25 mL), was added C_2H_5ONa (0.34g, 5mmol). The mixture was then refluxed for overnight. After cooling, water (50 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The resulting mixture was extracted by dichloromethane (3 times) and the oragnic solvent

was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether) to give the compound **4a** (0.92g, 36.2%) as a yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 7.09 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.6 Hz), 7.00-7.04 (m, 5H), 6.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 2.79 – 2.69 (m, 4H), 2.07 – 1.99 (m, 2H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.56, 147.11, 139.11, 135.90, 135.15, 135.12, 133.80, 133.70, 133.28, 131.34, 129.30, 127.01, 126.88, 126.82, 126.77, 125.00, 124.47, 123.64, 123.01, 120.43, 38.42 (s, 5H), 22.91 (s, 3H), 14.62 (s, 2H), 14.23 (s, 3H); HRMS (ESI) calcd for C35H31CINS2 (M+H) 564.1586, found 564.1585.

Synthesis of 1-(5-formyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-(triphenylamine-1-yl)vinyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**5a**)

Compound 4a (0.90g, 1.60 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (15 mL) and n-butyl lithium (1.5 mL of 1.6 M solution in hexane) was added dropwise under nitrogen at 0 °C using a syringe. The mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C and then the reaction mixture was quenched with anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.62 mL). The mixture was stirred for an addition hour at room temperature, before it was poured into H₂O. The mixture was extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtrated, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 1:1) to give the compound 5a (0.29g, 32.6%) as a yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.46 (s, 1H), 7.29-7.23 (m, 5H), 7.10 (d, 5H, J = 7.7 Hz), 7.02 (t, 4H, J = 8.0 Hz), 6.95 (d, 1H, J = 15.9 Hz), 6.69 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz), 6.67 (s, 1H), 2.81 (t, 4H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.12 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.62, 147.52, 147.20, 146.65, 139.80, 139.54, 138.11, 137.77, 136.37, 135.54, 133.74, 133.05, 131.14, 129.30, 127.08, 127.03, 126.53, 124.49, 123.56, 123.05, 120.17, 38.46, 38.33, 23.02, 15.51, 14.55; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₆H₃₂NOS₂ (M+H) 558.1925, found 558.1923.

Synthesis of 1-(5-dicyanoethenyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl) -2-(5-(triphenylamine-1-yl) vinyl- 2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**1a**)

A mixture of malonitrile (24mg, 0.36mmol), **5a** (100mg, 0.18mmol) and a catalytic amount of piperidine (2 drop of a stock solution of 1 drop of amine in 2 mL of absolute ethanol) in absolute ethanol (7 mL) was heated to reflux. After 17 h, the solution was cooled to room temperature and solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 1:1) to give the compound **1a** (75mg, 68.9%) as a purple solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 5H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 5H), 7.07-7.03 (m, 4H), 6.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.1 Hz), 6.66 (s, 1H), 2.82 (dd, 4H, *J* = 11.3, 5.9 Hz), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.13 – 2.07 (m, 2H), 1.95 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.76, 149.56, 147.51, 140.35, 139.88, 138.72, 137.57, 135.31, 133.74, 132.11, 131.71, 131.03, 129.33, 127.36, 127.09, 126.33, 124.54, 123.52, 123.12, 120.02, 114.32, 113.44, 38.50, 38.25, 22.94, 15.61, 14.59; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₃₉H₃₂N₃S₂ (M+H) 606.2038, found 606.2032.

Synthesis of 1-(5-chloro-2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-(dimethylphenylamine-1-yl)vinyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**4b**)

To a stirring solution of **3** (0.85g, 2.64mmol) and phosphonium salt (1.38g, 2.90mmol) in DMF (20 mL), was added C₂H₅ONa (0.20g, 2.90mmol). The mixture was then refluxed for overnight. After cooling, water (40 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. The resulting mixture was extracted by dichloromethane (3 times) and the oragnic solvent was removed in vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, petroleum ether) to give the compound **4b** (0.48g, 41.4%) as a yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.32 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.89 (d, 1H, J = 16.0 Hz), 6.70 (d, 2H, J = 2.3 Hz), 6.67 (d, 1H, J = 4.8 Hz), 6.64 (s, 1H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 2.97 (s, 6H), 2.78 – 2.70 (m, 4H), 2.05 – 2.00 (m, 2H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.93, 139.76, 135.74, 13531, 135.20, 133.45, 133.28, 132.88, 127.59, 127.28, 126.86, 125.83, 125.56, 124.92, 117.90, 112.50, 40.51, 38.41, 22.91, 14.58, 14.27; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₂₇ClNS₂ (M+H) 440.1273, found 440.1273.

Synthesis of 1-(5- formyl -2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-(dimethylphenylamine-1-yl)vinyl -2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**5b**)

Compound **4b** (0.43g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in anhydrous THF (9 mL) and n-butyl lithium (0.93 mL of 1.6 M solution in hexane) was added dropwise under nitrogen at 0 °C using a syringe. The mixture was stirred for 30 min at 0 °C and then the reaction mixture was quenched with anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.36 mL). The mixture was stirred for an addition hour at room temperature, before it was poured into H₂O. The mixture was extracted with ether. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtrated, and concentrated. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 1:1) to give the compound **5b** (0.15g, 34.7%) as a yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 6.70 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.9 Hz), 6.67 (d, 1H, *J* = 3.2 Hz), 6.63 (s, 1H), 2.97 (s, 6H), 2.80 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 2.11 – 2.04 (m, 2H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.66, 150.00, 146.69, 140.19, 139.75, 138.21, 137.86, 136.52, 135.39, 132.81, 129.82, 127.91, 127.31, 125.48, 125.35, 117.63, 112.44, 40.46, 38.34, 23.09, 15.54, 14.51; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₂₈NOS₂ (M+H) 434.1612, found 434.1613

Synthesis of 1-(5- dicyanoethenyl -2-methyl-3-thienyl)-2-(5-(dimethylphenylamine -1-yl)vinyl-2-methyl-3-thienyl)cyclopentene (**1b**)

A mixture of malonitrile (27mg, 0.40mmol), **5b** (87mg, 0.2mmol) and a catalytic amount of piperidine (2 drop of a stock solution of 1 drop of amine in 2 mL of absolute ethanol) in absolute ethanol (7 mL) was heated to reflux. After 17 h, the solution was cooled to room temperature and solvent was removed in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂/ petroleum ether 1:1) to give the compound **1b** (70mg, 72.9%) as a purple solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.42 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.87 (d, 1H, J = 16.0

Hz), 6.70 (d, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H), 2.98 (s, 6H), 2.80 (dd, 4H, J = 12.7, 5.4 Hz), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.11 – 2.06 (m, 2H), 1.90 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 150.75, 150.07, 149.59, 140.52, 140.37, 138.80, 137.72, 135.12, 132.80, 131.85, 131.66,128.18, 127.33, 125.23, 117.46, 114.32, 113.43, 112.43, 40.43, 38.50, 38.24, 22.91, 15.59, 14.50; HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₉H₂₈N₃S₂ (M+H) 482.1725, found 482.1727.

Preparation of the PMMA films

To prepare the PMMA thin film sensors, **1a**, **1b**, **2a** or **2b** (2mg) was dissolved in dichloromethane and added PMMA (50mg) in the solution standing untill the PMMA was resolved. The solution was poured onto a clean glass surface and evaporated to dryness, and a homogeneous, nonfluorescence polymer sensor film was obtained. This thin film was covered with a shadow mask including the CN^{-} fingerprint. A solution containing tetrabutylammonium cyanide in dichloromethane (1 mM) was sprayed onto the film, and the solvent was evaporated in air.

Crystallography

Single crystals of **1a** and **1b** suitable for X-ray analyses were obtained by slow evaporation of their corresponding solutions at room temperature.

Crystal data for **1a**: C₃₉H₃₁N₃S₂, *Mw*=605.79 g·mol⁻¹, 0.32×0.22×0.15 mm³, *Monoclinic*, *P2(1)/c*, *a* = 19.681(2), *b* = 8.3397(9), *c* = 21.489(2) Å, β = 110.841(2)°, *V*=3296.3(6) Å³, *F*(000)=1272, ρ_{calcd} =1.221 Mg/m³, μ (*MoK* α)=0.193 mm⁻¹, T=293(2) K, 19525 data were measured on a Bruker SMART Apex diffractometer, of which 6488 were uinque (*R*_{int}=0.0318); 399 parameters were refined against *Fo*² (all data), final *wR*₂=0.1393, S=1.026, *R*₁(*I*>2 σ (*I*))=0.0542, largest final difference peak/hole= +0.314/-0.154 eÅ⁻³. Structure solution by direct methods and full-matrix least-squares refinement against F² (all data) using SHELXTL.

Crystal data for **1b**: C₂₉H₂₇N₃S₂, Mw=481.66 g·mol⁻¹, 0.30×0.20×0.05 mm³, Monoclinic, P2(1)/c, a = 24.443(4), b = 8.3483(15), c = 12.521(2) Å, $\beta = 99.817(3)^\circ$, V=2517.6(8) Å³, F(000)=1016, $\rho_{calcd}=1.271$ Mg/m³, $\mu(MoK\alpha)=0.234$ mm⁻¹, T=133(2) K, 15534 data were measured on a Bruker SMART Apex diffractometer, of which 4538 were uinque ($R_{int}=0.0550$); 311 parameters were refined against Fo^2 (all data), final $wR_2=0.1568$, S=1.038, $R_1(I>2\sigma(I))=0.0637$, largest final difference peak/hole= +1.438/-1.089 eÅ⁻³. Structure solution by direct methods and full-matrix least-squares refinement against F^2 (all data) using SHELXTL.



Fig. S1 UV-vis spectral changes of the **1b** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon 365nm light irradiation in CH₂Cl₂ at 25 °C (0-90 min).



Fig. S2 Changes in graphs of color upon alternating irradiation with UV/vis light in CH_2Cl_2 for 1a and 2a.



Fig. S3 Changes in graphs of color upon alternating irradiation with UV/vis light in CH_2Cl_2 for 1b and 2b.



Fig. S4 Crystal structure of 1b.



Fig. S5 UV–vis spectral changes of **1a** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon the addition of 1.375 equiv. of cyanide anion in CH₃CN at 25°C.



Fig. S6 UV–vis spectral changes of **1b** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon the addition of 6.0 equiv. of cyanide anion in CH₃CN at 25°C.



Fig. S7 Fluorescence spectral changes of **1b** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon the addition of 6.0 equiv. of cyanide anion in CH₃CN at 25°C, λ_{ex} =370 nm.



Fig. S8 Changes in graphs of fluorescence upon addition 1.5 equiv. and 6.0 equiv. of CN^{-} in CH_3CN for **1a** and **1b** when excited 365 nm.



Fig. S9 Time-dependent changes in the fluorescence intensity at λ = 458 nm observed from the reaction between 1.0 equiv. **1a** (2.0×10⁻⁵ M) and different equiv. cyanide anion. (a) 1.375 equiv. cyanide anion. (b) 0.125 equiv. cyanide anion.



Fig. S10 Time-dependent changes in the fluorescence intensity at λ = 458 nm observed from the reaction between 1.0 equiv. **1b** (2.0×10⁻⁵ M) and different equiv. cyanide anion. (a) 6.0 equiv. cyanide anion. (b) 1.0 equiv. cyanide anion.



Fig. S11 (a) Plot of fluorescence intensity changes of **1a** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ against varied concentrations of CN⁻ from $0.25 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ to $2.5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ (λ_{ex} =370 nm, slit: 5nm/5nm, PMT Volts: 500.). R=0.993, k= 2.6×10^7 au/M, (b) Plot of fluorescence intensity changes of **1b** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ against varied concentrations of CN⁻ from $2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ to $1.1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ (λ_{ex} =370 nm, slit: 5nm/5nm, PMT Volts: 550.). R=0.992, k= 8.3×10^6 au/M The Standard Deviation of **1a** and **1b** were 0.15 and 0.12 by fluorescence responsed (7-time of consecutive scanning on the Varian Cray 500 spectrophotometer.). Therefore, the detection limits of **1a** and **1b** were calculated by the formula ($3\sigma/k$) and gave the results as $1.73 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$ and $4.36 \times 10^{-8} \text{ M}$



Fig. S12 Relative fluorescence intensities of the free **1b** $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon the addition of 6.0 equiv. of various anions in CH₃CN. Each spectrum was obtained after addition of various analytes at 25 °C for 2 min.



Fig. S13 ¹H NMR spectral changes seen upon the addition of cyanide anion (as its tetrabutylammonium salts) to **1b** in CDCl₃ at 25 °C.



Fig. S14 UV-vis spectral changes of the **1b**-CN⁻ $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon 254 nm light irradiation in CH₃CN (0-15min) at 25 °C.



Fig. S15 Fluorescence spectral changes of the **1b**-CN⁻ $(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$ upon 254 nm light irradiation in CH₃CN (0-15min) at 25 °C.



Fig. S16 Changes in graphs of color upon addition CN⁻ in CH₃CN for **2a**.



Fig. S17 UV–vis spectral changes of **2b** (2.0×10^{-5} M) upon the addition of 3.0 equiv. of cyanide anion in CH₃CN at 25 °C.



Fig. S18 Changes in graphs of color upon addition CN⁻ in CH₃CN for **2b**.



Fig. S19 Image patterns of word "CN" with a PMMA on a quartz plate: (a) Fluorescence images of 1b/PMMA in the presence of cyanide. (b) Color images of 2b/PMMA in the presence of cyanide.



Fig. S20 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectrum of 4a.



Fig. S21¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) spectrum of 4a.

Elemental Composition Report Page 1 Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 50.0 mDa / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 100.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2 Monoisotopic Mass. Even Electron Ions 207 formula(e) evaluated with 16 results within limits (up to 1 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-50 H: 0-60 N: 0-4 S: 0-3 CI: 0-1 H-TIAN 13-May-2012 19:24:20 1: TOF MS ES+ 3.93e+003 ECUST institute of Fine Chem TH-JY-21 41 (1.358) Cm (35:44) 564 1585 100-566.1575 %-560.2064 561.2103 563.1513 567.1572 546.2470 549.8620 551.3608 552.3575 546.0 548.0 550.0 552.0 554.0 556.0 558.0 560.0 568.0 m/z 0-562.0 566.0 564.0 Minimum: Maximum: -1.5 100.0 50.0 50.0 DBE i-FIT (Norm) Formula Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM i-FIT 20.5 C35 H31 N S2 C1 564.1585 564.1586 -0.1 -0.2 52.9 0.0

Fig. S22 HRMS (ESI) spectrum of compound 4a.



Fig. S24 ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) spectrum of **5a**.

Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis



Fig. S25 HRMS (ESI) spectrum of compound 5a.

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Fig. S26 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectrum of 1a.

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Fig. S29 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectrum of 4b.



Fig. S30 ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) spectrum of **4b**.

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Fig. S31 HRMS (ESI) spectrum of compound 4b.



Fig. S32 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectrum of 5b.

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Fig. S34 HRMS (ESI) spectrum of compound 5b.



Fig. S35 ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) spectrum of **1b**.



Fig. S36 ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) spectrum of **1b**.



Fig. S37 HRMS (ESI) spectrum of compound 1b.

References

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