

Electronic Supplementary Information for:

**Fullerene-free small molecule organic solar cells with high open circuit voltage of 1.15V**

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**Materials:** All reactions and manipulations were carried under argon atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques. All starting materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further

purification.

**Measurements and instruments:** The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were taken on a Bruker AV400 Spectrometer. Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectra were performed on a Bruker Autoflex III instrument. The thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) were carried out on a NETZSCH STA 409PC instrument under purified nitrogen gas flow with a  $10\text{ }^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  heating rate. UV-vis spectra were obtained with a JASCO V-570 spectrophotometer. X-ray diffraction (XRD) experiments were performed on a Bruker D8 FOCUS X-ray diffractometer with Cu  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5406\text{ \AA}$ ) at a generator voltage of 40 kV and a current of 40 mA. Atomic force microscope (AFM) investigation was performed using Bruker MultiMode 8 in "tapping" mode. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) experiments were performed with a LK98B II Microcomputer-based Electrochemical Analyzer in dichloromethane solutions. All CV measurements were carried out at room temperature with a conventional three-electrode configuration employing a glassy carbon electrode as the working electrode, a saturated calomel electrode (SCE) as the reference electrode, and a Pt wire as the counter electrode. Dichloromethane was distilled from calcium hydride under dry argon immediately prior to use. Tetrabutylammonium phosphorus hexafluoride ( $\text{Bu}_4\text{NPF}_6$ , 0.1 M) in dichloromethane was used as the supporting electrolyte, and the scan rate

was  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The current density-voltage ( $J$ - $V$ ) characteristics of photovoltaic devices were obtained by a Keithley 2400 source-measure unit. The photocurrent was measured under illumination simulated  $100 \text{ mW cm}^{-2}$  AM1.5G irradiation using a xeful-lamp-based solar simulator [Oriel 96000 (AM1.5G)] in an argon filled glove box. Simulator irradiance was characterized using a calibrated spectrometer and illumination intensity was set using a certified silicon diode. External quantum efficiency (EQE) value of the encapsulated device was obtained with a halogen-tungsten lamp, monochromator, optical chopper, and lock-in amplifier in air and photon flux was determined by a calibrated silicon photodiode.

**Fabrication of organic solar cells:** The photovoltaic devices were fabricated with a structure of glass/ITO/PEDOT:PSS/donor:acceptor/PDIN/Al. The ITO-coated glass substrates were cleaned subsequently by ultrasonic treatment in detergent, deionized water, acetone, and isopropyl alcohol under ultrasonication for 15 minutes each solvent and then dried by a nitrogen flow. A thin layer of PEDOT:PSS (Baytron P VP AI 4083, filtered at  $0.45 \mu\text{m}$ ) was spin-coated (3000 rpm, ca. 40 nm thick) onto ITO surface. After being baked at  $150 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 min, the substrates were transferred into an argon-filled glove box. Then, the active layer was spin-coated from DR3TSBDT (10 mg/mL):DTBTF blend chloroform solution with different ratios at 1700 rpm for 20 s.

Subsequently, the methanol solution (0.2% acetic acid) of PDIN at a concentration of  $1.5 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$  was spin-coated on top of the active layers. Thermal annealing was carried out on a digitally controlled hotplate at various temperatures after PDIN spin coating in an argon-filled glove box. Finally, 50 nm Al layer was deposited onto the surface of the PDIN layer under high vacuum ( $< 2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Pa}$ ). The thickness of active layers was measured using Dektak 150 profilometer. The effective area of each cell was  $4 \text{ mm}^2$  defined by masks for the solar cell devices discussed in this work.

## **Synthesis:**

### **Synthesis of compound DTF**

A solution of compounds **1** (3.0 g, 4.66 mmol) and **2** (3.0 g, 18.40 mmol) in toluene (45 mL) and aqueous 2 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (15 mL) was degassed twice with argon. Then  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (50 mg, 0.043 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at  $100 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 h under argon, after which the mixture was poured into water (200 mL), and extracted with chloroform. The organic layer was washed with water, and then dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ . The solvent was removed by a rotating evaporator and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using a mixture of petroleum ether and dichloromethane (4:1) eluant to produce compound DTF (2.17 g, 84%).  $^1\text{H NMR}$  (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}$ , 2H), 7.60 (s, 2H), 7.41 (s, 2H), 7.32 (d,  $J = 4.0$

Hz 2H), 7.14 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.05 (m, 4H), 1.25-1.05 (m, 20H), 0.82 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 0.70 (m, 4H). MS (MALDI-TOF): calcd for  $C_{37}H_{46}S_2$  [ $M^+$ ], 554.30; found: 554.32.

### Synthesis of compound DCHOTF

A Vilsmeier reagent, which was prepared with  $POCl_3$  (1.48 ml, 16.20 mmol) in DMF (10 ml), was added to a solution of DTF (1.8 g, 3.24 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (80 ml) at 0 °C. After being stirred at 65 °C for 12 h, the mixture was poured into ice water (300 ml), neutralized with  $Na_2CO_3$ , and then extracted with dichloromethane. The combined organic layer was washed with water and brine, dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ . After removal of solvent it was chromatographed on silica gel using a mixture of dichloromethane and petroleum ether (1:1) as eluant to afford DCHOTF (1.72 g, 87%) as a light yellow powder.  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.91 (s, 2H), 7.78 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.49 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 2.04 (m, 4H), 1.20-1.00 (m, 20H), 0.79 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 0.67 (m, 4H).  $^{13}C$  NMR (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  182.73, 154.76, 152.22, 142.20, 141.61, 137.49, 132.38, 125.71, 124.05, 120.77, 120.66, 55.53, 40.20, 31.73, 29.85, 29.11, 23.74, 22.57, 14.04. MS (MALDI-TOF): calcd for  $C_{39}H_{46}O_2S_2$  [ $M^+$ ], 610.29; found: 610.31. Anal. Calcd. For  $C_{39}H_{46}O_2S_2$ : C, 76.68; H, 7.59. Found: C, 76.72; H, 7.50.

### Synthesis of compound DTBTF

DCHOTF (0.30 g, 0.49 mmol) was dissolved in a solution of dry  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (60 mL), then thiobarbituric acid (0.60 g, 3.0 mmol) and three drops of piperidine were added, and the resulting solution was stirred at 25 °C for 12 h under argon. Then, the mixture was poured into water (200mL), and extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The organic layer was washed with water, and then dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and evaporated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using  $\text{CHCl}_3$  as eluant, the crude solid was recrystallized from hexane and  $\text{CHCl}_3$  mixture afford DTBTF (0.39 g, 82%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.70 (s, 2H), 7.92 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.79 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.77 (s, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, 2H), 4.70-4.56 (m, 8H), 2.16-2.04 (m, 4H), 1.39 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 1.34 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 1.20-1.00 (m, 20H), 0.77 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 6H), 0.68-0.58 (m, 4H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  178.69, 161.94, 161.06, 160.01, 152.45, 149.64, 147.48, 142.32, 136.77, 132.70, 126.36, 125.12, 120.96, 110.14, 55.87, 44.03, 43.17, 40.28, 31.73, 29.86, 29.16, 23.79, 22.56, 14.04, 12.56, 12.40. MS (MALDI-TOF): calcd for  $\text{C}_{55}\text{H}_{66}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}_4$  [ $\text{M}^+$ ], 975.40; found: 975.40. Anal. Calcd. For  $\text{C}_{55}\text{H}_{66}\text{N}_4\text{O}_4\text{S}_4$ : C, 67.73; H, 6.82; N, 5.74. Found: C, 67.89; H, 6.94; N, 5.64.

**Table S1.** Current density-voltage characteristics of the OPV devices based on DR3TSBDT:DTBTF blend films with different ratio under 100°C thermal annealing.

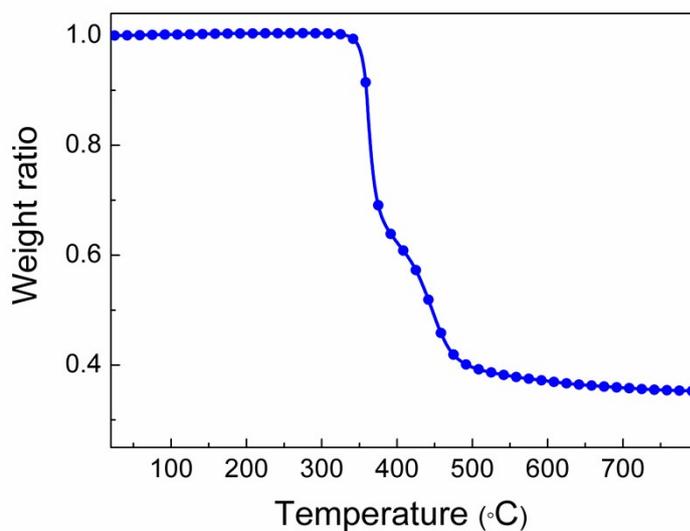
Weight ratio	V <sub>oc</sub> [V]	J <sub>sc</sub> [mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ]	FF	PCE [%] <sup>a,b</sup>
1:0.3	1.14	6.12	0.41	2.71±0.15 (2.86)
1:0.5	1.15	7.42	0.45	3.64±0.20 (3.84)
1:0.8	1.15	7.19	0.44	3.47±0.16 (3.63)

a) Average values from 30 devices, b) The best PCEs are provided in parentheses.

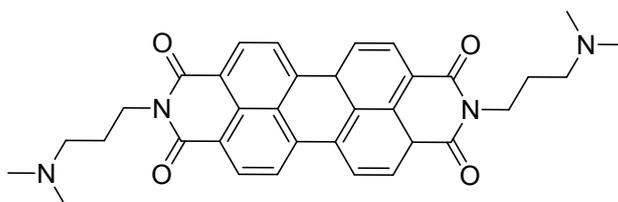
**Table S2.** Current density-voltage characteristics of the OPV devices based on DR3TSBDT:DTBTF (w:w,1:0.5) blend films with different temperature thermal annealing.

Post treatment	V <sub>oc</sub> [V]	J <sub>sc</sub> [mA cm <sup>-2</sup> ]	FF	PCE [%] <sup>a,b</sup>
80°C	1.15	6.50	0.42	2.98±0.16 (3.14)
100°C	1.15	7.42	0.45	3.64±0.20 (3.84)
120°C	1.15	7.02	0.44	3.38±0.17 (3.55)

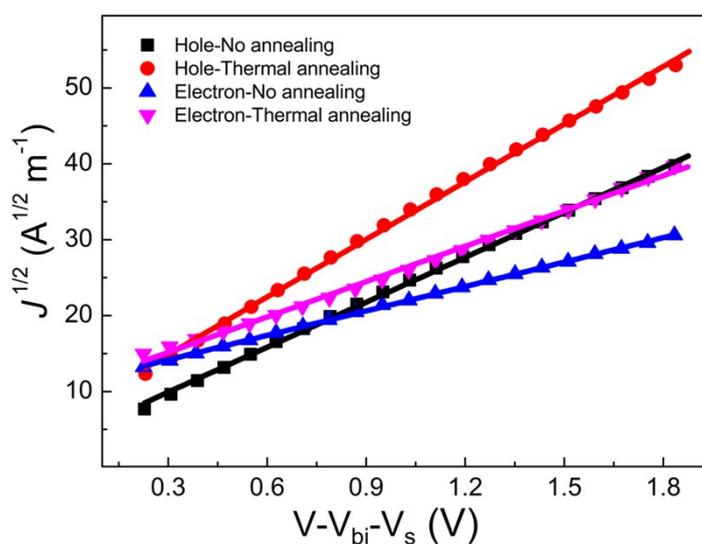
a) Average values from 30 devices, b) The best PCEs are provided in parentheses.



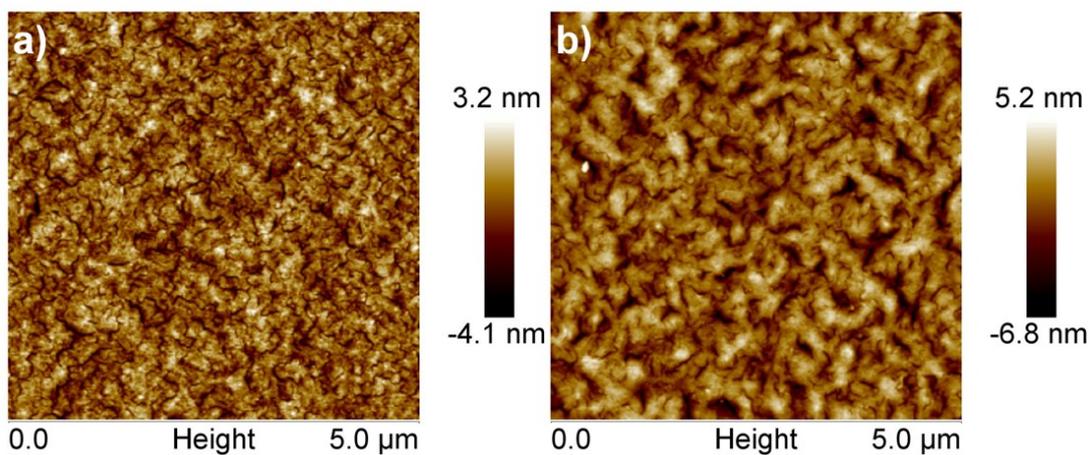
**Fig. S1.** TGA curve of DTBTF with a heating rate of 10 °C/min under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.



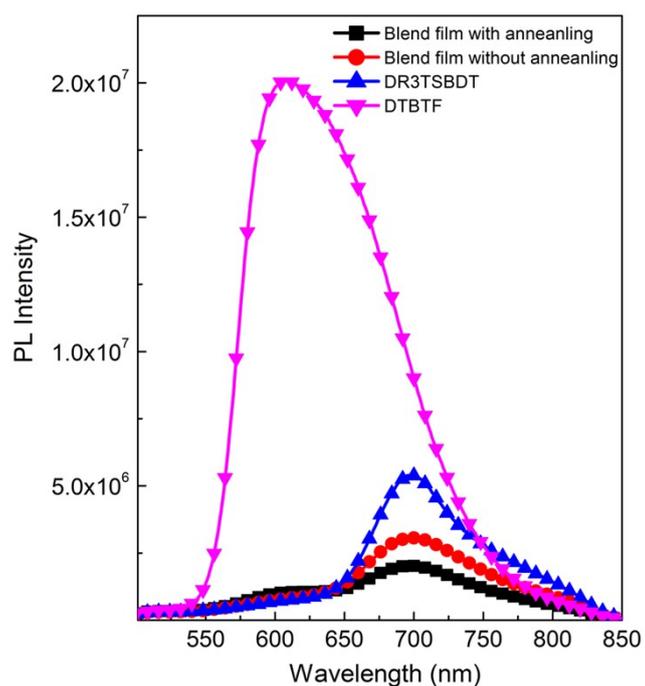
**Fig. S2.** Chemical structure of PDIN.



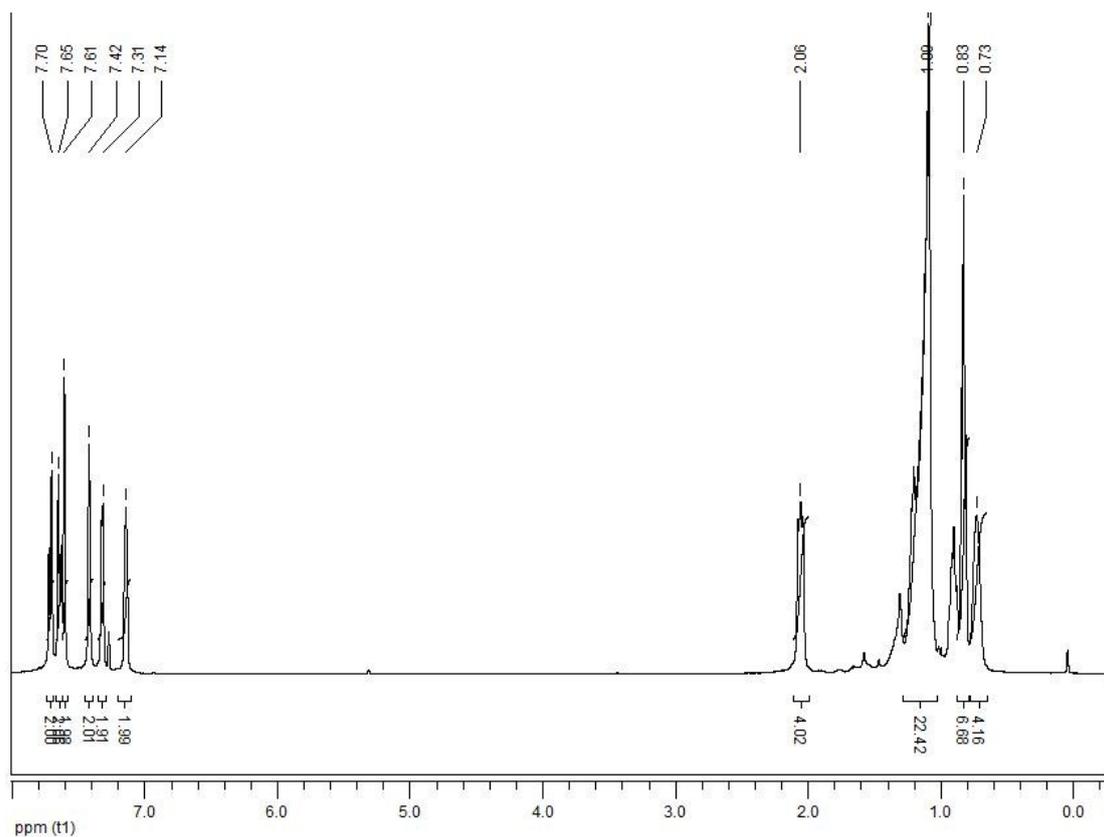
**Fig. S3.**  $J$ - $V$  characteristics for the electron-only and hole-only devices fabricated from DR3TSBDT:DTBTF blend films with different treatment.



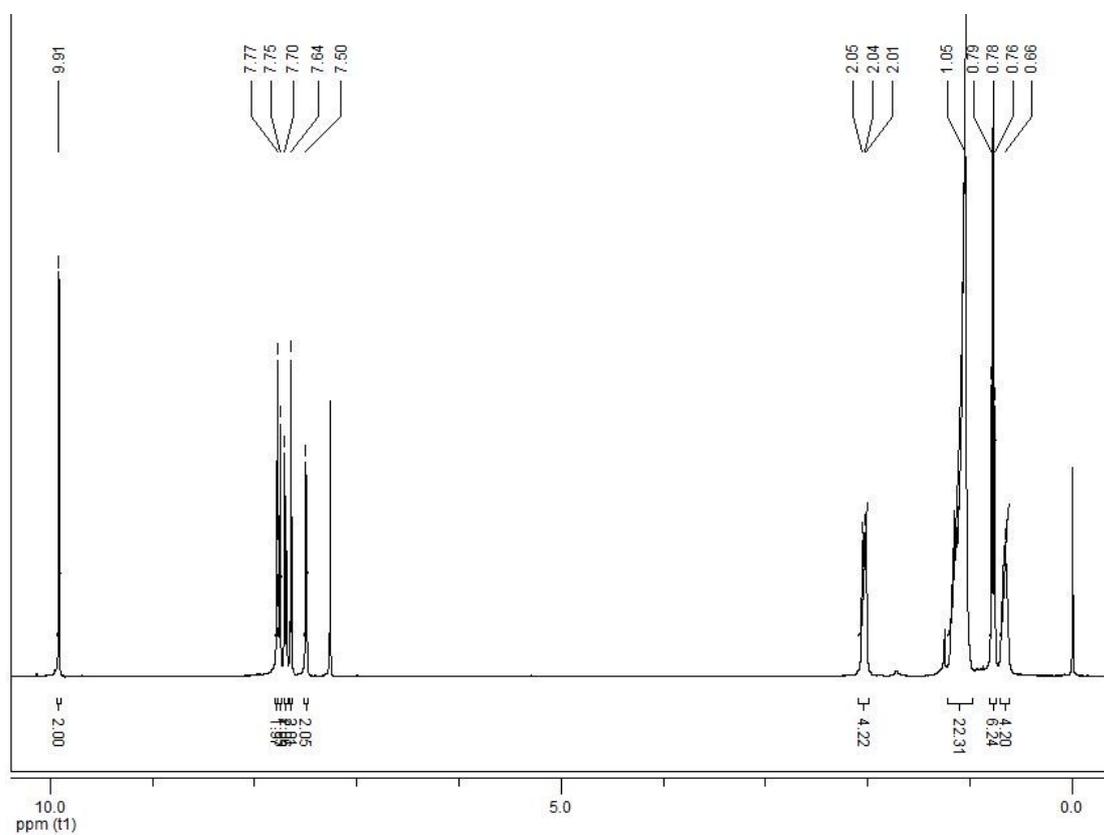
**Fig. S4.** AFM images of DR3TSBDT:DTBTF blend films (a) without annealing and (b) with thermal annealing.



**Fig. S5.** Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of DR3TSBDT and DTBTF neat and blend films. The PL spectra was performed at an excitation wavelength of 450 nm.

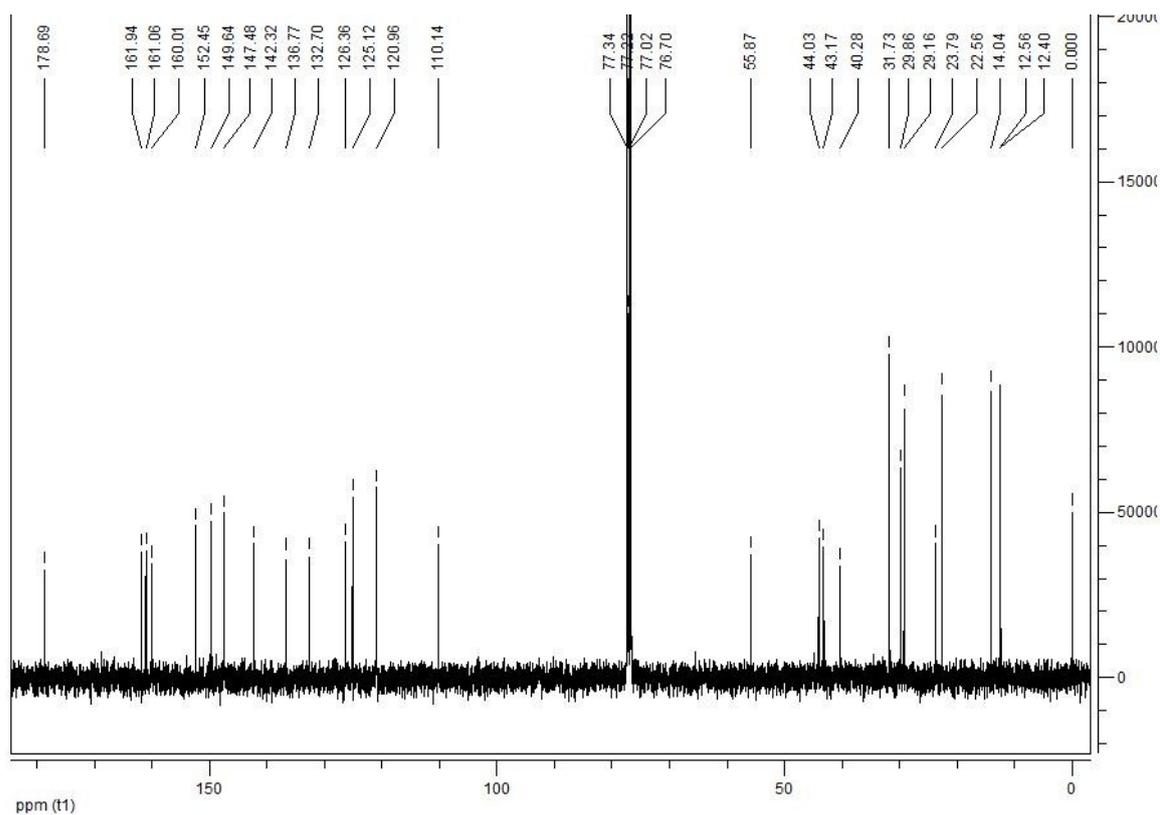


**Fig. S6.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of compound DTF at 300K in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

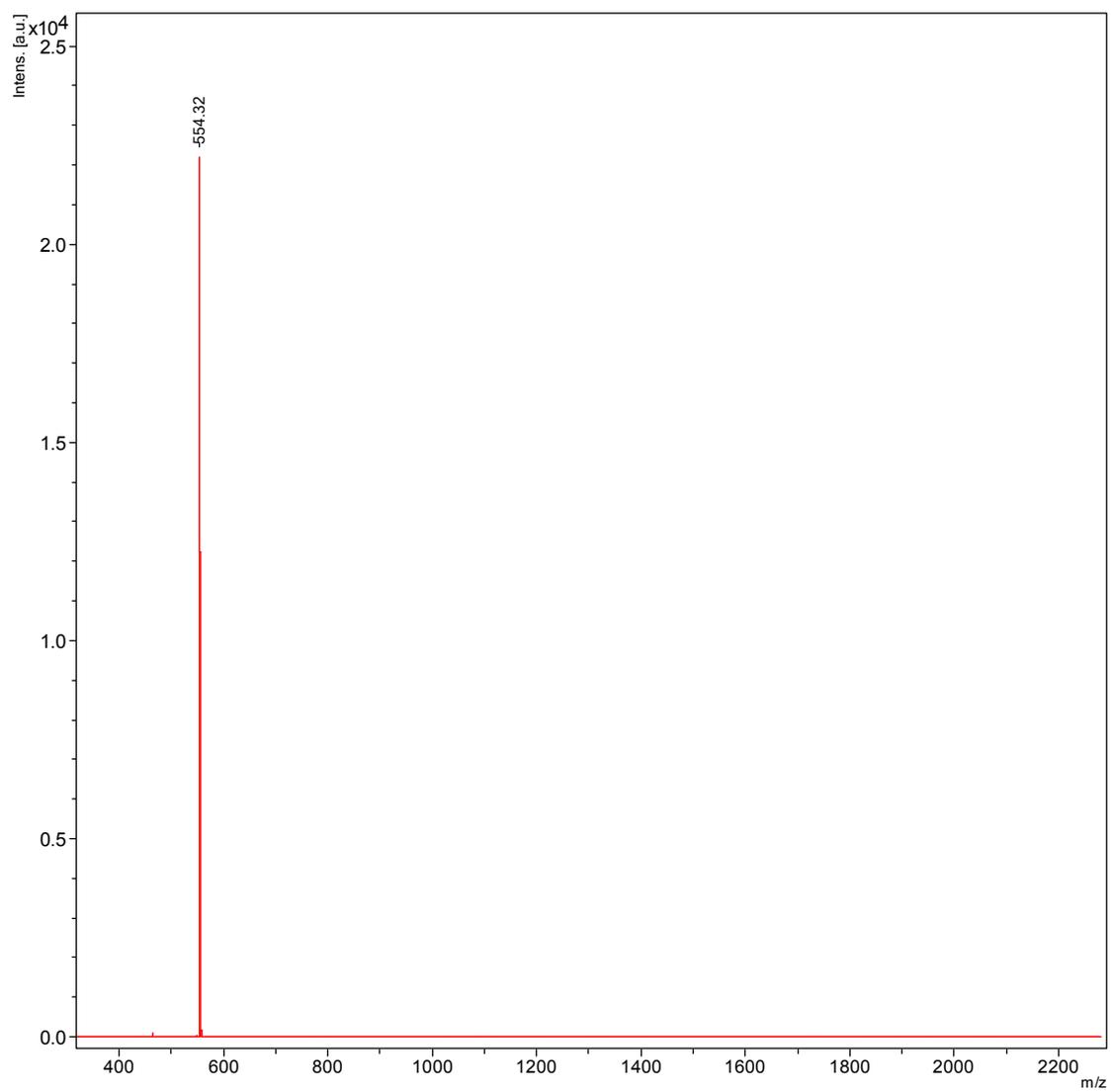


**Fig. S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of compound DCHOTF at 300K in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

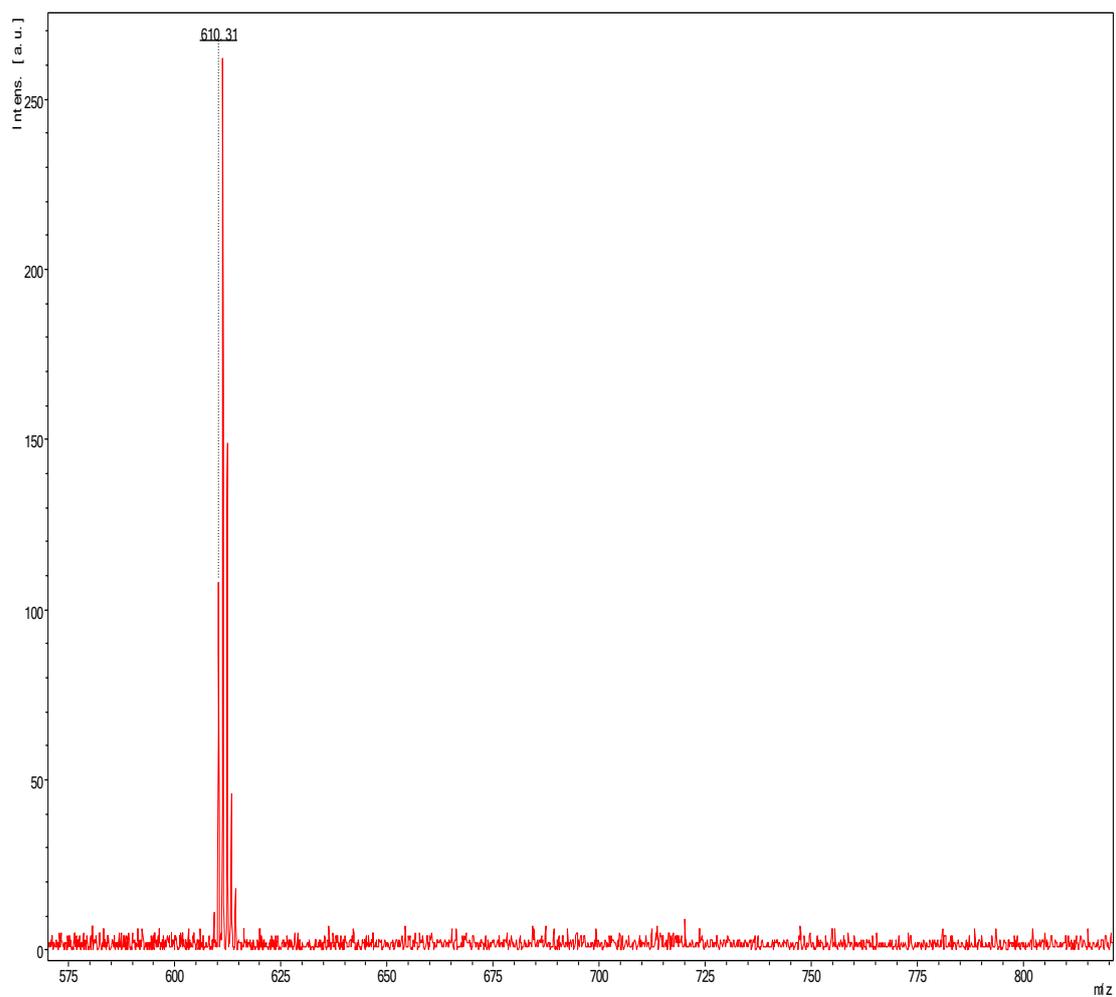




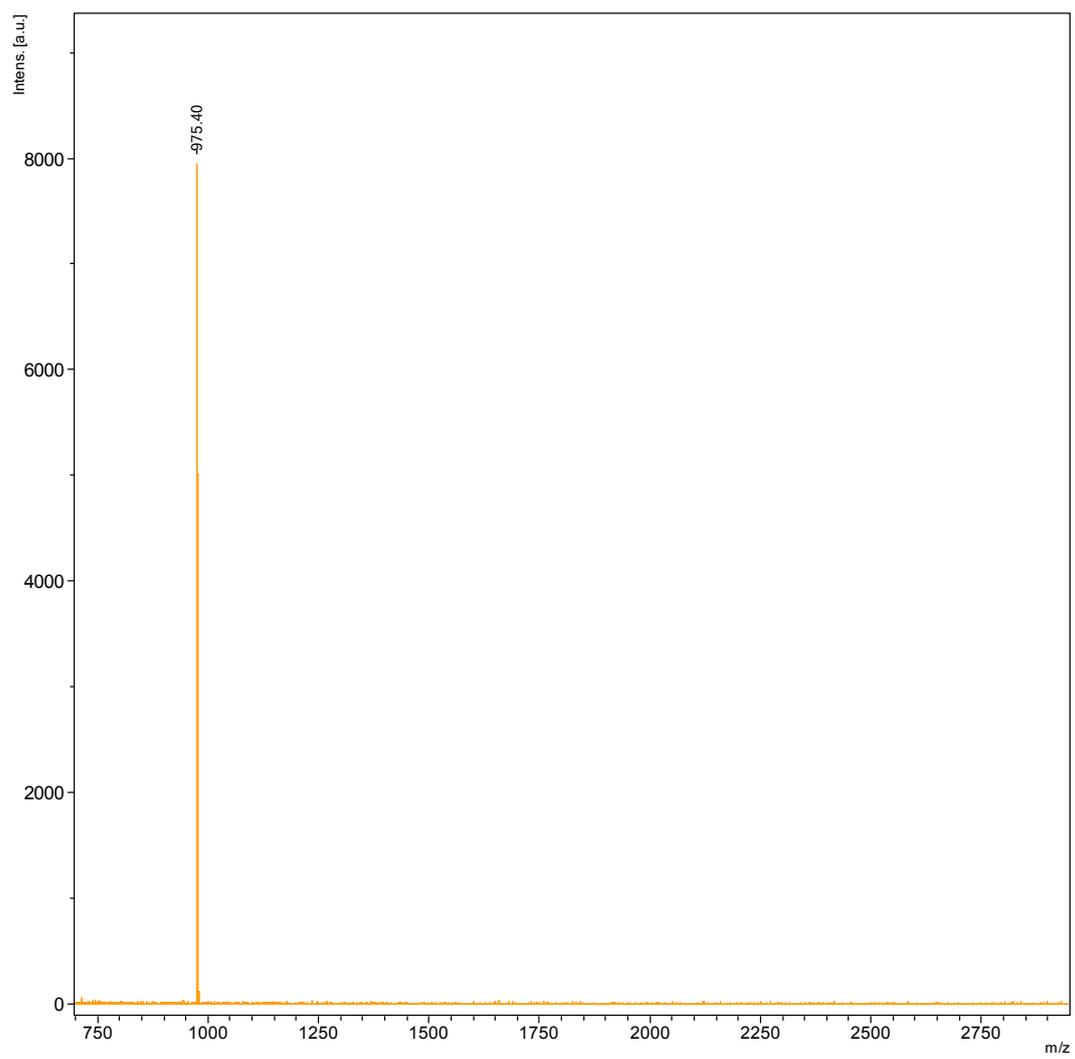
**Fig. S10.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of compound DTBTF at 300K in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



**Fig. S11.** MALDI-TOF plot of compound DTF.



**Fig. S12.** MALDI-TOF plot of compound DCHOTF.



**Fig. S13.** MALDI-TOF plot of compound DTBTF.