# **Supporting Information**

# Visible Light Absorption and Photoelectrochemical Activity of Colorless Molecular 1,3-Bis(dicyanomethylidene)indane (BDMI) by Surface Complexation on TiO<sub>2</sub>

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### I. NMR Data

# i) <sup>1</sup>H NMR of **IDN-OEt**



## ii) <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **IDN-OEt**





II. Optimized standard coordinates of ground-state for complex 1

| С  | -2.92351300 | 3.50376000  | -0.28758200 |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| С  | -4.13106300 | 2.91544800  | -0.64942100 |
| С  | -4.29754700 | 1.52063400  | -0.58812900 |
| С  | -3.23118300 | 0.74229400  | -0.15844400 |
| С  | -1.99908600 | 1.34284300  | 0.20921000  |
| С  | -1.83950400 | 2.71978100  | 0.14754200  |
| Н  | -2.80991100 | 4.58275800  | -0.33902900 |
| Н  | -4.95821900 | 3.53488500  | -0.98308900 |
| Н  | -5.24432300 | 1.07652100  | -0.87233600 |
| Н  | -0.90764200 | 3.19907300  | 0.42509100  |
| С  | -3.07568800 | -0.71971700 | 0.02036100  |
| С  | -1.07615700 | 0.25381500  | 0.61871000  |
| С  | -1.73488700 | -0.94332300 | 0.50235400  |
| С  | 0.29302800  | 0.42409000  | 1.07347400  |
| С  | -3.99787800 | -1.71733900 | -0.21597200 |
| С  | 0.98678100  | 1.66691800  | 1.14420600  |
| N  | 1.65510700  | 2.62320200  | 1.17777700  |
| С  | 1.09319100  | -0.63319200 | 1.37206900  |
| N  | 1.81720700  | -1.52311200 | 1.70672300  |
| С  | -5.31941300 | -1.47075400 | -0.69394800 |
| N  | -6.39987200 | -1.27816900 | -1.08449800 |
| С  | -3.65365100 | -3.08666700 | 0.01184200  |
| N  | -3.35414300 | -4.19604600 | 0.20044400  |
| Н  | -1.33459900 | -1.92225000 | 0.73358100  |
| Ti | 4.57922700  | -0.30340900 | -0.62955300 |

| 0 | 3.88570700 | -1.92213100 | -0.00109500 |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0 | 6.36920300 | -0.41819800 | -0.80374200 |
| Н | 7.05527800 | 0.03423000  | -0.28902700 |
| 0 | 4.11612900 | 0.92835000  | 0.56953500  |
| Н | 3.51203300 | 1.69479900  | 0.62983200  |
| 0 | 3.86344400 | 0.02091800  | -2.25134100 |
| Н | 4.31429700 | 0.27971400  | -3.06958800 |
| Н | 4.12657100 | -2.76338000 | -0.42167700 |
| Н | 2.57725700 | -1.91946300 | 1.09584300  |
|   |            |             |             |



III. Optimized standard coordinates of the first excited state for complex 1

| Ti | 1.26979700  | -0.34772100 | -0.03980500 |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0  | 1.03313000  | 0.84258200  | -1.45829800 |
| Н  | 1.69428600  | 1.52786900  | -1.64853400 |
| 0  | -0.28177500 | -1.21032900 | 0.14210600  |
| Н  | -0.62846500 | -2.11499500 | 0.02590700  |
| 0  | 2.62688300  | -1.46022200 | -0.44436700 |
| Н  | 3.39981000  | -1.69546900 | 0.09131700  |
| 0  | 1.70282700  | 0.55916500  | 1.45517700  |
| Н  | 1.17967900  | 0.68846200  | 2.26126500  |
| Н  | 0.02516400  | 0.36632300  | -2.77232900 |
| Ν  | -0.57923700 | -0.25567200 | -3.36550500 |
| С  | -1.58932500 | -0.77498100 | -2.98428100 |
| С  | -2.69521800 | -1.46724600 | -2.60680800 |
| С  | -4.04290200 | -1.02412700 | -2.91399500 |
| С  | -2.38837000 | -2.58916000 | -1.78542700 |
| С  | -5.27970100 | -1.61405400 | -2.56294700 |
| С  | -4.34311700 | 0.14424100  | -3.67054600 |
| Ν  | -2.06315400 | -3.45589100 | -1.07406600 |
| С  | -6.35795600 | -0.77700500 | -3.12033400 |
| С  | -5.59812600 | -2.78446600 | -1.82716300 |
| С  | -5.76516700 | 0.32267000  | -3.80871300 |
| Н  | -3.60558400 | 0.81744700  | -4.09324900 |
| С  | -7.70329900 | -1.15161600 | -2.91162800 |
| С  | -6.92146100 | -3.11190600 | -1.64878900 |
| Н  | -4.81506600 | -3.40916200 | -1.41275000 |

| С | -6.36205500 | 1.40557500  | -4.50617300 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| С | -7.96883000 | -2.29672200 | -2.18970500 |
| Н | -8.51133100 | -0.55114800 | -3.31237100 |
| Н | -7.18673500 | -4.00370400 | -1.08902000 |
| С | -7.76377400 | 1.54996300  | -4.62587600 |
| С | -5.54475200 | 2.39333100  | -5.10844700 |
| Н | -8.99971100 | -2.59567500 | -2.02305700 |
| Ν | -8.92605200 | 1.64672000  | -4.70999800 |
| Ν | -4.83095100 | 3.18545700  | -5.58746600 |
|   |             |             |             |

| State          | Transition energy  | Transition configuration        | Oscillator strength (f) |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| $S_1$          | 520.9 nm (2.38 eV) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (82%)   |                         |
|                |                    | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (17%) | 0.0952                  |
| $\mathbf{S}_2$ | 369.4 nm (3.36 eV) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (96%) |                         |
|                |                    | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (2%)  | 0.0148                  |
|                | 363.7 nm (3.41 eV) | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (72%) |                         |
|                |                    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (15%)   |                         |
| $S_3$          |                    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (3%)  | 0.3694                  |
|                |                    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 (6%)  |                         |
|                |                    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (18%) |                         |
|                | 356.0 (3.48 eV)    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 (69%) |                         |
| $S_4$          |                    | HOMO-2 → LUMO+3 (3%)            | 0.0208                  |
|                |                    | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (4%)  |                         |
|                |                    | HOMO → LUMO+2 (78%)             |                         |
| $S_5$          | 348.9 (3.55 eV)    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 (14%) | 0.0171                  |
| 23             |                    | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (5%)  |                         |
|                | 347.8 (3.56 eV)    | HOMO-2 → LUMO (88%)             |                         |
| S∠             |                    | $HOMO \rightarrow LUMO (2\%)$   | 0.2252                  |
| ~0             |                    | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (2%)  |                         |
|                |                    |                                 |                         |

## IV. TD-DFT calculation<sup>a</sup> results for complex 1

|                 |                 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 (3%)    |        |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| $S_7$           | 288.7 (4.29 eV) | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (3%)  | 0.0003 |
|                 |                 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4 (91%)   |        |
| $S_8$           | 287.5 (4.31 eV) | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (4%)    | 0.0220 |
| S <sub>9</sub>  | 280.0 (4.43 eV) | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+5 (95%)   | 0.0024 |
| S <sub>10</sub> | 277.0 (4.48 eV) | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (98%) | 0.0000 |

<sup>*a*</sup>TD-DFT were calculated at the B3LYP level using LANL2DZ basis set for Ti and 6-31G(d) basis set for all other atoms.

## V. Calculated FT-IR results for BDMI and complex 1



#### VI. Fabrication procedure of DSSCs

