Supporting information

Synthesis, structure, physical properties and OLED application of pyrazine–triphenylamine fused conjugated compounds

Liang Xu,¹ Yongbiao Zhao,² Guankui Long,¹ Yue Wang,³ Jun Zhao,⁴ Dongsheng Li,⁴ Junbo Li,¹ Rakesh Ganguly,⁵ Yongxin Li,⁵ Handong Sun,³ Xiao Wei Sun,², * and Qichun Zhang^{1,4} *

¹ School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 639798, Singapore.

* Correspondence to Q. Zhang, E-mail: qczhang@ntu.edu.sg

²School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 639798, Singapore.

³ Division of Physics and Applied Physics, School of Physical and Mathematic Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371, Singapore.

⁴ College of Materials and Chemical Engineering, Hubei Provincial Collaborative Innovation Center for New Energy Microgrid, China Three Gorges University, Yichang 443002, P.R. China

⁵ Division of Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, School of Physical and Mathematic Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371, Singapore.

1. Experimental

1.1 Reagents and instruments

Most reagents were purchased from Alfa Aesar or Aldrich and used as supplied unless otherwise noted. All the solvents used in photophysical measurements and electrochemical measurements were of HPLC grade quality. All other solvents were obtained commercially and purified using standard procedures. Silica gel with 200-300 mesh were used in column chromatography, and precoated silica gel plates were utilized in thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and monitored by UV light. SHIMADZU GCMS-QP2010 puls spectrometer was employed in EI mass spectrometric measurements. Bruker Biflex III mass spectrometer was engaged in Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization reflectron time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometer at room temperature (298 K), and chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent peaks. Elemental analyses were recorded on a Carlo-Erba-1106 instrument. UV-Vis spectra were performed on a Hitachi U-3010 spectrometer, and Fluorescence emission spectra were monitored using a Hitachi F-4500.

Cyclic voltammetry measurements were monitored on a CHI660D electrochemical workstation (CH Instruments, Austin, TX). A dry weighing bottle was served as the container. The working electrode glassy carbon (3.0 mm in diameter) was polished on a felt pad with 0.05µm alumina (Buehler, Ltd., Lake Bluff, IL), sonicated in deionized water for 2 min, and then dried before usage. The counter electrode platinum wire was rubbed with an abrasive paper, washed with deionized water and acetone, and dried. The reference electrode platinum wire was rubbed with an abrasive paper, washed with deionized water and acetone, and acetone, and also dried. Ferrocene was added as external standard. The scan rate was 50 mV/s.

1.2 Synthesis procedures and characterization data for new compounds

Synthesis of compound 1

^{*} Correspondence to X.-W. Sun, E-mail: exwsun@ntu.edu.cn

Diaminomaleonitrile (108 mg, 1.0 mmol) and 4,4'-bis(N,N-diphenylamino)benzil (540 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in anhydrous acetic acid (50 mL) with catalytic amount of 2-iodoxybenzoic acid (IBX). The solution was refluxed for 24 hours under Argon atmosphere. After that the crude product was concentrated in vacuo and purified by column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/petroleum ether=1/2), affording compounds **1** (542 mg, yield 88%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50 (d, 4 H), 7.34-7.29 (m, 8 H), 7.16-7.12 (m, 12 H), 6.96-6.93 (d, 4 H).¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 154.09, 150.78, 146.55, 130.87, 129.76, 128.33, 127.54, 126.09, 124.80, 120.32, 113.77. HRMS (M+1) = 617.2440 (calc. 617.2454).

Synthesis of compound 2

The procedure was the same with above except that diaminomaleonitrile was replaced by 2,3-Diaminopyridine (109 mg, 1.0 mmol). This reaction gave compounds **2** (549 mg, yield 89%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.10-9.09 (m, 1 H), 8.47-8.44 (m, 1 H), 7.67-7.64 (m, 1 H), 7.59 (d, 2 H), 7.49 (d, 2 H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 7 H), 7.15-7.13 (m, 8 H), 7.10-7.08 (m, 3 H)), 7.07-7.06 (m, 2 H)), 7.04-7.00 (m, 3 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.15, 154.56, 153.25, 149.73, 149.39, 149.18, 147.27, 147.24, 138.16, 136.00, 131.85, 131.45, 131.24, 130.86, 129.56, 125.45, 125.32, 124.76, 123.91, 123.85, 121.99, 121.41. HRMS (M+1) = 618.2673 (calc. 618.2658).

Synthesis of compound **3**

The procedure was the same with above except that 2,3-Diaminopyridine was replaced by 2,3,6,7-Tetraamino-9,9-bis(2-ethylhexyl) fluorene (596 mg, 1.0 mmol). This reaction gave compounds **3** (787 mg, yield 80%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45 (s, 1 H), 8.13 (s, 1 H), 8.09 (s, 1 H), 7.72-7.69 (m, 1 H), 7.54-7.52 (m, 1 H), 7.51-7.44 (m, 5 H), 7.29 (d, 6 H), 7.14 (d, 8 H), 7.09-7.04 (m, 8 H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.90, 164.67, 152.15, 149.17, 148.58, 147.46, 143.96, 141.77, 136.57, 132.62, 131.02, 129.50, 128.95, 125.11, 123.59, 122.32, 117.76, 111.66, 106.33, 68.31, 54.93, 46.33, 38.89, 34.92, 34.87, 33.66, 33.32, 32.07, 30.52, 29.84, 29.59, 29.51, 29.40, 29.24, 29.08, 28.05, 26.95, 26.67, 26.62, 24.90, 23.91, 23.13, 22.84, 22.77, 14.87, 14.26, 14.19, 13.98, 13.95, 11.11, 10.26. HRMS (M+1) = 984.5613 (calc. 984.5508).

¹H NMR of compound 1



¹³C NMR of compound 1



HRMS of compound 1



¹H NMR of compound 2



¹³C NMR of compound 2



¹H NMR of compound 3



¹³C NMR of compound 3



HRMS of compound 3



2.



Figure S2 The lifetime of films of compound 1, 2 and 3

3.OLED devices

All devices were fabricated on commercial ITO-coated glass substrates. The ITO substrates were treated in order by ultrasonic bath sonication of detergent, de-ionized water, acetone and isopropanol, each with a 20 min interval. Then the ITO substrates were dried with nitrogen gas and baked in an oven at 80°C for 30 min. After that, oxygen plasma treatment was carried out in a plasma cleaner (FEMTO). Subsequently, the substrates were transferred into a thermal evaporator, where the organic, inorganic and metal functional layers were grown layer by layer at a base pressure better than 4×10^{-4} Pa. The evaporation rates were monitored with several quartz crystal microbalances located above the crucibles and thermal boats. For organic semiconductors and metal oxides, the typical evaporation rates were about 0.1 nm/s. For aluminium and LiF, the evaporation rates were about 1 to 5 nm/s and 0.01 nm/s, respectively. The intersection of Al and ITO forms a 1 mm \times 1 mm active device area. J-V and L-V data were collected with a source meter (Agilent B2902A) and a luminance meter (Konica Minolta, LS-110) with a customized Labview program. The electroluminance spectra are measured with a spectrophotometer (Photo Research Inc., PR-705).



Figure S3-1 The OLED device structure



Figure S3-2 The current efficiency-current density, power efficiency-current density and electroluminance spectra of compounds 1-3 (The EL spectra were collected at 6V)