

SUPPORTING INFORMATION TO THE MANUSCRIPT

Star-shaped D- π -A oligothiophenes with *tris*(2-methoxyphenyl)amine core and alkyldicyanovinyl groups: synthesis, physical and photovoltaic properties

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1. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra

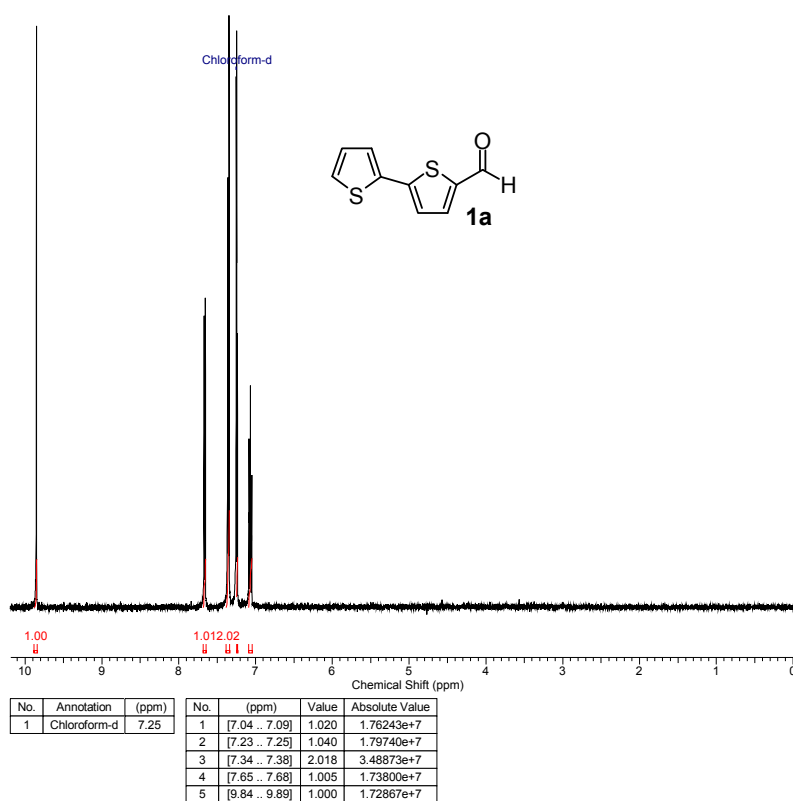


Figure S1. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1a** in CDCl_3

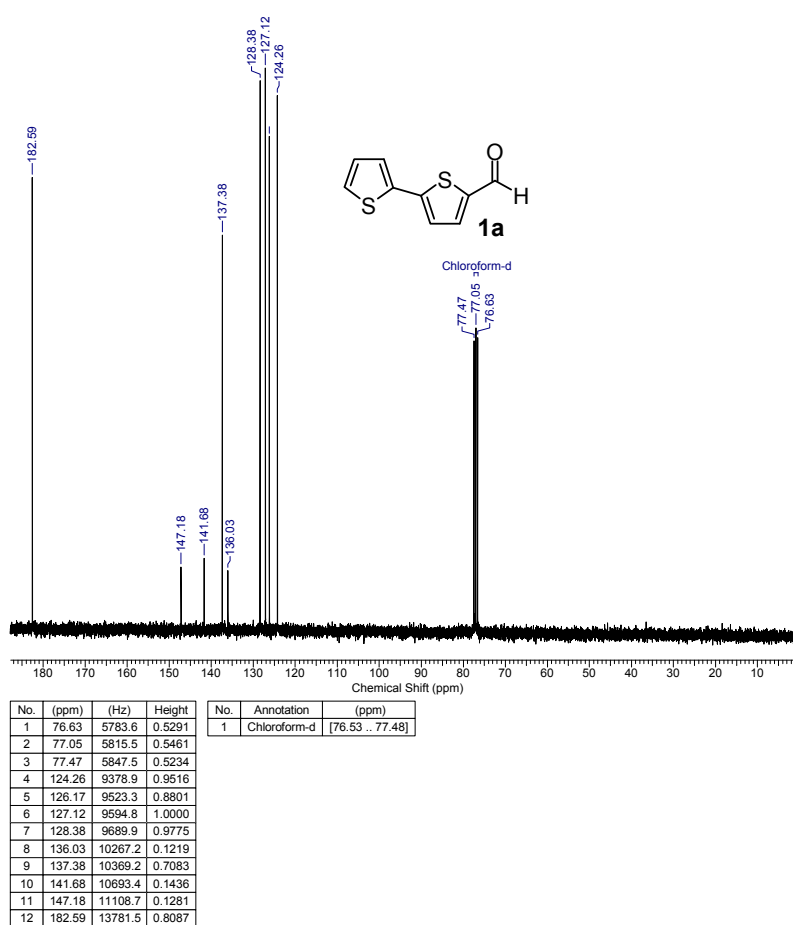


Figure S2. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **1a** in CDCl_3

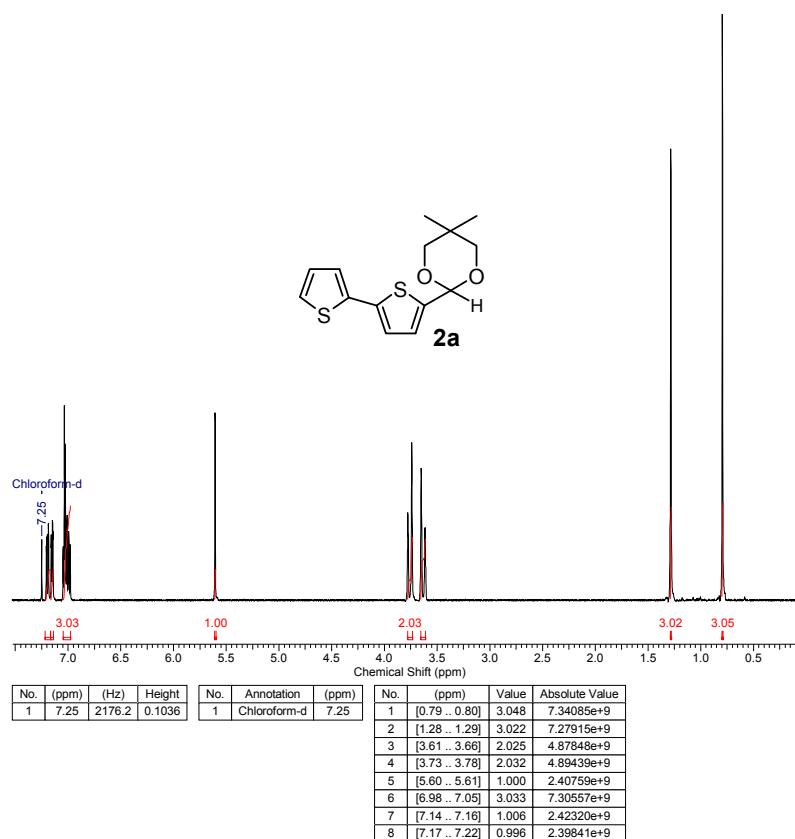


Figure S3. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **2a** in CDCl_3

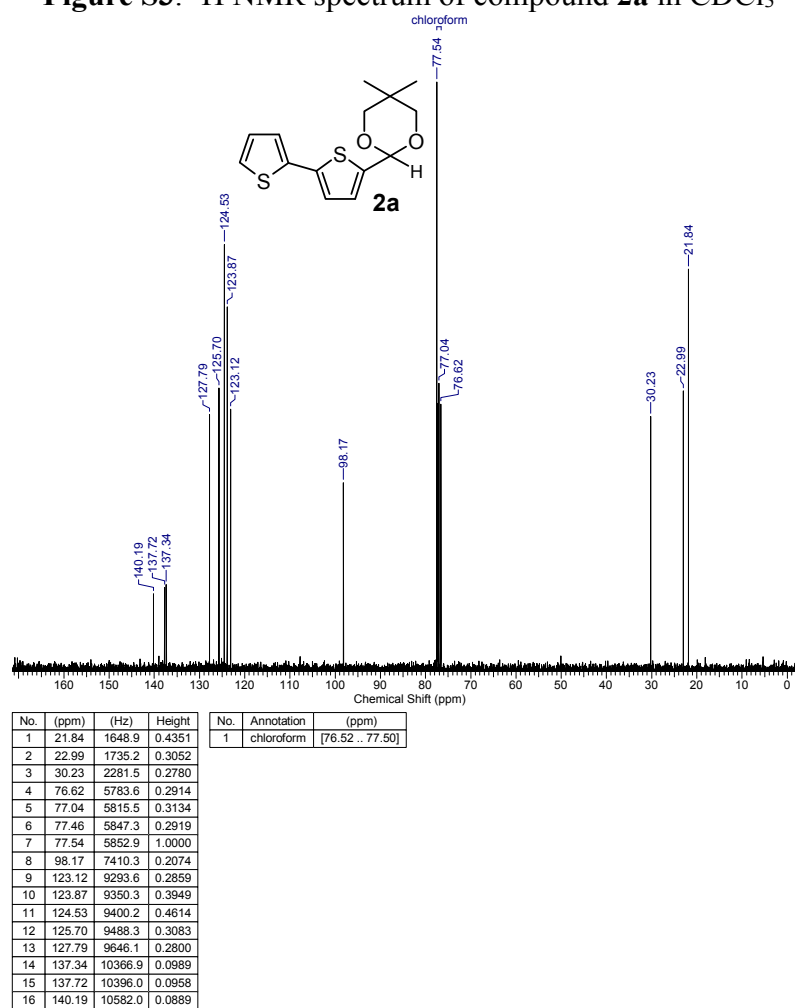


Figure S4. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **2a** in CDCl_3

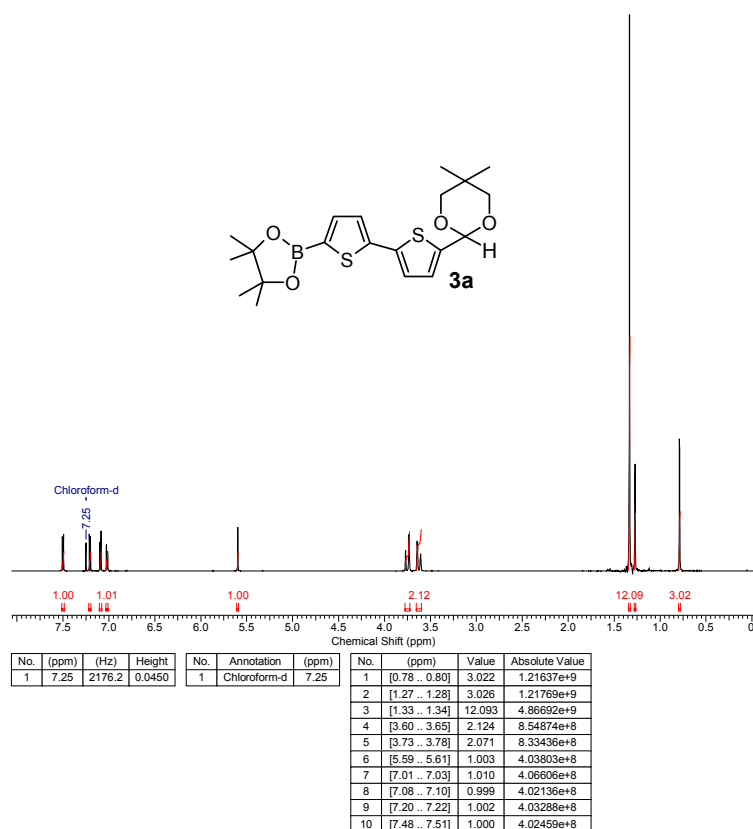


Figure S5. ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **3a** in CDCl_3

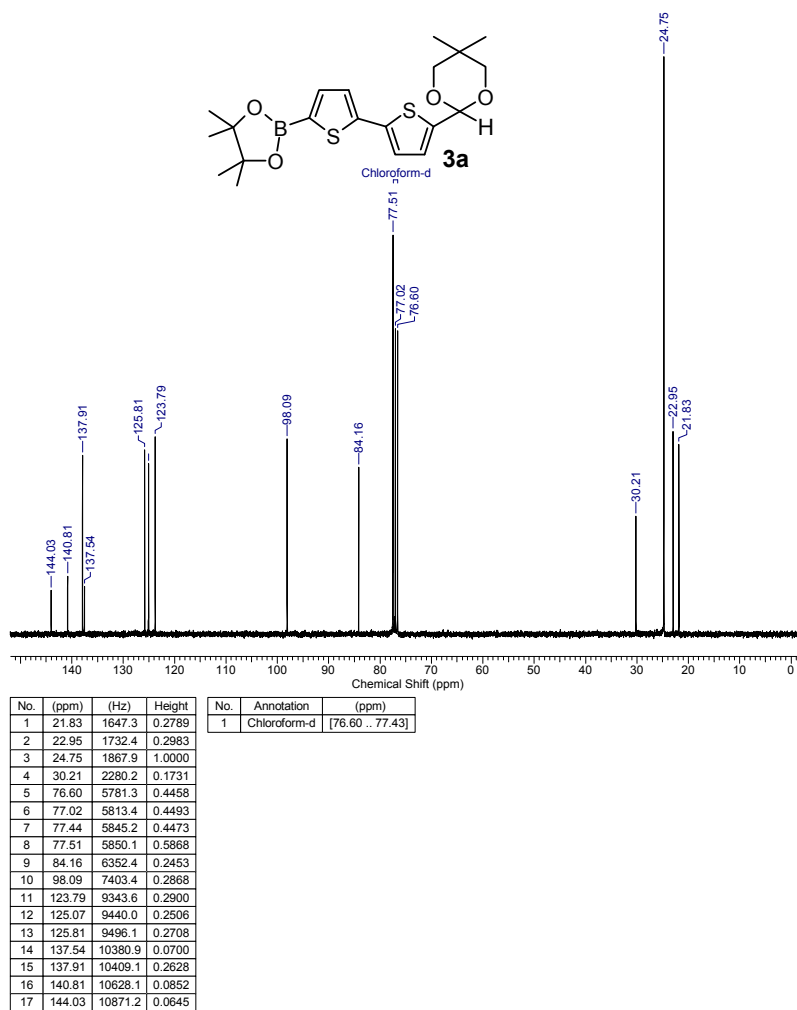


Figure S6. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of compound **3a** in CDCl_3

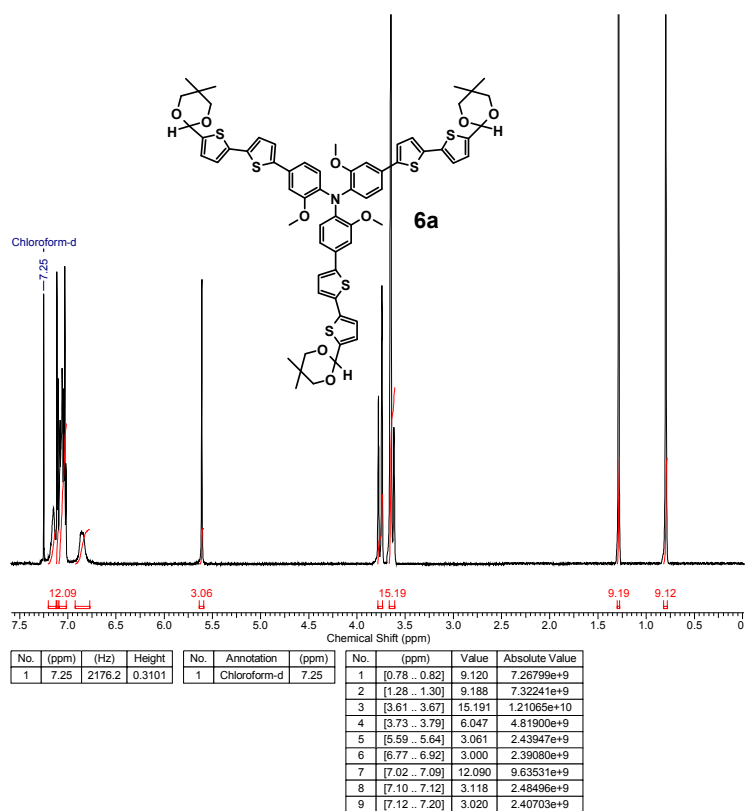


Figure S7. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **6a** in CDCl_3

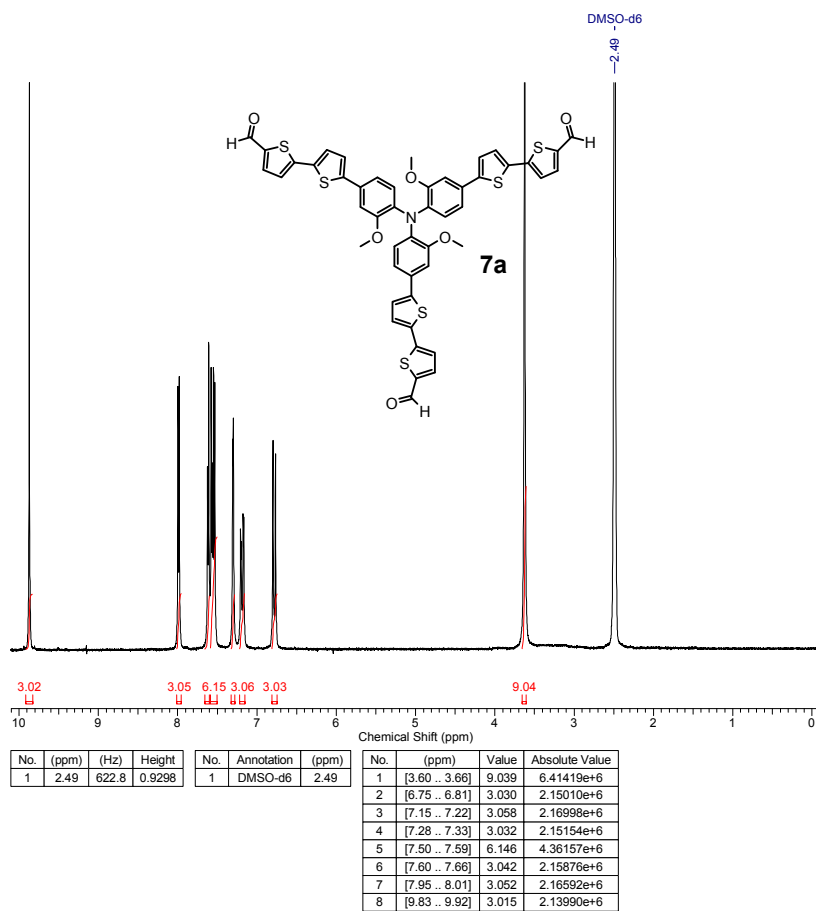


Figure S8. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **7a** in DMSO-d_6

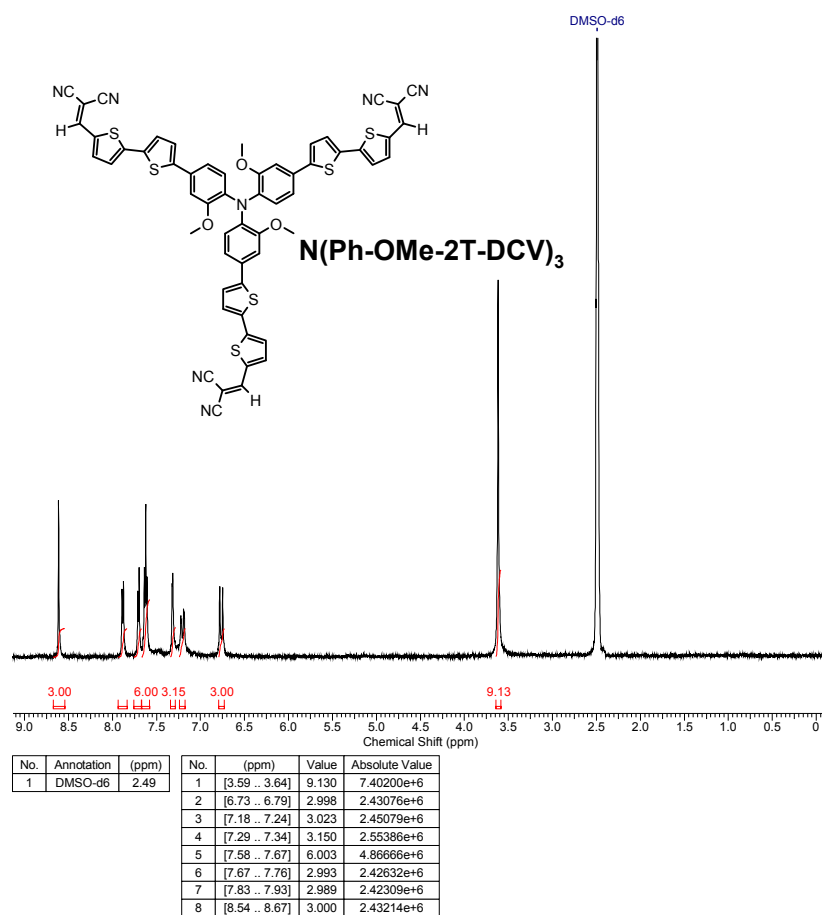


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV)₃ in DMSO-d₆

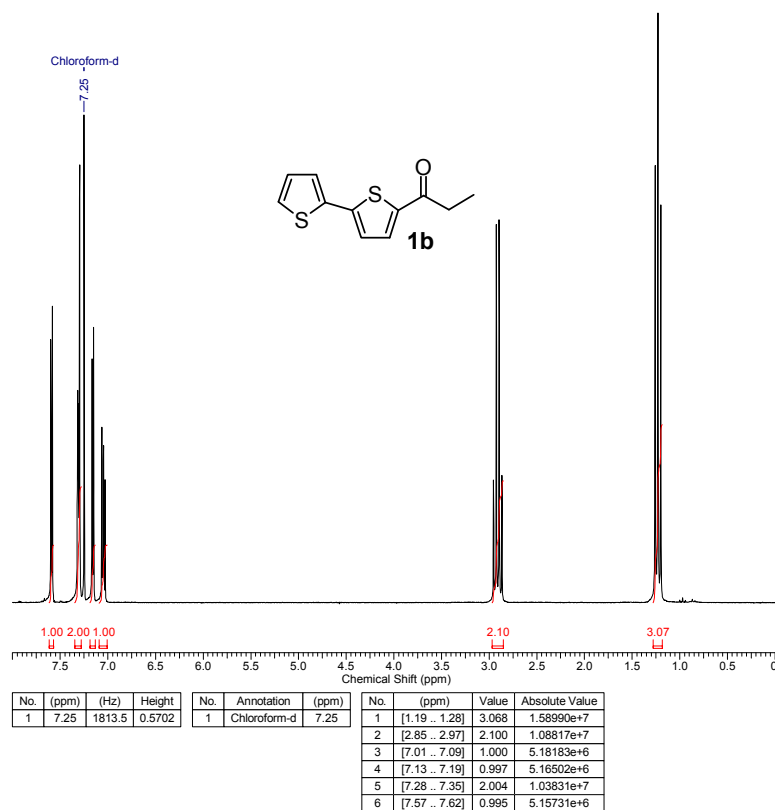


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of purified product **1b** in CDCl₃.

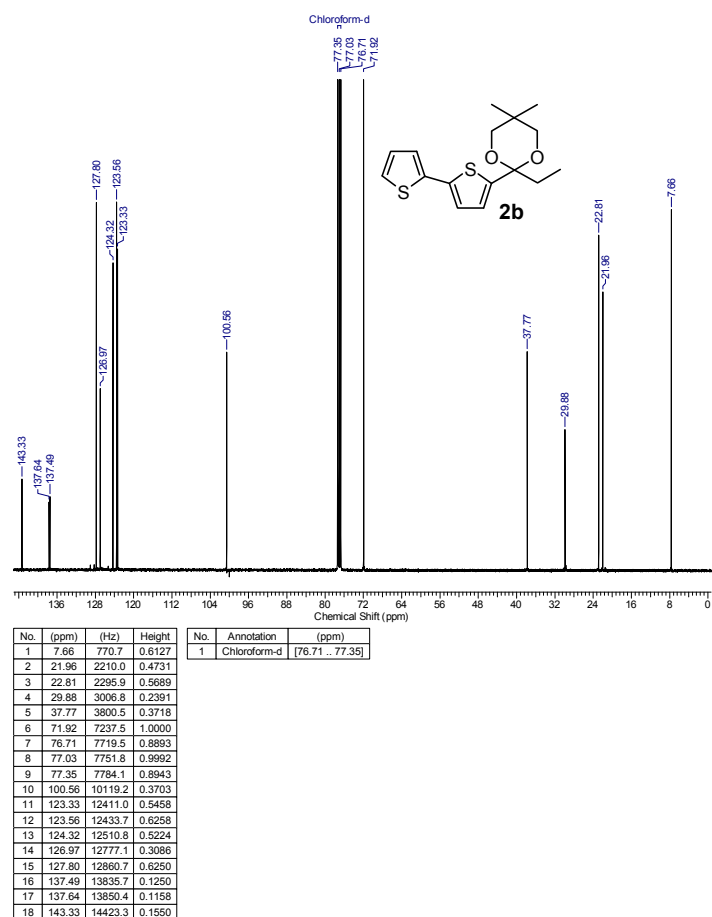
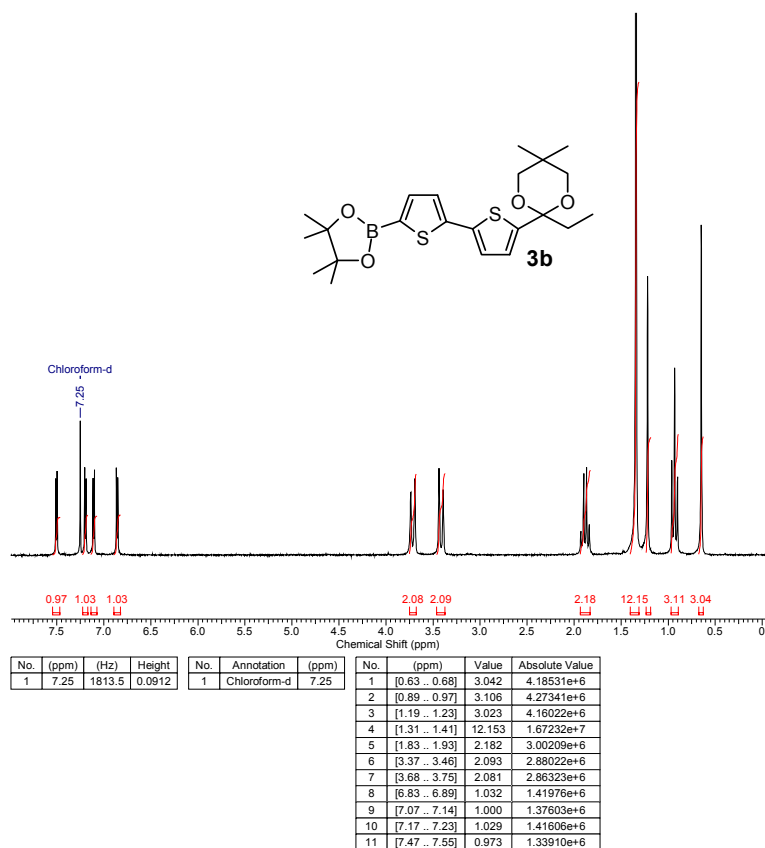


Figure S13. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **2b** in CDCl_3



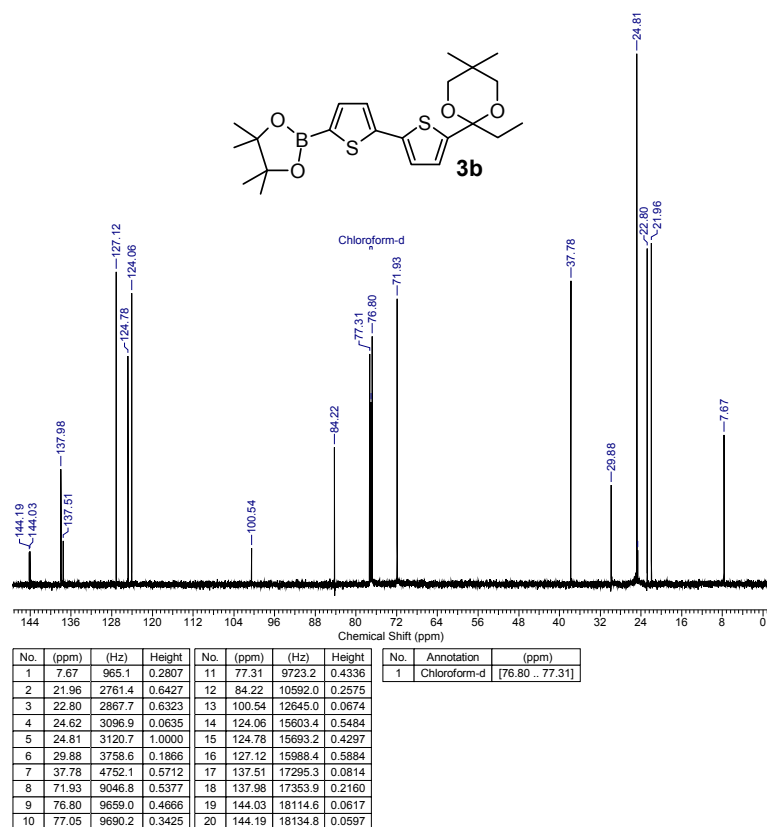


Figure S15. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **3b** in CDCl_3

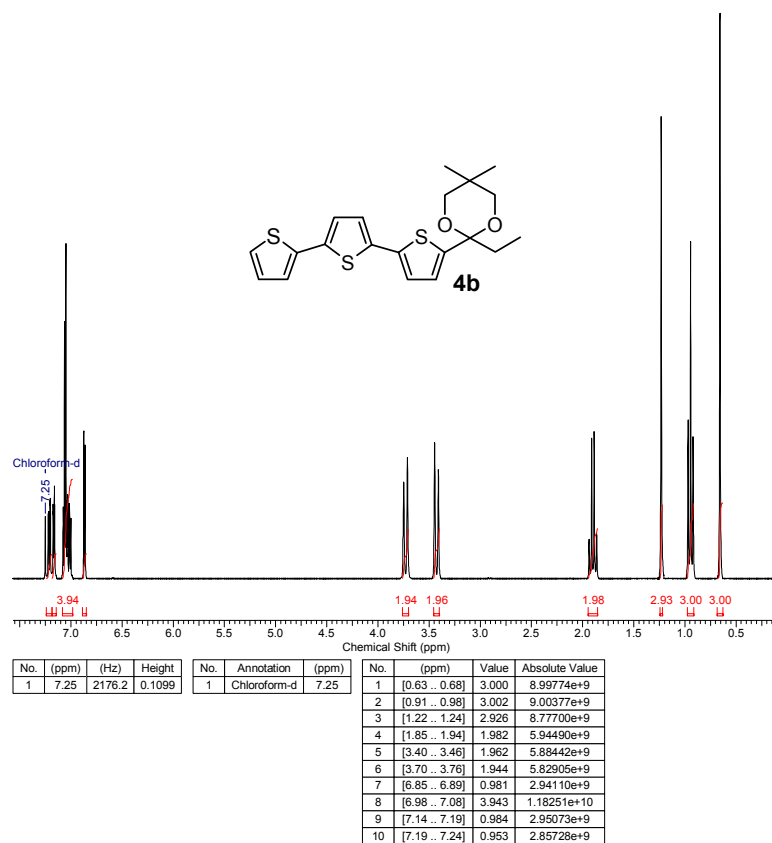


Figure S16. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **4b** in CDCl_3

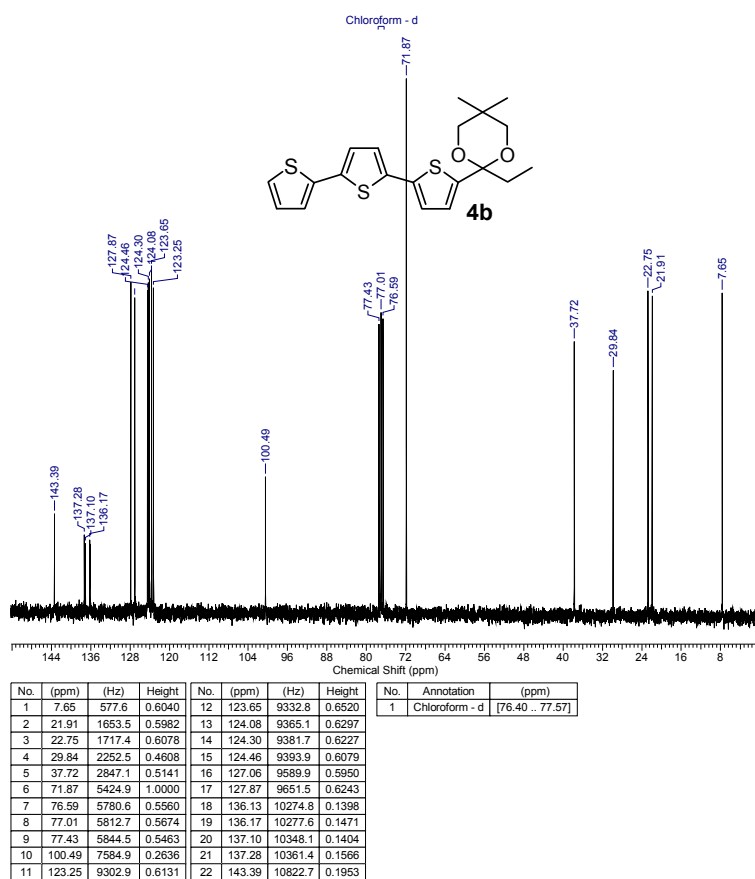


Figure S17. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **4b** in CDCl_3

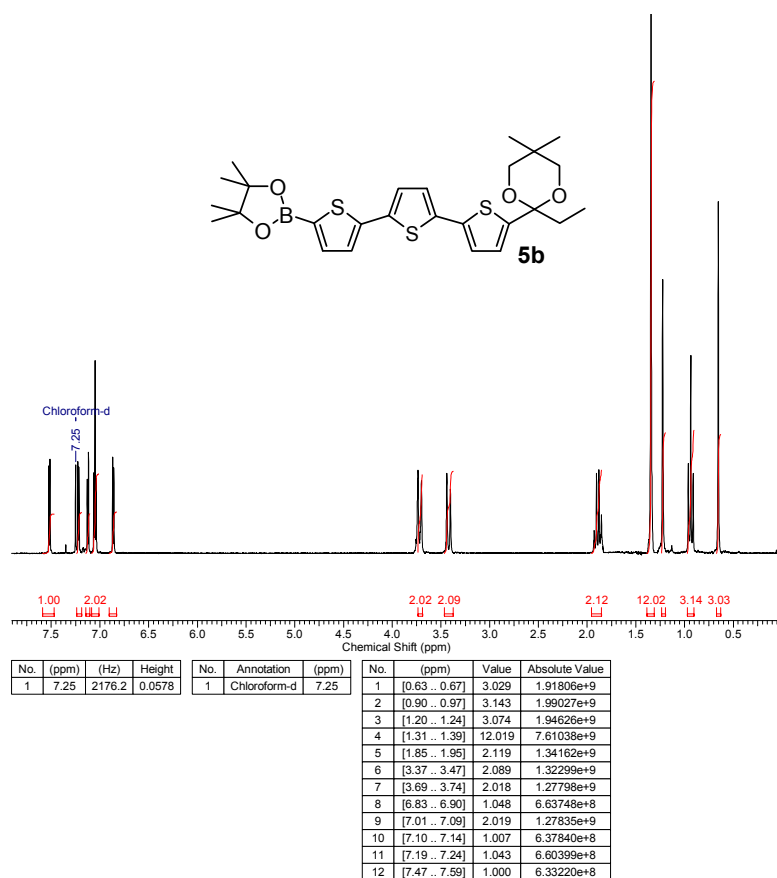


Figure S18. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **5b** in CDCl_3

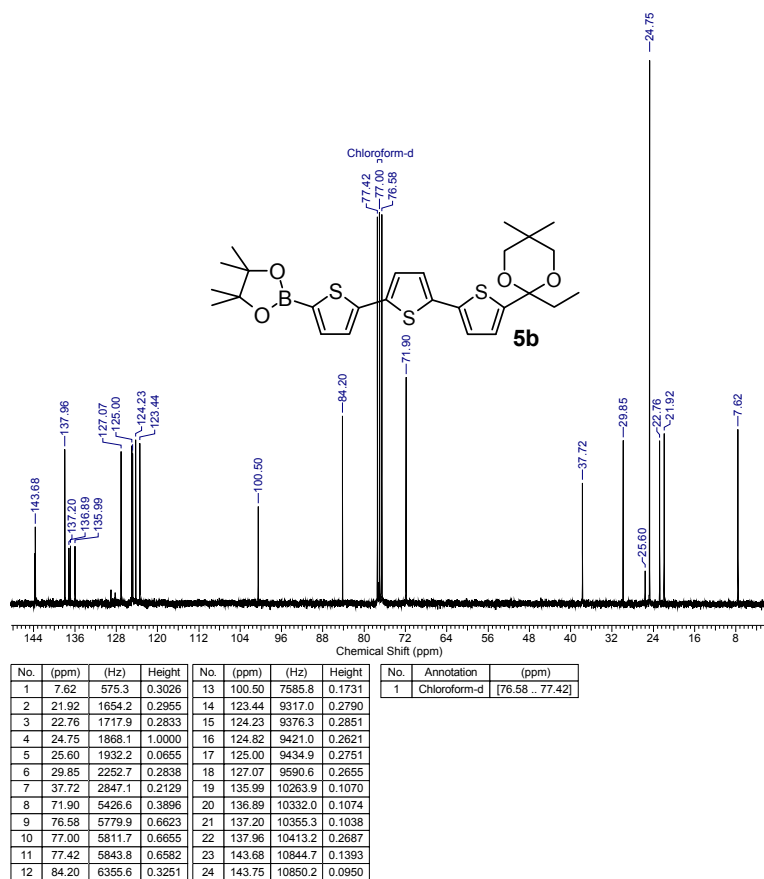


Figure S19. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **5b** in CDCl_3

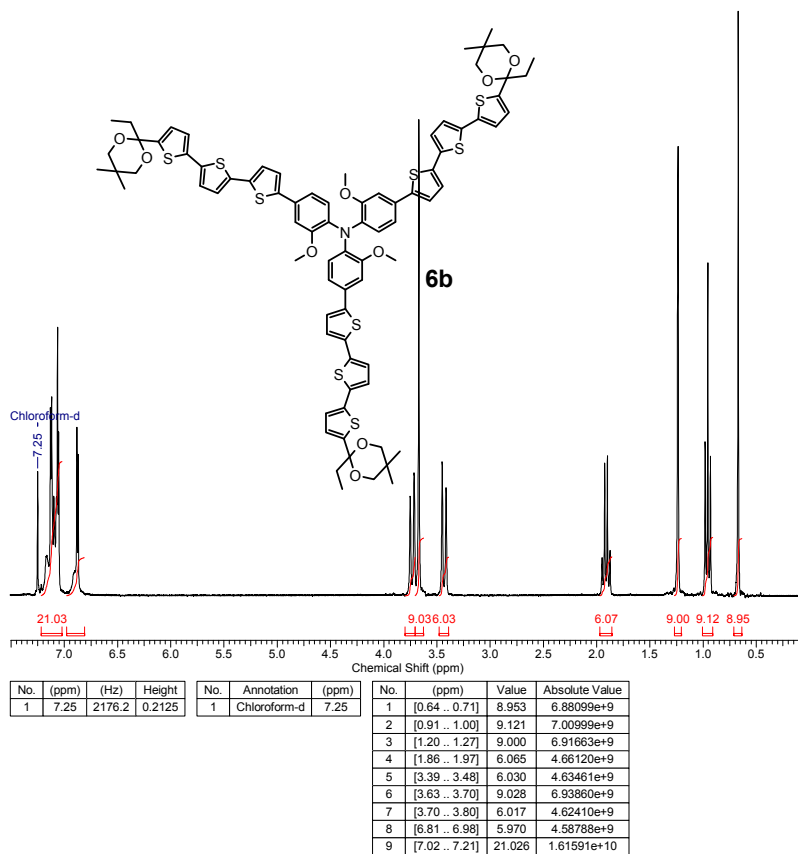


Figure S20. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **6b** in CDCl_3

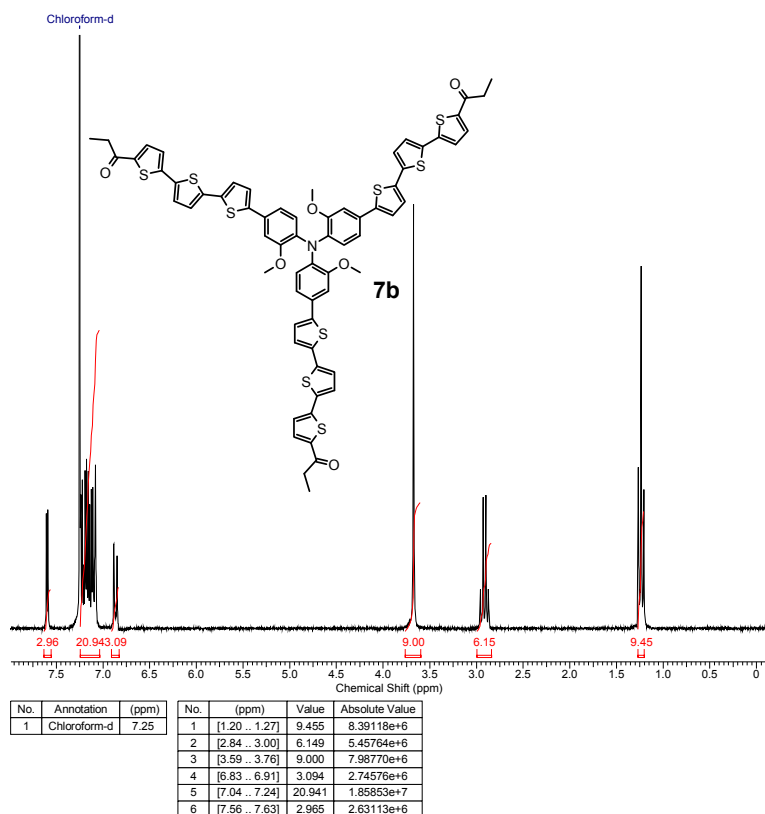


Figure S21. ¹H NMR spectrum of purified product **7b** in CDCl₃

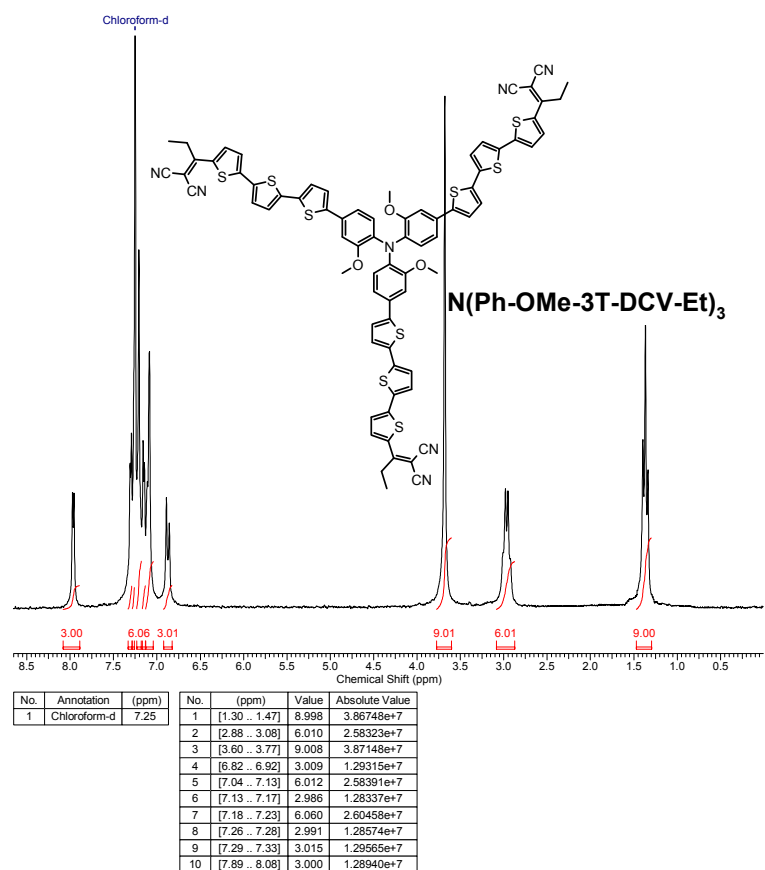


Figure S22. ¹H NMR spectrum of **N(Ph-OMe-3T-DCV-Et)₃** in CDCl₃

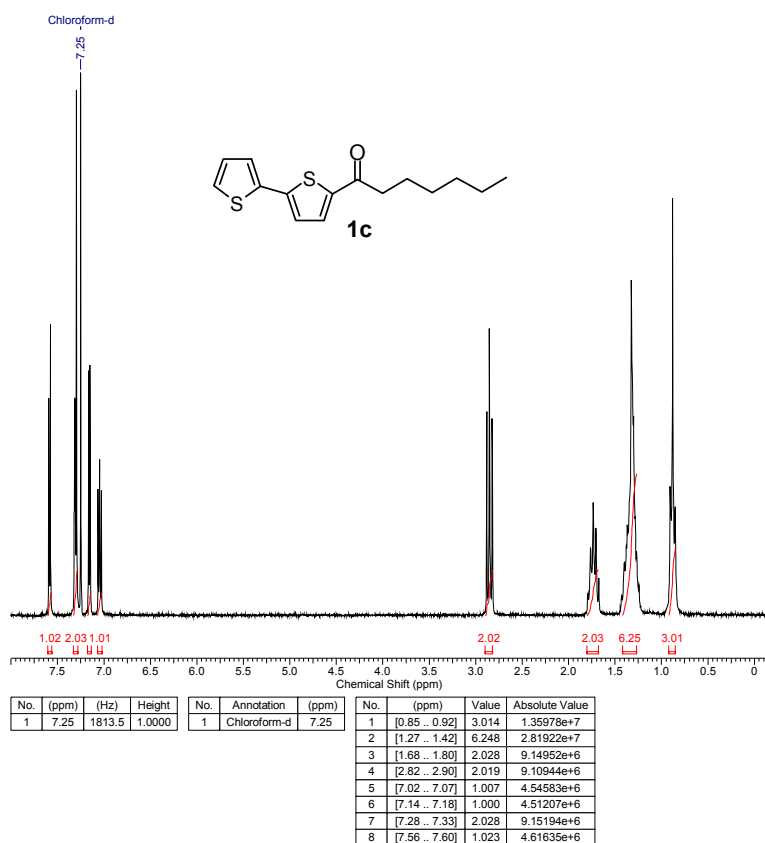


Figure S23. ^1H NMR spectrum of **1c** in CDCl_3

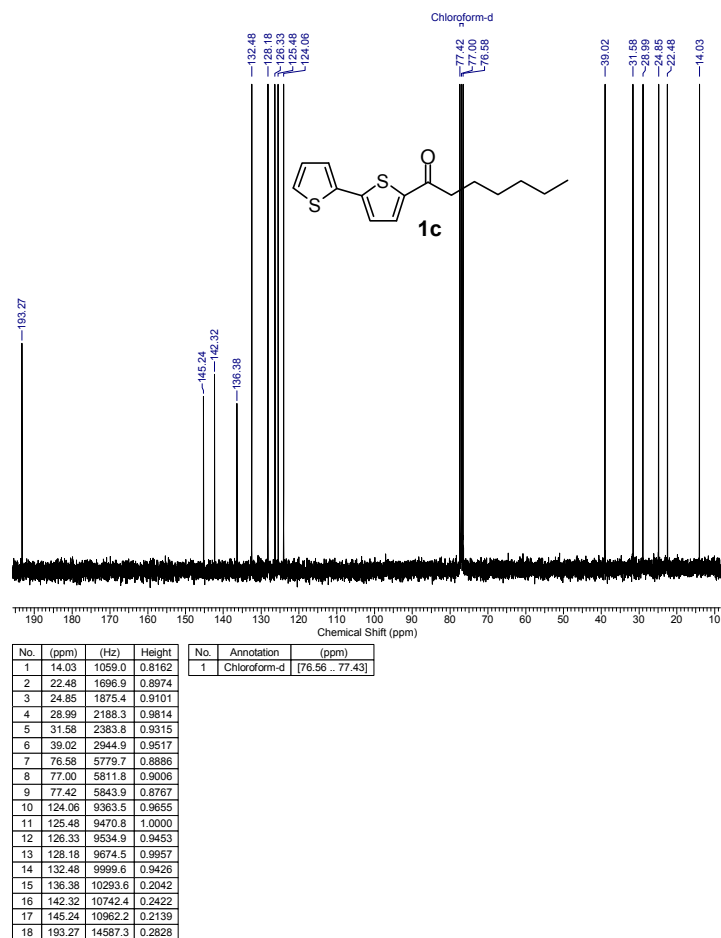


Figure S24. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1c** in CDCl_3

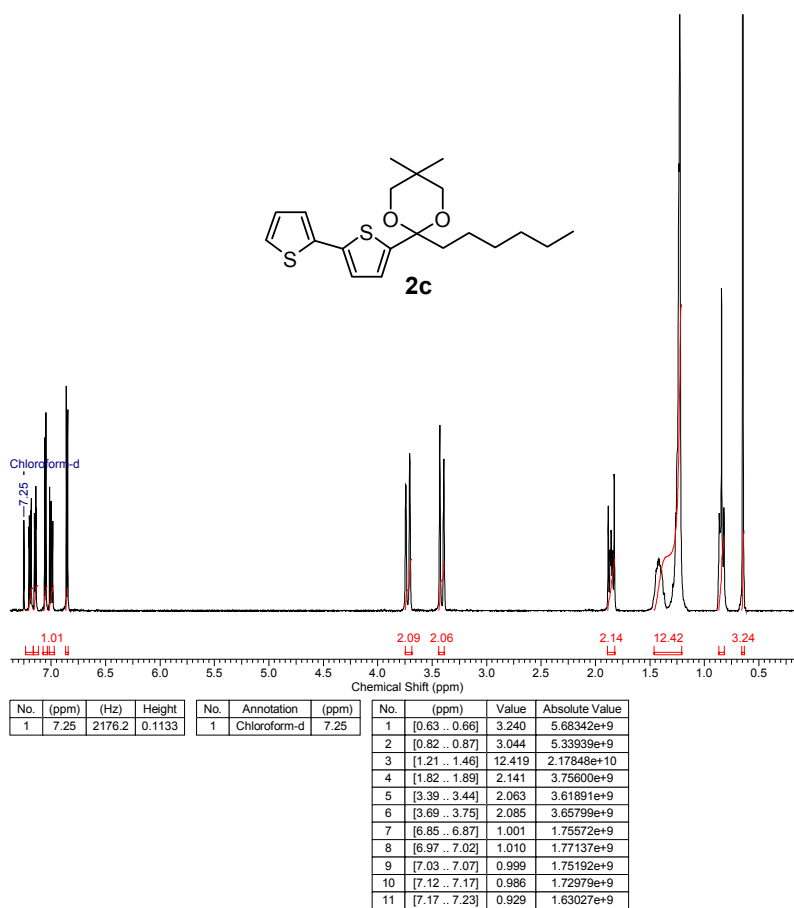


Figure S25. ^1H NMR spectrum of **2c** in CDCl_3

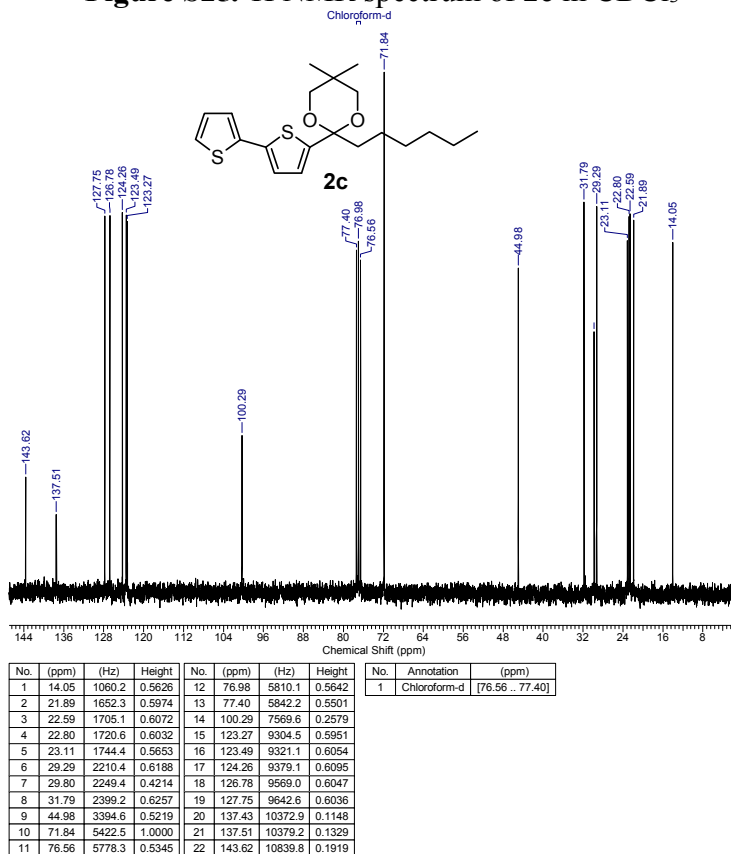


Figure S26. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2c** in CDCl_3

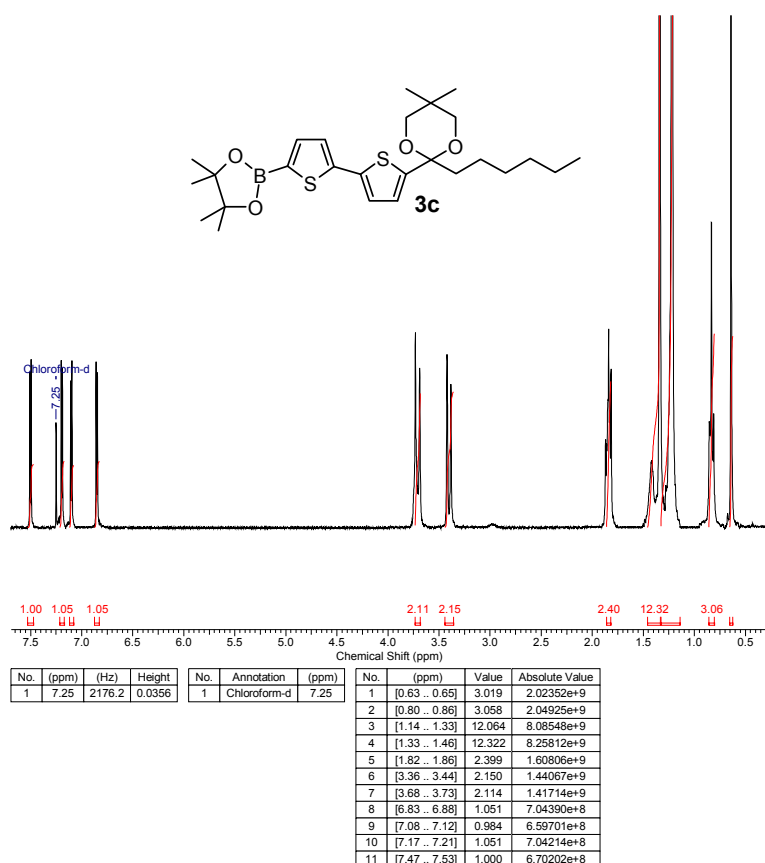


Figure S27. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **3c** in CDCl_3

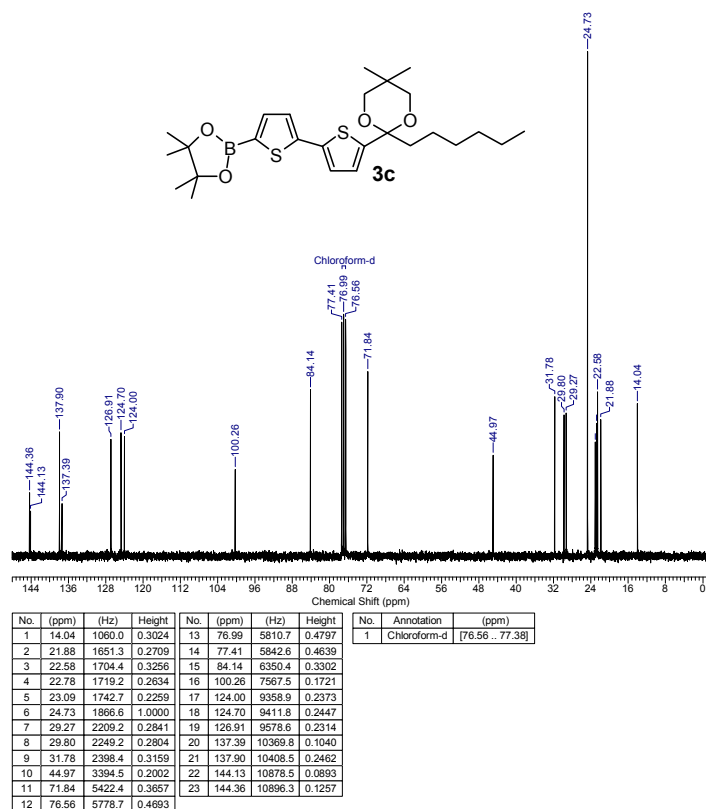


Figure S28. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **3c** in CDCl_3

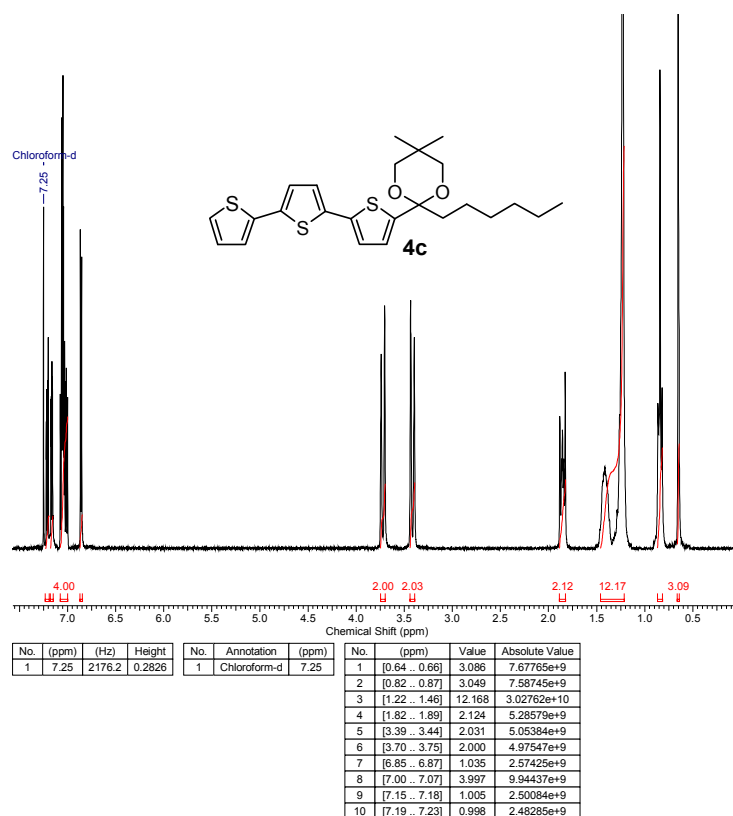


Figure S29. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **4c** in CDCl_3

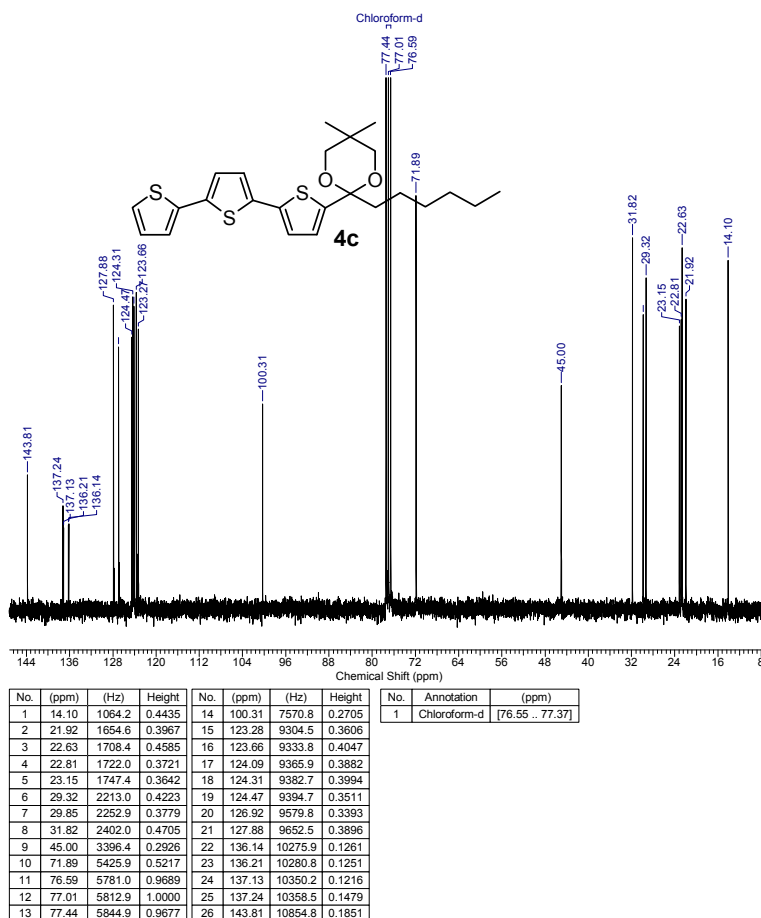


Figure S30. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **4c** in CDCl_3

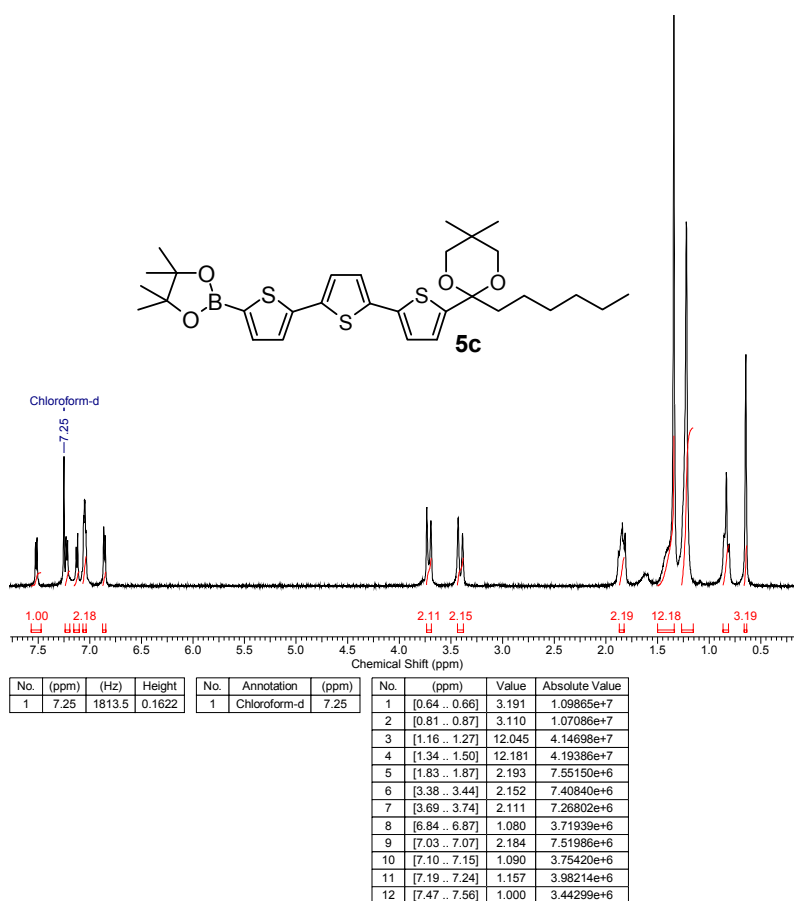


Figure S31. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **5c** in CDCl_3

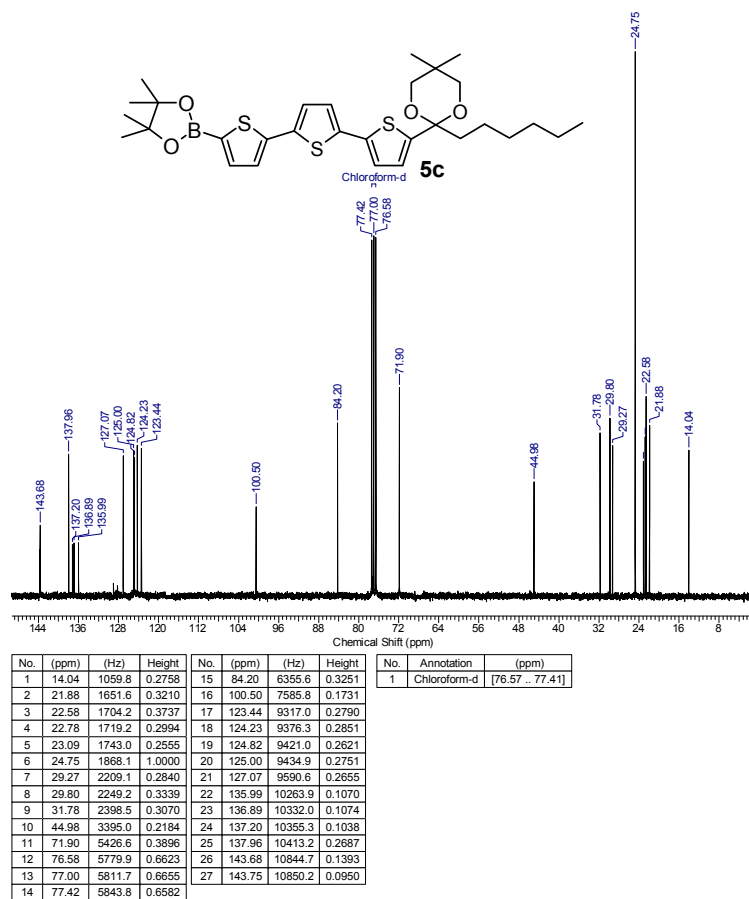


Figure S32. ^{13}C NMR spectrum of purified product **5c** in CDCl_3

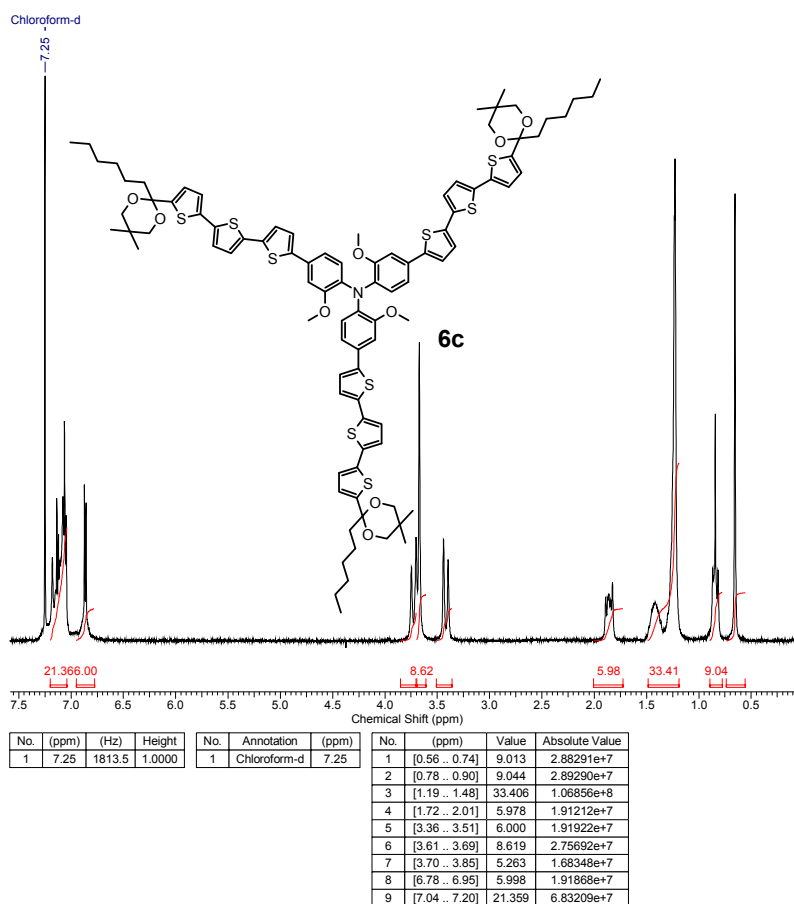


Figure S33. ¹H NMR spectrum of purified product **6c** in CDCl₃

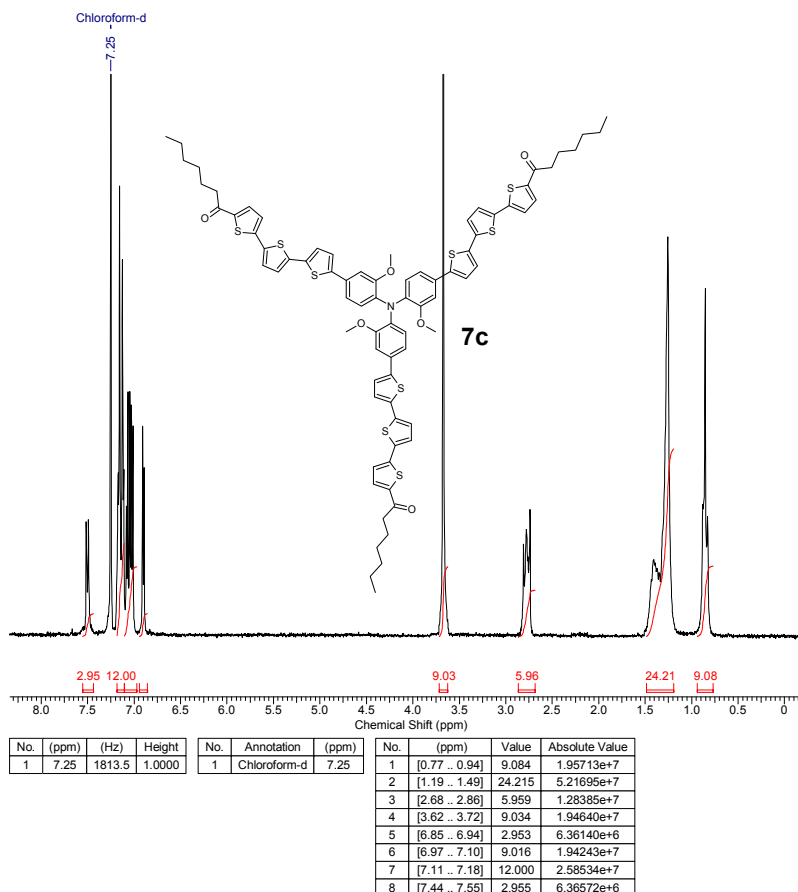


Figure S34. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **7c** in CDCl_3

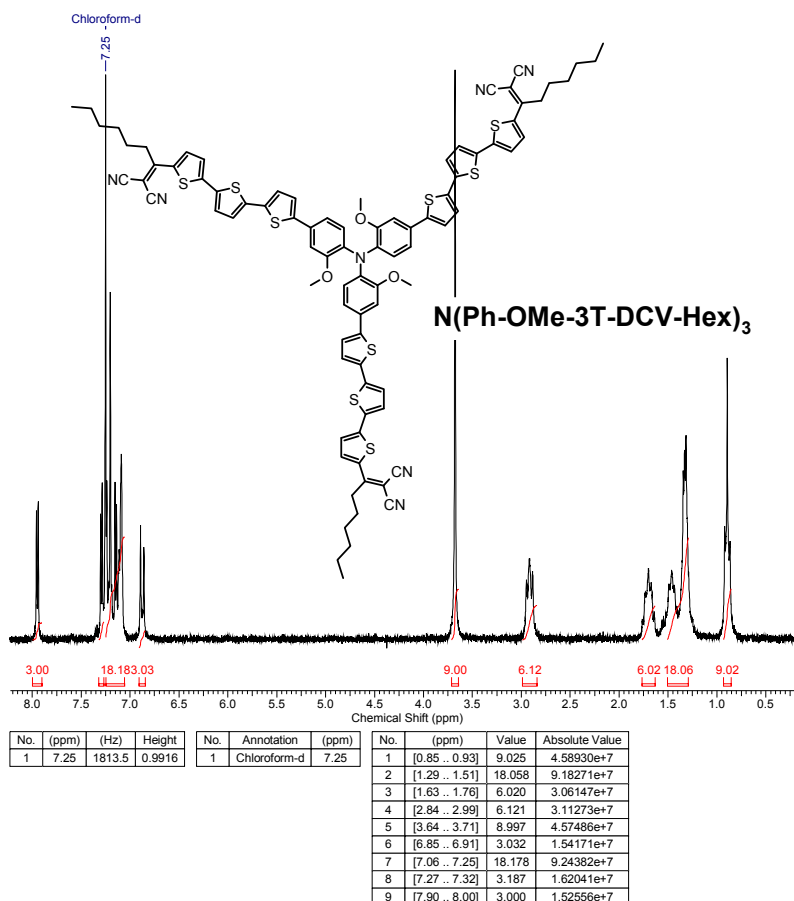


Figure S35. ^1H NMR spectrum of purified product **N(Ph-OMe-3T-DCV-Hex)₃** in CDCl_3

2. Molecular Modelling and X-Ray diffraction data

First stage of the modelling of a crystal structure of the compounds under investigation included refinement of the structure of single molecules. Based on the CCDC crystallographic data for TPA [ⁱ] and m-TPA-OMe [ⁱⁱ] we studied the optimal way of attachment of bithiophene-dicyanovinyl fragments to the TPA or m-TPA “core” of the star molecule. One can find widely different values of the central ($43^\circ\div60^\circ$) and attachment ($0^\circ\div28^\circ$) torsion angles. As can be seen from Figure S36, the energy minimum is rather a shallow for the rotation around the attachment bond (providing the tilt of the planes of bithiophene fragments respectively to the plane of TPA or TPA-OMe core), allowing an easy adjustment of the molecular shape. However, application of the close packing principle made us to suggest the torsion angles to be 39° and 50.5° for the central bonds and 26° for the attachment bonds, so that the overall shape of the molecule is almost planar both for **N(Ph-2T-DCV-Me)₃** and **N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃** compounds, respectively. It should also be noted that the height of the energy barrier on Figure S36b is in a good agreement with conjugation energy between the benzene ring and the bithiophene fragments.

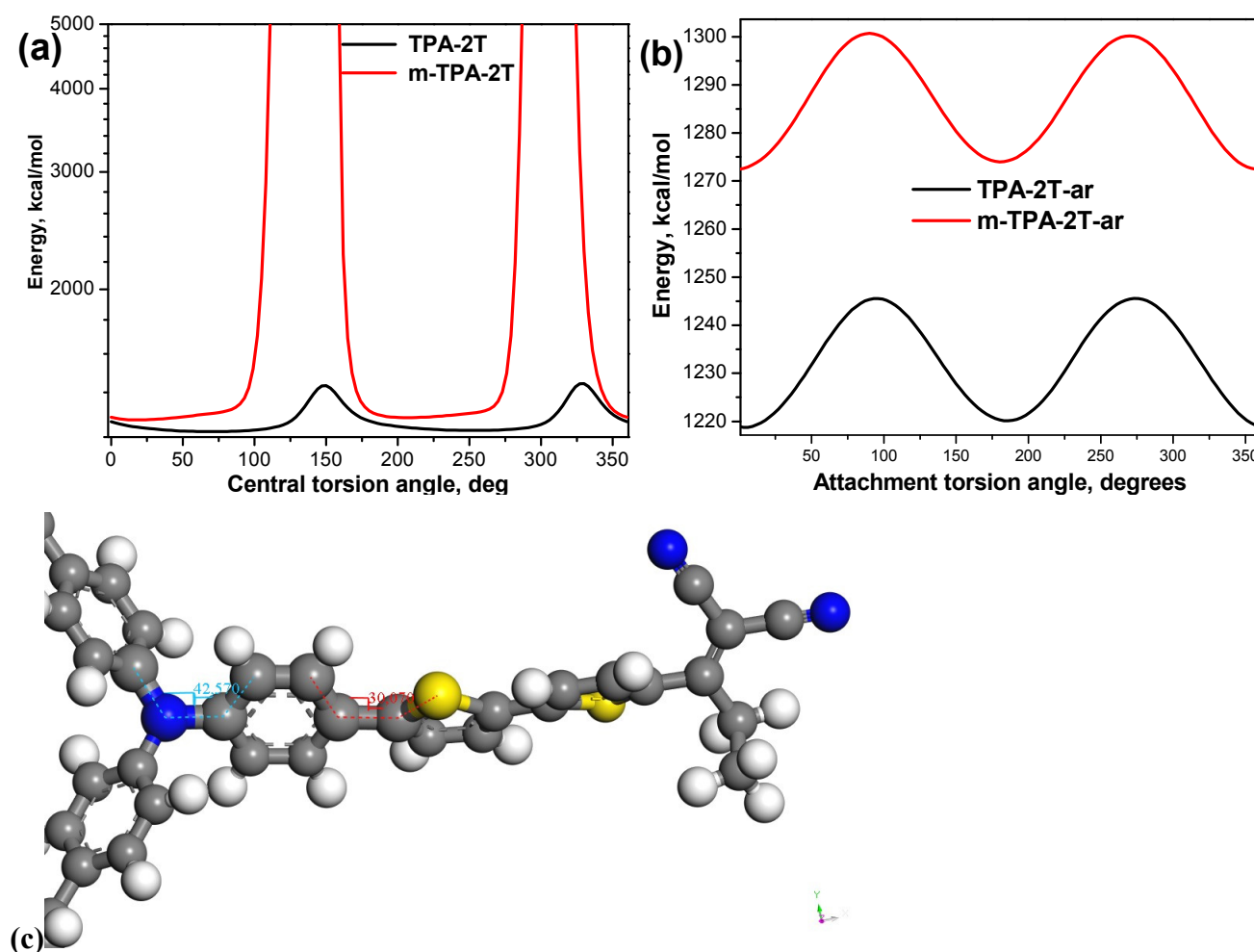


Figure S36. Energy dependence on central (a) and aromatic (b) torsion angle for TPA and m-TPA cores with 2T fragments. Corresponding torsion angles are illustrated on figure (c): central in green color and aromatic in red color.

Second stage of the modelling includes optimization of the mutual arrangement of two molecules in the supramolecular column. We applied COMPASS-II force field, assuming columnar organization of the molecules with molecular planes orthogonal to the column axis. Calculating energy of the system versus distance between the molecules and the rotation angle χ , one can build the energy maps of these interactions allowing definition of the optimal stacking position. The distance in these pairs varied from 0.2 to 12 Å and the χ angle from -60° to 60° as the molecules of all compounds possess the rotation axis of the 3rd order. Moreover, while TPA-based molecules are almost flat, m-TPA ones lack the mirror plane coinciding with the general plane of the molecule. Thus, three ways of the interaction between two m-TPA molecules are possible: all methoxy groups oriented in the same way, both facing inwards of the pair, and both facing outwards.

As Figure S37 reveals, energy maps of **N(Ph-2T-DCV-Me)₃** are rather symmetrical for positive and negative χ angles, thus no chirality can be found. Some deviations observed may be due to the interaction of DCV-groups facing in the same direction. Four minimums were attributed to the optimal stacking of the central TPA core. The optimal distance between two **N(Ph-2T-DCV-Me)₃** molecules is 4.7 Å and the optimal orientation angle is 21° . Pattern of the interaction between **N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃** molecules is drastically different. Introducing OMe groups changes the type of interaction. As energy maps unequivocally show (same color map is applied), the most likely stacking of two molecules is when their methoxy groups are looking outwards the pair. The energy maps are also asymmetrical respectively to the χ rotation. Two best possible stacking positions are available: $\chi = -40^\circ$ and $\chi = -14^\circ$, corresponding to the distance of 4.8 Å between the molecules. In conclusion, the molecular modelling study performed revealed that the basic unit of the structure in the crystal of such compounds is the pair of molecules whose methoxy groups look outwards.

Finally, after building such pairs an attempt was made to pack them into columns (Figure S39). For pair modelling we took Z as a distance between identical central atoms and each pair to be “rigid”. As expected, the optimal χ angle between the pairs for the first case was 14° and for the second case 40° , confirming the symmetry of the model. Overall, optimal distance was found to be 12 Å, which confirms the stacking of 6 molecules in a crystal cell within a fiber repeat $c \sim 30$ Å. Packing of three pairs in a column repeat unit agrees well with the stacking angle of pairs equal to 40 degrees.

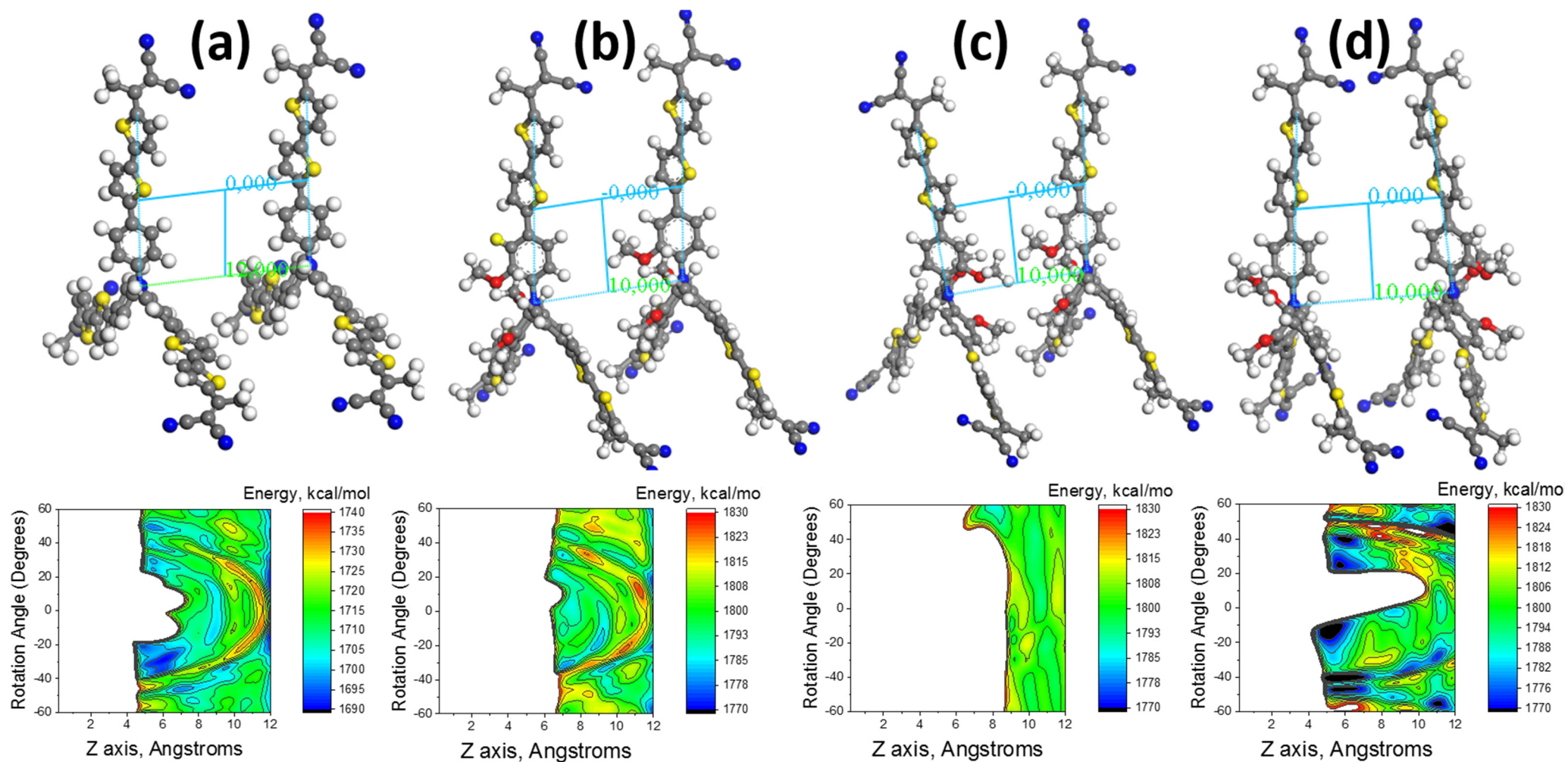


Figure S38. Energy maps for pair interactions depending on torsion angle χ and intermolecular distance Z for following molecules: $2x$ N(Ph-2T-DCV-Me)₃ (a), $2x$ N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃ with OMe facing same the direction (b), inside (c) and outside (d)

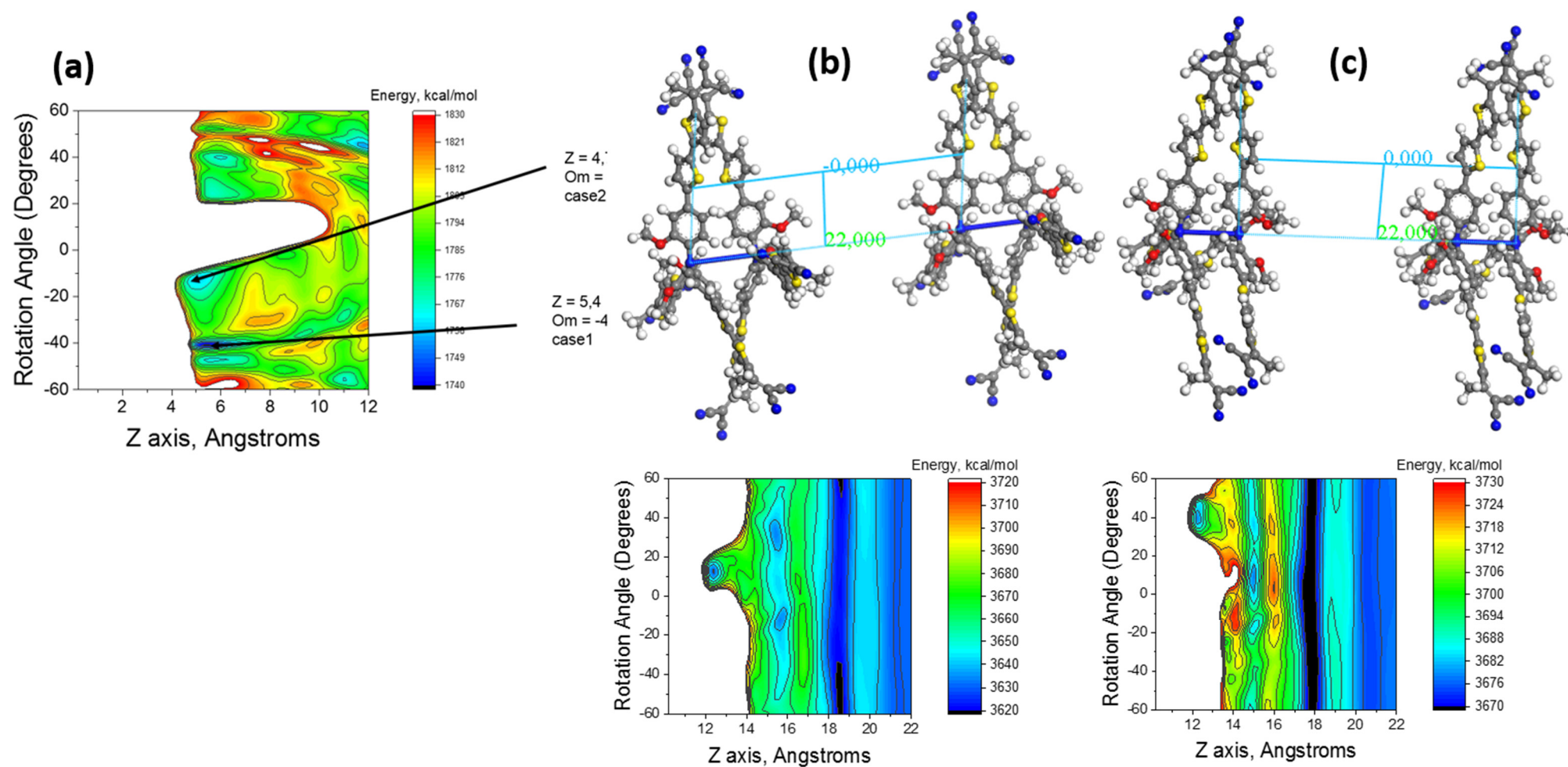


Figure S39. Two possible optimal solutions for MeO "outside" packing of $N(\text{Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me})_3$ pair (a). Energy maps for two pairs interactions depending on torsion angle χ and intermolecular distance Z for pairs with 40 degrees torsion angle (b) and 14 degrees torsion angle (c).

Table S1. Table of registered XRD reflections for N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV)₃

d obs, Å	d calc, Å	Difference, Å	hkl
20,722	20,798	-0,076	010
15,311	15,344	-0,033	002
13,137	13,163	-0,026	102
12,788	12,807	-0,019	200
11,554	11,819	-0,265	201
9,231	9,193	0,038	121
7,681	7,672	0,009	004
7,030	6,933	0,097	030
6,568	6,599	-0,031	320
5,477	5,561	-0,084	224
5,367	5,453	-0,086	420
4,867	4,876	-0,009	116
4,770	4,75	0,020	206
4,014	4,036	-0,022	440
3,798	3,825	-0,027	622
3,391	3,381	0,010	062
3,223	3,227	-0,004	056

Table S2. Table of registered XRD reflections for N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃

d obs, Å	d calc, Å	Difference, Å	hkl
33,266	33,236	0,030	001
18,802	18,802	0,000	010
17,559	17,559	0,000	101
16,929	16,633	0,296	002
10,837	10,670	0,167	112
9,788	9,772	0,016	103
9,038	9,058	-0,020	021
8,444	8,317	0,127	004
8,215	8,184	0,031	022
7,765	7,716	0,049	104
7,260	7,171	0,089	023
6,636	6,748	-0,112	301
6,484	6,480	0,004	204
6,032	6,030	0,002	312
5,948	5,964	-0,016	124
5,610	5,642	-0,032	132
5,466	5,456	0,010	033
5,349	5,355	-0,006	106
5,178	5,168	0,010	400
5,008	5,005	0,003	034
4,853	4,825	0,028	233
4,761	4,776	-0,015	026
4,586	4,584	0,002	140
4,537	4,529	0,008	420
4,307	4,279	0,028	240
4,242	4,244	-0,002	241
4,119	4,135	-0,016	500
4,010	4,013	-0,003	502
3,868	3,874	-0,006	503
3,816	3,805	0,011	244
3,693	3,691	0,002	522
3,636	3,633	0,003	514
3,518	3,519	-0,001	344
3,475	3,477	-0,002	440
3,325	3,321	0,004	612
3,237	3,237	0,000	436
3,136	3,134	0,002	060

Table S3. Table of registered XRD reflections for N(Ph-OMe-3T-DCV-Et)₃

d obs, Å	d calc, Å	Difference, Å	hkl
27,917	28,43	-0,513	001
16,467	16,453	0,014	200
15,613	15,615	-0,002	110
14,060	14,215	-0,155	002
13,742	13,686	0,056	111
12,657	13,049	-0,392	102
9,361	9,329	0,032	310
7,099	7,108	-0,009	004
6,876	6,843	0,033	222
6,667	6,648	0,019	313
6,047	6,032	0,015	420
5,704	5,863	-0,159	413
5,337	5,343	-0,006	115
4,923	4,916	0,007	612
4,568	5,578	-1,010	016
4,087	4,069	0,018	341
3,750	3,758	-0,008	516
3,615	3,609	0,006	443
3,541	3,528	0,013	526

Table S4. Table of registered SAXS reflections for N(Ph-OMe-3T-DCV-Hex)₃

d obs, Å	d calc, Å	Difference, Å	hkl
31,205	31,205	0,000	010
27,722	27,722	0,000	001
17,677	17,677	0,000	111
17,041	16,932	0,109	200
15,580	15,603	-0,023	020
14,180	14,171	0,009	120
13,764	13,861	-0,097	002
11,326	11,288	0,038	300
10,291	10,362	-0,071	022
6,940	6,931	0,009	004
6,361	6,334	0,027	024
6,130	6,121	0,009	413
5,674	5,644	0,030	600
5,529	5,531	-0,002	601
5,045	5,054	-0,009	424
4,839	4,869	-0,030	062
4,393	4,43	-0,037	026
3,732	3,733	-0,001	464
3,656	3,655	0,001	381
3,574	3,575	-0,001	606
3,469	3,486	-0,017	626

3. Photovoltaic data

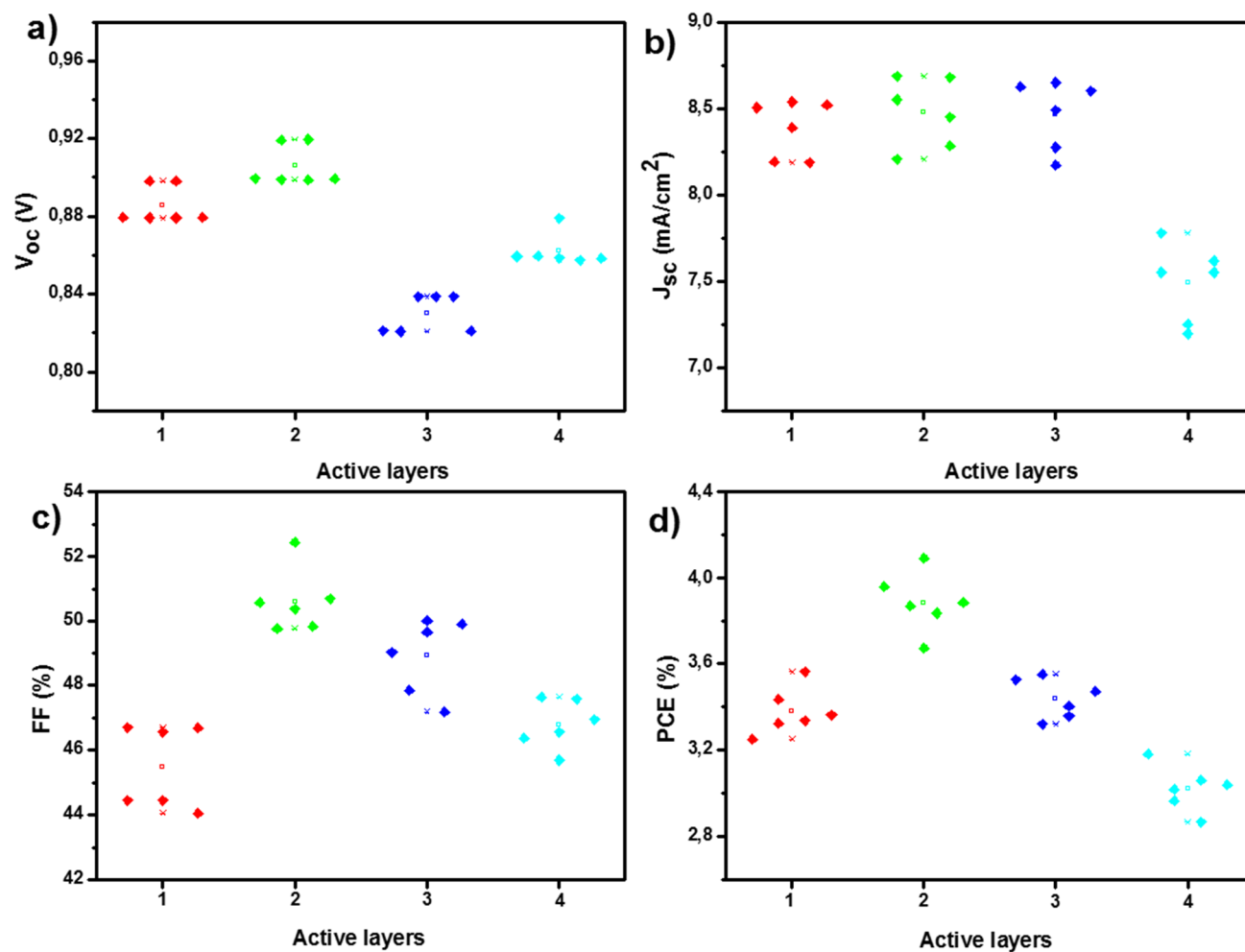


Figure S40. The ranges of (a) V_{oc} , (b) J_{sc} , (c) fill factor and (d) PCE from six devices for OSCs based on oligomers:PC₇₀BM active layer, namely, **N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV)₃:PC₇₀BM = 1:2.5 (1)**, **N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃:PC₇₀BM = 1:2 (2)**; **N(Ph-OMe-3T-DCV-Et)₃:PC₇₀BM = 1:2 (3)**; **N(Ph-OMe-2T-DCV-Me)₃:PC₇₀BM = 1:2.5 (4)**.

ⁱ Sobolev et al. Acta Cryst. 1985, C41, 967-971

ⁱⁱ C.Soulie, P.Bassoul, J.Simon // New J.Chem., 1993, 17, 787

(iii) (a) HyperChem 7, Hypercube, Inc. Publication HC70-00-01-00, 2002. (b) TURBOMOLE: COSMOlogic GmbH and Co. KG, ImbacherWeg 46, 51379 Leverkusen, Germany. (c) Brabec et al. J. Phys. Chem. B, 2016, DOI: 10.1021/acs.jpcb.6b00787.