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for

Twisted terrylene dyes: synthesis and application in organic solar

cells

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Table of contents

1. Materials and Methods	
2. Synthesis and Characterization of TDI2 and BTDI3	
3. OPV Device Fabrication and Characterization	S6
4. References	
5. ¹ H NMR, ¹³ C NMR and HRMS Spectra	

1. Materials and Methods

Materials. All chemicals and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification unless otherwise specified.

Characterizations of compounds. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained in deuterated solvents on a Bruker ADVANCE 400 NMR or a Bruker ADVANCE 500 NMR Spectrometer. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm using the residual protonated solvent as an internal standard. The signals have been named as follows: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplets) and br (broad). High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were determined on IonSpec 4.7 Tesla Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometer.

Optical characterizations. UV-vis absorption spectra were measured with Hitachi (Model U-3010) UV-vis spectrophotometer in a 1 cm quartz cell.

Electrochemical characterizations. Cyclic voltammograms (CVs) were recorded on a Zahner IM6e electrochemical workstation, with glassy carbon discs as the working electrode, Pt wire as the counter electrode, Ag/AgCl electrode as the reference electrode at a scanning rate of 100 mV/s. 0.1 M tetrabutylammoniumhexafluorophosphate (Bu₄NPF₆) dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ or CH₃CN (HPLC grade) was used as the supporting electrolyte, which was calibrated by the redox couple of ferrocene/ferroncenium (Fc/Fc⁺).

Thermal characterizations. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was measured on a PE TGA-7 instrument with a dry nitrogen flow. Temperature was programmed from room temperature and ramped at 10 °C/min to 550 °C. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) analyses were measured on TA DSC 2010 instrument under a dry nitrogen flow, heating from 0 °C to 330 °C and cooling from 330 °C to 0 °C at a rate of 10 °C min⁻¹.

Morphological characterizations. Atomic force microscopy (AFM) measurements were carried out with a Nanoscope IIIa instrument (Digital Instruments).

Carrier mobility measurements. Carrier mobility was determined by space charge limit current (SCLC) method. The hole and electron mobility were measured with the device structure of ITO/PEDOT:PSS/PBDT-TS1:acceptors/Au and ITO/ZnO/PBDT-TS1:acceptors/Al, respectively. The mobility was described by the equation:

$$J = 9\varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r \mu_e V^2 / 8L^3,$$

$$J \cong (\frac{9}{8})\varepsilon_r \varepsilon_0 \mu_h V^2 exp(0.89 \sqrt{\frac{V}{E_0 L}}) / L^3$$

where J is the current density, L is the film thickness of the active layer, $\mu_{\rm h}$ is the hole mobility, $\mu_{\rm e}$ is the electron mobility, $\varepsilon_{\rm r}$ is the relative dielectric constant of the transport medium, and ε_0 is the permittivity of free space. $V = V_{\rm app} - V_{\rm bi}$, where $V_{\rm app}$ is the applied voltage, $V_{\rm bi}$ is the offset voltage $(V_{\rm bi} \text{ is } 0.2 \text{ V here})$.^[1]

Grazing incidence wide angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) measurements. GIWAXS measurements were carried out in a Xenocs-SAXS/WAXS system with X-ray wavelength of 1.5418 Å. The samples were irradiated at a fixed angle of 0.2. The films were made on Si wafer substrates under the same preparation conditions for solar cells.

2. Synthesis and characterization of TDI2 and BTDI3

The starting material **TDI** was synthesized according to literature procedures.^[2]

N,*N*'-bis-(1-heptyloctyl)-1-bromoterrylene-3,4,11,12-tetracarboxdiimide (1): a solution of N,*N*'-bis-(1-heptyloctyl)-terrylene-3,4,11,12-tetracarboxdiimide (1 g, 1.07 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (200 mL) was cooled in ice-water bath. Then a diluted solution of bromine (5 mL) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added drop by drop over a period of 30 min. The reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for additional 30 min. Next, the excess of bromine was quenched with saturated sodium sulfite solution. The organic layer was separated, dried over MgSO₄, and purified by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether/CH₂Cl₂, 3:2 v/v) to give 1 as a blue solid (660 mg, 60.8%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₂CDCl₂, 373K): $\delta = 9.74-9.72$ (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 8.90 (s, 1H), 8.65-8.61 (m, 3H), 8.59-8.58 (m, 2H), 8.55-8.52 (m, 3H), 8.50-8.48 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 5.19-5.17 (m, 2H), 2.27-2.25 (m, 4H), 1.94-1.91 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.28 (m, 40H), 0.87-0.86 (m, 12H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₂CDCl₂): $\delta = 164.45$, 163.57, 162.56, 139.19, 138.55, 135.06, 134.73, 134.41, 134.03, 131.46, 131.16, 130.82, 130.54, 129.67, 129.34, 128.96, 128.76, 128.09, 127.96, 127.51, 125.49, 123.78, 122.90, 122.45, 122.15, 121.96, 121.63, 121.44, 118.83, 54.94, 54.68, 32.43, 31.94, 29.68, 29.38, 29.37, 27.25, 27.18, 22.76, 14.28; HRMS (MALDI, 100%): calcd (%) for C₆₄H₇₃BrN₂O₄: 1012.4759; found, 1012.4759.

TDI2: compound **1** (400 mg, 0.394 mmol), zinc powder (128 mg, 1.97 mmol) and tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium(0) (36 mg, 0.039 mmol) were added into a two necked flask under an argon atmosphere. Then anhydrous N,N-Dimethylformamide (10 mL) was added by injection. The mixture was heated to 60 °C with vigorous stirring for 1 h. After cooling down, the mixture was poured into 2 M hydrochloric acid solution, and the precipitate was collected by vacuum filtration, washed with water, dried, and purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether /CH₂Cl₂, 1:1 v/v) to afford **TDI2** as a dark blue solid (191 mg, 51.9%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₂CDCl₂, 373 K): δ = 8.77-8.75 (d, *J* = 8.15 Hz, 2H), 8.68-8.65 (m, 4H), 8.57-8.51 (m, 6H), 8.46-8.45 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 8.42 (s, 2H), 8.39-8.38 (d, *J* = 8.15 Hz, 2H), 8.20-8.18 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.07-8.05 (d, *J* = 8.65 Hz, 2H), 5.18-5.08 (m, 4H), 2.26-2.14 (m, 8H), 1.92-1.81 (m, 8H), 1.36-1.19 (m, 80H), 0.85-0.77 (m, 24H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, 2H), 8.12 MHz, 8.13 MHz, 8.13 MHz, 8.14 MHz, 8.14

CDCl₂CDCl₂, 373 K): δ = 164.09, 163.73, 140.43, 135.79, 135.33, 135.05, 133.86, 131.38, 130.93, 130.73, 129.88, 129.63, 129.05, 128.67, 128.45, 125.95, 124.49, 124.26, 123.53, 122.56, 122.25, 121.60, 54.91, 54.78, 32.57, 32.48, 31.72, 31.67, 29.45, 29.39, 29.36, 29.08, 29.02, 27.02, 26.95, 22.46, 22.41, 13.85; HRMS (MALDI, 100%): calcd (%) for C₁₂₈H₁₄₆N₄O₈: 1867.1146; found, 1867.1143.

BTDI3: a Schlenk flash was charged with compound **1** (300 mg, 0.296 mmol), 1,3,5benzenetriboronic acid tris(pinacol) ester (42 mg, 0.092 mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (21 mg, 0.018 mmol) under argon. Then tetrahydrofuran (8 mL) and 2 M anhydrous potassium carbonate solution (4 mL) was adding by injection, and the reaction mixture was heated to 90 °C for 12 h. After cooling down and removal of the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether /CH₂Cl₂, 1:1 v/v) to yield blue solid **BTDI3** (180 mg, 68.2%).

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₂CDCl₂, 373 K): $\delta = 8.71-8.53$ (m, 33H), 8.02 (s, 3H), 5.15 (br, 3H), 4.97 (br, 3H), 2.22 (br, 8H), 1.90 (br, 12H), 1.67 (br, 8H), 1.28-1.16 (m, 116H), 0.86-0.80 (m, 36H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₂CDCl₂, 373 K): $\delta = 164.13$, 147.72, 137.93, 135.83, 135.61, 135.45, 135.24, 133.52, 131.65, 131.51, 130.96, 130.22, 129.77, 129.30, 128.94, 128.88, 127.81, 126.20, 124.39, 124.26, 122.75, 122.14, 121.62, 54.71, 32.60, 32.43, 31.76, 31.70, 29.49, 29.37, 29.09, 29.04, 27.05, 26.90, 22.48, 22.45, 13.87; HRMS (MALDI, 100%): calcd (%) for C₁₉₈H₂₂₂N₆O₁₂: 2875.6951; found, 2875.6991.



Fig. S1 The TGA plots of the three molecules.



Fig. S2 The DSC plots of the three molecules.

Compounds	λ_{max}^{sol}	arepsilon [M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹] ^a	λ_{max}^{film}	$\Delta E^{\text{opt}}(ext{sol.})$ [eV] ^c	$\Delta E^{ m opt}({ m film.})$ [eV] ^d
	$[nm]^a$		$[nm]^b$		
TDI	652	165300	669	1.82	1.69
TDI2	624	120400	632	1.65	1.55
BTDI3	658	249500	669	1.76	1.68

Table S1 The photophysical properties of TDI, TDI2 and BTDI3

 a Measured in dilute CHCl_3 solution (1.0 \times 10 5 M). b Measured in spin-coating film from CHCl_3 solution.

^{cd} Calculated by the onset of absorption in CHCl₃ solution and in films according to E_g (eV) = (1240/ λ_{onset}).



Fig. S3 UV-vis absorption spectra of (a) neat TDI, TDI2, BTDI3 films, (b) neat TDI, TDI2, BTDI3 and PBDT-TS1 films and (c) blend films.

	E_{1r}	E_{2r}	E_{10}	E_{20}	HOMO/LUMO	$\Delta E^{\rm ev}$	HOMO/LUMO	$\Delta E^{\rm cv}$
	$[V]^a$	$[V]^a$	$[V]^a$	$[V]^a$	$(sol.)[eV]^a$	(sol.)	(film)[eV] ^b	(film)
						$[eV]^a$		$[eV]^b$
TDI	-1.12	_	0.71	_	-5.49/-3.89	1.60	-5.55/-3.79	1.76
TDI2	-1.00	-1.19	0.70	0.78	-5.50/-3.99	1.51	-5.67/-3.94	1.73
BTDI3	-1.01		0.71		-5.54/-3.86	1.68	-5.71/-3.88	1.83

Table S2 Electrochemical properties of TDI, TDI2 and BTDI3

^{*a*} In CH₂Cl₂ solution vs. Fc/Fc⁺, LUMO (eV) estimated by the onset of the reduction peaks and calculated according to $E_{\text{LUMO}} = -(4.8 + E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{re}})$ eV, HOMO (eV) calculated according to $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -(4.8 + E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{ox}})$ eV. ^{*b*} in film vs. Fc/Fc⁺, LUMO (eV) estimated by the onset of the reduction peaks and calculated according to $E_{\text{LUMO}} = -(4.8 + E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{re}})$ eV, HOMO (eV) calculated according to $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -(4.8 + E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{ox}})$ eV.





Fig. S4 Cyclic voltammograms of the three molecules in films.

Fig. S5 Optimized geometries, HOMO and LUMO of **TDI**, **TDI2** and **BTDI3** by DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level.^[3]

3. OPV Device Fabrication and Characterization

The ZnO solution, which was used to make the cathode buffer layers, was synthesized according to the previous literature.^[4] ITO(15 Ω /sq) was cleaned ultrasonically with detergent, deionized (DI) water, acetone and isopropanol, respectively. The dried ITO-glass was treated with UV-ozone for 20 minutes and then it was spin-coated the ZnO solution on the surface using 4000 rpm for 30 seconds. Then the PBDT-TS1:acceptor blend solution was spin-coated on the ZnO layer to get a film about 85 nm thickness. Finally, MoO₃ and Al layers were evaporated on the top of the active layer. The device area, the overlap section between the ITO and Al electrodes, was about 4 mm².



Fig. S6 (a) the chemical structure of PBDT-TS1 and (b) the energy levels of PBDT-TS1, TDI, TDI2 and BTDI3.

Table S3 The detailed photovoltaic values of devices based on PBDT-TS1:acceptors tested under illumination of AM 1.5 G (100 mW cm⁻²)

Blends	Ratio	$V_{\rm OC}$ [V]	$J_{\rm SC}$ [mA cm ⁻²]	FF	PCE [%]
	1.5:1	0.64	7.08	0.40	1.80
PBDT-TS1:TDI2	1:1	0.66	9.00	0.47	2.79
	1:1.5	0.66	7.03	0.45	2.18
	1.5:1	0.70	9.07	0.39	2.49
PBDT-TS1:BTDI3	1:1	0.73	10.77	0.46	3.64
	1:1.5	0.70	10.42	0.39	2.10



Fig. S7 J-V curves of PBDT-TS1: acceptors solar cells by different ratios (w/w).

Blends	$V_{\rm OC}$ [V]	$J_{\rm SC}$ [mA cm ⁻²]	FF	PCE [%]
	0.80	8.22	0.41	2.70
	0.79	8.21	0.41	2.66
	0.79	8.16	0.41	2.67
PBDT-TS1: TDI	0.80	8.22	0.42	2.73
1:1	0.79	8.10	0.41	2.60
	0.80	8.29	0.40	2.67
	0.79	8.17	0.40	2.60
	0.79	8.18	0.41	2.64
	0.66	9.00	0.47	2.79
	0.66	8.86	0.46	2.67
	0.66	8.30	0.49	2.68
PBDT-TS1:TDI2	0.66	8.51	0.49	2.72
1:1	0.66	8.51	0.49	2.73
	0.66	8.16	0.50	2.69
	0.66	8.24	0.50	2.69
	0.66	8.28	0.49	2.69
	0.72	10.64	0.46	3.55
PBDT- TS1: BTDI3 1:1	0.72	10.82	0.45	3.49
	0.72	10.84	0.46	3.55
	0.72	10.70	0.46	3.54
	0.73	10.77	0.46	3.64
	0.72	10.90	0.46	3.64
	0.72	10.88	0.46	3.64
	0.73	10.58	0.46	3.57

Table S4 The detailed photovoltaic values of devices based on PBDT-TS1: acceptors tested under illumination of AM 1.5 G (100 mW cm⁻²)



Fig. S8 EQE curves of PBDT-TS1:acceptors based OSCs and UV-vis spectra of blend film.





Fig. S9 (a) Plots of $J \sim V$ (b) plots of $\ln(Jd^3/V^2)$ vs $(V/d)^{0.5}$ obtained from the hole-only devices and (c) plots of $J \sim V$ (d) plots of $\ln J$ vs $\ln V$ obtained from the electron-only devices for PBDT-TS1:**TDI**. (e) Plots of $J \sim V$ (f) plots of $\ln(Jd^3/V^2)$ vs $(V/d)^{0.5}$ obtained from the hole-only devices and (g) plots of $J \sim V$ (h) plots of $\ln J$ vs $\ln V$ obtained from the electron-only devices for PBDT-TS1:**TDI2**. (i) Plots of $J \sim V$ (j) plots of $\ln(Jd^3/V^2)$ vs $(V/d)^{0.5}$ obtained from the hole-only devices and (k) plots of $J \sim V$ (l) plots of $\ln J$ vs $\ln V$ obtained from the electron-only devices for PBDT-TS1:**TDI2**. (i) Plots of $\ln J \sim V$ (j) plots of $\ln(Jd^3/V^2)$ vs $(V/d)^{0.5}$ obtained from the hole-only devices and (k) plots of $J \sim V$ (l) plots of $\ln J$ vs $\ln V$ obtained from the electron-only devices for PBDT-

TS1:BTDI3.

Table S5 Charge tr	ansport parameters of	f the SCLC devices	of PDBT-TS1:acce	ptors blend
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Blend	$\mu_{\rm h} [{\rm cm}^{-2} {\rm v}^{-1} {\rm s}^{-1}] ({\rm thickness} [{\rm nm}])$	$\mu_{\rm e} [{\rm cm}^{-2}{\rm v}^{-1}{\rm s}^{-1}]$ (thickness [nm])
	$6.25 imes 10^{-5}$ (195)	$8.00 imes 10^{-7} (177)$
PBDT-TS1:TDI	$5.33 imes 10^{-5} (170)$	$8.13 imes 10^{-8}$ (150)
	$3.20 imes 10^{-5}$ (121)	$9.29 imes 10^{-8} (135)$
PBDT-TS1: TDI2	$1.06 imes 10^{-4}$ (231)	$1.04 imes 10^{-7} (245)$
	$8.19 imes 10^{-5}$ (185)	$3.51 \times 10^{-7} (170)$
	$4.03 imes 10^{-5}$ (125)	$7.55 imes 10^{-7} (133)$
DDDT	$6.64 imes 10^{-5}$ (235)	1.61×10^{-7} (225)
TS1:BTDI3	$3.40 imes 10^{-5}$ (165)	$1.59 imes 10^{-7}$ (160)
	$2.67 imes 10^{-5}$ (148)	$6.22 imes 10^{-7} (141)$



Fig. S10 Two-dimensional GIWAXS patterns of (a) optimal PBDT-TS1:**TDI** blend film, (b) optimal PBDT-TS1:**TDI2** blend film and (c) optimal PBDT-TS1:**BTDI3** blend film. (d) Out-of-plane and (e) in-plane line cuts from 2D GIWAXS patterns.

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 ^{13}C NMR spectrum of TDI2 in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)



¹H NMR spectrum of **TDI2** in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)



¹H-¹H Correlation Spectroscopy (¹H-¹H COSY) of **TDI2** in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)



Heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC) spectrum of **TDI2** in $CDCl_2 CDCl_2$ (373 K)



Nuclear Overhauser Effect Spectroscopy (NOESY) of TDI2 in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)



¹H NMR spectrum of **BTDI3** in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)



¹³C NMR spectrum of **BTDI3** in CDCl₂ CDCl₂ (373 K)





 13 C NMR spectrum of 1 in CDCl₂ CDCl₂







