

## Supporting Information

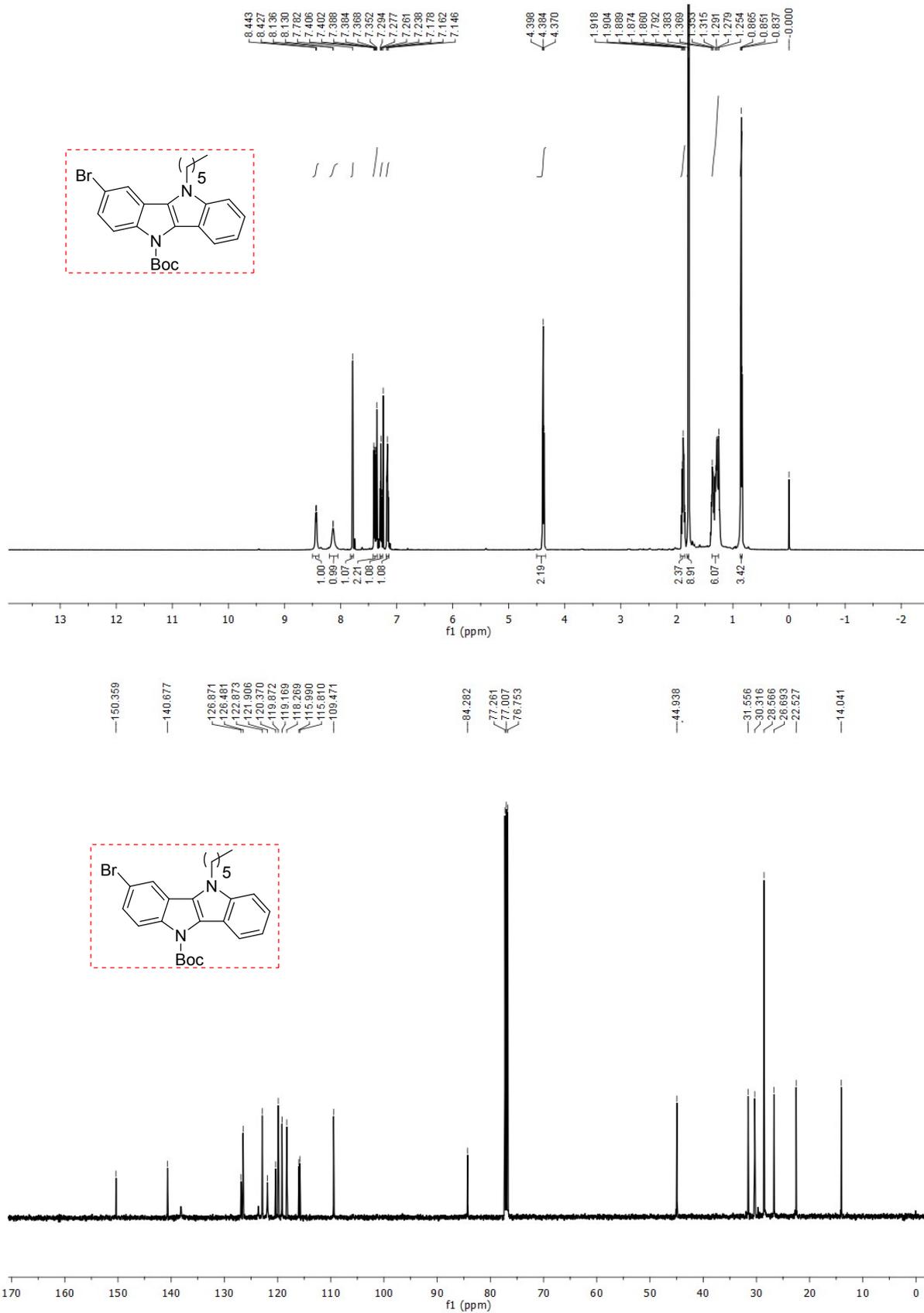
### **Indolo[3,2-b]indole donor based D- $\pi$ -A dyes for DSCs: Investigating the role of $\pi$ -spacers towards recombination**

P. V. Santhini,<sup>ac§</sup> Jayadev V,<sup>bc§</sup> Sourava C. Pradhan,<sup>bc</sup> Sivasankaran Lingamoorthy,<sup>bc</sup> Nitha P. R.,<sup>ac</sup> Chaithanya M. V.,<sup>a</sup> Rakesh K. Mishra,<sup>e</sup> Narayanan Unni K. N.,<sup>\*bcd</sup> Jubi John<sup>\*ac</sup> and Suraj Soman<sup>\*bcd</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Organic Chemistry Section, Chemical Sciences and Technology Division, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram 695019, India. <sup>b</sup>Photosciences and Photonics Section, Chemical Sciences and Technology Division, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram 695019, India. <sup>c</sup>Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), CSIR-NIIST Campus, Thiruvananthapuram 695019, India. <sup>d</sup>CSIR-Network of Institutes for Solar Energy (CSIR-NISE), India. <sup>e</sup>Department of Sciences & Humanities, NIT, Uttarakhand

E-mail: unni@niist.res.in; jubijohn@niist.res.in; suraj@niist.res.in;

§Both authors contributed equally to this work



**Fig. S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of **4**.

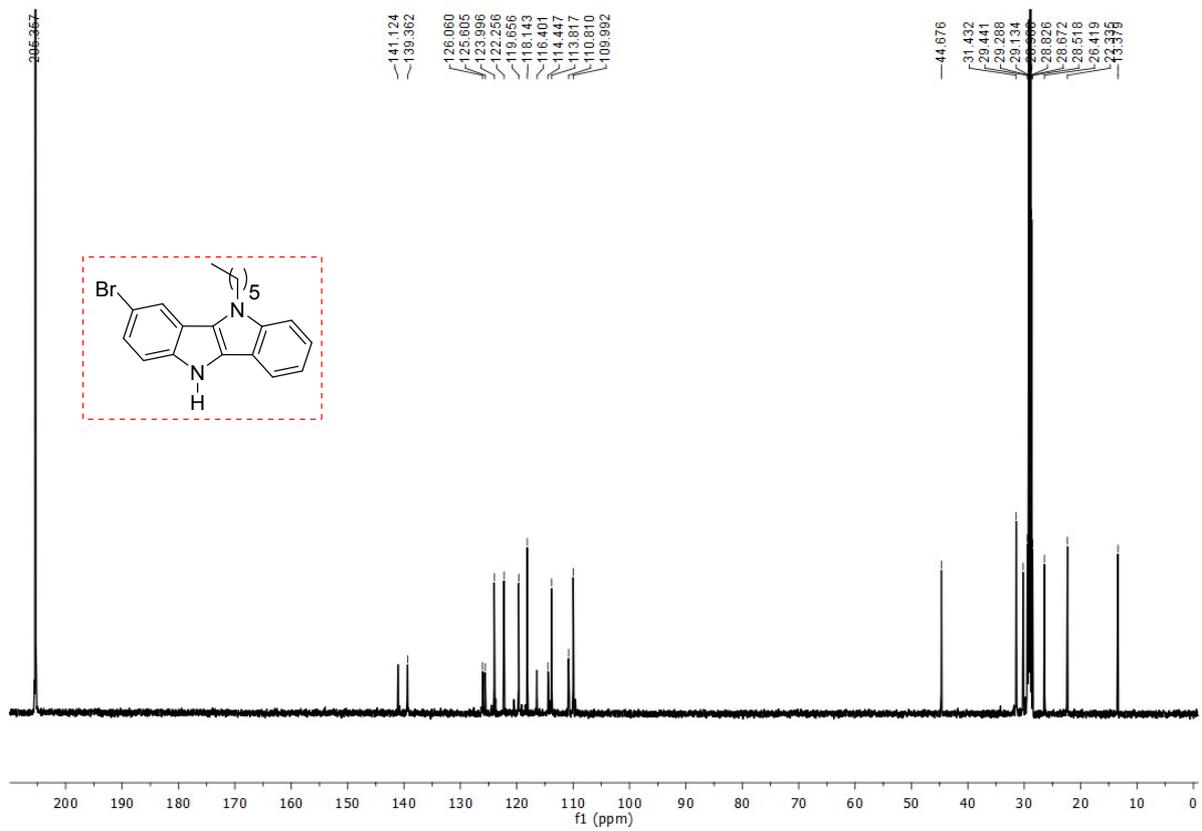
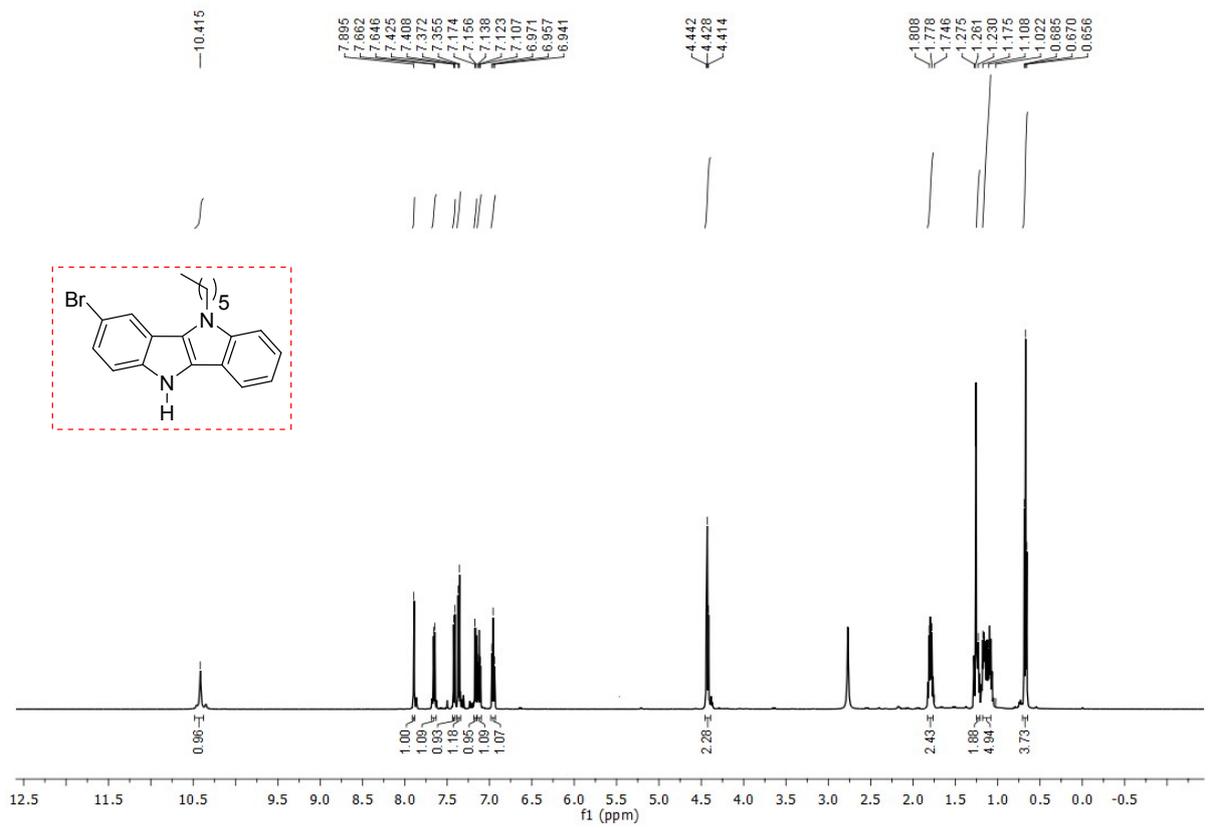
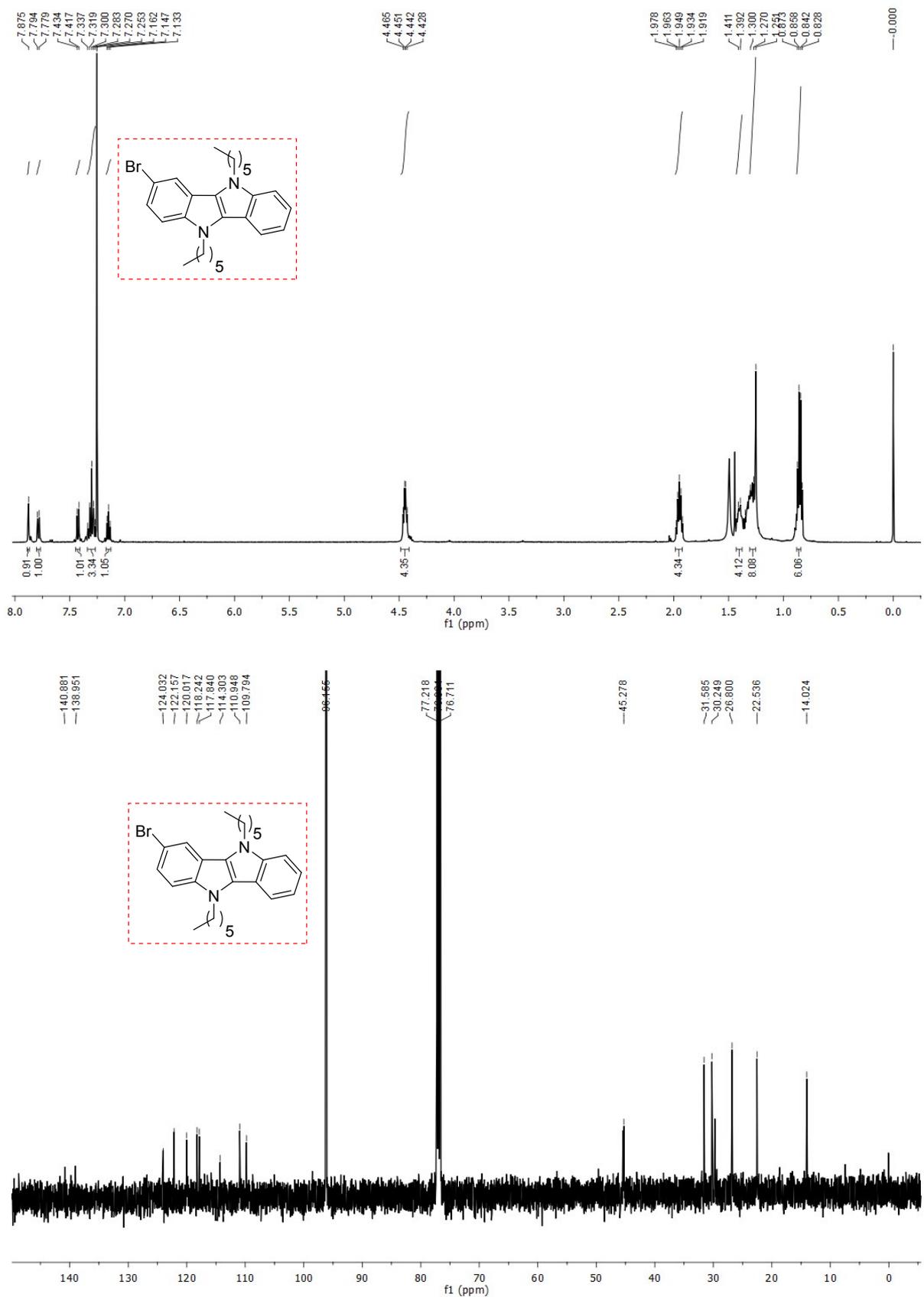


Fig. S2 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of **5**.



**Fig. S3** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of **6**.

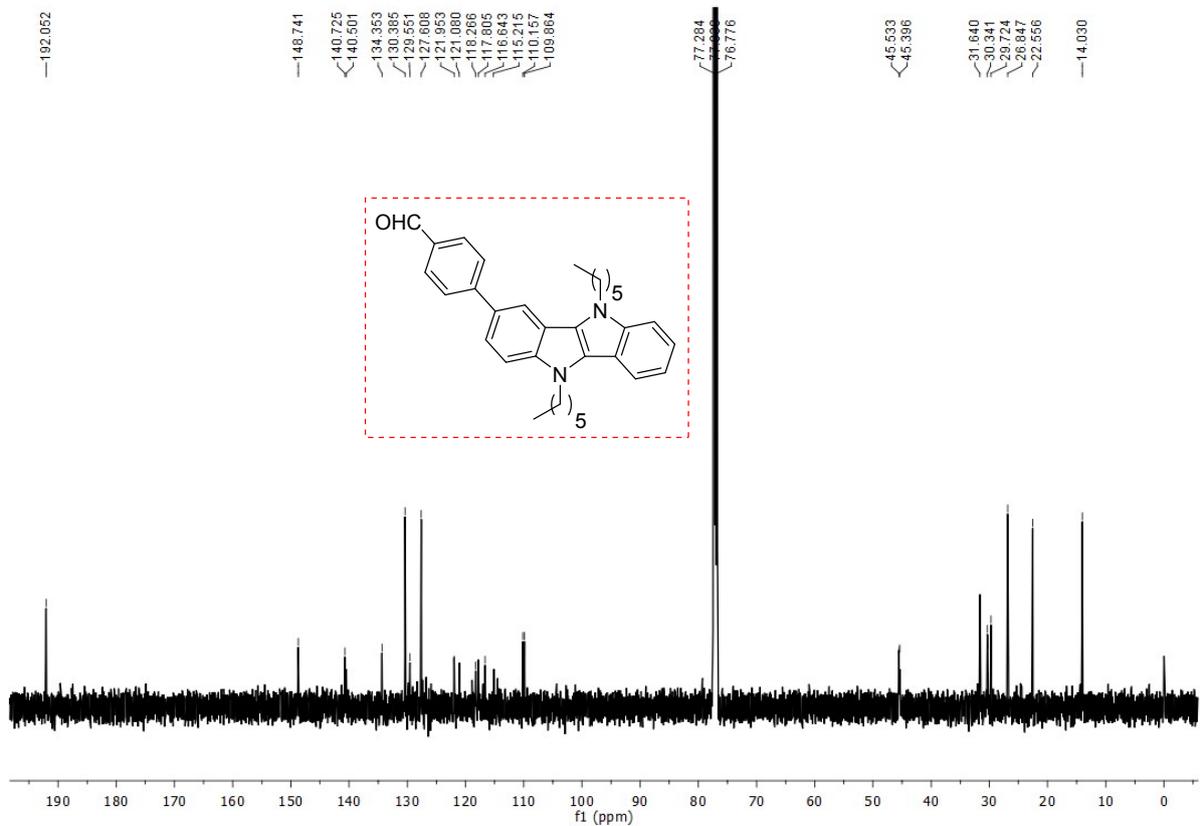
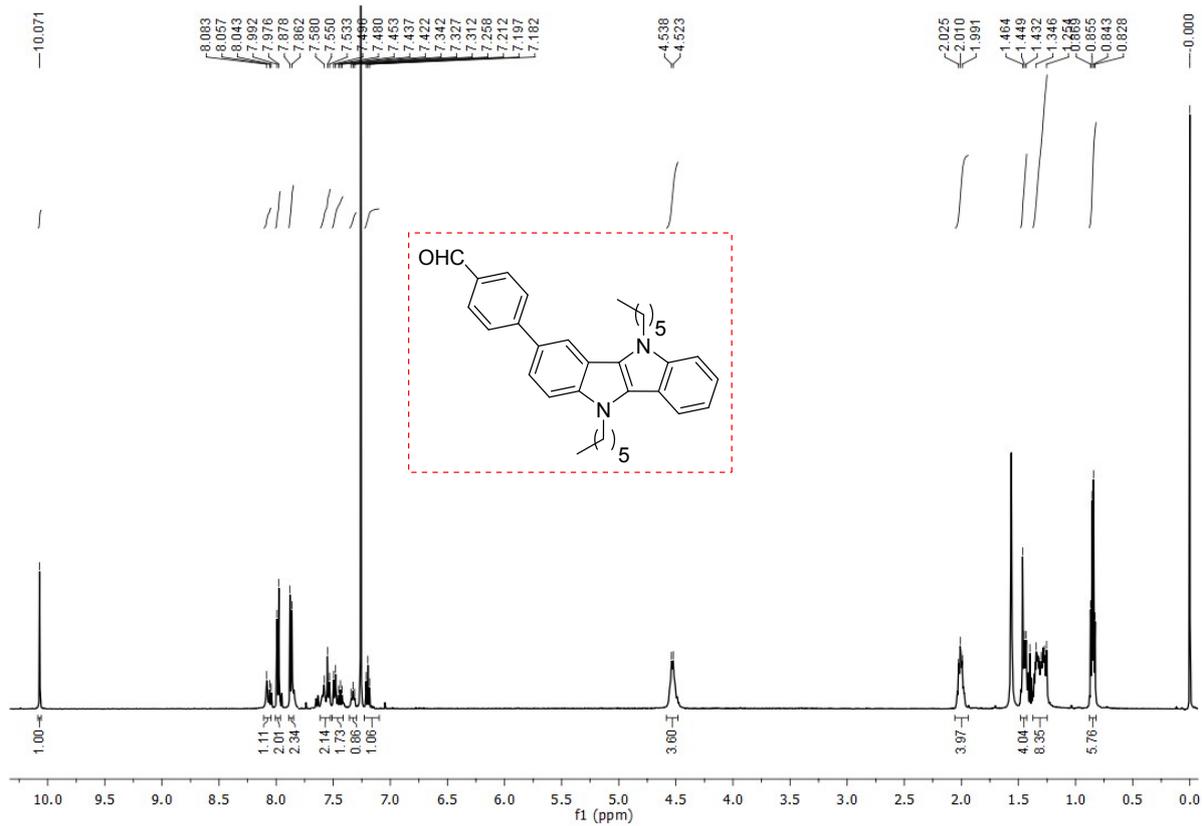
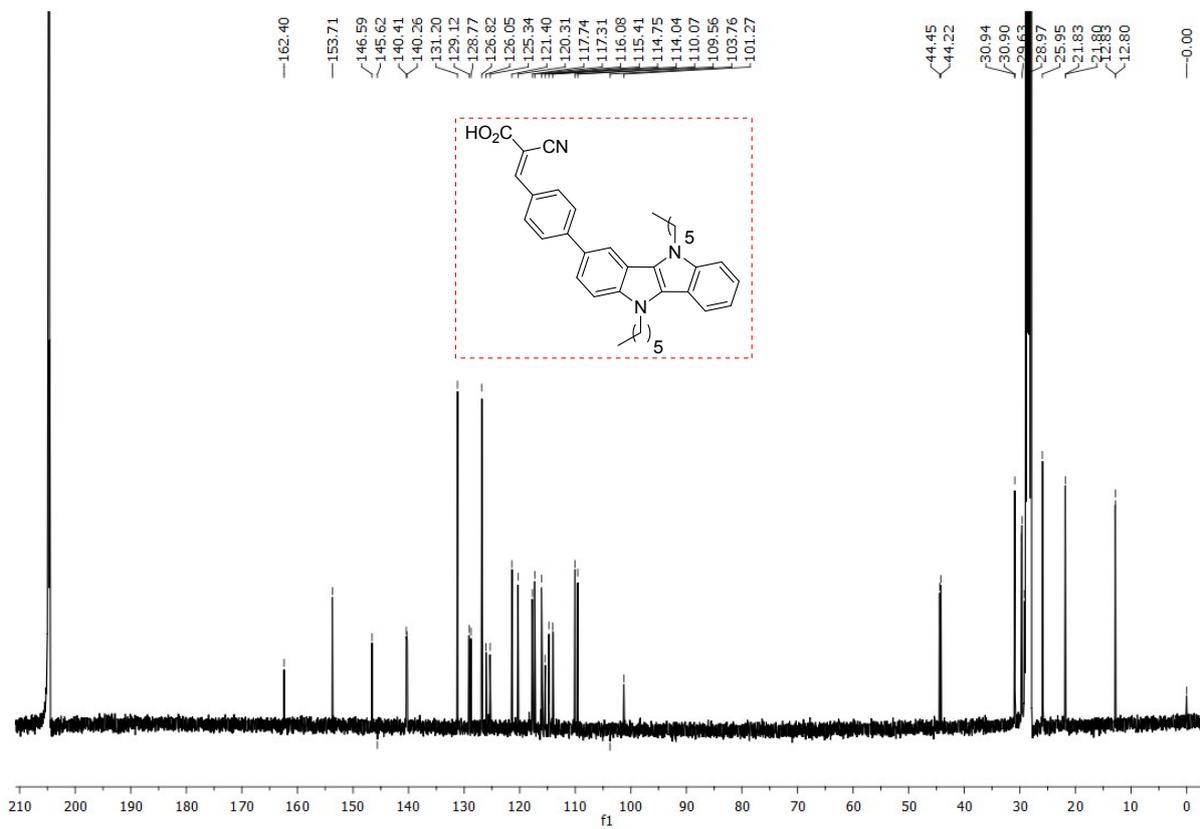
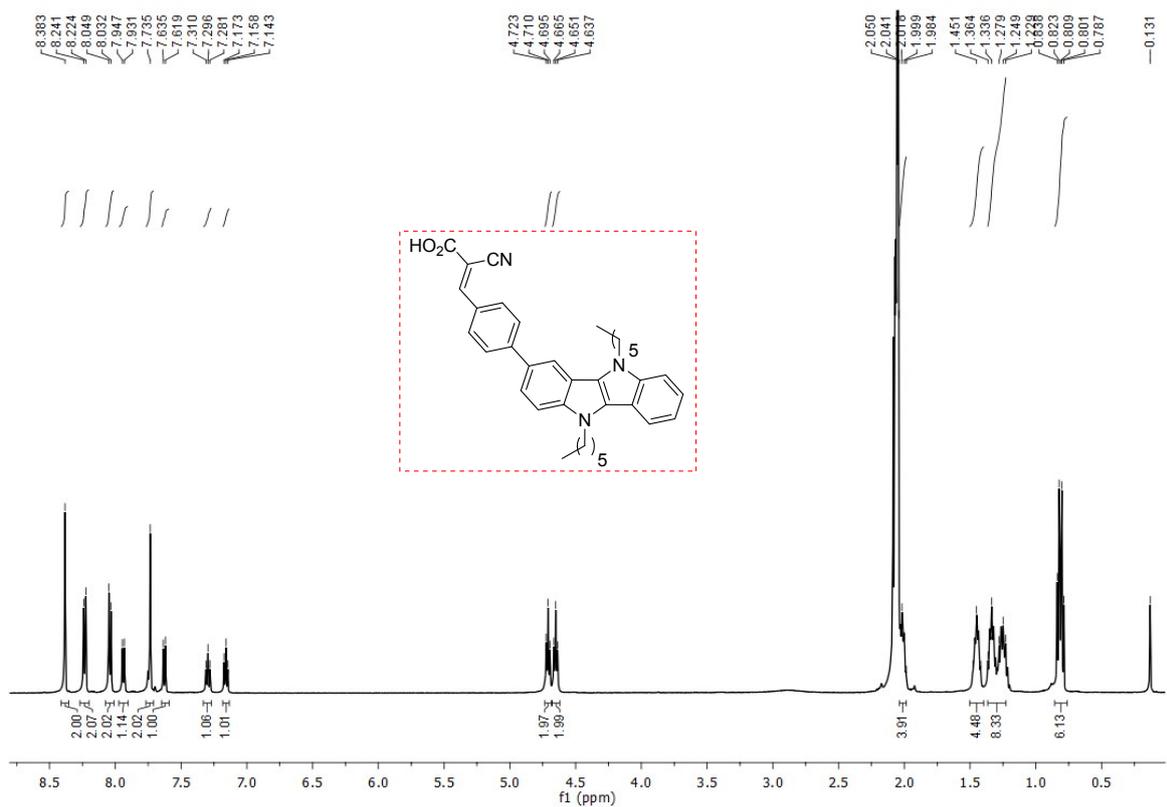


Fig. S4 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of 7.



**Fig. S5** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of IID-1.

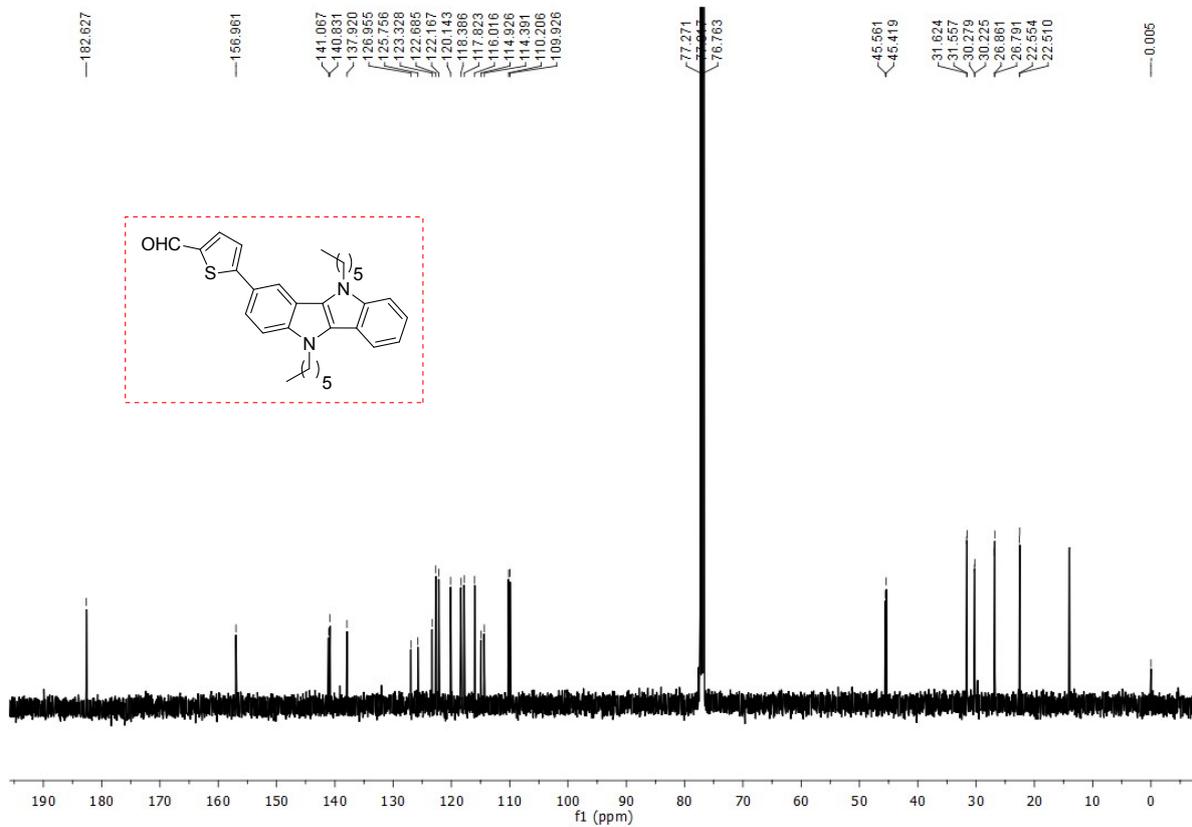
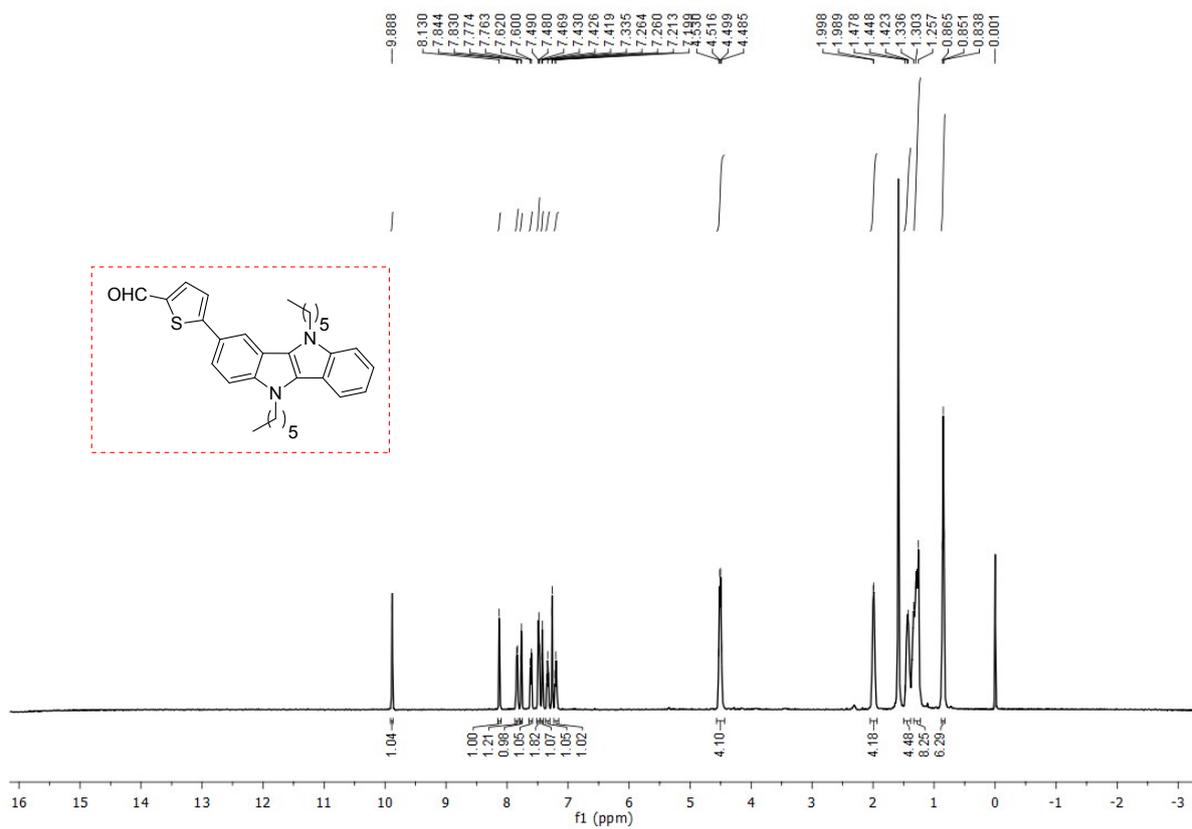
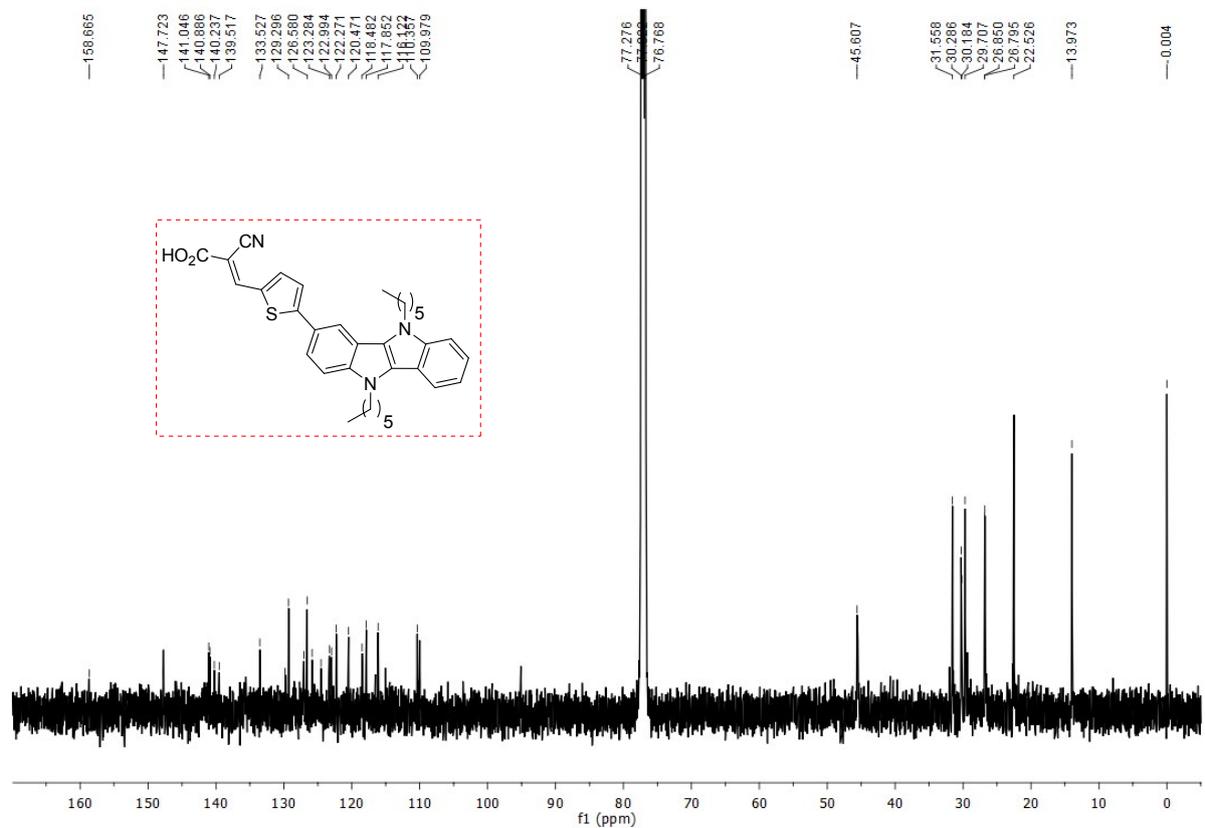
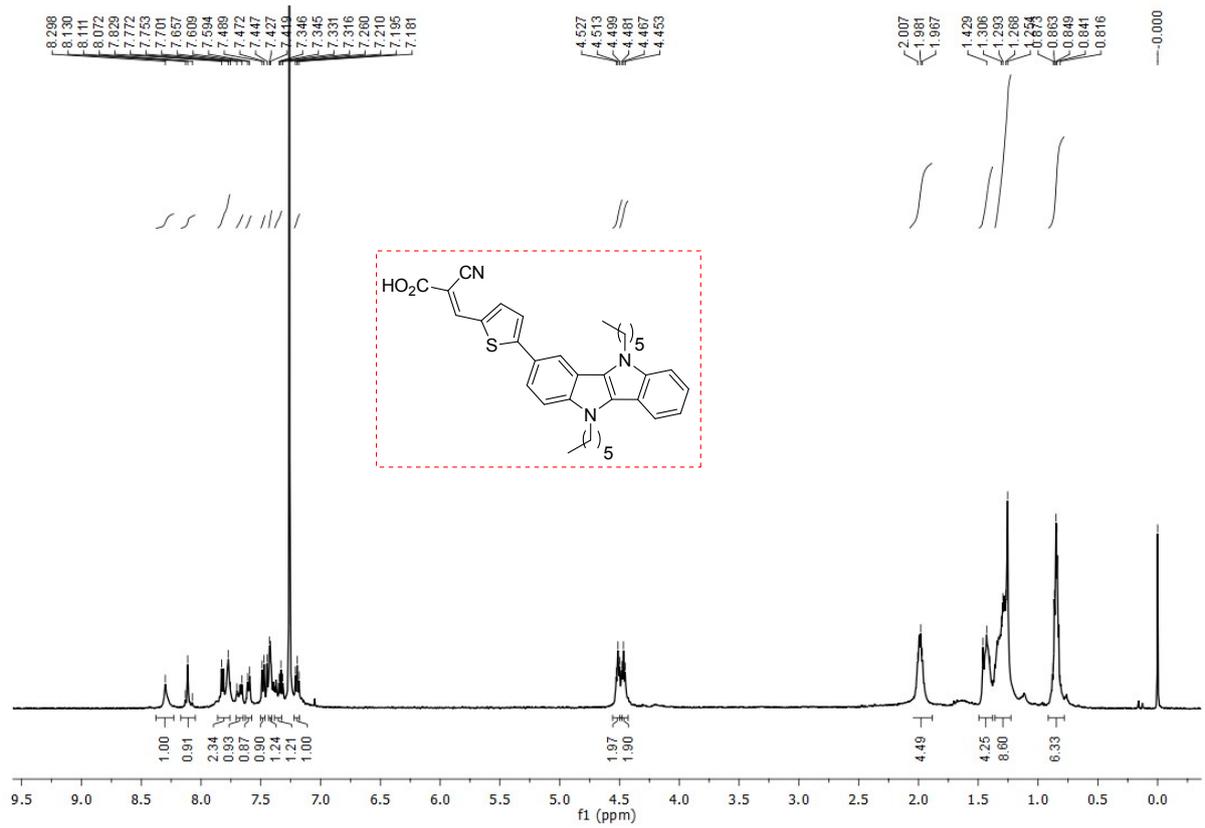


Fig. S6 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of 8.



**Fig. S7** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of IID-2.

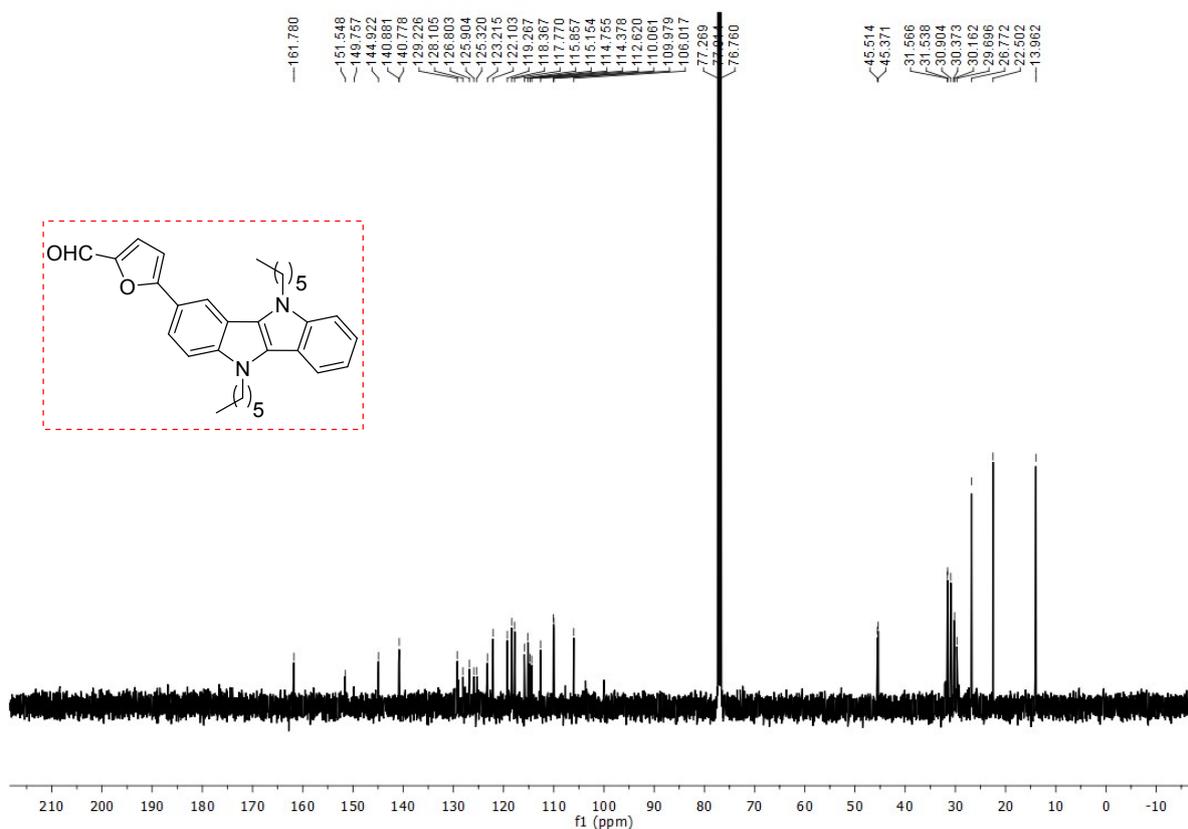
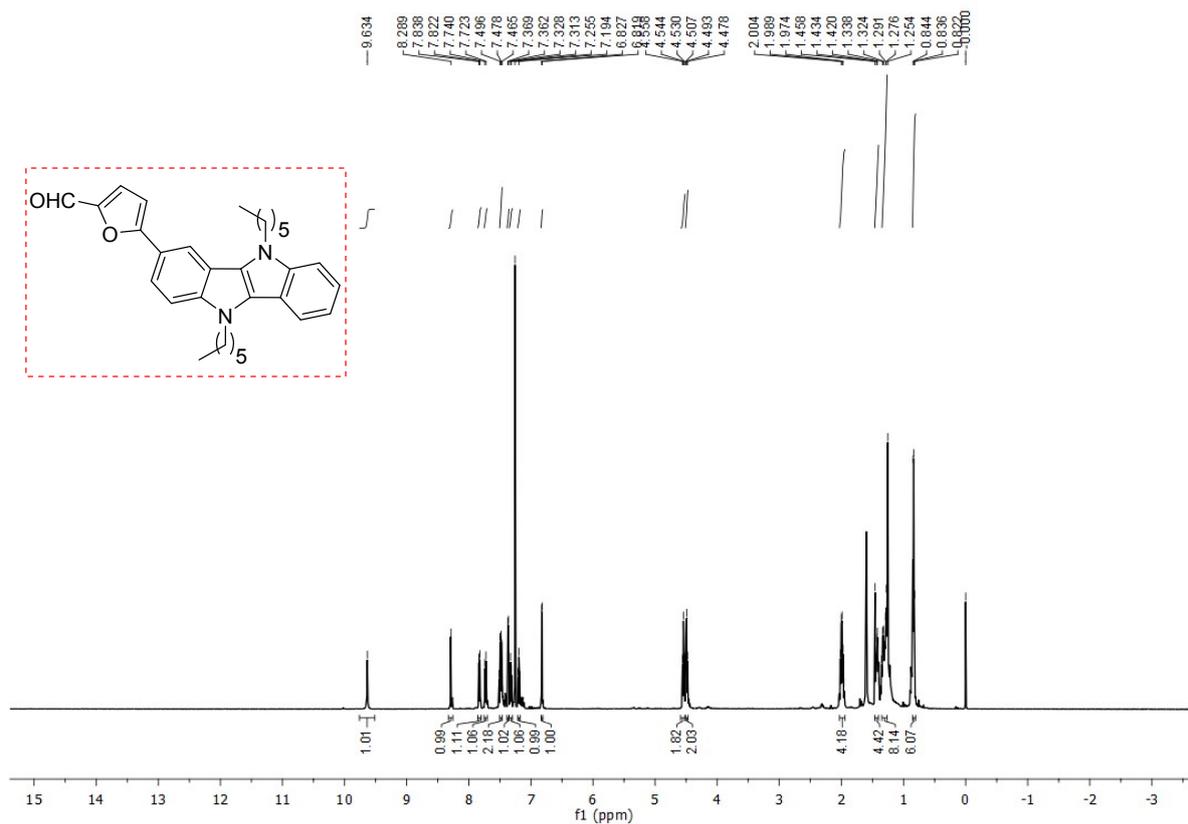


Fig. S8 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of 9.

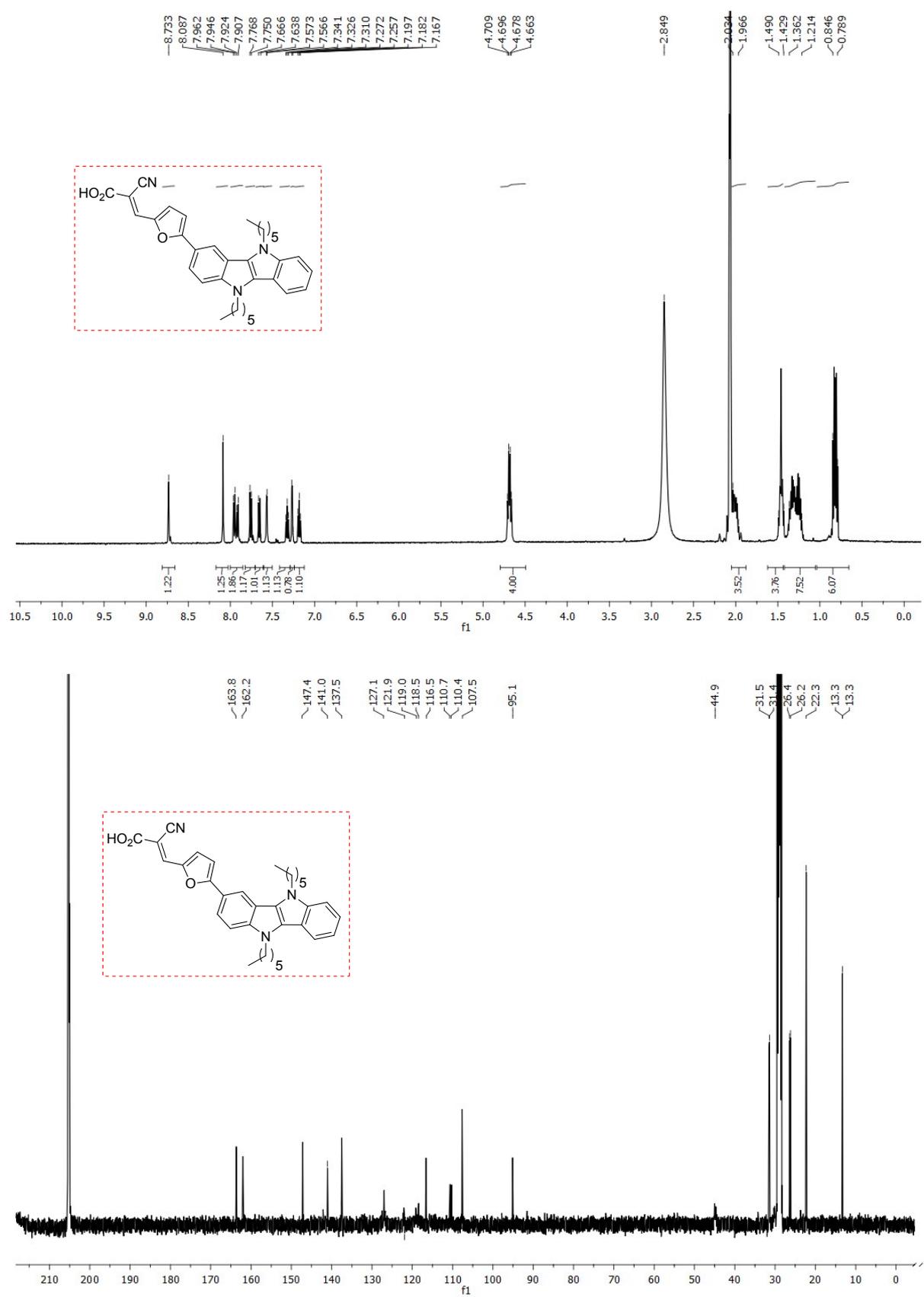


Fig. S9 <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz) & <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) Spectra of IID-3.

### Important Orbital Involved in Transitions:

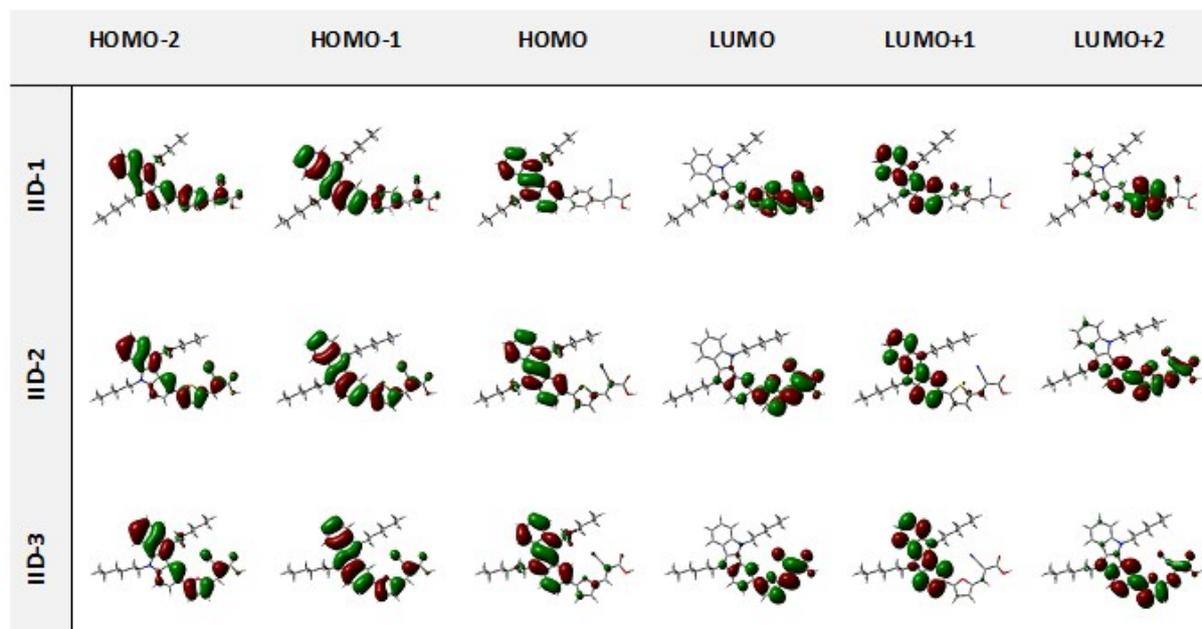
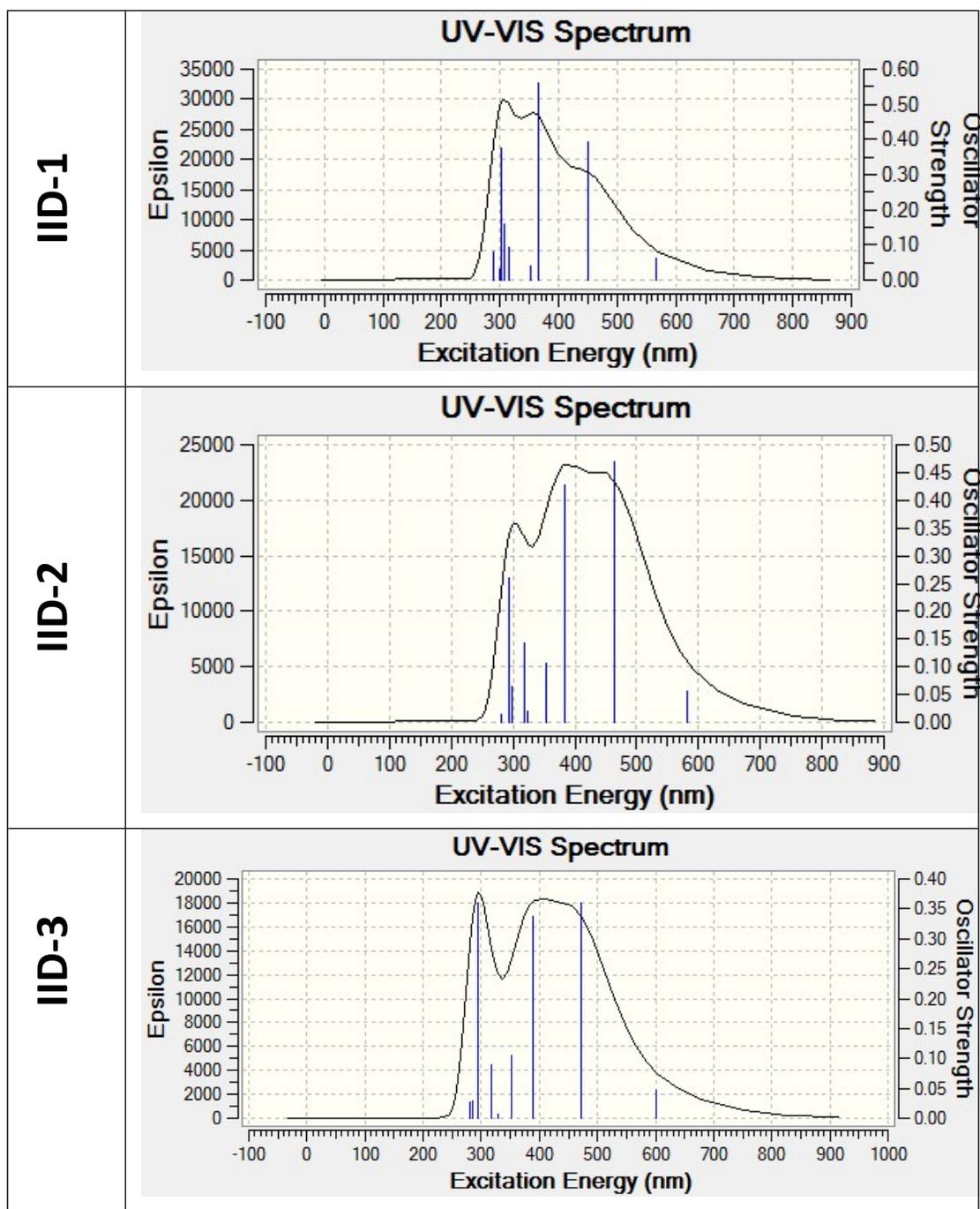
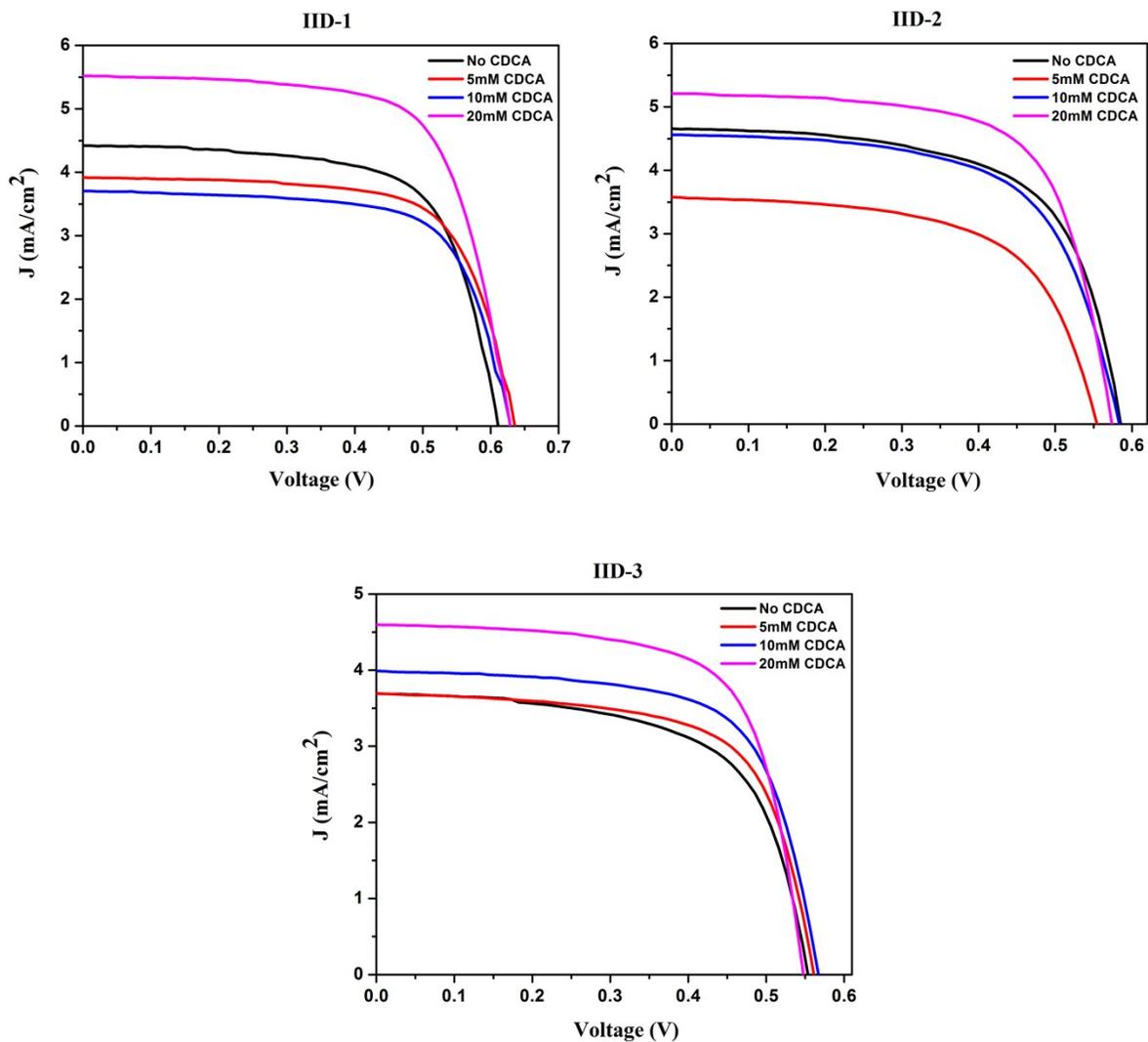


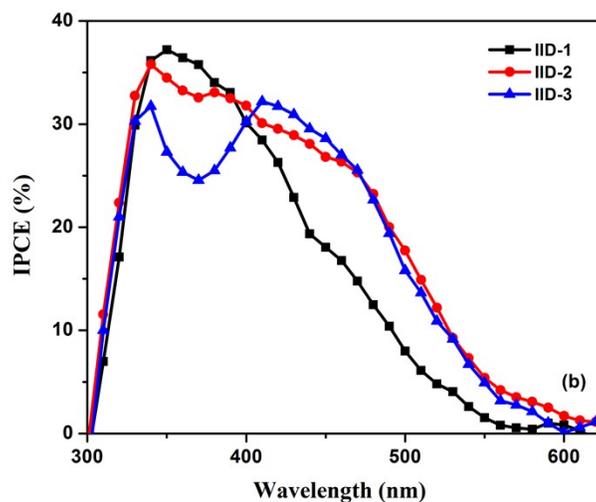
Fig. S10 Molecular orbital contributions for IID dyes obtained from TD-DFT analysis.



**Fig. S11** Simulated absorption spectra of IID dyes obtained from TD-DFT analysis.



**Fig. S12**  $J$ - $V$  characteristic curves for the CDCA optimization carried out for DSSCs fabricated using **IID-1**, **IID-2** and **IID-3** at full sun condition.



**Fig. S13** Spectra of incident photon-to-current conversion efficiency (IPCE) for DSCs based on **IID-1**, **IID-2**, and **IID-3**.

**Table S1** Solar Cell Characteristics of DSSCs for all three dyes (**IID-1**, **IID-2** and **IID-3**) without co-adsorbent (CDCA) and by varying the CDCA concentration.

<b>IID-1</b>	$J_{sc}$ ( $\text{mAcm}^{-2}$ )	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$FF$	<b>Efficiency</b> (%)
No CDCA	4.42	0.6	0.68	1.82
5 mM	3.92	0.64	0.68	1.72
10 mM	3.70	0.63	0.69	1.61
20 mM	5.51	0.62	0.69	2.38

<b>IID-2</b>	$J_{sc}$ (mAcm <sup>-2</sup> )	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$FF$	<b>Efficiency</b> (%)
No CDCA	4.66	0.58	0.63	1.72
5 mM	3.57	0.55	0.61	1.21
10 mM	4.57	0.58	0.63	1.67
20 mM	5.22	0.57	0.67	2.00

<b>IID-3</b>	$J_{sc}$ (mAcm <sup>-2</sup> )	$V_{oc}$ (V)	$FF$	<b>Efficiency</b> (%)
No CDCA	3.69	0.55	0.63	1.27
5 mM	3.69	0.56	0.66	1.37
10 mM	3.99	0.57	0.66	1.51
20 mM	4.60	0.54	0.69	1.71