

Supporting Information

Central Dicyanomethylene -Substituted Unsymmetrical

Squaraines and their application in Organic Solar Cells

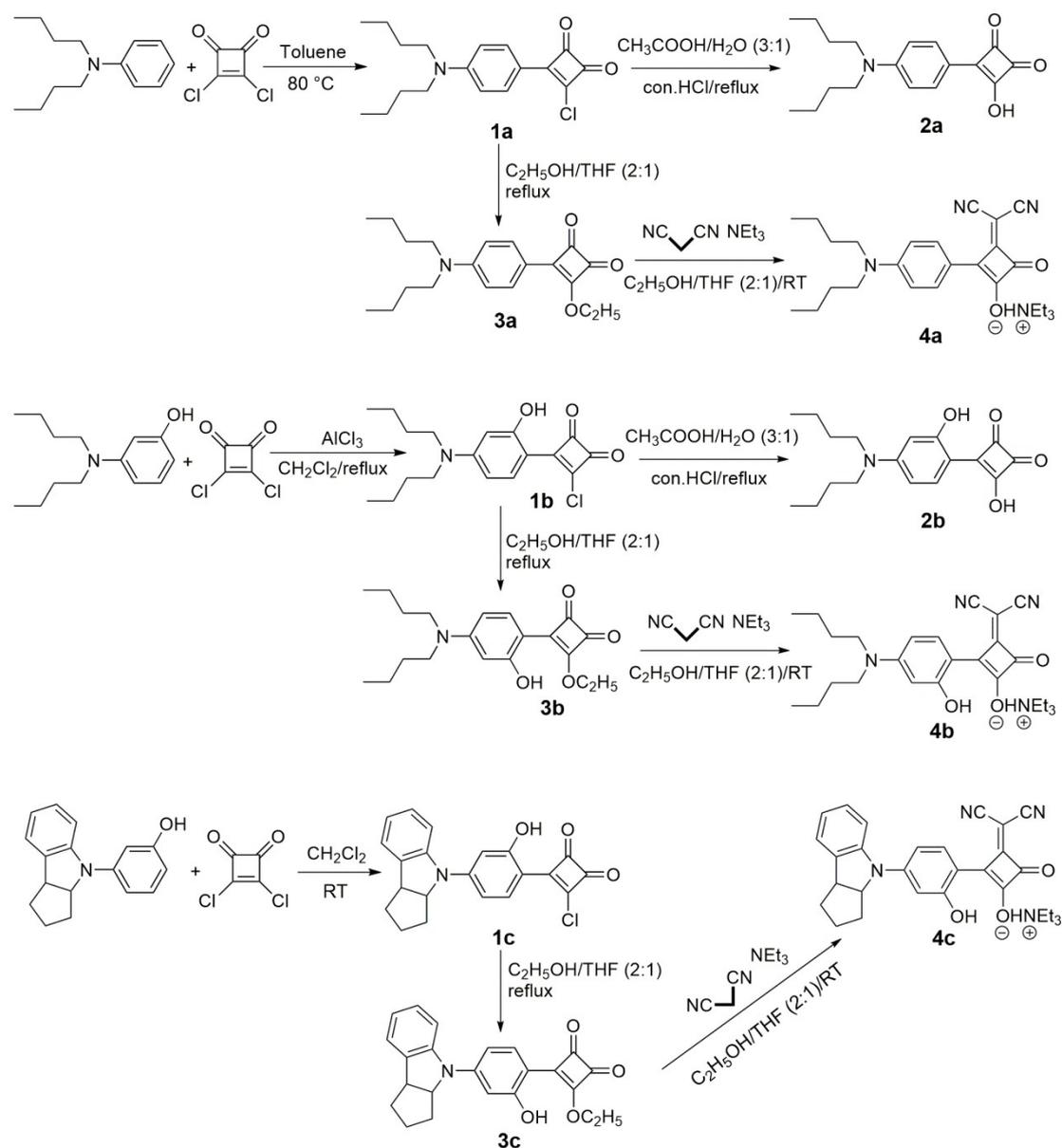
Jianglin Wu,^{a§} Daobin Yang,^{b§} Qingfen Wang,^a Lin Yang,^a Hisahiro Sasabe,^b Takeshi Sano,^{*b} Junji Kido,^b Zhiyun Lu,^a and Yan Huang^{*a}

^aKey Laboratory of Green Chemistry and Technology (Ministry of Education), College of Chemistry, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, P. R. China.

^bDepartment of Organic Materials Science, Research Center for Organic Electronics (ROEL), Frontier Center for Organic Materials (FROM), Yamagata University, Yonezawa 992-8510, Japan.

1. Synthesis

Scheme S1 Synthetic Routes to the intermediates.



3-chloro-4-(4-(dibutylamino)phenyl)cyclobutane-1,2-dione [**1a**]. A mixture of squaryl chloride (1.00 g, 6.62 mmol) and *N,N*-dibutylaniline (1.37 g, 6.67 mmol) in dried toluene (30 mL) was reacted for 5 h in 80 °C, then the reaction mixture was cooled and removal of the solvent. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (Petroleum ether/Dichloromethane = 3 : 1) to give **1a** (1.26 g, 59.7%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ : 8.15 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.75 (d, J = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.44 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4H, -CH₂), 1.69-1.61 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 1.46-1.37 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 1.03 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 6H, -CH₃).

3-(4-(dibutylamino)phenyl)-4-hydroxycyclobutane-1,2-dione [**2a**]. **1a** (1.26 g, 3.95 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture solvent of acetic acid (48 mL), concentrated hydrochloric acid (6.5 mL) and water (16 mL). This mixture was refluxed for 4 h under 120 °C, then cooled to room temperature. Water (200 mL) was added drop wise into the mixture, then the yellow precipitate **2a** (0.8 g, 67.2%) was obtained by filtration, washed with ether and dried. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, ppm) δ: 7.86 (s, 2H, ArH), 6.81 (s, 2H, ArH), 3.38 (s, 4H, -CH₂), 1.49 (s, 4H, -CH₂), 1.34-1.23 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 0.92 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6H, -CH₃).

3-(4-(dibutylamino)phenyl)-4-ethoxycyclobut-3-ene-1,2-dione [**3a**]. **1a** (3.43 g, 10.76 mmol) was dissolved in 45 mL mixture solvent (Tetrahydrofuran/EtOH = 1 : 2) was refluxed at 80 °C for 4 h, then cooled and removal of the solvent, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (DCM) to give **3a** as a yellow solid (1.84g, 51.9%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ: 7.90 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.66 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 4.94-4.89 (m, 2H, -CH₂), 3.35 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H, -CH₂), 1.64-1.57 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 1.54 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -CH₃), 1.42-1.33 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 0.97 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H, -CH₃).

Triethylammonium 2-(2-(4-(dibutylamino)phenyl)-3-hydroxy-4-oxocyclobut-1-en-1-olate [**4a**].

Triethylamine (0.84 mL,) was added dropwise under stirring to a mixture solution of 1.84 g (5.6 mmol) of the **3a** and malononitrile (0.53 g, 8.0 mmol) in 60 mL mixture solvent (THF/EtOH = 1 : 2) was reacted for 10 h at room temperature. Afterwards, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the solid residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, DCM/MeOH = 95 : 5) to obtain **4a** as a yellow solid (1.54 g, 61.0%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, ppm) δ: 9.30 (s, 1H, -NH), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.65 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.30 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H, -CH₂), 3.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 6H, -NCH₂), 1.61-1.53 (m, 4H, -CH₂), 1.38 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 9H, -NCH₃), 1.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H, -CH₂), 0.95 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H, -CH₃).

3-chloro-4-(4-(dibutylamino)-2-hydroxyphenyl)cyclobut-3-ene-1,2-dione [**1b**]. A solution of compound 3-(dibutylamino)phenol (0.34 g, 1.54 mmol) and squaryl chloride in anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added drop wise into A solution of

compound AlCl_3 (5%) solution [Aluminum trichloride] (10 mL), slowly was refluxed at 50 °C for 2.5 h, then the reaction mixture was cooled and decanted into ice water (100 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 three times. The combined organic phase was washed with water there time, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane/hexane = 2:1) to give **1b** as yellow solid. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 9.76 (s, 1H, OH), 7.86 (d, $J = 9.6$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.39 (dd, $J_1 = 9.2$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.14 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.36 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.66-1.58 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.43-1.33 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 0.98 (t, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 6H, $-\text{CH}_3$).

3-(4-(dibutylamino)-2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-hydroxycyclobut-3-ene-1, 2-dione [**2b**].

Compound **2b** was prepared as a yellow solid with a yield of 82.5% using a similar procedure as the synthesis of **2a**, but with **1b** rather than **1a** as the reactants. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , ppm) δ : 10.83 (s, 1H, OH), 7.89 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.45 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.18 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.39 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.58-1.33 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.33-1.26 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 0.88 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H, $-\text{CH}_3$).

3-(4-(dibutylamino)-2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-ethoxycyclobut-3-ene-1,2-dione [**3b**].

Compound **3b** was prepared as a yellow solid with a yield of 72.4% using a similar procedure as the synthesis of **3a**, but with **2b** rather than **2a** as the reactants. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 10.05 (s, H, OH), 7.49 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.26 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.0$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.13 (d, 1H, $J = 2.4$ Hz, ArH), 4.99-4.93 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.32 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.63-1.58 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.58-1.55 (m, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 1.41-1.31 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 0.97 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, $-\text{CH}_3$).

Triethylammonium 2-[4-(dibutylamino)-2-hydroxyphenyl]-3-(dicyanomethylidene)-4-oxocyclobut-1-en-1-olate [**4b**]. Compound **4b** was prepared as a yellow solid with a yield of 61.0% using a similar procedure as the synthesis of **4a**, but with **3b** rather than **3a** as the reactants. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d_6 , ppm) δ : 10.80 (s, 1H, OH), 8.86 (s, 1H, NH^+), 7.48 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.23 (dd, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.05 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 3.29 (t, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 3.13-3.07 (m, 6H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 2.51-2.49

(m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.54-1.46 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.36-1.29 (m, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.17(t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 9H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 0.92 (t, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 6H, $-\text{CH}_3$).

3-ethoxy-4-(2-hydroxy-4-(1,3,3a,8b-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-4(2H)-yl)phenyl)cyclobut-3-ene-1,2-dione [**3c**]. A solution of compound 3-(2,3,3a,8b-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-4(1H)-yl)phenol (1.93 g, 7.67 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) was added dropwise into A solution of compound squaryl chloride (1.40 g, 9.27 mmol) solution (20 mL) slowly was stirring at room temperature for 24 h, then the reaction mixture was decanted into ice water (100 mL). The organic phase was separated and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 three times. The combined organic phase was washed with water there time, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated in vacuo. The resulting crude product was further purified by silica gel column chromatography (dichloromethane) to give **1c** as yellow solid (0.79 g, 28.2%), and then **1c** was dissolved in a mixture of dried tetrahydrofuran (8 mL) and dried ethyl alcohol (24 mL) was refluxed at 80 °C for 6 h. then the reaction mixture was cooled and removal of the solvent, and the crude product was purified by column chromatography (dichloromethane) to give **3c** as a yellow solid (0.43 g, 53.3%). ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 10.08 (s, 1H, OH), 7.60 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.29 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, ArH), 7.19-7.13 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.95-6.90 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.77 (d, $J = 2.4$ Hz, ArH), 5.03-4.97 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 4.70-4.65 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 3.91 (s, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 2.11-2.03 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 2.03-1.90 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.72-1.65 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.59 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 3H, $-\text{CH}_3$), 1.49-1.37 (m, 1H, $-\text{CH}_2$).

Triethylammonium2-(3-hydroxy-2-(2-hydroxy-4-(1,3,3a,8b-tetrahydrocyclopenta[b]indol-4(2H)-yl)phenyl)-4-oxocyclobut-1-en-1-olate [**4c**]. Compound **4c** was prepared as a yellow solid with a yield of 82.0% using a similar procedure as the synthesis of **4a**, but with **3c** rather than **3a** as the reactants. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3 , ppm) δ : 8.78(s, 1H, NH^+), 7.79 (dd, $J_1 = 8.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.22 (dd, $J_1 = 8.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.4$ Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.12-7.06 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.88-6.82 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.74 (s, 1H, ArH), 4.60 (s, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 3.82 (s, 1H, $-\text{CH}$), 3.30 (m, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 6H, $-\text{NCH}_2$), 2.03-1.94 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.92-1.84 (m, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2$), 1.40 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 9H, $-\text{CH}_3$).

Table S1 Summary of crystal data, data collection and refinement parameters for USQ-2 and diCN-USQ-2.

Compound	USQ-2	diCN-USQ-2
Empirical formula	C ₃₀ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₃ S	C ₃₃ H ₃₆ N ₄ O ₂ S
Formula weight	504.67	552.72
Temperature	143.00(10) K	143.00(10) K
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P-1	P2 ₁ /c
a/Å	9.3736(9)	8.9009(5)
b/Å	9.8299(12)	29.0765(17)
c/Å	16.506(2)	11.7440(6)
α/°	86.875(10)	90
β/°	85.566(9)	105.910(6)
γ/°	66.162(11)	90
Volume/Å ³	1386.6(3)	2923.0(3)
Z	2	4
ρ _{calc} /mg/mm ³	1.209	1.256
μ/mm ⁻¹	0.149	0.147
F(000)	540.0	1176.0
Crystal size/mm ³	0.4 × 0.4 × 0.4	?
2θ range for data collection	6.628 to 52.74°	5.84 to 52.74°
	-10 ≤ h ≤ 11	-10 ≤ h ≤ 11
Index ranges	-12 ≤ k ≤ 11	36 ≤ k ≤ 32
	-20 ≤ l ≤ 20	-14 ≤ l ≤ 14
Reflections collected	10174	25400
Independent reflections	5642 [R _{int} = 0.0442]	5961 [R _{int} = 0.0486]
Data/restraints/parameters	5642/2/334	5961/0/365
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.068	1.034
Final R indexes [I ≥ 2σ (I)]	R ₁ = 0.1294, wR ₂ = 0.2143	R ₁ = 0.0632, wR ₂ = 0.1387
Final R indexes [all data]	R ₁ = 0.1962, wR ₂ = 0.2434	R ₁ = 0.0925, wR ₂ = 0.1552
Largest diff.peak/hole/e Å ⁻³	0.59/-0.40	0.41/-0.28

2. DFT calculations

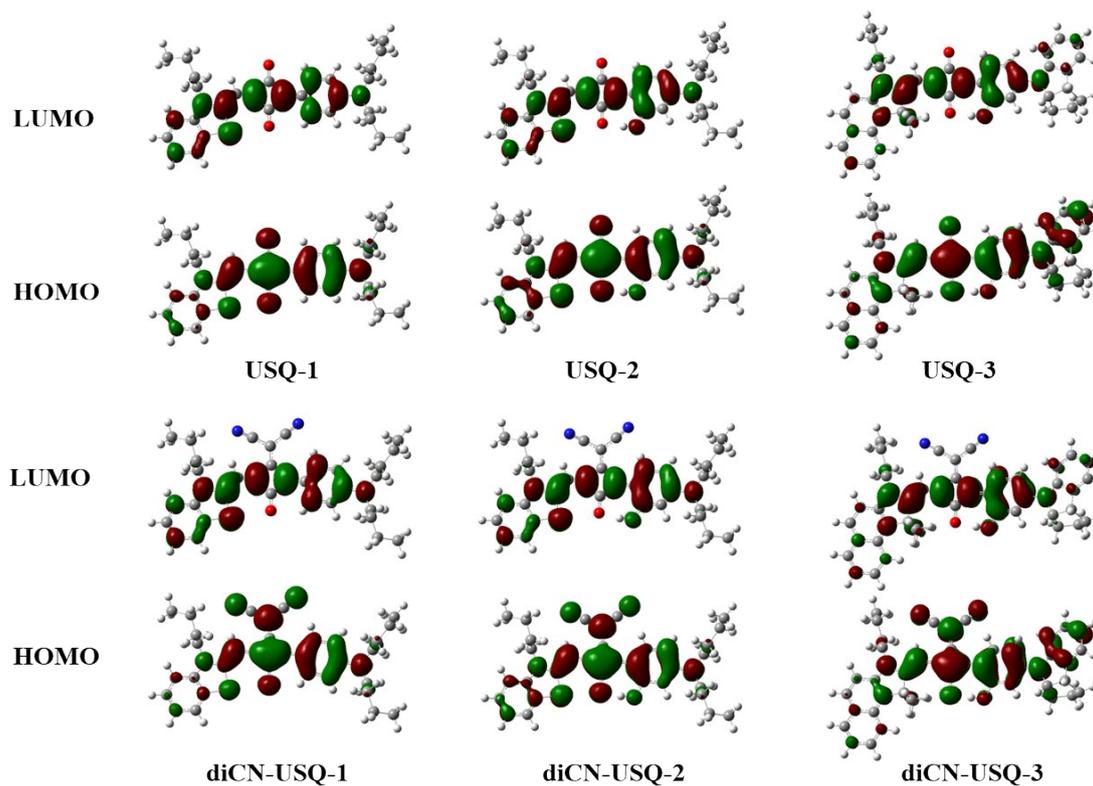


Figure S1 The frontier molecular orbitals of the objective compounds.

Table S2 Summary of integration of blending films absorption and EQE.

Compd.	USQ-1	diCN-USQ-1	USQ-2	diCN-USQ-2	USQ-3	diCN-USQ-3
Integration (ABS)	169.35	199.27	181.43	200.32	219.07	191.35
Integration (EQE)	62.63	120.56	76.20	146.92	143.81	186.52

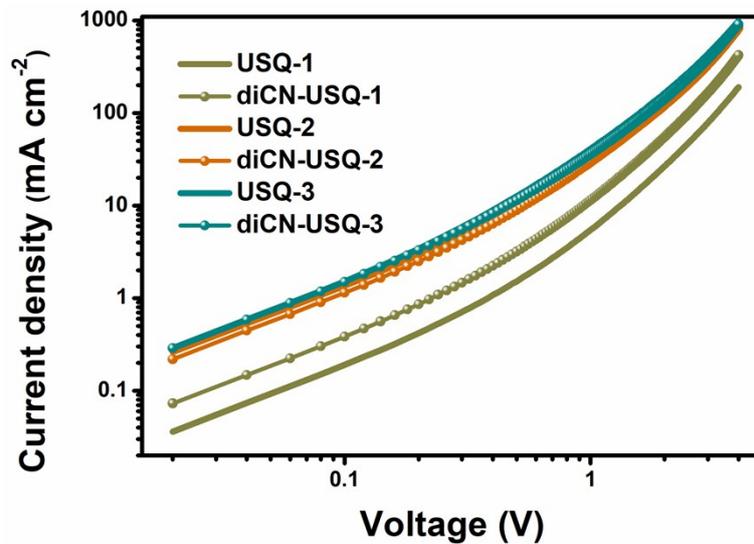
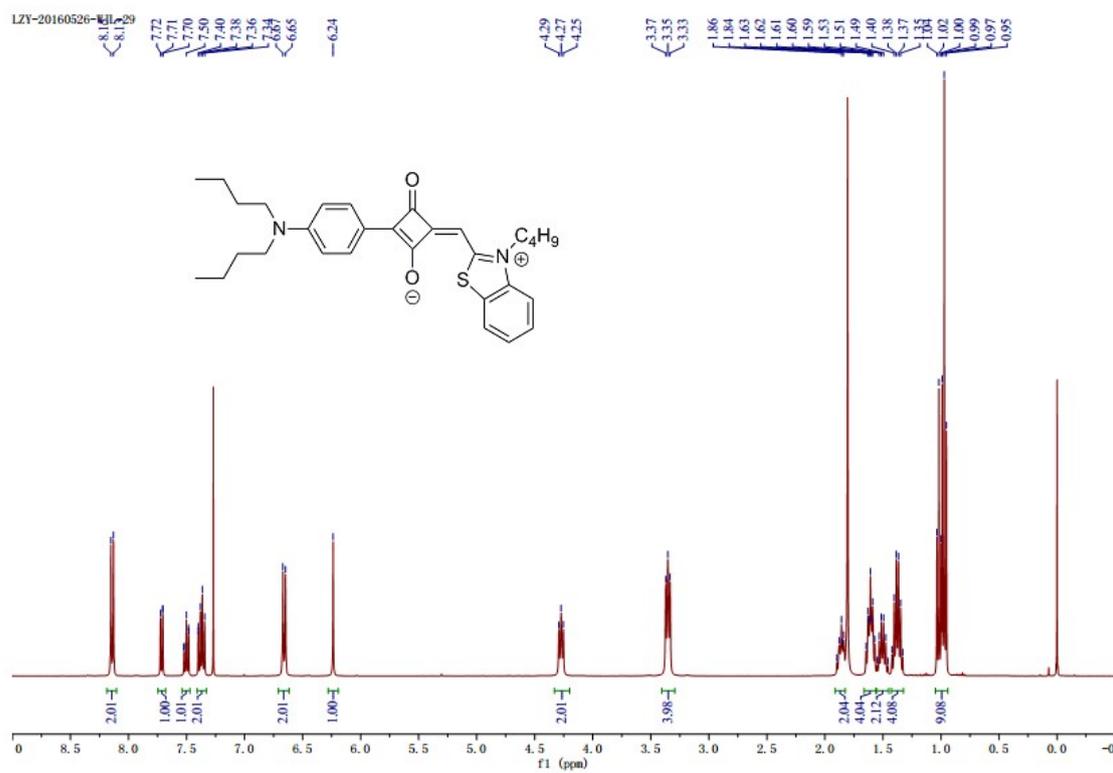
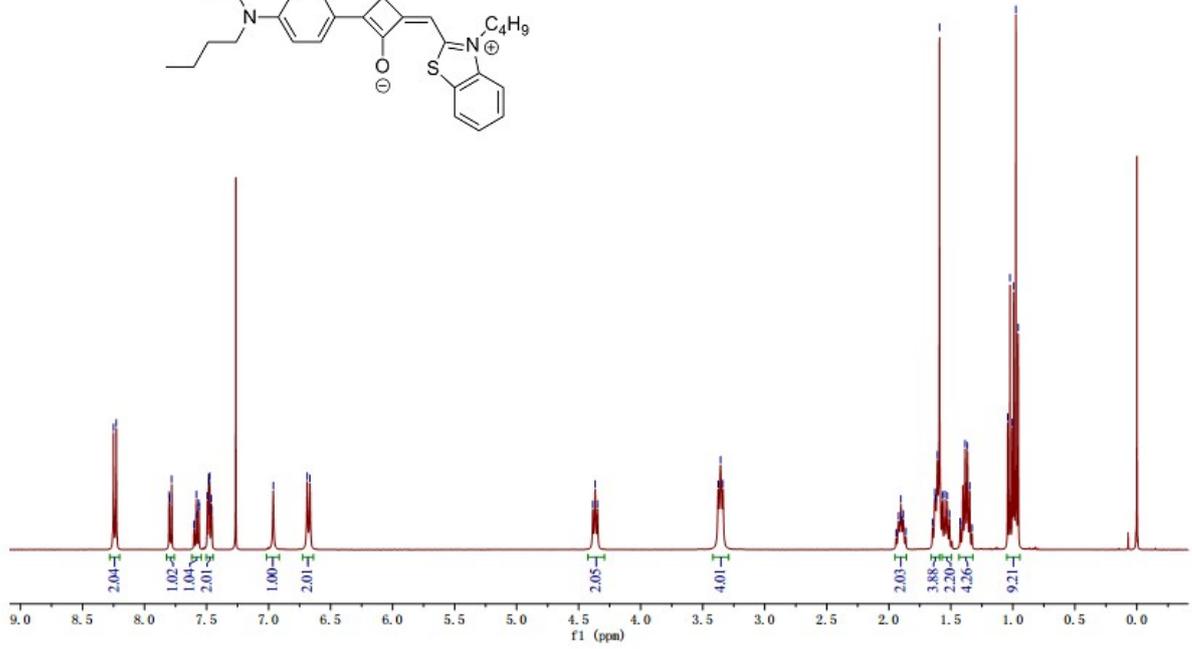
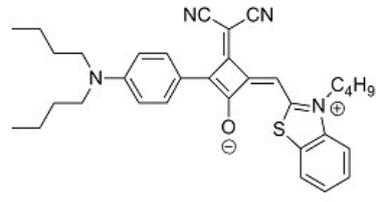


Figure S2 Current density–voltage characteristics of hole-only single carrier devices using USQ:PC₇₁BM (1:3) blend films as active layer.



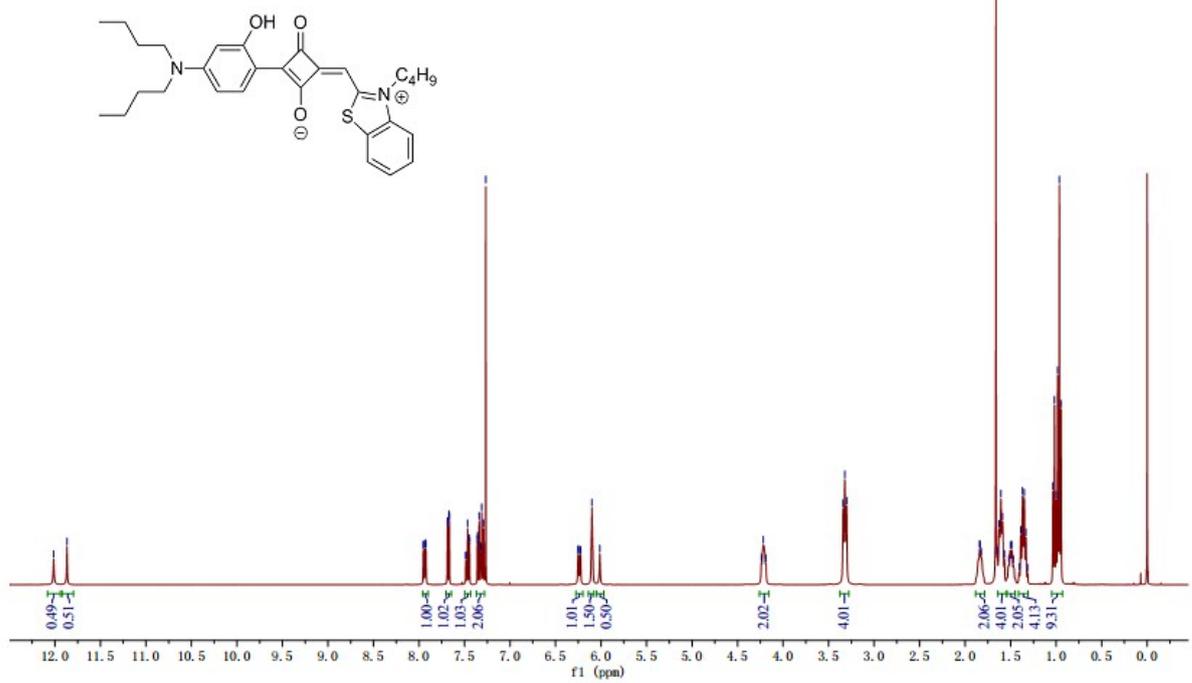
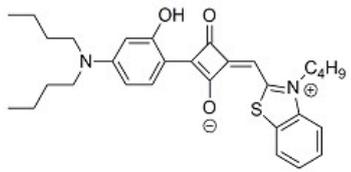
LZY-20160526-WJL-30

8.37
8.33
7.80
7.78
7.58
7.49
7.48
7.48
7.37
6.69
6.67
4.39
4.37
4.35
3.38
3.36
3.34
1.92
1.90
1.88
1.63
1.62
1.61
1.59
1.57
1.55
1.53
1.38
1.37
1.35
1.04
1.02
1.00
0.99
0.98
0.96



LZY-20160526-WJL-31

12.01
11.88
7.95
7.93
7.92
7.69
7.69
7.67
7.49
7.48
7.47
7.45
7.44
7.36
7.36
7.34
7.32
7.32
7.31
7.29
7.27
6.25
6.25
6.23
6.23
6.10
6.01
4.24
4.22
4.19
3.34
3.32
3.30
1.84
1.83
1.66
1.63
1.61
1.59
1.50
1.49
1.39
1.37
1.35
1.33
1.04
1.02
1.00
0.98
0.96

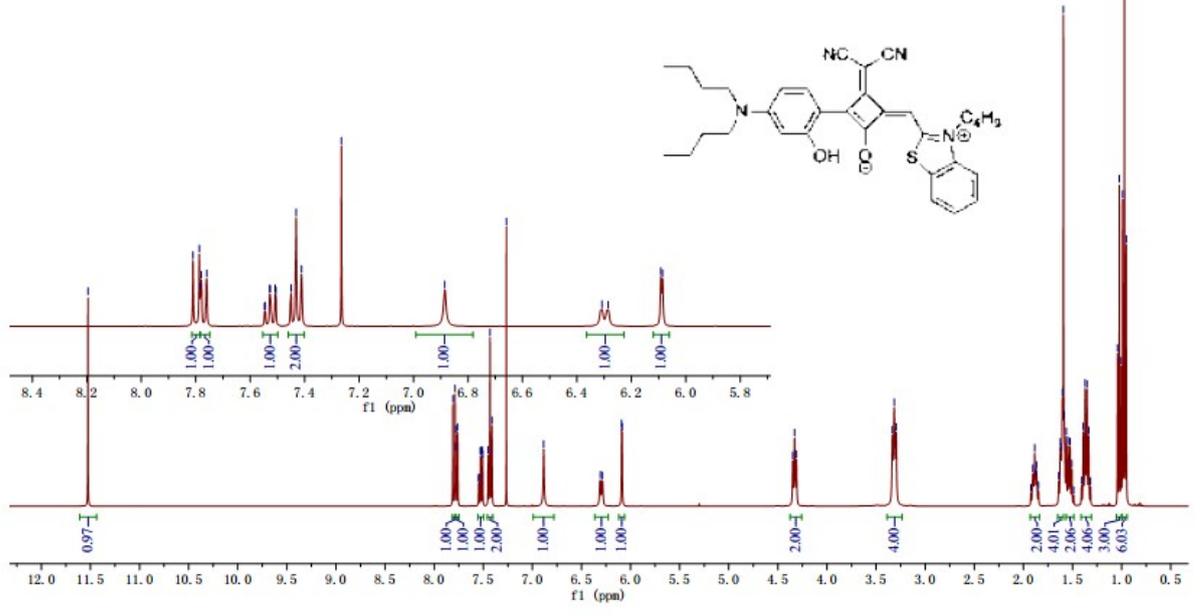
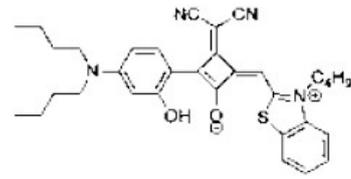


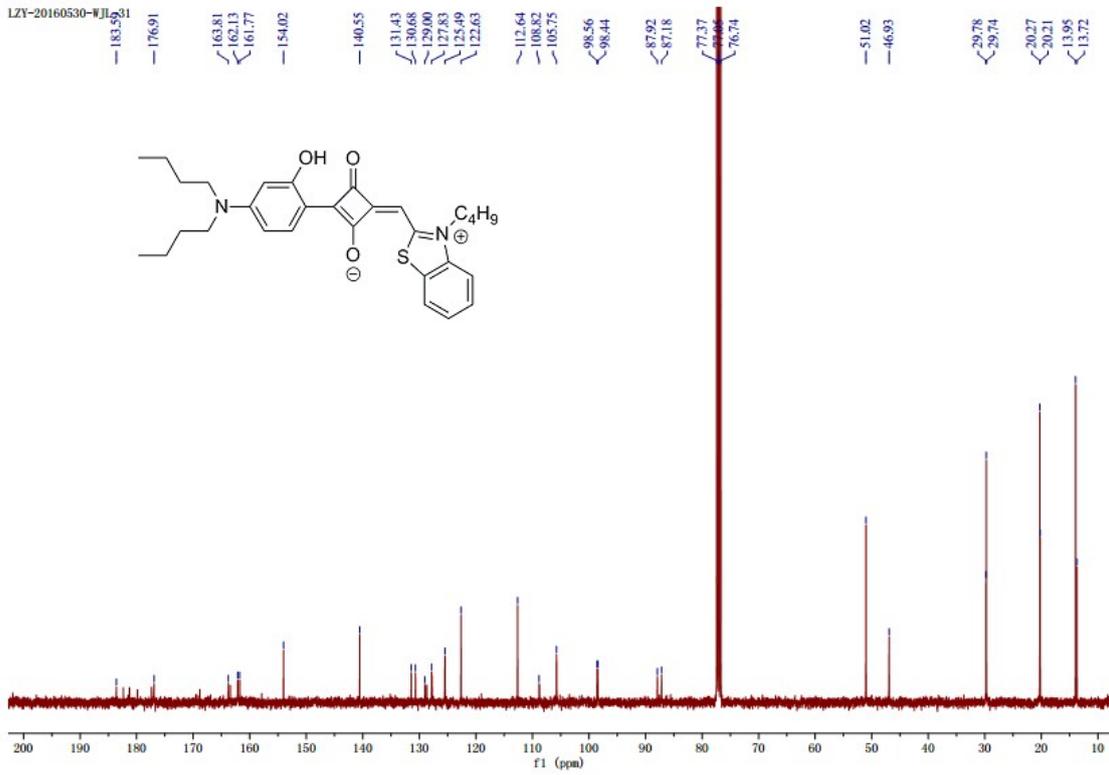
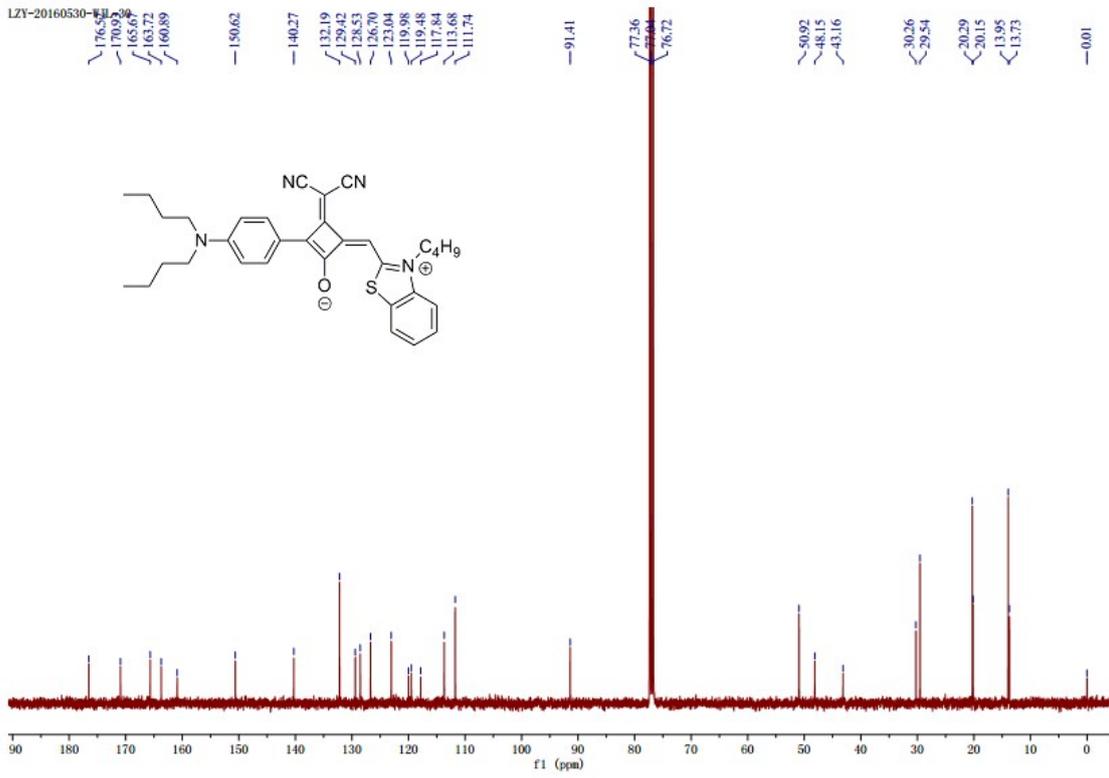
LZY-20160829-WJL-50

7.81
7.79
7.78
7.78
7.76
7.55
7.54
7.53
7.53
7.51
7.45
7.43
7.41
7.26
-6.89
6.31
6.28
6.09
6.09
4.35
4.33
4.31
3.33
3.32
3.30
1.60
1.59
1.58
1.56
1.54
1.39
1.37
1.35
1.33
1.04
1.02
1.00
0.99
0.97
0.94

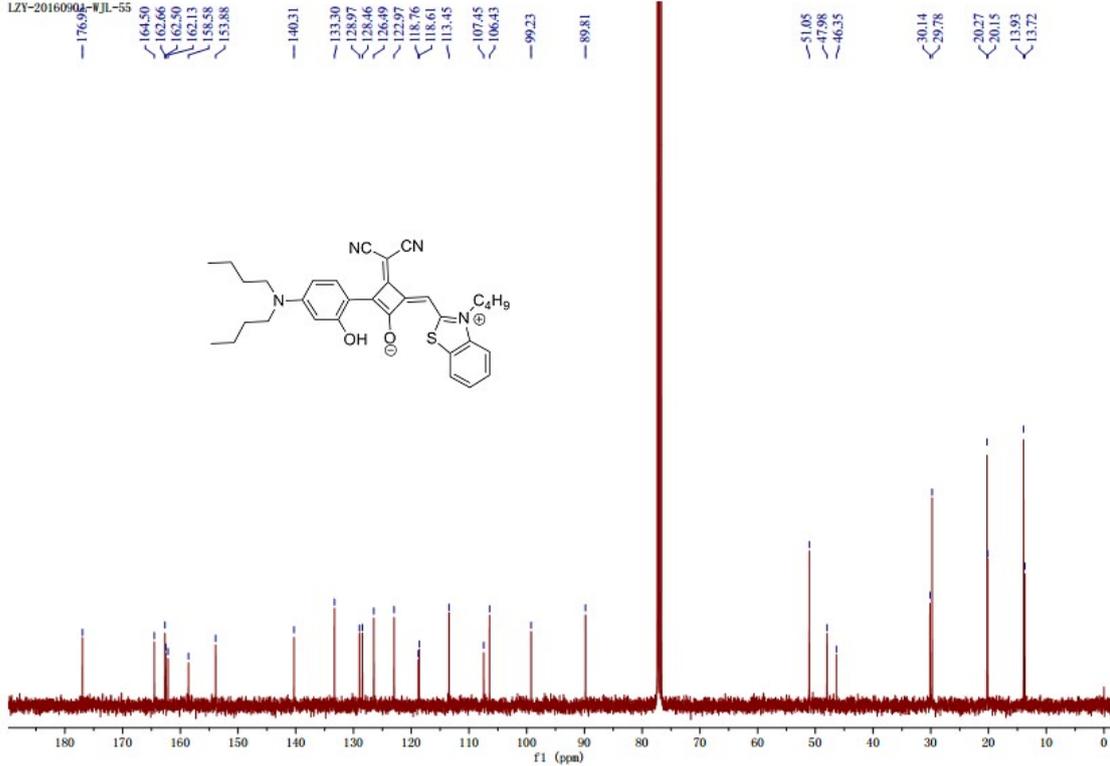
LZY-20160829-WJL-50

7.81
7.79
7.78
7.76
7.53
7.51
7.45
7.43
7.41
-6.89
6.31
6.28
6.09
6.09

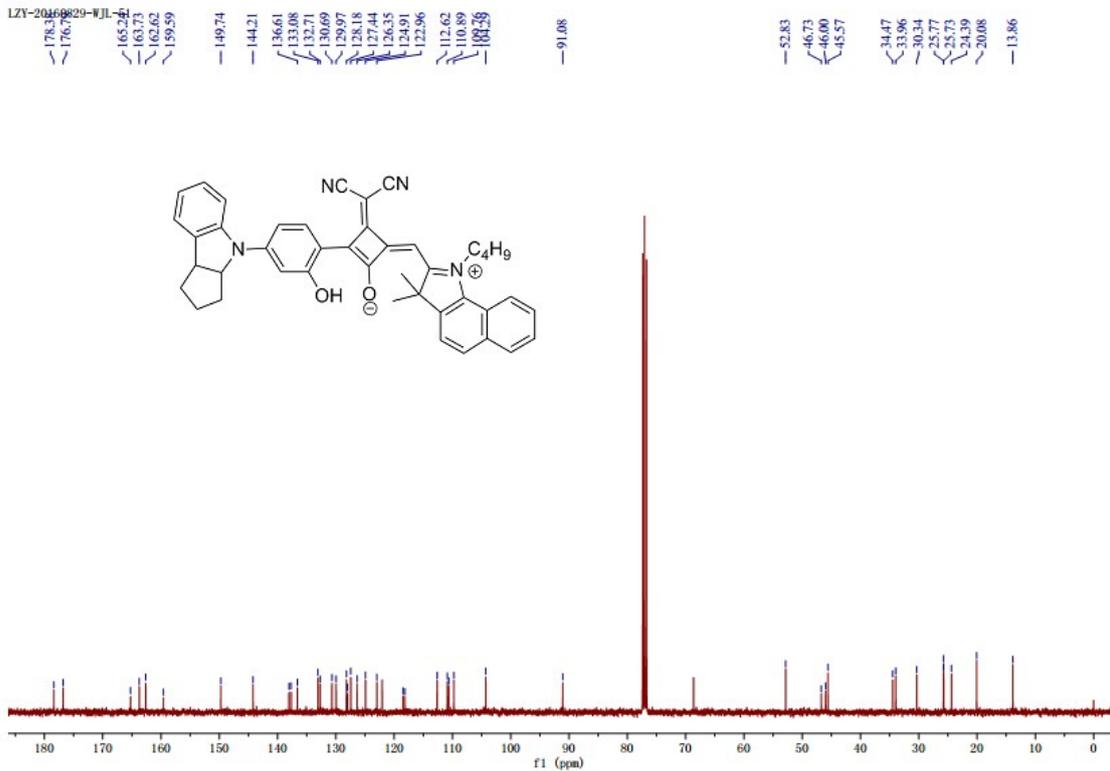




LZY-20160902-WJL-55

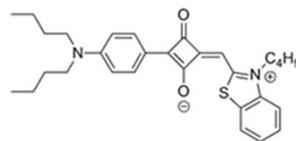
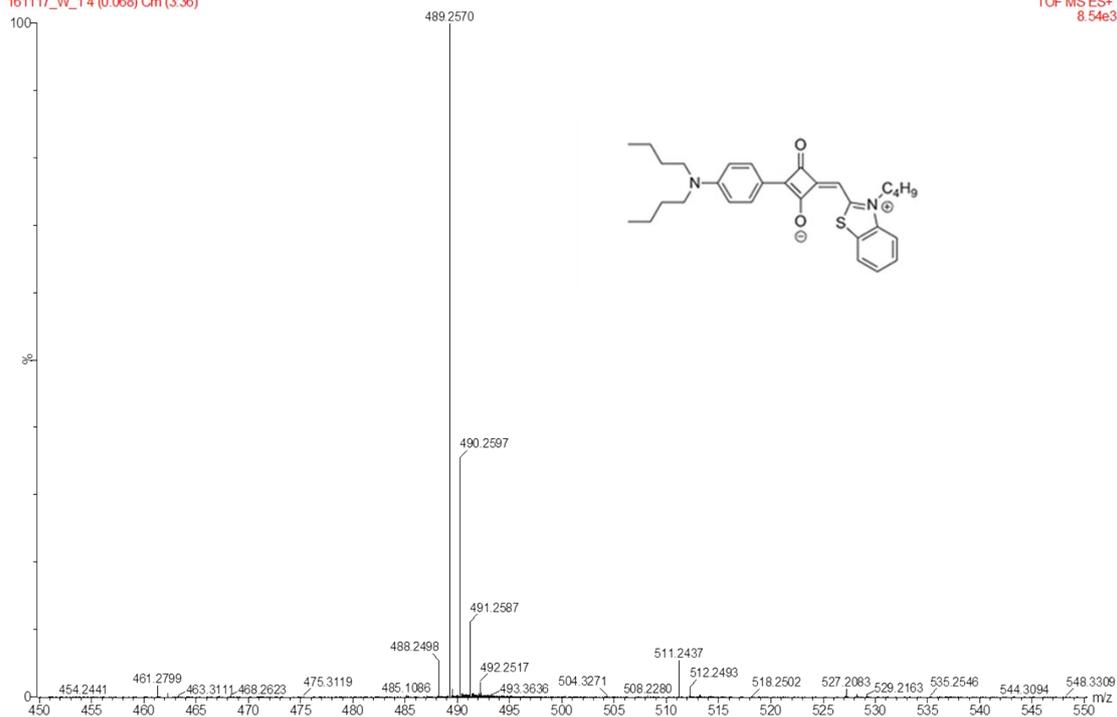


LZY-20160929-WJL-4



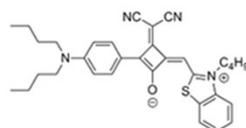
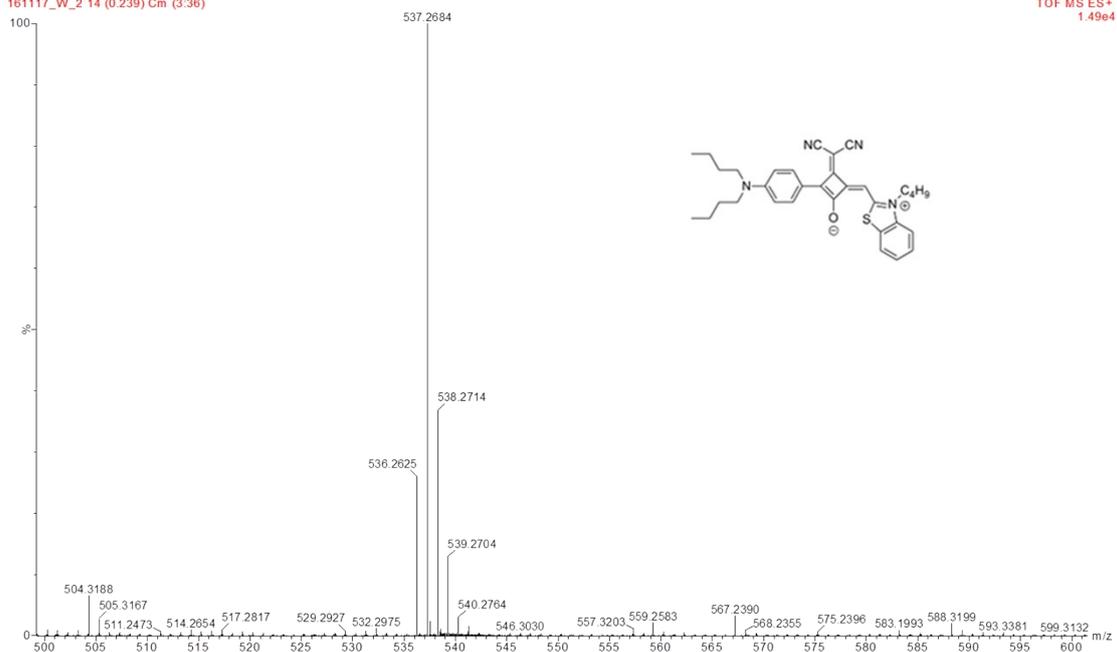
09:29:58
161117_W_1_4 (0.068) Cm (3.36)

17-Nov-2016
TOF MS ES+
8.54e3



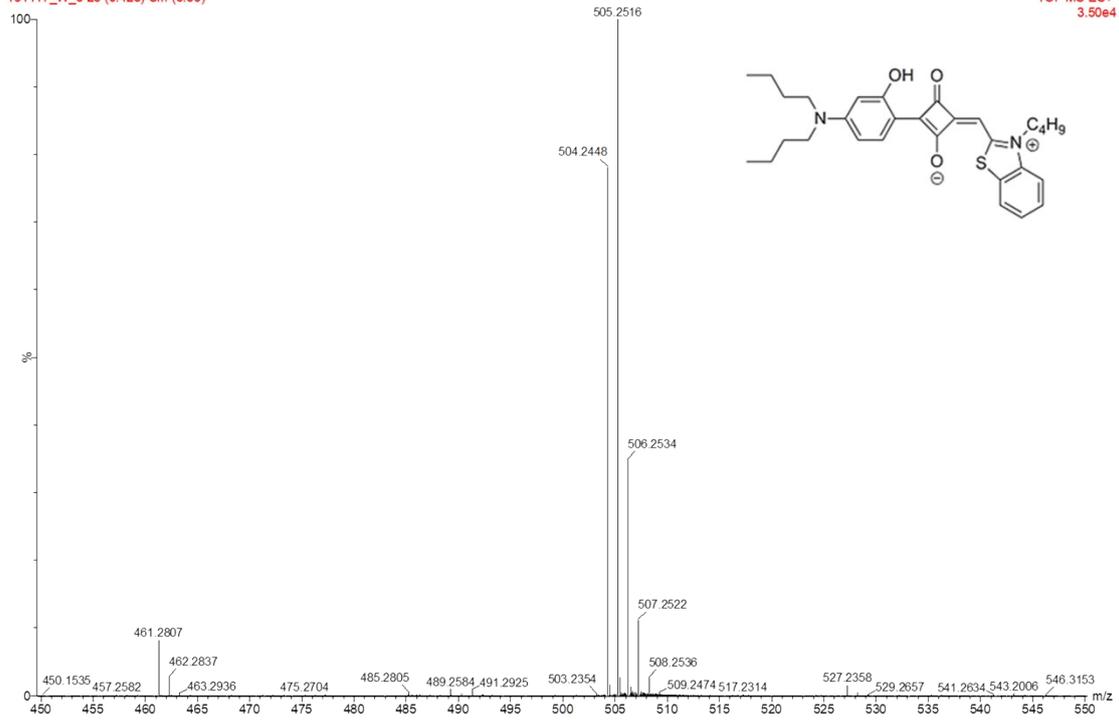
09:36:23
161117_W_2_14 (0.239) Cm (3.36)

17-Nov-2016
TOF MS ES+
1.49e4



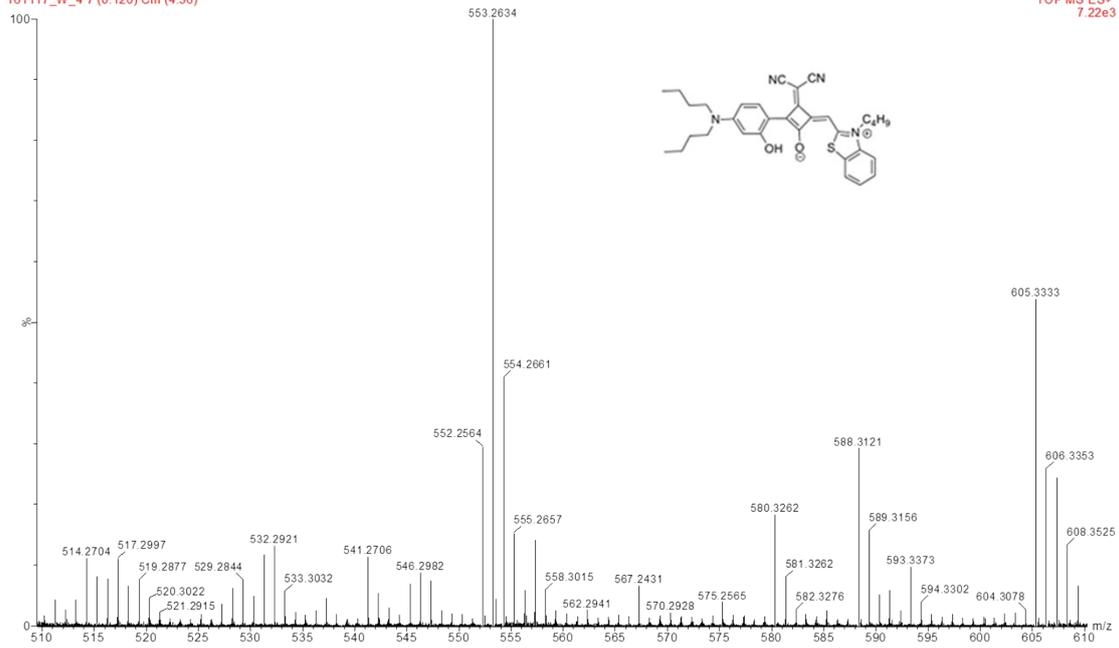
09:42:27
161117_W_3_25 (0.428) Cm (3.36)

17-Nov-2016
TOF MS ES+
3.50e4



09:48:32
161117_W_4_7 (0.120) Cm (4.36)

17-Nov-2016
TOF MS ES+
7.22e3



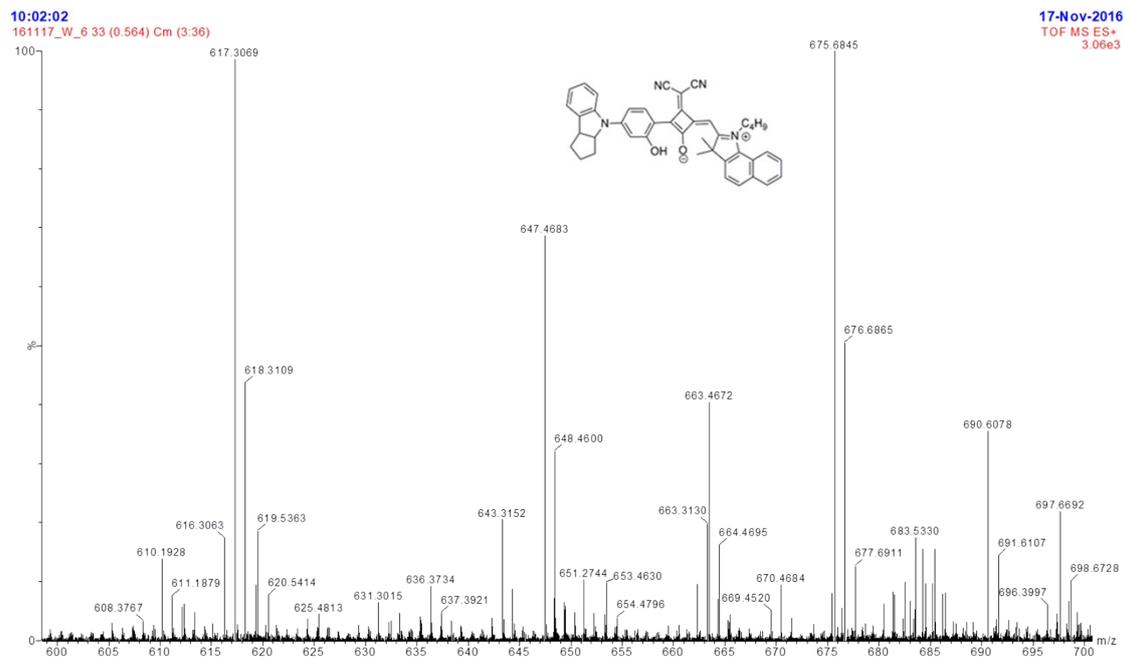


Figure S3 The spectra of ^1H NMR, ^{13}C NMR and high resolution mass of the objective compounds.