Solution- Processed Hybrid Hosts: A Way to Explore High Triplet Energy with Admirable Current and Power Efficiency Devoiding Outcoupling Mode for Phosphorescent OLED

Diksha Thakur,<sup>1</sup> Deepak Kumar Dubey,<sup>1</sup> Rohit Ashok Kumar Yadav, Mangili Venkateswarulu, Subrata Banik, Jwo-Huei Jou\*, Subrata Ghosh\*

Diksha Thakur, Mangili Venkateswarulu, Dr Subrata Ghosh

School of Basic Sciences, IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India, 175005

*Email: subrata@iitmandi.ac.in* 

Subrata Banik

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences

Central University of Jammu, Jammu 181143, J&K, India

Deepak Kumar Dubey, Rohit Ashok Kumar Yadav, Prof. Jwo-Huei Jou

Department of Materials Science and Engineering,

National Tsing Hua University

No. 101, Sec. 2, Guangfu Road, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan, R.O.C.

*E-mail: jjou@mx.nthu.edu.tw* 

Both authors have equal contribution

**General:** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Jeol ECX NMR spectrometer.HRMS-ESI spectra were recorded on Bruker Maxis Impact HD instrument.Theoretical mass values were calculated from compass isotope pattern software. UV–vis and fluorescence spectra were recorded on Simadzu UV-2450 and perkin Elmer LS55 respectively. All the spectral studies were performed at 5 micromolar concentration. Solvents and chemicals were purchased from commercial resources and used without further purification. Spectroscopic grade solvents were used for photophysical studies. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) and DSC was recorded on a Perkin Elmer Pyris 1 and NETZSCH STA449 F1 JUPITER instrument under nitrogen atmosphere at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. The temperature of degradation (Td) was correlated to a 5% weight loss. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was carried out in nitrogen-purged dichloromethane (oxidation scan) and dmf at room temperature on Metrohm Autolab electrochemical workstation. Tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF6) (0.1 M) was used as the supporting electrolyte. The conventional three-electrode configuration consists of a platinum disc working electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary electrode, and Ag/AgCl as reference electrode with ferrocenium–ferrocene (Fc+/Fc) as the external standard. Cyclic voltammograms were obtained at scan rate of 100 mV s-1 in dichloromethane solutions. Diffraction studies were performed on Agilent Technologies Xray diffractometer.Phosphorescence spectra were recorded on an F-7000 fluorescence spectrophotometer.

**Computational Details:** The ground state  $(S_0)$  geometries were optimized at B3LYP/6-311G(d,p) level. The little difference between optimized geometries and experimental outcomes may be due to the fact that theoretical studies were calculated in gaseous state and experimental studies were done in different solvents. The absorption transition were calculated using TD-DFT level of theory on same level.

#### **Detailed synthetic procedures and Characterization**

**4-(diphenylamino)benzaldehyde (DT301):** DT301 was prepared according to reported procedure.<sup>1</sup>

#### General Procedure for the synthesis of DT309, DT313, DT316, DT320, DT321.

A mixture of4-(diphenylamino)benzaldehyde(1 mmol),Benzil (1 mmol), corresponding amine (5 mmol) and ammonium acetate (4 mmol) was refluxed in acetic acid (15 mL) under nitrogen atmosphere. After 14h, reaction mixture was quenched with addition of water and extracted in ethyl acetate. The organic layer was then washed with water (2×25 ml) and dried over sodium sulphate. The organic layer was dried over rota evaporator and solid was washed with hexane 3-4 times followed by washing with methanol. **DT309:** <sup>1</sup>HNMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ): 7.59-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.30 (d, 2H, J = 8.95 Hz), 7.25-7.21 (m, 9H), 7.18-7.16 (m, 1H), 7.14-7.12(m, 2H), 7.07 (d, 4H, J = 7.55 Hz), 7.03-6.98 (m, 4H), 6.91 (d, 2H, J = 8.95 Hz), 6.77-6.75 (m, 2H), 3.76 (s, 3H) <sup>13</sup>C- NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ): 159.03, 147.65, 147.31, 146.90, 137.86, 134.55, 131.11, 130.82, 129.99, 129.50, 129.46, 129.23, 128.28, 128.08, 127.76, 127.31, 126.43, 124.80, 124.07, 123.19, 122.17, 114.13, 55.31.HRMS (ESI): Calculated for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>31</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O [M+H<sup>+</sup>]: 570.2539; Found: 570.2537

**DT313:** <sup>1</sup>HNMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 7.59-7.58 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.29(m, 2H), 7.26-7.21(m, 10H), 7.14-7.12(m, 2H), 7.07(d, 4H, J = 7.55 Hz), 7.03-7.00 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.92-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.76-6.74 (m, 2H), 3.89 (t, 2H, J = 6.85 Hz), 1.74 (q, 2H, J = 7.55 Hz), 1.47 (q, 2H, J = 7.55 Hz), 0.96 (t, 3H, J = 7.55 Hz) <sup>13</sup>C- NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 158.68, 147.62, 147.33, 146.89, 137.85, 134.58, 131.12, 130.83, 129.75, 129.50, 129.40, 129.23, 128.27, 128.09, 127.74, 127.31, 126.42, 124.79, 124.13, 123.17, 122.21, 114.61, 67.81, 31.21, 19.20, 13.88.HRMS (ESI): Calculated for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O [M+H<sup>+</sup>]: 612.3009; Found: 612.3006

**DT316:** <sup>1</sup>HNMR (500MHz,DMSO, δ): 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.32-7.28 (m, 9H), 7.23-7.20 (m, 4H), 7.16-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.09-7.01 (m, 8H), 6.81-6.80 (m, 2H), 6.67-6.65 (m, 2H) <sup>13</sup>C- NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, δ): 157.31, 147.07, 146.65, 145.83, 136.37, 134.60, 131.32, 131.11, 130.68, 129.83, 129.67, 128.98, 128.39, 128.21, 128.11, 127.91, 126.28, 124.64, 123.96, 123.68, 121.21, 115.61. HRMS (ESI): Calculated for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O [M+H<sup>+</sup>]: 556.2383; Found: 556.2384

**DT320:**<sup>1</sup>HNMR (500MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 7.59 (d, 2H, J = 6.85 Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H, J = 8.25 Hz), 7.26-7.16(m, 11H), 7.13-7.11(m, 2H), 7.08 (d, 4H, J = 7.60 Hz), 7.04- 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.99-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, 2H, J = 8.25 Hz), 6.77- 6.74 (m, 2H), 3.97 (q, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz), 1.39 (t, 3H, J = 7.55 Hz) <sup>13</sup>C- NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 158.52, 147.74, 147.27, 146.84, 131.11, 130.79, 129.55, 129.43, 129.25, 128.28, 128.10, 127.80, 127.36, 126.50, 124.84, 123.23,

122.08, 114.60, 63.56, 14.70.HRMS (ESI): Calculated for  $C_{41}H_{33}N_3O$  [M+H<sup>+</sup>]: 584.2696; Found: 584.2696

**DT321:** <sup>1</sup>HNMR (500MHz ,CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 7.59 (d, 2H, J = 7.55 Hz), 7.31 (d, 2H, J = 8.25 Hz), 7.25-7.17 (m, 10H), 7.13-7.12 (m, 2H), 7.07 (d, 4H, J = 7.55 Hz), 7.03- 7.00 (m, 2H), 6.98-6.96 (m, 2H), 6.91 (d, 2H, J = 8.95 Hz), 6.75 (d, 2H, J = 8.90 Hz), 3.85 (t, 2H, J = 6.85 Hz), 1.78 (q, 2H, J = 6.90 Hz), 1.02 (t, 3H, J = 7.55 Hz) <sup>13</sup>C- NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$ ): 158.68, 147.66, 147.31, 146.88, 137.79, 134.51, 131.12, 130.81, 129.73, 129.52, 129.40, 129.23, 128.27, 128.08, 127.76, 127.33, 126.44, 124.81, 124.02, 123.19, 122.16, 114.62, 69.56, 22.49, 10.48.. HRMS (ESI): Calculated for C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O [M+H<sup>+</sup>]: 598.2852; Found: 598.2852 **Synthesis Scheme** 



Figure S1. Synthesis scheme for DT316, DT309, DT320, DT321, and DT313.

#### **OLED Device Fabrication and Performance Measurements**

All the solution processed OLED devices were fabricated on a glass substrate with a patterned ITO, which is 125 nm thick. After cleaning with detergents solution, the ITO glasses were cleaned for 30 min sequentially in acetone and isopropanol by ultrasonic bath at a temperatute of 50°C and 60°C, respectively. The hole injection layer (HIL) of PEDOT:PSS was spin-coated on preclened and UV-O<sub>3</sub> treated (20 min) ITO substrate at a speed of 4000 rpm for 20s and annealed at 120 °C for 15 min. On top of the HIL layer, a emissive layer of either host:  $Ir(ppy)_3$  (S<sub>1</sub>= 2.84 eV, T<sub>1</sub>= 2.42 eV)<sup>2,3</sup> or host:  $Ir(2-phq)_3$  (S<sub>1</sub>= 2.30 eV, T<sub>1</sub>= 2.10 eV),<sup>2,4</sup> which was prepared in tetrahydrofuran (THF) solvent with a concentration of 5 mg/mL, was spin-coated at a speed of 2500 rpm for 20s and annealed for at 100°C for 15 min. After the spin-coating process, an eletron transporting layer of TPBi (35 nm, 1.4-1.8 Å/s), an electron injection layer of lithium fluoride (1 nm, 0.1-0.2 Å/s) and a cathode of aluminum (120 nm, 12-16 Å/s) were sequentially deposited under high vacuum (~10<sup>-6</sup> Pa). For device measurements, the luminance, CIE chromatic coordinates and the EL spectrum of the resultant OLEDs were measured by using a programmable source meter (Keithley 2400), luminance meter (Minolta CS-100), and a spectrophotometer (Spectrascan PR655, Photo Research). The emission area of the devices was 9 mm<sup>2</sup>, and only the luminance in the forward direction was measured.

#### **Single Carrier Device Fabrication and Measurements:**

Single carrier devices, namely, hole only device (HOD) and electron only device (EOD), were fabracted by following the aforementioned approach as for OLED device fabrication. In HOD and EOD, hole and electron transporting materials TAPC and TPBi were spin coated on HIL (PEDOT:PSS) and precleaned glass substract, respectively, followed by a 20 nm layer of synthesised host materials either **DT-316**, **DT-309**, **DT-320**, **DT-321** or **DT-313** was spin-coated over on it. All these layers spin coated at a speed of 2500 rpm for 20 s and baked

at 100°C for 15 min to remove the residual solvent. Before the spin coating, the solution were prepared by dissolving all the materials TAPC, TPBi and hosts in the THF solvent with a concentration of 10 mg/mL. After the spin-coating process, a 35 nm layer of hole and eletron transporting materials, TAPC and TPBi, were deposited under high vaccum with a rate of 1.4-1.8 Å/s, respectively, for HOD and EOD; followed by a 1 nm layer of electron injecting material lithium fluoride and a 120 nm layer aluminium as a cathode were deposited sequentially under same condition with a rate of 0.1-0.2 Å/s and 12-16 Å/s, respectively. The I-V characteristics of all the fabricated devices were performed by using a programmable source meter Keithley 2400.

### **Photophysical Data**



Figure S2. Photoluminiscence emission spectra for DT316, DT309. DT320, DT321, and DT313.



Figure S3. Comparision of photoluminiscence emission spectra for DT316, DT309, DT320, DT321 and DT313 in solution and thin film.







Figure S4. Solvatochromic emission behavior of compound (a) DT316, (b) DT309, (c) DT320, (d) DT321, and (e) DT313 in different solvents.



0.0

Wavelength(nm)





Figure S5. Solvatochromic UV-vis absorption behavior of compound (a) DT316, (b) DT309,(c) DT320, (d) DT321, and (e) DT313 in different solvents.







**Figure S6.** Cyclic voltamogramms of (a) **DT316**, (b) **DT309**, (c) **DT320**, (d) **DT321** and (e) **DT313**.







Figure S7. TGA (Thermogravimetric analysis) graphs of DT316, DT309, DT320, DT321, and DT313.











Figure S8. DSC graphs of DT316, DT309, DT320, DT321, and DT313.

# Single crystal X-Ray Diffraction data analysis

Table S1. Cr	vstal data and	structure refinement	for	DT309	LT	CU.
	•				_	

Identification code	DT309_LT_CU
Empirical formula	$C_{40}H_{31}N_{3}O$
Formula weight	569.68
Temperature/K	149.99(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	9.6216(9)
b/Å	13.1484(11)
c/Å	14.1763(9)

$\alpha/^{\circ}$	107.143(6)
β/°	98.785(7)
γ/°	109.218(8)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1555.0(2)
Ζ	2
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.217
µ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.571
F(000)	600.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.185  imes 0.148  imes 0.106
Radiation	$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54184)$
2@ range for data collection/°	8.14 to 134.92
Index ranges	$-11 \le h \le 11, -15 \le k \le 15, -16 \le l \le 13$
Reflections collected	9288
Independent reflections	5439 [ $R_{int} = 0.0434$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0478$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	5439/0/398
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.124
Final R indexes $[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$	$R_1 = 0.0550, wR_2 = 0.1623$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0664, wR_2 = 0.1882$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3	0.32/-0.34

# Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for DT320\_LT\_CU.

Identification code	DT320_LT_CU
Empirical formula	C <sub>41</sub> H <sub>33</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O
Formula weight	583.70
Temperature/K	149.99(10)
Crystal system	monoclinic
Space group	$P2_1/n$
a/Å	14.2266(9)
b/Å	12.6251(7)
c/Å	18.0008(12)
α/°	90.00
β/°	109.736(8)
γ/°	90.00
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	3043.2(3)
Ζ	4
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.274
µ/mm <sup>-1</sup>	0.595
F(000)	1232.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.24 \times 0.12 \times 0.096$
Radiation	$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54184)$
20 range for data collection/°	6.9 to 133.82

Index ranges	$-13 \le h \le 16, -15 \le k \le 8, -21 \le l \le 20$
Reflections collected	9821
Independent reflections	5319 [ $R_{int} = 0.0535$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0557$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	5319/0/407
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.057
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0728, wR_2 = 0.2117$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.0866, wR_2 = 0.2553$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å-3	0.56/-0.51

# Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for DT321\_LT\_CU.

Identification code	DT321_LT_CU
Empirical formula	C <sub>42</sub> H <sub>35</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O
Formula weight	597.73
Temperature/K	149.99(10)
Crystal system	triclinic
Space group	P-1
a/Å	10.1569(7)
b/Å	12.0507(10)
c/Å	15.4796(7)
α/°	69.073(6)
β/°	75.218(5)
γ/°	65.857(7)
Volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	1601.61(18)
Ζ	2
$\rho_{calc}g/cm^3$	1.239
$\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.577
F(000)	632.0
Crystal size/mm <sup>3</sup>	0.301  imes 0.16  imes 0.098
Radiation	$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54184)$
20 range for data collection/°	8.4 to 133.78
Index ranges	$-11 \le h \le 12, -14 \le k \le 14, -13 \le l \le 18$
Reflections collected	9551
Independent reflections	5503 [ $R_{int} = 0.0437$ , $R_{sigma} = 0.0489$ ]
Data/restraints/parameters	5503/0/416
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.110
Final R indexes [I>= $2\sigma$ (I)]	$R_1 = 0.0646, wR_2 = 0.1854$
Final R indexes [all data]	$R_1 = 0.08\overline{35}, WR_2 = 0.2591$
Largest diff. peak/hole / e Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.45/-0.47

# Table S4. Crystal data and structure refinement for DT313\_RT\_CU.

DT313_RT_CU
C <sub>43</sub> H <sub>37</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O
611.76
293(2)
triclinic
P-1
10.1410(7)
12.4994(8)
15.4396(10)
95.664(5)
103.464(6)
112.004(6)
1726.7(2)
2
1.177
0.546
648.0
0.473  imes 0.074  imes 0.052
$CuK\alpha \ (\lambda = 1.54184)$
6.02 to 133.72
$-12 \le h \le 10, -14 \le k \le 12, -17 \le l \le 18$
10480
$6057 [R_{int} = 0.0235, R_{sigma} = 0.0355]$
6057/0/425
1.051
$R_1 = 0.0579, wR_2 = 0.1592$
$R_1 = 0.0723, wR_2 = 0.1757$
0.42/-0.23

 Table S5. CCDC No. of crystals.

Compound	Molecular Formula	CCDC No.
DT309	C <sub>40</sub> H <sub>31</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O	1897654
DT320	$C_{41}H_{33}N_{3}O$	1897656
DT321	$C_{42}H_{35}N_{3}O$	1897657
DT313	C <sub>43</sub> H <sub>37</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O	1897655



Figure S9. Distance between imidazole rings of two neighbouring molecules of DT309.



Figure S10. Existed short range interactions of DT309 with the neighbouring molecules.



Figure S11. Angle between imidazole ring alkoxy substituted phenyl ring diagram of DT309.



Figure S12. Distance between imidazole rings of two neighbouring molecules of DT320.



Figure S13. Existed short range interactions of DT320 with the neighbouring molecules.



Figure S14. Crystal Packing diagram of DT320 viewed along b axis.



Figure S15. Angle between imidazole ring alkoxy substituted phenyl ring diagram of DT320.



Figure S16. Distance between imidazole rings of two neighbouring molecules of DT321.



Figure S17. Existed short range interactions of DT321 with the neighbouring molecules.



Figure S18. Crystal Packing diagram of DT321 viewed along a axis.



Figure S19. Angle between imidazole ring alkoxy substituted phenyl ring diagram of DT321.

.



Figure S20. Distance between imidazole rings of two neighbouring molecules of DT313.



Figure S21. Existed short range interactions of DT313 with the neighbouring molecules.



Figure S22. Crystal Packing diagram of DT313.



Figure S23. Angle between imidazole ring alkoxy substituted phenyl ring diagram of DT313.

#### **Electroluminiscence Data**



Figure S24. Electroluminscent properties of solution-processed green phosphorescent OLED consisting of  $Ir(ppy)_3$  and DT-316 as a guest and host, respectively.



Figure S25. Electroluminscent properties of solution-processed green phosphorescent OLED consisting of  $Ir(ppy)_3$  and DT-309 as a guest and host, respectively.



Figure S26. Electroluminscent properties of solution-processed green phosphorescent OLED consisting of  $Ir(ppy)_3$  and DT-320 as a guest and host, respectively.



Figure S27. Electroluminscent properties of solution-processed green phosphorescent OLED consisting of  $Ir(ppy)_3$  and **DT-321** as a guest and host, respectively.



**Figure S28.** Electroluminscent properties of solution-processed green phosphorescent OLED consisting of Ir(ppy)<sub>3</sub>and **DT-313** as a guest and host, respectively.



Figure S29. Schematic diagram of the energy levels of the (a) green and (b) red phosphorescent OLED devices containing the spin-coated films of five different newly synthesized host materials, namely, DT316, DT309, DT320, DT321, and DT313.



Figure S30. EL spectra of DT309, DT320, DT321, and DT316 at different voltages.

**Theoretical Analysis** 



Figure S31. TD-DFT calculated UV-vis transitions profile for compound DT316.



Figure S32. TD-DFT calculated UV-vis transitions profile for compound DT309.



Figure S33. TD-DFT calculated UV-vis transitions profile for compound DT320.



Figure S34. TD-DFT calculated UV-vis transitions profile for compound DT321.



Figure S35. TD-DFT calculated UV-vis transitions profile for compound DT313.



Figure S36. Optimized structures and HOMO LUMO distributions for DT321 and DT313.



Figure S37. Optimized structures and HOMO LUMO distributions for DT316.



Figure S38. Normalized phosphorescence spectra of the compounds (a) DT-309, (b) DT-313, (c) DT-320, (d) DT-316 and (e) DT-321 RP-BP were recorded in THF solvent at 77K. The excitation wavelength was 335 nm for phosphorescence spectra.

### NMR Spectra



Figure S39. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT301.



**Figure S40.**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR of **DT301**.



Figure S41. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT316.



Figure S42. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of DT316.



Figure S43. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT309.



Figure S44. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of DT309.



Figure S45. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT320.



Figure S46. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of DT320.



Figure S47.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT321.



**Figure S48.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of **DT321.** 



Figure S49.<sup>1</sup>H-NMR of DT313.



Figure S50. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR of DT313.

### Mass Spectra



Figure S51. Mass Spectra of DT316.



Figure S52. Mass Spectra of DT309.



Figure S53. Mass Spectra of DT320.



Figure S54. Mass Spectra of DT321.



Figure S55. Mass Spectra of DT313.

### Reference

- 1. C. Li, W. Yang, W. Zhou, M. Zhang, R. Xue, M. Li and Z. Cheng, *New Journal of Chemistry*, 2016, **40**, 8837-8845.
- 2. X. Du, S. Tao, Y. Huang, X. Yang, X. Ding and X. Zhang, *Applied Physics Letters*, 2015, **107**, 104\_101.
- 3. T. Tsuboi, H. Murayama and A. Penzkofer, *Thin Solid Films*, 2006, **499**, 306-312.
- 4. J.-H. Jou, Y.-T. Su, S.-H. Liu, Z.-K. He, S. Sahoo, H.-H. Yu, S.-Z. Chen, C.-W. Wang and J.-R. Lee, Journal of Materials Chemistry C, 2016, 4, 6070-6077.