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Electronic Supporting Information

Effects of Intramolecular Hydrogen Bonding on the Conformation and Luminescence Property of Dibenzoylpyridine-based Thermally Activated Delayed Fluorescence Materials

Jayabalan Pandidurai, Jayachandran Jayakumar, Natarajan Senthilkumar, and Chien-Hong Cheng*a

^aDepartments of Chemistry, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan.

E-mail: <u>chcheng@mx.nthu.edu.tw</u>

Table of Contents	Page No
General Information	S-2
Experimental section	S-2
TD-DFT for singlet (S_1) and triplet (T_1) states	S-3
Photophysical properties	S-6
Transient PL and thermal properties	S-7
Electrochemical properties and chemical structures of the device materials	S-8
EL-properties of the devices	S-9
References	S-11
Spectral data of compounds	S-12
ORTEP Diagram and X-ray data of emitters	S-15
Mass spectral analysis of TADF emitters	S-20

General Information

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Mercury 400 spectrometer. UV-vis absorption spectra were recorded on a U-3310 recording spectrophotometer. PL spectra were recorded on an F-7000 fluorescence spectrophotometer. The differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed on a DSC Q10 unit at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. from 50 °C to 300 °C under argon. The glass transition temperature (T_g) was determined from the second heating scan. Transient PL decay measurements were done using an Edinburgh FLS 980 instrument. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was measured with a CHI-600 voltammetric analyzer. Tetrabutyl ammonium perchlorate (TBAClO₄) (0.1 M) was used as a supporting electrolyte. The conventional three-electrode configuration consists of a platinum working electrode, a platinum wire auxiliary electrode, and an Ag wire pseudo-reference electrode with ferrocenium-ferrocene (Fc+/Fc) as the internal standard.

DFT Calculation

Molecular geometry optimizations and electronic properties of these materials were carried out by using the Gaussian 09 program with density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT for S_1 and T_1 states) calculations in which the Becke's three-parameter functional combined with Lee, Yang, and Parr's correlation functional (B3LYP) hybrid exchange-correlation functional with the 6-31G* basis set was used.¹ The molecular orbitals were visualized by Gaussview 5.0 software.^{1,2} All calculations were performed in the gas phase.

OLEDs Fabrication and Measurement

Organic materials used in device fabrication were purified by sublimation. Devices were fabricated by vacuum deposition onto pre-coated ITO glass with a sheet resistance of 15 Ω /square at a pressure lower than 10⁻⁶ Torr. Organic materials were deposited at the rate of 0.5~1.2 Å s⁻¹. LiF and Al were deposited at the rate of 0.1 Å s⁻¹, 3-10 Å s⁻¹, respectively. The rest of the procedures is similar to the reported method.² Current-voltage-luminance (I-V-L) characterization and electroluminescent spectra were measured and recorded by using a programmable source meter (2400, Keithley) and a spectroradiometer (CS2000A, Konica Minolta). External quantum efficiencies and power efficiencies were determined by the Lambertian emission device assumption.

Synthesis of TADF compounds.

The compounds 10-(4-bromophenyl)-9,9-dimethyl-9,10-dihydroacridine,³ 10-(4-bromophenyl)-10*H*-phenoxazine⁴ and 2-cyanopyridine-5-carboxaldehyde³ were prepared according to the procedure known in the literature.

State		Excitation	$E_{\rm cal}~({\rm eV})^{\rm a}$	$\lambda_{cal} \ (nm)^b$	f^{c}
		Singlet Excited States			
S1	HOMO-1 → LUMO+ HOMO → LUMO	+1 0.19433 0.67571	2.0059	618	0.0000
S2	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO → LUMO+1	0.66567 0.22563	2.0220	650	0.0000
S3	HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1	-0.23066 0.66696	2.2484	551	0.0001
S4	HOMO-1 → LUMO+ HOMO → LUMO	+1 0.67671 -0.19944	2.0608	547	0.0003
		Triplet Excited States			
T1	HOMO-1 → LUMO+ HOMO → LUMO	+1 0.19920 0.67377	2.0021	619	-
T2	HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1	0.66316 0.23129	2.0180	614	-
Т3	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO → LUMO+1	-0.23709 0.66427	2.2467	551	-
T4	HOMO-1 → LUMO- HOMO → LUMO+1	-1 0.39208 -0.20496	2.2632	547	-
	$S1-T1 = \Delta E_{ST}$ 2.	.0059 - 2.0021 = 0.0038 eV	H-bonding d	istance = 2.4 Å	

Table S1. Singlet and triplet excitation states, and transition configurations of the 26DAcBPy by TD-DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d,p).

^aExcitation energy, ^bexcitation wavelength (λ), ^coscillator strength (f).



State		Excitation	$E_{\rm cal}~({\rm eV})^{\rm a}$	$\lambda_{cal} \ (nm)^b$	f^{c}
	Sin	glet Excited States			
S 1	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	0.69285 -0.13385	2.1946	564	0.0012
S2	HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO	0.70496	2.6439	468	0.2407
83	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	0.13861 0.68248	2.9686	417	0.0013
S4	HOMO-3 → LUMO HOMO-3 → LUMO+1	0.65684 0.21079	3.0927	400	0.0032
]	Triplet Excited States			
T1	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	0.69085 -0.13950	2.1879	566	-
Τ2	HOMO-1 \rightarrow LUMO HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1	0.63180 0.24193	2.2228	557	-
	$S1-T1 = \Delta E_{ST} \qquad 2.1946$	-2.1879 = 0.0067 eV	H-bonding d	listance = 2.3 Å	

Table S2. Singlet and triplet excitation states, and transition configurations of the 25DAcBPy by TD-DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G (d,p).

^aExcitation energy, ^bexcitation wavelength (λ), ^coscillator strength (f).



State		Excitation	$E_{\rm cal}~({\rm eV})^{\rm a}$	$\lambda_{cal} \ (nm)^b$	f^{c}
	Sin	glet Excited States			
S1	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	0.67150 0.20423	1.8018	688	0.0290
S2	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO-1 → LUMO+1	0.61729 -0.33283	1.9062	650	0.0169
S3	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	-0.20722 0.61872	2.0258	612	0.016
S4	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO-1 → LUMO+1	0.33869 0.61872	2.0608	601	0.118
	Т	Triplet Excited States			
T1	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	0.65468 0.24530	1.7377	713	-
T2	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO-1 → LUMO+1	0.58512 -0.38301	1.8694	663	-
T3	$\begin{array}{l} \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO} \\ \text{HOMO} \rightarrow \text{LUMO+1} \end{array}$	-0.25225 0.65944	2.0206	613	-
T4	HOMO-1 → LUMO HOMO-1 → LUMO+1	0.39208 0.5862	2.0540	603	-
	$S1-T1 = \Delta E_{ST} \qquad 1.8018$	-1.7377 = 0.0641 eV	H-bonding d	istance = 2.5 Å	

Table S3. Singlet and triplet excitation states, and transition configurations of the 26DPXZBPy by TD-DFT at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p).

^aExcitation energy, ^bexcitation wavelength (λ), ^coscillator strength (f).



Photophysical properties



Fig. S1. a) UV-Vis spectra of 26DAcBPy, 25DAcBPy and 26DPXZBPy in toluene solution at RT (10⁻⁵ M); and b) PL spectra of 26DAcBPy, c) 25DAcBPy and d) 26DPXZBPy in various solvents at RT (10⁻⁵ M).





Transient PL and thermal properties



Fig. S2: a) Prompt decay curves of emitters in the thin film (10 wt% doped in mCBP) at 300 K. b) The temperaturedependent transient PL decay for 25DAcBPy and c) 26DPXZBPy measured in the thin film (10 wt% doped in mCBP) at various temperatures. (d) PL decay curve of 26DAcBPy measured in toluene (10⁻⁵ M) under vacuum.

The rate constants of BPy compounds were determined by using the following reported equations:⁵

$\tau_{\rm p} = 1/k_{\rm p}$	Eq-S1
$\tau_{\rm d} = 1/k_{\rm d}$	Eq-S2
$k_{\rm ISC} = (1 - \Phi_{\rm F}) \ge k_{\rm p}$	Eq-S3
$k_{\text{RISC}} = (k_{\text{p}} k_{\text{d}} / k_{\text{ISC}}) \times (\Phi_{TADF} / \Phi_{\text{F}})$	Eq-S4
$k_{\rm r}^{\rm S} = k_{\rm p} \Phi_{\rm F}$	Eq-S5
$k_{\rm nr}^{\rm T} = k_{\rm d} - k_{\rm RISC} \Phi_{\rm F}$	Eq-S6
$\Phi_{\rm F} = \Phi {\rm O}_2$	Eq-S7
$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathrm{TADF}} = \boldsymbol{\Phi}\mathrm{N}_2 \boldsymbol{\cdot} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_{\mathrm{F}}$	Eq-S8

Table S4. Summarized transient-PL data and the rate constants of TADF dopants.

Emitters ^{a)}	τ_p [ns]	τ _d [μs]	$\Phi_{\rm F}$ [%] ^{b)}	Φ _{TADF} [%] ^{b)}	$k_{\rm p}$ $[10^6 { m s}^{-1}]^{ m c)}$	$k_{\rm d}$ $[10^5 { m s}^{-1}]^{ m d}$	$k_{\rm IC}$ [10 ⁶ s ⁻¹] ^{e)}	$k_{\rm ISC}$ [10 ⁷ s ⁻¹] ^{f)}	$k_{\rm RISC}$ [10 ⁵ s ⁻¹] ^{g)}	$k_{\rm nr}{}^{\rm T}$ $[10^4 { m s}^{-1}]^{ m h)}$
26DAcBPy	33	2.3	20	70	6.06	3.91	0.65	2.36	3.52	32.0
25DAcBPy	31	1.9	22	61	7.10	4.37	1.45	2.37	3.63	35.7
26DPXABPy	27	1.0	18	58	6.67	7.60	2.10	2.83	5.78	65.5

a)10% BPy compounds measured in mCBP film (30 nm) at 300 K. ^{b)}PLQY of the prompt fluorescent (Φ_F) component and the delayed fluorescent (Φ_{TADF}) component. The rate constants of; ^{c)}prompt fluorescence (k_p), ^{d)}delayed fluorescence (k_d), ^{e)}internal conversion (k_{IC}), ^{f)}intersystem crossing (k_{ISC}), ^{g)}reverse intersystem crossing (k_{RISC}), and non-radiative decay (k_{nr}^{T}).



Fig. S3: a) TGA curves and b) DSC curves of compounds 26DAcBPy, 25DAcBPy and 26DPXZBPy



Electrochemical properties and chemical structures of the device materials

Fig. S4: Cyclic voltammogram of compounds a) 26DAcBPy, b) 25DAcBPy, and c) 26DPXZBPy with tetrabutylammonium perchlorate (TBAClO₄, 0.1 M) was used as a supporting electrolyte in DCM at 10⁻³ M solution, and ferrocene (4.8 eV) was used as a reference for calibration.



Fig. S5. Structures of the materials used in devices and schematic representation of the device

EL-properties of the devices

Charge balance factor (γ) calculation:⁶

$$\gamma = \eta_{ext} / \eta_{int} = \eta_{ext} / (\eta_{ST} \times \eta_{out} \times \Phi_{\rm F})$$
 Eq-S9

where Π_{ext} is external quantum efficiency (EQE), Π_{int} is internal quantum efficiency (IQE), Π_{ST} is the fraction of radiative excitons (100%), Π_{out} is the light-out coupling efficiency (ca. 26%) and Φ_F is PL quantum yield of the emitting layer





Fig. S6: a) Luminance-voltage-current efficiency; b) current efficiency-luminance-power efficiency curves of 26DAcBPy, 25DAcBPy and 26DPXZBPy-based devices; c) the hole and electron only devices with the configurations: ITO/NPB (20 nm)/mCBP: 26DAcBPy (10 wt%) (300 nm)/NPB (50 nm)/Al and ITO/TmPyPB (20 nm)/mCBP: 26DAcBPy (10 wt%) (300 nm)/TmPyPB (50 nm)/ LiF (1 nm)/ Al, respectively.

Entry	Yellow Emitters	$L_{\rm max}$ (cd m ⁻²)	EQE _{max} (%)	EQE (%) at 1,000/10,000cd m ⁻²	CIE (x, y)	EL _{max}	Ref
1	26DAcBPy	20334	23.1	17.4/7.8	(0.37, 0.57)	542	This work
2	25DAcBPy	18055	19.6	14.5/6.0	(0.42, 0.53)	558	This work
3	26DPXZBPy	29600	13.7	10.9/5.0	(0.49, 0.49)	590	This work
4	6,7-DCQx-Ca	-	21.5	-	(0.37, 0.57)	541	7a
5	5,8-DCQx-Ca	-	20.1	-	(0.47, 0.51)	569	7a
6	34AcCz-Trz	-	14.2	-	(0.40, 0.56)	540	7b
7	SFDBQPXZ	31790	23.5	13.0/-	-	548	7c
8	DFDBQPXZ	31099	16.8	12.4/-	-	548	7c
9	CP-BP-PXZ	27540	19.1	12.0/-	(0.37, 0.57)	542	7d
10	CP-BP-DMAC	32250	19.6	13.6/-	(0.38, 0.57)	542	7d
11	DPXZ-as-TAZ	10020	9.6	8.0/-	(0.44, 0.52)	-	7e
12	TPXZ–as-TAZ	11270	13.0	11.5/-	(0.44, 0.52)	-	7e
13	PxPmBPX	61040	11.3	-	-	541	7f
14	PXZDS02	17000	16.7	13.7/-	(0.44, 0.54)	549	7g
15	TBP-PXZ	49240	17.7	16.0/12.7	(0.45, 0.53)	564	7h
16	Ac-CNP	70630	13.3	9.1/6	(0.47,0.51)	580	3
17	MoCz-PCN	43785	20.6	16.6/-	(0.38,0.57)	-	8a
18	4CzCNPy	-	6.6	-	(0.37,0.59)	536	8b

Table S5. EL performances of representative greenish-yellow to yellow-orange TADF OLEDs.^a

19	Py56	-	29.2	20.6/-	(0.43,0.55)	-	8c
20	CzPyCN	6034	7.4	-	(0.38,0.53)	536	8d

^a The results were obtained from reference.

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¹H & ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 26DAcBPy



¹H & ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 26DPXZBPy



¹H & ¹³C NMR spectra of compound 25DAcBPy



S14

X-Ray crystallographic analysis:

General Crystal Growing Conditions: X-ray quality single crystals of 26DAcBPy, 25DAcBPy and 26PXZBPy, were collected from the sublimed tube after cooling down to room temperature (sublimed temperatures are 260, 275, and 290 °C for 26DAcBPy, 25DAcBPy and 26PXZBPy, respectively).

ORTEP diagram of compound **26DAcBPy** (CCDC = 1906824)





Table S6. Crystal data and structure refinement for 180220LT_0M.

Identification code	180220LT_0m	
Empirical formula	C49 H39 N3 O2	
Formula weight	701.83	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P -1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 10.3324(4) Å	α= 77.029(2)°
	b = 14.3340(5) Å	$\beta = 80.766(2)^{\circ}$
	c = 26.1832(10) Å	$\gamma = 74.062(2)^{\circ}$
Volume	3613.4(2) Å ³	
Z	4	
Density (calculated)	1.290 Mg/m ³	
Absorption coefficient	0.079 mm ⁻¹	
F(000)	1480	
Crystal size	0.20 x 0.15 x 0.15 mm ³	
Theta range for data collection	0.802 to 26.365°.	
Index ranges	-12<=h<=12, -17<=k<=2	17, -32<=l<=32
Reflections collected	57089	
Independent reflections	14633 [R(int) = 0.0366]	
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.7 %	

Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9485 and 0.9015
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	14633 / 0 / 981
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.029
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0493, wR2 = 0.1009
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0772, wR2 = 0.1181
Extinction coefficient	n/a
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.250 and -0.234 e.Å ⁻³

ORTEP diagram of compound **25DAcBPy** (CCDC = 1906825)

1) Without H-bonding conformation about 34%





Table S7a. Crystal data and structure refinement for	r 170750lt3_0m_a.	
Identification code	170750lt3_0m_a	
Empirical formula	C49 H39 N3 O2	
Formula weight	701.83	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P -1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.1080(5) Å	α= 97.767(2)°.
	b = 9.7627(5) Å	β= 97.520(2)°.
	c = 20.9805(10) Å	$\gamma = 98.633(2)^{\circ}$.
Volume	1805.61(16) Å ³	
Z	2	
Density (calculated)	1.291 Mg/m ³	

Absorption coefficient	0.079 mm ⁻¹
F(000)	740
Crystal size	0.16 x 0.13 x 0.05 mm ³
Theta range for data collection	0.991 to 26.402°.
Index ranges	-7<=h<=11, -12<=k<=11, -25<=l<=26
Reflections collected	25617
Independent reflections	7361 [R(int) = 0.0365]
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission	0.9485 and 0.8873
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²
Data / restraints / parameters	7361 / 372 / 583
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.058
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.1040, wR2 = 0.2691
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1382, wR2 = 0.2978
Extinction coefficient	0.009(2)
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.977 and -0.679 e.Å ⁻³

2 With H-bonding conformation about 66%



Table S7b.	Crystal data	and structure	refinement for	: 170750lt3	0m a.

Identification code	170750lt3_0m_a	
Empirical formula	C49 H39 N3 O2	
Formula weight	701.83	
Temperature	100(2) K	
Wavelength	0.71073 Å	
Crystal system	Triclinic	
Space group	P-1	
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.1080(5) Å	α= 97.767(2)°.

	b = 9.7627(5) Å	β= 97.520(2)°.	
	c = 20.9805(10) Å	$\gamma = 98.633(2)^{\circ}$.	
Volume	1805.61(16) Å ³		
Ζ	2		
Density (calculated)	1.291 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.079 mm ⁻¹		
F(000)	740		
Crystal size	0.16 x 0.13 x 0.05 mm ³		
Theta range for data collection	1.983 to 26.402°.		
Index ranges	-7<=h<=11, -12<=k<=11, -25<=l<=26		
Reflections collected	25607		
Independent reflections	7360 [R(int) = 0.0365]		
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.8 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents		
Max. and min. transmission	0.9485 and 0.8873		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²		
Data / restraints / parameters	7360 / 366 / 571		
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	1.055		
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.1039, wR2 = 0.2587		
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1379, $wR2 = 0.2831$		
Extinction coefficient	0.0047(18)		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.959 and -0.605 e.Å ⁻³		

ORTEP diagram of compound **26DPXZBPy** (CCDC = 1906826)





Table 56. Crystal data and structure refinement for			
Identification code	mo_170906lt_0m		
Empirical formula	C43 H27 N3 O4		
Formula weight	649.67		
Temperature	100(2) K		
Wavelength	0.71073 Å		
Crystal system	Triclinic		
Space group	P -1		
Unit cell dimensions	a = 11.35(2) Å	α=111.73(4)°.	
	b = 11.79(2) Å	β= 94.96(5)°.	
	c = 12.45(2) Å	$\gamma = 92.64(4)^{\circ}$.	
Volume	1537(5) Å ³		
Ζ	2		
Density (calculated)	1.404 Mg/m ³		
Absorption coefficient	0.091 mm ⁻¹		
F(000)	676		
Crystal size	0.22 x 0.15 x 0.04 mm ³		
Theta range for data collection	1.772 to 26.595°.		
Index ranges	-13<=h<=14, -14<=k<=13, -10<=l<=15		
Reflections collected	21434		
Independent reflections	6215 [R(int) = 0.1177]		
Completeness to theta = 25.242°	99.9 %		
Absorption correction	Semi-empirical from equivalents		
Max. and min. transmission	0.9485 and 0.5056		
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F ²		
Data / restraints / parameters	6215 / 0 / 451		
Goodness-of-fit on F ²	0.969		
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0805, $wR2 = 0.1931$		
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.1382, wR2 = 0.2285		
Extinction coefficient	n/a		
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.443 and -0.469 e.Å ⁻³		

Table S8. Crystal data and structure refinement for mo_170906lt_0m.

Mass spectral analysis of TADF emitters:

a) 26DAcBPy



b) 25DAcBPy [Mass Spectrum] Data: 1016 Date: 02-Feb-2018 15:53 Bretrument: MStation Sample: F2 Note: Note: Spectrum Type: Normal Ion [EF-Linear] RT: 145 min Scareft: 60 Temp: 3287 deg.C BP: m/z 7013.004 ht: 32.865 (297485) Output m/z range: 690 to 725 Cut Level: 0.00 %



c) 26DPXZBPy

[Mass Spectrum] Data: 1014 Date: 02-Feb-2018 15:19 Instrument: MStation Sample: P3 Nota: Inde: Direct Ion Mode: E1+ Spectrum Type: Normal Ion (EF-Linear) RT: 332 min Scanfi: 133 Temp: 2276.7 deg.C B7: m7: 248.2010 Int. 7:39 (76755) Output m/z range: 635 to 670 Out Level: 0.00 %

