

Supporting Information for

**Theoretical perspective for luminescent mechanism of
thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitter with
excited-state intramolecular proton transfer**

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1. Independent gradient model (IGM) method

IGM method is convenient for visualization of the weak interaction. The δg function method of the subtraction between the initial molecular density gradient and the independent gradient density is adopted. The δg formula is written as

$$\delta g(r) = g^{IGM}(r) - g(r) \quad (1)$$

$$g(r) = \left| \sum_i \nabla \rho_i(r) \right| \quad (2)$$

$$g^{IGM}(r) = \left| \sum_i abs[\nabla \rho_i(r)] \right| \quad (3)$$

Where i is the atomic ordinal number, $\nabla \rho(r)$ is the gradient vector, $abs(\nabla \rho)(r)$ represents every component of $\nabla \rho(r)$ vector takes absolute value.

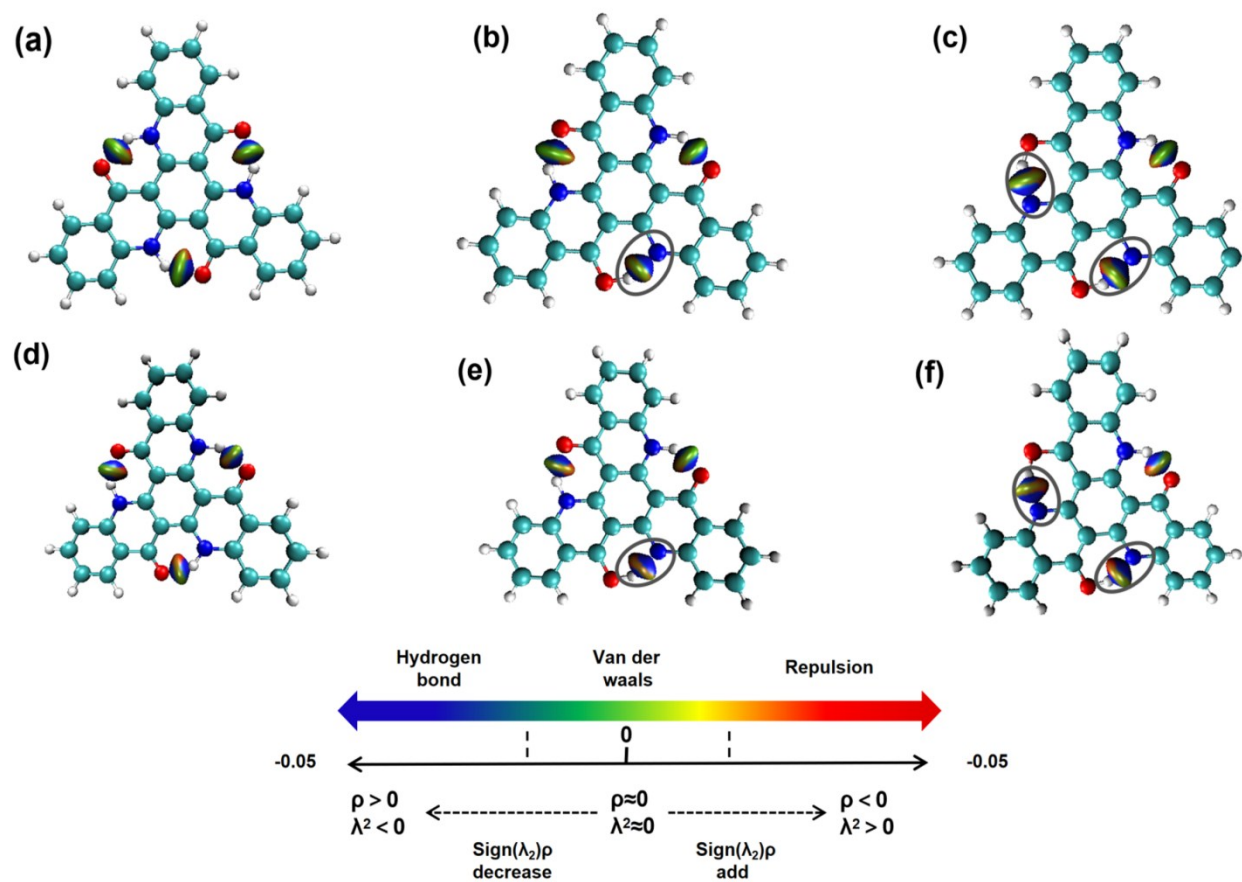
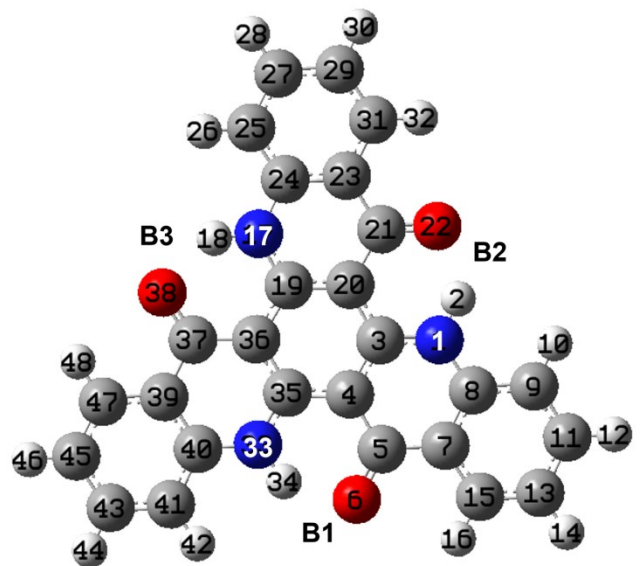


Figure S1 Visualization of intramolecular hydrogen bond of the molecule in S_1 state. ρ and λ_2 represents the electron density and eigenvalue of the electron-density Hessian (second derivative) matrix, respectively. (a) TQB-TA, (b) TQB-TB and (c) TQB-TC in DMF; (d) TQB-TA, (e) TQB-TB and (f) TQB-TC in solid phase.



B1: 34-6	θ1: 33-34-6	α1: 33-34-6-5
B2: 22-2	θ2: 38-18-17	α2: 38-18-17-19
B3: 38-18	θ3: 22-2-1	α3: 1-2-22-21

Figure S2 Atomic labels of TQB.

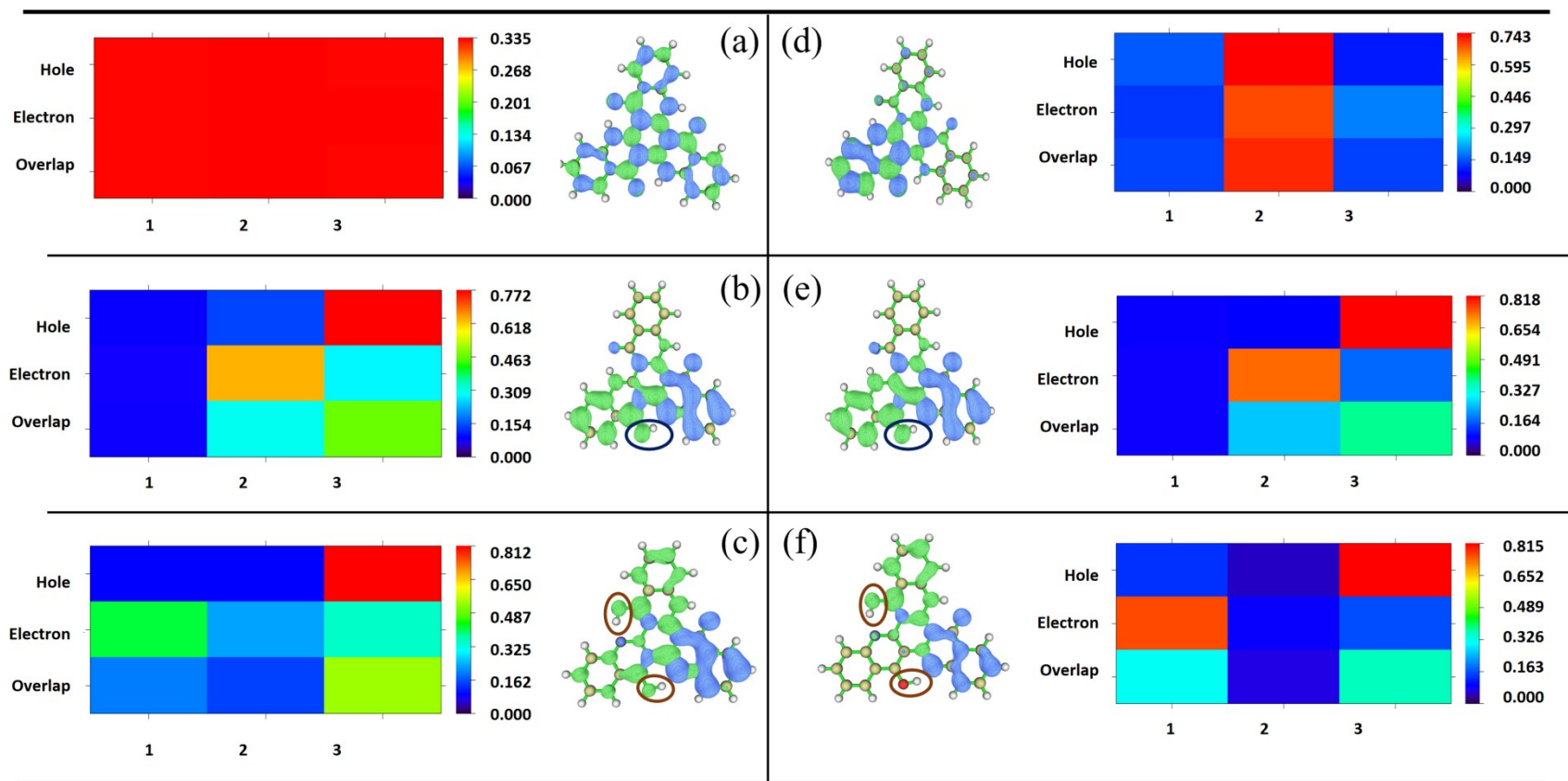


Figure S3. Isosurface of hole and electron distribution and heat map of molecules at T_1 state. (a) TQB-TA, (b) TQB-TB and (c) TQB-TC in DMF; (d) TQB-TA, (e) TQB-TB and (f) TQB-TC in solid phase.

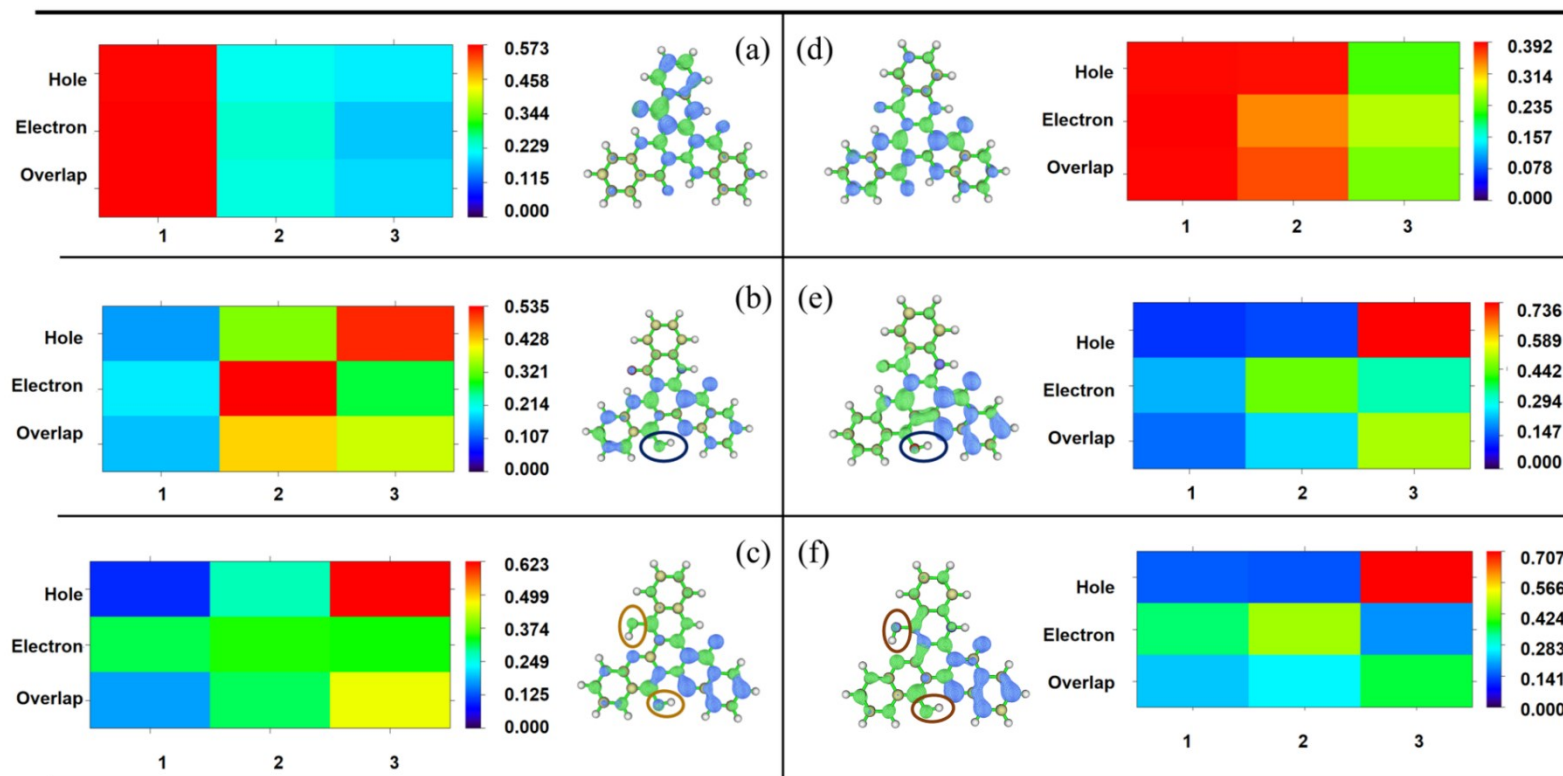


Figure S4. Isosurface of hole and electron distribution and heat map of molecules at T_2 state. (a) TQB-TA, (b) TQB-TB and (c) TQB-TC in DMF; (d) TQB-TA, (e) TQB-TB and (f) TQB-TC in solid phase.

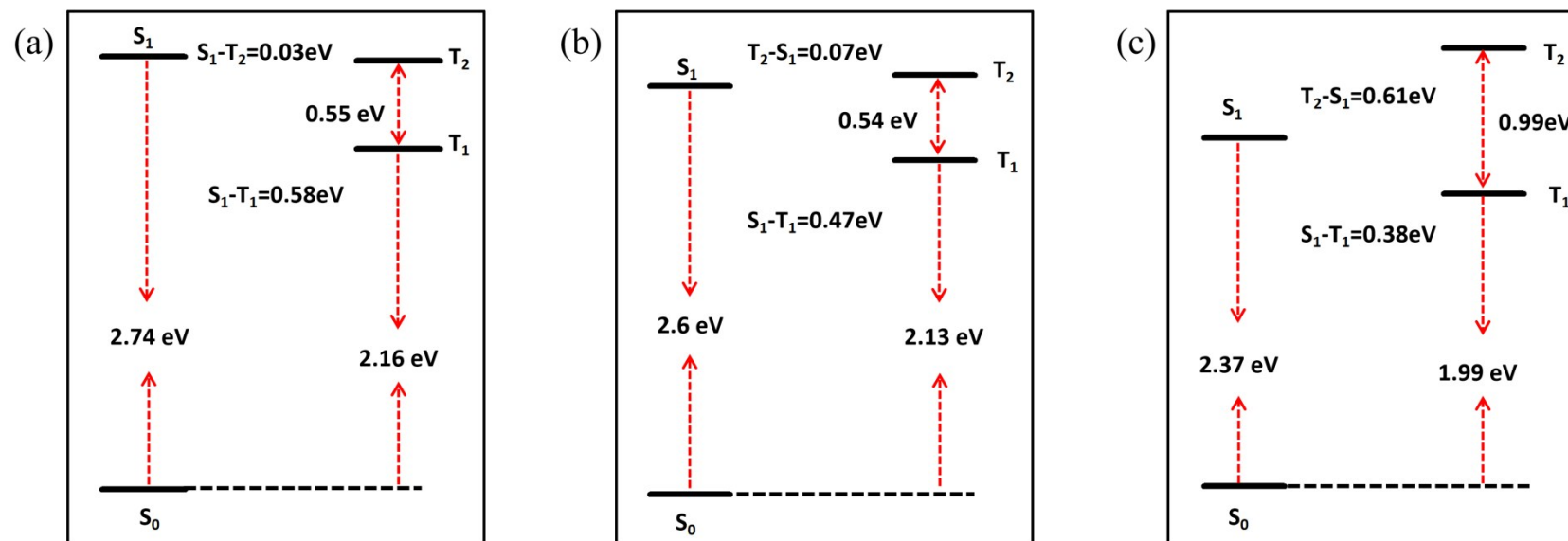


Figure S5. Excitation energies for TQB** - TA (a), TQB** - TB (b) and TQB* - TA (c) in toluene.

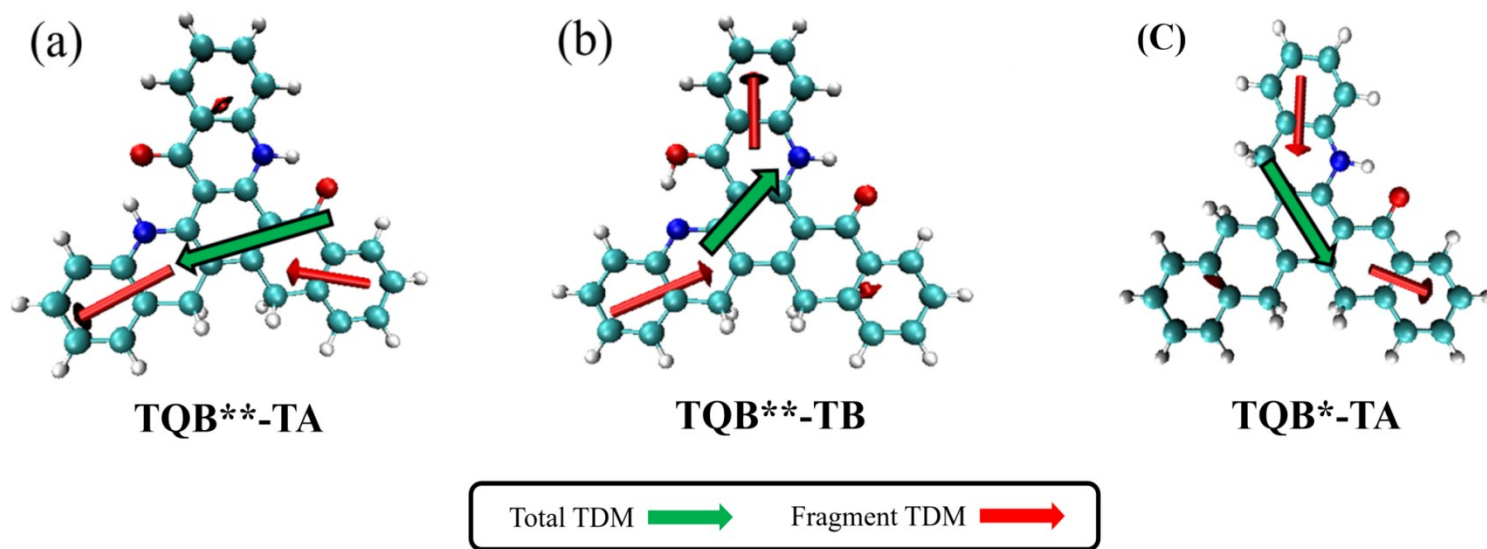


Figure S6. Transition dipole moment (TDM): (a) TQB**-TA, (b) TQB**-TB and (c) TQB*-TA in toluene.

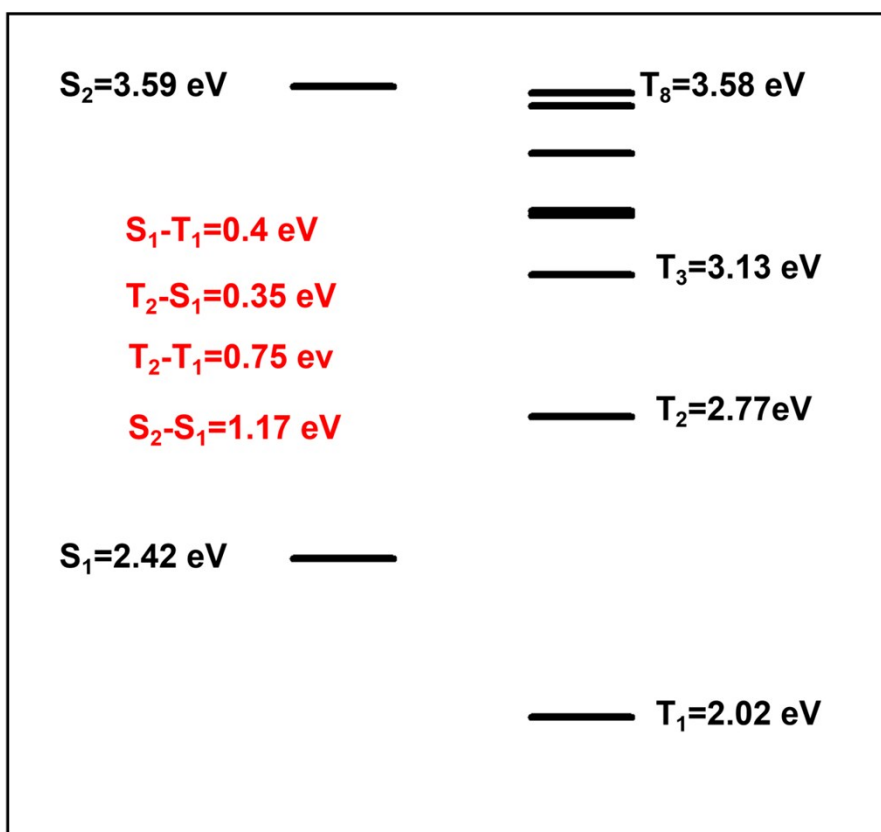


Figure S7. Vertical excitation energies for TQB*-TA in toluene

Table S1. Geometry parameters of S₁ states for TQB-TA, TQB-TB and TQB-TC in DMF and in solid phase. Bond lengths (B1, B2, B3), bond angles (θ_1 , θ_2, θ_3) and dihedral angles (α_1 , α_2 , α_3) are marked in Fig. S2.

	DMF			Solid		
	TQB-TA	TQB-TB	TQB-TC	TQB-TA	TQB-TB	TQB-TC
B1	1.73	1.00	1.01	1.71	1.01	1.01
B2	1.73	1.77	1.80	1.73	1.76	1.79
B3	1.73	1.79	1.01	1.71	1.75	1.01
θ_1	139.85	147.81	150.23	139.91	146.49	150.72
θ_2	139.76	135.58	137.72	140.07	138.29	137.98
θ_3	139.79	137.52	148.51	139.85	138.02	149.16
α_1	-0.01	-0.03	0	4.64	1.69	2.64
α_2	0.02	0	0	-0.04	2.73	-12.98
α_3	0	-0.01	0	0.43	1.48	-0.12