Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry C. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2020

Supplementary Information

Exploring Mechanism of Generating Spin-Orbital Coupling through Donor-Acceptor Design to Realize Spin Flipping in Thermally Activated Delayed Fluorescence

Miaosheng Wang^a, Tanmay Chatterjee^b, Camera Janelle Foster^a, Ting Wu^a, Chih-Lun Yi^b, Haomiao Yu^c, Ken-Tsung Wong^{b, *} and Bin Hu^{a,*}

^a Joint Institute for Advanced Materials, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA

^b Department of Chemistry, National Taiwan University, and Institute of Atomic and Molecular Science

Academia Sinica, Taipei 10617, Taiwan

^c Key Laboratory of Luminescence and Optical Information, Ministry of Education, School of Science, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing 100044, China

*Corresponding authors:

Ken-Tsung Wong: Email: kenwong@ntu.edu.tw

Bin Hu, E-mail: bhu@utk.edu

Supplementary Figures



Figure S1. Excitation and PL spectrum for DMAC-TRZ toluene solution. The excitation spectrum is measured by recording the PL peak intensity at 495 nm as the function of the excitation wavelength. PL spectrum is recorded by using 405 nm wavelength excitation. There are two excitation peaks corresponding to localized states excitation and CT states excitation, respectively. The directly excitation of CT states gives stronger emission compared with localized states excitation.



Figure S2. Magneto-PL of DMAC-TRZ in toluene solutions under 405 nm laser excitation with different concentrations. The concentration of the DMAC-TRZ does not have a significant influence on the spin mixing since it is very difficult to form intermolecular interactions between TADF molecules in solution.



Figure S3. (a) PL spectra for pristine TPD, pristine BBOT, and TPD:BBOT (1:1) in toluene solution. (b) Magneto-PL from TPD:BBOT light-emitting charge-transfer states occurring in spin-orbital coupling regime (>10 mT).

Synthesis procedure of DMAC-PymCN and DMAC-PmmCN:



5-(5-(9,9-dimethylacridin-10(9H)-yl)pyridin-2-yl)isophthalonitrile (DMAC-PymCN):

A mixture of 10-(6-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)pyridin-3-yl)-9,9-dimethyl-9,10-dihydroacridine (**DMAC-PymCl**) (0.431 g, 1 mmol), Zn(CN)₂ (0.164 g, 1.4 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.462 g, 0.4 mmol) and PtBu₃HBF₄ (0.239 g, 0.8 mmol) in dry NMP (10 mL) was heated to 140 °C for overnight under an argon atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was extracted with EA and water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated to give the crude product which was then purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/Hexane = 1/1) to afford **DMAC-PymCN** as a yellow solid (0.208 g, 50%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 1.70 (s, 6 H), 6.28-6.31 (m, 2 H), 6.98-7.01 (m, 4 H), 7.50-7.52 (m, 2 H), 7.92 (dd, *J* = 2.6, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.03 (t, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 1 H), 8.08 (dd, *J* = 1.0, 8.2 Hz, 1 H), 8.69 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 2 H), 8.72 (dd, *J* = 1.4, 2.4 Hz, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): δ = 31.3, 36.6, 114.6, 115.3, 117.3, 122.0, 122.7, 126.1127.1, 131.5, 134.9, 135.9, 139.1, 141.1, 141.2, 141.6, 152.3, 153.6. HRMS (m/z, ESI, [M+H]⁺) calcd. for C₂₈H₂₁N₄ 413.1760, found 413.1739.

5-(5-(9,9-dimethylacridin-10(9H)-yl)pyrimidin-2-yl)isophthalonitrile (DMAC-PmmCN):

A mixture of 10-(2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)pyrimidin-5-yl)-9,9-dimethyl-9,10-dihydroacridine (**DMAC-PmmCl**) (0.346 g, 0.8 mmol), $Zn(CN)_2$ (0.132 g, 1.12 mmol), $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (0.37 g, 0.32 mmol) and $PtBu_3HBF_4$ (0.186 g, 0.64 mmol) in dry NMP (8 mL) was heated to 140 °C for overnight under an argon atmosphere. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction was extracted with EA and water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated to give the crude product which was then purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/ Hexane = 1/1) to afford **DMAC-PmmCN** as a yellow solid (0.199 g, 66%). ¹H

NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): $\delta = 1.70$ (s, 6 H), 6.36-6.38 (m, 2 H), 7.04-7.06 (m, 4 H), 7.52-7.54 (m, 2 H), 8.09 (t, J = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.94 (s, 2 H), 9.10 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 2 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂): $\delta = 31.0$, 36.8, 115.1, 115.2, 117.3, 122.8, 126.3, 127.2, 132.5, 136.1, 137.1, 137.4, 140.2, 140.8, 159.6, 160.5. HRMS (m/z, MALDI, [M+H]⁺) calcd. for C₂₇H₂₀N₅ 414.1713, found 414.1738.



Figure S4. Magneto-optical studies on TADF molecule DMAC-PymCN and DMAC-PmmCN. (a) Molecular structure of DMAC-PymCN and DMAC-PmmCN; (b) PL spectra, (c) PL decay curves, and (d) magneto-PL of DMAC-PymCN and DMAC-PmmCN molecules in toluene solution (1 mg/mL) under 405nm laser excitation.