Design and Synthesis of Photostable Triphenylamine Based Neutral AIE Nano Luminogens: Specific and Long-Term Tracking of Mitochondria in Cells

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Electronic Supporting Information

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1. Materials and Methods

All the chemicals were purchased from commercial sources especially from Sigma Aldrich and used without any further purification. The synthetic strategy to obtain the targeted PI fluorophores was carried out by condensation reaction product reacted with relevant boronic acid by Suzuki coupling reaction. The synthetic strategy to obtain the target PI fluorophores has been provided in Scheme. The compound characterized for ¹ H NMR, ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra were performed 400 MHz and 100 MHz Bruker spectrometer. The Chemical shifts values in parts per million (ppm) with TMS (0 ppm) and CDCl₃ as standards for ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. Infrared spectroscopy of all the compound were measured using Bruker-Alpha-p instrument. All the TLC analyses were carried out using Merck silica gel 60 F254 plates. UV-vis absorption spectra of all compounds were recorded in THF on a Bruker UV–visible spectrophotometer. Emission spectra were taken in a Bruker fluorescence spectrophotometer. The excitation and emission slits were 3 nm wide for the emission measurements. All the measurements were done at 298 K. Column chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (100–200 mesh).

2. Synthesis

2.1 Synthesis of Precursors:

2.1.1 Experimental procedures for the Synthesis of (E)-2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)thiazol-2-yl)-3-(4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)acrylonitrile (S-1)



An oven dried 100 ml round bottom kept reflux condenser added 2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)thiazol-2-yl)acetonitrile **1** (500 mg, 1.0 mmol) and piperidine (0.35 ml, 2.0 mmol) were successively added to anhydrous EtOH (50 mL), which was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then 4-(diphenylamino)benzaldehyde **2** (489 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added to the reaction solution, and the mixture was heated and refluxed at 85 °C for 6 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent to give **S1** as an 840 mg of yellow colour solid in 85% of yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.89 – 7.80 (m, 4H), 7.59 – 7.54 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.38 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.22 – 7.13 (m, 6H), 7.06 – 7.00 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.96, 155.53, 151.34, 146.27, 144.14, 133.06, 132.07, 131.96, 129.85, 129.79, 128.20, 126.31, 126.11, 125.16, 124.85, 122.68, 120.12, 117.84, 113.59, 100.52 ppm.

2.1.2 Experimental procedures for the Synthesis of (E)-2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)thiazol-2-yl)-3-(10-heptyl-10H-phenothiazin-3-yl)acrylonitrile (S-2)



An oven dried 100 ml round bottom kept reflux condenser added 2-(4-(4-bromophenyl)thiazol-2-yl)acetonitrile **1** (500 mg, 1.0 mmol) and piperidine (0.35 ml, 2.0 mmol) were successively added to anhydrous EtOH (50 mL), which was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. Then 10-hexyl-10H-phenothiazine-3-carbaldehyde **2** (557 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added to the reaction solution, and the mixture was heated and refluxed at 85 °C for 6 h. After cooling to ambient temperature, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent to give **S2** as an 825 mg red colour solid in 78% of yield. ¹**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.87 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.84 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 8.2, 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (dd, *J* = 7.7, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (td, *J* = 7.5, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.90 – 6.84 (m, 2H), 3.91 – 3.81 (m, 2H), 1.87 – 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.45 (dq, *J* = 14.6, 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (dq, *J* = 7.2, 3.7 Hz, 4H), 0.94 – 0.84 (m, 3H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl**₃) δ 163.49, 155.59, 148.50, 143.56, 143.21, 132.95, 132.07, 129.98, 129.34, 128.19, 127.67, 126.76, 124.93, 123.61, 123.53, 122.73, 117.44, 115.84, 115.23, 113.88, 101.49, 48.07, 31.54, 26.86, 26.69, 22.73, 14.12 ppm.

2.2 Synthesis of F1 and F2

2.2.1 Procedure for the synthesis of F1 using Suzuki coupling reaction



A mixture of compound **S1** (0.374 mg, 0.7 mmol), K₂CO₃ (276 mg, 2 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (25 mg, 0.3 mmol) and (4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)boronic acid **3** (204 mg, 1 mmol) in THF/H₂O (18 mL/2 mL) was refluxed at 80 °C for 24 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After cooling to ambient temperature, diluted with 50 mL of DCM, filtered through a celite pad, and washed with 20-40 mL of DCM. The combined organic phases were dried anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent to give compound **F1** as a 395 mg of orange colour solid 80% of yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (s, 1H), 8.02 – 7.99 (m, 1H), 7.86 (dd, J = 9.2, 2.6 Hz, 2H), 7.67 – 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.54 – 7.49 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.28 (m, 7H), 7.20 – 7.13 (m, 13H), 7.06 – 7.02 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.63, 160.09, 156.49, 151.22, 147.75, 147.57, 146.49, 146.33, 143.91, 140.77, 134.44, 132.78, 132.62, 131.91, 129.83, 129.76, 129.45, 127.77, 127.74, 127.06, 127.04, 126.28, 126.07, 125.09, 124.66, 124.64, 123.95, 123.17, 120.21, 120.00, 117.95, 114.79, 113.10, 100.74 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI): calculated for C₄₈H₃₅N₄S [M+H]⁺ 699.2582, found 700.2569.

2.2.2 Procedure for the synthesis of F2 using Suzuki coupling reaction



A mixture of compound S2 (351 mg, 0.6 mmol), K_2CO_3 (276 mg, 2.0 mmol), $Pd(PPh_3)_4$ (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) and (4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)boronic acid 3 (174 mg, 1 mmol) in THF/H₂O (18 mL/2 mL) was refluxed at 80 °C for 24 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After cooling to ambient temperature, diluted with 50 mL of DCM, filtered through a celite pad, and washed

with 20-40 mL of DCM. The combined organic phases were dried anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using Hexane/ethyl acetate mixture as eluent to give compound **F2** as a 365 mg of red colour solid 82% in of yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 8.02 – 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.87 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.2 Hz, 1H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 3H), 7.55 – 7.47 (m, 3H), 7.31 – 7.22 (m, 5H), 7.14 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.5 Hz, 7H), 7.06 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.97 – 6.91 (m, 1H), 6.88 – 6.83 (m, 2H), 3.85 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (p, J = 5.7, 4.1 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (dd, J = 7.2, 3.5 Hz, 4H), 0.88 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.14, 156.51, 148.35, 147.71, 147.53, 143.58, 142.96, 140.75, 134.36, 132.47, 129.92, 129.43, 129.29, 128.94, 127.75, 127.65, 127.63, 127.03, 127.00, 126.86, 126.64, 124.85, 124.61, 123.91, 123.60, 123.47, 123.16, 117.55, 115.79, 115.21, 113.37, 101.63, 48.02, 31.53, 26.83, 26.68, 22.72, 14.13 ppm; HRMS m/z (ESI): calculated for C₄₈H₄₁N₄S₂ [M+H]⁺ 737.2773, found 737.2734.

3.Copies of NMR spectrum of synthesized compounds (S1-S2)



Figure 1. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound S1 in CDCl₃



Figure 2. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound S1 in CDCl₃



Figure 3. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of compound S1 in CDCl₃



Figure 4. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound S2 in CDCl₃





Figure 6. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of compound S2 in CDCl₃



Figure 7. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound F1 in CDCl₃



Figure 8. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound F1 in CDCl₃



Figure 9. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of compound F1 in CDCl₃



Figure 10. HRMS spectrum of compound F1





Figure 11. ¹H NMR spectrum of compound F2 in CDCl₃



Figure 12. ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound F2 in CDCl₃



Figure 13. DEPT-135 NMR spectrum of compound F2 in CDCl₃



Figure 14. HRMS spectrum of compound F2

4. Thermal Properties

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried out using a TA SDTQ-600 instrument. The findings of the TGA of all five luminogens were studied under a nitrogen environment at a heating rate of 5 °C min⁻¹ from 30 to 1000 °C. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was performed on a TA SDTQ – 200 instrument and was carried out at a heating rate of 10 °C from 30 to 500 °C under a nitrogen environment.



Figure 15: Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) curves of F1.



Figure 16: Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) curves of F1.



Figure 17: Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) curves of F2.



Figure 18: Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) curves of F2.

5.DFT Calculations

Density functional theory (DFT) calculation of the compounds from F1 and F2 were carried out using Gaussian 09 program package. The ground state geometries of these luminogens were optimized using DFT-B3LYP-6-311G basis set. To obtain the information on absorption properties, Time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) calculations were performed using the optimized geometries.



Figure 19: HOMO and LUMO levels of F1



Figure 20: HOMO and LUMO levels of F2

6.Photoluminescence Studies

6.1 Absorption and Fluorescent spectra of synthesised compounds

The steady state and time resolved photoluminescence properties of 2 using fluorescence spectrometer from Edinburgh Instruments (FLS 1000) was investigated. For steady state luminescence measurement, the sample was exited using 380 and 420 nm collimated beam from the excitation monochromator of the spectrometer, which is pumped using a 450 W Xe2 continuous xenon lamp. The emission spectrum after passing through emission monochromator is scanned and detected in high-gain red sensitive photomultiplier (PMT) detector with spectral coverage from 400 nm to \sim 800 nm. The luminescence lifetime was measured using standard time-correlated single photon counting (TCSPC) technique using picosecond pulsed diode laser of wavelength 405 nm from Edinburgh Instruments (EPL-405) with repetition rate 200 KHz. The decay is fitted using reconvolution fit analysis using the IRF to extract the life-time parameters from the whole time resolved measurement.



Figure 21: Full absorption spectrum of F1 in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(fw); Con-10 μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 22: Absorption spectrum of **F1** in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(*fw*); Con-10 μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 23: PL spectrum of **F1** in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(*fw*); Con- 10μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 24. varying water fraction(fw)



Figure 25. varying water fraction(fw)



Figure 26: Full absorption spectrum of F2 in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(fw); Con-10 μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 27: Absorption spectrum of **F2** in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(*fw*); Con-10 μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 28: PL spectrum of **F1** in THF/Water mixtures with varying water fraction(*fw*); Con- 10μ M; Excitation wavelength-380 nm.



Figure 29. varying water fraction(*fw*)



Figure 30. varying water fraction(*fw*)

6.2 Tail Fitting of Time Resolved Decay (Solid Thin Film Samples)

Compound F1:



Figure 31: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 0%.



Figure 32: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 10%.



Std. Dev

Rel %

96.43

3.57

Figure 33: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 20%.



Figure 34: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 30%.



Fix Value / ns	Std. Dev / ns	Fix Value	Std. Dev	Rel %
1 🗌 0.1490	0.00242	B ₁ 0.362	0.0050	96.79
2 2.2066	0.07147	B ₂ 0.001	0.0000	3.21
3 🗆		B ₃		
F4 🗆		B ₄		
St 🗆 0.0492	0.0035	A 🔲 1.803	1	

Figure 35: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 40%.



Figure 36: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 50%.



0.378	0.0079	96.25
		00.20
0.001	0.0000	3.75
1.930		
: 1 295		
	0.001	0.001 0.0000

Figure 37: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 60%.



Figure 38: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 70%.



Fix Value / ns	Std. Dev / ns	Fix Value	Std. Dev	Rel %
c₁ 0.2375	0.00342	B ₁ 0.247	0.0023	89.99
t 2 1.9368	0.03240	B₂ 0.003	0.0001	10.01
τ ₃ 🗆		B ₃		
τ ₄ 🗆		B ₄		
δt 🔲 0.1071	0.0061	A 🔲 1.948		

Figure 39: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 80%.



Figure 40: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F1 at fw 90%.





Figure 41: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 0%.



Fix Value/ns	Std. Dev / ns	Fix Value	Std. Dev	Rel %
1 🗌 1.7306	0.01596	B ₁ 10276.019	139.6283	87.23
2 3.3605	0.15691	B ₂ 774.488	152.2152	12.77
3		B ₃		
τ ₄ 🗆		B ₄		
		A 🗌 6.176		
		7 ² : 1 540	1	
		N 1.540		

Figure 42: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 10%.



Figure 43: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 20%.



Figure 44: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 30%.



Fix Value / ns	Std. Dev / ns	Fix Value	Std. Dev	Rel %
Ել 1.1147	0.00967	B ₁ 9597.613	73.5401	77.20
τ ₂ 2.6720	0.05449	B ₂ 1182.632	82.2575	22.80
τ ₃ 🗌		B ₃]
τ4 🗆		B ₄		
		A 🗌 5.071		

Figure 45: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 40%.





Figure 46: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 50%.



0.00582	B ₁ 10800.046	46.6010	74.17
0.03445	B ₂ 1184.679	39.6815	25.83
	B ₃		
	B ₄		
	A 🗌 3.915]	
	χ ² : 1.974		
	0.00582	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $

Figure 47: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 60%.



Figure 48: Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 80%.



6934.769 80.8451 39.3 3977.703 89.2460 60.3	79 21
3977.703 89.2460 60.2	21
5.880	
	5.880

Figure 49 : Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 80%.



Figure 50 : Lifetime studies of the Luminogen F2 at fw 90%.



MagHVMic $_{-200 \text{ kV}/\text{JEM-2100}}$ $_{-500 \text{ nm}-}$ Figure 51: Transmission electron micrographs of (a) F1 dye in fw 90% and (b) F2 dye in fw70%. Scale bar is 500 nm for (a) and 100 nm for (b).



Water

(a)

Figure 52: (a) Physicochemical properties of aggregated dye in water:DMSO. Formation of F1 and F2 dyes in fw 90% followed by table showing size, PDI and zeta potential for two concentrations (10 and 20 μ M) study in water. The stability of such aggregated dye probed in different cell culture media. (b) Size, PDI and zeta potential of F1 and F2 nano-aggregates incubated for two concentrations (10 and 20 μ M) aggregated in water:DMSO and then incubated in serum free biological medium for 24 h. (c) Size, PDI and zeta potential for two concentrations (10 and 20 μ M) aggregated dye in water:DMSO and then incubated in 10 % serum (FBS) containing biological medium for 24 h.