

Supporting Information

SubPc-Br/BiOI S-Scheme Heterojunctions: Efficient Charge Separation for Enhanced Photocatalytic Degradation of Tetracycline

Yijian Zhou ^{a, b, 1}, Mengting Ji ^{a, b, 1}, Shengqian Liang ^{a, b}, Jiahang Song ^{a, b}, Haotian Wu ^{a, b},
Enzhou Liu ^a, Bing Wang^{a, c, *}, Chen Wang ^{a, b}, Bo Zhou^d, Zhuo Li ^{a, b, *}

^a School of Chemical Engineering, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, China

^b International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Base for Clean Utilization of Hydrocarbon Resources, Shaanxi Key Laboratory for Carbon Neutral Technology, Chemical Engineering Research Center of the Ministry of Education for Advance Use Technology of Shanbei Energy, Shaanxi Research Center of Engineering Technology for Clean Coal Conversion, Collaborative Innovation Center for Development of Energy and Chemical Industry in Northern Shaanxi, Xi'an 710069, China

^c Technological Institute of Materials & Energy Science (TIMES), Xijing University, Xi'an 710123, China

^d Institute of Modern Physics, Shaanxi Key Laboratory for Theoretical Physics Frontiers, Northwest University, Xi'an 710069, China

S1. Experimental Section

S1.1. Details of the Characterization Tests

The morphology and microstructure of the photocatalysts were characterized using scanning electron microscopy with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (SEM-EDS and EDS Mapping, JEOL JSM-6390 system) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM, Talos F200X). The crystallinity of the photocatalysts was assessed using a Rigaku D/max-III A X-ray diffractometer (XRD) with Cu K α radiation, at a scanning rate of 10°/min over a range of 5° to 80°¹. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FT-IR) was performed using a Bruker Vector 002 spectrophotometer. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis was conducted on a Kratos AXIS NOVA spectrometer, with calibration against the C 1s peak at 284.8 eV².

Ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) absorption spectra were recorded using a Shimadzu UV-3600 spectrometer, with BaSO₄ as the reflectance standard. Photoluminescence (PL) spectra were obtained using a Hitachi F7000 fluorescence spectrophotometer³. Time-resolved fluorescence decay spectra were measured using an F-4500 fluorescence spectrophotometer⁴. Electrochemical measurements were performed using a CHI 660E electrochemical workstation in a standard three-electrode system (platinum counter electrode, saturated calomel reference electrode, and sample/FTO working electrode) in a 0.1 M Na₂SO₄ aqueous solution, including transient photocurrent response (TPR) and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) Nyquist plots. The optical current response was measured at a potential of 0.5 V relative to the saturated calomel electrode (SCE) using a 300 W xenon lamp equipped with a 400 nm filter as the light source⁵. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy, with DMPO as a spin trap, was employed to detect the possible formation of reactive oxygen species ($\cdot\text{OH}$ and $\cdot\text{O}_2^-$) during the experiments⁶.

S1.2. Details of Theoretical Calculations

The Ewald summation method was employed with a cutoff radius of 9.50 Å, and both bonding and non-bonding effects were set to atom-based summation. The thermostat was maintained at 298 K with a time step of 0.1 fs and a total simulation time of 1000 ps. The Cambridge Sequential Total Energy Package (CASTEP) module was used to compute the electronic structure of BiOI (001), SubPc-Br, and SubPc-Br/BiOI in Materials Studio 2017. This included band structure, density of states, Fermi energy level, and differential charge density. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) and Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) functional were employed for all structural optimizations and static self-consistent and non-self-consistent calculations. For dispersion correction, Grimme's density functional theory (DFT-D) method was utilized. The plane-wave energy cutoff was set to 500 eV, and the Brillouin zone was sampled using the Monkhorst-Pack scheme with a $1 \times 1 \times 1$ k-point grid. The convergence criteria were set as follows: total energy tolerance of 2.0×10^{-6} eV/atom, maximum force tolerance of 0.05 eV/Å, maximum stress

component of 0.1 GPa, and maximum displacement tolerance of 0.002 Å. Prior to molecular dynamics (MD) simulations, the system geometry was optimized at 298 K using the Forcite program and the Nose thermostat to improve accuracy. The MD simulations were conducted using the universal force field, NVT ensemble integration, a time step of 0.1 fs, and a total simulation time of 1000 ps. The adsorption behavior of SubPc-Br on the BiOI (001) surface, the local influence of solvent molecules on the SubPc-Br/BiOI system, and the motion path of the catalyst in the solvent were simulated. The degradation pathway and products of tetracycline (TC) were deduced based on theoretical calculations of HPLC-MS and the Fukui function. Excited states were investigated using time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) with the CAM-B3LYP functional and 6-31G* basis set. The Gaussian software was used to optimize TC and calculate its highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) based on DFT, B3LYP functional, and 6-31G* basis set. All CP2K program input files were generated using the Multiwfn program. Additionally, VESTA was combined with Multiwfn for other visual representations.

S.2 Results

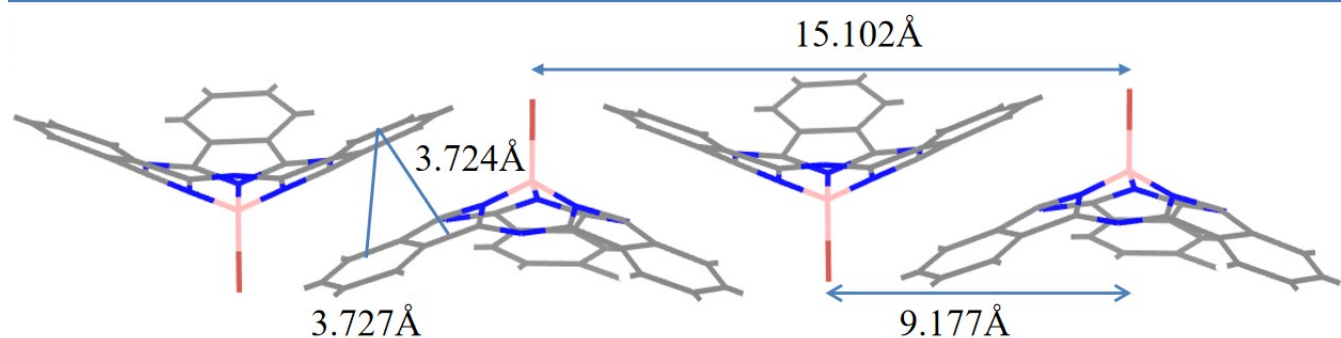


Fig. S1 Distance analysis between SubPc-Br molecules

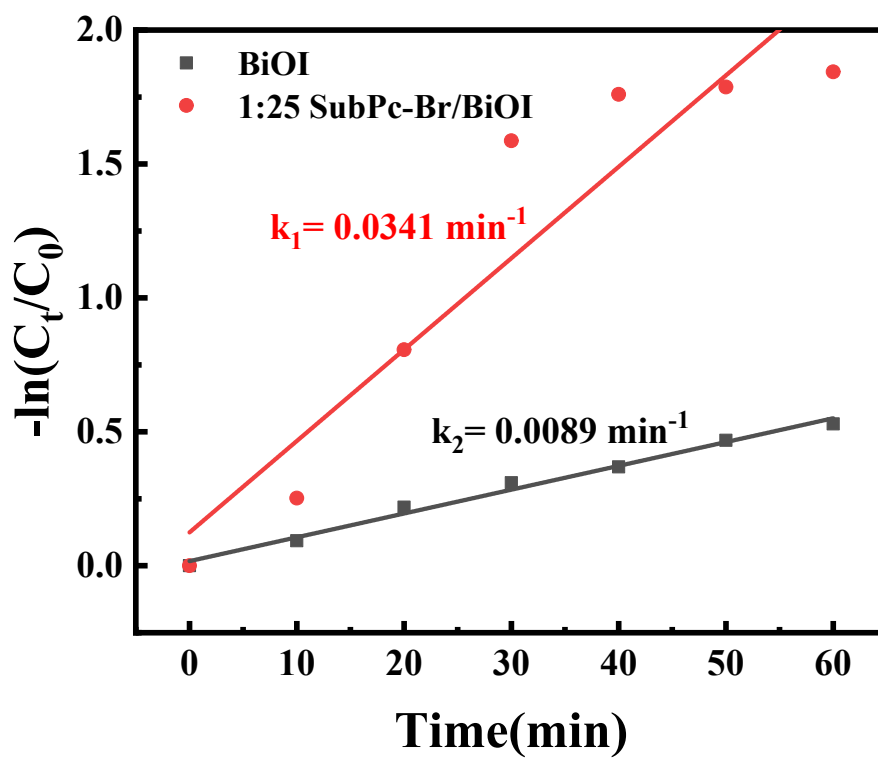


Fig. S2 BiOI and SubPc-Br/BiOI (1:25) apparent rate constant fitting curve

Table. S1 Photocatalytic data, mean, and standard deviation

	Reaction time	First experiment	Second experiment	Third experiment	Average	SD
BiOI	Initial (C/C_0)	1	1	1	1	0
	The 30-minute dark reaction was completed. (C/C_0)	0.91121	0.94815	0.92857	0.92931	0.01848
	10-minute light reaction. (C/C_0)	0.80374	0.81444	0.83013	0.8161	0.01327
	20-minute light reaction. (C/C_0)	0.73364	0.73889	0.72727	0.73327	0.00582

	30-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.69159	0.7037	0.65909	0.68479	0.02307
	40-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.62617	0.63185	0.61818	0.6254	0.00687
	50-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.58879	0.57037	0.56597	0.57504	0.0121
	60-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.54673	0.52963	0.51299	0.52978	0.01687
1:10SubPc-Br/BiOI	Initial (C/C ₀)	1	1	1	1	0
	The 30-minute dark reaction was completed. (C/C ₀)	0.85612	0.85069	0.86925	0.85869	0.00954
	10-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.67626	0.67361	0.71269	0.68752	0.02184
	20-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.56115	0.58333	0.57313	0.57254	0.0111
	30-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.44604	0.46181	0.42239	0.44341	0.01984
	40-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.35971	0.36458	0.37761	0.3673	0.00925
	50-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.32374	0.32639	0.29552	0.31522	0.01711
	60-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.30216	0.3125	0.32463	0.3131	0.01125
1:25SubPc-Br/BiOI	Initial (C/C ₀)	1	1	1	1	0
	The 30-minute dark reaction was completed. (C/C ₀)	0.85186	0.87162	0.87342	0.87324	0.01986
	10-minute light reaction.	0.47458	0.81081	0.7943	0.46258	0.01447

	(C/C ₀)					
	20-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.2178	0.73986	0.73734	0.21785	0.01323
	30-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.17119	0.70608	0.71519	0.18257	0.01895
	40-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.15034	0.63892	0.61709	0.1637	0.01194
	50-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.14492	0.61865	0.60759	0.15287	0.00701
	60-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.12797	0.60162	0.59177	0.13974	0.01287
1:50SubPc-Br/BiOI	Initial (C/C ₀)	1	1	1	1	0
	The 30-minute dark reaction was completed. (C/C ₀)	0.87162	0.87342	0.85099	0.86534	0.01246
	10-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.81081	0.7943	0.77944	0.79485	0.01569
	20-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.73986	0.73734	0.69662	0.72461	0.02427
	30-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.70608	0.71519	0.66789	0.69639	0.0251
	40-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.63892	0.61709	0.61268	0.62289	0.01405
	50-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.61865	0.60759	0.59155	0.60593	0.01363
	60-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.60162	0.59177	0.57042	0.58794	0.01595
1:75SubPc-Br/BiOI	Initial (C/C ₀)	1	1	1	1	0
	The 30-minute dark reaction	0.86447	0.88302	0.87795	0.87515	0.00959

	was completed. (C/C ₀)					
	10-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.74469	0.73585	0.77953	0.75336	0.02309
	20-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.65282	0.66038	0.68472	0.66597	0.01667
	30-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.52857	0.55094	0.51969	0.53307	0.01611
	40-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.36996	0.37736	0.38976	0.37903	0.01001
	50-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.31502	0.31698	0.34646	0.32615	0.01761
	60-minute light reaction. (C/C ₀)	0.26007	0.27547	0.27559	0.27038	0.00892

Table. S2 Summary of impactful studies on preparing BiOI-based heterojunctions with different material modifications

BiOI-based heterojunction	Target degradation compound	degradation time	degradation efficiency	Ref.
BiOI/MIL-121	TC	120 min	68%	7
BiOI-S/BiOI-F	TC	60 min	69.43%	8
1:10 Cu-Fe/LDH@BiOI _{1.5}	TC	75 min	73%	9
BiOI/Bi ₂ O ₃	TC	120 min	80.01%	10
p-n BiOI/Bi ₃ O ₄ Cl	TC	180 min	73.5%	11
BiOI/Bi ₂ O ₂ [BO ₂ (OH)]	TC	120 min	70.69%	12
1:25 SubPc-Br/BiOI	TC	60 min	84.4%	This work

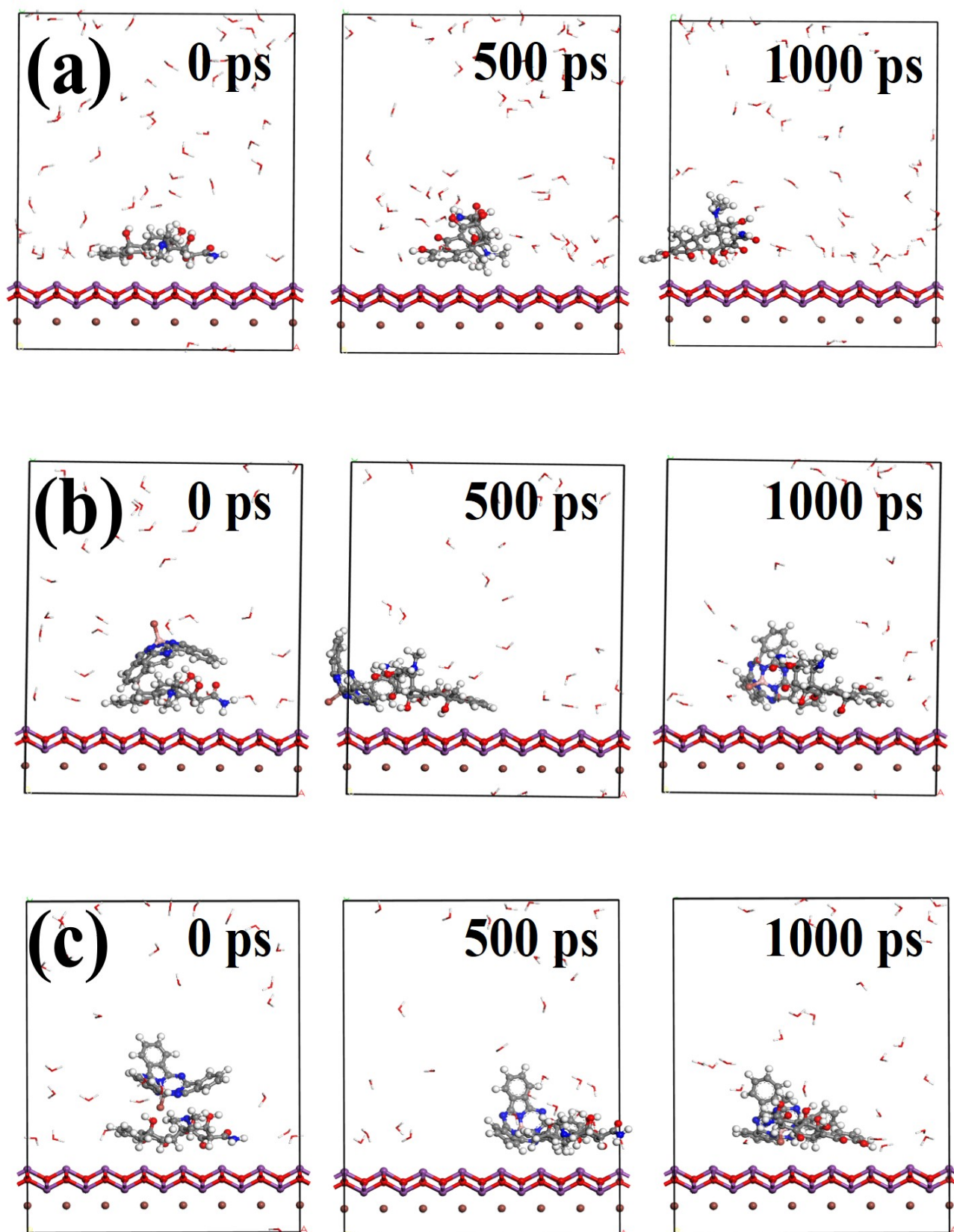


Fig. S3 Motion trajectories of (a) TC molecules, (b) "axially upward" SubPc-Br molecules and TC molecules, (c) "axially downward" SubPc-Br molecules and TC molecules in the BiOI(001) surface

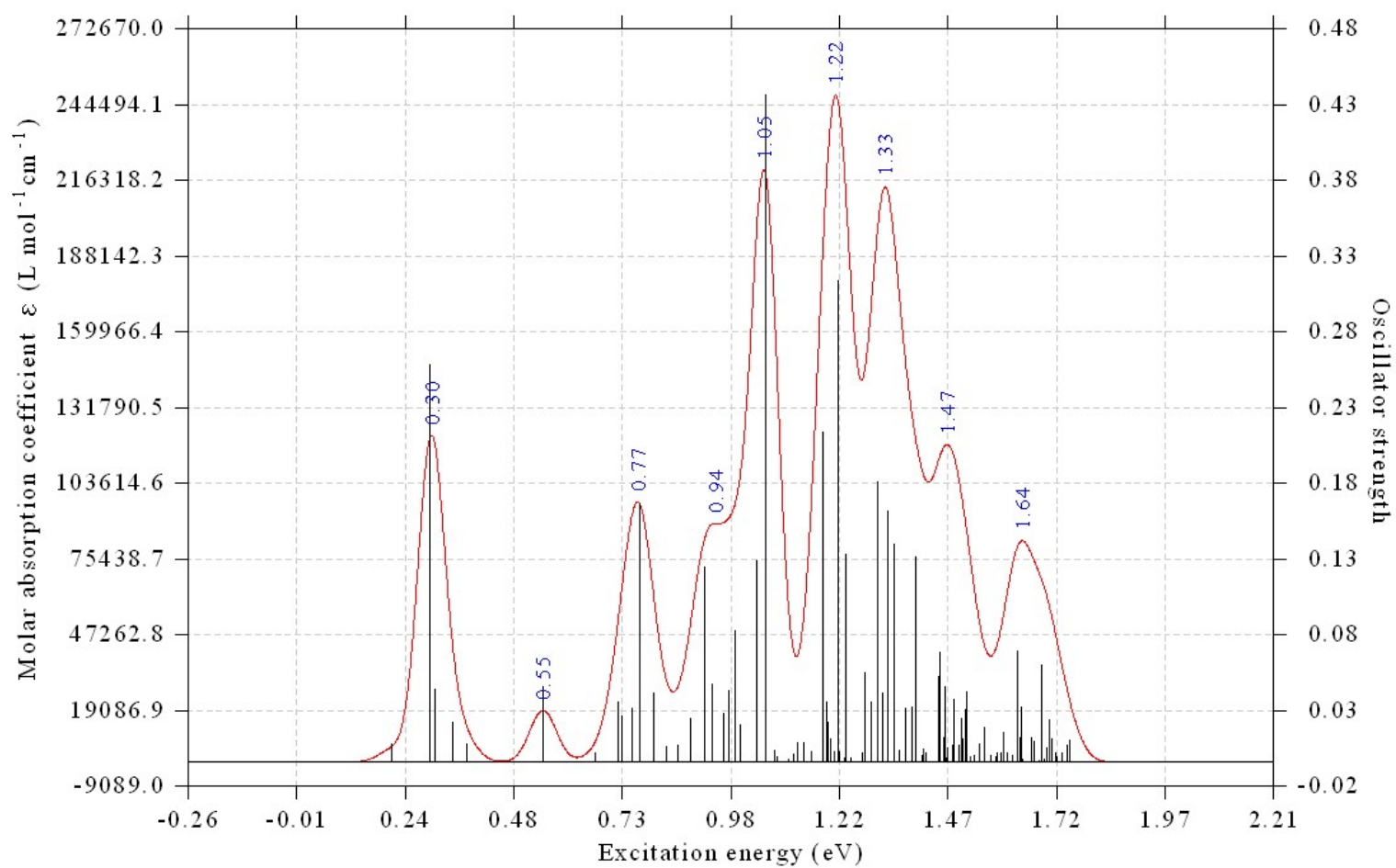


Fig. S4 Electronic spectroscopy of SubPc-Br/BiOI (1:25)

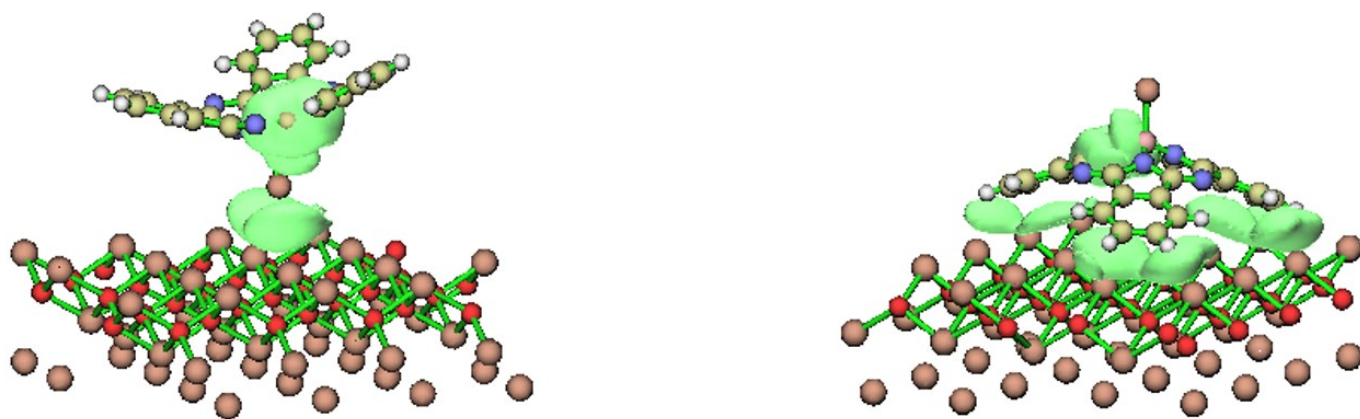


Fig. S5 The IGM analysis of SubPc-Br and BiOI

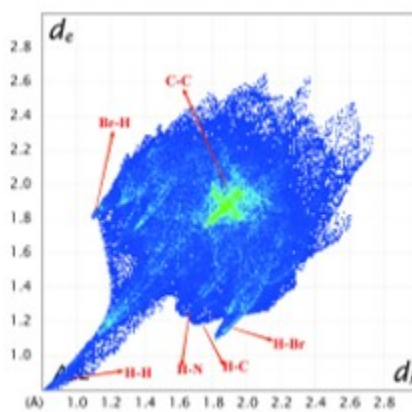


Fig.S6 two-dimensional fingerprint plot of SubPc-Br ⁴

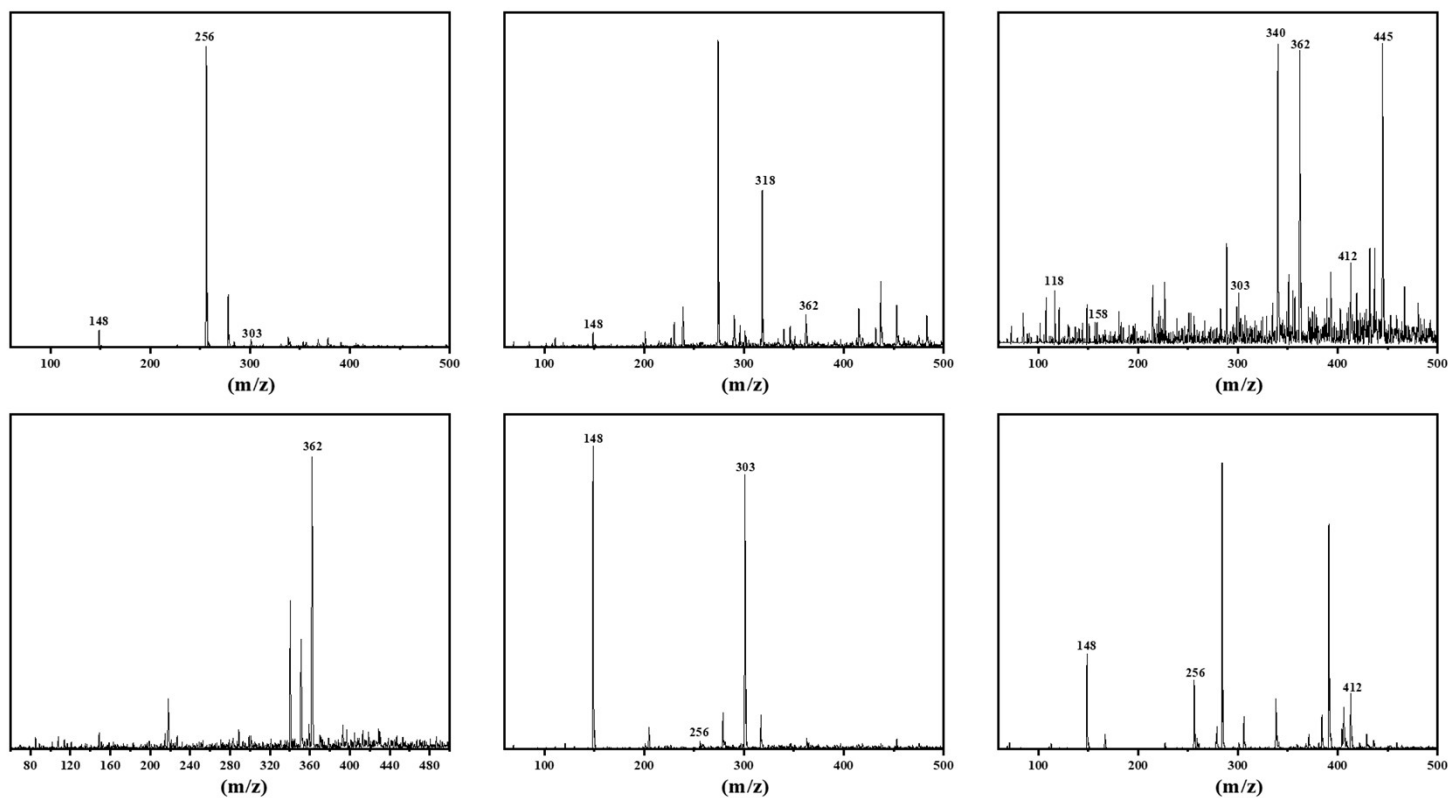


Fig. S7 HPLC-MS spectra of the TC degradation intermediates.

References

1. B. Wang, X. Zhang, R. Zhang, Z. Li, B. Tian, H. Ma, Z. Zheng, B. Zhou, M. Ji, C.

- Shi and H. Hao, *Chemical Engineering Journal*, 2023, **477**.
2. B. Wang, R. Zhang, Z. Li, C. Shi, E. Liu, Z. Zheng, B. Zhou, M. Ji and H. Chen, *Applied Surface Science*, 2023, **641**.
 3. Z. Zheng, B. Wang, Z. Li, H. Hao, C. Wei, W. Luo, L. Jiao, S. Zhang, B. Zhou and X. Ma, *Small*, 2024, **20**, e2306820.
 4. M. Ji, B. Wang, Z. Zheng, E. Liu, C. Shi, C. Wang, B. Tian, H. Ma, C. Wei, B. Zhou and Z. Li, *J Colloid Interface Sci*, 2024, **663**, 421-435.
 5. B. Wang, Z. Li, H. Ma, J. Zhang, L. Jiao, H. Hao, E. Liu, L. Xu, C. Wang, B. Zhou and X. Ma, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, 2022, **318**.
 6. B. Wang, C. Bozal-Ginesta, R. Zhang, B. Zhou, H. Ma, L. Jiao, L. Xu, E. Liu, C. Wang and Z. Li, *Applied Catalysis B: Environmental*, 2021, **298**.
 7. D. Dai, J. Qiu, M. Li, J. Xu, L. Zhang and J. Yao, *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*, 2021, **872**.
 8. M. Qiao, H. Liu, J. Lv, G. Xu, X. Zhang, X. Shu and Y. Wu, *Nano*, 2019, **14**.
 9. Z. Zhu, R. Yang, C. Zhu, C. Hu and B. Liu, *Advanced Powder Technology*, 2021, **32**, 2311-2321.
 10. P. Lu, Y. Peng, Y. Yang, S. Chen, J. Shang, C. Yang, M. Xu, J. Bai, Z. Zhao and X. Hu, *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*, 2024, **12**.
 11. L. Huang, L. Yang, Y. Li, C. Wang, Y. Xu, L. Huang and Y. Song, *Applied Surface Science*, 2020, **527**.
 12. W. Yu, N. Ji, N. Tian, L. Bai, H. Ou and H. Huang, *Colloids and Surfaces A: Physicochemical and Engineering Aspects*, 2020, **603**.