## **Electronics Supporting information (ESI)**

## Donor–acceptor dyes incorporating stable dibenzosilole $\pi$ -conjugated spacer for dye-sensitized solar cells

## Md. Akhtaruzzaman,<sup>\*a</sup> Seya Yohei,<sup>a</sup> Naoki Asao,<sup>b</sup> Ashraful Islam,<sup>\*c</sup> Eunsang Kwon,<sup>d</sup> Ahmed El-Shafei,<sup>e</sup> Liyuan Han<sup>c</sup> and Yoshinori Yamamoto<sup>\*b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Aramaki-Azaaoba 6-3, Aoba-ku, Sendai, 980-8578, Japan. Fax:+81(0)22-795-3899; Tel:+81(0)22-795-3898; E-mail: <u>akhtar@m.tohoku.ac.jp</u>

<sup>b</sup>WPI-Advanced Institute for Materials Research (WPI-AIMR), Tohoku University, Katahira 2-1-1, Aobaku, Sendai 980-8577;Tel.:+81-22-217-5130;Fax.:+81-22-217-5129; E-mail:<u>voshi@m.tohoku.ac.jp</u>

<sup>c</sup>Photovoltaic Materials Unit, National Institute for Materials Science, 1-2-1 Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0047, Japan. Fax: +81(0)29 859 2301 Tel: +81(0)29 859 2129; E-mail: <u>ISLAM.Ashraful@nims.go.jp</u>

<sup>d</sup>Research and Analytical Center for Gaint Molecules, Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, 6-3 Aramaki-AzaAoba, Japan 980-8578.

<sup>e</sup>Polymer and color Chemistry Program, North Carolina State University 1000 Main Campus Dr. Raleigh, NC 27695.



Scheme-S1. Synthesis of **4a-c.** Reaction and conditions: i) Pd (OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2 mol%), 2-(di-tertbutylphosphino)biphenyl (2 mol %), NaO<sup>t</sup>Bu (1.4 equiv), Toluene, reflux temperature, over night; ii) NBS, dry acetone, room temperature (RT), 3h; iii) *t*-BuLi (2.1 equiv), isopropoxyboronic acid pinacol ester (1.2 equiv), tetrahydrofuran (THF), -78 °C.

Synthesis of compound 2c: A mixture of 1,2,3,3a,,4,8b-hexahydrocyclopenta[b]indole (1.1 mmol) and 1-bromo-3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-methoxybenzene (1 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (2 mmol %), 2-(di-tert-butylphosphinno)biphenyl (2 mmol%), NaO<sup>t</sup>Bu (1.4 equiv.) in dry toluene was refluxed for overnight. After cooling the reaction mixture at room temperature, it was filtered and the filtrate was washed with a aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl saturated solution. The combined extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and again filtered. After concentrated the solution in vacuum, the solid crude was purified with silica-gel column chromatography to get the compound **2c** in 80% yield. <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.16 (s, 2H), 7.10 (d, 7.2Hz, 1H), 7.03 (t, 8.0Hz, 1H), 6.86 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 6.68 (t, 7.6Hz, 1H), 4.74-4.67(m, 1H), 3.87-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.11-1.51 (m, 6H), 1.44 (s, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.9, 148.0, 143.8, 137.8, 134.6, 127.1, 124.5, 117.7, 107.5, 69.0, 64.1, 45.6, 36.0, 34.9, 34.2, 32.2, 24.6

**Synthesis of compounds 3a-c:** To a cold solution of entry **2a-c** (1 mmol) in dry acetone at room temperature was added N-bromosuccinimide (1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h under nitrogen atmosphere. After completed the reaction, the mixture poured

into water and extracted with DCM and dried over dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and again filtered. The crude product was purified by recrystallization from CHCl<sub>3</sub> to obtain bromide **3a-c** over all 90% yields.

**3a:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.54 (s,1H), 7.51 (dd, 8.0Hz, 0.8Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 4H), 6.83 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.82-4.75 (m, 1H), 3.83-3.76 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.44 (m, 6H). **3b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, 8.2Hz, 1H), 4.74-4.67 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.80-3.72 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.39 (m, 6H).

**3c:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 6.80 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.75-4.69 (m, 1H), 3.85-3.77 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.08-1.47 (m, 6H), 1.43 (s, 18H).

**Synthesis of compounds 4a-c:** To a solution of compounds 3a-c (1 mmol) in dry THF, the *t*-BuLi (2.1mmol, 1.7 M in pentane) was added over 30 min at – 78 °C under N<sub>2</sub>. The mixture was stirred at – 78 °C for a further 15 minutes, and 2-isopropoxy-4,4,5,5 tetramethyl [1,3,2] dioxaborolane (1.2 mmol) was subsequently added dropwise to the mixture and stirring continued at 25 °C overnight. The reaction was then quenched with distilled water, and THF was removed under vacuum. The product was then extracted into diethyl ether and the organic layer washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered. After evaporated the solvent in vacuo, the crude materials were purified with silica-gel column chromatography to give the compound **4a-c** in 80% yield.

**4a:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 7.54 (s,1H), 7.51 (dd, 8.0Hz, 0.8Hz, 1H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 4H), 6.83 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.82-4.75 (m, 1H), 3.83-3.76 (m, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.07-1.44 (m, 6H),

1.334 (s, 6H), 1.328 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  150.8, 139.9, 135.0, 134.6, 133.9, 131.8, 130.9, 129.7, 120.7, 106.6, 83.2, 69.1, 45.2, 35.1, 33.6, 26.3, 25.0, 24.8, 24.4, 20.8 **4b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.50 (s, 1H), 7.45 (d, 8.2Hz, 1H), 7.20-7.13 (m, 2H), 6.91-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.61 (d, 8.2Hz, 1H), 4.74-4.67 (m, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.80-3.72 (m, 1H), 2.03-1.39 (m, 6H), 1.294 (s. 6H), 1.287 (s, 6H), <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  155.5, 151.7, 135.6, 135.1, 133.6, 130.9, 123.4, 114.5, 105.9, 83.1, 69.7, 55.5, 45.2, 35.2, 25.0, 24.8, 24.4. **4c:** 1H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.56-7.51 (m, 2H), 7.15 (s, 2H), 6.80 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.75-4.69 (m, 1H), 3.85-3.77 (m, 1H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 2.08-1.47 (m, 6H), 1.43 (s, 18H), 1.34 (s, 6H), 1.33 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  154.5, 150.9, 143.9, 137.1, 135.1, 133.9, 130.8, 118.7, 106.8, 83.1, 69.3, 64.2, 45.3, 36.0, 34.9, 34.0, 32.1, 25.0, 24.8, 24.6

Synthesis of compounds 6a-c: A mixture of entry 4a-c (1 mmol),  $Pd(P^tBu_3)_2$  (3 mmol %),  $Cs_2CO_3(1.5 \text{ equiv.})$  in dry THF was refluxed for overnight under argon atmoshphere. After cooling the reaction mixture at room temperature, it was filtered and the filtrate was washed with a aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl saturated solution. The combined extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and again filtered. After concentrated the solution in vacuum, the solid crude was purified with silica-gel column chromatography to give the compound **6a-c**.

**6a:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.83 (d, 7.6Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.71(m, 3H), 7.60 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.41 (td, 7.6Hz, 1.2Hz), 7.34 (dd, 8.2Hz, 1.4Hz), 7.29 (dd, 7.4Hz, 1.4Hz), 7.25-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.99 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.85-4.78 (m, 1H), 4.71 (d, 12.0Hz, 1H), 4.50 (t, 3.2Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, 12.0Hz), 3.93-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.82-3.75 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.39 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.16-1.16 (m, 24H), 1.00-0.90 (m, 4H), 0.86-0.76 (m, 6H), 0.643 (s, 3H), 0.638 (s, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.0, 147.3, 146.1, 144.1, 140.5, 140.3, 138.8, 138.6, 137.0, 136.5,

136.0, 135.5, 131.3, 131.0, 130.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.4, 128.0, 126.7, 126.0, 123.2, 121.1, 120.0,

119.7, 107.7, 97.7, 69.2, 68.8, 61.9, 45.5, 35.6, 35.1, 33.9, 30.6, 25.5, 24.6, 23.7,

22.2, 20.8, 19.4, 14.0, 12.4, -0.74, 0.85.

**6b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.83 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.70 (m, 3H), 7.60 (dd, 8.0Hz, 1.6Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.47 (m, 3H), 7.45-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.20 (m, 4H), 6.98-6.88 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.84-4.76 (m, 1H), 4.71 (d, 12.2Hz, 1H), 4.49 (t, 3.2Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, 12.2Hz, 1H), 3.95-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 3.82-3.73 (m, 1H), 3.46-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.15-1.15 (m, 24H), 1.00-0.90 (m, 4H), 0.86-0.75 (m, 6H), 0.640 (s, 3H), 0.635 (s, 3H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl3) *δ* 155.0, 149.0, 148.3, 146.0, 144.1, 140.4, 138.8, 138.6, 137.0,

136.7, 136.5, 136.3, 136.0, 135.5, 135.1, 130.90, 130.87, 129.4, 128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 126.0, 123.2,

122.5, 121.1,119.9, 114.5, 106.9, 97.7, 69.8, 68.8, 61.9, 55.5, 45.6, 35.6, 35.2, 33.7, 30.5, 25.5,

24.5, 23.7, 22.2, 19.4, 14.1, 12.4, -0.73, -0.84.

**6c:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 7.83 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.80-7.72 (m, 2H), 7.61 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.57-7.48 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.36 (dd, 8.0Hz, 1.6Hz, 1H), 7.29 (dd, 7.2Hz, 1.2Hz, 1

1H),7.19 (s, 2H), 6.94 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.81-4.74 (m, 1H), 4.71 (d, 12.0Hz, 1H),

4.49 (t, 3.6Hz, 1H), 4.44 (d, 12.0Hz, 1H), 3.94-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.81-3.74 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H),

3.45-3.38 (m, 1H), 2.18-1.17 (m, 24H), 1.46 (s, 18H), 0.98-0.90 (m, 4H), 0.84-0.77 (m, 6H),

0.636 (s, 3H), 0.631 (s, 3H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  153.9, 149.0, 147.4, 146.0, 144.1,

143.9, 140.3, 138.7, 138.5, 137.6, 136.9, 136.6, 136.4, 135.9, 135.5, 135.3, 130.9, 130.8, 129.4,

128.4, 127.9, 126.7, 126.0, 123.1, 121.1, 119.9, 117.7, 107.7, 97.6, 69.3, 68.8, 64.1, 61.8, 45.5,

36.0, 35.6, 34.9, 34.1, 32.2, 30.5, 25.5, 24.6, 23.6, 22.2, 19.3, 14.0, 12.3, 0.75, 0.88.

Synthesis of compounds 7a-c: A mixture of entry 6a-c and p-TsOH.H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mol%) in methanol and DCM was stirred for overnight at room temperature. After being stirred at room temperature

overnight, the reaction mixture was quenched with  $H_2O$  and the aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether, and the combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel to afford the entry **7a-c** in high yields.

**7a:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 7.87-7.71 (m, 4H), 7.60 (d, 7.6Hz, 2H), 7.55 (d, 7.6Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.36-7.29(m,2H), 7.24-7.12(m, 4H), 6.98 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.86-4.78 (m, 1H), 4.58 (d, 6.4Hz, 2H), 3.94-3.85 (m, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.68 (m, 6H), 1.43-1.15 (m, 12H), 1.00-0.85 (m, 4H), 0.86-0.72 (m, 6H), 0.65 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 149.2, 147.2, 146.5, 145.9, 140.4, 138.6, 138.5, 137.3, 136.6, 136.1, 135.7, 135.4, 131.2, 130.99, 130.87, 129.8, 129.7, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 125.9, 123.1, 121.1, 120.1, 119.6, 107.7, 69.1, 65.3, 45.5, 35.5, 35.1, 24.5, 23.6, 22.1, 20.8, 14.0, 12.3, 0.87.

**7b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 7.85-7.71 (m, 4H), 7.65-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.50-7.38 (m, 3H), 7.35-7.20 (m, 4H), 6.92 (d, 9.2Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.83-4.73 (m, 1H), 4.58 (d, 6.4Hz, 2H), 3.94-3.85 (m, 1H), 3.83 (s, 3H), 2.14-1.54 (m, 6H), 1.41-1.15 (m, 12H), 0.98-0.90 (m, 4H), 0.84-0.76 (m, 6H), 0.65 (s, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) *δ* 155.0, 149.2, 148.3, 146.5, 145.8, 140.5, 138.6, 138.5, 137.3, 136.6, 136.3, 136.1, 135.7, 135.4, 135.1, 130.8, 129.8, 128.1, 127.9, 126.9, 126.0, 123.1, 122.4, 121.2, 120.1, 114.5, 106.9, 69.8, 65.3, 55.5, 45.5, 35.5, 35.2, 33.7, 24.5, 23.6, 22.2, 14.0, 12.3, 0.85.

7c: <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.83 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.81-7.77 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.73 (m, 1H),
7.64-7.59 (m, 2H),7.56 (dd, 7.6Hz, 1.2Hz, 1H), 7.50-7.40 (m, 3H), 7.36 (dd, 8.4Hz, 2.0Hz,
1H),7.34-7.30 (m, 1H), 7.19 (s, 2H), 6.94 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.80-4.74 (m, 1H),4.58 (d, 6.0Hz, 2H),
3.94-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 2.17-1.57 (m, 6H), 1.46 (s, 18H), 1.42-1.18 (m, 12H), 0.98-0.91 (m, 4H), 0.84-0.77 (m, 6H), 0.65 (s, 6H).<sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.0, 149.2, 147.5,

146.5, 145.9, 143.9, 140.4, 138.6, 138.5, 137.6, 137.3, 136.6,136.1, 135.7, 135.43, 135.37, 130.9, 130.8, 129.8, 128.0, 127.9, 126.8, 126.0, 123.1, 121.2, 120.2, 117.8, 107.7, 69.3, 65.2, 64.1, 45.6, 36.0, 35.6, 34.9, 34.1, 32.2, 24.7, 23.7, 22.1, 14.0, 12.3, 0.83.

Synthesis of compounds 8a-c: To a mixture of entry 7a-c (1.0 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (2.5 equiv.), [(n<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)PdCl]<sub>2</sub> (1 mol%, measured in a glove box), RuPhos (2.1 mol%), and CuI (3 mol%) in DMF (0.8 mL) and THF (2.2 mL) in a Schlenk tube was added *p*-bromobenzaldehyde (0.37 g, 1.0 mL)mmol), and the resulting mixture was stirred at 75 °C for overnight. After completed the reaction, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a Florisil pad, diluted with Et2O, washed with water and brine, and dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After concentration in vacuo, the residue was purified by silica-gel column chromatography to give the compounds entry 8a-c. 8a: <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 10.1 δ (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.94-7.79 (m, 6H), 7.71 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H),7.75 (dd, 8.4Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.34 (m, 8.4Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, 8.8Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d, 8.8Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, 8.0Hz, 1Hz), 4.86-4.80 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.87 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.55 (m, 6H), 1.49-1.17 (m, 12H), 1.07-0.96 (m, 4H), 0.88-0.78 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.8, 148.7, 147.4, 147.3, 145.4, 140.5, 140.4, 138.9, 138.6, 137.7, 135.6, 134.9, 131.9, 131.1, 131.0, 130.2, 129.7, 129.2, 128.2, 127.4, 126.0, 123.2, 121.4, 121.1,119.8, 107.7, 69.2, 45.5, 35.7, 35.1, 33.9, 24.6, 23.7, 22.2, 20.9, 14.1, 12.4. **8b:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl3) δ 10.1 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.94-7.78 (m, 6H), 7.71 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, 8.0Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.42 (brs, 1H), 7.33 (dd, 8.0Hz, 1.6Hz, 1H),7.29-7.21 (m, 3H), 6.97-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.81 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.83-4.76 (m, 1H), 3.94-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.84 (s, 3H), 2.15-1.57 (m, 6H), 1.49-1.19 (m, 12H), 1.06-0.97 (m, 4H), 0.88-0.77 (m, 6H).  $^{13}$ C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.7, 155.1, 148.7, 147.2, 145.3, 140.6, 138.9, 138.6, 137.6,

136.2, 135.2, 134.8, 131.8, 130.9, 130.6, 130.2, 129.2, 128.1, 127.3, 126.1, 123.1,122.5, 121.4,
121.1,114.5, 106.9, 69.8, 55.5, 45.6, 35.6, 35.3, 33.7, 24.5, 23.7, 22.2, 14.0, 12.4.
8c: <sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 10.1 (s, 1H), 7.98 (d, 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.95-7.80 (m, 6H), 7.72 (d,
8.0Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.20 (s, 2H), 6.95 (d,8.0Hz,
1H), 4.84-4.75 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.87 (m, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 2.20-1.20 (m, 18H), 1.47 (s, 18H),
1.08-0.97 (m, 4H), 0.86-0.78 (m, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 191.7, 145.0, 148.7, 147.6,
147.2, 145.3, 143.9, 140.5, 138.8, 138.6, 137.7, 137.5, 135.4, 134.8, 131.8, 130.9, 130.7, 130.2,
129.2, 128.1, 127.3, 126.0, 123.1, 121.3, 121.1, 117.9,107.6, 69.3, 64.1, 45.6, 36.0, 35.6, 35.0,
34.1, 32.2, 24.7, 23.7, 22.2, 14.0, 12.4.

**Synthesis of compound 10:** A mixture of compound **9** (1 mmol), Pd(PH3)<sub>4</sub> (5 mol%), **4a** (0.5 equiv.), 2M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (1.5 ml) in dry toluene (10 ml) was refluxed for overnight under argon atmosphere. After cooling the reaction mixture at room temperature, it was filtered and the filtrate was washed with a aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl saturated solution. The combined extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and again filtered. After concentrated the solution in vacuum, the solid crude was purified with silica-gel column chromatography to afford compound **10** (yields 54%).1H NMR(400MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  7.68 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 2H), 7.51-7.42 (m, 4H), 7.36 (dd, 8.4Hz, 2.0Hz, 1H), 7.24 (d, 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, 8.4Hz, 1H), 4.88-4.80 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.88 (m, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 2.19-1.53 (m, 10H), 1.17-1.01 (m, 8H), 0.80-0.62 (m, 10H). 13C NMR(100MHz, CDCl3)  $\delta$  153.0, 150.8, 147.4, 140.8, 140.4, 140.0, 138.0, 135.6, 131.5, 131.1, 129.8, 129.7, 126.1, 126.0, 125.2, 123.3, 120.7, 120.4, 119.83, 119.76, 107.7, 69.2, 55.4, 45.5, 40.4, 35.1, 33.9, 32.3, 24.6, 23.5, 22.3, 20.8, 14.1.

**Synthesis of compounds 11:** To a mixture of compound **9** (0.27 mmol), Pd(PH3)<sub>4</sub> (10 mol%), entry **4a** (0.5 equiv), 4-formylphenylboronic acid (1.1 quiv), 2M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution (1.5 ml) in dry

toluene (15 ml) was refluxed for overnight under argon atmosphere. After cooling the reaction mixture at room temperature, it was filtered and the filtrate was washed with a aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>Cl saturated solution. The combined extract was dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and again filtered. After concentrated the solution in vacuum, the solid crude was purified with silica-gel column chromatography to afford compound **11** (yield 52%).<sup>1</sup>H NMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  10.1 (s, 1H), 7.99 (d, 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, 8.4Hz, 2H), 7.78 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H),7.75 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 7.66-7.51 (m, 4H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.38 (dd, 8.2Hz, 1.4Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.18 (d, 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, 8.0Hz, 1H), 4.88-4.81 (m, 1H), 3.96-3.88 (m, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H), 2.18-1.55 (m, 10H), 1.16-1.01 (m, 8H), 0.79-0.65 (m, 10H). 13C NMR(100MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  191.8, 151.7, 147.7, 147.3, 141.6, 140.8, 140.4, 138.3, 137.8, 135.6, 134.8, 131.5, 131.1, 130.2, 129.7, 127.5, 126.3, 126.1, 125.2, 123.3, 121.4, 120.5, 120.1, 119.9, 119.7, 107.7, 69.2, 55.3, 45.5, 40.5, 35.1, 33.9, 32.3, 24.6, 23.5, 22.3, 20.8, 14.1.

## HRMS and FAB-MS spectra of dyes YS01-04









Ionization potential (IP)



![](_page_11_Figure_3.jpeg)

4.40 4.50 4.60 4.70 4.80 4.90 5.00 5.10 5.20 5.30 5.40 5.50 5.60 5.70 5.80 5.90 6.00 6.10 6.20 6.30

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Figure_2.jpeg)

Fig. S2 Ionization potential (IP) of dyes **YS01-04** bound to nanocrystalline TiO<sub>2</sub> film was determined by using the photoemission yield spectrometer (Riken Keiki, AC-3E).