Support Information

Regioselective 2,6-dihalogenation of BODIPYs in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol and preparation of novel *meso*-alkyl polymeric BODIPY dyes

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Experimental Section

General remarks

All of the reagents and solvents are commercially available and were used without further purification. Melting points were determined with a WRS-1B apparatus and were uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded in KBr disks with a Bomem MB154S FT-IR spectrometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ using a Bruker Avance III 500-MHz spectrometer. Mass spectra (EI and ESI) were measured with Jeol JMS-DX300 and Thermo Fisher LCQ instruments. Absorption spectra were performed by using a UV-1201 absorption spectrophotometer. The fluorescence measurements were conducted on a Varian Eclipse spectrofluorometer. The fluorescence quantum yields (Φ) were calculated using Rhodamine B in anhydrous ethanol (Φ = 0.73). Thermal analysis was measured with EXSTAR6000 instrument. Molecular weights of the polymers were determined by GPC analyses in THF (1 mL/min) using a Waters Breeze system equipped with a 717plus autosampler, a 1515 binary HPLC pump, a Wyatt miniDAWN TRISTAR detector, a Wyatt VicoStar viscometer detector and a 2414 refractive index detector. The substrates **1** were prepared according to the literature with slight modification.¹⁻⁴

A general procedure for halogenation of BODIPYs 2

A mixture of the 1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-BODIPY **1** (0.2 mmol) and NBS (85.4 mg, 0.48 mmol; 0.96 mmol for **1m**) in HFIP (2 mL) was stirred at room temperature for a certain time (usually < 5 mins according to the TLC). After reaction, the solvent was removed and recovered by distillation. The residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with H₂O, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was further purified using column chromatography (EtOAc–petroleum ether or CH₂Cl₂-hexane) to afford the products **2**.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-phenyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s***-indacene (2b) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta = 1.36 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.61 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.52–7.53 (m, 5 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): \delta= 153.9, 142.1, 140.6, 134.4, 130.4, 129.5, 129.4, 127.8, 111.8, 13.6. EI-MS:** *m***/***z* **= 482 [M]⁺.**

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-phenyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2c)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.65 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.52–7.53 (m, 5 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 156.8, 145.4, 141.4, 134.7, 131.3, 129.5, 129.4, 127.8, 85.7, 16.9. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 576 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-phenyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2e)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 6.96$ (s, 2H), 7.53-7.64 (m, 5H), 7.85 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 147.0$, 144.2, 134.6, 132.8, 131.7, 131.5, 130.3, 128.8, 107.2. EI-MS: m/z = 426 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-ind acene (2f)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.47 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.62 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 3.91(s, 3 H, OCH₃), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.65 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.65 Hz, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =160.6, 153.7, 142.3, 140.6, 130.9, 130.8, 129.1, 128.8, 126.3, 114.8, 111.7, 55.4, 13.9, 13.7. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 512 [M]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-8-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indac ene (2g)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.42 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.62 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 3.94(s, 3 H, OCH₃) 7.04-7.06 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 7.15-7.17 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =160.6, 153.7, 142.3, 140.6, 130.9, 130.8, 129.1, 128.8, 126.3, 114.8, 111.7, 55.4, 13.8, 13.6. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 606 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-8-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indac ene (2h)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.41 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.61 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.21-7.23 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 7.52-7.54 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ =154.4, 140.4, 140.3, 135.9, 132.8, 130.3, 129.8, 129.4, 128.6, 112.1, 13.9, 13.7. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 517 [M+H]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-8-(4-chlorophenyl)-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen e (2i)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.43 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.64 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.20 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 7.52 (d, *J* = 10 Hz, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 157.2, 145.1, 139.7, 135.8, 133.2, 131.2, 129.8, 129.4, 85.9, 17.2, 16.1. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 611 [M+H]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indace ne (2j)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.64 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.55 (d, 2 H, ArH), 8.44 (d, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 155.3, 148.7, 141.2, 140.0, 138.6, 129.6, 124.6, 112.5, 14.0, 13.8. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 527 [M]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-(4-nitrophenyl)-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2k)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.38 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.66 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 7.54 (d, 2 H, ArH), 8.42 (d, 2 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.1, 148.6, 141.7, 141.6, 138.1, 129.5, 124.7, 114.0, 14.9, 14.7. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 621 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-methyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2l) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.44 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.57 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.62 (s, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 152.2, 141.9, 138.4, 29.7, 17.4, 16.4, 13.6. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 420 [M]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-methyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s***-indacene (2m)** ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.46 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.61 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.62 (s, 3 H, CH₃). ¹³C

NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 155.1, 143.0, 141.1, 132.2, 85.8, 19.8, 17.9, 16.0. ESI-MS: $m/z = 467 \text{ [M]}^+$.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-pentyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s***-indacene (2n)** ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.93 (t, 3 H, CH₃), 1.36-1.66 (m, 8 H), 2.44 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.57 (s, 6 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 152.3, 147.3, 137.7, 130.5, 112.0, 32.5, 31.5, 29.0, 22.5, 15.5, 14.0, 13.7. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 476 [M]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-pentyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (20)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.93-0.96 (t, 3 H, CH₃), 1.23-1.66 (m, 8 H, CH₂), 2.43 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.61 (s, 6 H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 155.2, 142.2, 131.9, 128.7, 86.8, 32.5, 31.5, 29.3, 22.5, 18.5, 16.1, 14.0. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 570 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-undecyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2p) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.88-0.91 (t, 3 H, CH₃), 1.22-1.65 (m, 18 H, CH₂), 2.44 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.57 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 3.70-3.74 (m, 2 H, CH₂). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 152.3, 147.3, 137.7, 130.5, 112.0, 31.8, 31.7, 30.3, 29.0, 22.6, 18.4, 15.5, 14.1, 13.7. ESI-MS: *m*/*z* = 560 [M]⁺.

2,6-Diiodo-4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-8-undecyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2q) ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.87-0.90$ (t, 3 H, CH₃), 1.21-1.60 (m, 18 H, CH₂), 2.44 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.60 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 3.67-3.72 (m, 2 H, CH₂). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 155.0$, 146.5, 142.3, 131.3, 86.4, 31.9, 31.6, 30.3, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 22.7, 18.9, 18.3, 16.1, 14.1. ESI-MS: m/z = 654 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-(3,5-dinitrophenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-ind acene (2r)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.37$ (s, 6 H, CH₃), 2.64 (s, 6 H, CH₃), 8.56 (s, 2 H, ArH), 9.23 (s, 1 H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 158.0$, 149.0, 141.8, 138.8, 134.5, 130.7, 129.2, 122.6, 119.4, 15.4, 14.8. EI-MS: m/z = 572 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-((bis(chloromethyl)amino)methyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a ,4a-diaza-*s*-indacene (2s)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.43 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.60 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.00 (t, 2H, CH₂), 3.56 (t, 2H, CH₂). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 155.0, 154.5, 142.4, 142.2, 140.4, 132.5, 131.9, 121.9, 119.9, 57.1, 51.9, 42.0, 17.5, 17.4, 16.5, 14.5. EI-MS: m/z = 532 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-(morpholinomethyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-in dacene (2t)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 2.32 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.39 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.47 (s, 3H, CH₃), 2.60 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.74 (t, 4H, CH₂), 3.76 (t, 4H, CH₂), 3.85 (s, 2H, CH₂). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 154.8, 154.0, 142.2, 142.0, 140.4, 132.4, 131.8, 121.7, 119.7, 67.1, 55.7, 54.1, 17.5, 17.4, 16.5, 14.5. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 505 [M]⁺.

2,6-Dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-(4-((2-hydroxybenzylidene)amino)phenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (2u)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 1.23-1.55 (m, 6H, CH₃), 2.57 (s, 6H, CH₃), 6.96-6.99 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.05-7.44 (m, 6H, ArH), 8.72 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 163.5, 161.3, 155.7, 149.2, 143.0, 141.0, 133.7, 133.6, 132.5, 131.5, 129.3, 129.0, 122.0, 121.4, 119.2, 119.0, 117.6, 117.4, 115.4, 18.5, 14.6. EI-MS: *m*/*z* = 601 [M]⁺.

Dibromo-BODIPY (2v)

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 2.14$ (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.58 (s, 6H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 156.0, 138.6, 128.9, 128.5, 127.6, 13.8, 12.2$. EI-MS: m/z = 810 [M]⁺.

Typical procedure for the synthesis of polymer 3a-d

2,6-Dibromo-BODIPY (**2l**) (260.5 mg, 0.6 mmol), 1,4-Phenylenebisboronic acid (103 mg, 0.6 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (414 mg, 5 eq) were added to a 100 mL three-neck flask under a nitrogen atmosphere, followed by addition of Pd(PPh₃)₄ (12 mg), THF (30 mL) and water (10 mL). The mixture was stirred under reflux for 96 h. After reaction, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The solid was collected, washed with water (2 × 15 mL), methanol (2 × 15 mL), and dried under vacuum for 24 h at room temperature to give red solid (91.3 mg, 45%).

Polymer 3a

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 1.56$ (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.44 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.57 (s, 3H, CH₃), 7.48 (m, 4H, ArH). M_n = 17110 g/mol, polydispersity: 1.17.

Polymer 3b

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.92-0.95$ (t, 3H, CH₃), 1.35-1.49 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.60-1.67 (m, 2H, CH₂), 2.41 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.51 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.99 (t, 2H, CH₂), 7.24 (m, 4H, ArH). M_n = 19200 g/mol, polydispersity: 1.14.

Polymer 3c

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 0.88-0.91 (t, 3H, CH₃), 1.21-1.31 (m, 10H, CH₂), 1.34-1.38 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.46-1.52 (m, 2H, CH₂), 1.54-1.66 (m, 4H, CH₂), 2.52 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.61 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.99-3.10 (t, 2H, CH₂), 7.22 (m, 4H, ArH). M_n = 22100 g/mol, polydispersity: 1.26.

Polymer 3d

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.87-0.88$ (t, 3H, CH₃), 1.22-1.30 (m, 8H, CH₂), 1.42-1.83 (m, 30H, CH₂), 2.55 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.62 (s, 6H, CH₃), 2.99-3.10 (t, 2H, CH₂), 7.02-7.64 (m, 4H, ArH). M_n = 20100 g/mol, polydispersity: 1.27.

Selected spectroscopic data of compounds





¹³C NMR of **2b**



¹³C NMR of **2c**





¹³C NMR of **2e**











 13 C NMR of **2**g



¹H NMR of **2h**















¹³C NMR of **2**l



¹H NMR of **2m**



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¹³C NMR of **2s**



¹H NMR of **2t**



¹³C NMR of **2t**



¹H NMR of **2u**



¹³C NMR of **2u**



¹H NMR of 2v



 13 C NMR of **2v**

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¹H NMR of **3a**



¹H NMR of **3b**



¹H NMR of **3c**





Photophysical properties of meso-alkyl BODIPY polymeric dyes

	Solvent	λ_{abs}	λ_{em}	Stocks	$arPsi_{f}$	$M_{ m n}$	D
		(nm)	(nm)	(nm)		(g/mol)	$(M_{\rm n}/M_{\rm w})$
30	hexane	546	573	27	0.615		
38	CH ₂ Cl ₂	545	574	29	0.601	17110	1.17
	THF	545	577	32	0.593		
	ethanol	543	578	35	0.566		
	hexane	548	578	30	0.515		
3b	CH ₂ Cl ₂	547	580	33	0.501	19200	1.14
	THF	547	581	34	0.493		
	ethanol	545	581	36	0.466		
	hexane	548	577	29	0.485		
3c	CH ₂ Cl ₂	546	578	32	0.471	22100	1.26
	THF	546	580	34	0.453		

	ethanol	546	581	35	0.426		
3d	hexane	548	577	29	0.485	20100	
	CH ₂ Cl ₂	546	578	32	0.471		1.27
	THF	546	580	34	0.453		
	ethanol	544	579	35	0.426		

^{*a*} The fluorescence quantum yields (Φ) were calculated using Rhodamine B in anhydrous ethanol ($\Phi = 0.73$)









Fig. 2 Solid-state of fluorescence of 3a



Fig. 3 Normalized absorption (solid lines) and emission (dashed lines) spectra of BODIPYs 1d (black), 2n (red), 3b (blue) and thin film of 3b (wine) in dichloromethane.



Fig. 4 Normalized absorption (solid lines) and emission (dashed lines) spectra of BODIPYs 1e (black), 2p (red), 3c (blue) and thin film of 3c (wine) in dichloromethane.



Fig. 5 Normalized absorption (solid lines) and emission (dashed lines) spectra of BODIPYs 1f (black), 2w (red), 3d (blue) and thin film of 3d (wine) in dichloromethane.

Thermal stabilities



Fig. 6 Thermogravimetric analysis of BODIPYs 1c (black), 2l (red) and 3a (blue) in dichloromethane.



Fig. 7 Thermogravimetric analysis of BODIPYs 1d (black), 2n (red) and 3b (green) in dichloromethane.



Fig. 8 Thermogravimetric analysis of BODIPYs 1e(red), 2p (black) and 3c (green) in dichloromethane.



Fig. 9 Thermogravimetric analysis of BODIPYs 1f (black), 2w (red) and 3d (green) in dichloromethane.

Recycling of HFIP

The recycling experiment was carried out on a 1 mmol scale of substrate **1a** in 10 mL HFIP. After reaction, the solvent HFIP was distilled and used directly for next run. The yields of four successive runs were shown Fig. 10.



Fig. 10 The recycling experiment.

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