Supporting Information

Dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'-d]pyran-Containing Organic D- π -A Sensitizers for

Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells and the Effect of Dipole Moment

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¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR Spectra

I. General Information

All air or moisture sensitive reactions were conducted in oven-dried glassware under nitrogen atmosphere using dry solvents. Flash column chromatography was performed over silica gel (230-400 mesh) purchased from Qingdao Puke Co., China. Dichloromethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide (DMF), and acetonitrile were dried with a solvent purification system by Innovative Technology®. *tert*-Butanol was distilled before use. All other reagents were purchased and used as received without purification. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were collected on a Bruker AV 400 MHz NMR spectrometer using residue solvent peaks as an internal standard (¹H NMR: CDCl₃ at 7.26 ppm, ¹³C NMR: CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm). Mass spectra were collected on an Agilent GC/MS 5975C system, or a MALDI Micro MX mass spectrometer, or an API QSTAR XL System.

II. Synthesis of Dyes 1 and 2

Compounds **3** and **4** are known compounds and their literature procedures were followed.¹



Scheme S1. Synthesis of Dye 1.

4-(5,5-Dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'-d]pyran-7-yl)-N,N-bis(4-(octyloxy)phe

nyl)aniline (5). Under N₂, a flask was charged with a mixture of the bromide **3** (436 mg, 0.88 mmol),¹ the boronic ester **4** (550 mg, 0.88 mmol), an aqueous solution of K₂CO₃ (1.0 M, 1.3 mL), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (101 mg, 0.088 mmol), and ethylene glycol (26 mL). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 18 hours and cooled to room temperature. Next, the solvent was removed under

a) K. Yoshimura, K. Ohya, T. Kato, US Patent, US 2012/0205644, 2012; b) J. Li,
 X. Deng, Z. Zhang, Y. Wang, Y. Liu, K. He, Y. Huang, Q. Tao, L. Quan, W.
 Zhu, J. Polym. Sci. Pol. Chem. 2012, 50, 4686–4694.

reduced pressure. Water (30 mL) and DCM (50 mL) were added. The layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2×50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography (eluent: hexanes/DCM = 10/1 to 5/1) to afford the pure product **5** as red oil (509 mg, 63% yield).

¹HNMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.04 (m, 4H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.85-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.78 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 2H), 3.94 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.89-1.87 (m, 4H), 1.82-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.49-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.36-1.23 (m, 40H), 0.92-0.85 (m, 12H).
¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 155.5, 151.1, 148.1, 140.4, 140.1, 133.6, 120.6, 126.9, 126.5, 126.2, 125.8, 120.8, 120.6, 120.3, 119.0, 118.5, 117.5, 115.4, 115.2, 110.2, 86.2, 68.2, 40.0, 31.8, 31.8, 30.0, 29.5, 29.4, 29.34, 29.26, 29.2, 26.1, 23.8, 22.7, 22.6, 14.1.

LRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₅₉H₈₃NO₃S₂ [M⁺]: 917.6; found: 917.7.

7-(4-(Bis(4-(octyloxy)phenyl)amino)phenyl)-5,5-dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b:2', 3'-d]pyran-2-carbaldehyde (6). To a solution of 5 (400 mg, 0.44 mmol) in DCE (7.2 mL) were added DMF (50 μ L, 0.65 mmol) and POCl₃ (61 μ L, 0.65 mmol). The mixture was heated to 80 °C for 18 hours and cooled to room temperature. A saturated aqueous NaOAc solution (2.4 mL) and dichloromethane (1.2 mL) were added. Then, the mixture was extracted with DCM (3×50 mL). The

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organic layers were combined, dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent: hexanes/EA = 50/1) to give pure product **6** as red oil (342 mg, 82% yield).

¹HNMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 4H), 6.79 (s, 1H), 3.94 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.5 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 1.88-1.86 (m, 4H), 1.81-1.74 (m, 4H), 1.58-1.42 (m, 4H), 1.35-1.22 (m, 40H), 0.91-0.83 (m, 12H).
¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.3, 155.9, 155.1, 149.2, 144.7, 140.2, 139.8, 137.7, 133.5, 132.6, 130.8, 128.8, 127.0, 126.0, 119.5, 115.3, 112.5, 86.2, 68.2, 40.0, 31.8, 29.8, 29.4, 29.34, 29.29, 29.21, 29.19, 26.0, 23.7, 22.62, 22.59, 14.07, 14.06.
HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₆₀H₈₃NO₄S₂ [M⁺]: 945.5763; found: 945.5776.

3-(7-(4-(Bis(4-(octyloxy)phenyl)amino)phenyl)-5,5-dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b :2',3'-d]pyran-2-yl)-2-cyanoacrylic acid (Dye 1). A flask was charged with compound **6** (342 mg, 0.36 mmol), cyanoacetic acid (308 mg, 3.6 mmol), piperidine (0.1 mL, 1.1 mmol), and CHCl₃ (36 mL). The mixture was heated to reflux for 20 hours and cooled to room temperature. Water (30 mL) was added, and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (2 \times 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with an aqueous solution of HCl (1 M, 30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent: DCM/methanol = 10/1) to form the desired pure dye **1** (120 mg, 33% yield) as purple solid.

¹HNMR (400MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.54-7.49 (m, 2H),
7.33 (s, 1H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 4H), 6.86 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz,
2H), 3.99 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.2 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.1 Hz, 4H), 1.77-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.50 (m, 4H),
1.23-1.36 (m, 44H), 0.88-0.90 (m, 6H), 0.82-0.86 (m, 6H).
¹³CNMR (100 MHz, acetone-*d*₆) δ 172.0, 156.4, 156.2, 145.4, 139.9, 139.7, 133.0,
130.7, 129.5, 127.4, 127.1, 126.3, 126.1, 119.9, 119.3, 118.7, 115.5, 115.4, 112.7,

87.4, 86.8, 67.9, 40.5, 40.1, 31.7, 31.6, 25.9, 23.6, 22.42, 22.39, 13.46.

HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₆₃H₈₄N₂O₅S₂ [M⁺]: 1012.5822; found: 1012.5909.



Scheme S2. Synthesis of Dye 2.

5,5-Dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'-d]pyran-7-carbaldehyde (7). At -78 °C, to a solution of bromide **3** (1.5 g, 3.0 mmol) in anhydrous THF (30 mL) was added *n*-BuLi (1.25 mL, 2.4 M in hexane, 3.0 mmol) dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 35 min, and anhydrous DMF (1.2 mL, 15 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min, then warmed to room temperature and kept stirring for 1 h. Water (50 mL) was added and the mixture was extracted with DCM (3×100 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with water (100 mL) and brine (100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was subjected to flash column chromatography (eluent: hexane/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to afford the desired product **7** as red oil (1.2 g, 90% yield).

¹**HNMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.79 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 1.95-1.81 (m, 4H), 1.38-1.22 (m, 24H), 0.85 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.7 Hz, *J*₂ = 7.0 Hz, 6H).

¹³**CNMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.7, 154.6, 139.8, 138.5, 133.5, 133.2, 125.3, 118.7, 109.3, 86.3, 40.0, 31.8, 29.8, 29.4, 29.2, 23.7, 22.6, 14.1.

HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₂₆H₃₈O₂S₂ [M⁺]: 446.2313; found: 446.2335.

2-Bromo-5,5-dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'-d]pyran-7-carbaldehyde (8). At room temperature, to a solution of compound **7** (688 mg, 1.54 mmol) in THF (15 mL) was added NBS (411 mg, 2.3 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight and quenched with water (15 mL). The mixture was extracted with

DCM (3×50 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with water (30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent: hexanes/ethyl acetate = 50/1) to give the desired product **8** as yellow crystal (700 mg, 86% yield).

¹**HNMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.77 (s, 1H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 6.69 (s, 1H), 1.90-1.84 (m, 4H), 1.35-1.21 (m, 24H), 0.86-0.83 (m, 6H).

¹³**CNMR** (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.5, 153.3, 138.8, 138.2, 133.3, 133.0, 121.9, 113.9, 110.8, 86.8, 39.9, 31.7, 29.7, 29.4, 29.2, 23.6, 22.6, 14.0.

HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₂₆H₃₇BrO₂S₂ [M⁺]: 524.1418; found: 524.1417.

2-(4-(Bis(4-(octyloxy)phenyl)amino)phenyl)-5,5-dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b:2', 3'-d]pyran-7-carbaldehyde (9). A flask was charged with bromide **8** (1.0 g, 1.91 mmol), boronic ester **4** (1.2 g, 1.91 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (220 mg, 0.19 mmol), an aqueous solution of K₂CO₃ (4 mL, 1 M), and DME (40 mL). The mixture was refluxed for 24 hours, then cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. Water (30 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with DCM (3×50 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (hexanes/ethyl acetate = 20/1) to afford the desired product **9** as red oil (420 mg, 24% yield).

¹**HNMR** (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.76 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.06 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 6.78 (s,

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1H), 3.94 (dd, *J*¹ = 6.0 Hz, *J*² = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 1.93-1.88 (m, 4H), 1.82-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.43 (m, 4H), 1.34-1.24 (m, 40H), 0.92-0.85 (m, 12H).

¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 181.3, 155.9, 155.1, 149.2, 144.7, 140.2, 139.9, 137.7, 133.5, 132.6, 130.8, 128.8, 127.0, 126.0, 119.5, 115.3, 112.5, 86.2, 68.2, 40.0, 31.8, 29.8, 29.7, 29.4, 29.34, 29.29, 29.21, 29.19, 26.0, 23.7, 22.62, 22.59, 14.07, 14.06.
HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₆₀H₈₃NO₄S₂ [M]⁺: 945.5764; found: 945.5742.

3-(2-(4-(Bis(4-(octyloxy)phenyl)amino)phenyl)-5,5-dioctyl-5H-dithieno[3,2-b :**2',3'-d]pyran-7-yl)-2-cyanoacrylic acid (Dye 2)**. A flask was charged with compound **9** (420 mg, 0.44 mmol), cyanoacetic acid (374 mg, 4.4 mmol), piperidine (0.13 mL, 1.32 mmol), and CHCl₃ (20 mL). The mixture was heated to reflux for 24 hours and cooled to room temperature. Water (20 mL) was added, and the layers were separated. The aqueous layer was extracted with DCM (3×50 mL). Next, the organic layer was then washed with an aqueous solution of HCl (1 M, 30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried with Na₂SO₄, and concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (eluent: DCM/methanol = 10/1) to form the desired pure dye **2** (170 mg, 38% yield) as purple solid.

¹**HNMR** (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.38 (s, 1H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 7.8Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 6.88-6.86 (m, 4H), 6.86-6.84 (m, 2H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 3.97 (dd, *J*₁ = 6.4 Hz, *J*₂ = 6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.97-1.95 (m, 4H), 1.83-1.7 (m, 4H), 1.50-1.46 (m, 4H), 1.38-1.26 (m, 40H), 0.95-0.86 (m, 12H).

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¹³CNMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 169.2, 156.5, 156.2, 149.6, 146.6, 142.8, 139.7, 137.1, 133.9, 133.5, 130.6, 127.2, 126.0, 124.3, 119.0, 116.6, 115.3, 112.3, 107.7, 86.8, 68.3, 40.3, 31.8, 29.8, 29.5, 29.4, 29.32, 29.27, 26.1, 23.7, 22.67, 22.65, 13.9.
HRMS (LD+) calcd. for C₆₃H₈₄N₂O₅S₂ [M⁺]: 1012.5822; found: 1012.5918.

III. Optical and Cyclic Voltammetry Measurement

UV-vis absorptions in solution were measured in 1 cm cuvettes with Milton Roy 3000 spectrometer at room temperature. UV-vis spectra of dyes loaded on TiO₂ film were recorded in a Perkin Elmer Lambda 20 spectrometer at room temperature. Photoluminescence (PL) spectra was recorded in a Perkin Elmer LS 55 luminescence spectrometer.

Cyclic voltammetry was carried out on a CH Instruments Electrochemical Analyzer at a scan rate of 100 mV s⁻¹. The oxidation potential of the sensitizers was measured in DMF with TBAPF₆ (0.1 M) as electrolyte (working electrode: glassy carbon; reference electrode: Ag/Ag⁺; calibrated with Fc/Fc⁺ as an internal reference and converted to NHE by addition of 630 mV; counter electrode: Pt).



Figure S1. Cyclic voltammogram of dyes **1** (left) and **2** (right) in DMF solution with ferrocene as the internal standard.



Figure S2. Normalized absorption and PL spectra of dyes **1** and **2**. E₀₋₀ was determined by the onset wavelength in DMF solution.

IV. Solar Cell Fabrication and Characterization

TiO₂ films (12 µm) composed of 6 µm nanoparticle (20 nm) layer in direct contact with the FTO substrate and 6 µm light scattering particle [20 nm TiO₂ (80%) + 100 nm TiO₂ (20%)] layer were fabricated with a screen printing method and used in this study.² The films were sintered at 500 °C for 2 h to achieve good necking of neighboring TiO₂ particles. The sintered films were then treated with TiCl₄ aqueous solution (0.05 M) at 70 °C for 30 min followed by calcinations at 450 °C for 30 min. When TiO₂ electrodes were cooled down at around 120 °C, the electrodes were dipped in dye solutions (0.3 mM in toluene) for 24 h at room temperature for complete dye adsorption. The dye-loaded TiO₂ film as working electrode and the Pt-coated FTO as counter electrode were separated by a hot-melt Surlyn film (30 µm) and sealed together by pressing them under heating. The redox electrolyte [0.6 M 1,2-dimethyl-3-n-propylimidazolium iodide (DMPImI), 0.1 M LiI, 0.05 M I₂, and 0.5 M 4-tertbutylpyridine (TBP) in acetonitrile] was introduced through a hole in the counter electrode via suction through another drilled hole. Finally, the two holes were sealed using additional hot melt Surlyn film covered with a thin glass slide.

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The working performance of DSSCs was tested by recording the current density–voltage (J–V) curves with a Keithley 2400 source meter (Oriel) under illumination of simulated AM1.5G solar light coming from a solar simulator (Oriel-94043A equipped with a 450 W Xe lamp and an AM1.5G filter). The light intensity was calibrated using a standard Si solar cell (Newport 91150). A black mask with aperture area of 0.2304 cm² was used during measurement to avoid stray light. Charge extraction analysis was carried out on an electrochemical workstation (Zahner Zennium), which includes a green light emitting diode (LED, 555 nm) and the corresponding control system.

V. DFT Calculations

The molecular geometries were fully optimized using the B3LYP functionals and the 6-31G(d) basis set.³ On these structures, the electronic spectra were computed using the TD-DFT approach⁴ and the CAM-B3LYP functionals,⁵ which have been shown to provide reliable results for CT states.⁶ The obtained vertical transitions were then convoluted using Gaussian functions, so to simulate the experimental UV-vis spectra.⁷ All the DFT and TD-DFT calculations were carried out using the Gaussian 09 program.⁸

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Table S1. HOMOs and LUMOs calculated for dyes 1 and 2.



Figure S3. UV absorption spectra of dyes **1** and **2** with the PCM-CAM-B3LYP/6-31+G(d,p)//PBE0/6-31+G(d,p) level. The solvent used in the PCE is the THF.

parameters determined with the r DE0 functional and 0-51 $g(a,p)$ basis set.								
Dye1			Dye 2					
λ	f	Transition	λ	f	Transition			
526	1.64	HOMO>LUMO	516	1.76	HOMO>LUMO			
324	0.24	HOMO>LUMO+1,	366	0.11	HOMO-1>LUMO,			
		HOMO>LUMO			HOMO>LUMO			
284	0.23	HOMO-1>LUMO+1,	298	0.28	HOMO-4>LUMO,			

Table S2. Electronic transition of dyes **1** and **2** with the geometrical parameters determined with the PBE0 functional and 6-31+g(d,p) basis set.

		HOMO-3>LUMO			HOMO>LUMO+1,
					HOMO-1>LUMO+1
279	0.16	HOMO>LUMO+6,	285	0.12	HOMO-1>LUMO+1,
		HOMO>LUMO+5,			HOMO>LUMO+4,
		HOMO-1>LUMO+6			HOMO>LUMO+5
275	0.14	HOMO>LUMO+5,	276	0.18	HOMO>LUMO+6,
		HOMO>LUMO+3,			HOMO-8>LUMO,
		HOMO>LUMO+6			HOMO>LUMO+3



























