Comparative studies on the electronic properties of the representative benzo[1,2-c;4,5-c']bis[1,2,5]thiadiazole, [1,2,5]-thiadiazolo[3,4-g]quinoxaline and pyrazino[2,3-g]quinoxaline derivatives

Hairong Li, Feng Zhou, Teck Lip Dexter Tam, Yeng Ming Lam, Subodh G. Mhaisalkar, Haibin Su* and Andrew C. Grimsdale*

School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, 50 Nanyang Avenue, 639798 Singapore.

Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N), 50 Nanyang Drive, 637553 Singapore.

*Corresponding Author. Email: <u>HBSu@ntu.edu.sg</u>, <u>ACGrimsdale@ntu.edu.sg</u>

Experimental Details

Materials and Equipments. All reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and used without further purification, unless otherwise stated. Column chromatography was carried out with Merck silica (230 - 400 mesh) while thin layer chromatography (TLC) were performed on Merck silica 60 Al-backed plates $(20 \text{ cm} \times 20 \text{ cm})$. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were obtained on a Bruker DPX 400 MHz spectrometer with chemical shifts referenced to CDCl₃. Matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu Biotech AXIMA-TOF². Elemental analysis was obtained via a Thermo Scientific Flash 2000 Series CHNS/O Analyzer. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded on a Lambda 900 Spectrometer from Perkin Elmer. Emission spectra were recorded on a RF-5301Spectrofluorophotometer. Cyclic voltammetry experiments were

performed using a Multichannel Potentiostat (Model 1470E) from Solartron Analytical. All CV measurements were recorded in dichloromethane (DCM) with 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate as supporting electrolyte (scan rate of 100 mV·s⁻¹). The experiments were performed at room temperature with a conventional three electrodes configuration consisting of a platinum wire working electrode, a gold counter electrode, and an Ag/AgCl in 3 M KCl reference electrode. The measured potentials were converted to orbital energies by using value of SCE (saturated calomel electrode) having potential of -4.4 eV relative to vacuum.

Calculation Method. Atomistic simulation, using density function theory (DFT) at B3LYP [1,2] and TD-B3LYP (which includes the gradient corrected exchange and correlation functionals along with the exact exchange) method with double- ζ quality basis functions 6-31G* (augmented with polarized function for all non-hydrogen atoms), was used to optimize the geometry of all the molecules. Geometry was fully relaxed and no symmetry constraints were imposed during optimization using Gaussian 09 code [3] with a convergence criterion of 10⁻³ a.u. on the gradient and displacement and 10⁻⁶ a.u on energy and electron density. Harmonic vibrational analyses showed no imaginary frequency, indicating these structures are a local minimum.

4,7-Dihexylbenzo[c][1,2,5]thiadiazole-5,6-diamine (2). Compound **1** (0.5 g, 1.54 mmol), n-hexylboronic acid (0.6 g, 4.62 mmol), Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (0.1g, 0.12 mmol), dioxane (30 ml) and CsCO₃ (2M aq, 20 ml) were added to a one neck round bottom flask purged with N₂ gas, the mixture were stirred at 60 °C for 1 d, cooled down and poured into water, then extracted with dichloromethane (DCM). The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄, and concentrated. The residue was recrystalized from methanol and used immediately without further purification due to its gradual decomposition in air.

4,7-Dihexylbenzo[1,2-c;4,5-c']bis[1,2,5]thiadiazole (**BBT-X1**). N-thionylaniline (0.33 g, 2.39 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of compound **2** (0.2 g, 0.60 mmol) in chloroform (15 ml) in a flask purged with N₂, followed by slow addition of TMSCI (0.26 g, 2.39 mmol) and pyridine (0.19 g, 2.39 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was heated to reflux for 1 d, cooled down and poured into water, then extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography, eluting with hexane/DCM (1/1) to yield 90 mg of a dark red solid (33% yield calculated from compound **1**). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 2.96 (t, 4 H, J = 7.6, PhCH₂), 1.65 (quintet, 4 H, J = 7.6 Hz, PhCH₂CH₂), 1.25-1.36 (m, 12 H, CH₂), 0.87 (t, 6 H, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 156.1, 134.7, 31.52, 29.51, 28.79, 28.60, 22.56, 14.07. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 362.1578 (M⁺); calcd for C₁₈H₂₆N₄S₂: 362.1599. Anal calcd for C₁₈H₂₆N₄S₂: C, 59.63; H, 7.23; N, 15.45; S, 17.69; found: 59.46; H, 7.27; N, 15.86; S, 17.44.

4,7-Dihexyl-[1,2,5]selenadiazolo[3,4-f]-2,1,3-benzothiadiazole (**SBT-X1**). A mixture of compound **2** (0.2 g, 0.60 mmol) and SeO₂ (66 mg, 0.60 mmol) in EtOH (20 ml) was refluxed for 2 d. The cooled mixture was filtered, and the crude solid was eluted through silica with DCM to afford a dark purple solid (145 mg, 46 % calculated from compound **1**). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 3.08 (t, 4H, J = 8 Hz, PhCH₂), 1.79 (quintet, 4 H, J = 7.6 Hz, PhCH₂CH₂), 1.31-1.33 (m, 12H, CH₂), 0.89 (t, 6H, J = 7.6 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 158.5, 155.8, 134.1, 32.8, 32.3, 30.3, 29.9, 23.3, 14.7. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 410.0904 (M⁺); calcd for C₁₈H₂₆N₄SSe: C, 52.80; H, 6.40; N, 13.68; S, 7.83; found: C, 52.66; H, 6.49; N, 13.93, S, 7.96.

5,6-Dinitrobenzo[**c**][**1,2,5**]**thiadiazole** (**4**). N-thionylaniline (5.57 g, 40.0 mmol) was added dropwise into the suspension of compound **3** (2 g, 10.0 mmol) in chloroform(50 ml) in a flask purged with N₂, followed by slow addition of TMSCl (4.34 g, 40.0 mmol) and pyridine (3.16 g, 40.0 mmol) at room temperature. The whole solution was then heated to reflux for 1 d, cooled, poured into water, and then extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude product was recrystalized from a mixture of hexane with 10% of ethyl acetate to afford pale yellow crystals (1.47 g, 65 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.22 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 171.7, 152.0, 110.9. Anal calcd for C₆H₂N₄O₄S: C, 31.86; H, 0.89; N, 24.77; S, 14.18; found: C, 31.65; H, 0.92; N, 25.01, S, 14.36.

3,6-Bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)phenanthrene-9,10-dione (6). Compound **5** (2 g, 5.46 mmol) and 3,5di-tert-butylphenylboronic acid (2.81 g, 12.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.38 g, 0.33 mmol), toluene (40 ml) and K₂CO₃ (2M aq, 30 ml) were added to a one neck round bottom flask purged with N₂, the mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 1 d, cooled, poured into water, and then extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography, eluted with hexane/DCM (2/3) to afford yellow fluffy crystals (2.80 g, 88 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.30 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz, Phenan-H), 8.29 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz, Phenan-H), 7.72 (dd, 2H, J = 8 Hz, Phenan-H), 7.56 (s, 2H, PhH), 7.54 (s, 4H, PhH), 1.41 (s, 36H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 180.9, 152.5, 150.5, 139.6, 136.8, 131.8, 130.4, 129.1, 123.9, 123.5, 122.3, 35.7, 32.1. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 584.70 (M⁺); calcd for C₄₂H₄₈O₂: 584.37. Anal calcd for C₄₂H₄₈O₂: C, 86.26; H, 8.27; found: C, 86.02; H, 8.29.

4,7-Bis(thien-2'-yl)-[1,2,5]selenadiazolo[3,4-f]-2,1,3-benzothiadiazole (SBT-X2). A mixture of compound **8** (0.2 g, 0.61 mmol) and SeO₂ (67 mg, 0.61 mmol) in EtOH (20 ml) was refluxed for 1 d. The cooled mixture was filtered, and the crude solid was quickly filtered through silica with DCM to afford a dark purple solid with 53 % yield (130 mg). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.01 (dd, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, Th**H**), 7.71 (d, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, Th**H**), 7.33 (quartet, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, Th**H**). MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 405.9018 (M⁺); calcd. for C₁₄H₆N₄S₃Se: 405.8920. Anal calcd for C₁₄H₆N₄S₃Se: C, 41.48; H, 1.49; N, 13.82; S, 23.73; found: C, 41.27; H, 1.45; N, 14.10; S, 23.51.

6,7-Bis(4'-butoxy-1',4-biphen-1-yl)-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-g]quinoxaline (TQ-X0). Compound

4 (0.3 g, 1.33 mmol) and iron powder (1.48 g, 26.5 mmol) were suspended in acetic acid (30 ml) and the mixture was stirred at 60 $^{\circ}$ C for 6 hr under N₂ to form intermediate 7. The excess iron powder was removed using magnetic bar, followed by addition of 1,2-bis(4'-butoxy-1',4-biphen-1-yl)-ethanedione (9) (0.67 g, 1.33 mmol) in one portion. The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 2 d, then poured into water and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography, eluted with hexane/DCM (1/2) to obtain red brown solid (0.60 g, 72 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 9.02 (s, 2H, PhH), 7.74 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, BiPhH), 7.61 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, BiPhH), 7.58 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, BiPhH), 6.98 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, BiPhH), 4.02 (t, 4H, J = 6.4 Hz, OCH₂), 1.80 (quintet, 4H, J = 6.8 Hz, OCH₂CH₂), 1.51 (m, 4H, **CH**₂CH₃), 0.99 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, **CH**₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 160.0, 156.3, 153.0, 143.5, 138.8, 136.4, 132.8, 131.5, 128.8, 127.2, 115.6, 114.6, 68.5, 32.0, 19.9, 14.5. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 636.2851 (M⁺); calcd for C₄₀H₃₆N₄O₂S₂: 636.2559. Anal calcd for C₄₀H₃₆N₄O₂S₂: C, 75.44; H, 5.70; N, 8.80; S, 5.04; found: 75.36; H, 5.72; N, 8.96; S, 5.14.

3,6-Bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)phenanthrene)-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo[3,4-g]quinoxaline (TQ-Y0).

TQ-Y0 was prepared as **TQ-X0** above, substituting compound **6** for compound **9** to give an orange solid with yield of 75 %. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.28 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, Phenan-H), 8.81 (s, 2H, core-PhH), 8.47 (s, 2H, Phenan-H), 8.00 (dd, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz, Phenan-H), 7.71 (s, 4H, PhH), 7.57 (s,

2H, Ph**H**), 1.47 (s, 36H, C**H**₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.6, 152.4, 146.8, 146.6, 140.3, 139.4, 134.1, 129.2, 128.8, 123.3, 122.6, 122.5, 114.4, 35.8, 32.2. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 714.3809 (M⁺); calcd for C₄₈H₅₀N₄S: 714.3756. Anal calcd for C₄₈H₅₀N₄S: C, 80.63; H, 7.05; N, 7.84; S, 4.48; found: 80.51; H, 7.09; N, 7.98; S, 4.36.

Bis[(3,6-bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)phenanthrene)]-pyrazino[2,3-g]quinoxaline (PQ-Y0). A mixture of compound 10 (120 mg, 0.42 mmol) and compound 6 (494 mg, 0.84 mmol) was added to a round bottom flask containing glacial acetic acid (25 ml). The reaction was stirred at 130 °C for 2 d. The reaction mixture was cooled down and poured into water, filtered and the solids were washed with water and ethanol. Column chromatography was carried out using hexane/DCM (1/1) to obtain a red solid (340 mg, 65 % yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 9.66 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, Phenan-H), 9.62 (s, 2H, core-PhH), 8.82 (s, 4H, Phenan-H), 8.15 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, Phenan-H), 7.88 (s, 8H, PhH), 7.66 (s, 4H, PhH), 1.48 (s, 72H, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃ δ ppm): 156.6, 152.3, 146.5, 145.4, 142.2, 140.6, 134.0, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 122.7, 122.6, 121.9, 35.8, 32.2. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 1237.8221 (M⁺); calcd for C₉₀H₁₀₀N₄: 1237.7982. Anal calcd for C₉₀H₁₀₀N₄: C, 87.33; H, 8.14; N, 4.53; found: 87.08; H, 8.19; N, 4.65.

4,7-Bis(5'-hexylthien-2'-yl)-benzo[1,2-c;4,5-c']bis[1,2,5]thiadiazole (13). Compound **11** (0.4 g, 1.14 mmol), compound **12** (1.30 g, 2.84 mmol) and Pd[PPh₃]₂Cl₂ (48 mg, 0.068 mmol) were added to

a round bottom flask purged with N₂, followed by injection of anhydrous THF (40 ml). The reaction was stirred under reflux for 2 d. The cooled mixture was poured into water, and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography, eluting with hexane/DCM (1/1) to obtain a dark blue solid (0.5 g, 84 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 8.70 (d, 2H, J = 4 Hz, ThH), 6.95 (d, 2H, J = 4 Hz, ThH), 2.94 (t, 4H, J = 7.6 Hz, ThCH₂), 1.81 (quintet, 4H, ThCH₂CH₂), 1.34-1.49 (m, 12H, CH₂), 0.92 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.6, 151.5, 136.0, 133.4, 126.1, 113.8, 32.3, 32.2, 31.1, 29.6, 23.3, 14.8. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 526.1285 (M⁺); calcd for C₂₆H₃₀N₄S₄: C, 59.28; H, 5.74; N, 10.64; S, 24.35; found: 59.10; H, 5.85; N, 10.89; S, 24.12.

3,6-Bis(3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)phenanthrene)-4,7-bis(5'-hexylthien-2'-yl)-[1,2,5]thiadiazolo

[3,4-g]quinoxaline (TQ-Y2). Compound 13 (0.2 g, 0.38 mmol) and iron powder (0.42 g, 7.60 mmol) were suspended in glacial acetic acid (20 ml) and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 6 hr to form intermediate 14, excess iron was removed using a magnetic bar, followed by addition of compound 6 (0.22 g, 0.38 mmol) in one portion. The reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 2 d, poured into water, and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography, eluting with hexane/DCM (3/1) to obtain a greenish or dark brown (colour depended on the molecular packing during drying) solid (0.26 g, 65 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 9.43 (d, 2H, J = 8 Hz, Phenan-H), 8.73 (d, 2H, J = 4 Hz, ThH), 8.69 (s, 2H, Phenan-H)

H), 7.91 (dd, 2H, J = 8 Hz, Phenan-**H**), 7.71 (s, 4H, Ph**H**), 7.58 (s, 2H, Ph**H**), 6.95 (d, 2H, J = 4 Hz, Th**H**), 3.00 (t, 4H, J = 7.6 Hz, ThC**H**₂), 1.88 (quintet, 4H, ThCH₂C**H**₂), 1.40-1.49 (m, 48H, C**H**₂ and t-Bu-C**H**₃), 0.92 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, C**H**₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 152.5, 152.2, 151.9, 145.4, 144.1, 140.7, 136.4, 134.5, 134.1, 133.9, 130.1, 128.0, 125.0, 123., 122.6, 122.3, 121.3, 35.8, 32.4, 32.3, 31.0, 29.7, 23.3, 14.8. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 1046.5865 (M⁺); calcd for C₆₈H₇₈N₄S₃: C, 77.96; H, 7.50; N, 5.35; S, 9.18; found: 77.75; H, 7.57; N, 5.52; S, 9.09.

Bis[(3, 6-bis(3, 5-di-tert-butylphenyl) phenanthrene)]-4, 7-bis(5'-hexylthien-2'-yl)-pyrazino[2, 3-bis(3, 5-di-tert-butylphenyl) phenanthrene)]-4, 7-bis(3, 7-bis(3,

g]quinoxaline (PQ-Y2). Compound **13** (0.2 g, 0.38 mmol) and zinc powder (0.74 g, 11.4 mmol) were suspended in glacial acetic acid (20 ml) and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 12 hr to form intermediate **15** (whereas iron can be retrieved by a magnetic bar, the reaction for 12 hr to consume all excess zinc in the acid was required because could zinc can further reduce the later formed **PQ-Y2**), followed by addition of compound **6** (0.44 g, 0.76 mmol) in one portion. The reaction was stirred at 50 °C for 4 d, poured into water, and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was collected, dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by chromatography, eluting with hexane/DCM (3/1) to obtain a purple red solid (0.22 g, 37 %). 9.54 (d, 4H, J = 8 Hz, Phenan-H), 8.85 (s, 4H, J = 4 Hz, 2H, Phenan-H), 8.50 (d, 2H, J = 4 Hz, ThH), 8.07 (d, 4H, J = 8.4 Hz, Phenan-H), 7.72 (s, 8H, PhH), 7.71 (dd, 2H, J = 4H, ThH), 7.57 (s, 4H, PhH), 3.20 (t, 4H, J = 7.6 Hz, ThCH₂), 2.05 (quintet, 4H, ThCH₂CH₂), 1.67 (quintet, 4H, CH₂), 1.47 (s, 72H, t-Bu-CH₃), 1.25-1.42 (m, 8H,

CH₂), 0.96 (t, 6H, J = 7.2 Hz, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, δ ppm): 163.8, 152.3, 145.4, 143.7, 140.8, 138.4, 135.4, 133.9, 133.8, 131.5, 130.7, 130.4, 129.4, 129.3, 128.3, 124.7, 122.9, 122.6, 35.8, 32.7, 32.5, 32.2, 29.7, 23.3, 14.8. MALDI-TOF-MS m/z: 1569.8923 (M⁺); calcd for C₁₁₀H₁₂₈N₄S₂: 1569.9614. Anal calcd for C₁₁₀H₁₂₈N₄S₂: C, 84.13; H, 8.22; N, 3.57; S, 4.08; found: 83.89; H, 8.31; N, 3.72; S, 3.90.

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16



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23



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Figure S1. Cyclic voltammetry spectra for all newly synthesized BBT, TQ and PQ molecules (**PQ-X0** and **PQ-X2** can be found in our previous report [4]).



Figure S2. The plot of the calculated HOMO and LUMO energy together with the experimental data.

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