## Thorpe-Ingold Effect on the Conformation and Photophysical Properties of Dialkylsilylene-Spaced Divinylarene Copolymers.

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## **Supporting Information**

Experimental details and the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of new compounds

## **Experimental Section**

**General.** Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) was performed on a Waters GPC machine using an isocratic HPLC pump (1515) and a refractive index detector (2414). THF was used as the eluent (flow rate= 1.0 mLmin<sup>-1</sup>). Waters styragel HR2, HR3, HR4 (7.8 x 300 mm) were employed using polystyrene as standard ( $M_n$  values range from 375 to 3.5 x 10<sup>6</sup>). Absorption spectra and emission spectra (1x 10<sup>-5</sup> M) were measured with Hitachi U-3310 and Hitachi F-4500 fluorescence spectrophotometers, respectively. Quantum yield was obtained using coumarin-I in EtOAc as reference ( $\Phi = 0.99$ ).

**1,4-Bis-(2-di[isopropyl]silanylvinyl)benzene (3b).** Under N<sub>2</sub>, to a solution of **5**<sup>8</sup> (0.58 g, 2.0 mmol) in THF (50 mL) cooled at -78 °C was added slowly <sup>*t*</sup>BuLi (5.4 mL, 1.55 M in pentane, 8.4 mmol). After stirring for 30 min at -78 °C, chlorodiisopropylsilane (0.7 mL, 4.2 mmol) was added and the mixture was gradually warmed to rt, stirred for 3 h, and quenched with H<sub>2</sub>O (5.0 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O (3 × 20 mL), and the organic layer was washed with brine (20 mL), dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and evaporated in vacuo to give the residue which was chromatographed on silica gel (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane 1 : 4) to afford **3b** (0.60 g, 82 %) as a white solid: mp 45-46 °C (pentane); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.04-1.08 (m, 28 H), 3.73-3.75 (m, 2 H), 6.39 (dd, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 4.7 Hz, 2 H), 7.03 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H),

7.42 (s, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.8, 18.6, 18.8, 122.0, 126.6, 138.0, 147.1; IR (KBr):v 2941, 2890, 2863, 2100, 1601, 1499, 1462, 997, 986, 881, 769, 768, 669, 655 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (FAB<sup>+</sup>) (M<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>38</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>): calcd: 358.2512; found: 358.2520. **Polymer 1b.** A mixture of **3b** (110 mg, 0.3 mmol), **4** (40 mg, 0.3 mmol) and RhCl(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (0.0015-0.002 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was treated under different conditions (See Table below). After reaction, methanol was added. The precipitate was collected and redissolved in THF and then precipitated again with methanol. The product was collected by filtration and washed with methanol to give polymer **1b**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.0-1.3 (m, 14 H), 6.4-6.6 (d, 2 H), 6.9-7.1 (d, 2 H), 7.5 (s, 4 H) ; IR (KBr):v 2955, 2922, 2854, 1593, 1462, 1454, 1295, 1176, 976, 841, 805, 776, 743, 686 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

Table S1	. The reaction	conditions	of polymers	1a and 1b
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Substrate	M <sub>n</sub> (PDI)	$N^{a}$	RhCl(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	Time	Temp.	Yield
			$(Mx \ 10^{-3})$	(h)	(°C)	(%)
1a <sub>1</sub>	3800 (2.0)	20	2.0	6	40	80
1a <sub>2</sub>	8400 (1.8)	45	2.0	6	60	78
1a <sub>3</sub>	13000 (2.0)	69	1.5	10	60	81
1b <sub>1</sub>	4000 (1.5)	17	2.0	16	60	60
1b <sub>2</sub>	5900 (1.6)	24	1.5	16	60	70
1b <sub>3</sub>	8700 (1.8)	36	1.5	48	$100^{b}$	67

<sup>*a*</sup> Number average of degree of polymerisation. <sup>*b*</sup>The reaction was carried out in toluene.

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2 a R = Me; b R = iPr

**Bis-[β-(4-formylstyryl)]dimethylsilane (9a).** Under N<sub>2</sub>, a mixture of **8** (2.32 g, 10 mmol), **7a** (0.67 g, 6 mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.11 g, 0.5 mmol), Bu<sub>4</sub>NOAc (6.03 g, 20 mmol) and molecular sieves (4 Å) in dry DMF (150 mL) was stirred at 80 °C for 24 h. After filtration over celite, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo to give the residue which was chromatographed on silica gel (Et<sub>3</sub>N-treated) using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane 1 : 4 as eluent to afford **9a** as an oil (0.93 g, 58 %): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.27 (s, 6 H), 6.67 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H), 6.95 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 7.58 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4 H), 7.84 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4 H), 9.99 (s, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):δ -2.9, 126.8, 130.0, 132.2, 132.7, 137.4, 143.2, 191.5; IR (KBr): v 3047, 2993, 2961, 2901, 2822, 2787, 2718, 1704, 1600, 1407, 1378, 1302, 1258, 1211, 1166, 1105, 1040, 1005, 979, 951, 831, 793, 764, 688 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Si): calcd: 320.1233; found: 320.1240.

Bis-[ $\beta$ -(4-{2-(1,3-dithiolanyl)}styryl)]dimethylsilane (10a). An ether/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30

mL, 1: 1) solution of the **9a** (320 mg, 1 mmol),  $ZnI_2$  (1 mg, 0.003 mol) and 1,2-ethanedithiol (0.26 mL, 3 mmol) was stirred at rt for 24 h. The mixture was poured into 10% NaOH and two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed 10% NaOH (10 mL x 3) and brine (20 mL), and dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). The solvent was removed in vacuo to give **10a** as an oil (0.39 g, 83 %): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.32 (s, 6 H), 3.35-3.39 (m, 4 H), 3.50-3.54 (m, 4 H), 5.64 (s, 2 H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.91 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4 H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): $\delta$  -2.4, 40.4, 56.1, 126.4, 127.1, 127.6, 128.0, 137.9, 144.1; IR (KBr): v 2958, 2933, 2911, 1673, 1660, 1610, 1559, 1505, 1413, 1394, 1252, 1217, 1192, 1163, 986, 913, 884, 745 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>28</sub>S<sub>4</sub> Si): calcd: 472.0838; found: 472.0843.

**Bis-{β-[4-{2-(trimethylsily1)vinyl}styry1]}dimethylsilane (2a).** A THF solution of Me<sub>3</sub>SiCH<sub>2</sub>MgCl (10 equiv) was evacuated as much as possible and benzene (30 mL) was introduced. Under N<sub>2</sub>, to this mixture was added a solution of **10a** (0.95 g, 2.0 mmol) and NiCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.14 g, 0.2 mmol) in benzene (50 mL). The mixture was refluxed under N<sub>2</sub> for 16 h and then poured into saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer was extracted twice (20 mL x 2) with ether. The combined organic portions were washed with 10% NaOH (20 mL x 3) and brine (30 mL), and dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). The crude product was purified by flash chromatography (Et<sub>3</sub>N-treated) using hexane as eluent to afford **2a** as an oil (0.57 g, 62 %): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.18 (s, 18 H), 0.33 (s, 6 H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.52 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.86 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.93 (d, *J* = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 7.41 (s, 8 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -2.4, -1.0, 126.4, 126.5, 126.7, 126.8, 127.2, 129.6, 142.9, 144.3; IR (KBr): v 3028, 2984, 2955, 2920, 2892, 2851, 1603, 1413, 1242, 1201, 979, 862, 843, 789, 729 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>40</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>): calcd: 460.2438; found: 460.2447.

Bis-[ $\beta$ -(4-formylstyryl)]diisopropylsilane (9b). In a manner similar to that described for the preparation of 9a, a mixture of 8 (2.32 g, 10 mmol), 7b (1.01 g, 6

mmol), Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub> (0.11 g, 0.5 mmol), Bu<sub>4</sub>NOAc (6.03 g, 20 mmol) and molecular sieves (4 Å) in dry DMF (150 mL) was transformed into **9b** as an oil (1.03 g, 55%): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.10-1.30 (m, 14 H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 19.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.09 (d, *J* = 19.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.63 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4 H), 10.01 (s, 2 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): $\delta$  11.5, 18.2, 126.8, 127.3, 130.0, 135.7, 143.6, 145.7, 191.5; IR (KBr): v 2955, 2889, 2854, 2730, 1685, 1597, 1565, 1458, 1388, 1299, 1213, 1154, 992, 881, 859, 777, 656 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Si): calcd: 376.1853; found: 376.1860.

**Bis-[β-(4-{2-(1,3-dithiolanyl)}styryl)]diisopropylsilane (10b).** In a manner similar to that described for the preparation of **10a**, a mixture of **9b** (376 mg, 1 mmol), ZnI<sub>2</sub> (1 mg, 0.003 mol) and 1,2-ethanedithiol (0.26 mL, 3 mmol) was transformed into **10b** as an oil (0.42 g, 80 %): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 1.05-1.22 (m, 14 H), 3.36-3.40 (m, 4 H), 3.50-3.53 (m, 4 H), 5.65 (s, 2 H), 6.46 (d, J = 19.0 Hz, 2 H ), 6.99 (d, J = 19.0 Hz, 2 H ), 7.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4 H), 7.50 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 4 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 11.5, 18.2, 40.4, 56.0, 123.0, 126.4, 126.5, 128.0, 140.0, 146.1; IR (KBr): v 2930, 2855, 1647, 1654, 1603, 1558, 1541, 1508, 1458, 1201, 1173, 1052, 989, 913, 786 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>36</sub>S<sub>4</sub>Si): calcd: 528.1464; found: 528.1475.

**Bis-{β-[4-{2-(trimethylsilyl)vinyl}styryl]}diisopropylsilane (2b).** In a manner similar to that described for the preparation of **2a**, a mixture of **10b** (1.06 g, 2.0 mmol) and NiCl<sub>2</sub>(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> (0.14 g, 0.2 mmol) in benzene (50 mL) was converted to **2b** as an oil (0.61 g, 59 %): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 0.18 (s, 18 H), 1.05-1.22 (m, 14 H), 6.48 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.49 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 6.87 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 7.01 (d, J = 19.1 Hz, 2 H ), 7.43 (s, 8 H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):δ -1.0, 11.6, 18.2, 122.7, 126.4, 126.5, 128.4, 129.6, 138.0, 142.9, 146.3; IR (KBr): v 3018, 2946, 2914, 2892, 2863, 1606, 1458, 1391, 1242, 1185, 986, 853, 840, 805, 774, 729 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRMS (EI) (C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>48</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>): calcd: 516.3058; found: 516.3047.

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Fig. S1 Molecular weight-dependent emission intensity ratio  $(I_{420}/I_{340})$  for polymers **1a** (solid circle) and **1b** (open circle).



Fig. S2 Absorption spectra of **2a** (dash line) and **2b** (solid line) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M).

**Time Resolved Fluorescence Measurements.** A mode-locked tunable Ti:sapphire laser (Coherent, Mira 900 operating at  $\lambda = 900$  nm, 76 MHz pulse rate) was passed through a third harmonic generator to generate the  $\lambda = 300$  nm as the excitation light source. The fluorescence of sample was reflected by a grating (150g/mm; BLZ: 500 nm) and detected by an optically triggered streak camera (Hamamatsu C5680) with a time resolution of about 5 ps.



Fig. S3 Time-Resolved Fluorescence decays of polymer **1a**<sub>1</sub> (detection at 340 nm, blue open up triangle; detection at 420 nm, red open up triangle) and the corresponding monomer **3a** (detection at 340 nm, black open up triangle), dimer **2a** (detection at 390 nm, green open up triangle) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> excitation at 300 nm.



Fig. S4 Time-Resolved Fluorescence decays of polymer **1b**<sub>1</sub> (detection at 340 nm, blue open up triangle; detection at 420 nm, red open up triangle) and the corresponding monomers **3b** (detection at 340 nm, black open up triangle), dimer **2b** (detection at 390 nm, green open up triangle)in CHCl<sub>3</sub> excitation at 300 nm.



Fig.e S5 Emission spectra of 2a in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. 1x 10<sup>-3</sup> M (dash line), 1x 10<sup>-5</sup> M (solid line), 1x 10<sup>-6</sup> M (dotted line).



Fig. S6 Emission spectra of **2b** in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M (dash line),  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M (solid line),  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  M (dotted line).

## STM (scanning tunneling microscopy) Characterization.

STM imaging of polymers  $1a_1$  and  $1b_1$  was carried out with a NanoScope IIIa controller equipped with a low-current converter for experiments requiring high

tunneling impedance (Veeco Metrology Group/Digital Instruments, USA). The STM probes were commercially available Pt/Ir tips (PT, Nanotips, Veeco Metrology Group/Digital Instruments, USA). To observe individual polymers, a relatively diluted solution was prepared by dissolving  $1-\mu g/mL$  1a<sub>1</sub> or 1b<sub>1</sub> in hexane (ca. 0.25) The polymers were drop-cast onto freshly cleaved HOPG (highly orientated μM). pyrolytic graphite, grade ZYD, Advanced Ceramics Corp., USA), subjected to vacuum-dry (~30 min, 120 mTorr) to remove trace amount of solvent, and rapidly transferred to a chamber where dry  $N_2$  was purging throughout the experiments and the humidity was lower than 2%. Typical imaging conditions were  $0.5 \sim 1.2$  V in bias voltage and 10~50 pA in tunnelling current. The dimensions of images were calibrated by the unit cell vectors of the underlying HOPG. The large panels of Figure 4 were raw data. To better present the detail structure of polymer  $1b_1$ , the inset of Figure 4b was FFT-filtered (fast Fourier Transform) by removal of signal contributed from HOPG lattice. 17-20 bright spots (divinylbenzene moieties) can therefore be addressed (for example, Figure S7b) with the absence of HOPG features. Shown below is Figure S7 to demonstrate that the filtering procedure does not alter the morphological characteristics of polymer 1b<sub>1</sub>.



**Fig. S7.** STM images of  $1b_1$ . (a) Raw image and (b) FFT-filtered image. The white circles indicate that the removal of HOPG features facilitates counting the number of divinylbenzene moieties in the images. Conditions: image size, 3.1 x 3.1 nm; bias voltage, 0.50 V; tunnelling current, 33 pA.



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