Electronic Supplementary Information

Solution processable dithioalkylated methylidenyl cyclopentadithiophene based quinoidal small molecules for n-type organic field-effect transistors

Shakil N. Afraj,^a‡ Meng-Hao Lin,^b‡ Chih-Yao Wu,^c‡ Arulmozhi Velusamy,^a Ping-Yu Huang,^a Tzu-Yu Peng,^a Jui-Chen Fu,^a Shih-Hung Tung,^d Ming-Chou Chen*^a and Cheng-Liang Liu*^b

- ^{a.} Department of Chemistry, and Research Center of New Generation Light Driven Photovoltaic Modules, National Central University, Taoyuan, 32001 Taiwan. E-mail: mcchen@ncu.edu.tw
- ^{b.} Department of Material Science and Engineering, National Taiwan University, Taipei 10617, Taiwan. E-mail: liucl@ntu.edu.tw
- ^{c.} Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, National Central University, Taoyuan 32001, Taiwan.
- ^{d.} Institute of Polymer Science and Engineering, National Taiwan University, Taipei 10617, Taiwan.
- **‡** These authors contributed equally to this work.

S.1 Materials

All the chemical reagents were purchased from Aldrich, Alfa and TCI Chemical Co. and used as received unless otherwise noted. Solvents for reactions (toluene and THF) were distilled under nitrogen from sodium/benzophenone ketyl, and halogenated solvents were distilled from CaH₂.

S.2 Synthesis



Scheme S1. Synthetic route to central core **7a–7d**.

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 6a-6d

Under anhydrous condition solution of 4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b:3,4-b']dithiophene (1.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (15 ml) was added to potassium *tert*-butoxide (3.6 mmol) containing flask using dropping funnel at 0°C and stirred the reaction for 1 hour. Carbon disulfide (1.9 mmol) was added via syringe to the reaction mixture and stirred for 10 min. Next, alkyl bromides (3.2 mmol) was added a via syringe over 5 min and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight under dark. After completion of reaction, it was quenched by aqueous ammonium chloride and THF was removed by rotary evaporator and extracted with water and ether, organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate. Organic layer was concentrated and crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane as eluent to give desired products **6a–6d**.



Compound 6a. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.66 g (yield = 95%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 16H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 6H).



Compound 6b. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 1.3 g (yield = 87%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.70-1.60 (m, 4H) 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 24H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 6H).



Compound 6c. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.58 g (yield = 88%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.86 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H) 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 32H), 0.89 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 6H).



Compound 6d: The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.52 g (yield = 84%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.82 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 7.2 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H) 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 40H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 5 Hz, 6H).

General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 7a–7d

To the stirred solution of compound **6a–6d** (0.4 mmol mmol) in THF (15 ml) was added NBS (0.9 mmol mmol) portion wise at 0°C and stirred the reaction for overnight. After completion of reaction, it was quenched by deionized water and THF was removed by rotary evaporator and extracted with ether, organic layer was dried over sodium sulphate. Organic layer was concentrated and crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane as eluent to give desired products **7a–7d**.



Compound 7a. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.24 g (yield = 91%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): *δ* 7.88 (s, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.69-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 0.86 1.30 (m, 16H), 0.88 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 6H).



Compound 7b. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.35 g (yield = 90%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.87 (s, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H), 1.69-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m, 4H), 1.30 (m, 24), 0.89 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 6H).



Compound 7c. The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.25 g (yield = 89%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (s, 2H), 2.97 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m 4H), 1.30 (m, 32), 0.89 (t, *J* = 10 Hz, 6H).



Compound 7d: The title compound was obtained as a dark blue solid, 0.22 g (yield = 85%). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (s, H), 2.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.40 (m 4H), 1.30 (m, 40), 0.89 (t, *J* = 7 Hz, 6H).

S.3 Characterization

¹H and ¹³C NMR were recorded using a Bruker 500 or 300 instrument for all materials, with reference to solvent signals. Elemental analyses were performed on a Heraeus CHN-O-Rapid elemental analyzer. Mass spectrometric data were obtained with a JMS-700 HRMS instrument. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) was carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere on a Mettler DSC 822 instrument (scanning rate of 10 °C min⁻¹). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried out using a Perkin Elmer TGA-7 thermal analysis system using dry nitrogen as a carrier gas at a flow rate of 10 mL min⁻¹ (heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹), and the reported decomposition temperatures represent the temperature observed at 5 % mass loss. Differential pulse voltammetry experiments were performed with a conventional three-electrode configuration (a platinum disk working electrode, an auxiliary platinum wire electrode, and a non-aqueous Ag reference electrode, with a supporting electrolyte of 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAPF₆) in the specified dry solvent using a CHI621C Electrochemical Analyzer (CH Instruments). All electrochemical potentials were referenced to an Fc⁺/Fc internal standard (at 0.6 V). UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded by using Hitachi U-4100 spectrophotometer. Polarized optical microscopy (POM) images were captured using a Leica 2700M microscope equipped with Nikon digital camera and polarizer. AFM imaging was performed by a Hitachi AFM5000 operating in air, in tapping mode, by using Hitachi SI-DF3PS tips (force-frequency = 70 kHz and force constant = $1.8 \text{ N} \text{ m}^{-1}$). Grazing-incidence wide-angle X-ray scattering (GIWAXS) analyses were measured at the National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC) of Taiwan on the beamlines 13A1 and 17A1 of Taiwan Light Source (TLS).



Figure S1. Chemical structures of the reported (a) cyclopentadithiophene (**CDT**)-based organic solar cells; (b) **CDT**-based polymeric organic semiconductors; (c) **CDT**-based dye sensitized solar cells; (d) **CDT**-based small molecular hole transporting materials (HTMs) for perovskite solar cells.



Figure S2. Chemical structures of the reported (a) dithioalkylated methylidenyl-CDT based p-type thermoelectric (TE) conjugated copolymers; (b) indacenodithiophene (IDT) based conjugated small molecular OFETs with dithioalkylated methylidenyl side chains; (c) dialkylated methylidenyl and dithioalkylated methylidenyl-fluorene based conjugated copolymer and OFETs. The symbols (sc) and (s) denote spin coating and solution processes semiconductor films. (Ref. 68; *Macromolecules*, 2018, **51**, 3360-3368), (Ref. 69; *Macromolecules*, 2020, **53**, 7063-7072), (66; *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2020, **12**, 41842-41851), (Ref. 67; *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2018, **6**, 7604-7611), (Ref: 70; *Macromolecules*, 2011, **44**, 7617-7624.), (Ref. 71; *Macromolecules*, 2004, **37**, 5250-5256).



Figure S3. (a) Chemical structures of the reported dicyanomethylene-substituted n-type small molecules. The symbols (sc), (s) and (v) denote spin coating, solution, and vacuum processes semiconductor films. (Ref. 74; *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2009, **19**, 3427-3434), (Ref. 27; *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2020, **8**, 15450-15458), (Ref. 44; *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2017, **27**, 1606761), (Ref. 76; *Mater. Chem. C*, 2013, **1**, 5128-5132), (Ref. 77; *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2020, **8**, 15303-15311), (Ref, 78; *J. Org. Chem.*, 2012, **77**, 10931-10937



Figure S4. Examples of n-type fused oligothiophenes flanked by per fluorophenyls. The symbols (μ_e) and (μ_h) denote electron and hole mobility, respectively, while (v) denotes semiconductor films obtained from the vacuum process.



Figure S5. DSC curves of CDTSQs (1-4)



Figure S6. TGA curves of CDTSQs (1-4).



Figure S8. UV–vis absorption spectra of CDTRQ in diluted *o*-dichlorobenzene solution.



Figure S9. DPV response curve of **CDTRQ** in *o*-dichlorobenzene and DPV-derived HOMO/LUMO energy levels .



Figure S10. DFT optimized geometries of CDTSQs (1-4).



Figure S11. Single crystal structure of **CDTSQ-10** (**2**) in stick models (a-d) and space filling models (e-g). Sulphur and nitrogen atoms are specified in the red and blue color. Alkyl chains are omitted for clarity. (a) Top view of **CDTSQ-10** with intramolecular S····H distance of 2.70 Å and the shorter dihedral angles (2.8 Å and 4.2 Å) between the end capping unit and central core. The dihedral angles between dithioalkyl methylene and **CDT** core is 5.3°. (b-c) Front view and side view of **CDSTQ-10** molecules with π - π interplanar distances of 3.43 Å exhibiting brick type π - π stacking arrangement. The molecular length is 12.26 Å for **CDSTQ-10**. (d) Shortest intermolecular S (fused core)···N distances of 2.98, 3.02 Å, S (thioalkyl)···N distance of 3.26 Å and N···H interaction of 2.72 Å between **CDSTQ-10** layered molecules increases the order of π - π molecular stacking. (e-g) Molecular packing arrangement of **CDSTQ-10** molecules with a brick type stacking distance of 3.43 Å and exhibits the N···N intermolecular distance of 3.02 Å and slipping angles of 39.5° and 95.3° along the long and short molecular axes respectively.



Figure S12. Single crystal structure of **CDTSQ-14** (**4**) in stick models (a-d) and space filling models (e-g). Sulphur and nitrogen atoms are specified in the red and blue color. Alkyl chains are omitted for clarity. (a) Top view of **CDTSQ-14** with intramolecular S···H distance of 2.76 Å, 2.73 Å, and the shorter dihedral angles (2.3 Å and 4.4 Å) between the end capping unit and central core. The dihedral angles between olefinic dithioalkyl methylene and central core is 4.9°. (b-c) Front view and sideview of **CDSTQ-14** molecules with π - π interplanar distances of 3.43 Å exhibiting brick type π - π stacking arrangement. The molecular length is 12.33 Å for **CDSTQ-14**. (d) Shortest intermolecular S (fused core)····N distances of 2.99 Å, 3.02 Å, S (thioalkyl)····N distance of 3.26 Å and N···H interaction of 2.69 Å between **CDSTQ-14** layered molecules increases the order of π - π molecular stacking. (e-g) Molecular packing arrangement of **CDSTQ-14** molecules with a brick type stacking distance of 3.43 Å and exhibits the N···N intermolecular distance of 3.05 Å and slipping angles of 34.6° and 95.1° along the long and short molecular axes respectively.

| Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for CDTSQ-10 (2). | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| | | | |
| Identification code | 21FEB01 | | |
| Empirical formula | $C_{30} H_{27} N_4 O_2 S_3$ | | |
| Formula weight | 571.73 | | |
| Temperature | 296(2) K | | |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å | | |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | | |
| Space group | P2 ₁ /c | | |
| Unit cell dimensions | a = 11.600(6) Å | α= 90°. | |
| | b = 30.500(12) Å | β= 105.890(19)°. | |
| | c = 9.114(3) Å | $\lambda = 90^{\circ}$. | |
| Volume | 3101(2) Å ³ | | |
| Z | 4 | | |
| Density (calculated) | 1.224 Mg/m ³ | | |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.271 mm ⁻¹ | | |
| F(000) | 1196 | | |
| Crystal size | 0.433 x 0.168 x 0.052 mm ³ | | |
| Theta range for data collection | 1.944 to 28.281°. | | |
| Index ranges | -15<=h<=15, -40<=k<=40, -12<=l<=10 | | |
| Reflections collected | 73480 | | |
| Independent reflections | 7673 [R(int) = 0.1089] | | |
| Completeness to theta = 25.242° | 99.9 % | | |
| Absorption correction | Numerical Mu Calculated | | |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.7457 and 0.6971 | | |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on F ² | | |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 7673 / 0 / 353 | | |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.025 | | |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] | $R_1 = 0.0610, wR_2 = 0.1471$ | | |
| R indices (all data) | $R_1 = 0.1575, wR_2 = 0.1968$ | | |
| Extinction coefficient | n/a | | |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.393 and -0.229 e.Å ⁻³ | | |

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) of **2** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. **CCDC 2178825.**

| Table S2. Crystal data and structure refinement for CDTSQ-12 (3). | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Identification code | 20MAR02 | | | |
| Empirical formula | C ₃₄ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₂ S | C ₂₄ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₂ S | | |
| Formula weight | 528.64 | 528.64 | | |
| Temperature | 296(2) K | 296(2) K | | |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å | | | |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic | | | |
| Space group | P2/c | | | |
| Unit cell dimensions | a = 18.352(5) Å | α= 90°. | | |
| | b = 5.7286(15) Å | β= 107.054(9)°. | | |
| | c = 29.160(8) Å | $\lambda = 90^{\circ}.$ | | |
| Volume | 2930.8(14) Å ³ | | | |
| Z | 4 | | | |
| Density (calculated) | 1.198 Mg/m ³ | | | |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.143 mm ⁻¹ | 0.143 mm ⁻¹ | | |
| F(000) | 1112 | 1112 | | |
| Crystal size | 0.406 x 0.036 x 0.028 | 0.406 x 0.036 x 0.028 mm ³ | | |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.116 to 28.356°. | 2.116 to 28.356°. | | |
| Index ranges | -24<=h<=24, -7<=k<=7 | -24<=h<=24, -7<=k<=7, -38<=l<=38 | | |
| Reflections collected | 141263 | 141263 | | |
| Independent reflections | 7316 [R(int) = 0.2334] | 7316 [R(int) = 0.2334] | | |
| Completeness to theta = 25.242° | 99.9 % | 99.9 % | | |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.7446 and 0.7051 | 0.7446 and 0.7051 | | |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squar | res on F ² | | |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 7316 / 0 / 355 | 7316 / 0 / 355 | | |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.199 | 1.199 | | |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] | $R_1 = 0.1530, wR_2 = 0.2$ | $R_1 = 0.1530, wR_2 = 0.2640$ | | |
| R indices (all data) | $R_1 = 0.2194, wR_2 = 0.2$ | $R_1 = 0.2194, wR_2 = 0.2942$ | | |
| Extinction coefficient | n/a | | | |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.345 and -0.449 e.Å ⁻³ | | | |

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) of **3** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. **CCDC 2178823**.

Table S3. Crystal data and structure refinement for CDTSQ-14 (4).

| Identification code | 22FEB07_1_0m | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| Empirical formula | $C_{44} H_{60} N_4 S_4$ | | | |
| Formula weight | 773.20 | | | |
| Temperature | 296(2) K | | | |
| Wavelength | 0.71073 Å | | | |
| Crystal system | Triclinic | | | |
| Space group | <i>P</i> -1 | | | |
| Unit cell dimensions | <i>a</i> = 8.6648(2) Å | α= 89.1350(10)°. | | |
| | <i>b</i> = 10.4117(2) Å | β= 81.9180(10)°. | | |
| | <i>c</i> = 25.0237(5) Å | λ = 74.8170(10)°. | | |
| Volume | 2156.52(8) Å ³ | | | |
| Z | 2 | | | |
| Density (calculated) | 1.191 Mg/m ³ | | | |
| Absorption coefficient | 0.255 mm ⁻¹ | | | |
| F(000) | 832 | | | |
| Crystal size | 0.150 x 0.134 x 0.052 mm ³ | | | |
| Theta range for data collection | 2.027 to 28.356°. | | | |
| Index ranges | -11<=h<=11, -13<=k<=13, -33<=l<=33 | | | |
| Reflections collected | 74860 | | | |
| Independent reflections | 10604 [<i>R</i> (int) = 0.0884] | | | |
| Completeness to theta = 25.242° | 99.4 % | | | |
| Absorption correction | Numerical Mu Calculated | | | |
| Max. and min. transmission | 0.7457 and 0.6540 | | | |
| Refinement method | Full-matrix least-squares on F ² | | | |
| Data / restraints / parameters | 10604 / 0 / 477 | | | |
| Goodness-of-fit on F ² | 1.073 | | | |
| Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] | $R_1 = 0.0532, wR_2 = 0.1496$ | | | |
| R indices (all data) | $R_1 = 0.0850, wR_2 = 0.1710$ | | | |
| Extinction coefficient | n/a | | | |
| Largest diff. peak and hole | 0.554 and -0.358 e.Å ⁻³ | | | |
| | | | | |

Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) of **4** have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. **CCDC 2178827**.



Figure S13. Transfer characteristics of spin-coated CDTSQs OFETs.



Figure S14. Output characteristics of solution-sheared (a) **CDTSQ-8**, (b) **CDTSQ-10**, (c) **CDTSQ-14** OFETs.



Figure S15. Output characteristics of spin-coated (a) **CDTSQ-8**, (b) **CDTSQ-10**, (c) **CDTSQ-12**, and (d) **CDTSQ-14** OFETs.

| Compound | μ_{max} | I_{ON}/I_{OFF} | V_{th} |
|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| compound | $[cm^2 V^{-1} s^{-1}]$ | [V] | [V] |
| CDTSQ-8 | 5.25E-06 | 10 ² ~10 ³ | -4.35 |
| CDTSQ-10 | 1.86E-05 | $10^{3} \sim 10^{4}$ | 9.75 |
| CDTSQ-12 | 7.94E-05 | $10^2 \sim 10^3$ | 26.86 |
| CDTSQ-14 | 5.20E-05 | $10^{3} \sim 10^{4}$ | 3.72 |
| | | | |

Table S4. Summary of OFETs electrical parameters for spin-coated **CDTSQ**s films.



Figure S16. POM (upper) and AFM (lower) of spin-coated (a, e) **CDTSQ-8**, (b, f) **CDTSQ-10**, (c, g) **CDTSQ-12**, and (d, h) **CDTSQ-14**.

| Compound | а | b | С | FWHM | L _c |
|----------|------|------|-------|--------|----------------|
| | [Å] | [Å] | [Å] | [Å-1] | [Å] |
| CDTSQ-8 | 3.49 | - | 24.15 | 0.0208 | 302.1 |
| CDTSQ-10 | 3.47 | 5.93 | 27.30 | 0.0154 | 408.0 |
| CDTSQ-12 | 3.43 | 5.67 | 29.90 | 0.0151 | 416.1 |
| CDTSQ-14 | 3.47 | - | 33.74 | 0.0155 | 405.4 |

Table S5. Crystallographic information of **CDTSQ**s molecules obtained from GIWAXS.



Figure S17. Schematic diagram of proposed molecular packing of solution-sheared **CDTSQ-12** film in the (a) a-axis and (b) b-axis projections.



Figure S18. One-dimensional profile of (001) peak extracted from (a) **CDTSQ-8**, (b) **CDTSQ-10**, (c) **CDTSQ-12**, and (d) **CDTSQ-14** GIWAXS pattern.



Figure S19. 2D GIWAXS patterns of spin-coated (a) CDTSQ-8, (b) CDTSQ-10, (c) CDTSQ-12, and (d) CDTSQ-14 films.



Figure S20. Multiple gate sweeps of (a) CDTSQ-8, (b) CDTSQ-10, and (c) CDTSQ-14 OFETs for 100 cycles.













| 871 861 860 860 043 033 | .985 .971 | 687 673 657 644 628 |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|
| | | |





















