Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics. This journal is © the Owner Societies 2023

Supporting Information

Rationally Heteroarylated Pyridines as Hole Transport Materials for OLEDs

Krishan Kumar,^{a,*} Anirban Karmakar,^b Feng-Rong Chen^c, Jwo-Huei Jou^c, Subrata Ghosh,^a Subrata Banik, d,* Sunil Kumar, a,*

^a School of Chemical Sciences, IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh 175005, India.

^bCentro de Química Estrutural, Instituto Superior Técnico, Avenida Rovisco Pais, 1049-001,

Lisboa, Portugal

^c Department of Materials Science and Engineering, National Tsing Hua University 101, Sec.

2, Guang-Fu Road, Hsinchu 30013, Taiwan, R.O.C.

^dDepartment of Chemistry, School of Chemical and Biotechnology, SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur 613401, Tamil Nadu, India.

Corresponding Authors:

K.Kumar, Email:krishanme906@gmail.com

S. Banik, Email: subratachem@gmail.com

S. Kumar, Email: chemsunil85@gmail.com

General

All the synthesized molecules were characterised by NMR on a Jeol EXC NMR spectrometer. The optical properties such as UV-vis absorption and photoluminescence spectrum were recorded in Shimadzu UV-2450 and Carry Eclips Fluorescence Spectrometer, Agilent technologies, respectively. HRMS-ESI spectra of all the compounds were measured on Bruker Maxix Impact HD instrument and theoretical mass values were calculated from compass isotope pattern software. All the photophysical studies were performed in HPLC-grade solvents. The TGA and DSC analysis was investigated on NETZSCH STA448 F1 JUPITOR and (Perkin Elmer DSC 8000) instruments under a nitrogen and argon atmosphere, respectively, with a 10 °C/minute heating rate. Diffraction studies of **PrPzPy** were performed on an Agilent Technologies X-ray diffractometer (Rigaku corporations). The electrochemical properties of the molecules were measured by Cyclic Voltammetry on Metrohm Auto lab using three-electrode systems (Ag/AgCl, Pt-disc, and Pt-wire) in tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate electrolyte, and DCM as solvent. For the photoluminescence study of the molecules, 1mg/ml stock solution was prepared in DCM solvent and experiments were done in 5 nm and 5nm slits for excitation and emission respectively. The excitation wavelength for **PrPzPy** and **MePzCzPy** was 330, and 338 nm, and photoluminescence and absorption studies were done using 10µM DCM. The compound **EtCz** was synthesized following a previous report.[1]

1. Experimantal Section:

Procedure for the synthesis of **MePz** [2]

NaH (1.5 eq.) and DMF (10 ml) were placed in a 100-ml two-neck round bottomed flask, then phenothiazine (1.0 eq.) was added to the RB. The mixture was stirred for 40 minutes at room temperature, then iodomethane (1.1 eq.) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 6h at room temperature. The crude product was poured into the ice-water and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was evaporated on rota-evaporator and the crude product was purified by column chromatography with 3% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; White solid; Yield: 80%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): 7.24-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.92 (t, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 8.25 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 145.78, 127.39, 127.11, 123.33, 122.41,114.03, 35.26.

Procedure for the synthesis of **PrPz** [2]

NaH (1.5 eq.) and DMF (10 ml) were placed in a 100-ml two-necked round bottomed flask, then phenothiazine (1.0 eq.) was added to the RB. The mixture was stirred for 40 minutes at room temperature, then iodopropane (1.1 eq.) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred for 6h at room temperature. The crude product was poured into the ice-water and extracted with DCM. The organic layer was evaporated on rota-evaporator and the crude product was purified by column chromatography with 2% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; Oily compound was obtained which become yellow solid after some time; Yield: 75%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3): 7.35-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (t, *J* = 6.15 Hz, 2H), 1.99-1.95 (m, 2H), 1.16 (t, $J = 7.55$ Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 144.98, 127.09, 126.92, 124.60, 122.04, 115.19, 48.71, 19.82, 11.10.

Synthetic Procedure for **MePzCHO** [3]

A mixture of 10-methyl-10*H*-phenothiazine (1 eq.), POCl₃ (1.5 eq.), and DMF (2 eq.) in RB was stirred at room temperature for 1h. After that, the reaction mixture was refluxed at 95 °C for 12h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with aq. solution of NaHCO₃ and extracted with DCM. The organic solvent was evaporated using rota-evaporator and the crude solid was purified by column chromatography with 8% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; Yellow solid; Yield: 50%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 9.73 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.50-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.12 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.95-6.94 (m, 1H), 6.78-6.74 (m, 2H), 3.33 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 189.92, 150.75, 143.76, 130.83, 130.33, 127.60, 127.56, 127.02, 123.58, 123.41, 122.16, 114.61, 113.50, 35.58.

Synthetic Procedure for **PrPzCHO** [3]

A mixture of 10-propyl-10*H*-phenothiazine (1 eq.), POCl₃ (1.5 eq.), and DMF (2 eq.) in RB was stirred at room temperature for 1h. After that, the reaction mixture was refluxed at 95 °C for 12h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with aq. solution of NaHCO₃ and extracted with DCM. The organic solvent was evaporated using rota-evaporator and the crude solid was purified by column chromatography with 6% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; Oily compound was obtained; Yield: 55%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 9.74 (s, 1H), 7.59-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.52 (m, 1H), 7.15-7.11 (m, 1H), 7.07-7.05 (m, 1H), 6.94-6.91 (m, 1H), 6.84-6.82 (m, 2H), 3.80 (t, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 1.82-1.77 (m, 2H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 189.86, 150.50, 143.14, 130.77, 129.97, 128.07, 127.41, 127.34, 124.71, 123.49, 123.39, 115.83, 114.62, 49.47, 19.82, 11.06.

Synthetic Procedure for **EtCzAc** [4]

To a solution of 9-ethyl-9*H*-carbazole (1eq.) in 20 ml dichloromethane was added AlCl₃ (3.5) eq.) and acetyl chloride (2 eq.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 hours, and then poured into 20 ml diluted HCl ice water. The organic phase was collected, dried over anhydrous $Na₂SO₄$, and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (10% ethyl acetate/ hexane) to afford desired product as a white solid. Yield: 70%. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d6*): 8.86 (s, 1H), 8.30 (d, *J*= 8.25 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, *J* = 8.95 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (t, *J*= 7.55 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (q, *J* = 7.60 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 1.30 (t, *J* = 6.85 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d6*): 196.97, 142.17, 140.27, 128.37, 126.45, 126.02, 122.55, 122.04, 121.89, 120.80, 119.76, 109.66, 108.82, 37.22, 26.68, 13.69.

Synthetic Procedure for **PrPzPy)** [4]

A mixture of 4-methoxyacetophenone (3 eq.), 10-propyl-10*H*-phenothiazine-3-carbaldehyde (1 eq.), ammonium acetate (8 eq.) and AcOH (20 ml) in 100 ml RB was refluxed at 130 °C for 12h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with DCM. The organic solvent was evaporated using rota-evaporator and the crude solid was purified by column chromatography with 8% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; Yellow solid; Yield: 48%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d6*): 8.28 (d, *J =* 8.95 Hz, 4H), 7.99 (s, 2H), 7.83-7.82 (m, 2H), 7.20- 7.16 (m, 2H), 7.10-7.08 (m, 5H), 7.06-7.03 (m, 1H), 7.01-6.96 (m, 1H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 6.85 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (s, 6H), 1.76-1.69 (m, 2H), 0.95 (t, *J* = 6.90 Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO*d6*): 160.12, 155.89, 147.82, 145.42, 144.16, 131.76, 131.43, 128.13, 127.56, 127.04, 126.37, 125.50, 124.19, 123.06, 122.58, 115.82, 115.79, 114.00, 113.88, 55.13, 55.11, 48.22, 19.43, 10.86; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for C₃₄H₃₀N₂O₂S [M+H]⁺: 531.2101, found: 531.2101, Melting Point: 141°C.

Synthetic Procedure for **MePzCzPy** [5]

A mixture of 1-(9-ethyl-9*H*-carbazol-3-yl)ethan-1-one (3 eq.), 10-methyl-10*H*-phenothiazine-3-carbaldehyde (1 eq.), ammonium acetate (8 eq.) and AcOH (20 ml) in 100 ml RB was refluxed at 130 °C for 12h. Then the reaction mixture was quenched with water and extracted with DCM. The organic solvent was evaporated using rota-evaporator and the crude solid was purified by column chromatography with 6% ethyl acetate-hexane as the eluent; Yellow color solid; Yield 35%; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): 8.95 (s, 2H), 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.20 Hz, 2H), 8.27 (d, *J* = 7.55 Hz, 2H), 7.89 (s, 2H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 6.15 Hz, 2H), 7.53-7.42 (m, 6H), 7.30-7.19 (m, 4H), 6.98-6.91 (m, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.25 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (q, *J* = 6.90 Hz, 4H), 3.41 (s, 3H), 1.47 $(t, J = 6.9 \text{ Hz}, 6\text{H})$; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): 158.29, 148.53, 146.37, 145.31, 140.60, 140.43, 133.59, 130.97, 127.61, 127.24, 126.35, 125.74, 125.57, 125.31, 124.10, 123.37, 123.29, 122.80, 122.76, 120.75, 119.35, 119.03, 115.17, 114.36, 114.23, 108.60, 108.51, 37.68, 35.43, 13.85; HRMS (ESI): Calculated for $C_{46}H_{36}N_4S$ [M+H]⁺: 677.2730, found: 677.2730, Melting Point: 210° C.

1.1 Hole-only device fabrication for **PrPzPy** compound.

The hole-only device (HOD) with **PrPzPy** was fabricated to evaluate the change in current density with the enhancement in operating voltage. The developed device contained two electrodes i.e. (i) anode, which contained an indium tin oxide (ITO) glass of \sim 125 nm thickness, and (ii) cathode, which contained aluminum (Al) of \sim 100 nm thickness, respectively. The hole was injected by a hole injection layer i.e. poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene): polystyrene sulphonate (PEDOT:PSS) with a thickness of $~40$ nm. The charge carrier hole was then transported by a hole transport layer (HTL) comprised of $PrPzPy$ that had a thickness of ~ 10 nm. Similarly, the electron was injected by the electron injection layer (EIL) i.e. lithium fluoride (LiF) which had a thickness of \sim 1 nm. Initially, the ITO-coated glass substrate was properly washed in acetone at 45°C for 30 minutes, followed by washing in 2-propanol at 60 °C for 60 mins (both under an ultrasonic bath), and then it was carefully treated in an ozone atmosphere under ultraviolet light for 15 minutes. After that, the substrate was shifted into a nitrogen-filled glove box for spin-coating the HIL and HTL. The HIL was spin-coated at 4,000 rpm for 20 seconds. The **PrPzPy** was dissolved in toluene and then spin-coated onto the specimen at 2,500 rpm for 20 seconds to coat the HTL. After coating the HTL, the specimen was shifted into a high-vacuum chamber with a base pressure of \sim 1 × 10⁻⁷ torr for sequential deposition of EIL and cathode via thermal evaporation. The current density of the developed device was measured with a Keithley 2400 electrometer.

2. TD spectrum

Fig. S1. TD Spectrum of **PrPzPy**

Table **S1**. TD-DFT analysis of **PrPzPy (**transition, oscillator strength, and energy) with B3LYP functional. MO number 140 corresponds to HOMO and 141 corresponds to LUMO. Transitions with oscillator strengths and coefficients greater than 0.10 are tabulated.

Fig. S2. TD Spectrum of **MePzCzPy** with B3LYP functional

Table S2. TD-DFT analysis of **MePzCzPy (**transition, oscillator strength, and energy) with B3LYP functional. MO number 178 corresponds to HOMO and 179 corresponds to LUMO. Transitions with oscillator strengths and coefficients greater than 0.10 are tabulated.

Molecule	Method	S_1		S_2		T_1		T ₂	
		D_{CT}	Q_{CT}	D_{CT}	Q_{CT}	D_{CT}	Q_{CT}	D_{CT}	Q_{CT}
		(\AA)		(\AA)		(\AA)		(\AA)	
PrPzPy	B3LYP	4.13	0.79	5.15	0.96	3.25	0.65	1.14	0.37
MePzCzPy		4.57	0.83	3.67	0.76	3.45	0.61	2.71	0.58
PrPzPy	$wB97X-D$	1.16	0.66	2.35	0.62	1.13	0.51	0.71	0.36
MePzCzPy		1.59	0.66	1.18	0.52	0.21	0.33	1.00	0.41

Table S3: Charge transfer distances and magnitude of charge transfer for each molecule.

Table S4: A comparison of HOMO and LUMO energies (in eV), λ_{max} (in nm) of the UV spectrum (for transition to S_1 state) for B3LYP and wB97X-D results against experimental values

Molecule	HOMO			LUMO			$\lambda_{max(nm)}$		
	B3LYP	$wB97X-D$	Exp.	B3LYP	$wB97X-D$	Exp.	B3LYP	$wB97X-D$	Exp.
PrPzPy	-5.28	-7.17	-5.10	-1.60	0.22	-2.14	392.81	317.76	330
MePzCzP	-5.43	-7.33	-5.10	-1.58	0.21	-2.04	372.59	297.97	338
y									

3. **Cyclic Voltammetry**

Fig. S3. Cyclic Voltagrmmograms of **PrPzPy**

Fig. S4. Cyclic Voltagrmmograms of **MePzCzPy**

4. TGA analysis

Fig. S5. TGA graph of **PrPzPy**

Fig. S6. TGA graph of **MePzCzPy**

5. DSC analysis

Fig. S7. DSC graph of **PrPzPy**

Fig. S8. DSC graph of **MePzCzPy**

6. X-ray analysis

Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data of **PrPzPy** was gathered on an Agilent Supernova Xray diffractometer equipped with a CCD detector at room temperature (150 or 296 K) using the source graphite-monochromatic Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184\text{\AA}$). For single crystal analysis, the same methods and software were used as mentioned in the previous report.6- ¹⁰ Crystallographic data have been illustrated in Table S5. CCDC 2192347 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be acquired free of cost from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre *via* [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif)

7. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra

Fig. S9. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **MePz**

Fig. S10. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **PrPz**

Fig. S11. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **MePzCHO**

Fig. S12. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **PrPzCHO**

Fig. S13. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **EtCzAc**

Fig. S14. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **PrPzPy**

Fig. S15. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectrum of **MePzCzPy**

8. HRMS spectrum

Fig. S16. HRMS spectrum of **PrPzPy**

Fig. S17. HRMS spectrum **MePzCzPy**

9. Coordinates of the optimized structures:

1.1 Coordinates of the optimized structure of **PrPzPy** with B3LYP functional.

1.2 Coordinates of the optimized structure of **MePzCzPy** with B3LYP functional.

Atomic No. X-coordinate Y-coordinates Z-coordinates

6 10.064860205 0.898319847 0.281374249

10. References

1. K. Kumar, K. K. Kesavan, S. Kumar, S. Banik, J. Jayakumar, L. Y. Hong, L. Y. Hung, M. R. Nagar, J-H. Jou, S. Ghosh. Decorated pyridine as hole transporting material (HTM) for solution-processed OLEDs. *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology A: Chemistry* 2023, **437**, 114380.

2. P. Dao, F. Ye, Y. Liu, Z. Y. Du, K. Zhang, C. Z. Dong, B. Meunier and H. Chen, Development of Phenothiazine-Based Theranostic Compounds That Act Both as Inhibitors of β-Amyloid Aggregation and as Imaging Probes for Amyloid Plaques in Alzheimer's Disease. *ACS Chem. Neurosci.* 2017, **8**, 798–806.

3. T. Miyazaki, M. Shibahara, J. I. Fujishige, M. Watanabe, K. Goto and T. Shinmyozu, Solvent assisted photochemical formation of a new keto [3, 3] paracyclophane. *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014**, 79**, 11440–11453.

4. S. Liu, N. Giacoletto, M. Schmitt, M. Nechab, B. Graff, F. Morlet-Savary, P. Xiao, F. Dumur and J. Lalevée, Effect of decarboxylation on the photoinitiation behavior of nitrocarbazole-based oxime esters. *Macromolecules*, 2022**, 55***,* 2475–2485.

5. Q. Ran, J. Ma, T. Wang, S. Fan, Y. Yang, S. Qi, Y. Cheng and F. Song, Synthesis and fluorescence study of conjugated polymers based on 2, 4, 6-triphenylpyridine moieties. *New J. Chem.*, 2016, **40**, 6281–6288.

6. Karmakar, A.; Soliman, M. M. A.; Rúbio, G. M. D. M.; Guedes, M. F. C.; Pombeiro, A. J. L. Synthesis and catalytic activities of a Zn(II) based metallomacrocycle and a metal– organic framework towards one-pot deacetalization-Knoevenagel tandem reactions under different strategies: a comparative study : *Dalton Trans.,* **2020**, *49*, 8075–8085.

7. Crys AlisPro Program, ver. 171.37.33c. Data Collection and Processing Software for Agilent X-ray Diffractometers; Agilent Technologies: Oxford, UK, **2012**, 1−49

8. G. M. Sheldrick, SADABS. Program for Empirical Absorption Correction. University of Gottingen, Germany, **1996**.

9. G. M. Sheldrick, Crystal structure refinement with *SHELXL*. *Acta Crystallogr*. **2015**, *C71*, 3–8.

10. L. J. Farrugia, WinGX and ORTEP for Windows: an update. *J. Appl. Crystallogr*. **2012**, *45*, 849–854.