Supplementary Information for

## Design and Development of Low-Cost Imidazole-Based Hole

## **Transporting Material for Perovskite Solar Cell**

## Fatemeh Sadeghi<sup>a</sup>, Babak Pashaei<sup>b</sup>, Babak Nemati Bideh<sup>c</sup>, Negin Sabahi<sup>a</sup>, Hashem Shahroosvand<sup>a\*</sup>, Mohammad Khaja Nazeeruddin<sup>d\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Group for Molecular Engineering of Advanced Functional Materials, Department of Chemistry, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran

<sup>b</sup>Department of Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran

° Inorganic Chemistry Department, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Bu-Ali Sina, Hamedan, Iran

<sup>d</sup> Group for Molecular Engineering of Functional Materials, Institute of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1951 Sion, Switzerland

E-mail addresses: shahroos@znu.ac.ir (H. Shahroosvand). mdkhaja.nazeeruddin@epfl.ch (Md. K.

Nazeeruddin)



Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectrum of HTM 1.



Fig. S2. TGA curve of the HTM 1 with scan rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup> under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.



Fig. S3. Hole mobility measurements using space-charge limited currents for the devices fabricated with HTMs 1 and 2.



Fig. S4. Cross-sectional SEM images and corresponding EDX mapping images of the solar cell, indicating the distribution of elements In, Ti, Pb, and I.



Fig. S5. Stability of the photovoltaic parameters of PSCs based on HTMs 1 and 2 under during exposure to full AM 1.5 simulated sunlight for 1000 hours (humidity  $\approx$  40%). Highlighted parts show the difference between photovoltaic performance of HTRMs 1, and 2 over times.

**Table S1.** Quantities and cost of the materials used for the synthesis of 1 g of HTM **2**. Reproduced from ref. <sup>1</sup> with permission from the Royal Society of Chemistry, copyright 2016.

Chemical name	Weight reagent (g/g)	Weight solvent (g/g)	Weight workup (g/g)	Price of chemical (\$/kg)	Material cost (\$/g product)	Cost per step (\$/step)
2,2',7,7'-tetrabromo-9,9'- spirobi[9H-fluorene]	1.15			95900.00	110.29	
4,4'-dimethoxydiphenylamine	1.87			54900.00	102.66	273.62
t-BuONa	1.04			307.00	0.32	

Pd <sub>2</sub> (dba) <sub>3</sub> Toluene	0.067	12		14900.00 69.48	1.00 0.83	
Ethyl acetate			135	80.16	10.82	
NaCl (brine)	2		1	50.70	0.05	
$MgSO_4$	0.05		1	144.20	0.14	
Ethyl acetate	1		120	80.16	9.62	
n-Hexane			176	117.91	20.75	
Silica gel 60	20		263	62.20	16.36	
Total						273.62

**Table S2.** Quantities and costs of the materials used for the synthesis of 1 g of HTM 1 together with sum of costs HTM  $^{2,3}$ .

Chemical name	Weight reagent (g/g)	Weight solvent (g/g)	Weight workup (g/g)	Price of chemical (\$/kg)	Material cost (\$/g product)	Cost per step (\$/step)
Benzil	0.62			120	0.072	
3-nitrobenzaldehyde	0.44			150	0.066	
Ammonium Acetate	3.66			90	0.33	1.66
Acetic Acid		10.5	5.50	50	0.80	
Ethanol			15.78	25	0.40	
Total						1.66

Table S3. The catalysts and cost for the synthesis of 1 g of organic HTMs and their photovoltaic characteristics.

No.	НТМ	Catalyst used for synthesis	Cost per 1 g	Jsc (mA cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Voc (V)	FF	η (%)	Ref.
1		t-BuONa Pd2(dba)3 P(t-Bu)3	273.62	20.7	1.00	0.71	14.9	4



OCH3

6	H <sub>3</sub> CO N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N	t-BuONa P(t-Bu) $_3$ Pd $_2$ (dba) $_3$	148.57	20.4	1.13	0.68	15.8	7
7	$H_{3}CO - O - O - O - O - N - O - O - N - O - O$	CuI 1,10- phenanthroline K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	216.46	23.2	1.02	0.79	18.6	7
8	$H_{3}CO$ $H_{3$	<ul> <li><sup>3</sup> t-BuONa Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub></li> <li><sub>3</sub> [(t-Bu)<sub>3</sub>PH]BF<sub>4</sub></li> </ul>	168.42	21.0	0.92	0.67	12.92	8
9	$H_{3}CO OCH_{3} OCH_{3}$	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> Tri-t- butylphosphine t-BuONa	434.12	20.28	1.02	0.71	14.79	9
10	$H_{3}CO \xrightarrow{OCH_{3}} OCH_{3}$	Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> Tri-t- butylphosphine t-BuONa	450.13	20.35	0.99	0.69	13.86	9

11	$H_{3}CO = O = O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O$	K2CO3 Pd(PPh3)4	579.16	17.63	1.02	0.73	13.44	10
12	H <sub>3</sub> CO O N S S C N S S C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C N O O C H <sub>3</sub> C C H <sub>3</sub> C C C H <sub>3</sub> C C C H <sub>3</sub> C C C C C C C C C C C C C	K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>	633.88	13.8	0.98	0.76	10.3	11
13	H <sub>3</sub> CO H <sub></sub>	Pd2(dba)3 X-Phos t-BuONa	376.30	20.4	1.04	0.72	16.0	12
14	$\begin{array}{c} H_{3}CO-\bigcap_{H}, & OCH_{3}H_{3}CO\\ H_{3}CO-\bigcap_{H}, & OCH_{3}H_{3}CO\\ H_{3}CO\\ H_{3}CO\\ H_{3}CO\\ H_{3}CO\\ CO\\ H_{3}CO\\ CO\\ CH_{3}H_{3}CO\\ CH_{3}H_{3}CO\\ CO\\ CH_{3}H_{3}CO\\ CH_{3}H_{3}C$	Pd2(dba)3 X-Phos t-BuONa	591.57	20.6	1.09	0.77	17.0	12

	Pd(PPh <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> K <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> NH <sub>4</sub> Cl	800.49	21.9	1.07	0.77	18.2	12
	Zn TiCl <sub>4</sub>	101.34	18.2	1.03	0.61	11.4	13
	Zn TiCl <sub>4</sub>	52.59	21.2	0.92	0.67	13.1	13
H <sub>3</sub> CO H <sub></sub>	t-BuONa P(t-Bu) <sub>3</sub> Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub>	112.23	23.4	1.13	0.73	19.8	14
	AlC <sub>3</sub> FeCl <sub>3</sub>	367.55	20.6	0.95	0.66	12.8	15
	$ \begin{array}{c} & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & $	$ \begin{array}{c} & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ $	$ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & \\$	$ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} $	$H_{1} = H_{1} = H_{1$	$ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \end{array} \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &$



- 1. C. H. Teh, R. Daik, E. L. Lim, C. C. Yap, M. A. Ibrahim, N. A. Ludin, K. Sopian and M. A. M. Teridi, *Journal of materials chemistry A*, 2016, **4**, 15788.
- 2. B. Xu, D. Bi, Y. Hua, P. Liu, M. Cheng, M. Grätzel, L. Kloo, A. Hagfeldt and L. Sun, *Energy* and *Environmental Sciences*, 2016, **9**, 873.
- 3. M. Saliba, S. Orlandi, T. Matsui, S. Aghazada, M. Cavazzini, J.-P. Correa-Baena, P. Gao, R. Scopelliti, E. Mosconi and K.-H. Dahmen, *Nature energy*, 2016, **1**, 15017.
- 4. N. J. Jeon, H. G. Lee, Y. C. Kim, J. Seo, J. H. Noh, J. Lee and S. I. Seok, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 2014, **136**, 7837.
- 5. H. Choi, S. Paek, N. Lim, Y. H. Lee, M. K. Nazeeruddin and J. Ko, *Chemistry–A European Journal*, 2014, **20**, 10894.
- 6. K. Rakstys, A. Abate, M. I. Dar, P. Gao, V. Jankauskas, G. n. Jacopin, E. Kamarauskas, S. Kazim, S. Ahmad and M. Grätzel, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 2015, **137**, 16172.
- 7. B. Xu, E. Sheibani, P. Liu, J. Zhang, H. Tian, N. Vlachopoulos, G. Boschloo, L. Kloo, A. Hagfeldt and L. Sun, *Advanced Materials*, 2014, **26**, 6629.
- 8. P. Gratia, A. Magomedov, T. Malinauskas, M. Daskeviciene, A. Abate, S. Ahmad, M. Grätzel, V. Getautis and M. K. Nazeeruddin, *Angewandte Chemie*, 2015, **54**, 11409.
- 9. S. Do Sung, M. S. Kang, I. T. Choi, H. M. Kim, H. Kim, M. Hong, H. K. Kim and W. I. Lee, *Chemical Communications*, 2014, **50**, 14161.
- 10. P. Ganesan, K. Fu, P. Gao, I. Raabe, K. Schenk, R. Scopelliti, J. Luo, L. H. Wong, M. Grätzel and M. K. Nazeeruddin, *Energy and Environmental Sciences*, 2015, **8**, 1986.
- 11. M. Franckevičius, A. Mishra, F. Kreuzer, J. Luo, S. M. Zakeeruddin and M. Grätzel, *Materials Horizons*, 2015, **2**, 613.

- 12. A. Molina-Ontoria, I. Zimmermann, I. Garcia-Benito, P. Gratia, C. Roldán-Carmona, S. Aghazada, M. Graetzel, M. K. Nazeeruddin and N. Martín, *Angewandte Chemie*, 2016, **55**, 6270.
- 13. H. Choi, K. Do, S. Park, J. S. Yu and J. Ko, *Chemistry–A European Journal*, 2015, **21**, 15919.
- 14. D. Bi, B. Xu, P. Gao, L. Sun, M. Grätzel and A. Hagfeldt, *Nano Energy*, 2016, 23, 138.
- 15. J. Cao, Y.-M. Liu, X. Jing, J. Yin, J. Li, B. Xu, Y.-Z. Tan and N. Zheng, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 2015, **137**, 10914.
- 16. B. Pashaei, S. Bellani, H. Shahroosvand and F. Bonaccorso, *Chemical Science*, 2020, 11, 2429.