

Supporting information

Molecular engineering and structure-property relationship based on D-A chlorophyll derivative and the application in organic solar cells

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Section S.1. Computational details

S.1.1. Electrochemical parameters

Some important electrochemical parameters can be calculated by following formula details, including ionization potential (IP), electron affinity (EA), electrophilicity index (ω), electronic acceptance ability (ω^+), absolute hardness (η) and reorganization energy.

IP and EA are directly related to the optimization energy of ionic state structure and ground state structure [1]:

$$IP = E(N-1) - E(N) \quad (S1)$$

$$EA = E(N) - E(N+1) \quad (S2)$$

Where $E(N)$ is the energy of optimized ground state structure, $E(N-1)$ is the energy of optimized cationic structure, and $E(N+1)$ is the energy of optimized anionic structure.

Absolute hardness (η) is one of the critical parameters for evaluating the stability of organic molecules, which can be expressed by the following equation [2]:

$$\eta = \frac{IP - EA}{2} \quad (S3)$$

The electrophilic index ω is an important index to evaluate the electrophilic ability of molecules. A smaller ω indicates that electrons have good electron donating ability, and ω^+ indicates the electron receiving ability, which is used to characterize the size of the molecule's ability to acquire electrons. It can be calculated by the following formula[3]:

$$\omega = \frac{(IP + EA)^2}{4(IP - EA)} \quad (S4)$$

$$\omega^+ = \frac{(IP + 3EA)^2}{16(IP - EA)} \quad (S5)$$

According to Marcus theory, the reorganization energy can usually be adopted to predict the molecular transport capacity. The organization energy consists of λ_h (the reorganization energy of the hole) and λ_e (the reorganization energy of the electron) [4, 5]:

$$\lambda_h = E_0^+ - E_+ + E_+^0 - E_0 \quad (\text{S6})$$

$$\lambda_e = E_0^- - E_- + E_-^0 - E_0 \quad (\text{S7})$$

Where E_0^+ (E_0^-) stands for the energy of cation (anion) under the neutral structure, E_+ (E_-) means the energy after optimizing the structure of anion/cation, E_+^0 (E_-^0) is the neutral energy calculated based on the ion geometry structure, and E_0 represents the neutral structure energy.

S.1.2. D/A interface charge transfer performance

Based on Marcus theory, the values of charge reorganization rate K_{CR} and exciton separation rate K_{CS} can be obtained through electronic coupling (V_{DA}) and reorganization energy (λ), Gibbs free energy change (ΔG). The detailed calculation process of these parameters is as follows.

V_{DA} indicates the charge transfer integral, which may be evaluated by utilizing the recognized Mulliken-Hush model of two states [6-9]:

$$V_{\text{DA}} = \frac{\mu_{\text{tr}} \Delta E}{\sqrt{(\Delta \mu)^2 + 4(\mu_{\text{tr}})^2}} \quad (\text{S8})$$

where μ_{tr} is the transition dipole moment, which can be assessed by the electron dipole moment of the initial state and the complete ICT state [6]:

$$\mu_{\text{tr}} = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2} \quad (\text{S9})$$

ΔE represents the ICT state's vertical excitation energy, and $\Delta \mu$ reflects the dipole moment difference, which is usually evaluated through the finite field difference method under the Hellmann-Feynman theorem [10]:

$$E_{\text{ext}}(F) = E_{\text{ext}}(0) - \Delta \mu F - \frac{1}{2} \Delta \alpha F^2 \quad (\text{S10})$$

here E is the excitation energy. The F and 0 donate the electrostatic field and zero-electric field respectively. The $\Delta \alpha$ is the change rate of polarizability.

The recombination energy of an interface includes both external recombination energy λ_o and internal recombination energy λ_i . Because λ_o is challenging to be calculated theoretically, a value of 0.3 eV is used here for the results of the recombination energy study in the experiment [11]. The expression for the λ_i of the interface is as follows [4, 12]:

$$\lambda_1 = E_0^+(\text{D}) - E_+(\text{D}) + E_-(\text{A}) - E_0(\text{A}) \quad (\text{S11})$$

where $E_0^+(\text{D})$ means the neutral structural energy of the donor molecule carrying a positive charge, $E_+(\text{D})$ is the optimized donor cation structural energy, $E_-(\text{A})$ refers to the energy of the anion structure of the acceptor without charge, and $E_0(\text{A})$ is the neutral acceptor's energy.

The changes in free energy during charge recombination and exciton separation are denoted as ΔG_{CR} and ΔG_{CS} , respectively. The expression of ΔG_{CR} has been shown below [13]:

$$\Delta G_{\text{CR}} = E_{\text{IP}}(\text{D}) - E_{\text{EA}}(\text{A}) \quad (\text{S12})$$

The equation of ΔG_{CS} is as follows [14]:

$$\Delta G_{\text{CS}} = -\Delta G_{\text{CR}} - E_{\text{D1}} + E_{\text{C}} \quad (\text{S13})$$

where E_{D1} refers to the excitation energy of the donor molecular lowest singlet state, and E_{C} represents the Coulomb interaction energy of the ICT state.

Coulomb attraction energy (E_{C}) can be obtained by Multiwfn software [15, 16], which is based on the under-expression (atomic unit system) [17, 18]:

$$E_{\text{C}} = \iint \frac{\rho^{\text{hole}}(r_1)\rho^{\text{ele}}(r_2)}{|r_1 - r_2|} dr_1 dr_2 \quad (\text{S14})$$

Where ρ^{ele} and ρ^{hole} represent the electron and hole density of the transition orbitals, separately, and r_1 and r_2 are the charges' coordinates.

Section S.2. Supporting Tables

Table S1. Statistics of bond length (Å) and dihedral angle (°) of the investigated donor molecules.

Molecules	d ₁ (Å)	d ₂ (Å)	d ₃ (Å)	θ ₁ (°)	θ ₂ (°)	θ ₃ (°)
ZnChl-1	1.43	1.43	1.22	6.16	110.22	0.91
B-ZnChl-1	1.54	1.43	1.23	-23.68	89.36	14.16
C-ZnChl-1	1.53	1.44	1.23	-22.59	-89.60	12.99
D-ZnChl-1	1.50	1.43	1.23	10.28	94.04	0.55
T-ZnChl-1	1.58	1.44	1.23	-17.53	-83.60	13.69

Table S2. Molecular overall surface area, positive surface area, extreme value of ESP, total average ESP, molecular polarity index (MPI) and polar surface area of ZnChl-1, B-ZnChl-1, C-ZnChl-1, D-ZnChl-1 and T-ZnChl-1 (isosurface=0.001 a.u.).

Molecules	ZnChl-1	B-ZnChl-1	C-ZnChl-1	D-ZnChl-1	T-ZnChl-1
Overall surface area /Å ²	671.93	710.99	710.28	752.11	791.84
Positive surface area /Å ²	392.83	410.74	416.09	439.73	442.33
Minimal value /kcal mol ⁻¹	-49.40	-48.07	-48.68	-50.01	-50.06
Maximal value /kcal mol ⁻¹	52.21	51.42	55.69	53.15	50.04
Overall average value /kcal mol ⁻¹	1.43	1.09	0.84	1.12	0.76
MPI /kcal mol ⁻¹	13.16	11.66	11.99	12.63	10.08
Polar surface area (ESP >10 kcal/mol) /%	50.35	46.51	46.01	49.80	40.73

Table S3. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the ZnChl-1 molecule.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
ZnChl-1	S ₁	2.029/611.22	0.3809	H→L/0.65199
	S ₂	2.343/529.16	0.2059	H-1→L/0.62336
	S ₃	3.247/381.82	1.2783	H→L+1/0.61650
	S ₄	3.415/363.06	1.5148	H-1→L+1/0.62547
	S ₅	3.682/336.78	0.0315	H-3→L/0.39306
	S ₆	3.725/332.84	0.0098	H-3→L/0.53541
	S ₇	3.789/327.19	0.0012	H-6→L/0.53788
	S ₈	3.961/313.05	0.2284	H-5→L/0.45890
	S ₉	4.094/302.85	0.0119	H-8→L/0.54861
	S ₁₀	4.127/300.45	0.0648	H→L+2/0.48369

Table S4. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the B-ZnChl-1 molecule.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
B-ZnChl-1	S ₁	2.042/607.21	0.3706	H→L/0.66401
	S ₂	2.419/512.45	0.1116	H-1→L/ 0.61918
	S ₃	3.295/376.26	1.3457	H→L+1/0.62130
	S ₄	3.537/350.53	1.2506	H-1→L+1/0.62161
	S ₅	3.655/339.27	0.0586	H-2→L/0.42650
	S ₆	3.703/334.78	0.0228	H-2→L/0.49600
	S ₇	3.733/332.16	0.0064	H-4→L/0.51503
	S ₈	3.780/328.01	0.0071	H-7→L/0.54596
	S ₉	4.040/306.90	0.0129	H-10→L/0.42933
	S ₁₀	4.052/305.97	0.3004	H-6→L/0.60611

Table S5. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the C-ZnChl-1 molecule.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
C-ZnChl-1	S ₁	2.049/605.20	0.3519	H→L/0.66136
	S ₂	2.398/517.04	0.0922	H-1→L/0.61695
	S ₃	3.285/377.44	1.2884	H→L+1/0.61692
	S ₄	3.515/352.72	1.2532	H-1→L+1/0.64054
	S ₅	3.698/335.25	0.0425	H-5→L/ 0.54115
	S ₆	3.774/328.54	0.0153	H-4→L/0.58174
	S ₇	3.796/326.66	0.0038	H-7→L/0.54145
	S ₈	3.905/317.53	0.0059	H-2→L/0.61290
	S ₉	3.999/310.15	0.0371	H-3→L/0.50643
	S ₁₀	4.070/304.66	0.0665	H-10→L/0.42318

Table S6. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the D-ZnChl-1 molecule.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
D-ZnChl-1	S ₁	2.052/604.23	0.3645	H→L/0.66052
	S ₂	2.395/517.72	0.0920	H-1→L/0.61578
	S ₃	3.288/377.09	1.3874	H→L+1/0.61571
	S ₄	3.515/352.77	1.4051	H-1→L+1/0.63811
	S ₅	3.727/332.70	0.0350	H-4→L/0.54649
	S ₆	3.773/328.64	0.0029	H-6→L/0.50463
	S ₇	3.781/327.90	0.0077	H-3→L/0.53904
	S ₈	4.027/307.91	0.6017	H-5→L/0.33568
	S ₉	4.074/304.35	0.0601	H-9→L/0.49946
	S ₁₀	4.122/300.79	0.0662	H-5→L/0.50850

Table S7. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the T-ZnChl-1 molecule.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
T-ZnChl-1	S ₁	2.040/607.66	0.3517	H→L/ 0.66072
	S ₂	2.388/519.23	0.0965	H-1→L/0.59313
	S ₃	3.267/379.47	1.2464	H→L+1/0.60767
	S ₄	3.474/356.90	0.6677	H-2→L/0.47584
	S ₅	3.530/351.29	0.5854	H-1→L+1/0.48692
	S ₆	3.708/334.33	0.0359	H-4→L/0.55927
	S ₇	3.771/328.80	0.0183	H-3→L/0.55134
	S ₈	3.787/327.41	0.0012	H-7→L/0.46512
	S ₉	4.038/307.04	0.0170	H-10→L/0.52731
	S ₁₀	4.089/303.22	0.2482	H-5→L/0.58496

Table S8. The HOMO, LUMO levels and energy gaps (in eV) of the D/A complexes.

	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	$\Delta_{\text{H-L}}$ (eV)
ZnChl-1/Y6	-4.97	-3.42	1.55
B-ZnChl-1/Y6	-5.05	-3.40	1.65
C-ZnChl-1/Y6	-4.98	-3.40	1.58
D-ZnChl-1/Y6	-5.00	-3.38	1.62
T-ZnChl-1/Y6	-4.94	-3.41	1.53

Table S9. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the ZnChl-1/Y6 interface.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	2.022/613.05	0.3046	H→L+2/0.64459
	S ₂	2.077/597.04	2.3195	H-2→L/0.62463
	S ₃	2.335/530.93	0.0051	H→L/0.64090
	S ₄	2.339/530.07	0.3181	H-1→L+2/0.60546
	S ₅	2.535/489.09	0.3181	H-2→L+1/0.55639
	S ₆	2.573/481.86	0.0031	H-1→L/0.57914
	S ₇	2.771/447.36	0.0000	H-1→L+2/0.60546
	S ₈	3.003/412.81	0.0000	H-1→L+1/0.67005
	S ₉	3.085/401.94	0.0349	H-2→L+3/0.53011
	S ₁₀	3.169/391.26	0.0546	H-2→L+4/0.49387

Table S10. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the B-ZnChl-1/Y6 interface.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
B-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	2.021/613.37	0.4437	H→L+2/0.52615
	S ₂	2.067/599.71	2.2350	H-2→L/0.50101
	S ₃	2.304/538.18	0.0004	H→L/0.68892
	S ₄	2.424/511.59	0.1051	H-1→L+2/0.61199
	S ₅	2.513/493.31	0.5481	H-2→L+1/0.55208
	S ₆	2.674/463.66	0.0004	H-1→L/0.60440
	S ₇	2.760/449.30	0.0007	H→L+1/0.60041
	S ₈	3.045/407.15	0.0010	H-1→L+1/0.49997
	S ₉	3.064/404.59	0.0256	H-2→L+3/0.53234
	S ₁₀	3.143/394.51	0.0549	H-2→L+4/0.49342

Table S11. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the C-ZnChl-1/Y6 interface.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
C-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	2.036/609.04	0.3855	H→L+2/0.54448
	S ₂	2.080/596.13	2.3181	H-2→L/0.52004
	S ₃	2.280/543.72	0.0013	H→L/0.68385
	S ₄	2.405/515.49	0.0835	H-1→L+2/0.61550
	S ₅	2.517/492.68	0.5748	H-2→L+1/0.55632
	S ₆	2.646/468.55	0.0006	H-1→L/0.64876
	S ₇	2.725/454.93	0.0002	H→L+1/0.63424
	S ₈	3.053/406.14	0.0007	H-1→L+1/0.68654
	S ₉	3.079/402.77	0.0168	H-2→L+3/0.53227
	S ₁₀	3.165/391.80	0.0436	H-2→L+4/0.48681

Table S12. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the D-ZnChl-1/Y6 interface.

Molecules	State	Transition energy (eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
D-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	2.020/613.75	0.2356	H→L+2/0.554040
	S ₂	2.085/594.68	2.5633	H-2→L/0.551503
	S ₃	2.336/530.71	0.0001	H→L/0.67854
	S ₄	2.392/518.39	0.0646	H-1→L+2/0.61800
	S ₅	2.515/492.97	0.5010	H-2→L+1/0.55538
	S ₆	2.682/462.29	0.0002	H-1→L/0.60430
	S ₇	2.763/448.68	0.0000	H→L+1/0.58827
	S ₈	3.065/404.53	0.0156	H-2→L+3/0.53519
	S ₉	3.089/401.44	0.0002	H-1→L+1/0.68562
	S ₁₀	3.157/392.69	0.0360	H-2→L+4/0.45003

Table S13. The calculated excited state transition energy, oscillator strength f and main transition configuration of the T-ZnChl-1/Y6 interface.

Molecules	State	Transition energy(eV/nm)	Strength f	Contribution MOs
T-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	2.033/609.88	0.1951	H→L+2/0.60936
	S ₂	2.075/597.41	2.4504	H-2→L/0.57710
	S ₃	2.190/566.11	0.0379	H→L+1/0.68628
	S ₄	2.391/518.62	0.0909	H-2→L+2/0.58529
	S ₅	2.515/493.07	0.3774	H-3→L+1/0.46419
	S ₆	2.529/490.28	0.1531	H-1→L/0.54315
	S ₇	2.614/474.24	0.0020	H→L+1/0.63981
	S ₈	2.798/443.10	0.0007	H-3→L/0.58092
	S ₉	2.993/414.29	0.0020	H-1→L+1/0.61962
	S ₁₀	3.070/403.90	0.0278	H-2→L+3/0.53007

Table S14. The charge transfer distance (Δd), transfer charge value (Δq), t index, Sr index and excited state property of important excited states of ZnChl-1/Y6 interfaces.

Molecule	State	Δd (Å)	Δq (e)	t index (Å)	Sr index (a.u.)	Property
ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	0.155	-0.001	-2.653	0.8680	FE ₁
	S ₂	0.652	0.001	-1.747	0.7464	FE ₂
	S ₃	5.099	0.954	2.733	0.2064	CT ₁
	S ₄	0.951	0.043	-1.989	0.8673	FE ₃
	S ₅	0.665	0.004	-1.559	0.7213	FE ₄
	S ₆	5.583	0.995	3.013	0.0794	CT ₂
	S ₇	5.445	0.999	2.759	0.0294	CT ₃
	S ₈	6.222	0.999	2.326	0.0320	CT ₄
	S ₉	1.503	-0.002	-1.110	0.6564	FE ₅
	S ₁₀	2.114	0.001	-0.138	0.6784	FE ₆

Table S15. The charge transfer distance (Δd), transfer charge value (Δq), t index, Sr index and excited state property of important excited states of B-ZnChl-1/Y6 interfaces.

Molecule	State	Δd (Å)	Δq (e)	t index (Å)	Sr index (a.u.)	Property
B-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	0.276	0.001	-2.391	0.8171	-
	S ₂	0.423	0.001	-2.591	0.7889	-
	S ₃	4.404	0.999	2.321	0.0561	CT ₁
	S ₄	0.699	-0.002	-2.041	0.8808	FE ₁
	S ₅	0.666	0.001	-1.864	0.7253	FE ₂
	S ₆	4.395	0.998	3.001	0.0489	CT ₂
	S ₇	4.616	0.998	2.195	0.0405	CT ₃
	S ₈	5.110	0.989	2.169	0.1078	CT ₄
	S ₉	1.755	0.005	-1.715	0.6551	FE ₃
	S ₁₀	2.152	0.012	-0.453	0.6783	FE ₄

Table S16. The charge transfer distance (Δd), transfer charge value (Δq), t index, Sr index and excited state property of important excited states of C-ZnChl-1/Y6 interfaces.

Molecule	State	Δd (Å)	Δq (e)	t index (Å)	Sr index (a.u.)	Property
C-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	0.286	-0.001	-2.405	0.8293	-
	S ₂	0.462	-0.001	-1.931	0.7863	-
	S ₃	5.011	0.998	2.996	0.0315	CT ₁
	S ₄	0.585	-0.001	-1.976	0.8964	FE ₁
	S ₅	0.704	0.001	-1.154	0.7206	FE ₂
	S ₆	4.732	0.999	3.571	0.0299	CT ₂
	S ₇	5.587	0.999	2.563	0.0291	CT ₃
	S ₈	4.719	0.998	3.053	0.0604	CT ₄
	S ₉	1.786	0.001	-2.196	0.6572	FE ₃
	S ₁₀	2.110	0.004	-0.458	0.6895	FE ₄

Table S17. The charge transfer distance (Δd), transfer charge value (Δq), t index, Sr index and excited state property of important excited states of D-ZnChl-1/Y6 interfaces.

Molecule	State	Δd (Å)	Δq (e)	t index (Å)	Sr index (a.u.)	Property
D-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	0.287	-0.001	-2.342	0.8229	-
	S ₂	0.518	-0.000	-3.487	0.7876	-
	S ₃	5.011	0.998	2.996	0.0315	CT ₁
	S ₄	0.585	-0.001	-1.976	0.8964	FE ₁
	S ₅	0.704	0.001	-1.154	0.7206	FE ₂
	S ₆	4.732	0.999	3.571	0.0299	CT ₂
	S ₇	5.587	0.999	2.563	0.0291	CT ₃
	S ₈	4.719	0.998	3.053	0.0604	CT ₄
	S ₉	1.786	0.001	-2.196	0.6572	FE ₃
	S ₁₀	2.110	0.004	-0.458	0.6895	FE ₄

Table S18. The charge transfer distance (Δd), transfer charge value (Δq), t index, Sr index and excited state property of important excited states of T-ZnChl-1/Y6 interfaces.

Molecule	State	Δd (Å)	Δq (e)	t index (Å)	Sr index (a.u.)	Property
T-ZnChl-1/Y6	S ₁	0.150	-0.001	-2.686	0.8522	-
	S ₂	0.583	0.012	-1.642	0.7608	-
	S ₃	3.978	0.988	2.395	0.1303	CT ₁
	S ₄	0.601	-0.003	-2.082	0.8921	FE ₁
	S ₅	1.201	0.286	-0.979	0.6707	-
	S ₆	3.111	0.727	1.300	0.4448	CT ₂
	S ₇	3.939	0.996	2.683	0.0814	CT ₃
	S ₈	6.403	0.998	3.796	0.0505	CT ₄
	S ₉	4.774	0.998	1.185	0.0622	CT ₅
	S ₁₀	1.612	0.001	-1.145	0.6587	FE ₂

Section S.3. Supporting Figures

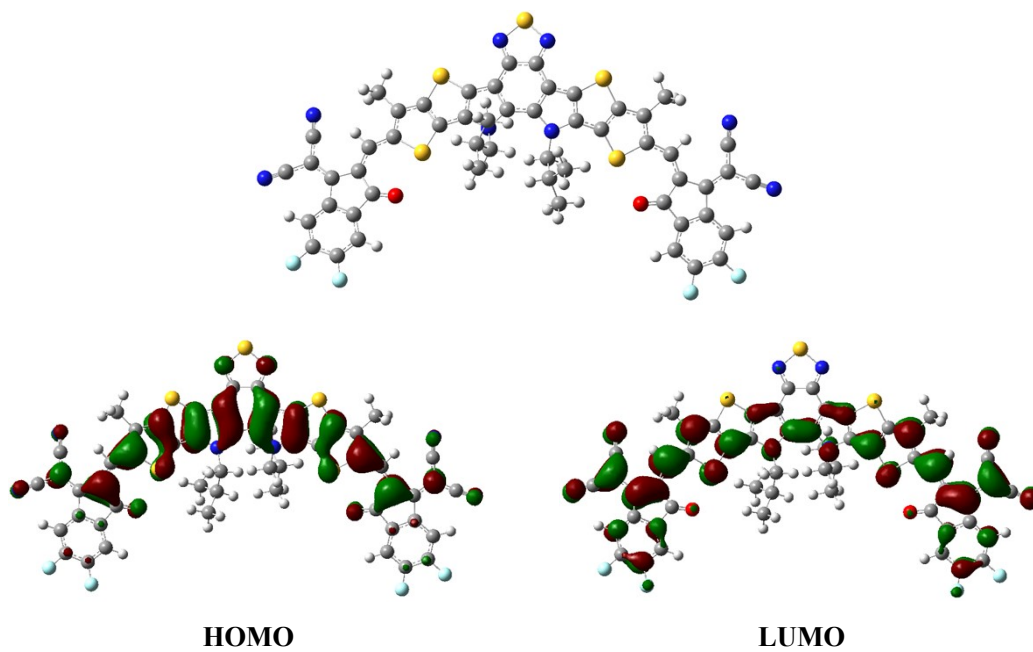


Figure S1. The optimized structure and frontier molecular orbitals (FMOs) of Y6 acceptor.

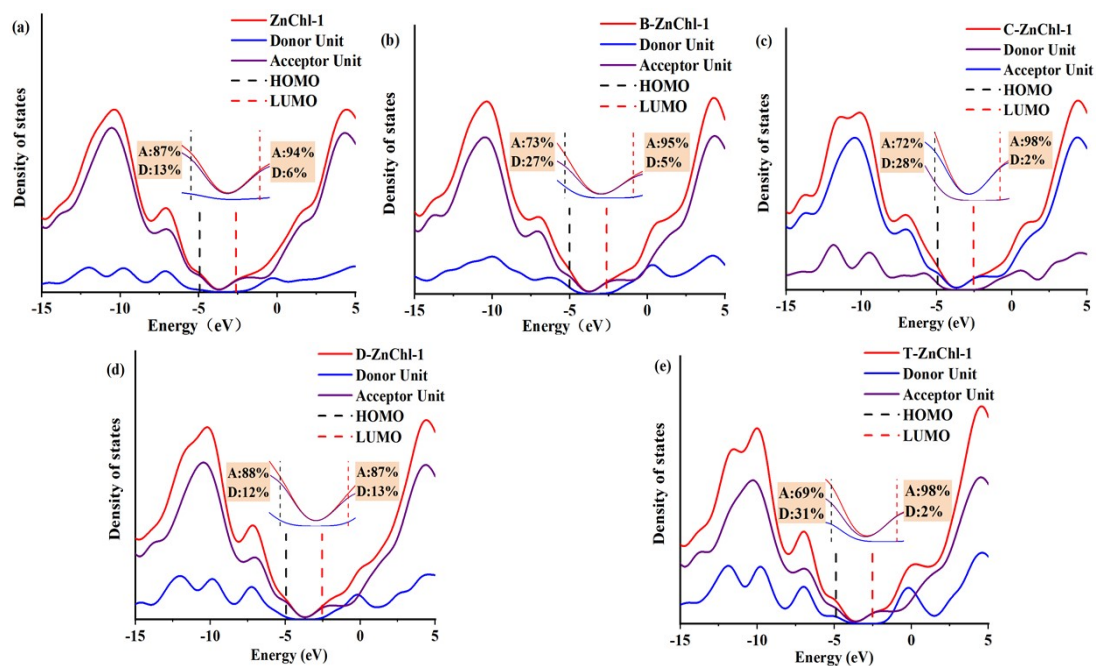


Figure S2. Density of states (DOS) of donor molecules ZnChl-1, B-ZnChl-1, C-ZnChl-1, D-ZnChl-1, T-ZnChl-1 (the percentage indicated is the contribution rate of donor unit (D) and acceptor unit (A) to HOMO and LUMO orbitals respectively).

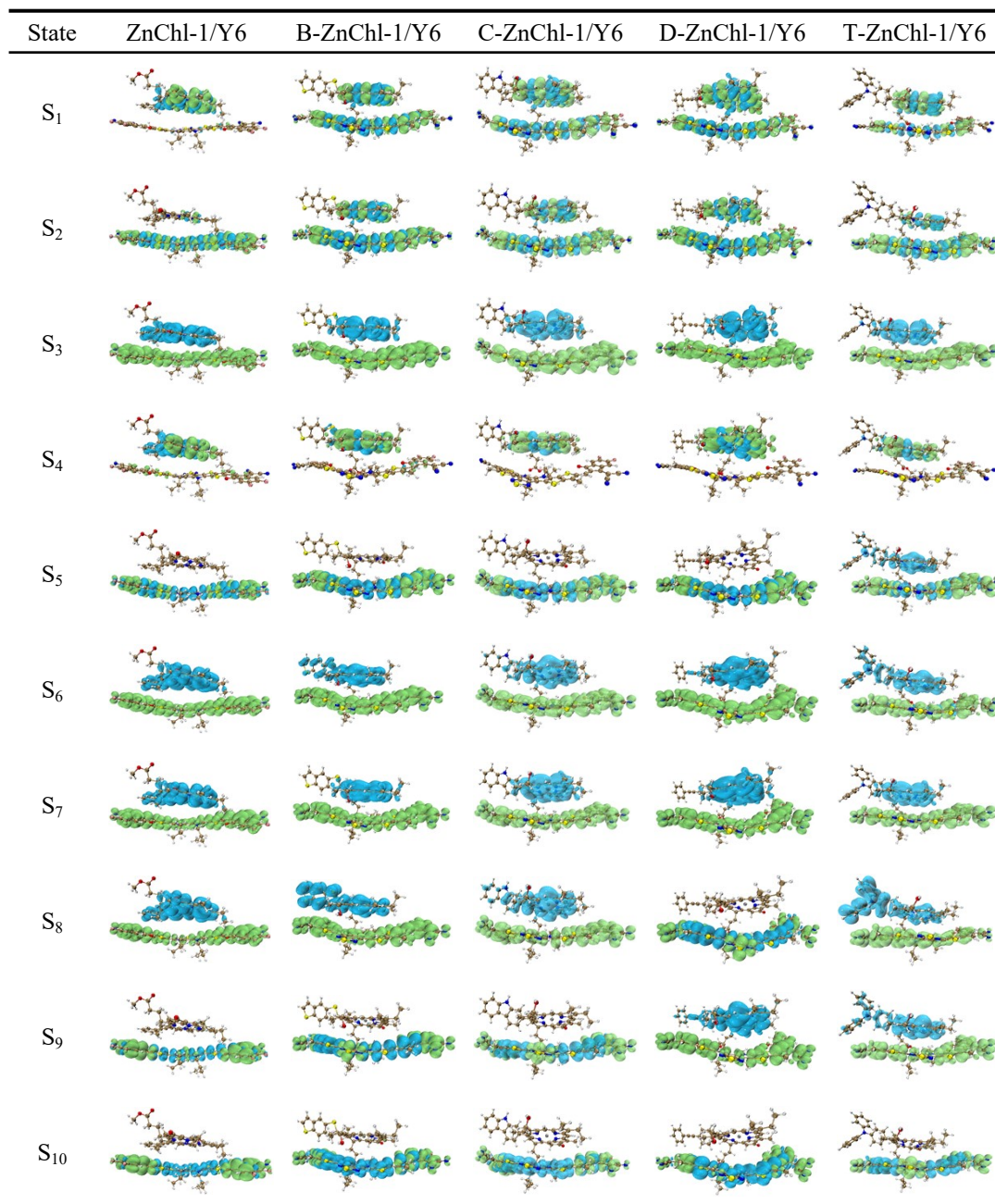


Figure S3. Charge differential density (CDD) of all D/A interfaces.

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