Supplementary Information (SI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry C. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024

> **Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Journal of Materials Chemistry C. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2024**

New Insight on π-π Interactions: Realization of Full Color Emission from

Blue to Red under Hydrostatic Pressure without Exogenous Intramolecular

Charge Transfer

Aisen Li,^[a, b] Jiaqiang Wang,^[d] Changjiang Bi,^[e] Zirun Chen,^[b] Shuping Xu,^[e] Kai Wang,^[b] Jinfeng Wang, *[c] and Zhen Li*[a,c,d]

Affiliations:

[a] Joint School of National University of Singapore and Tianjin University, International Campus of Tianjin University, Binhai New City, Fuzhou 350207, China

[b] School of Physical Science and Information Technology, Liaocheng University, Liaocheng 252059, China

[c] Institute of Molecular Aggregation Science, Tianjin University, Tianjin 300072, China

[d] Hubei Key Lab on Organic and Polymeric Opto-Electronic Materials, Department of Chemistry, Wuhan University, Wuhan 430072, China

[e] State Key Laboratory of Supramolecular Structure and Materials, Institute of Theoretical Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, Changchun 130012, China

Contents

1. Experimental Section

Preparation of Sample

Pyrene was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Analytical Standard) and the corresponding single crystal was obtained from the mixed solution of tetrahydrofuran/n-hexane. X2P and X2EP crystals were cultured as we reported previously.^[1]

Experimental Measurments.

The high-pressure experiments were performed by a diamond anvil cell (DAC) with a diameter of 350 μm at room temperature. The prepared sample was loaded into the sample chamber with a diameter of 200 μ m on a T301 stainless steel gasket (d=5.00 mm). Meanwhile, a small ruby chip was added into the same hole along with the sample for in situ pressure-calibration according to monitoring the fluorescence band shift of R1 line. And in order to guarantee for obtaining the hydrostatic pressure according to the Pascal's principle, silicone oil was added as a pressure-transmitting medium (PTM). A Horiba Jobin Yvon T64000 model Raman spectrometer equipped with an argon laser source of 532 nm and a holographic grating of 1800 gr/mm, was used to collect the ruby signal and perform pressure-calibration. Additionally, the high-pressure emission spectra under nonhydrostatic and hydrostatic conditions were measured through a fluorescence microscope (IX71, Olympus 20×, numerical aperture=0.4) equipped with a spectrometer (Horiba Jobin Yvon iHR320) and a mercury lamp (an excitation wavelength of 365 nm). High-pressure UV-Visible absorption spectra were measured with an QE65 Pro highsensitivity spectrometer using a DH-2000-BAL light source (UV-VIS-NIR, deuterium and halogen). The corresponding optical photographs were recorded by an imaging camera (EOS 5D Mark IV) with an xenon cold light source. Time-Resolved PL Measurements were performed by FLS1000 (Edinburgh) coupled with the homemade optical path, and the excitation wavelength is 375 nm.

Computational Methods.

Theoretical calculation of molecular structures and stacking mode at different pressure values was carried out based on the unit cell information by using the CASTEP package in Material Studio 7.0. This calculation was performed using Norm-conserving pseudopotentials with 750 eV energy cutting off. The initial stacking modes and geometries was fully relaxed under external stress values of 0, 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0 GPa. The generalized gradient

3

approximation (GGA) with Perdew Burke Ernzerhof (PBE) was applied to describe the exchangecorrelation (XC) effects. TS scheme was used for dispersion corrections. All the calculations about excited states were performed with density functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT) with B3LYP/6-31G(d) method implemented in Gaussian 09 program package. Independent gradient model based on Hirshfeld partition (IGMH) analysis of X2EP-N was performed and the calculated models were established by extracting molecules from the cell structures at different pressures. The cubic files (.cub) for IGMH analysis were generated by the wavefunction software Multiwfn 3.8,^[2-4] and the IGMH inter surfaces were visualized and analysed using the Visual Molecular Dynamics program (VMD 1.93).^[5]

2. XRD patterns of X2EP-B and X2EP-N

Figure S1. The XRD patterns of X2EP-B and X2EP-N, respectively.

3. PL spectra of Pyrene and X2P

Figure S2. The PL spectra of pyrene (A) and X2P (B) during the decompression process; The comparison between recovered spectrum and initial state of pyrene (C) and X2P (D).

3. Calculated results of Pyrene and X2P

Table S1. The crystal parameters of Pyrene at different pressure values calculated by Materials Studio 2017.

Table S2. The crystal parameters of X2P at different pressure values calculated by Materials Studio 2017.

Figure S3. The analysis of π - π overlap degree between two pyrene planes of pyrene and X2P based on the calculated results: (A) photograph and (B) variation trend with the increased pressure; (C) The variation trend of angle between two planes at different pressure.

Figure S4. The changes of molecular structure (A) and intermolecular interactions (C-H... π on pyrene units) (B) of X2P with the increased pressure from calculated results.

4. Calculated results of X2EP-N

Table S3. The crystal parameters of X2EP-N at different pressure values calculated by Materials Studio 2017.

Figure S5. The changes of π - π distance with the increased pressure.

Figure S6. The analysis of π - π interactions including the overlap degree and angle between two pyrene planes of X2EP-N (two conformations) based on the calculated results: (A) photograph (The red circle represents the changes of alkynylene group); variation trend of overlap degree (B) and angle (C) with the increased pressure.

Figure S7. The analysis of intermolecular interactions (C-H... π) of X2EP-N-C1 and X2EP-N-C2 at different pressure values, which shows decreased tendency with the increased pressure.

Figure S8. Sign(λ_2) colored isosurfaces of δginter = 0.005 a.u. and the corresponding scattering diagrams of X2EP-N-C1 corresponding to independent gradient model based on Hirshfeld partition (IGMH) analysis.

Figure S9. Sign(λ_2) colored isosurfaces of δ ginter = 0.005 a.u. and the corresponding scattering diagrams of X2EP-N-C2 corresponding to independent gradient model based on Hirshfeld partition (IGMH) analysis.

Figure S10. The π - π distance and overlap degree between two discrete dimers of X2EP-N-C1 (A) and X2EP-N-C2(B).

5. PL spectra of X2EP-B and X2EP-N during decompression process

Figure S11. The PL spectra of X2EP-B (A) and X2EP-N (C) during the decompression process; The comparison between recovered and initial state of X2EP-B (B) and X2EP-N (D).

6. Analysis on - overlap and distance of X2EP-N

Figure S12. The changes of π - π overlap degree between two discrete dimers of X2EP-N-C1 at different pressure values.

Figure S13. The changes of π - π overlap degree between two discrete dimers of X2EP-N-C2 at different pressure values. The atoms of another pyrene unit are deliberately hidden for the clear presentation of π - π overlap degree.

Figure S14. The changes of π - π distance between two discrete dimers of X2EP-N-C1 at different pressure values.

Figure S15. The changes of π - π distance between two discrete dimers of X2EP-N-C2 at different pressure values.

7. Analysis on stacking mode of Pyrene, X2P and X2EP-B.

Figure S16. The stacking mode of Pyrene (A) and X2P (B) without tetramer.

Figure S17. The analysis of stacking mode and intermolecular interactions (C-H... π) of X2EP-B without tetramer.

8. Lifetime of X2EP-N and X2EP-B.

Figure S18. Time-resolved emission spectra of X2EP-N at 438 nm (A), 473 nm (B) and 510 nm (D) from 0 GPa to 4.3 GPa; Time-resolved emission spectra of X2EP-N at 438 nm&473 nm (C) and 510 nm (E) from 5.0 GPa to 10.0 GPa; Time-resolved emission spectra of X2EP-Nwhen the pressure was released (F).

Figure S19. Time-resolved emission spectra of X2EP-B from 0 GPa to 5.8 GPa (A), from 5.8 GPa to 10.8 GPa (B); (C) Plot of lifetime against pressure for X2EP-B.

9. PL spectra of X2EP-N during the second compression.

Figure S20. (A) The high-pressure fluorescence photographs X2EP-N during the second compression; The corresponding PL spectra of X2EP-N upon compression (B) and decompression (C). The scale is 100 μ m, λ _{ex}=365 nm.

10. Absorption of X2EP-B and X2EP-N during compression process.

Figure S21. The high-pressure absorption spectra and corresponding optical photos of X2EP-B (A) and X2EP-N (B).

Figure S22. The comparison between the recovered spectrum and initial spectrum of X2EP-B (A) and X2EP-N (B).

11. References

- [1]. J. Wang, Q. Dang, Y. Gong, Q. Liao, G. Song, Q. Li, Z. Li, CCS Chem. 2021, 3, 274-286.
- [2]. T. Lu, F. Chen, J. Comput. Chem. 2012, 33, 580.
- [3]. C. Lefebvre, G. Rubez, H. Khartabil, J.-C. Boisson, J. ContrerasGarcía, E. Hénon, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys. 2017, 19, 17928.
- [4]. T. Lu, Q. Chen, J. Comput. Chem. 2022, 43, 539-555.
- [5]. W. Humphrey, A. Dalke, K. Schulten, J. Mol. Graphics 1996,14, 33.