

二苯并吡啶并喹啉类延迟荧光材料的合成及其电致发光性质

杨耀祖¹, 黄飞翔¹, 谢凤鸣², 张强¹, 袁国¹, 胡英元^{1**}, 赵鑫^{1*}

¹苏州科技大学化学与生命科学学院, 江苏 苏州 215009;

²苏州大学功能纳米与软物质研究院江苏省碳基功能材料与器件重点实验室, 江苏 苏州 215123

摘要 为获得新颖高效的热激活延迟荧光(TADF)材料,以二苯并吡啶并喹啉(BPQ)为受体(A),三苯胺(TPA)、吩噻嗪(PXZ)为供体(D),合成两种TADF材料:BPQPXZ和BPQTPA。研究表明,两种材料都具有典型的延迟荧光特性、较小的单重态与三重态的能级差(ΔE_{ST})和较大的振子强度(f)。基于强受体强供体组合的BPQPXZ的器件实现了深红光发射,发射波长达到660 nm,但受能隙的影响,外量子效率(EQE)仅有1.0%。基于强受体弱供体组合的BPQTPA,因其TPA刚性小于PXZ,BPQTPA的供受体扭曲程度小,轨道交盖程度大, f 更大,故BPQTPA具有更大的荧光量子产率(82.7%)。同时因TPA的给电子能力比PXZ弱,BPQTPA内电荷转移效应减小,导致发射峰蓝移,因此基于BPQTPA的器件发射555 nm的黄光,与BPQPXZ相比,BPQTPA器件的启亮电压降低至2.8 V,电流效率、功率效率分别提高了32倍和36倍,EQE提升了6倍,达到7.0%。

关键词 材料; 延迟荧光; 有机发光二极管; 二苯并吡啶并喹啉; 电致发光

中图分类号 O469 **文献标志码** A

DOI: 10.3788/AOS231985

1 引言

有机发光二极管(OLED)因具有质量轻、灵活性强、响应快、色域宽等优点,在全彩色显示器和固态照明等领域受到了广泛关注^[1-7]。发光材料作为OLED的核心,已经发展到第三代热活化延迟荧光(TADF)材料。相比于第二代重金属配合物磷光材料,TADF材料可以在实现100%理论内量子效率的同时避免使用重金属原子,解决了毒性大和环境污染等问题,更重要的是,TADF材料具有第一代传统荧光材料成本低廉的优点,因此其商业化应用前景十分广阔^[8-9]。目前,基于TADF材料的OLED器件的外量子效率(EQE)已经达到40%左右^[10-14]。但是,这些具有高EQE的TADF-OLED器件多数基于蓝光或者绿光材料,相比之下,橙光和红光TADF材料的发展仍然相对滞后。根据能隙定律,具有低发射态的红光TADF材料通常会发生严重的非辐射衰变,导致高效率的红光TADF材料还很稀缺。因此,开发高效的长波长TADF材料对于TADF-OLED的发展显得十分重要和迫切^[15-19]。

目前,设计发光性能优异的供体-受体(D-A)型长波长TADF材料主要有两种途径:一是设计D-A大共

轭平面结构来获得高单线态荧光辐射率。通过增大分子的最高占有分子轨道(HOMO)和最低未占分子轨道(LUMO)的重叠面积来加大最低单重激发态(S_1)和基态(S_0)之间的振子强度(f),从而提高TADF材料的辐射转换率^[20-21]。例如,赵祖金课题组^[22]开发了一种红色的TADF材料DCPPr- α -NDPA,该材料的分子结构具有轻微扭曲的几何形状,有利于HOMO-LUMO重叠,其电致发光波长为606 nm,最大EQE为31.5%。二是设计高度扭曲的D-A结构,实现HOMO和LUMO的充分分离,从而得到小的单重态与三重态之间的能级差(ΔE_{ST})。较小的 ΔE_{ST} 有利于激子进行快速的反向系间窜越(RISC),从而提高三重态(T_1)激子的利用率,进而实现TADF材料的高效发光^[23-24]。例如,郑才俊课题组^[13]合成了橙红光TADF材料SAF-2NP,高度扭曲的分子结构使该材料的HOMO和LUMO的交盖程度很小,从而得到较小的 ΔE_{ST} (0.04 eV)和较高的RISC速率($1.91 \times 10^5 \text{ s}^{-1}$),其掺杂器件的发射波长为576 nm,最大EQE为32.5%。可见,实现高荧光辐射率与获得小的 ΔE_{ST} 存在着不可避免的矛盾,实现二者的较好平衡具有重要意义。通常情况下,大的共轭结构有利于TADF材料发射波长红移,实现橙光和红光发射;刚性结构可以有效抑制

收稿日期: 2023-12-25; 修回日期: 2024-01-30; 录用日期: 2024-02-05; 网络首发日期: 2024-02-20

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金(21905048, 52303244)、江苏省研究生研究创新项目(KYCX23_3342)

通信作者: *zhaoxinsz@usts.edu.cn; **741015344@qq.com

TADF 分子的非辐射跃迁,有利于获得高的光致荧光量子产率(PLQY)值。近年来,Sun 等^[25]报道了一种新型红光 TADF 材料 DBP-4MOTPA,该材料同时具有刚性骨架结构和大共轭平面分子结构,PLQY 值达到 65%,EQE 值达到 10.2%;本课题组^[26]成功制备出橙红光 TADF 材料 1PXZ-BP,其 PLQY 值达到 73%,掺杂器件 EQE 达到 26.3%;李成龙课题组^[17]报道了一种 TADF 材料 TPA-APQDCN-C,在 610 nm 处发射红色荧光,EQE 达到 34.3%;廖良生课题组^[18]报道了一种红光 TADF 材料 TPA-PZCN,在 648 nm 处发射深红色荧光,PLQY 值高达 97%,EQE 达到 28.1%;李涛课题组^[19]报道了一系列基于同一受体吩嗪,连接不同供体,通过分析构效关系实现了从蓝光到红光的调控,为设计高性能、多色光的 TADF 材料提供了新的策略。

含氮类多环芳香烃具有深的 LUMO,因此被当作受体单元并广泛用于合成长波长 TADF 材料。二苯并吡啶并喹啉(BPQ)分子中有 5 个稠合的共轭芳香环和 3 个 sp^2 杂化的 N 原子,其 LUMO 较深,达到 -2.39 eV^[27],因此 BPQ 具有大的刚性共轭平面和强吸电子能力,是一种非常合适用来开发高效长波长 TADF 材料的受体。基于此,本文以 BPQ 为受体,给电子性能不同的三苯胺(TPA)和吩噻嗪(PXZ)为供体,采用易操作的 Suzuki 和 Buchwald 等偶联反应合成了两种 D-A 型 TADF 材料:BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ。在核磁共振氢谱($^1\text{H NMR}$)和高分辨质谱(HRMS)表征其结构的基础上,对两种材料的光物理性质、电化学性质和热性质及其构效关系进行详细研究,并分别以两种材料为发光层制备 OLED 器件,对它们的电致发光性能进行分析。

2 实验部分

2.1 实验试剂、仪器与方法

药品和催化剂等购于上海皓鸿生物医药科技有限公司,试剂购于安徽泽升科技股份有限公司。 $^1\text{H NMR}$ 由 AVANCE III 400 MHz 核磁共振波谱仪(德国布鲁克公司)测定;质谱由 Agilent qtof 6550 高分辨质谱仪(美国安捷伦科技有限公司)测定;紫外吸收谱由 TU-1901 型紫外-可见分光光度计(北京普析通用仪器有限责任公司)测定;荧光光谱由 LS55 型荧光分光光度计(铂金埃尔默股份有限公司)测定;电化学测定由 RST 3100 型电化学工作站(苏州瑞思特仪器有限公司)测定;TGA 由 HCT-2 型微机差热天平(北京恒久科学仪器厂)测定;低温磷光谱由 FLS 920 型光谱仪(英国爱丁堡仪器有限公司)测定。

中间体与目标产物均通过重结晶或柱色谱分离提纯,以氘代氯仿(CDCl_3)为溶剂测定核磁共振谱。将目标化合物配成浓度为 10^{-5} mol·L $^{-1}$ 的甲苯溶液,测定紫外-可见光吸收光谱和荧光光谱;配制浓度为 10^{-3} mol·L $^{-1}$ 的 2-甲基四氢呋喃溶液,并在 77 K 下测定其荧光光谱和磷光谱;用热重分析(TGA)法测试化合物的 TGA 曲线;将二茂铁作为内标,铂碳为工作电极,Ag/AgCl 为参比,铂丝为辅助电极,四丁基高氯酸铵为电解质,测定目标分子的循环伏安曲线;以密度泛函理论(DFT)为基础,采用 Gaussian 09 软件的 B3LYP 法计算 HOMO 和 LUMO 分布,并结合 6-31G 机组模拟得到其轨道电子云分布。

2.2 合成与表征

BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的合成路线如图 1 所示。

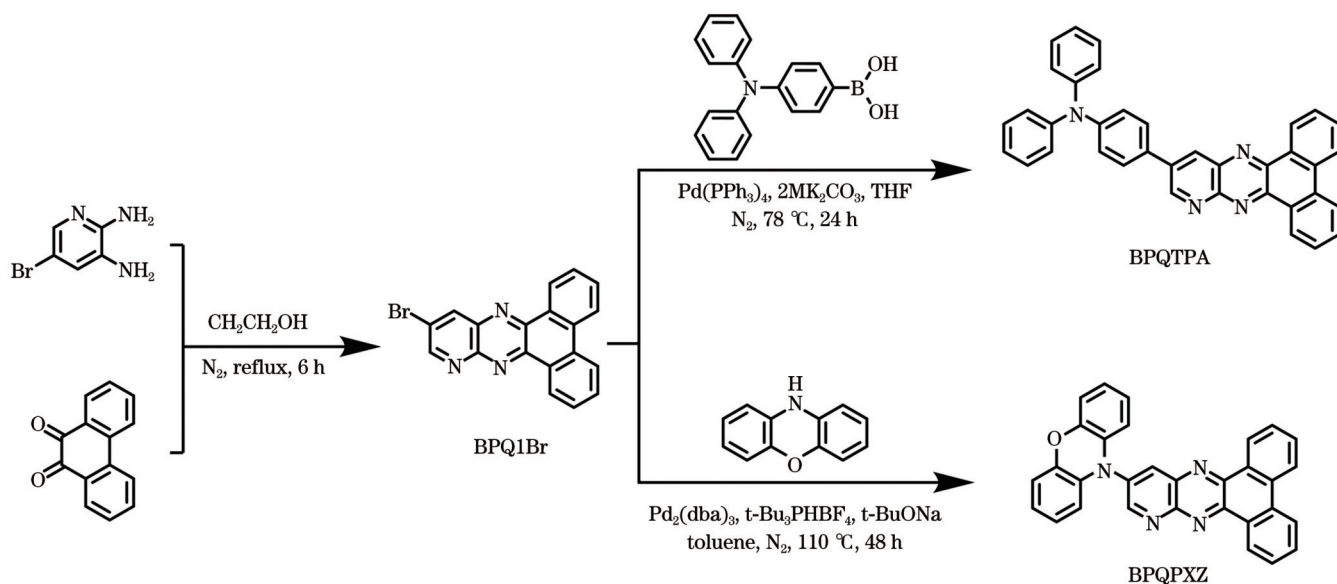


图 1 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的合成路线

Fig. 1 Synthetic routes of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ

1) 4-(二苯并[f,h]吡啶并[2,3-b]喹啉-12-基)-N,N-二苯基苯胺(BPQTPA)的合成

在 N_2 环境下,将菲-9,10-二酮(0.70 g, 3.36 mmol)和 5-溴吡啶-2,3-二胺(0.69 g, 3.70 mmol)溶于 40 mL 无水乙醇溶液中,溶液在 $85\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ 下搅拌回流 6 h。中间产物 12-溴二苯并[f,h]吡啶[2,3-b]喹啉(BPQ1Br)(0.95 g, 2.64 mmol)通过真空抽滤分离。将 BPQ1Br(0.95 g, 2.64 mmol)、4-(二苯胺)苯基硼酸(0.91 g, 3.26 mmol)和 $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (质量分数为 5%)置于三口瓶中,用 N_2 气体置换 3 次,加入 40 mL 四氢呋喃和 10 mL 浓度为 2 mol/L 的 K_2CO_3 溶液。溶液在 N_2 保护下回流搅拌 24 h(@ $80\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)。反应结束后,将混合物倒入 NaOH 溶液中,搅拌后静置 30 min,将固体抽滤出来,用 20 mL 蒸馏水洗涤滤饼 3 遍。选用 DCM 溶剂作为洗脱液,用硅胶柱色谱纯化分离出产物,得到橙红色固体(1.29 g, 收率为 73.3%)。橙红色固体的特性如下:熔点(m.p.) $>300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3)测得的化学位移(δ)为 8.73~8.59[多重峰(m), 2H]、8.48[双重峰(d), 耦合常数(J)=8.0 Hz, 1H]、7.85(d, J =2.5 Hz, 1H)、7.72~7.64(m, 2H)、6.93[三重峰(t), J =7.6 Hz, 2H]、6.86(t, J =9.4 Hz, 4H)、6.48~6.38(m, 4H)、6.33[单峰(s), 1H]、6.29(d, J =5.8 Hz, 5H)、6.20(t, J =7.3 Hz, 2H); HRMS[电喷雾电离(ESI), 质荷比(m/z)]测得的 $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_4$ 质子化分子离子峰 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 为 525.2001(计算值)、525.5517(实验值)。

2) 10-(二苯并[f,h]吡啶并[2,3-b]喹啉-12-基)-10H-苯噁嗪(BPQPXZ)的合成

将 BPQ1Br(0.80 g, 2.22 mmol)、吩噁嗪(PXZ)(0.49 g, 2.66 mmol)、叔丁醇钠(0.85 g, 8.88 mmol)、 $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3$ (质量分数为 5%)和 $t\text{-Bu}_3\text{PHBF}_4$ (质量分数为 5%)置于三口瓶中,用 N_2 气体置换 3 次,倒入 45 mL 甲苯。在 N_2 保护下回流搅拌 48 h。反应结束后将反应液倒入 150 mL 蒸馏水中,使用 DCM 溶剂萃取 3 次。将 DCM 作为洗脱液,以硅胶柱色谱纯化目标产物,得到深红色固体(0.42 g, 收率为 37.8%)。深红色固体的特性如下:m.p. $>300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; $^1\text{H NMR}$ (400 MHz, CDCl_3)测得的 δ 为 9.29(d, J =9.2 Hz, 1H)、9.20(d, J =2.6 Hz, 1H)、8.71(s, 1H)、8.55(d, J =8.1 Hz, 2H)、7.89~7.65(m, 5H)、6.73[四重峰(dd), J =22.1, 8.0 Hz, 5H], 6.65~6.52(m, 3H); HRMS(ESI, m/z)测得的 $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_4\text{O}$ $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ 为 463.1841(计算值)、463.3207(实验值)。

3 结果与讨论

3.1 DFT 计算

为探究两种材料的几何构型、能级和轨道分布,使用 Gaussian 09 软件在 B3LYP/6-31G* 基组下进行 DFT 和时间依赖的 DFT(TD-DFT)计算,得到它们优化后的分子几何构型、 S_1 和 T_1 能级,以及 HOMO 和 LUMO 的能级与分布,如图 2 所示。在 BPQPXZ 中,

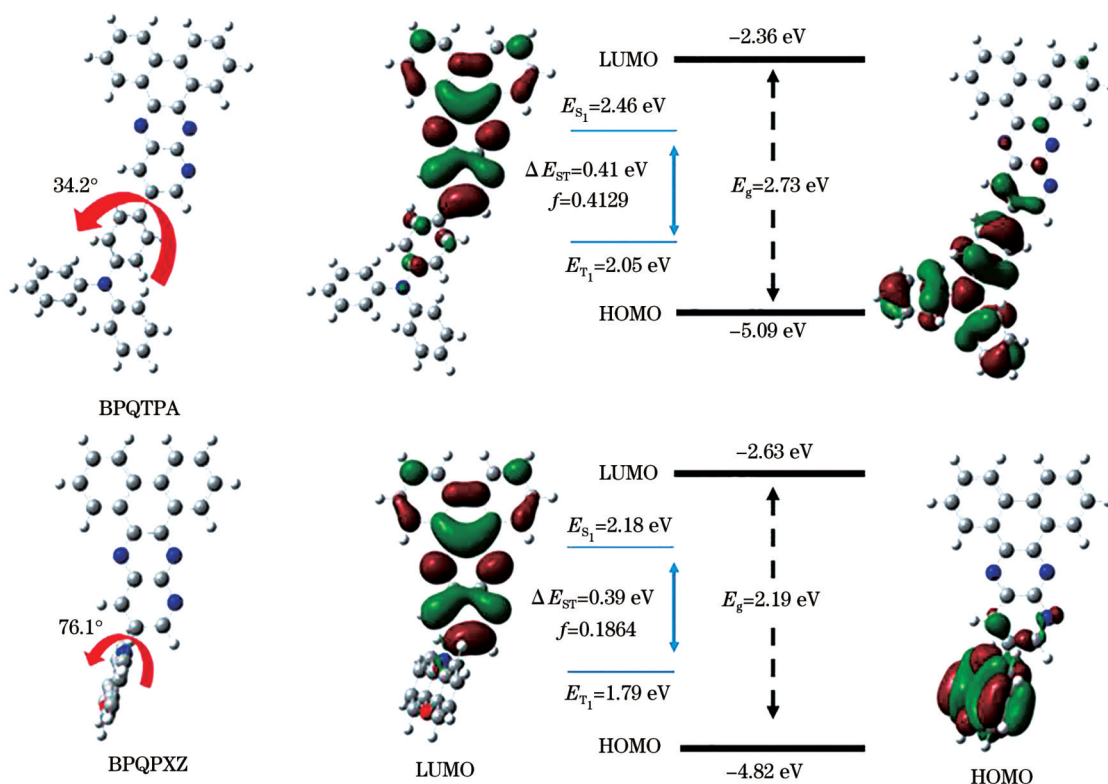


图 2 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的前沿分子轨道、能级和带隙

Fig. 2 FMOs, energy levels, and E_g of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ, respectively

刚性平面共轭受体 BPQ 与刚性供体 PXZ 之间的空间位阻较大,导致分子结构高度扭曲,二面角为 76.1° , LUMO 主要分布在受体 BPQ 上,而 HOMO 主要分布在供体 PXZ 上,并在受体上有轻微的延伸。结构的高度扭曲导致 HOMO 和 LUMO 的分离很好。此外, HOMO 在受体有少量交盖,最终获得了小的 ΔE_{ST} (0.39 eV)。BPQTPA 的供体和受体之间的二面角只有 34.2° ,大幅降低的二面角归因于三苯胺(TPA)的刚性程度小于 PXZ,导致分子趋于平面化,造成 HOMO 和 LUMO 的分离程度减小,交盖程度变大,结果使得 ΔE_{ST} (0.41 eV) 变大。供体的给电子能力越强, HOMO 越浅。理论计算结果表明, BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的 LUMO/HOMO 能级分别为 $-2.36/-5.09$ eV 和 $-2.63/-4.82$ eV。随着给电子能力的增强, HOMO 与 LUMO 之间的带隙 (E_g) 逐渐减小, BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的 E_g 分别为 2.73 eV 和 2.19 eV。同时,根据弗兰克-康登原理和费米黄金定则, HOMO 和 LUMO 的交盖程度变大,导致辐射的振子强度 (f) 增大,从而提升材料的 PLQY。BPQTPA 的 f 高达 0.4129,是 BPQPXZ ($f=0.1864$) 的 2.2 倍,可见,高的 f 有助于得到高的 PLQY^[28-30]。

3.2 光物理性质

为了分析 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的光物理性质,对两种材料进行了紫外-可见光(UV-vis)吸收光谱、低温荧光(LTFL)和低温磷光(LTPh)光谱的测试,结果如图 3 所示。在 UV-vis 吸收光谱中, BPQTPA

在 329 nm 和 388 nm 处的吸收峰主要来自分子内的电子从 π 轨道到 π^* 轨道 ($\pi-\pi^*$) 和从 n 轨道到 π^* 轨道 ($n-\pi^*$) 跃迁,在 457 nm 附近的吸收峰主要归因于 TPA 供体到 BPQ 受体的分子内电荷转移 (ICT) 过程; BPQPXZ 在 302 nm、314 nm 和 379 nm、396 nm 的吸收峰分别来自分子内的 $\pi-\pi^*$ 和 $n-\pi^*$ 跃迁,在 519 nm 处较宽的吸收峰来源于 PXZ 供体到 BPQ 受体的 ICT 过程。BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 两种材料的紫外吸收带边 (λ_{onset}) 分别为 521 nm 和 626 nm,根据公式 $E_g=1240/\lambda_{onset}$ ^[31-32],计算得出它们的 E_g 分别为 2.38 eV 和 1.98 eV。低温荧光光谱表明, BPQPXZ 与 BPQTPA 的荧光发射波长分别为 655 nm 和 585 nm,实现了红光和橙红光发射。TPA 的给电子能力弱于 PXZ,因此 BPQTPA 的 ICT 吸收带和光致发光 (PL) 光谱均明显蓝移,这和理论模拟计算的结果一致。根据低温荧光和低温磷光光谱计算得到 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的 ΔE_{ST} 分别为 0.12 eV 和 0.07 eV,这是因为 BPQTPA 的供体和受体单元之间的扭转角较小,导致 HOMO-LUMO 的空间重叠更多,因此 ΔE_{ST} 较大,这也与理论计算结果的趋势相同。BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的 ΔE_{ST} 均较小,有利于发生有效的 RISC 而实现延迟荧光发射。以罗丹明 B 为参比物质,得到 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的相对 PLQY 值分别为 82.7% 和 22.3%。BPQTPA 具有较高的 PLQY,与理论计算的高振子强度一致,这有助于材料实现较优的器件性能^[29-30]。

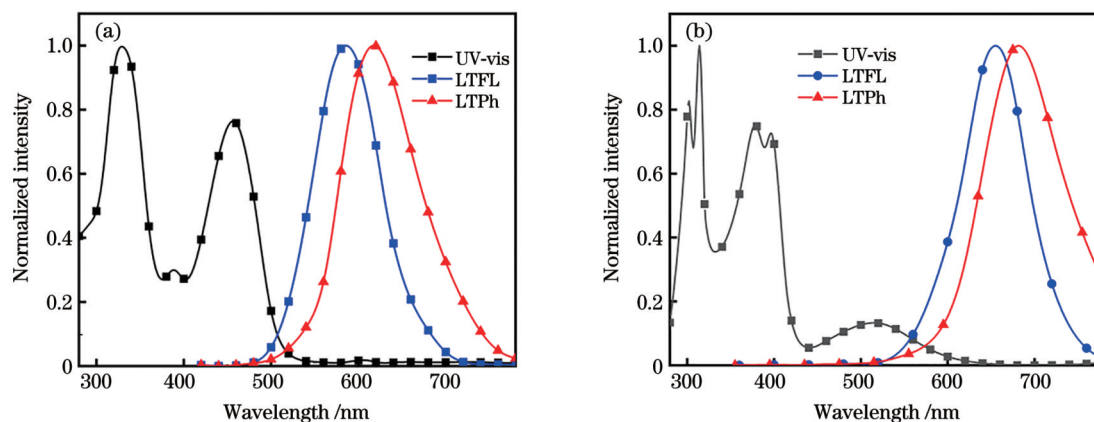


图 3 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 紫外-可见光吸收光谱(室温)、低温荧光和磷光光谱(77 K)。(a) BPQTPA; (b) BPQPXZ

Fig. 3 Normalized UV-vis absorption at room temperature and fluorescence spectra and phosphorescence spectra at 77 K of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ, respectively. (a) BPQTPA; (b) BPQPXZ

为进一步研究其延迟荧光特性,分别掺杂质量分数为 5% 的 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 到 mCBP 中制备薄膜,并在室温下测量其瞬态荧光衰减曲线,如图 4 所示。BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 均显示出明显的双指数衰减特征,这是因为它们的荧光发射过程中既包含了从 S_1 到 S_0 的瞬时荧光衰减过程,又包含了从 T_1 到 S_1 再到 S_0 的延迟荧光衰减过程,是 TADF 化合物最典型的荧光发射特征^[33]。测试结果表明, BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ

的瞬时荧光寿命 (τ_p) 和延迟荧光寿命 (τ_d) 分别为 1.91 ns/0.08 μ s 和 11.42 ns/0.21 μ s,证明它们都具有延迟荧光 (DF) 性质,而 τ_d 时间较短则证明了分子的快速 RISC 过程。因此, BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 具有 TADF 特性。

3.3 电化学性质

采用循环伏安 (CV) 法研究了 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的电化学性质,结果如图 5 所示。

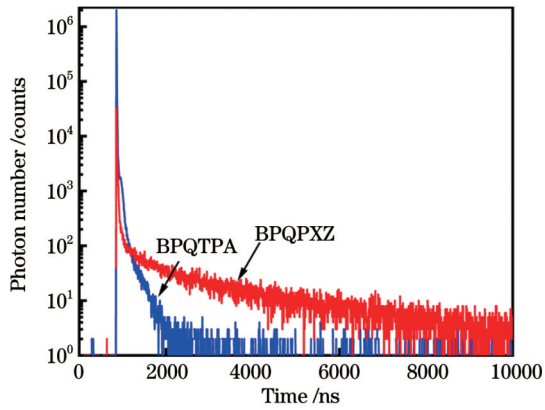


图 4 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 在掺杂 mCBP 薄膜中的瞬态荧光衰减曲线

Fig. 4 Transient fluorescence decay curves of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ in doped mCBP films

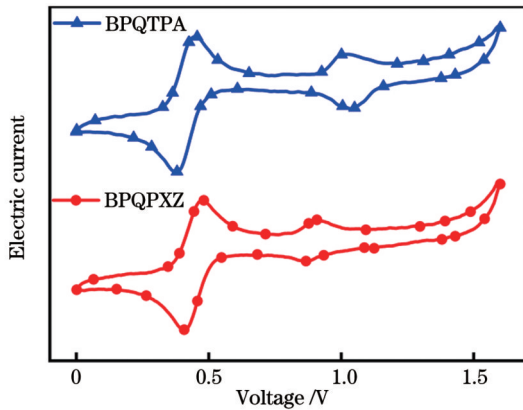


图 5 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的循环伏安曲线

Fig. 5 Cyclic voltammetry curves of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ

BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 都显示了可逆的氧化还原过程,表现出良好的电化学稳定性。使用二茂铁作为内标,根据氧化曲线的初始氧化电位和公式^[34]

表 1 两种化合物的光物理、电化学和热性质的总结

Table 1 Summary of photophysical, electrochemical, and thermal properties of two compounds

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{abs}}^{\text{a)}}$ / nm	$\lambda_{\text{FL}}^{\text{a)}}$ / nm	$\lambda_{\text{Ph}}^{\text{a)}}$ / nm	$E_{\text{HOMO}}^{\text{b)}}$ / eV	$E_{\text{LUMO}}^{\text{c)}}$ / eV	$E_{\text{g}}^{\text{d)}}$ / eV	$T_{\text{d}}^{\text{e)}}$ / °C	PLQY ^{f)} / %	$\Delta E_{\text{ST}}^{\text{g)}}$ / eV
BPQPXZ	302, 314, 379, 396, 519	655	681	-5.25	-3.27	1.98	439.2	22.3	0.07
BPQTPA	329, 388, 457	585	619	-5.38	-3.00	2.38	492.6	82.7	0.12

Notes: a) UV-vis absorption spectra at room temperature, fluorescence and phosphorescence spectra at 77 K measured; b) HOMO energy levels calculated from the initial oxidation potential; c) $E_{\text{LUMO}} = E_{\text{HOMO}} + E_{\text{g}}$; d) E_{g} values calculated by the onset of UV-vis absorption spectra; e) decomposition temperature (T_{d}) with 5% weight loss determined from TGA spectra; f) relative PLQY based on rhodamine B; g) ΔE_{ST} values estimated from the onset of the fluorescence and phosphorescence spectra.

3.5 OLED 器件的制备与性能

为了分析 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 所制备器件的性能,利用这两种材料制备了多层 OLED 器件,器件结构为 ITO/HAT-CN(10 nm)/TAPC(60 nm)/TCTA(10 nm)/CBP: 5% TADF (20 nm)/B3PYMPM(45 nm)/Liq(2 nm)/Al(100 nm)。阳极和阴极分别

$E_{\text{HOMO}} = -[E_{\text{OX}} - E_{1/2}(\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+) + 4.8 \text{ eV}]$ (E_{HOMO} 为 HOMO 能级, E_{OX} 为起始氧化电势, $E_{1/2}(\text{Fc}/\text{Fc}^+)$ 为内标二茂铁的标准电势), 可以计算出它们的 HOMO 能级分别为 -5.38 eV 和 -5.25 eV。根据公式 $E_{\text{LUMO}} = E_{\text{g}} + E_{\text{HOMO}}$, 可以计算出它们相应的 LUMO 能级分别为 -3.00 eV 和 -3.27 eV。

3.4 热性质

用热重分析(TGA)法研究了 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的热性质(图 6)。当质量损失 5% 时, BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的分解温度(T_{d})分别为 492.6 °C 和 439.2 °C, 从两个化合物中都没有观察到明显的玻璃化转变, 这应归因于它们的高刚性结构。上述结果表明两个 TADF 材料均具有良好的热稳定性, 适合采用气相真空沉积法制备 OLED 器件, 而它们的良好热性质也为 OLED 器件的稳定性提供了有力保障^[35-36]。BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的光物理性质、电化学性质和热性质的数据见表 1。

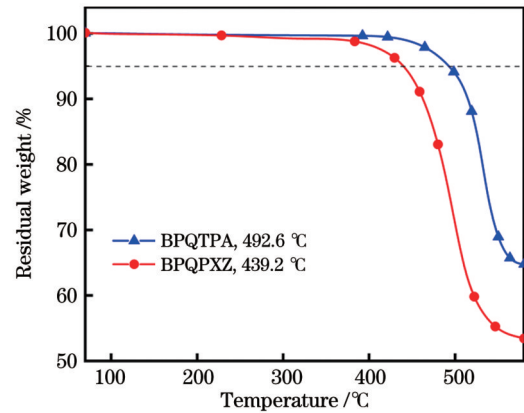


图 6 BPQTPA 和 BPQPXZ 的热重分析曲线

Fig. 6 Thermogravimetric analysis curves of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ

为 ITO 和 Al, 空穴注入层和电子注入层分别为 HAT-CN 和 Liq, 空穴传输层和电子传输层分别为 TAPC 和 B3PYMPM, 能级和器件性能的结果如图 7 所示, 主要的电致发光(EL)数据见表 2。

以 BPQPXZ 为发光层的掺杂 OLED 器件在 660 nm 处发射深红光, 对应的国际照明委员会(CIE)

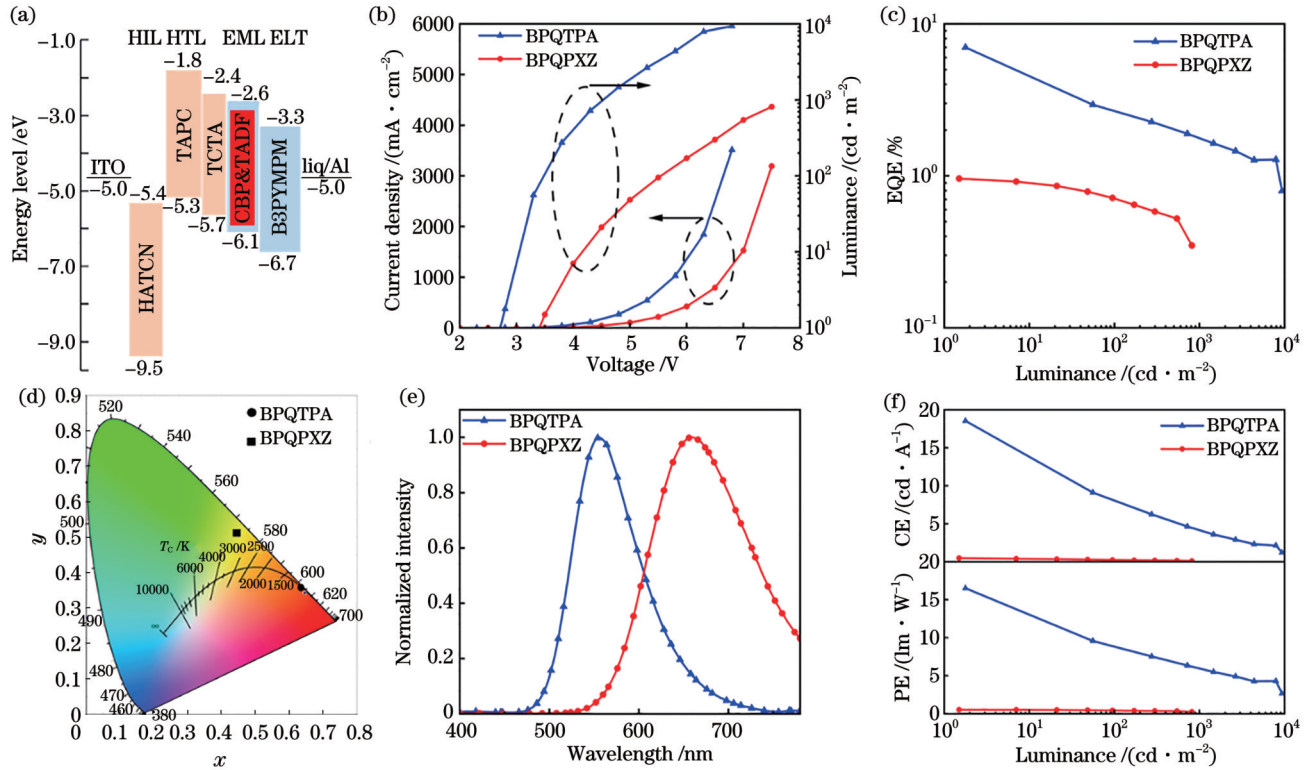


图7 OLED器件的能级结构和性能。(a)能级结构;(b)电流密度-电压-亮度特性曲线;(c)EQE与亮度的关系曲线;(d)CIE坐标;(e)EL光谱;(f)CE与亮度的关系曲线和PE与亮度的关系曲线

Fig. 7 Energy level structure and performance of OLED devices. (a) Energy level structure; (b) current density-voltage-luminance characteristic curves; (c) EQE versus luminance curves; (d) CIE coordinates; (e) EL spectra; (f) CE versus luminance curves and PE versus luminance curves

表2 两种化合物器件性能的比较

Table 2 Comparison of device performance of two compounds

Compound	$\lambda_{\text{EL}}^{\text{e)}}$ / nm	$V_{\text{on}}^{\text{a)}}$ / V	EQE ^{b)} / %	PE ^{c)} / (lm·W ⁻¹)	CE ^{d)} / (cd·A ⁻¹)	CIE ^{f)} (x, y)
BPQPXZ	660	3.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	(0.65, 0.34)
BPQTPA	555	2.8	7.0	18.5	16.5	(0.45, 0.50)

Notes: a) turn-on voltage at 1 cd/m²; b) maximum external quantum efficiency; c) maximum power efficiency; d) maximum current efficiency; e) EL emission peak; f) Commission Internationale de l'Éclairage coordinates.

色坐标为(0.65, 0.34), 启亮电压(V_{on})为3.5 V, 最大电流效率(CE)为0.5 cd/A, 最大功率效率(PE)为0.5 lm/W, 但受能隙影响, 非辐射衰减严重, EQE仅为1.0%。由于TPA的供电子能力弱于PXZ, 其ICT效应减弱, 因此基于BPQTPA的器件发光波长蓝移, 发射555 nm的黄光, 对应的CIE色坐标为(0.45, 0.50)。与BPQPXZ相比, BPQTPA的最大CE、PE和EQE均得到显著提升, CE、PE分别提升到16.5 cd/A和18.5 lm/W, EQE提升到7.0%, 且器件 V_{on} 仅有2.8 V, 降低了0.7 V。这是因为, 根据EQE(γ_{EQE})计算公式^[37] $\gamma_{\text{EQE}} = \gamma_{\text{IQE}} \times \eta_{\text{out}} = \gamma \times \chi \times \varphi_{\text{PL}} \times \eta_{\text{out}}$ (γ_{EQE} 为外量子效率, γ_{IQE} 为内量子效率, η_{out} 为光耦合输出效率, γ 为复合的载流子数与注入载流子数的比例, χ 为单线态激子百分数, φ_{PL} 为光致荧光量子产率), 与BPQPXZ相比, BPQTPA具有更高的振子强度、更大的PLQY(φ_{PL})

值, 因此其获得到相对更好的器件性能; 还有可能与BPQTPA的轨道能级与器件中的空穴传输层和电子传输层的能级匹配性更好有关。

4 结 论

以具有大刚性共轭平面的BPQ为受体, TPA、PXZ为供体, 设计合成了两种TADF材料: BPQTPA和BPQPXZ。研究发现, 两种材料都具有典型的延迟荧光特性。两种TADF材料既实现了HOMO和LUMO较好的分离, 也实现了一定程度的轨道重叠, 因此获得了较小的 ΔE_{ST} 和较大的振子强度。基于强受体强供体组合的BPQPXZ的OLED器件, 实现了深红光发射, 发射波长达到660 nm, 但受能隙的影响, 非辐射衰减严重, EQE仅有1.0%, 电流效率、功率效率也不高。基于强受体弱供体组合的BPQTPA, 其

TPA 刚性小于 PXZ, 使得 BPQTPA 的供受体扭曲程度小于 BPQPXZ, 其 HOMO 和 LUMO 的交盖程度增多, BPQTPA 的振子强度为 BPQPXZ 的 2.2 倍, 因此 BPQTPA 具有更大的 PLQY (82.7%)。同时, 供体 TPA 的给电子能力比 PXZ 弱, 导致 BPQTPA 内电荷转移效应减弱, 造成光致和电致发光峰均显著蓝移, 因此基于 BPQTPA 的器件发射 555 nm 的黄光, 与 BPQPXZ 器件相比, BPQTPA 器件的启亮电压降低至 2.8 V, 电流效率、功率效率均获得显著提升, 分别提高了 32 倍和 36 倍, EQE 则提升了 6 倍, 达到 7.0%。本研究通过构效关系分析供受体合理组合对材料光物理性质和电致发光性质的影响, 这对长波长 TADF 材料的研究具有一定的借鉴意义。

参 考 文 献

- [1] Tang C W, VanSlyke S A. Organic electroluminescent diodes [J]. *Applied Physics Letters*, 1987, 51(12): 913-915.
- [2] Kaltenbrunner M, Sekitani T, Reeder J, et al. An ultra-lightweight design for imperceptible plastic electronics[J]. *Nature*, 2013, 499(7459): 458-463.
- [3] Fan X C, Hao X Y, Huang F, et al. RGB thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitters for organic light-emitting diodes toward realizing the BT. 2020 standard[J]. *Advanced Science*, 2023, 10(28): e2303504.
- [4] Fan T, Zhu S, Cao X, et al. Tailored design of π -extended multi-resonance organoboron using indolo [3, 2-b] indole as a multi-nitrogen bridge[J]. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 2023, 62(48): e202313254.
- [5] 卢小香, 王勇, 韩晓媚, 等. 纳米图形增强 OLED 出光效率研究[J]. *激光与光电子学进展*, 2018, 55(2): 022301.
Lu X X, Wang Y, Han X M, et al. Study on light extraction efficiency of enhanced OLED with nanopatterns[J]. *Laser & Optoelectronics Progress*, 2018, 55(2): 022301.
- [6] 孙阿辉, 李耀召, 陈果, 等. 基于深蓝光激基复合物构筑的 OLED 植物照明光源[J]. *光学学报*, 2022, 42(4): 0423001
Sun A H, Li Y Z, Chen G, et al. Organic light-emitting diodes based on deep-blue exciplex for plant growth[J]. *Acta Optica Sinica*, 2022, 42(4): 0423001.
- [7] 潘赛虎, 于航, 赵云平, 等. 金属纳米颗粒的导入对顶发射 OLED 光取出影响的 FDTD 模拟与研究[J]. *光学学报*, 2022, 42(9): 0916001.
Pan S H, Yu H, Zhao Y P, et al. FDTD simulation and study on effect of metal nanoparticle introduction on light extraction of top-emitting OLED[J]. *Acta Optica Sinica*, 2022, 42(9): 0916001.
- [8] Uoyama H, Goushi K, Shizu K, et al. Highly efficient organic light-emitting diodes from delayed fluorescence[J]. *Nature*, 2012, 492(7428): 234-238.
- [9] Sarada G, Cho W, Maheshwaran A, et al. Deep-blue phosphorescent Ir(III) complexes with light-harvesting functional moieties for efficient blue and white PhOLEDs in solution-process[J]. *Advanced Functional Materials*, 2017, 27(27): 1701002.
- [10] Fu Y, Liu H, Tang B Z, et al. Realizing efficient blue and deep-blue delayed fluorescence materials with record-beating electroluminescence efficiencies of 43.4% [J]. *Nature Communications*, 2023, 14(1): 2019.
- [11] Park D, Kang S, Ryoo C H, et al. High-performance blue OLED using multiresonance thermally activated delayed fluorescence host materials containing silicon atoms[J]. *Nature Communications*, 2023, 14(1): 5589.
- [12] Cheng Y C, Fan X C, Huang F, et al. A highly twisted carbazole-fused DABNA derivative as an orange-red TADF emitter for OLEDs with nearly 40% EQE[J]. *Angewandte Chemie: International Ed. in English*, 2022, 61(47): e202212575.
- [13] Zhang H Y, Yang H Y, Zhang M, et al. A novel orange-red thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitter with high molecular rigidity and planarity realizing 32.5% external quantum efficiency in organic light-emitting diodes[J]. *Materials Horizons*, 2022, 9(9): 2425-2432.
- [14] Hu Y X, Miao J S, Hua T, et al. Efficient selenium-integrated TADF OLEDs with reduced roll-off[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2022, 16: 803-810.
- [15] Wang H, Chen J X, Shi Y Z, et al. An A-D-A-type thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitter with intrinsic yellow emission realizing record-high red/NIR OLEDs upon modulating intermolecular aggregations[J]. *Advanced Materials*, 2023: e2307725.
- [16] Zeng W X, Lai H Y, Lee W K, et al. Achieving nearly 30% external quantum efficiency for orange-red organic light emitting diodes by employing thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitters composed of 1, 8-naphthalimide-acridine hybrids[J]. *Advanced Materials*, 2018, 30(5): 1704961.
- [17] Yang T, Liang J X, Cui Y Y, et al. Achieving 34.3% external quantum efficiency for red thermally activated delayed fluorescence organic light-emitting diode by molecular isomer engineering[J]. *Advanced Optical Materials*, 2023, 11(1): 2201191.
- [18] Zhang Y L, Ran Q, Wang Q, et al. High-efficiency red organic light-emitting diodes with external quantum efficiency close to 30% based on a novel thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitter[J]. *Advanced Materials*, 2019, 31(42): e1902368.
- [19] Xie M C, Cai J H, Wang X Q, et al. Simple phenazine-based compounds realizing superior multicolored emission[J]. *Advanced Optical Materials*, 2022, 10(6): 2102443.
- [20] Kumsampao J, Chaiwai C, Chasing P, et al. A simple and strong electron-deficient 5, 6-dicyano [2, 1, 3] benzothiadiazole-cored donor-acceptor-donor compound for efficient near infrared thermally activated delayed fluorescence[J]. *Chemistry*, 2020, 15(19): 3029-3036.
- [21] Zhang Q S, Kuwabara H, Potsavage W J, Jr, et al. Anthraquinone-based intramolecular charge-transfer compounds: computational molecular design, thermally activated delayed fluorescence, and highly efficient red electroluminescence[J]. *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, 2014, 136(52): 18070-18081.
- [22] Cai Z Y, Wu X, Liu H, et al. Realizing record-high electroluminescence efficiency of 31.5% for red thermally activated delayed fluorescence molecules[J]. *Angewandte Chemie: International Ed. in English*, 2021, 60(44): 23635-23640.
- [23] Im Y, Kim M, Cho Y J, et al. Molecular design strategy of organic thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitters[J]. *Chemistry of Materials*, 2017, 29(5): 1946-1963.
- [24] Mei Y, Liu D, Li J, et al. Acridin-9(10H)-one-based blue thermally activated delayed fluorescence materials: improvement of color purity and efficiency stability[J]. *Materials Today Chemistry*, 2022, 23: 100645.
- [25] Sun K Y, Cai Z S, Jiang J F, et al. Multi-substituted dibenzo [a, c] phenazine derivatives as solution-processable thermally activated delayed fluorescence materials for orange-red organic light-emitting diodes[J]. *Dyes and Pigments*, 2020, 173: 107957.
- [26] Xie F M, Wu P, Zou S J, et al. Efficient orange-red delayed fluorescence organic light-emitting diodes with external quantum efficiency over 26% [J]. *Advanced Electronic Materials*, 2020, 6(1): 1900843.
- [27] Si C F, Hu Y N, Sun D M, et al. The influence of nitrogen

- doping of the acceptor in orange-red thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitters and OLEDs[J]. *Journal of Materials Chemistry C*, 2023, 11(36): 12174-12184.
- [28] Yang T, Cheng Z, Li Z Q, et al. Improving the efficiency of red thermally activated delayed fluorescence organic light-emitting diode by rational isomer engineering[J]. *Advanced Functional Materials*, 2020, 30(34): 2002681.
- [29] Kim H S, Cheon H J, Lee D, et al. Toward highly efficient deep-blue OLEDs: tailoring the multiresonance-induced TADF molecules for suppressed excimer formation and near-unity horizontal dipole ratio[J]. *Science Advances*, 2023, 9(22): ead1388.
- [30] Meng G Y, Dai H Y, Wang Q, et al. High-efficiency and stable short-delayed fluorescence emitters with hybrid long- and short-range charge-transfer excitations[J]. *Nature Communications*, 2023, 14: 2394.
- [31] Karuthedath S, Gorenflot J, Firdaus Y, et al. Intrinsic efficiency limits in low-bandgap non-fullerene acceptor organic solar cells [J]. *Nature Materials*, 2021, 20(3): 378-384.
- [32] Wallace A M, Curiac C, Delcamp J H, et al. Accurate determination of the onset wavelength (λ_{onset}) in optical spectroscopy[J]. *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy and Radiative Transfer*, 2021, 265: 107544.
- [33] Meng G Y, Zhou J P, Huang T Y, et al. B-N/B-O contained heterocycles as fusion locker in multi-resonance frameworks towards highly-efficient and stable ultra-narrowband emission[J]. *Angewandte Chemie: International Ed. in English*, 2023, 62(45): e202309923.
- [34] Huo Y M, Lü J C, Xie Y C, et al. Structurally regulated carbazole-pyridine derivatives based on space-crowded theory for efficient narrowband ultraviolet nondoped organic light-emitting diodes from the high-lying reverse intersystem crossing process [J]. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, 2022, 14(51): 57092-57101.
- [35] Liu T T, Yan Z P, Hu J J, et al. Chiral thermally activated delayed fluorescence emitters-based efficient circularly polarized organic light-emitting diodes featuring low efficiency roll-off[J]. *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, 2021, 13(47): 56413-56419.
- [36] Zhang Y P, Song S Q, Mao M X, et al. Efficient circularly polarized photoluminescence and electroluminescence of chiral spiro-skeleton based thermally activated delayed fluorescence molecules[J]. *Science China Chemistry*, 2022, 65(7): 1347-1355.
- [37] Wu T L, Huang M J, Lin C C, et al. Diboron compound-based organic light-emitting diodes with high efficiency and reduced efficiency roll-off[J]. *Nature Photonics*, 2018, 12: 235-240.

Synthesis and Electroluminescence Properties of Delayed Fluorescence Materials Based on Dibenzopyridoquinoxaline

Yang Yaozu¹, Huang Feixiang¹, Xie Fengming², Zhang Qiang¹, Yuan Guo¹, Hu Yingyuan^{1**}, Zhao Xin^{1*}

¹*School of Chemistry and Life Sciences, Suzhou University of Science and Technology, Suzhou 215009, Jiangsu, China;*

²*Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Carbon-Based Functional Materials & Devices, Institute of Functional Nano & Soft Materials (FUNSOM), Soochow University, Suzhou 215123, Jiangsu, China*

Abstract

Objective To obtain novel and efficient thermally activated delayed fluorescence (TADF) materials, BPQPXZ and BPQTPA are synthesized using dibenzopyridoquinoxaline (BPQ) as acceptor (A) and triphenylamine (TPA) and phenoxazine (PXZ) as donors (D). The results show that the two materials have typical delayed fluorescence characteristics, a smaller energy gap (ΔE_{ST}) between singlet and triplet states, and a larger oscillator strength (f). The device based on BPQPXZ combined with a strong acceptor and a strong donor achieves deep-red emission with λ_{EL} at 660 nm. However, due to the influence of the energy-gap law, the external quantum efficiency (EQE) is only 1.0%. BPQTPA combined with a strong acceptor and a weak donor has a larger fluorescence quantum yield (82.7%) because of the weaker rigidity of TPA than that of PXZ. As a result, the donor and acceptor of BPQTPA have less distortion, more orbital overlap, and larger f . At the same time, the intramolecular charge transfer effect of BPQTPA is weakened, and the electron-donating ability of TPA is weaker than that of PXZ. BPQTPA exhibits a blue-shifted emission compared with BPQPXZ. Therefore, the device based on BPQTPA exhibits yellow emission with λ_{EL} at 555 nm. Compared with BPQPXZ, the turn-on voltage of BPQTPA is reduced to 2.8 V; the maximum current efficiency and power efficiency are increased by 32-fold and 36-fold, respectively, and the EQE is increased by 6-fold to 7.0%.

Methods In this study, BPQPXZ and BPQTPA materials are synthesized using the Suzuki reaction and Buchwald-Hartwig reaction. The photophysical properties, electrochemical properties, thermal properties, and device performance of the two materials are investigated. Comparative analysis is conducted on the luminescent properties of two materials.

Results and Discussions The structures of two materials, BPQPXZ and BPQTPA, are verified by ¹H nuclear magnetic

resonance ($^1\text{H NMR}$) spectroscopy and high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS). BPQPXZ exhibits deep-red emission with λ_{PL} at 655 nm, and BPQTPA exhibits yellow emission with λ_{PL} at 585 nm (Fig. 3). Compared with BPQPXZ, BPQTPA exhibits blue-shifted emission because of weaker electron-donating ability of TPA than PXZ. Similarly, the rigidity of TPA is weaker than that of PXZ, resulting in a greater degree of overlap between the HOMO and LUMO of BPQTPA, a higher oscillator strength, and a larger fluorescence quantum yield (82.7%) for BPQTPA, which is consistent with the density functional theory simulation results (Fig. 2). As shown in the transient PL decay spectra (Fig. 4), the delay component is observed, and such phenomena are typical behaviors of TADF. As shown in the cyclic voltammogram (Fig. 5), the HOMO levels of BPQTPA and BPQPXZ are -5.38 eV and -5.25 eV, respectively. The calculated LUMO levels are -3.00 eV and -3.27 eV for BPQTPA and BPQPXZ, respectively. BPQTPA shows better thermal stability with a higher decomposition temperature (T_d , with 5% weight loss) of 492.6 °C than BPQPXZ ($T_d=439.2$ °C). The higher thermal stability of BPQTPA can be ascribed to its better planarity than that of BPQPXZ. These devices based on BPQTPA and BPQPXZ achieve good performance (Fig. 7). The device based on BPQTPA exhibits much higher EQE (7.0%) than the device based on BPQPXZ (EQE is 1.0%), especially.

Conclusions In this study, BPQTPA and BPQPXZ materials are designed and synthesized using BPQ with a highly rigid conjugated planar structure as an acceptor and TPA and PXZ as donors. The results show that two materials have typical delayed fluorescence characteristics. BPQTPA and BPQPXZ achieve good orbital separation between HOMO and LUMO, as well as a certain degree of orbital overlap, resulting in a smaller ΔE_{ST} and a larger oscillator strength. The device based on BPQPXZ combined with a strong acceptor and a strong donor achieves deep-red emission with λ_{EL} at 660 nm. However, due to the influence of energy-gap law, non-radiative decay is serious, with an EQE of only 1.0%, as well as low current and power efficiency. The device based on BPQTPA combined with a strong acceptor and a weak donor is less rigid than that based on BPQPXZ, making the degree of donor and acceptor distortion of BPQTPA less than BPQPXZ, and the degree of overlap between HOMO and LUMO orbitals of BPQTPA increases, so oscillator strength of BPQTPA is 2.2 times that of BPQPXZ. As a result, BPQTPA has a higher PLQY (82.7%). Meanwhile, due to the much weaker electron-donating ability of TPA than PXZ, the intramolecular charge transfer effect of BPQTPA is weakened, resulting in a significant blue-shift in both photoluminescence and electroluminescence peaks. The device based on BPQTPA exhibits yellow emission with λ_{EL} at 555 nm. Compared with BPQPXZ, the turn-on voltage of the device based on BPQTPA is reduced to 2.8 V, and the current efficiency and power efficiency are significantly improved by 32-fold and 36-fold, respectively. The EQE is increased by 6-fold to 7.0%. In particular, we investigate the effects of reasonable combinations of donor and acceptor on the photophysical and electroluminescent properties of materials through structure-activity relationships, and the study is of certain reference significance for the research on long-wavelength TADF materials.

Key words materials; delayed fluorescence; organic light-emitting diodes; dibenzopyridoquinoxaline; electroluminescence