Dithienothiophene-dioxide Derivatives as Fluorescent Emitters for Luminescent Solar Concentrators

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Luminescent Solar Concentrators (LSCs) are semi-transparent devices constituted by a sheet of glass or polymeric material with a high refractive index, doped with a luminophore able to absorb incident light and re-emit it at longer wavelengths. Thanks to their peculiar working principle, they have emerged as a unique light management technology, with applications spanning various fields, from photovoltaic to indoor lighting, photochemistry, and optical communication. In our work, we present four conjugated donor-acceptor luminophores featuring a central dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'-d]thiophene-4,4'-dioxide (do-DTT) core, with either a symmetric or non-symmetric structure (Figure 1), designed based on DFT computational investigations and prepared using direct arylation reactions as the key C-C bond-forming steps. Their performances were screened in thin-film LSCs employing both poly(methylmethacrylate) (PMMA) and regenerated MMA as host matrixes, reaching a remarkably external photon efficiency (η_{ext}) of up to 6.7% together with a fluorescence quantum yield (Φ_{fl}) of 90%, which resulted in a device efficiency of 0.74% once the LSC was coupled with a Si-PV cell.

Figure 1. do-DTT-based synthesized compounds.

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