Synthesis and Photoelectrochemical Performance of Chalcogenopyrylium Monomethine Dyes Bearing Phosphonate/ Phosphonic Acid Substituents

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Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: Chalcogenopyrylium monomethine dyes were prepared via condensation of a 4-methylchalcogenopyrylium compound with a chalcogenopyran-4-one bearing a 4-(diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl substituent (or the phosphonic acid derivative). The dyes have absorbance maxima of 603-697 nm in the window where the solar spectrum is most intense. The dyes formed H-aggregates on TiO₂, increasing the light-harvesting efficiency of the dyes. Shortcircuit photocurrent action spectra were acquired to evaluate the influence of dye structure on the photoelectrochemical performance.

N anocrystalline TiO_2 is a wide-bandgap semiconductor¹⁻⁵ used in dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSCs).⁶⁻⁸ Effective DSSCs require dyes to adhere to and persist on the semiconductor surface and to absorb light efficiently, inject electrons into the semiconductor, and oxidize an electron donor in the electrolyte.⁷⁻¹⁰ More efficient DSSCs absorb light available in the near-infrared (NIR) region of the solar spectrum, which contains approximately half of the sun's usable energy,¹¹ and use a sensitizer absorbing in the NIR with a cosensitizer with high efficiency in the visible spectrum.¹² Sensitizer aggregation, which broadens the electronic spectrum, can be beneficial to the overall efficiency of the DSSC.¹³⁻¹⁷

Chalcogenopyrylium dyes absorb into the NIR,^{18–20} and Xray structural analysis has shown that chalcogenopyrylium monomethine dyes have an essentially planar structure.¹⁸ The contributions of the chalcogen atoms to the electronic structure of these compounds (particularly with respect to HOMO and LUMO levels) has been examined in detail.¹⁸ Chalcogenopyrylium compounds form H- and J-aggregates in polymer films and are effective photosensitizers in electrophotographic applications.^{21–23} In order to evaluate chalcogenopyrylium compounds in DSSCs, anchoring groups must be introduced that persist on TiO₂. Phosphonate anchoring groups have surface-adduct formation constants to TiO₂ that are much greater than those for carboxylic acids.^{15,24–28} Herein, we describe the synthesis of several chalcogenopyrylium monomethine dyes containing a phosphonate linker for attachment to nanocrystalline TiO₂ and preliminary results of their photoelectrochemistry on nanocrystalline $\rm TiO_{2}$, which include absorbance at >700 nm.

Dyes 1-8 (Chart 1) were prepared as representative chalcogenpyrylium dyes to examine the effect of the chalcogen atoms on the wavelengths of absorbance of light, the effectiveness of the phosphonate as a linking group, and the photoelectrochemical performance of DSSCs containing the dyes. Dyes 7 and 8 have bulky substituents to minimize aggregation, allowing the impact of aggregation on TiO₂ on photoelectrochemical performance to be assessed directly.

Condensation of a phosphonate-containing chalcogenopyranone 9–11 with a 4-methylchalcogenopyrylium salt 12–16 (prepared following literature procedures)^{18,20,29} should give 1–8 (Chart 1) on the basis of literature precedent.^{19,21} While phosphonate-containing chalcogenopyranones 9–11 have not been described, 4-bromophenyl-substituted chalcogenopyranones 17 or 18 (Scheme 1) seem to be appropriate precursors for introduction of the phosphonate group via Pd-catalyzed coupling of diethyl phosphite.³⁰ Addition of the elements of H₂S or H₂Se to 1,5-diaryl-1,4-pentadiyn-3-one 19 formally allows the preparation of 17 and 18.³¹ Pentadiynone 19 can be prepared from addition of a metal phenylacetylide to the known 4-bromophenylpropargyl aldehyde (20)³² followed by oxidation of the intermediate 1,5-diaryl-1,4-pentadiyn-3-ol 21 that is formed.^{31,33,34}

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Scheme 1. Synthesis of Chalcogenopyranones 9-11^a



^aReagents: (a) PhCCMgBr, THF; (b) MnO_2 , CH_2Cl_2 ; (c) (1) NaOEt, EtOH, (2) Na₂S or Na₂Se; (d) $HP(=O)(OEt)_2$, $Pd(OAc)_2$, dppf, KOAc, Et₃N, THF; (e) Me₃SiCl, NaI, CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂.

Addition of PhC=CMgBr (deprotonation of phenylacetylene with EtMgBr) to **20** gave diynol **21** (Scheme 1), which was oxidized with MnO₂ in CH₂Cl₂ to give **19** in 78% overall yield. Sodium ethoxide catalyzed addition of EtOH to **19** to give an unisolated mixture of enol ethers,³¹ to which was then added Na₂S or Na₂Se to give **17** or **18**. Pd(OAc)₂catalyzed coupling of diethyl phosphite to **17** and **18** gave **9** and **10**.³⁰ Phosphonate **10** was converted to phosphonic acid derivative **11** using iodotrimethylsilane generated in situ from chlorotrimethylsilane and NaI in CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN.³⁵⁻³⁷

While condensation of 12-16 with 9-11 should lead directly to dyes 1-8, "scrambling" of the chalcogenopyrylium rings can occur if concentrations of reactants are too high, reaction times are too long, or the chalcogenopyranone is limiting reagent.³⁸ As shown in Scheme 2, 0.2 M 10 and 0.2 M 13 were heated 10 min at 105 °C in Ac₂O to give a mixture of 4 (63%), known tetraphenyl derivative 22^{21} (24%), and 23 with two phosphonate groups (13%) upon workup. The products in the mixture were identified by mass spectrometry and ¹H NMR spectroscopy (Supporting Information). The major product





was the expected 4 with m/z 741.0552 for $C_{39}H_{34}O_3P^{80}Se_2$ (calcd m/z 741.0576) and a "methine" CH signal at δ 7.015. Dye 22²¹ displayed m/z 605 for $C_{35}H_{25}^{80}Se_2$ and a "methine" CH signal at δ 6.97. The third product 23 gave m/z 877.0837 for $C_{43}H_{43}O_6P_2^{80}Se_2$ (calcd m/z 877.0865) and a "methine" CH signal at δ 7.05. In order to confirm the ¹H NMR assignments given for the "scrambled" products, pure 4 (described below) was spiked with ~10 mol % of authentic 22 with the methine signal of 22 appearing at higher field than that of 4 (Supporting Information).

The reaction was repeated with 0.11 M **10** and 0.10 M **13** in Ac_2O at 105 °C for 2 min. Dye **4** was isolated in 83% yield, and neither **22** nor **23** was detected in the reaction mixture. These concentrations were employed at 105 °C in the preparation of the remaining dyes with the 4-methylchalcogenopyrylium compound as limiting reactant. No "scrambled" products were observed, and yields are compiled in Table 1. Reaction

Table 1. Synthetic Yields, Absorption Maxima (λ_{max}) , and Molar Extinction Coefficients (ε) in CH₂Cl₂, and Saturation Surface Coverages (Γ_0) on Nanocrystalline TiO₂ for Dyes 1–5, 7, and 8^{*a*}

compd	% yield	$\lambda_{\rm max'}$ nm	ε , M^{-1} cm ⁻¹	Γ_0 , mol cm ⁻²
1	89	630	$(1.31 \pm 0.03) \times 10^5$	$(6.8 \pm 1.7) \times 10^{-8}$
2	79	655	$(1.18 \pm 0.03) \times 10^5$	$(4.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-8}$
3	93	651	$(1.27 \pm 0.02) \times 10^5$	$(5.5 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-8}$
4	83	677	$(1.27 \pm 0.02) \times 10^5$	$(7.3 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-8}$
5	56	697	$(1.29 \pm 0.01) \times 10^5$	$(4.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-8}$
6/6a	65	653	$\sim 1.0 \times 10^{5}$	$(1.0-1.5) \times 10^{-7 b}$
7	88	603	$(1.08 \pm 0.02) \times 10^5$	$(3.7 \pm 1.1) \times 10^{-8}$
8	88	625	$(1.18 \pm 0.01) \times 10^5$	$(4.3 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-8}$

^{*a*}Error limits are standard deviations based on a minimum of 4 films/ measurement. ^{*b*}Assumes ε of ~1.0 × 10⁵ for both **6** and **6a** in a 60:40 mixture of **6** to **6a**.

times were a function of chalcogen atom and steric bulk at the 2- and 6-positions. Condensations were slowest with thiopyrylium compounds 15 (with two *tert*-butyl substituents, 30 min reaction time), 12 (15 min), and 16 (15 min). Condensations with selenopyrylium compound 13 were complete after 2 min and with telluropyrylium compound 14, after 1 min.

Dye **6** (Chart 1) was prepared from **11** and **12** by heating at 105 °C in AcOH for 5 min as an equal volume of Ac₂O was added slowly and then for an additional 25 min. Dye **6** was isolated as a 60:40 mixture of **6** and its zwitterionic form **6a**, with an absorbance maximum (λ_{max}) for the mixture of 653 nm, in 65% combined yield. Attempts to isolate the zwitterionic form **6a** were unsuccessful, as were attempts to protonate and

isolate only 6. Consequently, other phosphonic acid derivatives were not prepared for study.

Values of λ_{max} (603–697 nm) for the electronic absorbance spectra of 1-8 in CH₂Cl₂ solution are compiled in Table 1 and fall in the window where the solar spectrum is most intense. In the higher dielectric solvent CH₃CN, blue shifts of 3-7 nm are observed relative to CH₂Cl₂. Normalized absorbance spectra for 1-8 in both solvents are shown in Figure S1 of the Supporting Information. Values of the molar extinction coefficient (ε) vary between 1.08 × 10⁵ and 1.31 × 10⁵ M⁻¹ cm^{-1} (Table 1). Increasing the size of the chalcogen atom gives a red-shift in λ_{max} , which has been previously reported for chalcogenopyrylium^{18,20} and chalcogenoxanthylium dyes³⁹ as well as in π -excessive heterocyclic systems such as the polychalcogenophenes.⁴⁰ Values of ε for dyes 1 and 3-5, which vary in structure only in the heteroatoms, have no significant differences among them. Dye 2, where Se has been substituted for S, has a lower value of ε that is significantly different from the other dyes 1 and 3–5. Lower values of ε with Se substitution have been observed in other chalcogencontaining systems.⁴¹ Oscillator strengths for dyes 1-8 fall in the range 0.57-0.62 and are not different from one another in a statistically significant way.

Films of TiO₂ were functionalized by immersion in ~2 mM CH₂Cl₂ solutions of **1–8**. Amounts of the adsorbed dyes per projected surface area (surface coverages, Γ_0 , in mol cm⁻²) were determined by quantifying the concentration of dye in adsorption solutions before and after exposure to TiO₂ films.⁴² Values of Γ_0 are compiled in Table 1 for **1–8** and vary from 3.7 × 10⁻⁸ to 7.3 × 10⁻⁸ mol cm⁻² for the diethyl phosphonates. The phosphonic acid derivatives **6/6a** gave somewhat greater coverage [(1.0–1.5) × 10⁻⁷ mol cm⁻²] than the phosphonate derivatives. Exact values cannot be ascertained because of the **6/6a** mixture.

Figure 1 shows absorbance spectra of dyes 1, 7, and 8 on TiO_2 films compared to absorbance spectra in CH_2Cl_2 . On



Figure 1. Normalized UV-visible absorption spectra for dyes 1, 7 (offset 1 au), and 8 (offset 2 au) in CH_2Cl_2 (dashed lines) and on TiO_2 (solid lines).

TiO₂, **1** has developed a higher energy band relative to the solution spectrum, consistent with the formation of an H-aggregate on the surface. Dyes **2–6** show similar formation of H-aggregates (Figure S2, Supporting Information). Dye 7 with bulky *tert*-butyl substituents has more limited H-aggregation, presumably because of the steric hindrance of face-to-face interactions, and the absorbance spectra on TiO₂ and in CH₂Cl₂ are similar. Dye **8**, with a bulky 2,6-dimethylphenyl substituent, also limits face-to-face interactions. Some H-aggregation is observed with **8** on TiO₂, but much less than observed with **1**. By varying the concentration of the adsorbing

solution, the extent of H-aggregation by 1, 7 and 8 upon adsorption to TiO_2 can be varied (Figure S3, Supporting Information).

Nanocrystalline TiO_2 films on FTO-on-glass electrodes (TiO_2/FTO) were functionalized with 1–8. Short-circuit photocurrent action spectra [incident photon to current efficiencies (IPCE) vs wavelength] were acquired to evaluate the influence of dye structure on the photoelectrochemical performance of DSSCs. Overlaid absorptance and photocurrent action spectra are shown in Figure 2 for dyes 1, 7, and 8 and in



Figure 2. Absorptance (y-axis left) and IPCE (y-axis right) spectra for dyes (a) 1, (b) 7, and (c) 8. Error bars are ± 1 standard deviation based on a minimum of 3 runs.

Figure S4 (Supporting Information) for dyes 2–6. (Absorptance equals the fraction of photons absorbed, or one minus the transmittance.) For dyes 1–4, absorptance was \geq 0.90 from 570–575 nm through 675–725 nm (95–150 nm-wide regions). For dyes 7 and 8 with reduced aggregation, absorptance was \geq 0.90 over a smaller region: 590–625 nm (35-nm wide) for 7 and 588–670 nm (82-nm wide) for 8. Dye

5 displayed absorptance \geq 0.90 between 600 and 750 nm, and dye 6, between 540 and 755 nm (215 nm).

White-light photocurrent—photovoltage (J-V) data were also acquired. Values of open circuit voltage (V_{oc}) , short-circuit photocurrent density (J_{sc}) , fill factor (FF), and global energy-conversion efficiencies (η) were low $(\eta < 0.1\%$ for all films) (Table S1, Supporting Information).

The correspondence between absorptance and IPCE spectra for dyes 1-8 indicates that 1-8 sensitized TiO₂ through excited-state electron injection. The impact of aggregation on IPCE values was determined by examining the window for each dye where values of IPCE are $\geq 10\%$. For 1-6, this region is a plateau where IPCE values are comparable over both the aggregate region and the unaggregated dye. For 1, IPCE was ≥10% between 475 and 710 nm; for 2, between 500 and 725 nm; for 3, between 500 and 735 nm; and for 4, between 550 and 725 nm (Figure S4, Supporting Information). Dye 5 displayed IPCE values \geq 10% only over the 400–450-nm range, but had IPCE \geq 5% from 400 to 775 nm (Figure S4, Supporting Information). Dye 6, in contrast, displayed values of IPCE $\geq 10\%$ over the 400-750-nm window (Figure S4, Supporting Information). All six of these dyes formed an Haggregate. Dye 7, in contrast, displayed IPCE values $\geq 10\%$ only over the 570-625-nm range (Figure 2), consistent with little H-aggregation on the film. Dye 8 displayed IPCE values $\geq 10\%$ over the 525-700-nm range (Figure 2), which includes some aggregate formation.

We have devised a strategy to prepare chalcogenopyrylium monomethine dyes bearing a phosphonate or phosphonic acid group, which can function as a linker to semiconductor surfaces. The chalcogenopyrylium monomethine dyes prepared by this strategy efficiently harvest visible and NIR light. Moreover, like chalcogenorhodamine dyes that we have previously evaluated, $^{13-16}$ dyes 1-6 show improved light-harvesting efficiency and higher values of IPCE upon formation of H-aggregates. In contrast, 7 and 8, which are less prone to form aggregates, have reduced light-harvesting efficiency. Aggregates of other dyes have been shown to have poorer IPCEs than their monomeric counterparts, 43 but orientation of the aggregates relative to the semiconductor surface was not well-defined.

The chalcogenopyrylium compounds can accommodate great structural diversity and the results presented here suggest that additional chalcogenopyrylium dyes should be designed and evaluated in DSSCs for enhanced photoelectrochemical performance. Similar chemistry can be used to facilitate incorporation of the phosphonate/phosphonic acid linker on compounds with absorbance even further into the infrared.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenylpenta-1,4-diyn-3-ol (21). EtMgBr (3.0 M, 11.2 mL, 34 mmol) was added dropwise to a tetrahydrofuran (THF, 60 mL) solution of phenylacetylene (3.94 mL, 35.9 mmol) at 0 °C. The resulting solution was stirred for 0.5 h at 0 °C and then for an additional 0.5 h at ambient temperature. The solution was cooled to -78 °C, and **20** (4.95 g, 23.7 mmol), dissolved in THF (30 mL), was added via cannula. After 1 h at -78 °C, the reaction mixture was stirred for an additional 2 h at ambient temperature. The reaction was poured into saturated NH₄Cl (50 mL). Products were extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The resulting oil was purified via chromatography on SiO₂ with CH₂Cl₂ as eluent (R_f 0.62) to yield 6.15 g (84%) of **21** as a white solid: mp 99.5– 100.5 °C; IR (KBr) 3320 (OH), 2232 (C≡C) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.50–7.46 (m, 4 H), 7.36–7.32 (m, 5 H), 5.57 (d, 1H, *J* = 12 Hz), 2.54 (d, 1 H, *J* = 11.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 133.3, 131.9, 131.6, 128.9, 128.3, 132.2, 121.8, 120.9, 87.1, 85.68, 84.8, 83.5, 53.2; HRMS [ESI, high-resolution, double focusing magnetic sector (HRDFMagSec)] *m*/*z* 309.9958 (calcd for C₁₇H₁₁O⁷⁹Br⁺ 309.9993).

1-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenylpenta-1,4-diyn-3-one (19). 1-(4-Bromophenyl)-5-phenylpenta-1,4-diyn-3-ol (**20**, 2.88 g, 9.26 mmol) and MnO₂ (8.05 g, 92.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) were stirred for 1 h at ambient temperature. The mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated to give 2.66 g (93%) of **19** as a pale yellow solid that was used without further purification: mp 105.5– 106.5 °C; IR (KBr) 2207 (C≡C), 1615 (C=O) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (AA'BB', 2 H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.57 (AA'BB', 2H, *J* = 8 Hz), 7.52–7.49 (m, 3 H), 7.42 (t, 2 H, *J* = 8.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 134.5, 133.3, 132.0, 131.3, 128.7, 126.1, 119.3, 118.3, 92.0, 90.0, 89.3; HRMS (ESI, HRDFMagSec) *m/z* 307.9836 (calcd for C₁₇H₉O⁷⁹Br⁺ 307.9837).

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-one (17). Sulfur (0.171 g, 5.34 mmol), NaBH₄ (0.202 g, 5.34 mmol) and 0.25 M NaOEt in EtOH (40.0 mL) were heated at reflux for 4 h. In another flask, 21 (1.50 g, 4.85 mmol) was dissolved in THF (10.0 mL) and then added to 0.25 M NaOEt in EtOH (40 mL). After stirring for 10 min, this mixture was then added to the S/NaBH4 mixture. This resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 20 min and poured into 100 mL of water, and products were extracted with EtOAc (3×50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated. The resulting solid was purified via chromatography on SiO₂ eluted with 20% EtOAc/CH₂Cl₂ (R_f 0.50) to yield 0.97 g (58%) of 17 as an off-white solid: mp 179.0-180.0 °C; IR (KBr) 1625 cm⁻¹ (C=O); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65-7.63 (m, 4 H), 7.53–7.51 (m, 5 H), 7.23 (s, 1 H) 7.20 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.1, 153.0, 151.8, 135.9, 134.9, 132.6, 130.8, 129.4, 128.3, 127.2, 127.1, 126.9, 125.3; HRMS (ESI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 342.9777 (calcd for $C_{17}H_{11}O_1^{-79}BrS + H^+$ 342.9787).

2-(4-Bromophenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-selenopyran-4-one (18). Selenium (0.215 g, 2.72 mmol), NaBH₄ (85.6 mg, 2.72 mmol) and 0.25 M NaOEt in EtOH (30 mL) were heated at reflux for 1.5 h. In another flask, 21 (0.700 g, 2.26 mmol) was dissolved in THF (5.0 mL), added to 0.25 M NaOEt in EtOH (20 mL), and stirred for 10 min before addition to the Se/NaBH₄ mixture. The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 20 min and poured into 100 mL of water, and products were extracted with EtOAc (4 \times 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried over MgSO4, and concentrated. The resulting solid was purified via chromatography on SiO_2 eluted with 20% EtOAc/CH₂Cl₂ (R_f 0.50) to yield 0.43 (49%) of 18 as a white solid: mp 165.5–167.0 °C; IR (KBr) 1605 cm⁻¹ (C= O); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.66–7.62 (m, 4 H), 7.52–7.50 (m, 5 H), 7.24 (s, 1 H), 7.22 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.2, 155.3, 153.9, 137.5, 136.6, 132.6, 131.0, 129.4, 128.3, 128.3, 128.1; HRMS (ESI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 391.9148 (calcd for $C_{17}H_{11}O_1^{79}Br^{80}Se + H^+ 391.9138)$

Diethyl [4-(4-oxo-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-2-yl)phenyl]phosphonate (9). Triethylamine (0.102 mL, 0.732 mmol) was added to palladium acetate (4.1 mg, 0.018 mmol), 1,1'-bis-(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (20.2 mg, 0.0364 mmol), KOAc (7.1 mg, 0.072 mmol) in THF (5.0 mL). The resulting solution was heated at reflux for 15 min prior to the addition of diethyl phosphite (93 μ L, 0.73 mmol) and 17 (0.250 g, 0.728 mmol). The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 24 h and then diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and water (10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO4 and concentrated. The resulting oil was purified via chromatography on SiO2 first using 40% EtOAc/CH_2Cl_2 and then 10% MeOH/EtOAc as eluent (R_f 0.58) to yield 0.225g (77%) of 9 as an off-white solid: mp 128.5–129.5 °C; IR (KBr) 1613 cm⁻¹ (C=O); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 7.92 (dd, 2H, J = 12.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.78 (dd, 2H, J = 8.0, 3.5 Hz), 7.70-7.68 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.53 (m, 3H), 7.21(s, 1H), 7.20 (s, 1H), 4.13 (m, 4H), 1.33 (t, 6H, J = 7 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 182.0, 153.2, 151.8, 139.7, 135.8, 132.7, 132.5, 132.6, 132.5,

130.9, 130.0, 129.4, 128.0, 127.2, 127.0, 126.9, 126.8, 62.4 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP}$ = 4.7 Hz), 16.3 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ = 5.7 Hz); HRMS (ESI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 401.0971 (calcd for C₂₁H₂₁O₄PS + H⁺ 401.0976).

Diethyl [4-(4-oxo-6-phenyl-4H-selenopyran-2yl)phenyl]phosphonate (10). Palladium acetate (3.6 mg, 0.016 mmol), 1,1'bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene (17.8 mg, 0.0321 mmol), KOAc (6.3 mg, 0.064 mmol), THF (5 mL), Et₃N (98 µL, 0.70 mmol), diethyl phosphite (82 µL, 0.64 mmol) and 18 (0.250 g, 0.641 mmol) were treated as described for the preparation of 9. The isolated oil was purified by chromatography on SiO₂ eluted first with 40% EtOAc/ CH₂Cl₂ and then with 10% MeOH/EtOAc (R_f 0.64) to yield 0.229 g (80%) of 10 as an off-white solid: mp 99.5-100.5 °C; IR (KBr) 1608 cm⁻¹ (C=O); ¹H NMR (500 MHz CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.94 (dd, 2 H, J = 13.0, 8.0 Hz) 7.69 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.5, 4.0 Hz) 7.61-7.59 (m, 2 H) 7.52-7.51 (m, 3 H), 4.18 (m, 4 H), 1.36 (t, 6 H, J = 7.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 184.0, 155.4, 153.8, 141.2, 137.3, 132.7, 132.6, 131.6, 130.7, 130.1, 129.3, 129.0, 128.1, 126.9, 126.7, 126.7, 62.3 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} =$ 5.8 Hz), 16.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ = 6.6 Hz); HRMS (ESI, HRDFMagSec) m/z449.0415 (calcd for $C_{21}H_{21}O_4P^{80}Se + H^+$ 449.0421).

4-(4-Oxo-6-phenyl-4H-selenopyran-2-yl)phenylphosphonic acid (11). Trimethylsilyl chloride (0.142 mL, 1.12 mmol) was added dropwise to NaI (0.168 g, 1.12 mmol) in anhydrous CH₃CN (2.0 mL) and anhydrous CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL). After 0.5 h of stirring, selenopyranone 10 (0.100 g, 0.224 mmol) was added, and the resulting mixture was stirred overnight. The dark red mixture was quenched with MeOH (2.0 mL) and poured into 1 M HCl (50 mL). Potassium hydroxide pellets were added until the solution became a light brown color. The mixture was washed with EtOAc (2×25 mL). The pH of the aqueous solution was lowered to approximately 1 with concentrated HCl, and products were extracted with EtOAc (3×25 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The product was precipitated from EtOAc with hexanes to yield 61.2 mg (70%) of 11 as a light brown powder: mp 220-222 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, (CD₃)₂S=O) δ 11.38 (s, 2 H), 7.81–7.80 (m, 4 H), 7.74 (dd, 2 H, J = 1.5, 7.5 Hz), 7.56 (m, 3 H), 7.39 (s, 1 H), 7.29 (s, 1 H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, $(CD_3)_2S=O$) δ 183.0, 154.1, 153.2, 139.0, 137.9, 136.8, 135.5, 131.6, 131.5, 131.0, 129.6, 128.0, 127.4, 126.7, 126.7, 126.5. HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 392.9805 (calcd for $C_{17}H_{13}O_4P^{80}Se + H^+$ 392.9795).

General Procedure for the Preparation of Monomethine Dyes 1-8. 4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4Hthiopyran-4ylidene)methyl)-2,6-diphenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (1). Thiopyranone 9 (50.0 mg, 0.125 mmol), 4methyl-2,6-diphenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (12, 46.4 mg, 0.114 mmol), and Ac₂O (0.500 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 15 min. The solution was diluted with Et₂O (2.5 mL), and the resulting solid was isolated by filtration. The solid was recrystallized from CH₃CN/ ether to yield 71.8 mg (89%) of 1 as a metallic dark blue solid: mp 124.0-125.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.14-7.98 (m, 6 H), 7.86 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.0, 3.5 Hz), 7.79 (t, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.68–7.61 (m, 9 H), 6.85 (br s, 1 H) 4.15 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (t, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (75.5 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) δ 157.4, 155.9 (br), 154.5, 153.9 (br), 153.2, 139.1, 135.7, 135.5, 134.2, 133.3, 133.2, 132.6, 132.5, 131.8, 130.3,130.2, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 126.8, 123.6, 62.9 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} = 5.7 \text{ Hz}$), 16.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP} = 6.9$ Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 645.1694 (calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_3PS_2^+$ 645.1692). Anal. Calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_3PS_2 \cdot PF_6$: C, 59.24; H, 4.33. Found: C, 59.11; H, 4.47.

4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)-2,6-diphenylselenopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (2). Thiopyranone 9 (50.0 mg, 0.125 mmol), 4-methyl-2,6-diphenylselenopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (13, 51.7 mg, 0.114 mmol), and Ac₂O (1.0 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 2.0 min. Workup as described for 1 gave 75.6 mg (79%) of 2 as a metallic dark blue solid: mp 142–144 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.16– 8.10 (m, 4 H), 8.00 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 8.0, 12.5 Hz), 7.86 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 3.5, 8 Hz), 7.79 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.74 (d, 4 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.68–7.61 (m, 9 H), 6.95 (br s, 1 H), 4.15 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (t, 6 H, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 161.7, 156.8, 154.7, 154.4, 153.8, 153.6, 138.9, 137.6, 135.5, 133.9, 133.3, 133.2, 132.7, 132.3, 130.3, 129.2, 128.4, 127.5, 127.5, 127.4, 126.7, 124.1, 62.9 (d, ²*J*_{CP} = 5.7 Hz), 16.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ = 6.8 Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 693.1119 (calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_{3}PS^{80}Se^{+}$ 693.1126). Anal. Calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_{3}PSSe\cdot PF_{6}$: C, 55.92; H, 4.09. Found: C, 55.85; H, 4.42.

4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4*H*-selenopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)-2,6-diphenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (3). Selenopyran-4-one 10 (50.0 mg, 0.112 mmol), 4-methyl-2,6-diphenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (12, 41.5 mg, 0.102 mmol), and Ac₂O (0.500 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 15 min. Workup as described for 1 gave 79.5 mg (93%) of 3 as a metallic dark blue solid: mp 124.5–126 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.20–7.96 (m, 6 H), 7.80 (d, 6 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.73-7.59 (m, 11 H), 6.96 (br s, 1 H), 4.15 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (t, 6 H, *J* = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 158.2, 154.7, 153.3, 141.0, 137.6, 135.3, 133.25, 133.17, 132.7, 132.2, 131.7, 130.3, 130.2, 127.54, 127.42, 127.36, 127.3, 126.7, 62.8 (d, ²_{JCP} = 5.8 Hz), 16.5 (d, ³_{JCP} = 6.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) *m*/*z* 693.1134 (calcd for C₃₉H₃₄O₃PS⁸⁰Se⁺ 693.1126). Anal. Calcd for C₃₉H₃₄O₃PSSe·PF₆: C, 55.92; H, 4.09. Found: C, 55.85; H, 4.15.

4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-selenopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)-2,6-diphenylselenopyrylium hexa-fluorophosphate (4). Selenopyran-4-one **10** (50.0 mg, 0.112 mmol), **13** (46.3 mg, 0.102 mmol), and Ac₂O (1.0 mL) were at 105 °C for 2.0 min. Workup as described for 1 gave 74.9 mg (83%) of 4 as a metallic dark blue solid: mp 133–135 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.20- 8.07 (m, 4 H) 7.98 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 12.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.81 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 7.5, 3.0 Hz), 7.75–7.73 (m, 6 H), 7.69–7.60 (m, 9 H), 6.97 (s, 1 H), 4.15 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (t, 6 H, *J* = 6.5 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 163.2, 160.9, 158.3, 155.1, 153.7 141.2, 137.6, 137.4, 133.4, 133.3, 133.0, 132.6, 132.4, 131.1, 130.4, 130.3, 129.7, 128.1, 127.6, 127.5, 127.4, 62.8 (d, ²*J*_{CP} = 5.6 Hz), 16.5 (d, ³*J*_{CP} = 6.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) *m/z* 741.0552 (calcd for C₃₉H₃₄O₃P⁸⁰Se₂+ 741.0571). Anal. Calcd for C₃₉H₃₄O₃PSe₂·PF₆·H₂O:⁴⁴ C, 51.90; H, 4.02. Found: C, 51.85; H, 3.80.

4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)-2,6-diphenyltelluropyrylium hexafluoro**phosphate (5).** Thiopyran-4-one **9** (50.0 mg, 0.112 mmol), 4-methyl-2,6-diphenyltelluropyrylium hexafluorophosphate (14, 46.3 mg, 0.102 mmol), and Ac₂O (1.0 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 1.0 min. The solution was then diluted with diethyl ether, and the resulting solid was isolated by filtration. Workup as described for 1 was followed by purification by column chromatography eluted first with 10% EtOAc/ CH₂Cl₂ and then with 30% EtOAc/CH₂Cl₂ to yield 56.4 mg (56%) of 5 as a green solid: mp 144.5–147.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.17 (s, 2 H), 8.13 (s, 1 H), 8.07 (s, 1 H), 7.99 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.5, 12.5 Hz), 7.85 (dd, 2 H, J = 3.5, 8.5 Hz), 7.76 (d, 2 H, J = 8.5 Hz), 7.68– 7.57 (m, 13 H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 4.15 (m, 4 H), 1.35 (t, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz); $^{13}\mathrm{C}$ NMR (75.5 MHz, $\mathrm{CD_2Cl_2})$ δ 160.9, 156.4, 156.1, 154.3, 152.6, 141.0, 138.7, 138.7, 135.3, 133.9, 133.1, 132.9, 132.3, 131.7, 131.4, 130.1, 130.0, 128.7, 127.2, 127.1, 127.0, 62.7 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} = 5.8$ Hz), 16.2 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP}$ = 5.7 Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 743.1025 (calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_3PS^{130}Te^+$ 743.1023). Anal. Calcd for $C_{39}H_{34}O_3PSTe PF_6$. H_2O :⁴⁴ C, S1.80; H, 4.01. Found: C, S1.S1; H, 3.81.

2,6-Diphenyl-4-((2-phenyl-6-(4-phosphonophenyl)-4H-selenopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)thiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (**6**). Acetic anhydride (3.0 mL) was slowly added over 5 min to 11 (70.0 mg, 0.203 mmol) and 12 (83.0 mg, 0.203 mmol) in AcOH (3.0 mL) at 105 °C. The resulting mixture was heated for an additional 25 min at 105 °C. Workup as described for 1 gave 89.8 mg (65%) of a 60:40 mixture of 6 and its zwitterionic form as a dark blue solid: mp >260 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, 2:1 CD₃OD:CD₂Cl₂) δ 8.24 (s, 2 H), 8.10 (s, 2 H), 7.95 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 8.0, 13.0 Hz), 7.79 (d, 6 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.71 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7 Hz), 7.64–7.52 (m, 9 H) 6.91 (s, 1 H); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) *m*/*z* 637.0521 (calcd for C₃₅H₂₆O₃PS⁸⁰Se⁺ 637.0500). Anal. Calcd for [C₃₅H₂₆O₃PSSe· PF₆]_{0.60}·[C₃₃H₂₅O₃PSSe]_{0.40}: C, 58.13; H, 3.57. Found: C, 58.22; H. 3.55.

2,6-Di-*tert*-butyl-4-((2-(4-(diethoxyphosphorylphenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)thiopyrylium hexa-fluorophosphate (7). Thiopyran-4-one 9 (0.100 g, 0.250 mmol), 2,6-di-*tert*-butyl-4-methylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (15, 83.6 mg, 0.227 mmol), and Ac_2O (1.0 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 3 h.

Workup as described for 1 gave 0.151 g (88%) of 7 as a purple solid: mp 211.5–213.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 7.98 (dd, 2 H, J = 8.5, 12.5 Hz), 7.92 (s, 2 H), 7.83 (m, 2 H), 7.74 (d, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.63–7.58 (m, 3 H), 6.66 (s, 1 H), 4.14 (m, 4 H), 1.52 (s, 18 H), 1.34 (t, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 173.8, 155.8, 151.7, 133.27, 133.19, 132.1, 130.1, 127.3, 125.7, 122.5, 122.4, 62.9 (d, ²J_{CP} = 5.8 Hz), 40.7, 31.1, 16.5 (d, ³J_{CP} = 5.6 Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) *m*/*z* 605.2315 (calcd for C₃₅H₄₂O₃PS₂⁺ 605.2307). Anal. Calcd for C₃₅H₄₂O₃PS₂·PF₆: C, 55.99; H, 5.64. Found: 55.91; H, 5.48.

4-((2-(4-(Diethoxyphosphoryl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-ylidene)methyl)-2-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-6-phenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (8). Thiopyran-4-one 9 (0.100 g, 0.250 mmol), 2-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-4-methyl-6-phenylthiopyrylium hexafluorophosphate (16, 99.1 mg, 0.227 mmol), and Ac₂O (0.50 mL) were heated at 105 °C for 15 min. Workup as described for 1 gave 81.7 mg (88%) of 8 as a metallic dark blue solid: mp 133.5-135.5 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.231 (s, 1 H), 8.09-8.08 (m, 2 H), 7.98 (dd, 2 H, J = 13.0, 8.0 Hz), 7.89 (dd, 2 H, J = 8, 3.5 Hz), 7.78 (d, 2 H, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 7.71–7.69 (m, 3 H), 7.61–7.53 (m, 6 H), 7.33 (t, 1 H, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.21 (d, 2 H, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.10 (s, 1 H), 4.23-4.09 (m, 4 H), 2.31 (s, 6 H), 1.36 (t, 6 H, J = 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ 159.0, 157.5, 156.7, 154.7, 154.5, 153.9,139.0, 136.9, 135.7, 135.5, 134.3, 134.1, 133.4, 133.3, 132.7, 132.6, 132.2, 131.2, 130.9, 130.3, 130.3, 128.7, 127.6, 127.53, 127.47, 123.3, 62.9 (d, ${}^{2}J_{CP} = 5.4 \text{ Hz}$), 20.5, 16.5 (d, ${}^{3}J_{CP} = 6.1$ Hz); HRMS (EI, HRDFMagSec) m/z 673.2012 (calcd for C₄₁H₃₈O₃PS₂⁺ 673.1994). Anal. Calcd for C₄₁H₃₈O₃PS₂·PF₆· (H₂O)_{0.5}:⁴⁴ C, 59.49; H, 4.75. Found: C, 59.47; H, 4.78.

Preparation of Sensitized TiO₂ **Electrodes.** Nanocrystalline TiO₂ films were deposited onto glass microscope slides or fluorinedoped tin oxide (FTO)-coated glass (12–14 Ω /square), as described previously.⁴² TiO₂ films were (4.1 ± 0.9) μ m thick and consisted of anatase TiO₂ particles with average diameters of (36 ± 6) nm. For the FTO-coated glass electrodes, a dense TiO₂ blocking layer was added by spray pyrolysis before spreading the TiO₂. TiO₂ films were functionalized by immersion in concentrated (1–2 mM) solutions of the dyes in CH₂Cl₂ for at least 12 h. The functionalized films were dipped in CH₂Cl₂ or CH₃CN to remove nonadsorbed dye.

Surface Coverages of Dyes on TiO₂. Amounts of the adsorbed dyes per projected surface area, herein referred to as surface coverages, were determined by quantifying the concentration of dye in adsorption solutions before and after exposure to TiO₂ films. Values of λ_{max} of the dyes in CH₂Cl₂ (Table 1) were used to quantify concentrations of dyes and therefore the surface coverages.

Photoelectrochemistry. Short-circuit photocurrent action spectra and J-V data were obtained as described previously.^{13,45} A custom 500-µL Teflon cell housed the sensitized-FTO/TiO₂ working electrode and a Pt mesh counter electrode. The electrolyte was 0.05 M I₂, 0.5 M LiI, and 0.20 M HCl in CH₃CN. Higher photocurrents were measured when protons were added to the electrolyte, consistent with previous reports. TiO2 films functionalized with N3 dye were characterized as controls. The electrolyte for FTO/TiO₂/N3 working electrodes consisted of 0.1 M LiI, 0.05 M I2, 0.1 M guanidinium thiocyanate, 0.5 M 4tBP, and 0.6 M PMII in CH₃CN. UV-vis absorption spectra of sensitized-FTO/TiO2 working electrodes were acquired before and after the acquisition of photoelectrochemical data. In a typical photoelectrochemical experiment, we acquired six shortcircuit photocurrent action spectra and three J-V data sets over the course of approximately 15 min for a given dye-functionalized TiO₂ electrode. Initial and final values of IPCE differed by 5-10% over the course of these experiments.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Spectral data for 1-11 and 17-23, white-light photocurrentphotovoltage (*J*–*V*) data, normalized UV–visible absorption spectra for 2-6 in CH₂Cl₂ solution and on TiO₂ films, data for the extent of aggregation as a function of the concentration of adsorbing solution in dichloromethane, and absorptance and IPCE data for dyes **2–6**. These materials are available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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