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## An efficient synthesis of novel  $\operatorname{spino}[[8H]$ indeno[2,1- $b$ ]-thiophene-8,9′-fluorene] building block for blue light-emitting materials

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Abstract—We have developed efficient synthetic routes to obtain a novel building block spiro[[8H]indeno[2,1-b]thiophene-8,9'fluorene] (SITF), a monothiophene-containing spirobifluorene analogue, and constructed blue light-emitting materials, including 2',7'-bis([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-spiro[indeno[2,1-b]thiophene-8,9'-fluorene] (BBP–SITF) and 2',7'-bis(9,9'-spirobifluoren-2-yl)spiro-[[8H]indeno[2,1-b]-thiophene-8,9'-fluorene] (BSBF–SITF). BSBF–SITF has shown to be a stable blue light-emitting material with high PL quantum efficiency (89%) and unique regioselective feature at the C2 of thiophene, which indicate that BSBF–SITF will be useful for constructing complicated optoelectronic systems. © 2006 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Organic  $\pi$ -conjugated materials continue to attract considerable interest because of their potential applications in various optoelectronic devices, especially in organic light-emitting diodes  $(OLEDs).$ <sup>[1](#page-2-0)</sup> Since Tour and coworkers early introduced spirobifluorene unit into organic electronics in  $1996$ ,<sup>[2](#page-2-0)</sup> spirobifluorene-containing oligomers and polymers are becoming promising candidates for electroluminescent materials due to their high luminescence efficiency, carrier mobility, as well as excellent thermal stability. Salbeck et al. exploited spirobifluorene building blocks to construct various oligomers.[3](#page-2-0) Fully spiro-configured terfluorenes, monodisperse spirobifluorene trimmers and spirobifluorene-linked anthracene have also been synthesized and used as blue light-emitting materials with high thermal stability.[4](#page-2-0) Carrier-transporting materials of spirobifluorene with high  $T_g$  temperature show excellent nondispersive hole transporting and ambipolar carrier transporting properties.[5](#page-3-0) Our group firstly introduced the spirobifluorene unit into  $\pi$ -conjugated polymers to enhance the

morphological stability in film states and to demonstrate the increase of thermally spectral stability.<sup>[6](#page-3-0)</sup> In addition, spirobifluorene derivatives have also been applied to solar cells, organic phototransistors, NLO and laser materials.[7](#page-3-0) However, the disadvantage of this kind of oligomers is the difficulty to tune the electronic structure and incorporate other functional groups, which greatly limits their applications in the field of organic electronics and construction of complicated optoelectronic systems.

Incorporating heteroaryl groups, for example, thiophene, pyridine, carbazole, into spiro compounds will be a useful strategy to expand the application of spiro compounds. However, so far, spiro compounds with heteroaryl groups have seldom been reported.[8](#page-3-0) To explore the complicated light-emitting system and gain better insight into the effect of spiro-substituted moieties on the electronic structures, in this contribution, we present the design and synthesis of a novel thiophenecontaining  $ter(9,9'-spirobifluorene)$ s analogue with regioselective features, and the investigation of absorption and emission spectra as well as electrochemical properties as blue light-emitting materials.

To successfully synthesize spiroindenothiophenefluorene (SITF), it is necessary to concurrently consider three

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Scheme 1.



Scheme 2.



Scheme 3.

important factors, that is, synthesis of o-halobiaryls, their reactivity in the preparation of Grignard reagent, and the Friedel–Crafts reactivity in the dehydration cyclization. We have attempted three routes to prepare and obtain the SITF, as summarized in Schemes 1–3. We examined the effect of  $\varrho$ -halobiaryls, for example, 2-bromo-3-phenylthiophene (3a) and 3-(2-bromophenyl)thiophene (3b), and conditions of dehydration cyclization, for example, HCl/AcOH and  $BF_3E_2O/CH_2Cl_2$ on the dehydration cyclization.

First of all, 3b was selected as o-halobiaryls and prepared by Suzuki coupling reaction between thienyl boronate ester and  $o$ -iodobromobenzene.<sup>9</sup> Grignard reagent from 3b was treated with 4c to obtain tertiary alcohol 5d, followed by dehydration cyclization with a total yield of nearly 80%. However, Suzuki reaction for 3b is very expensive. Compound  $3a$  was selected as  $o$ -halobiaryls, which was easily prepared by the bromination of 3-phenylthiophene. However, the dehydration cyclization of 5c was not efficient under the condition of HCl/HOAc and gave SITF in a low yield (35.7%). SITF and byproduct BPTF were separated and confirmed by single crystal X-ray diffraction (Fig.  $1$ ).<sup>[10](#page-3-0)</sup> BPTF was probably formed in the electrophilic substitution reaction between 3-phenylthiophene, a decomposition product of  $5c$  at 110 °C, and  $5c$ . Fortunately, we found that yield of SITF was effectively improved to 50.2% under  $BF_3Et_2O$  condition in dilute  $CH_2Cl_2$  (5c in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $4.8 \times 10^{-3}$  M) at room temperature.<sup>11</sup>

The desirable blue light-emitting materials  $2^{\prime},7^{\prime}$ bis([1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)-spiro[indeno[2,1-b]thiophene-8, 9'-fluorene] (BBP-SITF) and 2',7'-bis(9,9'-spirobifluo-



Figure 1. The single-crystal X-ray structures of SITF and BPTF.

ren-2-yl)spiro-[[8H]indeno[2,1-b]thiophene-8,9'-fluorene] (BSBF–SITF) have been prepared by Suzuki coupling reactions.[12](#page-3-0) The structures of SITF and its derivatives were confirmed by  ${}^{1}H$  NMR,  ${}^{13}C$  NMR, GC-MS, MALDI-TOF-MS, and elemental analysis.

The absorption spectra of BBP–SITF and BSBF–SITF ([Fig. 2\)](#page-2-0) exhibit maximum peaks at ca. 345 and 353 nm, respectively, which indicates that the conjugated chain length of biphenyl moieties is shorter than that of fluorene moieties. Their emission spectra show typical feature of terfluorene derivatives. The quantum yields of BSBF–SITF in dichloromethane were measured to be 89% by using 9,10-diphenylanthracene as standards ([Table 1](#page-2-0)). These results indicate that the introduction of heteroaryl substituents via the spiro center slightly affects the light emitting character by comparison with other manners, such as copolymerization. In addition, the electroluminescent spectrum has a similar profile compared with the solid film and no shift was

<span id="page-2-0"></span>

Figure 2. (Top) UV and PL of BBP–SITF and BSBF–SITF in  $CH_2Cl_2$ solution; (bottom) EL and PL of BSBF–SITF in the solid state.

observed, which illustrates that BSBF–SITF is a stable blue light-emitting material. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was performed to investigate the electrochemical behaviors as well as the HOMO and LUMO energy levels of BBP–SITF and BSBF–SITF (Fig. 3). The oxidation onset potential and reduction onset potential of BBP–SITF were measured to be  $E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{ox}} = 0.97$  and  $E_{\text{onset}}^{\text{red}} = -2.28$  V. Thus, the HOMO and LUMO energy levels were estimated to be  $-5.72$  and  $-2.47$  eV, respectively. These results indicate that incorporation of heteroaryl groups via the spiro structure slightly affects the electronic structures of main chains.

In conclusion, we have successfully designed and synthesized ter(9,9'-spirobifluorene)s analogue BSBF-SITF

Table 1. Physical data of spirans SITF, BBP–SITF, and BSBF–SITF



Figure 3. The redox cyclic voltammograms of BBP–SITF and BSBF– SITF on Pt electrodes in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/THF supported by  $nBu_4N^+PF_6^ (0.1 \text{ M})$  at a scan rate of 0.1 V/s.

with regioselective feature as a blue light-emitting material. BSBF–SITF has shown excellent thermal stability and luminescent properties in the spirobifluorene system, which indicate that BSBF–SITF will be promising for constructing complicated optoelectrical systems.

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-' Represents no characteristics.

<sup>a</sup> Measured in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solvent.<br><sup>b</sup> 9,10-Diphenylanthracene in cyclohexane solvent as a standard.

<sup>c</sup> The temperature was recorded corresponding to a 5% weight loss.

<sup>d</sup> HOMO/LUMO =  $-(E_{\text{onset}} - 0.0468 \text{ V}) - 4.8 \text{ eV}$ , where the value 0.0468 V is for FOC versus Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup>.

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- 10. Data for X-ray structure analysis were collected at room temperature on a Bruker SMART 1K CCD area detector with Mo  $K_{\alpha}$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Structures were solved by direct methods and refined against  $F^2$  with the full-matrix, least-squares methods using SHELXS-97 and SHELXL-97, respectively. Crystal data for SITF.  $C_{23}H_{14}S$ ,  $M = 322.40$ , colorless diamond  $0.15 \times 0.10 \times 0.04$  mm, hexagonal,  $P6_5$ ,  $Z = 6$ ,  $a = 19.158(4)$ ,  $b = 19.158(4)$ ,  $c = 8.518(4), \ \alpha = 90^{\circ}, \ \beta = 90^{\circ}, \ \gamma = 120^{\circ}, \ \ V = 2707.6(13)$ <br>  $\AA^3, \quad F(000) = 1008, \quad D_c = 1.186 \quad \text{Mg m}^{-3}, \quad \mu \quad \text{(Mo)}$  $K_{\alpha}$ ) = 0.178 mm<sup>-1</sup>. Crystal data for BPTF. C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>22</sub>S<sub>2</sub>,  $M = 482.63$ , colorless cuboid  $0.35 \times 0.30 \times 0.25$  mm, monoclinic,  $P2_1/c$ ,  $Z = 4$ ,  $a = 13.492(3)$ ,  $b = 12.732(3)$ ,  $c = 15.427(3),$   $\alpha = 90^{\circ},$   $\beta = 112.29(3)^{\circ},$   $\gamma = 90^{\circ},$ <br> $V = 2452.0(8)$   $\AA$ <sup>3</sup>,  $F(000) = 1008,$   $D_c = 1.307$  Mg m<sup>-3</sup>,  $\mu$ (Mo  $K_{\alpha}$ ) = 0.238 mm<sup>-1</sup>. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for the structures in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 298219 and 298220. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 IEZ, UK [fax: +44 (0)1223 336033 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].
- 11. Compound  $6a$ : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J =$ 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.39 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.29 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.00 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 6.63 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$ 152.40, 149.90, 148.70, 148.12, 147.62, 140.67, 140.57, 139.09, 131.48, 130.69, 128.61, 128.50, 128.00, 127.32, 125.96, 124.15, 123.80, 121.78, 121.69, 120.43, 119.68, 118.89, 63.88. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{23}H_{13}BrS$ : C, 68.83; H, 3.27; Br, 19.91; S, 7.99. Found: C, 68.80; H, 3.22; S, 7.94. GC–MS (EI- $m/z$ ): 400/402 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100). Compound 6b: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.60 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92  $(s, 2H)$ , 7.01 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d,  $J = 4.4$  Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2H), 7.59 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$  63.59, 118.98, 119.85, 121.76, 122.24, 123.83, 126.11, 127.38, 128.29, 131.04, 131.71, 139.00, 139.57, 147.71, 148.34, 149.62, 151.61. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>S: C, 57.53; H, 2.52; Br, 33.28; S, 6.68. Found: C, 57.49; H, 2.51; S, 6.64. GC–MS (EI- $m/z$ ): 478 (M<sup>+</sup>), 480, 482. Compound 7a: <sup>1</sup>H NMR

(400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.73 (m, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.58–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.47–7.41 (m, 3H), 7.37–7.21 (m, 6H), 7.21–7.12 (m, 2H), 6.95–6.88 (m, 3H), 6.81–6.77 (m, 4H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.29 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H). Anal. Calcd for C<sub>46</sub>H<sub>26</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 68.83; H, 3.27; Br, 19.91; S, 7.99. Found: C, 68.75; H, 3.26; S, 7.95. Compound 7b: <sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.32 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 6.55 (d,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, 1H), 6.84–6.86 (m, 3H), 6.91–6.92 (m, 3H), 6.99 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.22–7.26 (m, 3H), 7.30 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.46–7.48 (m, 3H), 7.56 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.60 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 1H), 7.62 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 2H). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{46}H_{24}Br_4S_2$ : C, 57.53; H, 2.52; Br, 33.28; S, 6.68. Found: C, 57.49; H, 2.53; S, 6.64. SITF: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.61 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H), 6.96 (t,  $J = 8$  Hz, 1H), 7.14 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.28 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.40 (m, 4H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.82<br>(d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (400 MHz, ppm):  $\delta$  64.10, 118.82, 119.51, 120.37, 123.79, 124.09, 125.82, 127.72, 128.19, 128.30, 130.37, 139.17, 141.68, 147.86, 147.92, 149.70, 153.21. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>14</sub>S: C, 85.68; H, 4.38; S, 9.95. Found: C, 85.71; H, 4.32; S, 9.99. GC–MS (EI $m/z$ ): 322 (M<sup>+</sup>). BPTF: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 6.53 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 4H), 6.76 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 2H), 6.87–6.94 (m, 6H), 7.02 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.11 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.13 (d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm):  $\delta$ 148.99, 144.12, 139.79, 139.73, 137.93, 132.27, 129.16, 127.87, 127.71, 127.40, 126.61, 126.48, 122.13, 119.65, 59.45. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>22</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 82.12; H, 4.59; S, 13.29. Found: C, 82.11; H, 4.57; S, 13.26. GC–MS (EI*m*/z): 482 (M<sup>+</sup>). PT-SITFF: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.24 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.73  $(t, J = 7.6 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H})$ , 6.77 (d,  $J = 5.6 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}$ ), 6.80 (d,  $J =$ 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.86 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.92 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.09–7.17 (m, 5H), 7.20–7.25 (m, 3H), 7.32 (t,  $J =$ 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1 H), 7.48 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{46}H_{28}S_2$ : C, 85.68; H, 4.38; S, 9.95. Found: C, 85.66; H, 4.36; S, 9.94. MS (MALDI-TOF): 644.3 (calcd for  $C_{46}H_{28}S_2$ : 644.2).

12. BBP-SITF: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.93 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.70 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.54 (m, 12H), 7.45–7.39 (m, 6H), 7.36 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 1H), 7.34–7.29 (m, 2H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 7.00 (t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ 153.10, 149.51, 148.99, 148.08, 140.86, 140.75, 140.61, 140.31, 139.98, 139.17, 130.53, 129.01, 127.80, 127.65, 127.58, 127.22, 127.54, 127.37, 125.92, 123.99, 122.61, 120.76, 119.58, 118.86, 64.21. Anal. Calcd for C47H30S: C, 90.06; H, 4.82; S, 5.12. Found: C, 90.04; H, 4.81; S, 5.10. MS (MALDI-TOF): 626.3. BSBF-SITF:  ${}^{1}H$  NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.85 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 4H), 7.80 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H), 7.39–7.31 (m, 12H), 7.26 (t, 1H), 7.12– 7.06 (m, 6H), 6.94–6.88 (m, 5H), 6.74 (t,  $J = 6.8$  Hz, 4H), 6.68 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 2H), 6.59 (d,  $J = 7.6$  Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm): δ 153.07, 149.51, 149.48, 149.33, 148.89, 148.65, 147.99, 141.41, 141.29, 141.14, 140.99, 140.32, 139.14, 141.99, 130.42, 128.08, 128.01, 127.95, 127.91, 127.68, 127.38, 125.84, 124.39, 124.12, 123.96, 122.81, 122.44, 120.39, 120.28, 120.24, 119.56, 118.87, 66.23, 64.13. Anal. Calcd for C73H42S: C, 92.18; H, 4.45; S, 3.37. Found: C, 92.16; H, 4.46; S, 3.35. MS (MALDI-TOF): 950.3.