

DOCTORAL THESIS

Synthesis, characterization and photophysical properties of platinum(II) metallopolyne polymers for photovoltaic applications

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**Synthesis, Characterization and
Photophysical Properties of Platinum(II)
Metallopolyyne Polymers for Photovoltaic
Applications**

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**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

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Abstract

The molecular design, synthesis, spectroscopic and photophysical characterization of a new series of transition metal-containing complexes and polymers incorporating different π -conjugated chromophores are discussed. The applications of some of these compounds in solar cells and materials science are also outlined.

In chapter 1, a brief overview of the development of solar cells is given. The techniques to optimize the performance of organic solar cells are highlighted.

Chapter 2 describes the synthesis and characterization of a series of donor-based metallopolyene polymers of platinum(II), which contain electron-rich chromophores. All the polymers exhibit good thermal stability and have a moderate to high degree of polymerization. Both optical absorption and photoluminescence properties of newly synthesized ligands and polymers and model complexes have been studied. In addition, the photovoltaic behavior of some of the polymers was examined, and the results indicate that the polymers are suitable materials for photovoltaic cell applications.

In chapter 3, a versatile system was developed for preparing fluorene-based conjugated metallic copolymers with tunable optical absorption, electrochemical and electronic properties for polymer solar cells (PSCs). The photophysical, charge-transporting, and electrical properties of our organometallic polymers can be

easily manipulated by variation of the oligothieryl chain length. This in turn can improve the performance of the resulting PSCs through extending the oligothieryl chain length in strongly absorbing polyplatinynes.

In chapter 4, ten solution-processable Pt(II) acetylide polymers functionalized with electron-deficient spacers were prepared and characterized. Optical spectroscopy and electrochemical data reveal narrow bandgap systems for most of the polymers. Inclusion of thiophene fragments into the electron-deficient units further expands the spectral width of absorption appropriate for sunlight harvesting in **P22**, **P25** and **P30**, which in turn can raise the performance of the resulting PSCs. For **P21** and **P22**, biological studies show that the metallopolymers are non-cytotoxic *in vitro* of up to 50 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ against HaCaT human skin keratinocytes and liver derived Hep3B cells. All these results reveal that such Pt(II) acetylide polymers can be a promising and safe material for the development of stable PLEDs. Based on their attractive physical, chemical and biological features, we could further make use of them for various purposes in photovoltaic and textile technologies.

In chapter 5, several heterobimetallic metallopolyyne polymers have been designed, successfully synthesized and fully characterized by spectroscopic and photophysical measurements. We examined the photovoltaic behavior of some of the polymers and found that they have the ability to convert solar energy to electricity, although the PCEs

are not very high. The PCE of **P36** with $V_{oc} = 0.59$ V, $J_{sc} = 0.98$ mA cm⁻² and FF = 0.25 and **P37** with $V_{oc} = 0.54$ V, $J_{sc} = 1.21$ mA cm⁻² and FF = 0.27 are 0.14% and 0.18%, respectively, indicating that they have the potential to be used for solar cell applications.

Chapters 6 and 7 present the concluding remarks and the experimental details of the work described in Chapters 2–5.

Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	v
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	xvi
List of Figures	xviii
List of Schemes	xxvi
List of Abbreviations	xxviii
List of Symbols	xxxii
Formula Index	xxxiii

Chapter 1

Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Solar Cells	2
1.3 Organic Solar Cells	4
1.4 Conjugated Polymers for Organic Solar Cell Applications	7
1.4.1 Requirement of Band Gap and HOMO-LUMO Energy	9
1.4.2 Strategies for Band Gap Engineering	12
1.4.3 Solubility Issues	20

1.5 Optimization of Polymer-Fullerene Composite Solar Cells	22
1.5.1 Electronic Donor-Acceptor Interactions	24
1.5.2 Morphology	28
1.5.2.1 Influence of the Solvent	30
1.5.2.2 Influence of the Compound Ratio	31
1.5.2.3 Influence of Annealing	32
1.6 Motivation and Aim of the Thesis	34
References	40

Chapter 2

Synthesis and Properties of Conjugated Donor-Based

Metallopolyyne Polymers

2.1 Introduction	48
2.2 Synthesis	53
2.2.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	53
2.2.1.1 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L1-2Br and L2-2Br	53
2.2.1.2 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L4-2Br and L5-2Br	54
2.2.1.3 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L6-2Br , L7-2Br and L8-2Br	55
2.2.2 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands	57
2.2.3 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Metallopolyynes	58
2.2.4 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Model Complexes	59

2.3 Results and Discussion	60
2.3.1 Spectroscopic Characterization	60
2.3.1.1 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy	60
2.3.1.2 ^{31}P NMR Spectroscopy	64
2.3.1.3 Infrared Spectroscopy	65
2.3.1.4 FAB Mass Spectrometry	67
2.3.2 Optical Absorbance and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy	67
2.3.3 Thermal Gravimetric Analysis and Molecular Weight Determination of Metallopolyyne Polymers	82
2.3.4 Redox Properties of Metallopolyyne Polymers	83
2.3.5 Photovoltaic Behavior of Metallopolyyne Polymers	85
2.4 Concluding Remarks	89
References	90

Chapter 3

Synthesis and Properties of Fluorene-Based Metallopolyyne

Polymers	94
3.1 Introduction	94
3.2 Synthesis	101
3.2.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	101
3.2.1.1 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L9-2I and L10-2Br	101

3.2.1.2 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L11-2Br and L12-2Br	102
3.2.1.3 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L13-2Br , L14-2Br and L15-2Br	103
3.2.1.4 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L16-2Br , L17-2Br and L18-2Br	104
3.2.1.5 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L19-2Br and L20-2Br	105
3.2.2 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands	107
3.2.3 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Metallopolyyne	108
3.2.4 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Model Complexes	109
3.3 Results and Discussion	110
3.3.1 Spectroscopic Characterization	110
3.3.1.1 ¹ H and ¹³ C NMR Spectroscopy	111
3.3.1.2 ³¹ P NMR Spectroscopy	115
3.3.1.3 Infrared Spectroscopy	116
3.3.1.4 FAB Mass Spectrometry	118
3.3.1.5 X-Ray Crystallography	118
3.3.2 Optical Absorbance and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy	122
3.3.3 Thermal Gravimetric Analysis and Molecular Weight Determination of Metallopolyyne polymers	144
3.3.4 Redox Properties of Metallopolyyne Polymers	145
3.3.5 Photovoltaic Behavior of Metallopolyyne Polymers	148

3.4 Concluding Remarks	151
------------------------	-----

References	152
------------	-----

Chapter 4

Synthesis and Properties of Donor-Acceptor Conjugated

Metallopolyyne Polymers	159
--------------------------------	-----

4.1 Introduction	159
------------------	-----

4.2 Synthesis	165
---------------	-----

4.2.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	165
--	-----

4.2.1.1 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L21-2Br and L22-2Br	165
--	-----

4.2.1.2 Synthesis of Ligand Precursor L23-2Br	166
--	-----

4.2.1.3 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L24-2Br and L25-2Br	167
--	-----

4.2.1.4 Synthesis of Ligand Precursor L26-2Br	168
--	-----

4.2.1.5 Synthesis of Ligand Precursor L27-2Br	169
--	-----

4.2.1.6 Synthesis of Ligand Precursor L28-2Br	171
--	-----

4.2.1.7 Synthesis of Ligand Precursors L29-2Br and L30-2Br	172
--	-----

4.2.2 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands	173
--------------------------------------	-----

4.2.3 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Metallopolyyne	174
--	-----

4.2.4 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Model Complexes	175
---	-----

4.3 Results and Discussion	176
----------------------------	-----

4.3.1 Spectroscopic Characterization	176
--------------------------------------	-----

4.3.1.1 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy	176
4.3.1.2 ^{31}P NMR Spectroscopy	180
4.3.1.3 Infrared Spectroscopy	181
4.3.1.4 FAB Mass Spectrometry	183
4.3.1.5 X-Ray Crystallography	183
4.3.2 Optical Absorbance and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy	184
4.3.2.1 Anthraquinone-based Compounds	184
4.3.2.2 Bithiazole-based Compounds	194
4.3.2.3 Benzothiadiazole/Phenothiazine-based Compounds	199
4.3.2.4 Pyrimidine-based Compounds	201
4.3.2.5 Phenothiazine-S,S-Dioxide-based Compounds	202
4.3.3 Thermal Gravimetric Analysis and Molecular Weight Determination of Metallopolyyne Polymers	208
4.3.4 Redox Properties of Metallopolyyne Polymers	210
4.3.5 Photovoltaic Behavior of Metallopolyyne Polymers	212
4.3.6 Cytotoxicity Test of Polymers on Human Cells	216
4.4 Concluding Remarks	220
References	221

Chapter 5

Synthesis and Properties of Heterobimetallic Metallopolyyne

Polymers	231
5.1 Introduction	231
5.2 Synthesis	233
5.2.1 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands	233
5.2.1.1 Synthesis of Ligands L31 and L32	233
5.2.1.2 Synthesis of Ligands L33–L35	234
5.2.1.3 Synthesis of Ligand L36	236
5.2.1.4 Synthesis of Ligand L37	237
5.2.2 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Metallopolyyne	237
5.2.3 Synthesis of Platinum(II) Model Complexes	238
5.3 Results and Discussion	240
5.3.1 Spectroscopic Characterization	240
5.3.1.1 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy	240
5.3.1.2 ^{31}P NMR Spectroscopy	244
5.3.1.3 Infrared Spectroscopy	245
5.3.1.4 FAB Mass Spectrometry	247
5.3.2 Optical Absorbance and Photoluminescence Spectroscopy	247
5.3.3 Thermal Gravimetric Analysis and Molecular Weight Determination of Metallopolyyne Polymers	262

5.3.4 Redox Properties of Metallopolyyne Polymers	263
5.3.5 Photovoltaic Behavior of Metallopolyyne Polymers	265
5.4 Concluding Remarks	268
References	269
Chapter 6	
Concluding Remarks and Future Work	271
Chapter 7	
Experimental Details	274
7.1 General	274
7.2 Materials	277
7.3 Experimental Details for Chapter 2	279
7.3.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	279
7.3.2 Synthesis of Compounds L1-2TMS–L8-2TMS	294
7.3.3 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands L1–L8	298
7.3.4 Synthesis of Platinum Metallopolyyne P1–P8	302
7.3.5 Synthesis of Platinum Model Complexes M1–M8	306
7.4 Experimental Details for Chapter 3	311
7.4.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	311
7.4.2 Synthesis of Compounds L9-2TMS–L20-2TMS	332

7.4.3 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands L9–L20	338
7.4.4 Synthesis of Platinum Metallopolyyynes P9–P20	345
7.4.5 Synthesis of Platinum Model Complexes M9–M18	350
7.5 Experimental Details for Chapter 4	357
7.5.1 Synthesis of Halogenated Ligand Precursors	357
7.5.2 Synthesis of Compounds L21-2TMS–L30-2TMS	382
7.5.3 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands L21–L30	388
7.5.4 Synthesis of Platinum Metallopolyyynes P21–P30	394
7.5.5 Synthesis of Platinum Model Complexes M21–M30	399
7.6 Experimental Details for Chapter 5	406
7.6.1 Synthesis of Diethynyl Ligands L31–L37	406
7.6.2 Synthesis of Platinum Metallopolyyynes P31–P37	423
7.6.3 Synthesis of Platinum Model Complexes M31–M36	426
References	431
Curriculum Vitae	432