

## Supporting Information

### SI1. Synthetic protocols

SI1.1 *Synthesis of 3-(thiophen-2-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-Th)TT*

SI1.2 *Synthesis of 3,7-di(thiophen-2-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT*

SI1.3 *Synthesis of 3,7,11-tri(thiophen-2-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-Th)<sub>3</sub>TT*

SI1.4 *Synthesis of 3-([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-biTh)TT*

SI1.5 *Synthesis of 3,7-di([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT*

SI1.6 *Synthesis of 3,7,11-tri([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-*

### **biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT**

SI1.7 Product characterization

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SI3.1 Absorption spectrum of parent **TT** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

SI3.2 Absorption and emission spectra of **(4-Py)<sub>n</sub>TT** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

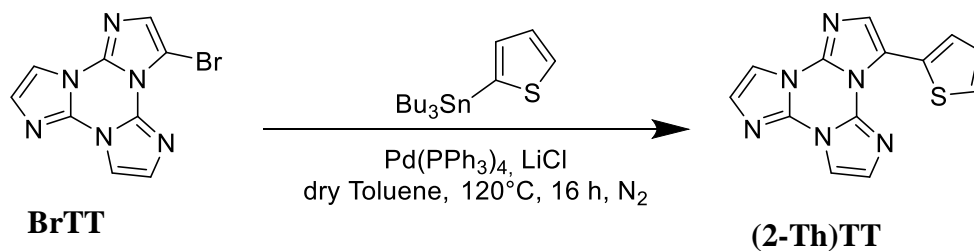
SI3.3 Absorption and emission spectra of **(2-Th)<sub>n</sub>TT** and **(2-biTh)<sub>n</sub>TT** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

SI3.4 Lifetime spectra

### SI4. Supplementary Electrochemical/Spectroelectrochemical data

### SII.1. Synthesis of 3-(thiophen-2-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (**(2-Th)TT**)

**(2-Th)TT** was prepared by Stille coupling between **BrTT** and 2-(tributylstannyl)thiophene (see **Scheme S1.1**).

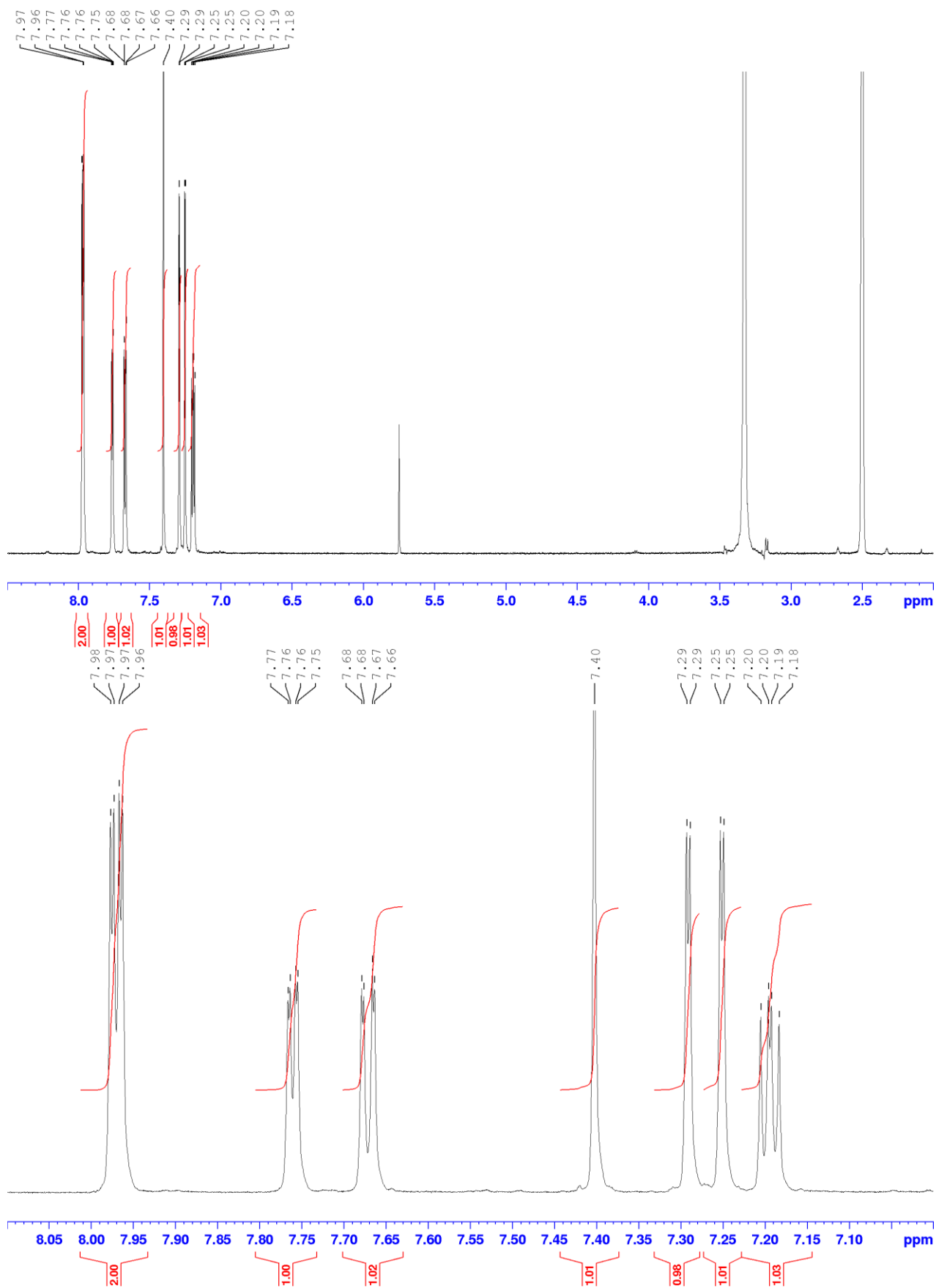


**Scheme SII.1.** Synthetic path for the preparation of **(2-Th)TT**

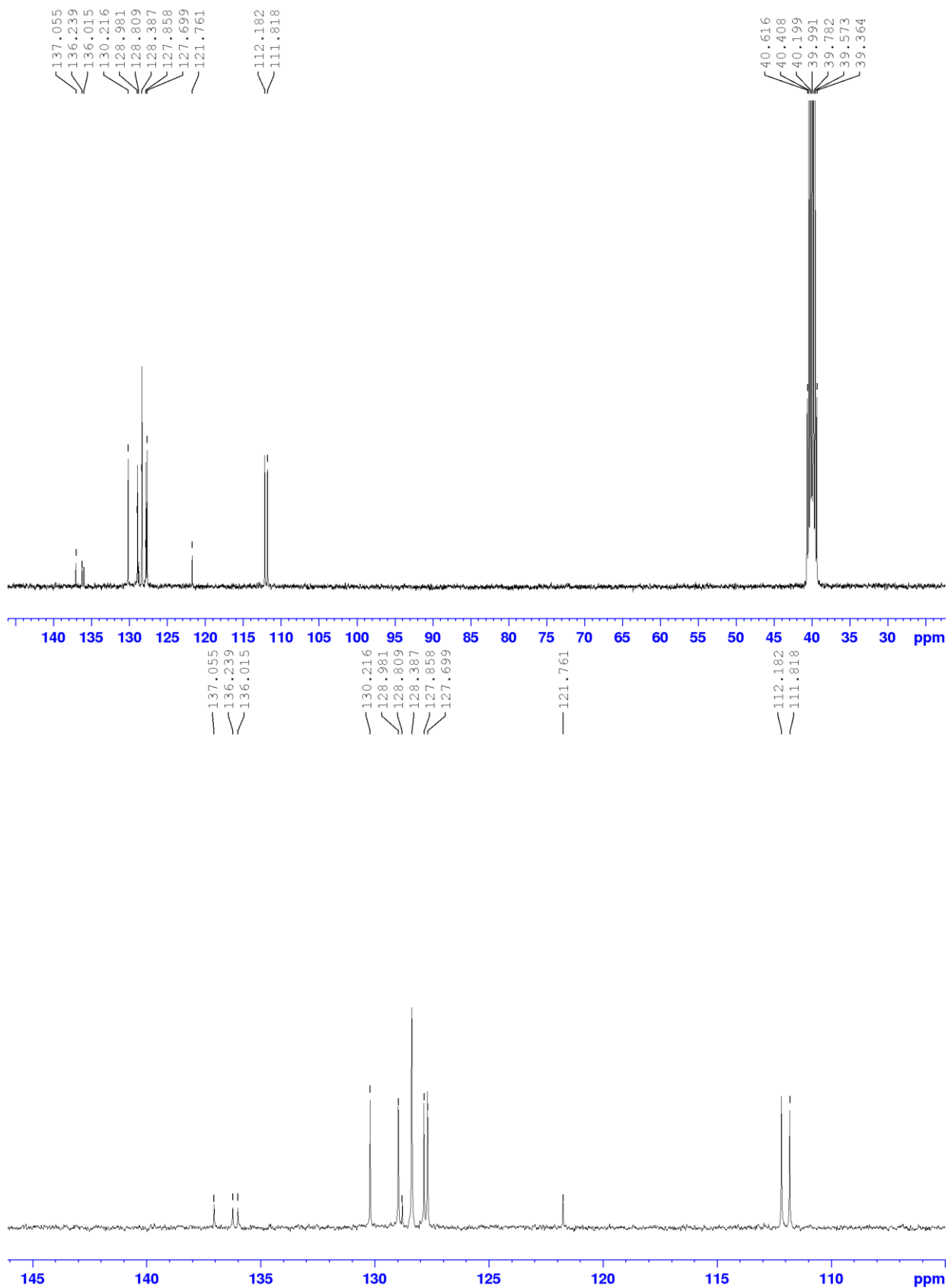
In a typical reaction, **BrTT** (0.250 g; 0.902 mmol), 2-(tributylstannyl)thiophene (0.315 mL, 0.992 mmol), LiCl (0.382 g, 9.202 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.104 g, 0.091 mmol) and dry toluene (15 mL) were transferred inside a dried 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer and three freeze-pump-thaw cycles were performed. The system was heated under static nitrogen atmosphere at 120 °C for 16 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and filtered on a Büchner with filter paper. The crude reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness and further purified by flash chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeCN as eluents to give **(2-Th)TT** as a white solid (0.170 g, 67% Yield, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.3 in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeCN = 8/2). Before performing the spectroscopic and electrochemical characterization, the product was further purified by crystallization from DCM/MeOH.

**NMR data (9.4 T, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, 298 K,  $\delta$ , ppm):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR 7.98 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (dd, J = 3.6, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (dd, J = 5.1, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (s, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.23 – 7.16 (dd, J = 3.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR 137.06 (C), 136.25 (C), 136.02 (C), 130.22 (CH), 128.98 (CH), 128.81 (C), 128.39 (CH), 127.86 (CH), 127.70 (CH), 121.77 (C), 112.19 (CH), 111.82 (CH) (Figures S1-S2).

**MS** (ESI-positive ion mode): *m/z*: 280.95 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Figure S3).



**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-Th)TT (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of (2-Th)TT (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).

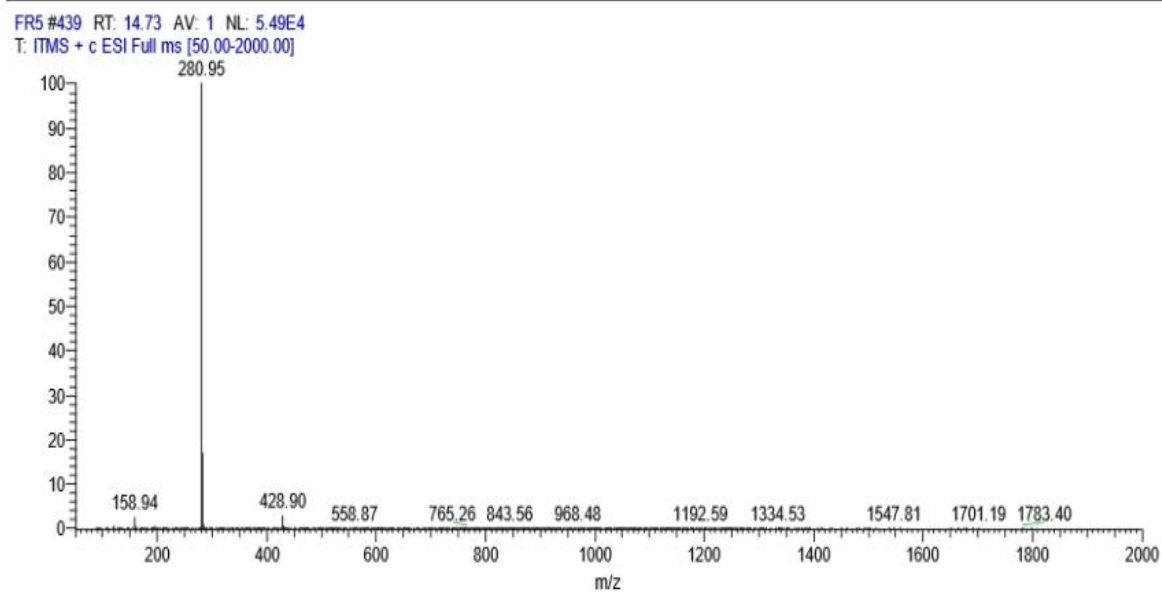
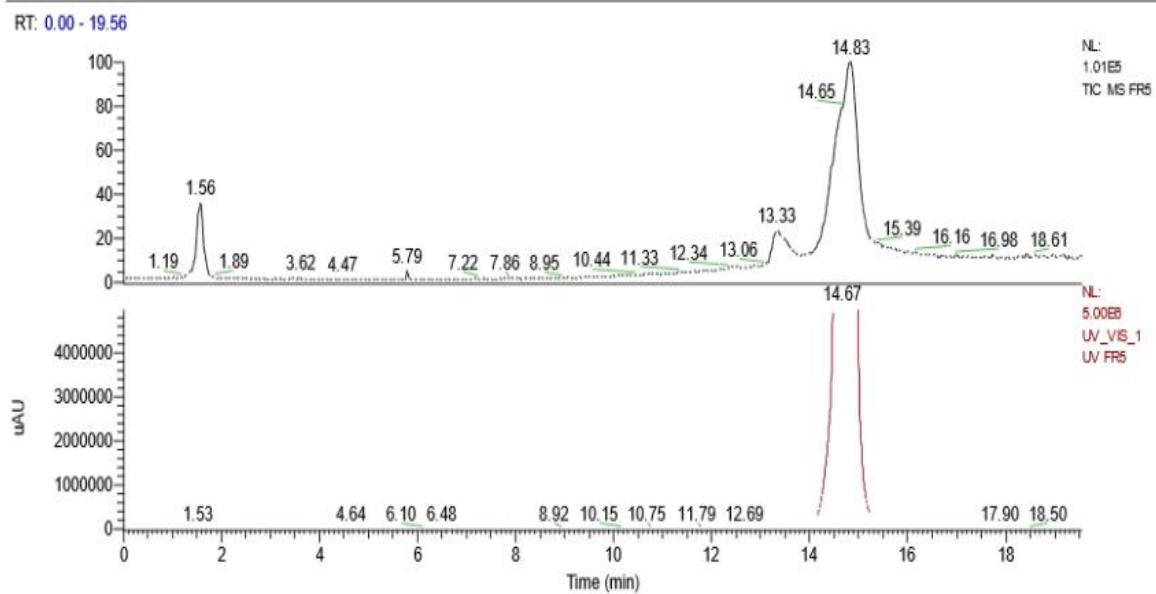
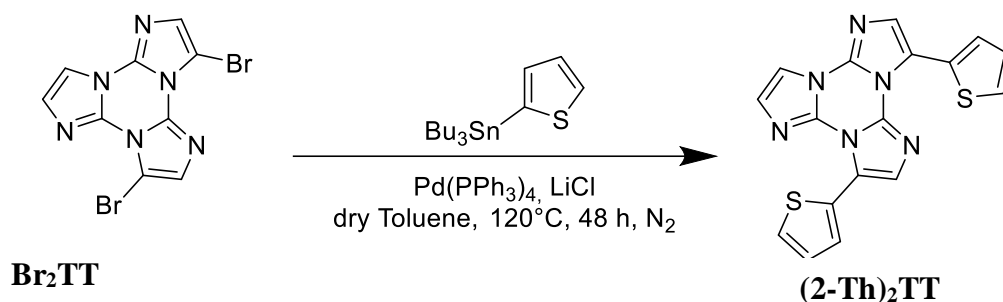


Figure S3: LC-MS profile of (2-Th)TT.

## SII.2 Synthesis of 3,7-di(thiophen-2-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (**(2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT**)

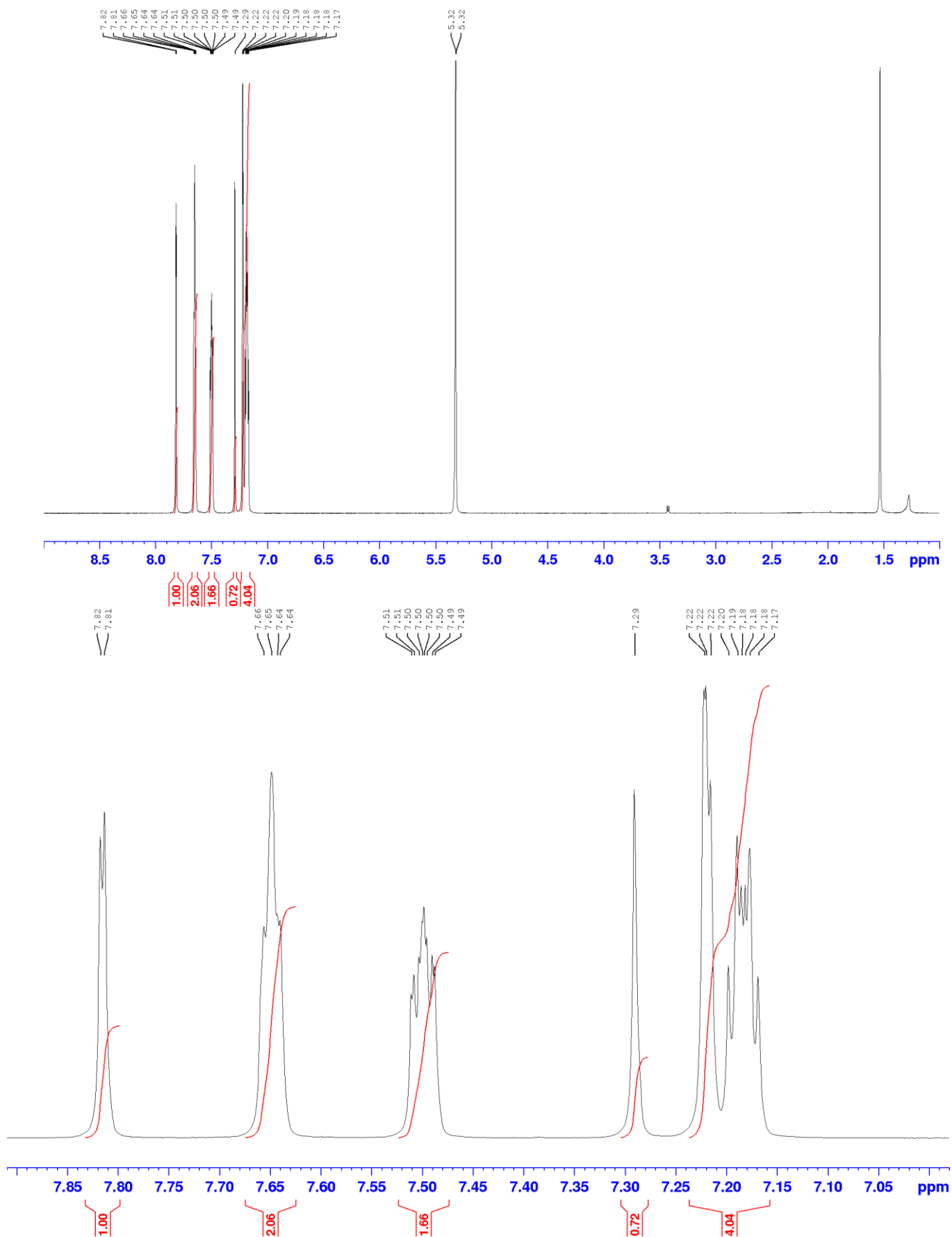


**Scheme SII.2** Synthetic path for the preparation of **(2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT**

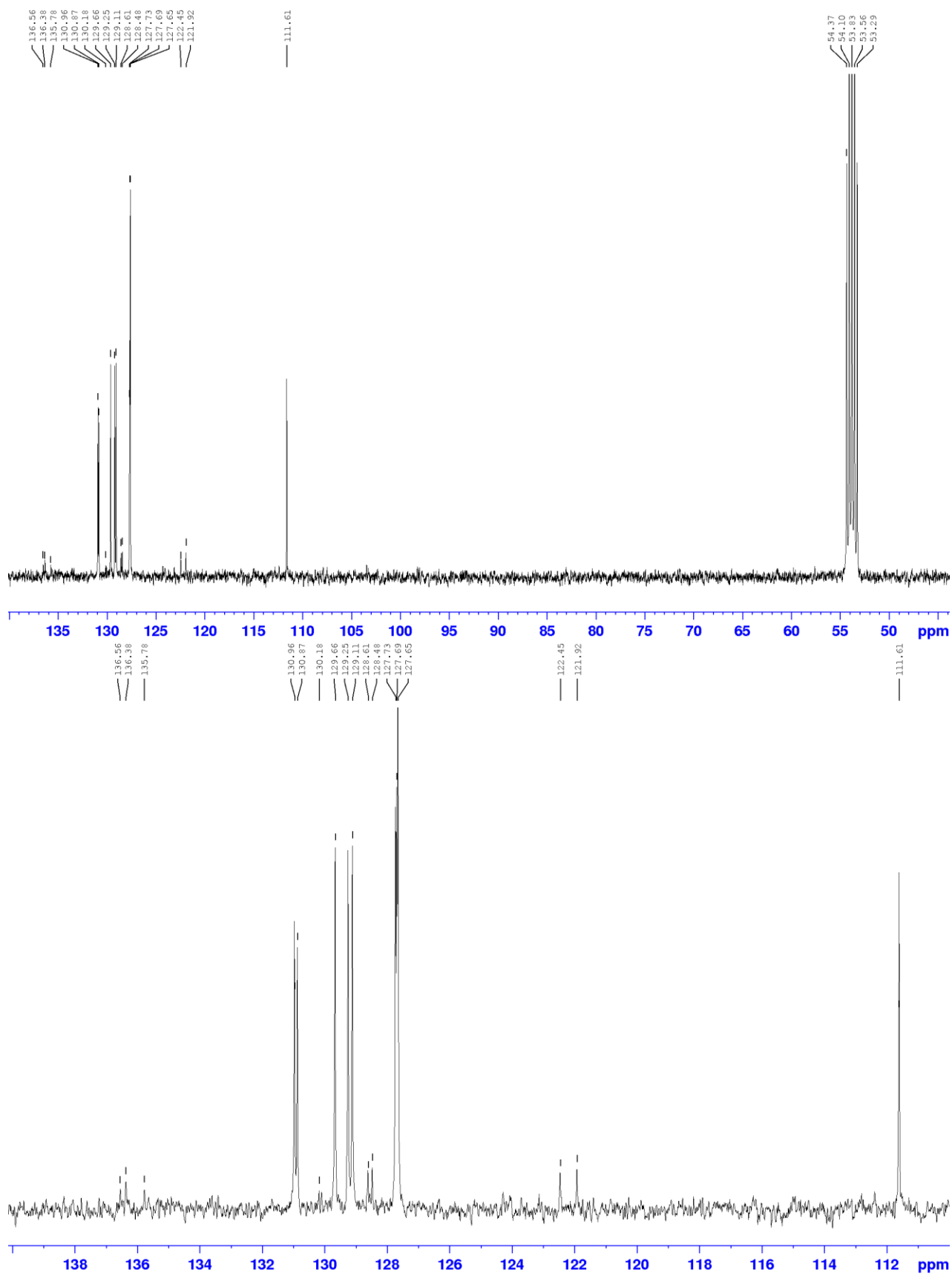
**(2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT** was prepared by Stille coupling between **Br<sub>2</sub>TT** and 2-(tributylstannyl)thiophene (see Scheme SII.2). In a typical reaction, **Br<sub>2</sub>TT** (0.300 g; 0.843 mmol), 2-(tributylstannyl)thiophene (1.00 mL, 3.371 mmol), CuO (0.302 mg, 3.793 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.059 g, 0.084 mmol) and dry toluene (10 mL) were transferred inside a dried 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer and three freeze-pump-thaw cycles were performed. The system was heated under static nitrogen atmosphere at 120 °C for 48 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with 50 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and filtered on Celite. The organic phase was evaporated in vacuum and the solid crude reaction mixture was further purified by automated flash chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> with Hexane/AcOEt as eluents to give the **(2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT** product as a white solid (0.543 g, 63% Yield, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.65 in Hexane/AcOEt = 7/3).

**NMR data (9.4 T, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K, δ, ppm):** <sup>1</sup>H NMR 7.82 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.50 (m, 2H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.24 – 7.15 (m, 5H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR 136.56 (C), 136.38 (C), 135.79 (C), 130.97 (CH), 130.88 (CH), 129.67 (CH), 129.25 (CH), 129.12 (CH), 128.61 (C), 128.48 (C), 127.73 (CH), 127.69 (CH), 122.46 (C), 121.92 (C), 111.61 (CH) (Figures S4-S5).

**MS** (ESI-positive ion mode): *m/z*: 363.20 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Figure S6).



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



**Figure S5.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of (2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



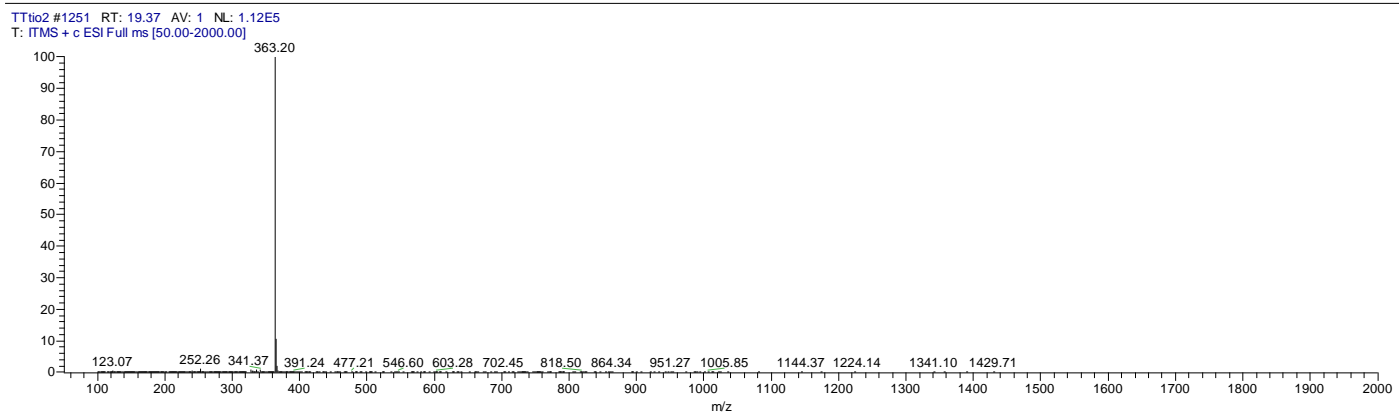
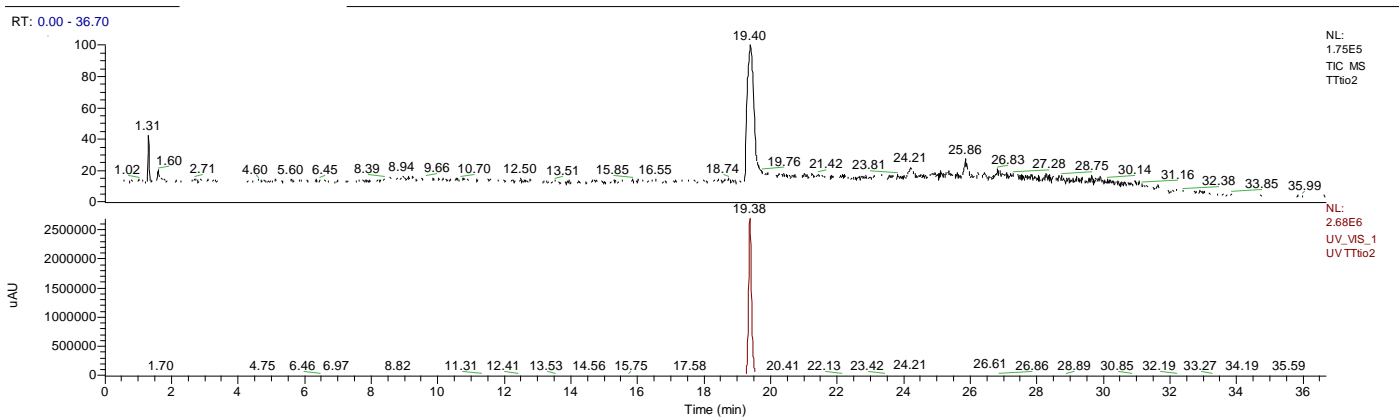
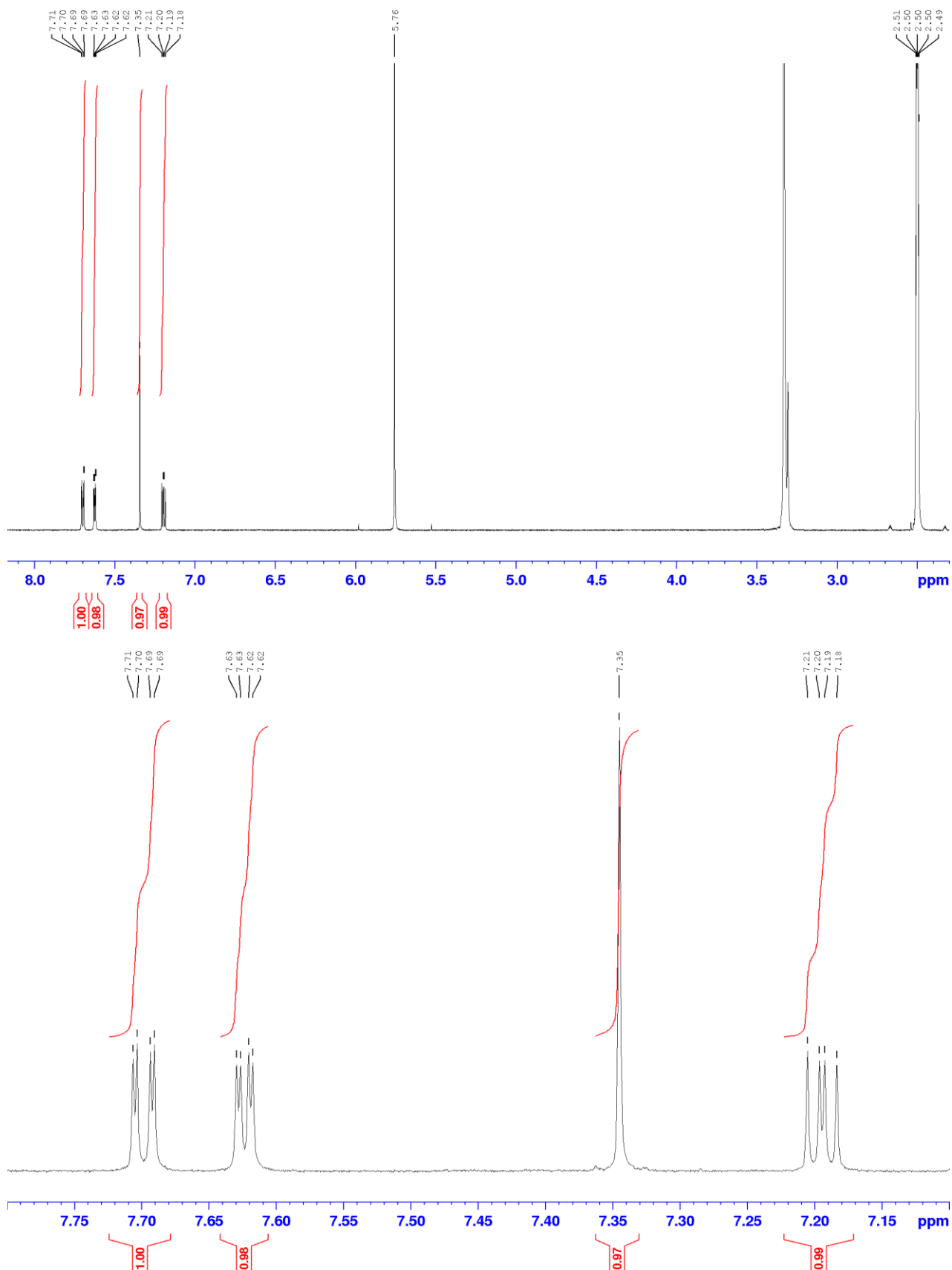
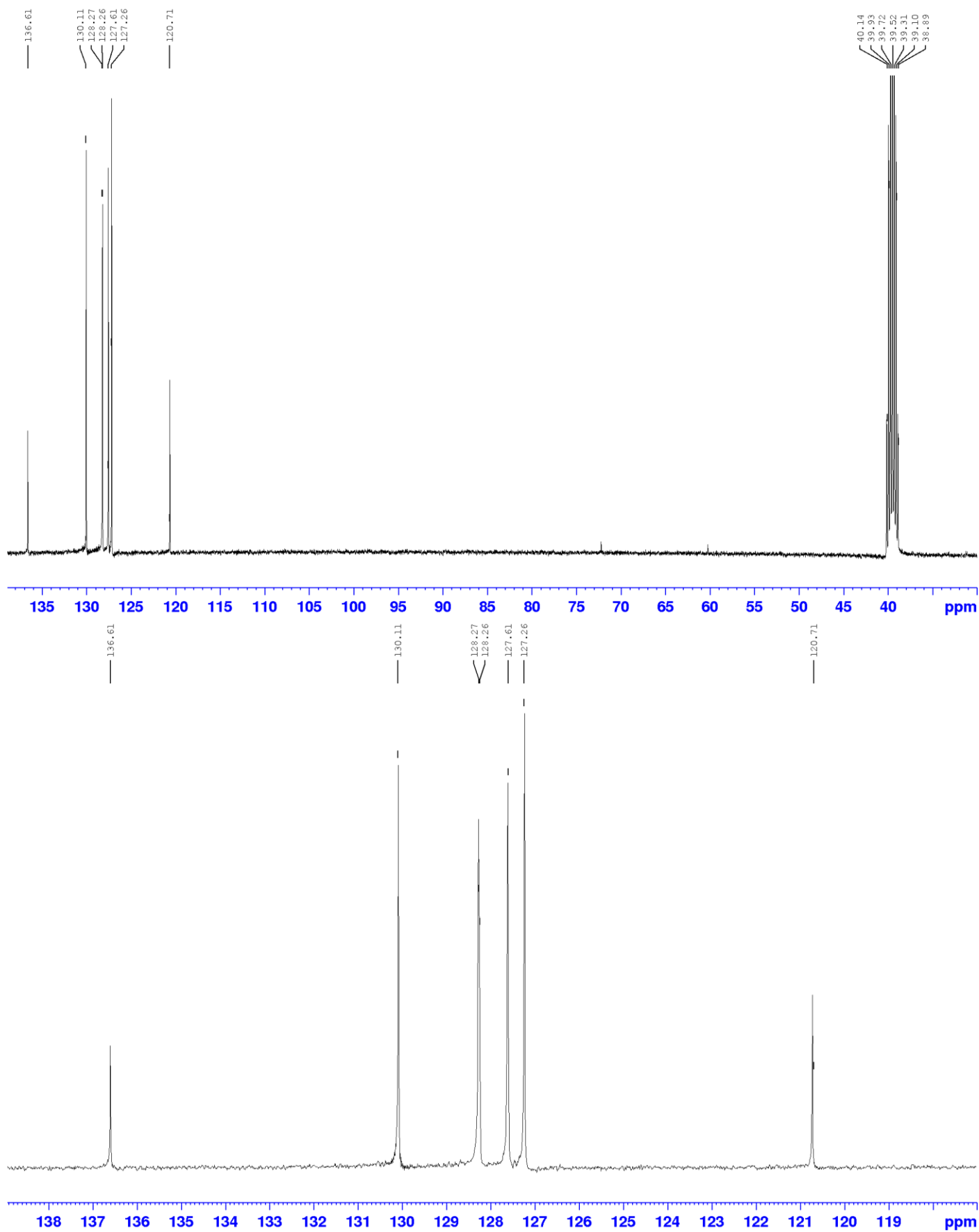


Figure S6: LC-MS profile of (2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT.

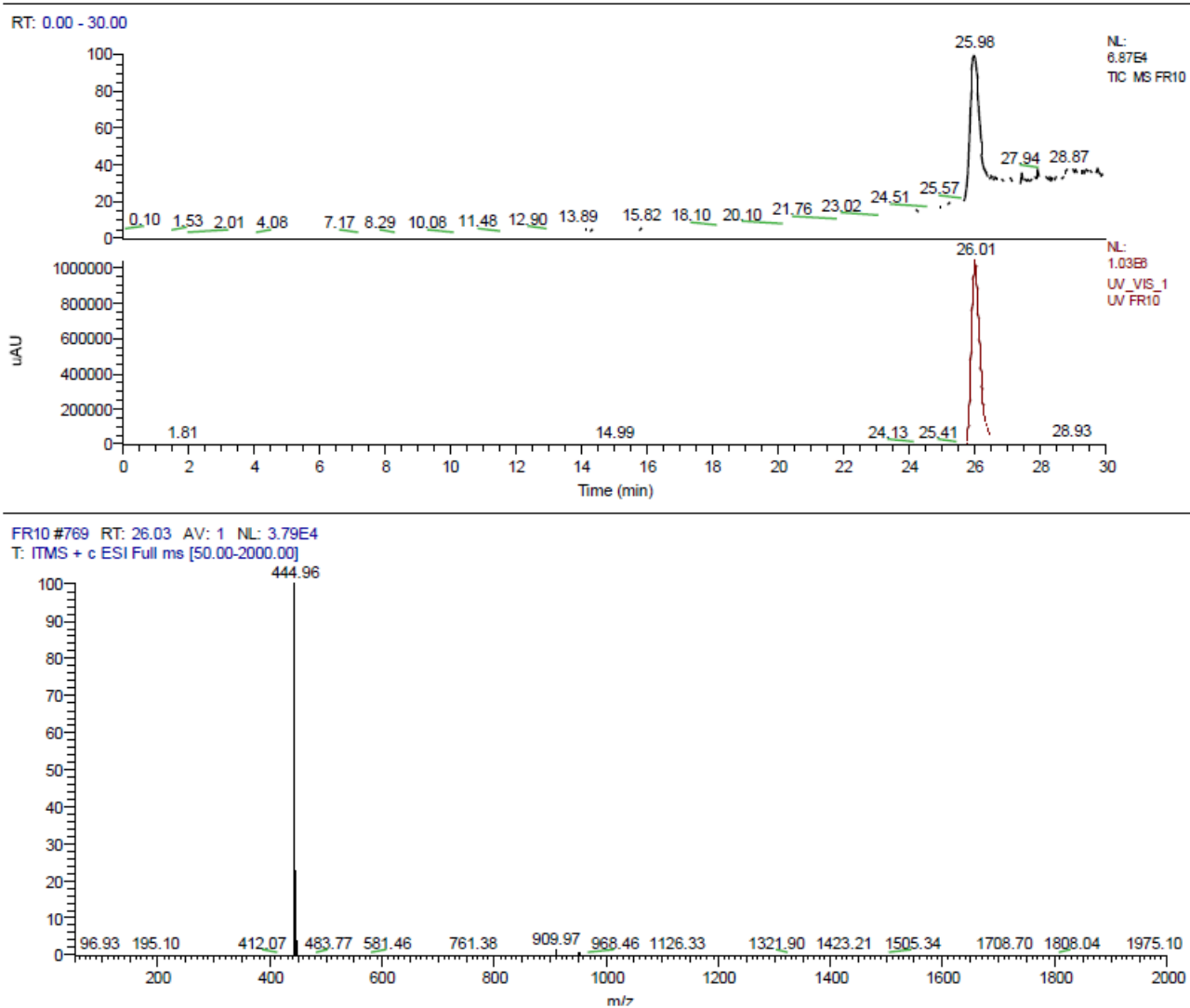




**Figure S7:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-Th)<sub>3</sub>TT (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).

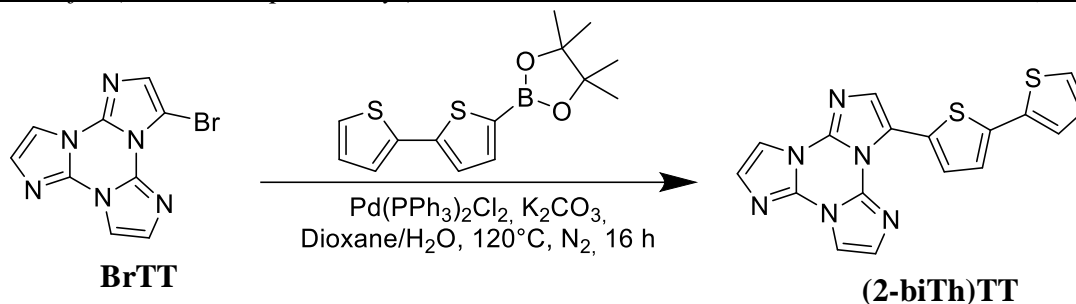


**Figure S8:**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $(2\text{-Th})_3\text{TT}$  (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ , top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



**Figure S9:** LC-MS profile of (2-Th)<sub>3</sub>TT.

#### SI1.4 Synthesis of 3-([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (**2-biTh**)TT

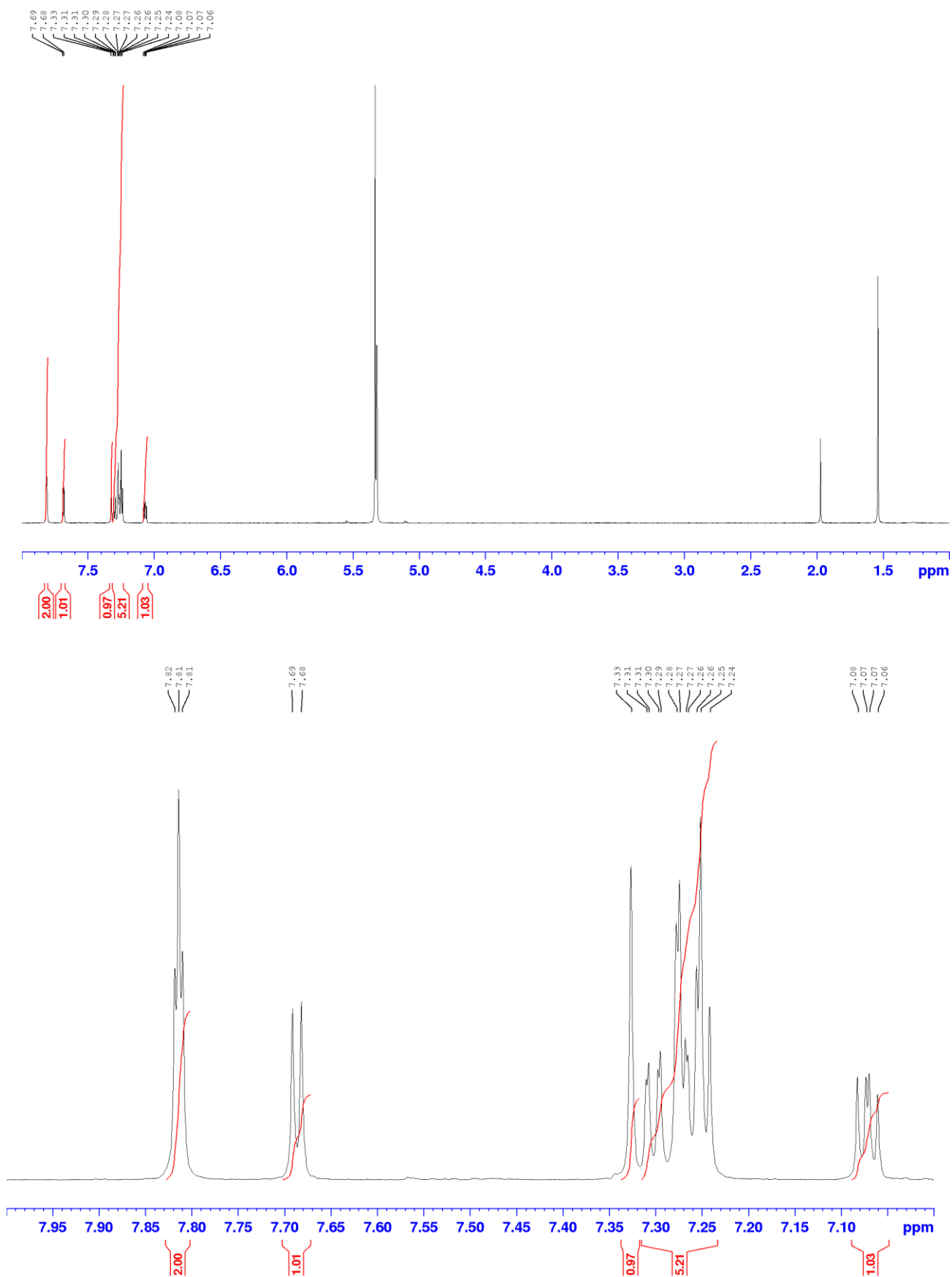


**Scheme SI1.4** Synthetic path for the preparation of (**2-biTh**)TT

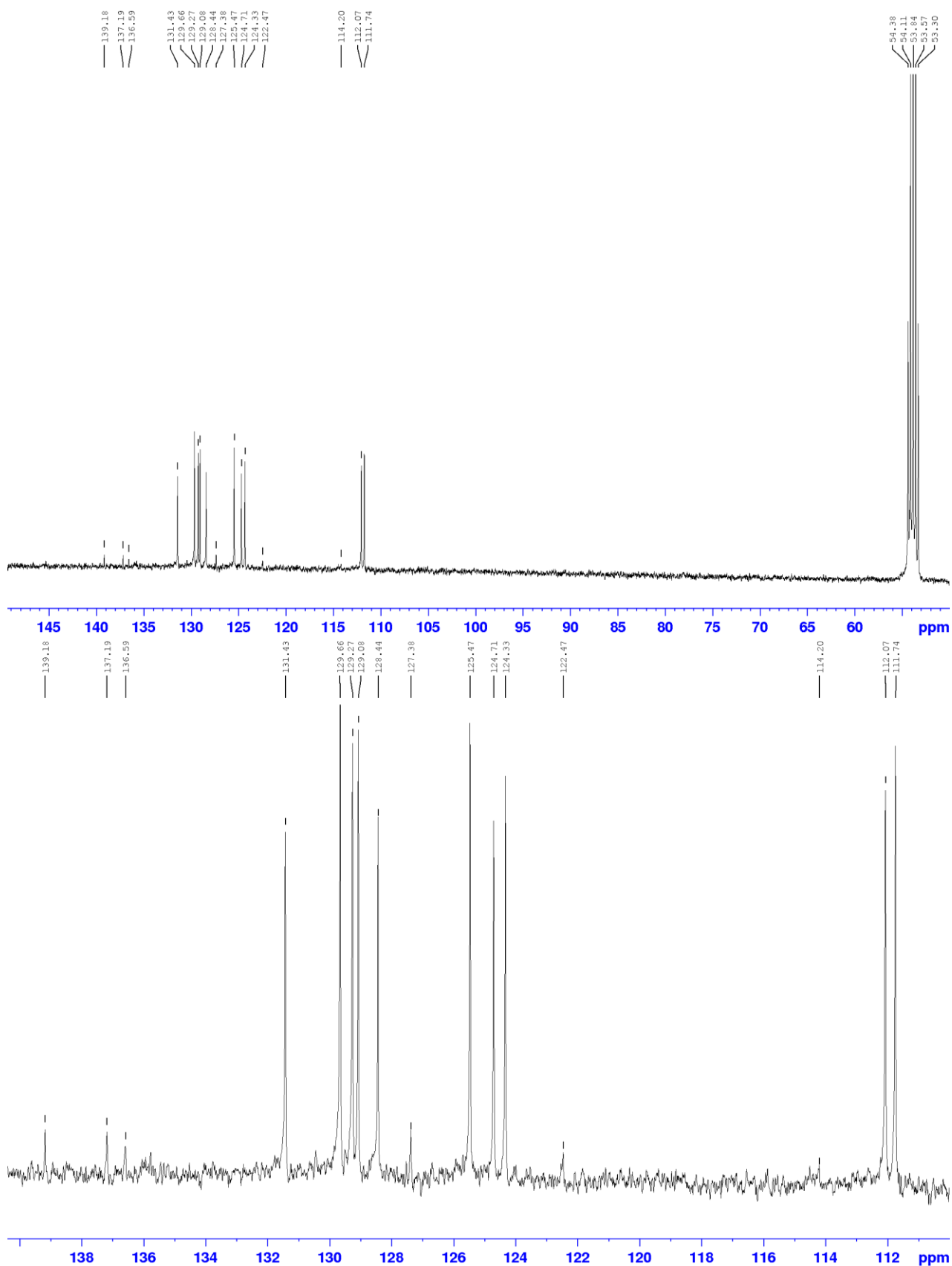
(**2-biTh**)TT was prepared by Suzuki-Miyaura cross coupling between **BrTT** and 2,2-bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester. In a typical reaction, **BrTT** (0.200 g; 0.722 mmol), 2,2-bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester (0.232 g, 0.794 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.051 g, 0.072 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.998 g, 7.218 mmol), dioxane (8 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) were transferred inside a 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The system was heated under static nitrogen atmosphere at 120 °C for 48 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with 50 mL of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> filtered on Büchner. The liquid phase was evaporated in vacuum and the crude was purified by flash chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeCN as eluents to give (**2-biTh**)TT product as a light green solid. Solid was further washed with MeCN getting a white compound (0.1517 g, 58 % Yield, R<sub>f</sub> 0.30 in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeCN 10%).

**NMR data (9.4 T, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K,  $\delta$ , ppm)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR 7.81 (t, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 – 7.23 (m, 6H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.6 Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR 139.18 (C), 137.19 (C), 136.60 (C), 131.44 (CH), 129.67 (CH), 129.27 (CH), 129.08 (CH), 128.44 (CH), 127.39 (C), 125.47 (CH), 124.71 (CH), 124.33 (CH), 122.47 (C), 114.20 (C), 112.07 (CH), 111.75 (CH) (Figures S10-S11).

**MS** (ESI-positive ion mode): *m/z*: 363.23 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Figure S12).



**Figure S10:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-biTh)TT (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



**Figure S11:** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of (2-biTh)TT (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



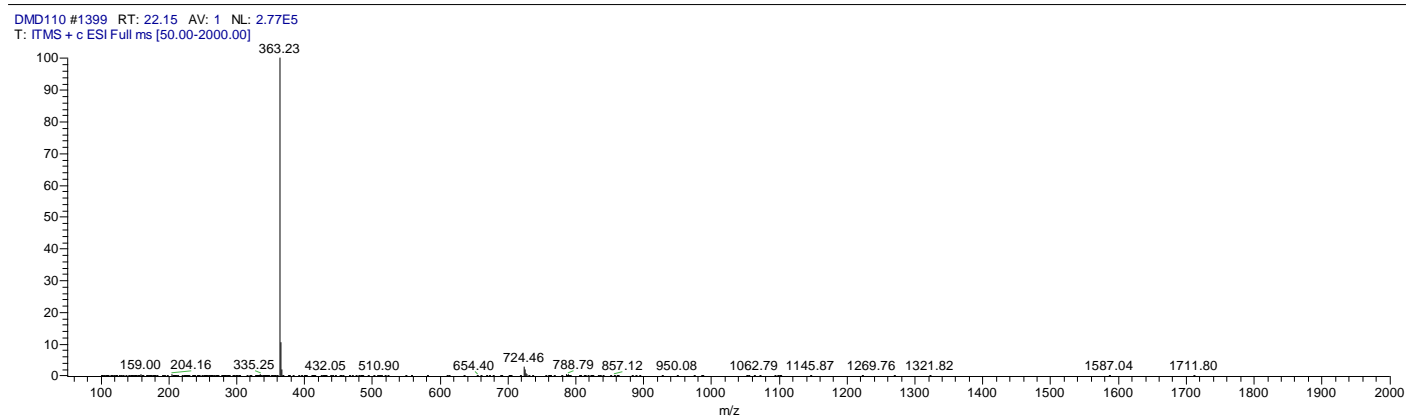
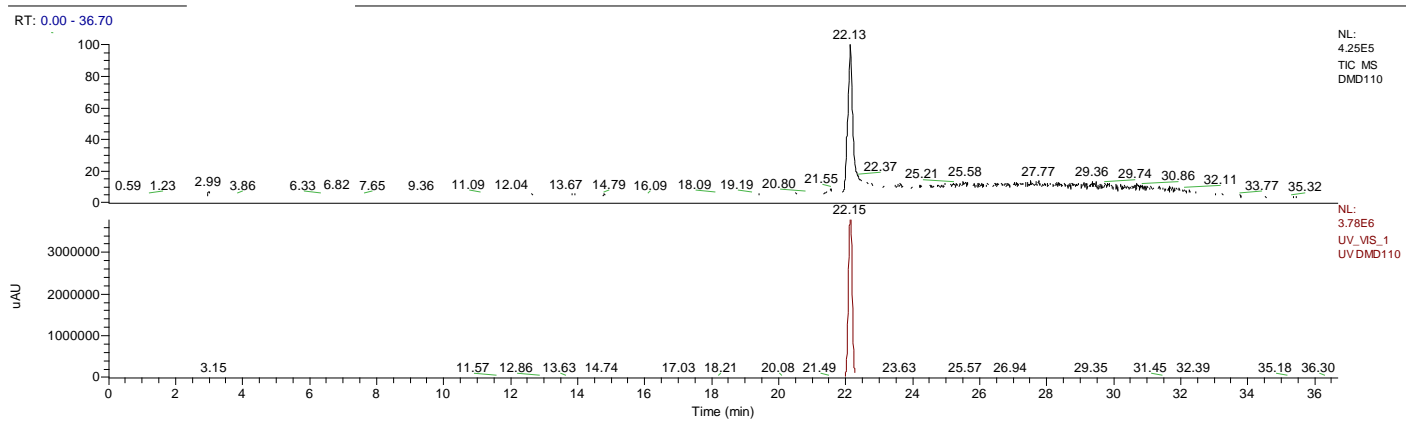
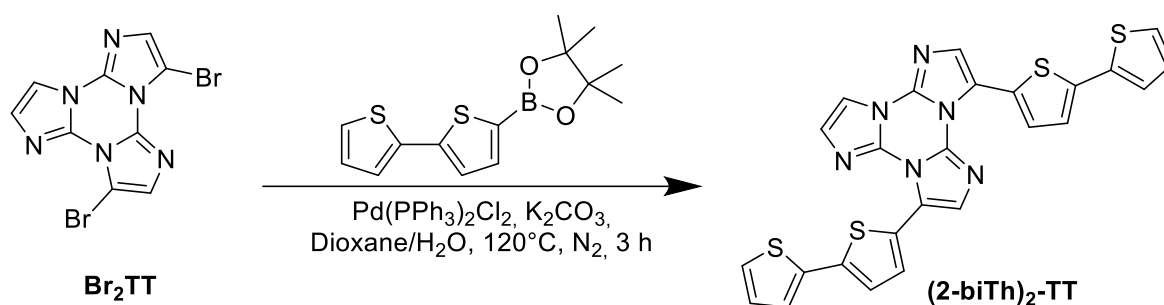


Figure S12: LC-MS profile of (2-biTh)TT.

### SI1.5 Synthesis of 3,7-di([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (**(2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT**)

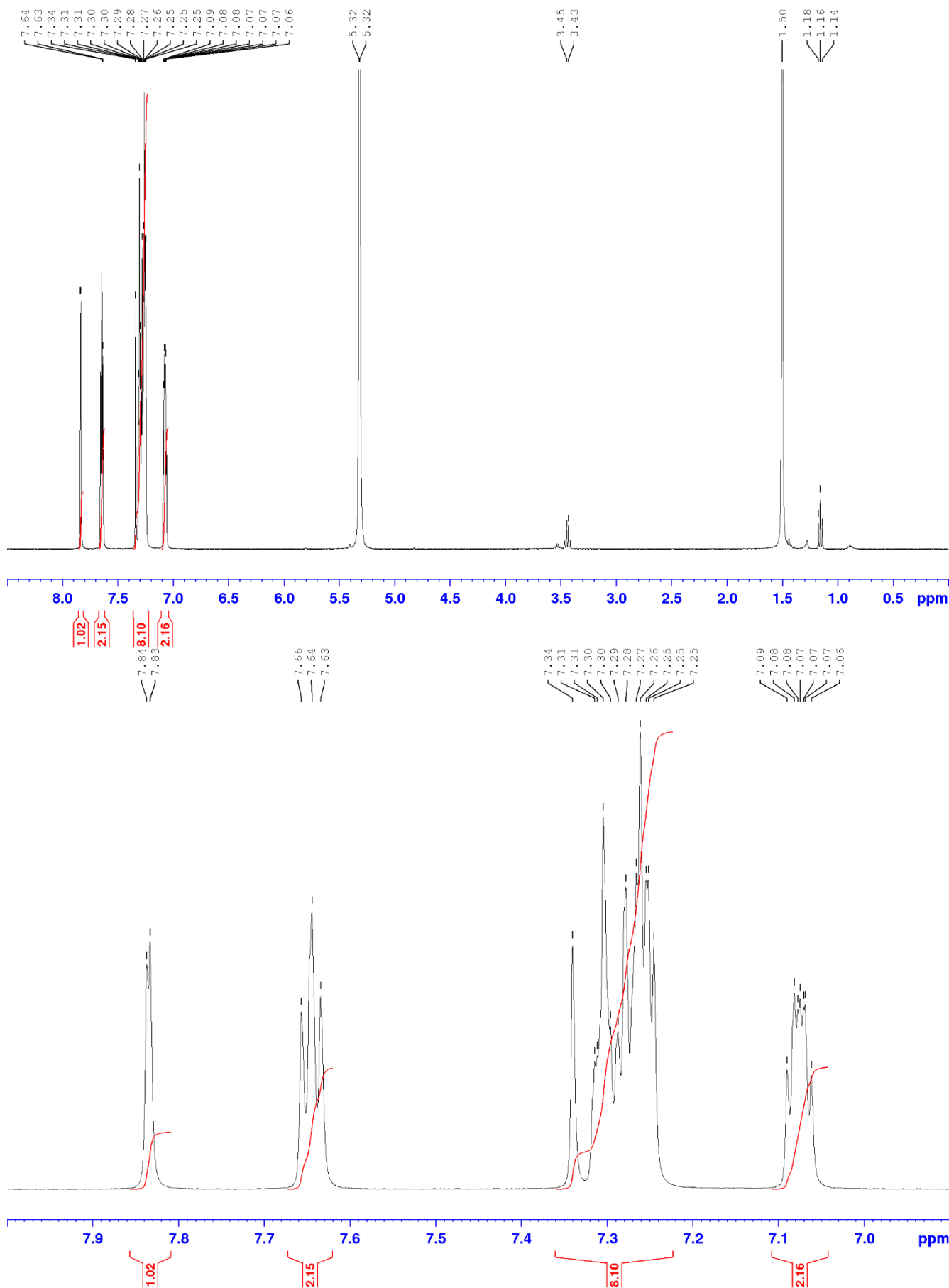


**Scheme SI1.5** Synthetic path for the preparation of **(2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT**

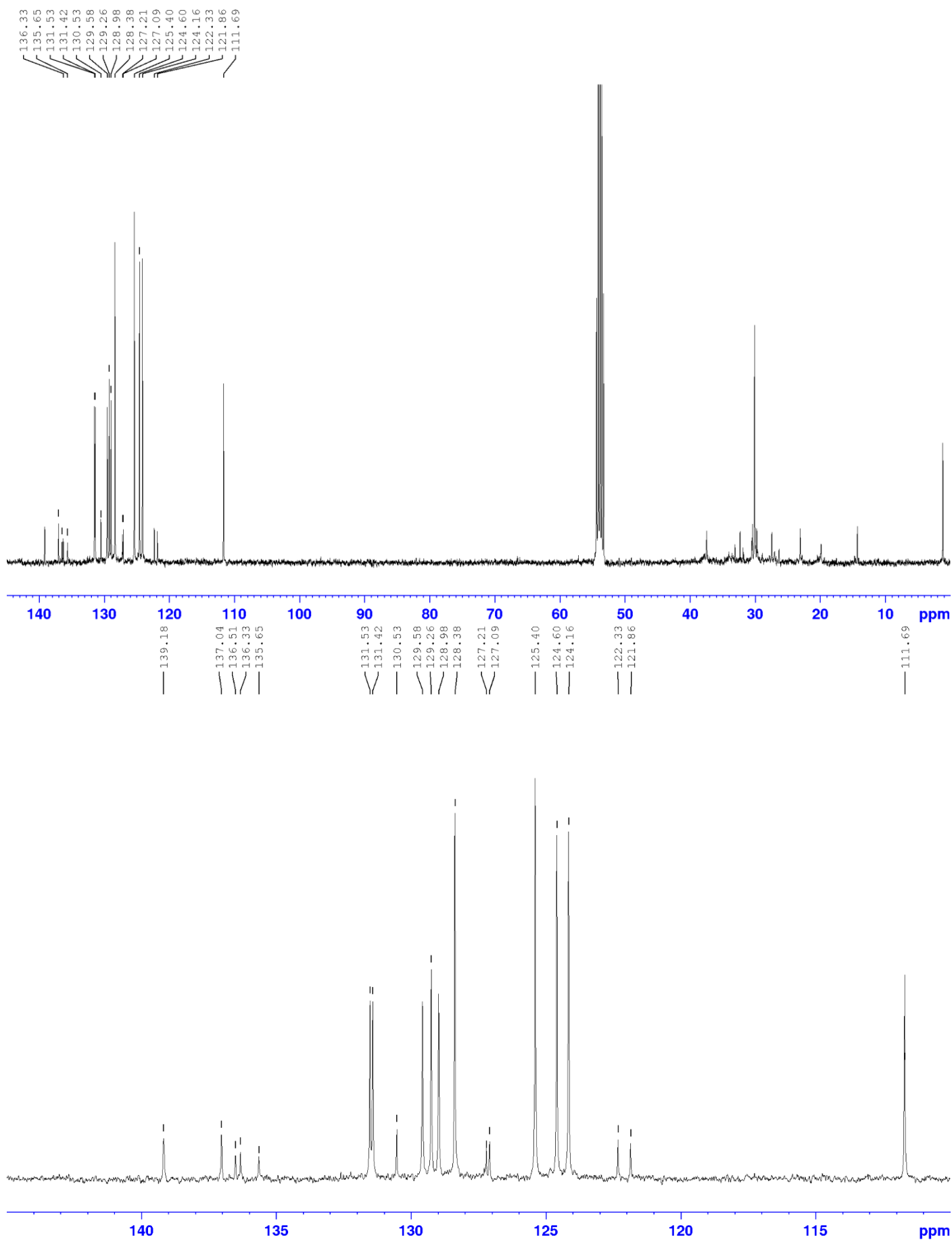
**(2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT** was prepared by Suzuki-Miyaura cross coupling between **Br<sub>2</sub>TT** and 2,2 -bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester. In a typical reaction, **Br<sub>2</sub>TT** (0.100 g; 0.281 mmol), 2,2 -bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester (0.181 g, 0.618 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.020 g, 0.028 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.388 g, 2.809 mmol), 1,4-Dioxane (8 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL) were transferred inside a 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The system was heated under static nitrogen atmosphere at 120 °C for 3 h. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature, diluted with 50 mL of water and filtered on Büchner and the solid recover and dried in vacuum. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> with DCM/ACN as eluents to give **(2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT** product as a light green solid. (0.076 g, 51 % Yield, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.45 in DCM/ACN=96/4).

**NMR data (9.4 T, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 298 K, δ, ppm)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR 7.84 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (m, 2H), 7.34 – 7.22 (m, 9H), 7.10 – 7.05 (m, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR 139.18 (C), 137.04 (C), 136.51 (C), 136.33 (C), 135.65 (C), 131.52 (CH), 131.42 (CH), 130.53(CH), 129.58 (CH), 129.26 (CH), 129.08 (CH), 128.98 (CH), 128.38 (CH), 127.21 (C), 127.09 (C), 125.40 (CH), 124.60 (CH), 124.16 (CH), 122.33 (C), 121.86 (C), 111.69 (C) (Figures S13-S14).

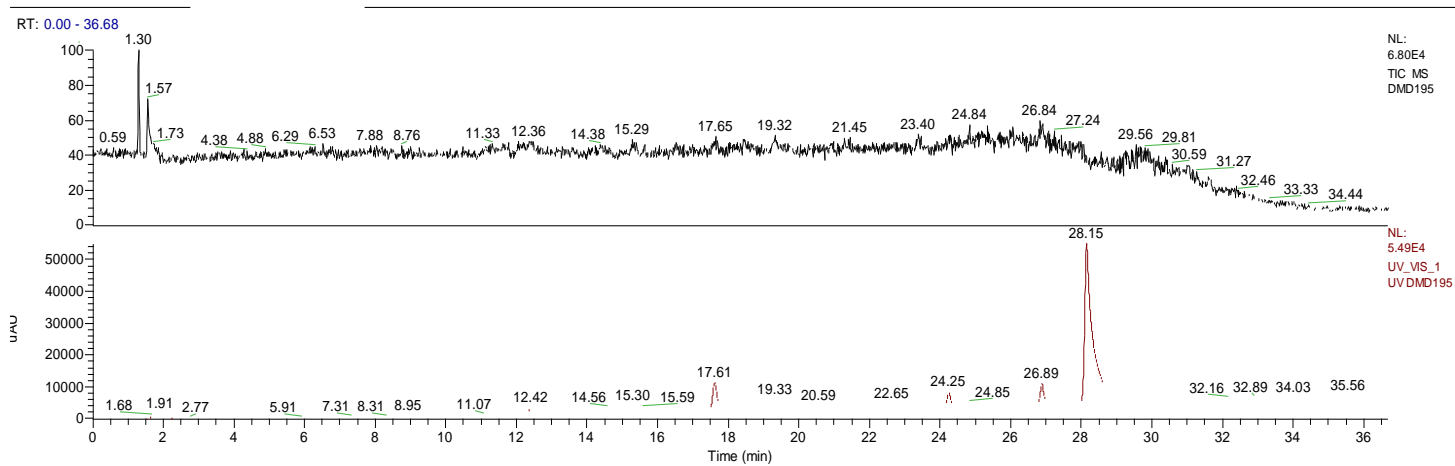
**MS** (ESI-positive ion mode): *m/z*: 527.23 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Figure S15).



**Figure S13:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT (400 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



**Figure S14:** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of (2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT (100 MHz, CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).



DMD195 #1854 RT: 28.17 AV: 1 NL: 2.09E3  
T: ITMS + c ESI Full ms [50.00-2000.00]

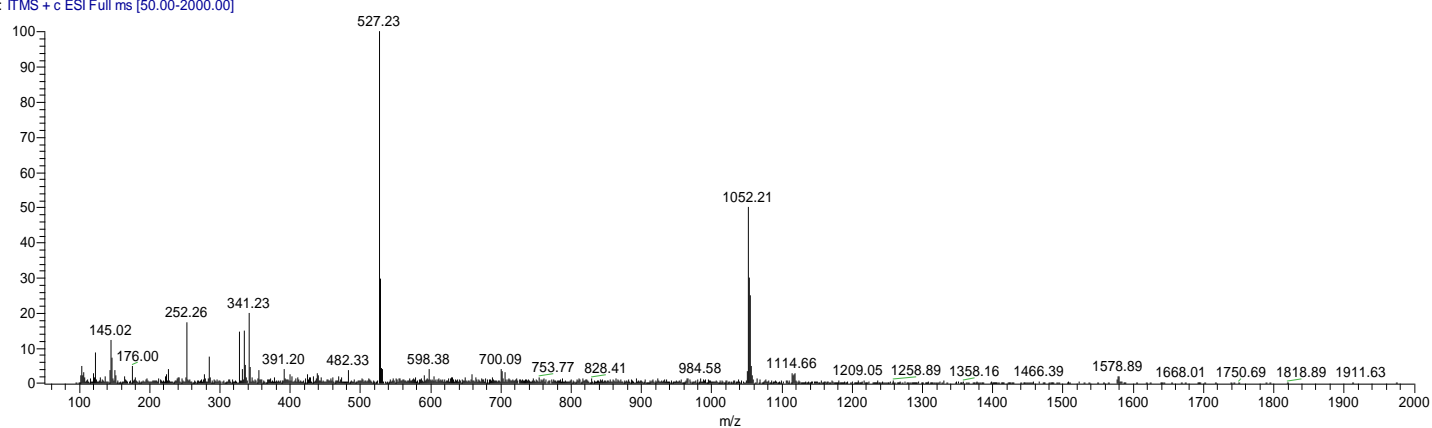
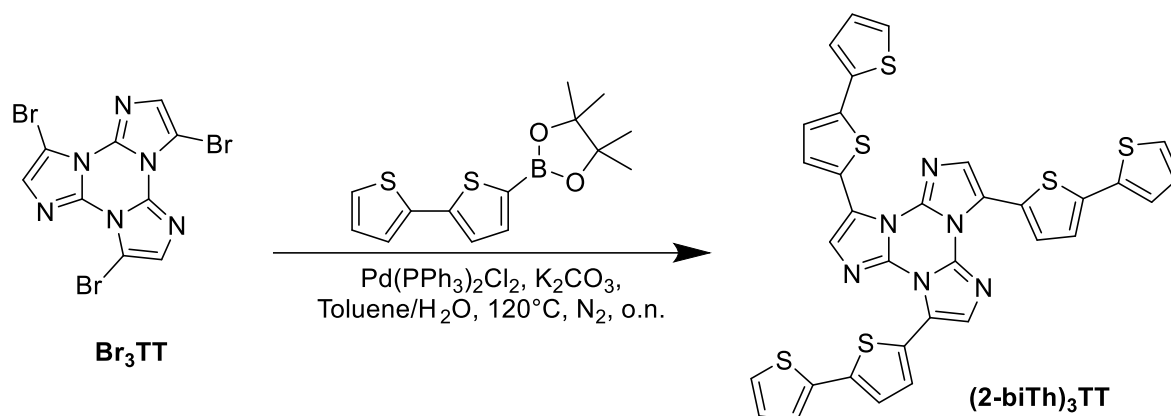


Figure S15: LC-MS profile of (2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT.

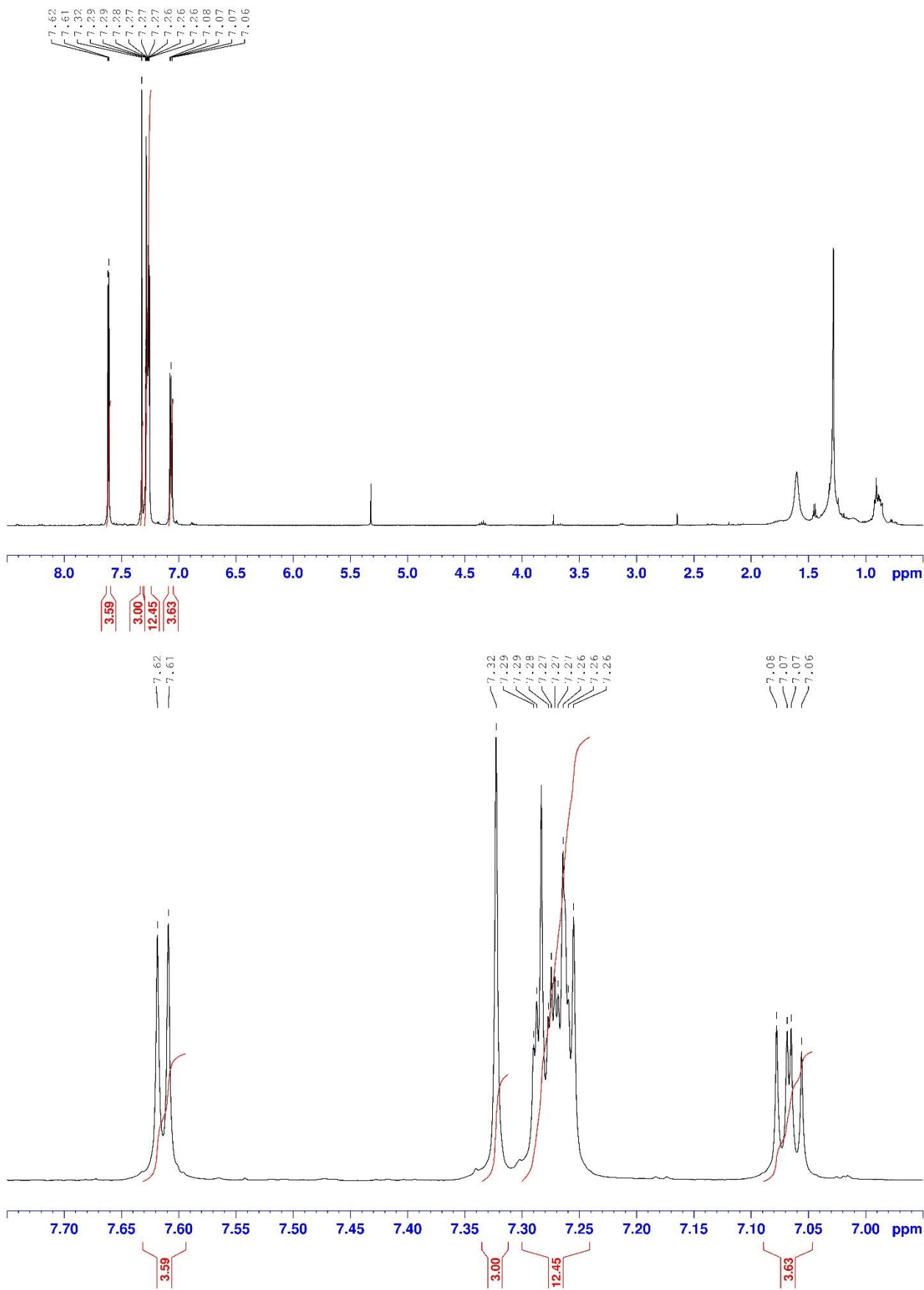
**SI1.6** *Synthesis of 3,7,11-tri([2,2'-bithiophen]-5-yl)triimidazo[1,2-a:1',2'-c:1'',2''-e][1,3,5]triazine (2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT*



**Scheme SI** Synthetic path for the preparation of **(2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT**

**(2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT** was prepared by Suzuki-Miyaura cross coupling between **Br<sub>3</sub>TT** and 2,2-bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester. In a typical reaction, **Br<sub>3</sub>TT** (0.0580 g; 0.135 mmol), 2,2-bithiophene-5-boronic acid pinacol ester (0.123 g, 0.419 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (0.009 g, 0.013 mmol), K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.186 g, 1.352 mmol), Toluene (9 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) were transferred inside a 100 mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stirrer. The system was heated under static nitrogen atmosphere at 120 °C overnight. The reaction was then cooled to room temperature, filtered on Büchner and the liquids dried under vacuum. The crude was purified by flash chromatography on SiO<sub>2</sub> with PE/DCM as eluents to give **(2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT** product as a yellow solid. (0.041 g, 43 % Yield, R<sub>f</sub> = 0.51 in PE/DCM=3/7).

**NMR data (9.4 T, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K, δ, ppm)** <sup>1</sup>H NMR 7.61 (d, *J* = 3.8 Hz, 3H), 7.32 (s, 3H), 7.29 – 7.25 (m), 7.07 – 7.05 (dd, *J*<sub>1</sub> = 5.0 Hz, *J*<sub>2</sub> = 3.6 Hz, 3H).



**Figure S16:** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of (2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, top) with expansion of aromatic region (bottom).

## SII.7 Product characterization

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-400 instrument (400 MHz). Chemical shifts are reported in parts per million (ppm) and are referenced to the residual solvent peak (DMSO,  $^1\text{H}$ :  $\delta=2.50$  ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\delta=39.5$  ppm;  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ :  $\delta=5.32$  ppm,  $^{13}\text{C}$ :  $\delta=54.0$  ppm). Mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo Fisher LCQ Fleet Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer equipped with UltiMate™ 3000 HPLC system.

UV-Visible spectra were collected by UV-3600i Plus UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Italia S.r.l., Milan, Italy).

Photoluminescence quantum yields have been measured using a C11347 Quantaaurus–Absolute Photoluminescence Quantum Yield Spectrometer (Hamamatsu Photonics K.K), equipped with a 150 W Xenon lamp, an integrating sphere and a multichannel detector. Steady state emission and excitation spectra and photoluminescence lifetimes have been obtained using a FLS 980 (Edinburgh Instrument Ltd) spectrofluorimeter. The steady state measurements have been recorded by a 450 W Xenon arc lamp. Photoluminescence lifetime measurements have been performed using a EPLED-300 (Edinburgh Instrument Ltd) and microsecond flash Xe-lamp (60W, 0.1÷100 Hz) with data acquisition devices time correlated single-photon counting (TCSPC) and multi-channel scaling (MCS) methods, respectively. Average lifetimes are obtained as  $\tau_{\text{av}} = \frac{\sum A_i \tau_i^2}{\sum A_i \tau_i}$  from bi-exponential or three-exponential fits.



## SI2. Key parameters concerning the **TT** derivatives estimated by DFT computations

Density functional theory DFT and time-dependent density functional theory TDDFT calculations on all the investigated molecules were performed in vacuo using the 6-311++G(d,p) basis set. Differently from previous calculations carried out on **TT** itself and other **TT** derivatives, for which the  $\omega$ B97X functional was used, we adopted here the PBE0 functional [S1]. In fact, the latter functional has been widely demonstrated to reproduce with high accuracy, in a quantitative way, the ground and excited state properties of isolated molecules [S2], becoming one of the elective choices for DFT investigations on systems in solution. On the other hand, the  $\omega$ B97X functional, while providing slightly blue-shifted excitation energies, allows to correctly describe also intermolecular interactions, such as  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions, which are crucial for interpreting the emissive properties of **TT** derivatives in solid state. Geometry optimization of all compounds have been performed starting from the respective X-ray geometries, when available, or from the X-ray geometry of analogue derivatives after the required substitutions. All calculations have been performed with Gaussian 16 program (Revision A.03) [S3].

Detailed results are reported in Table SI2.1 (following page)

[S1] C. Adamo, V. Barone, Toward reliable density functional methods without adjustable parameters: The PBE0 model. *J. Chem. Phys.* 110 (1999) 6158–6170.

[S2] S. Di Grande, I. Ciofini, C. Adamo, M. Pagliai, G. Cardini, Absorption Spectra of Flexible Fluorescent Probes by a Combined Computational Approach: Molecular Dynamics Simulations and Time-Dependent Density Functional Theory, *J. Phys. Chem. A* 126 (2022) 8809-8817.

[S3] M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman et al. Gaussian 16, Revision A.03; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, USA, 2016.

## SI2. Key parameters concerning the TT derivatives estimated by DFT computations

**Table SI2.1** HOMO and LUMO energies (eV), HOMO-LUMO energy gap ( $\Delta E_{H-L}$ , eV), dipole moments (D) of the ground ( $\mu_0$ ) and  $S_i$  excited ( $\mu_{S_i}$ ) states, excitation energies ( $E_{exc}$ , nm) and main contributions to the transitions with associated weights.<sup>a</sup>

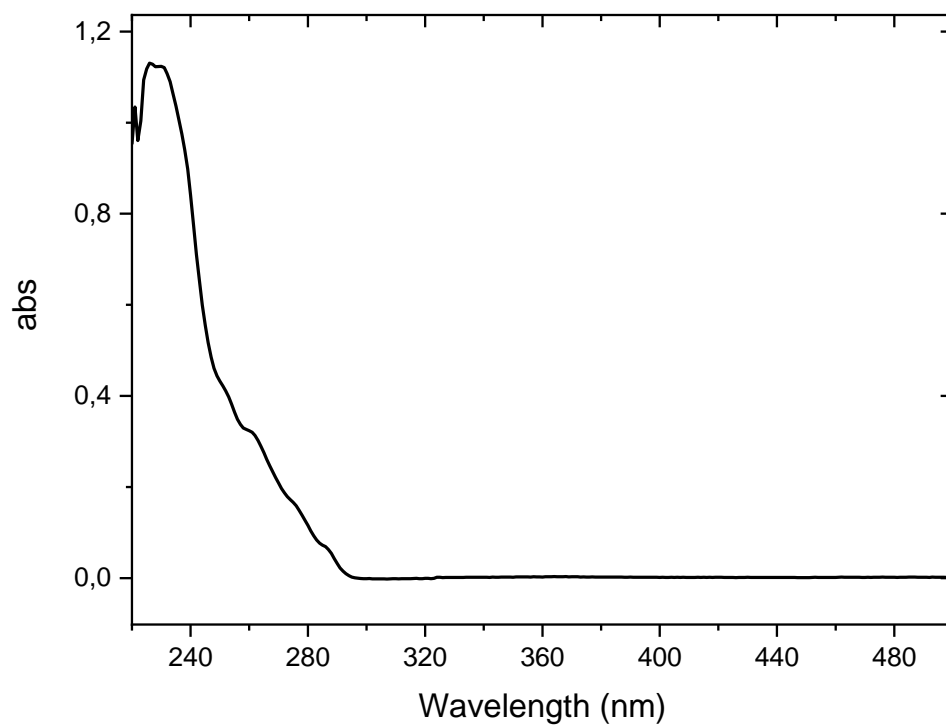
compound	$E_{HOMO}$	$E_{LUMO}$	$\Delta E_{H-L}$	$\mu_0$	$\mu_{S_i}$	$E_{exc}$ , f	Main contributions, weight
TT	-6.83	-0.80	6.03	0.0	0.0 0.0 1.97 1.97	$S_1$ 252, 0.0000 $S_2$ 245, 0.0000 $S_3$ 226, 0.3036 $S_4$ 226, 0.3037	H-1→L+1, 47%; H→L, 47% H-1→L, 47%; H→L+1, 47% H-1→L, 39%; H→L+1, 39% H-1→L+1, 39%; H→L, 39%
(2-Py)TT	-6.41	-1.47	4.94	2.03	3.12	$S_1$ 291, 0.4652	H→L, 94%
(4-Py)TT	-6.76	-1.58	5.18	2.52	7.21	$S_1$ 278, 0.3456	H→L, 90%
(4-Py) <sub>2</sub> TT	-6.84	-1.76	5.08	2.42	4.53 6.67 3.67	$S_1$ 283, 0.0696 $S_2$ 282, 0.1363 $S_3$ 275, 0.4745	H-1→L, 67% H→L, 84% H→L+1, 46%; H-1→L, 14%
(4-Py) <sub>3</sub> TT	-6.95	-1.85	5.10	0.06	0.65 0.28 0.89 0.50	$S_1$ 291, 0.0039 $S_2$ 283, 0.0031 $S_3$ 277, 0.5671 $S_4$ 277, 0.5802	H→L, 52%; H-1→L+1, 39% H-1→L, 47%; H→L+1, 44% H-1→L, 34%; H→L+1, 34% H-1→L+1, 40%; H→L, 28%
(2-Th)Me <sub>2</sub> Im	-5.90	-0.87	5.03	4.12	5.73	$S_1$ 286, 0.3192	H→L, 97%
(2-Th)TT	-6.17	-1.31	4.86	0.84	0.97	$S_1$ 295, 0.4467	H→L, 97%
(2-Th) <sub>2</sub> TT <sup>b</sup>	-6.14	-1.39	4.75	1.05	3.66 3.73	$S_1$ 302, 0.1649 $S_2$ 300, 0.2600	H-1→L, 73% H→L, 82%
(2-Th) <sub>3</sub> TT <sup>b</sup>	-6.16	-1.38	4.78	1.12	1.15 1.14 2.91 2.92	$S_1$ 311, 0.0000 $S_2$ 300, 0.0005 $S_3$ 298, 0.7187 $S_4$ 298, 0.7182	H-1→L, 48%; H→L+1, 48% H-1→L+1, 48%; H→L, 49% H-1→L+1, 33%; H→L, 32% H-1→L, 33%; H→L+1, 33%
(2-biTh)TT	-5.78	-1.75	4.03	0.48	0.39	$S_1$ 357, 0.8772	H→L, 99%
(2-biTh) <sub>2</sub> TT	-5.79	-1.81	3.98	0.67	1.33	$S_1$ 365, 1.3297	H-1→L, 77%; H→L+1, 21%
(2-biTh) <sub>3</sub> TT	-5.80	-1.80	4.00	0.70	1.34	$S_1$ 365, 1.3394	H-2→L, 40%; H→L, 25%; H-1→L+1, 25%

<sup>a</sup> Geometry optimization and TDDFT calculations performed *in vacuo* at PBE0/6-311++G(d,p) level of theory.

<sup>b</sup> All thiophene S atoms on the same side with respect to the TT plane.

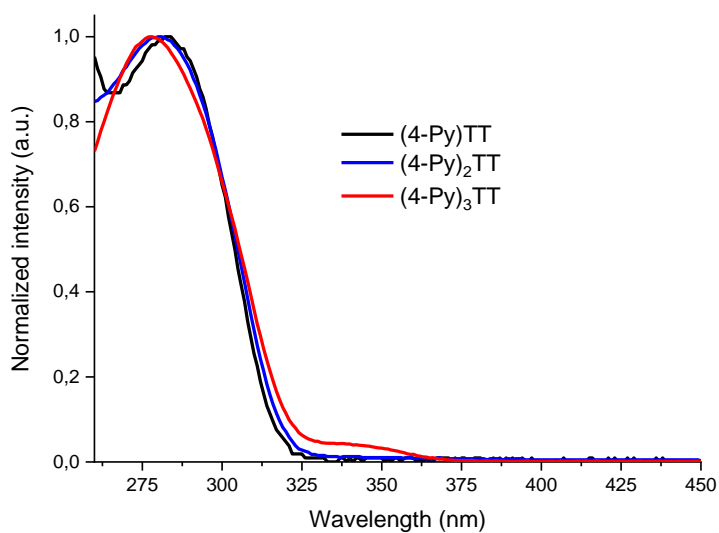
### SI3. Supplementary Absorption/Emission/Lifetime spectra

#### SI3.1 Absorption spectrum of parent **TT** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

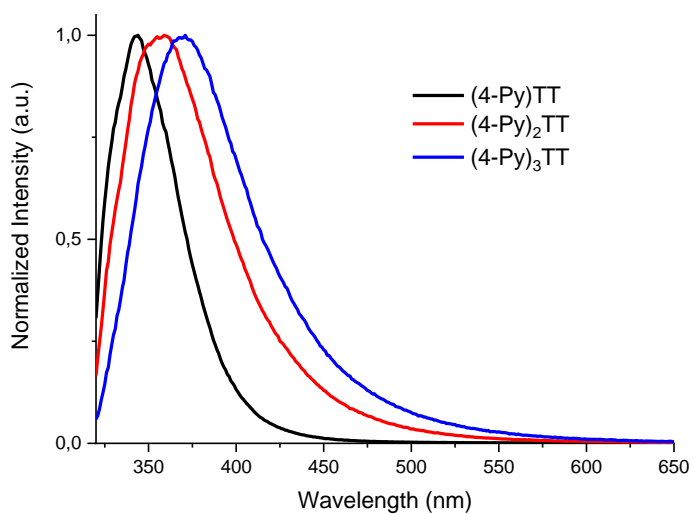


**Figure S17:** Absorption spectrum of **TT** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) at 298 K.

### SI3.2 Absorption and emission spectra of (4-Py)<sub>n</sub>TT in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>



**Figure S18:** Normalized absorption spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions of (4-Py)<sub>n</sub>TT at 298 K.



**Figure S19:** Normalized emission spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions of (4-Py)<sub>n</sub>TT at 298 K ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 300$  nm).

SI3.3 Absorption and emission spectra of (2-Th)<sub>n</sub>TT and (2-biTh)<sub>n</sub>TT in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>

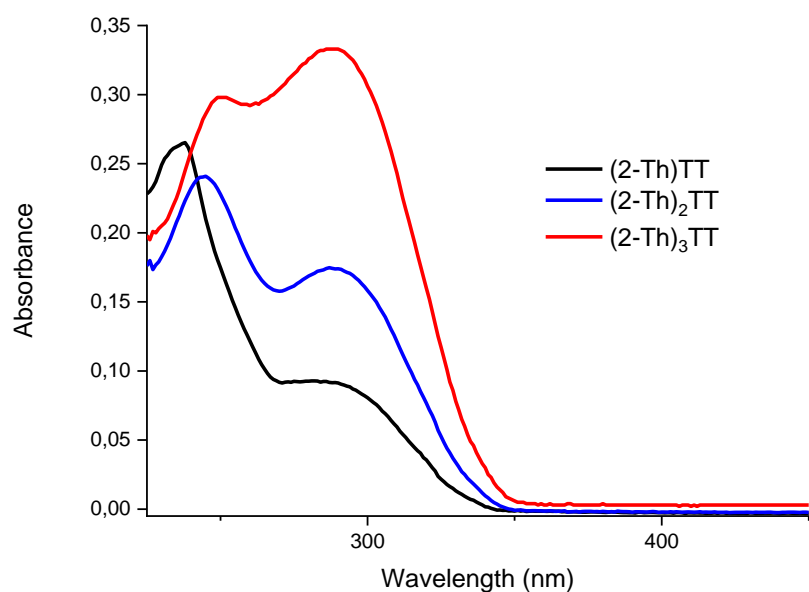


Figure S20: Absorption spectra of 10<sup>-5</sup> M CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions of (2-Th)<sub>n</sub>TT at 298 K.

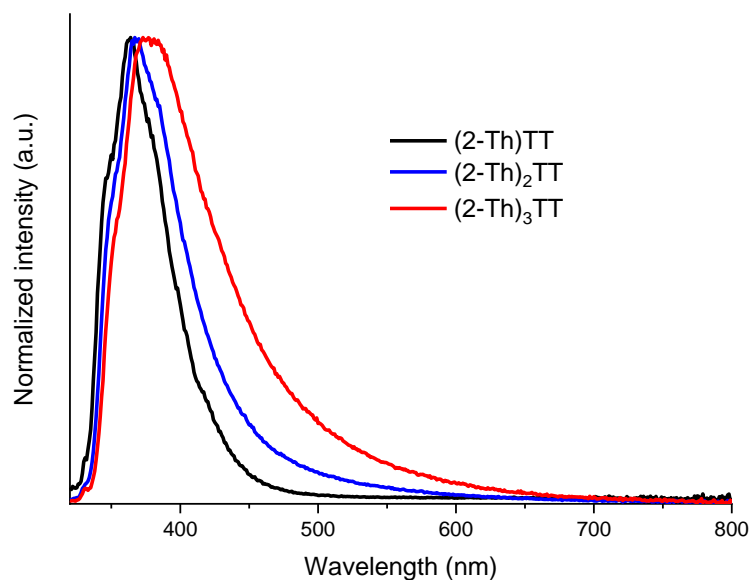
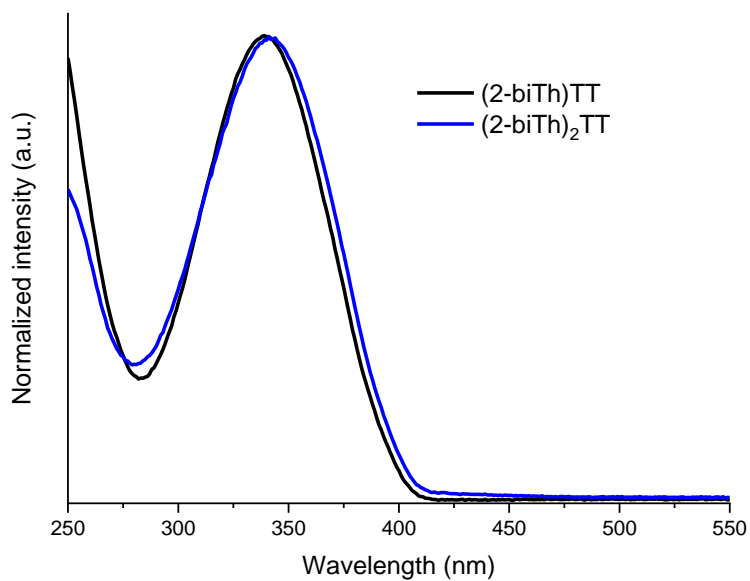
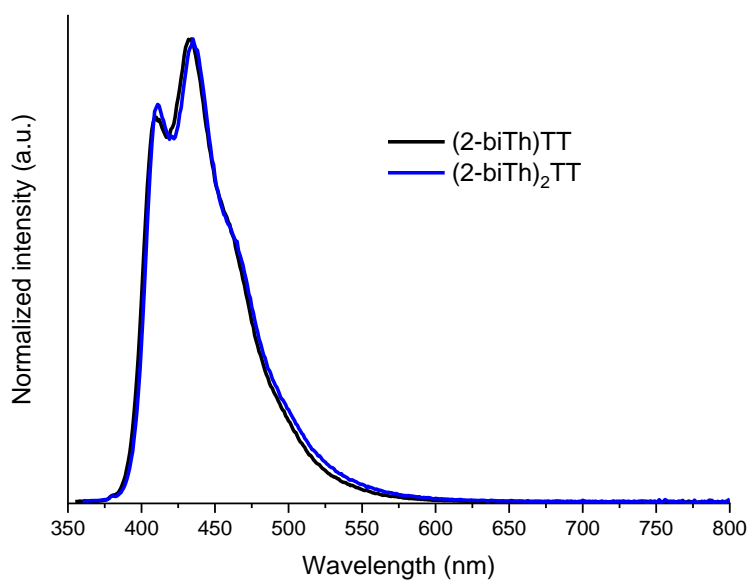


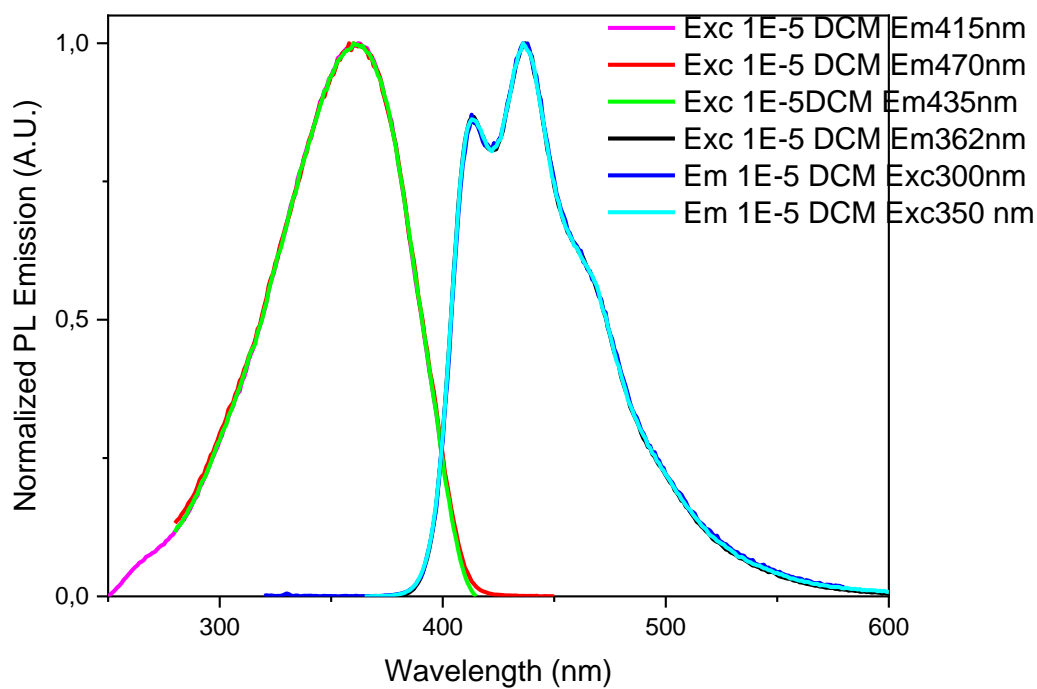
Figure S21: Normalized emission spectra of 10<sup>-5</sup> M CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solutions of (2-Th)<sub>n</sub>TT at 298 K ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 300$  nm).



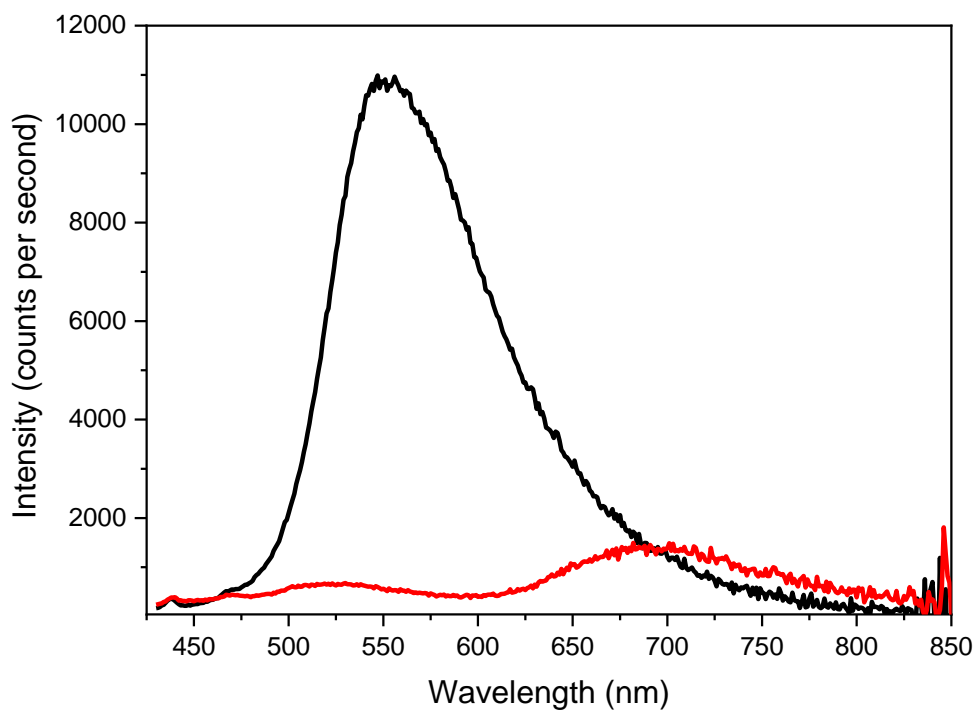
**Figure S22:** Normalized absorption spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions of **(2-biTh)TT** and **(2-biTh)<sub>3</sub>TT** at 298 K.



**Figure S23:** Normalized emission spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions of **(2-biTh)<sub>n</sub>TT** at 298 K ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 340$  nm).

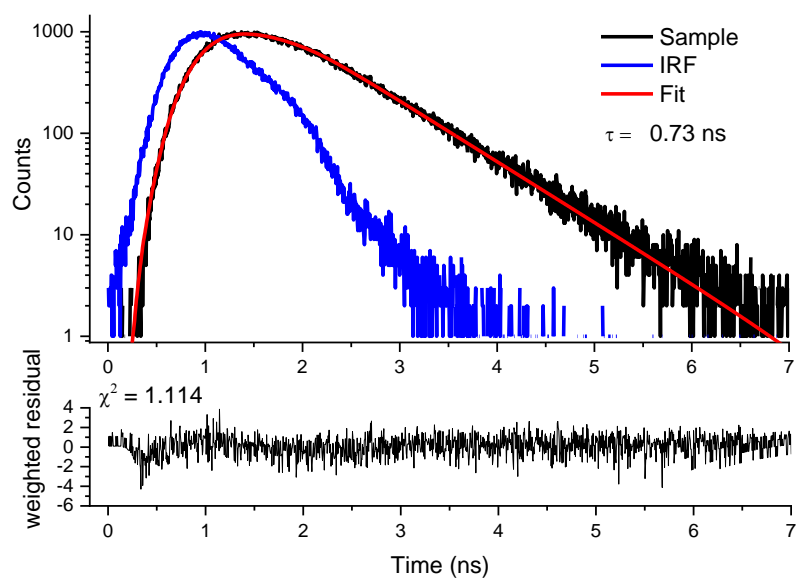


**Figure S24:** Normalized absorption and emission spectra of  $10^{-5}$  M  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solutions of  $(2\text{-biTh})_3\text{TT}$  at 298 K.

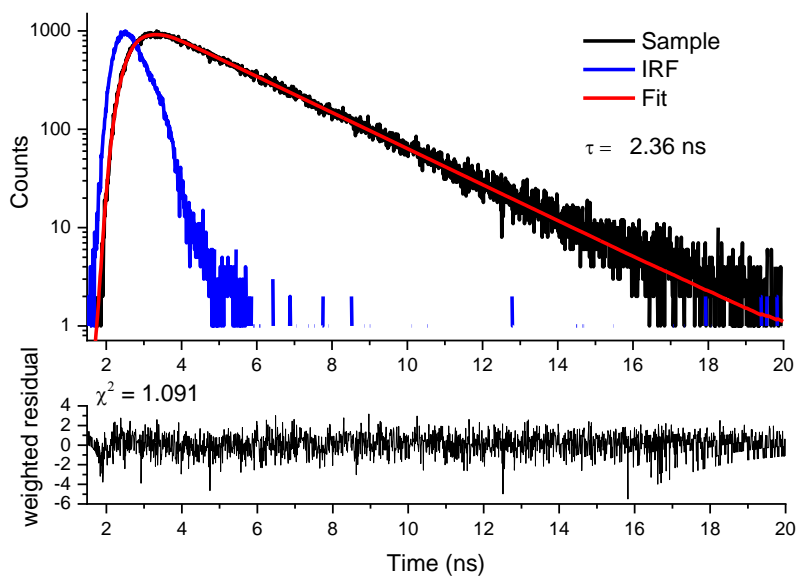


**Figure S25:** Emission spectra ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 410$  nm, 298 K) of  $[(2\text{-biTh})\text{TT}]_n$  film: neutral (black line) and after polarization at 1.2V for 3 minutes (red line).

### SI3.4 Lifetime spectra

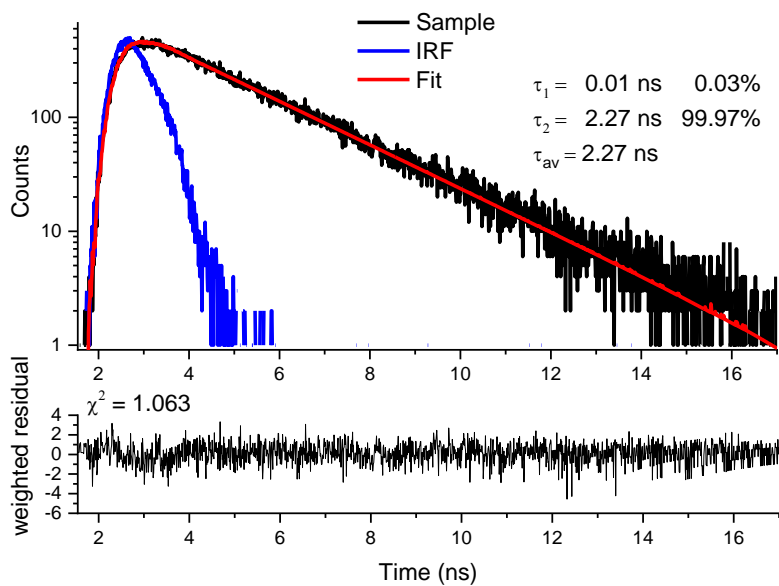


**Figure S26:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 300$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 343$  nm) of **(4-Py)TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  M, 298 K.

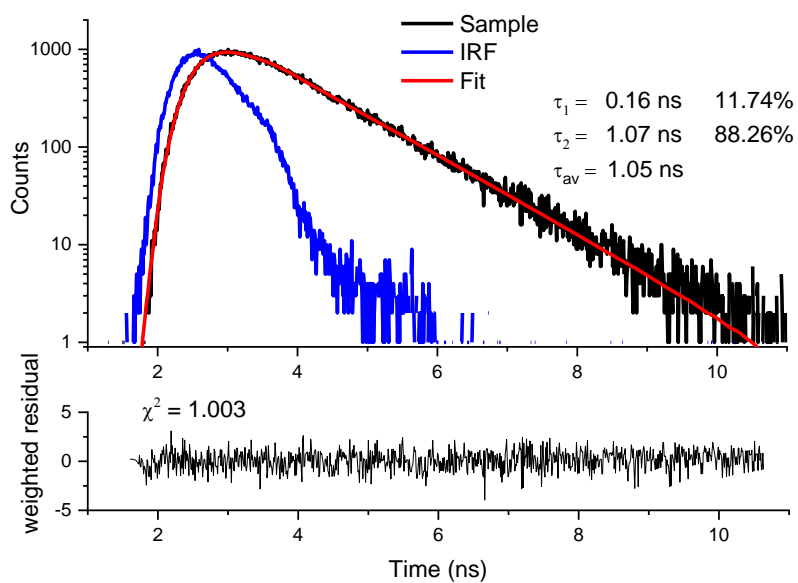


**Figure S27:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}} = 300$  nm,  $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 357$  nm) of **(4-Py)<sub>2</sub>TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5}$  M, 298 K.

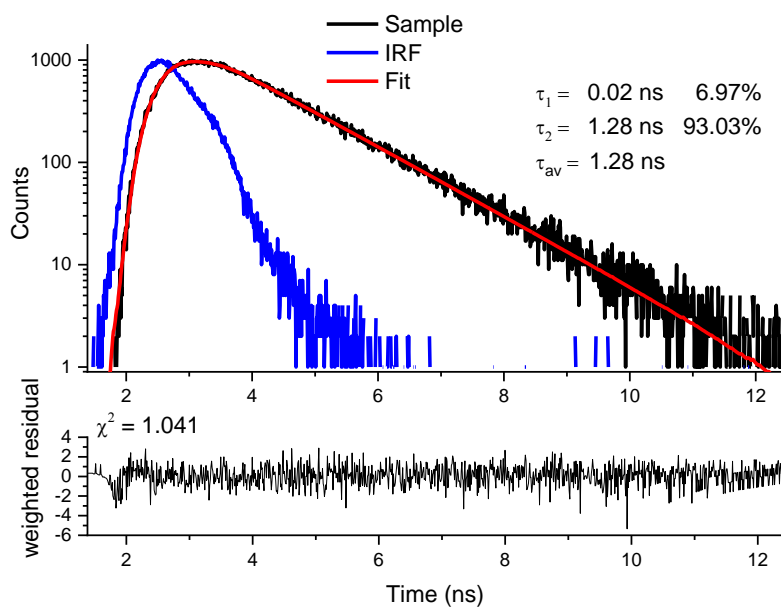




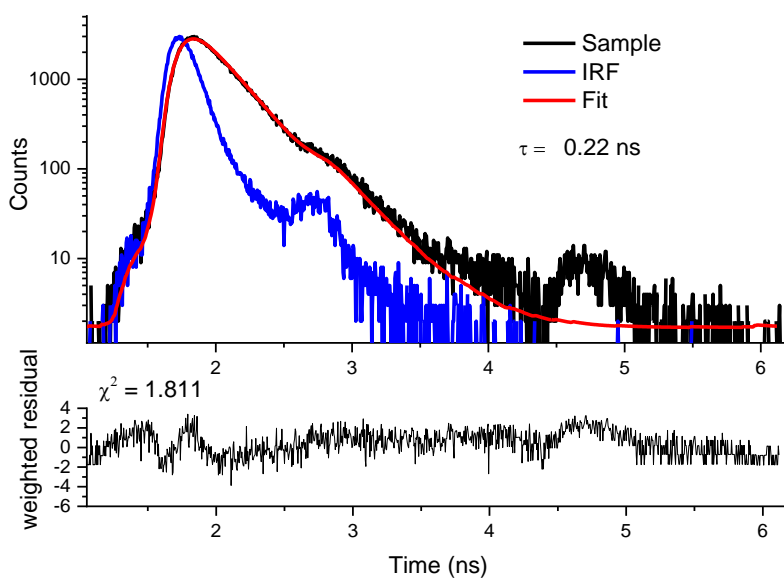
**Figure S28:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{exc} = 300 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{em} = 370 \text{ nm}$ ) of **(4-Py)<sub>3</sub>TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ , 298 K.



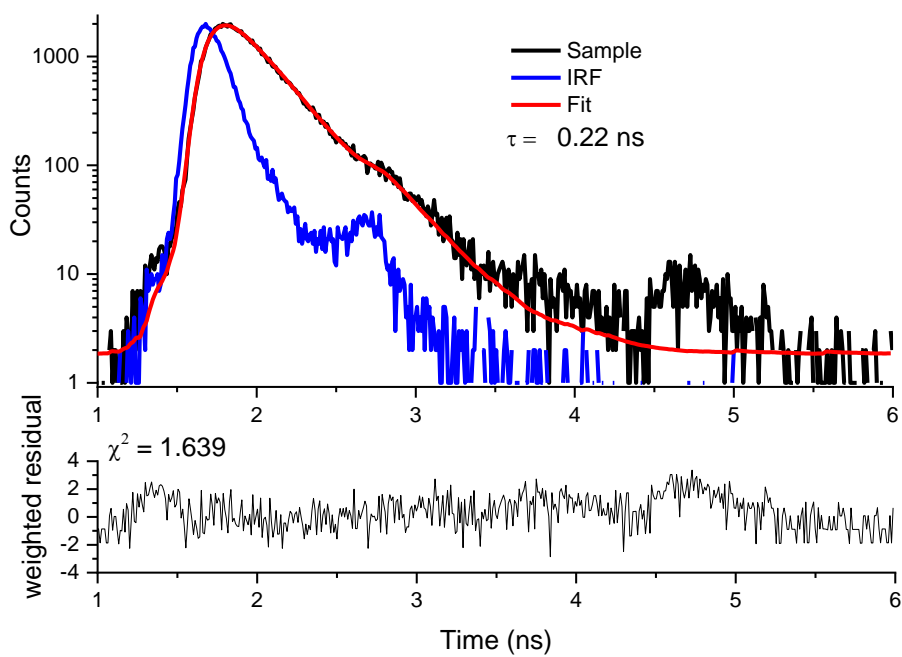
**Figure S29:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{exc} = 300 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{em} = 368 \text{ nm}$ ) of **(2-Th)<sub>2</sub>TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ , 298 K.



**Figure S30:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{exc}=300 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{em} = 379 \text{ nm}$ ) of **(2-Th)<sub>3</sub>TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ , 298 K.

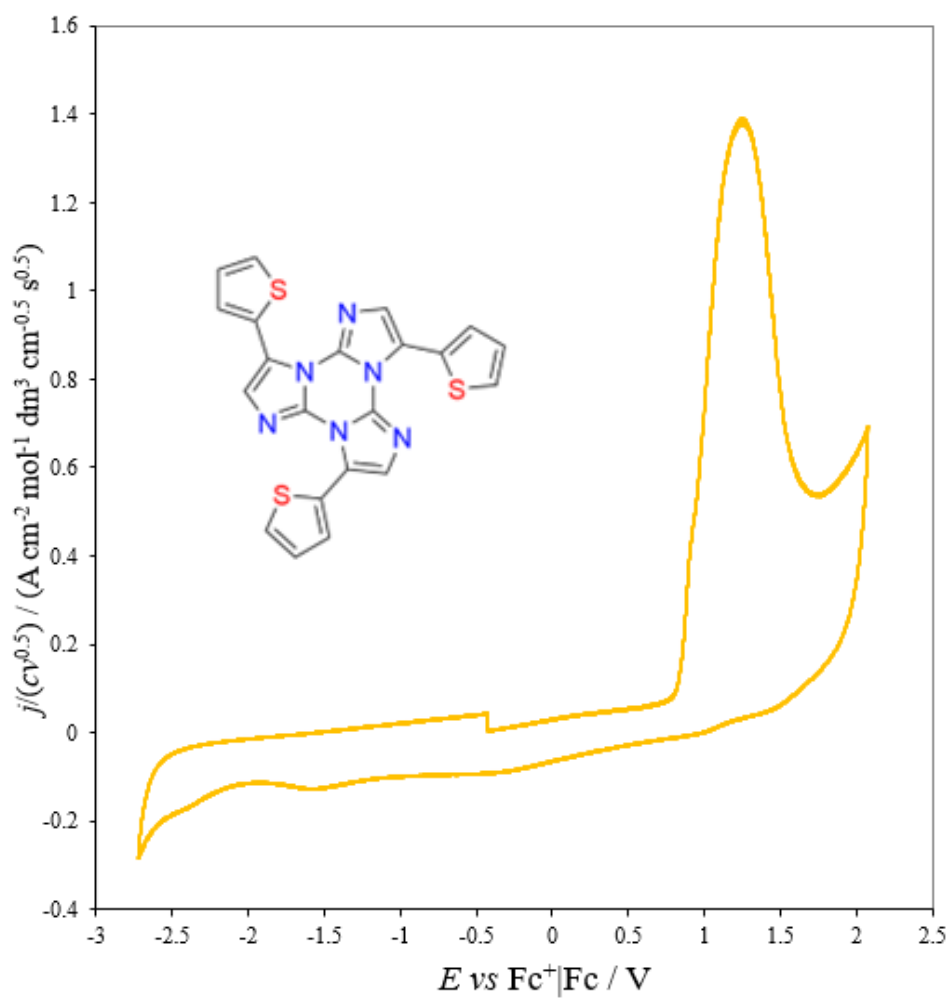


**Figure S31:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{exc}=374 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{em} = 433 \text{ nm}$ ) of **(2-biTh)TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ , 298 K.

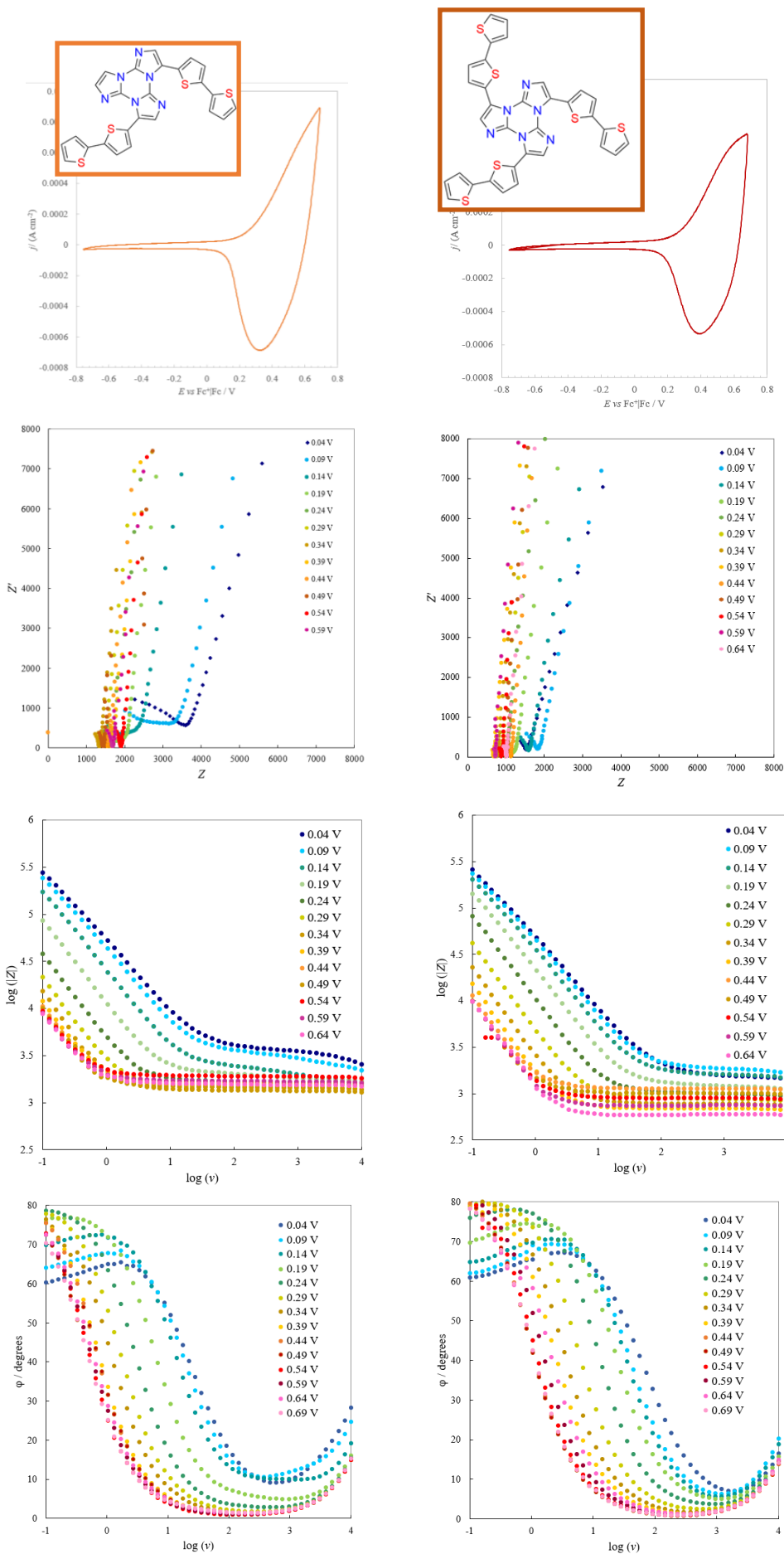


**Figure S32:** Lifetime measurement ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}=374 \text{ nm}$ ,  $\lambda_{\text{em}}=433 \text{ nm}$ ) of **(2-biTh)<sub>2</sub>TT** in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$   $1 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ , 298 K.

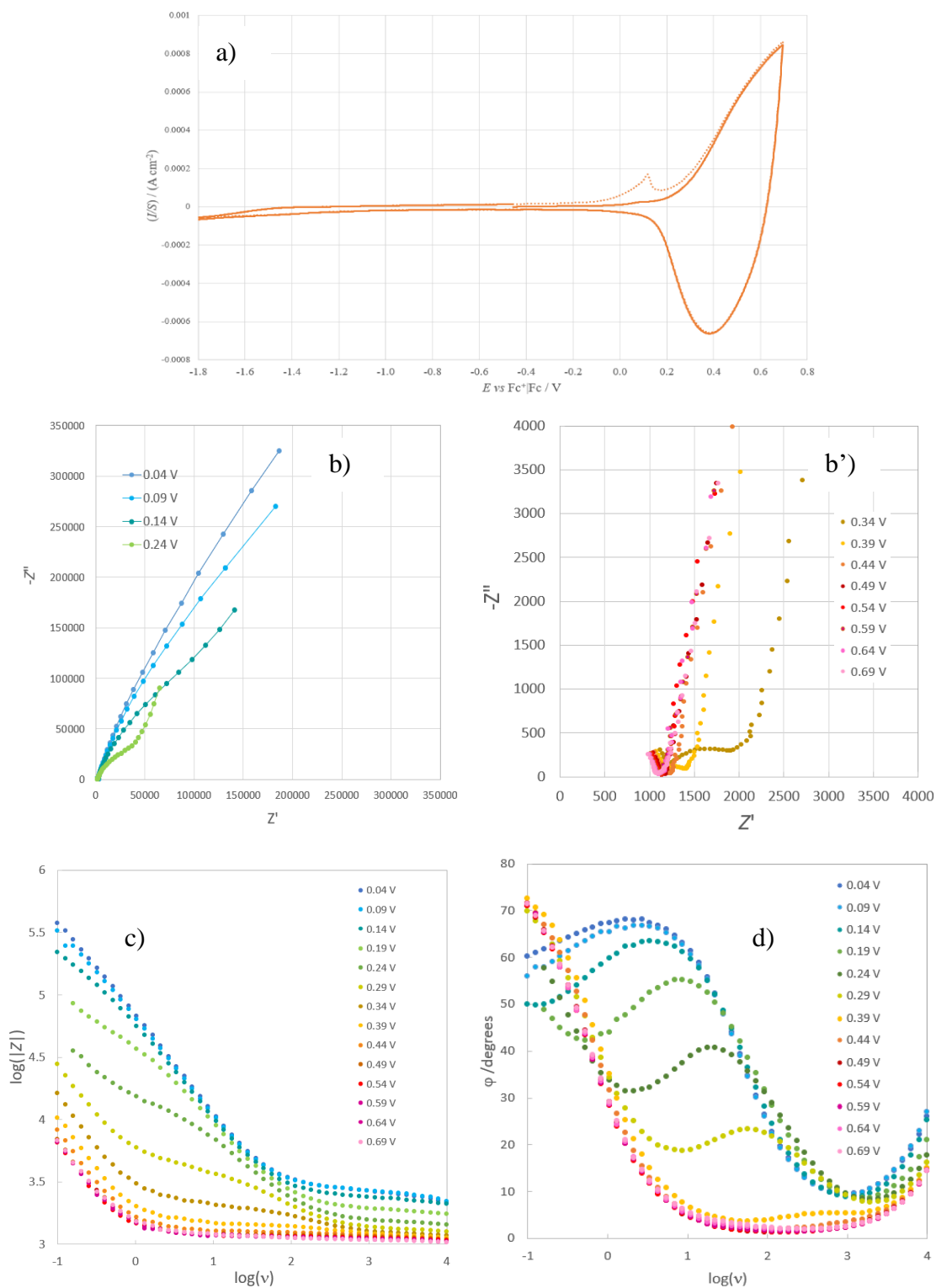
## SI4. Supplementary Electrochemical/Spectroelectrochemical data



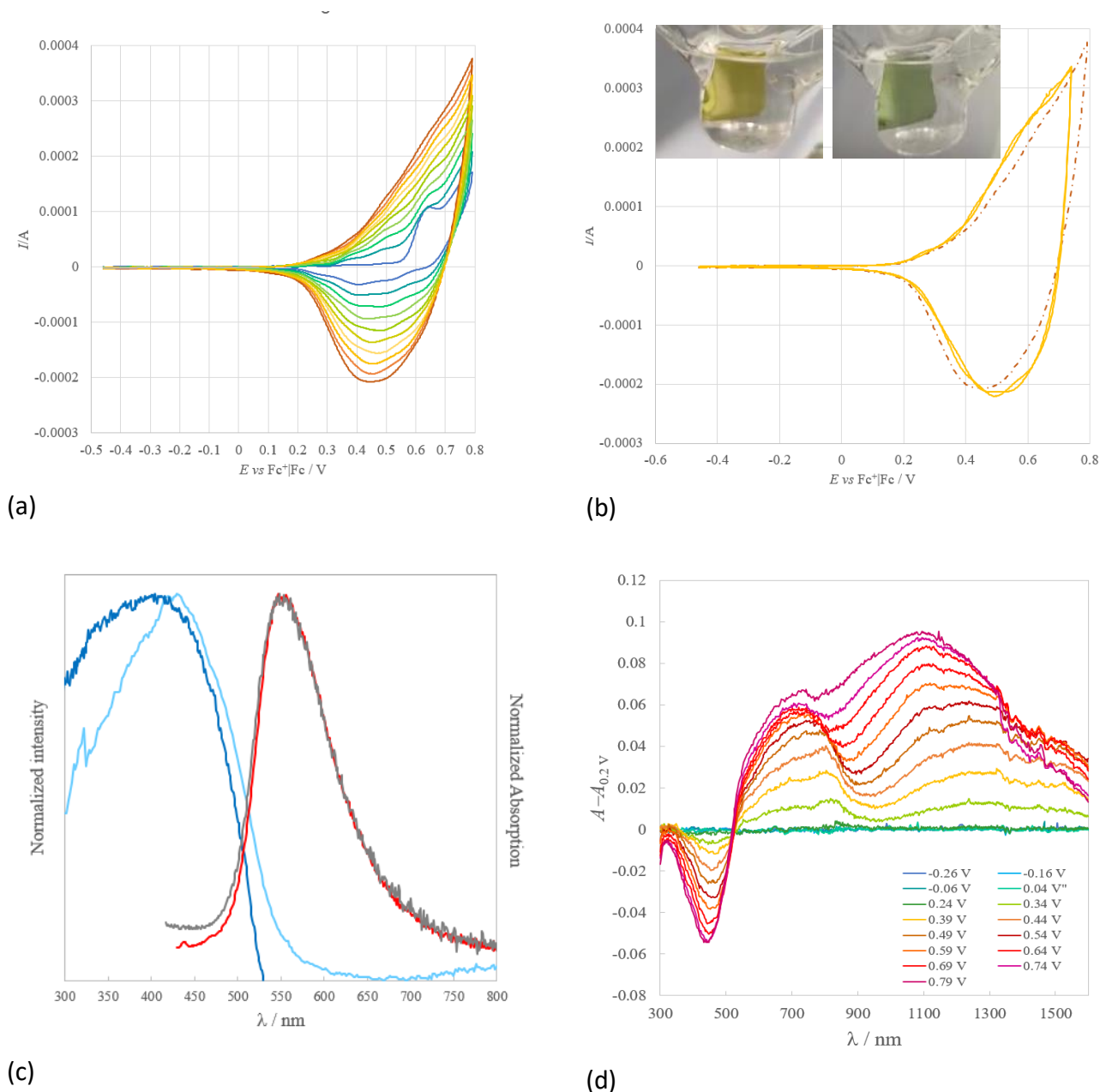
**Figure S33.** Normalized CV pattern for (2-Th)<sub>3</sub>TT at 0.2 V/s in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> + 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S34.** A comparison of EIS features at different potentials for (left) a  $[(2\text{-BiTh})_2\text{TT}]_n$  film and (right) a  $[(2\text{-BiTh})_3\text{TT}]_n$  film, both of them electrodeposited on a GC electrode in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>, by 12 potential cycles at 0.2 V/s scan rate followed by some stability cycles in monomer free solution. From top to bottom in each column: stability cycle; Nyquist diagram; Bode modulus diagram; Bode phase diagram.



**Figure S35.** Features of a  $[(2\text{-BiTh})_2\text{TT}]_n$  film electrodeposited on a GC electrode in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  with 0.1 M TBAPF<sub>6</sub> supporting electrolyte with a slightly different protocol (10 potential cycles at 0.05 V/s scan rate, larger potential cycle range) respect to the examples in Figure 9 in the main pape and former Figure S34 Top: stability cycle and charge trapping. Middle/bottom: impedance characteristics at increasingly positive polarizations, as Nyquist (b,b'), Bode modulus (c) and Bode phase diagrams (d).



**Figure S36 Features** of  $[(2\text{-BiTh})_2\text{TT}]_n$  films electrochemically formed on ITO electrode with a slightly different protocol (0.05 V/s scan rate, larger potential cycle range) respect to the examples in Figures 10 and 11 in the main paper. (a) Potentiodynamic electrodeposition in  $\sim 0.00075$  M monomer solution in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 + 0.1$  M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>, (b) first and fourth stability cycle in monomer-free solution, and electrochromism (c) A synopsis of UV-Vis absorption (cyan line), excitation ( $\lambda_{\text{em}}$  552 nm blue line) and emission ( $\lambda_{\text{exc}}$  350 nm dark grey line;  $\lambda_{\text{exc}}$  410 nm red line) spectra of an uncharged film on ITO electrode. (d) Differential UV-Vis /NIR spectra for a film deposited on ITO electrode, polarized at increasing potentials referred to  $\text{Fc}^+/\text{Fc}$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 + 0.1$  M TBAPF<sub>6</sub>.