

**SUPPRESSION OF π -STACKED AGGREGATES AND POWER-
CONTROLLED EXCIPLEX FORMATION IN THIOPHENE–BENZENE–
THIOPHENE MONOMERS**

Giovani Bortolini De Oliveira (giovani_bortolini@ufu.br)

Bruno Souza Zanatta (brunosouzanatta@ufu.br)

Raigna Augusta Da Silva (raigna@ufu.br)

Thibaut Jarrosson (thibaut.jarrosson@enscm.fr)

Jean-Pierre Lère-Porte (jean-pierre.lere-porte@enscm.fr)

Françoise Serein-Spirau (francoise.spirau@enscm.fr)

Sandra Lúcia Nogueira (sandraIn@unipam.edu.br)

Alexandre Marletta (marletta@ufu.br)

Abstract

We present a comprehensive photophysical investigation of five thiophene–benzene–thiophene (TBT) monomers bearing distinct lateral side chains, elucidating how excitation power modulates their aggregation dynamics. Steady-state photoluminescence (PL) reveals two emissive contributions at 418 and 495 nm whose intensity ratio varies systematically with excitation powers from 8 to 3098 μ W. Time-resolved PL assigns these bands to monomeric and aggregate-like species. Power-cycling experiments confirm complete spectral reversibility, excluding thermal or concentration-driven artifacts. Simulations

based on Fermi's Golden Rule combined with a two-species population model show that the zero-phonon transition energy remains invariant with excitation power, demonstrating that spectral evolution arises solely from population redistribution rather than energetic shifts. The lateral side chains suppress p-stacked aggregation while promoting excited–ground-state interactions that favor exciplex formation. These results establish a mechanistic basis for power-controlled emission in TBT systems and offer design guidelines for tuning excited-state interactions in p-conjugated materials.

Reference

1. Lin, S.H. "Spectral band shape of absorption and emission of molecules in dense media". *Theoret. Chim. Acta*. 1968.
2. Oliveira, G. B. Zanatta, B. S. Therézio, E. M. Marletta, A. "Do Passado ao Futuro: A Evolução da Espectroscopia e as Simulações Computacionais dos Espectros de Emissão" *Jornal Mato-Grossense de Física*. 2024. DOI: doi.org/10.59396/29651964JMFis.7-2.56.2024.
3. Lemmer, U. S. Heun, R.F. Mahrt, U. Scherf, M. Hopmeier, U. Siegner, E.O. Gobel, K. Mullen, H. Bassler. "Aggregate fluorescence in conjugated polymers". *Chemical Physics Letters*. 1995. DOI: doi.org/10.1016/0009-2614(95)00512-3.
4. Chang-Ki Moon, Jin-Suk Huh, Jae-Min Kim, and Jang-Joo Kim. "Electronic Structure and Emission Process of Excited Charge Transfer States in Solids". *Chemistry of materials*. 2018. DOI: doi.org/10.1021/acs.chemmater.8b02011.
5. Suqian Ma, Sijia Du, Guocui Pan, Shuting Dai, Bin Xu, Wenjing Tian. "Organic molecular aggregates: From aggregation structure to emission property". *Aggregate*. 2021. DOI: doi.org/10.1002/agt2.96.

Acknowledgements

I thanks INEO, FAPESP (2025/27044-5) , FAPEMIG, CNPq (408449/2024-1) and CAPES for their assistance and support in the development of this work

Palavras-chave: power-dependent; phototoluminescence; molecular aggregation; exciplex.

