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(54) Title: HOST MATERIAL FOR LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a host material comprising a compound having two carbazole moieties which is suitable for blue-emitting OLEDs. Surprisingly, it has been found that when appropriate substituents are present in the carbazole structure, the solubility of the compounds can be improved without any adverse effect on the OLED performance. The present invention further relates to the use of the host materials and to an organic light emitting device comprising the host material.



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Description**Host Material for Light-Emitting Diodes****Reference to related applications**

[0001] This application claims priority to US provisional application 61/105838 filed on October 16, 2008 and to European patent application 08170151.8 filed on November 27, 2008, both , incorporated herein by reference.

Technical Field

[0002] The present invention relates to a host material for light-emitting diodes, to the use of such host material, and to a light-emitting device capable of converting electrical energy into light.

Background

[0003] Recently, various display and lighting devices have been under active study and development, particularly those based on electroluminescence (EL) from organic materials.

[0004] Many organic materials exhibit fluorescence (i.e., luminescence from a symmetry-allowed process) from singlet excitons. Since this process occurs between states of equal symmetry, it may be very efficient. On the contrary, if the symmetry of an exciton is different from that of the ground state, then the radioactive relaxation of the exciton is disallowed and luminescence will be slow and inefficient. Because the ground state is usually anti-symmetric, the decay from a triplet breaks the symmetry. The process is thus disallowed and the efficiency of EL is very low. Therefore, the energy contained in the triplet state is mostly wasted.

[0005] The luminescence from a symmetry-disallowed process is known as phosphorescence. Characteristically, phosphorescence may persist up to several seconds after excitation due to the low probability of the transition, in contrast to fluorescence which shows rapid decay. The use of phosphorescent materials has been a major breakthrough in boosting electroluminescence efficiency because they allow for the simultaneous harvesting of both singlet and triplet excitons. Selecting a suitable host material for the phosphorophore dopants remains one of the critical issues

in phosphorescence-based OLEDs. The host material is important because efficient exothermic energy transfer from the host material to the dopant phosphorophore depends on whether the triplet-state energy of the host is greater than that of the dopant.

- [0006] Well known host materials for guest-host systems include hole-transporting 4,4'-N,N'-dicarbazol-biphenyl (CBP) and electron-transporting aluminum 8-hydroxyquinoline (AlQ₃), which have both been used in OLEDs. However, the known host materials are not suitable for all phosphorescent guests. For example, the host compound for phosphorescent emitters must fulfil an important condition that the triplet energy of the host shall be higher than that of the phosphorescent emitter. In order to provide efficient phosphorescence from the phosphorescent emitter, the lowest excited triplet state of the host has to be higher in energy than the lowest emitting state of the phosphorescent emitter. Since emission from the phosphorescent emitter is desired, the lowest excited state has to be from the phosphorescent emitter, not the host compound. As such, there continues to be a need in the art for suitable host materials for guests which have short emission wavelengths in the light spectrum, e.g., in the blue region of the spectrum.
- [0007] Several host materials for better phosphorescent emission have been reported. Due to their charge conducting ability, photophysical and redox properties, sufficiently large triplet energies and carrier-transport properties, carbazole-based compounds have been actively studied.
- [0008] For example, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/205696 assigned to Canon KK discloses guest-host emissive systems suitable for use with organic light emitting devices in which the host material comprises a compound having a carbazole core with an electron-donating species bonded to nitrogen, aromatic amine groups or carbazole groups bonded to one or more of the carbon atoms, a large band gap potential, and high-energy triplet excited states. Such materials permit short-wavelength phosphorescent emission by an associated guest material, and the combination of said materials with emissive phosphorescent

organometallic compounds such as platinum complexes is useful in the fabrication of organic light emitting devices.

- [0009] Li et al., "Novel fluorene/carbazole hybrids with steric bulk as host materials for blue organic electrophosphorescent devices," *Tetrahedron*, 63(41):10161-10168 (2007) discloses the use of sterically hindered spacers in phosphorescent dopants to prevent or reduce the problem of self-quenching in organic electrophosphorescence devices. Novel fluorene/carbazole hybrids with *tert*-butyl substitutions, namely 9,9-bis[4-(3,6-di-*tert*-butylcarbazol-9-yl)phenyl]fluorene (TBCPF) and 9,9-bis[4-(carbazol-9-yl)phenyl]-2,7-di-*tert*-butylfluorene (CPTBF), reportedly exhibit not only high triplet energy (>2.8 eV) but also high glass transition temperature (T_g) ($>160^\circ\text{C}$) and thermal stability.
- [0010] Further, Wu et al., "The Quest for High-Performance Host Materials for Electrophosphorescent Blue Dopants," *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 17: 1887–1895 (2007) discloses 3,5-di(N-carbazolyl)tetraphenylsilane (SimCP) and N,N'-dicarbazolyl-3,5-benzene (mCP) as host materials for phosphorescent blue dopants, while Thoms et al., "Improved host material design for phosphorescent guest-host systems," *Thin Solid Films* 436: 264-268 (2003) discloses a series of carbazole-based compounds as host materials in an iridium phosphor-based guest-host organic light emitting diode and the results of semi-empirical calculations.
- [0011] However, none of the above-disclosed materials meet all the requirements necessary for OLED application, e.g., suitable energy level, charge transport ability, processibility from a solution with uniform film formation, ability to form an amorphous phase, ability for good dopant dispersion, morphological stability (high T_g), thermal and electrochemical stabilities under operational conditions of the device. Therefore, there has been a need to develop new host materials which are capable of satisfying all of the requirements indicated above.

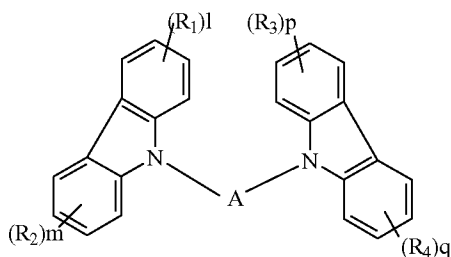
Brief Description of Drawings

- [0012] Fig. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a display device containing the organic light emitting device of the present invention.

- [0013] Fig. 2 shows the UV-vis absorption spectra of compounds represented by Formulae VI, VII, and VIII.
- [0014] Fig. 3 shows the fluorescence spectra of compounds represented by Formulae VI, VII, and VIII.
- [0015] Fig. 4 shows the emission spectra of compounds represented by Formulae VI, VII, and VIII.
- [0016] Fig 5 shows cyclic voltametry curves of compounds represented by Formulae IV and IX.
- [0017] Fig 6 shows cyclic voltametry curves of compounds represented by Formulae VI and VII.
- [0018] Fig 7 shows cyclic voltametry curves of compounds represented by Formulae VIII and V.
- [0019] Fig 8 describes the general structure used to fabricate OLED devices for host molecules testing.
- [0020] Fig 9 shows the Intensity-Voltage-Luminance (IVL) curves of three OLED devices containing the compounds represented by formulae VIII and V versus reference material PVK (poly vinyl carbazole).
- [0021] Fig 10 shows the luminance efficiency curve of three OLED devices containing the compounds represented by formulae VIII and V versus reference material PVK (poly vinyl carbazole).

Disclosure of the Invention

- [0022] One aspect of the present invention relates to a host material comprising a carbazole-based compound as described below.
- [0023] Another aspect of the present invention relates to the use of the host material for the emissive layer and to an organic light emitting device comprising the host material.
- [0024] The present invention provides a host material which comprises the compound of Formula I:



Formula (I)

where:

A is an organic divalent radical;

R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are non-conjugate substituents, the same or different at each occurrence and selected from the group consisting of:

trityl

halogen;

nitro;

cyano;

-COOR₅;

alkoxy or dialkylamino group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms where one or more nonadjacent -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -O-, -S-, -NR₆-, -CONR₇-, or -COO-, and where at least one hydrogen atom may be replaced by halogen; and

-SiR₈R₉R₁₀;

where R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉, and R₁₀ are the same or different at each occurrence and independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halogen, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, C₃₋₂₀-cyclic alkyl, straight or branched C₁₋₂₀-alkoxy, C₁₋₂₀-dialkylamino, C₄₋₁₄-aryl, C₄₋₁₄-aryloxy, and C₄₋₁₄-heteroaryl, which may be substituted by one or more non aromatic radicals, where a plurality of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₈, R₉, and R₁₀ may in turn together form a mono- or polycyclic ring, optionally aromatic; and

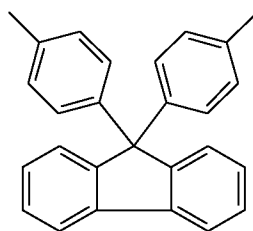
l, m, p, and q are the same or different at each occurrence and represent an integer from 0 to 4 where l+m+p+q > 0.

[0025] In some embodiments of the present invention, A is a divalent radical comprising at least one structural unit selected from the group consisting of five- or six-membered aryl or heteroaryl rings and fused rings.

Specifically, A is a divalent radical selected from the group consisting of naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl, benzamidazolyl, carbazolyl, fluorenyl, pyridanzinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzothiophenyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, and phenanthridinyl.

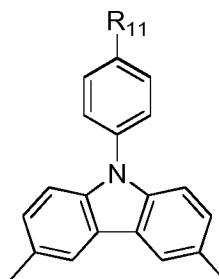
[0026] Surprisingly, it has been found that, when an appropriate substituent such as a trialkylsilyl group is introduced to the carbazole structure of the compound of the present invention, its solubility and processibility can be improved without any adverse effects on the other properties, such as color, efficiency, etc.

[0027] In another embodiment of the present invention, A is a divalent radical of Formula II:



Formula (II).

[0028] In another embodiment of the present invention, A is a divalent radical of Formula III:



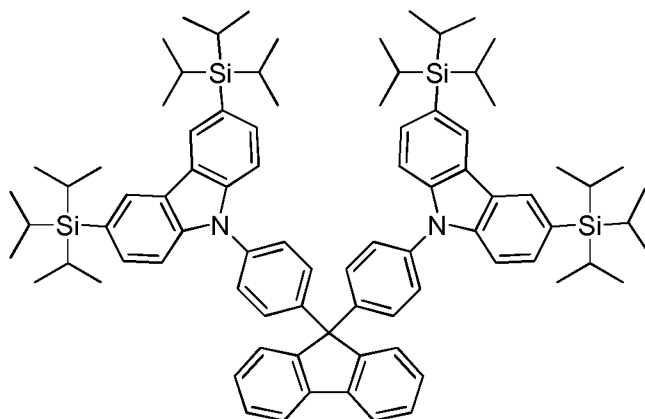
Formula (III)

where R_{11} is an *tert*-alkyl, fluorinated alkyl, trityl, alkoxy, or halogen group.

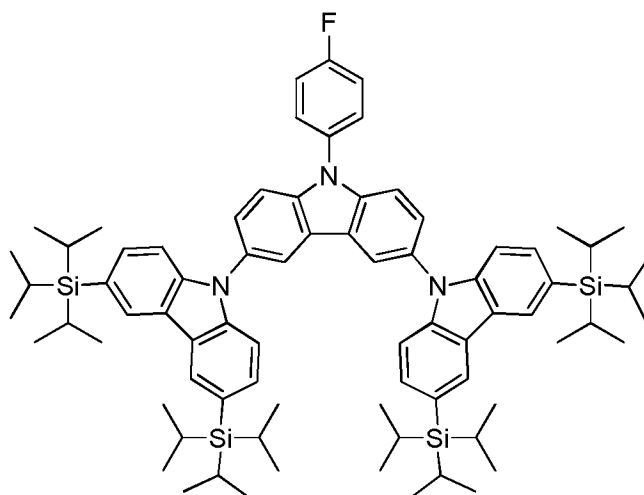
[0029] In some embodiments of the present invention, each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is $-\text{SiR}_8\text{R}_9\text{R}_{10}$, where R_8 , R_9 , and R_{10} are the same or different at each occurrence and independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and aryl groups.

[0030] In another embodiment of the present invention, each of R_8 , R_9 , and R_{10} is an isopropyl group and each of l , m , p , and q is 1.

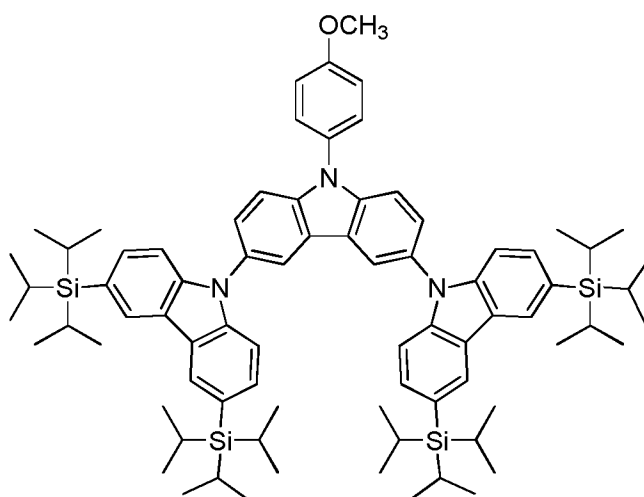
[0031] Specifically, some embodiments of the present invention include the following compounds represented by Formulae (IV) to (XI):



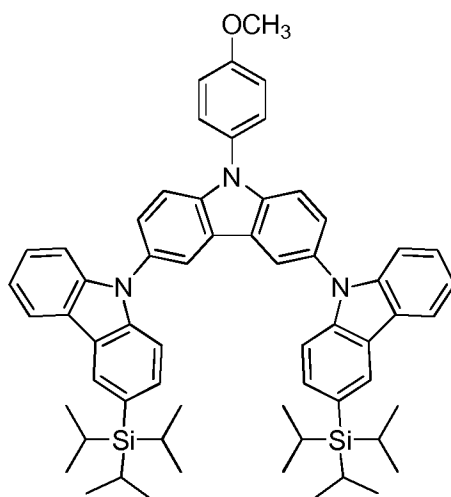
Formula (IV),



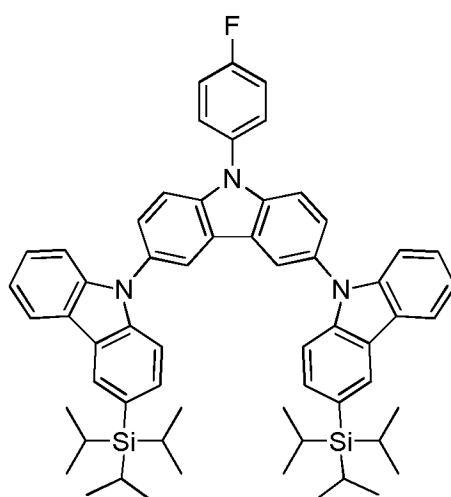
Formula (V),



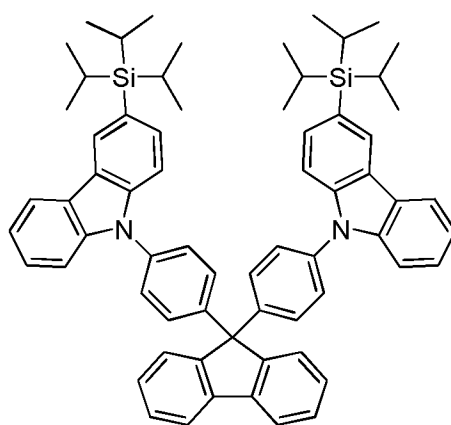
Formula (VI),



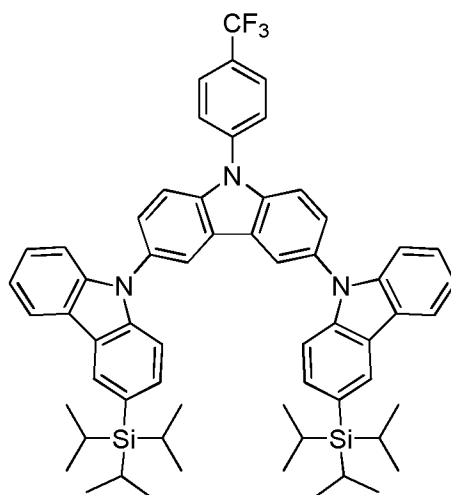
Formula (VII),



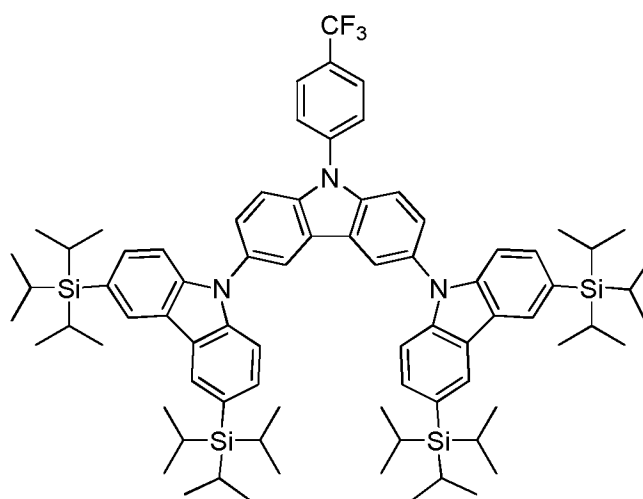
Formula (VIII),



Formula (IX),

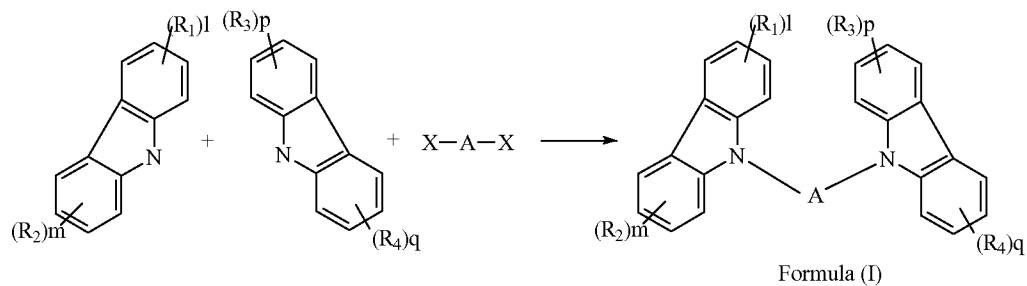


Formula (X), and



Formula (XI).

[0032] Generally, according to the embodiments of the present invention, the compound of Formula I can be prepared by the following reaction scheme, i.e., via a Ullman C-N coupling reaction of a dihalogenated organic compound with the corresponding carbazole derivative.



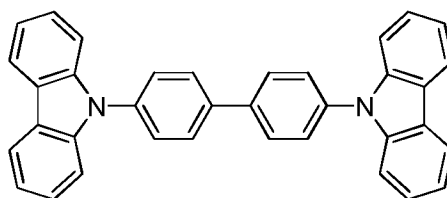
In some embodiments, copper/18-crown-6 is used as a catalyst and potassium carbonate as a base.

- [0033] In order to introduce substituents R₁ to R₄ to carbazole rings, any method known in the art can be used. In some embodiments of the present invention, a free imide nitrogen of dibrominated carbazole is initially protected by benzyl halide and further reacted with trialkylsilyltriflate in the presence of *n*-butyllithium, followed by deprotection, to give trialkylsilyl-substituted carbazole derivatives.
- [0034] The present invention is also directed to the use of the above compounds as host material in an emissive layer, where they function with an emissive material in an emissive layer in an organic light emitting device.
- [0035] Suitable guest emissive (dopant) materials can be selected from those known in the art and hereafter developed including, without limitation, bis(2-phenylpyridine)iridium complexes, which exhibit a phosphorescent emission in the blue region of the spectrum. In specific embodiments, the guest exhibits a phosphorescent emission in the pure blue region of the spectrum.
- [0036] If the emissive material is used as a dopant in a host layer comprising the compound of the present invention, it is generally used in an amount of at least 1% wt, specifically at least 3% wt, and more specifically at least 5% wt, with respect to the total weight of the host and the dopant. Further, it is generally used in an amount of at most 25% wt, specifically at most 20% wt, and more specifically at most 15% wt.
- [0037] The present invention is also directed to an organic light emitting device (OLED) comprising an emissive layer, where the emissive layer comprises the host material described above. The OLED can also comprise an emissive material (where the light emitting material is present as a dopant), where the emissive material is adapted to luminesce when voltage is applied across the device.
- [0038] The OLED generally comprises:
- a glass substrate;
 - a generally transparent anode, such as an indium-tin oxide (ITO) anode;
 - a hole transporting layer (HTL);
 - an emissive layer (EML);

an electron transporting layer (ETL); and
a generally metallic cathode such as an Al layer.

[0039] For the hole conducting emissive layer, an exciton blocking layer, notably a hole blocking layer (HBL), may be present between the emissive layer and the electron transporting layer. For the electron conducting emissive layer, an exciton blocking layer, notably an electron blocking layer (EBL), may be present between the emissive layer and the hole transporting layer.

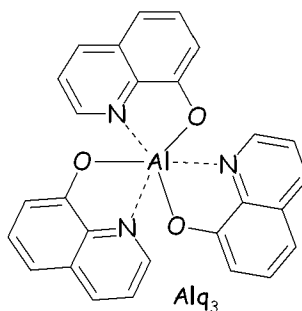
[0040] The emissive layer is formed with a host material comprising the compound of the present invention where the light emitting material exists as a guest. The emissive layer may further comprise an electron-transporting material selected from the group consisting of metal quinoxolates (e.g., aluminium quinoxalate (Alq_3), lithium quinoxalate (Liq)), oxadiazoles, and triazoles. A suitable example of the host material, without limitation, is 4,4'-N,N'-dicarbazole-biphenyl ["CBP"], which can be represented by the following formula:



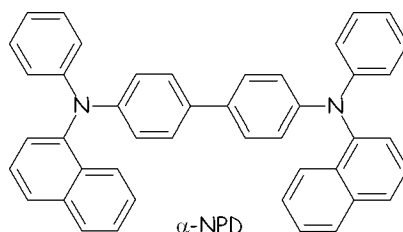
CBP.

[0041] Optionally, the emissive layer may also contain a polarization molecule that is present as a dopant in the host material and has a dipole moment which generally affects the wavelength of the light emitted when the light emitting material used as a dopant luminesces.

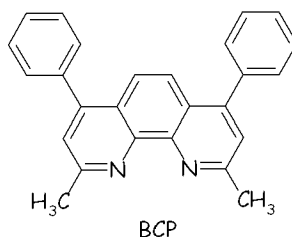
[0042] The layer formed from the electron transporting material is used to transport electrons into the emissive layer comprising the light emitting material and the optional host material. The electron transporting material may be an electron-transporting matrix selected from the group consisting of metal quinoxolates (e.g., Alq_3 and Liq), oxadiazoles, and triazoles. A suitable example of the electron transporting material is, without limitation, tris-(8-hydroxyquinoline)aluminum of formula [" Alq_3 "] :



[0043] The layer formed from the hole transporting material is used to transport holes into the emissive layer comprising the light emitting material and the optional host material. A suitable example of the hole transporting material, without limitation, is 4,4'-bis[N-(1-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino]biphenyl [" α -NPD"] of the following formula:



[0044] The use of the exciton blocking layer ("barrier layer") to confine excitons within the luminescent layer ("luminescent zone") is advantageous. For a hole-transporting host, the blocking layer may be placed between the emissive layer and the electron transport layer. A suitable example of the material for the barrier layer, without limitation, is 2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (also referred to as bathocuproine or "BCP"), which has the following formula :



[0045] As depicted in Figure 1, in some embodiments, the OLED according to the present invention has a multilayer structure where: 1 is a glass substrate; 2 is an ITO layer; 3 is an HTL layer comprising α -NPD; 4 is an EML comprising host material and the light emitting material as dopant in an amount of about 8% wt with respect to the total weight of the host plus dopant; 5 is an HBL comprising BCP; 6 is an ETL comprising Alq_3 ; and 7 is an Al layer cathode.

Examples

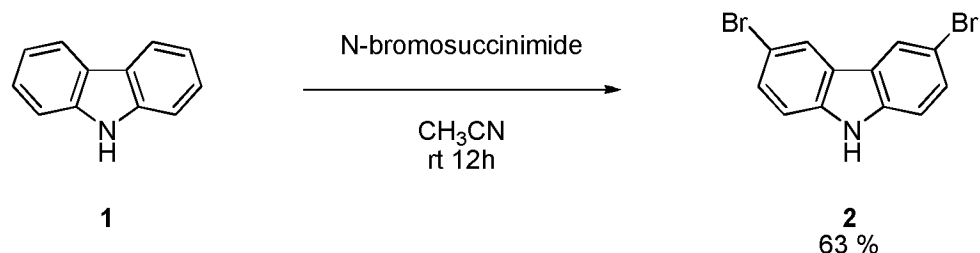
[0046] Hereinafter, the present invention will be explained in detail with reference to examples and comparative examples. These examples, however, should not in any sense be interpreted as limiting the scope of the present invention. Further, units are expressed by weight unless otherwise described.

[0047] All raw materials were purchased from Aldrich (U.S.A.), AlfaAesar (U.S.A.) or TCI (Japan). Drum solvents (e.g., EtOAc, hexane, THF, acetonitrile, DMF, dichloromethane) were used herein and were purchased from Mallinckrodt (U.S.A.) and Tedia. Freshly distilled tetrahydrofuran (over LiAlH_4) was used as the solvent for metalation reactions. All reagents were weighed and mixed in a glove box under nitrogen.

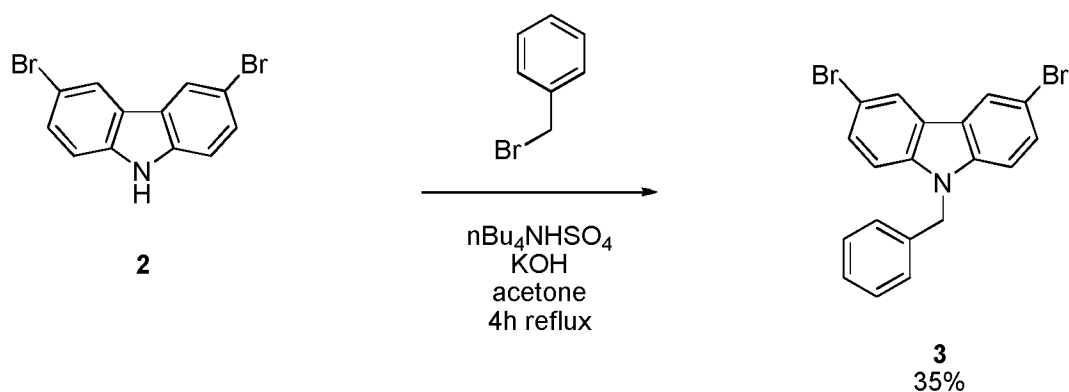
[0048] All ^1H , ^{13}C , and ^{19}F NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance III 400 NMR spectrometer at 400MHz, 100MHz, and 376 MHz, respectively, for solutions in CDCl_3 or $\text{DMSO}-d_6$. All in-process HPLC analyses were performed using a Hitachi Elite LaChrome machine. The reference wavelengths used were 245 nm and 220 nm. The LC/MS data were recorded on a Varian 1200L LC/MS, while the GC/MS data were recorded on an Agilent 6890 GC system. A CombiFlash Companion was used for the isolation and purification of the intermediates and final compounds. Thin layer chromatography was carried out using 2.5 x 7.5cm Merck 60 F-254 plates, and the elution solvents were hexane, EtOAc/hexane, and hexane/dichloromethane mixtures. The TLC plates were visualized by UV, iodine, and a 20% ethanol solution of phosphomolybdic acid, followed by

heating on a hot plate. All experiments were carried out under a nitrogen or argon atmosphere.

Example 1 - Synthesis of 9'-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilanyl-9'*H*-[9,3';6',9'']tercarbazole (Compound VI)

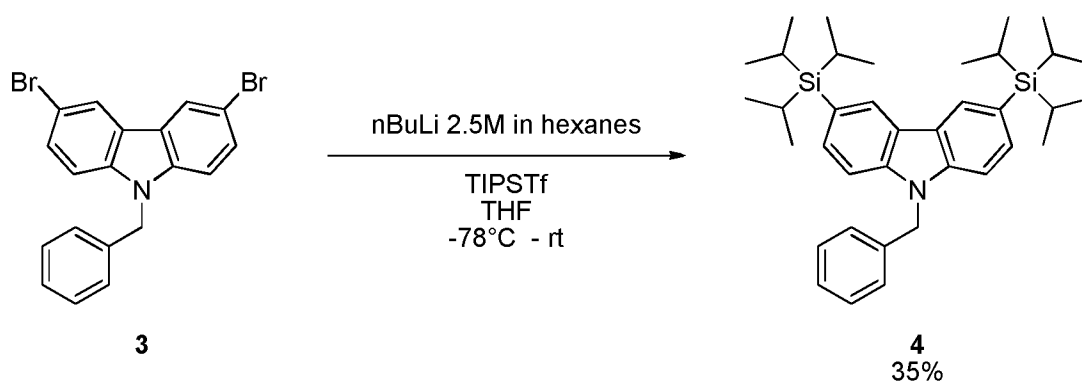


[0049] A 2 L dry round bottom flask was charged with carbazole **1** (90.7 g, 0.543 mol) and 1 L dry acetonitrile and stirred for one hour at room temperature under nitrogen, where most of the carbazole dissolved. N-bromosuccinimide (193.1 g, 1.084 mol) was added to the suspension neat in portions, where the reaction was exothermic. The mixture was immediately cooled in an ice-water bath following the addition. The mixture was left to be stirred overnight at room temperature. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, washed with acetonitrile, and dried to yield 112.0 g (63%) 3,6-dibromocarbazole **2**.

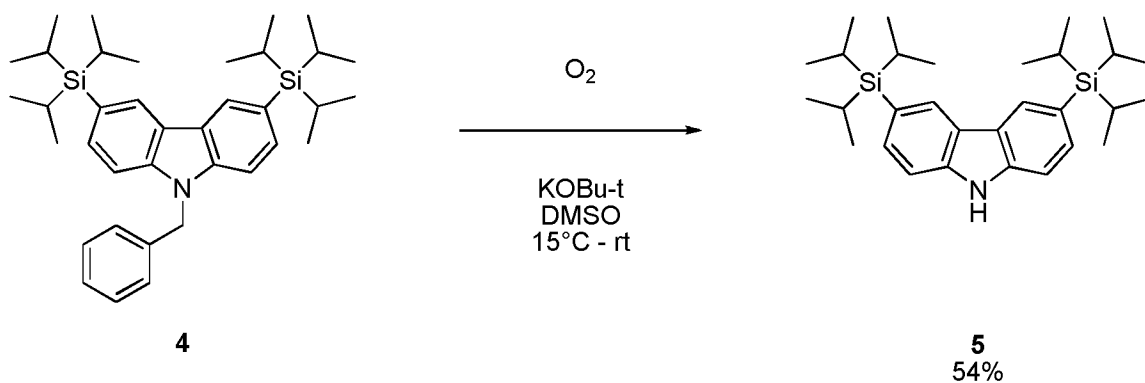


[0050] 3,6-Dibromocarbazole **2** (112.0 g, 0.344 mol), benzyl bromide (41 ml, 0.344 mol), and $\text{nBu}_4\text{NH}_4\text{SO}_4$ were mixed in 200 ml of acetone and stirred at room temperature under nitrogen until dissolved. KOH (19.3 g, 0.344 mol) was then added to the above transparent solution and the resultant mixture was refluxed for 4 hours, where a white precipitate was observed.

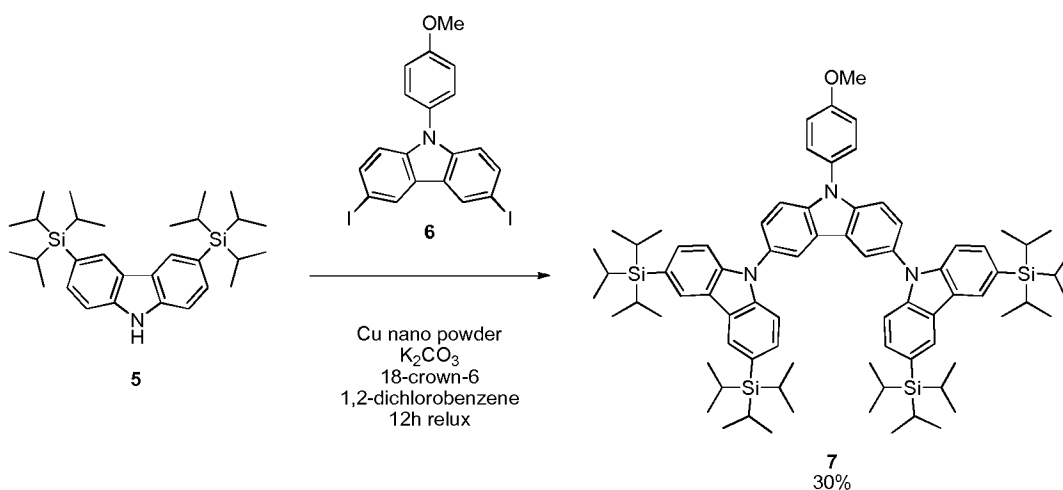
The hot mixture was concentrated to remove the majority of acetone. Upon cooling, additional white precipitate appeared. The precipitate was filtered, dissolved in methyl-*t*-butyl ether, washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to yield a major amount of pure N-benzyl-3,6-dibromocarbazole **3**. The filtrate was also washed with water and extracted with methyl-*t*-butyl ether, dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated, and purified over 120g SiO₂ with hexane and hexane:ethylacetate (95:5) eluents to yield a minor amount of pure N-benzyl-3,6-dibromocarbazole **3**. The combined yield from crystallization and chromatography was 49 g (35%) of N-benzyl-3,6-dibromocarbazole **3**.



[0051] A 2 L dry round bottom flask was charged with N-benzyl-3,6-dibromocarbazole **3** (49 g, 0.118 mol) and 1 L of dry THF was added. The mixture was stirred until N-benzyl-3,6-dibromocarbazole **3** was dissolved. The mixture was then cooled to -78°C and 2.5 M *n*-BuLi in hexanes (104 ml, 0.26 mol) was added dropwise. The mixture was stirred at -78°C for 15 min and triisopropylsilyl-trifluoromethyl sulfonate (66 ml, 0.26 mol) was added. The mixture was left to warm up to room temperature overnight. The mixture was then quenched with sat. NH₄Cl, extracted with methyl-*t*-butyl ether, dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated, and purified over a 330 g SiO₂ column to yield 9-benzyl-3,6-bis-triisopropylsilyl-9H-carbazole **4** 23.0 g (35%) as a transparent oil.

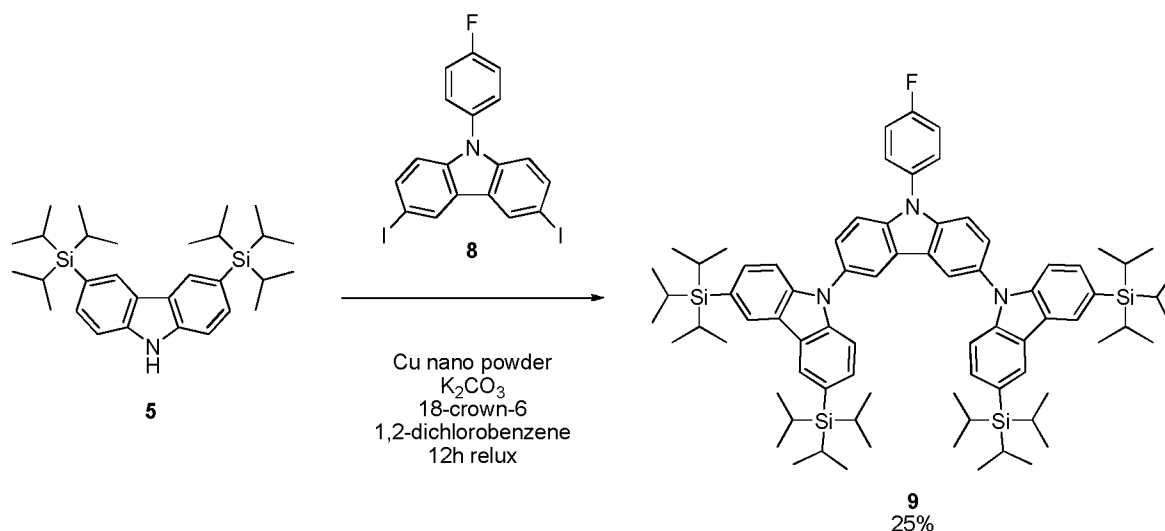


[0052] A 500 ml dry round bottom flask was charged with 9-benzyl-3,6-bis-triisopropylsilyl-9*H*-carbazole **4** (23.0 g, 0.04 mol) and the oil was suspended in 100 ml DMSO. The suspension was cooled in an ice water bath (~15°C) and 1M KOtBu in THF (240 ml, 0.24 mol) was added via a syringe under nitrogen. Oxygen started to bubble in the mixture and the nitrogen line was suppressed. While the oxygen bubbling was taking place, the mixture was left to warm up to ~20°C and cooling continued with only water. The oxygen bubbling continued until the starting material (TLC) disappeared, i.e., after ~30 min. Water was added to the mixture and the mixture was extracted with 5X200 ml ethylacetate. To remove the benzoic acid organic layer, the mixture was washed with sat. NaHCO₃, followed by brine washing. The organic layer was then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered, concentrated, and purified over a 330g SiO₂ column with hexane and hexane:ethylacetate (95:5) eluents. Appropriate fractions were collected to yield a white solid of 3,6-bis-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **5** 10.0 g (54%).



[0053] A mixture of 3,6-bis-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **5** (5.0 g, 0.011 mol), 3,6-diiodo-9-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-9*H*-carbazole **6** (2.6 g, 0.005 mol), K₂CO₃ (2.9 g, 0.021 mol), Cu nano powder (0.6 g, 0.011 mol), and 18-crown-6 (2.7 g, 0.011 mol) in 50 ml 1,2-dichlorobenzene was degassed with argon while stirring. The reaction mixture was then refluxed under argon for 12 hours at 178°C. The crude mixture was filtered and the residue was washed with CH₂Cl₂. The combined filtrates were concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on a 120 g SiO₂ column once and five times on a 160 g Al₂O₃ column with a cyclohexane eluent at a flow rate of 20 ml/min. Appropriate pure fractions were collected to yield 1.8 g of (30%) white powder of 9'-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilyl-9'*H*-[9,3';6',9'']tercarbazole **7**.

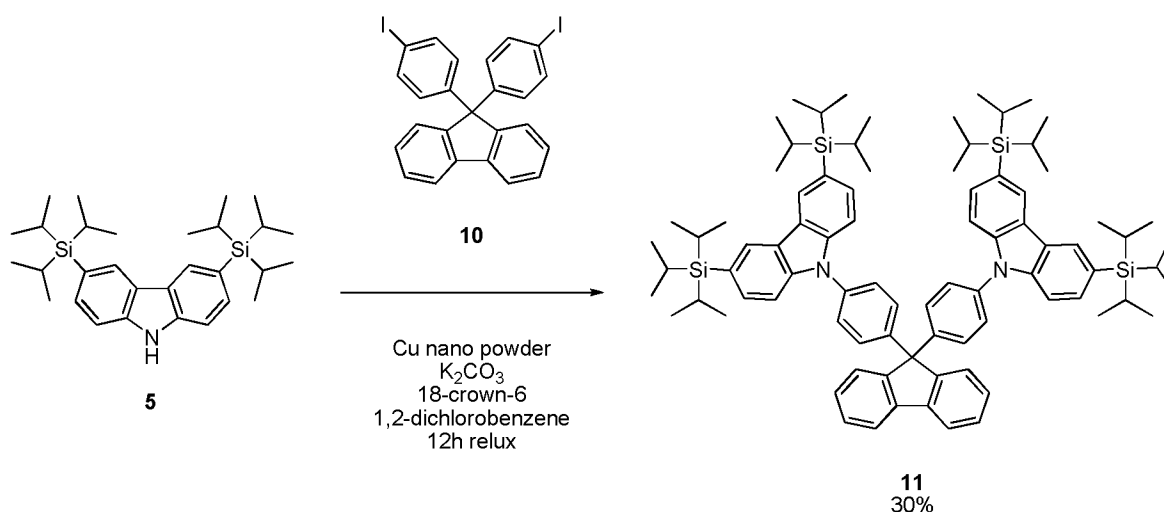
Example 2 - Synthesis of 9'-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilyl-9'*H*-[9,3';6',9'']tercarbazole (Compound V)



[0054] A mixture of 3,6-bis-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **5** (10.0 g, 0.021 mol), 3,6-diiodo-9-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-9*H*-carbazole **8** (4.7 g, 0.01 mol), K₂CO₃ (5.8 g, 0.042 mol), Cu nano powder (1.3 g, 0.021 mol), and 18-crown-6 (5.5 g, 0.021 mol) in 1,2-dichlorobenzene was degassed with argon while stirring. The reaction mixture was then refluxed under argon for 12 hours at 178°C. The crude mixture was filtered and the residue was washed with CH₂Cl₂. The combined filtrates were concentrated and the residue was purified by chromatography on a 120g SiO₂ column five times with a cyclohexane

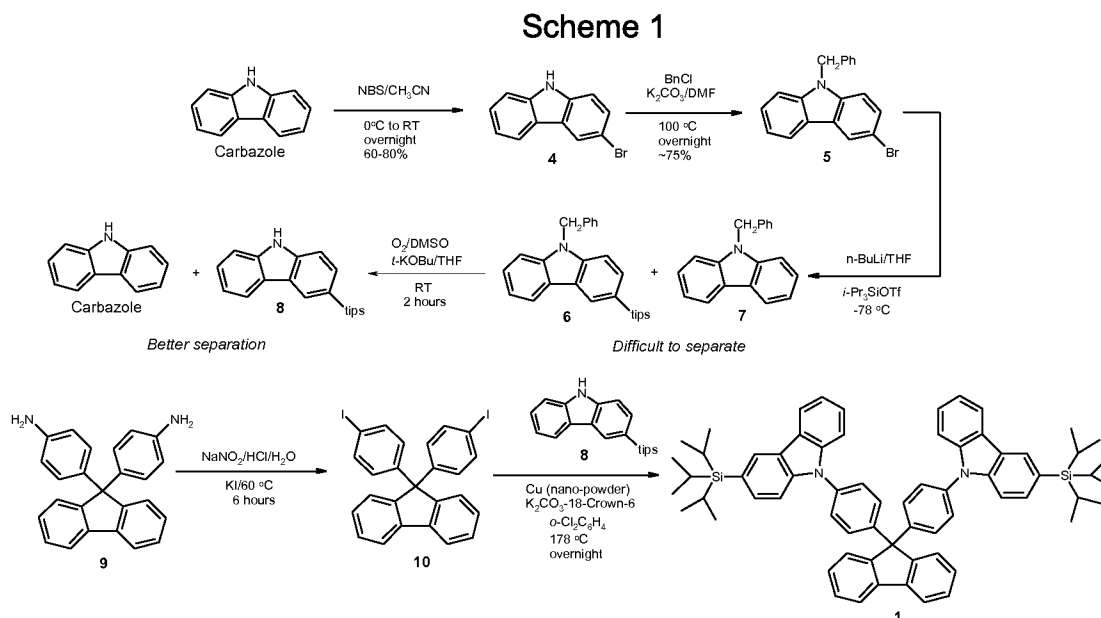
eluent. Appropriate pure fractions were collected to yield 3.0 g (25%) of white powder of 9'-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilanyl-9'*H*-[9,3';6',9'']tercarbazole **9**.

Example 3 - Synthesis of 9,9-Bis-(4-phenyl-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilanyl-9'*H*-carbazole)-9*H*-fluorene (Compound IV)



[0055] A mixture of 3,6-bis-triisopropylsilanyl-carbazole **5** (5.0 g, 0.011 mol), 9,9-bis-(4-iodo-phenyl)-9*H*-fluorene **10** (2.8 g, 0.005 mol), K_2CO_3 (5.8 g, 0.021 mol), Cu nano powder (0.65 g, 0.021 mol), and 18-crown-6 (2.7 g, 0.011 mol) in 50 ml 1,2-dichlorobenzene was degassed with argon while stirring. The reaction mixture was then refluxed under argon for 12 hours at 178°C. The crude mixture was filtered and the residue was washed with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined filtrates were concentrated and residue was purified by chromatography on a 120g SiO_2 column five times with a cyclohexane eluent at a flow rate of 20 ml/min to yield 1.9 g (30%) of white powder of 9,9-bis-(4-phenyl-3,6,3'',6''-tetrakis-triisopropylsilanyl-9'*H*-carbazole)-9*H*-fluorene **11**.

Example 4 - Synthesis of 9,9-Bis-[4-(3-Triisopropylsilylcarbazol)-phenyl]-fluorene (Compound IX)



Synthesis of 3-Bromocarbazole

[0056] To a suspension of 9.153 g (54.7 mmol) of carbazole in 100 ml of HPLC grade acetonitrile at 0°C was slowly added 10.433 g (58.6 mmol) of N-bromosuccinimide (NBS) under vigorous stirring. After the NBS was added, the contents of the flask's were slowly brought to room temperature and stirred overnight. A bulky white precipitate was filtered, washed with cold acetonitrile (2x30 ml) and hexane (2x50 ml), and dried under vacuum to constant weight to yield 7.95 g (59% yield) of 3-bromocarbazole 4 as a fluffy white solid. Additional product can be isolated from the filtrate (R_f = 0.26 for carbazole and R_f = 0.16 for 3-bromocarbazole 4 in EtOAc/hexane = 85:15).

Synthesis of 9-N-Benzyl-3-bromocarbazole

[0057] To a solution of 34.6 g (0.141 mol) of 3-bromocarbazole 4 in 350 ml of anhydrous DMF was added 34.4 g (0.248 mol, 1.77 eq.) of powdered anhydrous potassium carbonate (K_2CO_3), followed by an addition of 2.05 g (7.75 mmol, ~5.5 mol%) of 18-crown-6 and 18.96g (0.149 mol) of benzyl chloride at room temperature. The temperature of the mixture was maintained at 100°C, and the mixture was stirred for 23 hours. The

mixture was removed from the heat, cooled to ambient temperature, and then the solvent was removed from the mixture on a rotary evaporator under high vacuum. About 1L of cold water was added to the residue, and the products were extracted with dichloromethane (2x0.5 L). The organic extract was washed with 1 L of water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to yield 50g of white solid. The crude product containing some unreacted 3-bromocarbazole **4** ($R_f = 0.44$ for **5** and $R_f = 0.16$ for **4** in CH₂Cl₂/hexane = 2:8) was purified on CombiFlash (2 runs, 330 g column, hexane/dichloromethane) to give 39.4 g (83% yield) of pure 9-N-benzyl-3-bromocarbazole **5** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9-N-Benzyl-3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole

[0058] A solution of 3.854 g (11.46 mmol) of 9-N-benzyl-3-bromocarbazole **5** in 70 ml of anhydrous THF was cooled to -78°C, and 5.0 ml of n-BuLi (2.5 M/hexane, 12.5 mmol, 1.1 eq.) was slowly added using a syringe at a suitable rate for maintaining a temperature below -74°C. The resulting yellow solution was stirred at -78°C for 40 minutes, and then neat triisopropylsilyl triflate (TIPS-triflate) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture using a syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 minutes and was then slowly allowed to warm up to room temperature for a period of two hours. The reaction mixture was quenched with ice water, extracted with ethyl acetate (3x50 ml), and the organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. After concentration on a rotary evaporator, a colorless oil was purified on CombiFlash (120 g column, hexane) to afford 2.55 g of clear oil. Although this material produces one spot on TLC ($R_f = 0.67$ in EtOAc/hexane = 1:9), a second spot related to the reduced material **7** can be seen in hexane ($R_f = 0.27$ for **6** and $R_f = 0.19$ for **7**). The HPLC results indicated that the oil contained about 60% of the product 9-N-benzyl-3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **6**. This material was used for the following de-protection step. Only a trace amount (0.115 g) of the pure 9-N-benzyl-3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **6** was isolated to confirm the product's structure.

Synthesis of 3-Triisopropylsilyl-carbazole

A. Deprotection of Pure 9-N-Benzyl-3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole 6

[0059] To the suspension of 0.1135 g (0.274 mmol) of pure 9-N-benzyl-3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole **6** in 4 ml of DMSO was added 2 ml (2 mmol) of a 1M/ THF solution of KOBu-*t* at room temperature, resulting in the formation of a clear solution. Oxygen was bubbled through the reaction mixture at ~18°C for 5 minutes, after which the oxygen flow was stopped. The reaction was quenched with ice water (50 ml), extracted with dichloromethane (2x30 ml), and the organic layer was separated and dried over Na₂SO₄. The extract was concentrated on a rotary evaporator to give 0.12 g of a yellow solid, which was purified on CombiFlash (4 g column, hexane) to afford 0.08g (95% yield) of pure 3-triisopropylsilyl-carbazole 8 as a white solid.

B. Deprotection of Mixture of **6** and **7**

[0060] A total of 1.19 g of crude **6** (~60% content by HPLC, 0.7 g pure **6**, 1.72 mmol) from the above reaction of synthesis of **6** was suspended in 2 ml of DMSO. A total of 30 ml (30 mmol) of 1M/ THF solution of KOBu-*t* was added, and oxygen was bubbled through the solution at ambient temperature until the starting material disappeared, indicated by TLC (at this stage the color of the reaction usually turns orange). As mentioned above, the crude **6** produces only one spot on TLC ($R_f = 0.67$ in EtOAc/hexane = 1:9). After deprotection, the TLC indicates the presence of four compounds with a major one corresponding to the product **8** and the following R_f values: trace amounts of unreacted **6** with $R_f = 0.67$, the major spot of the product **8** with $R_f = 0.37$, and two minor spots with $R_f = 0.26$ and 0.18 corresponding to carbazole and an unidentified impurity, respectively. The reaction was quenched with ice water (150 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (3x50 ml). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (100 ml), brine (30 ml), and dried over Na₂SO₄. After concentration on a rotary evaporator, a total of 2.9 g of yellow oil was obtained. This crude product was purified on CombiFlash (80 g column,

hexane/dichloromethane as eluent) to give 0.634 g (89% yield based on **6**) of pure deprotected compound **8** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9,9-Bis-(4-Iodophenyl)-fluorene

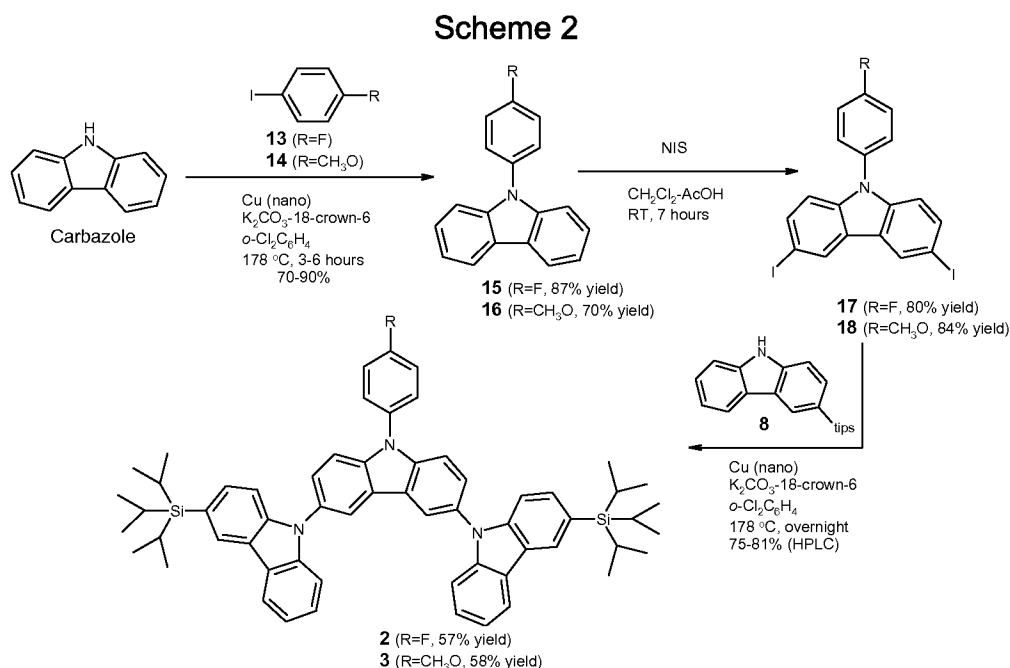
[0061] A total of 25.5 g (73.18 mmol) of 9,9-bis(4-aminophenyl)fluorene from TCI (Japan) was dissolved in a mixture of 250 ml of water and 45 ml (0.456 mol, 6 eq.) of concentrated HCl. This mixture was placed in a 1 L three-neck round bottom flask equipped with an overhead stirrer, a thermocouple, an addition funnel, and a cooling ice/methanol bath. The flask's contents were cooled to 0°C, and a cold solution of NaNO₂ (10.6 g, 153.6 mmol, 2 eq.) in 40 ml of water was added dropwise to the solution under vigorous stirring. The resulting yellow solution was further stirred at 0°C for 30 minutes. This solution was transferred to a jacketed addition funnel with a jacket filled with ice in order to maintain the prepared diazonium salt at a temperature of 0°C. A solution of this salt was slowly added to a solution of KI (48.3 g, 0.291 mol, 4 eq.) in 250 ml of water at ~10°C under vigorous stirring. After completing the addition, the resulting dark mixture was maintained at a temperature of 60°C and stirred for 6 hours. The mixture was cooled to room temperature, and the organic material was extracted with dichloromethane (3x0.5 L), washed with water (1 L), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator to give 45 g of black foam. This crude material was purified on CombiFlash (330g column, hexane) to give 24.7 g (59% yield) of 9,9-bis-(4-iodophenyl)-fluorene 10 as a white solid with R_f = 0.33 (in hexane).

Synthesis of 9,9-Bis-[4-(3-Triisopropylsilyl)carbazol]-phenyl]-fluorene

[0062] A mixture of 1.7585 g (3.08 mmol) of **10**, 2.1678g (6.699 mmol, 2.17 eq.) of **8**, 2.9422 g (21.28 mmol, 3.18 eq. based on **8**) of anhydrous K₂CO₃, 0.3220 g (1.21 mmol, 18 mol% based on **8**) of 18-crown-6, and 0.9715 g (15.2 mmol, 2.26 eq. based on **8**) of nano-powdered copper in 110 ml of anhydrous *o*-dichlorobenzene was charged under an argon blanket into a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, thermocouple, condenser, heating mantle, and argon-filled balloon. The mixture was maintained at a

temperature of 177°C and stirred for 40 hours. The reaction was monitored by TLC and HPLC. After about two days when the reaction was complete, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with water (0.5 L). The organic products were extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator. *o*-Dichlorobenzene from the residue was removed under high vacuum to give 5.2 g of viscous brown oil. This material was purified on CombiFlash (120 g, hexane/dichloromethane), and 1.72 g (47% yield) of 9,9-bis-[4-(3-triisopropylsilylcarbazol)-phenyl]-fluorene 1 was isolated as a white foam. Concentration of the mixed fractions afforded 1.12 g of impure product contaminated with **8**. The pure material (1.72 g) was dissolved in a minimum amount of warm dichloromethane (~15 ml), diluted with warm hexane (~80 ml), and slowly concentrated on a rotary evaporator at room temperature until the volume of the reaction mixture was about one-third of the original volume. Upon the cooling of the residue in an ice bath, product **1** slowly crystallized. The precipitate was filtered, washed quickly with cold hexane (2x20 ml), and dried under vacuum until constant weight to give 1.35 g of **1** as a white solid (lot A352-79-1). Calculated for C₆₇H₇₂N₂Si₂ · 0.5 mol hexane: C 83.69; H 7.93; N 2.79. Found: C 83.94; H 7.97; N 2.81. HPLC purity 99.7%.

Example 5 - Synthesis of 9-N-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-3,6-Bis-[(3-Triisopropylsilylcarbazo-lyl)]carbazole[2] (Compound VII) and 9-N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-Bis-[(3-Triisopropylsilylcarbazo-lyl)]carbazole[3] (Compound VIII)



[0063] As depicted in Scheme 2 above, compounds VII and VIII were synthesized similarly to compound IX.

[0064] The coupling of carbazole with commercially available 4-fluoro-iodobenzene 13 and 4-methoxy-iodobenzene 14 smoothly occurred in the presence of nano-copper under conditions described in Scheme 1 for the synthesis of compound IX (1) from 10. The iodination of 15 and 16 using N-iodosuccinimide (NIS) under acidic conditions (Maruyama et al., "Synthesis of novel carbazolyacetylene-derived macrocycles". *Synthesis*, 12: 1794-1799 (2001)) resulted in the formation of 3,6-diiodosubstituted carbazoles 17 and 18 in good yield. A copper-mediated coupling of diiodides 17 and 18 with triisopropylsilyl(TIPS)-carbazole 8 easily provides target compounds 2 and 3 (compounds VIII and VII).

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Fluorophenyl)-carbazole

[0065] A mixture of 10.41g of 95% carbazole (9.89 g, 59.1 mmol), 15.44g (69.5 mmol, 1.17 eq.) of 4-iodofluorobenzene (Aldrich), 13.13 g (95 mmol,

1.6 eq.) of anhydrous K_2CO_3 , 3.11g (11.76 mmol, ~20 mol%) of 18-crown-6, and 4.22g (66.41 mmol, 1.1 eq.) of nano-powdered copper in 120 ml of anhydrous *o*-dichlorobenzene was charged under an argon blanket into a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermocouple, a condenser, a heating mantle, and an argon-filled balloon. The mixture was maintained at a temperature of 177°C and stirred until the reaction was completed. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After the reaction was complete (i.e., after about 6 hours), the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 1 L of water. In order to improve the separation of the organic layer, the fluffy black copper residue was optionally removed via filtration through cotton. The organic products were extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 ml), dried over Na_2SO_4 , and concentrated on a rotary evaporator, following the removal of *o*-dichlorobenzene under high vacuum. A total of 22 g of brown solid was obtained. This crude material was purified on CombiFlash (330g column, hexane/dichloromethane, two runs), resulting in the isolation of 14.13 g (87% yield) of pure 9-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-carbazole **15** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-carbazole

[0066] A mixture of 8.76 g of 95% carbazole (8.32 g, 49.7 mmol), 12.91g (55.1 mmol, 1.1 eq.) of 4-iodoanisole (Aldrich), 10.54g (76.26 mmol, 1.53 eq.) of anhydrous K_2CO_3 , 2.04 g (7.71 mmol, ~15 mol%) of 18-crown-6, and 6.45 g (101.5 mmol, 2.0 eq.) of nano-powdered copper in 100 ml of anhydrous *o*-dichlorobenzene was charged under an argon blanket into a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermocouple, a condenser, a heating mantle, and a balloon filled with argon. The mixture was maintained at a temperature of 178°C and stirred until the reaction was completed. The reaction was monitored by TLC. After the reaction was complete (i.e., after about 4 hours) by TLC (R_f = 0.22 for carbazole, R_f = 0.49 for 4-iodoanisole and 0.4 for **16** in EtOAc/hexane = 1:9), the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with 1 L of water. In order to improve the separation of the organic layer, the fluffy black copper residue was removed via filtration through cotton. The organic products

were extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 ml), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated on a rotary evaporator, following the removal of *o*-dichlorobenzene under high vacuum. A total of 23.4 g of brown solid was obtained. This crude material was purified on CombiFlash (330g column, hexane/dichloromethane), resulting in the isolation of 10.2 g of a white solid. This material was dissolved in ~30 ml of dichloromethane, diluted with hexane (~100 ml), and slowly concentrated on a rotary evaporator at room temperature until about 20% of the original volume was left in the flask. A white solid began to precipitate from the residue upon cooling in ice. The precipitate was filtered, washed with cold hexane (2x30 ml), and dried under vacuum to constant weight to give 9.93 g (70% yield) of pure 9-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-carbazole **16** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3,6-diiodocarbazole

[0067] A solution of 5.634 g (21.54 mmol) of **15** in a mixture of 130 ml of dichloromethane and 45 ml of glacial acetic acid was placed in a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermocouple, a condenser, an ice bath, and a balloon filled with argon. The mixture was cooled to 10°C, and 10.861 g of 95% solid N-iodosuccinimide (NIS, 10.317 g, 45.85 mmol, 2.1 eq.) was slowly added portion wise to the solution within 10 minutes. After the addition was complete, the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and stirred for an additional 6 hours. The solvents (CH₂Cl₂ and AcOH) were removed under reduced pressure on a rotary evaporator, 300 ml of dichloromethane was then added to the residue, and the reaction mixture was washed with 10% aqueous KOH (3x200 ml). The products were extracted with dichloromethane, and the organic layer was washed with water (300 ml) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The resulting clear yellow solution was concentrated on a rotary evaporator, and the residue was dissolved in ~100 ml of hot dichloromethane. About 300 ml of hexane was added quickly to the solution of product in dichloromethane, and upon cooling the product crystallized. The precipitated solid was filtered, washed with cold hexane (2x30 ml), and dried until constant weight to give 8.84 g

(80% yield) of pure 9-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,6-diiodocarbazole **17** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Methoxyphenyl)-3,6-diiodocarbazole

[0068] A solution of 3.95 g (14.45 mmol) of **16** in a mixture of 100 ml of dichloromethane and 35 ml of glacial acetic acid was placed in a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermocouple, a condenser, an ice bath, and a balloon filled with argon. The mixture was cooled to 10°C, and 7.29 g of 95% solid N-iodosuccinimide (NIS, 6.92 g, 30.78 mmol, 2.1 eq.) was slowly added portion wise to the solution within 10 minutes. After the addition was complete, the reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred for an additional 6 hours. The solvents (CH₂Cl₂ and AcOH) were removed under reduced pressure on a rotary evaporator, 200 ml of dichloromethane was then added to the residue, and the reaction mixture was washed with 10% aqueous KOH (3x100 ml). The products were extracted with dichloromethane, and the organic layer was washed with water (200 ml) and dried over Na₂SO₄. The clear yellow solution was concentrated on a rotary evaporator, and the resulting off-white solid residue was dissolved in ~40 ml of hot dichloromethane. About 800 ml of hexane was quickly added to the solution, and the product slowly crystallized overnight upon cooling in the refrigerator. The precipitated solid was filtered, washed with cold hexane (2x30 ml), and dried until constant weight to give 6.34g (84% yield) of pure 9-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,6-diiodocarbazole **18** as a white solid.

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-3,6-Bis-[(3-Triisopropylsilylcarbazo-lyl)]carbazole (Compound VIII)

[0069] A mixture of 2.2013 g (4.29 mmol) of **17**, 2.7620g (8.53 mmol, 1.99 eq.) of **8** (from Example 4), 3.995 g (28.9 mmol, 3.39 eq. based on **8**) of anhydrous K₂CO₃, 0.4950 g (1.87 mmol, 22 mol% based on **8**) of 18-crown-6, and 1.1920 g (18.75 mmol, 2 eq. based on **8**) of nano-powdered copper in 100 ml of anhydrous o-dichlorobenzene was charged under an argon blanket into a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a

thermocouple, a condenser, a heating mantle, and a balloon filled with argon. The mixture was maintained at a temperature of 177°C and stirred for 40 hours. The reaction was monitored by TLC and HPLC. After about two days, when the reaction was complete, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with water (0.5 L). The organic products were extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 ml), filtered through loose cotton in order to remove the fluffy copper residue, and dried over Na₂SO₄. Concentration of the reaction mixture on a rotary evaporator and the following removal of o-dichlorobenzene under high vacuum provided 6.1 g of brown oil. This material was purified on CombiFlash (330g, hexane/dichloromethane), resulting in a white solid. This material was dissolved in a minimum amount of warm dichloromethane (~15 ml), diluted with warm hexane (~150 ml), and slowly concentrated on a rotary evaporator at room temperature until crystallization occurred. The obtained suspension was cooled on an ice bath, filtered, and the filter cake was then washed with cold hexane (2x20 ml). The solid product was dried under vacuum to constant weight to yield 2.21 g (57% yield) of pure compound VIII as a white solid (lot A352-105-2) with HPLC purity 100%. Calculated for C₆₀H₆₆FN₃Si₂ · 0.2 mol H₂O: C 79.37; H 7.37; N 4.63. Found: C 79.36; H 7.54; N 4.61.

Synthesis of 9-N-(4-Methoxy-phenyl)-3,6-Bis-[(3-Triisopropylsilylcarbazolyl)]carbazole (Compound VII)

[0070] A mixture of 1.6183 g (3.08 mmol) of **18**, 2.0492 g (6.33 mmol, 2 eq.) of **8**, 2.9110g (21.06 mmol, 3.3 eq. based on **8**) of anhydrous K₂CO₃, 0.486 g (1.83 mmol, 29 mol% based on **8**) of 18-crown-6, and 1.189 g (18.71 mmol, 2.95 eq. based on **8**) of nano-powdered copper in 100 ml of anhydrous o-dichlorobenzene were charged under an argon blanket into a 0.5 L flask, equipped with a magnetic stirrer, a thermocouple, a condenser, a heating mantle, and a balloon filled with argon. The mixture was maintained at a temperature of 177°C and stirred for 40 hours. The reaction was monitored by TLC and HPLC. After about two days, when reaction was complete, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and quenched with

water (0.5 L). The organic products were extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 ml), filtered through loose cotton in order to remove fluffy copper residue and dried over Na₂SO₄. Concentration of the reaction mixture on a rotary evaporator and the following removal of *o*-dichlorobenzene under high vacuum provided 6.2 g of dark oil. This material was purified on CombiFlash (330g, hexane/dichloromethane), resulting in 3.2 g of yellow oil. This material was re-purified one more time on CombiFlash (120 g column, hexane/dichloromethane) to provide 2.3 g of clear yellow oil by TLC. This oil was dissolved in hexane (~20 ml) and left in the refrigerator overnight. The precipitated fluffy solid was filtered using a 0.45 PTFE membrane filter, quickly washed with cold hexane (2x15 ml), and dried over nitrogen first, followed by drying under high vacuum until constant weight. Compound VII was obtained as a light-sensitive white solid (1.61 g, 57% yield) which must be kept in the dark (lot A352-107-2) with HPLC purity 99%+. Calculated for C₆₁H₆₉N₃OSi₂ · 0.2 mol H₂O: C 79.64; H 7.60; N 4.57. Found: C 79.70; H 7.85; N 4.58.

Example 6 - Measurement of Absorbance and Photoluminescence

- [0071] The UV-visible absorption spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU UV-3101 PC double beam spectrophotometer. The photoluminescence studies were conducted with a HORIBA JOBIN YVON Fluoromax-4 P spectrofluorimeter on 10⁻⁵ M solutions of the different hosts ($\lambda_{exc.}$: 300 nm). The emission measurements at 77 °K were performed using the FL-2013 Dewar liquid nitrogen assembly from HORIBA JOBIN YVON. Toluene and dichloromethane (DCM) were spectrometric grade and 2-methyltetrahydrofuran was ≥ 99.0 % (anhydrous).
- [0072] As shown in Figs. 2-4, the carbazole-based compounds of the present invention have a triplet-energy-gap which is below that of phosphorescent blue emitters (i.e., approximately 455 nm).

Example 7 - Measurement of Cyclic Voltammetry

- [0073] Cyclic voltammetry experiments were performed using a METROHM VA Trace Analyzer 746 in conjunction with a VA Stand 747 measuring unit. All measurements were carried out at room temperature under inert atmosphere with a conventional three-electrode configuration, where the solution was degassed before use with a stream of argon for 5-10 min. The working electrode was a glassy carbon disk, while the counter electrode was a Pt wire. The reference electrode was an Ag/AgCl reference electrode filled with a KCl saturated solution in methanol or a pseudo-reference Pt wire.
- [0074] The solvent in all of the experiments was anhydrous dichloromethane and the supporting electrolyte was 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate. Host concentrations were 0.5-2 mM. The scan rate was fixed to 100 or 500 mv/s. Ferrocene was used as an internal reference to determine the oxidation potential of the hosts.
- [0075] As described above, the energy of the lowest excited triplet state of the carbazole-based compounds of the present invention should be higher in energy than the lowest emitting state of the phosphorescent emitter. In some embodiments, the triplet energy of the carbazole-based compounds of the present invention may be at least 2.725 eV so that the compounds can host blue phosphorescent emitters, allowing the host to be used with phosphorescent emitters emitting blue light of 455 nm (2.725 eV). As shown in the table below, all of compounds IV, V, and VI have triplet energies of more than 2.725 eV, making them promising compounds as host materials for blue emission.
- [0076] As shown in figure 5 the carbazole-based compound IV of the present invention has a reversible first oxidation wave and compound IX has a non-reversible first oxidation wave (arrow pointed).
- [0077] As shown in figures 6 and 7 the carbazole-based compounds VII and VIII of the present invention have a reversible first oxidation wave and a non-reversible second oxidation wave (arrow pointed) and the compounds VI and V have two reversible oxidation waves.
- [0078] Since reversible oxidation waves in cyclic voltammetry are an indication of improved electrochemical stability, figures 5-7 show that the more the

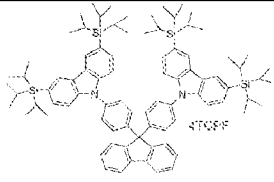
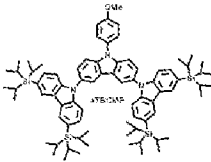
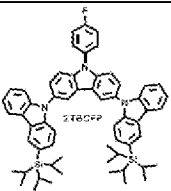
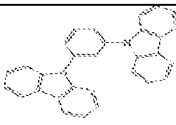
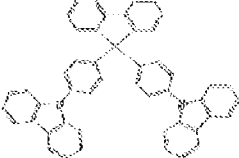
substituted carbazole compounds of the invention are bearing trialkylsilyl substituents, the more electrochemical stable they are.

Compd.	Solvent	Absorption								Fluorescence				Phosphorescence								E _T (eV)
		λ max (nm)						λ onset (nm)	E _g (eV)	T°	λ (nm)			λ (nm)								
IX	DCM	266	289	296	310	328	342			RT	349	365	383									
	2-methyl-THF	266	289	296	310	328	342	353	3.51	RT	349	365	380	429	436	452	462	471	487	497	527	2,89
IV	2-methyl-THF	270	289	299	310	328	342	353	3.51	RT	349	365	380	430	437	453	462	471	487	497	527	2,88
VII	2-methyl-THF	268	287(sh)	296	314(sh)	328	343	381	3.25	RT	384	402	+	423	448	477(sh)						2,93
VI	2-methyl-THF	271	288(sh)	298	315(sh)	328	343	381	3.25	77°K	377	398	phospho									
										RT	384	402	422	446	477(sh)						2,94	
VIII	2-methyl-THF	267	288(sh)	296	314(sh)	328	343	381	3.25	RT	382	399	+	420	445	477(sh)						2,95
										77°K	374	394	phospho									
V	2-methyl-THF	271	289(sh)	299		327	343	381	3.25	RT	382	399	+	420	443	475(sh)						2,95
										77°K	373	392	phospho									

Example 8 - Blue Hosts Sublimation

- [0079] For sublimation, a Creaphys tube-based Vacuum Sublimation Unit DSU05-v was used. An external oven with 3 independent heating zones creates a temperature gradient inside the glass tube that is intended for the deposition of the compounds.
- [0080] The sublimation unit provides the ability to purify organic volatile compounds by vacuum sublimation, both for sublimable compounds and liquid phase compounds.
- [0081] The collected fractions were analyzed on HPLC or NMR to determine their purity. After sublimation, the compounds were stored away from air and light.

[0082]

Structure	Mass	Time	Yield*	Purity
	mg	Min	%	%
 (IV)	558	1200	81	98 % NMR
 (VI)	353	1100	Degradation	
 (VIII)	330	1335	78	99,7 % HPLC
 (mCp, comparative example)	4235	750	75	99,7 % HPLC
 (CPF, comparative example)	4670	362	82	-**

* : yield of recovered good product, ** : insoluble

Example 9 - Measurement of Glass Transition Temperature (T_g)

[0083] For glass transition temperature (T_g) determinations, measurements were performed on a TA 2920 (TA Instruments) or a DSC 823 (Mettler-Toledo). The typical specimen weight ranges were between 10 mg to 20 mg, depending on sample characteristics. The temperature program included two heating and one cooling steps, at 20 K/min. The choice of the upper temperature depended on sample characteristics, mainly thermal stability and degree of crystallinity. The glass transition was characterized by T_g :

intersection with the median line between the two extrapolated baselines. Measurements were repeated at least twice, depending on the amount of available material.

[0084] As show in the table below, the compounds IV has a notable higher Tg value than the comparative example CPF and the compound V has a notable higher Tg value than the compound VIII. Surprisingly, the trialkylsilyl substituted carbazoles compounds of this invention are all the more thermically stable as they are bearing more trialkylsilyl substituents.

	Tg (°C)
IV	211
CPF	165 *
VIII	174
V	215

* litterature value

Example 10 - Solubility Tests

[0085] The solubility tests were carried out at 20°C by adding 1 ml of solvent to the suitable amount of compound powder in a sampling vial and under magnetic stirring.

[0086] As shown in the solubility measurement results in the table below, the compounds of Formulae IV to IX have good solubilities toward chlorobenzene and toluene, while the control compound (CPF) lacks solubility for most organic solvents.

Chlorobenzene	
Comparative example(CPF)	1.24 mg/ml < S < 2.96 mg/ml (1.9 mmol/l < S < 4.6 mmol/l)
Formula IX	S > 57 mg/ml (59 mmol/l)
Formula IV	S > 54 mg/ml (42 mmol/l)
Formula VII	S > 56 mg/ml (62 mmol/l)
Formula VI	S > 55 mg/ml (45 mmol/l)
Formula VIII	S > 51 mg/ml (57 mmol/l)
Toluene	
Formula IX	S > 47 (mg/ml) (49 mmol/l)
Formula IV	S > 39 (mg/ml) (31 mmol/l)

[0087] The carbazole-based compounds having suitable substituents, in particular, the triisopropylsilyl group of the present invention, have been found to be promising for large-scale light emitting diodes since they allow for solvent-processing techniques, such as spin-coating, (ink-jet) printing processes, high concentration demanding printing processes (roll to roll, flexography, etc), etc., while maintaining the other necessary properties for OLED devices.

Example 11 – OLED Devices

[0088] A general structure as shown in figure 8 was used to fabricate OLED devices having an emissive layer (EML) containing the carbazole based host materials VIII and V of the present invention.

[0089] A reference OLED device based on PVK as a host was fabricated to benchmark the performance of the carbazole based compounds of the present invention. Keeping the OLED structure identical, devices based on VIII and V were fabricated to compare performance with PVK. Apart from the host, the EML comprises an electron transporter (OXD7) to achieve charge balance and Flrpic as a blue phosphorescent emitter. The EML

composition was identical in all three devices: Host / OXD7 / Firpic = 60:30:10 in weight.

- [0090] Device fabrication was done as below: a HIL based on polyethylenedioxythiophene:polystyrene sulphonate (CH8000 form HC Stack) was deposited by spin coating on indium tin oxide (ITO) coated glass substrates to a thickness of 60 nm. The obtained film was dried on a hot plate at 200°C for 10 min. The emissive layer was obtained by spincoating a Host : OXD7 : Firpic formulation in toluene. The total solid content was 1.5 wt%. Such formulation was deposited on top of the HIL to a thickness of 70 nm and subsequently dried on a hot plate at 80°C for 10 min. An 30 nm thick ETL, namely 2,2',2''-(1,3,5-benzinetriyl)-tris(1-phenyl-1-H-benzimidazole) (TPBi, purchased from Lumtec) was deposited by vacuum deposition onto the EML at a rate of 2 Å/s. Finally cathode layers comprising 1nm of LiF and 100nm of Al were deposited by thermal evaporation at a rate of 0.1 and 2 Å/s respectively.
- [0091] Electronic and photometric characterizations were done with a Hamamatsu C9920-12 measurement system coupled to a Keithley 2400 source measure unit. All device fabrication and characterization steps after PEDOT spinning were carried out in an inert atmosphere.
- [0092] Figure 9 shows IVL characteristics of the two OLED devices containing compounds VIII and V which have higher current density and luminance than the PVK reference device. This can be attributed to better hole injection and/or transport with VIII and V versus PVK. This better performance can be attributed to the higher content of inert trialkylsilyl groups.
- [0093] As shown in the figure 10 and in the table bellow, the devices involving the compounds VIII, V and the PVK have similar luminous efficiency in the range of 11 cd/A at 1000 cd/m² whereas V has lower efficiency around 9 cd/A at 1000 cd/m². The fact that voltage is lower for VIII compared to PVK results in an improvement of the power efficiency up to 4.8 lm/W. This clearly demonstrates the possibility to use the new hosts OLEDs containing solution processed EML with similar or even improved performance over PVK. The possibility to sublime those hosts materials

which is not possible with PVK, could in principle enable improved lifetimes of OLED devices.

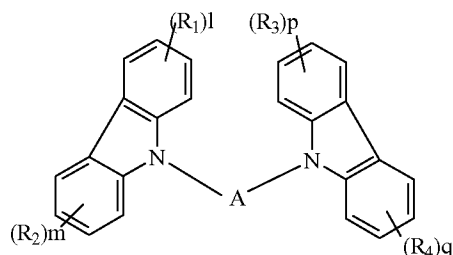
at 1000 cd/m²

<i>Device</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>EQE</i>	<i>Lm/W</i>	<i>Cd/A</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>
PVK	11,0	4,7	3,3	11,4	0,19	0,42
VIII	8,5	5,4	4,8	11,7	0,16	0,38
V	9,7	4,3	3,1	9,5	0,17	0,38

[0094] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present disclosure covers the modifications and variations of this invention, provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A compound of Formula I:



Formula (I)

wherein:

A is a divalent radical comprising at least one structural unit selected from the group consisting of five- or six-membered aryl or heteroaryl rings and fused rings ;

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are non-conjugate substituents, the same or different at each occurrence and selected from the group consisting of:

trityl

halogen;

nitro;

cyano;

-COOR₅;

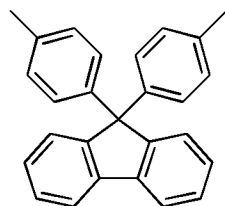
alkoxy or dialkylamino group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms wherein one or more nonadjacent -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -O-, -S-, -NR₆-, -CONR₇- or -COO- and wherein at least one hydrogen atom may be replaced by halogen; and

-SiR₈R₉R₁₀;

wherein R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉, and R₁₀ are the same or different at each occurrence and independently selected from the group consisting of -H, halogen, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, C₃₋₂₀-cyclic alkyl, straight or branched C₁₋₂₀-alkoxy, C₁₋₂₀-dialkylamino, C₄₋₁₄-aryl, C₄₋₁₄-aryloxy and C₄₋₁₄-heteroaryl, which may be substituted by one or more non aromatic radicals, wherein a plurality of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₈, R₉, and R₁₀ may in turn together form a mono- or polycyclic ring, optionally aromatic; and

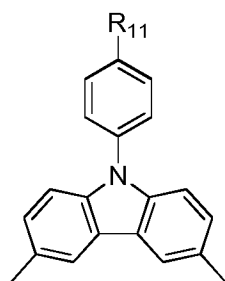
l, m, p and q are the same or different at each occurrence and represent an integer from 0 to 4, wherein $l+m+p+q > 0$.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein A is a divalent radical of Formula II:



Formula (II).

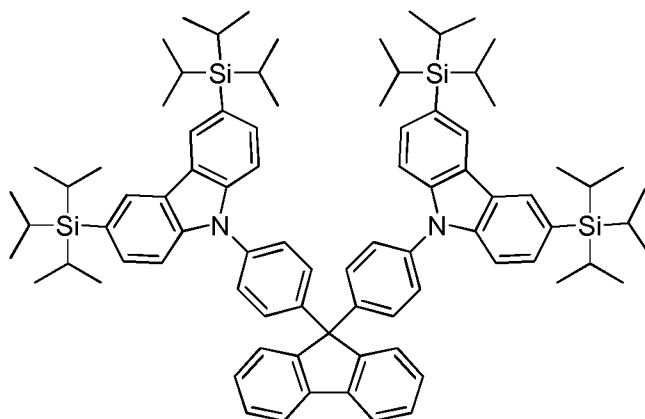
3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein A is a divalent radical of Formula III:



Formula (III)

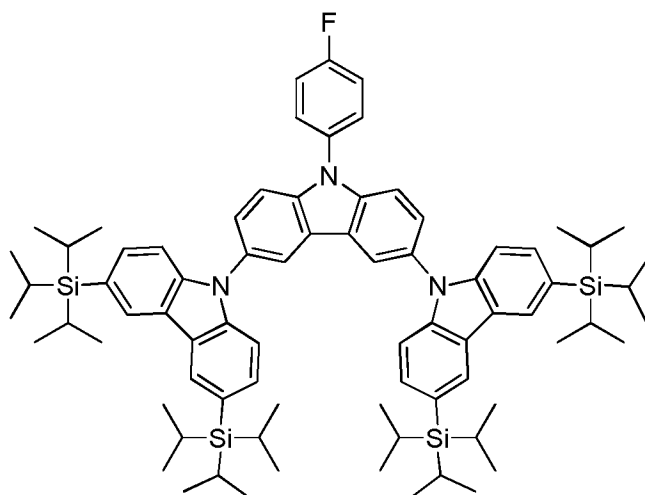
wherein R_{11} is an *tert*-alkyl, fluorinated alkyl, trityl, alkoxy or halogen group.

4. The compound of any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 is $-\text{SiR}_8\text{R}_9\text{R}_{10}$ and R_8 , R_9 , and R_{10} are the same or different at each occurrence and independently selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group and an aryl group.
5. The compound of Claim 4, wherein each of R_8 , R_9 , and R_{10} is an isopropyl group and each of l, m, p and q is 1.
6. The compound of Claim 5, wherein the compound has the following formula:



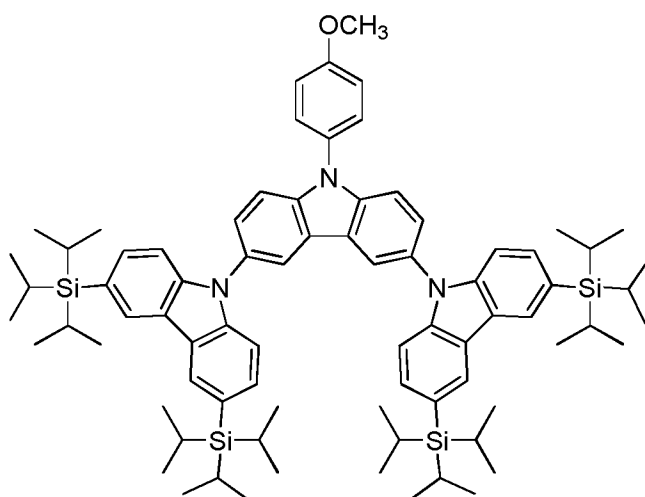
Formula (IV).

7. The compound of Claim 5, wherein the compound has the following formula:



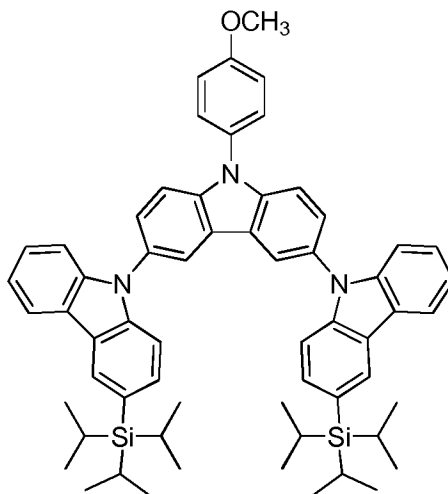
Formula (V).

8. The compound of Claim 5, wherein the compound has the following formula:



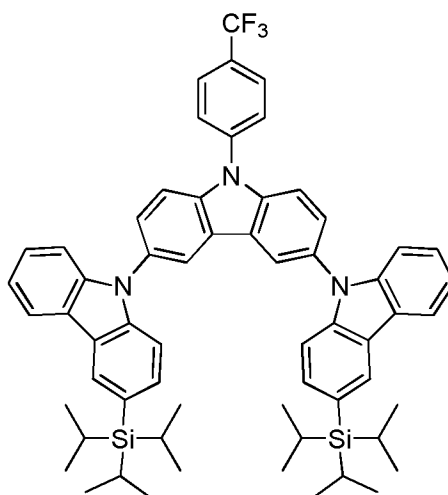
Formula (VI).

9. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound has the following formula:



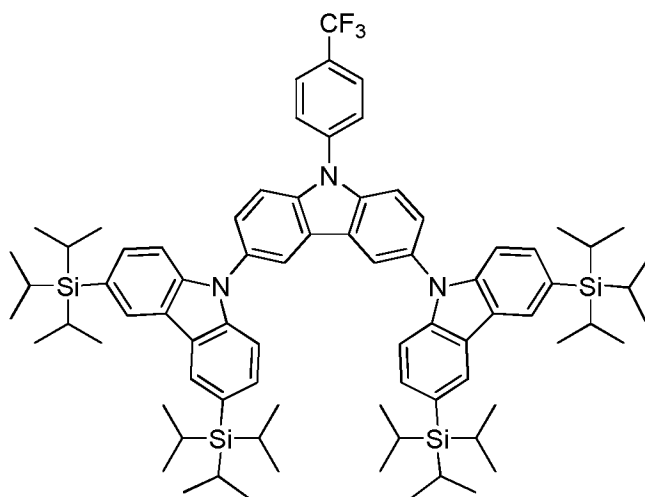
Formula (VII)

10. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound has the following formula:



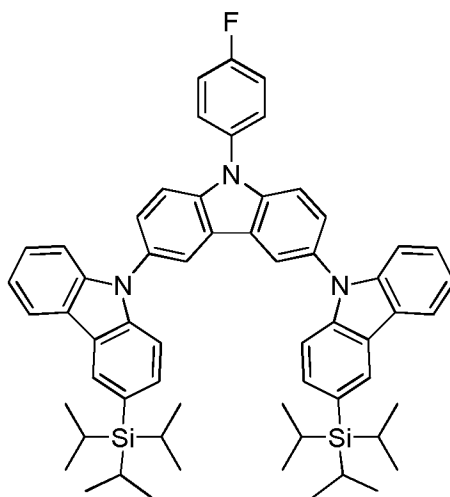
Formula (X)

11. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound has the following formula:



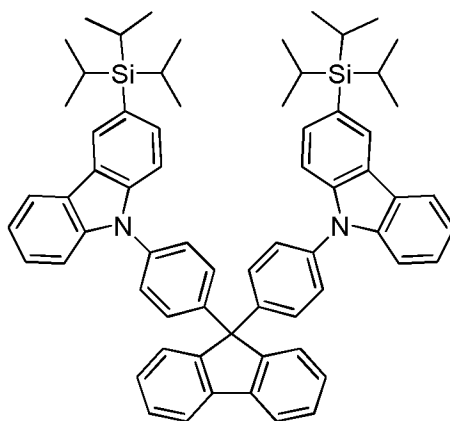
Formula (XI)

12. The compound of Claim 4, wherein the compound has the following formula:



Formula (VIII)

13. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound has the following formula:



Formula (IX)

14. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 in a blue emissive layer of an organic light emitting device.

Figures

Fig. 1

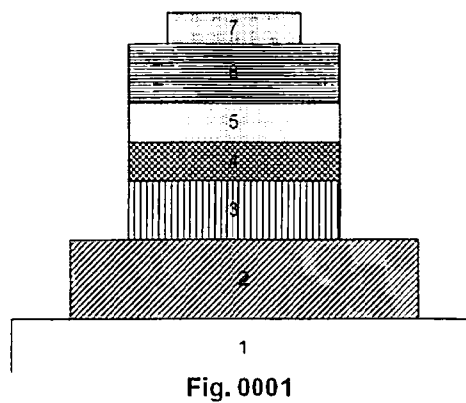
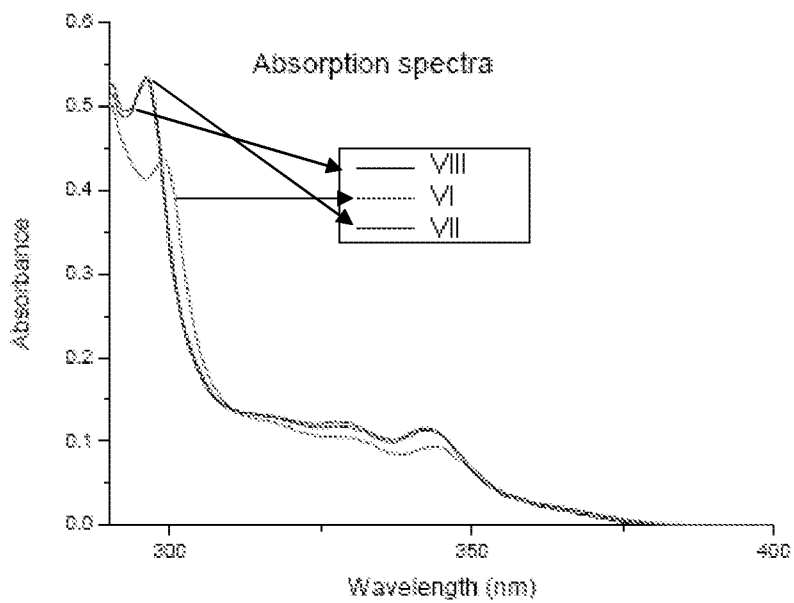


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

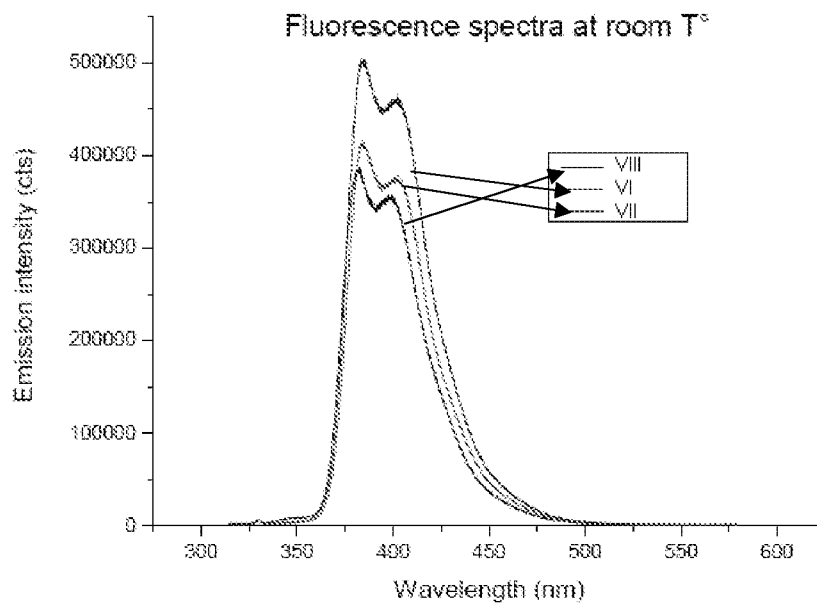
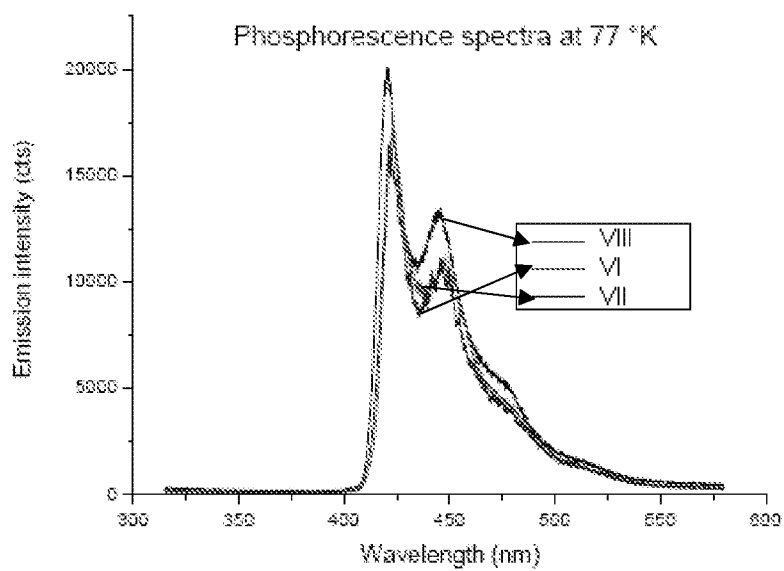


Fig. 4



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Fig. 5

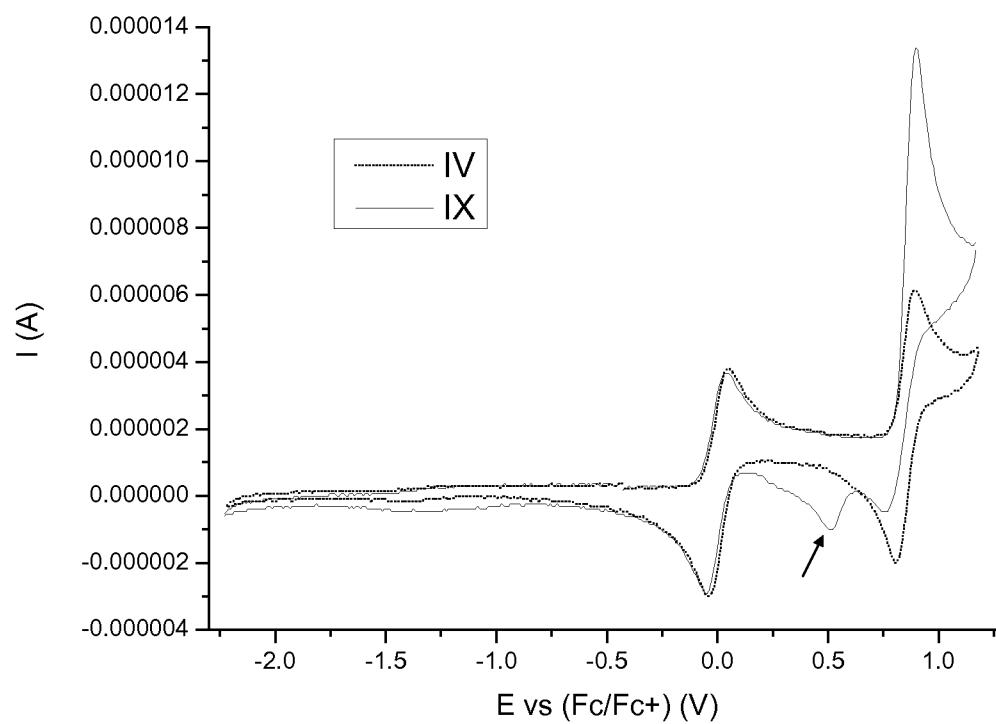
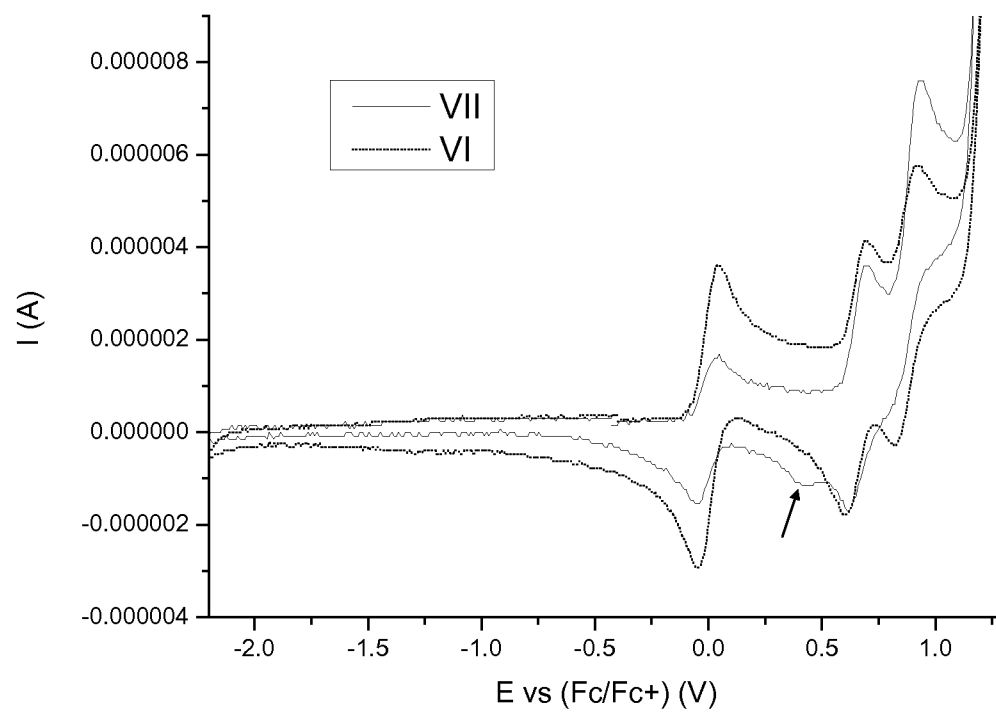


Fig. 6



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Fig. 7

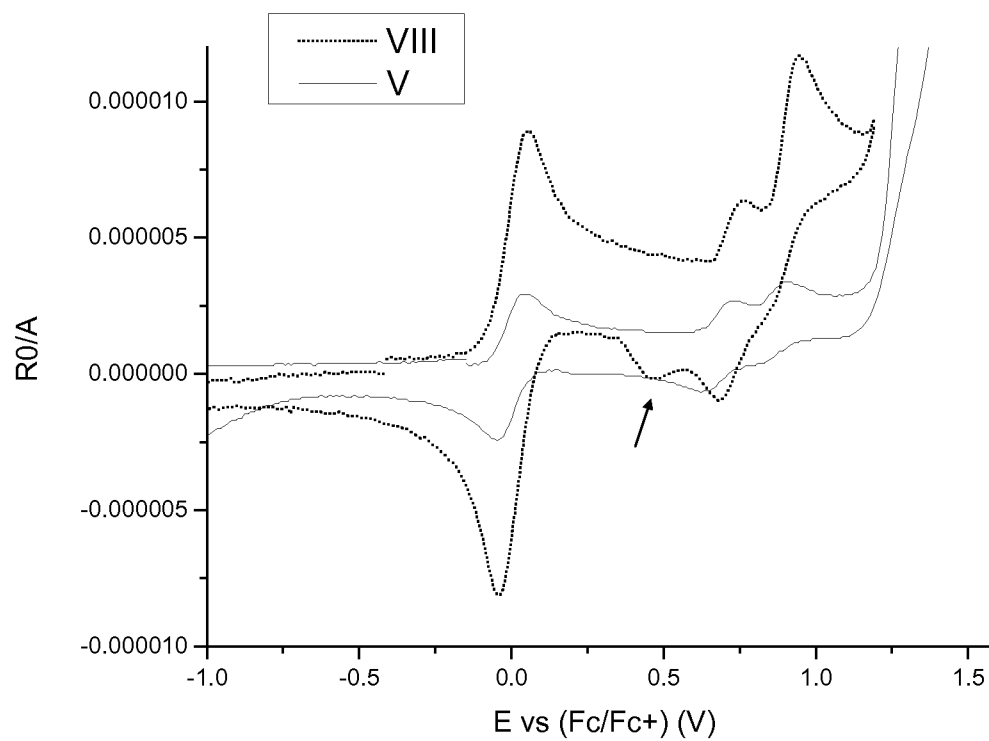


Fig. 8

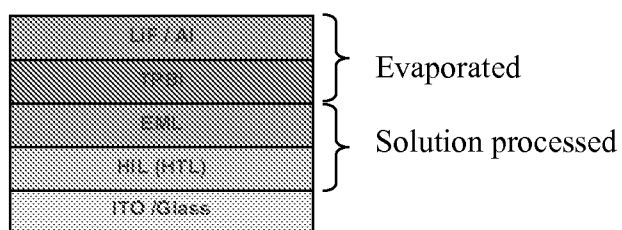


Fig. 9

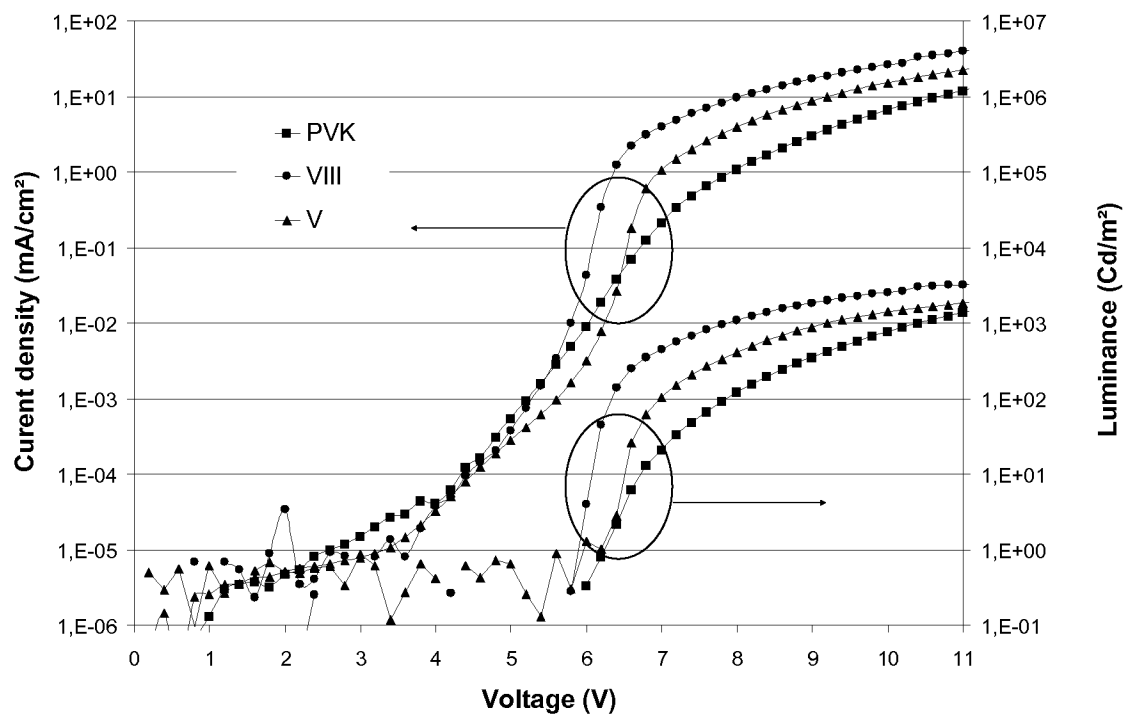
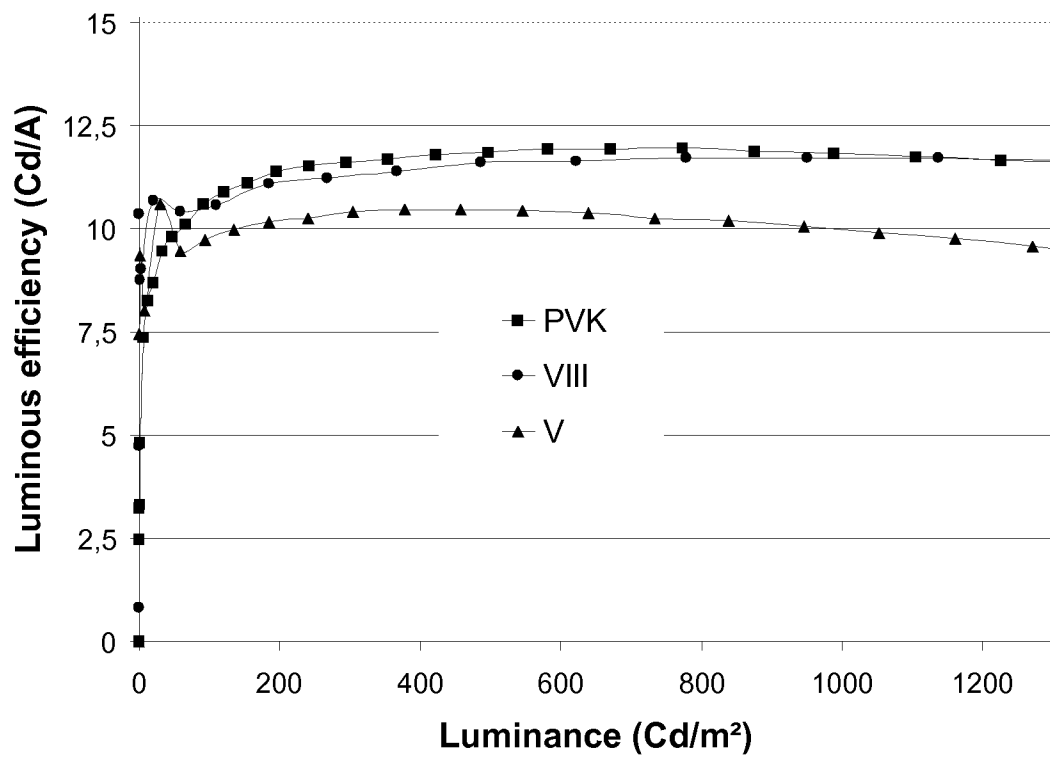


Fig. 10



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2009/063519

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C07F7/08 C07D209/86 H05B33/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C07F C07D H05B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2004 311411 A (KONICA MINOLTA HOLDINGS INC) 4 November 2004 (2004-11-04) *whole document, in particular pages 48-58*	1
X	JP 2008 109103 A (FUJIFILM CORP) 8 May 2008 (2008-05-08) *whole document, in particular pages 13-16*	1-5, 14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 December 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2009/063519

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 2004311411	A	04-11-2004	NONE	
JP 2008109103	A	08-05-2008	NONE	