Supporting Information

Tailoring the Electron-Deficient Central Core on Fused-Ring Nonfullerene Acceptors: Deciphering The Relationships Between Structure, Property, And Photovoltaic Performance

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1. General Information.

All the chemicals were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Compounds **BTD-2TTP**, **NID** and **PID** were obtained as previously described or with some modifications.^[1] ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 300 MHz and AMX 500 spectrometers. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm and referenced to the residual non-deuterated solvent frequencies (CDCl₃: δ 7.26 ppm for ¹H, δ 77.0 ppm for ¹³C). UV-Vis absorption spectra of the compounds in HPLC chloroform solutions at 20 °C were recorded on a Varian Cary 50 UV-Vis spectrophotometer and fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer LS 55 fluorescence spectrometer. Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker Reflex 2 (MALDI-TOF). FTIR spectra were carried out in a Shimadzu FTIR 8300 spectrophotometer. Cyclic voltammograms were recorded in an inert atmosphere in electrochemical workstation at a scan rate of 100 mV·s⁻¹ at 20 °C using tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate (TBAHFP, 0.1 mol·L⁻¹) as supporting electrolyte in dichloromethane. Polymer-precoated platinum electrode, platinum-wire electrode, and Ag/Ag⁺ electrode were used as working electrode, an auxiliary electrode, and reference electrode, respectively. Potentials were recorded versus Fc/Fc⁺.

Thin-film samples for Raman, PL and Ellipsometry. Solutions of Y6, Y6-1Napht and Y6-1Pery were prepared by mixing \approx 5 mg of synthetized powder with 250 µL of chlorobenzene (c \approx 20 mg/mL) in a nitrogen-filled glove box. The solutions were stirred for 2 hours. Glass substrates were cleaned by ultrasonication in acetone (5 min), followed by a 10 % Hellmanex solution (aq.) (5 min), isopropanol (5 min) and NaOH 10 % (aq.) (10 min). Subsequently, \approx 60 µL of solution were deposited by blade coating (ZUA 2000, Zehntner), with a blade gap of 100 µm, at 80 °C to enhance the rapid evaporation of the solvent. For the samples with thermal gradient, also inside the glovebox, a thermal annealing was applied with a Kofler bench (Lab Logistics Group GmbH), which exhibits a thermal gradient of \approx 8 °C/cm, with a temperature range extending from 30 °C to more than 250 °C. Three adjacent glass slides were annealed for 10 min, covering a range of temperatures from 70 °C to 250 °C.

Computational methods. Density functional calculations were carried out utilizing the B3LYP functional^[2] and the 6-311G** basis set^[3] as implemented in the Gaussian16 atomistic simulation package.^[4] Time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) calculations^[5] at the B3LYP/6-311G** level of theory were subsequently conducted on the optimized geometries to gain insights into their absorption spectra. For all structures under examination, the twenty lowest-energy electronic excited states were computed. The internal reorganization energies for both electron and hole transport in this semiconductor series

were determined following previously described methods.^[6] The intramolecular reorganization energy, a parameter reflecting the structural adjustments necessary to accommodate added charge, was computed, with an emphasis on achieving small reorganization energies as a prerequisite for efficient charge transport.

Raman and PL measurements. Raman spectra were collected on the not annealed thin-film samples, using a WITec alpha 300 RA+ confocal Raman setup coupled with an Olympus objective with 100× magnification and a 488 nm laser line as excitation wavelength. A 785 nm laser line was chosen as excitation wavelength for photoluminescence measurements, based on the studies of absorption spectroscopy on these systems.

Ellipsometry. Variable angle spectroscopic ellipsometry (VASE) was measured using a Semilab GES5E rotating polarizer ellipsometer. The ellipsometric angles were recorded for a minimum of three incidence angles. Modeling of the ellipsometry data was performed using the Winelli II piece of software package from SOPRALAB using the standard critical point model for the dielectric function of the different materials.

Organic solar cells. All devices were manufactured with an inverted architecture (glass/ITO/ZnO/PAL/MoO₃/Ag). The thin films for the fabrication of organic solar cells were obtained by the same meniscus-shearing technique described above. ITO substrates (purchased from Ossila) were cleaned as described above for thin film sample preparation, and subsequently coated with ZnO nanoparticle dispersions (N-10, Avantama) onto the ITO-substrates at 40 °C, with a coating speed of 5 mm/s and blade gap of 50 μ m. A thermal annealing at 100 °C for about 10 minutes was applied. Then, the samples were transferred into a nitrogen filled glove box. The active layer of acceptor:donor solutions (**Y6-derivative:PM6**) with w/w ratio of 1.6:1 (concentration of \approx 15 mg/mL in chloroform) was blade coated at an accelerated speed in order to generate a thickness gradient. The blade gap was 100 μ m and the substrate temperature was 40 °C. 24 pixels (12 at each side) where defined by evaporating MoO_x and Ag as top electrode through a shadow mask. Each of the 12 pixels exhibited a different active layer thickness. The J–V measurements were automatically acquired in ambient conditions using a Keithley 2400 source meter in combination with an Arduino-based multiplexer/switcher that allows data collection of up to 24 devices in a row. A SAN-EI Electric, XES-100S1 AAA solar simulator was used as AM1.5G illumination source. The solar simulator was previously calibrated with a certified silicon solar cell (NREL).

2. Synthesis of compounds and characterization.



Scheme S1. Synthetic route for Y6-1Napht and Y6-1Pery.

NIP-2TTP (5)

Under Ar atmosphere, **BTD-2TTP (1)** (300 mg, 0.31 mmol) is suspended in 15 mL of acetic acid and heated at 140 $^{\circ}$ C until everything is dissolved. Zn powder is added (262 mg, 4 mmol) and the mixture is stirring 30 min. After that, this solution was added to another solution containing **NID (3)** (112 mg, 0.31 mmol) and a catalytic amount of *p*-TsOH (10%), dissolved in 15 mL of anhydrous chloroform under Ar

atmosphere. Then, the reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C and stirred at this temperature for 24 h. Once the reaction was cooled down, the solvent was half-reduced under reduced pressure, and then precipitated with MeOH. After washing with cold and hot methanol, **NIP-2TTP (5)** was obtained as a brown powder (298 mg, 76%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.64 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 8.53 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (s, 2H), 4.68 (m, 4H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 2.90-2.83 (m, 4H), 2.14 (m, 2H), 1.93 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.29 (m, 39H), 1.18 – 0.91 (m, 30H), 0.73 – 0.59 (m, 12H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 164.34, 151.26, 143.76, 138.96, 138.30, 137.09, 132.66, 131.11,
123.84, 123.68, 122.19, 121.77, 119.54, 119.46, 119.13, 55.12, 40.09, 38.43, 32.08, 30.98, 29.88, 29.83,
29.68, 29.53, 29.05, 27.87, 23.29, 22.95, 22.85, 14.28, 13.91, 10.86, 10.28.

FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *u* (cm⁻¹): 2961, 2927, 2850, 2354, 1702, 1665, 1564, 1521, 1465, 1381, 1324, 1258, 1236, 1166, 1085, 1016, 809, 753, 716.

MALDI-HRMS (*m*/*z*:): calculated for C₇₈H₁₀₃N₅O₂S₄: 1269.6995, found (M⁺): 1629.6941.

NIP-2TTP-DIA (7)

Under Ar atmosphere, **NID-2TTP (5)** (149 mg, 0.12 mmol) is suspended in 5 mL of dry DMF And cooled down to 0 °C and POCl₃ (0,33 mL, 3.5 mmol) was added. Then, the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2h and, after that time, heated to 90 °C overnight. Once the time is over, the reaction was cooled, and the crude was poured into NaOH 4M solution and extracted with dichloromethane (3 times). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄ and, after removal of the solvent, purified by column chromatography in dichloromethane/hexane 1:1, to give **NIP-2TTP-DIA (7)** as a brown solid (135 mg, 68%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 10.17 (s, 2H), 8.67 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.56 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.72 (m, 4H), 4.16 (m, 2H), 3.31-3.20 (m, 4H), 2.18-2.08 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.94 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.20 (m, 39H), 1.08 – 0.82 (m, 30H), 0.71 (td, J = 7.4, 2.7 Hz, 6H), 0.63 (td, J = 7.3, 2.0 Hz, 6H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 182.02, 164.12, 152.05, 147.05, 144.69, 138.18, 137.88, 137.24, 134.37, 133.42, 132.62, 132.05, 129.67, 126.63, 125.38, 124.27, 122.60, 119.65, 55.31, 40.31, 38.44,

32.05, 30.74, 29.82, 29.72, 29.61, 29.49, 28.93, 28.33, 27.77, 27.74, 23.28, 22.92, 22.83, 14.31, 14.26, 13.87, 10.85, 10.37, 10.33.

FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *v* (cm−1): 2962, 2927, 2853, 2726, 2355, 1704, 1658, 1559, 1513, 1464, 1414, 1329, 1233, 1167, 1095, 856, 820, 751.

MALDI-HRMS (*m*/*z*): calculated for C₈₀H₁₀₃N₅O₄S₄: 1325.6893, found (M⁺): 1325.6836.

Y6-1Napht

Under Ar atmosphere, **NIP-2TTP-DIA (7)** (56 mg, 0.04 mmol) and 2-(3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1ylidene)malononitrile **9** (40.8 mg, 0.18 mmol) are suspended in 5 mL of dry chloroform and heated at 65 ^oC until everything was dissolved. Then, pyridine (0.05 mL, 0.63 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred at 65 ^oC overnight. Once the reaction time was over, the reaction was cooled and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography in dichloromethane/hexane 5:1, to give the product **Y6-1Napht** as a blue solid (58 mg, 54%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 9.03 (s, 2H), 8.48 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.41 (dd, J= 9, 6 Hz, 2H), 8.22 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.93-4.82 (m, 4H), 4.23-4.14 (m, 2H), 3.29-3.18 (m, 4H), 2.31-2.21 (m, 2H), 1.93-1.85 (m, 3H), 1.37-1.18 (m, 52H), 0.87-0.68 (m, 30H).

¹³C-NMR (175 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 186.34, 163.97, 158.90, 154.14, 152.51, 146.66, 138.78, 137.59, 136.78, 136.07, 135.46, 134.72, 134.64, 134.59, 133.45, 133.40, 133.00, 132.60, 130.26, 129.88, 125.33, 124.52, 122.87, 120.69, 120.02, 115.14, 115.11, 114.69, 112.71.

FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *u* (cm⁻¹): 2965, 2927, 2855, 2358, 2217, 1706, 1670, 1536, 1431, 1369, 1349, 1294, 1232, 1199, 1150, 1105, 893, 777.

MALDI-HRMS (m/z): calculated for C₁₀₄H₁₀₇F₄N₉O₄S₄: 1749.7265, found (M⁺): 1749.7259.

PIP-2TTP (6)

Under Ar atmosphere, **BTD-2TTP (1)** (40 mg, 0.04 mmol) is suspended in 2 mL of acetic acid and heated at 140 $^{\circ}$ C until everything is dissolved. Zn powder is added (40 mg, 0.62 mmol) and the mixture is stirring 30 min. After that, this solution was added to another solution containing **PID (4)** (30 mg, 0.04 mmol) and a catalytic amount of *p*-TsOH (10%), dissolved in 2 mL of anhydrous chloroform under Ar atmosphere. Then, the reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C and stirred at this temperature for 24 h. Once the reaction was cooled down, the solvent was half-reduced under reduced pressure, and then precipitated with MeOH. After washing with cold and hot methanol, **PIP-2TTP (6)** was obtained as a brown powder (40 mg, 60%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.15-8.07 (m, 4H), 7.91-7.99 (m, 2H), 6.93 (s, 2H), 4.81-4.67 (m, 4H), 3.84-3.75 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.68 (m, 4H), 2.41-2.28 (m, 2H), 1.91-1.78 (m, 5H), 1.37-1.22 (m, 76H), 0.97-0.63 (m, 36H).

¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 163.66, 157.58, 149.73, 143.69, 137.76, 136.90, 135.16, 134.72, 133.90, 133.00, 132.99, 130.77, 130.52, 129.66, 129.58, 129.49, 126.21, 123.19, 123.17, 123.09, 121.83, 121.48, 121.44, 120.59, 119.27, 55.01, 44.14, 40.28, 32.16, 32.10, 32.09, 30.35, 30.01, 29.94, 29.91, 29.85, 29.63, 29.55, 29.53, 28.04, 26.72, 23.28, 23.25, 22.91, 22.85, 14.32, 14.27, 14.15, 14.11, 10.53.
FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *v* (cm⁻¹): 2960, 2922, 2855, 2357, 1732, 1690, 1653, 1583, 1463, 1378, 1334, 1202, 1100.

MALDI-HRMS (m/z): calculated for C₁₀₄H₁₃₉N₅O₂S₄: 1617.9812, found (M⁺): 1617.9782.

PIP-2TTP-DIA

Under Ar atmosphere, **PIP-2TTP (6)** (40 mg, 0.024 mmol) was dissolved in 1.5 mL of anhydrous chloroform and added to 5 mL of dry DMF solution. Then, the reaction was cooled down to 0 °C and POCl₃ (0.67 mL, 0.72 mmol) was added. After that, the reaction mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2h and then heated to 90 °C overnight. Once the time is over, the reaction was cooled and the crude was poured into NaOH 4M solution and extracted with dichloromethane (3 times). The combined organic phases were dried over MgSO₄ and, after removal of the solvent, purified by column chromatography in dichloromethane/hexane 4:1, to give **PIP-2TTP-DIA (8)** as a brown solid (32.6 mg, 81%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 10.15 (s, 2H), 8.35 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 8.19-8.09 (m, 4H), 8.21 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 4.86-4.74 (m, 4H), 3.67-3.59 (m, 2H), 3.22-3.08 (m, 4H), 2.44-2.33 (m, 2H), 2.00-1.89 (m, 4H), 1.82-1.73 (m, 1H), 1.27-0.95 (m, 82H), 0.89-0.68 (m, 30H).

FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *u* (cm⁻¹): 2962, 2929, 2856, 2364, 1745, 1692, 1653, 1585, 1506, 1455, 1411, 1332, 1225, 1098.

MALDI-HRMS (*m/z*): calculated for C₁₀₆H₁₃₉N₅O₄S₄: 1673.9710, found (M⁺): 1673.9705.

Y6-1Pery

Under Ar atmosphere, **PIP-2TTP-DIA (8)** (32.6 mg, 0.02 mmol) and 2-(3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-1ylidene)malononitrile **9** (20 mg, 0.08 mmol) were suspended in 5 mL of dry chloroform and heated at 65 ^oC until everything is dissolved. Then, pyridine (0.03 mL, 0.35 mmol) was added and stirred at 65 ^oC overnight. Once the reaction time was over, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure ante the residue was purified by column chromatography in chloroform, to give the desired product **Y6-1Pery** as a purple solid (31 mg, 76%).

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ (ppm) = 8.64 (s, 2H), 8.51-8.42 (m, 4H), 8.38-8.25 (m, 4H), 8.09-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.73-7.63 (m, 2H), 5.02-4.87 (m, 4H), 4.15-4.03 (m, 2H), 2.75-2.63 (m, 4H), 2.50-2.26 (m, 4H), 2.03-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.27-1.21 (m, 83H), 0.88-0.80 (m, 30H).

FTIR (ATR, CHCl₃): *u* (cm⁻¹): 2956, 2916, 2855, 2340, 2218, 1695, 1662, 1586, 1555, 1533, 1419, 1348, 1281, 1228, 1208, 1142, 1095, 995, 888.

MALDI-HRMS (*m*/*z*): calculated for C₁₃₀H₁₄₃F₄N₉O₄S₄: 2098.0082, found (M⁺): 2098.0165.



Figure S1. ¹H-NMR spectrum of NIP-2TTP in CDCl₃.



Figure S2. ¹H-NMR spectrum of NIP-2TTP-DIA in CDCl₃.



Figure S3. ¹H-NMR spectrum of Y6-1Napht in CDCl₃.



Figure S4. ¹H-NMR spectrum of PIP-2TTP in CDCl₃.



Figure S5. ¹H-NMR spectrum of PIP-2TTP-DIA in CDCl₃.



Figure S6. ¹H-NMR spectrum of Y6-1Pery in CDCl₃.



Figure S7. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of NIP-TTP in CDCl₃.



Figure S9. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of Y6-1Napht in CDCl₃ (175 MHz).



Figure S10. ¹³C-NMR spectrum of PIP-2TTP in CDCl₃.



Figure S11. IR spectrum of NIP-2TTP.



Figure S12. IR spectrum of NIP-2TTP-DIA.



Figure S13. IR spectrum of Y6-1Napht.



Figure S14. IR spectrum of PIP-2TTP.



Figure S15. IR spectrum of PIP-2TTP-DIA.



Figure S16. IR spectrum of Y6-1Pery.



Figure S17. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of NIP-2TTP.



Figure S18. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of NIP-2TTP-DIA.



Figure S19. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of Y6-1Napht.



Figure S20. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of PIP-2TTP.



Figure S21. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of PIP-2TTP-DIA.



Figure S22. MALDI-HRMS (m/z) spectrum of Y6-1Pery.



Figure S23. Gas-phase DFT simulated Raman spectra of Y6 derivatives intramolecular modes (200-2300 cm⁻¹). The pending C₈ alkyl chains were removed to simplify the calculations. Reference vibrations are highlighted for each molecule. In the close up, the comparison between the experimental spectra (black) and the simulated ones (grey) of the Y6 derivatives.

	Y6-1Napht		Y6-1Pery	
mode	calc	ехр	calc	exp
<i>v</i> (C≡N)	2232	_	2232	_
v(C=C) Napht-head	1601	-	-	-
v(C=C) Pery-head	-	-	1590	1628
v(C=C) central aromatic rings	1533	1560	1532	1588
<i>v</i> (C=C–N)	1492	1515	1493	-
δ(CH ₃)	1447	-	1447	-
v(C=C–CH, N–CH₃) Napht-head	1422	1452	1419	1460
δ(CH ₃) terminal	1390	_	1390	1386
$v(C=C-N-CH_3)$ central arom. rings	1318	1368	-	-
v(C=C) Pery-head	_	_	1304	_
v(N–C=C–N) central bond	1294	1346	_	_
ho(CH) terminal Pery-head	_	_	1261	_

Table S1. Simulated wavenumbers of the Y6 derivatives compared to the experimental ones.

v(C=C) conjugated Y6 core	1260	-	-	-
$ ho$ (N–CH $_3$) terminal alkyl groups	1195	-	-	_
$v(CC)$ central ring, $\rho(CH_3)$ terminal	1158	-	1157	_

3. UV-Vis, emission and electrochemical data.



Figure S24. UV-Vis spectra of **Y6-1Napht** 1.0×10⁻⁶ M in chloroform solution.



Figure S25. UV-Vis spectrum of Y6-1Napht dilutions in chloroform solution.



Figure S26. UV-Vis spectrum of Y6-1Napht in film.



Figure S27. Emission spectra of **Y6-1Napht** 1.0×10⁻⁶ M in chloroform solution.



Figure S28. UV-Vis spectra of **Y6-1Pery** 1.0×10^{-6} M in chloroform solution.



Figure S29. UV-Vis spectrum of Y6-1Pery dilutions in chloroform solution.



Figure S30. UV-Vis spectra of Y6-1Pery in film.

	λ _{max} (nm)		Electronic transitions
molecule	calc	exp	
Y6	683	731	HOMO → LUMO
Y6-1Napht	674	730	HOMO → LUMO
Y6-1Pery	695	743	HOMO → LUMO

Table S2. Comparison between the theoretical and experimental absorption properties for Y6, Y6-**1Napht** and Y6-1Pery.



Figure S31. Emission spectra of **Y6-1Pery** 1.0×10⁻⁶ M in chloroform solution.



Figure S32. Cyclic voltammetry spectrum of Y6-1Napht.



Figure S33. Cyclic voltammetry spectrum of Y6-1Pery.

4. Thermal and microscopic analysis.



Figure S34. Thermogravimetric analysis of Y6-1Napht.



Figure S35. Thermogravimetric analysis of Y6-1Pery.



Figure S36. Differential scanning calorimetry analyses of Y6-1Napht.



Figure S37. Differential scanning calorimetry analyses of Y6-1Pery.



Figure S38. Left) Microscope image of **Y6** thin film annealed at 180 $^{\circ}$ C (scale bar 200 μ m). **Right)** Microscope image of **Y6** thin film annealed at 250 $^{\circ}$ C (scale bar 10 μ m).

5. OSC results.



Figure S39. Main photovoltaic parameters of **Y6:PM6** blade coated solar cells as a function of active layer thickness. The data shown correspond to a single substrate in which the active layer has deposited with a thickness gradient, so each pixel exhibits a slightly different thickness. Device number is a proxy for thickness, in which 1 is the thinnest layer and 12 the thicker layer.



Figure S40. Main photovoltaic parameters of **Y6-1Pery:PM6** blade coated solar cells as a function of active layer thickness. Device number is a proxy where 1 is the thinnest layer and 12 the thicker layer.



Figure S41. Main photovoltaic parameters of **Y6-1Napht:PM6** blade coated solar cells as a function of active layer thickness. Device number is a proxy where 1 is the thinnest layer and 12 the thicker layer.

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