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Title: Oxadiazole-integrated heterocoronene discotics as ambipolar organic semiconductors

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Abstract: The development of modern technologies has driven a quest for new semiconducting materials in

optoelectronics, where self-assembled liquid crystal (LC) materials can play a potential role. The molecular engineering of disc-shaped LCs (DLCs) with suitable organic moieties, especially heterocyclic units, can lead to control over their columnar architecture in the nano-scale regime, which holds the key to tuning the charge-transport properties of the system. Here, we have successfully designed and synthesized room-temperature DLCs (1.1, 1.2 and 1.3) with 1,3,4-oxadiazole functional units acting as electron-deficient linkers between a central heterocoronene core and the peripheral alkoxy phenyl units. All the derivatives exhibited a broad columnar hexagonal mesophase range with high isotropic temperatures. When employed in space-charge limited current (SCLC) devices, they showed ambipolar charge transport behaviour in thin films, with maximum hole and electron mobilities of the order of 10–3 and 10–5 cm2 V–1 s–1,

respectively.

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