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Title: Microwave-assisted facile and expeditive syntheses of phosphorescent cyclometallated iridium(III)

complexes

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Abstract:

The syntheses of greenish-blue light emitting [Ir(ppy)2(dppel)] (2), [Ir(ppy)2(dppp)] (3) and [lr(ppy)2(dppe)] (4) [ppy, 2-phenylpyridine; dppel, 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethylene; dppp, 1,3bis(diphenylphosphino)propane; dppe, 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphino)ethane] complexes were carried out using [(ppy)2lr(µ-Cl)2lr(ppy)2] (1) as a starting material. These complexes were characterized by elemental analyses and NMR (1H, 13C and 31P) spectral studies. A single-crystal X-ray diffraction study confirmed a distorted octahedral geometry for 3. Complexes 2-4 were found to exhibit blue-shifted emission as compared to [Ir(ppy)2(acac)] (acacH = acetylacetone) and [Ir(ppy)2pic] (pic = 2-picolinic acid) because of the presence of strongly  $\pi$ -accepting, Ph2P^PPh2 units. The solution quantum efficiency for 2-4 was measured and 2 showed the highest quantum efficiency. Ground state geometry optimizations for 2-4 were performed using density functional theory (DFT) with the B3LYP hybrid functional and excitation energies for low lying singlet and triplet excited states were obtained via time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) calculations. Further, complexes 1-4 were synthesized by a Microwave Irradiation technique (MW) in a reasonably shorter time. This facile and expeditive synthetic route has been extended and successfully verified for other heteroleptic complexes of Ir(III) with varying different bidentate [(N^N) (5), (O^O) (6), (N^O) (7)] and monodentate [PPh3 (8)] ancillary ligands.

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