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## **Supporting information for article:**

Structural, energetic and spectroscopic studies of new luminescent complexes based on 2-(2'-hydroxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines and 1,2-phenylenediboronic acid

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## Structural, energetic and spectroscopic studies of new luminescent complexes based on 2-(2'-hydroxyphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridines and 1,2-phenylenediboronic acid

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## 1S. Hansen-Coppens formalism

In the Hansen-Coppens formalism (Hansen & Coppens, 1978), the total atomic electron density (of the *k*-th atom) is the sum of three components:

$$\varrho_{k}(\mathbf{r}) = P_{ck}\varrho_{ck}(r) + P_{vk}\kappa_{k}^{3}\varrho_{vk}(\kappa_{k}r) + \sum_{l=0}^{l_{\max}} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} P_{lmk}\kappa_{lk}^{\prime 3}R_{lk}(\kappa_{lk}^{\prime}r)d_{lmk}(\theta,\varphi)$$

where  $\varrho_{ck}$  and  $\varrho_{vk}$  are the spherical 1-electron normalized core and valence densities, respectively. The third term contains the sum of the angular functions  $(d_{lmk})$  which model aspherical deformations. The angular functions  $d_{lmk}$  consist of real spherical harmonic functions normalised to the electron density. The  $P_{ck}$ ,  $P_{vk}$  and  $P_{lmk}$  coefficients stand for populations of the core, valence and deformation density multipoles, respectively. The radial functions ( $R_{lk}$ ) are defined as:

$$R_{lk}(r) = \frac{\zeta_{lk}^{n_{lk}+3}}{(n_{lk}+2)!} r^{n_{lk}} \exp(-\zeta_{lk}r)$$

where  $\zeta_{lk}$  and  $n_{lk}$  are parameters assigned to each element type separately.  $\kappa$  and  $\kappa'$  are scaling parameters, which control the expansion and contraction of the valence spherical and deformation densities, respectively. For the purpose of this work, each atom was assigned with core and spherical-valence scattering factors derived from Su, Coppens & Macchi wavefunctions (Macchi & Coppens, 2001, Su & Coppens, 1998). In the classical Hansen-Coppens formalism,  $P_{vk}$ ,  $P_{lmk}$ ,  $\kappa$  and  $\kappa'$  constitute the refineable parameters together with the atomic coordinates and thermal motion coefficients.

## 2S. Structural refinement details

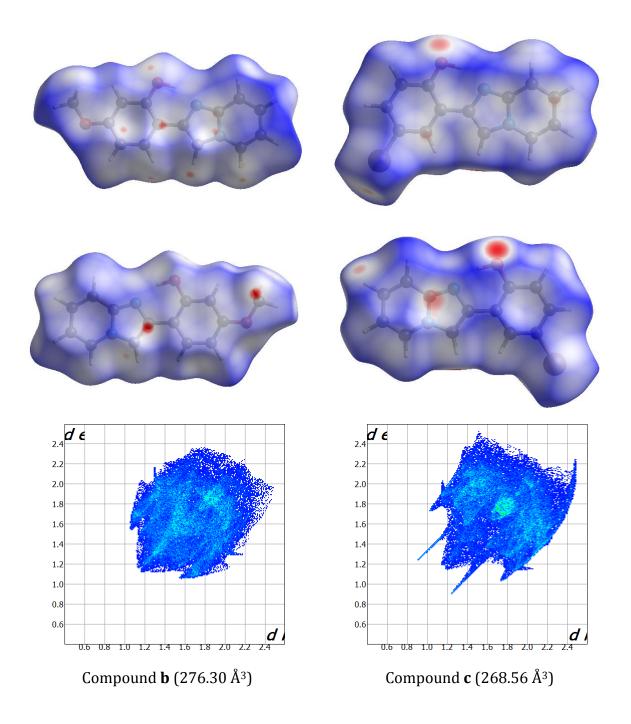
Refinements in the JANA program (Petříček et al., 2014) were done according to the transferred aspherical atom model (TAAM). Initial atomic coordinates x, y, and z, and anisotropic atomic displacement parameters ( $U_{ij}$ 's; anisotropic ADPs) for each atom were taken from the spherical refinement stage. Initial multipolar and contraction-expansion parameters were transferred from the University at Buffalo Data Bank (UBDB) (Dominiak et al., 2007, Jarzembska & Dominiak, 2012) using the LSDB program (Jarzembska & Dominiak, 2012, Volkov et al., 2004), which also assigns optimal local coordinate systems to each atom, scales fragment charges, and standardizes X-H bond lengths (X = nonhydrogen atom) to average neutron distances (Allen et al., 1987) (which were also recently summarised and updated by Allen & Bruno (Allen & Bruno, 2010)). For the purpose of current study, due to the lack of some atoms in the UBDB databank we either transferred the parameters from the atoms with the most similar environments already present in the database, or modelled extra atoms manually according to the original procedure (Jarzembska & Dominiak, 2012). In the case of structures containing more than one independent fragment in ASU, the fragment charges were scaled separately, and all moieties were kept neutral. The multipole expansion was truncated at the hexadecapole  $(l_{\rm max}=4)$  and quadrupole  $(l_{\rm max}=2)$  levels for all non-hydrogen and hydrogen atoms, respectively. In all cases the statistical weights (i.e.,  $w_i = 1/\sigma_i^2$  for i-th reflection) were applied, the atomic coordinates, ADPs and scale factor were refined, whereas all multipolar parameters were kept fixed. The JANA program allows for the application of specific constraints and restraints during the refinement. Consequently, in all the refinements carried out, the hydrogen atom  $U_{\rm iso}$  parameters (i.e. isotropic thermal parameter) were constrained to the value of  $y \cdot U_{eq}^{X}$  (y = 1.2 and 1.5 for X = C and X = 0 or N, respectively). The X-H distances were restrained to the literature values with  $\sigma =$ 0.001 (where an appropriate restraint weight is obviously equal to  $1/\sigma^2$ ). In case of disordered structures some extra restraints and constraints were also used. Such a procedure was found to reproduce very well the neutron-diffraction-quality geometries (Jarzembska et al., 2012). For details characterising all refinements see Table 1S.

Table 1S. Selected X-ray data collection, processing and refinement parameters for all presented crystal structures.#

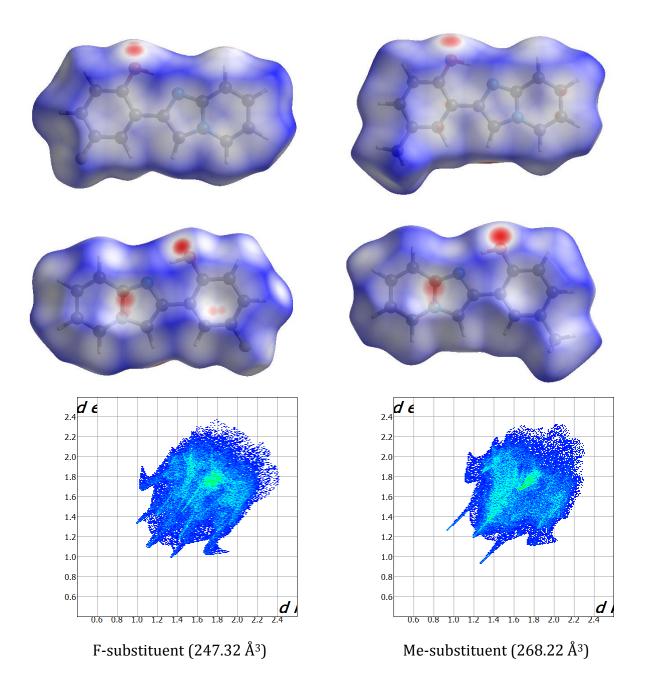
Structure	odba-a	odba-b	odba-d	b	С
Moiety formula	$C_{19}H_{14}B_2N_2O_3$	$2\;C_{20}H_{16}B_2N_2O_4$	$C_{19}H_{13}B_2BrN_2O_3$	$C_{14}H_{12}N_2O_2$	$C_{13}H_9BrN_2O$
	+ C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O	+ C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O			
Moiety formula mass,	398.0	798.0	418.9	240.3	289.1
$M_{\rm r}$ / a.u.					
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	orthorhombic	monoclinic
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> (no. 4)	C2/c (no. 15)	$P\overline{1}$ (no. 2)	Pbca (no. 61)	$P2_1/c$ (no. 14)
a/Å	10.7147(11)	21.8035(16)	8.9492(7)	14.5448(2)	12.8423(7)
b / Å	34.282(3)	10.4647(8)	14.5926(12)	6.5214(4)	7.0971(4)
c / Å	10.9168(11)	19.3032(14)	15.0762(12)	23.8246(6)	12.6239(7)
α / °	90	90	66.778(3)	90	90
β / °	93.176(2)	111.794(3)	82.477(3)	90	107.1883(16)
δ/°	90	90	86.204(3)	90	90
V / Å <sup>3</sup>	4003.8(7)	4089.6(5)	1793.5(3)	2259.82(15)	1099.19(11)
Z	8	4	2	8	4
<i>T /</i> K	100	100	100	100	100
$F_{000}$	1664	1664	840	1008	576
$d_{\rm calc}$ / g·cm <sup>-3</sup>	1.321	1.296	1.551	1.412	1.747
$\theta$ range	2.21° - 29.81°	4.37° - 77.31°	2.96° - 32.73°	3.71° - 77.37°	3.29° - 30.55°
Absorption	0.089 (Μο Κα)	0.732 (Cu K <sub>α</sub> )	2.314 (Mo K <sub>α</sub> )	0.786 (Cu K <sub>α</sub> )	3.722 (Mo K <sub>α</sub> )
coefficient, μ / mm <sup>-1</sup>					
Crystal colour &	colourless of	colourless plate	colourless block	colourless of	colourless plate
shape	unspecified shape			unspecified shape	
Crystal size / mm <sup>3</sup>	$0.29 \times 0.13 \times 0.06$	$0.29 \times 0.12 \times 0.06$	$0.28 \times 0.17 \times 0.09$	$0.20 \times 0.14 \times 0.11$	$0.22 \times 0.19 \times 0.12$
No. of reflections	99881 / 21060	17247 / 4107	72753 / 12047	18355 / 2331	29038 / 3358
collected / unique					

$R_{ m int}$	13.54%	5.22%	5.37%	4.20%	4.41%
No. of reflections	9603	3264	7212	1831	2530
with $I > 3\sigma(I)$					
No. of parameters	1093 / 4	333 / 13	566 / 26	199 / 12	181 / 9
/ restraints					
$R[F] (I > 3\sigma(I))$	5.48%	6.00%	4.80%	3.28%	2.51%
$wR[F^2] (I > 3\sigma(I))$	7.78%	14.92%	9.58%	7.07%	4.51%
R[F] (all data)	17.96%	7.32%	10.69%	4.79%	4.57%
$wR[F^2]$ (all data)	10.16%	15.41%	10.19%	7.51%	5.00%
S (all data)	1.19	2.59	1.97	1.70	1.21
$S(I > 3\sigma(I))$	1.39	2.85	2.43	1.83	1.27
$q_{\rm res}^{\rm min/max}$ / $e\cdot Å^{-3}$	-0.71 / +0.76	-0.43 / +0.33	-0.79 / +3.73	-0.32 / +0.25	-0.45 / +0.56
CCDC code	1846572	1846573	1846574	1846570	1846571

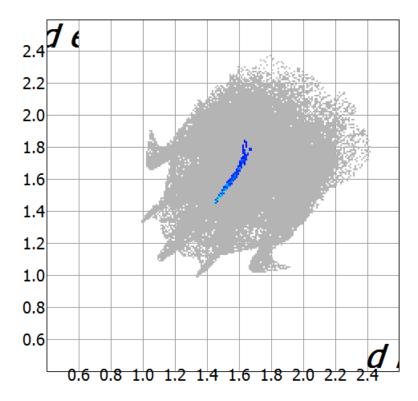
<sup>#</sup> All raw data are available under the following DOI: 10.18150/repod.5973048.



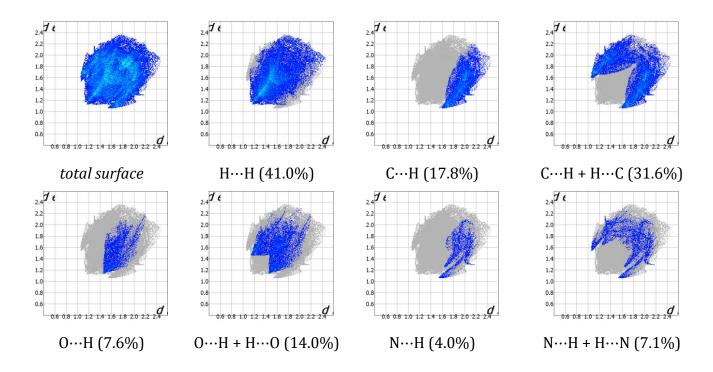
**Figure 1S.** Hirshfeld surfaces (two orientations,  $d_{\rm norm}$  property mapped) and the respective fingerprint plots for compounds **b** (left) and **c** (right). Symbols used:  $d_{\rm e}$  – distance from the surface to the nearest nucleus external to the surface (vertical axes),  $d_{\rm i}$  – distance from the surface to the nearest nucleus internal to the surface (horizontal axes),  $d_{\rm norm} = (d_{\rm i} - r_{\rm i}^{\rm vdW})/r_{\rm i}^{\rm vdW} + (d_{\rm e} - r_{\rm e}^{\rm vdW})/r_{\rm e}^{\rm vdW}$  – van der Waals (vdW) radii normalised contact distance (red colour –  $d_{\rm norm}$  < 0 – distance shorter than vdW contact; blue –  $d_{\rm norm}$  > 0 – distance longer than vdW contact). Colours and symbols are retained for all figures.



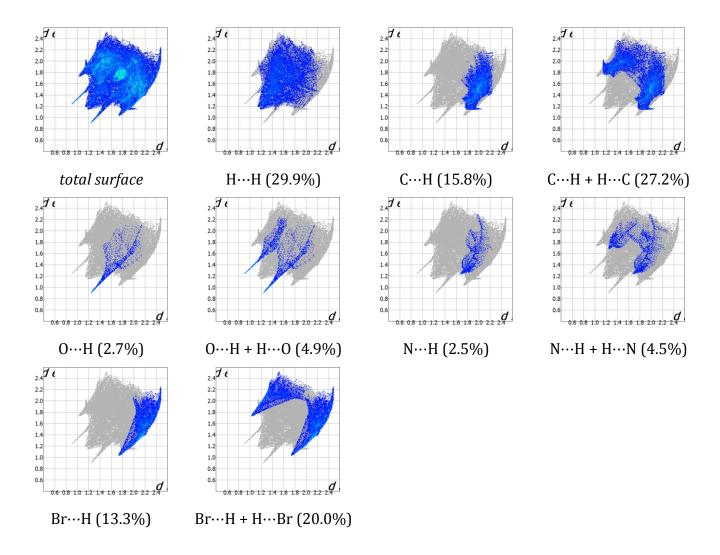
**Figure 2S.** Hirshfeld surfaces (two orientations,  $d_{\text{norm}}$  property mapped) and the respective fingerprint plots for literature-retrieved F- (left, CCDC code: 926056) and Mesubstituted (right, CCDC code: 926055) compounds.



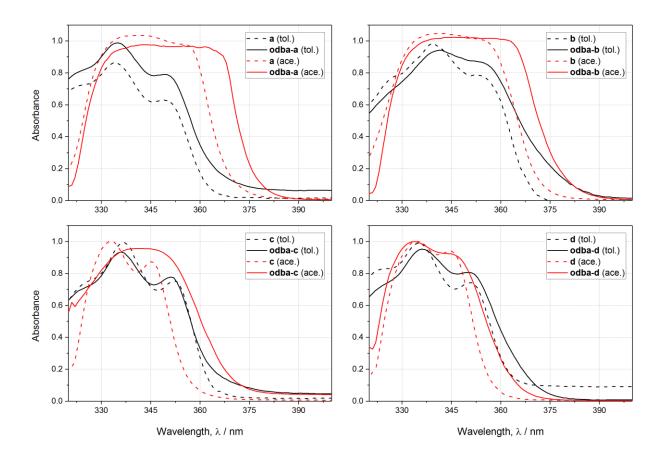
**Figure 3S.** Fingerprint plot for F-substituted compound (CCDC code: 926056) showing F···F interactions contributing to only 0.8% to the total Hirshfeld surface area.



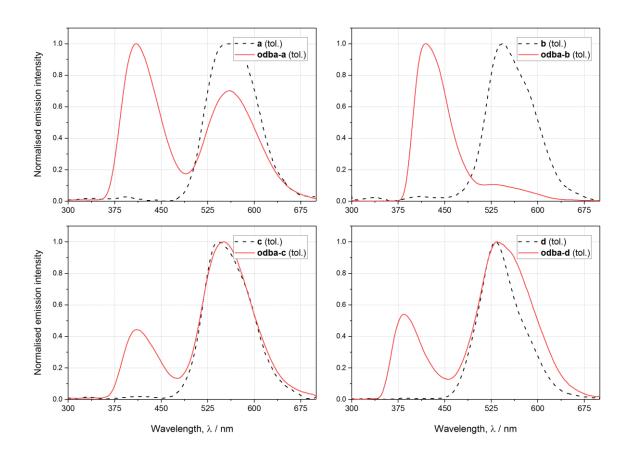
**Figure 4S.** Hirshfeld surface fingerprint plots for compound  $\mathbf{b}$  showing various interactions contributions to the total surface (in X···Y the X atom is always inside and Y outside the surface).



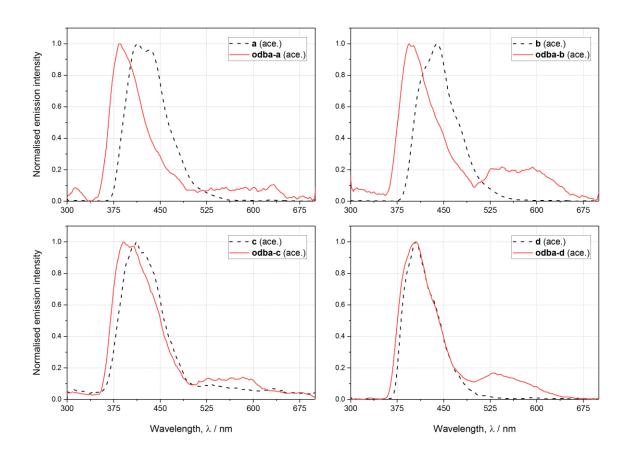
**Figure 5S.** Hirshfeld surface fingerprint plots for compound  $\mathbf{c}$  showing various interactions contributions to the total surface (in X···Y the X atom is always inside and Y outside the surface).



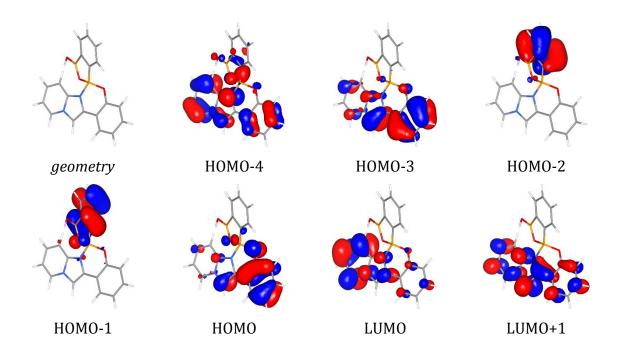
**Figure 6S.** UV-Vis absorption spectra for the (N,O)-donor compounds and their **odba** complexes measured in both toluene (tol.) and acetone (ace.).



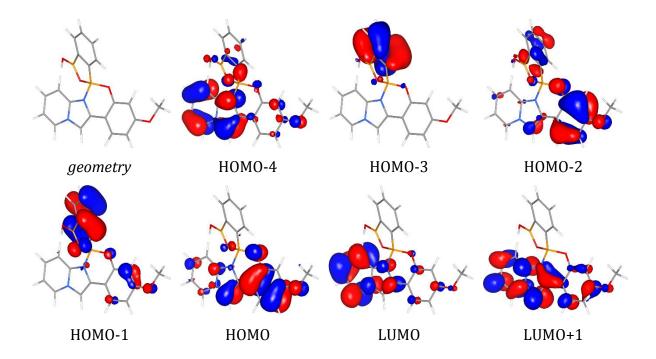
**Figure 7S.** Emission spectra for studied the (N,O)-donor compounds and their **odba** complexes measured in both toluene (tol.) (excitation wavelength,  $\lambda_{\rm ex}$  = 330 nm).



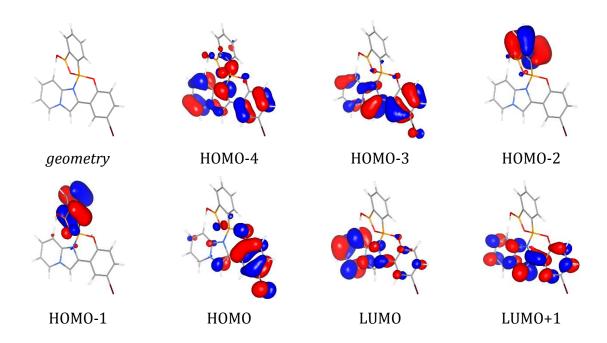
**Figure 8S.** Emission spectra for studied the (N,O)-donor compounds and their **odba** complexes measured in both acetone (ace.) (excitation wavelength,  $\lambda_{\rm ex}$  = 315 nm for **a**, **odba-a**, **b**, **odba-b**, **c** & **odba-c**, and  $\lambda_{\rm ex}$  = 330 nm for **d** & **odba-d**).



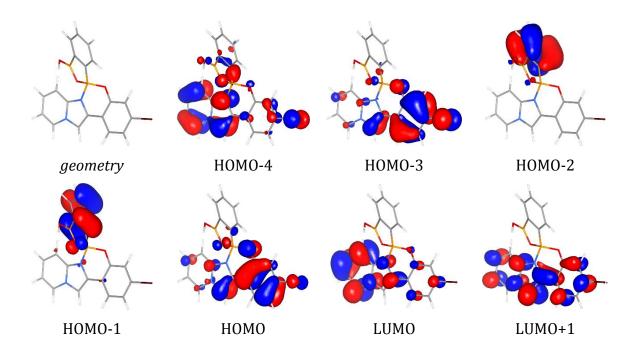
**Figure 9S.** Selected molecular orbitals for the **odba-a** molecule calculated at the DFT(B3LYP)/ $6-311++G^{**}$  level of theory (geometry optimised at the same level; isosurfaces drawn at 0.035 a.u, blue – positive, red – negative).



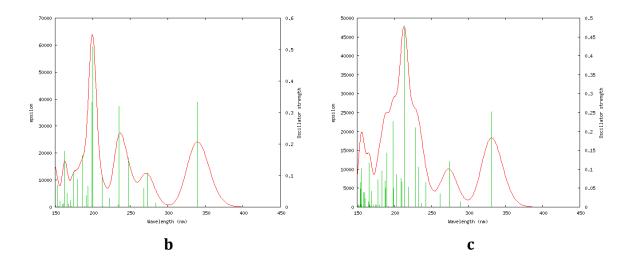
**Figure 10S.** Selected molecular orbitals for the **odba-b** molecule calculated at the DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++ $G^{**}$  level of theory (geometry optimised at the same level; isosurfaces drawn at 0.035 a.u, blue – positive, red – negative).



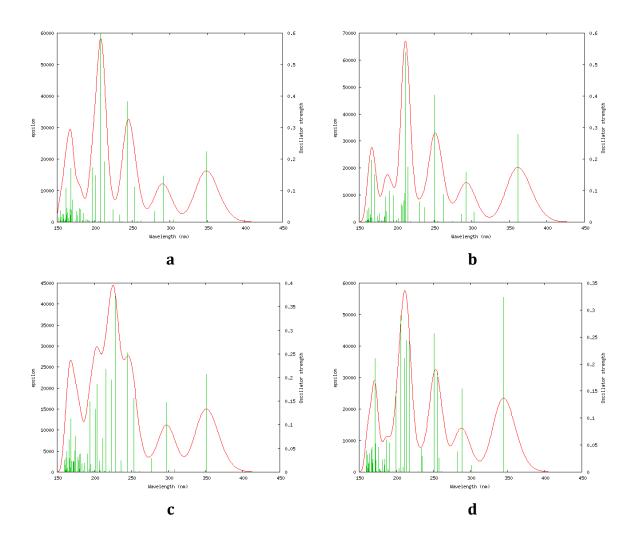
**Figure 11S.** Selected molecular orbitals for the **odba-c** molecule calculated at the DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++G\*\* level of theory (geometry optimised at the same level; isosurfaces drawn at 0.035 a.u, blue – positive, red – negative).



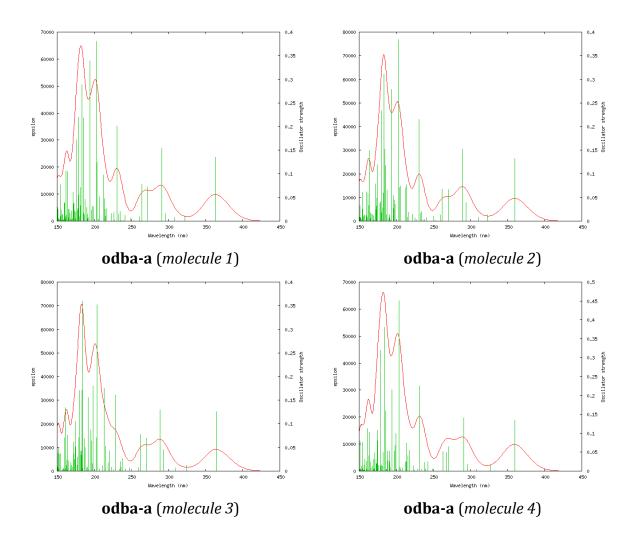
**Figure 12S.** Selected molecular orbitals for the **odba-d** molecule calculated at the DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++G\*\* level of theory (geometry optimised at the same level; isosurfaces drawn at 0.035 a.u, blue – positive, red – negative).



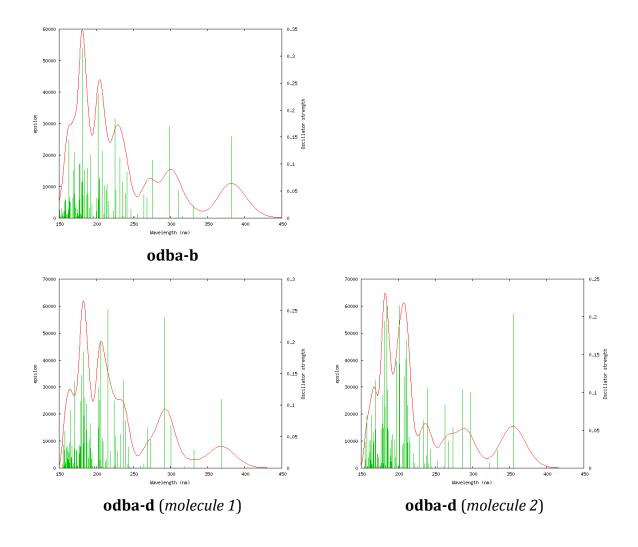
**Figure 13S.** TDDFT-evaluated UV-Vis spectra (DFT(PBE0)/6-31G\*\* level of theory) for compounds  $\bf b$  and  $\bf c$  (crystal structure geometries). Oscillator strengths are marked as green bars; red-line envelope was drawn using default *GAUSSSUM* program settings.



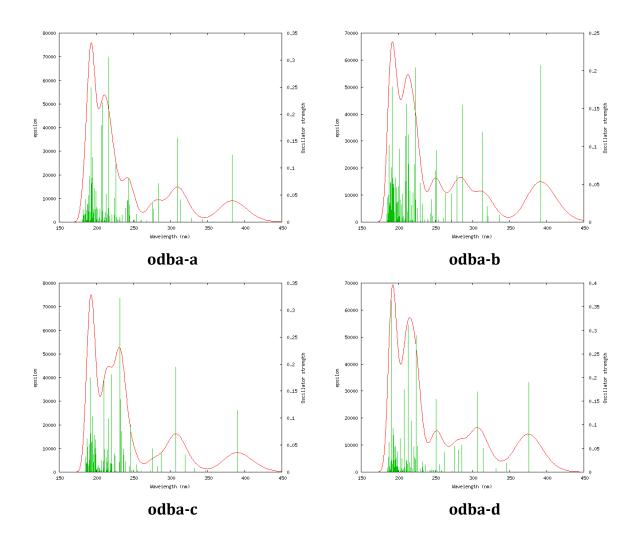
**Figure 14S.** TDDFT-evaluated UV-Vis spectra (DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++ $G^{**}$  level of theory) for compounds  $\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{d}$  (optimised geometries). Oscillator strengths are marked as green bars; red-line envelope was drawn using default *GAUSSSUM* program settings.



**Figure 15S.** TDDFT-evaluated UV-Vis spectra (DFT(PBE0)/6-31G\*\* level of theory) for compound **odba-a** (crystal structure geometries). Oscillator strengths are marked as green bars; red-line envelope was drawn using default *GAUSSSUM* program settings.



**Figure 16S.** TDDFT-evaluated UV-Vis spectra (DFT(PBE0)/6-31G\*\* level of theory) for compounds **odba-b** and **odba-d** (crystal structure geometries). Oscillator strengths are marked as green bars; red-line envelope was drawn using default *GAUSSSUM* program settings.



**Figure 17S.** TDDFT-evaluated UV-Vis spectra (DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++G\*\* level of theory) for compounds **odba-a**, **odba-b**, **odba-c** and **odba-d** (optimised geometries). Oscillator strengths are marked as green bars; red-line envelope was drawn using default *GAUSSSUM* program settings.

**Table 2S.** Electrostatic-potential fitted charges computed at the DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++ $G^{**}$  level of theory for all studied ligand derivatives together with other similar complexes (abbreviations: p-Cl = chlorine atom in para position to the OH group in the 6-membered aromatic ring etc.). All structures were optimised at the same level of theory.

Compound .	Atom						
	01	N1	N2	C1	C6	C7	C8
a	-0.648	-0.650	+0.448	+0.405	-0.637	+0.424	-0.193
<i>p</i> -Me	-0.655	-0.671	+0.456	+0.386	-0.665	+0.517	-0.252
m-Me	-0.648	-0.660	+0.469	+0.377	-0.681	+0.513	-0.312
<i>p</i> -OMe	-0.646	-0.709	+0.282	+0.527	-0.578	+0.500	-0.187
<b>b</b> = <i>m</i> -OMe	-0.634	-0.648	+0.511	+0.335	-0.731	+0.564	-0.390
p-F	-0.646	-0.671	+0.442	+0.392	-0.655	+0.513	-0.226
m-F	-0.628	-0.658	+0.462	+0.381	-0.673	+0.507	-0.317
p-Cl	-0.649	-0.666	+0.452	+0.395	-0.677	+0.515	-0.331
m-Cl	-0.621	-0.646	+0.451	+0.393	-0.646	+0.442	-0.170
$\mathbf{c} = p\text{-Br}$	-0.647	-0.650	+0.471	+0.389	-0.685	+0.487	-0.347
$\mathbf{d} = m\text{-Br}$	-0.629	-0.650	+0.448	+0.406	-0.639	+0.419	-0.138

Table 3S. TDDFT-calculated five lowest energy singlet-singlet transitions at the DFT(B3LYP)/6-311++ $G^{**}$  level of theory (E – energy, f – oscillator strength; major transition contributions are shown in bold).

Compound	E / eV	λ/nm	f·10 <sup>4</sup>	Main orbital contributions
odba-a	3.24	383	1238	HOMO → LUMO
	3.61	343	49	HOMO-1 → LUMO
	3.78	328	77	$HOMO\text{-}2 \to LUMO$
				H0M0-4 → LUM0+1
	3.96	313	411	$\textbf{HOMO-3} \rightarrow \textbf{LUMO}$
				$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1$
	4.00	200	1562	HOMO-3 → LUMO
	4.00	309	1502	$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO + 1$
Compound	E / oV	1 / nm	£ 104	Main orbital contributions
Compound	E / eV	λ / nm	$f \cdot 10^4$	Main orbital contributions
	3.16	392	2096	HOMO → LUMO
	3.68	337	95	HOMO-2 → LUMO
				HOMO-1 → LUMO
	3.87	321	79	HOMO-3 → LUMO
odba-b				HOMO-2 → LUMO
	3.96	320	206	HOMO-1 → LUMO
				HOMO → LUMO+1
			1183	$HOMO-2 \rightarrow LUMO$
				HOMO → LUMO+1
Compound	E / eV	λ / nm	f·10 <sup>4</sup>	Main orbital contributions
	3.18	390	1141	HOMO → LUMO
	3.57	347	30	HOMO-1 → LUMO
	3.73	332	71	HOMO-2 → LUMO
				HOMO-3 → LUMO
odba-c	3.87	320	324	$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO + 1$
	4.04			H0M0-4 → LUM0+1
		307	1948	$HOMO\text{-}3 \to LUMO$
				$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1$
Compound	<i>E /</i> eV	λ/nm	f·10 <sup>4</sup>	Main orbital contributions
отпроини		376		
adha d	3.30		1901	HOMO → LUMO
odba-d	3.58	346	184	HOMO-1 → LUMO
	3.74	332	79	HOMO-2 → LUMO

3.95	314	רחר	HOMO-3 → LUMO
3.95		505	$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO+1$
4.04	4.04 207	1696	HOMO-3 → LUMO
4.04	307		$HOMO \rightarrow LUMO + 1$