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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Optoelectronic performance comparison of new thiophene linked benzimidazole conjugates with diverse substitution patterns

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#### ABSTRACT

In an approach to develop efficient organic optoelectronic devices to be used in light-driven systems, a series of three thiophene linked benzimidazole conjugates were synthesized and characterized. The combination of two thiophene rings to a benzimidazole core decorated with different functional groups (such as  $-OCH_3$ ,  $-N(CH_3)_2$ ,  $-CF_3$ ) resulted in donor-acceptor type molecular scaffold. The effect of the electronic behavior of the substituents on the optical, electrochemical, morphological and electron/hole transporting properties of the dyes were systematically investigated. **DTBI2** dye exhibited distinct absorption properties among the other studied dyes because N,N-dimethylamino group initiated intramolecular charge transfer (ICT) process in the studied solvents. In solid state, the dyes exhibit peaks extending up to 600 nm. Depending on the solvent polarities, dyes show significant wavelength changes

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