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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Theoretical Study on Interactions between Trifluoromethanesulfonate (Triflate) Based Ionic Liquid and Thiophene

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#### **Abstract**

employed to investigate the interactions Density functional theory was between 1-ethyl-3-methylimidazolium  $([EMIM]^+)/$ 1-ethylpyridinium ([EPY]<sup>+</sup>)/ 1-ethyl-1-methylpyrrolidinium ([EPYRO]<sup>+</sup>)/ 1-ethyl-1-methylpiperidinium ([EPIP]<sup>+</sup>) cations and trifluoromethanesulfonate ([OTf])anion, well as the interactions between trifluoromethanesulfonate  $([EMIM]^{+}[OTf]^{-})$ 1-ethylpyridinium trifluoromethanesulfonate ([EPY]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]<sup>-</sup>/ 1-ethyl-1-methylpyrrolidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate ([EPYRO]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]<sup>-</sup>/ 1-ethyl-1-methylpiperidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate ([EPIP]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]) and thiophene. The ionic liquids and complexes formed between [EMIM]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]<sup>-</sup>/ [EPY]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]<sup>-</sup>/ [EPYRO]<sup>+</sup>[OTf]<sup>-</sup>/ [EPIP] [OTf] and thiophene were analyzed by natural bond orbital, atoms in molecules, and noncovalent interaction, HOMO-LUMO overlap integral analyses, and electron density difference analysis. The calculated results show that thiophene ring is parallel to [EMIM]<sup>+</sup>/ [EPY]<sup>+</sup> ring, beneficial to  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction, while [EPYRO]<sup>+</sup> / [EPIP]<sup>+</sup> branched chains tend to form C-H··· $\pi$ interactions with thiophene. The interactions between [EMIM]<sup>+</sup>/ [EPY]<sup>+</sup> / [EPYRO]<sup>+</sup> / [EPIP]<sup>+</sup> and thiophene are stronger than that of [OTf] and thiophene proposed by interaction energy and electron density differences. The HOMO-LUMO overlap integral analyses demonstrate the different charge transfer direction and interacting nature of frontier orbitals.

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