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ABSTRACT:

Innovative Strategies in BIPV: Materials for Transparent Photovoltaics based on Wavelength Selective Solar Cells

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Transparent photovoltaics (TPV) is an emerging technology in which the solar cells selectively transmit the visible light, while harvest UV and/or NIR photons for electricity production.[1] TPV is particularly promising to deploy solar cells into new sectors like building integrated photovoltaics (BIPV). One possible approach to TPV is based on wavelength-selective absorbers where the dye requires an absorption far from the photopic response of human eye.[2] Among different classes of dyes, polymethines (cyanines and squaraines) are promising for their high molar extinction coefficient and easily tunable properties through facile and low-cost synthesis. In particular, cyanines have already been investigated for DSSCs with promising results, and fully transparent and colorless DSSCs were built reaching 80% transmittance.[3] Aiming to create a library of NIR dyes with improved performances, new series of cyanines and squaraines have been synthesized and characterized in terms of optical, photophysical and electrochemical properties, showing interesting structure/property relationships. Finally, photovoltaic performances have been evaluated in lab-scale DSSCs and optimized by different anode modifications and electrolyte formulations.

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