



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
20.05.2015 Bulletin 2015/21

(51) Int Cl.:
H01L 51/50^(2006.01) H01L 51/54^(2006.01)

(21) Application number: **14003750.8**

(22) Date of filing: **06.11.2014**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

(30) Priority: **15.11.2013 US 201361904530 P**
22.11.2013 US 201361907450 P
22.10.2014 US 201414521257
22.10.2014 US 201414521281

(71) Applicant: **Universal Display Corporation**
Ewing, NJ 08618 (US)

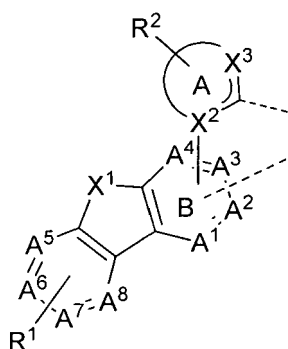
(72) Inventors:
• **Xia, Chuanjun**
Ewing, NJ New Jersey 08618 (US)
• **Lin, Chun**
Ewing, NJ New Jersey 08618 (US)
• **Kottas, Gregory**
Ewing, NJ New Jersey 08618 (US)
• **Elshenawy, Zeinab**
Ewing, NJ New Jersey 08618 (US)

(74) Representative: **Braun, Nils**
Maiwald Patentanwalts GmbH
Elisenhof
Elisenstraße 3
80335 München (DE)

(54) **Organic electroluminescent materials and devices**

(57) According to one embodiment, a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I

OLEDs, that include the compound comprising ligand L_A of formula I are also described.



is described. In the structure of Formula I, A^1 through A^8 are independently carbon or nitrogen, with at least one being nitrogen; X^1 is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se; X^2 and X^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S; ring A is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond and bonded to M through a metal-carbene bond; any adjacent substitutions in R^1 and R^2 are optionally linked together to form a ring; the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M; and the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise up to a hexadentate ligand. Formulations and devices, such as an

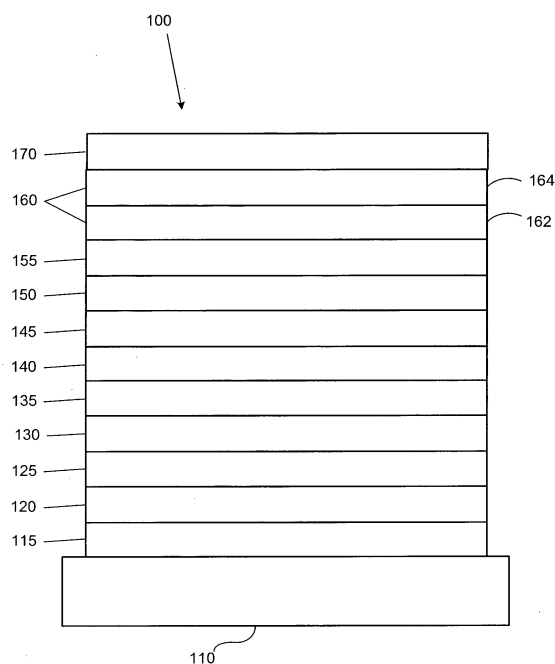


FIGURE 1

Description

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/907,450, filed November 22, 2013, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/904,530, filed November 15, 2013, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

[0002] The claimed invention was made by, on behalf of, and/or in connection with one or more of the following parties to a joint university corporation research agreement: Regents of the University of Michigan, Princeton University, University of Southern California, and the Universal Display Corporation. The agreement was in effect on and before the date the claimed invention was made, and the claimed invention was made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of the agreement.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to compounds for use as emitters and devices, such as organic light emitting diodes, including the same.

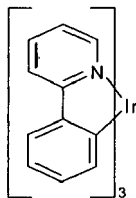
BACKGROUND

[0004] Opto-electronic devices that make use of organic materials are becoming increasingly desirable for a number of reasons. Many of the materials used to make such devices are relatively inexpensive, so organic opto-electronic devices have the potential for cost advantages over inorganic devices. In addition, the inherent properties of organic materials, such as their flexibility, may make them well suited for particular applications such as fabrication on a flexible substrate. Examples of organic opto-electronic devices include organic light emitting devices (OLEDs), organic phototransistors, organic photovoltaic cells, and organic photodetectors. For OLEDs, the organic materials may have performance advantages over conventional materials. For example, the wavelength at which an organic emissive layer emits light may generally be readily tuned with appropriate dopants.

[0005] OLEDs make use of thin organic films that emit light when voltage is applied across the device. OLEDs are becoming an increasingly interesting technology for use in applications such as flat panel displays, illumination, and backlighting. Several OLED materials and configurations are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,844,363, 6,303,238, and 5,707,745, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

[0006] One application for phosphorescent emissive molecules is a full color display. Industry standards for such a display call for pixels adapted to emit particular colors, referred to as "saturated" colors. In particular, these standards call for saturated red, green, and blue pixels. Color may be measured using CIE coordinates, which are well known to the art.

[0007] One example of a green emissive molecule is tris(2-phenylpyridine) iridium, denoted Ir(ppy)₃, which has the following structure:



[0008] In this, and later figures herein, we depict the dative bond from nitrogen to metal (here, Ir) as a straight line.

[0009] As used herein, the term "organic" includes polymeric materials as well as small molecule organic materials that may be used to fabricate organic opto-electronic devices. "Small molecule" refers to any organic material that is not a polymer, and "small molecules" may actually be quite large. Small molecules may include repeat units in some circumstances. For example, using a long chain alkyl group as a substituent does not remove a molecule from the "small molecule" class. Small molecules may also be incorporated into polymers, for example as a pendent group on a polymer backbone or as a part of the backbone. Small molecules may also serve as the core moiety of a dendrimer, which consists of a series of chemical shells built on the core moiety. The core moiety of a dendrimer may be a fluorescent or

phosphorescent small molecule emitter. A dendrimer may be a "small molecule," and it is believed that all dendrimers currently used in the field of OLEDs are small molecules.

[0010] As used herein, "top" means furthest away from the substrate, while "bottom" means closest to the substrate. Where a first layer is described as "disposed over" a second layer, the first layer is disposed further away from substrate. There may be other layers between the first and second layer, unless it is specified that the first layer is "in contact with" the second layer. For example, a cathode may be described as "disposed over" an anode, even though there are various organic layers in between.

[0011] As used herein, "solution processible" means capable of being dissolved, dispersed, or transported in and/or deposited from a liquid medium, either in solution or suspension form.

[0012] A ligand may be referred to as "photoactive" when it is believed that the ligand directly contributes to the photoactive properties of an emissive material. A ligand may be referred to as "ancillary" when it is believed that the ligand does not contribute to the photoactive properties of an emissive material, although an ancillary ligand may alter the properties of a photoactive ligand.

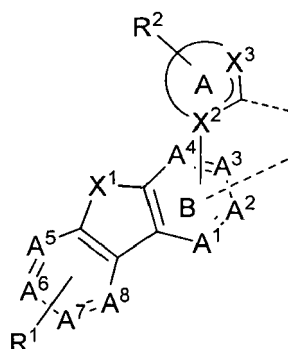
[0013] As used herein, and as would be generally understood by one skilled in the art, a first "Highest Occupied Molecular Orbital" (HOMO) or "Lowest Unoccupied Molecular Orbital" (LUMO) energy level is "greater than" or "higher than" a second HOMO or LUMO energy level if the first energy level is closer to the vacuum energy level. Since ionization potentials (IP) are measured as a negative energy relative to a vacuum level, a higher HOMO energy level corresponds to an IP having a smaller absolute value (an IP that is less negative). Similarly, a higher LUMO energy level corresponds to an electron affinity (EA) having a smaller absolute value (an EA that is less negative). On a conventional energy level diagram, with the vacuum level at the top, the LUMO energy level of a material is higher than the HOMO energy level of the same material. A "higher" HOMO or LUMO energy level appears closer to the top of such a diagram than a "lower" HOMO or LUMO energy level.

[0014] As used herein, and as would be generally understood by one skilled in the art, a first work function is "greater than" or "higher than" a second work function if the first work function has a higher absolute value. Because work functions are generally measured as negative numbers relative to vacuum level, this means that a "higher" work function is more negative. On a conventional energy level diagram, with the vacuum level at the top, a "higher" work function is illustrated as further away from the vacuum level in the downward direction. Thus, the definitions of HOMO and LUMO energy levels follow a different convention than work functions.

[0015] More details on OLEDs, and the definitions described above, can be found in US Pat. No. 7,279,704, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0016] According to one embodiment, a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I,

is provided.

[0017] In the structure of Formula I:

each A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is independently carbon or nitrogen;

at least one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen;

X^1 is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

X^2 and X^3 each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

ring A is bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond;

ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

any adjacent substitutions in R^1 and R^2 are optionally linked together to form a ring;

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

[0018] According to another embodiment, a first device comprising a first organic light emitting device is also provided. The first organic light emitting device can include an anode, a cathode, and an organic layer, disposed between the anode and the cathode. The organic layer can include a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I. The first device can be one or more of a consumer product, an electronic component module, an organic light-emitting device, and a lighting panel.

[0019] Formulations containing a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I are also provided.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020]

FIG. 1 shows an organic light emitting device.

FIG. 2 shows an inverted organic light emitting device that does not have a separate electron transport layer.

FIG. 3 shows a ligand L_A of Formula I as disclosed herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0021] Generally, an OLED comprises at least one organic layer disposed between and electrically connected to an anode and a cathode. When a current is applied, the anode injects holes and the cathode injects electrons into the organic layer(s). The injected holes and electrons each migrate toward the oppositely charged electrode. When an electron and hole localize on the same molecule, an "exciton," which is a localized electron-hole pair having an excited energy state, is formed. Light is emitted when the exciton relaxes via a photoemissive mechanism. In some cases, the exciton may be localized on an excimer or an exciplex. Non-radiative mechanisms, such as thermal relaxation, may also occur, but are generally considered undesirable.

[0022] The initial OLEDs used emissive molecules that emitted light from their singlet states ("fluorescence") as disclosed, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 4,769,292, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Fluorescent emission generally occurs in a time frame of less than 10 nanoseconds.

[0023] More recently, OLEDs having emissive materials that emit light from triplet states ("phosphorescence") have been demonstrated. Baldo et al., "Highly Efficient Phosphorescent Emission from Organic Electroluminescent Devices," *Nature*, vol. 395, 151-154, 1998; ("Baldo-I") and Baldo et al., "Very high-efficiency green organic light-emitting devices based on electrophosphorescence," *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, vol. 75, No. 3, 4-6 (1999) ("Baldo-II"), which are incorporated by reference in their entireties. Phosphorescence is described in more detail in US Pat. No. 7,279,704 at cols. 5-6, which are incorporated by reference.

[0024] FIG. 1 shows an organic light emitting device 100. The figures are not necessarily drawn to scale. Device 100 may include a substrate 110, an anode 115, a hole injection layer 120, a hole transport layer 125, an electron blocking layer 130, an emissive layer 135, a hole blocking layer 140, an electron transport layer 145, an electron injection layer 150, a protective layer 155, a cathode 160, and a barrier layer 170. Cathode 160 is a compound cathode having a first

conductive layer 162 and a second conductive layer 164. Device 100 may be fabricated by depositing the layers described, in order. The properties and functions of these various layers, as well as example materials, are described in more detail in US 7,279,704 at cols. 6-10, which are incorporated by reference.

[0025] More examples for each of these layers are available. For example, a flexible and transparent substrate-anode combination is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,844,363, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. An example of a p-doped hole transport layer is m-MTDATA doped with F₄-TCNQ at a molar ratio of 50:1, as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0230980, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Examples of emissive and host materials are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,303,238 to Thompson et al., which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. An example of an n-doped electron transport layer is BPhen doped with Li at a molar ratio of 1:1, as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0230980, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,703,436 and 5,707,745, which are incorporated by reference in their entireties, disclose examples of cathodes including compound cathodes having a thin layer of metal such as Mg:Ag with an overlying transparent, electrically-conductive, sputter-deposited ITO layer. The theory and use of blocking layers is described in more detail in U.S. Pat. No. 6,097,147 and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0230980, which are incorporated by reference in their entireties. Examples of injection layers are provided in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0174116, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. A description of protective layers may be found in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0174116, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0026] FIG. 2 shows an inverted OLED 200. The device includes a substrate 210, a cathode 215, an emissive layer 220, a hole transport layer 225, and an anode 230. Device 200 may be fabricated by depositing the layers described, in order. Because the most common OLED configuration has a cathode disposed over the anode, and device 200 has cathode 215 disposed under anode 230, device 200 may be referred to as an "inverted" OLED. Materials similar to those described with respect to device 100 may be used in the corresponding layers of device 200. FIG. 2 provides one example of how some layers may be omitted from the structure of device 100.

[0027] The simple layered structure illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 is provided by way of non-limiting example, and it is understood that embodiments of the invention may be used in connection with a wide variety of other structures. The specific materials and structures described are exemplary in nature, and other materials and structures may be used. Functional OLEDs may be achieved by combining the various layers described in different ways, or layers may be omitted entirely, based on design, performance, and cost factors. Other layers not specifically described may also be included. Materials other than those specifically described may be used. Although many of the examples provided herein describe various layers as comprising a single material, it is understood that combinations of materials, such as a mixture of host and dopant, or more generally a mixture, may be used. Also, the layers may have various sublayers. The names given to the various layers herein are not intended to be strictly limiting. For example, in device 200, hole transport layer 225 transports holes and injects holes into emissive layer 220, and may be described as a hole transport layer or a hole injection layer. In one embodiment, an OLED may be described as having an "organic layer" disposed between a cathode and an anode. This organic layer may comprise a single layer, or may further comprise multiple layers of different organic materials as described, for example, with respect to FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0028] Structures and materials not specifically described may also be used, such as OLEDs comprised of polymeric materials (PLEDs) such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,247,190 to Friend et al., which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. By way of further example, OLEDs having a single organic layer may be used. OLEDs may be stacked, for example as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,707,745 to Forrest et al., which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. The OLED structure may deviate from the simple layered structure illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. For example, the substrate may include an angled reflective surface to improve out-coupling, such as a mesa structure as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,091,195 to Forrest et al., and/or a pit structure as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,834,893 to Bulovic et al., which are incorporated by reference in their entireties.

[0029] Unless otherwise specified, any of the layers of the various embodiments may be deposited by any suitable method. For the organic layers, preferred methods include thermal evaporation, inkjet, such as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,013,982 and 6,087,196, which are incorporated by reference in their entireties, organic vapor phase deposition (OVPD), such as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,337,102 to Forrest et al., which is incorporated by reference in its entirety, and deposition by organic vapor jet printing (OVJP), such as described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,431,968, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Other suitable deposition methods include spin coating and other solution based processes. Solution based processes are preferably carried out in nitrogen or an inert atmosphere. For the other layers, preferred methods include thermal evaporation. Preferred patterning methods include deposition through a mask, cold welding such as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,294,398 and 6,468,819, which are incorporated by reference in their entireties, and patterning associated with some of the deposition methods such as ink-jet and OVJD. Other methods may also be used. The materials to be deposited may be modified to make them compatible with a particular deposition method. For example, substituents such as alkyl and aryl groups, branched or unbranched, and preferably containing at least 3 carbons, may be used in small molecules to enhance their ability to undergo solution processing. Substituents having 20 carbons or more may be used, and 3-20 carbons is a preferred range. Materials with asymmetric structures may

have better solution processability than those having symmetric structures, because asymmetric materials may have a lower tendency to recrystallize. Dendrimer substituents may be used to enhance the ability of small molecules to undergo solution processing.

[0030] Devices fabricated in accordance with embodiments of the present invention may further optionally comprise a barrier layer. One purpose of the barrier layer is to protect the electrodes and organic layers from damaging exposure to harmful species in the environment including moisture, vapor and/or gases, etc. The barrier layer may be deposited over, under or next to a substrate, an electrode, or over any other parts of a device including an edge. The barrier layer may comprise a single layer, or multiple layers. The barrier layer may be formed by various known chemical vapor deposition techniques and may include compositions having a single phase as well as compositions having multiple phases. Any suitable material or combination of materials may be used for the barrier layer. The barrier layer may incorporate an inorganic or an organic compound or both. The preferred barrier layer comprises a mixture of a polymeric material and a non-polymeric material as described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,968,146, PCT Pat. Application Nos. PCT/US2007/023098 and PCT/US2009/042829, which are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties. To be considered a "mixture", the aforesaid polymeric and non-polymeric materials comprising the barrier layer should be deposited under the same reaction conditions and/or at the same time. The weight ratio of polymeric to non-polymeric material may be in the range of 95:5 to 5:95. The polymeric material and the non-polymeric material may be created from the same precursor material. In one example, the mixture of a polymeric material and a non-polymeric material consists essentially of polymeric silicon and inorganic silicon.

[0031] Devices fabricated in accordance with embodiments of the invention can be incorporated into a wide variety of electronic component modules (or units) that can be incorporated into a variety of electronic products or intermediate components. Examples of such electronic products or intermediate components include display screens, lighting devices such as discrete light source devices or lighting panels, etc. that can be utilized by the end-user product manufacturers. Such electronic component modules can optionally include the driving electronics and/or power source(s). Devices fabricated in accordance with embodiments of the invention can be incorporated into a wide variety of consumer products that have one or more of the electronic component modules (or units) incorporated therein. Such consumer products would include any kind of products that include one or more light source(s) and/or one or more of some type of visual displays. Some examples of such consumer products include flat panel displays, computer monitors, medical monitors, televisions, billboards, lights for interior or exterior illumination and/or signaling, heads-up displays, fully or partially transparent displays, flexible displays, laser printers, telephones, cell phones, tablets, phablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, digital cameras, camcorders, viewfinders, micro-displays, 3-D displays, vehicles, a large area wall, theater or stadium screen, or a sign. Various control mechanisms may be used to control devices fabricated in accordance with the present invention, including passive matrix and active matrix. Many of the devices are intended for use in a temperature range comfortable to humans, such as 18 degrees C. to 30 degrees C., and more preferably at room temperature (20-25 degrees C), but could be used outside this temperature range, for example, from -40 degree C to + 80 degree C.

[0032] The materials and structures described herein may have applications in devices other than OLEDs. For example, other optoelectronic devices such as organic solar cells and organic photodetectors may employ the materials and structures. More generally, organic devices, such as organic transistors, may employ the materials and structures.

[0033] The term "halo," "halogen," or "halide" as used herein includes fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine.

[0034] The term "alkyl" as used herein contemplates both straight and branched chain alkyl radicals. Preferred alkyl groups are those containing from one to fifteen carbon atoms and includes methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, and the like. Additionally, the alkyl group may be optionally substituted.

[0035] The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein contemplates cyclic alkyl radicals. Preferred cycloalkyl groups are those containing 3 to 7 carbon atoms and includes cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, and the like. Additionally, the cycloalkyl group may be optionally substituted.

[0036] The term "alkenyl" as used herein contemplates both straight and branched chain alkene radicals. Preferred alkenyl groups are those containing two to fifteen carbon atoms. Additionally, the alkenyl group may be optionally substituted.

[0037] The term "alkynyl" as used herein contemplates both straight and branched chain alkyne radicals. Preferred alkynyl groups are those containing two to fifteen carbon atoms. Additionally, the alkynyl group may be optionally substituted.

[0038] The terms "aralkyl" or "arylalkyl" as used herein are used interchangeably and contemplate an alkyl group that has as a substituent an aromatic group. Additionally, the aralkyl group may be optionally substituted.

[0039] The term "heterocyclic group" as used herein contemplates aromatic and non-aromatic cyclic radicals. Hetero-aromatic cyclic radicals also means heteroaryl. Preferred hetero-non-aromatic cyclic groups are those containing 3 or 7 ring atoms which includes at least one hetero atom, and includes cyclic amines such as morpholino, piperidino, pyrrolidino, and the like, and cyclic ethers, such as tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydropyran, and the like. Additionally, the heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted.

[0040] The term "aryl" or "aromatic group" as used herein contemplates single-ring groups and polycyclic ring systems. The polycyclic rings may have two or more rings in which two carbons are common to two adjoining rings (the rings are "fused") wherein at least one of the rings is aromatic, e.g., the other rings can be cycloalkyls, cycloalkenyls, aryl, heterocycles, and/or heteroaryls. Additionally, the aryl group may be optionally substituted.

[0041] The term "heteroaryl" as used herein contemplates single-ring hetero-aromatic groups that may include from one to three heteroatoms, for example, pyrrole, furan, thiophene, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, triazole, pyrazole, pyridine, pyrazine and pyrimidine, and the like. The term heteroaryl also includes polycyclic hetero-aromatic systems having two or more rings in which two atoms are common to two adjoining rings (the rings are "fused") wherein at least one of the rings is a heteroaryl, e.g., the other rings can be cycloalkyls, cycloalkenyls, aryl, heterocycles, and/or heteroaryls. Additionally, the heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted.

[0042] The alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl, heterocyclic group, aryl, and heteroaryl may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, cyclic amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acid, ether, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

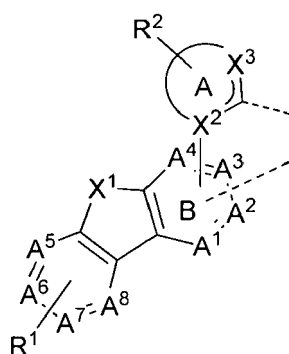
[0043] As used herein, "substituted" indicates that a substituent other than H is bonded to the relevant position, such as carbon. Thus, for example, where R¹ is mono-substituted, then one R¹ must be other than H. Similarly, where R¹ is di-substituted, then two of R¹ must be other than H. Similarly, where R¹ is unsubstituted, R¹ is hydrogen for all available positions.

[0044] The "aza" designation in the fragments described herein, i.e. aza-dibenzofuran, aza-dibenzothiophene, etc. means that one or more of the C-H groups in the respective fragment can be replaced by a nitrogen atom, for example, and without any limitation, azatriphenylene encompasses both dibenzo[f,h]quinoxaline and dibenzo[f,h]quinoline. One of ordinary skill in the art can readily envision other nitrogen analogs of the aza-derivatives described above, and all such analogs are intended to be encompassed by the terms as set forth herein.

[0045] It is to be understood that when a molecular fragment is described as being a substituent or otherwise attached to another moiety, its name may be written as if it were a fragment (e.g. phenyl, phenylene, naphthyl, dibenzofuryl) or as if it were the whole molecule (e.g. benzene, naphthalene, dibenzofuran). As used herein, these different ways of designating a substituent or attached fragment are considered to be equivalent.

[0046] The compounds described herein are metal complexes containing an azadibenzofuranyl imidazole carbene ligand. The introduction of the azadibenzofuran moiety can lower the LUMO of the complex compared to dibenzofuran containing complexes, resulting in better device stability. In addition, the rigidity of the ligand containing the azadibenzofuran moiety makes the emission spectrum narrower, which is desirable for more saturated colors.

[0047] According to one embodiment, a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I,

is disclosed.

[0048] In the structure of Formula I:

each A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is independently carbon or nitrogen;

at least one of A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is nitrogen;

X¹ is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

X² and X³ each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

ring A is bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond;

ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

any adjacent substitutions in R^1 and R^2 are optionally linked together to form a ring;

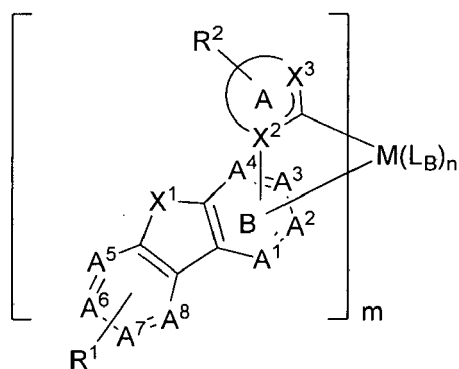
R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

[0049] In some embodiments, the compound has the formula $M(L_A)_m(L_B)_n$ of the structure:



, Formula II.

[0050] In the structure of Formula II:

L_B is a different ligand from L_A ;

m is an integer from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M; and

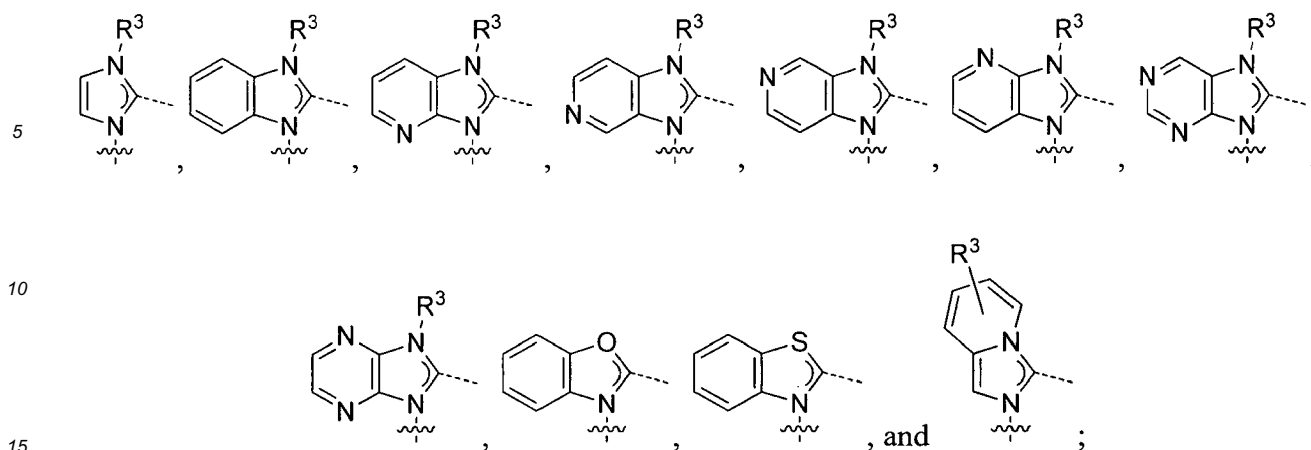
$m+n$ is the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M.

[0051] In some embodiments, M is selected from the group consisting of Ir, Rh, Re, Ru, Os, Pt, Au, and Cu. In some embodiments, M is Ir.

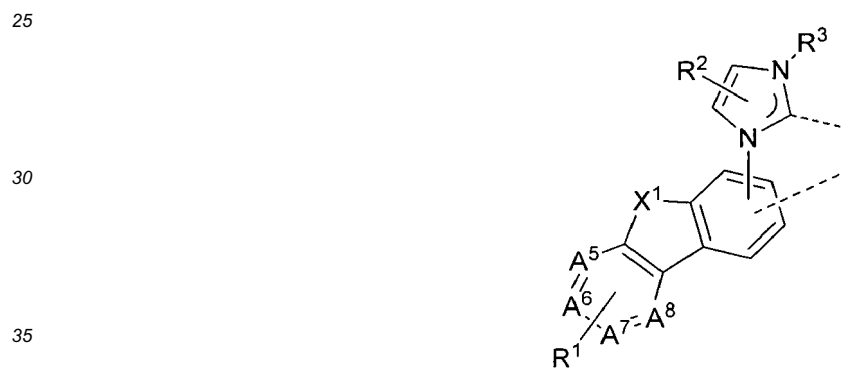
[0052] In some embodiments, X^1 is O. In some embodiments, M is coordinated to ring B through a M-C bond.

[0053] In some embodiments, only one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen. In some embodiments, each one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 is carbon. In some embodiments, each one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 is carbon, and exactly one of A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen. In some embodiments, only two of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 are nitrogen. In some embodiments, each one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 is carbon, and exactly two of A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 are nitrogen.

[0054] In some embodiments, R^2 forms a phenyl or pyridyl ring fused to ring A. In some embodiments, R^2 forms a phenyl or pyridyl ring fused to ring A, and the phenyl or pyridyl ring (ring A) is further substituted. In some embodiments, ring A is selected from the group consisting of:

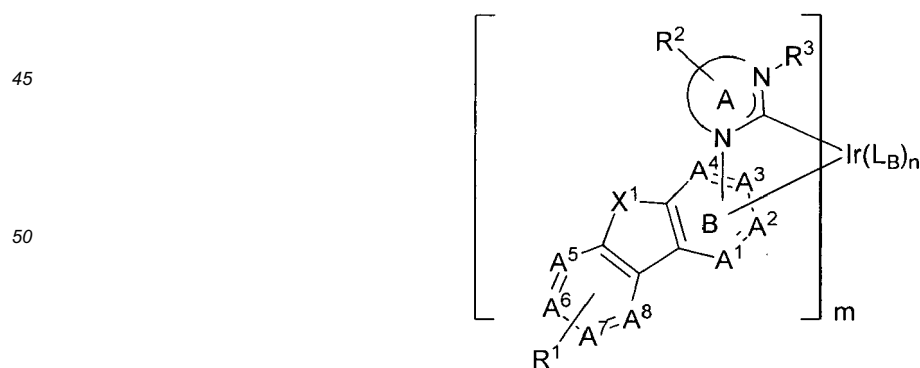


[0055] In some embodiments, the ligand L_A is



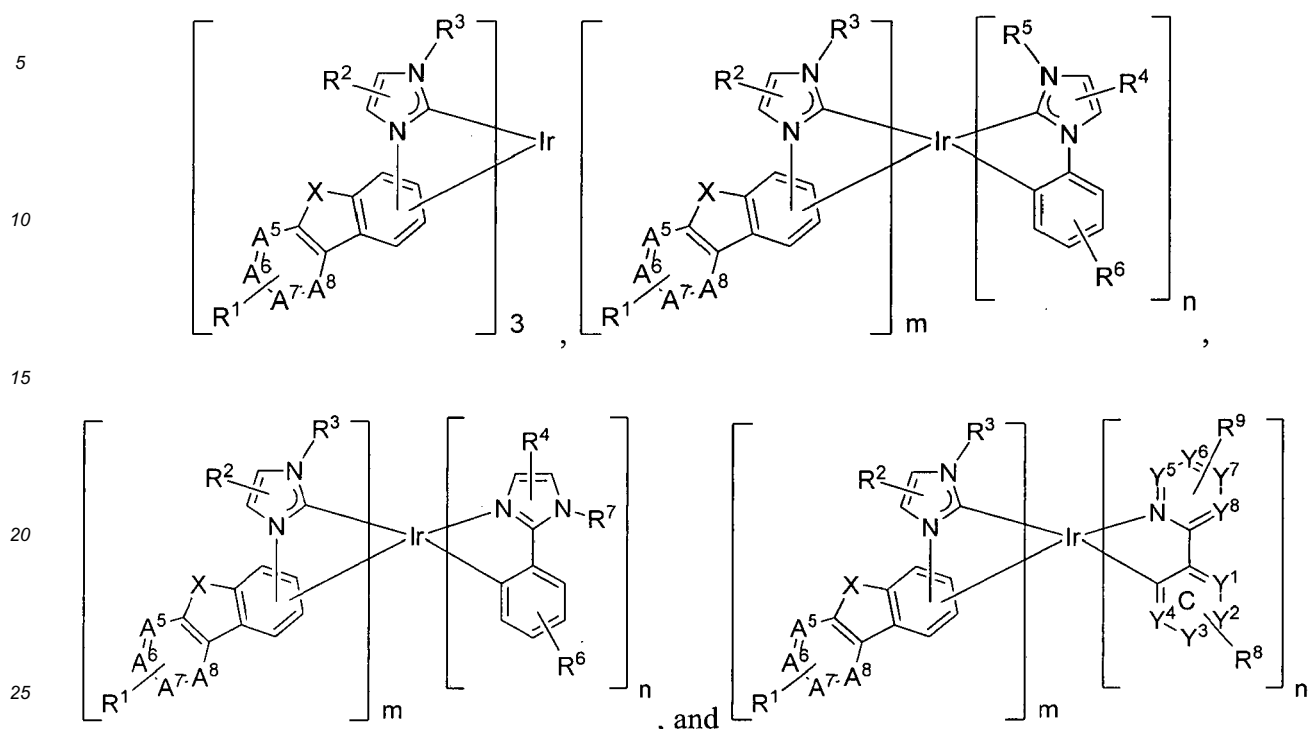
where R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

[0056] In some embodiments, the compound has the formula $Ir(L_A)_m(L_B)_n$, having the structure



where $m + n = 3$, and R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

[0057] In some embodiments, the compound is selected from the group consisting of



In these structures:

R^4 represents mono, di-substitution, or no substitution;

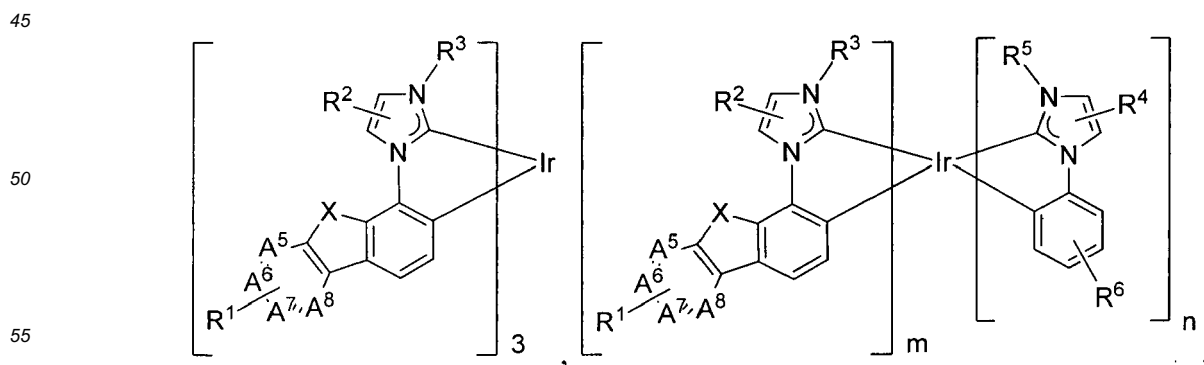
R^6 , R^8 and R^9 each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

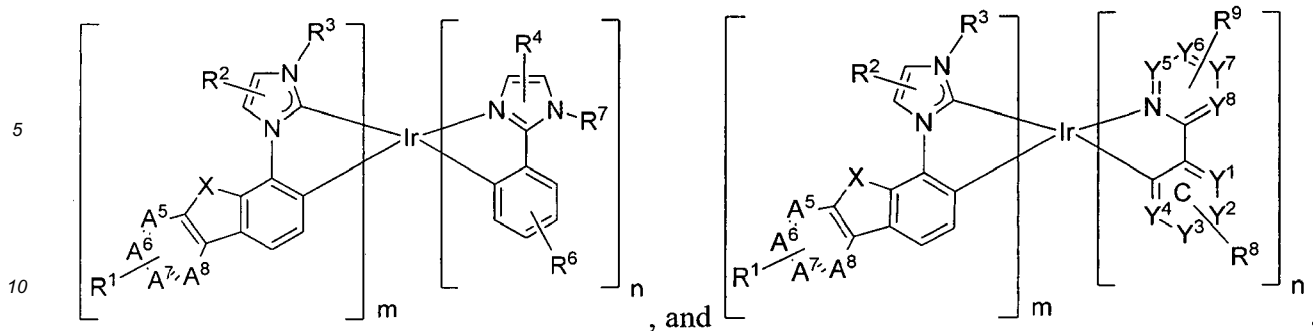
Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 , Y^5 , Y^6 , Y^7 , and Y^8 comprise carbon or nitrogen;

R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof; and

any adjacent substitutions in R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are optionally linked together to form a ring.

[0058] In some embodiments, the compound is selected from the group consisting of





In these structures:

R⁴ represents mono, di-substitution, or no substitution;

R⁶, R⁸ and R⁹ each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴, Y⁵, Y⁶, Y⁷, and Y⁸ comprise carbon or nitrogen;

R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof; and

any adjacent substitutions in R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are optionally linked together to form a ring.

[0059] In some embodiments, m is 1. In some embodiments, R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, R¹ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, cyclopentyl and partially or fully deuterated variations thereof.

[0060] In some embodiments, R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a phenyl ring fused to ring A, and a pyridyl ring fused to ring A. In some embodiments, R³ is alkyl or cycloalkyl. In some embodiments, R³ is aryl or substituted aryl. In some more specific embodiments, R³ is selected from the group consisting of: methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-methylethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, pentyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, 1,2-dimethylpropyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, cyclopentyl, and cyclohexyl, wherein each group is optionally partially or fully deuterated.

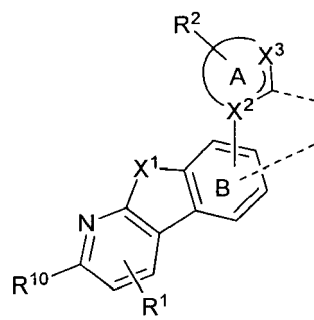
[0061] In some embodiments, R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and substituted aryl. In some embodiments, R⁷ is a 2,6-disubstituted aryl. In some embodiments, R⁷ is a 2,6-disubstituted phenyl, substituted with an alkyl selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, and partially or fully deuterated variations thereof. In some embodiments, R⁷ comprises at least one chemical group selected from the group consisting of carbazole, dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, and fluorine.

[0062] In some embodiments, Y⁵, Y⁶, Y⁷, and Y⁸ comprise carbon, only one of Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ is nitrogen. In some embodiments, Y² is nitrogen.

[0063] In some embodiments, R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, and partially or fully deuterated variations thereof. In some embodiments, adjacent R⁸ substituents are joined together with Ring C to form dibenzofuran, azadibenzofuran, dibenzothiophene, or azadibenzothiophene.

[0064] In some embodiments, R⁹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, R⁹ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, deuterated variations thereof, phenyl, alkyl substituted phenyl, pyridyl, alkyl substituted pyridyl, fused phenyl, and alkyl substituted fused phenyl.

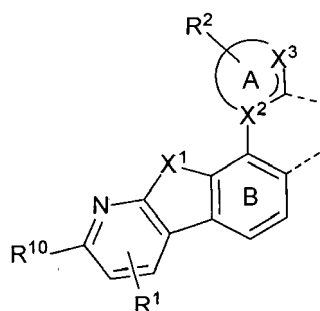
[0065] In some embodiments, the ligand L_A is:



where:

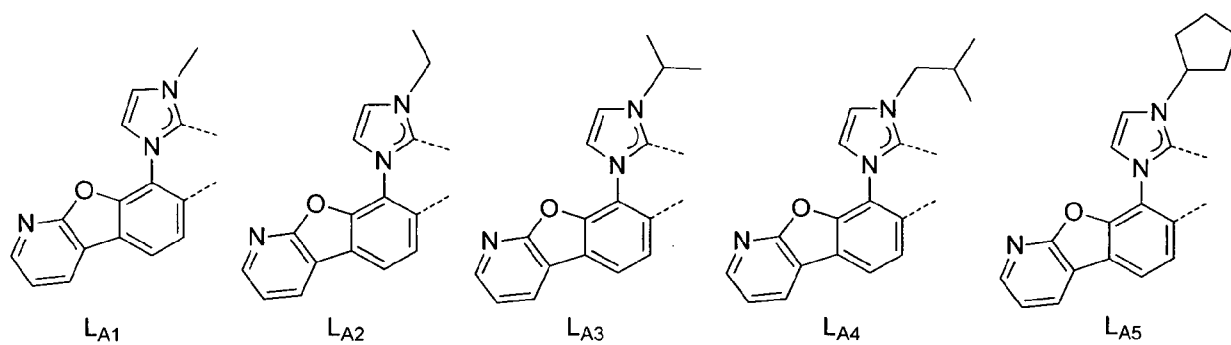
R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

[0066] In some embodiments, ligand L_A is



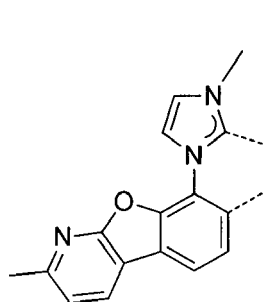
[0067] In some embodiments, R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, R^{10} is alkyl. In some embodiments, R^{10} is cycloalkyl. In some embodiments, R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-methylethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, pentyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, 1,2-dimethylpropyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, partially or fully deuterated variants thereof, and combinations thereof.

[0068] In some embodiments, L_A is selected from the group consisting of:

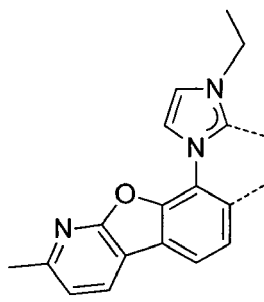


5

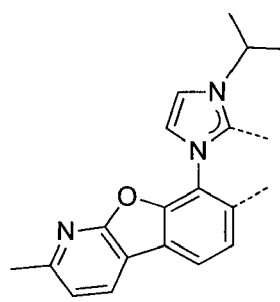
10



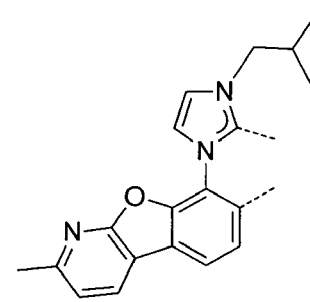
LA6



LA7



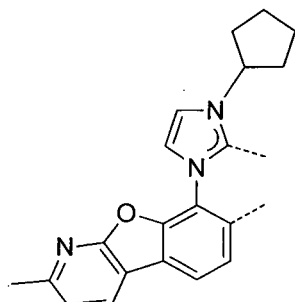
LA8



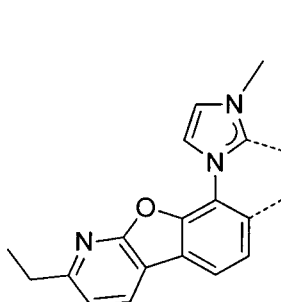
LA9

15

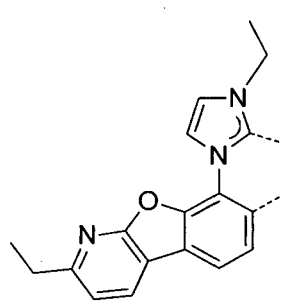
20



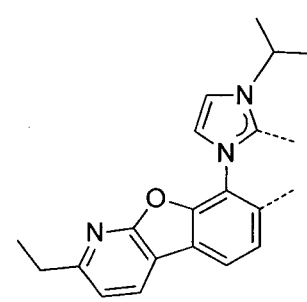
LA10



LA11



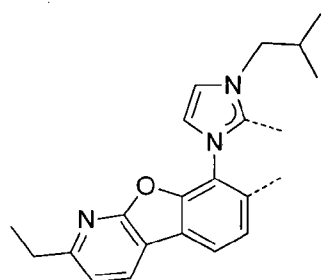
LA12



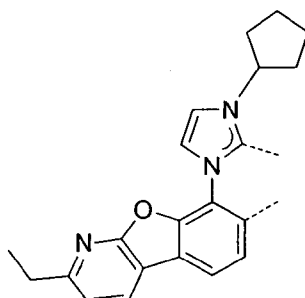
LA13

25

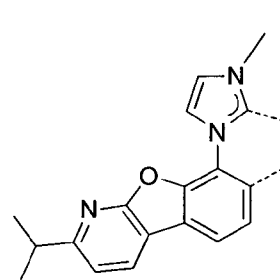
30



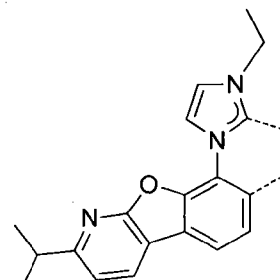
LA14



LA15



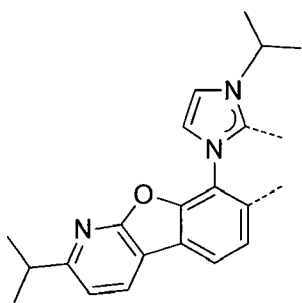
LA16



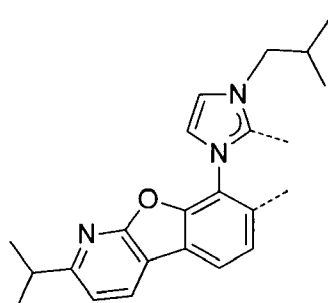
LA17

40

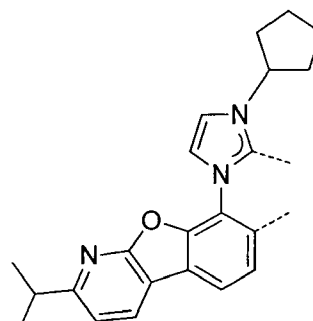
45



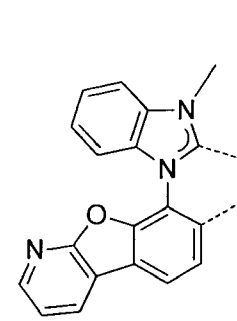
LA18



LA19



LA20

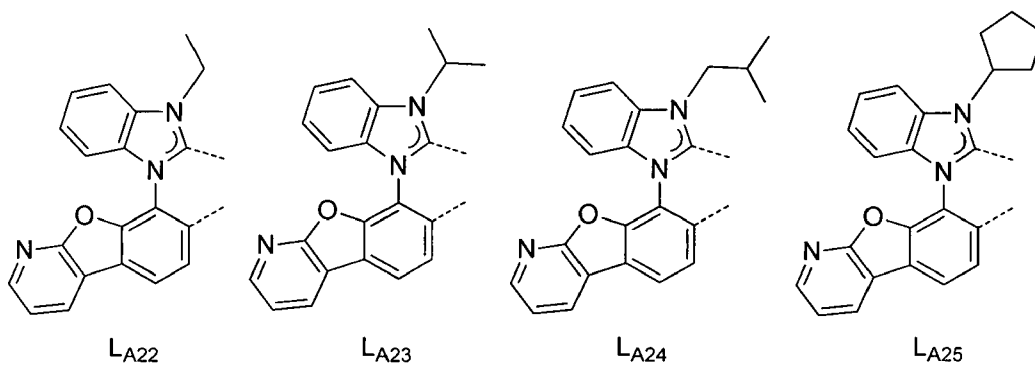


LA21

55

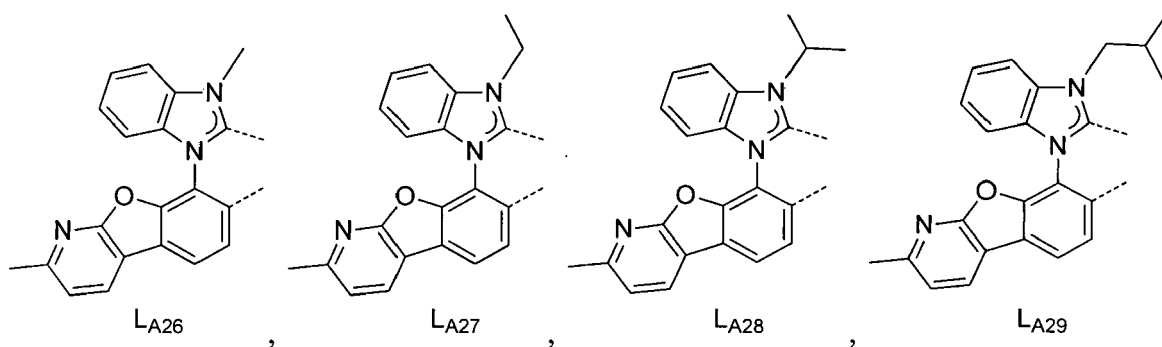
5

10



15

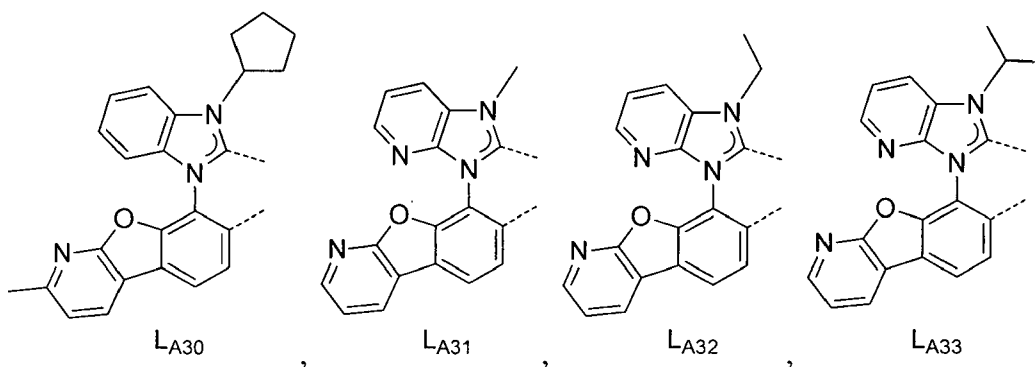
20



25

30

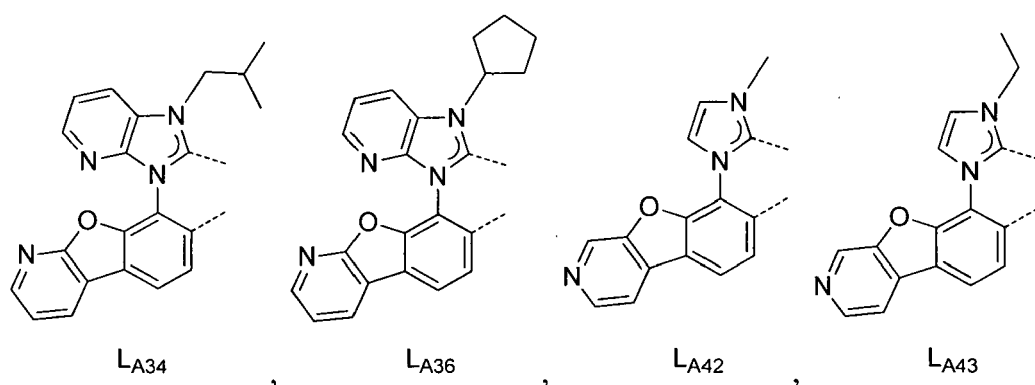
35



40

45

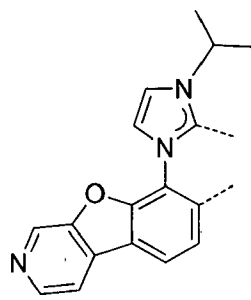
50



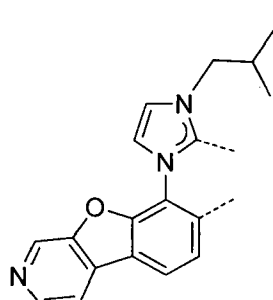
55

5

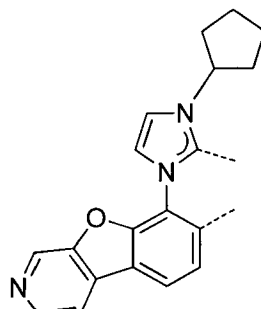
10



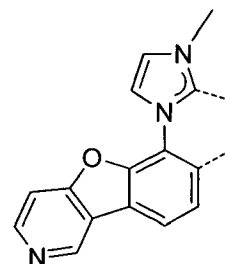
L_{A44}



L_{A45}



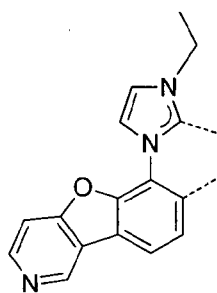
L_{A46}



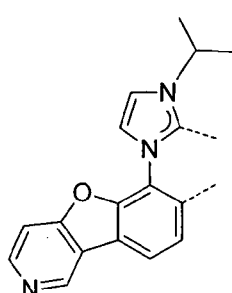
L_{A47}

15

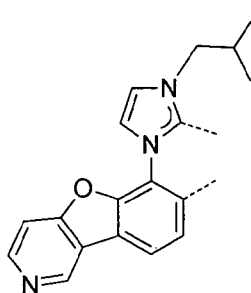
20



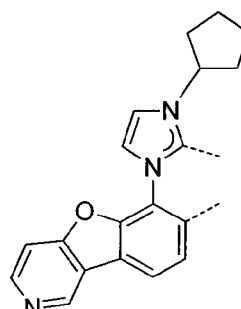
L_{A48}



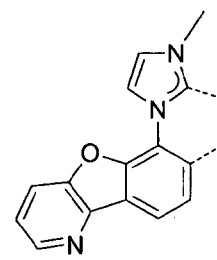
L_{A49}



L_{A50}



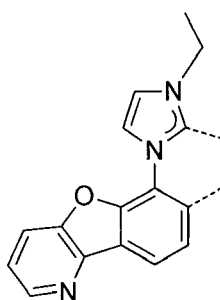
L_{A51}



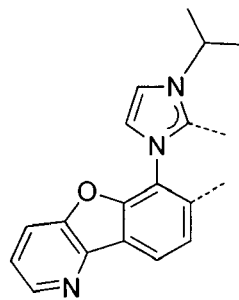
L_{A52}

25

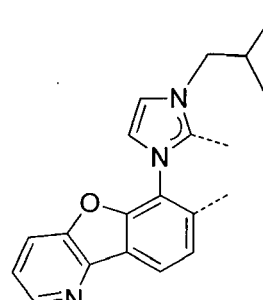
30



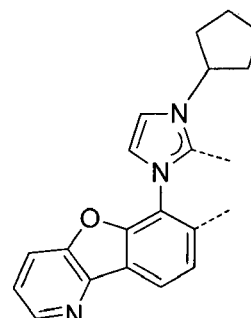
L_{A53}



L_{A54}



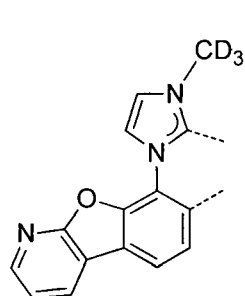
L_{A55}



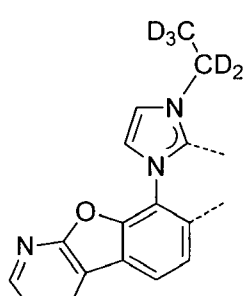
L_{A56}

35

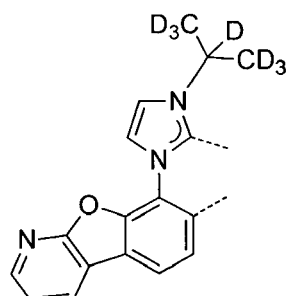
45



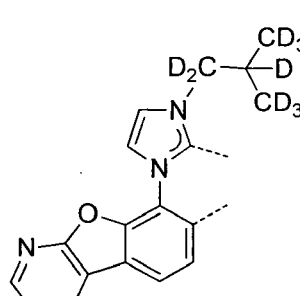
L_{A57}



L_{A58}



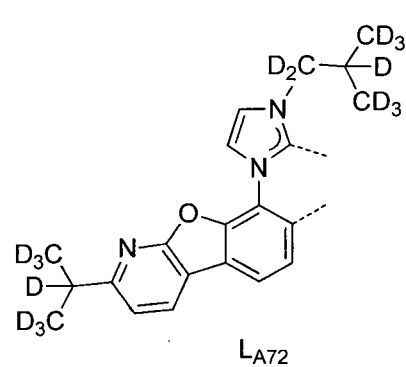
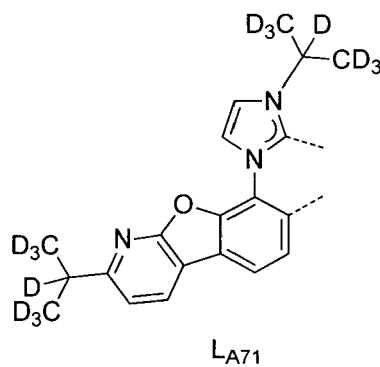
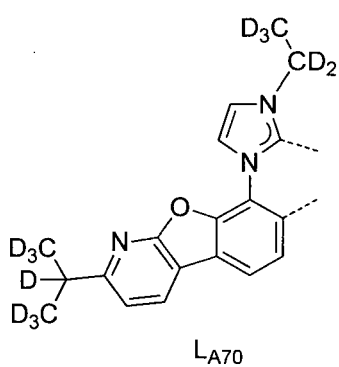
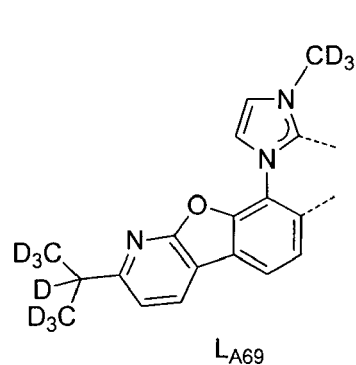
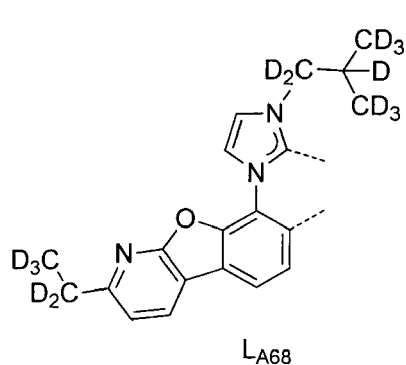
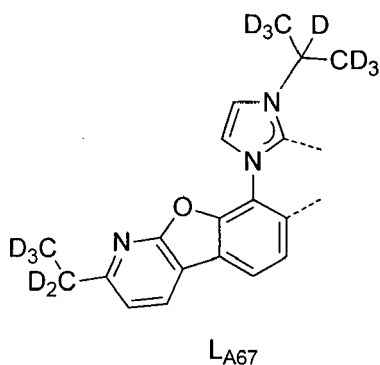
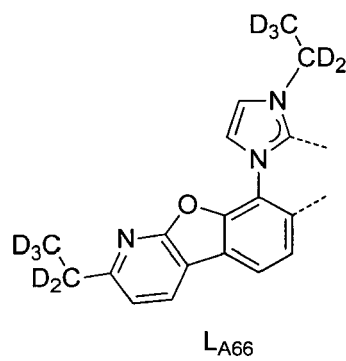
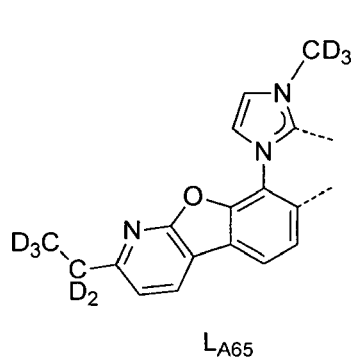
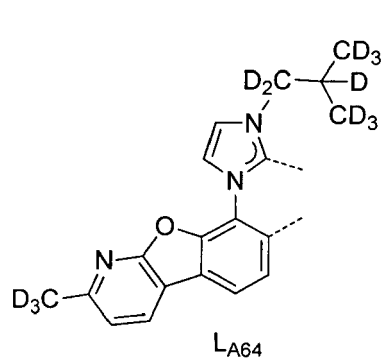
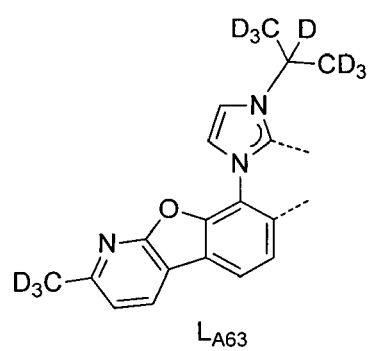
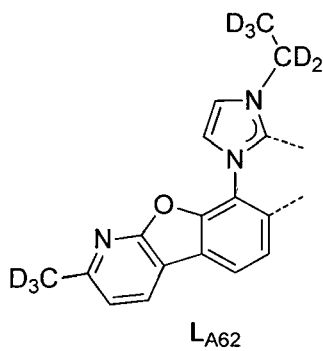
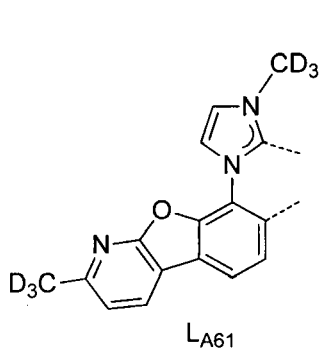
L_{A59}

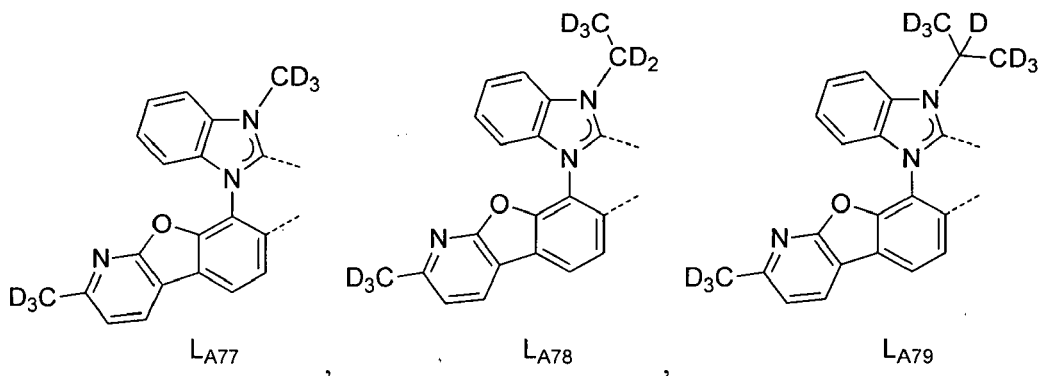
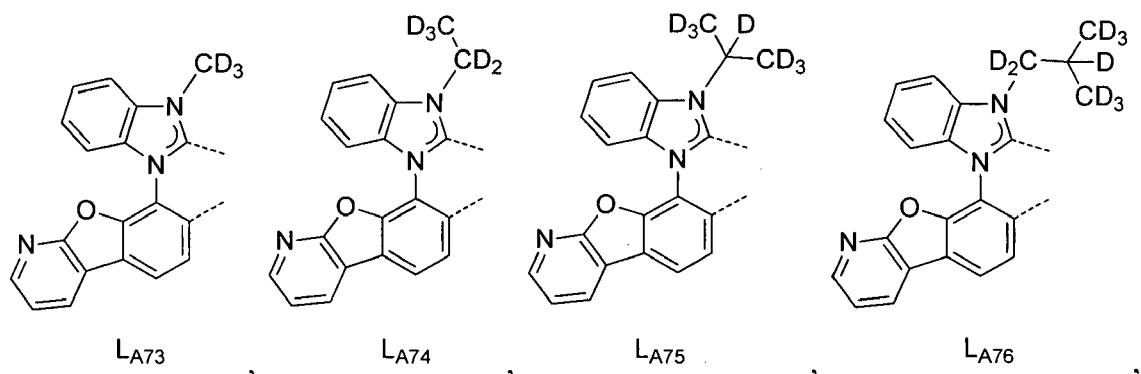


L_{A60}

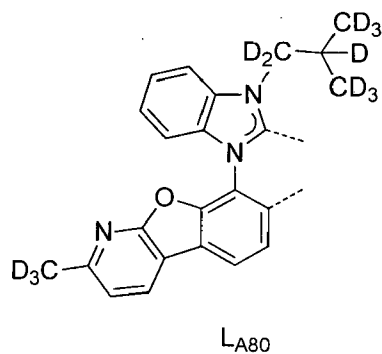
50

55

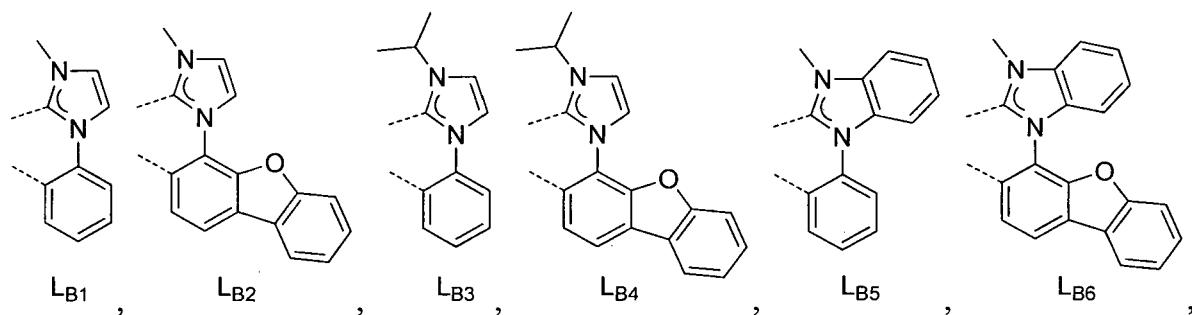


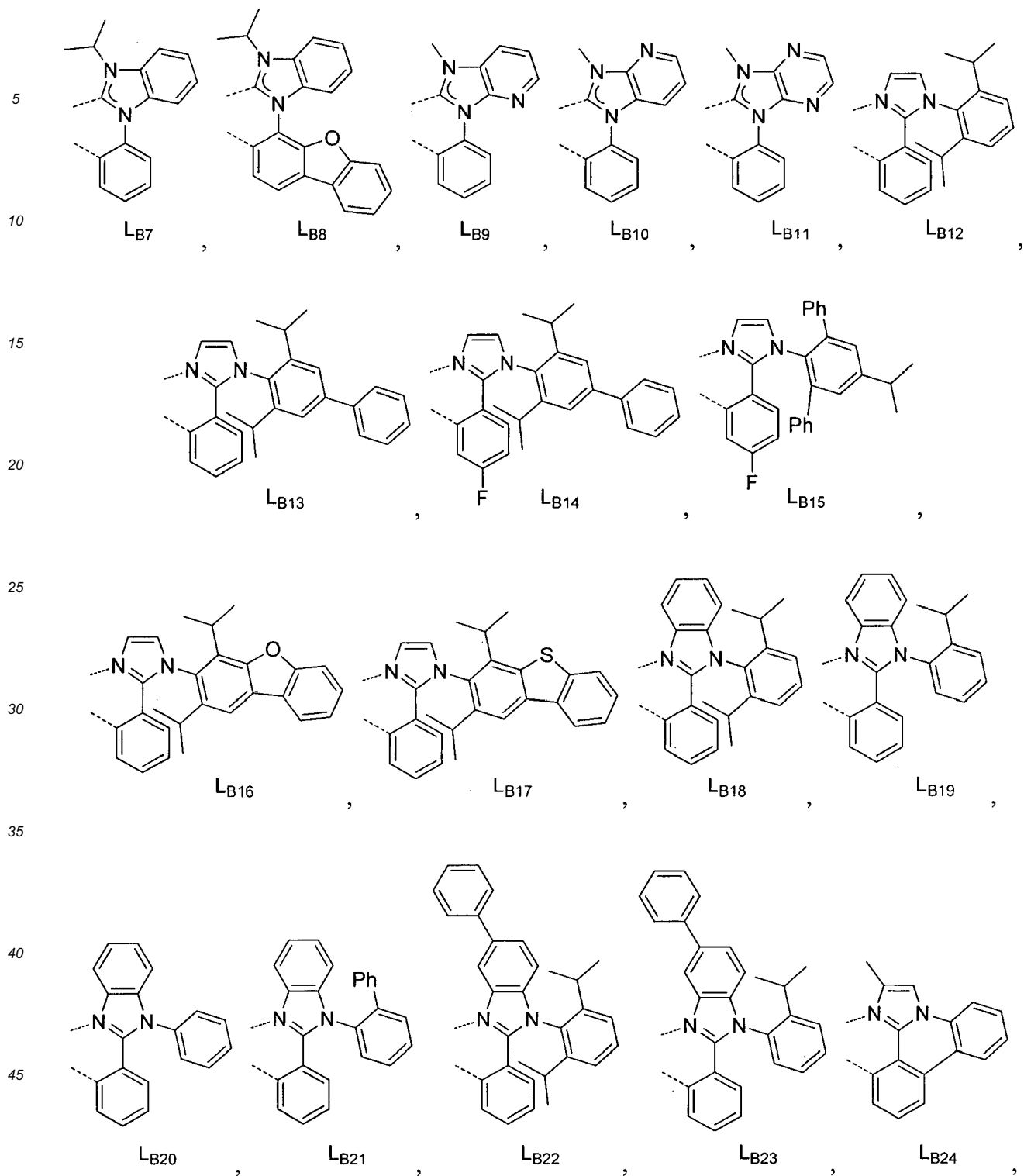


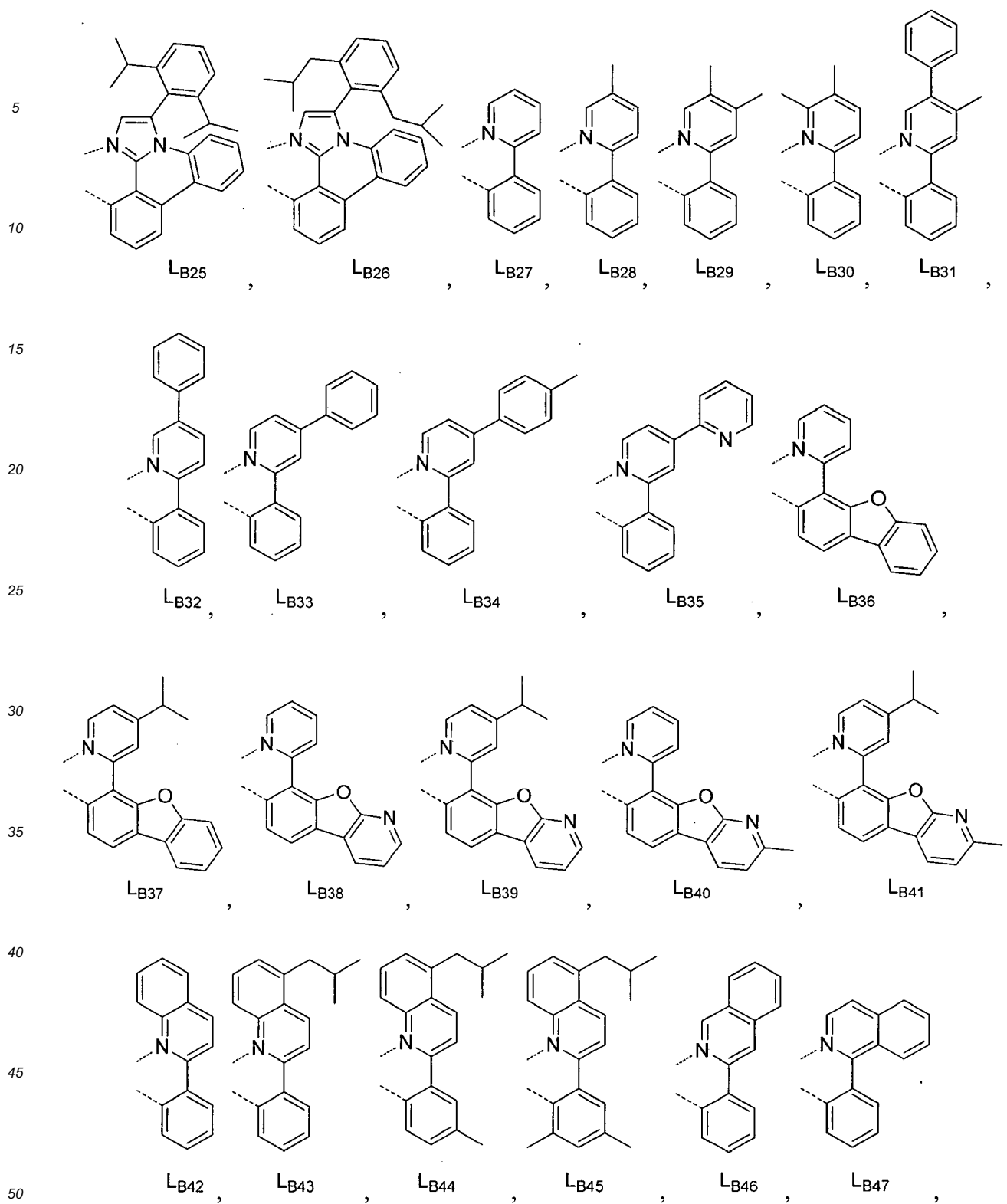
and



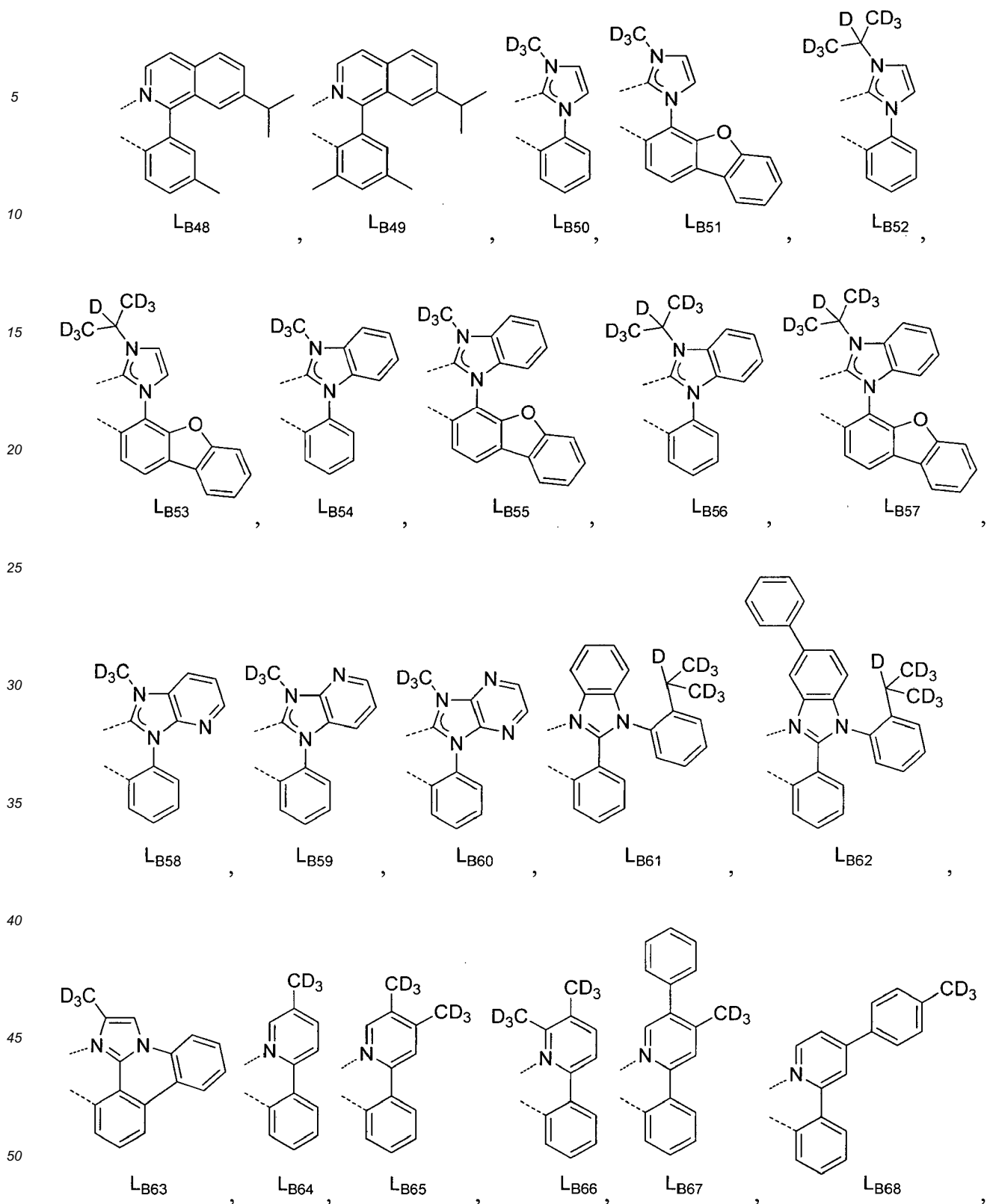
[0069] In some embodiments, L_B is selected from the group consisting of:

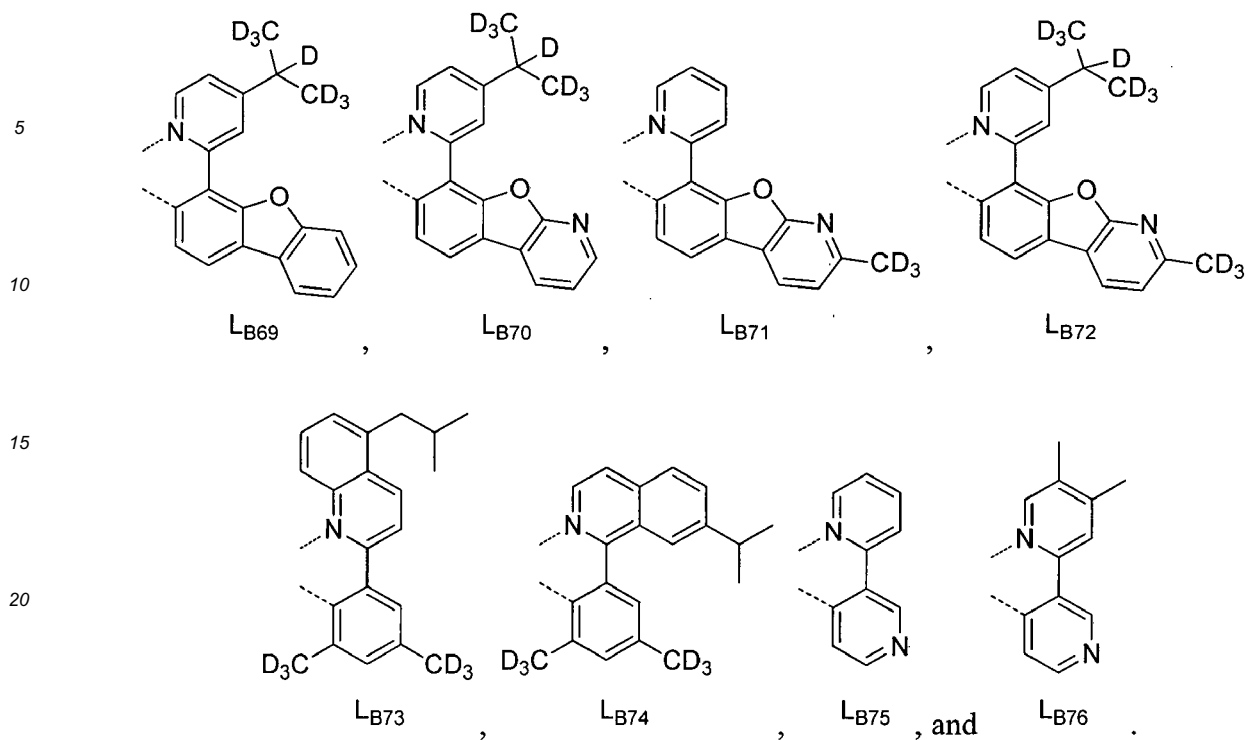






55





[0070] In some embodiments, L_{A1} to L_{A80} have the definitions herein, L_{B1} to L_{B76} have the definitions herein, and the compound is selected from the group consisting of Compound 1 to Compound 6080, where each Compound x has the formula $Ir(L_{Ak})(L_{Bj})_2$, wherein $x = 80j + k - 80$, k is an integer from 1 to 80, and j is an integer from 1 to 76.

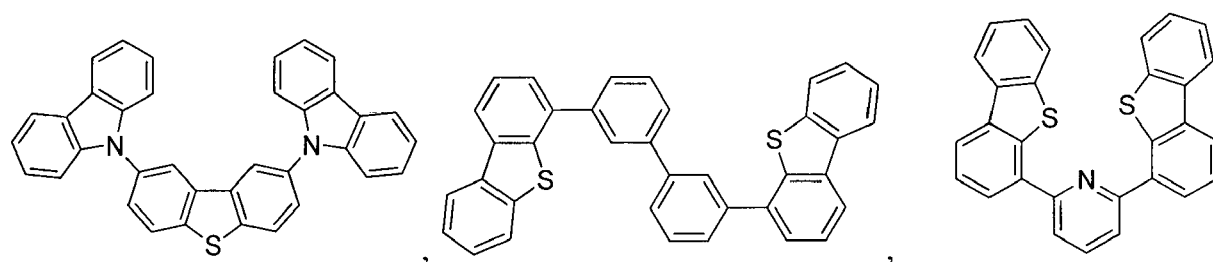
[0071] In some embodiments, the compound can be an emissive dopant. In some embodiments, the compound can produce emissions via phosphorescence, fluorescence, thermally activated delayed fluorescence, *i.e.*, TADF (also referred to as E-type delayed fluorescence), triplet-triplet annihilation, or combinations of these processes.

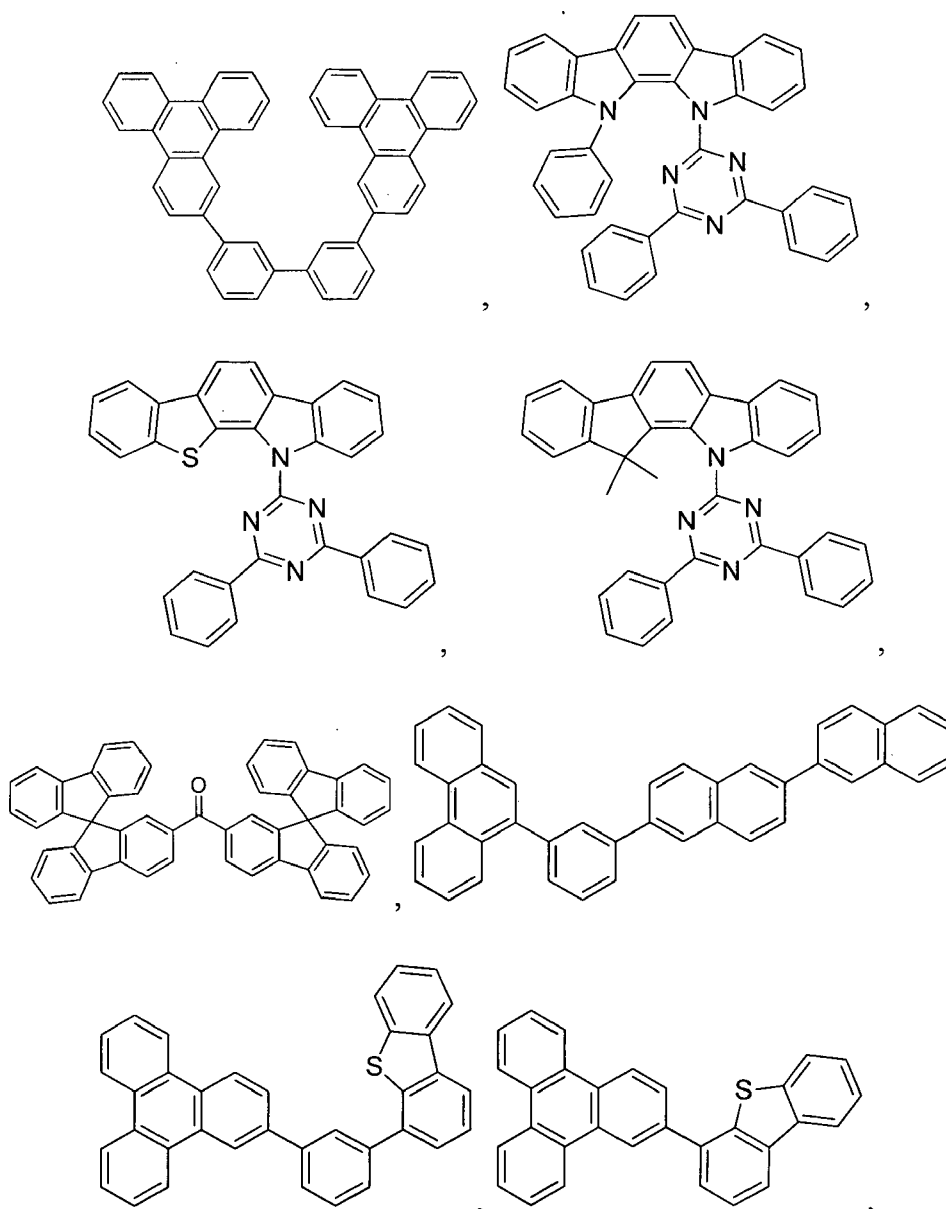
[0072] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a first device is also provided. The first device includes a first organic light emitting device, that includes an anode, a cathode, and an organic layer disposed between the anode and the cathode. The organic layer can include compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I and its variants as described herein. In some embodiments, the organic layer includes a host and a phosphorescent dopant.

[0073] The first device can be one or more of a consumer product, an electronic component module, an organic light-emitting device, and a lighting panel. The organic layer can be an emissive layer and the compound can be an emissive dopant in some embodiments, while the compound can be a non-emissive dopant in other embodiments.

[0074] The organic layer can also include a host. In some embodiments, the host can include a metal complex. The host can be a triphenylene containing benzo-fused thiophene or benzo-fused furan. Any substituent in the host can be an unfused substituent independently selected from the group consisting of C_nH_{2n+1} , OC_nH_{2n+1} , OAr_1 , $N(C_nH_{2n+1})_2$, $N(Ar_1)(Ar_2)$, $CH=CH-C_nH_{2n+1}$, $C\equiv C-C_nH_{2n+1}$, Ar_1 , Ar_1-Ar_2 , and $C_nH_{2n}-Ar_1$, or no substitution. In the preceding substituents n can range from 1 to 10; and Ar_1 and Ar_2 can be independently selected from the group consisting of benzene, biphenyl, naphthalene, triphenylene, carbazole, and heteroaromatic analogs thereof.

[0075] The host can be a compound comprising at least one chemical group selected from the group consisting of triphenylene, carbazole, dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, dibenzoselenophene, azatriphenylene, azacarbazole, azadibenzothiophene, aza-dibenzofuran, and aza-dibenzoselenophene. The host can include a metal complex. The host can be a specific compound selected from the group consisting of:





and combinations thereof.

[0076] In yet another aspect of the present disclosure, a formulation that comprises a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I, and its variations described herein, is described. The formulation can include one or more components selected from the group consisting of a solvent, a host, a hole injection material, hole transport material, and an electron transport layer material, disclosed herein.

COMBINATION WITH OTHER MATERIALS

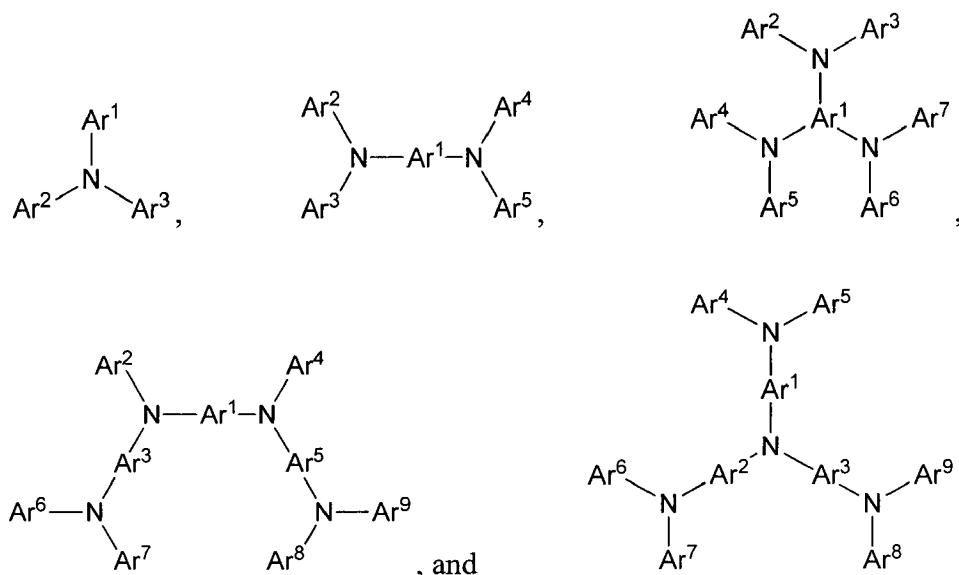
[0077] The materials described herein as useful for a particular layer in an organic light emitting device may be used in combination with a wide variety of other materials present in the device. For example, emissive dopants disclosed herein may be used in conjunction with a wide variety of hosts, transport layers, blocking layers, injection layers, electrodes and other layers that may be present. The materials described or referred to below are non-limiting examples of materials that may be useful in combination with the compounds disclosed herein, and one of skill in the art can readily consult the literature to identify other materials that may be useful in combination.

HIL/HTL:

[0078] A hole injecting/transporting material to be used in the present invention is not particularly limited, and any

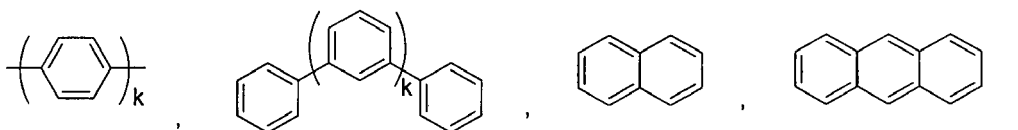
compound may be used as long as the compound is typically used as a hole injecting/transporting material. Examples of the material include, but not limit to: a phthalocyanine or porphyrin derivative; an aromatic amine derivative; an indolocarbazole derivative; a polymer containing fluorohydrocarbon; a polymer with conductivity dopants; a conducting polymer, such as PEDOT/PSS; a self-assembly monomer derived from compounds such as phosphonic acid and silane derivatives; a metal oxide derivative, such as MoO_x ; a p-type semiconducting organic compound, such as 1,4,5,8,9,12-Hexaazatriphenylenehexacarbonitrile; a metal complex, and a cross-linkable compounds.

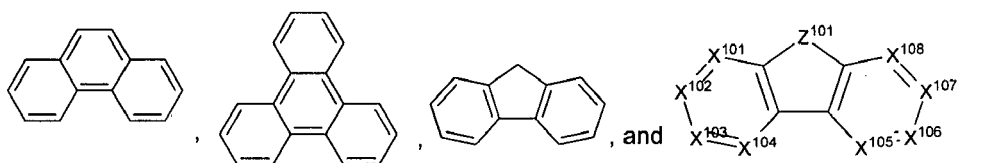
[0079] Examples of aromatic amine derivatives used in HIL or HTL include, but not limit to the following general structures:



[0080] Each of Ar^1 to Ar^9 is selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbon cyclic compounds such as benzene, biphenyl, triphenyl, triphenylene, naphthalene, anthracene, phenalene, phenanthrene, fluorene, pyrene, chrysene, perylene, and azulene; the group consisting of aromatic heterocyclic compounds such as dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, dibenzoselenophene, furan, thiophene, benzofuran, benzothiophene, benzoselenophene, carbazole, indolocarbazole, pyridylindole, pyrrolodipyridine, pyrazole, imidazole, triazole, oxazole, thiazole, oxadiazole, oxatriazole, dioxazole, thiadiazole, pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, triazine, oxazine, oxathiazine, oxadiazine, indole, benzimidazole, indazole, indoxazine, benzoxazole, benzisoxazole, benzothiazole, quinoline, isoquinoline, cinnoline, quinoxaline, naphthyridine, phthalazine, pteridine, xanthene, acridine, phenazine, phenothiazine, phenoxazine, benzofuropyridine, furodipyridine, benzothienopyridine, thienodipyridine, benzoselenophenopyridine, and selenophenodipyridine; and the group consisting of 2 to 10 cyclic structural units which are groups of the same type or different types selected from the aromatic hydrocarbon cyclic group and the aromatic heterocyclic group and are bonded to each other directly or via at least one of oxygen atom, nitrogen atom, sulfur atom, silicon atom, phosphorus atom, boron atom, chain structural unit and the aliphatic cyclic group. Wherein each Ar is further substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

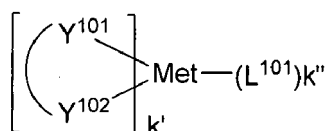
[0081] In one aspect, Ar^1 to Ar^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of:





wherein k is an integer from 1 to 20; X^{101} to X^{108} is C (including CH) or N; Z^{101} is NAr^1 , O, or S; Ar^1 has the same group defined above.

10 **[0082]** Examples of metal complexes used in HIL or HTL include, but not limit to the following general formula:



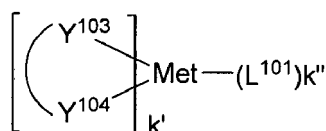
wherein Met is a metal, which can have an atomic weight greater than 40; $(Y^{101}-Y^{102})$ is a bidentate ligand, Y^{101} and Y^{102} are independently selected from C, N, O, P, and S; L^{101} is an ancillary ligand; k' is an integer value from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be attached to the metal; and $k'+k''$ is the maximum number of ligands that may be attached to the metal.

[0083] In one aspect, $(Y^{101}-Y^{102})$ is a 2-phenylpyridine derivative. In another aspect, $(Y^{101}-Y^{102})$ is a carbene ligand. In another aspect, Met is selected from Ir, Pt, Os, and Zn. In a further aspect, the metal complex has a smallest oxidation potential in solution vs. Fc^+/Fc couple less than about 0.6 V.

Host:

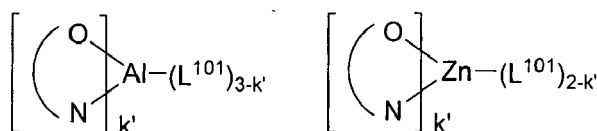
[0084] The light emitting layer of the organic EL device of the present invention preferably contains at least a metal complex as light emitting material, and may contain a host material using the metal complex as a dopant material. Examples of the host material are not particularly limited, and any metal complexes or organic compounds may be used as long as the triplet energy of the host is larger than that of the dopant. While the Table below categorizes host materials as preferred for devices that emit various colors, any host material may be used with any dopant so long as the triplet criteria is satisfied.

[0085] Examples of metal complexes used as host are preferred to have the following general formula:



wherein Met is a metal; $(Y^{103}-Y^{104})$ is a bidentate ligand, Y^{103} and Y^{104} are independently selected from C, N, O, P, and S; L^{101} is an another ligand; k' is an integer value from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be attached to the metal; and $k'+k''$ is the maximum number of ligands that may be attached to the metal.

[0086] In one aspect, the metal complexes are:



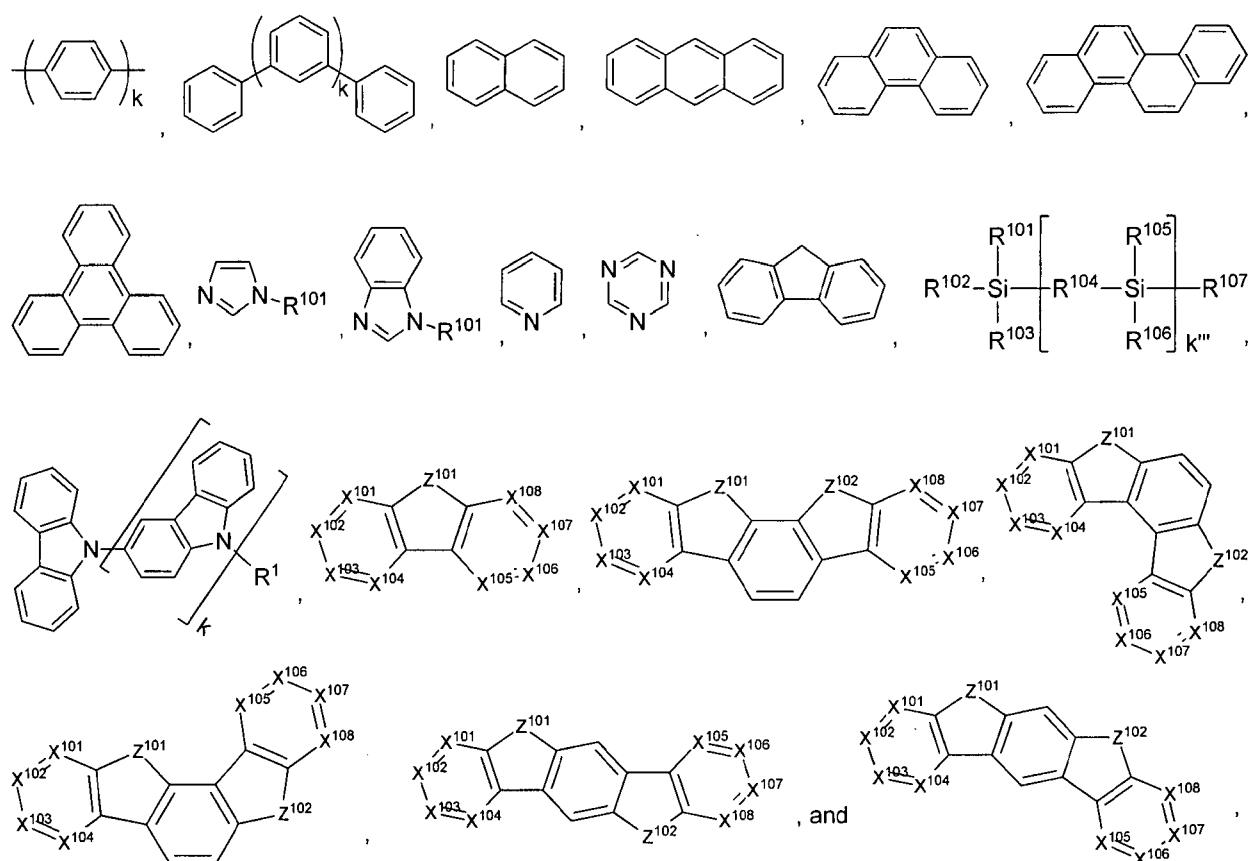
wherein (O-N) is a bidentate ligand, having metal coordinated to atoms O and N.

[0087] In another aspect, Met is selected from Ir and Pt. In a further aspect, $(Y^{103}-Y^{104})$ is a carbene ligand.

[0088] Examples of organic compounds used as host are selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbon cyclic compounds such as benzene, biphenyl, triphenyl, triphenylene, naphthalene, anthracene, phenalene, phenanthrene, fluorene, pyrene, chrysene, perylene, and azulene; the group consisting of aromatic heterocyclic compounds such as dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, dibenzoselenophene, furan, thiophene, benzofuran, benzothiophene, ben-

zoselenophene, carbazole, indolocarbazole, pyridylindole, pyrrolodipyridine, pyrazole, imidazole, triazole, oxazole, thiazole, oxadiazole, oxatriazole, dioxazole, thiadiazole, pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, triazine, oxazine, oxathiazine, oxadiazine, indole, benzimidazole, indazole, indoxazine, benzoxazole, benzisoxazole, benzothiazole, quinoxaline, isoquinoline, cinnoline, quinazoline, quinoxaline, naphthyridine, phthalazine, pteridine, xanthene, acridine, phenazine, phenothiazine, phenoxazine, benzofuopyridine, furodipyridine, benzothenopyridine, thienodipyridine, benzoselenophenopyridine, and selenophenodipyridine; and the group consisting of 2 to 10 cyclic structural units which are groups of the same type or different types selected from the aromatic hydrocarbon cyclic group and the aromatic heterocyclic group and are bonded to each other directly or via at least one of oxygen atom, nitrogen atom, sulfur atom, silicon atom, phosphorus atom, boron atom, chain structural unit and the aliphatic cyclic group. Wherein each group is further substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

[0089] In one aspect, the host compound contains at least one of the following groups in the molecule:



wherein R^{101} to R^{107} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof, when it is aryl or heteroaryl, it has the similar definition as Ar's mentioned above. k is an integer from 0 to 20 or 1 to 20; k''' is an integer from 0 to 20. X^{101} to X^{108} is selected from C (including CH) or N.

Z^{101} and Z^{102} is selected from NR^{101} , O, or S.

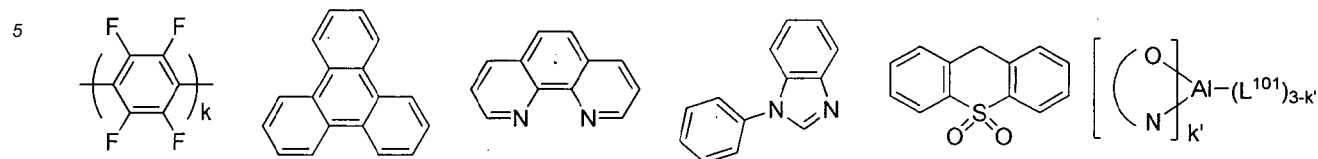
HBL:

[0090] A hole blocking layer (HBL) may be used to reduce the number of holes and/or excitons that leave the emissive layer. The presence of such a blocking layer in a device may result in substantially higher efficiencies as compared to a similar device lacking a blocking layer. Also, a blocking layer may be used to confine emission to a desired region of an OLED.

[0091] In one aspect, compound used in HBL contains the same molecule or the same functional groups used as host

described above.

[0092] In another aspect, compound used in HBL contains at least one of the following groups in the molecule:

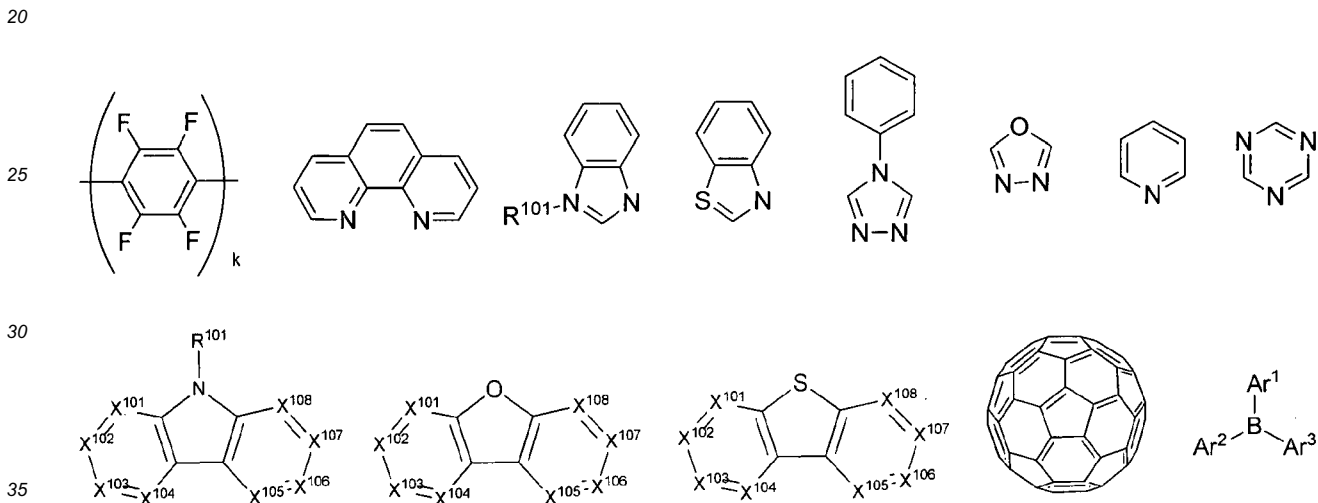


wherein k is an integer from 1 to 20; L^{101} is another ligand, k' is an integer from 1 to 3.

ETL:

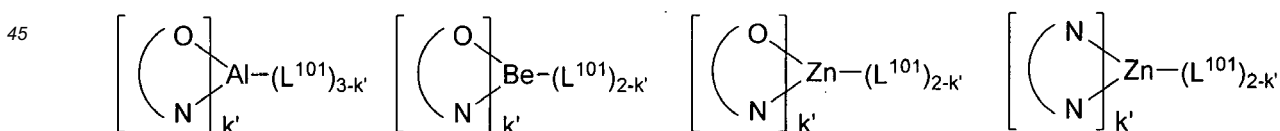
15 **[0093]** Electron transport layer (ETL) may include a material capable of transporting electrons. Electron transport layer may be intrinsic (undoped), or doped. Doping may be used to enhance conductivity. Examples of the ETL material are not particularly limited, and any metal complexes or organic compounds may be used as long as they are typically used to transport electrons.

[0094] In one aspect, compound used in ETL contains at least one of the following groups in the molecule:



wherein R^{101} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof, when it is aryl or heteroaryl, it has the similar definition as Ar's mentioned above. Ar^1 to Ar^3 has the similar definition as Ar's mentioned above. k is an integer from 1 to 20. X^{101} to X^{108} is selected from C (including CH) or N.

[0095] In another aspect, the metal complexes used in ETL contains, but not limit to the following general formula:



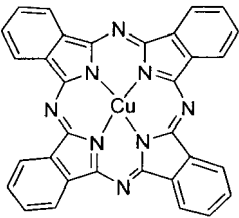
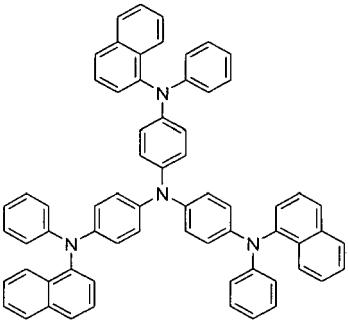
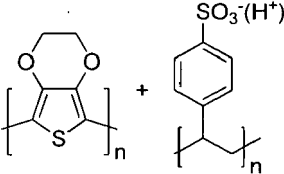
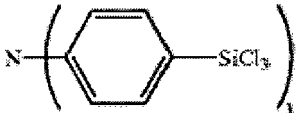
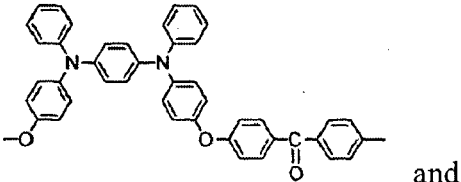
wherein (O-N) or (N-N) is a bidentate ligand, having metal coordinated to atoms O, N or N, N; L^{101} is another ligand; k' is an integer value from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be attached to the metal.

[0096] In any above-mentioned compounds used in each layer of the OLED device, the hydrogen atoms can be partially or fully deuterated. Thus, any specifically listed substituent, such as, without limitation, methyl, phenyl, pyridyl, etc. encompasses undeuterated, partially deuterated, and fully deuterated versions thereof. Similarly, classes of substituents such as, without limitation, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, etc. also encompass undeuterated, partially deuterated, and fully deuterated versions thereof.

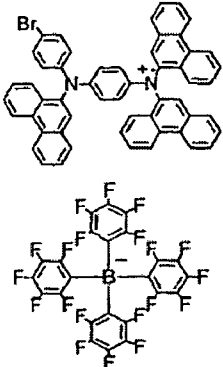
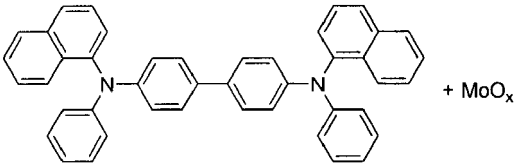
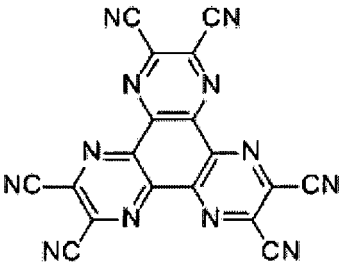
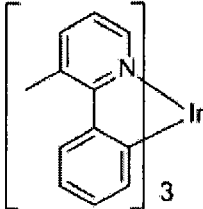
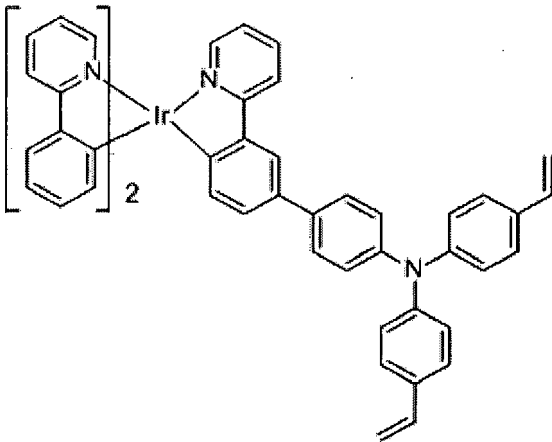
[0097] In addition to and / or in combination with the materials disclosed herein, many hole injection materials, hole transporting materials, host materials, dopant materials, exciton/hole blocking layer materials, electron transporting and

electron injecting materials may be used in an OLED. Non-limiting examples of the materials that may be used in an OLED in combination with materials disclosed herein are listed in Table A below. Table A lists non-limiting classes of materials, non-limiting examples of compounds for each class, and references that disclose the materials.

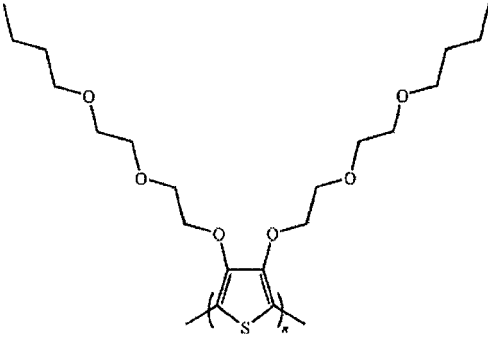
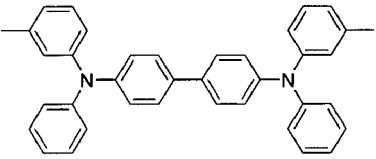
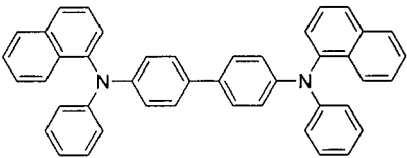
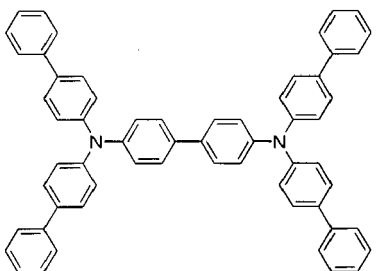
TABLE A

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Hole injection materials		
Phthalocyanine and porphyrin compounds		Appl. Phys. Lett. 69, 2160 (1996)
Starburst triaryl amines		J. Lumin. 72-74, 985 (1997)
CF _x Fluorohydrocarbon polymer	$\left[\text{CH}_x\text{F}_y \right]_n$	Appl. Phys. Lett. 78, 673 (2001)
Conducting polymers (e.g., PEDOT:PSS, polyaniline, polythiophene)		Synth. Met. 87, 171 (1997) WO2007002683
Phosphonic acid and silane SAMs		US20030162053
Triarylamine or polythiophene polymers with conductivity dopants	 and	EP1725079A1

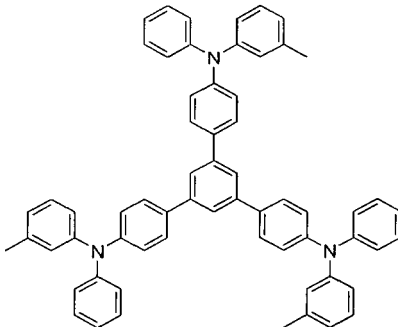
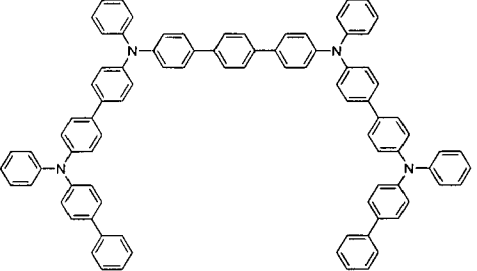
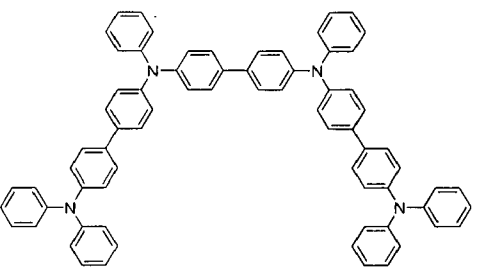
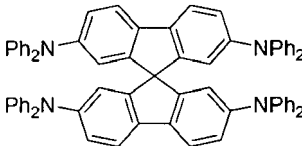
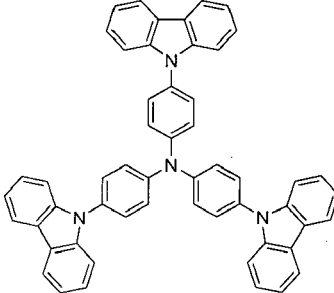
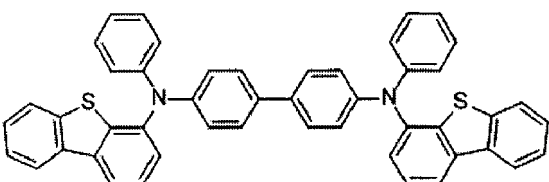
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Hole injection materials		
		
Organic compounds with conductive inorganic compounds, such as molybdenum and tungsten oxides	 + MoO _x	US20050123751 SID Symposium Digest, 37, 923 (2006) WO2009018009
n-type semiconducting organic complexes		US20020158242
Metal organometallic complexes		US20060240279
Cross-linkable compounds		US20080220265

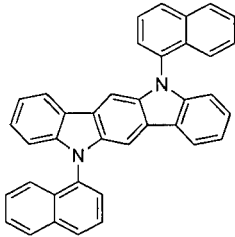
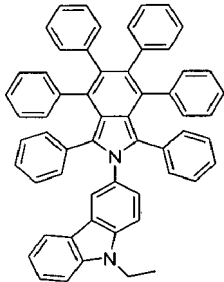
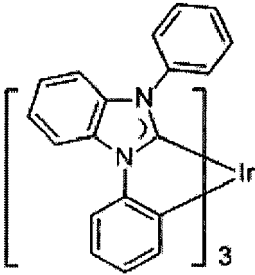
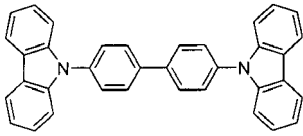
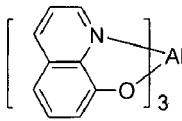
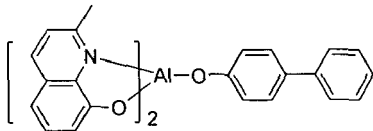
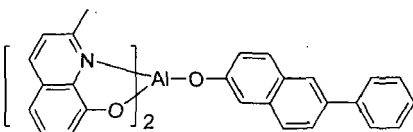
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Hole injection materials		
Polythiophene based polymers and copolymers		WO 2011075644 EP2350216
Hole transporting material		
Triarylamines (e.g., TPD, D-NPD)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 51, 913 (1987)
		US5061569
		EP650955

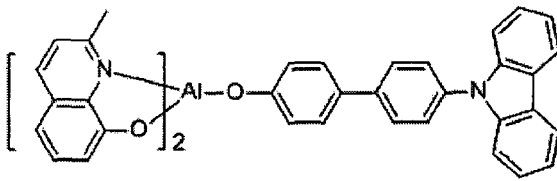
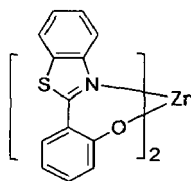
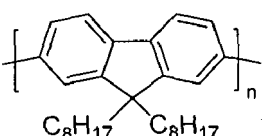
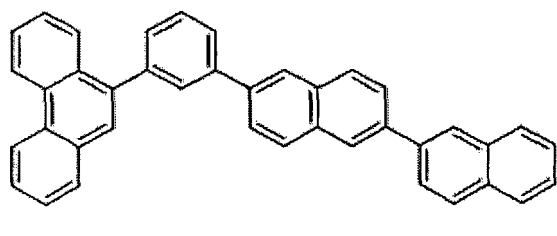
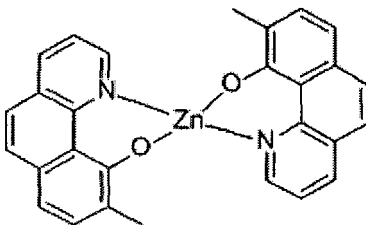
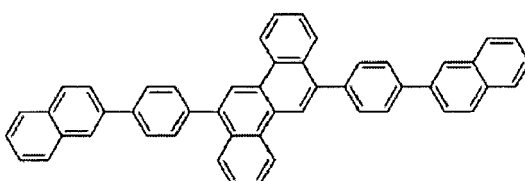
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5 10 15 20 25 30		J. Mater. Chem. 3, 319 (1993)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 90, 183503 (2007)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 90, 183503 (2007)
Triarylamine on spirofluorene core		Synth. Met. 91, 209 (1997)
Arylamine carbazole compounds		Adv. Mater. 6, 677 (1994), US20080124572
Triarylamine with (di)benzothiophene/(di)benzofuran		US20070278938, US20080106190 US20110163302

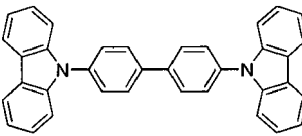
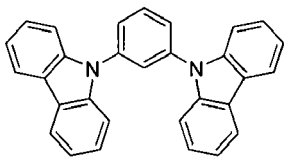
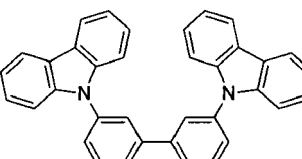
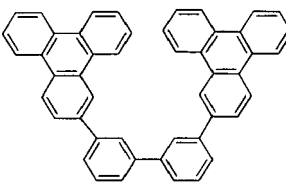
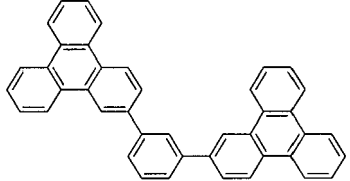
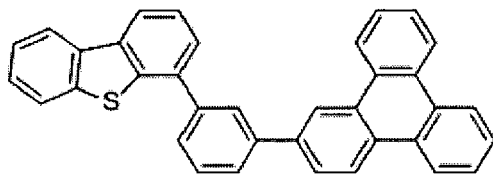
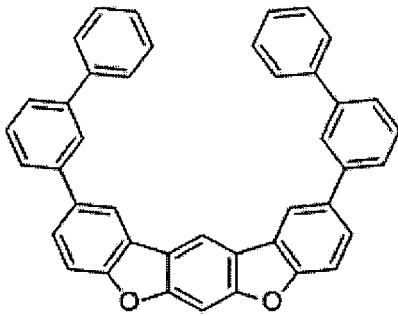
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Indolocarbazoles		Synth. Met. 111, 421 (2000)
Isoindole compounds		Chem. Mater. 15, 3148 (2003)
Metal carbene complexes		US20080018221
Phosphorescent OLED host materials		
Red hosts		
Arylcarbazoles		Appl. Phys. Lett. 78, 1622 (2001)
Metal 8-hydroxyquinolates (e.g., Alq ₃ , BAlq)		Nature 395, 151 (1998)
MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		US20060202194
		WO2005014551

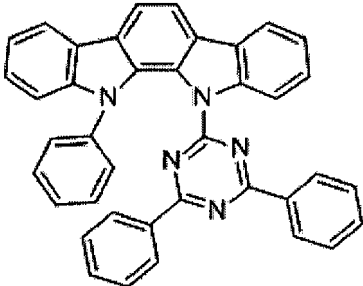
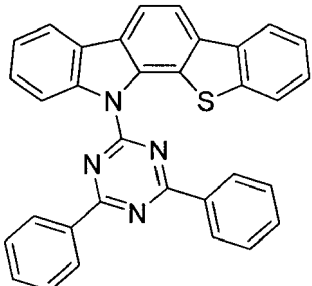
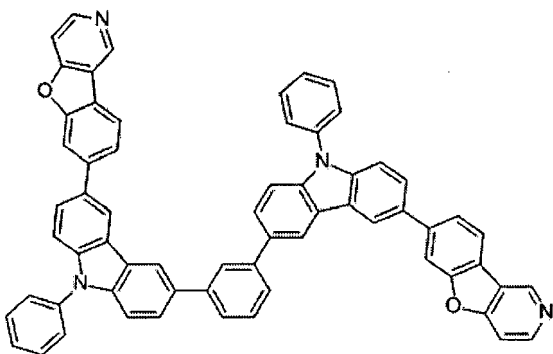
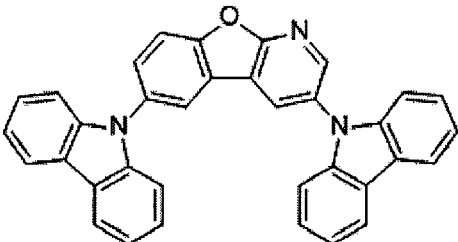
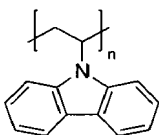
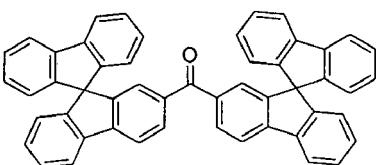
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		WO2006072002
Metal phenoxybenzothiazole compounds		Appl. Phys. Lett. 90, 123509 (2007)
Conjugated oligomers and polymers (e.g., polyfluorene)		Org. Electron. 1, 15 (2000)
Aromatic fused rings		WO2009066779, WO2009066778, WO2009063833, US20090045731, US20090045730, WO2009008311, US20090008605, US20090009065
Zinc complexes		WO2010056066
Chrysene based compounds		WO2011086863
Green hosts		

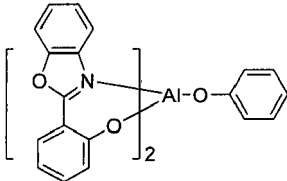
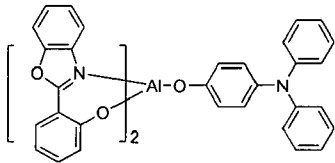
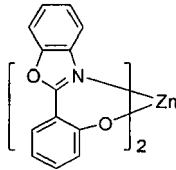
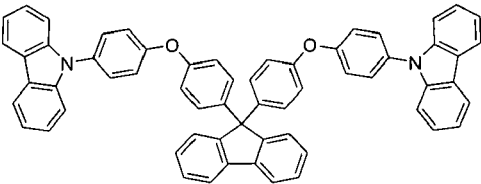
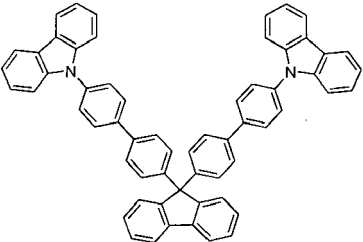
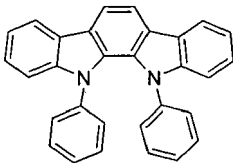
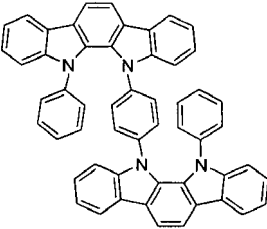
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Arylcarbazoles		Appl. Phys. Lett. 78, 1622 (2001)
		US20030175553
		WO2001039234
Aryltriphenylene compounds		US20060280965
		US20060280965
		WO2009021126
Poly-fused heteroaryl compounds		US20090309488 US20090302743 US20100012931

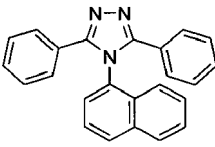
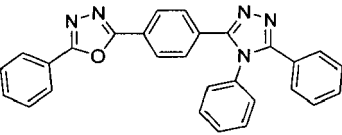
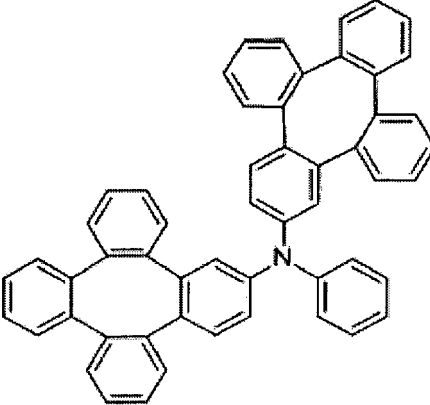
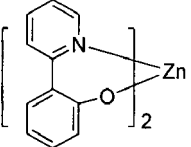
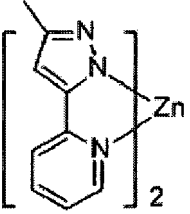
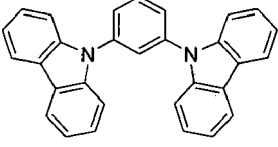
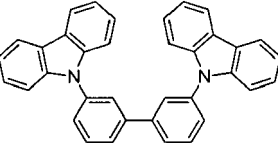
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Donor acceptor type molecules		WO2008056746
		WO2010107244
Aza-carbazole/DBT/DBF		JP2008074939
		US20100187984
Polymers (e.g., PVK)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 77, 2280 (2000)
Spirofluorene compounds		WO2004093207

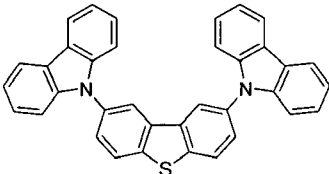
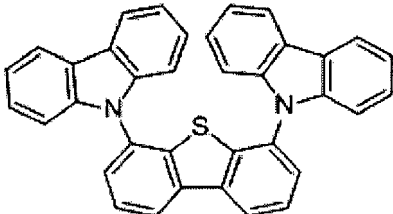
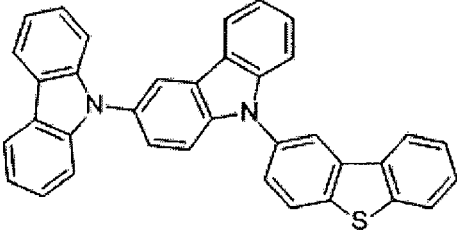
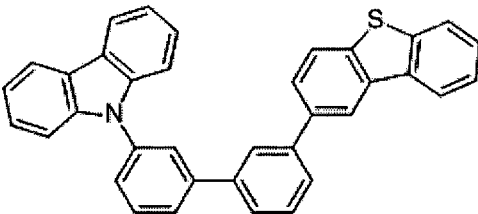
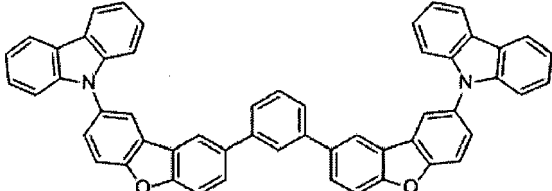
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Metal phenoxybenzoxazole compounds		WO2005089025
		WO2006132173
		JP200511610
Spirofluorene-carbazole compounds		JP2007254297
		JP2007254297
Indolocarbazoles		WO2007063796
		WO2007063754

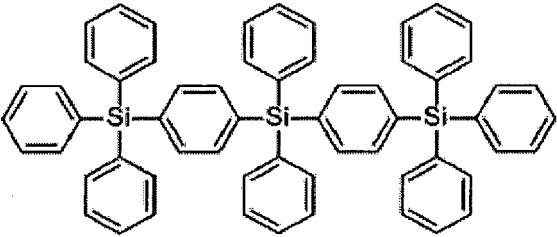
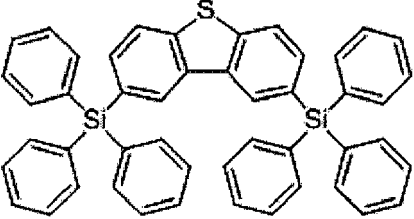
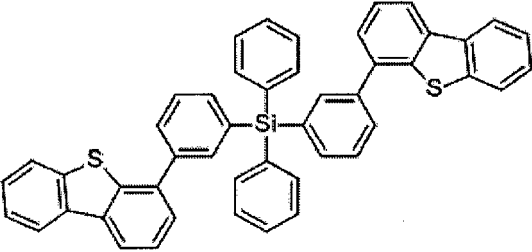
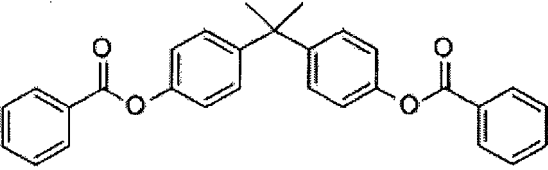
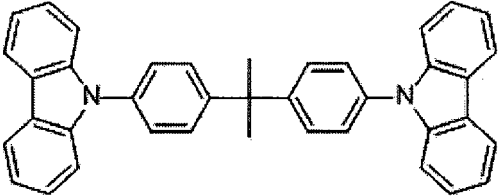
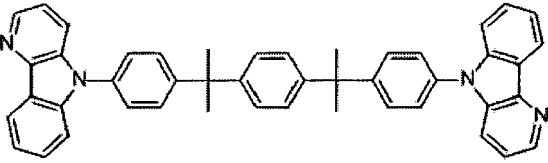
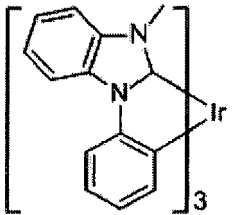
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5-member ring electron deficient heterocycles (e.g., triazole, oxadiazole)		J. Appl. Phys. 90, 5048 (2001)
		WO2004107822
Tetraphenylene complexes		US20050112407
Metal phenoxypyridine compounds		WO2005030900
Metal coordination complexes (e.g., Zn, Al with N^N ligands)		US20040137268, US20040137267
Blue hosts		
Arylcarbazoles		Appl. Phys. Lett, 82, 2422(2003)
		US20070190359

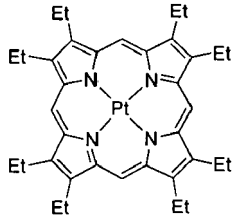
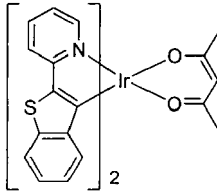
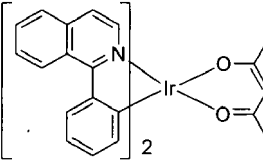
(continued)

Blue hosts		
Dibenzothiophene/Dibenzofuran-carbazole compounds		WO2006114966, US20090167162
		US20090167162
		WO2009086028
MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		US20090030202, US20090017330
		US20100084966

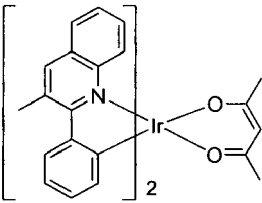
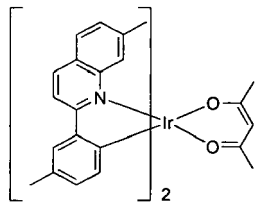
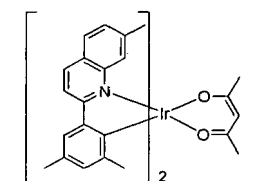
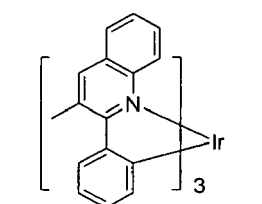
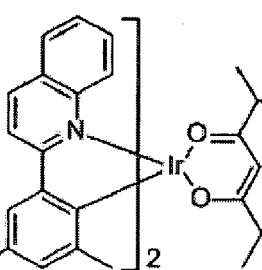
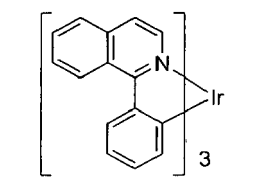
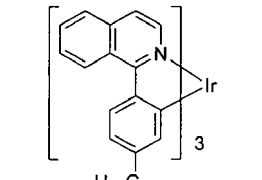
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Silicon aryl compounds		US20050238919
		WO2009003898
Silicon/Germanium aryl compounds		EP2034538A
Aryl benzoyl ester		WO2006100298
Carbazole linked by nonconjugated groups		US20040115476
Aza-carbazoles		US20060121308
High triplet metal organometallic complex		US7154114
Phosphorescent dopants		

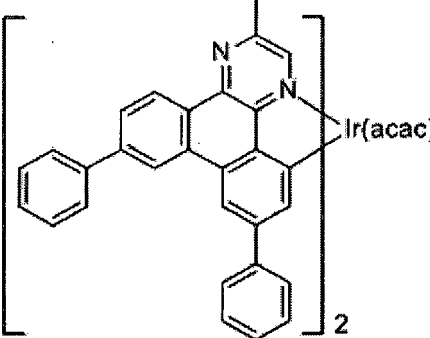
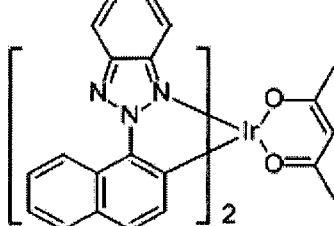
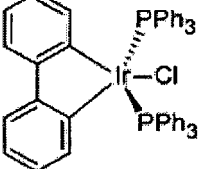
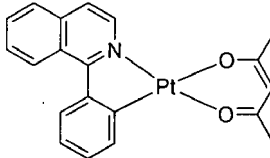
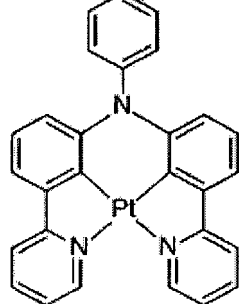
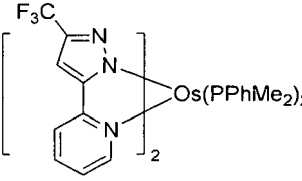
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Red dopants		
Heavy metal porphyrins (e.g., PtOEP)		Nature 395, 151 (1998)
Iridium(III) organometallic complexes		Appl. Phys. Lett. 78, 1622 (2001)
		US20030072964

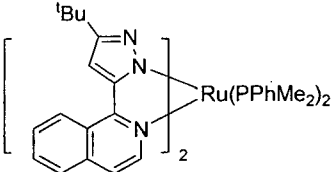
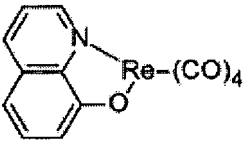
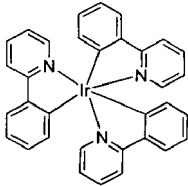
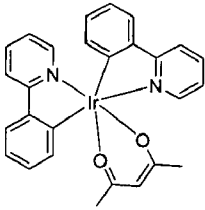
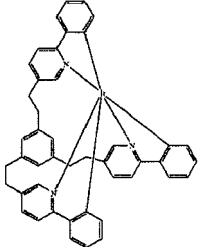
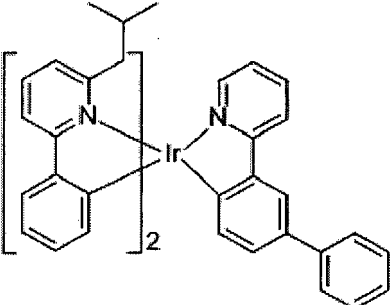
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5		US20030072964
10		US20060202194
15		US20060202194
20		US20070087321
25		US20080261076 US20100090591
30		US20070087321
35		Adv. Mater. 19, 739 (2007)
40		
45		
50		
55		

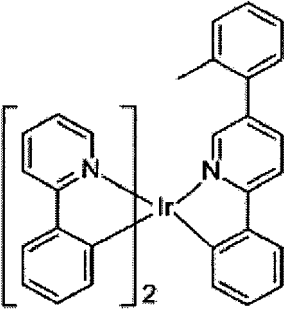
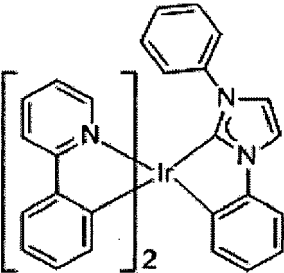
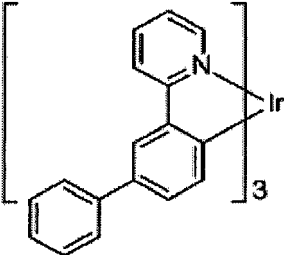
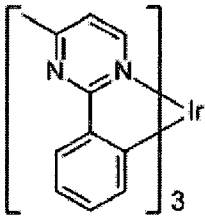
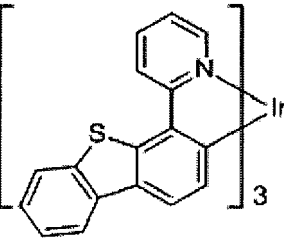
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		WO2009100991
		WO2008101842
		US7232618
Platinum(II) organometallic complexes		WO2003040257
		US20070103060
Osmium(III) complexes		Chem. Mater. 17, 3532 (2005)

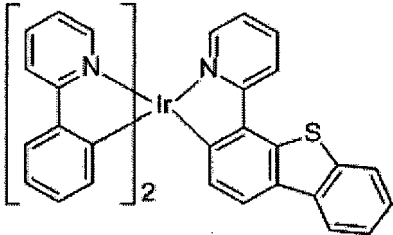
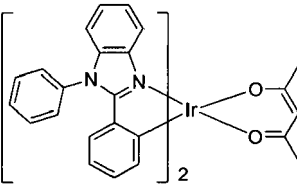
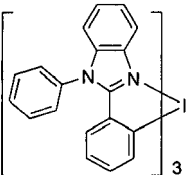
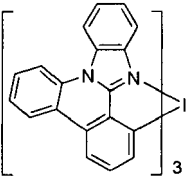
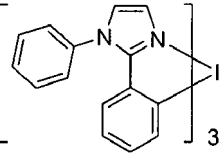
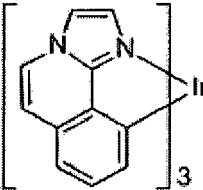
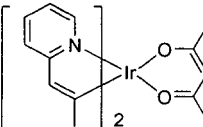
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Ruthenium(II) complexes		Adv. Mater. 17, 1059 (2005)
Rhenium (I), (II), and (III) complexes		US20050244673
Green dopants		
Iridium(III) organometallic complexes	 and its derivatives	Inorg. Chem. 40, 1704 (2001)
		US20020034656
		US7332232
		US20090108737

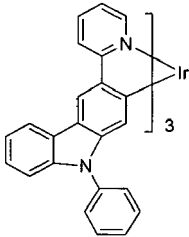
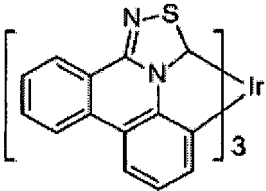
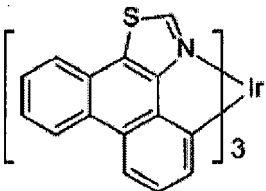
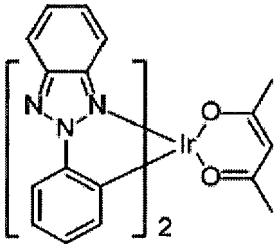
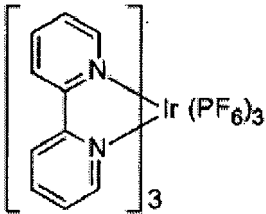
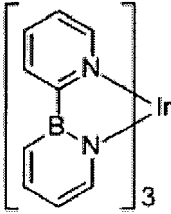
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		WO2010028151
		EP1841834B
		US20060127696
		US20090039776
		US6921915

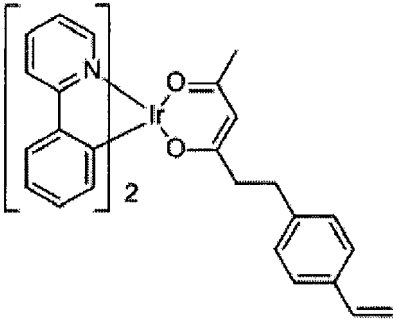
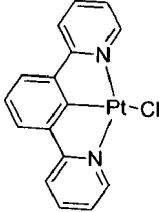
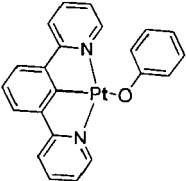
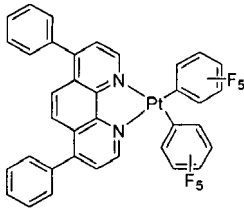
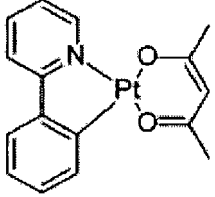
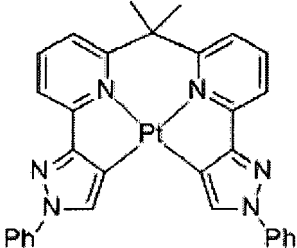
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		US20100244004
		US6687266
		Chem. Mater. 16, 2480 (2004)
		US20070190359
		US 20060008670 JP2007123392
		WO2010086089, WO2011044988
		Adv. Mater. 16, 2003 (2004)

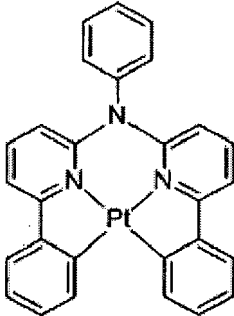
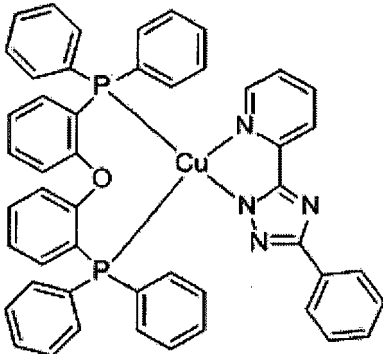
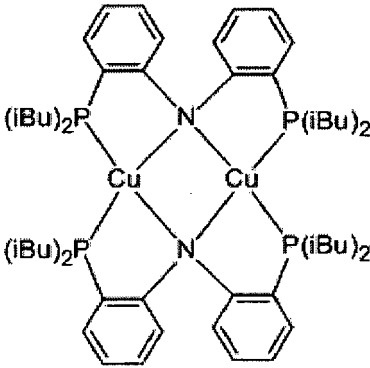
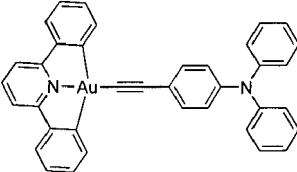
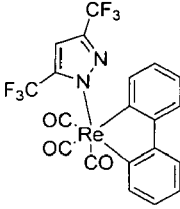
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5		Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006,45,7800
10		WO2009050290
15		US20090165846
20		US20080015355
25		US20010015432
30		US20100295032

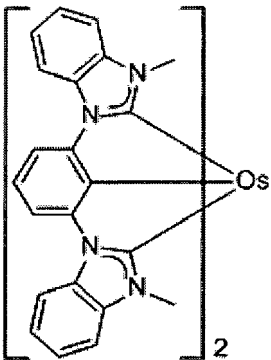
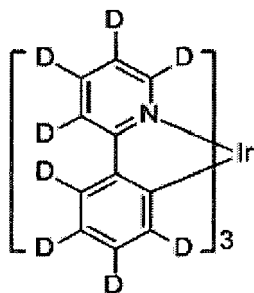
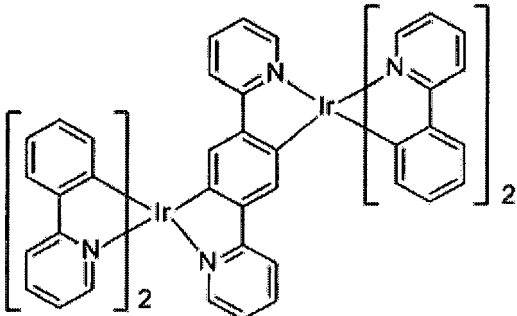
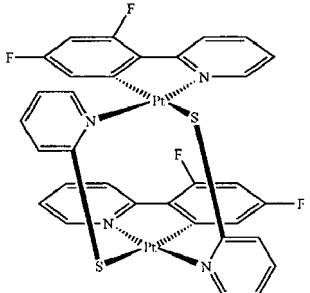
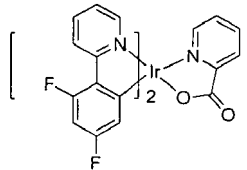
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5 10 Monomer for polymeric metal organometallic compounds		US7250226, US7396598
15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 Pt(II) organometallic complexes, including polydentated ligands		Appl. Phys. Lett. 86, 153505 (2005)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 86, 153505 (2005)
		Chem. Lett. 34, 592 (2005)
		WO2002015645
		US20060263635

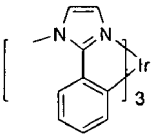
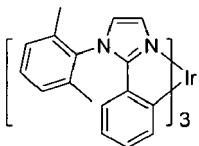
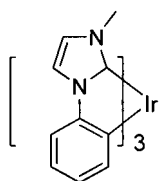
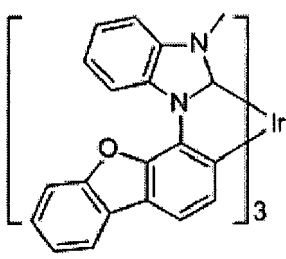
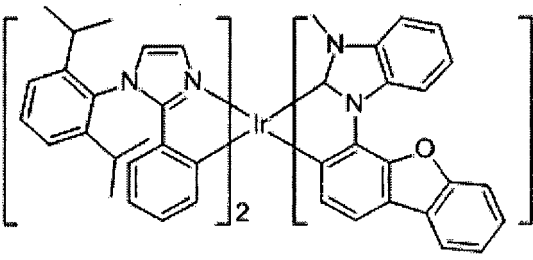
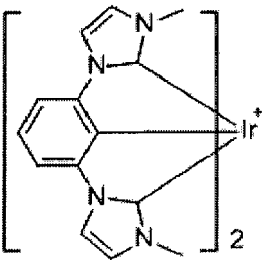
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		US20060182992 US20070103060
Cu complexes		WO2009000673
		US20070111026
Gold complexes		Chem. Commun. 2906 (2005)
Rhenium(III) complexes		Inorg. Chem. 42, 1248 (2003)

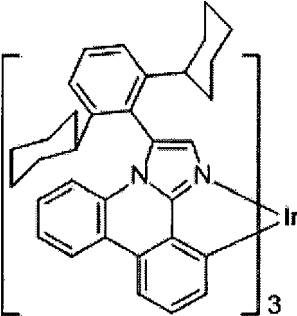
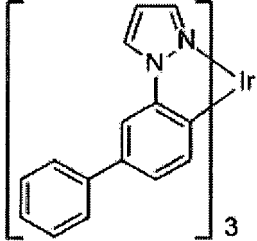
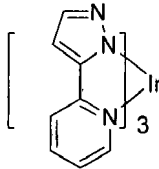
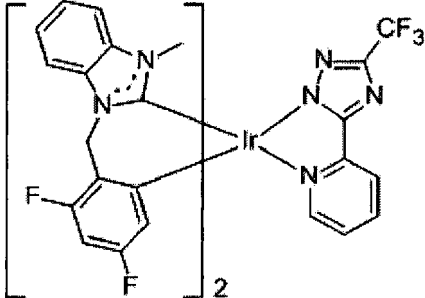
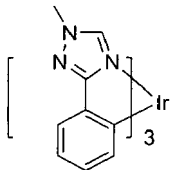
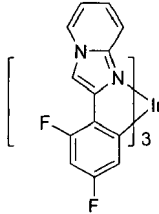
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Osmium(II) complexes		US7279704
Deuterated organometallic complexes		US20030138657
Organometallic complexes with two or more metal centers		US20030152802
		US7090928
Blue dopants		
Iridium(III) organometallic complexes		WO2002002714

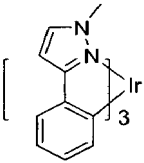
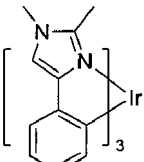
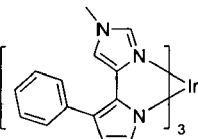
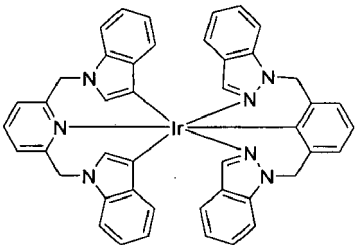
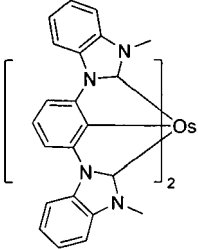
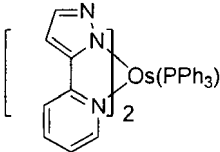
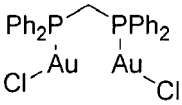
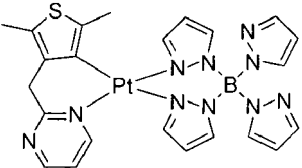
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5		WO2006009024
10		US20060251923 US20110057559 US20110204333
15 20		US7393599, WO2006056418, US20050260441, WO2005019373
25		US7534505
30 35		WO2011051404
40 45		US7445855

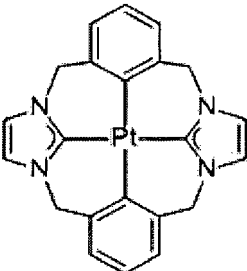
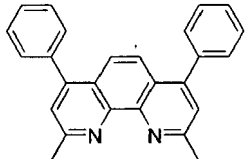
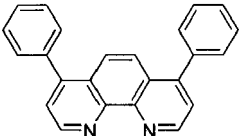
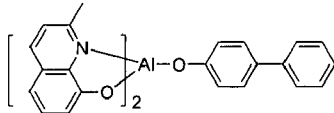
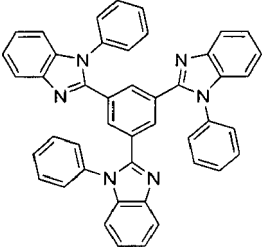
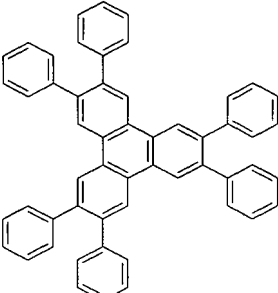
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5		US20070190359, US20080297033 US20100148663
10		US7338722
15		US20020134984
20		Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 47, 4542 (2008)
25		Chem. Mater. 18, 5119 (2006)
30		Inorg. Chem. 46, 4308 (2007)

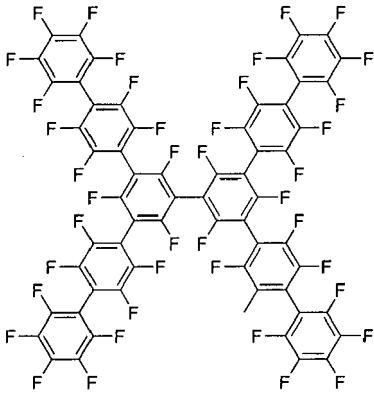
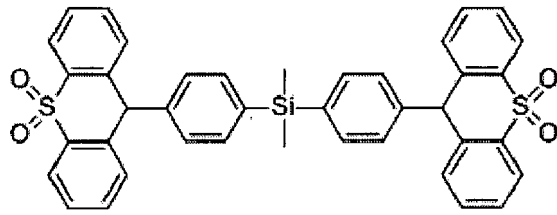
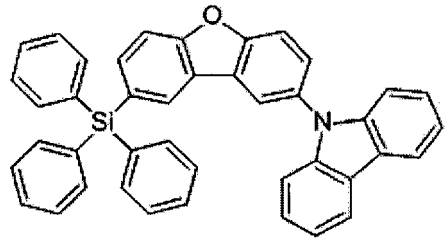
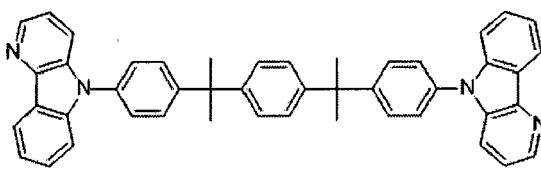
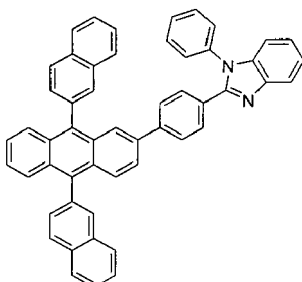
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		WO2005123873
		WO2005123873
		WO2007004380
		WO2006082742
Osmium(II) complexes		US7279704
		Organometallics 23, 3745(2004)
Gold complexes		Appl. Phys. Lett. 74, 1361 (1999)
Platinum(II) complexes		WO2006098120, WO2006103874

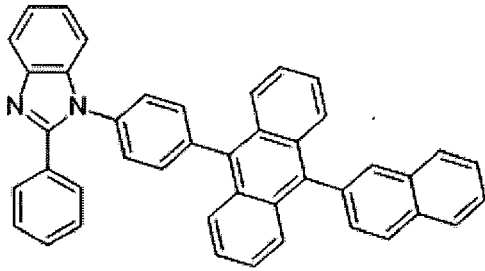
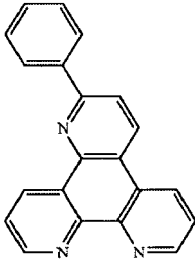
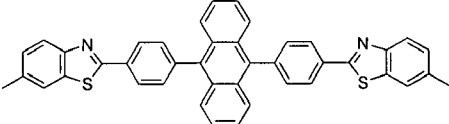
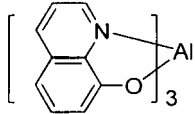
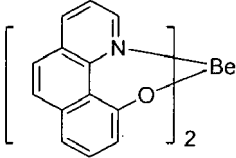
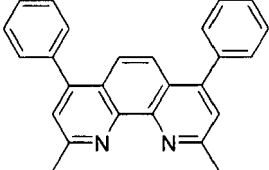
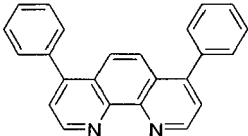
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Pt tetradentate complexes with at least one metal-carbene bond		US7655323
Exciton/hole blocking layer materials		
Bathocuprine compounds (e.g., BCP, BPhen)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 75, 4 (1999)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 79, 449 (2001)
Metal 8-hydroxyquinolates (e.g., BAlq)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 81, 162(2002)
5-member ring electron deficient heterocycles such as triazole, oxadiazole, imidazole, benzoimidazole		Appl. Phys. Lett. 81, 162 (2002)
Triphenylene compounds		US20050025993

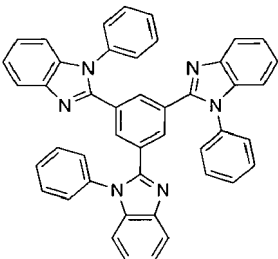
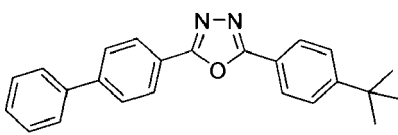
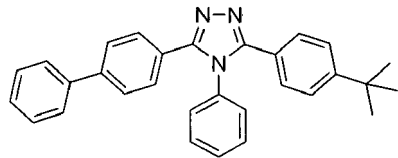
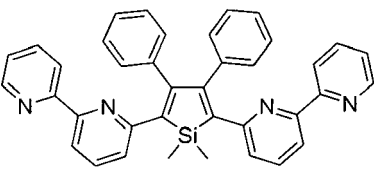
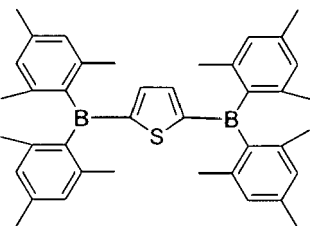
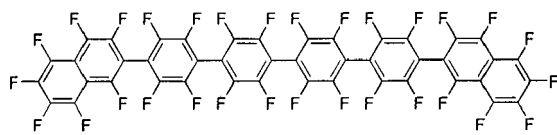
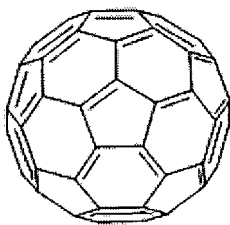
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5 Fluorinated aromatic compounds 10		Appl. Phys. Lett. 79, 156 (2001)
20 Phenothiazine-S-oxide		WO2008132085
25 Silylated five-membered nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur or phosphorus dibenzoheterocycles 30		WO2010079051
35 Aza-carbazoles		US20060121308
40 Electron transporting materials		
45 Anthracene-benzoimidazole compounds 50		WO2003060956

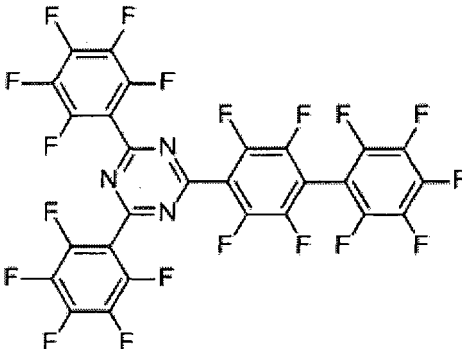
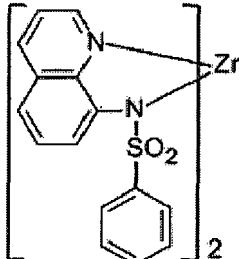
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
		US20090179554
Aza triphenylene derivatives		US20090115316
Anthracene-benzothiazole compounds		Appl. Phys. Lett. 89, 063504 (2006)
Metal 8-hydroxyquinolates (e.g., Alq ₃ , Zr _q ₄)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 51, 913 (1987) US7230107
Metal hydroxybenzoquinolates		Chem. Lett. 5, 905 (1993)
Bathocuprine compounds such as BCP, BPhen, etc		Appl. Phys. Lett. 91, 263503 (2007)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 79, 449 (2001)

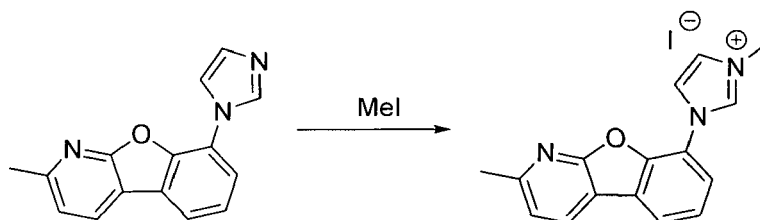
(continued)

MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
5-member ring electron deficient heterocycles (e.g., triazole, oxadiazole, imidazole, benzoimidazole)		Appl. Phys. Lett. 74, 865 (1999)
		Appl. Phys. Lett. 55, 1489 (1989)
		Jpn. J. Apply. Phys. 32, L917 (1993)
Silole compounds		Org. Electron. 4, 113 (2003)
Arylboration compounds		J. Am. Chem. Soc. 120, 9714 (1998)
Fluorinated aromatic compounds		J. Am. Chem. Soc. 122, 1832 (2000)
Fullerene (e.g., C60)		US20090101870

(continued)

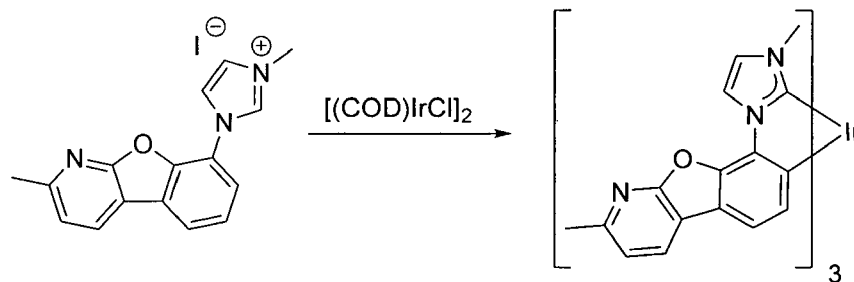
MATERIAL	EXAMPLES OF MATERIAL	PUBLICATIONS
Triazine complexes		US20040036077
Zn (N^N) complexes		US6528187

EXPERIMENTAL

Synthesis of (L_{A1})₃Ir**Synthesis of 3-methyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide****[0098]**

[0099] Iodomethane (5.6 mL, 90 mmol) was added to 8-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridine (4.5 g, 18.1 mmol) in 50 mL of acetonitrile. The reaction mixture was then brought to reflux for 10 minutes before being stirred at room temperature for two days. The reaction mixture was filtered and washed with ethyl acetate and dichloromethane (DCM) to yield 5.3 g (75%) of 3-methyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide.

Synthesis of (L_{A1})₃Ir**[0100]**

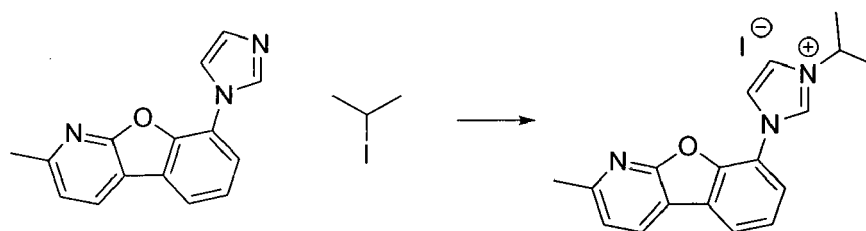


[0101] To 3-methyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide (1 g, 2.6 mmol) was added 50 mL dimethylformamide (DMF) followed by silver(I) oxide (0.59 g, 2.6 mmol) and $[(\text{COD})\text{IrCl}]_2$ (0.21 g, 0.32 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 145 °C for 20 h and the resulting mixture was filtered through a plug of celite and washed with dichloromethane (DCM). The solvent was evaporated and the product chromatographed on basic silica with 0-10% ethyl acetate in DCM to yield 0.3 g (97%) of $(\text{L}_{\text{A1}})_3\text{Ir}$.

Synthesis of Compound 963 ($(\text{L}_{\text{B13}})_2\text{Ir}(\text{L}_{\text{A3}})$)

Synthesis of 3-isopropyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide

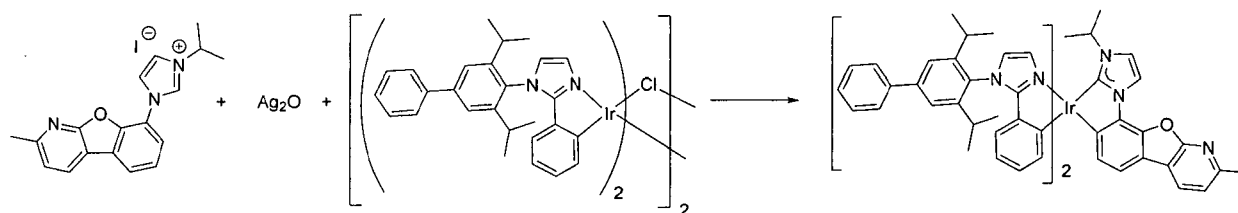
[0102]



[0103] 2-Iodopropane (2.1 mL, 20.9 mmol) was added to 8-(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridine (2.6 g, 10.4 mmol) in 50 mL of acetonitrile and the reaction was heated to 80 °C for 2 days. The solvent was evaporated and the residue washed with acetonitrile to yield 3.5 g (80%) of 3-isopropyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide.

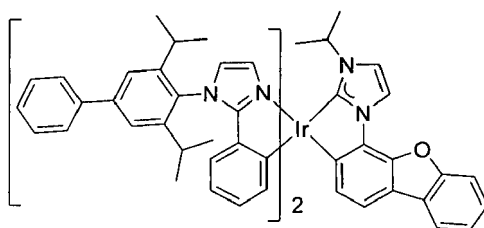
Synthesis of Compound 963

[0104]



[0105] Silver(I) oxide (1.0 g, 4.3 mmol) was added to 3-isopropyl-1-(2-methylbenzofuro[2,3-b]pyridin-8-yl)-1H-imidazol-3-ium iodide (3.0 g, 7.2 mmol) in 50 mL of acetonitrile. The reaction was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen overnight and the solvent evaporated. The iridium dimer (3.5 g, 1.8 mmol) and 50 mL of tetrahydrofuran (THF) were added and the reaction mixture, which was then brought to reflux overnight. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered through a plug of celite and washed with DCM. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was chromatographed on basic silica with 10-20% DCM in heptane to yield 3.8 g (86%) of the *meridional* isomer of Compound 963. This material was dissolved in DMSO and thoroughly degassed before being irradiated with UV light for 20 h. After removing the solvent, the residue was chromatographed on basic silica gel with 15-25% DCM in heptane. After removal of the solvent, the material was washed with methanol to yield 1.0 g (26%) of Compound 963 (*facial* isomer).

[0106] The properties of Compound 963 were compared against Comparative Compound 1. A 5% doped PMMA film of Comparative Compound 1 exhibited a 56% PLQY, whereas a 5% doped PMMA film of Compound 963 exhibited a PLQY of 86%, which is much higher than that of the comparative compound. It is advantageous to have higher PLQY as an emitter in the OLED device.

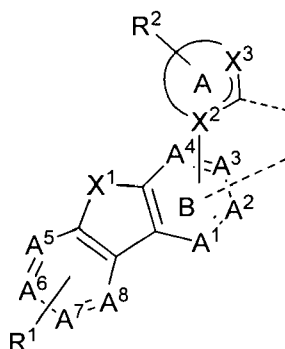


Comparative Compound 1

[0107] It is understood that the various embodiments described herein are by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. For example, many of the materials and structures described herein may be substituted with other materials and structures without deviating from the spirit of the invention. The present invention as claimed may therefore include variations from the particular examples and preferred embodiments described herein, as will be apparent to one of skill in the art. It is understood that various theories as to why the invention works are not intended to be limiting.

[0108] Preferred embodiments of the invention are as follows:

1. A compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen;

wherein X^1 is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X^2 and X^3 each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R^1 and R^2 are optionally linked together to form a ring;

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino,

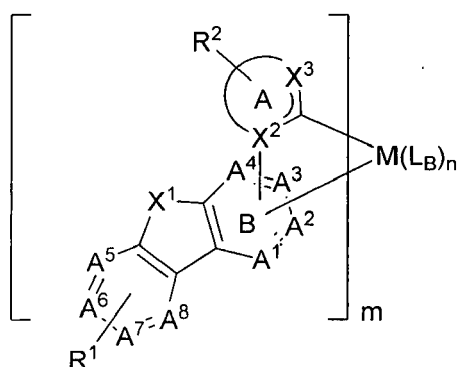
and combinations thereof;

wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

2. The compound of paragraph 1, wherein the compound has the formula $M(L_A)_m(L_B)_n$, having the structure:



, Formula II;

wherein L_B is a different ligand from L_A ;

wherein m is an integer from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M; and

m+n is the the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M.

3. The compound of paragraph 1, wherein M is selected from the group consisting of Ir, Rh, Re, Ru, Os, Pt, Au, and Cu.

4. The compound of paragraph 1, wherein M is Ir.

5. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 4, wherein X^1 is O.

6. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 5, wherein M is coordinated to ring B through a M-C bond.

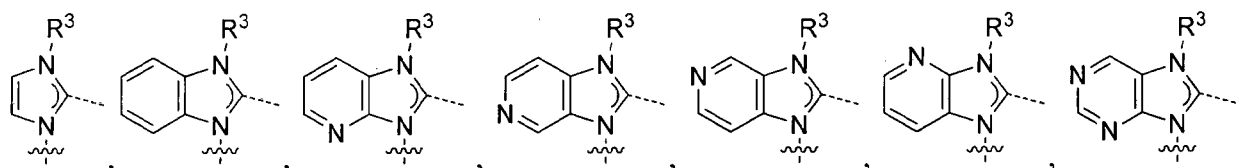
7. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 6, wherein only one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen.

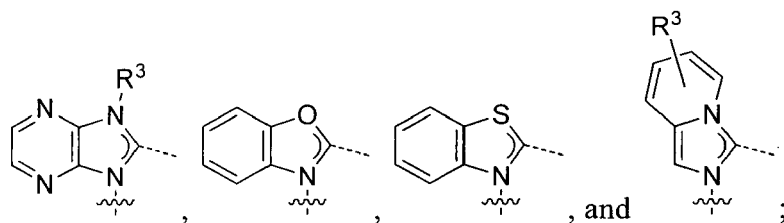
8. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 6, wherein each one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 is carbon.

9. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 6, wherein each one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , and A^4 is carbon, and exactly one of A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen.

10. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 9, wherein R^2 forms a phenyl or pyridyl ring fused to ring A; and wherein the phenyl or pyridyl ring may be further substituted.

11. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 10, wherein ring A is selected from the group consisting of:

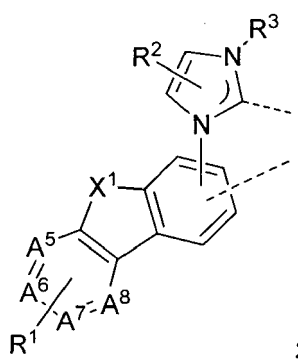




wherein the wave line indicates the bond to ring B;

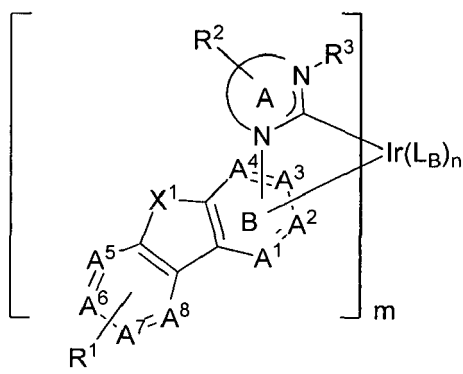
wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

12. The compound of any one of paragraphs 1 to 11, wherein the ligand L_A is:



wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

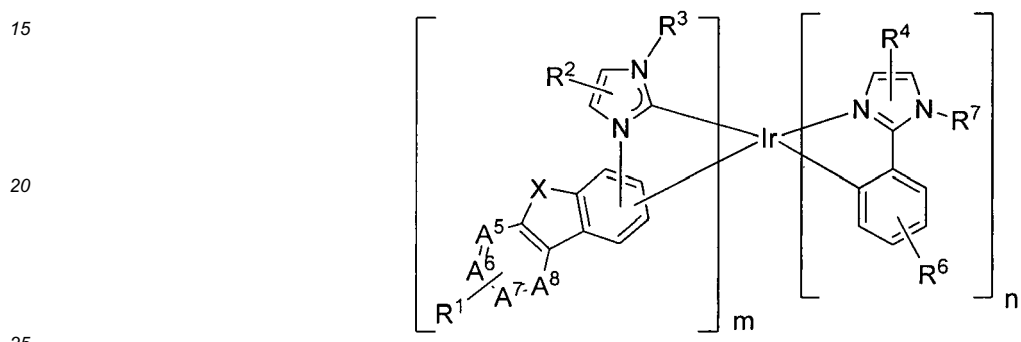
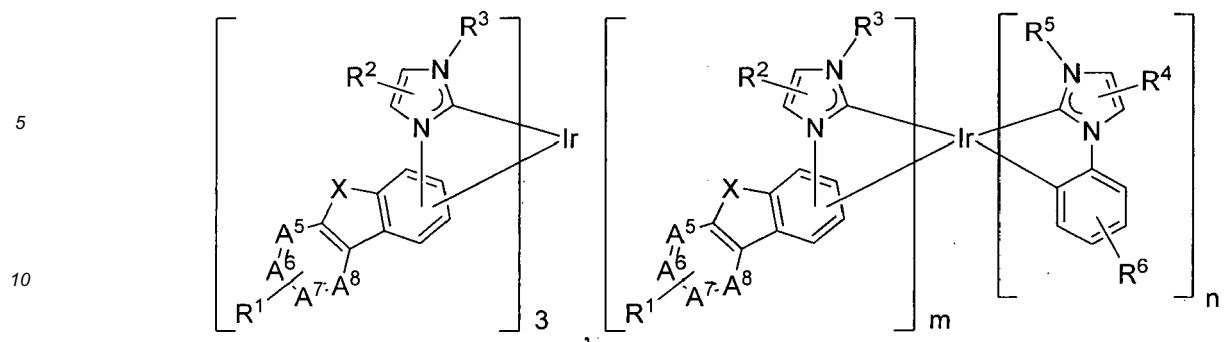
13. The compound of paragraph 2, wherein the compound has the formula $Ir(L_A)_m(L_B)_n$, having the structure:



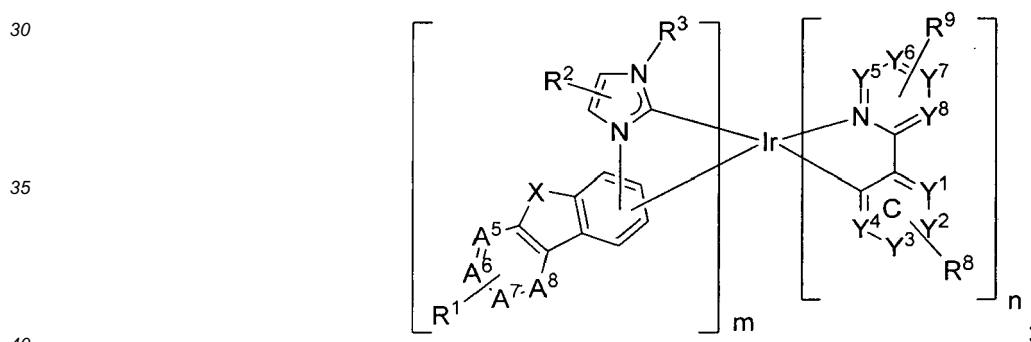
wherein $m + n = 3$; and

wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

14. The compound of paragraph 13, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



and



wherein R⁴ represents mono, di-substitution, or no substitution;

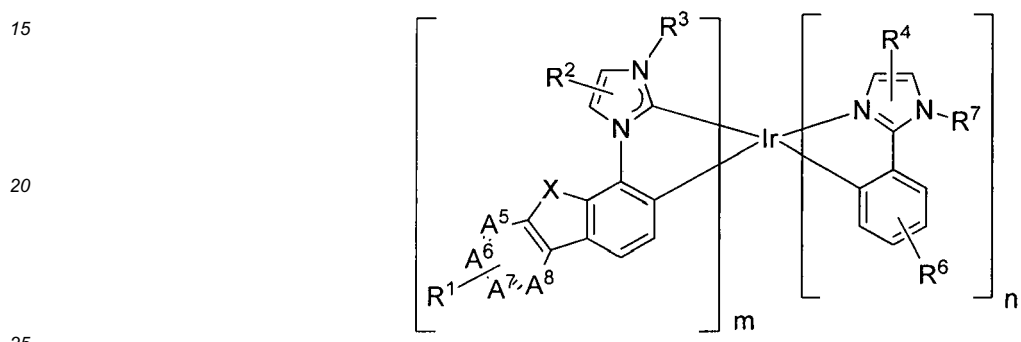
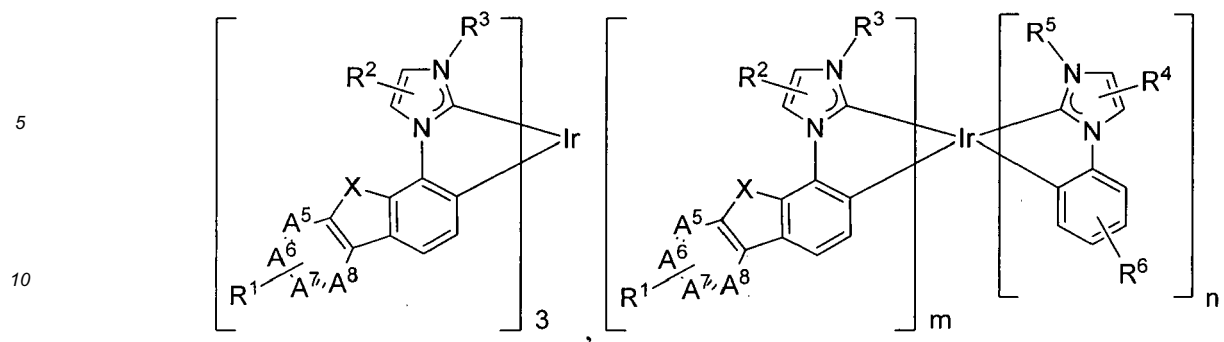
wherein R⁶, R⁸ and R⁹ each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴, Y⁵, Y⁶, Y⁷, and Y⁸ comprise carbon or nitrogen;

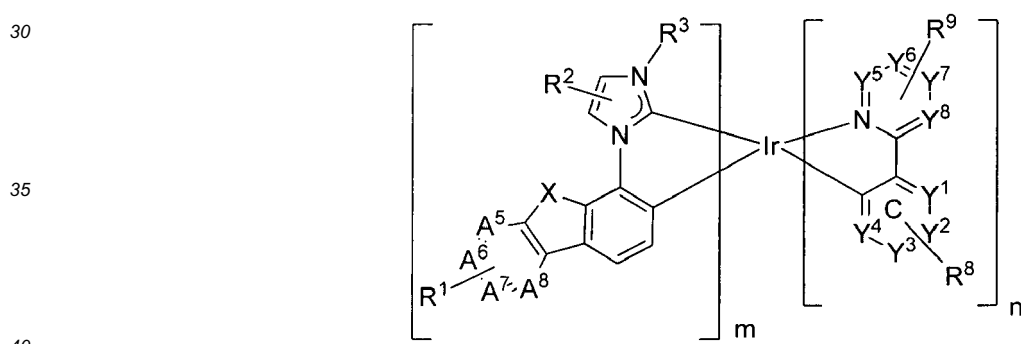
wherein R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof; and

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are optionally linked together to form a ring.

15. The compound of paragraph 14, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



and



16. The compound of paragraph 14 or 15, wherein m is 1.

17. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 16, wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof.

18. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 17, wherein R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a phenyl ring fused to ring A, and a pyridyl ring fused to ring A.

19. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 18, wherein R³ is alkyl or cycloalkyl.

20. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 18, wherein R³ is aryl or substituted aryl.

21. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 18, wherein R³ is selected from the group consisting of: methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-methylethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, pentyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, 1,2-dimethylpropyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, cyclopentyl, and cyclohexyl, wherein each group is optionally partially or fully deuterated.

22. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 21, wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and substituted aryl.

23. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 22, wherein R^7 is a 2,6-disubstituted aryl.

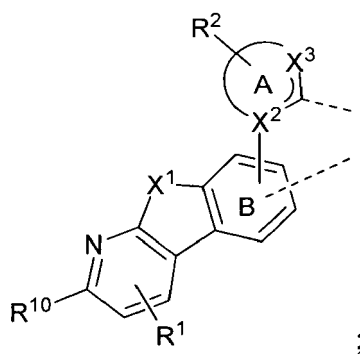
24. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 23, wherein R^7 comprises at least one chemical group selected from the group consisting of carbazole, dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, and fluorine.

25. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 24, wherein Y^5 , Y^6 , Y^7 , and Y^8 comprise carbon; and wherein only one of Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 is nitrogen.

26. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 25, wherein Y^2 is nitrogen.

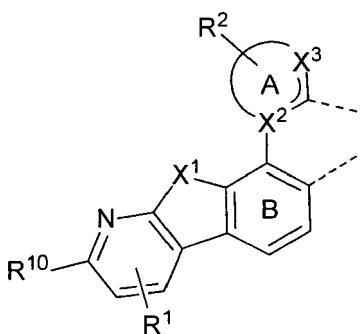
27. The compound of any one of paragraphs 14 to 26, wherein R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof; and wherein R^9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, cycloalkyl, and combinations thereof.

28. The compound of paragraph 1, wherein the ligand L_A is:



wherein R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

29. The compound of paragraph 28, wherein the ligand L_A is:



30. The compound of paragraph 28, wherein R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, alkyl, and combinations thereof.

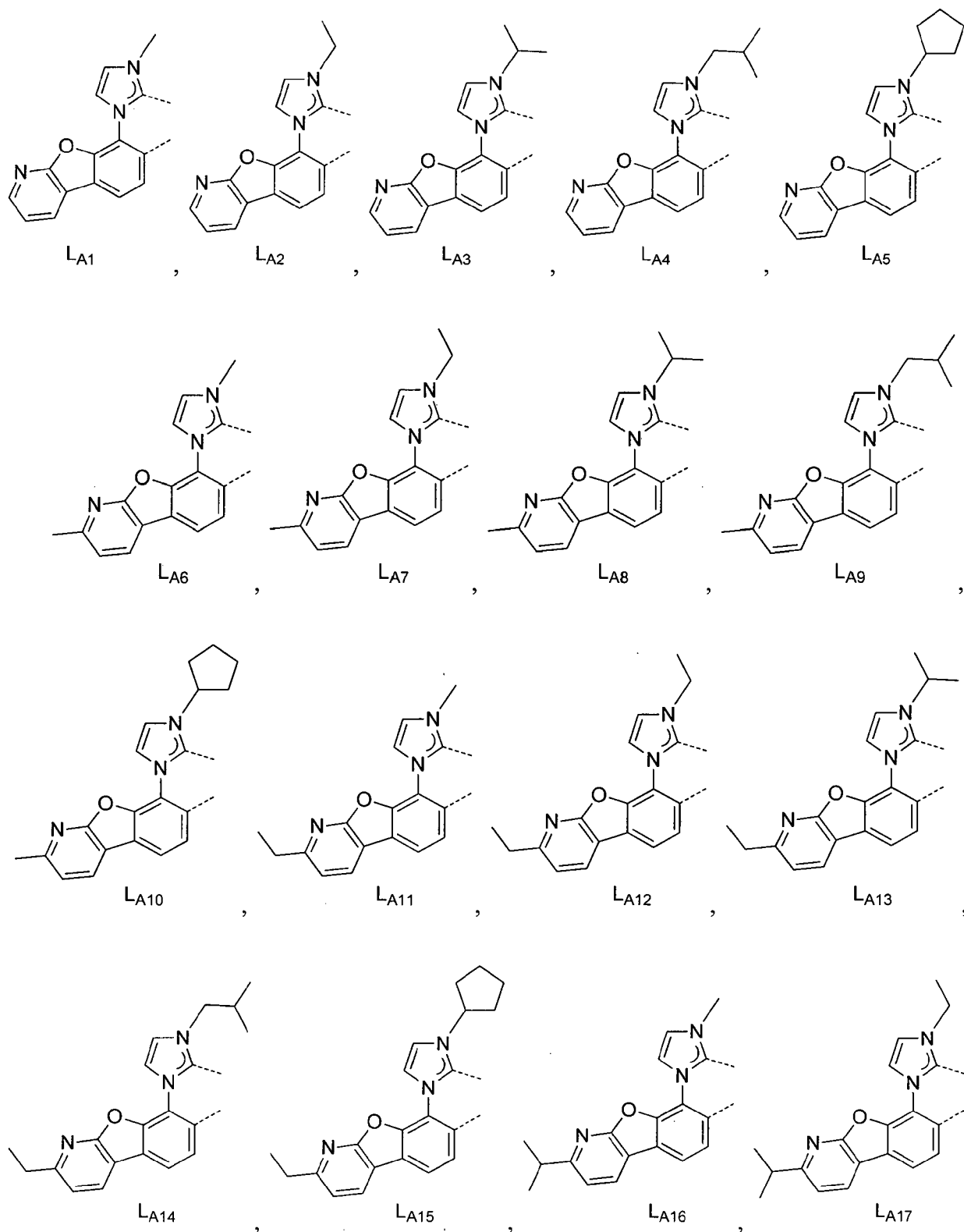
31. The compound of paragraph 28, wherein R^{10} is alkyl.

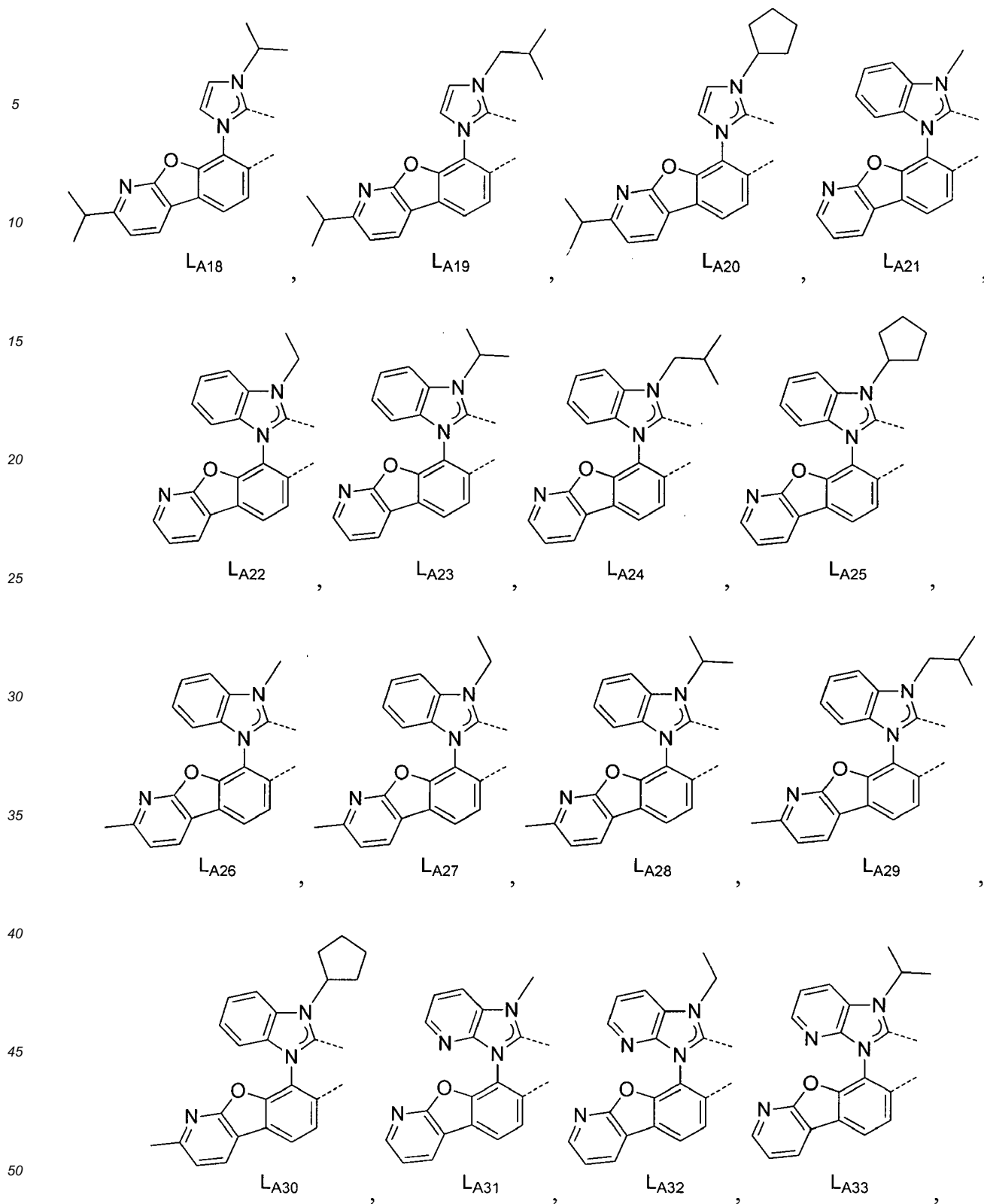
32. The compound of paragraph 28, wherein R^{10} is cycloalkyl.

33. The compound of paragraph 28, wherein R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, 1-

methylethyl, butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, pentyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, 1,2-dimethylpropyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, partially or fully deuterated variants thereof, and combinations thereof.

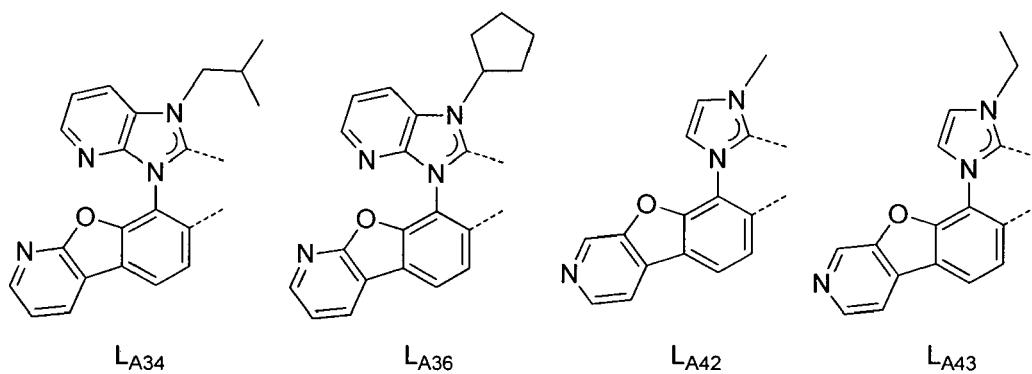
34. The compound of paragraph 2, wherein L_A is selected from the group consisting of:





5

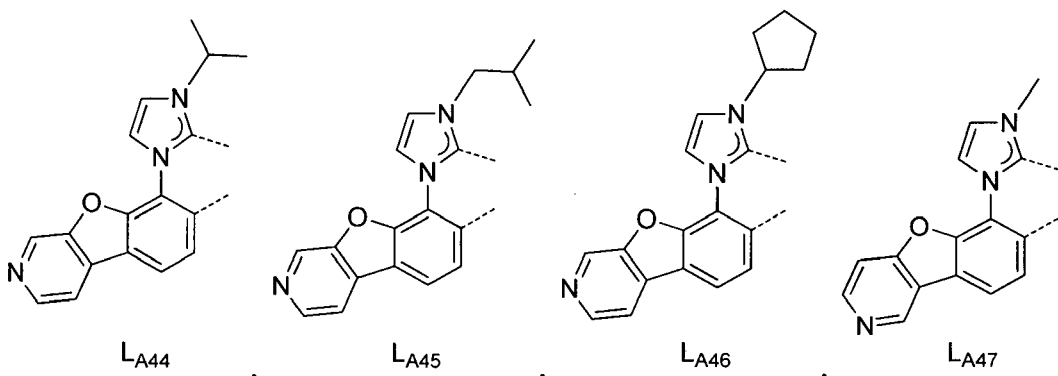
10



15

20

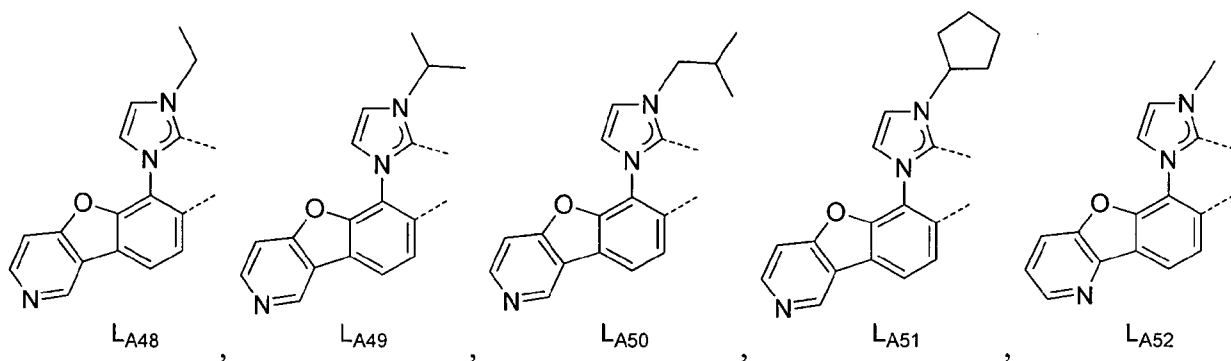
25



30

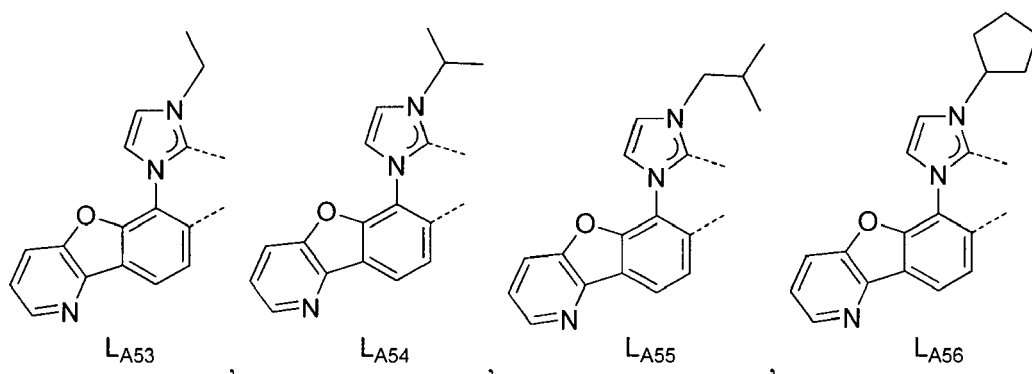
35

40

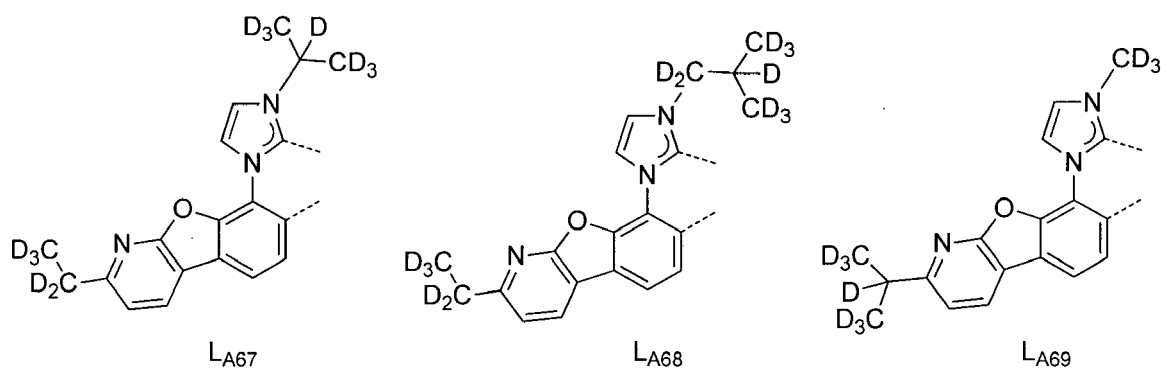
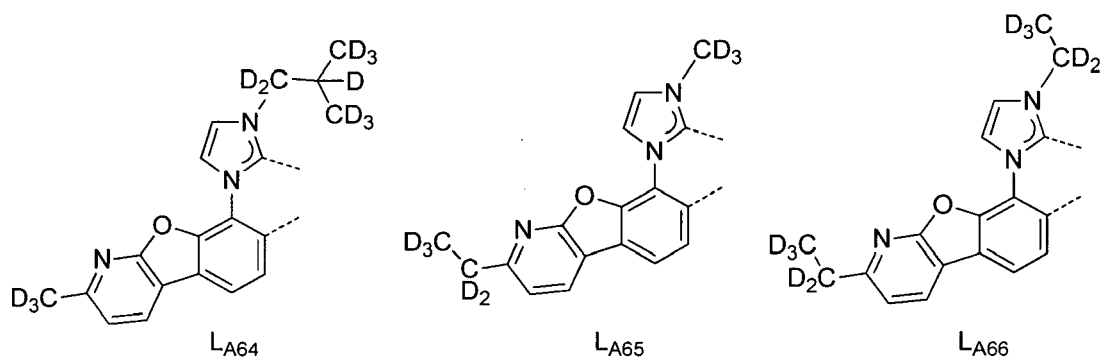
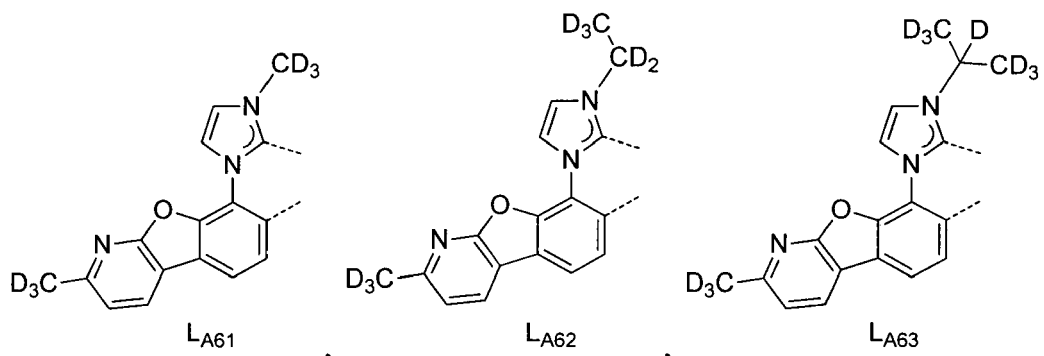
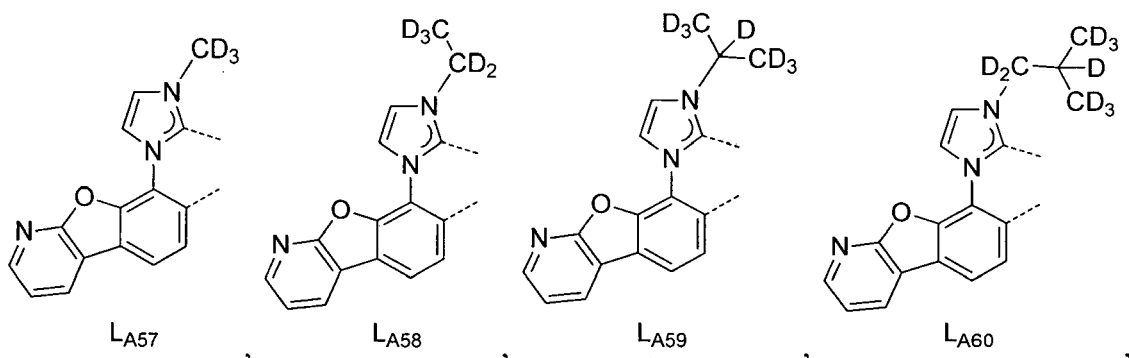


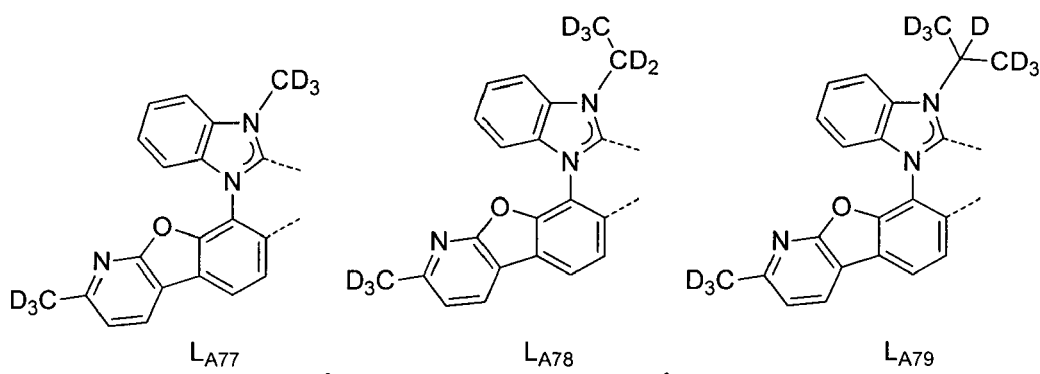
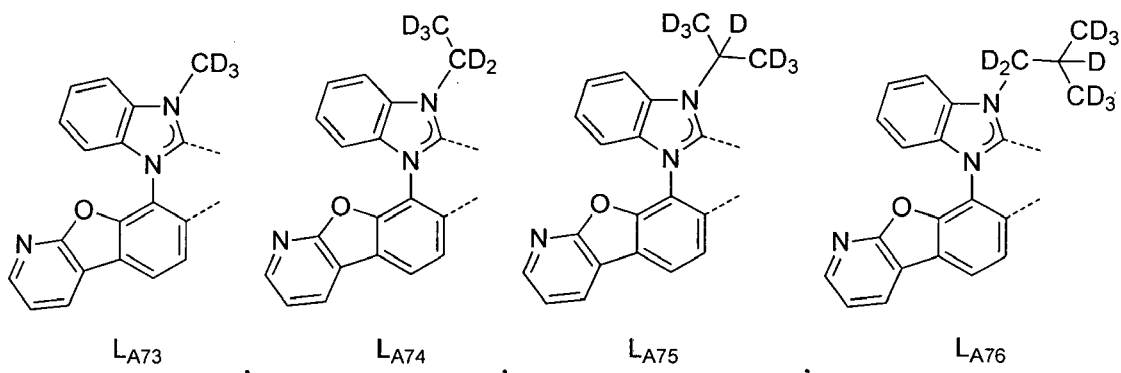
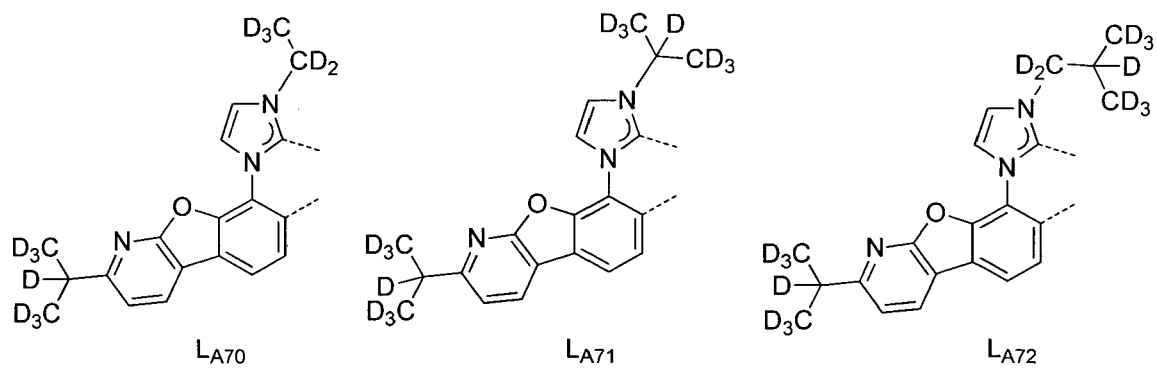
45

50

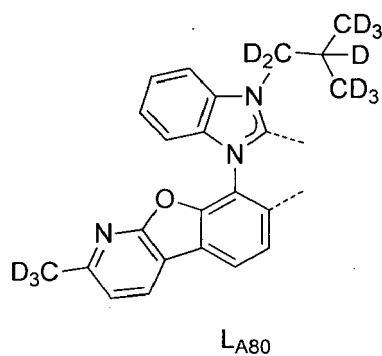


55





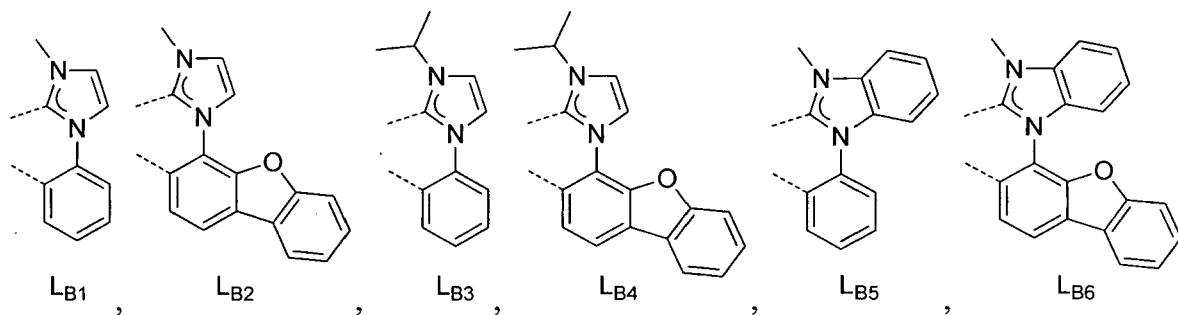
and



35. The compound of paragraph 2, wherein L_B is selected from the group consisting of:

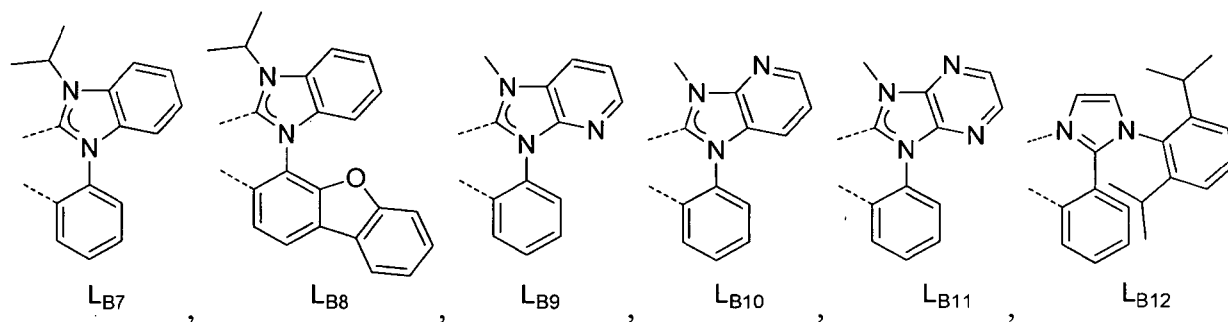
5

10



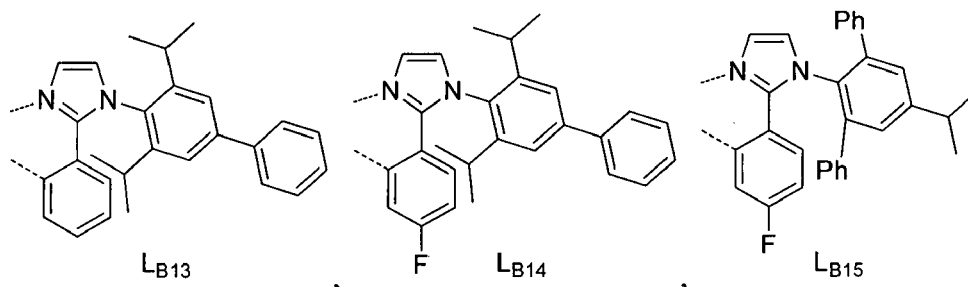
15

20



25

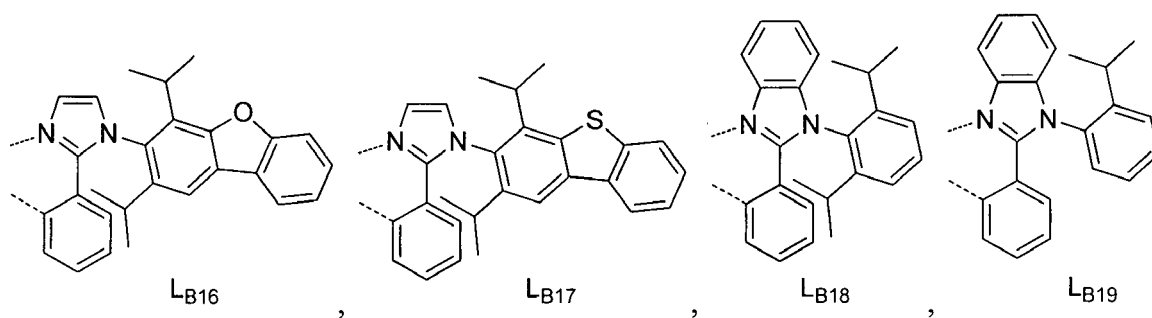
30



35

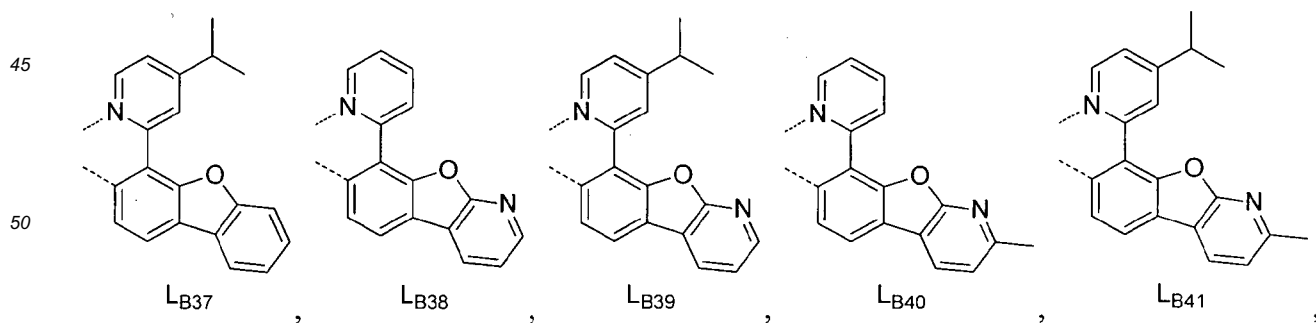
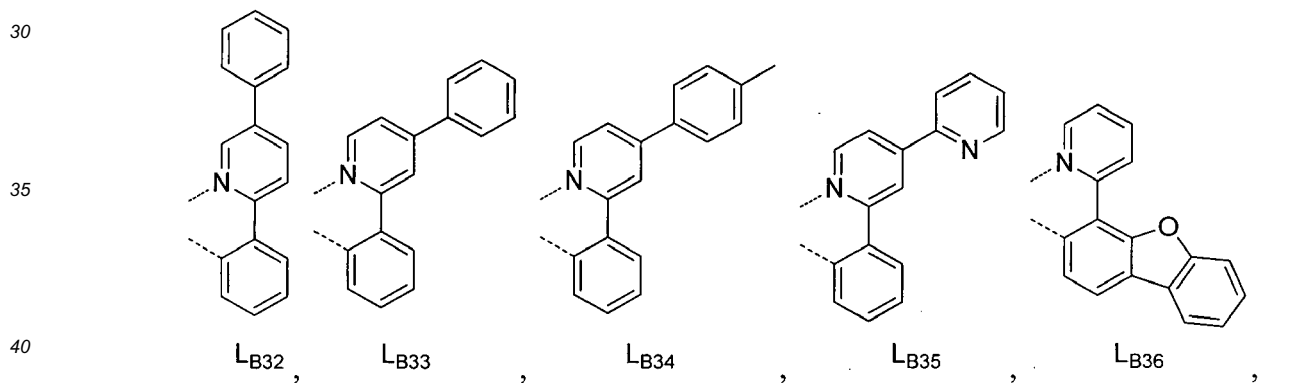
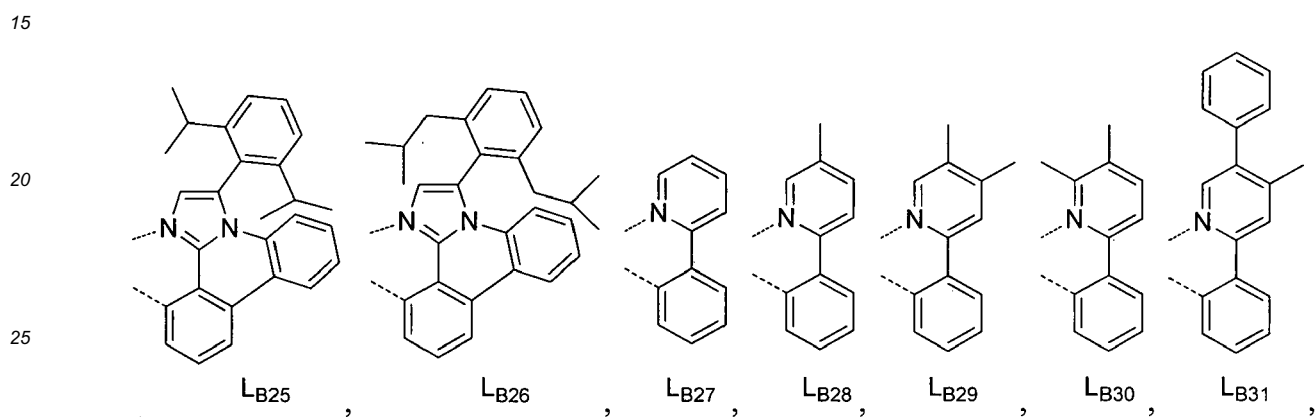
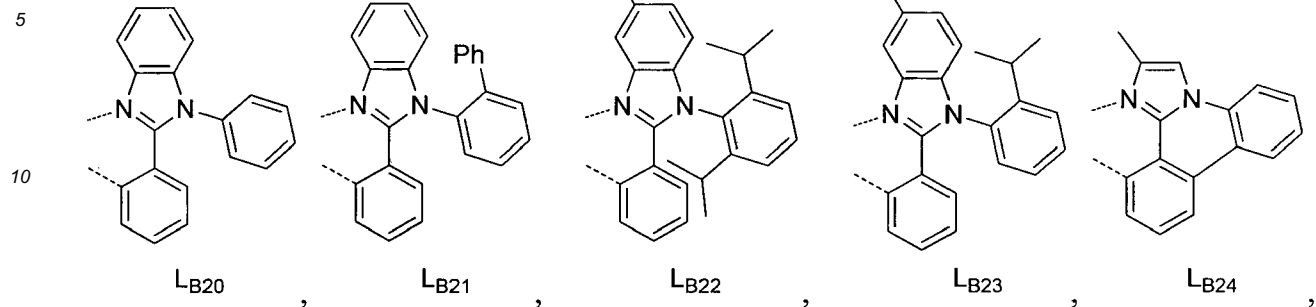
40

45



50

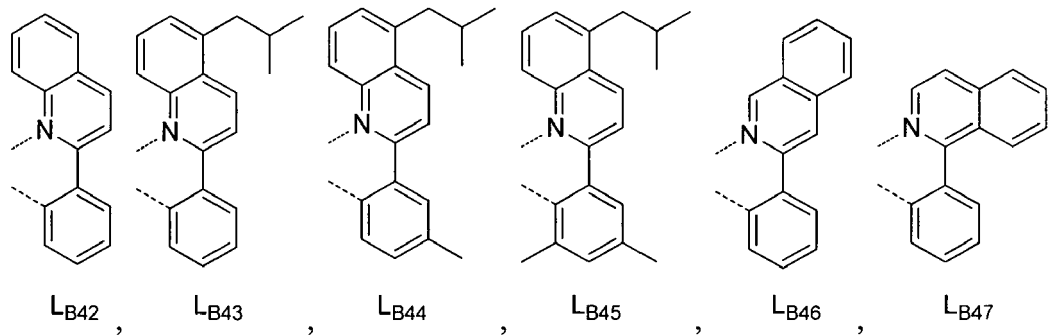
55



55

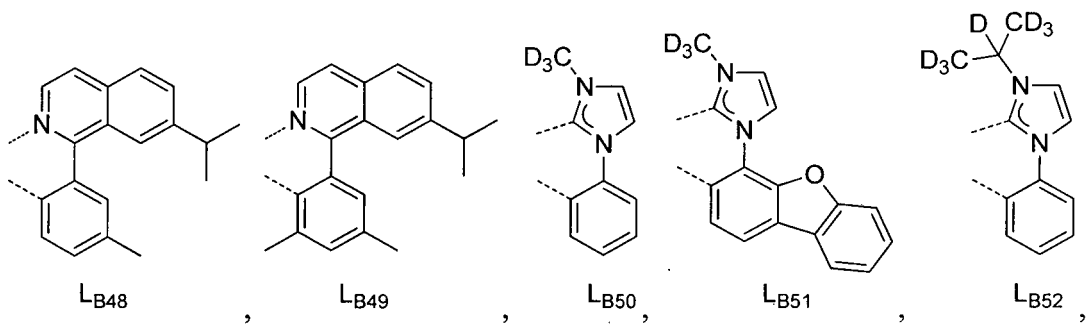
5

10



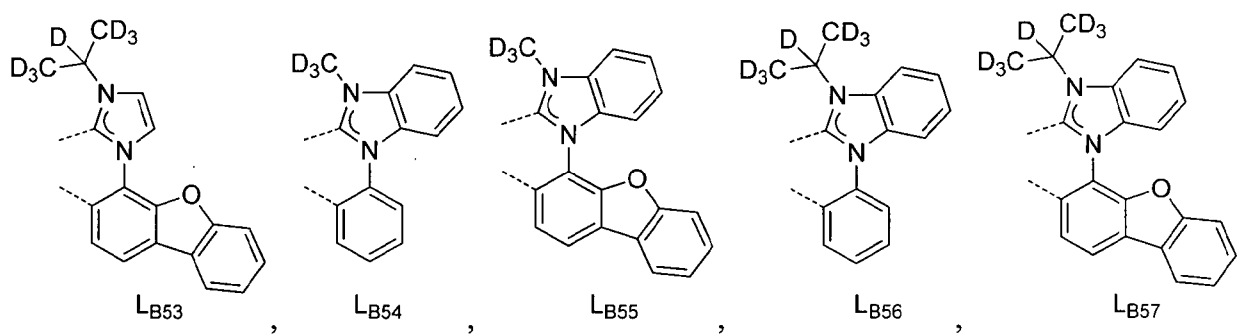
15

20



25

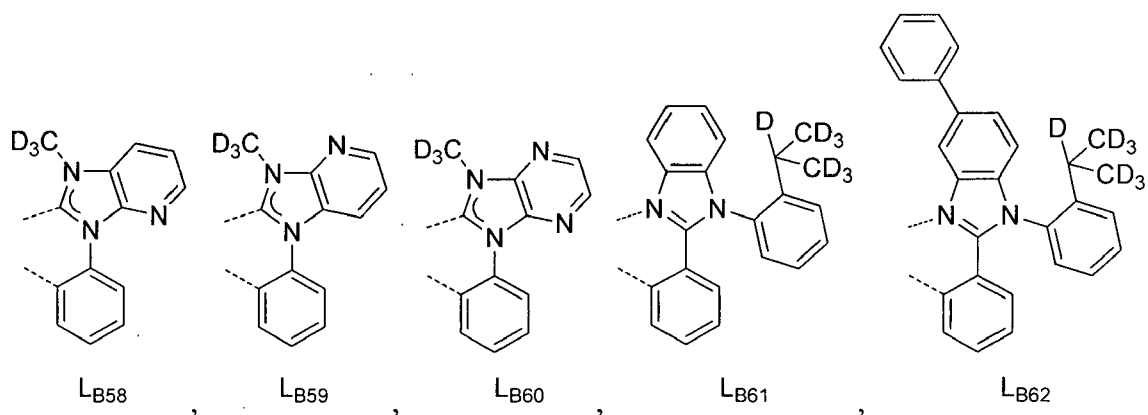
30



35

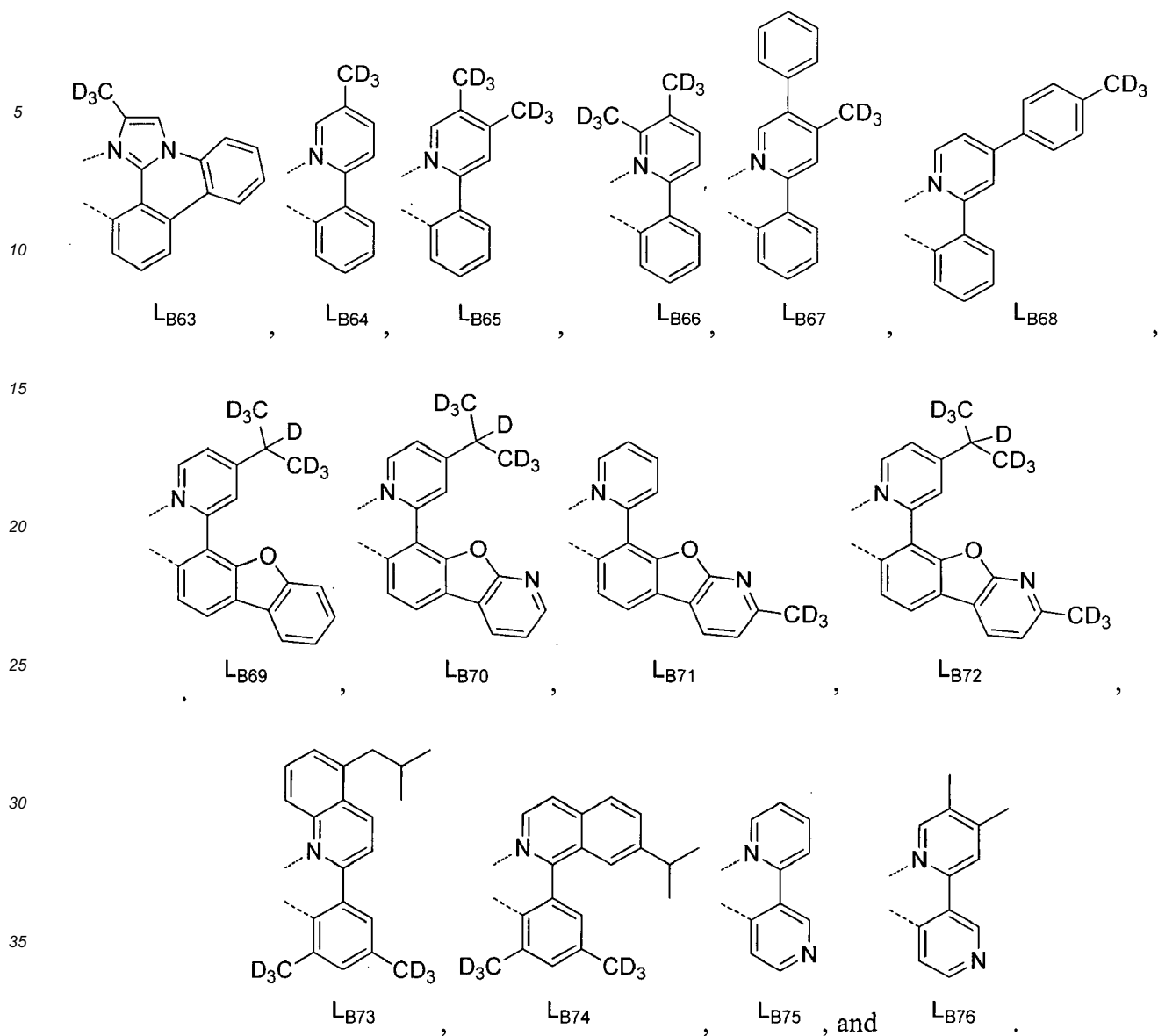
40

45

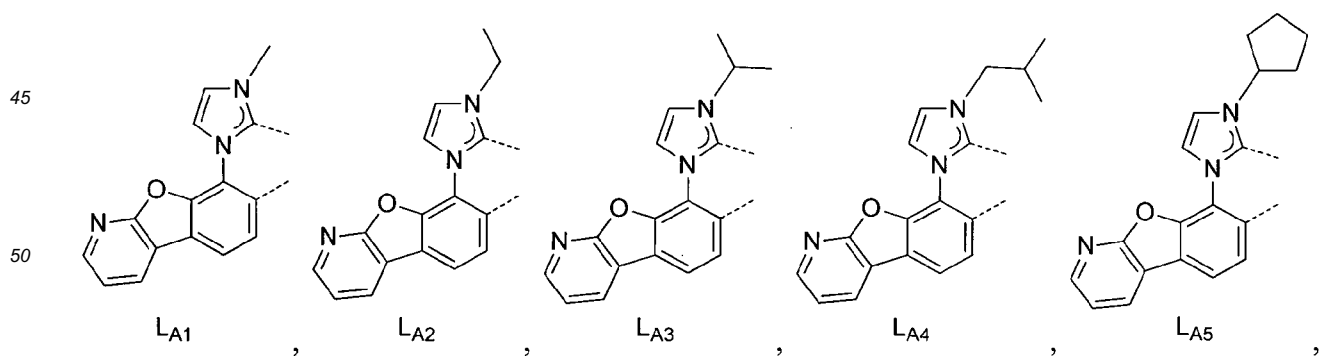


50

55



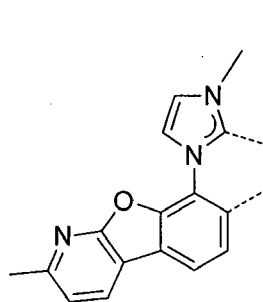
40 36. The compound of paragraph 13, wherein L_A is selected from the group consisting of:



55

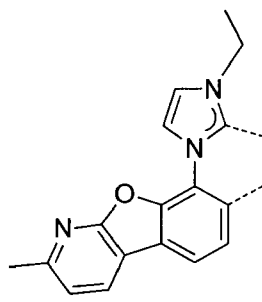
5

10



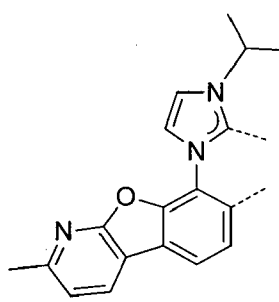
L_{A6}

,



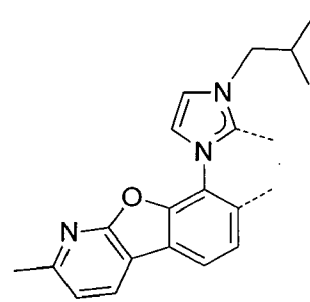
L_{A7}

,



L_{A8}

,

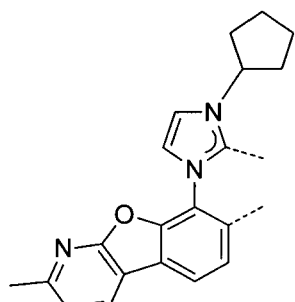


L_{A9}

,

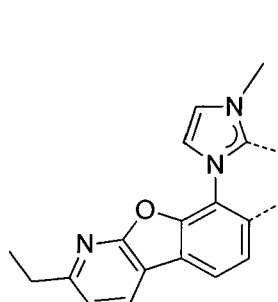
15

20



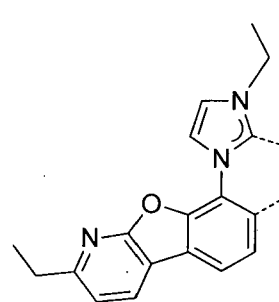
L_{A10}

,



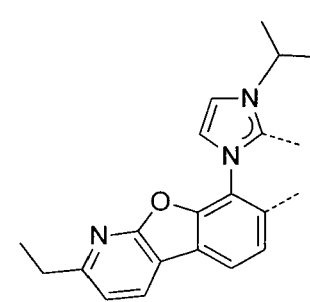
L_{A11}

,



L_{A12}

,

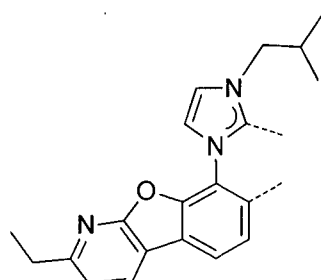


L_{A13}

,

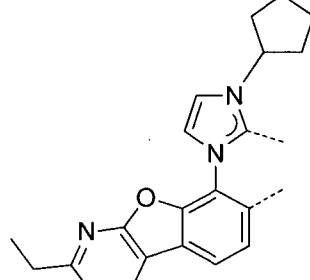
25

30



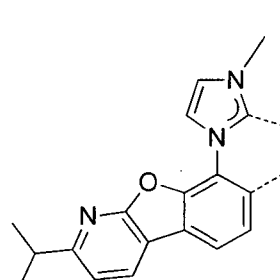
L_{A14}

,



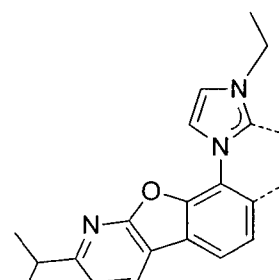
L_{A15}

,



L_{A16}

,

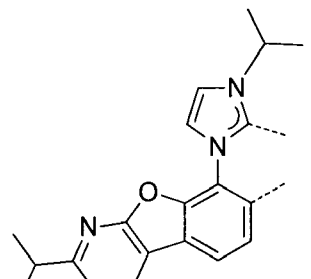


L_{A17}

,

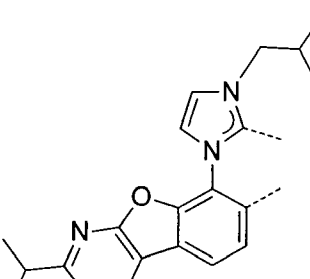
40

45



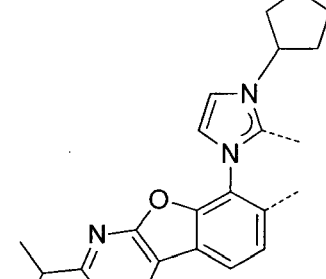
L_{A18}

,



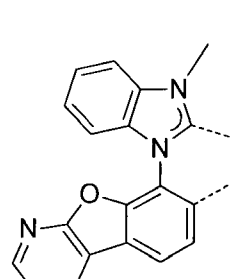
L_{A19}

,



L_{A20}

,



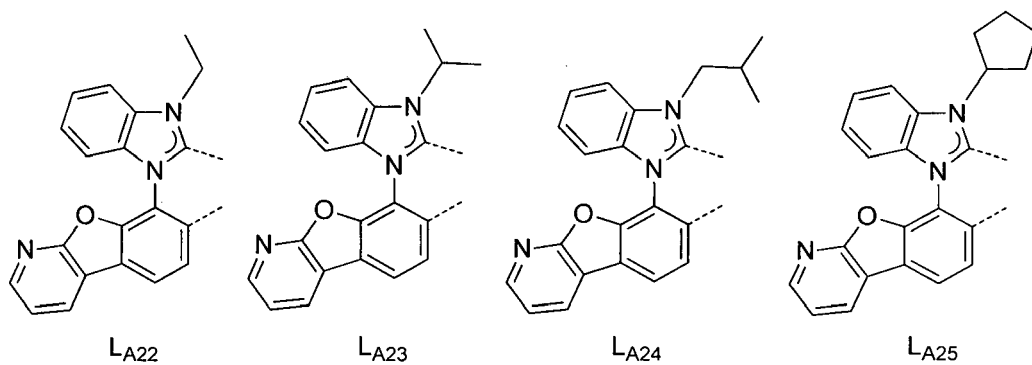
L_{A21}

,

55

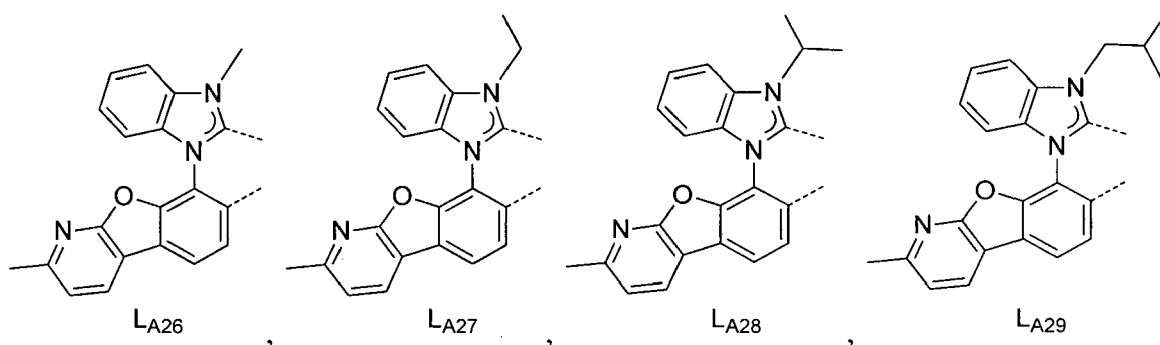
5

10



15

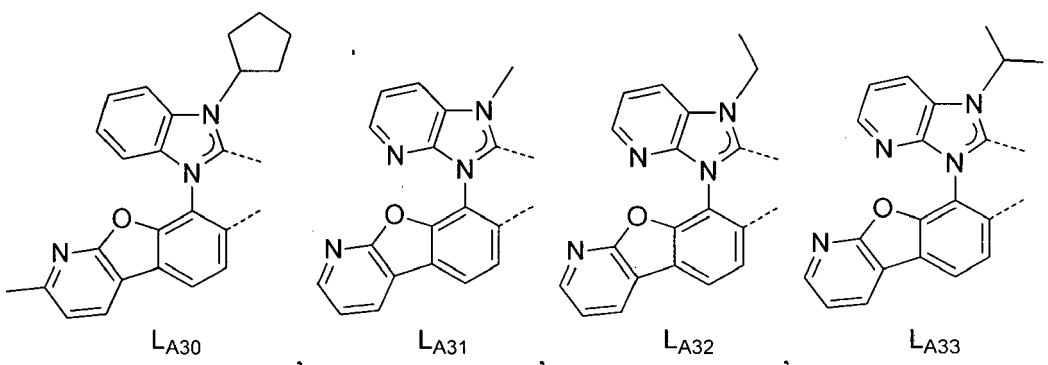
20



25

30

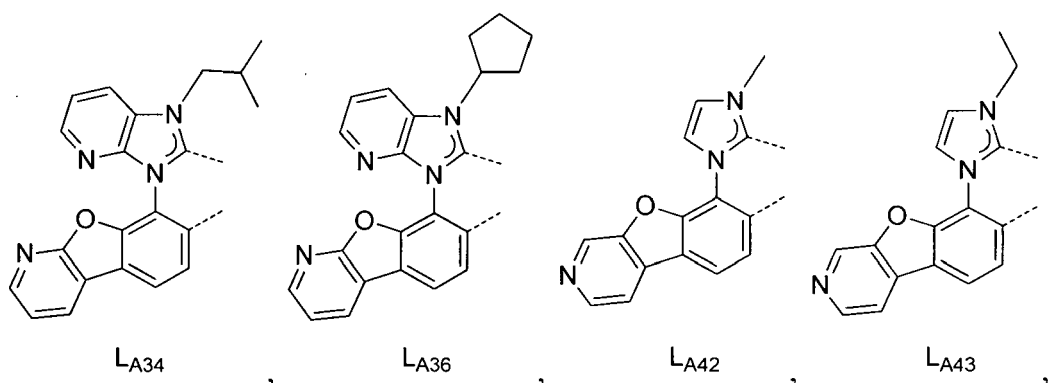
35



40

45

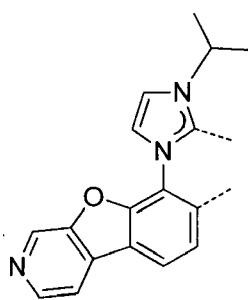
50



55

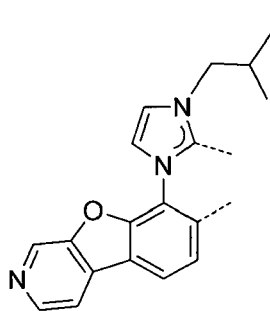
5

10



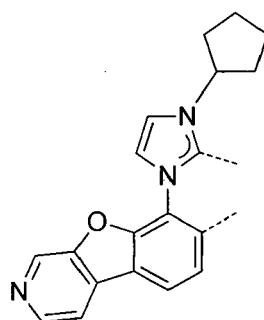
L_{A44}

,



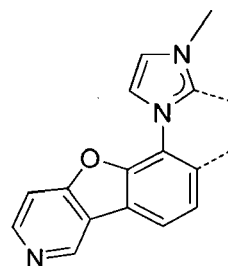
L_{A45}

,



L_{A46}

,

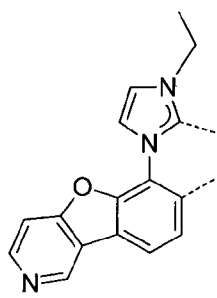


L_{A47}

,

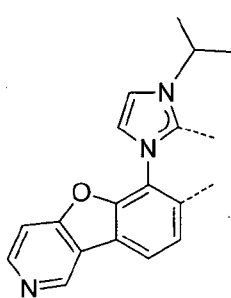
15

20



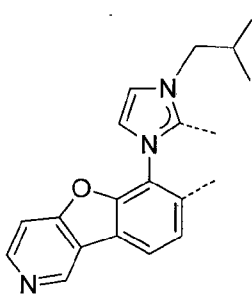
L_{A48}

,



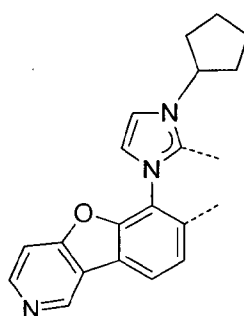
L_{A49}

,



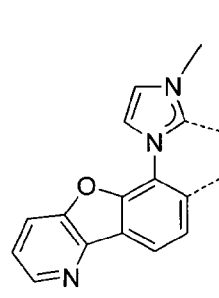
L_{A50}

,



L_{A51}

,

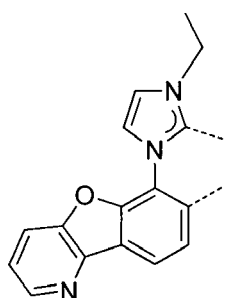


L_{A52}

,

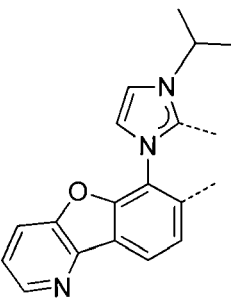
30

35



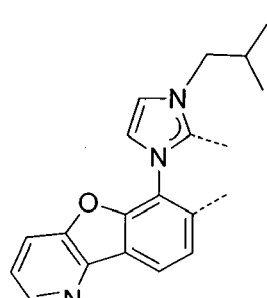
L_{A53}

,



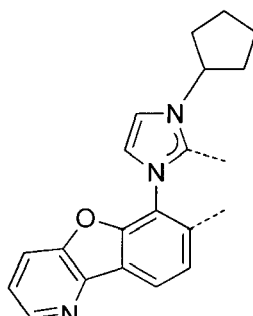
L_{A54}

,



L_{A55}

,

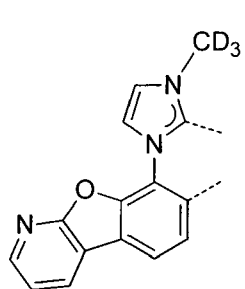


L_{A56}

,

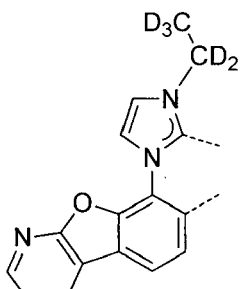
40

45



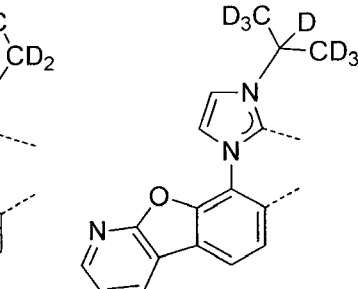
L_{A57}

,



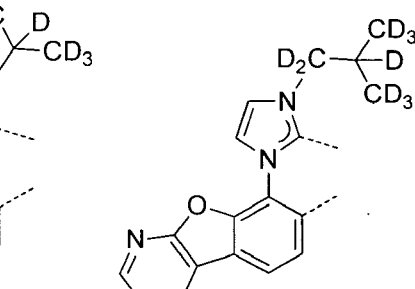
L_{A58}

,



L_{A59}

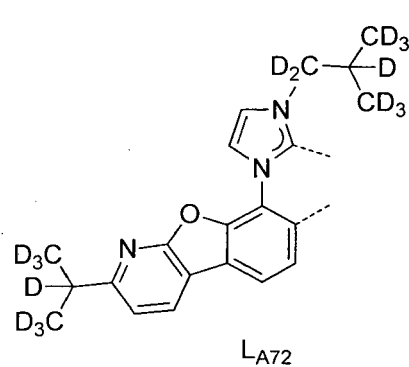
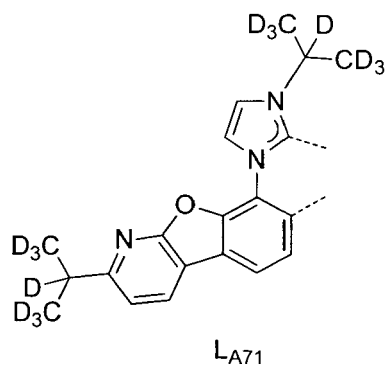
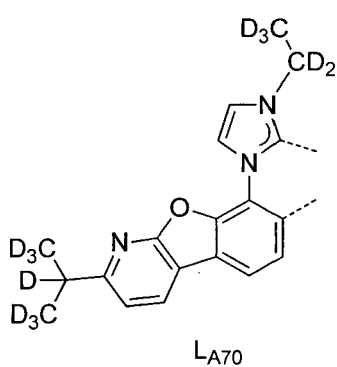
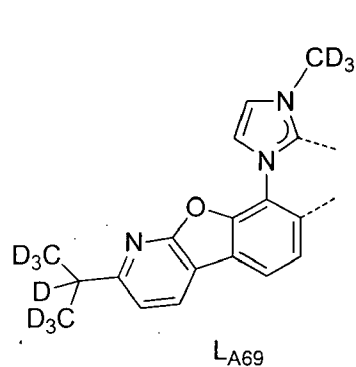
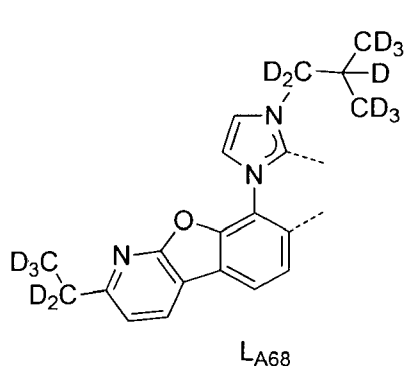
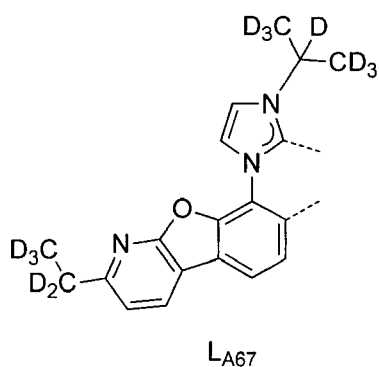
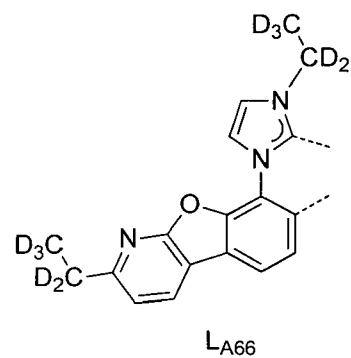
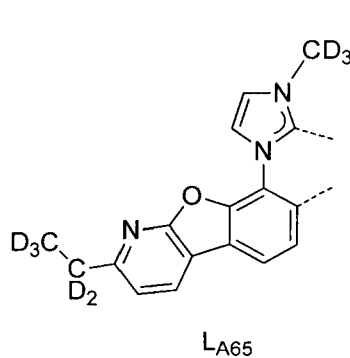
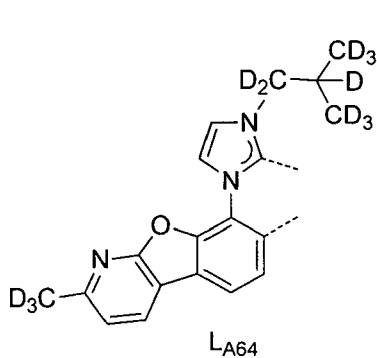
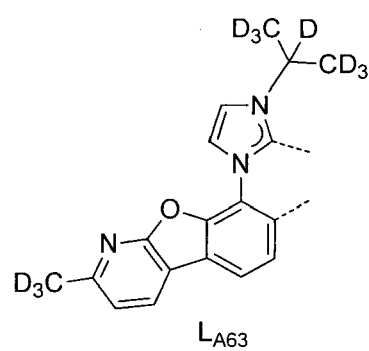
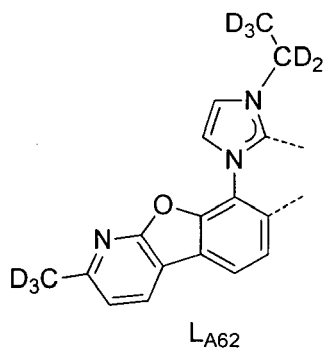
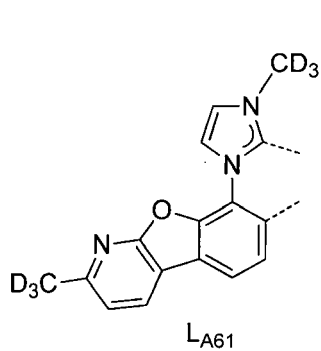
,

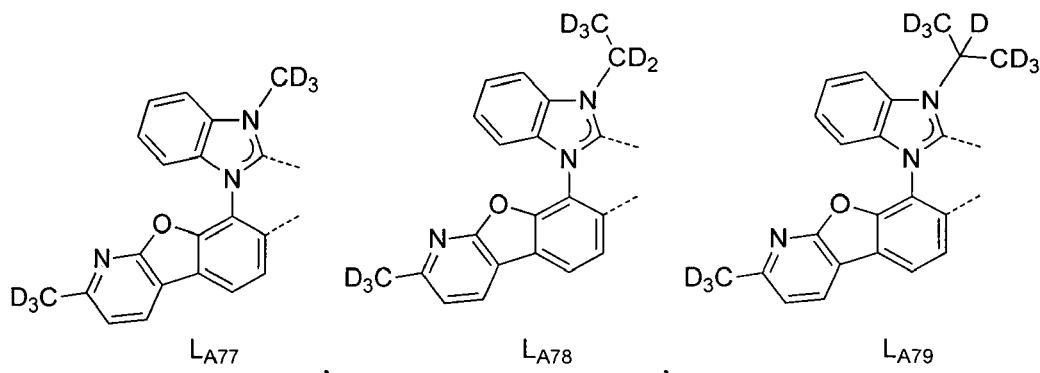
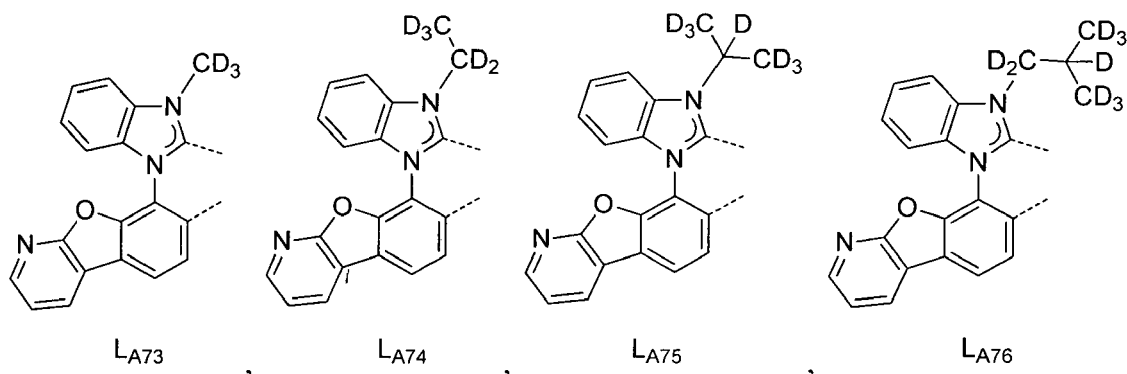


L_{A60}

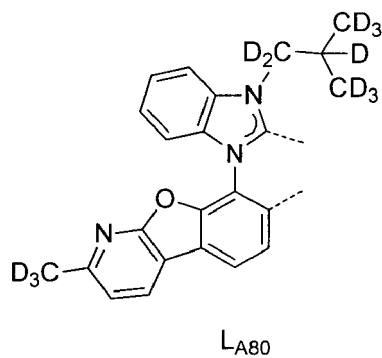
,

55

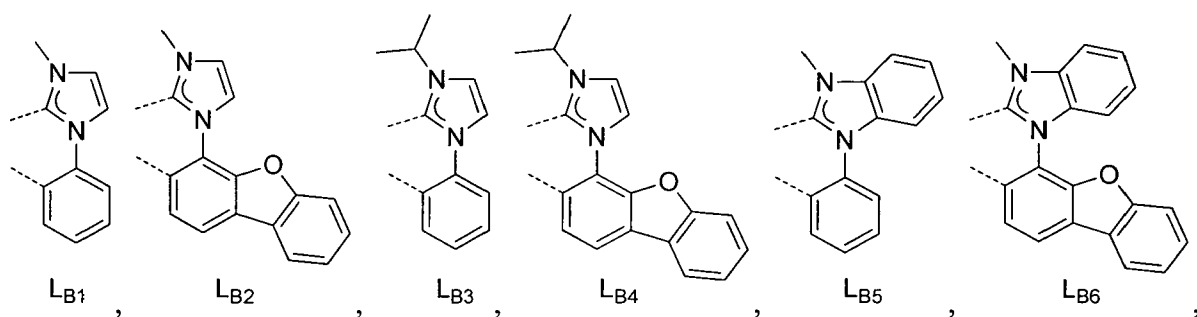


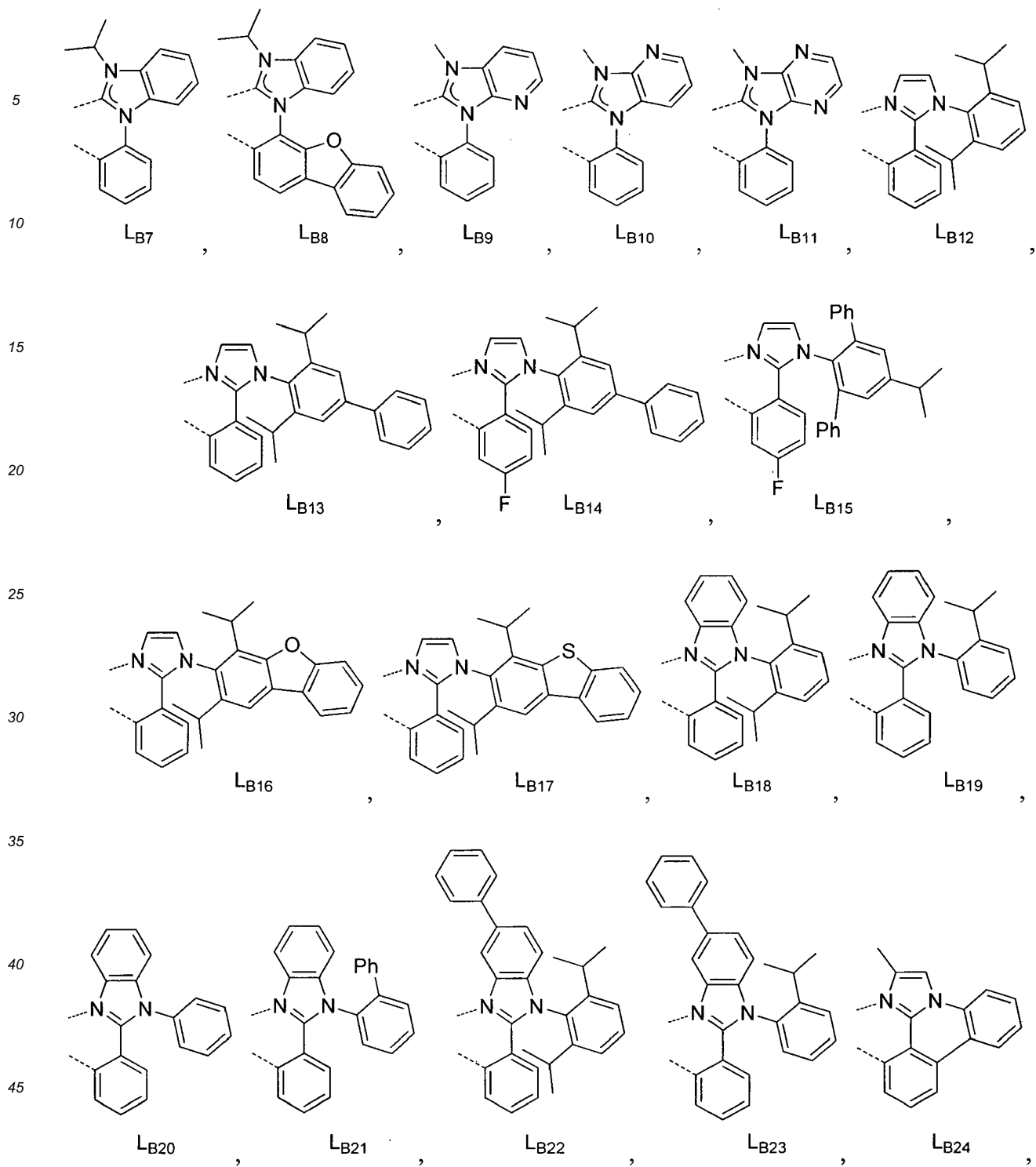


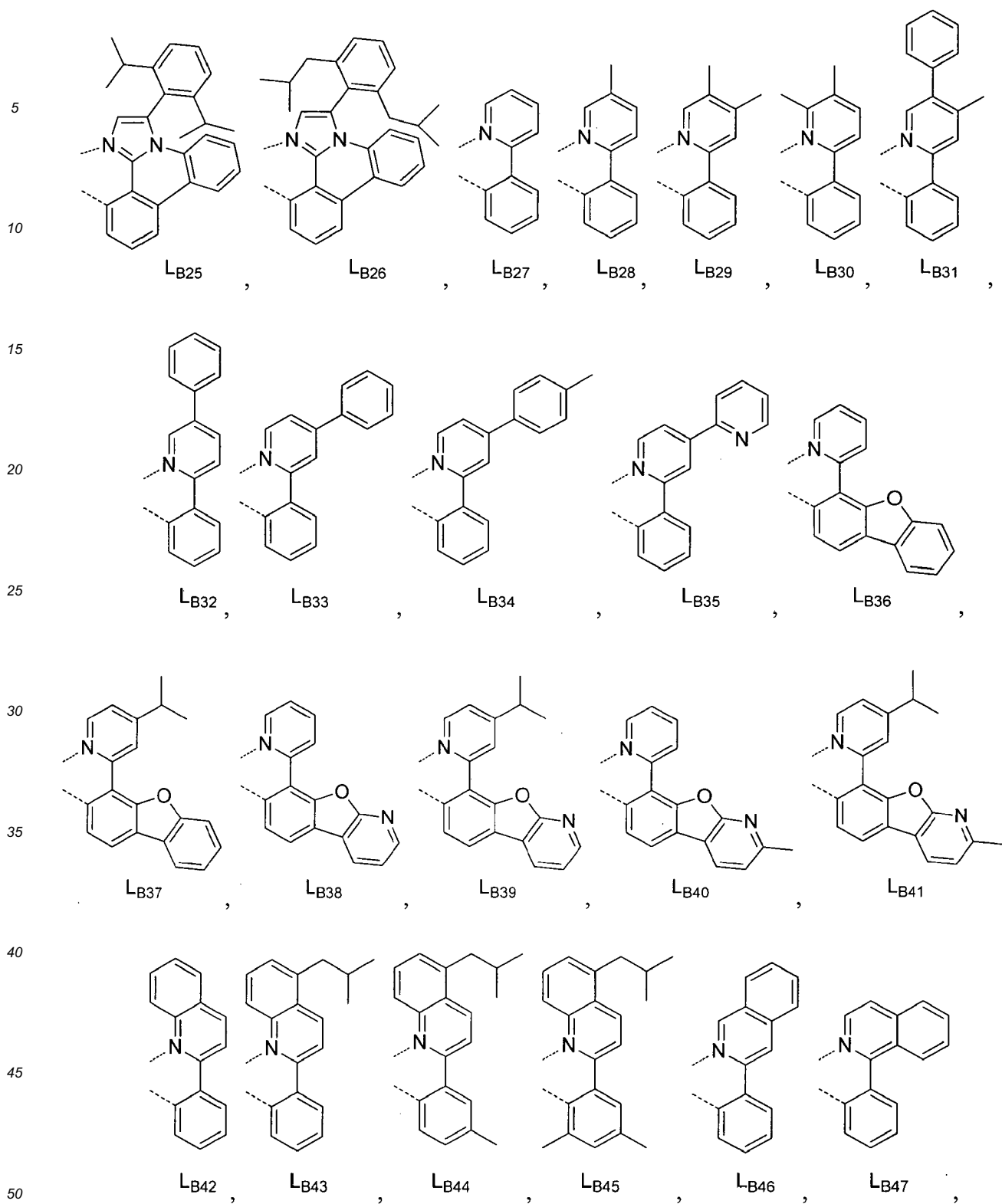
and

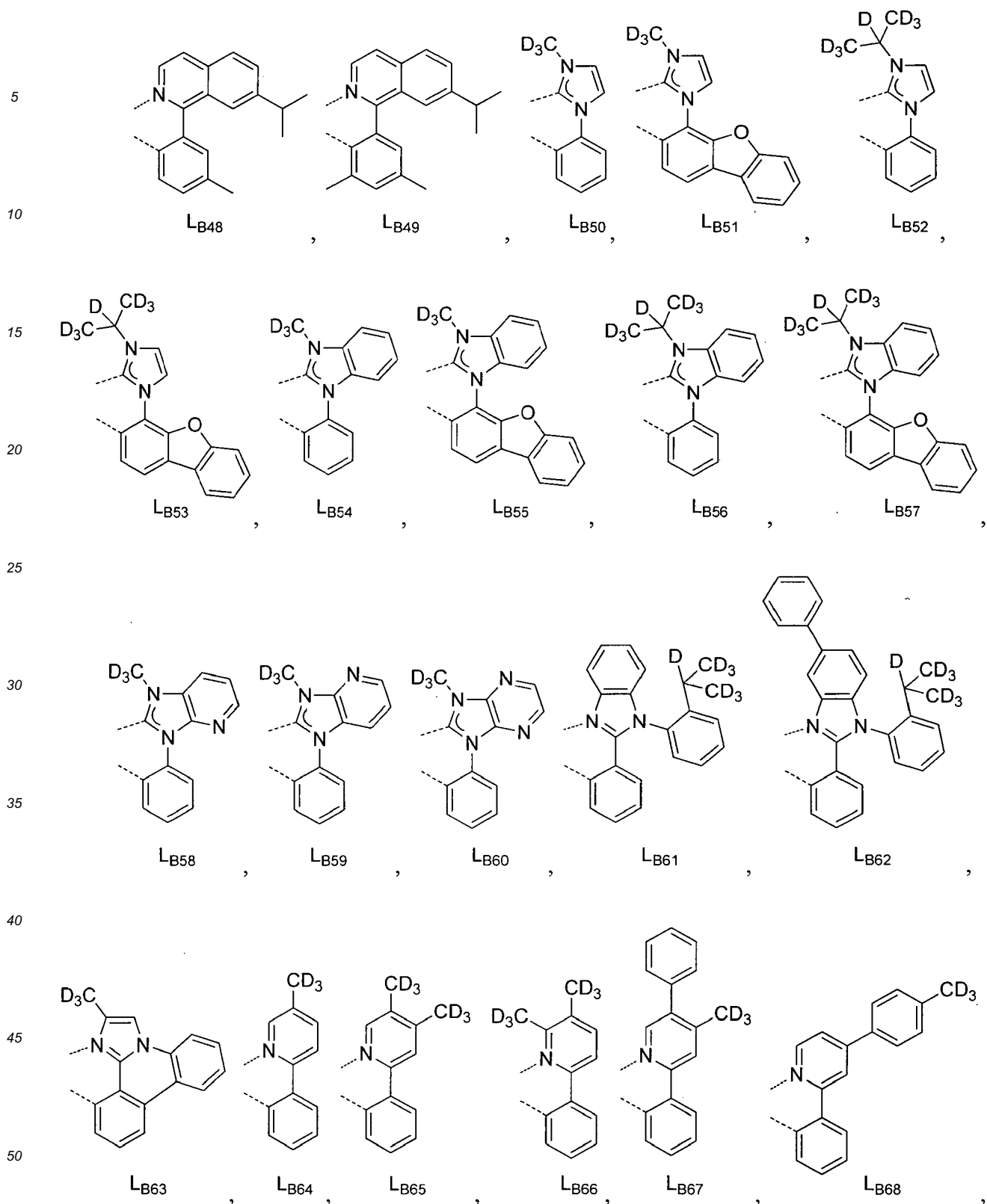


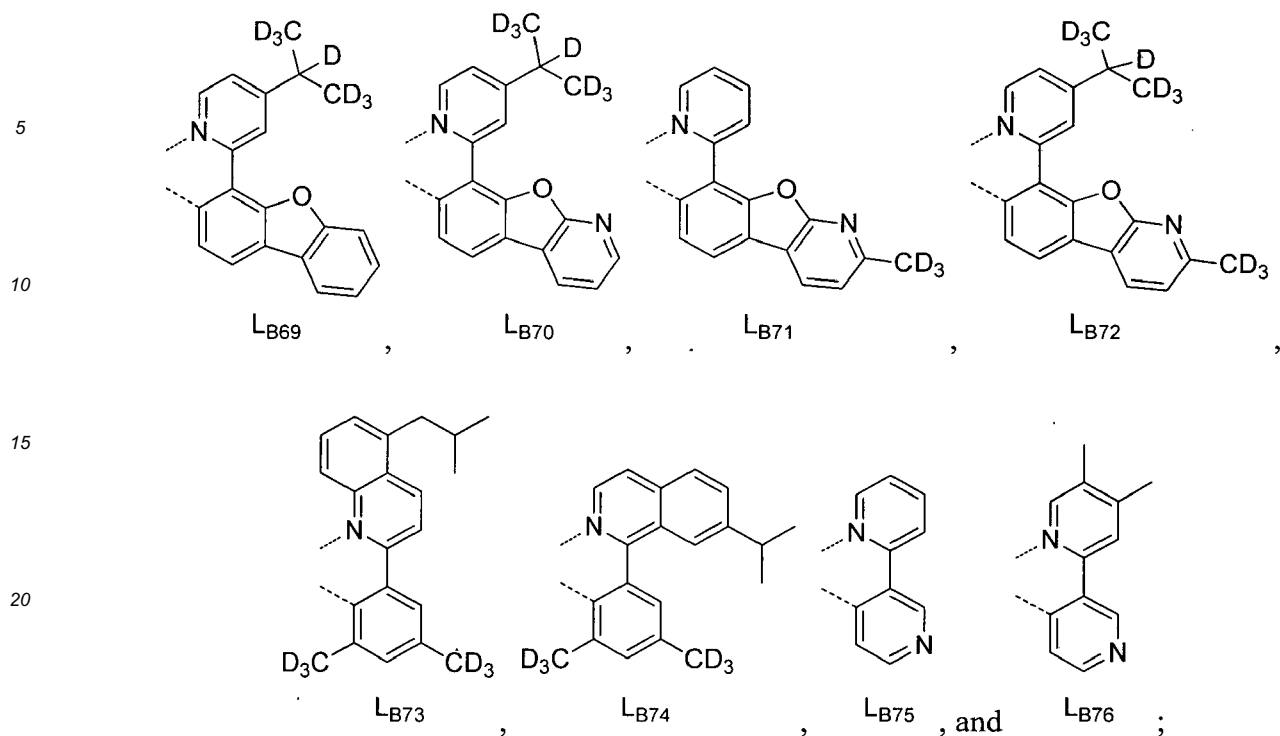
wherein L_B is selected from the group consisting of:











and

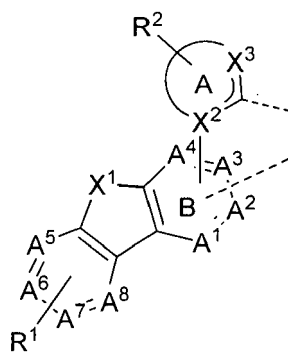
wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Compound 1 to Compound 6080, wherein each Compound x has the formula $Ir(L_{Ak})(L_{Bj})_2$ wherein $x = 80j + k - 80$, k is an integer from 1 to 80, and j is an integer from 1 to 76.

37. A first device comprising a first organic light emitting device, the first organic light emitting device comprising:

an anode;

a cathode; and

an organic layer, disposed between the anode and the cathode, comprising a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen;

wherein X^1 is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X^2 and X^3 each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R^1 and R^2 are optionally linked together to form a ring;

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

38. The first device of paragraph 37, wherein the first device is selected from the group consisting of a consumer product, an electronic component module, an organic light-emitting device, and a lighting panel.

39. The first device of paragraph 37 or 38, wherein the organic layer is an emissive layer and the compound is an emissive dopant or a non-emissive dopant.

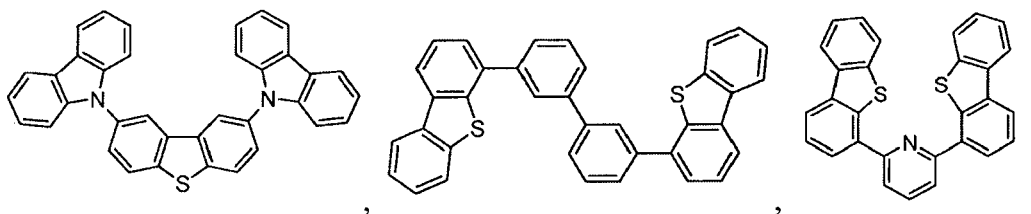
40. The first device of any one of paragraphs 37 to 39, wherein the organic layer further comprises a host, wherein the host comprises a triphenylene containing benzo-fused thiophene or benzo-fused furan; wherein any substituent in the host is an unfused substituent independently selected from the group consisting of C_nH_{2n+1} , OC_nH_{2n+1} , OAr_1 , $N(C_nH_{2n+1})_2$, $N(Ar_1)(Ar_2)$, $CH=CH-C_nH_{2n+1}$, $C\equiv CC_nH_{2n+1}$, Ar_1 , Ar_1-Ar_2 , $C_nH_{2n}-Ar_1$, or no substitution;

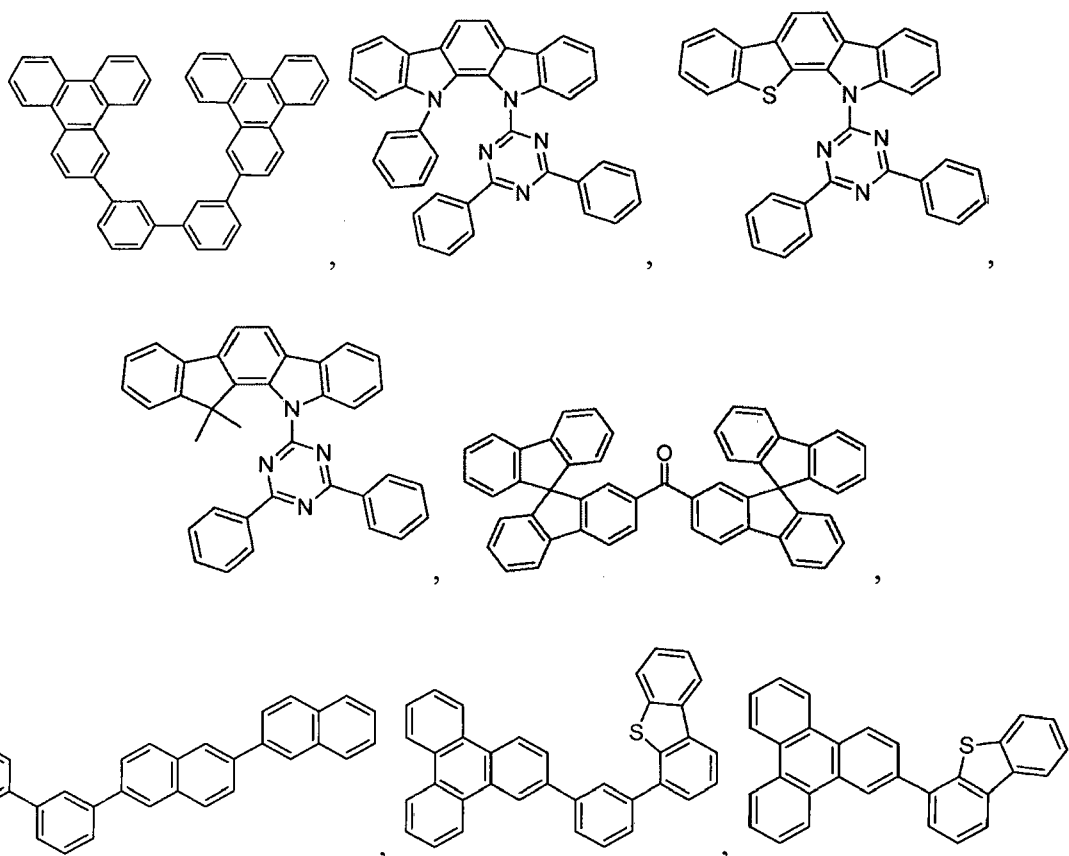
wherein n is from 1 to 10; and

wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of benzene, biphenyl, naphthalene, triphenylene, carbazole, and heteroaromatic analogs thereof.

41. The first device of any one of paragraphs 37 to 40, wherein the organic layer further comprises a host, wherein the host comprises at least one chemical group selected from the group consisting of triphenylene, carbazole, dibenzothiophene, dibenzofuran, dibenzoselenophene, azatriphenylene, azacarbazole, aza-dibenzothiophene, aza-dibenzofuran, and aza-dibenzoselenophene.

42. The first device of any one of paragraphs 37 to 41, wherein the organic layer further comprises a host and the host is selected from the group consisting of:

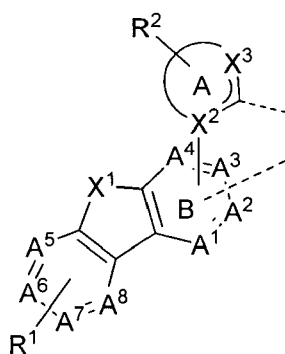




and combinations thereof.

43. The first device of paragraph 37, wherein the organic layer further comprises a host and the host comprises a metal complex.

44. A formulation comprising a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A^1 , A^2 , A^3 , A^4 , A^5 , A^6 , A^7 , and A^8 is nitrogen;

wherein X^1 is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X^2 and X^3 each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X^2 -C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹ and R² are optionally linked together to form a ring;

wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

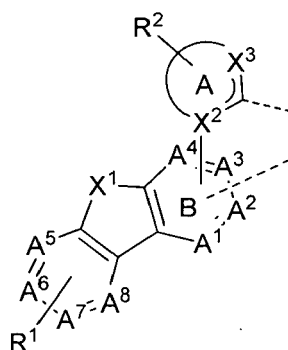
wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

Claims

1. A compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is nitrogen;

wherein X¹ is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X² and X³ each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X²-C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹ and R² are optionally linked together to form a ring;

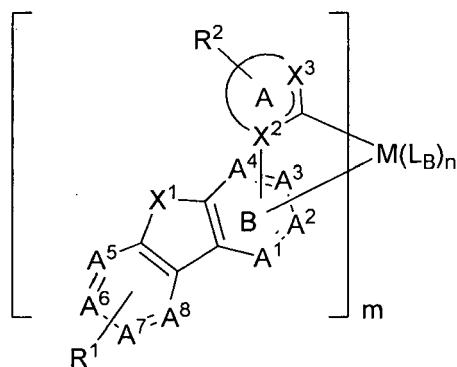
wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

2. The compound of Claim 1, wherein the compound has the formula M(L_A)_m(L_B)_n, having the structure:

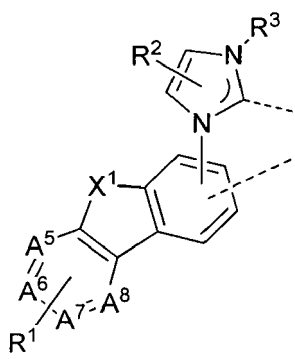


, Formula II;

wherein L_B is a different ligand from L_A ;

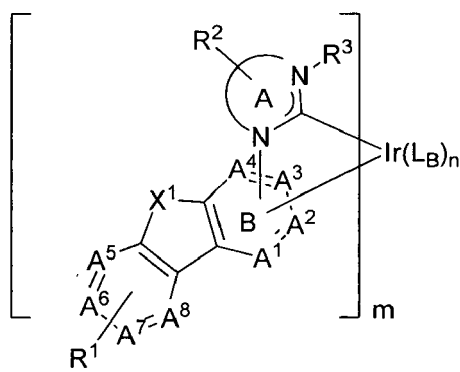
wherein m is an integer from 1 to the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M ; and $m+n$ is the maximum number of ligands that may be coordinated to the metal M .

3. The compound of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the ligand L_A is:



wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

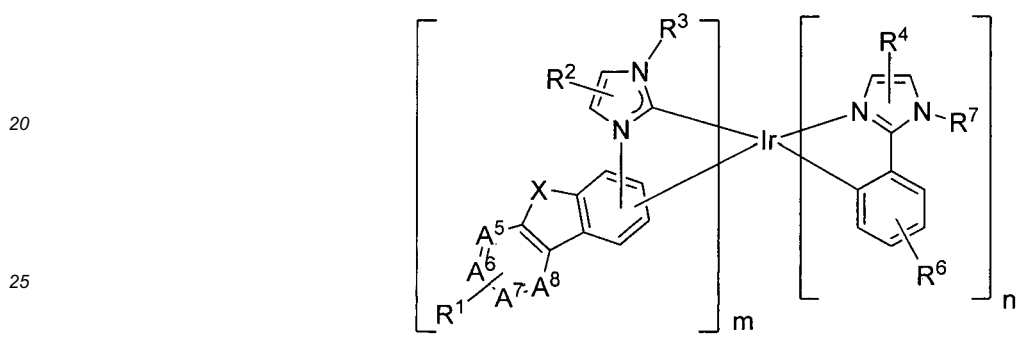
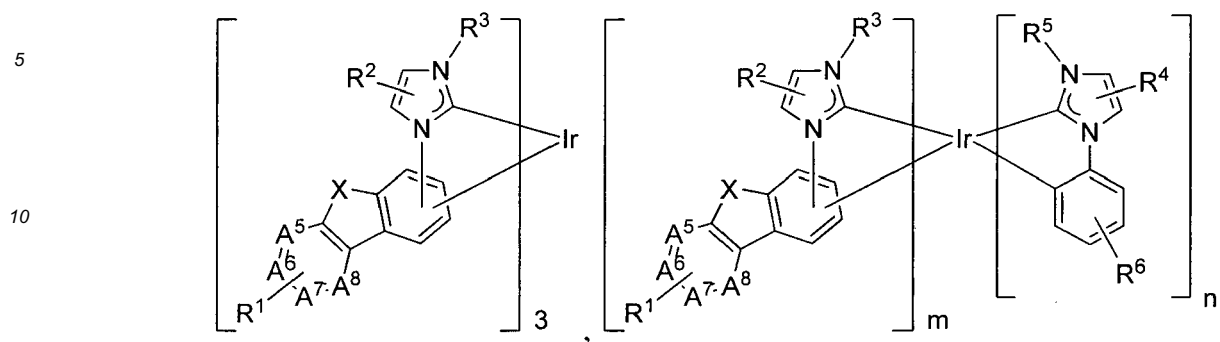
4. The compound of Claim 2, wherein the compound has the formula $Ir(L_A)_m(L_B)_n$, having the structure:



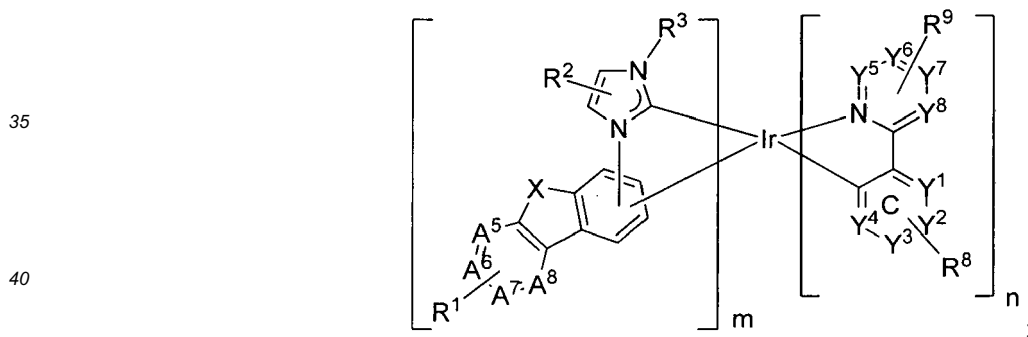
wherein $m + n = 3$; and

wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

5. The compound of Claim 4, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



and



wherein R⁴ represents mono, di-substitution, or no substitution;

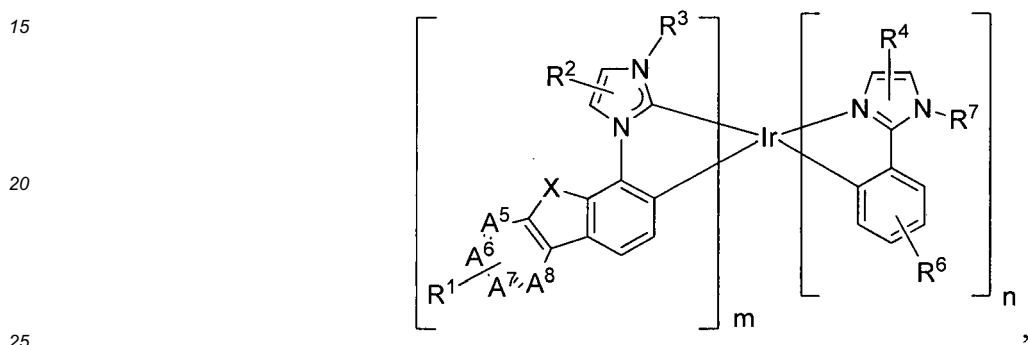
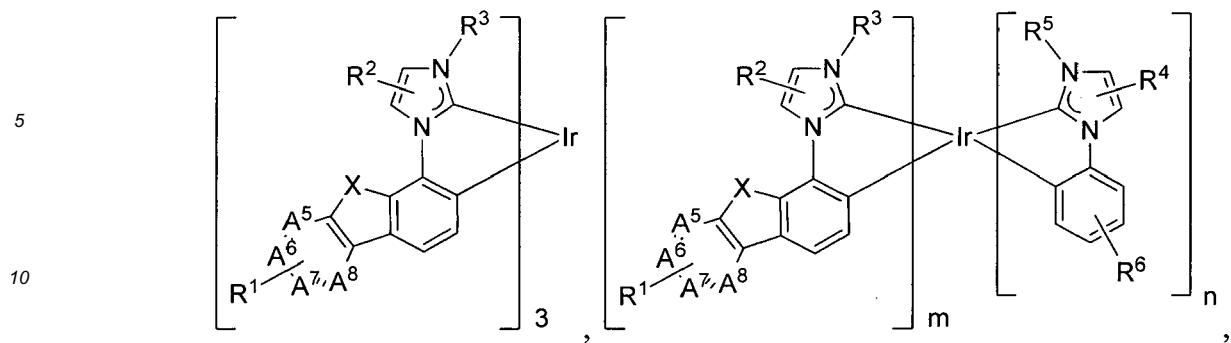
wherein R⁶, R⁸ and R⁹ each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴, Y⁵, Y⁶, Y⁷, and Y⁸ comprise carbon or nitrogen;

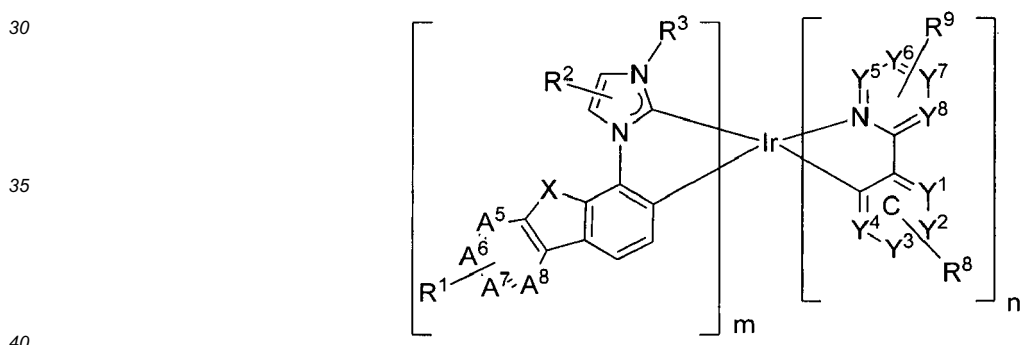
wherein R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof; and

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are optionally linked together to form a ring.

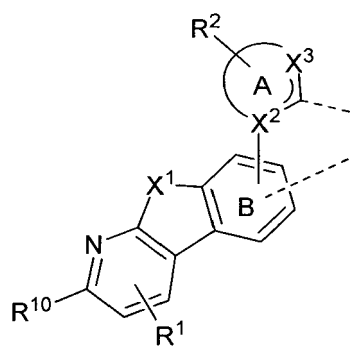
6. The compound of Claim 5, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



and

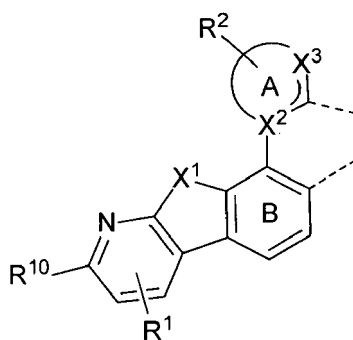


7. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R³ is alkyl or cycloalkyl.
8. The compound of Claim 5, wherein R³ is aryl or substituted aryl.
9. The compound of Claim 1, wherein the ligand L_A is:

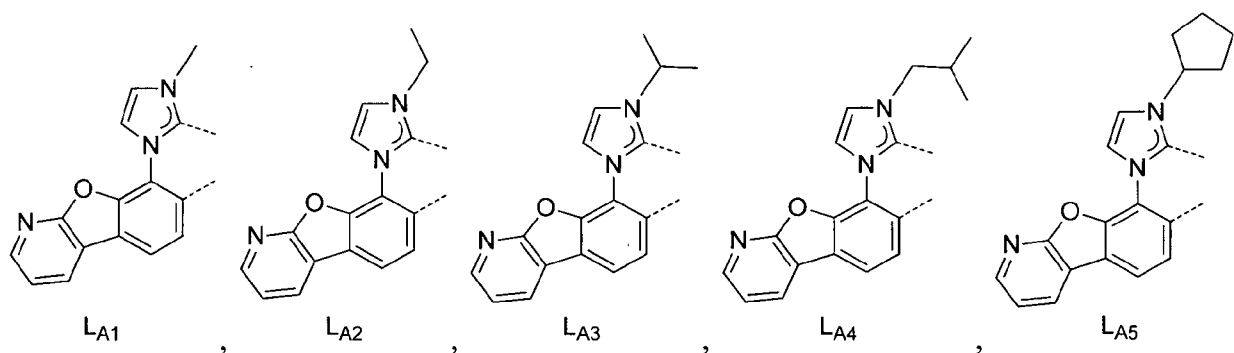


wherein R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof.

10. The compound of Claim 9, wherein the ligand L_A is:

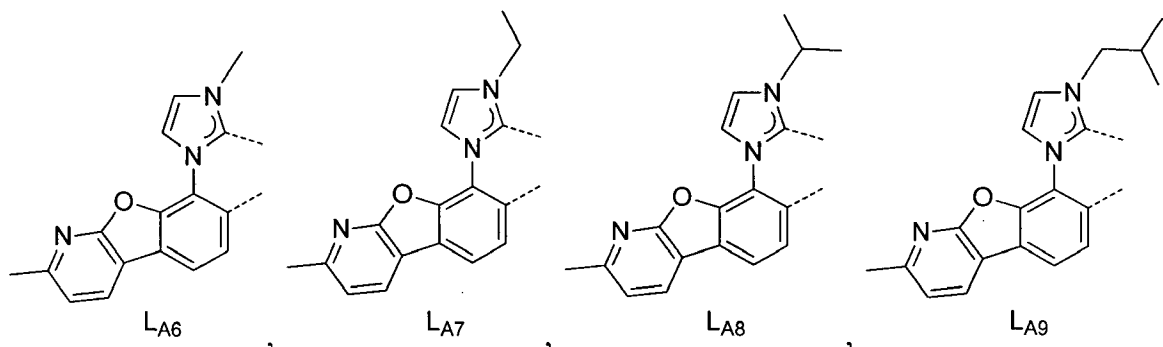


11. The compound of Claim 2, wherein L_A is selected from the group consisting of:



5

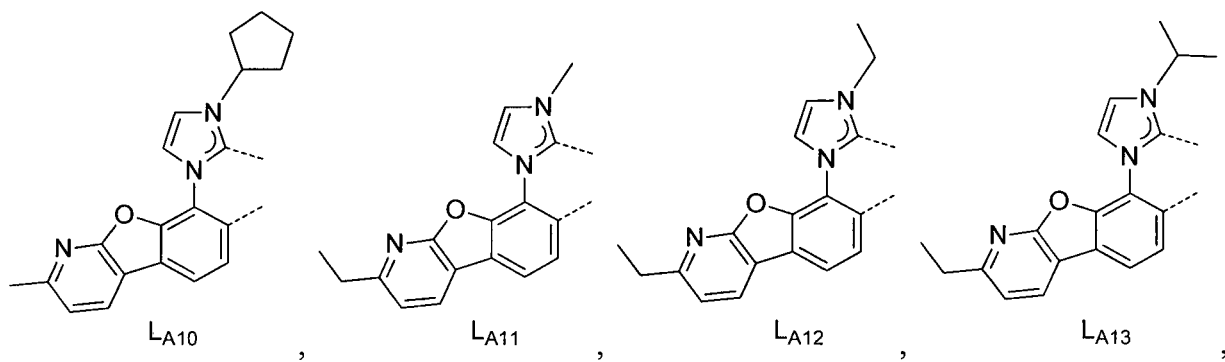
10



15

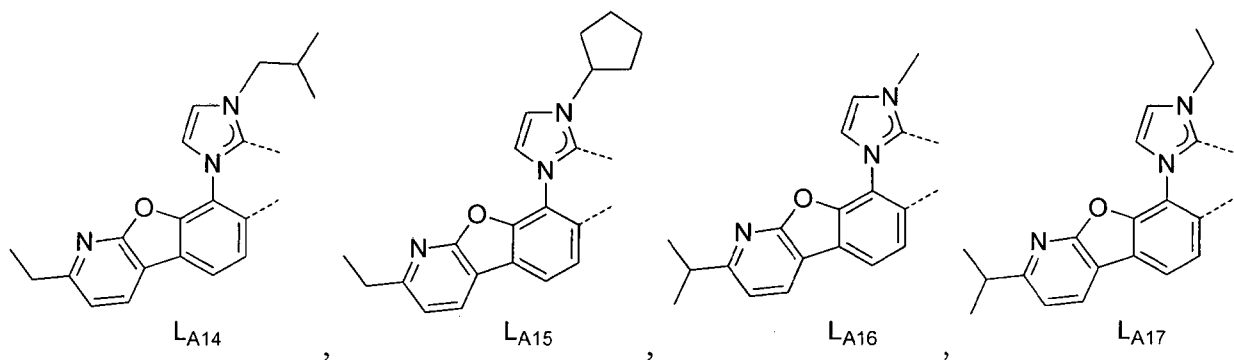
20

25



30

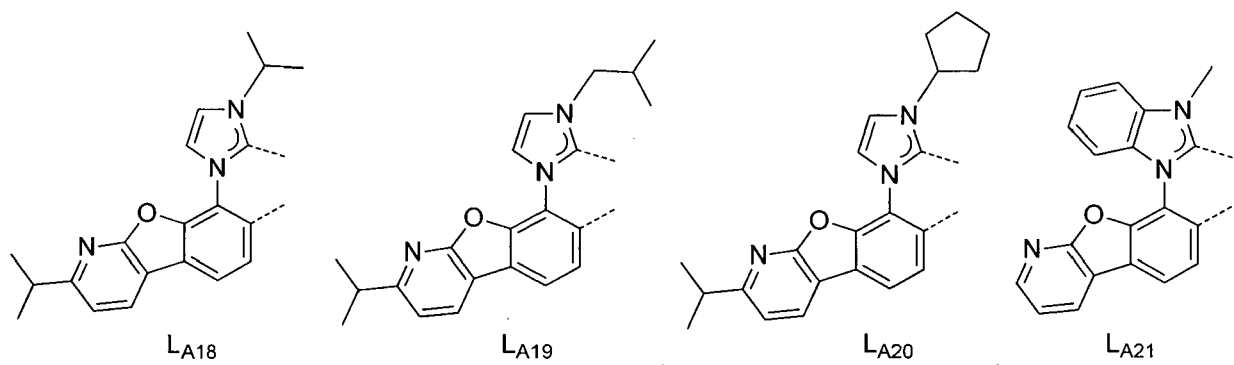
35



40

45

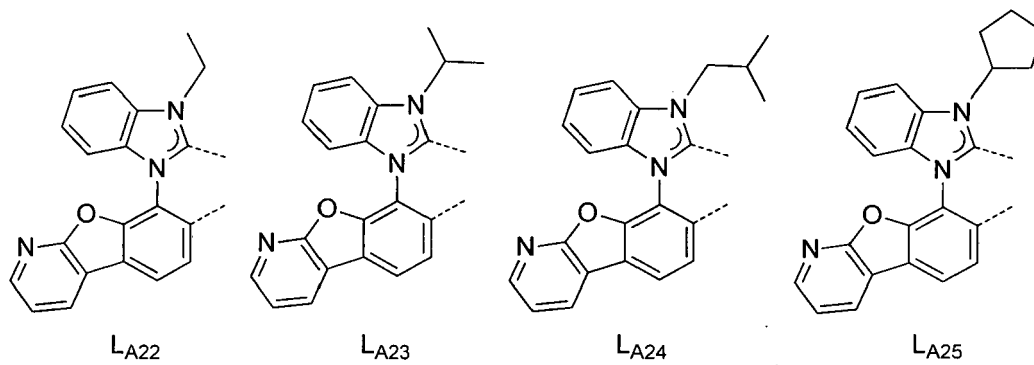
50



55

5

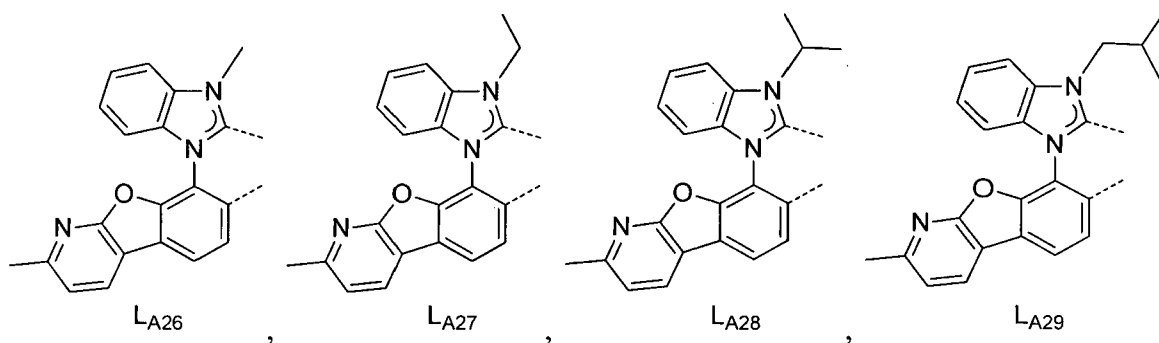
10



15

20

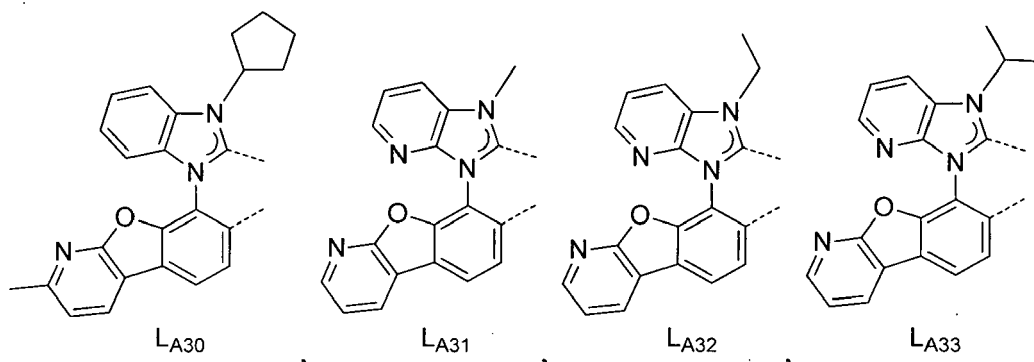
25



30

35

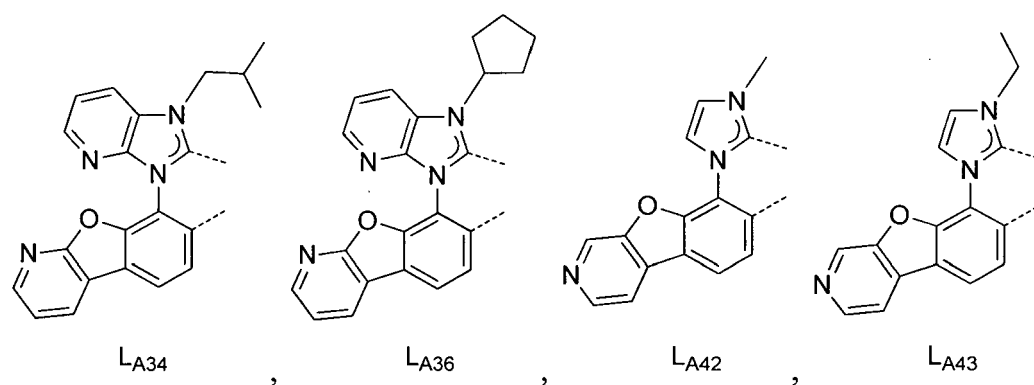
40



45

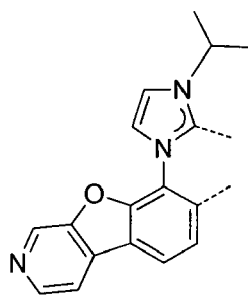
50

55



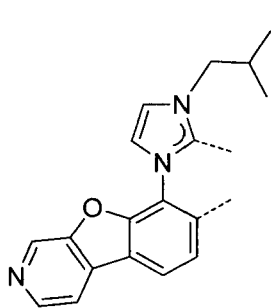
5

10



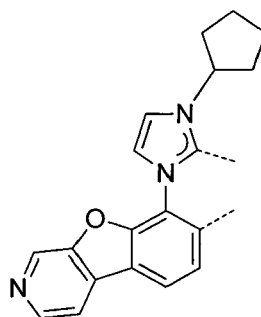
L_{A44}

,



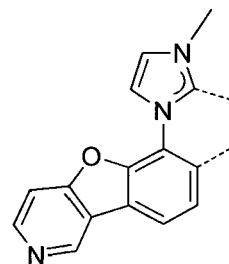
L_{A45}

,



L_{A46}

,

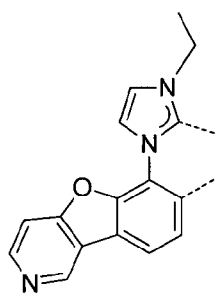


L_{A47}

,

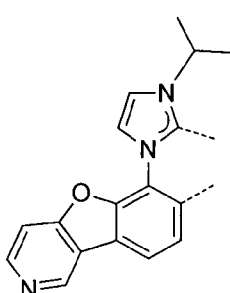
15

20



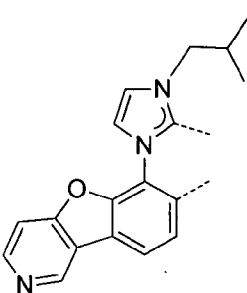
L_{A48}

,



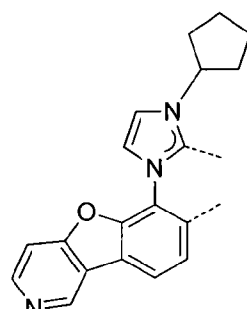
L_{A49}

,



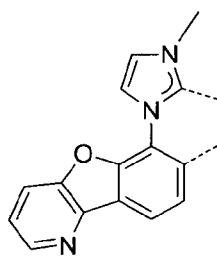
L_{A50}

,



L_{A51}

,

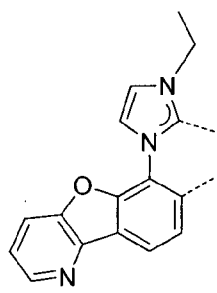


L_{A52}

,

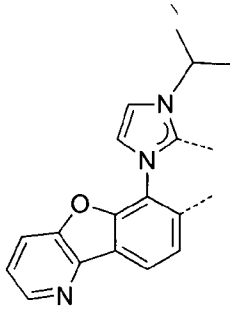
25

30



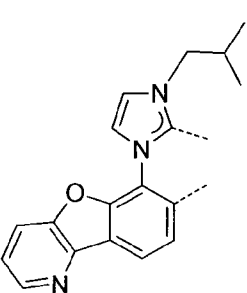
L_{A53}

,



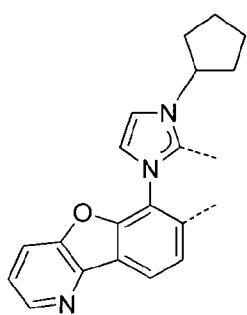
L_{A54}

,



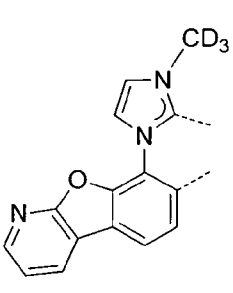
L_{A55}

,



L_{A56}

,

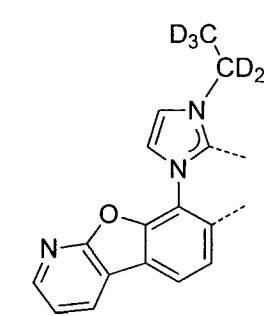


L_{A57}

,

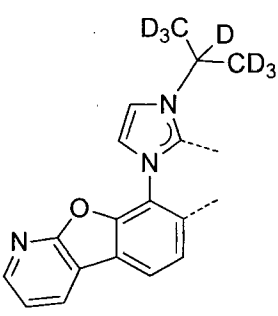
35

40



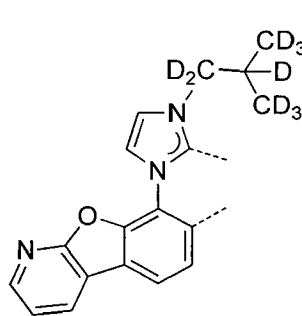
L_{A58}

,



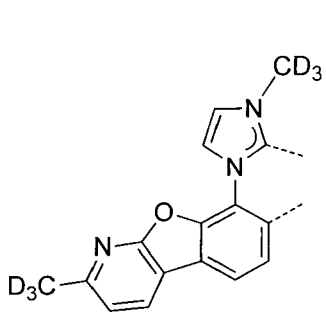
L_{A59}

,



L_{A60}

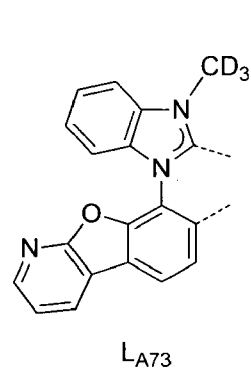
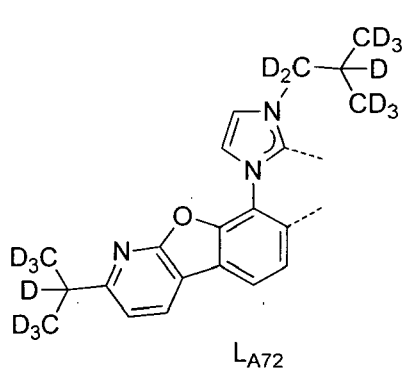
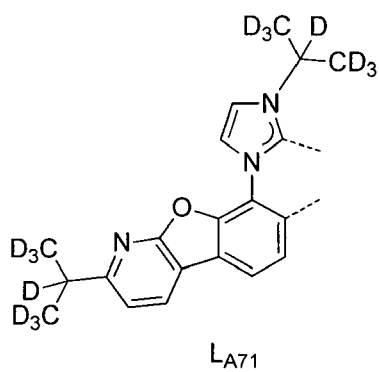
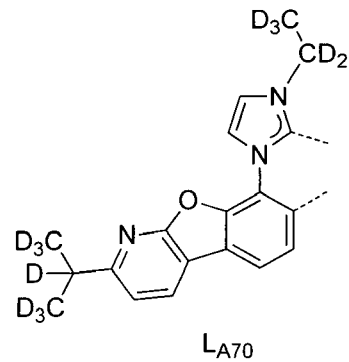
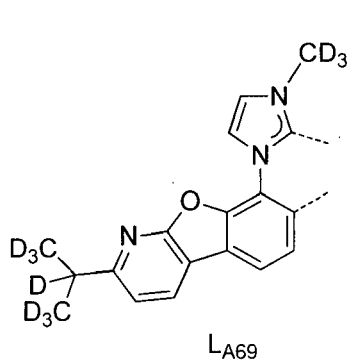
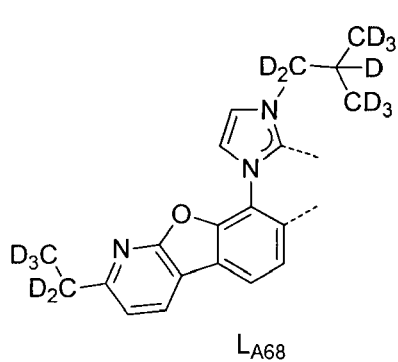
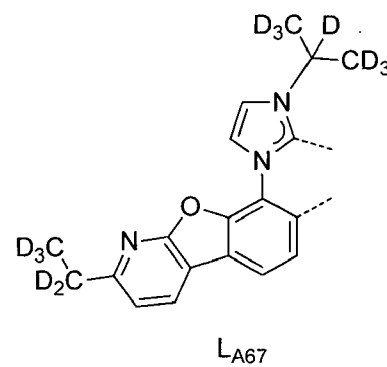
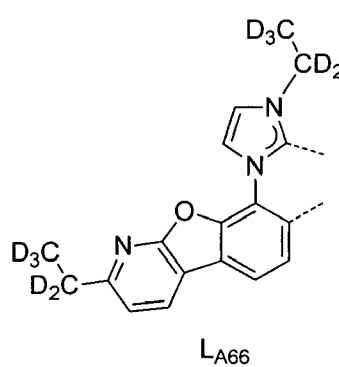
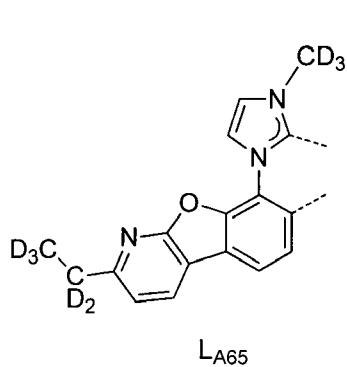
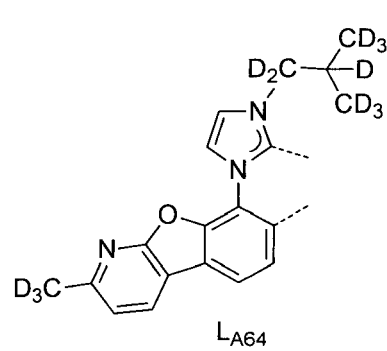
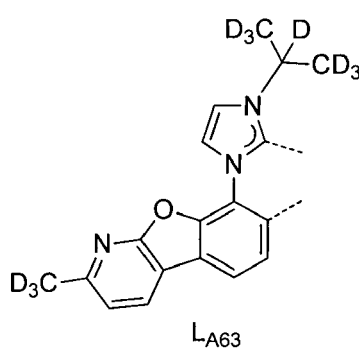
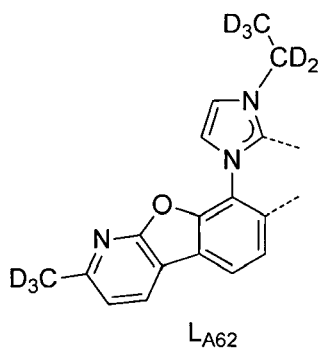
,

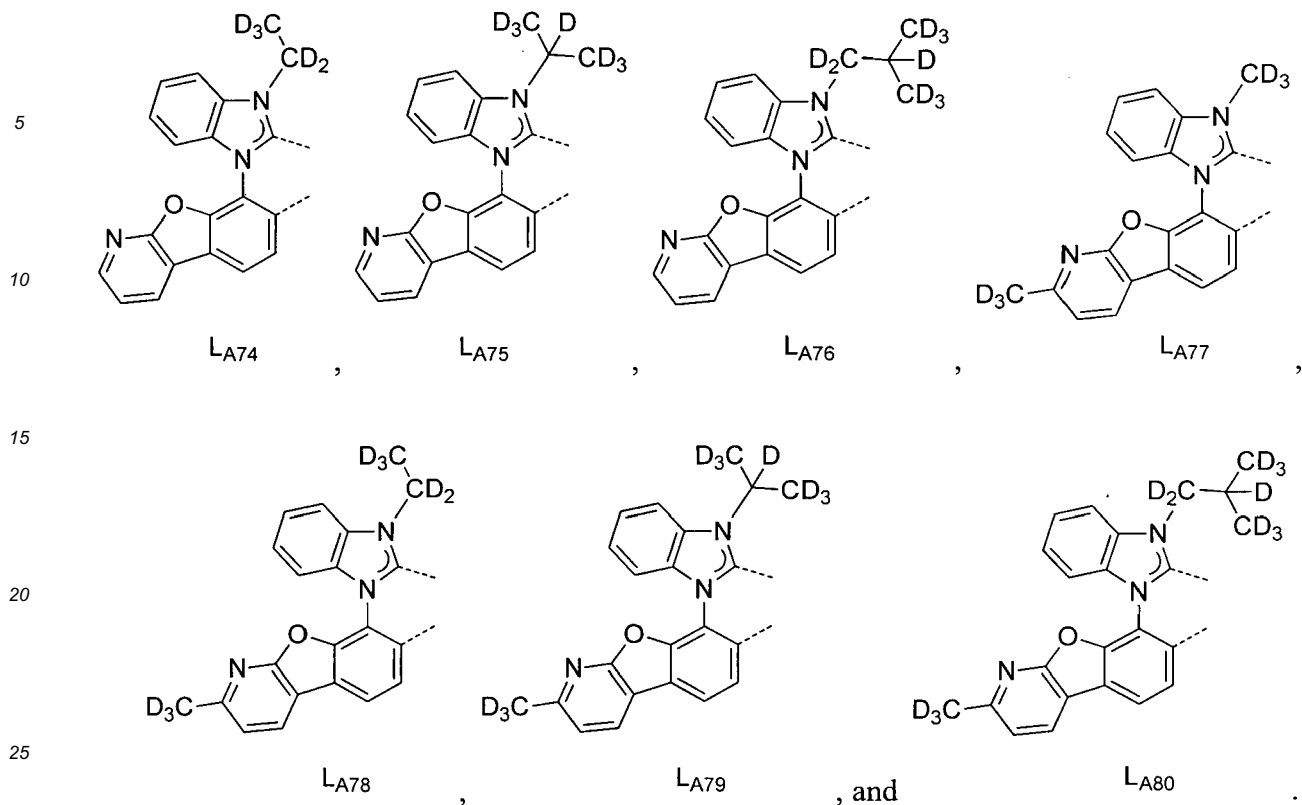


L_{A61}

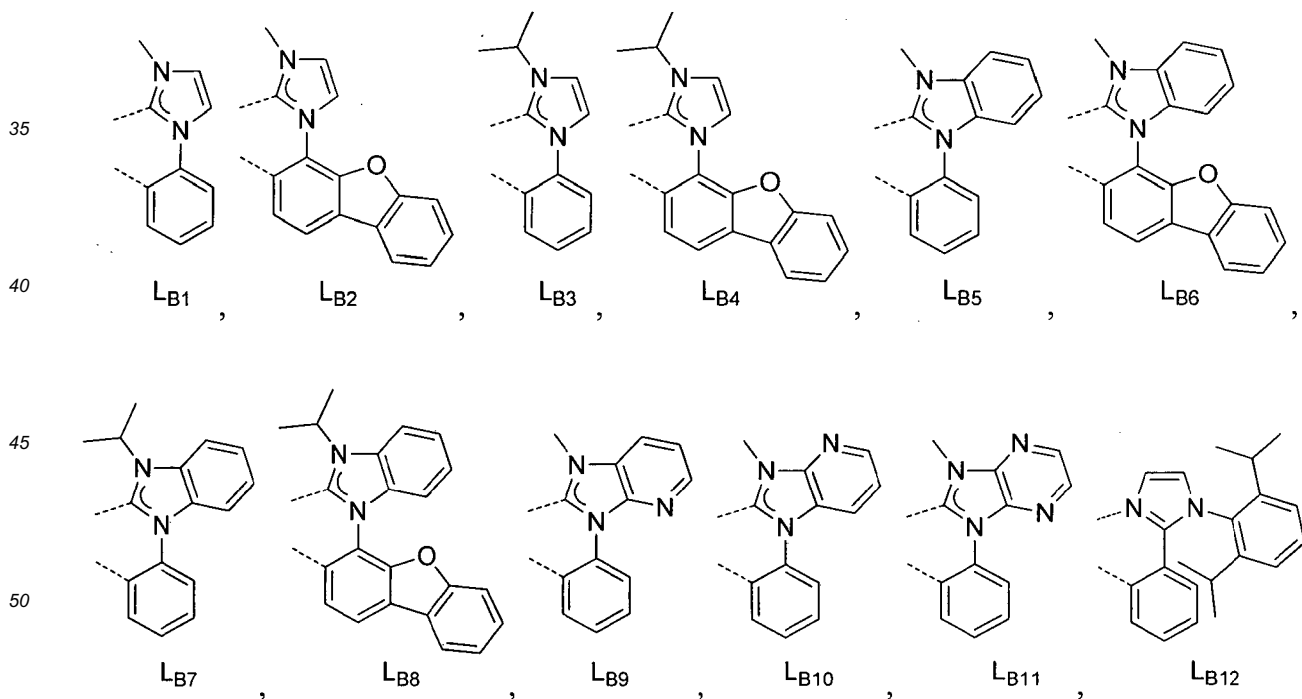
,

55





12. The compound of Claim 2, wherein L_B is selected from the group consisting of:



5

10

15

20

25

30

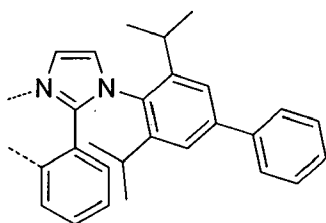
35

40

45

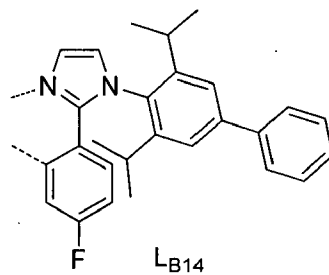
50

55



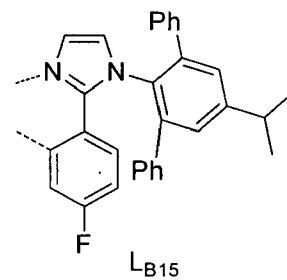
LB13

,



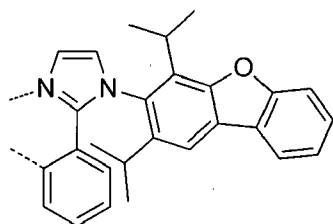
LB14

,



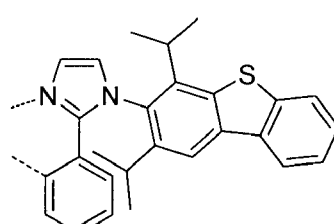
LB15

,



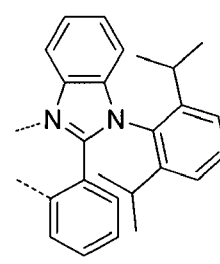
LB16

,



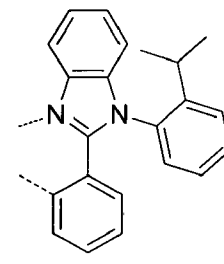
LB17

,



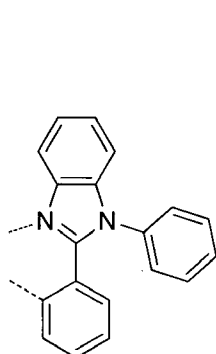
LB18

,



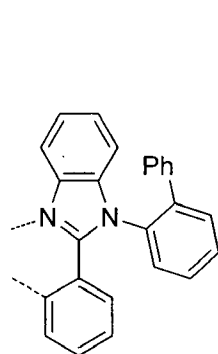
LB19

,



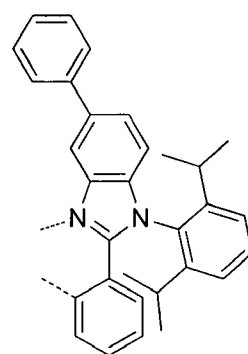
LB20

,



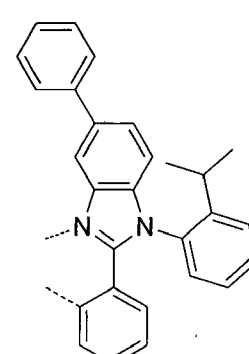
LB21

,



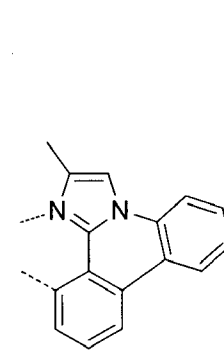
LB22

,



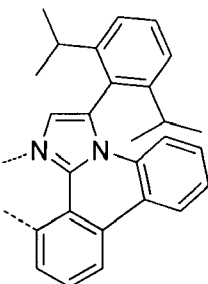
LB23

,



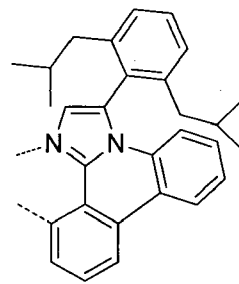
LB24

,



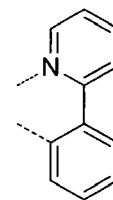
LB25

,



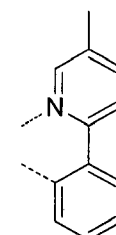
LB26

,



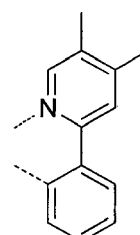
LB27

,



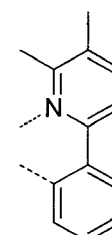
LB28

,



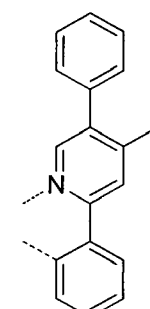
LB29

,



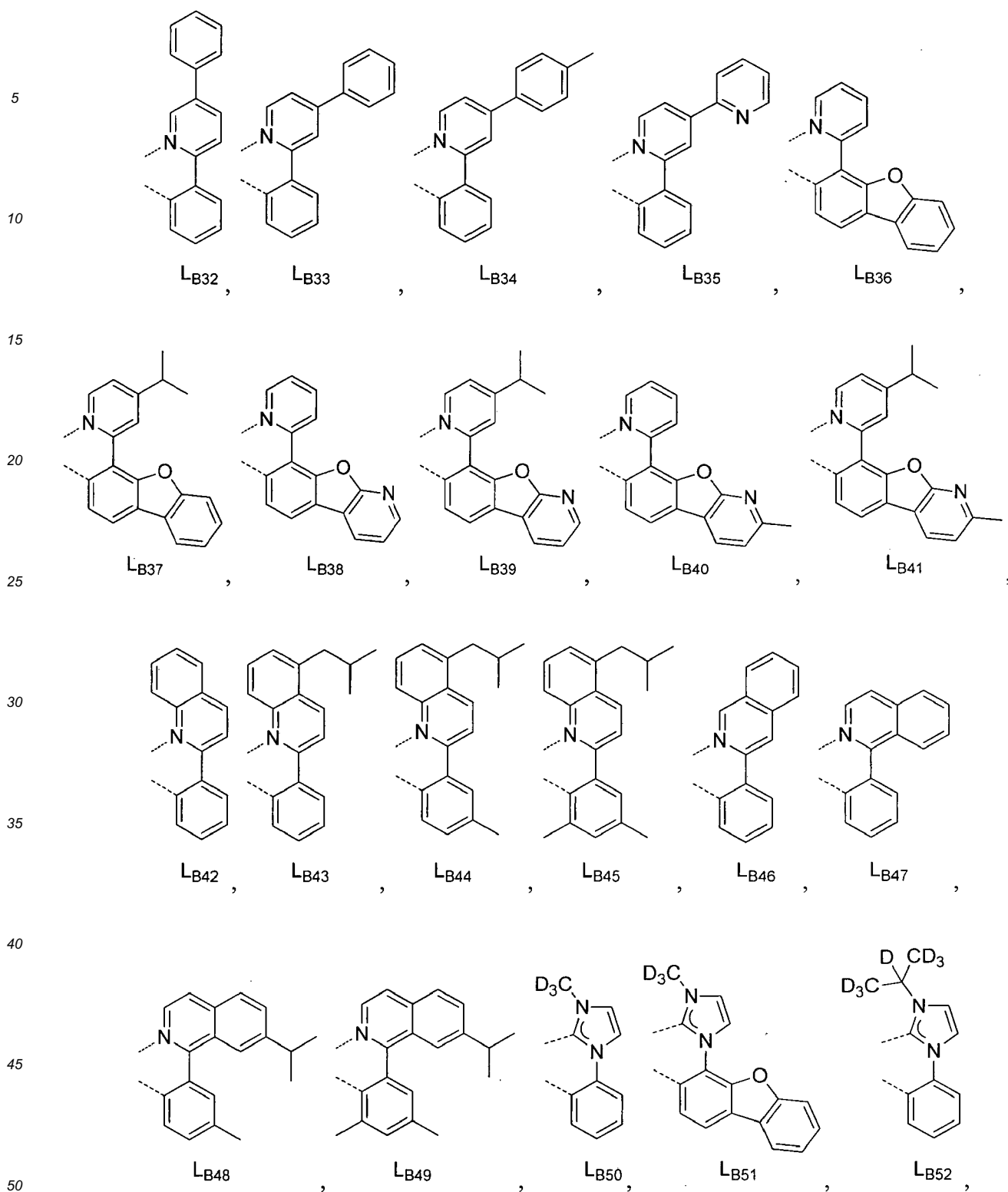
LB30

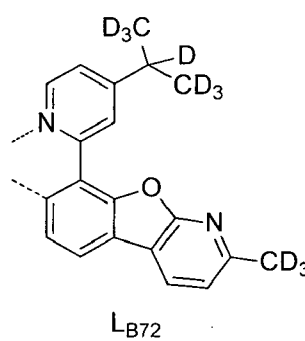
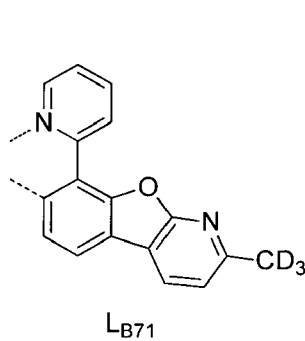
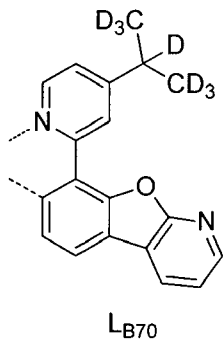
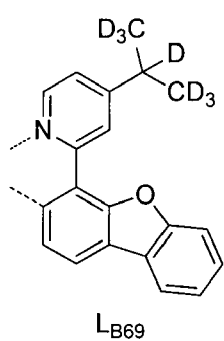
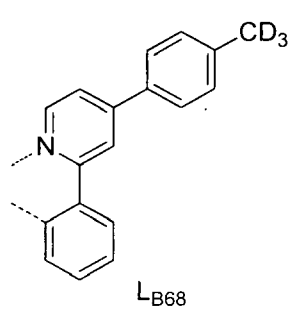
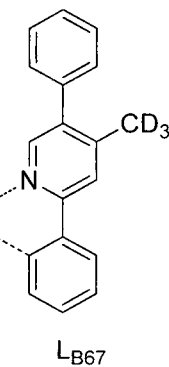
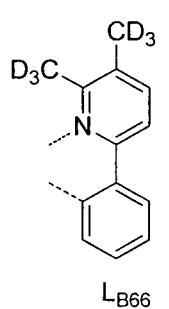
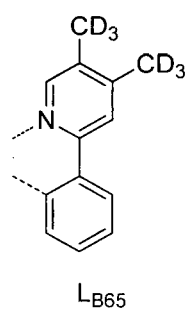
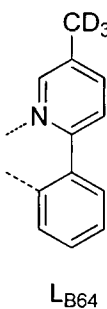
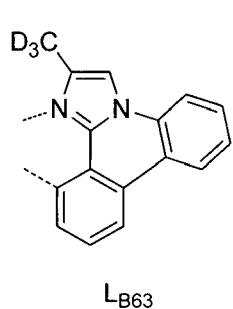
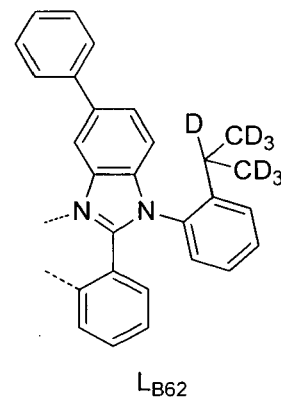
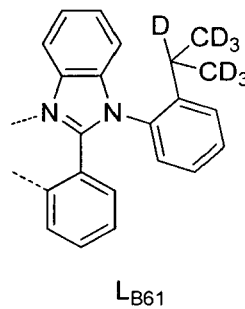
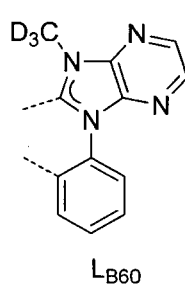
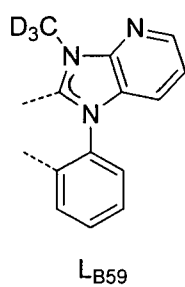
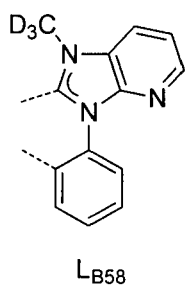
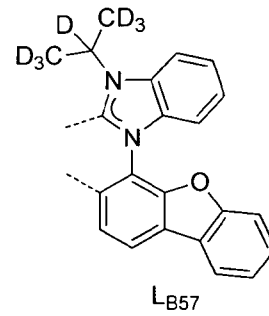
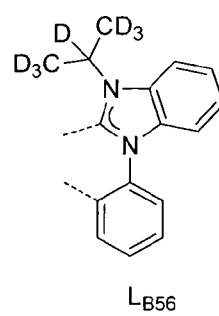
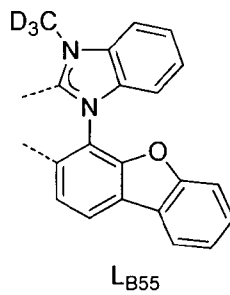
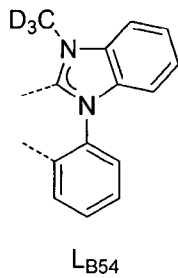
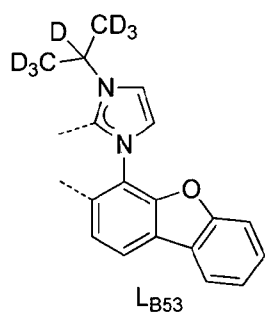
,



LB31

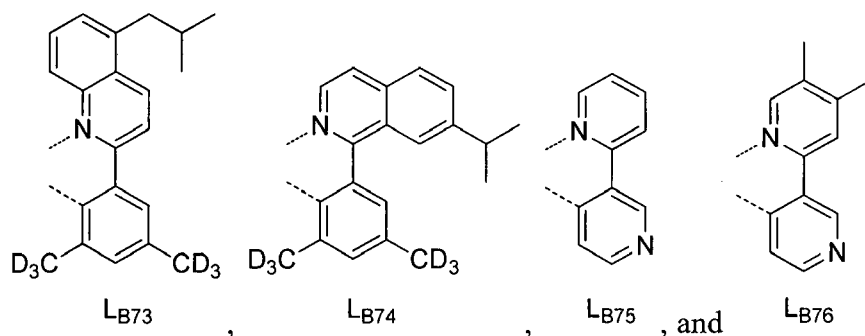
,





5

10

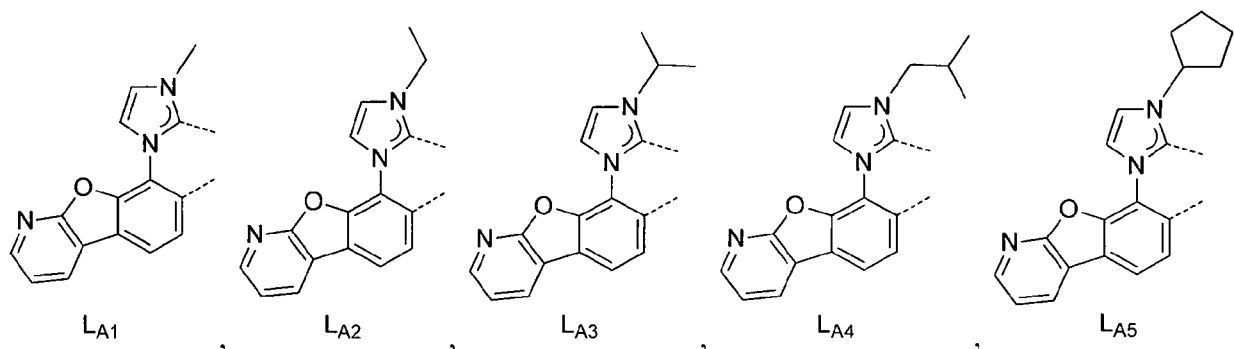


13. The compound of Claim 4, wherein L_A is selected from the group consisting of:

15

20

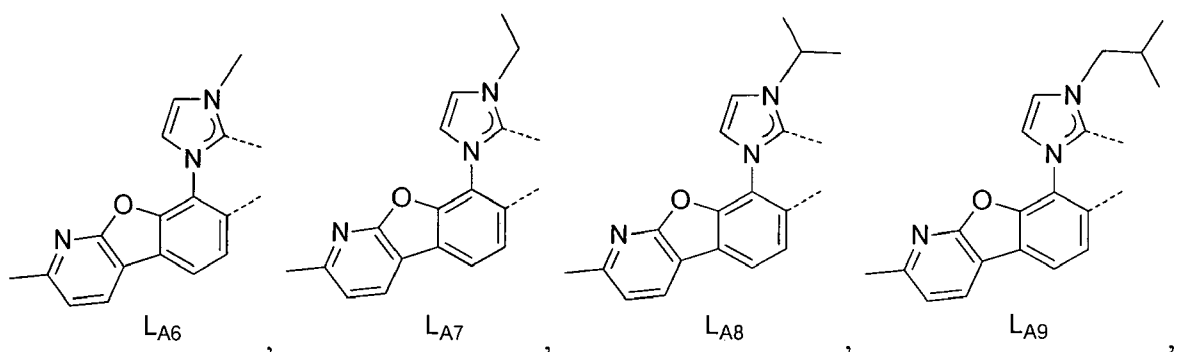
25



30

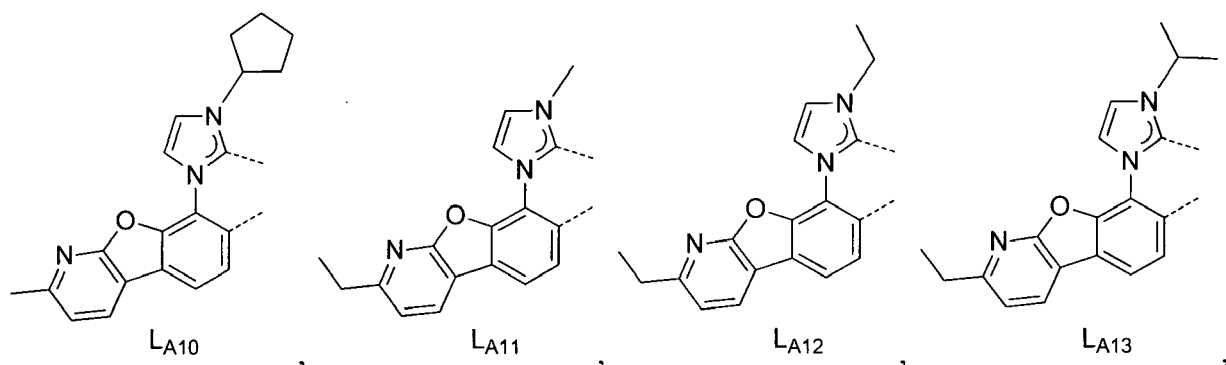
35

40

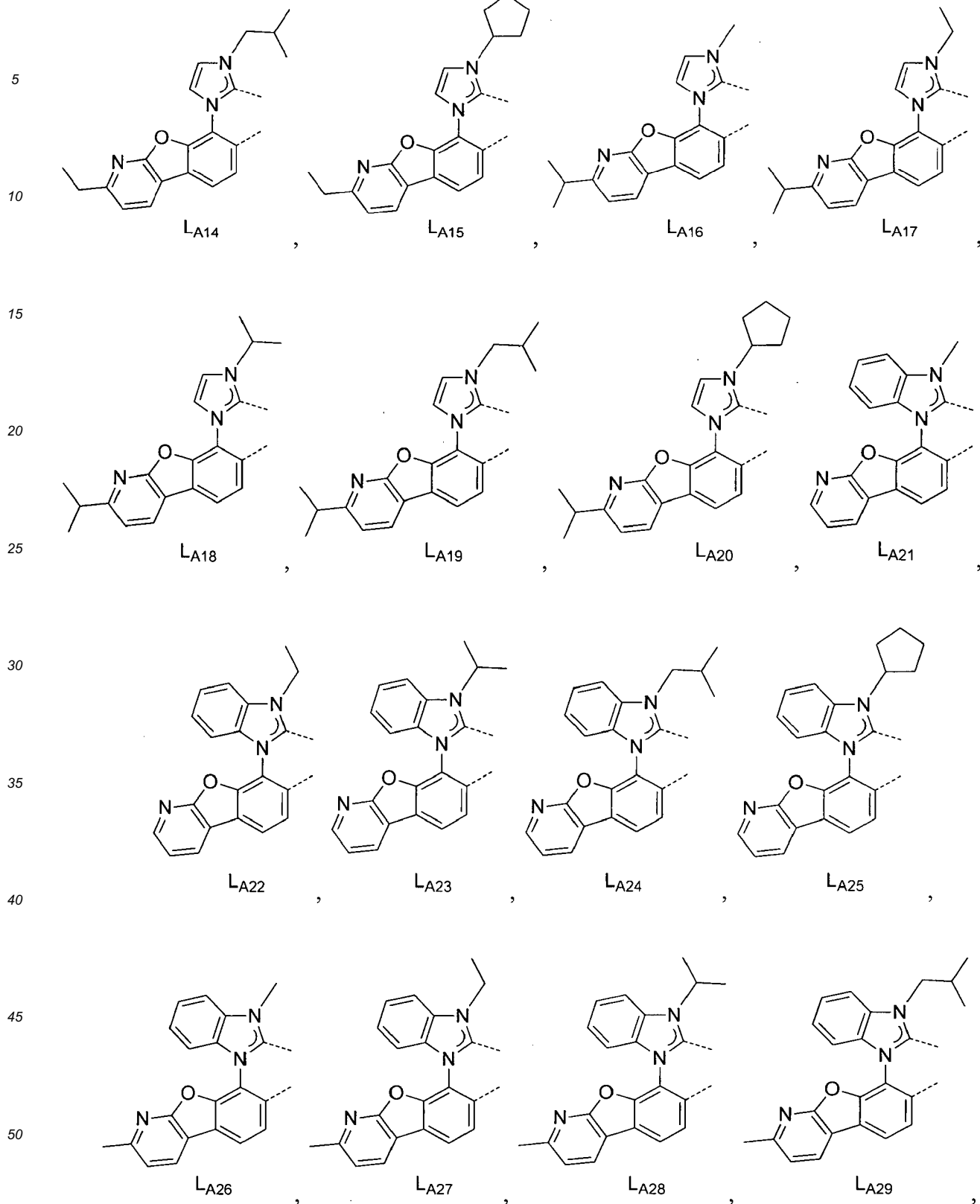


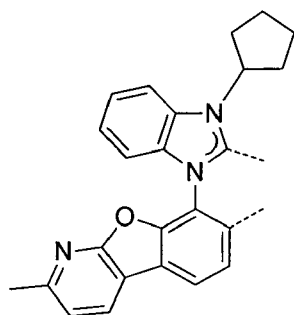
45

50

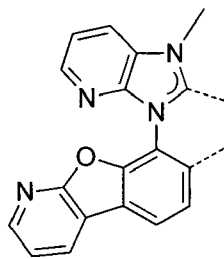


55

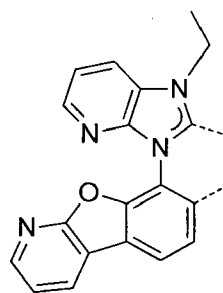




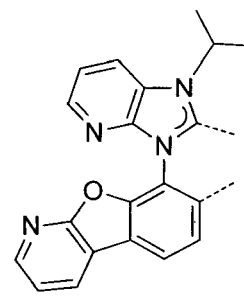
L_{A30}



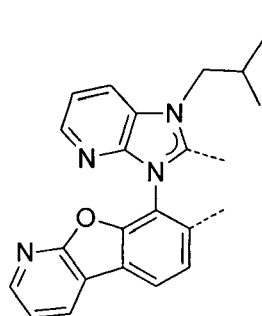
L_{A31}



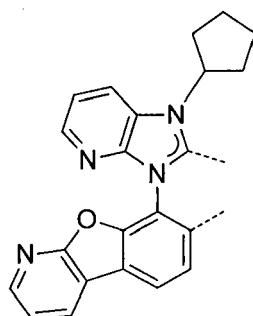
L_{A32}



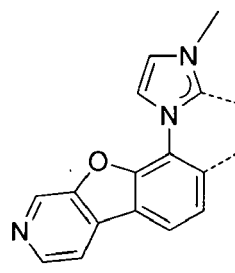
L_{A33}



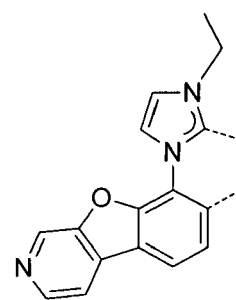
L_{A34}



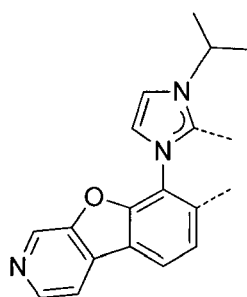
L_{A36}



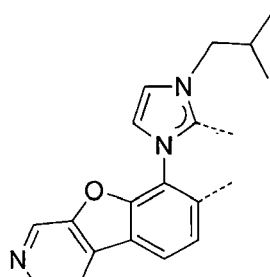
L_{A42}



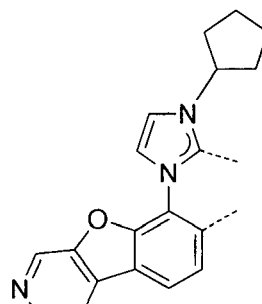
L_{A43}



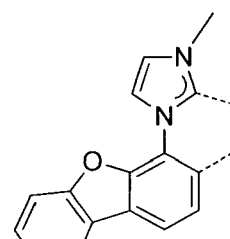
L_{A44}



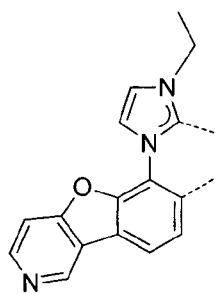
L_{A45}



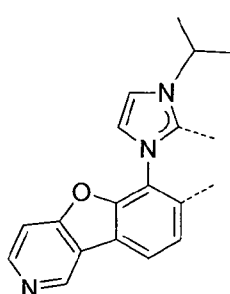
L_{A46}



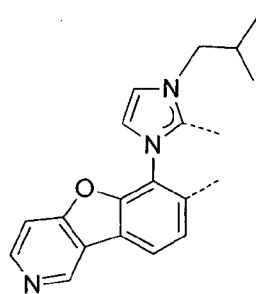
L_{A47}



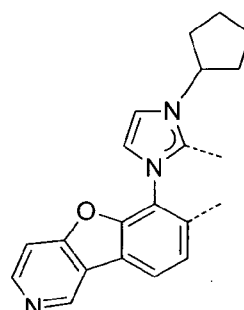
L_{A48}



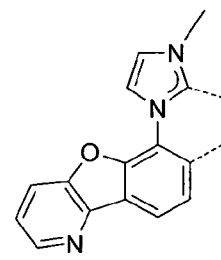
L_{A49}



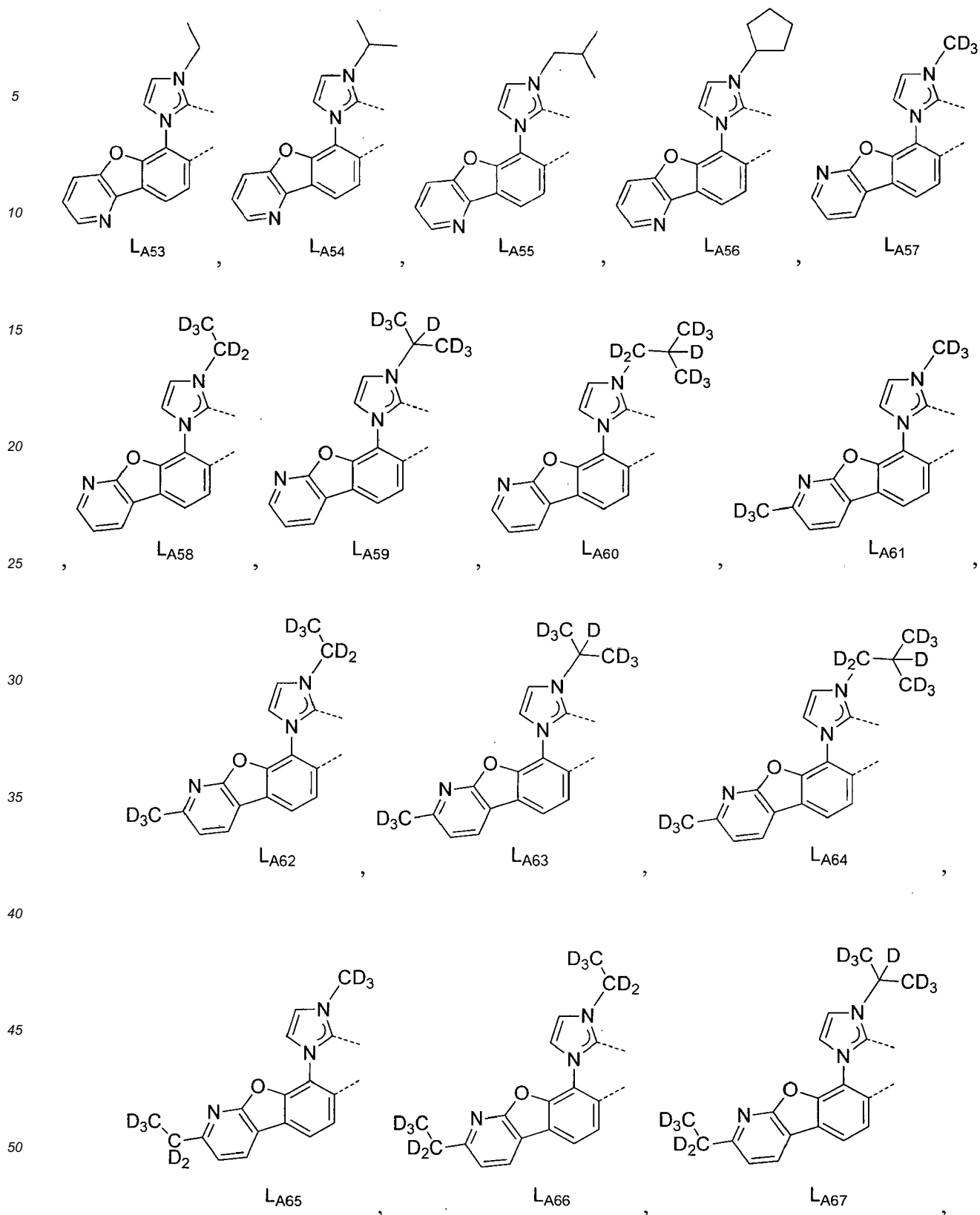
L_{A50}

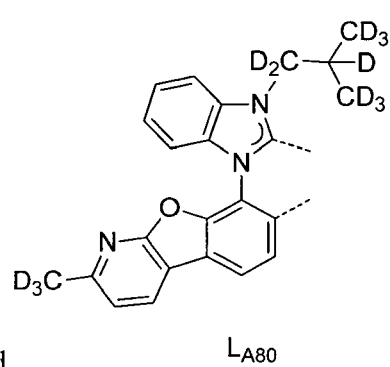
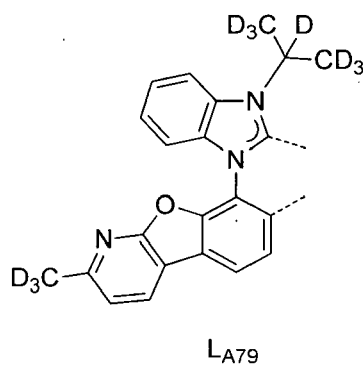
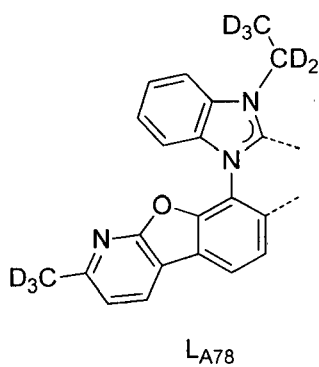
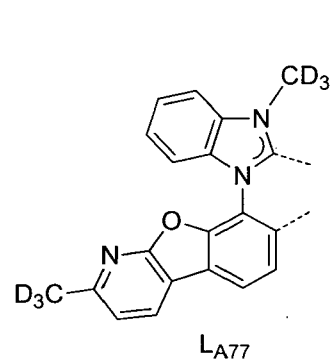
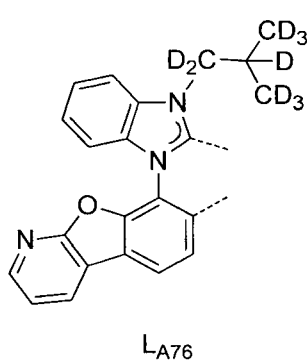
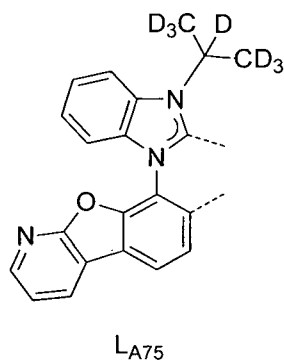
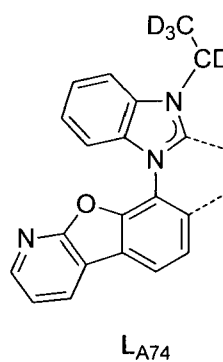
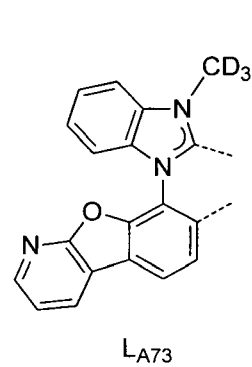
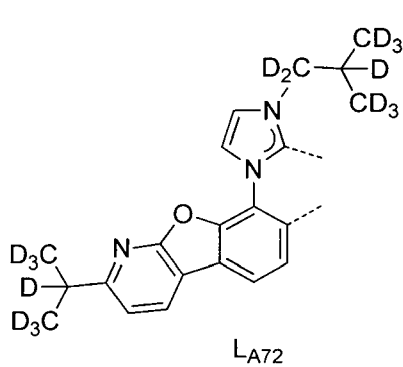
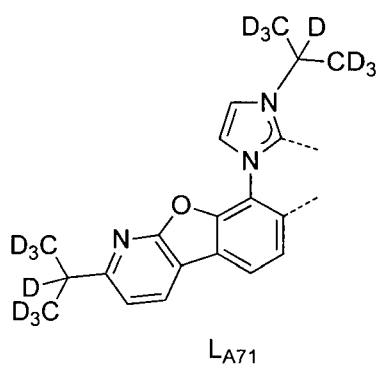
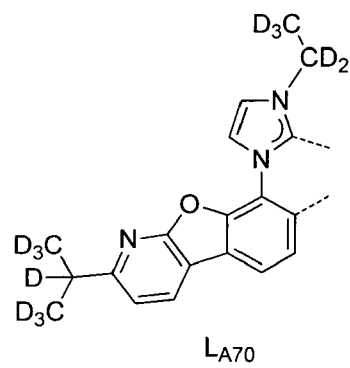
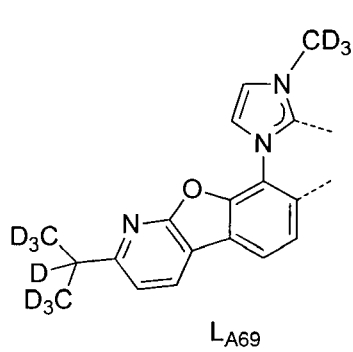
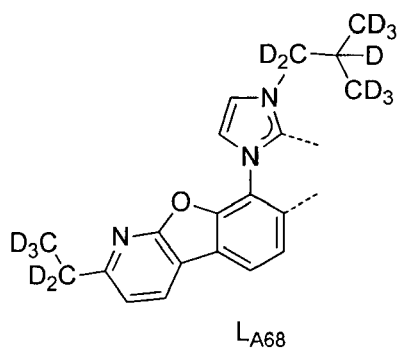


L_{A51}

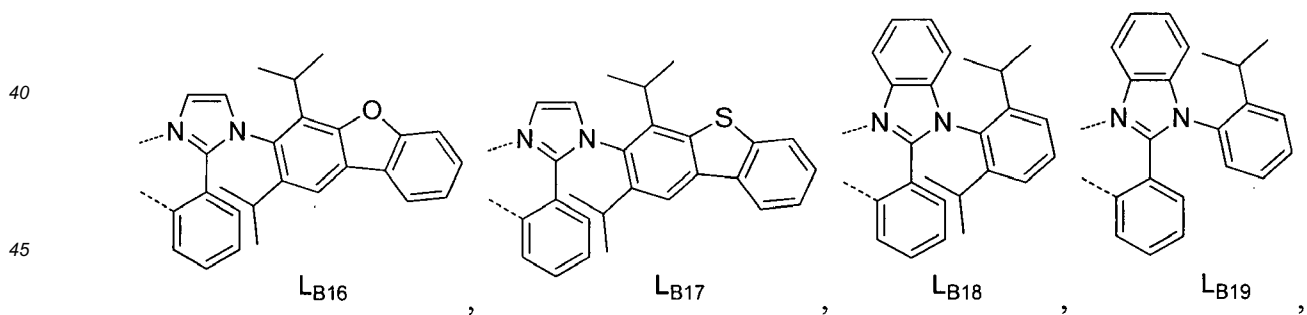
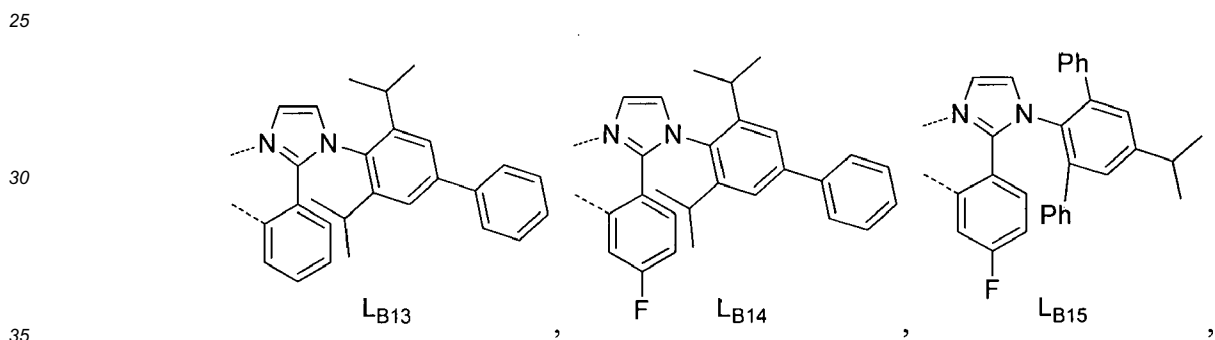
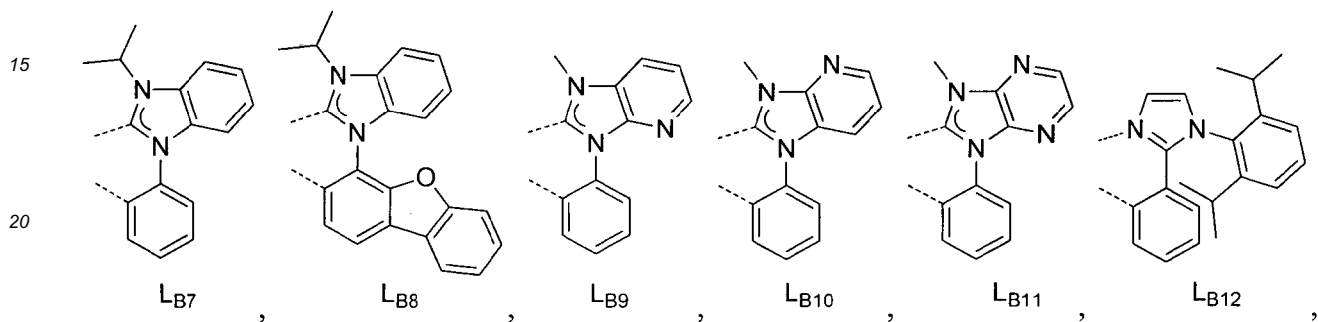
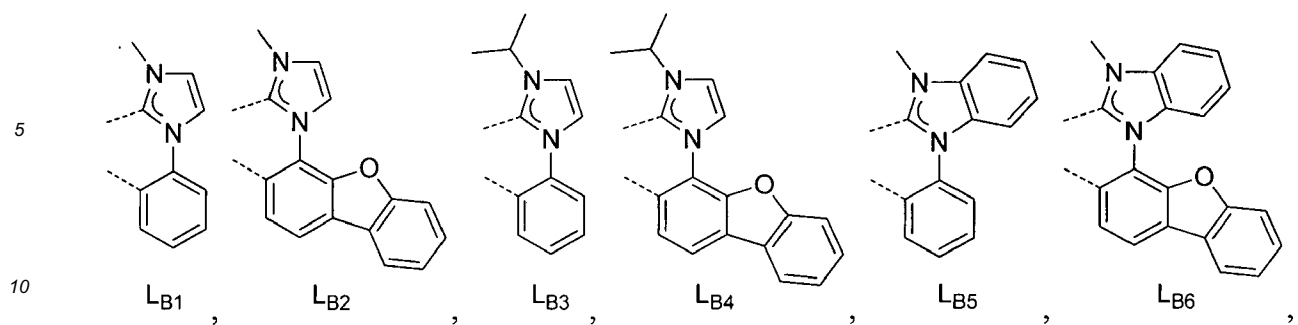


L_{A52}





wherein L_B is selected from the group consisting of:



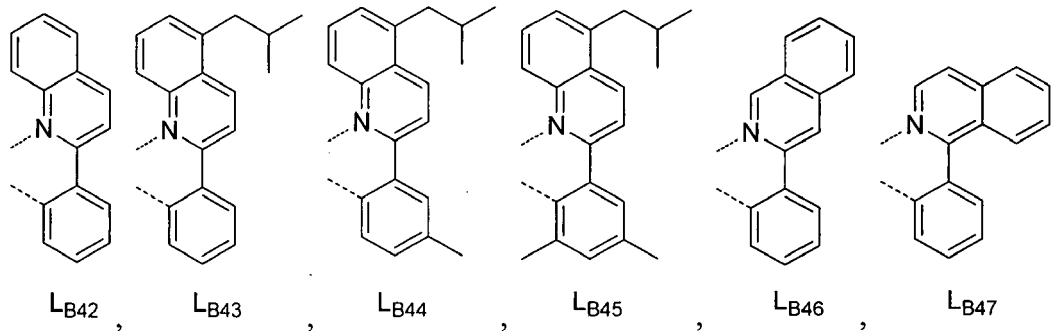
50

55



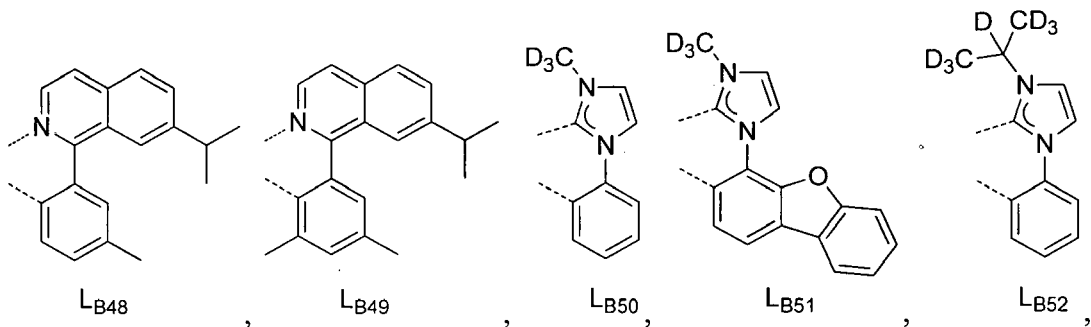
5

10



15

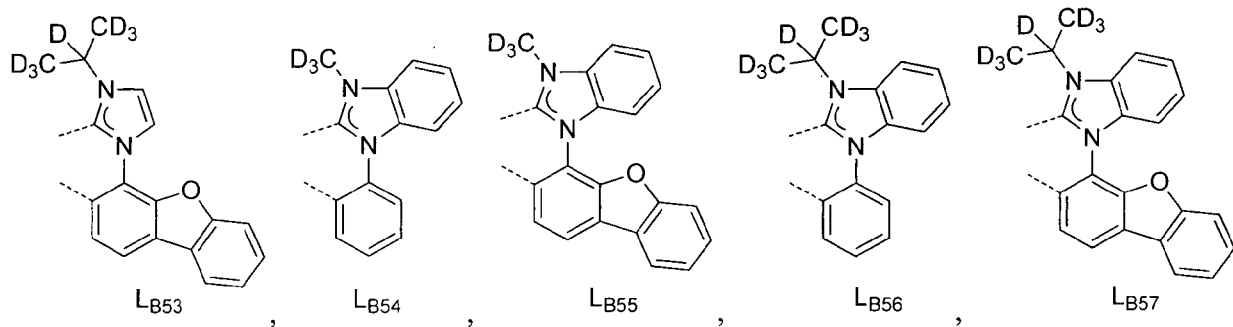
20



25

30

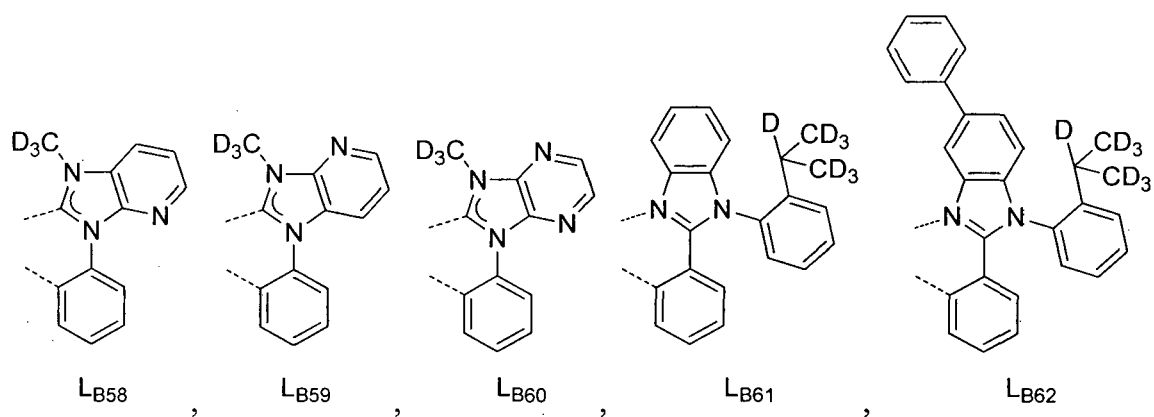
35



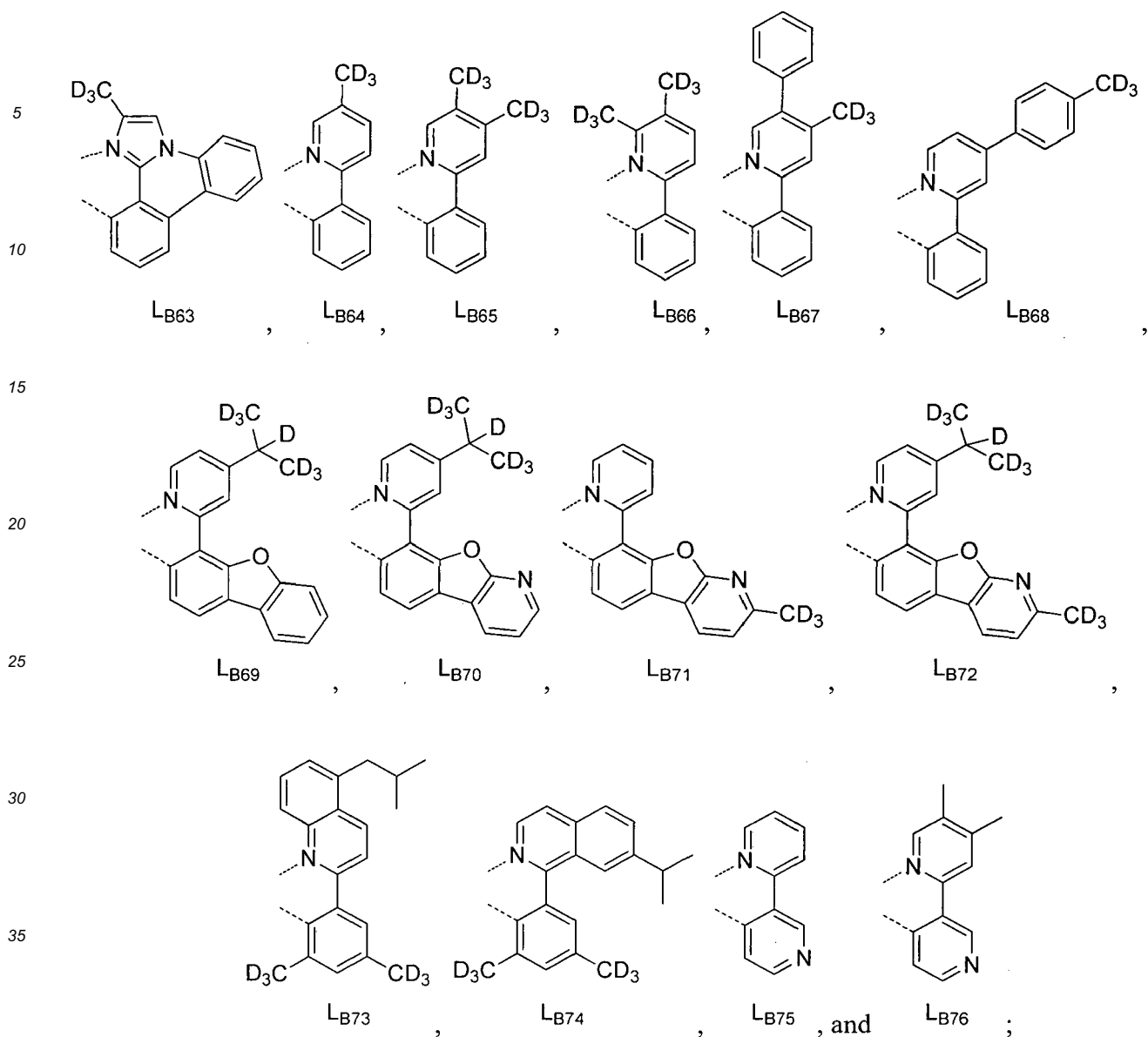
40

45

50



55



and

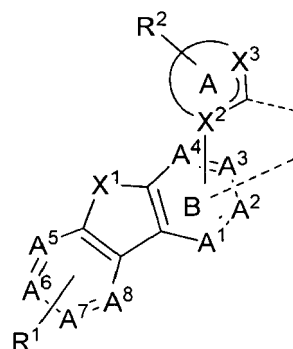
wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of Compound 1 to Compound 6080, wherein each Compound x has the formula $Ir(L_{Ak})(L_B)_2$ wherein $x = 80j + k - 80$, k is an integer from 1 to 80, and j is an integer from 1 to 76.

14. A first device comprising a first organic light emitting device, the first organic light emitting device comprising:

an anode;

a cathode; and

an organic layer, disposed between the anode and the cathode, comprising a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is nitrogen;

wherein X¹ is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X² and X³ each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X²-C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹ and R² are optionally linked together to form a ring;

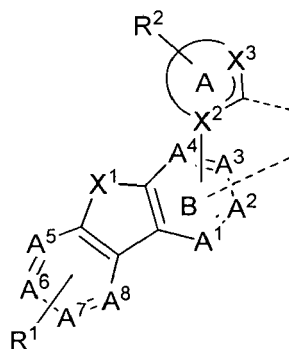
wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;

wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and

wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate or hexadentate ligand.

15. A formulation comprising a compound comprising a ligand L_A of Formula I:



Formula I;

wherein each A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is independently carbon or nitrogen;

wherein at least one of A¹, A², A³, A⁴, A⁵, A⁶, A⁷, and A⁸ is nitrogen;

wherein X¹ is selected from the group consisting of O, S, and Se;

wherein X² and X³ each independently comprise an atom selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, P, and S;

wherein ring A is bonded to ring B through a X²-C bond;

wherein ring A is a 5- or 6-member heterocyclic ring;

wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent mono, di, tri, or tetra-substitution, or no substitution;

wherein any adjacent substitutions in R¹ and R² are optionally linked together to form a ring;

wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, deuterium, halide, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, silyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroalkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carbonyl, carboxylic acids, ester, nitrile, isonitrile, sulfanyl, sulfinyl, sulfonyl, phosphino, and combinations thereof;

wherein the ligand L_A is coordinated to a metal M;
wherein M is coordinated to ring A through a metal-carbene bond; and
wherein the ligand L_A is optionally linked with other ligands to comprise a tridentate, tetradentate, pentadentate
or hexadentate ligand.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

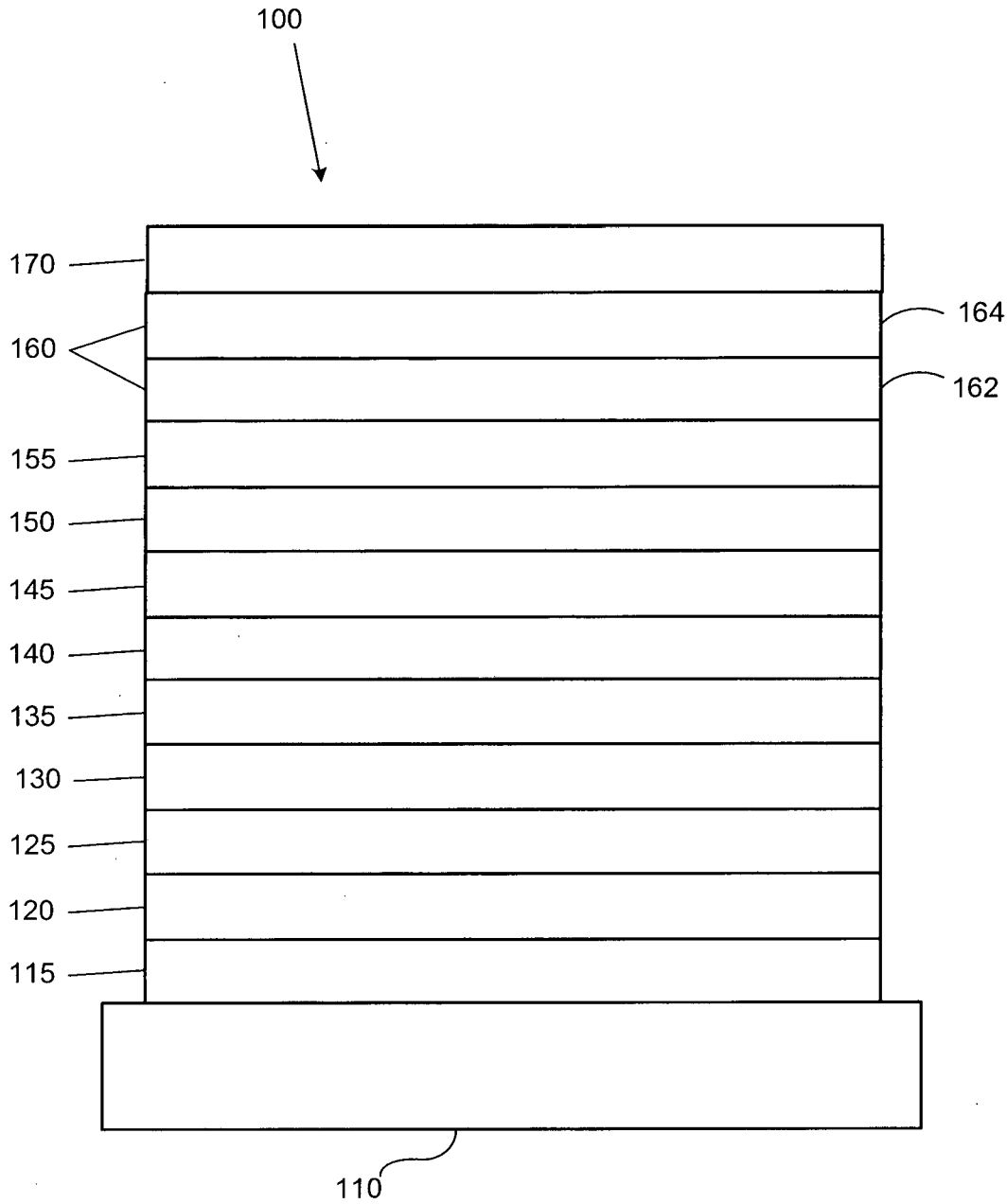


FIGURE 1

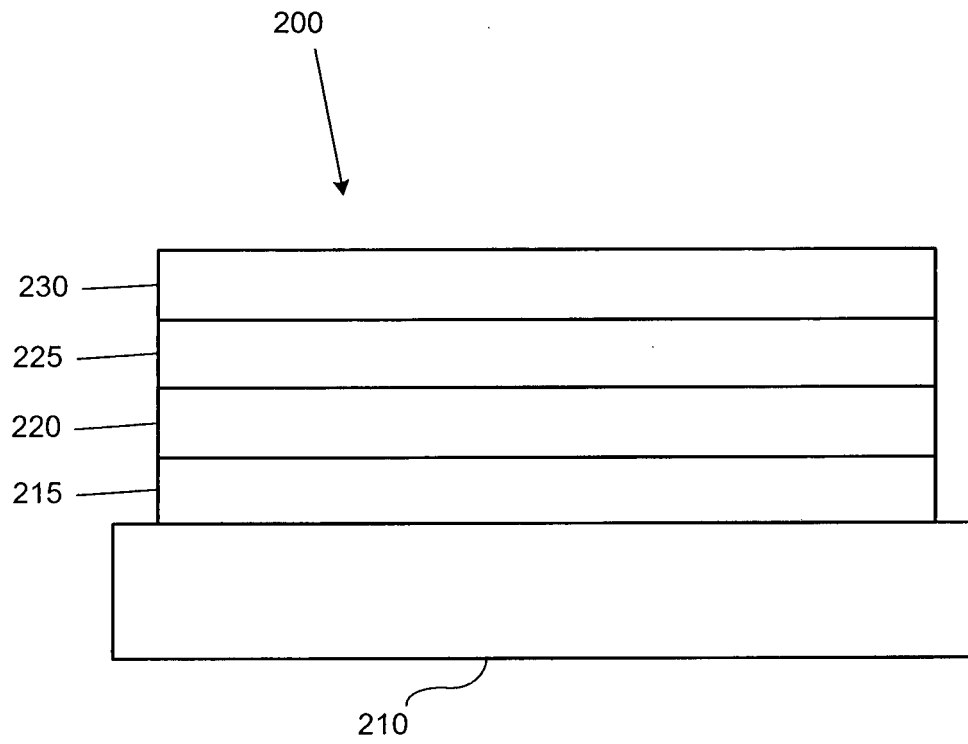


FIGURE 2

Formula I

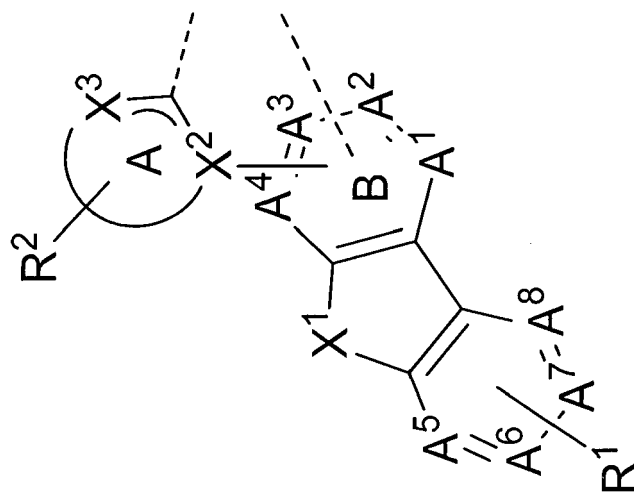


Figure 3

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- US 61907450 A [0001]
- US 61904530 A [0001]
- US 5844363 A [0005] [0025]
- US 6303238 B [0005] [0025]
- US 5707745 A [0005] [0025] [0028]
- US 7279704 B [0015] [0023] [0024] [0097]
- US 4769292 A [0022]
- US 20030230980 A [0025]
- US 5703436 A [0025]
- US 6097147 A [0025]
- US 20040174116 A [0025]
- US 5247190 A, Friend [0028]
- US 6091195 A, Forrest [0028]
- US 5834893 A, Bulovic [0028]
- US 6013982 A [0029]
- US 6087196 A [0029]
- US 6337102 B, Forrest [0029]
- US 7431968 B [0029]
- US 6294398 B [0029]
- US 6468819 B [0029]
- US 7968146 B [0030]
- US 2007023098 W [0030]
- US 2009042829 W [0030]
- WO 2007002683 A [0097]
- US 20030162053 A [0097]
- EP 1725079 A1 [0097]
- US 20050123751 A [0097]
- WO 2009018009 A [0097]
- US 20020158242 A [0097]
- US 20060240279 A [0097]
- US 20080220265 A [0097]
- WO 2011075644 A [0097]
- EP 2350216 A [0097]
- US 5061569 A [0097]
- EP 650955 A [0097]
- US 20080124572 A [0097]
- US 20070278938 A [0097]
- US 20080106190 A [0097]
- US 20110163302 A [0097]
- US 20080018221 A [0097]
- US 20060202194 A [0097]
- WO 2005014551 A [0097]
- WO 2006072002 A [0097]
- WO 2009066779 A [0097]
- WO 2009066778 A [0097]
- WO 2009063833 A [0097]
- US 20090045731 A [0097]
- US 20090045730 A [0097]
- WO 2009008311 A [0097]
- US 20090008605 A [0097]
- US 20090009065 A [0097]
- WO 2010056066 A [0097]
- WO 2011086863 A [0097]
- US 20030175553 A [0097]
- WO 2001039234 A [0097]
- US 20060280965 A [0097]
- WO 2009021126 A [0097]
- US 20090309488 A [0097]
- US 20090302743 A [0097]
- US 20100012931 A [0097]
- WO 2008056746 A [0097]
- WO 2010107244 A [0097]
- JP 2008074939 B [0097]
- US 20100187984 A [0097]
- WO 2004093207 A [0097]
- WO 2005089025 A [0097]
- WO 2006132173 A [0097]
- JP 200511610 B [0097]
- JP 2007254297 B [0097]
- WO 2007063796 A [0097]
- WO 2007063754 A [0097]
- WO 2004107822 A [0097]
- US 20050112407 A [0097]
- WO 2005030900 A [0097]
- US 20040137268 A [0097]
- US 20040137267 A [0097]
- US 20070190359 A [0097]
- WO 2006114966 A [0097]
- US 20090167162 A [0097]
- WO 2009086028 A [0097]
- US 20090030202 A [0097]
- US 20090017330 A [0097]
- US 20100084966 A [0097]
- US 20050238919 A [0097]
- WO 2009003898 A [0097]
- EP 2034538 A [0097]
- WO 2006100298 A [0097]
- US 20040115476 A [0097]
- US 20060121308 A [0097]
- US 7154114 B [0097]
- US 20030072964 A [0097]
- US 20070087321 A [0097]
- US 20080261076 A [0097]
- US 20100090591 A [0097]
- WO 2009100991 A [0097]
- WO 2008101842 A [0097]
- US 7232618 B [0097]
- WO 2003040257 A [0097]

- US 20070103060 A [0097]
- US 20050244673 A [0097]
- US 20020034656 A [0097]
- US 7332232 B [0097]
- US 20090108737 A [0097]
- WO 2010028151 A [0097]
- EP 1841834 B [0097]
- US 20060127696 A [0097]
- US 20090039776 A [0097]
- US 6921915 B [0097]
- US 20100244004 A [0097]
- US 6687266 B [0097]
- US 20060008670 A [0097]
- JP 2007123392 B [0097]
- WO 2010086089 A [0097]
- WO 2011044988 A [0097]
- WO 2009050290 A [0097]
- US 20090165846 A [0097]
- US 20080015355 A [0097]
- US 20010015432 A [0097]
- US 20100295032 A [0097]
- US 7250226 B [0097]
- US 7396598 B [0097]
- WO 2002015645 A [0097]
- US 20060263635 A [0097]
- US 20060182992 A [0097]
- WO 2009000673 A [0097]
- US 20070111026 A [0097]
- US 20030138657 A [0097]
- US 20030152802 A [0097]
- US 7090928 B [0097]
- WO 2002002714 A [0097]
- WO 2006009024 A [0097]
- US 20060251923 A [0097]
- US 20110057559 A [0097]
- US 20110204333 A [0097]
- US 7393599 B [0097]
- WO 2006056418 A [0097]
- US 20050260441 A [0097]
- WO 2005019373 A [0097]
- US 7534505 B [0097]
- WO 2011051404 A [0097]
- US 7445855 B [0097]
- US 20080297033 A [0097]
- US 20100148663 A [0097]
- US 7338722 B [0097]
- US 20020134984 A [0097]
- WO 2005123873 A [0097]
- WO 2007004380 A [0097]
- WO 2006082742 A [0097]
- WO 2006098120 A [0097]
- WO 2006103874 A [0097]
- US 7655323 B [0097]
- US 20050025993 A [0097]
- WO 2008132085 A [0097]
- WO 2010079051 A [0097]
- WO 2003060956 A [0097]
- US 20090179554 A [0097]
- US 20090115316 A [0097]
- US 7230107 B [0097]
- US 20090101870 A [0097]
- US 20040036077 A [0097]
- US 6528187 B [0097]

Non-patent literature cited in the description

- **BALDO et al.** Highly Efficient Phosphorescent Emission from Organic Electroluminescent Devices. *Nature*, 1998, vol. 395, 151-154 [0023]
- **BALDO et al.** Very high-efficiency green organic light-emitting devices based on electrophosphorescence. *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1999, vol. 75 (3), 4-6 [0023]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1996, vol. 69, 2160 [0097]
- *J. Lumin.*, 1997, vol. 72-74, 985 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2001, vol. 78, 673 [0097]
- *Synth. Met.*, 1997, vol. 87, 171 [0097]
- *SID Symposium Digest*, 2006, vol. 37, 923 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1987, vol. 51, 913 [0097]
- *J. Mater. Chem.*, 1993, vol. 3, 319 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2007, vol. 90, 183503 [0097]
- *Synth. Met.*, 1997, vol. 91, 209 [0097]
- *Adv. Mater.*, 1994, vol. 6, 677 [0097]
- *Synth. Met.*, 2000, vol. 111, 421 [0097]
- *Chem. Mater.*, 2003, vol. 15, 3148 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2001, vol. 78, 1622 [0097]
- *Nature*, 1998, vol. 395, 151 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2007, vol. 90, 123509 [0097]
- *Org. Electron.*, 2000, vol. 1, 15 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2000, vol. 77, 2280 [0097]
- *J. Appl. Phys.*, 2001, vol. 90, 5048 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2003, vol. 82, 2422 [0097]
- *Adv. Mater.*, 2007, vol. 19, 739 [0097]
- *Chem. Mater.*, 2005, vol. 17, 3532 [0097]
- *Adv. Mater.*, 2005, vol. 17, 1059 [0097]
- *Inorg. Chem.*, 2001, vol. 40, 1704 [0097]
- *Chem. Mater.*, 2004, vol. 16, 2480 [0097]
- *Adv. Mater.*, 2004, vol. 16, 2003 [0097]
- *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2006, vol. 45, 7800 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2005, vol. 86, 153505 [0097]
- *Chem. Lett.*, 2005, vol. 34, 592 [0097]
- *Chem. Commun.*, 2005, 2906 [0097]
- *Inorg. Chem.*, 2003, vol. 42, 1248 [0097]
- *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2008, vol. 47, 4542 [0097]
- *Chem. Mater.*, 2006, vol. 18, 5119 [0097]
- *Inorg. Chem.*, 2007, vol. 46, 4308 [0097]
- *Organometallics*, 2004, vol. 23, 3745 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1999, vol. 74, 1361 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1999, vol. 75, 4 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2001, vol. 79, 449 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2002, vol. 81, 162 [0097]

EP 2 874 192 A2

- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2001, vol. 79, 156 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2006, vol. 89, 063504 [0097]
- *Chem. Lett.*, 1993, vol. 5, 905 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 2007, vol. 91, 263503 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1999, vol. 74, 865 [0097]
- *Appl. Phys. Lett.*, 1989, vol. 55, 1489 [0097]
- *Jpn. J. Apply. Phys.*, 1993, vol. 32, L917 [0097]
- *Org. Electron.*, 2003, vol. 4, 113 [0097]
- *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 1998, vol. 120, 9714 [0097]
- *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2000, vol. 122, 1832 [0097]

专利名称(译)	有机电致发光材料和器件		
公开(公告)号	EP2874192A2	公开(公告)日	2015-05-20
申请号	EP2014003750	申请日	2014-11-06
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	环球展览公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	通用显示器公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	通用显示器公司		
[标]发明人	XIA CHUANJUN LIN CHUN KOTTAS GREGORY ELSHENAWY ZEINAB		
发明人	XIA, CHUANJUN LIN, CHUN KOTTAS, GREGORY ELSHENAWY, ZEINAB		
IPC分类号	H01L51/50 H01L51/54		
CPC分类号	C07F15/0033 C09B57/10 C09K11/06 C09K2211/185 H01L51/0054 H01L51/0067 H01L51/0071 H01L51/0072 H01L51/0074 H01L51/0085 H01L51/5016		
优先权	61/904530 2013-11-15 US 61/907450 2013-11-22 US 14/521257 2014-10-22 US 14/521281 2014-10-22 US		
其他公开文献	EP2874192A3 EP2874192B1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

根据一个实施方案，描述了包含式I的配体LA的化合物。在式I的结构中，A1至A8独立地为碳或氮，其中至少一个为氮；X1选自O，S和Se；X2和X3独立地选自C，N，O，P和S；环A是通过X2-C键与环B键合并通过金属-卡宾键与M键合的5-或6-元杂环；R1和R2中的任何相邻取代基任选连接在一起形成环；配体LA与金属M配位；并且配体LA任选地与其他配体连接以包含至多六齿配体。还描述了包含含有式I配体LA的化合物的制剂和装置，例如OLED。

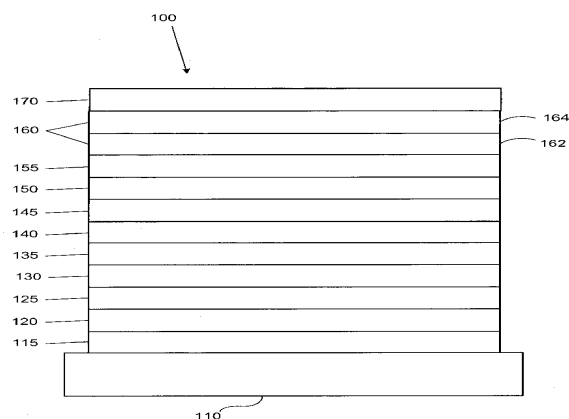


FIGURE 1