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# Triphenylamine-based fluorescent NLO phores with ICT

**characteristics: Solvatochromic and Theoretical study** Santosh B Katariya<sup>1</sup>, Dinesh Patil<sup>1</sup>, Lydia Rhyman<sup>2</sup>, Ibrahim A. Alswaidan, Ponnadurai Ramasami<sup>2</sup>, Nagaiyan Sekar<sup>1</sup>

**Graphical Abstract:** 



1	<b>Triphenylamine-based</b>	fluorescent	<b>NLO phores</b>	with ICT	characteristics:
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- 2 Solvatochromic and Theoretical study
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### 20 Abstract:

The static first and second hyperpolarizability and their related properties were calculated for 21 triphenylamine-based "push-pull" dyes using the B3LYP, CAM-B3LYP and BHHLYP 22 functionals in conjunction with the 6-311+G(d,p) basis set. The electronic coupling for the 23 electron transfer reaction of the dyes were calculated with the generalized Mulliken-Hush 24 method. The results obtained were correlated with the polarizability parameter  $\alpha_{CT}$ , first 25 hyperpolarizability parameter  $\beta_{CT}$ , and the solvatochromic descriptor of  $\langle \gamma \rangle_{SD}$  obtained by the 26 solvatochromic method. The dyes studied show a high total first order hyperpolarizability (70 to 27 238 times) and second order hyperpolarizability (412 to 778 times) compared to urea. Among the 28 three functionals, the CAM-B3LYP and BHHLYP functionals show hyperpolarizability values 29 closer to experimental values. Experimental absorption and emission wavelengths measured for 30 all the synthesized dyes are in good agreement with those predicted using the time-dependent 31 density functional theory. The theoretical examination on non-linear optical properties was 32

performed on the key parameters of polarizability and hyperpolarizability. A remarkable increase
 in non-linear optical response is observed on insertion of benzothiazole unit compared to
 benzimidazole unit.

36 Introduction

Non-linear optic (NLO) deals with the interactions of applied electromagnetic fields with 37 materials to yield new optical properties such as electromagnetic fields, altered frequency, phase, 38 and amplitude [1,2]. The search for efficient organic non-linear optical (NLO) materials has been 39 of interest in both academia and industry because of their potential applications in the design of 40 photon-based materials for optical switching, information processing, and data manipulation 41 [3,4]. The molecular structure of organic NLO materials is based on the  $\pi$  bond system. The 42 overlap of  $\pi$  orbital and delocalization of electronic charge distribution lead to a high mobility of 43 the electron density. Functionalization of both ends of the  $\pi$  system with appropriate electron 44 donor and acceptor groups can enhance the asymmetric electronic distribution in either or both 45 ground and excited states leading to an increased optical non-linearity [5,6]. NLO materials have 46 good non-linear susceptibilities but low laser damage threshold than inorganic counter parts [7]. 47 Conjugated organic molecules have some advantages over inorganic molecules as they possess 48 low dielectric constant, small refractive indices, faster response time and they crystalize in non-49 centrosymmetric system [8]. Large second-order non-linearities can be obtained from the NLO 50 materials containing a push-pull type chromophore which possesses large dipole moments and 51 polarizabilities and consisting of strong electron-donating and-withdrawing groups linked by a  $\pi$ -52 delocalized moiety [9]. Such types of molecules have a distinctive figure of merit given as  $\frac{\mu \times \beta}{MW}$ 53 where  $\mu$  is the dipole moment,  $\beta$  is the first hyperpolarizability and MW the molecular weight of 54 the chromophore [10]. On the basis of experimental and theoretical studies, the design of second-55 order NLO materials to create large hyperpolarizability has primarily focused on the following: 56 (a) the planar D- $\pi$ -A model [11], (b) auxiliary donors and acceptors model of heterocycle 57 [12,13] and (c) twisted  $\pi$ -electron systems [14–16]. 58

There are experimental and theoretical methods reported to evaluate  $\beta$ . A common experimental method used to obtain  $\beta$  is to polarize the sample dissolved in a non-polar solvent with a strong electric field in order to induce molecular alignment. A laser beam is sent through the solution and the intensity of second harmonic generation (SHG) is measured. This method for evaluating the second-order molecular polarizability is the electric field induced second harmonic

generation (EFISH) [17]. Another technique is the hyper-Rayleigh scattering (HRS) [18]. These 64 two methods are expensive and they require sophisticated experimental set up and trained 65 manpower to handle the instruments. The solvatochromic method is not only a simple practice 66 but it is also cost-effective. This method used for the determination of the first order 67 hyperpolarizability ( $\beta_{iik}$  or  $\beta_{xxx}$  or  $\beta_{CT}$ ) was successfully applied first by Paley *et al.* [19]. The 68 solvent dependent absorption and emission properties throw light on the nature of the excited 69 state and hence the solvatochromic method is used to understand the NLO properties which 70 mainly are the manifestations of the excited state nature of an organic molecule [20,21]. In this 71 work, we have used the solvatochromic method in which only the absorption/emission data is 72 required for the two level microscopic model of  $\beta$  based on the Oudar formulae [22]. The 73 solvatochromic method gives only the dominant tensor component of hyperpolarizability, i.e.  $\beta_{iik}$ 74 assuming that the charge-transfer in a donor-acceptor molecule takes place along the axis of the 75 permanent ground state dipole moment [19] and thus the two level microscopic model of  $\beta$  will 76 give the  $\beta_{xxx}$  or  $\beta_{CT}$ . Besides the solvatochromic method, in the past few decades theoretical 77 computations have become a priori tool to compute the NLO properties of organic materials 78 [23,24]. Computational methods are useful in having prior understanding of the structure in 79 relation to the properties and the factors governing the efficiency of NLO properties, such as the 80 contribution of the donor-acceptor and solvent effects. The hyperpolarizability of the molecule is 81 largely influenced by the contribution from the higher excited states particularly the first excited 82 state in addition to the ground state [25,26]. 83

In an attempt to understand the organic NLO materials, we were interested in triphenylamine 84 85 derivatives since triphenylamine is unique and widely accepted donating group due to its very good electron donating ability and its charge-transfer characteristic has been known to exhibit 86 rigid plane, long conjugation length and good hole transporting properties [27]. Thus 87 triphenylamine and its derivatives display promising properties in the development of light 88 emitting [28], organic field-effect transistors (OFET) [29], photovoltaic devices [30] and dye-89 sensitized solar cells [27]. In addition, electron transfer or electron separation between the 90 triphenylamine and the accepting group provides this class of compounds highly anisotropic 91 structures and interesting photo physical properties [31]. Gao et al. reported a range of 92 triphenylamine-based derivatives with various substituent groups [32]. It was reported that the 93 introduction of heteroatom to the benzene ring of the triarylamine donor can efficiently improve 94

the electron-donating ability, which improves the hyperpolarizability [33,34]. In the current 95 decade several research groups have achieved the large second-order NLO response by 96 extending the conjugated bridge through  $\pi$ -spacer [9,35–37]. The modulation of non-linear 97 optical properties by attaching various strong electron-withdrawing groups to a triphenylamine 98 backbone are reported in literature [38,39]. Recently, Zhou et al. showed that the introduction of 99 100 benzimidazole derivatives in the phenyl ring of the triphenylamine core increases the molar extinction coefficients together with absorption maxima (due to the increased  $\pi$ -conjugation) 101 when compared to the un-substituted counterpart [40]. 102

In view of the above, in this work, we synthesized two triphenylamine-based dyes namely, TPA 103 BIZ and TPA BTZ [41] as they have intramolecular charge transfer (ICT) characteristics. We 104 also shed light into the effect of benzothiazole and benzimidazole group of the  $\pi$ -conjugated 105 106 system in terms of the photo-physical characterization and non-linear optical (NLO) properties of triphenylamine-based dyes. We used the solvatochromic two level microscopic model to obtain 107 the polarizability parameter  $\alpha_{CT}$ , first hyperpolarizability parameter ( $\beta_{CT}$ ), and solvatochromic 108 descriptor of  $\langle \gamma \rangle_{SD}$ . The static first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta_0$ ) and its related properties ( $\mu$ , 109  $\alpha_0, \Delta \alpha, \beta, \overline{\gamma}$ ) ( $\mu$  measured in Debye and other quantities in *esu*) were determined using density 110 functional theory (DFT) and time-dependent DFT (TD-DFT) methods . 111

112 113 < Please insert Fig.1 Synthesis of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ >

#### 114 Methodology

All the chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and S. D. Fine Chemicals Ltd, Mumbai, 115 India. The solid reagents were characterized by melting points and used without further 116 purification. The liquid reagents were distilled at their boiling points and used without any 117 further purification. Solvents were used after distillation at their boiling point and drying 118 according to standard processes. All the reactions were monitored on pre-coated silica gel 119 aluminium based plates kisel gel 60 F254 Merck, India. Purification of all the dyes was achieved 120 121 by recrystallization. Melting points were recorded on instrument from Sunder Industrial Product Mumbai by using open capillary and are uncorrected. The absorption spectra of the dyes were 122 recorded on a Lambda 25 UV-Visible spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a 123 Varian Cary Eclipse Australia. The chemical shift values are expressed in  $\delta$  ppm using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as 124

a solvent and chemical shifts are reported relative to tetramethylsilane (Me<sub>4</sub>Si) ( $\delta$ =0.0) as an internal standard.

### 127 Synthesis of compound TPA BIZ

- 128 To a stirring solution of *o*-phenylenediamine (108 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 20 ml methanol, solution of
- 4-(diphenylamino) benzaldehyde (273 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added drop wise through a droppingfunnel. After that the mixture was heated to reflux for 4 hour. On completion of the reaction the
- 131 mixture was cooled and poured into water. The resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with
- water and dried. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (petroleum ether:  $CH_2Cl_2 = 10:1$
- 133 V/V) to give the compound TPA BIZ as a milk white powder in 60% yield. Melting point 279°C
  134 (lit. 280°C)
- <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.7
- 136 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.39 7.31 (m, 5H), 7.11 (dd, J = 15.9, 7.7 Hz, 6H), 6.95 (d, J
- 137 = 8.7 Hz, 2H).
- <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, DMSO) δ 167.36, 154.16, 150.54, 146.63, 134.58, 130.28, 128.91, 126.90,
- 139 125.90, 125.83, 125.42, 124.94, 122.80, 122.57, 121.06.
- 140 HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $(M + H)^+ C_{25}H_{19}N_3$  362.1579; found 362.1566.

### 141 Synthesis of compound TPA BTZ

- To a solution of 2-aminobenzenethiol (125 mg, 1.0 mmol) in 20 mL DMSO and 4-(diphenylamino) benzaldehyde (273 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added and the mixture was heated at 120 °C for 2 h. When the reaction was complete, the reaction mixture was cooled, poured into water and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (90 ml). The organic layer was dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub> and the solvents were evaporated under vacuum. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel (petroleum ether:  $CH_2Cl_2 = 5:1 \text{ V/V}$ ) to give the compound TPA BTZ as a white powder in 75% yield. Melting Point 271°C (lit. 272°C).
- <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.03 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.49 7.45 (m, 1H), 7.37 7.29 (m, 5H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 4H), 7.14 7.09
- 151 (m, 4H).
- <sup>13</sup>C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 167.81, 154.30, 150.42, 146.91, 134.82, 129.50, 128.53, 126.57,
- 153 126.16, 125.40, 124.70, 124.03, 122.77, 121.73, 121.47).
- 154 HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd for  $(M + H)^+C_{25}H_{18}N_2S$  379.1109; found 379.1183.
- 155 **Computational method**

To get further insight into the effect of molecular structure and electron distribution on the 156 spectroscopic properties of the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ, their geometries and energies were 157 optimized by DFT calculations using B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) method [42]. TD-DFT was 158 employed for the excited state optimization. The functionals used were B3LYP [43,44], 159 BHHLYP [45,46] and CAM-B3LYP [47]. The hybrid functionals B3LYP and BHHLYP are 160 based on the LYP functional for the correlation part whereas they differ by the amount of HF 161 exchange, 20% in B3LYP and 50% in BHHLYP. The CAM-B3LYP functional comprises of 162 0.19 Hartree-Fock (HF) plus 0.81 Becke 1988 (B88) exchange interaction at short-range and 163 0.65 HF plus 0.35 B88 at long-range. The basis sets used for all atoms were the popular Pople's 164 split-valence basis sets [48,49]. The triple zeta basis set is employed for all the three functionals 165 with both diffuse and polarization functions, 6-311+G(d,p). The choice of the functionals is 166 based on the fact that the charge-transfer states are better modeled with increasing amount of HF 167 in the hybrid (B3LYP and BHHLYP) as well as range separation (CAM-B3LYP) [50] 168

169

The vibrational frequencies of the optimized structures were computed using the same method to 170 verify that the optimized structures correspond to local minima on the energy surface. All the 171 computations in solvents of different polarities were carried out using the self-consistent reaction 172 field incorporated in the IEFPCM model as implemented in Gaussian 09 [51,52]. The excitation 173 energies, oscillator strengths and orbital contribution for the lowest 10 singlet-singlet transitions 174 at the optimized geometry in the ground state were obtained by TD-DFT calculations using the 175 same basis set as for the geometry minimization. The static second-order polarizability or first 176 hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ) and its related properties for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes were 177 calculated on the basis of the finite-field approach [53]. The values of Onsager cavity radii were 178 obtained using the DFT-optimized geometries in the respective solvents by performing volume 179 computations. All computations were performed using the Gaussian 09 software [54] operating 180 on GridChem [55-57]. The BHHLYP and the CAM-B3LYP functionals are found to yield 181 values of hyperpolarizabilities closer to experimental values than the B3LYP functional [58]. 182

### 183 Electronic vertical excitation spectra (TD-DFT)

For the calculation of vertical excitations, the ground state optimized geometries were subjected to TD-DFT computations for the first 10 states using the B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) method and the results are listed in Table 1. The results from the DFT and TD-DFT calculations support the

experimental results suggesting that there was no influence of the variation in the solvent polarity 187 on the absorption of the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes (Table 1). The absorption spectra for the 188 TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes are shown in Fig. 2. The computed absorption wavelength for the 189 TPA BIZ dye ranges from 380 to 381 nm while the experimental values ranges from 350 to 355 190 nm. For TPA BTZ dye, the computed absorption wavelength ranges from 370 to 376 nm while 191 the experimental value is 407 nm. For TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ, the observed lowest energy 192 absorption bands are associated to the predicted  $S0 \rightarrow S1$  transitions (HOMO \rightarrow LUMO); with 193 major contribution > 97% and strong oscillator strengths ranging from 0.987 to 1.048. Both the 194 experimental absorption and the computed vertical excitation of the compounds were correlated 195 with each other and are independent of the solvent polarity. 196

197 < Please insert Fig 2 Absorption and Emission spectra of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ >

198

199 < Please insert Table 1 Observed absorption and computed vertical excitation for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ >

#### 200 Emission Spectra

The experimental and computed emission spectra for the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes are shown in Fig. 2. The minimum energy S1, B3LYP-optimized structures were used for the emission computations, and the results are listed in Table 2. From the calculated emissions, it can be observed that there is little influence of solvent polarity on the emission of the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes. In case of TPA BIZ, the emission wavelength is red shifted by 1364 cm<sup>-1</sup> (20 nm) from toluene to ethanol. A similar trend is observed in TPA BTZ but it is red shifted by 2309 cm<sup>-1</sup> (50 nm).

The TD-DFT emission maxima calculated for all the dyes in various solvents are associated with the LUMO $\rightarrow$ HOMO transition with major contribution (>98%). The experimental emissions values range from 412 to 484 nm and the computed emissions range from 442 to 506 nm with an oscillator strength in the order of 0.274 to 0.808 (Table 2).

For the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes, the observed large Stokes shift values are found at 3696 and 3897 cm<sup>-1</sup> in toluene solution and 6006 and 5261 cm<sup>-1</sup> in ethanol respectively (SI Tables 1 and 2) and these points out to the occurrence of an ICT process [59–61] between the donor (triphenylamine) unit and the electron-acceptor benzimidazole or benzothiazole moiety. The experimental values are higher in ethanol than in toluene which is the sign of solvatochromism and charge-transfer. The computational values are showing opposite trend [62] (SI tables 1 and 218 2). This is in agreement to the reported observation for triphenylamine-substituted benzimidazole 219 derivatives where the longer wavelength absorption band around 340 nm was attributed to the 220 charge-transfer (CT)  $\pi - \pi$  \* transition from the electron-donating triphenylamine moiety to the 221 electron-accepting benzimidazole moiety [63,64]. These are further confirmed by experimental 222 (solvatochromic) calculations (SI tables 1 and 2).

223 < Please insert Table 2 Observed emission and computed emission for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ .dyes in</li>
 224 various solvents>

225

### 226 HOMO-LUMO energy gap

In order to explain the process of the charge-transfer, we obtained the isodensity plots showing 227 the distributions of electron clouds of HOMO - LUMO of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes (Fig 3). 228 Spatial distribution of molecular orbital, especially those of highest occupied molecular orbital 229 (HOMO) and lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) are excellent indicators of electron 230 transport in molecular systems. The conjugated chromophores are characterized by a small 231 HOMO-LUMO separation, which is the result of a significant degree of ICT from the end-232 capping electron donor groups to the efficient electron-acceptor groups through conjugated path 233 [65]. The charge-transfer from HOMO to LUMO is determined by electron donor and electron 234 acceptor group, which is responsible for the second order hyperpolarizability [66]. The electron 235 density of the HOMO orbital is mainly located on the triphenylamine moiety or spreads over the 236 entire molecule. The electron density of the LUMO shows a decrease in the electron density on 237 the triphenylamine moiety (donor) and an increase in the electron-acceptor benzimidazole or 238 benzothiazole unit. This behavior is in agreement with previous theoretical studies on similar 239 electron donor-acceptor molecules where the lowest energy absorption band is associated with a 240 charge-transfer (CT) type,  $\pi - \pi^*$  transition from the HOMO to the LUMO orbitals [40,58,62]. 241 The absorption and emission spectra of these compounds were also obtained in the nonpolar 242 solvent toluene (see tables 1, 2) to further investigate the CT character of the lowest energy 243 transition. Comparison between the spectroscopic features in ethanol and toluene reveals a 244 245 solvent independent absorption spectra while the fluorescence emission spectra displays a clear solvent dependence with a significant bathochromic shift in the emission wavelength maxima 246 with increasing solvent polarity. The higher solvatochromic shifts observed in the fluorescence 247

emission spectra compared to those in the absorption spectra suggests an excited state with
stronger CT character and thus, supporting the behavior found in the electron density distribution
of the LUMO for the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes [63,64].

In general, if the energy gap between the HOMO and LUMO decreases, it is easier for the electrons of the HOMO to be excited. In TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes, the HOMO–LUMO energy gaps are 3.79 eV and 3.56 eV respectively in gas phase and 3.75 eV and 3.49 eV respectively in acetone (Table 3). From these values, it is clear that TPA BTZ is chemically more reactive than TPA BIZ [70]. The lowering of the HOMO–LUMO band gap is essentially a consequence of the large stabilization of the LUMO due to the strong electron-accepting ability of the electron-acceptor group.

The chemical hardness and softness of a molecule are good indicators of the chemical stability. In order to compare the stability of conformers energy was calculated. Molecules having large energy gap are known as hard and molecules having a small energy gap are known as soft molecules. Hard molecules are considered to be more stable than soft molecules .The soft molecules are more polarizable and more reactive than those which are hard because they need small energy for excitation. The hardness value of a molecule can be calculated using the formula [71],

$$\eta = \frac{(-E_{\rm HOMO} + E_{\rm LUMO})}{2}$$

where  $E_{HOMO}$  and  $E_{LUMO}$  are the energies of the HOMO and LUMO orbitals obtained by DFT computations.

Frontier molecular orbitals, i.e. HOMO and LUMO significantly affect the UV-Visible spectra 267 and reactions between molecules. Variations in the energy gap change the kinetic stability, 268 chemical hardness-softness and chemical reactivity. Thus, the HOMO-LUMO energy gap can 269 be used for qualitative estimation of the NLO behavior of a molecule. A small energy gap leads 270 to a high NLO optical response. The HOMO-LUMO energy gap (E<sub>L</sub>-E<sub>H</sub>) of the TPA BIZ and 271 TPA BTZ dyes were calculated and are given in Table 3. These dyes would be outstanding for 272 NLO properties as indicated by their small HOMO-LUMO energy gaps. The energy of the 273 frontier molecular orbital of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes obtained using the B3LYP/6-274 311+G(d,p) method in various medium are presented in Fig S1 and S2 (SI). 275

276 < Please insert Fig 3 Frontier molecular orbitals of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes in the ground state>

## 277 < Please insert Table 3 Energy of HOMO, LUMO and HOMO-LUMO gap of the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ

278 dyes in gas phase and solvents using TD-DFT [B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p)] method>

### 279 **Optimized Geometry**

280 To understand the structures and origin of broad absorption of TPA BIZ and TPA BIZ dyes, the geometry of the dyes were optimized in the ground state in solvents of various polarities. The 281 optimized structure of TPA BIZ and TPA BIZ dyes in the ground state and excited state are 282 shown in Figs. 4 and 5. A major bond lengthening is observed between the bonds  $C_{27}$ - $C_{31}$ ,  $C_{29}$ -283 C<sub>31</sub>, C<sub>40</sub>–N<sub>45</sub>, C<sub>40</sub>–N<sub>46</sub> by 0.033, 0.033, 0.022 and 0.034 Å and bond length shortened for the 284 bonds C<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>12</sub>, N<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>, C<sub>31</sub>-C<sub>40</sub>, N<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>35</sub> with -0.020, -0.021, -0.048 and -0.019 Å respectively in 285 the case of TPA BIZ. While in the case of TPA BTZ and a major bond lengthening is observed 286 between the bonds  $N_{12}$ - $C_{24}$ ,  $C_{22}$ - $C_{31}$ ,  $C_{29}$ - $C_{31}$ ,  $C_{40}$ - $S_{46}$ ,  $C_{40}$ - $N_{45}$  by 0.025, 0.028, 0.028, 0.023 and 287 0.039Å and bond length shortened for the bonds C<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>12</sub>, N<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>13</sub>, C<sub>31</sub>-C<sub>40</sub>, N<sub>45</sub>-C<sub>35</sub> with 0.025, 288 0.025, 0.043 and 0.023 Å respectively (Figs. 4and 5). The bond lengths alteration are due to the 289 effect of the donor and the acceptor groups present in the TPA BIZ and TPA BIZ dyes This is 290 due to the partial double-bond character on the bridge bond between triphenyl moiety and the 291 acceptor unit caused by  $\pi$ -bonding interaction, thereby strengthening and shortening the bridge 292 bond. This change in the bond length indicates that there is charge-transfer observed from 293 triphenylamine core to benzimidazole and benzothiazole groups. 294

In agreement with previous studies [40], it is observed that the three benzene rings in the triphenylamine core are non-planar (with the phenyl rings of the triphenylamine chromophore displaying dihedral angles in the (145.9° to 146.1°), (148.7° to 149.0°) and (-33.9° to 34.0°), (- $31.0^{\circ}$  to  $-31.3^{\circ}$ ) range with respect to the plane formed by the phenyl ring connected to the benzimidazole moiety) and that the benzimidazole moiety presents a slightly distorted conformation with the phenyl linkage of the triphenylamine moiety displaying a dihedral angle in the (11.4° to 11.6°), (4.6° to 5.0°) range with respect to the plane formed by the phenyl group for the TDA DIZ and TDA DIZ three menestimale

302 for the TPA BIZ and TPA BIZ dyes respectively.

303 < Please insert Fig. 4 Optimized geometry parameters of TPA BIZ dye in acetone solvent in the ground state</li>
 304 and excited state (bond length are in Å, dihedral angles are in degree)>

305 < Please insert Fig. 5 Optimized geometry parameters of TPA BTZ dye in acetone solvent in the ground state</li>
 306 and excited state (bond length are in Å, dihedral angles are in degree)>

307

308 Mulliken charge distribution The Mulliken charge distribution in the ground and the excited

- states (in acetone) of the compounds are summarized in Table S2. In the excited state of TPA
- BIZ, the net positive charge on the atom  $N_{12}$  increases and the net positive charge on the atom

311  $C_2$ ,  $C_{15}$ ,  $C_{31}$  decreases while the net negative charge on  $C_{24}$  increases and the net negative charge 312 on  $C_1$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $C_5$ ,  $C_{13}$  decreases.

In the excited state of TPA BTZ the net positive charge on the atom  $N_{12}$ ,  $C_{40}$  increases and the net positive charge on the atom  $C_2$ ,  $C_{15}$ ,  $C_{34}$  decreases while the net negative charge on  $C_{6.}C_{24}$ increases and the net negative charge on  $C_{1}$ ,  $C_{3}$ ,  $C_{5}$ ,  $C_{13}$ ,  $C_{26}$  decreases which is suggestive of the charge delocalization in the molecule from the donor core to the acceptor core Fig. 6 and Table S3 (SI).

< Please insert Fig 6 The ground state (GS) and excited state (ES) Mulliken charge (e) distribution of the</li>
 compound TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ in acetone >

### 321 Charge transfer Characteristics

320

An efficient charge-transfer (between donor and acceptor) leading to a characteristic chargetransfer excited state in a donor- $\pi$ -acceptor chromophore is responsible for the manifestation of NLO properties [72]. Within a two-level approximation the strength of electronic coupling  $H_{DA}$ between the ground and charge-transfer excited states is related to the vertical excitation energy ( $\Delta E_{eg}$ ), the difference between the adiabatic dipole moments of the ground and excited states ( $\Delta \mu_{eg}$ ),  $\Delta \mu_{eg}^{D}$  is the difference in diabatic state dipole moments, and the transition dipole moment  $\mu_{12}$  by the generalized Mulliken-Hush (GMH) equation [73–75]:

329 
$$H_{DA} = \frac{\mu_{ge} \Delta E_{eg}}{\Delta \mu_{eg}^{D}} = \frac{\mu_{ge} \Delta E_{eg}}{\left(\Delta \mu_{eg}^{2} + 4\mu_{ge}^{2}\right)^{1/2}}$$
(1)

The adiabatic states are assumed to be composed of these three adiabatic states - a donor ground state (GS), a donor locally excited state (LE), and a charge-transfer state (CT) with the "transferring electron" localized on the acceptor. This approach has been carefully used in a few charge-transfer systems [76–78]. For weak donor-acceptor interactions, the adiabatic states are nearly equivalent to the adiabatic states, and thus it is possible to use the parameters like difference in dipole moments, transition dipole moments and the frequency of absorption obtained from the steady state absorption measurements.

337 
$$H_{DA} = 2.06 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\sqrt{\nu_{max} \varepsilon_{max} \Delta \nu_{12}}}{R_{DA}}$$
 (2)

where  $\varepsilon_{\text{max}}$  is the molar extinction coefficient at maximum absorption, in the units of M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>, and  $\Delta v_{12}$  is the full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of charge-transfer band. In the above equation,  $H_{DA}$ ,  $v_{\text{max}}$ , and  $\Delta v_{12}$  are in units of cm<sup>-1</sup>. Equation (2) provides a simple method to calculate charge-transfer coupling from the characteristic values of the charge-transfer band in absorption spectra, and it is an experimental coupling value.

343

$$R_{DA} = 2.06 \times 10^{-2} \frac{\sqrt{\Delta E_{ge} \varepsilon_{max} \Delta \nu_{1/2}}}{H_{DA}} {}^{344}$$

$$C_b^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{\Delta \mu_{ge}^2}{\Delta \mu_{ge}^2 + 4\mu_{ge}^2}} \right)^{346}$$
(2b)
$$348$$

The degree of delocalization or fractional degree of localization of the excess 349 charge ( $C_b^2$ ) and electronic coupling matrix (H<sub>DA</sub>) for the diabatic states are expressed by 350 equations (2) and (2a, 2b). The values of  $C_b^2$ ,  $H_{DA}$  and  $R_{DA}$  were estimated from equations (2) and 351 (2a, 2b) respectively, and summarized in Table 4. When  $C_b^2$  is zero, there is total delocalization 352 and when it is unity there is called total localization of the charge [53]. TPA BIZ possesses good 353 values of degree of delocalization in different microenvironments and thus, the effective ICT 354 characteristics at ground state rather than excited state. This observation is also supported by the 355 ratio of dipole moment. Its values are less than unity. This indicates that in the ground state 356 compounds are more polar than in the excited state. Out of two molecules TPA BTZ is more 357 polar than TPA BIZ. 358

359

360

< Please insert Table 4 Coupling strength (HDA), coupling distance (RDA), degree of delocalization  $C_b^2$  and ratio of dipole moment for the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes in various solvents >

362

361

Table 4 summarises the coupling strength of donor-acceptor fluorophores TPA BIZ and TPA 363 BTZ. The large distribution of the CT coupling values ranging from 10453 to 12808 cm<sup>-1</sup> for the 364 TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes only few such D-A pairs will likely have the strongest coupling 365 values. The charge-transfer coupling is higher for the TPA BIZ dye in chloroform and EtOAc. 366 However the lowest coupling is observed for the TPA BTZ dye. In case of TPA BIZ dye the 367 lowest coupling distance is observed in EtOAc while the highest is in ethanol. Hence the above 368 observation indicates that the coupling strength and coupling distance are important parameters 369 for the donor charge-transfer molecules. 370

### 371 Solvatochromic method for determination of non-linear optical properties (NLO)

### 372 Calculation of $\alpha_{CT}$ from the solvatochromic data

Here we report the experimentally derived value of the linear polarizability  $\alpha_{CT}$  of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes as obtained in the framework of the two-level model using UV-Visible absorption/emission spectroscopy was used to determine these values. The solvatochromic method was utilized for determination of dipole moment of the lowest lying charge-transfer excited state. Considering that in the TPA BIZ and TPA BIZ dyes charge-transfer direction is essentially coincident with the molecular long axis (here taken as X-axis),  $\alpha_{CT}$  can be indicated as  $\alpha_{xx}$  whose explicit expression is [79,80]:

$$\alpha_{CT} = \alpha_{xx} = 2 \frac{\mu_{ge}^2}{E_{ge}} = \frac{2\mu_{eg}^2 \lambda_{eg}}{hc}$$
(3)

381 x =direction of charge-transfer,

- 382 h = Planck's constant, (in erg s)
- 383 c = velocity of light in vacuum (in cm s<sup>-1</sup>)

384  $\lambda_{eg}$  = The wavelength of transition from the ground state to excited state,

 $\mu_{ge}$  = The transition dipole moment which is related to the oscillator strength *f* by the following equation:

$$\mu_{eg}^2 = \frac{3e^2h}{8\pi^2mc} \times \frac{f}{\bar{\nu}_{eg}} \tag{4}$$

387 Where,

m = mass of electron,

389 f =oscillator strength,

390  $\bar{\nu}_{eg}$  = Absorption frequency,

e = charge on electron,

The oscillator strength can be obtained by integrated absorption coefficient of the absorption band:

394

$$f = 4.32 \times 10^{-9} \int \varepsilon(\bar{v}) \, d\bar{v} \tag{5}$$

Where  $\varepsilon$  is the extinction coefficient (L mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) and  $\bar{\nu}$  = absorption wave number in cm<sup>-1</sup>

The transition dipole moment  $\mu_{ge}$  and the oscillator strength (*f*) were calculated using equations (4) and (5). (The transition dipole moment obtained using Equation (4) is in esu, if all the constants are used in c.g.s units.). The values for  $\alpha_{CT}$  were calculated and the results obtained were compared with theoretically obtained  $\alpha_{CT}$  or  $\alpha_{xx}$ . These are collected in Table 5.

The computational values of  $\alpha_{CT}$  obtained by BHHLYP functional are closer to experimental 400 values than B3LYP and CAM-B3LYP functionals. The computational values of  $\alpha_{CT}$  are almost 401 1.5 to 2.0 times higher than the experimental values. This can be attributed to the approximations 402 exercised in the computational model, as well the inherent simplifications associated with the 403 solvatochromic methods in obtaining the ground and excited state dipole moments [81]. 404 Furthermore the solvation model used here is also evolved with several assumptions [82]. 405 Nonetheless the trends in the solvent system coincide with experimental values. The linear 406 polarizability is sensitive to solvents and is evident in both the experimental and computational 407 studies. Both dyes show higher  $\alpha_{CT}$  values in polar solvents. There is substantial increase in of 408  $15-21 \times 10^{-24}$ esu to  $16-25 \times 10^{-24}$ esu experimentally but computationally no major change was 409 observed from TPA BIZ to TPA BTZ. 410

411 < Please insert Table 5 Linear polarizability  $\alpha_{CT}$  calculated by solvatochromic and computed method for

412 TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ>

```
413 Calculation of \beta_{CT} from the solvatochromic data
```

The two-level microscopic model to determine solvent dependent hyperpolarizability is based on

the Oudar equation [23,24] which in modified form can be presented as

416

$$\beta_{CT} = \beta_{xxx} = \frac{3}{2h^2c^2} \times \frac{\bar{\nu}_{eg}^2 \mu_{eg}^2 \Delta \mu_{CT}}{(\nu_{eg}^2 - \nu_L^2)(\nu_{eg}^2 - 4\bar{\nu}_L^2)} \dots \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

417 Where,

418 x =direction of charge-transfer,

- 419 h = Planck's constant (in erg s)
- 420  $c = speed of light in vacuum (in cm s^{-1})$

421  $\mu_{eg} = transition dipole moment,$ 

- 422  $v_{eg}$  = transition frequency,
- 423  $v_L$  = frequency of the reference incident radiation to which the  $\beta$  value would be referred,

424  $\Delta \mu_{CT}$  = difference between the charge-transfer excited state and ground state dipole moment

425

The hyperpolarizability calculated by this equation is the dominant component of the hyperpolarizability tensor i.e.  $\beta_{xxx}$  and as the formula refers to charge-transfer transition [19], the hyperpolarizability obtained is often indicated as  $\beta_{CT}$  (charge-transfer). When there is no laser excitation ( $v_L = 0$ ), we get the static hyperpolarizability and Equation (6) reduces to the following equation:

431 The  $\Delta \mu_{cT}$  is obtained by using Equation (2) derived on the basis of McRae's theory [83,84]

$$\nu_{abs} - \nu_{em} = (\delta_{abs} - \delta_{em}) + \frac{2\Delta\mu_{CT}^2}{hca^3} \left(\frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon + 2} - \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2}\right) \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

432 Where,

433  $v_{abs} - v_{em} =$  Stokes shift in cm<sup>-1</sup>,

434  $\delta_{abs} - \delta_{em} = differences in the vibrational energy (in cm<sup>-1</sup>) of the molecule in the excited and$ 

435 ground state for absorption and emission,

a = cavity radius within Onsager's model (in cm),

437  $\varepsilon = \text{dielectric constant} (L \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1})$ 

- 438 n =refractive index of the solvent
- a was calculated by integration of the solvent accessible surface using density functional theory
- 440 optimized geometry.

- 441 Treating Equation (7) as
- 442 y = mx + c (8)
- 443 Where

$$y = v_{abs} - v_{em}$$
$$m = \frac{2\Delta\mu_{CT}^2}{hca^3} \qquad x = \left(\frac{\varepsilon - 1}{\varepsilon + 2} - \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2}\right)$$
$$and \ c = (\delta_{abs} - \delta_{em})$$

Using the value of slope m,  $\Delta\mu_{CT}$  was then derived, finally substituting the values of  $\Delta\mu_{CT}$  and  $\mu_{ge}$  in Equation (7),  $\beta_{CT}$  or  $\beta_{xxx}$  is obtained. The values for first hyperpolarizability obtained using the solvatochromic method (Table 6) are based on several assumptions and thus allow only approximate estimate of dominant tensor of total hyperpolarizability along the direction of charge-transfer which is the major contributor to the total hyperpolarizability. Although the values are approximate, it has advantages over the other well-known expensive methods to understand the facts. The calculated  $\beta_{CT}$  values are given in Table 6.

451 < Please insert Table 6 Total first order hyperpolarizability βCT calculated by solvatochromic and</li>
 452 computed method for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ>

453 454

The difference in the experimental and computed values of  $\beta_{xxx}$  for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ are 455 in order of  $(x \ 10^{-30})$  esu. The trends across the non-polar to polar solvents is well described by the 456 computational methods. Polar solvents show higher  $\beta_{xxx}$  values and these are reflected both in 457 computational methods. The compound TPA BIZ has calculated values of 26 (× 10<sup>-30</sup>) esu to 41 (× 458  $10^{-30}$ ) esu and experimental values from 20 (×  $10^{-30}$ ) esu to 24 (×  $10^{-30}$ ) esu across the solvents. The 459 compound TPA BTZ has calculated values of 59 (× 10<sup>-30</sup>) esu to 88 (× 10<sup>-30</sup>) esu and experimental 460 values from 32 (× 10<sup>-30</sup>) esu to 41 (× 10<sup>-30</sup>) esu across the solvents. The value of  $\beta_0$  or total first 461 order hyperpolarizability of the molecule gives an estimate of the NLO properties of the organic 462 molecules. This value considers all the directional tensor components of hyperpolarizability. The 463 computed values were compared with the values obtained for urea. As urea is one of the 464 exemplary molecules used in the study of the NLO properties of molecular systems, it is used 465 often as a threshold value for virtual purpose of comparison. The total hyperpolarizability 466 calculated is 70-110 times and 159-238 times greater than that of urea (0.37  $\times$   $10^{-30}$  esu) in case 467

of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ. The effect of the substitution of benzothiazole ring system as against
 benzimidazole is clear and shows a higher first order hyperpolarizability. The solvent effect is
 consistently shows higher value in polar solvents by computational method.

### 471 Calculation of solvatochromic descriptor of $\gamma_{SD}$ from the solvatochromic data

The second-order (or cubic) hyperpolarizability at molecular level originating from the electronic polarization in the non-resonant region can be treated by a three-level model [21,22,85–87]. The quasi-two level model in place of the three level model using the density matrix formalism to a simpler expression [88–90].

 $<\gamma>\propto \frac{1}{E_{eg}^3}\mu_{eg}^2 \left(\Delta\mu^2 - \Delta\mu_{eg}^2\right)\dots\dots\dots$ (9)

476 The value

477 
$$\frac{1}{E_{eg}^3}\mu_{eg}^2(\Delta\mu^2 - \Delta\mu_{eg}^2)$$
 (10)

- 478
- 479
- 480

### 481 < Please insert Table 7 Second order static hyperpolarizability obtained by solvatochromic and

482 computational method >

The second order hyperpolarizability can be expressed as the "solvatochromic descriptor" and 483 the values calculated are given in Table 7. The solvatochromic descriptor ( $\gamma$ ) of second order 484 hyperpolarizability of compounds show higher values in case of a benzothiazole ring containing 485 486 molecules than benzimidazole containing molecules. This can be understood on the basis of higher electron pulling effect of benzothiazole ring as compared to benzimidazole ring system, 487 which helps in creating a stronger dipole and contribute to the hyperpolarizabilities. Like  $\beta_{xxx}$  and 488  $\beta_0$  the solvatochromic descriptor is also affected by the polarity of solvent. The solvent effect is 489 also observed on this parameter, higher the polarity of the solvent, higher the second order 490 hyperpolarizability. The compound TPA BIZ has calculated values of 280 (×  $10^{-36}$ ) esu to 426 (× 491  $10^{-30}$ ) esu and experimental values from 9 (×  $10^{-36}$ ) esu to 10 (×  $10^{-36}$ ) esu. The compound TPA 492 BTZ has calculated values of 446 (×  $10^{-36}$ ) esu to 540 (×  $10^{-36}$ ) esu and experimental values from 493 27 (× 10<sup>-36</sup>) esu to 31 (× 10<sup>-36</sup>) esu. The second order hyperpolarizability calculated is 412-626 494 times and 493-778 times greater than that of urea ( $\gamma_{urea} = 0.68 \times 10^{-36}$  esu) in case of TPA BIZ and 495

TPA BTZ. The individual components of the second order static hyperpolarizability  $\gamma$  were obtained computationally. The values are considered to be proportional to the solvatochromic descriptor  $\gamma$  of the second order hyperpolarizability. The values show a trend where higher polarity solvents show higher values of  $\gamma$  and a similar trend is followed by the solvatochromically obtained values.

# Non-linear optical properties TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes using DFT and TD-DFT method

The static first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta_0$ ) and its related properties ( $\mu$ ,  $\alpha_0$ ,  $\Delta \alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ) for TPA BIZ 503 and TPA BTZ dyes were calculated using the B3LYP, CAM-B3LYP and BHHLYP functionals 504 with 6-311+G(d,p) basis set on the basis of the finite-field approach [91]. In the presence of an 505 applied field, the energy of the system is a function of the electric field, and the 506 hyperpolarizability is a rank three tensor that can be described by a  $3 \times 3 \times 3$  matrix. The 27 507 components of three-dimensional matrix can be reduced to 10 components due to Kleinman 508 symmetry [92]. The matrix can be given in the lower tetrahedral format. It is obvious that the 509 lower part of the 3  $\times$  3  $\times$  3 matrices is tetrahedral. The components of  $\beta$  are defined as the 510 coefficient in the Taylor series expansion of the energy in the external electric field. When the 511 external electric field is weak and homogeneous, this expansion becomes 512

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E}^0 - \mu_{\alpha} f_{\alpha} - \frac{1}{2\alpha_{\alpha\beta}F_{\alpha}F_{\beta}} - f \frac{1}{6\beta_{\alpha\beta\gamma}F_{\alpha}F_{\beta}F_{\gamma}} \dots \dots (11)$$

514

513

- 515 Where  $E^{\circ}$  is the energy of the unperturbed molecules,
- 516  $F_{\alpha}$  is the field at the origin,

517  $\mu_{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha_{\alpha\beta}$  and  $\beta_{\alpha}\beta_{\gamma}$  are the components of dipole moment ,polarizability and the first

518 hyperpolarizabilities respectively. The complete equations for calculating the magnitude of total

- static dipole moment ( $\mu$ ), the mean polarizability ( $\alpha_0$ ), the anisotropy of the polarizability ( $\Delta \alpha$ ),
- 520 the mean first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ) and static second hyperpolarizability ( $\gamma$ ) using the x, y, z
- components from Gaussian 09W output are defined as follows [53]:

522 
$$\mu = (\mu_x^2 + \mu_y^2 + \mu_z^2)^{1/2}$$
(12)

523

$$\alpha_0 = (1/3) \ \alpha_{xx} + \alpha_{yy} + \alpha_{zz} \tag{13}$$

525  
526 
$$\Delta \alpha = 2^{-1/2} \left[ (\alpha_{xx} - \alpha_{yy})^2 + (\alpha_{yy} - \alpha_{zz})^2 + (\alpha_{zz} - \alpha_{xx})^2 + 6\alpha_{xx}^2 \right]^{1/2}$$
 (14)  
527

528 
$$\beta_{total} = [(\beta_{xxx} + \beta_{xyy} + \beta_{xzz})^2 + (\beta_{yyy} + \beta_{xxy} + \beta_{yzz})^2 + (\beta_{zzz} + \beta_{xxz} + \beta_{yyz})^2]$$
 (15)

530 
$$\gamma = (1/5) [(\gamma_{xxxx} + \gamma_{yyyy} + \gamma_{zzzz} + 2\gamma_{xxyy} + 2\gamma_{yyzz} + 2\gamma_{zzxx})]$$
 (16)  
531 The values calculated for total static dipole moment ( $\mu$ ), the mean polarizability ( $\alpha_0$ ), the  
532 anisotropy of the polarizability ( $\Delta \alpha$ ), the mean first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ) and static second  
533 hyperpolarizability ( $\gamma$ ), of the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes in different solvent environments  
534 using Equations (12-16), respectively, are enlisted in Tables 5-7and Supporting Information

535 533 (SI) tables S6-S11. A comparison of the B3LYP, CAM-B3LYP and BHHLYP 536 hyperpolarizabilities suggests that the results obtained using the B3LYP functional might be 537 overestimating the hyperpolarizability values. This conclusion is based on benchmark studies 538 [93–95] in which CAM-B3LYP was found to perform much better than B3LYP for nonlinear 539 optical properties based on comparison with highly accurate coupled-cluster models pointed out 540 by Hammond and Kowalski [96].

### 541 Vibrational contribution to the linear and NLO response:

524

In push-pull chromophores, vibrations are generally strongly coupled with conjugated electrons 542 in the system. Hence along with the electronic transitions the vibrational transitions play vital 543 544 role in determining the NLO properties. The coupling between the electronic polarization and vibration leads to a considerable vibrational contribution to the overall NLO response [97]. In 545 this context, DFT is a good computational tool to study the vibrational contribution to 546 polarizability and hyperpolarizabilities of NLO chromophores [98,99]. We have obtained the 547 vibrational contributions to static electronic polarizability and hyperpolarizabilities using B3LYP 548 functional with 6-311+G(d,p) basis set in two solvents. Table-8 presents the DFT results of the 549

550 diagonal electronic and vibrational contributions to the linear polarizability ( $\alpha$ ) and first 551 hyperpolarizability ( $\beta$ ).

552

< Please insert Table 8 Diagonal electronic and vibrational contributions to dipole polarizabilities and first</li>
 hyperpolarizabilities of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ obtained from of B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) calculations in
 various solvent. (All values are in a.u.)>

Table-8 shows that along with electronic part there is substantial contribution of vibrational part 556 to the polarizability and hyperpolarizability. For TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ the ratios of vibrational 557 to electronic contribution in polarizability ( $\alpha^{v}/\alpha^{e}$ ) are 0.451 to 0.557 and 0.313 to 0.401 in toluene 558 (nonpolar) and ethanol (polar with hydrogen bonding effect) respectively. In case of first 559 hyperpolarizability the ratios of vibrational to electronic contribution ( $\beta^{v}/\beta^{e}$ ) are -1.239 to -1.061 560 and -0.040 to 0.003 in toluene and ethanol respectively. This confirms that the vibrational 561 motions play crucial role in determining the NLO properties of these dyes particularly in solvent 562 environments wherein solvation is likely to affect the vibrations. 563

564 Fundamental limits for the first and second order hyperpolarizability values

The fundamental limits of NLO response for the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ Push-pull chromophores can be obtained by the limiting theory proposed by Kuzyk [100,101]. It is the sum-rule-restricted (SR) three-level model which produce a two-level-limit (2L) for  $\beta$  ( $\beta_{2L}^{*SR}$  or  $\beta$ max) depends exclusively on the conjugated  $\pi$  electrons N from double or triple bond and the transition energy E<sub>10</sub> between the ground and first excited state, obtained from  $\lambda$ max absorption. The limit for  $\beta^*$  is obtained from eq.17 in different solvents using their respective refractive indexes (n) of respective solvent.

$$\beta_{2L}^{*SR} \le \sqrt[4]{3} \left(\frac{n^2 + 2}{3}\right)^3 \left(\frac{e\hbar}{\sqrt{m}}\right)^3 \frac{N^{3/2}}{E_{10}^{7/2}} \tag{17}$$

572 *e* and *m* are the charge and mass of electron.  $\hbar = h/2\pi$ .

Similarly limit for the second order hyperpolarizability ( $\gamma$ ) can be estimated by eq. 18[102,103]. The  $\gamma$  values have two possible fundamental limits for i.e. negative limit which is for a centrosymmetric molecule and positive limit for an asymmetric molecule.

576 
$$-\frac{e^{4}\hbar^{4}}{m^{2}} \left(\frac{N^{2}}{E_{10}^{5}}\right) \le \gamma \le 4 \frac{e^{4}\hbar^{4}}{m^{2}} \left(\frac{N^{2}}{E_{10}^{5}}\right)$$
(18)

577 The limiting values for  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  obtained from eq. 17 and 18 are compared with the corresponding 578 values obtained by solvatochromic and computational methods for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ in 579 table 9.

# < Please insert Table 9 Comparison of solvatochromic and theoretical values with the limiting values of</li> hyperpolarizability for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ>

582

Table 9 shows that for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ in all solvents the  $\beta$  values below the  $\beta$ max limit and  $\gamma$  values are within the estimated limiting values.

585

### 586 Conclusions

In summary, NLO properties of triphenylamine-based dyes TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ were studied 587 using the solvatochromic method and the solvent dependent shift in the emission wavelength is 588 observed. Furthermore DFT and TD-DFT computations were performed to estimate the NLO 589 properties of triphenylamine-based dyes TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ using the B3LYP functional (in 590 the ground- and excited-state geometries) and the CAM-B3LYP and BHHLYP functionals (in 591 the ground-state geometry only). The theoretical examination on non-linear optical properties 592 was performed on the key parameters of polarizability and hyperpolarizability. A remarkable 593 increase in non-linear optical response is observed on insertion of benzothiazole unit compared 594 to benzimidazole unit. Triphenylamine-based dyes TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ can act as a 595 promising organic NLO material for optoelectronic devices. 596

597

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# Table 1 Observed absorption and computed vertical excitation for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ.dyes in various solvents.

		Expt		TD-I	B3LYP/6-311+G	( <b>d</b> , <b>p</b> )	
Dye	Solvent	$\lambda_{max}$	V Exe	ertical citation	Oscillator Strength (f)	Orbital Contribution	
		nm	nm	eV			
	Toluene	355	381	3.258	1.048	H→L (98%)	
	Chlorofom	357	381	3.256	1.039	H→L (98%)	
TPA BIZ	EtOAc	350	380	3.263	1.020	H→L (98%)	
	Acetone	352	380	3.259	1.019	H→L (98%)	
	EtOH	350	380	3.259	1.020	H→L (98%)	
	Toluene	374	407	3.049	1.005	H→L (99%)	
	Chlorofom	376	407	3.043	1.002	H→L (99%)	
IFADIZ	EtOAc	370	407	3.050	0.987	H→L (99%)	
	Acetone	375	407	3.045	0.994	H→L (99%)	
	EtOH	371	407	3.045	0.995	H→L (99%)	

Table 2	Observed	emission	and c	computed	emission	for '	TPA I	BIZ an	d TPA	BTZ	.dyes ir
				1							•
various s	olvents										

	Solvent	Expt		TD-	B3LYP/6-311+G	( <b>d</b> , <b>p</b> )
Dye		$\lambda_{max}$	Emission		Oscillator	Orbital
		nm	nm	eV	Strength (f)	Contribution
TPABIZ	Toluene	412	453	2.735	0.437	L→H (98%)

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	Chlorofom	427	444	2.791	0.710	L→H (98%)
	EtOAc	414	443	2.802	0.725	L→H (98%)
	Acetone	427	442	2.807	0.802	L→H (98%)
	EtOH	432	442	2.807	0.808	L→H (98%)
	Toluene	434	506	2.450	0.274	L→H (99%)
TPABTZ	Chlorofom	458	495	2.506	0.445	L→H (99%)
	EtOAc	453	491	2.526	0.495	L→H (99%)
	Acetone	475	485	2.555	0.628	L→H (99%)
	EtOH	484	485	2.556	0.637	L→H (98%)

**Table 3** Energy of HOMO, LUMO and band gaps of the TPABIZ and TPABTZ dyes in gas phase and solvents using TDDFT (B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p))method

Dye	Solvent	<sup>a</sup> LUMO (eV)	<sup>b</sup> HOMO (eV)	EL- EH(eV)	η
	Gas	-1 551	-5 3//	3 70	1 00
	Cas	-1.551	-3.544	3.75	1.50
	Toluene	-1.589	-5.363	3.77	1.89
	CHCl₃	-1.623	-5.386	3.76	1.88
TPA BIZ	EtOAc	-1.633	-5.393	3.76	1.88
	Acetone	-1.664	-5.416	3.75	1.88
	Ethanol	-1.666	-5.418	3.75	1.88
	Gas	-1.848	-5.407	3.56	1.78
	toluene	-1.903	-5.427	3.52	1.76
C	CHCl <sub>3</sub>	-1.945	-5.451	3.51	1.75
TPA BTZ	EtOAc	-1.956	-5.458	3.50	1.75
	Acetone	-1.991	-5.483	3.49	1.75
	Ethanol	-1.994	-5.485	3.49	1.75

<sup>a</sup> Energy of highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO).

<sup>b</sup> Energy of lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO)

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Table 4 Coupling strength ( $H_{DA}$ ), coupling distance ( $R_{DA}$ ), degree of delocalization

 $C_b^2$  and ratio of dipole moment for the TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ dyes in various

Compound		TPA BI	Z		TPA BTZ			
Solvent	R <sub>DA</sub> (Å)	H <sub>DA</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	$C_b^2$	$\mu_{e}/\mu_{g}$	R <sub>DA</sub> (Å)	$H_{DA}(cm^{-1})$	$C_b^2$	μ <sub>e</sub> /μ <sub>g</sub>
Toluene	3.78	12425	1.06	0.80	4.00	11026	0.869	0.50
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	3.75	12470	1.09	0.86	4.29	11414	0.974	0.47
EtOAc	3.71	12808	1.11	0.87	3.49	11406	0.927	0.50
Acetone	3.92	12447	1.02	0.90	4.37	11197	0.758	0.60
Ethanol	3.93	12389	1.02	0.91	3.81	10453	0.887	0.61

### Table 5

# Linear polarizability $\alpha_{CT}$ calculated by solvatochromic method and computed $\alpha_{CT}$ for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ

TPA BIZ						TP	A BTZ	
		Com	puted $\alpha$ (×	10 <sup>-24</sup> ) esu		Comp	buted $\alpha$ (×	$10^{-24}$ ) esu
Solvent	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP
Toluene	17	32	31	30	19	30	29	29
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	18	35	34	33	25	32	32	32
EtOAc	21	36	34	34	22	34	33	32
Acetone	15	39	37	36	21	37	35	35
Ethanol	18	39	37	37	16	37	36	35

### Table 6 Total first order hyperpolarizability $\beta_{\rm CT}$ calculated by solvatochromic method and computed *method* for TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ

		TPA BI	Z	TPA BTZ					
		Com	puted $\beta$ (×		Computed $\beta$ (×10 <sup>-30</sup> ) esu				
Solvent	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP	
Toluene	20	48	29	26	32	106	63	59	
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	22	62	37	33	41	133	77	73	
EtOAc	24	66	39	35	35	141	81	76	
Acetone	18	79	45	41	34	164	92	87	
Ethanol	22	80	46	41	27	165	93	88	

# Table 7Second order static hyperpolarizability obtained by solvatochromic and computationalmethod

		TPA BI	Z	TPA BTZ					
		Com	puted $\gamma$ (×		Computed $\gamma$ (× 10 <sup>-36</sup> ) esu				
Solvent	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP	Expt	B3LYP	CAM B3LYP	BHHLYP	
Toluene	9	518	282	280	31	624	340	335	
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	8	658	349	346	31	813	430	422	
EtOAc	6	697	368	364	27	865	455	446	
Acetone	8	820	426	421	29	1032	533	522	
Ethanol	10	831	431	426	28	1047	540	529	

**Table 8:** Diagonal electronic and vibrational contributions to dipole polarizabilities and first hyperpolarizabilities of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ obtained from of B3LYP/6-311+G(d,p) calculations in various solvent. (All values are in a.u.)

Dye	TPA BIZ						TPA BTZ			
Property	Toluene	CHCl₃	EtOAc	Acetone	Ethanol	Toluene	CHCl₃	EtOAc	Acetone	Ethanol
$\alpha_{xx}^{e}$	640.4	681.5	691.8	721.7	724.1	686.1	733.8	745.8	780.8	783.6
$\alpha_{yy}^{e}$	-3.3	-3.8	-3.9	-4.2	-4.2	-11.4	-12.8	-13.1	-14.2	-14.3
$\alpha_{zz}^{e}$	393.4	428.4	437.8	467.0	469.4	404.1	442.1	452.4	484.2	486.8
$\alpha_{xx}^{v}$	180.7	213.9	223.9	256.4	259.0	204.4	247.6	259.5	302.5	306.6
$\alpha_{yy}^{v}$	94.9	108.5	113.0	128.3	129.6	82.3	96.4	100.2	112.6	113.8
$\alpha_{zz}^{v}$	189.0	215.6	226.5	269.6	273.6	51.3	64.0	67.7	82.2	83.7
$\alpha^{e}$	343.5	368.7	375.2	394.8	396.4	359.6	387.7	395.0	416.9	418.7
$\alpha^{\rm v}$	154.9	179.3	187.8	218.1	220.7	112.7	136.0	142.5	165.8	168.0
$\alpha^{e} + \alpha^{v}$	498.3	548.0	563.0	612.9	617.2	472.3	523.7	537.5	582.7	586.7
$\alpha^{v}/\alpha^{e}$	0.451	0.486	0.500	0.552	0.557	0.313	0.351	0.361	0.398	0.401
$\beta_{xxx}^{e}$	6974	8944	9482	11154	11293	-13829	17274	-18202	-21049	-21282
$\beta_{yyy}{}^e$	-53.4	-87.6	-98.7	-140.8	-144.8	-184.8	-227.5	-238.8	-272.5	-275.1
$\beta_{zzz}^{e}$	-1498	-1786	-1863	-2095	-2113	1489	1772	1847	2073	2092
$\beta_{xzx}{}^{v}$	-4072	-5164	-5427	-5933	-5944	4152	4805	4921	5016	4995
$\beta_{yyy}{}^{v}$	1565	-1697	1755	1931	1942	-1080	-1333	-1363	-1436	-1444
$\beta_{zzz}{}^{v}$	-4210	-4692	-4885	-5537	-5587	-2575	-3152	-3243	-3564	-3601
$\beta^{e}$	1808	2357	2507	2973	3012	-4175	6273	-5532	-6416	-6488

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$\beta^{\rm v}$	-2239	-3851	-2853	-3179	-3197	165.9	106.6	105.2	5.5	-16.8	
$\beta^e\!\!+\!\beta^v$	-431.3	-1494.4	-345.6	-206.6	-184.9	-4009	6379	-5426	-6411	-6505	
$\beta^v / \beta^e$	-1.239	-1.634	-1.138	-1.069	-1.061	-0.040	0.017	-0.019	-0.001	0.003	

 Table 9: Comparison of solvatochromic and theoretical values with the limiting

values of hyperpolarizability for TPABIZ and TPABTZ

Solvent	$\beta_{max}^{a}$	$\beta_{CT}^{b}$	β <sub>0</sub> <sup>c</sup>	$\gamma_{\min}^{d}$	γ <sub>max</sub> e	γ <sub>sd</sub> f	$\gamma^{ m g}$
	$\times (10^{-30} \text{ esu})$	$\times$ (10 <sup>-30</sup> esu)	$\times$ (10 <sup>-30</sup> esu)	$\times$ (10 <sup>-36</sup> esu)			
			TPA	BIZ			
Toluene	621	30	26	-518	2073	4	280
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	568	31	33	-533	2132	1.4	346
EtOAc	454	30	35	-482	1931	1.9	364
Acetone	556	23	41	-672	2691	5.1	421
Ethanol	569	29	41	-690	2764	6.6	426
			TPA	BTZ			
Toluene	745	48	59	-672	2691	33	335
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	681	58	73	-690	2764	25	422
EtOAc	551	47	76	-637	2550	25	446
Acetone	561	46	87	-681	2727	30	522
Ethanol	543	36	88	-646	2585	33	529

a= limiting  $\beta$ max values, b = solvatochromic  $\beta_{CT}$ , c = theoretical  $\beta 0$  from computation, d,e = limiting minimum and maximum  $\gamma$  values, f = solvatochromic  $\gamma$ , g = theoretical  $\gamma$  from computation.

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Fig 1. Synthesis of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ

Fig 2 Absorption and Emission spectra of TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ







Fig 3 Frontier molecular orbitals of TPABIZ and TPABTZ dyes in the ground state



Fig. 4 Optimized geometry parameters of TPA BIZ dye in acetone solvent in the ground state and excited state (bond length are in Å, dihedral angles are in degree)



Fig. 5 Optimized geometry parameters of TPA BTZ dye in acetone solvent in the ground state and excited state (bond length are in Å, dihedral angles are in degree)



Fig 6 The ground state (GS) and excited state (ES) Mulliken charge (e) distribution of the compound TPA BIZ and TPA BTZ in Acetone

### **Highlights of Manuscript**

- 1. DFT and Solvatochromic studies of triphenylamine based dyes
- 2. Calculations of first and second order hyperpolarizabilities.
- 3. NLO property evaluation of triphenylamine based dyes
- 4. Enhancement in NLO properties by introduction of Benzothiazole unit.

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