

Supplementary Materials for
Solvent-responsive covalent organic framework membranes for precise and tunable molecular sieving

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Chemicals and materials

Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) substrate (molecular weight cut-off of 100,000 Da) was purchased from Beijing Haicheng Shijie Co Ltd. Ethanol (>99.8%), *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF, >99.5%), dichloromethane (DCM, >99.5%), methanol (>99.5%), tetrahydrofuran (THF, >99.5%), ethyl acetate (>99.5%), carbon tetrachloride (CTC, >99.5%), cyclohexane (>99%), toluene (>99.5%), *n*-heptane (>99.5%), *n*-hexane (>99.5%), *iso*-propanol (>99.5%), chloroform (>99.5%), and acetone (>99.5%) were obtained from Avantor Performance Materials Inc. Dopamine (97%) and tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane-hydrochloride (tris-HCl, 95%) were purchased from Alfa Aesar. 2,4,6-Tris(4-aminophenyl)-1,3,5-triazine (TAPT, 98%), mesitylene (>99.5%), and tris(4-aminophenyl)amine (TAPA, 99%) were purchased from Tee Hai Chem Pte Ltd. 1,3,5-Triformylphloroglucinol (Tp, 98%) and 1,6-diaminopyrene (DAP, 98%) were purchased from Yanshen Technology Co Ltd. Congo red (>95%), acid fuchsin (>95%), methyl blue (>95%), methyl orange (>95%), acid blue (>95%), Ir[dF(CF₃)ppy]₂(dtbpy))PF₆ (>99%), Hoveyda-Grubbs Catalyst® M720 (>95%), and tris(2,2'-bipyridine)ruthenium(II) hexafluorophosphate (>98%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Curcumin (>95%), tetracycline (>95%), and chlorophyll (>95%) were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry (TCI) Co., Ltd. All the purchased materials were directly used without further purification. The deionized water was used throughout the experiments.

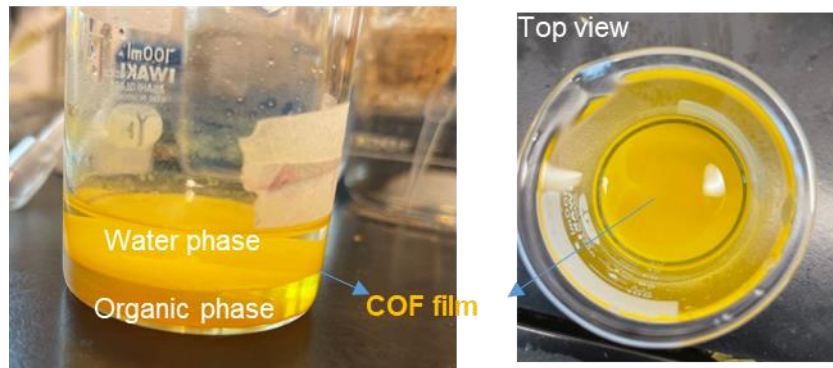


Fig. S1. Optical images of the synthesized COF Tp-TAPT film at the interface between water phase and organic phase.

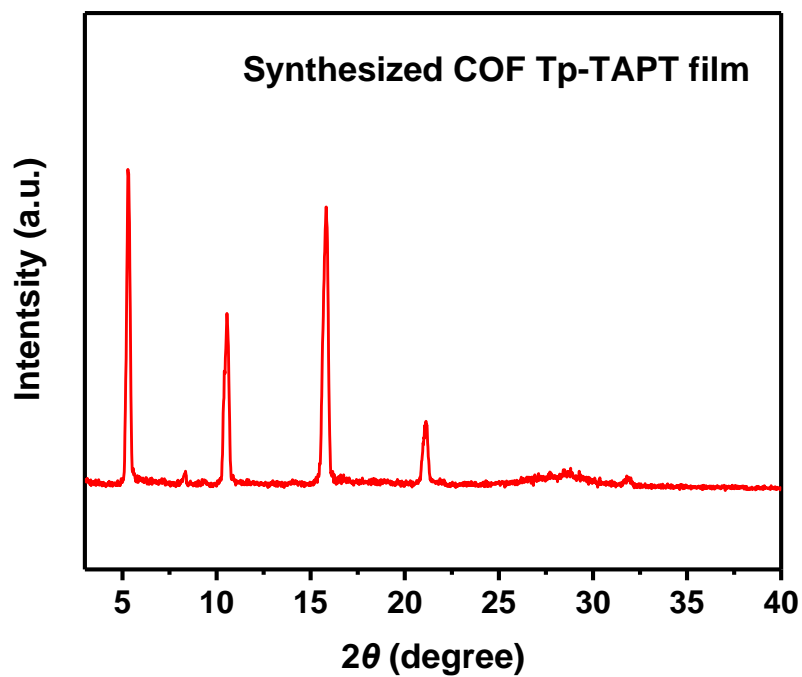


Fig. S2. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) pattern of the synthesized COF Tp-TAPT film.

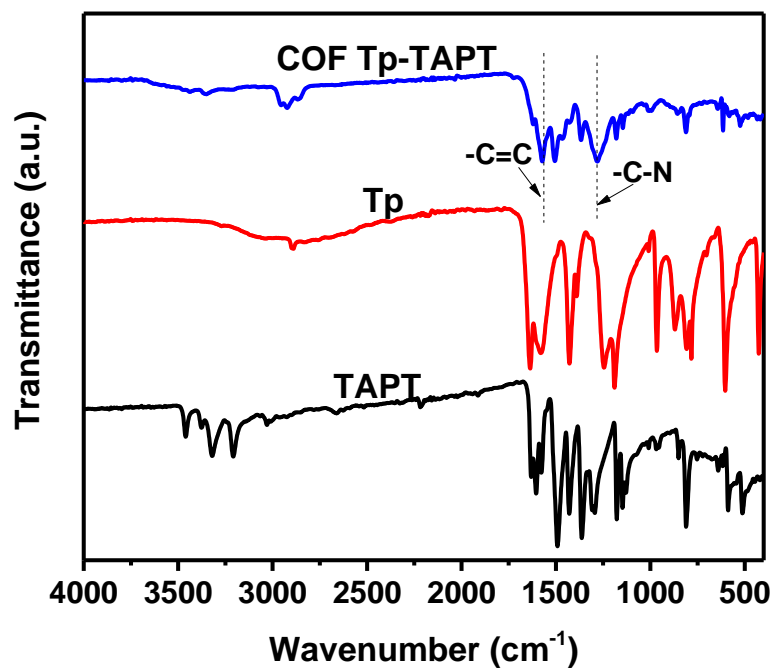


Fig. S3. FTIR spectra of Tp monomer, TAPT monomer, and COF Tp-TAPT film.

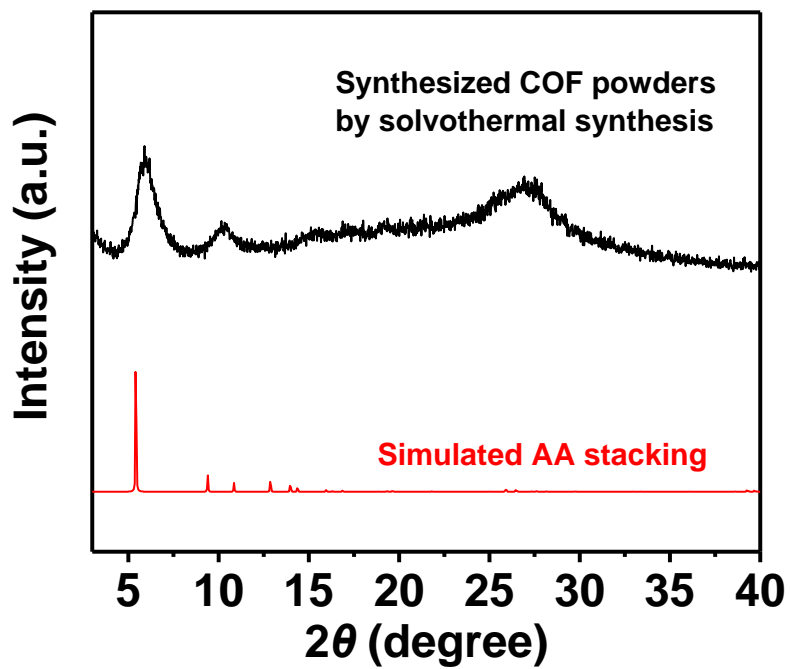


Fig. S4. PXRD patterns of the synthesized COF TpTAPT powders by solvothermal synthesis with simulated AA stacking structures.

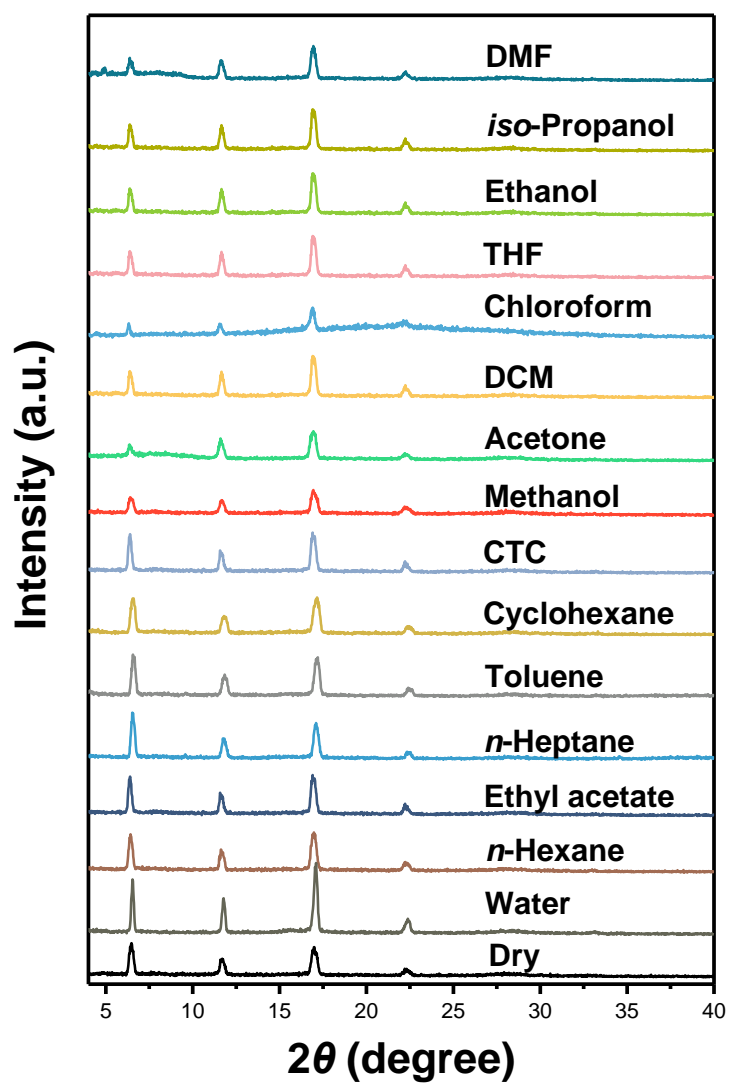


Fig. S5. PXRD patterns of the COF Tp-TAPT films solvated by various solvents.

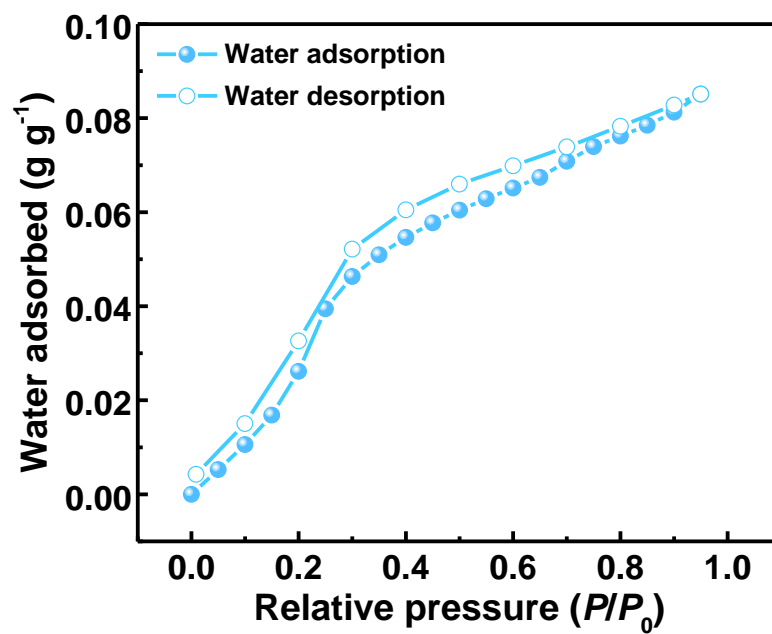


Fig. S6. Water vapor adsorption-desorption isotherms of COF Tp-TAPT measured at 298 K.

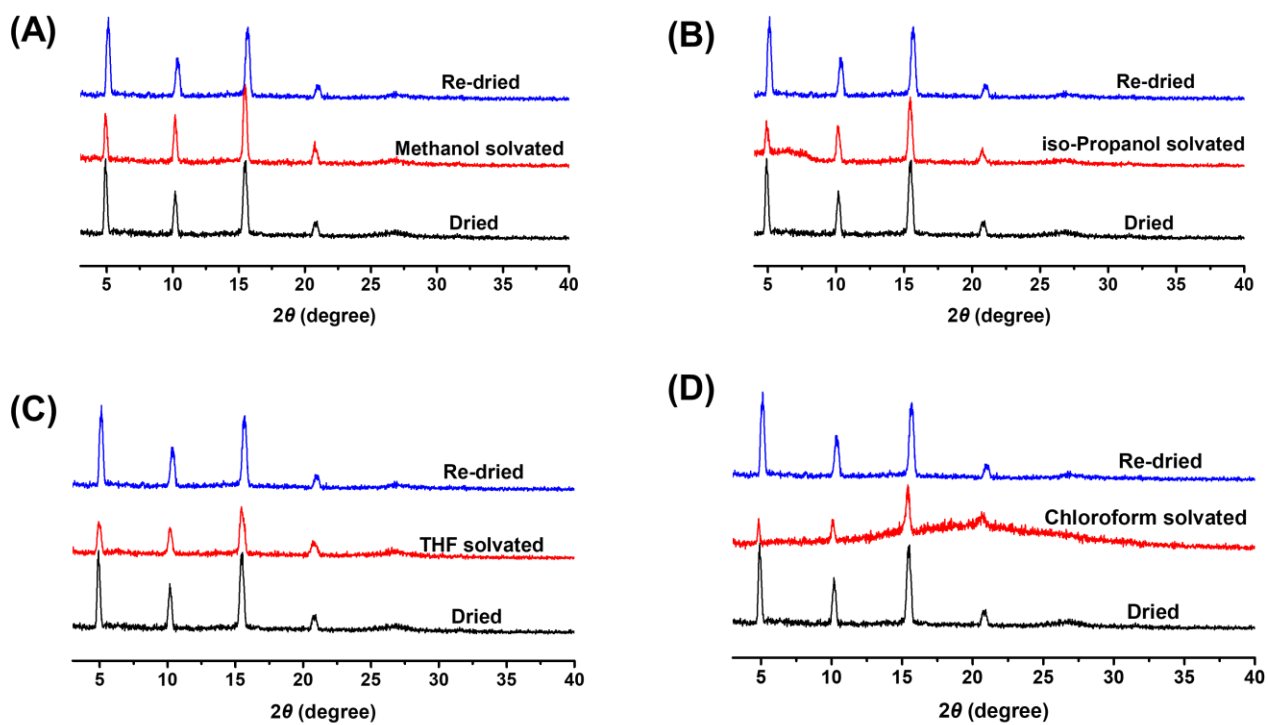


Fig. S7. PXRD patterns of sequential dried–solvated–dried COF Tp-TAPT film in (A) methanol, (B) *iso*-propanol, (C) THF, and (D) chloroform.

Table S1. Viscosity, molar volume, solvent molar diameter, and Hansen solubility parameter of the solvents used in this study.

Solvent	Viscosity (mPa s) ^a	Molar volume (V_m , cm ³ mol ⁻¹) ^b	d_m (nm) ^c	Hansen solubility parameter (MPa ^{1/2}) ^d				Remarks
				δ_d	δ_p	δ_h	$\delta_0 = (\delta_d^2 + \delta_p^2 + \delta_h^2)^{1/2}$	
<i>n</i> -Hexane	0.30	130.5	0.72	14.9	0.0	0.0	14.9	Solvents that cannot trigger interlayer shifting
Cyclohexane	0.90	105.5	0.69	16.8	0.0	0.2	16.8	
<i>n</i> -Heptane	0.40	146.5	0.77	15.3	0.0	0.0	15.3	
Toluene	0.56	106.3	0.70	18.0	1.4	2.0	18.2	
Ethyl acetate	0.42	97.8	0.68	15.8	5.3	7.2	18.2	
CTC	0.97	96.5	0.67	17.8	0.0	0.6	17.8	
Water	0.89	18.1	0.39	15.5	16.0	42.3	47.8	
Acetone	0.31	73.9	0.62	15.5	10.4	7.0	19.9	Solvents that can trigger interlayer shifting
THF	0.48	74.0	0.62	16.8	5.7	8.0	19.5	
DCM	0.44	64.0	0.59	17.8	6.2	6.0	19.8	
Chloroform	0.54	80.5	0.63	17.8	3.1	5.7	18.9	
DMF	0.82	77.0	0.63	17.4	13.7	11.3	24.9	
Methanol	0.55	40.7	0.51	15.1	12.3	22.3	29.6	
Ethanol	1.07	58.7	0.57	15.8	8.8	19.4	26.5	
<i>iso</i> -Propanol	2.04	75.1	0.62	15.8	6.1	16.4	23.6	

^a Viscosity is at 25 °C (61).

^b Molar volume (V_m) data were taken from ref (6, 62).

^c Molar diameter (d_m) was calculated from ref (6) using V_m of the solvent molecules with the equation: $d_m = 2 \times (3V_m/4\pi N_A)^{1/3}$, where N_A is Avogadro's number.

^d δ_d is solubility parameter contributed by dispersion forces, δ_p is solubility parameter contributed by dipole forces, δ_h is solubility parameter contributed by hydrogen bonding (or contributed by donor-acceptor interactions), and δ_0 is total solubility parameter (63).

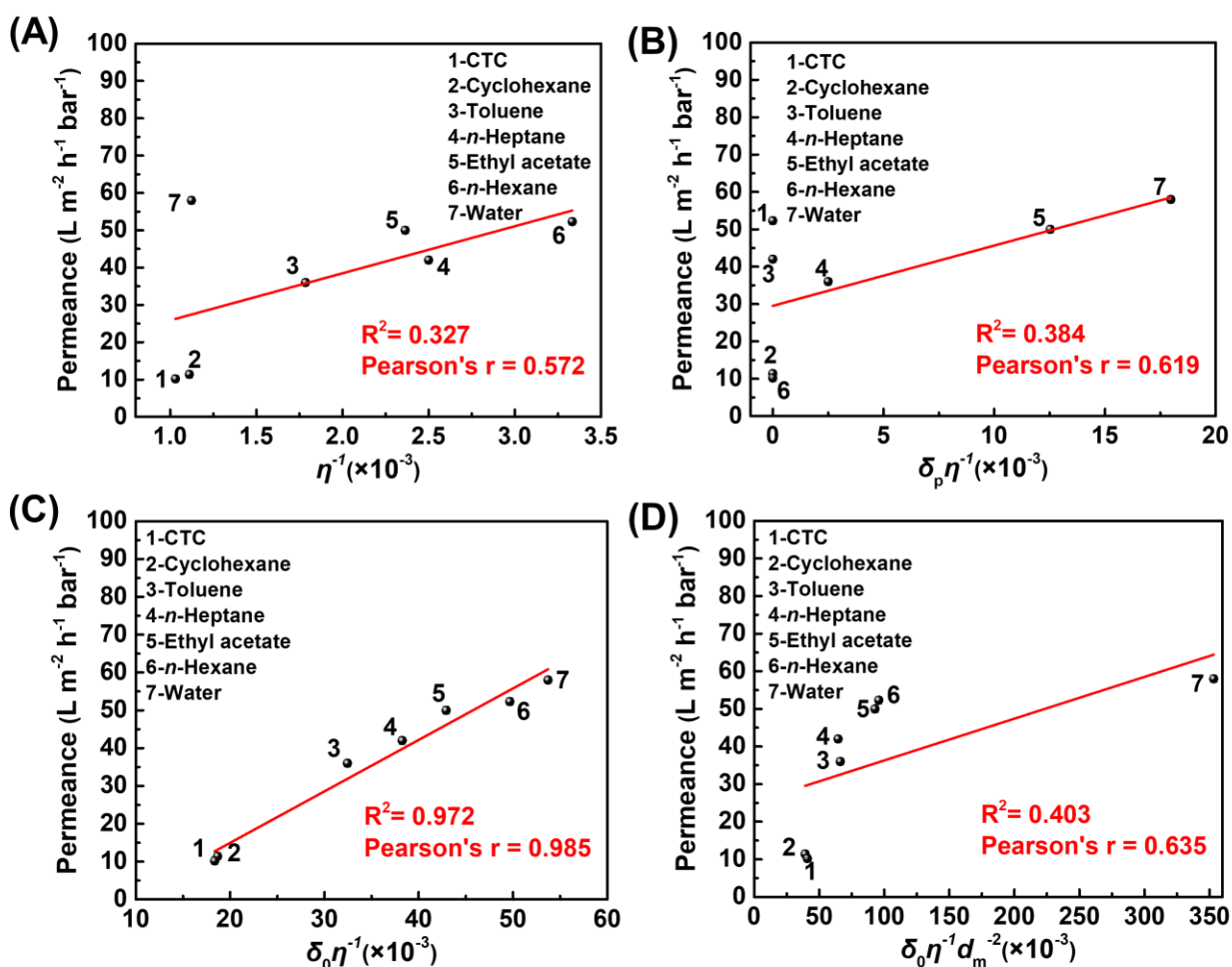


Fig. S8. Analysis of solvent transport through COF Tp-TAPT membrane in nonpolar organic solvents, low-polarity organic solvents, and water. (A) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against solvent viscosity. (B) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (solubility parameter due to dipole forces and viscosity). (C) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (total solubility parameter and viscosity). (D) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (total solubility parameter, viscosity, and molar diameter).

Note: According to figure (C), solvent permeance follows the equation:

$$J \propto K_{HP} \delta_0 \eta^{-1} \Delta P$$

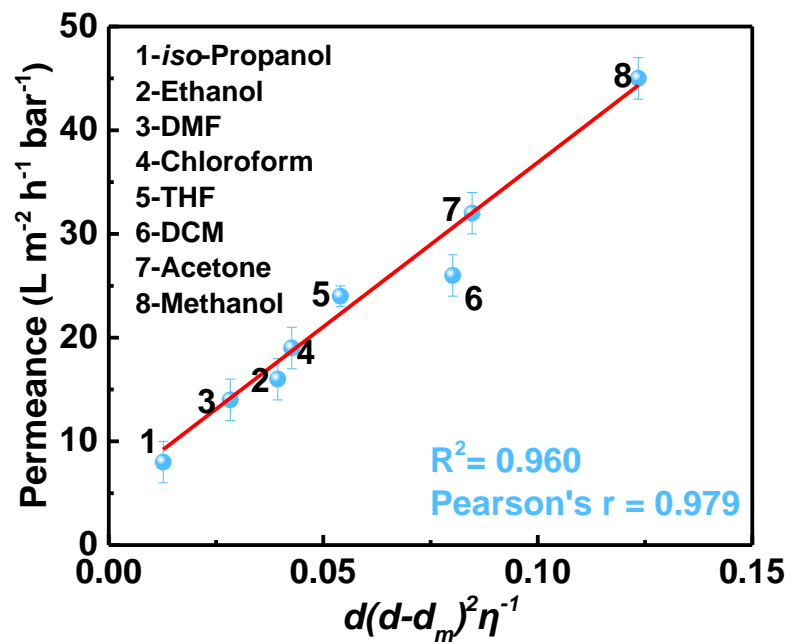


Fig. S9. Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the model parameter combining solvent viscosity, membrane pore size, and kinetic diameter of solvent.

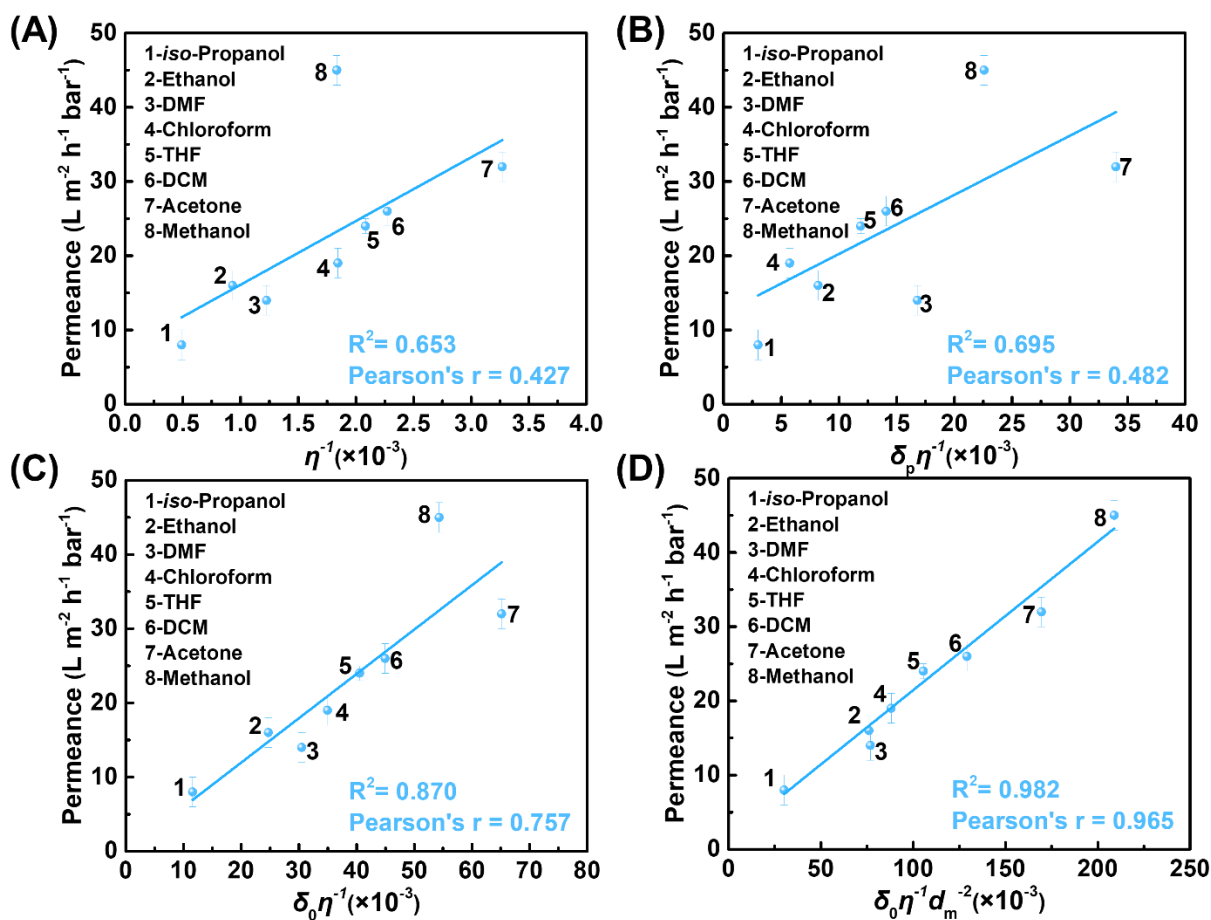


Fig. S10. Analysis of solvent transport through COF Tp-TAPT membrane in polar organic solvents. (A) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against solvent viscosity. (B) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (solubility parameter due to dipole forces and viscosity). (C) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (total solubility parameter and viscosity). (D) Plot and fitting of solvent permeance against the combined solvent property (total solubility parameter, viscosity, and molar diameter).

Note: According to figure (D), solvent permeance follows the equation:

$$J \propto K_{HP} \delta_0 \eta^{-1} d_m^{-2} \Delta P$$

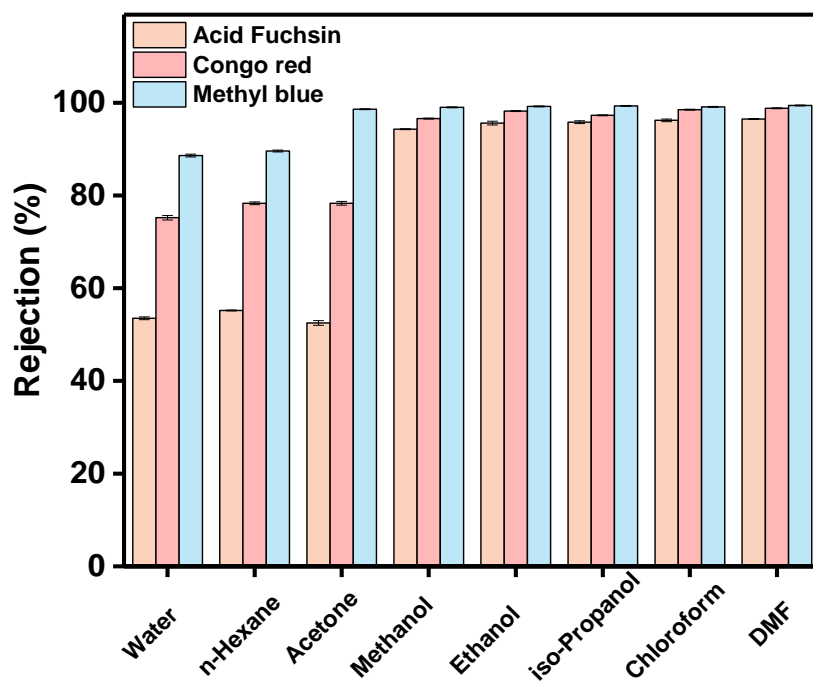


Fig. S11. Dye rejection performance of COF Tp-TAPT membrane in different solvents.

Note: The feed concentration is 50 ppm, and the operation pressure is 2 bar.

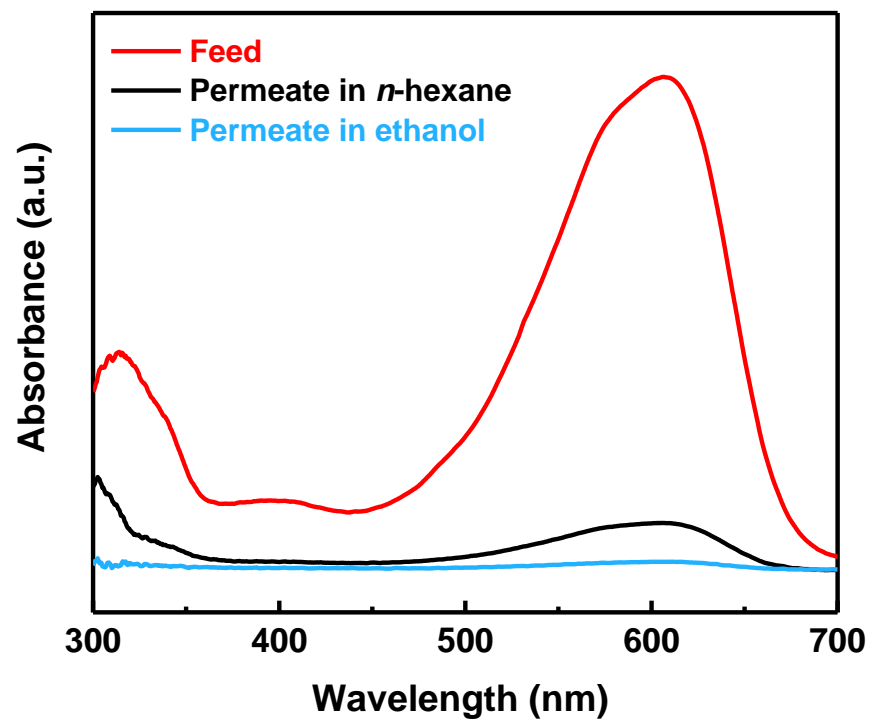


Fig. S12. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting methyl blue by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

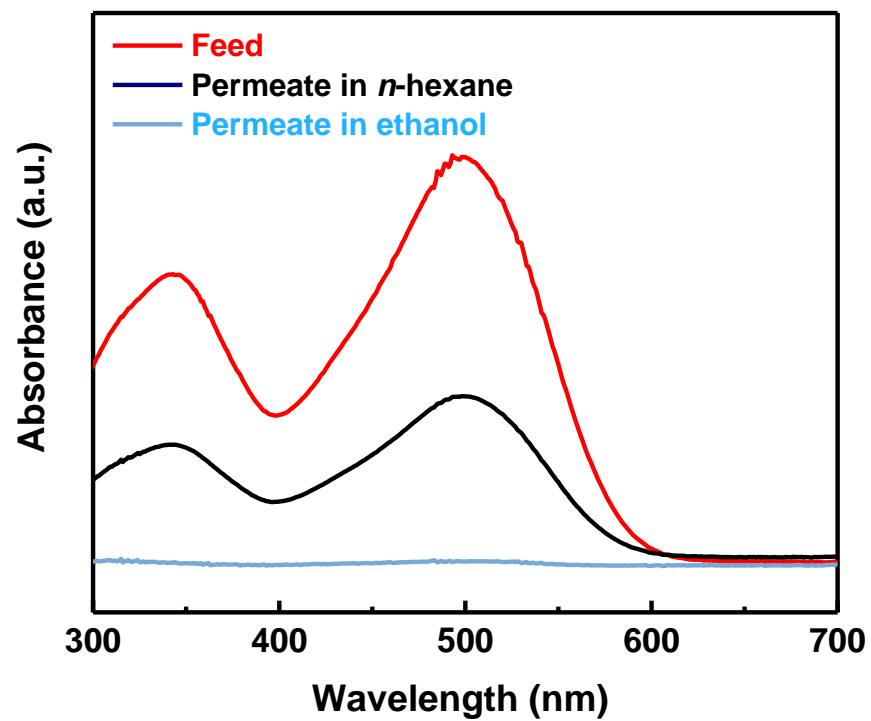


Fig. S13. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting Congo red by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

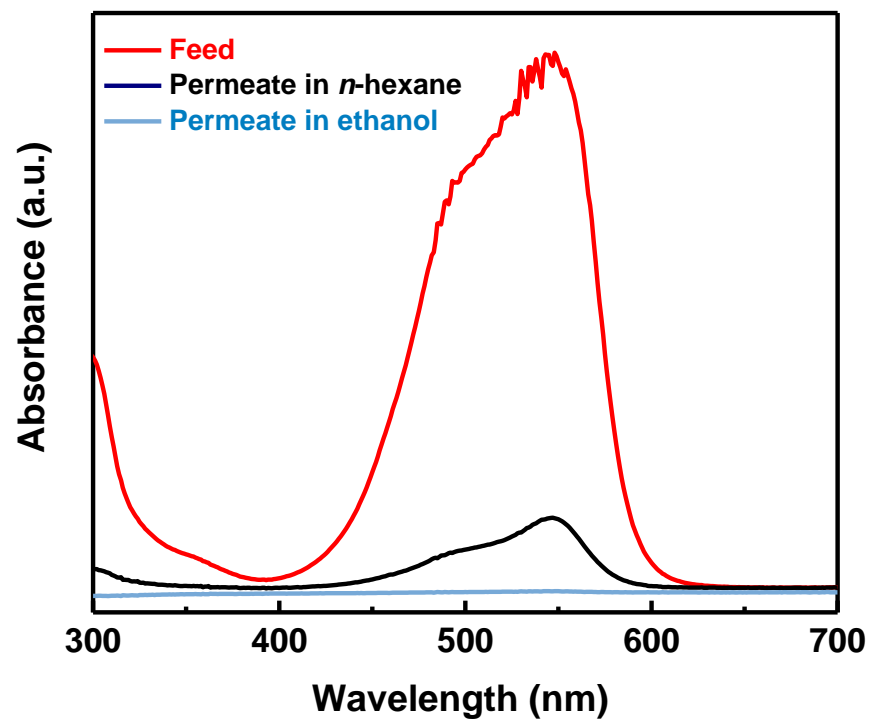


Fig. S14. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting acid fuchsin by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

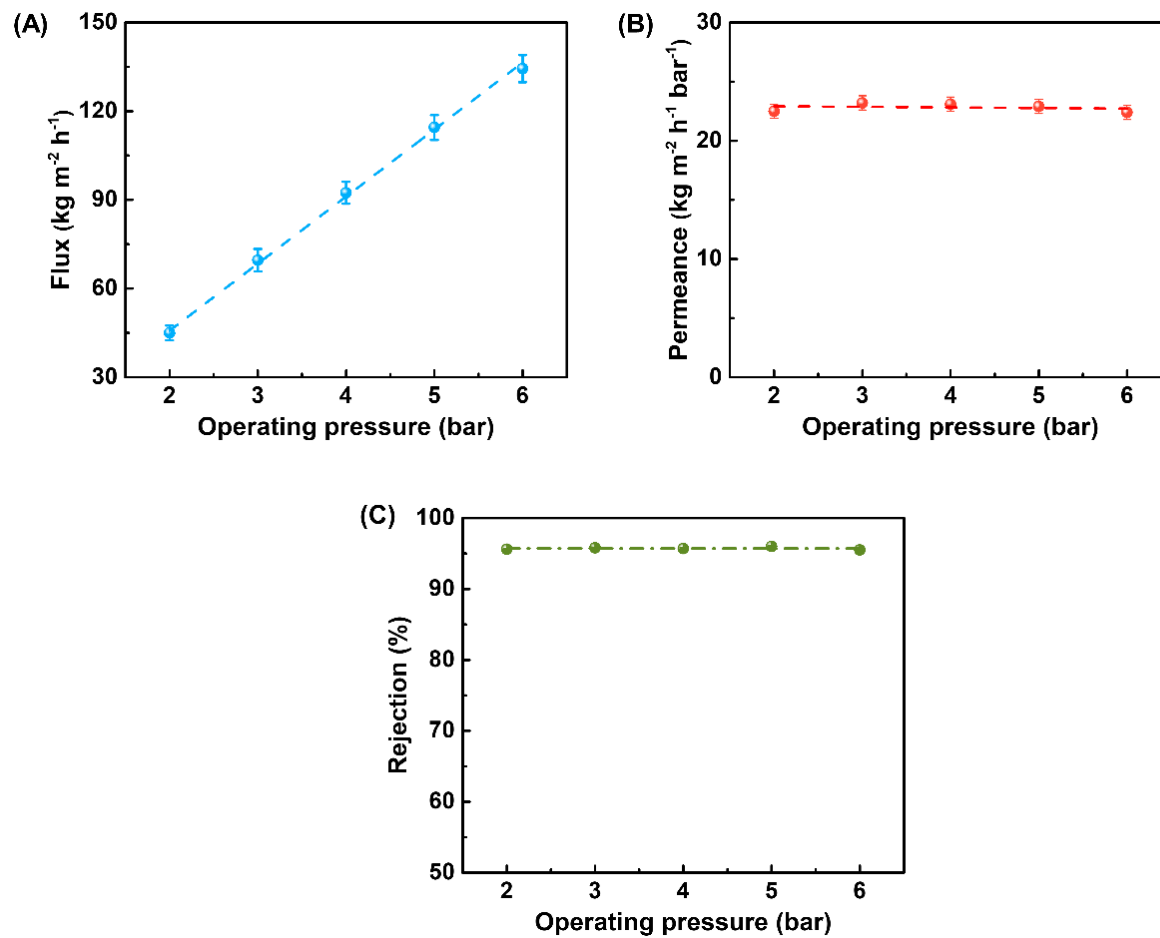


Fig. S15. (A) Flux, (B) permeance, and (C) rejection as a function of operating pressure for rejecting acid fuchsin in ethanol by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

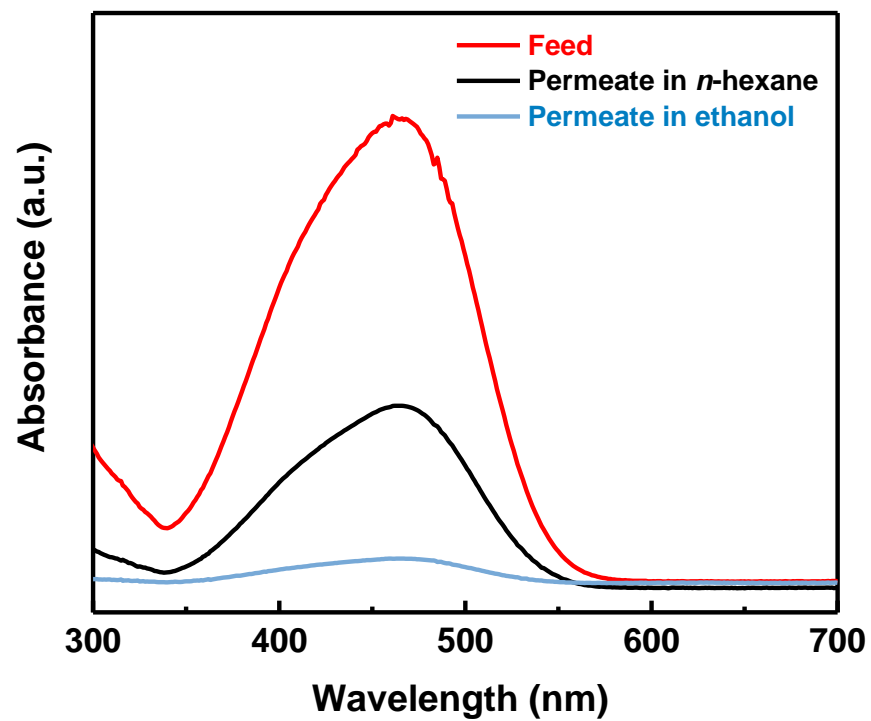


Fig. S16. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting methyl orange by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

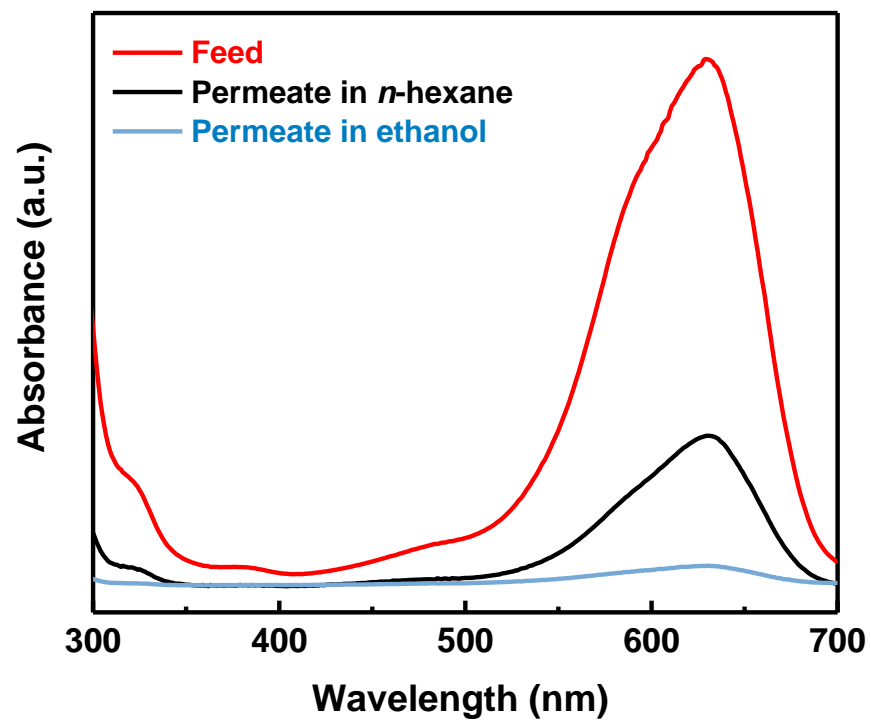


Fig. S17. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting acid blue by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

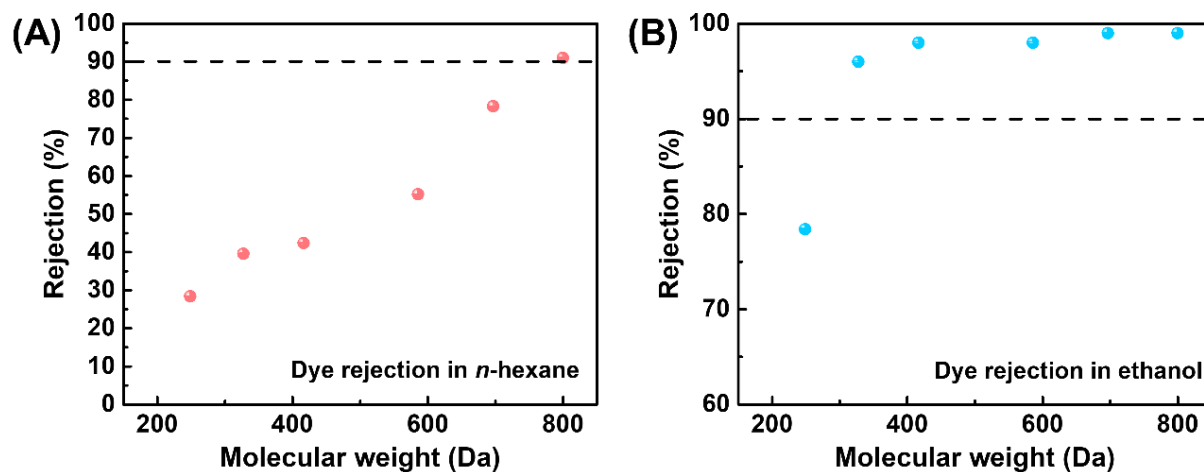


Fig. S18. Dye rejection curves in (A) *n*-hexane and (B) ethanol.

Note: The feed concentration is 50 ppm, and the operation pressure is 2 bar.

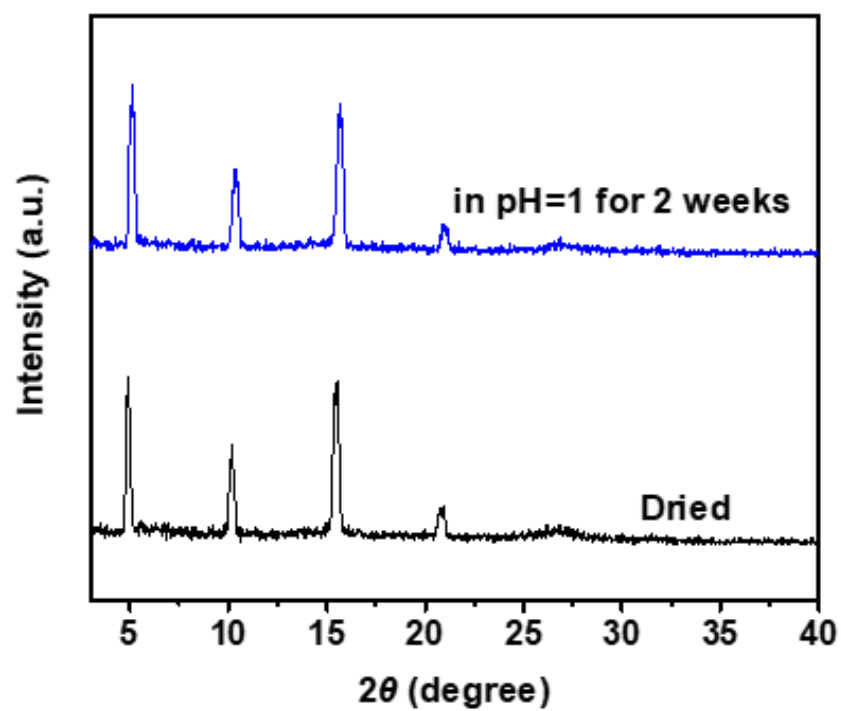


Fig. S19. The PXRD patterns of COF Tp-TAPT film soaked in pH=1 aqueous solution for 2 weeks.

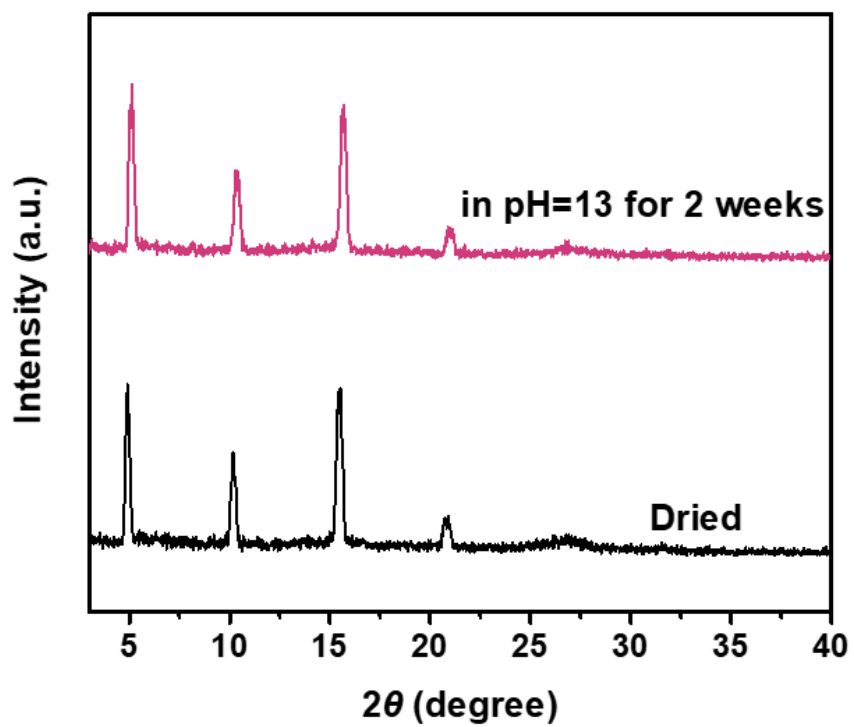


Fig. S20. The PXR D patterns of COF Tp-TAPT film soaked in pH=13 aqueous solution for 2 weeks.

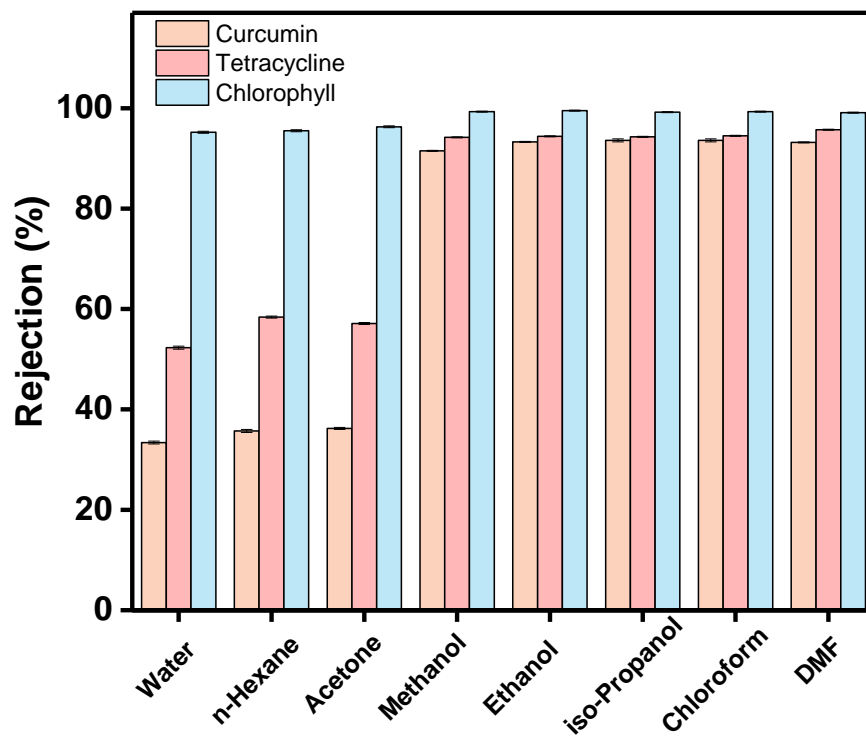


Fig. S21. Separation performance of COF TpTAPT membranes for rejecting APIs in different organic solvents.

Note: The feed concentration is 50 ppm, and the operation pressure is 2 bar.

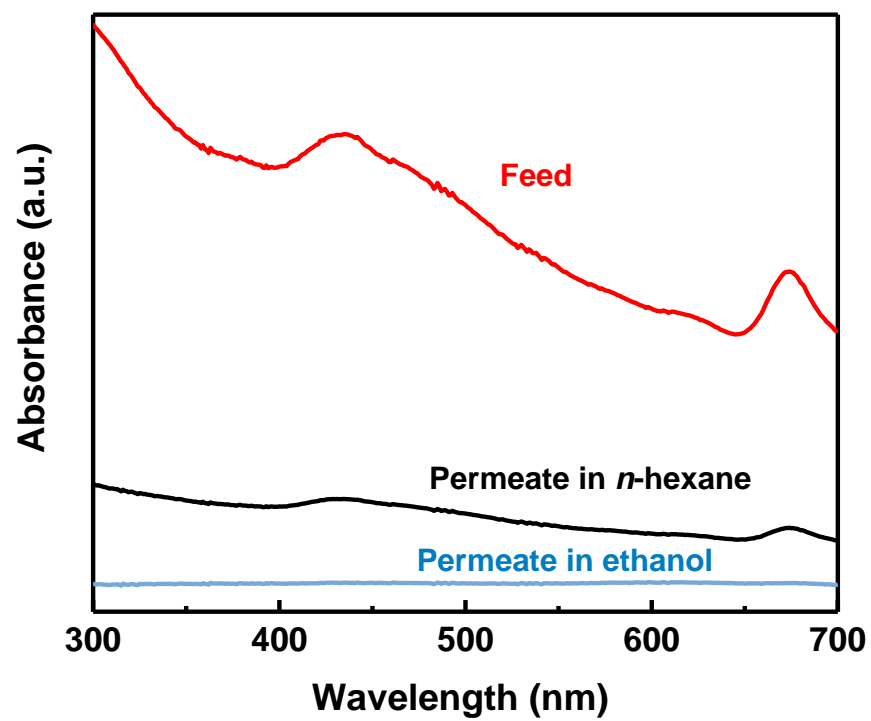


Fig. S22. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting chlorophyll by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

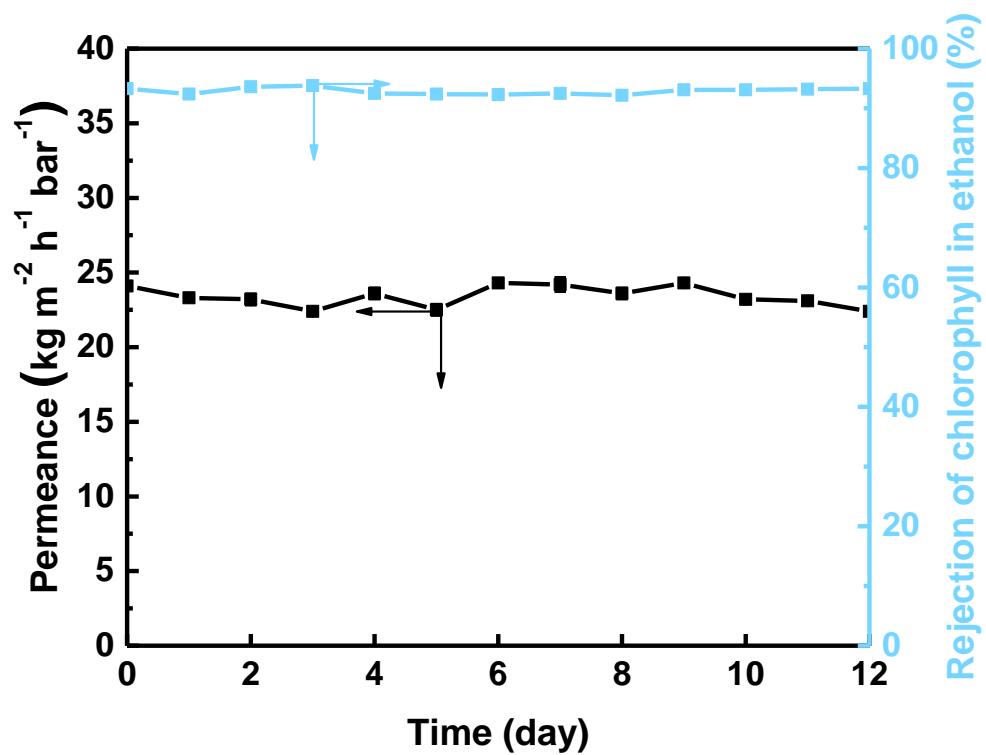


Fig. S23. Long-term separation performance of COF Tp-TAPT membrane for chlorophyll rejection in ethanol.

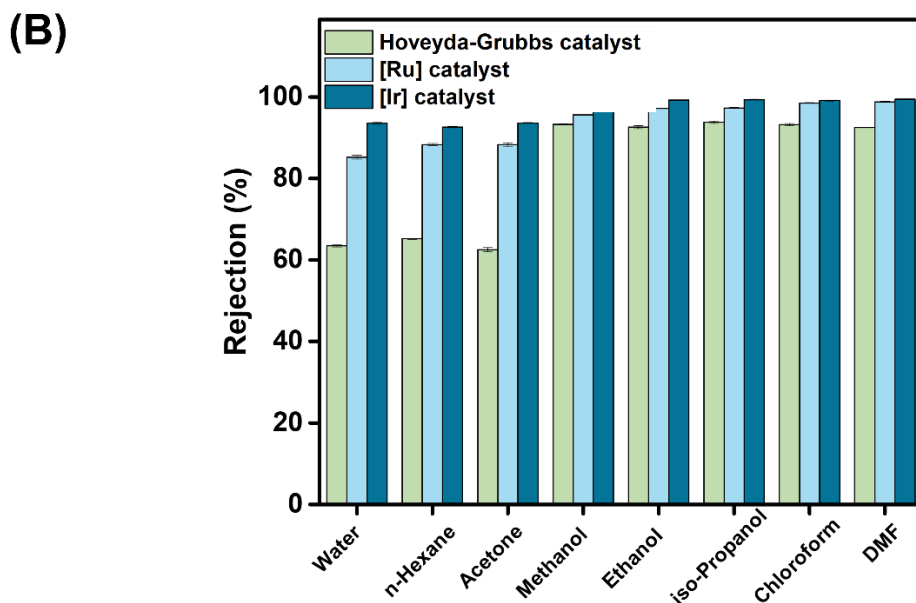
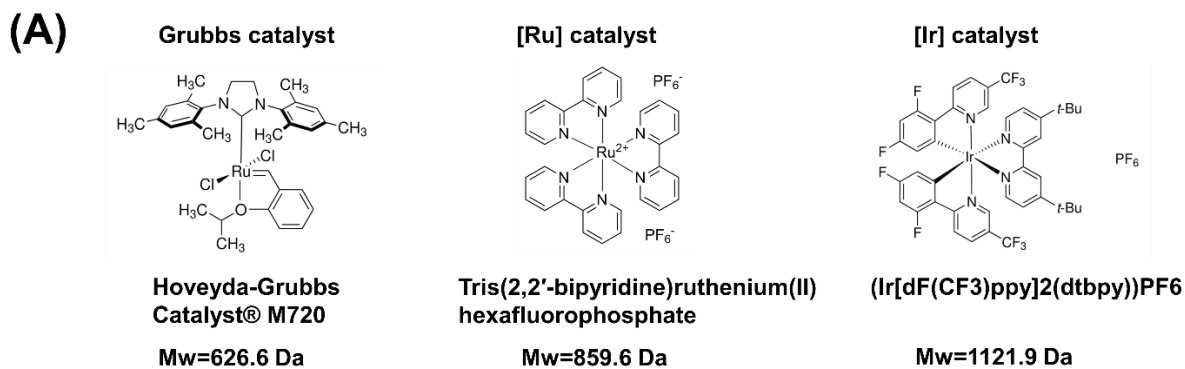


Fig. S24. (A) Chemical structures of Grubbs catalyst, [Ru] catalyst, and [Ir] catalyst. (B) Separation performance of COF TpTAPT membranes for rejecting the three homogeneous catalysts in different organic solvents.

Note: The feed concentration is 50 ppm, and the operation pressure is 3 bar.

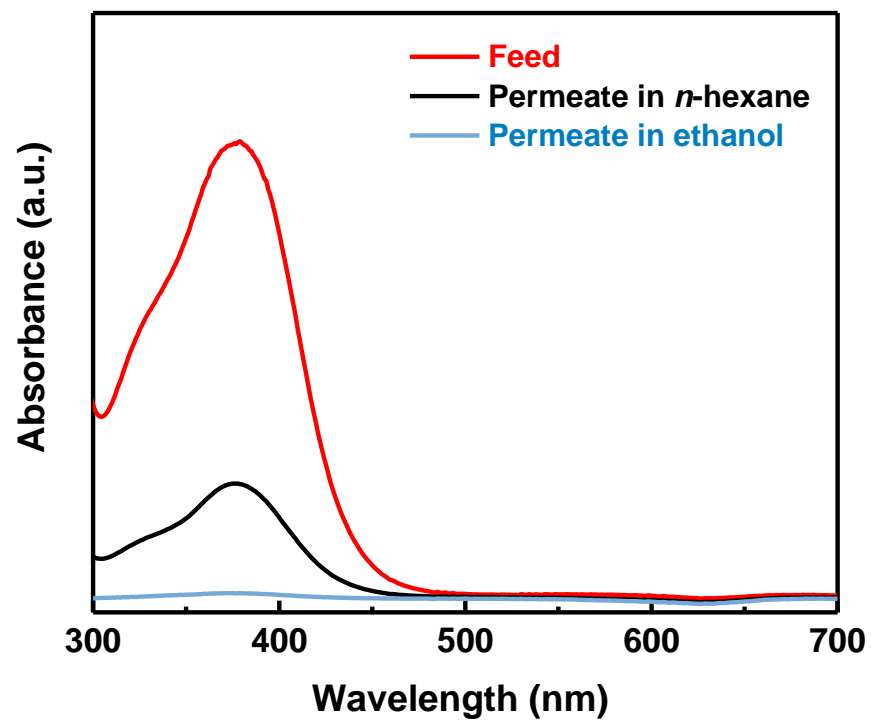


Fig. S25. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting Grubbs catalyst by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

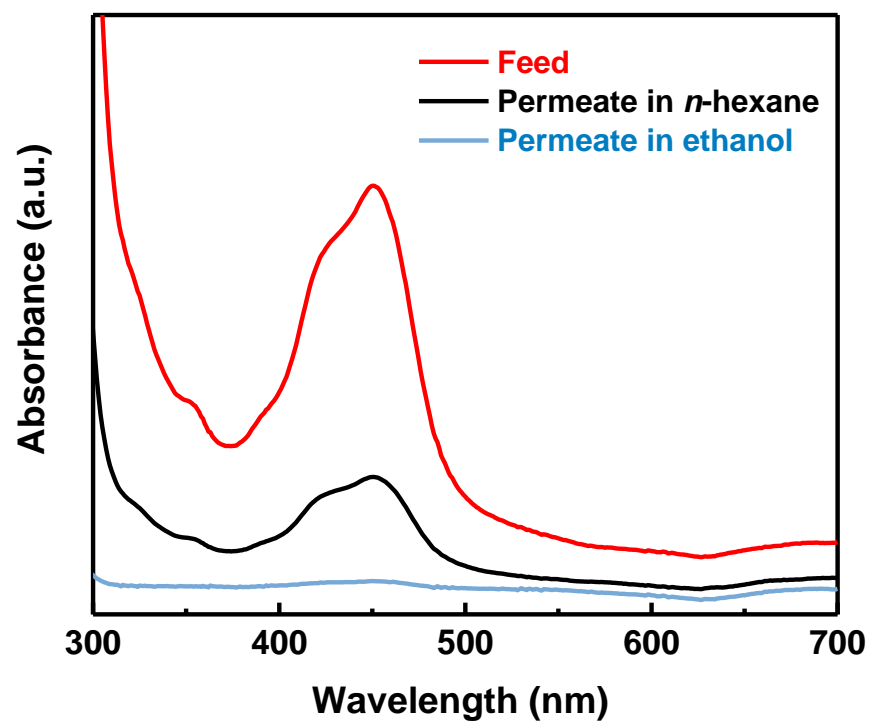


Fig. S26. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting [Ru] catalyst by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

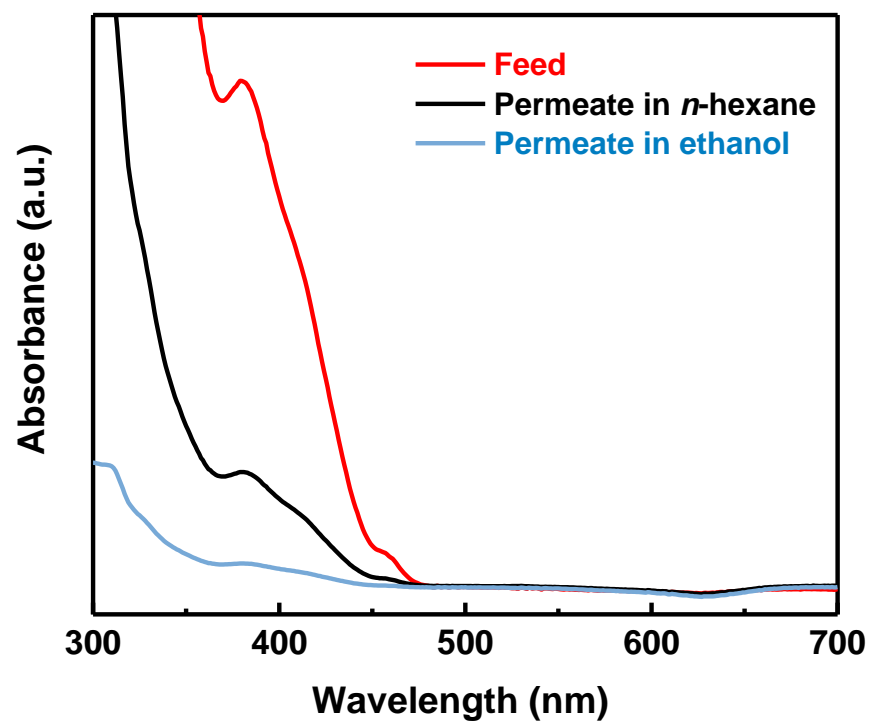


Fig. S27. UV-Vis spectra of the feed, permeate in *n*-hexane, and permeate in ethanol for rejecting [Ir] catalyst by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

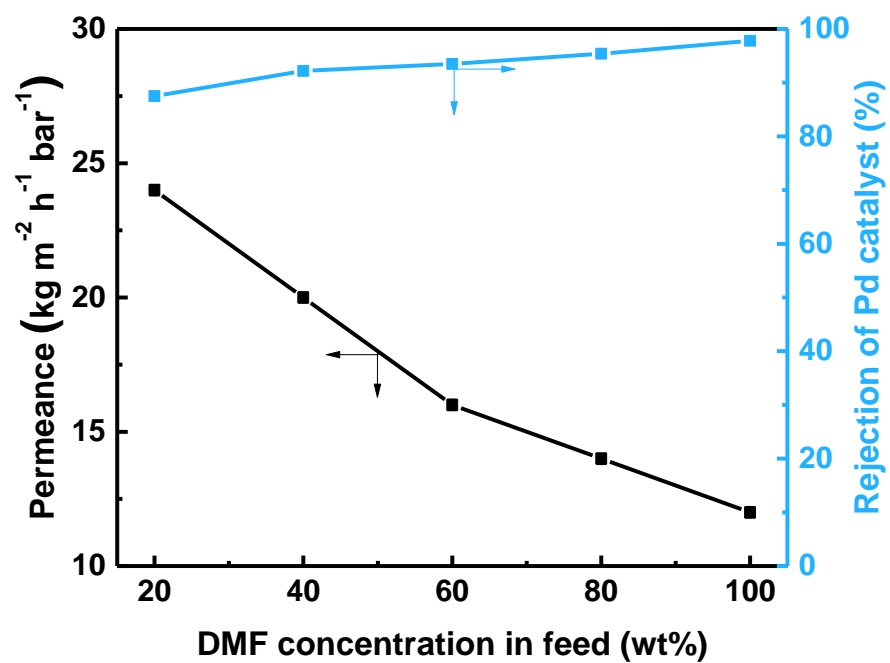


Fig. S28. Rejection of Pd(OAc)₂PPh₃ catalyst in DMF/ethanol mixed solvents by COF Tp-TAPT membrane.

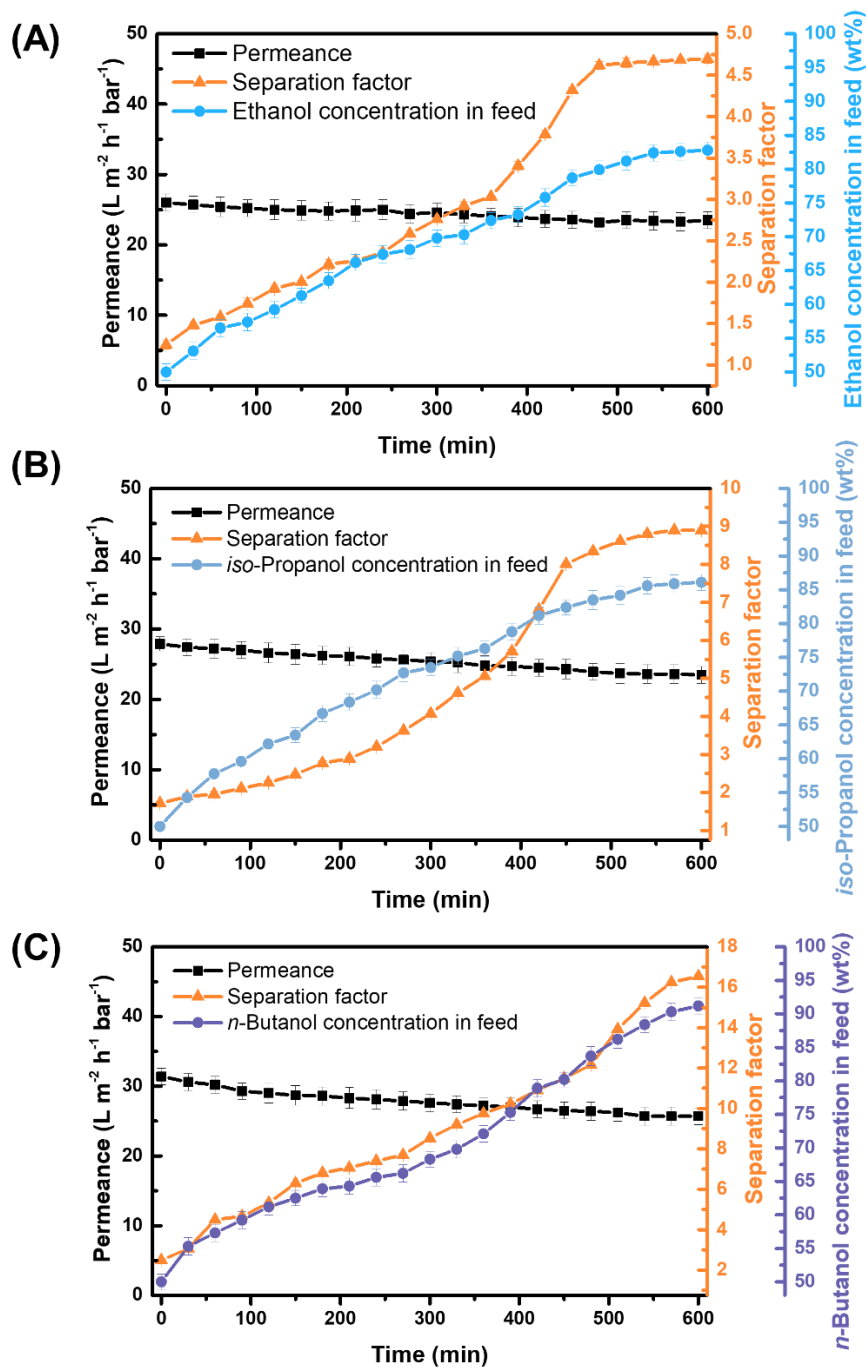


Fig. S29. Organic solvent reverse osmosis (OSRO) performance of the COF Tp-TAPT membrane for dehydration of (A) ethanol/water, (B) *iso*-propanol/water, and (C) *n*-butanol/water.

Note: The feed concentration is 50/50 wt% (water/alcohol). The operation pressure is 5 bar.

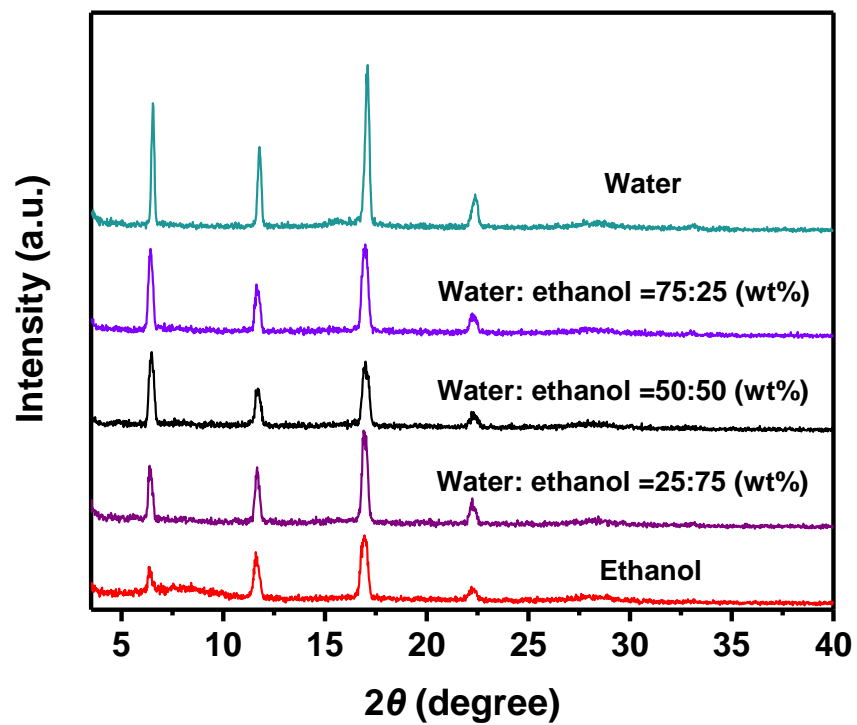


Fig. S30. PXRD patterns of the COF Tp-TAPT films in mixed solvents with different ethanol concentrations.

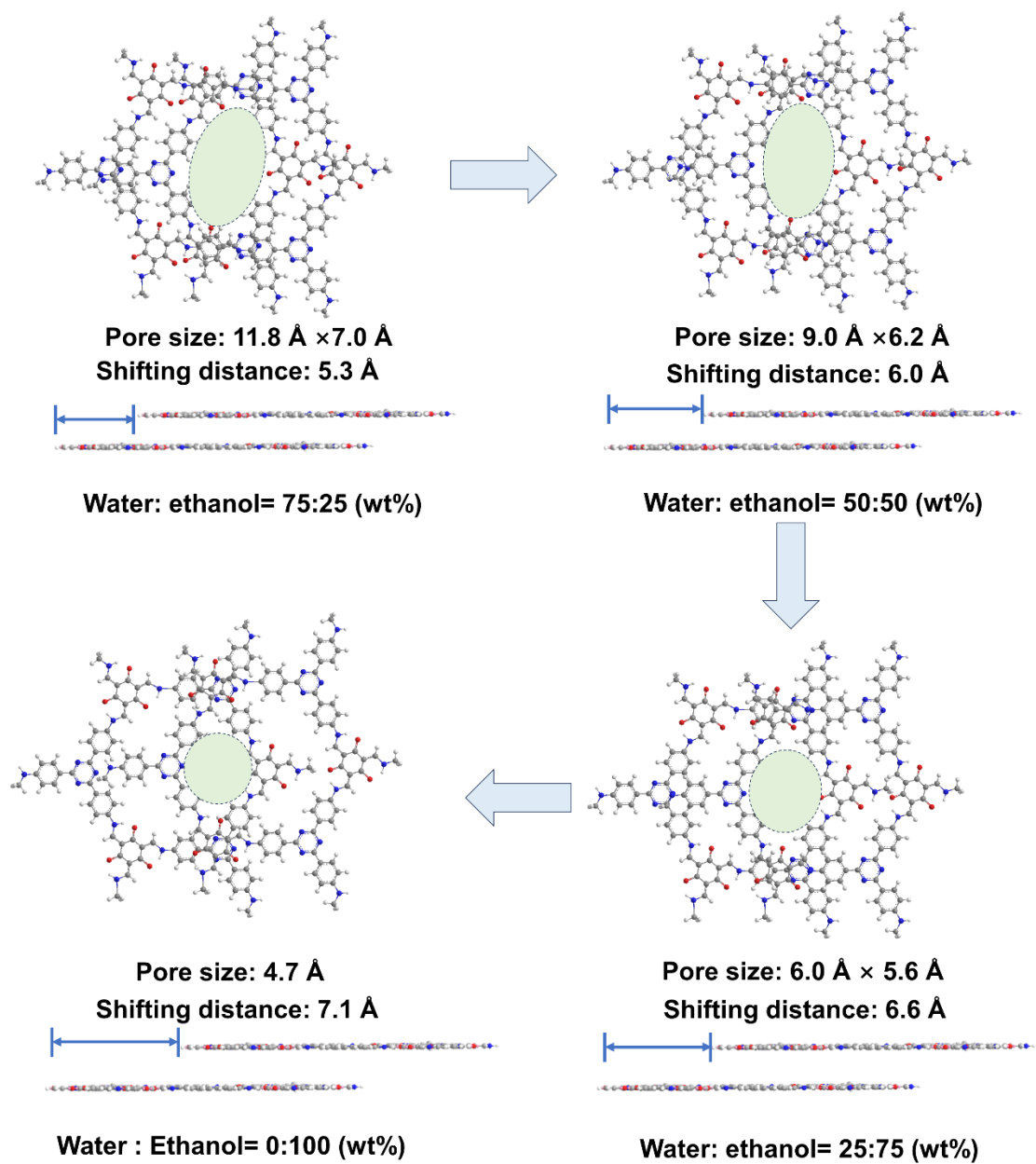


Fig. S31. Dynamic changes of the COF structure during the OSRO separation process by MD simulations.

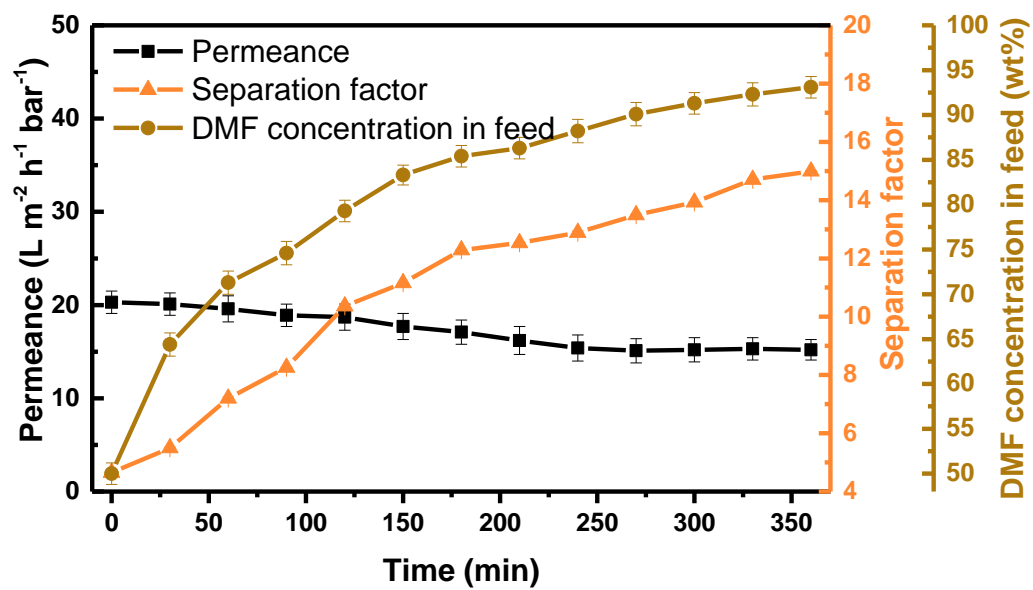


Fig. S32. DMF dehydration performance of the COF Tp-TAPT membrane by OSRO.

Note: The feed concentration is 50/50 wt% (water/DMF). The operation pressure is 5 bar.

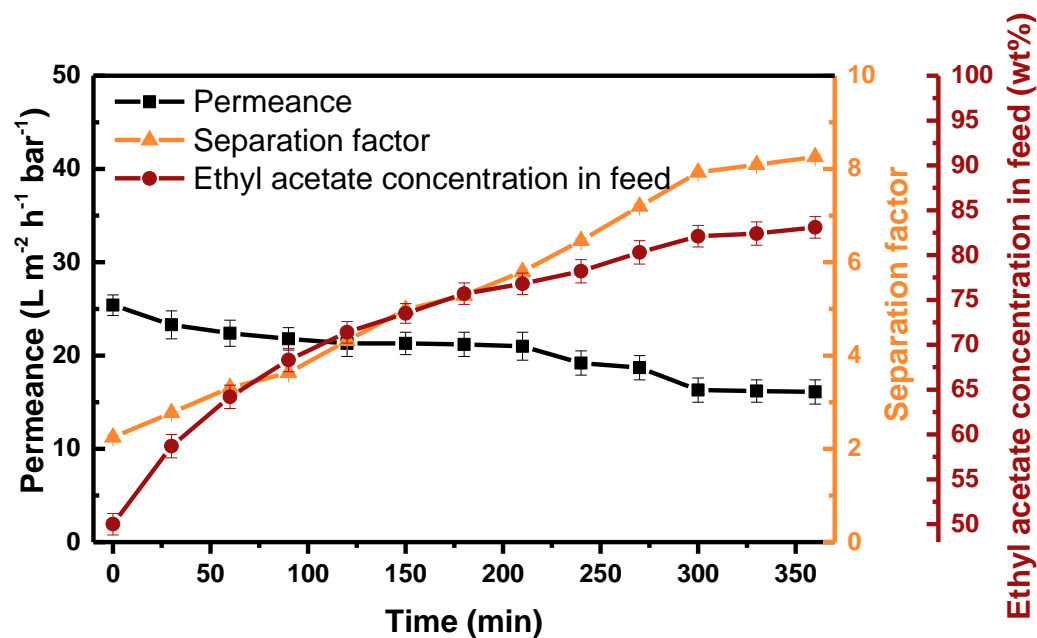


Fig. S33. Ethyl acetate dehydration performance of the COF Tp-TAPT membrane by OSRO.

Note: The feed concentration is 50/50 wt% (water/ethyl acetate). The operation pressure is 5 bar.

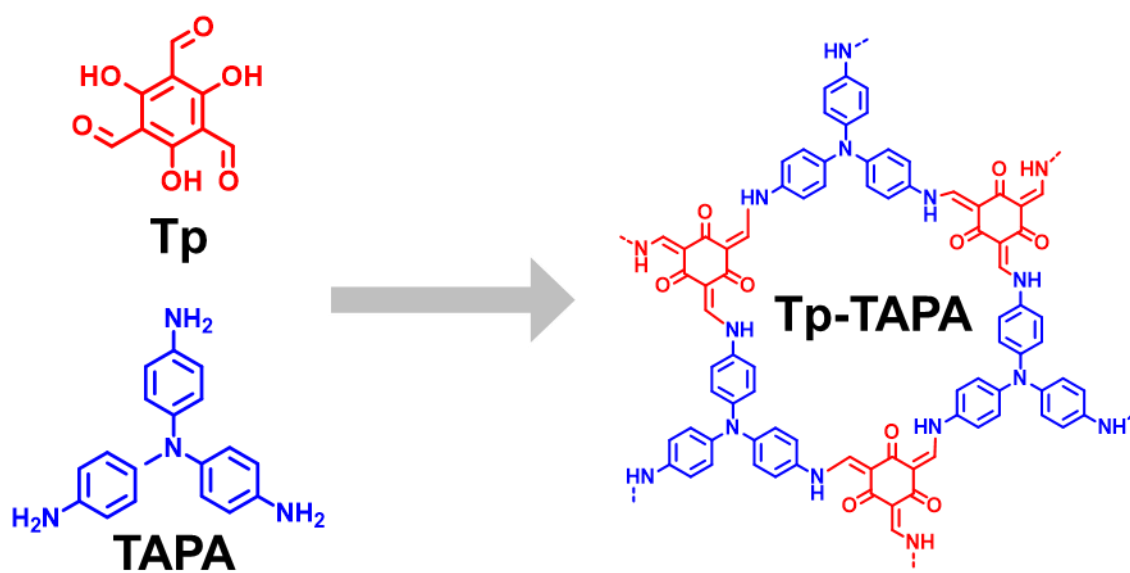


Fig. S34. Reaction for the synthesis of COF Tp-TAPA film.

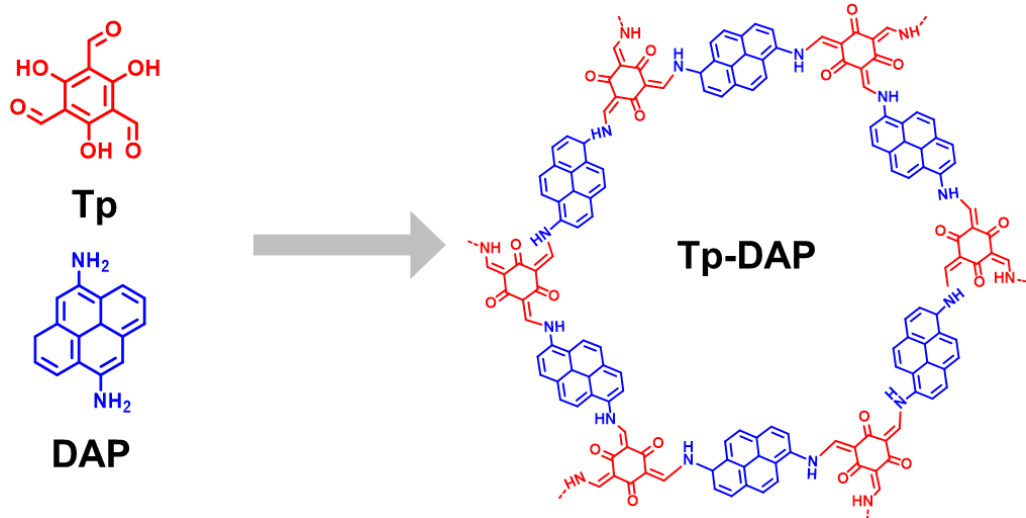


Fig. S35. Reaction for the synthesis of COF Tp-DAP film.

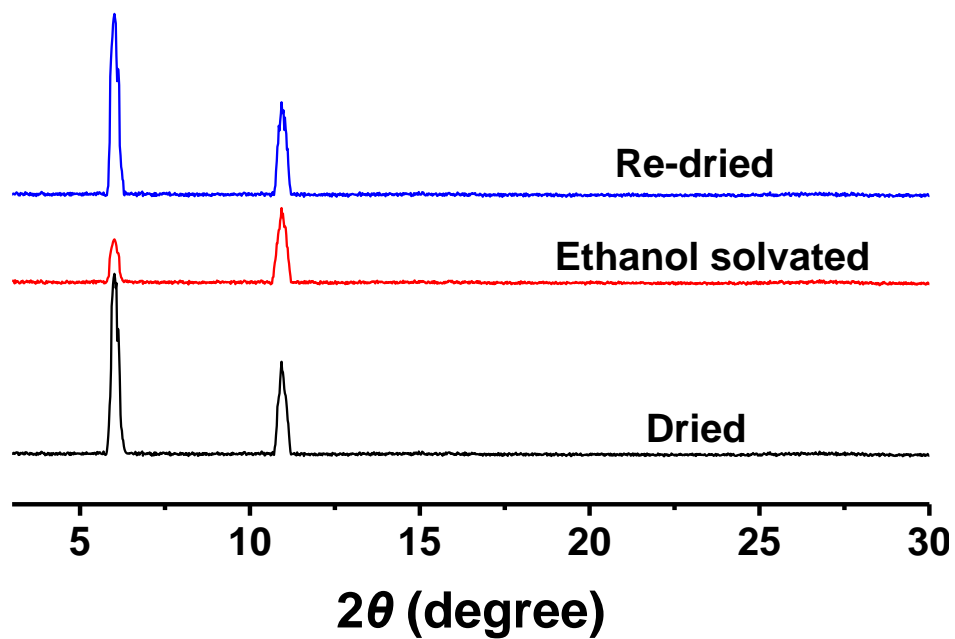


Fig. S36. PXRD patterns of sequential dried-solvated-dried COF Tp-TAPA film in ethanol.

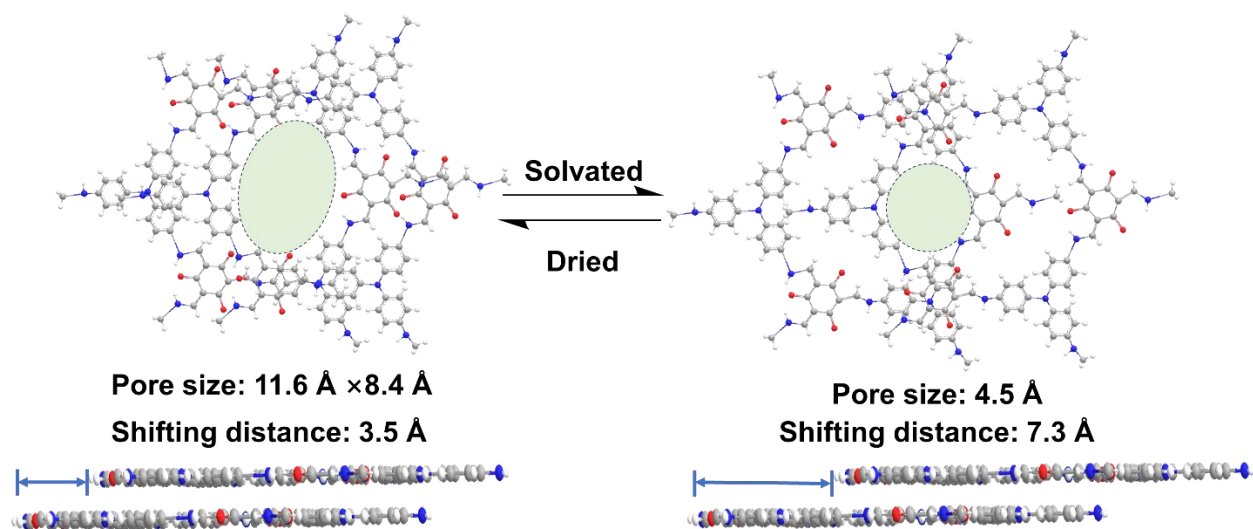


Fig. S37. Simulated structures of COF Tp-TAPA showing reversible transitions between quasi-AB and AB stacking.

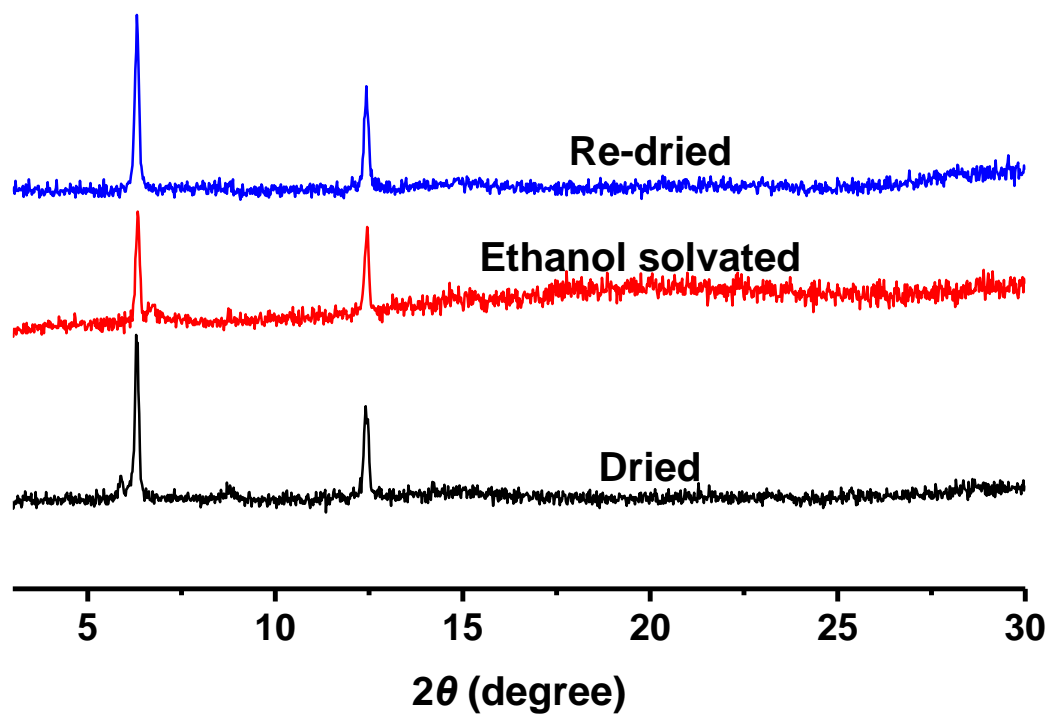


Fig. S38. PXRD patterns of sequential dried-solvated-dried COF Tp-DAP film in ethanol.

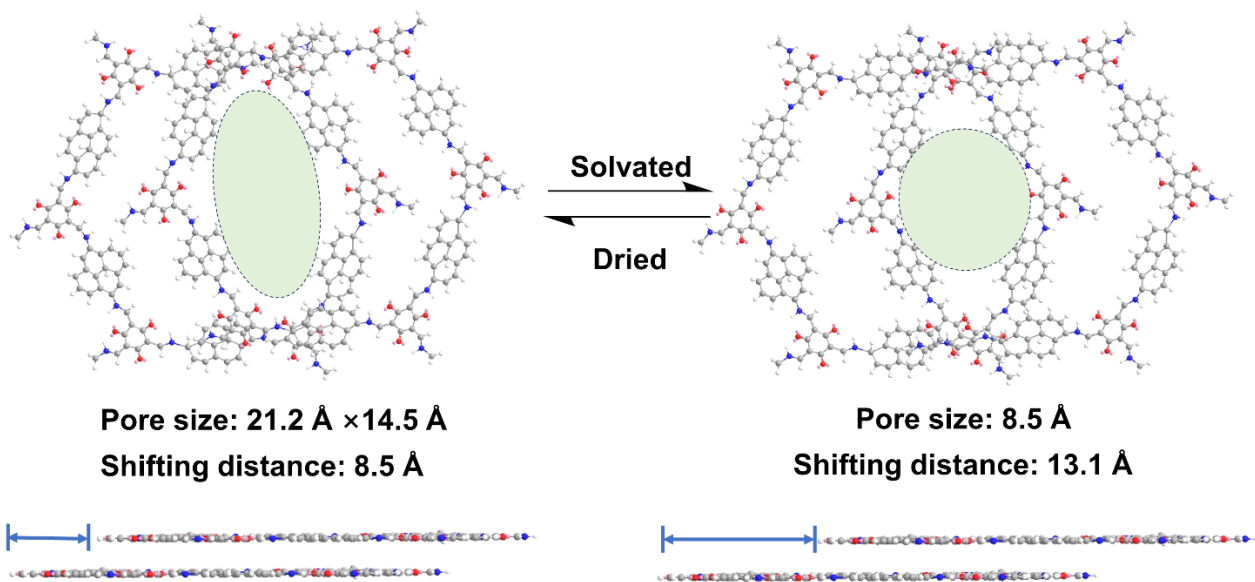


Fig. S39. Simulated structures of COF Tp-DAP showing reversible transitions between quasi-AB and AB stacking.

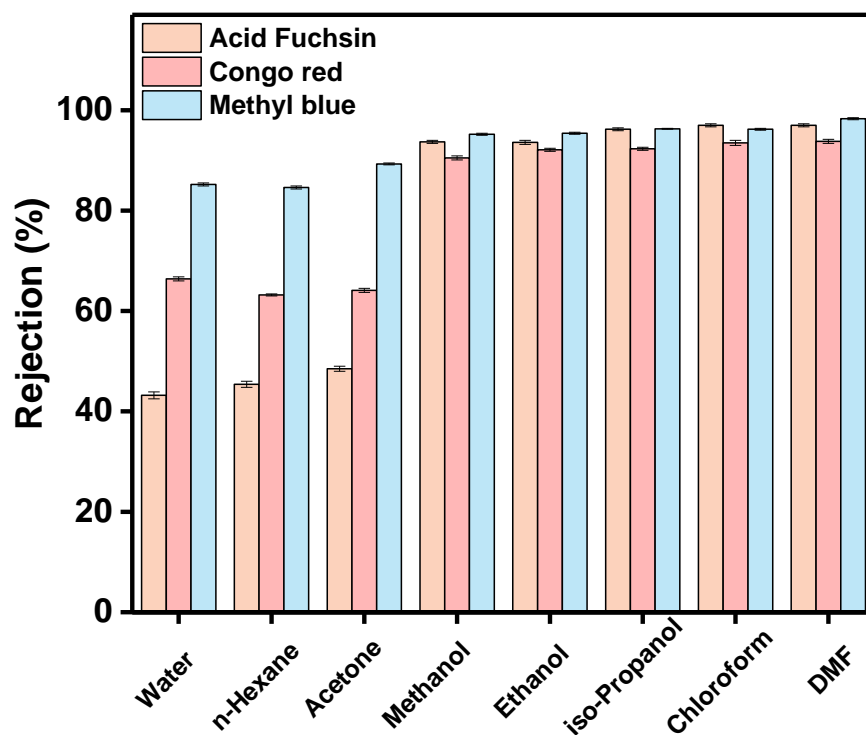


Fig. S40. Dye rejection performance of COF Tp-TAPA membrane in different solvents.

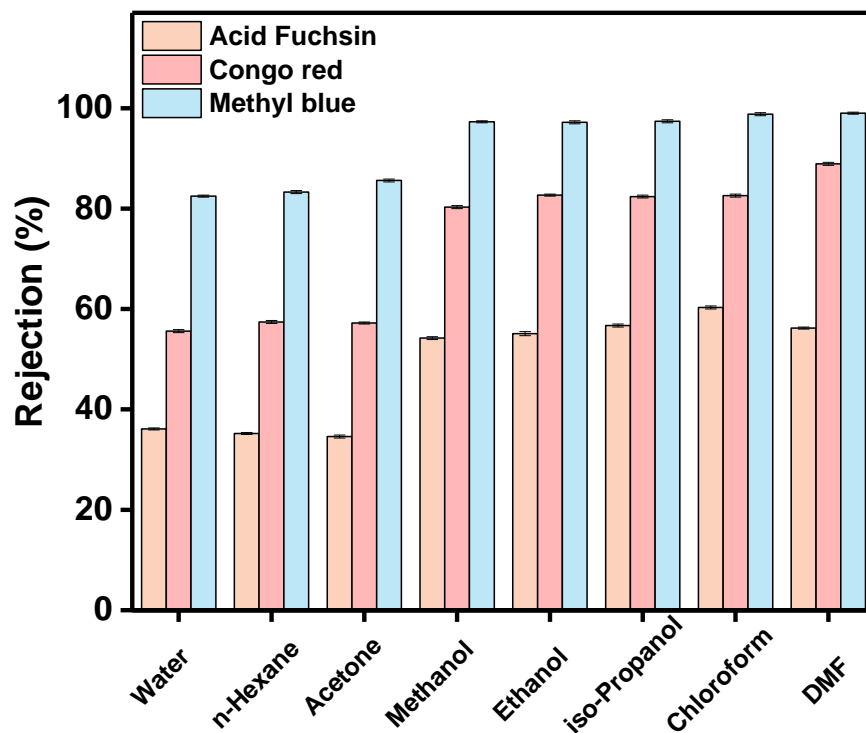


Fig. S41. Dye rejection performance of COF Tp-DAP membrane in different solvents.

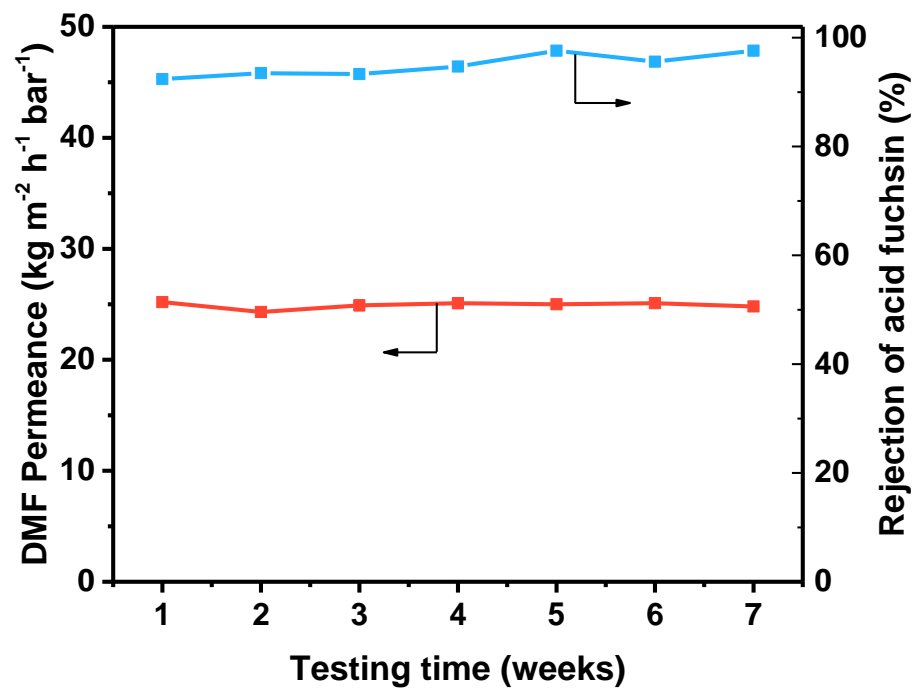


Fig. S42. Long-term stability of COF Tp-TAPA membrane for rejecting acid fuchsin in DMF.

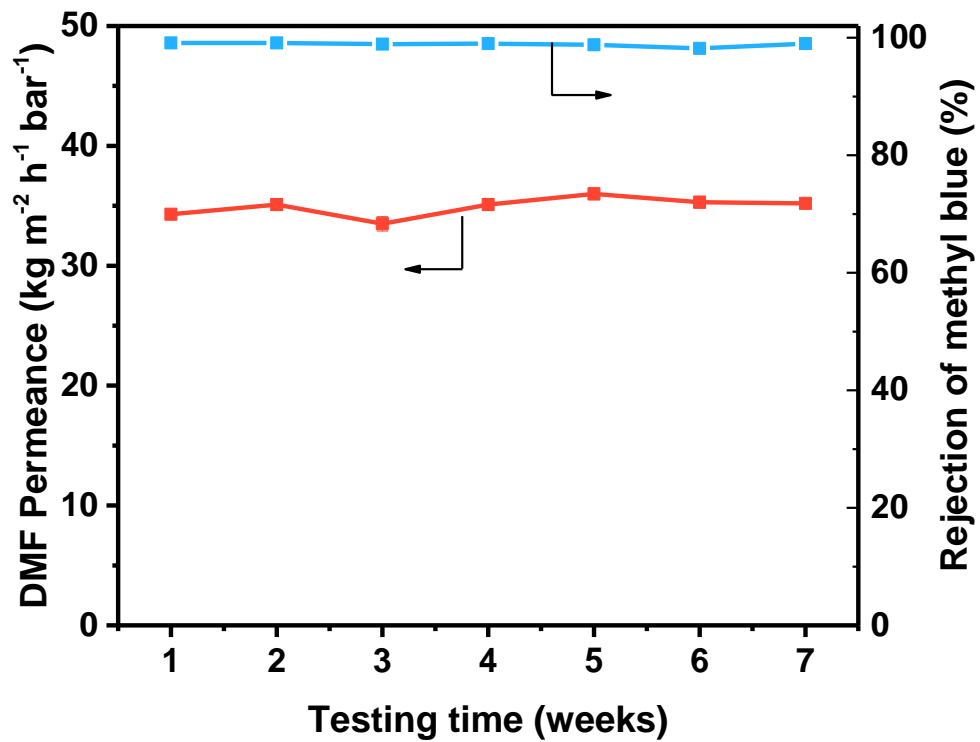


Fig. S43. Long-term stability of COF Tp-DAP membrane for rejecting methyl blue in DMF.

Table S2. OSN performance comparison of state-of-the-art membranes from the literature and this work.

Membrane type	Membrane name	Ethanol permeance (LMH/Bar)	Dye marker (Mw/Da)	Dye rejection (%)	Ref
Microporous polymeric membrane	PTMSP/PAN	4.8	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	90	(27)
	PIM-1/cellophane	0.1	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	98	(28)
	PMP/cellophane	0.1	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	97	(28)
	PTMSP/cellophane	0.2	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	95	(28)
	PIM-1/PAN	2.9	HPB (535)	78	(29)
	MPDTrip-20	2.4	Brilliant Blue R (826)	98	(30)
	MPDTMC-20	1.0	Brilliant Blue R (826)	99	(30)
	(PIM-1/PEI)/PAN	1.4	HPB (535)	85	(29)
Dense polymeric membrane	Chloroform vapor annealing-PIM1/PAN	4.3	Tetrazolium blue (727)	92	(31)
	PDMS	4.0	Raffinose (504)	82	(32)
	PSF/PEEK	0.7	Rose Bengal (1017)	63	(33)
	PEG400/cPI	13.8	Rose Bengal (1017)	83.6	(34)
	Cellulose acetate	0.4	Bromothymol Blue (624)	82	(35)
	GA-crosslinked PBI	3.7	Brilliant Blue R (826)	99	(36)
	DEO-crosslinked PBI	1.0	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	99	(36)
	K ₂ S ₂ O ₈ crosslinked PBI	2.0	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	99	(37)
	XDA crosslinked PVDF	2.7	Rose Bengal (1017)	90	(38)
	Hydrazine monohydrate crosslinked PAN	2.3	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	99	(39)
Mixed matrix membrane	CA/gold nanoparticles	1.5	Bromothymol Blue (624)	82	(35)
	P84 PI/gold nanoparticles	2.9	Bromothymol Blue (624)	58	(40)
	PEBAX/GO	1.9	Brilliant blue (792)	95	(8)
	MIL-53 in PMIA	0.7	Brilliant blue G (854)	94	(41)
	ZIF-8 in PVDF	4.0	Congo red (696)	94	(42)
	PEI-SiO ₂ /PAN	2.1	PEG (1000)	98	(43)
	GNPS-PI	2.9	Bromothymol Blue (624)	58	(44)

	POSS + catechol-PI	1.3	Rose Bengal (1017)	99	(45)
	MWCNTs-COOHP84	9.6	Rose Bengal (1017)	85	(46)
	Annealed MWCNTs-NH ₂ -P84	2.3	Eosin Y (648)	99	(47)
	MWCNTs-NH ₂ -P84	3.3	Eosin Y (648)	98	(47)
	rGO-TiO ₂ /ceramic	4.1	Bromothymol blue (624)	95	(48)
	GO-TFN	2.3	Bromothymol blue (624)	89.5	(48)
GO membrane	rGO-TMPyP0.6-44	2.0	Acid fuchsin (586)	92.2	(49)
	GO/PI	1.7	Remazol Brilliant Blue (626)	97	(50)
	PSS-HPEI-GO/PP	3.1	Rose Bengal (1017)	97	(51)
	GO/EDA	1.4	VB12 (1355.4)	85	(50)
	0.1GO/2.5 PB	2.4	Rose Bengal (1017)	92.3	(52)
	0.2GO/2.5 PB	1.4	Rose Bengal (1017)	98.8	(52)
MOF membrane	ZIF-8/PES	8.4	Rose Bengal (1017)	50	(53)
	UiO66-NH ₂ /Matrimid	0.9	Rose Bengal (1017)	96	(54)
	PCN-250/ceramic	27.5	Methyl blue (799)	84	(55)
COF membrane	Tp-TAPT	15.5	Acid fuchsin (586)	99.6	This work
	Tp-TAPA	25.0	Acid fuchsin (586)	97.6	
	Tp-DAP	35.1	Methyl blue (799)	99.1	

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