Transistor application of alkyl-substituted picene

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Field-effect transistors (FETs) were fabricated with a thin film of 3,10-ditetradecylpicene, picene-(C14H29)2, formed using either a thermal deposition or a deposition from solution (solution process). All FETs showed p-channel normally-off characteristics. The field-effect mobility, $\mu$, in a picene-(C14H29)2 thin-film FET with PbZr0.52Ti0.48O3 (PZT) gate dielectric reached ~21 cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$, which is the highest $\mu$ value recorded for organic thin-film FETs; the average $\mu$ value ($<\mu>$) evaluated from twelve FET devices was 14(4) cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$. The $<\mu>$ values for picene-(C14H29)2 thin-film FETs with other gate dielectrics such as SiO2, Ta2O5, ZrO2, and HfO2 were greater than 5 cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$, and the lowest absolute threshold voltage, $|V_{th}|$, (5.2 V) was recorded with a PZT gate dielectric; the average $|V_{th}|$ for PZT gate dielectric is 7(1) V. The solution-processed picene-(C14H29)2 FET was also fabricated with an SiO2 gate dielectric, yielding $\mu = 3.4 \times 10^{-2}$ cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$. These results verify the effectiveness of picene-(C14H29)2 for electronics applications.

High-performance organic field-effect transistors (FETs) fabricated with various types of organic molecules have desirable characteristics such as light weight, mechanical flexibility, large area coverage, ease of design, and low-energy/low-cost fabrication.1-28. The highest field-effect mobility, $\mu$, is presently 17.2 cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$ in thin-film organic FETs29 and 94 cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$ in single-crystal organic FETs30. In particular, the promise of [n]phenacene-type molecules ([3]phenacene (picene), [6]phenacene, and [7]phenacene) in transistors is being discussed based on the excellent FET characteristics already observed.15-17. The [n]phenacene molecule has an armchair-shaped molecular structure, and its large band gap and deep valence band suggest that these molecules are chemically stable even in atmospheric conditions.32-34. Such characteristics are very desirable for transistor applications, as transistors must be durable under repeated use over the long term. However, one of the problems presented by pentacene itself in transistor applications is chemical instability under atmospheric conditions, although pentacene is the organic molecule most commonly used for transistors.1-12. Therefore, [n]phenacene molecules may be superior to pentacene and its analogues (acene molecules) in transistor applications.

Here, we report the fabrication of an FET device with a new alkyl-substituted picene, and its FET characteristics. A 3,10-ditetradecylpicene (picene-(C14H29)2) thin-film FET shows excellent characteristics, with its highest $\mu$ value reaching 21 cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$ with a PbZr0.52Ti0.48O3 (PZT) gate dielectric. This may be the highest value reported in an organic thin-film FET to date.29-30. The solution-deposited-film FET device was fabricated with CHCl3 solvent. Topological characterization of thin films of picene-(C14H29)2 was performed using X-ray diffraction (XRD) and atomic force microscopy (AFM). The structure of the picene-(C14H29)2 molecule and the device structure are shown in Figures 1(a) and (b), respectively.

**Results**

**Morphology of picene-(C14H29)2 thin film.** The XRD pattern of a picene-(C14H29)2 thin film formed on an SiO2 surface is shown in Figure 1(c), and only a small 001 and a pronounced 100 reflections are observed, implying the absence of parallel planes stacked on the surface. Therefore, this stacking pattern is different from that of thin films of other phenacene molecules, in which the $ab$-plane is parallel-stacked on the SiO2 surface, because there are only 001 reflections observed.16,18,20,31. The $d_{100}$, which refers to the $bc$-layer spacing can be determined to be 1.368 nm, where the space group is assumed to be the same as that of picene (monoclinic: No. 4, P21). The $d_{001}$, which refers to the $ab$-plane spacing was 4.052 nm, which is comparable to the long axis of picene-(C14H29)2, 4.9 nm. Since this distance is too long, the structure may be different from other phenacenes. The inclination angle of picene-(C14H29)2 with respect to the reciprocal lattice $e^*$ ($|e^*| = 1/d_{001}$) is estimated to be ~30° which is
almost the same as that of other phenacenes\textsuperscript{16,18,20,31}. The XRD pattern of a powder sample of picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} is shown in Figures 1(c) and 3(b). The \(a\), \(b\), \(c\) and \(\beta\) were determined to be 1.3192(8), 0.5516(2), 4.0953(5) \(\text{nm}\) and 92.67(2)\(^\circ\), respectively, using LeBail fitting. The \(a\) and \(c\) of the powder are the same as those of a thin film, 1.370 nm and 4.057 nm, respectively, where the \(\beta\) in a thin film is assumed to be the same as that of powder. The crystallite size of thin film is evaluated to be 25 nm, from 100 reflections and the Debye-Scherrer formula; the grain size refers to the 100 direction.

An AFM image of a picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin film (60 nm thick) formed by thermal deposition on a SiO\(_2\) surface is shown in Figure 1(d). The AFM image shows the presence of grains of 100–1000 nm. The average grain size in the thin film (Figure 1(d)) is 600 nm and the root-mean-square (rms) surface roughness is 28 nm. The average grain size is larger than the 540 nm of picene thin film, while the rms surface roughness is much larger than picene’s 3.1 nm\textsuperscript{16}. This may be due to the long axis of the molecule or the presence of long alkyl chains. Judging from the difference between grain size (~600 nm) from the AFM image and crystallite size (~25 nm) from X-ray diffraction, a grain recognized by AFM consists of ~10\(^{3}\) crystallites.

### FET characteristics of thin-film FET with a picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} formed by thermal deposition

The output and transfer curves of a picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film FET with an SiO\(_2\) gate dielectric are shown in Figures 2(a) and (b). Typical p-channel FET characteristics are observed in both graphs. The output curves show clear linear and saturation behaviour in low and high absolute drain-voltage, \(|V_D|\), regimes, respectively; the drain-voltage, \(V_D\), and gate-voltage, \(V_G\), applied are negative, since this device operates in p-channel. From this transfer curve at \(V_D = -80\) V (saturation regime), the \(\mu\), threshold voltage \(V_{th}\), on-off ratio and sub-threshold swing \(S\) are determined to be 3.9 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\), ~51 V, 2.2 \(\times\) 10\(^5\) and 6.6 V decade\(^{-1}\), respectively.

The average \(\mu\) value (<\(\mu\)>, average \(V_{th}\) (<\(V_{th}\)>), average on-off ratio (<on-off ratio>), and average \(S\) (<\(S\)>) from seven picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FETs with SiO\(_2\) gate dielectric are 7(2) \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\), ~30(10) V, 6(4) \(\times\) 10\(^5\), and 3(2) V decade\(^{-1}\), respectively. The highest \(\mu\) value reaches 9.5 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\). Thus, the picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FET shows excellent FET characteristics. All FET parameters in seven FETs are shown in Table 1.

Here we briefly comment on the presence of hysteresis (or difference between forward and reverse curves) in transfer and output curves of picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FETs. The hysteresis in picene thin-film FET is previously investigated, which concludes that the hysteresis is closely related to enhancement of trap states (H\(_2\)O-related trap states) caused by electric field under the presence of H\(_2\)O at the interface between organic thin-film and gate dielectric\textsuperscript{30,37}, i.e., the mechanism is called as bias-stress effect. Therefore, the hysteresis observed in the picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FETs may also be produced by bias-stress effect due to H\(_2\)O and strong electric-field.

The FET properties were measured after keeping the devices under atmospheric condition or high temperature in order to clarify the durability. The \(\mu\) values of three picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FETs with SiO\(_2\) gate dielectric are evaluated in each experiment. The variation of \(\mu\) after keeping the FET in atmosphere is shown as a function of time in Figure S9(a). The \(\mu\) values do not change even if the FETs are stored in atmosphere for 7 days. On the other hand, as seen from Figure S9(b), the \(\mu\) values drastically decrease when heating the FETs above 100\(^\circ\)C for 1 h, implying that the picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film deteriorates at high temperature, i.e., picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} molecule probably sublimes. As a consequence, the picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FET is stable under atmospheric condition, while it deteriorates above 100\(^\circ\)C.

The transfer curves of picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film FETs with HfO\(_2\) and PZT are shown in Figures 2(c) and (d), respectively; these also show p-channel FET characteristics. The \(\mu\), \(V_{th}\), on-off ratio and \(S\) were 7.7 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\), ~11 V, 3.4 \(\times\) 10\(^5\) and 1.1 V decade\(^{-1}\), respectively, for a picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film FET with an HfO\(_2\) gate dielectric, becoming 13 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\), ~9.8 V, 1.6 \(\times\) 10\(^5\) and 9.8 \(\times\) 10\(^{-1}\) V decade\(^{-1}\), respectively, for a picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film FET with a PZT gate dielectric. We made additional picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} thin-film FETs with ZrO\(_2\) and Ta\(_2\)O\(_5\) gate dielectrics (Figure S6 in Supplementary information). The \(\mu\) values are 7.0 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\) for ZrO\(_2\) and 6.3 \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\) for Ta\(_2\)O\(_5\). The <\(\mu\)>, <\(V_{th}\)>, <on-off ratio>, and <\(S\)> from five picene-(C\textsubscript{14}H\textsubscript{29})\textsubscript{2} FETs with HfO\(_2\) gate dielectric are 5(1) \(\text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}\), ~10.4(5) V, 8(15) \(\times\) 10\(^5\), and...
with HfO$_2$ and PZT are shown in Table 2 and 3, respectively. Thus, each table (Table 1, 2 and 3).

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Figure 2 | (a) Output and (b) transfer curves of a picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FET with SiO$_2$ gate dielectric. Transfer curves of a picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FET with (c) HfO$_2$ and (d) PZT. In (b), $V_D = -80$ V; in (c) and (d), $V_D = -20$ V. The FETs used for measurements correspond to the sample #1 in each table (Table 1, 2 and 3). $I_D$ and $W$ were 300 and 500 μm for SiO$_2$, respectively, 450 and 500 μm for HfO$_2$, and 450 and 600 μm for PZT.

1.4(2) V decade$^{-1}$, respectively, while the $<\mu>$, $<V_{th}>$, $<\text{on-off ratio}>$, and $<S>$ from twelve picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FETs with PZT gate dielectric are 14(4) cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, $-7(1)$ V, 2.4(7) $\times$ 10$^6$, and 0.9(1) V decade$^{-1}$. The highest $\mu$ value reaches 20.9 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ in picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FET with PZT gate dielectric. All FET parameters in FETs with HfO$_2$ and PZT are shown in Table 2 and 3, respectively. Thus, the $\mu$ values are quite high in picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FETs with high $k$-dielectrics. In particular, the picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FET with PZT gate dielectric accompanies both high mobility and low-voltage operation. To our knowledge, the $\mu$ value, 20.9 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, recorded in this study is the highest in organic thin-film FETs at the present stage. The FET parameters recorded for picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FET with Ta$_2$O$_5$ (six FETs) and ZrO$_2$ (six FETs) gate dielectrics are shown in Table 4 and 5, respectively, together with their average values.

The output curves of picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FETs with high $k$-gate dielectrics (Figure S7 in Supplementary information) show p-channel FET characteristics, and the $\mu$ values are quite high in picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FETs with high $k$-dielectrics. In particular, the picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FET with PZT gate dielectric accompanies both high mobility and low-voltage operation. To our knowledge, the $\mu$ value, 20.9 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, recorded in this study is the highest in organic thin-film FETs at the present stage. The FET parameters recorded for picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FET with Ta$_2$O$_5$ (six FETs) and ZrO$_2$ (six FETs) gate dielectrics are shown in Table 4 and 5, respectively, together with their average values.

The output curves of picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ FETs with high $k$-gate dielectrics (Figure S7 in Supplementary information) show p-channel FET characteristics with clear saturation behaviour in the high $|V_D|$ regime, but a little concave behaviour in the low $|V_D|$ regime, which indicates a large contact resistance, in spite of the presence of a 3 nm thick 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (F$_4$TCNQ) layer between the source/drain electrodes and the picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin film. The origin of this resistance is still not clear, and a design to lower it is necessary for picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FETs with high-$k$ gate dielectrics.

**FET characteristics of solution-processed picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FET.** Finally, we fabricated a picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FET by depositing the film from solution, and measured its FET characteristics. An optical image of the thin film is shown in Figure 3(a), showing large grains. The XRD pattern of the thin film is shown in Figure 3(b) together with that of a powder sample, which differs from that of the thin film formed by thermal deposition (Figure 1(c)) and is similar to that of powder. This pattern implies that there is no parallel stacking of layers on SiO$_2$ surface. Actually, as indicated from the optical image, the grains aggregate on the SiO$_2$ surface, indicating a strong interaction between grains, as small granules precipitate from the solution.

The output and transfer curves of a solution-deposited picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin-film FET observed in this study is lower by

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**Table 1 | FET characteristics of picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin film FETs with an SiO$_2$ dielectric.** $W = 500$ μm

| Sample | $\mu$ [cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$] | $V_{th}$ [V] | $S$ [V/decade] | $L$ [μm] |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| #1     | 3.9             | 51.0   | 2.2 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 6.6    | 300 |
| #2     | 8.0             | 26.1   | 1.5 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 2.7    | 200 |
| #3     | 7.8             | 37.6   | 3.4 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 3.6    | 250 |
| #4     | 9.5             | 35.0   | 6.8 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 2.9    | 300 |
| #5     | 7.0             | 28.3   | 4.6 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 2.8    | 350 |
| #6     | 6.6             | 18.8   | 8.2 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.9    | 450 |
| #7     | 7.0             | 21.5   | 5.1 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 2.6    | 450 |
| Average| 7.0 (10)        | 30.4 (10) | 6.4 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 3.2 (2) |

**Table 2 | FET characteristics of picene-(C$_{14}$H$_{29}$)$_2$ thin film FETs with an HfO$_2$ dielectric.** $W = 500$ μm

| Sample | $\mu$ [cm$^2$V$^{-1}$s$^{-1}$] | $V_{th}$ [V] | $S$ [V/decade] | $L$ [μm] |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| #1     | 7.7             | 10.92  | 3.4 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.08   | 450 |
| #2     | 4.2             | 10.61  | 1.2 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.16   | 350 |
| #3     | 4.6             | 10.00  | 1.1 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.40   | 450 |
| #4     | 4.8             | 9.78   | 1.4 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.50   | 450 |
| #5     | 5.6             | 10.84  | 5.1 $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.68   | 600 |
| Average| 5.1 (5)         | 10.4 (5) | 8.1 (15) $\times$ 10$^6$ | 1.4 (2) |
two orders of magnitude than that, 2.0 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, previously reported.32

**Discussion**

We have succeeded in fabricating a high-performance picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FET with various gate dielectrics. Here, the characteristics observed are discussed and the strategy for a further improvement will be presented.

The $\mu$ value, 7.2 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, in a picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FET with SiO₂ gate dielectric was higher than those of thin-film FETs with picene (1.0–3.0 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) 12-14 and [7]phenacene (0.8 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) 15, while comparable to that (7.4 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) 16 of a [6]phenacene thin-film FET. Despite the absence of parallel planes stacked on the SiO₂ surface, the $\mu$ value is higher than that of thin-film FET with picene, suggesting a presence of other factor such as high overlap (transfer integral) between molecules in picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film. Here it is important to notice that a 3 nm layer of Fe₃TCNQ is inserted between the electrodes and the thin film. This should provide a small Schottky barrier height (or a small contact resistance) and a low $|V_{th}|$ as reported previously for organic single-crystal FETs.27

The $\mu$ values in picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FETs with high-k gate dielectrics (5(1) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for HfO₂, 14(4) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for PZT, 5(2) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for Ta₂O₅ and 9(2) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for ZrO₂) are comparable to that, 7(2) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, for a picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FET with an SiO₂ gate dielectric, as seen from Tables 1–5. It is worth noting that the maximum $\mu$ value, 20.9 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, is obtained for picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FET with PZT gate dielectric (Table 3) is the highest value yet reported for organic FETs; as seen from Table 1, the $\mu$ value as high as 23.3 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ in all picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂ FETs (see Tables 1–5), especially the maximum $\mu$ reaches ~21 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ with PZT dielectric. Low-voltage operation ($\mu |V_{th}| \leq 11 V$) was achieved with high-k gate dielectrics, implying excellent FET performance of picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FETs with high-k gate dielectrics and an importance of the gate dielectric in FETs.

This molecule contains long alkyl chains, which may produce a strong interaction between molecules. This seems to lead to the aggregation of granules in thin films prepared from solution, i.e., precipitation is easily produced. Nevertheless, the solution-deposited thin-film FET using this precipitate easily provided p-channel FETs. The formation of a homogeneous thin film may be a key to higher $\mu$ values, because the obtained thin film by deposition from solution is powder-like, i.e., the growth of an ab-plane parallel to the SiO₂ surface is not still achieved.

In conclusion, the FET with a PZT gate dielectric achieved a $\mu$ as high as 14(4) cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ and the $|V_{th}|$ was ~7(1) V. This $\mu$ is now the third-highest so far reported for an organic FET, and the highest in FETs based on thin films of pure hydrocarbon molecules. Furthermore, we observed the high $\mu$ values greater than 3 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ in all picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂ FETs (see Table 5), especially the maximum $\mu$ reaches ~21 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ with PZT dielectric. Low-voltage operation ($\mu |V_{th}| \leq 11 V$) was achieved with high-k gate dielectrics, implying excellent FET performance of picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂-thin film FETs with high-k gate dielectrics.

| sample | $\mu$ (cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) | $|V_{th}|$ (V) | ON/OFF | S (V/decade) | L (µm) |
|--------|------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| #1     | 13.1             | 9.8         | 1.6 x 10⁴ | 0.98        | 450    |
| #2     | 10.3             | 6.5         | 3.0 x 10⁴ | 0.74        | 150    |
| #3     | 12.9             | 6.7         | 3.6 x 10⁴ | 0.75        | 150    |
| #4     | 14.3             | 6.6         | 2.9 x 10⁴ | 0.65        | 200    |
| #5     | 13.0             | 6.6         | 2.5 x 10⁴ | 0.71        | 200    |
| #6     | 9.3              | 5.6         | 3.1 x 10⁴ | 0.89        | 200    |
| #7     | 13.0             | 6.6         | 2.5 x 10⁴ | 0.90        | 200    |
| #8     | 20.9             | 7.9         | 2.3 x 10⁴ | 0.81        | 300    |
| #9     | 17.9             | 6.5         | 2.0 x 10⁴ | 0.84        | 300    |
| #10    | 11.4             | 5.8         | 1.9 x 10⁴ | 1.1         | 300    |
| #11    | 15.8             | 6.8         | 2.2 x 10⁴ | 1.1         | 300    |
| #12    | 19.7             | 5.2         | 8.9 x 10⁴ | 1.0         | 450    |
| average| 14(4)            | 7(1)        | 2.4(7) x 10⁶ | 0.9(1)       |        |

Table 5 | FET characteristics of picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂ thin film FETs with a ZrO₂ dielectric. W = 500 µm

| sample | $\mu$ (cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) | $|V_{th}|$ (V) | ON/OFF | S (V/decade) | L (µm) |
|--------|------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| #1     | 7.0              | 10.8        | 1.1 x 10⁴ | 0.43        | 450    |
| #2     | 8.9              | 7.6         | 1.4 x 10⁴ | 0.40        | 135    |
| #3     | 9.6              | 7.4         | 1.0 x 10⁴ | 0.84        | 200    |
| #4     | 8.6              | 6.1         | 7.0 x 10⁴ | 0.89        | 300    |
| #5     | 12.0             | 8.2         | 4.1 x 10⁴ | 0.86        | 450    |
| #6     | 10.3             | 8.0         | 6.1 x 10⁴ | 1.0         | 300    |
| #7     | 23.3             | 10.8        | 6.7 x 10⁴ | 1.1         | 450    |
| average| 9(2)             | 8(2)        | 3(4) x 10⁶ | 0.7(3)       |        |

Table 4 | FET characteristics of picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂ thin film FETs with a Ta₂O₅ dielectric. W = 600 µm except for sample #1, and W = 500 µm for sample #1

Methods

Picene-(C₁₄H₂₉) was synthesized using the following reaction steps (see Figure 4). (1) 6-Bromo-1-(bromomethyl)naphthalene 1 was converted to the phosphonium salt 2 by substitution with triphenylphosphine. (2) It was then converted to naphthaldehyde 3 by the Sommelet reaction. (3) A Wittig reaction between compounds 2 and 3 produced dianhydride 4, (E)- and (Z)-isomers of compound 4 were obtained in 52% and 46% yields, respectively. It is known that (E)-dianhydrides can be used for stilbene-like photocyclization, because E-to-Z isomerization occurs under the photo-react conditions. (4) Both (E)- and (Z)-4 were used as the precursor to dibromopicene 5 in 89% and 91% yields, respectively. (5) The tetradecyl chains were introduced by the Kumada-Tamao cross-coupling reaction in the presence of a Pd catalyst in 75% yield. The synthesis and experimental details relevant to picene-(C₁₄H₂₉)₂ in ref. 32 differ from those in this study. The merits of our synthesis are fully described in Supplementary information.
Picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2 was characterized by NMR spectroscopy (Figure S5 in Supplementary information) and elemental analysis. In the 1H NMR spectrum, three downfield-shifted signals assignable to the protons located in the bay region of the picene framework were observed: 8.89 ppm (s, H(13,14)), 8.74 ppm (d, J = 9.1 Hz, H(1,11)) and 8.73 ppm (d, J = 8.5 Hz, H(6,7)). These signals of protons at the edges of the picene core appeared in the higher field 7.76 ppm (bs, H(4,9)), 7.56 ppm (dd, J = 8.5, 1.8 Hz, H(2,12)). These observations are consistent with the 1H NMR spectral features of previously reported extended phenacene 34–36, and provide evidence for the presence of pure picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2.

The FET devices using a thin film of picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2 were fabricated on various gate dielectrics such as SiO_2, Ta_2O_5, ZrO_2, HfO_2 and PZT. The SiO_2 layer was made by thermal oxidation of Si, and we used a commercially available SiO_2/Si substrate. The other gate dielectrics were synthesized by magnetron RF sputtering for Pt(50 nm)/Si conductor parametric analyzer (Agilent B1500A) in an Ar-filled glove box; in measurement of FET characteristics, the source voltage, V_s, is grounded (source-grounded), or V_s = 0 V. All FET parameters are evaluated from the square root of absolute forward transfer curve (|I_D|^1/2 - V_s) because of a saturation regime; the |I_D|^1/2 - V_s curves are shown for all transfer curves in this paper.

To check the statistical reproducibility of FET characteristics, the FET characteristics of picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2 thin film FETs with various dielectrics are summarized in Tables 1–5. The average values and the standard deviations of FET parameters are shown in the bottom row. The transfer and output curves of sample #1 in each table (see Tables 1–5) are shown in this paper, and the FET characteristics are described in the main text. The sample indicated by an asterisk in Table 5 is not used for average, because it shows much higher mobility than those for the other samples in Table 5. The channel width is 500 μm for the devices with SiO_2, HfO_2, Ta_2O_5, and ZrO_2 dielectrics, and 600 μm for the devices with a PZT dielectric.

The XRD and AFM were measured using Smart Lab-Pro (RIGAKU) and an SPA 400-DFM (SII Nano Technologies), respectively. The X-ray wavelength was 1.5418 Å (Cu Kα source).

Figure 3 | (a) Photograph and (b) XRD patterns of picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2 thin films formed by solution-deposition. In (b) XRD pattern of powder is also shown. (c) Output and (d) transfer curves of FET with picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2 thin films formed by solution-deposition. In (d), V_s = −100 V. An SiO_2 gate dielectric was used. L and W were 100 and 1580 μm.

Figure 4 | Synthetic route to picene-(C_{14}H_{29})_2. (a) PPh_3, toluene, reflux 18 h, 95%; (b) hexamethylenetetramine, CHCl_3, reflux, 1 h, then heat in AcOH-H_2O for 1.5 h, 72%; (c) KOH, CH_3Cl-H_2O, r.t., 17 h, (E)-4 52%, (Z)-4 46%; (d) hv (flow reactor)°, I_2, O_2, toluene, irradiation time 15 min, 89%. (e) C_{14}H_{29}MgBr, PdCl_2(dpdpf)-CH_2Cl_2, 73%.
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**Acknowledgments**

The authors greatly appreciate Ms. Saki Nishiyama for her kind assistance for FET measurements. This study is partly supported by Grants-in-aid (2368028, 22244045, 24654105, 24550054) from MEXT, by the Program to Disseminate the Tenure Tracking System of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), by the LEMUSUPER Project (JSTU Superconductor Project) and the ACT-C Project of the JST, and by the Program for Promoting the Enhancement of Research Universities.

**Author contributions**

H.O. and T.K. designed this research project and supervised experiments. H.O. and S.G. performed synthesis and characterization of picene-(C14H12) sample. S.H., R.E. and H.G. carried out FET works and characterization of thin films. Y.S. and M.I. performed works of XRD and AFM. H.O. and R.E. wrote the parts of synthesis and FET work of this paper, respectively, and Y.K combined them and modified to complete the paper. S.H., H.G. and Y.K. carried out the additional experiments and analyses on the durability and reproducibility of FET performance. R.E. managed (edited) all parts of this paper under the discussion with Y.K.

**Additional information**

Supplementary information accompanies this paper at http://www.nature.com/scientificreports

Competing financial interests: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

How to cite this article: Okamoto, H. et al. Transistor application of allyl-substituted picene. *Sci. Rep.* **4**, 5048; DOI:10.1038/srep05048 (2014).