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Direct Synthesis of Macrodiolides via Hafnium(IV) Catalysis

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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General:

All reactions that were carried out under anhydrous conditions were performed under an inert argon or nitrogen atmosphere in glassware that had previously been dried overnight at 120 °C or had been flame dried and cooled under a stream of argon or nitrogen. All chemical products were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Company or Strem Chemicals and were reagent quality. Technical solvents were obtained from VWR International Co. Methyl 3-iodobenzoate² and methyl 4-iodobenzoate² were prepared according to literature procedure. Anhydrous solvents (CH₂Cl₂, Et₂O, THF, DMF, toluene, and n-hexane) were dried and deoxygenated using a GlassContour system (Irvine, CA). Isolated yields reflect the mass obtained following flash column silica gel chromatography. Organic compounds were purified using the method reported by W. C. Still³ and using silica gel obtained from Silicycle Chemical division (40-63 nm; 230-240) mesh). Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass-backed silica gel 60 coated with a fluorescence indicator (Silicycle Chemical division, 0.25 mm, F₂₅₄.). Visualization of TLC plate was performed by UV (254 nm), KMnO₄ or panisaldehyde stains. All mixed solvent eluents are reported as v/v solutions. Concentration refers to removal of volatiles at low pressure on a rotary evaporator. All reported compounds were homogeneous by thin layer chromatography (TLC) and by ¹H NMR. NMR spectra were taken in deuterated CDCl₃ using Bruker AV-300 and AV-400 instruments unless otherwise noted. Signals due to the solvent served as the internal standard (CHCl₃: δ 7.27 for ¹H, δ 77.0 for ¹³C). The acquisition parameters are shown on all spectra. The ¹H NMR chemical shifts and coupling constants were determined assuming first-order behavior. Multiplicity is indicated by one or more of the following: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet), br (broad); the list of couplings constants (J) corresponds to the order of the multiplicity assignment. High resolution mass spectroscopy (HRMS) was done by the Centre régional de spectrométrie de masse at the Département de Chimie, Université de Montréal from an Agilent LC-MSD TOF system using ESI mode of ionization unless otherwise noted.

¹ Shriver, D. F.; Drezdon, M. A. in *The Manipulation of Air-Sensitive Compounds*; Wiley-VCH: New York, 1986.

² Leatherbarrow, R. J.; Mo, B.; Offermann, D. A.; Sejberg, J. J. P.; Spivey, A. C.; McKendrick, J. E.; Beavil, A. J.; Holdom, M. D.; Sutton, B. J.; Helm, B. A. *J. Org. Chem.* **2012**, *77*, 3197-3214

³ Still, W. C.; Kahn, M.; Mitra, A. J. Org. Chem. 1978, 43, 2923-2925.

SYNTHETIS OF MACROCYCLE PRECURSORS

Docosa-10,12-diyne-1,22-diol (**S1**) CuCl₂ (55 mg, 0.413 mmol, 0.25 equiv.) and Ni(NO₃)₂ · 6H₂O (120 mg, 0.413 mmol, 0.25 equiv.) were dissolved in MeOH (15 mL). Then Et₃N (0.69 mL, 4.95 mmol, 3.0 equiv.) and pyridine (0.67 mL, 8.25 mmol, 5.0 equiv.) were added to the solution followed by 9-undecyn-1-ol (277 mg, 1.65 mmol, 1.0 equiv.). The reaction mixture was purged with O₂ and was stirred at 60 °C for 48 h (The reaction mixture was purged O₂ every 12 hours). The mixture was then cooled down to room temperature and silica gel was added. The slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and flash chromatography (30 % EtOAc in hexanes) was performed to afford the desired product (130 mg, 47 %) as a white solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.65 (t, J= 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.25 (t, J= 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.60-1.50 (m, 8H), 1.45-1.26 (m, 22H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 77.2, 65.3, 63.1, 32.8, 29.4, 29.0, 28.8, 28.3, 25.73, 25.70, 19.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₂₂H₃₉O₂ [M + H]⁺ calculated 335.2945 found: 335.2945.

Methyl 3-(5-hydroxypent-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (S2) Methyl 3-iodobenzoate (1.00 g, 3.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL, 0.2 M). Then Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (134 mg, 0.191 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) and CuI (36 mg, 0.191 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) were added to the solution and the reaction mixture was purged under N₂ for 5 minutes. Triethylamine (3.19 mL, 22.9 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) and the alkyne (0.35 mL, 3.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. Silica gel (~ 5 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduce pressure and flash chromatography (20-40 % EtOAc in hexanes) was performed to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (796 mg, 96 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, J= 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J= 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (dd, J= 7.8, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.83 (t, J= 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.56 (t, J= 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.91-1.84 (m, 2H), 1.59 (br s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 135.7, 132.7, 130.3, 128.6, 128.3, 124.2, 90.4, 80.1, 61.7, 52.2, 31.3, 15.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₃H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 219.1016 found: 219.1018.

Methyl 3-(5-hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoate (**S3**) The alkyne (218 mg, 1.00 mmol) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (5 mL) under N₂. Then Pd/C (212 mg, 5% w/w, 0.100 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was purged with H₂ for 10 minutes. A balloon, filled with H₂ and equipped with a syringe, was pierced into the septum and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was passed through a short pad of Celite® after being purged by bubbling with N₂ for 10 minutes and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc in hexanes) was performed to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (212 mg, 95 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.89-7.88 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.67 (t, J= 6.5 Hz, 2H), 2.70 (t, J= 8.6 Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.41 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.3, 142.8, 133.0, 130.1, 129.5, 128.3, 127.0, 62.8, 52.0, 35.6, 32.6, 31.1, 25.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₃H₁₈O₃Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated: 245.1148 found: 245.1146.

3-(5-Hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoic acid (S4) Methyl 3-(5-hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoate (200 mg, 0.901 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (8 mL). Then LiOH (87 mg, 3.60 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added as an aqueous solution (2 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and HCl (1 M) was added until the pH was neutralized (pH = 7). Extraction with EtOAc (3 X 5 mL) was performed and the combined organic phases were washed with brine (15 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the desired product as a white solid (187 mg, 99 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95-7.94 (m, 2H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 2H), 3.67 (t, J= 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.71 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 2 H), 1.73-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.46-1.38 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.5, 142.9, 133.7, 129.9, 129.5, 128.4, 127.6, 62.7, 35.6, 32.3, 31.0, 25.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₂H₁₆O₃Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated: 231.0992 found: 231.0986.

Methyl 4-(5-hydroxypent-1-yn-1-yl)benzoate (S5) Methyl 3-iodobenzoate (1.00 g, 3.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (20 mL, 0.2 M). Then Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (134 mg, 0.191 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) and CuI (36 mg, 0.191 mmol, 0.05 equiv.) were added to the solution and the reaction mixture was purged under N₂ for 5 minutes. Triethylamine (3.19 mL, 22.9 mmol, 6.0 equiv.) and the alkyne (0.35 mL, 3.82 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. Silica gel (~ 5 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and flash chromatography (20-40 % EtOAc in hexanes) was performed to afford the desired product as a white solid (563 mg, 68 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.96 (d, J= 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.45 (d, J= 8.4 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.84 (m, 2H), 2.58 (t, J= 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.91-1.87 (m, 2H), 1.50 (br s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 131.5, 129.4, 129.0, 128.6, 92.8, 80.6, 61.7, 52.2, 31.2, 16.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₃H₁₅O₃ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 219.1016 found: 219.1018.

Methyl 4-(5-hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoate (**S6**) The alkyne (250 mg, 1.15 mmol, 1.00 equiv.) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (6 mL) under N₂. Then Pd/C (243 mg, 5% w/w, 0.115 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was purged with H₂ for 10 minutes. A balloon filled with H₂ and equipped with a syringe was pierced into the septum and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was passed through a short pad of Celite® after being purged by bubbling with N₂ for 10 minutes and concentrated under reduced pressure. Purification by flash chromatography (30% EtOAc in hexanes) was performed to afford the desired product as a white solid (212 mg, 95 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.95 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J= 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.64 (t, J= 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (t, J= 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.57 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.37 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.2, 148.1, 129.6, 128.4, 127.7, 62.8, 51.9, 35.9, 32.5, 30.9, 25.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₃H₁₉O₃ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 223.1329 found: 223.1321.

4-(5-Hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoic acid (S7) Methyl 4-(5-hydroxypent-1-yl)benzoate (200 mg, 0.900 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in tetrahydrofuran (7.2 mL). Then LiOH (86 mg, 3.60 mmol, 4.0 equiv.) was added as an aqueous solution (1.8 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 65 °C for 18 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and HCl (1 M) was added until the pH of the mixture was neutralized (pH = 7). Extraction with EtOAc (3 X 5 mL) was performed and the combined organic phases were washed with brine (15 mL). The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford the desired product as a white solid (130 mg, 70 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, J= 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 3.67 (t, J= 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.71 (t, J= 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.72-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.40 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 171.2, 149.1, 130.3, 128.6, 126.8, 62.8, 36.0, 32.5, 30.9, 25.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₂H₁₆O₃Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated: 231.0992 found: 231.0988.

SYNTHESIS OF MACROCYCLES

1,6-Dioxapentadecane-7,15-dione (**4**): 1,4-Butanediol (0.017 mL, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 1,9-nonanedioic acid (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (\sim 1 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (28 mg, 58 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.21 (m, 4H), 2.34 (m, 4H), 1.77 (m, 4H), 1.64 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.34 (m 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.7, 63.6, 34.6, 27.8, 27.5, 26.5, 24.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₃H₂₃O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 243.1591 found: 243.1599.

1,7-Dioxahexadecane-8,16-dione (**5**): 1,4-Pentanediol (0.021 mL, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 1,9-nonanedioic acid (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 1 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (30 mg, 60 %). ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.14 (t, J= 5.4 Hz, 4H), 2.36 (t, J= 6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.71-1.62 (m, 8H), 1.57-1.48 (m, 2H), 1.37-1.30 (m, 6H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 64.1, 34.3, 28.7, 28.3, 27.7, 24.9, 23.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₄H₂₅O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 257.1756 found: 257.1747.

1,9-Dioxaoctadecane-10,18-dione (6): 1,7-Heptanediol (0.030 mL, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 1,9-nonanedioic acid (38 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 1 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (55 mg, 96 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.13 (t, J= 5.6 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (t, J= 6.4 Hz, 4H), 1.65-1.59 (m, 8H), 1.41-1.30 (m, 12H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.8, 63.7, 34.9, 29.2, 28.8, 28.4, 28.0, 25.6, 25.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₉O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 285.2060 found: 285.2051.

1,10-Dioxanonadecane-11,19-dione (3): 1,8-Octanediol (29, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 1,9-nonanedioic acid (38 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5

mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (\sim 1 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to the desired product as a white solid (55 mg, 92 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.12 (t, J= 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (t, J= 6.8 Hz, 4H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 8H), 1.40-1.30 (m, 14H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.0, 64.3, 34.8, 29.3, 29.1, 28.9, 28.7, 26., 25.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₇H₃₁O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 299.2217 found: 299.2226.

1,11-Dioxacyclotritriaconta-21,23-diyne-2,10-dione (**7**) The diol **S1** (33 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) and the diacid (19 mg, 0.1 mmol 1.0 eq) were dissolved in toluene (20 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a yellow solid (30 mg, 62 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.08 (t, J= 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.30 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 4H), 2.26 (t, J=6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 8H), 1.55-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.30 (m, 26H) ppm ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 77.4, 65.4, 64.3, 34.4, 29.1, 29.0, 28.9, 28.7, 28.6, 28.5, 28.0, 25.9, 24.9, 19.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₃₁H₅₀O₄Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated 509.3601 found: 509.3596.

1,5-Dioxacycloheptacosa-15,17-diyne-2,4-dione (**8**) The diol **S1** (33 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and the diacid (11 mg, 0.1 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (20 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (\sim 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (26 mg, 64 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.15 (t, J= 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.38 (s, 2H), 2.28 (t, J=6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.26 (t,

J=6.5 Hz, 4H), 1.70-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.53-1.30 (m, 24H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 77.4, 65.6, 41.8, 29.2, 28.8, 28.7, 27.8, 25.8, 19.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₂₅H₃₈O₄Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated 425.2662 found: 425.2672.

3,13-Dioxa-1(1,13)-benzenacyclotetradecaphane-2,14-dione (9) 1,9-Nonanediol (16 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and isophthalic acid (17 mg, 0.1 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (20 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (23 mg, 79 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.76 (s, 1H), 8.26-8.23 (m, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J*= 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (t, *J*= 5.2 Hz, 4H), 1.82-1.20 (m, 14H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 133.7, 130.91, 130.89, 128.8, 65.3, 28.9, 28.4, 28.1, 26.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₇H₂₃O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated 291.1591 found: 291.1592.

3,13-Dioxa-1(2,5)-furanacyclotetradecaphane-2,14-dione (**10**) 1,9-Nonanediol (16 mg, 0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and 2,5-furandicarboxylic acid (15 mg, 0.1 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (20 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (7.8 mg, 0.01 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (22 mg, 79 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.25 (s, 2H), 4.37 (t, J= 5.5 Hz, 4H), 1.80-1.75 (m, 4H), 1.63-1.35 (m, 10H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.1, 146.5, 118.0, 65.8, 29.1, 28.4, 27.7, 26.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₅H₂₀O₅Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated 303.1203 found: 303.1205.

(3R, 4R)-2,5-Dioxo-1,6-dioxacyclopentadecane-3,4-diyl dibenzoate (11) 1,9-Nonanediol (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid (71 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10-20 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (56 mg, 58 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.06 (d, J= 7.9 Hz, 4H), 7.57 (t, J= 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (t, J= 7.6 Hz, 4H), 5.88 (s, 2H), 4.36-4.32 (m, 4H), 1.75-1.65 (m, 4H), 1.43-1.38 (m, 10H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.6, 165.1, 133.7, 130.1, 128.6, 128.5, 70.6, 65.6, 27.8, 26.4, 25.6, 23.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₃₀H₃₆O₈Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated 547.2302 found: 547.2322.

dibenzoate (3R. 4R)-2,5-Dioxo-1,6-dioxacyclooctadecane-3,4-diyl (12)1.12-Dodecanediol (40 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and dibenzoyl-L-tartaric acid (71 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 ^oC. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10-20 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (68 mg, 65 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.15 (d, J=7.8 Hz, 4H), 7.62 (t, J=7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.49 (t, J=7.7 Hz, 4H), 5.95 (s, 2H), 4.40-4.35 (m, 2H), 4.16-4.10 (m, 4H), 1.73-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.52-1.43 (m, 8H), 1.43-1.38 (m, 10H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.5, 165.3, 133.7, 130.2, 128.7, 128.5, 71.4, 66.9, 28.5, 27.9, 27.8, 27.4, 25.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for $C_{27}H_{30}O_8Na [M + Na]^+$ calculated 505.1833 found: 3505.1848.

Nonane-1,9-diyl norbornene-2-*endo*,3-*exo*-dicarboxylate (13) 1,9-Nonanediol (32 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and norbornane-2-*endo*,3-*exo*-dicarboxylic acid (37 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (42 mg, 68 %). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.42 (ddd, J= 12, 9.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (ddd, J= 12, 8.4, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 3.98-3.89 (m, 2H), 3.05-3.01 (m, 1H), 2.75 (dd, J= 6.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 2.63-2.60 (m, 2H), 1.78-1.52 (m, 6H), 1.50-1.28 (m, 14H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 173.2, 63.8, 63.7, 51.1, 49.2, 40.5, 39.8, 38.7, 29.0, 28.0, 27.8, 26.7, 25.9, 25.6, 23.9, 23.7, 23.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for $C_{18}H_{29}O_4[M+H]^+$ calculated 309.2060 found: 309.2064.

Dodecane-1,12-diyl norbornene-2-*endo*,3-*exo*-dicarboxylate (14) 1,12-Dodecanediol (40 mg, 0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.) and norbornane-2-*endo*,3-*exo*-dicarboxylic acid (37 mg, 0.2 mmol 1.0 equiv.) were dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (15.5 mg, 0.02 mmol, 0.1 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling down to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (5% Et₂O in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a colorless oil (42 mg, 68 %). H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.35 (ddd, J= 18, 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.27 (ddd, J= 18, 8.2, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98-3.93 (m, 2H), 3.15-3.12 (m, 1H), 2.83 (d, J= 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.64-2.60 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.57 (m, 6H), 1.48-1.27 (m, 20H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 174.7, 173.4, 64.7, 64.5, 50.1, 48.9, 41.4, 40.4, 38.3, 28.7, 28.5, 28.4, 28.1, 27.9, 27.6, 27.2, 27.0, 26.9, 25.5, 25.3, 24.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₂₁H₃₄O₄Na [M + Na]⁺ calculated 373.2349 found: 373.2353.

1,12-Dioxacyclodocosane-2,13-dione (**16**) 10-Hydroxydecanoic acid (38.8 mg, 0.20 mmol 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (3.9 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.025 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (26 mg, 74 %). H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.12 (t, J= 5.9 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (t, J= 7.0 Hz, 4H), 1.65-1.60 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.28 (m, 20H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.9, 64.0, 34.8, 29.4, 29.1, 29.0, 28.9, 28.6, 26.0, 25.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for $C_{20}H_{37}O_4$ [M + H] $^+$ calculated: 341.2686 found: 341.2700.

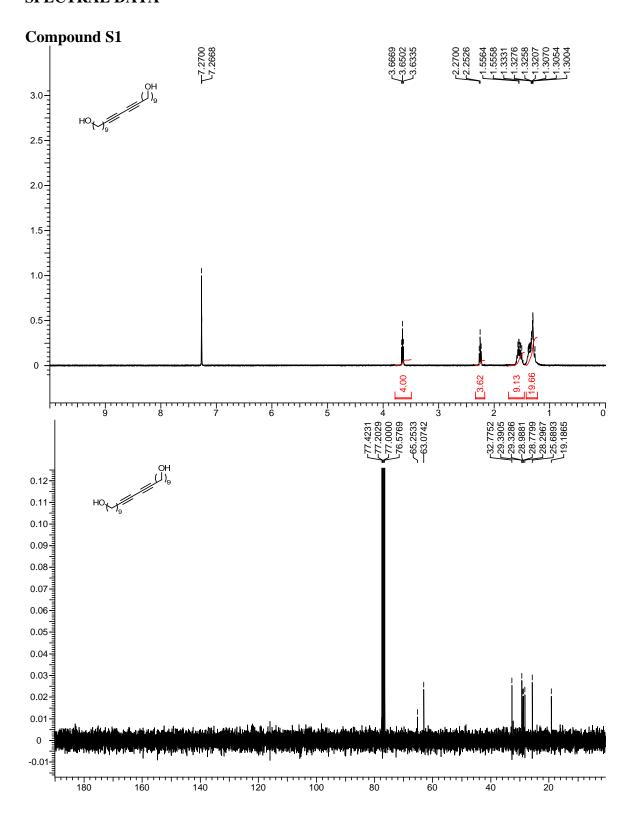
1,10-Dioxacyclooctadecane-2,11-dione (**17**) 8-Hydroxydecanoic acid (32.0 mg, 0.20 mmol 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (3.9 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.025 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (\sim 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (22 mg, 77 %). H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 4.12 (t, J= 5.9 Hz, 4H), 2.32 (t, J= 6.9 Hz, 4H), 1.67-1.57 (m, 8 H), 1.45-1.30 (m, 12 H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 173.7, 63.8, 34.9, 28.7, 28.60, 28.56, 25.7, 25.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for C₁₆H₂₉O₄ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 285.2060 found: 285.2069.

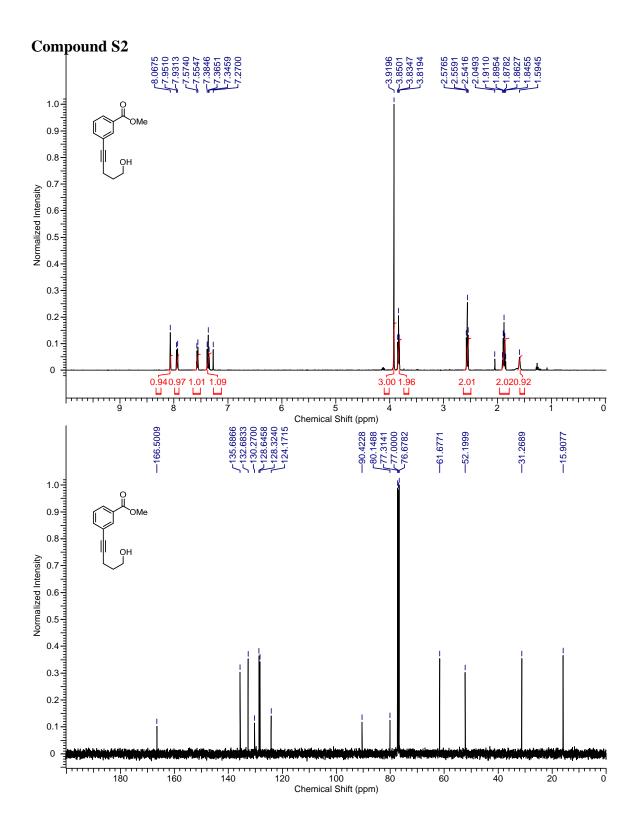
3,11-Dioxa-1,9(1,3)-dibenzenacyclohexadecaphane-2,10-dione (**18**) The hydroxyacid (67 mg, 0.322 mmol 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in toluene (60 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (6.2 mg, 0.008 mmol, 0.025 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc

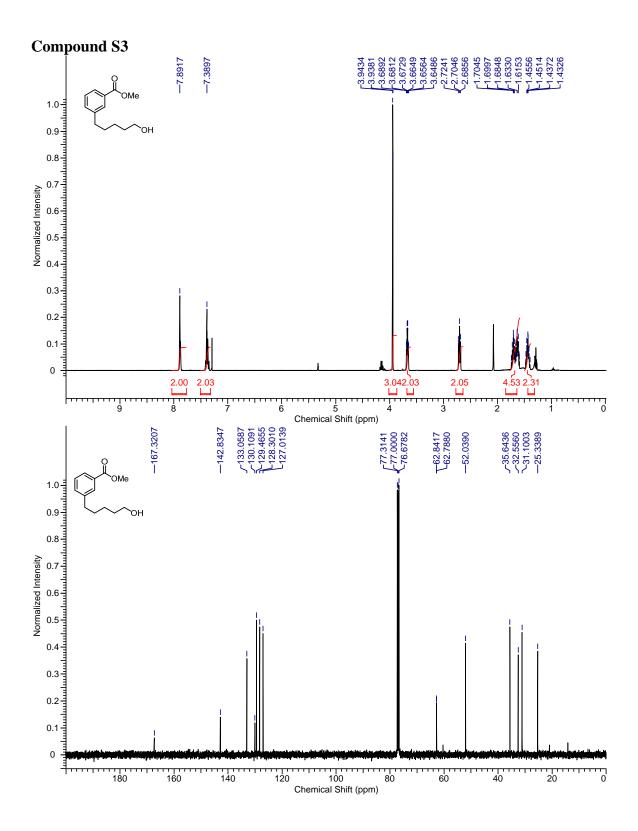
in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (44 mg, 72 %). H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.79 (d, J= 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 2 H), 7.35-7.30 (m, 4H), 4.32 (t, J= 5.3 Hz, 4H), 2.69 (t, J= 6.7 Hz, 4H), 1.77-1.68 (m, 8H), 1.43-1.40 (m, 4H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 142.3, 133.1, 130.2, 129.4, 128.3, 127.2, 64.7, 35.8, 30.4, 28.4, 25.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for $C_{24}H_{28}O_4$ [M + H]⁺ calculated: 381.2060 found: 381.2049.

3,11-Dioxa-1,9(1,4)-dibenzenacyclohexadecaphane-2,10-dione (19) The hydroxyacid (42 mg, 0.200 mmol 1.0 equiv.) was dissolved in toluene (40 mL, 5 mM). Then Hf(OTf)₄ (3.9 mg, 0.005 mmol, 0.025 equiv.) was added to the solution and the reaction mixture heated to 110 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at this temperature for 48 h. After cooling to room temperature, silica gel (~ 2 mL) was added and the slurry was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified by flash chromatography (10 % EtOAc in hexanes) to afford the desired product as a white solid (28 mg, 74 %). H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.73 (d, J= 8.3 Hz, 4H), 7.15 (d, J= 8.2 Hz, 4H), 4.35 (t, J= 5.3 Hz, 4H), 2.74 (t, J= 6.0 Hz, 4H), 1.80-1.70 (m, 8 H), 1.37-1.32 (m, 2H) ppm; 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.5, 147.0, 129.4, 128.7, 127.8, 63.5, 34.1, 28.4, 27.7, 22.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI+) for $C_{24}H_{28}O_{4}$ [M + H] $^{+}$ calculated: 381.2060 found: 381.2061.

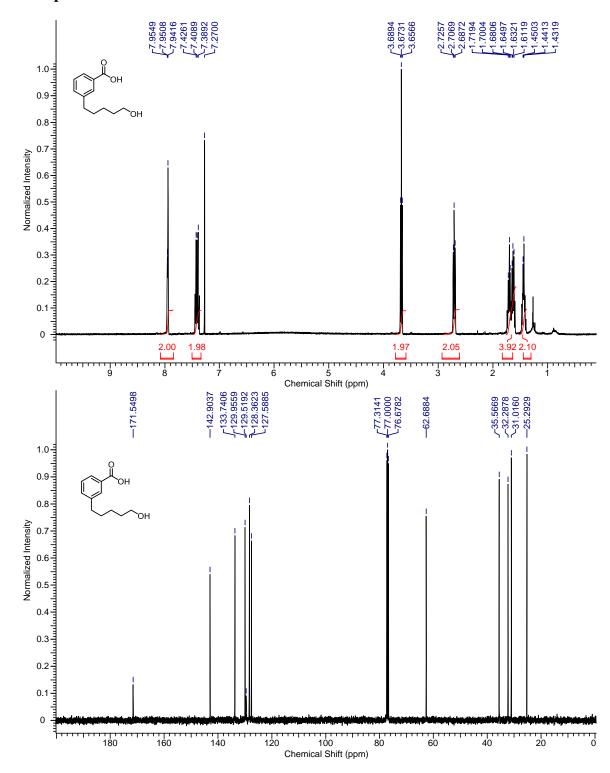
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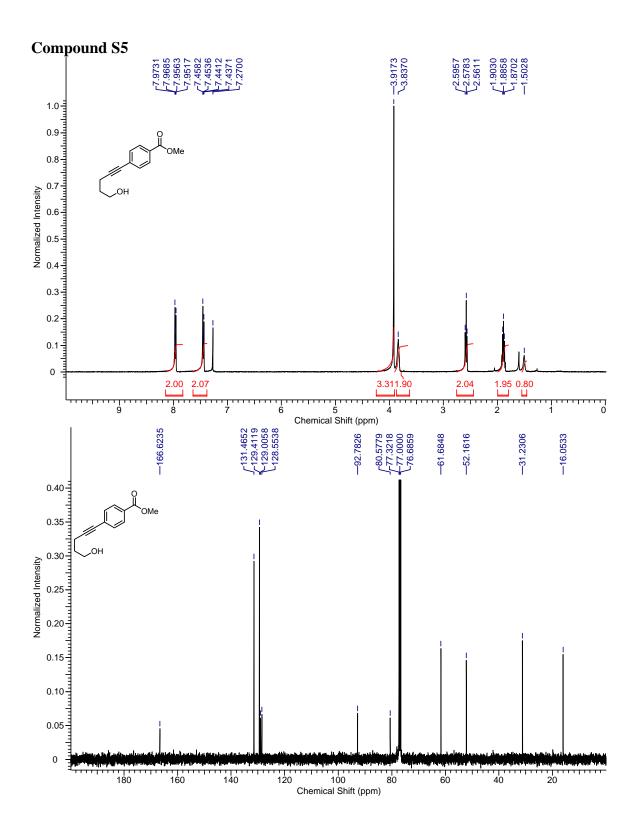




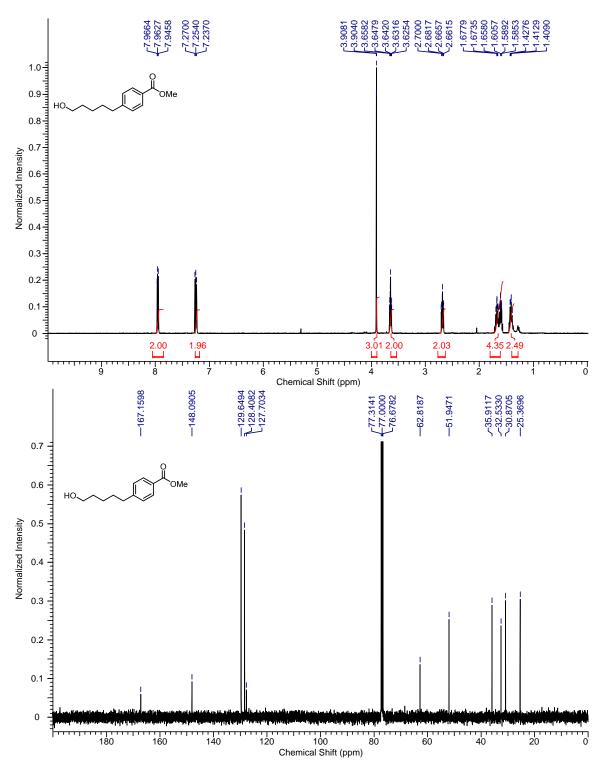


Compound S4





Compound S6



Compound S7

