Supplementary Information

for

Unsymmetrically Functionalized Benzoporphyrins

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Table of Contents

General	S1
Synthetic Procedures	S1
Spectroscopic data	
Fig S1-S6	S17
References	

I. General

All solvents were Analytical Reagent grade obtained either from Sigma-Aldrich or ACROS and used without further purification unless otherwise noted. Analytical TLC's were performed on Silicycle UltraPure Silica Gel 60 F254 TLC plates. Preparative column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40–60 \square m), which was purchased from Silicycle.

¹H and ¹³C NMR experiments were conducted on a Bruker Avance 500 spectrometer. All samples were prepared in CDCl₃ or C_6D_6 and chemical shifts were referenced to CHCl₃ at 7.26 ppm, to C_6H_6 at 7.15 for ¹H NMR and referenced to the CDCl₃ at 77.0 ppm, to C_6D_6 at 128.6 for ¹³C NMR. Mass spectra were obtained on Bruker MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer. UV-Visible spectra were recorded on an Agilent 8453 UV-Visible spectrometer in CH₂Cl₂ or CHCl₃.

II. Synthetic Procedures



General procedure for the synthesis of substituted monobenzoporphyrins 3

Zinc inserted dibromoporphyrin **2** was prepared according to published procedures.¹ Substituted monobenzoporphyrin **3** was synthesized based on a concise and versatile method developed in our laboratory for the synthesis of benzoporphyrins.^{2,3}

Dibromoarylporphyrin **2** (0.045 mmol), palladium acetate (0.011 mmol), triphenylphosphine (0.030 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (0.10 mmol) were added to a schlenk tube and dried under vacuum. The vacuum was released under argon to allow the addition of

dry DMF (10 mL) and dry Toluene (10 mL) and vinyl precursor (20-fold excess). The mixture was then degassed via four freeze-pump-thaw cycles before the vessel was purged with argon again. The schlenk flask was sealed and heated to reflux for 48h. After 48 h, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with water for 3 times. The organic layer was removed under vacuum. The residue was subjected to silica column chromatography. The bands containing the desired porphyrins were collected and recrystallized from CHCl₃/MeOH.

3a: Yield (65%). mp > 320 °C. UV-Vis λ_{max} (CHCl₃)/nm 454 (log ε = 5.29), 575 (4.27), 621 (3.89); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \Box 9.01 (1 H, br. s), 8.93 (2 H, m), 8.82 (2 H, br. s.), 8.05 (8 H, m), 7.55 (10 H, m), 7.23 (4 H, d, *J*=6.41 Hz), 7.08 - 7.18 (6 H, m), 2.63 - 2.81 (12 H, m). Calculated Mass, 979.286, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 980.856 (M+H). Due to low solubility of the compound **3.2**



demetalation was done to obtain the ¹³C NMR. Dematalated compound ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \Box 9.00 (1 H, s), 8.97 (1 H, d, *J*=4.89 Hz), 8.93 (1 H, d, *J*=4.89 Hz), 8.81 - 8.87 (2 H, m), 8.05 - 8.22 (8 H, m), 7.52 - 7.67 (8 H, m), 7.23 - 7.28 (6 H, m), 7.07 - 7.13 (4 H, m), 7.05 (2 H, m), 2.67 - 2.76 (12 H, m), -2.25 (2 H, m). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) \Box 152.25, 145.68, 142.38, 141.73, 141.46, 141.34, 139.26, 138.82, 138.77, 138.62, 138.37, 138.29, 138.09, 137.67, 137.15, 135.30, 134.78, 133.67, 133.40, 131.22, 130.16, 129.76, 129.19, 128.82, 128.31, 128.05, 127.83, 127.75, 127.67, 127.48, 126.44, 124.17, 120.95, 117.67, 117.28, 26.94, 21.65, 21.55.

3b: Yield (42%). mp > 320 °C. UV-Vis λ_{max} (CHCl₃)/nm 456 (log ε = 5.33), 576 (4.34), 621 (3.99); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) \Box 9.09 (1 H, s), 8.94 (1 H, d, *J*=4.58 Hz), 8.90 (1 H, d, *J*=4.58 Hz), 8.81 (2 H, m), 8.08 (4 H, d, *J*=7.79 Hz), 8.03 (4 H, d, *J*=7.79 Hz), 7.63 (4 H, d, *J*=7.79 Hz), 7.58 (2 H, d, *J*=7.79 Hz), 7.51 (2 H, d, *J*=7.79 Hz), 7.16 - 7.23 (2 H, m), 7.06 (4 H, d, *J*=8.25



Hz), 6.83 (4 H, d, J=8.25 Hz), 3.87 (6 H, s), 2.66 - 2.79 (12 H, m). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) 158.34, 153.89, 150.13, 149.90, 148.73, 148.65, 148.17, 141.93, 140.00, 139.26, 139.20, 138.71, 138.43, 138.36, 138.21, 138.16, 137.92, 137.84, 137.57, 134.59, 134.33, 134.20, 133.92, 133.16, 133.11, 133.04, 131.53, 131.27, 128.72, 127.70, 127.62, 127.58, 124.91, 122.01, 118.01, 117.73, 113.31, 55.25, 21.63, 21.60, 21.52; Calculated Mass, 1039.307, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 1040.972 (M+H).

3c: Yield (60%). mp > 320 °C. UV-Vis λ max (CH₂Cl₂)/nm 446 (log ε = 5.59), 569 (4.81), 625 (4.74); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.05-8.73 (5 H, m), 8.01-7.93 (8 H, m), 7.60-7.44 (8 H, m), 7.39 (2 H, s), 3.77 (6 H, m), 2.74-2.63 – (12 H, m); ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.61, 29,71, 52.44, 118.08, 118.53, 121.28, 124.42, 125.88, 127.90, 128.75, 129.31, 129.62, 129.89, 131.58, 133.87, 134.88, 135.39, 137.69, 138.33, 138.86, 139.20, 141.26, 142.98, 143.15



135.39, 137.69, 138.33, 138.86, 139.20, 141.26, 142.98, 143.15, 146.35, 150.58, 150.98, 152.77, 168.06; Calculated Mass, 943.235, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 898.014 (M-NO₂).

General procedure for the synthesis of porphyrin 4



i. General procedure for the synthesis of 2-aminoporphyrin A

This procedure was based upon the literature protocol for similar compound. In a twoneck round-bottom flask porphyrin **3** (50 mg, 0.053 mmol), dry dichloromethane (12 mL), and dry methanol (12 mL) was taken. Palladium (10% on carbon, 44 mg) was added to the solution and the solution was purged with argon and stirred at room temperature for 1 h, and then placed into the ice-bath. Over a 10 min period Sodium borohydride (48 mg, 1.28 mmol) was added to the solution in small portions. Progress of the reaction was monitored by UV-Visble spectroscopy, which shows shift in a soret band at 442 nm and also by TLC using DCM/Cyclohexane (1:1) as eluent. Complete consumption of starting material was observed after 1.2 h of the reaction. Solvent was removed by using rotary evaporator, and the residue was passed through a plug of Celite using dichloromethane as eluent in the dark. The crude product was concentrated in vacuum, and was directly used for the next reaction without further purification due to the unstability against photo-oxidation.

ii. General procedure for acetylation of porphyrin 4

This procedure was based upon the literature protocol for similar compound. Pyridine (0.4 mL) and acetic anhydride (4 mL) was added to Porphyrin A (40 mg, 0.044 mmol). Solution was stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mass was poured into water and stirred for another 15 minutes and was extracted with chloroform. TLC was carried out using DCM/cyclohexane (20:1) as eluent which shows formation Porphyrin **4** which were separated by column chromatography.

4: Yield (66%). UV-Vis λ_{max} (CH₂Cl₂)/nm 441 (log $\varepsilon = 5.89$), 566 (5.04), 607 (4.82); ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.25 (1 H, s), 8.88-8.66 (5 H, m), 8.01-7.97 (8 H, m), 7.66-7.47 (10 H, m), 3.90 (6 H, s), 2.76-2.66 (12 H, m), 1.73 (3 H, s), ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.45, 21.59, 29.68, 52.43, 114.19, 118.42, 118.53, 119.16, 119.77, 121.96, 122.36, 126.28, 127.90, 128.75, 129.31, 129.62,



129.89, 131.58, 133.87, 134.88, 135.39, 137.69, 138.33, 138.86, 139.20, 141.26, 142.98, 143.15, 146.35,149.39, 149.47, 150.06, 150.59, 151.39, 167.06, 168.06 Calculated Mass, 955.103, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 955.216.

General procedure for the synthesis of porphyrin 5



Porphyrin A (40 mg, 0.044 mmol) was dissolved in chloroform (10ml) and pyridine (0.016 mL) and benzoyl chloride (0.010 mL) was added to it. Solution was stirred for 8 hours at room temperature. The reaction mass was poured into water and stirred for another 15 minutes and was extracted with chloroform. TLC was carried out using DCM/Cyclohexane (15:1) which shows new spot. Using short plug of silica porphyrin **5** was collected.

5: Yield (33%). mp > 320 °C. UV-Vis λ_{max} (CH₂Cl₂)/nm 444 (log ε 6.30), 569 (5.22), 608 (4.77); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 10.47 (1 H, s), 9.08 (2 H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 9.07 (2 H, dd, *J* = 5.0, 12.0 Hz), 8.68 (1 H, d, *J* = 5.0 Hz), 8.31 (2 H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 8.09-8.06 (4 H, m), 8.00 (2 H, d, *J* = 12.5 Hz), 7.93 (2 H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.55 (2 H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.47-7.44 (4 H, m), 7.40 (2 H, d, *J* = 7.5 Hz), 7.15-7.11 (5 H, m), 3.65 (6H, s),



2.57 (3H, s), 2.56 (3H, s), 2.42 (3H, s), 2.28 (3H, s). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) \Box ppm 21.63, 21.66, 52.54, 117.34, 117.67, 118.73, 120.25, 121.20, 121.36, 125.81, 127.02, 127.79, 128.03, 128.39, 128.53, 128.58, 128.95, 129.01, 129.59, 131.70, 133.58, 133.62, 133.70, 134.40, 134.48, 137.36, 137.68, 138.54, 138.76, 139.04, 139.08, 139.68, 140.93, 142.83, 142.94, 164.60, 168.48, 168.53. Calculated Mass, 1017.287, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 1017.181.

General procedure for the synthesis of porphyrin 6



Denitration of porphyrin **3** was carried out using literature reported procedure by Smith et al.¹ Porphyrin **3** (50 mg, 0.053 mmol) and NaBH₄, (4 mg, 0.106 mmol) was added to a cold solution (ice/NaCl) of dried THF (10 mL) under argon. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h but the ice bath was removed after one hour. Progress of the reaction was monitored by UV-Visble spectroscopy, which shows shift in a soret band from 448 to 441 nm. Dichloromethane (100 mL) was then added to the reaction mixture and solution was poured into water. The organic phase was collected and evaporated to dryness. The residue was redissolved in dichloromethane and passed through a short alumina plug. Solvent was evaporated and crude product was used for the next step.

Crude product was dissolved in chloroform (40 mL) and silica gel (2 g) was added to it, the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1 d under argon. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered to remove silica gel and washed thoroughly with dichloromethane. Solvent was evaporated and TLC was carried out using DCM as eluent shows formation of a new spot which was purified by column chromatography.

6: Yield (33%). mp > 320 °C. UV-Vis λ_{max} (CH₂Cl₂)/nm 437 (log ϵ = 5.62), 562 (4.74), 626 (4.59); ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.93-8.86 (6 H, m), 8.07-7.99 (8 H, m), 7.64-7.52 (10 H, m), 3.90 (6H, s), 2.77 (12 H, m), ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 21.65, 29.72, 52.49, 118.48, 122.81, 126.39, 127.36, 128.40, 131.37, 131.68, 132.19, 133.17, 134.24, 137.25, 138.15, 139.61, 139.88, 140.82, 144.48, 149.38, 150.20,



151.60, 168.45; Calculated Mass, 898.182, Found MS (MALDI-TOF), m/z 898.141.

III Spectroscopic data

¹H NMR spectrum of **3b** in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz



¹³C NMR spectrum of **3b** in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz



MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 3b



MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 3a



¹³C NMR spectrum of demetalated **3a** in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz



 ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 3c in CDCl3 at 126 MHz



MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 3c



 $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of **5** in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz



MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 5



¹H NMR spectrum of **6** in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz



 ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **6** in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz



MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 6



 $^1\mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 4 in CDCl3 at 500 MHz



Signal peak broadening in ¹H NMR spectrum due to self-aggregation of molecules

¹³C NMR spectrum of 4 in CDCl₃ at 126 MHz





MALDI-TOF spectra for compound 4

Fig S1: Normalized fluorescence spectra of 3a-6 with excitation of 446 nm in CH₂Cl₂



Fig S2: Fluorescence spectra of demetalated 3a with TEA and TFA excitation at 440 nm in CH_2Cl_2



Fig S3: Fluorescence spectra of demetalated 3b with TEA and TFA excitation at 440 nm in CH_2Cl_2



Fig S4: Fluorescent emission spectra of demetalated 6 with and without TFA excitation at 440 nm in CH_2Cl_2 .

	Oxidation (CH ₂ Cl ₂)		Reduction (Pyridine)				
Cpds	HOMO-1	HOMO		LUMO	LUMO+1		H-L gap
	2nd	1st	$\Delta E(mV)$	1st	2nd	$\Delta E(mV)$	
(TPP)Zn	1.09	0.79	300	-1.40	-1.88	480	2.19
3a	1.02	0.79	230	-1.08	-1.43	350	1.87
3b	1.00	0.79	210	-1.08	-1.44	360	1.87
3 c	1.06	0.84	220	-1.00	-1.30	300	1.84
4	0.94	0.76	180	-1.32	-1.76	440	2.08
5	0.94	0.76	180	-1.32	-1.73	410	2.08
6	0.97	0.75	220	-1.34	-1.78	440	2.09

Table S1. Half-wave potential (V vs SCE) of investigated compounds in pyridine, 0.1 M TBAP.



Fig S5: Calculated HOMOs and LUMOs and energy levels for **3a-3c** and **4-6** (B3LYP/6-31G(d)).



Fig S6: Molecular geometry of **3a-3c**, and **4-6** calculated at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory.

Table S2: Calculated molecular orbital energy levels for porphyrin 3a-3c, and 4-6*

	HOMO (eV)	LUMO (eV)	ΔE (eV)
3 a	-5.12	-2.46	2.66
3 b	-5.07	-2.41	2.66
3c	-5.22	-2.62	2.60
4	-4.95	-2.23	2.72
5	-4.95	-2.23	2.72
6	-5.02	-2.20	2.82

*Orbital energy levels were calculated by DFT calculations with B3LYP/6-31G(d).

V Reference

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