# DNA-templated borononucleic acids self assembly : A study of minimal complexity 

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## General

All reagents were purchased from Aldrich or local suppliers and used without purification. All unmodified oligonucleotides used for this study were purchased from Eurogentec. Synthesized 5' borono-oligonucleotides were purified by RP-HPLC (Dionex Ultimate 3000) with a Nucleodur 100-7 C18 column ( $125 \times 8 \mathrm{~mm}$; Macherey-Nagel) and analyzed with a Nucleodur 100-3 C18 column ( $75 \times 4.6 \mathrm{~mm}$; Macherey-Nagel) and by MALDI-TOF MS (Voyager PerSeptive Biosystems) using trihydroxyacetophenone (THAP) as matrix and ammonium citrate as co-matrix. Thermal denaturation experiments were performed on a VARIAN Cary 300 UV spectrophotometer equipped with a Peltier temperature controller and a thermal analysis software.

## Syntheses of $5^{\prime}$ boronooligonucleotides

Syntheses were performed in $1 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ scale using an ABI 381A DNA synthesizer by phosphoramidite chemistry with conditions described in Table S1. $\mathrm{dT}^{\mathrm{bn}}$-phosphoramidite was synthesized and incorporated at the $5^{\prime}$-end of an oligonucleotide according to previous records. ${ }^{[1,2]}$

Table S1. Coupling conditions for oligonucleotides syntheses.

| Step | Reaction | Reagent | Time (s) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Deblocking | $3 \%$ TCA in DCM | 35 |
| 2 | Coupling | 0.1 M amidite in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}+0.3 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{BMT}$ in CH 3 CN | 20 |
| 3 | Capping | $\mathrm{Ac}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{THF} /$ Pyridine $+10 \%$ NMI in THF | 8 |
| 4 | Oxidation | $0.1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{I}_{2}$ in THF $/ \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ Pyridine | 15 |

[^0]
## Analyses of 5' boronooligonucleotides

HPLC and MALDI-TOF analysis of $B_{5} 5^{\prime}-T^{b n} A T G \boldsymbol{U}-3^{\prime}$


HPLC conditions analysis: Column Nucleodur C18, $100 \AA, 3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, elution with a linear gradient of 0 to $20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ in triethylammonium acetate buffer, pH 7 , in 25 min, Flow rate $1 \mathrm{~mL} . \mathrm{min}^{-1}, \lambda 260 \mathrm{~nm}$.


MALDI-TOF MS conditions analysis: ionization in negative mode, THAP (MW= 168.15 g. $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) as matrix and ammonium citrate ( $\mathrm{MW}=243.2 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ) as co-matrix, delay time 100 ns and an acceleration voltage of 24 kV .


HPLC conditions analysis: Column Nucleodur C18, $100 \AA, 3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, elution with a linear gradient of 0 to $20 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ in triethylammonium acetate buffer, pH 7 , in 25 min, Flow rate $1 \mathrm{~mL} \cdot \mathrm{~min}^{-1}, \lambda 260 \mathrm{~nm}$.


MALDI-TOF MS conditions analysis: ionization in negative mode THAP (MW= 168.15 g. $\mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) as matrix and ammonium citrate ( $\mathrm{MW}=243.2 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ) as co-matrix, delay time 100 ns and an acceleration voltage of 24 kV .


HPLC conditions analysis: Column Nucleodur C18, $100 \AA, 3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, elution with a linear gradient of 0 to $25 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ in triethylammonium acetate buffer, pH 7 , in 20 min , Flow rate $1 \mathrm{~mL} . \mathrm{min}^{-1}, \lambda 260 \mathrm{~nm}$.


MALDI-TOF MS conditions analysis: ionization in negative mode, THAP (MW=168.15 $\mathrm{g} . \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) as matrix and ammonium citrate ( $\mathrm{MW}=243.2 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ) as co-matrix, delay time 150 ns and an acceleration voltage of 24 kV .


HPLC conditions analysis: Column Nucleodur C18, $100 \AA, 3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, elution with a linear gradient of 0 to $25 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ in triethylammonium acetate buffer, pH 7 , in 20min, Flow rate $1 \mathrm{~mL} \cdot \mathrm{~min}^{-1}, \lambda 260 \mathrm{~nm}$.


MALDI-TOF MS conditions analysis: ionization in negative mode, THAP (MW= 168.15 $\mathrm{g} . \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) as matrix and ammonium citrate ( $\mathrm{MW}=243.2 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ) as co-matrix, delay time 150 ns and an acceleration voltage of 24 kV .


HPLC conditions analysis: Column Nucleodur C18, $100 \AA, 3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, elution with a linear gradient of 0 to $16 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ in triethylammonium acetate buffer, pH 7 , in 20 min , Flow rate $1 \mathrm{~mL} \cdot \mathrm{~min}^{-1}, \lambda 260 \mathrm{~nm}$.


MALDI-TOF MS conditions analysis: ionization in negative mode, THAP (MW=168.15 $\mathrm{g} . \mathrm{mol}^{-1}$ ) as matrix and ammonium citrate ( $\mathrm{MW}=243.2 \mathrm{~g} \cdot \mathrm{~mol}^{-1}$ ) as co-matrix, delay time 150 ns and an acceleration voltage of 24 kV .

## Denaturation experiments

Unless otherwise stated, the samples were prepared by mixing $3 \mu \mathrm{M}$ of the template with stoichiometric amounts of complementary strands. Denaturation experiments were performed in a $1 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{NaCl}, 10 \mathrm{mM}$ sodium cacodylate buffer at pH 7.5 or 9.5 . A heating-cooling-heating cycle in the $0-90^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ temperature range with a gradient of $0.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{min}$ was applied.
Tm values were determined from the maxima of the first derivative plots of absorbance at 260 nm versus temperature.

Melting curves and their derivatives
Table $\mathrm{S} 2: \boldsymbol{T}_{\mathrm{m}}$ values from Figure 6.

| Entry | BifunctionnalStrand $^{a}$ | $T_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{\text {b }}\left[{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right]$ according to the excess of $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{n}}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1 eq | 2 eq | 3 eq | 4 eq | 5 eq | 6 eq |
| 1 | $\mathrm{B}_{5} \mathrm{~T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{ATGU}$ | $14.9 \pm 0.3$ | $17.1 \pm 0.3$ | $19.1 \pm 0.3$ | $20.8 \pm 0.2$ | $21.9 \pm 0.2$ | $22.5 \pm 0.4$ |
| 2 | $\mathrm{B}_{4} \mathrm{~T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{GTA}$ | $7.2 \pm 0.2$ | $9.2 \pm 0.1$ | $12.0 \pm 0.2$ | $14.0 \pm 0.1$ | $14.9 \pm 0.1$ | $14.0 \pm 0.3$ |
| 3 | $\mathrm{B}_{3} \mathrm{Tbn}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{CA}$ | -c | -c | -c | -c | -c | -c |
| 4 | $\mathrm{B}_{5}$ with primer | $29.0 \pm 0.3$ | $29.0 \pm 0.2$ | $29.0 \pm 0.2$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| 5 | $\mathrm{B}_{4}$ with primer | $21.0 \pm 0.3$ | $25.0 \pm 0.1$ | $26.0 \pm 0.1$ | $25.8 \pm 0.2$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |
| 6 | $\mathrm{B}_{3}$ with primer | $10.7 \pm 0.1$ | $13.6 \pm 0.2$ | $15.3 \pm 0.4$ | $15.8 \pm 0.2$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | n.d. ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |

${ }^{a} \mathrm{~T}^{\text {bn }}$ refers to boronothymidine and bold letters represent RNA residues. ${ }^{b}$ Melting temperatures are obtained from the maxima of the first derivatives of the melting curve ( $\mathrm{A}_{260}$ vs temperature) recorded in a buffer containing 1 M NaCl and 10 mM of sodium cacodylate, Template concentration $3 \mu \mathrm{M}$. Curve fits data were averaged from fits of three denaturation curves. Uncertainties were estimated from standard deviations of experimental melting temperatures. ${ }^{c} T_{\mathrm{m}}$ lower than $5{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. ${ }^{d}$ Not determined.

Figure S1. Bar-chart representation of Table 2.


Melting temperatures are obtained from the maxima of the first derivatives of the melting curve ( $\mathrm{A}_{260}$ vs temperature) recorded in a buffer containing 1 M NaCl and 10 mM of sodium cacodylate, Template concentration $3 \mu \mathrm{M}$. Curve fits data were averaged from fits of three denaturation curves.

## Melting curves and derivatives from Table S2.

## Table S2, entry 1 :



Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ATACA})_{3} \mathrm{CC}$ with $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{ATGrU}$ 1eq (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow) ; 4eq (green); 5eq (brown) and 6eq (cyan).

Table S2, entry 2 :


Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ACAT})_{3} \mathrm{CC}$ with $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{GTrA}$ leq (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow) ; 4eq (green) ; 5eq (brown) and 6eq (cyan).

Table S2, entry 3 :


Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3} \mathrm{CC}$ with 5'- ${ }^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{CrA} 1 \mathrm{eq}$ (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow) ; 4eq (green) ; 5eq (brown) and 6eq (cyan).

## Table S2, entry 4 :



Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}$-CC(ACATA) $)_{3}(A G T)_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'- $\mathrm{T}^{\text {bn }}$ ATGrU 1eq (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow).

Table S2, entry 5 :


Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ACAT})_{3}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'- $\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}}$ GTrA 1eq (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow) ; 4eq (green).

## Table S2, entry 6 :



Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'-T ${ }^{\text {bn }}$ CrA leq (blue) ; 2eq (orange) ; 3eq (yellow) ; 4eq (green).

## Melting curves and derivatives from Table 3.

Table 3, entry 1 :


Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime}$-CC(ATACA) $)_{3}(A G T)_{3} C C / 5^{\prime}$ -GGTCATCATCrA/5'-TATGrU at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; pH 7.53 mM CN - (green).


Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime} 3^{\prime}$-CC(ATACA) $)_{3}(A G T)_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}{ }^{\prime}$ -GGTCATCATCrA/5'-T ${ }^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{ATGrU}$ at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; pH 7.53 mM CN (green).

## Table 3, entry 2 :



Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime}$ - $\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ACAT})_{3}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'-TGTrA at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; pH 7.53 mM CN - (green).


Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ACAT})_{3}(\mathrm{AGT})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'- $\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{GTrA}$ at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; $\mathrm{pH} 7.53 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{CN}^{-}$(green).

## Table 3, entry 3 :



Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime}$ - $\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{AGT})_{6} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'-TCrA at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; pH $7.53 \mathrm{mM} \mathrm{CN}{ }^{-}$(green).


Melting curves and their derivatives of the complex $3^{\prime}$ - $\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{AGT})_{6} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}$ '-GGTCATCATCrA/5'- ${ }^{\text {bn }} \mathrm{CrA}$ at pH 7.5 (blue) ; pH 9.5 (orange) ; pH 7.53 mM CN - (green).

Table S3. Results not included in paper tables.

| Entry | Template | Template sequence ( $5^{\prime}-3^{\prime}$ ) | Sequences | $\mathrm{T}_{m}\left[{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right]^{\mathrm{a}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | $\mathrm{T}_{5}$ | CC-(ACATA) $3_{3}$-CC | $\mathrm{B}_{5} 5 \mathrm{eq}$ | pH 7.53 mM CN : 20.2 |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{4}$ | CC-(TACA) $3_{3}$-CC | $\mathrm{B}_{4} 5 \mathrm{eq}$ | pH 7.53 mM CN - 13.0 |
| 2 |  |  | $\mathrm{B}_{5}$ | _c |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{5}{ }^{\prime}$ | CC-(ACATA )-ATACA-(ACATA)-CC | $\mathrm{B}_{5}$ | _c |
|  |  |  | $\mathrm{B}_{5}+\mathrm{B}_{5}{ }^{\prime}$ | pH 9.5: 20.0 |
| 3 |  |  | $\mathrm{B}_{4}$ | -c |
|  | $\mathrm{T}_{4}$ | CC-(TACA)-TCAA-(TACA)-CC | $\mathrm{B}_{4}$ | -c |
|  |  |  | $\mathrm{B}_{4}+\mathrm{B}_{4}{ }^{\prime}$ | pH 9.5: 13.5 |

${ }^{a}$ Melting temperatures are obtained from the maxima of the first derivatives of the melting curve (A260 vs temperature) recorded in a buffer containing 1 M NaCl and 10 mM of sodium cacodylate, Template concentration $3 \mu \mathrm{M}$. Curve fits data were averaged from fits of three denaturation curves.

## Melting curves and derivatives from Table S3.

Table S3, entry 1 :


Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 7.5 with 3 mM NaCN of complexes $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ATACA})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{ATGrU}$ (blue) and $3^{\prime}-\mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{ACAT})_{3} \mathrm{CC} / 5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{GTrA}$ (yellow).

## Table S3, entry 2 :



Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of template CC-(ACATA)-ATACA-(ACATA)CC with $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{ATGrU}$ (blue), $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{TAGrU}$ (orange) and both bifunctionnal strands (yellow).

Table S3, entry 3 :


Melting curves and their derivatives at pH 9.5 of template CC-(ACAT)-AACT-(ACAT)-CC with $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{GTrA}$ (blue), $5^{\prime}-\mathrm{T}^{\mathrm{bn}} \mathrm{TGrA}$ (orange) and both bifunctionnal strands (yellow).


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ D. Luvino, C. Baraguey, M. Smietana, J. J. Vasseur, Chem. Commun. 2008, 2352.
    ${ }^{2}$ A. R. Martin, I. Barvik, D. Luvino, M. Smietana, J. J. Vasseur, Angew. Chem. 2011, 50, 4193.

