

Synthesis of Triazolium-Based Mono- and Tris-branched [1]Rotaxanes Using a Molecular Transporter of Dibenzo-24-Crown-8

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Table of contents

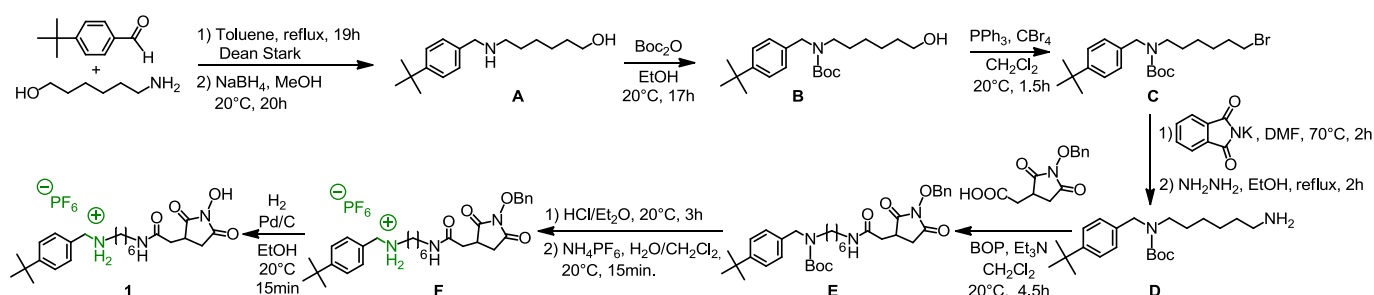
Table of contents	1
1. General methods	2
2. Synthesis of the molecular transporter 1	2
2.1. General synthetic pathway.....	2
2.2. Synthesis of the alcohol A <i>via</i> reductive amination	2
2.3. Synthesis of the <i>N</i> -carbamoylated alcohol compound B	3
2.4. Synthesis of the <i>N</i> -carbamoylated bromo compound C	3
2.5. Synthesis of the primary amino compound D	3
2.6. Synthesis of compound E	4
2.7. Synthesis of compound F	5
2.8. Synthesis of the molecular transporter 1	5
3. Synthesis of the macrocycle	6
3.1. General synthetic pathway.....	6
3.2. Synthesis of the bromoalkyne compound G	6
3.3. Synthesis of the azidoalkyne H	6
3.4. Synthesis of the aminoalkyne I	7
3.5. Synthesis of the DB24C8-ester derivative	7
3.6. Synthesis of the DB24C8-alkyne derivative J	8
4. Synthesis of the rotaxanes.....	8
4.1. Synthesis of rotaxane 2	8
4.2. Synthesis of rotaxane 3	9
4.3. Cyclization reaction: synthesis of the triazole-containing loosened lasso	10
4.4. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 4I	10
4.5. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 5	11
4.6. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 6	12
4.7. Synthesis of the tris-branched [1]rotaxane 7	12
5. Synthesis of the uncomplexed threads.....	14
5.1. General synthetic pathway.....	14
5.2. Synthesis of compound K	15
5.3. Synthesis of compound L	15
5.4. Synthesis of compound M	16
5.5. Synthesis of the <i>N</i> -carbamoylated thread 5u	16
5.6. Synthesis of the <i>N</i> -carbamoylated thread 4u	17
5.7. Synthesis of the uncomplexed thread 6u	17
5.8. Synthesis of the uncomplexed thread 7u	18
6. NMR Spectra	18

1. General methods

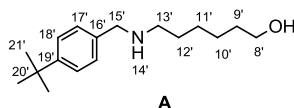
All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon unless otherwise indicated. All reagents were used as received without further purification. Dichloromethane was distilled over P_2O_5 and was degassed by bubbling Ar for 20 min. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F254 plates. Compounds were visualized by dipping the plates in an ethanolic solution of 10% sulphuric acid, ninhydrine or an aqueous solution of $KMnO_4$, followed by heating. 1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained on a spectrometer (respectively at 600.27 or 400.13 MHz and 150.94 or 100.62 MHz). Chemical shifts of 1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR are given by using $CHCl_3$, CH_2Cl_2 and CH_3CN as references (7.27 ppm, 5.32 ppm, and 1.94 ppm respectively for 1H spectrum, and 77.0 ppm, 54.0 ppm, and 118.26 ppm respectively for ^{13}C spectrum). 1H assignments were deduced from 2D 1H - 1H NMR COSY experiments. ^{13}C assignments were deduced from 2D ^{13}C - 1H NMR HSQC experiments. Coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Standard abbreviations indicating multiplicity were used as follows: s (singlet), br (broad), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quint (quintuplet), m (multiplet). Mass spectra (MS) and high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded respectively on a ZQ Micromass apparatus and a Q-TOF Micro apparatus.

2. Synthesis of the molecular transporter 1

2.1. General synthetic pathway



2.2. Synthesis of the alcohol A via reductive amination



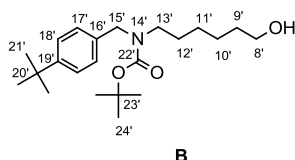
Imine formation

A solution of *tert*-butylbenzaldehyde (8.1 mL, 48 mmol, 1.2 equiv.) and 6-aminohexanol (4.688 g, 40 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (100 mL) was stirred for 19h under reflux, using a Dean-Stark apparatus. At the end of the coupling reaction, the solution was cooled to room temperature, and then concentrated to give a yellow-orange oil which was directly engaged in the following reduction.

Reduction

The crude was dissolved in methanol (100 mL) and cooled to 0°C. Sodium borohydride (4.54 g, 120 mmol, 3 equiv.) was added slowly in small portions over 20 min. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20h at room temperature. 100 mL of an aqueous solution of HCl 5M was then added to the mixture. Methanol was evaporated under *vacuum*, before adding very slowly and under stirring 100 mL of an aqueous solution of NaOH 5M. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over $MgSO_4$ and concentrated. The crude yellow oil obtained was used for the next step without purification.

2.3. Synthesis of the *N*-carbamoylated alcohol compound B



B

The crude **A** (0.040 mol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in ethanol (100 mL). Boc₂O (14.07 g, 0.064 mol, 1.6 equiv.) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 17h at room temperature. At the end of the reaction, the ethanol was evaporated and the residue was diluted with CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL). The organic layer was washed with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M (100 mL). The acidic aqueous solution was then extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3x100 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The obtained crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (PE/AcOEt 90:10 to 70:30) to give pure **B** (11.03 g, 76% over 3 steps) as a light yellow oil.

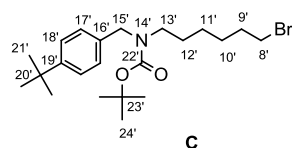
R_f: 0.52 (PE/AcOEt 6/4).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 7.34 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 7.9Hz, H_{18'}), 7.19-7.12 (m, 2H, H_{17'}), 4.44-4.34 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.60 (t, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = 6.4Hz, H_{8'}), 3.24-3.06 (m, 2H, H_{13'}), 2.09 (br s, 1H, OH), 1.58-1.41 (m, 13H, H_{24'} H_{9'} H_{12'}), 1.40-1.21 (m, 4H, H_{10'} H_{11'}), 1.31 (s, 9H, H_{21'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 155.7 (C_{22'}), 149.9 (C_{19'}), 135.4 (C_{16'}), 127.3 & 126.9 (C_{17'}), 125.2 (C_{18'}), 79.5 (C_{23'}), 62.6 & 62.4 (C_{8'}), 49.7 & 49.2 (C_{15'}), 46.1 & 45.8 (C_{13'}), 34.4 (C_{20'}), 31.3 (C_{21'}), 28.4 (C_{24'}), 32.5 & 28.0 & 27.5 & 26.6 & 26.2 & 25.4 & 25.1 (C_{9'} C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₇NO₃Na⁺: 386.2671, found: 386.2679.

2.4. Synthesis of the *N*-carbamoylated bromo compound C



C

To a solution of the alcohol **B** (11.03 g, 29.6 mmol, 1 equiv.) in CH₂Cl₂ (150 mL) was added successively PPh₃ (15.5 g, 59 mmol, 2 equiv.) and CBr₄ (19.6 g, 59 mmol, 2 equiv.). The light brown solution was stirred for 1h30 at room temperature before being concentrated and added by a solution of PE/AcOEt 95:5. The precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate concentrated. The obtained residue was purified by chromatography using a silicagel column (PE/AcOEt 100:0 to 75:35) to give the pure brominated compound **C** (11.56 g, 89%) as a pale yellow oil.

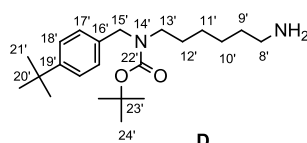
R_f: 0.70 (PE/AcOEt 6/4).

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 7.35 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 7.9Hz, H_{18'}), 7.21-7.14 (m, 2H, H_{17'}), 4.45-4.36 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.39 (t, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = 6.6Hz, H_{8'}), 3.24-3.08 (m, 2H, H_{13'}), 1.88-1.78 (m, 2H, H_{9'}), 1.56-1.37 (m, 13H, H_{24'} H_{10'} H_{12'}), 1.33 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.33-1.23 (m, 2H, H_{11'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 155.6 (C_{22'}), 149.9 (C_{19'}), 135.3 (C_{16'}), 127.3 & 126.9 (C_{17'}), 125.3 (C_{18'}), 79.4 (C_{23'}), 49.9 & 49.3 (C_{15'}), 46.1 (C_{13'}), 34.4 (C_{20'}), 33.7 (C_{8'}), 32.6 (C_{9'}), 31.3 (C_{21'}), 28.4 (C_{24'}), 27.8 & 27.5 & 25.9 (C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₆NO₂BrNa⁺: 448.1827, found: 448.1824.

2.5. Synthesis of the primary amino compound D



D

To a solution of the brominated compound **C** (6.11 g, 14 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry DMF (78 mL) was added potassium phthalimide (3.91 g, 21 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The solution was stirred for 2h at 70°C, then cooled to room temperature, and partially concentrated. The resulting mixture was filtered through a celite pad. After abundant washing of the celite pad with CH₂Cl₂, the filtrate was concentrated to a pale orange oil, which was used for the next step without further purification.

The obtained oil was diluted in ethanol (140 mL) and added by hydrazine (2.47 g, 49 mmol, 3.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred for 2h at reflux. At the end of the reaction, an aqueous solution of KOH 1M (140 mL) was added and the ethanol was evaporated. The aqueous layer was then extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂ (3x70 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated to give **D** (5.097 g, 99%) as a pale yellow oil.

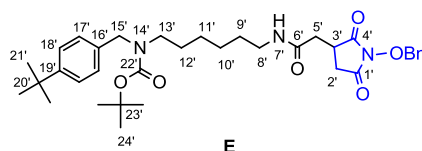
R_f: 0.11 (PE/AcOEt 2/8)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 7.34 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 7.5Hz, H_{18'}), 7.19-7.11 (m, 2H, H_{17'}), 4.44-4.32 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.22-3.05 (m, 2H, H_{13'}), 2.68 (t, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = 6.7Hz, H_{8'}), 1.74 (br s, NH₂), 1.54-1.35 (m, 13H, H_{24'} H_{9'} H_{12'}), 1.34-1.21 (m, 4H, H_{10'} H_{11'}), 1.30 (s, 9H, H_{21'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 155.9 (C_{22'}), 149.9 (C_{19'}), 135.4 (C_{16'}), 127.3 & 126.9 (C_{17'}), 125.2 (C_{18'}), 79.3 (C_{23'}), 49.8 & 49.2 (C_{15'}), 46.1 (C_{13'}), 42.0 (C_{8'}), 34.4 (C_{20'}), 31.3 (C_{21'}), 28.4 (C_{24'}), 33.6 & 28.0 & 27.6 & 26.6 & 26.5 (C_{9'} C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₉N₂O₂⁺: 363.3012, found: 363.3011.

2.6. Synthesis of compound E



The primary amine **D** (1.124g, 3.1 mmol, 1 equiv.) and the *O*-benzyl-*N*-hydroxysuccinimide derivative (818 mg, 3.1 mmol, 1 equiv.) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (57 mL). To this solution was added successively BOP (1.790 g, 4.0 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) and Et₃N (960 μL, 6.8 mmol, 2.2 equiv.). After checking the basicity of the solution, the mixture was stirred for 4h30 at RT. Then, an aqueous solution of HCl 1M was added until pH 1. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂ (3x30 mL). The resulting organic layers were washed twice with a saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2x50 mL), then with brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The obtained crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (PE/AcOEt 60:40 to 40:60) to give the pure compound **E** (1.647 g, 87%) as a white solid.

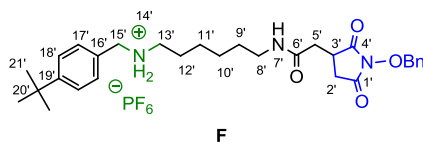
R_f: 0.46 (PE/AcOEt 2/8)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃Cl, 298K): δ ppm = 7.53-7.47 (m, 2H, H_{OBn}), 7.39-7.35 (m, 3H, H_{OBn}), 7.34 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 7.9 Hz, H_{18'}), 7.15 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 7.9 Hz, H_{17'}), 6.29 & 5.77 (2 br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 5.13 (s, 2H, CH₂ OBn), 4.42-4.34 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.24-3.06 (m, 4H, H_{8'} H_{13'}), 3.05-2.96 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 2.84 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'b-H2'a} = 17.9 Hz, ³J_{H2'b-H3'} = 9.1 Hz, H_{2'b}), 2.69-2.59 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.50 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.9Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 4.6Hz, H_{2'a}), 1.55-1.39 (m, 4H, H_{9'} H_{12'}), 1.45 (sl, 9H, H_{24'}), 1.35-1.20 (m, 4H, H_{10'} H_{11'}), 1.31 (s, 9H, H_{21'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 173.8 (C_{6'}), 170.7 & 169.1 (C_{1'} C_{4'}), 156.0 & 155.8 (C_{22'}), 150.0 (C_{19'}), 135.2 (C_{IV} OBn), 133.4 (C_{16'}), 129.8 & 129.2 & 128.4 (CH_{OBn}), 127.1 & 126.9 (C_{17'}), 125.3 (C_{18'}), 79.6 (C_{23'}), 78.5 (CH₂ OBn), 49.6 & 49.1 (C_{15'}), 46.1 & 45.2 (C_{13'}), 39.5 & 38.8 (C_{8'}), 35.4 (C_{5'}), 34.4 (C_{20'}), 33.6 (C_{3'}), 31.7 (C_{2'}), 31.3 (C_{21'}), 28.4 (C_{24'}), 28.8 & 27.2 & 25.6 & 25.4 (C_{9'} C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M+Na]⁺ calcd for C₃₅H₄₉N₃O₆Na⁺: 630.3519, found: 630.3523.

2.7. Synthesis of compound F



To the *N*-carbamoylated compound **E** (1.752 g, 2.88 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added a 0.9M solution of HCl in Et₂O (40 mL, 36 mmol, 12.5 equiv.). After stirring for 3h at 0°C, the mixture was concentrated before being dissolved in a small volume of Et₂O and concentrated three times. The resulting crude was diluted in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL), milli-Q water (20 mL) and NH₄PF₆ (1.400 g, 8.6 mmol, 3 equiv.) were added. The biphasic mixture was vigorously stirred at room temperature for 15 min. The aqueous layer was extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂ (3x15mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The resulting white solid was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (CH₂Cl₂ /MeOH 98:2 to 94:6) to give the pure ammonium-containing product **F** (1.628 g, 86%) as a white solid.

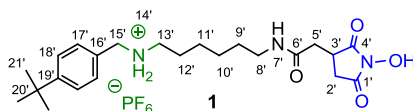
R_f: 0.53 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1)

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 7.52-7.46 (m, 2H, H_{OBn}), 7.50 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.4 Hz, H_{18'}), 7.42-7.36 (m, 3H, H_{OBn}), 7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.4 Hz, H_{17'}), 7.06-6.46 (br s, 2H, H_{14'}), 6.52 (br t, 1H, H_{7'}), 5.02 (s, 2H, CH₂OBn), 4.10 (s, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.11 (q, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = ³J_{H8'-H7'} = 6.6 Hz, H_{8'}), 3.03-2.95 (m, 3H, H_{3'} H_{13'}), 2.77 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.8Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.2 Hz, H_{2'a}), 2.66 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H5'a-H5'b} = 16.3Hz, ³J_{H5'a-H3'} = 5.9 Hz, H_{5'a}), 2.57 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H5'b-H5'a} = 16.3Hz, ³J_{H5'b-H3'} = 4.6 Hz, H_{5'b}), 2.34 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'b-H2'a} = 17.8Hz, ³J_{H2'b-H3'} = 4.4 Hz, H_{2'b}), 1.63 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H12'-H11'} = ³J_{H12'-H13'} = 7.5 Hz, H_{12'}), 1.43 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H9'-H8'} = ³J_{H9'-10'} = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H_{9'}), 1.38-1.25 (m, 4H, H_{11'} H_{10'}), 1.31 (s, 9H, H_{21'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 175.3 & 172.3 & 170.9 (C_{1'} C_{4'} C_{6'}), 153.7 (C_{19'}), 135.2 (C_{IV-OBn}), 130.7 (C_{17'}), 130.6 & 130.0 & 129.4 (CH_{OBn}), 128.6 (C_{16'}), 126.9 (C_{18'}), 79.0 (CH_{2-OBn}), 52.0 (C_{15'}), 48.5 (C_{13'}), 39.4 (C_{8'}), 35.8 (C_{5'}), 35.2 (C_{20'}), 34.4 (C_{3'}), 32.3 (C_{2'}), 31.3 (C_{21'}), 29.7 (C_{9'}), 26.3 & 26.2 & 26.1 (C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₃₀H₄₂N₃O₄⁺: 508.3175, found: 508.3179.

2.8. Synthesis of the molecular transporter 1



To a solution of **F** (351 mg, 0.54 mmol, 1 equiv.) in EtOH (15 mL) was added 10%-Pd/C (300 mg). The solution was stirred 15 min under a hydrogen atmosphere before filtration through a celite pad. After abundant washing of the celite pad, the filtrate was concentrated to give the pure **1** (297 mg, 98%) without any further purification.

R_f: 0.23 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1)

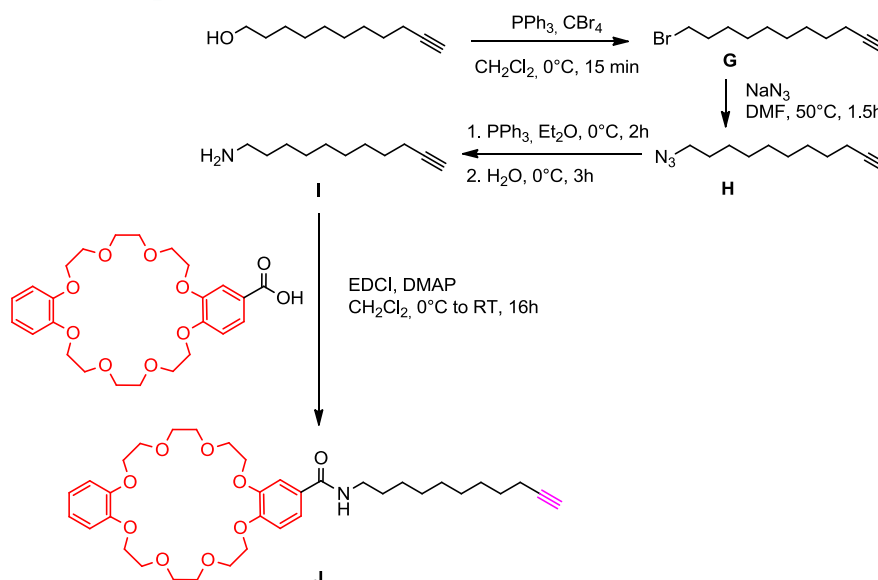
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 7.50 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.4 Hz, H_{18'}), 7.39 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.4 Hz, H_{17'}), 6.57 (br t, 1H, H_{7'}), 4.13 (s, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.11 (q, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = ³J_{H8'-H7'} = 6.6 Hz, H_{8'}), 3.06-2.95 (m, 3H, H_{3'} H_{13'}), 2.75 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.8 Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.0 Hz, H_{2'a}), 2.63 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H5'a-H5'b} = 16.2 Hz, ³J_{H5'a-H3'} = 6.0 Hz, H_{5'a}), 2.57 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H5'b-H5'a} = 16.2 Hz, ³J_{H5'b-H3'} = 4.9 Hz, H_{5'b}), 2.34 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'b-H2'a} = 17.8 Hz, ³J_{H2'b-H3'} = 4.4 Hz, H_{2'b}), 1.64 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H12'-H11'} = ³J_{H12'-H13'} = 7.5 Hz, H_{12'}), 1.43 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H9'-H8'} = ³J_{H9'-10'} = 6.9 Hz, 2H, H_{9'}), 1.38-1.23 (m, 4H, H_{11'} H_{10'}), 1.31 (s, 9H, H_{21'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 175.7 & 172.8 & 171.3 (C₁ C₄ C₆), 153.6 (C₁₉), 130.6 (C₁₇), 128.6 (C₁₆), 126.8 (C₁₈), 52.0 (C₁₅), 48.5 (C₁₃), 39.5 (C₈), 35.7 (C₅), 35.2 (C₂₀), 34.4 (C₃), 32.1 (C₂), 31.3 (C₂₁), 29.5 (C₉), 26.3 & 26.2 & 26.0 (C₁₀ C₁₁ C₁₂).

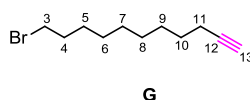
HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₃₆N₃O₄⁺: 418.2706, found: 418.2694.

3. Synthesis of the macrocycle

3.1. General synthetic pathway



3.2. Synthesis of the bromoalkyne compound **G**



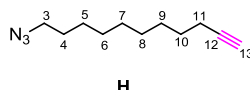
A solution of undec-10-ynol (1.546 g, 9.2 mmol, 1 equiv.) in CH_2Cl_2 (26 mL) was cooled at 0°C . To this solution was added PPh_3 (3.62 g, 13.8 mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and CBr_4 (4.57 g, 13.8 mmol, 1.5 equiv.). The light brown solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C before being concentrated. To the resulting oil was added PE/AcOEt (95/5): the precipitate was filtered off and the filtrate concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (PE/AcOEt 98:2 to 90:10) to afford the pure 11-bromoundec-1-yne **G** (1.93 g, 90%) as a colorless oil.

R_f : 0.88 (PE/AcOEt 98/2).

$^1\text{H NMR}$ (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298K): δ ppm = 3.42 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}3-\text{H}4} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_3), 2.19 (td, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}11-\text{H}10} = 7.0\text{Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H}11-\text{H}13} = 2.6\text{Hz}$, H_{11}), 1.95 (t, 1H, $^4J_{\text{H}13-\text{H}11} = 2.6\text{Hz}$, H_{13}), 1.86 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}4-\text{H}3} = ^3J_{\text{H}4-\text{H}5} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_4), 1.59-1.47 (m, 2H, H_5), 1.41-1.36 (m, 4H, H_6H_{10}), 1.36-1.24 (m, 6H, $\text{H}_7\text{H}_8\text{H}_9$).

$^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (100 MHz, CDCl_3 , 298K): δ ppm = 84.6 (C_{12}), 68.0 (C_{13}), 33.9 (C_3), 32.7 (C_4), 29.2 & 28.9 & 28.6 & 28.4 & 28.1 ($\text{C}_5\text{C}_6\text{C}_7\text{C}_8\text{C}_9\text{C}_{10}$), 18.3 (C_{11}).

3.3. Synthesis of the azidoalkyne **H**

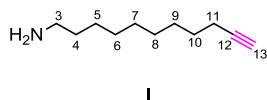


To a solution of the 11-bromoundec-1-yne **G** (2.38 g, 10.3 mmol, 1 equiv.) in DMF (26 mL) was added sodium azide (1.34 g, 20.6 mmol, 2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was heated at 50°C for 1.5h before being concentrated. The crude was then dissolved in Et_2O (30 mL) and washed with water (2x10 mL). The combined aqueous layers were extracted with Et_2O (2x10 mL) and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated to give the 11-azidoundec-1-yne **H** (1.923 g, 96%) as colorless oil, which was pure enough to be used without any further purification.

R_f : 0.30 (PE).

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 3.26 (t, 2H, ³J_{H3-H4} = 7.0Hz, H₃), 2.19 (td, 2H, ³J_{H11-H10} = 7.0Hz, ⁴J_{H11-H13} = 2.6Hz, H₁₁), 1.94 (t, 1H, ⁴J_{H13-H11} = 2.6Hz, H₁₃), 1.60 (br quint, 2H, H₄), 1.53 (br quint, 2H, H₁₀), 1.66-1.25 (m, 10H, H₅ H₆ H₇ H₈ H₉).
¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K): δ ppm = 84.6 (C₁₂), 68.0 (C₁₃), 51.4 (C₃), 29.2 & 29.0 & 28.9 & 28.7 & 28.6 & 28.4 (C₄ C₆ C₇ C₈ C₉ C₁₀), 26.6 (C₅), 18.3 (C₁₁).
HRMS (ESI): [2M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₂H₃₉N₆⁺: 387.3236, found: 387.3230.

3.4. Synthesis of the aminoalkyne I



A solution of the 11-azidoundec-1-yne **H** (100 mg, 0.52 mmol, 1 equiv.) in Et₂O (600 μL) was cooled to 0°C. To this solution was added PPh₃ (172 mg, 0.52 mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The mixture was stirred for 2h at 0°C. Then milli-Q water (600 μL) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred again for 3h at 0°C before being concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (CH₂Cl₂, then CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 90:10, then CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH 88:10:2) to give the pure undec-10-yn-1-amine **I** (76 mg, 88%) as a white solid.

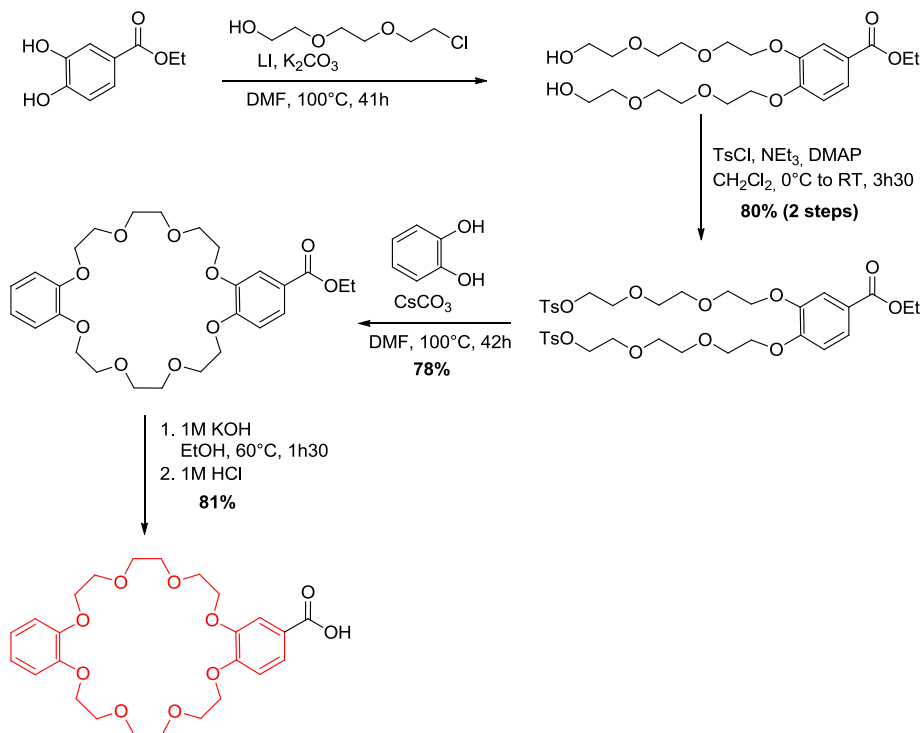
R_f: 0.40 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/NH₄OH 90/9/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 2.64 (br t, 2H, H₃), 2.13 (td, 2H, ³J_{H11-H10} = 7.1Hz, ⁴J_{H11-H13} = 2.6Hz, H₁₁), 1.89 (t, 1H, ⁴J_{H13-H11} = 2.6Hz, H₁₃), 1.56 (br s, 2H, NH₂), 1.47 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H4-H3} = ³J_{H4-H5} = 7.2Hz, H₄), 1.40 (br quint, 2H, H₅), 1.34 (br quint, 2H, H₁₀), 1.30-1.21 (m, 8H, H₆ H₇ H₈ H₉).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 84.6 (C₁₂), 67.9 (C₁₃), 42.0 (C₃), 33.5 (C₄), 29.3 & 28.9 & 28.6 & 28.3 (C₆ C₇ C₈ C₉ C₁₀), 26.7 (C₅), 18.3 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₁₁H₂₂N⁺: 168.1752, found: 168.1750.

3.5. Synthesis of the DB24C8-ester derivative

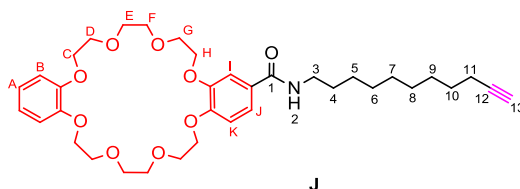


The DB24C8-ester derivative was prepared according to the procedure described by Stoddart *et al.*¹ and for the saponification according to Li *et al.*²

[1] S. J. Cantrill, G. J. Youn, J. F. Stoddart, *J. Org. Chem.* 2001, **66**, 6857-6872.

[2] D. -J. Feng, X. -Q. Li, X. -Z. Wang, X. -K. Jiang, Z.-T. Li, *Tetrahedron* 2004, **60**, 6137-6144.

3.6. Synthesis of the DB24C8-alkyne derivative J



To a mixture of the previously synthesized carboxylic acid DB24C8 derivative (921 mg, 1.87 mmol, 1 equiv.) and undec-10-yn-1-amine I (313 mg, 1.87 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (70 mL) was added DMAP (297 mg, 2.43 mmol, 1.3 equiv.). The solution was cooled to 0°C , then added by EDCI (466 mg, 2.43 mmol, 1.3 equiv.) (by portions). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up until room temperature and stirred overnight. The crude was successively washed with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M (2x50 mL), a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO_3 (2x50 mL) and brine (50 mL). The organic layer was then dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. The resulting solid was purified by chromatography on silicagel column ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ 100:0 to 90:10) to give the pure macrocycle J as a white powder (1.10 g, 96%).

R_f : 0.49 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ 90/10).

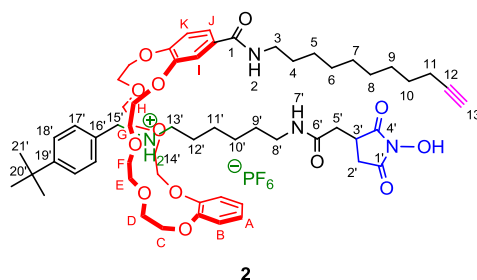
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298K): δ ppm = 7.35 (d, 1H, $^4J_{\text{HI-HJ}} = 1.9\text{Hz}$, H_I), 7.26 (dd, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HJ-HK}} = 8.3\text{Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{HJ-HI}} = 1.9\text{Hz}$, H_J), 6.91-6.85 (m, 4H, H_A H_B), 6.87 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HK-HJ}} = 8.3\text{Hz}$, H_K), 6.13 (br t, 1H, H_2), 4.18-4.13 (m, 4H, H_H), 4.13-4.09 (m, 4H, H_C), 3.90-3.82 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.78-3.74 (m, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.37 (q, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H3-H4}} = ^3J_{\text{H3-NH}} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_3), 2.17 (td, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H11-H10}} = 7.2\text{Hz}$, $^4J_{\text{H11-H13}} = 2.6\text{Hz}$, H_{11}), 1.96 (t, 1H, $^4J_{\text{H13-H11}} = 2.6\text{Hz}$, H_{13}), 1.58 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H4-H3}} = ^3J_{\text{H4-H5}} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_4), 1.50 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H10-H11}} = 7.2\text{Hz}$, H_{10}), 1.41-1.32 (m, 4H, H_5 H_9), 1.33-1.28 (m, 6H, H_6 H_7 H_8).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 298K): δ (ppm) = 167.1 (C_1), 152.1 & 149.6 & 149.2 & 128.5 ($\text{C}_{\text{IV arom DB24C8}}$), 121.9 & 114.9 (C_A C_B), 120.5 (C_J), 113.6 (C_I), 113.2 (C_K), 85.3 (C_{12}), 71.7 & 71.6 (C_E C_F), 70.4 & 70.3 & 70.2 & 70.0 & 69.8 (C_D C_G C_C H_H), 68.5 (C_{13}), 40.5 (C_3), 30.3 (C_4), 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 (C_6 C_7 C_8), 29.3 (C_9), 29.1 (C_{10}), 27.5 (C_5), 18.8 (C_{11}).

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{52}\text{NO}_9$: 642.3642, found: 642.3640.

4. Synthesis of the rotaxanes

4.1. Synthesis of rotaxane 2



A 0.12 M solution of the transporter thread 1 (100 mg, 0.177 mmol, 1 equiv.) and the alkyne macrocycle J (342 mg, 0.532 mmol, 3 equiv.) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (1.5 mL) was stirred for 12h at room temperature before being concentrated. Addition of CH_3CN allowed the removal of most of the excess of the insoluble alkyne macrocycle J by filtration. After concentration of the filtrate, the resulting solid was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH_2Cl_2) to afford pure 2 (176.5 mg, 82%) as a white powder.

R_f : 0.42 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 9/1)

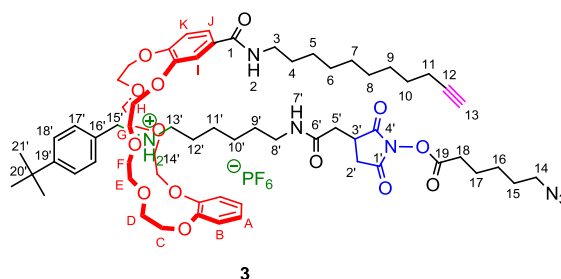
^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 7.36-7.33 (m, 2H, H_I H_J), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{17'}$), 7.23-7.19 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{18'}$), 7.15-7.04 (br s, 2H, $\text{H}_{14'}$), 7.06 (br t, 1H, H_2), 6.93 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HK-HJ}} = 8.9\text{Hz}$, H_K), 6.89 (s, 4H, H_A H_B), 6.47 (br t, 1H, $\text{H}_{7'}$), 4.55-4.51 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{15'}$), 4.29-4.23 & 4.17-4.03 (2m, 8H, H_C H_H), 3.87-3.75 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.70-3.62 & 3.58-3.51 (2m, 2x4H, H_E H_F), 3.33-3.28 (m, 2H, H_3), 3.30-3.23 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{13'}$), 3.03-2.96 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{3'}$), 2.95-2.89 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{8'}$), 2.75 (dd, 1H, $^2J_{\text{H2'a-H2'b}} = 17.7\text{Hz}$, $^3J_{\text{H2'a-H3'}} = 9.1\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{2'a}$), 2.64-2.54 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{5'}$), 2.36-2.33 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{2'b}$), 2.18-2.11 (m, 2H, H_{11} H_{13}), 1.58-1.52 (m, 2H,

H₄), 1.52-1.45 (m, 2H, H₁₀), 1.47-1.40 (m, 2H, H_{12'}), 1.40-1.35 (m, 2H, H₉), 1.35-1.32 (m, 2H, H₅), 1.32-1.27 (m, 6H, H₆H₇H₈), 1.22 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.17-1.13 (m, 2H, H_{9'}), 1.04-0.96 (m, 4H, H_{11'}H_{10'}).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 175.5 & 172.5 (C_{1'}C_{4'}), 170.7 (C_{6'}), 167.4 (C₁), 153.1 (C_{19'}), 151.0 & 148.4 & 148.3 & 128.8 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 130.4 (C_{16'}C_{17'}), 126.3 (C_{18'}), 122.4 & 113.6 (C_AC_B), 121.5 (C_J), 112.8 (C_K), 112.4 (C_I), 85.6 (C₁₂), 71.7 & 71.6 (C_EC_F), 71.0 & 70.9 (C_DC_G), 69.6 & 69.3 & 69.0 (C_CC_HC₁₃), 52.8 (C_{15'}), 49.6 (C_{13'}), 40.6 (C₃), 39.7 (C_{8'}), 35.9 (C_{5'}), 35.1 (C_{20'}), 34.6 (C_{3'}), 32.4 (C_{2'}), 31.4 (C_{21'}), 30.3 (C₄), 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.7 & 27.7 (C₅C₆C₇C₈C_{9'}), 29.4 (C₉), 29.3 (C₁₀), 27.1 (C_{12'}), 26.7 & 26.6 (C_{10'}C_{11'}), 18.7 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₅₉H₈₇N₄O₁₃⁺: 1059.6270, found: 1059.6267.

4.2. Synthesis of rotaxane 3



A solution of semi-rotaxane **2** (172 mg, 0.14 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 6-azidohexanoic acid (24.6 mg, 0.16 mmol, 1.1 equiv.) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) was cooled at 0°C. To this solution was added DCC (62 mg, 0.30 mmol, 2.1 equiv.). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm up until room temperature and stirred overnight. At the end of the reaction, the DCU precipitate was filtered off and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL). The resulting solution was concentrated to give a solid which was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to afford the pure rotaxane **3** (167 mg, 87%) as a white powder.

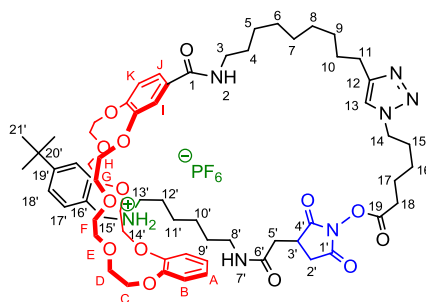
R_f: 0.50 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H, H_IH_J), 7.28 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.1Hz, H_{17'}), 7.20 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.1Hz, H_{18'}), 7.15-7.04 (br s, 2H, H_{14'}), 7.03 (br s, 1H, H₂), 6.93 (d, 1H, ³J_{HK-HJ} = 8.9Hz, H_K), 6.89 (s, 4H, H_AH_B), 6.51 (br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 4.56-4.51 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 4.27-4.20 & 4.17-4.02 (2m, 8H, H_CH_H), 3.87-3.75 (m, 8H, H_DH_G), 3.70-3.62 & 3.59-3.52 (2m, 2x4H, H_EH_F), 3.34-3.24 (m, 6H, H_{13'}H₃H₁₄), 3.24-3.15 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 2.98-2.90 (m, 3H, H_{8'}H_{2'a}), 2.79-2.60 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.62 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.4Hz, H₁₈), 2.57-2.47 (m, 1H, H_{2'b}), 2.16 (dt, 2H, ³J_{H11-H12} = 7.1Hz, ⁴J_{H11-H13} = 2.7Hz, H₁₁), 2.13 (t, 1H, ⁴J_{H13-H11} = 2.7Hz, H₁₃), 1.71 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H17-H18} = ³J_{H17-H16} = 7.4Hz, H₁₇), 1.60 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H15-H16} = ³J_{H15-H14} = 7.4Hz, H₁₅), 1.55 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H4-H5} = ³J_{H4-H3} = 7.0Hz, H₄), 1.51-1.41 (m, 6H, H₁₀H₁₆H_{12'}), 1.40-1.26 (m, 10H, H₅H₆H₇H₈H₉), 1.21 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.15 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H9'-H10'} = ³J_{H9'-H8'} = 6.8Hz, H_{9'}), 1.07-0.97 (m, 4H, H_{11'}H_{10'}).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.5 & 170.5 & 170.3 & 170.0 (C_{1'}C_{4'}C_{6'}C₁₉), 167.0 (C₁), 153.0 (C_{19'}), 150.9 & 148.4 & 148.2 & 128.9 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 130.4 (C_{16'}C_{17'}), 126.3 (C_{18'}), 122.3 & 113.5 (C_AC_B), 121.4 (C_J), 112.7 (C_K), 112.3 (C_I), 85.5 (C₁₂), 71.6 (C_EC_F), 71.1 & 70.9 (C_DC_G), 69.6 & 69.2 & 69.0 (C_CC_HC₁₃), 52.7 (C_{15'}), 51.8 (C₁₄), 49.5 (C_{13'}), 40.5 (C₃), 39.7 (C_{8'}), 35.7 (C_{5'}), 35.1 (C_{20'}), 34.8 (C_{3'}), 32.6 (C_{2'}), 31.4 (C_{21'}), 31.3 (C₁₈), 30.3 & 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.7 & 29.4 & 29.2 & 27.6 & 27.1 & 26.6 & 26.5 (C₄C₅C₆C₇C₈C₉C₁₀C₁₆C_{9'}C_{10'}C_{11'}C_{12'}), 28.9 (C₁₅), 24.9 (C₁₇), 18.7 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₆₅H₉₆N₇O₁₄⁺: 1198.7015, found: 1198.7010.

4.3. Cyclization reaction: synthesis of the triazole-containing loosened lasso



To a solution of the semi-rotaxane **3** (210 mg, 0.156 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (312 mL, 5.10^{-4}M) were added successively $\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_4\text{PF}_6$ (58 mg, 0.156 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 2,6-lutidine (2 μL , 0.016 mmol, 0.1 equiv.). The mixture was stirred for 48 h at room temperature before being concentrated. CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added and this solution was washed with an aqueous solution of EDTA 0.1M (5x10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. The purification of the crude by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH_2Cl_2) affords the pure triazole containing [1]rotaxane (126 mg, 60%) as a white powder.

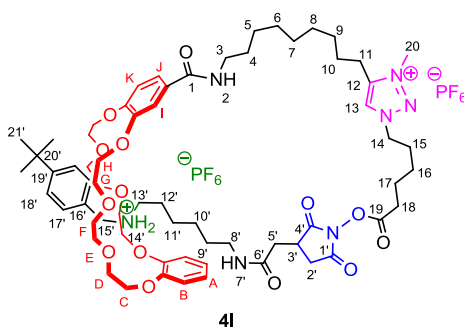
R_f : 0.48 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 9/1).

^1H NMR (600 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 7.54 (br s, 1H, H_{13}), 7.43-7.34 (m, 4H, H_I H_J H_{17}), 7.34-7.29 (m, 2H, H_{18}), 7.20-7.13 (m, 1H, H_2), 7.14-7.03 (br s, 2H, H_{14}), 6.98 (d, 1H, $^3J_{\text{HK-HJ}} = 8.5\text{Hz}$, H_K), 6.91 (s, 4H, H_A H_B), 6.60 (br t, 1H, H_7), 4.57-4.52 (m, 2H, H_{15}), 4.32 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H14-H15}} = 6.6\text{Hz}$, H_{14}), 4.38-4.29 & 4.18-4.12 & 4.11-4.02 (3m, 8H, H_C H_H), 3.91-3.83 & 3.83-3.73 (2m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.66-3.58 & 3.53-3.49 & 3.49-3.39 (3m, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.32-3.26 (br q, 2H, H_3), 3.23-3.14 (m, 3H, H_{13}), 2.98-2.90 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{2'a}$), 2.90-2.81 (m, 2H, H_8), 2.77-2.61 (m, 2H, H_5), 2.77-2.61 (m, 2H, H_{11}), 2.56 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H18-H17}} = 7.3\text{Hz}$, H_{18}), 2.59-2.47 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{2'b}$), 1.86 (br quint, 2H, H_{15}), 1.70-1.60 (m, 4H, H_{17} H_{10}), 1.53 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H4-H5}} = ^3J_{\text{H4-H3}} = 7.0\text{Hz}$, H_4), 1.36-1.25 (m, 14H, H_5 H_6 H_7 H_8 H_9 H_{16} H_{12}), 1.26 (s, 9H, H_{21}), 1.07-0.99 (m, 2H, H_9), 0.90-0.81 (m, 4H, H_{11} H_{10}).

^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 173.4 & 170.4 & 170.0 ($\text{C}_{1'}$ $\text{C}_{4'}$ $\text{C}_{6'}$ C_{19}), 167.4 (C_1), 153.3 ($\text{C}_{19'}$), 151.0 & 148.5 & 148.4 & 129.2 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 130.6 ($\text{C}_{16'}$ $\text{C}_{17'}$), 126.5 ($\text{C}_{18'}$), 122.5 & 113.7 (C_A C_B), 121.6 (C_I), 112.9 (C_K), 112.7 (C_J), 71.7 & 71.5 (C_E C_F), 71.0 & 70.8 (C_D C_G), 69.4 & 69.2 & 69.1 (C_C C_H), 52.8 ($\text{C}_{15'}$), 50.3 (C_{14}), 49.6 ($\text{C}_{13'}$), 40.5 (C_3), 39.8 (C_8), 35.9 ($\text{C}_{5'}$), 35.2 ($\text{C}_{20'}$), 34.9 ($\text{C}_{3'}$), 32.6 ($\text{C}_{2'}$), 31.5 ($\text{C}_{21'}$), 31.3 (C_{18}), 30.3 & 30.2 & 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.8 & 29.7 & 29.3 & 27.5 & 27.0 & 26.5 (C_4 C_5 C_6 C_7 C_8 C_9 C_{10} C_{15} C_{16} C_9 $\text{C}_{10'}$ $\text{C}_{11'}$ $\text{C}_{12'}$), 26.1 (C_{11}), 24.7 (C_{17}).

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M-PF}_6]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{65}\text{H}_{96}\text{N}_7\text{O}_{14}^+$: 1198.7015, found: 1198.7032.

4.4. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 4l



To the previously obtained triazole containing [1]rotaxane (120 mg, 0.089 mmol, 1 equiv.) was added CH_2Cl_2 (0.5 mL) and methyl iodide (3 mL). The mixture was stirred for 4 days at room temperature before being concentrated. The remaining solid was then diluted in CH_2Cl_2 (5 mL). To this solution was added NH_4PF_6 (36 mg, 0.22 mmol, 2.5 equiv.) and H_2O milli-Q (0.5 mL); the biphasic solution was stirred vigorously for 30 min. The aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x5 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under vacuum. The crude was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH_2Cl_2) and provided the pure loosened triazolium-containing [1]rotaxane **4l** (120 mg, 90%) as a slightly yellow powder.

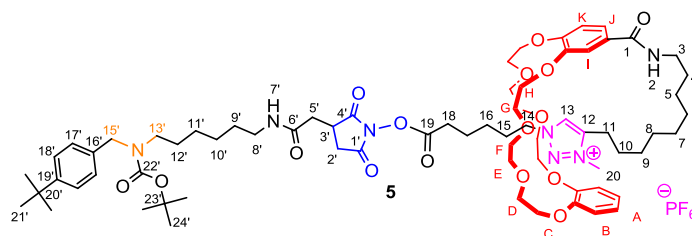
R_f: 0.50 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.18 (s, 1H, H₁₃), 7.44-7.40 (m, 3H, H_I H_{17'}), 7.40-7.34 (m, 3H, H_J H_{18'}), 7.24 (br s, 1H, H₂), 7.14-7.04 (br s, 2H, H_{14'}), 7.01 (d, 1H, ³J_{HK-HJ} = 8.5Hz, H_K), 6.92 (s, 4H, H_A H_B), 6.71 (br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 4.58-4.54 (m, 2H, H_{15'}), 4.52 (t, 2H, ³J_{H14-H15} = 6.4Hz, H₁₄), 4.41-4.33 & 4.18-4.13 & 4.11-4.03 (3m, 8H, H_C H_H), 4.09 (s, 3H, H₂₀), 3.93-3.85 & 3.81-3.76 & 3.76-3.71 (3m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.64-3.54 & 3.50-3.45 & 3.45-3.28 (3m, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.31-3.26 (m, 2H, H₃), 3.23-3.16 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 3.16-3.08 (m, 2H, H_{13'}), 2.98-2.91 (m, 1H, H_{2'a}), 2.88-2.79 (m, 2H, H_{8'}), 2.85-2.76 & 2.71-2.65 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.78 (t, 2H, ³J_{H11-H10} = 7.6Hz, H₁₁), 2.60 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 6.8Hz, H₁₈), 2.55-2.44 (m, 1H, H_{2'b}), 2.00-1.94 (m, 2H, H₁₅), 1.76-1.66 (m, 4H, H₁₇ H₁₀), 1.55 (br quint, 2H, H₄), 1.41-1.27 (m, 14H, H₅ H₆ H₇ H₈ H₉ H₁₆ H_{12'}), 1.28 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.04-0.95 (m, 2H, H_{9'}), 0.84-0.72 (m, 4H, H_{11'} H_{10'}).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.6 & 170.5 & 170.3 & 169.9 (C_{1'} C_{4'} C_{6'} C₁₉), 167.5 (C₁), 153.3 (C_{19'}), 151.0 & 148.5 & 148.4 & 129.1 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 145.9 (C₁₂), 130.6 (C_{16'} C_{17'}), 128.7 (C₁₃), 126.5 (C_{18'}), 122.5 & 122.4 & 113.7 (C_A C_B), 121.6 (C_J), 112.9 (C_K), 112.7 (C_I), 71.6 & 71.4 (C_E C_F), 71.0 & 70.7 (C_D C_G), 69.5 & 69.3 & 69.2 (C_C C_H), 54.3 (C₁₄), 52.8 (C_{15'}), 49.6 (C_{13'}), 40.3 (C₃), 39.8 (C_{8'}), 38.2 (C₂₀), 35.7 (C_{5'}), 35.2 (C_{20'}), 34.9 (C_{3'}), 32.6 (C_{2'}), 31.4 (C_{21'}), 31.3 (C₁₈), 30.2 (C₄), 28.9 (C₁₅), 27.1 (C₁₀), 27.0 (C_{12'}), 26.6 (C_{10'} C_{11'}), 29.7 & 29.6 & 29.5 & 29.0 & 27.3 & 25.2 (C₅ C₆ C₇ C₈ C₉ C₁₆ C_{9'}), 24.7 (C₁₇), 23.7 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₆₆H₉₉N₇O₁₄F₆P⁺: 1358.6892, found: 1358.6901.

4.5. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 5



To a solution of the rotaxane **4** (287 mg, 0.19 mmol, 1 equiv.) and Boc₂O (208 mg, 0.95 mmol, 5 equiv.) in DMSO-*d*₆ (5 mL) was added DIEA (1.67 mL, 9.5 mmol, 50 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 6h at room temperature. The DMSO was then lyophilized. The resulting yellow oil was washed several times with Et₂O (30 mL) in order to remove the excess of Boc₂O. The residue was then dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and washed twice with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M (2x10 mL). The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The resulting solid was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to afford the pure tightened lasso **5** (248 mg, 89%) as a beige powder.

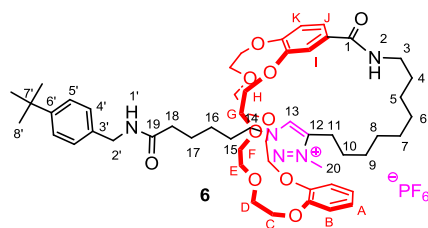
R_f: 0.62 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.38 (s, 1H, H₁₃), 7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.0Hz, H_{18'}), 7.33 (d, 1H, ³J_{HJ-HK} = 8.2Hz, H_J), 7.22 (s, 1H, H_I), 7.16 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.0Hz, H_{17'}), 6.92 (br t, 1H, H₂), 6.83-6.75 (m, 3H, H_A H_B), 6.79 (d, 1H, ³J_{HK-HJ} = 8.2Hz, H_K), 6.71 (d, 1H, ³J = 7.8Hz, H_A or H_B), 6.47 (br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 5.12 (dt, 1H, ²J_{H14a-H14b} = 13.6Hz, ³J_{H14a-H15} = 8.5Hz, H_{14a}), 4.99 (dt, 1H, ²J_{H14b-H14a} = 13.6Hz, ³J_{H14b-H15} = 8.9Hz, H_{14b}), 4.35 (s, 2H, H_{15'}), 4.27 (dd, 1H, ²J = 11.2Hz, ³J = 7.9Hz, H_C or H_H), 4.15 (dd, 1H, ²J = 11.5Hz, ³J = 6.2Hz, H_C or H_H), 4.10-3.99 & 3.96-3.90 (2m, 6H, H_C H_H), 3.96-3.76 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.76-3.61 (m, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.45-3.14 (m, 2H, H₃), 3.34 (s, 3H, H₂₀), 3.24-3.14 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 3.16-3.09 (m, 2H, H_{13'}), 3.11-3.06 (m, 2H, H_{8'}), 2.94 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.9Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.1Hz, H_{2'a}), 2.78-2.60 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.68 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.4Hz, H₁₈), 2.59-2.48 (m, 1H, H_{2'b}), 2.36 (br quint, 2H, H₁₅), 1.90-1.82 (m, 3H, H₁₇ H_{11a}), 1.66-1.53 (m, 5H, H₁₆ H₄ H_{11b}), 1.50-1.14 (m, 25H, H₅ H₆ H₇ H₈ H_{9'} H_{10'} H_{11'} H_{12'} H_{24'}), 1.29 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.28-1.08 (m, 4H, H₉ H₁₀).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.5 & 170.5 & 170.2 (C_{1'} C_{4'} C_{6'} C₁₉), 166.8 (C₁), 156.7 (C_{22'}), 151.3 (C_{19'}), 150.9 & 148.8 & 148.4 & 148.0 & 128.4 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 142.4 (C₁₂), 137.1 (C_{16'}), 128.8 (C₁₃), 128.1 (C_{17'}), 126.3 (C_{18'}), 122.7 & 122.4 & 112.7 (C_A C_B), 121.3 (C_J), 112.5 (C_K), 111.3 (C_I), 79.9 (C_{23'}), 71.9 & 71.8 & 71.7 (C_E C_F), 70.9 & 70.7 & 70.6 (C_D C_G), 70.1 & 69.4 & 69.0 & 68.8 (C_C C_H), 54.3 (C₁₄), 50.5 & 50.2 (C_{15'}), 47.5 & 47.2 (C_{13'}), 39.8 (C_{8'}), 39.0 (C₃), 36.7 (C₂₀), 35.7 (C_{5'}), 35.1 (C_{20'} C_{3'}), 32.6 (C_{2'}), 31.6 (C_{21'}), 31.4 (C₁₈), 28.7 (C_{24'}), 30.1 & 28.0 & 27.7 & 27.6 & 27.5 & 27.0 & 26.6 & 26.4 & 24.1 (C₄ C₅ C₆ C₇ C₈ C₉ C₁₀ C₁₅ C₁₆ C_{9'} C_{10'} C_{11'} C_{12'}), 25.3 (C₁₇), 22.9 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₇₁H₁₀₆N₇O₁₆⁺: 1312.7696, found: 1312.7703.

4.6. Synthesis of the [1]rotaxane 6



To a solution of the rotaxane **5** (60 mg, 0.041 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry CH₃CN (2 mL) was added the 4-*tert*-butylbenzylamine in CH₂Cl₂ (15 μ L, 0.082 mmol, 2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 2h at room temperature before being concentrated. The resulting solid was purified by lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to give the rotaxane **6** (38 mg, 87%) as a white powder.

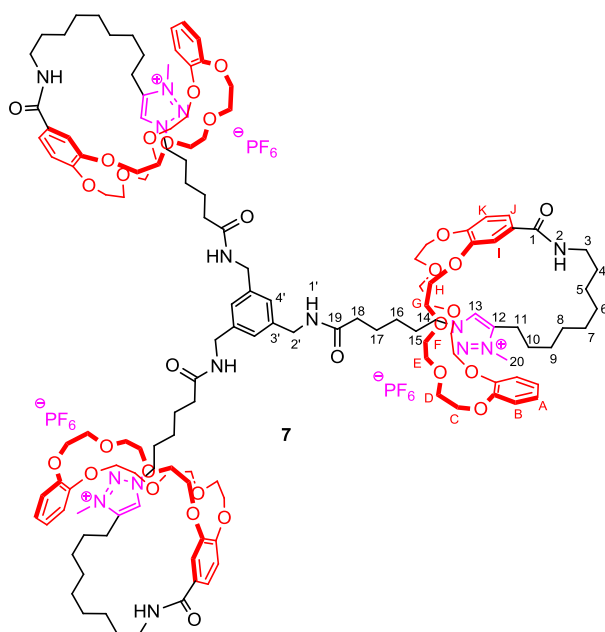
R_f: 0.60 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1).

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.38 (s, 1H, H₁₃), 7.36 (d, 2H, ³J_{H5'-H4'} = 8.3Hz, H_{5'}), 7.33 (dd, 1H, ³J_{HJ-HK} = 8.2Hz, ⁴J_{HJ-HI} = 1.8Hz, H_J), 7.23-7.19 (m, 3H, H_I H_{4'}), 6.91 (br t, 1H, H₂), 6.82-6.75 (m, 3H, H_A H_B), 6.79 (d, 1H, ³J_{HK-HJ} = 8.2Hz, H_K), 6.73 (br t, H_{1'}), 6.69 (d, 1H, ³J_{HA-HB} = 7.4 Hz, H_A or H_B), 5.14-5.05 & 5.02-4.94 (2m, 2H, H₁₄), 4.31 (d, 2H, ³J_{H2'-H1'} = 6.0Hz, H_{2'}), 4.29-4.23 & 4.19-3.98 & 3.96-3.89 (3m, 8H, H_C H_H), 3.96-3.60 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.74-3.60 (m, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.46-3.39 & 3.40-3.34 (2m, 2H, H₃), 3.33 (s, 3H, H₂₀), 2.32 (br quint, 2H, H₁₅), 2.23 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.5Hz, H₁₈), 1.90-1.82 (m, 1H, H_{11a}), 1.75 (br quint, 2H, H₁₇), 1.67-1.55 (m, 3H, H₄ H_{11b}), 1.56-1.48 (m, 2H, H₁₆), 1.42-1.27 (m, 8H, H₅ H₆ H₇ H₈), 1.29 (s, 9H, H_{8'}), 1.21-1.15 (m, 2H, H₉), 1.36-1.27 & 1.10-1.06 (2m, 2H, H₁₀).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.4 (C₁₉), 166.7 (C₁), 151.3 (C_{6'}), 150.8 & 148.7 & 148.4 & 147.9 & 128.3 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 142.3 (C₁₂), 137.7 (C_{3'}), 128.8 (C₁₃), 128.1 (C_{4'}), 126.3 (C_{5'}), 121.6 & 121.3 & 112.6 (C_A C_B), 121.2 (C_I), 112.4 (C_K), 111.2 (C_I), 71.8 & 71.7 & 71.6 (C_E C_F), 70.7 & 70.5 (C_D C_G), 70.0 & 69.3 & 68.9 & 68.7 (C_C C_H), 54.4 (C₁₄), 43.1 (C_{2'}), 38.9 (C₃), 36.9 (C₁₈), 36.7 (C₂₀), 35.0 (C_{7'}), 31.5 (C_{8'}), 28.6 & 27.9 & 27.8 & 27.7 & 27.5 & 27.0 & 26.9 & 24.0 (C₄ C₅ C₆ C₇ C₈ C₉ C₁₀ C₁₅ C₁₆), 26.5 (C₁₇), 22.9 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₅₄H₈₀N₅O₁₀⁺: 958.5905, found: 958.5914.

4.7. Synthesis of the tris-branched [1]rotaxane 7



The rotaxane **5** (60 mg, 0.041 mmol, 3.1 equiv.) was dissolved in dry CH₃CN (2 mL). In another flask, 1 mL of a mother solution containing 1,3,5-tris(aminomethyl)benzene (21 mg, 0.13 mmol, 10 equiv.) and DIEA (140 μ L, 2.4 mmol, 60 equiv.) in CH₃CN (860 μ L) was prepared. 100 μ L of this solution were added to the solution containing the rotaxane **5**.

The reaction mixture was stirred during 18h at room temperature before being concentrated. The resulting crude was purified by successive chromatographies on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂), followed by a silica gel column chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 100:0 to 85:15) to give one pure fraction of rotaxane **7** (5 mg, 13%).

R_f: 0.58 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1).

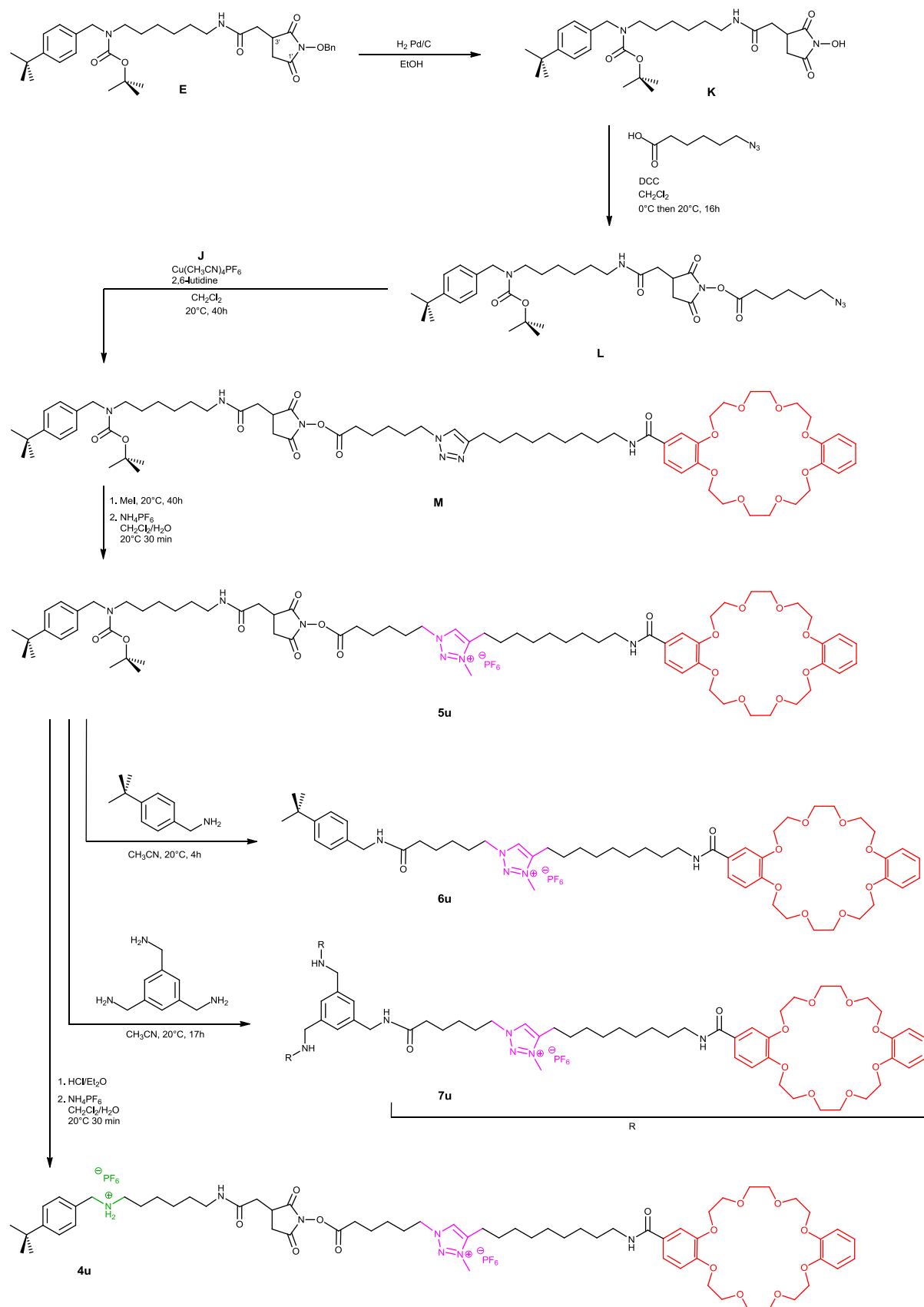
¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.34 (s, 3H, H₁₃), 7.31 (dd, 3H, ³J_{HJ-HK} = 8.4Hz, ⁴J_{HJ-HI} = 1.7Hz, H_J), 7.22 (d, 3H, ⁴J_{HI-HJ} = 1.7Hz, H_I), 7.02 (s, 3H, H_{4'}), 6.98 (t, 3H, ³J_{H2-H3} = 5.7Hz, H₂), 6.90 (br s, 3H, H_{1'}), 6.83-6.75 & 6.73-6.68 (2m, 12H, H_A H_B), 6.77 (d, 3H, ³J_{HK-HJ} = 8.4Hz, H_K), 5.06-4.97 & 4.95-4.86 (2m, 6H, H₁₄), 4.31 (d, 6H, ³J_{H2'-H1'} = 5.0Hz, H_{2'}), 4.30-4.19 & 4.16-3.96 & 3.93-3.89 (3m, 24H, H_C H_H), 3.93-3.58 (m, 24H, H_D H_G), 3.70-3.58 (m, 24H, H_E H_F), 3.42-3.36 (m, 6H, H₃), 3.38 (s, 9H, H₂₀), 2.29-2.22 (m, 6H, H₁₅), 2.26-2.20 (m, 6H, H₁₈), 1.95-1.89 (m, 3H, H_{11a}), 1.71 (br quint, 6H, H₁₇), 1.71-1.55 (m, 9H, H₄ H_{11b}), 1.50-1.42 (m, 6H, H₁₆), 1.42-1.21 (m, 24H, H₅ H₆ H₇ H₈), 1.25-1.12 (m, 6H, H₉), 1.29-1.23 & 1.14-1.07 (2m, 6H, H₁₀).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.8 (C₁₉), 166.8 (C₁), 151.2 & 148.8 & 148.4 & 148.0 & 128.8 (C_{IV arom macrocycle}), 142.6 (C₁₂), 140.9 (C_{3'}), 128.4 (C₁₃), 126.1 (C_{4'}), 121.7 & 121.4 & 112.7 (C_A C_B), 121.2 (C_J), 112.4 (C_K), 111.3 (C_I), 71.9 & 71.7 & 71.6 (C_E C_F), 70.8 & 70.7 & 70.6 & 70.5 (C_D C_G), 70.0 & 69.3 & 69.0 & 68.7 (C_C C_H), 54.4 (C₁₄), 43.6 (C_{2'}), 39.1 (C₃), 36.8 (C₁₈), 36.7 (C₂₀), 28.7 (C₁₀), 28.0 (C₄), 27.8 (C₁₅), 27.7 & 27.6 (C₇ C₈), 27.1 & 26.9 (C₉ C₁₆), 26.6 (C₆), 26.4 (C₁₇), 24.2 (C₅), 22.9 (C₁₁).

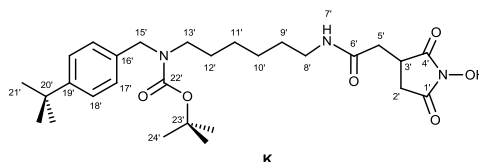
HRMS (ESI): [M-3PF₆]³⁺ calcd for C₁₃₈H₂₀₄N₁₅O₃₀⁺: 850.4966, found: 850.4977.

5. Synthesis of the uncomplexed threads

5.1. General synthetic pathway



5.2. Synthesis of compound K



The compound **E** (600 mg, 0.99 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in EtOH (20 mL). 10%-Pd/C (500 mg) was added. The solution was stirred 15 min under an H₂ atmosphere, then filtered through a celite pad and concentrated. The resulting crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (CH₂Cl₂/ MeOH 98:2 to 94:6) to give **K** (340 mg, 66%) as a pure white solid.

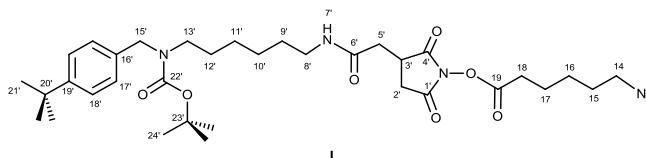
R_f 0.50 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9/1)

¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.3Hz, H_{18'}), 7.17 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.3Hz, H_{17'}), 6.46 (br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 4.35 (s, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.13 (br t, 2H, H_{13'}), 3.08 (q, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H7'} = ³J_{H8'-H9'} = 6.0Hz, H_{8'}), 3.02-2.94 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 2.75 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.7Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.1Hz, H_{2'a}), 2.64-2.52 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.35 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'b-H2'a} = 17.7Hz, ³J_{H2'b-H3'} = 4.5Hz, H_{2'b}), 1.52-1.35 (m, 13H, H_{9'} H_{12'} H_{24'}), 1.29 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.29-1.19 (m, 4H, H_{10'} H_{11'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 175.6 & 172.7 & 170.9 (C_{1'} C_{4'} C_{6'}), 156.7 (C_{22'}), 150.8 (C_{19'}), 136.9 (C_{16'}), 128.0 (C_{17'}), 126.2 (C_{18'}), 80.0 (C_{23'}), 50.2 (C_{15'}), 47.4 (C_{13'}), 39.8 (C_{8'}), 35.9 (C_{5'}), 35.0 (C_{20'}), 34.5 (C_{3'}), 32.3 (C_{2'}), 31.6 (C_{21'}), 29.9 (C_{9'}), 28.6 (C_{12'} C_{24'}), 27.1 & 27.0 (C_{10'} C_{11'}).

HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₃H₃₆N₃O₄⁺: 418.2706, found: 418.2705.

5.3. Synthesis of compound L



A solution of **K** (350 mg, 0.63 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 6-azidohexanoic acid (103 mg, 0.66 mmol, 1.05 equiv.) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) was cooled at 0°C before addition of DCC (273 mg, 1.323 mmol, 2.1 equiv.). The reaction mixture was allowed to warm until room temperature and stirred during 16h. At the end of the reaction, the DCU precipitate was filtered off and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL). The filtrate was successively washed with aqueous solutions of HCl 1M (15 mL), NaHCO₃ (15 mL) and brine (15 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, filtered and concentrated. The crude was successively purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (PE/AcOEt 70/30 to 50/50) and by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to give pure **L** (265 mg, 60%) as a colorless oil.

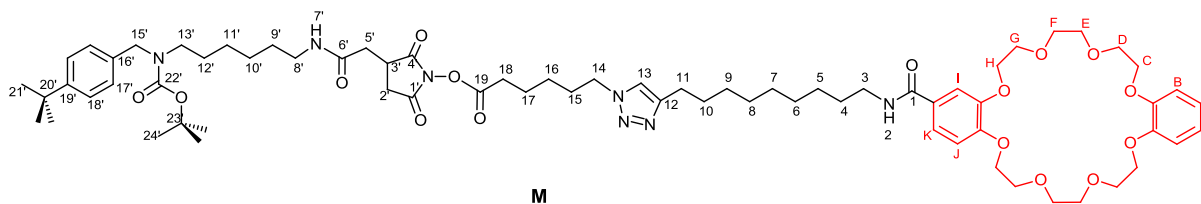
R_f: 0.63 (PE/AcOEt 40/60).

¹H NMR (400.13 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 7.37 (d, 2H, ³J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.3Hz, H_{18'}), 7.17 (d, 2H, ³J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.3Hz, H_{17'}), 6.49 (br s, 1H, H_{7'}), 4.35 (s, 2H, H_{15'}), 3.30 (t, 2H, ³J_{H14-H15} = 6.8Hz, H₁₄), 3.22-3.14 (m, 1H, H_{3'}), 3.16 (br t, 2H, H_{13'}), 3.12 (q, 2H, ³J_{H8'-H9'} = ³J_{H8'-H7'} = 6.6Hz, H_{8'}), 2.93 (dd, 1H, ²J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.9Hz, ³J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.1Hz, H_{2'a}), 2.67-2.60 (m, 2H, H_{5'}), 2.62 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.3Hz, H₁₈), 2.58-2.47 (m, 1H, H_{2'b}), 1.72 (quint, 2H, ³J_{H17-H18} = ³J_{H17-H16} = 7.3Hz, H₁₇), 1.65-1.53 (m, 2H, H₁₅), 1.52-1.35 (m, 15H, H₁₆ H_{9'} H_{12'} H_{24'}), 1.29 (s, 9H, H_{21'}), 1.29-1.19 (m, 4H, H_{10'} H_{11'}).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 175.1 & 173.4 & 170.4 & 170.0 (C_{1'} C_{4'} C_{6'} C₁₉), 156.6 & 156.4 (C_{22'}), 150.9 (C_{19'}), 137.0 (C_{16'}), 128.1 (C_{17'}), 126.2 (C_{18'}), 79.9 (C_{23'}), 51.9 (C₁₄), 50.5 & 50.1 (C_{15'}), 47.4 & 47.1 (C_{13'}), 39.8 (C_{8'}), 35.8 (C_{5'}), 35.0 (C_{20'}), 34.1 (C_{3'}), 32.6 (C_{2'}), 31.6 (C_{21'}), 31.3 (C₁₈), 30.0 (C_{9'}), 28.9 (C₁₅), 28.6 (C_{12'} C_{24'}), 27.1 & 27.0 (C_{10'} C_{11'}), 26.5 (C₁₆), 24.9 (C₁₇).

HRMS (ESI): [M+H]⁺ calcd for C₂₉H₄₅N₆O₅⁺: 557.3451, found: 557.3446.

5.4. Synthesis of compound M



To a solution of **L** (100 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv.) and the alkyne macrocycle **J** (98 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (725 μL) were successively added $\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_3\text{CN})_4\text{PF}_6$ (57 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1 equiv.) and 2,6-lutidine (2 μL , 0.015 mmol, 0.1 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 40h at room temperature. Then, CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added and this solution was washed with an aqueous solution of EDTA 0.1M (5x10 mL). The organic layer was dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated. A purification of the crude by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH_2Cl_2) gave the pure compound **M** (193 mg, 97%) as a colorless oil.

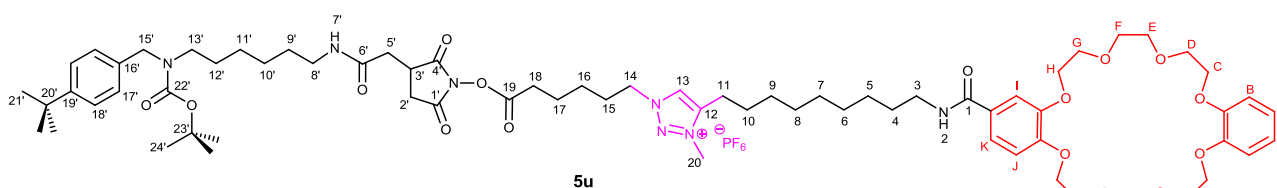
R_f 0.55 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 9:1)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 7.47 (s, 1H, H_{13}), 7.39-7.34 (m, 2H, H_I H_J), 7.36 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{18'}-\text{H}_{17'}} = 8.2\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{18'}$), 7.16 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{17'}-\text{H}_{18'}} = 8.2\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{17'}$), 6.98 (br s, 1H, H_2), 6.95-6.86 (m, 5H, H_A H_B H_K), 6.54 (br s, 1H, $\text{H}_{7'}$), 4.35 (s, 2H, $\text{H}_{15'}$), 4.28 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{14}-\text{H}_{15}} = 7.0\text{Hz}$, H_{14}), 4.17-4.12 & 4.11-4.06 (2m, 8H, H_C H_H), 3.84-3.76 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.68 (s, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.29 (br q, 2H, H_3), 3.19-3.11 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{3'}$), 3.16-3.08 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{13'}$), 3.12-3.05 (m, 2H, H_8), 2.92 (dd, 1H, $^2J_{\text{H}_{2'a}-\text{H}_{2'b}} = 17.9\text{Hz}$, $^3J_{\text{H}_{2'a}-\text{H}_{3'}} = 9.1\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{2'a}$), 2.65-2.56 (m, 6H, H_5 , H_{11} H_{18}), 2.56-2.47 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{2'b}$), 1.89 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{15}-\text{H}_{16}} = ^3J_{\text{H}_{15}-\text{H}_{14}} = 7.5\text{Hz}$, H_{15}), 1.69 (quint, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{17}-\text{H}_{18}} = ^3J_{\text{H}_{17}-\text{H}_{16}} = 7.6\text{Hz}$, H_{17}), 1.60 (br quint, 2H, H_{10}), 1.54 (br quint, 2H, H_4), 1.50-1.27 (m, 25H, H_5 H_6 H_7 H_8 H_9 H_{16} $\text{H}_{9'}$ $\text{H}_{12'}$ $\text{H}_{24'}$), 1.29 (s, 9H, $\text{H}_{21'}$), 1.27-1.16 (m, 4H, $\text{H}_{10'}$ $\text{H}_{11'}$).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 173.4 & 170.4 & 170.1 & 170.0 ($\text{C}_{1'}$ $\text{C}_{4'}$ $\text{C}_{6'}$ C_{19}), 167.1 (C_1), 156.7 ($\text{C}_{22'}$), 150.8 ($\text{C}_{19'}$), 152.1 & 149.7 & 149.1 & 148.6 & 128.7 ($\text{C}_{\text{IV arom macrocycle}}$), 137.1 ($\text{C}_{16'}$), 128.0 ($\text{C}_{17'}$), 126.2 ($\text{C}_{18'}$), 122.2 & 114.9 (C_A C_B), 122.1 (C_{13}), 121.3 (C_J), 113.4 (C_K), 113.3 (C_I), 79.8 ($\text{C}_{23'}$), 71.6 (C_E C_F), 70.5 & 70.4 & 70.2 (C_D C_G), 69.8 & 69.7 (C_C C_H), 50.2 ($\text{C}_{15'}$ C_{14}), 47.4 ($\text{C}_{13'}$), 40.4 (C_3), 39.8 ($\text{C}_{8'}$), 35.6 ($\text{C}_{5'}$), 35.0 ($\text{C}_{20'}$), 34.8 ($\text{C}_{3'}$), 32.5 ($\text{C}_{2'}$), 31.5 ($\text{C}_{21'}$), 31.2 (C_{18}), 30.4 & 30.3 & 30.2 & 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.7 & 27.6 (C_4 C_5 C_6 C_7 C_8 C_9 C_{10} C_{15} C_{16} $\text{C}_{12'}$), 28.6 ($\text{C}_{24'}$), 27.1 & 27.0 ($\text{C}_{10'}$ $\text{C}_{11'}$), 26.2 & 26.1 (C_{11} C_9), 24.7 (C_{17}).

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{70}\text{H}_{104}\text{N}_7\text{O}_{16}$: 1298.7540, found: 1298.7540.

5.5. Synthesis of the N-carbamoylated thread 5u



The compound **M** (147 mg, 0.11 mmol, 1 equiv.) was dissolved in MeI (2 mL) (completed with one drop of CH_2Cl_2 to help the dissolution). The reaction mixture was stirred for 40h at RT. At the end of the reaction, MeI and CH_2Cl_2 were removed in *vacuum* to give a slightly yellow oil (163 mg). This latter was then diluted in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL) before adding milli-Q H_2O (3 mL) and NH_4PF_6 (23 mg, 0.14 mmol, 3 equiv.). The biphasic solution was vigorously stirred for 20 min. Then, the aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated. The resulting colorless oil **5u** (68 mg, quant.) was pure enough to be used without further purification.

R_f 0.60 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 9:1)

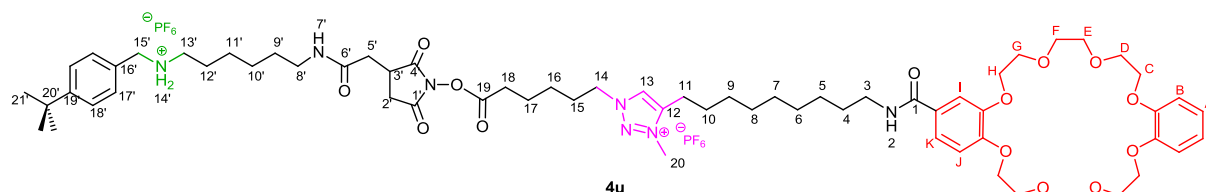
^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 8.12 (s, 1H, H_{13}), 7.40-7.33 (m, 2H, H_I H_J), 7.37 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{18'}-\text{H}_{17'}} = 8.1\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{18'}$), 7.16 (d, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{17'}-\text{H}_{18'}} = 8.1\text{Hz}$, $\text{H}_{17'}$), 6.97 (br s, 1H, H_2), 6.97-6.86 (m, 5H, H_A H_B H_K), 6.54 (br s, 1H, $\text{H}_{7'}$), 4.47 (t, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_{14}-\text{H}_{15}} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_{14}), 4.35 (s, 2H, $\text{H}_{15'}$), 4.18-4.12 & 4.11-4.07 (2m, 8H, H_C H_H), 4.07 (s, 3H, H_{20}), 3.84-3.76 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.68 (s, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.31 (q, 2H, $^3J_{\text{H}_3-\text{H}_4} = ^3J_{\text{H}_3-\text{H}_2} = 6.5\text{Hz}$, H_3), 3.19-3.10 (m, 1H, $\text{H}_{3'}$), 3.15-3.07 (m, 2H, $\text{H}_{13'}$), 3.11-3.03 (m, 2H, H_8),

2.91 (dd, 1H, $^2J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.9\text{Hz}$, $^3J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.1\text{Hz}$, $H_{2'a}$), 2.73-2.52 (m, 2H, H_5), 2.77 (t, 2H, $^3J_{H11-H10} = 7.7\text{Hz}$, H_{11}), 2.61 (t, 2H, $^3J_{H18-H17} = 7.1\text{Hz}$, H_{18}), 2.56-2.44 (m, 1H, $H_{2'b}$), 1.95 (br quint, 2H, H_{15}), 1.73 (br quint, 2H, H_{17}), 1.66 (br quint, 2H, H_{10}), 1.56 (br quint, 2H, H_4), 1.51-1.25 (m, 25H, H_5 H_6 H_7 H_8 H_9 H_{16} $H_{9'}$ $H_{12'}$ $H_{24'}$), 1.29 (s, 9H, $H_{21'}$), 1.26-1.18 (m, 4H, $H_{11'}$ $H_{10'}$).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 173.5 & 170.5 & 170.2 & 169.9 ($\text{C}_{1'}$ $\text{C}_{4'}$ $\text{C}_{6'}$ C_{19}), 167.1 (C_1), 156.7 & 156.3 ($\text{C}_{22'}$), 150.8 ($\text{C}_{19'}$), 152.1 & 149.7 & 149.1 & 128.7 ($\text{C}_{\text{IV arom macrocycle}}$), 145.7 (C_{12}), 137.0 ($\text{C}_{16'}$), 128.5 (C_{13}), 128.0 ($\text{C}_{17'}$), 126.2 ($\text{C}_{18'}$), 122.3 & 115.0 (C_A C_B), 121.4 (C_J), 113.5 (C_K C_I), 79.8 ($\text{C}_{23'}$), 71.4 (C_E C_F), 70.3 & 70.2 & 70.1 (C_D C_G), 69.8 & 69.7 & 69.6 (C_C C_H), 54.1 (C_{14}), 50.5 & 50.1 ($\text{C}_{15'}$), 47.5 & 47.1 ($\text{C}_{13'}$), 40.3 (C_3), 39.8 ($\text{C}_{8'}$), 38.1 (C_{20}), 35.6 (C_5), 35.0 ($\text{C}_{20'}$), 34.8 (C_3), 35.2 ($\text{C}_{2'}$), 31.5 ($\text{C}_{21'}$), 31.2 (C_{18}), 30.2 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 29.3 & 29.1 & 27.5 & 27.4 & 27.1 & 27.0 & 25.4 (C_4 C_5 C_6 C_7 C_8 C_9 C_{10} C_{15} C_{16} $\text{C}_{9'}$ $\text{C}_{10'}$ $\text{C}_{11'}$ $\text{C}_{12'}$), 28.6 ($\text{C}_{24'}$), 24.5 (C_{17}), 23.6 (C_{11}).

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}-\text{PF}_6]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{71}\text{H}_{106}\text{N}_7\text{O}_{16}$: 1312.7696, found: 1312.7699.

5.6. Synthesis of the *N*-carbamoylated thread 4u



To a solution of thread **5u** (95 mg, 0.066 mol, 1 equiv.) in CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) was added HCl 2M in Et_2O . The reaction mixture was stirred for 1h30 at RT, then concentrated under *vacuum* to give a yellow oil. This oil was then dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (3 mL). Milli-Q H_2O (3 mL) and NH_4PF_6 were added (32 mg, 0.20 mmol, 3 equiv.). The biphasic solution was stirred for 20 min at RT. The aqueous layer was then extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3x5 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO_4 , filtered and concentrated. A purification of the crude by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH_2Cl_2) provided **4u** (81 mg, 81%) as a pure yellow oil.

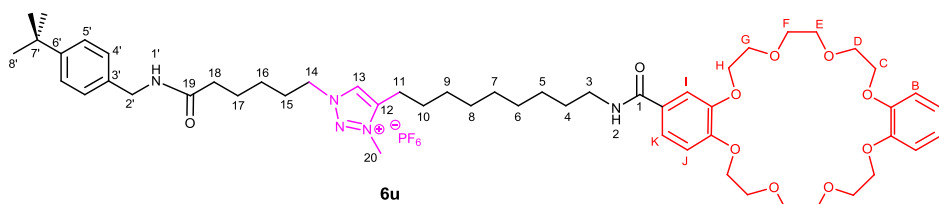
R_f 0.45 ($\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 9:1)

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 8.11 (s, 1H, H_{13}), 7.48 (d, 2H, $^3J_{H18'-H17'} = 8.4\text{Hz}$, $H_{18'}$), 7.37 (d, 2H, $^3J_{H17'-H18'} = 8.4\text{Hz}$, $H_{17'}$), 7.35-7.29 (m, 2H, H_I H_J), 7.03 (br t, 1H, H_2), 6.97-6.86 (m, 5H, H_A H_B H_K), 6.58 (br t, 1H, $H_{7'}$), 4.48 (t, 2H, $^3J_{H14-H15} = 6.9\text{Hz}$, H_{14}), 4.16-4.11 (m, 2H, $H_{15'}$), 4.17-4.05 (2m, 8H, H_C H_H), 4.08 (s, 3H, H_{20}), 3.84-3.76 (m, 8H, H_D H_G), 3.69 (s, 8H, H_E H_F), 3.29 (q, 2H, $^3J_{H3-H4} = ^3J_{H2'-H2} = 6.5\text{Hz}$, H_3), 3.20-3.10 (m, 1H, $H_{3'}$), 3.13-3.02 (m, 2H, $H_{8'}$), 3.03-2.95 (m, 2H, $H_{13'}$), 2.92 (dd, 1H, $^2J_{H2'a-H2'b} = 17.9\text{Hz}$, $^3J_{H2'a-H3'} = 9.1\text{Hz}$, $H_{2'a}$), 2.67-2.58 (m, 2H, H_5), 2.75 (t, 2H, $^3J_{H11-H10} = 7.7\text{Hz}$, H_{11}), 2.61 (t, 2H, $^3J_{H18-H17} = 7.1\text{Hz}$, H_{18}), 2.56-2.43 (m, 1H, $H_{2'b}$), 1.95 (br quint, 2H, H_{15}), 1.72 (br quint, 2H, H_{17}), 1.69-1.57 (m, 4H, H_{10} $H_{12'}$), 1.55 (br quint, 2H, H_4), 1.43-1.22 (m, 18H, H_5 H_6 H_7 H_8 H_9 H_{16} $H_{9'}$ $H_{10'}$ $H_{11'}$), 1.31 (s, 9H, $H_{21'}$).

^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, CD_3CN , 298K): δ ppm = 173.5 & 170.4 & 169.9 ($\text{C}_{1'}$ $\text{C}_{4'}$ $\text{C}_{6'}$ C_{19}), 167.5 (C_1), 153.7 ($\text{C}_{19'}$), 152.2 & 149.7 & 149.2 & 128.5 ($\text{C}_{\text{IV arom macrocycle}}$), 145.8 (C_{12}), 130.7 ($\text{C}_{16'}$ $\text{C}_{17'}$), 128.4 (C_{13}), 126.9 ($\text{C}_{18'}$), 122.2 & 114.9 (C_A C_B), 121.4 (C_J), 113.4 (C_K), 113.3 (C_I), 71.6 (C_E C_F), 70.5 & 70.4 & 70.2 (C_D C_G), 69.9 & 69.7 (C_C C_H), 54.2 (C_{14}), 52.0 ($\text{C}_{15'}$), 48.5 ($\text{C}_{13'}$), 40.3 (C_3), 39.5 ($\text{C}_{8'}$), 38.1 (C_{20}), 35.7 (C_5), 35.3 ($\text{C}_{20'}$), 34.8 (C_3), 35.2 ($\text{C}_{2'}$), 31.3 ($\text{C}_{21'}$), 31.1 (C_{18}), 30.2 (C_4), 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 29.3 & 27.5 & 26.3 & 25.4 (C_5 C_6 C_7 C_8 C_9 C_{16} $\text{C}_{9'}$ $\text{C}_{10'}$ $\text{C}_{11'}$), 29.1 (C_{15}), 27.3 (C_{10}), 26.5 ($\text{C}_{12'}$), 24.5 (C_{17}), 23.6 (C_{11}).

HRMS (ESI): $[\text{M}-2\text{PF}_6+\text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{66}\text{H}_{98}\text{N}_7\text{O}_{14}$: 1212.7172, found: 1212.7184.

5.7. Synthesis of the uncomplexed thread 6u



To a solution of the thread **5u** (50 mg, 0.034 mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry CH₃CN (2.5 mL) was added the 4-*tert*-butylbenzylamine (12 μ L, 0.068 mmol, 2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 4h at room temperature before being concentrated. The resulting solid was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to give the thread **6u** (36 mg, 95%) as a pure colorless oil.

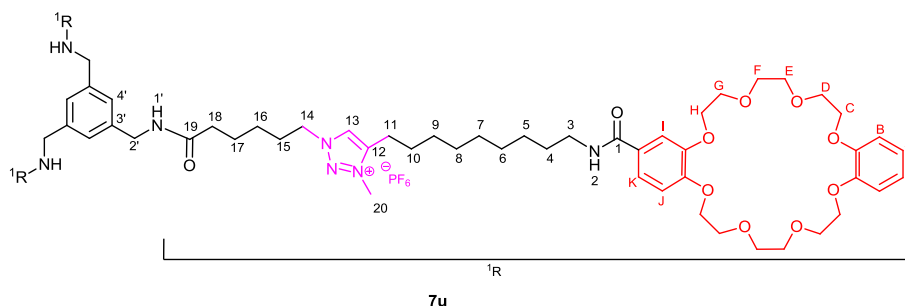
R_f 0.50 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9:1)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.14 (s, 1H, H₁₃), 7.36 (d, 2H, ³J_{H5'-H4'} = 8.2Hz, H_{5'}), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H, H₁H₁), 7.18 (d, 2H, ³J_{H4'-H5'} = 8.2Hz, H_{4'}), 6.98-6.88 (m, 6H, H₂H_AH_BH_K), 6.72 (br s, 1H, H_{1'}), 4.46 (t, 2H, ³J_{H14-H15} = 7.1Hz, H₁₄), 4.28 (d, 2H, ³J_{H2'-H1'} = 6.1Hz, H_{2'}), 4.17-4.14 & 4.12-4.06 (2m, 8H, H_CH_H), 4.07 (s, 3H, H₂₀), 3.83-3.77 (m, 8H, H_DH_G), 3.68 (s, 8H, H_EH_F), 3.31 (q, 2H, ³J_{H3-H4} = ³J_{H3-H2} = 6.8Hz, H₃), 2.73 (t, 2H, ³J_{H11-H10} = 7.7Hz, H₁₁), 2.16 (t, 2H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.3Hz, H₁₈), 1.93 (br quint, 2H, H₁₅), 1.66 (br quint, 2H, H₁₀), 1.61 (br quint, 2H, H₁₇), 1.56 (br quint, 2H, H₄), 1.40-1.30 (m, 12H, H₅H₆H₇H₈H₉H₁₆), 1.29 (s, 9H, H_{8'}).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.2 (C₁₉), 167.2 (C₁), 150.9 (C_{6'}), 152.2 & 149.8 & 149.2 & 129.0 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 145.7 (C₁₂), 137.6 (C_{3'}), 128.7 (C₁₃), 128.1 (C_{4'}), 126.3 (C_{5'}), 122.5 & 115.4 & 115.2 (C_AC_B), 121.5 (C_J), 113.8 (C_KC_I), 71.5 & 71.4 (C_EC_F), 70.4 & 70.3 & 70.2 (C_DC_G), 70.0 & 69.9 & 69.8 & 69.7 (C_CC_H), 54.3 (C₁₄), 43.1 (C_{2'}), 40.4 (C₃), 38.2 (C₂₀), 36.2 (C₁₈), 35.0 (C_{7'}), 31.5 (C_{8'}), 30.3 (C₄), 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 29.5 & 29.3 & 27.4 & 26.1 (C₅C₆C₇C₈C₉C₁₅C₁₆), 27.6 (C₁₀), 25.3 (C₁₇), 23.7 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-PF₆]⁺ calcd for C₅₄H₈₀N₅O₁₀⁺: 958.5905, found: 958.5908.

5.8. Synthesis of the uncomplexed thread **7u**



The thread **5u** (59 mg, 0.04 mmol, 3.1 equiv.) was dissolved in dry CH₃CN (2 mL). In another flask, 1 mL of a mother solution containing 1,3,5-tris(aminomethyl)benzene (21 mg, 0.13 mmol, 10 equiv.) and DIEA (140 μ L, 2.4 mmol, 60 equiv.) in CH₃CN (860 μ L) was prepared. 100 μ L of this solution were added to the solution containing **5u**. The reaction mixture was stirred 17h at room temperature before being concentrated. The resulting crude was purified by chromatography on a lipophilic sephadex LH20 (CH₂Cl₂) to give **7u** (25 mg, 66%) as a pure colorless oil.

R_f 0.56 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 90:10)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 8.21 (s, 3H, H₁₃), 7.38-7.33 (m, 6H, H₁H₁), 7.08 (br t, 3H, H₂), 7.00 (s, 3H, H_{4'}), 6.98 (br t, 3H, H_{1'}), 6.94-6.86 (m, 15H, H_AH_BH_K), 4.45 (t, 6H, ³J_{H14-H15} = 7.1Hz, H₁₄), 4.26 (d, 6H, ³J_{H2'-H1'} = 6.0Hz, H_{2'}), 4.15-4.10 & 4.09-4.04 (2m, 24H, H_CH_H), 4.07 (s, 9H, H₂₀), 3.83-3.76 (m, 24H, H_DH_G), 3.68 (s, 24H, H_EH_F), 3.28 (q, 6H, ³J_{H3-H4} = ³J_{H3-H2} = 6.8Hz, H₃), 2.72 (t, 6H, ³J_{H11-H10} = 7.6Hz, H₁₁), 2.16 (t, 6H, ³J_{H18-H17} = 7.3Hz, H₁₈), 1.93 (quint, 6H, ³J_{H15-H16} = ³J_{H15-H14} = 7.3Hz, H₁₅), 1.64 (br quint, 6H, H₁₀), 1.60 (br quint, 6H, H₁₇), 1.54 (br quint, 6H, H₄), 1.39-1.25 (m, 36H, H₅H₆H₇H₈H₉H₁₆).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CD₃CN, 298K): δ ppm = 173.4 (C₁₉), 167.3 (C₁), 152.2 & 149.8 & 149.2 & 129.0 (C_{IV} arom macrocycle), 145.7 (C₁₂), 141.0 (C_{3'}), 128.7 (C₁₃), 125.6 (C_{4'}), 122.3 & 115.0 (C_AC_B), 121.4 (C_J), 113.5 (C_KC_I), 71.7 & 71.6 (C_EC_F), 70.5 & 70.4 & 70.3 (C_DC_G), 70.0 & 69.8 (C_CC_H), 54.2 (C₁₄), 43.3 (C_{2'}), 40.4 (C₃), 38.2 (C₂₀), 36.2 (C₁₈), 30.3 (C₄), 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 29.5 & 27.6 & 26.1 (C₅C₆C₇C₈C₉C₁₆), 29.3 (C₁₅), 27.3 (C₁₀), 25.4 (C₁₇), 23.7 (C₁₁).

HRMS (ESI): [M-3PF₆]³⁺ calcd for C₁₃₈H₂₀₄N₁₅O₃₀³⁺: 850.4966, found: 850.4971.

6. NMR Spectra

