Electronic Supplementary Information

Efficient Multi-Click Approach to Well-Defined Two-Faced Octasilsesquioxanes: The First Perfect Janus Nanocube

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Table of Contents:

1.	Synthesis and characterization data of compounds 2-5	.S3
2.	NMR spectra and HPLC-MS data	S9
3.	Dynamic NMR study of 5	S26
4.	Molecular modeling calculations	S31
5.	References	S31

1. Synthesis and characterization data of compounds 2-5

General. Structural elucidation of the new compounds was accomplished by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR). Proton and carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR or ¹³C NMR) spectra were recorded on a BRUKER AVANCE-300 (1H 300 MHz, 13C 75 MHz), a Varian INOVA 300 (1H 300 MHz, 13C 75 MHz), a Varian INOVA 400 (¹H 400 MHz, ¹³C 100 MHz) or a Varian SYSTEM 500 NMR (¹H 500 MHz, ¹³C 125 MHz) equipped with a 5 mm HCN cold probe. Silicon-29 nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (29Si NMR) were recorded on a Varian INOVA 400 (79.5 MHz) spectrometer using Wildmad's PTFE-FEP (polytetra-fluoroethylene/fluorinated ethylene polypropylene copolymer) 5 mm tube liners. Chemical shifts of ¹H (δH), ¹³C (δC) and ²⁹Si in ppm were determined relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS). Data are presented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet and/or multiple resonances, br = broad signal), integration, coupling constants in hertz (Hz), and assignment. One-dimensional NMR experiments (¹H, ¹³C, and ²⁹Si) were performed using standard Varian pulse sequences. Two-dimensional (2D) ¹H-¹H NMR experiments (gradient correlation spectroscopy gCOSY) were carried out with the following parameters: a delay time of 1 s, a spectral width of 3475.5 Hz in both dimensions, 2048 complex points in t2 and t4 transients for each of 128 time increments, and a linear prediction to 256. The data were zero-filled to 2048 x 2048 real points. 2D ¹H-¹³C NMR experiments (gradient heteronuclear single quantum coherence: gHSQC, and gradient heteronuclear multiple-bond correlation: gHMBC) used the same ¹H spectral window, a ¹³C spectral window of 24132.7 Hz, a 1s relaxation delay, 1024 data points, and 128 time increments, with a linear prediction to 256. The data were zero-filled to 4096 x 4096 real points. Typical numbers of transients per increment were 4 and 16, respectively. Activation parameters for compound 5 were measured in CDCl₃ by lineshape analysis using gNMR, in the temperature range 223 to 323 °C. The temperature was raised in steps of 5 °C, and 20 minutes were allowed for temperature equilibration before shimming at each temperature. HPLC were recorded in an HPLC-Alliance Waters 2695 coupled to a photodiode array from Waters 2996 and a mass spectrometer Micromass ZQ provided with a ESI source in positive mode with a quadrupole detector. A Sunfire C18 column (3.5 micron, 4.6×50 mm) was used. The products were eluted with acetonitrile/water gradients using 0.1% formic acid. Yields are given in relative area% of the absorbance measured at 287 nm (alkyl-azide absorbance), as deduced from the MS analysis of the peak. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on an Agilent 6520 Q-TOF instrument with a ESI source. Anhydrous solvents were prepared according to standard methods by distillation over drying agents or via elution through a PureSolvTM column drying system from Innovative Technology, Inc. All other solvents were of HPLC grade and were used as provided. All reactions were carried out with magnetic stirring and, if air or moisture sensitive, in oven-dried glassware under argon. Copper(I) catalyst [Cu(C186tren)]Br (C186tren = tris(2-dioctadecylaminoethyl)amine) was prepared according to a described procedure.1

1,2-Bis(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)benzene (2).² To a solution of pyrocathecol (500 mg, 4.54 mmol) in dry acetone (45 mL) under argon, was added finely powdered K₂CO₃ (2.51 g, 18.16 mmol) and the suspension was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min. To this mixture was added a solution of propargyl bromide in toluene (80 wt.%, 1.52 mL, 13.62 mmol) in portions during 1 h. After stirring at 60 °C for 20 h, the mixture was cooled and filtered, and the filtrate was evaporated at reduced pressure. The resultant residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford **2** as a light-orange thick oil (0.696 g, 82% yield). ¹H

NMR (CD₃Cl, 300 MHz): δ 2.51 (t, 2H, J = 2.3 Hz, CCH), 4.76 (d, 4H, J = 2.3 Hz, ArOCH₂), 6.85-7.18 (m, 4H, Ar).

4-tert-Butylcalix[**4**]arenetetrapropargyl ether (3).³ To a flask containing 60% NaH in paraffin (370 mg, 9.24 mmol) under argon was added hexane (3 mL) and the resultant suspension was stirred for 5 min at room temperature and decanted. The resultant NaHsolid was suspended in anhydrous DMF (3 mL) and a solution of 4-tert-butylcalix[4]arene (500 mg, 0.770 mmol) in DMF (2 mL + 1 mL rinse) was added dropwise at 0 °C under good stirring. Considerable frothing was observed at this stage. After stirring for 40 min at 0 °C, a solution of propargyl bromide in toluene (80 wt.%, 0.85 mL, 7.7 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction was quenched by adding MeOH (1 mL) dropwise and, after stirring for 15 min, water was added (40 mL) and the product was extracted EtOAc (3 × 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried and the resultant dark residue was purified by flash chromatography to afford **3** as a light brown solid (383 mg, 62% yield). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ 1.09 (s, 36H, tBu), 2.48 (t, 4H, J = 2.3 Hz CH \equiv C), 3.18 (d, 4H, J = 12.8 Hz, Ar-CH₂-Ar), 4.62 (d, 4H, J = 12.8 Hz, Ar-CH₂-Ar), 4.81 (d, 8H, J = 2.3 Hz, CH₂O), 6.80 (s, 8H, Ar).

CuAAC reaction of 1 and 2. To a Schlenk flask fitted with a PTFE stopcock containing a solution of octakis(3-azidopropyl)octasilsesquioxane (1)⁴ (300 mg, 0.275 mmol) and di-*O*-propargyl-*o*-cathecol (2) (11 mg, 0.055 mmol) in 16 mL of anhydrous toluene under argon was added [Cu(C18₆tren)]Br (10 mg, 0.0055 mmol) and *i*Pr₂NEt (60 mL, 0.385 mmol, 7.0 equiv). The stopcock was closed and the mixture was heated at 50 °C under stirring for 21 h. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by automatic flash chromatography in a silica gel cartridge

using a toluene/MeOH (100:0 to 10:1 v/v gradient) to afford first 235 mg of unreacted octakis(3-azidopropyl)octasilsesquioxane **1** (98% of the total excess used) followed by the click products (61 mg), as a pale yellow oil. The HPLC-MS analysis of the isolated product showed it to be a mixture of **4a** (85.12%), **6** (8.87%), and an unidentified silsesquioxane dimer containing two bis-triazolyl tethers (tetratriazolyl silsesquioxane dimers: **TTSD**, 6.01%). Characterization data for compound **4a**: 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): 0.70-0.74 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 0.62-0.66 (m, 4H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N-triazole), 1.66-1.72 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 1.95-2.02 (m, 4H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N-triazole), 3.25-3.28 (m, 12H, CH₂-N₃), 4.37 (t, 4H, J = 7.1 Hz, CH₂-triazole), 5.21 (s, 4H, CH₂-O), 7.00-7.02 (m, 2H Ar), 7.07-7.09 (m, 2H Ar), 7.80 (s, 2H, H-triazole). 13 C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.79, 144.37, 122.93, 122.52, 115.34, 63.96, 53.50, 52.58, 24.31, 22.56, 9.10, 8.99. 29 Si NMR (CDCl₃, 79.5 MHz): d -67.00, -67.07, -67.52 (in 2:1:1 intensity ratio, respectively). HRMS-ESI: Calc. for C₃₆H₅₉N₂₄O₁₄Si₈ 1274.2718, found 1275.2748 [M+H]⁺, 1297.2567 [M+Na]⁺.

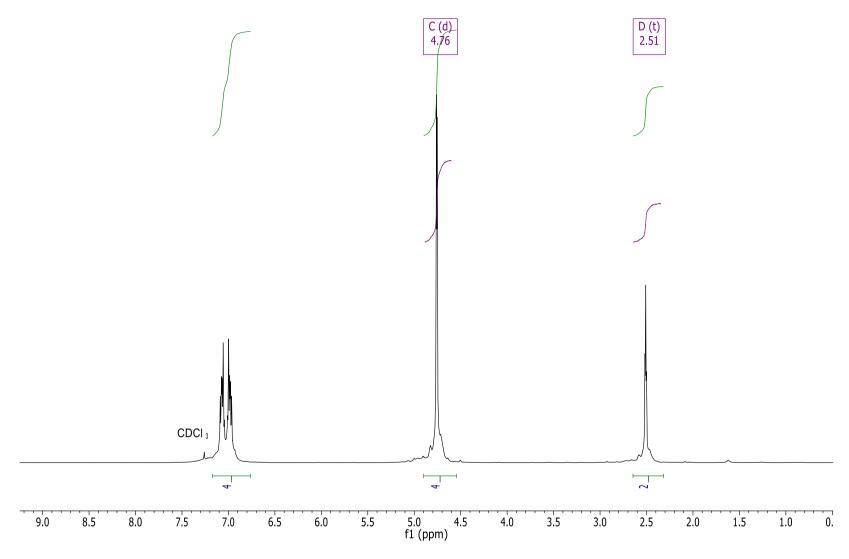
Characterization data of the mixture of **4a**, **6**, and the minor **TTSD** products:

¹H·NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): δ 0.59-0.68 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃, **6/TTSD**), 0.68-0.79 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃, 4a), 0.83-0.91 (m,4H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂Ltriazole), 1.57-1.76 (m, 12H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃),1.92-2.08 (m, 4H, SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 3.23-3.31 (m, 12H, CH_2 -N₃), 4.33 (t, 4H, J = 7.1 Hz, CH_2 -triazole, 6/TTSD), 4.37 (t, 4H, J = 7.1Hz, CH_2 -triazole, **4a** and **TTSD/6**), 5.26, 5.27 and 5.28 (s, 4H, CH_2 -O, **6/TTSD**, TTSD/6 and 4a), 6.89-6.94 (m, 2H, Ar, 6/TTSD), 6.95-6.98 (m, 2H Ar, 6/TTSD), 6.98-7.04 (m, 2H Ar, 4a), 7.04-7.06 (m, 2H Ar, TTSD/6), 7.06-7.12 (m, 2H Ar, 4a), 7.14-7.19 (m, 2H Ar, **TTSD/6**), 7.65 (s, 2H triazole, **6/TTSD**), 7.67 (s, 2H, triazole, TTSD/6), 7.80 (s, 2H, 4a). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.0, 9.1, 9.1 (SiCH₂), 22.6, 22.6, 22.8 $(SiCH_2CH_2 CH_2N_3), 24.1, 24.3$ (SiCH₂ CH_2 CH₂-triazol), 52.6 (SiCH₂CH₂-triazole), 53.5, 53,5 (SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 62.8, 63.6, 64.0 (CCH₂O), 113.7, 115.3, 115.6, 121.8, 122.2 (CH Ar), 122.5 (CH triazole), 122.9 (CH triazole), 123.1 (CH triazole), 143.9 (Ctriazole), 144.3 (Ctriazole), 144.4 (Ctriazole), 148.0 (CAr), 148.6 (CAr), 148.8 (CAr). HRMS: Calc. for C₃₆H₅₉N₂₄O₁₄Si₈ 1274.2718, found $1275.2748 \text{ [M+H]}^+$, $1297.2567 \text{ [M+Na]}^+$. Calc. for $C_{60}H_{106}N_{48}O_{26}Si_{16}$ 2362.4756, found $2362.4718 \text{ [M+H]}^+$. Calc. for $C_{72}H_{116}N_{48}O_{28}Si_{16}$ 2548.5467, found 2549.5431 [M+H]^+ , 2572.5151 [M+Na]⁺.

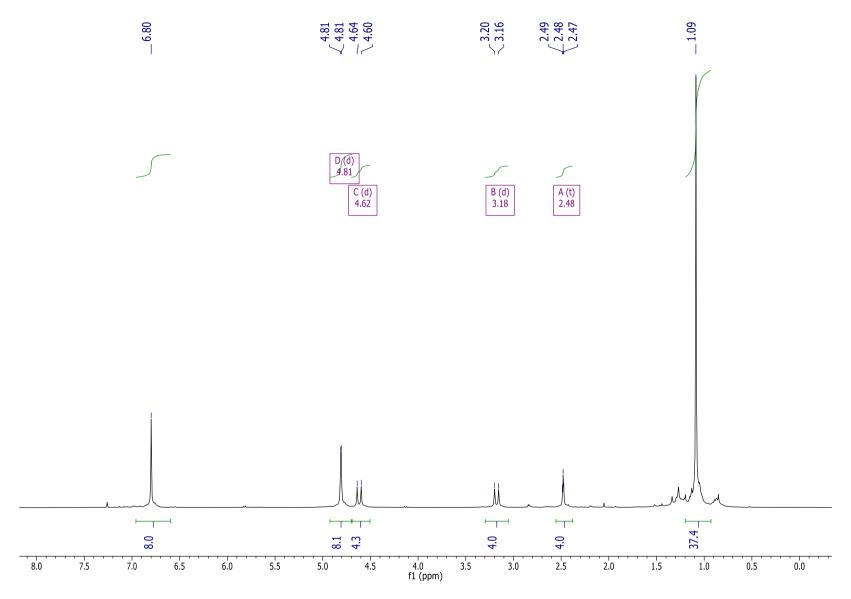
CuAAC reaction of 1 and 3: Synthesis of Janus-silsesquioxane 5. To a Schlenk flask fitted with a PTFE stopcock containing a solution of 1 (520 mg, 0.477 mmol) and 3 (77 mg, 0.096 mmol) in 30 mL of anhydrous toluene under argon was added [Cu(C18₆tren)]Br (17 mg, 0.010 mmol) and *i*Pr₂NEt (200 mL, 1.150 mmol). The stopcock was closed and the mixture was heated at 50 °C under stirring for 24 h. The solvent was removed at reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by automatic flash chromatography in a silica gel cartridge using a toluene/MeOH (100:0

to 10:1) gradient to afford first 392 mg of unreacted octakis(3azidopropyl)octasilsesquioxane1 (99% of the total excess used) followed by compound 9 (148 mg, 82% yield), as a pale cream-colored solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, -50 °C): d 0.68-0.84 (br m, 16H, 8 SiCH₂), 0.77 (s, 18H, 2 t-Bu), 1.28 (s, 18H, 2 t-Bu), 1.65-1.71 (br m, 8H, 4 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 1.87 (br m, 4H, 2 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 2.04 (br. m, 4H, 2 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 3.25 (d, 4H, J = 12.7 Hz, CH₂ -calixarene), 3.29 (t, 8H, J = 6.7 Hz, 4 C H_2 -N₃), 3.86 (br m, 4H, 2 SiC H_2 C H_2 -triazole), 4.36 (br m, 4H, 2 SiCH₂CH₂-triazole), 4.53 (d, 4H, J = 12.7 Hz, CH₂-calixarene), 4.69 (s, 4H, 2 CH₂-O), 4.83 (s, 4H, 2 CH₂-O), 6.40 (s, 4H, 2 ArH-calixarene), 6.95 (s, 2H, 2 Htriazole), 7.07 (s, 4H, 2 ArH-calixarene), 8.69 (s, 2H, 2 H-triazole). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 55 °C): d 0.67-0.71 (m, 8H, 4 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃), 0.74-0.83 (m, 8H, 4 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 1.01 (br s, 36H, 4 t-Bu), 1.62-1.69 (m, 8H, 4 $SiCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2N_3$), 1.93-2.01 (br m, 8H, 4 $SiCH_2CH_2CH_2$ -triazole), 3.18 (d, 4H, J =12.7 Hz, CH_2 -calixarene), 3.21 (t, 8H, J = 6.7 Hz, 4 CH_2 - N_3), 4.08 (br m, 8H, 4 SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 4.55 (d, 4H, J = 12.7 Hz, CH₂-calixarene), 4.74 (s, 8H, 4 CH₂-O), 6.70 (br s, 8H, 4 ArH), 7.81 (br s, 4H, 4 H-triazole). ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C, based on HSQC and HMBC spectra): δ 8.9 (SiCH₂), 9.3 (SiCH₂), 22.7 (SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 24.6 (SiCH₂CH₂CH₂-triazole), 29.9 (this signal correlates with a singlet at 1.24 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum, which seems to be an impurity in our sample), 31.6 (CH₂-calixarene), 31.8 (CH-t-Bu), 34.0 (Me₃C), 52.0 (SiCH₂CH₂-CH₂triazole), 53.6 (SiCH₂CH₂CH₂N₃), 66.5 (CH₂O), 125.3 (CH Ar), 125.4 (CH triazole), 133.8 (CH₂-CAr), 144.4 (tBu-CAr), 145.1 (C triazole), 153.2 (O-CAr). ²⁹Si NMR (CDCl₃, 79.5 MHz, 25 °C): d -66.67, -67.05. HRMS-ESI Calc. for C₈₀H₁₁₂N₂₄O₁₆Si₈ 1888.6842, found 1890.6931 [M+H]⁺, 1912.6775 [M+Na]⁺.

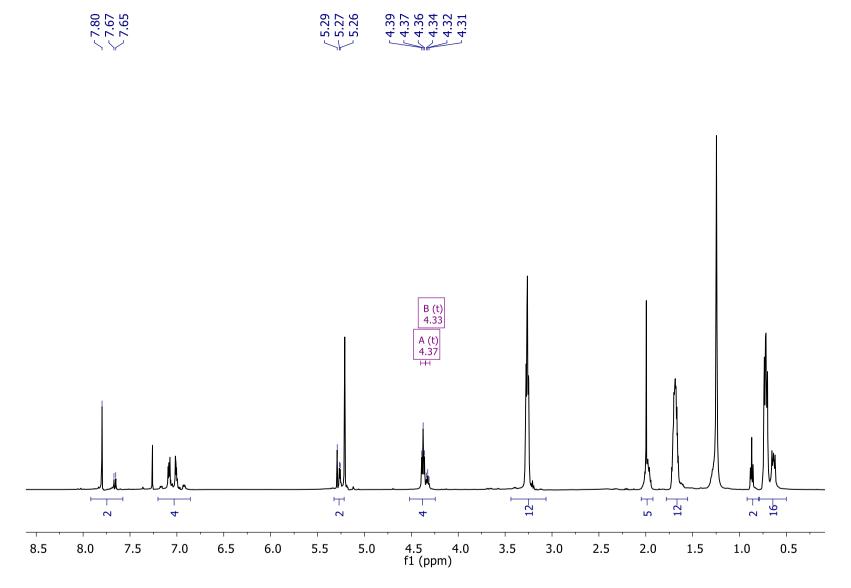
2. N	MR s	pectra	and	HPL	C-MS	data
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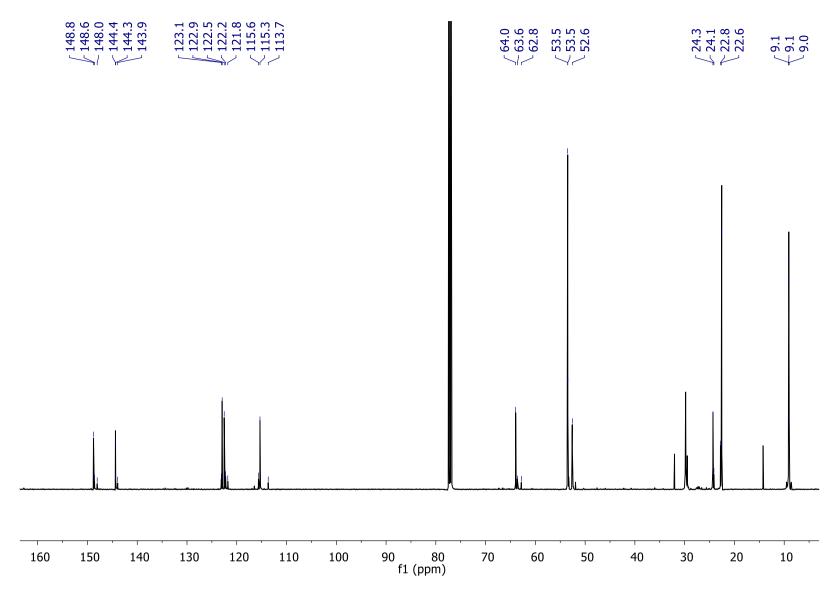
 $^{1}\text{H NMR (CDCl}_{3},\,300\text{ MHz})$ of compound $\boldsymbol{2}$



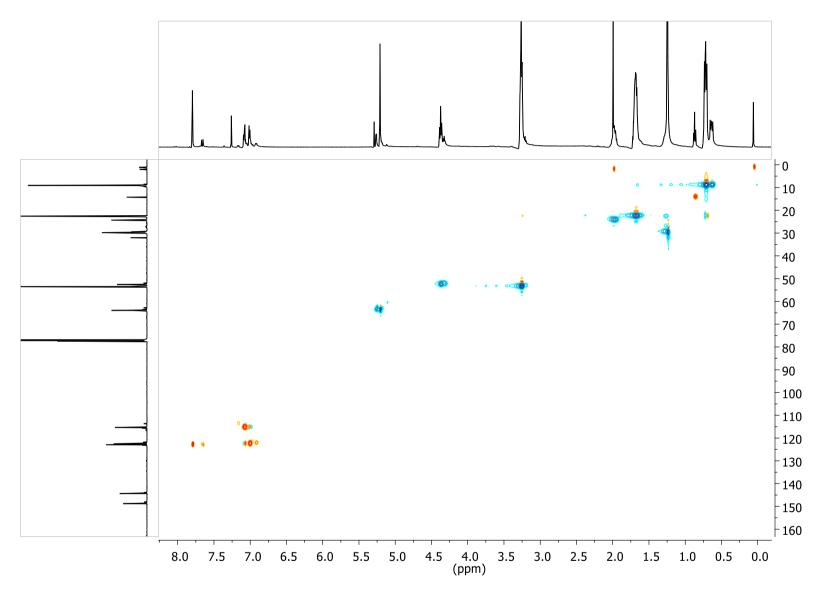
 1H NMR (CDCl $_3$, 300 MHz) of compound $\boldsymbol{3}$



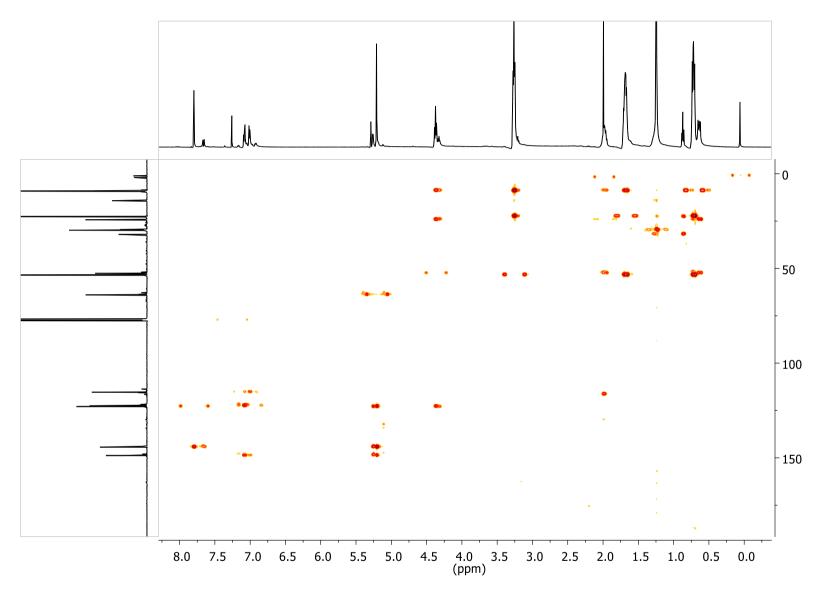
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) of the click product isolated from the reaction of 1 and 2 (mainly 4a).



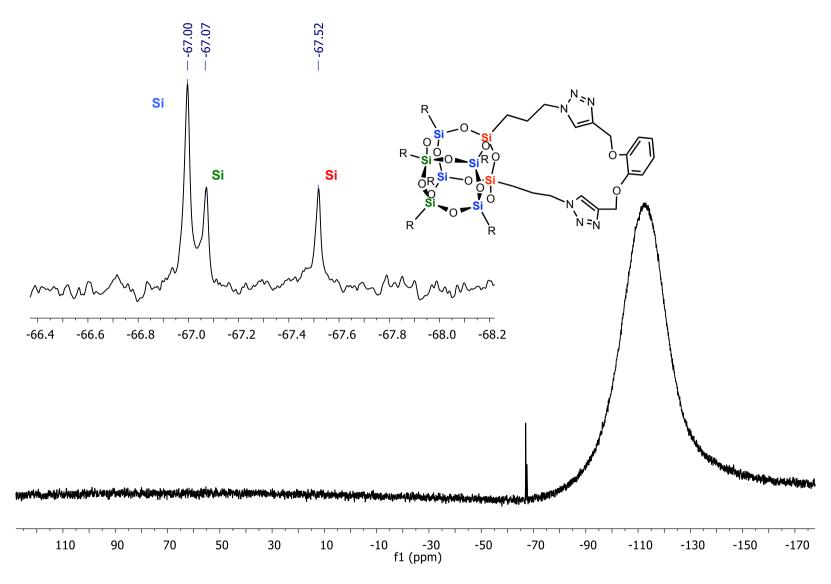
¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) of the click product isolated from the reaction of **1** and **2** (mainly **4a**).



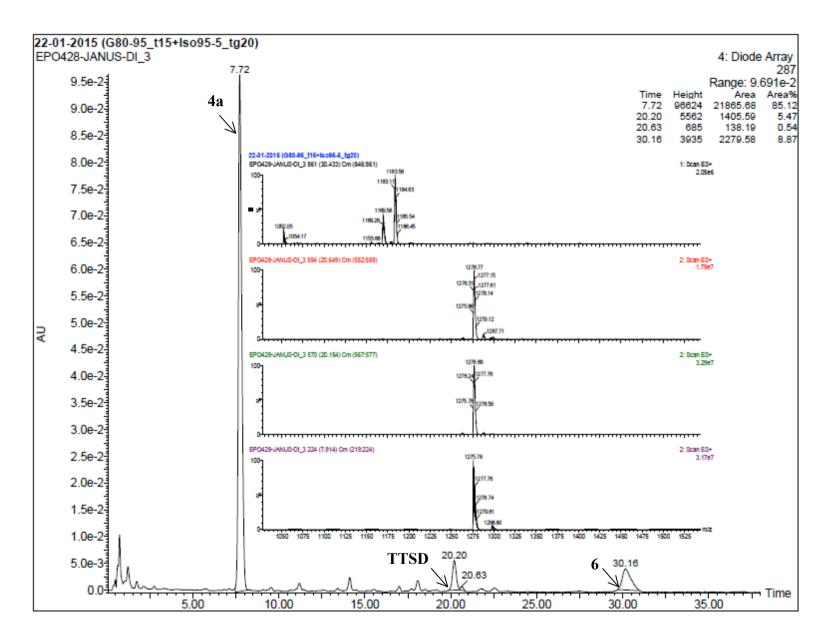
¹H-¹³C HSQC (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) of the click product isolated from the reaction of 1 and 2 (mainly 4a).



¹H-¹³C HMBC (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) of the click product isolated from the reaction of **1** and **2** (mainly **5a**).

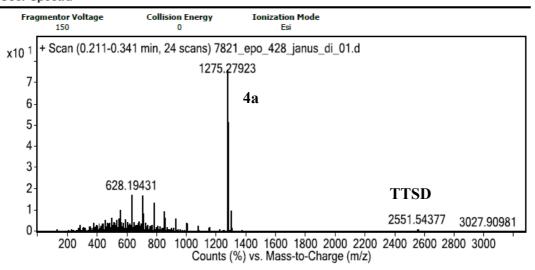


 29 Si NMR (CDCl₃, 79.5 MHz) of the click product isolated from the reaction of 1 and 2 (mainly 5a).



HPLC-MS of the click products isolated from the reaction of 1 and 2 (TTSD: tetratriazolyl silsesquioxane dimer).

User Spectra

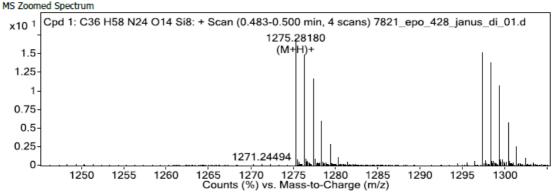


HRMS-ESI of the click products isolated from the reaction of **1** and **2** (**TTSD**: tetratriazolyl silsesquioxane dimer).

Compound Table

Compound Label	RT	Mass	Abund	Formula	Tgt Mass	(ppm)
Cpd 1: C36 H58 N24 O14 Si8	0.489	1274.27459	60556	C36 H58 N24 O14 Si8	1274.27184	2.16

Compound Label	RT	Algorithm	Mass
Cpd 1: C36 H58 N24 O14 Si8	0.489	Find By Formula	1274.27459



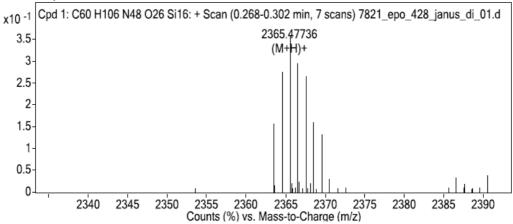
HRMS-ESI of compound 4a

Compound Table

Compound Label	RT	Mass	Abund	Formula	Tgt Mass	(ppm)
Cpd 1: C60 H106 N48 O26	0.285	2362.47184	1369	C60 H106 N48 O26 Si16	2362.47561	-1.6
Si16						

Compound Label	RT	Algorithm	Mass
Cpd 1: C60 H106 N48 O26 Si16	0.285	Find By Formula	2362.47184

MS Zoomed Spectrum



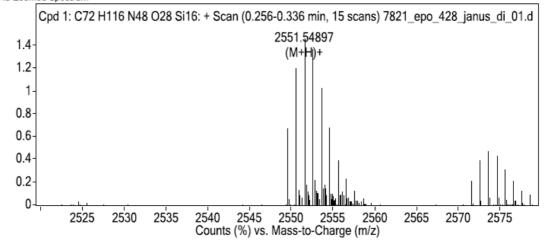
Compound Table

						Diff
Compound Label	RT	Mass	Abund	Formula	Tgt Mass	(ppm)
Cpd 1: C72 H116 N48 O28	0.268	2548.5394	5562	C72 H116 N48 O28 Si16	2548.54369	-1.68
Si16						

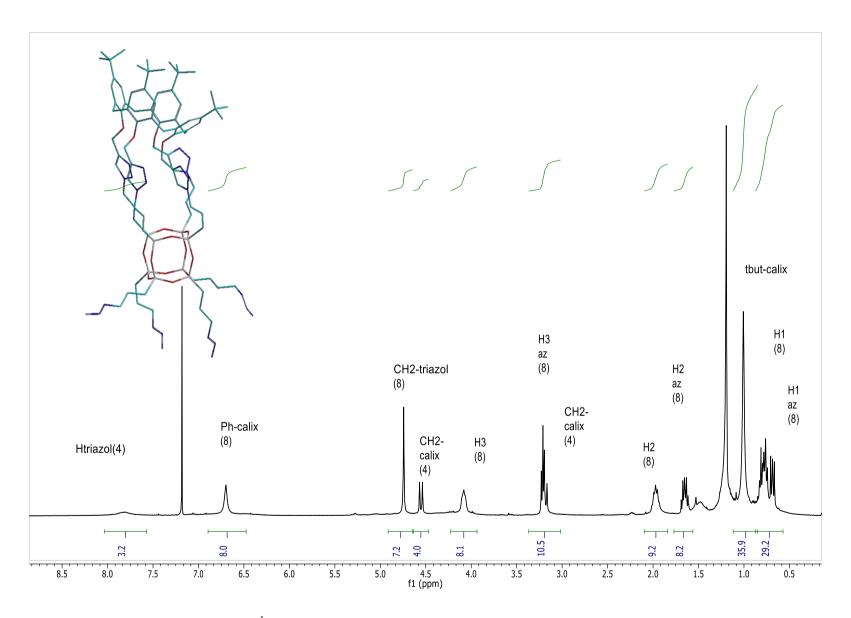
Compound Label	RT	Algorithm	Mass
Cpd 1: C72 H116 N48 O28 Si16	0.268	Find By Formula	2548.5394

MS Zoomed Spectrum

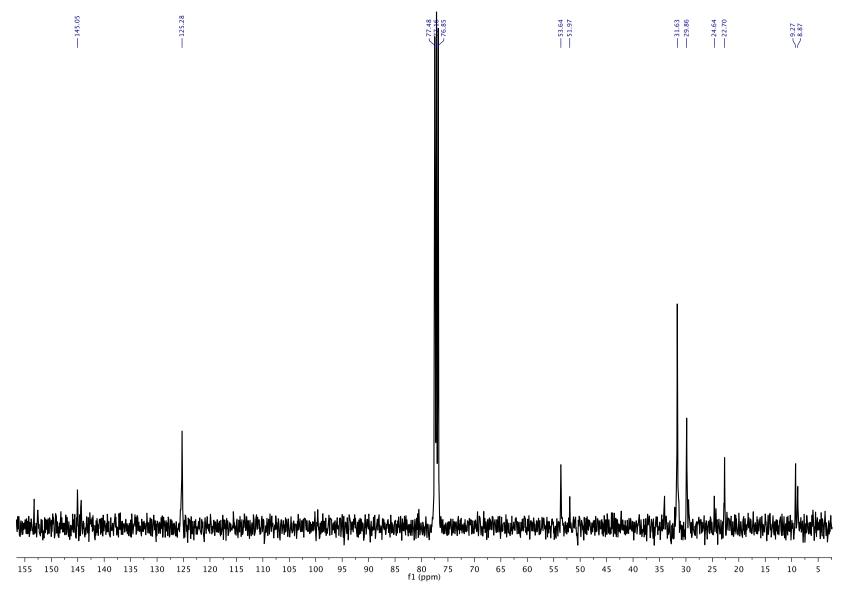
6



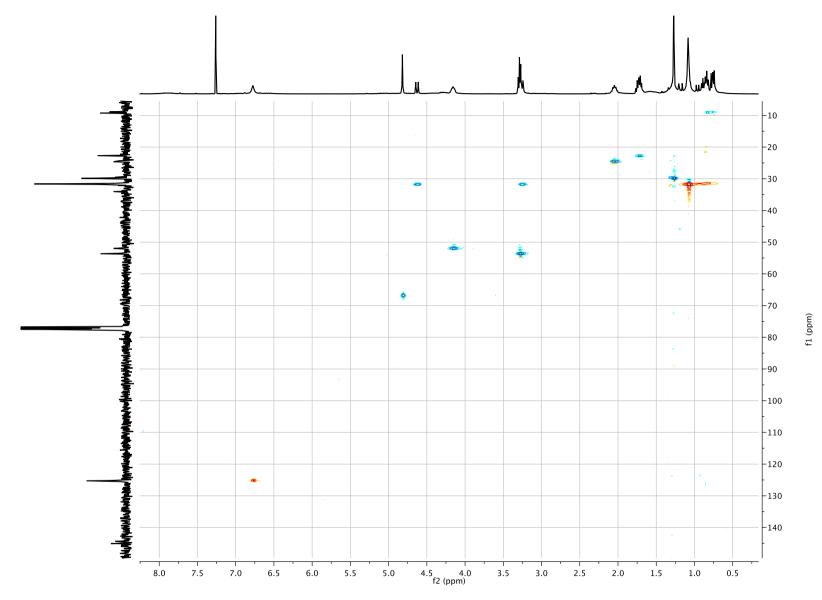
HRMS-ESI of TTSD (TTSD: tetratriazolyl silsesquioxane dimer).



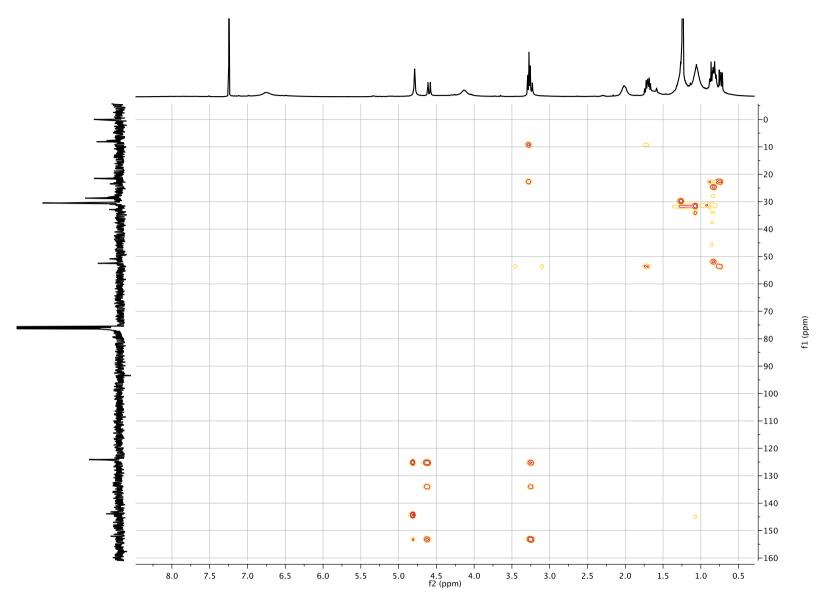
¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 55 °C) of compound **5**.



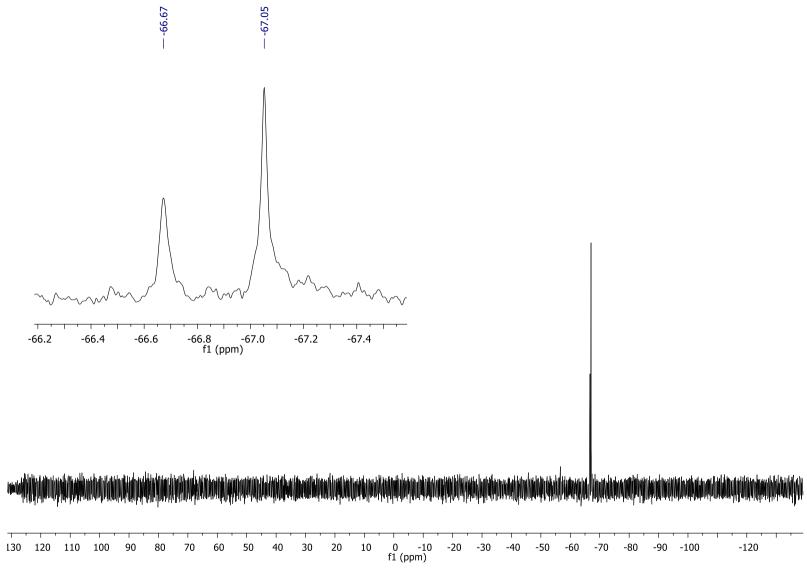
 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz, 25 °C) of compound **5**.



¹H-¹³C HSQC (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 55 °C) of compound **5**.



¹H-¹³C HMBC (CDCl₃, 500 MHz, 55 °C) of compound **5**.



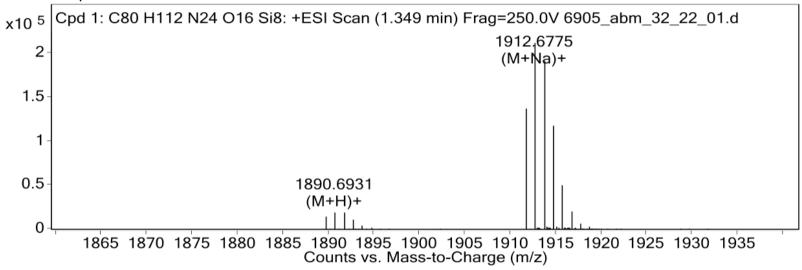
²⁹Si NMR (CDCl₃, 79.5 MHz, 25 °C) of compound **5** (relative intensities ca. 2:5; smaller signal shows larger broadening).

Compound Table

Compound Label	RT	Mass	Abund	Formula	Tgt Mass	Diff (ppm)
Cpd 1: C80 H112 N24 O16 Si8		1888.6862	211196	C80 H112 N24 O16 Si8	1888.6842	1.07
310						

Compound Label	RT	Algorithm	Mass
Cpd 1: C80 H112 N24 O16 Si8	1.349	Find By Formula	1888.6862

MS Zoomed Spectrum



HRMS-ESI of compound 5

3. Dynamic NMR study of compound 5

In order to obtain the activation barrier for the conformational equilibrium of **5**, rate constants were determined from the 1 H NMR spectra over the temperature range 223-323 K by using the line shape method with the gNMR program⁵ and considering a symmetric two-site exchange model. The enthalpy ΔH^{\ddagger} and entropy ΔS^{\ddagger} of activation were calculated using the Eyring equation. The resonance signal of the triazol proton (δ = 8.69, 6.94) and of the phenyl protons (δ = 7.06, 6.38) were used for the simulation. The simulated spectra with different rate obtained were compared with experimental spectra at different temperatures.

 $R\ln (hkr/\kappa kT) = -\Delta H^*/T + \Delta S^*$

Evring plot was	obtained by plotting	Rln $(hkr/\kappa kT)$	against inverse	of temperature (1/	/T).
-J F	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	(()			-) ·

# `	Table 1	He1						
	T[X]	Enthalpy (Kcal mol-	Entropy (Kcal K-1 mol-1)[Y	G (Kcal mol-1)[Y]	Enthalpy (KJI mol-1)	Entropy (KJ K-1 mol-1)[Y]	G (KJ mol-1)[Y]	
1	223	7,1708	-0,01957	11,53	30,02	-0,08194	48,28	
2	228	7,1708	-0,01957	11,63	30,02	-0,08194	48,69	
3	233	7,1708	-0,01957	11,73	30,02	-0,08194	49,11	
4	238	7,1708	-0,01957	11,83	30,02	-0,08194	49,53	
5	243	7,1708	-0,01957	11,93	30,02	-0,08194	49,95	
6	248	7,1708	-0,01957	12,02	30,02	-0,08194	50,33	
7	253	7,1708	-0,01957	12,12	30,02	-0,08194	50,75	
8	258	7,1708	-0,01957	12,22	30,02	-0,08194	51,17	
9	263	7,1708	-0,01957	12,32	30,02	-0,08194	51,58	
10	268	7,1708	-0,01957	12,42	30,02	-0,08194	52	
11		7,1708	-0,01957	12,51	30,02	-0,08194	52,38	
12	278	7,1708	-0,01957	12,61	30,02	-0,08194	52,8	
13	283	7,1708	-0,01957	12,71	30,02	-0,08194	53,22	
14	288	7,1708	-0,01957	12,81	30,02	-0,08194	53,64	
15	293	7,1708	-0,01957	12,9	30,02	-0,08194	54,01	
16	298	7,1708	-0,01957	13	30,02	-0,08194	54,43	
17	303	7,1708	-0,01957	13,1	30,02	-0,08194	54,85	
18	308	7,1708	-0,01957	13,2	30,02	-0,08194	55,27	
19	313	7,1708	-0,01957	13,3	30,02	-0,08194	55,69	
20	318	7,1708	-0,01957	13,39	30,02	-0,08194	56,06	
21	323	7,1708	-0,01957	13,49	30,02	-0,08194	56,48	
22	328	7,1708	-0,01957	13,59	30,02	-0,08194	56,9	
25								

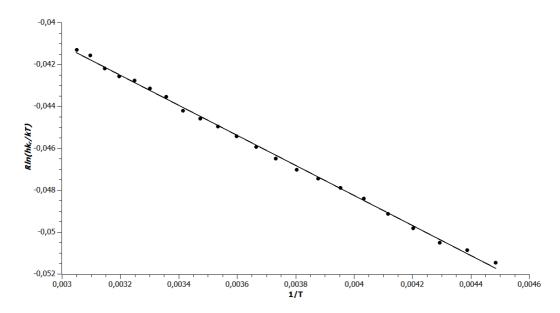


Figure 1S. Eyring plot for compound **5**. $R^2 = 0.998$. $\Delta H^* = -A$ (slope) = 7,17 +/- 0.07 kcal mol⁻¹. $\Delta S^* = (y\text{-intercept}) = -0.0196 +/- 2.5e^{-04} kcal K^{-1} mol^{-1}$.

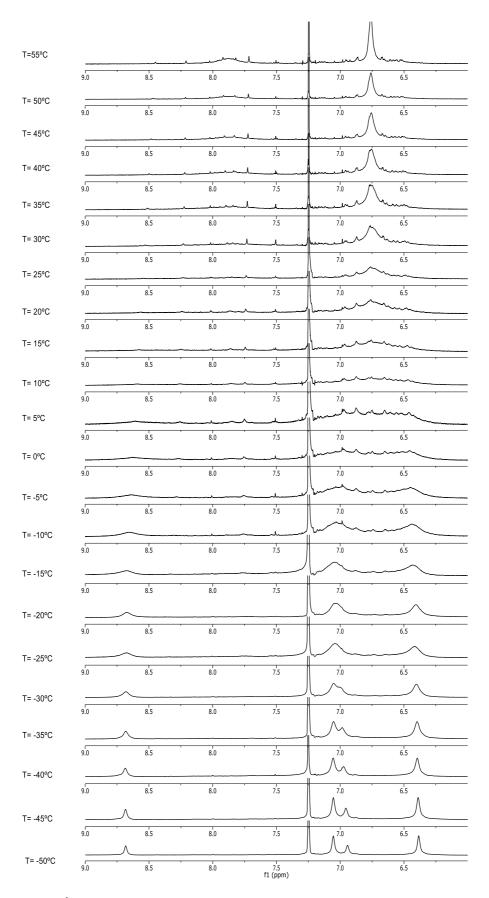


Figure 2S. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of 5 at varying temperature in CDCl₃.

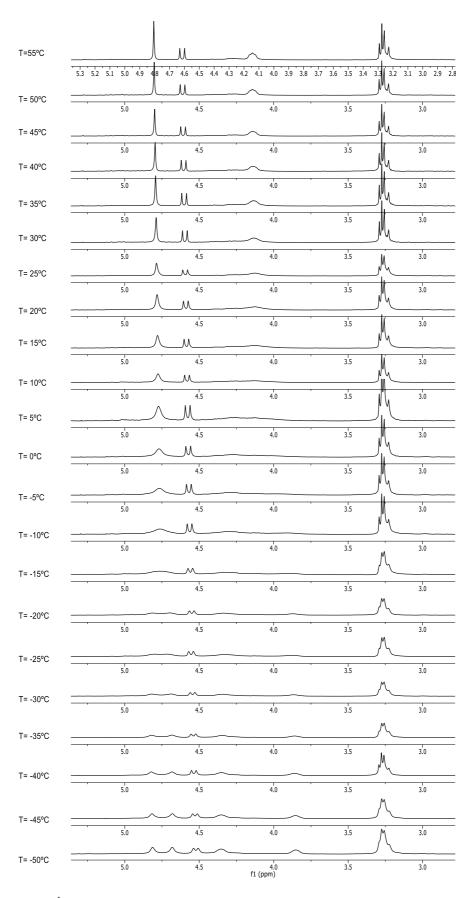


Figure 2S. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of 5 at varying temperature in CDCl₃.

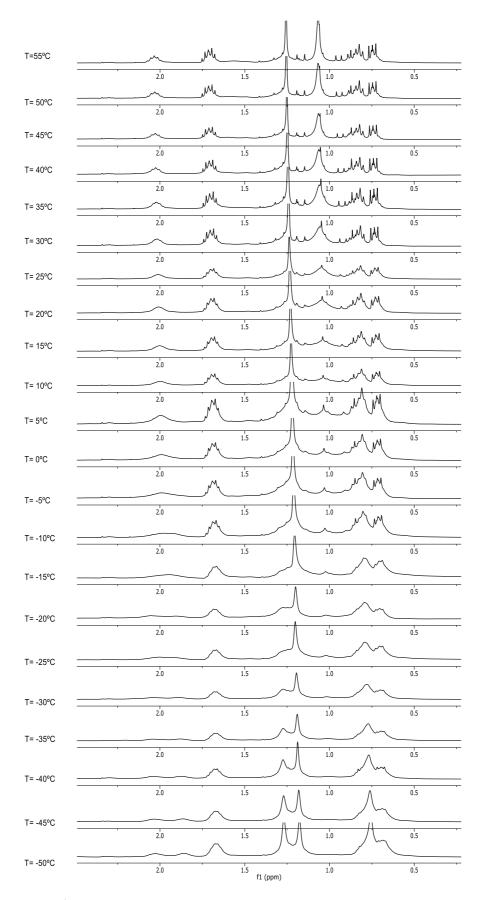


Figure 2S. ¹H NMR (400 MHz) spectra of 5 at varying temperature in CDCl₃.

4. Molecular modeling calculations

We have carried out a simple molecular modeling study of **5** in vacuum. First, we have run extensive energy minimizations using the MMFF94 force field⁶ starting from a large set of different initial conformations of the calixarene system and the linking chains connecting it to the silsesquioxane cage. The starting conformations were both manually set or obtained during different molecular dynamics trajectories performed with the same force field. The minimum energy conformer thus obtained was fully reoptimized using the semiempirical PM3 method.⁷

5. References

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