# Supplementary information

## Glucose selective bis-boronic acid *click-fluor*

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## 1. General information

Commercially available solvents and reagents were purchased and used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Bruker AVIII300 NMR spectrometer, <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra at 128 MHz on a Bruker AVIII400 NMR spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra at 101 MHz on a Bruker AVIII400 NMR spectrometer. Data was processed with Topspin 3.5pl6. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in ppm relative to TMS ( $\delta$  0.00) for the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, to chloroform ( $\delta$  77.0) for the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra and to BF<sub>3</sub>·Et<sub>2</sub>O ( $\delta$  0.00) for the <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectra measurements, coupling constant *J* are expressed in Hertz, pendant technique was used for <sup>13</sup>C NMR assignment. Mass spectra were recorded with electrospray MS Waters LCT Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer and with EI (GC/MS) Waters GCT Premier Time of Flight Mass Spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer 100FT-IR spectrometer at room temperature.

## 2. Fluorescence study

Fluorescence spectra were recorded on both Shimadzu RF-5301PC and Gilden Photonic FluorSENS fluorimeters. All the measurements were carried out in pH 8.21 methanolic buffer. The buffer was prepared in a 1 L volumetric flask according to a literature procedure and consisted of: 52.1 wt% HPLC grade methanol, in deionised water with KCl (0.7456 g, 0.01000 mol/L), KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.3745 g, 0.002752 mol/L) and Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> (0.3914g, 0.002757 mol/L).<sup>1</sup>

Quartz cuvette with 10 mm path lengths, four faces polished was used for fluorescence test. All pH measurements taken during fluorescence experiments were on pH meter which was calibrated using standard buffer solutions (pH 4 and pH 7). All solvents used in fluorescence measurements were HPLC or fluorescent grade. All saccharides used in fluorescent measurements were certified as  $\geq$ 99% pure.

A 0.15 M stock solution of fructose (and glucose) was prepared in deionised water and stored at room temperature overnight before use. A  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  M stock solution of the synthesised compound 14 was prepared in methanol and kept in dark place before fluorescence test. 20 µL stock solution of 14 was added in 3 mL of methanolic buffer to give a concentration of 1.67 µM. 20 µL saccharide stock solution was added to this solution and allowed to kept at room temperature for 30 minutes before the fluorescence spectrum was recorded.

## 3. Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) study

ITC experiment was carried out with a MicorCal VP-ITC instrument (MicroCal). All the experiments were conducted in pH 8.21 PBS buffer with 20% DMSO. To compensate, the same batch of buffer stock solution was used for preparing all boronic acids and D-fructose (or D-glucose) samples in all experiments. The concentrations of each boronic acid compound and fructose were optimised for each individual experiment. The ITC cell volume was 1.474 mL. Experiments were performed at a constant cell temperature of 25 °C. The reference power was set to 30  $\mu$ Cal·s<sup>-1</sup>. Each titration comprised 49 separate injections of 5  $\mu$ L of concentrated saccharide solution at time intervals of 180 s. In the case of compound **8b** and **8c** binding with D-glucose, the time interval was extended to allow the signal return to the baseline. Data was analysed using Origin 7E (OriginLab). The first injection point was routinely discarded. Data were fit using "One Sites" model.<sup>2</sup>



Figure S 1. ITC study of compound **8a** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) titrating with D-fructose (0.02 M) in pH 8.21 PBS buffer with 20% DMSO.



Figure S 2. ITC study of compound **8a** (5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M) titrating with D-glucose (0.2 M) in pH 8.21 PBS buffer with 20% DMSO.



Figure S 3. ITC study of compound **8b** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) titrating with D-fructose (0.02 M) in pH 8.21 PBS buffer with 20% DMSO.



Figure S 4. ITC study of compound **8b** ( $2.5 \times 10^{-5}$  M) titrating with D-glucose (0.02 M) in pH 8.21 PBS buffer with 20% DMSO.

## 4. Synthetic procedures and characterisation data

## 4.1 Synthesis of compound 5

o-Tolylboronic acid (1.36 g, 10.0 mmol) and pinacol (1.54 g, 12 mmol) were mixed in toluene (100 mL). The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 2 h, water was removed using a Dean-Stark apparatus. The reaction solution was cooled to room temperature and toluene was removed by rotary evaporator. The crude product was dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 mL), and washed with deionised water (5  $\times$  50 mL) and Brine (50 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and filtered. The solvent was removed in vacuo to obtain otolylboronic acid pinacol ester as a colourless oil.

o-Tolylboronic acid pinacol ester (1.74 g, 8.0 mmol), N-bromosuccinimide (1.57 g, 8.8 mmol), and benzoyl peroxide (19 mg, 1 mol%) were added in 100 mL of acetonitrile and refluxed at 90 °C for 4 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was allowed to cool at room temperature and the solvent was removed by rotary evaporator. Hexane was added to dissolve the product and the remaining solid was removed after filtration. The filtrate was concentrated by rotary evaporator and dried in vacuo to obtain the bromination product as a light brown solid.1

Bromo-substituted starting material (1.00 g, 3.4 mmol) and sodium azide (might be explosive, deal with particular care!) (0.30 g, 5.1 mmol) were carefully charged into a round-bottom flask. 5 mL DMSO was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight (16 h). After that, water was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with diethyl ether ( $3 \times 50$  mL). The product was concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain compound 5 as a colourless oil. Sample contained small amount of DMSO. Considering the potential risk of dealing with organic azide, no further purification was carried out (DMSO was used as the reaction solvent in the next step, so it should not cause any problem for the upcoming CuAAC reaction).

4,4,5,5-Tetramethyl-2-(o-tolyl)-1,3,2-dioxaborolane  $C_{13}H_{19}BO_2$  colourless oil (99% yield),  $R_f = 0.90$ (PE/EtOAc, 6:1).  $\delta_{H}$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.80 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H) , 7.35 (dd, J = 7.5, 1.6 Hz, 1H) 1H), 7.25 - 7.16 (m, 2H), 2.58 (s, 2H), 1.38 (s, 12H).  $\delta_{C}$  (101 MHz, CDCl\_3) 144.8, 135.9, 130.8, 129.8, 124.7, 83.4, 24.9, 22.3. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 241.1 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> v/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2963, 1601, 1477, 1435, 1379, 1343, 1302, 1276, 1217, 1144.

2-(2-(Bromomethyl)phenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>BBrO<sub>2</sub> light brown solid (99% yield),  $R_f = 0.81$  (PE/EtOAc, 6:1). mp 79 – 80 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.86 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 1H), 4.96 (s, 2H), 1.41 (s, 12H).  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 144.3, 136.4, 131.3, 130.1, 127.6, 83.9, 34.0, 24.9. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 319.0 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> v/cm<sup>-</sup> <sup>1</sup> 2979, 1598, 1443, 1387, 1333, 1270, 1143.

2-(2-(Azidomethyl)phenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (5) C13H18BN3O2 colourless oil (99% yield), R<sub>f</sub> = 0.78 (PE/EtOAc, 6:1). δ<sub>H</sub> (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.93 (dd, J = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H),



7.54 - 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.42 - 7.34 (m, 2H), 4.70 (s, 2H), 1.40 (s, 12H).  $\delta_c$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 141.27, 136.19, 131.23, 129.06, 127.29, 83.71, 53.76, 24.64. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 282.1 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> v/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3597, 3039, 2979, 2092, 1601, 1345, 1210, 1143, 961, 848, 752, 656.

### 4.2 Synthesis of compound 6c

A three-neck round-bottom flask was dried in oven overnight. 1,2-diborombenzene (3.00 g, 12.7 mmol) was dissolved in 20 mL dry TEA, then added into the sealed flask *via* syringe. After bubbling with argon gas for 15 min, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (421 mg, 0.6 mmol), and CuI (133 mg, 0.7 mmol) was charged into the flask. After bubbling with argon gas for another 15 min, trimethylsilylacetylene (5.4 mL, 38.1 mmol) was injected *via* syringe. The mixture was refluxed under argon protection for 20 h, diluted with DCM, filtered, and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel using hexane as eluent.<sup>3</sup>

In a round bottom flask, 1,2-bis((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)benzene (1.35 g, 5 mmol) was dissolved in THF (20 mL). The flask was cooled to 0 °C and a 1 M solution of TBAF in THF (15.00 mL, 15 mmol) was slowly added *via* syringe. The reaction mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature, washed with water ( $3 \times 50$  mL) and brine (50 mL), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The crude product was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel ((hexane/EtOAc) 95:5, *v*/*v*).

**1,2-Bis((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)benzene**  $C_{16}H_{22}Si_2$  brown oil (95% yield),  $R_f = 0.90$  (hexane).  $\delta_H$  (300 TMS MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.49 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 0.32 (s, 18H).  $\delta_C$ (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 132.3, 128.1, 125.8, 103.3, 98.4, 0.1. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 293.1 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. v/cm<sup>-1</sup> <sup>1</sup> 2960, 2900, 2160, 1474, 1441, 1248, 1228, 1201, 1099, 1038, 861, 835, 755, 698.

**1,2-Diethynylbenzene (6c)**  $C_{10}H_6$  brown oil (90% yield),  $R_f = 0.82$  (hexane).  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.55 (dd, J = 5.7, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (dd, J = 5.8, 3.4 Hz, 2H), 3.38 (s, 2H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 132.6, 128.5, 125.0, 81.8, 81.2. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 149.0 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. v/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2957, 2102, 1475, 1239, 1223, 1198, 1087, 1042, 867, 745, 702.

## 4.3 Synthesis of compound 12

6,7-Dihydroxycoumarin (1.00 g, 5.6 mmol) was initially combined with anhydrous pyridine (20 mL). The reaction mixture was placed on ice and allowed to cool prior to the addition of trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (2.10 mL, 12.0 mmol). The mixture was stirred on ice bath for 4 h, after which diethyl ether (100 mL) was added. The first precipitate was separated by filtration and discarded. Following a second precipitation after the addition of aq HCl (1 M, 5 mL), the product was collected by filtration, and dried under vacuum to obtain compound **10**.<sup>4</sup>

For Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction and TMS deprotection, the same procedures were followed as previously described. The final product was purified using chromatography on silica gel ((hexane/EtOAc, 9:1, v/v).

**2-Oxo-2H-chromene-6,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (10)**  $C_{11}H_4F_6O_8S_2$  white solid (97% yield), TfO O O R<sub>f</sub> = 0.76 (PE/EtOAc, 9:1). mp 87 – 89 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.74 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 6.62 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 158.1, 153.0, 141.9, 141.0, 136.6, 122.2, 120.1, 119.4, 119.1, 116.9, 112.8.  $\delta_F$  (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) -

72.76, -72.77, -72.81, -72.82. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 442.9 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula  $C_{11}H_5F_6O_8S_2^+$ : 442.9325; found: 442.9326. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3089, 3057, 1721, 1614, 1435, 1393, 1207, 1141, 975, 833, 697.

6,7-Bis((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (11) C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> light brown solid (75% yield), R<sub>f</sub> =



0.85 (hexane/EtOAc, 6:1). mp 189 – 191 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.38 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 0.06 (s, 9H), 0.04 (s, 9H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 160.0, 153.1, 142.3, 131.7, 129.1, 122.4, 120.5, 118.8, 117.8, 102.9, 101.8, 101.6, 99.3, 0.1, 0.0. M/z: (EI<sup>+</sup>) 338.1 [M]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution

MS calc. for formula C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 338.1153; found: 338.1164. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3102, 3097, 2955, 1733, 1713, 1612, 1346, 1266, 1154, 978, 863, 741.

**6,7-Diethynyl-2H-chromen-2-one (12)**  $C_{13}H_6O_2$  light brown solid (82% yield),  $R_f = 0.75$  (PE/EtOAc, 8:1). mp 131 – 133 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.67 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.47 (s, 1H), 6.49 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.54 (s, 1H), 3.37 (s, 1H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 159.6, 153.2, 141.9, 131.9, 128.2, 121.4, 120.9, 119.1, 118.1, 84.4, 81.7, 80.5, 80.2. M/z:

(El<sup>+</sup>) 194.0 [M]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>: 194.0362; found: 194.0364. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2970, 2105, 2093, 1694, 1562, 1368, 1245, 1082, 967, 855, 776.

## 4.4 CuAAC reaction

Azide substrate (5) (1.30 g, 5.0 mmol) and alkyne substrate (6a-c, 12) (2.0 mmol) were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (5 mL). Copper (I) iodide (38 mg, 0.2 mmol) and TBTA (159 mg, 0.3 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight (16 h). During work-up, deionised water (50 mL) was added into the reaction flask. Ethyl acetate was used to extract the crude product ( $3 \times 50$  mL). After washing with Brine and removing water using magnesium sulfate, the product was concentrated by rotary evaporator. Flash chromatography was employed to purify the crude product (hexane/EtOAc as the eluent). The appropriate fractions were combined together, and the solvents were removed under reduced pressure to give the corresponding triazole compounds.

#### 1,4-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene



(7a)  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  white solid (68% yield),  $R_f = 0.63$ (hexane/EtOAc, 4:1). mp 156 – 159 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.94 (dd, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.83 (s, 4H), 7.79 (s, 2H), 7.47 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.38 (td, J = 7.4, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28 (s, 2H), 5.92 (s, 4H), 1.38 (s, 24H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 147.2, 140.8,

136.7, 131.9, 130.4, 129.3, 127.9, 125.9, 119.9, 84.2, 53.4, 24.9.  $\delta_B$  (128 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 31.3. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 645.4 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula  $C_{36}H_{43}B_2N_6O_4^{+}$ : 645.3536; found: 645.3538. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2923, 1592, 1541, 1483, 1452, 1398, 1272, 1265, 1139, 953, 871, 643.

#### 1,3-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene



(7b)  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  white solid (52% yield),  $R_f = 0.52$  (hexane/EtOAc, 3:1). mp 170 – 171 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.08 (s, 1H), 7.85 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 2H), 7.67 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.40 – 7.32 (m, 3H), 7.32 – 7.24 (m,

2H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 5.83 (s, 4H), 1.27 (s, 24H).  $\delta_{c}$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 147.2, 140.8, 136.7, 131.9, 130.4, 129.3, 127.9, 125.9, 119.9, 84.2, 53.4, 24.9.  $\delta_{B}$  (128 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 31.2. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 645.4 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula  $C_{36}H_{43}B_2N_6O_4^+$ : 645.3536; found: 645.3540. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 2956, 1602, 1543, 1377, 1321, 1284, 1145, 1062, 1033, 954, 802, 774, 652.

#### 1,2-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene



(7c)  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  light brown solid (33% yield),  $R_f = 0.39$  (hexane/EtOAc, 4:1). mp 183 – 185 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.90 (dd, J = 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.73 – 7.70 (m, 2H), 7.46 – 7.38 (m, 4H), 7.34 (dd, J = 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (s, 2H), 7.12 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 5.78 (s, 4H), 1.35 (s, 24H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 147.2, 140.8, 136.7, 131.9, 130.4, 129.3, 127.9, 125.9, 119.9, 84.2,

53.4, 24.9.  $\delta_{B}$  (128 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 31.0. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 645.4 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula C<sub>36</sub>H<sub>43</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>: 645.3536; found: 645.3538. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup>2947, 1586, 1578, 1442, 1358, 1272, 1243, 1131, 977, 669.

#### 6,7-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-2H-



**chromen-2-one (13)**  $C_{39}H_{42}B_2N_6O_6$  white solid (36% yield),  $R_f = 0.35$  (PE/EtOAc, 3:1). mp 191 – 192 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.91 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.41 (td, J = 3.7, 1.8 Hz, 3H), 7.38 – 7.30 (m, 3H), 7.15 (dd, J = 7.3, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (s, 2H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 1.33 (s, 12H), 1.32 (s, 12H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 160.5, 153.5, 144.8, 142.9, 140.9, 140.6, 136.8, 136.8, 133.5, 131.8, 129.6, 129.0,

128.8, 127.9, 127.8, 126.4, 123.3, 123.1, 118.6, 117.9, 117.3, 84.2, 53.4, 53.3, 24.9.  $\delta_B$  (128 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 31.2. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 713.3 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>43</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>: 713.3425; found: 713.3438. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup>2947, 1743, 1712, 1553, 1467, 1262, 1198, 1124, 963, 769.

## 4.5 Pinacol deprotection

The synthesised triazole substrate (64.4 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL 1,4-dioxane. *o*-Tolylboronic acid (163.0 mg, 1.20 mmol) and aq HCl (5 M, 2 mL) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 100 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed by rotatory evaporator. The crude product was washed with ethyl acetate, acetonitrile and diethyl ether for multiple times. The final purification was performed by flash chromatography (DCM/methanol as the eluent) to afford the free boronic acid products.

#### (((1,4-Phenylenebis(1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic



acid (8a)  $C_{24}H_{22}B_2N_6O_4$  white solid (81% yield),  $R_f = 0.60$  (DCM/methanol, 95:5). mp 136 – 139 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, MeOD) 8.58 (s, 2H), 7.94 (s, 4H), 7.59 – 7.37 (m, 8H), 5.82 (s, 4H).  $\delta_C$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 145.1, 137.3, 133.0, 129.5, 129.3, 127.9,

126.9, 126.5, 122.9, 55.1.  $\delta_B$  (128 MHz, MeOD) 29.3. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 481.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>23</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>: 481.1961; found: 481.1968. *v*/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3307, 3148, 3064, 2924, 1598, 1568, 1496, 1480, 1444, 1378, 1346, 1266, 1246, 1130.

#### (((1,3-Phenylenebis(1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic



acid (8b)  $C_{24}H_{22}B_2N_6O_4$  white solid (88% yield),  $R_f$  = 0.72 (DCM/methanol, 9:1). mp 149 – 151 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, MeOD)

8.19 (s, 2H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 7.69 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.7 Hz, 2H), 7.41 – 7.24 (m, 9H), 5.60 (s, 4H).  $\delta_{C}$  (101 MHz, MeOD) 148.2, 139.4, 133.7, 132.0, 130.9, 130.7, 130.3, 129.0, 126.7, 124.0, 122.9, 55.6.  $\delta_{B}$  (128 MHz, MeOD) 29.3. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 481.2 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula  $C_{24}H_{23}B_2N_6O_4^{+}$ : 481.1961; found: 481.1966. v/cm<sup>-1</sup> 3318, 3137, 1599, 1571, 1446, 1376, 1325, 1277, 1250, 1132, 1079, 1049, 1028, 973, 793, 754, 690.

#### (((1,2-Phenylenebis(1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic



acid (8c)  $C_{24}H_{22}B_2N_6O_4$  white solid (72% yield),  $R_f = 0.69$ (DCM/methanol, 9:1). mp 164 – 165 °C.  $\delta_H$  (300 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) 8.35 (s, 4H), 7.70 (s, 2H), 7.68 – 7.60 (m, 4H), 7.51 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.32 (pd, J = 7.4, 1.6 Hz, 4H), 6.91 (dd, J = 6.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 5.73 (s, 4H). δC (101 MHz, MeOD) 146.1, 138.1, 132.3, 129.7, 129.4, 128.5, 127.4, 123.2, 119.4, 115.0, 53.8.  $\delta_B$  (128 MHz, MeOD)

29.2. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) 503.2 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. High resolution MS calc. for formula  $C_{24}H_{22}B_2N_6O_4Na^+$ : 503.1781; found: 503.1785. v/cm<sup>-1</sup>3314, 3139, 2944, 1596, 1577, 1450, 1369, 1267, 1130, 974, 672.

#### ((((2-Oxo-2H-chromene-6,7-diyl)bis(1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-



**phenylene))diboronic acid (14)** C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub> white solid (77% yield), R<sub>f</sub> = 0.42 (DCM/methanol, 95:5). mp 172 – 173 °C.  $\delta_{\rm H}$  (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) 8.35 (s, 2H), 8.33 (s, 2H), 8.13 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.86 (s, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 – 7.30 (m, 4H), 6.97 (dd, *J* = 6.9, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 6.57 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (s, 2H), 5.75 (s, 2H).  $\delta_{\rm C}$  (101 MHz, DMSO-*d*6) 160.3, 153.6, 144.1, 140.3, 140.0, 134.9, 133.6, 130.6, 130.2,

129.1, 128.2, 128.0, 127.6, 127.5, 124.8, 124.4, 119.0, 117.4, 116.9, 53.4.  $\delta_B$  (128 MHz, DMSO-*d6*) 29.2. M/z: (ES<sup>+</sup>) [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 571.2. High resolution MS calc. for formula C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>22</sub>B<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na<sup>+</sup>: 571.1679; found: 571.1687. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3308, 3148, 2924, 1714, 1624, 1441, 1335, 1055, 904, 831, 758, 714.

5. NMR spectra of the synthesised compounds



2-(2-(Azidomethyl)phenyl)-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (5) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum









1,2-Bis((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)benzene <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum





1,2-Diethynylbenzene (6c) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum

1,2-Diethynylbenzene (6c) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum



2-Oxo-2*H*-chromene-6,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (10) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum





2-Oxo-2H-chromene-6,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (10) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

## 2-Oxo-2*H*-chromene-6,7-diyl bis(trifluoromethanesulfonate) (10) <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum









6,7-Bis((trimethylsilyl)ethynyl)-2H-chromen-2-one (11) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

6,7-Diethynyl-2*H*-chromen-2-one (12) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum









1,4-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum







### 1,4-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7a) <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum



1,3-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum



1,3-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7b) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

ppm

### 1,3-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7b) <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum





1,2-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7c) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum



#### 1,2-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7c)<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

31.01			BRUKER
>			Current Data Parameters NAME MIZ-32(MII4-0) EXPNO PROCINO
Ň <sup>N</sup> N O BO			F2 - Acquisition Parame Data20160212   Time 2.23   INSTRIM av 400   PROMEND 5 mm BBO HE-10 3.2784   TO 3.2784 acgo   TO 3.2784 100   DATE 3.2784   DATE 0.00   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004   DATE 0.000004
			cHARSEL f1 p1 7.33 p1 8.04 sp01 128.358354
Á			CRASSEL £2 CPD0950[2 waltz16 NTCC 2 100.00 p1.2 2.00 p1.12 23.22 p1.13 25.00 s3TC2 400.0720004
$\bigwedge$			#2 Processing paramets   SI 32763   SF 128.35836   MDM EM   SSB 0   LB 2.04   GB 0   FC 0.54
70 60 50 40 30 20	10 0 -10 -20	-30 -40 -50 -60 -5	70 -80 -90 ppm

## 1,2-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)benzene (7c) <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum



6,7-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-2*H*-chromen-2-one (13) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum



6,7-Bis(1-(2-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzyl)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-2H-chromen-2-one (13) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum



((((2-0xo-2*H*-chromene-6,7-diyl)bis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (14) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum

((((2-Oxo-2*H*-chromene-6,7-diyl)bis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (14) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum





(((1,4-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8a) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum



(((1,4-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8a) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum







(((1,3-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8b) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum



(((1,3-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8b) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

## (((1,3-Phenylenebis(1H-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8b) <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

(((1,2-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8c) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

(((1,2-Phenylenebis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-4,1-diyl))bis(methylene))bis(2,1-phenylene))diboronic acid (8c) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

## 6. X-Ray crystallographic information

The datasets were measured on an Agilent SuperNova diffractometer using an Atlas detector. The data collections were driven and processed and numerical absorption corrections based on gaussian integration over multifaceted crystal models were applied using CrysAlisPro.<sup>5</sup> The structures were solved using ShelXS <sup>6</sup> and refined by a fullmatrix least-squares procedure on F<sup>2</sup> in ShelXL.<sup>6</sup> All non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. All hydrogen atoms were added at calculated positions and refined by use of a riding model with isotropic displacement parameters based on the equivalent isotropic displacement parameter (U<sub>eq</sub>) of the parent atom. In **7a** the molecule is located on an inversion centre such that only half is crystallographically-unique. In **7c** the molecule is located on a 2-fold rotation axis such that only half is crystallographically-unique. Also in **7c** part of the boronic ester group O(1), O(2), C(2), C(3), C(5), C(6)/O(1'), O(2'), C(2'), C(3'), C(5'), C(6') is disordered over two positions, with the refined occupancy ratio being 0.813 (5) : 0.187 (5). Figures were produced using OLEX2.<sup>[7]</sup> The CIFs for **7a**, **7b**, and **7c** have been deposited with the CCDC and have been given the deposition numbers 1510897-1510899 respectively.

#### 6.1 Compound 7a

![](_page_47_Figure_3.jpeg)

Figure S 5. Crystal structure of **7a** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The molecule is located on an inversion centre such that only half is crystallographically-unique. Symmetry code used to generate equivalent atoms: (i): -x, 1-y, 2-z.

**Crystal Data** for **7a**,  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  (M=644.37 g/mol): monoclinic, space group P2<sub>1</sub>/n (no. 14), a = 6.27417(14) Å, b = 21.9593(5) Å, c = 12.6125(3) Å,  $\beta = 96.237(2)^\circ$ , V = 1727.42(7) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 2, T = 100.00(10) K,  $\mu$ (CuK $\alpha$ ) = 0.648 mm<sup>-1</sup>, *Dcalc* = 1.239 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 11755 reflections measured ( $8.052^\circ \le 2\Theta \le 140.132^\circ$ ), 3280 unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0263$ ,  $R_{sigma} = 0.0216$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0413 (I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1070 (all data).

## 6.2 Compound 7b

![](_page_48_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure S 6. Crystal structure of **7b** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level.

**Crystal Data** for **7b**,  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  (*M* =644.37 g/mol): orthorhombic, space group Pna2<sub>1</sub> (no. 33), *a* = 26.0090(3) Å, *b* = 6.56488(9) Å, *c* = 20.4434(3) Å, *V* = 3490.62(8) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 4, *T* = 100.00(10) K,  $\mu$ (CuK $\alpha$ ) = 0.642 mm<sup>-1</sup>, *Dcalc* = 1.226 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 13862 reflections measured (6.798°  $\leq 2\Theta \leq 149.176°$ ), 5551 unique (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.0217, R<sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0236) which were used in all calculations. The final *R*<sub>1</sub> was 0.0404 (I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)) and *wR*<sub>2</sub> was 0.1046 (all data).

## 6.3 Compound 7c

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_2.jpeg)

Figure S 7. Crystal structure of **7c** with ellipsoids drawn at the 50 % probability level. The molecule is located on a 2-fold rotation axis such that only half is crystallographically-unique. Part of the boronic ester group O(1), O(2), C(2), C(3), C(5), C(6)/O(1'), O(2'), C(2'), C(3'), C(5'), C(6') is disordered over two positions, with the refined occupancy ratio being 0.813 (5) : 0.187 (5). Symmetry code used to generate equivalent atoms: (i): -x, y, 0.5-z.

**Crystal Data** for **7c**,  $C_{36}H_{42}B_2N_6O_4$  (*M*=644.37 g/mol): monoclinic, space group C2/c (no. 15), *a* = 16.3223(5) Å, *b* = 12.4005(4) Å, *c* = 17.5981(5) Å, *β* = 103.806(3)°, *V* = 3459.04(19) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 4, *T* = 100.0(2) K,  $\mu$ (CuK $\alpha$ ) = 0.648 mm<sup>-1</sup>, *Dcalc* = 1.237 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 6813 reflections measured (9.054°  $\leq 2\Theta \leq 148.648°$ ), 3428 unique ( $R_{int} = 0.0204$ ,  $R_{sigma} = 0.0253$ ) which were used in all calculations. The final  $R_1$  was 0.0393 (I > 2 $\sigma$ (I)) and  $wR_2$  was 0.1023 (all data).

## 7. References for ESI

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