

Electronic supplementary information

## Highly Efficient Complexation of Sanguinarine Alkaloid by Carboxylatopillar[6]arene: $pK_a$ Shift, Increased Solubility and Enhanced Antibacterial Activity

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## 1. Materials and methods.

**CP5A** and **CP6A** were synthesized and purified according to our previously reported procedure.<sup>[S1]</sup> Sanguinarine chloride hydrate was purchased from Shanghai Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology Co.,LTD. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV500 instrument. 2D NOESY spectra were recorded on a Varian 700MHz instrument. The fluorescence emission spectra were determined by PERKINELMER LS-55, and the absorption spectra were recorded on Shimadzu UV2501-PC. Deuterated phosphate buffer solutions (20 mM) of pD 7.4 for <sup>1</sup>H NMR experiments were prepared by mixing K<sub>2</sub>DPO<sub>4</sub> Deuterium oxide solution (20 mM) and KD<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> Deuterium oxide solution (20 mM) according to the calculated volume ratios. Phosphate buffer solutions (20 mM) with different pH values for the fluorescence and UV-vis experiments were prepared by mixing Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> water solution (20 mM) and NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> water solution (20 mM) according to the calculated volume ratios. The pH/pD values of the buffer solutions were verified on a pH-meter calibrated with two standard buffer solutions. To measure the solubility of **SA** in the presence of **CP6A**, excess amount of **SA** (solid) was added into **CP6A**'s solutions with known concentrations in deuterated phosphate buffer (pD = 7.4). The mixtures were stirred for 24h to achieve the equilibrium. During this period, the solution pDs were monitored every 6h and adjusted back to 7.4 if they changed. During the first 6h, the pD values of the solutions were sometimes decreased by 0.1 unit. Then the insoluble **SA** was removed by centrifugation and the concentration of soluble **SA** was determined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR integration of **SA**'s resonances versus **CP6A**'s.

## 2. Copies of $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of CP6A.

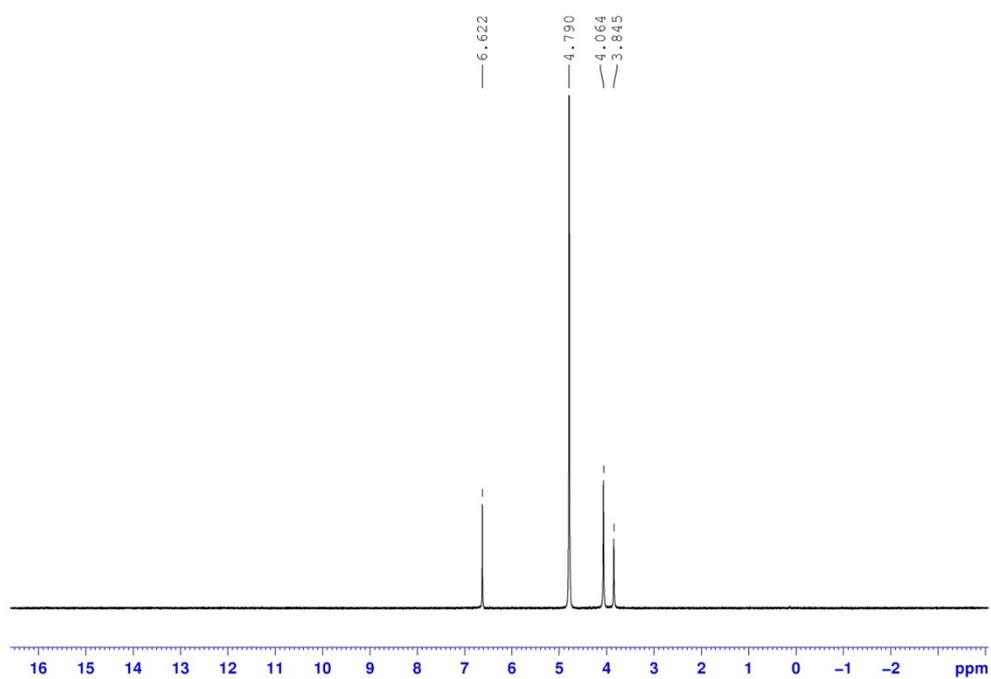


Fig. S1  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of CP6A in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$

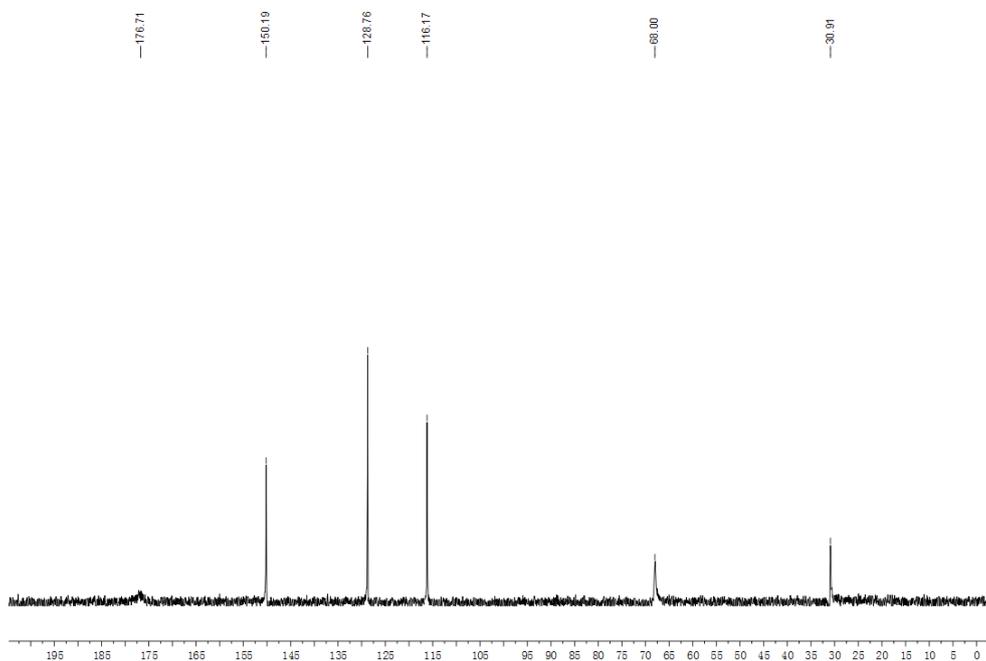


Fig. S2  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (125MHz) of CP6A in  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ .

### 3. $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra of SA in the absence and presence of CP5A.

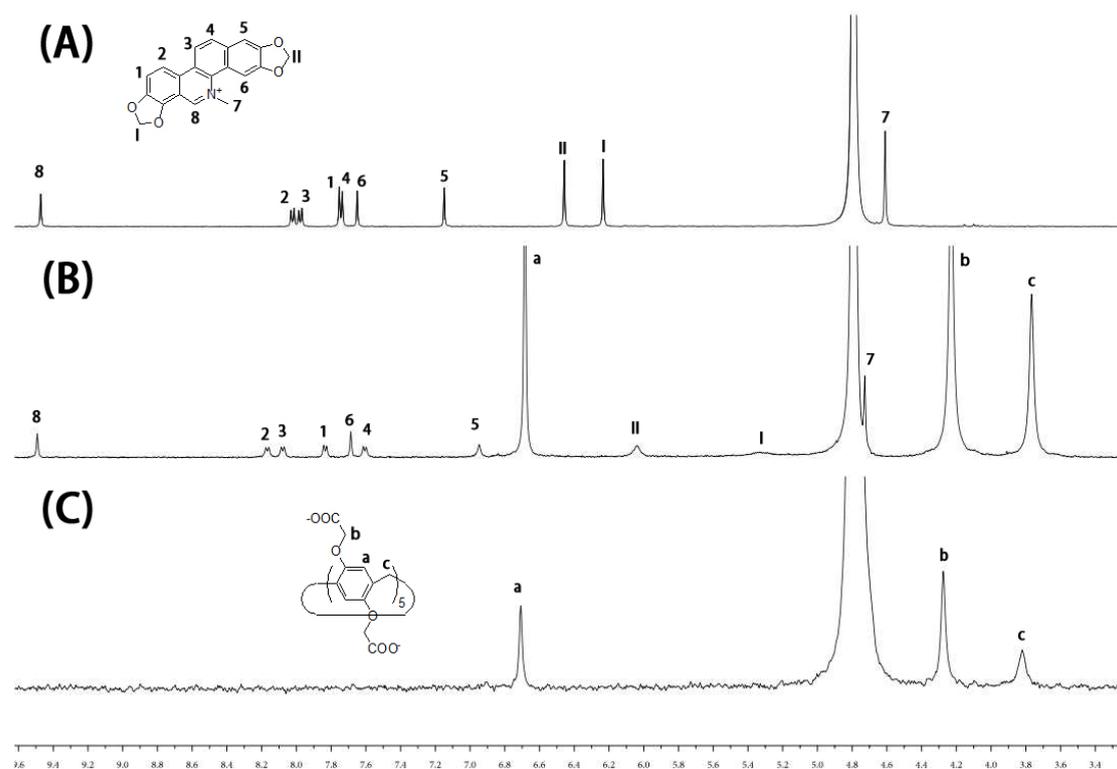


Fig. S3  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (500 MHz, 293 K) of (A) SA, (B) SA + CP5A and (C) CP5A in deuterated phosphate buffer (pD = 7.4).

#### 4. 2D NOESY spectrum of SA $\subset$ CP6A.

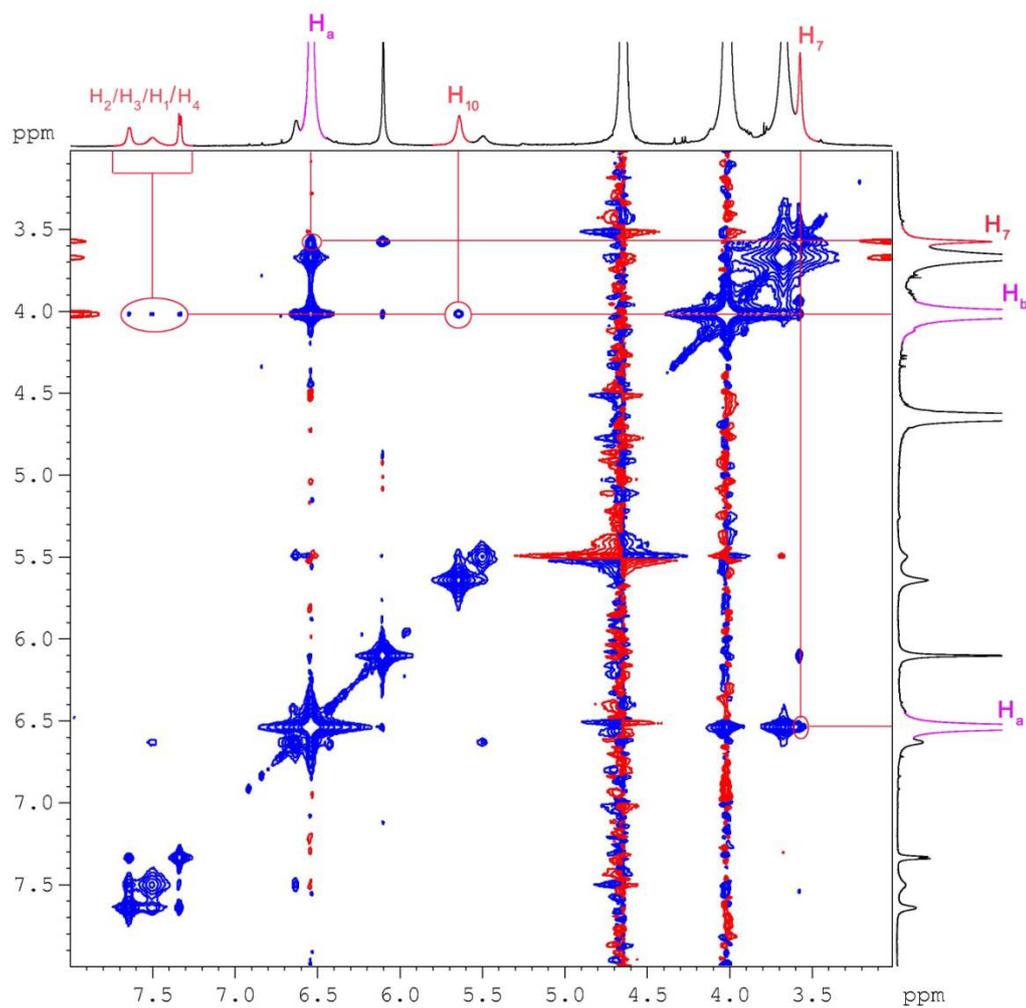


Fig. S4 2D NOESY analysis (700 MHz, 298 K) of SA with CP6A in deuterated phosphate buffer (pD = 7.4) with a mixing time of 400 ms. The concentrations of host and guest are 3.0 and 2.0 mM, respectively).

## 5. UV-vis spectra of SA in the absence and presence of CP6A.

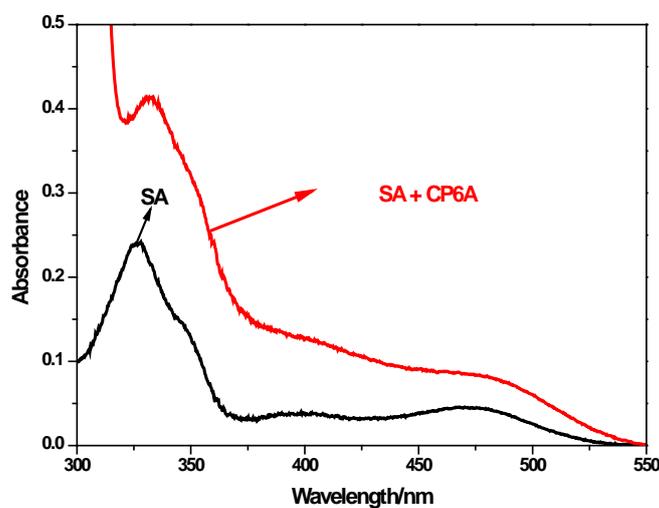


Fig. S5 The UV-vis spectra of **SA** in the absence (black line) and presence of 50 equiv. of **CP6A** (red line).

## 6. Job plot.

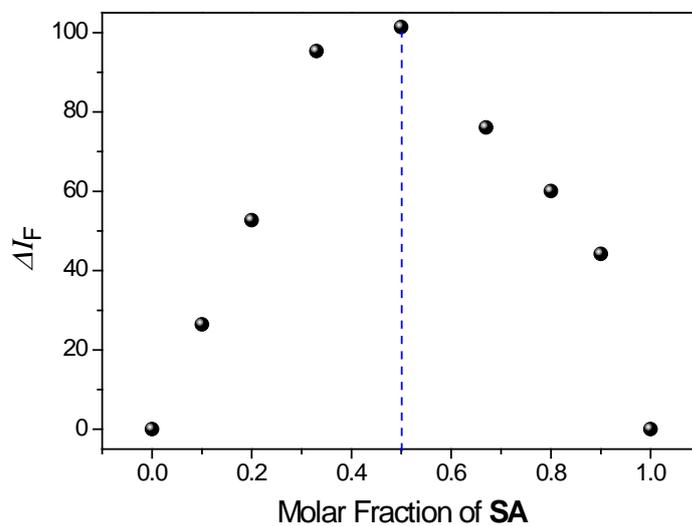


Fig. S6 Job plot showing the 1:1 stoichiometry of the complex between **SA** and **CP6A** in pH=7.4 buffer by plotting the  $\Delta I_F$  values at  $\lambda = 580$  nm against the mole fraction of **SA** ( $[\text{SA}] + [\text{CP6A}] = 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M).

## 7. Determination of the association constants

The presence of **CP6A** could quench **SA**'s fluorescence, so the association constants ( $K_a$ ) could be calculated by analyzing the fluorescence emission changes of **SA** that occurred with changes in host concentration. Using the nonlinear curve-fitting method, the association constant was obtained for host-guest combination from the following equation:

$$I = I_0 - \frac{0.5 \alpha \left( \frac{G_0}{2} + [\text{CP6A}] + \frac{1}{K_s} \right) - \sqrt{\left( \frac{G_0}{2} + [\text{CP6A}] + \frac{1}{K_s} \right) \left( \frac{G_0}{2} + [\text{CP6A}] + \frac{1}{K_s} \right) - 4 \frac{G_0}{2} X}}{2}$$

Where  $I$  is the fluorescence intensity of the system,  $I_0$  is the intensity of sanguiranine in the absence of **CP6A**,  $[\text{CP6A}]$  is the initial concentration of host.

For each guest examined, the plot of  $I$  as a function of  $[\text{CP6A}]$  gave an excellent fit ( $R > 0.98$ ), verifying the validity of the 1:1 inclusion complexation stoichiometry assumed.

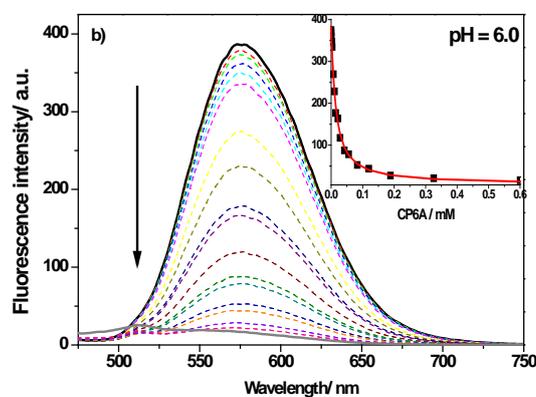
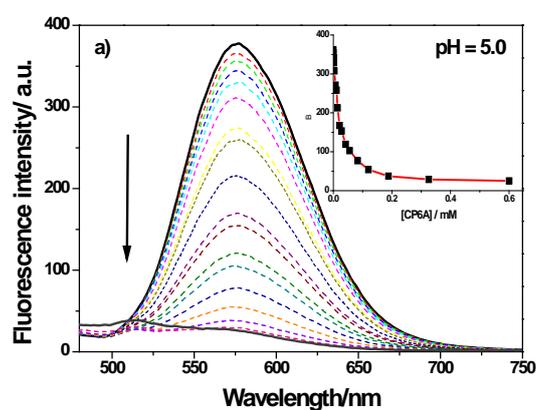


Fig. S7 Fluorescence spectra of **SA** in the absence and presence of **CP6A** in aqueous phosphate buffer solution at pH 5.0 (a) and pH 6.0 (b) at 298 K. The excitation wavelength is at 440 nm. Inset: the nonlinear least-squares analysis to calculate the association constant.

## 8. Antibacterial assay.

The MICs of compounds were determined by the broth microdilution method. Briefly, sterile 96-well plates (Corning, Inc., Corning, NY) were filled with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of sterile broth (pH 7.4) containing 3 g of Lab-Lemco Powder (Oxoid), 10 g of peptone (Oxoid), and 5 g of NaCl in deionized water to a final volume of 1 L. Then, portions (100  $\mu\text{L}$ ) of samples dissolved in saline at a concentration of 1000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  were added to the first line of plates, each sample repeated in triplicate, and two-fold serial dilutions resulting in final concentrations ranging from 0.25 to 160  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  were prepared with sterile broth. Diluted (1:1000) bacterial suspensions (10  $\mu\text{L}$ ; approximately  $1.0 \times 10^6$  CFU/mL) were then added to the plates and incubated with two-fold dilutions of samples at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 16 h with continuous shaking. The MIC was defined as the lowest concentration of compound required to completely inhibit bacterial growth.

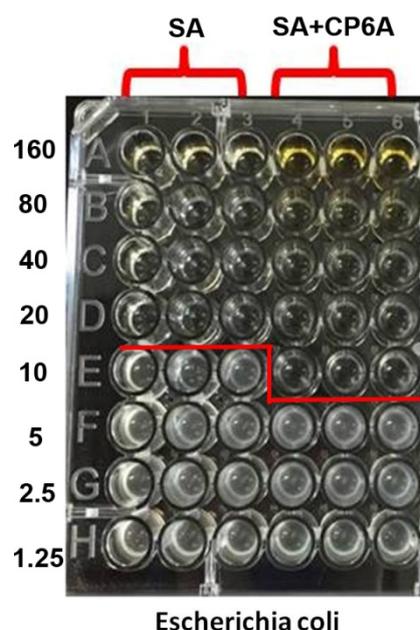


Fig. S8 Antibacterial assay (*E. coli*) of **SA** and 1:1 (molar ratio) **SA** + **CP6A**. The

concentration range of **SA** is changed from 160  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  to 1.25  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

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[S1] Chunju Li, Xiaoyan Shu, Jian Li, Songhui Chen, Kang Han, Min Xu, Bingjie Hu, Yihua Yu and Xueshun Jia, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2011, **76**, 8458–8465.