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Supporting information

Controlling interfacial interaction of supramolecular assemblies

by light-responsive overcrowded alkene

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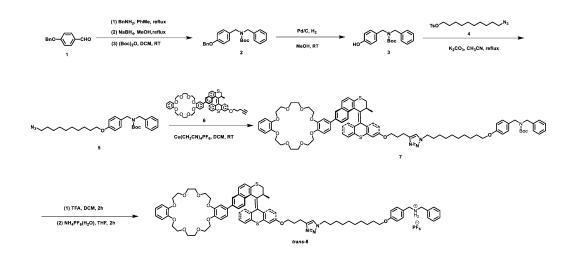
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1. Experiments Section

1.1 General Methods and Details

Chemicals were purchased from Acros, Aldrich, TCI, Adamas, or Merck and used as received unless otherwise stated. Solvents were reagent grade, which were dried and distilled prior to use according to standard procedures. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of dry argon unless otherwise stated. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹H-¹H COSY spectra were measured on a Brüker AV-400 and AV-600 spectrometer. The electronic spray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were tested on a LCT Premier XE mass spectrometer. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded on Varian Cary 100 spectrometer (1 cm, quartz cells). The UV light resource were obtained on a Perfect Light PL-LED 100. DLS were measured on MALV RN, ZETA SIZER, Model ZEN3600, 303K. SEM images were recorded on a 500-300000/GeminiSEM 500 apparatus. TEM images were recorded on a JEOL JEM-1400 apparatus, and the samples were prepared by casting dilute solution on copper sheet.

1.2 Synthesis of target monomer trans-8



Scheme S1. Synthetic route of trans-8

Compound **1**, Compound **4** and compound **6** were synthesized according to previous reports¹⁻³.

Synthesis of compound 2

A mixture of compound **1** (2.50 g, 11.79 mmol) and benzylamine (1.26 g, 11.79 mmol) in dry toluene (70 mL) was heated under reflux for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (45 mL), NaBH₄ (0.89 g, 23.53 mmol) was added under ice bath, and the mixture was stirred for 4 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and 2 N NaOH solution. The aqueous layer was further extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The obtained oil was stirred together with (Boc)₂O (3.85 g, 17.68 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ for 5 h at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, PE/EA = 5/1) to afford compound **2** (3.60g, 76%) as a white oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298K) δ (ppm): 7.38-7.45 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.07-7.29 (m, 5H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.07 (s, 2H), 4.27-4.40 (m, 4H), 1.50 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 158.21, 156.11, 137.15, 130.48, 129.51, 128.98, 128.71, 128.62, 128.09, 127.59, 127.29, 114.99,

80.12, 70.18, 49.20, 48.52, 28.60. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{26}H_{29}NO_3$, 426.2045, found 426.2043.

Synthesis of compound 3

A mixture of compound **2** (0.80 g, 2.0 mmol) and Pd/C (5%) (cat) in MeOH (30 mL) was stirred under H₂ (130 mL/min) atmosphere for 4 h. The resulting mixture was filtered over celite to remove Pd/C, and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford compound **3** (0.58 g, 93%) as a white oil. 1 H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) δ (ppm) : 9.35 (s, 1H), 7.20-7.35 (m, 5H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.10-4.30 (m, 4H), 1.39 (s, 9H). 13 C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 156.54, 155.06, 128.90, 128.43, 128.11, 127.32, 127.02, 79.09, 48.60, 28.04. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₉H₂₃NO₃, 336.1576, found 336.1563.

Synthesis of compound 5

To a solution of compound **3** (300 mg, 0.96 mmol) in CH₃CN was added compound **4** (338 mg, 0.96 mmol) and potassium carbonate (397 mg, 2.87 mmol). The mixture was refluxed under argon atmosphere for 10 h, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL) and washed with brine (50 mL), water (50 mL), then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, PE/EA = 10/1) to afford compound **5** (408 mg, 86%) as a white oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ (ppm): 7.04-7.34 (m, 7H), 6.85 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.26-4.39 (m, 4H), 3.94 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 1.74-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.56-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.50 (s, 9H), 1.32 (s, 12H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 158.55, 156.13, 129.93, 129.50, 128.95, 128.62, 128.08, 127.54, 127.28, 114.60, 80.11, 68.14, 51.61, 48.75, 29.90, 29.58, 29.54, 29.48, 29.41, 29.26, 28.96, 28.60, 26.84, 26.17. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₉H₄₂N₄O₃, 517.3155, found 517.3147.

Synthesis of compound 7

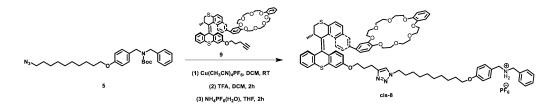
To a solution of compound 5 (247 mg, 0.50 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ was added compound 6 (468 mg, 0.50 mmol) and Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ (187 mg, 0.50 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL), then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 20/1) to afford compound **7** (630 mg, 88%) as a yellowish solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) δ (ppm): 7.64 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H), 7.16-7.21 (m, 6H), 7.13 (d, J = 1.6 Hz,1H), 7.10 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96-7.06 (m, 7H), 6.84 (dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 = 8.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.60-6.65 (m, 1H), 6.31-6.36 (m, 2H),4.20-4.31 (m, 14H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 3H), 3.85 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 8H), 3.63-4.20-4.31 (m, 14H), 4.00-4.05 (m, 3H), 3.85 (t, J = 13.2 Hz, 2H), 3.72 (s, 8H), 3.63-4.203.66 (m, 1H), 3.56 (s, 8H), 3.04 (dd, J = 11.2 Hz, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 2.87 (s, 2H), 2.15 (s, 2H), 1.81 (s, 2H), 1.65-1.72 (m, 2H), 1.41 (s, 9H), 1.21-1.26 (m, 12H), 0.72 (d, J = 6.8Hz, 3H). 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 158.50, 157.63, 156.11, 148.28, 148.08, 147.64, 138.71, 138.27, 138.10, 137.46, 135.64, 135.57, 135.46, 135.18, 134.05, 132.24, 131.73, 131.20, 130.19, 129.86, 129.46, 129.13, 128.90, 128.60, 128.50, 128.05, 127.83, 127.51, 127.26, 126.55, 126.14, 125.58, 125.21, 125.18, 124.83, 124.57, 124.48, 124.08, 123.60, 123.46, 122.08, 116.74, 116.58, 116.36, 115.43, 115.39, 114.56, 113.25, 113.19, 80.09, 69.22, 69.01, 68.69, 68.50, 68.09, 67.43, 67.26, 49.09, 48.69, 48.38, 37.34, 32.03, 31.88, 31.60, 31.54, 30.36, 30.28, 30.24, 29.87, 29.80, 29.76, 29.53, 29.46, 29.43, 29.37, 29.08, 28.87, 28.57, 26.62, 26.27, 26.13, 22.80, 19.17, 14.24. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): $[M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{85}H_{98}N_4O_{12}S_2$, 1453.6520, found 1453.6511.

Synthesis of compound trans-8

To a solution of compound 7 (286 mg, 0.20 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ was added TFA (228 mg, 2.00 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere for 3 h, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Then to a

solution of the residue in THF was added saturated aqueous solution of NH₄PF₆ (10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 25 mL) and washed with deionized water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to afford compound trans-8 (263 mg, 89%) as a yellowish solid without further purification. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) δ (ppm) : 9.07 (s, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.51 (m, 10H), 7.31 (dd, J = 9.6 Hz, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, J = 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93-7.02 (m, 6H), 6.86-6.89 (m, 2H), 6.77-6.81 (m, 1H), 6.50 (t, J = 14.8 Hz, 1H), 6.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (t, J = 14.0 Hz, 2H), 4.17-4.20 (m, 2H), 4.03-4.13 (m, 12H), 3.98-4.02 (m, 1H), 3.92-3.97 (m, 2H), 3.83-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.75-3.79 (m, 8H), 3.68 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 8H), 3.15 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (t, J = 14.8 Hz, 2H), 2.04-2.11 (m, J = 14.8 Hz, 2H), 2.04-2.11 (m,2H), 1.74-1.81 (m, 2H), 1.65-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.23 (s, 12H), 0.65 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 159.22, 157.27, 148.75, 148.47, 148.14, 146.01, 138.35, 136.48, 135.38, 135.29, 134.34, 133.59, 132.52, 131.88, 131.62, 131.39, 131.25, 130.29, 129.95, 129.21, 129.03, 128.73, 128.31, 127.96, 127.62, 126.63, 126.27, 125.71, 125.59, 124.50, 124.47, 124.11, 123.34, 121.91, 121.67, 121.15, 119.25, 114.51, 114.17, 114.02, 113.47, 112.84, 112.32, 70.42, 69.18, 68.91, 68.83, 68.69, 67.52, 67.06, 54.94, 49.81, 49.67, 49.18, 36.17, 31.32, 30.99, 29.70, 29.22, 29.05, 28.88, 28.80, 28.73, 28.61, 28.47, 28.34, 28.13, 25.84, 25.49, 22.12, 21.59, 18.59, 13.98. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): $[M-PF_6]^+$ calcd for $C_{80}H_{91}F_6N_4O_{10}PS_2$ 1331.6177, found 1331.6166.

1.3 Synthesis of the reference compound cis-8



Scheme S2. Synthetic route of cis-8

To a solution of compound **5** (200 mg, 0.40 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ was added compound **9** (375 mg, 0.40 mmol) and Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ (150 mg, 0.40 mmol). The

mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h. The solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL), then the organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give the crude product. The residue was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ and TFA (456 mg, 4.00 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature under argon atmosphere for 3 h, and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. Then to a solution of the residue in THF was added saturated aqueous solution of NH₄PF₆(10 mL). The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 25 mL) and washed with deionized water. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo to give crude product which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH = 20/1$) to afford compound cis-8 (484 mg, 82%) as a yellowish solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO, 298K) δ (ppm) : 9.00 (s, 2H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J =8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.32-7.45 (m, 11H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.92-7.00 (m, 6H), 6.85-6.88 (m, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.8Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 2.4Hz, 1H), 4.17-4.23 (m, 4H), 4.02-4.09 (m, 12H), 3.91-3.96 (m, 2H), 3.84-3.89 (m, 2H), 3.76 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 8H), 3.67 (s, 8H), 3.14 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 1H), 1.63-1.80 (m, 6H), 1.42-1.52 (m, 2H), 1.09-1.20(m, 12H), 0.65 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (DMSO, 100 MHz, 298 K) δ (ppm): 159.01, 156.65, 148.74, 148.46, 148.12, 135.65, 135.42, 135.29, 135.19, 134.74, 134.34, 132.68, 132.52, 131.38, 131.29, 131.18, 130.34, 130.30, 130.11, 129.68, 129.38, 129.05, 128.72, 128.64, 127.91, 127.65, 127.57, 127.53, 127.03, 126.72, 125.74, 124.58, 124.18, 121.13, 119.31, 114.45, 114.21, 114.05, 113.10, 112.41, 111.86, 70.85, 70.40, 70.38, 69.86, 69.15, 68.90, 68.83, 68.69, 67.48, 66.84, 49.09, 36.17, 31.27, 30.97, 29.62, 29.20, 29.18, 29.07, 29.02, 28.96, 28.94, 28.83, 28.75, 28.69, 28.62, 28.59, 28.30, 28.09, 26.54, 25.78, 25.69, 25.45, 25.10, 24.65, 22.08, 21.33, 21.05, 18.63, 13.94. HR-MS (ESI) (m/z): $[M-PF_6]^+$ calcd for $C_{80}H_{91}F_6N_4O_{10}PS_2$ 1331.6177, found 1331.6184.

2. Structural characterization of trans-8

2.1 ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of trans-8 before adding DBU

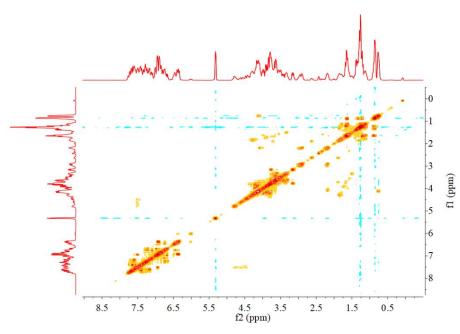


Figure S1 ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of trans-8 (600 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K)

2.2 ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of trans-8 after adding DBU

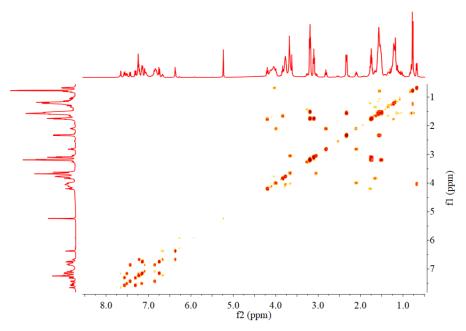


Figure S2. ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum of *trans-8* after adding one equiv DBU (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K)

3. Photo- and thermal-isomerization behaviors of trans-8 in dichloromethane-d₂

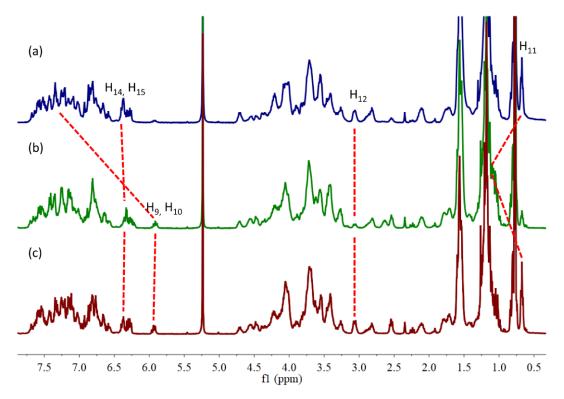


Figure S3. ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, 20 mM, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K). (a) *trans*-8 before UV irradiation; (b) *trans*-8 after UV irradiation (365 nm) for 2 h; (c) *trans*-8 after UV irradiation (365 nm) for 2 h and then heated 60°C for 24 h

4. UV-vis absorption spectra and DLS data of trans-8

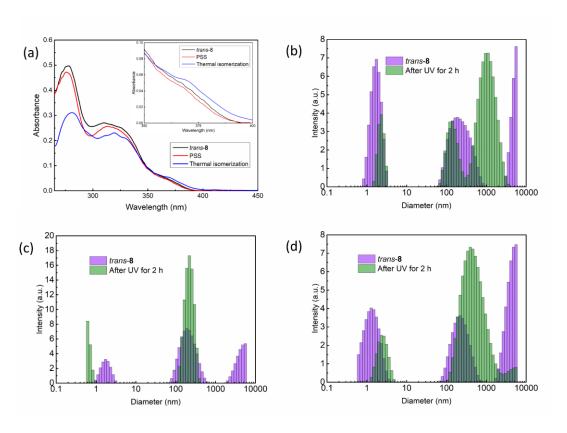


Figure S4. (a) UV-vis absorption spectra (DMSO, 298 K) of *trans-8* (black line), after UV irradiation (photoisomerization, red line) and heating (thermal isomerization, blue line). DLS data of *trans-8* and after UV for 2 h in different solvents: (b) THF (1.00 mM); (c) acetone (0.01 mM); (d) DCM (0.01 mM)

5. SEM images of *trans-8* before and after UV irradiation in tetrahydrofuran

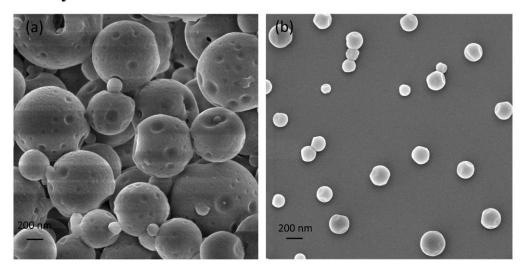


Figure S5. SEM images of *trans-8* aggregates in THF ($c = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ M): (a) before UV (365 nm) irradiation; (b) after UV (365 nm) irradiation for 2 h.

6. TEM images of *trans-8* before and after UV irradiation in acetone

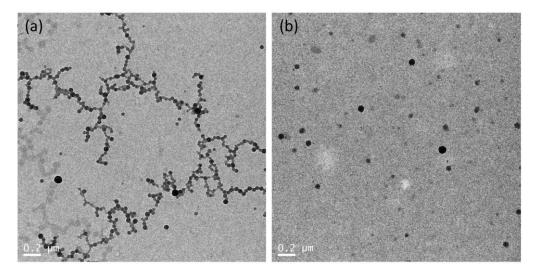


Figure S6. TEM images of *trans-8* aggregates in acetone ($c = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$): (a) before UV (365 nm) irradiation (b) after UV (365 nm) irradiation for 2 h.

7. Solubility of trans-8 in different solvents

Table S1. Solubility of trans-8 in different solvents

Solvent	Solubility
THF	15 mg mL ⁻¹
CH ₃ OCH ₃	228 mg mL ⁻¹
DCM	$> 510 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$

8. TEM and SEM images of cis-8 before and after UV irradiation

in tetrahydrofuran

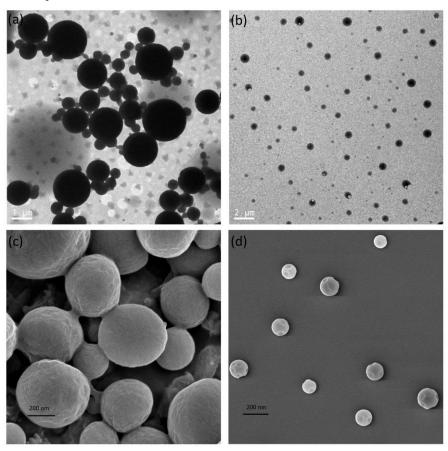


Figure S7. TEM images of *cis-***8** aggregates ($c = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ M): (a) before UV (365nm) irradiation; (b) after UV (365 nm) irradiation for 2 h. SEM images of *cis-***8** aggregates ($c = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ M): (c) before UV (365 nm) irradiation; (d) after UV (365 nm) irradiation for 2 h.

9. pH-responsive behavior of trans-8

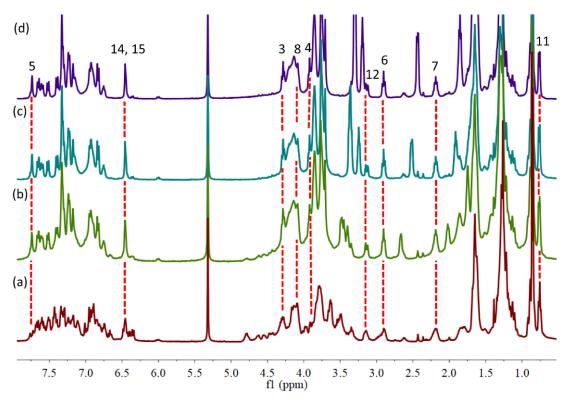


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 298 K) of 20 mM *trans*-8 upon adding DBU: a) 0 equiv; b) 0.5 equiv; c) 1.0 equiv; d) 1.5 equiv.

10. References

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- (3) J. J. Yu, L. Y. Zhao, Z. T. Shi, Q. Zhang, G. London, W. J. Liang, C. Gao, M. M. Li, X. M. Cao, H. Tian, B. L. Feringa, D. H. Qu, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2019, **84**, 5790-5802.

11. Appendix

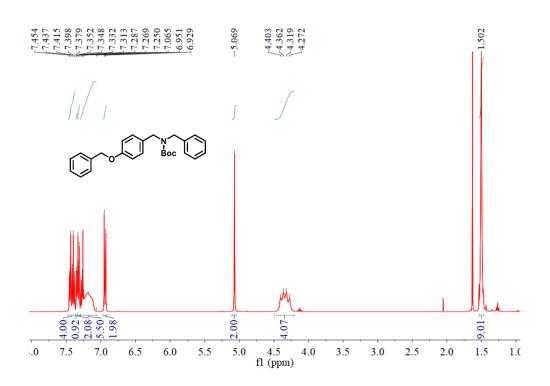


Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 2

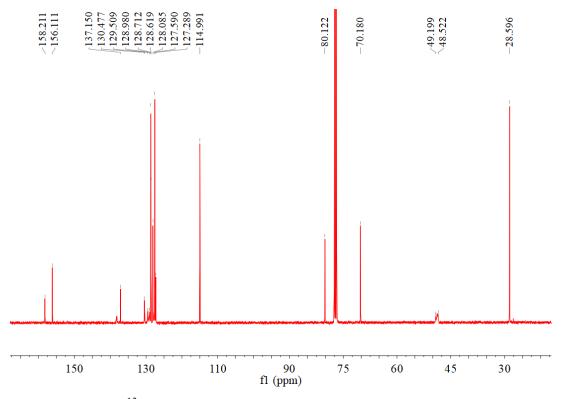


Figure S10. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 2

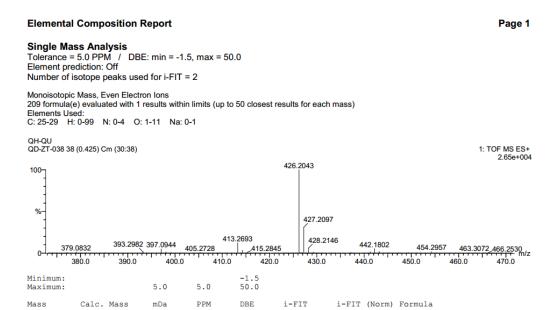


Figure S11. ESI-MS spectrum of compound 2

231.2

0.0

C26 H29 N O3 Na

426.2043

426.2045

-0.2

-0.5

12.5

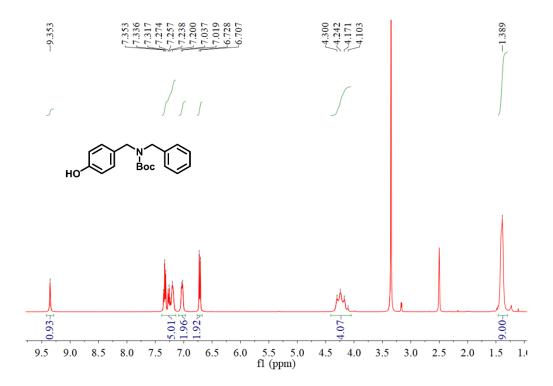


Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of compound **3**

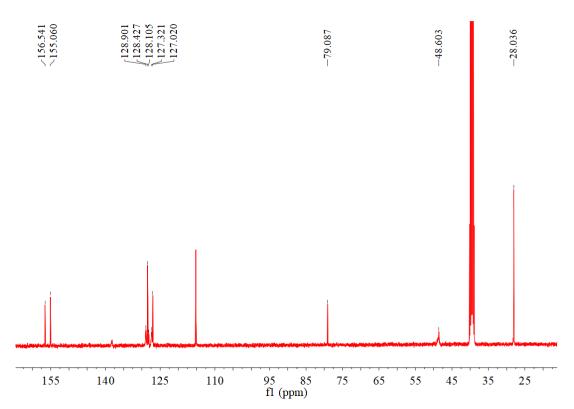


Figure S13. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of compound **3**

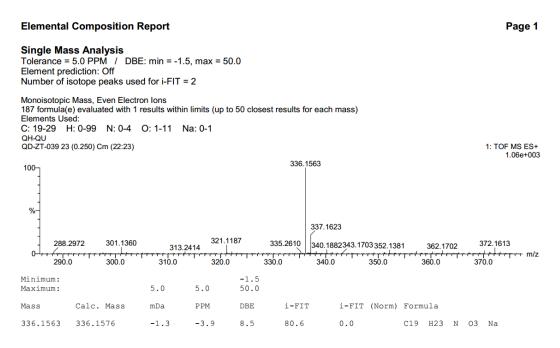


Figure S14. ESI-MS spectrum of compound 3

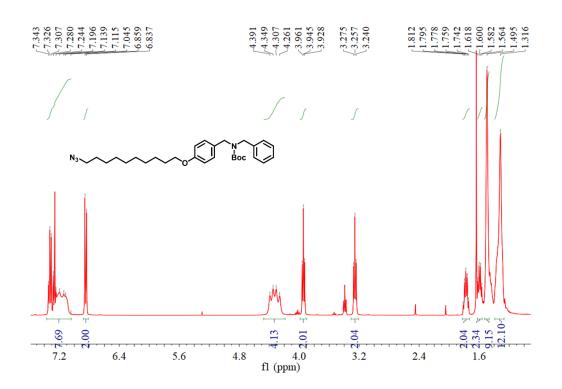


Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 5

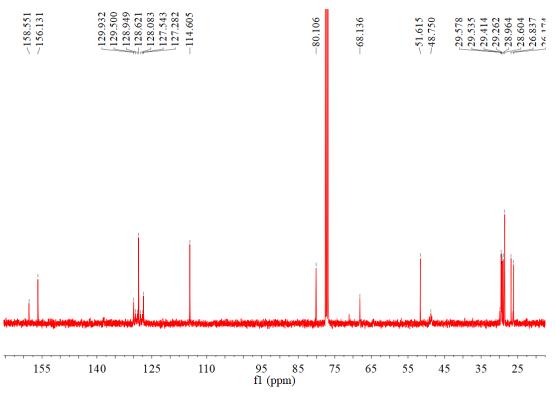


Figure S16. 13 C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 5

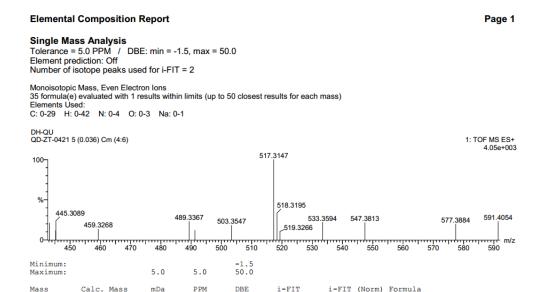


Figure S17. ESI-MS spectrum of compound 5

0.0

C29 H42 N4 O3 Na

517.3155

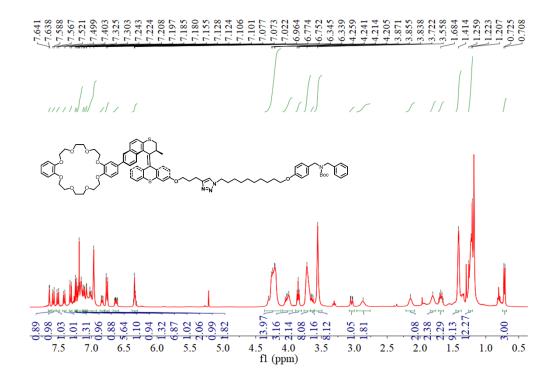


Figure S18. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 7

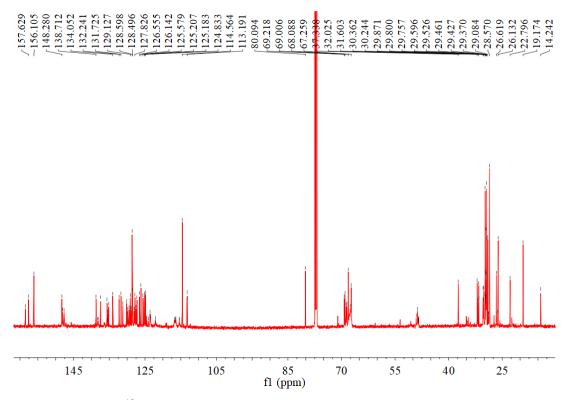


Figure S19. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of compound 7

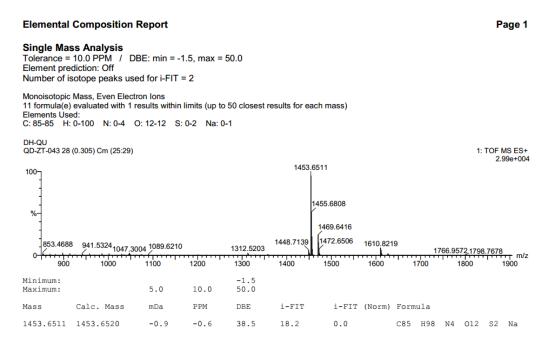


Figure S20. ESI-MS spectrum of compound 7

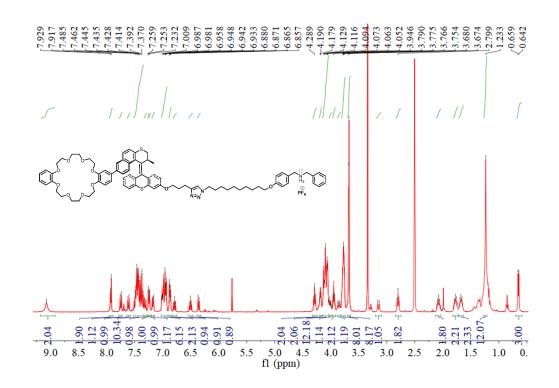


Figure S21. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of trans-8

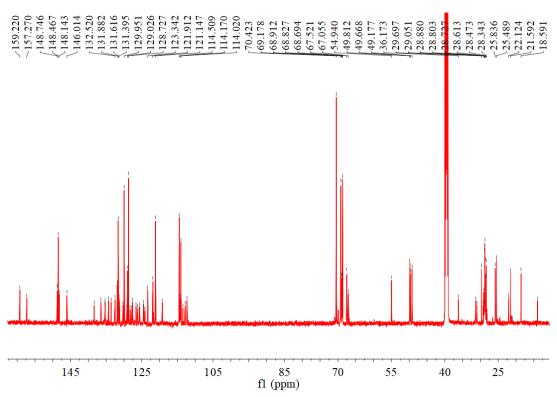


Figure S22. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of trans-8

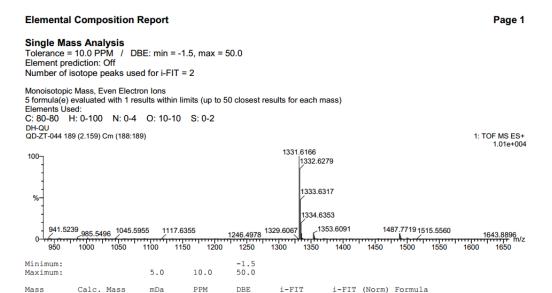


Figure S23. ESI-MS spectrum of trans-8

17.7

0.0

C80 H91 N4 O10 S2

37.5

-0.8

1331.6166 1331.6177

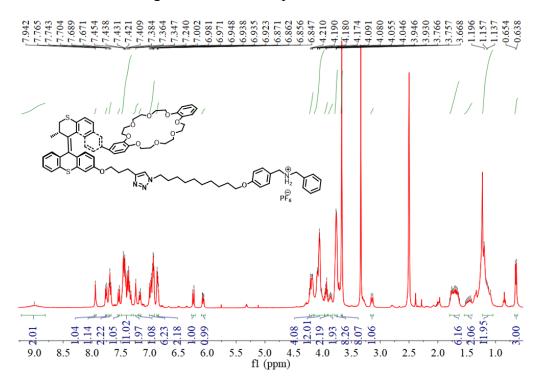


Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of cis-8

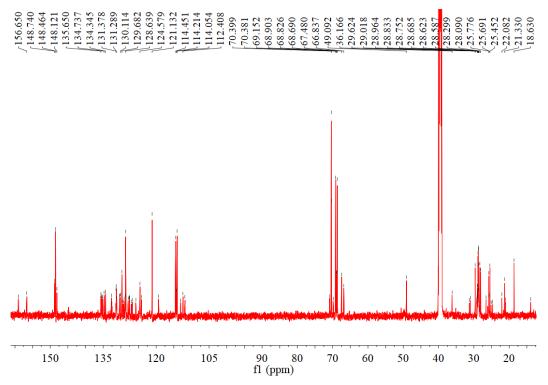


Figure S25. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, DMSO, 298 K) of cis-8

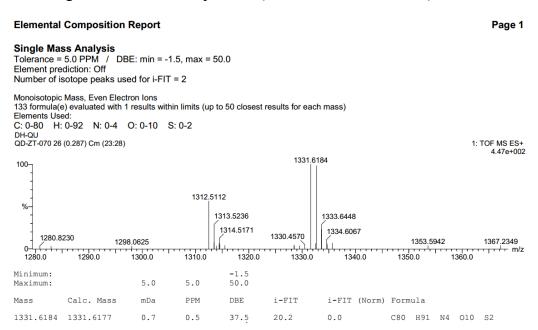


Figure S26. ESI-MS spectrum of cis-8