Electronic Supplementary Information

Strapping a benzaldehyde-appended 2,2'-bis-dipyrrin Zn(II) doublestranded helicate using imine bond formation

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Synthesis



5-(4-formylphenyl)dipyrrin was synthesized as described.¹ ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 25 °C on a Bruker AV500 (500 MHz) or AV400 (400 MHz) with the deuterated solvent as the internal reference. NMR chemical shifts and *J* values are given in parts per million (ppm) and in Hertz, respectively. Mass spectrometry was performed by the Service commun d'analyse (University of Strasbourg).

Complex **2**: To a CHCl₃ (50 mL) solution of 5-(4-formylphenyl)dipyrrin (0.83 g; 3.34 mmol), a MeOH (50 mL) solution of Ni(OAc)₂.4H₂O (0.42 g; 1.67 mmol) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. It was then evaporated under reduced pressure and the residue was washed with MeOH affording complex **2** as a dark red solid (0.76 g, 82%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.96 (s, 4H, pyrroleH), 10.10 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.30 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 7.91 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, PhH), 7.52 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.9 Hz, PhH), 6.67 (s, *J* = 3.8 Hz 4H, pyrroleH). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 191.8, 175.7, 149.2, 142.8, 141.6, 139.4, 136.9, 136.6, 131.2, 128.8. Single crystals were obtained by *n*-pentane vapor diffusion into a THF solution of the complex.



Fig. ESI1 ¹H-NMR spectrum of complex 2 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI2 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of complex 2 in CDCl₃.

Complex **3**: A toluene (150 mL) solution of DDQ (0.34 g; 1.49 mmol) was added dropwise to a toluene (200 mL) solution of complex **2** (0.75 g; 1.36mmol). The color of the mixture turned from red to brown, upon heating at reflux for 24 hours. After evaporation under reduced pressure, the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/Cyclohexane: 9/1) affording the desired compound **3** as a red solid (0.6 g, 80%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.14 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.00 (d, 4H, J = 8.2 Hz, PhH), 7.73 (d, 4H, J = 8.2 Hz, PhH), 6.73 (d, 2H, J = 4.7 Hz, pyrroleH), 6.68 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz, pyrroleH), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz, pyrroleH), 6.46 (d, 2H, J = 4.7 Hz, pyrroleH), 5.94 (s, 2H, pyrroleH). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 191.9, 161.9, 154.1, 142.9, 141.7, 138.6, 136.7, 135.5, 134.7, 131.6, 130.0, 129.1, 117.8, 116.0. $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (CH₂Cl₂)/nm (ε /mol⁻¹.L.cm⁻¹) 302 (22700), 355 (24200), 418 (35400), 573 (12900), 775 (5600).: HRMS (ESI), m/z: [M]⁺ calcd. for C₃₂H₂₀N₄NiO₂: 550.0934, Found 550.0947.



Fig. ESI3 ¹H-NMR spectrum of complex 3 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI4 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of complex 3 in CDCl₃.

2,2'-bisdipyrrin **4**: A 12 M solution of HCl (20 mL) was added to a CHCl₃ (80 mL) solution of complex **3** (0.56 g; 1.02 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. Upon addition of a saturated Na₂CO₃ solution, the organic layer turned from green to dark blue. The mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 × 100 mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated affording 2,2'-bisdipyrrin **4** as a dark blue solid (0.5 g, 99%). Single crystals were obtained by slow evaporation of a solution of the complex in CHCl₃. $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.14 (s, 2H, CHO), 8.01(d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.64 (s, 2H, pyrroleH), 7.02(d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H, pyrroleH), 6.68 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 2H, pyrroleH), 6.52 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 2H, pyrroleH), 6.44 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 2H, pyrroleH). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 191.9, 153.1, 145.2, 143.5, 139.6, 139.0, 138.8, 136.6, 131.8, 131.7, 129.2, 126.5, 120.8, 116.7. $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (CH₂Cl₂)/nm (*s*/mol⁻¹.L.cm⁻¹): 258 (31300), 280 (26000), 332 (24300), 413 (22700), 591 (37600). HRMS (ESI), *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd. for C₃₂H₂₃N₄O₂: 495.1816, Found 495.1775.



Fig. ESI5 ¹H-NMR spectrum of 2,2'-bis-dipyrrin 4 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI6 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 2,2'-bis-dipyrrin 4 in CDCl₃.

Helicate 1: A MeOH (60 mL) solution of Zn(OAc)₂·2H₂O (78 mg; 0.36 mmol) was added to a CHCl₃ (60 mL) solution of ligand **4** (0.16 g; 0.32 mmol). Upon stirring for 24 hours at room temperature, the solution turned from dark blue to dark green. After evaporation under reduced pressure, the residue was washed with MeOH (3 × 50 mL) affording helicate **1** (0.17 g, 94%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 10.13 (s, 4H, CHO), 7.95 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, PhH), 7.75 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, PhH), 7.66 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, PhH), 7.22 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.8 Hz, PhH), 6.98 (s, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.51 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.44 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.35 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.31 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 191.9, 154.9, 150.4, 145.4, 144.8, 141.6, 140.9, 136.5, 132.9, 132.2, 132.2, 131.7, 128.7, 128.4, 118.4, 117.3. $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (CH₂Cl₂)/nm (ε/mol⁻¹ L cm⁻¹): 257 (71700), 284 (60800), 345 (60000), 432 (110200), 646 (66000) . HRMS (ESI), *m*/*z*: [M]⁺ calcd. for C₆₄H₄₀N₈O₄Zn₂: 1112.1750, Found 1112.1804.



Fig. ESI7 ¹H-NMR spectrum of helicate 1 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI8 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of helicate 1 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI 9 HSQC (top) and HMBC (bottom) correlation experiments of helicate 1 in $CDCl_3$ (500 MHz). The numbering scheme used for the assignment of the proton and carbon atoms of a quarter of the helicate is shown as an insert.



Fig. ESI10 HRMS spectrum of helicate 1.

Helicate **5**: To a dry CHCl₃ (250 mL) solution of helicate **1** (50 mg; 4.48×10^{-2} mmol), a dry CHCl₃ (250 mL) solution of *m*-xylylenediamine (12.4 µL; 9.41×10^{-2} mmol, 2 equiv.) and TFA (0.01 equiv) were added under argon. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. It was then evaporated under reduced pressure affording **5** as a dark solid (58 mg, 98%). $\delta_{\rm H}$ (500 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.53 (s, 4H, CH=N), 7.92 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.54 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.44 (s, 2H, PhH), 7.39-7.35 (m, 6H, PhH/pyrroleH), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, PhH), 7.1 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H, PhH), 6.61 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.47 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.38 (d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 5.08 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 4H, CH₂), 4.92 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 4H, CH₂). $\delta_{\rm C}$ (125 MHz, CDCl₃) 162.1, 155.5, 150.1, 146.3, 142.0, 141.7, 141.0, 140.5, 136.7, 133.8, 132.9, 132.4, 131.1, 129.1, 128.2, 125.2, 124.7, 117.7, 117.3, 63.6. $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (CH₂Cl₂)/nm (ε /mol⁻¹ L cm⁻¹): 257 (43600), 349 (44400), 431 (56300), 473 (22500), 577 (50200). HRMS (ESI), *m/z*: [M]⁺ calcd. for C₈₀H₅₆N₁₂Zn₂: 1312.3328, Found 1312.3338.



Fig. ESI11 ¹H-NMR spectrum of helicate 5 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI12 ¹³C-NMR spectrum of helicate 5 in CDCl₃.



Fig. ESI 13 HSQC (top) and HMBC (bottom) correlation experiments of helicate **5** in $CDCl_3$ (500 MHz). The numbering scheme used for the assignment of the proton and carbon atoms of a quarter of the helicate is shown as an insert.



Fig. ESI14 HRMS spectrum of helicate 5.

Helicate **6**: A solution of NaBH₃CN (8 mg, 0.12 mmol, 8eq.) in MeOH (4 mL) was added to a solution of **5** (20 mg, 0.015 mmol, 1eq) in CHCl₃ (15ml). Then 0.75ml of TFA solution (1.75 μ L in 50 mL CHCl₃) was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature and monitored by H NMR. After 64 hours, NaBH₃CN (8 mg, 0.12 mmol, 8eq) were added, then after 18 additional hours, 0.75mL of TFA solution (1.75 μ L in 50 mL CHCl₃) was added and stirring was continued for 5 days. The reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl₃ and washed with water 3 times. The organic layer was dried on Na₂SO₄, filtered and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by two successive column chromatographies (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/TEA: 90/10/4) then (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/TEA: 95/5/1) to give 13 mg of **6** as a mixture with TEA. $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) 7.62 (s, 2H, PhH), 7.46 (m, 4H, PhH), 7.38 (m, 4H, PhH), 7.33 (m, 6H, PhH), 7.44 (m 4H, PhH), 7.07 (m, 8H, PhH/pyrroleH), 6.66 (dd, *J* = 1.0 and 4.1 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.35 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 6.30 (dd, *J* = 1.0 and 4.1 Hz, 4H, pyrroleH), 3.95 (d, *J* = 15.2 Hz, 4H, CH₂), 3.79 (m, 12H, CH₂). MS (ESI), *m/z*: [M]²⁺ calcd. for C₈₀H₆₄N₁₂Zn₂: 660.19, Found 660.20.



Fig. ESI15 ¹H-NMR spectrum of helicate 6 in CD₂Cl₂. Traces of NEt₃ are present.



Fig. ESI16 HRMS spectrum of helicate 6.

X-Ray diffraction

Data (Table ESI1) were collected on a Bruker SMART CCD diffractometer with Mo-K α radiation. The structures were solved using SHELXS-97 and refined by full matrix least-squares on F^2 using SHELXL-2014 with anisotropic thermal parameters for all non-hydrogen atoms.² Hydrogen atoms were introduced at calculated positions and not refined (riding model). In the structure of 4(CHCl₃), the chloroform molecule is disordered over two positions that have been modelled accordingly.

CCDC 1893175-1893178 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for compounds **1-4**. These data can be obtained free of charge *via* <u>www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif</u>.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 (CHCl ₃) |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|---|
| Formula | $C_{64}H_{40}N_8O_4Zn_2$ | C ₃₂ H ₂₂ N ₄ NiO ₂ | C ₃₂ H ₂₀ N ₄ NiO ₂ | C ₃₃ H ₂₃ Cl ₃ N ₄ O ₂ |
| FW | 1115.78 | 553.24 | 551.23 | 613.90 |
| Crystal system | Tetragonal | Triclinic | Triclinic | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P-4n2 | <i>P</i> -1 | <i>P</i> -1 | $P2_1/n$ |
| a / Å | 11.9527(3) | 9.7819(2) | 9.8321(3) | 11.4063(4) |
| <i>b</i> / Å | 11.9527(3) | 11.6608(3) | 10.7832(3) | 9.7778(3) |
| <i>c</i> / Å | 17.7035(7) | 12.9613(3) | 13.3416(3) | 13.4576(4) |
| α / \circ | | 110.8970(10) | 103.1690(10) | |
| β/\circ | | 98.8930(10) | 102.6240(10) | 94.7850(10) |
| γ/\circ | | 111.0520(10) | 111.8220(10) | |
| $V/Å^3$ | 2529.25(16) | 1219.34(5) | 1204.51(6) | 1495.67(8) |
| Ζ | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| T / K | 173(2) | 173(2) | 173(2) | 173(2) |
| μ / mm^{-1} | 1.010 | 0.836 | 0.846 | 0.344 |
| Refls. coll. | 40519 | 24117 | 23901 | 28945 |
| Ind. refls. (R _{int}) | 3750 (0.0574) | 6572 (0.0251) | 6497 (0.0408) | 4084 (0.0233) |
| $R_1(I \ge 2\sigma(I))^a$ | 0.0532 | 0.0326 | 0.0416 | 0.0701 |
| $wR_2 (I \ge 2\sigma(I))^a$ | 0.1285 | 0.0768 | 0.0946 | 0.1929 |
| R_1 (all data) ^a | 0.0809 | 0.0396 | 0.0628 | 0.0802 |
| wR_2 (all data) ^a | 0.1443 | 0.0800 | 0.1051 | 0.2026 |
| GOF | 1.050 | 1.053 | 1.030 | 1.039 |
| $a P_{1} - \sum E - E / \sum E \cdot u P_{1} - [\sum u (E^{2} E^{2}) 2 / \sum w E^{4} 1 /2 $ | | | | |

Table ESI1. Crystallographic data for compounds 1-4.

 $[R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|; wR_2 = [\sum w(F_o^2 - F_c^2)^2 / \sum wF_o^4]$

References

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