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## **Supporting Information**

## Triptycene Walled Glycoluril Trimer: Synthesis and Recognition Properties

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## **General experimental**

Starting materials were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification or were prepared by literature procedures. Melting points were measured on a Meltemp apparatus in open capillary tubes and are uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR 4100 spectrometer and are reported in cm<sup>-1</sup>. NMR spectra were measured on Bruker spectrometers operating at 400 or 600 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 100 or 125 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C using D<sub>2</sub>O, or DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as solvents. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are referenced relative to the residual resonances for HOD (4.80 ppm) and DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> (2.50 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H, 39.51 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C). Mass spectrometry was performed using a JEOL AccuTOF electrospray instrument (ESI). ITC data was collected on a Malvern Microcal PEAQ-ITC instrument and analyzed using the software provided by the vendor.





*Figure S1*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.4, 600 MHz, RT) recorded for **1**.



*Figure S2.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 600 MHz, RT) recorded for 1.



*Figure S3*. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz, RT, 1,4-dioxane as internal reference) recorded for **1**.

## <sup>1</sup>H NMR Dilution Experiments Performed for host 1

Self-association Binding Model implemented in Scientist<sup>TM</sup> // Micromath Scientist Model File // self-association model for NMR IndVars: concTot DepVars: Deltaobs Params: K<sub>a</sub>, Deltasat, Deltazero K<sub>a</sub> = concBound/(concFree\*concFree) concTot=concFree + concBound/2 Deltaobs = Deltazero + (Deltasat - Deltazero) \* (1/2\*concBound/concTot) //Constraints  $0 < K_a$  0 < concFree < concTot 0 < concFree < concTot\*\*\*\*



*Figure S4.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for the dilution of host 1 (3 - 0.05 mM). Host 1 weakly self-associates in water ( $K_s = 480 \pm 81 M^{-1}$ ).



*Figure S5.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 400 MHz, RT) for: a) 4 (5 mM), b) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and 4 (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and 4 (125  $\mu$ M), d) 1 (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S6.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **5** (5 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **5** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **5** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S7.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **6** (5 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **6** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **6** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S8.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **6DQ•2Br**<sup>-</sup> (6 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **6DQ•2Br**<sup>-</sup> (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **6DQ•2Br**<sup>-</sup> (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S9.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 400 MHz, RT) for: a)  $6Q \cdot Br^-$  (4 mM), b) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and  $6Q \cdot Br^-$  (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and  $6Q \cdot Br^-$  (125  $\mu$ M), d) 1 (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S10.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) 7 (2 mM), b) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and 7 (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of 1 (125  $\mu$ M) and 7 (125  $\mu$ M), d) 1 (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S11.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **9** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **9** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **9** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S12.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **10** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **10** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **10** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S13.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **11** (5 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **11** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **11** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S14.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded ( $D_2O$ , 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 400 MHz, RT) for: a) **12** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **12** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **12** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S15.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded ( $D_2O$ , 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **13** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **13** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **13** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S16.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded ( $D_2O$ , 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **14** (4 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **14** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **14** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S17.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **15** (4 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **15** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **15** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S18.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **16** (4 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **16** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **16** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S19.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **17** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **17** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **17** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S20.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **18** (1 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **18** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **18** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S21*. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **19** (4 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (250  $\mu$ M) and **19** (250  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S22.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **20** (250  $\mu$ M), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **20** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **20** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S23.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **21** (1 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **21** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **21** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S24.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **22** (2 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **22** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **22** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S25.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **23** (250  $\mu$ M), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **23** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **23** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S26.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 400 MHz, RT) for: a) **24** (250  $\mu$ M), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **24** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **24** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S27.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **25** (1 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **25** (250  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **25** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).



*Figure S28.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra recorded (D<sub>2</sub>O, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pD 7.40, 600 MHz, RT) for: a) **26** (250 mM), b) a mixture of **1** (62.5  $\mu$ M) and **26** (125  $\mu$ M), c) a mixture of **1** (125  $\mu$ M) and **26** (125  $\mu$ M), d) **1** (250  $\mu$ M).

Isotherm of guests (4-26) with host 1



*Figure S29.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **4** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 2.92 × 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -6.03 ± 0.260 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>



*Figure S30.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **6** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 2.30 × 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and H = -10.8 ± 0.044 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S31.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **6DQ** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 5.00 × 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -12.7 ± 0.028 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>



*Figure S32.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **6Q** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> =  $1.20 \times 10^6$  M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -8.54 ± 0.027 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S33*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **7** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 7.24 × 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -10.1 ± 0.036 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S34*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **5** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **8** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 1.41 × 10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -11.5 ± 0.094 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S35*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **5** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **9** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 2.42 × 10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -11.4 ± 0.062 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S36.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **5** (200  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **10** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 2.81 × 10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -11.3 ± 0.068 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S37.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **11** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> =  $3.57 \times 10^5$  M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H =  $-4.83 \pm 0.036$  kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S38*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **5** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **12** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 4.55 × 10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -10.4 ± 0.064 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S39.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (10.0  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **13** (100  $\mu$ M) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 1.13 × 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -10.1 ± 0.119 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S40*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (20.0  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **14** (200  $\mu$ M) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 4.08 × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -7.41 ± 0.084 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S41.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **15** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 1.11 × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H =-5.88 ± 0.049 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S42.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **16** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 8.77 × 10<sup>6</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -10.5 ± 0.044 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S43.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **17** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 5.81 × 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -12.4 ± 0.045 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S44.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **5** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **18** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 3.57 × 10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -13.7 ± 0.039 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S45.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **19** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 5.95 × 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -6.61 ± 0.088 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S46*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained through competition binding studies. A solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) and **19** (500  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **20** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> =  $1.32 \times 10^7$  M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -14.7 ± 0.036 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S47*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **21** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 9.80 × 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -5.09 ± 0.042 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S48.* Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (200  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **22** (5.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 5.61 × 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -3.98 ± 0.094 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S49*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **23** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 8.47 × 10<sup>3</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -4.95 ± 2.30 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S50*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **24** (1.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 9.43 × 10<sup>5</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H =-9.63 ± 0.025 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S51*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (100  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **25** (2.00 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> =  $3.70 \times 10^4$  M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H =-9.99 ± 0.129 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S52*. Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC) curve obtained when a solution of **1** (200  $\mu$ M) in the cell was titrated with **26** (2.40 mM) in the syringe at 298.0 K in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffered water at pH 7.4. K<sub>a</sub> = 4.67 × 10<sup>3</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> and  $\Delta$ H = -8.92 ± 0.445 kcal•mol<sup>-1</sup>.



*Figure S53*. Electrospray mass spectrum for 1 recorded in the negative ion mode. The peak at 829.20204 corresponds to the  $[M + 1H - 3Na]^{2-}$  ion.