

# Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications  
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## **Supplementary Information**

### **A latent photoreaction predominates within water soluble calixarenes: Photochemistry of benzoin alkyl ethers**

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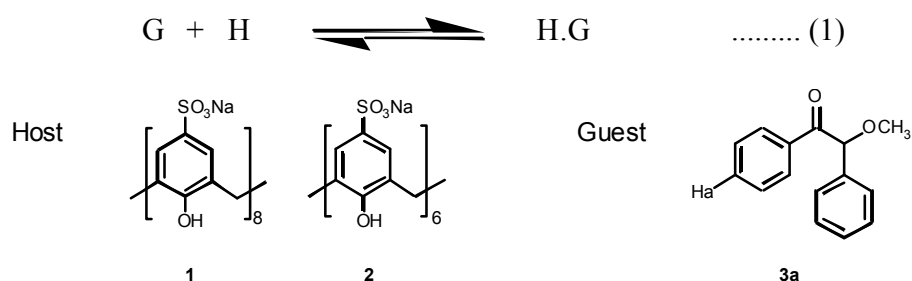
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### Experimental Protocol:

The benzoin alkyl ethers (**3a-c**) are sparingly soluble in water. For complex preparation, the required equivalents of the guest was added to an aqueous solution of the host and stirred for 6 hours. The complex formation was confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. The pH of the solution was  $\sim 7.7$ . The complexes were irradiated for  $\sim 10$  minutes using a 450W medium pressure mercury arc lamp. The photoproducts were extracted with ethyl acetate. A known amount of benzophenone was added as an internal standard before GC analysis. The mass balance was 65-70% excluding benzaldehyde. Photoproducts were analysed by HP 5890 series-II GC using an SE-30 capillary column, error limit  $\pm 3\%$ .

### Determination of host-guest association constants:<sup>1</sup>

The association constants were calculated for the following equilibrium,



**Figure S1.** Structures of host **1** and **2** and guest **3a**.

Binding of benzoin methyl ether with hosts **1** and **2** was fast on the NMR time scale (400 MHz) and the determination of  $K$  required titration studies. The shift of the aromatic proton ( $\text{H}_a$ ) signals of benzoin methyl ether (Figure S1) was recorded after each addition ( $\sim 1.7$  mg,  $1.02 \times 10^{-6}$  moles) of the host. The plot of  $1/\Delta$  vs  $1/[\text{Host}]$  is shown in Figure S2.

$K$  according to equation (1) is given by

$$K = [\text{H.G}]/[\text{H}][\text{G}]$$

$$1/\Delta = 1/(\Delta_{11}K[\text{H}]) + 1/(\Delta_{11})$$

Where,

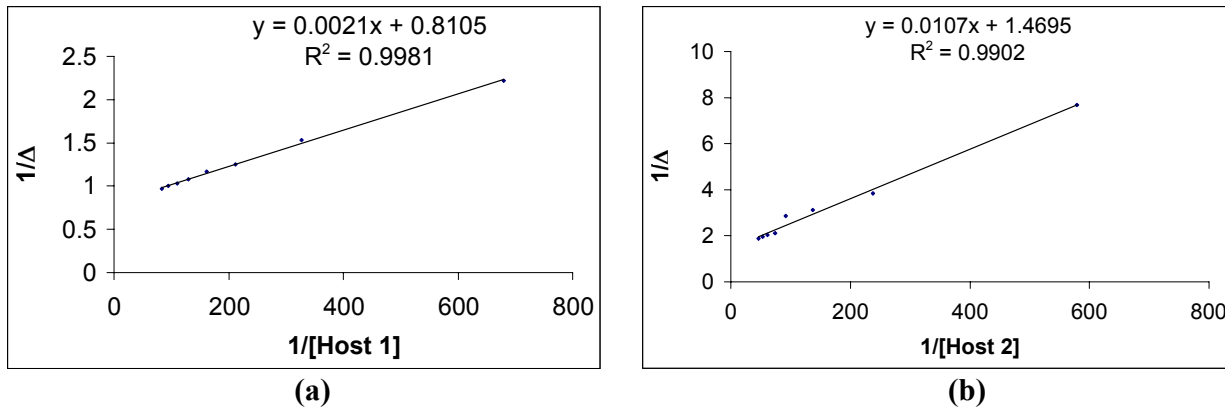
$K$  = association constant,

$$\Delta = \delta - \delta_{\text{guest}} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_{11} = \delta_{\text{complex}} - \delta_{\text{guest}}$$

the observed chemical shift  $\delta$  is the average of the chemical shifts of the guest and the complex,  $\delta_{\text{complex}}$  is the chemical shift of the complex,  $\delta_{\text{guest}}$  is the chemical shift of the guest and

$[\text{H}]$  = concentration of host.

For host **1**(with guest **3a**),  $K = 386 \text{ M}^{-1}$ , and for host **2** (with guest **3a**),  $K = 137 \text{ M}^{-1}$



**Figure S2.** (a) Plot of  $1/\Delta$  vs  $1/[\text{Host 1}]$  (b) Plot of  $1/\Delta$  vs  $1/[\text{Host 2}]$ .

**Determination of the concentration of H.G complex at a given concentration of host and guest.<sup>2</sup>**



$$K = [H.G]/[G][H]$$

$$K = [H.G] / ([G] - [H.G])([H] - [H.G])$$

$$[H.G] = 0.5[H] \left\{ 1 + R + 1/[H]K \pm \left( (1 + R + 1/[H]K)^2 - 4R \right)^{0.5} \right\} \quad \text{where } R = [G]/[H]$$

For complex of host **1** with guest **3a**, the values are as follows,  $[G] = 3.4 \times 10^{-3}M$ ,

$[H] = 1.2 \times 10^{-2}M$  and  $[H.G] = 2.6 \times 10^{-3}M$ ,

percentage of guest **3a** complexed to host **1** = 76

For complex of host **2** with guest **3a**, the values are as follows,  $[G] = 4.76 \times 10^{-3}M$ ,

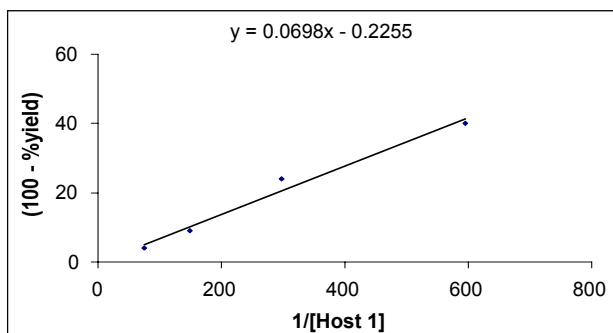
$[H] = 2.13 \times 10^{-2}M$  and  $[H.G] = 3.38 \times 10^{-3}M$ ,

percentage of guest **3a** complexed to host **2** = 70

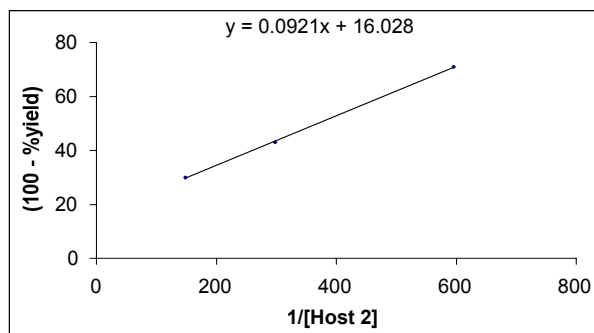
#### Percentage relative yield of deoxybenzoin at infinite concentration of host:

Percentage relative yields of deoxybenzoin at infinite concentration of the hosts **1** and **2** were calculated by extrapolating the plot of (100 - %yield) vs 1/[Host] as shown in Figure S3. At infinite concentration of the respective host, the percentage yield is given below,

For host **1**, percentage yield = 100 and for host **2**, percentage yield = 84



(a)



(b)

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**Figure S3.** (a) Plot of (100 - %yield) vs 1/[Host 1] (b) Plot of (100 - %yield) vs 1/[Host 2].

**References:**

1. K. A. Connors, *Binding Constants. The Measurement of Molecular Complex Stability*, Wiley, New York, 1987; 189-200.
2. G. G. González and G. Tardajos, *J. Chem. Educ.*, 2004, **81**, 270-274.