# **Supporting Information**

## Water Soluble Distyryl-Boradiazaindacenes as Efficient Photosensitizers for Photodynamic Therapy

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#### **EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES**

#### General

All chemicals and solvents purchased from Aldrich were used without further purification. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker DPX-400 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> with TMS as internal reference. Absorption spectrometry was performed using a Varian spectrophotometer. Steady state fluorescence measurements were conducted using a Varian Eclipse spectrofluorometer. Column chromatography of all products was performed using Merck Silica Gel 60 (particle size: 0.040–0.063 mm, 230–400 mesh ASTM). Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography using fluorescent coated aluminum sheets. Solvents used for spectroscopy experiments were spectrophotometric grade. Mass spectrometry measurements were done at the Ohio State University Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Facility, Ohio, U.S.A., or Hacettepe University, Mass Spectrometry Facility, Ankara, Turkey.

Synthesis:

4,4-difluoro-8-[3,4,5-tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)]benzaldehyde-1,3,5,7tetramethyl -4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (3).



3,4,5-tris(2-(2-(2-methoxy)ethoxy)ethoxy)benzaldehyde (1) (0.34 mmol, 200 mg) and 2,4dimethylpyrrole (2) (0.68 mmol, 8 4mg) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (250 mL) purged with argon in a 100 mL flask. 1 drop of TFA was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hrs. When TLC showed consumption of the aldehyde was complete, a solution of 166 mg (0.68 mmol) of DDQ (Tetrachloro-1,4-benzoquinone) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was added. After 3 h, Et<sub>3</sub>N (3 ml) and BF<sub>3</sub>.OEt<sub>2</sub> (3 ml) were added. Immediately after the addition of BF<sub>3</sub>.OEt<sub>2</sub> bright green fluorescence was observed. Crude product washed three times with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Then crude product purified by silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (99/1, v/v). The orange fraction which has bright green fluorescence was collected. Orange solid (0.147 mmol, 120 mg, 43 %).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.48 (s, 2H), 5.91 (s, 2H), 4.15 (t, *J*= 5. 0 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (t, *J*= 5. 0 Hz, 4H), 3.76 (t, *J*= 4. 9 Hz, 4H), 3.42- 3.70 (m, 26H), 3.30 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 6H), 2.48 (s, 6H), 1.46 (s, 6H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 155.6, 153.7, 143.0, 141.2, 139.2, 131.3, 129.9, 121.1, 107.8, 72.7, 72.0, 71.9, 70.9, 70.7, 70.6, 70.5, 69.8, 69.3, 59.0, 14.5, 14.3.

ESI-HRMS calcd for M+Na 833.4191, found 833.4171 ,  $\Delta\text{=}$  2.4 ppm

2,6-dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-[3,4,5-tris(2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)]-1,3,5,7tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (4).



Boradiazaindacene dye **3** (0.123 mmol, 100 mg),  $\alpha, \alpha$ '-Azoisobutyronitrile (AIBN) (0.0123 mmol, 2.0 mg) and N-Bromosuccinimide (NBS) (0.246 mmol, 43.78 mg) were refluxed in CCl<sub>4</sub> (20 ml). After 30 min, crude product concentrated under vacuo, then purified by sillica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The red colored fraction was collected then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the desired compound **4** (0.0984 mmol, 95.28 mg, 81%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 6.30 (s, 2H), 4.00 (t, *J*= 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.90 (t, *J*= 4.9 Hz, 4H), 3.24-3.64 (m, 30H), 3.14 (s, 3H), 3.12 (s, 6H), 2.34 (s, 6H), 1.28 (s, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.0, 141.6, 140.5, 139.6, 130.3, 129.1, 111.7, 107.5, 107.3, 72.8, 72.5, 72.0, 71.9, 71.8, 71.2, 70.8, 70.7, 70.6, 70.5, 70.5, 70.4, 69.7, 69.3, 61.7, 58.9, 58.7, 13.9, 13.6;
ESI-HRMS calcd for M+Na 991.2385, found 991.2379, Δ= 0.6 ppm

#### Boradiazaindacene dye 5. (Sensitizer 3 in the article)



Compound 4 (0.093 mmol, 90 mg) and 1(0.186 mmol, 110.2 mg) were refluxed in a mixture of toluene (20 ml), glacial acetic acid (1.5 mL), and piperidine (2 mL). Any water formed during the reaction, was removed azeotropically by heating overnight in a Dean-Stark apparatus. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was then purified by silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (95/5, v/v). The green colored fraction was collected then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield compound **5** (0.0186 mmol, 39.5 mg, 21%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.91- 7.86 (d, *J*= 16 Hz, 2H) 7.44- 7.39 (d, *J*= 16 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (s, 4H), 6.50 (s, 2H), 4.22- 3.22 (m, 135H), 1.50 (s, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.0, 153.0, 148.5, 141.1, 140.4, 139.7, 139.5, 139.0, 132.3, 132.2 129.5, 117.2, 110.7, 108.0, 107.9, 72.8, 72.5, 72.0, 71.9, 70.9, 70.8, 70.7, 70.6, 70.5, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 59.0, 53.4, 13.8.

MALDI-MS, M<sup>+</sup> 2117.5 (calcd 2117.8); (M-F)<sup>+</sup> 2098.5 (calcd 2098.8).

#### Boradiazainadecene dye 7 (Sensitizer 1 in the article)



Compound 4 (0.103 mmol, 100 mg) and 4-bromobenzaldehyde 6, (0.206 mmol, 38.0 mg) were refluxed in a mixture of toluene (20 ml), glacial acetic acid (1.5 mL), and piperidine (2.0 mL). Any water formed during the reaction, was removed azeotropically by heating overnight in a Dean-Stark apparatus. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was then purified by silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>/Hexane (75/25, v/v). The green colored fraction was collected then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield compound 7 (0.021 mmol, 27.0 mg, 20%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.04- 7.95 (d, *J*= 16Hz, 2H), 7.57- 7.66 (d, *J*= 16 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (q, *J*= 8 Hz, 8H), 6.49 (s, 2H), 4.20 (t, *J*= 4.9 Hz, 2H), 4.08 (t, *J*= 4.9 Hz, 4H), 3.82- 3.41 (m, 30H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.27 (s, 6H), 1.50 (s, 6H);

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.1, 148.3, 141.6, 139.8, 139.7, 138.0, 135.7, 132.3, 132.0, 129.3, 129.1, 123.5, 118.7, 110.6, 107.9, 72.8, 72.0, 71.9, 70.9, 70.7, 70.6, 70.5, 69.8, 69.4, 59.0, 13.8.
MALDI-MS, M<sup>+</sup> 1302.1 (calcd 1302.1); (M-F)<sup>+</sup> 1283.1 (calcd 1283.1).

#### 4,4-difluoro-8-(4-bromophenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene



Compound **8** has been reported in the literature. Thus, 4-Bromobenzaldeyhde (**6**) (1.08 mmol, 200 mg) and 2,4-dimethylpyrrole (**2**) (2.16 mmol, 205.0 mg) were dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (250 mL) purged with argon in a 100 mL flask under argon atmosphere. 1 drop of TFA was added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hrs. When TLC showed consumption of the aldehyde was complete, a solution of DDQ (1.08 mmol, 177.5 mg) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) was added. After 3 h, Et<sub>3</sub>N (3 ml) and BF<sub>3</sub>.OEt<sub>2</sub> (3 ml) were added. Immediately after the addition of BF<sub>3</sub>.OEt<sub>2</sub> bright green fluorescence was observed. Crude product washed three times with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated in vacuo. Then crude product purified by silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The orange fraction which has bright green fluorescence was collected. Orange solid (0.46 mmol, 187 mg, 45%). Used without further purification in the next step.

2,6-dibromo-4,4-difluoro-8-(4-bromophenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene



Compound **8** (0.37 mmol, 150 mg), NBS (0.74 mmol, 132.0 mg), AIBN (0.037 mmol, 6.0 mg) were refluxed in CCl<sub>4</sub> (20 ml). After 30 min, crude product concentrated under vacuum, then purified by sillica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The red colored fraction was collected then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield the desired compound **9** (0.29 mmol, 162 mg, 78%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.60 (d, *J*= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (d, *J*= 8.2 Hz, 2H), 2.53 (s, 6H), 1.34 (s, 6H) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 154.5, 140.4, 133.3, 132.8, 130.2, 129.7, 124.0, 112.0, 14.0, 13.7.

ESI-HRMS calcd for M+Na 582.8806, found 582.8806 ,  $\Delta = 0 \ \text{ppm}$ 

#### Boradiazainadecene dye 10 (Sensitizer 2 in the article)



Compound **9** (0.178 mmol, 100.0 mg) and 1 (0.356 mmol, 211.0 mg) were refluxed in a mixture of toluene (20 ml), glacial acetic acid (1.5 mL), and piperidine (2.0 mL). Any water formed during the reaction, was removed azeotropically by heating overnight in a Dean-Stark apparatus. Solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the crude product was then purified by silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH (97/3, v/v). The green colored fraction was collected then the solvent was removed under reduced pressure to yield compound **10** (0.043 mmol, 74 mg, 24%).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.92-7.85 (d, *J*= 16.5 Hz, 2H), 7.65-7.60 (d, *J*= 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.47-7.38 (d, *J*= 16.5 Hz, 2H), 7.15-7.11 (d, *J*= 8.3 Hz, 2H), 6.77 (s, 4H), 4.19-4.11 (m, 12H), 3.82-3.41(m, 60 H), 3.31 (s, 6H), 3.28 (s, 12 H), 1.41 (s, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 152.9, 148.8, 140.5, 139.8, 132.7, 132.2, 132.0, 130.5, 130.2, 129.0, 128.4, 125.5, 124.0, 117.2, 111.0, 107.9, 77.3, 77.0, 76.7, 72.5, 71.9, 70.8, 70.7, 70.5, 69.7, 69.2, 61.8, 59.0, 14.1.

MALDI-MS, M<sup>+</sup> 1708.3 (calcd 1708.5).

#### MTT assay

K562 human erythroleukemia cells (ATCC) were cultured in 25 cm<sup>2</sup> culture flasks containing RPMI 1640 supplemented with heat inactivated 10 % fetal bovine serum, 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 units.mL<sup>-1</sup> penicillin G and 100  $\mu$ g.mL<sup>-1</sup>streptomycin at 37<sup>0</sup>C in a humidified incubator containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Dye was dissolved in RPMI 1640 and test concentrations were prepared daily.

The methlythiazolyltetrazolium (MTT) assay was used to evaluate cell viability.<sup>S1</sup> Briefly, 50  $\mu$ l cell suspensions containing 4 x 10<sup>4</sup> K562 cells were seeded in 96-well round-bottom plates (Costar, Cambridge, MA) and varying concentrations of dye (25 nM-500nM) were added in 50  $\mu$ l into each well. All concentrations were studied in quadriplicate.

Then, cells were kept either in dark or under illumination with a red (625 nm) LED array at 2.5 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> fluence rate for a period of 4 h at  $37^{0}$ C in a humidified incubator containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After 4 h of incubation, 25 µl of MTT solution (1mg/ml final concentration) (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) were added to each well, and the plates were incubated for a further 4 h. The formazan precipitate was solubilized by adding 80 µl lysing buffer (pH=4.7) composed of 23% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate) dissolved in a solution of 45% N,N- dimethylformamide. After an overnight incubation at  $37^{0}$  C, the optical densities (OD) were read at 570 nm using a microplate reader (Spectramax Plus, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, California,USA). Cells incubated in culture medium alone served as a control for cell viability (nontreated wells) either in irradiated plate or in plate that was kept in dark. Cell viability (%) was calculated as (OD of treated wells/OD of nontreated cells) x 100.

In order to evaluate the cytotoxicity of dye after 24 h incubation, 4 h irradiated plates were kept in dark for a further 20 h and then MTT solution was added for measuring cell viability. In addition, plates kept in dark for 4 h were also incubated for a further +20 h for control.

## **Cell Culture**

K562 cells (human chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line, ATCC) were maintained in RPMI-1640 culture medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 IU/ml penicillin and 100  $\mu$ g/ml streptomycin at 37<sup>0</sup> C in a humidified incubator containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Preparation of stock solutions for microscopy

A stock solution of propidium iodide (PI) (Sigma P-4170) was prepared in distilled water, and used at a concentration of 0.5 mg/ml. Acridine orange (AO) was dissolved in phosphate buffered saline at a concentration of 100  $\mu$ g/mL. One tablet of phosphate buffered saline (PBS) (Amresco) was dissolved in the distilled water to yield a pH=7.4 buffered solution.

## References:

S1. Hansen, M.B.; Nielsen, S. E.; Berg, K. 1989, J Immunol. Methods, 119, 203-210.



**Figure S1.** Bleaching of 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran (50  $\mu$ M) in the presence of the sensitizers **1-3** (numbering is as it is in the article) at 9 nM concentration in isopropanol solution. For the first 10 minutes the solutions were kept in dark, as irradiation at 625 nm starts at the 10th minute, rapid degradation of the singlet oxygen trap starts. Triangles, compound **3**; squares, compound **2**; and diamonds, compound **1**.































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![](_page_28_Figure_2.jpeg)