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## **Supplementary information**

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#### Figure S1



**Fig. S1** Chloride transport across EYPC liposomes (25 °C) containing lucigenin in a 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub> – 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.4). Compounds **2-11** were added to give a 1:1000 ligand:lipid ratio. At t=0 s, NaCl was added to give an external Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration of 25 mM. Lucigenin fluorescence was converted to [Cl<sup>-</sup>]. The traces shown are the average of 3 trials.

### Materials and methods

The samples of all prodigiosenes were synthesized and characterized as previously reported.<sup>1</sup> All reagents, unless stated otherwise, were obtained commercially and used without further purification.

### Chloride transport experiments

EYPC lipid (60 mg) was dissolved in 5 mL of a chloroform/methanol mixture (5 % MeOH). The resulting solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to produce a thin film that was dried in vacuo for 2 h. The lipid film was hydrated with 1 mL of a solution of 10 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.4) containing 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub> and 1 mM lucigenin.<sup>2</sup> After 10 freeze/thaw cycles, the liposomes were extruded through a 100 nm polycarbonate membrane 21 times at room temperature. The liposome solution was passed through a Sephadex (G-25) column to remove excess dye (eluant = sodium phosphate buffer, pH 6.4, 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub>). The isolated liposomes were diluted in 10 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.4, 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub>) to give a concentration of 25 mM in EYPC, assuming 100 % retention of lipid during the gel filtration process. In a typical experiment, 50 µL of the stock EYPC liposomes were diluted into 2 mL of 10 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.4, 100 mM NaNO<sub>3</sub>) to give a solution 0.5 mM in lipid. Compounds 1-11 were added to give a  $9.0E^{-4}$ :100 ligand:lipid ratio (2.2x10<sup>-4</sup> mM final concentration of 1-11). To the cuvette containing the EYPC-transporter mixture was added 20 µL of 2.5 M NaCl solution through an injection port to give an external chloride concentration of ~25 mM. The fluorescence of the intravesicular chloride concentration was monitored at excitation 372 nm and emission at 504 nm for 500 s. After 470 s, 0.04 mL of 10 % Triton-X detergent was added to lyze the liposomes. The internal liposome chloride concentration was determined in accordance to previous literature reports.<sup>3</sup> All transport experiments were done in triplicate.

S3

### **DNA cleavage experiments**

Supercoiled plasmid pDesR3 DNA was prepared from Nova Blue cells using Qiagen QIA prep Spin Miniprep Kit (Qiagen, Hiden, Germany).<sup>4</sup> The concentration of DNA was determined by  $OD_{260}$ . Deionized water (18  $\Omega$ ) was used for all aqueous solutions and manipulations. Agarose gel loading buffer = 40 mM Tris-OAc (pH 8.0), 5 mM EDTA, 40% glycerol, 0.3% bromophenol blue. Electrophoresis 1 x T.A.E. solution buffer = 40 mM Tris-acetic acid (pH 7.7), 2 mM EDTA.

### *Relaxation of supercoiled plasmid DNA by Cu-prodigiosene mixtures*<sup>5</sup>

Reaction mixtures (20  $\mu$ L total volume) contained 450 ng of supercoiled DNA, 10 mM MOPS (pH 7.4), 100 mM NaCl and the following concentrations of 1:1 Cu(OAc)<sub>2</sub>:prodigiosene 0.5, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 50  $\mu$ M, generally in an acetonitrile/water (1/1) solution (exceptions are prodigiosene **3** in water/2-propanol (4/1), and prodigiosene **4** in methanol/water (1/1)). Fresh stock solutions of the Cu-prodigiosene mixture were prepared for each assay. Reaction mixtures were incubated for 30 min at 37 °C, and then 10  $\mu$ L were quenched by the addition of 2  $\mu$ L of loading buffer. The remaining reaction mixture (10  $\mu$ L) was incubated for one more hour and after that quenched (again with 2  $\mu$ L of loading buffer). Samples were loaded onto a 0.8 % agarose gel containing ethidium bromide (0.4  $\mu$ g/mL). The gels were run in 1 x T.A.E. at 100 V for 30 min and photographed under UV light. DNA bands were quantified with image analysis software (Doc-itLS Version 5.5.5) and the EC<sub>30</sub> values were obtained using the data analysis software (GraFit version 5.0.4).

 $EC_{50}$  curve for prodigiosene 8:



Parameter	Value	Std. Error
Y Range	88.1952	1.4514
EC <sub>50</sub>	11.0631	0.1681
Slope factor	-5.2020	0.3928
Background	12.9417	0.9702

*Electrophoresis gels after 30 min (A) and 90 min (B):* 

Prodigiosin (1)

(concentrations used for the assay =  $0.5 \mu$ M,  $1 \mu$ M,  $2 \mu$ M,  $5 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $25 \mu$ M,  $30 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $25 \mu$ M,  $30 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $25 \mu$ M,  $30 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $25 \mu$ M,  $30 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $25 \mu$ M,  $30 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M, 10 $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M)

A)



B)



## Prodigiosene 2

(concentrations used for the assay =  $0.5 \mu$ M,  $2 \mu$ M,  $5 \mu$ M,  $10 \mu$ M,  $15 \mu$ M and  $20 \mu$ M)

A)





Prodigiosene 3

A)



B)



### Prodigiosene 4

## A)





#### Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2007

# Chloride anion transport and copper-mediated DNA cleavage by C-ring functionalized prodigiosenes

Prodigiosene 5

A)





## Prodigiosene 6

### A)





Prodigiosene 7

A)



B)



### Prodigiosene 8

### A)





Prodigiosene 9

A)



B)



## Prodigiosene 10

### A)





Prodigiosene 11

A)



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