

Ferrocenium Salts Mediate *Para-tert*-butylcalixarene Synthesis

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General protocols

All reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were conducted in flame-dried glass apparatus under an atmosphere of argon. Water refers to distilled water. Magnesium sulphate dried GPR was obtained from VWR BDH (catalog number 291186R) and all commercially available chemicals, reagents and salts were used as supplied.

Melting points were recorded using open capillary tubes on a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Infrared spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Paragon 1000FT infrared spectrometer either as a thin film or neat sample. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded in Fourier transform mode at the field strength specified either on a Bruker AC-400 or a Varian Gemini 300 spectrometer and unless otherwise stated deuterated chloroform was used as solvent. The ^1H -spectra were recorded in ppm and are referenced to the residual CHCl_3 signal located at δ 7.26. ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded in ppm and referenced to the residual CHCl_3 signal found at δ 77.00. Multiplicities in the NMR spectra are described as: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad; coupling constants are reported in Hz. Low resolution mass spectra were run on either a Micromass Quattro II, Finnigan MAT95 or MAT 900 spectrometer. Ion mass/charge (m/z) ratios are reported as values in atomic mass units. Microwave syntheses were performed on a Personal Chemistry Emrys Creator. Thin layer chromatography was performed on Merck aluminium plates coated with 0.2 mm silica gel-60 F₂₅₄. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Kieselgel 60).

General procedure for the synthesis of **2**_[4] - **2**_[9]

Para-tert-butylphenol (450 mg, 3 mmol), *s*-trioxane (270 mg, 3 mmol), ferrocenium tetrafluoroborate (818 mg, 3 mmol) were added to dichloromethane (4 mL) in a Biotage microwave vial of 2.0-5.0 mL capacity. This heterogeneous mixture was heated (after sealing with aluminum crimp cap with a PTFE lined rubber seal) in the microwave synthesiser at 120 °C for 30 min. After which, HPLC analysis of the reaction mixture indicated complete consumption of the starting material (**1**) and the formation of mixture of *para-tert*-butyl calix[n]arenes (**2**_[4] – **2**_[9]) in ~88 - 90 % yield (Figure 3).

The reaction mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (10 mL) and filtered through a pad of celite to remove insoluble solids. The residue was washed with dichloromethane (5 mL). The

combined organic extracts were washed with brine (5 mL). The organic layer was dried using anhydrous magnesium sulphate, filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure affording a white solid.

The individual calix[4-9]arenes were isolated (in 85 - 99% HPLC purity, Figure 7) by gradient flash chromatography using cyclohexane–toluene-ethanol (90:10:00 to 60:48:2 in 120 min using 2 mL/min flow rate) solvent system (monitored by HPLC). The isolated yields of individual calix[4-9]arenes were: calix[4]arene (48 mg, 9.8 %), calix[5]arene (15 mg, 3.1 %), calix[6]arene (66 mg, 13.6 %), calix[7]arene (93 mg, 19.5 %), calix[8]arene (68 mg, 12.4%) and calix[9]arene (23 mg, 4.2 %).

HPLC Procedure:

HPLC analysis was performed on a Perkin-Elmer LC 200 instrument equipped with a diode-array detector and Varian Pursuit RP C18 column (4.6 mm i.d., 250 mm) packed with 5 μ m reverse-phase silica. The analysis procedure followed was similar to that reported by Gutsche *et al.*^[1] The HPLC separation of calix[4-9]arenes was achieved using a mixture of two eluents (at 280 nm), A and B at a flow rate of 2 mL/min. Eluent A was acetonitrile with 1% acetic acid and eluent B was a mixture of dichloromethane and *tert*-butyl methyl ether (12:9 ratio) with 1% acetic acid. An isocratic run using a 80/20 mixture of A and B for 15 min was found suitable for separation of calix[4-12]arenes. (Note: A significant shift in retention times was observed as a function of the variable room temperature. Higher retention times were noticed in cold conditions.)

LC-MS Procedure:

LC-MS studies were performed using Shimadzu LCMS-2010EV single quadrupole mass-spectrometer. LC was performed on Shimadzu prominence HPLC system using Pathfinder PS silica (3.5 μ m, 2.1 x 50 mm) column and mobile phase used was acetonitrile (80%) and 5 mmol ammonium acetate in water (20%) at a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min. Mass spectrometry was¹ performed using ESI in negative ion mode detection.

[1] D. R. Stewart, C. D. Gutsche, *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **1999**, 121, 4136.

5,11,17,23-Tetrakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-25,26,27,28-tetrahydroxycalix[4]arene (2_[4])

m.p. 335-340°C (reported^[2] 342-344°C); FTIR (neat) 3152, 2953, 2864, 1479, 1199 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=10.33 (br s, 4H, ArOH), 7.03 (s, 8H, ArH), 4.22 (d, *J*(H,H)=14.0 Hz, 4H, ArCHHAr), 3.46 (d, *J*(H,H)=14.0 Hz, 4H, ArCHHAr), 1.23 (s, 36H, 4 × C(CH₃)₃), MS (APCI) *m/z* calc'd for (C₄₄H₅₆O₄) required 648.9 found 649.3.

5,11,17,23,29-Pentakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-35,36,37,38,39-pentahydroxycalix[5]arene (2_[5])

m.p. 285-288°C; FTIR 3262, 2957, 2868, 1484, 1201 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃–(d₅)Pyridine (10%), 20°C, TMS) δ=8.64 (br s, 5H, ArOH), 7.15 (s, 10H, ArH), 3.75 (br s, 10H, ArCH₂Ar), 1.18 (s, 45H, 5 × C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=147.8, 144.2, 128.0, 125.9 (Ar), 34.1 (C(CH₃)₃), 31.7 (ArCH₂Ar), 31.6 (C(CH₃)₃), MS (APCI) *m/z* calc'd for (C₅₅H₇₀O₅) required 811.1 found 811.2.

5,11,17,23,29,35-Hexakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-37,38,39,40,41,42-hexahydroxycalix[6]arene (2_[6])

m.p. >350°C (reported^[2] 372-374°C); FTIR (thin film) 3134, 2957, 2866, 1482, 1200 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃–(d₅)Pyridine (10%), 20°C, TMS) δ=10.44 (br s, 6H, ArOH), 7.10 (s, 12H, ArH), 3.82 (br s, 12H, ArCH₂Ar), 1.20 (s, 54H, 6 × C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=147.5, 144.5, 127.2, 126.4 (Ar), 34.2 (C(CH₃)₃), 33.5 (ArCH₂Ar), 31.7 (C(CH₃)₃); MS (APCI) *m/z* calc'd for (C₆₆H₈₄O₆) required 973.4 found 973.4.

5,11,17,23,29,35,41-Heptakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-43,44,45,46,47,48,49-heptahydroxycalix[7]arene (2_[7])

m.p. 235-238°C; FTIR 3143, 2956, 2883, 1483, 1200 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃–(d₅)Pyridine (10%), 20°C, TMS) δ=7.15 (s, 14H, ArH), 3.88 (br s, 14H, ArCH₂Ar), 1.24 (s, 63H, 7 × C(CH₃)₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=147.5, 144.6, 127.6, 126.3

[2] A. Arduini, A. Casnati, in *Macrocyclic Synthesis A Practical Approach*, (Eds.: D. Parker), Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996, pp145-173.

(Ar), 34.2 ($C(CH_3)_3$), 33.1 ($ArCH_2Ar$), 31.7 ($C(CH_3)_3$); MS (APCI) m/z calc'd for ($C_{77}H_{98}O_7$) required 1135.5 found 1135.5.

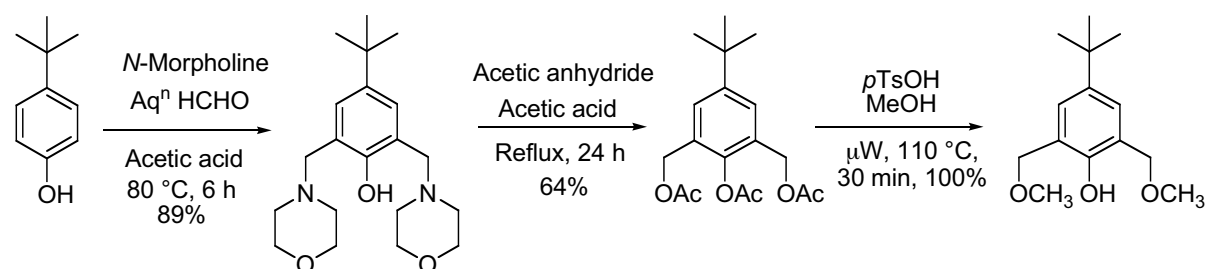
5,11,17,23,29,35,41,47-Octakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56-octahydroxycalix[8]arene (2**_[8])**

m.p. $>360^\circ C$ (reported^[2] $418-420^\circ C$); FTIR 3191, 2953, 2348, 1485, 1201; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, $20^\circ C$, TMS) $\delta=9.62$ (br s, 8H, $ArOH$), 7.17 (s, 16H, ArH), 4.35 (d, $J(H,H)=12.8$ Hz, 8H, $ArCHHAr$), 3.48 (d, $J(H,H)=12.8$ Hz, 8H, $ArCHHAr$), 1.24 (s, 72H, $8 \times C(CH_3)_3$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$, $20^\circ C$, TMS) $\delta=146.8$, 144.9, and 128.9 (Ar), 125.7 (ArH), 34.2 ($C(CH_3)_3$), 32.5 ($ArCH_2Ar$), 31.7 ($C(CH_3)_3$); MS (MALDI) m/z calc'd for ($C_{88}H_{112}O_8Na$) required 1320.8 found 1320.8.

5,11,17,23,29,35,41,47,53-Nonakis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63-nonahydroxycalix[9]arene¹ (2**_[9])**

m.p. $302-304^\circ C$; FTIR 3194, 2955, 2360, 1484, 1202; 1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$ –(d_5)Pyridine (10%), $20^\circ C$, TMS) $\delta=7.09$ (d, 18H, $J(H,H)=3.3$ Hz, ArH), 3.84 (br s, 18H, $ArCH_2Ar$), 1.17 (s, 81H, $9 \times C(CH_3)_3$); ^{13}C NMR (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$, $20^\circ C$, TMS) $\delta=147.2$, 144.5, and 128.0 (Ar), 125.9 (ArH), 34.2 ($C(CH_3)_3$), 32.6 ($ArCH_2Ar$), 31.5 ($C(CH_3)_3$); MS (MALDI) m/z calc'd for ($C_{99}H_{126}O_9Na$) required 1482.9 found 1483.0.

Synthesis of 2,6-bis(methoxymethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol (4**):**



2,6-Bis(morpholinomethyl)-*para-tert*-butyl phenol:

A solution of *para-tert*-butylphenol (7.5 g, 50mmol) in glacial acetic acid (20 mL) was cooled to $10^\circ C$. *N*-Morpholine (9.6 mL, 110 mmol) and aqueous formaldehyde (11.0 mL, 38% solution, 110 mmol) were sequentially added under an atmosphere of argon. The flask was flushed with argon and closed with a glass stopper. The mixture was heated at $80^\circ C$ for 6 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was treated with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (50 mL) and extracted with dichloromethane (3×50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (50 mL),

dried using anhydrous magnesium sulphate and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent *in vacuo* and subsequent purification *via* column chromatography using dichloromethane / methanol (95 : 05) solvent system afforded the product as white waxy solid (18.2 g, 89.2%). m.p. 108-110°C; FTIR (thin film) 3418, 2925, 2859, 1641, 1493, 1452, 1116, 1050, 824 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=11.83 (s, 1H, AcOH), 7.01 (s, 2H, ArH), 3.66-3.64 (m, 12H), 2.56 (s, 8H, 4 × CH₂), 1.92 (s, 3H, CH₃COOH), 1.36 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=175.7 (CH₃COOH), 154.1, 141.7, 127.1, 120.2, 66.5, 59.1, 52.7, 34.1, 31.6, 22.5 (CH₃COOH) ppm; MS (ES) *m/z* calc'd for (C₂₂H₃₆N₂O₅) required 408.2 found 408.2 [M + CH₃COOH]⁺.

O-Acetyl-2,6-bis(acetoxymethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol:

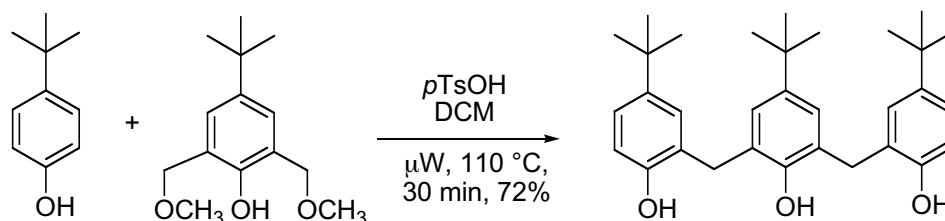
A mixture of 2,6-bis(morpholinomethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol (17.5 g, 42.9 mmol), acetic anhydride (50 mL) and glacial acetic acid (5 mL) was heated at reflux for 24 h under an atmosphere of nitrogen. The solvent was removed by vacuum distillation. The resultant oil was dissolved in dichloromethane (200 mL). The organic solution was washed successively with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution (3 × 75 mL) and water (75 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate, filtered and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Purification *via* column chromatography using *n*-hexane / ethyl acetate as the eluent (80 : 20) afforded the triacetate as a clear oil (9.2 g, 63.8%). FTIR (thin film) 2962, 2867, 1765, 1741, 1606, 1484, 1367, 1225, 1177, 1026 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=7.40 (s, 2H, ArH), 5.02 (s, 4H, 2 × CH₂O), 2.31 (s, 3H, ArOCOCH₃), 2.06 (s, 6H, 2 × COCH₃), 1.31 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ=170.7, 169.5, 149.5, 145.9, 128.4, 128.3, 61.9, 34.7, 31.5, 21.0, 20.7 ppm; MS (ES) *m/z* calc'd for (C₁₈H₂₄O₆Na) required 359.2 found 359.2 [M + Na]⁺.

2,6-Bis(methoxymethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol:

A solution of *O*-acetyl-2,6-bis(acetoxymethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol (1.0 g, 2.98 mmol) and *p*TsOH (40 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dry methanol (5.5 mL) was heated under microwave irradiation at 120 °C for 30 min in a sealed reaction tube. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and residue re-dissolved in dichloromethane (15 mL). The organic layer was successively washed with 10% NaHCO₃ and brine. The organic solution was dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. Evaporation of the solvent afforded **4** as clear oil in quantitative yield (710 mg, 100%). FTIR (thin film) 3425, 2929, 2865, 1112, 1050, 824 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz,

CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ =7.62 (br, 1H, OH), 7.12 (s, 2H, ArH), 4.58 (s, 4H, 2 $\times$ CH₂), 3.44 (s, 6H, 2 $\times$ OCH₃), 1.27 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃) ppm; ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ =151.7, 141.9, 125.1, 122.5, 71.8, 57.9, 33.5, 31.0 ppm; MS (ES) m/z calc'd for (C₁₄H₂₂O₃Na) required 261.3 found 261.3 [M + Na]⁺.

Synthesis of 2,6-[bis(5-*tert*-butylsalicyl)]-*para-tert*-butylphenol (3):



A solution of 2,6-bis(methoxymethyl)-*para-tert*-butylphenol (330 mg, 1.38 mmol) and *para-tert*-butylphenol (590 mg, 3.92 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (4 mL) containing pTsOH (28 mg, 0.1 mmol) was heated under microwave irradiation at 110 °C for 30 min in a sealed reaction tube. The organic layer was washed with 10% NaHCO₃, brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulphate and solvent evaporated under reduced pressure. Column chromatography using *n*-hexane-DCM (1:1) afforded the trimer **3** (475 mg, 72.5 %); FTIR (thin film) 3338, 2926, 2860, 1607, 1494, 1452, 1050 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ =7.28 (d, J (H,H)=2.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.18 (d, J (H,H)=1.1 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.06 (dd, J (H,H)=8.4, 2.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 6.73 (d, J (H,H)=8.4 Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.90 (s, 4H, 2 $\times$ CH₂), 1.28 (s, 9H, C(CH₃)₃), 1.25 (s, 18H, 2 $\times$ C(CH₃)₃) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 20°C, TMS) δ =149.8, 147.5, 144.5, 144.5, 127.8, 127.5, 127.0, 126.2, 125.0, 115.9, 34.3, 34.2, 32.3, 31.8, 31.7 ppm; MS (ES) m/z calc'd for (C₃₂H₄₂O₃Na) required 497.3 found 497.4 [M + Na]⁺.

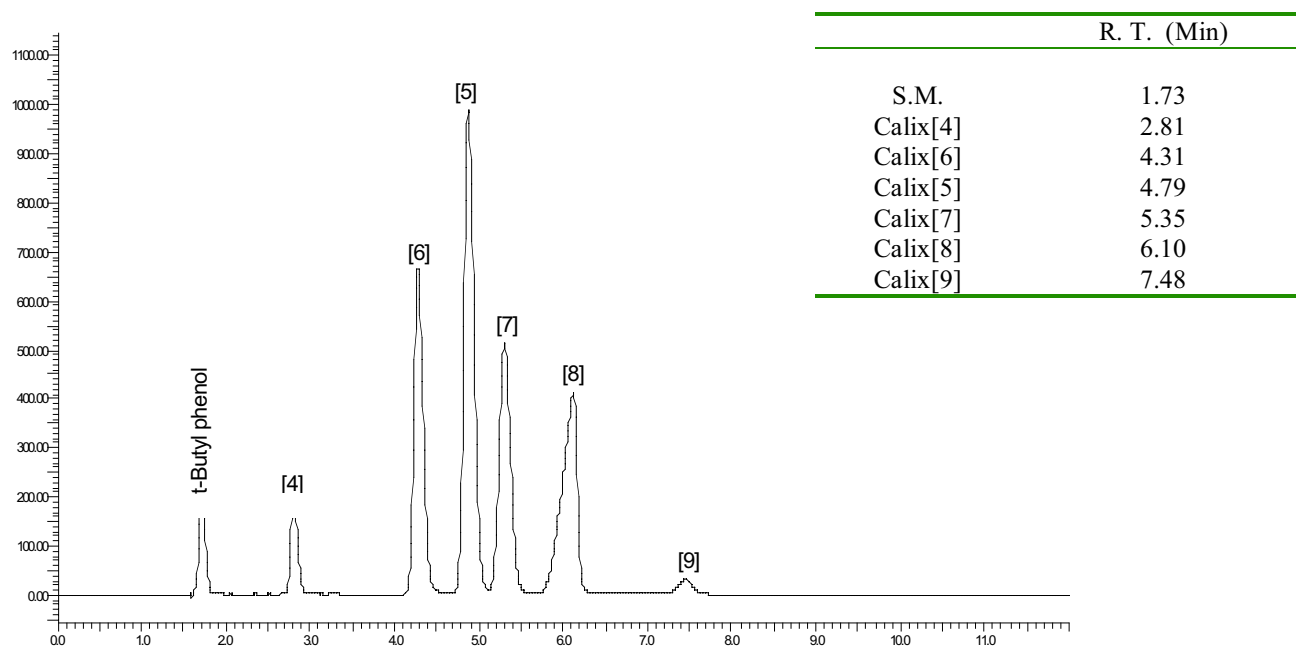


Figure 1: HPLC chromatogram of the standard mixture of *para-tert*-butylcalix[4-9]arenes and *para-tert*-butylphenol

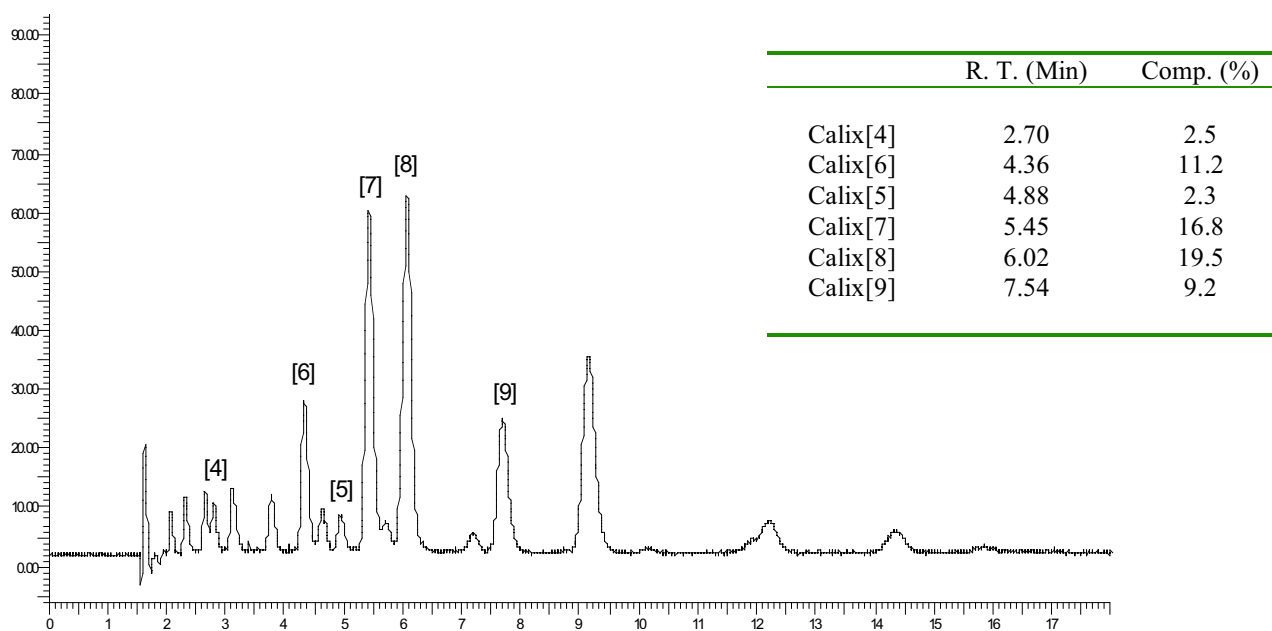


Figure 2: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture after 7 hours reflux using the procedure given in reference 1.

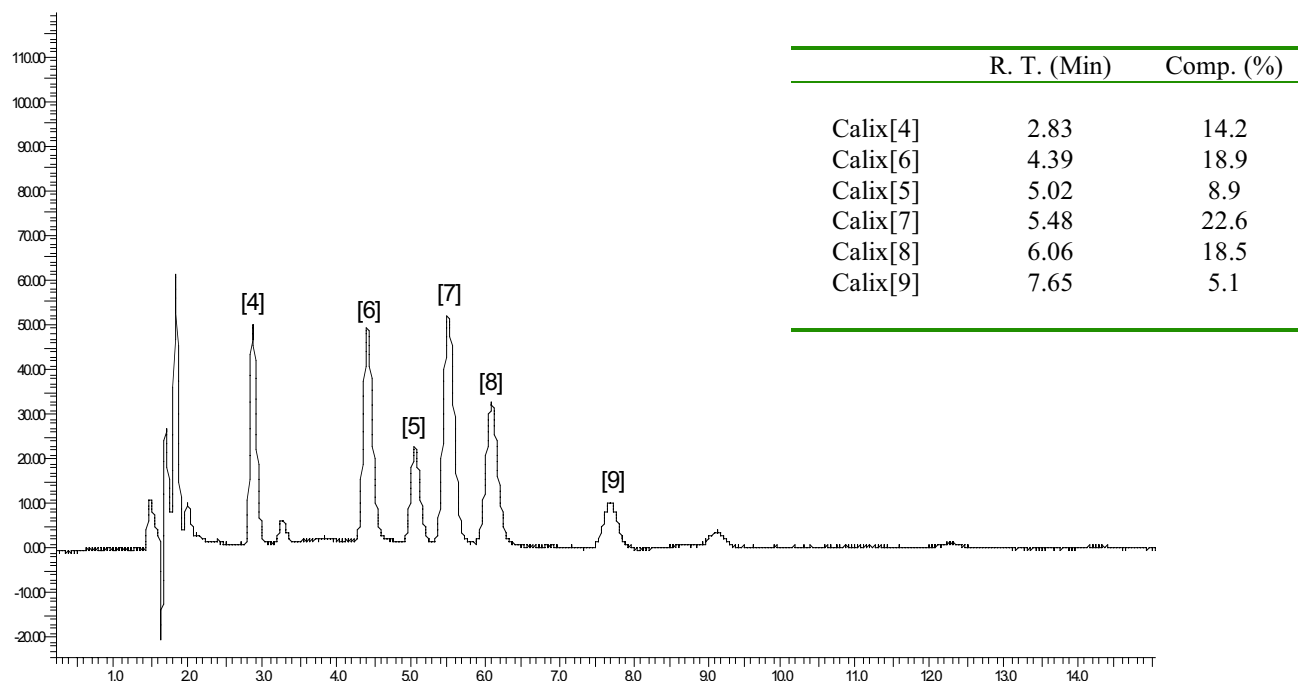


Figure 3: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture for the synthesis of **2**_[4] – **2**_[9] using **1** and [Fc]⁺BF₄⁻

(A solution of **1** (450 mg, 3 mmol), [Fc]⁺BF₄⁻ (818 mg, 3 mmol) and *s*-trioxane (270 mg, 3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was placed in a sealed reaction tube and irradiated with microwaves at 120 °C for 30 min.)

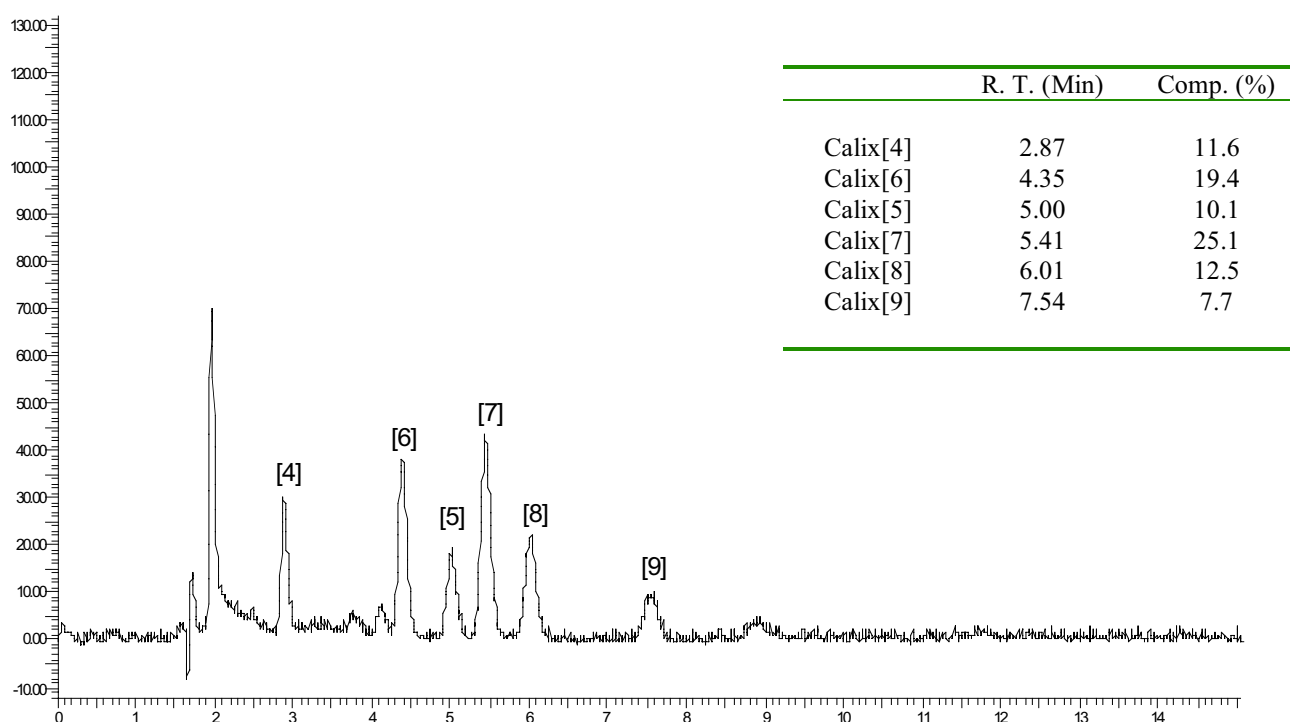


Figure 4: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture for the synthesis of **2**_[4] – **2**_[9] using **1** and [Fc]⁺PF₆⁻

(A solution of **1** (150 mg, 1 mmol), [Fc]⁺PF₆⁻ (330 mg, 1 mmol) and *s*-trioxane (90 mg, 1 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) was placed in a sealed reaction tube and irradiated with microwaves at 120 °C for 60 min.)

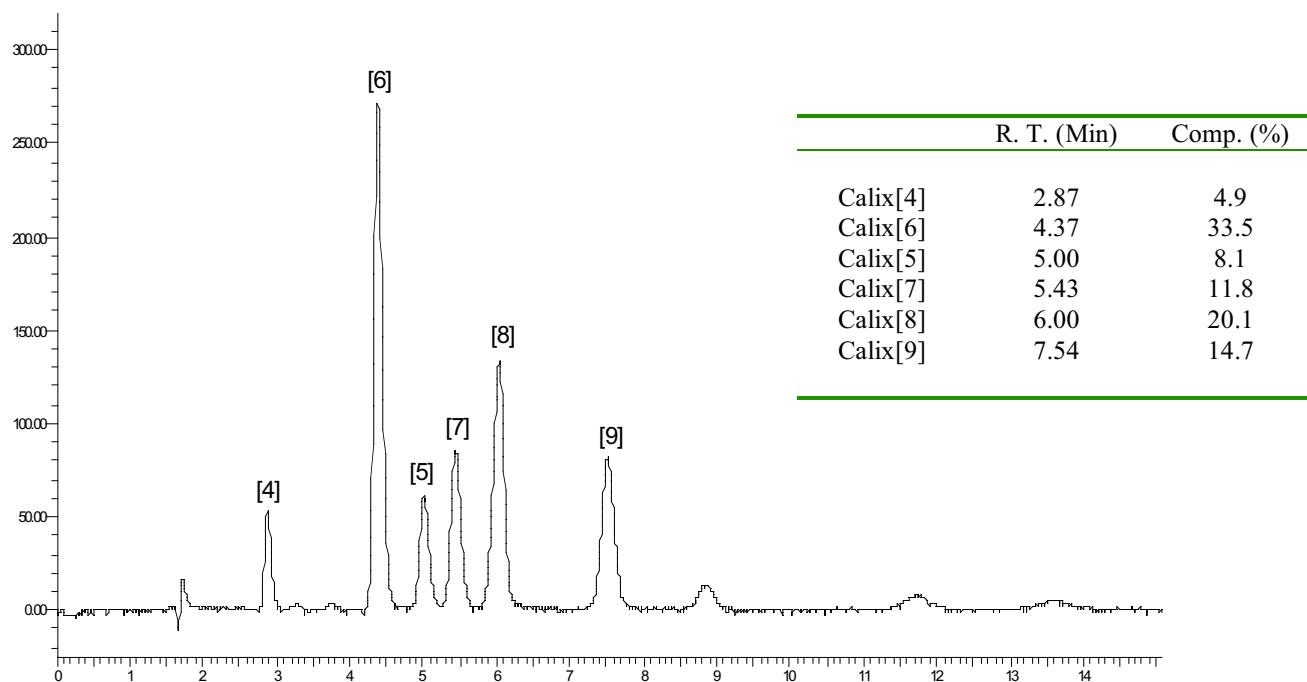


Figure 5: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture for the synthesis of **2**_[4] – **2**_[9] using **3** and $[\text{Fc}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$
(A solution of **3** (475 mg, 1 mmol), $[\text{Fc}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$ (270 mg, 1 mmol) and s-trioxane (100 mg, 1.1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL) was placed in a sealed reaction tube and irradiated with microwaves at 120 °C for 60 min.)

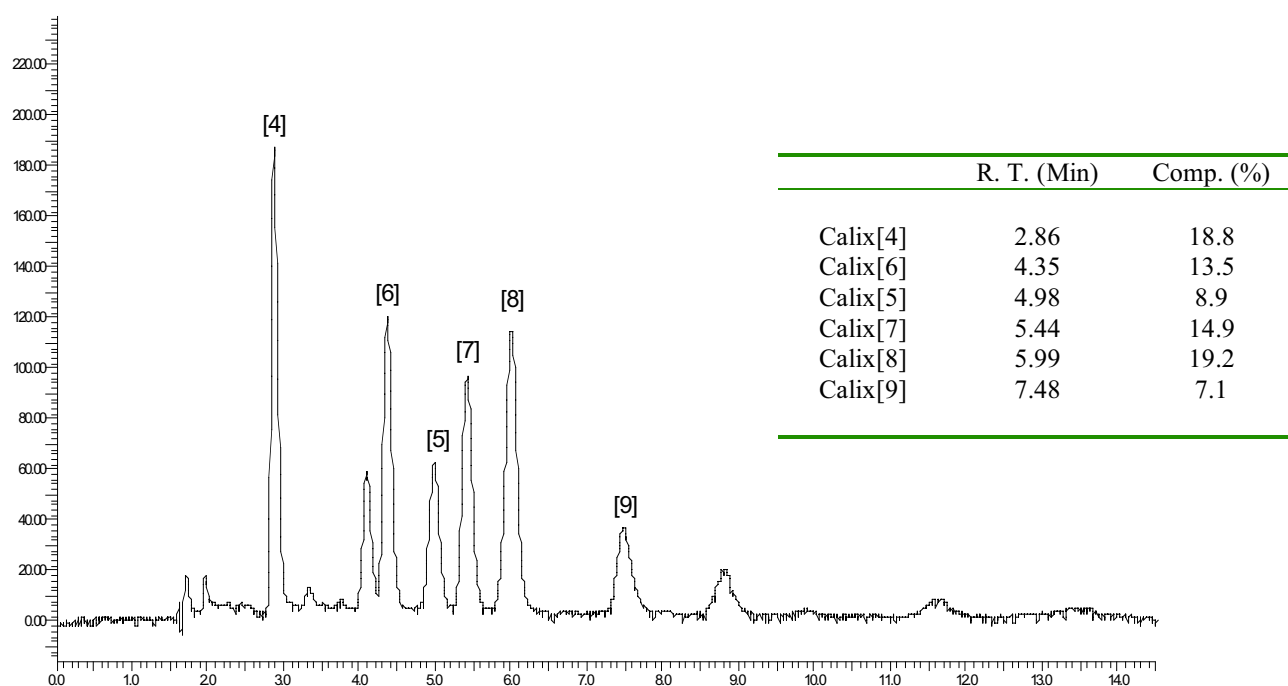


Figure 6: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture for the synthesis of **2**_[4] – **2**_[9] using **3**, **4** and $[\text{Fc}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$
(A solution of **3** (475 mg, 1 mmol), **4** (240 mg, 1 mmol) and $[\text{Fc}]^+\text{BF}_4^-$ (270 mg, 1 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (4 mL) was placed in a sealed reaction tube and irradiated with microwaves at 120 °C for 60 min.)

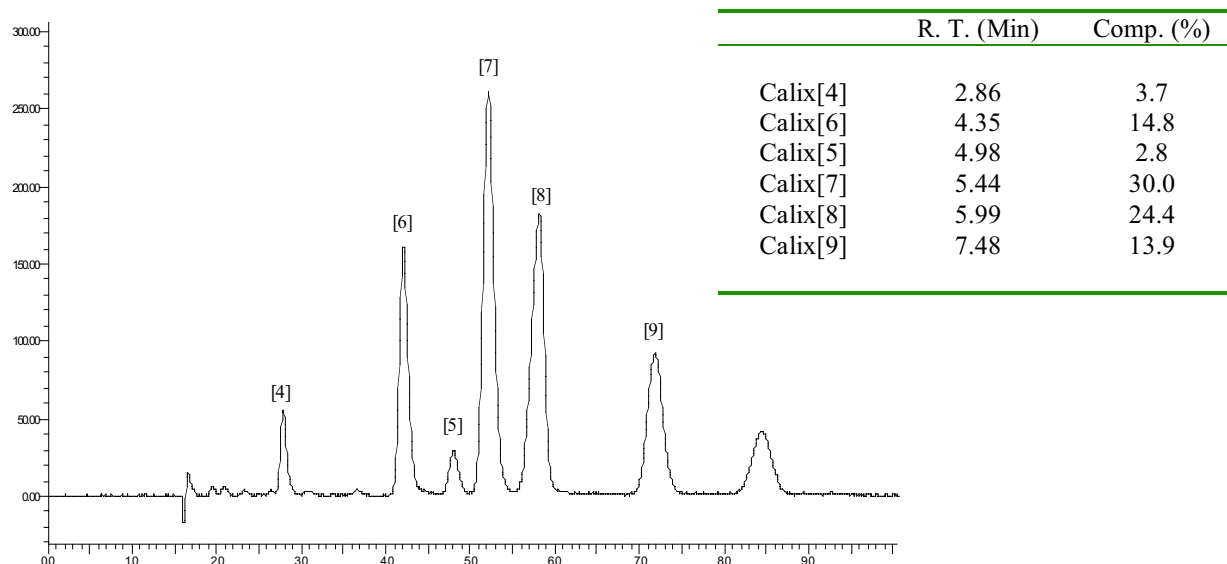


Figure 7: HPLC chromatogram of the reaction mixture for the synthesis of $2_{[4]} - 2_{[9]}$ using **1**, trioxane and silver triflate

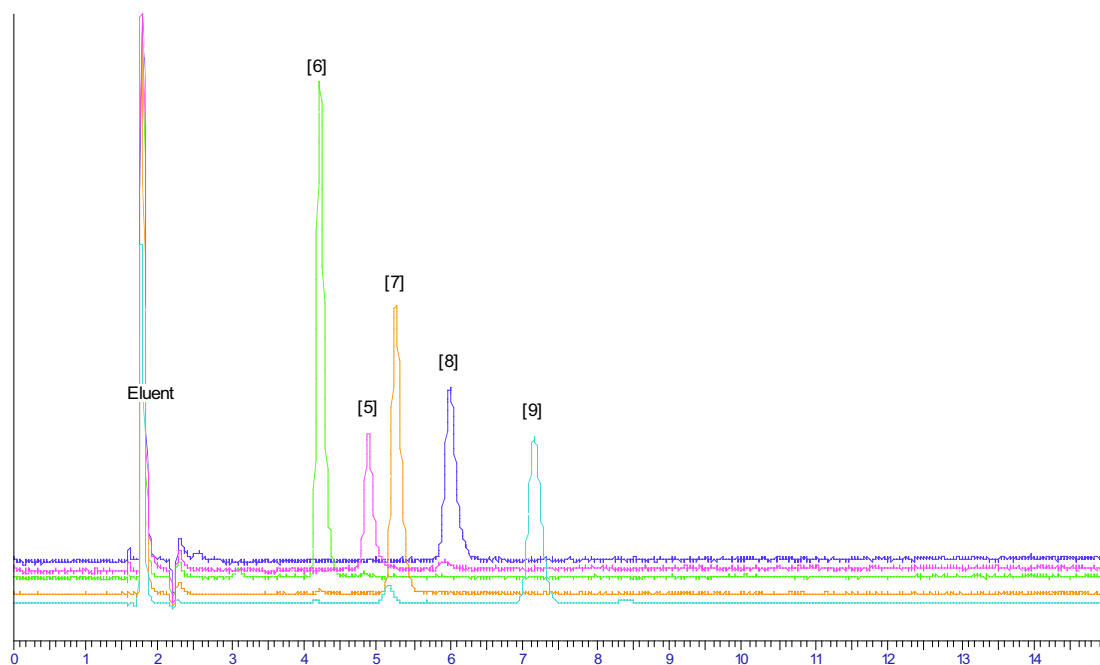


Figure 8: Overlay view of HPLC chromatograms of *para-tert*-butyl calix[5-9]arenes isolated by flash column chromatography from the reaction mixture

