# A cationic water-soluble pillar[5]arene: synthesis and host – guest complexation with sodium 1-octanesulfonate

Yingjie Ma,<sup>*a*</sup> Xiaofan Ji,<sup>*a*</sup> Fei Xiang,<sup>*a*</sup> Xiaodong Chi,<sup>*a*</sup> Chengyou Han,<sup>*a*</sup> Jiuming He,<sup>*b*</sup> Zeper Abliz,<sup>*b*</sup> Weixiang Chen<sup>*a*</sup> and Feihe Huang<sup>*a*,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, P. R. China, and Fax: +86-571-8795-1895;

Tel: +86-571-8795-3189; Email address: fhuang@zju.edu.cn.

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing

100050, P. R. China.

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#### 1. Materials and methods

All reagents were commercially available and used as supplied without further purification. NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Advance DMX 500 spectrophotometer or a Bruker Advance DMX 400 spectrophotometer with use of the deuterated solvent as the lock and the residual solvent or TMS as the internal reference. Low-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra were recorded with a Bruker Esquire 3000 Plus spectrometer (Bruker-Franzen Analytik GmbH Bremen, Germany) equipped with ESI interface and ion trap analyzer. High resolution mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker 7-Tesla FT-ICRMS equipped with an electrospray source (Billerica, MA, USA). The melting points were collected on a SHPSIC WRS-2 automatic melting point apparatus.

2. Synthesis of 1





2.1. Synthesis of compound 2<sup>SI</sup>



Carbon tetrabromide (39.8 g, 120 mmol) was slowly added in small portions to a solution of 1,4-bis(2-hydroxyethoxy)benzene (10.0 g, 50.4 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (31.5 g, 120 mmol) in 300 mL of dry acetonitrile at 0 °C with stirring. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature, and the resulting clear solution was stirred for another 4 h under N<sub>2</sub>. Then 200 mL of cold water was added to the reaction mixture, where product **2** precipitated as a white solid. The product was collected by vacuum filtration, thoroughly washed with methanol/water 60:40, and then recrystalized from methanol. The white flake-like crystals were dried under high vacuum (13.8 g, 85 %). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** is shown in Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 6.89 (s, 4H), 4.27 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H), 3.64 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 4H).



Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature) of 2.

2.2. Synthesis of compound  $3^{S2}$ 



To a solution of **2** (3.37 g, 11.5 mmol) in 1, 2-dichloroethane (200 mL), paraformaldehyde (0.349 g, 11.5 mmol) was added under nitrogen atmosphere. Then boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF<sub>3</sub>·(OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 1.63 g, 11.5 mmol) was added to the solution and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. A green solution was got. After the solvent was removed, the obtained solid was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with petroleum ether/dichloromethane (1:2  $\nu/\nu$ ) as the eluent to get a white powder (1.6 g, 41 %). Mp: 95.0–97.0 °C. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** is shown in Figure S2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 6.93 (s, 10H),

4.25 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 20H), 3.86 (s, 10H), 3.65 (t, J = 5.7 Hz, 20H). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3** is shown in Figure S3. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 149.58, 128.97, 116.00, 68.88, 30.65, and 29.32. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S4: m/z 1702.5 [M + Na]<sup>1+</sup> (100%). HRESIMS is shown in Figure S5: m/z calcd for [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>55</sub>H<sub>60</sub>Br<sub>10</sub>O<sub>10</sub>, 1702.5938; found 1702.58.



Fig. S3. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature) of 3.



Fig. S4. Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 3.



Fig. S5. High resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 3.

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2.2. Synthesis of compound 1



Compound **3** (1.00 g, 0.595 mmol) and trimethylamine (33 % in ethanol, 6.43 mL, 23.8 mmol) were added to ethanol (50 mL). The solution was refluxed overnight. Then the solvent was removed by evaporation, deionized water (20 mL) was added. After filtration, a clear solution was got. Then the water was removed by evaporation to obtain **1** as a colorless solid (1.28 g, 95 %). Mp: 101.0–103.0 °C. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** is shown in Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 6.98 (s, 10H), 4.48 (s, 20H), 3.94 (s, 10H), 3.84 (s, 20H), 3.24 (s, 90H). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1** is shown in Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 149.30, 129.89, 116.55, 64.91, 63.49, 54.13, and 29.57. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S8: *m/z* 1055.12 [M – 2Br]<sup>2+</sup>, 677.11 [M – 3Br]<sup>3+</sup>, 487.66 [M – 4Br]<sup>4+</sup>, 374.31 [M – 5Br]<sup>5+</sup>, 298.46 [M – 6Br]<sup>6+</sup>. HRESIMS is shown in Figure S9: *m/z* of C<sub>85</sub>H<sub>150</sub>Br<sub>10</sub>N<sub>10</sub>O<sub>10</sub> 1055.25 [M – 2Br]<sup>2+</sup>, 677.19 [M – 3Br]<sup>3+</sup>, 487.66 [M – 4Br]<sup>6+</sup>.



*Figure S6.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, room temperature) of **1**.



*Figure S7.* <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz,  $D_2O$ , room temperature) of **1**.



Figure S8. Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 1.





Figure S9. High resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra of 1.

### 3. Stoichiometry and association constant determination for the complexation between 1 and G

To determine the stoichiometry and association constant between **1** and octyl sodium sulfonate (**G**), <sup>1</sup>H NMR titrations were done with solutions which had a constant concentration of **G** (16 mM) and varying concentrations of **1**. By a non-linear curve-fitting method, the association constant between the guest and **1** was calculated. By a mole ratio plot, a 1:1 stoichiometry was obtained; the guest was shown to form a 1:1 complex with **1**.

The non-linear curve-fitting was based on the equation:<sup>S3</sup>

 $\Delta \delta = (\Delta \delta_{\infty} / [G]_0) (0.5[H]_0 + 0.5([G]_0 + 1/K_a) - (0.5 ([H]_0^2 + (2[H]_0(1/K_a - [G]_0)) + (1/K_a + [G]_0)^2)^{0.5})) (Eq. S1)$ Where  $\Delta \delta$  is the chemical shift change of H<sub>1</sub> on **G** at [H]\_0,  $\Delta \delta_{\infty}$  is the chemical shift change of H<sub>1</sub> when the guest is completely complexed, [G]\_0 is the fixed initial concentration of the guest, and [H]\_0 is the varying concentrations of **1**.



*Figure S10.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (D<sub>2</sub>O, 293 K, 400 MHz) of **G** at a concentration of 16 mM upon different concentrations of **1**: (a) 0.00 mM, (b) 3.07 mM, (c) 5.92 mM, (d) 8.57mM, (e) 11.03 mM, (f) 13.89 mM, (g) 16.51 mM, (h) 21.18 mM, (i) 25.21 mM, (j) 31.81 mM, (k) 36.99 mM, (l) 44.60 mM, (m) 49.92 mM.



*Figure S11.* The chemical shift changes of  $H_1$  on **G** upon addition of **1**. The red solid line was obtained from the non-linear curve-fitting using Eq. S1.



Figure S12. Mole ratio plot for the complexation between 1 and G, indicating a 1:1 stoichiometry.

4. Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of an equimolar water solution of 1 with G.





*Figure S13.* Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of an equimolar water solution of **1** with **G**. Assignment of main peaks:  $m/z \ 276.37 \left[1 \supset G - 7Br\right]^{7+}$ , 298.23  $\left[1 - 6Br\right]^{6+}$ .

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