Anion-directed Assembly of a Rectangular Supramolecular Cage in the Solid State with Electron-deficient Phenoxylated Oxacalix[2]arene[2]triazine

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1. General Information

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on 300, 400 or 600MHz NMR spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm versus tetramethylsilane with either tetramethylsilane or the residual solvent resonance used as an internal standard. All solvents were dried according to standard procedures prior to use. All other major chemicals were obtained from commercial sources and used without further purification. The single crystal of **5a**, **5b** and the complex of [**5a**•Et₄NCl] were obtained by slow evaporation of a mixture of dichloromethane and hexane, acetone and hexane, dichloromethane and methanol, respectively.

2. Experimental details and characterization of products



Scheme S1 Synthesis of 4.

Preparation of **4**: To a solution of 2,4,6-trichloro-1,3,5-triazine **7** (5 mmol, 922 mg) in 15 mL THF, phenol **6** (5 mmol, 470 mg) in 20 mL THF and DIPEA (5.5 mmol, 709 mg) were added dropwise during 2 h. The mixture was stirring under icebath. After the reaction was finised, the resulting mixture was concentrated and was chromatographed on a silica gel (200-300 meshes) column eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether and acetone (6 : 1). Pure **4** was obtained as a white solid (1.08 g, 89%): ¹H NMR (400MHZ, CDCl₃) δ 7.49-7.43 (2H, m), 7.37-7.31(1H, m), 7.20-7.15(2H, m); ¹³C NMR (100MHZ, CDCl₃) δ 173.2, 171.2, 151.1, 130.0, 127.1, 121.1.

Preparation of **5a**. Mixing **4** (2 mmol, 484 mg), **3** (2 mmol, 220 mg) and anhydrous K_2CO_3 (50 mL) in 20 mL acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h. After filtration and concentration, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel (200-300

meshes) column eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether and ethyl acetate. Pure product **5a** (219 mg, 39%) was obtained as white solids: mp 176-178 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 7.54-7.46 (m, 4H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 8H), 7.02-6.98 (2H, d, *J* = 1.8 Hz), 6.98-6.92 (4H, dd, *J*₁ = 8.3 Hz, *J*₂ = 1.8 Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) δ 174.6, 173.7, 152.3, 152.1, 130.5, 129.7, 126.2, 121.7, 119.0, 116.6; IR (KBr) v 1566, 1483, 1367, 1199 cm⁻¹; MS (MALDI-TOF) *m*/*z* 559.2 (M+H⁺), 581.2 (M+Na⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₃₀H₁₈N₆O₆: C, 64.52; H, 3.25; N, 15.05. Found: C, 64.82; H, 3.40; N, 14.93.

Preparation of cage molecule **5b**. Mixing **2** (1 mmol, 184 mg) and anhydrous K₂CO₃ (2.2 mmol, 304 mg) in 20 mL dired acetonitrile. After stirring at room temperature for 30 min, a solution **1** (0.5 mmol, 222 mg) in 20 mL dired acetonitrile was added dropwise. The mixture was then stirred for another 30 min. After filtration and concentration, the residue was chromatographed on a silica gel (200-300 meshes) column eluting with a mixture of petroleum ether, ethyl acetate and dichlomethane (12 : 1 : 1). Pure **5b** (353 mg, 96%) was then obtained as white solids : mp 269-270 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz) δ 7.29 (2H, t, $J_1 = 8.10$ Hz), 6.89 (4H, dd, $J_1 = 8.10$ Hz, $J_2 = 2.10$ Hz), 6.74 (2H, t, $J_2 = 2.10$ Hz); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz) δ 174.0, 173.1, 151.9, 141.4 (dm, $J_1 = 254.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz), 140.1 (dm, $J_1 = 254.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz), 138.1 (dm, $J_1 = 254.3$ Hz, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz), 130.7, 126.1(t, $J_2 = 13.6$ Hz), 119.6, 116.2; IR (KBr) v 1589, 1521, 1485, 1449 cm⁻¹; MS (MALDI-TOF) *m*/z 739.2 (M+H⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₃₀H₈F₁₀N₆O₆: C, 48.80; H, 1.09; N, 11.38. Found: C, 48.67; H, 1.31; N, 11.26.

3. Crystal structure



Figure S1 Crystal structure of **5a**. Selected bond length [Å]: C4-O1 1.414, O1-C2 1.337, C8-O2 1.420, O2-C10 1.340, C12-O3 1.339, O3-C13 1.408, C17-O4 1.417, O4-C3 1.337. Selected distances [Å]: C1^{...}C11 9.082, N2^{...}N6 4.574, C18^{...}C9 4.295, C15^{...}C6 6.233.





Figure S2 Self assembly of 5a.



Figure S3 Crystal structure of **5b**. Selected bond length [Å]: C9-O2 1.326, O2-C10 1.431, C12-O3 1.420, O3-C16 1.330, C18-O5 1.351, O5-C21 1.412, C19-O4 1.420, O4-C8 1.341. Selected distances [Å]: C7^{...}C17 9.027, N4^{...}N2 4.600, C20^{...}C11 4.435, C23^{...}C14 4.925.



Figure S4 Self assembly of **5b** through multiple lone pair electrons- π interactions.



Figure S5 Self assembled cage structure of $[5a \cdot Cl^{-}H_2O]$ complex through multple weak interactions.



4. Spectroscopic titration data

Figure S6 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0 mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutylammonium azide (0, 1.11, 2.23, 3.37, 4.45, 5.569, 6.67, 7.79, 8.90, 10.0, 11.1, 13.4, 15.6, 16.7, 17.8, 18.9, 20.0, 21.1, 22.3 × 10^{-4} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. Insert is the Job's plot of the complex.



Figure S7 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0 mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutylammonium phosphate (0, 0.18, 0.36, 0.54, 0.715, 0.89, 1.07, 1.25, 1.43, 1.61, 1.79×10^{-4} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240 nm/min, respectively.



Figure S8 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutylammonium chloride (0, 0.37, 0.74, 1.11, 1.48, 1.85, 2.23, 2.60, 2.97, 3.34, 3.71×10^{-3} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240 nm/min, respectively.



Figure S9 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutyl ammonium bromide (0, 0.18, 0.35, 0.527, 0.70, 1.05, 1.41, 1.78, 2.11, 2.46, 2.81, 3.16, 3.51×10^{-3} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240nm/min, respectively.



Figure S10 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutyl ammonium sulfate (0, 0.19, 0.38, 0.76, 1.14, 1.52, 1.91, 2.285, 2.67, 3.05×10^{-3} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240nm/min, respectively.



Figure S11 Fluorescence titration curves of **5a** (5.68×10^{-4} M in 2.0mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutyl ammonium nitrate (0, 0.35, 0.70, 1.05, 1.40, 1.75, 2.11, 2.456, 2.81, 3.16, 3.51, 3.86, 4.21×10^{-3} M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 298 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240nm/min, respectively.



Figure S12 UV-vis titration curves of **5b** (1.76×10^{-4} M in 1 mL acetonitrile) upon the addition of tetrabutylammonium azide (0, 0.39, 0.78, 1.17, 1.560, 1.95, 2.34, 2.73, 3.12, 3.51, 3.90×10^{-4} M), respectively.



Figure S13 Fluorescence titration curves of **5b** $(1.73 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M in 1.0mL acetonitrile})$ upon the addition of tetrabutylammonium azide (0, 0.39, 0.78, 1.17, 1.56, 1.95, 2.34, 2.73, 3.12, 3.51, 3.90 × 10⁻⁴ M), respectively. The excitation wavelength was 259 nm. The excitation and emission band widths were both 10 nm and the scan speed was set at 240nm/min, respectively. The insert is the Job plot of the complex and total concentration is 7.10×10^{-4} M.



5. ¹H NMR titration data

Figure S14 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of chloride (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S15 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of bromide (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S16 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of azide (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S17 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of nitrate (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S18 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of phosphate (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S19 ¹H titration of **5a** upon the addition of sulphate (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S20 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of chloride (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S21 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of bromide (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S22 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of azide (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S23 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of nitrate (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S24 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of phosphate (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S25 ¹H titration of **5b** upon the addition of sulphate (in CD₃CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).



Figure S26 ¹⁹F titration of **5b** upon the addition of azide (in CD_3CN and with 400 MHz NMR spectrometer).

6. ESI-MS spectrum







Figure S28 ESI-MS spectrum of 5a and bromide.







Figure S30 ESI-MS spectrum of 5a and sulphate.



Figure S31 ESI-MS spectrum of 5a and phosphate.



Figure S32 ESI-MS spectrum of 5a and azide.



Figure S33 ESI-MS spectrum of 5b and azide.

7. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of products



Figure S34 1 H NMR of **5a**.



Figure S35 13 C NMR of 5a.

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Figure S38 1 H NMR of 4.



Figure S39 ¹³C NMR of **4**.