Supporting Information

Dendritic Closomers: Novel Spherical Hybrid Dendrimers

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General methods

Bulk solvents were purchased from VWR International (West Chester, PA) and were used as received. Ethanol was purchased from Decon Labs, Inc. Ethyl 4-bromobutyrate was purchased from Alfa Aesar. All other reagents were purchased from Acros. All chemicals were used without further purification. Water was obtained from a Barnstead NANOpure Water Purification System operating at 18.2 M $\Omega \times$ cm. Dodecahydroxy *closo*-dodecaborane **1** was synthesized according to a previously reported protocol.^{1, 2}

NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker $AVANCE^{III}$ -400 and AVANCE-500 instruments. Chemical shifts (δ , ppm) for ¹H and ¹³C were referenced to residual solvent peaks. Boron chemical shifts were externally referenced to BF₃*Et₂O and the width of boron NMR signal was calculated at half height of a corresponding peak. UV-Vis absorption spectra were recorded on Varian Cary 50 spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were obtained using Waters/Micromass Q-TOF *Ultima* API and PerSeptive-ABI Mariner (ESI-TOF) instruments. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were acquired on Bruker APEX-Ultra 7T FT-ICR instrument. Data reported as follows: (m/z: calculated; m/z: found). The isotopic distribution of each dodecaborane containing ion matched that expected for normal abundance boron. Particle size was determined via dynamic light scattering on Microtrac Zetatrac instrument.

Size exclusion chromatography was performed using Sephadex LH-20 resin on Agilent EZChrom SI System - EZPump Series II/Series III equipped with Model 500 UV-Vis Detector, 50x600 mm Michel-Miller glass column and Teledyne Isco Foxy 200 automatic fraction collector.

Analytical HPLC traces were acquired on Beckman Coulter System Gold 125NM Solvent Module and 168 PDA Detector; column Jupiter 4 μ m Proteo 90Å (250x4.60 mm Phenomenex C12); flow 1 mL/min; Gradient: B 0% to 100% over 100 min; A: water + 0.1% TFA, B: acetonitrile + 0.1% TFA.

Preparative HPLC purification was carried out on Beckman Coulter System Gold 126 Solvent Module and 168 PDA Detector; column DYNAMAX-150A (400x20 mm Rainin C18); flow 10 mL/min; Gradient: B 0% 1 min, then B 0% to 50% over 50 min; A: water + 0.1% TFA, B: acetonitrile + 0.1% TFA.

Cyclic voltammetry was conducted using Princeton Applied Research *PARSTAT* 2273 *Advanced Electrochemical System* interfaced with a computer running PowerSuite 2.60 software. Experiments utilized a PAR microcell equipped with a Pt quasi-reference electrode calibrated vs Fc/Fc⁺ couple. Experiments were conducted in 0.10 M solution of tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate prepared in freshly distilled acetonitrile de-aerated with argon. Neutral ether closomers were used in concentrations of 1 mM. The electrochemical experiments were carried out using scan rates of 50, 100, and 200 mVs⁻¹. Half-wave potentials ($E_{1/2}$) for each electrochemical reaction were calculated from the equation $E_{1/2}=(E_{pc}+E_{pa})/2$ using the cathodic and anodic peak current potentials E_{pc} and E_{pa} , respectively. Each measurement given herein is an average of three trials. Each cyclic voltammetry experiment was conducted with and without the presence of ferrocene as an internal reference.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 2. (i) Alkylation of $B_{12}(OH)_{12}$ •2TBA (1) with ethyl 4-bromobutyrate. A two-necked round-bottom flask was charged with 1 (5.09 g, 6.20 mmol), ethyl 4-bromobutyrate (54 mL, 0.38 mol), diisopropylethylamine (21 mL, 0.12 mol) and acetonitrile (200 mL). The vigorously stirred mixture was heated to reflux under argon. In 5 days, another portion of diisopropylethylamine (11 mL, 0.06 mol) was added to the reaction mixture. In another 5 days an additional portion of diisopropylethylamine (11 mL, 0.06 mol) was added to the reaction mixture. In another 5 days an additional portion of diisopropylethylamine (11 mL, 0.06 mol) was added to the reaction mixture. After 5 days of last addition of diisopropylethylamine the reaction mixture was concentrated in vacuo to a constant volume. The viscous residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (500 ml) and the solution was filtered. The filtrate was concentrated in *vacuo* to a constant volume and the remaining residue was washed with hexane (3x300 mL). The residue was dissolved in methanol and purified on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600) using methanol as eluent at the rate of 10 mL/min, 254 nm. The product was eluted between 50 and 59 min; combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to drvness, Yield 9.5 g (79%). ¹¹B NMR (MeCN, 128 MHz) δ -16.8 (signal width 239.5 Hz); (ii) Oxidation of the alkylation product into hypercloso form 2. The alkylation product was dissolved in a minimal amount of dichloromethane and passed through SiO₂ column, eluent dichloromethane-ethanol 9:1 giving the corresponding oxidized bright orange colored hypercloso compound. The eluted product fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and the target 12-fold butyrate was additionally passed through a SiO₂ column, slurry packed with a 1:1 mixture of hexane-ethyl ether, eluent: first 200 mL 1:1 mixture of hexane-ethyl ether, then addiatioanl 200 mL of ethyl ether to give 2.40 g of pure product; combined yield for two stages was 23%. ¹¹B NMR (CDCl₃, 160 MHz) δ41.6 (signal width 155.8 Hz). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz) δ4.06 (24H, q, OCH₂CH₃), 3.96 (24H, t, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 2.28 (24H, t, OCH₂CH₂CO₂), 1.81 (24H, m, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 1.17 (24H, t, OCH₂CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) δ 173.3, 69.7, 60.3, 30.9, 27.4. 14.2. HRMS-ESI(-) M⁻ calc 1704.9615. M⁻ found 1705.0369.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 3. To a stirred solution of ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (0.47 g, 3.52 mmol) in ethylenediamine (50 mL), a solution of 2 (1.00 g, 0.59 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was slowly added dropwise at r.t. under argon over a period of 10 min. The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 3 days (monitoring by MS-ESI). The solution was concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and the residue was purified on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600), methanol 10 mL/min, 254 nm. The product was eluted between 45 and 59 min; combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. Yield 1.00 g (90%). ¹¹B NMR (D₂O, 160 MHz) δ -16.9 (signal width 166.0 Hz); ¹H NMR (D₂O, 500 MHz) δ 3.91 (24H, m, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 3.37 (22H, m, NCH₂CH₂NH), 3.20 (2H, t, NCH₂CH₂N), 3.09 (2H, t, NCH₂CH₂CN), 2.96 (22H, m, NCH₂CH₂N), 2.27 (24H, t, OCH₂CH₂CO₂), 1.77 (24H, m, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂); ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 125 MHz) δ 177.3, 65.7, 40.5, 40.0, 39.3, 38.7, 32.8, 28.2; HRMS-ESI(+) [M+3H]⁺ calc 1876.3076, found 1876.37069, [M+4H]²⁺ calc 938.6577, found 938.6401.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 4. To a stirred solution of 3 (3.50 g, 1.87 mmol) and 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine (0.50 g, 3.74 mmol) in ethanol (40 mL) ethyl acrylate (40 mL) and diisopropylethylamine (7.8 mL, 45 mmol) were sequentially added. The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 24 h. Then more methyl acrylate (20 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 18 days at r.t. while monitoring its progress by MS-ESI. The mixture was concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and the residue was purified on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600), methanol 10 mL/min, 254 nm. The product was eluted between 34 and 45 min; combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. Yield 4.33 g (42%). ¹¹B NMR (MeCN, 160 MHz) δ -16.5 (signal width 272.9 Hz); HRMS-ESI(+) [M+3H]²⁺ calc 2138.7898, found 2138.7885, [M+4H]³⁺ calc 1426.1958, found 1426.1990.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 5. To a stirred solution of ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (0.93 g, 7.00 mmol) in ethylenediamine (75 mL) a solution of **4** (2.48 g, 0.58 mmol) in ethanol (6 mL) was added dropwise at r.t. over a period of 10 min under argon. Then the reaction mixture was stirred at r.t.

for 3 days (monitoring by MS-ESI). Upon completion the reaction mixture was concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and separated on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600), methanol 10 mL/min, 254 nm. Product was eluted between 41 and 55 min. Combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. Yield 1.55 g (58%). ¹¹B NMR (D₂O, 128 MHz) δ -17.2 (signal width 161.5 Hz); ¹H NMR (D₂O, 400 MHz) δ 3.87 (24H, m, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 3.24 (72H, m), 2.77 (96H, m), 2.55 (24H, m), 2.37 (48H, t) 2.19 (24H, t, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 1.72 (24H, m, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂); ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 125 MHz) δ 176.4, 175.1, 65.5, 51.4, 49.1, 40.2, 39.6, 36.6, 32.9, 32.7, 28.5; HRMS-ESI(-) M²⁻ calc 2305.6009, M²⁻ found 2305.5571, HRMS-ESI(+) [M+5H]³⁺ calc 1538.7470, found 1538.9352, [M+6H]⁴⁺ calc 1154.3122, found 1154.5360, [M+7H]⁵⁺ calc 923.6513, found 923.9562.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 6. To a stirred solution of 5 (0.70 g, 0.15 mmol) and 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine (0.02 g, 0.16 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) ethyl acrylate (13 mL) and diisopropylethylamine (1.3 mL, 7.52 mmol) were sequentially added. The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 24 h. Then an additional 13 mL of methyl acrylate was added. The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 18 days while monitoring its progress by MS-ESI. The mixture was concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and the residue was purified on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600), methanol 10 mL/min, 254 nm. The product was eluted between 34 and 44 min; combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. Yield 1.13 g (80%). ¹¹B NMR (MeCN, 128 MHz) δ -17.2 (signal width 262.9 Hz); HRMS-ESI(-) M²⁻ calc 4708.3642, M⁻ found 4708.3613. Due to the paramagnetic nature (ion-radical) of compound **6** its ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are very broad and unresolved.

Synthesis of dendritic closomer 7. To a vigorously stirred solution of ethylenediamine dihydrochloride (0.20 g, 1.50 mmol) in ethylenediamine (30 mL), a solution of 6 (0.55 g, 0.06 mmol) in ethanol (3 mL) was slowly added at r.t. over interval of 10 min under argon. The reaction was stirred at r.t. for 3 days (monitoring by MS-ESI). Upon completion the reaction mixture was concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness and separated on Sephadex LH-20 (50x600), methanol 10 mL/min, 254 nm. Product was eluted between 34 and 40 min. Combined fractions were concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. Yield 0.28 g (46%). ¹¹B NMR (D₂O, 160 MHz) δ -17.2 (signal width 136.0 Hz); ¹H NMR (D₂O, 500 MHz) δ 3.93 (24H, br, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 3.25 (168H, m), 2.79 (144H, t), 2.73 (96H, m), 2.60 (72H, m) 2.41 (144H, t), 2.24 (24H, br, OCH₂CH₂CH₂CO₂), 1.72 (24H, br, OCH₂CH₂CCO₂); ¹³C NMR (D₂O, 125 MHz) δ 176.4, 175.1, 174.4, 65.6, 51.5, 51.3, 49.1, 40.6, 39.7, 36.7, 33.0, 32.8, 28.5. See p. S24 for the mass spectrum deconvolution using the massXpert 2 software.³

Encapsulation of Doxorubicin (DOX) in dendritic closomer 7. A solution of **7** (100 μ L, 2.3 mM in 10 mM ammonium acetate) was mixed with a DOX solution (12 mM in 1:1 MeOH/DMF) in 1:3 and 1:6 molar ratios, 58 μ L and 116 μ L, respectively. The mixtures were dissolved in methanol (2 mL) and stirred at r.t. for 24 h, then 0.5 mL of water (18.2 M $\Omega \times$ cm) was added to each vial. The mixtures were stirred at r.t. for 48 h and then concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. The residues were resuspended in 1 mL of 10 mM ammonium acetate (pH 6.5) and these solutions were passed through PD-10 desalting columns (Sephadex G-25M) eluting with water (18.2 M $\Omega \times$ cm). First 4 ml of eluent (excluded volume) were collected and concentrated in *vacuo* to dryness. The concentration of DOX was determined via measuring the UV/Vis absorbance at 481 nm, ϵ 10410 M⁻¹cm⁻¹, the dendrimer concentration was determined by ¹H NMR.



Electrochemistry of a mixture of $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{2^-}$ and $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{1^-}$. Two-compartment electrochemical cell: (A) Pt working electrode, (B) double sided ITO covered glass (35 Ω) counter electrode, (C) Pt quasi-reference electrode, (D) salt bridge, membranes connected with a Tygon tube and filled with 0.1 M Bu₄NPF₆ in acetonitrile, (E) membrane, 3 joined Whatman 13 mm syringe filters (0.2 μ m pore size PTFE) per compartment.



An intensely red mixture of $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{2-}$ and $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{1-}$ (0.17 g, ~0.08 mmol) was dissolved in de-aerated, dry acetonitrile (1 mL) resulting in ~80 mM stock solution. The 63 µL aliquot was mixed with 10 mL of 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in acetonitrile resulting in ~0.5 mM solution. Under argon atmosphere each compartment of the electrochemical cell was charged with 4 mL of the 0.5 mM solution of the mixture in the electrolyte. The working electrode potential was set to -1.3 V, initial current 20 µA. The electrolysis was conducted over period of 3 h, the final current was stabilized at 10 µA. Completion of the reaction was monitored visually and by UV-Vis spectroscopy of the content of each compartment.



Initial solution

After 2 h

After 3 h

According to the UV-Vis control, after 3 h the content of both cathodic and anodic compartments was completely converted into the respective oxidation states. When stored in tightly sealed containers, the color of these solutions remained effectively unchanged for a period more than a week (monitoring timespan).



UV-Vis spectra of 0.5 mM solutions for various oxidation states of $B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}$

a) Mixture of $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{2-}$ and $\{closo-B_{12}[O(CH_2)_3CO_2Et]_{12}\}^{1-}$ in acetonitrile, identical to UV-Vis spectrum of the solution of the same concentration in 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in acetonitrile



b) Content of the cathode compartment, in 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in acetonitrile



c) Content of the anode compartment, in 0.1 M tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate in acetonitrile; identical to UV-Vis spectra of the pure compound **2** in acetonitrile



d) All UV-Vis spectra superimposed





¹¹B NMR of 2(i), a mixture of {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}²⁻ and {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}¹⁻



¹³C NMR of 2(i), a mixture of {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}²⁻ and {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}¹⁻



MS of 2(i), a mixture of {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}²⁻ and {*closo*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}¹⁻



¹H NMR of 2, {*hypercloso*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}⁰



41.549 c:\\$Mar20-2012-lex_2 AP-1-198; e4, , B11 CDCl3 {C:\Bruker\TOPSPIN} lex 53, , Tue Mar 20 14:50:41 2012 USER: nmrsu SOLVENT: CDCI3 Experiment = zg Pulse length = 11.700 usec Recycle delay = 0.001 sec NA = 1024 Solvent = CDCl3 PTS1d = 4096 F1 = 160.461578 MHz F2 = 1.000000 MHz SW1 = 64102.56 Hz AT1 = 0.06 sec Hz per Pt 1stD = 15.65 Hz SW2 = 1.00 Hz Hz per Pt 2ndD = 1.00 Hz OEt $\begin{array}{rcl} \text{O1} = & 0.0033 \text{ Hz} \\ \text{O2} = & -1.0000 \text{ Hz} \\ \text{LB1} = & 3.00 \text{ Hz} \\ \text{TP} \quad \text{A} = & 8.75 \end{array}$ B = -56.25 C = 0.00 100 80 60 40 20 -20 -40 РРМ

¹¹B NMR of 2, {hypercloso-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}⁰

¹³C NMR of 2, {*hypercloso*-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}⁰



dept-135 NMR of 2, {hypercloso-B₁₂[O(CH₂)₃CO₂Et]₁₂}⁰









ò

-50

PPM



50



S14



HPLC trace for compound 3

MS of compound 3





MS of compound 4



07 May 2012 neg07-May-201215:25:110100.000000010.0000000 AP-01-216-f36-neg 112 (1.920) Cm (1:116)



¹¹B NMR of compound 5







HPLC trace for compound 5



MS of compound 5

40

30

20

10

0

-10

-20

-30

-40 PPM



10



0PPM

2







HPLC trace for compound 7









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