Electronic Supplementary Information

Synthesis of Rotacatenanes by the Combination of Cu-Mediated Threading Reaction and Template Method: The Dual Role of One Ligand

Ryuto Hayashi,¹ Kota Wakatsuki,¹ Ryu Yamasaki,¹ Yuichiro Mutoh,¹ Takeshi Kasama,² and Shinichi Saito.^{*,1}

¹Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Tokyo University of Science, Kagurazaka, Shinjyuku, Tokyo 162-8601, Japan

²Research Center for Medical and Dental Science, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Yushima, Bunkyo, Tokyo 113-8510, Japan

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General Experimental.

Commercially available reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL JNM EX-300L FT NMR SYSTEM (300 MHz), a JEOL JNM LA 500 FT NMR SYSEM (500 MHz), on a Bruker Avance DPX-300 (300 MHz). Chemical shifts were reported in delta units (δ) relative to chloroform-*d* (7.24 ppm for ¹H NMR and 77.0 ppm for ¹³C NMR). Multiplicity is indicated by s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), quin. (quintet) or m (multiplet). Coupling constants, *J*, are reported in Hz. IR spectra were recorded on a HORIBA FT-710 (FT-IR). Elemental analyses were measured by a YANACO CHN-recorder MT-6. High-resolution mass spectra (HR-MS) were measured by Varian 910-MS (ESI), JEOL JMS-700 (FAB-MS), Bruker Daltonics autoflex speed in Dithranol (20 mg/mL in CHCl₃) as a matrix (MALDI-TOF 1)) or Bruker ultrafleXtreame in α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid (10 mg/mL in MeOH) as a matrix (MALDI-TOF 2)). A JSI LC-918 was used for GPC separation. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on a Merck silica gel 60F-254 plate. Column chromatography was performed using Kanto Chemical silica gel 60N (spherical, neutral 63-210 m). Preparative thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using a Merck silica gel 60 plate.

Synthesis of [2]Rotaxanes 3a-d.



[2]Rotaxane 3a. A representative procedure (procedure A).

A mixture of **2a** (34 mg, 0.05 mmol), macrocyclic phenanthroline-CuI complex **1a** (17 mg, 0.02 mmol), K₂CO₃ (10 mg, 0.075 mmol) and I₂ (6.3 mg, 0.025 mmol) in dry xylene (1.0 mL) under Ar atmosphere was stirred at 130 °C for 48 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature and CH₂Cl₂ (1.5 mL), CH₃CN (3.5 mL) and aqueous ammonia (30% solution, 1.7 mL) was added.⁽¹⁾ After stirring at room temperature for overnight, the solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-CH₂Cl₂ (3/1 (v/v)) and GPC using CHCl₃ to afford **3a** (29 mg, 0.014 mmol, 72%) as a colorless amorphous. The analytical data were identical with those reported in the reference.⁽²⁾



[2]Rotaxane 3b.

Procedure A was generally followed to synthesize **3b** from **2b** (56 mg, 0.05 mmol) and **1a** (17 mg, 0.02 mmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-CH₂Cl₂ (1/1 (v/v)) and GPC using CHCl₃ to afford **3b** (44 mg, 0.015 mmol, 76%) as a yellow amorphous. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 8.21 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 2H), 7.52-7.45 (m, 24H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 12H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 12H), 7.12 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 6.47 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.00-3.91 (m, 8H), 3.83 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.66-2.44 (m, 10H), 1.97-1.09 (m, 148H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.4, 160.4, 159.8, 156.2, 150.0, 146.4, 146.0, 138.3, 138.2, 136.6, 134.0, 132.0, 129.7, 129.6, 128.9, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 125.5, 119.0, 114.7, 113.5, 107.0, 101.1, 81.5, 73.2, 68.1, 68.0, 67.7, 56.0, 44.2, 40.5, 34.4, 30.5, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.4, 29.2, 29.1, 26.9, 26.1, 26.0, 25.9, 25.9, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3024, 2924, 2854, 2137, 1905, 1597, 1496, 1288, 1250, 1173, 1003, 810, 733, 532 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 2)) Calcd for C₂₀₈H₂₄₅N₂O₆ ([M+H]⁺): 2866.8922. Found: 2866.9247.



[2]Rotaxane 3c.

Procedure A was generally followed to synthesize **3c** from **2c** (46 mg, 0.05 mmol) and **1b** (18 mg, 0.02 mmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-CH₂Cl₂ (1/1 (v/v)) and GPC using CHCl₃ to afford **3c** (14 mg, 5.5 μ mol, 27%) as a yellow amorphous. The

analytical data were identical with those reported in the reference.⁽³⁾



[2]Rotaxane 3d.

Procedure A was generally followed to synthesize **3d** from **2b** (56 mg, 0.05 mmol) and **1b** (18 mg, 0.02 mmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hexane-CH₂Cl₂ (1/1 (v/v)) and GPC using CHCl₃ to afford **3d** (19 mg, 6.5 µmol, 32%) as a yellow amorphous. ¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.03 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 12H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 12H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.33 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 12H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 12H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 4H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.45 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 3.91 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 3.84 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 4H), 2.44-2.64 (m, 10H), 1.64-1.94 (m, 42H), 1.06-1.50 (m, 114H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 160.4, 159.8, 156.2, 147.0, 146.4, 138.3, 138.2, 136.6, 134.0, 131.9, 129.7, 129.6, 128.9, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 125.5, 119.1, 114.6, 114.6, 113.6, 106.9, 100.8, 81.4, 73.1, 68.1, 68.0, 67.8, 56.0, 44.2, 40.5, 34.4, 30.5, 29.8, 29.8, 29.6, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 29.1, 26.9, 26.2, 26.0, 25.9, 25.8, 25.8; IR (KBr) 3024, 2924, 2846, 1597, 1496, 1466, 1288, 1250, 1173, 1003, 810, 532 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 1)) Calcd for C₂₁₂H₂₅₃N₂O₆ ([M+H]⁺): 2922.9548. Found: 2922.9626.

Preparation of Diyne 6.



A mixture of 2,9-bis(*p*-phenol)-1,10-phenanthroline HCl salt (0.16 g, 0.39 mmol), [2-(12-bromo-dodecyloxy)phenylethynyl]trimethylsilane⁽⁴⁾ (0.51 g, 1.2 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (0.82 g,

5.9 mmol) was dissolved in DMSO (4.6 mL), and the solution was heated to 70 °C. After 4 h, DMSO was removed *in vacuo*. Water was added to the yellow residue and aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel chromatography using hexane- $CH_2Cl_2(1/2(v/v))$ to afford **6** (0.29 g, 0.31 mmol, 80%) as a colorless solid.

m.p. 106.0-108.0 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 8.23 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 6.90-6.82 (m, 4H), 4.10-3.90 (m, 8H), 3.24 (s, 2H), 1.90-1.75 (m, 8H), 1.55-1.20 (m, 32H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.4, 160.1, 156.2, 145.9, 136.5, 133.9, 131.8, 130.0, 128.8, 127.3, 125.4, 120.1, 119.1, 114.6, 111.9, 111.6, 80.9, 80.1, 68.6, 68.0, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.2, 28.9, 25.9, 25.8; IR (KBr) 3433, 3294, 3062, 3039, 2924, 2854, 2561, 2106, 1597, 1574, 1489, 1450, 1396, 1288, 1250, 1173, 1111, 1041, 1018, 833, 795, 748, 640, 602, 579, 509 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₆₄H₇₂N₂O₄: C, 82.36; H, 7.78; N, 3.00. Found: C, 82.34; H, 7.79; N, 2.97.

Synthesis of [2]Catenanes 8a and 8b.



Tetrahedral Cu(I) complex 7a. A representative procedure (procedure B).

To a solution of $[Cu(CH_3CN)_4]PF_6$ (15 mg, 0.039 mmol) in dry CH₃CN (3.1 mL) was added **4a** (25 mg, 0.039 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3.1 mL) at room temperature. The color of the mixture immediately turned yellow. After stirring for 30 min at room temperature, a solution of **6** (36 mg, 0.039 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (3.1 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, producing a color change to dark purple. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. The solvents were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column choromatography using CH₂Cl₂ to afford the product **7a** (58 mg, 0.033 mmol, 84%) as a purple amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.81-7.69 (m, 8H), 7.26-7.24 (m, 8H), 7.12-7.08 (m, 5H), 6.70-6.67 (m, 4H), 6.66 (s, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.85-5.80 (m, 8H), 3.97 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 4H), 3.85 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 3.36 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 3.29 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 3.07 (s, 2H), 1.76-1.71 (m, 4H), 1.68-1.62 (m, 4H), 1.47-1.39 (m, 12H), 1.34-1.26 (m, 8H), 1.20-1.08 (m, 28H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.6, 160.2, 159.8, 159.7, 156.4, 143.3, 136.9, 136.8, 134.0, 131.0, 130.8, 130.3, 130.1, 129.2, 127.8, 125.9, 124.3, 120.2, 112.9, 112.8, 112.0, 111.6, 106.8, 101.8, 80.9, 80.2, 68.7, 67.9, 67.8, 67.6, 29.6, 29.6, 29.0, 29.0, 28.9, 28.5, 26.0, 25.9, 25.7, 25.3; IR(KBr) 3310, 2932, 2861, 1734, 1602, 1587, 1489, 1250, 1175, 1151, 1017, 838 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (ESI): Calcd. For C₁₀₆H₁₁₄N₄O₈Cu ([M-PF₆]⁺): 1633.7927. Found: 1633.7927.



Tetrahedral Cu(I) complex 7b.

Procedure B was generally followed to synthesize **7b** from $[Cu(CH_3CN)_4]PF_6$ **5** (19 mg, 0.05 mmol), **4b** (35 mg, 0.05 mmol) and **6** (47 mg, 0.05 mmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂ to afford **7b** (84 mg, 0.046 mmol, 91%) as a purple amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.37 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.92 (s, 2H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.84-7.79 (m, 4H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.34 (m, 8H), 7.29-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.89-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 6.54 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.04-5.96 (m, 8H), 4.06 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 4.02 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.54 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.48 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.23 (s, 2H), 1.91-1.77 (m, 8H), 1.68-1.22 (m, 56H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 160.3, 159.8, 159.8, 156.5, 156.5, 143.8, 143.5, 136.9, 136.8, 134.0, 131.0, 130.8, 130.1, 129.9, 129.2, 129.2, 127.8, 127.7, 125.9, 125.9, 124.4, 124.3, 120.2, 113.0, 112.9, 112.1, 111.7, 107.0, 101.5, 80.9, 80.2, 68.8, 68.0, 67.9, 67.8, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 29.1, 29.0, 28.9, 26.0, 26.0, 25.9, 25.8; IR(KBr) 3433, 3278, 3070, 2931, 2854, 2106, 1604, 1489, 1389, 1358, 1281, 1250, 1180, 1111, 1026, 849, 756, 648, 555 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (ESI) Calcd for C₁₁₀H₁₂₂N₄O₈Cu ([M-PF₆]⁺): 1689.85468. Found: 1689.85532.



Catenane 8a. A representative procedure (procedure C).

A mixture of tetrahedral Cu(I) complex **7a** (14 mg, 7.9 μmol), CuCl (78 mg, 0.79 mmol) and CuCl₂ (13 mg, 0.094 mmol) in dry DMF (16 mL) was stirred at room temperature.⁽⁵⁾ After 72 h, the solvent

was removed *in vacuo*. Water was added to the residue and aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by short silica gel chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 -AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) and the residue was added CH_3CN (2 mL), CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL), H_2O (2 mL) and KCN (23 mg). the solution was stirred at room temperature for overnight. Water was added to the solution and aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic layer was washed with water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH_2Cl_2 -AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) to afford the product **8a** (5.6 mg, 3.6 µmol, 45%) as a pale yellow amorphous.

¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.45-8.40 (m, 8H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.19 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.68 (s, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.12 (m, 3H), 7.05 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 6.85-6.76 (m, 4H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.50 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 3.99 (t, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 4H), 3.94-3.85 (m, 12H), 1.82-1.68 (m, 18H), 1.53-1.19 (m, 38H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 160.5, 160.5, 160.3, 156.3, 156.2, 146.0, 136.7, 134.5, 132.0, 131.8, 130.4, 129.8, 129.0, 127.4, 125.5, 120.3, 119.2, 114.8, 114.7, 111.9, 111.6, 107.0, 101.2, 78.9, 78.7, 68.8, 68.1, 67.9, 67.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.3, 29.2, 28.9, 26.0, 25.9, 25.8, 25.7; IR(KBr) 2925, 2852, 1587, 1488, 1281, 1250, 1174, 1020, 837, 749, 416 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (FAB); Calcd. For C₁₀₆H₁₁₃N₄O₁₀ ([M + H]⁺): 1569.8558. Found: 1569.8560.



Catenane 8b.

Procedure C was generally followed to synthesize **8b** from tetrahedral Cu(I) complex **7b** (19 mg, 0.010 mmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1 (v/v)) to afford **8b** (8.3 mg, 5.1 μ mol, 51%) as a pale yellow solid.

m.p. 87.0-88.1 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.47-8.39 (m, 8H), 8.23-8.15 (m, 4H), 8.07-7.98 (m, 4H), 7.68 (s, 2H), 7.66 (s, 2H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.18 (m, 2H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.06-6.96 (m, 8H), 6.84 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.61 (s, 1H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98-3.78 (m, 16H), 1.80-1.09 (m, 64H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.9, 160.5, 160.5, 156.2, 156.2, 146.1, 136.6, 136.6, 134.5, 131.8, 131.8, 130.4, 129.8, 128.9, 127.4, 127.4, 125.5, 120.3, 119.1, 119.0, 114.7, 114.7, 112.0, 111.7, 106.9, 101.0, 78.8, 78.1, 68.8, 68.0, 67.9, 67.8, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.4, 29.3, 29.3, 29.3, 29.0, 25.9, 25.9, 25.8, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3062, 3039, 2924, 2854, 2214, 2144, 1936, 1898, 1720.19, 1597, 1489, 1396,

1281, 1250, 1173, 1119, 1026, 841, 795, 748, 517, 463 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (ESI) Calcd for $C_{110}H_{121}N_4O_8$ ([M+H⁺]): 1625.91789. Found: 1625.91789.

Synthesis of Rotacatenanes 10c and 10d.



Tetrahedral Cu(I)-complex 9c. A representative procedure (procedure D).

To a solution of $[Cu(CH_3CN)_4]PF_6$ **5** (2.4 mg, 6.4 µmol) in dry CH₃CN (1.0 mL) was added **3c** (16 mg, 6.4 µmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) at room temperature. The color of the mixture immediately turned yellow. After stirring for 3 h at room temperature, a solution of **6** (6.0 mg, 6.4 µmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL) was added to the reaction mixture, producing a color change to dark red. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1 h. The solvents were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column choromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1 (v/v)) to afford **9c** (19 mg, 5.2 µmol, 83%) as a dark red amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.13 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.88 (s, 2H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.67-7.62 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 24H), 7.42 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.18 (m, 34H), 7.15-7.09 (m, 5H), 6.88-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.67 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.59 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4 H), 6.49 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.03 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 5.99 (d, J = 10 Hz, 4H), 4.00 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.97 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.72 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.54 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.22 (s, 2H), 2.64-2.44 (m, 10H), 1.93-1.11 (m, 140H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 160.2, 159.8, 159.7, 159.6, 156.5, 156.4, 147.1, 146.2, 143.5, 143.4, 138.4, 138.1, 137.0, 136.8, 134.0, 133.8, 131.2, 131.0, 130.1, 129.7, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.2, 126.7, 126.2, 126.0, 125.8, 124.5, 124.3, 120.2, 114.6, 113.2, 113.0, 113.0, 112.0, 111.6, 107.1, 101.3, 81.8, 80.9, 80.2, 73.5, 68.7, 68.0, 68.0, 67.9, 67.7, 56.0, 44.2, 40.4, 34.4, 30.2, 29.7, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 29.1, 26.9, 26.1, 26.1, 25.9, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3309, 3024, 2924, 2854, 2137, 2106, 1905, 1604, 1496, 1250, 1173, 1011, 841, 756, 555 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 2)) Calcd for C₂₄₈H₂₆₈N₄O₁₀Cu ([M-PF₆]⁺): 3525.9954. Found: 3525.9887.



Tetrahedral Cu(I)-complex 9d.

Procedure D was generally followed to synthesize **9d** from $[Cu(CH_3CN)_4]PF_6$ **5** (2.6 mg, 6.9 µmol), **3d** (20 mg, 6.9 µmol) and **6** (6.3 mg, 6.9 µmol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1 (v/v)) to afford **9d** (25 mg, 6.1 µmol, 88%) as a dark red amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.41 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (s, 2H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.74-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 24H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.37-7.20 (m, 34H), 7.19-7.12 (m, 5H), 6.89-6.81 (m, 4H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.51 (dd, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 6.05 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.01 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 4.07-3.95 (m, 8H), 3.79 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.56 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 3.51 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.23 (s, 2H), 2.65-2.44 (m, 10H), 1.96-1.08 (m, 196H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.5, 160.2, 159.9, 159.7, 159.6, 156.5, 156.4, 147.0, 146.4, 143.5, 143.4, 138.4, 138.2, 137.0, 136.8, 134.0, 133.8, 131.2, 131.0, 130.1, 129.7, 129.6, 129.0, 128.9, 127.8, 127.6, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 126.0, 125.9, 124.5, 124.4, 120.2, 114.6, 113.2, 113.0, 113.0, 112.0, 111.6, 107.1, 101.4, 81.8, 80.9, 80.2, 73.5, 68.7, 68.1, 68.0, 67.9, 67.7, 56.0, 44.1, 40.5, 34.4, 30.5, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 29.1, 26.9, 26.2, 26.1, 26.1, 26.0, 25.9, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3024, 2924, 2854, 2137, 2106, 1905, 1604, 1496, 1281, 1250, 1173, 1003, 841, 748, 555 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 2)) Calcd for C₂₇₆H₃₂₄N₄O₁₀Cu ([M-PF₆]⁺): 3917.4258. Found: 3917.4660.



Rotacatenane 10c. A representative procedure (procedure E).

A mixture of the Cu(I)-complex **9c** (20 mg, 5.3 μ mol), CuCl (52 mg, 0.53 mmol) and CuCl₂ (8.6 mg, 0.064 mmol) in dry DMF (10 mL) was stirred at room temperature.⁽⁵⁾ After 72 h, the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Water was added to the residue and aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by short silica gel chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) and the residue was added CH₃CN (2.0 mL), CH₂Cl₂ (2.0 mL), H₂O (2.0 mL) and KCN (23 mg). the solution was stirred at room temperature for overnight. Water was added to the solution and aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) and preparative thin layer chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) to afford the rotacatenane **26a** (7.4 mg, 2.1 μ mol, 40%) as a yellow amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39-8.34 (m, 8H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.94 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 7.61 (s, 2H), 7.50-7.42 (m, 24H), 7.39 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.26 (m, 16H), 7.25-7.19 (m, 12H), 7.15 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.04-6.99 (m, 8H), 6.76 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.73-6.69 (m, 3H), 6.61 (d, 10.0 Hz, 4H), 6.45 (dd, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.94-3.88 (m, 8H), 3.86 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.66 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 2.55-2.44 (m, 10H), 1.96-1.00 (m, 140H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.8, 160.6, 160.5, 160.4, 159.6, 156.6, 156.2, 147.0, 146.3, 146.0, 138.4, 138.1, 136.5, 136.5, 134.5, 134.0, 131.9, 131.7, 130.3, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2, 126.8, 126.2, 125.5, 125.4, 120.2, 119.4, 119.0, 114.7, 114.7, 114.5, 113.6, 111.9, 111.6, 107.2, 101.1, 81.8, 79.0, 78.2, 73.7, 68.7, 68.1, 68.0, 68.0, 67.9, 55.9, 44.2, 40.4, 34.4, 30.2, 29.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.2, 28.9, 26.9, 26.2, 26.1, 26.1, 25.9, 25.8, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3032, 2924, 2854, 2206, 2144, 1905, 1728, 1597, 1496, 1281, 1250, 1173, 1011, 833, 818, 748, 532 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 2)) Calcd for C₂₄₈H₂₆₇N₄O₁₀ ([M+H]⁺): 3461.0502. Found: 3461.0447.



Rotacatenane 10d.

Procedure E was generally followed to synthesize **10d** from **9d** (23 mg, 5.6 μ mol). The product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1 (v/v)) and preparative thin layer chromatography using CH₂Cl₂-AcOEt (50/1(v/v)) to afford **10d** (6.3 mg, 1.6 μ mol, 29%) as a yellow amorphous.

¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.43-8.34 (m, 8H), 8.20-8.14 (m, 4H), 8.04-7.97 (m, 4H), 7.69-7.65 (m, 4H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 24H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 10.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36-7.30 (m, 16H), 7.26-7.20 (m, 12H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.02 (m, 8H), 6.78 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76-6.71 (m, 3H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 6.46 (dd, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2.5 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.98-3.91 (m, 8H), 3.88 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 3.73 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 4H), 2.63-2.44 (m, 10H), 1.93-1.07 (m, 196H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.8, 160.6, 160.5, 160.4, 159.7, 156.6, 156.3, 147.0, 146.4, 146.3, 146.0, 138.4, 138.2, 136.5, 134.6, 134.0, 132.0, 131.8, 130.3, 129.6, 129.5, 129.0, 128.9, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1, 126.8, 126.2, 125.5, 125.4, 120.2, 119.4, 119.1, 114.7, 114.5, 113.6, 111.9, 111.6, 107.2, 101.1, 81.7, 79.0, 78.2, 73.6, 68.7, 68.1, 68.1, 68.0, 56.0, 44.2, 40.5, 34.4, 30.5, 30.0, 29.9, 29.7, 29.7, 29.6, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.4, 29.1, 28.9, 26.9, 26.2, 26.1, 26.0, 25.8, 25.7; IR(KBr) 3433, 3032, 2924, 2854, 2206, 2144, 1905, 1728, 1604, 1496, 1396, 1281, 1250, 1173, 1111, 1026, 1011, 833, 818, 748, 532 cm⁻¹; HR-MS (MALDI-TOF 2)) Calcd for C₂₇₆H₃₂₃N₄O₁₀ ([M+H]⁺): 3853.4884. Found: 3853.5077.

Synthesis of Ring Compound 11.



A mixture of 6 (40 mg, 0.042 mmol), CuCl (0.42 g, 4.2 mmol) and CuCl₂ (70 mg, 0.52 mmol) in

dry pyridine (74 mL) was stirred at room temperature⁽⁵⁾ over 2 h. The color of the mixture changed from green to brown. The solution was stirred for 74 h and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. Water was added to the dark green residue and aqueous layer was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using $CHCl_3$ to afford **11** (33 mg, 0.035 mmol, 85%) as a colorless solid.

m.p. 186.0-188.1 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.42 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 4H), 8.24 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.72 (s, 2H), 7.45 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.08 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 6.88-6.83 (m, 4H), 4.06-4.0 (m, 8H), 1.87-1.77 (m, 8H), 1.57-1.23 (m, 32H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 161.0, 160.5, 156.3, 146.0, 136.7, 134.3, 132.0, 130.3, 128.9, 127.5, 125.5, 120.3, 119.2, 114.8, 112.1, 111.9, 78.5, 78.0, 68.9, 68.1, 29.7, 29.5, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.2, 29.0, 26.0, 25.9; IR(KBr) 3433, 3070, 3039, 2924, 2854, 2206, 2144, 1597, 1489, 1450, 1396, 1281, 1250, 1173, 1119, 1041, 1026, 841, 795, 748, 571, 517 cm⁻¹; HR FAB-MS Calcd. For C₆₄H₇₁N₂O₄ ([M+H]⁺). 931.5408. Found: 931.5411.

Synthesis of Compound 12 (Dimer of 2b).⁽⁶⁾



A solution of **2b** (42 mg, 0.038 mmol), piperidine (4.0 μ l, 0.04 mmol) and Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (1.0 mg, 5.0 μ mol) in CH₂Cl₂ (0.1 mL) was stirred for 18 h. Water was added to the solution and aqueous layer was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic phase was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography using hex-CH₂Cl₂ (5/1 (v/v)) to afford **12** (37 mg, 0.017 mmol, 86%) as a colorless amorphous.

¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 12H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 12H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 12H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 12H), 6.81 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 4H), 2.45-2.73 (m, 10H), 1.70-2.02 (m, 34H), 1.10-1.52 (m, 98H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.8, 146.9, 146.4, 138.3, 138.1, 133.9, 129.5, 127.1, 126.7, 126.2, 114.6, 113.7, 81.3, 73.1, 68.0, 556.0, 44.2, 40.5, 34.4, 30.5, 29.7, 29.6, 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.1, 26.9, 26.1, 26.0, 25.7; IR

(KBr) 3024, 2924, 2846, 1604, 1496, 1466, 1450, 1250, 810, 532 cm⁻¹; Anal. Calcd for C₁₆₆H₂₀₂O₂: C, 89.43; H, 9.13. Found: C, 89.25; H, 9.32.



Figure S1. ¹H-NMR Spectra (500 MHz, CDCl₃) of a) 12, b) Rotacatenane 10d and c) [2]Catenane 8b.

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