Electronic Supplementary Information

Formation of "pseudosuitane"-type complex between triptycene-derived bis(crown ether) host and 1,1'-(anthracene-9,10-diyl)bis(*N*-benzylmethanaminium): a new method for the synthesis of linear polyrotaxanes

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1. Experimental

General. Melting points, taken on an electrothermal melting point apparatus, are uncorrected. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DMX300 NMR spectrometer. High Resolution Mass spectra was determined by Bruker Daltonics. Inc, APEX II. FT-ICRMS. The M_n and polydispersity index of polyrotaxane **5** were determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) (Waters Co.) using polystyrene (PS) as standard and dimethylformamide (DMF) as eluent.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of guest 3

Synthesis of guest 3. A mixture of anthracene-9,10-dicarboxaldehyde (500 mg, 2.13 mmol) and 6 (688 mg, 4.27 mmol) in methanol (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 3 h. Then, to the reaction mixture at ice-bath was added NaBH₄ (484 mg, 12.81 mmol) in small portions. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and then quenched by a small amount of water. To the mixture solution was added dichloromethane (50 mL), the organic layer was separated and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After the solvent was removed, the residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, DCM:MeOH = $100:0 \sim 70:1$) to give the free amine compound. To a solution of the free amine in methanol (20 mL)

was added HCl (0.5 mL) at room tempetature. After stirring for 2 h under nitrogen atmosphere, the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in acetone, and then added saturated NH₄PF₆ liquid until formation of homogeneous solution. The mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to form a yellow solid, which was isolated, washed with H₂O, and dried in vacuo to afford **3** (1.13 g, 65%). Mp: 193-194 °C. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, acetone- d_6 , 295 K): δ 8.43 (dd, J_1 = 10.0 Hz, J_2 = 3.2 Hz, 4H), 7.66-7.57 (m, 8H), 7.11-7.08 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 5.31 (s, 4H), 4.85-4.84 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 4H), 4.58 (s, 4H), 3.13-3.12 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, acetonitrile- d_3 , 295 K): δ 157.8, 131.1, 130.0, 127.1, 126.6, 125.9, 124.2, 117.0, 114.9, 78.3, 75.7, 55.3, 51.8, 43.2, 29.6. HRMS cald. for [M-PF₆]⁺: 671.2257. Found: 671.2255.

2. Fluorescent spectra of host 1 and guest 2



Fig. S1 Fluorescence emission spectra of 1, 2 and 1·2 in CHCl₃/CH₃CN (1:1, v/v) at 295 K. $\lambda_{ex} = 294$ nm. $[2]_0 = 4.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M.

3. Fluorescence titrations of host 1 and guest 2



Fig. S2 (a) Emission spectra (λ_{ex} =294 nm) of **2** (4.0 × 10⁻⁵ M) in the presence of host **1** in CHCl₃/CH₃CN (1:1, v/v) at 295 K. The concentration of host **1** for curves from top to bottom are 0, 1.6, 2.0, 2.4, 2.8, 3.2, 3.6, 4.0, 4.8, 5.6, 6.4, 7.2, 8.0, 8.8, 9.6 (× 10⁻⁵ M). (b) The variation of fluorescence intensity F_0/F_{cal} of **2** versus the increase of the concentration of host **1**.



Fig. S3 Job plot for complex 1·2 in CHCl₃/CH₃CN (1:1, v/v) ($[1]_0+[2]_0=8.0\times10^{-5}$ M).

To eliminate the competitive absorption of host 1 at both the excitation and emission wavelengths, the fluorescence intensity F_{exp} of guest 2 was calibrated to F_{cal} according to a literature method.

$$\mathbf{F}_{cal} = \mathbf{F}_{exp} \frac{1 - \exp\left(-\varepsilon_1 \mathbf{C}_1 l\right)}{\varepsilon_1 \mathbf{C}_1 l} \cdot \frac{\left(\varepsilon_1 \mathbf{C}_1 l + \varepsilon_2 \mathbf{C}_2 l\right)}{1 - \exp\left(-\varepsilon_1 \mathbf{C}_1 l - \varepsilon_2 \mathbf{C}_2 l\right)} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_2 \mathbf{C}_2 l}{1 - \exp\left(-\varepsilon_2 \mathbf{C}_2 l\right)}$$

 F_{cal} : calibrated fluorescence intensity F_{exp} : experiment fluorescence intensity $\epsilon_1 C_1 l$: absorbance value of guest at excitation wavelength $\epsilon_2 C_2 l$: absorbance value of host at excitation wavelength $\epsilon_3 C_3 l$: absorbance value of guest at emission wavelength

4. Fluorescence spectra of host 1 and guest 3



Fig. S4 Fluorescence emission spectra of 1, 3 and 1·3 in CHCl₃/CH₃CN (1:1, v/v) at 295 K. $\lambda_{ex} = 294$ nm. $[3]_0 = 4.0 \times 10^{-5}$ M.

5. Complexation between host 1 and guest 3



Fig. S5 Partial ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz, $CD_3CN:CDCl_3 = 1:1$, v/v, 295 K) of (a) free host **1**, (b) **1** and 1.0 equiv of **3**, and (c) free guest **3**. $[1]_0 = 1.0$ mM.

6. Synthesis of polyrotaxane 5



Scheme 2. Synthesis of polyrotaxane 5.

The mixture of host **1** (50 mg, 4.89×10^{-2} mmol), **3** (39.9 mg, 4.89×10^{-2} mmol) was stirred in dry CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) at room temperature overnight under nitrogen atmosphere. After one equivalent of diazide **4** (9.2 mg, 4.89×10^{-2} mmol) and catalytic amount of Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ were added to the above solution, the mixture was stirred for another 24h at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. During the reaction process, the precipitation was formed. After the reaction finished, the precipitation was filtered, washed with CH₂Cl₂, CH₃OH, H₂O, and Et₂O, respectively, and then dried in vacuo to give polyrotaxane **5** (82.3 mg, 83%) as pale green powder. FT-IR: v =_{C-H} = 3502 cm⁻¹, v_{N3} = 2101 cm⁻¹, v_{trizole} = 1057 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 295 K): δ = 8.27 (br s, 4H), 7.80 (br s, 4H), 7.53-6.60 (br m, 25H), 5.55 (br s, 4H), 5.09 (br s, 4H), 4.17-3.34 (br m, 52H). GPC data : M_n = 11.9 KDa, PDI = 1.27.

7. ¹H NMR spectrum of polyrotaxane 5



Fig. S6 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO- d_{6} , 295 K) of polyrotaxane **5**.



Fig. S7 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, acetonitrile- d_{3} , 295 K) of polyrotaxane **5**.



8. FT-IR spectrum of polyrotaxane 5

Fig. S8 FT-IR spectrum of polyrotaxane 5.

9. GPC spectrum of polyrotaxane 5



Fig. S9 GPC spectrum of polyrotanxe 5.

10. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of new compounds

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Fig. S10 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, acetone- d_6 , 295 K) of compound **3**.



Fig. S11 ¹³C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, acetonitrile- d_3 , 295 K) of compound **3**.

11. DSC curve of polyrotaxane 5



Fig. S12 DSC curve of polyrotanxe 5.

12. Synthesis of polymer 6



The mixture of **3** (69.4 mg, 8.5×10^{-2} mmol), **4** (16.0 mg, 8.5×10^{-2} mmol) and catalytic amount of Cu(CH₃CN)₄PF₆ was stirred in dry CH₃CN (50 mL) at room temperature overnight under nitrogen atmosphere. During the reaction process, the precipitation was formed. After the reaction finished, the precipitation was filtered, washed with CH₂Cl₂, CH₃OH, H₂O, and Et₂O, respectively, and then dried in vacuo to give polymer **6** (76.9 mg, 90%) as yellow powder. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, 295 K): $\delta = 8.32$ -8.29 (br d, 9H), 7.60-7.32 (br m, 27H), 7.09 (br s, 6H), 5.63-5.59 (br d, 6H), 5.17 (br s, 6H), 4.42 (br s, 4H). GPC data : M_n = 12.5 KDa, PDI = 1.20.

13. ¹H NMR and GPC spectrum of polymer 6



Fig. S13 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, DMSO- d_{6} , 295 K) of polymer 6.





Fig. S14 ¹H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, acetonitrile- d_{3} , 295 K) of polymer 6.



Fig. S15 GPC spectrum of polymer 6.