A Fluorescent bistable [2]rotaxane molecular switch on SiO₂ nanoparticles

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Experimental Section

General Methods

¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on a Brüker AV-400 spectrometer. The electronic spray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were acquired on an LCT Premier XE mass spectrometer. UV–Vis absorption spectra and fluorescence spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 100 spectrometer and a Varian Cary Eclipse (1 cm quartz cells), respectively. SEM images were recorded on a JSM-6360LV apparatus. Confocal fluorescence micrographs were measured on a NIKON A1R confocal laser scanning microscope.

Materials

Chemicals were used as received from Acros, Aldrich, Fluka, or Merck. All solvents were reagent grade and were dried and distilled prior to use according to standard procedures. The molecular structures were confirmed using ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectroscopies and High Resolution ESI mass spectrometry. Ferrocene-containing DB24C8 crown ether 3, the alkyne 4 and compound 9 were synthesized according to previous reports. ^[1,2,3]

Synthesis

Figure S1. Syntheses of compound 5.

Compound **10**: A mixture of compound **11** (0.7 g, 3.87 mmol) and 3-bromopropyne (2.27 g, 19.08 mol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added solid NaH (280 mg, 11.67 mmol). The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 24 h, then the reaction mixture was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×25 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (3×50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in vacuo to give a brown liquid. The brown liquid was then dissolved in dry DMF (25 mL), then added 3,5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxybenzaldehyde (1.0 g, 5.49 mmol) and K₂CO₃ (1.26 g, 9.12 mmol) and the mixture was stirred overnight under Ar atmosphere at 80 °C. The mixture was poured into 100 mL water and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×50 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (3×100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in vacuo to give a dark brown liquid, and purification was performed by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 50/1) to yield product **10** as a brown liquid (0.52 g, 42.0 %). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 9.83 (s, 1H), 7.09 (s, 2H), 4.10 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 6H), 3.49 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.43-2.37 (m, 1H), 1.77-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.63-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.50-1.36 (m,4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 190.1, 152.9, 142.0, 130.6, 105.7, 79.0,

73.2, 72.5, 69.1, 57.0, 55.2, 29.0, 28.5, 24.8, 24.6. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{18}H_{24}O_5Na$, 343.1521; found, 343.1517.

Compound 8: A mixture of compound 10 (0.69 g, 2.15 mmol) and compound 9 (0.72g, 2.58 mmol) in dry MeOH (50 mL) was refluxed overnight under argon atmosphere. After being cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was added NaBH₄ (0.41 g, 10.77 mmol) in portion under ice bath. After the mixture was stirred for 10 h, the solution was poured into water (100 mL) and extracted by CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 50 mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and then concentrated to give the free amine compound. The mixture was then dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), then added Boc₂O (4.6 g, 21.08 mmol) and the mixture was stirred overnight. The solvent was removed under vacuum, the crude product was purified via column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100/1) to give compound 8 (1.10 g, 74.7%) as a white solid. H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 7.21-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.36-4.23 (m, 4H), 4.13 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.63 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.52 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.79-1.73 (m, 4H), 1.67-1.54 (m, 5H), 1.49-1.41 (m, 15H), 1.39-1.21 (m, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 158.4, 156.0, 153.4, 136.3, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 114.5, 105.0, 104.4, 80.0, 74.2, 73.3, 70.2, 68.0, 62.8, 58.0, 56.1, 32.7, 30.0, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.5, 26.0, 25.9, 25.8, 25.7. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M+Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{61}NO_8Na$, 706.4295; found, 706.4289.

Compound **7**: The compound **8** (0.294 g, 0.43 mmol) and TsCl (0.16 g, 0.84 mmol) were dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), then added Et₃N (0.22 g, 2.17 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for overnight and then evaporated in vacuo to give a crude product, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100/1) to yield product **7** (0.207 g, 57.5 %). 1 H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 7.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.20-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.40-4.20 (m, 4H), 4.12 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.96-3.88 (m, 4H), 3.78 (s, 6H), 3.51 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (s, 3H), 2.41 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.80-1.72 (m, 4H), 1.66-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.49 (s, 9H), 1.47-1.37 (m, 6H), 1.32-1.21 (m, 10H). 13 C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 158.4, 156.0, 153.5, 144.6, 133.2, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 127.9, 114.5, 105.0, 104.4, 80.0, 74.1, 73.3, 70.7, 70.2, 68.0, 58.0, 56.1, 30.0, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 28.9, 28.8, 28.5, 26.0, 25.9, 25.7, 25.3, 21.6. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): [M+Na] $^{+}$ calcd for C₄₀H₆₇NO₁₀SNa, 860.4383; found, 860.4391.

Compound 6: In a 25 mL flask, compound 7 (0.398 g, 0.47 mmol) and NaN₃ (0.15 g, 2.31 mmol) were mixed in dry DMF (10 mL), and the mixture was stirred overnight under Ar atmosphere at 80 °C. The mixture was poured into 50 mL water and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×25 mL). The organic layer was washed with brine (3×50 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated in vacuo to give a crude product, and purification was performed by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100/1). Compound 6 (0.16 g, 47 %) was obtained as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 7.20-7.05 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.41 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.36-4.20 (m, 4H), 4.13 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 3.93 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (s, 6H), 3.52 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 3.79 (t, J = 6.8 Hz), 3.79 (t, J = 66.8 Hz, 2H), 3.25 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 1.83-1.70 (m, 4H), 1.69-1.60 (m, 5H), 1.53-1.40 (m, 16H), 1.35-1.28 (m, 8H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 171.1, 158.4, 156.0, 153.5, 129.8, 129.4, 128.8, 114.4, 105.1, 104.4, 80.0, 74.1, 73.3, 70.2, 68.0, 60.4, 60.0, 56.0, 51.5, 49.1, 49.0, 30.0, 29.7, 29.5, 29.4, 29.3, 29.1, 28.8, 28.5, 26.7, 26.0, 25.9, 25.7, 21.0, 14.2. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M+H]^+$ calcd for $C_{40}H_{61}N_4O_7$, 709.4540; found, 709.4537. Compound 5: TFA (0.1 mL, 1.32 mmol) was added to a solution of compound 6 (47 mg, 0.07 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 10 h. A saturated aqueous solution of NH₄PF₆ (5 mL) was added to the reaction mixture for 4 h. The organic layer was separated and evaporated under reduced pressure to get the yellow solid, which was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100:1) to afford product 5 (46 mg, 91.9 %) as a brown solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 7.39 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.58 (s, 2H), 4.18 (s, 2H), 4.09 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 2H), 3.91 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 3.80-3.69 (m, 8H), 3.47 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.24 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 1.81-1.70 (m, 2H), 1.62-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.48-1.4 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.26 (m, 16H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 160.5, 153.5, 137.0, 131.5, 125.1, 121.3, 115.3, 106.8, 80.0, 74.2, 73.3, 70.1, 68.1, 58.0, 56.1, 51.8, 51.5, 31.9, 31.4, 29.7, 29.4, 29.2, 29.1, 28.8, 26.7, 26.0, 25.8, 25.4, 22.7, 14.1. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M - PF_6]^+$ calcd for $C_{35}H_{53}N_4O_8$, 609.4016; found, 609.4011. Compound 2-H: A mixture of crown ether 3 (74 mg, 0.079 mmol) and compound 5 (30 mg, 0.039 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂(5 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. Then compound 4 (64 mg, 0.200 mmol) and [Cu(CH₃CN)₄]PF₆ (16 mg, 0.043 mmol) were added to the solution, and the mixture was stirred for 72 h under Ar atmosphere. After removal of the solvent, the residue

(45 mg, 56.4%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K); δ 8.60 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.42 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (s, 1H), 7.53-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.22 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.01 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.94-6.90 (m, 2H), 6.82-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.65 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (s, 2H), 5.49 (s, 2H), 5.16 (s, 4H), 4.82-4.77 (m, 4H), 4.58-4.51 (m, 2H), 4.47-4.40 (m, 2H), 4.40-4.37 (m, 4H), 4.26 (t, J = 7.2Hz, 2H), 4.20-4.14 (m, 4H), 4.13-4.08 (m, 6H), 4.07 (s, 10H), 4.01 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 3.88-3.75(m, 12H), 3.57 (s, 6H), 3.54-3.44 (m, 10H), 3.26 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 4H), 2.42 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.06-1.97 (m, 2H), 1.87-1.80 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.65 (m, 6H), 1.48-1.36 (m, 10H), 1.34-1.30 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 171.6, 159.8, 153.5, 147.3, 137.5, 130.8, 130.1, 127.3, 122.9, 122.1, 114.5, 113.1, 112.4, 105.9, 80.3, 74.3, 73.4, 71.6, 70.9, 70.6, 70.2, 70.0, 69.7, 68.3, 68.0, 66.9, 65.5, 58.1, 56.0, 53.4, 52.2, 30.0, 29.9, 29.5, 29.3, 29.1, 25.9, 25.7. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M - PF_6]^+$ calcd for $C_{102}H_{121}N_6O_{20}Fe_2$, 1862.7368; found, 1862.7367 Compound 1-H: A solution of 2-H (200 mg, 0.010 mmol) in CH₃I (5.0 mL) and CHCl₃ (1.0 mL) was stirred at 40 °C for 3 d. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, and CH₃I was evaporated off in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL), followed by the addition of 5.0 mL saturated NH₄PF₆ solution. After the mixture was stirred for overnight, the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 20 mL). The combined organic layer was evaporated, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH = 100/1) to give 1-H (200mg, 92.6%) as a yellow solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz, 298 K): δ 8.54 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 8.48 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H, 8.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (s, 1H), 7.69 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.55-7.46 (m, 2H),7.23-7.13 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.92 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.77 (m, 2H), 6.67 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 6.84-6.77 (m, 2H), 6= 8.4 Hz, 2H, 6.54 (s, 2H), 5.50 (s, 2H), 5.15 (s, 4H), 4.84-4.74 (m, 4H), 4.60-4.50 (m, 5H),4.49-4.41 (m, 4H), 4.40-4.36 (m, 4H), 4.21-4.14 (m, 4H), 4.14-4.09 (m, 6H), 4.07 (s, 10H), 4.02-3.97 (m, 4H), 3.88-3.72 (m, 12H), 3.56 (s, 6H), 3.54-3.38 (m, 10H), 3.29-3.22 (m, 4H), 2.42 (t, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.00-1.94 (m, 2H), 1.76-1.66 (m, 6H), 1.65-1.58 (m, 10H), 1.44-1.37 (m, 6H).¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz, 298 K): δ 170.5, 160.1, 162.5, 158.8, 155.6, 152.4, 146.3, 146.2, 138.9, 136.4, 132.4, 130.9, 130.3, 129.7, 129.1, 129.0, 126.4, 124.9, 121.8, 121.1, 121.0, 114.5, 114.0, 113.6, 112.0, 111.4, 104.9, 79.0, 73.2, 72.3, 70.5, 69.8, 69.5, 69.2, 69.0, 68.7, 67.2, 66.9, 65.8, 64.5, 57.0, 55.0, 53.2, 52.4, 51.4, 51.2, 37.5, 30.9, 30.7, 29.0, 28.7, 28.5, 28.3, 28.1, 27.9, 27.8, 27.6, 24.9, 24.7, 24.6, 21.7, 13.1. HRMS (ESI) (m/z): $[M - PF_6]^+$ calcd for

 $C_{103}H_{124}N_6O_{20}Fe_2PF_6$, 2022.7245; found, 2022.7230. $[M-2PF_6]^{2+}$ calcd for $C_{103}H_{124}N_6O_{20}Fe_2/2$, 938.8802; found, 938.8929.

Experimental procedures for surface modification

5-azidopentyltriethoxysilane monolayer on SiO₂ nanoparticles surface

Firstly, SiO_2 nanoparticles were obtained according to the literature.⁴ In a 50 mL flask, 1.0 g SiO_2 nanoparticles and 1.0 g 5-azidopentyltriethoxysilane⁵ were mixed in dry toluene (25 mL) and the mixture was refluxed under Ar atmosphere for 24 h. The mixture was centrifuged, washed with toluene and ethanol many times, then dried under vacuum environment. The azide-functionalized SiO_2 nanoparticles was obtained as a white solid.

Attaching 1-H to azide-functionalized SiO₂ nanoparticles surface

Compound **1-H** was grafted to the azide-functionalized SiO₂ nanoparticles at room temperature by ultraphonic dispersing the azide-functionalized SiO₂ nanoparticles into CH₂Cl₂ solution of **1-H** (1 mM) containing [Cu(CH₃CN)₄]PF₆ (1 mM) as catalyst. The mixture was centrifuged, washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3 times) and ethanol (3 times) to ensure **1-H** molecules physical adsorbed on the SiO₂ surface were eliminated completely, then dried under vacuum environment. The **1-H** @SiO₂ nanoparticles was obtained as a yellow solid.

The solid powder of 1-H@SiO₂ nanoparticles after addition excess DBU.

The **1-H@SiO₂** nanoparticles were ultraphonic dispersed into the CH₂Cl₂ solution, then excess DBU was added. The mixture was stirred overnight and centrifuged, then washed with CH₂Cl₂ and ethanol many times and dried under vacuum environment. A faint yellow solid powder was obtained.

The photophysical properties of [2]rotaxane 1-H and 1-H@SiO₂

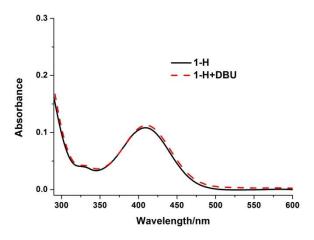


Figure S2. The UV/Vis absorption spectra of a CH_2Cl_2 solution of [2]rotaxane **1-H** (1×10^{-5} M) and the mixture obtained after adding excess DBU to the solution of [2]rotaxane **1-H.**

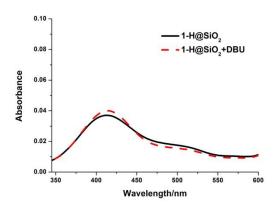


Figure S3. The UV/Vis absorption spectra of a CH₂Cl₂ solution of **1-H@SiO₂** (0.5 mg/ml) and the mixture obtained after adding excess DBU to the solution of **1-H@SiO₂**.

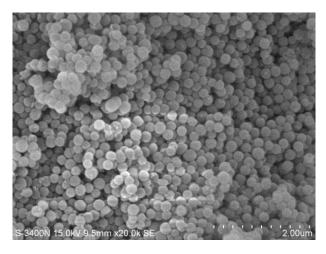
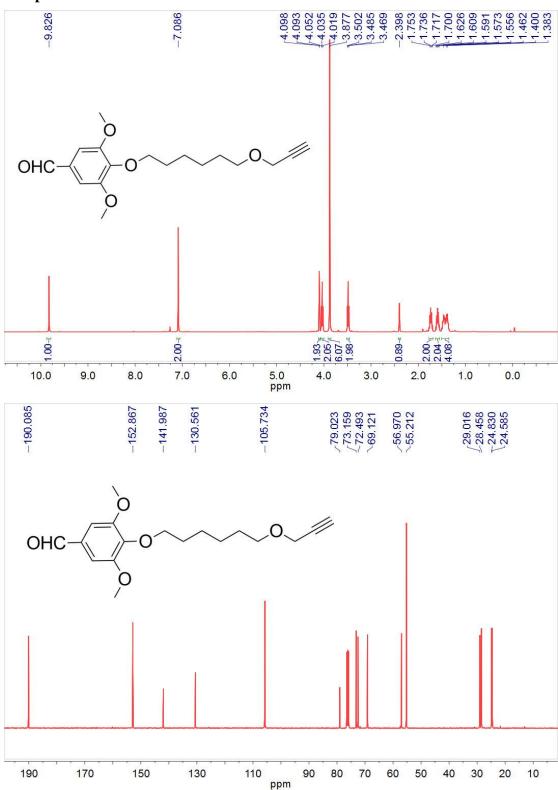


Figure S4. SEM images of solid 1-H@SiO₂

Reference:

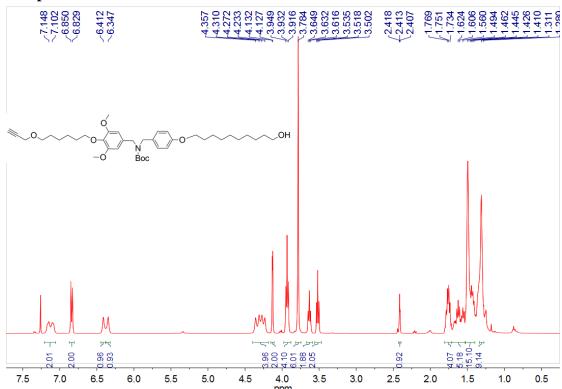
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- 5. A. T. Dickschat, F. Behrends, M. Bühner, J.-J Ren, M. Wei ß, H. Eckert and A. Studer, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2012, **18**, 16689.

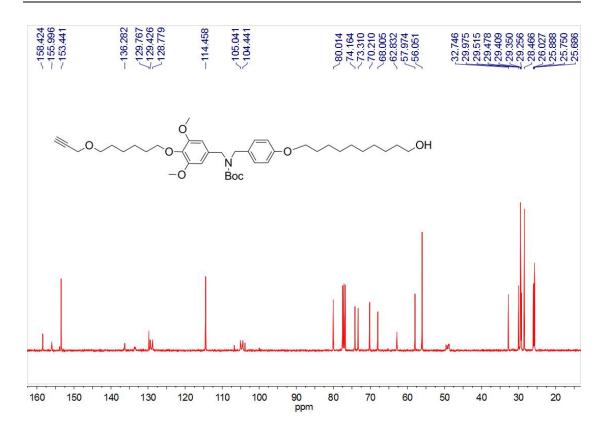
¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and Mass spectra Compound 10



Elemental Composition Report Page 1 Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 30.0 mDa / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 100.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 2 Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 13 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 1 best isotopic matches for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-18 H: 0-65 O: 0-5 Na: 0-1 14-Jul-2014 22:00:28 1: TOF MS ES+ ECUST institute of Fine Chem QDH-CZQ-36 5 (0.251) Cm (5:8) 3.48e+003 343.1517 321.1705 344.1557 359.1265 340.2819 322.1744 353,1584 346.3311 330.3376 340.0 345.0 350.0 355.0 330.0 335.0 -1.5 100.0 50.0 30.0 Maximum: Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE i-FIT i-FIT (Norm) Formula Mass 343.1517 343.1521 C18 H24 O5 Na -0.4 -1.2 6.5 6.8 0.0

Compound 8



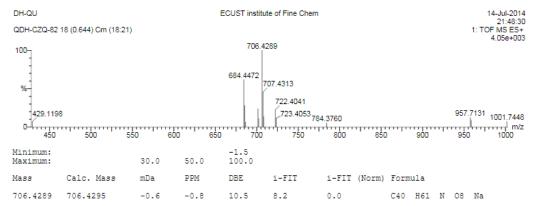


Elemental Composition Report

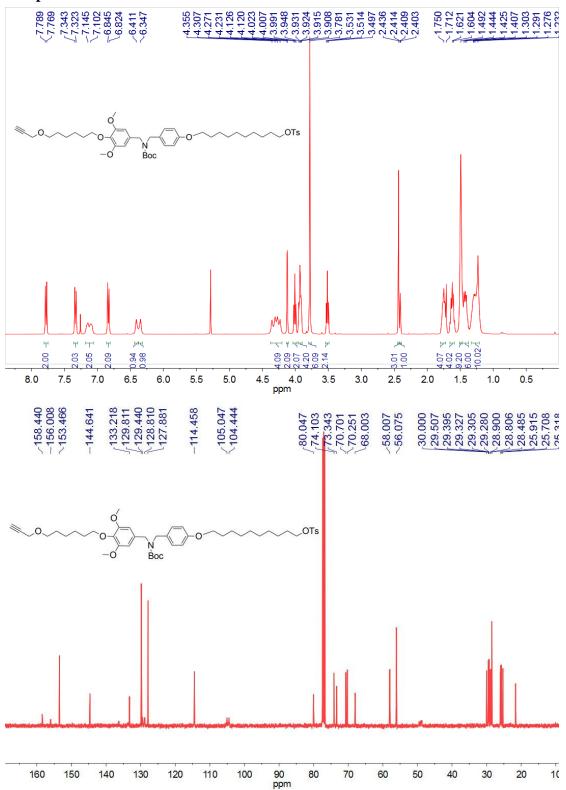
Page 1

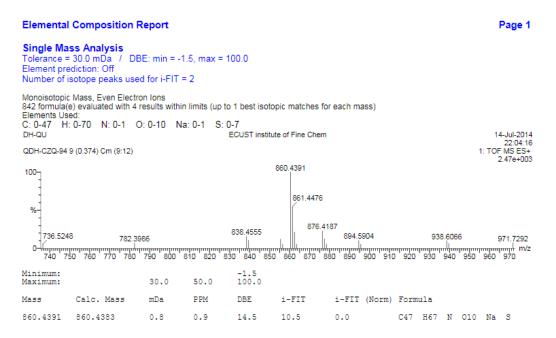
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Element prediction: Off

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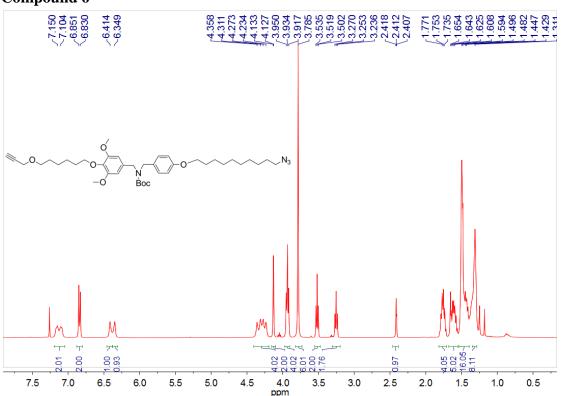


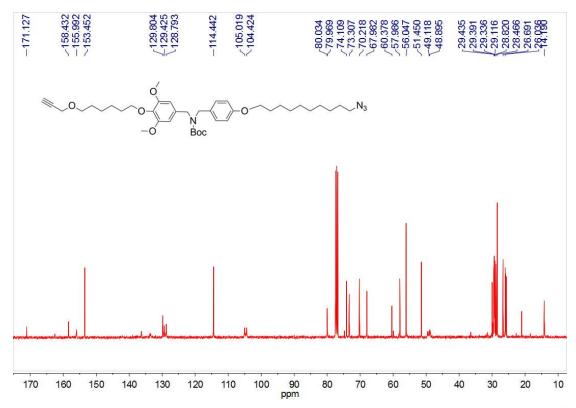
Compound 7

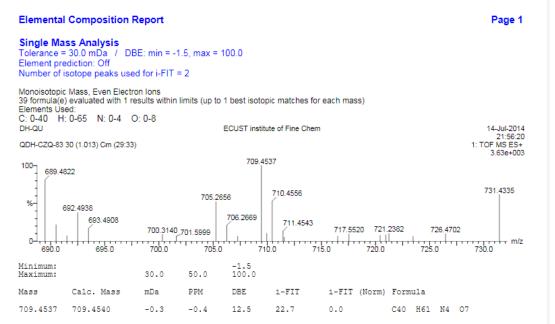


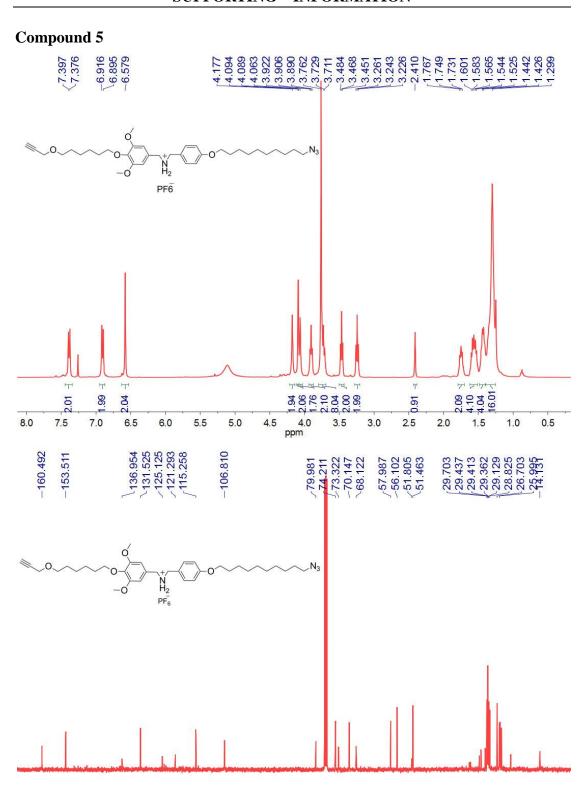


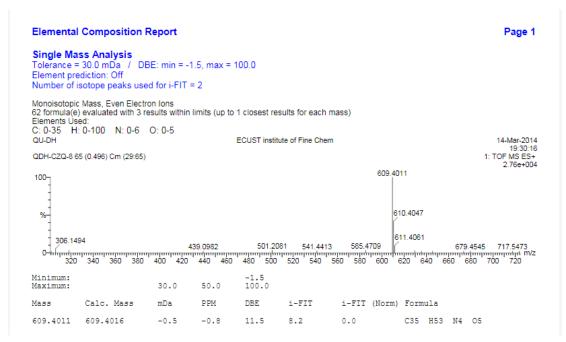
Compound 6



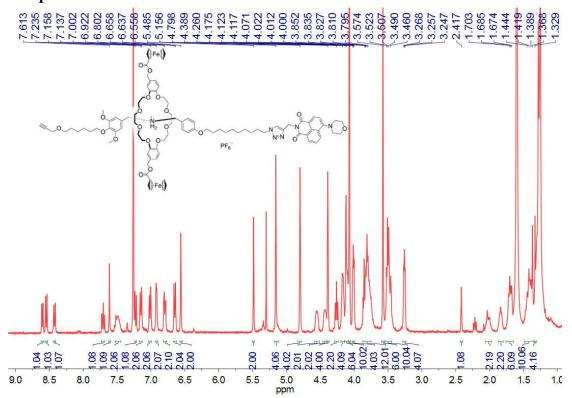


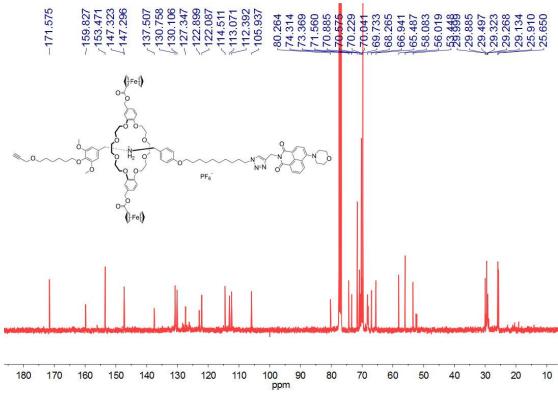


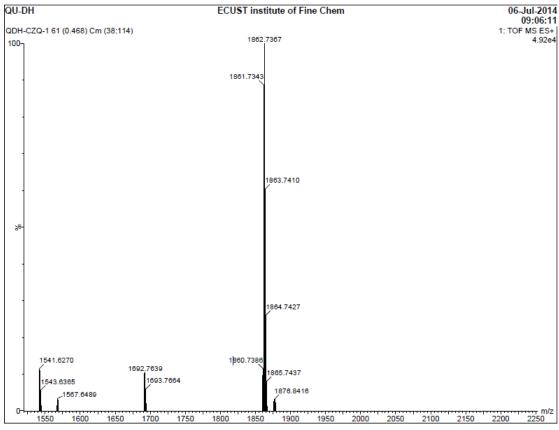




Compound 2-H







Compound 1-H

