Supporting Information

Probing flux of mitochondrial potassium using an azacrown-diketopyrrolopyrrole based highly sensitive probe

G. Dinesh Kumar,a Marzena Banasiewicz,b Antoni Wrzosek,c Rafal P. Kampa,c Manon H. E. Bousquet,d Damian Kusy,a Denis Jacquemin,*d Adam Szewczyk,*c and Daniel T. Gryko*a

a Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kasprzaka 44/52, 01-224 Warsaw, Poland. E-mail: dtgryko@icho.edu.pl
b Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Al. Lotników 32/46, 02-668 Warsaw, Poland.
c Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology of Polish Academy of Sciences, Pasteur 3, 02-093 Warsaw, Poland. E-mail: a.szewczyk@nencki.gov.pl.
d CEISAM UMR 6230, CNRS, Université de Nantes, 44000 Nantes, France. E-mail :Denis.Jacquemin@univ-nantes.fr

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S1
Section S1: General Information

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and were used as received unless otherwise noted. Reagent grade solvents (CH$_2$Cl$_2$, hexanes) were distilled prior to use. Transformations with moisture- and oxygen-sensitive compounds were performed under a stream of argon. The reaction progress was monitored by means of thin-layer chromatography (TLC), which was performed on Kieselgel 60. The identity and purity of prepared compounds were proved by $^1$H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR as well as by mass spectrometry (via EI-MS or ESI-MS). HRMS (ESI-TOF) and HRMS (EI): double-focusing magnetic sector instruments with EBE geometry were utilized. NMR spectra were measured on 400 or 500 or 600 MHz instruments. Chemical shifts (δ, ppm) were determined with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal reference; J values are given in Hz. All melting points for crystalline products were measured with an automated melting point apparatus and are given without correction.

UV/Vis absorption spectra were recorded on a PerkinElmer Lambda 35 Spectrometer. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a FLS1000 of Edinburgh Instruments. All linear optical studies were performed with freshly prepared air-equilibrated solutions at room temperature (298 K). Acetonitrile was spectrophotometric grade and was used without further purification. Quartz cells (10 mm) were used for the measurements of absorption and emission spectra. As a standard, Rh6G ($\Phi_f = 0.94$ in EtOH) was used to determine fluorescence quantum yields.
**Section S2: Synthesis**

The synthetic strategy used to prepare DPP-based probes is based on the synthesis of asymmetrical DPPs incorporating a single bromoaryl substituent followed by Buchwald-Hartwig amination with a corresponding azacrown ether. Hence, DPP $S_5$ was prepared from 4-bromobenzonitrile ($S_2$) and pyrrolidin-2-one $S_1$ following our previously developed strategy in 48% yield (Scheme S1). Subsequently the desired crown-DPP $S_9$ was obtained by Buchwald-Hartwig amination with 1-aza-18-crown-6 ($S_8$) in 23% yield (Scheme S2).

![Scheme S1. The synthesis of diketopyrrolopyrroles $S_5$-$S_7$.](image)

It is well known that the presence of an additional alkoxy group at an ortho position relative to an 18-azacrown-6 moiety increases the binding constant with $K^+$ as well as its selectivity versus this cation. In order to exploit this beneficial property, following similar synthetic procedures we designed DPPs $S_{10}$ and $S_{12}$ possessing MeO and MeOCH$_2$CH$_2$O groups, respectively. We also designed DPP $S_{11}$ possessing a 15-azacrown-5 macrocycle as a model. The synthesis of these three DPPs was achieved following the aforementioned pathway, i.e., synthesis of unsymmetrical bromophenyl-DPPs $S_6$ and $S_7$ followed by optimized Buchwald-Hartwig amination with 1-aza-18-crown-6 or 1-aza-15-crown-5 to provide crown DPPs $S_{10}$ and $S_{11}$ in 15% and 50% yield respectively (Scheme S1, Fig. S1).

Nitrile $S_4$, obtained in two steps from 4-bromo-3-methoxy benzonitrile, was reacted with pyrrolidin-2-one $S_1$ forming DPP $S_7$ in high yield (70%). The latter dye was used for amination with 1-aza-18-crown-6 ($S_8$) to afford DPP 1 in 18% yield (Scheme S1, Fig. S1).
Scheme S2. The synthesis of DPP S9 via Buchwald-Hartwig amination.

Fig. S1. The structures of crown-DPPs S10-S11 and 1.
The photophysical properties of unsymmetrically substituted DPPs strongly depend on the nature of both aryl substituents. Previously, it was found that the replacement of 4-MeOC₆H₄ with 4-CF₃C₆H₄ can render DPPs’ fluorescence inert to changes in solvent polarity. This provided us with motivation to prepare analogues of DPPs S9-S11 and 1 possessing 4-trifluoromethylphenyl substituents at position 2. The 4-trifluoromethylphenyl pyrrolidin-2-one S15 was synthesized following the general procedure developed by us. The multicomponent reaction of 4-trifluoromethylbenzaldehyde with butylamine and diethyl oxalacetate afforded pyrrolidone S13 (Scheme S3). Subsequent reduction gave lactam S14 which was finally protected with TMS to give S15 in 62% overall yield. The condensation of pyrrolidone S15 with 4-bromobenzonitrile followed by Buchwald-Hartwig amination with 1-aza-18-crown-6 (S8) led to the formation of DPP S17 in 29% yield.

Scheme S3. Synthesis of diketopyrrolopyrrole 17.

Finally DPP 1 was transformed into DPP 2 possessing a triphenylphosphonium salt using standard procedures (Scheme S4).
Scheme S4. The transformation of DPP 1 into mitochondrion probe 2.
Section S3: Experimental Procedure

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and were used as received unless otherwise noted. Reagent grade solvents (DCM, hexanes) were distilled prior to use. Transformations with moisture- and oxygen-sensitive compounds were performed under a stream of argon. The reaction progress was monitored by means of thin-layer chromatography (TLC), which was performed on Kieselgel 60. The identity and purity of prepared compounds were proved by 1H NMR and 13C NMR, 19F NMR as well as by mass spectrometry (via EI-MS or ESI-MS). HRMS (ESI-TOF) and HRMS (EI): double-focusing magnetic sector instruments with EBE geometry were utilized. NMR spectra were measured on 400 or 500 or 600 MHz instruments. Chemical shifts (δ, ppm) were determined with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the internal reference; J values are given in Hz. All melting points for crystalline products were measured with an automated melting point apparatus and are given without correction. Pyrrolidone S1 was obtained following the literature procedure.1

Synthesis of 4-bromo-3-(2-methoxyethoxy)benzonitrile (S4)

4-bromo-3-hydroxybenzonitrile was synthesized according to following known literature procedure.2

A suspension of 4-bromo-3-hydroxybenzonitrile (0.8 g, 4 mmol), chloroethyl methyl ether (0.37 mL, 4 mmol), KI (0.33 g, 2 mmol) and K$_2$CO$_3$ (0.84 g, 6 mmol) in 20 mL DMF was heated at 110 °C for 16 h. Then reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and dissolved in 100 mL ethyl acetate and 50 mL water. Organic phase was separated and washed with 50 mL sat. NaCl, dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$. The solvent was evaporated to afford as brown solid in 97 % yield, 1.0 g. m. p. = 184 °C. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 7.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.14 (m, 2H), 4.21 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 3.82 (t, J = 4.6 Hz, 2H), 3.48 (s, 3H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 155.8, 134.3, 125.5, 118.5, 118.1, 116.0, 112.1, 70.6, 69.4, 59.5. HRMS [EI, m/z]: [M$^+$] Calcd. for C$_{10}$H$_{10}$BrNO$_2$: 254.9895; found, 254.9904.

General procedure for the synthesis of DPP derivatives S5-S7:

In flame dried Schlenk flask, a mixture of appropriate nitrile (1 eq.) and lithium tert-butoxide (4 eq.) was heated to 110 °C under argon. To this solid mixture, tert-amyl alcohol (5 mL) was added in one portion followed by dropwise addition of pyrrolidone S1 (1 eq.) dissolved in dry toluene (3 mL). The resulting dark solution was left to stir at this temperature for overnight. After cooling to room temperature reaction mixture was diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with DCM
(100 mL), water phase was one more time washed with DCM (50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated in vacuum. The resulting crude compound was chromatographed on silica gel (DCM/MeOH = 9: 1) and crystallization from DCM/n-hexanes allowed to obtain the desired DPP product.

2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione (S5).

4-Bromobenzonitrile (S2, 1.0 g, 5.5 mmol), lithium tert-butoxide (1.8 g, 22 mmol) and pyrrolidone S1 (2.2 g, 5.5 mmol) in combined solvent were used to obtain S5 as red crystals in 48 % yield, 1.2 g. m.p. = 290 °C. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 10.68 (s, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.47 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.78 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (quint, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 163.5, 162.7, 162.1, 148.9, 142.6, 132.1, 131.0, 129.4, 126.8, 125.8, 120.2, 114.1, 55.5, 42.2, 31.5, 20.05, 13.6. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C23H21BrN2O3Na: 475.3360; found, 475.3380.

2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(4-bromo-3-methoxyphenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione (S6).

4-Bromo-3-methoxybenzonitrile (S3, 1.0 g, 4.7 mmol) lithium tert-butoxide (1.5 g, 18.8 mmol) and pyrrolidone S1 (1.92 g, 4.7 mmol) in combined solvent were used to obtain S6 as orange-red crystals in 45 % yield, 1.0 g. m.p. = 292 °C. 1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 10.87 (s, 1H), 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.94 (s, 3H), 3.85 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 1.65 (quint, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H). 13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3) δ 163.3, 163.2, 159.9, 159.6, 156.7, 154.0, 134.2, 131.3, 127.3, 119.9, 119.1, 116.9, 115.5, 114.9, 113.6, 111.1, 56.5, 55.6, 42.6, 31.3, 19.8, 13.4. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]+ Calcd. For C23H23BrN2O4Na: 505.0739; found, 505.0726.

2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(4-bromo-3-methoxyethoxyphenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione (S7).

4-Bromo-3-methoxyethoxybenzonitrile (S4, 1.0 g, 3.9 mmol) lithium tert-butoxide (1.25 g, 15.6 mmol) and pyrrolidone S1 (1.6 g, 3.9 mmol) in combined solvent were used to obtain S7 as orange-red crystals in 70 % yield, 1.4 g. m.p. = 284 °C. 1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl3) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, J = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (t, J = 4.5 Hz, 2H), 4.02 (t, J = 4.4 Hz, 2H), 3.92(s, 3H), 3.86 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.57 (s, 1H), 1.65 (quint, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.32 (m, 2H), 0.90 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H). 13C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl3) δ 163.3, 159.9, 159.7, 155.7, 153.7, 134.3, 131.3, 127.3, 119.9, 119.2, 117.0, 115.5, 114.8, 113.6, 112.1, 108.8, 70.7, 68.4, 59.3, 55.6, 42.5, 31.3, 19.8, 13.4. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]+ Calcd. for C26H25BrN2O5: 525.1025; found, 525.1008.

2-Butyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-6-(4-bromophenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione (S16).
4-Bromobenzonitrile (S2, 1.0 g, 5.5 mmol), lithium tert-butoxide (1.75 g, 22 mmol) and pyrrolidone S15 (2.5 g, 5.5 mmol) in combined solvent were used to obtain S16 as red crystals in 33 % yield, 900 mg. m.p. = 283 °C. \(^1\)H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 9.27 (s, 1H), 8.16 (d, \(J = 8.7\) Hz, 2H), 7.92 (d, \(J = 8.1\) Hz, 2H), 7.82 (d, \(J = 8.4\) Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, \(J = 8.7\) Hz, 2H), 3.82 (t, \(J = 7.7\) Hz, 2H), 1.60 (quint, \(J = 7.6\) Hz, 2H), 1.28 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, \(J = 7.4\) Hz, 3H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 162.7, 162.2, 146.2, 144.5, 132.6, 131.3, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 127.2, 126.1, 125.9, 125.9, 111.7, 110.0, 42.0, 31.6, 20.0, 13.6. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]\(^+\) Calcd. for C\(_{23}\)H\(_{17}\)BrF\(_3\)N\(_2\)O\(_2\): 489.0426; found, 489.0413.

**General procedure for Buchwald-Hartwig amination of DPP derivatives S9-S11 and 1:**

A mixture of appropriate DPP (1 eq.), 1-aza-18-crown-6 (2 eq.), sodium tert-butoxide (4 eq.) and bis(tri-tert-butylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.05 eq.) were placed in a dried Schenk flask under argon atmosphere followed by 10 mL dry toluene were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 110 °C for 18 h. After cooling to room temperature, reaction mixture was diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with DCM (100 mL), aqueous phase was one more time washed with DCM (50 mL). The combined organic phases were dried over Na\(_2\)SO\(_4\), filtered and concentrated in vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using a step gradient of MeOH in DCM as eluent (from 0% to 10%). Crystallization from DCM/hexanes allowed to obtain desired product.

**2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(1,4,7,10,13-pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadecane,16-(4-phenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1, 4-dione (S9).**

DPP (S5, 0.25 g, 0.55 mmol), 1-aza-18-crown-6 (S8, 0.29 g, 1.1 mmol), sodium tert-butoxide (0.21 g, 2.2 mmol), and bis(tri-tert-butylphosphine)palladium(0) (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of dry toluene were used to obtain product S9 as a red crystals in 23 % yield, 80 mg. m.p. = 208 °C. \(^1\)H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 9.35 (s, 1H), 8.27 (d, \(J = 7.8\) Hz, 2H), 7.8 (s, 2H), 7.03 (d, \(J = 8.6\) Hz, 2H), 6.80 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.73-3.65 (m, 26H), 1.63 (quint, \(J = 7.3\) Hz, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, \(J = 7.3\) Hz, 3H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 163.7, 162.4, 161.3, 161.2, 150.8, 145.2, 144.4, 144.3, 130.5, 130.2, 121.2, 115.3, 114.2, 111.6, 110.0, 106.5, 70.9, 70.8, 70.7, 68.5, 55.4, 51.5, 41.9, 31.7, 20.0, 13.7. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]\(^+\) Calcd. for C\(_{35}\)H\(_{45}\)N\(_3\)O\(_8\)Na: 658.3104; found, 658.3085.

**2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(1,4,7,10,13-pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadecane,16-(2-methoxyphenyl-4-yl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1, 4-dione (S10).**

DPP (S6, 0.25 g, 0.51 mmol), 1-aza-18-crown-6 (S8, 0.22 g, 1.03 mmol), sodium tert-butoxide (0.16 g, 2.06 mmol), and bis(tri-tert-butylphosphine)palladium(0) (20 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of dry toluene were used to obtain S10 as red crystals in 15 % yield, 50 mg. m.p. = 188 °C. \(^1\)H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 9.46 (s, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, \(J = 8.2\) Hz, 2H), 7.7 (s, 1H), 7.05 (d, \(J = 8.6\) Hz, 2H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 3.7-3.61 (m, 26H), 1.63 (quint, \(J = 7.0\) Hz, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, \(J = 7.4\) Hz, 3H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \(\delta\) 163.7, 162.6, 161.5, 151.0, 145.6, 144.8, 143.7, 130.5,
121.0, 117.7, 114.3, 112.0, 110.1, 70.7, 70.2, 69.9, 69.2, 55.9, 52.6, 41.8, 31.6, 20.0, 13.7. HRMS (EI, m/z): [M**] Calcd. for C_{36}H_{47}N_{3}O_{9}: 665.3312; found, 665.3304.

2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(1,4,7,10-tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadecane,16-(2-methoxyphenyl-4-yl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1, 4-dione (S11).

DPP (S6, 0.25 g, 5.1 mmol), 1-aza-15-crown-5 (0.23 g, 10.3 mmol), sodium tert-butoxide (0.2 g, 20.4 mmol), and bis(tri-tert-butyolphosphine) palladium(0) (15 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of dry toluene were used to obtain S11 as red crystals in 50 % yield, 160 mg. m.p. = 210 °C. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.82 (s, 1H), 8.17 (s, 1H), 7.79 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (m, 6H), 3.89-3.80 (s, 6H), 3.73-3.64 (m, 13H), 3.2 (t, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (quint, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.9, 162.5, 161.4, 150.7, 145.2, 143.6, 130.5, 130.4, 121.7, 121.1, 119.1, 117.1, 114.2, 112.0, 110.2, 107.4, 71.0, 70.4, 70.0, 69.7, 69.6, 69.1, 65.2, 55.9, 55.4, 53.5, 47.7, 41.7, 31.6, 20.0, 13.6. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]^+ Calcd. for C_{34}H_{43}N_{3}O_{9}Na: 644.2948; found, 644.2941.

2-Butyl-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-6-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadecane,16-(2-methoxyethoxyphenyl-4-yl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1, 4-dione (1).

DPP (S7, 0.5 g, 0.94 mmol), 1-aza-18-crown-6 (S8, 0.5 g, 1.9 mmol), sodium tert-butoxide (0.37 g, 3.8 mmol), and bis(tri-tert-butyolphosphine) palladium(0) (25 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of dry toluene were used to obtain 1 as red crystals in 18 % yield, 120 mg. m.p. = 182 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 3.82 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 3.68-3.59 (m, 29H), 3.38 (s, 6H), 1.63 (quint, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 163.7, 162.7, 161.6, 149.6, 145.3, 144.8, 130.6, 129.4, 121.7, 121.6, 120.9, 115.6, 114.5, 114.3, 114.1, 113.0, 110.2, 71.1, 70.8, 70.2, 69.6, 69.4, 69.3, 69.2, 69.1, 69.0, 68.9, 67.5, 58.9, 55.5, 52.8, 41.8, 31.6, 20.0, 13.7. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]^+ Calcd. for C_{38}H_{52}N_{3}O_{10}: 710.3653; found, 710.3666.

2-Butyl-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-6-(1,4,7,10,13-pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadecane,16-(4-phenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1, 4-dione (S17).

DPP (S16, 0.1 g, 0.2 mmol), 1-aza-18-crown-6 (S8, 0.11 g, 0.4 mmol), sodium tert-butoxide (0.08 g, 0.8 mmol), and bis(tri-tert-butyolphosphine) palladium(0) (5 mg, 0.05 mmol) in 10 mL of dry toluene were used to obtain S17 as red crystals in 29 % yield, 50 mg. m.p. = 205 °C. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 10.05 (s, 1H), 8.32 (s, 2H), 7.92 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 6.76 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 3.83 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.73-3.65 (m, 24H), 1.63 (quint, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.3 (m, 2H), 0.88 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 164.3, 161.9, 151.5, 147.6, 141.0, 132.3, 131.3, 131.2, 131.1, 130.9, 130.8, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 125.6, 125.5, 125.0, 124.8, 122.8, 114.9, 112.4, 111.8, 111.7, 106.2, 70.8, 70.7, 68.5, 51.5, 41.9, 31.7, 20.0, 13.7. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]^+ Calcd. for C_{35}H_{42}F_{3}N_{3}O_{7}Na: 696.2873; found, 696.2889.

Preparation of mitochondrial probe (2): S10
A suspension of unsymmetrical DPP 1 (100 mg, 0.14 mmol) and K$_2$CO$_3$ (40 mg, 0.28 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) was stirred at 120°C under argon atmosphere for 5 min. Then 1, 6-dibromohexane (0.22 mL, 1.4 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred at 120 °C under argon for 24 h. Thereafter, the mixture was cooled down to room temperature and water (50 mL) was added. The product was extracted with DCM three times. The combined organic layers were dried over anhydrous Na$_2$SO$_4$, filtered and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The product was purified by column chromatography over silica gel using a step gradient of MeOH in DCM as eluent (from 0% to 10%). Compound was obtained as an orange red semi solid in 41% yield, 50 mg. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]$^+$ Calcd. for C$_{44}$H$_{62}$BrN$_3$O$_{10}$Na: 894.3516; found, 894.3496.

Alkylated crude compound of 1 (50 mg, 0.06 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (0.15 g, 0.57 mmol) were added into a flask containing 5 mL of acetonitrile. The mixture was refluxed for 72 h. After removal of solvent in vacuo, the remaining solid was purified by column chromatography with gradient solvent from CH$_2$Cl$_2$ to CH$_2$Cl$_2$/MeOH (v/v = 9/1). Compound 2 was obtained as orange-red crystals by recrystallization from diethyl ether in 25% yield, 15 mg. m.p. = 94 °C. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, CD$_3$CN): δ 7.86-7.62 (m, 15H), 7.46 (dd, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (dd, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d, J = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.85-3.40 (m, 28H), 2.81 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 2.54 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 1.39-1.27 (m, 19H), 0.88 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 173.8, 163.4, 162.9, 153.0, 148.7, 139.6, 138.2, 136.1, 135.8, 134.7, 134.6, 133.2, 132.9, 131.7, 131.2, 130.6, 125.8, 125.1, 119.8, 116.2, 115.2, 114.8, 70.5, 70.1, 65.1, 59.3, 56.3, 42.1, 36.9, 35.6, 35.2, 35.1, 34.4, 32.6, 32.1, 31.8, 31.6, 30.6, 30.5, 30.3, 30.2, 30.1, 29.9, 29.6, 29.4, 26.6, 26.3, 23.4, 22.7, 22.3, 20.5, 14.4, 13.9.; HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+H]$^+$ Calcd. for C$_{62}$H$_{78}$N$_3$O$_{10}$P$: 1055.5425; found, 1055.5405.

**Ethyl-1-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-oxo-2-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrole-3-carboxylate (S13).**

A 250 mL round-bottom flask equipped with a magnetic stirring bar, was charged with ethanol (100 mL), 4-trifluoromethyl benzaldehyde S12 (7.3 mL, 53 mmol) and n-butylamine (5.25 mL, 53 mmol), reaction mixture was kept at room temperature, with constant stirring for 15 minutes. Next diethyl oxalacetate (10.0 g, 53 mmol) was added in one portion, followed by dropwise addition of acetic acid (6.1 mL, 106 mmol). Reaction mixture was heat up to 40 °C, and vigorously stirred overnight. Then reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with water (200 mL), and extracted with DCM (200mL×2). Organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na$_2$SO$_4$, concentrated in vacuo. Yellowish solid was recrystallized from EtOAc to obtain product S13 as white crystals 70 %, 14.0 g. m.p. = 198-199 °C. $^1$H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 9.02 (s, 1H), 7.61 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.14 (s, 1H), 4.13 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (m, 1H), 2.63 (m, 1H), 1.48 – 1.41 (m, 2H), 1.28 – 1.22 (m, 2H), 1.12 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); $^{13}$C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ 164.8, 163.6, 157.7, 139.3, 131.2, 128.1, 125.8, 122.9, 112.4, 61.2, 60.0, 40.3, 30.3, 19.9, 13.9, 13.6. $^{19}$F NMR (470 MHz, CDCl$_3$) δ -62.71. HRMS (ESI, m/z): [M+Na]$^+$ Calcd. for C$_{18}$H$_{20}$F$_3$NO$_4$Na: 394.3562; found, 394.3520.
**Ethyl-1-butyl-4-hydroxy-2-(4-Trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-oxopyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (S14).**

Compound **S13** (14.0 g, 37.7 mmol) was dissolved in 150 mL mixture of EtOH/AcOH (1:1) and zinc powder (15.0 g, 226.2 mmol) was added and reaction mixture vigorously stirred at 95 °C for 1h. A second portion of zinc powder (15.0 g, 226.2 mmol) was added and stirring was continued at 95 °C until completion of the reaction. After cooling to room temperature reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) the excess of zinc and the inorganic salts were filtered off. The filtrate was then diluted with water (150 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (100 mL), and the combined organic phases were washed with saturated NaHCO3 solution until neutral and finally dried over Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated in vacuo to obtain liquid product **S14** as mixture of diastereoisomers in 85% yield, 11.9 g. Careful analysis of 1H NMR spectra of crude **S14** showed the ratio 2:1 of major isomer **S14** with the all-trans configuration in relation to the rest three minor compounds.

Crude compound (11.9 g, 31.9 mmol) was dissolved in dry EtOH (75 mL), freshly powdered K2CO3 (11.2 g, 68.5 mmol) was added in one portion. Reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes. Next reaction mixture was diluted with EtOAc (100 mL) the excess of inorganic salts were filtered off. The filtrate was then washed with water (100 mL x 2), organic phase was dried over Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated in vacuum to obtain yellowish liquid product in 99.5 %, 11.8 g. 1H NMR spectra showed 10:1 ratio of major isomer **S14a** with the all-trans configuration in relation to the rest two minor compounds. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (m, 2H), 3.7-3.65 (m, 1H), 3.03 (t, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.45 (quint, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 1.32-1.11 (m, 8H), 0.79 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 3H); 13C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl3) δ 173.6, 171.1, 142.3, 131.1, 129.4, 129.0, 126.1, 125.3, 72.1, 61.6, 55.9, 40.6, 28.5, 19.9, 13.9, 13.6. HRMS (EI, m/z): [M⁺⁺] Calcd. for C38H22F3NO4: 373.3722; found, 373.1507.

**Ethyl-1-butyl-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-oxo-4-((trimethylsilyl)oxy)pyrrolidine-3-carboxylate (S15).**

To cooled to ~0 °C solution of **S14a** (11.8 g, 31.6 mmol) in dry DCM (100 mL), dry Et3N (8.0 mL, 56.8 mmol) was added, next TMSCl (6.0 mL, 47.4 mmol) was added drop wise. After addition cooling bath was removed, and reaction mixture was allowed to reach room temperature and stirring was continued at room temperature for 1.5 h. Next reaction mixture was diluted with water (100 mL), phases were separated and organic phase was dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, filtered and concentrated in vacuo gives 90% yield, 12.8 g of product **S15** without chromatographic purification. 1H NMR spectra showed 10:1 ratio of major isomer **S15** with the all-trans configuration in relation to the rest two minor compounds, used for next reaction without further purification. 1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl3) δ 7.63 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.70 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (m, 2H), 3.69-3.63 (m, 1H), 2.91 (t, J
= 7.5 Hz, 1H), 2.52 (m, 1H), 1.39 – 1.31 (m, 4H), 1.24-1.17 (m, 3H), 0.81 (t, \( J = 11.5 \) Hz, 3H), 0.21 (s, 9H). \(^{13}\)C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl\(_3\)) \( \delta \) 171.6, 171.1, 142.5, 131.0, 130.7, 129.3, 127.7, 125.9, 73.1, 61.5, 60.5, 56.6, 45.7, 40.6, 28.6, 19.8, 14.0, 13.6, 0.1. HRMS (EI m/z): [M\(^+\)] Calcd. for \( \text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{F}_{3}\text{NO}_{4}\text{Si} \): 445.5542; found, 445.5510.

Section S4: Photophysical studies

The photophysical properties of DPPs S\textbf{7}, S\textbf{9}-S\textbf{11} and S\textbf{17} were studied in toluene and MeCN as prototypical non-polar and polar solvents (Table S1, Figures in ESI). From a structural point of view these DPPs represent D-A-D' systems where the azacrownphenyl is a strongly electron-donating group, the 4-MeOC\(_6\)H\(_4\) is a weakly electron-donating substituent, and the DPP core is electron-deficient. DPPs S\textbf{7}, S\textbf{9}-S\textbf{11} and S\textbf{17} absorb at approx. 530 nm and emit at 540-580 nm in toluene. There is a small but noticeable hypsochromic shift of absorption in CH\(_3\)CN as compared to toluene (506-525 nm). Simultaneously emission shifts bathochromically to \(~580\) nm. Replacing MeOC\(_6\)H\(_4\) with 4-CF\(_3\)C\(_6\)H\(_4\) effectively increases the strength of the acceptor in the donor-acceptor system, by going from a quadrupolar-like D-A-D' structure to a dipolar like D-A-A' architecture. This should lead to a bathochromic shift of absorption and emission which is indeed observed experimentally (S\textbf{17} vs. S\textbf{9}: abs. 540 nm vs. 530 nm, em. 578 nm vs. 555 nm in toluene, Table S1). Solvatochromic trends are the same as for DPPs S\textbf{9}-S\textbf{11}. Interestingly, adding a triphenylphosphonium moiety strongly affects the photophysical properties shifting absorption hypsochromically and emission bathochromically to 590 nm. At the same time, the emission maxima does not show any solvent polarity effects (Table S1).

In all cases the fluorescence quantum yields are very high (80-90%) and the difference between toluene and CH\(_3\)CN is trifling in spite of the nature of the considered transitions. This observation is in strong contrast to solvatochromic behavior of 6-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-2-butyl-3-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2,5-dihydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4-dione which showed very bright emission in toluene that almost totally quenched in CH\(_3\)CN.

S13
Table 1. Photophysical properties of DPPs in toluene and CH$_3$CN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>$\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ [nm]</th>
<th>$\lambda_{\text{em}}$ [nm]</th>
<th>Stokes shift [cm$^{-1}$]</th>
<th>$\Phi_{\text{fla}}$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S7</td>
<td>toluene</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.77</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>0.66</td>
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<td>S9</td>
<td>toluene</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>0.78</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
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<td>563</td>
<td>1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>S10</td>
<td>toluene</td>
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<td>566</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
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<td>2500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>564</td>
<td>1100</td>
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<td>582</td>
<td>2100</td>
<td>0.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>toluene</td>
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<td>569</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>0.77</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>0.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>S17</td>
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<td>578</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
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<td>599</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>toluene</td>
<td>519</td>
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<td>2400</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH$_3$CN</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>3100</td>
<td>0.48</td>
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</table>

*Determined using Rhodamine 6G in EtOH.

Table S2. Changes of fluorescence of DPPs S7, S9-S11 and S17 in the presence of 5 eq. KPF$_6$ and PhSO$_3$H in CH$_3$CN.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPP</th>
<th>KPF$_6$ (5 eq.)</th>
<th>PhSO$_3$H (5 eq.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancement of fluorescence</td>
<td>$\lambda_{\text{em}}$ [nm]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S7</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S9</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S10</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S11</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>582/536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S17</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>596</td>
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</table>

Having the fundamental photophysical properties measured, we moved on to investigation of the influence of both K$^+$ cations and protonation on the absorption and emission of DPPs S7, S9-S11 and S17 (Table S2). The influence of KPF$_6$ addition on the fluorescence of these DPPs strongly depends on the presence of the additional alkoxy substituents. In their absence (DPPs S9 and S17) there is essentially no effect even in the presence of a huge excess of KPF$_6$ (Fig. S9 & S34). In contrast, for DPP S10 which bears MeO substituent that assist coordination, the effect is spectacular and the addition of just one equivalent of K$^+$ shifts emission hypsochromically from 580 to 525 nm (Fig. 3). Decreasing the size of macrocycle to 15-crown-5 (DPP S11, too small to accommodate K$^+$) makes the response a very weak one, and hundreds of equivalents of KPF$_6$ are necessary to induce comparable changes (Fig. 4). The addition of benzenesulfonic acid yields the same trend, however, there is no difference in strength of the bathochromic shift between...
DPPs bearing differently sized crowns (Figs. S3, S5, S10, S13, S16, S19, S21, S26, S30, S33, S35, S38, S40). The presence of auxiliary alkoxy groups does not help in obtaining a more marked response to benzenesulfonic acid either.

Section S5: Absorption and emission spectra

![Absorption and emission spectra](image)

**Fig. S1.** The absorption and emission spectra of DPP S7 in acetonitrile and in toluene.

![Effect of KPF6 addition](image)

**Fig. S2.** The effect of KPF6 addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S7 measured in CH3CN.
Fig. S3. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S7 measured in CH$_3$CN.

Fig. S4. The effect of KPF$_6$ addition on the emission spectra of DPP S7 measured in CH$_3$CN.
Fig. S5. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP S7 measured in CH$_3$CN.

Fig. S6. The absorption and emission spectra of DPP S9 in acetonitrile and in toluene.
**Fig. S7.** The effect of KPF₆ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S9 measured in CH₃CN.

**Fig. S8.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S9 measured in CH₃CN.
Fig. S9. The effect of KPF₆ addition on the emission spectra of DPP S9 measured in CH₃CN.

Fig. S10. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP S9 measured in CH₃CN.
Fig. S11. The absorption and emission spectra of DPP S10 in various solvents.

Fig. S12. The effect of KPF$_6$ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S10 measured in CH$_3$CN.
**Fig. S13.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S10 measured in CH$_3$CN.

**Fig. S14.** The emission spectra of DPP S10 in various solvents.
**Fig. S15.** The effect of KPF$_6$ addition on the emission spectra of DPP S10 measured in CH$_3$CN.

**Fig. S16.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP S10 measured in CH$_3$CN.
Fig. S17. The absorption and emission spectra of DPP S11 in acetonitrile and in toluene.

Fig. S18. The effect of KPF₆ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S11 measured in CH₃CN.
**Fig. S19.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S11 measured in CH₃CN.

**Fig. S20.** The effect of KPF₆ addition on the emission spectra of DPP S11 measured in CH₃CN.
Fig. S21. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP S11 measured in CH₃CN.

Fig. S22. The absorption and emission spectra of DPP 1 in acetonitrile and in toluene.
Fig. S23. The effect of KPF₆ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.

Fig. S24. The effect of sodium perchlorate addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.
**Fig. S25.** The effect of magnesium perchlorate addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.

**Fig. S26.** The effect of benzenesulfonic acid addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.
Fig. S27. The effect of KPF₆ addition on the emission spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.

Fig. S28. The effect of sodium perchlorate addition on the emission spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH₃CN.
**Fig. S29.** The effect of magnesium perchlorate addition on the emission spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH$_3$CN.

**Fig. S30.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP 1 measured in CH$_3$CN.
**Fig. S31.** The absorption and emission spectra of DPP S17 in acetonitrile and in toluene.

**Fig. S32.** The effect of KPF₆ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S17 measured in CH₃CN.
**Fig. S33.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP S17 measured in CH$_3$CN.

**Fig. S34.** The effect of KPF$_6$ addition on the emission spectra of DPP S17 measured in CH$_3$CN.
Fig. S35. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP S17 measured in CH$_3$CN.

Fig. S36. The absorption and emission spectra of DPP 2 in acetonitrile and in toluene.
**Fig. S37.** The effect of KPF₆ addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 2 measured in CH₃CN.

**Fig. S38.** The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the absorption spectra of DPP 2 measured in CH₃CN.
Fig. S39. The effect of KPF$_6$ addition on the emission spectra of DPP 2 measured in CH$_3$CN.

Fig. S40. The effect of BENZENESULFONIC ACID addition on the emission spectra of DPP 2 measured in CH$_3$CN.
Photostability measurements

Photostability of DPP 2 was determined through the variation in absorption of each sample at the appropriate absorption maximum wavelength ($\lambda_{\text{abs}}$) with respect to irradiation time. Toluene was selected as the solvent. Concentrations giving similar optical densities ($A \approx 1$) were used. Quartz cells of samples were irradiated with a 300 W Xe lamp (Asahi spectra MAX-350, light power: 0.115 W/cm$^2$) for 180 min at 25 °C equipped with a UV/vis mirror module through a glass fiber. The absorption spectra were measured at appropriate times during the irradiation. BODIPY (difluoro[2-[1-(3,5-dimethyl-2H-pyrrol-2-ylidene-N)ethyl]-3,5-dimethyl-1H-pyrrolato-N]boron), DPP (2,5-dimethyl-3,6-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4(2H,5H)-dione) and Alexa Fluor 555 were used as references.

Fig. S41. Photostability of DPP 2 measured in CH$_3$CN (DPP 2 – blue line, BODIPY 493/503 – gray line, DPP (2,5-dioctyl-3,6-bis(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrrole-1,4(2H,5H)-dione – orange line).
Fig. S42. Photostability of DPP 2 measured in water (containing 10% of DMSO).

**Section S6: IMAGING**

**Cell culture conditions.** The rat embryonic cardiomyoblast-derived H9C2 and endothelial EA.hy 926 cell lines were cultured at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO2 in DMEM supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μg/ml streptomycin.

**Fluorescence localization of crown-diketopyrrolopyrroles within the cells.** The cardiac H9C2 cells were loaded with fluorophores in DMEM medium supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μg/ml streptomycin at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂ for 15 to 30 minutes with the crown-diketopyrrolopyrroles compounds at the final concentration ranging from 200 to 500 nM. The final concentration of the MitoTracker™ Green FM was 150 nM. Both fluorophores were dissolved in DMSO. Before measurements, the incubation medium was replaced with FluoroBrite™ DMEM. The measurements were performed with use of Olympus IX83 confocal microscope with the water objective 60x UPLSAPO 60XW. Registered data were transferred to the ImageJ and analyzed for presentation.

The research was carried out on "live" unfixed cells. The given run of the experiment, the control, the administration of valinomycin and naringenin, and the change of the incubation medium to 200 mM KCl were performed on the same cells. The research was carried out on "live" unfixed cells. The given run of the experiment, the control, the administration of valinomycin and
naringenin, and the change of the incubation medium to 200 mM KCl were performed on the same Petri dish.

H9C2 cells, which had been incubated for 30 minutes with DPP 2 at 37°C at 5% CO₂, were washed with incubation medium (FloroBrite) and measurements were made under control conditions Fig A. Then valinomycin and nigerin were added to the control medium to a final concentration of 30 μM and 10 μM respectively and after 5 min of incubation the measurements were performed for 5 mM KCl conditions. After that, the incubation medium was changed to a medium containing 200 mM KCl with appropriate concentrations of valinomycin and nigerin. And the fluorescence intensity was measured for 200 mM KCl conditions. Measurements performed only in the presence of valinomycin transport only potassium ions, which in the case of the cell membrane would do the job. However, in the case of mitochondria, the process is more complicated. Administration of valinomycin alone would change only the electrical potential ∆Ψ of the inner mitochondrial membrane which would lead to activation of the respiratory chain and an increase in pH. The addition of nigerin reduces the transmembrane ΔpH (Kang, Chen et al. 2017).


The number of cells used for the measurement is usually 100,000 if we take into account their volume (assuming that they are a sphere) 4/3πr³ (radius of the cell 50 μm) then compared to the volume of 2 ml of incubation medium, if the concentration on both sides of the biological membrane is equalized, the concentration will be close to the value of 5 mM as it is in incubation medium.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mean from both samples</th>
<th>B3-A</th>
<th>YG2-A</th>
<th>B3-A/YG2-A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probe</td>
<td>5,77E+05</td>
<td>1,57E+05</td>
<td>3,81E+00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probe_valinomycin_niger</td>
<td>4,44E+05</td>
<td>1,72E+05</td>
<td>2,56E+00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probe_valinomycin_niger</td>
<td>6,14E+05</td>
<td>1,09E+05</td>
<td>5,65E+00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>18052</td>
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<td>4,32901679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson r (B3 vs YG2):</td>
<td>-0,82</td>
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</table>

In response to this comment the measurements were performed using a flow cytometer and the results confirmed those obtained for the confocal microscopy measurements. Only the extreme values of potassium ions were used to define the limit of changes in the value of the fluorescence intensity ratio for green and red colors. Further studies with potassium titration are planned, but require a separate approach to demonstrate the biological usefulness of a given fluorescent probe.
Figure 43. Measurements made using flow cytometry for different KCl concentrations. Probe_val is for valinomycin and nigericin. Data from two experiments.

In order to determine the viability of cells under the influence of the tested crown-diketopyrrolopyrroles, an annexin V-based apoptosis and necrosis test (RealTime-Glo™ Annexin V Apoptosis and Necrosis Assay, Promega) was performed, allowing the simultaneous examination of the effect of the substances on the induction of apoptotic and necrotic cell death.

Section S7: Confocal fluorescence microscopy images
Fig. S44. Intracellular localization of S10, S11, S9 and 1 compounds as detected using confocal fluorescence microscopy.

The fluorescence of MitoTracker™ Green (green) as a well-established marker for mitochondria, and the fluorescence of the S10, S11, S9 and S12 (red) compounds were recorded with 559 nm excitation wavelength and emission range 610–750 nm. Overlay picture recorded simultaneously for two fluorophore in living H9C2 cells line.
**Fig. S45.** Separation of the fluorescence emission wavelength with excitation with laser line 473 nm (A) and 559 nm (B). Detection channels were set for fluorescence green and red light respectively.

**Fig. S46.** Changes in the fluorescence of the 2 compound in the different intracellular K⁺ concentration caused by nigericin. A control condition. B in the presence of nigericin (10 µM).
Fig. S47. Changes in the fluorescence of the 2 compound in the different intracellular $K^+$ concentration caused by valinomycin. A control condition. B in the presence of valinomycin (30 μM).

Fig. S48. Changes in the ratio (473 nm/559 nm) of the fluorescence intensity at the different excitation wavelength as measured with use of ImageJ. The ratio is statistically different for each conditions as measured in paired sample t Test at the level 0.05.

Penetration into the cell depends on a number of factors and under our conditions, after many trials, we decided to load the cells with the dye in the presence of Pluronic 127 detergent and FBS in the incubation medium. This is due to the fact that research on living cells is taken into account and the dye entering the cell accumulates in the inner mitochondrial membrane and
mitochondria. Too rapid accumulation could damage the performance of the mitochondrial activity system and produce undesirable results. It turned out that the penetration of the dye into the cell without FBS in the environment is extremely fast, but it is easier to control the charge level of the cell in the presence of FBS by changing the time of loading. In our opinion, it is more important to obtain a stable dye balance. In the ratiometric measurements of fluorescence the level of dyes loading is less important.

**Figure 49.** Different level loading of dye 6 in the presence and absence of serum.

**Figure 50.** Different time loading of dye 6 in the presence of serum in incubation medium.
Pearson's correlation coefficient and Mander's overlap coefficient (MOC).

For pair of two signal channels Mitotracker Green and DPP 1 Pearson's Coefficient: \(r=0.597\), Mander's Coefficients (original): \(M1=0.997\) (fraction of Mitotracker Green overlapping DPP 1), \(M2=0.763\) (fraction of DPP 1 overlapping Mitotracker Green).

For pair of two signal channels Mitotracker Green and DPP 2 Pearson's Coefficient: \(r=0.793\), Mander's Coefficients (original): \(M1=0.888\) (fraction of Mitotracker Green overlapping DPP 2), \(M2=0.993\) (fraction of DPP 2 overlapping Mitotracker Green).

For pair of two signal channels: Mitotracker Green and DPP 2 (B) Pearson's Coefficient: \(r=0.788\), Mander's Coefficients (original): \(M1=0.944\) (fraction of Mitotracker Green overlapping DPP 2), \(M2=0.968\) (fraction of DPP 2 overlapping Mitotracker Green).
Fig. S51. Effect of crown-diketopyrrolopyrroles on apoptosis and necrosis of the EA.hy 926 cells.

Change in luminescence as a measure of apoptosis (A) and fluorescence (B) over the time. Statistical significance relative to the control was determined by two-way ANOVA with Tukey's test for n = 3 (p <0.0001 (***)]; p > 0.05 (ns).
Section S8: Theoretical calculations

Methods

For the calculations, the selected protocol follows one that has been extensively described and tested before,[3] and is only briefly outlined below. In this approach, the ground and excited state geometries are optimized at the PCM[4]-(TD-)M06-2X[5] 6-31+G(d) level, the vibrational frequencies are obtained at the exact sale level of theory, the total and transition energies are determined at CC2/aug-cc-pVTZ level, and the solvent corrections (here acetonitrile) on these CC2 energies are included at the PCM(LR+cLR[6])-TD-M06-2X/6-311+G(2d,p) level. All (TD-)DFT calculations have been performed with the Gaussian16.A03 program,[7] whereas the CC2 calculations have been achieved with Turbomole 7.3,[8] applying the RI density fitting approach. This approach allows to obtain 0-0 energies that correspond to the crossing point between the measured absorption and emission curves. Finally, the vibronic calculations shown in the ESI was performed with the FCClasses code within the TD approach and the vertical-gradient vibronic model. Temperature effects were considered (298 K) and a broadening function was used (Gaussian, HWMH: 200 cm\(^{-1}\)).[9]

Studies

To gain further insights into the photophysics of these DPPs, we conducted a computational study. In the performed computations, we used model compounds (denoted with an added M, Fig. S20) in which the crown ether groups were replaced by NMe\(_2\) moieties. This decision was justified by computational savings as well as the non-conjugated nature of the crown ether. We computed the 0-0 energies to be 2.24, 2.24, and 2.17 eV for 9M, 10M, and 17M respectively. These values can be rightfully compared to the experimental absorption-fluorescence crossing point, which has the values 2.28, 2.28, and 2.20 eV. Naturally, the selected level of theory can restore the experimental values with high accuracy. In addition, as can be seen in Fig. 48 for 9M, the shape of the absorption spectrum with the presence of two maxima is globally reproduced when vibronic calculations are made.

![Structures](image)

**Fig. S52.** Structures used in computational studies
Plots displaying density differences for the three dyes are presented in Figure S22. In 9M, the 4-Me₂NC₆H₄ is nearly coplanar with the DPP with a twist of only 6° as compared to a value of 33° for the 4-MeOC₆H₄. As can be further seen in Figure 5, the amino group, which is perfectly coplanar in both ground and excited states with the benzene ring, acts as the main donor. The DPP unit acts as the acceptor, while the methoxy group has a weak impact. When adding the secondary OMe (in 10M), the steric clash between the two donating groups induces a twist of the NMe₂ as compared to the phenyl (40° in the ground, and 35° in the excited state). The latter however remains coplanar with the DPP as in 9M. Nevertheless, the twist of the NMe₂ in 10M makes it slightly less donating than in 9M, though the topologies remain vastly similar, as consistent with the D-A-D' architecture. We note that the non-planarity of NMe₂ in 10M hints at a more flexible structure, thus likely able to accommodate complexation. When one turns to 17M, the pattern significantly changes with a clearer charge-transfer character, as well as the CF₃-bearing ring acting as the acceptor in a D-A-A' structure. The above noted differences are reflected in the excited-state dipole moments that attain 7.8, 6.4, and 16.5 D in 9M, 10M, and 17M, respectively. It is noted experimentally that these series of dyes are especially emissive. To explain this, let us first note that TD-DFT yields very large oscillator strengths for the S₁→S₀ transition (ca. 1.0 for all three compounds), which is indicative of a very large radiative constant. At the same time TD-DFT reveals that, at the optimal S₁ geometry, there is only a triplet available.
below the $S_1$, but the gap is hugged between the singlet and triplet (> 1.2 eV), which is clearly detrimental for ISC to occur. These two facts are consistent with a bright emission.

Fig. S54. Density difference plot for the model dyes of 9M, 10M, and 17M. The blueberry and crimson lobed indicate regions of decreased and increase of density upon absorption. Contour threshold $1x10^{-3}$.

As a simple way to model complexation, we have used a structure in which 10M has been protonated. In this case, the CT character is lost (see Figure S23), consistent with the blueshift and the stronger vibrationally resolved character of the experimental band after complexation (Figure 4).

Fig. S55. Density difference plot for the model dyes of 10M+H$^+$ Contour threshold $1x10^{-3}$. 
Section S9: $^1$H NMR and $^{13}$C NMR Spectra
**MS spectra**

**Elemental Composition Report**

**Single Mass Analysis**
Tolerance = 20.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0
Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions
31 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 best isotopic matches for each mass)
Elements Used:
C: 0-70  H: 0-100  N: 0-2  O: 0-3  Br: 1-1

D. Kumar
GDH-300
z10_de2288 97 (3.700) Cm (82.99)

```
0 242.9856 243.9891 247.9869 250.9913 253.8084 255.9931 257.9912 258.9931 261.9833 262.9910 265.0000 266.9854 268.9824 270.0000

Minimum: 5.0 20.0 -1.5
Maximum: 20.0 50.0

Mass Calc. Mass mDa PPM DBE 1-FIT Formula
254.9904 254.9895 0.9 3.5 6.0 248.2 C10 H10 N O2 Br
```

04-Dec-2020 11:48:06
Operator: Malgorzata Grella
Voltage E1+ 5.9964
# Elemental Composition Report

## Single Mass Analysis

**Tolerance = 15.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0**

Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions

28 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 best isotopic matches for each mass)

**Elements Used:**
- C: 0-70
- H: 0-100
- N: 0-3
- O: 9-9

**GDK-273**

z10 0k1408th 93 (3.547) Cm (83.113)

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**Chemical Diagram:**

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S10
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---

**Operator:** Malgorzata Grela
**Voltage E1+:** 3.0663

---

17-Sep-2020 11:42:39
Single Mass Analysis
Tolerance = 15.0 PPM / DBE: min = -1.5, max = 50.0
Selected filters: None

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd and Even Electron Ions
42 formula(e) evaluated with 1 results within limits (up to 50 best isotopic matches for each mass)

Elements Used:
C: 0-70  H: 0-100  N: 0-1  O: 0-4  F: 3-3

K. Dinesh
GDK0344-10
z10kd0708h 142 (5.415) Cm (136.142)

Minimum: 355.1409
Maximum: 355.1409

Mass  Calc. Mass  mDa  PPM  DBE  i-FIT  Formula
373.1507 373.1501  0.6  1.6  7.0  2.9  C18 H22 N O4 F3

S13
Chemical Formula: C_{62}H_{77}BrN_{3}O_{10}P
Molecular Weight: 1135.1868
Section S7: References


1.