## Supporting Information

## Caged Bulky Organic Dyes in a Polyaromatic Framework and Their Spectroscopic Peculiarities

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### Contents

- Materials and methods, and references
- Synthesis of compound **9** (<sup>1</sup>H & <sup>13</sup>C NMR and MS spectra)
- Synthesis of ligand **3** (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, COSY, & HSQC NMR and MS spectra)
- Formation of cage 1 (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, COSY, & DOSY NMR, MS, UV-visible spectra, and optimized structure)
- Formation of caged dyes **1**•**4a**-**d** (UV-visible & fluorescence spectra, CIE diagram, fluorescence lifetimes, <sup>1</sup>H NMR & MS spectra, and optimized structures)
- Formation of caged dyes **1•5a-c** (UV-visible, fluorescence, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, DOSY, & MS spectra, DLS charts, optimized structures, and theoretical data)
- Formation of caged dyes **1•6a-e** (UV-visible, fluorescence, & <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra, DLS charts, and optimized structures)
- Competitive binding experiments of **6a/6b**, **6a/6c**, and **6a/6d** with **1** (UV-visible and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra)

#### Materials and methods

NMR: Bruker AVANCE HD400 (400 MHz) and HD500 (500 MHz), MALDI-TOF MS: Bruker ultrafleXtreme, ESI-TOF MS: Bruker micrOTOF II, UV-vis: JASCO V-670DS, Fluorescence: Hitachi F-7000, Absolute PL quantum yield: Hamamatsu C9920-02G with an integration sphere, FT-IR: SHIMADZU IRSpirit-T, Fluorescence lifetime: Hamamatsu C7700-ABS-N, DLS: Wyatt Technology DynaPro NanoStar, Molecular Modeling: BIOVIA Materials Studio 2020, version 20.1.0.5 (Dassault Systèmes Co.), DFT calculation: Gaussian 16 program package.

Solvents and reagents: TCI Co., Ltd., FUJIFILM Wako Chemical Co., Kanto Chemical Co., Inc., Sigma-Aldrich Co., and Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. Compounds: Compounds  $7_{nBr}$  and **4b** were synthesized according to ref. S1 and S3, respectively.

#### References

- [S1] M. Yamashina, T. Yuki, Y. Sei, M. Akita, M. Yoshizawa, Chem. Eur. J. 2015, 21, 4200–4204.
- [S2] N. Kishi, Z. Li, K. Yoza, M. Akita, M. Yoshizawa, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 11438–11441.
- [S3] S. Jiang, J. Gao, L. Han, *Res. Chem. Intermed.* **2016**, *42*, 1017–1028.
- [S4] C. L. D. Gibb, B. C. Gibb, J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2004, 126, 11408–11409.



Compound  $7_{nBr}$  (n = 1-3; 4.00 g, 5.09 mmol based on  $7_{2Br}$ ) and dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL) were added to a 500 mL glass flask filled with N<sub>2</sub>. A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (1.0 M) of BBr<sub>3</sub> (20 mL, 20 mmol) was slowly added to the solution at 0 °C and then the mixture was stirred at r.t. overnight. When water was added to the solution, yellow precipitate  $8_{nBr}$  (n = 1-3; 4.28 g) was collected and dried under vacuum. Compound  $8_{nBr}$  (n = 1-3; 4.00 g) and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (11.8 g, 36.2 mmol) were added to a 500 mL glass flask filled with N<sub>2</sub>. Dry CH<sub>3</sub>CN (160 mL) was added to the flask and then the mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 30 min. After addition of 2-(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethoxy)ethyl *p*-toluenesulfonate (5.46 g, 17.1 mmol), the mixture was stirred at 85 °C overnight. The resultant solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product, 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin (DBH; 0.117 g, 0.407 mmol), and THF (70 mL) were added to a 200 mL glass flask at 0 °C. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 2 d. The resultant solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc) to afford compound **9** as a yellow solid (0.628 g, 0.652 mmol, 14% based on  $7_{2Br}$  (3 steps)).

Compound  $\mathbf{8}_{nBr}$ : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , r.t.):  $\delta$  9.78(s, 2H), 8.52 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H), 7.78-7.68 (m, 10H), 7.52 (dd, J = 8.7, 6.6 Hz, 4H), 7.37 (s, 2H). MALDI-TOF MS (dithranol): m/z Calcd. for C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>22</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> [ $\mathbf{8}_{2Br} - H$ ]<sup>-</sup> 669.13, Found 668.99.

Compound **9**: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  8.60 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 7.69 (s, 2H), 7.59 (ddd, J = 8.6, 6.6, 1.1 Hz, 4H), 7.44 (s, 2H), 7.39 (ddd, J = 8.8, 6.6, 1.1 Hz, 4H), 4.17 (t, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H), 3.45-3.38 (m, 8H), 3.36-3.33 (m, 4H), 3.32 (s, 6H), 2.99-2.95 (m, 4H), 2.85-2.81 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  156.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 134.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.8 (CH), 131.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 130.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.8 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 126.9 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 122.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 105.8 (CH), 71.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>),

68.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 58.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>). FT-IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3073, 2915, 2872, 1629, 1433, 1245, 1218, 1104, 920, 874, 752. HR MS (ESI, CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m*/*z* Calcd. for C<sub>52</sub>H<sub>50</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na [**9** + Na]<sup>+</sup> 985.1751, Found 985.1751.



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, r.t.) of **8**<sub>*n*Br</sub>.







Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.) of 9.



Figure S4. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> r.t.) of 9.



Figure S5. HR MS spectrum (ESI, CH<sub>3</sub>CN) of 9.

#### Synthesis of ligand 3

MU087



Compound 9 (0.60 g, 0.62 mmol), 3-pyridylboronic acid pinacol ester (0.38 g, 1.9 mmol), K<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (0.80 g, 3.8 mmol), and Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.078 g, 0.067 mmol) were added to a 200 mL glass flask filled with N2. Dry and degassed DMF (60 mL) was added to the flask and then the mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 17 h.[S2] The resultant solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified by gel permeation chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) to afford ligand **3** as a yellow solid (84.0 mg, 87.6  $\mu$ mol, 14%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.):  $\delta$  8.83 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H), 8.77 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 7.90-7.76 (m, 8H), 7.65-7.55 (m, 6H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 2H), 7.40-7.35 (m, 8H), 4.26-4.22 (br, 4H), 3.54-3.49 (m, 4H), 7.44-7.36 (m, 8H), 3.32 (s, 6H), 3.10-3.02 (m, 4H), 2.96-2.89 (m, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.): δ 148.9-148.8 (C<sub>a</sub>), 151.9-151.7 (CH), 148.9-148.8 (CH), 139.0-138.9 (CH), 136.0-135.9 (C<sub>a</sub>), 135.0-134.9 (C<sub>a</sub>), 134.7-134.6 (C<sub>a</sub>), 132.6-132.5 (C<sub>a</sub>), 132.0-131.8 (CH), 127.3-127.2 (CH), 126.2-126.1 (CH), 125.6-125.5 (CH), 125.1-125.0 (CH), 124.2-124.1 (C<sub>a</sub>), 123.5-123.3 (CH), 106.0-105.8 (CH), 71.8-71.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.5-70.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.4-70.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 70.2-70.1 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.0-68.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.9-68.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 59.0-58.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>). FT-IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 2916, 2865, 1627, 1432, 1406, 1365, 1217, 1157, 1130, 1101, 1025, 766, 719. HR MS (ESI, CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m/z* Calcd. for  $C_{62}H_{58}N_2O_8Na [3 + Na]^+ 981.4104$ , Found 981.4085.



Figure S7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> r.t.) of 3.



Figure S8b. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, r.t.) of **3**.

7.0

7.5

9.0

8.5

8.0

9.5

10.0

QSIN 0 0 Hz

10.0

ppm

6.5



S10



Figure S10. HR MS spectrum (ESI, CH<sub>3</sub>CN) of 3.



Ligand **3** (20.0 mg, 20.9  $\mu$ mol), PtCl<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)<sub>2</sub> (4.0 mg, 12  $\mu$ mol), AgNO<sub>3</sub> (4.4 mg, 26  $\mu$ mol), and DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> (0.5 mL) were added to a glass test tube and then the mixture was stirred at 100 °C for 2 d to give cage **1** in a quantitative fashion. After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and filtered through a membrane filter (pore size: 200 nm). When the resultant solution was reprecipitated with hexane, cage **1** was obtained as a yellow solid (20.6 mg, 4.6  $\mu$ mol, 88% isolated yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, r.t.):  $\delta$  9.33 (d, *J* = 5.6Hz, 8H), 8.44-8.39 (m, 16H), 8.22 (dd, *J* = 7.6, 5.6 Hz, 8H), 7.66 (s, 8H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 16H), 7.26 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 7.2

Hz, 16H), 7.18 (s, 8H), 7.02 (dd, J = 8.9, 7.2 Hz, 16H), 6.77 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 8H), 4.26-4.23 (m, 16H), 3.47-3.44 (m, 16H), 3.30-3.25 (m, 32H), 3.21 (s, 24H), 3.06-3.05 (br, 32H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, r.t.):  $\delta$  155.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 153.7 (CH), 151.5(CH), 143.3 (CH), 137.5 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.3 (C<sub>q</sub>), 135.2 (C<sub>q</sub>), 131.3 (CH), 128.8 (C<sub>q</sub>), 128.6 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.7 (C<sub>q</sub>), 127.0 (CH), 126.3 (CH), 125.7 (CH or C<sub>q</sub>), 125.5 (CH or C<sub>q</sub>), 124.5 (CH), 123.8 (CH), 123.1 (C<sub>q</sub>), 105.5 (CH), 70.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 69.2 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 68.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 67.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 67.6 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 57.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>). DOSY NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 25 °C):  $D = 4.68 \times 10^{-10}$  m<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. FT-IR (ATR, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3062, 2902, 2870, 2824, 1628, 1427, 1339, 1219, 1104, 1028, 769, 702. ESI-TOF MS (CH<sub>3</sub>CN): m/z 1056.5 [**1** – 4•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>4+</sup>, 1429.4 [**1** – 3•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>3+</sup>, 2175.0 [**1** – 2•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>2+</sup>.



Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, r.t.) of 1.



Figure S13a. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>CN, r.t.) of 1.



S14



Figure S15. ESI-TOF MS spectrum ( $CD_3CN$ ) of 1.



**Figure S16.** Temperature-dependent <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz,  $D_2O/CD_3CN = 15:1$ ) of **1** at a) 25 °C and b) 80 °C.



Figure S17. UV-visible spectra (r.t.) of 1 in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (70  $\mu$ M) and H<sub>2</sub>O (43  $\mu$ M).



**Figure S18.** Optimized structure of cage **1** (DFT, CAM-B3LYP/LanL2DZ (for Pt), 6-31G(d,p) (for other atoms) level of theory): a) side and b) top views. The geometry optimization was performed with DFT calculations (Gaussian 16 program package), on the basis of the crystal structure of cage **1'** with short side-chains.<sup>[S1]</sup>

Formation of caged dyes 1.4a-d



Cage 1 (0.61 mg, 0.14  $\mu$ mol), 3-(2-benzothiazolyl)-7-(diethylamino)coumarin (4a; 0.11 mg, 0.41  $\mu$ mol), and 15:1 D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>CN (0.45 mL) were added to a glass test tube and then the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 2 h. The selective formation of 1:1 host-guest complex 1•4a (50% yield) was confirmed by NMR and UV-visible analyses. In the same way, host-guest complexes 1•4b (89% yield), 1•4c (20% yield) and 1•4d (20% yield) were synthesized using 3-(2-benzoxazolyl)-7-(diethylamino)coumarin (4b), 3-(2-benzimidazolyl)-7-(diethylamino)coumarin (4c) and 7-(diethylamino)-3-(1-methyl-2-benzimidazolyl)coumarin (4d), respectively. The yields of the obtained host-guest complexes (uptake ratios) were estimated by UV-visible analysis (with a calibration curve method) in DMSO, after the removal of suspended unbound dyes by filtration and the lyophilization of the aqueous solutions including cage 1 and its host-guest complexes.

Owing to the insolubility of **4a** in a 15:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$  solution, the binding constant of **1-4a** was estimated to be ~2.5 × 10<sup>4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> from the UV-visible analysis under high-dilution conditions (0.14 mM to 3.5  $\mu$ M; Figure S19c).<sup>[S4]</sup>

**1•4a**: ESI-TOF MS (15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN): *m*/*z* 1143.98 [**1•4a** – **4•**NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>4+</sup>, 1545.93 [**1•4a** – **3•**NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>3+</sup>.



**Figure S19.** a) UV-visible spectra (r.t.) and photographs of **1**•4a before/after 7 d under ambient conditions (in the dark) in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.14 mM based on **1**) and 4a in 2:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (8  $\mu$ M) and b) their fluorescence spectra with quantum yields ( $\lambda_{ex} = 450$  nm) and photographs ( $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm). c) Concentration-dependent UV-visible spectra (r.t.) of **1**•4a in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



**Figure S20.** a) UV-visible spectra (r.t.) and photographs of **1**•**4b** in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.14 mM based on **1**) and **4b** in 2:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (8  $\mu$ M) and b) their fluorescence spectra with quantum yields ( $\lambda_{ex} = 450$  nm) and photographs ( $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm).



**Figure S21.** a) UV-visible spectra (r.t.) and photographs of **1**•4c in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.14 mM based on **1**) and **4c** in 2:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (8  $\mu$ M) and b) their fluorescence spectra with quantum yields ( $\lambda_{ex} = 450$  nm) and photographs ( $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm).



**Figure S22.** a) UV-visible spectra (r.t.) and photographs of **1**•4d in 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (0.14 mM based on **1**) and **4d** in 2:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (8  $\mu$ M) and b) their fluorescence spectra with quantum yields ( $\lambda_{ex} = 429$  nm) and photographs ( $\lambda_{ex} = 365$  nm).



Figure S23. Quantum yields (2:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$  or 15:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ ) of 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d without/within cage 1.



Figure S24. CIE coordinate diagram (2:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$  or 15:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ ) of 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d without/within cage 1.



**Figure S25.** Fluorescence lifetimes (2:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN or 15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN,  $\lambda_{ex} = 355$  nm, r.t.) of a) **4a**, b) **4b**, and c) **4c** without/within cage **1**.

		<b>caged dye</b> 15:1 H <sub>2</sub> O/AN <sup>[a]</sup>	2:1 H <sub>2</sub> O/AN <sup>[b]</sup>	3:1 H <sub>2</sub> O/AN <sup>[c]</sup>	$CH_2Cl_2^{[d]}$
4a	au	5.9 ns	2.8 ns	_	3.6 ns
	$arPhi_{F}$	62%	52%	45%	90%
4b	au	7.1 ns	1.6 ns	_	3.5 ns
	${\it P}_{\sf F}$	42%	20%	20%	89%
4c	au	4.7 ns	2.8 ns	-	4.0 ns
	$ heta_{F}$	38%	54%	60%	86%

Table S1. Solvent-dependent fluorescence lifetimes and quantum yields of 4a, 4b, and 4c within/without cage 1 in water/acetonitrile (AN) or CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

[a] 70  $\mu$ M based on **1**. [b] 8.0  $\mu$ M. [c] 2.0  $\mu$ M. [d] 40  $\mu$ M.









Figure S26c. ESI-TOF MS spectrum (15:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN) of 1•4a.



**Figure S27a.** Optimized structure of **1**•**4a** ( $R^1 = -OCH_3$ ): a) space-filling and b) stick/space-filling models. The geometry optimization was performed with molecular mechanics calculations (forcite module, BIOVIA Materials Studio 2020, version 20.1.0.5). On the basis of the crystal structure of cage **1**' with short side-chains,<sup>[S1]</sup> randomly oriented bulky dye **4a** within cage **1** in several initial structures converged to a threading conformation without host-guest  $\pi$ -stacking interactions.



**Figure S27b.** Optimized structures (DFT, CAM-B3LYP, 6-31G(d,p) level of theory) of a) **4a**, b) **4b**, and c) **4c**.

Formation of caged dyes 1.5a-c



A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (1.0 mM) of N,N'-bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)-3,4,9,10-perylene dicarboximide (5a; 0.14 mL, 0.14 µmol) was added to a glass tube including cage 1 (0.61 mg, 0.14 µmol). After evaporation of the solvent, the mixture was sonicated (40 kHz, 150 W) in 5:1 D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL) for 20 min. After the centrifugation and filtration of the resultant suspended solution to remove excess 5a, the selective formation of 1:1 hostguest complex 1.5a (48% yield) was confirmed by NMR, MS, DLS, and UV-visible analyses. In the same way, host-guest complexes 1.5b (20% yield) and 1.5c were synthesized using N,N'-bis(2,5-di-*tert*-butylphenyl)-3,4,9,10-perylenedicarboximide (**5b**) and *N*,*N*'-bis(3,5-dimethylphenyl)-3,4,9,10-perylenedicarboximide (**5c**), respectively. The yields of the obtained host-guest complexes (uptake ratios) were estimated by UV-visible analysis in DMSO, after the removal of suspended unbound dyes by filtration and the lyophilization of the aqueous solutions including cage 1 and its hostguest complexes.

Owing to the insolubility of **5a** in a 5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution, the binding constant of **1-5a** was roughly estimated to be >10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> from the UV-visible analysis under high-dilution conditions (70 to 3.5  $\mu$ M; Figure S28c).<sup>[S4]</sup>

**1•5a**: ESI-TOF MS (5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN): m/z 1233.97 [**1•5a** – 4•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>4+</sup>, 1665.91 [**1•5a** – 3•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>3+</sup>.

**1•5b**: ESI-TOF MS (5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN): m/z 1248.01 [**1•5b** – 4•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>4+</sup>, 1684.63 [**1•5b** – 3•NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sup>3+</sup>.



Figure S28a. UV-visible spectra (5:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ , 0.14 mM based on 1, r.t.) and photographs of a) 1•5a, 1, and 5a in  $CH_2Cl_2$ , b) 1•5b, 1, and 5b in  $CH_2Cl_2$ , and c) 1•5c, 1, and 5c in DMSO.



Figure S28b. UV-visible spectra (70  $\mu$ M, r.t.) and photographs of 5a in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, acetone, and DMSO.



Figure S28c. Concentration-dependent UV-visible spectra (r.t.) of 1•5a in 5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



**Figure S29.** Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex} = 500 \text{ nm}$ , 70  $\mu$ M, r.t.) and quantum yields of **1•5a** in 5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN and **5a** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S30.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, 5:1 D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>CN) of **1•5a** at a) 25 °C and b) 75 °C.







Figure S32a. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, 5:1 D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>CN) of 1•5b at a) 25 °C and b) 75 °C.





Figure S32c. Particle number-size distribution of a) 1•5a and b) 1•5b by DLS analysis (5:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ , 0.14 mM based on 1, 25 °C).



Figure S33. ESI-TOF MS spectrum (5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN) of 1•5b.



**Figure S34.** Optimized structure of **1-5a** ( $R^1 = -OCH_3$ ): a) space-filling and b) stick/space-filling models. The geometry optimization was performed with molecular mechanics calculations (forcite module, BIOVIA Materials Studio 2020, version 20.1.0.5). On the basis of the crystal structure of cage **1'** with short side-chains,<sup>[S1]</sup> randomly oriented bulky dye **5a** within cage **1** in several initial structures converged to a threading conformation without host-guest  $\pi$ -stacking interactions.



**Figure S35a.** a) Predicted UV-visible spectra and molecular modeling of **5a** with different dihedral angles ( $\phi$ ) between the phenyl and imide rings and b) their predicted, electronic absorption bands (oscillator strength) and energies. The predicted absorption bands were obtained by TD-DFT calculation (B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory). The optimized structures ( $\phi = 90^{\circ}$  and 70°) and energies were obtained by DFT calculation of **5a** (CAM-B3LYP, 6-31G(d,p) level of theory). The torsional structures were created in GaussView 6. DFT/TD-DFT calculations were performed with Gaussian 16 program package.



**Figure S35b.** a) Predicted UV-visible spectra of representative isomers **5a**-iii and **5a**-i with dihedral angles  $\phi = 90^{\circ}$  and 70° and b) their predicted, electronic absorption bands (oscillator strength) and energies. The predicted absorption bands were obtained by TD-DFT calculation (B3LYP+D3BJ/6-31G(d) level of theory) and the energies were obtained by DFT calculation (CAM-B3LYP+D3BJ/6-31G(d,p) level of theory), using the optimized structures of **5a**-iii and **5a**-i obtained in Figure S35a. DFT/TD-DFT calculations were performed with Gaussian 16 program package.



**Figure S36.** Energy diagrams and molecular orbitals of **5a** ( $\phi = 90^{\circ}$ ), estimated by DFT calculation (CAM-B3LYP, 6-31G(d,p) level of theory).

Formation of caged dyes 1.6a-e

347, 349, 350



A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (1.0 mM) of tetraphenylporphyrin **6a** (0.14 mL, 0.14  $\mu$ mol) was added to a glass tube including cage **1** (0.61 mg, 0.14  $\mu$ mol). After evaporation of the solvent, the mixture was sonicated in 8:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL) for 20 min (40 kHz, 150 W). After the removal of excess **6a** by centrifugation and filtration, the formation of 1:1 host-guest complex **1•6a** (70% yield) was confirmed by UV-visible analysis. In the same way, 1:1 host-guest complexes **1•6b** (90% yield), **1•6c** (40% yield), **1•6d** (80% yield), and **1•6e** (70% yield) were synthesized using Zn(II)-tetraphenylporphyrin (**6b**), octaethylporphyrin (**6c**), tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)- porphyrin (**6d**), and Zn(II)diphenylporphyrin (**6e**), respectively. The yields of the obtained host-guest complexes (uptake ratios) were estimated by UV-visible analysis (with a calibration curve method) in DMSO, after the removal of suspended unbound dyes by filtration and the lyophilization of the aqueous solutions including cage **1** and its host-guest complexes.

Owing to the insolubility of **6a** in a 8:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN solution, the binding constant of **1-6a** was roughly estimated to be >10<sup>8</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> from the UV-visible analysis under high-dilution conditions (70 to 3.5  $\mu$ M; Figure S39c).<sup>[S4]</sup>



Figure S37a. UV-visible spectra and photographs (r.t.,  $8:1 \text{ H}_2\text{O/CH}_3\text{CN}, 0.14 \text{ mM}$  based on 1) of a) 1•6a before/after 7 d under ambient conditions, 1, and 6a in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, b) 1•6b, 1, and 6b in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, c) 1•6e, 1, and 6e in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



Figure S37b. UV-visible spectra and photographs (r.t.,  $8:1 \text{ H}_2\text{O/CH}_3\text{CN}, 0.14 \text{ mM}$  based on 1) of a) 1.6c, 1, and 6c in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, b) 1.6d, 1, and 6d in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.



**Figure S38.** Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex} = 429 \text{ nm}$ , r.t., 70  $\mu$ M) and quantum yields of **1.6b** in 8:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN and **6b** (70  $\mu$ M) in CH<sub>3</sub>CN.





**Figure S39b.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, 8:1 D<sub>2</sub>O/CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 75 °C) of a) **1** and b) **1•6a**.



Figure S39c. Concentration-dependent UV-visible spectra (r.t.) of 1•6a in 8:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN.



Figure S40. Particle number-size distribution of a) 1-6a, b) 1-6b, and c) 1-6c by DLS analysis (8:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 0.14 mM based on 1, 25 °C).



**Figure S41a.** UV-visible spectra and photographs (r.t., 8:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ , 70  $\mu$ M based on 1) of a) **6a** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and b) **1•6a** after HNO<sub>3</sub> addition. c) UV-visible spectra and a photograph (r.t., 8:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ , 0.14 mM based on 1) of **1•6a** and **1** after the addition of protonated **6a** with HNO<sub>3</sub> (50 eq. based on 1).



**Figure S41b.** UV-visible spectra and photographs (r.t., 8:1  $H_2O/CH_3CN$ , 70  $\mu$ M based on 1) of a) **6c** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and b) **1-6c** after HNO<sub>3</sub> addition.



**Figure S42.** Optimized structure of **1-6a** ( $R^1 = OCH_3$ ): a) space-filling and b) stick/space-filling models. Optimized structures of c) free **6a** and d) **6a** within cage **1** (the cage framework is omitted for clarity). The geometry optimization was performed with MM calculations (forcite module, BIOVIA Materials Studio 2020, version 20.1.0.5). On the basis of the crystal structure of cage **1**' with short side-chains,<sup>[S1]</sup> randomly oriented bulky dye **6a** within cage **1** in several initial structures converged to a threading conformation without host-guest  $\pi$ -stacking interactions.

					A M
	E <sub>H</sub> + E <sub>G</sub> <sup>[a]</sup> [kJ mol <sup>−1</sup> ]	<i>E</i> <sub>H•G<sup>[b]</sup> [kJ mol<sup>−1</sup>]</sub>	⊿E <sup>[c]</sup> [kJ mol <sup>–1</sup> ]	method <sup>[d]</sup>	
6a	3792.67	3770.24	-22.43	MM	
6a'	4148.02	5275.48	+1127.46	MM	H. H.
	7983.21	8880.23	+897.02	PM6	
					~ Ua -

Table S2. Energies of neutral dye 6a and cationic dye 6a' within/without cage 1

[a]  $E_{H+G}$ : energy of free 6 and cage 1. [b]  $E_{H+G}$ : energy of 6 within cage 1. [c] Determined by  $E_{H+G}$ -  $(E_H + E_G)$ . [d] The calculated energies were obtained by MM (forcite module, BIOVIA Materials Studio 2020, version 20.1.0.5) and PM6 calculations, from randomly oriented bulky dyes **6** and **6a'** within cage **1** in several initial structures.



**Figure S43.** Optimized structure of **1**•**6a**' ( $R^1 = OCH_3$ ): side and top views. The geometry optimization was performed with PM6 calculation. On the basis of the crystal structure of cage **1**' with short side-chains,<sup>[S1]</sup> randomly oriented cationic dye **6a**' within cage **1** in several initial structures converged to a distorted host-guest structure.

# **Competitive binding experiments of 6a/6b, 6a/6c, and 6a/6d with 1** MU211-213



A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (1.0 mM) of **6a** (0.14 mL, 0.14  $\mu$ mol) and **6c** (0.14 mL, 0.14  $\mu$ mol) were added to a glass tube including cage **1** (0.61 mg, 0.14  $\mu$ mol). After evaporation of the solvent, the mixture was sonicated in 5:1 H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN (1.0 mL) for 20 min (40 kHz, 150 W). After the removal of excess **6a** and **6c** by centrifugation and filtration, the solution was lyophilized to analyze the ratio of bound **6a** and **6c**. The

resultant solid was dissolved in  $CHCl_3$  and then free **1** was removed from the solution by silica gel filtration. The 5:1 ratio of **6a** and **6c** bound by **1** was estimated by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis. The competitive binding experiments of **6a** and **6b** as well as **6a** and **6d** with **1** were examined under the same conditions.



Figure S44. UV-visible spectra (r.t.,  $5:1 \text{ H}_2\text{O/CH}_3\text{CN}$ , 0.14 mM based on 1) of products after the competitive binding experiments of a) **6a** and **6b** with 1, b) **6a** and **6c** with 1, and c) **6a** and **6d** with 1.



Figure S45. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ , r.t.) of products after the competitive binding experiments of a) **6a** and **6b** with **1**, b) **6a** and **6c** with **1**, and c) **6a** and **6d** with **1**.