Supplementary Information for Positive Ion Pair Cooperativity Exhibited under Physiological Conditions.

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Experimental Procedures.

General Procedures and Methods. All chemicals were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification. Solvents were dried by standard literature methods, distilled before use and stored over molecular sieves. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrophotometer using the solvent as internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained using a Jeol "The Mstation" JMS 700 Mass Spectrometer using CI, EI, and FAB ionization techniques. Elemental analysis was carried out using in-house facilities.

Isothermal Titration Calorimetry ITC. Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) experiments were used to measure the binding of **ZnL** to various substrates, and were performed at 25 °C (298 K) using Microcal MCS and VP-ITC titration microcalorimeters. In order to minimize mixing heat effects caused by differences in solution composition, the substrates and **ZnL** were both dissolved in freshly prepared HEPES buffer (pH = 7.4) before each titration experiment. All solutions prior to experiments were degassed before being added to the calorimeter cell. The substrates, at a concentration of approximately 5.0 mM, were injected in 10µL increments into the reaction cell (cell volume 1.31–1.41 mL) containing **ZnL** at a concentration of *ca* 0.25 mM, until there occurred a saturation of the macrocyclic cavity. A 250 µL injection syringe with 310–400 rpm stirring was used to give a series of 10 µL injections at 3-minute intervals. Control experiments for heats of mixing and dilution were performed under identical conditions and used for data correction in subsequent analysis. Data acquisition and subsequent non-linear regression analysis were done in terms of a simple binding model using the Microcal ORIGIN software package.

Syntheis of ZnL.(OTf)2



Preparation of 2,5,8,11,14,17-hexaoxa-bicyclo[16.3.1]docosa-1(21),18(22), 19-triene-19-carbaldehyde.

To a stirred mixture of K₂CO₃ (3.15 g, 22.1 mmol) in DMF (30 mL) was added penta(ethylene glycol)di-p-toluene sulphonate (5.00 g, 9.11 mmol) in DMF (45 mL) and 2,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (1.26 g, 9.11 mmol) in DMF (45 mL) at 90 °C under an N₂ atmosphere via a twin drive syringe pump over 48 hrs and then left for a further 24hrs. The reaction solution was left to cool for 1 hr before it was quenched with water (100 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether repeatedly (3 x 100 mL). The organic solutions were then combined and washed with brine (3 x 150 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to yield crude product which was further purified using silica gel chromatography (5:1, ethyl acetate: petroleum ether) to give pure product as a colourless oil (0.78 g, 25 %): HRMS (FAB⁺), calcd. for $C_{17}H_{24}O_7$ [M⁺] m/z= 340.1522, fnd. 340.1523; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹; 2983, 2884, 2260, 1668 (C=O), 1607, 1579, 1353, 1257, 1184, 1106, 1056, 941, 800, 767; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) & 3.62-3.78 (12H, m, CH₂), 3.87-3.90 (4H, m, CH₂), 4.27 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.42 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 6.57 (1H, dd, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_b), 6.97 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_c), 7.78 $(1H, d, J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}, \text{Ar-H}_{a})$, 10.32 (1H, s, CHO); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 68.0 (CH₂), 69.2 (CH₂), 69.7 (CH₂), 70.5 (CH₂), 70.6 (CH₂), 70.8 (2 x CH₂), 70.9 (CH₂), 71.2 (CH₂), 71.4 (CH₂), 101.3 (CH), 108.0 (CH), 119.5 (C), 129.9 (CH), 163.7 (C), 165.5 (C), 188.6 (CHO).



2,5,8,11,14,17-Hexaoxa-bicyclo[16.3.1]docosa-1(21),18(22),19-triene-19carboxylic acid.

To a solution of macrocyclic aldehyde (0.17 g, 0.52 mmol) in an acetone/water solution (3:1 ratio, 2.5 mL), was added slowly sulphamic acid (0.152 g, 1.56 mmol) followed by sodium chlorite (0.052 g, 0.57 mmol) at room temperature. The reaction solution was allowed to stir continuously for 3 hrs before being quenched with the addition of CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) and washed several times with brine (3 x 40 mL). The organic layer was then dried over MgSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to yield impure compound that was purified by column chromatography (5:1, ethyl acetate: petroleum ether) to give pure product as a colourless oil (0.17 g, 91 %): Elemental analysis calcd. for C₁₇H₂₄O₈: C, 57.30; H, 6.79 %, fnd. C, 57.40; H, 6.85 %; HRMS (FAB⁺), calcd. for $C_{17}H_{24}O_8 [M^+] m/z = 356.1471$, fnd. 356.1473; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹; 3531, 3312, 2920, 2359, 2094, 1697, 1606, 1541, 1502, 1461, 1294, 1236, 1184, 1144, 1105, 1091, 983, 887, 801; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.45-3.65 (12H, m, CH₂), 3.78 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 3.84 (2H, t, J= 4.8 Hz, CH₂), 4.20 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.45 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 6.60 (1H, dd, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_b), 6.95 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, Ar-H_c), 7.99 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, Ar-H_a), 10.75 (1H, s (broad), COOH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ68.0 (CH₂), 69.9 (CH₂), 70.0 (CH₂), 70.5 (2 x CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.8 (CH₂), 71.1 (CH₂), 71.2 (CH₂), 71.5 (CH₂), 102.0 (CH), 109.0 (CH), 110.9 (C), 134.6 (CH), 159.4 (C), 164.5 (C), 165.5 (COOH).



Preparation of 10-{2-[(2,5,8,11,14,17-Hexaoxa-bicyclo[16.3.1]docosa-1(21),18(22),19-triene-19-carbonyl)-amino]-acetyl}-1,4,7,10tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7-tricarboxylic acid tri-*tert*-butyl ester.

To a stirred solution of 4 (0.18 g, 0.50 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere at room temperature was added slowly DCC (0.11 g, 0.55 mmol) followed by the drop-wise addition of 3 (0.11 g, 0.50 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) and DMAP (0.07 g, 0.55 mmol). The solution was left to stir overnight at room temperature before being filtered through glass fibre paper and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to give a yellow oil which was purified using silica gel chromatography (5:1, ethyl acetate:petroleum ether) to furnish pure product as a white oil (0.31 g, 79 %): mp 95-97 °C; HRMS (FAB⁺), calcd. for $C_{42}H_{70}O_{14}N_5$ [M⁺] m/z = 868.4919, fnd. 868.4908; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹; 3361, 3256, 2971, 2109, 1684, 1643, 1601, 1463, 1365, 1243, 1159, 1109, 937, 855, 777; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.46 (9H, s, CH₃), 1.48 (9H, s, CH₃), 1.53 (9H, s, CH₃), 3.35-3.78 (28H, m, CH₂) 3.86 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 3.96 (2H, t, J = 4.8 Hz, CH₂), 4.24 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.28 (2H, d, J = 4.0 Hz, GLY-CH₂), 4.49 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 6.60 (1H, dd, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_b), 7.01 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, Ar-H_c), 8.10 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, Ar-H_a), 8.86 (1H, s (broad), NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) $\delta 68.0$ (CH₂), 69.9 (CH₂), 70.0 (CH₂), 70.5 (2 x CH₂), 70.7 (CH₂), 70.8 (CH₂), 71.1 (CH₂), 71.2 (CH₂), 71.5 (CH₂), 102.0 (CH), 109.0 (CH), 110.9 (C), 134.6 (CH), 159.4 (C), 164.5 (C), 165.5 (COOH).



2,5,8,11,14,17-Hexaoxa-bicyclo[16.3.1]docosa-1(21),18(22),19-triene-19carboxylic acid[2-oxo-2-(1,4,7,10tetraaza-cyclododec-1-yl)-ethyl]-amide(L).

To a stirred solution of 5 (0.17 g, 0.22 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) was added TFA (3 mL) under an N₂ atmosphere and was left to stir at room temperature for 4 hrs before the solution was quenched with 3M NaOH (20 mL) and washed several times with brine (3 x 30 mL). The organic layer was then dried over NaSO₄ and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to yield the pure compound as a colourless oil (0.095 g, 75 %): HRMS (FAB⁺), calcd. for C₂₇H₄₅O₈N₅ [M⁺] m/z = 567.3268, fnd. 567.3275; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹; 3381, 2923, 2347, 2245, 1633, 1604, 1531, 1469, 1355, 1294, 1256, 1184, 1121, 989, 911, 827; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.60 (t, 4H, J = 5.6 Hz, CH₂), 2.66 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz, CH₂), 2.72 (t, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 2.79 (t, 2H, J = 5.6 Hz, CH₂), 2.82 (t, 2H, J = 5.2 Hz, CH₂), 3.46 (t, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, CH₂), 3.52-3.66 (m, 14H, CH₂), 3.75 (t, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 3.86 (t, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, CH₂), 4.13 (t, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.28 (d, 2H, J = 4.0Hz, CH₂), 4.39 (t, 2H, J = 4.8 Hz, CH₂), 6.50 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_b), 6.92 $(d, 1H, J = 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_c), 8.00 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, Ar-H_a), 8.82 (t, 1H, J = 4.0 Hz, NH);$ ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ [~] (CH₂), 44.9 (CH₂), 46.5 (CH₂), 47.4 (CH₂), 47.9 (CH₂), 48.1 (CH₂), 48.3 (CH₂), 49.1 (CH₂), 49.4 (CH₂), 67.9 (CH₂), 69.6 (CH₂), 69.8 (CH₂), 70.5 (2 x CH₂), 70.8 (3 x CH₂), 71.2 (CH₂), 71.3 (CH₂), 102.3 (CH), 107.6 (CH), 114.7 (C), 133.0 (CH), 159.2 (C), 162.7 (C), 165.0 (C=O), 170.3 (C=O).



ZnL.(OTf)₂.

To a stirred solution of **6** (0.05 g, 0.088 mmol) in anhydrous MeOH (1 mL) was added Zn(OTf)₂ (0.032 g, 0.088 mmol) under an N₂ atmosphere and was left to stir at room temperature for 4 hrs. The solution was filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure to yield the pure compound as a colourless oil (0.08g, 97 %); HRMS (FAB⁺), calcd. for C₂₇H₄₄O₈Zn [M⁺] m/z = 630.2481, fnd. 630.2448; v_{max} (KBr)/cm⁻¹; 3222, 2870, 2356, 1603 (C=O), 1545, 1456, 1361, 1242, 1152, 1025, 978, 844, 815, 716, 663 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 2.60-3.30 (16H, m, CH₂), 3.45-3.53 (6H, m, CH₂), 3.57 (4H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 3.73 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 3.82 (4H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.18 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 4.29 (2H, s, CH₂), 4.41 (2H, t, J = 4.4 Hz, CH₂), 6.55 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8 and 2.4 Hz, Ar-H_b), 6.95 (d, 1H, J = 2.0 Hz, Ar-H_c), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, Ar-H_a).

ITC graphs



Figure 1. ITC graph for the binding of Li[H₂PO₄] by ZnL.(OTf)₂.



Figure 2. ITC graph for the binding of K[H₂PO₄] by ZnL.(OTf)₂.

¹H NMR Spectrum of ZnL.(OTf)₂

