

## Steric and electronic factors influencing recognition by a simple, charge neutral norbornene based anion receptors

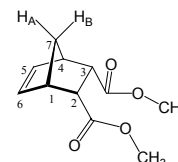
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### Supplementary Information

#### Syntheses

##### *endo*-Dimethyl norborna-5-ene-2,3-dicarboxylate (**3**)

Freshly cracked cyclopentadiene (1.837 g, 27.79 mmol) was added drop-wise with stirring to dimethyl maleate (4.006 g, 27.79 mmol). This reaction mixture was stirred under nitrogen for 8 h, a water bath was used to maintain room temperature throughout the exothermic reaction. TLC indicated complete consumption of the starting materials and the formation of a single pure product ( $R_f = 0.41$ , 35 % ethyl acetate/40-60 °C petroleum spirits) as a clear oil in a quantitative yield (5.842 g, 100.0 %). No further purification was required for subsequent steps.



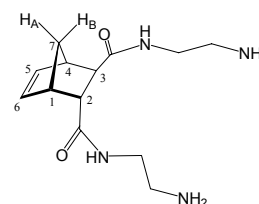
$^1\text{H}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 270 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.33 (1H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, H 7<sub>A</sub>); 1.44 (1H, d,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, H 7<sub>B</sub>); 3.12 (2H, t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, H 2, 3); 3.26 (2H, t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, H 1, 4); 3.58 (6H, s, CH<sub>3</sub>); 6.23 (2H, t,  $J = 1.0$  Hz, H 5, 6)

$^{13}\text{C}$  (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 270 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 46.3, 48.1, 51.6, 135.0, 138.0, 172.9.

LRMS: calc for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> = 211.1, found 211.2

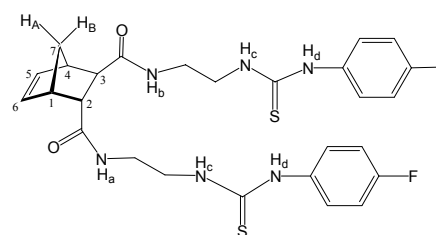
##### Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-*endo*-2,*exo*-3 bis-[(2-amino-ethyl)-amide] (**4**)

A solution of *endo*-dimethyl norborna-5-ene-2,3-dicarboxylate **3** (550 mg, 2.62 mmol) in neat ethylenediamine (3.0 ml, 45 mmol) was prepared in a 25 ml round-bottomed flask equipped with a reflux condenser. Following stirring at 100 °C for 18 h, excess ethylenediamine was removed under reduced pressure to yield 682 mg (97.9 %) of an extremely viscous orange/brown oil. This material was not purified further and was used directly in the following steps.



##### Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-*endo*-2,*exo*-3 bis-({2-[3-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-thioureido]-ethyl}-amide) (**1**)

To a solution of bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-*endo*-2,*exo*-3 bis-[(2-amino-ethyl)-amide] **4** (500 mg, 1.88 mmol) in dry CHCl<sub>3</sub> (3.0 ml), 4-fluorophenyl isothiocyanate (719 mg, 4.69 mmol) was added in a single portion. This reaction mixture was stirred under nitrogen, at room temperature for 24 h before removal of excess solvent under reduced pressure resulted in a crude yellow solid. The crude product was purified by chromatography (10 % iso-propanol/ethyl acetate,  $R_f = 0.61$ ) to yield 665 mg (68.7 %) of a white powdery solid.



MP: 93.2-95.3 °C

$^1\text{H}$  (DMSO, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.21 (1H, d,  $J = 4.7$  Hz, H 7<sub>A</sub>); 1.68 (1H, d,  $J = 5.3$  Hz, H 7<sub>B</sub>); 2.54 (1H, s, H 3); 2.84 (1H, s, H 4); 3.16 (2H, s, H 1, 2); 3.22 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.34 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.51 (4H, m (b), CH<sub>2</sub>); 5.95 (1H, t,  $J = 2.2$  Hz, H 6); 6.18 (1H, t,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H 5); 7.15 (4H, m, ArH); 7.36 (4H, m, ArH); 7.68 (2H, b, Hc); 7.87 (1H, t,  $J = 3.3$  Hz, Ha); 8.07 (1H, t,  $J = 3.4$  Hz, Hb); 9.58 (2H, b, Hd)

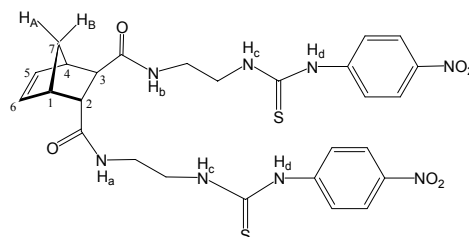
$^{13}\text{C}$  (DMSO 400 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 44.3, 46.2, 47.0, 47.4, 48.1, 49.6, 115.7, 116.0, 126.5, 135.2, 135.8, 137.8, 157.9, 161.4, 173.1, 174.5, 181.4

LRMS: calc for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> = 573.2, found 573.5

HRMS: calc for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>6</sub>S<sub>2</sub>F<sub>2</sub> + H<sup>+</sup> = 573.1918, found 573.1918

### Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-endo-2,exo-3 bis-({2-[3-(4-nitro-phenyl)-thioureido]-ethyl}-amide) (2)

To a solution of bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-5-ene-endo-2,exo-3 bis-[(2-amino-ethyl)-amide] **4** (701 mg, 2.63 mmol) in dry  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (5.0 ml), 4-nitrophenyl isothiocyanate (1.008 g, 5.59 mmol) was added in a single portion. This reaction mixture was stirred under nitrogen, at room temperature for 24 h before removal of excess solvent under reduced pressure resulted in the crude orange product. The crude product was purified by chromatography (10 % methanol/ethyl acetate,  $R_f = 0.35$ ) to yield 786 mg (47.7 %) of a yellow powdery solid.



MP: 127.6-129.4 °C

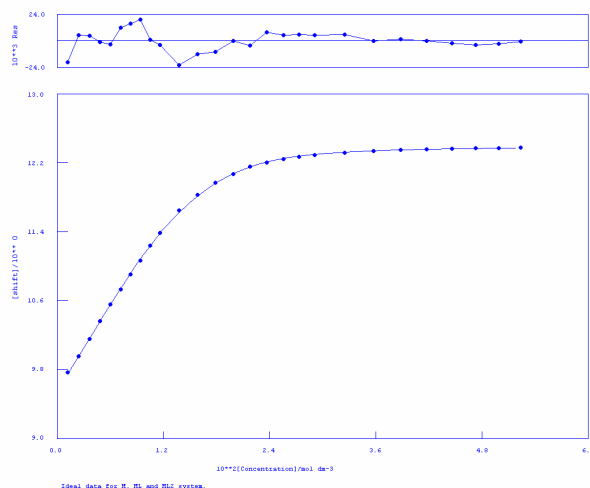
$^1\text{H}$  (DMSO, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 1.21 (1H, d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, H 7<sub>A</sub>); 1.69 (1H, d,  $J = 5.1$  Hz, H 7<sub>B</sub>); 2.53 (1H, s, H 3); 2.87 (1H, s, H 4); 3.19 (2H, s, H 1, 2); 3.28 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.32 (2H, m, CH<sub>2</sub>); 3.57 (4H, m (b), CH<sub>2</sub>); 5.97 (1H, t,  $J = 1.7$  Hz, H 6); 6.19 (1H, t,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, H 5); 7.79 (4H, d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, ArH); 7.94 (1H, s, H<sub>a</sub>); 8.13 (1H, s, H<sub>b</sub>); 8.17 (4H, d,  $J = 5.6$  ArH); 8.28 (2H, b, H<sub>c</sub>) 10.24 (2H, b, H<sub>d</sub>)  
 $^{13}\text{C}$  (DMSO 400 MHz)  $\delta$  (ppm): 14.7, 21.4, 44.5, 46.4, 47.1, 48.5, 49.1, 60.6, 121.8, 125.8, 135.9, 138.6, 143.2, 147.5, 174.1, 175.5, 181.8

LRMS: calc for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6\text{N}_8\text{S}_2 + \text{H}^+ = 627.2$ , found 627.4

HRMS: calc for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6\text{N}_8\text{S}_2 + \text{H}^+ = 627.1803$ , found 627.1809

### Binding Studies

#### Fit Plots



#### Receptor 1-AcO<sup>-</sup> (Hc) 1:2 model

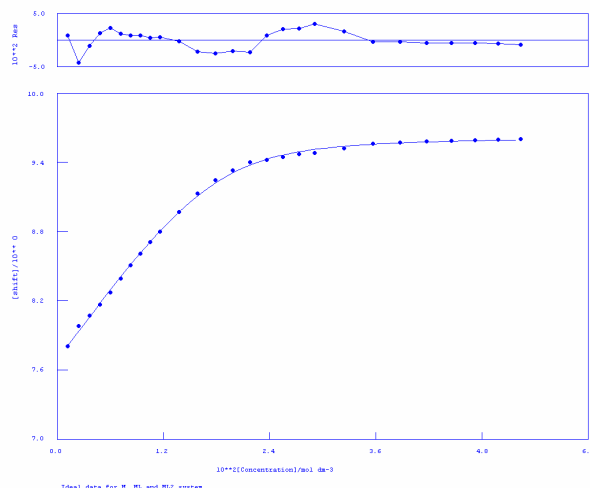
$K_1 = 5990.89$  Error = 378.0 (6.31 %)

$\text{Log } K_1 = 3.78$

$B_2 = 3322600$  Error = 27780 (0.84 %)

$K_2 = 554.609$

$\text{Log } K_2 = 2.74$



#### Receptor 1-H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (Hc) 1:2 model

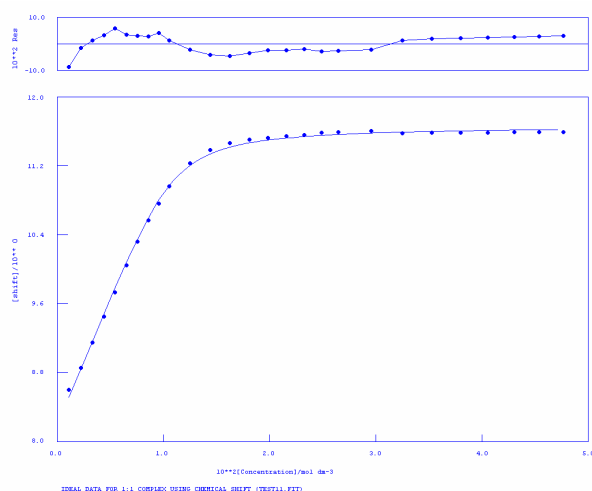
$K_1 = 4258.82$  Error = 553.2 (12.99 %)

$\text{Log } K_1 = 3.63$

$B_2 = 1958170$  Error = 31390 (1.60 %)

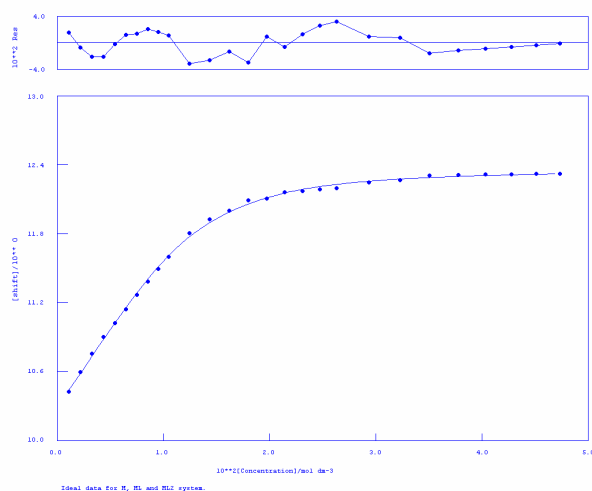
$K_2 = 459.79$

$\text{Log } K_2 = 2.66$



**Receptor 2-AcO<sup>-</sup> (Hc) 1:1 model**

K1 = 1880.38    Error = 148.8 (7.91 %)  
 Log K1 = 3.27



**Receptor 2-H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> (Hc) 1:2 model**

K1 = 1387.73 Error = 154.1 (11.10 %)  
 Log K1 = 3.14  
 B2 = 609591 Error = 19620 (3.22 %)  
 K2 = 439.27  
 Log K2 = 2.64

**Job Plots**

Note: for all job plots the [Total] = ([H]+[G]) was kept constant at 12.5 mM.

