## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# Tetrakis(methylimidazole) and tetrakis(methylimidazolium) calix[4]arenes: competitive anion binding and deprotonation

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## 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for compound A



## 2. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum for compound 2Br



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## 3. Variable temperature <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for compound 1

#### 4. Crystallographic details for 1

Crystals were mounted under oil on glass fiber and X-ray diffraction data collected at 150(1)K with Mo-K<sub>a</sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) using Bruker Nonius X-8 diffractometer with ApexII detector and FR591 rotating anode generator. Data sets were corrected for absorption using a multiscan method, and structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97<sup>[1]</sup> and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F2 by SHELXL-97,<sup>[1]</sup> interfaced through the program X-Seed.<sup>[2]</sup> Compound **1** crystallises in the monoclinic space group *P*2<sub>1</sub>/c with one molecule of C<sub>44</sub> H<sub>40</sub> N<sub>8</sub> O<sub>4</sub>, one molecule of CHCl<sub>3</sub> and one-and-a-half molecules of H<sub>2</sub>O in the asymmetric unit.

Two of the four imidazolyl groups (N25 > C29 and N35 > C39) are disordered over two equally occupied positions. Hydrogen bonded with the N25 > C29 imidazolyl is a water (H5-O2-H4) modelled with an SOF of 0.5. To maintain sensible N...H-O bond lengths it is assumed that the water is only present when the N25A > C29A component of the imidazolyl is present and not when the B component is present.

Another of the imidazolyl groups (N55 > C59) is protonated at N57 and charge is balanced in the molecule by deprotonation of O7. Dimers are formed by two complimentary N57-H57...N47 hydrogen bonds.

All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically.

All hydrogen atoms could be located in a difference Fourier map but, in the final stages of the refinement, all H atoms bonded to carbon were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model.

C-H distances: C-H distances: CH3, 0.98A; CH2, 0.99A; CH, 1.00A; aromatic, 0.95A, olefinic and ethylinic, 0.95A.

Those hydrogen atoms bonded to nitrogen and oxygen could be located in a difference Fourier map. N-H distances were subsequently restrained to be 0.88\A and O-H distances were restrained to be 0.84\A.

All Uiso(H) values were constrained to be 1.2 times (1.5 for methyl and hydroxyl) Ueq of the parent atom.

The HTAB instruction in SHELXL-97 was applied to analyse the hydrogen bonds present in the structure.

Chemical formula	$C_{45}H_{44}Cl_3N_8O_{5.50}$
Formula mass	891.23
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Crystal size (mm)	0.18 x 0.11 x 0.09
<i>a</i> /Å	10.0579(8)
<i>b</i> /Å	40.788(3)
c/Å	10.7646(9)
$\alpha/^{\circ}$	90.00
$\beta/^{\circ}$	101.688(4)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90.00
Unit cell volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	4324.5(6)
Temperature/K	150(2)
Space group	$P2_{1}/c$
No. of formula units per unit cell, $Z$	4
Radiation type	ΜοΚα
Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	0.270
No. of reflections measured	61030
No. of independent reflections	9587
R <sub>int</sub>	0.0443
Final $R_I$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	0.0492
Final $wR(F^2)$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	0.1009
Final $R_1$ values (all data)	0.0799
Final $wR(F^2)$ values (all data)	0.1133
Goodness of fit on $F^2$	1.031

#### 5. Crystallographic details for 2Br

Crystals were mounted under oil on glass fiber and X-ray diffraction data collected at 150(1)K with Mo-K<sub>a</sub> radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å) using Bruker Nonius X-8 diffractometer with ApexII detector and FR591 rotating anode generator. Data sets were corrected for absorption using a multiscan method, and structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97<sup>[1]</sup> and refined by full-matrix least-squares on F2 by SHELXL-97,<sup>[1]</sup> interfaced through the program X-Seed.<sup>[2]</sup> Compound **2Br** crystallises in the monoclinic space group *C*2/*m* with one half of the molecule, four bromide anions at 50% occupancy, one complete methanol solvent molecule and two methanol solvent molecules at 50% occupancy.

One methanol solvent molecule was disordered over two positions located on symmetry operation x, 1-y, z. C27A O5 was refined at 28.5% occupancy, C27B O6 was refined at 21.5% occupancy. C27A and C27B were refined with equivalent x, y and z parameters and anisotropic displacement parameters. Another methanol solvent molecule, C26 O4, was refined at 50% occupancy and was located on a symmetry operation 1-x, y, 1-z.

All non hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically.

H4, H6, H27D, H27E and H27F were located in the difference map and fixed in position during refinement. All other H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model. All other H atoms were placed in calculated positions and refined using a riding model.

C-H distances: CH3,  $0.98\A$ , CH2  $0.99\A$ , aromatic,  $0.95\A$ . All Uiso(H) values were constrained to be 1.2 times (1.5 for methyl) Ueq of the parent atom. N-H distance:  $0.88\A$ . The Uiso(H) value was constrained to be 1.2 times Ueq of the parent atom.

Chemical formula	$C_{26}H_{37.50}Br_2N_4O_4$
Formula mass	629.92
Crystal system	Monoclinic
Crystal size (mm)	0.46 x 0.37 x 0.15
$a/\text{\AA}$	17.580(2)
$b/ m \AA$	39.483(5)
$c/{ m \AA}$	11.7189(15)
$\alpha /^{\circ}$	90.00
$\beta/^{\circ}$	130.147(4)
$\gamma/^{\circ}$	90.00
Unit cell volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	6217.9(14)
Temperature/K	150(2)
Space group	$C^{2/m}$
space group	$C_{2/m}$
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z	8
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type	8 ΜοΚα
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$	8 ΜοΚα 2.642
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured	8 MoKα 2.642 36400
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections $R_{int}$	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240 0.0669
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections $R_{int}$ Final $R_I$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240 0.0669 0.0628
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections $R_{int}$ Final $R_I$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$ Final $wR(F^2)$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240 0.0669 0.0628 0.1780
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections $R_{int}$ Final $R_I$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$ Final $wR(F^2)$ values $(I > 2\sigma(I))$ Final $R_I$ values (all data)	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240 0.0669 0.0628 0.1780 0.1115
No. of formula units per unit cell, Z Radiation type Absorption coefficient, $\mu/\text{mm}^{-1}$ No. of reflections measured No. of independent reflections $R_{int}$ Final $R_I$ values ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) Final $wR(F^2)$ values ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ) Final $R_I$ values (all data) Final $wR(F^2)$ values (all data)	8 MoKα 2.642 36400 6240 0.0669 0.0628 0.1780 0.1115 0.2041

#### 6. HypNMR data







HypNMR fitting data for Br<sup>-</sup> binding by 2.



HypNMR fitting data for  $NO_3^-$  binding by **2**.

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## 7. References

(1) Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXS-97; Acta Crystallogr. 2008, A64, 112.

(2) Barbour, L. J. J. Supramol. Chem. 2003, 1, 189.