Organic & Biomolecular Chemistry

Electronic Supplementary Information

1,2-Di(phenylethynyl)ethenes with axially chiral, 2,2'-bridged 1,1'-binaphthyl substituents: potent cholesteric liquid-crystal inducers

Yi-Lin Wu,^{*a*} Fiammetta Ferroni,^{*b*} Silvia Pieraccini,^{*b*} W. Bernd Schweizer,^{*a*} Brian B. Frank,^{*a*} Gian Piero Spada^{*b*} and François Diederich*^{*a*}

^a Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, ETH Zürich, Hönggerberg, HCI, CH-8093 Zürich, Switzerland.

^b Alma Mater Studiorum–Università di Bologna, Dipartimento di Chimica Organica "A. Mangini", Via San Giacomo 11, I-40126 Bologna, Italy.

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1. UV/Vis spectral changes of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-(*S*,*S*)-<u>5c</u> upon protonation



Fig. ESI1 UV/Vis spectrum of (E)-(S,S)-**5c** in CH₂Cl₂ (black line), spectrum taken after the addition of trifluoroacetic acid (red line) and spectrum taken after the addition of excess Et₃N to neutralise the added acid (blue line).



Fig. ESI2 UV/Vis spectrum of (*Z*)-(*S*,*S*)-**5c** in CH_2Cl_2 (black line), spectrum taken after the addition of trifluoroacetic acid (red line) and spectrum taken after the addition of excess Et₃N to neutralise the added acid (blue line).

2. Emission spectrum of (E)-(R,R)-<u>6b</u>



Fig. ESI3 Emission spectrum of (E)-(R,R)-**6b** in CH₂Cl₂, $\lambda_{exc} = 382$ nm.

3. ¹H NMR of Hg-lamp-irradiated (*S*,*S*)-<u>5c</u>



Fig. ESI4 Bottom: partial ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) spectrum of the sample of (*S*,*S*)-**5c** after irradiation with a medium pressure Hg lamp for 4 h in deoxygenated CH₂Cl₂. Top and middle: partial ¹H NMR spectra of configurationally pure (*E*) and (*Z*)-isomers for comparison. The singlet at ~3.9 ppm is assigned to the protons of methyl ester; two doublets at ~3.82 and 4.56 ppm originate from the two CH₂ groups of the dihydroazepine ring.

4. Photoisomerisation kinetics

The photoisomerisation kinetics of (E)-(S,S)-**5c** and (E)-(R,R)-**6b** upon irradiation at 472 and 382 nm, respectively, were subjected to quantitative study.^{1,2} The time-dependence of the absorbance $(A_{\lambda}(t))$ was extracted from a series of UV/Vis spectra (Fig. 6 in the main text) taken at defined time periods during the course of irradiation. When the photostationary state (PSS) was reached, the composition of each sample was analysed by HPLC to determine the ratio between the concentrations of (Z)- and (E)-isomers (C_Z^{eq} and C_E^{eq} ; Fig. ESI5), which is also the photo-equilibrium constant (K_{kox}^{eq}) and equal to the ratio between partial rate constants of isomerisation ($k_{E\rightarrow Z}$ and $k_{Z\rightarrow E}$) (Eq. 1).

$$K_{\lambda_{\text{exc}}}^{\text{eq}} = \frac{C_Z^{\text{eq}}}{C_E^{\text{eq}}} = \frac{k_{E \to Z}}{k_{Z \to E}}$$
(1)



Fig. ESI5 HPLC chromatograms of (S,S)-**5c** as a representative example of the sample before irradiation (top) and at the photostationary state (bottom).

The change in the absorbance during irradiation follows first-order kinetics, and is expressed by Eq. 2,

$$A_{\lambda}(t) = \varepsilon_E C_E^{\text{eq}} + \varepsilon_Z C_Z^{\text{eq}} + (\varepsilon_E - \varepsilon_Z) C_Z^{\text{eq}} \times \exp(-k_{\text{tot}} t)$$
(2)

where ε_E (known) and ε_Z are the extinction coefficients of (*E*)- and (*Z*)-isomers, respectively, at the wavelength λ of interest (often, but not necessarily, the same as the absorption maximum and the excitation wavelength), k_{tot} is the total rate constant, equal to the sum of partial rate constants of each isomerisation processes ($k_{tot} = k_{E\to Z} + k_{E\to Z}$), and individual C_Z^{eq} and C_E^{eq} were calculated from Eq. 1 with the knowledge of the known, initial concentration. By fitting the plot of $A_{\lambda}(t)$ vs. time (*t*) to Eq. 2, partial rate constants $k_{E\to Z}$ and $k_{Z\to E}$, as well as ε_Z can be obtained (Fig. ESI6).



Fig. ESI6 The time dependence of the absorbance of (S,S)-**5c** at 470 nm in CH₂Cl₂ by irradiation at 472 nm, and the curve fitting according to first-order kinetics (Eq. 2).

To obtain photoisomerisation quantum yields, the light intensity (I_0) at the irradiation wavelength in each experiment was measured by a chemical actinometry method with potassium ferrioxalate;³ $I_0 = 10^{-(9-10)}$ Einstein s⁻¹ is usually observed. With this information, the partial quantum yields (Φ) are then calculated according to Eqs. 3.1 and 3.2,

$$\Phi_{E \to Z} = \frac{k_{E \to Z} V A_{\lambda_{\text{exc}}}^{\text{eq}}}{I_0 (1 - 10^{-A_{\lambda_{\text{exc}}}^{\text{eq}}}) \varepsilon_E}$$
(3.1)

$$\Phi_{Z \to E} = \frac{k_{Z \to E} V A_{\lambda_{exc}}^{eq}}{I_0 (1 - 10^{-A_{\lambda_{exc}}^{eq}}) \varepsilon_Z}$$
(3.2)

where *V* is the volume of the irradiated sample and $A_{\lambda exc}^{eq}$ at excitation wavelength the absorbance of the sample at the PSS.

5. UV/Vis spectral changes of (E)-(R,R)-<u>6a</u> during irradiation and the HPLC chromatogram of the irradiated sample



Fig. ESI7 UV/Vis spectral changes (indicated by arrows) of (E)-(R,R)-**6a** in CH₂Cl₂ during the course of excitation at 341 nm.



Fig. ESI8 HPLC chromatograms of (E)-(R,R)-**6a** before (top) and after (bottom) irradiation at 341 nm.

6. Synthetic details

(*S*,*S*)-4,4'-{[(*3E*)-3,4-Bis({[*tert*-butyl(dimethyl)silyl]oxy}methyl)hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-1,6-diyl]di-4,1-phenylene}bis(4,5-dihydro-3*H*-dinaphtho[2,1-*c*:1',2'-e]azepine) ((*E*)-(*S*,*S*)-5a). To a de-oxygenated solution of (*E*)-8 (25 mg, 0.069 mmol) and (*S*)-7 (70 mg, 0.141 mmol) in ^{*i*}Pr₂NH (1 cm³) and THF (1 cm³), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (2 mg, 0.003 mmol) and CuI (4 mg, 0.021 mmol) were added, and the resulting suspension was stirred for 6 h at r.t. in the dark. The mixture was filtered through a SiO₂ pad (CH₂Cl₂), and the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by FC (SiO₂; heptane/ethyl acetate 95:5) (16 mg, 21%). Since the product decomposed gradually in solution and in the solid state, full characterisation was not attempted. $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 0.17 (12 H, s, SiMe₂), 0.97 (18 H, s, Si⁷Bu), 3.84 (4 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 4.56 (4 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 4.64 (4 H, s, OCH₂), 6.89 (4 H, d, *J* 8.8, NC₆H₄), 7.27–7.38 (8 H, m, Ar-H), 7.46–7.55 (12 H, m, Ar-H), 7.92–7.97 (8 H, m, Ar-H); HR-MALDI-MS *m/z* 1103.5339 (100%, [*M*+H]⁺, calcd for C₇₆H₇₅N₂O₂Si₂⁺: 1103.5362), 1102.5265 (56, *M*⁺).

(S,S)-4,4'-({(3E)-3,4-Bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]hex-3-ene-1,5-diyne-1,6-diyl}di-

4,1-phenylene)bis(4,5-dihydro-3*H*-dinaphtho[2,1-*c*:1',2'-*e*]azepine) ((*E*)-(*S*,*S*)-5b).

To a de-oxygenated solution of (E)-9 (20 mg, 0.046 mmol) and (S)-7 (53 mg, 0.107 mmol) in Et₃N (6 cm³) and THF (2 cm³), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (2 mg, 0.003 mmol) and CuI (4 mg, 0.021 mmol) were added, and the resulting suspension was stirred for 14 h at r.t. in the dark. The mixture was filtered through a plug (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂), and the solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by FC (SiO₂;

hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 80:20 \rightarrow 80:35) (30 mg, 55%). Since the product decomposed gradually in solution and in the solid state, full characterisation was not attempted. $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 1.14 (42 H, s, Si^{*i*}Pr₃), 3.85 (4 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 4.56 (4 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 6.88 (4 H, d, *J* 8.7, NC₆H₄), 7.27–7.34 (4 H, m, naphthalene), 7.38 (4 H, d, *J* 8.7, NC₆H₄), 7.46–7.57 (12 H, m, naphthalene), 7.93–7.97 (8 H, m, Ar-H); HR-MALDI-MS *m/z* 1175.6028 (100%, [*M*+H]⁺, calcd for C₈₄H₈₃N₂Si₂⁺: 1175.6089), 1174.5982 (60, *M*⁺).

(S)-4-(4-Ethynylphenyl)-4,5-dihydro-3H-dinaphtho[2,1-c:1',2'-e]azepine ((S)-10). A

solution of (*S*)-7 (250 mg, 0.5 mmol), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (20 mg, 0.03 mmol) and CuI (10 mg, 0.05 mmol) in Et₃N/THF (1:1, 30 cm³) was purged with Ar for 20 min, then treated with trimethylsilylacetylene (0.1 cm³, 0.72 mmol), stirred at r.t. for 10 h and filtered through a pad of SiO₂ (CH₂Cl₂). Evaporation of the filtrate and FC (SiO₂; hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 5:1) gave the SiMe₃-protected acetylene intermediate (230 mg, 98%). A suspension of K₂CO₃ (440 mg, 3.19 mmol) in THF/methanol (1:1, 20 cm³) was purged with Ar for 20 min, charged with TMS-protected acetylene (148 mg, 0.32 mmol) and stirred at r.t. for 3 h. After dilution with water, the aqueous solution was extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated. FC (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂/hexane 1:3 \rightarrow 1:2) gave (*S*)-**10** (654 mg, 90%) as a white solid (which sometimes turned dark). Mp 105–107 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ –562 (*c* 0.10 in CHCl₃); UV/Vis λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 217 (ε /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ 102200), 227sh (74300), 290 (38900); CD λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 216 ($\Delta \varepsilon$ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ –365), 228 (+455), 257 (+34), 291 (–33), 312 (–32); \tilde{v}_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹ 3284, 3046, 2923, 2849, 2100, 1601, 1507, 1249, 1176, 816, 751;

 $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.00 (1 H, s, CCH), 3.82 (2 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 4.54 (2 H, d, *J* 12.3, NCH₂), 6.86 (2 H, d, *J* 9.0, NC₆H₄), 7.26–7.33 (2 H, m, naphthalene), 7.39 (2 H, d, *J* 9.0, NC₆H₄), 7.45–7.53 (6 H, m, naphthalene), 7.91–7.96 (4 H, m, naphthalene); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 52.07, 75.24, 84.47, 110.70, 114.48, 125.73, 126.01, 127.36, 127.47, 128.33, 129.03, 131.30, 133.21, 133.26, 134.75, 149.55 (16 out of 17 expected peaks were found); HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 397.1767 (34%), 396.1737 (100, [*M*+H]⁺, calcd for C₃₀H₂₂N⁺: 396.1747), 219.1869 (33).

(S,S)-(4E)-4,5-Bis{[4-(3,5-dihydro-4H-dinaphtho[2,1-c:1',2'-e]azepin-4-

yl)phenyl]ethynyl}oct-4-ene-2,6-diynedial ((*E*)-(*S,S*)-5d). A 1:2 mixture of anhydrous Et₃N/THF (10 cm³) was freshly subjected to 5 freeze-pump-thaw cycles before use. The inner atmosphere of a flask containing (*E*)-12 (40 mg, 0.165 mmol), (*S*)-10 (131 mg, 0.331 mmol), CuI (3 mg, 0.015 mmol) and [Pd(PPh₃)₄] (10 mg, 0.009 mmol) was changed to Ar by three evacuation-refilling cycles. The oxygen-free Et₃N/THF mixture was then transferred to the above flask (the solution was coloured immediately) and the mixture stirred at r.t. for 10 h under Ar. The crude mixture was passed through a pad of SiO₂ (CH₂Cl₂). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and the residue purified by FC (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂/hexane 1:1 \rightarrow 6:1) to afford (*E*)-(*S,S*)-5d as a purple solid (63 mg, 44%). All the above operations were performed with a minimum exposure to laboratory light. However, the product was found to decompose gradually both in solution and in the solid state and full characterisation was not attempted. $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.82 (4 H, d, *J* 12.4, NCH₂), 4.58 (4 H, d, *J* 12.4, NCH₂), 6.85 (4 H, d, *J* 8.7,

NC₆H₄), 7.26–7.32 (4 H, m, Ar-H), 7.44–7.52 (16 H, m, Ar-H), 7.92–7.96 (8 H, m, Ar-H), 10.45 (2 H, s, CHO).

(R)-4-(4-Iodophenyl)dinaphtho[2,1-d:1',2'-f][1,3,2]dithiazepine 3,3,5,5-tetraoxide ((R)-13). Anhydrous pyridine (5 cm³, de-oxygenated in 3 freeze-pump-thaw cycles) was added to a Schlenk tube containing (R)-1,1'-binaphthyl-2,2'-disulfonyl dichloride (100 mg, 0.22 mmol) and 4-iodoaniline (49 mg, 0.22 mmol, purified by sublimation) under Ar. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 8 h. The solution turned brick-red in colour after 10-15 min, and a large amount of precipitates formed during the reaction. The precipitates were removed by filtration. Evaporation of the filtrate and FC (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂/hexane 2:1) gave (*R*)-13 (48 mg, 36%) as a white solid. Mp 280–281 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +209 (*c* 0.05 in CHCl₃); UV/Vis λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 226 (ϵ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ 81000), 237 (71900), 344 (7600); CD λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 223 ($\Delta \varepsilon$ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ +146), 240 (-246), 260 (+14), 304 (+23), 338 (+17); $\tilde{v}_{max}(ATR)/cm^{-1}$ 3080, 2923, 2852, 1480, 1365, 1332, 1179, 822, 749, 715; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 7.08 (2 H, d, J 8.7, NC₆H₄I), 7.35–7.52 (4 H, m, naphthalene), 7.71 (2 H, ddd, J 8.3, 6.5, 1.5, naphthalene), 7.79 (2 H, d, J 8.7, NC₆H₄I), 8.10 (2 H, d, J 8.3, naphthalene), 8.23–8.30 (4 H, m, naphthalene); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 97.20, 123.00, 128.21, 128.44, 128.78, 129.68, 131.05, 131.72, 131.83, 133.02, 134.57, 135.73, 135.75, 138.91; HR-ESI-MS m/z 597.9638 (100%, $[M+H]^+$, calcd for C₂₆H₁₇INO₄S₂⁺: 597.9638).

(*R*)-4-{4-[(Trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]phenyl}dinaphtho[2,1-*d*:1',2'-*f*][1,3,2]dithiazepine 3,3,5,5-tetraoxide ((*R*)-15). A mixture of (*R*)-13 (274 mg, 0.46 mmol), [PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂] (16 mg, 0.023 mmol) and CuI (7 mg, 0.037 mmol) in THF (20 cm³) and Et₃N (10 cm³) was purged with Ar at r.t. for 20 min. Trimethylsilylacetylene (0.3 cm³, 2.16 mmol) was injected to the above solution, and the mixture was let stand at r.t. for 10 h. After removal of the salts (Et₃NHI) and solvents, the residue was purified by FC (SiO₂; hexane/CH₂Cl₂ 1:1) to afford (*R*)-15 (250 mg, 96%). Mp 125–127 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = +269 (c$ 0.02 in CHCl₃); UV/Vis λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 224 (ϵ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ 69800), 245 (56900), 272 (35300), 344 (6700); CD λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 222 ($\Delta \varepsilon$ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ +125), 240 (-220), 262 (+21), 303 (+23), 339 (+14); $\tilde{v}_{max}(ATR)/cm^{-1}$ 3058, 2956, 2853, 2159, 1493, 1346, 1180, 858, 841, 816, 746, 703; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 0.29 (9 H, s, SiMe₃), 7.31 (2 H, d, J 8.4, NC₆H₄), 7.38–7.48 (4 H, m, naphthalene), 7.55 (2 H, d, J 8.4, NC₆H₄), 7.70 (2 H, ddd, J 2.0, 6.1, 8.4 Hz, naphthalene), 8.09 (2 H, d, J 8.4, naphthalene), 8.22–8.32 (4 H, m, naphthalene); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) -0.01, 96.90, 103.70, 122.97, 125.61, 128.14, 128.29, 128.68, 129.52, 130.90, 131.13, 131.62, 131.70, 132.92, 134.63, 135.60, 135.63; HR-ESI-MS m/z 568.1067 (56%, $[M+H]^+$, calcd for C₃₁H₂₆NO₄S₂Si⁺: 568.1067), 585.1331 (100, $[M+NH_4]^+$, calcd for C₃₁H₂₉N₂O₄S₂Si⁺: 585.1333).

(*R*)-4-(4-Ethynylphenyl)dinaphtho[2,1-*d*:1',2'-*f*][1,3,2]dithiazepine 3,3,5,5-tetraoxide ((*R*)-14). To the solution of (*R*)-15 (88 mg, 0.101 mmol) in anhydrous THF (20 cm³) at 0 °C was added ^{*n*}Bu₄NF on Al₂O₃ (15 wt%, 264 mg, 0.099 mmol) in one portion. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 20 min and filtered through a plug (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂). After removal of solvents, the residue was purified by FC (SiO₂; CH₂Cl₂/hexane 2:1) to give (*R*)-14 (69 mg, 90%). This compound gradually turned black at *ca*. 80 °C, and the final

black material did not melt up to 400 °C; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = +247$ (*c* 0.05 in CHCl₃); UV/Vis λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 224 (ε /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ 69700), 245 (63781), 343 (7000); CD λ_{max} (MeCN)/nm 220 ($\Delta \varepsilon$ /dm³ mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹ +119), 239 (-226), 260 (+22), 303 (+20), 341 (+14); \tilde{v}_{max} (ATR)/cm⁻¹ 3282, 3075, 2924, 2854, 1708, 1583, 1493, 1343, 1180, 919, 896, 651; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 3.20 (1 H, s, CCH), 7.34 (2 H, d, *J* 8.6, NC₆H₄), 7.39–7.49 (4 H, m, naphthalene), 7.58 (2 H, d, *J* 8.6, NC₆H₄), 7.71 (2 H, ddd, *J* 1.9, 6.1, 8.2, naphthalene), 8.10 (2 H, d, *J* 8.2, naphthalene), 8.18–8.34 (4 H, m, naphthalene); δ_{C} (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 79.50, 82.39, 122.89, 124.54, 128.06, 128.30, 128.66, 129.54, 130.93, 131.21, 131.57, 132.12, 133.13, 134.50, 135.57, 135.61; HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 514.0972 (35%), 513.0938 (100, [*M*+NH₄]⁺, calcd for C₂₈H₂₁N₂O₄S₂⁺; 513.0937).

7. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra





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8. References

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