### **Supplementary information**

## Tightening or Loosening a pH-Sensitive double-Lasso Molecular Machine Readily Synthesized from an Ends-Activated [c2]Daisy Chain

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General Methods. All reactions were carried out under an atmosphere of argon unless otherwise indicated. All reagents were used as received without further purification. Dichloromethane was distilled over P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and was degassed by bubbling Ar for 20 min. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck silicagel 60 F254 plates. Compounds were visualized by dipping the plates in an ethanolic solution of 10% sulphuric acid, ninhydrine or an aqueous solution of KMNO<sub>4</sub>, followed by heating. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were obtained on a spectrometer (respectively at 400.13 MHz and 100.62 MHz). Chemical shifts of <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR are given by using CHCl<sub>3</sub> CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, CH<sub>3</sub>CN and DMSO as references (7.27 ppm, 5.32 ppm, 3.31 ppm, 1.94 ppm and 2.50 ppm respectively for <sup>1</sup>H spectrum, and 77.0 ppm, 54.0 ppm, 49.15 ppm, 118.26 ppm, and 39.51 ppm respectively for <sup>13</sup>C spectrum). <sup>1</sup>H assignments were deduced from 2D <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H NMR COSY experiments. <sup>13</sup>C assignments were deduced from 2D <sup>13</sup>C-<sup>1</sup>H NMR HMQC experiments. Coupling constants (J) are reported in hertz (Hz). Standard abbreviations indicating multiplicity were used as follows: s (singlet), br (broad), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet), m (multiplet). Mass spectra (MS) and high-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded respectively on a ZQ Micromass apparatus, a MALDI and a Q-TOF Micromass apparatus supplied with an ESI source (Waters, 2001).

#### A. Synthesis of the stoppering azido precursor 1

#### 1) Preparation of the anhydride 7

To a suspension of D-glucuronic acid (1.97 g, 10.15 mmol, 1 eq.) in 30 mL of acetic anhydride at 5°C was added slowly in portions iodine (260 mg, 1.015 mmol, 0.1 equiv). The suspension was stirred 1 h at 5°C and then 4 h at room temperature. The solution was co-evaporated with toluene and the solid residue was triturated with diethyl ether. A white powder was obtained (3.21g) with a yield of 78%.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 5.79$  (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI-H2} = 8.3$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.35 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3} = {}^{3}J_{H4-H5} = 8.3$  Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 5.27 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H3-H2} = {}^{3}J_{H3-H4} = 8.3$  Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.10 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H1} = {}^{3}J_{H2-H3} = 8.3$  Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 4.31 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4} = 8.3$  Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 2.25 (s, 3H, COOCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 & 2.10 & 2.04 & 2.03 & 2.02 (5\*s, 5\*3H, CH<sub>2</sub>CO)

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta$  = 169.7 & 169.3 & 169.1 & 168.6 (COCH<sub>3</sub>), 164.7 & 162.5 (COOCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 91.3 (C<sub>1</sub>), 72.9 (C<sub>5</sub>), 71.2 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.0 (C<sub>2</sub>), 67.9 (C<sub>4</sub>), 22.0 (COOCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.6 & 20.4 & 20.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd for  $[C_{16} H_{20}O_{12} Na]^+$ : 427.31, found: 427.14

#### 2) Preparation of the 1,2,3,4-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-glucuronic acid 8

The anhydride 7 (1.40 g, 3.46 mmol) was stirred overnight at room temperature in 60 mL of a solution consisting of THF / water 2:1. The THF was then evaporated and the aqueous solution was extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 50 mL). The organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and evaporated to afford the acid compound 8 (1.23 g) in a quantitative yield.

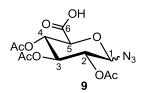
#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (AcOEt/éther de pétrole 4:1) 0.0

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 5.81$  (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI-H2} = 6.9$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.39 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H3-H2} = {}^{3}J_{H3-H4} = 8.7$  Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.29 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3} = {}^{3}J_{H4-H5} = 8.7$  Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 5.13 (dd, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H1} = 6.9$  Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H3} = 8.7$  Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 4.32 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4} = 8.7$  Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 2.14 & 2.07 & 2.04 & 2.02 (4\*s, 4\*3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 170.0$  & 169.7 & 169.6 & 169.3 & 168.9 (C<sub>6</sub> COCH<sub>3</sub>), 91.2 (C<sub>1</sub>), 72.4 (C<sub>5</sub>), 71.8 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.0 (C<sub>2</sub>), 68.5 (C<sub>4</sub>), 20.7 & 20.5 & 20.5 & 20.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

MS (ESI): [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> calcd for [C<sub>14</sub> H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>11</sub> Na]<sup>+</sup>: 385.28, found: 385.10

#### 3) Preparation of the 1-azido-2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-\(\beta\)-glucuronic acid **9**



To a solution of the 1,2,3,4-tetra-O-acetyl- $\beta$ -D-glucuronic acid **8** (3.93 g, 10.847 mmol, 1 equiv) in 25 mL of dichloromethane at 5°C were added trimethylsilylazide (3.57 mL, 27.117 mmol, 2.5 equiv) and tin(IV) chloride (5.4 mL, 5.423 mmol, 1M in  $CH_2Cl_2$ , 0.5 equiv). The reaction was allowed to stir overnight at 5°C. A saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was then added and the reaction mixture was stirred 20 min before separating the two layers. After a second wash with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, the combined aqueous layers were acidified with hydrochloric acid 12M and extracted with dichloromethane (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and concentrated to yield the compound **9** (2.85 g, 75%, ratio  $\alpha/\beta$ : 17/83) as a colorless solid.

*β isomer* : <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 5.30$  (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H3-H2} = {}^{3}J_{H3-H4} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.26 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3} = {}^{3}J_{H4-H5} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.96 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H1} = {}^{3}J_{H2-H3} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 4.76 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H2} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.18 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 2.07 & 2.04 & 2.02 (3\*s, 3\*3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 170.2$  & 170.0 & 169.4 & 168.3 (C<sub>6</sub> COCH<sub>3</sub>), 87.7

 $(C_1)$ , 73.5  $(C_5)$ , 71.9  $(C_3)$ , 70.3  $(C_2)$ , 68.8  $(C_4)$ , 20.4 & 20.4  $(\underline{C}H_3CO)$ .

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd for  $[C_{12} H_{15}N_3O_9 Na]^+$ : 368.25, found: 368.00

#### 4) Preparation of the pentafluorophenol 1-azido-2,3,4-tri-O-acetyl-β-D-glucuronic ester 1

To a cooled solution (0°C) of the 1-azido-2,3,4-tri-*O*-acetyl-D-glucuronic acid **9** (2.84 g, 8.224 mmol, 1 equiv) in 30 mL of dichloromethane was added oxalyl chloride (1.44 mL, 16.449 mmol, 2 equiv). 3 mL of DMF was then slowly added to the stirring solution and evolution of gas was observed. The pale yellow solution was stirred for 30 min at 0°C and then for 2 h at room temperature. The solution was evaporated to give a solid, which was diluted in 30 mL of dichloromethane and added by pentafluorophenol (1.82 g, 9.869 mmol, 1.2 equiv). The mixture was allowed to stir overnight at room temperature. The solution was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 x 30 mL). After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (2 x 30 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography on silicagel column (gradient elution petroleum ether/AcOEt 9:1 to 1:1) to yield the compound **1** as a colorless solid (2.32 g, 56%) and as a unique β stereoisomer.

 $\mathbf{R}_f$  (petroleum ether /AcOEt 1:1) 0.68

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 5.44$  (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H3-H2} = {}^{3}J_{H3-H4} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.32 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3} = {}^{3}J_{H4-H5} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 5.05 (t, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H1} = {}^{3}J_{H2-H3} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 4.83 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H2} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.54 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4} = 9.2$  Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 2.11 & 2.06 & 2.05 (3\*s, 3\*3H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta$  = 170.0 & 169.1 & 169.0 (COCH<sub>3</sub>), 162.5 (C<sub>6</sub>), 88.2 (C<sub>1</sub>), 73.8 (C<sub>5</sub>), 71.7 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.1 (C<sub>2</sub>), 68.7 (C<sub>4</sub>), 20.5 & 20.4 & 20.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

#### B. Synthesis of the alkyne pseudo [c2]Daisy chain 2

#### 1) Preparation of the tridec-2-yn-1-ol 10

HO 
$$\frac{2}{3}$$
  $\frac{4}{5}$   $\frac{6}{7}$   $\frac{8}{9}$   $\frac{10}{11}$   $\frac{12}{13}$ 

To a stirred solution of 1-dodecyne (5g, 30.064 mmol, 1 equiv) in anhydrous THF at 5°C was added, under Argon, *n*-BuLi (20.7 mL, 33.077 mmol, 1.6 M in THF, 1.1 equiv). After 30 min at 5°C, paraformaldehyde was added by portions. The solution was further stirred during 1h at 5°C, then during one night at room temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with 120 mL of 1:1 water/saturated water with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl. The biphasic solution was separated and the aqueous layer

<sup>[1]</sup> D. P. Temelkoff, M. Zeller, P. Norris, Carbohydrate Research, 2006, 341, 1081-1090.

extracted twice with 100 mL of ethyl acetate. The organic layers were then combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to afford compound **10** in a quantitative yield (5.90 g) as a yellow oil.

 $\mathbf{R}_f$  (petroleum ether /AcOEt 9:1) 0.21

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 4.25 (t, 2H,  ${}^{5}J_{H4-H1}$  = 2.0 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.21 (tt, 2H,  ${}^{5}J_{H4-H1}$  = 2.0 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H5}$  = 7.2 Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 1.55-1.46 (m, 2H, H<sub>5</sub>), 1.42-1.33 (m, 2H, H<sub>6</sub>), 1.33-1.20 (m, 12H, H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub>), 0.89 (t, 3H,  ${}^{3}J_{H13-H12}$  = 6.9 Hz, H<sub>13</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 86.6 & 78.2 ( $C_2$   $C_3$ ), 51.4 ( $C_1$ ), 31.9 & 29.6 & 29.5 & 29.3 & 29.1 & 28.9 & 28.6 & 22.7 ( $C_5$   $C_6$   $C_7$   $C_8$   $C_9$   $C_{10}$   $C_{11}$   $C_{12}$ ), 18.7 ( $C_4$ ), 14.1 ( $C_{13}$ ).

#### 2) Preparation of the tridec-12-yn-1-ol 11

To dry ethylene-1,2-diamine (80 mL) at 0-5°C under argon was added NaH (11.90 g, 0.297 mol, 10 equiv, 60% in oil). The mixture was allowed to warm slowly at 60°C and stirred for 3h to give a deep blue mixture. Then, it was cooled to 45°C before adding dropwise the tridec-2-yn-1-ol **10** (5.84 g, 29.749 mmol, 1 equiv). The solution was stirred at 60°C for one night before being cooled to 0°C. 100 mL of water and 100 mL of diethyl ether were introduced slowly; then HCl 12M was added until pH 1. Aqueous layer was extracted with diethyl ether (4x100 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried and concentrated. The crude oil was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (solvent elution: petroleum ether/AcOEt 1:1) to give the desired product (3.56 g, 61%) as a yellow oil.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (petroleum ether /AcOEt 1:1) 0.71

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K)**: δ (ppm) = 3.63 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI-H2}$  = 6.6 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.18 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HII-HI0}$  = 7.1 Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{HII-HI3}$  = 2.6 Hz, H<sub>11</sub>), 1.94 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{HI3-HI1}$  = 2.6 Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.62-1.47 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>10</sub>), 1.43-1.23 (m, 14H, H<sub>3</sub> H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K):  $\delta$  (ppm) = 84.4 (C<sub>12</sub>), 68.0 (C<sub>13</sub>), 62.2 (C<sub>1</sub>), 32.4 (C<sub>2</sub>) 29.4 & 29.3 & 29.2 & 28.9 & 28.5 & 28.2 (C<sub>3</sub> C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub>), 25.6 (C<sub>11</sub>).

#### 3) Preparation of the 13-bromotridec-1-yne 12

Br 
$$\frac{2}{1}$$
  $\frac{4}{3}$   $\frac{6}{5}$   $\frac{8}{7}$   $\frac{10}{9}$   $\frac{12}{11}$   $\frac{13}{13}$ 

To a solution of the tridec-12-ynol **11** (2.40 g, 12.226 mmol, 1 equiv) in 40 mL of dry dichloromethane were added the tetrabromomethane (8.11 g, 24.451 mmol, 2 equiv) and the triphenylphosphine (6.41 g, 24.451 mmol, 2 equiv). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1h; then, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. A solution of petroleum ether / ethyl acetate (9:1) was added and the resulted precipitate was filtered and washed abundantly. The filtrate was evaporated and the crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (elution: petroleum ether/AcOEt 9:1) to give the brominated product **12** (3.07 g, 97%) as a yellow oil.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (petroleum ether /AcOEt 97:3) 0.50

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 3.42 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI-H2}$  = 6.9 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.19 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HII-HI0}$  = 7.1 Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{HII-HI3}$  = 2.7 Hz, H<sub>11</sub>), 1.95 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{HI3-HII}$  = 2.7 Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.90-1.81 (m, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>), 1.57-1.48 (m, 2H, H<sub>10</sub>), 1.48-1.23 (m, 14H, H<sub>3</sub> H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) :  $\delta$  (ppm) = 84.4 (C<sub>12</sub>), 68.0 (C<sub>13</sub>), 33.7 (C<sub>1</sub>), 32.7 & 29.3 & 29.3 & 29.3 & 29.0 & 28.6 & 28.6 & 28.4 & 28.0 (C<sub>2</sub> C<sub>3</sub> C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub>), 18.3 (C<sub>11</sub>).

#### 4) Preparation of the phthalimide 13

Potassium phthalimide (3.40 g, 18.34 mmol, 1.5 equiv) was added to a solution of the 13-bromotridec-1-yne **12** (3.17 g, 12.230 mmol, 1 equiv) in 60 mL of DMF. After stirring for 4 h at 70°C, the solvent was removed in *vacuo*. The solid residue was suspended in dichloromethane and filtered through a layer of silica gel. The filtrate was evaporated to give the desired product (3.98 g) in a quantitative yield as a yellow oil.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (Petroleum ether/AcOEt 75/25) 0.50

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (**CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K**) : δ (ppm) = 7.87-7.81 (m, 2H, H<sub>16</sub>), 7.73-7.68 (m, 2H, H<sub>17</sub>), 3.67 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H2} = 7.4$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.17 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H10} = 7.8$  Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{H11-H13} = 2.6$  Hz, H<sub>11</sub>), 1.94 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{H13-H11} = 2.6$  Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.72-1.62 (m, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>), 1.56-1.47 (m, 2H, H<sub>10</sub>), 1.42-1.22 (m, 14H, H<sub>3</sub> H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) :  $\delta$  (ppm) = 168.0 (C<sub>14</sub>), 133.5 (C<sub>17</sub>), 131.9 (C<sub>15</sub>), 122.8 (C<sub>16</sub>), 84.4 (C<sub>12</sub>), 68.0 (C<sub>13</sub>), 37.7 (C<sub>1</sub>), 29.2 & 29.2 & 28.9 & 28.8 & 28.5 & 28.3 & 28.2 & 26.6 (C<sub>2</sub> C<sub>3</sub> C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub>), 18.1 (C<sub>11</sub>).

#### 5) Preparation of the tridec-12-yn-1-amine 14

Hydrazine monohydrate (2.14 g, 42.805 mmol, 3.5 equiv) was added to a solution of the phthalimide 13 (3.98 g, 12.230 mmol, 1 equiv) in 60 mL of ethanol. The mixture was stirred at reflux for 4 h, and then cooled to room temperature. An aqueous solution of KOH 1N (100 mL) was added and the solvent was removed in *vacuo*. The solution was extracted with dichloromethane (2x100 mL); then, the organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield the desired product (2.10 g, 88 %) as a yellow solid.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 2.67 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H2} = 7.0$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.18 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H11-H10} = 7.2$  Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{H11-H13} = 2.7$  Hz, H<sub>11</sub>), 1.93 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{H13-H11} = 2.7$  Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.56-1.47 (m, 2H, H<sub>10</sub>), 1.47-1.34 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>9</sub>), 1.34-1.21 (m, 12H, H<sub>3</sub> H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 84.6 (C<sub>12</sub>), 67.9 (C<sub>13</sub>), 42.0 (C<sub>1</sub>), 33.6 (C<sub>2</sub>), 29.4 & 29.4 & 29.3 & 28.9 & 26.7 (C<sub>3</sub> C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub>), 18.2 (C<sub>11</sub>). MS (ESI): [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; calcd for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 196.2, found : 196.2

#### 6) Preparation of the crown ether 15

This compound has been synthesized according to the procedure described by S. J. Cantrill, G. J. Youn, J. F. Stoddart. [2]

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (AcOEt) 0.3

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):** δ (ppm) = 9.83 (s, 1H, H<sub>1</sub>), 7.43 (dd, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H7-H6}$  = 8.2 Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{H7-H3}$  = 1.9 Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 7.38 (d, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{H3-H7}$  = 1.9 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 6.94 (d, 1H,  ${}^{3}J_{H6-H7}$  = 8.2 Hz, H<sub>6</sub>), 6.90-6.86 (m, 4H, H<sub>15</sub> H<sub>16</sub> H<sub>17</sub> H<sub>18</sub>), 4.24-4.20 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 4.17-4.15 (m, 4H, H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>20</sub>), 3.98-3.92 (m, 8H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>24</sub>), 3.86-3.84 (m, 8H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K): δ (ppm) = 190.9 (C<sub>1</sub>), 154.3 & 149.1 & 148.8 (C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>14</sub> C<sub>19</sub>), 130.2 (C<sub>2</sub>), 126.9 (C<sub>7</sub>), 121.4 & 113.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>16</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub>), 111.8 (C<sub>6</sub>), 110.9 (C<sub>3</sub>), 71.5 & 71.4 & 71.3 & 69.7 & 69.5 & 69.4 & 69.4 & 69.3 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+Na]^+$  calcd for  $C_{25}H_{42}O_9$ : 499.52, found: 499.27

#### 7) Preparation of the compound 16

A solution of the crown ether aldehyde **15** (5.78 g, 12.134 mmol, 1 equiv) and the tridec-12-yn-1-amine **14** (2.37 g, 12.134 mmol, 1 equiv) in 200 mL of toluene was heated under reflux for 30 h using a Dean-Stark apparatus. The solvent was then evaporated to give a yellow oil. The mixture was diluted with MeOH (150 mL), and then NaBH<sub>4</sub> (2.30 g, 60.670 mmol, 5 equiv) was added portionwise at 0-5°C. Stirring was maintained at room temperature for a further 5 h. Then, an aqueous solution of HCl 5M (100 mL) was added to the reaction mixture. Methanol was evaporated, and the residue was

<sup>[2]</sup> S. J. Cantrill, G. J. Youn, J. F. Stoddart, J. Org. Chem. 2001, 66, 6857-6872.

diluted with dichloromethane (100 mL) and washed with an aqueous solution of NaOH 5M (100 mL). The two layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (2x200 mL). The organic layers were combined, dried over  $MgSO_4$  and concentrated. The crude (6.73 g) was directly engaged in the following reaction.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.1

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K)**: δ (ppm) = 6.90-6.80 (m, 7H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 4.19-4.10 (m, 8H, H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>S</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 3.95-3.89 (m, 8H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.84 (s, 8H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>J</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.70 (s, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 2.60 (t, 2H,  $^{3}$ J<sub>H<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>3</sub></sub> = 7.3 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 2.18 (td, 2H,  $^{3}$ J<sub>H<sub>1</sub>3-H<sub>1</sub>2</sub> = 7.1 Hz,  $^{4}$ J<sub>H<sub>1</sub>3-H<sub>1</sub>5</sub> = 2.7 Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.94 (t, 1H,  $^{4}$ J<sub>H<sub>1</sub>5-H<sub>1</sub>3</sub> = 2.7 Hz, H<sub>15</sub>), 1.57-1.45 (m, 4H, H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>12</sub>), 1.44-1.34 (m, 2H, H<sub>11</sub>), 1.33-1.23 (m, 12H, H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>10</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 148.3 & 148.2 & 147.2 ( $C_A C_F C_M C_R$ ), 132.8 ( $C_C$ ), 120.7 & 120.2 & 113.4 & 113.4 & 113.3 ( $C_B C_D C_E C_N C_O C_P C_Q$ ), 83.9 ( $C_{14}$ ), 70.5 ( $C_1 C_J C_U C_V$ ), 69.2 ( $C_H C_K C_T C_W$ ), 68.6 ( $C_G C_L C_S C_X$ ), 67.8 ( $C_{15}$ ), 52.9 ( $C_1$ ), 48.6 ( $C_3$ ), 29.2 & 28.9 & 28.9 & 28.9 & 28.8 & 28.4 & 28.0 & 27.9 & 26.7 ( $C_4 C_5 C_6 C_7 C_8 C_9 C_{10} C_{11} C_{12}$ ), 17.7 ( $C_{13}$ ).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+H]^+$ ; calcd for  $[C_{38}H_{58}NO_8]^+$ : 656.4, found : 656.3

#### 8) Preparation of the compound 2

A solution of HCl 2M in diethyl ether (20 mL, 0.2 mol, 19 equiv) was added to the amine **16** (6.73 g, 10.59 mmol, 1 equiv). The mixture was stirred for 30 min, and then diethyl ether was evaporated to give a solid. To a solution of the previous solid in milliQ water (50 mL) was added NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (5.12 g, 31.77 mmol, 3 equiv) and dichloromethane (50 mL). The biphasic solution was stirred vigorously for 30 min; then, the two phases were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with dichloromethane (3x30 mL). The organic layers were then combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated. The crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (solvent elution  $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$  98:2) to yield the compound **2** (8.40 g, 87% over the two steps) as a white solid.

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.54

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K) :  $\delta$  (ppm) = 6.93 (dd, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{HD-HB}$  = 1.5 Hz,  ${}^{3}J_{HD-HE}$  = 8.4 Hz, H<sub>D</sub>), 6.87-6.72 (m, 5H, H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.60 (d, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{HB-HD}$  = 1.5 Hz, H<sub>B</sub>), 4.52-4.28 (m, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.52-3.59 (m, 24H, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 3.58-3.30 (m, 2H, H<sub>3</sub>), 2.19 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI3-HI2}$  = 7.1 Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{HI3-HI5}$  = 2.7 Hz,

 $H_{13}$ ), 1.96 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{H15-H13}$  = 2.7 Hz,  $H_{15}$ ), 1.73-1.63 (m, 2H,  $H_{4}$ ), 1.57-1.48 (m, 2H,  $H_{12}$ ), 1.44-1.35 (m, 2H,  $H_{11}$ ), 1.35-1.16 (m, 12H,  $H_{5}H_{6}H_{7}H_{8}H_{9}H_{10}$ ).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) :  $\delta$  (ppm) = 147.6 & 147.5 & 146.2 & 146.0 (C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 124.7 (C<sub>C</sub>), 122.9 (C<sub>D</sub>), 121.0 & 120.9 & 112.9 & 112.5 & 111.7 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 72.2 & 71.8 & 70.9 & 70.8 & 70.7 & 70.3 & 67.5 & 67.0 & 66.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 68.2 (C<sub>15</sub>), 52.1 (C<sub>1</sub>), 48.8 (C<sub>3</sub>), 29.3 & 29.0 & 28.6 & 28.4 & 26.6 (C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub>), 18.3 (C<sub>13</sub>).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M-2PF_6]^{2+}$ ; calcd for  $[C_{76}H_{116}N_2O_{16}]^{2+}$ : 656.42, found: 656.38

**MS** (**MALDI**):  $[M-1H-2PF_6]^+$  calcd for  $[C_{76}H_{115}N_2O_{16}]^+$ : 1311.82, found : 1311.8

#### C. Synthesis of the non-interlocked threads 5u and 6u

#### 1) Preparation of the compound 17

The compound 1 (200 mg, 0.391 mmol, 2 equiv) and the 1,12-diaminododecane (39 mg, 0.1955 mmol, 1 equiv) were stirred in 5 mL of dichloromethane at reflux for one night. The organic layer was washed successively with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M (2x5 mL), and with a saturated aqueous solution of NaCl (2x5 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under *vacuo* to afford the compound 17 (155 mg, 93%) as a white solid.

 $\mathbf{R}_f$  (petroleum ether /AcOEt 1:1) 0.28

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta = 6.49$  (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H7-H8} = 5.8$  Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 5.24 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H3-H2} = {}^{3}J_{H3-H4} = 9.3$  Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.08 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3} = {}^{3}J_{H4-H5} = 9.3$  Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.87 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H2-H1} = {}^{3}J_{H2-H3} = 9.3$  Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 4.77 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H1-H2} = 9.3$  Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 3.99 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4} = 9.3$  Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 3.21-3.12 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.03 & 2.00 & 1.96 (3\*s, 3\*6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.50-1.40 (m, 4H, H<sub>9</sub>), 1.29-1.15 (m, 16H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298K):  $\delta$  = 169.7 & 169.3 & 169.1 (COCH<sub>3</sub>), 165.5 (C<sub>6</sub>), 87.6 (C<sub>1</sub>), 74.1 (C<sub>5</sub>), 71.6 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.3 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.0 (C<sub>4</sub>), 39.1 (C<sub>8</sub>), 29.3 & 29.2 & 29.0 & 29.0 & 26.6 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub>), 20.4 & 20.3 & 20.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

**MS (ESI):**  $[M+H]^+$ ; calcd for  $[C_{36}H_{55}N_8O_{16}]^+$ : 855.37, found: 855.46

#### 2) Preparation of the compound 18

To a solution of compound **2** (300 mg, 0.0374 mmol, 1 equiv) in dichloromethane (15 mL) were added Boc<sub>2</sub>O (245 mg, 1.122 mmol, 3 equiv) and DIEA (0.145 mL, 1.122 mmol, 3 equiv). The solution was stirred during 3 h at room temperature. The organic layer was washed successively with an aqueous solution of HCl 1M (2x30 mL), a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2x30 mL), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under *vacuo*. The crude was purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (solvent elution CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 98:2) to yield the N-Boc protected compound **18** (272 mg, 96%) as a white solid.

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.74

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz, 298K)** : δ (ppm) = 6.94-6.70 (m, 7H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 4.38-4.27 (br s, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 4.21-4.09 (m, 8H, H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>S</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 3.95-3.87 (m, 8H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.83 (s, 8H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>J</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.20-3.00 (m, 2H, H<sub>3</sub>), 2.18 (td, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI3-HI2} = 7.1$  Hz,  ${}^{4}J_{HI3-HI5} = 2.7$  Hz, H<sub>13</sub>), 1.94 (t, 1H,  ${}^{4}J_{HI5-HI3} = 2.7$  Hz, H<sub>15</sub>), 1.57-1.18 (m, 18H, H<sub>4</sub> H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>6</sub> H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub>), 1.45 (s, 9H, H<sub>2</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz, 298K) :  $\delta$  (ppm) = 148.8 & 147.9 (C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 131.9 (C<sub>C</sub>), 121.4 & 114.6 & 113.8 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 79.3 (COC(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 71.1 (C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>U</sub> C<sub>V</sub>), 69.8 (C<sub>H</sub> C<sub>K</sub> C<sub>T</sub> C<sub>W</sub>), 69.3 (C<sub>G</sub> C<sub>L</sub> C<sub>S</sub> C<sub>X</sub>), 68.0 (C<sub>15</sub>), 51.4 (C<sub>1</sub>), 46.3(C<sub>3</sub>), 29.5 & 29.4 & 29.4 & 29.3 & 29.0 & 28.7 & 26.8 (C<sub>4</sub> C<sub>5</sub> C<sub>6</sub> C<sub>7</sub> C<sub>8</sub> C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub>), 28.4 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CCO), 18.4 (C<sub>13</sub>).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+H]^+$ ; calcd for  $[C_{43}H_{66}NO_{10}]^+$ : 756.5, found : 756.5

#### 3) Preparation of the thread 19

In a typical procedure,  $Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$  (36 mg, 0.0966 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2,6-lutidine (1 mg, 0.0097 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added successively to a solution of the azido compound **17** (41 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.5 equiv) and the alkyne compound **18** (73 mg, 0.0966 mmol, 1 equiv) in 4 mL of dry dichloromethane. The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, after which time the solvent was evaporated under *vacuo*. The crude was then directly purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (solvent gradient elution  $CH_2Cl_2$  /acetone 1:0 to 3:7) to afford the thread **19** (80 mg, 70%) as a yellow solid.

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.63

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 7.79 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.17-7.05 (m, 10H, H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 7.02 (br s, 2H, H<sub>B</sub>), 6.94 (dd, 2H,  ${}^4J_{HD-HB}$  = 1.4 Hz,  ${}^3J_{HD-HE}$  = 8.3 Hz, H<sub>D</sub>), 6.84 (t, 2H,  ${}^3J_{H7-HB}$  = 5.7 Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 5.99 (d, 2H,  ${}^3J_{H1-H2}$  = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.60 (t, 2H,  ${}^3J_{H2-H1}$  =  ${}^3J_{H2-H3}$  = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 5.50 (t, 2H,  ${}^3J_{H3-H2}$  =  ${}^3J_{H3-H4}$  = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.32 (t, 2H,  ${}^3J_{H4-H3}$  =  ${}^3J_{H4-H5}$  = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.34 (s, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 4.30-4.22 (m, 18H, H<sub>5</sub> H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>S</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 3.77-3.68 (m, 16H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.59 (s, 16H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>J</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.20-3.12 (br t, 4H, H<sub>26</sub>), 3.11-3.04 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.66 (t, 4H,  ${}^3J_{H16-H17}$  = 7.5 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 1.99 & 1.97 & 1.78 (3\*s, 3\*6H,

CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.66-1.56 (m, 4H, H<sub>17</sub>), 1.51-1.34 (m, 8H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 1.45 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.33-1.19 (m, 44H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.7 & 170.2 & 169.6 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 166.4 (C<sub>6</sub>), 149.4 & 149.1 & 148.9 & 147.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 135.3 (C<sub>C</sub>), 124.1 & 124.1 & 117.6 & 117.5 & 117.4 (C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 122.8 (C<sub>D</sub>), 121.5 (C<sub>14</sub>), 116.5 (C<sub>B</sub>), 85.4 (C<sub>1</sub>), 79.9 ( $\underline{C}$ (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 75.9 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.8 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.8 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.8 (C<sub>4</sub>), 69.5 & 69.4 & 69.2 & 68.3 & 68.2 & 68.2 & 67.9 & 67.8 & 67.8 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 50.0 (C<sub>28</sub>), 47.5 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.7 (C<sub>8</sub>), 30.2 & 30.1 & 30.1 & 29.9 & 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 27.4 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 28.5 (( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>C), 25.9 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.7 & 20.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M+H]^+$ ; calcd for  $[C_{122}H_{185}N_{10}O_{36}]^+$ : 2365.29, found : 2365.40

#### 4) Preparation of the thread 20

The thread **19** (75 mg, 0.0317 mmol, 1 equiv) was suspended in 2 mL of iodomethane and stirred for 4 days at room temperature. Then, iodomethane was evaporated under reduced pressure and the obtained solid was washed with diethyl ether to give a yellow solid. NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (31 mg, 0.1901 mmol, 6 equiv) and 5 mL of dichloromethane were added to a suspension of the previous product in 5 mL of milliQ water. The resulted bilayer solution was vigorously stirred for 30 min. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 5 mL of dichloromethane. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to obtain the thread **20** (71 mg, 84%) as a yellow solid.

#### R<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.51

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 8.53 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.01-6.85 (m, 14H, H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.81 (dd, 2H,  $^4$ J<sub>HD-HB</sub> = 1.4 Hz,  $^3$ J<sub>HD-HE</sub> = 8.1 Hz, H<sub>D</sub>), 6.15-6.11 (m, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.56-5.51 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 5.41-5.34 (m, 2H, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.32 (d, 2H,  $^3$ J<sub>H5-H4</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.31 (s, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 4.16-4.09 (m, 16H, H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 4.14 (s, 6H, H<sub>29</sub>), 3.80-3.75 (m, 16H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.65 (s, 16H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>J</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.18-3.07 (m, 8H, H<sub>8</sub> H<sub>26</sub>), 2.79 (t, 4H,  $^3$ J<sub>HI6-HI7</sub> = 7.7 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 1.99 & 1.99 & 1.91 (3\*s, 3\*6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.74-1.64 (m, 4H, H<sub>17</sub>), 1.51-1.34 (m, 12H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 1.44 (s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.33-1.17 (m, 40H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.6 & 170.1 & 170.0 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 165.4 (C<sub>6</sub>), 149.4 & 149.4 & 149.3 & 148.4 & 146.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 133.9 (C<sub>C</sub>), 127.8 (C<sub>14</sub>), 122.8 & 121.6 & 115.7 & 115.6 & 115.5 & 114.8 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 87.8 (C<sub>1</sub>), 79.8 ( $\underline{C}$ (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 76.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.2 (C<sub>4</sub>), 70.4 & 69.7 & 69.6 & 69.5 & 69.4 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 50.0 (C<sub>28</sub>), 47.4 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.8 (C<sub>8</sub>), 38.9 (C<sub>29</sub>), 30.3 & 30.2 & 30.2 & 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.9 & 29.7 & 29.3 & 27.4 & 27.2 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 28.6 (( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>C), 23.8 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.7 & 20.5 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>3</sub>CO).

#### 5) Preparation of the thread 5u

A suspension of the N-Boc protected compound **20** (71 mg, 0.0281 mmol, 1 equiv) in 3 mL of HCl 2M in diethyl ether was stirred for 1 hour. The mixture was then evaporated and washed with diethyl ether to give a solid. NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (27 mg, 0.1686 mmol, 6 equiv) and 3 mL of dichloromethane were added to a suspension of the previous product in 3 mL of milliQ water. The resulted bilayer solution was vigorously stirred for 30 min. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 5 mL of dichloromethane. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to obtain the thread **5u** (68 mg, 78 %) as a pale yellow solid.

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.40

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 8.52 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.07-6.91 (m, 14H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.89 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H7-H8</sub> = 5.9 Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 6.16-6.12 (m, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.57-5.52 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 5.41-5.34 (m, 2H, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.32 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H5-H4</sub> = 10.0 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.19-4.09 (m, 16H, H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>S</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 4.14 (s, 6H, H<sub>29</sub>), 4.04 (s, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 3.84-3.75 (m, 16H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.67 & 3.66 (2\*s, 16H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>J</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.14-3.07 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.94 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H26-H25</sub> = 7.6 Hz, H<sub>26</sub>), 2.80 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H16-H17</sub> = 7.6 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 1.99 & 1.99 & 1.91 (3\*s, 3\*6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.74-1.65 (m, 4H, H<sub>17</sub>), 1.65-1.56 (m, 4H, H<sub>25</sub>), 1.46-1.35 (m, 8H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>18</sub>), 1.35-1.19 (m, 40H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 170.6 & 170.1 & 170.0 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 165.5 (C<sub>6</sub>), 150.3 & 149.5 & 149.4 & 149.4 & 146.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 127.8 (C<sub>14</sub>), 125.0 (C<sub>C</sub>), 124.5 & 122.7 & 122.7 & 116.8 & 115.5 & 115.4 & 115.0 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 87.8 (C<sub>1</sub>), 76.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.2 (C<sub>4</sub>), 70.7 & 70.6 & 70.6 & 69.8 & 69.8 & 69.7 & 69.6 & 69.5 & 69.4 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 52.1 (C<sub>28</sub>), 48.5 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.8 (C<sub>8</sub>), 38.9 (C<sub>29</sub>), 30.2 & 30.2 & 30.1 & 30.0 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.9 & 29.7 & 29.6 & 29.3 & 27.4 & 27.2 & 26.9 & 26.6 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 23.7 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.7 & 20.5 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>3</sub>CO).

**MS** (**ESI**):  $[M-3PF_6]^{3+}$ ; calcd for  $[C_{114}H_{176}F_6N_{10}O_{32}]^{3+}$ : 780.74, found: 781.08

#### 6) Preparation of the thread 6u

A solution of the thread **5u** (68 mg, 2.447.10<sup>-5</sup> mol) in 5 mL of dichoromethane was washed with 5 mL of an aqueous solution of NaOH 1M. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 5 ml of dichloromethane and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and then evaporated to obtain product **6u** as a pale yellow solid (61 mg, quantitative).

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.40

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 8.54 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.02-6.82 (m, 16H, H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.16-6.10 (m, 2H, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.58-5.50 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 5.42-5.34 (m, 2H, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.32 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4}$  = 9.9Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.17-4.07 (m, 16H, H<sub>G</sub> H<sub>L</sub> H<sub>S</sub> H<sub>X</sub>), 4.14 (s, 6H, H<sub>29</sub>), 3.80-3.74 (m, 16H, H<sub>H</sub> H<sub>K</sub> H<sub>T</sub> H<sub>W</sub>), 3.65 & 3.65 (2\*s, 16H, H<sub>I</sub> H<sub>U</sub> H<sub>V</sub>), 3.64 (s, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 3.14-3.07 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.79 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}J_{H16-H17}$  = 7.7 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 2.51 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}J_{H26-H25}$  = 7.0 Hz, H<sub>26</sub>), 1.99 & 1.99 & 1.91 (3\*s, 3\*6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.74-1.64 (m, 4H, H<sub>17</sub>), 1.50-1.34 (m, 12H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 1.34-1.18 (m, 40H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.6 & 170.1 & 170.0 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 165.4 (C<sub>6</sub>), 149.6 & 149.5 & 149.3 & 147.0 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 136.1 (C<sub>C</sub>), 126.6 (C<sub>14</sub>), 122.8 & 122.7 & 122.0 & 115.7 & 115.6 & 115.4 & 115.4 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 87.9 (C<sub>1</sub>), 76.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.8 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.2 (C<sub>4</sub>), 70.6 & 69.8 & 69.7 & 69.7 & 69.6 & 69.5 & 69.5 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 53.9 (C<sub>28</sub>), 49.9 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 39.0 (C<sub>29</sub>), 30.8 & 30.3 & 30.3 & 30.2 & 30.2 & 30.1 & 29.9 & 29.7 & 29.3 & 28.1 & 27.5 & 27.2 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 23.8 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.8 & 20.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

#### D. Synthesis of the double-lasso

#### 1) Preparation of the activated rotaxane dimer 3

In a typical procedure,  $Cu(CH_3CN)_4PF_6$  (73 mg, 0.1955 mmol, 1 equiv) and 2,6-lutidine (2 mg, 0.01955 mmol, 0.1 equiv) were added successively to a solution of the azido compound 1 (100 mg, 0.1955 mmol, 1 equiv) and the alkyne compound 2 (157 mg, 0.1955 mmol, 1 equiv) in 2 mL of dry dichloromethane. The mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, after which time the solvent was evaporated under *vacuo*. The crude was then directly purified by chromatography on a silicagel column (solvent gradient elution  $CH_2Cl_2$  /acetone 1:0 to 3:7) to afford the rotaxane dimer 3 (239 mg, 93%) as a yellow solid.

#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.49

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 7.82 (s, 2H, H<sub>7</sub>), 6.95-6.85 & 6.69-6.56 (m, 4H, H<sub>20</sub>), 6.85-6.71 (m, 12H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.42 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>HE-HD</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>), 6.11 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>HI-H2</sub> = 9.3 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.77 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H2-HI</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H2-H3</sub> = 9.3 Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 5.62 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H3-H2</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H3-H4</sub> = 9.3 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.56 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H4-H3</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H4-H5</sub> = 9.3 Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.97 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H5-H4</sub> = 9.3 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.58-4.40 (m, 4H, H<sub>21</sub>), 4.33-3.64 (m, 48H, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 3.47-3.34 (m, 4H, H<sub>19</sub>), 2.68 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H9-HI0</sub> = 7.3 Hz, H<sub>9</sub>), 2.05 & 2.00 & 1.81 (3\*s, 3\*6H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.75-1.67 (m, 4H, H<sub>18</sub>), 1.67-1.58 (m, 4H, H<sub>10</sub>), 1.40-1.18 (m, 28H, H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>14</sub> H<sub>15</sub> H<sub>16</sub> H<sub>17</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.6 & 170.3 & 169.6 & 164.0 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 164.0 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>6</sub>), 148.6 & 147.0 & 146.9 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>8</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 126.2 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>C</sub>), 123.5 & 122.9 & 120.5 & 114.0 & 112.9 & 112.6 & 112.6 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 121.5 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>7</sub>), 85.6 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>1</sub>), 74.5 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>5</sub>), 72.7 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>3</sub>), 70.3 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>2</sub>), 69.3 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>4</sub>), 73.0 & 72.9 & 72.9 & 72.1 & 71.4 & 71.3 & 71.2 & 70.9 & 70.9 & 69.9 & 69.2 & 68.3 & 68.3 & 68.1 & 67.9 & 67.8 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 52.7 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>21</sub>), 49.7 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>19</sub>), 30.1 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.6 & 29.4 & 27.2 & 27.1 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>14</sub> C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>16</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub>), 25.9 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>9</sub>), 20.7 & 20.6 & 20.3 ( $\underline{C}$ <sub>H<sub>3</sub>CO</sub>).</sub>

**HRMS (ESI):**  $[M-2PF_6]^{2+}$ ; calcd for  $[C_{112}H_{144}F_{10}N_8O_{34}]^{2+}$ : 1167.4813, found: 1167.5016

#### 2) Preparation of the double-lasso 4a-b

To a stirred solution of the rotaxane dimer **3** (104 mg, 0.0396 mmol, 1 equiv) in 80 mL of dichloromethane ( $C = 5.10^{-4}$  M) was added the dodecane-1,12-diamine (7.92 mg, 0.0396 mmol, 1 equiv). The solution was stirred for 4 days at room temperature, then evaporated and the crude was purified by chromatography on siligagel column (solvent gradient elution  $CH_2Cl_2$  to  $CH_2Cl_2$ /acetone 3:7) to give the double-lasso **4a-b** (32 mg) as a yellow solid in 33% yield.

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.48

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 7.78 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.04-6.85 & 6.70-6.54 (m, 4H, H<sub>27</sub>), 6.84-6.70 (m, 16H, H<sub>7</sub> H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.44 & 6.43 (2\*d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>HE-HD</sub> = 8.3 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>), 5.99 & 5.99 (2\*d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H1-H2</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.61 & 5.60 (2\*t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H2-H1</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H2-H3</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>2</sub>), 5.49 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H3-H2</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H3-H4</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>), 5.32 & 5.32 (2\*t, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H4-H3</sub> =  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H4-H5</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.58-4.39 (m, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 4.23 & 4.22 (2\*d, 2H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H5-H4</sub> = 9.5 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.34-3.61 (m, 48H, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 3.49-3.34 (m, 4H, H<sub>26</sub>), 3.09-2.96 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.65 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}$ J<sub>H16-H17</sub> = 7.4 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 1.98 & 1.97 & 1.79 & 1.79 (4\*s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.76-1.66 (m, 4H, H<sub>25</sub>), 1.66-1.55 (m, 4H, H<sub>17</sub>), 1.41-1.14 (m, 48H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.7 & 170.1 & 169.7 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 166.2 (C<sub>6</sub>), 149.4 & 148.6 & 147.1 & 146.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 126.2 (C<sub>C</sub>), 121.5 (C<sub>14</sub>),123.5 & 123.5 & 121.6 & 114.1 & 113.0 & 112.9 & 112.7 & 112.6 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 85.5 (C<sub>1</sub>), 76.0 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.9 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.8 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.8 (C<sub>4</sub>), 72.9 & 71.5 & 71.3 & 71.2 & 71.0 & 68.4 & 68.2 & 67.9 & 67.9 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 52.7 (C<sub>28</sub>), 49.7 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.7 (C<sub>8</sub>), 30.3 & 30.3 & 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.8 & 29.5 & 29.5 & 29.4 & 29.1 & 27.5 & 27.0 & 26.9 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 25.9 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.8 & 20.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>CO).

**HRMS** (ESI):  $[M-2PF_6]^{2+}$ ; calcd for  $[C_{112}H_{170}F_{10}O_{32}]^{2+}$ : 1083.5991, found: 1083.5991

#### 3) Preparation of the double-lasso 5a-b

The double-lasso 4a-b (28 mg, 0.0114 mmol) was suspended in 3 mL of iodomethane and stirred for four days at room temperature. Then, iodomethane was evaporated under reduced pressure and the obtained solid was washed with diethyl ether to give a yellow solid. NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (11 mg, 0.0683 mmol, 6 equiv) and 5 mL of dichloromethane were added to a suspension of the previous product in 5 mL of milliQ water. The resulted bilayer solution was vigorously stirred for 30 min. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 5 mL of dichloromethane. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to afford the double-lasso 5a-b (32 mg) in a quantitative yield as a yellow solid.

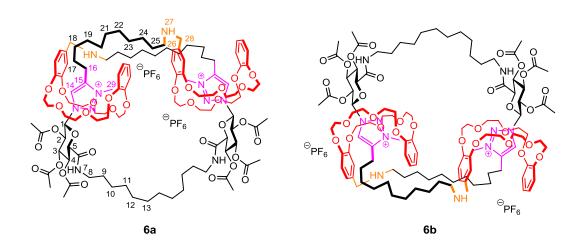
#### $\mathbf{R}_f$ (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.43

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 8.50 (s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.00-6.88 & 6.71-6.57 (m, 4H, H<sub>27</sub>), 6.84 (t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H7-H8}$  = 6.0 Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 6.88-6.71 (m, 12H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.42 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HE-HD}$  = 8.4 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>), 6.15 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI-H2}$  = 9.4 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.59-5.49 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>), 5.37 & 5.36 (2\*t, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H3}$  =  ${}^{3}J_{H4-H5}$  = 9.4 Hz, H<sub>4</sub>), 4.58-4.40 (m, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 4.31 (d, 2H,  ${}^{3}J_{H5-H4}$  = 9.4 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.36-3.63 (m, 48H, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 4.13 (s, 6H, H<sub>29</sub>), 3.48-3.35 (m, 4H, H<sub>26</sub>), 3.11-3.02 (m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.78 (t, 4H,  ${}^{3}J_{HI6-HI7}$  = 7.6 Hz, H<sub>16</sub>), 1.99 & 1.99 & 1.98 & 1.91 (4\*s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.78-1.63 (m, 8H, H<sub>17</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 1.46-1.33 (m, 12H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>24</sub>), 1.33-1.13 (m, 36H, H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub>).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR JMOD (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 100 MHz, 298K): δ (ppm) = 170.6 & 170.1 & 170.0 ( $\underline{C}$ OCH<sub>3</sub>), 165.4 (C<sub>6</sub>), 148.6 & 148.6 & 147.1 & 147.0 & 146.9 (C<sub>15</sub> C<sub>A</sub> C<sub>F</sub> C<sub>M</sub> C<sub>R</sub>), 127.6 (C<sub>14</sub>), 126.2 (C<sub>C</sub>), 123.5 & 121.6 & 114.1 & 112.9 & 112.7 & 112.6 (C<sub>B</sub> C<sub>D</sub> C<sub>E</sub> C<sub>N</sub> C<sub>O</sub> C<sub>P</sub> C<sub>Q</sub>), 87.9 (C<sub>1</sub>), 76.2 (C<sub>5</sub>), 72.1 (C<sub>3</sub>), 70.7 (C<sub>2</sub>), 69.2 (C<sub>4</sub>), 72.9 & 72.9 & 71.5 & 71.5 & 71.3 & 71.2 & 71.0 & 68.4 & 68.2 & 68.0 & 67.9 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 52.7 (C<sub>28</sub>), 49.7 (C<sub>26</sub>), 39.9 (C<sub>8</sub>), 38.9 (C<sub>29</sub>), 30.4 & 30.4 & 30.0 & 30.0 & 29.9 & 29.8 & 29.7 & 29.3 & 29.3 & 27.5 & 27.1 & 27.0 (C<sub>9</sub> C<sub>10</sub> C<sub>11</sub> C<sub>12</sub> C<sub>13</sub> C<sub>17</sub> C<sub>18</sub> C<sub>19</sub> C<sub>20</sub> C<sub>21</sub> C<sub>22</sub> C<sub>23</sub> C<sub>24</sub> C<sub>25</sub>), 23.8 (C<sub>16</sub>), 20.8 & 20.7 & 20.5 ( $\underline{C}$ H<sub>3</sub>CO).

**HRMS** (**ESI**):  $[M-3PF_6]^{3+}$ ; calcd for  $[C_{114}H_{176}F_6N_{10}O_{32}P]^{3+}$ : 780.7365, found: 780.7440

#### 4) Preparation of the double-lasso 6a-b



A solution of the double-lasso **5a-b** (22 mg, 7.917.10<sup>-6</sup> mol) in 5 mL of dichoromethane was washed with 5 mL of an aqueous solution of NaOH 1M. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 5 ml of dichloromethane and the combined organic phases were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and then evaporated to obtain product **6a-b** as a yellow solid (20 mg, quantitative).

#### **R**<sub>f</sub> (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 9:1) 0.46

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 400 MHz, 298K) : δ (ppm) = 9.54 & 9.51 (2\*s, 2H, H<sub>14</sub>), 7.04 & 7.00 (2\*t, 2H,  $^{3}$ J<sub>H7-H8</sub> = 6.0 & 5.7 Hz, H<sub>7</sub>), 6.96-6.71 (m, 14H, H<sub>B</sub> H<sub>D</sub> H<sub>E</sub> H<sub>N</sub> H<sub>O</sub> H<sub>P</sub> H<sub>Q</sub>), 6.19 & 6.16 (2\*d, 2H,  $^{3}$ J<sub>H1-H2</sub> = 9.2 Hz, H<sub>1</sub>), 5.58-5.50 (m, 2H, H<sub>4</sub>), 5.44-5.29 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> H<sub>3</sub>), 4.40 & 4.39 (2\*d, 2H,  $^{3}$ J<sub>H5-H4</sub> = 9.2 Hz, H<sub>5</sub>), 4.36 & 4.36 (2\*s, 6H, H<sub>29</sub>), 4.28-3.10 (m, 48H, CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>DB24C8</sub>), 3.74-3.56 (m, 4H, H<sub>28</sub>), 3.24-3.10 (m, 4H, H<sub>26</sub>), 3.08-2.95 & 2.73-2.63 (2\*m, 4H, H<sub>8</sub>), 2.53-2.42 (m, 4H, H<sub>16</sub>), 2.00 & 1.99 (2\*s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>CO), 1.76-1.49 (m, 8 H, H<sub>17</sub> H<sub>25</sub>), 1.49-0.57 (m, 48H, H<sub>9</sub> H<sub>10</sub> H<sub>11</sub> H<sub>12</sub> H<sub>13</sub> H<sub>18</sub> H<sub>19</sub> H<sub>20</sub> H<sub>21</sub> H<sub>22</sub> H<sub>23</sub> H<sub>24</sub>).

#### 5) Reprotonation procedure of 6a-b

The double-lasso **6a-b** (20 mg, 7.917.10<sup>-6</sup> mol) was suspended in 2 mL of a solution of HCl 2M in diethyl ether and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. After evaporation, the solid was washed with diethyl ether. Then, NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (6.4 mg, 3.959.10<sup>-5</sup> mol, 5 equiv) and 2 mL of dichloromethane were added to a suspension of the previous product in 2 mL of milliQ water. The resulted bilayer solution was vigorously stirred for 30 min. After separation, the aqueous layer was extracted twice with 3 mL of dichloromethane. The organic layers were combined, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to obtain the double-lasso **5a-b** (20 mg, 89%) as a yellow solid.

#### E. Molecular Modeling

*NMR:* NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance spectrometer operating at 500MHz. For DOSY experiments the standard Bruker sequence with double stimulated echoes and 3 spoil gradients for convection compensation was employed. Pulse field gradients were incremented in 64 steps from 2% to 95% of the maximum gradient strength. 48 scans were

used for each increment with a gradients length of 1.8 ms and a diffusion time of 200 ms. The spectra were processed by using Bruker's Topspin2.0 software, and the diffusion coefficients were obtained directly from the spectra. Different solvents (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, CD<sub>3</sub>CN and DMSO-d6) and temperatures (from 298 to 278K) were employed. In DMSO and CDCl<sub>3</sub>, diffusion coefficient between the protonated and non-protonated species does not change (see for example figures 1, 2 and 3). However, a significant variation was observed in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at 278K (figure 4).

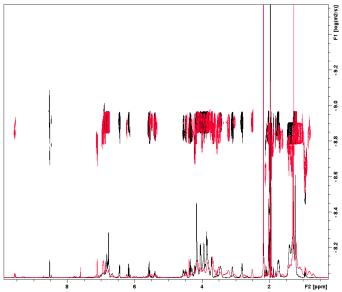


Figure 1. <sup>1</sup>H and DOSY spectra (500 MHz, **CD<sub>3</sub>CN at 295K**). In black: spectra corresponding to the protonated species and, in red, spectra corresponding to the non protonated species. The diffusion coefficients of both compounds under these conditions is 1.23×10(-9) (from value in the abscise axe -8.907).

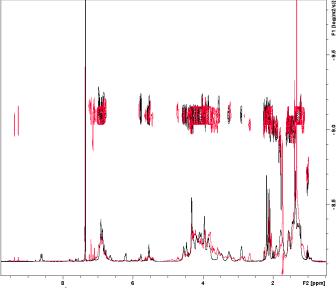


Figure 2. <sup>1</sup>H and DOSY spectra (500 MHz, **CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 295K**). In black: spectra corresponding to the protonated species and, in red, spectra corresponding to the non protonated species. The diffusion coefficients of both compounds under these conditions is 8.00×10(-10) (from value in the abscise axe -9.097).

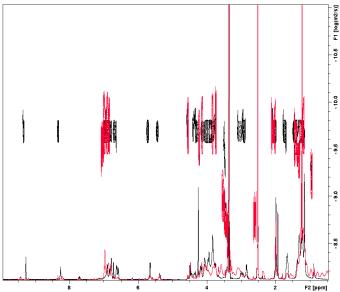


Figure 3. <sup>1</sup>H and DOSY spectra (500 MHz, **DMSO at 295K**). In black: spectra corresponding to the protonated species and, in red, spectra corresponding to the non protonated species. The diffusion coefficients of both compounds under these conditions is 2.05×10(-10) (from value in the abscise axe -9.688).

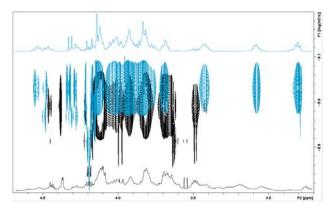


Figure 4. Partial DOSY spectra (500 MHz,  $CD_3CN$ , 278 K) of the protonated double-lasso macrocycle 5 (in blue) and the deprotonated double-lasso macrocycle 6 (in black) The diffusion coefficients of protonated compound 5 and deprotonated compound 6 are respectively  $8.93 \times 10(-10)$  and  $9.66 \times 10(-10)$  under these conditions.

Modeling: The structures of compounds **5a**, **5b**, **6a** and **6b** were built in Maestro. As a starting point for the two interlocked DB24C8 units (in **5a** and **5b**), we took the crystallographic structure of a dibenzo-24-crown-8-ether deposited in the Cambridge crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) with the TEVBEB CCDC code. The structures were submitted to minimization by use of conjugate gradients and/or Monte Carlo Torsional Sampling Conformational Search (MCMM) with the OPLS2005 force field with electrostatic treatment for acetonitrile, and 1500 minimum number of steps. The modeling of compounds **5** and **6** was carried out in using a continuum solvent model: (Generalized-Born/Surface Area, GB/SA). The actual counterions were not included in the calculations, given the lack of proper parameters of the force field for PF6. However, we performed several calculations

employing other simple counterions, such as phosphate (Figure 5). None effect in the results was observed.

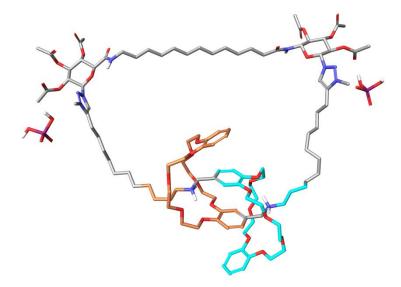
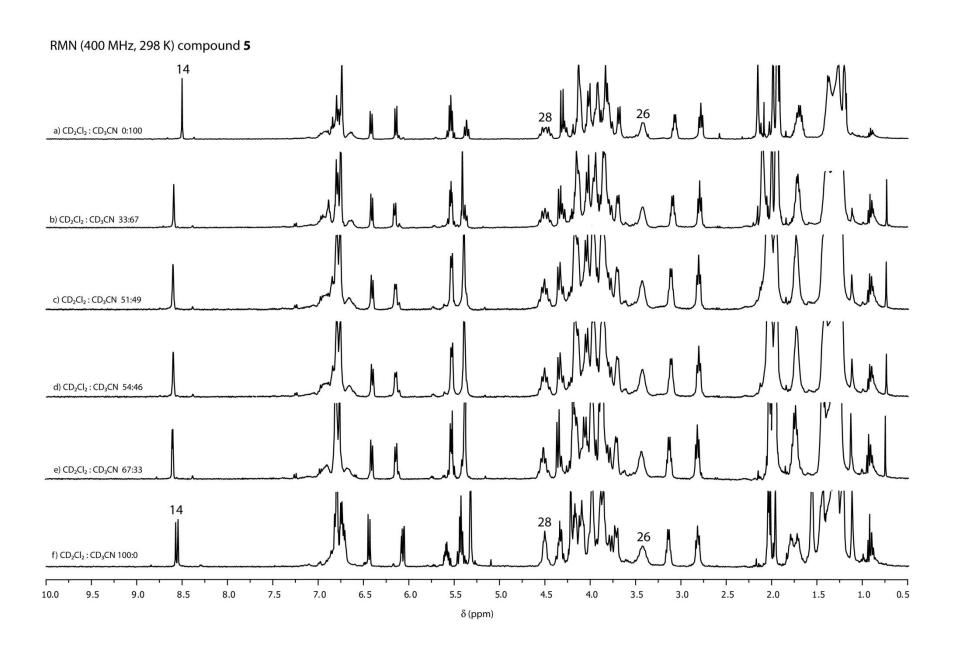
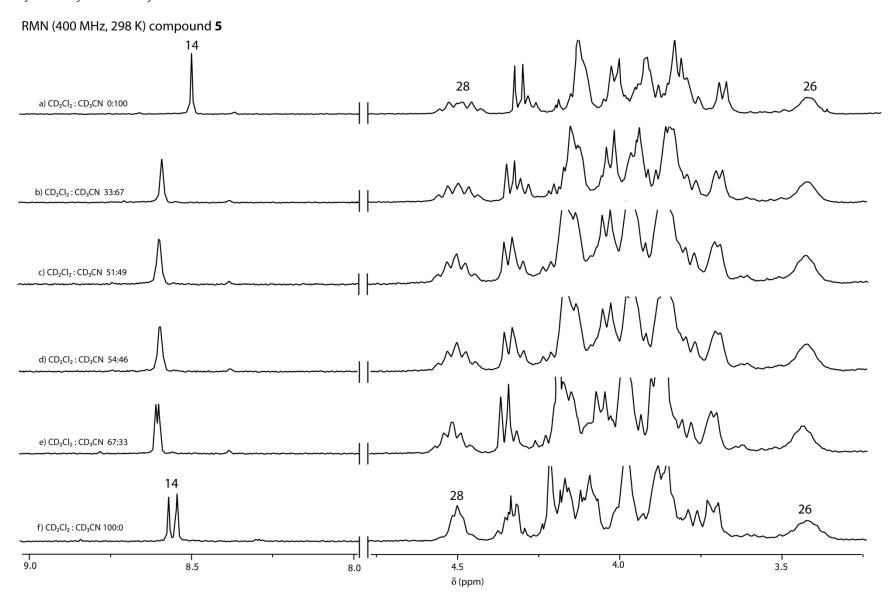


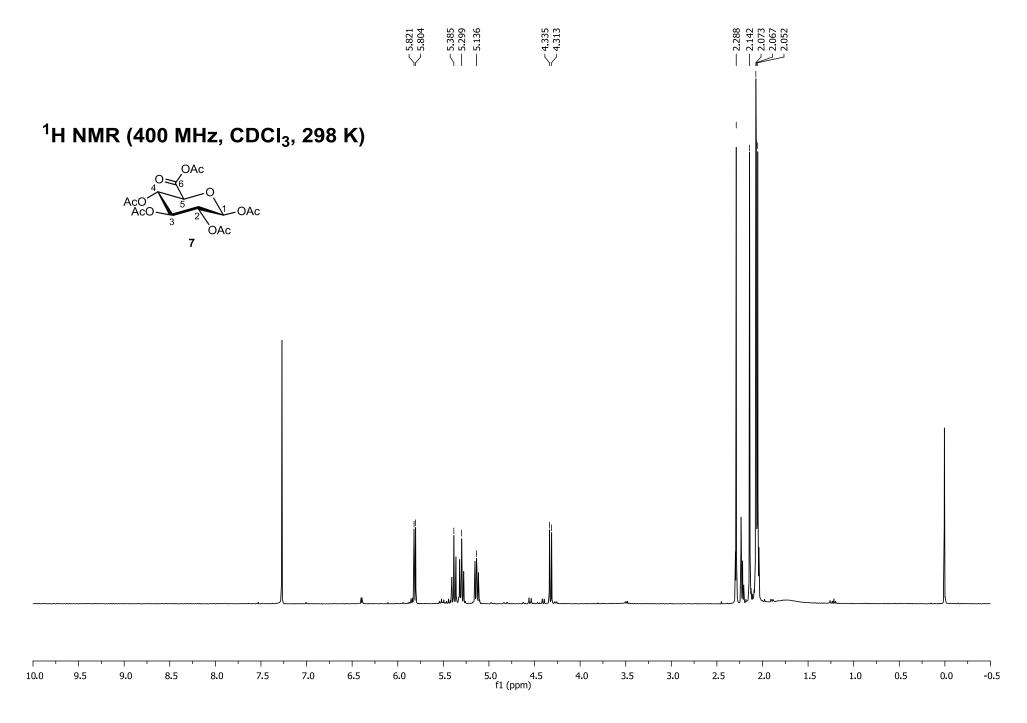
Figure 5. OPLS2005 minimised structure of compound **5b** with H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> counterions on the triazolium.

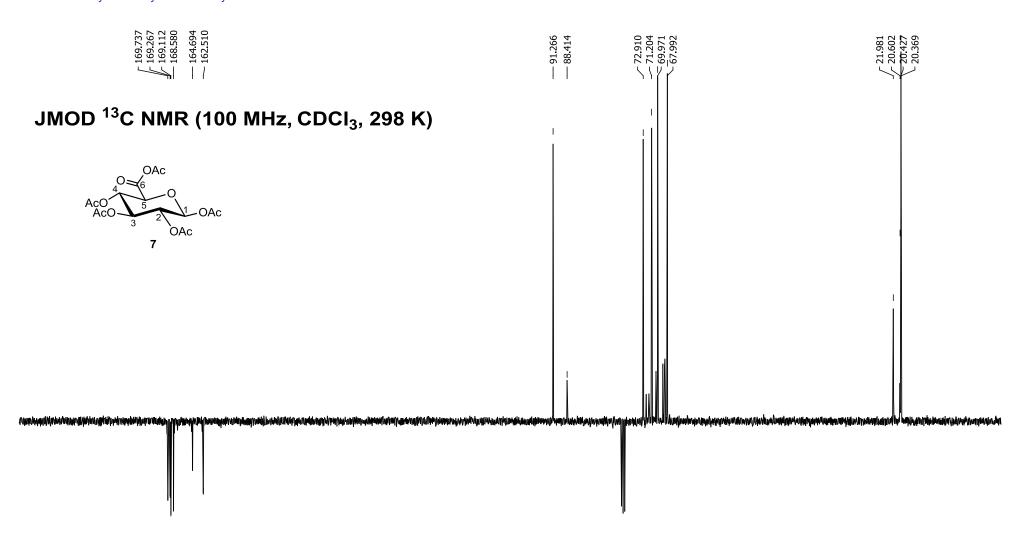
## F. Stack plot and partial zoomed stack plot <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, 298K) of double-lasso 5 in different solvents

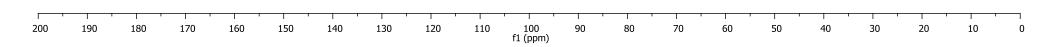




# NMR Spectra

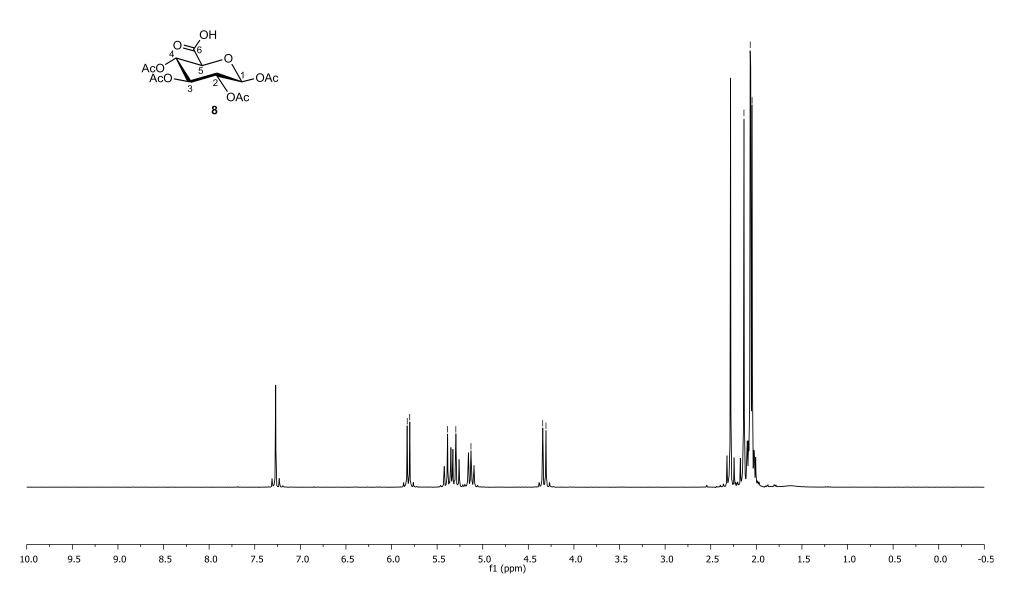






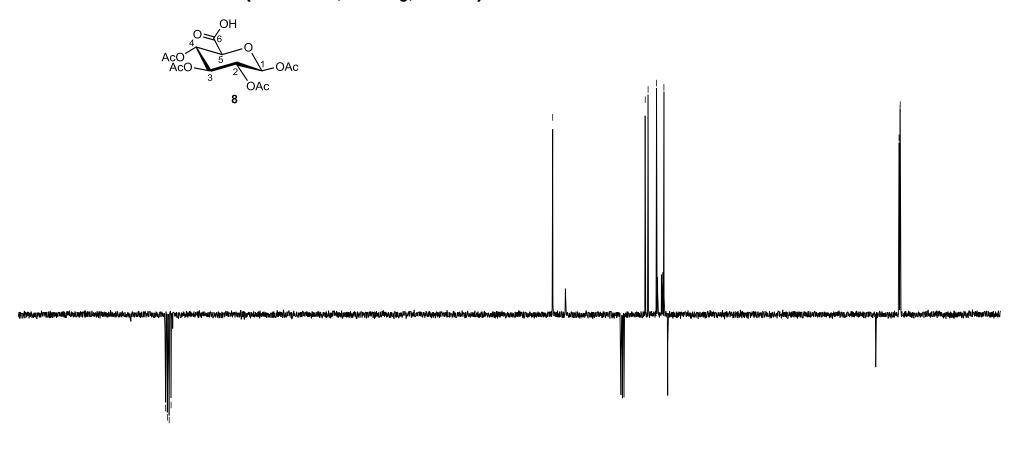


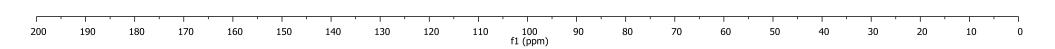
# <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 298 K)

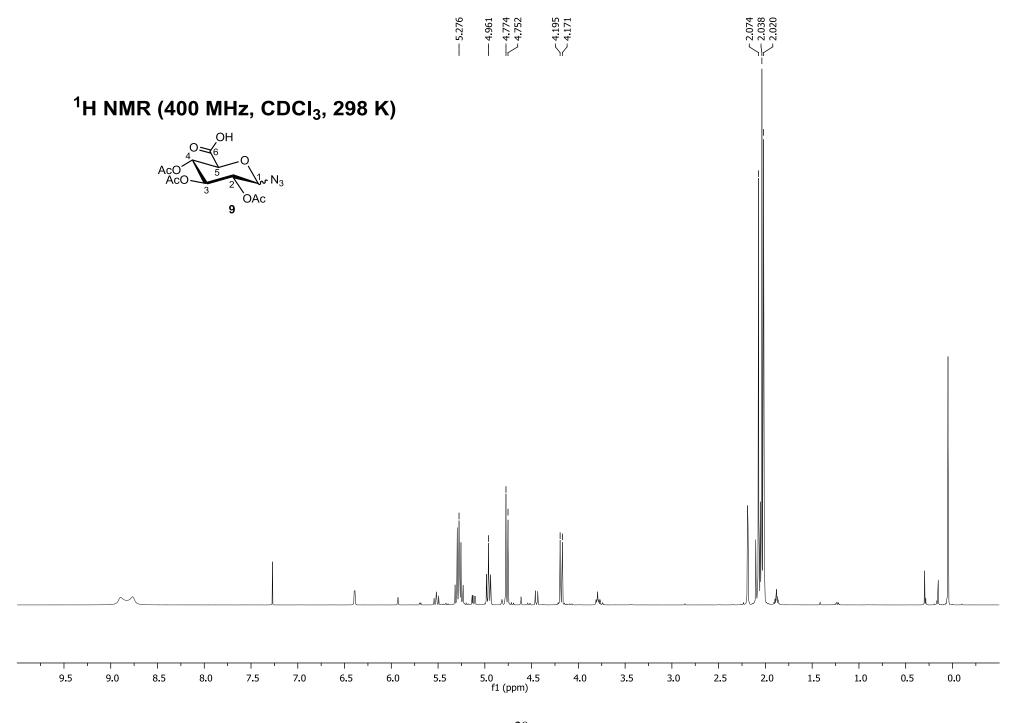


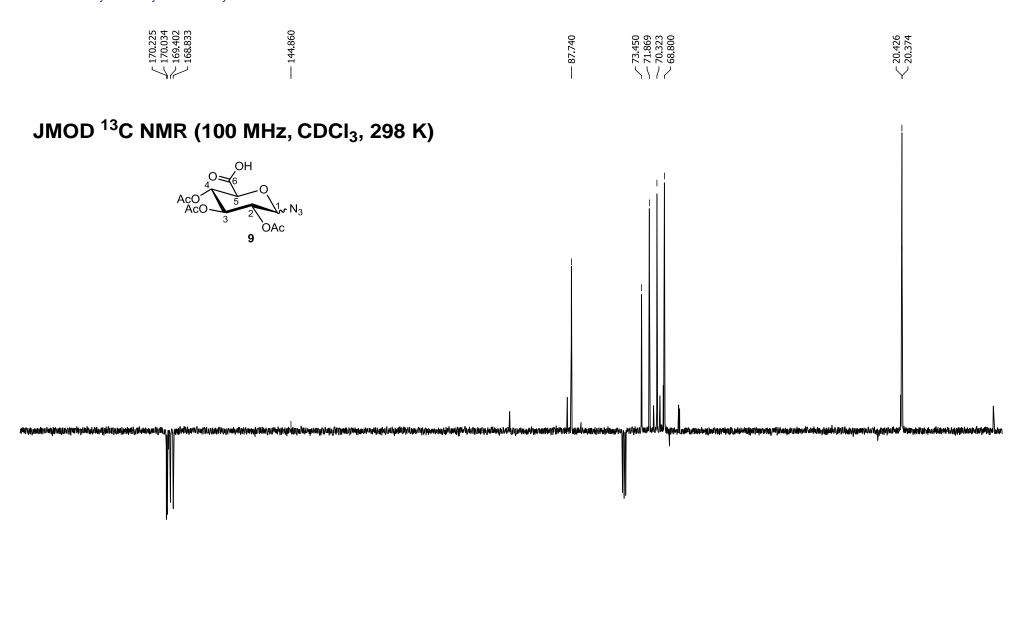


## JMOD $^{13}$ C NMR (100 MHz, CDCI $_3$ , 298 K)

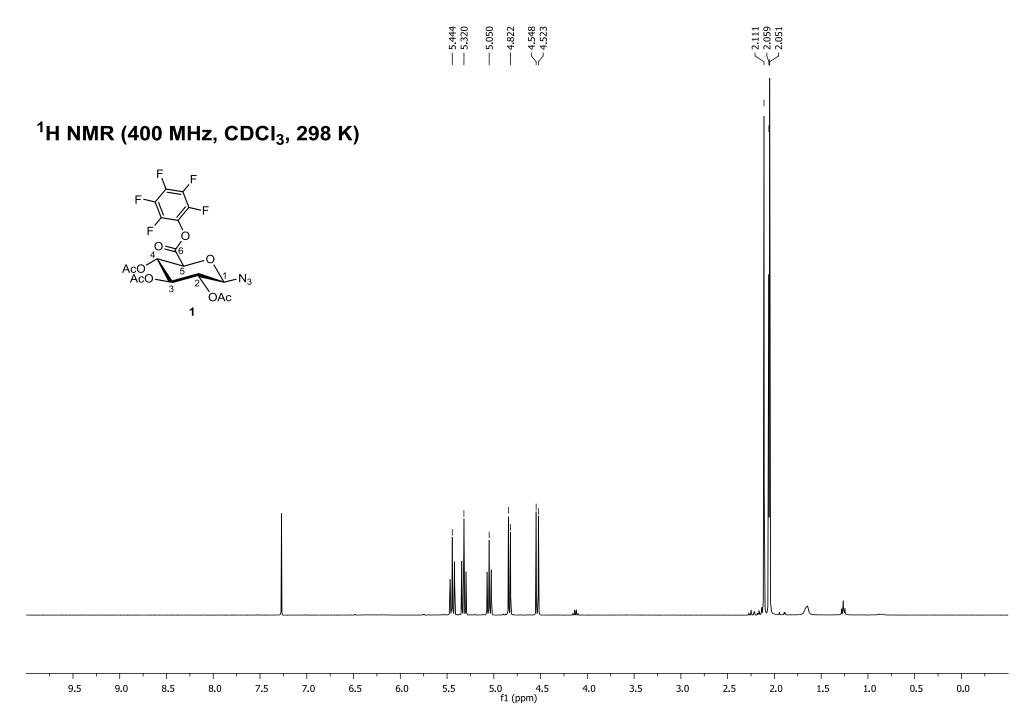






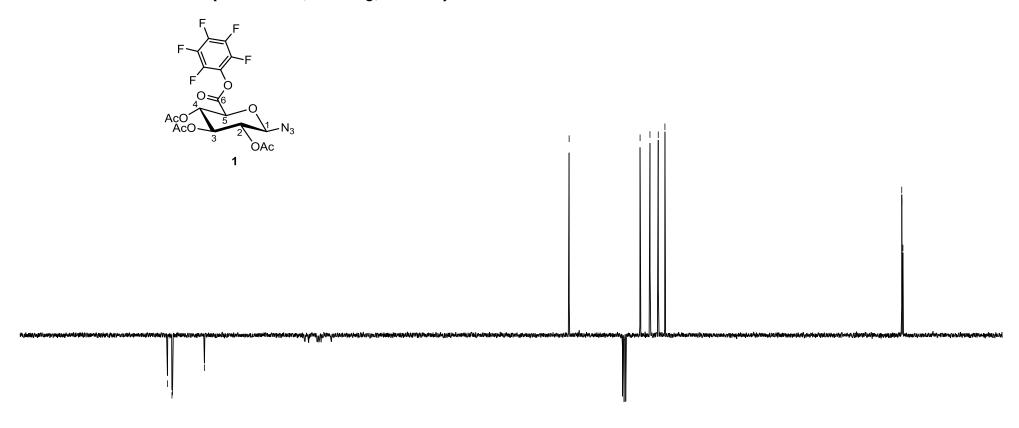


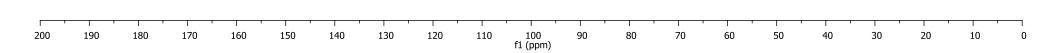
f1 (ppm)

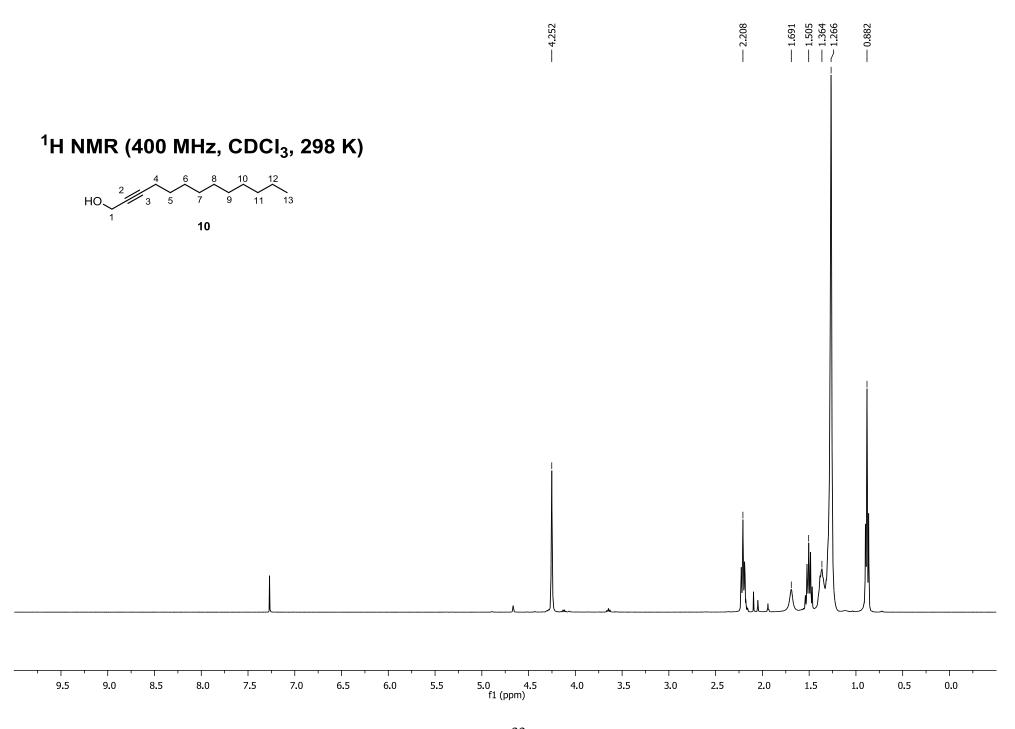


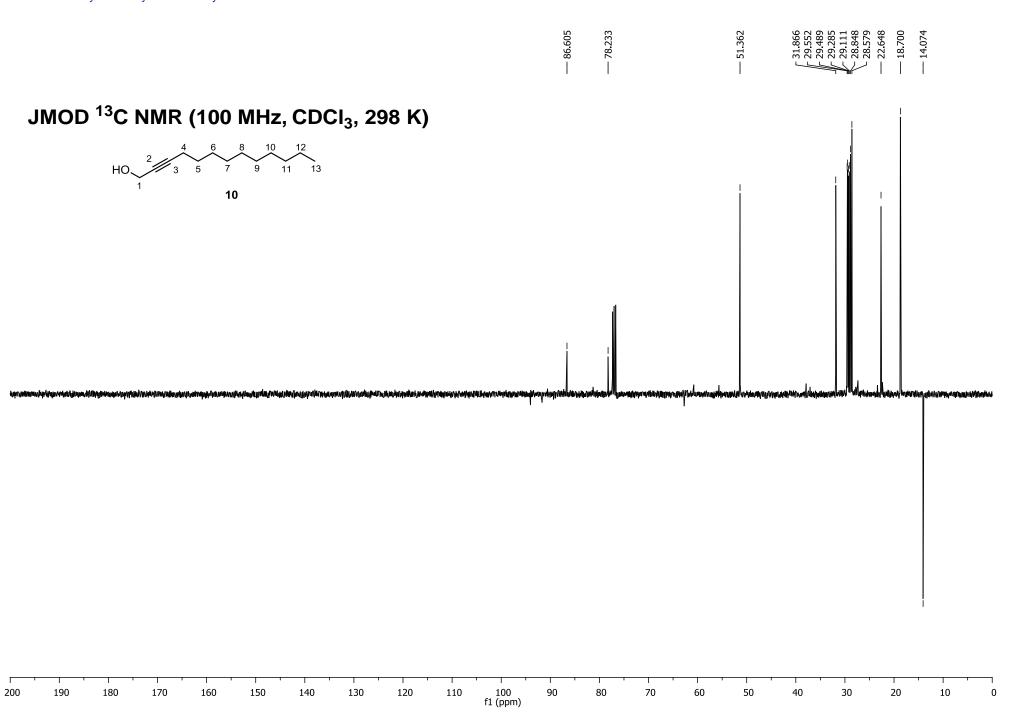


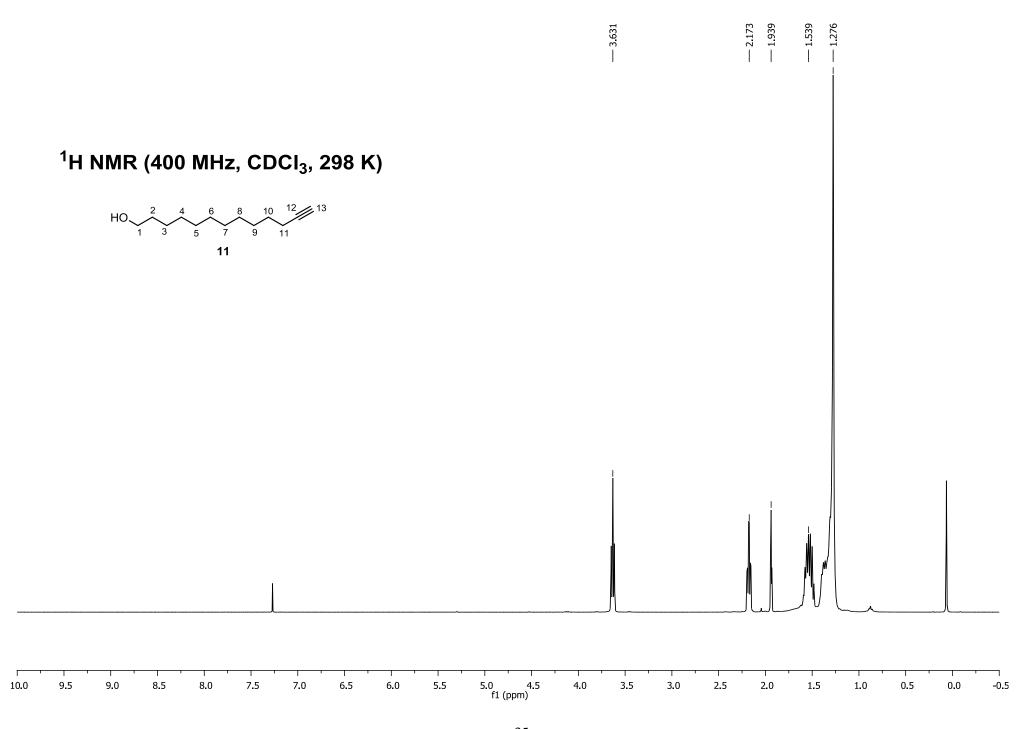
## JMOD <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 298 K)





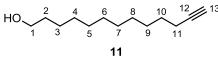


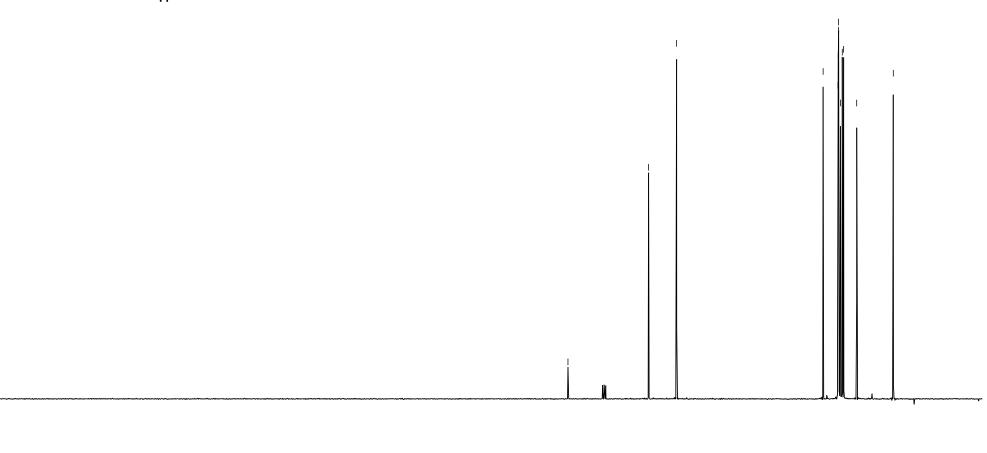


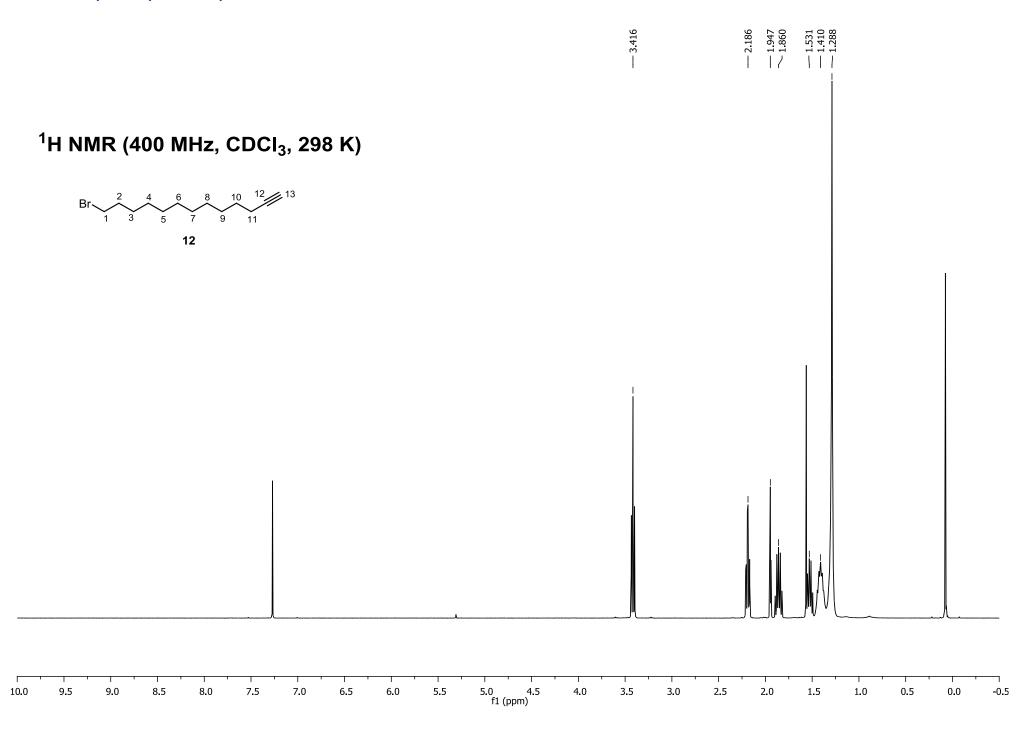


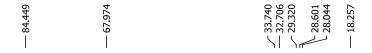


# JMOD <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 298 K)



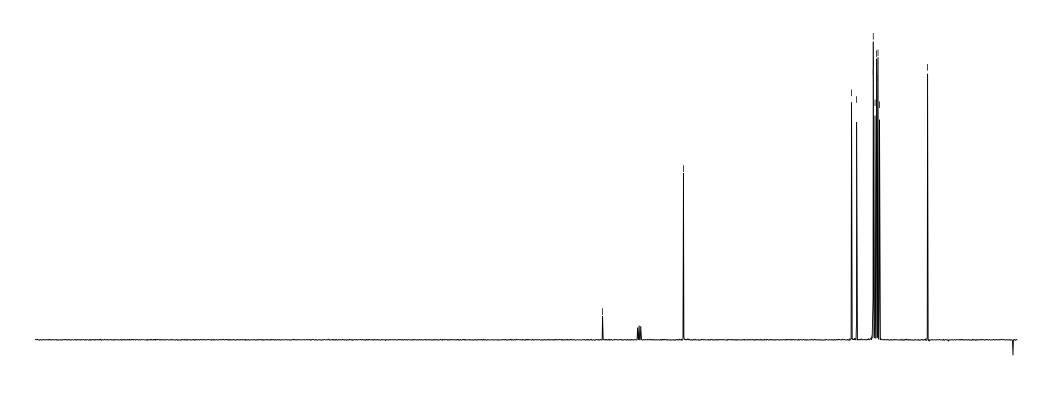






## JMOD <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCI<sub>3</sub>, 298 K)

Br 
$$\frac{2}{1}$$
  $\frac{4}{3}$   $\frac{6}{5}$   $\frac{8}{7}$   $\frac{10}{9}$   $\frac{12}{11}$   $\frac{13}{12}$ 



f1 (ppm)

