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**S** Supporting Information



ABSTRACT: Diversely functionalized diaza[5]helicenes have been synthesized starting from 6,9-dichloro-5,10-diaza[5]helicene, which was prepared from a readily available quinoline building block via Wittig reaction followed by photochemical electrocyclization. The helicene skeleton was substituted by a variety of O-, S-, N-, and C-centered nucleophiles using nucleophilic aromatic substitution reactions and palladium-catalyzed reactions like Suzuki coupling and Buchwald−Hartwig aminations. We have determined, using X-ray single-crystal diffraction, the crystal structures of the chloro- and methoxysubstituted diaza[5]helicenes. A resolution strategy based on diastereomeric separation by substitution of the dichloro derivative with a chiral amine has been shown.

# **ENTRODUCTION**

Helicene chemistry has emerged to be a field of great interest because of the fascinating properties of helicenes. These orthoannulated polycyclic aromatic or heteroaromatic compounds are endowed with a inherently chiral  $\pi$ -conjugated system and thus show intriguing interactions with circularly polarized light while lacking a stereogenic center.<sup>1</sup> The inherent chirality originates from the steric repulsion between the orthocondensed aromatic rings, which l[oc](#page-7-0)ks the system in either the  $P$ - or  $M$ -configuration.<sup>2</sup> Helicenes have been extensively studied due to their excellent self-assembly in the solid state, their ability to behave as o[rg](#page-7-0)anic conductors, $4$  and their use in optical resolutions<sup>5</sup> and molecular recognition.<sup>6</sup> Furthermor[e,](#page-7-0) enantiomerically pure helicenes form supra[mo](#page-7-0)lecular architectures and exhibit [se](#page-7-0)cond-order nonlinear optic[al](#page-7-0) and chirooptical properties,<sup>7</sup> which allows for one of their potential applications.<sup>8</sup> To exploit these properties, helicene chemistry is currently develo[p](#page-7-0)ing from fundamental science to applications. Previous w[or](#page-7-0)k has focused on the experimental and also theoretical points of view.<sup>9</sup>

Azahelicenes constitute a subgroup of the heterahelicenes and have been intensive[ly](#page-7-0) studied due to their prospective applications in fields such as light-emitting devices and chemosensors.2,10 Indeed, nitrogen-containing heterahelicenes have gained interest because their complexes with transitionmetal ions show interesting properties in harvesting visible light. $11$  Furthermore, if the helicene backbone has more than one nitrogen atom, interesting supramolecular complexes can be f[orm](#page-7-0)ed. These molecules have a tendency toward  $\pi-\pi^*$ stacking and the building of columnar systems, which can form the basis of materials for optoelectronic applications.<sup>12</sup> Applications of azahelicene derivatives have been reported in the field of asymmetric ca[tal](#page-7-0)ysis, $13,14$  self-assembly, $15$  and metal coordination complexes.<sup>16</sup>

In the past few years, various [met](#page-7-0)hods have be[en](#page-7-0) described for the synthesis of aza[\[5\]](#page-7-0)helicenes, methods that include the classical photochemical procedure by Caronna et al. $^{17}$  and its expansion by Ben Hassine et al.,<sup>18,19</sup> and a versatile synthetic method based on Bu<sub>3</sub>SnH-mediated coupling was de[vel](#page-7-0)oped by Harrowven and co-workers.<sup>20</sup> F[urthe](#page-7-0)rmore, the  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 + 2 + 2 \end{bmatrix}$ cycloisomerization of triynes,<sup>21−23</sup> the Stille–Kelly reaction of dihalogenated  $cis$ -stilbene t[yp](#page-7-0)e precursors, $14$  and palladiumcatalyzed [a](#page-7-0)rylations $24$  are a f[ew](#page-7-0) reported metal-catalyzed cyclizations. Examples of the synthesis of [aza](#page-7-0)[5]helicenes and diaza[5]helicenes ar[e k](#page-7-0)nown in the literature, but to the best of

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#### Scheme 1. Synthesis of Phosphonium Salts 3c and 4c



our knowledge, diaza[5]helicenes with flexibility toward functionalization, especially with  $S_N$ Ar reactions, are not very well-known. Herein, we report the synthesis of symmetric and asymmetric diaza[5]helicenes with chloro or methoxy groups at the 6 and/or 9 position (numbering with respect to the parent diazahelicenes) of the helicene skeleton, which provides an opportunity for functionalization with a variety of oxygen-, sulfur-, nitrogen-, and carbon-centered nucleophiles by  $S_N$ Ar reactions,<sup>25</sup> Suzuki coupling,<sup>26</sup> and Buchwald–Hartwig amination.<sup>27</sup>

#### ■ [RE](#page-7-0)SULTS AND DISCUSSION

Our approach makes use of easily accessible 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde<sup>28</sup> 1 as a versatile building block. We employ the Wittig reaction and photochemical cyclization strategy. The c[o](#page-7-0)operative ortho effect<sup>20</sup> of the halo and alkoxy groups controls the stereochemical course of the Wittig reaction leading to Z-selectivity, [whi](#page-7-0)ch in turn increases the yield of the photocyclization reactions. 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 was prepared from acetanilide according to a literature procedure<sup>28</sup> and was converted to  $2$  by refluxing with a solution of KOH in MeOH to give 2-methoxyquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde in [89%](#page-7-0) yield. Aldehydes 1 and 2 were reduced to the corresponding alcohols 3a and 4a using sodium borohydride in THF/MeOH. The alcohols thus obtained were subsequently converted via the Appel reaction to the bromo derivatives (3b and 4b), which were converted to their phosphonium salts by reaction with triphenylphosphine in refluxing toluene for 12 h in 95%  $(3c)$  and 92%  $(4c)$  yield (Scheme 1).

Wittig olefination<sup>29</sup> of the phosphonium salts  $3c$  and  $4c$  with 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 and 2-methoxyquinoline-3-carboxaldehy[de](#page-7-0) 2, respectively, using NaH as base in  $CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>$  gave the symmetric azastilbene derivatives 5a (85%, cis/trans ∼5:1) and 5c (82%, cis/trans ∼3:1) (Scheme 2). The alkenes were obtained with a high degree of Z selectivity. The effect of halo and alkoxy substituents to control the stereochemical outcome of the Wittig reaction is evident. Similarly, the reaction of 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 with phosphonium salt 4c gave the asymmetric diazastilbene derivative 5b (cis/trans ∼10:1) in 66% yield. Compounds 5a−c were fully characterized by  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{13}C$  NMR spectroscopy and HRMS. The ratio of the isomers was determined by integration of the <sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum. Since E−Z isomerization occurs during the irradiation process, no specific configuration of the alkene precursor was required, but a high ratio of cis-isomer is beneficial because of the increased solubility as compared to the corresponding trans-isomer. The bis(quinolyl)ethene derivatives 5a−c obtained were subjected to oxidative photocyclization $30$  using a stoichiometric amount of iodine and toluene as the solvent (1.0 mM). The reaction mixture was irradiated [at](#page-7-0) room temperature using a photochemical reactor



(wavelength used is  $350 \text{ nm}$ ) to obtain the diaza $[5]$ helicenes 6a−c in good yields. These compounds were fully characterized by NMR spectroscopy and HRMS and show good solubility in a variety of medium-polarity solvents such as  $CH_2Cl_2$ , EtOAc, and THF. A typical side product, diazabenzo[ghi]perylene, was obtained each time during the photocyclization step, its yield depending on the reaction time. We observed at most 8% of the perylene (isolated only in the case of 6d) in each reaction run for 10 h, sufficient for the complete conversion of the starting material.

Increasing the reaction time also significantly increased the amount of diazabenzo[ghi]perylene 6d formed. Nevertheless, complete conversion of 5c to diazabenzo  $[ghi]$  perylene 6d was not observed even after irradiation for 3 days. Each time, a significant amount of diaza[5]helicene 6c remained unreacted (∼25%). Complete spectroscopic characterization of diazabenzo[ghi]perylene 6d was not possible due to its low solubility in various organic solvents, and it was characterized by HRMS.

Solid-State Structural Elucidation. Crystals of 6c were obtained by diffusing pentane into a chloroform solution of the compound. The racemic compound crystallizes into the centrosymmetric triclinic space group P-1 with one molecule in the asymmetric unit (Figure 1). The distortion of the molecular structure (65.22°), defined by the sum of the three dihedral angles C17−C14−C4−[C5](#page-2-0), C14−C4−C5−C8, and C4−C5−C8−C13, is comparable to the value of a nonsubstituted diaza[5]helicene  $(61.34^{\circ})$ .<sup>17,31</sup> Viewed down the *b*axis, the molecules form columns of alternating opposite enantiomers, held together with [di](#page-7-0)ff[er](#page-7-0)ent kinds of weak interactions (Figure 2).  $\pi-\pi$  stacking inside the columns occurs between pyridine rings, with centroid−centroid

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Figure 1. ORTEP view of molecular structure of 6c, thermal ellipsoids drawn at 50% probability.



Figure 2. Packing in the crystals structure of 6c, viewed along the baxis.

distances of  $4.528(2)$  and  $4.685(2)$  Å. The different columns interlink with each other by several  $\pi-\pi$  interactions starting from the benzene ring  $C(8)-C(13)$ , with centroid-centroid distances ranging from  $4.4469(19)$  Å to  $5.425(2)$  Å. Additionally, a C−H···π interaction occurs between the hydrogen on C(12) and one of the pyridine rings (C12−H12···Cg1; with Cg1 the centroid of the pyridine ring containing N2, C12···Cg1  $= 3.448(2)$  Å).

Crystals of 6a were obtained by diffusing pentane into a chloroform solution of the compound. In comparison to 6c, the methoxy groups are exchanged with chlorine atoms. The racemic compound crystallizes into the centrosymmetric triclinic space group P-1 with two molecules in the asymmetric unit (Figure 3). The distortion of the molecular structures (60.52° and 61.23°), defined by the sum of the three dihedral angles, C20−C16−C1−C6, C16−C1−C6−C9, C1−C6−C9− C13, C33−C29−C26−C21, C29−C26−C21−C36, and C26− C21−C36−C40 is again comparable to the value of a nonsubstituted diaza[5]helicene  $(61.34^{\circ})$ .<sup>17,3</sup>

In comparison to the previous structure, the crystal structure now forms layers inside the crystal packin[g that](#page-7-0) are easily visible when looking down the a-axis (Figure 4). The layers are kept together by the nonclassical hydrogen bonds C(17)− H(17)···N(3) and C(30)−H(30)···N([2\)](#page-3-0) with D···A distances of respectively 3.511(2) and 3.508(2) Å. Several  $\pi-\pi$ interactions are seen between the different layers, mainly between the pyridine and outer benzene rings, with distances ranging from  $3.7100(10)$  to  $4.0898(10)$  Å. Remarkably, none of the chlorine atoms is involved in intermolecular (nonclassical) hydrogen bonding. Cl(1), however, is involved in a halogen $-\pi$ interaction with the benzene ring  $C(15)-C(20)$  with a distance to the centroid of this ring of  $3.9885(9)$  Å.

Functionalization of the Diaza[5]helicenes. Helicenes 6a−c were obtained using the Wittig reaction-plus-photocyclization strategy in good yield and opened a new area for further functionalization. Though postcyclization functionalization is known for carbohelicenes,  $3^2$  it is an underexplored area for diaza[5]helicenes. Here, we report the easy functionalization via  $S_N$ Ar reactions and [pa](#page-7-0)lladium-catalyzed coupling reactions. In this way, a variety of O-, S-, N-, and C-centered nucleophiles can be bound to the diazahelicene platform (Scheme 3).

In the first set of reactions, some  $S_N$ Ar reactions with O-, S-, and N-n[uc](#page-3-0)leophiles were tested (Scheme 3). Initially, 6,9 dichloro-5,10-diaza[5]helicene 6a was reacted with NaSMe (2.5 equiv) in DMF, and the reaction mixture wa[s](#page-3-0) stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. After column chromatographic purification, the desired diaza<sup>[5]</sup>helicene 7a was obtained in 58% yield.  $S_N$ Ar of thiophenol (2.5 equiv) on 6a could be performed using  $K_2CO_3$ 



Figure 3. ORTEP view of the molecular structure of 6a, showing two molecules in the asymmetric unit. Thermal ellipsoids are drawn at 50% propability.

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

Figure 4. Packing in the crystal structure of 6a, viewed along the *a*-axis.





Scheme 4. Functionalized Diaza[5]helicene Synthesized via Palladium-Catalyzed Suzuki Coupling and Buchwald−Hartwig Amination Reactions



as base and DMF as solvent, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h to furnish product 7b in 62% yield after column purification.

We opted for phenol as an O-nucleophile.  $S_N$ Ar of phenolate (2.5 equiv) on 6a could be performed using the conditions optimized for thiophenol affording compound 7c in 67% yield. The introduction of N-nucleophiles appeared to be more challenging. Using different conditions with temperatures up to 100 °C, no satisfying results were obtained for the substitution of aniline. Only at 150 °C was a reaction between helicene 6a and aniline observed. When an excess (5 equiv) of aniline was added to 6a in DMF, and the reaction was kept at 150 °C for 20 h, diaza[5]helicene 7d was obtained in 50% yield. All compounds obtained were characterized by NMR spectroscopy and HRMS.

In the second set, we explored the Suzuki and Buchwald− Hartwig amination reactions (Scheme 4). The substitution of both chloro groups at the 6 and 9 positions of the diaza[5]helicene were done by Suzuki cross-coupling reactions. An aryl group was introduced on the helicene skeleton using ptolylboronic acid (2.5 equiv),  $Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>$ , aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, MeOH, and toluene. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 h in refluxing toluene, yielding 42% of the desired product 7e.

Next, we attempted to substitute with aniline via Buchwald amination conditions, which we expected to be more efficient than the previously attempted  $S_N$ Ar reaction. 6,9-Dichloro-5,10-diaza[5] helicene was reacted with aniline using  $Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>$ , 5

mol % of  $Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>$ , rac-BINAP, and toluene as the solvent. The reaction was run at 80 °C for 12 h to furnish the desired product 7d in 57% yield. We indeed observed a significant decrease in the reaction time and an increase in yield with these conditions.

Resolution via Diastereomeric Separation. Expanding on the Buchwald−Hartwig amination, we envisaged that a chiral amine upon substitution to the racemic helicene skeleton would result in the formation of diastereomers of the helicene, which then could easily be separated via column chromatography. Thus, palladium-mediated amination of 6a with  $L-(-)$ - $\alpha$ methylbenzylamine using  $Cs_2CO_3$ , 5 mol % of Pd(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, rac-BINAP, and toluene as the solvent furnished the desired product 7f in 72% yield as a 1:1 mixture of diastereomers  $(M, S, S / P, S, S = 1:1;$  the ratio of isomers was determined by integration of the NMR spectra) (Scheme 5).

Scheme 5. Resolution via Diastereomeric Separation



The diastereomers formed were readily separated by silica gel column chromatography. It was interesting to see that the pure diastereomeric forms separated by column chromatography racemize/revert back to a 1:1 mixture at room temperature (∼25 °C). HPLC of the diaza[5]helicenes at room temperature shows the presence of two helical isomers, but the separation was never up to the baseline, probably indicating their dynamic behavior (see the Supporting Information). To confirm this, flash column chromatography was performed at low temperatures (−10 to 0 °[C\) using a precooled solv](#page-7-0)ent system, with the fractions being stored at  $-10$  °C as soon as they were collected from the column. The solvent was removed under vacuum, the flasks being kept cold during evaporation. The fractions were kept at −10 °C before performing the racemization studies using temperature-dependent <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy. We determined the  $t_{1/2}$  at 25 °C to be 26 min and the free energy barrier for racemization to be 22.4 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>. Analogously, we obtained a  $t_{1/2}$  of 4.2 h at 10 °C (see the Supporting Information). The results obtained could be compared with the studies of Caronna et al.<sup>33</sup> on the monoaza<sup>[5]</sup>helic[enes, which](#page-7-0) [describe exp](#page-7-0)erimental and calculated CD measurements of a series of monoaza[5]he[lic](#page-7-0)enes and their half-lives  $(t_{1/2})$  and energy barriers. Comparing our own observations with these literature values, it is clear that the insertion of one or more nitrogen atom decreases the enantiomeric stability of the helicene compared to the carbo[5]helicenes, which have a  $t_{1/2}$ of 62.7 min at 57  $^{\circ}$ C.<sup>33</sup> Thus, the resolution strategy employed was indeed useful for the separation of the racemic diazahelicene, but d[ue](#page-7-0) to a very low racemization barrier, the chiral forms cannot be handled easily at room temperature. From the 1:1 ratio that is the convergence point of the isomerization, it can be concluded that there is no significant energy difference between the two diastereomers, and the chiral group is too far removed from the helicene to have an influence.

#### ■ CONCLUSION

In the present study, we have developed an efficient and flexible method for functionalization of the helicene skeleton with a variety of O-, S-, N-, and C-centered nucleophiles via straightforward methods. This strategy has also opened an opportunity for substitution of chiral groups leading to the resolution of the racemic helicene and exploration of various applications of azahelicenes. Though the rapid racemization at room temperature of the diaza[5]helicene derivatives employed in the present study is inevitable, the ease of elaboration of the substitution pattern introduces a platform for exploring this strategy in future work for synthesis and substitution of higher helicenes, thus illustrating the wide and unprecedented scope of the procedures.

## **EXPERIMENTAL SECTION**

General Experimental Methods. NMR spectra were acquired on commercial instruments (300 and 400 MHz), and chemical shifts  $(\delta)$ are reported in parts per million (ppm) referenced to tetramethylsilane  $({}^{1}H)$  or the internal (NMR) solvent signal  $({}^{13}C)$ . Mass spectra were acquired using EI (70 eV ionization energy). Exact mass measurements were performed in the EI mode at a resolution of 10000 and also on a quadrupole orthogonal acceleration time-of-flight mass spectrometer. Samples were infused at  $3 \mu L/min$ , and spectra were obtained in positive (or negative) ionization mode with a resolution of 15000 (fwhm). For column chromatography, 70−230 mesh silica 60 was used as the stationary phase. Chemicals received from commercial sources were used without further purification.  $K_2CO_3$  (anhydrous, granulated) was finely ground (with mortar and pestle) prior to use. All solvents were used as received from commercial sources and not explicitly dried prior to use  $(H_2O \le 0.1\%)$ . All photochemical reactions were performed in the photochemical reactor equipped with interchangeable light sources (250 nm, 300 nm, 350 nm lamps).

Experimental and Characterization Data. Synthesis of 2- Chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde (1). This compound has been prepared according to the literature procedure<sup>28</sup> from acetanilide. Material identity was confirmed by mp, MS, and  $^{1}$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR.

Synthesis of 2-Methoxyquinoline-3-carboxal[deh](#page-7-0)yde (2). 2-Chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 (5.0 g, 26.1 mmol) was added to a solution of KOH (2.12 g, 39.0 mmol) in MeOH (250 mL), and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 h. The solution was then cooled to room temperature and water (200 mL) was added to obtain a precipitate which was filtered, washed with water and Et<sub>2</sub>O, and dried under vacuum to obtain 2 (4.30 g, 89%) as an off-white solid: mp 112−113 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 188$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{11}H_9NO_2$  187.0633, found  $m/z = 187.0609$ ; <sup>1</sup>HNMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 10.45 (s, 1H; CHO), 8.56 (s, 1H; ArH), 7.87− 7.81 (m, 2H; ArH), 7.72 (t, 1H, J = 6.9 Hz; ArH), 7.42 (t, 1H, J = 6.9 Hz; ArH), 4.18 (s, 3H; OMe); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 189.5 (CHO), 161.3, 149.1, 140.1, 132.7, 129.8, 127.4, 125.1  $(C, CH)$ , 53.9  $(OCH<sub>3</sub>)$ .

Synthesis of (2-Chloroquinolin-3-yl)methanol (3a). General Procedure. To a stirred solution of aldehyde 1 (3.0 g, 15.6 mmol) in THF (50 mL) and MeOH (50 mL) was added sodium borohydride (0.888 g, 23.4 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 0  $^{\circ}$ C for 30 min. The reaction mixture was quenched with water and diluted with  $Et<sub>2</sub>O$ , the organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $MgSO_4$ , and evaporated to dryness to give 3a (2.76 g, 92%) as a white solid. The compound obtained was used without further purification: mp 167–168 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 194$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $\rm C_{10}H_8NOC$ l 193.0294, found  $\rm m/z$  193.0290; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  8.47 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.09 (d, 1H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.96 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 7.78 (t, 1H, J = 7.1 Hz, ArH), 7.65 (t, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz, ArH), 5.72 (s, 1H, OH), 4.70 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , 25 °C, TMS)  $\delta$  148.4,

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146.0, 135.9, 133.9, 130.2, 127.9, 127.5, 127.3, 127.2 (C, CH), 59.9  $(CH, OH)$ .

Synthesis of 3-(Bromomethyl)-2-chloroquinoline (3b). To a solution of (2-chloroquinolin-3-yl)methanol 3a (2.50 g, 12.9 mmol) in dichloromethane was added tetrabromomethane (6.46 g, 19.35 mmol) and the reaction mixture cooled to 0 °C. Then a solution of triphenylphosphine (5.03 g, 19.35 mmol) in dichloromethane was added dropwise. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then quenched with water. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over anhydrous  $MgSO<sub>4</sub>$ , and evaporated to dryness and purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent to furnish compound 3b (2.34 g, 69%) as a white solid: mp 125−126 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 255$  $\text{[MH]}^+$ ; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NBrCl 254.9450, found m/z 254.9469; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.24 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.02 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.82 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.75 (t, 1H,  $J =$ 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.58 (t, 1H, J = 7.3 Hz, ArH), 4.72 (s, 2H, OH), 4.70 (d, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>Br); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 150.1, 147.4, 139.4, 138.7, 131.2, 129.6, 128.5, 127.6, 127.2 (C, CH), 29.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>Br).

(2-Chloroquinolin-3-yl)methyltriphenylphosphonium Bromide (3c). To a solution of compound 3b (2.0 g, 7.84 mmol) in toluene was added triphenylphosphine (5.8 g, 23.5 mmol), the reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h and cooled to room temperature, and the solid obtained was filtered, washed with pentane, and dried under vacuum to furnish the phosphonium salt  $3c$  (3.8 g, 95%) as a white solid: mp 256−257 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 518$  [MH]<sup>+</sup> (observed 518  $-$  Br = 438); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NClP 438.1178 [M – Br], found  $m/z$  438.1168 [M – Br]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.70 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.91 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.66−7.84 (m, 17H, ArH), 7.54 (t, 1H, J = 7.1 Hz, ArH), 5.98 (d, 2H, J = 14 Hz,  $CH_2P$ ); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS)  $\delta$  150.9, 147.0, 147.9, 142.8, 142.7, 135.4, 134.3, 134.1, 131.4, 130.5, 130.3, 128.1, 127.6, 126.9, 120.1, 117.6, 116.4 (C, CH), 28.5, 27.84 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

Synthesis of (2-Methoxyquinolin-3-yl)methanol (4a). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 3a; 2-methoxyquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 2 (3.0 g, 16.0 mmol), NaBH4 (1.03 g, 27.2 mmol), THF/MeOH (1:1, 50 mL). Compound 4a (2.8 g, 93%) was obtained as a white solid: mp 78–80 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 190$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{11}H_{11}NO_2$  189.0790, found  $m/z$  189.0793; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  7.95 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.84 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.71 (d, 1H, J = 7.5 Hz, ArH), 7.62 (t, 1H, J = 7.1 Hz, ArH), 7.32 (t, 1H,  $J = 7.8$  Hz, ArH), 4.76 (d, 2H,  $J = 5.8$  Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.11 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.43 (t, 1H,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, OH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl3, 25 °C, TMS) δ 160.3, 146.0, 135.7, 129.3, 127.5, 125.3, 124.9, 124.3(C, CH), 61.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 53.6 (OCH<sub>3</sub>).

Synthesis of 3-(Bromomethyl)-2-methoxyquinoline (4b). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 3b, (2 methoxyquinolin-3-yl)methanol 4a (2.8 g, 14.7 mmol), tetrabromomethane (4.9 g, 14.7 mmol), triphenylphosphine (3.8 g, 14.7 mmol), and dichloromethane. Compound 4b (2.5 g, 68%) was obtained as a white solid: mp 105−107 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 251$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{11}H_{10}NBrO$  250.9946, found  $m/z$  250.9948; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  8.02 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.84 (d, 1H, J = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.70 (d, 1H, J = 7.9 Hz, ArH), 7.62 (t, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.38 (t, 1H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 4.61 (s, 2H, CH2Br), 4.14 (s, 1H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS)  $\delta$  159.9, 146.7, 138.8, 130.1, 127.6, 127.1, 124.5 (C, CH), 53.9 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 28.3  $(CH, Br)$ .

Synthesis of (2-Methoxyquinolin-3-yl)methyltriphenyl*phosphonium Bromide (4c)*. Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 3c, 3-(bromomethyl)-2-methoxyquinoline 4b (2.0 g, 7.9 mmol), triphenylphosphine (6.1 g, 23.8 mmol), and toluene. Phosphonium salt 4c (3.7 g, 92%) was obtained as a white solid: mp 202−204 °C; MS (ESI+) *m*/z = 514 [MH]<sup>+</sup>(obsd 514 – Br  $=$  434); HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NOP 434.1674 [M – Br], found  $m/z$  434.1667 [M – Br]; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.42 (s, 1H, ArH), 7.83−7.56 (m, 18H, ArH), 7.33 (t, 1H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 5.63 (d, 2H, J = 14.4 Hz, CH<sub>2</sub>P), 3.45 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS):  $\delta$  159.4, 146.2, 142.3, 135.0, 134.3, 134.1, 130.2,

130.1, 127.9, 126.8, 124.9, 124.5, 118.5, 117.4, 112.0, 111.9 (C, CH), 53.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 25.5, 24.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>).

Synthesis of 1,2-bis(2'-Chloroquinolin-3-yl)ethene (5a). General Procedure. A solution of 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 (0.50 g, 2.6 mmol) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of phosphonium salt 3c (1.6 g, 3.1 mmol) and sodium hydride (0.187 g, 7.8 mmol) in dichloromethane at 0 °C, after which the reaction mixture was stirred for 6 h. The crude product was purified by silica gel column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (15:85) as eluent to obtain compound 5a (0.780 g, 85%,  $Z/E \sim 5:1$ ) as a yellow solid: mp 216−217 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 351$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{20}H_{12}N_2Cl_2$  350.0378, found  $m/z$  350.0385; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, mixture of *cis* and *trans* isomers)  $\delta$  8.50 (s, 2H, vinylic protons of trans isomer), 8.05−7.91 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.80 (s, 4H, ArH), 7.80− 7.60 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.47- 7.38 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.06 (s, 2H, vinylic protons of cis isomer); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  138.4, 130.8, 129.1, 128.3, 127.7, 127.3 (C, CH).

Synthesis of 2-Chloro-3-(2-(2-methoxyquinolin-3-yl)vinyl) quinoline (5b). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 5a, 2-chloroquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 1 (0.50 g, 2.6 mmol), phosphonium salt 4c (1.6 g, 3.1 mmol), and sodium hydride (0.187 g, 7.8 mmol) in dichloromethane. Purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) to obtain 5b (0.625 g, 66%,  $Z/$  $E \sim 10:1$ ) as a yellow solid: mp 171−172 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 347$ [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ClO 346.0873, found  $m/z$ 346.0874; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, mixture of *cis–trans* isomers) δ 8.47 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.28 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.00−7.97 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.89 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.80−7.77 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.70−7.66 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.63−7.62 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.57−7.54 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.48−7.45 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.40−7.36 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.23−7.21 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.01− 6.91 (m, 4H, ArH), 4.19 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>-trans isomer), 4.05 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>cis isomer); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.1, 150.6, 146.9, 146.1, 137.9, 137.7, 130.5, 129.9, 129.7, 128.3, 127.8, 127.6, 127.1, 127.0, 126.9, 124.9, 124.3, 120.7, (C,CH), 53.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

Synthesis of 1,2-Bis(2'-methoxyquinolin-3-yl)ethene (5c). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 5a, 2 methoxyquinoline-3-carboxaldehyde 2 (0.50 g, 2.67 mmol), phosphonium salt 4c (1.69 g, 3.2 mmol), and sodium hydride (0.192 g, 8.0 mmol) in dichloromethane. Purified by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) to obtain 5c (0.750 g, 82%, Z/E  $\sim$ 3:1) as a yellow solid: mp 149−150 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 343$ [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{18}N_2O_2$  342.1368, found  $m/z$ 342.1355; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.25 (s, 2H, vinylic protons of trans isomer), 7.81−7.75 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.61−7.51 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.40−7.37 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.25−7.20 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.88 (s, 2H, vinylic protons of *cis* isomer),  $4.18$  (s,  $6H$ ,  $CH_3$  of *trans* isomer),  $4.08$ (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub> of cis isomer); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  160.3, 145.9, 137.1, 134.1, 129.5, 127.6, 127.5, 127.0, 126.9, 126.5, 125.4, 125.0, 124.4, 124.1, 121.7 (C, CH), 53.88, 53.83 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

Synthesis of 6,9-Dichloro-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (6a). General Procedure. To a solution of compound 5a (0.15 g, 0.42 mmol, mixture of two isomers) in toluene (425 mL) was added iodine (0.108 g, 0.42 mmol). Argon was bubbled through the solution for 30 min, and then excess propylene oxide was added to the solution. The reaction mixture was irradiated using a Rayonet photochemical reactor (wavelength used is 350 nm) for 10 h, after which it was washed with aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$ , water, and brine, dried over anhydrous  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and evaporated to afford a dark yellow residue. Purification by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (10:90) as eluent gave the racemic diaza[5]helicene 6a (0.085 g, 57%) as a light yellow solid: mp 247–249 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 349$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{20}$ H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> 348.0221, found  $m/z$  348.0227; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.57 (s, 2H, ArH), 8.42 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 8.16 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.73 (t, 2H,  $J = 7.3$ , ArH), 7.37 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.1$ Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS)  $\delta$  150.9, 144.5, 131.9, 130.4, 128.9, 127.6, 127.1, 126.5, 126.1, 124.0 (C, CH).

Synthesis of 6-Chloro, 9-methoxy-5, 10-diaza[5]helicene (6b). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 6a, compound 5b (0.15 g, 0.43 mmol), and  $I_2$  (0.109 g, 0.43 mmol) in toluene. Purification by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether

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(20:80) as eluent gave the racemic diaza<sup>[5]</sup>helicene **6b** (0.069 g, 46%) as a light yellow solid: mp 217-219 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 345$ [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>ClO 344.0716, found  $m/z$ 344.0694; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.54 (d, 1H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 8.47 (s, 1H, ArH), 8.35 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, ArH), 8.12 (d, 1H,  $J$  $= 8.2$  Hz, ArH), 7.95 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.69 (t, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.60 (t, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.35 (t, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.18 (t, 1H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 4.32 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 159.0, 151.2, 144.4, 144.2, 131.9, 129.9, 129.7, 128.7, 127.8, 127.6, 127.0, 125.7, 125.6, 124.4, 124.3, 123.0, 122.7, 122.4 (C,CH), 54.3 (OCH<sub>3</sub>).

Synthesis of 6,9-Dimethoxy-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (6c). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 6a, compound 5c (0.20 g, 0.58 mmol), and  $I_2$  (0.148 g, 0.58 mmol) in toluene. Purification by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent gave the racemic diaza<sup>[5]</sup>helicene 6c (0.125 g, 63%) as a light yellow solid: mp 198−202 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 341$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{16}N_2O_2$  340.1212, found  $m/z$  340.1185; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.48 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz, ArH), 8.39 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.93 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.57 (t, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.17 (t, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 4.29 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 159.3, 144.1, 131.9, 129.2, 127.9, 127.4, 123.3, 122.7, 122.5 (C,CH), 54.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>). During the synthesis of diaza[5]helicene, the typical side product diazabenzo[ghi]perylene was formed in low yield.

Synthesis of 5,8-Dimethoxy-4,9-diazabenzoperylene (6d). Synthesis according to the general procedure leading to 6a, compound 5c (0.05 g, 0.146 mmol), and  $I_2$  (0.074 g, 0.292 mmol) in toluene. The reaction mixture was irradiated for 3 days. Purification by column chromatography using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) to  $CH_2Cl_2$ / toluene (50:50) as eluent gave first the racemic diaza[5]helicene 6c  $(0.012 \text{ g}, 25\%)$  as a light yellow solid and 6d  $(0.031 \text{ g}, 63\%)$  as a silverwhite solid. Material identity of the first fraction was confirmed by mp, MS, and  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of 6c. For 6d: mp 305−310 °C; MS (EI)  $m/z = 338$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 338.1055, found m/z 338.1051.

Nucleophilic Substitution Reactions. Synthesis of 6,9-Bis- (thiomethoxy)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (7a). To a solution of 6a (20 mg, 0.05 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added sodium thiomethoxide (10 mg, 0.14 mmol),d and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with EtOAc (20 mL) and washed with distilled water  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ . The organic fraction was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/ petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent, the substituted diaza[5]helicene 7a (12.5 mg, 58%) was obtained as a light yellow solid: mp 250−253 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 373$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{22}H_{16}N_2S_2$ 372.0755, found  $m/z$  372.0766; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.41  $(d, 2H, J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, \text{ArH}), 8.35 \text{ (s, 2H, ArH)}, 8.05 \text{ (d, 2H, } J = 8.2 \text{ Hz},$ ArH), 7.61(t, 2H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.22 (t, 2H,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, ArH), 2.86 (s, 6H, SCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS):  $\delta$  159.7, 145.3, 129.6, 129.4, 128.1, 127.6, 124.0, 123.7, 123.2(C, CH), 13.5  $(SCH<sub>3</sub>)$ .

Synthesis of 6,9-Bis(thiophenoxy)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene(7b). To a solution of 6a (20 mg, 0.05 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) were added  $K_2CO_3$  (19.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) and thiophenol (14  $\mu$ L, 0.14 mmol), and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with distilled water  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ . The organic fraction was dried over MgSO4 and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether  $(30:70)$  as eluent the substituted diaza [5] helicene 7b  $(18 \text{ mg}, 62\%)$ was obtained as a light yellow solid: mp 227−229 °C; MS (ESI+) m/z = 497 [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> 496.1068, found  $m/z$ 496.1071; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.53 (s, 2H, ArH), 8.39 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.84 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.82−7.69 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.53 (t, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, ArH), 7.49−7.45 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.23 (t, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ158.8, 145.1, 135.0, 130.3, 129.4, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 127.6, 127.4, 124.6, 124.4, 123.7 (C, CH).

Synthesis of 6,9-Bis(phenoxy)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (7c). To a solution of 6a (20 mg, 0.057 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) were added  $K_2CO_3$  (19.8 mg, 0.14 mmol) and phenol (13.4 mg, 0.14 mmol), and the reaction was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with distilled water  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ . The organic fraction was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent the substituted diaza[5]helicene 7d (18 mg, 67%) was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 256−258 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 465$ [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{32}H_{20}N_2O_2$  464.1525, found  $m/z$ 464.1525; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.68 (s, 2H, ArH), 8.54 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 7.83 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.58−7.49 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.43−7.41 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.32 (t, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz, ArH), 7.21 (t, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ158.7, 153.8, 143.7, 132.6, 129.6, 129.4, 128.1, 127.7, 125.1, 123.7, 123.5, 123.2, 122.6, 122.1 (C, CH).

Synthesis of 6,9-Bis(phenylamino)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (7d). To a solution 6a (20 mg, 0.057 mmol) in DMF (10 mL) was added aniline (26  $\mu$ L, 0.28 mmol, 5 equiv), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 150 °C for 20 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with distilled water (3  $\times$  20 mL). The organic fraction was dried over  $MgSO<sub>4</sub>$  and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether (40:60) as eluent, the substituted diaza<sup>[5]</sup>helicene 7**d** (13 mg, 50%) was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 288–290 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 463$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{32}H_{22}N_4$  462.1844, found  $m/z$  462.1840; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-d6) δ 9.54 (s, 2H, NH), 8.73 (s, 2H, ArH), 8.27 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, ArH),  $8.10 - 8.07$  (m, 4H, ArH), 7.75 (d, 2H,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, ArH), 7.55 (t, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz, ArH), 7.45−7.40 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.14− 7.07 (m, 4H, ArH); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , 25 °C, TMS)  $\delta$ 150.9, 144.5, 141.2, 131.1, 129.5, 128.5, 127.3, 126.8, 122.7, 122.3, 121.8, 121.7, 121.4, 120.8.

Palladium-Catalyzed Reactions. Suzuki Coupling. Synthesis of 6,9-Bis(4-methylphenyl)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (7e). To a solution of 6a (20 mg, 0.057 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) was added  $Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>$  (3 mg, 5 mol %), and to this a solution of p-tolylboronic acid  $(24 \text{ mg},$ 0.171 mmol) in aqueous  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  (19 mg, 0.228 mmol) and MeOH (0.5 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was washed with distilled water (3  $\times$  20 mL). The organic fraction was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent the substituted diaza[5]helicene 7e (11.2 mg, 42%) was obtained as an offwhite solid: mp 286–287 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 461$  [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{34}H_{24}N_2$  460.1939, found  $m/z$  460.1926; <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $(300 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3)$   $\delta$  8.63 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 8.30 (d, 2H, J = 8.1 Hz, ArH), 8.05 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.76−7.68 (m, 6H, ArH), 7.42−7.36 (m, 6H, ArH), 2.48 (s, 6H, PhCH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS) δ 160.1, 145.0, 139.2, 136.7, 131.0, 130.4, 129.8, 129.4, 129.3, 127.4, 126.7, 126.6, 125.4, 124.5 (C, CH), 21.5 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

Buchwald−Hartwig Amination. Synthesis of 6,9-Bis- (phenylamino)-5,10-diaza[5]helicene (7d). To a solution 6a (20 mg, 0.057 mmol) in toluene (10 mL) were added aniline (13.3 mg, 0.143 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (370 mg, 1.14 mmol), rac-BINAP (1.7 mg, 0.0028 mmol), and  $Pd(OAc)_2$  (1.2 mg, 0.0057 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with distilled water  $(3 \times 20 \text{ mL})$ . The organic fraction was dried over MgSO4 and filtered and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether  $(40:60)$  as eluent the substituted diaza[5] helicene 7d  $(15.2 \text{ mg}, 57%)$ was obtained as a yellow solid. The material's identity was compared with 7d prepared via  $S_N$ Ar reaction and confirmed by mp, MS, and <sup>1</sup>H and 13C NMR.

Synthesis of 6,9-Bis[(S)-α-(methylbenzylamino)]-5,10-diaza[5] helicene (7f). To a solution of 6a (50 mg, 0.143 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) were added (S)- $\alpha$ -methyl benzylamine (43  $\mu$ L, 0.358 mmol),  $Cs_2CO_3$  (931 mg, 2.86 mmol), rac-BINAP (4.4 mg, 5 mol %), and <span id="page-7-0"></span> $Pd(OAc)$ <sub>2</sub> (3.2 mg, 10 mol %), and the reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 12 h. Subsequently, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and washed with distilled water (3  $\times$  20 mL). The organic fraction was dried over  $MgSO<sub>4</sub>$  and filtered, and the solvent was removed under vacuum. After column chromatographic purification using EtOAc/petroleum ether (20:80) as eluent, the diaza[5]helicene 7f (54 mg, 72% 1:1 mixture of diastereomers) was obtained as a yellow solid: mp 205−207 °C; MS (ESI+)  $m/z = 519$ [MH]<sup>+</sup>; HRMS (EI) calcd for  $C_{36}H_{30}N_4$  519.2549 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, found  $m/z$  519.2552; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  8.33–8.29 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.83 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.81 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.77 (d, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz, ArH), 7.72 (d, 2H, J = 8.2 Hz, ArH), 7.58−7.55 (m, 8H, ArH), 7.47− 7.42 (m, 4H, ArH), 7.39−7.36 (m, 8H, ArH), 7.29−7.25 (m, 4H, ArH), 6.99−6.96 (m, 8H, ArH), 5.80−5.78 (m, 2H, CH of one diastereomer), 5.75−5.73 (m, 2H, CH of second diastereomers), 5.51–5.48 (m, 4H, NH), 1.78–1.74 (m, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C, TMS): δ 152.1, 152.0, 145.7, 145.0, 144.8, 132.2, 132.1, 129.3, 128.8, 128.6, 128.0, 127.3, 127.2, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7 (C, CH), 50.8, 50.4 (CHNH), 22.4, 22.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

# ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

## **6** Supporting Information

 ${}^{1}$ H and  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectra of the novel precursors and diaza[5]helicenes 6a−c and substituted derivatives. Temperature-dependent <sup>1</sup>HNMR spectra and racemization studies related analysis and HPLC of compound 7f. UV−vis and CD spectra of compound 7f. X-ray data for compounds 6a and 6c. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org

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Notes

The auth[ors declare no competing](mailto:wim.dehaen@chem.kuleuven.be) financial interest.

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