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## Supramolecular Chemistry

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713649759>

### The Use of Tripodal Reagents in the Effective Preparation of Highly Elaborated Azacoronands

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**To cite this Article** Piatek, Piotr , Lipkowski, Piotr , Gryko, Daniel T. and Jurczak, Janusz(2008) 'The Use of Tripodal Reagents in the Effective Preparation of Highly Elaborated Azacoronands', *Supramolecular Chemistry*, 12: 2, 209 – 211

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/10610270008027452

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10610270008027452>

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# The Use of Tripodal Reagents in the Effective Preparation of Highly Elaborated Azacoronands

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(In final form March 31, 2000)

In one reaction step only, the self-assembly promoted synthetic pathways lead to various products like: pendant benzophanes, bis-macrocyclic compound and tricyclic cryptand. The self-assembly phenomena are probably stimulated by hydrogen bonds formed among substrates and molecules of the solvent.

**Keywords:** self-assembly, pendant benzophanes, bis-macrocyclic compound, tricyclic cryptand

The self-assembly phenomena are used by nature to generate a variety of biochemical systems [1] e.g. membranes, duplex nucleic acid and viral coat proteins. In these self-assembly processes complex structures are prepared from small, relatively simple subunits *via* weak non-covalent bonds. Very precise recognition features present in each subunit allow a large degree of control in the construction process, thus natural self-assembly processes are efficient and self-checking.

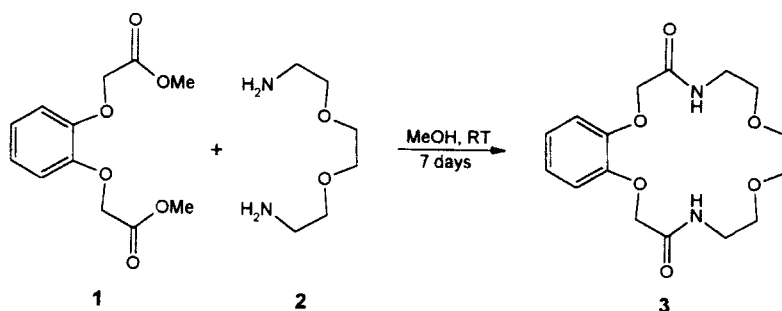
In a laboratory chemists have tried to mimic self-assembly phenomena found in nature. Examples include hydrogen-bonded species [2], metal-bipyridyl [3], aryl-aryl charge transfer interaction [4]. The order of the substrates, which characterizes the unnatural assemblies, can lead to products new in form as well as in functions.

The self-assembly synthetic pathway can replace or compete with conventional synthetic methodology of making compounds step-by-step. A good and illustrative example is the synthesis of tricyclic cryptands. Those compounds are usually synthesized *via* step-by-step protocol [5]. There are only few examples in the literature of the synthesis of tricyclic cryptand using self-assembly phenomena [6].

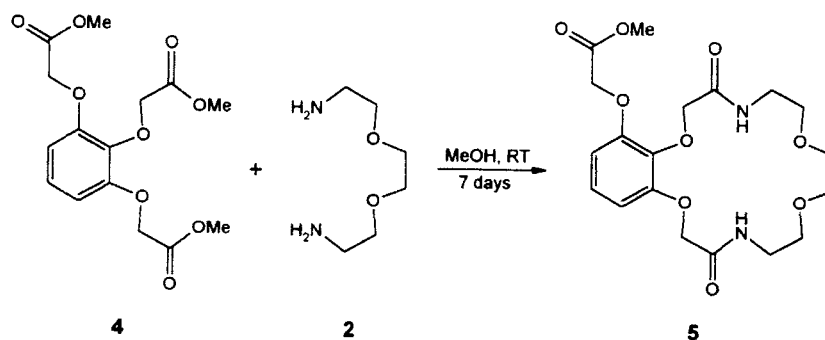
Our own studies on self-assembly promoted synthetic pathways of highly elaborated azacoronands are based on the macrocyclization procedure developed by us. We have reported that dimethyl  $\alpha,\omega$ -dicarboxylates (e.g. **1**) react under ambient conditions with  $\alpha,\omega$ -diamino aliphatic ethers (e.g. **2**) in methanol to afford the macrocyclic bisamides (e.g. **3**) in good yields (Scheme 1) [7].

Following the procedure adopted previously, we have decided to examine macrocyclization reaction of tripodal reagents. The tripodal trimethyl ester **4** (an armed analogue of **1**) was reacted with diamine **2** to give the pendant benzophanes **5** (Scheme 2) [8]. It is noteworthy that even if excess of diamine is present in the reaction mixture, bisamide is the only isolable product. Similar

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SCHEME 1



SCHEME 2

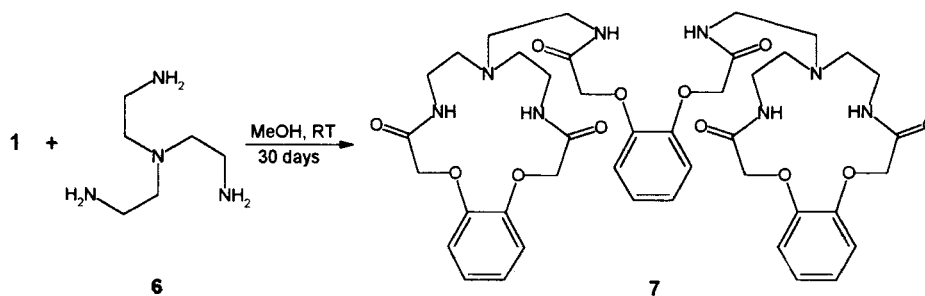
results were obtained for 1,2,4- and 1,3,5-trihydroxybenzenes. The one-step strategy used by us leads to diazacoronands possessing pendant arm attached to the phenyl ring in exactly defined position. This feature is unique among reactions leading to pendant benzophanes [9].

An alternate approach in preparation of pendant benzophanes can involve use of tripodal amine and dipodal methyl ester as substrates. This idea was tested by treatment of dimethyl ester **1** with tripodal tris(2-aminoethyl)amine **6** (Scheme 3). As a result, we have obtained crystalline bis-macrocycle **7** (34% yield) as the only product [10]. The compound **7** partly precipitated from the reaction mixture, and after several attempts, we managed to obtain well shaped crystals suitable for X-ray analysis, which justified the proposed structure [10].

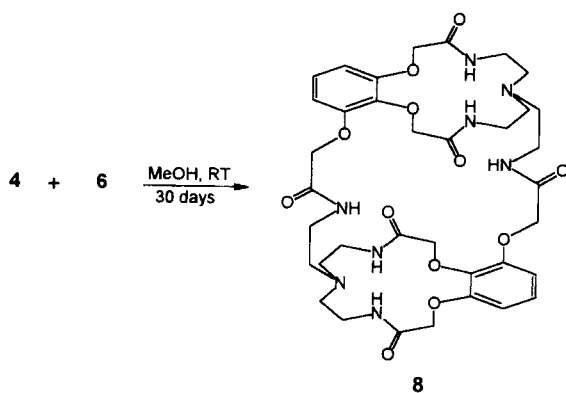
crystals suitable for X-ray analysis, which justified the proposed structure [10].

In the next experiment the tripodal amine **6** was treated with tripodal trimethyl ester **4** to afford tricyclic cryptand **8** in a yield of 39% (Scheme 4) [10]. The structure of **8** was determined by  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and mass spectrometry. Unfortunately, all attempts to obtain crystals appropriate for X-ray crystallographic analysis were unsuccessful. The reaction, in which compound **8** is formed, is an example of a rare multi-centred reaction which leads to highly elaborated macrocyclic compounds.

It is noteworthy that all macrocyclization reactions were proceeded in methanol. The self-assembly phenomena are probably stimulated by hydrogen bonds formed among substrates and molecules of the solvent.



SCHEME 3



SCHEME 4

### Acknowledgements

This work was supported by State Committee for Scientific Research (Project 3 T09A 127 15).

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- [7] Gryko, D.T., Piatek, P., Jurczak, J.; *Tetrahedron* **1997**, *53*, 7957.
- [8] Analytical data for **5**:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ), 7.51 (bt, 1H, NH), 7.29 (bt, 1H, NH), 7.02 (t, J=8.5 Hz, 1H, Ph), 6.55 (ABq, 2H, Ph), 4.70 (s, 2H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 4.59 (s, 2H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 4.57 (s, 2H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 3.79 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.79 – 3.56 (m, 12H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$ ), 169.0, 168.6, 167.8, 151.4, 151.0, 136.4, 124.6, 107.3, 107.2, 71.8, 70.1, 70.0, 69.5, 69.1, 68.3, 65.5, 52.3, 38.9, 38.8. HRMS  $m/z$  calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_2\text{O}_9$  ( $\text{M}$ ) $^+$  426.1638 found 426.1637. Anal. calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_9\text{N}_2$ , C, 53.52%; H, 6.14%; N, 6.57%. Found C, 53.46%; H, 6.35%; N, 6.55%.
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