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Synthesis of linked symmetrical [3] and [5]rotaxanes having an oligomeric phenylene ethynylene (OPE) core skeleton as a π -conjugated guest via double intramolecular self-inclusion

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ABSTRACT

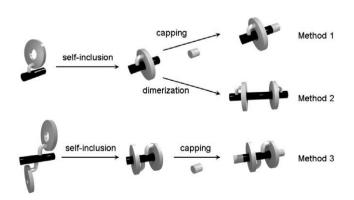
Linked symmetrical [3] and [5] rotaxanes consisting of an oligomeric phenylene ethynylene (OPE) framework as a π -conjugated guest moiety and lipophilic permethylated α -cyclodextrins (PM α -CDs), as macrocyclic hosts have been prepared by double intramolecular self-inclusion of an OPE guest unit carrying two PM α -CDs followed by capping with bulky stopper groups using click azide–alkyne Huisgen cycloaddition or Sonogashira coupling. The structures of these linked rotaxanes were determined by MALDI-TOF mass spectrum and two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy.

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Oligomeric phenylene ethynylenes (OPEs) are among the most extensively studied families of molecular electronics materials due to their interesting photophysical properties including nonlinear optical (NLO) response,¹ luminescence,^{2,3} and electroluminescence.3 We are interested in developing new methods for encapsulation⁴ of π -conjugated compounds in order to realize higher solubility, fluorescence quantum yields, electroluminescence efficiencies, and chemical stabilities of the π -conjugated systems. Recently we have reported two new synthetic routes to linked rotaxanes bearing a π -conjugated system as a guest and permethylated α -cyclodextrin (PM α -CD) as a host (Scheme 1).^{5,6} Our strategies employed for the syntheses of these linked rotaxanes were based on intramolecular self-inclusion of a π -conjugated linear guest unit through lipophilic PM α-CD linking to the guest moiety to form a pseudo [1]rotaxane which then gave rise to a [1]rotaxane⁵ also called linked [2]rotaxane by end-capping (Method 1) or a linked [3]rotaxane⁶ by dimerization (Method 2). Herein, we report the synthesis of OPE-based linked [3] and [5] rotaxanes via double intramolecular self-inclusion and capping with two end-groups (Scheme 1, Method 3).

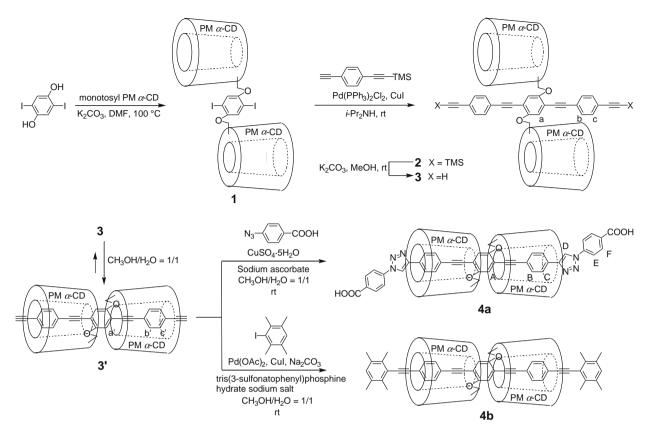
Scheme 2 shows the synthetic route of our OPE-based linked [3]rotaxane. According to this process, modified PM $\alpha\text{-CD}$ diiodide 1 was prepared by the reaction of 6-O-monotosyl PM $\alpha\text{-CD}$ with 2,5-diiodo-1,4-benzenediol in 93% yield. Sonogashira coupling reaction of 1 with 1-ethynyl-4-[2-(trimethylsilyl)ethynyl]-benzene, followed by deprotection of the trimethylsilyl group gave modified OPE having two PM $\alpha\text{-CDs}$ 3 in 75% yield over two steps. $^{8.9}$

The double intramolecular self-inclusion phenomenon of **3** has been confirmed by ^1H NMR employing different solvents and concentrations. The NMR spectrum of aromatic protons of **3** in CD₂Cl₂ reveals the exclusion of the OPE moiety from the cavity of the PM α -CDs (Fig. 1a). A spectrum in CD₃OD at room temperature showed an equilibrium mixture of two species, **3** and its supramolecular complex (pseudo linked [3]rotaxane) **3**′ (Fig. 1b). The intensity of **3**′ decreased and peaks of **3** increased by warming up to 55 °C (Fig. 1c). When a more hydrophilic medium (CD₃OD–D₂O = 3:1) has been used, **3** was completely converted to the supramolecular complex **3**′ at room temperature (Fig. 1d). The evidence that the NMR spectra of **3**′ at different concentrations in CD₃OD showed no new peaks ascribable to oligomeric and/or polymeric supramolecular complexes may support double intramolecular self-inclu-



Scheme 1. Our synthetic routes to linked rotaxanes.

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Scheme 2. Synthesis of linked symmetrical [3]rotaxanes 4 via double intramolecular self-inclusion of 3.

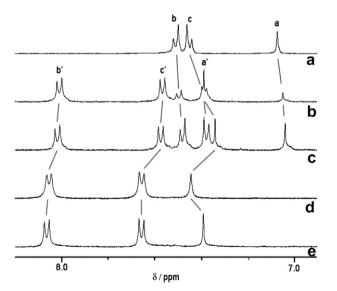


Figure 1. The aromatic region of 400 MHz 1 H NMR spectra of a two PM α-CD-linked OPE **3** in several solvents. (a) CD₂Cl₂ at rt; (b) CD₃OD at rt; (c) CD₃OD at 55 °C; (d) CD₃OD-D₂O = 3: 1 at rt; (e) CD₃OD-D₂OD-D

sion complex 3'. In addition, 3' was stable even at 55 °C in the same hydrophilic medium (Fig. 1e).

In order to fix pseudo linked [3]rotaxane structure by end-capping the OPE moiety by click reaction, $\bf 3'$ was treated with 4-azidobenzoic acid having a bulky group in the presence of $CuSO_4.5H_2O$ and sodium ascorbate at room temperature. After purification by silica gel column chromatography, the desired linked symmetrical [3]rotaxane having two phenylene ethynylene units $\bf 4a$ was ob-

tained in 89% yield. ¹⁰ This evidence suggests that pseudo [1]rotaxane $\bf 3'$ was formed efficiently in CH₃OH–H₂O = 1:1. The structure of this linked [3]rotaxane $\bf 4a$ was confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrum, GPC analysis, and by 2D TOCSY, COSY, and ROESY NMR spectra. The NOEs between protons on the OPE moiety and the internal protons of the PM α -CDs were observed. The NOE between H_A of the OPE moiety and H₆ located on the narrow rim of the PM α -CD indicates that two PM α -CDs were located in tail-to-tail arrangement (Fig. 2).

In order to elongate the OPE units, we treated 3' with 2,3,5,6-tetramethyliodobenzene in $CH_3OH-H_2O=1:1$ in the presence of $Pd(OAc)_2$, CuI, Na_2CO_3 , and tris(3-sulfonatophenyl)phosphine hydrate sodium salt and obtained the desired linked [3]rotaxane having four phenylene ethynylene units 4b in pure form but in only a 21% yield, probably because of the insolubility of 2,3,5,6-tetramethyliodobenzene in the mixed solvent of H_2O and $CH_3OH.^{11}$ This problem was solved by using [1]rotaxane 8 as a soluble stopper

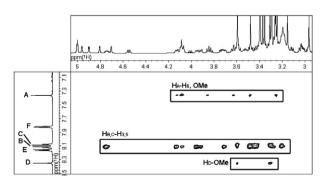


Figure 2. ROESY NMR spectrum of linked [3]rotaxane 4a in CD₂Cl₂ at 25 °C.

Scheme 3. Synthesis of linked [5]rotaxane 4c via double intramolecular self-inclusion of 3.

Figure 3. The structure of reference compounds 5a-c.

unit in the solvent system. As shown in Scheme 3, **8** was prepared via self-inclusion of tolan moiety bearing a PM α -CD following our method reported previously (Method 1). The reaction of **3**′ with the [1]rotaxane as a stopper unit under Sonogashira coupling reaction conditions gave the desired linked symmetrical [5]rotaxane having six phenylene ethynylene units **4c** in 72% yield after purifi-

cation with silica gel column chromatography. ¹³ High solubility of these PM α -CD derivatives **1–8** in various organic solvents is advantageous for their isolation compared with water soluble CD derivatives. The structure of **4c** was also confirmed by MALDI-TOF mass, 2D NMR. As shown in Figure 4, OPE guest was highly insulated with four PM α -CDs according to the space-filling model.

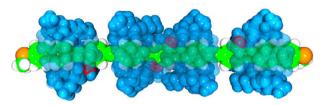


Figure 4. A space-filling model of the linked symmetrical [5]rotaxane.

Table 1Wavelengths of the absorption and emission maxima and photoluminescence quantum yields^a

Sample	$\lambda_{\text{max, abs}}$ (nm) [log ε]	$\lambda_{\text{max, em}}$ (nm)	$\Phi_{ m solution}$	$\Phi_{ m solid}$
4 a	356 [3.82]	390, 411	0.82	0.14
4b	364 [3.75]	402, 423	0.92	0.14
4c	372 [4.08]	413, 436	0.87	0.37
5a	384 [4.70] ^b	423 ^b	0.82 ^b	0.003
5b	392 [4.28]	444	0.84	0.01
5c	392 [4.66]	438, 466	0.91	0.19

^a Spectra were recorded in CHCl₃. Absolute quantum yields were determined by a calibrated integrating sphere system.

The absorption and emission spectra and photoluminescence quantum yields of linked rotaxanes $\bf 4a-c$ are summarized in Table 1. The elongation of phenylene ethynylene units from two to six resulted in bathochromic shift by about 16 nm. In order to examine the shielding effect of PM α -CD, we compared the fluorescence quantum yields of $\bf 4$ with that of the corresponding uninsulated compounds $\bf 5a-c$ (Fig. 3). The uninsulated compounds $\bf 5b-c$ as references were intentionally synthesized by the reaction of $\bf 3$ with the corresponding iodobenzene derivatives in i-Pr $_2$ NH instead of 1:1 solution of $\bf H_2$ O and $\bf CH_3$ OH. As expected, there are significant fluorescence enhancements in $\bf 4$ especially in solid state suggesting that encapsulation of OPEs by PM α -CD is essential to attain efficient fluorescence properties.

In conclusion, a highly organic-soluble linked [3] and [5]rotaxanes were prepared via double intramolecular self-inclusion of an OPE moiety bearing two PM α -CDs and subsequent end-capping by click reaction or Sonogashira coupling reaction. These linked rotaxanes are highly soluble in various organic solvents such as methanol, ethyl acetate, chloroform, toluene, and DMF. The remarkable fluorescence enhancement was observed in these linked rotaxanes both in solution and in solid state. This is the first successful example of rotaxane synthesis via selective double self-inclusion process.

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- 7. Synthesis of 1: 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4-diiodobenzene (1.20 g, 3.33 mmol), 6-0-monotosyl PM α-CD (10.0 g, 7.32 mmol), and dry K₂CO₃ (9.20 g, 66.6 mmol) were placed in a round-bottomed flask and dried at 100 °C in vacuo. The mixture was dissolved in DMF (70 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 100 °C overnight. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine. The organic layer was separated and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed in vacuo, and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc–EtOH (9:1) as eluent to yield 1 as an orange solid (8.43 g, 93%), Mp: 138–141 °C; MALDI-TOF MS: (m/z) 2767 ([M+Na]*, C₁₁₂H₁₈₈I₂O₆₀Na, calcd 2770); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCI₃, 22.3 °C): ³_H = 7.20 (s, 2H, ArH), 5.13–5.00 (m, 12H, CD-H₁), 4.50–3.10 (m, 174H, CD-H, OCH₃); Anal. Calcd for C₁₁₂H₁₈₈I₂O₆₀·H₂O: C, 48.94; H, 6.89. Found: C, 48.62; H, 6.92.
- 8. Synthesis of **2**: **1** (5.49 g, 2.0 mmol) was dissolved in $i\text{-}Pr_2NH$ (50 mL). Under a nitrogen atmosphere, $Pd(PPh_3)_2Cl_2$ (70 mg, 0.10 mmol), Cul (14 mg, 0.10 mmol) and (4-ethynylphenylethynyl)-silane (1.19 g, 6.0 mmol) were added into the solution, and then the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. The mixture was filtered through a Celite pad and concentrated, followed by a chromatographic purification on silica gel with EtOAc–EtOH (9:1) as eluent to yield **2** as orange solid (4.64 g, 80%). Mp: 138–141 °C; MALDI–TOF MS: (m/z) 2909 ([M+Na]*, $C_{138}H_{214}O_{60}Si_2Na$, calcd 2910); $C_{14}H_{15$
- 9. *Synthesis of* **3: 2** (644 mg, 0.223 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (8 mL) and K₂CO₃ (1.1 g, 7.96 mmol) was added to the solution. Under a nitrogen atmosphere, the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The mixture was diluted with EtOAc and washed with brine. The organic layer was separated and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with EtOAc-EtOH (9:1) as eluent to yield **3** as a brilliant yellow solid (573 mg, 94%). Mp: >201 °C (decomposed); MALDI-TOF MS: (m/z) 2768 ([M+Na]*, C₁₃₂H₁₉₈O₆₀Na, calcd 2766); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 14.2 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 7.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.47 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.09 (s, 2H, ArH), 5.09-4.93 (m, 12H, CD-H₁), 4.86–3.01 (m, 176H, CD-H, CCH, OCH₃); Anal. Calcd for C₁₃₂H₁₉₈O₆₀·2H₂O: C, 57.01; H, 7.32. Found: C, 56.62; H, 6.97.
- 10. Synthesis of 4a: 3 (116 mg, 42 μ mol) was dissolved in MeOH (12 mL) and water (12 mL) was added in the solution. This suspended solution was stirred at 70 °C for 1 h. After cooling to ambient temperature were added 4-azido-benzoic acid (41 mg, 0.25 mmol), CuSO $_4$ ·5H $_2$ O (21 mg, 170 μ mol), and sodium ascorbate (33 mg, 0.34 mmol) into the solution. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was treated with HClag (0.1 N) and extracted with CH2Cl2. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na2SO4. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (9:1, CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH (1% v/v TFA(trifluoroacetic acid)), 9:1, CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (5% v/v TFA), MeOH) to yield 4a as a pale yellow solid (116 mg, 89%). Mp: 247–250 °C; MALDI-TOF MS: (m/z) 3093 ([M+Na]*, $C_{146}H_{208}N_6O_{64}Na$, calcd 3092); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 21.5 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.35 (s, 2H, ArH), 8.16 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H, ArH), 8.12 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H, ArH), 8.09 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.83 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.36 (s, 2H, ArH), 5.01–4.70 (m, 12H, CD-H₁), 4.56-2.71 (m, 176H, CD-H, CCH, OCH₃); Anal. Calcd for C₁₄₆H₂₀₈N₆O₆₄·3H₂O: C, 56.11; H, 6.90; N, 2.69. Found: C, 55.91; H, 6.51; N, 2.66.
- 11. Synthesis of **4b**: **3** (100 mg, 36 μ mol) was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere and degassed water (10 mL) was added to the solution. This suspended solution was stirred at 70 °C for 1 h. After cooling to ambient temperature were added 2,3,5,6-tetramethyliodobenzene (24 mg, 91 μ mol) and Na₂CO₃ (23 mg, 0.22 mmol) into the solution. Then the catalyst solution of Pd(OAc)₂ (0.33 mg, 1.5 μ mol), tris(3-sulfonatophenyl)phosphine hydrate

b In CHCl₃-DMSO = 1:1.

- sodium salt (1.7 mg, 2.9 µmol), and CuI (0.035 mg, 0.18 µmol) in water(0.10 mL), and triethylamine (100 µL) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The reaction mixture was treated with dilute aqueous HCI (0.1 N) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated aqueous NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, and filtered to remove insoluble fractions. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (9:1, EtOAc–EtOH, 8:2, EtOAc–EtOH) to yield **4b** as a pale yellow solid (23 mg, 21%). Mp: >200 °C (decomposed); MALDI-TOF MS: (m/z) 3036 ([M+Na][†], C₁₅₂H₂₂₂O₆₀Na, calcd 3030); [†]H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, 21.5 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.71 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.40 (s, 2H, ArH), 6.92 (s, 2H, ArH), 5.05–4.73 (m, 12H, CD-H₁), 4.58–2.74 (m, 174H, CD-H, OCH₃), 2.30 (s, 12H, ArCH₃), 2.20 (s, 12H, ArCH₃), 2.10 (s, 12H, ArCH₃), Anal. Calcd for C₁₅₂H₂₂₂O₆₀·3H₂O: C, 59.59; H, 7.50. Found: C, 59.51; H, 7.31.
- 12. Syntheses of **5-8**: **5-8** were prepared by the procedures similar to those of a [1]rotaxane reported previously. Data for **6**: A white solid; mp: 242-245 °C; MALDI-TOF-MS: (m/z) 1587 ([M+Na]†, C₇₆H₁₁₁NO₃₁SNa, calcd 1589); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 24.0 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.12 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.67 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.44 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.35 (m, 4H, NH, ArH), 7.28 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 5.09-4.96 (m, 6H, CD-H₁), 4.91-2.85 (m, 87H, CD-H, OCH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, SCH₃), 2.21 (s, 3H, CH₃CO); Anal. Calcd for C₇₆H₁₁₁NO₃₁S·2H₂O: C, 56.95; H, 7.23; N, 0.87. Found: C, 57.13; H, 6.87; N, 0.86. Data for **7**: A pale yellow solid (2.76 g, 92% yield); mp: 221-225 °C; MALDI-TOF-MS: (m/z) 1546 ([M+Na]⁺)
- C₇₄H₁₀₉NO₃₀SNa, calcd 1547);

 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 23.6 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.08 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.65 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.36 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.28 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.28 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.44 (m, 2H, ArH), 5.10–4.96 (m, 6H, CD-H₁), 4.92–2.86 (m, 89H, NH, CD-H, OCH₃), 2.51 (s, 3H, SCH₃); Anal. Calcd for C₇₄H₁₀₉NO₃₀S·H₂O: C, 57.61; H, 7.25; N, 0.91. Found: C, 57.54; H, 6.93; N, 0.89, *Data for* 8: A pale yellow solid (1.9 g, 54% yield); mp: 243–246 °C, MALDi-TOF-MS: (m/z) 1657 ([M+Na]*, C₇₄H₁₀₇IO₃₀SNa, calcd 1658);

 ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 23.2 °C): $\delta_{\rm H}$ = 8.14 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.68 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.53 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.49 (dd, J = 1.5, 8.3 Hz, 1H, ArH), 7.36 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.29 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.25 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H, ArH), 5.09–4.95 (m, 6H, CD-H₁), 4.87–2.90 (m, 87H, CD-H, OCH₃), 2.52 (s, 3H, SCH₃); Anal. Calcd for C₇₄H₁₀₇IO₃₀S: C, 54.34; H, 6.59. Found: C, 54.07; H, 6.37.
- 13. Synthesis of **4c**: **4c** was prepared by the procedure similar to that of **4b**. The residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (9:1, EtOAc–EtOH) to yield **4c** as a pale yellow solid (74 mg, 72%). Mp: >260 °C (decomposed); MALDI-TOF-MS: (m/z) 5783 ([M+Na]*, $C_{280}H_{410}O_{120}S_2Na$, calcd 5780); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , 20.4 °C): δ_H = 8.10 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H, ArH), 8.07 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.69 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.66 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.46 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.42 (s, 2H, ArH), 7.37 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 4H, ArH), 7.21 (7.1 × 1.1 ×