# Selectivity Algorithm for the Formation of two Cryptand/Paraquat Catenanes

Ming Liu, Shijun Li, Menglong Hu, Feng Wang, and Feihe Huang\*

Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310027, P. R. China Fax: +86-571-8795-1895; Tel: +86-571-8795-3189; Email address: fhuang@zju.edu.cn.

# **Supporting Information (11 pages)**

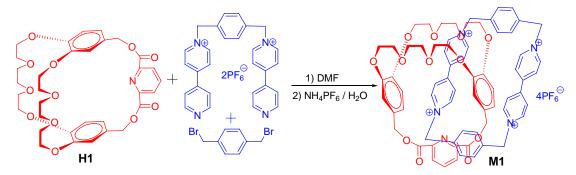
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### 1. Materials and methods

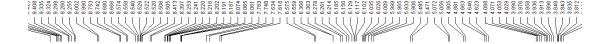
Bis(*m*-phenylene)-26-crown-8-based cryptand **H2** was synthesized as shown in Scheme S1, <sup>11b</sup> dibenzo-24-crown-8-based cryptand **H1** was synthesized by a similar route, employing methyl 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate as the starting material. <sup>10b,11a</sup> 1,1'-[1,4-Phenylenebis(methylene)]bis-4,4'-bipyridinium bis(hexafluorophosphate) ([**BBIPYXY**][**PF**<sub>6</sub>]<sub>2</sub>) <sup>12a</sup> was prepared according to a literature procedure. Solvents were either employed as purchased or dried according to procedures described in the literature. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were collected on a Varian Unity INOVA-400 spectrometer with internal standard TMS. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE DMX-500 spectrometer at 125 MHz. Low-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra (LRESIMS) were performed on a Bruker Esruire 3000 plus mass spectrometer (Bruker-Franzen Analytik GmbH Breman, Germany) equipped with ESI interface and ion trap analyzer. High-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectra (HRMS) were obtained on a Bruker 7-tesla FT-ICRMS equipped with an electrospray source (Billerica, MA, USA).

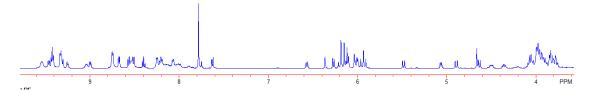
**Scheme 1.** General procedure to synthesize cryptand hosts.

# 2. Synthesis of [2] catenane M1

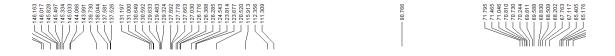


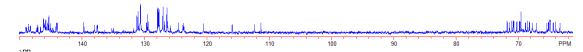
A solution of [BBIPYXY][PF<sub>6</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (63.5 mg, 0.09 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) was added to a solution of H1 (120 mg, 0.19 mmol) in dry DMF (3 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> protection. The color of the mixture changed to faint yellow quickly. Then 1,4-bis(bromomethyl)benzene (26.5 mg, 0.09 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added to the mixture at room temperature. A red deposit appeared gradually. Then the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 7 days. S2 The solvent was removed in vacuum. The resultant residue was dissolved in a mixture of MeOH:2 N NH<sub>4</sub>Cl:MeNO<sub>2</sub> (7:2:1) and subjected to column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>: MeOH:2 N NH<sub>4</sub>Cl:MeNO<sub>2</sub> (25:2:1)]. The fractions containing the product (as monitored by TLC) were combined and concentrated under vacuum to give a residue which was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O. A deep yellow solid, [2]catenane M1 (48 mg, 30.6 %), m.p. 267–271 °C, was precipitated from this solution by addition of a saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> solution. The proton NMR spectrum of M1 is shown in Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone- $d_6$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta$ 9.51-9.34 (m, 10H), 9.03-8.45 (m, 10H), 8.31-7.82 (m, 16H), 6.61 (d, J=8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 6.33 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.20–5.91 (m, 10H), 5.54 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 5.13 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.94 (d, J = 11.5 Hz, 1H), 4.71–4.63 (m, 2H), 4.40–3.73 (m, 24H). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **M1** is shown in Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , room temperature):  $\delta$  148.6, 147.1, 146.3, 145.9, 143.5, 136.6, 130.7, 129.6, 127.1, 126.7, 124.2, 108.7, 106.1, 70.8, 70.4, 69.5, 68.4, 67.7, 68.5, 65.2, 64.4, 64.0, 63.3. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S3: m/z 1595.0 [M – PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (96%), 725.1 [M  $-2PF_{6}]^{2+}$  (14%). HRMS: m/z calcd for  $[M - PF_{6}]^{+}$   $C_{69}H_{69}F_{18}N_{5}O_{12}P_{3}$ , 1594.3863, found 1594.3875, error 1.0 ppm; m/z calcd for  $[M - 2PF_6]^{2+}$   $C_{69}H_{69}F_{12}N_5O_{12}P_2$ , 724.7108, found 724.7112, error 1.0 ppm.



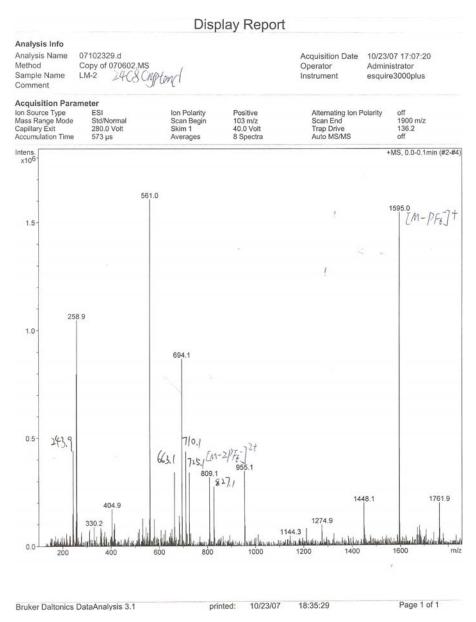


**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , room temperature) of [2]catenane **M1**.



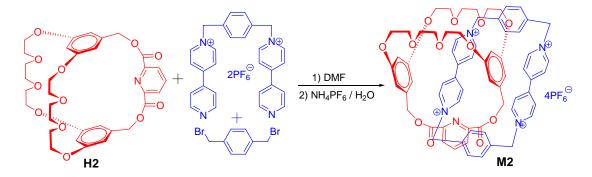


**Figure S2.**  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , room temperature) of **M1**.

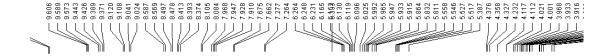


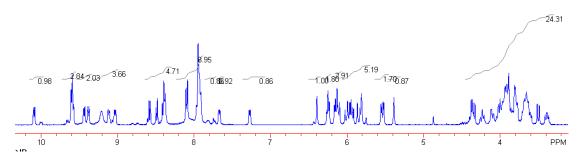
**Figure S3.** Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of **M1**. Assignment of main peaks: m/z 1595.0 [**M1** – PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (96%), 725.1 [**M1** – 2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (14%), 561.0 [**G** – CH<sub>2</sub>PhCH<sub>2</sub> – PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100%).

# 3. Synthesis of [2] catenane M2

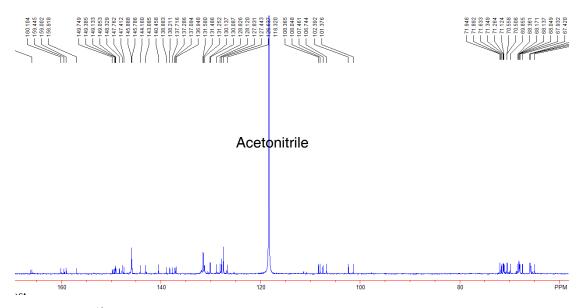


A solution of [BBIPYXY][PF<sub>6</sub>]<sub>2</sub> (106 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) was added to a solution of H2 (123 mg, 0.19 mmol) in dry DMF (5 mL) under N<sub>2</sub> protection. The color of the mixture changed to faint yellow quickly. Then 1,4-bis(bromomethyl)benzene (44.0 mg, 0.15 mmol) in DMF (5 mL) was added to the mixture at room temperature. A red deposit appeared gradually. Then the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 7 days. S2 The solvent was removed in vacuum. The resultant residue was dissolved in a mixture of MeOH:2 N NH<sub>4</sub>Cl:MeNO<sub>2</sub> (7:2:1) and subjected to column chromatography [SiO<sub>2</sub>: MeOH:2 N NH<sub>4</sub>Cl:MeNO<sub>2</sub> (25:2:1)]. The fractions containing the product (as monitored by TLC) were combined and concentrated under vacuum to give a residue which was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O. A orange solid, [2]catenane M2 (66 mg, 25.4 %), m.p. 251-253 °C, was precipitated from this solution by addition of a saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> solution. The proton NMR spectrum of M2 is shown in Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone- $d_6$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta$ 10.10 (d, J= 8.0 Hz, 1H, 9.61-9.02 (m, 8H), 8.58-7.91 (m, 14H), 7.68 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.27(d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.39 (s, 1H), 6.25 - 5.81 (m, 8H), 5.56 - 5.52 (m, 8H), 5.39 (1H),4.38-3.39 (m, 24H). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **M2** is shown in Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_6$ , room temperature):  $\delta$  166.2, 165.8, 159.0, 160.1, 156.9, 149.7, 147.2, 146.3, 145.9, 142.5, 135.6, 131.7, 129.5, 127.2, 126.3, 125.6, 106.1, 106.1, 72.8, 71.4, 69.3, 68.4, 67.1, 65.2, 64.0, 63.5. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S6: 725.0  $[M - 2PF_6]^{2+}$  (60%), 1595.5  $[M - PF_6]^{+}$  (16%). HRMS: m/z calcd for  $[M - PF_6]^{-1}$  $PF_6^{\dagger} C_{69}H_{69}F_{18}N_5O_{12}P_3$ , 1594.3863, found 1594.3862, error 0.06 ppm; m/z calcd for  $[M - 2PF_6]^{2+} C_{69}H_{69}F_{12}N_5O_{12}P_2$ , 724.7108, found 724.7106, error 0.3 ppm.



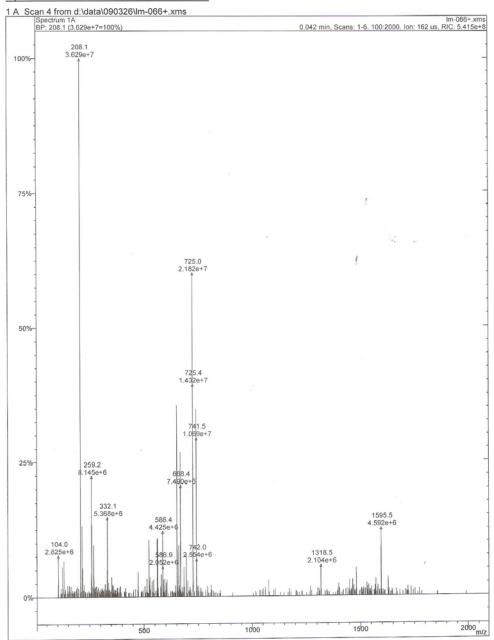


**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , room temperature) of **M2**.



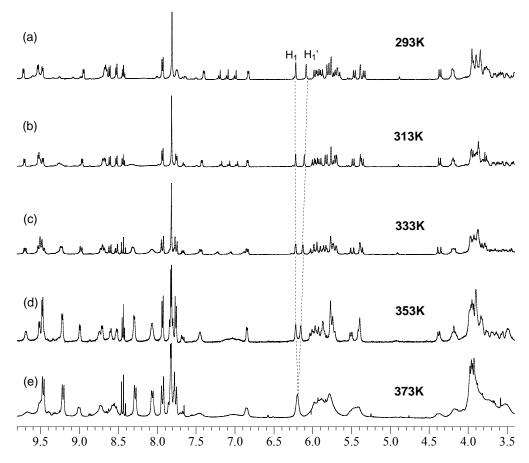
**Figure S5.**  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_6$ , room temperature) of **M2**.

#### Spectrum 1A Plot - 2009-3-26 21:37



**Figure S6.** Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of **M2**. Assignment of main peaks: m/z 1595.5  $[\mathbf{M2} - \mathrm{PF_6}]^+$  (14%), 725.0  $[\mathbf{M2} - \mathrm{2PF_6}]^{2+}$  (60%).

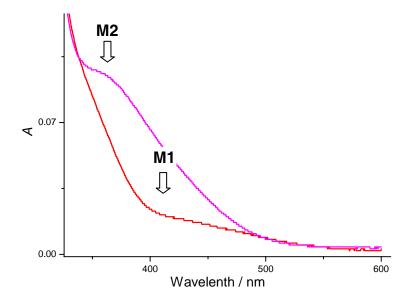
# 4. Variable-temperature NMR spectra of M2



**Figure S7.** Partial temperature-dependent  $^{1}$ H NMR spectra of **M2** recorded in DMSO- $d_{6}$  at (a) 20 °C, (b) 40 °C, (c) 60 °C, (d) 80 °C, (e) 100 °C.

Two rotational temperature-dependent processes of related catenanes have been identified by Stoddart et al. S1 Their corresponding activation barriers can be calculated using the "coalescence method". S2 We also supposed that there are two possible dynamic processes in M2: a pirouetting process of the ethylene glycol chains of the cryptand around the cyclophane G, and the exchange process of the two bipyridinium units of cyclophane G. We investigated the protons (H1, H1') at around 6.2 ppm, which was attributed to the "inside" and "alongside" protons on the benzene rings of the cryptand host. The coalescence temperature (100 °C) and frequency difference of exchanging sets of signals were used to calculate the activation barrier. The calculated activation barrier (19.3 kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup>) was related to the process of the ethylene glycol chains around the cyclophane G.

#### 5. UV-vis spectra of catenanes M1 and M2



**Figure S8.** UV-vis spectra of catenanes **M1** (3 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) and **M2** (3 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in MeCN, showing the charge-transfer absorption maxima at  $\lambda = 410$  nm ( $\varepsilon = 640$  M<sup>-1</sup>·dm<sup>-1</sup>) and  $\lambda = 352$  nm ( $\varepsilon = 3080$  M<sup>-1</sup>·dm<sup>-1</sup>), respectively.

# 6. X-ray crystal data for [2]catenane M1

Crystallographic data: red,  $C_{77}H_{81}F_{24}N_9O_{12}P_4$ , FW 1904.39, triclinic, space group P1, a=13.474(3), b=13.507(3), c=14.013(3) Å,  $\alpha=103.97^{\circ}$ ,  $\beta=99.34(3)^{\circ}$ ,  $\gamma=118.61(3)^{\circ}$ , V=2053.8(7) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z=1,  $D_c=1.540$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>, T=293 K,  $\mu=0.213$  mm<sup>-1</sup>, 11899 measured reflections, 8133 independent reflections, 1139 parameters, 3 restraints, F(000)=978,  $R_1=0.1095$ ,  $wR_2=0.1228$  (all data),  $R_1=0.0689$ ,  $wR_2=0.1090$  [ $I>2\sigma(I)$ ], max. residual density 0.334 e•Å<sup>-3</sup>, and goodness-of-fit ( $F^2$ ) = 1.051.

#### 7. X-ray crystal data for [2]catenane M2

Crystallographic data: orange,  $C_{83}H_{90}F_{24}N_{12}O_{13}P_4$ , FW 2043.53, monoclinic, space group P 2<sub>1</sub>/c, a = 26.682(5), b = 16.661(3), c = 21.761(4) Å,  $\alpha$  = 90°,  $\beta$  = 106.67(3)°,  $\gamma$  = 90°, V = 9267(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $D_c$  =1.465 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, T = 293 K,  $\mu$  = 0.196 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 15354 measured reflections, 9897 independent reflections, 1234 parameters, 0 restraints,

F(000) = 4208.000,  $R_1 = 0.1329$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.2988$  (all data),  $R_1 = 0.0989$ ,  $wR_2 = 0.2633$  [ $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ], max. residual density 1.125 e•Å<sup>-3</sup>, and goodness-of-fit ( $F^2$ ) = 1.100. In **M2**, the atom O50 on the isolated water molecule has a relative high thermal parameter (0.51), which means it vibrates at a large scale. Therefore the hydrogen atoms on O50 would have an even larger vibration scale. Therefore, we didn't add hydrogen atoms on it.

#### References:

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- S2. (a) Sutherland, I. O. *Annu. Rep. NMR Spectrosc.* 1971, 4, 71–235. (b) Friebolin, H.
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