

One pot Synthesis of Macrocycles by a Tandem three-component Reaction and Intramolecular [3 + 2] Cycloaddition

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Contents :

1. Experimental procedures and spectral data for all new compounds
2. ¹³C NMR spectra for macrocycles

Commercially available reagents and solvents were used without further purification and were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Lancaster. CuI was purified¹ and stored under nitrogen. THF was distilled immediately before use from Na/benzophenone, CH₂Cl₂ was dried by distillation from P₂O₅ and stored on activated molecular sieves (4 Å), toluene was distilled from Na and stored on activated molecular sieves (4 Å). When needed the reactions were performed in flame- or oven-dried glassware under a positive pressure of nitrogen.

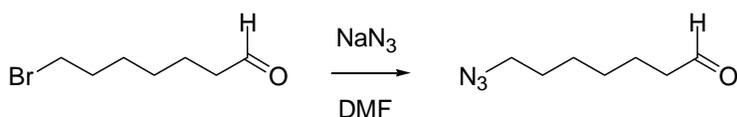
NMR spectra were recorded with a JEOL ECP 300 Mhz spectrometer and the δ values are in part per million. Mass spectra were recorded using a Thermo Finningan LCQ Deca XP-*plus* equipped with an ESI source and an ion trap detector. IR spectra were recorded using FT-IR THERMO-NICOLET AVATAR.

Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Merck Kieselgel 70-230 mesh ASTM) using the indicated eluants. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on 5 x 20 cm plates with a layer thickness of 0.25 mm (Merck Silica gel 60 F₂₅₄). When necessary they were developed with KMnO₄, Dragendorff reagent or silver nitrate.

Compounds **2a**, **2e**, **3b** were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich or Lancaster.

Compound **2d** was synthesized following the literature procedure.²

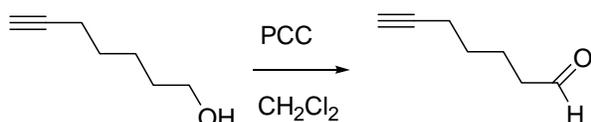
Aldehydes



7-azidoheptanal (2b)

7-bromoheptanal was synthesized following the literature procedure.³

To a solution of 7-bromoheptanal (700 mg, 3.63 mmol) in DMF (7 mL) sodium azide (471 mg, 7.26 mmol) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with Et_2O and washing with water (x 3) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 8:2 to give **2b** as a colorless oil (397 mg, 70%). $R_f = 0.13$ (PE/EtOAc 95:5 x 2). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 9.74 (br s, 1H), 3.24 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 2H), 2.42 (t, $J = 7.4$ Hz, 2H), 1.56 (br s, 4H), 1.35 (br s, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 202.0, 51.1, 43.5, 28.8 (2C), 25.9, 21.7; IR (liquid film) 2935, 2092, 1707, 1257, 729 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 156 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$)⁺.



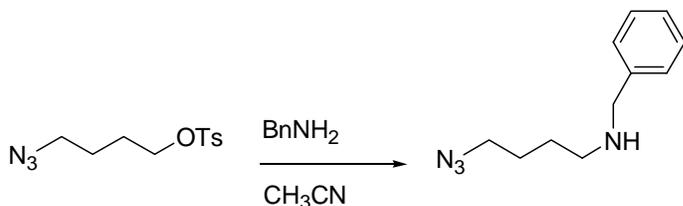
6-heptynale (2c)

Heptyn-1-ol was synthesized following the literature procedure.⁴

To a solution of heptyn-1-ol (688 mg, 5.63 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) PCC (1.81 g, 8.45 mmol) was added. The resulting suspension was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The reaction was filtered and through a Celite pad, washed with CH_2Cl_2 and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 8:2 to give **2c** as a yellow oil (291 mg, 47%). $R_f = 0.78$ (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 9.70 (br s, 1H), 2.40 (td, $J = 7.1/1.6$ Hz, 2H), 2.15 (td, $J = 6.8/2.7$ Hz, 2H), 1.90 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.68 (m,

2H), 1.49 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 202.2, 83.0, 68.8, 43.3, 28.0, 21.1, 18.3; IR (liquid film) 3295, 2944, 1705, 1412, 1234, 634 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 149 ($\text{M}+\text{K}$) $^+$

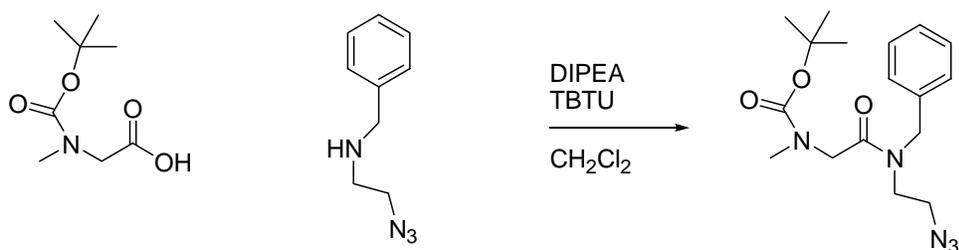
Amines



N-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*-benzylamine (**3a**)

4-azidobutyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate was synthesized following the literature procedure.⁵

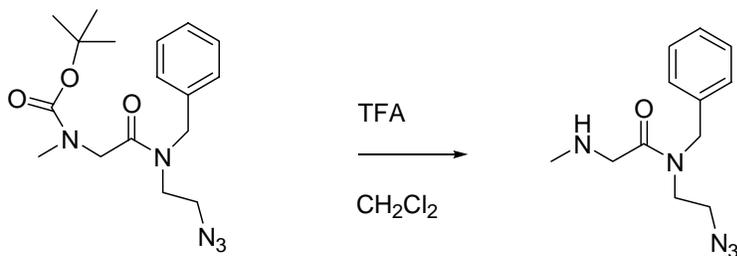
To a solution of toluene-4-sulfonic acid 4-azidobutylester (6.32 g, 23.5 mmol) in CH_3CN (60 mL) BnNH_2 (6.99 mL, 63.4 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 22 hours. The reaction was worked up by evaporation of the solvent, dilution with Et_2O and washing with NaOH 2N (x 3) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 8:2 and PE/EtOAc 5:5 (+ TEA 1%) to give **3a** as a pale yellow oil (4.02 g, 84%). R_f = 0.16 (PE/EtOAc 5:5 + TEA 1%). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz) δ 7.30 (m, 5H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 3.26 (t, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 2.65 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 1.61 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz) δ 140.3, 128.5, 128.2, 127.1, 54.2, 51.4, 48.7, 27.2, 26.1; IR (liquid film) 2937, 2092, 1739, 1453, 1364, 1255 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 205 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$



tert-butyl 2-[(2-azidoethyl)(benzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl(methyl)carbamate

2-[(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)(methyl)amino]acetic acid⁶ and *N*-(2-azidoethyl)-*N*-benzylamine⁵ were synthesized following the literature procedure.

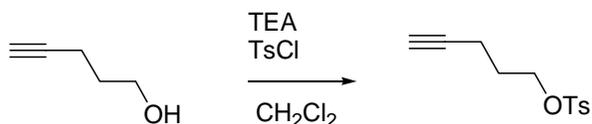
To a solution of *N*-(2-azidoethyl)-*N*-benzylamine (1.20g, 8.50 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) (2-[(*tert*-butoxycarbonyl)(methyl)amino]acetic acid (3.20 g, 17.0 mmol), DIPEA (4.40 mL, 25.5 mmol) and TBTU (8.10 g, 25.8 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 days. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH₂Cl₂ and washing with HCl 2N (x 2), saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (x 1) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 8:2 and PE/EtOAc 7:3 to give a mixture of *tert*-butyl 2-[(2-azidoethyl)(benzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl(methyl)carbamate and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole. The mixture was used in the next step without further purification.



***N*-(2-azidoethyl)-*N*-benzyl-2-(methylamino)acetamide (**3c**)**

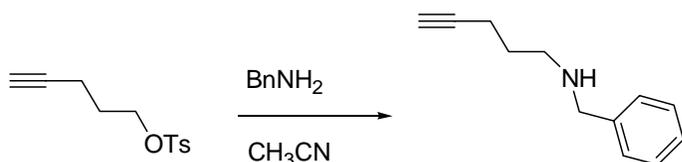
To a cooled (0°C) and stirred solution of *tert*-butyl 2-[(2-azidoethyl)(benzyl)amino]-2-oxoethyl(methyl)carbamate in dry CH₂Cl₂ (40 mL) TFA (12 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 30 minutes. The resulting mixture was stirred at this temperature for 1 hour. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH₂Cl₂ and washing with water. The combined aqueous phases were treated with NaOH 2N until pH = 8 and then extracted with EtOAc (x 2). The resulting combined organic phase were washed with brine (x 1), dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated to give **3c** as a pale yellow solid (429 mg, 20% overall yield). R_f = 0.02 (EtOAc). M.p. = 64.9-65.3°C. Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.28-7.03 (m, 5H), 4.47 (s, 2H), 3.41-3.26 (m, 6H), 2.28 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 50°C, referred

to the main rotamer) δ 171.9, 136.3, 129.0, 127.8, 126.4, 52.4, 51.5, 49.4, 45.9, 36.3; IR (liquid film) 2092, 1636, 1419, 1217, 1085, 701 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 248 (M+H)⁺



4-pentynyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate

To a cooled (0°C) solution of 4-pentyn-1-ol (5.00 g, 59.0 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) TEA (12.6 mL, 88.5 mmol) and tosyl chloride (10.48 g, 88.5 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was heated at 50°C for 24 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH_2Cl_2 and washing with HCl 2N (x 2) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 95:5 to give 4-pentynyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate as a yellow oil (7.20 g, 51%). $R_f = 0.50$ (PE/EtOAc 8:2). Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.72 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 4.07 (t, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 2H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.18 (m, 2H), 1.84 (t, $J = 2.7$ Hz, 1H), 1.78 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 144.9, 132.9, 129.9, 127.9, 82.1, 69.5, 68.8, 27.7, 21.6, 14.7; IR (liquid film) 3321, 1357, 1173, 920, 662 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 261 (M+Na)⁺

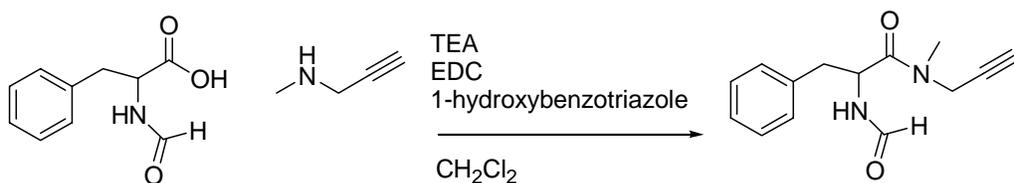


N-(4-methylbenzyl)-4-pentyn-1-amine (3d)

To a cooled (0°C) solution of 4-pentynyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (4.75 g, 19.0 mmol) in CH_3CN (50 mL) BnNH_2 (5.94 mL, 53.0 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was heated at reflux for 24 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with EtOAc and washing with saturated aqueous

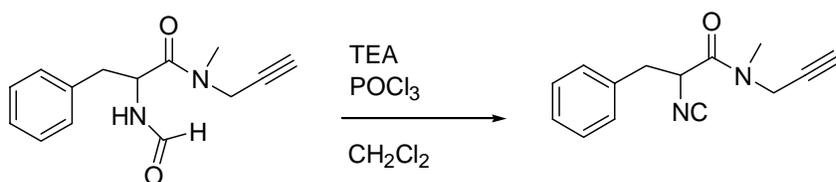
NaHCO₃ (x 1) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 7:3 and PE/EtOAc 4:6 to give **3d** as a dark brown oil (1.40 g, 30%). R_f = 0.28 (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.31 (m, 5H), 3.78 (s, 2H), 2.73 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.25 (tt, J = 6.8/2.7 Hz, 2H), 1.95 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 140.4, 128.5, 128.2, 127.0, 84.2, 68.7, 54.0, 48.2, 28.7, 16.4; IR (liquid film) 3296, 2939, 1494, 1452, 1118, 698 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 174 (M+H)⁺

α-isocyanoacetamides



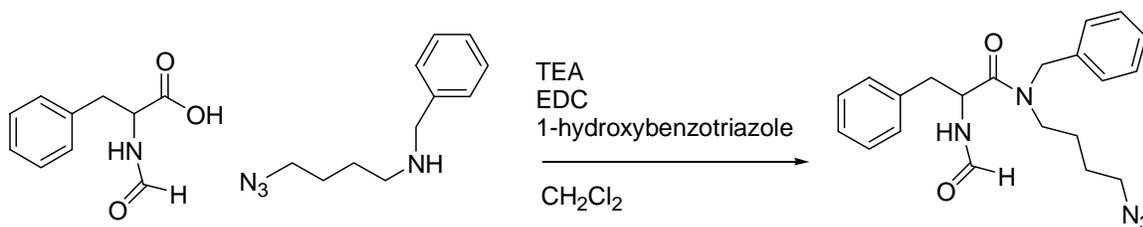
2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-3-phenyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide

To a suspension of *N*-formylphenylalanine⁷ (6.79 g, 35.2 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) *N*-methylpropargilamine (2.92 g, 42.2 mmol), TEA (3.05 mL, 42.2 mmol), EDC (8.10 g, 42.2 mmol) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (5.70 g, 42.2 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH₂Cl₂ and washing with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl (x 2), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (x 1) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 5:5 and EtOAc to give 2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-3-phenyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide as a pale yellow oil (7.95 g, 92%). R_f = 0.15 (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 25°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 8.33 (br s, 1), 7.31-7.18 (m, 5H), 5.21 (m, 1H), 4.16 (dd AB, J = 17.3/2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (dd AB, J = 17.3/2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (br d, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.74 (s, 3H), 2.21 (t, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 25°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.0, 161.0, 135.8, 129.6, 128.6, 127.2, 73.8, 72.6, 49.0, 39.3, 36.8, 34.3; IR (KBr) 3290, 1640, 1492, 1258, 701 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 267 (M+Na)⁺



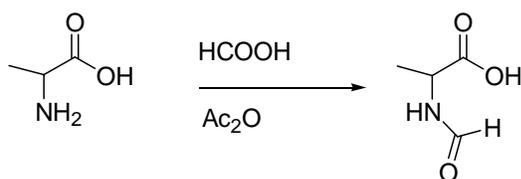
2-isocyano-*N*-methyl-3-phenyl-*N*-(prop-2-ynyl)propanamide (4a)

To a solution of 2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-3-phenyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide (1.00 g, 3.84 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) TEA (2.67 mL, 19.2 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was cooled at -30°C and a solution of POCl₃ (536 μL, 5.76 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 30 minutes. The reaction mixture became rapidly dark. After 2 hours at -30°C the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and it is left to reach the room temperature. Then the reaction was worked up by dilution with CH₂Cl₂ and washing with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (x 2) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 6:4 to give **4a** as a pale yellow solid (785 mg, 90%). R_f = 0.50 (PE/EtOAc 5:5). M.p. = 79.5-79.8°C. Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 25°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.40-7.21 (m, 5H), 4.53 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (dd AB, J = 17.3/2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (dd AB, J = 17.3/2.5 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.98 (s, 3H), 2.25 (t, J = 2.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 25°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 164.7, 159.8, 135.1, 129.5, 128.9, 127.8, 74.3, 73.0, 55.8, 39.0 37.4, 34.6; IR (liquid film) 3270, 2153, 1653, 1354, 1027, 703 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 227 (M+H)⁺



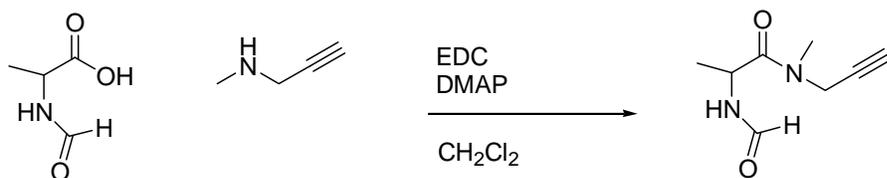
***N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*-benzyl-2-(formylamino)-3-phenylpropanamide**

To a solution of **6** (2.50 g, 12.2 mmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (25 mL) *N*-formylphenylalanine⁷ (2.35 g, 12.2 mmol), TEA (2.02 mL, 14.6 mmol), EDC (2.79 g, 14.6 mmol) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (1.97 g, 14.6 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was heated at 40°C for 28 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH₂Cl₂ and washing with saturated aqueous HCl (x 2), saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ (x 1) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 6:4 and PE/EtOAc 5:5 to give *N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*-benzyl-2-(formylamino)-3-phenylpropanamide as a pale yellow oil (2.20 g, 50%). R_f = 0.30 (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 8.10 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 7.26-7.00 (m, 10H), 5.24 (m, 1H), 4.67 (d, J = 14.7, 1H), 4.32 (d, J = 14.7, 1H), 3.22-2.95 (m, 6H), 1.54-1.35 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.7, 160.4, 136.8, 136.2, 129.5, 128.9, 128.6, 128.0, 127.1, 126.8, 52.1, 49.1, 48.9, 46.6, 39.9, 26.0, 24.0; IR (liquid film) 2095, 1628, 1495, 1451, 1258, 699 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 402 (M+Na)⁺



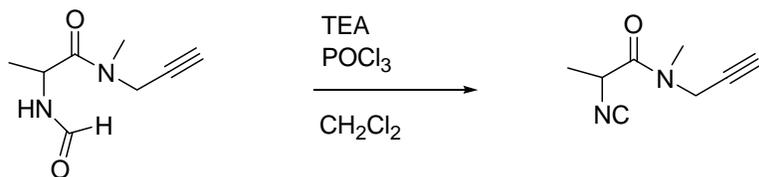
***N*-formylalanine**

To a cooled (5°C) solution of L-alanine (10.0 g, 112 mmol) in formic acid (100 mL) acetic anhydride (84.6 mL, 896 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was let to reach the room temperature. After 3 hours H₂O was added (40 mL) and the solvent was evaporated. The white solid obtained was used in the next step without further purification (11.8 g, 90%). M.p. = 127.8-128.3. Spectral data: ¹H NMR (DMSO-d₆, 300 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 8.94 (s, 1H), 4.85 (q, J = 7.1, 1H), 1.26 (d, J = 7.1, 3H); ¹³C NMR (DMSO-d₆, 75 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 174.1, 161.4, 46.8, 18.0; IR (liquid film) 3375, 2425, 1923, 1602, 1343, 1207, 639; MS (ESI) *m/z* 116 (M+H)⁺



2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide

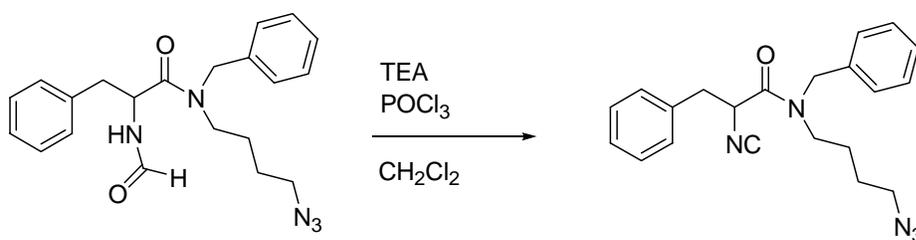
To a suspension of *N*-formylalanine (100 mg, 0.855 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (1 mL) *N*-methylpropargilamine (107 μL , 1.28 mmol), EDC (245 mg, 1.28 mmol) and DMAP (156 mg, 1.28 mmol) were added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours. The reaction was worked up by dilution with CH_2Cl_2 and washing with saturated aqueous HCl (x 2) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 5:5 and PE/EtOAc 2:8 to give 2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide as a white solid (33.0 mg, 23%). $R_f = 0.25$ (EtOAc). M.p. = 73.3-73.9°C. Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 8.12 (s, 1H), 6.81 (br s, 1H), 4.96 (m, 1H), 4.24 (m, 2H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 2.22 (br s, 1H), 1.35 (br d, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.9, 160.4, 73.5, 72.5, 43.9, 36.8, 34.2, 18.3; IR (liquid film) 3221, 1632, 1541, 1396, 1252, 694 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 191 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



2-isocyano-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide (4b)

To a solution of 2-(formylamino)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-propynyl)propanamide (2.80 g, 16.7 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) TEA (1.16 mL, 83.7 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was cooled at -30°C and a solution of POCl_3 (2.33 mL, 25.0 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 30 minutes. The reaction mixture became rapidly dark. After 1 hour and 30 minutes at -30°C the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and left to reach the room

temperature. Then the reaction was worked up by dilution with CH_2Cl_2 and washing with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (x 2) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 6:4 to give **4b** as a yellow oil (2.28 g, 90%). $R_f = 0.26$ (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 4.50 (q, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.23 (dd, $J = 17.3/2.51$ Hz, 1H), 4.09 (dd, $J = 17.3/2.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 2.24 (t, $J = 2.5$, 1H), 1.53 (d, $J = 6.9$, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 165.3, 159.4, 74.0, 72.8, 49.7, 37.4, 34.5, 18.6; IR (KBr) 3288, 2144, 1668, 1486, 1408, 1091 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 173 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



***N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*-benzyl-2-isocyano-3-phenylpropanamide (**4c**)**

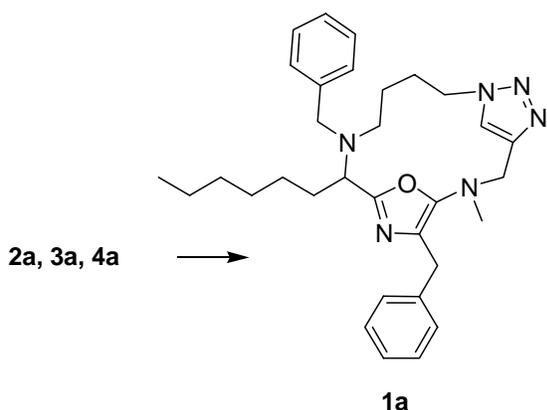
To a solution of *N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*-benzyl-2-(formylamino)-3-phenylpropanamide (2.30 g, 6.10 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (25 mL) TEA (4.18 mL, 30.0 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was cooled at -30°C and a solution of POCl_3 (848 μL , 9.10 mmol) in dry CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 45 minutes. The reaction mixture became rapidly dark. After 1 hour and 30 minutes at -30°C the reaction was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 and left to reach the room temperature. Then the reaction was worked up by dilution with CH_2Cl_2 and washing with saturated aqueous NaHCO_3 (x 2) and brine (x 1). After drying over sodium sulphate and evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 7:3 to give **4c** as a dark yellow oil (1.55 g, 71%). $R_f = 0.56$ (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.30-6.94 (m, 10H), 4.65-4.44 (m, 1H), 4.34 (m, 2H), 3.40-3.00 (m, 6H), 1.61-1.35 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75

MHz, 50°C, referred to the main rotamer) δ 165.6, 165.0, 135.8, 135.2, 129.5, 129.2, 128.7 (2C), 127.6, 126.0, 55.1, 50.8, 49.3, 46.8, 39.6, 25.9, 24.5; IR (KBr) 3028, 2939, 2195, 1643, 1453, 1124 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 384 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$)⁺

Macrocycles

General procedure for the tandem synthesis of the macrocycles (1a) (1b) (1c) (1d) (1e) (1f) (1g) (1h) (1i) (1j)

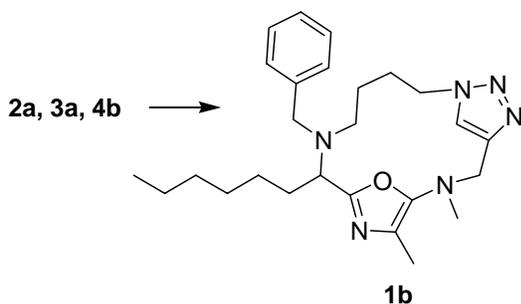
To a solution of the aldehyde (1 eq) in dry toluene (0.5 M) the amine (1 eq) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 30 minutes. Then the isocyanide (1 eq) and NH_4Cl (1.5 eq) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 80°C until the TLC revealed the disappearance of the three components. NH_4Cl was filtered off and the reaction mixture was diluted with dry THF (0.001 M). DIPEA (20 eq) and CuI (2 eq) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 21 hours. CuI was filtered off and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.



12,16-dibenzyl-13-hexyl-2-methyl-17-oxa-2,5,6,7,12,15-hexaazatricyclo[12.2.1.1^{4,7}]octadeca-1(16),4(18),5,14-tetraene (1a)

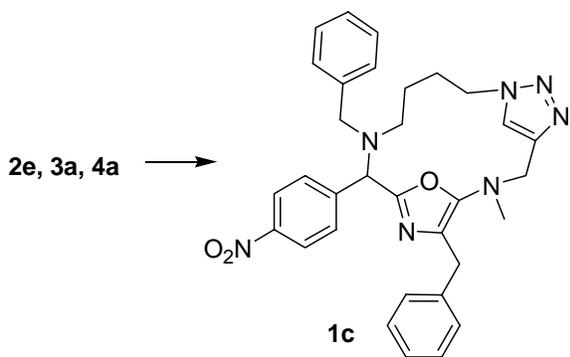
The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 8:2 and PE/EtOAc 6:4 to give **1a** as a yellow amorphous solid (76%). $R_f = 0.51$ (EtOAc). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.39-7.10 (m, 10H), 6.57 (br s, 1H), 4.21 (m, 1H), 4.07-4.01 (m, 3H), 3.87 (m, 3H), 3.55 (br t, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.25 (m, 1H), 1.90 (m, 1H), 1.76 (br s, 4H), 1.52 (br

s, 2H), 1.31–1.02 (br s, 8H), 0.82 (br t, $J = 5.5$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 159.6, 150.5, 143.3, 140.3, 139.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.4, 128.3, 126.8, 126.6, 126.3, 123.6, 58.4, 54.3, 50.9, 50.1, 49.7, 40.8, 31.7, 30.0, 28.9, 27.1, 26.4, 22.6, 20.0, 14.1; IR (liquid film) 3027, 2928, 1641, 1453, 1217, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 397 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



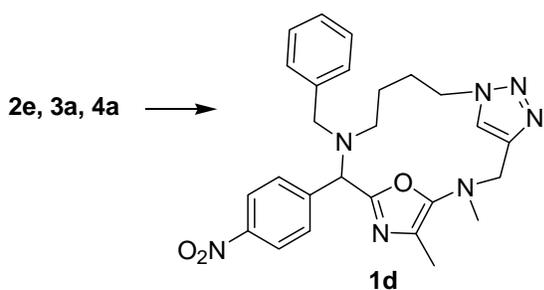
12-benzyl-13-hexyl-2,16-dimethyl-17-oxa-2,5,6,7,12,15-hexaazatricyclo[12.2.1.1^{4,7}]octadeca-1(16),4(18),5,14-tetraene (1b)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 7:3 and PE/EtOAc 4:6 to give **1b** as a yellow oil (32%). $R_f = 0.24$ (PE/EtOAc 4:6). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.35–7.15 (m, 5H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 4.32 (m, 1H), 4.18 (m, 1H), 4.15 (s, 2H), 3.86 (d, $J = 14.2$ Hz, 1H), 3.54 (m, 3H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.22 (m, 1H), 2.14 (s, 3H), 2.11(m, 1H), 1.87 (m, 2H), 1.74 (m, 2H), 1.55 (m, 2H), 1.30-1.04 (m, 8H), 0.82 (br t, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 159.3, 150.1, 143.5, 140.3, 128.7, 128.2, 126.8, 123.7, 123.5, 58.3, 54.3, 50.9, 50.1, 49.8, 40.8, 31.7, 30.2, 28.9, 27.2, 26.4, 23.9, 22.6, 14.1, 11.3; IR (KBr) 1646.3, 1457,8, 1218, 733.8 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 451 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$



12,16-dibenzyl-2-methyl-13-(4-nitrophenyl)-17-oxa-2,5,6,7,12,15-hexaazatricyclo[12.2.1.1^{4,7}]octadeca-1(16),4(18),5,14-tetraene (1c)

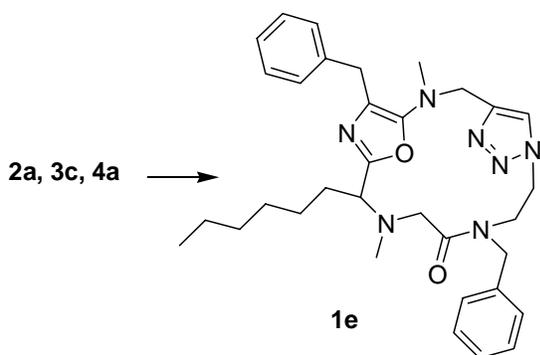
The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 5:5 and PE/EtOAc 4:6 to give **1c** as a yellow amorphous solid (24%). $R_f = 0.39$ (PE/EtOAc 4:6). Spectral data: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C) δ 8.11 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 2H), 7.50–7.10 (m, 6H), 6.55 (s, 1H), 4.87 (s, 1H), 4.23 (m, 2H), 4.12 (m, 2H), 3.88 (br s, 2H), 3.57 (br s, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.31 (m, 2H), 1.61 (m, 2H), 1.14 (m, 2H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 155.6, 151.5, 147.5, 146.0, 143.3, 139.5, 138.7, 129.4, 128.8, 128.6 (2C), 128.5, 127.2, 126.8, 26.5, 123.6, 123.2, 63.1, 54.7, 50.8, 50.7, 49.5, 40.6, 31.8, 27.1, 23.2; IR (KBr) 2938, 1640, 1514, 1452, 1346, 729 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 564 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$)



12-benzyl-2,16-dimethyl-13-(4-nitrophenyl)-17-oxa-2,5,6,7,12,15-hexaazatricyclo[12.2.1.1^{4,7}]octadeca-1(16),4(18),5,14-tetraene (1d)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant EtOAc to give (**1d**) as a orange oil (24%). $R_f = 0.08$ (EtOAc). Spectral data: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C) δ 8.10 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.56 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 2H), 7.20 (m, 5-H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 4.85 (s, 1H), 4.39–4.21 (m, 2H),

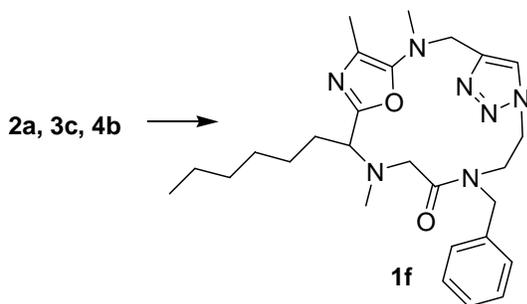
4.18 (br d, 2H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.29-2.22 (m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.92-1.48 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C) δ 155.4, 151.3, 147.6, 145.9, 143.6, 138.7, 129.3, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 123.8, 123.4, 123.1, 63.4, 54.8, 50.0, 50.7, 49.7, 40.6, 27.1, 23.6, 11.2; IR (liquid film) 2948, 1648, 1519, 1345, 729, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 516 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



10,17-dibenzyl-14-hexyl-2,13-dimethyl-18-oxa-2,5,6,7,10,13,16-

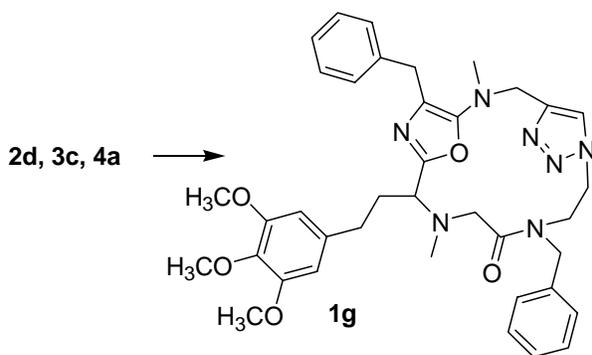
heptaazatricyclo[13.2.1.1^{4,7}]nonadeca-1(17),4(19),5,15-tetraen-11-one (1e)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 5:5 and EtOAc to give **1e** as a yellow amorphous solid (44%). $R_f = 0.22$ (EtOAc). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.35–7.10 (m, 10H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.63–4.50 (m, 2H), 4.28–4.07 (m, 4H), 3.85–3.62 (m, 5H), 3.33 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.12 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.81 (s, 3H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 1.92–1.77 (m, 2H), 1.25 (br s, 8H, 0.85 (br s, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.7, 158.5, 152.1, 143.0, 139.7, 136.7, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4, 127.7, 126.2, 126.1 (2C), 124.6, 63.3, 56.3, 52.4, 50.7, 47.8, 47.4, 40.7, 38.2, 31.7, 31.6, 29.2, 26.8, 26.5, 22.5, 13.9; IR (KBr) 2929, 1647, 1452, 1047, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 570 ($\text{M}+\text{K}$) $^+$



10-benzyl-14-hexyl-2,13,17-trimethyl-18-oxa-2,5,6,7,10,13,16-heptaazatricyclo[13.2.1.1^{4,7}]nonadeca-1(17),4(19),5,15-tetraen-11-one (1f)

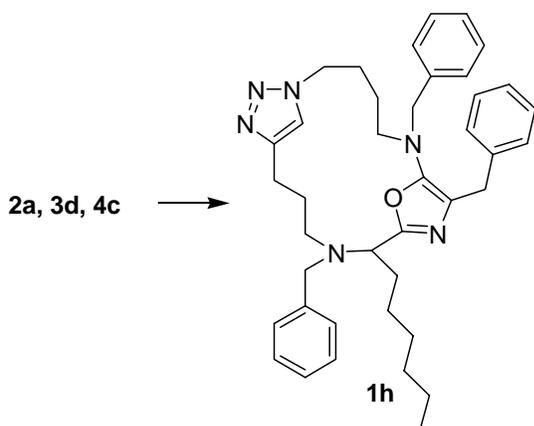
The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant EtOAc to give **1f** as a yellow oil (45%). $R_f = 0.08$ (EtOAc). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.35–7.10 (m, 5H), 6.93 (s, 1H), 4.70–4.44 (m, 2H), 4.33 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.14 (d, $J = 15.1$ Hz, 1H), 3.83–3.57 (m, 5H), 3.34 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, $J = 13.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.84 (s, 3H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 1.90–1.55 (m, 2H), 1.24 (br s, 8H), 0.83 (t, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.7, 158.2, 151.6, 143.5, 136.7, 129.0, 127.7, 126.2, 121.2, 63.2, 56.0, 52.5, 50.4, 47.9, 47.5, 40.6, 38.4, 31.6, 29.2, 26.9, 26.1, 22.5, 13.9, 11.1; IR (liquid film) 2928, 1641, 1453, 1228, 730 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 516 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$)⁺



10,17-dibenzyl-2,13-dimethyl-14-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethyl)-18-oxa-2,5,6,7,10,13,16-heptaazatricyclo[13.2.1.1^{4,7}]nonadeca-1(17),4(19),5,15-tetraen-11-one (1g)

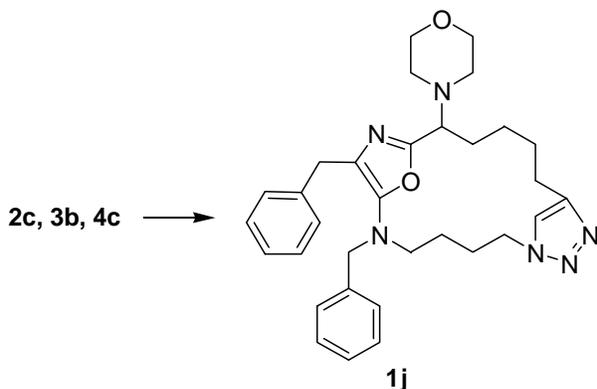
The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 5:5 and EtOAc/MeOH 9:1 to give **1g** as a yellow amorphous solid (47%). $R_f = 0.13$ (EtOAc). Spectral

data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 7.40–7.14 (m, 10H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.30 (s, 2H), 4.50 (m, 2H), 4.31–4.12 (m, 4H), 3.77 (br s, 14H), 3.31 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 2.83 (s, 3H), 2.62 (m, 2H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 2.23 (m, 2H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C , referred to the main rotamer) δ 171.5, 157.9, 153.3, 152.2, 143.2, 139.7, 136.9, 136.7, 136.6, 129.0, 128.5, 128.4 (2C), 127.7, 126.2, 124.6, 126.1, 105.9, 61.7, 60.8, 56.2, 52.3, 50.5, 47.8, 47.4, 40.8, 38.3, 33.1, 31.8, 29.7; IR (KBr) 2961, 1653, 1453, 1123, 728 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 702 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



6,8,12-tribenzyl-11-hexyl-20-oxa-1,6,9,12,17,18-hexaazatricyclo[14.2.1.1^{7,10}]jicosa-7,9,16(19),17-tetraene (1h)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 6:4 and PE/EtOAc 5:5 to give **1h** as a yellow amorphous solid (29%). $R_f = 0.19$ (PE/EtOAc 5:5). Spectral data: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C) δ 7.40–7.10 (m, 15H), 6.84 (br s, 1H), 4.18 (m, 1H), 4.02 (s, 2H), 3.83 (d, $J = 14.3$ Hz, 1H), 3.73 (br t, 2H), 3.65 (br s, 2H), 3.35 (d, $J = 14.3$ Hz, 1H), 2.83 (t, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H), 2.55 (m, 2H), 2.35 (m, 2H), 1.9–1.6 (m, 8H), 1.35–1.0 (br s, 8-H), 0.86 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C) δ 160.5, 150.0, 146.8, 140.3, 139.9, 137.7, 129.0, 128.7 (3C), 128.5, 128.3, 128.2, 127.6, 126.8, 126.2, 122.0, 59.2, 57.9, 55.3, 52.3, 49.8, 49.4, 31.9, 31.4, 30.6, 29.1, 27.6, 27.5, 26.3, 24.2, 23.4, 22.7, 14.2; IR (liquid film) 2929, 1652, 1455, 1028, 731 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 631 ($\text{M}+\text{H}$) $^+$



6,8-dibenzyl-11-(4-morpholinyl)-20-oxa-1,6,9,17,18-pentaazatricyclo[14.2.1.1^{7,10}]jicosa-7,9,16(19),17-tetraene (1j)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 2:8 and EtOAc/MeOH 95:5 to give **1j** as a yellow amorphous solid (40%). $R_f = 0.07$ (EtOAc x 2). Spectral data: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.40–7.00 (m, 10H), 4.18 (m, 2H), 3.63 (br s, 5H), 3.40 (m, 1H), 2.95 (m, 2H), 2.70 (m, 2H), 2.43 (br s, 2H), 2.30 (br s, 2H), 1.90–1.58 (br s, 8H), 0.92 (q, $J = 7.9$ Hz); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 159.0, 150.3, 147.1, 139.3, 137.4, 129.5, 129.1, 128.8, 128.4 (2C), 127.6, 126.2, 121.4, 67.0, 64.4, 59.3, 52.7, 50.7, 49.4, 31.4, 30.3, 28.7, 27.4, 24.7, 24.4, 24.3; IR (liquid film) 2944, 1737, 1453, 1260, 1115, 699 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 563 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$)⁺

General procedure for the two steps synthesis of the macrocycles (1i) (1h)

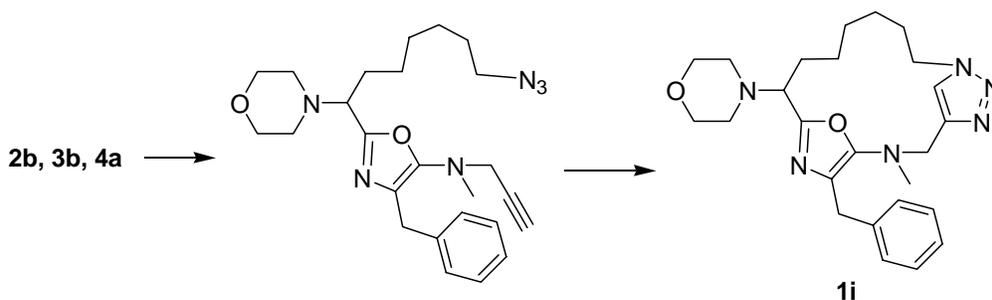
-three component reaction:

To a solution of the aldehyde (1 eq) in dry toluene (0.5 M) the amine (1 eq) was added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 30 minutes. Then the isocyanide (1 eq) and NH_4Cl (1.5 eq) were added. The reaction mixture was heated at 80°C until

the TLC revealed the almost complete disappearance of the three components. The reaction mixture was diluted with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ and extracted with EtOAc (x 2). The combined organic layers were washed with brine, dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.

-intramolecular [3 + 2] cycloaddition:

To a solution of the 5-aminooxazole intermediate (1 eq) in dry THF (0.001 M), DIPEA (20 eq) and CuI (2 eq) were added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere for 21 hours. CuI was filtered off and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography.

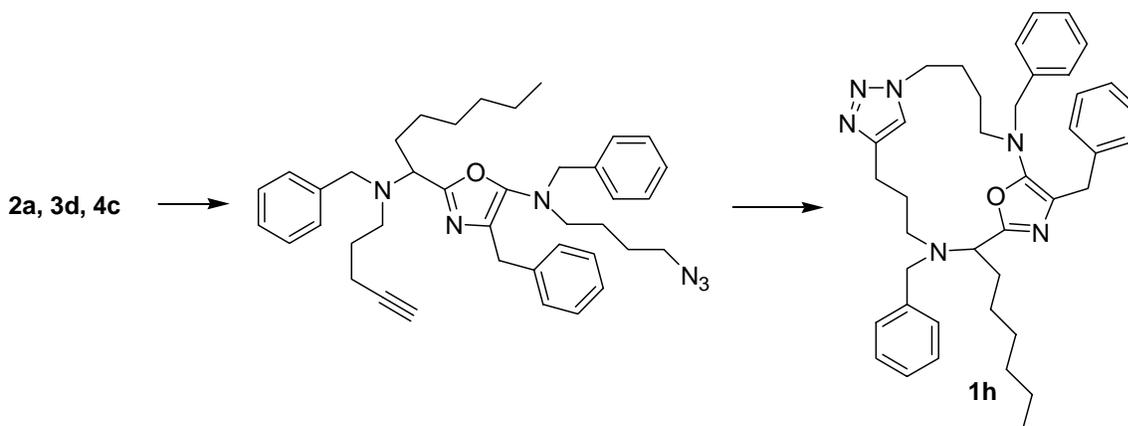


2-[7-azido-1-(4-morpholinyl)heptyl]-4-benzyl-N-methyl-N-(2-propynyl)-1,3-oxazol-5-amine

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 9:1 and PE/EtOAc 7:3 to give 2-[7-azido-1-(4-morpholinyl)heptyl]-4-benzyl-N-methyl-N-(2-propynyl)-1,3-oxazol-5-amine as a pale yellow oil (68%). R_f = 0.22 (PE/EtOAc 7:3). Spectral data: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.27–7.12 (m, 5H), 3.84 (s, 2H), 3.66 (br s, 7H), 3.23 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.56 (br s, 2H), 2.49 (br s, 2H), 2.23 (br t, 1H), 1.87 (br s, 2H), 1.53 (br s, 2H), 1.33–1.21 (br s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 157.9, 151.7, 139.7, 128.4, 126.1, 124.5, 77.5, 73.3, 70.9, 67.4, 63.2, 51.5, 50.2, 45.1, 40.0, 31.6, 29.8, 28.9, 26.6, 26.2; IR (liquid film) 2936, 2095, 1739, 1364, 1217, 1115, 669 cm⁻¹; MS (ESI) *m/z* 473 (M+Na)⁺

18-benzyl-2-methyl-15-(4-morpholinyl)-19-oxa-2,6,7,8,17-pentaazatricyclo[14.2.1.0^{4,8}]nonadeca-1(18),4,6,16-tetraene (1i)

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 7:3 and EtOAc to give **1i** as a yellow amorphous solid (35%). $R_f = 0.27$ (EtOAc). Spectral data: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 25°C) δ 7.35–7.10 (m, 5H), 6.40 (s, 1H), 4.24 (m, 2H), 4.09 (m, 1H), 3.88 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.80 (d, $J = 15.4$ Hz, 1H), 3.67 (br s, 4H), 3.38 (m, 2H), 2.95 (s, 3H), 2.48 (br s, 4H), 1.70–1.18 (m, 10H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 25°C) δ 151.5, 144.4, 139.7, 128.7, 128.4, 126.4, 123.9, 121.2, 67.0, 64.1, 50.5, 49.9, 41.1, 31.7, 30.2, 28.5, 26.9, 26.0, 25.7; IR (KBr) 2933, 1641, 1453, 1115, 730 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 473 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$



***N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*,4-dibenzyl-2-{1-[benzyl(4-pentynyl)amino]heptyl}-1,3-oxazol-5-amine**

The crude product was purified by column chromatography using as eluant PE/EtOAc 95:5 to give *N*-(4-azidobutyl)-*N*,4-dibenzyl-2-{1-[benzyl(4-pentynyl)amino]heptyl}-1,3-oxazol-5-amine as a colourless oil (90%). $R_f = 0.81$ (PE/EtOAc 8:2). Spectral data: $^1\text{H NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 300 MHz, 50°C) δ 7.35-7.10 (m, 5H), 4.08 (s, 2H), 3.83 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.71 (br s, 3H), 3.32 (d, $J = 14.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.09 (t, $J = 6.3$ Hz, 2H), 2.97 (t, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2H), 2.73 (m, 1H), 2.35 (m, 1H), 2.15 (m, 2H), 1.86 (br s, 3H), 1.65 (m, 2H), 1.47 (m, 4H), 1.21 (br s, 8H), 0.88 (t, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C NMR}$ (CDCl_3 , 75 MHz, 50°C) δ 159.8, 150.5, 140.3, 139.7, 137.9, 128.8-126.0, 127.6, 85.0, 68.2, 58.9, 58.1, 55.5, 52.7, 51.2, 49.6, 31.8, 31.5, 30.5, 29.1, 27.4, 26.5, 26.4, 25.3, 22.6, 16.2, 14.0; IR (liquid film) 2930, 2096, 1734, 1455, 1364, 698 cm^{-1} ; MS (ESI) m/z 653 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}$) $^+$

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