Supporting Information

A Novel Synthesis of Calix[4]thiophenes and Calix[4]furans

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General

Melting points were measured with a Barloworld SMP3 melting point apparatus and were uncorrected. NMR spectra were measured in CDCl₃ solution with a Bruker AC-300 MHz NMR spectrometer, with CHCl₃ as the internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm downfield from tetramethylsilane. Coupling constants (J) are expressed in hertz (Hz). Mass spectra were measured with a Finnigan/Thermo Quest MAT 95XL mass spectrometer. The elemental analyses were recored on a Elementar vario EL III elemental analyzer. Infrared spectra were recorded on KBr pellets. Flash column chromatography was performed on silica gel (230 mesh). Solvents are of reagent grade.

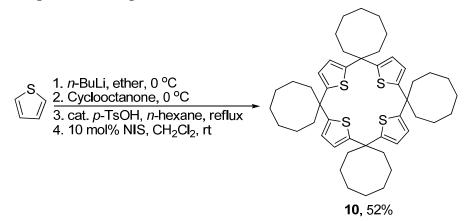
Experimental procedures and characterization data for all compounds. Synthesis of 1-(2-thienyl)cyclooctanene (9)

To a stirred solution of thiophene (10.0 g, 0.12 mol) in 100 mL of dry ether at 0 °C was added n-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexane, 75 mL, 0.12 mol) dropwise from a syringe. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, and cyclooctanone (15.14 g, 0.12 mol) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The mixture was poured into a 250-mL beaker with 100 g of crushed ice. The organic layer was separated and washed with water and brine, and then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After filtration, the solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. To a stirred solution of crude alcohol in 100 mL of n-hexane was added catalytic amount of p-TsOH and the mixture was refluxed for 12 h. The n-hexane solution was dried over anhydrous K_2CO_3 . After filtration, the solvent was removed and distilled to give 9 (81-82 °C / 0.1 torr, 18.7 g, 81%). δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 7.08 (1 H, dd, J 1.7 and 4.6, thiophene α -H), 6.98-6.94 (2 H, m, thiophene β -H), 6.17 (1 H, t, J 8.3, olefinic), 2.66-2.62 (2 H, m, cyclooctyl), 2.30-2.23 (2 H, m, cyclooctyl), 1.72-1.64 (2 H, m, cyclooctyl), 1.62-1.50 (6 H, m, cyclooctyl); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 147.1 (C), 134.3 (C), 127.2 (CH), 126.8 (CH), 122.8 (CH), 121.7 (CH), 30.2 (CH₂), 28.9 (CH₂), 28.4 (CH₂), 27.3 (CH₂), 26.9 (CH₂), 26.0 (CH₂).

NIS-catalyzed tetramerization of 1-(2-thienyl)cyclooctene.

To a stirred solution of compound **9** (1g, 5.2 mmol) in 10 mL of CH₂Cl₂ was added 10 mol% of NIS (0.117 g, 0.52 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 72 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (5% EtOAc in toluene) to afford white solid **10** (0.61 g, 61%). mp 361-362 °C; (Found: C, 74.58; H, 8.37. C₄₈H₆₄S₄ requires C, 74.94; H, 8.39%); v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3095, 3079, 3063, 2922, 2850, 1638, 1618, 1477, 1446, 785, 759; $\delta_{\rm H}$ (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 6.61 (8 H, s, thiophene β -H), 2.31-2.13 (16 H, br m, cyclooctyl), 1.66-1.42 (40 H, br m, cyclooctyl); $\delta_{\rm C}$ (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 155.3 (C), 120.2 (CH), 47.6 (C), 35.8 (CH₂), 28.5 (CH₂), 24.9 (CH₂), 22.9 (CH₂); MS (FAB) m/z 768 (M⁺, 4), 136 (100); HRMS (FAB) Calcd for C₄₈H₆₄S₄ m/z 768.3891 (M⁺), found 768.3887. CCDC 768516.

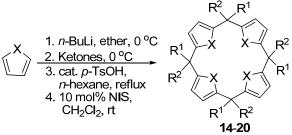
General procedure for the synthesis of calix[4] arenes (10, 14-20) from thiophene and furan. Exemplified for compound 10.



To a stirred solution of thiophene (1.0 g, 11.9 mmol) in 100 mL of dry ether at 0 °C was added *n*-butyllithium (1.6 M in hexane, 7.4 mL, 11.9 mmol) dropwise from a syringe. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, and cyclooctanone (1.5 g, 11.9 mmol) was added. The mixture was allowed to warm to rt and stirred overnight. The mixture was poured into a 250-mL beaker with 100 g of crushed ice. The organic layer was separated and washed with water and brine, and then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After filtration, the

solvent was removed on a rotary evaporator. To a stirred solution of crude alcohol in 100 mL of n-hexane was added catalytic amount of p-TsOH and the mixture was refluxed for 12 h. The n-hexane solution was dried over anhydrous K_2CO_3 . After filtration, the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The alkene was used without further purification. To a CH_2Cl_2 (20 mL) solution of crude 1-(2-thienyl)cyclooctene (1.97 g) was added 10 mol% of NIS (0.25 g) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 72 h. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography to afford white solid **10** (1.19 g, 52%).

Table 1 The synthesis of calix[4] arenes **14-20** from thiophene and furan.



Entry	X	\mathbb{R}^1	R ²	Product	Yield
1	S	-(CH ₂) ₆ -		14	56
2	S	Et	Et	15	62
3	S	n-Pr	<i>n</i> -Pr	16	58
4	S	<i>n</i> -Bu	<i>n</i> -Bu	17	66
5	O	-(CH ₂) ₆ -		18	42
6	O	-(CH ₂) ₇ -		19	51
7	O	<i>n</i> -Bu	<i>n</i> -Bu	20	47

Tetraspirocycloheptyl calix[4]thiophene (14)

mp 338-339 °C; (Found: C, 74.31; H, 7.76. $C_{44}H_{56}S_4$ requires C, 74.10; H, 7.91%); ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3092, 3072, 3060, 2932, 2920, 2850, 1638, 1618, 1462, 1443, 795, 786, 755; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 6.59 (8 H, s, thiophene β-H), 2.33-2.19 (16 H, br m, cycloheptyl), 1.68-1.50 (32 H, br m, cycloheptyl); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 156.0 (C), 119.5 (CH), 47.5 (C), 41.9 (CH₂), 29.8 (CH₂), 23.4 (CH₂); MS (FAB) m/z 712 (M⁺, 10), 136 (100); HRMS (FAB) Calcd for $C_{44}H_{56}S_4$ m/z 712.3265 (M⁺), found 712.3270. CCDC 768514.

Octaethyl calix[4]thiophene (15)

mp 317.5-318 °C; (Found: C, 70.98; H, 7.65. $C_{36}H_{48}S_4$ requires C, 71.00; H, 7.94%); ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3100, 3079, 3066, 2965, 2933, 2875, 1638, 1617, 1477, 1457, 1378, 789, 780; δ_{H} (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 6.58 (8 H, s, thiophene β-H), 2.0 (16 H, q, J 7.3, CH_2CH_3), 0.71 (24 H, t, J 7.3, CH_2CH_3); δ_{C} (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 154.5 (C), 120.5 (CH), 47.2 (C), 29.8 (CH₂), 8.1 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z 608 (M⁺, 9), 579 (100); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{36}H_{48}S_4$ m/z 608.2639 (M⁺), found 608.2635. CCDC 768517.

Octapropyl calix[4]thiophene (16)

mp 341.5-342.5 °C; (Found: C, 73.08; H, 8.79. $C_{44}H_{64}S_4$ requires C, 73.27; H, 8.94%); v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3096, 3076, 2956, 2932, 2870, 1638, 1618, 1475, 1464, 1457, 1379, 796, 773; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 6.55 (8 H, s, thiophene β-H), 1.96-1.90 (16 H, m, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 1.18-1.05 (16 H, m, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 0.86 (24 H, t, J 7.2, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 154.9 (C), 120.0 (CH), 46.8 (C), 40.3 (CH₂), 17.1 (CH₂), 14.5 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z 720 (M⁺, 6), 677 (100); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{44}H_{64}S_4$ m/z 720.3891 (M⁺), found 720.3886. CCDC 768512.

Octabutyl calix[4]thiophene (17)

mp 286.5-287.5 °C; (Found: C, 75.01; H, 9.67. $C_{52}H_{80}S_4$ requires C, 74.94; H, 9.67%); ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 3097, 3077, 2954, 2932, 2862, 1638, 1618, 1465, 1378, 789; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 6.55 (8 H, s, thiophene β-H), 1.96-1.91 (16 H, m, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 1.25 (16 H, sextet, J 7.2, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 1.15-0.98 (16 H, br m, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 0.81 (24 H, t, J 7.2, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 155.1 (C), 120.0 (CH), 46.7 (C), 37.5 (CH₂), 25.9 (CH₂), 22.9 (CH₂), 13.9 (CH₃); MS (FAB) m/z 833 ([M + 1]⁺, 1.4), 154 (100); HRMS (FAB) Calcd for $C_{52}H_{81}S_4$ m/z 833.5221 [M + H]⁺, found 833.5234. CCDC 768518.

Tetraspirocycloheptyl calix[4]furan (18)

mp 233-234 °C; (Found: C, 81.57; H, 9.08. $C_{44}H_{56}O_4$ requires C, 81.44; H, 8.70%); v_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2942, 2920, 2856, 1638, 1617, 1548, 1464, 1446, 1201, 1020, 776, 763; $\delta_H(300 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$ 5.87 (8 H, s, furan β -H), 2.10-1.99 (16 H, br m, cycloheptyl), 1.56-1.37 (32 H, br m, cycloheptyl); $\delta_C(75 \text{ MHz}; \text{CDCl}_3)$ 158.3 (C), 103.7 (CH), 44.3 (C), 35.6 (CH₂), 29.7 (CH₂), 22.6 (CH₂); MS (EI) m/z 648 (M⁺, 100); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{44}H_{56}O_4$ m/z 648.4179 (M⁺), found 648.4185. CCDC 768513.

Tetraspirocyclooctyl calix[4]furan (19)

mp 306-307 °C; (Found: C, 82.01; H, 9.21. $C_{48}H_{64}O_4$ requires C, 81.77; H, 9.15%); ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2947, 2916, 2846, 1638, 1618, 1551, 1479, 1446, 1188, 1059, 1027, 774; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 5.91 (8 H, s, furan β-H), 2.09-1.97 (16 H, br m, cyclooctyl), 1.58-1.41 (24 H, br m, cyclooctyl), 1.38-1.24 (16 H, br m, cyclooctyl); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 157.2 (C), 104.6 (CH), 44.4 (C), 29.9 (CH₂), 28.5 (CH₂), 25.0 (CH₂), 22.1 (CH₂); MS (EI) m/z 704 (M⁺, 100); HRMS (EI) Calcd for $C_{48}H_{64}O_4$ m/z 704.4805 (M⁺), found 704.4807. CCDC 768515.

Octabutyl calix[4]furan (20)

mp 271.5-272.5 °C; (Found: C, 81.27; H, 10.58. $C_{52}H_{80}O_4$ requires C, 81.20; H, 10.48%); ν_{max} (film)/cm⁻¹ 2956, 2918, 2872, 2859, 1639, 1617, 1601, 1551, 1467, 1379, 1198, 1023, 777, 754; δ_H (300 MHz; CDCl₃) 5.87 (8 H, s, furan β-H), 1.87-1.73 (16 H, br m, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 1.22 (16 H, sextet, J 7.3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 0.99-0.80 (16 H, m, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$), 0.82 (24 H, t, J 7.3, $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_3$); δ_C (75 MHz; CDCl₃) 156.8 (C), 104.6 (CH), 43.5 (C), 32.0 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₂), 23.2 (CH₂), 14.1 (CH₃); MS (FAB) m/z 768 (M⁺, 3), 154 (100); HRMS (FAB) Calcd for $C_{52}H_{80}O_4$ m/z 768.6057 (M⁺), found 768.6058. CCDC 768519.

