Supporting Information for

"Minimal Complementary Hydrogen Bonded Double helices" Hong-Bo Wang, Bhanu P. Mudraboyina, Jiaxin Li and James A. Wisner* Department of Chemistry, the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5B7

General Methods. Chemicals were purchased from Aldrich and used as received. All non-deuterated solvents were dried using an Innovative Technology solvent purification system SPS-400-5. Chromatography was performed on Merck 240-400 mesh silica gel-60. CDCl₃ and acetone-d₆ were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories and dried over 3Å (acetone) or 4Å (chloroform) molecular sieves before use. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were collected on a Varian Mercury 400 MHz spectrometer. Spectra are reported with residual solvent peak as reference from TMS. EI and CI (CH₄) mass spectra were obtained on a Finnigan MAT 8200 mass spectrometer and ESI mass spectra were performed on a Varian Inova 600 MHz spectrometer. Melting points were determined using a Gallenkamp melting point apparatus and are uncorrected.

¹H NMR Titration Data.



Figure S1 ¹H NMR titration of **14b** with **8** following indole N-H^a (K_a =3616±73 M⁻¹).



Figure S2 ¹H NMR titration of **14b** with **8** following indole N-H^c (K_a =3705±97 M⁻¹)



Figure S3 ¹H NMR titration of **14b** with **8** following thiazine dioxide N-H^b (K_a=3810 $\pm 108M^{-1}$)

Experimental Procedures, Synthesis and Characterization.

1: Concentrated sulfuric acid (1mL) was added to a mixture of 1,4-dibromo-2,3butanedione (82.6 mmol, 20.0 g) and trimethylorthoformate (182 mmol, 19.5 g) in a 100mL flask under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction solution was stirred for 16 hours. Water (100 mL) and CH_2Cl_2 (100 mL) were added, separated and the organic layer was further washed with 10% HCl and saturated NaCl solutions. The solvent was dried with MgSO₄, evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product dissolved in hexane and filtered to remove some insoluble precipitates. The filtrate was cooled to -78°C and the resulting white solid collected to give pure product (21.5 g, 89% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 4.44(s, 2 H), 3.50(s, 2 H), 3.30(s, 6 H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 216.2, 102.4, 50.3, 35.8, 29.6; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₆H₁₀Br₂O₃ [M⁺] 289.9447; found 288.9483.

2: 2-Mercapto-propiophenone¹ (8.30 g, 50.0 mmol) and 1,4-Dibromo-3,3-dimethoxybutan-2-one (1) (14.5 g, 50.0 mmol) were dissolved in CH₃CN (200mL) and the solution purged with N₂ for 5 min. K₂CO₃ (13.8 g, 100 mmol) was quickly added and the reaction mixture was stirred for 2 days before the slurry was filtered through celite, and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 40 mL). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to give pure product, pale yellow oil (18 g, 96%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 8.02 (d, 2H, *J*= 7.2 Hz), 7.57 (t, 1H, *J*= 7.5 Hz), 7.47 (t, 2H, *J*= 7.8 Hz), 4.52 (q, 1H, *J*= 6.8 Hz), 3.73 (m, 2H), 3.47 (s, 2H), 3.27 (s, 3H), 3.23 (s, 3H), 1.55 (d, 3H, *J*= 7.0 Hz); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 202.6, 196.2, 135.1, 132.9, 128.4, 128.3, 101.7, 50.0, 49.8, 41.2, 37.6, 29.4, 16.4; CI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₅H₁₉BrO₄S [(M+H)⁺] 375.0266; found 375.0272.

3: A CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) solution of *m*-CPBA (77 %, 0.28 g, 1.3 mmol) was dropwise added into a CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) solution of **2** (0.23 g, 0.6 mmol) at -78°C. The mixture was stirred vigorously and slowly warmed to room temperature over 5h. The reaction solution was quenched with aqueous NaHCO₃ and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×8 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure to give the pure waxy product (0.23g, 95%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 8.03 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.2 Hz), 7.64 (t, 1H, *J* = 7.7

¹ G. M. Coppola, R. E. Damon, H. Yu, *Synlett* 1995, 1143.

Hz), 7.52 (t, 2H, J= 7.7 Hz), 5.47 (q, 1H, J= 7.2 Hz), 4.66 (m, 2H), 3.44 (m, 2H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 3.26 (s, 3H), 1.75 (d, 3H, J= 7.2 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 199.1, 193.5, 135.3, 134.4, 129.0, 109.8, 101.6, 64.2, 59.2, 50.4, 40.2, 28.9, 12.3; CI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₅H₁₉BrO₆S [(M+H)⁺] 407.0164; found 407.0157.

4: Sulfone **3** (0.95 g, 2.5 mmol) and ammonium acetate (1.13 g, 15 mmol) in glacial acetic acid (40 mL) were refluxed for 36h under an N₂ atmosphere. When cooled down, the reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O, extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with sat. NaHCO₃ solution, and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with flash chromatography (hexanes / ethyl acetate: 1/1) to give a yellow solid (0.60 g, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.57 (s, 1H), 7.51 (m, 3H), 7.41 (m, 2H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 3.31 (s, 6H), 2.10 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 141.5, 138.3, 129.8, 128.9, 128.2, 110.5, 107.2, 98.7, 97.6, 49.7, 33.1, 8.4; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₅H₁₈BrNO₄S [M⁺] 387.0140; found 387.0147.

5: Thiazine dioxide **4** (0.60 g, 1.5 mmol) was dissolved in formic acid (60 mL) and the solution was refluxed for 18h. When cooled down, the reaction mixture was diluted with H₂O, extracted with CH₂Cl₂, washed with aqueous NaHCO₃, and dried over MgSO₄. The organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure to give pure product, a brown solid with quantitative yield (0.52 g). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.80 (s, 1H), 7.52 (m, 3H), 7.38 (m, 2H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 4.32 (s, 2H), 2.11 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 186.4, 139.3, 133.5, 132.9, 130.5, 129.3, 128.3, 111.4, 105.1, 27.2, 8.8; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₃H₁₂BrNO₃S [M⁺] 340.9721; found 340.9717.

6: A solution of deprotected thiazine dioxide **5** (1.26g, 3.8mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (20mL) and a solution of NaSH (0.2g, 3.8mmol) in H₂O (10mL) were separately purged with N₂ for 5 min before they were quickly mixed. The reaction mixture was stirred vigorously under N₂ atmosphere for 16h at room temperature, and monitored by ¹H NMR. Upon completion of the reaction, the aqueous layer was acidified to approximately pH 3 with aqueous 1M HCl solution, separated and extracted further with CH₂Cl₂ (2×15mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with H₂O, brine, and dried over MgSO₄. The crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with flash chromatography (3%CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂) to give a white solid (0.90 g, 87%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 7.96 (s, 2H), 7.46 (m, 6H), 7.35 (m, 4H), 6.77 (s, 2H), 3.93 (s, 4H), 2.02 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 188.9, 139.5, 134.9, 132.9, 130.3, 129.1, 128.4, 110.9, 104.2, 35.8, 8.7; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₂₆H₂₄N₂O₆S₃ [M⁺] 556.0796; found 556.0781.

7: Urea hydrogen peroxide (UHP) (5.0 mmol, 0.51 g) was introduced to a solution of trifluoroacetic anhydride (TFAA) (4.0 mmol, 0.83 g) in acetonitrile (10 mL) and the resulting solution was stirred for 3 minutes. Thioether **6** (1.3 mmol, 0.73 g) dissolved in acetonitrile (10 mL) was slowly added and the reaction was stirred for 2 hours. The solution was diluted with water (100mL) and the resulting precipitate was collected by filtration. The solid crude sulfone and ammonium acetate (0.20 g) in glacial acetic acid (20 mL) were refluxed for 40 hours. The reaction solution was cooled down and diluted with water (20 mL) and the resulting precipitate was collected and purified using preparative TLC (10% CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂) to give a white solid (0.40 g, 74% yield). M.P. 331.5-333 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 11.33(s, 1H), 10.52(s, 2H), 7.54(m,

10H), 6.59(s, 2H), 6.53(s, 2H), 1.89(s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 158.5, 152.3, 148.2, 142.9, 136.9, 131.7, 129.4, 128.8, 124.2, 123.0, 19.6; ESI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₂₆H₂₃S₃O₆N₃Na [(M+Na)⁺] 592.0647; found 592.0633.

8: 2,6-Diiodo-3,5-dimethylpyridine² (1.0g, 2.8mmol), 2-tributylstannylpyridine (1.4g, 5.6mmol) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.2g, 0.17mmol) were dissolved in dry toluene and refluxed for 24h. The reaction solution was cooled down, filtered through Celite and washed with CH₂Cl₂ (3×20mL). The filtrate was wash with water and the organics was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The crude product was concentrated under reduced pressure and purified with flash chromatography to give a white solid (0.42 g, 57% yield). M.P. 170.5-171.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 8.67(d, *J*=4.7Hz, 2H), 7.92(d, *J*=8.0Hz, 2H), 7.79(dd, *J*=7.2, 8.0Hz, 2H), 7.53 (s, 1H), 7.28 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 158.7, 152.7, 148.0, 142.5, 136.4, 131.7, 124.2, 122.3, 19.5; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₇H₁₅N₃ [M⁺] 261.1266; found 261.1258.

9a: Methyl 2-ethylacetoacetate (20.0 mmol, 2.88 g) and 1.08g NaOH were dissolved and stirred for 10 hours in a water/ethanol solution. A diazonium salt was prepared from aniline (20.0 mmol, 1.86 g), concentrated HCl (10 mL) and aqueous solution of sodium nitrate (20.0 mmol, 1.38 g) in an ice bath according to standard procedures. The diazonium salt was added to the pre-prepared sodium carboxylate solution at 0° C. The resulting solution was modified to pH 7-8 with sodium acetate and stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The precipitate was collected, dried and refluxed overnight in formic acid (20 mL). The reaction solution was cooled down and diluted with water (100 mL). The precipitate was crude product and purified with the flash chromatography

² D. Pugh, Acta Cryst. 2006, C62, o590.

 (CH_2Cl_2) to give light yellow solid (16.6 g, 49% yield). ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were in agreement with those reported in the literature.³

9b: Prepared as described for **9a**, starting from ethyl (2-ethyl)propionylacetate⁴ and aniline (46% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 9.25(s, 1H), 7.69(m, 1H), 7.40-7.33(m, 2H), 7.12 (m, 1H), 2.98(q, *J*=7.2Hz, 2H), 2.64(s, 3H), 1.30(t, *J*=7.2Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 194.0, 136.1, 132.5, 129.1, 126.3, 121.2, 120.1, 118.0, 112.0, 34.4, 11.3, 8.2; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₂H₁₃NO [M⁺] 187.0997; found 187.0994.

10a: Trimethylphenylammonium tribromide (3.76 g, 100 mmol) was added to a THF (50mL) solution of **9a** (1.73 g, 10 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed over an hour and filtered through celite. The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and further purified with the flash chromatography (1.45 g, 74% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 9.03(s, 1H), 7.71(m, 1H), 7.38(m, 2H), 7.16 (m, 1H), 5.17(q, *J*=6.6Hz, 1H), 2.72(s, 3H), 1.95(d, *J*=6.6Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 186.7, 137.0, 129.8, 129.0, 127.3, 121.6, 120.6, 112.1, 43.7, 20.2, 11.2; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₂H₁₂NOBr [M⁺] 265.0098; found 265.0094.

10b: Prepared as described in the case of **10a**, by reacting **9b** with trimethylphenylammonium tribromide (82% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 11.59(s, 1H), 7.72(m, 1H), 7.43(m, 1H), 7.31(m, 1H), 7.08(m, 1H), 4.77(s, 2H), 2.59(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 184.2, 136.8, 129.5, 127.8, 126.1,

³ M. Pal, R. Dakarapu, S. Padakanti, J. Org. Chem. 2004, 69, 2913.

⁴ S. M. Jones, J. E. Urch, M. Kaiser, R. Brun, J. L. Harwood, C. Berry, I. H. Gilbert, *J. Med. Chem.* 2005, **48**, 5932.

120.1, 119.7, 119.5, 112.5, 34.9, 10.5; EI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₁₁H₁₀BrON [M⁺] 250.9946, found 250.9906.

11: Bromoacylskatole **10b** (6.60 g, 24.9 mmol) and potassium thioacetate (3.13 g, 27.4 mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (200 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction solution was stirred for 12 hours and diluted with water (600 mL). The precipitate was collected, dried (MgSO₄) and dissolved in methanol (200 mL). Cysteamine hydrochloride (2.84 g, 25.0 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (2.1 g, 25 mmol) were added into the reaction solution. The reaction mixture was degassed for 5 minutes and stirred overnight. The reaction solution was quenched with 10% aqueous HCl, diluted with water (100mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×200mL). The organic layer was dried over anhydrous MgSO₄ and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified using flash column chromatography to give a light yellow oil (2.8 g, 51% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 9.09 (s, 1H), 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.38(m, 2H), 7.16(m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 187.7, 136.7, 130.9, 128.9, 127.1, 121.5, 120.5, 119.4, 112.1, 32.9, 11.4; EI HRMS calcd. for C₁₁H₁₁NOS [M⁺] 219.0561, found : 219.0565.

12a: To a solution of **10a** (1.00 g, 3.97 mmol) in acetone (15 mL), sodium sulfide nonahydrate (0.48 g, 2.0 mmol) in water (10 mL) was added dropwise at 0°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for about 16 h. and the crude product was washed with water (3x50 mL) to get rid of impurities and aqueous wastes, yielding pure yellowish brown solid (1.2 g, 81% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 11.52 (s, 2H), 7.68 (d, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.28 (dt, *J*=7.0Hz, *J*=1.2Hz, 2H), 7.05 (dt, *J*=7.0Hz, *J*=1.2Hz, 2H), 4.06 (s, 4H) 2.56 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 187.4, 136.5, 130.7, 127.9, 125.8, 120.8, 119.6, 118.8,

112.5, 40.0, 10.6; ESI HRMS (m/z) calcd. for $C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_2S$ [M⁺] 376.1245, found : 376.1229.

12b: Compounds **11** (0.38g, 1.9mmol) and **10b** (0.5g, 1.8mmol) was dissolved in 20mL dry acetonitrile under a N₂ atmosphere. Triethylamine (0.3mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 6 hours at room temperature. The reaction solution was quenched by 10% aqueous HCl, diluted with water (100mL). The precipitate is pure product without any further purification (0.6 g, 86% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 11.54(s, 1H), 11.52(s, 1H), 7.71(m, 2H), 7.42(m, 2H), 7.28(m, 2H), 7.07 (m, 2H), 4.59(q, *J*=6.8Hz, 1H), 4.10(d, *J*=15.5Hz, 1H), 4.02(d, *J*=15.5Hz, 1H), 2.58(s, 3H), 2.54(s, 3H), 1.53(d, *J*=6.8Hz, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 189.5, 187.8, 136.6, 130.1, 127.9, 125.7, 120.8, 119.6, 118.7, 112.4, 42.9, 37.5, 16.6, 10.5; ESI HRMS (m/z) calculated for C₂₂H₂₀SN₃O₂ 390.1402, found 390.1413.

13a: To a solution of **12a** (0.36g, 0.96mmol) in acetonitrile (10mL), UHP (0.36g, 3.83mmol) dissolved in acetonitrile solution (5mL) of TFAA (0.6g, 2.86mmol), was added drop wise at room temperature and stirred for 2 h. and the crude product was washed with water (3x25ml), filtered and air dried yielding pure yellowish brown solid which was further purified with flash column chromatography (1:1 Hexanes:EtOAc). Light yellow 0.35 g (yield 90%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 11.75(s, 2H), 7.75(d, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.46(d, *J*=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.35(dt, *J*=8.2Hz, *J*=1.2Hz, 2H), 7.11(dt, *J*=7.42Hz, *J*=0.8Hz, 2H), 5.18 (s, 4H), 2.63 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 181.5, 137.0, 131.3, 127.8, 126.7, 121.2, 121.1, 120.0, 112.6, 61.8, 54.9, 10.6; EI HRMS calcd. for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₄S [M]⁺ 408.1144, found : 408.1152.

13b: Prepared as described in the case of **13a**, starting from **12b**, giving a 76% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ ppm 9.34(s, 1H), 9.08 (s, 1H), 7.58 (m, 2H), 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.16 (m, 2H), 5.29 (q, *J*=7.0Hz, 1H), 4.79 (q, *J*=14.5Hz, 2H), 2.72 (s, 6H), 2.69 (s, 6H), 1.86 (d, *J*=7.0Hz, 3H); EI HRMS calcd. for C₂₃H₂₂N₂O₄S [M]⁺: 408.1300, found : 408.1347.

14a: To a solution of 13a (1.12g, 2.74mmol) in acetic acid (20mL), ammonium acetate (2.53g, 33mmol) was added in two portions at an interval of 5 h and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 26 h. The crude product was washed with water (3x25 ml), filtered and air dried giving yellowish brown solid (0.91 g, 85 % yield). M.P. 280-282 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 11.29 (s, 2H), 10.63 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J*=7.8Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, J=8.2Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, J=7.8Hz, 2H), 7.09 (t, 7.8Hz, 2H), 6.32 (s, 2H), 2.47 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ ppm 136.6, 135.8, 128.2, 126.6, 123.3, 119.4, 119.2, 112.0, 111.5, 102.9, 9.5; EI HRMS calcd. for $C_{22}H_{19}N_3O_2S$ [M]⁺ 389.1198, found : 389.1192. 14b: This compound was prepared as described in the case of 14a, starting from 13b, giving a 64% yield. M.P. 250-251.5 °C; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ ppm 11.32(s, 2H), 11.23(s, 1H), 10.52(s, 1H), 7.61(m, 2H), 7.43(m, 2H), 7.22 (m, 2H), 7.08 (m, 2H), 6.19(s, 1H), 2.45(s, 3H), 2.29(s, 3H), 1.98(s, 3H); ¹³C NMR (100MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ ppm 137.1, 136.1, 135.9, 133.0, 128.3, 127.7, 126.5, 123.3, 122.8, 119.4, 119.2, 119.0, 112.0, 111.5, 111.4, 99.1, 9.5, 9.3, 8.7; EI HRMS calcd. for C₂₂H₁₉N₃O₂S [M]⁺ 389.1198, found : 389.1192.





















14a DMSO-d6 0″ 0 Þ -2.47 N H ŃН ΗŇ -2.50 -3.32 6.32 11.29 ខ 10.63 6.16 ⊌ m<mark>u</mark>mm 2.5 Chemical Shift (ppm) DMSO-d6
 88
 80
 72
 64
 56
 48
 40
 32
152 144 136 96 16 8 0 128 120 112 104 24 Chemical Shift (ppm)













HPLC Analysis of 7, 8, 14a and 14b to verify bulk purity

HPLC analysis was carried out using a high performance liquid chromatograph equipped with an automatic injector, diode array detector (wavelength range 190-600 nm), degasser, and inline filter on a Microsorb-CN column (particle size 5 μ m; 4.6 id × 200 mm). Mobile phases: Method A (compound 7): 25% H₂O/75% MeCN – 100% MeCN over 10 min, linear gradient, flow rate 1 mL/min. Method B (compounds **8**, **14a**, and **14b**): 70% H₂O/30% MeCN – 100% MeCN over 25 min, linear gradient, flow rate 1 mL/min.

HPLC chromatogram (Method A, t_R 3.7 min) and UV spectrum of 7:















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