# pH-Responsive assembly and disassembly of a supramolecular cryptand-based pseudorotaxane driven by $\pi$ - $\pi$ stacking interaction

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#### 1. Materials and methods

All reagents were commercially available and used as supplied without further purification. BMP32C10 (1), BMP32C10 diol (5) was synthesized by published literature procedures.<sup>S1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were collected on a temperature-controlled 400 MHz or 500 MHz spectrometer. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE DMX-500 spectrometer at 125 MHz. Low-resolution electrospray ionization (LRESI) mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker Esquire 3000 plus mass spectrometer (Bruker-Franzen Analytik GmbH Bremen, Germany) equipped with ESI interface and ion trap analyzer. High-resolution electrospray ionization (HRESI) mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker 7-Tesla FT-ICR mass spectrometer equipped with an electrospray source (Billerica, MA, USA). The melting points were collected on a SHPSIC WRS-2 automatic melting point apparatus. The crystals data were collected on an Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur Atlas Gemini ultra.

2. Synthesis of 2 and 3

Scheme S1. Synthesis of 2 and 3.



#### 2.1. Synthesis of compound 2



A solution of **5** (597 mg, 1.0 mmol),  $\alpha$ -picolinic acid (739 mg, 6.0 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP) (122 mg, 1.0 mmol) in dichloromethane (30 mL) was stirred for 10 minutes at 0 °C. To this solution was added EDC (383 mg, 2.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, filtered, and concentrated to give a crude, which was purified by flash column chromatography (methanol/dichloromethane, 100:1 *v/v*) to afford **2** as a white solid (710 mg, 88%). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** is shown in Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 8.75 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 8.10 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.79–7.83 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.47 (m, 2H), 6.60 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 4H), 6.43 (s, 2H), 5.33 (s, 4H), 4.03–4.06 (m, 8H), 3.79–3.81 (m, 8H), 3.59–3.73 (m, 16H). mp 79.6–81.3 °C. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **2** is shown in Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 67.54, 67.78, 69.81, 71.03, 71.06, 101.54, 107.37, 125.54, 127.19, 137.23, 137.92, 148.10, 150.12, 160.26, and 165.11. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S3: *m/z* 807.3 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (100%), 845.2 [M + K]<sup>+</sup> (100%). HRESIMS: *m/z* calcd for [M]<sup>+</sup> C<sub>42</sub>H<sub>50</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>14</sub>, 806.3262; found 806.3246, error –2.0 ppm.



*Figure S1.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature) of **2**.



*Figure S2.* <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*, room temperature) of **2**.



Figure S3. Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 2.

2.2. Synthesis of compound 3



A mixture of benzyl bromide (1.03 g, 6.0 mmol) and 1,2-bis(4-pyridyl)ethylene (182 mg, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (10 mL) and was stirred under N<sub>2</sub> for 24 h at reflux. Till cooled, the precipitate was filtered off. This solid was dissolved in hot water (100 mL) and saturated aqueous NH<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> was added. The precipitate was collected and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O to yield **3** as a white solid (654 mg, 98%). mp 265.9–267.5 °C.The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** is shown in Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 9.26 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 4H), 8.50 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 4H), 8.23 (s, 2H), 7.58–7.67 (m, 4H), 7.46–7.52 (m, 6H), 6.05 (s, 4H). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3** is shown in Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, acetonitrile-*d*<sub>3</sub>, room temperature)  $\delta$  (ppm): 65.11, 127.13, 130.20, 130.54, 130.94, 133.84, 135.03, 145.76, and 152.50. LRESIMS is shown in Figure S6: *m/z* 363.1 [M – 2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> (100%), 509.0 [M – PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup> (100%). HRESIMS: *m/z* calcd for [M – 2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>, 364.1939; found 364.1927, error –3.3 ppm.

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*Figure S4.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, acetone- $d_6$ , room temperature) of **3**.



*Figure S5.* <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz, acetonitrile- $d_3$ , room temperature) of **3**.



Figure S6. Electrospray ionization mass spectrum of 3.

3. Job plots of 1,3, 2,3, and 2,4 based on UV-Vis data in acetone





*Figure S7.* Job plots showing the 1:1 stoichiometries of the complexes between 1 and 3 (a), between 2 and 3 (b), and between 2 and 4 (c) in acetone: (a)  $[1]_0 + [3]_0 = 1.00 \text{ mM}$ ; (b)  $[2]_0 + [3]_0 = 1.00 \text{ mM}$ ; (c)  $[2]_0 + [4]_0 = 1.00 \text{ mM}$ .  $[1]_0, [2]_0, [3]_0$ , and  $[4]_0$  are the initial concentrations of 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

## 4. Determination of association constants of $1 \rightarrow 3$ , $2 \rightarrow 3$ , and $2 \rightarrow 4^{S2}$

The association constants of complexes  $1 \_ 3$ ,  $2 \_ 3$ , and  $2 \_ 4$  were determined by probing the charge-transfer band of the complexes by UV-vis spectroscopy and employing a titration method. Progressive addition of an acetone solution with high guest 3 (or 4) concentration and low host 1 or 2 concentration to a acetone solution with the same concentration of host 1 or 2 resulted in an increase of the intensity of the charge-transfer band of the complex. Treatment of the collected absorbance data at  $\lambda = 403$  nm with a non-linear curve-fitting program afforded the corresponding association constants ( $K_a$ ): 962 (± 55) M<sup>-1</sup> for 2·3, and 127 (± 16) M<sup>-1</sup> for 1·3, and 714 (± 78) M<sup>-1</sup> for 2\_4.

The non-linear curve-fitting was based on the equation:

 $A = (A_{\infty}/[H]_0) (0.5[G]_0 + 0.5([H]_0 + 1/K_a) - (0.5([G]_0^2 + (2[G]_0(1/K_a - [H]_0)) + (1/K_a + [H]_0)^2)^{0.5}))$ (Eq. S1)

Where A is the absorption intensity of the charge-transfer band ( $\lambda = 403 \text{ nm}$ ) at [G]<sub>0</sub>,  $A_{\infty}$  is the absorption intensity of the charge-transfer band ( $\lambda = 403 \text{ nm}$ ) when the host is completely complexed, [H]<sub>0</sub> is the fixed initial concentration of the host, and [G]<sub>0</sub> is the initial concentration of the guest.





*Figure S8.* (a) The absorption spectral changes of **1** upon addition of **3** and (b) the absorbance intensity changes upon addition of **3**. The red solid line was obtained from the non-linear curve-fitting using Eq. S1.



*Figure S9.* (c) The absorption spectral changes of **2** upon addition of **3** and (d) the absorbance intensity changes upon addition of **3**. The red solid line was obtained from the non-linear curve-fitting using Eq. S1.





*Figure S10.* (e) The absorption spectral changes of **2** upon addition of **4** and (f) the absorbance intensity changes upon addition of **4**. The red solid line was obtained from the non-linear curve-fitting using Eq. S1.

5. Electrospray ionization mass spectra of equimolar acetone solutions of 2 with either of guests 3 and 4



*Figure S11.* Positive electrospray ionization mass spectrum in acetone of equimolar mixtures of **2** and **3** gave strong mass fragment: 1315.2, which correspond to  $[2 - 3 - PF_6]^+$ , respectively. This result confirmed the 1:1 complexation stoichiometry between **2** and **3**.



*Figure S12.* Positive electrospray ionization mass spectrum in acetone of equimolar mixtures of **2** and **4** gave mass fragment: m/z 1135.1, which correspond to  $[2 - 3 - PF_6]^+$ .



6. Partial  $^{1}$  H NMR spectra of equimolar solutions of either of hosts 1 and 2 with guests 3

*Figure S13.* Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (acetone- $d_6$ , 293 K, 400 MHz) of (a) 2.00 mM **2**; (b) 2.00 mM **2** + 2.00 mM **4**; (c) 2.00 mM **4**; (d) 2.00 mM **1** + 2.00 mM **4**; and (e) 2.00 mM **1**.

7. Schematic representation of reversible control of the formation of [2] pseudorataxane based on a supramolecular cryptand



Scheme S2. Reversible control of the formation of [2] pseudorataxane based on the supramolecular cryptand.

## 8. X-ray crystal data for 2\_3

Crystallographic data: block, yellow,  $0.35 \times 0.26 \times 0.23 \text{ mm}^3$ ,  $C_{68}H_{74}F_{12}N_4O_{14}P_2$ , *FW* 1461.25, triclinic, space group *P* -1, *a* = 10.7621(4), *b* = 12.8281(5), *c* = 29.8195(11) Å, *a* = 85.387(3)°, *β* = 84.518(3)°, *γ* = 70.803(4)°, *V* = 3864.8(3) Å^3, *Z* = 2, *D<sub>c</sub>* = 1.256 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, *T* = 100 (2) K,  $\mu$  = 1.286 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 29018 measured reflections, 13386 independent reflections, 901 parameters, 0 restraints, *F*(000) = 1520, *R*(int) = 0.0229, *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0689, *wR*<sub>1</sub> = 0.1625 (all data), *R*<sub>2</sub> = 0.0621, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.1573 [*I* > 2 $\sigma$ (*I*)], max. residual density 1.455 e•Å<sup>-3</sup>, and goodness-of-fit (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 1.066. CCDC 829264.

## 9. X-ray crystal data for 2-4

Crystallographic data: block, yellow,  $0.28 \times 0.23 \times 0.18 \text{ mm}^3$ ,  $C_{54}H_{62}F_{12}N_4O_{14}P_2$ , *FW* 1281.02, monoclinic, space group *P* 21/c, *a* = 10.8701(3), *b* = 22.6954(6), *c* = 22.8977(6) Å, *a* = 90.00°, *β* = 100.794(3)°, *γ* = 90.00°, *V* = 5549.0(3) Å^3, *Z* = 4, *D*<sub>c</sub> = 1.533 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, *T* = 100 (2) K, *μ* = 1.700 mm<sup>-1</sup>, 31682 measured reflections, 9701 independent reflections, 775 parameters, 0 restraints, *F*(000) = 2656, *R*(int) = 0.0394, *R*<sub>1</sub> = 0.0543, *wR*<sub>1</sub> = 0.1325 (all data), *R*<sub>2</sub> = 0.0432, *wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.1224 [*I* > 2*σ*(*I*)], max. residual density 0.962 e•Å<sup>-3</sup>, and goodness-of-fit (*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 1.091. CCDC 829263.

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