Supplementary Information for:

# Pyridazine-bridged expanded rosarin and semi-rosarinogen

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#### I. Synthetic Experimental

#### General

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed using commercial pre-coated silica gel plates containing a fluorescent indicator. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (0.040-0.063 mm). Mass spectra (MS) were taken on Fisher Orbitrap Elite (ESI), Agilent 6500 quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) or Bruker (Autoflex speed) matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometric (MALDI-TOF MS) instruments. UV-Vis spectra were recorded on a Varian Cary 5000 spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV400 and AV600 instruments. The X-ray crystallographic analysis was carried out on a Brucker D8 instrument. Further details of the structures and their refinement are given in a later section. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was carried out using a CHIRALPAK IA column on a Shimadzu CBM-20A equipped with a UV detector (SPD-M20A).



Scheme S1. Synthesis of compound 4.

**Compound 4.**<sup>1</sup> Compound **3** was prepared following a reported procedure. <sup>2</sup> A mixture of **3** (3.03 g, 9.45 mmol) , 3,6-dibrobopyridazine (1.06 g, 4.50 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (0.12 g, 0.10 mmol), and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (6.19 g, 44.81 mmol) was suspended in a solution of 50 mL DMF and 10 mL water under an inert atmosphere. The reaction mixture was heated at 95 °C overnight. After extraction and washing, the product was purified by chromatography over silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1/5, eluent). After removal of volatiles, compound **4** was obtained as yellow powder (75%). HRMS (ESI, [M+1]<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>35</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 467.261. Found: 467.262.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 10.17 (s, 2H), 7.76 (s, 2H), 4.36 (q, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 4H), 2.83 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 2.77 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 1.39 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 6H), 1.25 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 6H), 1.20 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 160.7, 149.9, 134.6, 127.3, 126.5, 123.1, 120.3, 60.2, 17.9, 17.8, 15.9, 15.6, 14.5.



Scheme S2. Synthesis of compound 5.

**Compound 5.**<sup>1</sup> To a round bottom flask containing compound **4** (2.79 g, 6.42 mmol) was charged 20 mL ethylene glycol under an inert atmosphere. After the mixture was heated at 180 °C for two hours, the solution was allowed to cool and then further chilled. The product was collected by filtration (96%). HRMS (ESI,  $[M+1]^+$ ) Calculated for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>4</sub>: 323.219. Found: 323.220. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 9.60 (s, 1H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 2.75 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 2.52 (q, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.25 (m, *J* = 7.5, 2.9 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ = 149.9, 127.1, 125.5, 123.9, 122.2, 117.3, 18.3, 18.1, 15.4, 14.9.





**Expanded rosarin 1**. Compound **5** (0.32 g, 1.01 mmol) and benzaldehyde (0.11 g, 1.06 mmol) were placed in a round bottom flask to which was added 20 mL TFA. After stirring for 5 min, the mixture was allowed to react at 60  $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h. After allowing to cool to rt, DDQ (0.23 g, 1.00 mmol) in dichloromethane (DCM) was added to the reaction vessel. The mixture was kept at rt for another 3 h before being poured into chilled water. The resulting mixture was then extracted with DCM and washed with an aqueous solution of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The product was purified by chromatography over silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1/5, eluent). Yield: 12%. HRMS (ESI, [M+1]<sup>+</sup>) Calculated for C<sub>81</sub>H<sub>85</sub>N<sub>12</sub>: 1225.697. Found: 1229.696.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 12.06 (s, 3H), 8.06 (s, 6H), 7.54 – 7.41 (m, 16H), 2.82 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 12H), 1.75 (q, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 12H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 18H), 0.72 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 18H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 153.8, 148.6, 142.5, 142.3, 140.6, 137.8, 136.0, 131.0, 129.4, 127.9, 124.7, 100.0, 31.9, 31.4, 30.2, 29.7, 29.6, 22.7, 18.4, 18.3, 16.4, 15.4, 15.4, 14.1.



Scheme S4. Synthesis of compound 2.

**Expanded semi-rosarinogen 2**. Macrocycle **2** was prepared following the synthetic procedure of **1** except that chloranil instead of DDQ was used as the oxidant. The product was purified as the main fraction by column chromatography over silica gel (ethyl acetate/petroleum ether, 1/5, eluent). Yield: 30%. HRMS (ESI,  $[M+1]^+$ ) Calculated for  $C_{81}H_{89}N_{12}$ : 1229.728. Found: 1229.724. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DCM- $d_2$ )  $\delta$  12.14 (s, 1H), 9.13 (s, 2H), 8.70 (s, 2H), 7.87 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.63 – 7.59 (m, 3H), 7.58-7.54 (m, 4H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.42 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6, 5.3 Hz, 6H), 5.76 (s, 2H), 2.89 (m, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 6H), 2.77 (m, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 6H), 2.56 – 2.39 (m, 8H), 1.91 – 1.79 (m, 2H), 1.73 (m, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.27 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 13H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H), 1.01 (m, *J* = 18.7 Hz, 12H), 0.77 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 6H).

<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DCM-*d*<sub>2</sub>) δ 152.0, 151.6, 149.4, 148.3, 142.5, 141.4, 140.6, 139.7, 137.7, 134.7, 130.8, 130.8, 129.9, 129.5, 128.9, 127.8, 127.2, 126.5, 124.9, 124.5, 123.5, 123.1, 122.6, 122.0, 121.8, 60.2, 40.5, 18.4, 18.2, 17.2, 17.1, 16.4, 15.7, 15.5, 15.4, 15.3.



Figure S2. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 4 recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at rt.







Figure S5. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $\mathbf{1}$  recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at rt.



Figure S6. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 1 recorded in  $CDCl_3$  at rt.



-12.14





Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 2 recorded in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at rt.



Figure S9. Various-temperature NMR spectra of 2 recorded in  $CD_2Cl_2$ .



Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2, 1,3-propanedithiol, and the reaction mixture of 2 and 10 equivalents of 1,3-propanedithiol. The spectra were recorded in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at rt.



Figure S11. Partial <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 2 and the reaction mixture of 2 and 1,3-propanedithiol recorded in  $CD_2Cl_2$  at rt.

## III. UV-Vis Spectral Studies

### **Table S1**: Colour changes ( $\Box_{max}$ ) seen when **1** is treated with various thiols (in excess).

A: *p*-Toluenethiol; B: 4-Aminothiophenol; C: 4-Nitrothiophenol; D: 1,2-Ethanedithiol; E: 1,3-Propanedithiol; F: 2-Hydroxy-1-ethanethiol; G: 1-Propanethiol; H: 1-Butanethiol; I: 2-Methyl-2-propanethiol; J: 1-Octadecanethiol.

|            |      | Α        | В        | С                         | D                | E           | F        | G           | н           | I | l           |
|------------|------|----------|----------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|
|            | 0 h  | Dala     | #        |                           | dark purple      | light blue  | Grey     |             |             |   |             |
|            |      | Pale     | (FCO mm) | *                         | (404 nm <i>,</i> | (581 nm,    | (broad   | ×           | ×           | × | ×           |
|            |      | (553 nm) | (560 nm) |                           | 549 nm           | 635 nm)     | bands)   |             |             |   |             |
|            |      |          |          |                           | light blue       |             |          | Grey        | Grey        |   |             |
| Chloroform | 6 h  |          |          |                           | (F77 pm)         |             |          | (551 nm,    | (554 nm,    | × | ×           |
|            |      |          |          |                           | (577 nm)         |             |          | 605 nm)     | 610 nm)     |   |             |
|            |      |          |          |                           |                  |             |          | Grey        | light blue  |   | dark purple |
|            | 12 h |          |          |                           |                  |             |          | (broad      | (C18 pm)    | × | (401 nm,    |
|            |      |          |          |                           |                  |             |          | bands)      | (018 000)   |   | 549 nm)     |
|            | 0 h  | dark     | vellow#  |                           |                  | dark purple |          |             |             |   |             |
|            |      | purple   | (E40 nm) | no reaction <sup>\$</sup> | ×                | (558 nm,    | ×        | ×           | ×           | × | ×           |
|            |      | (546 nm) | (549 mm) |                           |                  | 610 nm)     |          |             |             |   |             |
|            | 6 h  |          |          |                           | dark purple      | light blue  |          |             |             |   |             |
| THF        |      |          |          |                           | (546 nm <i>,</i> | (575 nm,    | ×        | ×           | ×           | × | ×           |
| _          |      |          |          |                           | 604 nm)          | 613 nm)     |          |             |             |   |             |
|            | 12 h |          |          |                           | Grey             |             | Grey     | dark purple | dark purple |   | dark purple |
|            |      |          |          |                           | (571 nm,         |             | (548 nm, | (544 nm,    | (544 nm,    | × | (544 nm,    |
|            |      |          |          |                           | 607 nm)          |             | 613 nm)  | 607 nm)     | 607 nm)     |   | 607 nm)     |

|      |      |          |          |                           | light blue |          | light blue | Grey      | Grey       |   | Grey     |
|------|------|----------|----------|---------------------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|------------|---|----------|
|      | 20 h |          |          |                           | (572 nm,   |          | (576 nm,   | (545 nm,  | (546 nm,   | × | (546 nm, |
|      |      |          |          |                           | 608 nm)    |          | 614 nm)    | 610 nm)   | 610 nm)    |   | 610 nm)  |
|      |      | Grey     | vollow#  |                           | Grey       |          | Pale       |           |            |   |          |
|      | 0 h  | (551 nm, | (FE2 nm) | no reaction <sup>\$</sup> | (557 nm,   | ×        | (broad     | ×         | ×          | × | *        |
|      |      | 619 nm)  | (552 mm) |                           | 614 nm)    |          | bands)     |           |            |   |          |
| DMCO |      |          |          |                           | light blue | Pale     | light blue | Grov      | Grov       |   |          |
| DMSO | 6 h  |          |          |                           | (broad     | (552 nm, | (589 nm,   | (F 40 mm) | (F 48 mm)  | × |          |
|      |      |          |          |                           | bands)     | 615 nm)  | 627 nm)    | (548 nm)  | (548 1111) |   |          |
|      | 12 h |          |          |                           |            |          |            | Grey      | Grey       | ~ |          |
|      | 1211 |          |          |                           |            |          |            | (550 nm)  | (549 nm)   |   |          |

<sup>#</sup> Colour reflects contributions from the putative reaction products and excess 4-aminothiophenol (yellow). \* Not tested due to poor solubility. <sup>\$</sup> The only discernible colour is ascribed to the presence of excess 4-nitrothiophenol (yellow). × No discernible colour change is seen. Note: Blank cells in the table mean that there was NO FURTHER colour change after the initial colour change.

## **Table S2**: Colour changes ( $\square_{max}$ ) seen when **2** is treated with various thiols (in excess).

A: p-Toluenethiol; B: 4-Aminothiophenol; C: 4-Nitrothiophenol; D: 1,2-Ethanedithiol; E: 1,3-Propanedithiol; F: 2-Hydroxy-1-ethanethiol; G: 1-Propanethiol; H: 1-Butanethiol; I: 2-Methyl-2-propanethiol.

|            |     | А                           | В                               | с                         | D                        | E                        | F                | G                           | н                           | I |
|------------|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Chloroform | 0 h | Pale<br>(546 nm)            | yellow <sup>#</sup><br>(545 nm) | *                         | Pale<br>(546 nm)         | Grey<br>(broad<br>bands) | Pale<br>(550 nm) | slight loss of<br>colour    | slight loss of<br>colour    | × |
| Chloroform | 2 h |                             |                                 |                           |                          |                          |                  | Pale<br>(537 nm,<br>683 nm) | Pale<br>(546 nm,<br>687 nm) | × |
| THF        | 0 h | Pale<br>(557 nm)            | yellow <sup>#</sup><br>(557 nm) | no reaction <sup>\$</sup> | Pale<br>(555 nm)         | Pale<br>(555 nm)         | Pale<br>(555 nm) | slight loss of<br>colour    | slight loss of<br>colour    | × |
|            | 6 h |                             |                                 |                           |                          |                          |                  | Grey<br>(573 nm)            | Pale<br>(557 nm)            | × |
| DMSO       | 0 h | Blue<br>(561 nm,<br>684 nm) | yellow <sup>#</sup><br>(568 nm) | no reaction <sup>\$</sup> | Pale<br>(broad<br>bands) | Pale<br>(493 nm)         | Pale<br>(571 nm) | slight loss of<br>colour    | slight loss of<br>colour    | × |
|            | 4 h |                             |                                 |                           |                          |                          |                  | Pale<br>(571 nm)            | Pale<br>(573 nm)            | × |

<sup>#</sup> Colour reflects contributions from the putative reaction products and excess 4-aminothiophenol (yellow). \* Not tested due to poor solubility. <sup>\$</sup> The only discernible colour is ascribed to the presence of excess 4-nitrothiophenol (yellow). × No discernible colour change is seen. Note: Blank cells in the table mean that there was NO FURTHER colour change after the initial colour change.

**Note**: If not otherwise indicated, the sample concentration of **1** and **2** is  $3.0 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L in the solutions used for the photographic studies. The samples were further diluted for the UV-Vis studies.



Figure S12. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of  $\mathbf{1}$  (a) and  $\mathbf{2}$  (b) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> as recorded upon the

addition of thiols, amines, sulfide or methanol.



Figure S13. UV-Vis absorption spectra of 1 (a) and 2 (b) recorded after treatment with increasing

quantities of *p*-toluenethiol in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.







Figure S15. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 2 in different solvents before (a) and after

addition of 1,3-propanedithiol (b).



**Figure S16**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **1** in chloroform (a), THF (b) and DMSO (c) after the addition of the indicated thiophenol. The concentration of **1** in DMSO is  $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L.



Figure S17. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 2 in chloroform (a), THF (b) and DMSO (c)

upon the addition of the indicated thiophenol.



**Figure S18**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **1** in chloroform after the addition of a dithiol or 2-hydroxy-1-ethanethiol. (a): Immediately after the addition; (b): 6 h later.



**Figure S19**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **1** in THF after the addition of a dithiol or 2-hydroxy-1-ethanethiol. (a): Immediately after the addition and after (b): 6 h; (c): 12 h; (d): 20 h.



Figure S20. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 1 in DMSO after the addition of a dithiol or 2-hydroxy-1-ethanethiol. (a): Immediately after the addition; (b): 6 h later. The concentration of 1 is  $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L.



Figure S21. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 2 in chloroform (a), THF (b) and DMSO (c)

upon the addition of a dithiol or 2-hydroxy-1-ethanethiol.



**Figure S22**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **1** in chloroform upon the addition of an aliphatic thiol. (a): Immediately after the addition and after (b): 6 h; (c): 12 h.



**Figure S23**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **1** in THF upon the addition of an aliphatic thiol. (a): right after the addition and after (b): 6 h; (c): 12 h; (d): 20 h.



Figure S24. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 1 in DMSO upon the addition of an aliphatic

thiol. (a): right after the addition and after (b): 6 h; (c): 12 h.



Figure S25. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 2 in chloroform upon the addition of an

aliphatic thiol. (a): right after the addition and after (b): 2 h.



Figure S26. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of 2 in THF upon the addition of an aliphatic

thiol. (a): right after the addition and after (b): 6 h.



**Figure S27**. UV-Vis absorption spectra and photos of **2** in DMSO upon the addition of an aliphatic thiol. (a): right after the addition and after (b): 4 h.



Figure S28. UV-Vis spectra of 1 (a) and 2 (b) before and after being treated with

1,3-propanedithiol, TFA, or both in CHCl<sub>3</sub>.

#### **IV**. X-ray Experimental

Crystal data for **1**: A flake crystal of formula  $(C_{81}H_{84}N_{12})\cdot 3.6(CHCl_3)$ , having approximate dimensions: 0.12 mm x 0.003 mm x 0.002 mm, was used for the X-ray crystallographic analysis. The X-ray intensity data were measured using a Bruker SAINT diffractometer.

The frames were integrated with the Bruker SAINT software package using a narrow-frame algorithm. The integration of the data using a monoclinic unit cell yielded a total of 89206 reflections, of which 15960 were independent (completeness = 99.4 %%, R<sub>int</sub> = 5.53%). Details of crystal data, data collection and structure refinement are listed in Table S1.

For compound **1** all the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Carbon bound H-atoms were located at the geometrical positions whereas H-atoms bonded to nitrogen were found from the difference Fourier maps with two constraints of N–H = 0.86(1) Å and thermal parameters of  $U_{iso}(H) = 1.2U_{eq}(N)$ . During the refinement, several separate large residual peaks (within 1.08–6.54 e·Å<sup>3</sup>) were found crystallographically to be situated near the host molecule. According to their linkage connectivity, they were inferred to be chloroform molecules. However, some tentative refinements did not give a satisfactory outcome because of serious disorder. So the contribution of these putative solvent molecules to the diffraction pattern was subtracted using the SQUEEZE procedure of PLATON. The result indicated that the solvent-accessible void in the unit cell has a volume of 510.2 Å<sup>3</sup> (consisting of about 6.05% of the crystal volume, equally distributed across two cavities at asymmetric units of (0.000 0.000 0.500) and (0.500 0.500 0.000), respectively). The residual electron density count amounted to approximate 148 e per unit cell, corresponding to nearly 2.552 molecules of CHCl<sub>3</sub>. Therefore, every molecule of compound **1** was considered to be associated with 0.6 additional chloroform molecule due to z = 4, meaning the practical formula should be (C<sub>81</sub>H<sub>84</sub>N<sub>12</sub>)·3.6(CHCl<sub>3</sub>).

Compound **1** as a whole adopts a twisted chair-like conformation in the solid state. The observed conformation has three intramolecular N-H…N hydrogen bonds with the N…N distances being in the range of 2.626(3) to 2.862(3) Å.



Figure S29. Views of the single crystal structure of compound 1.

| Empirical Formula          | (C <sub>81</sub> H <sub>84</sub> N <sub>12</sub> )·3.6(CHCl <sub>3</sub> ) |                                    |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Formula Weight             |  | 1583.70                            |
| Temperature                |  | 170.15 K                           |
| Crystal Colour, Habit      |  | Dark purple, flake                 |
| Crystal Dimensions         |  | 0.12 x 0.03 x 0.02 mm <sup>3</sup> |
| Crystal System             |  | Monoclinic                         |
| Space Group                |  | P 1 21/n 1                         |
|                            | a/Å  | 11.8725(2) Å                       |
|                            | b/Å  | 16.7463(3) Å                       |
|                            | <i>c</i> /Å  | 42.5496(8) Å                       |
| Lattice Parameters         | $\alpha$ /deg  | 90°                                |
|                            | β/deg  | 94.8920(10)°                       |
|                            | ∕∕deg  | 90°                                |
|                            | V/ų  | 8428.9(3) Å <sup>3</sup>           |
| Z Value                    |  | 4                                  |
| F <sub>000</sub>           |  | 3312                               |
| No. of Deflections Measure | Total:   | 89206                              |
| NO. OF REHECTIONS MEASURE  | Unique:  | 15960 [R(int) = 0.0553]            |

# Table S3. Crystal data for 1.

| R1; wR2 (refined on F <sup>2</sup> , all data)          | 0.0895, 0.2260 |
|---|----------------|
| Goodness of Fit Indicator (GOF)                         | 1.037          |
| <i>R1</i> ; <i>wR2</i> (refined on F, I>2σ( <i>I</i> )) | 0.0768, 0.2152 |
| CCDC number   | 2031025        |

## V. Mass Spectrometric Studies



Figure S30. MALDI-TOF high resolution mass spectrum of 1.



Figure S31. MALDI-TOF high resolution mass spectrum of 2.



**Figure S32**. Q-TOF high resolution mass spectrum of the reaction mixture of **2** and 1,3-propanedithiol. Calcd for C<sub>84</sub>H<sub>97</sub>N<sub>12</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 1337.74006. Found: 1337.74251.

### VI. HPLC Analysis



Figure S33. The HPLC chromatogram of 2. A mixture of n-hexane and 2-propanol (30 : 70, v : v) was used as the eluent.

### VII. Calculations



**Figure S34**. Relative energies (kcal/mol, reference to compound **2a**) for various isomers of compound **2**. These energies were obtained at the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p)//B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level of theory.<sup>2</sup> The geometries of the various putative structures were fully optimized without symmetry assumptions using Becke's three-parameter hybrid functional combined with the Lee–Yang–Parr correlation functional (B3LYP) along with 6-31G(d,p) basis set.

#### VIII. Supporting References

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