Supporting Information for

Self-assembly and guest-induced disassembly of triply interlocked [2]catenanes

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1. Experimental Procedures

1.1 General

All reagents and solvents were purchased from commercial sources and used as supplied unless otherwise mentioned. The starting material $[Cp*RhCl_2]_2$ ($Cp*= \eta 5$ -pentamethylcyclopentadienyl) was prepared by the literature method.¹ NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AVANCE I 400 at room temperature and referenced to the residual protonated solvent for NMR spectra. Proton chemical shift $\delta_H = 5.32$ (CD_2Cl_2), $\delta_H = 3.31$ (CD_3OD) are reported relative to the solvent residual peak. Elemental analyses were performed on an Elementar Vario EL cube analyzer. IR spectra of the solid samples (KBr tablets) in the range 400-4000 cm⁻¹ were recorded on a Nicolet AVATAR-360IR spectrometer. UV spectra were recorded on a UV-VIS-NIR Spectrophotometer UV-3600 purchased from SHIMADZU in the range 185-3300 nm in solution. Fluorescent spectra were recorded on a fluorospectrophotometer (FLS 980) purchased from EDINBURGH INSTRUMENTS. ESI-TOF-MS spectra were recorded on a Micro TOF II mass spectrometer and a Waters Synapt G2 mass spectrometer using electrospray ionization. Thermogravimetric analyse (TGA) was recorded by the Netzsch STA 449C thermal analyzer at a heating rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹ in air.

1.2 Syntheses of complexes 1, 2 and 3

1.2.1 Synthesis of 1

Treatment of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (37.2 mg, 0.06 mmol) with AgOTf (61.2 mg, 0.24 mmol) was in methanol (20 ml) at room temperature, and kept it stirring in the dark overnight. After filtrated, 5,8-dihydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone (H₂dntq) (11.4 mg, 0.06 mmol) and NaOH (4.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to the filtrate, and vigorously stirred at room temperature for 24 hours to produce a dark green solution. And then, organic ligand tpeb (15.3 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added into the reactive solution. After purified by recrystallization from methanol/diethyl ether, the brown product was obtained. Characterization data for 1 follow: 53 mg, yield 73%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, ppm): $\delta = 8.34$ (dd, J = 4.0 Hz, 24H, tpeb), 7.78 (s, 12H, tpeb), 7.57 (dd, J = 4.0 Hz, 24H, tpeb), 7.18 (s, 24H, dntq), 1.57 (s, 180H, Cp*). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for chemical formula: C₃₀₀H₂₆₄F₃₆N₁₂O₆₀Rh₁₂S₁₂: C, 49.35; H, 3.64; N, 2.30; S, 5.27; 49.32; H, 3.61; N, 2.26; S, 5.25. **ESI-TOF-MS**: Found: С, $[[(C_{10}H_{15}Rh)_{12}(C_{10}H_{4}O_{4})_{6}(C_{27}H_{15}N_{3})_{4}](F_{3}CSO_{3})_{9}]^{3+} = 2284.48 \text{ (calcd : } 2284.47).$

1.2.2 Synthesis of 2

Treatment of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (37.2 mg, 0.06 mmol) with AgOTf (61.2 mg, 0.24 mmol) was in methanol (20 ml) at room temperature, and kept it stirring in the dark overnight. After filtrated, quinizarin (H₂qz) (14.4 mg, 0.06 mmol) and NaOH (4.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to the filtrate, and vigorously stirred at room temperature for 24 hours to produce a dark green solution. And then, tpeb (15.3 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added into the reactive solution. After purified by recrystallization from methanol/diethyl ether, the brown product was obtained. Characterization data for 2 follow: 53.2 mg, yield 70%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2 , ppm): $\delta = 8.44$ (m, 24H, tpeb), 7.76 (m, 12H, tpeb), 7.56 (m, 24H, tpeb), 8.66 (m, 12H, qz), 7.98 (m, 12H, qz), 7.28 (dd, JI = 4.0 Hz, J2 = 8.0Hz, 12H, qz), 1.67 (t, J=4.0 Hz, 180H, Cp*). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for chemical formula: C₃₂₄H₂₇₆F₃₆N₁₂O₆₀Rh₁₂S₁₂: C, 51.20; H, 3.66; N, 2.21; S, 5.06; Found: C, 51.16; H, 3.63; N, 2.17; S, 5.02. ESI-TOF-MS: $[(C_{10}H_{15}Rh)_{12}(C_{14}H_6O_4)_6(C_{27}H_{15}N_3)_4](F_3CSO_3)_9]^{3+} = 2384.50 \text{ (calcd : } 2284.50\text{)}.$

1.2.3 Synthesis of 3

Treatment of [Cp*RhCl₂]₂ (37.2 mg, 0.06 mmol) with AgOTf (61.2 mg, 0.24 mmol) was in methanol (20 ml) at room temperature, and kept it stirring in the dark overnight. After filtrated, 6,11-dihydroxy-5,12-naphthacenedione (H₂dntd) (17.4 mg, 0.06 mmol) and NaOH (4.0 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added to the filtrate, and vigorously stirred at room temperature for 24 hours to produce a dark green solution. And then, tpeb (15.3 mg, 0.04 mmol) was added into the reactive solution. After purified by recrystallization from methanol/diethyl ether, the brown product was obtained. Characterization data for **3** follow: 60 mg, yield 76%. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂, ppm): $\delta = 8.72$ (dd, *J1* = 4.0 Hz, *J2* = 8.0 Hz, 12H, tpeb), 8.46 (dd, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 12H, tpeb), 7.64 (s, 6H, tpeb), 7.97 (dd, *J1* = 4.0 Hz, *J2* = 8.0 Hz, 12H, dntd), 7.48 (dd, *J1* = 4.0 Hz, *J2* = 8.0 Hz, 12H, dntd), 1.72 (s, 90H, Cp*). Elemental analysis calcd (%) for chemical formula: C₁₇₄H₁₄₄F₁₈N₆O₃₀Rh₆S₆: C, 52.90; H, 3.67; N, 2.13; S, 4.87; Found: C, 52.87; H, 3.64; N, 2.11; S, 4.84. ESI-TOF-MS: [[(C₁₀H₁₅Rh)₆(C₁₄H₆O₄)₃(C₂₇H₁₅N₃)₂](F₃CSO₃)₃]³⁺ = 1167.79 (calcd : 1167.79).

1.3 X-ray crystal structure analysis

Single crystals of **1** and **2** suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained at room temperature. Crystallographic data for complexes **1** and **2** were collected at 173 K with

a Bruker D8 Venture microfocus X-ray source system. The structures were solved by direct methods, and refined on F^2 by a full-matrix least-squares method. In the data, the disordered solvent molecules that could not be adequately restrained were removed using the SQUEEZE routine. CCDC 2021986 (1) and 2021987 (2) contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data are provided free of charge by The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

Single black block-shaped crystals of **1** were used as supplied. A suitable crystal with dimensions $0.36 \times 0.31 \times 0.28 \text{ mm}^3$ was selected and mounted on a Bruker APEX-II CCD diffractometer. The crystal was kept at a steady T = 173(2) K during data collection. The structure was solved with the SHELXT 2018/2^{2a} solution program using iterative methods and by using Olex2 1.5-dev³ as the graphical interface. The model was refined with SHELXT 2018/3^{2b} using full matrix least squares minimisation on F².

A solvent mask was calculated and 897 electrons were found in a volume of 3052 A³ in **1** void per unit cell. This is consistent with the presence of 2[C1F3O3S], 6[C2H3N] and 4[C4H10O] per Formula Unit which account for 892 electrons per unit cell. The decision to mask two triflate counter ions was not taken lightly, but all other chemical evidence as well as the requirement of the charge balance leave no other conclusion: two triflates are hiding in the solvent sphere. The full, un-masked hkl is embedded in the CIF.

2. Supplementary Figures

2.1 NMR spectra of complexes 1-3



Figure S2. ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1.











Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectra of 1 upon decreasing the concentration from 24.0 mM to 0.03 mM.













Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectra of 2 upon decreasing the concentration from 24.0 mM to 0.10 mM.















Figure S24. UV spectra of guest molecules encapsulated by complexes 1', 2' and 3.

2.3 Fluorescent spectra of host-guest assemblies



Figure S25. Fluorescent spectra of guest molecules encapsulated by complexes 1', 2' and 3.



2.4 ESI-TOF-MS spectra of 1, 2, 3 and their host-guest assemblies

Figure S26. The full ESI-TOF-MS spectra of interlocked 1, 2 and metallacage 3.



+6H₂O]}⁴⁺+H⁺; b) {[pyrene \Box 1']-4OTf+8CH₃OH]}⁴⁺; c){[triphenylene \Box 1']+2CH₃OH+2CH₃CH₂OCH₂CH₃+H₂O-4OTf}⁴⁺; d), e), and f) are simulated for a), b) and c), respectively.



Figure S28. MS spectra of guest molecules encapsulated by **2** in CH₃OH and CD₃OD. a) {[anthracene \Box **2'**]-3OTf+H₂O]}³⁺; b) {[pyrene \Box **2'**]-4OTf + 2CD₃OD + 5H₂O + 3CH₃OH]}⁴⁺; c){[triphenylene \Box **2'**]+8CH₃OH+H₂O-3OTf}⁴⁺ + Cl⁻; d), e), and f) are simulated for a), b) and c), respectively.



Figure S29. MS spectra of guest molecules encapsulated by **3** in CH₃OH and CD₃OD. a) {[anthracene \Box **3**]-4OTf + 2CH₃OH + 12H₂O]}⁴⁺; b) {[pyrene \Box **3**] + 2Cl⁻ + CD₃OD + H₂O - 6OTf]}⁴⁺; c){[triphenylene \Box **3**] + 3Cl⁻ + 3CH₃OH+H₂O-6OTf}³⁺; d), e), and f) are simulated for a), b) and c), respectively.



Figure S30. The full ESI-TOF-MS spectra of perylene encapsulated by 1', 2' and 3.

2.5 NMR spectra of host-guest assemblies



Figure S31. The ¹H NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S32. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S33. The ¹H NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S34. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S35. The ¹H NMR spectra of triphenylene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S36. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of triphenylene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S37. The ¹H NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S38. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S39. The ¹H NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S40. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S41. The ¹H NMR spectra of triphenylene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S42. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of triphenylene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S43. The ¹H NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S44. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of anthracene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S45. The ¹H NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S46. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of pyrene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S47. The ¹H NMR spectra of triphenyene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S48. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of triphenylene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.



Figure S49. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of perylene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD.



Figure S50. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of perylene encapsulated by 2 in CD₃OD.



Figure S51. The ¹H-¹H DOSY NMR spectra of perylene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD.

2.6. Calculated binding constants K values based on ¹H NMR titrations

2.6.1 Determination of stoichiometry

Before any determination of *K* is performed, it is essential always to determine the stoichiometry of the host-guest complex. This is most readily achieved from NMR data by means of the method of continuous variations (Job's method).⁴ The method of continuous variations involves preparing a series of solutions containing both the host and the guest in varying proportions so that a complete range of mole ratios is sampled ($0>[H]_0/([H]_0+[G]_0)<1$), and where the total concentration $[H]_0+[G]_0$ is constant for each solution. The experimentally observed parameter is a host or guest chemical shift that is sensitive to complex formation. The data are plotted in the form $([H]/[H]+[G]) \Delta_{\delta H}$ versus [H]/[H]+[G]. The **Figure S50-S55** show the typical Job plots for the complexations of **1-3** and anthracene or perylene molecule. The maximum occurs at [H]/[H]+[G] = 0.5, indicating that the complex has a 1/1 (perylene molecule to **1-3**) stoichiometry.



Figure S52. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (anthracene \Box 1').



Figure S53. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (anthracene \Box 2').



Figure S54. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (anthracene \Box 3).



Figure S55. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (perylene 1').



Figure S56. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (perylene 2').



Figure S57. Illustration of the Job's plot for determination of stoichiometry (perylene□3).

2.6.2 Determination of Binding Constant

Procedures for NMR titrations: A 0.5 mL solution of host in CD₃OD was titrated with a concentrated solution of guests that were soluble in CDCl₃. The total change in concentration of the host was 5-7.9 % over the course of the titration, and the error involved was assumed to be negligible. Upon each addition, the solution was manually shaken for 10 min before acquiring the spectrum, which allowed equilibrium to be reached between the host and guest (**Figure S56-S67**).

The covariance of the fit (variance of the residuals divided by the variance in the data), along with a visual inspection of the residuals from the fit, was used to conclude that a 1:1 non-cooperative model best described the binding of guest molecules to 1-3, which giving binding constants *K* as Table S1.

Complexes	K values (M ⁻¹)	R^2	Standard Error
Anthracene to 1	343.3	0.9984	28.5
Pyrene to 1	759.2	0.9997	24.3
Triphenylene to 1	4253.6	0.9990	280.4
Perylene to 1	23627.8	0.9996	1919.2
Anthracene to 2	436.3	0.9997	14.0
Pyrene to 2	800.6	0.9998	19.1
Triphenylene to 2	7096.6	0.9999	59.1
Perylene to 2	13519.4	0.9952	2901.2
Anthracene to 3	342.6	0.9998	8.5
Pyrene to 3	1220.9	0.9965	101.6
Triphenylene to 3	13559.6	0.9983	1240.4
Perylene to 3	19819.7	0.9998	738.7

Table S1. The binding constants *K* of the guest molecules to complexes 1-3.



Figure S58. The NMR titration of anthracene encapsulated by 1 in CD_3OD and binding isotherms (noncooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S59. The NMR titration of pyrene encapsulated by 1 in CD_3OD and Binding isotherms (noncooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S60. The NMR titration of triphenylene encapsulated by 1 in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (noncooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S61. The NMR titration of perylene encapsulated by **1** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (non-cooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S63. The NMR titration of pyrene encapsulated by **2** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (non-cooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S64. The NMR titration of triphenylene encapsulated by **2** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (noncooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S65. The NMR titration of perylene encapsulated by **2** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (non-cooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S67. The NMR titration of pyrene encapsulated by **3** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (non-cooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S68. The NMR titration of triphenylene encapsulated by 3 in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (noncooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.



Figure S69. The NMR titration of perylene encapsulated by **3** in CD₃OD and Binding isotherms (non-cooperative 1:1 system) fitted to the chemical shift of the proton signals vs. the equivalents of anthracene added to determine the binding affinity.

2.7 IR spectra of complexes 1-3



Figure S70. IR spectra of complexes 1-3.

2.8 TGA curves of complexes 1 and 2



Figure S71. TGA curve of complex 1.



Figure S72. TGA curve of complex 2.

3. Crystal data of 1 and 2

	1	2
Formula	$C_{178}H_{190}F_{18}N_{12}O_{34}Rh_6S_6$	$C_{172}H_{200}F_{18}N_6O_{51}Rh_6S_6$
M _r	4193.23	4319.19
<i>T</i> [K]	173	173
Crystal system	triclinic	monoclinic
Space group	P-1	$P2_1/n$
a [Å]	17.6122(10)	35.2854(19)
<i>b</i> [Å]	22.2298(14)	32.1734(18)
<i>c</i> [Å]	26.3632(14)	37.719(2)
α [°]	70.629(4)	90
β[°]	81.477(3)	101.939(3)
γ [°]	72.911(4)	90
V [Å ³]	9292.7(10)	41894(4)
Ζ	2	8
ρ_{calcd} [g cm ⁻³]	1.499	1.370
F(000)	4284	17680
Crystal size [mm ³]	$0.360 \times 0.310 \times 0.280$	$0.124\times0.058\times0.057$
2θ _{max} [°]	74.916	41.826
Reflections collected	243712	275446
Independent reflections	37934	42711
Parameters	1822	2887
$R_{I} \left[I > 2\sigma(I) \right]$	0.0690	0.1843
wR_2 [all data]	0.2283	0.4126
GooF	1.080	1.122
CCDC number	2021986	2021987

 Table S2. Crystal data of 1 and 2.

4. References

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