

## Supplementary Information

### Selective binding of oxalate by a tris-ureido calix[6]tube in a protic environment

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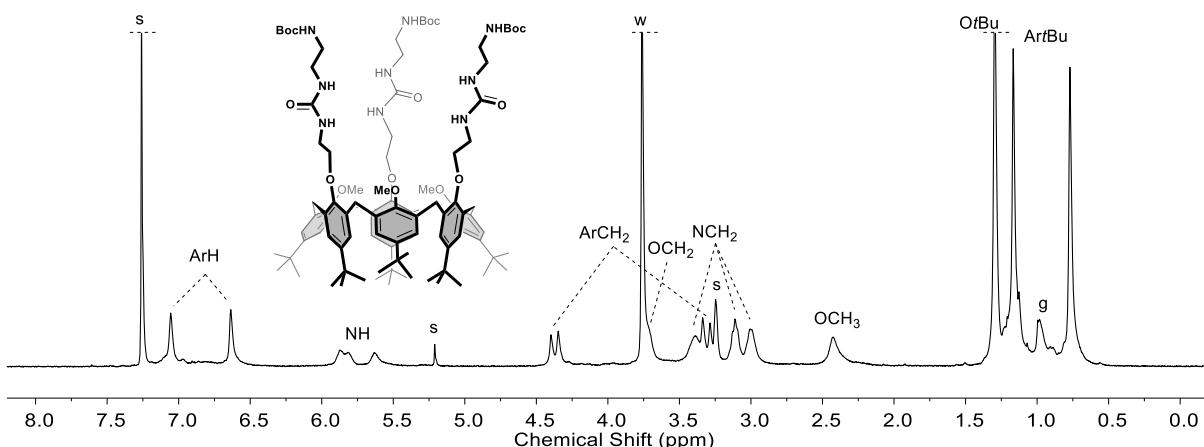
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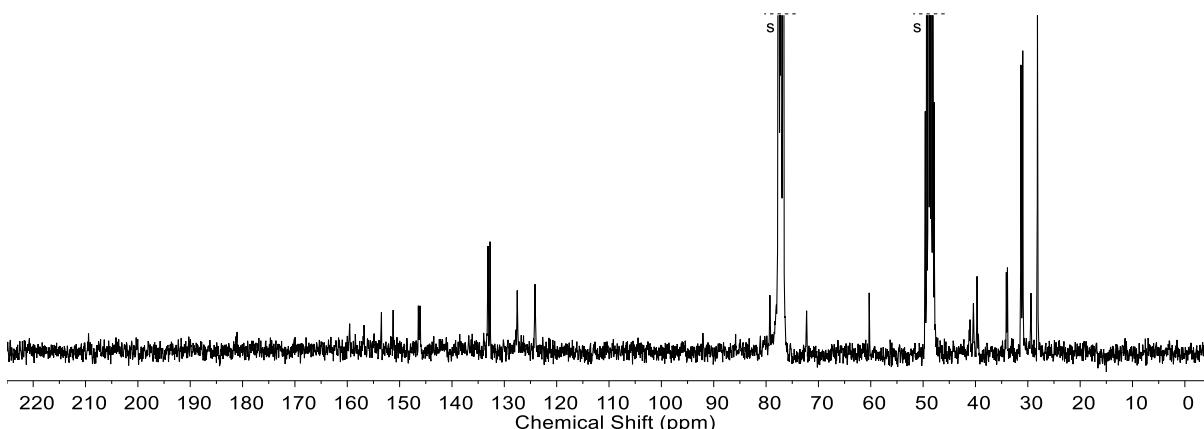
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## 1. NMR spectra of new compounds

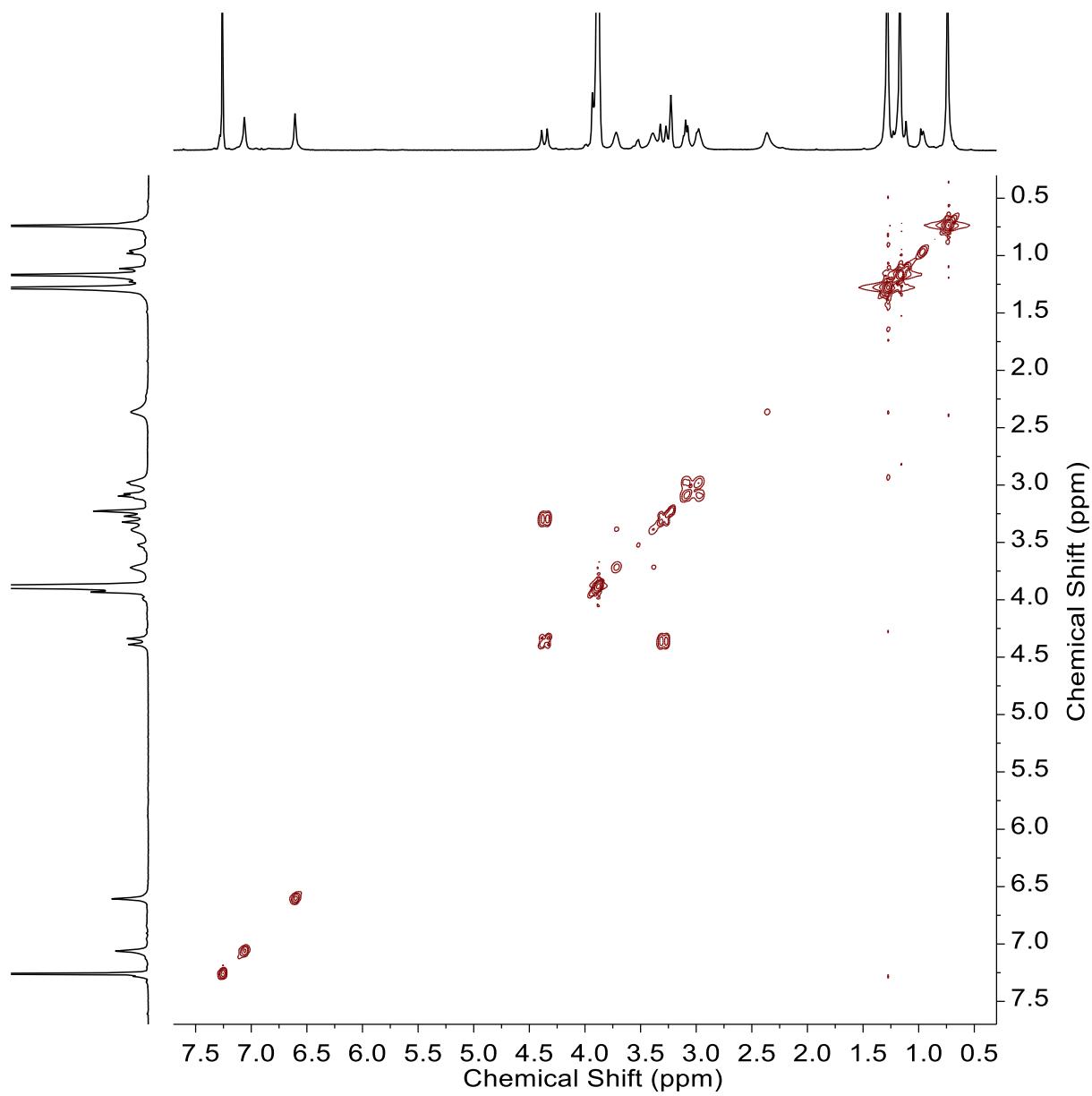
### 1.1. Calixarene 2



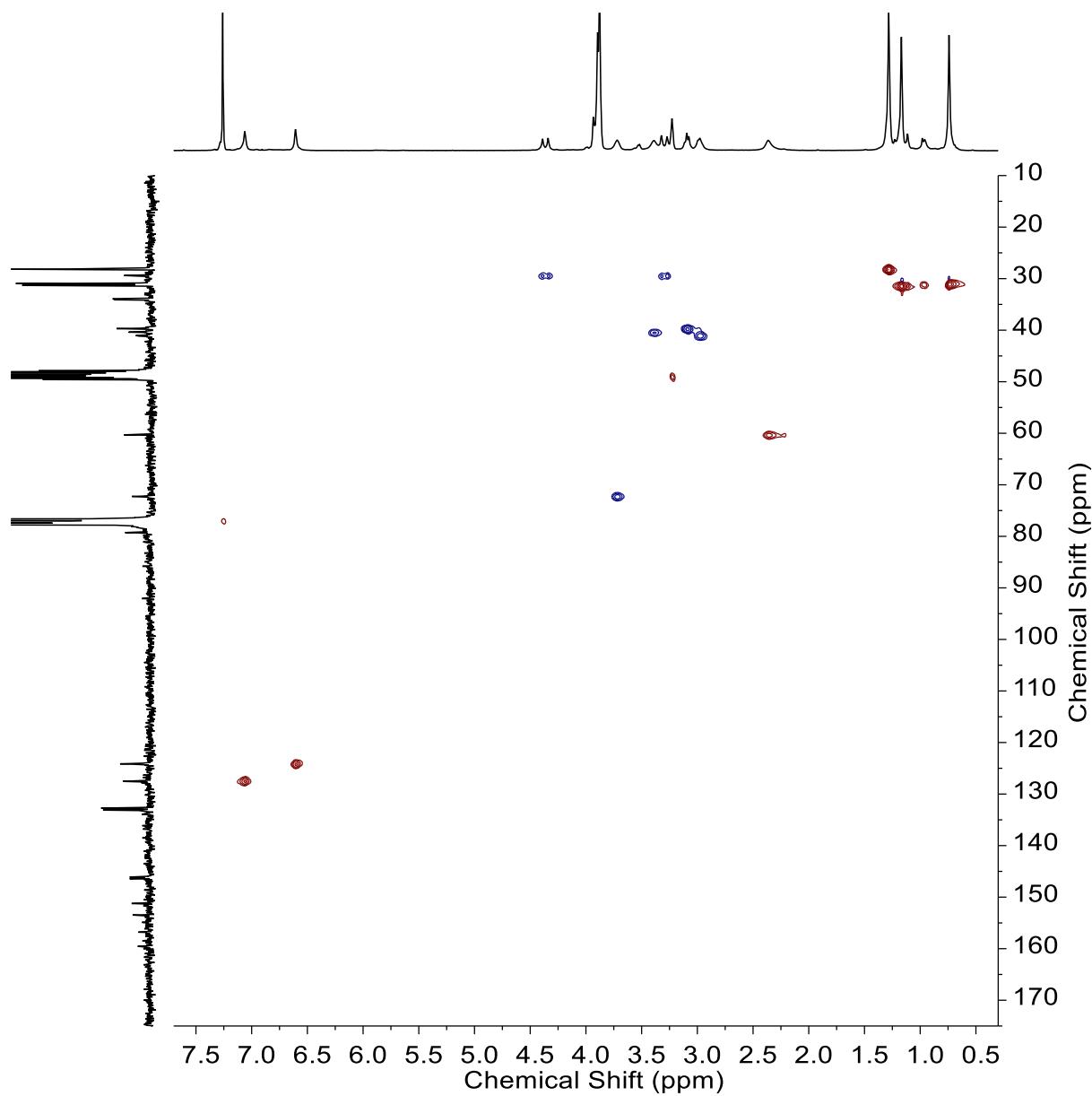
**Figure S1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 10:1, 298 K) of calixarene 2. s: solvent; w: water; g: grease.



**Figure S2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (75 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 5:1, 298 K) of calixarene 2. s: solvent.

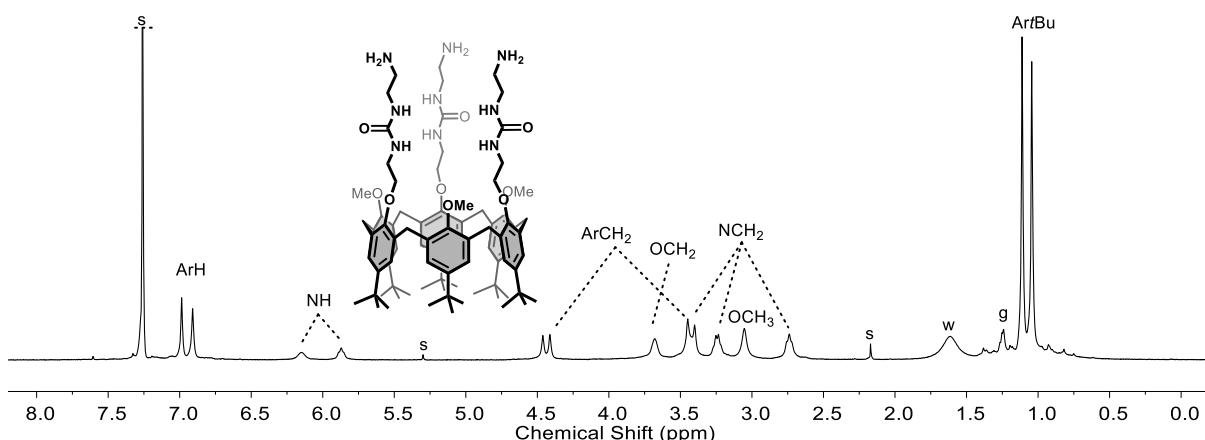


**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  dqcOSY NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 5:1, 298 K) of calixarene **2**.

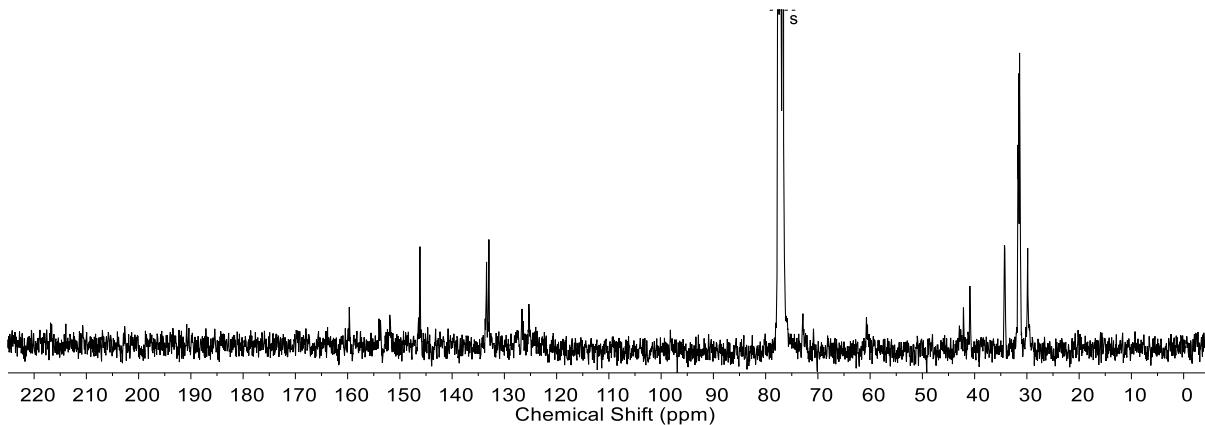


**Figure S4.** Edited  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR spectrum (7.0 Tesla,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 5:1, 298 K) of calixarene **2**.

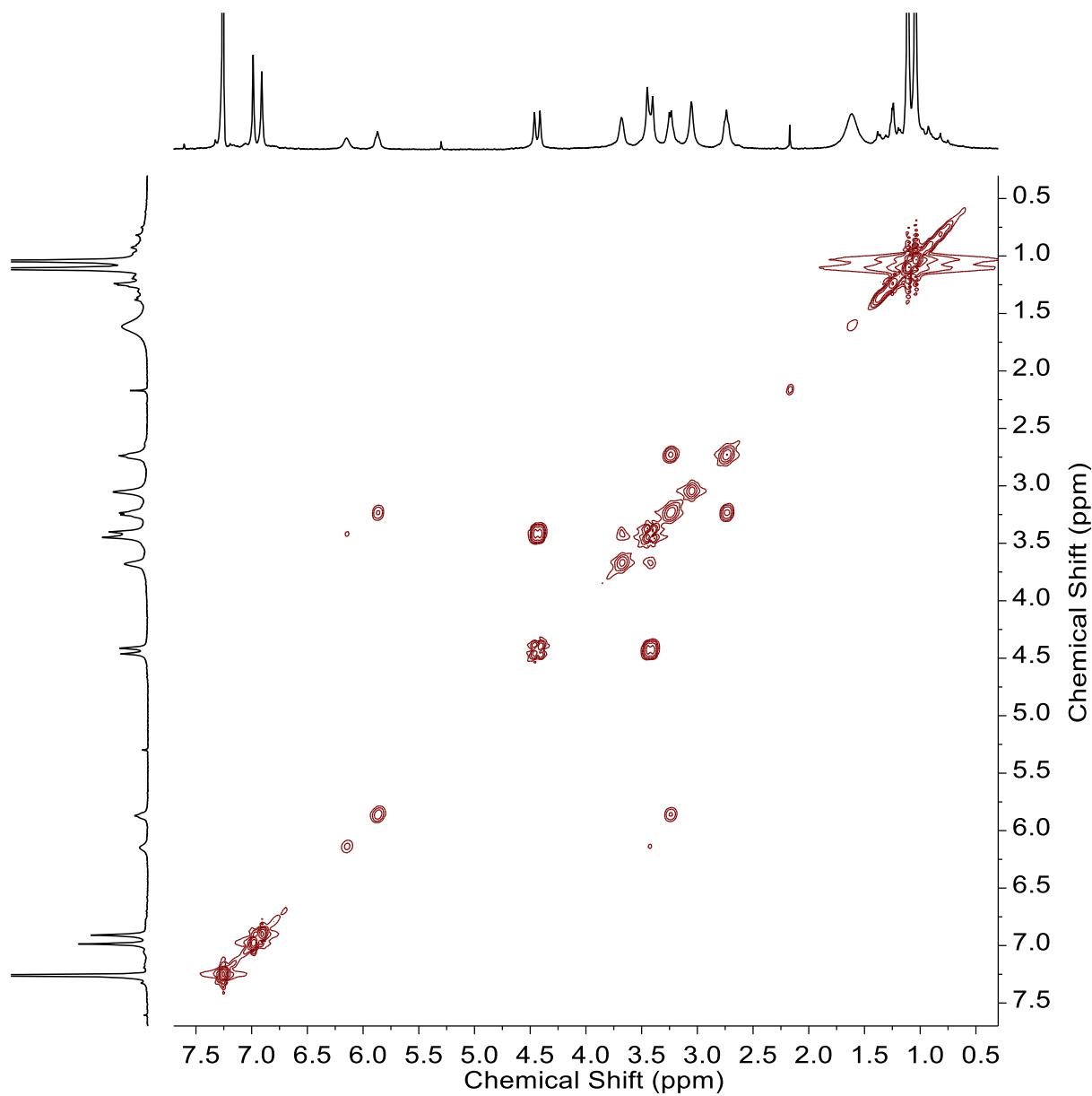
## 1.2. Calixarene 3



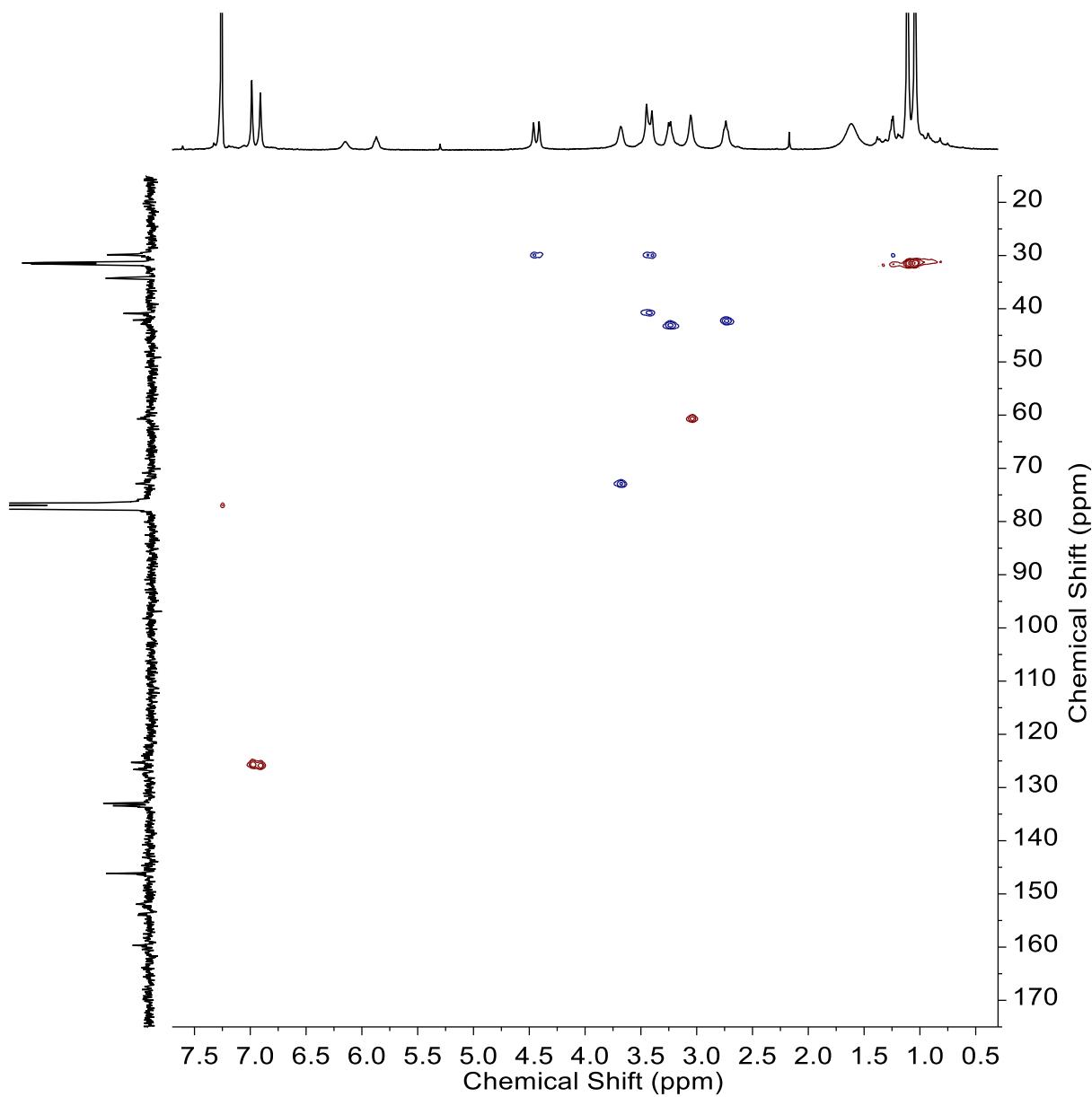
**Figure S5.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) of calixarene 3. s: solvent; w: water; g: grease.



**Figure S6.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 298 K) of calixarene 3. s: solvent.

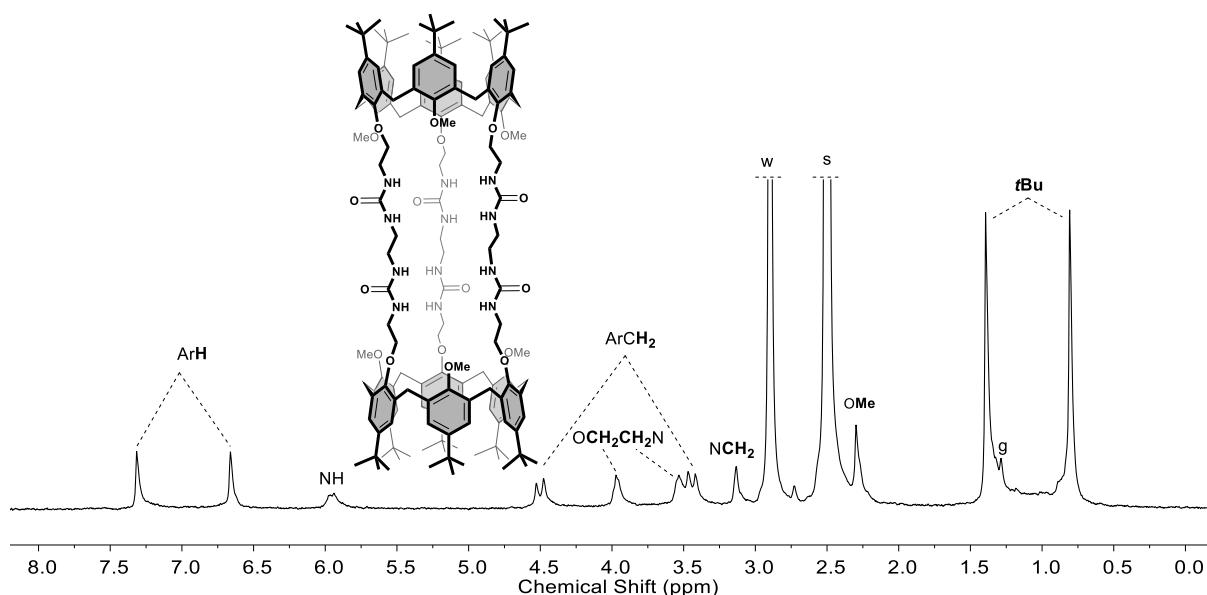


**Figure S7.**  ${}^1\text{H}$  dqcOSY NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of calixarene **3**.

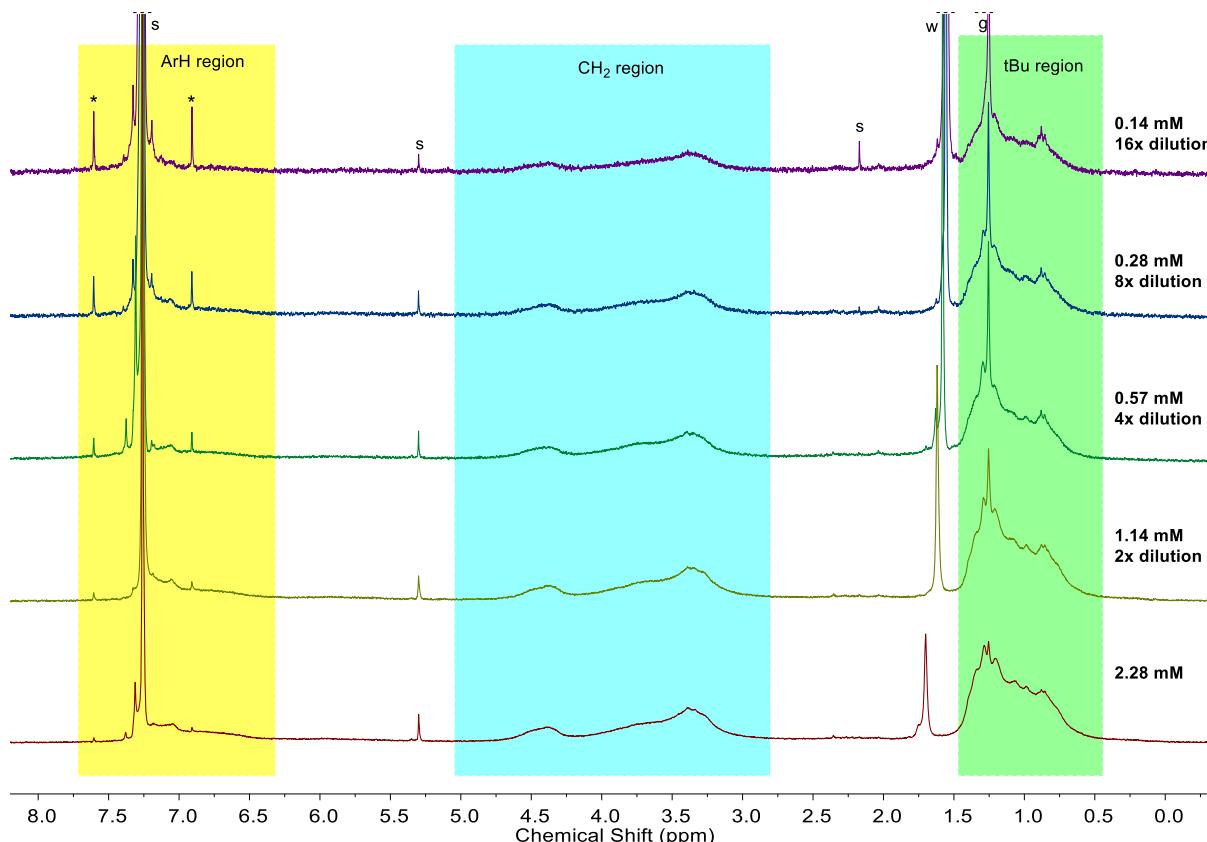


**Figure S8.** Edited  $^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$  HSQC NMR spectrum (7.0 Tesla,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of calixarene **3**.

### 1.3. Calixarene C6U



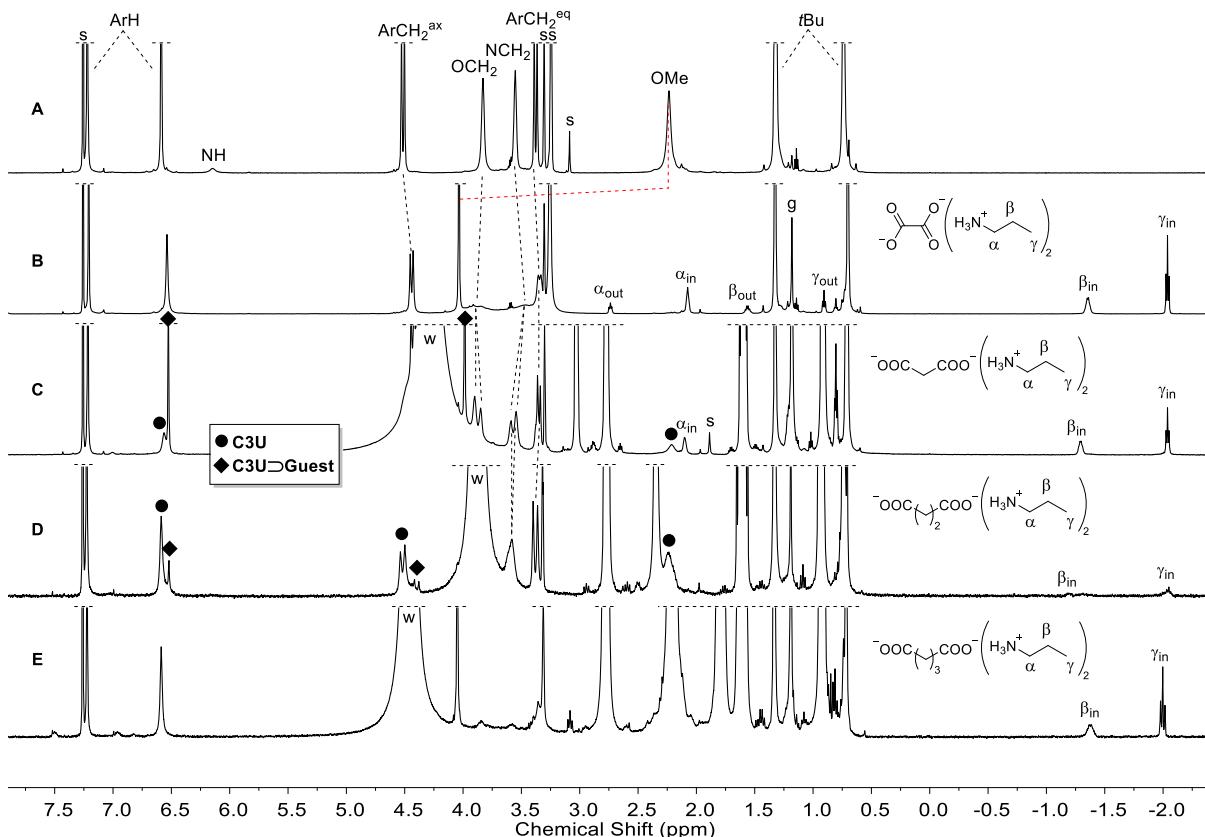
**Figure S9.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (300 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ , 373 K) of calixarene **C6U**. s: solvent; w: water; g: grease.



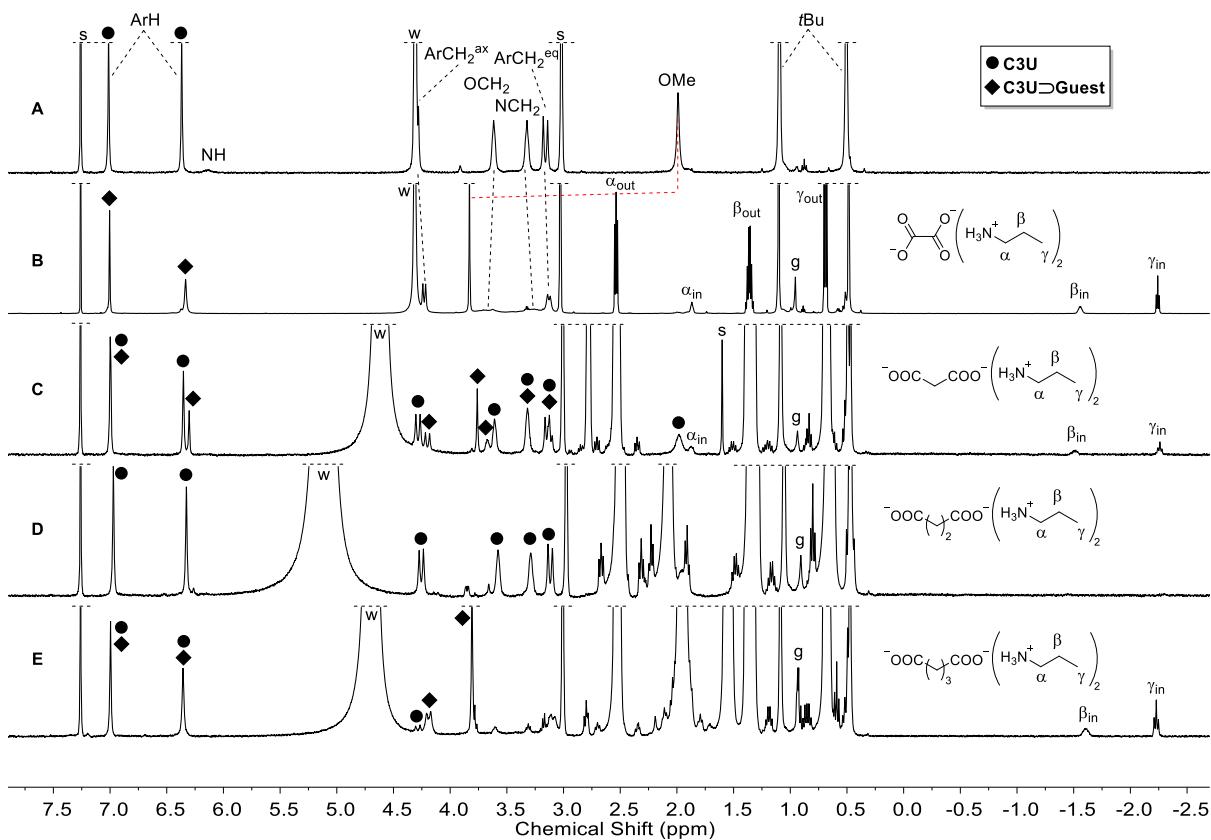
**Figure S10.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 298 K) of calixarene **C6U** at variable concentration. s: solvent; w: water; g: grease; \*:  $^{13}\text{C}$  satellite peaks.

## 2. Binding studies

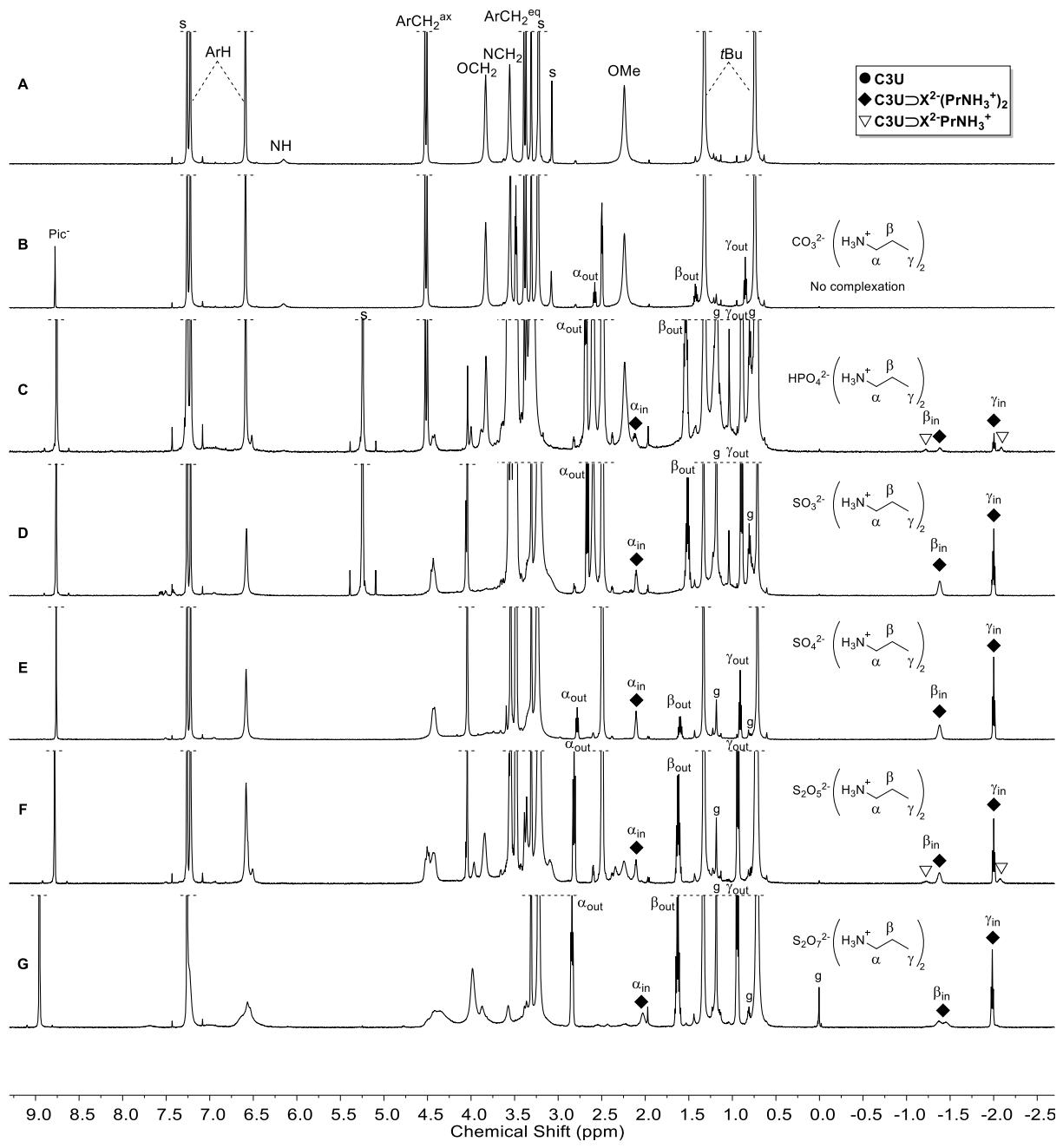
### 2.1. Binding studies with C3U



**Figure S11.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 10:1, 298 K) of **C3U** and its inclusion complexes with dicarboxylate salts  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{X}^{2-}$ . (A) **C3U** (600 MHz); (B)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2$ -oxalate (600 MHz); (C)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2$ -malonate (600 MHz); (D)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2$ -succinate (400 MHz); (E)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2$ -glutarate (400 MHz). s: solvents; w: water; g: grease.

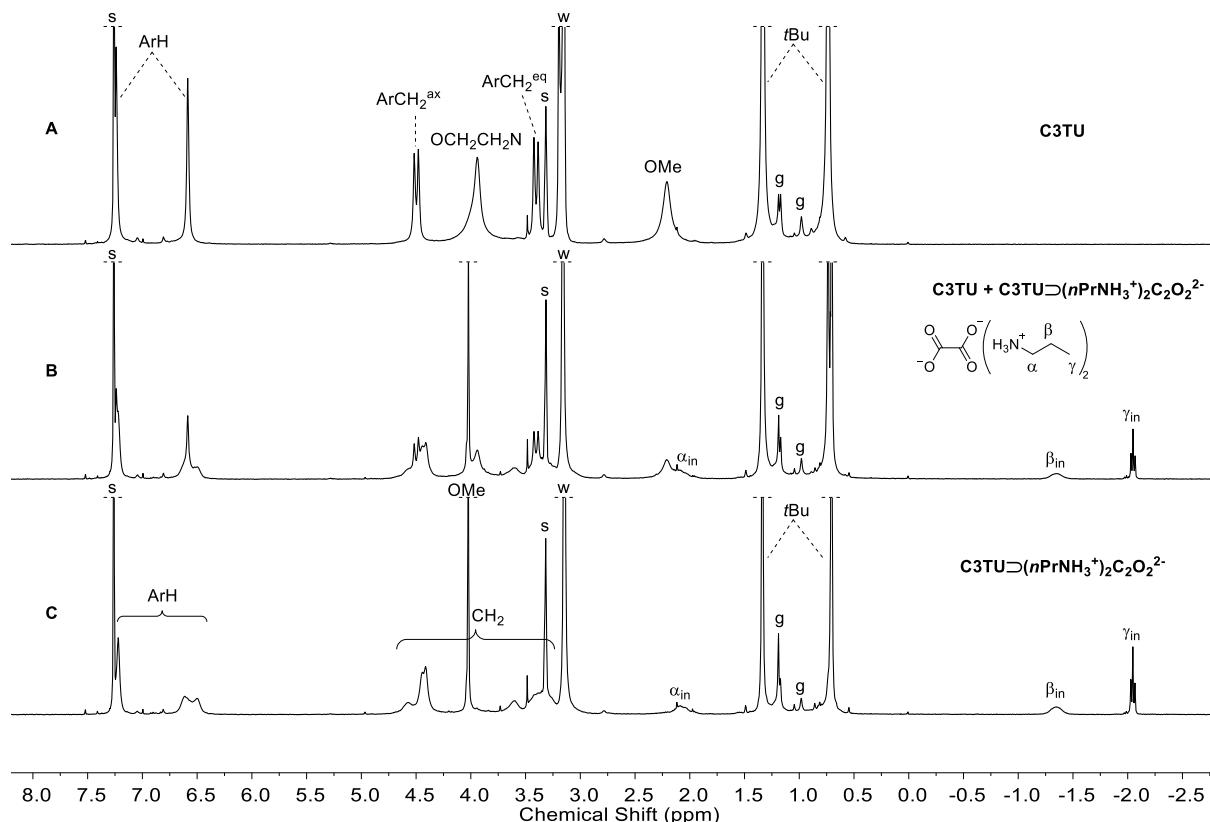


**Figure S12.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra ( $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 1:1, 298 K) of **C3U** and its inclusion complexes with dicarboxylate salts  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{X}^{2-}$ . (A) **C3U** (400 MHz); (B)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-oxalate}$  (600 MHz); (C)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-malonate}$  (400 MHz); (D)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-succinate}$  (400 MHz); (E)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-glutarate}$  (400 MHz). s: solvents; w: water; g: grease.

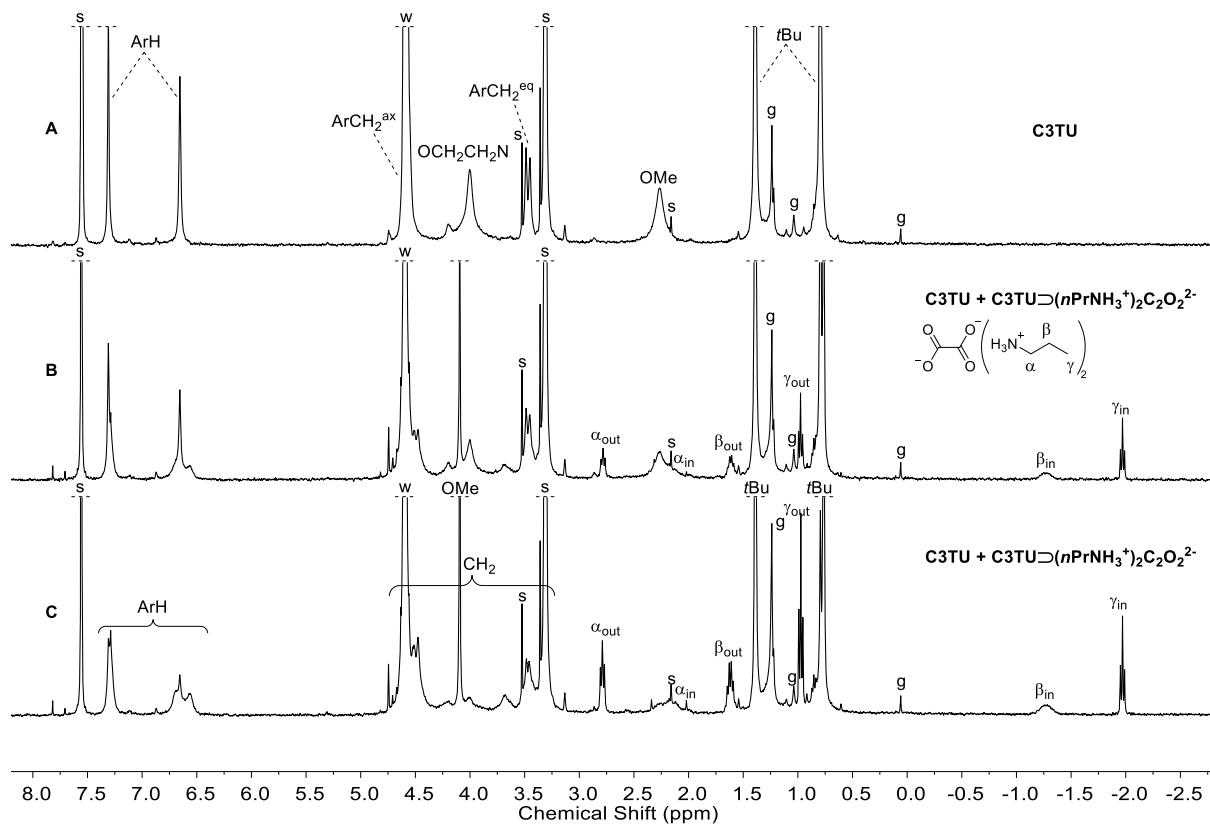


**Figure S13.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (600MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 10:1, 298 K) of **C3U** and its inclusion complexes with salts  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{X}^{2-}$  added as a mixture of  $n\text{PrNH}_3^+\text{Pic}^-$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{X}$  in the presence of Kryptofix® 222. (A) **C3U**; (B)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  (no inclusion); (C)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ; (D)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{SO}_3^{2-}$ ; (E)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ; (F)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_5^{2-}$ ; (G)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$ . s: solvents; g: grease.

## 2.2. Binding studies with C3TU

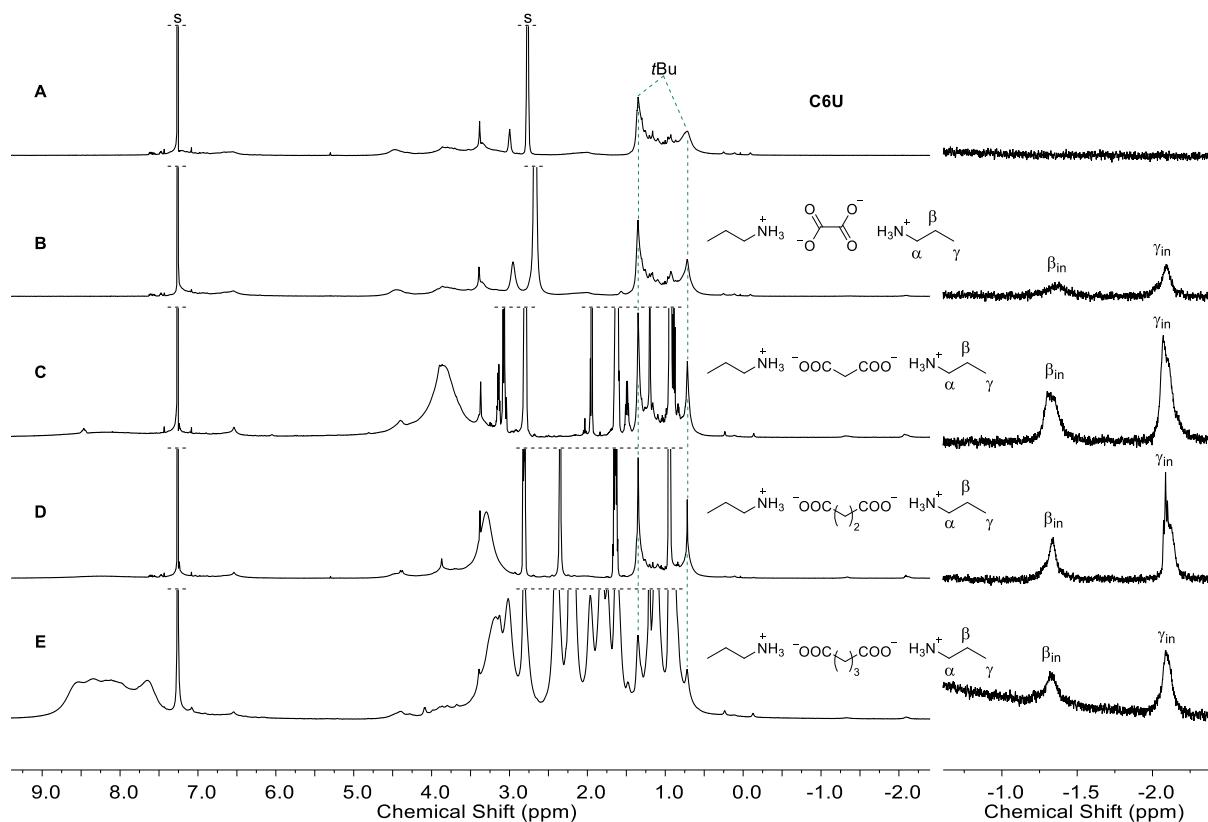


**Figure S14.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 10:1, 298 K) of **C3TU** and its inclusion complex with bis-propylammonium oxalate **C3TU $\supset$ (nPrNH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub><sup>2-</sup>**. (A) **C3TU** ( $1.7 \times 10^{-3}$  M); (B) **C3TU** + 0.6 equiv.  $(\text{nPrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_2^{2-}$ ; (C) **C3TU** + 1.0 equiv.  $(\text{nPrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_2^{2-}$ . s: solvents; w: water; g: grease.



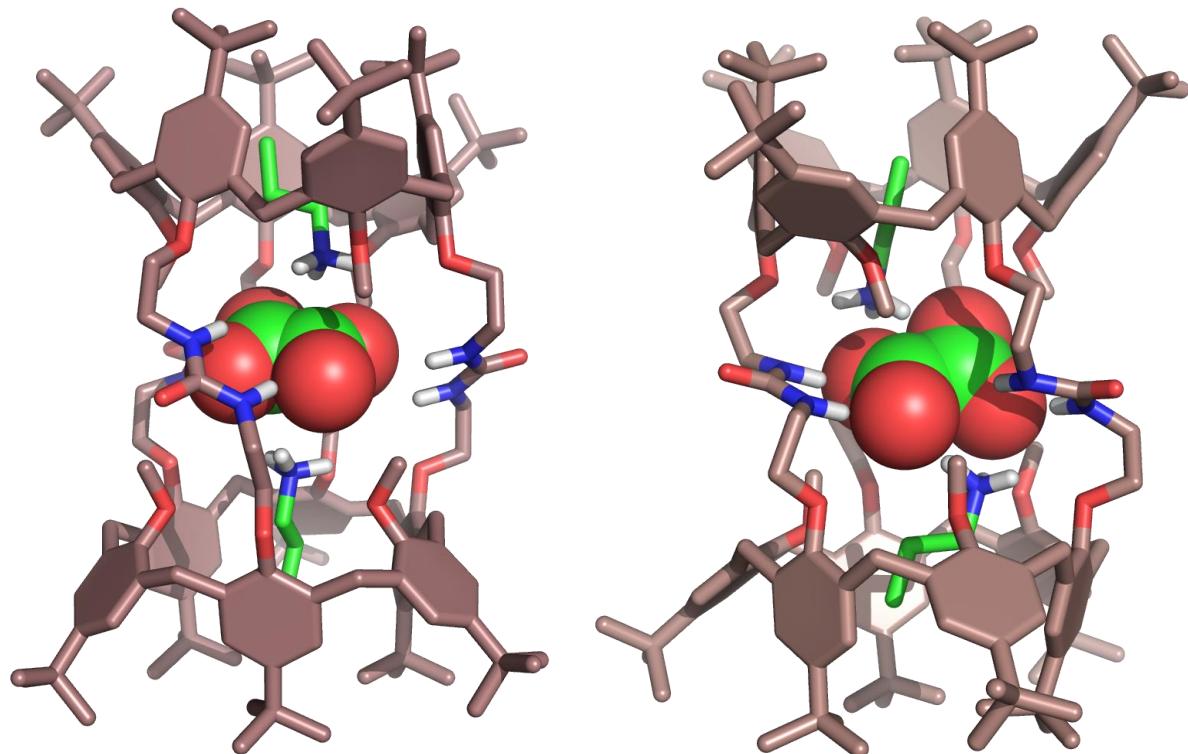
**Figure S15.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 1:1, 298 K) of **C3TU** and its inclusion complex with bis-propylammonium oxalate  $\text{C3TU}\supset(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ . (A) **C3TU** ( $2.7 \times 10^{-4}$  M); (B) **C3TU** + 1.1 equiv.  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ ; (C) **C3TU** + 2.5 equiv.  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ . s: solvents; w: water; g: grease.

### 2.3. Binding studies with C6U



**Figure S16.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (600MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ , 50:1, 253 K) of **C6U** and its inclusion complexes with dicarboxylate salts  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{X}^-$ . The spectra did not further evolve after 48 h at 65 °C. (A) **C6U**; (B)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-oxalate}$  (excess solid, insoluble); (C)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-malonate}$ ; (D)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-succinate}$ ; (E)  $(n\text{PrNH}_3^+)_2\text{-glutarate}$ . s: solvents.

### 3. Molecular modeling



**Figure S17.** UFF (left) and PM6 (right) geometry optimized structure of  $\text{C}_3\text{U}\bullet(\text{nPrNH}_3^+)_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$ . Non-polar hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.

**Table S1.** Cartesian coordinates (in Å) for the PM6 model of **C3U**•(PrNH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>)<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>.

C	0.000	0.000	0.000	C	1.103	-1.776	6.945
C	10.481	0.000	0.000	C	10.898	-6.302	2.804
C	2.345	2.336	0.000	C	1.817	-2.977	7.139
C	4.027	-2.834	8.136	C	10.604	-6.036	4.155
C	3.646	-7.420	0.565	O	3.200	-2.966	6.944
C	0.618	0.894	0.897	O	9.284	-5.906	4.595
C	9.754	-1.050	-0.603	C	1.154	-4.193	7.365
C	3.719	2.719	0.581	C	11.610	-5.749	5.097
C	5.362	-3.498	7.749	C	-0.246	-4.215	7.304
C	5.030	-6.755	0.430	C	12.932	-5.662	4.646
O	1.982	1.136	0.749	C	-0.979	-3.063	6.998
O	8.364	-1.090	-0.447	C	13.264	-5.911	3.309
C	-0.046	1.402	2.026	C	-0.290	-1.850	6.847
C	10.398	-2.111	-1.256	C	12.238	-6.233	2.406
N	4.607	1.543	0.668	C	-2.508	-3.129	6.877
N	6.176	-2.677	6.825	C	14.709	-5.823	2.796
N	5.460	-6.107	1.682	C	-3.090	-2.945	8.296
C	-1.355	0.964	2.275	C	15.033	-7.088	1.966
C	11.802	-2.115	-1.312	C	-3.048	-2.021	5.945
C	4.932	0.872	-0.521	C	14.825	-4.558	1.918
C	6.788	-1.528	7.372	C	-2.942	-4.492	6.291
C	6.216	-6.808	2.629	C	15.740	-5.728	3.945
C	-1.987	0.046	1.429	C	1.906	-5.461	7.665
C	12.552	-1.089	-0.732	C	11.222	-5.582	6.545
O	4.823	1.397	-1.627	C	1.435	-6.607	6.812
O	7.034	-1.452	8.575	C	12.094	-4.629	7.311
O	6.583	-7.971	2.459	C	1.698	-6.631	5.433
C	-1.302	-0.413	0.290	C	11.668	-3.318	7.584
C	11.874	-0.053	-0.062	C	3.587	-5.256	4.791
N	5.345	-0.473	-0.373	C	9.373	-3.240	8.211
N	7.170	-0.529	6.472	O	2.155	-5.511	4.760
N	6.603	-6.047	3.749	O	10.380	-2.926	7.199
C	-3.388	-0.514	1.710	C	1.374	-7.760	4.652
C	14.081	-1.017	-0.839	C	12.521	-2.386	8.206
C	6.212	-1.034	-1.433	C	0.661	-8.804	5.245
C	8.141	0.496	6.924	C	13.782	-2.823	8.628
C	7.103	-6.720	4.963	C	0.294	-8.760	6.602
C	-4.297	-0.228	0.493	C	14.227	-4.135	8.396
C	14.427	0.220	-1.702	C	0.721	-7.675	7.377
C	7.612	-0.402	-1.491	C	13.364	-5.029	7.752
C	9.531	0.154	6.376	C	-0.567	-9.895	7.169
C	8.564	-7.162	4.792	C	15.646	-4.525	8.827
C	-3.249	-2.037	1.938	C	0.203	-11.226	7.022
C	14.703	-0.877	0.568	C	15.733	-4.437	10.366
C	-4.039	0.118	2.960	C	-0.910	-9.695	8.662
C	14.688	-2.272	-1.505	C	16.026	-5.958	8.392
C	0.663	2.376	2.932	C	-1.892	-9.937	6.371
C	9.606	-3.222	-1.893	C	16.644	-3.545	8.164
C	0.473	2.050	4.385	C	1.839	-7.830	3.227
C	10.014	-4.573	-1.373	C	12.134	-0.941	8.355
C	1.351	1.162	5.027	C	0.900	-7.219	2.225
C	9.721	-4.977	-0.060	C	12.590	-0.117	7.177
C	3.693	1.460	4.683	C	1.417	-6.595	1.072
C	7.738	-3.856	0.755	C	11.752	0.875	6.630
O	2.486	0.716	4.341	O	2.777	-6.314	0.948
O	9.164	-4.114	0.874	O	10.449	1.019	7.125
C	1.084	0.670	6.317	C	0.565	-6.092	0.072
C	10.106	-6.246	0.418	C	12.201	1.738	5.616
C	0.031	1.250	7.035	C	-0.819	-6.145	0.278
C	10.791	-7.108	-0.442	C	13.482	1.532	5.084
C	-0.806	2.222	6.459	C	-1.361	-6.713	1.436
C	11.123	-6.722	-1.752	C	14.302	0.495	5.538
C	-0.597	2.577	5.120	C	-0.487	-7.265	2.390
C	10.722	-5.459	-2.201	C	13.856	-0.293	6.612
C	-1.947	2.815	7.294	C	-2.871	-6.755	1.699
C	11.932	-7.691	-2.623	C	15.643	0.152	4.878
C	-1.389	3.297	8.653	C	-3.307	-8.234	1.822
C	11.133	-9.004	-2.780	C	16.759	0.154	5.947
C	-2.622	4.020	6.602	C	-3.162	-5.995	3.013
C	12.221	-7.129	-4.033	C	15.496	-1.251	4.242
C	-3.004	1.707	7.503	C	-3.693	-6.096	0.569
C	13.285	-7.954	-1.920	C	16.034	1.155	3.770
C	1.873	-0.482	6.865	C	1.163	-5.543	-1.197
C	9.798	-6.641	1.835	C	11.326	2.863	5.122

C	0.498	-4.285	-1.675	H	14.337	-2.363	-2.555
C	11.328	2.938	3.621	H	14.405	-3.183	-0.935
C	0.952	-3.016	-1.261	H	1.766	2.318	2.706
C	10.445	2.150	2.860	H	0.298	3.407	2.707
C	3.323	-2.952	-0.829	H	8.517	-3.071	-1.676
C	8.151	1.933	3.478	H	9.752	-3.166	-3.001
O	1.966	-2.928	-0.310	H	4.452	0.940	4.042
O	9.495	1.368	3.518	H	3.906	1.341	5.763
C	0.314	-1.839	-1.685	H	3.553	2.519	4.397
C	10.553	2.074	1.461	H	7.343	-4.159	1.747
C	-0.795	-1.945	-2.540	H	7.278	-4.440	-0.060
C	11.477	2.908	0.815	H	7.674	-2.753	0.598
C	-1.287	-3.190	-2.945	H	-0.138	0.919	8.059
C	12.340	3.739	1.539	H	11.072	-8.094	-0.074
C	-0.612	-4.349	-2.523	H	-1.262	3.280	4.621
C	12.259	3.733	2.942	H	10.960	-5.131	-3.210
C	-2.565	-3.337	-3.779	H	-2.163	3.878	9.200
C	13.419	4.586	0.855	H	-0.503	3.947	8.481
C	-2.256	-4.168	-5.044	H	-1.089	2.439	9.290
C	13.389	6.026	1.419	H	11.651	-9.685	-3.488
C	-3.617	-4.051	-2.897	H	10.117	-8.775	-3.170
C	14.782	3.915	1.149	H	11.029	-9.525	-1.805
C	-3.146	-1.977	-4.226	H	-3.134	3.703	5.669
C	13.225	4.671	-0.675	H	-1.865	4.801	6.371
C	0.763	-0.488	-1.203	H	-3.387	4.461	7.279
C	9.716	1.098	0.686	H	12.807	-7.872	-4.618
H	1.586	3.127	0.148	H	12.815	-6.193	-3.963
H	2.432	2.014	-1.064	H	11.270	-6.933	-4.573
H	3.546	-3.351	8.990	H	-3.377	1.358	6.516
H	4.149	-1.745	8.321	H	-3.857	2.104	8.094
H	3.291	-7.824	-0.406	H	-2.564	0.846	8.050
H	3.644	-8.187	1.365	H	13.934	-8.581	-2.568
H	4.191	3.476	-0.106	H	13.133	-8.483	-0.956
H	3.611	3.146	1.609	H	13.793	-6.985	-1.721
H	5.959	-3.654	8.692	H	2.767	-0.675	6.203
H	5.169	-4.477	7.241	H	2.240	-0.227	7.892
H	5.777	-7.550	0.149	H	8.860	-6.101	2.158
H	4.979	-5.962	-0.360	H	9.595	-7.742	1.879
H	4.709	1.078	1.584	H	-0.748	-5.167	7.476
H	5.965	-2.750	5.813	H	13.704	-5.382	5.359
H	5.155	-5.126	1.835	H	-0.850	-0.941	6.633
H	-1.858	1.346	3.162	H	12.476	-6.413	1.357
H	12.282	-2.954	-1.812	H	-2.778	-1.962	8.708
H	-1.783	-1.129	-0.377	H	-2.714	-3.747	8.968
H	12.451	0.726	0.437	H	-4.199	-2.992	8.259
H	5.423	-0.872	0.568	H	16.125	-7.148	1.770
H	6.969	-0.582	5.463	H	14.507	-7.065	0.989
H	6.275	-5.063	3.865	H	14.716	-7.994	2.528
H	5.704	-0.842	-2.421	H	-2.964	-1.025	6.426
H	6.303	-2.136	-1.249	H	-4.119	-2.203	5.714
H	8.178	0.514	8.051	H	-2.471	-2.023	4.995
H	7.803	1.494	6.548	H	15.809	-4.533	1.407
H	6.490	-7.637	5.185	H	14.724	-3.655	2.559
H	7.033	-5.987	5.810	H	14.017	-4.543	1.153
H	-3.966	-0.806	-0.396	H	-2.856	-5.300	7.048
H	-4.263	0.856	0.250	H	-2.294	-4.737	5.419
H	-5.344	-0.517	0.726	H	-3.999	-4.451	5.952
H	15.521	0.267	-1.880	H	16.768	-5.704	3.521
H	14.107	1.152	-1.189	H	15.648	-6.612	4.611
H	13.899	0.152	-2.678	H	15.590	-4.796	4.532
H	8.098	-0.576	-2.473	H	1.777	-5.697	8.751
H	7.586	0.676	-1.224	H	2.997	-5.307	7.464
H	9.813	-0.902	6.601	H	10.157	-5.216	6.575
H	9.625	0.411	5.293	H	11.257	-6.593	7.026
H	8.968	-7.626	5.715	H	3.813	-5.059	3.717
H	8.686	-7.813	3.899	H	4.145	-6.117	5.191
H	-2.909	-2.548	1.011	H	3.702	-4.330	5.403
H	-4.222	-2.471	2.248	H	8.549	-3.693	7.621
H	-2.494	-2.224	2.733	H	9.076	-2.260	8.656
H	15.806	-0.779	0.490	H	9.768	-3.934	8.975
H	14.460	-1.779	1.170	H	0.391	-9.662	4.632
H	14.307	0.017	1.095	H	14.428	-2.115	9.147
H	-4.171	1.211	2.814	H	0.498	-7.633	8.440
H	-3.412	-0.066	3.860	H	13.661	-6.062	7.579
H	-5.037	-0.339	3.133	H	1.204	-11.130	7.496
H	15.797	-2.192	-1.512	H	0.341	-11.489	5.952

H	-0.358	-12.048	7.516		H	-3.133	-4.169	-5.725
H	16.737	-4.765	10.710		H	-2.017	-5.221	-4.783
H	14.959	-5.095	10.820		H	-1.384	-3.724	-5.574
H	15.561	-3.397	10.714		H	13.754	6.054	2.467
H	0.017	-9.688	9.275		H	12.346	6.412	1.389
H	-1.553	-10.533	9.013		H	14.039	6.689	0.809
H	-1.467	-8.744	8.807		H	-4.584	-4.120	-3.440
H	17.071	-6.179	8.703		H	-3.765	-3.477	-1.956
H	15.961	-6.055	7.287		H	-3.283	-5.078	-2.637
H	15.357	-6.702	8.877		H	14.768	2.865	0.782
H	-1.706	-10.204	5.309		H	14.985	3.906	2.241
H	-2.377	-8.937	6.406		H	15.596	4.470	0.637
H	-2.576	-10.692	6.810		H	-4.060	-2.143	-4.838
H	17.686	-3.891	8.332		H	-2.405	-1.428	-4.845
H	16.543	-2.526	8.592		H	-3.428	-1.364	-3.343
H	16.448	-3.499	7.070		H	13.344	3.670	-1.143
H	2.011	-8.899	2.942		H	13.989	5.349	-1.114
H	2.818	-7.270	3.165		H	12.216	5.076	-0.908
H	12.595	-0.505	9.278		H	0.647	0.265	-2.024
H	11.019	-0.852	8.463		H	1.855	-0.536	-0.932
H	-1.463	-5.717	-0.487		H	8.991	0.583	1.388
H	13.812	2.191	4.282		H	9.127	1.665	-0.078
H	-0.883	-7.725	3.294		N	2.733	-1.313	2.307
H	14.500	-1.079	7.003		C	1.338	-1.914	2.354
H	-4.412	-8.300	1.909		C	1.368	-3.222	3.156
H	-2.853	-8.705	2.720		C	-0.037	-3.788	3.351
H	-2.976	-8.794	0.920		H	2.918	-0.792	3.219
H	16.725	1.110	6.514		H	2.864	-0.622	1.525
H	17.753	0.053	5.461		H	3.465	-2.091	2.192
H	16.630	-0.689	6.657		H	0.999	-2.132	1.300
H	-4.254	-5.965	3.206		H	0.642	-1.173	2.827
H	-2.776	-4.954	2.930		H	1.981	-3.985	2.603
H	-2.662	-6.493	3.871		H	1.825	-3.054	4.165
H	14.631	-1.240	3.543		H	-0.526	-3.959	2.367
H	15.307	-2.020	5.020		H	-0.648	-3.109	3.980
H	16.417	-1.519	3.685		H	0.061	-4.773	3.877
H	-4.774	-6.125	0.827		N	8.587	-2.985	4.380
H	-3.546	-6.645	-0.386		C	10.037	-2.555	4.220
H	-3.392	-5.034	0.443		C	10.514	-2.764	2.782
H	16.148	2.174	4.197		C	11.959	-2.295	2.629
H	15.262	1.168	2.970		H	8.244	-2.726	5.331
H	17.001	0.852	3.313		H	8.475	-4.026	4.214
H	2.250	-5.335	-0.991		H	7.967	-2.417	3.694
H	1.097	-6.335	-1.984		H	10.669	-3.144	4.944
H	11.698	3.819	5.568		H	10.115	-1.462	4.461
H	10.276	2.697	5.489		H	9.866	-2.192	2.067
H	3.899	-3.213	0.094		H	10.448	-3.850	2.507
H	3.550	-1.934	-1.208		H	12.035	-1.199	2.816
H	3.436	-3.716	-1.619		H	12.284	-2.502	1.582
H	7.527	1.007	3.607		H	12.618	-2.842	3.338
H	7.952	2.420	2.505		C	5.881	-1.203	3.082
H	8.068	2.640	4.323		C	5.585	-2.737	3.070
H	-1.269	-1.023	-2.871		O	7.001	-0.878	3.523
H	11.511	2.877	-0.273		O	4.979	-0.441	2.674
H	-0.961	-5.328	-2.849		O	6.078	-3.367	4.042
H	12.932	4.356	3.528		O	4.945	-3.230	2.123