

Cover Picture

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The cover picture shows the simple, one-step synthesis of cyclo[8]pyrroles, a new class of aromatic heteroannulene. Using a newly developed biphasic oxidative coupling procedure that employs aqueous FeCl_3 as the oxidant, these novel porphyrin-like systems may be obtained in yields exceeding 70% starting from well-known bipyrrrolic precursors. While formally derived from porphyrin as the result of substituting a pyrrole for each of the original bridging *meso*-carbon atoms, the cyclo[8]pyrroles differ from these quintessential tetrapyrrolic macrocycles by virtue of Q-like absorption bands that are red-shifted into the near IR. Cyclo[8]pyrroles also show a propensity for protonation and anion binding that is underscored by the X-ray structure of the sulfate salt that makes up the background for this illustration. More on these exciting new molecules can be found in the communication by J. L. Sessler et al. on pp. 1422–1425.

