

# On the Reaction of (Vinylimino)phosphorane and Related Compounds. 22.<sup>1</sup> Syntheses and Structural Studies of Methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole Ring Systems<sup>2</sup>

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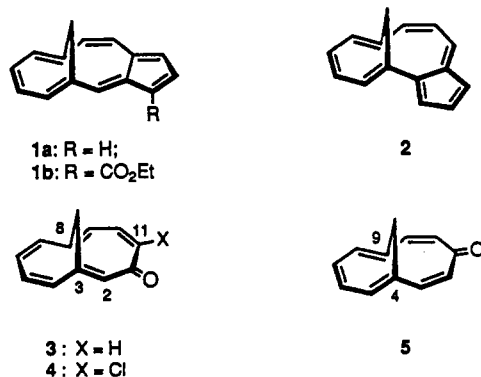
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Novel 2-phenyl-6,11- and 2-phenyl-4,9-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrroles (15a and 16a) were synthesized in moderate yields by the reaction of 3,8-methano[11]annulenone (3), a 10 $\pi$ -electron vinylogue of tropone, with [(1-phenylvinyl)imino]triphenylphosphorane (8a) and subsequent dehydrogenation. Similarly, the reaction of the annulenone 3 with (inden-3-ylimino)tributylphosphorane (8c) and subsequent aromatization afforded 7,12- and 9,14-methano-15H-cycloundeca[b]indeno[2,3-d]pyrroles (15c and 16c), which also have methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole ring systems. Preparation of 2-phenyl-5,10-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole (17), an isomer of both 15a and 16a, was also accomplished in low yield by the reaction of 4,9-methano[11]annulenone (5) with an excess of [(1-phenylvinyl)imino]tributylphosphorane (8d). The reactivity of annulenone 5 with (vinylimino)phosphoranes was found to be quite low as compared to the higher reactivity of annulenone 3 and tropone. Compounds 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17 are the first nitrogen analogues of cyclopentacycloundecene ring systems which have vinylogous structures of 1-azaazulene. Structures of the products obtained were examined by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra and UV spectra. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra clarified that the compounds 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17 are aromatic molecules having a diatropic 14 $\pi$ -electron system, and 5,10-methano derivative 17 has a more diatropic nature than the compounds 15a,c and 16a,c. The UV spectra of 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17 exhibited increased cyclic conjugation of the aromatic perimeter according to a bathochromic shift of the longest absorption maxima as compared to the corresponding 1-azaazulene derivatives.

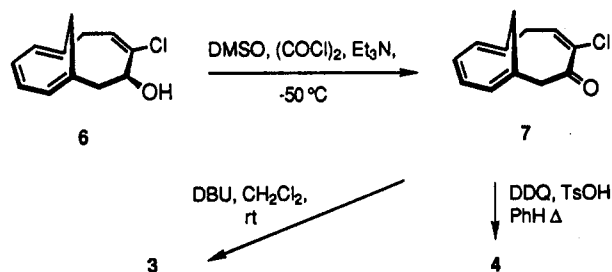
Bridged annulenes with nonplanar cyclic conjugation have caused chemists to consider the relationship between molecular strain and aromaticity in these compounds. The aromatic character of 1,6-<sup>3</sup> and 1,5-methano[10]annulenes<sup>4</sup> has been studied extensively by using chemical and spectroscopic methods. As for methano-bridged aromatics having a 14 $\pi$ -electron system, Prinzbach et al. reported on a series of 5,10-methanocyclopentacycloundecenes (1)<sup>5</sup> as vinylogous compounds of azulene and showed that compound 1 has similar properties to azulene. Although the synthesis of aza analogues of 1,6-methano[10]annulene has been reported,<sup>6,7</sup> no nitrogen analogues of 1 have appeared.

We have demonstrated the synthetic utility of vinyl-imino)phosphoranes for the preparation of various kinds of heterocycles.<sup>8-11</sup> (Vinylimino)phosphoranes react with tropone and its derivatives to afford the 1-azaazulene ring system.<sup>11</sup> As an application to methano-bridged aromatics, we recently reported the synthesis of methanocyclodeca[b]cyclohepta[d]pyrrole<sup>1</sup> by the reaction of (phosphoranylideneamino)-1,6-methano[10]annulene with 2-chloro-tropone. On the basis of those studies, we noted that methano[11]annulenones can serve as possible precursors of 1-azaazulene vinylogues, which are nitrogen analogues of 1 and unknown 4,9-methanocyclopentacycloundecene (2). Vogel et al. justified viewing 3,8- and 4,9-methano[11]annulenones (3 and 5) as vinylogous compounds of

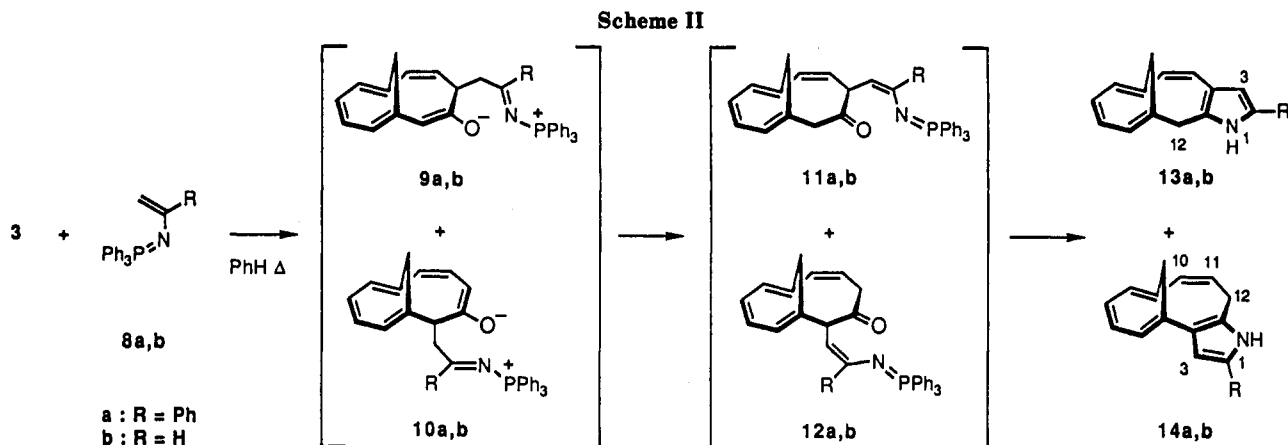


tropone based on their spectroscopic properties and bas-

Scheme I



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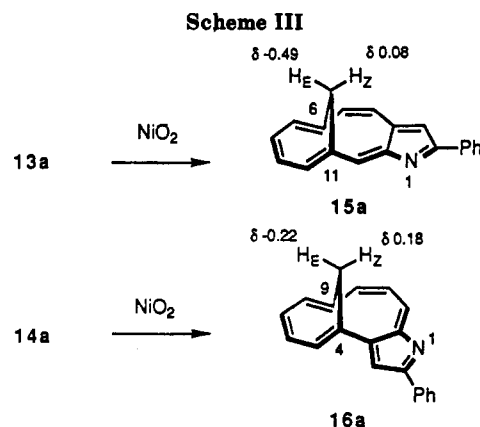
ities.<sup>12</sup> Little is known, however, about the chemical reactivities of methano[11]annulenones 3 and 5, especially with nucleophiles. In this paper, we report simple syntheses for, and the spectroscopic properties of, novel nitrogen analogues of 1 and 2 having the vinylogous structures of 1-azaazulene, 6,11-, 4,9-, and 5,10-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole ring systems.

### Results and Discussion

**Synthesis of 1-Azaazulene Vinylogues.** Our synthetic strategy for the preparation of 6,11- and 4,9-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole ring systems involved the reaction of 3,8-methano[11]annulenone (3)<sup>12</sup> or its 11-chloro derivative 4<sup>13</sup> with [(1-phenylvinyl)imino]triphenylphosphorane (8a),<sup>9a</sup> (vinylimino)triphenylphosphorane (8b),<sup>9b</sup> and/or (inden-3-ylimino)tributylphosphorane (8c).<sup>9g,11c</sup>

Preparation of the annulenones 3 and 4 is outlined in Scheme I. Compound 3 was prepared from 4-chlorobicyclo[5.4.1]dodeca-4,7,9,11-tetraen-3-ol (6)<sup>13</sup> via Swern oxidation<sup>14</sup> giving the corresponding ketone 7 (80% yield) and subsequent dehydrochlorination by DBU (88% yield). Compound 4 was derived from ketone 7 by dehydrogenation with 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ) (71% yield). Vogel and co-workers reported the synthesis of annulenone 3 from chloro[11]annulenone 4, which was prepared by the direct oxidation of alcohol 6 with manganese dioxide (25–30% yield).<sup>12,13</sup> The methods we employed here were quite convenient and significantly improved the yields of annulenones 3 and 4.

The reaction of 3 with 1.5 molar equiv of 8a in anhydrous benzene was carried out under reflux for 24 h to give the pyrrole derivatives 13a and 14a in 42% and 37% yields, respectively. Similarly, the reaction of 3 with 2.0 molar equiv of 8b in anhydrous toluene gave unsubstituted 13b and 14b in 5% and 4% yields, respectively (Scheme II). Structural assignments for the new compounds were obtained by spectral analysis. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 13a and 14a, the methylene protons of H-12 of 13a appear at  $\delta$  4.11 as a singlet, while those of 14a appear at  $\delta$  3.42 and  $\delta$  4.48, both of which are coupled with the olefinic protons of H-11 and H-10. The chemical shifts and coupling patterns of these compounds are in good agreement with the proposed structures of 13a and 14a. The structural assignments for 13b and 14b were based on the spectral similarity to 13a and 14a, respectively. The postulated pathways in the reactions are also shown in Scheme II.<sup>9b</sup> Enamine-type alkylation of the imino-



phosphoranes 8a,b on C-11 and C-2 of 3 gives intermediates 9a,b and 10a,b respectively. Hydrogen transfer in 9a,b and 10a,b regenerates the (vinylimino)phosphorane moieties (11a,b and 12a,b). These intermediates then undergo an intramolecular aza-Wittig reaction followed by hydrogen shifts which generates the pyrrole rings in 13a,b and 14a,b. The dehydrogenation reaction of 13a and 14a with nickel peroxide<sup>15</sup> was completed within 30 min at room temperature, giving 2-phenyl-6,11-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole (15a) and 2-phenyl-4,9-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole (16a) as green solids (70% and 16% yields, respectively, Scheme III). Compound 16a is the first example of a nitrogen analogue of 4,9-methanocycloundecene 2. The structures of compounds 15a and 16a were supported by their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (vide infra) and mass spectra. Attempts to prepare the parent methanocycloundeca[b]pyrroles were also carried out. The dehydrogenation of 13b and 14b with nickel peroxide, manganese dioxide, or DDQ, however, gave tarry materials, and the expected product was not obtained.

Annulenone 3 was allowed to react with (inden-3-yl-imino)tributylphosphorane (8c), (prepared in situ from 3-azidoindene and tributylphosphine<sup>11c</sup>), after which time the reaction mixture was chromatographed to remove tributylphosphine oxide. The fractions were concentrated and the expected 5,6-dihydro-7,12- and 5,6-dihydro-9,14-methano-15H-cycloundeca[b]indeno[2,3-d]pyrroles were subsequently dehydrogenated with manganese dioxide<sup>16</sup> to afford 7,12- and 9,14-methano-15H-cycloundeca[b]indeno[2,3-d]pyrroles (15c and 16c, 6% and 31% yields, respectively, Scheme IV). <sup>1</sup>H NMR and mass spectra

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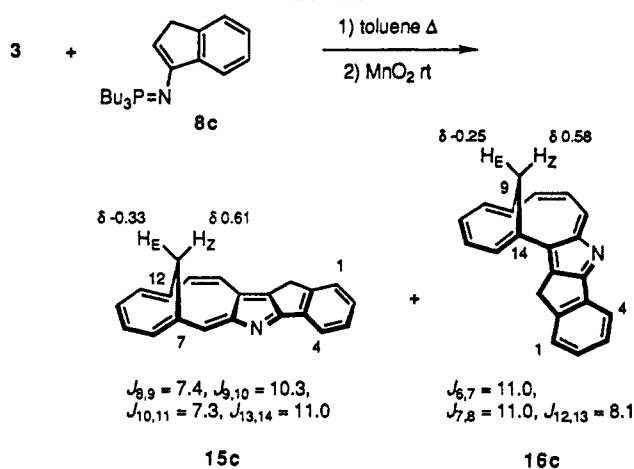
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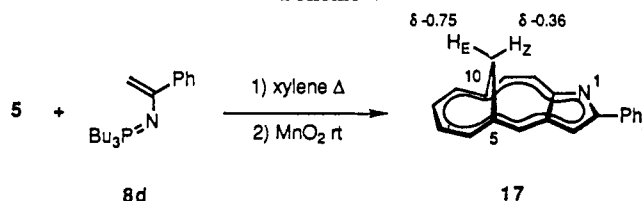
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Scheme IV



Scheme V



Scheme VI



supported the indeno-annulated structures, 15c and 16c. The reaction of 2-chlorotropone with (vinylimino)-phosphoranes 8a and 8b afforded 1-azaazulenes 22 and 21, respectively, in a single step (Figure 2).<sup>11b</sup> The vinylogous compound 11-chloro-3,8-methano[11]annulenone (4) seemed to be a good precursor for 15 and 16, but products such as 15a or 16a were not obtained by the reaction of 4 with 8a. This can be ascribed to the probable instability of the expected 15a or 16a under the reaction conditions.

Initial preparation of 5,10-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole 17 was attempted through the reaction of 4,9-methano[11]annulenone (5) with iminotriphenylphosphorane 8a. Monitoring the reaction by TLC, however, indicated that annulenone 5 is less reactive than annulenone 3. Even in refluxing xylene the expected products were not obtained. The reaction of 5 with excess [(1-phenylvinyl)imino]tributylphosphorane 8d was carried out in refluxing xylene (48 h) and afforded a mixture which included the expected dihydrogenated derivative of 2-phenyl-5,10-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole (17). Although purification of the dihydroannulene at this stage was unsuccessful, treatment of the mixture with manganese dioxide gave the desired compound 17 (3% yield, Scheme V). The formation of compound 17 can be explained using a pathway which is similar to those for compounds 15a and 16a (Scheme II). Structure 17 as deduced from examination of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR (vide infra) spectrum. Other spectral data are consistent with the proposed structure.

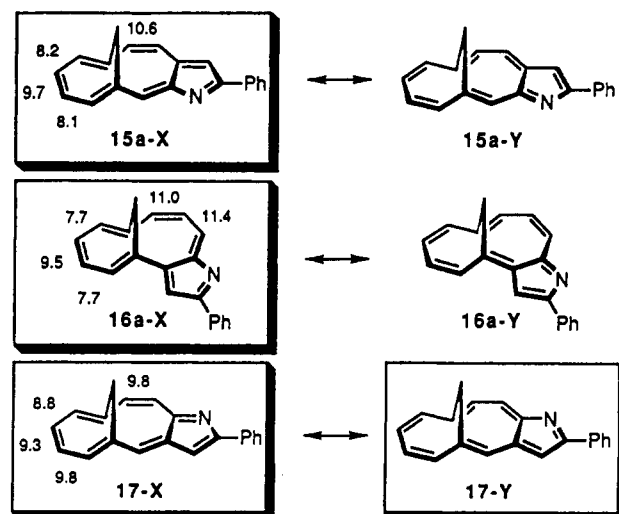


Figure 1. Structures and coupling constants (Hz) of cycloundeca[b]pyrrole derivatives.

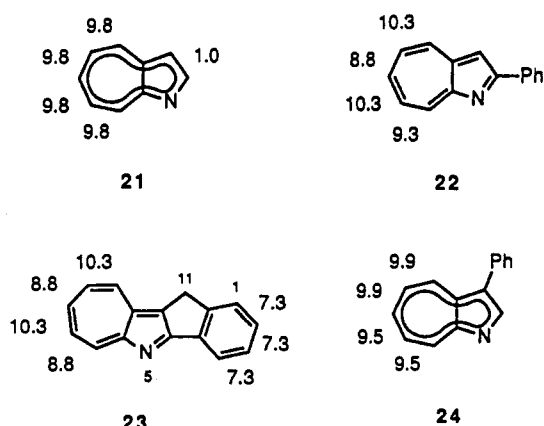


Figure 2. Coupling constants (Hz) of 1-azaazulene and its derivatives.

**Reactivity of 3,8- and 4,9-Methano[11]annulenones.** It is interesting that annulenones 3 and 5 have different reactivities toward iminophosphoranes. The higher reactivity of 3 can be understood by comparing the thermodynamic stabilities of 3 and 5. There is a well-known tendency for double bond localization in methano[11]annulene systems to favor cycloheptatriene moieties predominantly and to avoid 1,6-dimethylenecyclohepta-2,4-diene moieties.<sup>12,17</sup> A typical example is the prototropic isomerization in hydroxymethano[11]annulenone (a 10 $\pi$ -electron vinylogue of tropolone). Valence tautomerization favors structure 20 over 19 (Scheme VI).<sup>13</sup> This observation suggests that 4,9-methano[11]annulenone 5 is more stable than 3,8-methano[11]annulenone 3 and that intermediates 9a and 10a (Scheme II) should be more stable than intermediate 18 (Scheme V). The calculated heats of formation by the semiempirical method (AM1) also support the greater thermodynamic stability of annulenone 5 (51.1 kcal/mol) over annulenone 3 (53.4 kcal/mol).<sup>18</sup> Therefore, annulenone 3 (the source of 9a and 10a) should be more reactive than annulenone 5 (the source of 18).

**Spectroscopic Properties of Methanocycloundeca[b]pyrroles.** The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole derivatives 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17 are noteworthy since the chemical shifts of bridged-annulene

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systems are quite useful in determining such structural properties as diatropicity and bond alternation. Unambiguous proton assignment was successfully made by analyzing  $^1\text{H}$  and 2D  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra. The chemical shifts of the bridge protons and selected coupling constants of peripheral protons are listed also in Schemes III–V and Figure 1. The chemical shifts of the methylene protons of 15–17 were found in the shielding region ( $\delta$  –0.75 to 0.61), and the peripheral protons appear in the aromatic region ( $\delta$  7.09–9.11). Furthermore, the large geminal coupling constants of the methylene protons ( $J_{E,Z} = 10.8$ –11.4 Hz) support the absence of norcaradiene structure for 15–17. These findings indicate that compounds 15–17 all exist as diatropic molecules having  $14\pi$ -electron systems.

The chemical shifts of the bridge protons reflect the degree of ring current in methano-bridged aromatics.<sup>19</sup> Their average values of 15a ( $\delta_{av} = -0.21$ ), 16a ( $\delta_{av} = -0.02$ ), and 17 ( $\delta_{av} = -0.56$ ) suggest that the degree of diatropic ring current decreases in the order  $17 > 15a > 16a$ . The lower diatropicity in 16a may be ascribed to the increase of strain in the near-planar conformation due to fusion of the five-membered ring next to the bridgehead carbon.<sup>20</sup> Vicinal coupling constants of aromatic perimeter protons suggest bond alternation in 15a [ $J_{8,9}$  (9.7 Hz)  $>$   $J_{7,8}$  (8.1 Hz)  $\approx$   $J_{9,10}$  (8.2 Hz)] and 16a [ $J_{6,7}$  (9.5 Hz)  $>$   $J_{5,6} = J_{7,8}$  (7.7 Hz)] (Figure 1). On the other hand, the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum exhibits no significant bond alternation in compound 17. The vicinal coupling constants of  $J_{6,7}$  (9.8 Hz),  $J_{7,8}$  (9.3 Hz), and  $J_{8,9}$  (8.8 Hz) in compound 17 are within 1.0 Hz, and  $J_{11,12}$  (9.8 Hz) is smaller than  $J_{4,5}$  of 15a (10.6 Hz) (Figure 1). The vicinal coupling constants in 15c [ $J_{9,10}$  (10.3 Hz)  $>$   $J_{8,9}$  (7.4 Hz)  $\approx$   $J_{10,11}$  (7.3 Hz)] (Scheme IV) suggest remarkable bond alternation also in this structure. The position of the signals for the bridge protons of compounds 15c ( $\delta_{av} = 0.14$ ) and 16c ( $\delta_{av} = 0.17$ ) (Scheme III) suggests slight decreases in ring current as compared with 15a and 16a. In the case of compound 16c, however, the spectral complexity prevented us from detailed analysis.

The preference for cycloheptatriene moieties<sup>12,17</sup> in methanoannulene systems (vide supra) seems applicable for structural assignments in compounds 15–17. According to their NMR spectra, canonical structures of 15a-X and 16a-X containing the cycloheptatriene element seem to be more preferable to the canonical structures of 15a-Y and 16a-Y having the dimethylenecycloheptadiene element (Figure 1). However, compound 17 was found to favor both canonical structures 17-X and 17-Y. Thus, there must be other factors which favor the contribution of the canonical structure 17-Y in compound 17.

To investigate the bond alternation in annulated pyrrole ring systems, we reexamined the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of a series of 1-azaazulenes such as cyclohepta[b]pyrrole (21),<sup>11b,21</sup> 2-phenylcyclohepta[b]pyrrole (22),<sup>11a,b</sup> cyclohepta[b]indeno[2,3-d]pyrrole (23),<sup>11c</sup> and 3-phenylcyclohepta[b]pyrrole (24)<sup>22</sup> (see the Experimental Section). The vicinal coupling constants in 21–24 are shown in Figure 2. The coupling constants on the seven-membered ring in 21 (in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) are the same ( $J = 9.8$  Hz), and support a delocalized structure. This observation is consistent with the previous observation of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data of 21 measured in methanol- $d_4$  solution.<sup>21</sup> However,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of 22 and 23 showed that phenyl substitution at

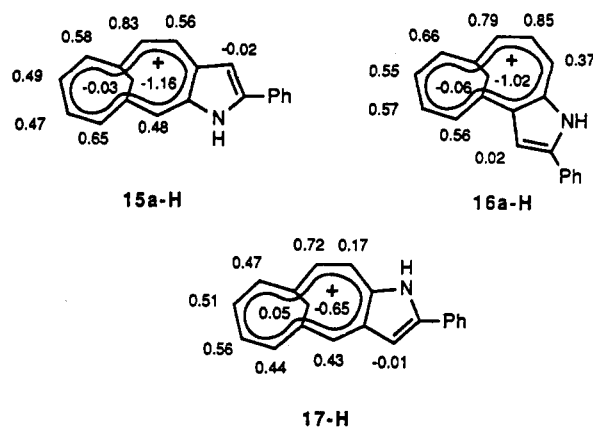


Figure 3. Relative downfield shifts of  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra for 15a, 16a, and 17 in acidic media.

the C-2 position or indeno-annulation (having  $\pi$ -system similar to 22) gives rise to double bond localization in 1-azaazulene systems (Figure 2). Appearance of bond alternation seems to be inherent in 2-phenyl substitution, while the 3-phenyl derivative 24 has a delocalized  $\pi$ -system like the parent compound 21. Consequently, a phenyl group at the C-2 position seems to conjugate preferably with the  $\text{C}=\text{N}$  double bond rather than the  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  double bond in 1-azaazulene ring systems. Therefore, we conclude that the contribution of the X form is predominant for compounds 15a and 16a, as they consist of the two preferable moieties, the cycloheptatriene element and  $\text{PhC}=\text{N}$  conjugation. In the case of compound 17, both canonical structures of 17-X (cycloheptatriene element) and 17-Y ( $\text{PhC}=\text{N}$  conjugation) became important in the delocalization of  $\pi$ -system.

We also studied the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of compounds 15a, 16a, and 17 in acidic media (Figure 3). The chemical shifts in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ - $\text{CF}_3\text{COOH}$  exhibited a downfield shift of the peripheral protons ( $\Delta\delta_{av} = \text{ca. } 0.6$ ) except for the H-3 protons ( $\Delta\delta = \text{ca. } 0$ ). Remarkable upfield shifts for the H<sub>2</sub>-13 protons ( $\Delta\delta = -1.16$  for 15a,  $\Delta\delta = -1.20$  for 16a, and  $\Delta\delta = -0.65$  for 17) were also observed. Accordingly, protonation of 15a, 16a, 17 occurs at the nitrogen atoms in acidic solution, and the contribution of the canonical structures to the resonance hybrids (Figure 3) seems to be important. The striking similarity of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of 15a to that of 1b<sup>6a</sup> is seen in the chemical shifts and in the coupling constants of the bridge protons. However, a remarkable difference was observed in the coupling constants of the aromatic protons showing a completely delocalized  $\pi$ -system of annulene 1b ( $J_{7,8} = J_{8,9} = J_{9,10} = 8.0$  Hz).

Additional support regarding the structural assignments of 15a, 16a, and 17 is evident from their  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and UV spectra. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra are also consistent with the presence of aromaticity in these systems. The UV spectral data of compounds 15–17 are summarized in Table I. Compared with 22<sup>11a,b</sup> [ $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) = 531 nm (3.19, sh)] or 23<sup>11c</sup> [ $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) = 553 nm (3.03, sh)], compounds 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17 exhibit a red-shifted absorption maxima for the longest wavelength absorption. These bathochromic shifts are consistent with extension of conjugation in compounds 15–17. Furthermore, remarkable hypsochromic shifts are observed in acidic media in accordance with the behavior of 1-azaazulenes, suggesting the vinylogous nature of 15–17.

## Experimental Section

**General Methods.** General experimental conditions and spectroscopic instrumentation used have been described.<sup>9b</sup>

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Table I. UV Spectral Data of 15a,c, 16a,c, and 17

compd	solvent	$\lambda_{\max}/\text{nm}$ (log $\epsilon$ )
15a	EtOH	572 (3.40), 435 (3.93), 352 (4.60), 311 (4.34), 261 (4.16)
	EtOH-CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	556 (4.02), 444 (4.09), 359 (4.69), 311 (4.31), 275 (4.05)
15c	EtOH	567 (4.18), 430 (4.00, sh), 358 (4.67), 314 (4.36)
	EtOH-CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	566 (4.22), 436 (4.01), 372 (4.69), 317 (4.36)
16a	EtOH	559 (2.67), 460 (3.08, sh), 346 (3.95, sh), 298 (4.17, sh), 264 (4.35)
	EtOH-CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	564 (3.87), 461 (3.83), 355 (4.35), 298 (4.23)
16c	EtOH	580 (3.30), 450 (3.26), 398 (3.40, sh), 356 (4.20), 309 (4.05)
	EtOH-CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	574 (3.92), 463 (3.59), 360 (4.27), 307 (4.10)
17	EtOH	590 (2.95), 393 (3.86 sh), 361 (4.18), 347 (4.11, sh), 310 (4.16, sh)
		296 (4.18)
	EtOH-CF <sub>3</sub> COOH	552 (3.61), 399 (3.71), 354 (4.38), 315 (4.26)

**4-Chlorobicyclo[5.4.1]dodeca-4,7,9,11-tetraen-3-one (7).** To a solution of oxalyl chloride (629 mg, 4.95 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (11 mL) was added dropwise DMSO (780 mg, 10.0 mmol) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2.3 mL) at -50 °C. After the mixture was stirred for 2 min, a solution of alcohol 6 (938 mg, 4.50 mmol) in DMSO-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1/1, 5 mL) was added, and the mixture was stirred for 15 min. Triethylamine (2.27 g, 22.5 mmol) was then added, and the reaction mixture was warmed to rt. After the mixture was stirred for several minutes, water (23 mL) was added and the solution was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl(aq) and water, and then dried. After solvent removal in vacuo, the residue was chromatographed on silica gel. The fractions eluted with hexane-ethyl acetate (10/1) gave the ketone 7 (740 mg, 80%). The compound was used in the next step without further purification.

**7:** oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (60 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.38 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz), 2.88 (1 H, dt,  $J$  = 10.8, 1.1 Hz), 3.04–3.29 (2 H, m), 3.37–3.73 (2 H, m), 5.88–6.24 (3 H, m), 6.44–6.77 (2 H, m); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 2997, 1703 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 208 (15), 206 (M<sup>+</sup>, 33), and 128 (100); HRMS  $m/z$  206.0460, calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>11</sub>ClO 206.0498.

**3,8-Methano[11]annulenone (3).** A solution of the ketone 7 (2.07 g, 10.0 mmol) and DBU (1.67 g, 11.0 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (15 mL) was stirred for 30 min at rt. After solvent removal in vacuo, the resulting mixture was chromatographed on silica gel using hexane-ethyl acetate (1/1) to give 3 (1.49 g, 88%).<sup>12</sup>

**11-Chloro-3,8-methano[11]annulenone (4).** A solution of ketone 7 (1.57 g, 7.61 mmol) and 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (2.25 g, 9.91 mmol) in benzene (10 mL) was heated under reflux for 18 h in the presence of catalytic amount of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid (20 mg). The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite, and the residual solids were washed with benzene. The filtrate was neutralized by aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with benzene, and the organic layer was dried. After the solvent was removed in vacuo, the residue was filtered to give the product 4 (1.11 g, 71%).<sup>13</sup>

**Reaction of 3,8-Methano[11]annulenone (3) with [(1-Phenylvinyl)imino]triphenylphosphorane (8a).** A solution of annulenone 3 (85 mg, 0.50 mmol) and 8a (284 mg, 0.75 mmol) in benzene (5 mL) was heated under reflux for 24 h. After the reaction was completed, the mixture was chromatographed on silica gel with hexane-ethyl acetate (4/1) to remove triphenylphosphine oxide. The fractions eluted were concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was separated by TLC on silica gel using hexane-ether (4/1) as a developer to give 13a (58 mg, 42%) and 14a (50 mg, 37%).

**13a:** slurry oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.54 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>-13), 4.11 (2 H, s, H-12), 4.49 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H<sub>Z</sub>-13), 5.99 (1 H, s, H-3), 5.92–6.18 (3 H, m, H-4,5,10), 6.28 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 3.1 Hz, H-7), 6.54 (2 H, m, H-8,9), 7.26–7.56 (5 H, m, Ph), and 8.03 (1 H, broad s, H-1); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3450, 3005, 1604, 1454, 1075 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 271 (M<sup>+</sup>, 79), 270 (100); HRMS  $m/z$  271.1360, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N 271.1361.

**14a:** slurry oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.84 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>-13), 3.42 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 16.7, 10.1 Hz, H-12) 4.00 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz, H<sub>Z</sub>-13), 4.48 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 16.7, 5.5, 2.4 Hz, H-12), 5.02 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 10.1, 9.7, 5.5 Hz, H-11), 6.27 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.7, 2.4 Hz, H-10), 6.46–7.00 (4 H, m, H-5,6,7,8), 7.00–7.50 (5 H, m, Ph), and 7.94 (1 H, broad s, H-1); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3450, 3001, 1606, 1466, 1264, 907 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 271 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100); HRMS  $m/z$  271.1362, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N 271.1361.

**Reaction of 3 with (Vinylimino)triphenylphosphorane (8b).** A solution of annulenone 3 (850 mg, 5.0 mmol) and 8b (3.30

g, 10.0 mmol) in toluene (20 mL) was refluxed for 4 h. After removal of triphenylphosphine oxide (vide supra), the fractions eluted (benzene eluent) were concentrated in vacuo, and the resulting mixture was separated by MPLC on silica gel (400 mesh) using hexane-ethyl acetate (5/1) as an eluent to give 13b (50 mg, 5%) and 14b (39 mg, 4%).

**13b:** slurry oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.44 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.9 Hz), 3.97 (2 H, broad s), 4.37 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.9 Hz), 5.85–6.05 (5 H, m), 6.43–6.53 (3 H, m), 7.65 (1 H, broad s); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3470, 3010, 1620, 1454, 1400, 1262, 1090, 1044 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 195 (M<sup>+</sup>, 70), 194 (100); HRMS  $m/z$  195.1046, calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N 195.1048.

**14b:** slurry oil; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  0.75 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz), 3.33 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 16.7, 10.7 Hz), 3.95 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.7 Hz), 4.44 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 16.7, 2.9, 2.2 Hz), 4.97 (1 H, td,  $J$  = 10.7, 2.9 Hz), 6.10–6.30 (2 H, m), 6.39–6.90 (5 H, m), 7.50 (1 H, broad s); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3575, 3015, 2968, 2935, 1723, 1600, 1467, 1263, 1100, 1028 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 195 (M<sup>+</sup>, 98), 194 (100); HRMS  $m/z$  195.1043, calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N 195.1048.

**2-Phenyl-6,11- and 2-Phenyl-4,9-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrroles (15a and 16a).** Compound 13a (58 mg, 0.214 mmol) or 14a (50 mg, 0.185 mmol) and nickel peroxide (250 mg) in benzene (2 mL) were stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction mixture was then filtered through Celite. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was purified by TLC on silica gel using hexane-ethyl acetate (1/2) as a developer to give 15a (40 mg, 70%) or 16a (8 mg, 16%). UV spectral data of 15a and 16a are summarized in Table I.

**15a:** green solid; mp 92–96 °C dec; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -0.49 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>-13), 0.08 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H<sub>Z</sub>-13), 7.44 (1 H, m, Ph), 7.52 (2 H, m, Ph), 7.55 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, H-7), 7.60 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.7, 8.1 Hz, H-9), 7.62 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.6 Hz, H-5), 7.69 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.7, 8.2 Hz, H-8), 7.82 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, H-10), 7.96 (1 H, s, H-3), 8.14 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.6 Hz, H-4), 8.31 (2 H, m, Ph), 9.11 (1 H, s, H-12); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  31.6, 119.8, 119.8, 121.0, 126.8, 127.87, 127.90, 128.7, 128.9, 129.4, 130.8, 131.7, 132.5, 134.1, 141.6, 142.6, 151.1, 163.4; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 269 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100); HRMS  $m/z$  269.1201, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N 269.1204.

**16a:** green solid; mp 72–77 °C dec; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -0.22 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz, H<sub>E</sub>-13), 0.18 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz, H<sub>Z</sub>-13), 7.29 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 11.0, 11.4 Hz, H-11), 7.44 (1 H, m, Ph), 7.50 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.5, 7.7 Hz, H-7), 7.52 (2 H, m, Ph), 7.60 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, H-8), 7.68 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.5, 7.7 Hz, H-6), 7.83 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-10), 8.02 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, H-5), 8.12 (1 H, s, H-3), 8.29 (2 H, m, Ph), 8.73 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz, H-12); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  31.0, 110.76, 110.78, 121.2, 124.6, 125.4, 126.9, 127.9, 128.2, 128.7, 131.7, 132.8, 132.9, 141.5, 148.3, 152.5, 163.7, 170.2; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 269 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100); HRMS  $m/z$  269.1206, calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>15</sub>N 269.1204.

**7,12- and 9,14-Methano-15H-cycloundeca[b]indeno[2,3-d]pyrroles (15c and 16c).** A solution of 3-azidoindene (157 mg, 1.0 mmol) and tributylphosphine (303 mg, 1.50 mmol) in toluene (4 mL) was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min to generate (inden-3-yl-imino)tributylphosphorane in situ. A solution of annulenone 3 (85 mg, 0.5 mmol) in toluene (0.5 mL) was then added, and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 1.5 h. After removal of triphenylphosphine oxide (vide supra), the fractions eluted [hexane-ethyl acetate (2/1) eluent] were concentrated in vacuo, and the residue was treated with manganese dioxide (200 mg) in benzene (40 mL) and stirred at rt for 30 min. The reaction mixture was filtered through Celite, and the filtrate was concentrated in

vacuo. The resulting mixture was separated by TLC on silica gel using 2-propanol-ethyl acetate (1/10) as a developer to give **15c** (8.3 mg, 6%) and **16c** (44 mg, 31%). UV spectral data of **15c** and **16c** are summarized in Table I.

**15c**: green solid; mp 180 °C dec;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -0.33 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-16}$ ), 0.61 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-16}$ ), 3.98 (2 H, s, H-15), 7.39 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, H-11), 7.46 (1 H, m, H-3), 7.47 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, H-2), 7.52 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-13), 7.57 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 10.3, 7.4 Hz, H-9), 7.61 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, H-1), 7.62 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 10.3, 7.3 Hz, H-10), 7.67 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, H-8), 7.76 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-14), 8.17 (1 H, m, H-4) 8.97 (1 H, s, H-6); IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) 2925, 1614, 1596, 1475, 1456, 1331, 1287, 1060  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 281 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100); HRMS  $m/z$  281.1195, calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}$  281.1204.

**16c**: green solid; mp 220 °C dec;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -0.25 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-16}$ ), 0.58 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.4 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-16}$ ), 3.84 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 21.3 Hz, H-15), 4.17 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 21.3 Hz, H-15), 7.09 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-7), 7.40-7.44 (4 H, m, H-1, H-2, H-3, and H-10), 7.57 (1 H, m, H-1), 7.62 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 8.8, 8.1 Hz, H-12), 7.68 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-8), 7.70 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, H-13), 8.14 (1 H, m, H-4), 8.51 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 11.0 Hz, H-6);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  174.9, 159.8, 151.0, 141.7, 139.2, 136.2, 133.2, 133.0, 132.9, 130.9, 129.9, 128.7, 127.6, 126.2, 125.8, 124.1, 122.8, 122.0, 32.4, 30.4 (one carbon signal is overlapping); IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) 2925, 1696, 1612, 1464, 1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 281 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100); HRMS  $m/z$  281.1202, calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}$  281.1204.

**2-Phenyl-5,10-methanocycloundeca[b]pyrrole (17)**. A solution of annulenone **5** (85 mg, 0.50 mmol) and **8d** (957 mg, 3.0 mmol) was heated in 1,2-dimethylbenzene (5 mL) under reflux for 48 h. After removal of tributylphosphine oxide (vide supra), the fractions eluted (benzene eluent) were concentrated in vacuo to ca. 3 mL and the solution was treated with manganese dioxide (500 mg) and stirred at rt for 50 min. After the reaction mixture was filtered through Celite and was concentrated in vacuo, the residue was separated by TLC on silica gel using hexane-ethyl acetate (1/2) to give **17** (4 mg, 3%). UV spectral data of **17** are summarized in Table I.

**17**: green solid; mp 89-90 °C dec;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -0.75 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-13}$ ), -0.36 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 10.8 Hz,  $\text{H}_{\beta-13}$ ), 7.42 (1 H, m, *p*-Ph), 7.45 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.77, 9.28 Hz, H-7), 7.52 (2 H, m, *m*-Ph), 7.61 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 9.28, 8.78 Hz, H-8), 7.82 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.77 Hz, H-11), 7.85 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 8.78 Hz, H-9), 7.86 (1 H, s, H-3), 7.94 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.77 Hz, H-6), 8.34 (2 H, m, *o*-Ph),

8.88 (1 H, s, H-4), 8.89 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.77 Hz, H-12),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  142.6, 138.7, 137.0, 135.4, 134.3, 133.4, 133.1, 132.5, 129.3, 128.9, 127.8, 110.4, 30.9 (one carbon signal is overlapping); IR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) 2934, 1603, 1425, 1253, 1072, 909  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; MS  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 269 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 100); HRMS  $m/z$  269.1204, calcd for  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{15}\text{N}$  269.1204.

**$^1\text{H}$  NMR Spectral Data (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) of Cyclohepta[b]pyrrole (21), 2-Phenylcyclohepta[b]pyrrole (22), Cyclohepta[b]indeno[2,3-*d*]pyrrole (23), and 3-Phenylcyclohepta[b]pyrrole (24).**

**21**:  $\delta$  7.41 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, H-3), 7.64 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, H-5), 7.75 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, H-7), 7.89 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, H-6), 8.59 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, H-4), 8.77 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.8 Hz, H-8), 8.78 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 1.0 Hz, H-2).

**22**:  $\delta$  7.44 (1 H, tt,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.0 Hz, *p*-Ph), 7.51 (2 H, t,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, *m*-Ph), 7.58 (1 H, ddt,  $J$  = 10.3, 8.8, 1.0 Hz, H-6), 7.72 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 10.3, 9.3, 1.0 Hz, H-8), 7.74 (1 H, s, H-3), 7.76 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 10.3, 8.8, 1.5 Hz, H-7), 8.32 (2 H,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, *o*-Ph), 8.48 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 10.3, 1.0 Hz, H-5), 8.66 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 9.3, 1.5, 1.0 Hz, H-9).

**23**:  $\delta$  3.88 (2 H, s, H-11), 7.41 (1 H, td,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, H-2), 7.45 (1 H, td,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, H-3), 7.57 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, H-1), 7.63 (1 H, ddt,  $J$  = 10.3, 8.8, 1.1 Hz, H-8), 7.68 (1 H, ddt,  $J$  = 10.3, 8.8, 1.5, 0.5 Hz, H-8), 7.49 (1 H, dddd,  $J$  = 10.3, 8.8, 1.5, 0.5 Hz, H-9), 8.16 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.5 Hz, H-4), 8.33 (1 H, dd,  $J$  = 10.3, 1.1 Hz, H-10), 8.61 (1 H, ddd,  $J$  = 8.8, 1.5, 1.1 Hz, H-6).

**24**:  $\delta$  7.40 (1 H, tt,  $J$  = 7.3, 1.1 Hz, *p*-Ph), 7.53 (2 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 7.3 Hz, *m*-Ph), 7.62 (2 H, dd,  $J$  = 7.7, 1.1 Hz, *o*-Ph), 7.66 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz, H-6), 7.77 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.5 Hz, H-8), 7.92 (1 H, t,  $J$  = 9.5 Hz, H-8), 8.76 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.9 Hz, H-5), 8.78 (1 H, d,  $J$  = 9.5 Hz, H-9), 8.90 (1 H, s, H-2).

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**Supplementary Material Available:**  $^1\text{H}$  and/or  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **15a,c**, **16a,c**, and **17** (9 pages). This material is contained in many libraries on microfiche, immediately follows this article in the microfilm version of the journal, and can be ordered from the ACS; see any current masthead page for ordering information.