

Applications of Phthalimide Photochemistry to Macrocyclic Polyether, Polythioether, and Polyamide Synthesis

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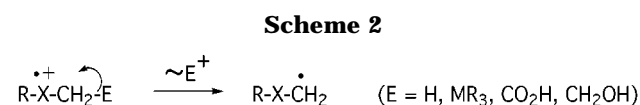
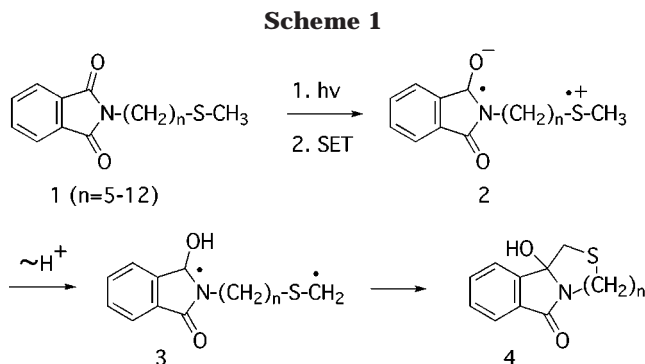
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Irradiation of phthalimides which contain N-linked ω -trimethylsilylmethyl-substituted polyether, polythioether, and polysulfonamide chains results in efficient production of the corresponding macrocyclic polyether, polythioether, and polysulfonamide products. These photocyclization reactions follow sequential single electron transfer (SET)–desilylation pathways. Only in the cases of phthalimides, bearing mixed ether–thioether N-substituents, do these excited-state cyclization reactions proceed with lower degrees of regioselectivity. This is a result of competitive desilylation and α -to-sulfur deprotonation reactions of the zwitterionic diradical intermediates formed by initial SET.

Owing to their high singlet and triplet excited-state reduction potentials, phthalimides participate in photo-induced single-electron transfer (SET) reactions with a wide variety of electron donors.¹ Photocyclizations promoted by initial intramolecular excited-state SET have been observed in phthalimides having N-tethered-ether, -thioether, -silane, -arene, and -carboxylate electron donor groups.² Early examples of this reactivity profile are found in the photochemistry of the *N*-(methylthioalkyl)phthalimides **1** (Scheme 1).³ In these cases, the excited-state SET pathway is dominant over H-atom abstraction processes, which are common in the photochemistry of *N*-alkylphthalimides.⁴ The zwitterionic intermediates **2**, generated by intramolecular SET, undergo proton transfer to form diradicals **3**, precursors of the macrocyclic thioether photoproducts **4**.

Cation radicals, arising by one-electron oxidation of *n*-electron donors, are known to participate in a number of different secondary reactions, which lead to formation of heteroatom-stabilized, carbon-centered radicals.⁵ Examples of these α -heterolytic fragmentation reactions are deprotonation, decarboxylation, retro-aldol-type cleavage, and demetalation (Scheme 2). By using available rate data for these processes,⁶ it is possible to design substrates that will undergo sequential SET- α -fragmentation reactions to furnish radical intermediates in a



regioselective fashion. For example, both product distribution⁷ and laser flash photolysis data⁶ show that nucleophile-induced α -desilylation of α -silyl-substituted, heteroatom-centered, cation radicals is a faster process than α -deprotonation. Numerous observations made in studies of photoaddition and photocyclization reactions of systems composed of α -silylamines and α,β -unsaturated ketones,⁸ α -diketones,⁹ and phthalimides¹⁰ show that the rate data can be used reliably to predict the nature of SET-promoted photochemical reactions. An early example is found in the photochemistry of the aminoenone **5** (Scheme 3),¹¹ where irradiation in MeOH leads

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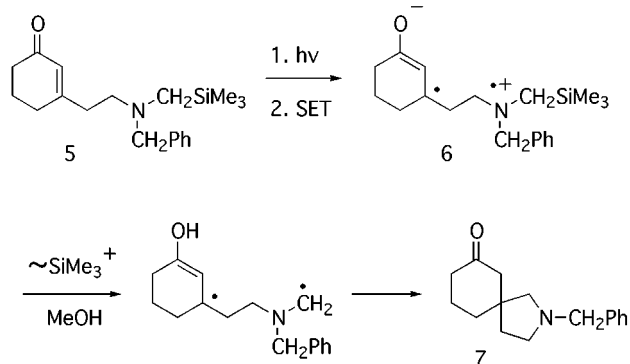
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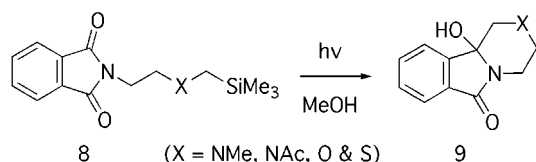
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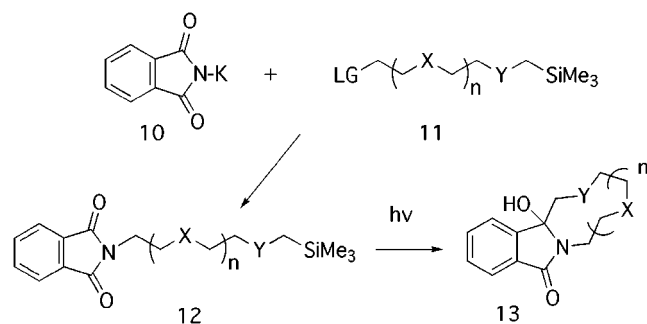
Scheme 3



Scheme 4



Scheme 5

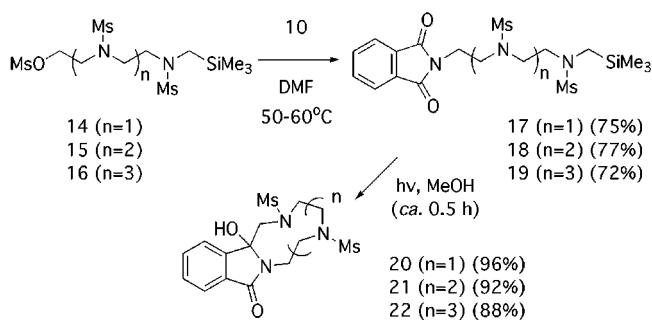


to exclusive generation of the spirocyclic aminoketone **7**. In this case, the initially formed zwitterionic diradical **6** undergoes MeOH-induced desilylation in preference to proton transfer from the reasonably acidic¹² α -benzylic site.

In a series of related studies, we have shown how knowledge of the rates of cation radical α -desilylation can be used to design efficient photocyclization reactions of α -silylamine-, -amide-, -ether-, and -thioether-tethered phthalimides (**8** \rightarrow **9**, Scheme 4).^{10,13} More recently, we have found that this excited-state SET chemistry can be used in efficient and selective methods to prepare a variety of macrocyclic polyethers, -thioethers, and -sulfonamides. In this paper, we describe the results of our studies with phthalimide derivatives of general structure **12**, which have led to the development of efficient photomacrocyclization reactions (**12** \rightarrow **13**, Scheme 5).

The phthalimides, used in this investigation, are prepared by use of N-alkylation reactions of potassium phthalimide (**10**) with the corresponding polyamide or polyether-linked mesylates or halides (**11**, LG = OMS, Cl, or Br). For example, the α -silyl polysulfamidophthalimides **17–19** are efficiently (72–77%) generated in

Scheme 6



reactions of the mesylates **14–16** with **10** in DMF at 50–60 °C (Scheme 6). As observed with more simply structured substrates (Scheme 4),^{10,13} irradiation ($\lambda > 290$ nm) of MeOH solutions (ca. 8 mM) of the phthalimides **17–19** results in high-yielding (88–96%) formation of the macrocyclic polyamides **20–22** (Scheme 6). The high chemical yields associated with these photocyclizations are, in part, a consequence of the fast rates of intramolecular SET from the amide donor sites to the phthalimide singlet excited states. This makes other excited-state reaction pathways, like hydrogen-atom abstraction, uncompetitive. This most likely produces a mixture of equilibrating zwitterionic diradicals **23** (Scheme 7) whose population is governed by the oxidation potentials of the individual amide moieties. Because the rates of amide cation radical α -desilylation far exceed those of α -deprotonation,⁶ MeOH-induced desilylation of **23b** occurs selectively to produce $1,\omega$ -diradicals **24**, the precursors of the aza-crowns **20–22**.

In a similar manner, the phthalimido-polythioethers **25–26** undergo efficient photocyclization when irradiated in MeOH solutions (Scheme 8). These processes are accompanied by low-yielding formation of the benzazepinedione **29**, which results from a complex multiphoton pathway, initiated by competitive α -deprotonation of the proximal cation radical **30** and terminated by a Norrish type II photocleavage reaction (Scheme 9).¹⁴

Previously, we described the results of a preliminary study of the photocyclization reactions of the phthalimido- α -silyl-polyethers **31** ($n = 1–5$).¹⁵ Like their thia-analogues, these substrates also produce the corresponding crown ethers **32** upon irradiation in MeOH (Scheme 10). To determine if this photochemical methodology can be used to prepare mixed, oxygen–sulfur substituted macrocyclic polyethers, the phthalimides **33**, **34**, **37**, **39**, and **41**, differing in the relative positions of the ether and thioether moieties, were prepared and subjected to photochemical study. As seen by inspecting the results summarized in Scheme 11, irradiation of MeOH solutions of these substances leads in all but one case to predominant formation of the macrocyclic product arising by operation of the sequential SET-desilylation pathway.¹⁶ The single exception is reaction of the phthalimide **41** where the macrocycle **43**, arising by an SET-proton-transfer route, is generated in a slight excess over the SET-desilylation derived product **42**.

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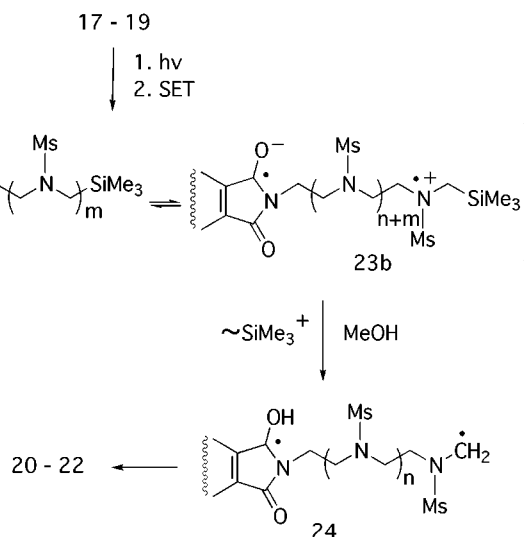
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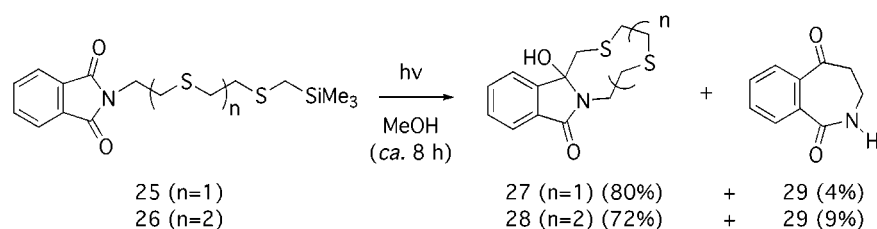
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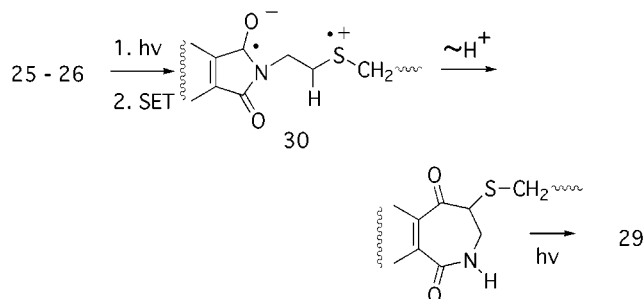
Scheme 7



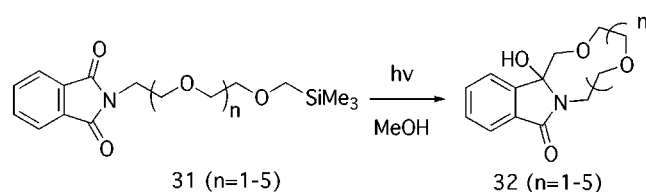
Scheme 8



Scheme 9



Scheme 10



The results presented above clearly show that SET-promoted photochemical reactions of substances containing phthalimide acceptors and α -silyl substituted donors serve as key steps in efficient methods for macrocyclic polyether, -thioether, and -amide synthesis. Accordingly, the presence of the trialkylsilyl group in these substrates governs reactions of intermediate zwitterionic diradicals, which lead to highly selective formation of photocyclization products. Only in the cases where sulfur is present in nonterminal positions of mixed ether-thioether side chains do sequential SET-proton transfer pathways become competitive. The high predictability of this cation radical chemistry suggests that it may be more widely

applied to the design of synthetically relevant ground and excited-state SET-oxidation processes.

Experimental Section

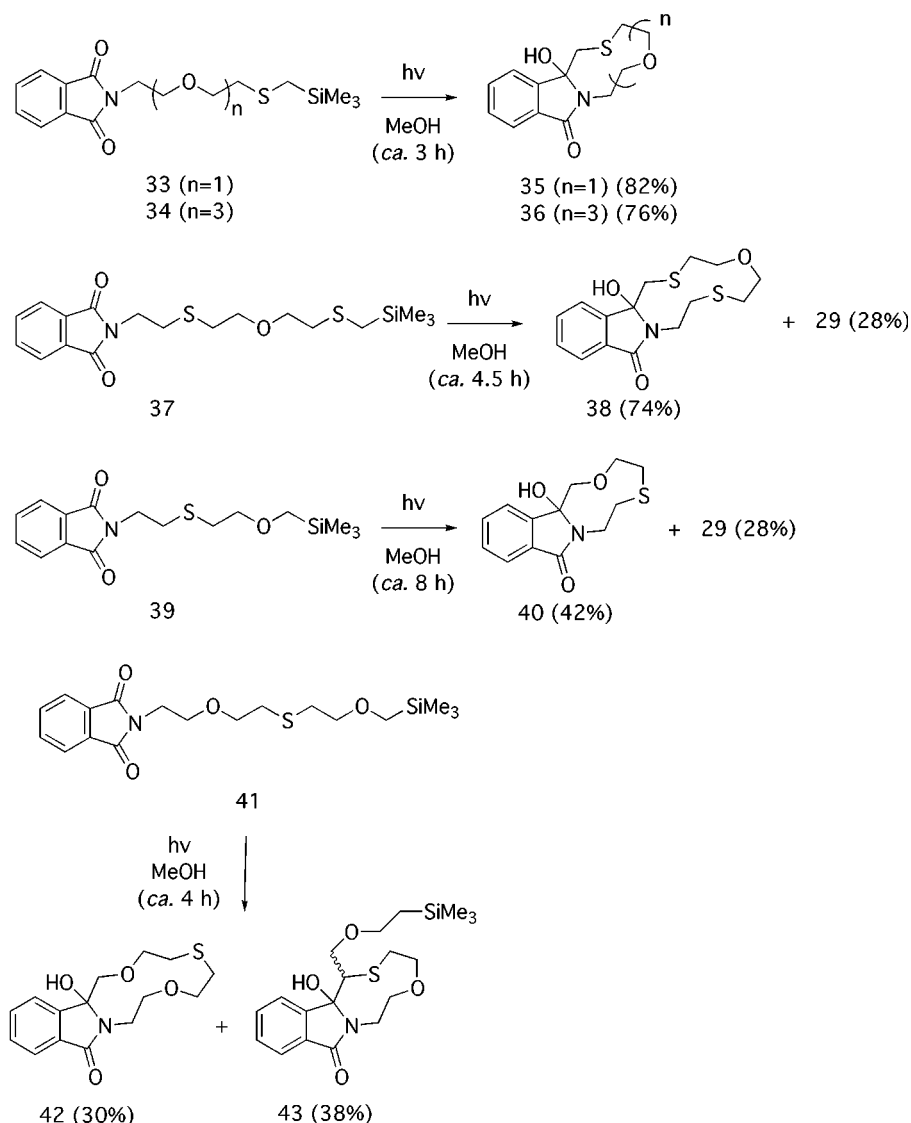
General Methods. ¹H and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts are presented below in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane and chloroform, respectively. The purities of all compounds characterized in this study are >90% (determined by use of ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy). All compounds are isolated as oils except in the cases where mp and crystallization solvents are given. All photochemical reactions are conducted in a preparative apparatus by using Pyrex glass filtered-light emitted by a 450-W medium-pressure Hg-lamp and N₂-purged MeOH solutions of the substrates. Photoreaction times needed to bring about 86–100% conversions of ca. 0.75 mmol of amides **20–22** in 100 mL of MeOH are ca. 0.5 h and to bring about 60–95% conversions of ca. 1.75 mmol of ethers **25**, **26**, **33**, **34**, **37**, **39**, and **41** in 200 mL of MeOH are ca. 2–9 h.

Preparation of the *N*-Trimethylsilylmethylpolymethansulfonamido Phthalimides 17–19. Solutions of the α -trimethylsilylmethylpolymethansulfonamido mesylates **14** (3.00 g, 7.00 mmol), **15** (3.82 g, 7.00 mmol), and **16** (4.66 g, 7.00 mmol) in DMF (15 mL), each containing potassium phthalimide (1.94 g, 10.5 mmol), were stirred for 4 h at 50–60 °C. The residues obtained by concentration in vacuo were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and filtered. Concentration of the filtrates and column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate/hexane = 1:3) gave 2.49 g (75%) of **17**, 3.21 g (77%) of **18**, and 3.11 g (62%) of **19**.

17: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 0.16 (s, 9H), 2.71 (s, 2H), 2.82 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 3H), 2.93–3.45 (m, 2H), 3.47–3.51 (m, 2H), 3.52–3.56 (m, 2H), 3.92 (t, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.74–7.69 (m, 2H), 7.83–7.86 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) –1.9, 34.0, 36.6, 37.4, 40.5 (CH₂SiMe₃), 46.9, 47.9, 49.8, 123.1 and 133.8, 131.7, 168.1; IR (KBr) 1720 cm^{–1}; MS(CI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 476 (M⁺ + 1, 1), 460 (63), 396 (91), 281 (73), 194 (100), 174 (84), 137 (70); HRMS(CI) *m/z* 475.1267 (C₁₈H₂₉N₃O₆S₂Si requires 475.1269).

18: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 0.15 (s, 9H), 2.71 (s, 2H), 2.87, 2.94 and 2.95 (3 s, 9H), 3.39–3.53 (m, 10H), 3.90 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.3

Scheme 11



Hz), 7.81–7.87 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) -1.8 , 35.0 , 36.4 , 36.8 , 39.7 , 37.5 , 46.8 , 47.8 , 47.9 , 48.2 , 49.3 , 123.1 and 133.9 , 131.8 , 168.0 ; IR (KBr) 1710 cm^{-1} ; MS(FAB) m/z (rel intensity) $597\text{ (M}^+ + 1, 2)$, 324 (19) , 237 (13) , 221 (15) , 217 (10) , 208 (28) , 174 (100) ; HRMS(FAB) m/z 597.1541 ($\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{37}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8\text{S}_3\text{Si}$ requires 597.1543).

19: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) 0.15 (s, 9H), 2.72 (s, 2H), 2.84 , 2.87 , 2.91 and 2.95 (4 s, 12H), 3.43 – 3.56 (m, 14H), 3.91 (t, 2H, $J = 5.3\text{ Hz}$), 7.69 – 7.87 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) -1.3 , 34.5 , 35.5 , 36.7 and 38.0 , 39.9 , 47.3 , 47.7 , 48.1 , 49.5 , 50.0 , 51.2 , 123 , 133.7 , 132.1 , 168.3 ; IR (KBr) 1710 cm^{-1} ; MS(FAB) m/z (rel intensity) $719\text{ (M}^+ + 1, 9)$, 605 (40) , 549 (44) , 460 (57) , 398 (48) , 329 (25) , 295 (34) , 238 (48) , 208 (100) , 203 (71) ; HRMS(FAB) m/z 718.1723 ($\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{44}\text{N}_5\text{O}_{10}\text{S}_4\text{Si}$ requires 718.1740).

Irradiation of the *N*-Trimethylsilylmethylpolymethansulfonamido Phthalimides 17–19. Solutions of **17** (355 mg, 0.75 mmol), **18** (393 mg, 0.66 mmol), and **19** (587 mg, 0.82 mmol) in 100 mL of methanol were irradiated with Pyrex glass filtered light under a N_2 atmosphere. The residues obtained by concentration in vacuo of each photolysate were crystallized (CH_3OH) yielding 266 mg (96%) of **20**, 318 mg (92%) of **21**, and 400 mg (88%) of **22**, respectively.

20: mp 245 – 246°C (ethanol); ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 2.63 and 2.98 (2 s, 6H), 3.21 – 3.36 (m, 2H), 3.40 – 3.49 (m, 2H), 3.69 – 3.87 (m, 2H), 3.92 – 4.11 (m, 2H), 4.24 and 4.30 (two d, 2H, $J = 14.7\text{ Hz}$), 6.78 (s, 1H), 7.51 – 7.76 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 35.5 , 39.6 , 40.7 , 41.9 , 47.5 , 48.6 , 49.3 , 88.4 , 122.7 , 123.6 , 129.9 , 132.5 , 131.1 , 146.2 , 167.4 ; IR (KBr) 3200 – 3530 (br),

1700 cm^{-1} ; MS(FAB) m/z (rel intensity) $405\text{ (M}^+ + 1, 13)$, 225 (18) , 192 (17) , 133 (30) , 100 (100) ; HRMS (FAB) m/z 404.4097 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_3\text{O}_6\text{S}_2$ requires 404.0950).

21: mp 233 – 234°C (ethanol); ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 2.59 (s, 3H), 2.61 and 2.67 (two s, 6H), 3.33 – 3.92 (m, 12H), 4.21 and 4.27 (two d, 2H, $J = 14.4\text{ Hz}$), 6.76 (s, 1H), 7.56 – 7.81 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 33.7 , 35.4 , 36.6 , 42.6 , 47.7 , 50.8 , 51.2 , 51.6 , 53.5 , 54.2 , 91.2 , 122.5 , 123.4 , 132.2 , 139.6 , 136.6 , 139.6 , 172.6 ; IR (KBr) 3200 – 3600 (br), 1700 cm^{-1} ; MS(FAB) m/z (rel intensity) $527\text{ (M}^+ + 1, 21)$, 525 (11) , 446 (53) , 428 (83) , 337 (46) , 292 (56) , 279 (100) , 239 (45) ; HRMS(FAB) m/z 525.1132 ($\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_4\text{O}_8\text{S}_3$ requires 525.1147).

22: mp 257 – 258°C (ethanol); ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 2.47 , 2.48 , 2.59 and 2.94 (4 s, 12H), 3.11 – 3.58 (m, 12H), 3.62 – 3.77 (m, 4H), 4.15 and 4.25 (2 d, 2H, $J = 13.9\text{ Hz}$), 6.72 (s, 1H), 7.49 – 7.70 (m, 4H); ^{13}C NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) 34.5 , 35.3 , 36.7 , 37.7 , 41.9 , 47.5 – 59.1 (4), 88.8 , 122.6 , 123.5 , 129.8 , 132.5 , 126.6 , 146.2 , 163.7 ; IR (KBr) 3150 – 3500 (br), 1700 cm^{-1} .

Irradiation of the Trimethylsilylmethyl-Polyoxathioalkyl Phthalimides 25, 26, 33, 34, and 37. Solutions of the trimethylsilylmethyl-polyoxathioalkyl phthalimides **25** (578 mg, 1.64 mmol), **26** (700 mg, 1.69 mmol), **33** (586 mg, 1.74 mmol), **34** (748 mg, 1.76 mmol), and **37** (373 mg, 0.94 mmol) in 200 mL of methanol were irradiated with Pyrex glass filtered-light under a N_2 atmosphere. The residues obtained by concentration in vacuo of each photolysate were subjected to column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1:1) yielding the respective macrocyclized products **27** (295 mg,

80%), **28** (274 mg, 72%), **35**¹⁶ (265 mg, 82%), **36** (449 mg, 76%), and **38** (199 mg, 74%).

27: mp 142–144 °C (acetone); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 2.41–2.78 (m, 2H), 2.80–3.12 (m, 4H), 3.29 and 4.61 (two d, 2H, *J* = 14.2 Hz), 3.60–3.78 (m, 1H), 3.80–3.92 (m, 1H), 7.81–8.42 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 30.6, 32.8, 38.5, 38.6, 42.6, 90.9, 122.6, 123.6, 130.2, 133.1, 131.1, 147.1, 169.4; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br), 1690 cm⁻¹; MS(CI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 282 (*M*⁺ + 1, 2), 263 (29), 203 (39), 174 (63), 160 (100), 74 (78); HRMS(CI) *m/z* 282.0625 (C₁₃H₁₆NO₂S₂ requires 282.0622).

28: mp 160–161 °C (acetone); ¹H NMR (acetone-*d*₆) 2.74–3.41 (m, 12H), 3.70 and 3.74 (2 d, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 5.72 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.78 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃-CD₃OD) 30.0, 30.1, 31.1, 33.2, 35.1, 39.9, 40.7, 91.6, 123.5, 124.4, 131.3, 134.3, 131.1, 147.1, 170.0; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br), 1670 cm⁻¹; MS-(FAB) *m/z* (rel intensity) 342 (*M*⁺ + 1, 11), 324 (31), 279 (12), 206 (32), 174 (50), 147 (43), 105 (49), 63 (100); HRMS(FAB) *m/z* 342.0669 (C₁₅H₂₀NO₂S₃ requires 342.0656).

36: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 2.60–2.71 (m, 1H), 2.89–3.02 (m, 1H), 3.37 and 3.56 (2 d, 2H, *J* = 13.7 Hz), 3.61–3.83 (m, 12H), 3.84–3.95 (m, 1H), 4.19–4.28 (m, 1H), 5.64 (s, 1H), 7.45–7.57 (m, 3H), 7.75–7.86 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 39.3, 32.7, 40.5, 69.9, 70.2, 70.9, 71.0, 71.1, 72.9, 89.9, 122.9, 123.0, 129.3, 131.9, 130.6, 145.9, 167.2; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br), 1690 cm⁻¹; MS-(EI) *m/z* (rel intensity), 353 (*M*⁺, 0.5), 335 (*M*⁺ - H₂O, 23), 272 (4), 202 (16), 174 (100), 130 (31); HRMS(EI) *m/z* 353.1304 (C₁₇H₂₃NO₅ requires 353.1297).

38: mp 193–195 °C (acetone); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 2.58–2.69 (m, 2H), 2.82–2.97 (m, 2H), 3.11–3.17 (m, 1H), 3.27–3.43 (m, 1H), 3.51 and 3.67 (2 d, 2H, *J* = 12.7 Hz), 3.77–3.92 (m, 4H), 4.02–4.12 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.72 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 29.9, 31.4, 32.4, 40.0, 40.3, 73.5, 75.6, 90.2, 122.2, 123.7, 130.4, 132.9, 131.3, 146.2, 168.1; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br), 1670 cm⁻¹; MS-(FAB) *m/z* (rel intensity) 326 (*M*⁺ + 1, 12), 308 (52), 285 (13), 239 (17), 185 (25), 174 (28), 147 (60), 93 (67), 52 (100); HRMS-(FAB) *m/z* 326.0878 (C₁₅H₂₀NO₃S₂ requires 326.0884).

Irradiation of the Trimethylsilylmethyl-Polyoxathioalkyl Phthalimides 39 and 41. Solutions of the trimethylsilylmethyl-polyoxathioalkyl phthalimides **39** (640 mg, 1.90 mmol) and **41** (663 mg, 1.74 mmol) in 200 mL of methanol were irradiated with Pyrex glass filtered-light under a N₂ atmosphere. The residues obtained by concentration in vacuo of each photolysate were subjected to column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate/*n*-hexane = 1:1) yielding the respective macrocyclic products **40** (27 mg, 42%) and **29** (56 mg, 28%), and **42** (153 mg, 30%) and **43** (239 mg, 38%).

40: mp 128–129 °C (acetone); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 1.26 (s, 1H), 2.56–2.70 (m, 1H), 2.77–2.96 (m, 2H), 3.19–3.34 (m, 1H), 3.49–3.61 (m, 1H), 3.69–3.91 (m, 2H), 3.95–4.10 (m, 1H), 4.24 and 4.56 (2 d, 2H, *J* = 9.8 Hz), 7.27–7.59 (m, 3H), 7.73–7.77 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 30.2, 34.0, 36.1, 41.5, 71.3, 89.4, 122.5, 123.8, 130.6, 132.7, 132.1, 144.9, 168.6; IR (KBr) 3200–3550 (br), 1660 cm⁻¹; MS(EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 265 (*M*⁺, 2), 247 (*M*⁺ - H₂O, 7), 233 (87), 174 (48), 160 (100), 105 (28); HRMS(EI) *m/z* 265.0772 (C₁₃H₁₅NO₃S requires 265.0773).

42: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 2.56–2.66 (m, 1H), 2.79–2.86 (m, 2H), 2.96–3.50 (m, 1H), 3.47–3.59 (m, 2H), 3.86 and 3.95 (2 d, 2H, *J* = 11.0 Hz), 3.71–4.05 (m, 4H), 4.05–4.20 (m, 2H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.58 (m, 3H), 7.75–7.79 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) 32.2, 33.6, 38.2, 67.5, 71.3, 73.1, 75.9, 89.6, 122.1, 123.3, 129.7, 132.1, 131.5, 144.2, 167.5; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br.), 1700 cm⁻¹; MS(EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 309 (*M*⁺, 0.5), 291 (*M*⁺ - H₂O, 31), 262 (16), 234 (100), 190 (24) 89 (27); HRMS(EI) *m/z* 309.1030 (C₁₅H₁₉NO₄S requires 309.1034).

43: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) 0.14 (s, 9H), 2.25–2.40 (m, 1H), 2.60–2.80 (m, 1H), 3.40 (s, 2H), 3.41–3.52 (m, 1H), 3.60–3.78 (m, 2H), 3.93 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 3.98 (s, 1H), 4.03–4.20 (m, 1H), 4.22–4.24 (m, 4H) 4.32–4.42 (m, 1H), 7.34–7.38 (m, 1H), 7.45–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.78–7.82 (m, 1H); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) -3.2, 32.9, 41.5, 49.6, 66.6, 72.4, 77.2, 77.5, 92.7, 121.8, 122.9, 129.3, 131.6, 132.5, 145.4, 168.4; IR (KBr) 3200–3600 (br), 1680 cm⁻¹; MS(EI) *m/z* (rel intensity) 381 (*M*⁺, 0.2), 364 (*M*⁺ - H₂O, 0.4), 160 (7), 86 (100), 73 (18); HRMS(EI) *m/z* 381.1439 (C₁₈H₂₇NO₄-SiS requires 381.1430).

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Supporting Information Available: Experimental procedures for the preparation of silyl-polysulfonamides **14–16** and phthalimides **25, 26, 33, 34, 37, 39, and 41** and ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra for **14–22, 25–28, 33, 34, and 36–43**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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