

# Phenothiazine-Bridged Cyclic Porphyrin Dimers as High-Affinity Hosts for Fullerenes and Linear Array of C<sub>60</sub> in Self-Assembled Porphyrin Nanotube

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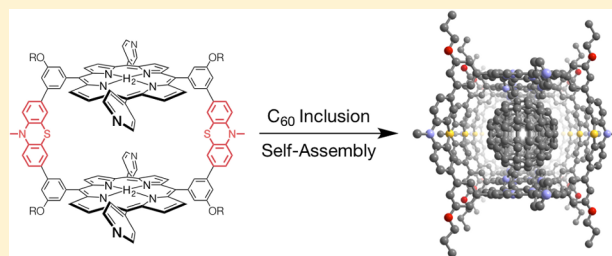
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## S Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Free-bases and a nickel(II) complex of phenothiazine-bridged cyclic porphyrin dimers bearing self-assembling 4-pyridyl groups (M<sub>2</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>n</sub>); M = H<sub>2</sub> or Ni, OC<sub>n</sub> = OC<sub>6</sub> or OC<sub>3</sub>) at opposite *meso*-positions have been prepared as host molecules for fullerenes. The free-base dimer (H<sub>4</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>)) includes fullerenes with remarkably high association constants such as  $3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for C<sub>60</sub> and  $7.4 \pm 0.8 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for C<sub>70</sub> in toluene. This C<sub>60</sub> affinity is the highest value ever among reported receptors composed of free-base porphyrins. The nickel dimer (Ni<sub>2</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>)) also shows high affinities for C<sub>60</sub> ( $1.3 \pm 0.2 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ) and C<sub>70</sub> (over  $10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ). In the crystal structure of the inclusion complex of C<sub>60</sub> within H<sub>4</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>), the C<sub>60</sub> molecule is located just above the centers of the porphyrins. The two porphyrin planes are almost parallel to each other and the center-to-center distance (12.454 Å) is close to the optimal separation ( $\sim 12.5 \text{ Å}$ ) for C<sub>60</sub> inclusion. The cyclic porphyrin dimer forms a nanotube through its self-assembly induced by C–H⋯N hydrogen bonds between porphyrin β-CH groups and pyridyl nitrogens as well as π–π interactions of the pyridyl groups. The C<sub>60</sub> molecules are linearly arranged in the inner channel of this nanotube.



## ■ INTRODUCTION

Fullerenes have been widely used as electron acceptors, owing to their favorable reduction potentials and small reorganization energy in electron transfer reactions.<sup>1</sup> They are promising materials for organic photovoltaics (OPV) and molecular electronics.<sup>1</sup> For these applications, it is essential to prepare well-ordered arrangements of fullerenes. However, the control of arrangements of fullerenes has not been fully developed, especially for unmodified fullerenes, because pristine fullerenes are composed of only sp<sup>2</sup>-carbon atoms and have neither polarity nor functional group. Our strategy for solving this problem is to use a host molecule having the following two functions: (i) efficient complexation with fullerenes; (ii) ability to form a self-assembled array of a predictable structure. The resulting host–guest complex affords a desired arrangement of fullerene through the self-assembly of the host molecule (Scheme 1). The molecular design of a host for fullerenes is the key in this supramolecular approach.<sup>2</sup> From this viewpoint, porphyrin derivatives are especially useful building components for host molecules fulfilling the above two requirements.<sup>3</sup> It has been known that strong π–π interactions between the curved π-surfaces of fullerenes and the flat π-planes of porphyrins exist in both solution and crystalline state. A number of host molecules composed of multiporphyrinic moieties have been

reported to give stable inclusion complexes with fullerenes so far.<sup>4</sup> In addition, there have been a wealth of chemical modifications for porphyrin derivatives, and various self-assembling functional groups have been introduced into porphyrin frameworks to obtain a variety of assembled structures.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, porphyrin derivatives have unique light-harvesting properties, for example, strong absorption bands in the visible region and electron-donating abilities of their photo-excited states.<sup>6</sup> Large numbers of the donor–acceptor combinations of porphyrins and fullerenes have been studied as functional mimics of the reaction center for charge separation in natural photosynthesis.<sup>7</sup> Long-lived photoinduced charge separations with high quantum yields have been reported by the optimization of the geometries and energy levels of these chromophores.<sup>8</sup> Porphyrins and fullerenes have been used as donors and acceptors also for organic photovoltaic (OPV) devices.<sup>9</sup> The mechanism of the conversion from photons to photocurrent in OPV is composed of three important processes; light harvesting, charge separation and charge transport. It has been revealed that a well-ordered

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Scheme 1. Formation of Linear Array of Fullerene in Self-Assembled Porphyrin Nanotube

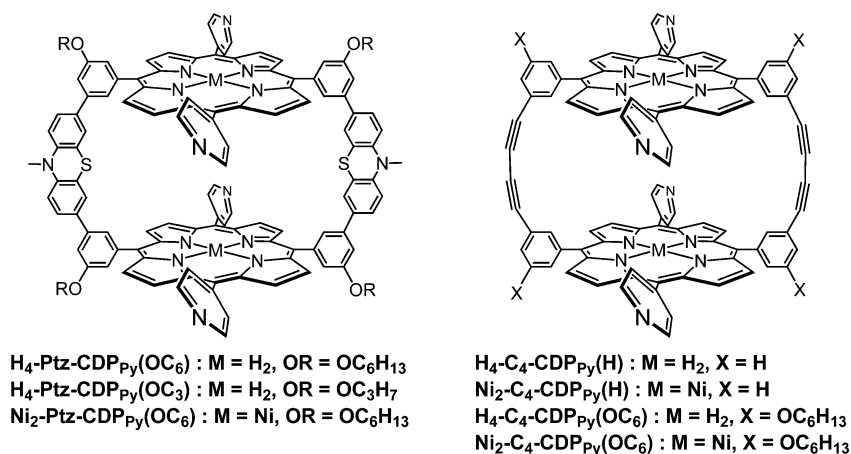
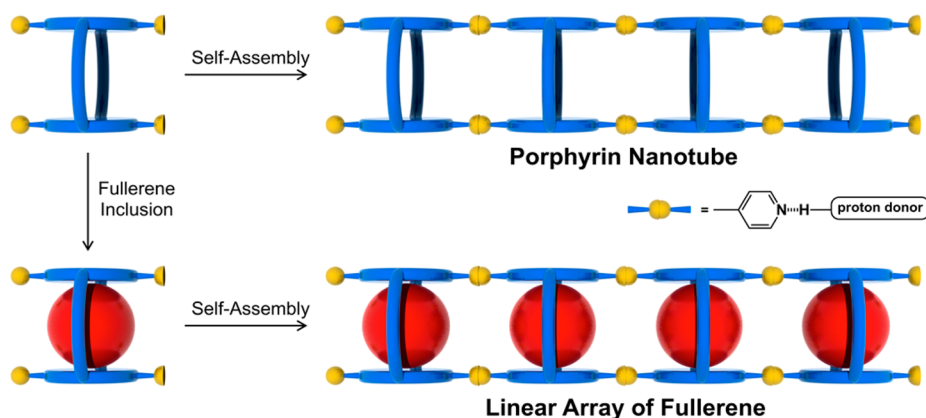


Figure 1. Chemical structures of cyclic porphyrin dimers.

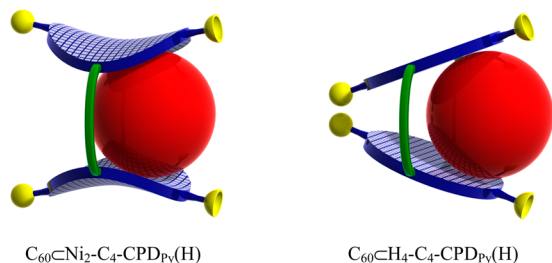
bicontinuous donor–acceptor array in the active layer is an ideal structure to realize the above processes and is effective for the improvement of the power conversion efficiency in OPV.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, we have focused our attention on the creation of a linear arrangement of fullerene inside a self-assembled nanotube of a porphyrin host, the array of which is expected to perform photoinduced charge separation and smooth vectorial charge transport.

For preparing supramolecular organic nanotubes, one of the most straightforward methods is to introduce self-assembling groups into rigid cyclic molecules and align them through noncovalent interactions (Scheme 1).<sup>11</sup> Along this method, we have prepared the nickel complex and free-base of the butadiyne-linked cyclic porphyrin dimer bearing self-assembling 4-pyridyl groups at the trans *meso*-positions ( $\text{Ni}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  and  $\text{H}_4\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  in Figure 1).<sup>12</sup> Both porphyrin dimers afford stable inclusion complexes with fullerenes such as  $\text{C}_{60}$ ,<sup>12a-c</sup>  $\text{Li}^+@ \text{C}_{60}$ ,<sup>12f</sup> PCBM ([6,6]-phenyl-C<sub>61</sub>-butyric acid methyl ester),<sup>12e</sup> and  $\text{C}_{70}$ .<sup>12d</sup> In the crystal structure of the inclusion complex of the nickel dimer and  $\text{C}_{60}$  ( $\text{C}_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$ ),  $\text{C}_{60}$  molecules are linearly arranged in the inner channel of the self-assembled porphyrin nanotube.<sup>12a</sup> The self-assembly is induced by two kinds of noncovalent interactions: (i) nonclassical C–H...N hydrogen bonds between porphyrin  $\beta$ -CH groups and pyridyl nitrogen atoms, (ii)  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interactions of the *meso*-pyridyl groups. This crystal shows anisotropic high electron mobility ( $\Sigma\mu = 0.72 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) along with the linear arrangement of  $\text{C}_{60}$ .<sup>12b</sup> However, the expected charge-separated

state of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  was not detected in the time-resolved transient absorption spectra, because the singlet excited state of the nickel porphyrin transforms very rapidly to the triplet excited state via the intersystem crossing, then the low-energy triplet excited state of  $\text{C}_{60}$  ( $^3\text{C}_{60}^*$ ) arises as a consequence of energy transfer. The estimated energy level of charge-separated state (1.98 eV) is much higher than that of  $^3\text{C}_{60}^*$  (1.57 eV).<sup>13</sup> On the other hand, the inclusion complex of the free-base dimer and  $\text{C}_{60}$  ( $\text{C}_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$ ) contains a zigzag array of  $\text{C}_{60}$  molecules through van der Waals contact with each other and also exhibits a high charge mobility ( $\Sigma\mu = 0.13\text{--}0.16 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) along the  $\text{C}_{60}$  array in the crystalline state.<sup>12c</sup> Further, it affords a photoinduced charge-separated state via electron transfer from the porphyrin to  $\text{C}_{60}$  due to the lower oxidation potential and the slower intersystem crossing of the free-base porphyrin than those of the nickel complex.

As mentioned above,  $\text{C}_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  gives the self-assembled nanotube including the linear array of  $\text{C}_{60}$ , whereas  $\text{C}_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  is unable to form a nanotube structure. The reason for the difference of these assembled structures is as following. In the crystal structure of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$ , the center-to-center distance of the two porphyrins is 12.596(2) Å, being enough to accommodate  $\text{C}_{60}$  with the pseudoparallel conformation of the two porphyrins (Scheme 2). In contrast, in the case of  $\text{C}_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$ , the porphyrin dimer takes a clamshell conformation due to the shorter center-to-center distance (11.126 Å). Only the pseudoparallel conformation provides the self-assembled nano-

**Scheme 2. Schematic Illustrations of the Crystal Structures of the  $C_{60}$  Inclusion Complexes of Butadiyn-Bridged Cyclic Porphyrin Dimers**



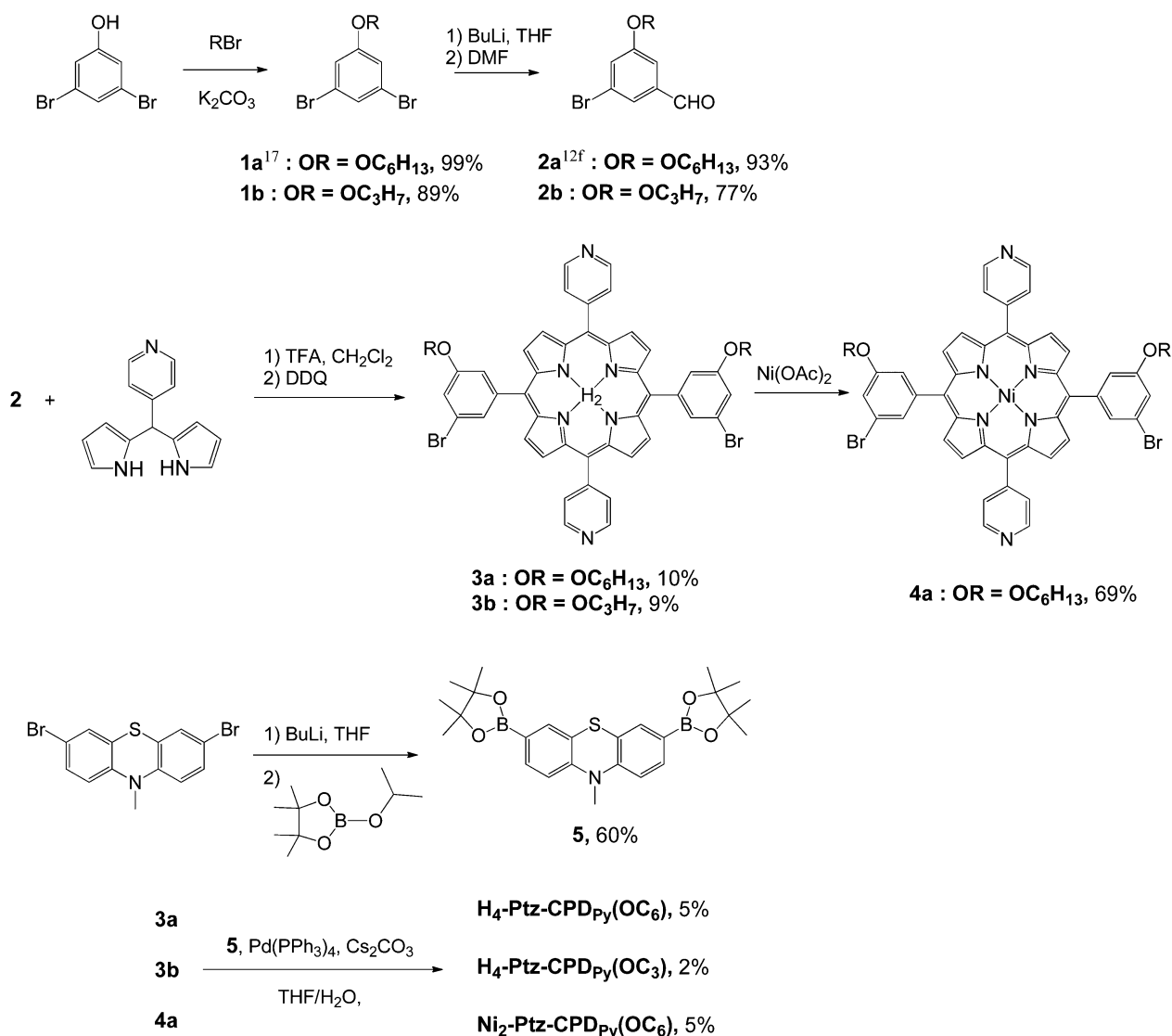
tube through the  $C-H\cdots N_{Py}$  hydrogen bonds and the  $\pi-\pi$  interactions of the pyridyl groups. These noncovalent interactions are impossible for the clamshell conformation. Although  $Ni_2-C_4-CPDPy(H)$  and  $H_4-C_4-CPDPy(H)$  have the same butadiynyl linkages, the nickel porphyrins have ruffled distortions to achieve the longer center-to-center distance, while the higher planarity of the free-base porphyrins leads to the shorter distance.

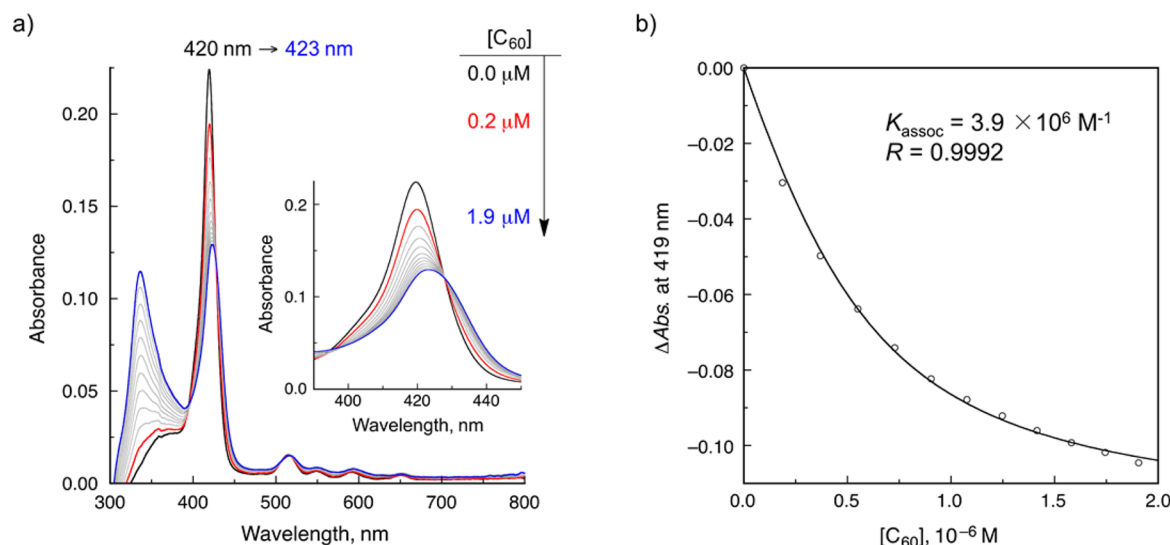
On the basis of these results, we have intended to design a new cyclic porphyrin dimer as a host molecule for fullerenes, which can satisfy the following two requirements: (i) to form a self-assembled nanotube structure including a linear array of  $C_{60}$ ,<sup>14</sup> (ii) to give a photoinduced charge-separated state between the porphyrin host and fullerenes, that is, the use of a free-base porphyrin dimer rather than the corresponding nickel complex. For the self-assembled nanotube structure of a  $C_{60}$  inclusion complex, a new cyclic dimer should have *meso*-pyridyl groups as well as rigid longer linkages, which can keep its center-to-center distance at  $\sim 12.5$  Å even for a free-base dimer to realize a pseudoparallel conformation upon  $C_{60}$  inclusion. We herein report the synthesis of free bases and a nickel complex of phenothiazine-bridged cyclic porphyrin dimers and characterization of their inclusion complexes with fullerene  $C_{60}$  and  $C_{70}$  by spectroscopic and X-ray crystallographic analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Molecular Design and Synthesis of Phenothiazine-Bridged Porphyrin Dimers.** In order to construct self-assembled porphyrin nanotubes including a linear array of  $C_{60}$ ,

**Scheme 3**





**Figure 2.** (a) UV-vis absorption spectral changes of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$  in the course of titration with  $C_{60}$  in toluene at 25 °C.  $[H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)] = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}$  M. The inset shows the magnified Soret band region. (b) Plot of the changes in the UV-vis absorbance ( $\Delta Abs$ ) at 419 nm versus the concentration of  $C_{60}$ . The curve was fitted by using eq 1

we have designed new cyclic porphyrin dimers which have 4-pyridyl groups at the *trans-meso*-positions and phenothiazine linkers ( $M_2$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_n)$ ;  $M = H_2$  or  $Ni$ ,  $OC_n = OC_6$  or  $OC_3$  in Figure 1). Phenothiazine derivative has a rigid aromatic framework wherein three six-membered rings are linearly fused. However, the butterfly structure of phenothiazine has some extent of flexibility with the change of dihedral angle between two benzene rings from  $\sim 140^\circ$  up to  $\sim 160^\circ$ .<sup>15</sup> The cavity size of the phenothiazine-bridged dimers can thus be adapted for inclusion of a fullerene molecule through the alteration of the dihedral angles. Based on the DFT (M06-2X/6-31G(d,p))-optimized<sup>16</sup> model structure of the inclusion complex of a phenothiazine-bridged free-base dimer ( $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(H)$ ) and  $C_{60}$ , the two porphyrins are in a pseudoparallel conformation, and the center-to-center distance is estimated to be 12.2 Å (Figure S1 and Table S1 in Supporting Information [SI]). In the calculation, the outside alkoxy groups are omitted to simplify the structure. The calculated center-to-center distance is close to the optimal value ( $\sim 12.5$  Å)<sup>4m</sup> for  $C_{60}$  inclusion by porphyrin dimers such as our  $C_{60}CNi_2$ - $C_4$ -CPD $_{py}(H)$  (12.596(2) Å)<sup>12a</sup> and the  $C_{60}$  inclusion complex of the cyclic zinc porphyrin dimer by Aida et al. (12.352(1) Å).<sup>4d</sup>

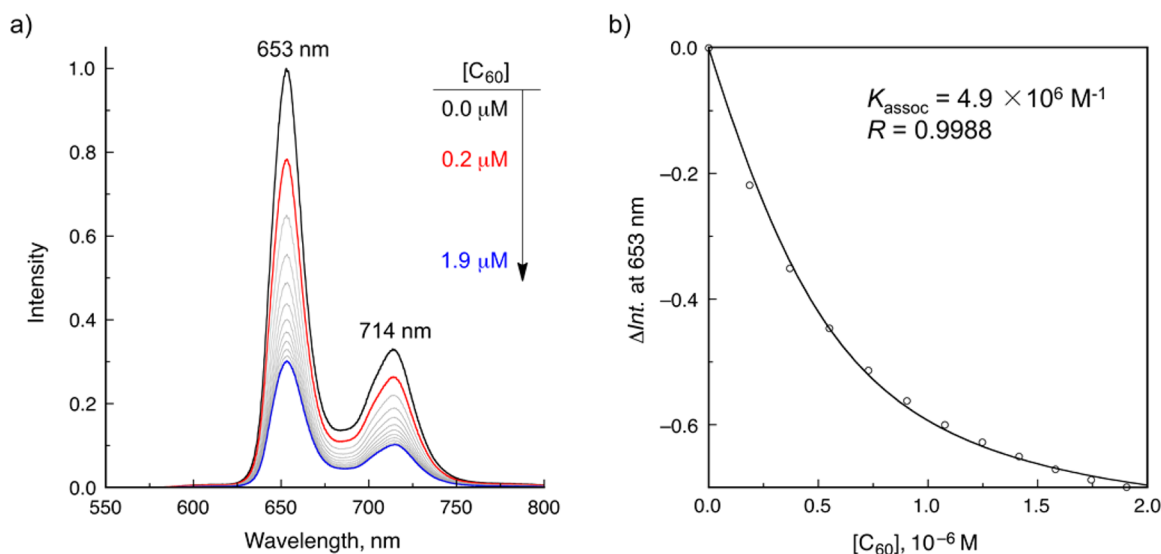
In order to improve the low solubility of the pyridyl-substituted porphyrins, we have introduced four alkoxy chains (e.g.,  $OC_6H_{13}$  or  $OC_3H_7$ ) onto the *meso*-phenyl groups.  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_3)$  has lower solubility than  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$  but is more suitable for making single crystals for X-ray crystallographic analysis. The free-base and nickel complex of the hexyloxy-substituted dimer are mainly employed for the spectroscopic investigation of the inclusion in solution.

Although the free base of the new cyclic porphyrin dimer is the main target compound in this study, we additionally synthesized the nickel complex for the comparative evaluation of the free base derivative. The reasons for the choice of the nickel complex are as follows. (a) A nickel(II) complex of porphyrin is electronically neutral. When a metal complex is not electronically neutral, the presence of the counterion sometimes affects the assembled structure of the metal complex. (b) A nickel(II) complex of porphyrin is air stable.

(c) A nickel(II) complex of porphyrin is diamagnetic and allows usual  $^1H$ - and  $^{13}C$  NMR analysis of the dimer and its fullerene inclusion complexes. (d) A low-spin nickel(II) complex of porphyrin favors four-coordinate geometry to avoid the axial ligation of the *meso*-pyridyl groups. For example as another metal complex adopting five- or six-coordinate geometry, the zinc complex of these dimers is hardly soluble in organic solvents except pyridine due to the intermolecular axial coordination of the *meso*-pyridyl groups. While the zinc complex of the dimer fulfills the requirements (a–c), it is not employed in this study because of the last reason, (d).

The new dimers have been prepared by palladium-catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reactions of the dibrominated porphyrin monomers and the bis-borylated phenothiazine derivative (Scheme 3). The porphyrin monomers (3) were obtained by using TFA-catalyzed [2 + 2]-type condensation reaction of *meso*-pyridyl-dipyrromethane<sup>18</sup> and 3-bromo-5-alkoxybenzaldehyde<sup>12f</sup> (2) and subsequent DDQ (2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-*p*-benzoquinone) oxidation in  $\sim 10\%$  yield.<sup>19</sup> The nickel(II) porphyrinato complex (4a) was synthesized by refluxing (3a) with nickel(II) acetate (10 equiv) in  $CHCl_3$ /MeOH solution. The bis-pinacolate boronic ester of phenothiazine (5) was obtained by borylation of the corresponding dibrominated phenothiazine derivative.<sup>20</sup> Finally, the cyclic porphyrin dimer,  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$ , was synthesized by Suzuki–Miyaura coupling reaction of the free-base porphyrin monomer (3a) and phenothiazine derivative (5) under refluxing with 40 mol %  $Pd(PPh_3)_4$  and  $Cs_2CO_3$  (10 equiv) in THF/ $H_2O$  (10/1) under  $N_2$  atmosphere for 48 h. The crude product was purified by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) to obtain a fraction containing the desired cyclic dimer. After recrystallization from  $CHCl_3$ /MeOH, the pure form of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$  was isolated in 5% yield. It was found that the use of aqueous THF as a reaction media is critical to obtain the desired product in this palladium-catalyzed reaction. Different solvent systems such as toluene/DMF (10/1) resulted in considerable decrease of the product yields (1–2%).  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_3)$  and  $Ni_2$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$  were also prepared under the same reaction condition as  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD $_{py}(OC_6)$  in the similar yields. These isolated cyclic





**Figure 3.** (a) Fluorescence spectral changes of H<sub>4</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) in the course of titration with C<sub>60</sub> in toluene at 25 °C excited at 426 nm. [H<sub>4</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>)] = 5.0 × 10<sup>-7</sup> M. (b) Plot of the changes in the fluorescence intensity (ΔInt) at 653 nm versus the concentration of C<sub>60</sub>. The curve was fitted by using eq 3

porphyrin dimers were fully characterized by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, high resolution FAB mass, and IR and UV-vis absorption spectroscopies (see Experimental Section and SI).

**Inclusion of C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub> within CPD<sub>py</sub> in Solution.** We have investigated the inclusion behaviors of C<sub>60</sub> as well as C<sub>70</sub> within the cyclic porphyrin dimers in solution by various methods such as UV-vis absorption, fluorescence, ESI-MS, and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopies.

Herein, A and X are [CPD<sub>py</sub>]<sub>0</sub> and [fullerene]<sub>0</sub>, respectively; Δε is the difference of absorption coefficient between CPD<sub>py</sub> and its inclusion complex; ε<sub>70</sub> is the absorption coefficient of free C<sub>70</sub> at the examined wavelength. K<sub>assoc</sub> and Δε were treated as fitting parameters. The association constants higher than 10<sup>7</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> could not be determined precisely by UV-vis spectroscopy.

Fullerene inclusion behaviors of the free-base dimers were also investigated by fluorescence spectroscopy. When the free-base dimers are photoexcited in toluene, the fluorescence is observed with λ<sub>max</sub> = ~650 and 715 nm as shown in Figure 3, S5 and S6 in SI. The addition of fullerenes to the free-base dimers causes a prominent decrease of the fluorescence intensity. As control experiments, the fluorescence spectra of the free-base monomer porphyrin 3a were measured in both

absence and presence of fullerenes at the concentrations corresponding to those of the dimer (Figure S7 in SI). The negligible decreases of the fluorescence intensities exclude intermolecular quenching by fullerenes.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, the decreases of the fluorescence intensities of the free-base dimer by the addition of fullerenes are ascribed to the intramolecular quenching within the inclusion complexes. The association constants of the free-base dimers were obtained also from the fluorescence change by using eq 3, wherein F is ΔInt at 100% complexation. K<sub>assoc</sub> and F were similarly treated as fitting parameters.

Upon addition of the fullerenes to the toluene solution of the cyclic dimers, their Soret bands were red-shifted, accompanied with reduced intensity (Figure 2 and Figures S2–S4 in SI). The Job plots upon mixing of the dimers and fullerenes confirm the formation of 1:1 host–guest complexes (Figure S8 in SI). On the basis of the titrations of the cyclic porphyrin dimers with C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub> in toluene at 25 °C, the association constants (K<sub>assoc</sub>) were determined by applying a nonlinear curve-fitting method using eq 1 or 2. Because C<sub>70</sub> has non-negligible absorption near the Soret band region, eq 2 was used in the cases of C<sub>70</sub>.

$$\Delta\text{Abs} = \Delta\epsilon \frac{[1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X - \{(1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X)^2 - 4K_{\text{assoc}}^2AX\}^{0.5}]}{2K_{\text{assoc}}} \quad (1)$$

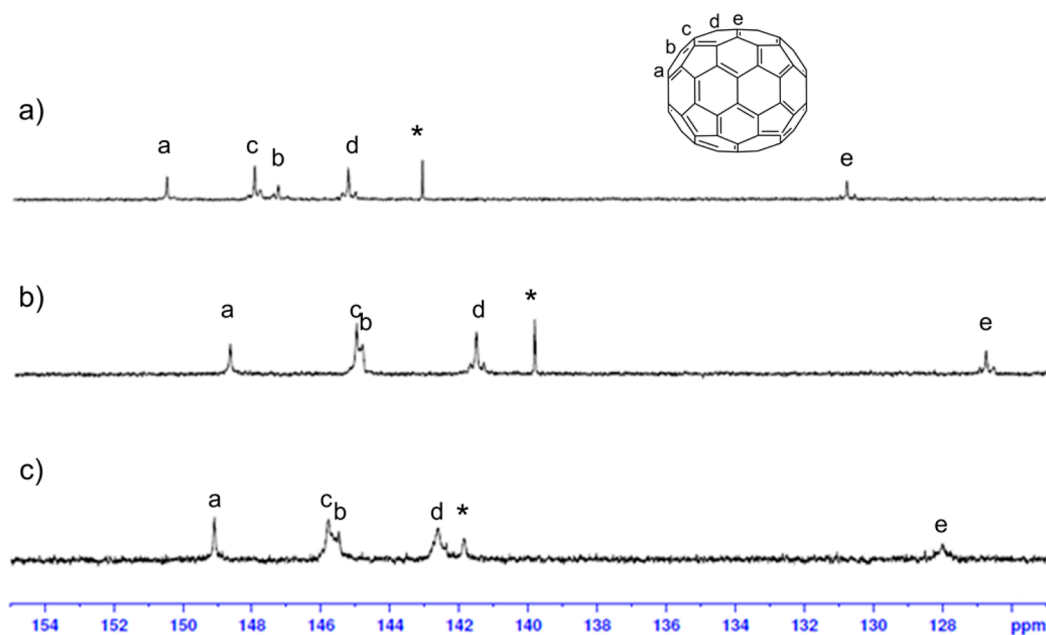
$$\Delta\text{Abs} = \epsilon_{70}X + (\Delta\epsilon - \epsilon_{70}) \frac{1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X - \{(1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X)^2 - 4K_{\text{assoc}}^2AX\}^{0.5}}{2K_{\text{assoc}}} \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta\text{Int} = F \frac{1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X - \{(1 + K_{\text{assoc}}A + K_{\text{assoc}}X)^2 - 4K_{\text{assoc}}^2AX\}^{0.5}}{2K_{\text{assoc}}A} \quad (3)$$

Table 1. Association Constants ( $M^{-1}$ ) of Cyclic Porphyrin Dimers for  $C_{60}$  and  $C_{70}$  in Toluene at 25 °C

host compound	$K_{\text{assoc}}$ for $C_{60}$		$K_{\text{assoc}}$ for $C_{70}$	
	absorption	fluorescence	absorption	fluorescence
$H_4$ -Ptz-CPD <sub>Py</sub> (OC <sub>6</sub> )	$3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6$	$4.5 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6$	$b > 10^7$	$7.4 \pm 0.8 \times 10^7$
$Ni_2$ -Ptz-CPD <sub>Py</sub> (OC <sub>6</sub> )	$1.3 \pm 0.2 \times 10^6$	<sup>a</sup>	$b > 10^7$	<sup>a</sup>
$H_4$ -C <sub>4</sub> -CPD <sub>Py</sub> (OC <sub>6</sub> )	$1.2 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$	$9.8 \pm 1.0 \times 10^4$	$2.2 \pm 0.5 \times 10^5$	$1.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5$
$Ni_2$ -C <sub>4</sub> -CPD <sub>Py</sub> (OC <sub>6</sub> )	$2.9 \pm 0.4 \times 10^5$	<sup>a</sup>	$7.3 \pm 0.9 \times 10^5$	<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Not determined due to no emission from nickel porphyrins. <sup>b</sup>Not determined due to high association constants over  $10^7 M^{-1}$ .



**Figure 4.**  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of (a)  $^{13}C$ -enriched  $C_{70}$  (0.5 mM), (b) a mixture of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) (0.5 mM) and  $^{13}C$ -enriched  $C_{70}$  (0.5 mM), (c) a mixture of  $Ni_2$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) (0.5 mM) and  $^{13}C$ -enriched  $C_{70}$  (0.5 mM) in  $CDCl_3/CS_2$  (1:1) at 25 °C. The asterisks indicate signals of contaminated  $C_{60}$ .

This fluorescence titration is valid even for  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  higher than  $10^7 M^{-1}$ . The constants determined by fluorescence spectroscopy are acceptably close to those obtained by UV–vis absorption method. The association constants of phenothiazine-linked dimers are summarized in Table 1 along with those of the butadiyn-linked ones<sup>12f</sup> for comparison.

The  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  value of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) for  $C_{60}$  ( $3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6 M^{-1}$ ) is much larger (over 30 times) than that of  $H_4$ -C<sub>4</sub>-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) ( $1.2 \pm 0.2 \times 10^4 M^{-1}$ ). In order to interpret this high affinity, the structure of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(H) was also optimized by DFT (M06-2X/6-31G(d,p) calculation.<sup>16</sup>  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(H) has a slipped form of the two porphyrins (Figure S1 in SI), which conformation is similar to that of the crystal structure of  $H_4$ -C<sub>4</sub>-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(H).<sup>12c</sup> The dihedral angles between the *meso*-phenyl groups and the mean planes of the porphyrins are ca. 64° (Table S1 in SI). Upon  $C_{60}$  inclusion, these dihedral angles increase to ca. 88° to give a fully overlapped form of the two porphyrins, indicating that the inclusion occurs in an induced-fit fashion. However, there are only small changes in the center-to-center distance and the butterfly angles of the phenothiazine groups (Table S1 in SI). Hence, the high affinity of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) to  $C_{60}$  would be derived mainly from the following two factors: i) the flexibility of the dihedral angles between the phenyl groups and the porphyrin planes, and ii) the suitable length of the phenothiazine bridges.

There have been free-base porphyrin hosts having relatively high  $C_{60}$  affinities such as the dimer by Aida et al. ( $7.9 \times 10^5$

$M^{-1}$  in benzene)<sup>4d</sup> and the dimer by Zhang et al. ( $1.4 \times 10^5 M^{-1}$  in toluene).<sup>4t</sup> To the best of our knowledge,  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) exhibited the highest  $C_{60}$  affinity among ever reported host molecules composed of free-base porphyrins. Even extending to metalloporphyrin-based hosts, there have been only four hosts having  $C_{60}$  affinity higher than  $10^6 M^{-1}$ ; the cobalt, rhodium and iridium dimers by Aida et al. ( $2.0 \times 10^6$ ,  $2.5 \times 10^7$  and  $>10^9 M^{-1}$  in benzene, respectively)<sup>4d,l</sup> and the zinc trimer by Anderson et al. ( $1.6 \times 10^6 M^{-1}$  in toluene).<sup>4m</sup> The extraordinary high  $C_{60}$  affinities of the rhodium and iridium dimers by Aida et al. are due to the assist of the specific carbophilicity of these metal ions, whose property is common for group IX metals. Based on these comparisons, the remarkably high  $C_{60}$  affinity of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) implies that its phenothiazine-bridged structure is highly suitable for  $C_{60}$  inclusion.

The  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  value of  $Ni_2$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) for  $C_{60}$  ( $1.3 \pm 0.2 \times 10^6 M^{-1}$ ) is lower than that of the free-base counterpart ( $3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6 M^{-1}$ ). The less efficient inclusion of  $C_{60}$  would be derived from that its cavity size is slightly too large for  $C_{60}$  inclusion due to the distortion of the nickel porphyrins,<sup>22</sup> as suggested by the previous result that  $C_{60}CNi_2$ -C<sub>4</sub>-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(H) has the longer center-to-center distance than the  $C_{60}$  complex of the corresponding free-base dimer.<sup>12a,c</sup>

Notably, the  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  value of  $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) for  $C_{70}$  ( $7.4 \pm 0.8 \times 10^7 M^{-1}$ ), which is significantly higher (ca. 500 times) than that of  $H_4$ -C<sub>4</sub>-CPD<sub>Py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>) ( $1.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^5 M^{-1}$ ), reveals

that its molecular design is also effective for  $C_{70}$  inclusion. This result would be owing to the fact that the length of the shorter axis of  $C_{70}$  (7.1 Å) is almost the same as the diameter of  $C_{60}$ .<sup>23</sup> The  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  value of  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$  for  $C_{70}$  is one of the highest constants of porphyrin-based hosts, while there have been few better examples; the rhodium dimer by Aida et al. ( $1.0 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}$  in benzene),<sup>4d</sup> the zinc trimer by Anderson et al. ( $1.6 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}$  in toluene)<sup>4m</sup> and the free-base dimer by Zhang et al. ( $1.5 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}$  in toluene).<sup>4t</sup> Although the  $K_{\text{assoc}}$  value of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$  for  $C_{70}$  could not be determined precisely, it is worth of noting that its  $C_{70}$  affinity is fairly high (over  $10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ) and appreciably improved by at least 15 times in comparison with that of  $\text{Ni}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$  ( $7.3 \pm 0.9 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ).

The electrospray ionization mass (ESI-MS) spectra of 1:1 mixtures of fullerenes and the cyclic porphyrin dimers in  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}/\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$  (25/25/1) showed prominent ion peak clusters of the inclusion complexes (Figure S9 in SI), for example, at  $m/z = 1387.7$  for  $[\text{H}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6) + \text{C}_{60}]^{2+}$  and  $m/z = 1444.5$  for  $[\text{Ni}_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6) + \text{C}_{60}]^{2+}$ . These observations by ESI-MS spectroscopy also confirm the 1:1 inclusions of  $C_{60}$  and  $C_{70}$  within the present cyclic porphyrin dimers in solution, respectively.

The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of 1:1 mixtures of  $^{13}\text{C}$ -enriched fullerenes and the cyclic dimers in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$  (1/1) exhibited high-field-shifted signals of the included fullerenes due to the ring current effects of the porphyrins (Figure 4 and Figure S10 in SI). Included  $C_{60}$  molecule shows one singlet signal due to its  $I_h$  symmetry and its very rapid rotation, while  $C_{70}$  gives five different signals (alphabetical labels are indicated in Figure 4). The chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) and high-field shift values ( $\Delta\delta$ ) in ppm are shown in Table 2 and 3. In general, high-field shifts of  $C_{70}$

**Table 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Data of Free and Included  $C_{60}$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$  (1:1) at 25 °C

compd	$\delta$	$\Delta\delta$
free $C_{60}$	143.1	
$C_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$	139.6	−3.5
$C_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$	141.3	−1.8

**Table 3.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Data of Free and Included  $C_{70}$  in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{CS}_2$  (1:1) at 25 °C

compd	$\delta_a$ ( $\Delta\delta$ )	$\delta_b$ ( $\Delta\delta$ )	$\delta_c$ ( $\Delta\delta$ )	$\delta_d$ ( $\Delta\delta$ )	$\delta_e$ ( $\Delta\delta$ )
free $C_{70}$	150.5	147.2	148.0	145.3	130.8
$C_{70}\text{CH}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$	148.8 (−1.7)	144.8 (−2.4)	145.1 (−2.9)	141.6 (−3.7)	126.8 (−4.0)
$C_{70}\text{CNi}_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$	149.2 (−1.3)	145.5 (−1.7)	145.9 (−2.1)	142.7 (−2.6)	128.1 (−2.7)

signals are good indicators to clarify the  $C_{70}$  orientation with respect to a porphyrin plane.<sup>4b,e,d,l,24</sup> In the case of an end-on orientation, carbon atoms near the poles show larger high-field shifts (in absolute values). When  $C_{70}$  takes a side-on orientation, carbon atoms near the equator have larger high-field shifts. In the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of all the present  $C_{70}$  inclusion complexes, carbon atoms near the equator exhibit larger high-field shifts than ones near the poles, implying that the side-on orientation of the  $C_{70}$  molecule is dominant in these inclusion complexes in solution.

**Crystal Structure of the Inclusion Complex of  $C_{60}$  with  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_3)$ .** We have successfully obtained single

crystals of  $C_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_3)$  suitable for X-ray crystallographic analysis from  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{chlorobenzene}$  solution by slow evaporation. The crystal structure clearly reveals 1:1 inclusion of  $C_{60}$  within the cavity of  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_3)$  (Figure 5). This inclusion complex has a plane of symmetry between the two porphyrin moieties, which are equivalent to each other due to this plane. Therefore, the included  $C_{60}$  molecule can be regarded as the union of two equivalent hemispheres divided by this plane.

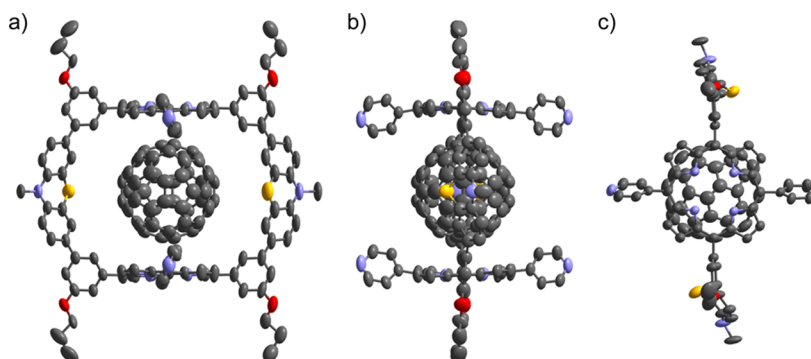
The two benzene rings of each phenothiazine moiety are equivalent to each other and the nitrogen, sulfur, and methyl carbon atoms are on the symmetry plane. Two pairs of the pyridyl groups are treated as disordered structures. Additionally, two pairs of the propyl groups outside the cavity were modeled as two disordered structures.

Though the porphyrin planes are almost planar, the *meso*-carbons are slightly displaced from the mean plane of the four pyrrole nitrogens. The pyridyl-substituted *meso*-carbons show larger inward displacements (0.107 and 0.214 Å) than the phenyl-substituted ones shifting outward (0.007 and 0.026 Å). The two phenothiazine groups have butterfly structures; the dihedral angles between the two phenyl rings are 150.83° and 151.26°. The  $C_{60}$  molecule is located just above the centers of the porphyrins, exhibiting a large difference from the off-center location of  $C_{60}$  in the crystal structure of  $C_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  which has a shorter separation between the two opposite phenyl rings connected to linker groups.<sup>25</sup> The 6:6 ring-juncture C—C bond at each pole of  $C_{60}$  is closest to the porphyrin as in most examples of  $C_{60}$ -porphyrin cocrystals.<sup>3a</sup> This C—C bond has near alignment with a *trans* N...N vector with a short separation (2.830 Å) between the closest  $C_{60}$  carbon and the porphyrin center (Figure 6), suggesting a strong  $\pi$ — $\pi$  interaction of the two  $\pi$ -systems. The two porphyrins are almost parallel to each other, and the center-to-center distance is 12.454 Å. This value is in the quite favorable range for  $C_{60}$  inclusion as predicted in the molecular design. Hence, it is rational to assign the remarkably high  $C_{60}$  affinity of  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_6)$  in solution to these structural features of  $C_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_3)$ .

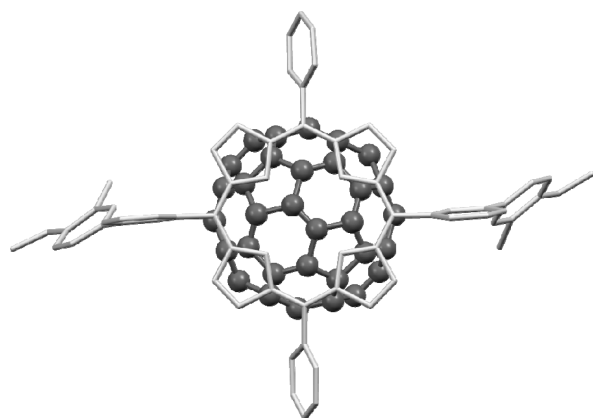
Most interestingly, a desired self-assembled porphyrin nanotube is observed in the crystal packing of  $C_{60}\text{CH}_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{OC}_3)$  as seen in the case of  $C_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}$ <sup>12a</sup> (Figure 7). The tubular structure is formed by multiple cooperative noncovalent interactions between each dimer; a pair of complementary C—H...N hydrogen-bonding interactions between the pyrrole  $\beta$ -CH and nitrogen atoms of the pyridyl groups with C...N distances of 3.38(1) and 3.40(1) Å for the major ones of the disordered pyridyl groups (Figure 8; for the minor pyridyl groups, see Figure S11 in SI). The second interaction is a weak  $\pi$ — $\pi$  interaction between the *meso*-pyridyl groups; the shortest C—C distances of 3.75(1) Å and the dihedral angle of 5.00° are confirmed. The  $C_{60}$  molecules are linearly arranged inside the channel of the nanotube with the distance between the  $C_{60}$  centers of 14.794 Å, which is slightly longer than that of  $C_{60}\text{CNi}_2\text{-C}_4\text{-CPD}_{\text{Py}}(\text{H})$  (14.498 Å). It is noteworthy that this self-assembly for the porphyrin nanotube including the  $C_{60}$  linear array is induced by the *meso*-pyridyl groups irrespective of central metal ions (nickel and free-base) and linkage groups (butadiynyl and phenothiazine).

## CONCLUSION

In order to construct efficient and nanotube-forming hosts for fullerenes, we have designed and prepared free-bases and a

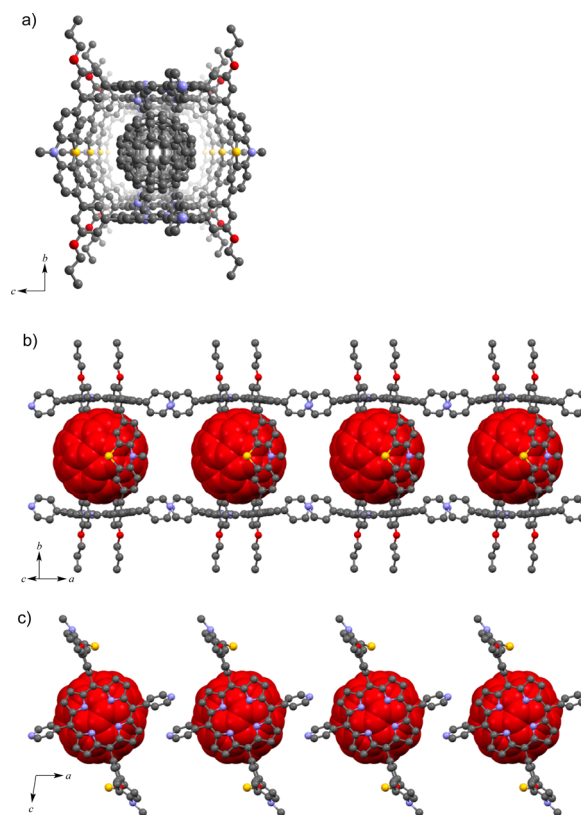


**Figure 5.** ORTEP drawing of  $C_{60}CH_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  with 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. Hydrogen atoms, disordered structures, and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. (a) Front view; (b) side view; (c) top view.



**Figure 6.** Orientation of the 6:6 ring-juncture of  $C_{60}$  over the porphyrin center.

nickel complex of cyclic porphyrin dimers having self-assembling 4-pyridyl groups and phenothiazine linkers at the opposite *meso*-positions. The porphyrin dimers have been obtained by Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling of dihalogenated porphyrins and bisborylated phenothiazine derivative. The phenothiazine-bridged free-base dimer,  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$ , showed very high affinities for fullerenes such as  $K_{\text{assoc}} = 3.9 \pm 0.7 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for  $C_{60}$  and  $K_{\text{assoc}} = 7.4 \pm 0.8 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$  for  $C_{70}$ . This  $C_{60}$  affinity is the highest value ever reported among host molecules composed of free-base porphyrins, indicating that  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  has an optimum molecular cavity for  $C_{60}$  inclusion. On the other hand, the  $C_{60}$  affinity of  $Ni_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  ( $1.3 \pm 0.2 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ) is lower than that of  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  probably due to the slightly larger size of its cavity. The association constant of  $Ni_2\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  for  $C_{70}$  is, however, found to be over  $10^7 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of the  $C_{70}$  inclusion complexes suggest that the included  $C_{70}$  molecule adopts mainly a side-on orientation within the cavity of these cyclic dimers. X-ray crystallographic analysis of  $C_{60}CH_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_3)$  revealed that the included  $C_{60}$  molecule is localized just above the centers of the porphyrin moieties due to the strong  $\pi$ – $\pi$  interaction. The two porphyrin planes are almost parallel to each other, and the center-to-center distance (12.454 Å) was found to be quite suitable for  $C_{60}$  inclusion. The very high  $C_{60}$  affinity of  $H_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_6)$  is rationally assigned to these structural features revealed by X-ray crystallography. Along with our expectation,  $C_{60}CH_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_3)$  forms a self-assembled nanotube through porphyrin  $\beta\text{-C-H}\cdots\text{N}_{py}$  hydrogen bonds and  $\pi$ – $\pi$



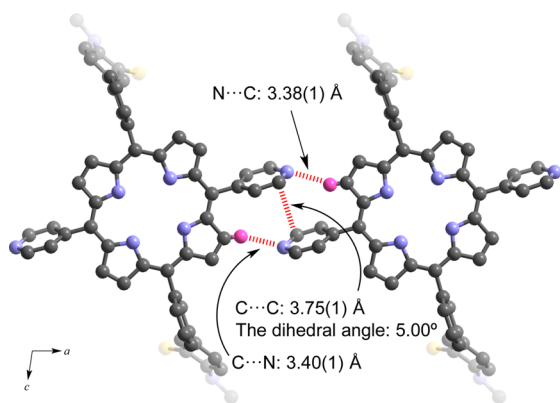
**Figure 7.** Tubular assembly and linear array of  $C_{60}$  in the crystal packing of  $C_{60}CH_4\text{-Ptz-CPD}_{py}(OC_3)$ . (a) Front view; (b) side view; (c) top view.

stackings of the *meso*-pyridyl groups in the crystal packing of this inclusion complex. The  $C_{60}$  molecules are linearly aligned in the inner channel of this nanotube to produce a supramolecular peapod. Further electrochemical and photophysical studies of these supramolecular architectures are now in progress.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Information.** Reagents and solvents of best grade available were purchased from commercial suppliers and were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. *N,N*-Dimethylformamide (DMF) was purified by distillation from  $\text{CaH}_2$  under reduced pressure. Dry tetrahydrofuran (THF) was obtained by distillation from Na and benzophenone under  $\text{N}_2$  atmosphere. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was





**Figure 8.** Details of the noncovalent interactions linking the cyclic porphyrin dimers in the crystal of  $C_{60}CH_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>). The major parts of the disordered pyridyl groups are shown. Hydrogen atoms are omitted except in the C–H...N moieties. N = purple; C = gray; H = pink; S = yellow.

performed on silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> precoated aluminum sheets. Column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (63–210 mesh) or florisil (60–120 mesh). Chemical shifts of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were reported as  $\delta$  values in ppm relative to tetramethylsilane. High-resolution fast atom bombardment mass spectra (HR-FAB-MS) were measured with 3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (NBA) or a mixture of dithiothreitol and dithioerythritol (Magic Bullet) as a matrix and recorded on a double-focusing magnetic sector mass spectrometer. Recycling preparative GPC-HPLC was carried out with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub> (100:1) as an eluent at a flow rate of 3.5 mL/min. The computation was carried out using the computer facilities at Research Institute for Information Technology, Kyushu University.

**X-ray Structure Determination.** The free-base dimer ( $H_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>)) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (0.01 mM, 1 mL) and C<sub>60</sub> in chlorobenzene (0.01 mM, 1 mL) were mixed in a loosely closed vial and stored in the dark at room temperature. The slow and preferential evaporation of chloroform afforded single crystals due to the lower solubility of the inclusion complex in chlorobenzene. X-ray crystallography was carried out on a single crystal of  $C_{60}CH_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>) with a monochromated synchrotron radiation ( $\lambda = 0.7104$  Å) at SPring-8 BL02B1. Reflection data were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects. The structure was solved by a direct method (SIR-2004)<sup>26</sup> with the Crystal Structure<sup>27</sup> crystallographic software package, and refined by full-matrix least-squares procedures on  $F^2$  for all reflections (SHELXL-97).<sup>28</sup> Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were refined by using the rigid model. Some solvent molecules, such as chloroform and chlorobenzene were not properly modeled due to their disorder. Therefore, the structure was refined without these solvents by PLATON Squeeze technique.<sup>29</sup> The final structure was validated by using PLATON cif check. Crystallographic data for  $C_{60}CH_4$ -Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>): C<sub>122</sub>H<sub>94</sub>N<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>·C<sub>60</sub>, brown prismatic crystal, crystal dimensions 0.08 × 0.05 × 0.06 mm<sup>3</sup>, monoclinic,  $P2_1/m$ ,  $a = 14.794(19)$  Å,  $b = 32.47(5)$  Å,  $c = 17.79(3)$  Å,  $\beta = 100.281(16)^\circ$ ,  $V = 8410(22)$  Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$ ,  $\rho_{\text{calc}} = 1.029$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 54.10^\circ$ ,  $T = 123$  K, 79175 reflections collected; 19368 reflections used and 1091 parameters.  $R_1 = 0.0832$  [ $I > 2.0\sigma(I)$ ],  $R_w = 0.2384$  (all data). Crystallographic data have been deposited with Cambridge Crystallographic Date Centre:

Deposition number CCDC-973900. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html> (or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Date Centre, 12, Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, U.K.; fax: +44 1223 336033; e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk))

**1,3-Dibromo-5-(propyloxy)benzene (1b).** A mixture of 3,5-dibromophenol<sup>30</sup> (17.0 g, 67.5 mmol), 1-bromopropane (9.83 g, 80.0 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (13.8 g, 100 mmol) in 2-butanone (150 mL) was heated to reflux under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere overnight. After cooling, water (300 mL) and CHCl<sub>3</sub> (300 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (100 mL × 2). The combined organic phase was dried with Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, hexane) to give colorless oil (18.4 g, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.23 (s, 1H, Ar–H), 6.99 (s, 2H, Ar–H), 3.88 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.79 (sext,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.02 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz):  $\delta$  160.5 (aromatic C), 126.3 (aromatic C), 123.2 (aromatic C), 117.1 (aromatic C), 70.3 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 10.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (oil):  $\nu = 3080, 2966, 2937, 2877, 1583, 1568, 1439, 1419, 1339, 1298, 1255, 1230, 1107, 1088, 1066, 1046, 1022, 987, 889, 853, 829, 744, 669$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>O: 292.9177; found: 292.9149.

**3-Bromo-5-(propyloxy)benzaldehyde (2b).** 1,3-Dibromo-5-(propyloxy)benzene **1b** (2.94 g, 10.0 mmol) was added into a three-neck flask, and the flask was filled with N<sub>2</sub>. Then, dry THF (100 mL) was added into the flask under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, and the solution was cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . Then, *n*-butyllithium (2.69 M solution in *n*-hexane, 3.7 mL, 10 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution. After 1 h, excess DMF was added to the mixture. After warming to room temperature, the reaction mixture was quenched with water. The separated organic phase was washed with water (100 mL, 2 times), and dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in *vacuo*. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, *n*-hexane/CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 3:1) to furnish the product as a light-yellow oil (1.87 g, 77%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  9.89 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.55 (t,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, 1H, Ar–H), 7.30 (m, 2H, Ar–H), 3.96 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.81 (sext,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.04 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 150 MHz):  $\delta$  190.8 (CHO), 160.7 (aromatic C), 139.1 (aromatic C), 125.6 (aromatic C), 124.5 (aromatic C), 123.8 (aromatic C), 113.2 (aromatic C), 70.6 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 22.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 10.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (oil):  $\nu = 3385, 3078, 2966, 2937, 2879, 2725, 2409, 2289, 1705, 1591, 1590, 1452, 1383, 1317, 1273, 1246, 1151, 1099, 1065, 953, 939, 849, 690, 671$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>BrO<sub>2</sub>: 243.0021; found: 243.0021.

**5,15-Bis[3-bromo-5-(hexyloxy)phenyl]-10,20-di[4-pyridyl]porphine (3a).** A solution of 3-Bromo-5-(hexyloxy)benzaldehyde<sup>12f</sup> **2a** (570 mg, 2.00 mmol) and *meso*-(4-pyridyl)dipyrrromethane<sup>18</sup> (446 mg, 2.00 mmol) in 200 mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was purged with N<sub>2</sub> for 15 min and shielded from light. To the solution, trifluoroacetic acid (1.86 mL, 25.0 mmol) was added, and the solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. Then 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (680 mg, 3.00 mmol) dissolved in THF was added to the solution; the resulting solution was stirred for an additional 1 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with triethylamine (3.36 mL, 24.1 mmol). After evaporation, the mixture was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl<sub>3</sub>/EtOH, 100:1 to CHCl<sub>3</sub>/EtOH, 50:1). The crude product was washed with

MeOH and dried *in vacuo* to give the porphyrin as a purple powder (98 mg, 10%). Mp: >300 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.05 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 8.95 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.82 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.94 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.69 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.51 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 4.14 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 1.87 (quin,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.53–1.46 (m, 4H,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.38–1.32 (m, 8H,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.90 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), –2.92 (br s, 2H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  158.3 (aromatic C), 150.2 (aromatic C), 148.5 (aromatic C), 144.4 (aromatic C), 130.1 (aromatic C), 129.5 (aromatic C), 121.4 (aromatic C), 120.6 (aromatic C), 120.6 (aromatic C), 119.3 (aromatic C), 117.7 (aromatic C), 117.5 (aromatic C), 68.9 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 31.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 25.9 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 14.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3317, 2929, 2869, 1591, 1474, 1426, 1350, 1269, 1171, 1050, 975, 921, 859, 800, 730, 659\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$ ) = 419 (467500), 514 (21250), 547 (6150), 588 (6300), 646 (3400) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{50}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_6\text{O}_2$ : 972.2362; found 972.2369.

**5,15-Bis[3-bromo-5-(propyloxy)phenyl]-10,20-di[4-pyridyl]porphine (3b).** A solution of 3-bromo-5-(propyloxy)-benzaldehyde **2b** (486 mg, 2.00 mmol) and *meso*-(4-pyridyl)-dipyrrromethane<sup>18</sup> (446 mg, 2.00 mmol) in 200 mL of  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  was purged with  $\text{N}_2$  for 15 min and shielded from light. To the solution was added trifluoroacetic acid (1.86 mL, 25.0 mmol), and the solution was stirred for 30 min at room temperature. Then 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (680 mg, 3.00 mmol) dissolved in THF was added to the solution; the resulting solution was stirred for an additional 1 h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with triethylamine (3.36 mL, 24.1 mmol). After evaporation, the mixture was purified by column chromatography (silica gel,  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{EtOH}$ , 100:1 to  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{EtOH}$ , 50:1). The crude product was washed with MeOH and dried *in vacuo* to give the porphyrin as a purple powder (80 mg, 9%). Mp: >300 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  9.05 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 8.95 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.82 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.16 (d,  $J = 5.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.94 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.70 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.51 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 4.12 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 1.90 (sext,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.09 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), –2.92 (br s, 2H, NH);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  158.7 (aromatic C), 150.6 (aromatic C), 149.0 (aromatic C), 144.8 (aromatic C), 130.6 (aromatic C), 130.0 (aromatic C), 121.9 (aromatic C), 121.0 (aromatic C), 119.7 (aromatic C), 118.1 (aromatic C), 118.0 (aromatic C), 70.8 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 23.2 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 11.1 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3317, 2934, 2876, 1592, 1475, 1426, 1350, 1269, 1172, 1051, 973, 927, 859, 800, 730, 659\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$ ) = 419 (444000), 514 (21250), 547 (6450), 589 (6380), 647 (3150) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{39}\text{N}_6\text{Br}_2\text{O}_2$ : 889.1501; found: 889.1504.

**{5,15-Bis[3-bromo-5-(hexyloxy)phenyl]-10,20-di[4-pyridyl]porphinato}Ni(II) (4a).** A solution of  $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (496 mg, 2.00 mmol) in MeOH (20 mL) was added to a solution of **3a** (195 mg, 0.200 mmol) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$  (100 mL) and refluxed under  $\text{N}_2$  for 1 day. The reaction mixture was diluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and washed with water (200 mL) twice. The organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was recrystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$  to give **4a** as an orange powder (142 mg, 69%). Mp: >300 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.97 (br s, 4H, Ar–

H), 8.84 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.71 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 4H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 7.96 (d,  $J = 4.8$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.75 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.48 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 7.43 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 4.08 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 1.84 (quin,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H,  $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.51–1.44 (m, 4H,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_2(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.38–1.30 (m, 8H,  $\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_3(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CH}_3$ ), 0.89 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 6H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  158.4 (aromatic C), 149.0 (aromatic C), 148.7 (aromatic C), 143.2 (aromatic C), 142.9 (aromatic C), 142.1 (aromatic C), 133.0 (aromatic C), 132.1 (aromatic C), 129.2 (aromatic C), 128.7 (aromatic C), 121.6 (aromatic C), 119.7 (aromatic C), 118.2 (aromatic C), 117.7 (aromatic C), 116.5 (aromatic C), 68.8 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 31.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 29.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 25.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 22.7 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 14.2 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2928, 2858, 1593, 1427, 1352, 1273, 1182, 1077, 1007, 867, 769, 713, 672\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$ ) = 415 (268250), 527 (18400) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{54}\text{H}_{48}\text{Br}_2\text{N}_6\text{NiO}_2$ : 1028.1559; found: 1028.1533.

**10-Methyl-3,7-bis(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-10H-phenothiazine (5).** 10-Methyl-3,7-dibromo-10H-phenothiazine<sup>20</sup> (834 mg, 2.25 mmol) was added into a three-neck flask, and the air inside of the flask was replaced with  $\text{N}_2$ . Then, dry THF (10 mL) was added into the flask, and the solution was cooled to –78 °C. Then, *n*-butyllithium (2.69 M solution in *n*-hexane, 2.1 mL, 5.6 mmol) was added dropwise to the solution. After stirring for 1 h, 2-isopropoxy-4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane (1.82 mL, 8.92 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture. After warming to room temperature, the reaction mixture was quenched with water. The reaction mixture was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, *n*-hexane/ $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ , 1:1 then  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) to furnish the product as a colorless powder (633 mg, 60%). Mp: 259–260 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 7.53 (s, 2H, Ar-H), 6.77 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 2H, Ar-H), 3.38 (s, 3H,  $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 1.32 (s, 24H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  147.9 (aromatic C), 134.5 (aromatic C), 133.6 (aromatic C), 122.8 (aromatic C), 113.7 (aromatic C), 83.8 (B–O–C), 35.6 ( $\text{NCH}_3$ ), 25.0 ( $\text{CH}_3$ ); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2983, 2933, 1605, 1583, 1408, 1389, 1375, 1354, 1298, 1261, 1211, 1169, 1146, 1130, 1115, 1105, 966, 858, 739, 692, 669\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; UV-vis (THF):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ ,  $\text{cm}^{-1}\text{ M}^{-1}$ ) = 270 (57000), 326 (5200) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_4\text{NB}_2\text{S}$ : 465.2316; found: 465.2308; Elemental analysis (%) calcd for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{33}\text{B}_2\text{NO}_4\text{S}$ : C 64.54 H 7.15 N 3.01; found: C 64.57 H 7.14 N 2.99.

**$\text{H}_4$ -Ptz-CPD $\text{Py}(\text{OC}_6\text{F}_5)$ .** A THF/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (40 mL, THF/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 10/1) solution of **3a** (97 mg, 0.10 mmol), **5** (47 mg, 0.10 mmol),  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$  (46 mg, 0.040 mmol), and  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (325 mg, 1.00 mmol) was purged with  $\text{N}_2$  for 30 min. The mixture was refluxed for 2 days under  $\text{N}_2$  in the dark. After cooling to room temperature and evaporation, the reaction mixture was diluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$  ( $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , 100:1) and washed with water (50 mL) twice. The organic layer was dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and evaporated. The residue was passed through short column chromatography (florisil,  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , 100:1). After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was passed through gel permeation chromatography ( $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{NEt}_3$ , 100/1 as an eluent) and recrystallized from  $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$  to give the dimer as a purple powder (4.8 mg, 5%). Mp: >300 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  8.96 (br s, 4H, Ar–H), 8.90 (br s, 4H, Ar–H), 8.87 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.66 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.04 (br s, 4H, Ar–H), 7.94 (br s,

4H, Ar-H), 7.80 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.65 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.46 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.29 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.14 (t,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.52 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.86 (quin,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51 (m, 8H, O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.31 (m, 16H, O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.90 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>), -3.08 (br s, 4H, NH); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3317, 2927, 2868, 1590, 1480, 1430, 1262, 1055, 975, 921, 800, 725, 661$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV-vis (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ , cm<sup>-1</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>) = 418 (601900), 515 (32566), 549 (10100), 590 (9300), 647 (6200) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>134</sub>H<sub>118</sub>N<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 2050.8902; found 2050.8921; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum could not be obtained due to the low solubility.

**H<sub>4</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>3</sub>).** A THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL, THF/H<sub>2</sub>O, 10/1) solution of **3b** (89 mg, 0.10 mmol), **5** (47 mg, 0.10 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (46 mg, 0.040 mmol), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (325 mg, 1.00 mmol) was purged with N<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. The mixture was refluxed for 2 days under N<sub>2</sub> in the dark. After cooling to room temperature and evaporation, the reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub> (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100:1) and washed with water (50 mL) twice. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The residue was passed through short column chromatography (florisil, CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100:1). After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product was passed through gel permeation chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100/1 as an eluent) and recrystallized from CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH to give the dimer as a purple powder (2 mg, 2%). Mp: >300 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.95 (br s, 4H, Ar-H), 8.90 (br s, 4H, Ar-H), 8.87 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.66 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.04 (br s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.93 (br s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.80 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.69 (d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.65 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.46 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.29 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 6.98 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.11 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.52 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.89 (sext,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.07 (t,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>), -3.08 (br s, 4H, NH); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 3317, 2963, 2876, 1589, 1480, 1430, 1262, 1068, 974, 930, 800, 731, 689$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV-vis (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ , cm<sup>-1</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>) = 418 (666700), 515 (38200), 549 (13000), 588 (11700), 647 (7100) nm.; HR-FAB-MS (Magic Bullet):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>122</sub>H<sub>93</sub>N<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: 1883.7102; found: 1883.7078; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum could not be obtained due to the low solubility.

**Ni<sub>2</sub>-Ptz-CPD<sub>py</sub>(OC<sub>6</sub>).** A THF/H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL, THF/H<sub>2</sub>O, 10/1) solution of **4a** (103 mg, 0.100 mmol), **5** (47 mg, 0.10 mmol), Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (46 mg, 0.040 mmol), and Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (325 mg, 1.00 mmol) was purged with N<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. The mixture was refluxed for 2 days under N<sub>2</sub> in the dark. After cooling to room temperature and evaporation, the reaction mixture was diluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub> (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100:1) and washed with water (50 mL) twice. The organic layer was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The residue was passed through short column chromatography (florisil, CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100:1). After evaporation of the solvent, the crude product passed through gel permeation chromatography (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100/1 as an eluent) and was recrystallized from CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH to give the dimer as a purple powder (5 mg, 5%). Mp: >300 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.89 (br s, 8H, Ar-H), 8.81 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 8.59 (d,  $J = 4.2$  Hz, 8H, pyrrole  $\beta$ -H), 7.87 (br s, 8H, Ar-H), 7.74 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 7.43 (m, 8H, Ar-H), 7.16 (s, 4H, Ar-H), 6.91 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4H, Ar-H), 4.17 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.46 (s, 6H, NCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.89 (quin,  $J = 7.2$

Hz, 8H, OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51 (m, 8H, O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.35 (m, 16H, O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.89 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 12H, CH<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr):  $\nu = 2928, 2868, 1592, 1480, 1430, 1355, 1262, 1180, 1077, 1006, 867, 799, 713$  cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV-vis (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\epsilon$ , cm<sup>-1</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>) = 415 (360132), 527 (28597) nm; HR-FAB-MS (NBA):  $m/z$  calcd for C<sub>134</sub>H<sub>114</sub>N<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>Ni<sub>2</sub>: 2162.7296; found 2162.7346; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum could not be obtained due to the low solubility.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### ■ Supporting Information

DFT-optimized structure, UV-vis absorption spectra, fluorescence spectra, titration data, ESI-MS spectra, NMR spectra and X-ray crystallographic data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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