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## Molecular Crystals and Liquid Crystals

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and Their Selective Coloration
for Transition Metal Cations

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# SYNTHESIS OF NEW SPIROBENZOPYRANS BEARING MACROCYCLIC DIOXOPOLYAMINE AND THEIR SELECTIVE COLORATION FOR TRANSITION METAL CATIONS

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Three new spirobenzopyrans bearing macrocyclic dioxopolyamine were synthesized. Sensitive and selective coloration of the spirobenzopyrans for transition metal cations were observed.

Keywords: spirobenzopyran; macrocyclic dioxopolyamine; selective coloration; transition metal cations

#### INTRODUCTION

Photochromic properties of recently synthesized compounds have been examined extensively to explore their potentiality in optical devices [1]. Spirobenzopyrans are well-known photochromic compounds that isomerize from spiropyran to merocyanine forms by ultraviolet (UV) light and vice versa by visible light or heat [1]. It has been recognized that incorporation of a crown ether moiety into a spirobenzopyran affords ion-responsive photochromic materials, reflecting the metal-ion-binding ability of the crown ether moieties [2]. We previously reported spirobenzopyrans bearing a monoazocrown ether, of which isomerization to the open-colored merocyanines was induced by recognition of alkali metal cations [3]. Here we reported three types of spirobenzopyrans bearing macrocyclic dioxopolyamine (1, 2, 3; Scheme 1), in which sensitive and selective recognition of transition metal cation induces the structural change in the spirobenzopyrans to the colored merocyanines.

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74 S. H. Liu

**SCHEME 1** 

### **Synthesis**

The spirobenzopyran 1 and lariat-type spirobenzopyran 2 were synthesized by the condensation of macrocyclic dioxopolyamine 5 with spirobenzopyran 4 [4]. The crytand-type spirobenzopyran 3 was prepared by the condensation of macrocyclic dioxopolyamine 5 with spirobenzopyran 8, which was given by the aldol-type cyclization of the Fischer's base 6 [4] with salicylaldehyde 7 (Scheme 2).

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The spirobenzopyran 1, 2, 3 prepared showed no absorption bands above 400 nm in EtOH, indicating the closed spiropyran forms. When transition metal ions ( $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ) were added to the solution above and set in the dark for 1 h, however, new absorption bands appeared. These results indicated that transition metal ions ( $Cu^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ) induced the structural change in the spirobenzopyrans to the colored merocyanines. Spirobenzopyran 2 showed a higher coloring efficiency when compared to those of 1 (Table 1) because the complexed cations in 2 could interact with

**SCHEME 2** 

the two phenolate oxygens of the open merocyanines at the up and down areas perpendicular to the rings. The crytand spirobenzopyran  $\bf 3$  gave the most intense coloration for transition metal ions, and showed a high selective coloration for  ${\rm Cu}^{2+}$  (Table 1, Figure 1). This may be because the crown-bound cations are nearer to the phonolate oxygen in the crytand spirobenzopyran  $\bf 3$  than that in  $\bf 1$ ,  $\bf 2$ , and  ${\rm Cu}^{2+}$  chelates more intensely with the macrocyclic dioxopolyamine  $\bf 5$  than  ${\rm Co}^{2+}$ ,  ${\rm Ni}^{2+}$  [5].

Compound 1:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.30 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.60 (s, 3H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.44–2.56 (m, 11H, R<sub>2</sub>NH, R<sub>2</sub>N-CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.98–3.68 (m, 12H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-, ArNCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CONCH<sub>2</sub>, COCH<sub>2</sub>CO-), 5.82 (d, J=10.8 Hz, 1H,

**TABLE 1**  $\lambda_{max}$  and  $\varepsilon$  of Compound 1, 2, 3 in EtOH Set in the Dark for 1 h

		1	2	3
Cu <sup>2+</sup>	$\lambda_{ m max}/{ m nm}$	548	546	507
	$\lambda_{ m max}/{ m nm}$ $arepsilon/10^3$	0.37	0.62	1.58
Co <sup>2+</sup>	$\lambda_{ m max}/{ m nm}$	548	546	493
	$\varepsilon/10^3$	0.39	0.78	0.79
Ni <sup>2+</sup>	$\lambda_{ m max}/{ m nm}$	545	542	513
	$\varepsilon/10^3$	0.18	0.51	0.77

76 S. H. Liu

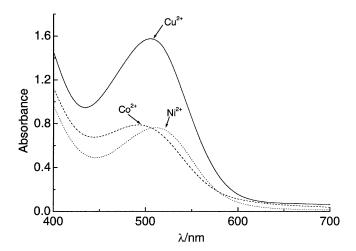


FIGURE 1 UV-Vis spectra of compound 3 set in the dark for 1 h.

HC=C-Ar), 6.52-7.14 (m, 6H, Ar-H, Ar-CH=C-), 7.85-7.99 (m, 1H, o- $NO_{2}$ -Ar-H), 8.13 (d, J = 2.7 Hz, 1H, o- $NO_{2}$ -Ar-H), 8.63 (br, 2H, HN-CO). MS (m/z): 592 (M+, 11%), 593 (MH+, 36%). Anal. Calcd for  $C_{31}H_{40}$ N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 62.82; H, 6.80; N, 14.18. Found: C, 63.15; H, 7.03; N, 13.93. Compound 2:  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.35(s, 6H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.62 (s, 6H, -CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.40–2.64 (m, 12H, R<sub>2</sub>N-CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.11–3.70 (m, 18H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-, ArNCH<sub>2</sub>-,  $-\text{CONCH}_2$ ,  $\text{COCH}_2\text{CO-}$ ), 5.81 (d, J = 10.8 Hz, 2H, HC=C-Ar), 6.46–7.12 (m, 14H, Ar-H, Ar-CH=C-, -CONH-), 7.88–7.95 (m, 2H, o-NO<sub>2</sub>-Ar-H), 8.18  $(d, J = 2.7 \text{ Hz}, 2H, \text{ o-NO}_2\text{-Ar-H}). \text{ MS}(m/z): 970 (M+, 35\%). \text{ Anal. Calcd}$ for C<sub>53</sub>H<sub>62</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>10</sub>: C, 65.55; H, 6.44; N, 11.54. Found: C, 65.20; H, 6.62; N, 11.47. Compound **3**:  ${}^{1}$ H NMR (90 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.12 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 1.30 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>); 2.20–2.60 (m, 10H, NCH<sub>2</sub>); 3.05–3.70 (m, 14H, ArNCH<sub>2</sub>) ArCH<sub>2</sub>N, OCH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>NCO, COCH<sub>2</sub>CO); 5.70 (d, 1H, HC=C-Ar); 6.50–7.10 (m, 9H, ArH, C=CH-Ar); 7.85 (d, 1H, o-NO<sub>2</sub>-Ar-H); 8.00 (d, 1H, o-NO<sub>2</sub>-Ar-H). MS (m/z): 605  $(MH^+, 28\%)$ . Anal. Calcd for  $C_{32}H_{40}N_6O_6$ : C, 63.56; H, 6.67; N, 13.90. Found: C, 63.28; H, 6.74; N, 13.78.

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