# Copper(I)-templated synthesis of [2] catenates bearing pendant porphyrins

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The copper(I)-templated synthesis of the first [2] catenate incorporating electron-donor and -acceptor porphyrins linked mechanically, though not covalently, has been achieved, along with that of related model compounds incorporating only electron donating zinc(II) porphyrins. The preparations were approached by first constructing macrocycles incorporating 2,9-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline residues and pendant porphyrins. An unusual aggregation of one of these macrocycles, incorporating a gold(III) porphyrin, has been observed and appears to be driven by  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions, but proves to be no impediment to the preparation of the catenates. The gross conformation of the catenates in solution seems to be approximately that of the envisaged design where the porphyrins are directed to opposite sides and laterally away from the heart of the catenate, since no inter-porphyrin interactions could be detected by NMR or UV-visible spectroscopy. The removal of the templating copper(I) ion from the catenates is inhibited by the presence of appended zinc(II) porphyrins, while the free catenands may be obtained when the zinc(II) ion is absent.

Synthèse de [2] caténates porteurs de porphyrines par effet template de cuivre(1). La synthèse par effet de matrice, induit par le cuivre(1), du premier [2] catenate incorporant une porphyrine donneur d'électron et une porphyrine accepteur, a été réalisée. Les deux porphyrines sont reliées par un lien mécanique, non covalent. La stratégie de synthèse implique, dans un premier temps, la préparation de macrocycles contenant des résidus de type 2,9-diphényl-1,10-phénanthroline et des porphyrines pendantes. Un processus inhabituel d'agrégation de l'un des macrocycles, comportant une porphyrine d'or(III), a été observé. Ce phénomène, vraisemblablement favorisé par des interactions d'empilement  $\pi$ - $\pi$ , n'inhibe pas la préparation des caténates. En solution, la conformation des caténates semble grossièrement correspondre au schéma proposé, dans lequel les deux porphyrines sont situées de part et d'autre du coeur du caténate et dirigées dans des directions opposées. Cette géométrie est en accord avec les études de RMN et de spectroscopie UV-visible, qui ne montrent aucune interaction entre les noyaux porphyriniques. La décomplexation de l'ion assembleur cuivre(1) n'a pas pu être réalisée, probablement du fait que des porphyrines de zinc(II) jouant le rôle d'inhibiteur de démétallation. Par contre, lorsque les porphyrines ne contiennent pas de zinc, le caténand libre peut être obtenu.

The synthesis and study of synthetic molecules capable of exhibiting long-range electron transfer is a topical and important pursuit.<sup>1</sup> The reasons for the interest in such molecules are twofold: (i) to mimic the primary electron-transfer step at the heart of the Photosynthetic Reaction Centre<sup>2</sup> as well as in other biological systems,<sup>3</sup> in order to aid understanding of these natural phenomena; (ii) to create molecules exhibiting new photophysical and photochemical properties.

The synthetic molecules whose photophysical properties have been studied mainly involve connection of the donor and acceptor moieties by covalent bonds,<sup>4</sup> while alternative approaches have tackled the problem using non-covalent connections, in the form of hydrogen bonds<sup>5</sup> or metal ion complexation.<sup>6</sup> In all of these approaches the medium between donor and acceptor chromophores is invariably modulated by changing the connectivity of the covalent bonds within the components, generally requiring repeated synthesis. To avoid this drawback, a single molecule incorporating donor and acceptor chromophores separated by a medium whose electronic properties could be altered by reversible and simple coordination chemistry is an appealing prospect. The [2]catenate<sup>7</sup> depicted schematically in Fig. 1 may meet these requirements. The heart of this catenane contains two inter-

twined ligands bound to a transition metal ion, which should be readily and controllably exchangeable for another ion, thereby modulating its electronic properties. The donor  $\mathbf D$  and acceptor  $\mathbf A$  chromophores should therefore exhibit a rate of

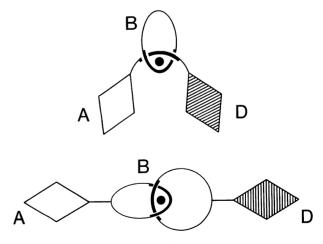


Fig. 1 Cartoon representations of a [2]rotaxane incorporating donor **D** and acceptor **A** chromophores spaced by a bridge **B** comprising a metal complex including a threaded macrocycle (upper), and the design (lower) of the [2]catenate that is the subject of this work, comprising two interlocked macrocycles, one bearing a donor chromophore and the other an acceptor chromophore

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electron transfer dependent on the bridge **B**. The chromophores, for which we have selected porphyrins, are pendant groups, in an effort to exert control over the interporphyrin distance depending on the geometry of **B**. The design in Fig. 1 is thus quite unique, <sup>8</sup> although many interlocked molecules incorporating porphyrins have been reported, <sup>9</sup> including rotaxanes with donor and acceptor chromophores in the same dumbbell-shaped component <sup>10</sup> whose properties can be modulated by varying the metal ion <sup>11</sup> (Fig. 1), and a [2] catenate with identical porphyrins in each ring. <sup>12</sup>

The chemical realisation of the cartoon system in Fig. 1 is based on established copper(i) ion-templated [2]catenates<sup>13</sup>—incorporating diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline residues—and the appendage of zinc(II) (**D**) and gold(III) (**A**) porphyrins, which are of proven utility in the study of electron-transfer phenomena.<sup>10</sup> The component rings of the series of [2]catenates are composed of 31 members, as close as possible to that of the well-documented prototypical [2]catenate comprised of two 30-membered rings.<sup>14</sup> Polyethylene spacers between the phenanthroline chelate and the porphyrin afford moderate rigidity without inferring conjugation. The porphyrins are of the tetraaryl variety, substituted at the 3 and 5 positions of one aryl ring to form the macrocycle, so that the porphyrin is appended away from the core of the catenate while avoiding the presence of atropoisomers.

#### **Results and Discussion**

#### Synthesis of precursors and model compounds

The synthetic route chosen for the preparation of the macrocycles and catenates reported here was to introduce the porphyrin moieties in the final macrocyclisation steps, since they are the most expensive and potentially chemically sensitive group. This approach, unlike the more usual syntheses of this family of catenates, <sup>13</sup> required the preparation of the new extended 2,9-bis(4-phenoxy)-1,10-phenanthrolines 2–4, whose synthesis is depicted in Scheme 1. The diol 2 was afforded in 86% yield by reaction of 2,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (1)<sup>14</sup> with 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol in the presence of base in DMF. Conversion of this diol into the ditosylate 3 was achieved using standard conditions for tosylation<sup>15</sup> in 67% yield, and treatment of the ditosylate with NaI in acetone gave 4 almost quantitatively.

The macrocycle **6**, required for the synthesis of a model [2]catenate bearing a porphyrin (*vide infra*), was prepared by the reaction of the ditosylate **5** (prepared in two steps from methyl 3,5-dihydroxybenzoate) with **1** in the presence of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (Scheme 2).<sup>16</sup> The final macrocyclisation afforded the desired **6** in 36% yield. The chromatographic separation also yielded 2% of the poorly soluble dimeric macrocycle **7** with 62 ring members and two phenanthroline residues.

## Synthesis and properties of porphyrin components

The tetraaryl porphyrin **8**, in which three of the aryl groups bear *tert*-butyl groups at positions 3 and 5 while the other has methoxy moieties at the same positions, was prepared in 8.9% yield by reaction (Scheme 3) of four equivalents of pyrrole with three of 3,5-di-*tert*-butylbenzaldehyde<sup>17</sup> and one of 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde in propionic acid. The two corresponding isomeric A<sub>2</sub>B<sub>2</sub> porphyrins (bearing two aryl groups with *tert*-butyl groups at positions 3 and 5 and two with methoxy moieties at the same positions) were also isolated from the chromatographic separation of the desired A<sub>3</sub>B porphyrin in yields of approximately 1% for each. The identity of these compounds, which have virtually identical UV-visible spectra, was confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR and mass spectrometry. The two methyl groups in the methoxy substit-

Scheme 1

uents of **8** were removed (Scheme 3) by using BBr<sub>3</sub> under standard conditions<sup>18</sup> to afford the dihydroxy derivative **9** in 93% yield.

In the catenations (vide infra) it is desirable to "protect" the free base porphyrins because of the possibility of forming copper(II) porphyrins during the templated reaction. Therefore, the simple tetraaryl porphyrin 9 was reacted with zinc(II) acetate to afford almost quantitatively the desired zinc(II) porphyrin 10. Conversely, attempted metallation of 9 with gold(III) was unsuccessful; the major products resulted from decomposition of the porphyrin prior to entry of the metal ion. On the other hand, treatment of 8 with KAuCl<sub>4</sub> in acetic acid in the presence of NaOAc<sup>19</sup> afforded the corresponding gold(III) porphyrin 11 in 80% yield, the remainder of the product corresponding to the starting porphyrin.

The macrocycle 12 bearing a pendant free base porphyrin was prepared by the reaction of the diphenoxy porphyrin 9 with the extended phenanthroline ditosylate 3 in the presence of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> in DMF with an optimised yield of 47%.<sup>20</sup> This free base porphyrin was converted almost quantitatively (as in the preparation of 10) into the corresponding zinc(II) porphy-

Scheme 2

rin 13, and into the gold(III) porphyrin 14 in an optimised yield of 91%, by treatment with KAuCl<sub>4</sub> in acetic acid in the presence of NaOAc, followed by a work-up to afford the product as its hexafluorophosphate salt (Scheme 4).

The macrocycles 12 and 13 had spectroscopic characteristics corresponding to the sum of their phenanthrolinecontaining macrocycle and porphyrin component parts. The UV-visible spectrum of the gold(III) porphyrin 14 at room temperature in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> also corresponds to that of a molecule with noninteracting phenanthroline and gold(III) porphyrin moieties. However, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **14** in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> is very different from that of the components and the other porphyrin-bearing macrocycles. The differences are even more pronounced when the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **14** is recorded in CD<sub>3</sub>CN (Fig. 2, the abbreviations H<sub>o</sub> and H<sub>m</sub> refer to the hydrogen atoms attached to the ortho and meta positions, respectively, of the phenyl ring attached to the phenanthroline ring system, whose hydrogen atoms are numbered H<sub>3,8</sub>, H<sub>4,7</sub> and H<sub>5,6</sub>, respectively). In particular, the resonances arising from the H<sub>5,6</sub> and H<sub>4,7</sub> hydrogen atoms appear at extremely high field, while those arising from the hydrogen atoms attached to the pyrrolic rings of the porphyrin are at high field relative to those of the gold(III) porphyrin 11 in the same solvent. The <sup>1</sup>H resonances from **14** in CD<sub>3</sub>CN are strongly dependent on both temperature (all resonances are shifted to high field as the temperature is lowered) as well as concentra-

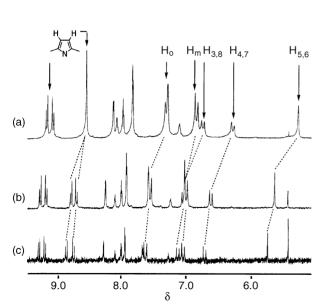
Scheme 3

tion (Fig. 2). The observation that the hydrogen atoms in the aromatic phenanthroline and porphyrin ring systems become increasingly shielded as the temperature of solutions of 14 is lowered and the concentration is raised indicates aggregation of the molecule. The proximity of the aromatic systems was confirmed by a ROESY NMR experiment, in which significant nOes were observed (amongst others) between the resonances arising from the phenanthroline  $H_{5,\,6}$ ,  $H_{4,\,7}$  and  $H_{3,\,8}$  hydrogen atoms and those for the hydrogen atoms attached to the phenyl rings adjacent to the porphyrin. From these data it seems clear that the aggregation is driven by  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions involving the gold(III) porphyrin and the phenanthroline moiety; to our knowledge this is the first observation of noncovalent interactions between these groups.<sup>21</sup>

The nOe data for the aggregates of 14 allow for the presence of two conformations for the macrocycle: (i) stacking of the molecules in a head-to-tail fashion such that the aggregate is comprised entirely of intermolecular interactions or (ii) folding of the molecules as a result of an intramolecular stacking of the phenanthroline and porphyrin moieties (Fig. 3), followed by stacking in this conformation. The concentration dependence of the chemical shift of the resonance arising from the  $H_{5,6}$  hydrogen atoms of the phenanthroline moiety indicates that even at very low concentration this signal is at very high field compared with its more usual position (5.8 vs. approx. 7.7 ppm), and therefore in a folded conformation, consistant with the latter type of aggregate. This form of aggregation proves to be no barrier to the generation of the extremely stable threaded complexes of 14 with copper(i) and phenanthroline-containing strings, and to catenate formation.

### Synthesis and properties of porphyrin-bearing [2] catenates

The synthesis of the [2]catenate 18 (Scheme 5), incorporating two 31-membered rings that both have an appended tetraaryl zinc(II) porphyrin, was approached by two routes. 14 In the



**Fig. 2** The  $^1\mathrm{H}$  NMR spectrum of the macrocycle bearing a gold(III) porphyrin **14**: PF<sub>6</sub> in CD<sub>3</sub>CN at room temperature and at concentrations of (a) 28 (b) 5.8 and (c) 0.74 mM

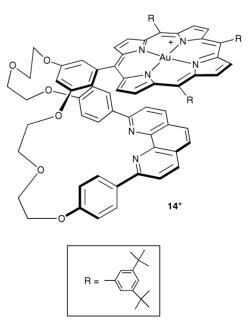


Fig. 3 A probable conformation for the macrocycle  $14 : \mathrm{PF}_6$  in dilute  $\mathrm{CD_3CN},$  which results in the formation of aggregates at higher concentrations

Scheme 5

first, the ditosylate 3 was treated with half an equivalent of copper(I) ions to generate the intertwined red complex 15 as its hexafluorophosphate salt. This complex was reacted (Scheme 5) at 60 °C with the diphenolic zinc(II) porphyrin 10 in the presence of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and KI, which was added to exchange with the tosylate leaving group. The [2]catenate 18 was isolated in 14% yield, rather low compared with that expected for this kind of reaction, 14 partially owing to difficulties in separation. 22

The approach involving the more stable copper(I) complex 17 was employed (Scheme 5) by forming the copper(I) complex 16 of the macrocycle 13, followed by threading the reactive diiodide thread 4 and reaction at 50 °C with the diphenolic porphyrin 10. This method afforded the [2]catenate 18 as its hexaflurophosphate salt in 33% yield. Under similar conditions, this compares with 45% for the original [2]catenate 14 and 31% for a related catenate prepared by Momenteau and

coworkers, 12 which incorporated zinc(II) porphyrins within the component macrocycles. As in that case, the zinc(II) ions could be removed from the two porphyrins, in this instance by treatment with trifluoroacetic acid, to afford the bis-free-base porphyrin catenate 19.

Both 18 and 19 have <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (Fig. 4) in which the chemical shifts of the resonances resulting from the porphyrin moieties are similar to those arising from the simple porphyrins 9 and 10, respectively. The resonances corresponding to the hydrogen atoms attached to the phenyl phenanthroline systems entwined around the templating metal ion are also in similar positions to those for related copper(1) catenates. <sup>14</sup> The UV-visible spectrum has absorption bands characteristic of the separated porphyrins. Therefore, the gross conformation of the molecule approximates that required for the design presented in Fig. 1, in which the porphyrin moieties are linearly disposed.

As a model reaction for the preparation of the donor-acceptor catenate depicted schematically in Fig. 1, the mixed [2]catenate 20 was prepared (Scheme 6) using the two-step method from the ester-functionalised macrocycle 6 and forming the other component macrocycle 13. The desired catenate 20 was isolated as its hexafluorophosphate salt after column chromatography in a yield of 27%. In addition, the component porphyrin-bearing macrocycle 13 was isolated in 10% yield, as well as the [2]catenate 18 bearing two zinc(II) porphyrins in 16% yield. The total yield of catenated products was therefore 43%.

It is clear that the formation of the symmetric catenate 18 during the reaction to prepare the dissymmetric 20 is a result of "scrambling" of the intermediate complexes as a consequence of the decomposition of the initial precatenate under the basic reaction conditions (Scheme 7). Thus, macrocycle 13 is formed in its "free" state and subsequently forms the entwined complex 17 with 4 and a copper(i) ion. From a synthetic point of view, the ratio of dissymmetric: symmetric catenate generated in this case (2:1) is a drawback, which brings into question the future utility of the Williamson ether synthesis for the construction of this type of catenate.<sup>23</sup>

The main object of this work was to create the [2] catenate schematised in Fig. 1, bearing donor and acceptor porphyrins. The chemical realisation of this aim, the catenate 22 comprised of macrocyclic components, one bearing a gold(III) porphyrin and the other a zinc(II) porphyrin, was achieved using the synthesis depicted in Scheme 8. The precatenate 21 incorporating the macrocycle bearing a gold(III) porphyrin was first generated quantitatively by formation of the copper(I) complex of 14 and subsequent threading of 4. This

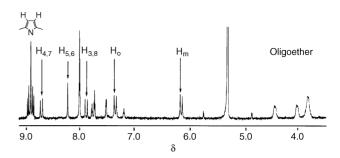


Fig. 4 The partial  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of the [2]catenate 18: PF $_6$  in CD $_2$ Cl $_2$ 

complex was then reacted with the diphenolic porphyrin 10 in the presence of cesium carbonate to afford the desired [2]catenate in 16% yield in the form of its bishexafluorophosphate salt after counter-ion exchange and column chromatography. In addition, the component macrocycles and the bis-zinc(II) porphyrin catenate 18 were isolated. As in the previous catenation, these are formed as a result of decomposition and "scrambling" of the initial precatenate 21.

The donor-acceptor catenate 22 has a fast atom bombardment mass spectrum with peaks corresponding to ions in which one and two hexafluorophosphate counter ions are lost from the molecule, as well as to ions of the copper complexes of the component macrocycles as a result of fragmentation of the molecule in the spectrometer. In contrast, the electrospray mass spectrum (Fig. 5) shows a single group of peaks centered at 1649 mass units, assignable to the doubly charged ion of 22

after loss of its hexafluorophosphate counter ions. The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of the compound in  $CD_2Cl_2$  shows the resonances expected for the interlocked phenyl phenanthroline units and those for noninteracting zinc(II) and gold(III) porphyrins. The UV-visible spectrum of the [2]catenate in  $CH_2Cl_2$  exhibits absorptions in the visible region equivalent to the sum of those for the component gold(III) and zinc(II) porphyrins and the copper(I) chelate complex.

# Removal of the templating copper(I) ion from [2] catenates

Removal of the templating metal ion from the catenates synthesised in this study is an attractive prospect, since it would allow tuning of the distance and nature of the space between the porphyrins. The templating copper(i) ion is routinely removed from nonfunctionalised [2]catenates of this family by treatment with KCN.<sup>24</sup> All attempts to remove the template from either 18 or 22 were unsuccessful. When either was treated with KCN, intensely coloured green solutions formed with UV-visible absorptions, in the case of 18, at 618, 576 and

436 nm. The corresponding absorption bands of the purple MeCN solution of the bis-zinc(II) porphyrin 18 are located at 597, 557 and 425 nm, respectively, and have different relative intensities to those of the species formed with KCN. An electrospray mass spectrum of the green reaction mixture for the attempted demetalation of 22 shows signals of a complex of the catenate with KCN, as well as for the potassium catenate. However, work-up of these reaction mixtures only afforded the starting copper(I) catenates.

In contrast, treatment of the bis-free-base porphyrin catenate 19 with KCN (Scheme 9) resulted in a red organic solution that afforded the desired [2]catenand 23 almost quantitatively. The electrospray mass spectrum of this compound gave peaks corresponding to doubly protonated doubly charged and triply protonated triply charged species at 1488 and 992 mass units, respectively. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum has resonances arising from the phenanthroline residue at particularly high field compared with their more usual values in catenands. In addition, the signal arising from the NH protons at -3.18 ppm is at slightly higher field than the corresponding resonance in the catenate 19, probably reflecting

the proximity of the porphyrin to other aromatic residues, and therefore a change in the relative arrangement of the two rings upon removal of the templating metal ion.

The difficulty associated with the removal of the templating copper(I) ion from the catenates 18 and 22 seems to be associated with the presence of the zinc(II) ion within the porphyrin, since formation of the free [2]catenand is possible when this

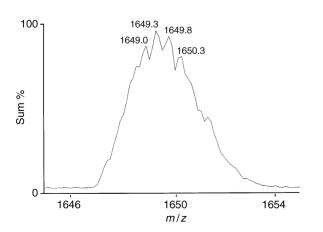


Fig. 5 Part of the electrospray mass spectrum of the [2]catenate  $22: 2PF_6$ , showing the peak resulting from the  $[M-2PF_6]^{2+}$  ion

ion is absent. This result could be associated with the ability of zinc(II) porphyrins to accept axial ligands.<sup>25</sup> Cyanide ions acting in this way may affect the removal of the copper(I) ion from the centre of the catenates or accelerate the re-entry of the metal ion in this chemically and topologically<sup>24,26</sup> complex system.

## **Conclusions**

The first catenate incorporating electron-donor and -acceptor porphyrins linked mechanically, though not covalently, has been achieved, along with related model compounds incorporating only electron-donating zinc(II) porphyrins. These latter molecules are important model systems for understanding the photophysical properties of the interlocked compounds, which will be related in upcoming work.<sup>27</sup> The overall conformation of the catenates in solution seems to be approximately that of the design illustrated in Fig. 1, since no intraporphyrin interactions could be detected by NMR or UV-visible spectroscopy. The removal of the templating copper(I) ion from the catenates is extremely inhibited by the presence of appended zinc(II) porphyrins, while the free catenands may be obtained when the zinc(II) ion is absent. During this work, an unusual aggregation of one of the components, a macrocycle incorporating a gold(III) porphyrin, has been documented. The use of these and related components for incorporation into other interlocked compounds, and the study of their photophysical properties, is currently underway.

## Experimental General

The following chemicals were obtained commercially and used without further purification: 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol (Aldrich), 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (98%, Lancaster), propionic acid (99%, Acros), 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (Fluka). Immediately prior to use, commercial pyrrole (Acros) was passed through an alumina column in the dark and was collected under argon. Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub>, <sup>28</sup> 3,5-di-*tert*-butyl-benzaldehyde<sup>17</sup> and 2,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (1)<sup>14,15</sup> were prepared according to literature procedures. NMR spectra were recorded using Bruker WP200SY or AM400 spectrometers. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR assignment (δ), H<sub>o</sub> and H<sub>m</sub> refer to the hydrogen atoms attached to the ortho and meta positions, respectively, of the phenyl ring attached to the phenanthroline ring system, whose hydrogen atoms are numbered H<sub>3,8</sub>, H<sub>4,7</sub> and H<sub>5,6</sub>, respectively, and Ar is used as an abbreviation for aromatic ring. Mass spectra were recorded in the positive-ion mode of operation with ZAB-HF (FAB) and VG BIOQ triple quadrupole (ES) spectrometers. Melting points were measured using a Büchi SMP20 apparatus and are uncorrected.

## **Preparations**

**2,9-Bis(4-{2-[2-hydroxyethoxy(ethoxy)]}phenyl)-1,10-phen-anthroline (2).** The diphenol 2,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (1) (2.80 g, 7.68 mmol) was added as a solid to

a degassed and vigourously stirred suspension of freshly ground K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (10.4 g, 75.2 mmol) in DMF (250 mL) under an atmosphere of Ar. The temperature of the mixture was raised to 60 °C, and after 30 min 2-(2-chloroethoxy)ethanol (7.66 g, 61.5 mmol) was added by syringe. The temperature of the mixture was raised to 100 °C and these conditions were maintained for 20 h. The reaction mixture was filtered at the pump while still warm, and the residual solid was washed with DMF (100 mL) and EtOAc (100 mL). The mixture of organic solvents was removed in vacuo to leave a yellow oily residue, which was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL). The solid that formed was filtered under gravity and then dissolved in acetone (50 mL). The acetone-soluble material (1.80 g) was found to be the desired product in pure form. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution was stripped of solvent, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-EtOAc-MeOH, gradient from 20:1:0 to 20:2:0.5), leading to a total of 3.56 g (86%) of pure 2,9-bis(4-{2-[2 $hydroxyethoxy(ethoxy)]\} phenyl) \hbox{-1,10-phen} anthroline.$ 

White solid (mp 124-126 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 3.50–3.65 (m, 8H), 3.95 (t, 4H), 4.28 (t, 4H), 7.14 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm m}$ ), 7.75 (s, 2H,  $H_{5.6}$ ), 8.09 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H,  $H_{3.8}$ ), 8.27 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4.7}$ ), 8.44 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm o}$ ). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 61.9, 67.6, 69.8, 72.7 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 114.9 (CH<sub>m</sub>), 119.4 125.7, 127.6, 129.1 (CH<sub>o</sub>), 133.1, 136.9, 156.3, 160.0. Anal. Calcd for  $C_{32}H_{32}N_2O_6$ : C, 71.10; H, 5.97; N, 5.18%. Found: C, 71.02; H, 6.18; N, 5.22%. FAB-MS: m/z found 541.1 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>) calcd, 541.2.

2,9-Bis(4-{2-[2-(4-toluenesulfonyl)ethoxy(ethoxy)]}phenyl)-**1,10-phenanthroline (3).** The diol **2** (815 mg, 1.50 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL) under a silica gel guard. The solution was cooled to 0°C in an ice/salt mixture, then Et<sub>3</sub>N (1.0 mL) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (5 mg) were added. The subsequent addition of 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (680 mg, 3.57 mmol) was made portionwise over a period of 15 min. The solution was then allowed to stir at 0 °C for 3 h, and after warming to room temperature was stirred for a further 12 h. TLC indicated that the reaction had not proceeded to completion, so the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C, and an additional portion of 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (350 mg, 1.83 mmol) was added. After stirring for 2 h at 0 °C and 6 h at room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured onto a mixture of ice (75 g) and HCl (10% aq). The organic layer was separated, and the acid layer was washed with CHCl<sub>3</sub> (100 mL). The organic layers were combined, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (150 mL), and dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). After filtration, the solvent was removed in vacuo. The resulting oily residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>) affording two products.

The desired ditosylate (858 mg, 67%) was obtained as an oil that solidified upon standing.  $^1H$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 2.38 (s, 6H), 3.75–3.87 (m, 8H), 4.11–4.25 (m, 8H), 7.08 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm m}$ ), 7.30 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm Ts}$ ), 7.73 (s, 2H,  $H_{5,6}$ ), 7.81 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm Ts}$ ), 8.07 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H,  $H_{3,8}$ ), 8.25 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,7}$ ), 8.43 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 4H,  $H_{\rm o}$ ).  $^{13}{\rm C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 21.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 67.5, 69.0, 69.3, 69.9 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 114.9 (CH<sub>m</sub>), 119.4, 125.7, 127.6, 128.0, 129.1, 129.9, 132.5, 133.1, 136.9, 144.9, 146.0, 156.3, 160.1. FAB-MS: m/z found 849.1 ([M+H] $^+$ ), calcd for  $C_{46}H_{44}N_2O_{10}S_2$ , 849.3.

The corresponding monotosylate (273 mg, 26%) was a yellow oil.  $^1{\rm H}$  NMR (CDCl $_3$ , 200.13 MHz) 2.17 (t, J=6 Hz, 1H, OH), 2.40 (s, 6H), 3.68–3.88 (m, 8H), 3.94 (t, J=5 Hz, 2H), 4.13–4.31 (m, 6H), 7.09 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm m}$ ), 7.13 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm m}$ ), 7.31 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm Ts}$ ), 7.75 (s, 2H, H $_{\rm 5}$ , 6), 7.82 (d, J=8.3 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm Ts}$ ), 8.08 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm 3}$ , 8), 8.27 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H, H $_{\rm 4}$ , 7), 8.43 (d, J=8.7 Hz, 4H, H $_{\rm 9}$ ).  $^{13}{\rm C}$  NMR (CDCl $_{\rm 3}$ , 50.32 MHz) 21.6 (CH $_{\rm 3}$ ), 61.8, 67.5, 69.0, 69.4, 69.7, 69.9, 72.7 (all CH $_{\rm 2}$ O), 114.9 (CH $_{\rm m}$ ), 119.4, 125.7, 127.6, 128.0, 129.1, 129.9, 132.4, 133.0, 136.9, 144.9, 145.9, 156.2, 160.0. FAB-MS: m/z found 695.1 ([M+H] $^+$ ), calcd for C $_{\rm 39}{\rm H}_{\rm 38}{\rm N}_{\rm 2}{\rm O}_{\rm 8}{\rm S}$ , 695.2.

**2,9**-Bis(4-{2-[2-iodoethoxy(ethoxy)]} phenyl)-1,10-phenanthroline (4). The ditosylate 3 (552 mg, 0.65 mmol) was dissolved in acetone (40 mL) and NaI (230 mg, 1.5 mmol) was added as a solid. The resulting mixture was heated at reflux with stirring under a silica gel guard tube for 2 h, when a second portion of solid NaI (420 mg, 2.8 mmol) was added to the turbid mixture. After a further 4 h at reflux, the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL). The separated organic layer was washed once more with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and was then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and stripped of solvent. The diiodide was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), which gave the product (474 mg, 97%).

Yellow oil, which solidified upon standing. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 3.32 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>I), 3.88 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>I), 3.94 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.27 (t, J = 4.9 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.14 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.75 (s, 2H, H<sub>5.6</sub>), 8.09 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>3.8</sub>), 8.27 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4.7</sub>), 8.44 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4H, H<sub>0</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 3.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>I), 68.1, 69.7, 72.5 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 115.3 (CH<sub>m</sub>), 119.7, 126.1, 128.1, 129.3 (CH<sub>0</sub>), 132.8, 137.2, 146.5, 156.3, 160.5. FAB-MS: m/z found 760.8 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>I<sub>2</sub>, 761.0.

Methyl-3,5-{2-[2-(4-toluenesulfonyl)ethoxy(ethoxy)]}-benzoate (5). Methyl 3,5-dihydroxybenzoate (6.00 g, 35.7 mmol) was added as a solid to a degassed and vigourously stirred suspension of freshly ground K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (31.1 g, 225 mmol) in DMF (250 mL) at 40 °C under an atmosphere of Ar. The temperature of the mixture was raised to 60 °C and was maintained at this temperature for 30 min, after which 2-(2chloroethoxy)ethanol (17.81, 143 mmol) was added by syringe. The temperature of the mixture was raised to 110 °C and these conditions were maintained for 6 h. The reaction mixture was filtered at the pump while still warm, and the residual solid was washed with DMF (100 mL) and EtOAc (100 mL). The mixture of organic solvents was removed in vacuo to leave a yellow oily residue, which was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-ethyl acetate, 1:1). Methyl 3,5-{2-[2-hydroxyethoxy(ethoxy)]}benzoate was isolated as an oil (3.69 g, 30%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 3.08 (bs, 2H, OH), 3.54-3.60 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.63-3.69 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.73-3.79 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.81 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.02-4.09 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.64 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H).

Without further purification, this product (2.60 g, 7.55 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and cooled in an ice/salt mixture under a CaCl<sub>2</sub> guard tube. Following addition of dry Et<sub>3</sub>N (4 mL), 4-toluenesulfonyl chloride (3.60 g, 18.9 mmol) was added portionwise over a period of 15 min; the mixture was then stirred under the same conditions for 4 h, after which it was allowed to warm slowly to ambient temperature and then stirred for 1 day. The reaction mixture was poured onto a mixture of ice (75 g) and HCl (10% aq, 300 mL). After addition of further CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL) and thawing, the organic layer was separated and washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mL), and then dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). After filtration, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the resulting oily residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–EtOAc) giving 3.30 g (67%) of the desired ditosylate 5.

Clear oil, which solidified upon standing. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 2.34 (s, 6H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.65–3.76 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.00 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.14 (t, J = 5.0 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.59 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H), 7.25 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 4H). FAB-MS: m/z found 652.1 ([M]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for  $C_{30}H_{36}O_{12}S_2$ , 652.1.

Macrocycle 6. To a vigourously stirred degassed suspension of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (3.80 g, 11.6 mmol) in DMF (150 mL) at 50 °C was added a DMF (50 mL) solution of 5 (880 mg, 1.34 mmol) and 1 (490 mg, 1.34 mmol) over a period of 1 h under argon. The temperature of the reaction mixture was then raised to 100 °C and these conditions were maintained for 1 day. The warm suspension was filtered and the solid residue was washed with DMF (100 mL), then the combined solutions were stripped of solvent *in vacuo*. The white solid residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 20:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-EtOAc), which afforded two main products in pure form.

The functionalised macrocycle **6** (320 mg, 36%). White solid.  $^1\mathrm{H}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 3.83 (s, 3H, OMe), 3.90–4.00 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.21 (t, J=5.0 Hz, 4H), 4.34 (t, J=5.0 Hz, 4H), 6.85 (t, J=2.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.16 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.23 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4, 6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.31 (s, 2H, H<sub>5, 6</sub>), 8.06 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 2H, H<sub>3, 8</sub>), 8.24 (d, J=8.5 H, 2H, H<sub>4, 7</sub>), 8.42 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 4H, H<sub>o</sub>).  $^{13}\mathrm{C}$  NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 52.2 (OMe), 67.8, 67.8, 67.0, 69.6 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 107.8 (C<sub>4, 6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 108.0 (C<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 115.5 (CH<sub>m</sub>), 119.2, 125.6, 127.5, 129.1 (CH<sub>o</sub>), 132.1, 132.7, 136.7, 146.1, 156.3, 159.9, 160.6, 168.8 (C=O). ES-MS: m/z found 673.1 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>37</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, 673.2.

The dimeric macrocycle 7 (21 mg, 2.3%). White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 3.88 (s, 6H, OMe), 3.90–3.99 (m,

16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.15–4.27 (m, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.75 (t, J=2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.10 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 8H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.23 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 4H, H<sub>4, 6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.73 (s, 4H, H<sub>5, 6</sub>), 8.06 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 4H, H<sub>3, 8</sub>), 8.24 (d, J=8.5 Hz, 4H, H<sub>4, 7</sub>), 8.41 (d, J=8.9 Hz, 8H, H<sub>o</sub>). ES-MS: m/z found 1408.6 ([M + Cu]<sup>+</sup>),  $^{29}$  1345.4 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>80</sub>H<sub>73</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>16</sub>, 1345.5

5, 10, 15 - Tris [3, 5 -di(tert - butyl)phenyl] -20 -(3,5-dimethoxy phenyl)porphyrin (8). Pyrrole (4.7 mL, 67.8 mmol), 3,5-di-tertbutylbenzaldehyde (11.00 g, 50.4 mmol) and 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (2.90 g, 17.5 mmol) were added to propionic acid (1 L), and the resulting solution was heated at reflux in air in the dark for 3 h. After cooling, the propionic acid was evaporated from the reaction mixture in vacuo. The black residue was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (400 mL) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5% aq, 400 mL). After two further extractions with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (5% aq, 400 mL), the organic layer was dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered, and applied to SiO<sub>2</sub> for column chromatography. Preliminary chromatography hexane-toluene, gradient elution from 5:1 to 2:1) separated the symmetrical tetrakis-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl porphyrin<sup>30</sup> (0.91 g, 5.6%) from the later-running porphyrins. This latter mixture was subjected to further chromatographies on alumina (hexane-toluene, 5:1) and then SiO<sub>2</sub> (hexanetoluene, 3:1), which yielded the desired pure A<sub>3</sub>B dimethoxy porphyrin 5,10,15-tris[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)porphyrin (1.52 g, 8.9%).

Deep purple solid (mp > 300 °C).  $^1$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.70 (s, 2H, NH), 1.54 [s, 54H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.96 (s, 6H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.89 (t, J=2.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.43 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4,6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.78–7.82 (m, 3H), 8.05–8.11 (m, 6H), 8.85–8.91 (m, 6H), 8.95 (d, J=4.8 Hz, 2H).  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.1 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 55.7 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 100.2, 113.8, 118.7, 121.0, 121.4, 121.5, 129.7, 129.9, 131.4 (v br), 141.3, 144.6, 147.3 (v br), 148.8, 149.1, 158.9. UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\varepsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 283 (15 030), 302 (15 340), 421 (540 000), 517 (19 100), 553 (9260), 592 (5580), 647 (4870). FAB-MS: m/z found 1011.5 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>70</sub>H<sub>82</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 1011.6.

In addition, the  $A_2B_2$  porphyrin 5,15-bis[3,5-di(*tert*-butyl) phenyl]-10,20-bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)porphyrin was isolated (166 mg, 1.1%) as a purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.75 (s, 2H, NH), 1.54 [s, 36H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.97 (s, 12H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.89 (t, J=2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.43 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{4,6}$  of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.80 (t, J=1.8 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, J=1.8 Hz, 4H), 8.88 (d, J=4.8 Hz, 4H), 8.94 (d, J=4.8 Hz, 4H). UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 283 (15 080), 302 (15 460), 421 (530 000), 517 (19 160), 553 (9360), 592 (5580), 647 (4880). FAB-MS: m/z found 959.4 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for  $C_{64}H_{70}N_4O_4$ , 959.5.

Also, the  $A_2B_2$  porphyrin 5,10-bis[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-15,20-bis(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)porphyrin was isolated (199 mg, 1.3%) as a purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.73 (s, 2H, NH), 1.54 [s, 36H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.97 (s, 12H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 6.91 (t, J=2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.43 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{4,6}$  of Ar bearing 2 O's), 7.81 (t, J=1.8 Hz, 2H), 8.09 (d, J=1.8 Hz, 4H), 8.88–9.00 (m, 8H). FAB-MS: m/z found 959.4 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for  $C_{64}H_{70}N_4O_4$ , 959.5.

**5,10,15-Tris**[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3,5-dihydroxyphenyl)porphyrin (9). The dimethoxy porphyrin 8 (668 mg, 0.66 mmol) in dry  $\mathrm{CH_2Cl_2}$  (50 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min to a stirred  $\mathrm{CH_2Cl_2}$  solution of  $\mathrm{BBr_3}$  (1 M, 3.0 mL) at  $-78\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$  under an atmosphere of argon. The resulting deep green solution was maintained under the same conditions for 3 h and then allowed to warm slowly to room temperature, after which it was stirred for 20 h. The mixture was then

cooled to 0 °C, and, after stirring exposed to air for 10 min.  $\rm H_2O$  (10 mL) was added dropwise to it, not allowing the temperature of the mixture to rise above 5 °C. The two-phase mixture was further diluted with  $\rm CH_2Cl_2$  (50 mL) and  $\rm H_2O$  (50 mL), then  $\rm Et_3N$  (5 mL) was added, causing the green organic phase to turn red. The separated organic layer was extracted once again with a mixture of  $\rm H_2O$  (50 mL) and  $\rm Et_3N$  (5 mL), then it was separated, dried over  $\rm Na_2SO_4$  and filtered. The solvent was removed thoroughly *in vacuo*, then the purple residue was subjected to column chromatography ( $\rm SiO_2$ ,  $\rm CH_2Cl_2$ ) to give the desired diphenolic porphyrin (607 mg, 93%).

Deep purple solid (mp > 300 °C).  $^{1}$ H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.66 (bs, 2H, NH), 1.52–1.59 (m, 54H, Bu¹CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.05 (bs, 2H, OH), 6.71 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>4</sub> of Ar bearing 2 OH's), 7.27 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2.6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 OH's), 7.77–7.82 (m, 3H, H<sub>4</sub> of Ar bearing 2 Bu³s), 8.06–8.11 (m, 6H, H<sub>2.6</sub> of Ar bearing 2 Bu³s), 8.87–8.92 (m, 6H, pyrollic CH's), 8.94 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrollic CH's).  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 31.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.2 [C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 102.1, 115.3, 118.7, 121.1, 121.6, 121.8, 129.8, 130.0, 131.2, 131.5 (v br), 141.3, 144.5, 147.2 (v br), 148.9, 154.7. UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 283 (15 060), 302 (15 360), 421 (540 000), 517 (19 120), 553 (9280), 592 (5590), 647 (4880). FAB-MS: m/z found 983.3 ([M + H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>68</sub>H<sub>78</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 983.6.

5, 10, 15-Tris[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3, 5-dihydroxy-phenyl)zinc(II) porphyrin (10). A solution of Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (143 mg, 0.65 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 15 min to a stirred and refluxing CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) solution of the diphenolic porphyrin 9 (188 mg, 0.19 mmol), all under an atmosphere of Ar in the dark. After the addition was complete, the solution was maintained under these conditions for a further 3 h, after which all solvents were removed in vacuo. The residue was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (50 mL) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (aq, 5%, 50 mL) and the organic layer was washed with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (aq, 5%, 50 mL) and then H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and stripped of solvent. The resulting solid residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to afford the pure zinc porphyrin 10 (194 mg, 97%).

Purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.53–1.55 (m, 54H, Bu<sup>t</sup>CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.16 (bs, 2H, OH), 6.64 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>4</sub> of Ar bearing OH's), 7.25 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2,6</sub> of Ar bearing OH's), 7.78–7.84 (m, 3H, H<sub>4</sub> of Ar bearing Bu<sup>t</sup>s), 8.09–8.13 (m, 6H, H<sub>2,6</sub> of Ar bearing Bu<sup>t</sup>s), 8.99 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrollic CH's), 9.03 (s, 4H, pyrollic CH's), 9.05 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrollic CH's), 9.03 (s, 4H, pyrollic CH's), 50.32 MHz) 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.1 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 102.2, 115.3, 119.1, 120.6, 122.5, 122.9, 129.7, 129.8, 131.6, 132.2, 132.3, 141.9, 148.6, 149.7, 150.4, 150.5, 154.7. UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 424 (400 000), 551 (20 700), 592 (5800). FAB-MS: m/z found 1046.4 ([M]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for C<sub>68</sub>H<sub>76</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Zn, 1046.4.

5, 10, 15-Tris[3, 5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20- (3, 5-dimethoxy-phenyl)porphyrinatoaurate hexafluorophosphate (11). The dimethoxy porphyrin 8 (20 mg, 0.02 mmol), KAuCl<sub>4</sub> (15 mg, 0.04 mmol) and NaOAc (11 mg, 0.13 mmol) were combined as solids in a small pear-shaped flask. Immediately after the addition of CH<sub>3</sub>COOH (2.5 mL), the suspension was flushed with argon and the vessel was fitted with a condenser. The apparatus was plunged into an oil bath, which had been preheated to 160 °C, and the mixture was then refluxed under argon with vigourous stirring for 2 h. After cooling slightly, the solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (aq, 5%, 20 mL). The separated organic layer was washed again with NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (aq, 5%, 20 mL) and was then stirred for 16 h with KPF<sub>6</sub> (aq, saturated, 5 mL). The organic layer was separated, washed

with H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and stripped of solvent. The resulting solid residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>) using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent to elute the starting free base porphyrin (3.0 mg, 15% was recovered) and then 1% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to elute **11** as its hexafluorophosphate salt (21.4 mg, 80%).

Purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.55 (s, 54H, Bu<sup>t</sup>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.99 (s, 6H, OMe), 7.02 (t, J = 2.2Hz, 1H,  $H_4$  of Ar bearing OMe's), 7.40 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H,  $H_{2.6}$  of Ar bearing OMe's), 7.96-8.01 (m, 3H,  $H_4$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.08 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 6H,  $H_{2, 6}$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 9.30–9.39 (m, 6H, pyrrollic CH's), 9.45 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH's); (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 200.13 MHz) 1.53 (s, 54H, Bu<sup>t</sup>CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.95 (s, 6H, OMe), 7.03 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H, H<sub>4</sub> of Ar bearing OMe's), 7.42 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H,  $H_{2, 6}$  of Ar bearing OMe's), 8.00-8.06 (m, 3H,  $H_4$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.12 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 6H, H<sub>2,6</sub> of Ar bearing Bu<sup>v</sup>s), 9.27–9.33 (m, 6H, pyrrolic CH's), 9.42 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH's). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 50.32 MHz) 31.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 35.5 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 56.2 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 101.3, 114.3, 123.2, 123.7, 125.4, 129.8, 132.6, 132.8, 132.9, 137.2, 137.6, 137.7, 138.2, 141.2, 150.7, 160.3. UV/VIS  $(CH_2Cl_2) \lambda/nm (\epsilon/mol L^{-1} cm^{-1}) 303 (14100), 416 (270000),$ 524 (18 100). FAB-MS: m/z found 1205.5 ( $[M - PF_6]^+$ ), calcd for  $C_{70}H_{80}N_4O_2Au$ , 1205.6.

Macrocycle bearing a 5,10,15-tris[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3,5-dioxyphenyl)porphyrin (12). A vigourously stirred suspension of  $Cs_2CO_3$  (850 mg, 2.61 mmol) in DMF (100 mL) was degassed with a flow of Ar for 15 min and then heated to 100 °C. A similarly degassed solution of 9 (428 mg, 0.44 mmol) and 3 (370 mg, 0.44 mmol) in DMF (100 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 2.5 h to the hot suspension under an atmosphere of Ar. The mixture was then stirred at 100 °C for 4 days. The crude mixture was filtered at the pump and the solid was washed with DMF (50 mL). After removal of solvent in vacuo, the solid residue was washed with water (3 × 100 mL), filtered, dissolved in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (200 mL), dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered, concentrated and subjected to column chromatography ( $SiO_2$ ,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ), which afforded 305 mg of pure product (47%).

Deep purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.74 (bs, 2H, NH), 1.49 (s, 54H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.96 (t, J = 5.4Hz, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.31 (bt, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.39 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.08 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.22 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 4H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.42 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4,6</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.71 (s, 2H, H<sub>5,6</sub>), 7.74–7.78 (m, 3H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing But's), 8.04 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H,  $H_{3,8}$ ), 8.05 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 6H,  $H_{4, 6}$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.22 (d,  $J = 8.4 \text{ Hz}, 2H, H_{4,7}, 8.45 \text{ (d, } J = 8.9 \text{ Hz}, 4H, H_{o}), 8.83 \text{ (d, }$ J = 4.8 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH), 8.87 (s, 4H, pyrrollic CH), 8.92 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 31.9 (Me), 35.2 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 67.8, 69.6, 70.2 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 102.7, 114.2, 115.6, 119.2, 119.4, 121.1, 121.5, 121.7, 125.6, 127.5, 129.2, 129.8, 129.9, 131.5 (v br), 132.8, 136.7, 141.4, 144.4, 146.1, 147.0 (v br), 148.8, 156.4, 158.2, 160.1. UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 285 (63 000), 323 (38 000), 421 (540 000), 517 (18 330), 553 (9000), 592 (5500), 647 (4830). FAB-MS: m/z found 1488.8 ([M + 2H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for  $C_{100}H_{106}N_6O_6$ , 1486.8.

Macrocycle bearing a 5,10,15-tris[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3,5-dioxyphenyl)zinc(II) porphyrin (13). Using a procedure exactly the same as for the preparation of 10, a solution of the free base porphyrin appended to a macrocycle (12) (85 mg, 0.06 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (20 mL) was treated with Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) in MeOH (5 mL) under an inert atmosphere. After work-up as described above, the solid residue was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, 1% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>), from which the product was isolated (87 mg, 98%).

Purple solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.54 (s, 54H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.99 (bt, J = 5.1 Hz, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.34 (bt, J = 5.1 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.42 (t, J = 5.1 Hz, 4H,  $CH_2O$ ), 7.11 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing O's), 7.26 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.47 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4.6</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.76 (s, 2H,  $H_{5,6}$ ), 7.78–7.81 (m, 3H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.06-8.14 (m, 6H,  $H_{3,8}$  and  $H_{4,6}$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.28 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4.7}$ ), 8.49 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H,  $H_0$ ), 3.97 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH), 9.01 (s, 4H, pyrrollic CH), 9.06 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH); (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.51 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.53 (s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.94–4.02 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.30-4.44 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.08 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing O's), 7.24 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H,  $H_m$ ), 7.44 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4, 6}$  of Ar bearing O's), 7.79 (s, 2H,  $H_{5, 6}$ ), 7.80-7.85 (m, 3H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing But's), 8.06-8.14 (m, 6H,  $H_{3, 8}$  and  $H_{4, 6}$  of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.31 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,7}$ ), 8.46 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H,  $H_0$ ), 8.95 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH), 8.99 (s, 4H, pyrrollic CH), 9.05 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrollic CH). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 31.9 (Me), 35.4 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 68.2, 69.9, 70.3 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 102.4, 114.3, 115.9, 119.5, 120.8, 121.5, 122.8, 123.0, 126.0, 127.9, 129.4, 130.1, 132.2, 132.5, 132.6, 133.2, 137.0, 142.3, 145.4, 146.5, 149.2, 150.3, 150.8, 150.9, 156.4, 158.5, 160.5. UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm  $(\epsilon/\text{mol L}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1})$  285 (59 000), 424 (280 000), 551 (20 300), 593 (5700). FAB-MS: m/z found 1550.7 ( $[M + 2H]^+$ ), calcd for C<sub>100</sub>H<sub>104</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Zn, 1550.4.

Macrocycle bearing a 5,10,15-tris[3,5-di(tert-butyl)phenyl]-20-(3,5-dioxyphenyl)porphyrinatoaurate hexafluorophosphate (14). The macrocycle bearing the free base porphyrin (12) (184 mg, 0.123 mmol) was reacted with KAuCl<sub>4</sub> (90 mg, 0.238 mmol), and NaOAc (70 mg, 0.853 mmol) in vigourously refluxing CH<sub>3</sub>COOH (3 mL) as described for 11, except that the reaction period was extended to 12 h. After work-up as described for the gold(III) porphyrin 11 above, the resulting solid was subjected to column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>) using 0.5% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> as eluent. The product was isolated pure (206 mg, 91%).

Deep red solid (mp > 300 °C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.53 (s, 54H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.95-4.07 (bm, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.34-4.48 (bm, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 7.14–7.25 (m, 7H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing O's,  $H_{\rm m}$ ,  $H_{5,\,6}$ , 7.52 (d, J=2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,\,6}$  of Ar bearing O's), 7.82 (bs, 4H,  $H_{3,\,8}$ ,  $H_{4,\,7}$ ), 7.96 (t, J=1.7 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing But's), 7.99-8.03 (m, 5H, H<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>4.6</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu<sup>v</sup>s), 8.10 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4, 6</sub> of Ar bearing Bu<sup>v</sup>s), 8.20 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>o</sub>), 9.15 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics), 9.28 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics), 9.31 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics), 9.34 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics). Note: The spectra in CD<sub>3</sub>CN show a very marked concentration and temperature dependence, see Results and Discussion. 13C NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 50.32 MHz) 31.8 (Me), 35.5 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 68.5, 69.0, 70.4 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 103.2, 115.8, 116.0, 118.1, 118.9, 123.6, 125.0, 127.0, 129.3, 129.7, 132.7, 136.2, 137.0, 137.4, 138.3, 141.0, 145.2, 150.7, 153.7, 156.0, 159.7, 160.7; (CD<sub>3</sub>CN, 50.32) MHz) 32.0 (Me), 36.0 (CMe<sub>3</sub>), 69.0, 69.5, 70.8, 71.0 (all CH<sub>2</sub>O), 102.5, 116.3, 122.8, 124.1, 125.0, 129.2, 130.2, 130.6, 131.8, 132.4, 132.9, 133.5, 135.0, 136.9, 137.0, 138.8, 141.0, 151.3, 154.5, 160.6, 161.4. UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 285 (61 800), 323 (38 800), 416 (280 200), 525 (18 300). FAB-MS: m/z found 1682.6 ([M - PF<sub>6</sub> + H]<sup>+</sup>), calcd for  $C_{100}H_{105}N_6O_6Au$ , 1682.7.

Copper(I) [2] catenate, 18, bearing two zinc(II) porphyrins. Method A. 3 (117 mg, 0.138 mmol) and Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (25.6 mg, 0.069 mmol) were combined as solids in a Schlenk flask under an atmosphere of Ar and degassed DMF (50 mL) was added through a double-ended needle, causing instantaneous formation of a red complex (15). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. Meanwhile, to a

degassed suspension of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (221 mg, 0.678 mmol) in DMF (50 mL), 10 (144 mg, 138 mmol) was added and the resulting mixture was heated to 60 °C under Ar, resulting in a green suspension to which four crystals of KI were added. The solution of entwined Cu<sup>I</sup> complex was added to the basic suspension over 30 min and the resulting suspension was left under these conditions for 2 days. The warm reaction mixture was filtered at the pump and the solid residue was washed with DMF (50 mL). Removal of the solvent afforded a metallic solid that was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) and KPF<sub>6</sub> (aq satd, 10 mL), and this mixture was stirred for 1 h. DMF (30 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (200 mL) were added, causing precipitation of a purple solid, which was collected by filtration under gravity. This solid was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), filtered and concentrated. Repeated column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded 15 mg (7%) of the component macrocycle 13 and the pure [2]catenate (32 mg, 14%).

Deep purple solid (mp >  $300^{\circ}$ C). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.46 (s, 108H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.75–3.90 (m, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.96-4.07 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.38-4.49 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.16 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 8H,  $H_m$ ), 7.24 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing O's), 7.39 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 8H,  $H_m$ ), 7.24 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing O's), 7.39 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 8H,  $H_m$ ), 7.24  $(t, J = 2.3 \text{ Hz}, 2H, H_2's \text{ of Ar bearing O's}), 7.39 (d, J = 8.7 \text{ Hz},$ 8H,  $H_0$ ), 7.56 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{4, 6}$ 's of Ar bearing O's), 7.79 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 4H, H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 7.79 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's, 7.94 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{3, 8}$ ), 8.01–8.09 (m, 12H,  $H_{4, 6}$ 's of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.28 (s, 4H,  $H_{5, 6}$ ), 8.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{4, 7}$ ), 8.91 (d, J = 4.7Hz, 4H, pyrrolics), 8.96 (s, 8H, pyrrolics), 9.01 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 4H, pyrrolics). UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 423  $(480\,000)$ , 552  $(42\,000)$ , 594  $(12\,000)$ . FAB-MS: m/z found  $3165.5 [M - PF_6]^+$ ,  $1614.3 [component macrocycle + Cu]^+$ , calcd. for  $C_{200}H_{208}N_{12}O_{12}Zn_2Cu$ , 3164.6.

Method B. The macrocycle 13 with the appended zinc(II) porphyrin (53 mg, 34.2 μmol) in dry degassed CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) was combined with a solution of Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (13.1 mg, 35.1 µmol) in degassed MeCN (50 mL) in a Schlenk flask under an atmosphere of Ar to form the intermediate complex 16. After stirring for 30 min, 4 (26.0 mg, 34.2 µmol) in MeCN (30 mL) was transferred into it under argon using the doubleended needle technique, and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h. Removal of the solvent afforded the entwined complex 17 (by TLC and <sup>1</sup>H NMR), which was subsequently redissolved in DMF (50 mL) along with 10 (35.8 mg, 34.2 μmol); this solution was added over a period of 2 h to a degassed suspension of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (80 mg, 245 µmol) in DMF (50 mL) maintained at 50 °C under Ar in the dark. The resulting mixture was maintained under the same conditions for 4 days. Following a work-up procedure identical to that described in Method A, the catenate was isolated in 33% yield (37.7 mg), giving analytical data identical to that for the product of the previous method.

Copper(1) [2] catenate, 19, bearing two free base porphyrins. A solution of trifluoroacetic acid (0.2 mL) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) was added to the catenate 18 with two appended zinc(II) porphyrins (30 mg, 9 µmol), and the resulting green solution was stirred at ambient temperature for 30 min. Addition of  $H_2O$  (40 mL),  $CH_2Cl_2$  (10 mL) and  $Et_3N$  (2 mL) resulted in a biphasic system in which the organic layer was red. This organic phase was washed with  $H_2O-Et_3N$  (50:1, 50 mL), and was stirred overnight with  $KPF_6$  (aq, satd., 10 mL). The organic phase was dried over  $Na_2SO_4$ , filtered and the solution concentrated. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>,  $CH_2Cl_2$ ) afforded the pure [2] catenate (24 mg, 83%).

Deep purple solid (mp >  $300\,^{\circ}$ C).  $^{1}$ H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) -2.78 (bs, 4H, NH), 1.48 (s, 72H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79–3.90 (m, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.02–4.07 (m, 8H,

 $CH_2O$ ), 4.42–4.50 (m, 8H,  $CH_2O$ ), 6.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 8H,  $H_{\rm m}$ ), 7.23 (t, J=2.1 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing O's), 7.40 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 8H, H<sub>o</sub>), 7.57 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 4H, H<sub>4.6</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.80 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 4H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing Bu's), 7.84 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing But's), 7.93 (d,  $J = 8.3 \text{ Hz}, 4\text{H}, \text{H}_{3..8}, 8.05 - 8.10 \text{ (m, 12H, H}_{4..6}$ 's of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.27 (s, 4H,  $H_{5, 6}$ ), 8.77 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 4H,  $H_{4, 7}$ ), 8.86 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H, pyrrollic CH), 8.90 (s, 8H, pyrrollic CH), 8.94 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 4H, pyrrollic CH). UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda/\text{nm}$  ( $\epsilon/\text{mol}$  L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 283 (71 000), 323 (62 800), 421 (1300000), 517 (33400), 553 (18500), 592 (13400), 647 (9080). ES-MS: m/z found 3036.9 [M - PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, 1518.7 [M - PF<sub>6</sub>  $[M - PF_6 + 2H]^{3+}$  $+ Cu]^{2+}$ 1013.1  $C_{200}H_{212}N_{12}O_{12}Cu$ , 3036.8.

Copper(I) [2] catenate, 20, bearing one zinc(II) porphyrin and one ester. The macrocycle with the appended ester 6 (64 mg, 96 μmol) was mixed with Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (38 mg, 102 μmol) in a Schlenk flask under an atmosphere of Ar, and dry degassed DMF (30 mL) was added. After stirring the resulting pale red solution for 30 min, 4 (73 mg, 96  $\mu$ mol) was added as a solid, and the resulting deep red solution was stirred for 30 min. Meanwhile, 10 (100 mg, 96 µmol) was dissolved in DMF (30 mL) and the solution was degassed, and then combined with the solution of the copper(I) complex. This mixture was added over a period of 4 h to a suspension of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (98 mg. 300 µmol) in DMF (100 mL) maintained at 40 °C under Ar in the dark. The mixture was maintained under these conditions for 2 days, and then at 50 °C for another day. The filtered reaction mixture was stripped of solvent while still warm, leaving a metallic solid that was washed with water  $(2 \times 50)$ mL) and filtered. The solid was taken up in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (30 mL) and stirred overnight with KPF<sub>6</sub> (aq, satd., 30 mL). The organic layer was dried over Na2SO4, filtered and the solution concentrated. Column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> then 0.1% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) afforded three main products: 15 mg (10%) of the component porphyrin-bearing macrocycle 13, 25 mg (16%) of the pure bis-zinc(II) porphyrin [2]catenate 18, and 63 mg (27%) of the desired pure [2]catenate.

Deep purple solid (mp >  $300^{\circ}$ C).  $\overline{^{1}}H$  NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.48 [s, 36H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 1.53 [s, 18H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>], 3.75-3.88 (m, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.91 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.98-4.11 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.30-4.38 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.04-6.20 (m, 8H, H<sub>m</sub> of both rings), 7.02 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing O's in ester ring), 7.22 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H,  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing O's in porphyrin ring), 7.26-7.38 (m, 10H, H<sub>o</sub>'s from both rings and  $H_{4,6}$ 's of Ar bearing O's in ester ring), 7.54 (d, J = 2.3 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4, 6</sub>'s of Ar bearing O's in porphyrin ring), 7.72-7.82 (m, 4H,  $H_{3.8}$  and  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing But's), 7.83 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H,  $H_2$ of Ar bearing Bu<sup>1</sup>s), 7.88 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_{3.8}$  in porphyrin ring), 8.04-8.13 (m, 8H,  $H_{5,6}$  from ester ring and  $H_{4,6}$ 's of Ar bearing Bu<sup>1</sup>s), 8.24 (s, 2H, H<sub>5,6</sub> from porphyrin ring), 8.56 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4, 7}$  from ester ring), 8.73 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,7}$  from porphyrin ring), 8.89 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics), 8.93 (s, 4H, pyrrolics), 8.98 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics). UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 285 (112 000), 424 (290 000), 551 (20 200), 593 (5600). ES-MS: m/z found 2286.6  $[M - PF_6]^+$ , calcd for  $C_{140}H_{142}N_8O_{14}ZnCu$ , 2287.6.

Precatenate 21. A solution of the macrocycle bearing the appended gold(III) porphyrin 14 (44.8 mg, 0.24.5 μmol) in MeCN (30 mL) was degassed under Ar, then Cu(MeCN)<sub>4</sub>PF<sub>6</sub> (9.13 mg, 25.0 μmol) was added as a solid. The resulting solution was stirred for 30 min, after which a solution of 4 (18.6 mg, 24.5 μmol) in MeCN (30 mL) was transferred into it under argon using the double-ended needle technique. The resulting solution was stirred for a further 30 min. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* at room temperature, leaving the precatenate in pure form (68.5 mg, 100%). It was used in the next

step without further purification.

Deep purple solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.37 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.51 (s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.13 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>I), 3.47–3.54 (m, 12H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.58–3.66 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.94–4.03 (m, 4H), 4.48–4.57 (m, 4H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 5.97–6.07 (m, 8H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.26 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H, H<sub>o</sub>), 7.43 (t, J = 2.1 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.48 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H, H<sub>o</sub>), 7.57 (d, J = 2.1 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4,6</sub>'s of Ar bearing O's), 7.79–7.87 (m, 4H, H<sub>3,8</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 7.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>3,8</sub>), 8.00–8.04 (m, 5H, H<sub>4,6</sub>'s and H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.21 (s, 2H, H<sub>5,6</sub>), 8.60 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4,7</sub>), 8.66 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>4,7</sub>), 9.06 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H, pyrrollics), 9.21 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H, pyrrollics), 9.21 (d, J = 5.4 Hz, 4H, pyrrollics), 9.27 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 4H, pyrrollics).

Copper(I) catenate, 22, bearing one zinc(II) porphyrin and one gold(III) porphyrin. The precatenate 21 prepared in the previous step (68.5 mg, 24.5 μmol) and **10** (25.7 mg, 24.6 μmol) were dissolved in degassed DMF and the temperature was raised to 45 °C with stirring under an atmosphere of Ar. Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (5 mg, 15.3 µmol) was added to the solution as a solid and the temperature was raised to 60 °C. After 30 min, an additional identical portion of Cs2CO3 was introduced, and this procedure was repeated another 5 times. After 16 h more Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (10 mg, 30.6 µmol) was added and the reaction was maintained for 24 h. Following a work-up procedure identical to that described for the catenate 18 (Method A), column chromatography (SiO2, 1% MeOH in CH2Cl2) afforded four main products. In order of elution from the column these were the zinc(II) porphyrin macrocycle 13 (6.0 mg, 16%), the starting gold(III) porphyrin macrocycle 14 (13 mg, 29%), the biszinc(II) porphyrin catenate 18 (5.9 mg, 15%), all of which had analytical data identical to those prepared using direct routes, and finally, the desired catenate 22 with appended zinc(II) and gold(III) porphyrins (14 mg, 16%) as its bishexafluorophosp-

Purple solid, mp > 300 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 200.13 MHz) 1.49 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.50 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.52 (s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.54 (s, 18H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77–3.92 (m, 16H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.98–4.08 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.40-4.50 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz,8H,  $H_m$ 's), 7.26 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H,  $H_2$  of Ar bearing O's in  $Zn^{II}$ porphyrin), 7.32 (t, J = 2.3 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing O's in Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 7.41 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 8H, H<sub>o</sub>'s), 7.56 (d, J = 2.3Hz, 4H, H<sub>4, 6</sub>'s of Ar bearing O's in both porphyrins), 7.80 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing But's in Zn<sup>II</sup> porphyrin), 7.84 (t, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing Bu<sup>t</sup>'s in Zn<sup>II</sup> porphyrin), 7.92–8.02 (m, 7H,  $H_{3,8}$  of each macrocycle and  $H_2$ 's of Ar bearing Bu's in Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 8.05–8.12 (m, 12H, H<sub>4,6</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bubs in both porphyrins), 8.29 (s, 2H,  $H_{5,6}$  of macrocycle bearing Zn<sup>II</sup> porphyrin), 8.33 (s, 2H,  $H_{5,6}$  of macrocycle bearing Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 8.77 (d, J=6.8Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,7}$  of macrocycle bearing Zn<sup>II</sup> porphyrin), 8.81 (d, J=6.8 Hz, 2H,  $H_{4,7}$  of macrocycle bearing Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 8.93 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics in  $Zn^{II}$  porphyrin), 8.98 (s, 4H, pyrrolics in  $Zn^{II}$  porphyrin), 9.03 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics in Zn<sup>II</sup> porphyrin), 9.31 (d, J=5.3 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics in Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 9.35 (s, 4H, pyrrolics in Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin), 9.43 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H, pyrrolics in Au<sup>III</sup> porphyrin). UV/VIS  $(CH_2Cl_2) \lambda/nm (\epsilon/mol L^{-1} cm^{-1}) 423 (460 000), 525 (19 000),$ 52 (42 000), 594 (6000). FAB-MS: m/z found 3443.2 [M - PF  $_6$  ]  $^+,~3297.4~$  [M - 2PF  $_6$  ]  $^+,~1745.9~$  [Au  $^{\rm III}~$  porphyrin macrocycle + Cu ]  $^+,~1683.3~$  [Au  $^{\rm III}~$  porphyrin macrocycle  $[M - 2PF_6]^{\frac{1}{2}+},$ 1648.7  $- PF_6$ ]<sup>+</sup>, 1614.3 macrocycle + Cu]; ES-MS: m/z found 1649.3 [M - 2PF<sub>6</sub>]<sup>2+</sup>; calcd for  $C_{200}H_{208}N_{12}O_{12}ZnAuCu$ , 3295.8.

A previous experiment in which the reaction temperature was 40 °C, with otherwise identical conditions, produced the mixed catenate 22 in only 8% yield.

[2] Catenand 23 bearing two free base porphyrins. To a solution of the free base porphyrin catenate 19 (15.0 mg, 4.7  $\mu$ mol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) was added an aqueous solution (10 mL) of KCN (20 mg, 3077  $\mu$ mol) and the mixture was stirred vigourously for 16 h at room temperature in the dark. Additional KCN (20 mg, 3077  $\mu$ mol) was added to the mixture, which was stirred for a further 2 days. Water (20 mL) and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) were added, the organic layer was separated, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, filtered and the solvent was removed, leaving the desired catenand (13.1 mg, 93%).

Purple solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 400 MHz) -3.18 (bs, 4H, NH), 1.51 (s, 72H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.56 (s, 36H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.72–3.83 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 3.88–3.97 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.20–4.33 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 4.35–4.43 (m, 8H, CH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.01 (s, 4H, H<sub>5, 6</sub>), 7.11 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>3, 8</sub> or H<sub>4, 7</sub>), 7.16 (d, J=6.2 Hz, 8H, H<sub>m</sub>), 7.24 (t, J=2.4 Hz, 2H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.52 (d, J=8.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>3, 8</sub> or H<sub>4, 7</sub>), 7.56 (d, J=2.4 Hz, 4H, H<sub>4, 6</sub> of Ar bearing O's), 7.67–7.73 (m, 4H, H<sub>2</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 7.81–7.84 (m, 4H, H<sub>4, 6</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 7.87 (t, J=1.8 Hz, 4H, H<sub>2</sub> of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.07–8.13 (m, 8H, H<sub>4, 6</sub>'s of Ar bearing Bu's), 8.57–8.65 (m, 8H, H<sub>0</sub>), 8.88–8.97 (m, 16H, pyrrollic CH). UV/VIS (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ /nm ( $\epsilon$ /mol L<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) 284 (216 600), 423 (1 300 000), 519 (33 600), 554 (19 100), 593 (11 900), 648 (8900). ES-MS: m/z found 1488.4 [M + 2H]<sup>2+</sup>, 992.3 [M + 3H]<sup>3+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>200</sub>H<sub>214</sub>N<sub>12</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, 1487.8.

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