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# Zinc-Induced Fluorescence Enhancement of the 5,10-Porphodimethene-Type Thiophene-Containing Calixphyrins

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### ZINC-INDUCED FLUORESCENCE ENHANCEMENT OF THE 5,10-PORPHODIMETHENE-TYPE THIOPHENE-CONTAINING CALIXPHYRINS

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The synthesis, structure, and electrochemical/optical properties of the zinc complexes of 5,10-porphodimethene-type thiophene-containing  $(S,N_3-)$  and phosphole-containing  $(P,N_3-)$  calixphyrins are reported. The  $S,N_3-$  and  $P,N_3-$ calixphyrin free bases react with zinc(II) salts to give the corresponding zinc complexes in good yields. The  $S,N_3-$ calixphyrin-ZnI complex adopts a distorted square pyramidal geometry, with the S and N atoms at the basal positions. The  $S,N_3-$ calixphyrin-ZnX complexes emit red fluorescence with fluorescent quantum yields up to 23%, whereas the  $P,N_3-$ calixphyrin-ZnCl complex is weakly fluorescent. Among the first-row transition metals  $(Fe^{2+}, Cu^{2+}, and Zn^{2+})$  examined, the chelation-enhanced fluorescence is observed specifically for the  $Zn^{2+}$  ion. These results indicate that the S,10-porphodimethene-type  $S,N_3$ -hybrid calixphyrin is a promising turn-on fluorescent probe for  $Zn^{2+}$  sensing.

Keywords Calixphyrin; chelation; fluorescence; thiophene; zinc

#### INTRODUCTION

Calixphyrins<sup>1</sup> are a class of reduced porphyrin analogs involving both sp<sup>2</sup>- and sp<sup>3</sup>-hybridized bridging *meso* carbon atoms. According to the number of sp<sup>3</sup>-hybridized carbons, calixphyrins are divided to porphomethenes, porphodimethenes, and porphotrimethenes, all of which possess reasonably flexible frameworks as well as rather rigid  $\pi$ -conjugated networks. Due to this structural diversity, the calixphyrin family has attracted increasing attention in coordination chemistry and supramolecular chemistry.<sup>2</sup>

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Dedicated to Professor Naomichi Furukawa on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

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Figure 1 Core-modified 5,10-porphodimethenes reported by us<sup>3</sup> and by Huang et al.<sup>5</sup>

We have recently reported the first examples of the 5,10-porphodimethene-type hybrid calixphyrins containing phosphole and/or thiophene rings<sup>3</sup> and disclosed the coordination properties of P,X,N<sub>2</sub>-hybrid calixphyrins including **1P** and **2P** (Figure 1) with palladium, rhodium, and gold salts. It is noteworthy that the oxidation state, charge, and catalytic activity at the metal center as well as the optical and electrochemical properties of the complexes vary significantly depending on the combination of the  $\pi$ -conjugated heterole units. In contrast to the P,X,N<sub>2</sub>-hybrids **1P** and **2P**, however, the S,X,N<sub>2</sub>-hybrids **1S** and **2S** did not produce complexes with the above transition metals, probably due to the weak coordinating property of the thiophene unit as compared to the phosphole unit. Compared to the phosphole unit.

In 2008, Huang et al. reported that m-benziporphodimethene<sup>4</sup> behaved as a long-wavelength  $Zn^{2+}$  specific chemosensor.<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, compound **3** shows fluorescence switch-on upon  $Zn^{2+}$  binding with no apparent background fluorescence. Huang et al.'s findings represent the important role of the rigid and coplanar  $\pi$ -conjugated tripyrrin unit chelating to the central zinc ion of **4** in exhibiting strong emission. With this encouraging result in mind, we aimed to investigate the coordination chemistry of the thiophene-and phosphole-containing core-modified calixphyrins with  $Zn^{2+}$  ions and to reveal the effects of the core substituents on their light-emitting ability. In this article, we report the synthesis, structure, and electrochemical/optical properties of zinc complexes of the 5,10-porphodimethene-type  $S_1N_3$ - and  $S_2N_3$ - and  $S_3$ - hybrid calixphyrins. It has been found that the efficiency of chelation-enhanced fluorescence is intrinsically dependent on the combination of heterole components of the calixphyrin platforms. The  $S_2N_3$ -calixphyrin-zinc(II) complexes exhibit intense red fluorescence, whereas the  $S_3N_3$ -calixphyrin-zinc(II) complex is weakly fluorescent.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thiophene- and phosphole-containing hybrid calixphyrins **1S**, **1P**, and **2S** were prepared according to the reported procedure.<sup>3</sup> As depicted in Figure 1, the oxidation states and the available charges of the  $\pi$ -conjugated tripyrrin units of **1S** and **2S** differ from each other; **1S** is regarded as a monoanionic ligand with the  $16\pi$  network, whereas **2S** is a dianionic ligand with the  $14\pi$  network.<sup>6</sup> The reaction of **1S** with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of slight excess 2,6-lutidine in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeCN proceeded instantaneously at room temperature to give S,N<sub>3</sub>-calixphyrin–ZnCl complex **5a** in 93% isolated yield. Similarly, **1S** underwent complexation with ZnBr<sub>2</sub>, ZnI<sub>2</sub>, Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, and Zn(OCOCF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> in the presence

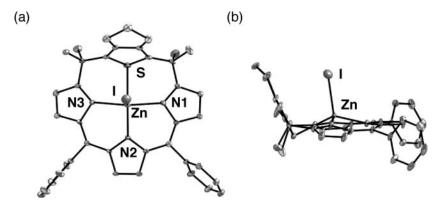
of 2,6-lutidine to give the corresponding ZnX complexes **5b-e** (X = Br, I, OAc, OCOCF<sub>3</sub>) in 62–82% isolated yields. When the  $S_2,N_2$ -type free base **2S** was used in place of **1S**, no reaction took place with Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>. These results imply that the coordination behavior of the core-modified calixphyrins is deeply related to the components of the tripyrrin units. The  $P_3$ -type free base **1P** reacted with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of 2,6-lutidine to give  $P_3$ -calixphyrin–ZnCl complex **6** in 87% yield (Scheme 1).

1S 
$$\frac{ZnX_2, 2,6\text{-lutidine}}{CH_2CI_2\text{-MeCN}}$$
  $\frac{S}{N}$   $\frac{S}{$ 

Scheme 1

All the zinc complexes  $\mathbf{5a-e}$  and  $\mathbf{6}$  are air-stable, dark blue or purple solids, and are soluble in common organic solvents such as  $CH_2Cl_2$ ,  $CHCl_3$ , THF, toluene, and MeCN. The structures of  $\mathbf{5a-e}$  and  $\mathbf{6}$  were characterized by NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. Complex  $\mathbf{5a}$  displays one set of pyrrole- $\beta$  protons at  $\delta$  6.19 (s, 2H), 6.65 (d, 2H), and 6.80 (d, 2H) as sharp peaks. Complexes  $\mathbf{5b}$  and  $\mathbf{5d}$  show their pyrrole- $\beta$  protons at almost the same resonance frequencies as those of  $\mathbf{5a}$ , implying that the axial anions (X) do not significantly influence the magnetic and electronic environments of the tripyrrin unit. On the other hand,  $\mathbf{5c}$ ,  $\mathbf{5e}$ , and  $\mathbf{6}$  exhibit two sets of pyrrole- $\beta$  protons at slightly different frequencies in  $CDCl_3$ , suggesting that two diastereomers are present in solution. It seems likely that in  $\mathbf{5c}$ ,  $\mathbf{5e}$ , and  $\mathbf{6}$ , the apical ligands coordinate to the zinc center from both sides of the macrocyclic planes (*vide infra*). In the mass spectra, fragment ions ( $[M-X]^+$ ) were observed as the most intense peaks.

The structures of **5a** and **5c** were further elucidated by X-ray crystallography. Recrystallization of **5c** from CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-hexane afforded single crystals of one of the diastereomers. The top and side views of **5c** are depicted in Figure 2 with selected bond lengths and bond angles.<sup>8</sup> The zinc center adopts a square pyramidal geometry coordinated by a sulfur



**Figure 2** Top and side views of **5c** (30% probability ellipsoids). Hydrogen atoms and dichloromethane are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (deg): Zn-I, 2.4703(9); Zn-N(1), 2.162(5); Zn-N(2), 2.007(5); Zn-N(3), 2.170(5); Zn-S, 2.6724(16); S-Zn-N(1), 82.40(14); S-Zn-N(3), 78.97(14); N(2)-Zn-N(1), 90.4(2); N(2)-Zn-N(3), 91.73(19); I-Zn-N(1), 101.64(14); I-Zn-N(2), 110.95(16); I-Zn-N(3), 102.83(14).

atom and three nitrogen atoms at the basal positions. Due to the S-to-Zn coordination, the thiophene ring is inclined toward a mean tripyrrin plane with a dihedral angle of  $67.4^{\circ}$ , and the iodine atom is located on the same side of the thiophene-fused trimethylene unit with a relatively short Zn-I distance [2.4703(9) Å]. The Zn-N distances of 5c [2.007(5)–2.170(5) Å] are comparable to those of Huang et al.'s ZnCl complex 4 [1.995(4)–2.130(4) Å]. The calixphyrin platform of 5c displays a ruffled structure, and the zinc atom is displaced above the mean plane composed of the basal four heteroatoms by 0.61 Å with the sum of X-Zn-Y bond angles (X = S, N2; Y = N1, N3) of 343.5°. As a consequence, the  $\pi$ -conjugated tripyrrin unit in 5c is slightly distorted with dihedral angles of 0.3– $10.6^{\circ}$ . The C-C bond alternation at the tripyrrin units observed for 5c (Table I) reasonably explains a significant contribution of the canonical structures depicted in bold lines in Scheme 1.

Table I Selected bond lengths (Å) and dihedral angles (deg) of 5c

$ \begin{array}{c c} a & S & A \\ b & N & Z & A \\ \hline c & N & A \\ \hline Ph & e & M & A \\ \hline e & M & A \\ \hline e & M & A \\ \hline e & Ph & Ph \end{array} $							
	g						
a, a'	1.444(9), 1.448(9)	e, e'	1.419(8), 1.419(9)				
b, b'	1.333(10), 1.356(9)	f, f'	1.423(8), 1.430(8)				
c, c'	1.443(8), 1.445(9)	g	1.377(10)				
d, d'	1.365(8), 1.386(8)						
c-d-e, c'-d'-e'	176.2(7), 169.4(6)						
d-e-f, d'-e'-f'	179.7(7), 176.3(7)						

Complex	$E_{\mathrm{red}}{}^{b}$	λ <sub>abs</sub> /nm <sup>c</sup>	$\log \varepsilon$	$\lambda_{ m em}/{ m nm}^d$	$\Phi_{\mathrm{f}}$
5a	-0.76	632	4.52	661	$0.22^{e}$
5b	-0.78	633	4.51	662	$0.15^{f}$
5c	-0.75	634	4.52	662	$0.12^{f}$
5d	-0.78	632	4.50	661	$0.23^{f}$
5e	-0.78	633	4.52	663	$0.22^{f}$
6	N. D. <sup>g</sup>	618	4.53	656	$0.002^{f}$

Table II Reduction potentials and optical properties of 5a-e and 6a

The observed structural features of **5a** are close to those of **5c**, although the quality of diffraction data for **5a** is not satisfactory. We have not succeeded in obtaining good single crystals of **6** so far.

To reveal apical-ligand effects on the electronic properties of the hybrid calixphyrin platforms, we measured electrochemical reduction processes of  $\bf 5a-e$  by cyclic voltammetry (CV) and differential pulse voltammetry (DPV). All the complexes showed reversible voltammograms in the CV measurements. As summarized in Table II, the electrochemical reduction occurred at almost the same potentials ( $E_{\rm red} = -0.75$  to -0.78 V vs.  $Fc^*/Fc^{*+}$ ;  $Fc^* =$  decamethylferrocene, determined by DPV), suggesting that the apical ligands do not perturb the LUMO level significantly. The  $E_{\rm red}$  values of  $\bf 5a-e$  are shifted to the positive side by comparison with that of the free base  $\bf 1S$  ( $E_{\rm red} = -0.93$  V vs.  $Fc^*/Fc^{*+}$ ). Presumably, the Lewis acidic  $Zn^{2+}$  center enhances the electron-accepting ability of the S,  $N_3$ -calixphyrin platform.

To disclose the optical properties of the  $S,N_3$ - and  $P,N_3$ -calixphyrin–zinc complexes, we measured UV-vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of  $\bf 5a-e$  and  $\bf 6$  in solution (Table II). The ZnCl complex  $\bf 5a$  displays intense, broad absorptions with absorption maxima at  $\lambda_{abs}$  348, 585, and 632 nm in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and at  $\lambda_{abs}$  345, 580, and 624 nm in MeCN, due to  $\pi-\pi^*$  transitions of the tripyrrin unit. The zinc coordination induces a bathochromic shift of the lowest transition band by 92 nm ( $\lambda_{abs}$  = 540 nm for  $\bf 1S$  to  $\lambda_{abs}$  = 632 nm for  $\bf 5a$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ). The spectral shape and extinction coefficients of  $\bf 5b-e$  are very close to those of  $\bf 5a$ , suggesting that the character of  $\pi-\pi^*$  transitions is little perturbed by the apical ligands in the  $S,N_3$ -calixphyrin–ZnX complexes. The  $P,N_3$ -calixphyrin–ZnCl complex  $\bf 6$  shows absorption bands at  $\lambda_{abs}$  354 and 618 nm in  $CH_2Cl_2$  and at  $\lambda_{abs}$  351 and 612 nm in MeCN. The longest  $\lambda_{abs}$  values of  $\bf 5a$  and  $\bf 6$  in MeCN are appreciably blue-shifted as compared to those of  $\bf 4$  ( $\lambda_{abs}$  350, 593, and 639 nm in MeCN), indicating that the coordination of the sp³-carbon-bridged heteroles influences on the electronic properties of the  $\pi$ -conjugated tripyrrin unit. The basal coordination of  $\bf S$  ( $\bf 5a$ ) and  $\bf P$  ( $\bf 6$ ) atoms to the zinc center may cause a deviation from planarity of the tripyrrin unit.

The most diagnostic spectral feature of **5a–e** is their highly fluorescent nature (Table II). In  $CH_2Cl_2$ , the ZnCl complex **5a** emits red fluorescence at  $\lambda_{em}=661$  nm ( $\lambda_{ex}=580$  nm) with a fluorescence quantum yield ( $\Phi_f$ ) of 0.22. In MeCN, the emission

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Measured in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Reduction potentials vs. Fc\*/Fc\*+.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>The longest absorption maxima.

dExcited at 580 nm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup>Absolute fluorescence quantum yield determined by a calibrated integrating sphere system.

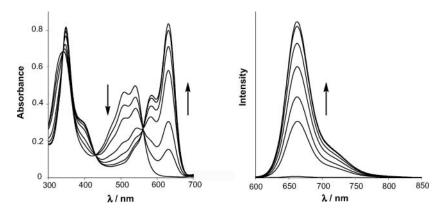
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>f</sup>Fluorescence quantum yield relative to **5a**.

gNot determined.

is observed at 656 nm, which is blue-shifted by 16 nm compared to that observed for Huang et al.'s ZnCl complex 4 ( $\lambda_{em} = 672$  nm in MeCN). The  $\Phi_f$  value of  $\bf 5a$  is somewhat smaller than the reported value of 4 ( $\Phi_f = 0.34$ ) but much larger than that of 5,10,15,20-tetraphenylporphyrinatozinc(II) ( $\Phi_f = 0.033$ ). The  $\Phi_f$  values of  $\bf 5a-e$  vary from 0.12 to 0.23 depending on the nature of apical ligands. Among the halides  $\bf 5a-e$ , the chloride  $\bf 5a$  shows the most intense fluorescence. In contrast to  $\bf 5a-e$ , the P,N<sub>3</sub>-calixphyrin ZnCl complex  $\bf 6$  emits very weak fluorescence ( $\Phi_f = 0.002$ ). These results represent an important role of the sp<sup>3</sup>-carbon-bridged heterole units in displaying chelation-induced fluorescence. It is worth mentioning that the S,N<sub>3</sub>-hybrid free base  $\bf 1S$  is nonfluorescent. In this context,  $\bf 1S$  is regarded as a new fluorescence turn-on probe for Zn<sup>2+</sup> ion. In this context,

To get more insight into the photophysical properties, fluorescence lifetimes ( $\tau_f$ ) of **5a**, **5b**, and **5d** in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were determined.<sup>11</sup> The fluorescence decays were well fit by the single exponential component, and  $\tau_s$  values were determined to be 4.4 ns (**5a**), 3.0 ns (**5b**), and 4.3 ns (**5d**). Based on the observed  $\Phi_f$  and  $\tau_s$  values, fluorescence decay rate constants ( $k_f$ ) of **5a**, **5b**, and **5d** were calculated to be  $5.0 \times 10^7 \, \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ ,  $5.0 \times 10^7 \, \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ , and  $5.3 \times 10^7 \, \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ , respectively. These data imply that the difference in  $\tau_s$  values among **5a**, **5b**, and **5d** is basically ascribable to the difference in rate constants of nonradiative processes from their  $S_1$  states.

To evaluate the binding ability of **1S** as a fluorescent probe for sensing  $Zn^{2+}$  ion, spectrophotometric titration measurements were performed for the complexation of **1S** with  $ZnCl_2$  or  $Zn(OAc)_2$ . As shown in Figure 3, adding  $ZnCl_2$  ( $7.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M in MeOH; 1–20  $\mu$ L) into a red solution of **1S** ( $2.3 \times 10^{-5}$  M in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ; 3 mL) in the presence of 2,6-lutidine changed the spectral shape with isosbestic points at  $\lambda = 430$  and 562 nm in the visible region. With increasing the concentration of  $Zn^{2+}$  ion, the fluorescence intensity increased. At a saturated condition (in the presence of 1.5 equiv of  $Zn^{2+}$  ion), the absorption and fluorescence spectra are identical to those independently observed for **5d**. Similar spectral changes were observed for the titration with  $Zn(OAc)_2$ . The 1:1 complexation between **1S** and  $Zn(OAc)_2$  was further confirmed by a Job plot. To evaluate the coordinating ability of **1S** toward other transition metals, the titration measurements were also examined with  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Cu^{2+}$  ions. Addition of a MeOH solution of  $FeCl_2$  or  $CuCl_2$  to a  $CH_2Cl_2$  solution of **1S** ( $2.3 \times 10^{-5}$  M) in the presence of 2,6-luridine changed



**Figure 3** UV-vis absorption spectra (left) and fluorescence spectra (right,  $\lambda_{ex} = 580$  nm) observed for the titration measurements of **1S** (2.3 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) with ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (7.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M in MeOH) in the presence of 2,6-lutidine. [Zn<sup>2+</sup>] = 0, 0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 equiv vs. [**1S**].

its spectrum with isosbestic points at  $\lambda=438$  and 566 nm for Fe<sup>2+</sup> and at  $\lambda=438$  and 569 nm for Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The resulting spectra suggested the formation of S,N<sub>3</sub>-calixphyrin–iron ( $\lambda_{abs}=351$  and 645 nm) and –copper ( $\lambda_{abs}=356$ , and 652 nm) complexes. In these complexations, however, almost no fluorescence ( $\Phi_f<0.001$ ) was detected, even at the saturated conditions, probably due to the paramagnetic effects. These results indicate that **1S** is an efficient fluorescence Zn<sup>2+</sup> sensor emitting an intense red light. It should be mentioned again that **1P** does not show such a chelation-enhanced fluorescence. It is therefore likely that the core-modification of calixphyrin platforms impacts on the light-emitting ability of the Zn-coordinated tripyrrin  $\pi$  system.

In summary, we have revealed that the 5,10-porphodimethene-type  $S,N_3$ - and  $P,N_3$ -calixphyrins coordinate effectively to  $Zn^{2+}$  ions in solution. The  $S,N_3$ -calixphyrin–ZnX complexes have been found to adopt a distorted square pyramidal geometry with S and N atoms at the basal positions and the anionic ligands at the apical position. Most importantly, the coordination of zinc(II) has proven to dramatically increase the fluorescence intensity of the  $S,N_3$ -calixphyrin chromophores and to barely perturb the  $P,N_3$ -calixphyrin chromophore. The efficiency of the chelation-enhanced fluorescence also depends on the transition metals coordinated at the core and is selective to  $Zn^{2+}$  among  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$ , and  $Zn^{2+}$  ions. The present results demonstrate that the S,10-porphodimethene-type  $S,N_3$ -hybrid calixphyrin could be a promising turn-on fluorescent probe for  $Zn^{2+}$  sensing.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL EX-400 or a JEOL AL300 spectrometer using CDCl<sub>3</sub> as a solvent. Chemical shifts are reported as the relative values vs. tetramethylsilane (<sup>1</sup>H) or phosphoric acid (<sup>31</sup>P). Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI) time-of-flight mass spectra (TOF) were measured on a Shimadzu AXIMA-CFR spectrometer using  $\alpha$ -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as a matrix. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a JEOL JMS-HX 110A spectrometer (FAB) using 3-nitrobenzylic alcohol as a matrix or a JEOL JMS-700 MStation spectrometer (EI). Electrochemical measurements (CV and DPV) were performed on a BAS 50 W electrochemical workstation using a glassy carbon working electrode, a platinum wire counter electrode, and an Ag/Ag<sup>+</sup> [0.01 M AgNO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M n-Bu<sub>4</sub>NPF<sub>6</sub> (MeCN)] reference electrode. The potentials were calibrated with FeCp\*<sub>2</sub>/FeCp\*<sub>2</sub>+ [ $E_{mid} = -0.37 \text{ V vs Ag/AgNO}_3$ ]. UV-vis absorption and steady-state fluorescence spectra were measured using a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 900 UV/vis/NIR spectrometer and a SPEX Fluoromax-3 spectrofluorometer, respectively. Spectroscopy grade CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and MeCN was used for the measurements of UV-visible absorption and fluorescence spectra. Free bases 1S, 1P, and 2S were prepared according to the reported procedures.3 Dichloromethane was distilled from calcium hydride under inert atmosphere before use. Other chemicals and solvents were of reagent grade quality, purchased commercially and used without further purification. Thin-layer chromatography and flash column chromatography were performed with Alt. 5554 DC-Alufolien Kieselgel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (Merck) and Silica-gel 60N (Kanto Chemicals), respectively. All the reactions were performed under an argon atmosphere unless otherwise stated.

#### Synthesis of 5

2,6-Lutidine (ca. 10  $\mu$ L) was added to a mixture of **1S** (15 mg, 0.026 mmol), ZnX<sub>2</sub> (0.031 mmol), CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 mL), and MeCN (3 mL), and the resulting blue solution was

stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure to leave a solid residue, to which CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (10 mL) and water (10 mL) were added. The organic phase was separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> until the blue color of the organic extracts disappeared. The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure to leave a solid residue, which was reprecipitated from cold hexane at low temperatures to afford S,N<sub>3</sub>-ZnX complex 5 as a blue to purple solid in high purity. When 1P was used as the free base, the P,N<sub>3</sub>-calixphyrin–ZnCl complex 6 was obtained in 87% yield as a dark blue solid.

**5a**: Mp 244–245°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz)  $\delta$  1.72 (s, 6H; Me), 1.93 (s, 6H; Me), 2.26–2.33 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42–2.52 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.70–2.89 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.19 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.80 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.33–7.47 (m, 10H; Ph); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda_{abs}$  ( $\varepsilon$ ): 348 (30800), 585 (17400), 632 (32900); HRMS (EI): Calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>34</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>SZn (M<sup>+</sup>), 675.1453; Found, 675.1454; Anal. Calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>34</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>SZn•(CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0.5</sub>: C, 65.88; H, 4.90; N, 5.84. Found: C, 66.06; H, 5.05; N, 5.84.

**5b**: Mp > 300°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.72 (s, 6H; Me), 1.94 (s, 6H; Me), 2.24–2.35 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42–2.52 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.70–2.92 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.21 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.82 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.30–7.47 (m, 10H; Ph); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda_{abs}$  ( $\varepsilon$ ): 349 (31400), 586 (17300), 633 (32600); HRMS (FAB): Calcd for C<sub>39</sub>H<sub>34</sub>BrN<sub>3</sub>SZn (M<sup>+</sup>), 719.0948; Found, 719.0923.

**5c**: This complex was obtained as a mixture of two diastereomers (**A/B** = 9/1). Mp > 300°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **A**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.71 (s, 6H; Me), 1.94 (s, 6H; Me), 2.24–2.36 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.40–2.56 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.73–2.93 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.23 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.9 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.85 (d, 2H, J = 4.9 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.30–7.50 (m, 10H; Ph); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **B**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.71 (s, 6H; Me), 1.94 (s, 6H; Me), 2.24–2.36 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.40–2.56 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.73–2.93 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.19 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.80 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.30–7.50 (m, 10H; Ph); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda$ <sub>abs</sub> ( $\varepsilon$ ): 350 (31500), 588 (17700), 634 (33300); MS (FAB) m/z 640 ([M–I]<sup>+</sup>).

**5d**: Mp 173–174°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.57 (s, 3H; Me), 1.72 (s, 6H; Me), 1.93 (s, 6H; Me), 2.24–2.36 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.42–2.52 (m, 1H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.72–2.91 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.19 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.80 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.33–7.50 (m, 10H; Ph); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda_{abs}$  ( $\varepsilon$ ): 348 (31000), 586 (17000), 632 (31900); MS (FAB) m/z 640 ([M–OAc]<sup>+</sup>).

**5e**: This complex was obtained as a mixture of two diastereomers (**A/B** = 2/1). Mp 209–210°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **A**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.72 (s, 6H; Me), 1.93 (s, 6H; Me), 2.25–2.53 (m, 2H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.66–2.92 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.19 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.80 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.34–7.50 (m, 10H; Ph); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **B**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.72 (s, 6H; Me), 1.90 (s, 6H; Me), 2.25–2.53 (m, 2H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.66–2.92 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.22 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.65 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.82 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.34–7.50 (m, 10H; Ph); UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda_{abs}$  ( $\varepsilon$ ): 349 (32300), 588 (17700), 633 (32800); HRMS (FAB): Calcd for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N<sub>3</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SZn (M<sup>+</sup>), 753.1615; Found, 753.1578.

**6**: This complex was obtained as a mixture of two diastereomers (**A/B** = 3/2). Mp > 300°C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **A**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.19 (s, 6H; Me), 1.73 (s, 6H; Me), 2.05–2.45 (m, 2H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.62–2.95 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.29 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.52 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.84 (d, 2H, J = 4.6 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.19–7.56 (m, 15H; Ph); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (diastereomer **B**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) δ 1.18 (s, 6H; Me), 1.85 (s, 6H; Me),

2.26–2.33 (m, 2H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.62–2.95 (m, 4H; CH<sub>2</sub>), 6.28 (s, 2H; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.48 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 6.72 (d, 2H, J = 4.4 Hz; pyrrole- $\beta$ ), 7.19–7.56 (m, 15H; Ph); <sup>31</sup>P{<sup>1</sup>H} NMR (diastereomer **A** and **B**: CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 162MHz) δ 29.4 and 21.2; UV-vis (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>)  $\lambda_{abs}$  ( $\varepsilon$ ): 354 (30600), 618 (33900); MS (FAB) m/z 716 ([M–Cl]<sup>+</sup>).

#### X-Ray Crystal Crystallographic Analysis

Single crystals of 5a and 5c were grown from  $CH_2Cl_2$ -hexane at room temperature. All measurements were made on a Rigaku Saturn CCD area detector with graphite monochromated Mo– $K\alpha$  radiation. The structures were solved by direct methods  $^{12}$  and expanded using Fourier techniques. Nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, and hydrogen atoms were refined using the rigid model. All calculations were performed using the CrystalStructure crystallographic software package  $^{14}$  except for refinement, which was performed using SHELXL-97. Although the crystallographic data for 5a are not at the publishable level, its structure was confirmed by X-ray crystallography. CCDC No. 715502 for 5c contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this article. These data can be obtained free of charge via the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK (fax: (+44)1223–336-033; e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

#### Fluorescence Lifetime Measurements of 5a, 5b, and 5d

The fluorescence lifetimes were measured in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> using a streak camera as a fluorescence detector. All samples were excited by the second harmonic output (400 nm) from the amplified Ti:Sapphire laser system.

#### **Titration Measurements of 1S with Transition Metal Salts**

A CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution of **1S** (2.3 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M; 3 mL) was charged in a quartz cuvette (pass length = 1 cm), and a MeOH solution of ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (7.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M in MeOH) was added in portions (0.3, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.2, 1.5 equiv vs. [**1S**]). At each step, the absorption and fluorescence spectra were measured, and the results are shown in Figure 3. The titration measurements of **1S** with Zn(OAc)<sub>2</sub>, FeCl<sub>2</sub>, and CuCl<sub>2</sub> were examined according to a similar procedure. The incorporation of the respective metals was confirmed by MS spectrometry, although the resulting complexes were not isolated. The fragment ion peaks ([M–Cl]<sup>+</sup>) are as follows: m/z = 632 (for **1S**–Fe complex) and 639 (for **1S**–Cu complex).

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- 7. In CD<sub>3</sub>CN, only one set of peaks was observed for **5c**, **5e**, and **6**, suggesting that interconversion between the two diastereomers is rapid on the NMR time scale in the polar solvent.
- 8.  $C_{40}H_{36}Cl_2IN_3SZn$ , MW = 853.95, monoclinic,  $P2_1/a$ , a = 19.6800(16) Å, b = 8.9482(5) Å, c = 22.4930(14) Å,  $\beta = 115.884(2)^\circ$ , V = 3563.7(4) Å<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4,  $D_c = 1.592$  g cm<sup>-3</sup>, 7656 obsd, 434 variables,  $R_w = 0.2519$ , R = 0.0936 ( $I > 2.00\sigma(I)$ ), GOF = 1.134.
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