Supplementary materials

Preparation of benzo- and polybenzocrown ethers by macrocyclization reactions

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The following benzocrown and substituted benzocrown ethers were prepared using the general procedure for cesium-assisted cyclizations given in the Experimental Section of the paper.

**Benzo-12-crown-4 (1)** was obtained as a white solid with mp 44.5-45.5 °C (lit. mp 44-45.5 °C) in 54% yield after recrystallization from hexanes. Mass spectroscopy revealed that the recrystallized product did not contain any [2+2] adduct. IR (deposit from a CDCl₃ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1260, 1142, 1124 and 1077 (C-O) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ3.74 (s, 4H); 3.78-3.96 (m, 4H); 4.10-4.16 (m, 4H); 6.86-6.99 (m, 4H).

**4-t-Butylbenzo-12-crown-4 (2)**, a white solid, was isolated in 70% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated by ¹H NMR and mass spectroscopy. A small sample was recrystallized from hexanes for elemental analysis and the [1+1] adduct was obtained with mp 47-49 °C. Reaction products from several runs (4.10 g) were combined and purified by Kugelrohr distillation (130 °C/0.8 Torr) and the [1+1] adduct (1.10 g, 29%) was obtained with a mp of 47-49 °C. IR (deposit from a CDCl₃ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1237, 1122 and 1049 (C-O) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ1.26 (s, 9H); 3.79 (s, 4H); 3.80-3.86 (m, 4H); 4.11-4.20 (m, 4H); 6.85-6.99 (m, 3H). Anal. calcd for C₁₆H₂₄O₄: C, 68.55; H, 8.63. Found: C, 68.50; H, 8.59. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 280.30 (280.17 calculated for C₁₆H₂₄O₄) and 560.45 (560.34 calculated for C₃₂H₄₈O₈).

**3,5-Di-t-Butylbenzo-12-crown-4 (3)** was obtained as a white solid in 82% yield and contained ~50% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated from the ¹H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs (2.02 g) were combined and purified by Kugelrohr distillation (140 °C/0.8 Torr) and the [1+1] adduct (1.10 g, 54%) was obtained with mp 147-149 °C. Although the product could be recrystallized from hexanes, Kugelrohr distillation was found to be the superior method of isolating the pure [1+1] adduct. IR (deposit from a CDCl₃ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1235, 1135 and 1069 (C-O) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ1.26 (s, 9H); 1.35 (s, 9H); 3.80 (d, 7.4 Hz, 4H); 3.83-3.93 (m, 4H); 4.10-4.14 (m, 2H); 4.24 (t, 5.4 Hz, 2H); 6.76 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H); 6.90 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calcd for C₂₀H₃₂O₄: C, 71.39; H, 9.59. Found: C, 71.40; H, 9.54. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 336.40 (336.23 calculated for C₂₀H₃₂O₄); [2+2] m/e exceeds the detection limit.

**Benzo-15-crown-5 (4)** was isolated as a white solid in 69% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated from the ¹H NMR and mass spectra. The reaction products from several runs (1.52 g) were combined and recrystallized from heptane. The [1+1] adduct was isolated (1.10 g, 72%) with mp 77.5-79 °C (lit. mp 79-79.5 °C). IR (deposit from a CDCl₃ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1230, 1121 and 1075 (C-O) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ3.88 (s, 8H); 3.90-3.93 (m, 4H); 4.10-4.16 (m, 4H); 6.64-6.94 (m, 4H). m/e 268.20 (268.13 calculated for C₁₄H₂₀O₅) and 536.40 (536.26 calculated for C₃₂H₄₈O₈).

**4-t-Butylbenzo-15-crown-5 (5)** was obtained as a colorless oil (71%) after Kugelrohr distillation and identified by its ¹H NMR and mass spectra as the [1+1] product. After crystallization from diethyl ether at 0 °C, the [1+1] adduct had mp 42-44 °C (lit. mp below 26 °C). IR (deposit from a CDCl₃ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1264 and 1141 (C-O) cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl₃): δ
1.26 (s, 9H); 3.73 (s, 8H); 3.84-3.92 (m, 4H); 4.08-4.16 (m, 4H); 6.79-6.90 (m, 3H). MS (DIP-EI) m/e 324.25 (324.19 calculated for C_{18}H_{28}O_{5}) and 648.35 (648.38 calculated for C_{36}H_{56}O_{8}).

**3.5-Di-t-Butylbenzo-15-crown-5** (6) was a white crystalline solid formed in 87% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs were combined (3.02 g, 82%) and recrystallized from heptane and the [1+1] product was isolated with mp of 99.5-100.5 °C. IR (deposit from a CDCl$_3$ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1234, 1133 and 1073 (C-O) cm$^{-1}$. $^1$H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 1.26 (s, 9H); 1.35 (s, 9H); 3.72-3.80 (m, 8H); 3.87-3.91 (m, 2H); 4.02 (t, 4.0 Hz, 2H); 4.10-4.12 (m, 2H); 4.26 (t, 4.0 Hz, 2H); 6.76 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H); 6.89 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calc'd for C$_{22}$H$_{36}$O$_5$: C, 69.44; H, 9.53. Found: C, 69.84; H, 9.70. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 380.40 (380.26 calculated for C$_{22}$H$_{36}$O$_5$) and 760.70 (760.52 calculated for C$_{44}$H$_{72}$O$_{10}$).

**3,5-Di-t-Butylbenzo-18-crown-6** (7) was a yellow oil obtained in 72% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as shown by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs (4.55 g) were combined then purified by Kugelrohr distillation (180° C, 0.8 Torr) and the [1+1] adduct (4.31 g, 95%) was obtained. Upon standing over a period of several months, the yellow oil spontaneously crystallized resulting in a white solid identified as the [1+1] adduct with mp 34-36 °C (lit.1 mp below 26 °C). IR (deposit from a CDCl$_3$ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1266 and 1136 (C-O) cm$^{-1}$. $^1$H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 1.26 (s, 9H); 3.64-3.77 (m, 12H); 3.86-3.93 (m, 4H); 4.09-4.16 (m, 4H); 6.76 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H); 6.69 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calc'd for C$_{20}$H$_{32}$O$_6$: C, 67.89; H, 9.50. Found: C, 68.04; H, 9.36. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 368.30 (368.22 calculated for C$_{20}$H$_{32}$O$_6$) and 736.40 (736.60 calculated for C$_{16}$H$_{24}$O$_4$).

**4-t-Butylbenzo-18-crown-6** (8) was a yellow oil obtained in 82% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as shown by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs (6.43 g) were combined then purified by Kugelrohr distillation (190° C/0.8 Torr) and the [1+1] adduct (3.97 g, 62%) was obtained. IR (deposit from a CDCl$_3$ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1234, 1129 and 1073 (C-O) cm$^{-1}$. $^1$H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 1.26 (s, 9H); 3.62-3.78 (m, 16H); 3.85-3.92 (m, 4H); 4.09-4.17 (m, 4H); 6.79-6.90 (m, 3H). MS (DIP-EI) m/e 424.30 (424.28 calculated for C$_{24}$H$_{40}$O$_6$); [2+2] m/e exceeds detection limit.

**4-t-Butylbenzo-21-crown-7** (9) was a yellow oil obtained in 78% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs (~ 23 g) were combined then purified by Kugelrohr distillation (190° C/0.8 Torr) and the [1+1] adduct was obtained. The product (13.11 g, 57%) combined after 3 Kugelrohr distillations was identified as the desired [1+1] adduct by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. IR (deposit from a CDCl$_3$ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1266 and 1128 (C-O) cm$^{-1}$. $^1$H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 1.26 (s, 9H); 3.66-3.76 (m, 12H); 3.89-3.96 (m, 4H); 4.11 (t, 5.4 Hz, 2H); 4.24 (t, 5.4 Hz, 2H); 6.78 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H); 6.69 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calc'd for C$_{22}$H$_{36}$O$_7$: C, 67.89; H, 9.50. Found: C, 68.04; H, 9.36. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 424.30 (424.28 calculated for C$_{24}$H$_{40}$O$_6$); [2+2] m/e exceeds detection limit.

**4-t-Butylbenzo-21-crown-7** (10) was a yellow oil obtained in 78% yield and contained 10-20% of the [2+2] adduct as estimated by the $^1$H NMR and mass spectra. Reaction products from several runs (6.21 g) were combined and purified by Kugelrohr distillation (190 °C/0.8 Torr) and
the [1+1] adduct (1.00 g, 16%) was obtained. IR (deposit from a CDCl$_3$ solution onto a NaCl plate): 1234, 1126 and 1071 (C-O) cm$^{-1}$. $^1$H NMR (200 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 1.26 (s, 9H); 1.35 (s, 9H); 3.65-3.73 (m, 16H); 3.86-3.95 (m, 4H); 4.12 (t, 5.0 Hz, 2H); 4.24 (t, 5.0 Hz, 2H); 6.77 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H); 6.90 (d, 2.2 Hz, 1H). Anal. calcd for C$_{26}$H$_{44}$O$_7$: C, 66.64; H, 9.46. Found: C, 66.91; H, 9.56. MS (DIP-EI) m/e 424.25 (424.28 calculated for C$_{26}$H$_{44}$O$_7$); [2+2] m/e exceeds detection limit.

### References