# SYNTHESES AND CHARACTERISATION OF MOLECULAR TWEESORS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF GUEST SUBSTRATES

R. C. Jagessar

Department of Chemistry, University of Guyana, Turkeyen campus, Greater Georgetown, SOUTH AMERICA raymondjagessar@yahoo.com

# ABSTRACT

Two novel amido anion receptors were synthesized from building block 3,3' methylene diamine and was characterized via the techniques of <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR, DEPT- 135 spectroscopy, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC and HMBC. Preliminary anion binding studies via <sup>1</sup> HNMR spectroscopy revealed complexation with phosphate anions in the highly competitive solvent, d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO.

This paper focuses on the syntheses, characterization and preliminary anion binding studies of molecular clef type receptors (4) and (5) incorporating the amide, -HNCOunits. These receptors are built on the molecular scaffold of 3,3' methylene diamine and present convergent binding sites to anionic substrates.

Keywords: molecular scaffold, methylene, anionic substrates

# INTRODUCTION

The molecular recognition of anions is an active, and difficult area of Supramolecular chemistry, considering the properties of anions<sup>1.2</sup>. It's an area of current intense research considering the ubiquitious roles anion play in biological, environmental andSupramolecular sciences<sup>1-24</sup>. Of great interest is the design, syntheses and use of neutral receptors for selective binding of anions<sup>6-19</sup>. In designing an anionic host, charge and shape complementarity between the host and anionic guest are of paramount importance<sup>1,5</sup>. Neutral anion receptors, especially those of the amido type exploit hydrogen bonding interactions with anions and are found in biological systems. Neutral amides, depending on their spatial orientation (geometry) are expected to selectively complex guest substrates <sup>12-14,20-24</sup>. Neutral receptors of amides, urea and thiourea types are of significance because the transport of anions such as phosphate, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3</sup>- anion through cell membranes is regulated by neutral binding proteins<sup>9-14</sup>. Most anion receptors reported to date are macrocyclic in nature<sup>5,6-24</sup>

Apart from neutral amido receptors, anion receptors exploiting the neutral urea binding motif have been reported<sup>15-19</sup>. Significantly large association constants have been shown for compounds binding to anion in highly competitive solvents. For example a porphyrin urea anion receptors have been reported to selectively complex halides anions over phosphate with association constant of  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}$  in the highly competitive solvent d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO <sup>17-18</sup>. Other anion receptors reported to date require the presence of the amide unit in close proximity to a Lewis acid /metal centre, metallocene, positively charged binding sites or electrochemically induced metallocenium unit<sup>20-24</sup>. The oxidation of the metallocene to the metallocenium ion in tandem with the amide bonds have been shown to induced anion binding. The ligand's topology, acyclic vsmacrocyclicvsmacrobicyclic also has a profound influence on anion binding.

Compounds (4) and (5) present convergent amides hydrogen bonding moities for complexation of anions. Also, the presence of electronegative substituents (Fluoro and bromo) is expected to modulate the hydrogen bonding interactions of the amide protons, fostering stronger hydrogen bonding interactions with the anions and leading to an increase in association constants. Compounds (4) and (5) were synthesized via the condensation of one mole of the diamine (1) with two moles of bromobenzoyl and chlorobenzoyl acid chloride respectively in  $CH_2Cl_2$  solvent, with  $Et_3N$  as the base under nitrogen and was obtained in significant yield after workup, Scheme 1.0. Each compound was characterized via the spectroscopic techniques of <sup>1</sup> HNMR, <sup>13</sup> CNMR, DEPT 135 NMR, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC and HMBC. These data are presented in the experimental section of this paper. A <sup>1</sup>H NMR profile of compound (1) is shown in Fig. 1.0.





#### DISCUSSION

Compounds (4) and (5), described as molecular tweezers, are built on the building block, 3,3' methylene diamine. Both compounds (4) and (5) spectroscopic profiles were established via<sup>1</sup> H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR, DEPT-135, <sup>1</sup> H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC and HMBC spectroscopic techniques. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY shows protons – protons connectivity, HMQC shows the connectivity of individual protons to carbon and HMBC also shows the connectivity of protons to two or more carbon away. Using all these spectroscopic data, the structural integrity of these compounds was assigned as shown in Figure 1.0. A <sup>1</sup> HNMR profile of compound (4) is shown in Fig. 1.0.

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Both compounds exhibit diagnostic <sup>1</sup>H NMR splitting pattern. Compound (4) and (5) show a singlet for the amide, H-6 proton and methylene, H-5 protons at (10.27, 3.94 ppm) and at 10.215, 3.943 ppm) respectively. Aromatic protons from rings A, B, C and D resonate in the region 8.037 ppm to 7.315 ppm.

For both compounds , H-7/H-8 and H-9/H-10 protons are magnetically and electronically equivalent and the splitting pattern which is of the AB type is reminiscent of that for a disubstituted benzene ring. In both cases, H-7 proton is split by H-8 proton yielding a doublet (J = 8.4Hz) and vice versa. Thus, two distinct doublets are seen and these appear at (7.872, 7.740 ppm, J = 8.4Hz) and (8.018, 7.989 ppm, J = 5.7Hz) for compound (4) and (5) respectively. Likewise protons H-9 and H-10 are split by each other resulting in the typical AB doublet at 7.74, J = 8.4Hz) for compound (4) and (5) respectively. Protons on phenyl rings C and D are more downfield or deshielded than protons on rings A and B due to the electron withdrawing effect of the bromo and Fluoro substituent and this is supported by the <sup>1</sup>H NMR profile. The splitting confirms to proton with the AB Chemical shift and whose protons are strongly coupled.

Protons on ring A and B mostly exhibit the ABC splitting pattern. For example, H-1 proton is split by H-2, resulting in a doublet (J = 7.8 Hz) which is then further split by H-3 resulting in a doublet of doublet. However, the chemical shift of these two doublet of doublets are close, resulting in a virtual triplet (J = 8.7Hz). This resonate at 7.294 and 7.34 ppm for compound (4) and (5) respectively. For compound (5), this triplet is close in chemical shift with H-9/H-10 doublets and overlaps. The same analogy holds for H-2 and H-3 protons, resulting in a triplet at 7.62 ppm for both compounds. Protons H-4 is seen as a doublet at 7.03 ppm (7.5Hz) and 7.02 ppm (J=7.45 Hz) for compound (4) and (5) respectively. Methylene, H-5 equivalent protons resonate as a singlet at 3.94 and 3.94 ppm respectively. The fact that the methylene signal is a singlet suggest that there is no conformational rotation about the CH<sub>2</sub> unit of the 3,3' methylene dianiline scaffold. The labile amide proton is seen as a singlet at 10.27 and 10.25 ppm for compound (4) and (5) respectively.

<sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY experiments revealed <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H connectivity. For example, H-1 proton couples with H-2 and H-3 protons i.e shows cross peaks which are in line with those for H-2 and H-3. H-7 couples with H-8 and H-9 couples with H-10. Methylene, H-5 protons shows no <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H connectivity and thus resonate as a singlet.

Both molecules has fourteen different carbons and thus fourteen signals are seen in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum. Each molecule also has five ipso carbons and these resonate at 141.52 ppm, 164.52 ppm, 138.98 ppm, 133.93 ppm, 125.22 ppm and 138.93 ppm for compound (1) and at 165.05, 162.02, 141.51, 139.17 and 131.02 ppm for compound (2) respectively. A Dept<sup>13</sup>C experiment (Distontionlessenchancement by Polarization Transfer experiments) is used to separate the signals arising from carbons in CH<sub>3</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub> and CH groups. Usually with Dept<sub>135</sub> experiment ipso or quaternary carbon signals are not evident. Also, CH<sub>2</sub> protons point downwards and CH and CH<sub>3</sub> upwards. As anticipated the CH<sub>2</sub> signal for each compound points downward at 41.34 ppm. Aromatic carbons resonate in the region: 118.27 ppm to 141.52 ppm. The carbonyl carbon resonate at 164.0 and 165.65 ppm. For compound (2), CH proton resonances are seen at 130.25, 128.60, 124.23, 120.68, 118.23, 115.36 and 115.07 ppm.



Figure 1.<sup>1</sup> H NMR spectrum of compound (4)



Compound 1





#### **Figure 2.Structural Assignments**

Preliminary, <sup>1</sup>H NMR titration experiment was carried out via the addition of tetrabutylammonium phosphate to deuterated  $d_6$ -DMSO solution of receptor (4). Addition of the anion, induced distinct changes in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR profile of compound (4) and should do even better for compound (5) since, the latter protons are more acidic. There are distinct changes in the aromatic proton resonance of compound which definitely indicatescomplexation. Amide proton shifted downfield by 1.5 ppm in chemical shift, indicating significant -NHCO-----Anion hydrogen bonding interactions



**Fig. 3.** Anion Encapsulation by compound (4)

In conclusion, two new amido anion receptors have been synthesized and fully characterized via spectroscopic techniques of <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup> C NMR, DEPT- 135 spectroscopy, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC and HMBC. Preliminary studies reveal complexation with phosphate anions in  $d_6$ -DMSO.<sup>1</sup> H NMR titration revealed complexation to the phosphate anion. Future work entails, the complexation of the receptor to other anions such as the halides and nitrates and the evaluation of complexation stability constants.

# PROCEDURE

For a typical procedure,  $(0.33g, 1.66442 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mol})$  of the dianiline, 3,3' methylene dianiline was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub> in a 100ml RB flask. To this solution was added triethylamine, ET<sub>3</sub>N () under nitrogen. This was followed with the addition of 4-fluorobenzoyl chloride (0.63g, 3.972758  $\times 10^{-3}$  mol). A white precipitate was formed after one hour of stirring. The reaction was further stirred for 24 hours after which it was taken up in distilled water and extracted thrice with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. Solvents were removed in *vacuo* from the extract to yield, a white solid (0.87g, 92.65%) which was found to be spectroscopically pure. The yield being (0.87g, 92.65%) and (0.71g, 96.41%) for compound (4) and (5) respectively.

#### Compound (1)

41.34; **DEPT-135**: 131.30 (CH), 129.70 (CH), 128.64 (CH), 124.35 (CH), 120.69 (CH), 118.25 (CH), 131.81 (CH), 131.01 (CH), 41.34 (CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY: H-1/H-3, H-4; H-2/H-3; H-4/H-1; H-3/H-4, H-1, H-2; H-4/H-3, H-2, H-1; H-5/H-4, H-1, H-2; H-6/(-); H-7/H-8; H-9/H-10; **HMQC**: H-1/115.27; H-2/120.70; H-3/128.63; H-4/124.35; H-5/41.34; H-6/(-), H-7/H-8: 129.70, 131.01; H-9/H-10: 131.81,131.30; **HMBC**: H-1/H-2: 124.35; H-3: 138.98, 141.52; H-4: 118.27, H-5: 120.70, 124.35, 125.22, 141.52, H-6: 118.27, 120.70, 164.50; H-7/H-8: 124.35, 125.22, 129.70, 164.50, H-9/H-10: 124.35, 125.22, 131.01, 133.93, 164.50;

#### Compound (2)

 $\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C_{27}H_{20}N_2O_2F_2:} \ ^{1} \text{ H NMR (300MHz, CDCl_3),} &: 10.25 \text{ (s, NHCO), 8.007( d, J = 5.7Hz, 4H;} \\ \text{ArH), 7.625 (d, J = 5.7 Hz; 4H; ArH), 7.315-7.375 (m, J = 9.0 Hz, 6H; Ar-H), 7.01 (d, J = 5.9 \\ \text{Hz, 2H, ArH), 3.94 (s);} \ ^{13}\text{CNMR (300MHz, CDCl_3)} &: 165.65, 141.51, 139.17, 131.32, \\ 130.37,130.25, 128.60, 124.32, 120.68, 118.23, 115.36, 115.07, 41.40; \ ^{1}\text{H}^{-1}\text{H COSY} : \text{H}^{-1/\text{H}^{-2}, \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{DEPT 135: 130.37 (CH), 130.25(CH), 128.60 (CH), 124.23 (CH), 120.68(CH), \\ 118.23(CH), 115.36(CH), 115.07(CH), 41.39 (CH_2); \ ^{1}\text{H}^{-1}\text{H COSY} : \text{H}^{-1/\text{H}^{-2}, \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2}, \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}, \text{H}^{-3}, \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-4}; \text{H}^{-2/\text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-1}, \text{H}^{-2}; \text{H}^{-3}; \text{H}^{-3};$ 

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