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# Oligoamylose-Entwined Porphyrin: Excited-State Induced-Fit for Chirality Induction

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An oligoamylose-strapped porphyrin displayed circularly polarized luminescence (CPL) in the S<sub>1</sub> state despite it being silent in circularly dichroism (CD) in the ground state, suggesting chirality induction in the photoexcited porphyrin moiety from the oligoamylose-strap in the photoexcited state.

Chromophores that show circularly polarized luminescence (CPL) are an attractive class of optical materials.1 CPL originates from chiral dispersive interaction in the photoexcited state, as approximated by the quotient of the electronic dipole moment divided by the magnetic dipole moment.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, CPL is an alternative application of electromagnetic properties of light in Maxwell's equation. A photoexcited chiral chromophore can generate CPL even when no chiroptical properties are observed in the ground state.3 However, organic chromophores that exhibit large differential luminescence of left- or right-handed CPL have been primarily limited to chiral chromophore aggregates. 1a-c Otherwise, the structurally rigid  $\pi$ -framework including helicenes, biaryls, and sophisticatedly designed molecules,<sup>6</sup> has been indispensable to suppress racemisation both in the ground state and the excited state. In this context, exploration of non-aggregated and non-polymeric CPL-active chromophore is a significant challenge.1d,7 Given that there is a trade-off between the electronic dipole moment and the magnetic dipole moment, conformational change of a chromophore in the photoexcited state could be a potential strategy to impart chiral nature to the photophysical properties of the chromophore.

Contrasting with the conventional approaches, we investigated whether an induced-fit system<sup>8</sup> could be adaptable to induce chirality in an intrinsically achiral chromophore in the photoexcited state in a chiral environment. In this context, a spiral channel of a chiral biological entity may be appropriate to transfer chirality to the intrinsically achiral chromophore. This report describes a comprehensive proof-of-concept study to tackle challenges in developing a new class of CPL materials.

A spiral channel can be created by length-mismatched c.... clamping between each terminal of a rigid rotatable axle, which lead to the axle moiety self-encapsulating in the channel. For example clipping the side-groups of the oligomeric  $\pi$ -systems has be explored to provide helical  $\pi$ -systems, which has been coined "geländer oligomer" by Vögtle and coworkers.9 Gladysz and coworkers also reported a similar strategy to form spiral structur s entwining a stiff axle. 10 Such a vine-twining analogy is also intriguing to tune the electronic properties by twisting the axle of tle chromophore.11 Here we present a biological entity as a chiraadaptable channel that includes an achiral chromophore.

Amylose is a polysaccharide composed of a D-glucose backbone connected via  $\alpha(1\rightarrow 4)$ -glycoside linkages, adopting a  $6_1$  left-handes helix (6 glucopyranose units in one turn).12 This is of particular interest because the formation of the amylose-iodine inclusion complex, which is known as a "starch blue reaction", is one of ... most representative examples of an induced-fit host-guest binding of a helical polymer.<sup>13</sup> The interior channel of the folded amylose encapsulates versatile lipophilic guest molecules, such s chromophores and polymers. 14,15 The most representative examples

COMMUNICATION Journal Name

are cyclic analogues of oligoamylose (cyclodextrins), which have been a key element in host–guest chemistry, <sup>16</sup> and some of which can exhibit CPL. <sup>17</sup>

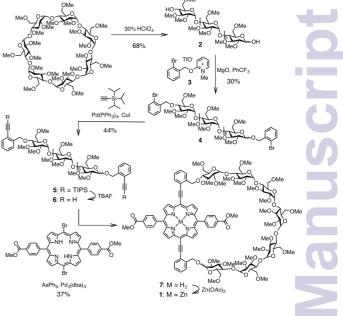
Herein, we design an oligoamylose-strapped porphyrin **1** (Scheme 1), with which an achiral porphyrin axle is self-folded by a helically twisted polysaccharide. A flexible oligoamylose-strap (per-*O*-methylated maltoheptaose) was tethered to the rigid porphyrin, wherein an interaction between the oligoamylose and porphyrin moiety occurred based on the fact that cyclodextrin derivatives were able to form exceptionally stable inclusion complexes with aqueous porphyrinoid. <sup>18,19</sup> With the aim of creating an induced-fit system through intramolecular host–guest interactions, the rotatable ethynylene linkages may be effective in inducing helicity around the porphyrin plane. Moreover, achiral porphyrin macrocycle is a privileged substrate to induce chirality. <sup>20</sup> At the same time, such macrocyclic cavity composed of porphyrin–cyclodextrin hybrid is also intriguing as a novel structural unit, the so-called "element-block", <sup>21</sup> in host–guest systems. <sup>22</sup>

The synthetic route is outlined in Scheme 2. Single scission of the glycoside linkage opened the ring of per-O-methylated  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin,  $^{23}$  and both the  $1^{(0)}$ -hemiacetal and  $4^{(VII)}$ -hydroxy terminal of the methylated maltoheptaose **2** was simultaneously subjected to the Dudley's benzyl-transfer protocol  $^{24}$  with **3**, and **4** was obtained in 30% yield. Each bromine-terminal of **4** was then introduced silylated acetylene by the Sonogashira–Hagihara coupling reaction to give **5**, which was then desilylated. The linear oligoamylose **6** was re-cyclized with the corresponding porphyrin. The oligoamylose-strapped porphyrin **7** was metallated with zinc ion. The products were satisfactory to identification by NMR and MALDI-TOF MS spectra, as described in the Supporting Information.  $^{25}$ 

Self-folded conformations were rationally simulated by the computational energy-minimized model study (B97D). In the *folded* conformation of **1** (Figure 1A), the distance between the ring-membered-oxygen atom of the glucose-(III) and the zinc atom is 2.3 Å, suggesting the existence of a coordination bond. The existence of multiple  $CH-\pi$  interactions between the glucose and porphyrin plane were also predicted. The *folded* conformation gave rise to structural strain of the oligoamylose-strap, leading to a "chair"-to-"boat" conformational change of the glucose-(III) ring.

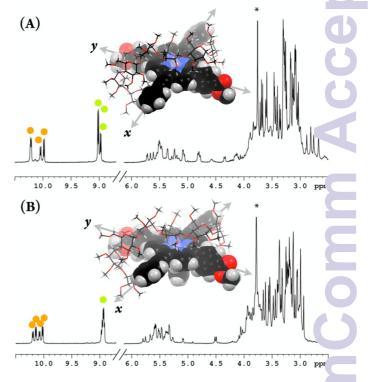
The folded conformation of 1 was verified by NMR spectroscopy in toluene- $d_8$ . The aromatic resonances of the porphyrin ring were heterogeneously multiplied due to the asymmetric environment of the oligoamylose strap (Figure 1A). Similarly, some of the methyl protons of oligoamylose-strap shifted upfield due to shielding in the vicinity of the porphyrin moiety. The computational structure was also supported by unambiguous nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE) correlations between the protons of the oligoamylose-strap and the aromatic resonances of porphyrin- $\beta$  and meso-aryl groups (Figure S1).<sup>25</sup> Therefore, 1 formed a self-inclusion complex at ambient temperature in toluene.

The addition of pyridine- $d_5$  as a competitively coordinating axial ligand ( $K_a = 2.6 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ) disturbed the glucose-to-zinc axial coordination (Figure 1B). Then, **1**·Py showed no substantial NOE correlation between the aromatic resonances of porphyrin ring and the oligoamylose strap, unlike the results observed in toluene- $d_8$ . The glucose C1-protons (5.2–4.0 ppm) mostly shifted downfield upon



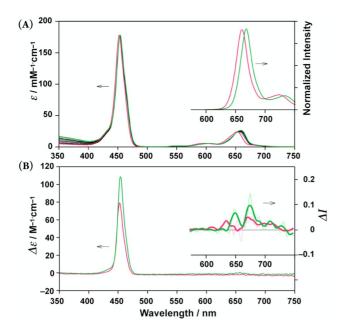
Scheme 2. Synthetic route of oligoamylose-strapped porphyrin 1.

addition of pyridine- $d_5$ , suggesting that the protons of the oligoamylose strap were less shielded by the porphyrin ring (Figure 1B). At the same time, the methyl protons at 3.0–2.5 ppm shifted downfield. These results suggest that the folded conformation of 1 was disturbed in the presence of pyridine. Nevertheless, the oligoamylose-strap remained helical conformation. Actually, the



**Figure 1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra and computer-optimized structures of *foldea*. **1** in toluene- $d_8$  (A) and *semifolded* **1**·Py in the presence of 5% or pyridine- $d_5$  (B) at 298 K. Orange and green circles indicate the  $\beta$  protons as indicated in Scheme 1.

Journal Name COMMUNICATION



**Figure 2.** (A) Absorption spectra of **1** (1  $\times$  10<sup>-6</sup> M) in the course of addition of pyridine (up to 3,750 equiv; red to green) in toluene at 298 °C. Inset shows normalized fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{\rm ex} = 450$  nm). (B) CD spectra of *folded* **1** (red) and *semifolded* **1**·Py (green) in toluene. Inset shows CPL spectra ( $\lambda_{\rm ex} = 450$  nm) with fitted curves (thick line).

protons at 10.3–9.9 ppm indicated an increase in dissymmetrisation along x direction following the addition of pyridine. The optimized structure suggested that the porphyrin moiety remained in the self-included structure even after pyridine bound the axial position. These experiments prove there are intramolecular interactions between the oligoamylose-strap and the porphyrin moiety. It is known that dipole interactions play a crucial role in the host–guest interaction of the polar cavity of cyclodextrin<sup>26</sup> in aqueous media<sup>18a,27</sup> and in nonpolar solvents.<sup>28</sup> Eventually, in the presence of pyridine, **1** adopted the *semifolded* conformation.

The chiroptical properties of 1 in the ground state were verified by circular dichroism (CD) (Figure 2B). An intense positive sign of induced CD (ICD) emerged at the Soret band (S2 state at 452 nm) of the achiral porphyrin moiety. It is known that glucose alone is not sufficient to induce a CD signal on the Soret band.<sup>29</sup> Instead, assuming that 1 was amenable to the ICD rule for an encapsulated molecule in a cyclodextrin cavity, 30 the positive CD signal suggested that the orientation of the porphyrin moiety was laid along the axis of the helical channel of the oligoamylose-strap, where the Soret transition along the y direction is predominant in electronic transition based on the time-dependent (TD)-DFT calculation.<sup>25,31</sup> The helically twisted conformation of the meso-aryl groups along the y direction may contribute to chiroptical properties to some extend. The absorption dissymmetry factor,  $g_{abs} = \Delta \varepsilon / \varepsilon = 2(\varepsilon_{left} - \varepsilon_{right}) / (\varepsilon_{left} + \varepsilon_{right})$ , was  $+4.5 \times 10^{-4}$  at 452 nm for folded **1** and  $+6.0 \times 10^{-4}$  at 454 nm for semifolded 1.Py. In contrast, the CD signal was only faint at the Q band (S<sub>1</sub> state approximately 650 nm;  $g_{abs} < \sim 10^{-5}$  for **1** and **1**·Py). In these cases, the Qx transition is predominantly based on the TD-DFT calculation.  $^{25,32}$  Such diagonal orientations of the  $Q_{\scriptscriptstyle X}$  transition dipole

**Table 1.** Photophysical properties of S<sub>1</sub> state of **1** upon excitation at 450 nm

	$\lambda_{max}/nm(\boldsymbol{\varPhi})^{a}$	τ/ns(α) <sup>b</sup>	<i>g</i> lum <sup>c</sup>
1	659 (0.12)	0.51 (19%), 1.98 (81%)	+2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> (664 n ı)
<b>1</b> ⋅Py	666 (0.13)	0.44 (21%), 1.68 (79%)	+4 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> (674 nm)

a) Emission maxima  $(\lambda_{\text{max}})$  and absolute quantum yield  $(\Phi)$ . b, Fluorescence lifetime  $(\tau)$  and the normalized amplitude  $(\alpha)$  determined from the fluorescence decay profiles. c) Luminescence anisotrop factor,  $g_{\text{lum}} = \Delta I/I = 2(h_{\text{eft}} - I_{\text{right}})/(h_{\text{eft}} + I_{\text{right}})$ .

could account for the contrasting chiroptical properties of the 'band in the CD spectra.

The porphyrin 1 showed fluorescence with absolute quantum yield  $(\Phi) = 0.12$  and 0.13 in the absence and presence of pyridine. respectively (Table 1). Upon excitation of the Soret band (450 nn ), fluorescence was obtained from the Q band through internal conversion. The time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy exhibitation biexponetial decay components regardless of the absence presence of pyridine, suggesting structural relaxation in the excited state, 25 i.e., induced-fit conformational change in the photoexcited state. Considering the fact that the photoexcited porphyrin plane s ruffled,33 the porphyrin plane could be reorganized into a helicafashion at the photoexcited state. Moreover, it was recently reported that the vibrational mode is coupled with the photoexcited  $Q_{\nu}$ transition.30 Together with the above TD-DFT results, we hypothe. that the electronic transition anisotropy is diagonally reorganize from the Q<sub>x</sub> to Q<sub>y</sub> transition at the photoexcited state. Under the conditions, 1 could display CPL.

Indeed, the emission from the  $S_1$  state of 1 was circular polarized (Figure 2B). The luminescence with anisotropy factor,  $g_{1u}$  of  $+2 \times 10^{-4}$  at 664 nm and  $+4 \times 10^{-4}$  at 674 nm was observed of folded 1 and semifolded 1-Py, respectively. These values remained the similar magnitudes of the  $g_{abs}$  values at the Soret band. These results are in sharp constant to the Q band that is substantially silent in the CD spectra in the ground state. From these results, we conclude the conformational change caused by photoecxcitation induced chirality in the intrinsically achiral  $S_1$  state of porphyrin moiety of 1. Moreover, the somewhat enhanced  $g_{lum}$  value resulting from the addition of pyridine suggests that the more adaptable the induced-system the more effective the induction of chirality.

In conclusion, we demonstrated chirality induction based on the excited state induced-fit mechanism. A spiral channel created by a flexible oligoamylose-strap definitely had a chiral impact on the photoexcited conformational change of the achiral porphyrin axle to exhibit explicit CPL, although the  $g_{\text{lum}}$  magnitude of 1 was still range at a moderate level for a non-aggregated chromophore. Excited-state induced-fit mechanisms for chirality induction have highlighten a new potential approach to develop CPL-active chromopholes. Further study of host–guest systems featuring 1 as an element block is also now under active investigations.

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COMMUNICATION Journal Name

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#### Notes and references

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