Synthesis of macrobicyclic compounds containing aza-crown ether fragments and study of their complexation with zinc and cadmium nitrates*

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N-(3,5-Dibromobenzyl) derivatives of 1-aza-15-crown-5 and 1-aza-18-crown-6 were synthesized in high yields and their palladium-catalyzed amination reactions with various linear polyamines were studied. As a result, macrobicyclic compounds were obtained in yields up to 56%. The complexation of some macrocycles with zinc and cadmium nitrates was studied by NMR titration.

Key words: macrocycles, amination, homogenous transition metal catalysis, aza-crown ethers, polyamines, complexation, NMR titration.

Palladium-catalyzed amination of dihalobenzenes with polyamines and oxadiamines has been applied successfully by us for the synthesis of the nitrogen- and oxygen-containing macrocycles. As a result, the compounds containing one or two aromatic rings and polyamine fragments have been prepared.¹ Several examples of analogous compounds derived from o- and p-phenylenediamines containing two oxadiamine chains are known, which have been synthesized by non-catalytic methods.^{2,3} It has been shown that these compounds exhibit complexation selectivity towards the Pb^{II} ions and, to some extent, the Dy^{III} ions; at the same time, they bind weakly the alkali metals. The macrobicyclic compounds containing two aza-crown ether fragments are of considerable interest due to their remarkable coordination properties. A convenient synthetic approach to various bi- and polycyclic compounds of this type, viz., cryptands and supercryptands based on azacrown ethers, was first developed by Krakowiak at the beginning of the 1990s using simple nucleophilic substitution reactions.^{4–6} The majority of the currently known bis(aza-crown) ethers contain two isolated macrocyclic fragments positioned symmetrically relative to the aromatic,^{7,8} metallocene,⁹ porphyrin,¹⁰ or calixarene¹¹ spacers. They can also serve as a basis for more complex macrocycles, among which calix-crown ethers are most common.¹²⁻¹⁴ For the design of the metal-ion sensors, such fluorophores as coronene,¹² perylene,¹³ anthracene,¹⁴ cou-

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marin,¹⁵ and boron dipyrromethene complexes¹⁶ are incorporated into the molecule, these substituents can be bound to the aza-macrocycles through linkers or constitute a part of the macrocycle. Bis(aza-crown) ethers have been studied as the sensors for the Na^I, K^I, Cs^I, Ba^{II}, Ag^I, Zn^{II}, and Cd^{II} ions.^{13,14,16} In the vast majority of studies, the syntheses of almost all compounds were carried out using non-catalytic methods. Palladium-catalyzed N-arylation of aza-crown ether was first used by Witulski for the preparation of the *N*-anthryl derivative.¹⁷ In the present work, we described the use of the catalytic amination of the aza-crown ether derivatives for the synthesis of a series of macrobicyclic compounds with two different macrocycles connected through a flexible benzyl-type linker, which allows changing the distance between the ring cavities for creation of the cooperative effect upon complexation.

Results and Discussion

Reactions of the starting 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) and 1-aza-18-crown-6 (2) with 3,5-dibromobenzylbromide (1 equiv.) in refluxing acetonitrile in the presence of K_2CO_3 as a base afforded *N*-(3,5-dibromobenzyl) derivatives **3** and **4** in yields of 95 and 90%, respectively (Scheme 1).

These compounds were subjected to the palladiumcatalyzed amination reaction with several di- and polyamines 5a-h, and the corresponding macrobicyclic compounds 6a-h and 7a-h with isolated macrocycles linked through a short and relatively flexible linker were obtained (Scheme 2). The reactions were carried out in refluxing

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i. K₂CO₃, MeCN, reflux, 24 h.

dioxane at the equimolar ratio of the reactants (concentration 0.02 mol L^{-1}) for 24 h using Pd(dba)₂ as a catalyst and Bu^tONa as a base. The experimental results are given in Table 1. It was found that the donor phosphine ligand DavePhos (2-dicyclohexylphosphino-2'-dimethylaminobiphenyl) is efficient in the reaction of the 1-aza-15crown-5 derivative 3 with di- and triamines 5a - e (see Table 1, Entries 1-5). The highest yields of macrobicycles were obtained not only in the reaction with the "longest" diamines 5a,b,d containing 12-15 atoms in the chain (see Table 1, Entries 1, 2, and 4), but also with the shorter dioxadiamine 5c (10 atoms in the chain), the yield being 41% (see Table 1, Entry 3). The yields attained are in some cases higher than those of macrocyclization upon catalytic amination of 1,3-dibromobenzene.¹ The yield with triamine 5e decreased to 29% (see Table 1, Entry 5). In the case of tetramine 5f, the ligand DavePhos was inefficient and we failed to obtain macrobicycle 6f (see Table 1, Entry 6). However, with BINAP as the phosphine ligand the corresponding macrobicycle was isolated in 18% yield (see Table 1, Entry 7). The reaction with longer tetramine 5g proceeded better, both phoshpine ligands providing the same yield (28%) of compound 6g (see Table 1, Entries 8 and 9). Tetramine 5h was less reactive: the yield of macrobicycle 6h was only 8% with DavePhos and 15% with BINAP (see Table 1, Entries 10 and 11). It is important to note that BINAP was totally inefficient in the reactions with diamines where DavePhos resulted in high yields of macrobicycles (see Table 1, Entry 12). The increase in the amount of the catalyst up to 16 mol.% did not lead to the increase in the yield of macrobicycles 6. These facts suggest that in the case of the reactions with tetramines, which can form more stable chelate complexes than oxadiamines

the use of BINAP is preferred due to its better ability to coordinate zerovalent palladium compared to DavePhos.

On the whole, the reactions of 1-aza-18-crown-6 derivative 4 with di- and polyamines 5a-h furnished the corresponding macrobicycles 7a-h in lower yields. For example, the reaction of 4 with trioxadiamine 5a afforded macrobicycle 7a in a yield of 30% with BINAP as a ligand (see Table 1, Entry 13) and 32% with DavePhos (see Table 1, Entry 14). Similar yield of the target macrobicycle 7d (27%) was also obtained in the reaction of 4 with decanediamine 5d (see Table 1, Entry 19). The yields of the macrobicycles with the dioxadiamine linkers were considerably lower (see Table 1, Entries 15-18), the use of BINAP being preferred. Finally, in the reactions of 4 with tri- and tetramines 5c-h, only BINAP provided the formation of the desired products 7c-h and DavePhos was totally ineffective. The lower yields of macrobicycles 7 compared to $\mathbf{6}$ can be explained by different abilities of 1-aza-15-crown-5 and 1-aza-18-crown-6 to coordinate the sodium cation, which results in different efficacy of sodium tert-butoxide in the catalytic amination cycle. Thus, we demonstrated for the first time the strong depen-

Table 1. Synthesis of macrobicycles 6a-h and 7a-h

Entry	Aza-crown ether derivative	Poly- amine	Ligand ^a	Product	Yield ^b (%)
1	3	5a	DavePHOS	6a	53
2	3	5b	DavePHOS	6b	56
3	3	5c	DavePHOS	6c	41
4	3	5d	DavePHOS	6d	51
5	3	5e	DavePHOS	6e	29
6	3	5f	DavePHOS	6f	0
7	3	5f	BINAP	6f	18
8	3	5g	DavePHOS	6g	28
9	3	5g	BINAP	6g	28
10	3	5h	DavePHOS	6h	8
11	3	5h	BINAP	6h	15
12	3	5a	BINAP	6a	5
13	4	5a	BINAP	7a	30
14	4	5a	DavePHOS	7a	32
15	4	5b	BINAP	7b	15
16	4	5b	DavePHOS	7b	12
17	4	5c	BINAP	7c	14
18	4	5c	DavePHOS	7c	8
19	4	5d	BINAP	7d	27
20	4	5e	BINAP	7e	27
21	4	5f	BINAP	7f	28
22	4	5f	DavePHOS	7f	0
23	4	5g	BINAP	7g	20
24	4	5g	DavePHOS	$7\mathbf{g}$	0
25	4	5h	BINAP	7ĥ	16
26	4	5h	DavePHOS	7h	0

^{*a*} 8 mol.% Pd(dba)₂ and 9 mol.% DavePhos or BINAP were used. ^{*b*} The yields after chromatography on silica gel. Scheme 2



n = 1 (**3**, **6a**—**h**), 2 (**4**, **7a**—**h**)

i. P(dba)₂, BINAP or DavePhos, Bu^tONa, dioxane, reflux, 24 h.



dence of the result of catalytic amination on the nature of a phosphine ligand in reactions of structurally close starting compounds.

In the NMR spectra of compounds **6a**–**e** and **7a**–**e**, many signals are noticeably broadened (the half-height line width $\Delta v_{1/2}$ is up to 100 Hz in the ¹H NMR spectra and up to 200 Hz in the ¹³C NMR spectra). This fact can be explained by the hindered rotation of the benzyl group due to the increase in the steric hindrance.

Having studied the possibilities of the synthesis of macrobicyclic compounds with isolated rings based on N-(3,5-dibromobenzyl)aza-crown ethers, we used this reaction to prepare macrobicycles containing the monosubstituted cyclene. Thus, the reaction of *cis*-glyoxal-cyclene **8** (see Ref. 18) with 3,5-dibromobenzylbromide (1 equiv.) in toluene at room temperature afforded the correspond-

ing salt **9** in 67% yield. This compound was refluxed with ethanolic KOH for 72 h resulting in N-(3,5-dibromobenzyl)cyclene (**10**) in 65% yield (over two steps) (Scheme 3).

The cyclene derivative 10 reacted with oxadiamines 5a-c in the presence of the catalytic system Pd(dba)₂/DavePhos (8 or 16 mol.%); however, in this case, the yields of the target products 11a-c were low (BINAP was totally ineffective). For example, the reaction of 10 with trioxadiamines 5a and 5b afforded macrobicycles 11a and 11b in yields of 13% and 10%, respectively, and compound 11c was isolated in only 2% yield (Scheme 4). The attempts to perform reactions with tetramines failed; however, total conversion of the starting cyclene derivative 10 was observed in all cases.

Low reactivity of this compound in the amination reactions can be explained by remarkable coordination of ze-



i. PhMe, 20 °C, 24 h; ii. KOH, EtOH, reflux, 72 h.





i. Pd(dba)₂, DavePhos, Bu^tONa, dioxane, reflux, 24 h. X = (CH₂OCH₂)₃ (**a**), CH₂O(CH₂)₄OCH₂ (**b**), O(CH₂)₂O (**c**)

rovalent palladium to tetraazamacrocycle, whereby it is removed from the catalytic amination cycle, other reactions, where the starting dibromoderivative **10** is consumed, beginning to play a leading role.

We performed preliminary studies of the coordination properties of macrobicycles **6a** and **7a** by NMR titration (¹H) with zinc and cadmium nitrates in CD₃OD. In order to compare the coordination properties of the starting azacrown ether and macrobicyclic ligands prepared by us and to reveal the influence of the second attached macrocycle on the course of complexation, we first titrated the starting aza-crown ethers 1 and 2 with these metal salts. The signals for the CH_2N groups in both the starting aza-crown ethers 1 and 2 and their macrobicyclic derivatives 6a and 7a were most convenient for monitoring the complexation process, since these signals do not overlap with the signals for other groups and their chemical shifts depend strongly on the amount of the metal salt added.

Titration of 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) showed that a regular downfield shift of the signal for the CH₂N groups from δ 2.73 to δ 3.00 and 3.18, respectively, occured upon addition of 0.25 and 0.5 equiv. of zinc nitrate, which was accompanied by broadening of the muliplet (Fig. 1, a, b), and the signal was split into three broadened singlets of unequal intensities at δ 2.81, 3.12, and 3.24 upon addition of 0.75 equiv. of zinc nitrate (Fig. 1, c). Upon subsequent addition of the metal salt, the chemical shifts of these signals did not change (Fig. 1, d); however, the intensity ratio changed slightly: the signal at δ 3.24 became less intensive and the intensities of the signals at δ 2.82 and 3.12 increased, the latter having always equal intensities. Upon heating the solution to 55 °C, these signals coalesced into a broadened singlet at δ 3.19 (Fig. 1, e). The above-mentioned changes are represented graphically in Fig. 2, a. The results obtained allow one to assume that two different complexes are in equilibrium in a solution, which is sufficiently slow on the NMR time scale at room temperature, since both forms of the ligand in these complexes are observed simultaneously, but the signals are noticeably broadened, and, with the increase in the temperature, the exchange rate increases and only one averaged form is observed. The stoichiometry of these two complexes must be different, since the average ligand : metal ratio, at which the signals achieve plateau, is about 1:0.75, which suggests the presence of the ligand—metal complexes of the composition 1 : 1 and 2 : 1. The chemical shifts for two CH₂N protons in one of the complexes, presumably of the composition 1:1, differ strongly (by 0.3 ppm), which can be explained by the staggered conformation of the OCH₂CH₂N fragment due to the coordination of the zinc ion to one aza-crown ether.

In the second complex, presumably of the composition 2 : 1, such an effect is not pronounced clearly, which is apparently due to a less rigid fixation of the macrocycle conformation in the sandwich-like complex.

Another pattern was observed during titration of azacrown ether **1** with cadmium nitrate: the signal for the CH₂N group was downfield shifted (from δ 2.73 to δ 2.98, Fig. 3, *a*, *b*) upon slow addition of the metal salt up to 0.75 equiv. and split into two broadened singlets of equal intensities at δ 2.90 and 3.11 upon addition of 1 equiv. of cadmium nitrate (Fig. 3, *c*). The spectral pattern did not change upon increase in the amount of cadmium nitrate added and these signals coalesced into one broadened singlet at δ 3.03 upon heating to 55 °C (Fig. 3, *d*).



Fig. 1. The ¹H NMR spectra of 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) in CD₃OD before (*a*) and after addition of 0.5 (*b*), 0.75 (*c*) and 1 equiv. of $Zn(NO_3)_2$ (*d*) at 20 °C, as well as after heating with $Zn(NO_3)_2$ (1 equiv.) to 55 °C (*e*). Here and in Figs 3 and 6, the signal for the residual proton of the solvent is marked with an asterisk.

The above-mentioned changes are graphically presented in Fig. 2, b. From the titrimetric data, one can conclude that in this case the ligand—metal complex of the composition 1 : 1 formed, wherein, as in the case of one of the complexes of aza-crown ether **1** with zinc nitrate, the conformation mobility of the OCH₂CH₂N fragment is restricted due to room-temperature coordination of the zinc ion and, for this reason, the chemical shifts of two CH₂N protons differ by 0.21 ppm.

Titration of 1-aza-18-crown-6 (2) with zinc nitrate resulted in the downfield shift of the signals for the CH_2N group upon addition of 0.5 equiv. of the salt and, with



Fig. 2. Changes in the chemical shifts of the CH_2N protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) during titration with zinc nitrate (*a*) and cadmium nitrate (*b*). Here and in Figs 4, 5, and 7, *N* is the number of equivalents of the corresponding salt added during NMR titration.

subsequent addition of zinc nitrate, there were no changes in the spectrum, which suggests the formation of the ligand—metal complex of the composition 2:1 (Fig. 4, *a*). One can assume that not all the oxygen atoms of azacrown ether are involved in coordiation of the zinc ion due to unfavorable geometric factors; therefore, the remaining coordination vacancies are occupied by the nitrogen and oxygen atoms from the second macrocycle thereby creating the sandwich-like structure.

Upon addition of cadmium nitrate to a solution of aza-crown ether **2**, the downfield shift of the signal for the CH_2N group was observed up to the addition of 1 equiv. of the salt, whereafter no shift was observed, which suggests the formation of the 1 : 1 complex (Fig. 4, *b*). The absence of splitting of the signal for the methylene protons in this case can indicate the conformation of the macrocycle in the complex that is less rigidly fixed by the metal. Thus, both aza-crown ethers **1** and **2** afford the 1 : 1 complexes with cadmium nitrate, while the formation of more complex structures is observed in both cases upon coordination of the zinc ion.

Titration of macrobicycle **6a** with zinc nitrate is also characterized by the downfield shift of the signal for the CH_2N group of the aza-crown ether ring (Fig. 5), altough the dependence of the chemical shift on the amount of the salt added is not so much pronounced in this case as in the





Fig. 3. The ¹H NMR spectra of 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) in CD₃OD before (*a*) and after addition of 0.75 (*b*) and 1 equiv. of $Cd(NO_3)_2(c)$ at 20 °C, as well as after heating with $Cd(NO_3)_2$ (1 equiv.) to 55 °C (*d*).

case of the starting aza-crown ether **1**. We observed also the downfield shift of the NH protons, which evidences in favor of involvement of the second macrocycle in coordination to the zinc ion. Most likely, the second macrocycle coordinates the zinc ion through the oxygen atoms of the trioxadiamine chain, and through these atoms the effect of coordination is transferred to the NH protons. The data obtained evidence the formation of the 1 : 1 complex, although the values of chemical shifts do not achieve the plateau, which is evidently due to a lower stability of the complex compared to that of aza-crown ether **1**. Thus, with regard to the coordination properties towards the zinc ions, macrobicycle **6a** differs considerably from 1-aza-15-crown-5 (**1**) due to the involvement of the second mac-



Fig. 4. Changes in the chemical shifts of the CH_2N protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 1-aza-18-crown-6 (2) during titration with zinc nitrate (*a*) and cadmium nitrate (*b*).



Fig. 5. Changes in the chemical shifts of the CH_2N (*I*) and NH (*2*) protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum during titration of macrobicycle **6a** with zinc nitrate (*a*) and the CH_2N protons during titration with cadmium nitrate (*b*).

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rocycle in coordination, which results in the formation of only one complex in a solution.

Titration of macrobicycle 6a with cadmium nitrate (see Fig. 5, b) suggests the formation of the ligand—metal complex of the composition 2:1. The downfield shift of the CH_2N protons from δ 2.87 to δ 2.94 was observed upon addition of 0.25 equiv. of the salt (Fig. 6, a, b) and the signal was split into two broadened singlets of equlal intensities at δ 3.16 and 2.82 upon addition of 0.5 equiv. of cadmium nitrate (Fig. 6, c). Subsequent addition of the salt (Fig. 6, d) caused no changes in the spectrum, which allows conclusion on the formation of the ligand-metal complex of the composition 2 : 1. In addition, the absence of the shift of the signals for the NH protons evidences that the second attached macrocycle is not involved in complexation with the cadmium ion. This is quite unexpected, since the starting 1-aza-15-crown-5 (1) formed the 1:1 complex with cadmium nitrate. In this case, probably due to the changes in the conformation of aza-crown ether induced by the macrocyclic substituent at the nitrogen atom, the cadmium ion is coordinated by not all the donor atoms of aza-crown ether, which results in the formation of the sandwich-like structure involving the second aza-crown ether fragment. However, splitting of the signal for the methylene protons suggests the rigidly fixed conformation of the macrocycle in the complex as it was upon coordination of the starting aza-crown ether 1 to cadmium nitrate.

In the case of macrobicycle **7a**, titration with zinc nitrate (Fig. 7, *a*) occured in a similar way as titration of macrobicycle **6a** and resulted in the formation of the 1 : 1 complex. In this case, owing to the fact that the signals for the NH protons are considerably shifted downfield, one may also conclude that the second attached macrocycle is involved in complexation through the oxygen atoms. Since the chemical shifts of the CH₂N and NH protons do not achieve completely the plateau at the ratio metal : ligand = 1 : 1, the complex that formed is less stable than the complex of the starting 1-aza-18-crown-6 (**2**).

The result of titration of macrobicycle **7a** with cadmium nitrate (Fig. 7, *b*) differed from that for macrobicycle **6a**, since, in the case of **7a**, there was a distinct inflexion point corresponding to addition of 1 equiv. of Cd(NO₃)₂, although the value of $\Delta\delta_{\rm H}$ (0.04) was much smaller than in all other experiments, where it changed from 0.30 to 0.51. There were also no changes in the chemical shifts of the NH protons, which is evidence of the fact that in this case the cadmium ion is coordinated only by the 1-aza-18crown-6 fragment and the second attached macrocycle is not involved in coordination to the metal. Finally, the absence of splitting of the signals for the methylene protons in this case is very similar to the effect observed upon



Fig. 6. The ¹H NMR spectra of macrobicycle **6a** in CD₃OD before (*a*) and after addition of 0.25 (*b*) and 0.5 equiv. of $Cd(NO_3)_2$ (*c*) at 20 °C.



Fig. 7. Changes in the chemical shifts of the CH_2N (*I*) and NH (*2*) protons in the ¹H NMR spectrum of macrobicycle 7a during titration with zinc nitrate (*a*) and the CH_2N protons during titration with cadmium nitrate (*b*).

complexation of the starting aza-crown ether **2** with cadmium nitrate.

Thus, in the present study, we developed an efficient method for the synthesis of macrobicyclic compounds containing two structurally different fragments of aza-crown ethers using palladium-catalyzed amination. We also showed the possibility of variation in the size of the second attached macrocycle and the amount of the nitrogen and oxygen atoms therein and established the dependence of the yields of the target macrobicycles on the nature of the starting compounds. It was shown that this approach has restrictions with regard to the use of analogous derivatives of tetraazamacrocycles. The coordination properties of the starting aza-crown ethers and two representatives of novel macrobicycles were studied by NMR titration, which showed that 1-aza-15-crown-5(1) forms the ligand-metal complexes of the composition 1:1 and 2:1 with zinc nitrate and the 1:1 complex with cadmium nitrate and 1-aza-18-crown-6 (2) affords the 2:1 complex with the zinc ion and the 1:1 complex with the cadmium ion. Macrobicycles 6a and 7a form the 1:1 ligand-metal complexes with the zinc ions, macrobicycle 6a forms the 2:1 ligand-metal complex with the cadmium ion, and compound 7a forms the 1:1 complex with the cadmium ion, two macrocycles being involved in complexation upon coordination to the zinc ions and only the fragments of the starting aza-crown ethers being involved in complexation upon coordination to the cadmium ions.

Experimental

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 298 K on a Bruker Avance-400 (400 and 100 MHz, respectively) spectrometer. The chemical shifts in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra are given in the δ scale relative to Me₄Si (internal standard). MALDI—TOF mass spectra were obtained on a Bruker Ultraflex instrument in the positive ion mode using 1,8,9-trihydroxyanthracene as a matrix and poly(ethylene glycols) as the internal standards. The starting aza-crown ethers 1 and 2, 3,5-dibromobenzyl bromide, di- and polyamines **5a**—**h**, the phosphine ligands BINAP and DavePhos (Aldrich or Acros) were used without additional purification. *cis*-Glyoxal-cyclene **8** was synthesized from cyclene according to the known procedure.¹⁸ Pd(dba)₂ was synthesized accoding to the published procedure.¹⁹ Dioxane was distilled over alkali and metallic sodium, acetonitrile was distilled over calcium hydride, dichloromethane and methanol were distilled.

NMR titration was performed as follows: a solution of azacrown ether **1**, **2** or macrobicycles **6a**, **7a** (50 µmol) in CD₃OD (0.5 mL, c = 0.1 mol L⁻¹) was placed in an NMR tube, a solution of hexaqua zinc nitrate or tetraaqua cadmium nitrate in CD₃OD (c = 0.2 mol L⁻¹) was added at the interval of 12.5 µmol (63 µL of a solution), the mixture was thoroughly stirred, and then ¹H NMR spectra were recorded.

13-(3,5-Dibromobenzyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadecane (3). Anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL), 1-aza-15crown-5 (1) (657 mg, 3 mmol), 3,5-dibromobenzyl bromide (1 g, 3.04 mmol), and potassium carbonate (1.06 г, 7.68 mmol)

were placed in a flask equipped with a reflux condenser and the reaction mixture was magnetically stirred under reflux for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the precipitate that formed was filtered off, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, and the oily residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL), washed with water (10 mL), the organic phase was dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo to yield product **3** as an oily pale yellow substance. The yield was 1.33 g (95%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 2.75 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂N, J = 5.9 Hz); 3.61 (t, 4 H, CH₂O, J = 6.5 Hz); 3.61–3.64 (m, 6 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 3.67 (s, 4 H, CH₂O); 3.66–3.69 (m, 4 H, CH₂O); 7.44 (d, 2 H, H(2), H(6), J = 1.4 Hz); 7.50 (t, 1 H, H(4), J = 1.4). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 54.4 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂N); 59.6 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.8 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.5 (2 C, CH₂O); 71.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 122.7 (2 C, C(3), C(5)); 130.3 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 132.4 (1 C, C(4)); 144.3 (1 C, C(1)). MS (MALDI), m/z: [M]⁺, found 465.0146, calculated 465.0150. C₁₇H₂₅Br₂NO₄.

16-(3,5-Dibromobenzyl)-1,4,7,10,13-pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadecane (4). Anhydrous acetonitrile (10 mL), 1-aza-18crown-6 (2) (1 g, 3.8 mmol), 3,5-dibromobenzyl bromide (1.44 g, 3.8 mmol), and potassium carbonate (1.44 g, 10.4 mmol) were placed in a flask equipped with a reflux condenser and the reaction mixture was magnetically stirred under reflux for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the precipitate that formed was filtered off, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, and the oily residue was dissolved in dichloromethane (10 mL), washed with water (10 mL), the organic phase was dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo to yield product **4** as an oily pale yellow substance. The yield was 1.75 g (90%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 2.73 (t, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H</u>₂N, J = 5.2 Hz); 3.50-3.60 (m, 16 H, CH₂O); 3.61 (s, 4 H, CH₂O); 3.63 (s, 2 H, ArCH₂N); 7.30 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 7.46 (t, 1 H, H(4), J = 1.5 Hz). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 54.4 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 56.5 $(1 \text{ C}, \text{ArCH}_2\text{N}, \Delta v_{1/2} = 15 \text{ Hz}); 68.3 (2 \text{ C}, \text{CH}_2\text{O}, \Delta v_{1/2} = 10 \text{ Hz});$ 69.9 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 122.6 (2 C, C(3), C(5)); 130.4 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 132.3 (1 C, C(4)); 143.1 (1 C, C(1)). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M]⁺, found 509.0429, calculated 509.0412. C₁₉H₂₉Br₂NO₅.

Synthesis of macrobicycles 6 and 7 (general procedure). Azacrown ether derivative 3 or 4 (0.25 mmol, 116 mg or 128 mg, respectively), dry dioxane (12 mL), Pd(dba)₂ (12 mg, 8 mol.%), and BINAP or DavePhos (14 mg or 9 mg, respectively, 9 mol.%) were placed in a two-necked flask flushed with dry argon and equipped with a reflux condenser. The reaction mixture was magnetically stirred for 2 min, the corresponding polyamine 5a-h (0.25 mmol) and sodium *tert*-butoxide (72 mg, 0.75 mmol) were added, and the mixture was refluxed for 24 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, the precipitate that formed was filtered off, and dioxane was evaporated in vacuo. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel using the following elution with CH₂Cl₂, CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (from 50 : 1 to 3 : 1), CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH-NH₃ (from 100 : 20 : 1 to 10 : 4 : 1). The target macrobicycles were obtained as viscous oily pale yellow or pale beige compounds vitrifying on standing. Numbering of the atoms of the benzene ring in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 6 and 7 is shown in Scheme 2.

19-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-6,9,12-trioxa-2,16-diazabicyclo[15.3.1]enicosa-1(21),17,19triene (6a) was synthesized from trioxadiamine 5a (55 mg) in the presence of DavePhos (9 mg, 9 mol.% or 18 mg, 18 mol.%). Since the spectra of both reaction mixtures were identical, the latter were combined and chromatographed (CH₂Cl₂—MeOH, 10 : 1). The total yield was 140 mg (53%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.77 (qu, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H</u>₂CH₂, *J* = 5.6 Hz); 2.93 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H</u>₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 30 Hz); 3.24 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, *J* = 6.3 Hz); 3.53 (t, 4 H, CH₂O, *J* = 5.2 Hz); 3.55—3.67 (m, 26 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.97 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.05 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 29.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 41.7 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 54.1 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.1 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 67.2 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 10 Hz); 69.3 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 10 Hz); 69.4 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.5 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 10 Hz); 69.6 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 10 Hz); 69.9 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 95.9 (1 C, C(4)); 103.6 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 128.1 (1 C, C(1), $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 20 Hz); 150.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M]⁺, found 525.3334, calculated 525.3414. C₂₇H₄₇N₃O₇.

18-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-6,11-dioxa-2,15-diazabicyclo[14.3.1]icosa-1(20),16,18-triene (6b) was synthesized from dioxadiamine 5b (51 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 —MeOH (10 : 1). The yield was 71 mg (56%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.73–1.77 (m, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.80 (qu, 4 H, $CH_2CH_2CH_2$, J = 5.3 Hz); 2.74 (br.s, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 50$ Hz); 3.23 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 6.1 Hz); 3.38-3.43 (m, 4 H, CH₂O); 3.50 (t, 4 H, CH₂O, J = 5.0 Hz); 3.56-3.62 (m, 6 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 3.64-3.74 (m, 12 H, CH₂O); 6.01 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.05 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 26.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 30.0 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 42.3 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 54.5 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 30$ Hz); 60.2 $(1 \text{ C}, \text{ArCH}_2\text{N}, \Delta v_{1/2} = 40 \text{ Hz}); 67.2 (2 \text{ C}, \text{CH}_2\text{O}, \Delta v_{1/2} = 20 \text{ Hz});$ 69.1 (6 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 60 Hz); 69.9 (4 C, CH₂O); 95.4 (1 C, C(4), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 30$ Hz); 103.4 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 130.3 (1 C, C(1), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 20$ Hz); 150.6 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M]^+$, found 509.3440, calculated 509.3465. $C_{27}H_{47}N_3O_6$.

14-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-5,8-dioxa-2,11-diazabicyclo[10.3.1]hexadeca-1(16),12,14-triene (6c) was synthesized from dioxadiamine 5c (37 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (3 : 1). The yield was 47 mg (41%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 2.73 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H</u>₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 60$ Hz); $3.37 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr, J = 4.9 Hz); 3.56 - 3.63 (m, 14 H, CH_2O),$ ArCH₂N); 3.65-3.75 (m, 12 H, CH₂O); 6.15 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.86 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 45.1 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 54.7 $(2 \text{ C}, \text{CH}_2\underline{\text{C}}\text{H}_2\text{N}, \Delta v_{1/2} = 30 \text{ Hz}); 60.5 (1 \text{ C}, \text{ArCH}_2\text{N}, \Delta v_{1/2} =$ = 200 Hz); 67.1 (2 C, $\dot{C}H_2O$, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 30 Hz); 68.8–69.6 (m, 6 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 72.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 98.8 (1 C, C(4)); 106.2 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 149.7 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M]⁺, found 453.2827, calculated 453.2839. C23H39N3O6.

16-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-2,13-diazabicyclo[12.3.1]octadeca-1(18),14,16-triene (6d) was synthesized from diamine **5d** (43 mg). Elution was carried out with CH₂Cl₂—MeOH (3 : 1) and CH₂Cl₂—MeOH—NH₃ (100 : 20 : 1). The yield was 61 mg (51%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.33 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.38 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.60 (qu, 4 H, CH₂CH₂NHAr, J = 7.0 Hz); 2.88 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂N), 3.14 (t, 4 H, CH₂NHAr, J = 7.6 Hz); 3.61—3.67 (m, 18 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 4.54 (br.s, 2 H, NH); 5.91 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)); 5.97 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 24.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 26.6 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 28.0 (2 C, CH₂CH₂NHAr); 44.1 (2 C,</u></u></u> CH₂NHAr); 54.3 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.5 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.0 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 25$ Hz); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.6 (2 C, CH₂O); 93.5 (1 C, C(4)); 105.3 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 145.1 (1 C, C(1)); 150.0 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M + H]⁺, found 478.25, calculated 478.36. C₂₇H₄₈N₃O₄.

13-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-2,6,10-triazabicyclo[9.3.1]pentadeca-1(15),11,13-triene (6e) was synthesized from triamine 5e (33 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-NH₃ (100 : 20 : 3). The yield was 32 mg (29%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.62 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15 \text{ Hz}$; 2.67 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15 \text{ Hz}$); 2.79 (br.s, 4 H, $CH_2CH_2N \Delta v_{1/2} = 50$ Hz); 3.42 (br.s, 4 H, $CH_2NAr, \Delta v_{1/2} = 50 Hz$; 3.50–3.70 (m, 18 H, $CH_2O, ArCH_2N$); 5.98 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 7.05 (br.s, 1 H, H(4), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 30$ Hz) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR $(CDCl_3)$, δ : 30.1 (2 C, $CH_2CH_2CH_2$, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 10$ Hz); 39.6 (2 C, CH₂NAr, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 10$ Hz); 45.9 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 54.0 (2 C, CH_2CH_2N , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 60.7 (1 C, ArCH_2N); 69.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (6 C, CH₂O $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 90 Hz); 94.8 (1 C, C(4), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 20$ Hz); 103.6 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 149.9 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + H]^+$, found 437.30, calculated 437.31. C₂₃H₄₀N₄O₄.

15-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-2,5,9,12-tetraazabicyclo[11.3.1]heptadeca-1(17),13,15-triene (6f) was synthesized from tetramine 5f (40 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-NH₃ (100 : 25 : 3). The yield was 21 mg (18%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 1.70 (br.s, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 2.72 (t, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N , J = 5.2 Hz); 2.78–2.87 (m, 8 H, CH_2CH_2N ; 3.46 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 4.6 Hz); 3.55–3.67 (m, 18 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 6.02 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.15 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 24.9 (1 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 42.2 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 48.8 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂NH); 49.9 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂NH); 54.7 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.6 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.4 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.8 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.6 (2 C, CH₂O); 94.3 (1 C, C(4)); 105.0 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 148.8 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + H]^+$, found 466.3445, calculated 466.3393. C₂₄H₄₄N₅O₄.

17-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-2,6,10,14-tetraazabicyclo[13.3.1]nonadeca-1(19),15,17-triene (6g) was synthesized from tetramine 5g (44 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 —MeOH—NH₃ (100 : 25 : 5). The yield was 33 mg (28%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.68 (qu, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, J = 5.4 Hz); 2.67 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂NH, J = 5.6 Hz); 2.68 $(s, 4 H, NHCH_2CH_2NH); 2.74 (t, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N, J = 5.5 Hz);$ 3.32 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 6.2 Hz); 3.58 - 3.67 (m, 14 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 3.65 (s, 4 H, CH₂O); 4.88 (br.s, 2 H, NHAr); 5.93 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.13 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (the signals for two NH protons were not observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 31.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 41.3 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 46.0 (2 C, CH₂NH); 49.1 (2 C, CH₂NH); 54.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.8 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 93.0 (1 C, C(4)); 104.5 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 141.1 (1 C, C(1)); 150.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺, found 479.3407, calculated 479.3472. C₂₃H₄₀N₄O₄.

17-(1,4,7,10-Tetraoxa-13-azacyclopentadec-13-ylmethyl)-2,6,10,14-tetraazabicyclo[13.3.1]nonadeca-1(19),15,17-triene (6h) was synthesized from tetramine 5h (47 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH-NH₃ (10 : 4 : 1). The yield was 19 mg (15%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.75 (br.s, 6 H, CH₂CH₂(CH₂); 2.73 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂), J = 5.5 Hz); 2.75 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂), J = 6.0 Hz); 2.78 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂), J = 5.6 Hz); 3.28 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 7.2 Hz); 3.57–3.66 (m, 18 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.94 (br.s, 3 H, H(2), H(4), H(6)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 27.7 (1 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 29.0 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 42.2 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 47.2 (2 C, CH₂CH₂NH); 49.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂NH); 54.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.9 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.3 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.8 (2 C, CH₂O); 93.9 (1 C, C(4)); 104.2 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 141.2 (1 C, C(1)); 149.2 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), m/z: [M + H]⁺, found 494.3681, calculated 494.3706. C₂₆H₄₈N₅O₄.

19-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-6,9,12-trioxa-2,16-diazabicyclo[15.3.1]enicosa-1(21),17,19triene (7a) was synthesized from trioxadiamine 5a (55 mg) in the presence of DavePhos (9 mg, 9 mol.% or 18 mg, 18 mol.%). Since the spectra of the reaction mixtures were identical, the latter were combined and chromatographed. The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH (10 : 1). The total yield was 90 mg (32%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.77 (qu, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, J = 5.2 Hz); 2.70 (br.s, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 60$ Hz); 3.24 (t, 4 H, $CH_2NAr, J = 6.2 Hz$; 3.53 (t, 4 H, $CH_2O, J = 5.1 Hz$); 3.55–3.70 (m, 30 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.90 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.04 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 29.6 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 41.7 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 53.6 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂N); 59.1 (1 C, ArCH₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} =$ = 30 Hz); 67.3 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2}$ = 50 Hz); 69.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.3 (4 C, CH₂O); 69.4 (4 C, CH₂O); 70.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.8 $(2 \text{ C}, \text{CH}_2\text{O}); 95.6 (1 \text{ C}, \text{C}(4), \Delta v_{1/2} = 15 \text{ Hz}); 103.4 (2 \text{ C}, \text{C}(2),$ C(6); 150.5 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + K]^+$, found 608.3331, calculated 608.3313. $C_{29}H_{51}KN_3O_8$.

18-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-6,11-dioxa-2,15-diazabicyclo[14.3.1]icosa-1(20),16,18-triene (7b) was synthesized from dioxadiamine 5b (51 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (5 : 1). The yield was 21 mg (15%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 1.73–1.77 (m, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂CH₂CH₂CH₂);</u> 1.79 (qu, 4 H, $CH_2CH_2CH_2$, J = 4.7 Hz); 2.70 (br.s, 4 H CH_2CH_2N , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 100 Hz$); 3.22 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 5.7 Hz); 3.37-3.42 (m, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 3.50 (t, 4 H, CH₂O, J = 4.4 Hz; 3.55–3.68 (m, 26 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.99 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.06 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 26.4 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂); 30.0 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂); 42.3 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 53.9 (2 C, CH₂C<u>H₂N</u>, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 58.3 (1 C, ArCH₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 90$ Hz); 69.5 (4 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 25$ Hz); 69.8 $(10 \text{ C}, \text{CH}_2\text{O}); 95.5 (1 \text{ C}, \text{C}(4), \Delta v_{1/2} = 90 \text{ Hz}); 103.5 (2 \text{ C}, \text{C}(2),$ C(6), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 20$ Hz); 150.6 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M + Na]⁺, found 553.3691, calculated 553.3727. $C_{29}H_{51}N_3NaO_7$.

14-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-5,8-dioxa-2,11-diazabicyclo[10.3.1]hexadeca-1(16),12,14triene (7c) was synthesized from dioxadiamine **5c** (37 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂—MeOH (from 5 : 1 to 2.5 : 1). The yield was 13 mg (14%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 2.75 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 90$ Hz); 3.38 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 4.6 Hz); 3.55–3.71 (m, 30 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 6.08 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.87 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 45.0 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 53.6 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 12$ Hz); 61.2 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 67.4 (2 C, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2} =$ </u> = 80 Hz); 69.4–69.8 (m, 8 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 72.0 (2 C, CH₂O); 98.5 (1 C, C(4)); 106.2 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 149.7 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: [M + Na]⁺, found 520.3077, calculated 520.2999. C₂₅H₄₃N₃NaO₇.

16-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-2,13-diazabicyclo[12.3.1]octadeca-1(18),14,16-triene (7d) was synthesized from diamine 5d (44 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 —MeOH (5 : 1). The yield was 35 mg (27%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 1.28 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂C<u>H₂CH₂CH₂</u>); 1.33 (br.s, 8 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.54 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂CH₂NHAr); 2.73 (br.s, CH_2CH_2N ; 3.09 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 7.6 Hz); 3.50–3.65 (m, 22 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.86 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)); 5.91 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 24.3 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂CH₂); 26.3 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂); 26.4 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂CH₂); 27.7 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂CH₂); 43.7 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 54.3 (2 C, CH₂C<u>H₂N</u>, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 50 \text{ Hz}$; 57.2 (1 C, ArCH₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 50 \text{ Hz}$); 67.2 (2 C, CH_2O , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 100 \text{ Hz}$; 69.4 (2 C, CH_2O); 69.5 (2 C, CH_2O); 69.6 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 93.3 (1 C, C(4)); 105.3 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 138.9 (1 C, C(1)); 150.3 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), *m*/*z*: [M + H]⁺, found 522.3997, calculated 522.3907. $C_{29}H_{52}N_{3}O_{5}$.

13-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-2,6,10-triazabicyclo[9.3.1]pentadeca-1(15),11,13-triene (7e) was synthesized from triamine 5e (33 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-NH₃ (100 : 20 : 3). The yield was 32 mg (27%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 1.65 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 2.69 (br.s, 4 H, C<u>H</u>₂NHC<u>H</u>₂, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 3.25 (br.s, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N , $\Delta v_{1/2} = 35$ Hz); 3.44 (br.s, 4 H, $CH_2NAr, \Delta v_{1/2} = 30 Hz$; 3.55–3.62 (m, 14 H, $CH_2O, ArCH_2N$); 3.64 (s, 4 H, CH₂O); 3.71 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂O, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 6.03 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.95 (br.s, 1 H, H(4), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 29.6 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 10$ Hz); 39.3 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 45.7 (2 C, CH₂NHCH₂); 54.1 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N, $\Delta v_{1/2} = 15$ Hz); 60.0 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.6 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.4 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.5 (2 C, CH₂O); 95.5 (1 C, C(4), $\Delta v_{1/2} = 25 \text{ Hz}$; 104.3 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 150.3 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + H]^+$, found 481.28, calculated 481.34. C₂₅H₄₄N₄O₅.

15-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooct-16-ylmethyl)-2,5,9,12-tetraazabicyclo[11.3.1]heptadeca-1(17),13,15-triene (7f) was synthesized from tetramine **5f** (40 mg). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂—MeOH—NH₃ (10 : 4 : 1). The yield was 36 mg (28%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.57 (br.s, 2 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 2.67—2.77 (m, 12 H, CH₂NHCH₂, CH₂CH₂N); 3.33 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 4.7 Hz); 3.55—3.69 (m, 22 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.98 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.19 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 26.6 (1 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 43.7 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 49.2 (2 C, CH₂NHCH₂); 49.6 (2 C, CH₂NHCH₂); 54.3 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.0 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.5 (4 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 94.5 (1 C, C(4)); 104.6 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 141.4 (1 C, C(1)); 149.1 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M + H]⁺, found 510.3626, calculated 510.3655. C₂₆H₄₈N₅O₅.

17-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-2,6,10,14-tetraazabicyclo[13.3.1]nonadeca-1(19),15,17triene (7g) was synthesized from tetramine 5g (33 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH-NH₃ (10 : 4 : 1). The yield was 26 mg (20%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.67 (qu, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, J = 5.2 Hz); 2.68 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂NH, J = 5.4 Hz); 2.69 (s, 4 H, NHCH₂CH₂NH); 2.73 (t, 4 H, CH₂CH₂N, J = 5.5 Hz); 3.32 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 6.2 Hz); 3.55–3.59 (m, 8 H, CH₂O); 3.61–3.66 (m, 14 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.90 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.13 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 31.4 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 41.3 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 46.0 (2 C, CH₂NHCH₂); 48.9 (2 C, CH₂NHCH₂); 54.2 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 59.8 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.6 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.5 (4 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 92.9 (1 C, C(4)); 104.3 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 141.2 (1 C, C(1)); 150.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), m/z: [M + H]⁺, found 524.3797, calculated 524.3812. C₂₇H₅₀N₅O₇.

17-(1,4,7,10,13-Pentaoxa-16-azacyclooctadec-16-ylmethyl)-2,6,10,14-tetraazabicyclo[13.3.1]nonadeca-1(19),15,17triene (7h) was synthesized from tetramine 5h (47 mg). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH-NH₃ (10 : 4 : 1). The yield was 21 mg (16%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.74 (br.s, 6 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 2.70 (t, 4 H, CH_2CH_2N , J = 4.9 Hz); 2.72–2.80 (m, 8 H, CH_2CH_2N ; 3.28 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 7.1 Hz); 3.55–3.69 (m, 22 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.92 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 5.95 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 28.3 (1 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 29.3 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 42.2 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 47.3 (2 C, <u>CH₂NHCH₂);</u> 49.5 (2 C, <u>CH₂NHCH₂</u>); 54.1 (2 C, CH₂CH₂N); 60.0 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.2 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.6 (4 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 93.7 (1 C, C(4)); 103.9 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 149.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + H]^+$, found 538.4001, calculated 538.3968. $C_{28}H_{52}N_5O_5$.

1-(3,5-Dibromobenzyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane (10). 3,5-Dibromobenzyl bromide (5.32 g, 16.2 mmol) was added to a solution of cis-glyoxal-cyclene (8) (3.14 g, 16.2 mmol) in anhydrous toluene (30 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The white crystalline precipitate that formed was filtered off, washed with toluene (25 mL), then with acetone (25 mL), and dried in vacuo to yield 2a-(3,5-dibromobenzyl)decahydro-4a,6a,8a-triaza-2a-azoniacyclopenta[fg]acenaphthylene bromide (9) (5.71 g, 67%). ¹H NMR (D₂O), δ: 2.45–2.55 (m, 4 H, CH₂N); 2.73–2.85 (m, 3 H, CH₂N); 2.87–2.91 (m, 1 H, CH₂N); 3.02–3.10 (m, 1 H, CH₂N); 3.15 (d, 1 H, CH₂N, J = 12.3 Hz; 3.20–3.34 (m, 3 H, CH₂N); 3.47 (td, 1 H, CH₂N, J = 8.5 Hz, J = 2.9 Hz; 3.52–3.62 (m, 3 H, CH₂N); 3.71 (d, 1 H, CHN_2 , J = 2.3 Hz); 4.01 (d, 1 H, CHN_2 , J = 2.3 Hz); 4.15 (td, 1 H, CH_2N , J = 11.1 Hz, J = 3.4 Hz); 4.64 (d, 1 H, ArCH₂N, J = 13.6 Hz; 4.83 (d, 1 H, ArCH₂N, J = 13.6 Hz); 7.73 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 7.98 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)). 13 C NMR (D₂O), δ : 43.7 (1 C, CH₂N); 47.4 (1 C, CH₂N); 47.6 (1 C, CH₂N); 48.1 (1 C, CH₂N); 48.2 (1 C, CH₂N); 51.2 (1 C, CH₂N); 57.2 (1 C, CH₂N); 59.9 (1 C, CH₂N); 61.4 (1 C, CH₂N); 71.6 (1 C, CHN₂); 83.0 (1 C, CHN₂); 123.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)); 130.4 (1 C, C(1)); 133.9 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 136.6 (1 C, C(4)). Compound 9 was dissolved in ethanol (60 mL), KOH (8.9 g, 0.159 mol) was added, and the mixture was refluxed for 72 h. Upon completion of the reaction, the solvent was evaporated in vacuo, the solid residue was extracted with dichloromethane (3×25 mL), dried with magnesium sulfate, and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo to yield compound 10 as a pale yellow crystalline powder. The yield was 4.45 g (98%, 65% over two steps), m.p. 119–121 °C. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 2.55–2.60 (m, 8 H, CH₂N); 2.67 (t, 4 H, CH₂N, J = 4.9 Hz); 2.83 (t, 4 H, CH₂N, J = 4.9 Hz); 3.56 (s, 2 H, NCH₂Ar); 7.42 (br.s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 7.51 (br.s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 45.6 (2 C, CH₂N); 46.6 (2 C, CH₂N); 47.6 (2 C, CH₂N); 51.7 (2 C, CH₂N); 58.5 (1 C, NCH₂Ar); 122.8 (2 C, C(3), C(5)); 130.6 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 132.7 (1 C, C(4)); 143.4 (1 C, C(1)). MS (MALDI), *m/z*: [M + H]⁺, found 419.0470, calculated 419.0446. C₁₅H₂₅Br₂N₄.

The general procedure for the synthesis of macrobicycles 11a-c is identical with that for macrobicycles 6 and 7. Numbering of the atoms of the benzene ring in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds 11 is shown in Scheme 4.

19-(1,4,7,10-Tetraazacyclododec-1-ylmethyl)-6,9,12-trioxa-2,16-diazabicyclo[15.3.1]enicosa-1(21),17,19-triene (11a). According to the first method, compound 11a was synthesized from compound 10 (104 mg, 0.25 mmol) and trioxadiamine 2a (55 mg, 0.25 mmol) in the presence of Pd(dba)₂ (12 mg, 8 mol.%), DavePhos (9 mg, 9 mol.%), and sodium *tert*-butoxide (72 mg, 0.375 mmol) in dioxane (12 mL). According to the second method, compound **11a** was synthesized from compound **10** (104 mg, 0.25 mmol) and trioxadiamine 2a (55 mg, 0.25 mmol) in the presence of Pd(dba)₂ (24 mg, 16 mol.%), DavePhos (18 mg, 18 mol.%), and sodium tert-butoxide (72 mg, 0.375 mmol) in dioxane (12 mL). The combined reaction mixtures were chromatographed on silica gel. The eluent was CH2Cl2-MeOH-NH3 (100:25:5). The total yield was 32 mg (13%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 1.78 (qu, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂, J = 5.7 Hz); 2.52–2.92 (m, 16 H, CH_2N); 3.23 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 5.9 Hz); 3.44–3.63 (m, 14 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.86 (s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.02 (s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ: 29.5 (2 C, CH₂CH₂CH₂); 41.8 (2 C, CH₂NHAr); 45.5 (2 C, CH₂N); 45.8 (2 C, CH₂N); 47.6 (2 C, CH₂N); 51.2 (2 C, CH₂N); 60.3 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.4 (2 C, CH₂O); 69.9 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.7 (2 C, CH₂O); 95.7 (1 C, C(4)); 102.9 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 140.3 (1 C, C(1)); 150.2 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), m/z: $[M + H]^+$, found 479.3675, calculated 479.3709. C₂₅H₄₇N₆O₃.

18-(1,4,7,10-Terpazacyclododec-1-ylmethyl)-6,11-dioxa-2,15-diazabicyclo[14.3.1]icosa-1(20),16,18-triene (11b) was synthesized from compound 10 (104 mg, 0.25 mmol) and dioxadiamine **2b** (51 mg, 0.25 mmol) in the presence of Pd(dba)₂ (12 mg, 8 mol.%), DavePhos (9 mg, 9 mol.%), and sodium tertbutoxide (72 mg, 0.375 mmol) in dioxane (12 mL). The eluent was CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-NH₃ (100 : 20 : 3). The yield was 11 mg (10%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 1.76 (br.s, 4 H, CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂); 1.81 (qu, 4 H, $CH_2CH_2CH_2$, J = 4.7 Hz); 2.72–2.82 (m, 12 H, CH₂NHCH₂); 2.93–2.97 (m, 4 H, CH₂N); 3.24 (t, 4 H, CH_2NAr , J = 5.6 Hz); $3.38 - 3.45 (m, 6 H, CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2)$, ArCH₂N); 3.52 (t, 4 H, CH₂O, J = 4.6 Hz); 5.89 (s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)); 6.05 (s, 1 H, H(4)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 26.5 (2 C, CH₂<u>C</u>H₂CH₂CH₂); 30.0 (2 C, CH2CH2CH2); 42.5 (2 C, CH2NAr); 45.8 (2 C, CH₂N); 46.9 (2 C, CH₂N); 48.4 (2 C, CH₂N); 51.5 (2 C, CH₂N); 61.1 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.9 (4 C, CH₂O); 95.3 (1 C, C(4)); 102.4 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 150.4 (2 C, C(3), C(5)) (the signal for one quarternary aromatic carbon atom was not observed). MS (MALDI), m/z: [M + H]⁺, found 463.39, calculated 463.38. C₂₅H₄₇N₆O₂.

15-(1,4,7,10-Terpazacyclododec-1-ylmethyl)-5,9-dioxa-2,12-diazabicyclo[11.3.1]heptadeca-1(17),13,15-triene (11c) was synthesized from compound 10 (104 mg, 0.25 mmol) and dioxadiamine 2c (37 mg, 0.25 mmol) in the presence of Pd(dba)₂ (12 mg, 8 mol.%), DavePhos (9 mg, 9 mol.%), and sodium *tert*-butoxide (72 mg, 0.375 mmol) in dioxane (12 mL). The eluent was CH_2Cl_2 —MeOH—NH₃ (100 : 25 : 5). The yield was 2 mg (2%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 2.64—2.76 (m, 12 H, CH₂NHCH₂); 2.86 (t, 4 H, CH₂N, J = 4.9 Hz); 3.25 (t, 4 H, CH₂NAr, J = 5.2 Hz); 3.61—3.65 (m, 10 H, CH₂O, ArCH₂N); 5.82 (s, 1 H, H(4)); 6.02 (s, 2 H, H(2), H(6)) (no signals for the NH protons were observed). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃), δ : 43.5 (2 C, CH₂NAr); 45.9 (2 C, CH₂N); 46.3 (2 C, CH₂N); 48.1 (2 C, CH₂N); 51.6 (2 C, CH₂N); 60.5 (1 C, ArCH₂N); 69.8 (2 C, CH₂O); 70.1 (2 C, CH₂O); 96.3 (1 C, C(4)); 103.7 (2 C, C(2), C(6)); 141.3 (1 C, C(1)); 149.6 (2 C, C(3), C(5)). MS (MALDI), m/z; [M + H]⁺, found 407.3179, calculated 407.3134. C₂₁H₃₉N₆O₂.

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