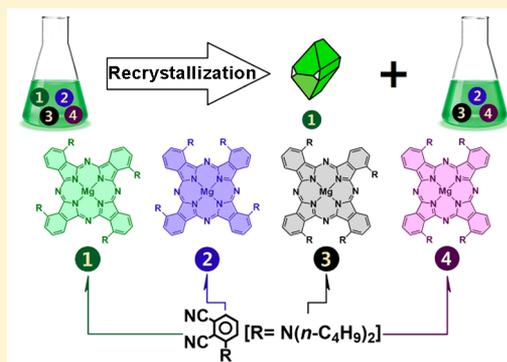


## Nonperipheral Tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanines. New Types of 1,8,15,22-Tetrakis(substituted)phthalocyanine Isomers

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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Cyclic tetramerization of 3-(dibutylamino)phthalonitrile in refluxing *n*-pentanol in the presence of magnesium pentanoate afforded the four regioisomer-containing nonperipheral 1,8-/11,15-/18,22-/25-tetrakis-(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato magnesium complexes with the 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine isomer  $\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**2**). This, in combination with its much superior crystallinity over the remaining three isomers, renders the easy isolation of **2** only through two simple recrystallizations from THF and methanol. Treatment of **2** with trifluoroacetic acid induced the isolation of metal-free 1,8,15,22-tetrakis-(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine,  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**), which further reacted with  $\text{M}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni}, \text{Zn}$ ) in refluxing *n*-pentanol, giving the 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato metal complexes  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Ni}$  (**3**),  $\text{Zn}$  (**4**)). The full series of four 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine isomeric compounds have been characterized by a series of spectroscopic methods and single-crystal X-ray diffraction analyses. Obviously, the present result provides a simple and effective pathway for the synthesis and isolation of novel 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)-phthalocyanine isomeric derivatives, providing one step forward toward completing bis(alkyl)amino-incorporated phthalocyanine species.



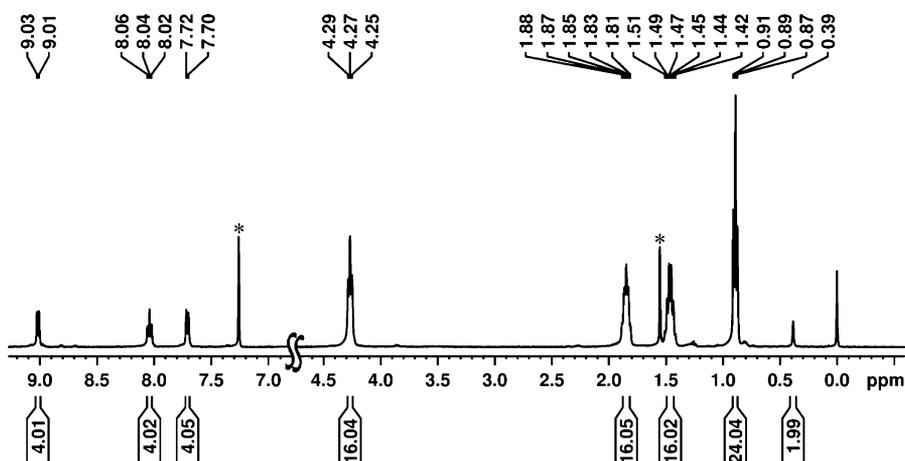
## INTRODUCTION

Due to the different disturbing effects on the electronic and even molecular structure of the central conjugated chromophore, introduction of even the same number of functional groups onto the peripheral positions of phthalocyanine has been revealed to lead to optical, electrochemical, and functional properties of the resulting phthalocyanine derivatives different from those with nonperipherally substituted analogues.<sup>1</sup> This has aroused a long-term effort in trying to isolate the four regioisomers of both 2,9-/10,16-/17,23-/24- and 1,8-/11,15-/18,22-/25-tetrakis(substituted)phthalocyanine compounds for the purpose of unraveling the structure–property relationship and in particular detailing the positional effect of the substituents on the phthalocyanines.<sup>2</sup> In 1988, Leznoff et al. claimed the formation and isolation of pure 2,9,16,23-tetrakis(neopentyloxy)phthalocyanine isomer, with a fraction of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum as the sole evidence, from the cyclic tetramerization of methylthioisindolenine at the low temperature of  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in the presence of zinc acetate.<sup>3</sup> By means of a similar method through lowering of the reaction temperature, 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(*p*-*n*-butylbenzyloxy)phthalocyanine was also formed and isolated as the sole isomeric product according to the same group.<sup>4</sup> This was followed by the isolation of 2,9,16,23-tetrakis(*p*-*n*-butylbenzyloxy)phthalocyanine isomer from the four regioisomer-containing products resulting from

the cyclic tetramerization of 4-(*p*-*n*-butylbenzyloxy)-phthalonitrile, using silica gel column chromatography. Interestingly, the combination of employing the bulky 3-pentoxy substituent and controlling the reaction temperature to below  $120\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in *n*-pentanol rendered the successful isolation of 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(3'-pentoxy)phthalocyanine as the main isomer also from the four-regioisomer-containing product afforded from the cyclic tetramerization of 3-(3'-pentoxy)phthalonitrile precursor, using silica gel column chromatography according to Kasuga and co-workers.<sup>5</sup> This actually represents the sole well-studied 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(substituted)phthalocyanine species. As expected, HPLC is also able to isolate the tetrakis-(substituted)phthalocyanine regioisomers, affording all four isomers of 2,9,16,23-tetrakis(2-ethylhexyloxy)phthalocyaninato nickel complex and two of the four isomers of 2,9,16,23-tetrakis(*tert*-butyl)phthalocyaninato nickel complex.<sup>6</sup> Obviously, for the purpose of developing new molecular advanced materials, a more reliable, simple, and effective method toward the preparation and isolation of new types of tetrakis-(substituted)phthalocyanine isomeric derivatives is highly desired in this field.

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**Figure 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**) recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . The signals due to residue  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are denoted with asterisks.

(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine isomers have also been characterized by other spectroscopic methods including NMR and electronic absorption spectroscopy.

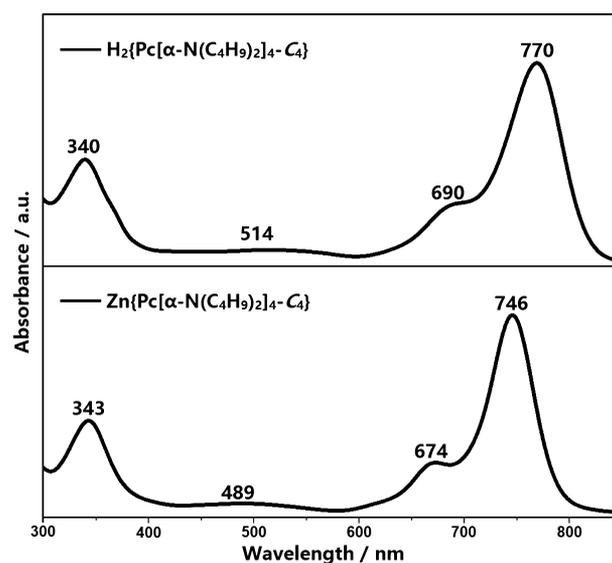
Satisfactory  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded for **1** and **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . However, reasonably good spectra for **2** and **4** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  could be recorded only in the presence of ca. 1% (v/v) hydrazine hydrate, which was used to reduce a small (or even trace) fraction of paramagnetic oxidized species to the neutral species (Figures S2–S4 and Table S2 in the Supporting Information). As shown in Figure 1, the aromatic protons due to the four  $\alpha$  protons and eight  $\beta$  protons of the Pc ring in  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**) give three sets of doublet, triplet, and doublet signals at  $\delta$  9.02, 8.04, and 7.71 ppm, respectively, with an integral ratio of 1:1:1. However, the methylene, methylene, methylene, and methyl protons of the peripheral *n*-butyl groups give four sets of triplet, multiplet, multiplet, and triplet signals at  $\delta$  4.27, 1.85, 1.46, and 0.89 ppm, respectively, with an integral ratio of 2:2:2:3. This is also true for the metal complexes  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Mg}$  (**2**),  $\text{Ni}$  (**3**),  $\text{Zn}$  (**4**)) (Table S2), except for the lack of a signal due to the inner isindole protons. Due to the phthalocyanine ring current effect, the two inner isindole protons in metal-free phthalocyanine **1** appear at  $\delta$  0.39 ppm.

The electronic absorption spectra of **1–4** were recorded in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ , and the data are summarized in Table 1. As shown in

**Table 1.** Electronic Absorption Data for **1–4** in  $\text{CHCl}_3$

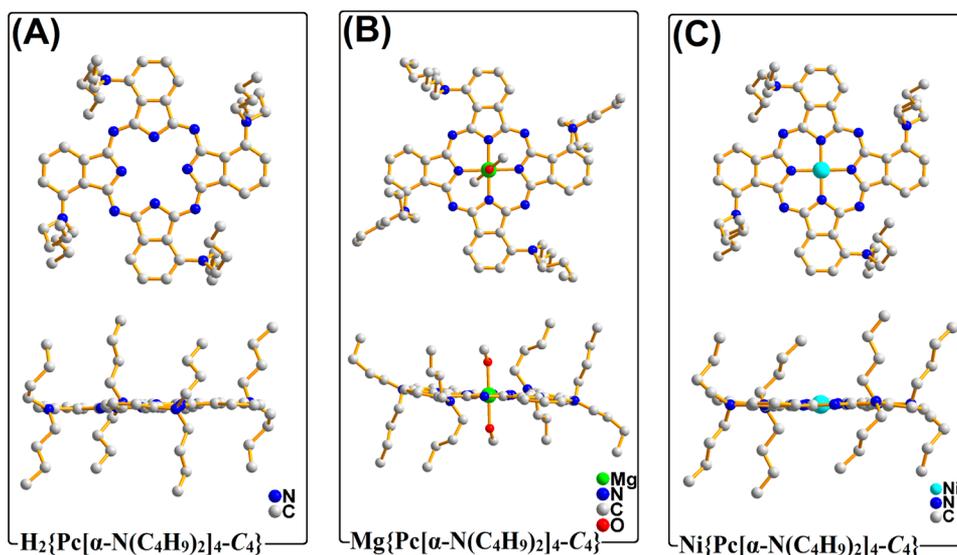
compound	$\lambda_{\text{max}}/\text{nm}$ ( $\log \epsilon$ )			
<b>1</b>	340 (4.79)	514 (3.88)	690 (4.54)	770 (5.07)
<b>2</b>	347 (4.77)	488 (3.82)	672 (4.51)	745 (5.11)
<b>3</b>	331 (4.66)	498 (3.82)	670 (4.45)	745 (5.02)
<b>4</b>	343 (4.74)	489 (3.81)	674 (4.48)	746 (5.07)

Figure 2,  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**) shows a Soret band at 340 nm and a broad Q-band at 770 nm. Similarly to the peripherally substituted analogue  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\beta\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\}$ ,<sup>7</sup> the Q-band for **1** does become split because of the  $p$ - $\pi$  conjugation between the nonperipheral nitrogen atoms and the central phthalocyanine chromophore, which expands the conjugated system of the molecule of **1**. It is worth noting that the weak band at 514 nm is due to the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions arising from the nitrogen lone pair of electrons. Insertion of the



**Figure 2.** Electronic absorption spectra of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**) and  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**4**) in  $\text{CHCl}_3$ .

metal ion into the phthalocyanine central core induces an increase in the molecular symmetry from  $D_{2h}$  for **1** to  $D_{4h}$  for  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = \text{Mg}$  (**2**),  $\text{Ni}$  (**3**),  $\text{Zn}$  (**4**)), resulting in a significantly narrowed Q band in the range of 745–746 nm for the three metal complexes **2–4** (Figure 2, Figure S5 in the Supporting Information, and Table 1). In line with our previous result for both the 2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine and 2,9(10),16(17),23(24)-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine analogues,<sup>7</sup> the Q band of  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = 2\text{H}$  (**1**),  $\text{Mg}$  (**2**),  $\text{Ni}$  (**3**),  $\text{Zn}$  (**4**)) also has an obvious red shift in comparison with those of other 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(substituted)-phthalocyanine counterparts containing either alkoxy or alkylthio groups<sup>1e</sup> due to the stronger electron-donating nature of the dibutylamino groups in combination with the effective  $p$ - $\pi$  conjugation between the N atom and the central phthalocyanine chromophore. It is, however, noteworthy that the absorption in the region of 400–600 nm due to the  $n \rightarrow \pi^*$  transitions for  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = 2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{Mg}$ ,  $\text{Ni}$ ,  $\text{Zn}$ ) is much weaker than that for  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\beta\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\}$  ( $\text{M} = 2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{Mg}$ ,  $\text{Ni}$ ,  $\text{Zn}$ ), as revealed by the significantly smaller absorption



**Figure 3.** Molecular structures of (A) **1**, (B) **2**, and (C) **3** in top (top) and side (bottom) views with all H atoms and solvent molecules omitted for clarity.

coefficients of **1–4** in this range in comparison to those for their  $\beta$ -tetrakis(substituted) analogues by roughly one-fourth, due to the much stronger interaction between the dibutylamino group and phthalocyanine chromophore in the latter species.<sup>7</sup> The fluorescence emission spectra of **1**, **2**, and **4** were recorded in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ . As shown in Figure S16 in the Supporting Information and summarized in Table S4 in the Supporting Information, the three compounds in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  solution display single emission peaks appearing at 772, 746, and 752 nm, respectively. However, their fluorescence quantum yields are very low ( $\Phi_{\text{F}} < 0.01$ ) (Table S4), due to the increased nonradiative decay rate associated with the  $p-\pi$  conjugation between the N atom and the central phthalocyanine chromophore.

**Structural Studies.** Single crystals of the whole series of four newly isolated 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)-phthalocyanine isomeric species  $\text{M}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1–4**) suitable for X-ray diffraction analysis were obtained by slow diffusion of methanol into  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and THF solution mixtures of the respective compounds. Interestingly, all four compounds crystallize in the same monoclinic system with space group,  $P2_1/c$  (Table S3 in the Supporting Information), and the unit cell of each compound contains two phthalocyanine molecules despite the different central metal ions. However, in the unit cells of **2** and **4**, in addition to two solvated methanol molecules, either Mg or Zn is actually hexacoordinated due to the two axially coordinated methanol molecules (Figure 3B), with an Mg–O bond length of 2.203 Å and Zn–O bond length of 2.390 Å, respectively. This is in contrast to the tetracoordinated Ni ion in the counterpart **3** (Figure 3C). Figure 3A shows the molecular structure of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**1**). As can be seen, the two *n*-butyl moieties of the dibutylamino groups attached onto the nonperiphery of the Pc ring locate on the two sides of the Pc plane. In addition, the length of the C–N bond connecting the central Pc chromophore and the dibutylamino groups amounts to 1.387/1.395 Å, indicating the  $p-\pi$  conjugation between the nonperipheral N atoms and the phthalocyanine chromophore.<sup>7</sup> This is surely also true for the remaining three members **2–4** in this series (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Length of the C–N Bond Connecting the Central Pc Chromophore and the Dibutylamino Groups for **1–4**

compound	bond length/Å	
	$\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ ( <b>1</b> )	1.387
$\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ ( <b>2</b> )	1.391	1.413
$\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ ( <b>3</b> )	1.386	1.394
$\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ ( <b>4</b> )	1.387	1.422

The crystal packing diagrams of the complexes **1–4** are shown in Figures S7–S14 in the Supporting Information). As shown in Figures S7 and S11, adjacent molecules of **1** are packed into a one-dimensional supramolecular structure with the neighboring phthalocyanine molecules being connected in a staircase manner depending on the C–H $\cdots\pi$  interaction between the C–H bonds of dibutylamino groups and the  $\pi$  system of the neighboring phthalocyanine chromophore, leading to a relatively large distance between the neighboring metal-free phthalocyanine rings, 7.717 Å. However, in the single crystal of **2**, the solvated methanol molecules connect neighboring phthalocyaninato magnesium molecules into a face-to-face stacking supramolecular structure depending on the O–H $\cdots$ N (between the O–H bonds of one solvated methanol molecule and the N atom of the dibutylamino group of the neighboring phthalocyanine molecule) and O–H $\cdots$ O (between the O–H bonds of one coordinated methanol molecule and the O atom of the solvated methanol molecule) hydrogen bonds with distances of 2.251 and 2.022 Å, respectively, leading to a relatively shorter distance between the neighboring phthalocyaninato magnesium rings, 7.050 Å (Figures S8 and S12). This is also true for  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (**4**) (Figures S10 and S14). However, adjacent molecules of **3** are packed into a one-dimensional supramolecular structure depending on the C–H $\cdots\pi$  interaction between the C–H bonds of dibutylamino groups and the  $\pi$  system of the neighboring phthalocyanine chromophore (Figures S9 and S13).

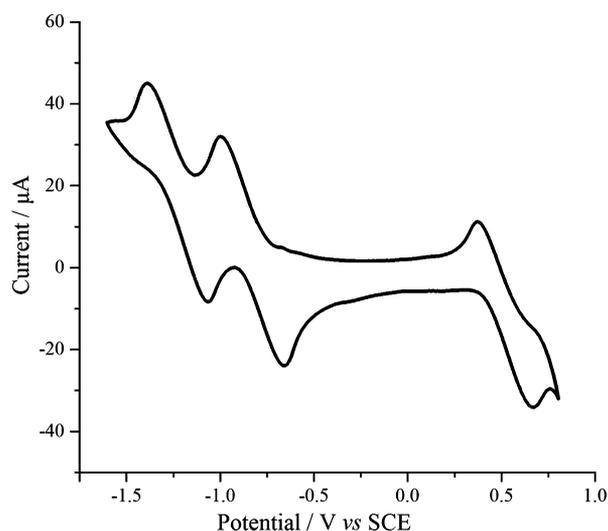
**Electrochemical Properties.** The electrochemical behavior of **1–4** was investigated by cyclic voltammetry (CV) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 mol  $\text{dm}^{-3}$   $[\text{NBu}_4][\text{ClO}_4]$ , (Figure S6 in

the Supporting Information). The half-wave potentials are summarized in Table 3. The cyclic voltammogram of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$

**Table 3. Electrochemical Data (V) for 1–4**

compound	Oxd <sub>1</sub>	Red <sub>1</sub>	Red <sub>2</sub>	$\Delta E^\circ_{1/2}$ <sup>a</sup>
$\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ (1)	+0.52	−0.83	−1.23	1.35
$\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ (2)	+0.24	−1.13		1.37
$\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ (3)	+0.51	−0.94	−1.43	1.45
$\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$ (4)	+0.36	−0.95		1.31

<sup>a</sup> $\Delta E^\circ_{1/2}$  is the potential difference between the first oxidation and the first reduction processes, i.e., the HOMO–LUMO gap of the compounds:  $\Delta E^\circ_{1/2} = \text{Oxd}_1 - \text{Red}_1$ .



**Figure 4.** Cyclic voltammogram of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1) in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 0.1 M  $[\text{NBu}_4][\text{ClO}_4]$  at scan rates of 30 mV/s.

$\text{N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1) is displayed in Figure 4 as a typical representative. As can be seen,  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1) exhibited one quasi-reversible oxidation and up to two quasi-reversible one-electron reductions, all of which are due to the ligand-based redox processes. Obviously, introduction of four dibutylamino groups onto the nonperipheral positions of the phthalocyanine chromophore of 1 induces significant shifts in both the first oxidation and the first reduction potentials to the negative direction, relative to those of  $\text{H}_2\text{Pc}$ , revealing the strong electron-donating nature of the dibutylamino groups and the  $p$ - $\pi$  conjugation between the nonperipheral nitrogen atoms and the central phthalocyanine chromophore.<sup>7</sup> This is also true for the remaining members 2–4.

**Singlet Oxygen Quantum Yield.** For the purpose of revealing the application potential of this new series of 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine isomers for photodynamic therapy (PDT), the singlet oxygen quantum yields of 1, 2, and 4 ( $\Phi_\Delta$ ) were measured by steady-state methods using 3-diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) as the scavenger.<sup>11</sup> The solutions of 1, 2, and 4 (2  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and DPBF (40  $\mu\text{M}$ ) dissolved in DMF were respectively irradiated with red light ( $\lambda > 610$  nm, fluence rate 0.2 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>) and the concentrations of DPBF monitored by absorption spectroscopy at 415 nm during the irradiation, resulting in singlet oxygen quantum yields of 0.021, 0.25, and 0.67 with the unsubstituted  $\text{ZnPc}$  in DMF as reference,  $\Phi_\Delta = 0.56$ <sup>12</sup> (Figure S15 in the

Supporting Information). Obviously,  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (4) presents the best result among this series of compounds in terms of the singlet oxygen quantum yield, since phthalocyaninato zinc compounds usually possesses high triplet yield and can in turn generate highly singlet oxygen because of the  $d^{10}$  configuration of the  $\text{Zn}(\text{II})$  ion;<sup>13</sup> however this value is still slightly lower in comparison with those for other nonperipherally substituted phthalocyaninato zinc(II) counterparts reported thus far, such as 1,4,15,18-tetrakis(3-thienyl)-8,11,22,25-tetrakis(decyl)phthalocyaninato zinc(II)<sup>14a</sup> ( $\Phi_\Delta = 0.92$ ), 1,8-/11,15-/18,22-/25-tetrakis(propoxy)-phthalocyaninato zinc(II)<sup>14b</sup> ( $\Phi_\Delta = 0.88$ ), and 1,4-bis-(glucosylated)phthalocyaninato zinc(II)<sup>14c</sup> ( $\Phi_\Delta = 0.86$ ).

## CONCLUSION

In summary, a simple and effective pathway has been developed for the synthesis, isolation, and spectroscopic and structural characterization of novel nonperipheral 1,8,15,22-tetrakis-(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine isomeric derivatives, providing one step forward toward completing bis(alkyl)amino-incorporated phthalocyanine species. Nevertheless, the present result is helpful toward clarifying the chemistry of 1,8,15,22-tetrakis-(substituted)phthalocyanine isomeric derivatives.

## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**General Procedures.** 3-Nitrophthalonitrile was purchased from J&K SCIENTIFIC Ltd. *n*-Pentanol was freshly distilled from sodium. *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) and  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  were freshly distilled from  $\text{CaH}_2$ . Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (200–300 mesh) or alkaline alumina (200–300 mesh) with the indicated eluents. The electrolyte  $[\text{NBu}_4][\text{ClO}_4]$  was recrystallized twice from tetrahydrofuran. All other reagents and solvents were used as received without further notification.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX 400 spectrometer in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{CDCl}_3/80\%$  hydrazine hydrate (100/1 v/v). Spectra were referenced internally using the residual solvent resonance ( $\delta$  7.26 ppm in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  for <sup>1</sup>H NMR) relative to  $\text{SiMe}_4$ . Electronic absorption spectra were recorded on a Hitachi U-2910 spectrophotometer. MALDI-TOF mass spectra were taken on a Bruker BIFLEX III ultrahigh-resolution Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT-ICR) mass spectrometer with  $\alpha$ -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as the matrix. Elemental analyses were performed on an Elementar Vario El III instrument. Electrochemical measurements were carried out with a BAS CV-50W voltammetric analyzer. The cell comprised inlets for a glassy-carbon-disk working electrode with a diameter of 2.0 mm in diameter and a silver-wire counter electrode. The reference electrode was  $\text{Ag}^+/\text{Ag}$  (a solution of 0.01 M  $\text{AgNO}_3$  and 0.1 M TBAP in acetonitrile), which was connected to the solution by a Luggin capillary whose tip was placed close to the working electrode. The measurements were corrected for junction potentials by being referenced internally to the ferrocenium/ferrocene ( $\text{Fc}^+/\text{Fc}$ ) couple ( $E_{1/2}(\text{Fc}^+/\text{Fc}) = 0.501$  V vs SCE). Typically, a 0.1 M solution of  $[\text{NBu}_4][\text{ClO}_4]$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  containing 1 mM of sample was purged with nitrogen for 10 min, and then the voltammograms were recorded at ambient temperature.

Crystal data for  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1),  $\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (2),  $\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (3), and  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (4) were all determined by X-ray diffraction analysis at 150 K using an Oxford Diffraction Gemini E system with  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5418$  Å), and details of the structure refinement are given in Table S3 in the Supporting Information. CCDC file numbers 1479950, 1479951, 1479952, and 1479953 containing supplementary crystallographic data for this paper can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif).

The singlet oxygen quantum yields ( $\Phi_\Delta$ ) of 1, 2, and 4 were measured in DMF following the published method,<sup>11</sup> on the basis of

photoinduced decomposition of the chemical scavenger 1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran (DPBF) that reacts readily with  $^1\text{O}_2$ . Unsubstituted ZnPc was used as the reference compound ( $\Phi_{\Delta} = 0.56$  in DMF). Steady-state fluorescence spectroscopic measurements were carried out on an F4500 (Hitachi) instrument. The fluorescence quantum yields ( $\Phi_{\text{F}}$ ) were calculated following the published method with  $\text{H}_2\text{Pc}(t\text{-Bu})_4$  as reference compound ( $\Phi_{\text{F}} = 0.77$ ).<sup>15</sup>

**Synthesis of 3-Aminophthalonitrile.** 3-Nitrophthalonitrile (13.0 g, 75.1 mmol) was added to a mixture of methanol (230 mL) and concentrated HCl (66.6 mL), and the suspension was heated to reflux. To this mixture was added iron powder (12.7 g, 227 mmol) in small portions over 2 h, and then the mixture was stirred vigorously for further 1 h at the same temperature. The resulting mixture was then poured into cold water and filtered through a Büchner funnel. The precipitate was washed with water, giving the target compound as a yellow solid: yield 9.21 g, 85.7%.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.40 (t,  $J = 3.38$  Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d,  $J = 6.12$  Hz, 1H), 6.97 (d,  $J = 7.80$  Hz, 1H), 4.71 (s, 2H). Mp: 195–197 °C. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_5\text{N}_3$ : C, 67.12; H, 3.52; N, 29.35. Found: C, 67.19; H, 3.61; N, 29.33. IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3468, 3367, 1718, 1631, 1593, 1477, 1313, 1055, 798, 743, 417.

**Synthesis of 3-Chlorophthalonitrile.** 3-Aminophthalonitrile (8.50 g, 59.4 mmol) was added to concentrated HCl maintained below  $-5$  °C. A solution of sodium nitrite (8.19 g, 87.0 mmol) in water (18 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min, and then the mixture was stirred for a further 30 min. To this mixture was added a solution of CuCl (14.7 g, 148 mmol) in concentrated HCl (50 mL) dropwise over 1 h. After toluene (200 mL) was added, the mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 1 h. After the mixture was cooled to room temperature, the two layers were separated and the aqueous layer was extracted with toluene, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. After the solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure, the crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column using  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  as eluent, providing the target compound as a white solid: yield 4.03 g, 41.8%.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.79 (d,  $J = 8.04$  Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d,  $J = 7.36$  Hz, 1H), 7.69 (t,  $J = 7.90$  Hz, 1H). Mp: 108–111 °C. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_3\text{N}_2\text{Cl}$ : C, 59.10; H, 1.86; N, 17.23. Found: C, 59.15; H, 1.73; N, 17.20. IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 3087, 1733, 1577, 1452, 1178, 1030, 942, 862, 800, 727, 549, 437.

**Synthesis of 3-(Dibutylamino)phthalonitrile.** To a mixture of 3-chlorophthalonitrile (3.32 g, 20.4 mmol) and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  (5.65 g, 40.9 mmol) in DMF (30 mL) at 150 °C was added dibutylamine (7.95 g, 62.0 mmol). The resulting system was heated at the same temperature for 6 h. After it was cooled to room temperature, the reaction mixture was poured into water (100 mL) and extracted with petroleum ether, dried over  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , and filtered. After the solvent was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure, the crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column using dichloromethane/petroleum ether (3/1) as eluent, giving the target compound as a yellow oil: yield 2.70 g, 51.8%.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  7.41 (m, 1H), 7.11 (d,  $J = 7.36$  Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d,  $J = 8.88$  Hz, 1H), 3.42 (t,  $J = 7.66$  Hz, 4H), 1.59 (m,  $J = 7.20$  Hz, 4H), 1.34 (m,  $J = 7.43$  Hz, 4H), 0.97 (t,  $J = 7.36$  Hz, 6H). Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}_3$ : C, 75.26; H, 8.29; N, 16.46. Found: C, 75.30; H, 8.20; N, 16.33. IR (KBr):  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) 2959, 2872, 2206, 1585, 1468, 1369, 1288, 1227, 1072, 945, 785, 554.

**Synthesis of 1,8,15,22-Tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato Magnesium,  $\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (2).** A mixture of magnesium turnings (16.1 mg, 0.662 mmol) and a small amount of iodine in anhydrous *n*-pentanol (3 mL) was refluxed for 1 h under a slow steam of nitrogen. Then 3-(dibutylamino)phthalonitrile (150 mg, 0.587 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was refluxed for another 11 h. After the mixture was cooled, the solvent was evaporated. The crude product was chromatographed on an alkaline alumina column with dichloromethane/methanol (200/1) as eluent, affording the sample containing the four regioisomers of 1,8-/11,15-/18,22-/25-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato magnesium complex as a green powder: yield 67.6 mg, 44.0%. This sample was then recrystallized twice from tetrahydrofuran and methanol, giving dark green microcrystals of pure 1,8,15,22-tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato magnesium isomer  $\text{Mg}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (2):

yield 41.0 mg, 26.7%. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{84}\text{N}_{12}\text{Mg}$ : C, 73.50; H, 8.10; N, 16.07. Found: C, 73.27; H, 7.91; N, 16.00.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.02 (d,  $J = 7.24$  Hz, 4H), 7.98 (t,  $J = 7.48$  Hz, 4H), 7.65 (d,  $J = 7.72$  Hz, 4H), 4.30 (t,  $J = 7.26$  Hz, 16H), 1.83 (m,  $J = 7.31$  Hz, 16H), 1.44 (m,  $J = 7.39$  Hz, 16H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.34$  Hz, 24H). MS (MALDI-TOF):  $m/z$  1045.9  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 989.5  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_4\text{H}_8]^+$ . UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda/\text{nm}$  ( $10^{-5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) 745 (1.31), 670 (0.285), 489 (0.0648), 343 (0.549), 284 (0.349).

**Synthesis of Metal-Free 1,8,15,22-Tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyanine,  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1).** Compound 2 (51.5 mg, 0.0492 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CF}_3\text{COOH}$  (2 mL) and the mixture stirred under a slow steam of nitrogen for 20 min. The reaction mixture was then poured into cold water and neutralized with ammonia solution. The precipitate was collected and washed several times with  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  and then applied on an alkaline alumina column with dichloromethane/petroleum ether (4/1) as eluent. Further recrystallization from tetrahydrofuran and methanol afforded dark green microcrystals of  $\text{H}_2\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (1): yield 33.7 mg, 66.9%. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{86}\text{N}_{12}$ : C, 75.11; H, 8.47; N, 16.42. Found: C, 75.28; H, 8.26; N, 16.44.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.02 (d,  $J = 7.28$  Hz, 4H), 8.04 (t,  $J = 7.54$  Hz, 4H), 7.71 (d,  $J = 7.80$  Hz, 4H), 4.27 (t,  $J = 7.12$  Hz, 16H), 1.85 (m,  $J = 7.16$  Hz, 16H), 1.46 (m,  $J = 7.29$  Hz, 16H), 0.89 (t,  $J = 7.34$  Hz, 24H), 0.39 (s, 2H). MS (MALDI-TOF):  $m/z$  1023.9  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 966.8  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_4\text{H}_8]^+$ . UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda/\text{nm}$  ( $10^{-5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) 770 (1.19), 690 (0.346), 514 (0.0751), 340 (0.613), 285 (0.462).

**Synthesis of 1,8,15,22-Tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato Nickel,  $\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (3).** A mixture of metal-free phthalocyanine 1 (40.5 mg, 0.0396 mmol),  $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (25.0 mg, 0.100 mmol), and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU, 0.3 mL) in anhydrous *n*-pentanol (2 mL) was heated to reflux for 6 h under nitrogen. After it was cooled to room temperature, the mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and the residue was chromatographed on an alkaline alumina column using dichloromethane as the eluent. The product was then further purified by recrystallization from tetrahydrofuran and methanol, affording dark green microcrystals of  $\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (3): yield 31.8 mg, 74.5%. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{84}\text{N}_{12}\text{Ni} \cdot 0.5\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ : C, 69.01; H, 7.63; N, 14.97. Found: C, 69.08; H, 7.55; N, 15.09.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  8.93 (d,  $J = 7.16$  Hz, 4H), 7.97 (t,  $J = 7.60$  Hz, 4H), 7.63 (d,  $J = 7.72$  Hz, 4H), 4.16 (t,  $J = 7.08$  Hz, 16H), 1.81 (m,  $J = 7.27$  Hz, 16H), 1.44 (m,  $J = 7.34$  Hz, 16H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.34$  Hz, 24H). MS (MALDI-TOF);  $m/z$  1079.1  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 1022.9  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_4\text{H}_8]^+$ . UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda/\text{nm}$  ( $10^{-5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) 745 (1.05), 670 (0.285), 498 (0.0660), 331 (0.453), 289 (0.514).

**Synthesis of 1,8,15,22-Tetrakis(dibutylamino)phthalocyaninato Zinc,  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (4).** By employing the procedure described above to prepare  $\text{Ni}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (3) with  $\text{Zn}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (22.0 mg, 0.100 mmol) instead of  $\text{Ni}(\text{OAc})_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as starting material, pure  $\text{Zn}\{\text{Pc}[\alpha\text{-N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2]_4\text{-C}_4\}$  (4) was isolated as dark green microcrystals: yield 29.2 mg, 67.9%. Anal. Calcd for  $\text{C}_{64}\text{H}_{84}\text{N}_{12}\text{Zn}$ : C, 70.24; H, 7.86; N, 15.24. Found: C, 70.67; H, 7.59; N, 15.45.  $^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz):  $\delta$  9.03 (d,  $J = 7.24$  Hz, 4H), 7.99 (t,  $J = 7.44$  Hz, 4H), 7.66 (d,  $J = 7.68$  Hz, 4H), 4.31 (t,  $J = 7.16$  Hz, 16H), 1.83 (m,  $J = 5.32$  Hz, 16H), 1.44 (m,  $J = 5.90$  Hz, 16H), 0.88 (t,  $J = 7.26$  Hz, 24H). MS (MALDI-TOF):  $m/z$  1085.3  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , 1029.0  $[\text{M} - \text{C}_4\text{H}_8]^+$ . UV-vis ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ ):  $\lambda/\text{nm}$  ( $10^{-5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) 746 (1.17), 674 (0.303), 489 (0.0648), 343 (0.549), 284 (0.349).

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.inorgchem.6b01371.

Synthesis of 3-(dibutylamino)phthalonitrile, experimental and simulated isotopic patterns for 1–4,  $^1\text{H NMR}$  spectra of 2–4, electronic absorption spectra of 1–4, cyclic voltammograms of 1–4, absorption changes of 1,

2, and 4 and DPBF in DMF, fluorescence emission spectra of 1, 2, and 4, analytical and mass spectrometric data for 1–4, <sup>1</sup>H NMR data ( $\delta$ ) for 1–4, molecular packing diagrams of single crystals of 1–4, crystal data and structure refinement details for 1–4, and fluorescence emission data of 1, 2, and 4 (PDF)

Crystal data for 1 (CIF)

Crystal data for 2 (CIF)

Crystal data for 3 (CIF)

Crystal data for 4 (CIF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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