

## A Building Block Method for the Synthesis of Higher Cycloamides

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Series of cyclic amides containing optically active helicene, (*P*)-1,12-dimethylbenzo[*c*]phenanthrene, are synthesized using a building block method. The building block consists of one (*P*)-helicene unit and one dianiline unit with its amino-terminal-protected with benzyloxycarbonyl and its acid terminal activated as acid chloride. The coupling with (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* – 3) + (*n* – 2)]diamine followed by deprotection gives (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* – 1) + *n*]diamine, which possesses *n* – 1 parts of (*P*)-helicene and *n* parts of dianiline. Cyclization of the (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* – 1) + *n*]diamine with helicenediacid dichloride gives (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamide. All the members of (*P,P*)-[2 + 2]cycloamide to (*P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P*)-[10 + 10]cycloamide are synthesized using this method, and are compared spectroscopically.

Previously, we reported the synthesis of cyclic amides containing optically active helicene, 1,12-dimethylbenzo[*c*]phenanthrene-5,8-dicarboxylic acid (**8**).<sup>1</sup> The acid dichloride (*P*)-**6** derived from (*P*)-**8** was reacted with diamine **1**<sup>2,3</sup> by one-pot method, and (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamides with *n* = 1, 2, 3, 4 were obtained. The (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamide is the cyclic amide which contains *n* parts of (*P*)-**8** and *n* parts of **1**. Some of the cycloamides show interesting properties: The [1 + 1]cycloamide forms stable monolayers on the water surface, which can be transferred on the solid support giving Langmuir–Blodgett films:<sup>4</sup> The [2 + 2]cycloamide catalyzes the asymmetric addition of diethyl zinc to aromatic aldehydes, and enantiomeric excesses up to 50% are attained.<sup>1</sup> We were then interested in the synthesis of higher cycloamides in order to compare their structures and properties with the lower cycloamides noted above. Described here is the synthesis of (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamide with *n* = 2 to 10 using a building block method.

The strategy of this synthesis is summarized in Scheme 1. Compound (*P*)-**3** containing one (*P*)-helicene moiety and one dianiline moiety is selected for the building block, in which the amino terminus is protected with benzyloxycarbonyl and the acid terminus activated as acid chloride. (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* – 1) + *n*]Diamines (*P,P,...*)-**4** are synthesized from diamine **1** or (*P*)-**2**. Coupling of **1** or (*P*)-**2** with (*P*)-**3** followed by deprotection gives (*P,P*)-[2 +

+ 3]diamine (*P,P*)-**4** (*n* = 3) or (*P,P,P*)-[3 + 4]diamine (*P,P,P*)-**4** (*n* = 4), respectively, which can be used for the next chain elongation. One cycle of the operations adds two units of (*P*)-**3** and two units of **1** to the precursors giving series of (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* – 1) + *n*]diamine, (*P,P,...*)-**4**. Then, cyclization of (*P,P,...*)-**4** with acid dichloride (*P*)-**6** gives (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamide, (*P,P,...*)-**7**. This two-directional chain elongation method using the building block has several advantages:<sup>5,6</sup> (i) All the members of the small-membered ring compounds to the large-membered ring compounds can be prepared in relatively short steps; (ii) Stereoisomers regarding the helicene moiety can be synthesized by simply changing the building block, (*P*)-**3** or (*M*)-**3**.

The building block (*P*)-**3** is synthesized as shown in Scheme 2. Reaction of dianiline **1** with 1 equiv of di(*tert*-butoxy) dicarbonate gives a mixture of monoprotected **1**, diprotected **1**, and the starting material **1**, which are readily separable by silica gel chromatography. It turned out that *tert*-butoxycarbonyl derivatives are much more easily separated than the corresponding benzyloxycarbonyl dianilines. The other amino group of the monoprotected **1** is then treated with benzyloxycarbonyl chloride, and removal of *tert*-butoxycarbonyl group gives **10**. Helicenedicarboxylic acid (*P*)-**8** is converted to the dimethyl ester, and selectively monohydrolyzed with barium hydroxide<sup>7</sup> giving (*P*)-**9** in a high yield. The coupling reaction of **10** with the acid chloride obtained from (*P*)-**9**

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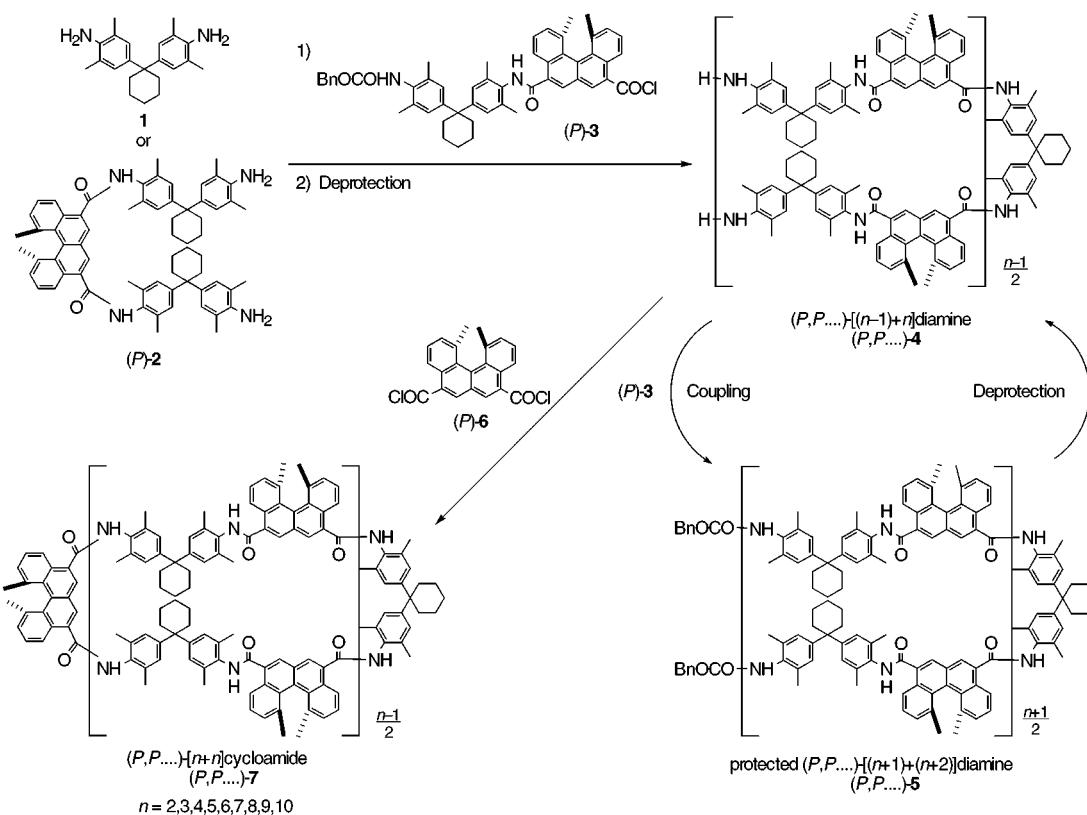
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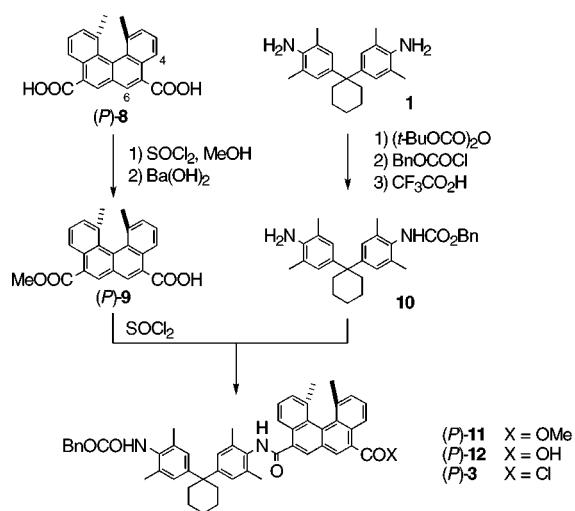
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Scheme 1



Scheme 2



gives methyl ester (*P*)-11, which is hydrolyzed to carboxylic acid (*P*)-12. Then, (*P*)-12 is converted to the acid chloride (*P*)-3 by treatment of its potassium salt with thionyl chloride in dichloromethane at room temperature for 12 h. The acid chloride (*P*)-3 can be purified by silica gel chromatography.

The coupling reaction of **1** with (*P*)-3 is conducted in *N*-methylpyrrolidone (NMP)<sup>8</sup> without base at room temperature for 24 h giving protected (*P,P*)-[2 + 3]diamine (*P,P*)-5 (*n* = 1) in a high yield. *N,N*-Dimethylacetamide or HMPA is not effective. Reactions employing bases such

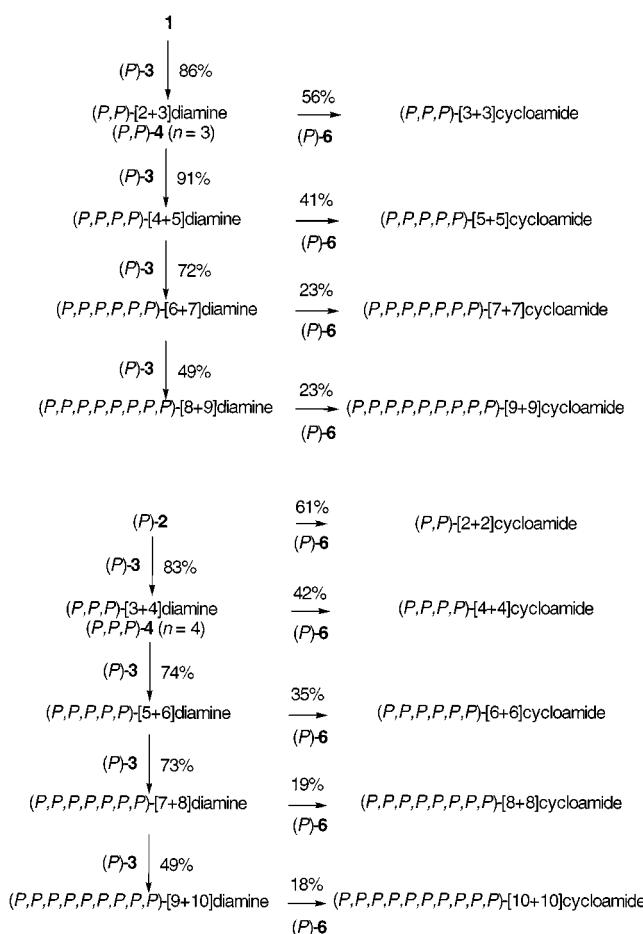
as triethylamine, 4-(*N,N*-dimethylamino)pyridine, pyridine, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, ethyldiisopropylamine, or 1,8-bis(dimethylamino)naphthalene in dichloromethane or toluene give the product in less than 20% yield. The protecting group is removed by the treatment with trimethylsilyl iodide<sup>9</sup> in dichloromethane at 0 °C giving (*P,P*)-[2 + 3]diamine (*P,P*)-4 (*n* = 3) in 86% yield from **1** (Scheme 3). The compound (*P,P*)-4 (*n* = 3) is then converted to (*P,P,P,P*)-[4 + 5]diamine, (*P,P,P,P,P*)-[6 + 7]diamine, and (*P,P,P,P,P,P,P*)-[8 + 9]diamine by the sequences of the coupling and the deprotection. Since one cycle of the operation extends two (*P*)-helicene units, this series of synthesis gives acyclic diamines possessing even numbers of (*P*)-8 moiety. The diamines of the odd number series are synthesized starting from (*P*)-[1 + 2]diamine (*P*)-2, which is obtained by the reaction of (*P*)-6 and excess **1**. Reaction of (*P*)-2 with (*P*)-3 give (*P,P,P*)-[3 + 4]-diamine (*P,P*)-4 (*n* = 4), which is converted to (*P,P,P,P,P*)-[5 + 6]diamine, (*P,P,P,P,P,P*)-[7 + 8]diamine, and (*P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P*)-[9 + 10]diamine. Their structures are determined by spectroscopic method as well as elemental analysis. Molecular weights are determined by MALDI-TOF MS. Cyclization of (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* - 1) + *n*]diamines (*n* = 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) with (*P*)-6 is conducted under high dilution conditions. A solution of (*P*)-6 in NMP and a solution of (*P,P,...*)-[(*n* - 1) + *n*]diamines (*n* = 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) in NMP are simultaneously added over a period of 12 h to NMP at room temperature, and the mixture is stirred for 12 h giving (*P,P,...*)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamides (*n* = 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) in acceptable yields. The 180-membered ring compound (*P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P*)-[10 + 10]cycloamide with molecular weight of 6308 is obtained by this method.

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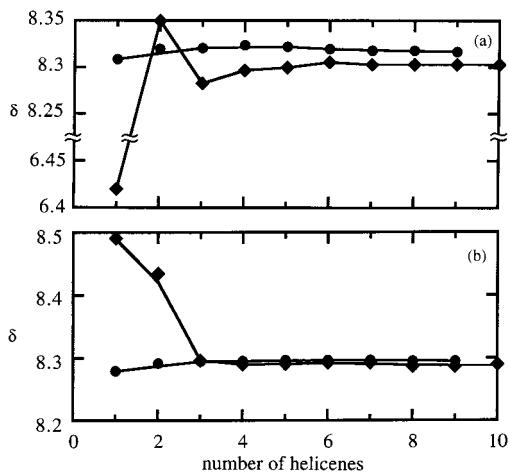
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Scheme 3

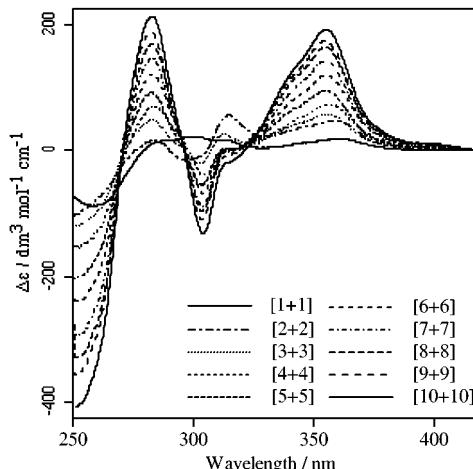


Series of optically active cycloamides and their linear precursors being in hand, their spectroscopic behaviors are compared in regard to the “ring member number” and the “ring effect”. The former treats the effect of the ring number, and the latter compares the cyclic and acyclic compounds. Such study was reported for synthetic cyclic polymers,<sup>10</sup> and here the cyclic oligomer is treated. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of all the cycloamides show one sets of the benzo[c]phenanthrene protons. The chemical shifts of the cycloamides except (P,P)-[2 + 2]cycloamide are concentration dependent in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, which may be due to aggregation in solution. Since the dependence is not observed in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR comparison is conducted in this solvent to make the analysis simple. The chemical shifts of 4-H and 6-H at the benzo[c]phenanthrene moiety of the (P,P,...)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamides, (P,P,...)-7, (*n* = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) as well as the (P,P,...)-[(*n* - 1) + *n*]diamines, (P,P,...)-4, (*n* = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) are shown in Figure 1. While the chemical shifts of (P,P,...)-7 for *n* ≥ 4 are constant, the values are different for the compound with *n* = 1 to 3. It is also observed that the chemical shifts of the linear compounds are approximately constant, and are close to those of the higher cycloamides. The “ring effect” is therefore observed in the smaller compound than (P,P,P,P)-[4 + 4]cycloamide.

CD spectra of the cycloamides (P,P,...)-7 and diamines (P,P,...)-4 in CHCl<sub>3</sub> are summarized in Figures 2 and 3,



**Figure 1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 25 °C) chemical shifts of 6-H (a) and 4-H (b) at the benzo[c]phenanthrene moiety are plotted against the number of helicenes for (P,P,...)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamides, (P,P,...)-7, (*n* = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (♦) and (P,P,...)-[(*n* - 1) + *n*]diamine, (P,P,...)-4, (*n* = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (●) at the concentrations of 0.5 to 2.0 mM.



**Figure 2.** CD spectra (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C) of (P,P,...)-[*n* + *n*]cycloamide, (P,P,...)-7, (*n* = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) at the concentrations of 2.0 × 10<sup>-7</sup> to 2.5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M except for (P,P,...)-7 (*n* = 1) and (P,P,...)-7 (*n* = 2), spectra of which were obtained at 1.4 × 10<sup>-5</sup> and 1.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M, respectively.

respectively, which are obtained at much lower concentrations compared to NMR. No concentration dependence of the spectra indicates that aggregation is negligible. (P,P,...)-7 of *n* ≥ 4 exhibit similar spectra, and the intensity increases in proportional to the number of helicene unit. CD spectra of the higher cycloamides are similar to (P,P,...)-4, which suggests the similar structure of the higher cycloamide and the acyclic compounds. The “ring effect” can be seen more clearly when the values Δε/(number of helicene) at 305 nm for (P,P,...)-7 and (P,P,...)-4 are plotted against the number of helicene (Figure 4). The values of (P,P,...)-7 become constant at *n* ≥ 5, and are again close to those of the acyclic (P,P,...)-4. Based on the results of the NMR and CD spectroscopy, it may reasonably be concluded that the large ring cycloamides (*n* ≥ 5) have flexible structures, and the “ring effect” appears for those for *n* ≤ 4 with the ring number of less than 72.

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**(P,P,P,P,P,P,P,P)-[10 + 10]Cycloamide.** Yield 18%. Mp >300 °C. Anal. Calcd for C<sub>440</sub>H<sub>420</sub>N<sub>20</sub>O<sub>20</sub>·14H<sub>2</sub>O: C; 80.56, H; 6.88, N; 4.27%. Found: C; 80.25, H; 6.98, N; 4.52%. Found: C; 80.88, H; 6.98, N; 4.61%. [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>27</sup> +72 (*c* 0.45, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). MS (TOF, dithranol) Calcd for <sup>12</sup>C<sub>435</sub><sup>13</sup>C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>420</sub>N<sub>20</sub>O<sub>20</sub>: 6308.2. Found: 6309. UV-vis (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (*ε*) 301 nm (4.5 × 10<sup>5</sup>). IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) 3410, 3400–3200, 1667 cm<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 1 mM) δ 1.50–1.70 (60H, m), 1.83 (60H, s), 2.20–2.50 (40H, m), 2.32 (120H, s), 7.13 (40H, s), 7.37 (20H, d, *J* = 7 Hz), 7.50–7.60 (40H, m), 7.98 (20H, s), 8.30 (20H, d, *J* = 8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 1 mM) δ 19.4, 23.1, 23.4, 26.5, 37.2, 45.6, 122.7, 123.9, 127.0, 127.1, 128.3, 129.1, 129.2, 129.8, 131.0, 131.1, 134.1, 134.9, 136.8, 147.6, 167.5. CD (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\text{ext}}$  (Δ*ε*) 357 nm (+194), 304 (−122), 283 (+215).

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**Supporting Information Available:** Experimental procedures for the synthesis of (*P*)-**2**, (*P*)-**11**, and (*P*)-**12** as well as their physical data. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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