Photolysis of the Sulfonamide Bond of Metal Complexes of N-Dansyl-1,4,7,10-Tetraazacyclododecane in Aqueous Solution: A Mechanistic Study and Application to the Photorepair of *cis,syn*-Cyclobutane Thymine Photodimer

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Abstract: Sulfonamide constitutes a ubiquitous functional group that is frequently used in organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, and medicinal chemistry. We report herein on the photolysis of a dansylamide moiety of 1-dansyl-1,4,7,10-tetraazzacyclododecane (Ndansylcyclen, L^2) in the presence of a zinc(II) ion in aqueous solution. By potentiometric pH titrations, the complexation constant for the 1:1 complex of L^2 and Zn^{2+} , $\log K_s(ZnL^2)$, in aqueous solution at 25 °C with I=0.1(NaNO₃) was determined to be $6.5 \pm$ 0.1. The structure of the ZnL^2 complex was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. During fluorescence titrations of L² with Zn²⁺ (irradiation at 308 or 350 nm) in aqueous solution at pH 7.4 (10 mm HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C, considerable enhancement in fluorescence emission of the Zn²⁺ complex of L² (ZnL²) was observed, while metal-free L² exhibited only a negligible emission change upon UV irradiation. It was revealed that this emission enhancement arose from the photoinduced cleavage of a sulfonylamide moiety in ZnL²,

Keywords: DNA repair • macrocyclic ligands • photolysis • sulfonamides • zinc yielding the Zn^{2+} -cyclen complex and 5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfinic acid, which has a greater quantum yield (Φ) for fluorescence emission than that of L² and ZnL². For comparison, the photolysis of *N*-(1-naphthalenesulfonyl)cyclen (L³) and its Zn²⁺ complex (ZnL³) under the same conditions (irradiation at 313 nm) gave the corresponding sulfonate (1-naphthylsulfonate). We also describe the results of a photoreversion reaction of *cis,syn*cyclobutane thymine photodimer (T-[*c,s*]T) utilizing the photolysis of ZnL² and ZnL³.

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Sulfonamide is one of the representative functional groups used in organic synthesis, analytical chemistry, and medicinal chemistry.^[1] For example, sulfonamides have been the starting materials for the synthesis of pharmaceutical agents having broad antibacterial spectrum and anticancer activities.^[2] Sulfonamide groups have also been successfully utilized as protecting groups in areas of synthetic organic chemistry,^[3] as important functionalities in asymmetric catalysts,^[4] and even as aprotic organic solvents.^[5]

Introduction

One of the common reactions of sulfonamides and their derivatives is the photochemical cleavage of the S–N bond resulting in the release of the free amine.^[1,2,3a] For example, it was reported by D'Souza and Day in 1968 that *N*-dansyl-L-alanine **1a** and *N*-dansyl-L-isoleucine **1b** underwent photolysis to give dansyl acid and the corresponding amino acids (Scheme 1).^[6] It was also reported that the photolysis





Scheme 1.

of **1** was much more efficient under acidic conditions than basic conditions.

Haas et al. reported that sulfonamides, such as 2, undergo photolysis in Et₂O or MeOH to give an aniline derivative and a photo-Fries rearrangement-type product (Scheme 1).^[7,8] They reported that S–N bond cleavage (α photocleavage) is a radical step that affords a radical pair, resulting in the formation of the aniline derivative. It was proposed that the α photocleavage of 2 proceeds via excited triplet states.

In 1969, Umezawa et al. reported the photolysis of 1-substituted 6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline *N*-tosylate **3a** (Scheme 2).^[9] It was postulated that this photolysis



Scheme 2.

proceeded through the intramolecular formation of a donor-acceptor ion pair between the electron-donating dimethoxybenzene group (\mathbb{R}^2) and the electron-withdrawing tosyl group. Yonemitsu's group subsequently reported that the photolysis of **3b**, which lacks methoxy groups on the 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline ring, is less efficient than that of **3a**, indicating that two methoxy groups in **3a** serve as electron donors to generate radical anion intermediates.^[10] In addition, they showed the photolysis of **3b** in the presence of 1,5-dimethoxynaphthalene **4**, which donates an electron in an intermolecular fashion. In these papers, however, the products derived from the sulfonyl parts were not characterized.

In 1999, Corrie's group reported on the development of a photolabile protecting group for amino acids.^[11] They found that photolysis of amino acids **5** having an electron-rich aromatic ring in the protecting group promoted deprotection, with the release of the corresponding free amino acids in moderate yields.^[11,12]

Meanwhile, we have been interested in the photochemical properties of metal complexes of functionalized macrocyclic polyamines such as 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane **6** (cyclen, L¹), which is a potent chelator of various metal ions in aqueous solution.^[13,14] For example, a Zn^{2+} complex of cyclen **7** (ZnL¹) is thermodynamically stable and kinetically inert in aqueous solution (the K_d value is ca. 2 nM at pH 7.4; Scheme 3). We have reported on several cyclen-based Zn²⁺





fluorophores equipped with fluorescent side chains^[15–19] that fluorometrically respond to Zn^{2+} in sample solutions and living cells (apoptosis detection).^[15b,c]

Based on this previous information, we synthesized *N*-dansylcyclen **8** (L^2) in an attempt to study the photochemical properties of a dansylamide moiety that is nearly fixed to Zn^{2+} or other metal cations (Scheme 4). We hypothesized





that the Lewis acidity of Zn^{2+} might have an effect on the photochemical (fluorescence) properties or photoreactivity of the dansylamide group in the 1:1 Zn^{2+} complex 9 (ZnL^2) .^[20]

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During fluorescent titrations of **8** with Zn^{2+} in aqueous solution at neutral pH to examine the Zn^{2+} complexation of **8**, we found that the fluorescence emission of the reaction mixture increased significantly. On the other hand, the emission of metal-free **8** exhibited only a negligible change under the same conditions. In this manuscript, we present evidence to show that the emission enhancement of **8** results from the photocleavage of the sulfonamide S–N bond of its Zn^{2+} complex **9** (ZnL²). The photoreactivity of **9** was compared with that of the reference compounds *N*-(1-naphthalenesulfonyl)cyclen **10** (L³) and its Zn^{2+} complex **11** (ZnL³).



The results of photorepair reactions of *cis,syn*-cyclobutane thymine photodimer (T[c,s]T), which is one of the representative DNA photolesions,^[21] utilizing photolysis of **9** and **11** will be described.

Results and Discussion

The p K_a Values of 8 (L²) and 10 (L³) and Their Complexation Constants with Zn²⁺

The synthesis of 8 (L^2), 10 (L^3), and 9 (ZnL^2) was carried out via tris(tert-butyloxycarbonyl)-cyclen^[22] as described in Scheme S1 in the Supporting Information (8 and 10 were obtained as HCl salts (L²·4HCl·5H₂O and L³·3HCl)). The Zn^{2+} complex of L², 9, was obtained as $ZnL^2 \cdot Cl_2 \cdot (H_2O)_3$. The deprotonation constants, pK_{ai} (*i*=1-4) of **8** (L²) defined by Eq. (1) were examined by potentiometric pH titrations of a mixture of $1 \text{ mM } H_4L^2$ against 0.1 M NaOH with I = 0.1(NaNO₃) at 25 °C (Figure S1 in the Supporting Information). The titration data were analyzed for the acid-base equilibrium in Eq. (1) using the software program $BEST^{[23]}$ to give pK_{ai} values of <2, 3.51 ±0.05, 6.44 ±0.05, and 9.70 ±0.05, respectively, as summarized in Table 1. The pK_{a1} , pK_{a3} , and pK_{a4} values of L² were assigned to the deprotonation constants of three secondary amines in a cyclen ring by analogy with the pK_a values for 12 (L⁴, [12]aneN₃)^[24] and 14 (L⁵)^[25] (Scheme 5), which were proven to be tridentate ligands for Zn^{2+} (see also Table 1). The p K_{a2} value of 3.5 for a dimethylamino moiety of dansyl group was confirmed by the ¹H NMR experiments in D_2O ([L²]=2 mM), which showed a large shift of methyl signals of L^6 between pD ≈ 2 and pD 5 (Figure S2 in the Supporting Information).^[26] Figures S3 and S4 in the Supporting Information show the change in UV and fluorescent emission of 8 (L^2) as a function of pH $([L^2]=100 \text{ or } 10 \,\mu\text{M})$, from which three pK_a values $(3.5\pm0.2,$ 6.5 ± 0.2 , and 9.5 ± 0.2) were estimated. These three pK_a

Table 1. Deprotonation constants (p K_{al}) and complexation constants of cyclen 6 (L¹), 8 (L²), 10 (L³), and 14 (L⁵) with I=0.1 (NaNO₃) at 25 °C.^[a]

	6 (L ¹) ^[b]	$8 (L^2)^{[c]}$	$10 (L^3)^{[c]}$	$14 (L^5)^{[d]}$
pK_{a1}	<2	<2	<2	<3
pK_{a2}	<2	3.51 ^[e]	6.81	7.3
pK_{a3}	9.9	6.44	10.19	10.1
pK_{a4}	11.0	9.70	_	-
$\log K_{\rm s}({\rm ZnL})^{[\rm a]}$	16.2	6.5	6.5	7.9
$\log K_{\rm app}({\rm ZnL})^{[{\rm a},{\rm f}]}$ at pH 7.4	10.6	4.5	5.2	4.6
$pK_{a}(ZnL)^{[g]}$	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.5

[a] For the definition of $K_s(ZnL)$, $K_{app}(ZnL)$, and $pK_a(ZnL)$, see the text. [b] From reference [24]. [c] Determined in this work. [d] From reference [25]. [e] The pK_a value for the ArN⁺HMe₂ group of L² assigned by ¹H NMR, UV, and fluorescence titrations. [f] Apparent complexation constants at pH 7.4 with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)). [g] Deprotonation constants of Zn²⁺-bound water in ZnL.



Scheme 5.

values are close to the pK_a values (3.5, 6.4, and 9.7) determined by potentiometric pH titrations.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{H}_{n}\mathbf{L}^{2} &\rightleftharpoons \mathbf{H}_{(n-1)}\mathbf{L}^{2} + \mathbf{H}^{+} : \\ K_{\mathrm{a}i} &= [\mathbf{H}_{(n-1)}\mathbf{L}^{2}]a_{\mathrm{H}^{+}}/[\mathbf{H}_{n}\mathbf{L}^{2}] \; (n = 1 - 4, \, i = 5 - n) \end{aligned}$$

$$L^{2} + Zn^{2+} \rightleftharpoons ZnL^{2}(H_{2}O) :$$

$$K_{s}(ZnL^{2}) = [ZnL^{2}(H_{2}O)]/[L^{2}][Zn^{2+}] (M^{-1})$$
(2)

$$ZnL^{2}(H_{2}O) \rightleftharpoons ZnL^{2}(HO^{-}) + H^{+}:$$

$$K_{a}(ZnL^{2}) = [ZnL^{2}(HO^{-})]a_{H^{+}}/[ZnL^{2}(H_{2}O)]$$
(3)

$$\begin{split} K_{app}(ZnL^2) &= [(ZnL^2(H_2O) + ZnL^2(HO^-))]/[L^2]_{free}[Zn^{2+}]_{free} \\ (at \ designated \ pH) \ (m^{-1}) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [L^2]_{free} &= [H_4 L^2]_{free} + [H_3 L^2]_{free} + [H_2 L^2]_{free} \\ &+ [HL^2]_{free} + [L^2]_{free} \end{aligned}$$
 (5)

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Analysis of a pH titration curve for a mixture of 1 mm H_4L^2 and 1 mM ZnSO₄ (Figure S1a in the Supporting Information) gave the intrinsic complexation constant of L^2 with Zn^{2+} (K_s(ZnL²) defined by Eq. (2)) of 6.5±0.1. The pK_a value for Zn^{2+} -bound water of 8 (ZnL^2 ; $K_a(ZnL^2)$ defined by Eq. (3)) was 7.4 ± 0.1 . This value is close to those for $Zn^{2+}-12$ complex 13 $(ZnL^4)^{[24]}$ of 7.3 and $Zn^{2+}-14$ complex 15 $(ZnL^5)^{[25]}$ of 7.5 (Scheme 5), indicating that three nitrogen atoms of a cyclen ring in L^2 coordinate to Zn^{2+} . From these values, the apparent complexation constant for 8 at pH 7.4 ($K_{app}(ZnL^2)$ defined by Eqs. (4)–(5)) was calculated to be 4.5 ± 0.1 . Figure S1b in the Supporting Information presents a speciation diagram for a mixture of $1 \text{ mM H}_4\text{L}^2$ and 1 mM ZnSO_4 as a function of pH at 25 °C with I = 0.1(NaNO₃). The deprotonation and Zn^{2+} complexation behaviors of 8 (L^2) and 10 (L^3) are summarized in Scheme 6 and Table 1 in comparison with those of cyclen (L^1) and L^5 .



Scheme 6.

X-ray Crystal Structure of 9 (ZnL²)

Colorless crystals of **9** obtained as $ZnL^2 \cdot Cl_2 \cdot (H_2O)_3$ by recrystallization from an aqueous solution at pH 7.5 were subjected to single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. As shown in Figure 1, Zn^{2+} is coordinated by three secondary nitrogen atoms of the cyclen ring and a chloride anion. On the basis of our previous results, Zn^{2+} -bound Cl⁻ (Cl30) is replaced with a H₂O molecule in aqueous solution.^[16,22,25] A hydrogen-bonding network including Zn^{2+} -bound Cl⁻ (Cl30), ex-



Figure 1. a) ORTEP drawing of **9** $(ZnL^2 \cdot Cl_2 \cdot (H_2O)_3)$ and schematic drawing of hydrogen-bonding network including Zn^{2+} -bound Cl^- , a Cl^- counteranion, and three water molecules (50% probability ellipsoids). Selected bond lengths [Å]: Zn(1)-N(5) 2.08, Zn(1)-N(8) 2.15, Zn(1)-N(11) 2.06, Zn(1)-Cl(30) 2.21. b) Presentation of hydrogen-bonding network including Zn^{2+} , Cl^- , and water molecules.

ternal chloride anion (Cl31), an amino group in the cyclen ring (N8), and water molecules (O33 and O34) was found.

UV Spectrophotometric and Fluorescence (Quick Scanning) Titrations of 8 (L²) with Zn²⁺

UV titration of **8** (100 µM) with Zn²⁺ was performed at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C. Metal-free **8** has absorption maxima at 243 nm and 332 nm ($\varepsilon_{243}=1.6\times10^4$ M⁻¹cm⁻¹ and $\varepsilon_{332}=4.8\times10^3$ M⁻¹cm⁻¹), as indicated with the dashed curve in Figure 2a. Upon addition of Zn²⁺, the absorption maximum at 332 nm shifted to 338 nm. An increasing curve for absorbance at 380 nm (data not shown) gave the apparent 1:1 complexation constant for ZnL², log K_{app} (ZnL²) of 4.2 ± 0.1 , which agrees with the log K_{app} (ZnL²) value obtained from potentiometric pH titrations described above (4.5 ± 0.1).

Fluorescence titration of **8** with Zn²⁺ was also carried out at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C (excitation at 338 nm). Metal-free **8** has an emission maximum (dashed curve in Figure 2b) at 558 nm. The quantum yield for fluorescence emission of **8** was $\Phi = 3.5 \times 10^{-3}$ at 10 µM, which was much smaller than that of dansyl acid ($\Phi = 8.8 \times 10^{-2}$ at 10 µM), implying that the emission of the dansyl group in **8** is considerably quenched by electron transfer from a cyclen ring.^[27] As summarized in Figure 2b and its inset, the addition of Zn²⁺ gave a decreasing curve in the emission of **8**, from which the apparent complexation constant for **9** (ZnL²), log K_{app} (ZnL²), was determined to be 4.3 ± 0.1 . Reproducible fluorescence spectra of **8** (or **10**) were obtained by a quick scanning of the emission wavelength (500~1000 nm min⁻¹), because **8** (or **10**) underwent a

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Figure 2. a) UV absorption spectral change of 100 μ M 8 (L²) upon the addition of Zn²⁺ at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C. Dashed curve is a UV spectrum of Zn²⁺-free 8. b) Change in fluorescent emission spectra of 7 (L⁶; 100 μ M) upon addition of Zn²⁺ at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C (excitation at 322 nm; obtained by quick scanning from 400 nm to 750 nm). The inset displays the decrease in emission of 8 (L²) at 558 nm at the increasing concentrations of Zn²⁺.

photoreaction, resulting in an enhancement in emission in the presence of Zn^{2+} , as described below.

Accidental Finding of Enhancement in Fluorescent Emission of 8 (L^2) in the Presence of Zn^{2+}

During the fluorescence titrations of 8 with Zn^{2+} , we became aware that the emission of 8 exhibited considerable enhancement, with an emission maximum at 498 nm. After careful experiments, it was concluded that this emission enhancement is dependent on the duration of the UV exposure of 8 in the presence of Zn^{2+} . As displayed in Figure 3a, а UV absorption curve of a mixture of 0.1 mм 8 and 0.3 mм Zn²⁺—these concentrations were chosen for a quantitative formation of 9 (ZnL²) at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with I=0.1(NaNO₃)) based on the results of potentiometric pH titrations shown in Figure S1 in the Supporting Information-exhibited a blue-shift after photoirradiation at 308 nm for 30 min. As for fluorescence emission, photoirradiation at 308 nm facilitated considerable emission enhancement, as shown in Figure 3b and its inset. When stored in the dark, the emission spectra 9 exhibited only negligible change. In contrast, negligible change was observed in the UV spectra and fluorescence spectra of metal-free 8 after photoirradia-



Figure 3. a) Change in UV absorption spectra of 100 μ M **8** before (dashed curve) and after (solid curve) photoirradiation at 308 nm for 1 h in the presence of 300 μ M ZnSO₄ at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with *I*=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C. The inset shows the change in the ε_{248} and ε_{338} values of **8** upon photoirradiation at 308 nm. b) Change in fluorescence emission spectra of **9** (ZnL²; formed in situ from 100 μ M L² and 300 μ M ZnSO₄) before UV irradiation (dashed curve) and after photoirradiation at 338 nm for 10–40 min at pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES with *I*=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C. The inset shows the change in emission intensity of **9** at 498 nm upon UV irradiation at 308 nm (emission spectra obtained by excitation at 338 nm and quick scanning of emission wavelength).

tion at 308 nm for 1 h, as shown in Figure S5 in the Supporting Information.

Photolysis of 9 (ZnL²) Followed by ¹H NMR

The photoreaction of **9** (ZnL²) in D_2O at pD 7.4 was monitored by ¹H NMR, as displayed in Figure 4. These photochemical reactions were carried out by photoirradiation at 350 nm (UV absorption maxima of **9**), which was found to promote photolysis faster than irradiation at 308 nm. Prior to the photoreactions, oxygen in the sample solutions was removed as much as possible by bubbling Ar through the reaction solution for 10 min or repeated freezing and melting



Figure 4. ¹H NMR spectra (aromatic regions) of a) a solution of 0.5 mm 9 (ZnL²) (formed in situ from 0.5 mm 8 and 1.5 mm Zn^{2+}) in D₂O at pD 7.4 before UV irradiation, b) a solution of 0.5 mm 9 after UV irradiation at 350 nm for 0.5 h, c) a solution of 0.5 mm 9 after UV irradiation at 350 nm for 1 h, d) 0.5 mm dansyl acid 16a at pD 7.4. e) 5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthalensulfinate 16b, and f) the solution from part (c) plus H₂O₂.

under reduced pressure. After UV irradiation for 0.5 and 1 h, the ¹H NMR spectra shown in Figure 4b,c were obtained. We initially suspected that the photoproduct produced from 9 would be dansyl acid (5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenesulfonic acid (**16a**)). However, the ¹H NMR sig-



nals in Figure 4c did not agree with those of **16a** (Figure 4d) and showed a good coincidence with those of 5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenesulfinic acid **16b** (Figure 4e), which was prepared from dansyl chloride and Na₂SO₃ according to a reported method.^[28] ESI-MS spectra (negative mode) of a reaction mixture gave a mass peak at m/z=234, which corresponded to **16b** (Figure S6a in the Supporting Information), thus providing support for the conclusion that the initial product of photolysis of **8** is **16b**. Moreover, the addition of an excess amount of H_2O_2 to the solution represented in Figure 4c gave the spectrum shown in Figure 4f, which showed good coincidence with Figure 4d (see also Figure S6b in the Supporting Information). Fries rearrangement-type products^[8] were not observed to any extent.

We also checked the aliphatic region of the ¹H NMR spectra of the photoreaction mixtures of 9 (1.0 mM) in D₂O at pD 7.4 and 25 °C (Figure S7 in the Supporting Information). Collectively considering the results displayed in Figure 4 and Figures S6 and S7,^[30] we concluded that a sulfinic acid **16b** and Zn²⁺-cyclen **7** are the initial products in the photolysis of **9**. As plotted in Figure S8 in the Supporting Information, the breakdown of **9** (ZnL²) proceeded almost linearly as the photoirradiation time increased.

On the other hand, the photolysis of **11** (ZnL³; a D₂O solution of **11** was irradiated at 313 nm, where molar absorption coefficient values (ε) of **9** and **11** were almost the same) gave 1-naphthalenesulfonate **17a** as the major product, not sulfinate **17b**^[29] (Figure S9 in the Supporting Information). Interestingly, metal-free **10** also underwent photocleavage of the S–N bond to give **17a** and cyclen **6** (L¹; see Figure S10 in the Supporting Information), indicating that the mechanism of the photolysis of **10** and **11** is somewhat different from that of **9**. In addition, we discovered that the photolysis of 1.0 mm **11** in the presence of 4.0 mm *N*,*N*,*N*-triethanolamine (TEOA; $pK_a=7.76)^{[31]}$ gave sulfinate **17b** as a major product. The discrepancy in the initial products in the photolysis of **9** and **11** is discussed below.

UV Absorbance and Fluorescent Emission Spectra of 5-(Dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenesulfinate (16b)

As described above, 5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenesufinate **16b** was prepared by treating dansyl chloride with Na₂SO₃^[28] and characterized. The dashed and solid curves in Figure S11a in the Supporting Information are UV absorption spectra of **16a** and **16b**, respectively ([**16a**]=[**16b**]= 100 μ M). In Figure S11b in the Supporting Information, dashed and solid curves represent fluorescent emission spectra of **16a** and **16b** ([**16a**]=[**16b**]=10 μ M), in which the emission maxima of **16a** and **16b** are 502 nm and 495 nm, respectively.

Quantum yields (Φ) for the emission of **16a** and **16b** are 8.8×10^{-2} and 9.5×10^{-2} at 10 µM, implying that the emissions of these compounds are much greater than that of **9** (ZnL²; $\Phi = 3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ at 10 µM). In addition, the emission maximum of **16b** (495 nm) showed a good coincidence with that of the photoreaction mixture of **9** (ZnL²), as already shown in Figure 3. From these experimental results, we attributed the considerable enhancement in fluorescent emission after the photoirradiation of **9** (ZnL²) to an S–N bond cleavage of **9**, resulting in the formation of 5-dimethylamino-1-naphthal-enesulfinate (**16b**).

Photoreaction of 8 (L²) in the Presence of Various Metal Cations

We tested the effects of various metal cations on the photolysis of **8** at pH 7.4 (10 mm HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C. Figure 5 shows the change in emission intensity at



Figure 5. The change in emission intensity (I/I_0) of 0.1 mM 8 (excitation at 350 nm for fluorescence measurements) at pH 7.4 (10 mm HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) and 25 °C after photoirradiation in comparison with those before UV irradiation in the presence of various metal cations (1 mm). The I_0 value is an emission intensity of metal-free 8 at 498 nm and I values are those after photoirradiation at 350 nm for 30 min in the presence of metal cations.

498 nm (I/I_0) of an aqueous solution of **8** (excitation at 350 nm for fluorescence measurements) after UV irradiation at 350 nm for 40 min to that before UV irradiation in the presence of the indicated metal cations. Considerable emission enhancement of **8** was observed in the presence of Zn²⁺, Cd²⁺, Co²⁺, and Pb²⁺ (S–N bond cleavage was confirmed by ¹H NMR measurements), suggesting that the photolysis of **8** requires these Lewis acidic metal cations. The negligible photolysis of **8** in the presence of Cu²⁺ was confirmed by following changes in the UV spectrum.

Mechanisms Involved in Photolysis of 9 (ZnL²) and 11 (ZnL³)

The photoirradiation of metal-free 8 (L²) at 350 nm under acidic conditions (pH 2–4) induced negligible S–N bond cleavage, and the photolysis of *N*-dansyl-L-proline in aqueous solution at pH 3 was much slower than that of 9. It should also be noted that 9 (ZnL²) underwent photolysis in aqueous solution without HEPES or other Good's buffers, suggesting that these buffer molecules are not appreciably effective as electron donors. In addition, the addition of electron donors such as triethylamine and 1,4-diazabicyclo-[2,2,2]octane (DABCO) had almost no effect on the photoreaction rates of 9. Moreover, negligible acceleration of photocleavage of *N*-dansyl-glycine and *N*-dansyl-L-proline by Zn²⁺ was observed upon photoirradiation at 328 nm in MeCN/H₂O (1:1) solution at 25 °C.

To determine the effect of Zn^{2+} -bound H₂O on the photolysis of **9**, its photolysis was carried out at various pH values. The solid circles in Figure 6 indicate the pH-rate profile for the photolysis of 0.1 mm **9**, as followed by the change



Figure 6. Comparison of pH-rate profile for photolysis (UV irradiation at 350 nm) of **8** and relative concentrations of ZnL^2 species. (**9** was formed in situ from **8** (0.1 mM) and Zn^{2+} (0.5–1.0 mM) for quantitative (>97%) complexation in 10 mM Good's buffer with I=0.1 (NaNO₃) and 25 °C. Photolysis of **9** was followed by UV spectra (Δ Abs at 285 nm obtained after photoirradiation for 30 min) and plotted with closed circles. Relative concentrations of $[ZnL^2(H_2O)]$, $[ZnL^2(HO^-)]$, and $[ZnL^2]_{total}$ (= $[ZnL^2(H_2O)]+[ZnL^2(HO^-)]$) calculated from the results of potentiometric pH titrations are displayed with a solid curve, a dashed curve, and a bold curve, respectively.

in the UV spectrum of **9** (ε_{285}). This suggests that the pH-dependent change in the photolysis rates of **9** is related to the total concentration of ZnL^2 ($[ZnL^2]_{total}$, equal to $[ZnL^2(H_2O)]+[ZnL^2(HO^-)]$), rather than the individual concentrations of $ZnL^2(H_2O)$ or $ZnL^2(HO^-)$ (for the structures of these species, see Scheme 6). These results indicated that photolysis of S–N bonds of **8** (L^2) requires a complexation with Zn^{2+} regardless of the deprotonation status of Zn^{2+} -bound water.

We next examined the effects of the anion- Zn^{2+} complexation on the photolysis of **9**. It has been confirmed that **7** forms 1:1 complexes **18** with anions (X⁻) such as phosphate monoesters,^[13,32] imidates (e.g., thymidine, uridine, and succinimide),^[33,34] and thiolates^[16,35] in aqueous solution (Scheme 7). By analysis of potentiometric pH titration curves of **9** and **11** with succinimide (SI) and capropril in aqueous solution with I=0.1 (NaNO₃) at 25 °C (data not shown), the affinity constants of these Zn²⁺ complexes with these anions (K_{app} (ZnL-X)), defined by Eqs. (6)–(9), were determined, and the results are summarized in Table 2.

$$ZnL(H_2O)+anion (X^-) \rightleftharpoons ZnL-X^- \text{ complex}:$$

$$K_S(ZnL-X) = [ZnL-X^-]/[ZnL(H_2O)][X^-] (M^{-1})$$
(6)





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Table 2. Apparent complexation constants $(\log K_{app}(ZnL-X))$ of **7** (ZnL¹), **9** (ZnL²), and **11** (ZnL³) with guest anions (I=0.1 (NaNO₃) at pH 7.4 and 25 °C).^[a]

Anion $(pK_a)^{[b]}$	$7 (ZnL^{1})^{[c]}$	9 (ZnL ²)	11 (ZnL ³)
succinimide $(pK_a=9.6)^{[b]}$	3.5 ^[c]	4.1	3.7
captopril $(pK_a = 3.6, 10.0)^{[b]}$	4.5 ^[c]	4.5	4.6

[a] The $K_{app}(ZnL-X)$ values at pH 7.4 were calculated from $K_{S}(ZnL-X)$ values. For the definition of K(ZnL-X) and $K_{app}(ZnL-X)$, see the text. [b] pK_{a} values in parentheses are deprotonation constants of these guest molecules (taken from reference [16]). [c] The $\log K_{app}(ZnL-X)$ values from reference [16].

$$K_{app}(ZnL-X) = [ZnL-X^{-}]/[ZnL]_{free}[X]_{free}$$
(at designated pH) (m⁻¹) (7)

$$[ZnL]_{\rm free} = [ZnL(H_2O)]_{\rm free} + [ZnL(HO^-)]_{\rm free}$$

$$[X]_{\rm free} = [H_n X]_{\rm free} + [H_{n-1} X]_{\rm free} + \dots + [HX]_{\rm free} + [X^-]_{\rm free}$$
(9)

The photolysis of **9** (1.0 mM) was carried out in the presence of SI (1.5 mM) or captopril (1.5 mM) in D₂O at pD 9, where complexes of **9** and these anions were quantitatively (>98%) based on the results of potentiometric pH titrations (negligible dissociation of **9** was observed in ¹H NMR spectra). We found that photolysis of **9** was partially suppressed (29% and 45% inhibition by SI and captopril, respectively, after UV irradiation for 1 h), as evidenced by ¹H NMR (data not shown). Therefore, we assumed that Zn²⁺-bound water plays a somewhat important role in the S–N bond cleavage of **9**.

Based on these results, we hypothesized the reaction mechanisms as outlined in Scheme 8. Homolytic cleavage of the S–N bond in the excited states, in which there might be weak interaction between Zn^{2+} or Zn^{2+} -bound water and the dansylamide moiety, occurs to afford **19a**, which might be stabilized by the dimethylamino group (**19a** \leftrightarrow **19b**).^[36] The addition of an electron to **19** gives sulfinate **16b**, as confirmed by the aforementioned ¹H NMR experiments.

Assuming heterolytic cleavage of the S–N bond in 9 as shown in the lower half of Scheme 8, 20 and 21 would be formed. The sulfonyl cation 21 should immediately react with water to give sulfonate 16a. Indeed, a sulfonyl cation 21 that was generated from dansyl chloride with AgNO₃ in a CD₃CN/D₂O (at pD 7–8) solution was immediately converted into 16a, as observed by ¹H NMR (Scheme 8, bottom). As described above, we observed the presence of the sulfinate species in ¹H NMR spectra during the photolysis of 9. These results strongly support the scenario that the S–N bond of 9 is homolytically cleaved to give 16b via 19, resulting in the emission enhancement. We cannot exclude the possibility that Zn²⁺-bound H₂O or HO⁻ functions as an electron donor to the photodecomposed Zn²⁺-cyclen part to give 7 (ZnL¹).

As mentioned above, the initial photoproducts from 11 (ZnL^3) in the absence of an electron donor were 17a and 7 (ZnL^1) , and in the presence of an electron donor such as TEOA^[31] were 17b and 7. This photolysis was facilitated by benzophenone sensitizing.^[37,38] Considering these results together with the aforementioned mechanism proposed by Haas et al., we assume that the photolysis of 11 (and 10) proceeds mainly via excited triplet states, in which its S–N bond is homolytically cleaved to yield 22, as shown in Scheme 9. And it is likely that 22 is converted into a sulfinate 17b in the presence of an electron donor or to a sulfinate 17b in the presence of an electron donor. These results allowed us to hypothesize that the electron-donating dimethylamino group of 8 (L²) prevents the sulfonamide cleavage and this effect is suppressed with Zn²⁺.^[36]

Attempts to Determine [Zn²⁺] in an Aqueous Solution Utilizing Photolysis of 8

We attempted to measure $[Zn^{2+}]$ in given sample solutions utilizing the photolysis of **8** at pH 7.4 (10 mm HEPES with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) utilizing the working curve for the **16b**-dependent emission intensity. Aqueous solutions of 10 μ m **8** with a given amount (0–10 μ m) of Zn²⁺ (at pH 7, HEPES



(8)

Scheme 8.

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Scheme 9.

with I=0.1 (NaNO₃)) were irradiated with UV light at 350 nm for 30 min. However, the $[Zn^{2+}]$ determined by this method was not reproducible. In addition, we attempted an indirect method for determining $[Zn^{2+}]$, in which the initial photoproduct **16b** was converted into **16a** by oxidation with H₂O₂ or *t*BuO₂H. However, the emission of **16a** (and/or **16b**) was quenched considerably by these oxidizing agents, hampering the measurement of $[Zn^{2+}]$ concentrations.

Photorepair of *cis,syn*-Cyclobutane-Type Thymine Photodimer (T[*c*,*s*]T) by 9 (ZnL²)

To obtain supporting data concerning the difference in reaction intermediates in the photolysis of 9 and that of 11 described in Schemes 8 and 9, we have examined the photorepair of DNA photolesion in the presence of these Zn^{2+} complexes. The cis,syn-cyclobutane thymine photodimer 24 (T[c,s]T) is a representative photoproduct in DNA caused by a photo[2+2]cycloaddition reaction of two adjacent thymidine (d(TpT)) sites 23 (Scheme 10).^[21] These DNA lesions may result in the misincorporation in DNA and RNA, the inhibition of DNA/RNA polymerases, cell damage, or the development of cancer. In nature, these photolesions are repaired by DNA photolyase with less toxic UV-A light (λ > 320 nm).^[39] Mechanistic studies of photolyases^[39,40] and their model systems^[41] have revealed that the reduced form of flavin adenosine dinucleotide (FAD, a sensitizing cofactor) donates one electron to a cyclobutane ring to promote its ring opening.

We previously reported that the photo[2+2]cycloaddition of **23** to **24** was effectively inhibited by dimeric Zn²⁺-cyclen complexes.^[42] In addition, it was discovered that the monomeric Zn²⁺-cyclen complex accelerates photoreversion of **24** by irradiation with UV light of $\lambda < 300$ nm. A Zn²⁺-cyclen complex having a tryptophan residue and a flavin unit was recently reported by us as a model compound for DNA photolyase.^[43]

On the other hand, oxidative activation reactions, in which an electron is abstracted from T[c,s]T, have also been reported by several groups in some model systems,^[44] in which the C6–C6' bond in a radical cation of a cyclobutane ring in T[c,s]T is weakened, resulting in cycloreversion to yield **23** (radical cation mechanism).

Based on our previous results,^[42,43] it is highly likely that monomeric Zn^{2+} -cyclen 9 forms a 1:1 complex 25 with T-



Scheme 10.

[c,s]T in aqueous solution at neutral pH (Scheme 10). We then hypothesized that a radical species **19** (ArSO₂)' formed by the homolytic photocleavage of the S–N bond of **9** would withdraw an electron from a cyclobutane ring of T[c,s]T to generate radical cation species **26b**, which would be repaired to give **23b**.



Figure 7. The results of photoreversion of 24 (1 mM) by photolysis of 9 (1 mM, prepared in situ from 1 mM 8+2 mM Zn^{2+}) in D₂O at pD 7.4 and 25 °C (left: aromatic region, right: aliphatic region). a) 1 mM 24; b) a mixture of 1 mM 24+1 mM 9 before UV irradiation; c) a mixture of 1 mM 24+1 mM 9 after UV irradiation for 1 h; d) after UV irradiation for 3 h; e) a spectrum obtained by addition of DCl to the solution in part (d) to dissociate Zn^{2+} complex; f) 1 mM 23b.

The result for the photoreversion of 24 (1 mM) in the presence of 9 (1 mM) in D_2O at pD 7.4 followed by ¹H NMR is shown in Figure 7 (left: aromatic region, right: aliphatic region). Figures 7a and 7b are ¹H NMR spectra of 1 mM 24 and a mixture of 1 mM 24 and 1 mM 9, respectively. Figures 7b and 7c are those of reaction mixtures after photoirradiation at 350 nm for 1 h and 3 h, respectively. The addition of DCl to the solution represented in Figure 7d for the dissociation of complexes gave the spectrum shown in Figure 7e, in which ¹H signals corresponding to the repaired 23b (d(TpT); Figure 7f) was observed (for assignments, refer to the structure in Scheme 10). It should be noted that a sulfinate 16b was formed from 9 as well as repaired 23b. In addition, the negligible decomposition of 23b was observed by photolysis of 9.

The photoreversion of **24** with **9** was also followed by reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis. As plotted in Figure 8, the photorepair of **24** (1.5 mM) proceeded in the presence of 1.5 mM **9** (closed circles) with photoirradiation at 350 nm. Interestingly, negligible cyclobutane ring opening of 1.5 mM **24** was observed upon photoirradiation in the presence of 1 equivalent of **11** (ZnL³) in D₂O at pD 7.4 ± 0.1 (closed squares in Figure 8) in the absence and presence of 5 mM TEOA (photoirradiation



Figure 8. The photorepair reaction of **24** (1.5 mM) in D_2O at pD 7.5±0.2 and 25 °C in the presence of 1.5 mM **9** (closed circles), the reaction of **24** (1 mM) in the presence of 1 mM **11**+5 mM TEOA (closed squares), and the reaction of **24** (1 mM) in the presence of **16b** (1 mM)+ZnL¹ (2 mM; open squares). The photoirradiation wavelength was 350 nm for **9** and 313 nm for **11**.

at 313 nm), while the S–N bond of **11** was completely photocleaved. These facts suggest that the reactivity of the radical intermediates **19** and **22** is different.

In addition, the photoirradiation of 24 (1 mM) in the presence of a catalytic amount of 9 (0.3 mM) induced an almost quantitative photoreverstion of 24, implying that this radical reaction is a catalytic reaction. Next, the photoirradiation of 24 in the presence of dansyl sulfinate 16b and Zn^{2+} -cyclen (ZnL¹) scarcely promoted photoreversion of 24 (open squares in Figure 8). We therefore assume that radical species 19 (Schemes 8 and 10) formed by photolysis of 9 (ZnL²) is a crucial reactive species for the photorepair of 24 and that sulfinate 16b (or 22) in Scheme 9 is not.

More interestingly, the photoreaction of **24** (1 mM) with the PbL² complex (1 mM) did not promote photoreversion of **24**, suggesting the possibility that Zn^{2+} -bound T[*c*,*s*]T (**25** or **26** in Scheme 10) is much more reactive, although the details are yet to be examined.

Conclusions

In this work, a Zn^{2+} -N-dansylcyclen complex 9 (ZnL²) and Zn^{2+} -N-(1-naphthylsulfonyl)cyclen complex **11** (ZnL³) were synthesized to examine the photochemical reactivity of a sulfonamide bond, which is closely fixed to Zn^{2+} ions. We accidentally discovered that 9 undergoes photolysis in aqueous solution at neutral pH, while its ligand 8 (L²) is stable under the same conditions. It was revealed that the initial photoproducts from 9 are the corresponding sulfinate 16b and Zn^{2+} -cyclen complex 7 (ZnL¹). On the other hand, the S-N bond of 10 (L^3) is photocleaved in the absence and presence of Zn^{2+} to give the corresponding sulfonate 17a (and 6 or 7), possibly by homolytic S-N bond cleavage in the excited triplet state. The photolysis of N-dansyl-L-glycine and N-dansyl-L-proline in the presence of an excess amount of Zn²⁺ was very slow. These data demonstrated the possibility that the Zn²⁺ ion and/or Zn²⁺-bound water fixed near to the dansylamide group accelerates the homolytic photocleavage of its S-N bond.

Although it was not possible to quantify the Zn^{2+} concentrations in solution and living cells, we have discovered the photorepair of T[*c*,*s*]T **24** utilizing the photocleavage of **9**, while the Zn^{2+} complex of *N*-(1-naphthylsulfonyl)cyclen **11** induced photoreversion only to a negligible extent, supporting the view that the mechanisms of photolysis of **9** and **11** are somewhat different. Very interestingly, the photolysis of a catalytic amount of **9** (ZnL²) induced the nearly complete photoreversion of T[*c*,*s*]T, implying that radical intermediate **19** functions as a catalyst in the cycloreversion of T[*c*,*s*]T. These results will promise to open new routes to the design of photoreactions of metal complexes.

Experimental Section

General information: All reagents and solvents were purchased at the highest commercial quality and were used without further purification. (CH₃COO)₂·4H₂O and AgNO₃ were purchased from Kanto Chemical Co.; NiSO4.6H2O was purchased from Yoneyama Yakuhin Kogyo Co.; Al(NO₃)₃·9H₂O, CoSO₄·7H₂O, Pb(NO₃)₂ were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co. Anhydrous acetonitrile (CH₃CN) was obtained by distillation from calcium hydride. All aqueous solutions were prepared using deionized and distilled water. Buffer solutions (CAPS, pH 12.0, 11.5, 11.0, 10.5, and 10.0; CHES, pH 9.5 and 9.0; TAPS, pH 8.4 and 8.0; HEPES, pH 7.8, 7.6, 7.4, and 7.0; MES, pH 6.5 and 6.0) were used and the ionic strengths were adjusted with NaNO3. The Good's buffer reagents (Dojindo) were commercially available: MOPS (3-(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 7.2$), HEPES (N-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-N'-2-ethanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 7.5$), EPPS (3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1piperazinyl)propanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 8.0$), TAPS (N-(tris(hydroxymethyl)methylamino)-3-propanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 8.4$), CHES (2-(cyclohexylamino)ethanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 9.5$), CAPS (3-(cyclohexylamino)propanesulfonic acid, $pK_a = 10.4$). Melting points were measured on a Büchi 510 Melting Point Apparatus and are uncorrected. UV spectra were recorded on a Hitachi U-3500 spectrophotometer and JASCO UV/ VIS spectrophotometer V-550, and fluorescence (excitation and emission) spectra were recorded on a Hitachi F-4500 fluorescence spectrophotometer and JASCO FP-6500 spectrofluorometer at 25±0.1 °C. IR spectra were recorded on a Horiba FTIR-710 spectrophotometer at room temperature. ^{1}H (400 MHz) and ^{13}C (100 MHz) NMR spectra at 35 \pm 0.1 °C were recorded on a JEOL Lambda 400 spectrometer. 1H (300 MHz) and ¹³C (75 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL Always 300 spectrometer. The chemical shifts (δ values) in D₂O were determined by use of external reference of [2-D2, 3-D2]3-(trimethylsilyl)propionic acid (TSP) sodium salt (0 ppm for ¹H NMR) and 1,4-dioxane (67.2 ppm for $^{13}\!C\,NMR).$ The pD values in D_2O were corrected for a deuterium isotope effect using pD = (pH-meter reading)+0.40. Elemental analyses were performed on a Perkin-Elmer CHN 2400 analyzer. Thinlayer chromatography (TLC) and silica gel column chromatography were performed using a Merck 5554 (silica gel) TLC plate and Fuji Silysia Chemical FL-100D, respectively.

Crystallographic study of $9 \cdot \text{Cl}_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_3 \quad (\text{ZnL}^2 \cdot \text{Cl}_2 \cdot (\text{H}_2\text{O})_3)$: $C_{20}\text{H}_{37}\text{Cl}_2\text{N}_5\text{O}_5\text{SZn}, M_r = 585.89$, yellow needle, crystal size 0.10 mm × 0.08 mm × 0.02 mm, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/c$ (No. 14), a = 22.773(5) Å, b = 6.919(1) Å, c = 16.601(4) Å, $\beta = 97.124(9)^\circ$, V = 2595.7(9) Å³, Z = 4, $\rho_{\text{calcd}} = 1.525$ gcm⁻³, 31390 measured reflections, 7558 unique reflections ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.035$), $2\theta_{\text{max}} = 60.1^\circ$, RI = 0.026 ($I > 2.00\sigma(I)$), R = 0.038 ($I > -3.00\sigma(I)$), wR2 = 0.059 ($I > -3.00\sigma(I)$). CCDC 708937 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif.

UV spectrophotometric and fluorescence titrations: UV spectra and fluorescence emission spectra were recorded on a Hitachi U-3500 spectrophotometer and JASCO fluorescence spectrophotometer, respectively, at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C. For fluorescence titrations, a sample solution in a 1.0 cm quartz cuvette was excited at the isosbestic point determined by UV titration. The obtained data for the UV titrations (changes in ε values at a given wavelength) and fluorescence titrations (increases in fluorescence emission intensity at a given wavelength) were analyzed for apparent complexation constants, $K_{\rm app}$, using the Bind Works program (Calorimetry Sciences Corp). Quantum yields were determined by comparison of the integrated corrected emission spectrum of standard quinine sulfate, whose quantum yield (Φ) in 0.1 M H₂SO₄ was assumed to be 0.55 (excitation at 366 nm).^[45]

Potentiometric pH titrations: The preparation of test solutions and the method of calibrating the electrode system (Potentiometric Automatic Titrator AT-400 and Auto Piston Buret APB-410, Kyoto Electronics Manufacturing (KEM), Co. Ltd. with KEM glass Electrode C-117) have been described earlier.^[15–18,22,32,33] All the test solutions (50 mL) were kept under an argon (>99.999% purity) atmosphere. The potentiometric pH titrations were performed with I=0.10 (NaNO₃) at 25.0 ± 0.1 °C, and at least two independent titrations were performed (0.1 M aq. NaOH was used as a base). Deprotonation constants of Zn^{2+} -bound water K'_{2} (= [HO--bound species][H+]/[H2O-bound species]) were determined by means of the BEST program.^[23] All the sigma fit values defined in the program were smaller than 0.1. The $K_{\rm W}$ (= $a_{\rm H^+}a_{\rm OH^-}$), $K'_{\rm W}$ (=[H⁺][OH⁻]) and $f_{\rm H^+}$ values used at 25 °C are 10^{-14.00}, 10^{-13.79}, and 0.825. The corresponding mixed constants, K_2 (=[HO⁻-bound species] $a_{\rm H}$ +/[H₂O-bound species]), were derived using $[H^+] = a_{H^+}/f_{H^+}$. The species distribution values (%) against pH (= $-\log[H^+]+0.084$) were obtained using the SPE program.[23]

Photoreaction of **8–11**): In a typical experiment, an aqueous solution (or a D_2O solution when photoreactions were followed by ¹H NMR) of substrate in a quartz cuvette with a soft rubber septum was purged with argon gas for at least 10 min. Photoirradiation of the cuvettes was performed at a given wavelength using a JASCO FP-6500 spectrofluorometer equipped with a 150 W xenon lamp with a band pass of 20 nm and a magnetic stirrer. The photolysis of **9** and **11** was followed by ¹H NMR, UV, fluorescent spectral measurements.

Photoreaction of T[*c*,*s*]T (24): The preparation of 24 was carried out according to the method of Murata et al.^[46] In a typical experiment, an aqueous solution (or a D₂O solution when photoreactions were followed by ¹H NMR) of 24 in a quartz cuvette with a soft rubber septum was purged with argon gas for at least 10 min.^[43] The photoirradiation of the cuvettes was performed at a given wavelength using a JASCO FP-6500 spectrofluorometer described in the text. The photoreversion of 23b was followed by ¹H NMR and analyzed by reversed-phase HPLC as we previously reported.^[43]

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