

Anion recognition properties of new upper-rim bis[rhenium(1) bipyridyl, ruthenium(II) bis(bipyridyl), cobaltocenium]calix[4]arene receptors dictated by lower-rim substituents

Paul D. Beer,^{*a} Michael G. B. Drew,^b Dusan Hesek,^a Matthew Shade^a and Fridrich Szymes^a

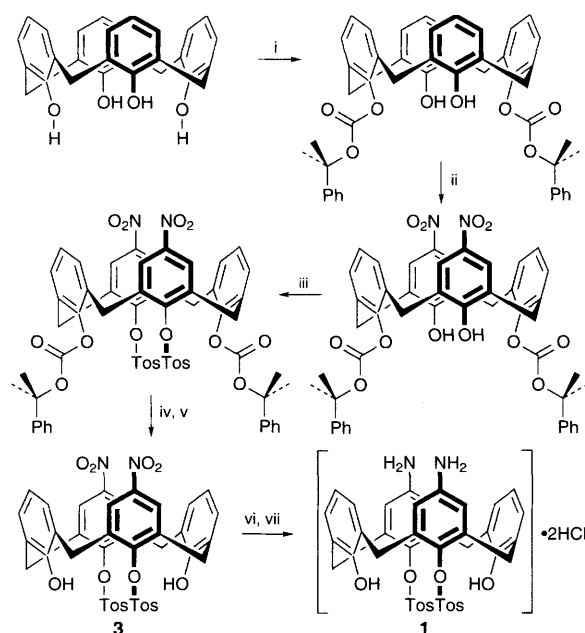
^a Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, UK OX1 3QR

^b Department of Chemistry, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 224, Reading, UK RG6 2AD

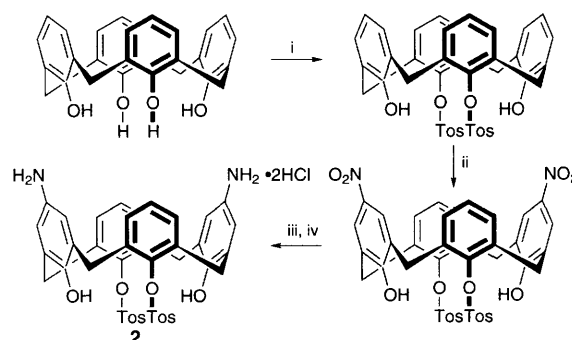
New upper-rim bis[rhenium(1) bipyridyl, ruthenium(II) bis(bipyridyl), cobaltocenium]calix[4]arene receptors exhibit remarkable dihydrogen phosphate selective anion recognition properties dictated by the relative positions of lower-rim tosyl substituents.

The molecular recognition¹ and sensing² of anions of biochemical, medical and environmental importance by positively charged or neutral electron-deficient abiotic receptor molecules is an area of intense current research activity. Because of their unique upper- and lower-rim topologies the calixarenes³ are attractive host molecules on which to construct additional binding sites for target guest species. For example, the calix[4]arene structural framework has been modified and exploited for the recognition of metal cations.⁴ In contrast, calixarene anion receptors are still relatively rare.⁵ We report here the syntheses of new upper-rim bis[rhenium(1) bipyridyl, ruthenium(II) bis(bipyridyl), cobaltocenium]calix[4]arene receptors whose dihydrogen phosphate selective anion recognition properties over the chloride anion are dramatically dictated by the relative positions of lower-rim tosyl substituents.

The new upper-rim amine-substituted calix[4]arene derivatives containing tosyl groups *para* to the upper-rim amine substituent **1** and the corresponding 1,3-distal isomer **2** were prepared according to Schemes 1 and 2. Condensation reactions



Scheme 1 Reagents and conditions: i, $\text{CICO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$, K_2CO_3 , MeCN (85–90%); ii, NaNO_3 , HCl, Ac_2O , CHCl_2 (70%); iii, TosCl, NaH, THF (85%); iv, Me_3SiH ; v, $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$, H_2O (90–94%); vi, Pd (10%)/C, H_2 , THF; vii, HCl–MeOH, CHCl_2



Scheme 2 Reagents and conditions: i, TosCl, NaH, THF (95%); ii, HNO_3 , AcOH, CH_2Cl_2 (75%); iii, Pd (10%)/C, H_2 , MeOH, THF; iv, HCl–MeOH, CH_2Cl_2 (85%)

Table 1 Stability constant data for receptors L¹–L⁶ in $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$

Receptor	$K/\text{dm}^3 \text{mol}^{-1} \text{ } ^a$	
	H_2PO_4^-	Cl^-
L ¹	4400	80
L ²	1700	200
L ³	2550	— ^b
L ⁴	1220	600
L ⁵	3100	— ^b
L ⁶	2500	400

^a Errors estimated to be $\leq 10\%$. ^b Very weak binding, a stability constant value could not be calculated in this solvent.

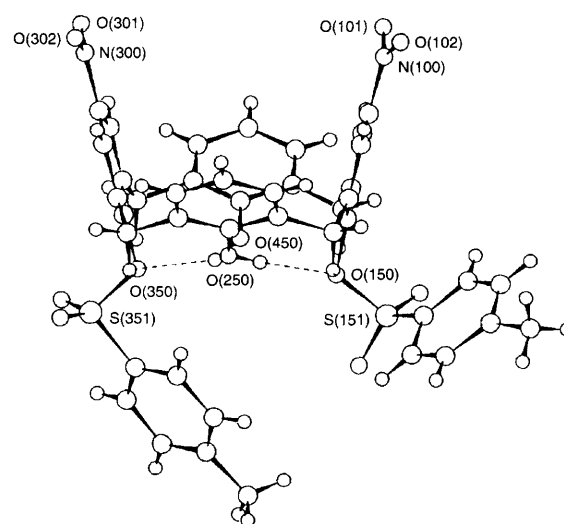
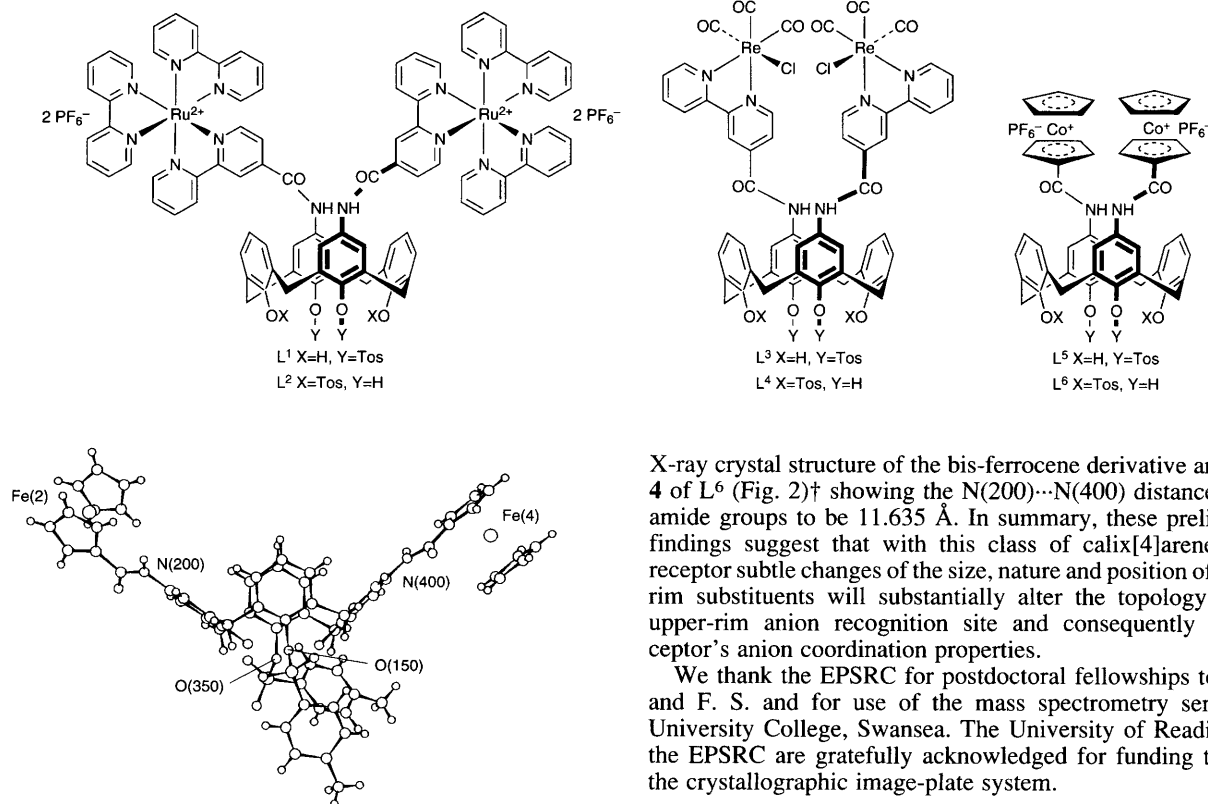


Fig. 1 Structure of **3**

Fig. 2 Structure of **4**

of **1** and **2** with 2 equiv. of 4-chlorocarbonyl 2,2'-bipyridine⁶ followed by respective complexation reactions with (bipy)₂RuCl₂·2H₂O–NH₄PF₆ and Re(CO)₅Cl gave the new receptors L^1 – L^4 in good yields. Analogous reactions of **1** and **2** with chlorocarbonyl cobaltocenium chloride⁷ and addition of excess NH₄PF₆ produced L^5 , L^6 in 50 and 55% respective yields.

Preliminary anion coordination properties of these new receptors were investigated by ¹H NMR anion titration experiments in (CD₃)₂SO solution with tetrabutylammonium chloride and dihydrogen phosphate salts. In the majority of cases substantial downfield perturbations of the respective receptor's amide and aryl calix[4]arene protons were observed, suggesting anion binding is taking place at the upper-rim vicinity of the receptor. Stability constants were calculated from the resulting titration curves using EQNMR and the values are presented in Table 1. Receptors L^1 , L^3 , L^5 exhibit remarkable selectivity preferences for H₂PO₄[−] over Cl[−], with the latter two ligands barely able to complex the halide anion in (CD₃)₂SO at all. In contrast, although L^2 , L^4 , L^6 also exhibit the same selectivity trend the relative stability constant values for the chloride anion in comparison to L^1 , L^3 , L^5 have substantially increased by at least two orders of magnitude with L^4 , L^6 , whereas the H₂PO₄[−] stability constants have significantly decreased in magnitude. Clearly these results suggest that modifying the positions of the substituents on the calix[4]arene lower rim has a dramatic effect on the anion coordination properties of the upper rim with this class of anion receptor.⁸ Molecular modelling calculations (MM2) and CPK models suggest with L^1 , L^3 , L^5 the lower-rim bulky tosyl groups *para* to the upper-rim amide substituents favours a receptor conformation in which the upper-rim Lewis acidic moieties are rigidly held in close proximity to each other. The X-ray crystal structure of the bis-nitro derivative **3** corroborates this postulation† (Fig. 1), the N(100)–N(300) distance between the nitro groups is 3.805 Å. With the relatively more flexible 1,3-distal isomers, L^2 , L^4 , L^6 , conformations in which the upper-rim Lewis-acidic amide substituents are further apart are predicted by molecular modelling calculations. This is illustrated by the

X-ray crystal structure of the bis-ferrocene derivative analogue **4** of L^6 (Fig. 2)† showing the N(200)–N(400) distance of the amide groups to be 11.635 Å. In summary, these preliminary findings suggest that with this class of calix[4]arene anion receptor subtle changes of the size, nature and position of lower-rim substituents will substantially alter the topology of the upper-rim anion recognition site and consequently the receptor's anion coordination properties.

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Footnote

† Crystal data for **3**: 0.60CH₂Cl₂, C₄₂H₃₅Cl₂N₂O₁₂S₂, $M = 873.39$, $a = 12.196(8)$, $b = 14.449(8)$, $c = 23.99(2)$ Å, $\beta = 104.57(1)^\circ$, $U = 4091$ Å³, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, $Z = 4$, 6617 independent reflections were measured and refined on F^2 to $R = 0.0784$.

For **4**: 2.5MeCN, C₆₀H_{61.5}Fe₂N_{4.5}O₁₀S₂, $M = 1289.5$, $a = 18.582(17)$, $b = 19.436(18)$, $c = 20.630(20)$ Å, $\beta = 105.23(1)^\circ$, $U = 7189$ Å³, monoclinic, space group $P2_1/n$, $Z = 4$, 9054 independent reflections were measured and refined on F^2 to $R = 0.0963$.

Atomic coordinates, bond lengths and angles, and thermal parameters have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC). See Information for Authors, Issue No. 1. Any request to the CCDC for this material should quote the full literature citation and the reference number 182/199.

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