Supporting Information

The Hexameric Resorcinarene Capsule as a Brønsted Acid Catalyst for the Synthesis of Bis(heteroaryl)methanes in a Nanoconfined Space

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1. General Remarks

All chemicals were reagent grade and were used without further purification. Solvents were purchased from Aldrich. Reaction temperatures were measured externally; reactions were monitored by ¹H NMR. Flash chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (60, 40-63 μm). NMR spectra were recorded on Reaction temperatures were measured externally; reactions were monitored by ¹H NMR and by TLC on Merck silica gel plates (0.25 mm) and visualized by UV light. Flash chromatography was performed on Merck silica gel (60, 40-63 µm). NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance-600 spectrometer [600.13 MHz (¹H) and 150.03 MHz (¹³C)], Bruker Avance-400 spectrometer [400 (¹H) and 100.57 MHz (¹³C)], Bruker Avance-300 spectrometer [300 (¹H) and 75.48 MHz (¹³C)]; chemical shifts are reported relative to the residual solvent peak (CHCl₃: δ 7.26, CDCl₃: δ 77.23). DOSY experiments were performed on a Bruker Avance-600 spectrometer equipped with 5 mm PABBO BB|19F-1H\D Z-GRD Z114607/0109. The standard Bruker pulse program, ledbpgp2s, employing a double stimulated echo sequence and LED, bipolar gradient pulses for diffusion, and two spoil gradients were utilized. Diffusion times were 150 ms, eddy current delay was 5 ms, gradient recovery delays was 0.2 ms and gradient pulse was 1400 ms. Individual rows of the quasi-2D diffusion databases were phased and baseline corrected. NOESY experiments were performed on Bruker Avance 400 and Bruker Avance 600 spectrometers with a D8 value range from 0.05 to 0.75 s. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were acquired using a Bruker Solaris XR Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer equipped with a 7 T refrigerated actively-shielded superconducting magnet. The samples were ionized in positive ion mode using the ESI ion source (Bruker Daltonik GmbH, Bremen, Germany). The mass spectra were calibrated externally using a NaTFA solution in positive ion mode. Low resolution mass spectral analyses were carried out using an electrospray spectrometer Waters 4 micro quadrupole. A linear calibration was applied. All final compounds purity was determined by elemental analysis on a Flash EA 1112 Series with Thermal Conductivity Detector, for C, H, N, and S. The final compounds purity was found to be >95% when analyzed. Water saturated deuterated chloroform was prepared as reported in the literature¹. Resorcinarene² (1), N-benzylpirrole³ (), N-phenylpyrrole⁴ () and Benzyl-2-oxo-propanoate⁵ () were synthesized according to literature procedures.

2. Procedures

¹ La Sorella, G., Sperni, L., Strukul, G., and Scarso, A. (2016). Supramolecular Activation of Hydrogen Peroxide in the Selective Sulfoxidation of Thioethers by a Self-Assembled Hexameric Capsule. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* 358, 3443-3449. doi: 10.1002/adsc.201600430.

² Tunstad, L. M., Tucker, J. A., Dalcanale, E., Weiser, J., Bryant, J. A., Sherman, J. C., Helgeson, R. C., Knobler, C. B., and Cram, D. J. (1989). Host-Guest Complexation. 48. Octol Building Blocks for Cavitands and Carcerands. *J. Org. Chem.* 54, 1305-1312. doi: 10.1021/jo00267a015.

 $^{^3}$ Scaggs, W. R., Scaggs, T. D., and Snaddon, T. N. (2019). An enantioselective synthesis of α -alkylated pyrroles via cooperative isothiourea/palladium catalysis. *Org. Biomol. Chem.* 17, 1787-1790. doi: 10.1039/C80B02600A.

⁴ Hong, X., Tan, Q., Liu, B., and Xu, B. (2017). Isocyanide-Induced Activation of Copper Sulfate: Direct Access to Functionalized Heteroarene Sulfonic Esters. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 56, 3961-3965. doi: 10.1002/anie.201612565.

⁵ Kijima, M., Miyamori, K., and Sato, T. (1988). Highly selective photoinduced dimerization of alkyl pyruvates catalyzed by cobaloxime *J. Org. Chem.* 53, 1719-1722. doi: 10.1021/jo00243a022.

2.1 Reaction Monitoring

40 μ L of the reaction solution in the vial was taken, diluted with 360 μ L of CDCl₃ and the reaction progress was monitored by ¹H NMR.

2.2 General Procedures for Alkylation of Heteroarenes by Carbonyl Compounds Inside the Resorcinarene Self-Assembled Hexameric Capsule

Typical procedure in presence of $(1)_6 \bullet 8H_2O$ (C).

Resorcinarene **1** (281.6 mg, 254.7 μ mol, 1.56 eq.) was weighed in a 4 ml vial. Then, 1.1 mL of water saturated deuterated chloroform was added and the mixture was warmed at 50°C until clarification (ca 5 min). The aromatic heterocycle (650.4 μ mol, 4 eq.) was added and the solution was stirred at 50°C for 5 minutes. Then, the carbonyl compound (162.6 μ mol, 1.0 eq) was added and the reaction mixture was vigorously stirred (1400 rpm) for the appropriate time. Then, the reaction mixture was poured into a 50 mL Eppendorf conical tube and diluted with 35 mL of a solution of DMSO in hexane (0.13% (v/v)). The mixture was cooled to -20°C until massive precipitation of resorcinarene **1** was observed. Next, the precipitated resorcinarene was removed by centrifugation (1750 rpm for 10 min). The diluted reaction mixture was subjected three times to this procedure. Finally, the clear solution was removed and concentrated under reduced pressure. The oily residue thus obtained was purified by flash chromatography on silica gel (Hexane/Diethyl Ether, from 99/1 to 80/20) to afford the desired title compounds.



Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K, $CDCl_3$) of the reaction mixture between *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) in presence of the capsule **1**₆• **8H**₂**O** after 8h at 30°C. Black asterisk is indicative of the presence of ethylpyruvate (**3a**).

Typical procedure in absence of $(1)_6 \bullet 8H_2O(C)$.

The aromatic heterocycle (650.4 μ mol, 4 eq) and the appropriate carbonyl compound (162.6 μ mol, 1 eq) were mixed in a 4 ml vial, then 1.1 mL of water saturated deuterated chloroform was added. The reaction mixture was vigorously stirred (1400 rpm) at 30°C for 48h, then dried in vacuum and subjected to flash chromatography on silica gel.



Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, 298 K, $CDCl_3$) of the reaction mixture between *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) without capsule **1**₆• **8H**₂**O** after 48h at 30°C. As can be seen in the inset in the Figure, no trace of product is present.

3.Inhibition Experiments

3.1 Inhibition Experiments with Tetraethylammonium Tetrafluoroborate



The inhibition experiment was conducted mixing **2a** (592 mM, 4 eq) and **3a** (148 mM, 1 eq) under the conditions described at page S4 in presence of tetraethylammonium tetrafluoroborate as inhibitor⁶. The ¹H NMR spectrum of the crude reaction mixture in Figure S3 shows NMR signals at negative values of chemical shifts, indicative of the presence of tetraethylammonium guest inside the cavity of $1_{6} \cdot (H_2O)_8$. As can be seen in Figure S3 (see also Figure S1) no signal attributable to

⁶ La Sorella, G., Sperni, L., Strukul, G., Scarso, A. (2015). Supramolecular Encapsulation of Neutral Diazoacetate Esters and Catalyzed 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition Reaction by a Self-Assembled Hexameric Capsule. *ChemCatChem*, 7, 291-296. doi: 10.1002/cctc.201402631.

the reaction products are detected. Also, signals of encapsulation of ammonium salt are evidenced.



Figure S3. Reaction between **2a** (592 mM) and **3a** (148 mM) in the presence of $1_6 \cdot (H_2O)_8$ (38.6 mM) and NEt₄BF₄ (386 mM, 10 eq) as inhibitor. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the crude reaction mixture after 16h at 50°C.

3.2 Inhibition Experiments with DMSO



According to the ability of DMSO to make hydrogen bonding and so disrupt the hexameric structure of the capsule⁷, inhibition experiments in presence of DMSO (60 μ L, 770 mM) and capsule $\mathbf{1}_6 \bullet (\mathbf{H}_2\mathbf{O})_8$ (38.6 mM) were performed. If catalysis of the reaction occurs inside the nanocontainer, the reaction with the addition of DMSO should not proceed. In fact, with adding DMSO no signals attributable to product are visible (see Figure S4).

⁷ Avram, L., Cohen, Y. (2002). Spontaneous Formation of Hexameric Resorcinarene Capsule in Chloroform Solution as Detected by Diffusion NMR. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 124, 15148-15149. doi: 10.1021/ja0272686.



Figure S4. Reaction between **2a** (592 mM) and **3a** (148 mM) in the presence of $1_6 \cdot (H_2O)_8$ (38.6 mM) and DMSO (770 mM, 20 eq) as inhibitor. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the crude reaction mixture after 16h at 50°C. As evidenced, no signals attributable to the reaction products are detected.

4. Encapsulation Experiments

4.1 Encapsulation Experiments of Ethyl Pyruvate 3a inside the hexameric capsule $1_6 \bullet (H_2 O)_8$



Figure S5. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of **3a**.



Figure S6. 2D EXSY experiment (400 MHz, $CDCI_3$, mixing time 400 ms) of the mixture of **3a** and $1_6 \bullet (H_2O)_8$.



Figure S7. Relevant region of the 2D EXSY experiment in Figure S6. Exchange cross-peaks between free and encapsulated **3a** are evidenced.



Figure S8. The pattern associated to the pyruvate **3a** inside the hexameric capsule $1_6 \bullet (H_2O)_8$ is aligned with capsule diffusion coefficient.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of **3c**.



Figure S10. 2D EXSY experiment (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, mixing time 600 ms) of the mixture of 3c and $1_6 \bullet (H_2O)_8$.



Figure S11 Relevant region of the 2D EXSY experiment in Figure S10. Exchange cross-peaks between free and encapsulated **3c** are evidenced.



Figure S12. The pattern associated to the pyruvate **3c** inside the hexameric capsule $1_6 \bullet (H_2O)_8$ is aligned with capsule diffusion coefficient.

5. Spectral data of new compounds

ethyl 2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (5aa)

Obtained as a clear yellow oil, following general procedure described above (pag S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **5aa**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂CH₃), 1.86 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.33 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 3.59 (s, 3H, NCH₃), 4.19-4.25 (m, 2H, -OCH₂CH₃), 5.98-6.07 (m, 3H, ArH), 6.42-6.56 (m, 3H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.4, 28.5, 35.3, 36.4, 46.9, 61.3, 106.1, 107.4, 108.4, 120.0, 121.4, 123.3, 126.8, 136.0, 175.4. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₅H₂₀N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 261.17540, found: 261.17527.

ethyl 2-hydroxy-2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (6aa)



Obtained as a clear oil, following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **6aa**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂CH₃), 1.82 (s, 3H, -CH₃), 3.52 (s, 1H, -OH), 3.59 (s, 3H, -NCH₃), 4.20-4.33 (m, 2H, -OCH₂CH₃), 6.03-6.04 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.19-6.20 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.56-6.57 (m, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.3, 26.9, 35.2, 62.7, 72.2, 106.5, 108.6, 124.7, 131.9, 176.3. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₀H₁₅NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 198.11247, found: 198.11242 [M+H]⁺.

ethyl 2,2-di(1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (4ba)



Obtained as a clear oil, following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using pyrrole (**2b**) as nucleophile and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **4ba**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.29 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂CH₃), 1.91 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.24 (q, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂CH₃), 6.07-6.08 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.14-6.16 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.70-6.71 (m, 2H, ArH), 8.46 (s, 2H, NH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.3, 25.1, 47.2, 62.1, 106.1, 108.4, 117.8, 132.8, 173.9. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₃H₁₆N₂O₂ [M+H]⁺: 233.12845, found: 233.12867.

1,1-bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)ethan-1-ol (4ae)



Obtained as a light brown oil, following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and pyruvic acid (**3e**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **4ae**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.59 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 3.40 (s, 6H, NCH₃), 4.08 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H, OH), 5.84-5.85 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.03-6.04 (m, 2H, ArH), 6.51 (s, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 20.8, 30.2, 33.9, 106.3, 106.6, 121.9, 135.6. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₂H₁₆N₂O [M+H]⁺: 205.13354, found: 205.13337.

ethyl 2-hydroxy-3-methyl-2-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)butanoate (6ac)



Obtained as a yellow oil, following general procedure described above (pag S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and 3-methyl-2-oxobutyrrate (**3c**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **6ac**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 0.89 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 3H, CH(*CH*₃)₂), 1.06 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3H, CH(*CH*₃)₂), 1.26 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂*CH*₃), 2.62 (sept, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, *CH*(CH₃)₂), 3.59 (s, 1H, OH), 3,66 (s, 3H, N*CH*₃), 4.15-4.32 (m, 2H, -O*CH*₂*CH*₃), 6.04 (dd, *J* = 2.7 Hz, 3.7 Hz, 1H, ArH), 6.18 (dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 3.7 Hz, 1H ArH), 6.50-6.51 (m, 1H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.1, 17.0, 17.1, 34.4, 36.1, 62.4, 78.4, 106.3, 109.4, 124.4, 130.4, 175.3. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₂H₁₉NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 226.14377, found: 226.14400.

ethyl 2-(1-benzyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-2-hydroxypropanoate (6da)



Obtained as a colourless oil, following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-benzylpyrrole (**2d**) as nucleophile and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **6da**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.11 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂CH₃), 1.81 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.54 (s, 1H, OH), 3.58 (dq, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 10.7 Hz, 1H, -OCH₂CH₃), 3.97 (dq, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 10.6 Hz, 1H, -OCH₂CH₃), 5.20 (ABq, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 2H, NCH₂-Ar), 6.14 (dd, *J* = 2.9 Hz, 3.6 Hz, 1H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 6.28 (dd, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 3.7 Hz, 1H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 6.62 (dd, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 2.7 Hz, 1H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 6.99 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.21-7.23

(m, 2H, ArH), 7.27-7.29 (m, 1H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.1, 27.5, 51.1, 62.5, 72.2, 107.3, 108.9, 124.5, 126.8, 127.4, 128.6, 132.1, 138.7, 176.1. MALDI (m/z): calcd for $C_{16}H_{19}NO_3$ [M+Na]⁺: 296.12571, found: 296.12571.

ethyl 2,2-bis(1-phenyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)propanoate (7ca)



Obtained as a colourless oil, following general procedure described (pag. S4) using *N*-phenylpyrrole (**2c**) as nucleophile and ethylpyruvate (**3a**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **7ca**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.29 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3H, -OCH₂CH₃), 1.93 (s, 3H, CH₃), 4.23 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂CH₃), 6.37 (dd, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 2.9 Hz, 2H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 7.00-7.01 (m, 2H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 7.04-7.05 (m, 2H, ArH_{pyrrole}), 7.19-7.22 (m, 2H, ArH), 7.36-7.40 (m, 8H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 14.4, 26.9, 46.3, 61.2, 110.7, 117.3, 119.0, 120.3, 125.5, 129.7, 130.7, 140.9, 175.8. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₂₅H₂₄N₂O₂ [M+Na]⁺: 407.17300, found: 407.17279.

dimethyl 2,2'-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2,4-diyl)bis(2-hydroxypropanoate)



Obtained as a colourless oil from the reaction between *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and methylpyruvate (**3b**) as electrophile under the conditions reported at pag. S4. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give the title compound. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.72 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.74 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.77-3.81 (overlapped, 11H, NCH₃, OCH₃, OH), 6.11 (s, 1H, ArH), 6.16 (s, 1H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 23.3, 23.4, 53.5, 58.6, 82.4, 82.7, 116.7, 116.8, 147.8, 166.4, 169.7, 172.4. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₁₃H₁₉NO₆ [M]⁺: 285.12069, found: 285.12072.

benzyl 2,2-di(1H-indol-3-yl)propanoate (9ad)



Obtained as a yellow solid (m.p: 153.2-154.1 °C)., following general procedure described above (pag. S4) for the reaction between indole (**8a**) and benzylpyruvate (**3d**). Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **9ad**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 2.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 5.15 (s, 2H, CH₂), 6.91-6.95 (overlapped, 4H, ArH_{indole}), 7.10 (d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH_{indole}), 7.18-7.23 (overlapped, 3H, ArH), 7.33 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH_{indole}), 7.44, (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H, ArH_{indole}), 8.00 (s, 2H, NH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 26.0, 46.7, 67.0, 111.4, 119.2, 119.4, 121.6, 121.9, 123.1, 126.2, 128.0, 128.3, 128.4, 136.1, 136.9, 175.3. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₂₆H₂₂N₂O₂ [M + Na]⁺: 417.15735, found: 417.15705.

benzyl 2,2-bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)propanoate (4ad)



Obtained as a colourless oil, following general procedure described above (pag S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and benzylpyruvate (**3d**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/Et₂O, 8/2) to give **4ad**. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 3.00 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.14 (s, 2H, -CH₂), 5.92 (dd, J_1 = 1.9 Hz, J_2 = 3.7 Hz, 2H, Ar $H_{pyrrole}$), 5.95 (dd, J_1 = 2.8 Hz, J_2 = 3.7 Hz, 2H, Ar $H_{pyrrole}$), 6.44 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, Ar $H_{pyrrole}$), 7.18-7.25 (overlapped, 5H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 25.8, 34.8, 48.3, 67.3, 106.6, 108.2, 124.2, 128.2, 128.3, 128.7, 132.5, 135.9, 172.8. MALDI (m/z): calcd for C₂₀H₂₂N₂O₂ [M + H]⁺: 323.16890, found: 323.16889.

2,2'-((4-(tert-butyl)phenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrole) (11ai)



Obtained as brown solid (mp 95-97 °C), following general procedure described above (pag S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and *p*-butylbenzaldehyde(**10i**) as electrophile.

Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 8/2) to give **11ai.** ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 1.32 (s, 9H, CH₃), 3.40 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.25 (bs, 1H, CH), 5.53-5.23 (m, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.03 (t, J = 3.2 Hz, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.58 (t, J = 2.2 Hz, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 7.07 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.31 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 31.6, 34.1, 34.6, 41.7, 106.6, 109.0, 122.0, 125.4, 128.5, 134.0, 138.3, 149.6. ESI m/z calcd for C₂₁H₂₆N₂ [M]⁺: 306.20905, found: 306.20450.

2,2'-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrole) (11ad)



Obtained as brown solid (mp 103.4-105.5°C), following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and *p*-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (**10d**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 8/2) to give **11ad.** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 3.42 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.36 (s, 1H, CH), 5.51 (bs, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.06 (t, J = 3.1 Hz, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.63 (bs, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 7.29 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.69 (d, J = 7.6Hz, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 34.0, 41.9, 106.7, 109.3, 122.4, 124.4 (q, ¹J_{CF} = 272.2 Hz), 125.5 (q, ³J_{CF} = 3.8 Hz), 129.3 (q, ²J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 129.2, 132.6, 154.1. MALDI (m/z) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇F₃N₂ [M+H]⁺: 319.14166, found: 319.14491.

4-(bis(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)methyl)pyridine (11aj)



Obtained as inseparable mixture with the isomer **12aj** as a brown solid following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylpyrrole (**2a**) as nucleophile and *p*-pyridincarboxaldehyde (**10j**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 5/5) to give **11aj** in mixture with other regioisomer. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) : δ 3.38 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.26 (s, 1H, CH), 5.50 (bs, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.03 (bs, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 6.61 (bs, 2H, ArH_{Pyr}), 7.08 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 2H, ArH), 8.54 (d, J = 5.3, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 34.1, 41.6, 106.9, 109.6, 122.7, 124.2, 131.8, 150.2, 150.6. MALDI (m/z) calcd for C₁₆H₁₇N₃ [M+H]⁺: 252.14952, found: 252.14968

3,3'-((4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (13ed)



Obtained as pink solid (mp 157.1-158.3), following general procedure described (pag. S4) using *N*-methylindole (**8e**) as nucleophile and *p*-(trifluoromethyl)benzaldehyde (**10d**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 8/2) to give 11ed. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) : δ 3.74 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 6.00 (s, 1H, CH), 6.58 (s, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.07 (t, J = 7.8, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.27 (t, J = 7.8, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.36 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.40 (d, J = 7.8, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.50 (d, J = 8.1, 2H, ArH), 7.58 (d, J = 8.1, 2H, ArH).

NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 32.9, 40.2, 109.4, 119.1, 120.0, 121.9, 124.6 (q, ¹J_{CF} = 271.9 Hz), 125.4 (q, ³J_{CF} = 3.5 Hz), 125.4, 127,4, 128.5 (q, ²J_{CF} = 32.1 Hz), 128.5, 129.2, 137.6, 148.8. ESI (m/z) calcd for C₂₆H₂₁N₂ [M]⁺: 418.16513, found: 418.16052



3,3'-((2-nitrophenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (13eb)

Obtained as orange solid (mp 242°C decomp.), following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylindole (**8e**) as nucleophile and *o*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**10b**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 8/2) to give **13eb.** ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) : δ 3.68 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 6.54 (s, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 6.67 (s, 1H, CH), 7.02 (t, J = 7.8, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.21 (t, J = 7.8, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.30 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.34 (t, J= 7.9, 1H, ArH), 7.38 (d, J = 7.9, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.41 (t, J=7.9, 1H, ArH), 7.46 (d, J = 7.9, 1H, ArH), 7.85 (d, J = 7.9, 1H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 33.0, 40.2, 109.4, 116.5, 119.2, 120.1, 122.0, 124.6, 127.3, 127.4, 128.8, 131.4, 132,5, 137.7, 138,7, 150.0. ESI (m/z) calcd for C₂₅H₂₁N₃O₂ [M]⁺: 395.16283, found: 395.15819

3,3'-(pyridin-4-ylmethylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (13ej)



Obtained as pink solid (mp 164.6-165.4) following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylindole (**8e**) as nucleophile and *p*-pyridincarboxaldehyde (**10j**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 5/5) to give **11ej.** ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) : δ 3.72 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.98 (s, 1H, CH), 6.57 (s, 2H, ArH_{ind}), 7.04 (t, J = 7.3, 2H, ArH_{ind}), 7.25 (t, J = 7.3, 2H, ArH_{ind}), 7.29 (d, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H, ArH), 7.34 (d, J=7.3, 1H, ArH_{ind}), 7.37 (d, J =7.3, 2H, ArH_{ind}), 8.5 (d, J = 6.5, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 32.9, 39.7, 109.4, 116.5, 119.1, 119.8, 121.9, 124.2, 127.3, 128.4, 137.6, 149.8, 153.7. ESI (m/z) calcd for C₂₄H₂₁N₃ [M+H]⁺: 352.18082, found: 352.18439.

3,3'-((4-bromophenyl)methylene)bis(1-methyl-1H-indole) (13ee)



Obtained as red solid (mp 202.3-203.5.), following general procedure described above (pag. S4) using *N*-methylindole (**8e**) as nucleophile and *p*-bromobenzaldehyde (**10e**) as electrophile. Purification of the residue was carried out by column chromatography on silica flash (Hexane/EtOAc, 8/2) to give **13ee.** ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) : δ 3.70 (s, 6H, N(CH₃)), 5.86 (s, 1H, CH), 6.53 (s, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.03 (t, J = 7.7, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.21-7.24 (m, 4H, overlapped ArH_{ind}), 7.32 (d, J = 7.7Hz, 2H, ArH_{Ind}), 7.38 (d, J=7.7, 1H, ArH), 7.41 (d, J = 7.9, 2H, ArH). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K): δ 32.8, 39.7, 109.3, 117.8, 118.9, 119.9, 120.1, 121.7, 127.4, 128.4, 130.6, 131.4, 137.6, 143.7. ESI (m/z) calcd for C₂₅H₂₁BrN₂ [M]⁺: 428.08826, found: 428.08363.

6. NMR and Mass Spectra of New Compounds



Figure S13. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S14. 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **5aa**.



Figure S15. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.





Figure S16. Expansion of COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S17. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S18. Expansions of HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S19. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.







Figure S20. Expansions of HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S21. MALDI Mass spectrum of the derivative 5aa.



Figure S22. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6aa** with expansion of relevant region between 4.5 and 3.3 ppm.



Figure S23. 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6aa.



Figure S24. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6aa.





Figure S25. Expansions of COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative Gaa.



Figure S26. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6aa.


Figure S27. Expansions of HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative Gaa.



Figure S28. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 6aa.





Figure S29. Expansions of HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative Gaa.



Figure S30. MALDI Mass spectrum of the derivative 6aa.





Figure S33. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.





Figure S34. Expansions of COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S35. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S36. Expansions of HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S37. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S38. Expansion of HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S39. MALDI Mass Spectrum of the derivative 4ba.



Figure S40. 1 H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S41. 13 C NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S42. COSY NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S43. Expansions of COSY NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S44. HSQC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.





Figure S45. Expansions of HSQC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S46. HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.





Figure S47. Expansions of HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the decarboxylate derivative.

Figure S48. MALDI Mass Spectrum of the decarboxylate derivative.



Figure S49. ¹H NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac.**



Figure S50. 13 C NMR Spectrum (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac.**



Figure S51. COSY NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac**.



Figure S52. Expansion of COSY NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac**.



Figure S53. HSQC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative Gac.





Figure S54. Expansions of HSQC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac**.



Figure S55. HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6ac.



Figure S56. Expansion of the HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac**.



Figure S57. Expansion of the HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6ac.**



Figure S58. Expansion of the HMBC NMR Spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6ac.



Figure S59: MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 6ac.



Figure S60. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **9ad.**



Figure S61. Relevant region comprised between 7.23 ppm nd 6.91 ppm. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **9ad.**



Figure S62. 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **9ad**



Figure S67. COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **9ad** with its relevant regions.



Figure S68. HSQC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 9ad.



Figure S69. HSQC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative **9ad** with expansions of the relevant regions. Blue spots are indicative of CH_2 protons, red sposts of CH and CH_3 protons.



Figure S70. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 9ad.








Figure S71: from above to down, expansions of relevant regions (with annotations) of HMBC NMR spectrum of derivative **9ad** (600 MHz, 298K, CDCl₃).



Figure S72: MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 9ad.



Figure S73. ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 7ca.



Figure S74. ¹³C NMR spectrum (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 7ca.



Figure S75. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 7ca with its relevant regions.



Figure S76. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative **7ca** with expansions of the relevant regions. Blue spots are indicative of CH_2 protons, red sposts of CH and CH_3 protons.



Figure S77. From upper to down: HMBC NMR spectra of derivative 7ca (600 MHz, 298K, CDCl₃).



Figure S78: MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 7ca.



Figure S79. ¹H NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6da.





Figure S81. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6da.



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Figure S82. Selected regions of COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6da.



Figure S83. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 6da.





Figure S84. Upper: selected regions of HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **6da**.



Figure S85. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 6da.









Figure S86. Selected regions of HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl3, 298 K) of the derivative **6da**.



Figure S87. MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 6da.



Figure S88. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative



Figure S89. 13 C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **11ai**



Figure S90. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ai.





Figure S92. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ai.



Figure S93. HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ai.



Figure S94. Relevant region of HMBC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ai.



Figure S95. ESI MS spectrum of the derivative 11ai.



Figure S96. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **11ad**



Figure S97. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **11ad**





Figure S99. Expansion of COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **11ad**.



Figure S100. HSQC NMR spectrum 400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ad.



Figure S101. HMBC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ad.



Figure S102. Expansions of HMBC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11ad.



Figure S103. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11aj.



Figure S104. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11aj.



Figure S105. COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11aj.



Figure S106. Relevant region of COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 11aj.



Figure S107. HSQC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 11aj.



Figure S108. MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 11aj.





Figure S110. 13 C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative **13ed.**



Figure S111. COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ed.



Figure S112. HSQC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ed.



Figure S113. Expansion of HSQC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 13ed.



Figure S114. HMBC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ed.



Figure S115. Expansion of HMBC NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ed.



Figure S116. ESI MS spectrum of the derivative 13ed



Figure S118. 1 H NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13eb.
Figure S119. COSY NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13eb.





Figure S121. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13eb.



Figure S122. Expansion of HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13eb.



Figure S1234. ESI MS spectrum of the derivative 13eb.



Figure S125. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ej.



Figure S126. COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ej.



Figure S127. Relevant region of COSY NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ej.

Figure S128. HSQC NMR spectrum (600 MHz, $CDCI_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 13ej.





Figure S130. MALDI MS spectrum of the derivative 13ej.



Figure S131. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ee.



Figure 132. 13 C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 298 K) of the derivative 13ee.



Figure S134. Relevant region of COSY NMR spectrum (300 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 298 K) of the derivative 13ee.



Figure S135. ESI MS spectrum of the derivative 13ee.