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A NEW SYNTHESIS OF FUNCTIONAL DYES FROM 2-ACENAPHTHO[1,2-*c*]PYRROLE

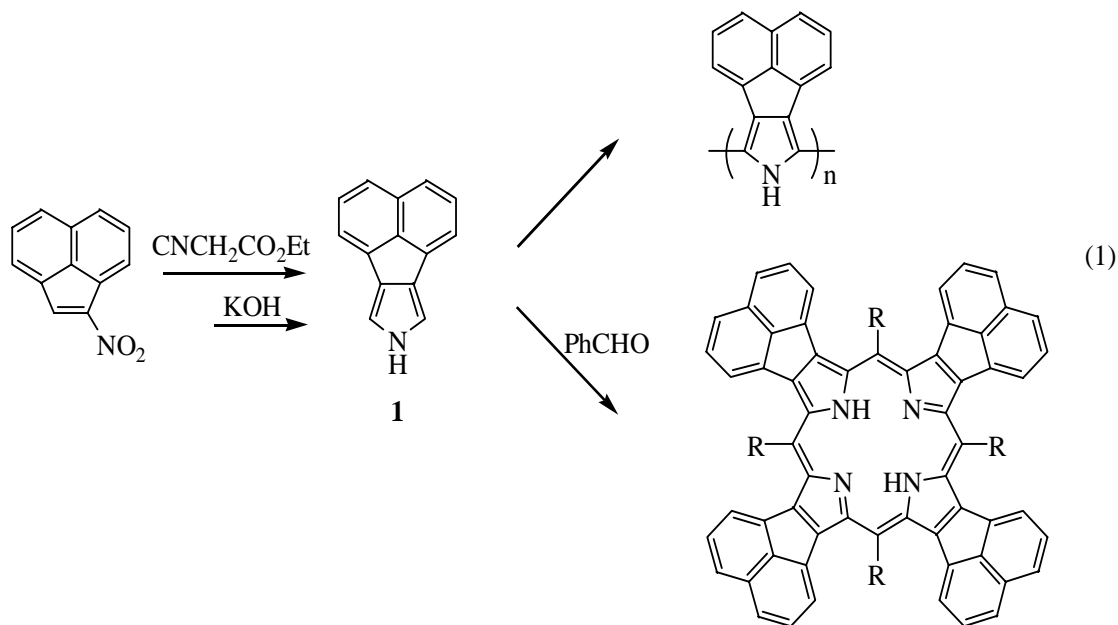
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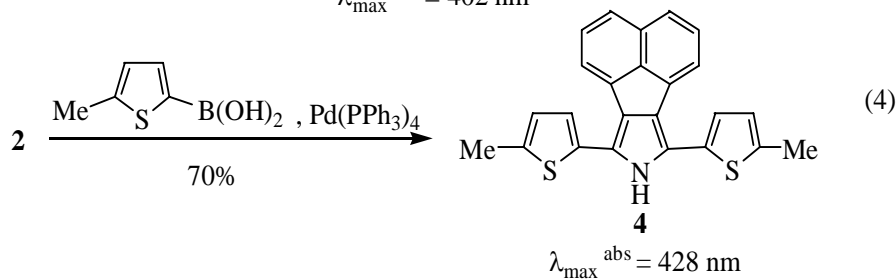
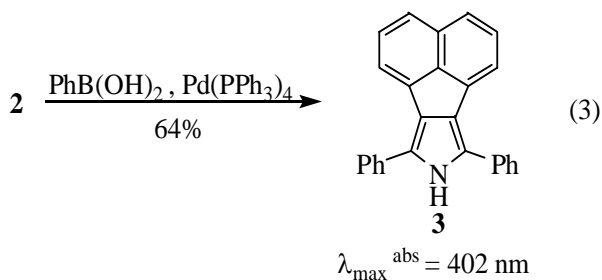
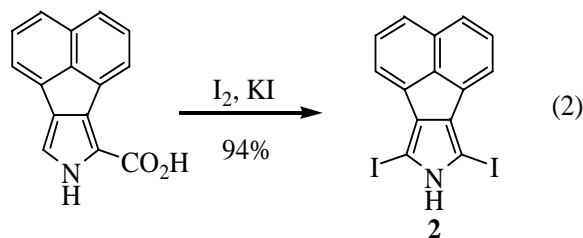
Abstract –Incorporation of acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole units into the π -conjugated systems is very effective to get the narrow HOMO-LUMO gap materials, and the absorption spectra of π -conjugated polymers, porphyrins, and boron dipyrromethene dyes fused with acenaphthene rings are extensively red-shifted.

The reaction of nitroalkenes with ethyl isocyanoacetate in the presence of a base gives ethyl 3, 4-substituted pyrroles (Barton-Zard reaction),¹ which provide useful precursors for synthesis of porphyrins or biologically active pyrroles.² This reaction has been extended to aromatic nitro compounds, and pyrroles fused with various aromatic rings such as benzene, naphthalene, phenanthrene, phenanthroline, quinoline, isoquinoline, fluoranthene, and acenaphthene have been prepared.^{3,4} Smith has found that nitro-porphyrins also undergo the Barton-Zard reaction to give pyrrolo-fused porphyrins.⁵ Such pyrroles are readily converted into the corresponding porphyrins. In 1996, we reported that the UV-VIS absorption spectra of tetraacenaphthoporphyrins were extremely red-shifted (Soret band: 525 nm).^{3b} Lash reported that the introduction of phenyl ring at the *meso* position of tetraacenaphthoporphyrins induced the further red-shift of absorption (Soret band: 560 nm).^{4a} Typical porphyrins such as octaethylporphyrin or *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrin absorb at about 400 nm (Soret band), and λ max is not much affected by the change of substituents on these porphyrins. Lash has claimed that fused acenaphthene rings induce large bathochromic shifts in the UV-VIS spectra of porphyrins, contrasting with the minimal influence of fused benzenoid aromatic systems.⁶ It is important to confirm whether the effect of acenaphthene is limited to porphyrins or not. In order to answer this question, π -conjugated oligomers, polymers, and cyclic

oligomers containing acenaphthene rings are prepared, and their UV-VIS spectra are compared with those of other π -conjugated molecules.

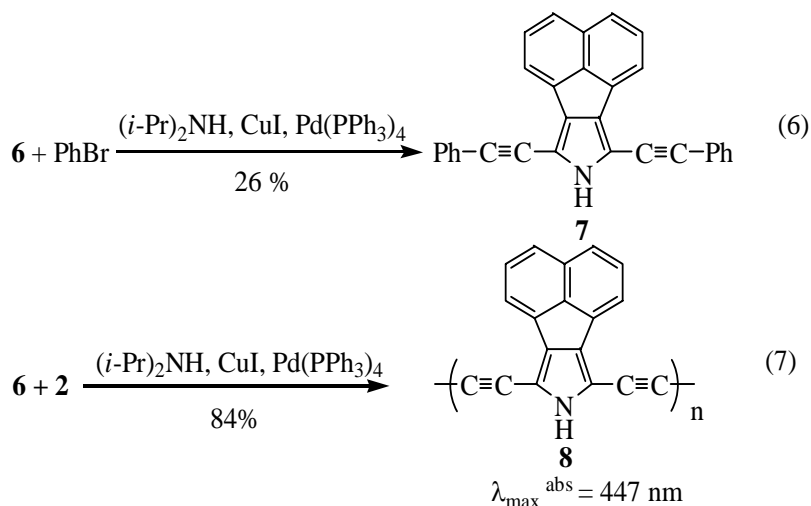
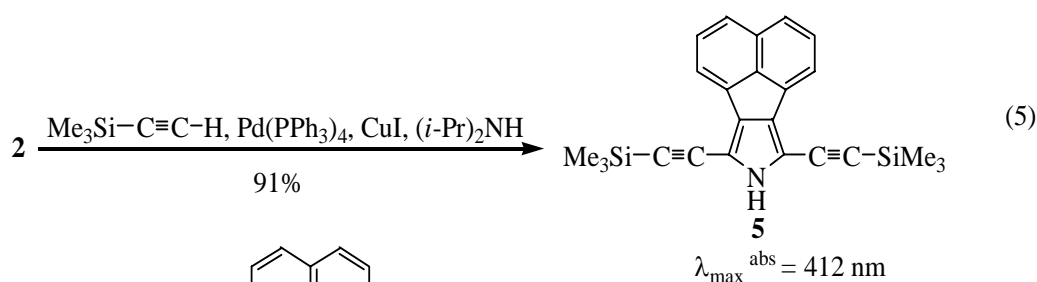


Soret λ_{\max} = 525 nm (R=H)
= 556 nm (R=Ph)



α -Free pyrrole (1) was prepared by deethoxycarbonylation of ethyl acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole-7-carboxylate by heating with KOH in ethylene glycol.^{3a} α,α' -Diiodopyrrole (2) was prepared in 94 %

yield on treatment acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]carboxylic acid with KI and I₂ in the presence of NaHCO₃. Suzuki coupling of **2** with phenyllboronic acid or 2-(5-methylthiophene)boronic acid gave the coupling product (**3**) or (**4**), respectively. The UV-VIS absorption can be changed by the choice of aryl groups; λ_{\max} of **1**, **3**, and **4** are 353, 402, and 428 nm, respectively. Polycyclic aromatic compounds such as anthracenes are generally highly fluorescent, and they have been used in various fields of science.⁷ Photophysical properties of isoindole and its benzo[*f*]- and dibenzo[*e,g*]-derivatives were reported, where fluorescence quantum yields were 0.88, 0.70, and 0.99, respectively.⁸ So, it is expected that isoindoles (**1**), (**3**), and (**4**) are also highly fluorescent. In fact, they emit at 442, 460, and 502 nm with quantum yield of 0.5-0.7, respectively. It is not simple to compare electronic properties of **4** with those of other systems, for their absorption and emission λ_{\max} are affected by various factors. Terthiophenes are selected as standard, though it is very rough, the absorption λ_{\max} (428 nm) and emission λ_{\max} (502 nm) of **4** are considerably red-shifted than those of terthiophene (absorption λ_{\max} : 350 nm, emission λ_{\max} : 430 nm).⁹ Although the estimation is very rough, the HOMO-LUMO energy gap of **4** is smaller than that of terthiophenes.



Oligomer (**7**) or polymer (**8**) were prepared, where acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrroles are linked with acetylene bonds. Organic compounds with aromatic groups that are linearly conjugated through acetylene linkages

have been the center of much attention in the past few years.¹⁰ Poly(*p*-phenyleneethynylene)s or poly(*p*-phenylenebutadiynylene)s have been prepared from their potential in a wide variety of applications including organic EL materials.¹¹ Reaction of **2** with trimethylsilyll acetylene using Pd (0), CuI and diisopropylamine gave **5** in 91% yield, and subsequent deprotection with base provided **6** in 90% yield. Compound (**6**) is a good precursor for constructing π -conjugated systems which contain acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole unit. For example, a palladium catalyzed coupling reaction of **6** with bromobenzene gave **7** in 26 % yield. The absorption spectra of **7** (λ_{\max} 428 nm) are highly red-shifted compared to those of 1,4-bis(phenylethynyl)benzene (λ_{\max} 320 nm).^{11b} A palladium catalyzed coupling reaction of **2** with **6** gave polymer (**8**) in 84 % yield. This polymer is insoluble in most organic solvents and it is a little soluble in DMF. The UV-VIS of **8** shows broad absorption (λ_{\max} 447 nm, band edge is near 600 nm). Due to the low solubility of **8**, further characterization of **8** was not done. Thus, π -extended analogs of **1** linked with acetylene units provide a new class of materials whose absorption spectra are extremely red shifted.

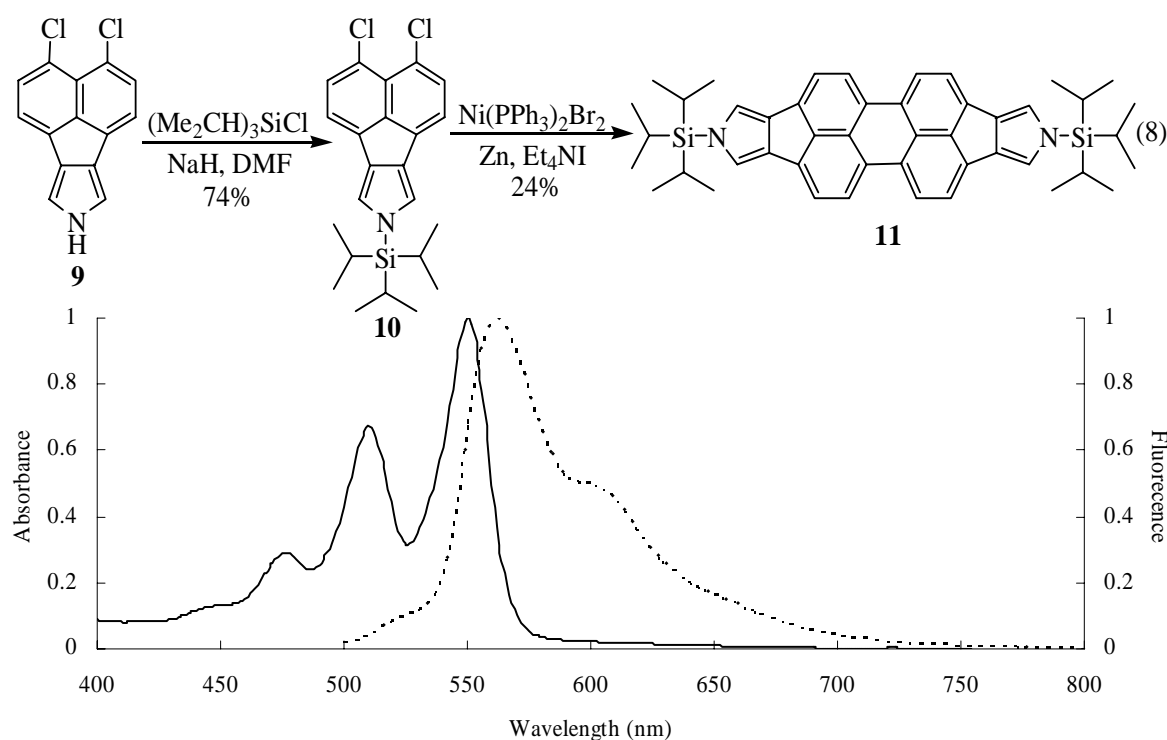


Figure 1. Absorption (solid line) and fluorescence (dotted line) spectra of **11**.

As another π -extended molecules containing acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole units, perylene type of compound (**11**) was prepared. 5,6-Dichloroacenaphthopyrrole (**9**) was prepared from 5,6-dichloroacenaphthene as previously reported.¹² Pyrrole (**9**) was converted into *N*-silyl derivative (**10**), and the Ni-catalyzed coupling reaction of **10** affords a new dye (**11**) in 24% yield. The absorption and emission spectra of **11** are shown in Figure 1, which are very similar to those of perylene dyes. Very strong red emission was observed in the solution of **11**. Dyes containing perylene framework are very important as pigments

and fluorescent dyes.¹³ So, a new perylene dye containing fused pyrrole rings was prepared, which may be useful as a functional dye with a narrow HOMO-LUMO energy band. Furthermore, pyrrole units can be further converted into other dyes such as porphyrins. Such work is in progress in our laboratory. The absorption λ_{\max} 550 nm of **11** is red shifted by *ca.* 100 nm compared to that of perylene.

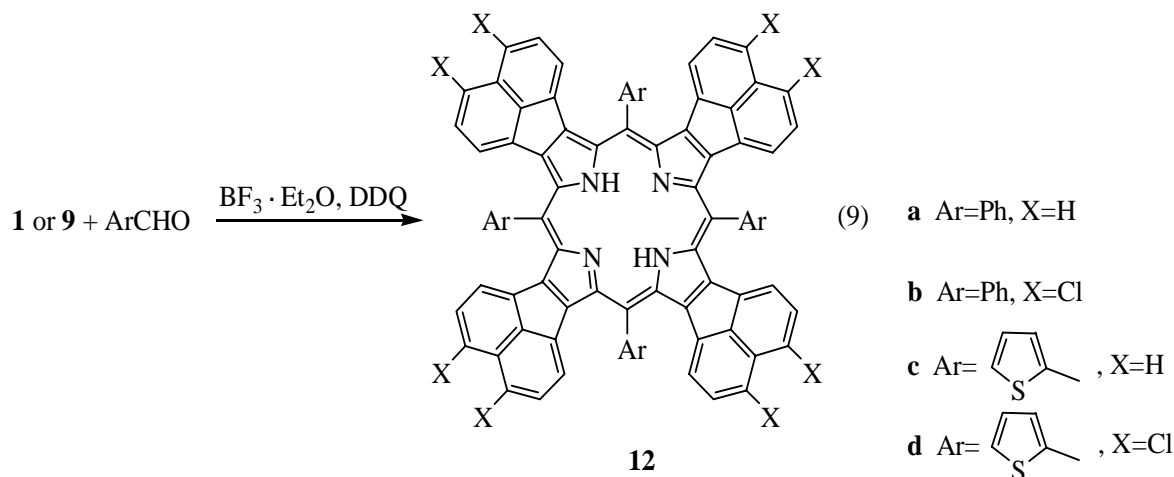


Table 1. Yield of **12** and their absorption λ_{\max}

Ar	X	12	yield (%)	λ_{\max} , nm (log ϵ)
Ph	H	12a	40	555(5.13), 636(4.23), 704(3.92) ^a 568(5.40), 693(4.36), 764(4.21) ^b
Ph	Cl	12b	34	571(5.18), 646(4.55), 715(4.30) ^a 583(5.40), 700(4.61), 775(4.32) ^b
	H	12c	40	564(5.17), 651(4.14), 720(4.00) ^a 585(5.36), 722(4.13), 802(4.42) ^b
	Cl	12d	30	579(5.22), 663(4.27), 730(4.11) ^a 603(5.39), 732(4.32), 817(4.45) ^b

a) CHCl₃

b) CHCl₃+1%TFA

The present study has started from the observation of unusual red shifted absorption of tetraacenaphthoporphyrins. Porphyrin systems with strong absorption in the far red/near-infrared are important for various applications in nonlinear optics, sensitizers for photodynamic therapy (PDT) for cancer, or in other optical materials. Several approaches have been reported for this purpose.¹⁴ Lash has found that the presence of arylolethynyl groups at the *meso* position induced larger red shift of the absorption to bring the Soret band at 560-600 nm.^{4b} Introduction of *meso*-arylolethynyl groups is very effective to increase π -conjugation of porphyrins, but the yields for the introduction of arylolethynyl groups are very poor (2-3 %). We proposed that the introduction of *meso*-2-thienyl groups is also effective to increase the π -conjugation of porphyrins.¹⁵ The introduction of the *meso*-2-thienyl groups is much simpler than that of arylolethynyl groups. The reaction of pyrrole (**1**) with thiophene-2-carboxyaldehyde in the presence of BF₃·Et₂O and subsequent oxidation with DDQ gave porphyrin (**12c**) in 40 % yield. Compared to **12a**,

the absorption λ_{\max} of **12c** is considerably red-shifted (10-20 nm). When **11** was used, octachlorinated porphyrins (**12b**) and (**12d**) were prepared. The absorption λ_{\max} of them is red shifted by *ca.* 10 nm compared to λ_{\max} of nonchlorinated ones. Thus, the absorption λ_{\max} of **12d** is red shifted by about 20 nm compared to that of **12a**. Thus, the absorption λ_{\max} of porphyrins (**12**) can be finely tuned by changing *meso* aryl groups and substituents on acenaphthene rings. This strategy is very useful to provide the porphyrin type of dyes, which have strong absorption at the region of 500-600 nm.

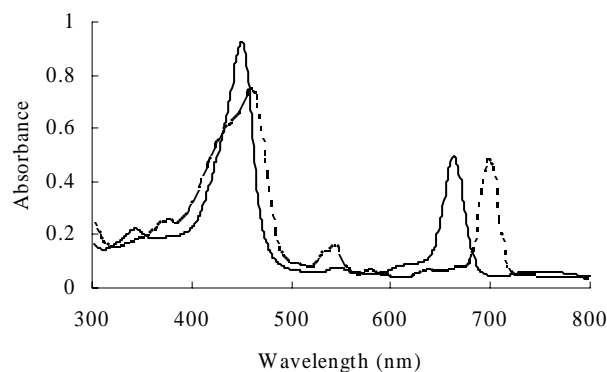
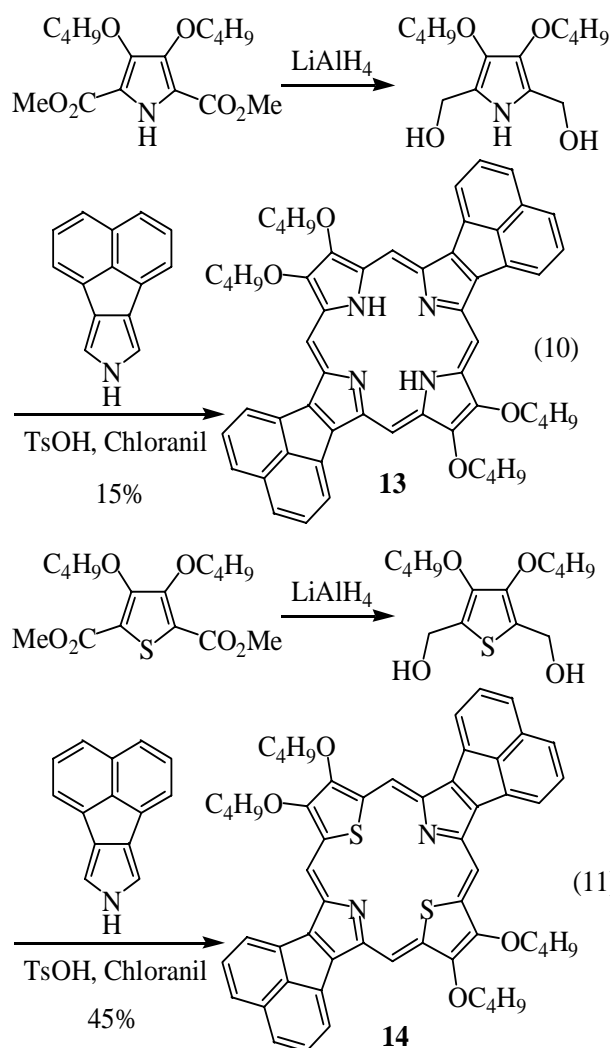


Figure 2. Absorption spectra of **13** (solid line) and Zn complex of **13** (dotted line).

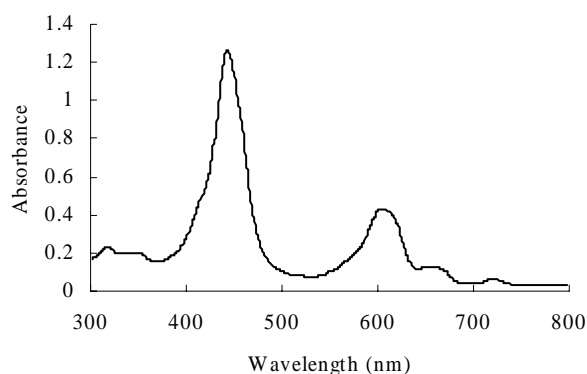


Figure 3. Absorption spectra of **14**.

We have studied another approach for the modification of electronic properties of porphyrins or related macrocycles. The reaction of pyrrole (**1**) with 3,4-dialkoxy-2,5-bis(hydroxymethyl)pyrroles or 3,4-dialkoxy-2,5-dialkoxythiophenes gave porphyrin (**13**) or thiaporphyrin (**14**), respectively. This method is very useful, because the fused aromatic rings can control the conjugation and the alkoxy groups can control the chemical and physical properties of porphyrins. Another important point of this method is simple operation and ready availability of starting materials.¹⁶ 3,4-Dialkoxy-2,5-bis(dihydroxymethyl)pyrroles or thiophenes were readily prepared by the reduction of the corresponding esters with

LiAlH_4 . The requisite esters were prepared by alkylation of the 3,4-dihydroxypyrrroles or thiophenes with alkyl halides. 3,4-Alkylenedioxythiophenes and 3,4-alkylenedioxythiophenes are very useful as monomers for new electron rich conductive polymers.¹⁷ Combination of these pyrroles and thiophenes with acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole may afford a new strategy for adjustment of the HOMO-LUMO energy levels of π -extended molecules. The absorption spectra of **13** and **14** are shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. Porphyrin (**13**) is a good candidate for application to PDT, for the strong Q band at 700 nm is desirable for it.

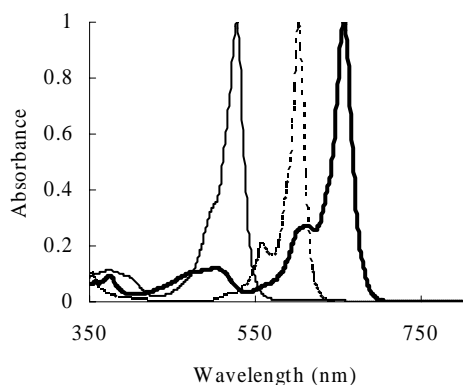
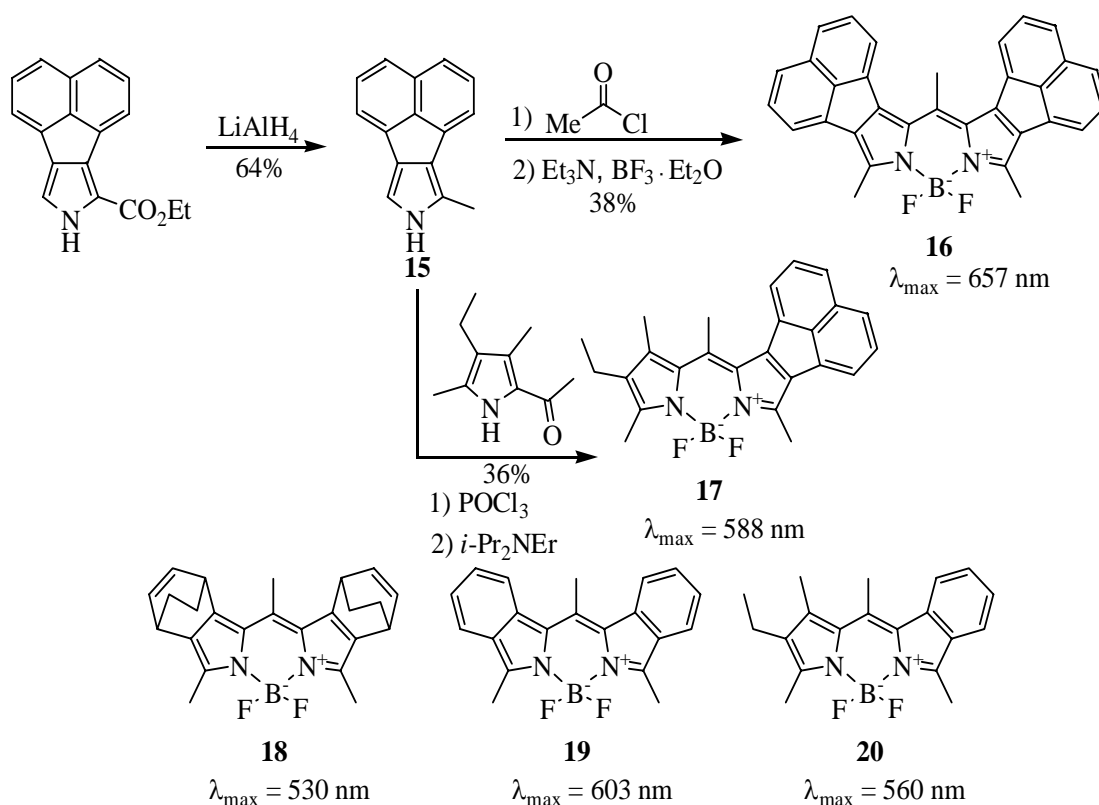


Figure 4. Absorption spectra of **18** (solid line), **19** (dotted line) and **16** (bold line).

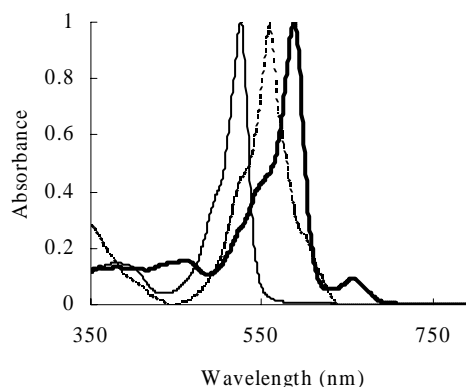


Figure 5. Absorption spectra of **18** (solid line), **20** (dotted line) and **17** (bold line).

Boron dipyrromethene (BDP) dyes are highly fluorescent materials and have been used in various fields of science, for example, for laser dyes, molecular probes for biochemical research, sensors, other optical devices.¹⁸ In order to control the properties of BDP, variously substituted BDP dyes have been

prepared. We prepared BDP dyes fused with bicyclo[2.2.2]octadiene (BCOD) units, which were converted into benzo BDP dyes *via* a retro Diels-Alder reaction.¹⁹ As shown in Figure 4, absorption of BDP dye (**18**) fused with BCOD is observed at 530 nm, and that of benzo BDP (**19**) is red shifted to 603 nm. BDP dyes have merits of sharp absorption and emission spectra. They show strong fluorescence at 540 nm (green) and 618 nm (red), respectively. BDP dyes derived from acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole are interesting, for electronic properties are effectively altered by acenaphthopyrrole. BDP dyes with mono- and di-acenaphthopyrroles (**16**) and (**17**) were prepared. The absorption spectra of these dyes are shown in Figures 4 and 5. The absorption λ_{max} of **16** is 657 nm, which is the longest wavelength for BDP dyes. The absorption of BDP dyes can be finely controlled from 530 nm to 657 nm by introduction of acenaphthopyrroles or benzopyrroles into BDP.

In conclusion, several new dyes containing acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole have been prepared, and their absorption and emission spectra are considerably red-shifted compared to those of dyes derived from alkyl substituted pyrroles or thiophenes. Electrochemical and photophysical properties of these new dyes are being studied in our laboratory and they will be reported later.

EXPERIMENTAL

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL-JNM-GSX 270 or JNM-EX 400 spectrometer using tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. IR and UV-VIS spectra were obtained with a Hitachi 270-30 and a Shimadzu UV-2200 spectrophotometer, respectively. MS spectra were measured with a Hitachi M80B spectrometer. FAB Ms spectra of porphyrins were measured with a JEOL JMS-DX 300 or JMS-LX 2000 spectrometer; samples were dissolved in *m*-nitrobenzyl alcohol was used as a matrix. Elemental analysis was performed with a Yanako MT-5.

Preparation of 7, 9-diiodoacenaphtho[1, 2-*c*]pyrrole (**2**)

A mixture of ethyl acenaphtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole-7-carboxylate (2.1 g, 8.0 mmol) and 0.63 N NaOH solution (320 mL) was heated at 60-70 °C for 1 h, and cooled to rt. Dilute HCl was added to precipitate white solid. The collected solid was dissolved in ethyl acetate, and the organic layer was dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated to give 1.8 g (96 %) of the acid. A mixture of the acid (1.78 g, 7.67 mmol) and NaHCO₃ (5.34 g) in EtOH (50 mL) and water (50 mL) was heated at 50 °C. A mixture of I₂ (3.84 g, 15 mmol) and KI (7.5 g, 45 mmol) in water (840 mL) was added slowly to this solution for 30 min. The mixture was stirred at 45 °C for 90 min and cooled to rt. The precipitate solid was washed with water and dried to give **2** as a brown powder (3.2 g, 94 %) This sample was pure enough to use for the next coupling step: mp >250°C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.98 (br s, 1H), 7.77 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6), 7.70 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6), 7.56 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.7, 8.2); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (ϵ) 376, 428 nm; EI/MS 443 (M⁺).

Preparation of coupling materials (3) and (4)

A solution of **2** (0.44 g, 1 mmol), PhB(OH)₂ (0.37 g, 3.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.23 g, 0.2 mmol), and Na₂CO₃ (0.63 g, 6.0 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 7 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂:hexane=1:1) to give **3** as a yellow solid (0.22 g, 64 %): mp 223-224 °C (from CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.34 (s, 1H); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (ε) 350 (4.22), 402 (4.11) nm; EI/MS 343 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₆H₁₇N: C, 90.86; H, 5.18; N, 4.01 Found: C, 90.93; H, 4.99; N, 4.08

A solution of **2** (0.44 g, 1 mmol), 5-methyl-2-thiophene boronic acid (0.43 g, 3.0 mmol), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.23 g, 0.2 mmol), and Na₂CO₃ (0.63 g, 6.0 mmol) in DMF (15 mL) was heated at 100 °C for 7 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water, and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The organic layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO₄. After evaporation of the solvent, the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, CH₂Cl₂:hexane=3:7) to give **4** as a yellow solid (0.27 g, 70 %): mp 185-187 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹H NMR (C₅D₅N) δ 12.31 (s, 1H), 8.39 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.0), 7.80 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6), 7.66 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.9, 8.3), 7.47 (d, 2H, *J* = 3.4), 6.75-6.78 (m, 2H), 2.40 (s, 6H); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (ε) 376 (4.34), 428 (4.14) nm; EI/MS 383 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₁₇NS₂: C, 75.16; H, 4.47; N, 3.65. Found: C, 75.16; H, 4.47; N, 3.65.

Preparation of alkynes (5), (6) and (7)

A flask containing Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.058 g, 0.05 mmol) and CuI (0.05, 0.025 mmol) was degassed and charged with Ar. To this flask were added diisopropylamine (0.21 mL, 1.5 mmol), trimethylsilylacetylene (0.16 mL, 1.1 mmol), and **2** (0.22 g, 0.5 mmol) in 10 mL of THF. The resulting mixture was stirred at rt for 24 h, and poured into water, and extracted with CHCl₃. The organic layer was washed with water and brine. After drying over MgSO₄, concentration and column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃:hexane=1:1) gave **5** as pale yellow solid (0.174 g, 91 %): mp 165-168 °C (CHCl₃-hexane); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.21 (s, 1H), 7.71 (d, 2H, *J* = 6.7), 7.69 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.2), 7.54 (dd, 2H, *J* = 6.7, 8.2), 0.31 (s, 18H); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} 316, 340, 390, 416 nm; EI/MS 383(M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₅NSi: C, 75.14; H, 6.67; N, 3.65. Found: C, 75.10; H, 6.39; N, 3.71. Replacement of Me₃Si by hydrogen was carried out by stirring a mixture of **5** and K₂CO₃ in MeOH-CH₂Cl₂ to give **6** as a pale yellow crystal in 88 % yield.

Coupling reaction of **6** with bromobenzene using Pd(PPh₃)₄, diisopropylamine and CuI gave **7** as a yellow crystal in 26 % yield: mp 228-230 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.34 (br s, 1H), 7.83 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.0), 7.72 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6), 7.53-7.62 (m, 6H), 7.38-7.44 (m, 6H); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (ε) 364 (4.59), 378 (4.61), 428 (4.14) nm; EI/MS 391 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₃₀H₁₇N: C, 92.04; H, 4.38; N, 3.58.

Found: C, 92.01, H, 4.51; N, 3.43.

Preparatiuon of polymer (8)

A mixture of Pd (PPh₃)₄ (0.035 g, 0.0031 mmol), CuI (0.0006 g, 0.003 mmol), **2** (0.044 g, 0.1 mmol), **6** (0.024 g, 0.1 mmol), and diisopropylamine (0.48 mL) in THF (5 mL) was heated at 70 °C under Ar for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water containing diluted HCl. The precipitate was collected and washed repeatedly with MeOH and Et₂O to give **8** as black solid (0.024 g, 84 %): UV-VIS (DMF) λ_{max} 447 nm. Due to poor solubility, further characterization of **8** was not done.

Preparation of *N*-(Triisopropylsilyl) -6,7-dichloroacenaphtho[1,2-*c*] pyrrole (10)

Under Ar, NaH (60 %, 0.04 g, 0.75 mmol) was placed in a flask and washed twice with dry hexane. DMF (2 mL) was added to the flask and the mixture was cooled at 0 °C. To this reaction mixture was added a solution of pyrrole (**9**) (0.13 g, 0.5 mmol) in DMF (3 mL), and the whole was stirred at 0 °C for 30 min. Then triisopropylsilylchloride (0.13 mL, 0.6 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, and the mixture was stirred at rt for 4 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CHCl₃. The organic layer was washed with water, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. The residue was subjected to a column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃:hexane=1:1) to give **10** as a pale yellow solid (0.153 g, 74 %): mp 160-162 °C (CHCl₃-hexane); ¹H NMR δ 7.51 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.6), 7.39 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.2), 6.91 (s, 2H), 1.40-1.56 (m, 3H), 1.16 (d, 18H, *J* = 7.3), UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} 380 nm. Anal. Calcd for C₂₃H₂₇NCl₂Si: C, 66.33; H, 6.53; N, 3.36. Found: C, 66.26; H, 6.61; N, 3.26.

Preparation of coupling material (11)

A flask containing NiBr₂(PPh₃)₂ (0.45 g, 0.6 mmol), activated Zn dust (0.078 g, 1.2 mmol), and Et₄Ni (0.077 g, 0.3 mmol) was degassed and filled with Ar gas. To this flask was added dry THF (15 mL) and stirred at rt for 30 min. The color of the solution was turned to red, and to this solution was added **11** (0.13 g, 0.3 mmol) in THF (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at 50 °C for 20 h, and then poured into water. Extraction with CHCl₃ followed by washing with water, dried over MgSO₄, and concentration gave the dark red solid, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃:hexane=1:1) and recrystallization from CH₂Cl₂-hexane to give pure **11** as a dark red solid (0.025 g, 24 %): mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.6), 7.56 (d, 4H, *J* = 7.6), 6.93 (s, 4H), 1.40-1.59 (m, 6H), 1.19 (d, 36H, *J* = 7.3); *m/z* (EI) 690 (M⁺); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} 477, 51, 551 nm; Anal. Calcd for C₄₆H₅₄N₂Si₂: C, 79.94; H, 7.88; N, 4.05. Found: C, 79.76; H, 7.66; N, 3.86.

Preparation of Porphyrin (12)

Porphyrin (**12a**) was prepared by the procedure of Lash in 40 % yield. Porphyrin (**12b**) was also prepared in 34 % yield by the same procedure using pyrrole (**9**) and benzaldehyde. **12a**: mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + TFA) δ 9.00 (d, 8H, *J* = 7.3), 8.15 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.3), 8.05 (t, 8H, *J* = 7.3), 7.80 (d, 8H, *J* = 8.5), 7.26 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.3), 6.11 (d, 8H, *J* = 6.7); FAB/MS 1111 (*M* + 1); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 704 (3.92), 636 (4.23), 555 (5.13) nm; UV-VIS (CHCl₃ + 1% TFA) λ_{max} (log ε) 764 (4.21), 693 (4.36), 568 (5.40) nm. These data were in good agreement of those of literature.^{4b} **12b**: mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + TFA) δ 8.88 (d, 8H, *J* = 7.8), 8.14 (t, 4H, *J* = 7.3), 8.02 (t, 8H, *J* = 7.3), 5.88 (d, 8H, *J* = 7.8); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 715 (4.30), 646 (4.55), 571 (5.40) nm; UV-VIS (CHCl₃ + 1 % TFA) λ max (log ε) 775 (4.32), 700 (4.61), 583 (5.40) nm. Anal. Calcd for C₈₄H₃₈N₄Cl₈·H₂O; C, 71.81; H, 2.76; N, 3.98. Found: C, 71.58; H, 3.06; N, 3.90.

Preparation of 5, 10, 15, 20-Tetrakis(2-thienyl)traacenaphthoporphyrins (**12c**) and (**12d**)

To a stirred solution of **1** (0.22 g, 1.2 mmol) and 2-thiophenecarboxyaldehyde (0.14 mL, 1.2 mmol) in CHCl₃ (120 mL) was added BF₃·Et₂O (0.029 mL, 0.23 mmol), and the resulting solution was stirred for 2 h under Ar at rt. Then DDQ (0.20 g, 0.86 mmol) was added to the reaction mixture, and the whole was stirred for 1 h. Triethylamine (one drop) was added and poured into water. The organic layer was washed with aqueous saturated NaHCO₃ and brine. Concentration followed by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃ containing 1% Et₃N) gave **12c**. Recrystallization from CHCl₃-MeOH gave pure **12c** as a dark green solid (0.13 g, 40 %): mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + TFA) δ 8.60 (m, 4H), 8.36 (m, 4H), 7.82 (m, 12H), 7.36 (m, 8H), 6.42 (m, 4H), 6.35 (m, 4H); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 720 (4.00), 646 (4.14), 564 (5.17) nm; UV-VIS (CHCl₃ + 1 % TFA) λ_{max} (log ε) 802 (4.42), 722 (4.13), 585 (5.36). Anal. Calcd for C₇₆H₃₈N₄S₂·2H₂O: C, 77.93; H, 3.61; N, 4.78. Found: C, 78.11; H, 3.46; N, 4.85. Porphyrin (**12d**) was prepared in the same way, recrystallization from EtOH-CHCl₃ gave pure **12d** in 30%: mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ + TFA) δ 8.56 (m, 4H), 7.84 (m, 4 H), 7.45 (m, 8H), 6.23 (m, 4H), 6.16 (m, 4H); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 730 (4.11), 663 (4.27), 479 (5.22) nm; UV-VIS (CHCl₃ + 1% TFA) λ_{max} (log ε) 817 (4.45), 732 (4.22), 603 (5.39) nm. Anal. Calcd for C₇₆H₃₀N₄Cl₈S₄·2C₂H₅OH: C, 64.30; H, 2.49; N, 3.85. Found: C, 64.36; H, 2.82; N, 3.84.

Preparation of Porphyrin (**13**)

To a solution of dimethyl 3,4-dibutoxypyrrole-2,5-dicarboxylate (0.32 g, 1 mmol) in dry THF (15 mL) was added LiAlH₄ (0.19 g, 5 mmol) slowly at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water, and extracted with CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ solution was washed with water, dried and filtered. To the filtrate was added pyrrole (**1**) (0.19 g, 1 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (0.05 g). The

resulting solution was stirred at rt for 24 h, and *p*-chloranil (0.1 g, 0.41 mol) was added and the mixture was stirred for additional 24 h. After the usual work-up, column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃) followed by recrystallization from MeOH-CHCl₃ gave **13** as a green solid (0.127 g, 15 %): mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 10.24 (s, 4H), 8.80 (d, 4H, *J* = 6.4), 8.02 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.1), 7.90 (m, 4H), 4.96 (t, 8H, *J* = 6.6), 2.37-2.47 (m, 8H), 1.80-1.92 (m, 8H), 1.60-1.78 (m, 8H), 1.04 (t, 12H, *J* = 6.8), -3.08 (s, 2H); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 698 (4.38), 460 (5.09). Anal. Calcd for C₅₆H₅₄N₄O₄·0.5H₂O: C, 77.69; H, 6.40; N, 6.47. Found: C, 77.75; H, 6.52; N, 6.48.

Preparation of dithiaporphyrin (14)

To a solution of dimethyl 3,4-dibutoxythiophene-2,5-dicarboxylate (0.34 g, 1 mmol) in dry THF (20 mL) was added LiAlH₄ (0.19 g, 5 mmol) slowly at 0 °C, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CHCl₃. The organic layer was dried over MgSO₄ and filtered. To the CHCl₃ solution (100 mL) were added pyrrole (**1**) (0.19 g, 1 mmol) and *p*-TsOH (0.05 g). The resulting solution was stirred at rt for 24 h, and then *p*-chloranil (0.25 g, 0.1 mmol) was added and the mixture was stirred for additional 24 h. After the usual work up, column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃) gave **14** followed by recrystallization from CHCl₃-MeOH gave pure **14** as a green solid (0.397 g, 45 %): mp >250 °C (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 11.04 (s, 4H), 8.92 (d, 4H, *J* = 6.2), 8.12 (d, 4H, *J* = 8.1), 8.01 (m, 4H), 5.02 (t, 8H, *J* = 6.7), 2.45-1.57 (m, 8H), 1.92-2.02 (m, 8H), 1.15 (t, 12H, *J* = 6.7); UV-VIS (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} (log ε) 443 (5.34), 604 (4.35). Anal. Calcd for C₅₆H₅₂N₂S₂O₄·2H₂O: C, 73.33; H, 6.15; N, 3.04. Found: C, 73.63; H, 5.82; N, 3.04.

Preparation of 7-methylacenaphtho[1, 2-*c*]pyrrole (15)

To a solution of ethyl acenaohtho[1,2-*c*]pyrrole-7-carboxylate (1.32 g, 5 mmol) in THF (200 mL) was added LiAlH₄ (2.85 g, 45 mmol) slowly. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 6 h and cooled to rt. The reaction mixture was poured into water carefully, and extracted with CHCl₃. The organic layer was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Evaporation of the solvent followed by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃:hexane=1:1) gave **15** as a yellow crystal (0.65 g, 64 %): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.43 (m, 3H), 6.84 (d, 1H), 2.51 (s, 3H); EI/MS 205 (M⁺). Anal. Calcd for C₁₅H₁₁N: C, 85.77; H, 5.40; N, 6.82. Found: C, 85.59; H, 5.39; N, 6.23.

Preparation of pyrromethene-BF₂-complexes (16) and (18)

Pyrromethene dyes were prepared by the method of Boyer.¹⁸ As a general method, preparation of dye (**18**) was described here. To a solution of 4,7-dihydro-4,7-ethano-1-methyl-2*H*-isoindole (0.57 g, 3.6 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) was added acetyl chloride (0.57 mL, 6.6 mmol). The solution was heated at reflux for 3

h, then hexane was added to form the precipitation. The precipitate was washed with hexane and was dissolved in toluene (200 mL). To this solution was added Et₃N (1.31 mL, 9.86 mmol) and the mixture was stirred at rt for 15 min, then BF₃·Et₂O (1.74 mL, 10.95 mmol) was added. The resulting solution was heated at 80 °C with stirring for 30 min. After cooling to rt and filtration, the filtrate was washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Concentration followed by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃) gave **18** as a orange crystal (0.377 g, 54 %): mp 182 °C (decomp), (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ 6.51 (m, 2H), 6.42 (m, 2H), 4.34 (m, 2H), 3.88 (m, 2H), 2.73 (s, 3H), 2.49 (s, 6H), 1.60-1.26 (m, 8H); EI/MS 391 (M⁺); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 530 (4.89), 390 (4.07) nm. Anal. Calcd for C₂₄H₂₅N₂ BF₂·0.5H₂O: C, 71.48; H, 7.50; N, 6.95. Found: C, 71.25; H, 7.22; N, 6.73.

Pyrromethene dye (**16**) was prepared from **15** as a deep green crystal in 38 % yield by the same way: mp >350 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); EI/MS 482 (M⁺); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 657 (5.15), 612 (4.35), 603 (4.27). Anal. Calcd for C₃₂H₂₁N₂BF₂: C, 79.68; H, 4.36; N, 5.81. Found: C, 79.54; H, 4.21; N, 5.67.

Preparation of Unsymmetrical Pyrromethene Dyes (17)

To a solution of 7-methylacenaphto[1,2-*c*]pyrrole (0.37 g, 1.78 mmol) and 2-acetyl-4-ethyl-3,5-dimethylpyrrole (0.35 g, 1.85 mmol) in CHCl₃ (100 mL) was added POCl₃ (0.18 mL, 1.85 mmol). The resulting solution was refluxed for 12 h. Ethyldiisopropylamine (1.32 mL, 7.49 mmol) was added and the reflux was continued for additional 2 h, and then BF₃·Et₂O (0.96 mL, 8.32 mmol) was added and the mixture was refluxed for 7 h. After the usual work up, column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl₃) gave **17** as a deep blue solid (0.26 g, 36 %): mp 285-287 °C (CH₂Cl₂-hexane); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.3), 7.80 (d, 1H, *J* = 7.8), 7.67-7.65 (m, 2H), 7.58-7.55 (m, 2H), 2.90 (s, 3H), 2.58 (s, 3H), 2.41-2.38 (m, 5H), 1.07 (t, 3H, *J* = 7.5); EI/MS 400 (M⁺); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 588 (5.01). Anal. Calcd for C₂₅H₂₃N₂BF₂: C, 75.02; H, 5.79; N, 7.00. Found: C, 74.74; H, 5.68; N, 6.89.

Preparation of 19

Compound (**18**) (0.039 g, 0.1 mmol) was placed in a flask and heated at 230 °C (1 mmHg) for 2 h to give pure **19** as a golden crystal (0.034 g, 100 %): ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.12 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3), 7.93 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.3), 7.50 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.5), 7.30 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.3), 3.07 (s, 3H), 2.87 (s, 6H); EI/MS 334 (M⁺); UV-VIS (CHCl₃) λ_{max} (log ε) 603 (5.19), 558 (4.52), 335 (4.32) nm. Anal. Calcd for C₂₀H₁₇N₂BF₂: C, 71.88; H, 5.13; N, 8.38. Found: C, 71.76; H, 5.20; N, 8.44.

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