

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ANNULENE CYCLE DRIVEN BY PROTONATION-DEPROTONATION
SEQUENCE: A PROPERTY OF AN ANNULENE-CYCLE AS A MODEL OF PROTON PUMP
CYCLE OF BACTERIORHODOPSIN

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Firstly, novel synthesis of a thermally unstable isomer of an oxygen-bridged annulene (4) was described, whose preparation was difficult so far because of its rapid isomerization to the cis isomer (1). The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of (4) showed a wide spread of the positions of the inner proton signals ranging from the original chemical shift ($\delta = 4.60$ ppm, in CDCl_3) to those associated with the protic solvent such as $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}/\text{D}_2\text{O}$, up to $\delta = 0.57$ ppm), indicating that the ground state of (4) can be stabilized with water by increasing the charge separation structure of the 14π [15]annulenylium oxide structure, a Hückel type resonance-stabilized cation. Secondly, a convincing experimental evidence of the water-induced stabilization of the trans [15]annulenenone (4) could be also provided by kinetic rate measurements of the back-isomerization of (4) $\rightarrow$ (1). Thirdly, it was found that our oxygen-bridged [15]annulenenone (1) can form a cycle, which is reminiscent of a real biological cycle of bacteriorhodopsin of *Halobacterium halobium* [reviewed by D. Oestelhelt, *Angew. Chem.*, **88**, 16 (1976)] and reaction cycle of cytochrome b [see, G.V. Jagow and W.D. Engel, *FEBS Letters*, **111**, 1 (1980)], both of which were contrasted with the reaction scheme of our [15]annulenenone cycle.

