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## PREPARATION AND ELECTROCHEMICAL AND OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF TETRAKIS(DITHIASELENOLO)PHTHALOCYANINE

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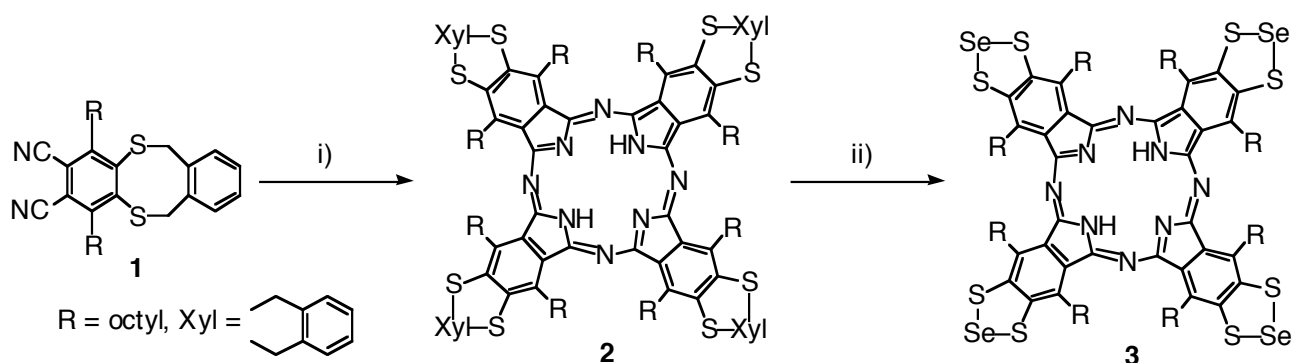
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*This paper is dedicated to the memory of Dr. John Daly.*

**Abstract** – Four *o*-xylylene groups of phthalocyanine (**2**) were removed by Birch reduction and the generated octathiolate anions were then reacted with Se to give tetrakis(dithiaselenolo)phthalocyanine (**3**). The dication generated from **3** in CHCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA was determined with UV-vis and NMR spectroscopy.

Phthalocyanines have attracted much attention for their actual and/or potential applications in a variety of fields.<sup>1,2</sup> New types of phthalocyanines have been sought after for developing functional materials, which has stimulated study of the compounds and related areas. One method for the derivation of phthalocyanines is to introduce heteroatoms at the peripheral positions as substituents or in its fused ring systems.<sup>3-5</sup> We recently reported the preparation of tetrakis(trithiolo)phthalocyanine (**PcTTT**) by treatment of tetrakis(*o*-xylylenedithio)phthalocyanine (**2**) with Li/THF/NH<sub>3</sub> and then with S<sub>8</sub>.<sup>5</sup> **PcTTT** could be protonated with TFA to generate a charged species, which was determined by UV-vis and NMR spectroscopy. If Se atoms could be substituted on the five-membered rings of **PcTTT**, it would be possible to obtain information regarding the electronic state of the dithiaselenole rings by using the NMR technique. This paper reports the preparation and structure determination of tetrakis(dithiaselenolo)-phthalocyanine (**3**). In addition, the cationic species, generated by treatment of **3** with TFA in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, was examined with UV-vis and NMR spectroscopy.

Phthalocyanine (**2**) was prepared from phthalonitrile (**1**) by the method previously reported (Scheme 1).<sup>5a</sup> The S-C bond of the xylylenedithio groups of **2** could be cleaved by Birch reduction,<sup>4-6</sup> and the generated thiolate anions were functionalized by treatment with Se.



Scheme 1. i) Li/*n*-pentanol, 120 °C, 2 h (22%); ii) Li/THF/NH<sub>3</sub>, -70 °C, Se/THF/MeOH, rt (27%).

Compound (2) was treated with Li in THF and NH<sub>3</sub> at -70 °C under Ar for 1 h. After evaporation of NH<sub>3</sub> under a nitrogen gas stream, deaerated MeOH was added to the reddish-brown solid. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and Se were added and the solution was stirred for 5 h at rt. The reaction mixture was then treated with NaBH<sub>4</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and the solution was stirred for 15 h. After workup and purification, phthalocyanine (3) was obtained in 27% yield as a dark-brown powder. The product was stable in air and the solubility in CHCl<sub>3</sub> was high. The Q band absorption of 3 in the UV-vis spectrum was observed at  $\lambda_{\max} = 777$  nm,  $\log \epsilon = 5.26$  (Figure 1a), which is a lower energy region than that of **PcTTT** ( $\lambda_{\max} = 769$  nm). In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum, it was possible to confirm the disappearance of the signal of the xylylene groups. <sup>77</sup>Se NMR showed a signal at  $\delta = 709.4$  ppm, which is a chemical shift similar to that of benzodithiaselenole.<sup>7</sup> Compound (3) was finally measured by MALDI-TOF-MS and the molecular ion peak was observed at 1979.264 [MH<sup>+</sup>]. These results suggest that the dithiaselenole rings are constructed on the phthalocyanine skeleton.

To generate a charged species, 3 was treated with CHCl<sub>3</sub> containing 5 vol% of TFA, and the UV-vis spectrum was measured in the solvent (Figure 1a).<sup>8,9</sup> In the spectrum, the Q-band absorption of 3 was observed at  $\lambda_{\max} = 925$  nm, suggesting that the cationic species of 3 was generated by protonation of the nitrogen atoms and the positive charge strongly affects the  $\pi$ -electronic system of phthalocyanine. The Q-band absorption of 3 is longer in wavelength in the solvent than is that of **PcTTT** by about 10 nm.

<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C, and <sup>77</sup>Se NMR spectra of 3 were then measured using CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA-*d* (5 vol%) as the solvent.<sup>9</sup> When the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 3 was measured in the solvent, the signals of the methylene groups connected to phthalocyanine and of the next methylene groups were observed as two split signals ( $\delta = 1.58$ –1.71 and 1.71–1.86, and 3.43–3.56 and 4.19–4.32), and appeared at a higher magnetic field than was the spectrum measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (Figure 2-i and ii). The other signals of the octyl group were observed at a lower field. The splitting of the methylene signal could be caused by the hindered

rotation of the octyl group due to steric congestion with the dithiaselenole rings or by the conformation change of phthalocyanine from a planar form to a non-planar saddle conformation.<sup>10</sup>

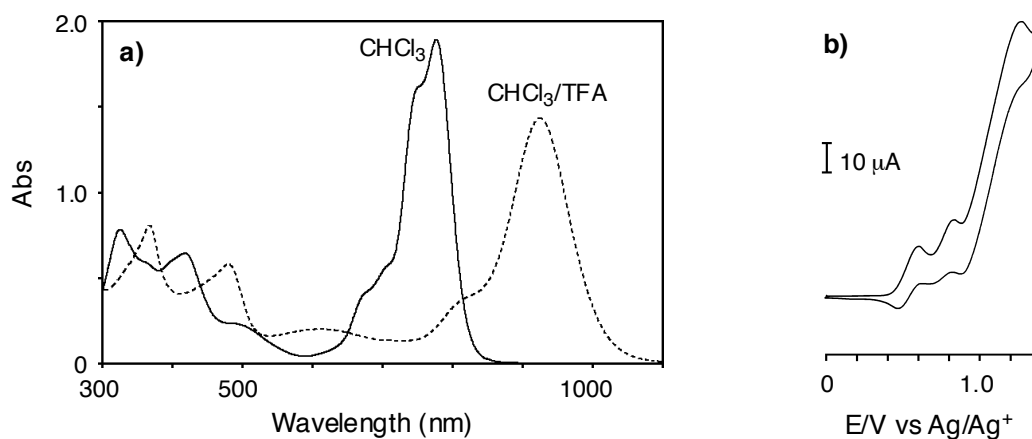


Figure 1 a) UV-vis spectra of **3** ( $c = 2.61 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) and b) cyclic voltammogram of **3**.

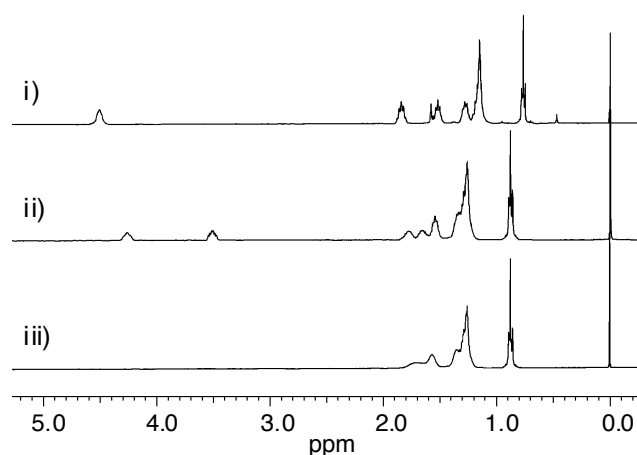


Figure 2 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **3** measured in i) CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ii) CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA-*d*, iii) CDCl<sub>3</sub>/TFA-*d* after 15 h.

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum showed the four signals for the aromatic carbon at  $\delta = 126.0, 138.0, 143.9,$  and  $152.2$ , demonstrating that **3** had a completely symmetric structure and the macrocycle is deuterated with TFA-*d* on the inner pyrrolic nitrogen atoms.<sup>5b</sup> It was reported that one or two signals for the pyrrole carbons of free base phthalocyanine could not be observed in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum at around rt due to the effect of proton alternation between the four central nitrogen atoms.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, the species generated in the solution should be the dication of **3** with deuteration on the two pyrrolic nitrogen atoms. The signal of the <sup>77</sup>Se atoms was observed at  $\delta = 707.2$  ppm and the chemical shift is similar to that of **3** measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. This result suggests that the dithiaselenole rings may not be strongly affected by the protonation of phthalocyanine.

In contrast, in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum, the signal of the methylene groups slowly became broad and the two split signals changed to two broad signals after 15 h (Figure 2-iii). The signal of  $^{77}\text{Se}$  atoms, observed initially, disappeared in the NMR spectrum, which could have been caused by the broadening of this signal. In the case of **PcTTT**, no change of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum was observed. To identify the compound in the solution, the solvent was evaporated and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of the residue was measured in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ . In the spectrum, the signal of **3** could be observed together with one decomposed product in a 7:1 integral ratio. After purification, the structure of the new product could be identified as 2,5-dioctyl-3,4-dithiaselenolophthalimide (**4**). It seems that **3** is gradually hydrolyzed in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{TFA-}d$ . Since **4** was not the major product, it is thought that the changes of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  NMR spectra occurred by the partial deuteration of the four outer nitrogen atoms of phthalocyanine and the rate of the deuterium exchange was similar to the NMR time scale.

The electrochemical property of **3** was determined by cyclic voltammetry using  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgNO}_3$  as a reference electrode (Figure 1b). Compound (**3**) shows three quasi-reversible oxidation couples ( $E_{1/2} = 0.54$ ,  $0.77$ , and  $1.10$  V) and one irreversible reduction potential ( $E_p = -1.14$  V). In contrast, **PcTTT** showed two reversible oxidation potentials ( $E_{1/2} = 0.56$  and  $0.82$  V) and one quasi-reversible reduction potential ( $E_{1/2} = -0.96$  V).<sup>5a</sup> It is expected that the first and second oxidation potentials originate from the oxidation of phthalocyanine and the last one is caused by the oxidation of the four dithiaselenole rings. It appeared that the first and second oxidation potentials of **3** are slightly lower than are those of **PcTTT**, suggesting that the difference of oxidation potential between **3** and **PcTTT** might determine the protonation of the outer nitrogen atoms of **3** in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{TFA-}d$ .

## EXPERIMENTAL

### General

NMR spectra were measured with a Bruker AC-400 spectrometer. Mass spectra were obtained using a JEOL JMS-700 mass spectrometer and a PerSeptive Biosystems Voyager RP-DE mass spectrometer. UV-vis spectra were recorded with a JASCO Ubest V-570 spectrometer. A Hokuto Denko Co. Model HAB-151 apparatus was applied to measurements of redox potentials. Bio-beads (SX-1) for column chromatography was purchased from Nippon Bio-Rad Laboratories.

### Oxidation potential

All measurements were performed by cyclic voltammetry, using  $\text{Ag}/\text{AgNO}_3$  (0.01 mol/l) as a reference electrode (scan rate: 200 mV/s). A solution of  $n\text{-Bu}_4\text{NClO}_4$  in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (0.1 mol/l) was used as an electrolyte. The oxidation potential of ferrocene was observed at  $E_{1/2} = 0.09$  V by the apparatus without any correction.

**Tetrakis(*o*-xylylenedithio)phthalocyanine (2).**

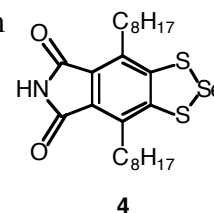
Compound (2) was prepared using a method described previously.<sup>5a</sup>

**Deprotection of 2 and Cyclization of Lithium Octathiolate with Se**

Compound (2) (110.4 mg, 0.53 mmol) and Li (38 mg, 5.5 mmol) were placed in a glass reactor. THF (4 mL) was added under Ar, and the solution was cooled to  $-78\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .  $\text{NH}_3$  (30 mL) was introduced into the reactor and was condensed. The solution was stirred for 1 h at this temperature, and gradually warmed to rt.  $\text{NH}_3$  gas was evaporated under the  $\text{N}_2$  gas stream. After evaporation of  $\text{NH}_3$  was over, deaerated MeOH was added to the reddish-brown solid and  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  and Se were added to the solution and the solution was stirred for 5 h at rt. The reaction mixture was then treated with  $\text{NaBH}_4$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{CO}_3$  and the solution was stirred for 15 h. After workup and purification with column chromatography (Wakogel C-300HG, *n*-hexane and Bio-beads SX-1,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), phthalocyanine (3) was obtained in 27% yield (28.2 mg); 3: dark-brown powder; mp  $300\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  >;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 0.76$  (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 24H), 1.03–1.31 (m, 64H), 1.51 (quint,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 16H), 1.83 (quint,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, 16H), 4.49 (br, 16H);  $^{77}\text{Se}$  NMR (76 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 709.4$ ; MALDI-TOF-MS ( $m/z$ ) 1979.264 ( $\text{MH}^+$ ). The protons on the nitrogen atoms of the pyrrole rings could not be observed in the spectra under the measurement condition.

**NMR Spectra Measured in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{TFA-}d$** 

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ , and  $^{77}\text{Se}$  NMR spectra of 3 were measured in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{TFA-}d$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz)  $\delta = 0.87$  (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 24H), 1.15–1.40 (m, 64H), 1.47–1.58 (m, 16H), 1.58–1.71 (m, 8H), 1.71–1.86 (m, 8H), 3.43–3.56 (m, 8H), 4.19–4.32 (m, 8H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz)  $\delta = 14.0, 22.7, 29.2(9), 29.3(4), 29.5, 30.0, 31.9, 34.0, 126.0, 138.0, 143.9, 152.2$ ;  $^{77}\text{Se}$  NMR (76 MHz)  $\delta = 707.2$ . After the NMR measurement in  $\text{CDCl}_3/\text{TFA-}d$ , the solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by column chromatography to produce 3 and 4; 4:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta = 0.88$  (t,  $J = 6.9$  Hz, 6H), 1.20–1.65 (m, 24H), 3.15 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 4H), 7.41 (br, 1H); HRFAB Calcd for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{35}\text{NO}_2\text{S}_2\text{Se}$ , 513.1275. Found, ( $m/z$ ) 513.1290 ( $\text{M}^+$ ).

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