

# **S1: NMR and MS spectra of the corresponding complexes**

## **Supporting Information**

**for**

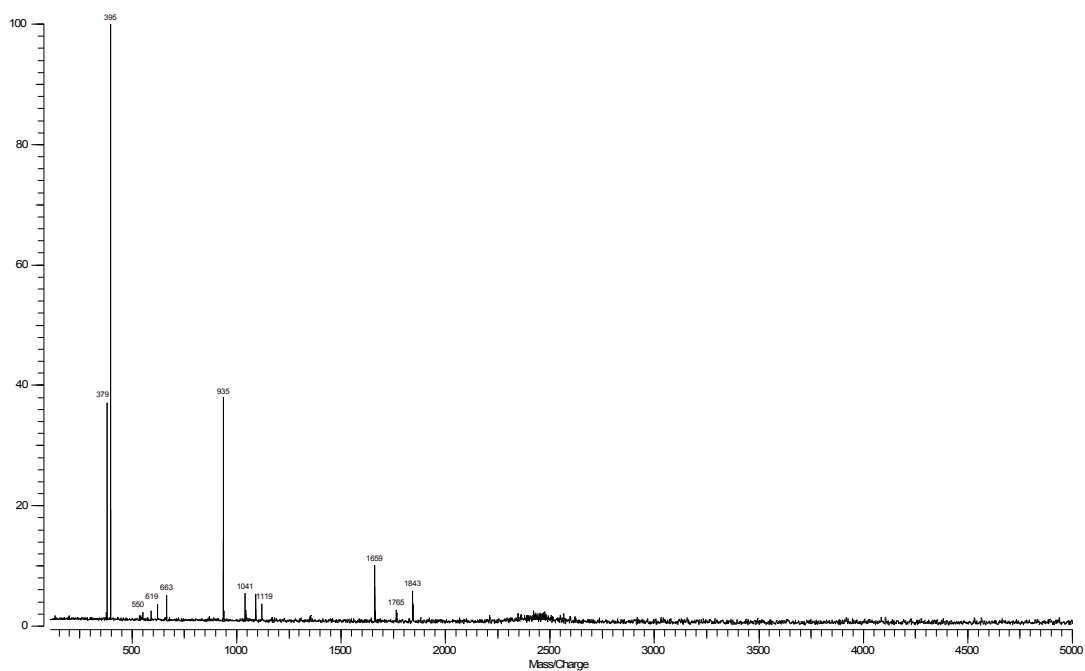
### **Templated versus non-templated synthesis of benzo-21-crown-7 and the influence of substituents on its complexing properties**

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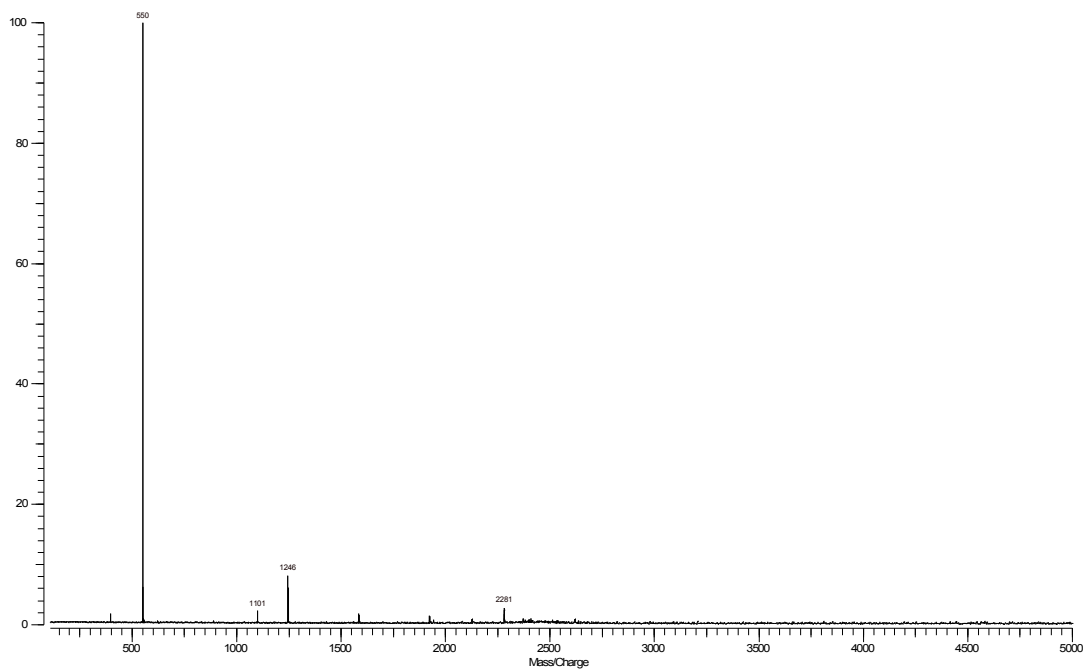
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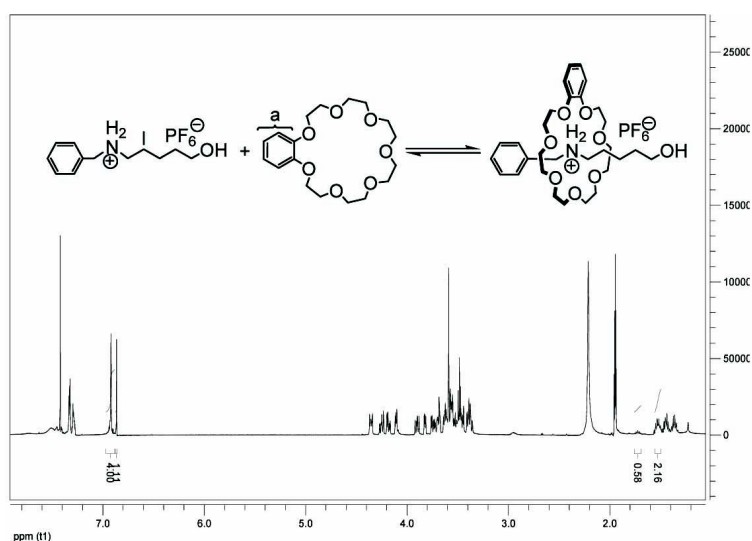


**Figure S1:** ESI-FTICR Mass spectrum of ( $C7+KPF_6$ ) sprayed from DCM. The peaks at  $m/z$  379, 395, and 935 are assigned to  $[C7+Na]^+$ ,  $[C7+K]^+$ , and  $[2C7+K+KPF_6]^+$ , respectively. Since we didn't deliberately add  $KPF_6$  into this solution,  $KPF_6$  should be from the template used in the reaction which could not be removed after extraction and column chromatography. This result is in agreement with NMR results.

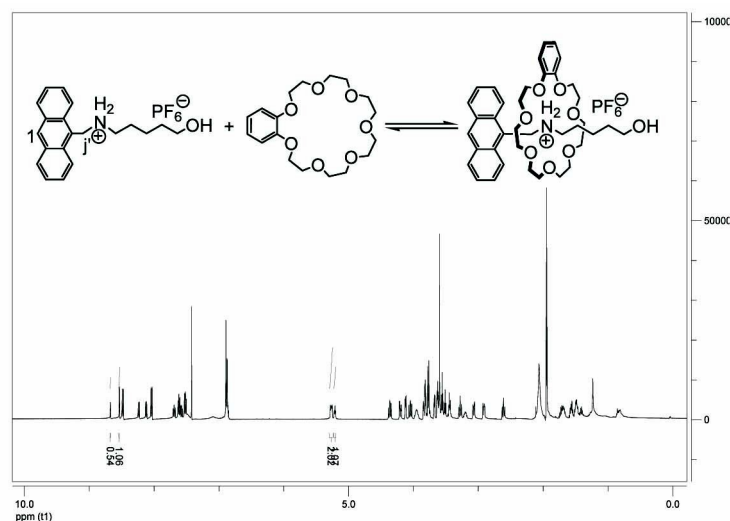


**Figure S2:** ESI-FTICR Mass spectrum of ( $C7+KPF_6$ ) in the presence of  $6-H \cdot PF_6$ . The peak at  $m/z$  550 is assigned to  $[6-H@C7]^+$ . The only intense peak suggests that  $C7$  is the dominant organic compound in ( $C7+KPF_6$ ) and  $6-H \cdot PF_6$  fits better to  $C7$  than  $KPF_6$ .

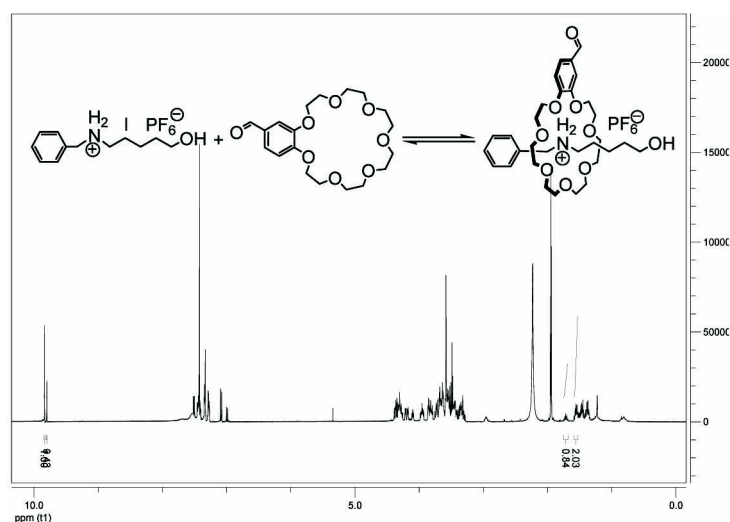
**The association constants which were calculated by single-point method:**



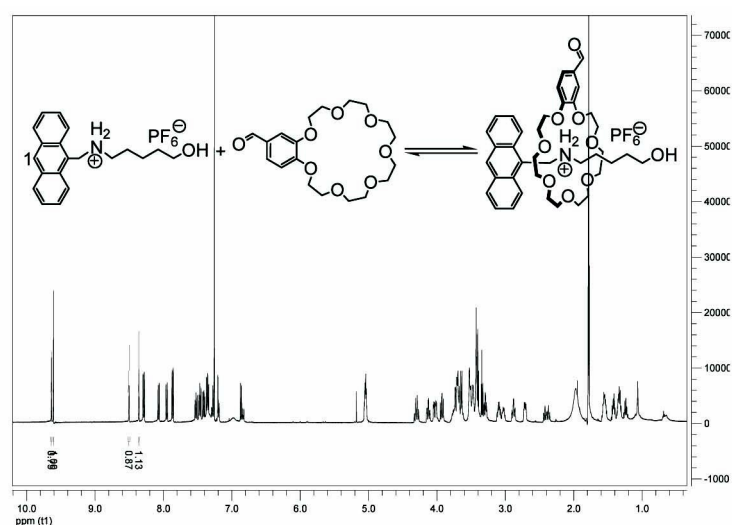
**Figure S3:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 1.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of  $6\text{-H}\cdot\text{PF}_6$  and **C7**. From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_a$  of **C7**,  $K_a(\text{H}_a) = [(4.00/5.11) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(1.11/5.11) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 16590 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ; From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_i$  of  $6\text{-H}\cdot\text{PF}_6$ ,  $K_a(\text{H}_i) = [(2.16/2.74) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.58/2.74) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 17590 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . Finally,  $K_a = (16590+17590)/2 = 17090 (\pm 500) \text{ M}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S4:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 1.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of  $7\text{-H}\cdot\text{PF}_6$  and **C7**. From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_i$  of  $7\text{-H}\cdot\text{PF}_6$ ,  $K_a(\text{H}_i) = [(1.06/1.60) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.54/1.60) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 5820 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ; From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_j$  of  $7\text{-H}\cdot\text{PF}_6$ ,  $K_a(\text{H}_j) = [(2.02/3.09) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(1.07/3.09) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 5450 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . Finally,  $K_a = (5820+5450)/2 = 5640 (\pm 190) \text{ M}^{-1}$ .

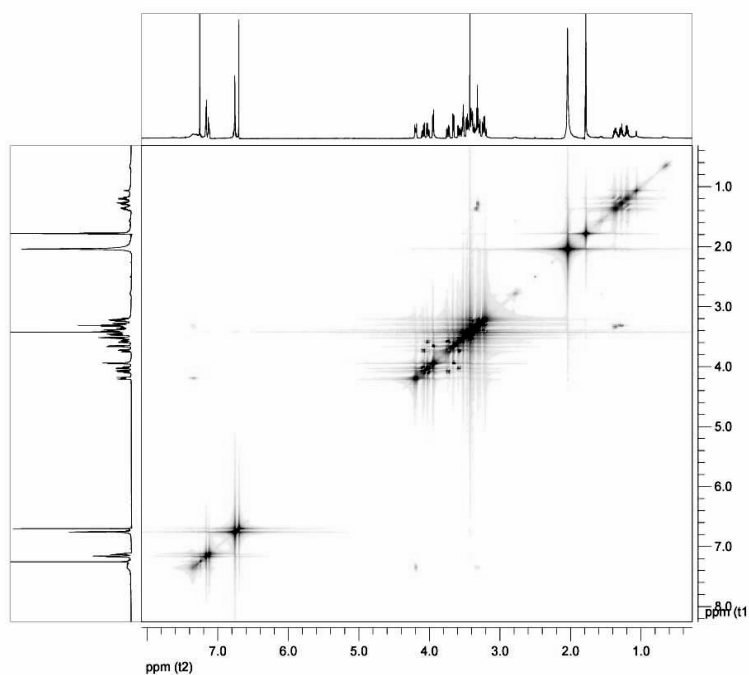


**Figure S5:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 1.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **6**-H· $\text{PF}_6$  and **4**. From complexed and uncomplexed CHO of **4**,  $K_a(\text{CHO}) = [(1.00/1.43) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.43/1.43) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 7730 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ; From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_1$  of **6**-H· $\text{PF}_6$ ,  $K_a(\text{H}_1) = [(2.03/2.87) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.84/2.87) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 8260 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . Finally,  $K_a = (7730+8260)/2 = 8000 (\pm 270) \text{ M}^{-1}$ .

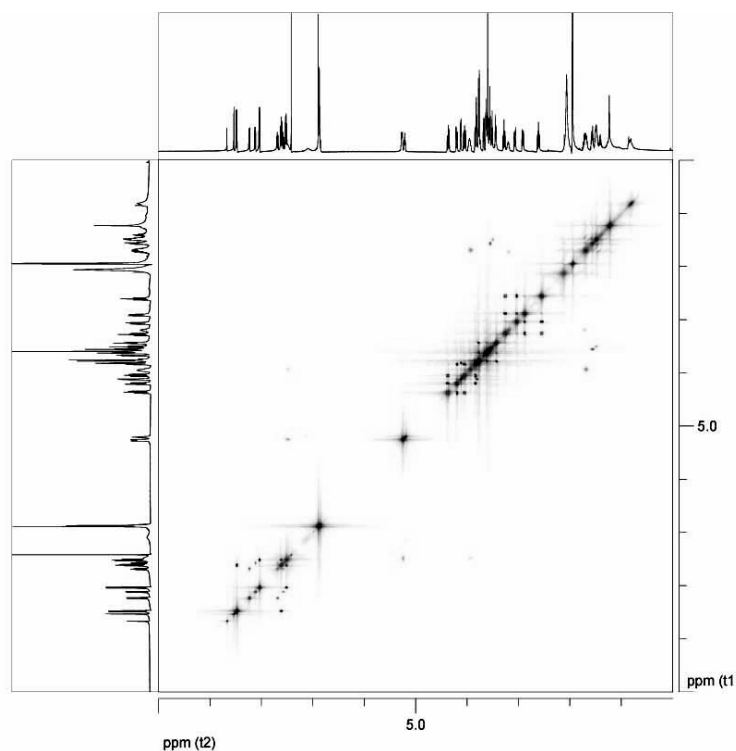


**Figure S6:**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 1.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **7**-H· $\text{PF}_6$  and **4**. From complexed and uncomplexed CHO of **4**,  $K_a(\text{CHO}) = [(1.00/1.75) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.75/1.75) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 3110 \text{ M}^{-1}$ ; From complexed and uncomplexed  $\text{H}_1$  of **7**-H· $\text{PF}_6$ ,  $K_a(\text{H}_1) = [(1.13/2.00) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}] / [(0.87/2.00) \times 1.0 \times 10^{-3}]^2 \text{ M}^{-1} = 2990 \text{ M}^{-1}$ . Finally,  $K_a = (3110+2990)/2 = 3050 (\pm 60) \text{ M}^{-1}$ .

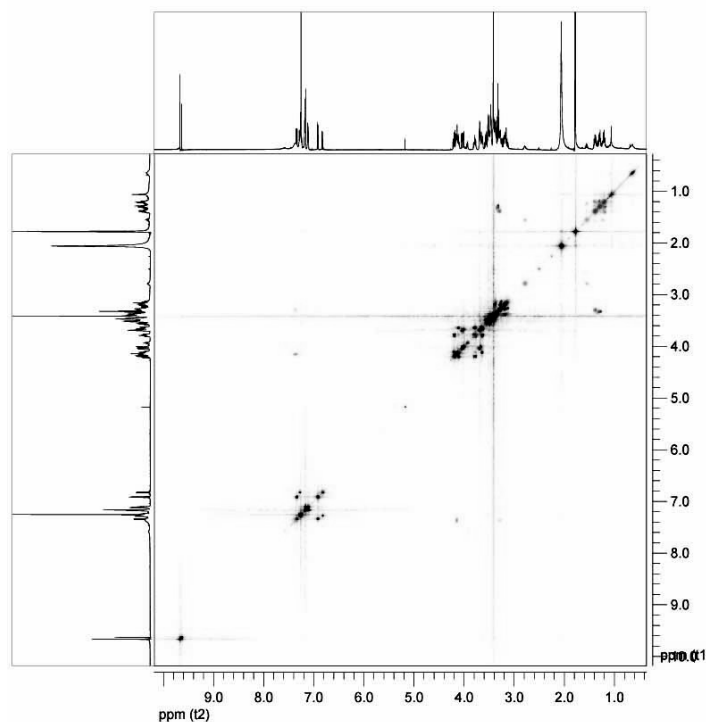
### $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ COSY Spectra:



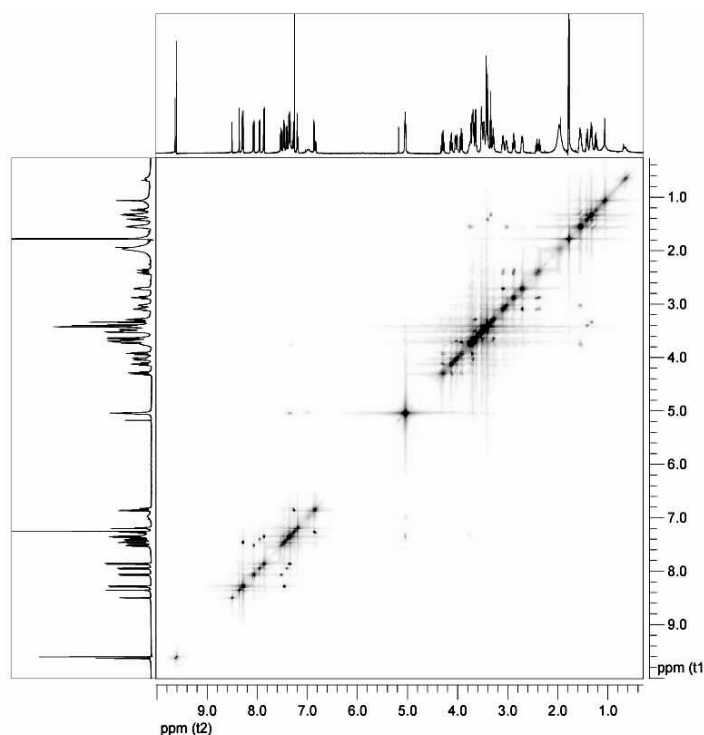
**Figure S7:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 10.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **6-H**· $\text{PF}_6$  and **C7**. The COSY spectrum supports the assignments of the peaks in Figure 5b.



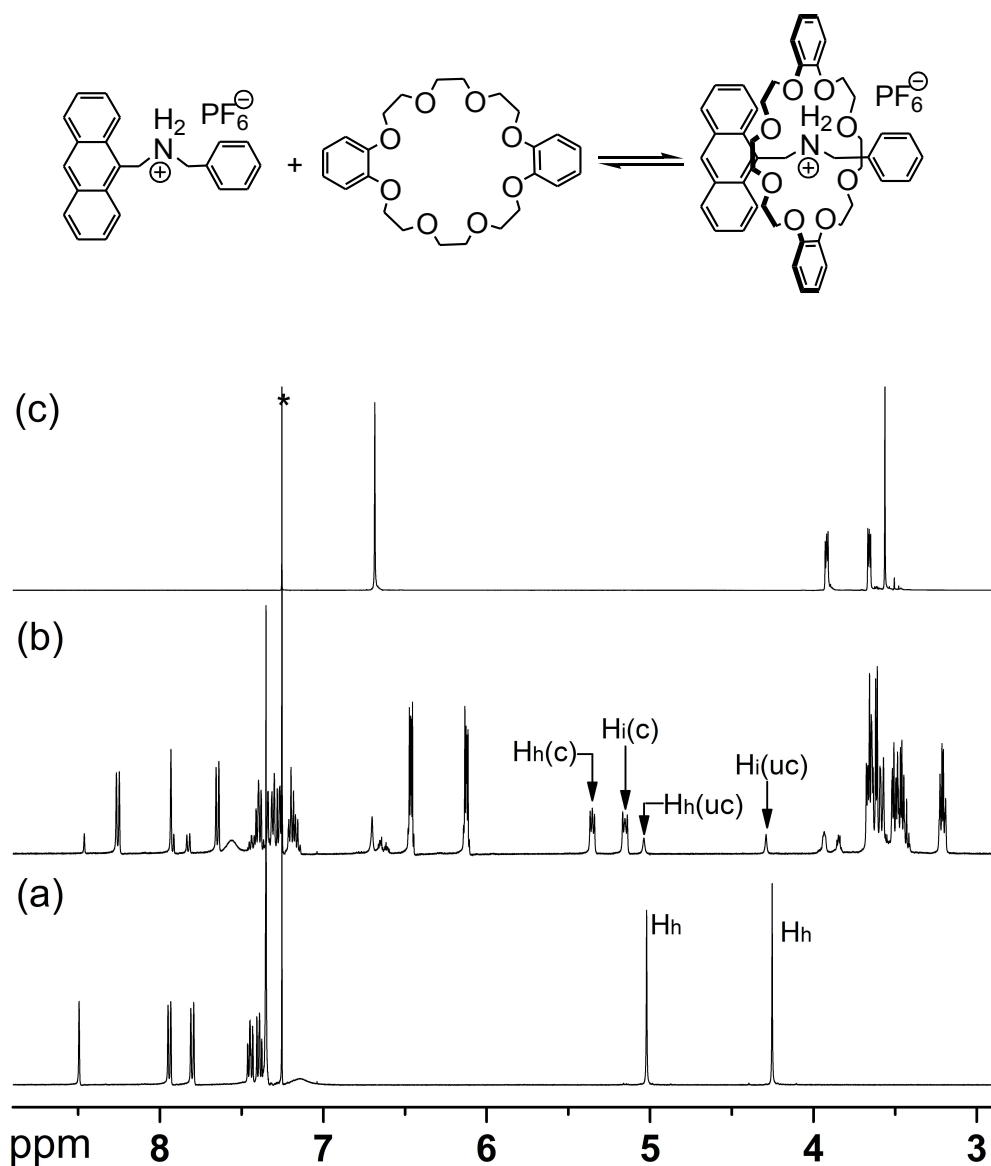
**Figure S8:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 10.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **7-H**· $\text{PF}_6$  and **C7**. The COSY spectrum supports the assignments of the peaks in Figure 5e.



**Figure S9:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 10.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **6-H**· $\text{PF}_6$  and **4**. The COSY spectrum supports the assignments of the peaks in Figure 5c.



**Figure S10:**  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum (500 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3:\text{CD}_3\text{CN} = 2:1$ , 10.0 mM) of the equimolar mixture of **7-H**· $\text{PF}_6$  and **4**. The COSY spectrum supports the assignments of the peaks in Figure 5d.



**Figure S11:** Top: complexation of **5-H**·PF<sub>6</sub> and DB24C8; Bottom: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (500 MHz, 298 K, CDCl<sub>3</sub>:CD<sub>3</sub>CN = 2:1, 10.0 mM) of (a) **5-H**·PF<sub>6</sub>, (c) DB24C8, and (b) the equimolar mixture of **5-H**·PF<sub>6</sub> and DB24C8. Asterisk = residual solvent. The descriptors “c” and “uc” in the parentheses denote signals arising from protons that are complexed and uncomplexed, respectively. After complexation with DB24C8, H<sub>h</sub> and H<sub>i</sub> of **5-H**·PF<sub>6</sub> are shifted by +0.90 and +0.34 ppm, respectively, indicating DB24C8 is flexible enough to complex H<sub>h</sub> and experiences no obvious hindrance from anthracene of **5-H**·PF<sub>6</sub>.