

# Synthesis and Reactivity of a Bis-Strained Alkyne Derived from 1,1'-Biphenyl-2,2',6,6'-tetrol

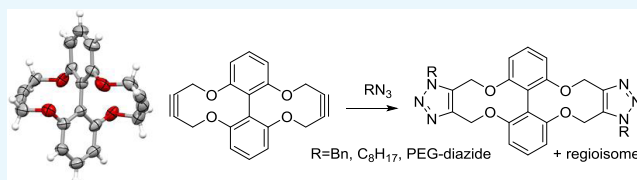
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## S Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** The novel “double strained alkyne” **3** has been prepared and evaluated in strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition reactions with azides. The X-ray crystallographic structure of **3**, which was prepared in one step from 1,1'-biphenyl-2,2',6,6'-tetrol **4**, reveals the strained nature of the alkynes. Dialkyne **3** undergoes cycloaddition reactions with a number of azides, giving mixtures of regioisomeric products in excellent yields. The monoaddition products were not observed or isolated from the reactions, suggesting that the second cycloaddition proceeds at a faster rate than the first, and this is supported by molecular modeling studies. Dialkyne **3** was successfully employed for “peptide stapling” of a p53-based diazido peptide, whereby two azides are bridged to give a product with a stabilized conformation.



been reported, and the alkyne/alkene derivative has been used in a cycloaddition with an azide.<sup>5</sup> Dialkyne **1** has also been applied to the macrocyclization of bis-azide functionalized peptides (“peptide stapling”) by Spring et al.<sup>7</sup> It has also been applied to the control of the tetramerization of HIV-related peptides.<sup>8</sup>

In a recent research, we<sup>9a,b</sup> and others<sup>9c</sup> reported the synthesis and applications to azide cycloadditions of the strained alkyne **2** and its derivatives, which can be prepared in a short sequence from readily available starting materials. We also demonstrated that its NHS-ester derivative could be successfully attached to a protein and subsequently “clicked” with an azide.<sup>9</sup> Inspired by dialkyne **1** and its applications, we identified the corresponding biphenol-derived dialkyne **3** for synthesis and investigation as a dual click reagent (Figure 2).

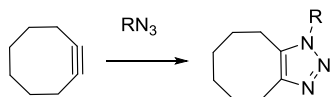
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The envisaged strategy of synthesizing the target bis-strained alkyne **3**, a modification of the previously reported monoalkynes,<sup>9</sup> required the prior synthesis of the previously reported tetrahydroxy biphenyl precursor **4** (Scheme 2).<sup>10</sup> 1,3-Dimethoxybenzene was reacted with 1,3-dimethoxy-2-iodobenzene under Cu(I) catalysis in ethereal pyridine, giving 2,2',6,6'-tetramethoxy-1,1'-biphenyl **5** in high yield (93%). The methyl-protecting groups were cleaved using BBr<sub>3</sub> in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to obtain 1,1'-biphenyl-2,2',6,6'-tetrol **4** in multigram quantities (55%). The bis-macrocyclization of the tetrol **4** was accomplished using ditosylate **6** in anhydrous MeCN using

## INTRODUCTION

Strained alkynes, i.e., alkynes distorted from the ideal linear geometry, undergo cycloaddition reactions with azides without the requirement for a copper catalyst (Scheme 1), in processes

Scheme 1. Cycloaddition of a Strained Alkyne with an Azide



commonly referred to as strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition or “click” reactions.<sup>1</sup> As such, their reactions are clean and require minimal processing during a workup. Moreover, due to their bioorthogonal nature, strained alkynes have established themselves as valuable reagents for bioconjugation reactions,<sup>2</sup> for example, the attachment of fluorescent groups to proteins to track the protein’s movement during biological processes. Important examples of strained alkynes that have become commercially available are shown in Figure 1.<sup>3</sup>

Reagents that contain two strained alkynes offer the potential to link together two azide-containing functional groups or to bridge two azides in a single molecule, which offers the potential, for example, to stabilize the conformation of a flexible molecule such as a peptide. A good example of this is the Sondheimer dialkyne **1**, which contains two highly strained alkynes bridged by aromatic rings.<sup>4,5</sup> Although **1** was first reported in 1974, it was not applied to a bioconjugation application until 2010 when Kii et al. employed it to bridge between a protein-localized halotag-azide and a fluorescent azide, resulting in successful fluorescent labeling of a protein.<sup>6</sup> The reactions of **1** with diazo compounds and furans have

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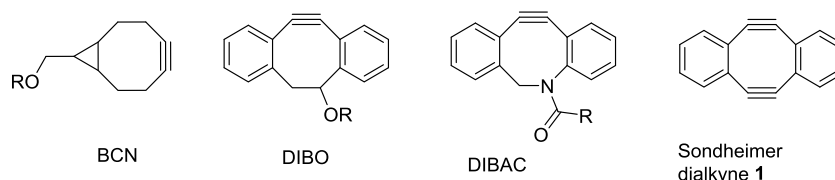


Figure 1. Well-established strained alkynes and dialkyne **1**.

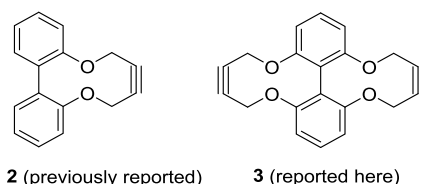
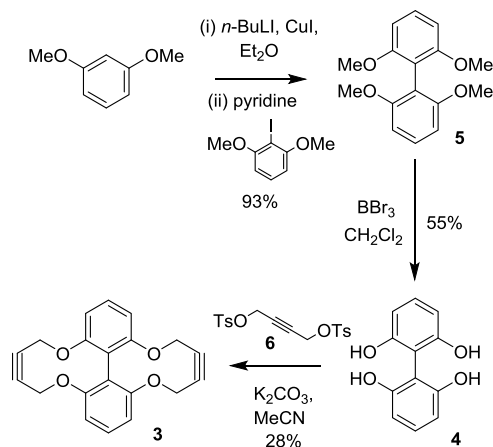


Figure 2. Known alkyne **2** and target bis-strained alkyne **3**.

### Scheme 2. Synthesis of Target Bis-Strained Alkyne **3**



$K_2CO_3$  under high-dilution conditions (ca. 14 mM) to furnish **3** in reasonable yield (28%) for the challenging cyclization reaction.<sup>9a</sup> It was found that changing the concentration or using a syringe pump to combine the reagents<sup>9c</sup> did not improve the yield.

Crystals of **3** were obtained, which were suitable for analysis by single-crystal X-ray diffraction (Figure 3; see the Supporting

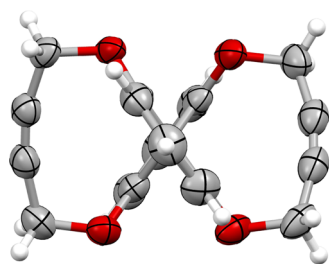


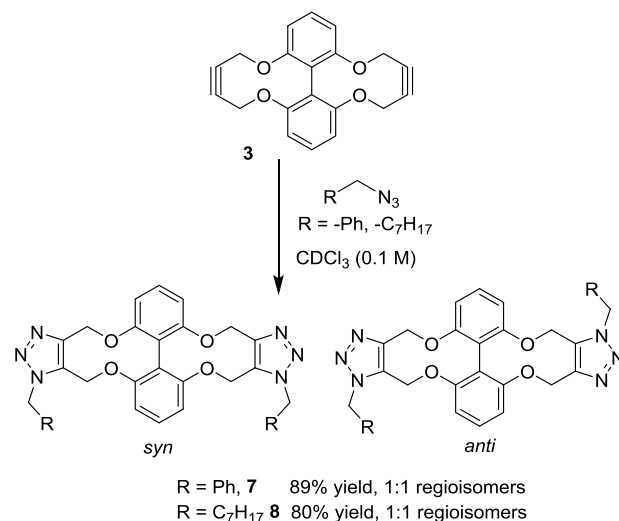
Figure 3. Single-crystal X-ray structure of bis-strained alkyne **3** (ellipsoids plotted at the 50% probability level).

Information for full details). The solution confirmed the bis-strained topology with a biphenyl (C5–C6–C7–C8) dihedral angle of  $69.8(3)^\circ$  and an average sp bond angle of  $165.3^\circ$ . The alkynyl moieties thus exhibit a similar degree of distortion compared with the analogous monocyclic alkynes that have been studied in the solid state (sp angles typically in the range

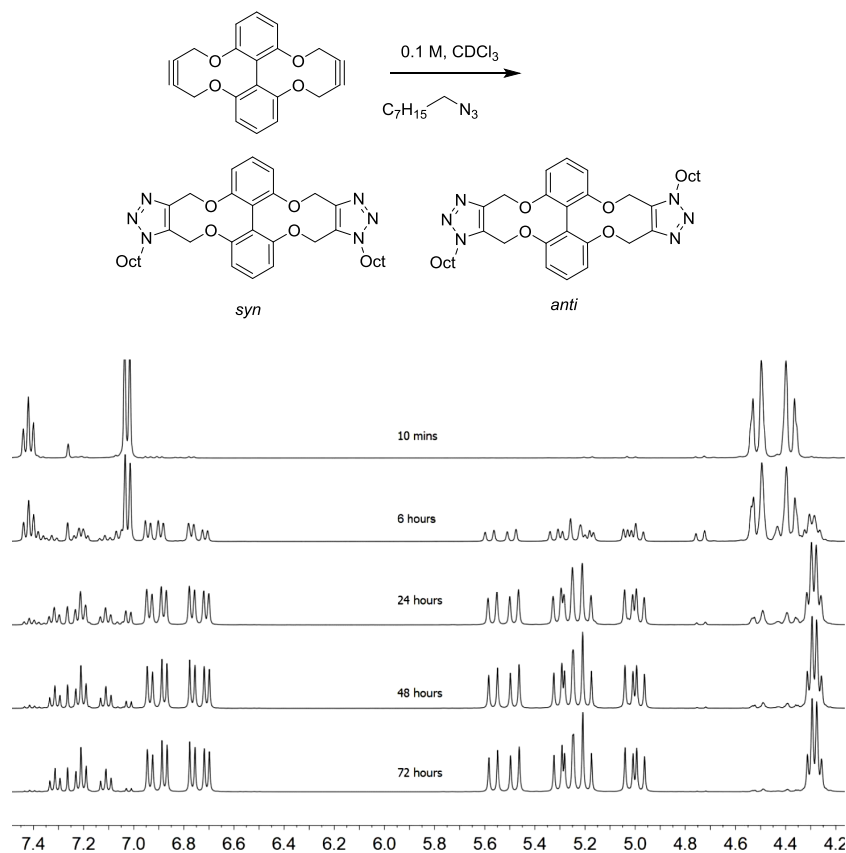
of  $163.0$ – $167.7^\circ$ ),<sup>9</sup> indicating that **1** would be expected to have a similar reactivity.

**Cycloaddition Reactions.** Following the synthesis and characterization of novel bis-strained alkyne **3**, cycloaddition reactions with  $RN_3$  ( $R = -CH_2Ph$ ,  $-C_7H_{17}$ ) were undertaken to assess the efficacy of triazole formation (Scheme 3). The

### Scheme 3. Synthesis of Bis-Triazoles **7** and **8**



reactions were conducted in  $CDCl_3$  (0.1 M, 298 K) and monitored by  $^1H$  NMR spectroscopy (Figure 4 illustrates the spectra for the addition of octyl azide to give **7**; details of assignments are given in the Supporting Information). Both cycloaddition reactions were found to proceed with greater than 90% conversion to the bis-addition products after 72 h ( $R = -CH_2Ph$ ; 93.2%,  $-C_7H_{17}$ ; 95.6%), comparing favorably with previously reported monoalkynes based on **2**. This indicates that although bis-alkyne **3** displays a degree of alkyne sp bond strain, in the solid state, similar to previously reported monoalkynes based on **2**, it exhibits enhanced reactivity. Unexpectedly, the bis-clicked products appeared to be formed directly, with only a transient observation of what might be the intermediate monoclick product (resonance ca  $\delta$  4.75 at ca. 6 and 24 h, Figure 4), suggesting that the first addition is the rate-determining step. A similar observation was made in studies on dialkyne **1**, speculated to be the result of increased steric hindrance effects.<sup>6</sup> Alternatively, an electronic effect caused by the oxygen atoms in the ring of the initial addition product could be influencing the reaction, making the level of strain higher in the monocyclization adduct relative to that in **3** and hence the rate of the second cycloaddition step higher than that of the first. Due to the nature of the double addition reaction, it was not possible to accurately measure the rates of each step of the cycloaddition; however, in terms of conversion over time, the apparent rate constant is similar to that measured for the monocyclic derivatives of **3**, i.e., in the order



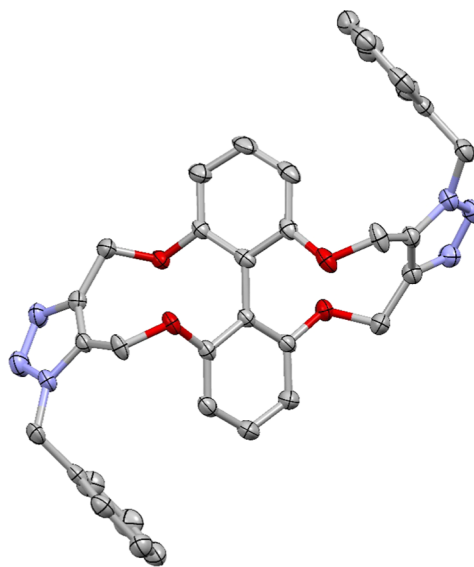
**Figure 4.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz, 298 K,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) azide-alkyne cycloaddition of **3** with 2.0 equiv of octyl azide. The doublet at ca.  $\delta$  4.75 may correspond to transient formation of the monoadduct.

of  $10^{-4} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Following chromatographic purification, compounds **7** and **8** were isolated in high yield ( $R = -\text{CH}_2\text{Ph}$ ; 89%, -octyl; 80%) as an inseparable 1:1 mix of *syn*- and *anti*-regioisomers (Scheme 3). Although inseparable, it was possible to assign the signals of many of the protons in each regioisomer (see the Supporting Information).

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **7** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  only indicated formation of the *syn* isomer due to the low solubility of *anti*-**7**. The solubility of both isomers in  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$  confirms the expected 1:1 mix of regioisomers. See the Supporting Information for full details. Single crystals of compound *anti*-**7** were obtained, which were analyzed by X-ray diffraction, and the structure confirmed that the compound preferentially crystallized exclusively as the *anti*-isomer but as a racemic mixture of enantiomers (Figure 5; see the Supporting Information for full detail). The solution of **7** exhibits a significant diminution of biphenyl torsion compared with the parent bis-alkyne **3** ( $[\text{C}5-\text{C}6-\text{C}7-\text{C}8]$ : **7**;  $60.6^\circ$ , **3**;  $110.2^\circ$  for the comparable angle), reflecting the less strained topology granted by the formed  $\text{sp}^2$  triazole.

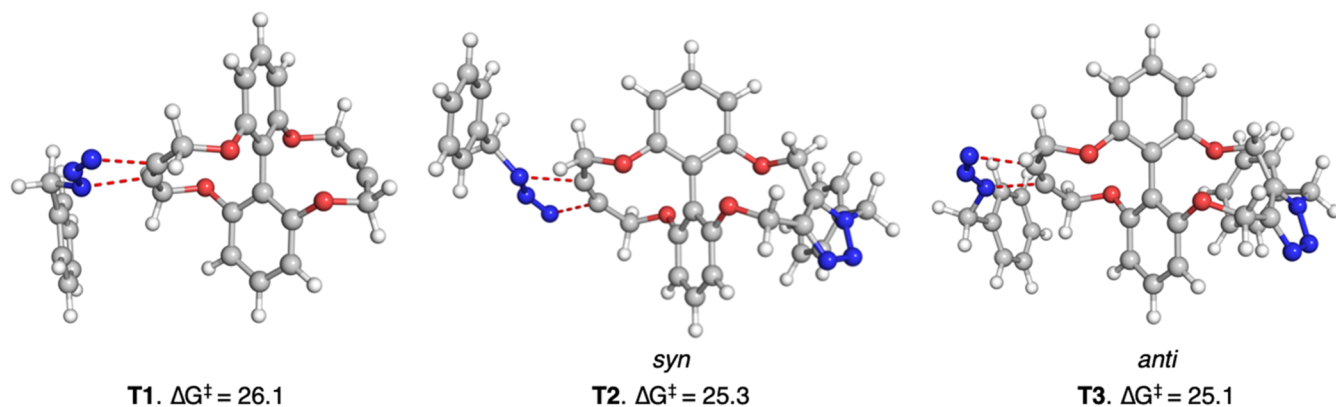
In addition, we investigated the cycloaddition reaction of a PEG-1000 diazide with **3**, with the potential for formation of an addition polymer. Due to the large molecular mass of the PEG-1000, this was carried out with higher dilution than for the small molecule azides. However, a successful double-click reaction was observed, and the product was characterized by gel permeation chromatography (GPC), with full details given in the Supporting Information.

**Computational Studies of the Cycloaddition.** To understand the kinetics of the cycloaddition more clearly,

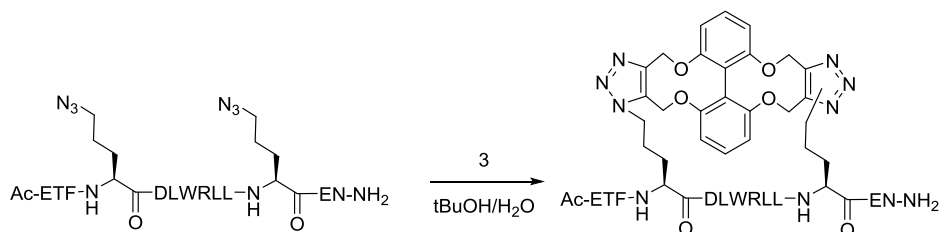


**Figure 5.** Single-crystal X-ray structure of *anti*-**7** (ellipsoids plotted at the 50% probability level, H-atoms and solvate omitted for clarity).

some molecular modeling studies were carried out using Gaussian 09<sup>14</sup> with the B3LYP density functional and the 6-31G(d) basis set within the CPCM model at standard conditions (see the Supporting Information for full computational details).<sup>11,6</sup> The first cycloaddition, leading to the formation of the monotriazole intermediate **9**, was found to be the rate-determining step as the results indicated that the second cycloaddition reaction, to both the *syn* and *anti*



**Figure 6.** Transition-state structures and activation free energies in kcal/mol for first (T1) and second cycloaddition (T2 for *syn*-regioisomer, T3 for *anti*-regioisomer) of dialkyne **3** with benzyl azide in methanol.



**Figure 7.** Peptide stapling of Ac-ETFOm(N<sub>3</sub>)DLWRLLOm(N<sub>3</sub>)EN-NH<sub>2</sub> using **3**. The regiochemistry of the product has not been unambiguously established.

products, required a lower energy barrier than the first by 0.8–1.0 kcal/mol (Figure 6; full details are given in the Supporting Information). These results mirror the experimental observations and also those reported previously for dialkyne **1**, for which a specific steric interaction was suggested to be responsible.<sup>6</sup> It is likely that a similar phenomenon is operating here, with the extra steric demands of the newly generated triazole creating additional strain energy at the remaining alkyne. This is supported by the molecular modeling studies; the alkyne bond angle for the biphenyl diyne was calculated to be 164.6° (which correlates well with the average of 165.3° measured in the solid state), whereas the angles for the monotriazole intermediate were 162.4 and 162.5°, respectively.

**Peptide Stapling Studies.** Given the promising results described above, some investigations were carried out into the use of **3** as a reagent for peptide stapling, a process in which a flexible linear peptide can be “fixed” into a much more stable conformation by linking two groups in the chain (Figure 7).<sup>7,12</sup> A <sup>(17–29)</sup>p53 peptide (Ac-ETFOm(N<sub>3</sub>)DLWRLLOm(N<sub>3</sub>)EN-NH<sub>2</sub>) was studied. Purified peptide and bis-alkyne **3** (1.1 equiv) were combined in <sup>t</sup>BuOH/H<sub>2</sub>O. The resulting solution ([peptide] = ca. 0.6 mM) was stirred at room temperature for 72 h. After 24 h at room temperature, a small amount of stapling was observed by ESI-mass spectrometry (ESI-MS). The stapled peptide product (MW: 2075.28) coelutes with the LCMS peak of the starting material (MW: 1756.95) (Supporting Information). We attempted the reaction over 24 h at rt followed by 24 h at 37 °C, but the reaction did not reach completion. At 48 h, another 1.5 equiv of linker was added, while maintaining the reaction stirring at 37 °C. Maintaining the temperature at 37 °C gave better results; however, conversion to the stapled peptide was incomplete and some starting material was still observed after 72 h (full details are in the Supporting Information). These results indicate that

although **3** is less reactive than dialkyne **1**,<sup>6–8</sup> it has the potential to be used successfully as a “peptide stapling” reagent and will react even at the low concentrations required for this type of reaction. To confirm that both azides on the peptide had reacted, IR spectra were recorded; the disappearance of the azide stretch at 2097 cm<sup>-1</sup> was observed (Supporting Information). The increased reactivity of the second cycloaddition, coupled to its intramolecular nature, is likely to be facilitating the ring-closure process. It is likely that a mixture of *syn*- and *anti*-regioisomers was formed (see the Supporting information).

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have reported the synthesis of a novel bis-strained alkyne compound **3** in three steps from readily available commercial reagents. Dialkyne **3** was demonstrated to be capable of cycloaddition reactions with azides in high conversion (>90%) without the requirement for the use of a catalyst. The rate of the cycloadditions with **3** was significantly lower than with diyne **1**, for which double cycloadditions are reported to be complete within 1–4 h at rt<sup>6,7</sup> (the rate constant has been measured as  $(6.29 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-2} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in MeOH at 25 °C).<sup>6</sup> X-ray crystallographic studies of **3** and *anti*-**7** reveal the decrease in strain upon cycloaddition of azide, the main driving force for the reaction. Computational studies supported the experimental observation of a slower first cycloaddition, representing the rate-determining step. The new bis-strained alkyne **3** has been used in preliminary stapling experiments, demonstrating its potential applications to this application. Although again **3** is less reactive than diyne **1** in this application, an excess of dialkyne **3** was required, with warming, whereas an analogous peptide stapling reaction with 1.1 equiv of **1** was reported to be complete within 16 h at rt.<sup>7a</sup> However, reagent **3** also reacts without the need for a copper

catalyst and can therefore deliver clean products without the requirement to remove metal residues, which is the principle advantage of strained alkynes over unstrained ones. Furthermore, it can be prepared in one synthetic step from a readily available starting material. In situations where the highest reaction rates are not required, this potentially makes it a synthetically valuable alternative to **1**. Studies continue to define the scope of this reagent and to isolate and study the properties of the stapled peptide.

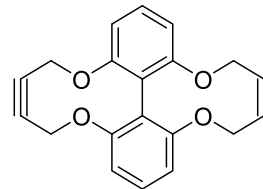
## EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Compounds **4** and **5** were prepared as previously described following the published methods and their spectra matched those reported.<sup>10</sup> General experimental details, conversion/time graphs and related spectra, and GPC details are given in the Supporting Information.

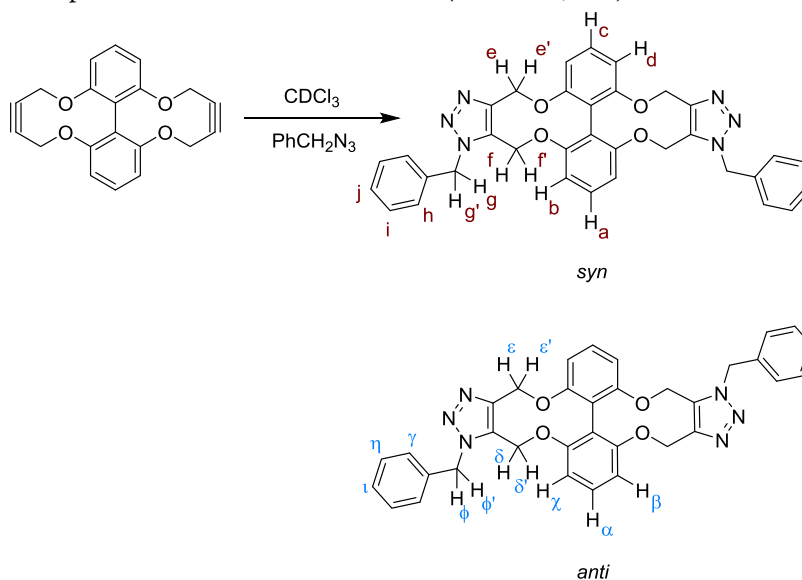
**General Experimental Details.** All solvents and reagents were degassed before use and all reactions were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. Reactions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography using aluminum-backed silica gel 60 (F254) plates, visualized using UV 254 nm and phosphomolybdic acid or potassium permanganate dips as appropriate. Flash column chromatography was carried out routinely on silica gel. Reagents were used as received from commercial sources unless otherwise stated. Copper(I) iodide was dried at 120 °C for 18 h under dynamic vacuum and stored under N<sub>2</sub>, protected from light. Dry solvents were purchased and used as received. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DPX (400 or 500 MHz) spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  units, parts per million relative to the singlet at 7.26 ppm for chloroform and 0.00 ppm for tetramethylsilane. Mass spectra were recorded on a Bruker Esquire2000 ESI or a Bruker MicroTOF mass spectrometer. Coupling constants (*J*) are measured in hertz. IR spectra were recorded on a

PerkinElmer Spectrum One FT-IR Golden Gate. Melting points were recorded on a Stuart Scientific SMP 1 instrument and are uncorrected.

### Synthesis of Bis-Alkyne **3**.



1,1'-Biphenyl-2,2',6,6'-tetrol (150 mg, 0.687 mmol) was added to but-2-ene ditosylate (568 mg, 1.44 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (474 mg, 3.43 mmol) in acetonitrile (50 mL, ca. 14 mM), and the mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 19 days. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, followed by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL), extraction with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (3 × 30 mL), and drying (MgSO<sub>4</sub>). Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure gave yellow oil, which was subsequently purified by silica gel column chromatography (EtOAc/hexane 20:80 → 40:60) to afford a white solid. This crude solid was recrystallized from hot EtOH, which was subsequently cooled to 4 °C, filtered, and washed with ice cold EtOH to afford white X-ray diffraction quality crystals of the title compound as a racemic mixture (60 mg, 0.18 mmol, 28%). Mp 222–230 °C (dec); (found (ESI): [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 341.0786. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> requires [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 341.0784);  $\nu_{\max}$  2938, 2885, 1549, 1061 and 831 cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.43 (2H, t, *J* 8.1, ArH), 7.03 (4H, d, *J* 8.1, ArH), 4.58–4.46 (4H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.43–4.33 (4H, m, OCH<sub>2</sub>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 156.08 (ArO), 130.01 (ArH), 128.67 (ArC), 118.54 (ArH), 87.12 (CC), 63.56 (OCH<sub>2</sub>); *m/z* (ESI) 341 (M<sup>+</sup> + Na, 100%) and 659 (2M<sup>+</sup> + Na, 100%).

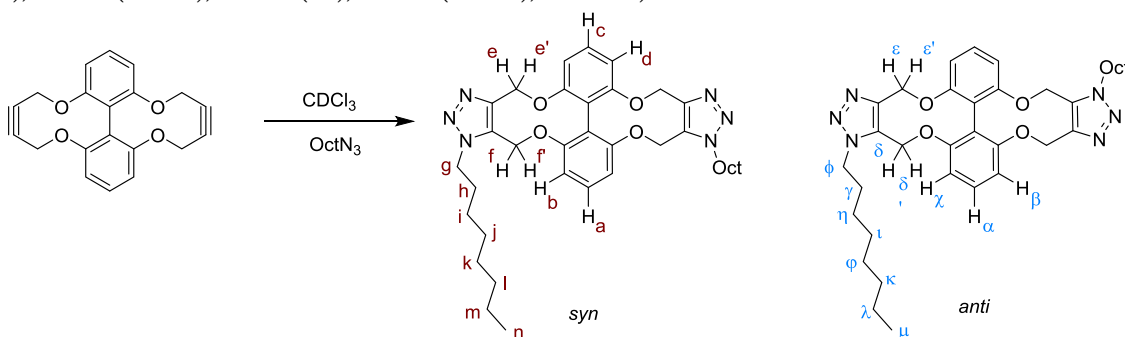


**Synthesis of Bis-Benzyl Triazole **7**.** A solution of **3** (15.9 mg, 0.05 mmol) and benzyl azide (13.3 mg, 0.10 mmol) in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5 mL, 100 mM) was prepared with a J. Young's NMR tube. In situ analysis by NMR spectroscopy indicated formation of the desired bis-triazole compounds within 72 h at ambient temperature. After 5 days, the solvent was removed in vacuo and purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; EtOAc/hexane; 20:80 → 50:50) to obtain a 1:1 mixture of

regioisomers as a white solid (26 mg, 0.044 mmol, 89%). Note: Due to the insolubility of *anti*-regioisomer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (this crystallizes from solution and the provided material for the X-ray crystal structure given below), the NMR data is given only for the *syn* isomer. However, both *syn*- and *anti*-isomers are soluble and observable in (CD<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO. Mp 140–143 °C; (found (ESI): [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 607.2068, C<sub>34</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> requires [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, 607.2064);  $\nu_{\max}$  1590, 1573, 1451, 1071, 704 and

671  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.34 (6H, m, ArH, H<sup>i</sup> and H<sup>l</sup>), 7.18 (1H, t, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>a/c</sup>), 7.17–7.13 (4H, m, ArH, H<sup>h</sup>), 6.98 (1H, t, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>a/c</sup>), 6.82 (2H, d, J 8.3, ArH, H<sup>b/d</sup>), 6.44 (2H, d, J 8.4, ArH, H<sup>b/d</sup>), 5.71 (2H, d, J 15.7,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g/g'</sup>), 5.41 (2H, d, J 13.5,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e/f</sup>), 5.37 (2H, d, J 15.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g/g'</sup>), 5.27 (2H, d, J 13.5,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e'/f'</sup>), 5.14 (2H, d, J 13.3,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e/f</sup>), 4.98 (2H, d, J 13.4,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e'/f'</sup>);  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ ) 7.40–7.33 (12H, m, ArH, H<sup>i</sup>, H<sup>l</sup>, H<sup>g</sup>, and H<sup>f</sup>), 7.29–7.26 (9H, m, ArH, H<sup>h</sup>, H<sup>g</sup>, and H<sup>a/c</sup>), 7.05 (2H, t, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>a</sup>), 6.92 (2H, d, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>b/d</sup>), 6.86 (3H, m, ArH, H<sup>g/x</sup> and H<sup>a/c</sup>), 6.64 (4H, app. t, J 8.8, H<sup>b/d</sup> and H<sup>g/x</sup>), 5.76 (4H, dd, J 15.6, 2.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>f/e</sup> or H<sup>g/e</sup>), 5.67 (4H, dd, J 15.5,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>f'/e'</sup> or H<sup>g'/e'</sup>), 5.45 (4H, dd, J 14.4, 2.3,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>f/e</sup> or H<sup>g/e</sup>), 5.41–5.30 (8H, m,  $\text{OCH}_2$  and  $\text{ArCH}_2$ , H<sup>f'/e'</sup> or H<sup>g'/e'</sup> and H<sup>g/φ</sup>), 5.08 (2H, d, J 12.4, 5.8,  $\text{ArCH}_2$ , H<sup>f'/e'</sup> or H<sup>g'/e'</sup>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 157.97 (ArO), 156.52 (ArO), 144.83 (Tz), 134.81 (Ar<sup>Benzyl</sup>), 132.30 (Tz), 129.32 (Ar<sup>Benzyl</sup>),

129.13 (ArH), 128.74 (ArH), 127.23 (Ar<sup>Benzyl</sup>), 127.19 (Ar<sup>Benzyl</sup>), 118.51 (Ar), 115.54 (Ar), 111.30 (ArH), 108.99 (ArH), 63.33 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 61.12 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 52.52 ( $\text{PhCH}_2$ );  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz,  $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{SO}$ ) 158.08 (ArO, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 157.97 (ArO, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 156.33 (ArO, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 156.21 (ArO, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 143.37 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 143.34 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 135.66 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 135.63 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 133.33 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.85 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.80 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.78 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.60 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.34 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.14 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 128.12 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 127.67 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 116.94 (Ar, C<sup>anti</sup>), 116.58 (ArH, C<sup>anti</sup>), 116.30 (ArH, C<sup>syn</sup>), 111.02 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 110.82 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 108.47 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 108.36 (ArH, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 64.88 ( $\text{ArCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 64.76 ( $\text{ArCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 59.05 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 58.93 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 50.95 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 50.93 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>);  $m/z$  (ESI) 585 ( $\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$ , 78%) and 607 ( $\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$ , 100).



**Synthesis of Bis-Octyl Triazole 8A** A solution of **3** (15.9 mg, 0.05 mmol) and benzyl azide (15.5 mg, 0.10 mmol) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL, 100 mM) was prepared with a J. Young's NMR tube. In situ analysis by NMR spectroscopy indicated formation of the desired bis-triazole compounds within 72 h at room temperature. After 6 days, the solvent was removed in vacuo and purified by preparative thin-layer chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ; EtOAc/hexane; 50:50) to obtain a 1:1 mixture of regioisomers as a white solid (25 mg, 0.040 mmol, 80%). Mp 105–107 °C; (found (ESI):  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 651.3642.  $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{48}\text{N}_6\text{O}_4^+$  requires  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , 651.3629);  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  2926, 2855, 1591, 1453, 1222, 1069, 777, and 718  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  (500 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 7.33 (1H, t, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>a/c</sup>), 7.22 (2H, t, J 8.2, ArH, H<sup>a</sup>), 7.12 (1H, t, J 8.4, ArH, H<sup>a/c</sup>), 6.95 (2H, d, J 8.4, ArH, H<sup>g/x</sup>), 6.90 (2H, d, J 8.1, ArH, H<sup>b/d</sup>), 6.78 (2H, d, J 8.4, ArH, H<sup>b/d</sup>), 6.72 (2H, d, J 8.1, ArH, H<sup>g/x</sup>), 5.59 (2H, d, J 14.1,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e/f</sup>), 5.50 (2H, d, J 14.0,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e'/f'</sup>), 5.33 (2H, d, J 12.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g/e</sup>), 5.28 (2H, d, J 12.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g'/e'</sup>), 5.25 (2H, d, J 14.1,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e/f</sup>), 5.21 (2H, d, J 14.0,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>e'/f'</sup>), 5.03 (2H, d, J 12.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g/e</sup>), 4.98 (2H, d, J 12.6,  $\text{OCH}_2$ , H<sup>g'/e'</sup>), 4.33–4.26 (8H, m,  $\text{TzCH}_2$ , H<sup>g</sup> and H<sup>φ</sup>), 1.88–1.78 (8H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ , H<sup>h</sup> and H<sup>l</sup>), 1.28–1.18 (40H, m,  $\text{CH}_2$ , H<sup>i-m</sup> and H<sup>η-λ</sup>), 0.87 (6H, t, J 7.0,  $\text{CH}_3$ , H<sup>n/μ</sup>), 0.86 (6H, t, J 7.1,  $\text{CH}_3$ , H<sup>n/μ</sup>);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  (126 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 158.84 (ArO, C<sup>anti</sup>), 158.74 (ArO, C<sup>syn</sup>), 155.94 (ArO, C<sup>syn</sup>), 155.83 (ArO, C<sup>anti</sup>), 144.43 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 144.41 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 131.68 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 131.60 (Tz, C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 129.29 (Ar, C<sup>syn</sup>), 129.23 (Ar, C<sup>anti</sup>), 129.13 (Ar, C<sup>syn</sup>), 119.58 (Ar, C<sup>syn</sup>), 117.33 (Ar, C<sup>anti</sup>), 115.10 (Ar, C<sup>syn</sup>), 112.81 (ArH, C<sup>syn</sup>), 111.38 (ArH, C<sup>anti</sup>), 109.51 (ArH, C<sup>anti</sup>), 108.14 (ArH, C<sup>syn</sup>), 62.48 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 62.32 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 62.04 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 61.99 ( $\text{OCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 48.67 ( $\text{TzCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 48.63 ( $\text{TzCH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>) 31.82 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 31.80

( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 30.72 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 30.70 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 29.16 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 29.14 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 29.07 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 29.05 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 26.60 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 26.57 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 22.73 ( $\text{CH}_2$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>), 14.21 ( $\text{CH}_3$ , C<sup>syn/anti</sup>);  $m/z$  (ESI) 630 ( $\text{M}^+ + \text{H}$ , 43%) and 652 ( $\text{M}^+ + \text{Na}$ , 100).

**Polyoxyethylene Diazide (MW = 2000) Addition.** A solution of **1** (5.0 mg, 15.7  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) and PEG-2000 polyoxyethylene diazide (MW = 2000) (31.4 mg, 15.7  $\mu\text{mol}$ ) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (0.5 mL, 0.33 mM) was prepared with a J. Young's NMR tube. In situ analysis by NMR spectroscopy indicated formation of a polymeric species. The conversion after 7 days was determined to be 86% by integration of the starting material versus the polymeric product. GPC analysis indicated the formation of a product of  $M_n$  13 000,  $M_w$  186 000, and PDI 14.25.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acsomega.8b03634.

General experimental details, synthesis of known compounds, X-ray crystallographic data and NMR spectra for products, conversion/time data, peptide stapling data, and molecular modeling results (PDF)

Empirical details of absorption correction using spherical harmonics and frame scaling in SCALE3 ABSPACK algorithm; list of runs; symmetry information for shelx refinement (CIF) (CIF)

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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