# Exploiting orientation-selective DEER: determining molecular structure in systems containing Cu (II) centres 

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## Synthesis ESI

## Synthetic schemes and appropriate references.

This is an account of the steps, methods and comments on the synthesis of the eight model compounds and their congeners.

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 1.

The oxidation of the acetyl motif was achieved using NaOBr generated in situ according to the preparation of Byron and co-workers. ${ }^{2}$ The methylation of the carboxylic acid was achieved according to the procedure of D.I. Fletcher et al. ${ }^{3}$ A palladium coupling procedure with bis(pinacolato)diboron afforded the boronate in modest yield. Other methods to prepare the boronate coupling partner were investigated i.e. lithiation using $n$-BuLi and then quenching this with a range of boron sources but these were either found to not work or give unacceptably low yields of the product.


Scheme ESI 1 Reagents/conditions: a $\mathrm{Br}_{2}, \mathrm{NaOH}, \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, dioxane, $35-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; b (i) $\mathrm{SOCl}_{2}$, PhMe , reflux, 1 h (ii) MeOH ; c Bis (pinacolato) diboron, $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}, \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$, THF, reflux, 20 h .

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 2.

The first two steps (d and e) were according the protocol of M. Rehahn et al. ${ }^{4}$ The Suzuki-Miyaura coupling reaction ${ }^{5,6}$ was employed successfully for all of the boronate/boronic acid to bromide coupling reactions which proceeded in moderate to high yields. Altering the relative ratio of the boronic acid/boronate to bromide was used to control the amount of mono- or bis-adduct as desired after a not insubstantial amount of column chromatography. The saponification of the esters was performed in a procedure adapted from Jones et al. ${ }^{7}$ and was essentially quantitative for each of the diacids.


Scheme ESI 2 Reagents/conditions: $\mathrm{d} n$-Hexylbromide, $\mathrm{Mg}_{(\mathrm{s})}$, cat. $\mathrm{BrCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Br},\left[\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{dppp}) \mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right]$, THF, reflux; e $\mathrm{Br}_{2}$, cat. $\mathrm{I}_{2} 0^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \rightarrow \mathrm{RT}$; f excess $4-\left(\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{Me}\right)$-phenyl- $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}, \mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}, \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$, THF, reflux; g LiOH$\cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, THF, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, reflux; g 1 mol equiv. 4$\left(\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{Me}\right)$-phenyl- $\mathrm{B}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}, \mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}, \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}, \mathrm{THF}$, reflux; i 1,1'-biphenyl boronate (see inset), $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}, \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$, THF, reflux; j excess 1,1'-biphenyl boronate (see inset), $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}, \mathrm{~K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$, THF, reflux.

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 3.

The preparation of the 5-(4-aminophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin was performed according to the literature report of R. Luguya and co-workers, ${ }^{8}$ whereby meso-tetraphenylporphyrin (as prepared by the method of A.D. Adler and co-workers ${ }^{9}$ ) was mono-nitrated selectively on the para position of a phenyl ring, and subsequently reduced to the amine using $\mathrm{SnCl}_{2}$. It was found that to aid purification and expedite the synthesis the crude product from step (l) containing a mixture of mono-nitroTPP and TPP could be treated directly with $\mathrm{SnCl}_{2} / \mathrm{HCl}$. The greater difference in the retention times for the TPP ( 0.57 ) and TPPNH ${ }_{2}$ ( 0.32 ) (both in $1: 1 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} /$ petroleum ether) meant that column chromatography was much simpler and there was no co-elution of the products.


Scheme ESI 3 Reagents/conditions: k benzaldehyde, propionic acid, reflux, 0.5 h ; $1(\mathrm{i}) \mathrm{NaNO}_{2}, \mathrm{CF}_{3} \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}, 5^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 3 \mathrm{~min}(\mathrm{ii}) \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}$ (aq); $\mathrm{m} \mathrm{SnCl}_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$, conc. $\mathrm{HCl}, 65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 2 \mathrm{~h}$ (ii) $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{OH}, \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$.

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 4:

The two smaller compounds, with 1- and 2-phenyl groups as the central spacer, did not suffer from solubility problems, hence simple 4,4'-dicarboxylic acids were either commercially available or prepared without difficulty from available respective congeners. For the compounds containing a central linker with greater than three phenyl rings $n$-hexyl groups were added in the 2 -and 5-positions of one central phenyl ring. This also aided purification, as early synthetic attempts were thwarted by the insoluble nature of the polyaromatic compounds. Similar approaches with the addition of aliphatic sidegroups to polyaromatic systems have been previously reported, including in the work of Godt and coworkers in their synthesis of model bis(nitroxides) for use in DEER methodology work. ${ }^{10}$ BOP (benzotriazol-1- yloxytris(dimethylamino)-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate) coupling with an excess of the TPPNH2 congener ${ }^{8}$ in all cases afforded the diporphyrin species with phenyl linkers 1-5 in moderate yields after flash chromatography. Metallation of the diporphyrin species was relatively trivial; a methanolic solution of copper(II) acetate was introduced to a stirred solution of diporphyrin in chloroform and the subsequent mixture heated at reflux to afford the model compounds 1-5 cleanly.


Scheme ESI 4 Reagents/conditions: n BOP, DIPEA, DMF, room temp. 4 days; o $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}, \mathrm{MeOH}$, reflux 3 h .

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 5

The copper-nitroxide species 6 and 7 were prepared via the BOP coupling of one equivalent of TPPNH2 to the requisite acid, followed by attachment of the TEMPO-NH2 motif also using a BOP mediated coupling procedure. This order of addition was employed to aid purification processes as the porphyrin derivative is clearly visible (dark purple) on silica gel. Finally, the insertion of metal was achieved in the same way as for the symmetrical dicopper species. The compounds were characterized (where appropriate) by thin layer chromatography and MALDI analysis, UV-vis and IR spectroscopy, ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR, mass spectrometry and CW-EPR at X-band.


Scheme ESI 5 Reagents/conditions: p BOP, DIPEA, DMF, room temp. 2 days; q BOP, DIPEA, DMF, room temp. 2 days r $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}, \mathrm{MeOH}$, reflux 3 h .

## Discussion of Scheme ESI 6.

The bis(nitroxide) compound 8 was prepared simply, again by BOP mediated coupling of the TEMPO $-\mathrm{NH}_{2}$ motif to the 3-phenyl acid.




Scheme ESI 6 Reagents/conditions: s BOP, DIPEA, DMF, room temp, 12h.

## Further Synthetic Supporting Information

## Synthesis and characterisation information

All reagents and solvents were obtained from commercial sources (SigmaAldrich and Alfa Aesar) and unless otherwise stated, were used as received. Coupling constants, $J$, are measured to the nearest 0.1 Hz and are presented as observed. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury VX300 ( 300 MHz ) spectrometer or a Varian Unity (500 $\mathrm{MHz})$ spectrometer or a Bruker AVC $500(500 \mathrm{~Hz})$ spectrometer at 298 K and were referenced to the solvent peak. NMR spectra were processed using ACD/Labs software. Mass spectra were recorded by Mr Colin Sparrow at the Chemistry Research Laboratory, University of Oxford, on a Bruker Micromass LCT time-of-flight mass spectrometer by using either positive ion electrospray (ES ${ }^{+}$) or chemical ionisation (CI) techniques with methanol or $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ as the solvent. Accurate masses are reported to four decimal places using tetraoctylammonium bromide ( 466.5352 Da ) as an internal reference. Values are reported as a ratio of mass to charge in Daltons. Electronic absorption spectroscopy (UV/Vis) was performed using a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 19 spectrometer, running UV Winlab software. Spectra were measured using 1.00 cm quartz cuvettes. Thin layer chromatography (TLC): silica gel layered aluminum foil ( 60 F254 Merck, Darmstadt). The resonances ( $\delta$ values) were measured relative to the signals for $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ (7.27) and $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ (77.0), respectively. The assignments of quaternary $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{CH}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CH}_{3}$ were made on the basis of DEPT, HMQC and HMBC spectra. IR spectra were obtained for thin films, or KBR discs on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrophotometer with a Diamond tip. [ $\mathrm{Ni}(\mathrm{dppp}) \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ] $=[1,3$-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane]-dichloro-nickel(II).

## X-ray diffraction

Single crystal X-ray diffraction data was obtained for 3phendiacid. The crystal was mounted using the oil drop technique, in perfluoropolyether oil at 150(2) K using a Cryostream $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ open-flow cooling device. ${ }^{11}$ Diffraction data was collected using graphite monochromated Mo-K $\alpha$ radiation ( $\lambda=0.71073 \AA$ ) on a Nonius Kappa CCD diffractometer. A series of $\omega$-scans were performed in such a way as to collect a complete data set to a maximum resolution of $0.77 \AA$. Data reduction including unit cell refinement and interframe scaling was carried out using DENZO-SMN/SCALEPACK. ${ }^{12}$ Intensity data were processed and corrected for absorption effects by the multi-scan method, based on repeat measurements of identical and Laue equivalent reflections. Structure solution was carried out with direct methods using the programs SIR92 ${ }^{13}$ within the CRYSTALS software suite. ${ }^{14}$ Coordinates and anisotropic displacement parameters of all nonhydrogen atoms were refined freely except. Hydrogen atoms were generally visible in the difference map and refined with soft restraints prior to inclusion in the final refinement using a riding model. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for all the structures have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1040894). ORTEP depictions of the single crystal X-ray structure are in the Figure ESI 1. Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www. ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif. Tables summarising the X-ray crystallographic data are in the ESI 4.
4'-Bromobiphenyl-4-carboxylic acid, ${ }^{2}$ methyl 4'-bromobiphenyl-4-carboxylate, ${ }^{3}$ 1,4-dibromo-2,5-dihexyl-benzene ${ }^{4}$ and 5-(4-aminophenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin $\left(\mathrm{TPPNH}_{2}\right)^{15}$ were prepared using literature methods but details of the syntheses used and any notes and adaptations are indicated below.

X-ray table and ORTEP depiction.
Table ESI 4 X-ray crystallographic information for 3phendiacid.

| Crystal identification | 3phendiacid |
| :---: | :---: |
| CCDC no. | 1040894 |
| Chemical Formula | $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{38} \mathrm{O}_{4} \cdot 2 \mathrm{DMSO}$ |
| Formula weight, $M$ | 642.92 |
| Temperature, $K /{ }^{\circ}$ | 150 |
| 入1Å | 0.71073 |
| Crystal system | Monoclinic |
| Space group | P1 21/a 1 |
| $a / \AA$ | 14.1458(4) |
| $b / \AA$ | 7.2193(2) |
| c/Å | 17.4712(4) |
| $\alpha{ }^{\circ}$ | 90 |
| $\beta 1^{\circ}$ | 98.5591(13) |
| v $1^{\circ}$ | 90 |
| $V /{ }^{\text {A }}$ | 1764.34(8) |
| Z | 2 |
| $D_{\mathrm{c}} / \mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ | 1.210 |
| Absorption coefficient, $\mu / \mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ | 0.193 |
| $F(000)$ | 692 |
| Size /mm | $0.06 \times 0.20 \times 0.26$ |
| Crystal description | Colourless plate |
| $\theta$ range collected $/{ }^{\circ}$ | $5.0 \leq \theta \leq 27.5$ |
| Index ranges, $h k l$ | $\begin{aligned} & -18 \leq h \leq 18,-9 \leq h \leq 9, \\ & -22 \leq h \leq 22 \end{aligned}$ |
| Refl. Measured | 7666 |
| Refl. Unique | 4019 |
| $R_{\text {int }}$ | 0.033 |
| Reflections obs., $n(I>n \sigma(I)$ | 2652 |
| Transmission coefficients (min., | 0.96, 0.99 |
| Param. Refined | 199 |
| $R$ or R1 (2б) | $R=0.048$ |
| $w R$ or $R 2$ (2б) | $w R=0.114$ |
| Goodness of fit (GOF) | 1.003 |
| Residual electron (min., max.) /e $\AA$ | -0.37, 0.49 |



Figure ESI 1: ORTEP depiction of the X-ray crystal structure of 3phendiacid. Thermal ellipsoids at $50 \%$ probability and solvent molecules have been removed for clarity.

## Synthetic reaction details

TPP Propionic acid ( 200 ml ) was heated to reflux. Subsequently benzaldehyde ( $6.10 \mathrm{ml}, 60.00 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and pyrrole $(4.16 \mathrm{ml}, 60.00 \mathrm{mmol})$ were added and the resultant mixture heated at reflux for 0.5 h . After this time the mixture was cooled to room temperature and the purple solid that precipitated collected by suction filtration. The solids were washed well with ice-cold MeOH and then dried in air to afford the desired product as purple coloured microcrystalline solid $(2.178 \mathrm{~g}, 24$
 \%). $\operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 1 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} /\right.$ petroleum ether): 0.69. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 7.77(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, $12 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.25(8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 7.6,1.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 8 \times \mathrm{pyrrCH}), 8.88(8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 8 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 13.26(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$. s, $2 \times \mathrm{NH}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 120.1,126.6,127.7,131.1$ (broad), 134.5, 142.2. $\mathrm{ES}^{+} \mathrm{MS} m / z 615\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}, 100 \%\right)\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{30} \mathrm{~N}_{4}\right)$

TPPNO 2 According to the procedure of Luguya et al. ${ }^{8} \mathrm{NaNO}_{2}$ ( $0.400 \mathrm{~g}, 5.797 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added in a single solid portion to a stirred green solution of TPP $(2.00 \mathrm{~g}, 3.253 \mathrm{mmol})$ in TFA $(40 \mathrm{ml})$ at $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The resultant mixture was stirred at $10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 min before ice-cold $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(150 \mathrm{ml})$ was added, followed by $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ ( 150 ml ). The layers were separated, then the aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \times 50$
 $\mathrm{ml})$. The combined organic extracts were washed with sat. $\mathrm{NaHCO}_{3}(\mathrm{aq})(2 \times 300 \mathrm{ml})$, before being dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The dark brown-purple product was purified using an elution gradient of $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$-hexanes
(1:3) to (1:1) ratio to afford, in order of elution, recovered TPP followed by the nitroadduct $(1.01 \mathrm{~g}, 47 \%)$. ( $N B$ : extended reaction times lead to the formation of the dinitro species in addition to the desired mono-adduct). $\operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 1 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} /\right.$ petroleum ether $): 0.57$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 7.80(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.24(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, ~ J 7.2,1.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.40(2 \mathrm{H}$, d, J8.7 Hz, ArH), $8.64(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.76(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.91(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH})$, 14.24 (2H, br. s, $2 \times$ pyrrole-NH). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 116.6,120.7,121.1,121.9$, 126.76, 126.79, 131.8 (broad), 134.6, 135.1, 141.87, 141.92, 147.7, 149.2. ES ${ }^{+}$MS $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ $660\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}, 100 \%\right)\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{29} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right)$.

TPPNH 2 According to the procedure of Luguya et al. ${ }^{8}$ $\mathrm{SnCl}_{2} \cdot 2 \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $4.0 \mathrm{~g}, 17.728 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added to a stirred suspension of TPPNO $2(0.485 \mathrm{~g}, 0.735 \mathrm{mmol})$ in conc. $\mathrm{HCl}(80 \mathrm{ml})$ at room temperature. The resultant dark green coloured mixture was heated at $65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 2 h with stirring. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, and added to ice-cold $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(150 \mathrm{ml})$ and adjusted cautiously to pH 8 with
 conc. $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{OH}$. The mixture was then filtered through Celite $(\mathrm{R})$ to remove the insoluble particulates, and aid separation. The aqueous layer was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(5 \times 50$ ml ), before the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. Purification of the purple-brown coloured product using flash chromatography and $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ as eluent afforded the desired TPPNH2 product as a dark purple coloured solid ( $0.440 \mathrm{~g}, 95 \%$ ). $\operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 1 \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} /\right.$ petroleum ether): 0.32 . ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta:-2.73\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 2 \times\right.$ pyrrole-NH), $3.98\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right), 7.05(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J 8.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 7.76$ ( $9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.03(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.24$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), 8.86 ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), 8.96 (2H, d, J4.6 Hz, ArH). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (CDCl $3,75.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 110.0,113.4$, 119.7, 120.0, 120.9, 126.7, 127.7, 131.1 (broad), 132.4, 134.6, 135.7, 142.22, 142.26, 146.0. $\mathrm{ES}^{+}$MS $m / z 630\left(\mathrm{MH}^{+}, 100 \%\right)\left(M=\mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{31} \mathrm{~N}_{5}\right)$.

4'-Bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid According to the procedure of Byron et al. ${ }^{2}$ Careful addition of bromine ( 5.12 ml , $15.982 \mathrm{~g}, 100 \mathrm{mmol})$ to a stirred solution of $\mathrm{NaOH}(14.00 \mathrm{~g}, 350$
 mmol ) in deionised water ( 70 ml ) at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ was used to make NaOBr . The NaOBr solution was then added via a dropping funnel over 10 min to a stirred solution of 1-(4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-yl)ethan-1-one ( $5.503 \mathrm{~g}, 20 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in dioxane ( 50 ml ) at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The resultant mixture was stirred at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for a further 20 min before sodium dithionite ( 10 g) in water ( 150 ml ) was added, followed by water ( 150 ml ). $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{aq})(150 \mathrm{ml})$ was added to make the mixture acidic as tested by pH paper. The mixture was cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and the solid collected by suction filtration to afford a pale yellow coloured powder ( 7.022 g). This was recrystallised from hot EtOH to afford 4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid as an off-white powder ( $3.014 \mathrm{~g}, 54 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 7.67(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, $\mathrm{Ph}), 7.77(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.00(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 12.98\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}\right) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO-d $\left.d_{6}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 122.3$ (ArCq), 127.2 (ArCH), 129.5 (ArCH), 130.4 (ArCq), 130.5 (ArCH), 132.4 (ArCH), 138.6 (ArCq), 143.4 (ArCq), 167.0 (C=0). $v_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR) 1662 (C=0), 1596, 1426, 1301, 816, $765 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. ES-MS m/z 277 ( $\left.{ }^{81} \mathrm{BrM}-\mathrm{H}^{+}, 100 \%\right), 275$ ( $\left.{ }^{79} \mathrm{BrM}-\mathrm{H}^{+}, 90 \%\right)\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{C}_{13} \mathrm{H}_{9} \mathrm{BrO}_{2}\right)$.

Methyl 4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate The methylation of the carboxylic acid was achieved according
 to the procedure of D.I. Fletcher et al. ${ }^{3} \mathrm{~A}$ solution of 4 '-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid ( $3.00 \mathrm{~g}, 10.83 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in $\mathrm{SOCl}_{2}(30 \mathrm{ml})$ was heated at reflux for 1 h . The solvent was then distilled off azeotropically using PhMe ( 50 ml ) before the mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford pale brown coloured oil. MeOH was added to the oil to afford the desired product as a tan coloured crystalline solid. The solid was recrystallised from hot MeOH to afford the title compound as yellow coloured needles ( $1.436 \mathrm{~g}, 46 \%) . \operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 3 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $): ~ 0.40 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$, $300 \mathrm{MHz}) \delta: 3.91(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CH} 3), 7.45(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.57(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.59$ $(2 \mathrm{H}, 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.07(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 52.1\left(\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right)$, 122.5 (ArCq), 126.8 (ArCH), 128.5 (ArCH), 129.0 (ArCq), 130.2 (ArCH), 132.0 (ArCH), 138.8 (ArCq), 144.3 (ArCq), 166.8 (C=0). $u_{\max }($ Diamond ATR) 1715 (C=0), 1436, 1288, $11131082,1000,954,823,767 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. ES+-MS m/z $315\left({ }^{81} \mathrm{BrM}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right), 313\left({ }^{79} \mathrm{BrM}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}\right)$ $\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{BrO}_{2}\right)$.

Methyl 4'-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane-2-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxylate A mixture of methyl 4'-bromo-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-carboxylate ( $0.500 \mathrm{~g}, 1.717$
 mmol ), bis(pinacolato)diboron ( $0.436 \mathrm{~g}, 1.717$ $\mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}(0.025 \mathrm{~g}, 0.036 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(0.949 \mathrm{~g}, 6.870 \mathrm{mmol})$ and anhydrous THF ( 25 ml ) was heated at reflux with stirring for 20 h under nitrogen atmosphere. The resultant mixture was then cooled to room temperature, concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$, filtered through Celite ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$, and the liquid concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a mixture of starting material and the desired product. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 1:4 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ petroleum ether to afford the methyl 4'-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane-2-yl)biphenyl-4carboxylate product as colourless needles ( $0.2166 \mathrm{~g}, 37 \%$ ). $\operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 3 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ hexanes $): 0.31$. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 1.37\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 4 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 3.94\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 7.63(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J} 8.2$ $\mathrm{Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.68(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.91(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.11(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J$ $8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 24.9$ (CH3), 52.1 ( $\left.\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 83.9$ (Cq), 126.5 (ArCH), 127.1 (ArCH), 129.1 (ArCq), 130.1 (ArCH, ArCq), 135.3 (ArCH), 142.6 ( ArCq ), 166.9 ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ); $\mathrm{vmax}^{(\mathrm{KBr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2976,1718(\mathrm{C}=0), 1611,1361,1291,1272,1150, ~}$ $1116,1093,864,829,773,739,654$. HRMS (EI/FI ${ }^{+}$) found $338.1693 \mathrm{C}_{20} \mathrm{H}_{23} \mathrm{BO}_{4}$ requires: 338.1689 .

Preparation of 1,4-dibromo-2,5-dihexylbenzene According to the procedure of Rehahn et al. ${ }^{16}$ and analogous to the reaction of Tamao et al. ${ }^{17}$ 1-Bromohexane ( $30 \mathrm{ml}, 213.73 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{Mg}(0)$ ( $5.196 \mathrm{~g}, 213.73$ mmol ) and THF ( 300 ml ) were used to make the organomagnesium compound under strictly anhydrous conditions and under nitrogen
 atmosphere. The Grignard reagent was prepared first, initiated with 1,2-dibromoethane ( 3 drops). Initially the mixture was cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in an ice-bath, then allowed to reflux for 0.25 h , and finally by heating at reflux for 1 h . After this time all of the magnesium metal had dissolved and the mixture was homogeneous. The mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature then cooled to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .1,4$-Dichlorobenzene ( $12.567 \mathrm{~g}, 85.492 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added slowly in small solid portions followed by (1,3bis[diphenylphosphino]propane)dichloronickel(II) ( $0.232 \mathrm{~g}, 0.427 \mathrm{mmol}$ ). The mixture
became pale milky green in colour. This mixture was heated at reflux for 32 h then cooled to room temperature. Water ( 40 ml ) was added slowly, followed by $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{aq})(200 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}(100 \mathrm{ml})$. The layers were separated and the aqueous layer extracted with $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ $(5 \times 30 \mathrm{ml})$. The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a dark yellow coloured oil. This was purified by flash chromatography using 1:1 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ petroleum ether as eluent to afford 1,4di(hexyl)benzene as a pale yellow coloured oil ( $20.40 \mathrm{~g}, 97 \%$ ).
Bromine ( $27.12 \mathrm{~g}, 8.7 \mathrm{ml}, 169.71 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was added dropwise over 0.5 h to a stirred and ice-cooled mixture of 1,4-di(hexyl)benzene ( $20.40 \mathrm{~g}, 82.785 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and iodine ( 0.214 g , 0.828 mmol ) under rigorous exclusion of light. (NB: Caution must be taken when adding the bromine as a large volume of fumes are evolved and heat generated). The subsequent mixture was allowed to slowly warm to room temperature and stirred for 24 h . After this time $\mathrm{KOH}(\mathrm{aq})(20 \% \mathrm{w} / \mathrm{v}, 100 \mathrm{ml})$ was added slowly and the mixture stirred vigorously at $40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1.5 h , then overnight at room temperature during which time the colour of the mixture disappeared. The liquid was then decanted, before more water ( 100 ml ) was added and again decanted to afford an off-white solid. This solid was recrystallised from EtOH to afford 1,4-dibromo-2,5-dihexylbenzene as a colourless crystalline solid (21.689 g, $65 \%) R f\left(1: 1 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ petroleum ether): $0.74 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 0.90(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J$ $\left.6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.34\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.58\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.64(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 8.1,7.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $2 \times$ benzylic $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 7.35(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $29.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 35.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 123.0(\mathrm{ArCq}), 133.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 141.3(\mathrm{ArCq})$. $U_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR)/ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ 2948, 2925, 2849, 1458, 1417, 1053, 902, 862, 787, $727 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. Calc for $\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{28} \mathrm{Br}_{2} \mathrm{C}, 53.48 ; \mathrm{H}, 6.98$. Found C, 53.13 ; H, 7.14.

Preparation of methyl 4'-bromo-2',5'-dihexyl biphenyl-4-carboxylate and 3-phenyl dimethyl ester 1,4-Dibromo-2,5-dihexyl-benzene ( $2.707 \mathrm{~g}, 6.696 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), 4(methoxycarbonyl)benzene boronic acid ( $3.000 \mathrm{~g}, 16.739 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(3.686 \mathrm{~g}, 26.671$ $\mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}(0.200 \mathrm{~g})$ in anhydrous THF ( 75 ml ) were combined at room temperature under inert atmosphere ( $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ ), and the resultant suspension heated at reflux with stirring for 20 h . The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was taken up in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(200 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ $(100 \mathrm{ml})$, and the layers separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(3 \times 40$ ml ), then the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 1:9 $\mathrm{Et} 2 \mathrm{O}^{\mathrm{O}}$ /petroleum ether to afford, in order of elution, recovered dibromide ( 0.973 g, $36 \%$ recovery), methyl $4^{\prime}$-bromo-2',5'-dihexyl biphenyl-4-carboxylate ( 0.804 g ) as a colourless oil and dimethyl 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylate ( 0.871 g) as a colourless solid.

Methyl 4'-bromo-2',5'-dihexyl biphenyl-4-carboxylate Rf (1:1 Et ${ }_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ petroleum ether): 0.66. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300$ $\mathrm{MHz}) \delta: 0.82\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.87\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 6.9 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right)$, $1.32\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 3 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.38\left(8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 4 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.61(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ), $2.46\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.70,\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$,
 3.95 (3H, s, OCH3), 7.01 (1H, s, Ph), 7.34 (2H, d, J8.4 Hz, Ph), 7.45 (1H, s, Ph), 8.07 (2H, d, J8.4 Hz, Ph ); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right) 22.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $29.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 35.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 52.2$ $\left(\mathrm{O}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 123.8(\mathrm{ArCq}), 129.2(\mathrm{ArCH}), 129.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 131.2(\mathrm{ArCH}), 133.2(\mathrm{ArCH}), 139.4$
(ArCq), 139.6 (ArCq), 139.9 (ArCq), 145.9 (ArCq), 167.0 (C=0); $u_{\max (f i l m) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2954 \text {, }, ~(1)}$ 2927, 2857, 1726(C=0), 1610, 1460, 1435, 1277, 1178, 1113, 1101, 1019, 968, 860, 774, 710. HRMS found $458.1824 \mathrm{C}_{26} \mathrm{H}_{35} \mathrm{BrO}_{2}$ requires: 458.1820 .

Dimethyl 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4,4"-dicarboxylate $R f$ (1:1 Et20/petroleum ether): 0.38. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 0.80$ $(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH} 3), 1.17\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $1.44\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.55(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 7.8,7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}$,
 $\left.2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.96\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 7.12(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.43(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.10(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4$ $\mathrm{Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.36\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $31.44\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 52.1\left(\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 128.6(\mathrm{ArCq}), 129.3(\mathrm{ArCH}), 129.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 130.7$ ( ArCH ), 137.5 ( ArCq ), 140.3 ( ArCq ), 146.6 ( ArCq ), 167.1 ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ); $\mathrm{vmax}^{\operatorname{mbr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 2957 \text {, }}$ 2925, 2857, 1723 (C=0), 1609, 1567, 1437, 1273, 1115, 1102, 1016, 866, 766, 707. HRMS found $514.3089 \mathrm{C}_{34} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires: 514.3083.

## Dimethyl 2',5'-dihexyl-

 [1,1':4',1":4",1"'-quaterphenyl]-4,4"'dicarboxylate Methyl 4'-bromo-2',5'dihexyl biphenyl-4-carboxylate (110 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.239 \mathrm{mmol})$, methyl 4'-(4,4,5,5- tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane-2-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxylate ( $85 \mathrm{mg}, 0.251 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}(20 \mathrm{mg}), \mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}(132 \mathrm{mg}, 0.957 \mathrm{mmol})$ and anhydrous THF ( 15 ml ) were treated by the general procedure to afford an off-white solid. This was purified by flash chromatography using 1:9 Et20/petroleum ether to afford, in order of elution, starting bromide ( $47.4 \mathrm{mg}, 43 \%$ recovery) and the dimethyl $2^{\prime}, 5^{\prime}$-dihexyl-[1, $1^{\prime}: 4^{\prime}, 1^{\prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime}$ -quaterphenyl]-4,4"'-dicarboxylate ( $46 \mathrm{mg}, 57 \%$ ). $R f\left(1: 1 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ petroleum ether): 0.42. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) 0.81\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.18\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.48(4 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.59\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.960\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 3.964\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 7.14(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{Ph})$, 7.18 (1H, s, Ph), $7.45(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.47(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.70(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}$, Ph), $7.74(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.12(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.15(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) 14.00\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 14.03\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.38\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.41$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.46\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.47\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 52.1\left(\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 126.91(\mathrm{ArCH}), 126.92(\mathrm{ArCH})$, 127.6 (ArCq), 128.5 (ArCq), 128.9 (ArCq), 129.4 (ArCH), 130.1 (ArCH), 130.6 (ArCH), 131.0 (ArCH), 135.4 (ArCq), 137.4 (ArCq), 137.7 (ArCq), 138.4 (ArCq), 139.9 (ArCq), 140.6 (ArCq), 141.7 (ArCq), 145.2 (ArCq), 146.8 (ArCq), 167.0 ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ), 167.1 ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ). HRMS-EI/FI Found $590.3385\left[\mathrm{C}_{40} \mathrm{H}_{46} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right]$ requires 590.3396.

Preparation of methyl 4'-bromo-2',5'-dihexyl triphenyl-4-carboxylate and dimethyl 2",5"-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1':4",1"':4'",1'"'-quinquephenyl]-4,4"'-dicarboxylate 1,4-Dibromo-2,5-dihexyl-benzene ( $50.7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.126 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), methyl 4'-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolane-2-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxylate ( $106.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.264 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{K}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$ ( 69.4 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.502 \mathrm{mmol})$ and $\mathrm{PdCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{PPh}_{3}\right)_{2}(10 \mathrm{mg})$ in anhydrous THF $(15 \mathrm{ml})$ were combined at room temperature under inert atmosphere ( $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ ), and the resultant suspension heated at reflux with stirring for 20 h . The mixture was then cooled to room temperature, and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The residue was taken up in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(30 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ $(30 \mathrm{ml})$, and the layers separated. The aqueous phase was extracted with $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(3 \times 20$ ml ), then the combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{MgSO}_{4}$, filtered and
concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The mixture was purified by flash chromatography using 1:9 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ petroleum ether to afford, in order of elution, methyl $4^{\prime}$-bromo-2',5'dihexyl triphenyl-4-carboxylate ( 18.2 mg ) as a colourless solid and dimethyl $2^{\prime \prime}, 5^{\prime \prime}$ -dihexyl-[1,1':4', $1^{\prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime \prime}-$-quinquephenyl]-4,4"'"-dicarboxylate ( $49.5 \mathrm{mg}, 59 \%$ ) as a colourless solid.

Methyl 4'-bromo-2',5'-dihexyl triphenyl-4carboxylate $R f\left(1: 1 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /\right.$ petroleum ether): 0.71 . ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 0.82(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.90\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.21(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}$, $3 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ), $1.32\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.40\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$,
 $1.48(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{CH} 2), 1.63\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.55\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 8.0,7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.72(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 8.0$, $\left.7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.96\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CH} \underline{3}\right), 7.08(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArH}), 7.39(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 7.47(1 \mathrm{H}$, s, ArH), 7.69 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), 7.73 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), 8.15 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 125.8 \mathrm{MHz}\right) ~ \delta: 14.02\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 14.08\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 22.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.0$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 35.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, 52.1 ( $\left.\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 123.5(\mathrm{ArCq}), 126.93(\mathrm{ArCH}), 126.94(\mathrm{ArCH}), 128.9$ (ArCq), 129.7 (ArCH), 130.2 ( ArCH ), 131.6 ( ArCH ), 133.1 ( ArCH ), 138.5 ( ArCq ), 139.3 ( ArCq ), 139.8 ( ArCq ), 140.3 (ArCq), 141.1 (ArCq), 145.2 (ArCq), 167.0 (CO). $u_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR) 2955, 2926m, $2855,1722 \mathrm{~s}$ ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ), $1608,1275 \mathrm{~s}, 1109,831,773 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. HRMS found $534.1965 \mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{39} \mathrm{BrO}_{2}$ requires: 534.2133.

$\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} /$ petroleum ether): 0.20
${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 0.81\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{J} 6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.19\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.53(4 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ), $2.63\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 8.1,7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 3.96\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 7.19(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.48$ $(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.71(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.4 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 7.75(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.7 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}), 8.14(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.7$ $\mathrm{Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}) ;{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) ~ \delta: 14.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.5$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 52.2\left(\mathrm{OCH}_{3}\right), 126.90(\mathrm{ArCH}), 126.94(\mathrm{ArCH}), 128.9(\mathrm{ArCq}), 129.9$ (ArCH), 130.1 (ArCH), 130.9 (ArCH), 137.6 (ArCq), 138.3 (ArCq), 140.3 (ArCq), 141.9 (ArCq), 145.3 (ArCq), $167.0\left(\mathrm{CO}_{2}\right) . \mathrm{v}_{\max }(\mathrm{KBr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3427,2949,2925,2850,1715(\mathrm{C}=0)$, 1607, 1436, 1277, 1194, 1181, 1112, 866, 837, 475. HRMS found $666.3709 \mathrm{C}_{46} \mathrm{H}_{50} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires: 666.3608.

## General procedure for synthesis of diacids

A solution of $\mathrm{LiOH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 8 mol equiv) in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ was added to a stirred solution of diester in THF at room temperature. The resultant mixture was heated at reflux with stirring overnight, and then cooled to room temperature. $2 \mathrm{M} \mathrm{HCl}(\mathrm{aq})$ and EtOAc were added. The layers were separated and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times$ ). The combined organic extracts were dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a colourless powder.
[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid In a deviation from the general procedure used for all of the other
 saponifications dimethyl-4,4'-biphenyl dicarboxylate
( $500 \mathrm{mg}, 1.700 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{LiOH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(571 \mathrm{mg}, 13.60 \mathrm{mmol})$, THF ( 15 ml ) and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{ml})$ were heated at $80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 14 h with stirring. The mixture was then cooled to room temperature and concentrated to approximately $1 / 4$ of the original volume in vacuo. 1 M $\mathrm{HCl}(50 \mathrm{ml})$ was added and the resultant colourless precipitate collected by suction filtration. The solid was washed well with cold $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ and then $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ to afford the [1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid as a colourless powder ( $318 \mathrm{mg}, 71 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO$\left.d_{6}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 7.86(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.06(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO$\left.d_{6}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 127.1(\mathrm{ArCH}), 130.0(\mathrm{ArCH}), 130.7(\mathrm{ArCq}), 143.0(\mathrm{ArCq}), 167.1(\mathrm{C}=0)$. $U_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR): 2830, 1673 (C=0), 1606, 1497, 1293, 880, $757 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. ES ${ }^{+}$-MS $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ 241 ( $\left.\left(\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{H}^{+}\right)^{-}, 100 \%\right)\left(\mathrm{M}=\mathrm{C}_{14} \mathrm{H}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{4}\right)$.

## 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-4,4"-

dicarboxylic acid Dimethyl 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylate (500 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.972 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{LiOH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( $326 \mathrm{mg}, 7.772$ $\mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{ml})$ and THF ( 10 ml ) were
 treated by the general procedure to afford the desired $2^{\prime}, 5^{\prime}$-dihexyl-[1, $1^{\prime}: 4^{\prime}, 1^{\prime \prime}$-terphenyl]$4,4^{\prime \prime}$-dicarboxylic acid as a colourless powder ( $467 \mathrm{mg}, 99 \%$ ). Crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis were obtained by the slow evaporation of a concentrated DMSO solution of the 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid. (Found: C, 79.04; 7.81\% $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{38} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires C, 78.98 ; $\mathrm{H}, 7.87 \%$ ); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 0.70$ $\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.06\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.33\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.46\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 7.09$ $(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.44(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 6.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.98(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 6.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 12.96(2 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO- $\left.d_{6}, 125 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 13.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 21.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 28.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.6$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.8\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 40.4\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 129.2(2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 129.4(\mathrm{ArCq}), 130.6(\mathrm{ArCH})$, 137.1 (ArCq), 139.9 ( ArCq ), 145.6 (ArCq), 167.2 (C=0). $v_{\max }(\mathrm{KBr} \mathrm{disc}): 3432,2956$, 2928, 2857, 1687 (C=0), 1607, 1420, 1315, 1288, 1178, 1044, 904, 805, 773, $708 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$. HRMS found $485.2696 \mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{37} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires 485.2697 .
2',5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1":4",1"'-quaterphenyl]-4,4"'-dicarboxylic acid Dimethyl 2',5'-dihexyl-[1,1':4',1':4',1'"-quaterphenyl]-4,4'"-dicarboxylate (30 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.0508 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{LiOH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 17 mg ,
 $0.406 \mathrm{mmol})$, THF ( 5 ml ) and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(2 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford the $2^{\prime}, 5^{\prime}$-dihexyl-[1, $1^{\prime}: 4^{\prime}, 1^{\prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime}$-quaterphenyl]-4, $4^{\prime \prime \prime}$-dicarboxylic acid as a colourless powder ( $27 \mathrm{mg}, 95 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO- $d_{6}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 0.74(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 3), 0.75$ $(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, ~ J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 3), 1.11\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.40\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.56(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 7.5,7.5$ $\mathrm{Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 2), 2.60(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 7.8,7.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 2), 7.14(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.16(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.48(2 \mathrm{H}$, d, $J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.49(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.84(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.88$ $(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.03(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.06(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH})$, $12.96(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{OH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO- $\left.\mathrm{d}_{6}, 125 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 13.84\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 13.86\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 28.38$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 28.42\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.57\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.63\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.69\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.74\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.85\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $31.88\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 126.72$ ( ArCH ), 126.76 ( ArCH ), 129.23 ( ArCH ), 129.26 ( ArCH ), 129.29 (ArCq), 129.65 (ArCq), 129.71 (ArCH), 130.0 (ArCH), 130.5 (ArCH), 130.8 (ArCH), 137.0 (ArCq), 137.2 (ArCq), 137.5 (ArCq), 139.6 (ArCq), 140.2 (ArCq), 141.1 (ArCq), 143.9 (ArCq), 145.8 (ArCq), 167.14 (C=0), 167.21 ( $\mathrm{C}=0$ ). $\mathrm{umax}_{\text {(Diamond ATR): 2955, 2926, }}$
2",5"-Dihexyl-
[1,1':4',1":4",1"':4"',1"'-quinquephenyl]-4,4"'dicarboxylic acid Dimethyl 2",5"-dihexyl-

[1,1':4',1':4',1'':4'",1'"'-quinquephenyl]-4,4'"'-dicarboxylate ( $37.8 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0567 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{LiOH} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(19.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.4535 \mathrm{mmol})$, THF $(10 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford $2^{\prime \prime}, 5^{\prime \prime}$-dihexyl-[1,1':4', $1^{\prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime \prime}$-quinquephenyl]$4,4^{\prime \prime \prime \prime}$-dicarboxylic acid as a colourless powder ( $35.0 \mathrm{mg}, 97 \%$ ). Crystals suitable for single crystal X-ray analysis were obtained by the slow evaporation of a concentrated DMSO solution of the $2^{\prime \prime}, 5^{\prime \prime}-$ dihexyl-[1, $1^{\prime}: 4^{\prime}, 1^{\prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime}: 4^{\prime \prime \prime}, 1^{\prime \prime \prime \prime}$-quinquephenyl]-4, $4^{\prime \prime \prime \prime}$ dicarboxylic acid. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR (DMSO- $\left.d_{6}, 300 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 0.73(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 6.8 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH} 3), 1.11(12 \mathrm{H}$, m, $6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}$ ), $1.42\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{p}, J 6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.59(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, J 7.7,7.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH} 2), 7.15(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, Ph), 7.47 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, ~ J 8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}$ ), 7.82 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, ~ J 8.3 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}$ ), 7.87 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, ~ J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{Ph}$ ), 8.05 ( 4 H , d, J8.5 Hz, Ph). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (DMSO- $\left.\mathrm{d}_{6}, 75.5 \mathrm{MHz}\right) ~ \delta: 13.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 21.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 30.8$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.9\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 126.73(\mathrm{ArCH}), 126.77(\mathrm{ArCH}), 129.6(\mathrm{ArCq}), 129.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 130.1$ (ArCH), 130.7 (ArCq), 137.1 (ArCq), 137.5 (ArCq), 139.9 (ArCq), 141.2 (ArCq), 143.9 ( ArCq ), $167.2\left(\mathrm{CO}_{2}\right) . v_{\max }(\mathrm{KBr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3441,2954,2926,2856,2665,2542,1686(\mathrm{C}=0)$, 1607, 1423, 1294, 1179, 1106, 1005, 837, 776. MS-ES- m/z 637 ([M-H+], 100\%), 318 (59), 273 (67), 213 (70). HRMS found $637.3329 \mathrm{C}_{44} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{4}$ requires: 637.3323.

## 3-Phenyl bisnitroxide

 (Compound 8) 2',5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-4,4'dicarboxylic acid ( 100.0 mg , 0.205 mmol ), 4 -amino-TEMPO ( $106 \mathrm{mg}, 0.616 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( $0.364 \mathrm{mg}, 0.822 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.213 \mathrm{ml}, 1.644 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and anhydrous DMF ( 5 ml ) were combined at room temperature under atmosphere of nitrogen. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h , after which tlc analysis indicated the reaction was complete. The mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a solid. The solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica using 1:1 EtOAc/petroleum ether as eluent to afford the title compound as a pale pink coloured solid ( $127.0 \mathrm{mg}, 78 \%$ ) EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.0087 2.0063 2.0036] Nucs: 'N' A: [21.9117 21.5106 88.7862] lwpp: [0 0.2235]; $U_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR) 3400 (NH), 2926, 1655 (C=0), 1506, 1484, 1461, 1299, 1219, 844 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ HRMS found $792.5530 \mathrm{C}_{50} \mathrm{H}_{72} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{O}_{2}{ }^{2}$. requires 792.5548.

4-((4-(10,15,20-Triphenylporphyrin-5-yl)phenyl)carbamoyl)benzoic acid Terephthalic acid ( $39.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2389$ mmol), TPPNH2 ( $150 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2389$ mmol ), BOP ( $115.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2620 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.170 \mathrm{ml}, 0.9528 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and DMF ( 5 ml ) were combined at room temperature under atmosphere of
 nitrogen. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h , after which tlc analysis indicated the reaction was complete. The mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a solid. The solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica using firstly $\mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ (1:4) which afforded trace amounts of the bisadduct, followed by EtOAc/MeOH/CH2Cl2 (1:1:3) which afforded the mono-adduct 4-((4-(10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin-5yl)phenyl)carbamoyl)benzoic acid as a purple coloured solid (74.3 mg, 40\%) ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta:-2.90(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 2 \times \mathrm{pyrrNH}), 7.85(9 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 7.99(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$, ArH), $8.04(2 H, d, J 8.2 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.16\left(5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{q}_{\mathrm{AB}}, J 8.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArH}\right), 8.23(7 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.28(3 \mathrm{H}$, d, J8.5 Hz, ArH), $8.84(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.93(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{ArH}), 10.82\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CO}_{2} \underline{\mathrm{H}}\right) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 125.8 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta: 118.7,120.0,127.0,128.1,128.9,129.3,129.4,134.2,136.7,136.5$, 139.1, 141.21, 141.24, 165.5, 165.7. $\mathrm{u}_{\max }$ (Diamond ATR) 3665, 3595, 3317, 1721, 1658, 1630 (C=0), 1593 (C=0), 1522, 1400, 1005, 966,819 (s) $\mathrm{cm}^{-1} . \lambda_{\max }$ (DMSO)/nm 678 (820), 647 (1690), 591 (1650), 551 (2990), 515 (5170), 420 (120900). ESI-FTMS $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ $776.2660 \mathrm{C}_{52} \mathrm{H}_{34} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires 776.2667

## 2',5'-Dihexyl-4"-

 ((4-(10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin-5-
yl)phenyl)carbamoyl)-[1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid 2',5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1"-terphenyl]-4,4"-dicarboxylic acid ( $100.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2055 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TPPNH2 ( $129.4 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2055$ mmol ), BOP ( $90.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2055 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.15 \mathrm{ml}, 0.8220 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and DMF ( 15 ml ) were combined at room temperature under atmosphere of nitrogen. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 14 h . The mixture was concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a solid. The solid was taken up in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(50 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(50$ $\mathrm{ml})$ and the layers separated. The organic layer was washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(4 \times 15 \mathrm{ml})$ before then organic extract was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. The crude solid was purified by flash chromatography on silica using firstly $\mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(1: 4)$ which afforded the bisadduct ( 95.6 mg ), followed by $\mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(1: 1: 3)$ which afforded first recovered $\mathrm{TPPNH}_{2}(32.3 \mathrm{mg})$ and then the desired mono-adduct $2^{\prime}, 5^{\prime}$-dihexyl-4"-((4-(10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin-5-yl)phenyl)carbamoyl)-[1, 1':4', $1^{\prime \prime}$-terphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid as a purple coloured solid ( $69.4 \mathrm{mg}, 31 \%$ ) $\operatorname{Rf}\left(1: 1 \mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}: 0.49 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right.$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta:-2.75(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}$, $2 \times p y r r N H), 0.85\left(3 H, t, J 6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 0.88(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 3), 1.24\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 3 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $1.53\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.62\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}_{2}\right), 2.65\left(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}_{2}\right), 7.20(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.22$
(1H, s, ArCH), 7.64 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 7.78 ( $17 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.12 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$, ArCH), 8.16 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.25 ( $17 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.87 ( $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.92 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J$ 4.5 Hz , pyrrole), $8.95\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, pyrrole), plus the acid peak at $10.85\left(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}\right)$. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 125.8 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.0\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.49\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 22.52\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 28.3$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.12\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.23\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.40\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.48\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.54\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.62\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, 32.67 (CH2), 118.4, 119.4, 120.2, 126.7, 126.8, 127.7, 129.4, 129.5, 129.9, 130.0, 130.8, $130.9,133.4,134.6,135.3,137.65,137.67,137.72,137.9,138.5,140.23,140.28,142.2$, 145.9, 147.5, 165.9, 169.6. $m / z \quad 1098.5308 \quad \mathrm{C}_{76} \mathrm{H}_{68} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires 1098.5317. $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} \quad\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right), 645$ (3300), 589 (4300), 551 (6900), 516 (14000), 419 (356500).

## 1-Phenyl porphyrin

 nitroxide 4 -((4-(10,15,20-Triphenylporphyrin-5-
yl) phenyl)carbamoyl)benzoic acid ( $50.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0643 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TEMPO-NH2 ( 22.0 mg , 0.1286 mmol ), BOP ( $42.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0964 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.090 \mathrm{ml}, 0.5142 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and DMF $(2.5 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure. The crude adduct was purified by flash chromatography on silica using $1: 4 \mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ to afford the product as a purple coloured solid ( $35.0 \mathrm{mg}, 59 \%$ ). $\operatorname{Rf}\left(2: 3 \mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 0.38$. EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.0084 2.00652 .0035$]$ Nucs: 'N' A: [21.3973 21 88.2998] lwpp: [0.1144 0.2000] m/z (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) found $929.4091 \mathrm{C}_{61} \mathrm{H}_{51} \mathrm{~N}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires 929.4059. $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 647$ (10870), 591 (12320), 550 (7610), 516 (12080), 419 (22680).

## 3-Phenyl

 porphyrin nitroxide 2',5'-Dihexyl-4"( 4 -(10,15,20-
triphenylporphyrin-5-yl)phenyl)carbamoyl)-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4-carboxylic acid ( $20.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1821 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TEMPO-NH2 ( $12.5 \mathrm{mg}, 0.7283 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( $9.7 \mathrm{mg}, 0.2185$ mmol ), DIPEA ( $0.026 \mathrm{ml}, 1.457 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) and DMF ( 6 ml ) were treated by the general procedure to afford after flash chromatography on silica using 1:1 EtOAc/ $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ the title product as a purple coloured solid (19.3 mg, $85 \%$ ). $R f(1: 1$ EtOAc/CHCl3: 0.78. EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.0081 2.0058 2.0046] Nucs: 'N' A: [21.0000 22.7274 89.9919] lwpp: [0.1000 0.2406] MALDI-TOF LD+ Found $1251.6709 \mathrm{C}_{85} \mathrm{H}_{85} \mathrm{~N}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires 1251.6708. $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / 646$ (1500), 590 (2000), 552 (3200), 516 (6500), 419 (166400).

Cu-1-Phenyl porphyrin nitroxide (Compound 6) 1Phenyl porphyrin nitroxide ( $12.2 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0131 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \quad(6.5 \mathrm{mg}$, 0.0326 mmol ), $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(3 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(1 \mathrm{ml})$ were heated at reflux for 4 h and
 then cooled to room temperature. The mixture was then concentrated to dryness in vacuo, before the residue was dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(30 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(20 \mathrm{ml})$. The pink organic layer was washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times 10 \mathrm{ml})$, then dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford the desired product as a pink-purple coloured solid (12.8 mg, 98\%). $R f\left(2: 3 \mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) 0.45$. EPR parameters at X-Band CW Copper: g: [2.056 2.056 2.205] Nucs: 'N' A: [80 80 593] Hstrain: [221 173 238] Nitroxide: g: [2.01 2.01 2.09] Nucs: 'N' A: [20 20 100] Hstrain: [40 40 40] m/z (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) found $990.3198 \mathrm{C}_{61} \mathrm{H}_{49} \mathrm{CuN}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ requires 990.3198. $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 540(16,870), 416$ $(394,500)$.
 7) 3-Phenyl porphyrin nitroxide ( 10.3 mg ,
 $0.0082 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(8.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0401 \mathrm{mmol}), \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(5 \mathrm{ml}), \mathrm{MeOH}(2 \mathrm{ml})$ were heated at reflux for 1 h with stirring, during which the mixture became pink in colour. The mixture was diluted with $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(20 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(15 \mathrm{ml})$. The layers were separated and the pink organic layer was washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(4 \times 15 \mathrm{ml})$ before the organic fraction was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo. This afforded the title compound as a pink-purple coloured solid ( $9.0 \mathrm{mg}, 83 \%$ ). $\operatorname{Rf}(1: 1$ EtOAc/CHCl3: 0.78. EPR parameters at X-Band CW Copper: g: [2.056 2.056 2.205] Nucs: 'N' A: [80 80 593] Hstrain: [221 173 238] Nitroxide: g: [2.01 2.01 2.09] Nucs: 'N' A: [20 20 100] Hstrain: [40 40 40] $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 540$ (12600), 416 (267200). $\mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (MALDI-TOF $\left.\mathrm{LD}^{+}\right) 1334.5629 \mathrm{C}_{85} \mathrm{H}_{82} \mathrm{CuN}_{7} \mathrm{O}_{3}+\mathrm{Na}^{+}$requires 1334.5667.

## General procedure for synthesis of diporphyrin species

BOP ( 2.6 mol equiv) was added to a stirred solution of diacid ( 1 mol equiv), $\mathrm{TPPNH}_{2}$ ( 2.2 mol equiv), DIPEA ( 8 mol equiv) in anhydrous DMF at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. The resultant mixture was stirred at room temperature for 4 days, during which time a spot of higher $\mathrm{R}_{f}$ was found by tlc analysis (2:3 EtOAc $/ \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ ). The mixture was then concentrated under reduced pressure, before taken up in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ and sat. $\mathrm{NaCl}(\mathrm{aq})$. The $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ layer was washed with sat. $\mathrm{NaCl}(\mathrm{aq})\left(5 \times\right.$ ) then the $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ layer was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford a purple solid.

1-Phenyl diporphyrin


Terephthalic acid ( $25 \mathrm{mg}, 0.150 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TPPNH2 ( $194 \mathrm{mg}, 0.308 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( 173 mg , 0.391 mmol ), DIPEA ( $0.16 \mathrm{ml}, 1.203 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous DMF ( 5 ml ) was treated according to the general procedure to afford a purple solid. This was purified using 1:2 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to afford the desired 1-phenyl diporphyrin ( $68.9 \mathrm{mg}, 33 \%$ ). ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}\right.$, 500 MHz ) $\delta: ~-2.89(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 4 \times$ pyrrNH), 7.56 ( $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$ d, ArH), 7.86 ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$ s, ArH), 7.96 $(5 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.24(10 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}), 8.89(8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}) . \lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$, 646 (8000), $590(10,400), 551(16,400), 516(33,500), 420(810,900) . m / z$ (MALDI-TOF $\left.\mathrm{LD}^{+}\right) 1390.53 \mathrm{C}_{96} \mathrm{H}_{64} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1390.27 .

2-Phenyl diporphyrin

[1,1'-Biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid ( $20.0 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0826 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TPPNH2 (109.2 mg, 0.174 mmol ), BOP ( $91.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.206 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.12 \mathrm{ml}, 0.661 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous DMF ( 2.5 ml ) was treated according to the general procedure to afford a purple solid. This was purified using 1:1 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to afford the desired 2-phenyl diporphyrin ( 78.3 mg , $65 \%) .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) $\delta:-2.90(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 4 \times \mathrm{pyrrNH}), 7.55$ ( $6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), 7.86 (10H, m, ArH), 8.24 ( $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArH}$ ), $8.85(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArH}) . \lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-}\right.$ ${ }^{1}$ ), $645(10,100), 590(13,000), 550(20,400), 516(40,200), 420(896,000) . \mathrm{m} / \mathrm{z}$ (MALDITOF LD ${ }^{+}$) $1466.56 \mathrm{C}_{102} \mathrm{H}_{68} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1466.53.


2',5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1'-terphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid (50 mg, 0.103 mmol ), $\mathrm{TPPNH}_{2}$ ( $133 \mathrm{mg}, 0.211 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( $118 \mathrm{mg}, 0.267 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.15 \mathrm{ml}, 0.822 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous DMF ( 2.5 ml ) were treated by the general procedure to afford a purple solid. This was purified by flash chromatography using $1: 1 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ to afford, in order of elution, the desired 3-phenyl diporphyrin ( $41 \mathrm{mg}, 23 \%$ ) as a dark purple coloured solid and recovered TPPNH2 ( $59 \mathrm{mg}, 44 \%$ recovery). $R f\left(1: 1 \mathrm{EtOAc} / \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right): 0.64 .{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta:-2.73\left(4 \mathrm{H}\right.$, br. s, $4 \times$ pyrr NH), $0.90\left(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.29(12 \mathrm{H}$, $\left.\mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.58(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH} 2), 2.69\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{dd}, \mathrm{J} 8.0,8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}_{2}\right), 7.26(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH})$, 7.64 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \operatorname{ArCH}$ ), 7.78 (17H, m, ArCH), 8.12 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, ~ J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.16 ( $4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.25(17 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.87(8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.92(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$, pyrrole), $8.95\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J} 4.5 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, pyrrole); ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 125.8 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.6\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.2$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.48\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.56\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 118.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 119.4(\mathrm{ArCq}), 120.2(\mathrm{ArCq})$; 126.7 (ArCH), 127.0 (ArCH), 127.7 (ArCH), 129.9 (ArCH), 130.9 (ArCH), 131.3 (broad, ArCH), 133.4 (ArCq), 134.6 (ArCH), 135.3 (ArCH), 137.7 (ArCq), 138.5 (ArCq), 140.2 (ArCq), 142.2 (ArCq), 145.9 (ArCq), 165.9 (C=0); $v_{\max }(\mathrm{KBr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3430,3317,3026$, 2956, 2924, 2854, 1681(C=0), 1606, 1558, 1509, 1473, 1350, 1312, 1272, 1099, 966, 800, 730, 701. $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right), 646$ (9000), $590(11,300), 551$ (18,000), 516 (36,600), 419 ( 838,000 ). $m / z\left(\right.$ MALDI-TOF LD $\left.{ }^{+}\right) 1710.59 \mathrm{C}_{120} \mathrm{H}_{96} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1710.78 .

4-Phenyl diporphyrin


2',5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1':4',1''-quaterphenyl]-4,4'"-dicarboxylic acid (30.0 mg, 0.0533 mmol ), TPPNH 2 ( $73.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1173 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( $61.3 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1386 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( 0.076 ml , 0.4265 mmol ) in anhydrous DMF ( 5 ml ) was treated according to the general procedure to afford a purple solid. This was purified using $1: 1 \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to afford, in order of elution, the desired 4-phenyl diporphyrin ( $41.2 \mathrm{mg}, 43 \%$ ) and recovered TPPNH2. The 4phenyl diporphyrin was further purified by elution using $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ to remove trace amounts of several porphyrin species that were unable to be isolated or characterised. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 400 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta:-2.73(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br} . \mathrm{s}, 4 \times \mathrm{pyrrNH}), 0.87(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH} 3), 0.90(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J$
$\left.7.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.28\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.56\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.69\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}_{2}\right), 7.25$ $(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.28(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.56(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.64(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH})$, 7.79 ( $20 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 7.92 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.11 ( 4 H, app. dd, J8.3, $2.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}$ ), 8.15 ( $2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, ~ A r C H), ~ 8.18(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.25(17 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.90(15 \mathrm{H}$, $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}) .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 100 \mathrm{MHz}\right) \delta: 14.1\left(2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.53\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 22.56\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.23$ $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 22.28\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.47\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.50\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.55\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.60\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.71\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right)$, $32.75\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 118.4(\mathrm{ArCH}), 119.4(\mathrm{ArCq}), 120.2(\mathrm{ArCq}), 126.7(\mathrm{ArCH}), 126.98(\mathrm{ArCH})$, 127.03 (ArCH), 127.6 (ArCH), 127.75 (ArCH), 127.81 (ArCH), 129.99 (ArCH), 130.01 (ArCH), 130.8 (ArCH), 131.1 (ArCH), 133.4 (ArCq), 133.7 (ArCq), 133.9 (ArCq), 134.6 ( ArCH ), 135.3 ( ArCH ), 137.6 ( ArCq ), 137.77 ( ArCq ), 137.79 ( ArCq ), 137.87 ( ArCq ), 138.3 (ArCq), 138.5 (ArCq), 139.6 (ArCq), 139.9 (ArCq), 140.8 (ArCq), 142.2 (ArCq), 145.7 (ArCq), 146.1 ( ArCq ), 165.7 ( $\mathrm{C}=0), 165.9$ ( $\mathrm{C}=0) . \lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right), 646$ (7700), 591 (6800), 550 (4700), 516 (18,100), 419 (489,000). m/z (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) $1786.32 \mathrm{C}_{126} \mathrm{H}_{100} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1786.81 .

5-Phenyl diporphyrin


2",5'-Dihexyl-[1,1':4',1':4',1"':4'",1'"'-quinquephenyl]-4,4"'-dicarboxylic acid (15.5 $\mathrm{mg}, 0.0243 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), TPPNH 2 ( $33.6 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0534 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), BOP ( $27.9 \mathrm{mg}, 0.0631 \mathrm{mmol}$ ), DIPEA ( $0.034 \mathrm{ml}, 0.194 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) in anhydrous DMF ( 2 ml ) was treated according to the general procedure to afford a purple solid. This was purified using 1:9 $\mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O} / \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ to afford, in order of elution, the desired 5-phenyl diporphyrin ( $29.9 \mathrm{mg}, 66 \%$ ) and recovered TPPNH2. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $\left.\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 500 \mathrm{MHz}\right) ~ \delta:-2.73(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$ s, $4 \times$ pyrrNH), $0.89(6 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{t}, J 6.6 \mathrm{~Hz}$, $\left.2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 1.27\left(12 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 6 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 1.57\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 2.68\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, 2 \times \mathrm{ArCH}_{2}\right), 7.24(2 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}$, $\mathrm{ArCH}), 7.56(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.78(22 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 7.94(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.10$ $(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.16(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 8.0 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.25(16 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{ArCH}), 8.86$ ( $8 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{br}$ s, ArCH), $8.89\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J 4.7 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, pyrrCH), $8.94\left(4 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{J} 4.7 \mathrm{~Hz}\right.$, pyrrCH). ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR ( $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 125.8$ $\mathrm{MHz})$ 8: $14.1\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3}\right), 22.5\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 29.2\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.48\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 31.55\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 32.7\left(\mathrm{CH}_{2}\right), 118.4$ (ArCH), 119.4 (ArCq), 120.2 (ArCq), 126.7 (ArCH), 126.9 (ArCH), 127.1 (ArCq), 127.5 (ArCH), 127.7 (ArCq), 127.8 (ArCH), 130.01 (ArCq), 130.03 (ArCH), 130.2 (ArCq), 131.0 (ArCH), 131.4 (ArCq), 133.6 (ArCq), 134.6 ( ArCH ), 135.3 ( ArCH ), 137.70 ( ArCq ), 137.73 (ArCq), 138.2 (ArCq), 138.5 (ArCq), 140.2 (ArCq), 140.5 (ArCq), 142.0 ( ArCq ), 142.2 ( ArCq ), 144.6 ( ArCq ), 165.7 (C=0). $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm}\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right), 645$ (5800), 590 (10,000), 551 (14,700), 516 (25,100), 419 (575,000). m/z (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) 1862.85 $\mathrm{C}_{132} \mathrm{H}_{104} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1862.52.

## General procedure for synthesis of dicopper compounds 1-5.

$\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ( 8 mol equiv) in MeOH was added to a stirred solution of diporphyrin in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ at room temperature. The resultant mixture was heated at reflux for 3 h and then cooled to room temperature and stirred at room temperature for 12 h . The mixture was then concentrated to dryness in vacuo to generate a dark red/purple solid. This residue was taken up in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times)$. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford the desired dicopper product as a pink/purple solid.

1-Phenyldiporphyrin dicopper (Compound 1)


1-Phenyl diporphyrin (11.0 mg, $7.92 \mu \mathrm{~mol}), \mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(10.0 \mathrm{mg}, 50.09 \mu \mathrm{~mol}), \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ $(5 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(2.5 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford the title compound 1 as a pink/purple solid ( $9.0 \mathrm{mg}, 75 \%$ ). EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.05 2.05 2.19] Nucs: ' N ' A: [87 87 600] Hstrain: [250 250 250] $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 539$ ( $\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} 2600$ ), 417 (70,200), 400sh (7000), 298 (3400); $\mathrm{m} / z\left(\right.$ MALDI-TOF LD $\left.{ }^{+}\right)$ $1514.36 \mathrm{C}_{96} \mathrm{H}_{60} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1514.28.

## 2-Phenyldiporphyrin dicopper (Compound 2)



2-Phenyl diporphyrin ( $12.4 \mathrm{mg}, 8.46 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ), $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(9.6 \mathrm{mg}, 48.08 \mu \mathrm{~mol}), \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ $(15 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(8 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford the title compound 2 as a pink/purple solid ( $11.8 \mathrm{mg}, 88 \%$ ). EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.05 2.05 2.19] Nucs: 'N' A: [87 87 600] Hstrain: [250 250250$] \lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 539$ $(16,200), 416(332,900), 397$ sh $(29,700), 307(25,400) ; ~ m / z(M A L D I-T O F ~ L D+) 1589.39$ $\mathrm{C}_{102} \mathrm{H}_{64} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1589.12.

3-Phenyldiporphyrin dicopper (Compound 3)

$\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(14 \mathrm{mg}, 70.1 \mu \mathrm{~mol})$ in $\mathrm{MeOH}(5 \mathrm{ml})$ was added to a stirred solution of 3phenyl diporphyrin ( $29 \mathrm{mg}, 17.0 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ) in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(10 \mathrm{ml}$ ) at room temperature were treated by the general procedure. The residue was taken up in $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}(15 \mathrm{ml})$ and washed with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(3 \times 10 \mathrm{ml})$. The organic phase was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$, filtered and concentrated to dryness in vacuo to afford the desired dicopper product 3 as a pink/purple solid (22 mg, 71 \%). EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.05 2.05 2.19] Nucs: 'N' A: [87 87 600] Hstrain: [250 250 250] $\mathrm{Umax}_{\max }(\mathrm{KBr}) / \mathrm{cm}^{-1} 3431,2952,2924,2853$, $1675(\mathrm{C}=0), 1599,1004,799,753,701 . \lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 539\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} 3700\right), 417$ (105,600), 400sh (7000), 296 (5800); $m / z$ (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) 1833.45 $\mathrm{C}_{120} \mathrm{H}_{92} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}+\mathrm{H}^{+}$requires 1833.61.

4-Phenyldiporphyrin dicopper (Compound 4)


4-Phenyl diporphyrin ( $10.3 \mathrm{mg}, 5.77 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ), $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc})_{2} \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(9.0 \mathrm{mg}, 45.08 \mu \mathrm{~mol}), \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ $(7.5 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(4 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford the title compound 4 as a pink/purple solid ( $8.5 \mathrm{mg}, 77 \%$ ). EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.05 2.05 2.19] Nucs: 'N' A: [87 87 600] Hstrain: [250 250 250] $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 539$ $\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} 2200\right), 416(49,700), 400(4200), 298(6500) . \mathrm{m} / z\left(\mathrm{MALDI}-T O F \mathrm{LD}^{+}\right)$ $1910.64 \mathrm{C}_{126} \mathrm{H}_{96} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1910.21.
5-Phenyldiporphyrin dicopper (Compound 5)


5-Phenyl diporphyrin ( $7.2 \mathrm{mg}, 3.87 \mu \mathrm{~mol}$ ), $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{OAc}) 2 \cdot \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(4.5 \mathrm{mg}, 22.54 \mu \mathrm{~mol}), \mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ $(6 \mathrm{ml})$ and $\mathrm{MeOH}(3 \mathrm{ml})$ were treated by the general procedure to afford the title compound 5 as a pink/purple solid ( $6.8 \mathrm{mg}, 89 \%$ ). EPR parameters at X-Band CW g: [2.05 2.05 2.19] Nucs: 'N' A: [87 87 600] Hstrain: [250 250 250] $\lambda_{\max }\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}\right) / \mathrm{nm} 539$ $\left(\varepsilon / \mathrm{dm}^{3} \mathrm{~mol}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} 2100\right), 416(48,800), 399 \mathrm{sh}(4100), 308$ (5100); $\mathrm{m} / z$ (MALDI-TOF LD ${ }^{+}$) $1984.67 \mathrm{C}_{132} \mathrm{H}_{100} \mathrm{Cu}_{2} \mathrm{~N}_{10} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ requires 1984.80.

## EPR SI

## Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations to generate the molecular models for DEER simulations

The allowed sizes of the dihedral angles formed between two chemical moieties are determined by a combination of electrostatic and steric forces. For two adjacent phenyl rings, the most sterically favourable dihedral angle would be $90^{\circ}$, however when two phenyl rings lie in the same plane, an extended conjugated $\pi$-electron system can be formed which is energetically favourable. These two opposing factors lead to a broad distribution of bond angles being observed, in order to model the size of this distribution for each type of bond within the molecule Density Functional Theory (DFT) calculations were made using the software package ADF. [SCM, Amsterdam Density Functional (ADF), http://www.scm.com/]..$^{18}$ In order to reduce the computational demands, a fragment analysis was performed; where the structures were broken up into smaller composite fragments (see Figure ESI 2a). For each of the bonds labelled A to G a linear transit over $180^{\circ}$ in $10^{\circ}$ steps was calculated using a BLYP functional (Becke-Lee-Yang-Parr), with a TZP basis set (triple-zeta polarization). The energy profile produced from these linear transits is plotted in Figure ESI 2b. The value of $k B T$ at the freezing point of a 1:1:1 volumetric mixture of chloroform, toluene and THF, measured to be 134.15 K , is 0.11547 eV . It was assumed that all angles occurring at an energy within the value of $k_{\mathrm{B}} T$ from the angle of lowest energy are equally accessible at the freezing point of the solvent mix and thus will occur with equal probability in the frozen sample. Therefore, the maximum possible angles accessible for each type of bond were found (see inset Figure ESI 2b).
It should be noted that the six member nitroxide ring was implemented in the calculations in its lower energy chair configuration and that this configuration was assumed to be dominant and therefore used in all calculations.
a)



b)


Figure ESI 2 Rotation about dihedral bonds. a) Fragments used in the DFT analysis with the bonds used for linear transits of $0^{\circ}-180^{\circ}$ in $10^{\circ}$ steps marked A-G. b) Results from DFT analysis calculated, with the BLYP GGA functional and a TZP basis set. The fragment with the copper porphyrin also used the zeroth-order regular approximation (ZORA) to correct the calculated energy, in order to account for relativistic effects. The inset depicts an enlargement of the main plot. The area marked in grey shows thermally accessible angles within the value of $k_{\mathrm{B}} T$ at the freezing point of the solvent mixture. It should be noted that the curves for angles C and F are almost coincident, since these both represent the same type of bond rotation.

## Comparison of the DFT analysis to the X-ray structure of 3-phenyl diacid linker

The torsional angle between two phenyl rings in the X-ray structure of the linker was found to be $82.8^{\circ}$. This agrees well with the DFT calculations (bond type D, see Figure ESI 2), since this value, although not the minimum energy angle calculated for this bond rotation ( $60^{\circ}$ ) occurs at an energy value that is accessible at the freezing point of the solution ( $50^{\circ}-130^{\circ}$ ). The variation is most likely a result of the fact that the DFT calculation uses a truncated structure and also calculates for the structure in vacuo, thus omitting any crystal packing effects. The angle from one phenyl ring to the carboxylic acid is $12.6^{\circ}$. It is assumed that this angle should be similar to the minimum energy angle between the phenyl ring and the amide linker (bond types C and F, see Figure ESI 2), found to be between $20^{\circ}$ to $30^{\circ}$. In this case, the DFT is also in fairly good agreement with the crystal structure and the deviation can be assigned to the differences in the bond type and the exclusion of the large copper porphyrin moieties from the crystal structure molecule.

## Construction of model distributions from the DFT data

The full structures of the molecules studied can be simplified as 3 rods, each containing two or more different torsional angles about which rotations can occur (Figure ESI 3). The assumption is made that the amide linkage remains planar such that rotation about the Nitrogen-Carbonyl bond is minimal; this is valid due to the large degree of delocalization of the lone pair electrons of the nitrogen into the $\pi$-system of the carbonyl.
In order to construct models of the full molecular structure, an angle was selected at random from the allowed angles for each bond type and the angles for the bonds present within each rod were summed to produce three angles of rotation, one for each of the three rods. The full structure was next rotated by the angles described above about the three defined rotation rods, to produce the relative orientation of the two Cu (II) centers for use in the DEER simulation. This was repeated to generate 1,000 random input structures for modelling the DEER spectra using a Monte-Carlo-like protocol.

## Cu-Cu Systems



4-phenyl


2-phenyl


5-phenyl


3-phenyl


## Cu-NO ${ }^{\circ}$ Systems



3-phenyl



## $\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet}-\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet}$ System

3-phenyl


Figure ESI 3 Plots of the distribution of the two centres with respect to one another in the DFT models. One centre is held static (centre 1), this is plotted in a red ring, and the other centre (centre 2 ) is plotted as a distribution of positions with respect to centre 1 . All of the axes are given in Å. Simplified structures of the three types of molecule investigated, with the rigid rods used for rotation marked in red and labelled I, II and III are also shown. For the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ molecules $\mathrm{n}=1-5$ (compounds 1-5), for the Cu (II) $-\mathrm{NO}{ }^{\bullet}$ molecules $\mathrm{n}=1,3$ (compounds 6 and 7 ) and for the $\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet}-\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet}$ molecule $\mathrm{n}=3$ (compound 8).

DFT determination of the orientation of the $g$-tensor with respect to the molecular structure
When attempting to model and interpret orientationally selective spectra, it is vital to know the orientation of the $g$-matrix with respect to the molecular frame. Copper in an approximately planar environment is well-known for having an axial $g$-matrix, which can be assumed to lie perpendicular to the plane in which the equatorial ligands are bound. DFT calculations were used to corroborate this for the copper porphyrin fragment (see Figure ESI 4). The calculation of magnetic resonance parameters using the internal magnetic resonance calculation unit in ADF showed an axial $g$-tensor with principal $g$ values of $g_{\mathrm{x}}=2.0352, g_{\mathrm{y}}=2.0362, g_{\mathrm{z}}=2.1049$; aligned with the $\mathbf{g}_{\mathrm{z}}$ axis perpendicular to the plane of the porphyrin ring.


Figure ESI 4 Diagram showing the orientation of the $g$-matrix on the porphyrin structure; green is the $z$-axis, blue the $x$-axis and red the $y$-axis. The calculated $g$-values are; $g_{x}=2.0352, g_{y}=2.0362, g_{z}=2.1049$.

## Copper amine oxidase (AGAO)

The goodness of fit, for a simulated trace to the experimental data was characterised by the least-squares residual $(L S R)$ between the experimental data $(D)$ and the simulated data $(S)$ : $L S R=\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(D_{i}-S_{i}\right)^{2}$.


Figure ESI 5 Top: green arrows demonstrating the relative orientations of the $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{z}}$ vector of both centres plotted relative to a molecular frame for the $\mathrm{g}_{2}$ orientation perpendicular to the plane of the three ligating nitrogen. Bottom: comparison of simulated DEER traces for this $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{z}}$ orientation (plotted in green) to the experimental form factors computed by removing the background $B(t)$ (blue lines). The numbers to the right of each trace correspond to the key for the different experimental fields illustrated in Figure 2 of the main text.


Figure ESI 6 X-band DEER data from the Copper Amine Oxidase (AGAO) homodimer from A. globiformis. Top: Arrows representing the orientation of the $10 \mathrm{~g}_{\mathrm{z}}$ vectors for both centres relative to a molecular frame for the 10 worst fitting DEER traces. The worst fitting orientation is depicted by a black arrow and the $10^{\text {th }}$ worst fit by a red arrow. Due to the symmetry of the $g$-tensor it is not possible to define an absolute direction for the vector and thus the orientations are shown as double headed arrows projecting through the central copper ions. Bottom: the $10^{\text {th }}$ worst (red) and worst (black) fitting DEER traces along with the experimental form factors (blue) computed by removal of the background $B(t)$. The numbers to the right of each trace identify the DEER positions within the EPR spectrum in Figure 2 of the main text.


Figure ESI 7 Varying the distance in the AGAO simulation from 3.592 nm (first green trace) to 3.692 nm (final black trace). A distance of 3.642 nm was found to be optimal. The experimental data traces are shown as thick blue lines and the simulations are offset from one another for clarity. The numbers to the right of each trace correspond to the key for the different experimental fields illustrated in Figure 2 of the main text.


Figure ESI 8 The relative positions in space of centre 1 (black circle) and centre 2 (coloured crosses) for a) the 10 best fitting orientations and b) the 10 worst fitting orientations with their symmetrical equivalents, providing 20 coloured crosses in total. Corresponding DEER traces for the best and worst fits within each set are shown in Figure 3 of the main paper and Figure ESI 6 of the ESI, respectively. In this representation of the data sets rather than plotting the relative positions of vector $\mathbf{g}_{z}$ for each of the centres in a fixed molecular frame(as in Figure 3 and Figure ESI 6), we instead fix the $g$-matrix ( $g_{z}$ vector) of the first centre, and plot the relative position of the $g_{z}$ of centre 2 in this frame. In this representation the centre $1 g_{z}$ axis is $[001]$ and is shown starting from the point $(0,0$, 0 ). c) The total least-squares residual values summed from the five orientation-selective DEER traces and their simulation, for each structural orientation trialled ( 161 in total). Symmetrically identical orientations have been removed for simplification. The green line shows the cut off value for the 10 best fitting data sets and the red line shows the cut off value for the 10 worst fitting data sets.

## Nitroxide model systems

To verify the validity of the DFT calculations, the method was initially tested using a $\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet}-\mathrm{NO}^{\bullet} 3$-phenyl model system. It was assumed that flexibility of the nitroxide moieties in this molecule was sufficient such that the result from this molecule could be analysed using DeerAnalysis, ${ }^{1}$ and the results of this analysis compared to those from the DFT modelling. Comparison of the Tikhonov regularization fits and those generated directly from the DFT model to the experimental data shows good agreement in both cases and the average distances in both cases are the same. There is some variation in the widths of the distance distributions for the experiments recorded at 80 MHz and -108 MHz offsets which is probably due to a small degree of orientation selection in the experimental data. The distance distribution for the DFT derived structures is narrower than both of the Tikhonov derived distributions, however the fit of the simulated data to the experimental data is good for both the experimental traces validating the DFT model.


Figure ESI 9 Results for the 3-phenyl bisnitroxide (NO•-NO.) system, compound 8. a) Raw experimental DEER traces with no background correction (blue) plotted with DEER traces simulated using the orientationally selective DEER simulation program that have been multiplied by a homogenous background correction and a modulation depth correction (red). b) Background corrected experimental DEER traces (blue) with Tikhonov regularization fits from DeerAnalysis (red). The experimental data has been background corrected to allow the Tikhonov fitting. c) Distance distribution derived from the 1,000 structures formed from the DFT calculations and used as input for the orientation-selective DEER simulations, in a) (black curve). Also, the distance distributions extracted by Tikhonov regularization in DeerAnalysis from the experimental (magenta [ -108 MHz ] and green $[+80 \mathrm{MHz}]$ curves).

## DEER experimental pulse separations



Values in brackets for the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ systems (compounds $\mathbf{1}$ to $\mathbf{5}$ ) were used for the 4 phenyl system (compound 4), the values not in brackets were used for all of the other $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ systems.

## DEER Simulation Parameters

Fitting parameters extracted from X-band CW EPR spectra using EasySpin ${ }^{19}$ for the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II}) 3$-phenyl model system (compound 3).

| Parameter | $\boldsymbol{x}$-component | $\boldsymbol{y}$-component | $\boldsymbol{z}$-component |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\boldsymbol{g}$-values | 2.05 | 2.05 | 2.19 |
| A-values $(\mathrm{Cu})[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 87 | 87 | 600 |
| H strain (line broadening) $[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 250 | 250 | 250 |

Fitting parameters extracted from CW EPR spectra using EasySpin ${ }^{19}$ for the copper and nitroxide portions of the $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{NO}$ - 3-phenyl model system (compound 7). The same nitroxide parameters were also used found to fit the $\mathrm{NO} \bullet-\mathrm{NO} \bullet 3$-phenyl model system (compound 8). Although the hyperfine splitting's for the nitroxide are listed in the table below, they are not used as part of the orientation-selective DEER simulations as the nitroxide centre is assumed to be isotopically excited by the DEER mw pulses.

| Copper Parameters |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Parameter | $\boldsymbol{x}$-component | $\boldsymbol{y}$-component | $\boldsymbol{z}$-component |
| $\boldsymbol{g}$-values | 2.056 | 2.056 | 2.205 |
| A-values $(\mathrm{Cu})[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 80 | 80 | 593 |
| H strain (line broadening) $[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 221 | 173 | 238 |
| Nitroxide Parameters |  |  |  |
| Parameter | $\boldsymbol{x}$-component | $\boldsymbol{y}$-component | $\boldsymbol{z}$-component |
| $\boldsymbol{g}$-values | 2.01 | 2.01 | 2.009 |
| A-values (N) $[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 20 | 20 | 100 |
| H strain (line broadening) $[\mathrm{MHz}]$ | 40 | 40 | 40 |

## Scaling factors and background correction

Experimental DEER traces consist of an oscillating form factor, $F(t)$, resulting from the intra-molecular contribution and the inter-molecular or background contribution $B(t)$ :

$$
D(t)=F(t) B(t)
$$

The form of this background correction is that of a homogenous three dimensional distribution of spins:

$$
B(t)=\exp \left(-k t^{\frac{d}{3}}\right)
$$

Where the dimensionality, $d=3$ and $k$ quantifies the density of spins.

The output $S(t)$ of the simulations (Eq. D), contains both a modulated part $\Delta \operatorname{sim} f(t)$ (corresponding to orientations where one spin center is excited by the pump pulse and the other by the detection pulses) and an unmodulated part 1- $\Delta_{\text {sim }}$ (corresponding to orientations where one center is excited by the detection pulses but the other not by the pump pulse). However no consideration is taken in the simulation program of the degree of labeling in the system, and the exact pulse excitation profile is difficult to model exactly. Both these factors affect the modulation depth. Therefore it is necessary to correct the simulated modulation depth by a constant scaling factor, $c$, in order to form $F(t)$.

$$
F(t)=1-c(1-S(t))
$$

The output of the simulation is

$$
S(t)=1-\Delta_{\mathrm{sim}}(1-f(t))
$$

where $f(t)$ is the reduced form factor and $\Delta_{\text {sim }}$ is the simulated modulation depth. Substitution of Eq.D into Eq.E yields

$$
\mathrm{F}(t)=1-\Delta(1-f(t))=1-c \Delta_{\operatorname{sim}}(1-f(t)) \quad \text { Eq. } \mathrm{E}
$$

where $\Delta=c \Delta_{\text {sim }}$ gives the modulation depth of the experimental trace (as stated in Eq. 2 of the main text).

The modulation depth scaling factor, $c$, and $k$ are found empirically by fitting the simulation to the experimental data, such that:

$$
D(t)=\left[1-c \Delta_{\operatorname{sim}}(1-f(t))\right] \exp (-k t) \quad \text { Eq.F }
$$

## The values of $c$ and $k$ used to fit the simulated DEER data to the experimental traces

Table ESI 1. The scaling factors necessary in order to fit the data for the NO•-NO• system (compound 8). The parameters correspond to those in Eq.F. The same $c$ value is used in each case, since this is a system-dependent parameter. $c$ takes into account the labelling efficiency of the system and also the pulse efficiencies.

| Pulse separation | $\boldsymbol{c}$ | $\boldsymbol{k}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 80 MHz | 0.7 | 0.045 |
| -108 MHz | 0.7 | 0.02 |

Table ESI 2. The scaling factors necessary in order to fit the data for the $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{NO} \cdot$ system (compounds 6 and 7). The parameters correspond to those in Eq.F. The same $c$ value is used in each case as this is a system-dependent parameter.

| Model System | $\boldsymbol{c}$ | $\boldsymbol{k}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{NO} \cdot 1$-phenyl (compound 6) | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| $\mathrm{Cu}-\mathrm{NO} \cdot 3$-phenyl (compound 7) | 1.0 | 0.72 |

Table ESI 3. The scaling factors used in the simulation of the $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ systems (compounds $\mathbf{1}$ to 5 ). The parameters correspond to those in Eq.F. The same $c$ value is used in each case, since this is a system-dependent parameter.

| Model system | Field of experiment (mT) | c | $k$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ 1-phenyl (compound 1) | 316.5 | 0.12 | 0.075 |
|  | 323.5 | 0.12 | 0.1 |
| $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ 2-phenyl (compound 2) | 316.5 | 0.26 | 0.07 |
|  | 323.5 | 0.26 | 0.09 |
| $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ 3-phenyl (compound 3) | 316.5 | 0.9 | 0.15 |
|  | 323.5 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ 4-phenyl (compound 4) | 316.5 (318.9) | 0.13 | 0.12 |
|  | 323.5 (325.9) | 0.13 | 0.17 |
| $\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})-\mathrm{Cu}(\mathrm{II})$ 5-phenyl (compound 5) | 316.5 | 0.16 | 0.05 |
|  | 323.5 | 0.16 | 0.07 |

## Further information on the structural models used for analysis

## Geometric model (model 3)



Figure ESI 10: Shown is the bending angles, of $20^{\circ}$ and cones of $22^{\circ}$, about which free rotation was allowed, used to generate the geometric based model 4 for compound 3 .

## Ball model (model 6)



Figure ESI 11 A) Model 6 for the 3-phenyl system (molecule 3). Schematic diagram for the distribution of centre 2, where the red circle is the equilibrium position for this centre and the dark and light blue circles show the maximum and minimum of the distribution with respect to centre 1, the green circle. B) In order to make spherical distributions with the same radius for both centres such that the maximum and minimum positions of the distribution calculated from the DFT results are contained within these two spheres a radius of 0.5 nm is required.

## Simulations for different orientations with both pump and probe pulses exciting the $g_{\mathrm{x} / \mathrm{y}}$ component of the spectrum



Figure ESI 12 A) Three possible orientations of two copper centres (shown as orange circles), ligated by four nitrogens (shown as white circles or coloured stars) with respect to one another. This is a model for a copper porphyrin. The axes are in nm. B) An expansion of the three intersecting planes of the porphyrin nitrogens depicted as stars in A). The three simulations in C) each correspond to one of these orientations. C) The dipolar spectrum calculated for the interaction between the centres in different orientations using the pump and probe corresponding to the magenta excitation positions of Figure 6a in the main text. The noise on this spectrum is a result of the use of a limited set of discrete angles for the orientation of the molecule with respect to the external magnetic field, $\mathbf{B}_{0}$.

Simulations for isotropic excitation and summing traces measured across the spectrum


Figure ESI 13 DEER traces from the DFT derived model of compound $\mathbf{3}$ for isotopic excitation of both centres by both pulses (red) and the sum of 8 traces with $\Delta v=100 \mathrm{MHz}$ at fields evenly positioned across the copper EPR spectrum (maroon). Although the modulation depths of the two traces are significantly different (left figure), the agreement between the shapes of the two sets of traces when the modulation depths are scaled to the same value is very good (right figure).

## SI of the supporting spectra.

## Characterisation data for compounds

Attached are the relevant ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H},{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR and CW-EPR spectra and the MALDI traces for a selection of the compounds synthesised.


TPP ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


# TPP ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR 



$\operatorname{TPPNO}_{2}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR



$\mathrm{TPPNH}_{2}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


TPPNH ${ }_{2}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR



| 152 |
| :---: |
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$\mathrm{BrPhPhCO} \mathbf{2}^{\mathrm{H}}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR
(

[^0]
$\mathrm{BrPhPhCO}_{2} \mathrm{Me}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR

$\mathrm{BrPhPhCO}_{2} \mathrm{Me}^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR



PBArArCO ${ }_{2} \mathrm{Me}^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


PBArArCO ${ }_{2} \mathrm{Me}^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR

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# dibromo dihexyl benzene ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR 


dibromodihexyl ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR










3 phenyl diester ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR


FI MSS 05890 [C34 H42 O4]
FI MSS $05890(0.563)$ Is $(1.00,1.00) \mathrm{C} 34 \mathrm{H} 42 \mathrm{O} 4$
Probe EI/FI
27-Mar-2009 13:32:54
TOF MS FI+


FI MSS 05890138 (3.200) Cm (138-1:5)
This is the measured mass spectrum of your sample. TOF MS FI+
(100)







## El MSS 05785 [C46 H50 O4]

## El MSS 05785 ( 0.517 ) Is $(1.00,1.00) \mathrm{C} 46 \mathrm{H} 50 \mathrm{O} 4$



Probe El/FI
This is the theoretical isotope model of your compound. TOF MS El+
666.3709
667.3743

EI MSS 05785272 (4.535) Cm (272-1:5)


TOF MS El+
5.76e3
667.3717
668.3683
6891.2831
m/z



2 phen diacid ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR



3 Phenyl diacid ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


3 Phenyl diacid ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR




4 Phenyl diacid ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR
$\stackrel{\boxed{\circ}}{\stackrel{\circ}{4}}$


$\begin{array}{lll}3.14 & 2.122 .082 .202 .11 & 4.131 .091 .10\end{array} \quad 4.18 \quad 4.7312 .106 .00$





5phenyl diacid 1H NMR


## 5 phenyl diacid ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR





1phen diporp





2phen diporp
MJ 2P NEW.002.001.1r.esp





3phen diporphyrin ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR




4 phenyl diporphyrin ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR



4 phenyl diporphyrin ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR


MSS 05644 [C126 H100 N10 02]





5 phenyl diporphyrin ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


## 5 phenyl diporphyrin ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR





MSS 05488 [C96 H60 Cu2 N10 O2]










MSS 05652 [C126 H96 Cu2 N10 O2]







1 phenporp $\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR


1phen acid


1 phenporpCO $\mathrm{H}^{\mathrm{H}}{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR






EPR data: Black line - Experimental data, Red line - Simulation (g: [2.0084 2.0065 2.0035] Nucs: 'N' A: [21.3973 2188.2998 ] Iwpp: [0.1144 0.2000])








3 phenporp $\mathrm{CO}_{2} \mathrm{H}^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR





EPR data: Black line - Experimental data, Red line - Simulation (g: [2.0081 2.0058 2.0046] Nucs: 'N' A: [21.0000 22.7274 89.9919] lwpp: [0.1000 0.2406])








EPR data: Black line - Experimental data, Red line - Simulation (g: [2.0087 2.0063 2.0036] Nucs: 'N' A: [21.9117 21.5106 88.7862] Iwpp: [0 0.2235])



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[^0]:    $\begin{array}{llllll}176 & 168 & 160 & 152 & 144 & 136\end{array}$

