# Synthesis of Furo-fused BINOL derived 17-Crown-5 and its application as a cation Sensor

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## Abstract

Furo-fused BINOL derived 17-crown-5 was developed and was evaluated as a cation sensor. This crown exhibited good binding to  $Cu^{2+}$  ion. Selective *''Turn-Off''* type fluorescence changes were observed upon the addition of  $Cu^{2+}$ . The fluorescence intensity quenching was ascribed to the complex formation between furo-fused BINOL derived 17-Crown-5 and  $Cu^{2+}$ .

#### Keywords

Furo-fused BINOL, cation sensor, fluorescence, 17-crown-5, quenching.

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Ever since the chiral applications of BINOL was reported by Noyori<sup>1</sup>, the chemist community has been consistently engaged in developing structural modification of the basic BINOL moiety in search of better applications<sup>2</sup>. The chemical and stereochemical properties can be tailored by suitable placement of various groups at C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7 and C-8 positions of BINOL. In the recent past a new furo-fused BINOL was developed <sup>3</sup>. This molecule was found to exhibit good levels of chiral molecular recognition. Introduction of furan ring at 7, 8, 7', 8'-positions of BINOL was considered to be responsible for the significant molecular recognition achieved. The literature search indicated that the BINOLs based macromolecules have exhibited a great deal of promise as selective metal ions<sup>4</sup> as well.

The development of fluorescence responsive sensors for various biologically and chemically important ions has seen a phenomenal growth in the past two to three decades<sup>5</sup>.  $Cu^{2+}$  is one of the heavy and soft metal ions which display considerable biological activity.<sup>6</sup>  $Cu^{2+}$  exhibits beneficial as well as toxic effects<sup>7</sup>. Designing an efficient chemosensor largely selective for copper is an important research goal from biological and environmental view point. An array of  $Cu^{2+}$  probes displaying either fluorescence 'on-off' or 'off-on' signaling modes have been preferred for sensitivity and experimental convenience. Numerous  $Cu^{2+}$  selective fluorescence sensors are available in the literature.<sup>8</sup>

The BINOL motif is endowed with a groove and electron rich aryl rings. New macrocycles, based on this unit, naturally could be expected to exhibit good levels of binding to cations. It was therefore of interest to carry out studies to find out whether such unit was capable of exhibiting selective binding to a particular metal cation. Due to the enormous significance of selective metal sensors, it was considered to evaluate the potential of the furo-fused BINOL derived crown as a selective metal sensor.

## 2. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A furo-fused BINOL derivative was synthesized.9



The two furo-naphto units were almost perpendicular to each other. The feature we were looking for as the much desired grove due to substantial dihedral angle.

The furo-fused derived 17-crown-5 (3) was obtained by reaction of 2 with tetra ethylene glycol ditosylate in presence of NaH and with high dilution protocol.

The furo-fused derived 17-crown-5 molecular framework thus offered a platform for metal ion coordination via its O-atoms. The fluorescence emission at 457 nm was relatively unaffected by pH values from 4 to 9. Thus, the compound furo-fused derived 17-crown-5 was found to be organic solvent-stable, pH-stable and therefore offered potentially useful chemosensor material. **Fig. 1** shows the fluorescent spectra of host **3** in the presence of various metal ions Na<sup>+</sup>, Ba<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> at 1:1 equivalent ratio.



Fig. 1 Fluorescent spectra of  $3 (5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M})$  in the presence of various metal ions (1mM) in acetonitrile

The concentration of **3** in acetonitrile was fixed at 5 x  $10^{-5}$  M, and the final concentration of metal ions was fixed at 1 x  $10^{-3}$  M. It was observed that Cu<sup>2+</sup> lead to an efficient fluorescence quenching of **3**. The other metal ions such as Na<sup>+</sup>, Ba<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> displayed a slight fluorescence quenching of **3**. The fluorescence quenching of **3** in the presence of different metal ions can be ascribed to the existence of crown part as the furo-fused BINOL **2** did not exhibit any quenching with any of the above-mentioned metal ions.

The competition experiment was carried out by adding  $Cu^{2+}$  (1 x 10<sup>-3</sup>M) to the acetonitrile solution of **3** (5 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M) in the presence of another metal ion, shown in **Fig.2** For all measurements, the excitation wavelength was set at 306 nm and the emission was monitored at 457 nm.



Fig. 2 Fluorescent response of 3 (5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with various metal ions. Dark bars represents complexation of 3 (5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with various metal ions (1 equiv), grey bars represent subsequent addition of Cu<sup>2+</sup> (1 equiv) to the respective complexes.

With the help of aforementioned data, it could be concluded that **3** was a useful fluorogenic sensing material for detection of  $Cu^{2+}$  ions.

To study the quenching behavior of  $Cu^{2+}$  ion in details, we investigated the decrease in fluorescence intensity upon successive addition of aliquots of  $Cu^{2+}$  (1 x 10<sup>-3</sup>M) in Acetonitrile to **3** (5 x 10<sup>-5</sup> M) solutions in acetonitrile. As shown in **Figure 3** quenching of photoluminescence was observed at a moderate level of  $Cu^{2+}$ , and the fluorescent intensity decreased upon the increase in the concentration of  $Cu^{2+}$ .



Fig.3 Fluorimetric titration of 3 (5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with Cu<sup>2+</sup> (1 x  $10^{-3}$ M) in acetonitrile (2.5 x  $10^{-5}$  to 17.5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) at 306 nm.

Initially we used 1equivalent  $Cu^{2+}$  ions solution (1 x 10<sup>-3</sup>M) that caused 7% quenching of fluorescence emission of **3**. When the equivalence of  $Cu^{2+}$  increases up to 3.5 (1 x 10<sup>-3</sup>M) almost no luminescence was observed. Thus **3** is a good "*turn–off*" type  $Cu^{2+}$ -induced fluorescence quencher. The Job's plot analysis shows formation of 1:1 complex between **3** and  $Cu^{2+}$  in **Figure 4**.



Fig.4 Job's Plot analysis of 3 (5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with Cu<sup>2+</sup>

The quenching efficiency is related to the Stern-volmer constant,  $K_{sv}$ , and is determined by monitoring measurable changes in the fluorescence via Stern-volmer plot of **3** with Cu<sup>2+</sup>. A reasonably good binding and selectivity was observed, as indicated by  $K_{sv} = 5.9 \times 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1}$  Figure 5.



Fig.5 Stern-volmer plot 3 (5 x  $10^{-5}$  M) with Cu<sup>2+</sup>

From the spectrophotometric titrations we calculated the detection limit of  $Cu^{2+}$  to be 1.7 x10<sup>-7</sup> M, which was comparable with the values reported for several  $Cu^{2+}$  selective sensors.

#### **3.MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

Spectral grade solvents were purchased from S. D. fine Chemicals (India) and used as received. UV-Vis. spectra were recorded using SHIMADZU UV-Vis. recording spectrophotometer, model no. UV-2401PC. Fluorescence studies were carried out using Perkin-Elmer LS-55 Spectrofluorophotometer. The slit width was set at 2 nm for both excitation and emission and the PMT detector voltage was 700 V. IR spectra were recorded on PERKIN ELMER FTIR Spectrometer and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on 300 MHz Bruker, AV II 300 of 300 MHz, using TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts were given in ppm relative to internal reference for CDCl<sub>3</sub> <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on 75 MHz Bruker, AV II 300 spectrometer. GC-MS spectrum were recorded on Thermo Finnigan LCQ DECA XP (Ion Trap). Reagents were of AR grade and used with out further purificaion. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60-120 mesh. Melting points repeoted are uncorrected.

#### 4. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

#### Synthesis of furo-fused-BINOL derived 17-crown-5 (3)

In a 100 mL three-necked round bottomed flask fitted with a reflux condenser alongwith a calcium chloride guard tube and  $N_2$  inlet was taken dry THF (30 mL). Then sodium hydride (0.004 g, 0.174 mmol) was added. To the refluxing solution was added slowly in 1 h, a 1:1 mixture of furo-fused BINOL (2). (0.1 g, 0.349 mmol) and tetraethylene ditosylate (0.175 g, 0.349 mmol) in dry THF (30 mL). After complete addition, the mixture was further refluxed for 4 h (monitored by TLC), and finally, the THF was concentrated under reduced pressure and the oily residue obtained was added to 100 g of ice. The solid was separated and was filtered, dried, and purified by column chromatography using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (60:40) as eluents to afford a white solid (**3**) (0.07 g, 0.126 mmol, 50%).

**FTIR (KBr):** 2907, 1742, 1617, 1529, 1450, 1418, 1371, 1219, 1062 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 2.44 (s,3H;*CH*<sub>3</sub>), 3.53-3.66 (m,4H,2CH<sub>2</sub>), 3.66-3.69 (m,4H, 2CH<sub>2</sub>), 7.04-7.07 (d,1H,ArH, *J*=8.7Hz), 7.46-7.49 (d,1H,ArH, *J*=9.0Hz), 7.52 (s,1H,ArH), 7.60-7.63 (d,1H,ArH, *J*=9.0Hz), 7.84-7.87 (d,1H,ArH, *J*=9.0Hz) <sup>13</sup>**CNMR** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$ : 11.14, 68.67,69.25, 70.53, 70.71,

106.25,109.54,110.44,115.13,117.41,121.07,125.22,125.74,130.30,130.78,140.73,153.84. **ESI MS** :m/z:[**M**]<sup>+</sup>552.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In summary, we have described a new TURN-OFF fluorogenic probe for copper(II) cation in acetonitrile.

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