Studies Toward the Chemistry of N-Confused Porphyrins

by

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Abstract

The objectives of this work were to study the chemistry of N-confused porphyrins, which is a porphyrin isomer with an inverted pyrrole ring, and to develop new photosensitizers based on N-confused porphyrins for photodynamic therapy (PDT).

Alkylation reactions of N-confused porphyrins were studied. N-confused tetraarylporphyrins reacted with CH₃I in the presence of Na₂CO₃ to yield N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts **103** - **107**, which are mixtures of structural isomers. The structures of the major isomers (**III**) were determined by X-ray diffraction and NMR spectroscopic analyses. These N,N'-dimethylated N-confused tetraarylporphyrin salts can generate singlet oxygen when irradiated with light of the appropriate wavelengths and are potential photosensitizers for PDT.



The peripheral carbon-nitrogen double bonds of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins are partially isolated from the 18 π conjugated aromatic system and reacted as dienophiles in Diels-Alder reactions with *o*-benzoquinodimethane yielding novel Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrins **133** (**a**-**c**). Ni(II) N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin, **133a**, was structurally characterized by X-ray diffraction analysis.

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Reaction of Ni(II) N-confused tetrakis(*p*-tolyl)porphyrin with NaOCH₃ and DDQ resulted in the inner C(21) cyanide addition product 146. Minor product 145 was presumably formed by subsequent nucleophilic addition of CH_3O^- to 146 at C(3) followed by oxidation with DDQ. Structures of both complexes 145 and 146 were determined by X-ray diffraction analyses.



The Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide **153** was synthesized from oxidation of the precursor Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin using OsO₄. This Ni(III) complex has been structurally characterized.



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List of Abbreviations

AMD	age-related macular degeneration
Anal.	analytical
BPDMA	benzoporphyrin derivative monoacid ring A
br	broad (NMR)
Calcd	calculated
conc.	concentrated
COSY	correlated spectroscopy
d	doublet
DDQ	2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone
DFT	density functional theory
DMAD	dimethylacetylene dicarboxylate
DMF	N,N-dimethylformamide
DPBF	1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran
EI	electron impact ionization
EPR	electron paramagnetic resonance
equiv.	equivalent
FAB	fast atom bombardment
h	hour(s)
HMBC	heteronuclear multiple bond connectivity
HMQC	heteronuclear multiple quantum coherence
HRLSIMS	high resolution liquid secondary ionization mass spectrometry
HSQC	heteronuclear single quantum coherence
LSIMS	liquid secondary ionization mass spectrometry
m	meta
m	multiplet
m/e	mass/charge
min	minute(s)

MS	mass spectrometry
MSA	methanesulfonic acid
N ₂ CP	doubly N-confused porphyrin
NBS	N-bromosuccinimide
NCP	N-confused porphyrin
NCS	N-chlorosuccinimide
NCTAP	N-confused tetraarylporphyrin
NCTPP	N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin
NCTTP	N-confused tetra(p-tolyl)porphyrin
NFP	N-fused porphyrin
NIS	N-iodosuccinimide
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
NOE	nuclear Overhauser effect
0	ortho
OEP	2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethylporphyrin
ORTEP	Oak Ridge thermal ellipsoid plot
р	para
PDT	photodynamic therapy
<i>p</i> -TsOH	toluene <i>p</i> -sulfonic acid
r. t.	room temperature
s	singlet
t	triplet
TBAB	tetrabutylammonium bromide
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
TLC	thin layer chromatography
TPP	meso-tetraphenylporphyrin
TTP	meso-tetra(p-tolyl)porphyrin
UV-vis	ultraviolet-visible

Nomenclature

Porphyrins and N-Confused Porphyrins

The parent porphyrin system is called porphine. The numbering of ring positions, including the nitrogens and the use of letters denoting individual rings, is shown below. Positions 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, and 19 are termed " α " positions, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 18 are " β " positions and 5, 10, 15, and 20 are "*meso*" positions.



N-confused porphyrin is named as 2-aza-21-carbaporphyrin and the numbering is shown below.



N-confused porphyrin

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Porphyrin and Porphyrin Related Macrocycles

Porphyrins are aromatic tetrapyrrolic macrocycles consisting of four pyrrole units joined through four methine bridges (Figure 1.1).¹ Although they have 22 π -electrons, only 18 of these π -electrons are involved in a cyclic delocalized pathway, which fulfills the requirement of Huckel's rule (4n + 2, n = 4). X-ray diffraction analyses of both free base porphyrins and metalloporphyrins have shown the planarity of the porphyrin skeleton, which is a requirement for aromatic character.^{2,3} Signals for the *meso*-H atoms of typical porphyrins in ¹H NMR spectra appear at about 10 ppm, while signals for the two inner pyrrole protons are observed between -2 to -5 ppm, suggesting a strong ring current.³ Saturation of the two cross-conjugated double bonds at the β positions does not affect the aromaticity; consequently these two bonds are relatively reactive. Reduction of one of these double bonds leads to formation of a chlorin and a further one bond reduction leads to formation of either a bacteriochlorin or an isobacteriochlorin (Figure 1.1).³



Figure 1.1 Porphyrin and porphyrin related macrocycles.

2

The four nitrogen atoms in a porphyrin are ideally arranged to chelate metal cations and thus readily form metal porphyrin complexes. Metalloporphyrins have been extensively studied, and most metals and some semimetals have been inserted into porphyrins, including all metals in the third to fifth row of the periodic table.^{3,4} Metalloporphyrins play important roles in a wide variety of biological processes, for example, iron complexes of protoporphyrin-IX, **1**, and chlorophylls **2** (Figure 1.2).⁵ The Fe(II) complex of protoporphyrin-IX is the prosthetic group of hemoglobin and myoglobin.⁵ Both hemoglobin and myoglobin reversibly bind O₂. Hemoglobin transports O₂ in blood plasma and myoglobin stores O₂ in cellular tissues.⁵ The Fe(III) complex of protoporphyrin-IX forms the prosthetic group of catalases and peroxidases, which are essential components of the biological defense against oxygen toxicity by removing reactive intermediates such as superoxide (O₂⁻) and peroxide (O₂²⁻).⁵ Chlorophylls play a key role in the harvesting of light energy during photosynthesis.⁵



Figure 1.2 Protoporphyrin-IX 1 and chlorophylls 2.

Porphyrins have an intense absorption (molar extinction coefficient between 100,000 - 400,000 M⁻¹cm⁻¹) around 400 nm in the visible region, referred to as the Soret or B band.^{3,6} Porphyrins also have lower intensity absorption bands between 450 and 650 nm, called Q-bands.³ Compared to those of porphyrins, the Soret band of chlorins is weaker, whilst the lowest energy Q-band of chlorins is normally red-shifted about 20 - 30 nm and has a 10 times greater intensity (Figure 1.3).



Figure 1.3 UV-vis spectra of a porphyrin and a chlorin (absorbance between 450 and 680 nm is shown with a 5 times greater intensity for clarity).

1.2 Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)

Photodynamic therapy (PDT)^{7,8} is "a medical treatment which employs the combination of light and a drug to bring about a cytotoxic or modifying effect to cancerous or otherwise unwanted tissue".⁷ PDT employs the use of a photosensitizer. This photosensitizer can be excited by irradiation and transfers energy to a desired reactant. PDT is used to treat diseases which involve rapid cell growth, such as cancerous tissues or abnormal blood vessels.⁷ The first step involves intravenous administration of the photosensitizer which attaches to lipoproteins in the bloodstream. As rapidly dividing cells have more lipoproteins than normal cells, the photosensitizer concentrates in these tissues.^{7,8} The photosensitizer is then activated with a laser at a particular wavelength where the photosensitizer absorbs extensively compared to endogenous chromophores. Once activated, the photosensitizer converts triplet oxygen to singlet oxygen, which readily reacts with many cell components resulting in cell death.^{7,8}

Porphyrin and porphyrin related macrocycles have been extensively studied as potential PDT agents as they may absorb at ideal wavelengths for maximal therapeutic effect. At present, most photosensitizers in clinical trials for PDT are porphyrin related macrocycles.⁹

1.2.1 Mechanism of Photosensitization

The process of photosensitization is shown in a modified Jablonski diagram (Figure 1.4).⁹⁻¹¹ After absorption of light, the photosensitizer is converted from its ground singlet state (S_0) into excited singlet states (S_n) . An excited singlet state molecule can lose energy *via* internal conversion $(S_m \rightarrow S_n + heat, m > n)$ until it reaches the first excited singlet state (S_1) , which normally has a very short lifetime $(\sim 10^{-6} \text{ s})$.⁹ The first excited singlet state (S_1) can return to the

ground singlet state (S₀) through either internal conversion or fluorescence.¹¹ The first excited singlet state can also be transformed into an electronically excited triplet state (T₁) through a spin forbidden process, intersystem crossing (S₁ \rightarrow T₁ + heat). The triplet state can return to the ground singlet state through either phosphorescence or energy transfer.¹¹ With phosphorescence being spin forbidden, the triplet state usually has a longer lifetime (~10⁻² s) than that of an excited singlet state.⁹



Absorption; 2. Internal Conversion; 3. Fluorescence;
 Intersystem Crossing; 5. Phosphorescence; 6. Energy Transfer

Figure 1.4 Modified Jablonski diagram.⁹⁻¹¹

The triplet state photosensitizer (³sensitizer) can undergo energy transfer via two types of

reactions. It can abstract an electron or hydrogen atom from a substrate (Type I Reaction):⁹⁻¹¹

³sensitizer + substrate \rightarrow sensitizer + substrate⁺_(ox)

³sensitizer + RH \rightarrow sensitizerH· + R·

The anionic photosensitizer can react with O_2 to generate a superoxide anion (O_2) .⁹⁻¹¹

sensitizer
$$+ O_2 \rightarrow \text{sensitizer} + O_2$$

The free substrate radical (\mathbf{R}) generated from hydrogen atom abstraction can react with O_2 and ultimately produce hydroperoxides.⁹⁻¹¹

$$R + O_2 \longrightarrow RO_2$$
: sensitizer H· (or other H donor) RO_2H + sensitizer

Both superoxide anion and hydroperoxides are very reactive species and can react further with a variety of substrates.⁹⁻¹¹

The triplet state photosensitizer can also return to the ground state through reaction with triplet oxygen (${}^{3}O_{2}$) giving singlet oxygen (${}^{1}O_{2}$) (Type II Reaction).⁹⁻¹¹ Singlet oxygen is a powerful oxidant which reacts with biological substrates in a variety of ways, for example (Scheme 1.1):^{10,11}

- A. Addition to the diene systems in heterocycles to give endoperoxides.
- B. Hydrogen abstraction and addition ("ene" reactions with compounds with allylic hydrogen atoms).
- C. [2+2] addition to double bond followed by the cleavage of that bond.
- D. Oxidation of sulfides to sulfoxides.



Scheme 1.1 Reactions of singlet oxygen with biological substrates.

These reactions result in destruction of biological substrates such as membranes, enzymes, proteins and nucleic acids.¹¹ It is generally agreed that singlet oxygen is the key agent of cellular damage in PDT,⁹ although there is indication that the superoxide ion may also be involved in some aspects of PDT damage.⁹

1.2.2 Desirable Properties of a PDT Drug

Ideally, a PDT drug, as drugs in general, should be easily and economically synthesized. Furthermore, a PDT drug should have strong absorption at wavelengths between 650 and 800 nm for the following reasons:

- The presence of endogenous chromophores such as hemoglobin results in very poor penetration of tissues by light at wavelengths below 650 nm.⁷
- A compound which absorbs light above 800 nm may not have a large enough energy gap between its triplet state and ground state to generate singlet oxygen.⁷

The criteria mentioned above are considered in this thesis work. Other desirable properties, such as high light toxicity,⁷ low dark toxicity,⁷ rapid clearance after injection,⁷ localizing specifically in tumours,⁷ and ease of formulation,⁷ are hard to control at the organic synthetic level.

1.3 From Porphyrins to Chlorins

As the lowest energy Q-band of chlorins is normally red-shifted 20-30 nm and has a 10 times greater absorption intensity compared to that of porphyrins, chlorins are better candidates as photosensitizers for PDT.⁷ Many methods have been developed to convert porphyrins to chlorins, for example, Diels-Alder reactions of porphyrins with β -vinyl groups as dienes,^{7,12,13} dihydroxylation with OsO₄,¹⁴ cycloaddition reactions of porphyrins as dienophiles or dipolarophiles,^{15,16} diimide reductions¹⁷ and cyclopropanations with carbenes.¹⁸

1.3.1 Diels-Alder Reactions of Porphyrins as Dienes

Porphyrins with β -vinyl groups can act as dienes and react with various dienophiles to yield the corresponding chlorins. For example, the benzoporphyrin derivative monoacid ring A (BPDMA, 4) was derived initially from the Diels-Alder reaction of protoporphyrin-IX dimethyl ester 3 with dimethylacetylene dicarboxylate (DMAD) (Scheme 1.2).^{7,12,13} BPDMA has been approved in more than 60 countries to treat age-related macular degeneration (AMD)⁷, the major cause of vision loss in people over the age of 60 in developed countries.



Scheme 1.2 Synthesis of BPDMA, 4.

1.3.2 Dihydroxylation of Porphyrins with OsO₄

Dihydroxychlorins can be obtained by oxidation of porphyrins with OsO_4 . For example, *meso*-tetraphenylporphyrin (TPP, **5a**) reacts with OsO_4 giving *meso*-tetraphenyl-2,3-*cis*-dihydroxy-2,3-chlorin, **6** (49 %) (Scheme 1.3).¹⁴



Scheme 1.3 Dihydroxylation of TPP with OsO₄.

1.3.3 Cycloaddition Reactions of Porphyrins as Dienophiles or Dipolarophiles

Diels-Alder reactions of *meso*-tetraarylporphyrins **5** (**a**-**d**) as dienophiles with *o*benzoquinodimethane, **8**, were investigated by Cavaleiro *et al.*¹⁵ TPP, **5a**, reacts with *o*benzoquinodimethane, generated *in situ* from the sulfone **7**, to yield chlorin **9a** (26%), naphtho[2,3-b]porphyrin, **10a** (20%), and compound **11a** (20%) (Scheme 1.4). Similar results are obtained when *meso*-tetraarylporphyrins **5** (**b**,**c**) are used.¹⁵



Scheme 1.4 Diels-Alder reactions of tetraarylporphyrins 5 (a-c) with o-benzoquinodimethane.

When *meso*-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin, **5d**, is used, chlorin **9d** (35 %) and two bacteriochlorin isomers **12** are obtained (Scheme 1.5). Porphyrin **5d** is electron-deficient and *o*-benzoquinodimethane is known to react more easily with electron-deficient dienophiles, which might explain why there can be addition of two equivalents of *o*-benzoquinodimethane to porphyrin **5d**.



Scheme 1.5 Diels-Alder reactions of *meso*-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)porphyrin, 5d, with *o*-benzoquinodimethane.

The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction of porphyrin **5d** as dipolarophile with azomethine **13** (Scheme 1.6) yields chlorin **14** (61 %) and isobacteriochlorin **15** (11 %).¹⁶ There are four possible bis-adducts, *cis* or *trans* bacteriochlorins and isobacteriochlorin. The formation of bis-adducts in this reaction is regio- and stereoselective, yielding mainly *trans*-isobacteriochlorin **15**. Isobacteriochlorin **15** can also be obtained by the reaction of chlorin **14** with azomethine **13**.



Scheme 1.6 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction of porphyrin 5d with azomethine 13.

1.4 N-Confused Porphyrins

1.4.1 Introduction

N-confused porphyrin (NCP) is a porphyrin isomer with an inverted pyrrole ring (Figure 1.5). Preparations of N-confused porphyrins were first independently reported by the groups of Furuta¹⁹ and Latos-Grażyński²⁰ in 1994. In both cases, N-confused tetraarylporphyrins **16** (**a**,**b**) were obtained through acid catalyzed condensation of pyrrole and aryl aldehyde with a yield of about 5 %.



Figure 1.5 Porphyrin and N-confused porphyrins.

Similar to porphyrins, N-confused porphyrins have an 18 π -electron pathway and are aromatic (Figure 1.5). The ¹H NMR spectrum of N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin (NCTPP, **16a**) reveals characteristic high-field signals for the inner NHs and CH (at -2.5 and -5.1 ppm, respectively), as a result of the aromatic ring current.¹⁹

The Soret band and Q-bands in the electronic absorption spectrum of NCTPP in CH_2Cl_2 are broadened and red-shifted ($\lambda_{max} = 438$ and 725 nm, respectively), as compared to those of TPP (419 and 647 nm),¹⁹ suggesting a potential application of NCPs as photosensitizers in PDT (Figure 1.6).



Figure 1.6 UV-vis spectra of NCTPP and TPP (absorbance between 484 and 800 nm is shown with a 5 times greater intensity for clarity).

As reported by Latos-Grażyński *et al.*,²⁰ Ni(II) can be inserted into N-confused tetra(p-tolyl)porphyrin (NCTTP, **16b**) under mild conditions to yield (NCTTP)Ni^{II}. The most notable feature of this complex is the coordination through the unprotonated inner carbon, suggested by the disappearance of the C(21)H proton resonance in the ¹H NMR spectrum of (NCTTP)Ni^{II}.

N-confused porphyrins have been extensively studied since the first reports on their preparations.²¹⁻³¹ Many synthetic methods were developed.²¹⁻²⁴ Different reactions of NCPs have been studied, including its alkylation reactions and coordination chemistry.²⁵⁻²⁹ Other porphyrin analogues with a CH in the inner macrocycle have been synthesized.^{30,31}

1.4.2 Structural Features of N-confused Porphyrins

The structure of NCTPP was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1.7).¹⁹ Crystals of NCTPP were obtained from a CH_2Cl_2/CH_3OH solution of NCTPP. Unlike TPP, the skeleton of NCTPP deviates from planarity.¹⁹ The confused pyrrole ring is tilted from the reference N(2)N(3)N(4) plane by 26.9°.¹⁹ Two adjacent and opposite pyrrole rings are tilted by 13.4°, 7.8°, and 5.8°, respectively. This deviation from planarity appears to result from mutual repulsion of the three inner hydrogen atoms.¹⁹



Figure 1.7 ORTEP drawings of NCTPP (obtained from a CH_2Cl_2/CH_3OH solution) showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level: top view (left) and side view (right). Solvent in both views and phenyl groups in the side view have been omitted for clarity.

The structures and electronic energies of hypothetical tautomers of N-confused porphyrins (Figure 1.8) were investigated by Szterenberg and Latos-Grażyński using density functional theory (DFT).³² Porphyrin was included to evaluate the relative stability of NCP with
respect to porphyrin. Tautomer 2-NH-CPH₂ was suggested by Ghosh to promote the hypothetical carbene-like coordination of C(21) and to explain the unexpectedly labile inner C-H bond.^{33,34} The calculated total electronic energies are presented in Table 1.1. Tautomer 21-CPH₂ in both solid state and CHCl₃ solution has been reported by the groups of Latos-Grażyński²⁰ and Furuta,¹⁹ and is calculated to be the most stable tautomer.³² There is only a small calculated energy difference between 21-CPH₂ and 21-H-21-CPH or 2-NH-CPH, suggesting the possibility of equilibria with the less stable tautomers.³² The energy of 2-NH-CPH₂ at 34.56 kcal/mol (B3LYP/6-31G**//B3LYP/6-31G) with respect to 21-CPH₂ is high compared to that of either 21-H-21-CPH or 2-NH-CPH, but is quite moderate considering its carbenic nature.³²



Figure 1.8 Porphyrin and hypothetical tautomers of N-confused porphyrin.

macrocycle	B3LYP/3-21G//	B3LYP/6-31G//	B3LYP/6-31G**//
	B3LYP/3-21G	B3LYP/6-31G	B3LYP/6-31G
Porphyrin	-22.95	-21.08	-20.41
21-CPH ₂	0	0	0
21-Н-СРН	6.20	8.22	3.00
2-NH-CPH	3.39	4.56	4.56
2-NH-CPH ₂	31.44	33.82	34.56
2-NH-21-H-CP	41.31	43.93	36.00

Table 1.1 Calculated relative electronic energies (kcal/mol) for porphyrin and hypothetical tautomers of N-confused porphyrin.

Calculations employing DFT on 2-NH-CPH and 2-NH-CPH₂ relative to 21-CPH₂ were carried out also by Ghosh *et al.*³⁵ and the results were similar to those described above.

The presence of a type 2-NH-CPH tautomer was first reported by Furuta *et al.*³⁶ A color difference of NCTPP in CHCl₃ (red) and DMF (green) was observed. The ¹H NMR spectra of NCTPP in CDCl₃ and DMF- d_7 were examined. The type 21-CPH₂ tautomer, predominant in CDCl₃, has signals at -4.99 and -2.41 (2H) ppm, respectively, for inner CH and NHs.¹⁹ On the other hand, the ¹H NMR spectrum of NCTPP in DMF- d_7 shows singlet signals at 0.76, 2.27, and 13.54 ppm, assigned to the inner CH, inner NH and outer NH, respectively, suggesting existence

of the type 2-NH-CPH tautomer, which should be stabilized by the hydrogen-bond between the peripheral NH and DMF.³⁶ The structure of a type 2-NH-CPH tautomer was explicitly determined by X-ray diffraction analysis with a crystal obtained from a DMF-MeOH solution of NCTPP (Figure 1.9).³⁶ The porphyrin skeleton is planar with four pyrrole rings tilted at 4.7°, 0.2°, 2.8°, and 0.9°, respectively, from the reference N(2)N(3)N(4) plane. The distance between the peripheral N of NCP and O of the associated DMF molecule is 3.101 Å, within hydrogenbonding distances.



Figure 1.9 ORTEP drawings of NCTPP obtained from DMF-MeOH showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level: top view (up) and side view (down). For clarity, phenyl groups have been omitted in the side view.

1.4.3 Preparation of N-Confused Porphyrins

N-confused porphyrins were initially synthesized from acid catalyzed condensation of pyrrole and aryl aldehyde, with Latos-Grażyński *et al.* using an excess of pyrrole and BF₃·Et₂O,²⁰ and Furuta *et al.* using a 1:1 ratio of starting materials with HBr as a catalyst.¹⁹ In both cases, N-confused porphyrins were obtained in ~5 % yield.

Latos-Grażyński *et al.* suggested that two helical conformations of tetrapyrromethane differing only by a single 180° rotation of the terminal pyrrole are intermediates of this reaction (Scheme 1.7).²⁰ Both intermediates are susceptible to electrophilic attack at either the α or β positions, and upon oxidation afford tetra(*p*-tolyl)porphyrin (TTP) or NCTTP, respectively.



Scheme 1.7 Mechanism of NCTTP formation as suggested by Latos-Grażyński.

The effects of the use of various acids as catalysts for the preparation of N-confused porphyrins by condensation of pyrrole and aryl aldehyde were studied by Lindsey *et al.* and it was found that the highest yield was obtained using methanesulfonic acid (MSA).²¹ For

example, a 1.5 L preparative scale reaction employing 10 mM of pyrrole and benzaldehyde and 7 mM of MSA affords NCTPP in the yield of 35 % (800 mg).²¹

A lower yield was obtained using dipyrromethane 17 as starting material with toluene p-sulfonic acid (p-TsOH) as a catalyst (Scheme 1.8). NCTPP was obtained in 7 % yield.²²



Scheme 1.8 Synthesis of NCTPP from dipyrromethane 17.

The methods described above are simple but only useful for β -unsubstituted "symmetric" (excluding the asymmetric effect from the inverted pyrrole) N-confused tetraarylporphyrins (NCTAP). Other methods were developed to prepare β -substituted asymmetric N-confused porphyrins.^{23,24} For example, a MacDonald [2+2] synthesis was reported by Dolphin *et al.* to generate N-confused porphyrin **18** (Scheme 1.9).²³



Scheme 1.9 MacDonald [2+2] synthesis of N-confused porphyrin 18.

Lash *et al.* reported that condensation of pyrrole **19 (a-c)** with tripyrrane **20** yielded N-confused porphyrins **21 (a-c)** (Scheme 1.10).²⁴ The yield is high when the pyrrole contained a 5-alkyl substituent (28 - 47 %).²⁴ This is an example of a [3 + 1] methodology.²⁴



Scheme 1.10 Synthesis of N-confused porphyrins 21 (a-c) by a [3 + 1] methodology.

A doubly N-confused porphyrin (N₂CP), 2-ethoxy-5,10,15,20-tetrapentafluorophenyl-3,7-diaza-21,22-dicarbaporphyrin, **23**, can be prepared in ~2 % yield by condensation of perfluorobenzaldehyde and dipyrromethane **22** in chloroform containing a trace of EtOH with $BF_3 \cdot Et_2O$ as the acid catalyst followed by oxidation with 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4benzoquinone (DDQ) (Scheme 1.11).³⁷



Scheme 1.11 Synthesis of doubly N-confused porphyrin 23.

1.4.4 Reactivity of N-Confused Porphyrins

Unlike porphyrins, N-confused porphyrins have a peripheral nitrogen atom, which is less sterically hindered and much more nucleophilic than the inner nitrogen atoms in porphyrin, and consequently, the peripheral nitrogen atom can be easily methylated.²⁵ The inner carbon atom in Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins is nucleophilic as well and can also be methylated.²⁶

N-confused porphyrins can act as either a di-anionic or tri-anionic ligand, while doubly N-confused porphyrins can act as a di-anionic, tri-anionic or tetra-anionic ligand (Figure 1.10).²⁸ The peripheral nitrogen atom of NCP is protonated when NCP acts as a di-anionic ligand. A variety of N-confused porphyrin complexes have been prepared.²⁷⁻²⁹



Figure 1.10 Multi-valence properties of NCP and N₂CP.

1.4.4.1 Alkylation of N-Confused Porphyrins

An outer N-methylated N-confused porphyrin, 2-aza-2-methyl-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin (N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP, **24**) is obtained quantitatively by reaction of NCTPP with CH₃I (Scheme 1.12).²⁵ The inner CH resonance at 0.43 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **24** shows that in **24** the aromaticity is preserved, though to a degree less than that of NCTPP, whose inner CH proton resonates at -5.1 ppm. The UV-vis spectrum of N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP is similar to that of a porphyrin, with the strongest absorption around 450 nm corresponding to the Soret band of a porphyrin, while the Q-band is red shifted to 710 nm. Compound N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP is readily metalated with Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O at r. t. to yield (N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni¹¹, **25**.²⁵



Scheme 1.12 Synthesis of N(2)-CH₃CTPP 24 and its Ni(II) complex 25.

Methylation of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} was investigated by Latos-Grażyński *et al.* (Scheme 1.13).²⁶ After 24 h, the product of reaction between (NCTPP)Ni^{II} and CH₃I (1:30 molar ratio) is predominantly the diamagnetic inner C-methylated N-confused porphyrin (C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}, **26**.²⁶ Complete conversion to the dimethylated paramagnetic compound (N(2)-CH₃-C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}I, **27**, is observed after 7 days. Compound **27** can also be obtained quantitatively from the reaction of the Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin complex **25** with CH₃I.²⁶ Upon reaction of compound 26 with a 1 % solution of HCl, a paramagnetic compound 28 is obtained. Demetalation of compounds 26 and 27 with conc. HCl yields N-confused porphyrins 29 and 30, respectively.²⁶ The C-methylated N-confused porphyrins 29 and 30 preserve their coordination properties and can be remetalated to their parent N-confused metalloporphyrins.²⁶



Scheme 1.13 Reactions of methylated (NCTPP)Ni^{II}.

It was proposed that CH_3I interacts directly with (NCTPP)Ni^{II} (Scheme 1.14), and oxidative addition of the methyl cation to the substrate at C(21) takes place.²⁶ The axially coordinated iodide is on the same side of the C-methyl group as the result of the *syn*-addition and thus the intermediate **32** is unstable due to the steric interaction. Dissociation of HI from the intermediate **32** results in the C-methylated compound **26**.



Scheme 1.14 Proposed mechanism for inner C-methylation of (NCTPP)Ni^{II}.

Compounds 27 and 28 have similar electronic absorption spectra, with broad absorptions around 730 nm (log ε is 3.88 and 3.80, respectively), whilst compound 26 has only a weak absorption between 650 - 900 nm.²⁶ Compounds 29 and 30 have strong absorptions at 740 nm (log ε = 3.95) and 710 nm (log ε = 4.25), respectively, and are thus potential photosensitizers for PDT.²⁶

The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **29** is similar to that of NCTPP, with the strongly upfield shifted C(21)H (-5.1 ppm) resonance being replaced by the resonance of C(21)-CH₃ (-4.84 ppm).²⁶ The ¹H NMR signal of C(21)-CH₃ in compound **30** appears at -1.40 ppm, suggesting weak aromaticity due to external N-methylation, as in the case of N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP, the aromaticity nor the conjugation pathway.

24. The similarities of these ¹H NMR spectra between compound 29 and NCTPP, or compound
30 and 24, respectively, suggest that inner C-methylation does not have a significant impact on

The structure of compound **26** favors conjugation *via* the outer path at the inverted pyrrole unit, whilst compound **29** favors conjugation *via* the inner path at the inverted pyrrole unit (Scheme 1.13).²⁶ Consequently, the ¹H NMR signal of C(3)H in compound **29** appears at 7.11 ppm, compared to that in compound **26** at 9.90 ppm, as the result of a closer ring current.

The structures of compounds 26 and 27 were determined by X-ray crystallography (Figure 1.11).²⁶ In both compounds, the planarity of the macrocycles is severely distorted. The dihedral angles between the pyrrole unit and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) -42.2°, N(22) 15.4°, N(23) 3.1°, and N(24) 15.8° for compound 26, and C(21) - 55.3°, N(22) 14.3°, N(23) 0.9°, and N(24) 14.4° for compound 27. The confused pyrrole of compound 26 coordinates to Ni(II) through sp³-hybridized C(21) resulting in a pyramidal geometry, while the coordinating carbon in compound 27 preserves the planar trigonal geometry indicating sp² hybridization.



Figure 1.11 ORTEP drawings of compound 26 (left) and 27 (right) showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at 50 % probability. H atoms and solvent have been omitted for clarity.

(NCTPP)Ni^{II} reacts with CH_2Br_2 to yield 2,21'- CH_2 -linked Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin dimer 33 (79 %) and 2,2'-linked dimer 34 (16 %) (Scheme 1.15).³⁸ If CH_2I_2 is used, only dimer 33 is formed.³⁸



Scheme 1.15 Synthesis of dimeric Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins 33 and 34.

1.4.4.2 Reactions of N-Confused Porphyrin Complexes

As mentioned before, NCTTP (section 1.4.1) and N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP, **24** (section 1.4.4.1), are readily metalated with Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O at r. t. to yield Ni(II) complexes.^{20,25} The structure of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} was determined by X-ray crystallography and the porphyrin skeleton is almost planar (Figure 1.12).²⁰



Figure 1.12 ORTEP drawings of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} showing thermal ellipsoids at 50 % probability: top view (left) and side view (right). *p*-Tolyl groups in side view have been omitted for clarity. The C(21) and N(2) atoms are disordered and not distinguishable in the X-ray structure.²⁰

Reactions of Ni(II) dimethylated N-confused porphyrin **27** (X = Cl) with phenyl Grignard reagents, phenyllithium, and *n*-butyllithium were investigated by Chmielewski and Latos-Grażyński.²⁷ Reaction of compound **27** (X = Cl) with PhMgBr at 203 K leads to the substitution of an axial chloride by the phenyl anion to give (N(2)-CH₃-C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}Ph, **35**.²⁷

Compound **35** can also be obtained by the titration of compound **27** (X = Cl) with phenyllithium, and a one-electron reduction of compound **35** with excess of phenyllithium gives [(N(2)-CH₃-C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}Ph]⁻, **36**.²⁷ Reaction of **27** with *n*-butyllithium yields a single species [(N(2)-CH₃-C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}Bu]ⁿ⁻, **37** (n =1 or 2), which is either one- or two-electronreduced.²⁷ The exact value of "n" can not be determined, though the authors favor the formation of two electron reduced species (n = 2) for **37** based on its NMR spectra.²⁷

Reaction of doubly N-confused porphyrin 23 with $Pd(OAc)_2$ in toluene results in Pd(II) complex 38, the inner C-arylated product (Scheme 1.16).²⁸ A FAB peak at 1217.8 *m/e* suggests the addition of a tolyl group to the Pd-N₂CP complex. Signals corresponding to the tolyl protons were observed in the high-field region (5.61 - 6.36 ppm) in the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 36, suggesting that the tolyl group is located in the porphyrin core. The methyl groups on the tolyl substituent were found to be at the *para* and *meta* positions in a 1:2 ratio. This complexation reaction does not proceed if either chloroform or benzene is used as the solvent. However, both C-phenyl and C-tolyl Pd-N₂CP complexes are obtained when a 1:1 benzene/toluene solution is used.²⁸



Scheme 1.16 C-arylation of doubly N-confused porphyrin 23.

The structure of compound **38** was explicitly determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 1.13).²⁸ The arylation occurs on the inner carbon on the pyrrole without an ethoxy group. The tolyl-substituted inverted pyrrole ring is bent at 56.3° with respect to the mean plane defined by the four core nitrogen and carbon atoms, while the tolyl group stands almost vertically (88.6°) at the opposite side.



Figure 1.13^{28} An ORTEP drawing of complex 38. Solvents and pentafluorophenyl groups have been omitted for clarity.

The inner arylation reaction has not been observed in the reactions of N-confused porphyrins. When NCTTP and $Pd(OAc)_2$ are refluxed in chloroform, (NCTTP)Pd^{II}, **39**, is obtained in 50 % yield; if toluene is used as solvent, compound **39** and two red-colored products, **40a** and **40b**, are obtained in yields of 19 %, 27 %, and 36 %, respectively (Scheme 1.17).²⁹



Scheme 1.17 Reactions of NCTTP with Pd(II).

The structure of compound **39** was determined by X-ray crystallography, and the Pd ion is located in the porphyrin core in a square-planar fashion.²⁹ The FAB mass spectra of both **40a** and **40b** have parent peaks at 1550 *m/e* suggesting they are dimeric species, (Pd-NCTTP)₂.²⁹ In the ¹H NMR spectra of complexes **40a** and **40b**, one set of inner proton (CH, NH) signals was observed at -4.40 and 0.09 ppm for **40a**, while two sets of signals for inner protons were observed at -3.83 and 0.04 ppm and -3.28 and 0.51 ppm for **40b**, suggesting the symmetrical and unsymmetrical structures of **40a** and **40b**, respectively.²⁹ The unsymmetrical structure of **40b** was elucidated by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis.²⁹ Because of the lack of the crystal structure of **40a**, other isomeric structures which differ with respect to the coordinating nitrogen atoms can not be ruled out.²⁹

A tetra-Zn(II)-coordinated NCTPP dimer **41** is quantitatively obtained when NCTPP is treated with 2 equiv. of $Zn(OAc)_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ in CH_2Cl_2 at r. t. (Scheme 1.18).³⁹ Removal of the acetate ligands of **41** by 1 % Et₄NOH aqueous solution leads to formation of dimer **42**, of which

the molecular mass was determined by molecular ion peak at 1353 m/e (FAB) as well as vapor pressure osmometry measurements at 1301 g/mol.³⁹ The Zn dimer 42 can be further transformed into monomeric pyridine complex 43 by adding pyridine.³⁹ The structures of complex 41 and 43 were determined by X-ray crystallography.³⁹



Scheme 1.18 Reactions of Zn complexes of NCTPP.

An inner and outer N-coordinated bis-Rh(I) N-confused porphyrin complex 44 is obtained from the reaction of N-confused porphyrin with $[Rh(CO)_2Cl]_2$ (Scheme 1.19).⁴⁰ The structure of complex 44 was explicitly demonstrated by single crystal X-ray diffraction

analysis.⁴⁰ Both Rh(I) ions are located above the NCP plane and the geometry around the metal centers is close to square planar.



Scheme 1.19 Synthesis of bis-Rh(I) N-confused porphyrin complex 44.

The Fe(II) complex (NCTPP)Fe^{II}Br, **45**, can be obtained through the reaction of NCTPP with FeBr₂ in 85 % yield, and the axial ligand Br⁻ can be changed to $C_7H_7S^-$ through the reaction of complex **45** with NaSC₇H₇ in 78 % yield (Scheme 1.20).⁴¹ The r. t. effective magnetic moment of **45** obtained by Evan's method⁴² is 4.85 μ_B , close to the spin only value (μ_{eff} = 4.90 μ_B) of a high spin d⁶ Fe(II) center with four unpaired electrons, while the effective magnetic moment of **46** is 2.77 μ_B , suggesting an intermediate spin Fe(II) center with two unpaired electrons.⁴¹ Structures of **45** and **46** were determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analyses.⁴¹ While the Fe…C(21) distances in **45** and **46**, 2.361(10) and 2.398(3) Å, respectively, are comparable, the Fe…H(21) distance of 1.971 Å in **45** is much shorter than that of **46**, 2.334 Å.⁴¹ Importantly, the C(21)-H(21)…Fe in **45** is within the bond distance of an agostic interaction between the iron and pyrrolic C(21)-H(21) bond.⁴¹ The iron center in **45** is relatively electron-deficient, as Br⁻ is less basic than C₇H₇S⁻, resulting in the stronger three-center two-electron C(21)-H(21)…Fe interaction.⁴¹



Scheme 1.20 Synthesis of Fe(II) N-confused porphyrin.

Stable NCP complexes with high oxidation state metals have been obtained, such as NCP complexes of Ni(III), Ag(III), Sb(V) and Cu(II).⁴³⁻⁴⁷

One-electron oxidations of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} and (N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}, **25**, result in formation of rare organonickel(III) derivatives **47** - **51** (Scheme 1.21).⁴³ Oxidation of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} occurs without deprotonation of the outer nitrogen and the additional charge is compensated by an anionic ligand. The oxidation processes are chemically reversible, and (NCTPP)Ni^{II} or (N(2)-CH₃NCTPP)Ni^{II} is recovered after addition of typical reducing agents, e.g. sodium dithionite.⁴³ EPR spectra of the one-electron oxidized species are heavily dependent on the axial group and the spin-Hamiltonian parameters in each case suggest a metal-centered oxidation rather than a cation radical formation.⁴³ The localization of the one-electron oxidation on the nickel ion is supported by the observation of ⁶¹Ni hyperfine splitting in the EPR spectra.⁴³



Scheme 1.21 Synthesis of organonickel(III) compounds.

A Ag(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin (NCTPP)Ag^{III}, **52**, can be obtained through the reaction of Ag(I) trifluoroacetate and NCTPP, and this was the first example of an air-stable Ag(III) complex.⁴⁴ Coordination of Ag(III) has a slightly distorted pseudo-square-planar geometry, shown by its X-ray structure (Figure 1.14).⁴⁴ The Ag(III) oxidation state of the silver ion is supported by the following points:⁴⁴

- Absence of the counteranion indicates that the complex is neutral, and the outer nitrogen atom is deprotonated, as suggested by the ¹H NMR spectrum.
- Complex 52 is diamagnetic, whilst the Ag(II) complex is paramagnetic.



Figure 1.14⁴⁴ X-ray structure of (NCTPP)Ag^{III}, **52**: (a) top view and (b) side view; (c) chemdraw structure. H atoms and solvent molecule (CH_2Cl_2) are omitted for clarity.

Sb(V) N-confused porphyrins (NCTAP)Sb^V(OCH₃)₂ **53** (**a**,**b**) are prepared through the reactions of NCTAP and SbBr₃, followed by column chromatography with MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ as eluents (Scheme 1.22).⁴⁵ Compounds **53** are neutral as NCPs act as a tri-anionic ligand, which is suggested by the singlet peaks of C(3)H protons observed in the ¹H NMR spectra of **53a** and **53b** indicating no adjacent NH protons.⁴⁵ The fact that there is no counteranion in the X-ray crystal structure of **53b** also suggests that compounds **53** are neutral.⁴⁵



Scheme 1.22 Synthesis of (NCTAP)Sb^V(OCH₃)₂ 53.

If 53 is refluxed in ethanol for 2 days, the axial group $-OCH_3$ is exchanged with $-OCH_2CH_3$ to give (NCTAP)Sb^V(OCH_2CH_3)_2 54 quantitatively.⁴⁵ Addition of acid speeds up the exchange process and an "S_N1-like" mechanism is proposed (Scheme 1.23).⁴⁵



Scheme 1.23 Axial group exchange of complexes 53 (a, b).

Reactions of Cu(OAc)₂ with NCTPP or N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP, **24**, yield Cu(II) N-confused porphyrin **55** and **56**, respectively (Scheme 1.24).⁴⁶ Titration of **55** and **56** with acid results in formation of new species, **57**-X and **58**-X (X = Cl, CF₃COO), respectively, which can also be generated through the reaction of CuCl₂ with NCTPP and **24**, respectively.⁴⁶ Insertion of Cu(II) into dimethylated NCP **30** produces complex **59**-X (X = Cl, I), which can also be obtained through the reaction of **56** with CH₃I (Scheme 1.25).⁴⁶ Those compounds represent the first examples of stable monomeric organometallic complexes of Cu(II).⁴⁶ The isotropic ¹⁴N EPR hyperfine pattern for **57**-X and **58**-X can be reproduced by a simulation assuming that all three inner nitrogen atoms are magnetically equivalent, indicating inner C(21) as the proton binding site.⁴⁶ The EPR spectrum of **59**-X resembles those of **57**-X and **58**-X due to the structure similarities between them.⁴⁶



Scheme 1.24 Synthesis of Cu(II) N-confused porphyrin 55 - 58.



Scheme 1.25 Syntheses of dimethylated Cu(II) N-confused porphyrin 59.

The Cu(II) complex can also be obtained through the metalation of N-confused calix[4]phyrin **60** (Scheme 1.26).⁴⁷ Compound **60** is prepared in 3 % yield by the acid catalyzed condensation of aryl aldehyde, acetone and pyrrole.⁴⁷ Metalation of **60** with NiCl₂ or Cu(OAc)₂ yields complex **61** and **62**, respectively, suggesting that the π -conjugated system is not necessary to stabilize the organometallic compounds.⁴⁷ Structures of both **61** and **62** were determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analyses.⁴⁷ The Ni(II) complex **61** has a ruffled structure, with four pyrrole rings tilting 20.55, 11.37, 14.63, and 0.00°, whilst the Cu(II) complex **62** has a near planar structure and the four pyrrole rings are tilted 6.69, 4.25, 2.91, and 4.70°. Both complexes form dimeric structures through hydrogen bonding between the peripheral amide groups.⁴⁷ Although complex **62** is nearly planar in the solid state, differences between the EPR spectra of **62** in powder ($g_x = g_y = 2.031$, $g_z = 2.139$) and in DMF solution ($g_x = 2.01$, $g_y = 2.06$, $g_z = 2.13$) suggest a distortion from the square-planar form in DMF solution.⁴⁷



Scheme 1.26 Synthesis of metal complexes of N-confused calix[4]phyrin 61 and 62.

Diamagnetic Ag(III) and Cu(III) complexes of doubly N-confused porphyrin, 63 and 64, were prepared by Furuta *et al. via* the reaction of N₂CP 23 with AgOAc or Cu(OAc)₂ (Scheme 1.27).³⁷ Both complexes have a square-planar tetracoordination, shown by their X-ray crystal structures.³⁷



Scheme 1.27 Synthesis of N_2CP complexes 63 and 64.

1.4.4.3 Electrophilic and Nucleophilic Substitution

As an aromatic system, an N-confused porphyrin undergoes electrophilic substitution. Nitration of NCTPP using either NaNO₂/HCl or 30 % HNO₃ occurs on inner C(21) and the resulting nitro-substituted NCTPP **65** (Scheme 1.28) is severely distorted due to the repulsion in the core, with the confused pyrrole ring canting 42.4° from the porphyrin plane.^{48,49} Both nitronium (NO₂⁺) and nitrosonium (NO⁺) ions are plausible electrophiles, and electrophilic attack by nitrosonium ion followed by oxidation with O₂ in air is a candidate for the nitration process.⁴⁸



Scheme 1.28 Nitration of NCTPP.

When NCTPP is treated with 1 equiv. of N-bromosuccinimide (NBS), monobrominated NCTPP **66a** is obtained in 90 % yield, while 2 equiv. of NBS results to dibrominated NCTPP **67a** (Scheme 1.29).⁴⁹ When either N-chlorosuccinimide (NCS) or N-iodosuccinimide (NIS) is used in place of NBS, the corresponding monohalogenated NCTPP **66b** and **66c** are formed, but the dihalogenated products are not obtained, presumably due to the low reactivity of NCS and the instability of the diiodo product.⁴⁹ Bromination of **66b**, **66c**, and **65** is achieved by treatment with 1 equiv. of NBS.⁴⁹



Scheme 1.29 Halogenation of NCTPP and substituted NCTPP.

A new type of porphyrinoid, N-fused porphyrin (NFP) **68** with a fused tripentacyclic pyrrole ring in the macrocyclic core is spontaneously obtained from a pyridine solution of dibrominated N-confused porphyrin **67a** in 91 % yield (Scheme 1.30).^{49,50} Compounds **67** (**b** - **d**) undergo similar reactions.⁴⁹ An inversion of the confused pyrrole ring is believed to precede the reaction.⁴⁹ Compound **68** is aromatic, as it keeps the 18 π -electron pathway, and signals for the peripheral hydrogens are observed in the range of 7.55 - 8.96 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum.⁴⁹ The inner NH signal, expected to be highly shielded due to the ring current, appears at 8.38 ppm, as the result of strong hydrogen bonding overcoming ring current. Despite its crowded multi-ring structure, the porphyrinoid skeleton of **68** is almost planar, as revealed by its X-ray structure (Figure 1.15).^{49,50}



Scheme 1.30 Synthesis and reactions of N-fused porphyrins.

Compound **68** is unstable in basic media. Methoxy substituted N-confused porphyrin **69** is obtained in 72 % yield when compound **68** is treated with NaOCH₃/CH₃OH for 30 min.⁴⁹ Debromination of compound **68** occurs when it is refluxed for 2 days in pyridine.⁴⁹ Presumably the hydrogen atom comes from the residual water in the solvent, as deuterium is introduced to NFP ring when D_2O is added to the pyridine solution.⁴⁹



Figure 1.15 ORTEP drawings of compound **68** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at 50 % probability: top view (left) and side view (right). H atoms in both view and phenyl groups in the side view have been omitted for clarity.

NCTPP reacts with excess of pyrrole in refluxing DMF containing a catalytic amount of $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ to give a pentapyrrolic NCP 71 with a yield of 60 % (Scheme 1.31).⁵¹ Compound 71 can also be obtained through $BF_3 \cdot OEt_2$ catalyzed condensation of benzaldehyde and excess pyrrole with a yield of 1.5 %.⁵¹



Scheme 1.31 Synthesis of N-confused porphyrin 71.

1.4.4.4 Oxidative Degradation

It has been noticed that N-confused porphyrins are often unstable during the course of metalation with various transition metals such as Cu, Mn and Fe.⁵² The complexation reaction of N-confused porphyrins with Cu(II) under an aerobic atmosphere was investigated by Furuta *et al.*⁵² When NCTPP and Cu(OAc)₂ were refluxed in toluene for 24 h, a decomposing tripyrrolic complex **72** was obtained in 34 % yield (Scheme 1.32).⁵² When the reaction was performed under rigorous anaerobic conditions, the inner core complex **55** was formed quantitatively (Scheme 1.24).⁴⁶ Complex **72** can be demetalated with conc. H₂SO₄ giving a free tripyrrolic ligand **73** which can bind a variety of transition metals (Scheme 1.32).⁵²



Scheme 1.32 Reactions of tripyrrolic ligand 73.

The cleavage site of the *meso*-position, either 5-, 20- or both, was determined by using NCP 75 as the starting material (Scheme 1.33).⁵² The isolated tripyrrolic complex 76 preserves the pyridine unit and no other tripyrrolic derivative was observed in this reaction, indicating that the removal of the *meso*-phenyl group is regioselective at the 5- position.



Scheme 1.33 Oxidative degradation of NCP 75.

1.4.5 Other Porphyrin Analogues with a CH in the Inner Macrocycle

Carbaporphyrins are porphyrin analogues with one five-membered unsaturated all-carbon ring replacing one pyrrole ring. Carbaporphyrin **78** (\mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b}) can be prepared by condensation of hydroxyfulvenedialdehyde **77** (\mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b}) with tripyrrane **20** (Scheme 1.34).^{30,31} In the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **78a**, the inner NH protons and CH proton have signals at -4.2 and -7.2 ppm, respectively, indicating a strong ring current and the overall aromaticity of carbaporphyrins.



Scheme 1.34 Synthesis of carbaporphyrin 78 (a,b).

Benziporphyrin, a benzene containing porphyrin analogue, can be synthesized by acid catalyzed condensation of a tripyrrane dicarboxylic acid with isophthalaldehyde.⁵³ NMR data suggest that benziporphyrin exists as a mixture of two tautomers **79** and **80** (Scheme 1.35). The system does not exhibit aromatic properties as a whole, as the conjugation discontinues in the benzene ring.⁵⁴



Scheme 1.35 Structures of the two tautomers for benziporphyrin.

Oxybenziporphyrin 82 was prepared by the reaction of tripyrrane dicarboxylic acid 20 and 5-formylsalicylaldehyde 81 (Scheme 1.36).⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ It has the 18 π -electron pathway and is aromatic.⁵⁴ The inner CH has a signal at -7.2 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum for compound 82, indicating the presence of a macrocyclic ring current.



Scheme 1.36 Synthesis of oxybenziporphyrin 82.

Compound **85**, a tetraphenylthiaporphyrin bearing one inverted pyrrole, was obtained by Lee and Kim *via* the [3 + 1] condensation of pyrrole **83** and thiotripyrrane **84** (Scheme 1.37).⁵⁷



Scheme 1.37 Synthesis of compound 85.

Compound **87**, a tetraphenylthiaporphyrin bearing one inverted thiophene ring, can be synthesized through condensation of thiophene **86** with pyrrole and benzaldehyde (Scheme 1.38).⁵⁸ The ¹H NMR spectrum of **87** shows that inner CH and NH resonate at 4.76 and 5.81 ppm, respectively, suggesting weak overall aromaticity of compound **87**.



Scheme 1.38 Synthesis of compound 87.

An aromatic isomer of 5,10,15,20-tetra(*p*-tolyl)-21,23-dithiaporphyrin with an inverted pyrrole ring, 5,10,15,20-tetra(*p*-tolyl)-2-aza-21-carba-22,24-dithiaporphyrin, **89**, can be prepared by the reaction of 2,5-bis(*p*-tolylhydroxymethyl)thiophene, **88**, with pyrrole (1:1 molar ratio) in dichloromethane, (Scheme 1.39).⁵⁹



Scheme 1.39 Synthesis of compound 89.

A [3 + 1] condensation of 2,5-bis(phenylhydroxymethyl)selenophene, **90**, and 5,10ditolyltripyrrin **91** produces 5,10-diphenyl-15,20-bis(*p*-tolyl)-2-aza-21-carba-22-selenaporphyrin, **92** (Scheme 1.40), which preserves aromaticity.⁶⁰



Scheme 1.40 Synthesis of compound 92.

1.5 Research Objectives and Thesis Preview

The objectives of this work are to explore the chemistry of N-confused porphyrins and develop new photosensitizers for PDT.

In the presence of Na₂CO₃, N-confused tetraarylporphyrins reacted with CH₃I to yield novel N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts, which are mixtures of structural isomers (Chapter 2). The structures of the major isomers were determined by X-ray diffraction or NMR spectroscopic analyses. These N,N'-dimethylated N-confused tetraarylporphyrin salts can generate singlet oxygen when irradiated, and therefore, are potential photosensitizers for PDT.

It was postulated that similar to chlorins, N-confused chlorins might have much greater absorption intensity than N-confused porphyrins in the Q-bands region, and thus are better candidates as photosensitizers for PDT. Diels-Alder reactions of N-confused tetraarylporphyrins as dienophiles, and dihydroxylation of N-confused porphyrins with OsO₄ were proposed to prepare N-confused chlorins.

In the Diels-Alder reactions of Ni(II) N-confused tetraarylporphyrins as dienophiles with *o*-benzoquinodimethane, cycloaddition occurred selectively on the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond and Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrins were obtained, presumably through oxidation of corresponding N-confused chlorins, the initial cycloaddition product (Chapter 3). This reaction suggested that the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond of Ni(II) NCPs has some iminium character and might be reactive towards nucleophiles.

Nucleophilic reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with NaOCH₃ were then studied. In the reactions of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} with NaOCH₃ and DDQ, inner C- cyanide addition to
(NCTTP)Ni^{II} and subsequent electrophilic addition of CH_3O^- were observed and the products were structurally characterized (Chapter 4).

In our studies involving the reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with OsO_4 , an unexpected product, a Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide, was obtained and structurally characterized (Chapter 5).

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Chapter 2

Alkylation of N-Confused Porphyrins

2.1 Introduction to Alkylation of Porphyrins and N-Confused Porphyrins

N-substituted porphyrins are of great importance to biological systems.¹ They can be produced *in vivo* from N-substitution of cytochrome P-450 enzymes or from reactions of hydrazines with hemoglobin and myoglobin¹ and have been shown to be powerful inhibitors of the enzyme ferrochelatase, which is the terminal enzyme of the heme biosynthetic pathway.¹ An N-substituted porphyrin, N-methyletioporphyrin I, was first reported by McEwen in 1936,^{1,2} and the synthesis and characterization of this compound were subsequently reported with its Zn(II) complex in 1946.³

Many synthetic methods have been developed to prepare N-substituted porphyrins. For example, N,N'-dimethylated TPP **93** and **94** are obtained in the yield of 45 % when TPP and CH₃I are heated at 100 °C in a sealed tube with K₂CO₃ (Scheme 2.1).^{1,4} However, N-methylated TPP (N-CH₃TPP **95**) is a stronger base than TPP and protonation occurs in the presence of AcOH, suppressing further methylation. Thus, when TPP is heated in chloroform at 65 - 70 °C in a sealed tube containing 7.5 % AcOH and 10 % CH₃I for 7 days, N-CH₃TPP is obtained as the major product (50 %) (Scheme 2.2).^{1,5} Other N-substituted porphyrins, including N-ethyl, N-vinyl, N-phenyl and N-benzyl porphyrins, have also been prepared.¹



Scheme 2.1 N-methylation of TPP with base.



Scheme 2.2 N-methylation of TPP with CH₃I in the presence of acid.

Addition of a group to one of the central nitrogen atoms distorts the normally planar porphyrin skeleton.¹ The X-ray crystal structure of N-methyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*bromophenyl)porphyrin, reported by Lavallee and Anderson, shows that the N-methyl substituted pyrrole ring deviates 27.7° from the plane defined by the three unsubstituted nitrogen atoms.⁶ X-ray crystal structures of other N-substituted porphyrins show similar deviations from planarity.¹

The ¹H NMR spectrum of N-CH₃TPP shows a signal at -4.1 ppm for the inner methyl protons.⁴ Other N-substituted porphyrins exhibit similar upfield signals for the inner substituent groups in their respective ¹H NMR spectra.¹ These signals suggest that even though the porphyrin ring is severely distorted, N-substituted porphyrins preserve aromaticity.

N-substituted porphyrins have UV-vis absorptions with molar extinction coefficients of $10^5 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ in the Soret region (400 - 500 nm) and $10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ in the Q-bands region (500 - 700 nm), and the bands are generally red-shifted about 10 nm compared to those of corresponding non-N-substituted porphyrins.¹ The absorption intensities are similar to those of non-N-substituted porphyrins, indicating again that the high degree of aromaticity typical of nearly planar porphyrins is retained.¹

Alkylation of N-confused porphyrins was reviewed in section 1.4.4.1. In short, both outer N(2) and inner C(21) atoms can be alkylated and outer N(2)-methylated N-confused porphyrin 24, C(21)-methylated N-confused porphyrin 29, C(21),N(2)-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin 30, and their Ni(II) derivatives were prepared by Latos-Grażyński *et al.*^{7,8}

Other than the N(2) and C(21) atoms, the three inner nitrogen atoms in N-confused porphyrins might be expected to react similarly as the inner nitrogen atoms of porphyrins. Their susceptibility to alkylation in particular was studied in this thesis work. The resulting alkylated products are potential photosensitizers for PDT. These alkylated N-confused porphyrins may also be interesting for their possible novel coordination properties.

Another aspect of this investigation with alkylated N-confused porphyrins is the synthesis of intramolecular C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrins, which have novel structural properties. Intramolecular N-strapped porphyrins **97** have been prepared from their precursor **96** by Ishimaru *et al.* (Scheme 2.3).⁹ Signals for the N-CH₂ protons of **97** in the ¹H NMR spectrum are observed upfield at -4.08 and -4.31 ppm, due to the ring current.⁹



Scheme 2.3 Synthesis of N-strapped porphyrins 97.

As Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins have at least two nucleophilic centers, the N(2) located outside and the C(21) located inside of the porphyrin ring, intramolecular C,N-strapped Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins **98** may be readily synthesized (Scheme 2.4).



C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrins 98

Scheme 2.4 Proposed synthesis of intramolecular C,N-strapped Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins.

2.2 Results and Discussion

2.2.1 N-Confused Porphyrins

N-confused porphyrins were synthesized according to the procedure of Lindsey and coworkers 10 via condensation of pyrrole and aryl aldehyde under catalysis of MSA (section 1.4.3) (Scheme 2.5).



Scheme 2.5 Synthesis of N-confused tetraarylporphyrins.

2.2.2 N,N'-Dimethylated N-Confused Porphyrins

Methylation of NCTPP with CH₃I in CH₂Cl₂ yields N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP, **24** (section 1.4.4.1).⁷ It is assumed that protonation of compound **24** by HI generated from the methylation reaction prevents subsequent inner N-methylation (Scheme 2.6). Therefore, addition of a base, such as Na₂CO₃, might neutralize the intermediate N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP-HI, **102**, making the inner nitrogen atoms more nucleophilic towards methylation and resulting in N,N'-dimethylation. In fact, dimethylation of N-confused porphyrins was carried out in CH₂Cl₂ solution using CH₃I and Na₂CO₃ (Scheme 2.7), and addition of two methyl groups was confirmed by the low and high resolution LSIMS spectra of the products. For example, product **103** resulting from the reaction of CH₃I and NCTPP (C₄₄H₃₀N₄) has the molecular ion peak at 643.28623 *m/e* (HRLSIMS), and the molecular formula search results in C₄₆H₃₅N₄ (*m/e* Calcd 643.28617) for the molecular ion peak, as expected for the dimethylated product.



Scheme 2.6 Reactions of NCTPP with CH₃I without base.



Scheme 2.7 Dimethylation of N-confused porphyrins.

Elemental analysis of 103 (C, 68.96; H, 4.76; N, 6.86; I, 15.82) agrees with the formation of iodide salts (Anal. Calcd for $C_{46}H_{34}N_4$ ·HI·1.5H₂O: C, 69.26; H, 4.80; N, 7.02; I, 15.91). Elemental analyses of 104 - 107 show similar results.

Each of the N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts 103 - 107 can consist of up to three structural isomers (I - III, Scheme 2.7), as there are three possible positions, N(22), N(23), and N(24), for inner N-methylation. ¹H NMR spectra data suggest that each of compounds 103 - 106 consists of two isomers, with the ratio of about 2:1 (Figure 2.1), while compound 107 has at least three isomers.



Figure 2.1 ¹H NMR spectrum of 106 in CD_2Cl_2 (400 MHz).

Each compound 103 - 107 showed only one spot on TLC plates (silica gel or alumina) with various developing solvents. Isolation attempts of the isomers by flash column chromatography using various developing solvents with different stationary phases, including silica gel (230 - 400 mesh), basic alumina, neutral alumina and acidic alumina, were not successful. Only the major isomers of compounds 103 - 106 were isolated by recrystallization with CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes and structures of the major isomers were determined by X-ray diffraction and NMR spectroscopic analyses to be isomers III (Scheme 2.7).

Unlike the synthesis of N-methylated porphyrin, e.g. N-CH₃TPP, which requires heating at 65 - 70 °C in a sealed tube for 7 days,⁵ synthesis of dimethylated N-confused porphyrins was performed at room temperature for 2 days. The inner CH resonance at 0.43 ppm in the ¹H NMR spectrum of N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP shows that its ring current is weaker than that of NCTPP, of which the inner CH proton resonates at -5.1 ppm.⁷ Aromaticity is often associated with planarity and the weak ring current of N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP may indicate the distortion of planarity. N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP is the intermediate to N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrins and the distortion of its planarity can make the inner nitrogen atoms less sterically hindered towards methylation, resulting in the rate increase of inner methylation.

In the presence of solid Na₂CO₃ (pK_a value of the conjugate acid is 10.2),¹¹ the final dimethylation products were iodide salts instead of the free base, suggesting that the basicity of N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin free base is similar to or stronger than that of Na₂CO₃. While significant differences of polarity are expected between the protonated form and free base of N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrins, no change on TLC was observed when Et₃N (pK_a value of the conjugate acid is 11.0)¹¹ was added to a solution of N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salt in CH₂Cl₂, suggesting again their strong basicity. For comparison, the pK_a values of mono-protonated N-CH₃TPP and mono-protonated TPP in nitrobenzene are 5.6 and 4.4, respectively.^{1,12}

The cyclic π conjugation is discontinued in the inverted pyrrole ring for N,N'dimethylated N-confused porphyrin free base, while the cyclic delocalized pathway is retained in the protonated form (Scheme 2.8). In the cases of N-CH₃TPP or TPP, both the protonated form and free base retain their aromaticity (Scheme 2.9). Therefore, it is expected that the energy difference between the protonated form and the free base N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrins is smaller than that of N-CH₃TPP or TPP, which explains the stronger basicity of N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrins.



Scheme 2.8 Protonation equilibrium of 103-III.



Scheme 2.9 Protonation equilibrium of TPP and N-CH₃TPP.

In an attempt to prepare neutral dimethylated N-confused porphyrins, the major isomers of **103** - **106** were washed with 0.1 % aqueous NaOH solution, and many spots were observed on TLC plates afterwards, suggesting that the dimethylated N-confused porphyrins are not stable in the presence of strong base. Isolation of the neutral dimethylated N-confused porphyrins was not successful.

Metalation of N-methylated porphyrins is faster than that of non-N-substituted porphyrins, as the planarity of N-methylated porphyrins is distorted and thus N-methylated porphyrins are "predeformed" for complexation.¹ Metalation reactions of Cd(II) and Zn(II) with N-methyletioporphyrin are about 10^5 times faster than that of etioporphyrin.^{1,13} NCTTP and N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP react with Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O at room temperature to yield corresponding Ni(II) complexes.^{7,14} Therefore, it was expected that metalation of dimethylated N-confused porphyrins should readily proceed. However, when the dimethylated porphyrin salts were refluxed with Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O or Zn(OAc)₂ in CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (1:1) for 24 h, no reaction was observed.

2.2.2.1 Structural Determination by NMR Spectroscopy

The structure of 106-III (Figure 2.2), the major isomer of N,N'-dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin·HI, 106, was determined by NMR spectroscopic analyses (¹H, ¹³C, selective NOE, HMOC and HMBC) (Figure 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5). The ¹H 3.81 ppm peak is assigned to H(25) based on the observed cross peak with the ^{13}C 39.5 ppm peak using HMQC (Figure 2.4). Selective NOE experiments show correlations of H(25) (3.81 ppm) with H(43a) (8.40 ppm) and H(43b) (8.04 ppm), correlations of H(43a) with H(43b) and H(18) (7.56 ppm) and correlation of H(18) with H(17) (7.16 ppm), respectively. The N(2)-methyl group hinders rotation of the adjacent *p*-methoxyphenyl group. The rotation is slow and H(43a) and H(43b) can be distinguished by NMR spectroscopy. However, there is still some rotation, which results in H(43a) and H(43b) being interchangeable with their peaks broadened. The negative peak at 8.04 ppm, upon irradiation at 8.40 ppm, shows that the two hydrogens are interchangeable. The -1.47 ppm peak is assigned to the inner methyl group, as suggested by the chemical shift, and integration. The observed cross peaks of ¹³C 150.75 ppm with H(17) (7.16 ppm), H(18) (7.56 ppm) and H(26) (-1.47 ppm) in an HMBC experiment (Figure 2.5) clearly show that the inner methyl group is connected to the pyrrole unit containing H(17) and H(18).



Figure 2.2 ¹H NMR spectra of 106-III in CD_2Cl_2 (400 MHz): (a) no irradiation; (b) upon irradiation at 3.81 ppm; (c) upon irradiation at 8.40 ppm; (d) upon irradiation at 7.56 ppm.



Figure 2.3 ¹H NMR spectrum of 106-III in CD_2Cl_2 (400 MHz).

The ¹H NMR signal of C(21)H in **106-III** appears at -1.47 ppm, similar to that of N(2)-CH₃-NCTPP at 0.31 ppm,⁷ suggesting that inner N-methylation does not have a significant impact on the aromaticity.

The structures of **104-III** and **105-III**, the major isomers of compounds **104** and **105**, respectively, were determined in a similar way by NMR spectroscopic analyses.

The N(2)-methyl group hinders rotation of the adjacent *p*-methoxyphenyl group in compound 106-III, as suggested by NMR spectra data. It is expected that the hindrance would be greater in the case of compounds 107, which have *m*-methoxyphenyl group adjacent to the N(2)-methyl group, resulting in atropisomers in addition to structural isomers, making

compounds 107 a more complicated mixture than compounds 103 - 106. Purification by recrystallization was not successful for compounds 107.



Figure 2.4 1 H, 13 C HMQC spectrum of 106-III in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).



Figure 2.5 Portion of the ¹H, ¹³C HMBC spectrum of 106-III in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).

2.0

0.0

-2.0

2 7

4.0

(ppm)

8.0

6.0

2.2.2.2 Structural Determination by X-ray Diffraction Analysis

Compound 103-III is the major isomer of N,N'-dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin·HI, 103. The Γ was exchanged for CF₃SO₃⁻ in 103-III giving N(2)-CH₃-N(24)-CH₃-NCTPP·HCF₃SO₃, 108 (Figure 2.6). Crystals of 108 were obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH₂Cl₂ solution of 108 and the structure of 108 was determined by X-ray crystallography, which confirms that the porphyrin is N,N'-dimethylated (Figure 2.7). Similar to N-methylated porphyrins, the planarity of 108 is severely distorted (Figure 2.8).



108

Figure 2.6 Structure of 108.

Selected bond lengths and angles of compound **108** are included in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 (Selected bond lengths and angles of NCTPP obtained by Furuta *et al.*¹⁵ are included for comparison). Bond lengths of the regular pyrroles for **108** have the same pattern as of porphyrins: $C_{\alpha} - C_{\beta} > C_{\alpha} - N > C_{\beta} - C_{\beta}$. Changes of bond lengths in the inverted pyrrole from NCTPP to **108** is severe, -0.038, -0.046, and 0.034 Å, respectively for C(1)-N(2), C(3)-C(4), and C(1)-C(21), indicating that the change of N(2) from diagonal to trigonal changes the π -delocalization pattern.



Figure 2.7 An ORTEP drawing of **108** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (top view). H atoms have been removed for clarity.



Figure 2.8 An ORTEP drawing of 108 showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). Phenyl groups, residual H_2O , counteranion and H atoms have been removed for clarity.

Bond Lengths (Å)	N(2)-CH ₃ -N(24)-CH ₃ -NCTPP	NCTPP
N(2)-C(25)	1.457(5)	N/A ^a
N(24)-C(26)	1.478(5)	N/A
C(1)-N(2)	1.405(5)	1.443
C(1)-C(20)	1.422(5)	1.436
C(1)-C(21)	1.389(5)	1.355
N(2)-C(3)	1.339(5)	1.336
C(3)-C(4)	1.408(5)	1.454
C(4)-C(5)	1.434(5)	1.410
C(4)-C(21)	1.391(5)	1.378
C(5)-C(6)	1.386(5)	1.366
C(6)-C(7)	1.454(5)	1.441
C(6)-N(22)	1.386(5)	1.430
C(7)-C(8)	1.348(6)	1.352
C(8)-C(9)	1.447(5)	1.475
C(9)-C(10)	1.422(6)	1.411
C(9)-N(22)	1.361(5)	1.366
C(10)-C(11)	1.388(5)	1.402
C(11)-C(12)	1.432(6)	1.439
C(11)-N(23)	1.391(5)	1.391
C(12)-C(13)	1.351(5)	1.325
C(13)-C(14)	1.439(5)	1.480
C(14)-C(15)	1.418(5)	1.403

Table 2.1 Selected bond lengths (Å) for N(2)-CH₃-N(24)-CH₃-NCTPP and NCTPP.

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
C(14)-N(23)	1.374(5)	1.412
C(15)-C(16)	1.396(5)	1.381
C(16)-C(17)	1.423(5)	1.408
C(16)-N(24)	1.381(5)	1.393
C(17)-C(18)	1.358(5)	1.388
C(18)-C(19)	1.425(5)	1.414
C(19)-C(20)	1.391(5)	1.399
C(19)-N(24)	1.408(5)	1.393

Chapter 2 Alkylation of N-Confused Porphyrins

a: N/A stands for "Not Applicable".

Bond angles for C(25)-N(2)-C(1), C(25)-N(2)-C(3), C(26)-N(24)-C(16), and C(26)-N(24)-C(19) are in the range of 122 - 128° (Table 2.2), indicating that both substituted nitrogen atoms keep sp² hybridization. Bond angles for both C(1)-N(2)-C(3) and C(16)-N(24)-C(19) are 108.5°, smaller than the optimum bond angle of 120° for sp² hybridized atoms, and this deviation is the result of the strain from planar five-membered pyrrolic ring. N(24) atom is trigonal in both compound **108** and NCTPP, and the N(24) centered bond angles are very close in these two compounds with the difference been 0.1°, 3.6°, and 0.5° (Table 2.2), suggesting that changes of the π electron conjugation of the porphyrin skeleton due to inner N-methylation is small.

Bond Angles (°)	N(2)-CH ₃ -N(24)-CH ₃ -NCTPP	NCTPP
C(25)-N(2)-C(1)	127.2(4)	N/A ^a
C(25)-N(2)-C(3)	123.4(4)	N/A
C(1)-N(2)-C(3)	108.5(3)	103.5
C(26)-N(24)-C(16) / H(24)-N(24)-C(16)	122.6(3)	122.5
C(26)-N(24)-C(19) / H(24)-N(24)-C(19)	122.4(3)	126.0
C(16)-N(24)-C(19)	108.5(3)	109.0

Table 2.2 Selected bond angles (°) for N(2)-CH₃-N(24)-CH₃-NCTPP and NCTPP.

a: N/A stands for "Not Applicable".

2.2.2.3 Optical Absorption Spectra

N,N'-dimethylated porphyrin salts have strong absorptions around 475 nm and 800 nm, corresponding to the Soret and Q-bands of porphyrins, respectively (Figure 2.9). The long wavelength absorption around 800 nm is broad, with a molar extinction coefficient around 20,000 M⁻¹cm⁻¹, making the N,N'-dimethylated porphyrin salts good candidates as photosensitizers for PDT.

The absorption spectra of the salt mixture and the corresponding major isomer are almost identical (Figure 2.9), suggesting that the position of the inner N-methylation does not significantly affect the overall porphyrin π electron conjugation.



Figure 2.9 UV-vis spectra of 106 (salt mixture) and 106-III (major isomer) in CH₂Cl₂.

2.2.2.4 Generation of Singlet Oxygen

DPBF (1,3-diphenylisobenzofuran) was used to determine the ability of these N,N'dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts to generate singlet oxygen (${}^{1}O_{2}$).¹⁶ DPBF reacts quickly with singlet oxygen (Scheme 2.10) and its absorption decay around 418 nm can be readily monitored.¹⁷ The reaction products of DPBF have no absorption in the visible region and do not quench singlet oxygen. A solution containing DPBF (~17 μ M) and N,N'-dimethylated Nconfused porphyrin salts (e.g. **104**, ~13 μ M) was irradiated with a halogen lamp using a filter (~700 nm) and monitored by UV-vis spectroscopy at 418 nm. Substantial decay of the UV-vis signal at 418 nm was observed confirming that N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts generate singlet oxygen (Figure 2.10). No change in UV-vis spectra was observed after a sample containing DPBF and an N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts was left in the dark for 10 min, and there is also no change in the UV-vis spectra after irradiating a solution containing only either DPBF or an N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts for 1 min.



Figure 2.10 UV-vis spectra of a solution of DPBF and compound 104 before and after irradiation (irradiation intervals at 20 s). The UV-vis spectrum of compound 104 is shown in the thicker line.



Scheme 2.10 Reactions of DPBF with ¹O₂.

2.2.3 C,N-Strapped N-Confused Porphyrins

Attempts to directly synthesize C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrin, using Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin and diiodooctane with $AgBF_4$, were not successful (Scheme 2.11). A mixture of products with molecular ion peaks at 1485 and 1498 *m/e* (LSIMS) was obtained.



Scheme 2.11 Direct synthesis of C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrin.

As outer N(2) of N-confused porphyrin can be selectively alkylated in the absence of a $base^{7}$ and inner C(21) can be alkylated after metalation,⁸ a stepwise synthesis of the C,N-strapped Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins was designed (Scheme 2.12).

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Scheme 2.12 Proposed synthesis of C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrins 116 and 111.

NCTPP was reacted with a large excess of alkyl diiode (1:20 molar ratio) to avoid dimerization of N-confused porphyrin with an alkyl linkage. Iodoalkylated N-confused porphyrin **112** and **113** were obtained in the yields of 69 % and 65 %, respectively. Dimerization was not observed in these reactions.

Metalation of compounds 112 and 113 with $Ni(OAc)_2 \cdot 4H_2O$ readily proceeded at room temperature to give corresponding Ni(II) complexes 114 and 115 with yields of 92 % and 95 %, respectively.

When compound 115 was refluxed with AgBF₄ in freshly distilled CH₃CN/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1), a compound was obtained in 52 % yield. An observed molecular ion peak of 781 m/e (LSIMS) suggests that this paramagnetic compound is the C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrin 111. A similar result was obtained for compound 114.

The coordination environments of Ni(II) in complexes 111 and 116 are similar to that of paramagnetic dimethylated Ni(II) NCP 27 (section 1.4.4.1), thus it is expected that complex 111 and 116 are paramagnetic as well. Broad peaks were observed in the ¹H NMR spectra of complexes 111 and 116, and their structures were not determined by NMR spectroscopy. Efforts to determine the structures of 111 and 116 by X-ray crystallography have yet to be successful.

2.2.3.1 Structural Determination of Ni(II) Iodooctylated N-Confused Porphyrin

Crystals of Ni(II) iodooctylated N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin 115 were obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH_2Cl_2 solution of the complex, and the structure of 115 was determined by X-ray crystallography (Figure 2.11). The iodine atom was found to be disordered over two sites, with relative populations of 0.9 and 0.1 for the major and minor fragments, respectively. Only the major form is shown in Figure 2.11. Unlike planar (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, the porphyrin skeleton of complex 115 is slightly distorted from planarity (Figure 2.12).

The Ni-N(C) bond distances (Å) of complex **115** are: C(21) 1.904(3), N(22) 1.951(3), N(23) 1.975(2), and N(24) 1.934(3), close to that of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} (1.955 or 1.963 Å). The bond angles of C(1)-N(2)-C(3), C(1)-N(2)-C(25) and C(3)-N(2)-C(25), are 107.7(3), 130.8(3), and 121.4(3)°, respectively. The large bond angles of C(1)-N(2)-C(25) and C(3)-N(2)-C(25) indicates that N(2) atom is sp² hybridized.



Figure 2.11 An ORTEP drawing of **115** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (top view). H atoms have been removed for clarity.



Figure 2.12 An ORTEP drawing of **115** showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). Phenyl groups and H atoms have been removed for clarity.

The bond length of N(2)-C(3) in **115** is 1.311(4) Å, shorter than that of NCTPP (1.336 Å), in which the N(2)-C(3) is a partially isolated double bond.¹⁵ It is also shorter than those of the C_{β} - C_{β} bonds in **115** (1.345(5), 1.346(5), and 1.345(5) Å, respectively for C(7)-C(8), C(12)-C(13), and C(17)-C(18)). This can be explained by the resonance structures of the complex **115** (Scheme 2.13). Structure **115a**, in which the N(2)-C(3) bond contains more of a single bond character, has no charge separation, however, the conjugation is not continued at the inverted pyrrole subunit. Structure **115b** has a 18 π -electron pathway and should be reasonably stable. The N(2)-C(3) bond exhibit a double bond nature in structure **115b** and the short bond length of N(2)-C(3) can be the result of structure **115b** being a significant contributor to the resonance hybrid.



Scheme 2.13 Resonance structures of the compound 115.

2.3 Conclusions

N-confused tetraarylporphyrins react with CH₃I in the presence of Na₂CO₃ to yield N,N'dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts, which are mixtures of structural isomers. The structures of the major isomers are determined by X-ray diffraction and/or NMR spectroscopic analyses. These N,N'-dimethylated N-confused tetraarylporphyrin salts can generate singlet oxygen when irradiated and are potential photosensitizers for PDT.

Ni(II) iodoalkylated N-confused porphyrins were prepared as the intermediate to synthesize C,N-strapped N-confused porphyrins. Ni(II) iodooctylated N-confused tetraphenyl-porphyrin was structurally characterized.

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Chapter 3

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Cycloaddition Reactions of N-Confused Porphyrins

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3.1 Cycloaddition Reactions

Cycloaddition reactions involve the reaction of two molecules resulting in the formation of a new ring.¹ Many cycloaddition reactions are concerted: there is a single transition state, and therefore, no intermediate lies on the reaction path between reactants and the adduct.¹ Two examples of cycloaddition reactions involving a concerted mechanism are the Diels-Alder reactions and the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions.

The Diels-Alder reaction is the addition of a diene to a dienophile, e.g. an alkene, to form a cyclohexene (Scheme 3.1).¹ This is called a [4 + 2] cycloaddition reaction as four π electrons from the diene and two π electrons from the dienophile are directly involved in the bonding change.

$$\left[+ \| \longrightarrow \left[\right] \right] \longrightarrow \left[\right]$$

Scheme 3.1 Diels-Alder reaction.

A 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction is an addition reaction of a 1,3-dipole with a dipolarophile (Scheme 3.2).¹ 1,3-Dipoles are isoelectronic with the allyl anion and have four π electrons. Each such dipole (Scheme 3.3) has at least one charge-separated resonance structure with opposite charges in a 1,3-relationship. The 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction is analogous to the Diels-Alder reaction, as both are [4 + 2] cycloaddition reactions.



Scheme 3.2 1,3-Dipolar cycloaddition reaction.

Azide	R−Ñ−N=Ň	\longleftrightarrow	R─Ñ─Ň≡N
Azomethine ylide	R₂ ^{Ċ−} N [−] ĈR₂ R	<>	R₂C=Ň−ĈR₂ R
Diazomethane	H₂Ē−N=Ň		H ₂ Ē−Ň≡N
Nitrile oxide	R−C≡Ň−Ō	~~>	R−Ċ=N−Ō
Nitrone	R₂C=Ň−Ō	~~	₽₂Ċ−Ņ−Ō
	Ŕ		Ŕ

Scheme 3.3 Some examples of 1,3-dipoles.

While dienophiles and dipolarophiles are typically alkenes or alkynes, all that is essential is a π bond. For example, different types of imines can act as dienophiles.² Bohlmann *et al.* found that the simple imine **118** reacted thermally with butadiene carboxylate **119** to afford a Diels-Alder type adduct **121** (Scheme 3.4).³ Only the conjugated ester **121**, presumably formed by isomerization of the initial adduct **120**, was isolated. In general, electron-deficient imines are the most reactive imine type dienophiles, particularly those of the N-sulfonyl, N-acyl, and iminium salt types.²



Scheme 3.4 Diels-Alder reaction of imine 118 with diene 119.

3.1.1 Cycloaddition Reactions of Porphyrins

Cycloaddition reactions of porphyrins have been extensively studied and porphyrins have been used as dienes, 1,3-dipoles, dipolarophiles and dienophiles.⁴⁻¹⁰

Porphyrin 122, which has a β -fused 3-sulfolene on one of the pyrrole rings, acts as a porphodimethylidene precursor and can be used for a variety of Diels-Alder reactions. For example, it reacts with DMAD to yield the cycloaddition adduct 123 (Scheme 3.5).⁴



Scheme 3.5 Diels-Alder reaction of porphyrin 122 with DMAD.

Porphyrinic azomethine ylide 125 can be generated from the reaction of β -formyl porphyrin 124 with N-methylglycine and this ylide reacts with a range of dipolarophiles (Scheme 3.6).^{5,6} For example, reaction of porphyrin 125 with N-phenylmaleimide yields the

cycloaddition adduct 126 (61 %) and 127 (35 %).⁶ In the absence of a dipolarophile, intramolecular cycloaddition of 125 occurs to give porphyrin 128.⁵



Scheme 3.6 Synthesis and reactions of porphyrin 125.

Diels-Alder reactions of porphyrins with β -vinyl groups as dienes, Diels-Alder reactions of porphyrins as dienophiles, and 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reactions of porphyrins as dipolarophiles have been discussed in sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.3.

Similar to those of porphyrins, the peripheral C-C or C-N bonds of N-confused porphyrins are cross-conjugated and thus might react as alkenes or imines. Cycloaddition reactions of N-confused porphyrins as dienophiles or dipolarophiles were studied in this thesis

3.2 Results and Discussion

3.2.1 Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins

N-confused porphyrins were synthesized according to Lindsey's procedure¹¹ via condensation of pyrrole and aryl aldehydes under catalysis of MSA (section 1.4.3). The condensation product mixture was passed through a silica gel column under vacuum to remove the less polar side product tetraarylporphyrin and some baseline impurities. The crude N-confused porphyrin product was used without further purification and reacted with Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O to provide Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins **129** (**a**-**e**) with overall yield ranging from 6.4 % to 16 % (Scheme 3.7).¹²

Metalation of N-confused porphyrins gave products that are much less polar than their free base counterparts. This decrease in polarity allowed for a cleaner gradient elution during column chromatographic purifications (silica gel, 230 - 400 mesh). The desired products came off the column with CH_2Cl_2 (0.4 % CH_3OH in CH_2Cl_2 was used for **129d** and **129e**), and the impurities normally co-eluted with the free base NCP as the polarity was increased to 1.2 % CH_3OH in CH_2Cl_2 . The additional metalation step was more than offset by the resultant facile purification of the desired products.



Scheme 3.7 Synthesis of Ni(II) N-confused tetraarylporphyrins.

3.2.2 Diels-Alder Reactions of Ni(II) N-confused Porphyrins

o-Benzoquinodimethane, 8, was selected as the diene in the Diels-Alder reactions. Compound 8 is exceedingly reactive as a diene because cycloaddition re-establishes a benzenoid ring resulting in aromatic stabilization (Scheme 3.8).



Scheme 3.8 Diels-Alder reaction of o-benzoquinodimethane 8.

o-Benzoquinodimethane can be generated from sultine **130**, which was synthesized from the reaction of sodium hydroxymethanesulfinate (rongalite) and α,α' -dibromo-*o*-xylene, **131**, with a catalytic amount of tetrabutylammonium bromide (TBAB) (Scheme 3.9).¹³ Sultine **130** is an ideal precursor of *o*-benzoquinodimethane because it decomposes smoothly around 80 °C and does not produce organic or inorganic byproducts except for gaseous sulfur dioxide.



Scheme 3.9 Synthesis and reactions of sultine 130.

No reaction was observed when NCTPP was refluxed with sultine **130** in benzene for two days (Scheme 3.10). However, when (NCTPP)Ni^{II} was used instead of NCTPP, Diels-Alder adducts were obtained (Scheme 3.11). The major product, which has a higher R_f value on silica gel than that of (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, was obtained in 23 % yield and identified as the N-confused isoquinoporphyrin **133a** based on its mass and NMR spectra (¹H, ¹³C, selective NOE, COSY and ¹H/¹⁵N HSQC) data (Figure 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3). Compound **133a** was presumably formed by oxidation of the chlorin **132a**. There is also a product with a higher R_f value than that of compound **133a** with a parent ion observed at 879 *m/e* (LSIMS), presumably from the addition of two equivalents of *o*-benzoquinodimethane to (NCTPP)Ni^{II}. However, the yield of this second compound was too low to allow characterization by NMR spectroscopy.



Scheme 3.10 Diels-Alder reaction of NCTPP with sultine 130.



Scheme 3.11 Diels-Alder reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with sultine 130.

The parent ion of compound 133a is observed at 770 m/e (LSIMS), suggesting the addition of one *o*-benzoquinodimethane and the loss of four hydrogen atoms. This is corroborated by the formula search result of $C_{52}H_{32}N_4Ni$ (m/e Calcd 770.19799,) from the HRLSIMS result (770.19797 m/e). These results suggest that a four-electron oxidation occurred and 133a is either a Ni(II) N-confused naphthoporphyrin (Diels-Alder addition on a peripheral carbon-carbon bond) or a Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrin (addition on the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond).

Attempts to synthesize Diels-Alder adducts of **129d** and **129e** with sultine **130** were not successful, probably because of the poor solubilities in either benzene or toluene.

3.2.2.1 Structural Determination by NMR Spectroscopy

Based on correlations shown in a COSY experiment (Figure 3.2), signals for the H^a/H^f protons of complex **133a** appear as singlets at 6.91 and 8.57 ppm (see Scheme 3.11 for proton assignments) and signals for the H^b - H^e protons appear at 7.11, 7.27 (2H) and 7.46 ppm. The large difference in chemical shift between H^a and H^f protons in complex **133a** suggests that the addition is on the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond rather than on a peripheral carbon-carbon bond, as a nominal difference of chemical shift between H^a and H^f protons would be observed in the peripheral carbon-carbon bond addition product. A large chemical shift difference between H^a and H^f protons has also been observed in isoquinolinium salt **134** (Figure 3.4).¹⁴ Cycloaddition on the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond is confirmed by the cross peak of ¹H 6.91 ppm with ¹⁵N 17 ppm in a ¹H/¹⁵N HSQC experiment of **133a** (Figure 3.3), which indicates that H^a is either two or three bonds away from a nitrogen atom. Similar results were obtained for complex **133b** and **133c**. Thus, the combined solution NMR results suggest cycloaddition of *o*-benzoquinodimethane to Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins on the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond



Figure 3.1 ¹H NMR spectrum of 133a in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).



Chapter 3 Cycloaddition Reactions of N-Confused Porphyrins

Figure 3.2 COSY spectrum of 133a in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).

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Figure 3.3 1 H/ 15 N HSQC spectrum of 133a (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂).



Figure 3.4 ¹H chemical shift (ppm) assignments of isoquinolinium iodide salt 134 in d_6 -DMSO (300 MHz).

3.2.2.2 Structural Determination of Ni(II) N-Confused Tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin by X-ray Diffraction Analysis

Crystals of compound 133a were obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH_2Cl_2 solution of 133a and the structure of Ni(II) N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin was determined by X-ray crystallography (Figure 3.5). However, the N(2) and C(3) atoms are disordered and not distinguishable in the X-ray crystal structure.

The X-ray crystal structure shows that the isoquino group is in the same plane with the linked pyrrole subunit. Deviation from planarity for the isoquinopyrrole unit is 0.066 Å. Unlike planar (NCTTP)Ni^{II,12} the porphyrin skeleton of compound **133a** is ruffled (Figure 3.6). The dihedral angles between the pyrrole planes of **133a** and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) 19.88°, N(22) 16.85°, N(23) -15.98°, N(24) -13.87°. The Ni-N(C) bond distances (Å) of **133a** are: C(21) 1.904(2), N(22) 1.9239(18), N(23) 1.949(2), and N(24) 1.9276(18), which are shorter than that of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} (1.955 or 1.963 Å),¹² and the shortened bond lengths are typical of the difference between planar Ni(II) porphyrins and ruffled Ni(II) porphyrins.¹⁵

For complex 133a, there are three resonance structures with charge separation (133a-I, 133-II and 133a-III) and one resonance structure with no charge separation (133a-IV) (Scheme 3.12). Resonance structures with bonding differences outside of the isoquinopyrrole unit are omitted in Scheme 3.12 as the focus is on the bonds involving N(2) and C(3). Table 3.1 shows the bond lengths of N(2)-C(1), N(2)-C(3), N(2)-C(25), C(3)-C(4), and C(3)-C(32), as well as their bond orders in the charge separated resonance structures (133a-I, 133-II and 133a-III) and in structure 133a-IV. The charge separated resonance structures are the main contributors to the overall resonance hybrid of 133a, as indicated by the good match between the bond lengths and the bond orders derived from charge separated resonance structures.



Figure 3.5 An ORTEP drawing of compound **133a** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level. Only one of two possible forms is shown.



Figure 3.6 An ORTEP drawing of **133a** showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). Phenyl groups and H atoms have been removed for clarity.



Scheme 3.12 Resonance structures for complex 133a.

Table 3.1 Bond lengths (Å) and bond orders from selected resonance structures for selectedbonds in complex 133a.

Bond	Bond order in 133a-I, 133-II and 133a-III	Bond order in 133a-IV	Bond length (Å)
N(2)-C(1)	1	1	1.445(3)
N(2)-C(3)	4/3	1	1.389(3)
N(2)-C(25)	5/3	1	1.357(3)
C(3)-C(4)	1	2	1.452(3)
C(3)-C(32)	5/3	1	1.366(3)

3.2.2.3 Optical Absorption Spectra

Broad peaks at 438 and 628 nm, corresponding to the Soret and Q-bands of porphyrins respectively, were observed in the UV-vis spectrum for complex **133a** (Figure 3.7). The intensity of the 628 nm peak (42000 M⁻¹cm⁻¹) is about 5 times larger than that of the Q-bands of (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, **129a**. The difference between the absorption spectra of **133a** with (NCTPP)Ni^{II} reflects the changes in the conjugation pathway of **133a** due to the fused isoquino group.



Figure 3.7 UV-vis spectra of 133a and (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, 129a.

3.2.2.4 Regioselectivity

The high selectivity of the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond over the carbon-carbon bonds in the Diels-Alder reactions with *o*-benzoquinodimethane can be rationalized by the resonance contributions to the overall structure of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins.¹⁶ Scheme 3.13 shows two such resonance structures. In canonical form II, the C=N is both "cross conjugated" and in the iminium form which is known to be electron-deficient and an active dienophile.² The reported X-ray structure of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} was disordered: the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond could not be distinguished with the peripheral carbon-carbon bonds,¹² and thus this X-ray structure is not very helpful in determining the importance of each resonance structure (I and II) to the overall resonance hybrid. Ni(II) N(2)-iodooctyl N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin 115 is isoelectronic with (NCTTP)Ni^{II} and its bond lengths (Figure 3.8) clearly demonstrate the uniqueness of the C=N⁺R bond and confirm that it should be an effective dienophile (Section 2.2.3.1).



Scheme 3.13 Two canonical forms for a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin.



Figure 3.8 Peripheral bond lengths (Å) for compound 115.

3.2.3 Demetalation of Ni(II) N-confused Isoquinoporphyrins

Demetalation of Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrin **133a** occurred with 10 % TFA in CH_2Cl_2 giving a 63 % yield (Scheme 3.14). The product was confirmed to be **135** on the basis of its mass and NMR (¹H, and COSY) spectra.



Scheme 3.14 Demetalation of Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrin 133a.

3.2.3.1 Structural Determination of N-Confused Tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin by X-ray Diffraction Analysis

Crystals of N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin, 135, were obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH_2Cl_2 solution of 135 and the structure of 135 was determined by X-ray crystallography (Figure 3.9). X-ray diffraction analysis indicates electron density equivalent to about two electrons in the porphyrin core. This electron density presumably comes from a hydrogen atom of 135 and nickel in an impurity, precursor 133a, present in about 3.8 % based on the electron density. This electron density is not shown in Figure 3.9 or 3.10. An X-ray structure report on 135 is not available because of the impurity.



Figure 3.9 An ORTEP drawing of compound 135 showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level.



Figure 3.10 An ORTEP drawing of **135** showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). Phenyl groups and H atoms have been removed for clarity.

As shown in Figure 3.10, the isoquinopyrrole unit is severely tilted from the porphyrin plane, presumably due to the steric repulsion between the isoquinopyrrole group and the neighboring phenyl group.

3.2.3.2 Optical Absorption Spectra of N-Confused Tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin

Optical absorption spectra of 135 and 133a are shown in Figure 3.11. Compared to that of 133a, the Q-bands of 135 are red-shifted about 50 nm to 678 nm, implying potential use as a photosensitizer for PDT.



Figure 3.11 UV-vis spectra of 135 and Ni(II) complex 133a.

3.2.4 Other Cycloaddition Reactions of N-confused Porphyrins

3.2.4.1 Diels-Alder Reactions of Non-Metalated N-Confused Porphyrins

A Diels-Alder reaction did not occur when NCTPP was refluxed with sultine **130** in benzene. However, similar to that of Ni(II) NCP, the peripheral carbon nitrogen bond of the protonated NCP is in iminium form (Figure 3.12) and thus protonated NCP may be expected to react faster than NCP in the Diels-Alder reaction with *o*-benzoquinodimethane.



Figure 3.12 Structures of mono-protonated NCP and Ni(II) NCP.

NCTPP was refluxed with sultine 130 in benzene with 5 % acetic acid for 4 h. The major product and compound 135 are not distinguishable on TLC plates with various developing solvents. The parent ion peak of this product is observed at 715 m/e, the same as observed for compound 135. However, purification of this compound was not successful.

3.2.4.2 Diels-Alder Reactions of Ni(II) N-Methylated N-confused Porphyrins

In an attempt to isolate the Diels-Alder adduct as a chlorin, Ni(II) N(2)-methylated Nconfused tetra(p-tolyl)porphyrin¹⁷ was used as a dienophile. Formula search results of the major product, 137 ($C_{57}H_{46}N_4NiO$), based on its HRLSIMS spectrum (860.30121 *m/e*) suggests the additions of one *o*-benzoquinodimethane and one oxygen atom. The addition sites for the *o*-benzoquinodimethane and oxygen were not determined as purification of 137 was not successful.



Scheme 3.15 Attempted Diels-Alder reaction of complex 136.

3.2.4.3 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins

1,3-Dipole 13^{10} was used to react with (NCTTP)Ni^{II}, 129b, to obtain the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition product (Scheme 3.16). The molecular ion peak of the major product 138 was observed at 782 *m/e* (LSIMS), suggesting the addition of one dipole 13 and the loss of two hydrogen atoms. Purification of 138 was not successful. A possible structure for 138 is shown in Scheme 3.16.



Scheme 3.16 1,3-Dipole cycloaddition reactions of Ni(II) NCP 129b.

3.3 Conclusions

The peripheral carbon-nitrogen double bonds of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins are partially isolated from the 18π conjugated aromatic system and react as dienophiles in Diels-Alder reactions with *o*-benzoquinodimethane yielding novel Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrins. Ni(II) N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin has been structurally characterized.

As suggested by the mass spectra of the major products, Diels-Alder reactions of *o*-benzoquinodimethane with NCP in acid, Diels-Alder reactions of *o*-benzoquinodimethane with Ni(II) N(2)-methylated NCP, and 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction of azomethine **13** with Ni(II) NCP do proceed, though purification of these cycloaddition adducts was not successful.

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Chapter 4

.

Inner C- Cyanide Addition and Nucleophilic Addition Reactions to Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins

4.1 Introduction

Electrophilic substitution and nucleophilic addition reactions commonly occur in porphyrin chemistry.¹ For electrophilic substitution reactions such as halogenation, formylation and nitration reactions, metalloporphyrins are often used to avoid the deactivating effect which would occur upon protonation of inner pyrrolic nitrogen atoms.¹ For instance, (TPP)Cu^{II}, **139**, reacts with a large excess of Vilsmeier reagent (prepared by mixing DMF and POCl₃) to give formylation product **140** in excellent yield (95 %) (Scheme 4.1).^{1,2} Porphyrins are also susceptible to attack by nucleophiles.¹ For example, nucleophilic addition of butyllithium to TPP at low temperature produces a mixture of phlorin **141** (26 %) and chlorin **142** (18 %) (Scheme 4.2).³



Scheme 4.1 Formylation of (TPP)Cu^{II} 139.



Scheme 4.2 Nucleophilic addition of butyllithium to TPP.

Some electrophilic and nucleophilic reactions of N-confused porphyrins were introduced in section 1.4.4.3. Additionally, as discussed in section 3.2.2.4, the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins seems to have some iminium character. Thus, it was expected that, similar to iminium compounds, Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins might be reactive toward nucleophiles, and their reactions with NaOCH₃ were studied.

4.2 **Results and Discussion**

When (NCTTP)Ni^{II} was added to a solution of NaOCH₃ in 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH, no reaction was observed. It was postulated that the addition product, N-confused chlorin 143, is not stable (Scheme 4.3). The reaction, however, might be driven toward a more stable product, 144, with the addition of an oxidant, e.g. DDQ, to convert the N-confused chlorin 143 to Nconfused porphyrin 144.

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Scheme 4.3 Postulated reaction of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} with NaOCH₃ and DDQ.

Thus, to a 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (70 mL) solution of NaOCH₃ (200 mg) were added (NCTTP)Ni^{II} (110 mg) and DDQ (400 mg). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, 230 - 400 mesh, 16 g). Using 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes, (NCTTP)Ni^{II} was eluted first; 3:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes eluted the first new compound, **145** (11.7 mg), and the second new compound, **146** (30.3 mg), was eluted with CH₂Cl₂.

However, based on the observed parent ion peak at 752 m/e (LSIMS), the major product 146 was not the product expected from simple nucleophilic addition of CH₃O⁻. The formula search result of C₄₉H₃₆N₅Ni (m/e Calcd 752.23237) for 146 from the HRLSIMS result

(752.23242 *m/e*) suggested the addition of one carbon atom and one nitrogen atom to (NCTTP)Ni^{II} (C₄₈H₃₆N₄Ni). Similarly, compound **145** appeared to involve the addition of one methanol, one carbon atom, and one nitrogen atom to (NCTTP)Ni^{II} with the loss of two hydrogen atoms, also suggested by the formula search result of $C_{50}H_{38}N_5ONi$ (*m/e* Calcd 782.24294) based on its HRLSIMS result (782.24344 *m/e*).

4.2.1 Structural Determination by X-ray Diffraction Analyses

Full identification of the new complexes could only be obtained through crystal structure analyses. Crystals of complexes 145 and 146 were obtained by solvent diffusion of CH_3OH into CH_2Cl_2 solutions of each complex, and the structures of complexes 145 and 146 were determined by X-ray diffraction analyses (Figure 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3). Cyanide addition had been found to occur in both complexes on the inner C(21) site. Additionally, the expected methoxy addition on the peripheral C(3) site was observed in complex 145, the minor product.



Figure 4.1 Structures of complexes 145 and 146.

The structure of complex 145 displayed disorder in the locations of the methoxy fragment. The structure has been refined to give 63 % occupancy with $-OCH_3$ as shown in

Figure 4.2 and 37 % occupancy with $-OCH_3$ attached to the C(3) which replaces N(2) of the major form. Figures 4.2 and 4.4 only show the major form.



Figure 4.2 An ORTEP drawing of compound 145 showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level. H atoms and the disorder of the OCH₃ fragment have been removed for clarity.



Figure 4.3 An ORTEP drawing of compound **146** showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level. H atoms and solvent have been removed for clarity.

The porphyrin skeletons of complexes 145 and 146 are distorted from planarity (Figure 4.4 and 4.5). In the X-ray structure of complex 145, the dihedral angles between the pyrrole planes and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) 39.52(13)°, N(22) -21.01(14)°, N(23) 12.77(13)°, and N(24) -20.56(16)°. For complex 146, the dihedral angles between the pyrrole planes and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) 40.4(2)°, N(22) -21.0(3)°, N(23) 13.4(3)°, and N(24) -18.5(2)°. The degree of distortion for 145 and 146 is similar to that observed in the C(21)-methylated Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin 26 (Figure 1.11), in which the inverted pyrrole plane deviates from the N(22)N(23)N(24) plane by 42.2°.4



Figure 4.4 An ORTEP drawing of 145 showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). p-Tolyl groups, H atoms and the disorder of the OCH₃ fragment have been removed for clarity.



Figure 4.5 An ORTEP drawing of **146** showing thermal ellipsoids at the 50 % probability level (side view). *p*-Tolyl groups, H atoms and solvent have been removed for clarity.

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In the X-ray crystal structure of complex 145, the bond distances of N(2)-C(1), N(2)-C(3), and C(3)-C(4) are markedly shorter than those of C(21)-C(1) and C(21)-C(4) (Table 4.1), suggesting that the C(21) atom approaches sp³ hybridization. The distance between Ni and C(26) is 2.429 Å, suggesting possible interaction between these two atoms. However, the bond lengths of C(26)-N(27) and C(21)-C(26) at 1.144(4) and 1.462(4) Å, respectively, and the bond angle of 178.3(3)° for C(21)-C(26)-C(27) are characteristic of N=C-C bonding, suggesting no bonding between Ni and C(26). These structural features were also observed in the structure of complex 146.

Bond	Bond length in complex 145 (Å)	Bond length in complex 146 (Å)
N(2)-C(1)	1.376(4)	1.363(6)
N(2)-C(3)	1.372(4)	1.339(6)
C(3)-C(4).	1.394(4)	1.396(6)
C(21)-C(1)	1.470(4)	1.468(6)
C(21)-C(4)	1.462(4)	1.442(6)
C(21)-C(25)	N/A ^a	1.469(8)
C(21)-C(26)	1.462(4)	N/A
C(25)-N(26)	N/A	1.157(8)
C(26)-N(27)	1.144(4)	N/A
Ni-C(21)	2.018(3)	2.024(4)
Ni-N(22)	1.946(2)	1.948(4)
Ni-N(23)	1.926(2)	1.926(4)
Ni-N(24)	1.951(2)	1.953(3)

 Table 4.1
 Selected bond lengths for complexes 145 and 146.

a: N/A stands for "Not Applicable".

4.2.2 NMR Spectra of the Cyanide Addition Products

In the ¹H NMR spectra of **145** and **146**, signals representative of the pyrrole protons, excluding C(3)H, are observed in the region of 8.29 - 8.51 ppm and 8.54 - 8.78 ppm, respectively (Figure 4.6, 4.7), and are downfield compared to those of (NCTTP)Ni^{II}, which are observed in the 7.65 - 8.12 ppm region. The 4.21 ppm peak in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **145** was assigned to the OCH₃ protons. The 10.03 ppm peak observed in the spectrum of **146** was assigned to C(3)H proton and this signal was not located in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **145**, suggesting addition may have occurred at the C(3) position of complex **145**.

Notably, the position of the C(3)H chemical shift for 146 is approximately 1.5 ppm downfield from the starting material, (NCTTP)Ni^{II}. A similar effect is observed in the case of inner C-methylated Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin (C(21)-CH₃-NCTPP)Ni^{II}, 26 (Scheme 1.12), and signal for the C(3)H of complex 26 is observed at 9.90 ppm.⁴ Complexes 145 and 146 seem to favor the π delocalization *via* the outer path C(1)-N(2)-C(3)-C(4) at the inverted pyrrole fragment, as C(21) atoms in both complexes approach sp³ hybridization and inner conjugation C(1)-C(21)-C(4) is not possible (Figure 4.1). The downfield of C(3)H signal may be the result of a closer ring current.



Figure 4.6 1 H NMR spectrum of 145 in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).



Figure 4.7 1 H NMR spectrum of 146 in CD₂Cl₂ (400 MHz).
4.2.3 Optical Absorption Spectra

The UV-vis spectra of complexes 145 and 146 both exhibit absorptions around 434 nm and 720 nm (Figure 4.8), corresponding to the Soret band and Q-bands of porphyrins, respectively. The single broad Q-bands of complexes 145 and 146 are much different from those of the starting material, (NCTTP)Ni^{II}, which exhibits three distinctive Q-bands, suggesting that inner cyanide addition changes the conjugation pathway. This change of conjugation pathway has also been suggested by the downfield C(3)H signal in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 145, and is presumably caused by sp³ hybridization of C(21).



Figure 4.8 UV-vis spectra of complexes 145, 146, and (NCTTP)Ni^{II}.

4.2.4 Reaction Mechanism

A possible mechanism for the generation of complexes 145 and 146 is shown in Scheme 4.4. Electrophilic addition of compound 148, the reduction product of DDQ, to the deprotonated (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, 147, results in 149, which tautomerizes to 150. Elimination of 151 from 150 gives complex 146. Nucleophilic addition of CH_3O^- to 146 at C(3) followed by protonation gives Ni(II) N-confused chlorin 152. Oxidation of 152 with DDQ results in complex 145.



Scheme 4.4 A possible mechanism for the generation of complexes 145 and 146.

The UV-vis spectra of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} in CH_2Cl_2/CH_3OH (1:1) with and without NaOCH₃ are shown in Figure 4.9. The difference between the spectra suggests that (NCTTP)Ni^{II} is deprotonated in the presence of NaOCH₃.



Figure 4.9 UV-vis spectra of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} in CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (1:1) with and without NaOCH₃.

4.3 Conclusions

Reaction of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} with NaOCH₃ and DDQ resulted in the unexpected inner Ccyanide addition product 146. Subsequent nucleophilic addition of CH_3O to 146 followed by oxidation with DDQ gave complex 145. Structures of both complexes 145 and 146 were determined by X-ray diffraction analyses. The cyanide additions in both complexes are on the inner C(21) while the methoxy addition for 145 is on the peripheral C(3).

Complexes 145 and 146 seem to favor the π delocalization *via* the outer path C(1)-N(2)-C(3)-C(4) at the inverted pyrrole fragment as the result of sp³ hybridization of C(21). The resulting increase of the ring current effect in the inverted pyrrole fragment is demonstrated by the remarkable ¹H NMR chemical shift of C(3)H at 10.03 ppm for complex 146, while the signal for C(3)H of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} is observed at 8.56 ppm.

Electrophilic addition of compound 148, the reduction product of DDQ, to the deprotonated (NCTPP)Ni^{II}, was proposed as the critical step for the inner cyanide addition. The generality of the cyanide addition to other nucleophiles with DDQ and base is worthy of study in the future.

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Chapter 5

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Ni(III) Complex of N-Confused Porphyrin Inner C-Oxide

5.1 Introduction

Ni(III) tetrapyrrolic macrocycles have been intensively studied.¹ Wolberg and Manassen reported on the generation of a Ni(III) porphyrin cation *via* electrochemical oxidation of Ni(II) tetraphenylporphyrin at 77 K.² This reaction was re-examined by Dolphin *et al.* and it was observed that a Ni(II) porphyrin π cation radical is formed at room temperature and a low spin Ni(III) porphyrin is generated upon cooling to 77 K, showing intramolecular electron transfer.^{3,4} N-confused porphyrins^{5,6} can stabilize transition metals in high oxidation states⁷⁻¹¹ and Ni(III) complexes were prepared by Chmielewski and Latos-Grażyński. (section 1.4.2).⁷ Factor 430 (F430), a nickel tetrapyrrole, is the cofactor of methyl-coenzyme M reductase, which catalyzes the final steps of CO₂ conversion to methane by methanogenic *Archaea*, and a methyl-Ni(III) transient is suggested to be a key intermediate.¹² Ni(III)-alkyl intermediates are also considered to be involved in the reactions of Ni(I) macrocycles with alkyl halides.¹³

In our attempts to synthesize N-confused chlorins *via* dihydroxylation reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with OsO₄, an unexpected product, a Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide **153**, was obtained and structurally characterized.

5.2 Results and Discussion

A solution of the (NCTTP)Ni^{II} complex, **129b** (130 mg),⁵ and OsO₄ (60 mg) in 15 % pyridine/CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then filtered through a silica gel plug using 10 % CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was separated on a silica gel column (230 - 400 mesh, 16 g). Compound **153** was eluted with 1.5 % CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂ and was obtained in 42 % yield.

A molecular ion peak of 153 was observed at 742 m/e (LSIMS in the positive mode) and the molecular formula search resulted in C₄₈H₃₆N₄NiO (m/e Calcd 742.22421) based on the HRLSIMS result (742.22443 m/e), suggesting the addition of one oxygen atom to (NCTTP)Ni^{II} (C₄₈H₃₆N₄Ni). However, location of the oxygen atom could not be determined, as addition of oxygen to either N(2) or peripheral C-C bonds and dehydration of the dihydroxylation product are all possible.

Broad peaks were observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum of **153** (Figure 5.1), suggesting that complex **153** is paramagnetic. Characterization of compound **153** with NMR spectroscopy was thus not successful.



Figure 5.1 ¹H NMR spectrum of **153** in CD_2Cl_2 (400 MHz).

X-ray crystallography was relied upon to determine the structure of **153**. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to grow crystals of **153** by solvent diffusion of hexanes or CH₃OH into a CH₂Cl₂ solution of **153**, crystals of **153** were finally obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH₂Cl₂/pyrindine solution of **153**. The structure of compound **153** was determined by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Figure 5.2, 5.3).



Figure 5.2 An ORTEP drawing of compound 153 showing atomic labeling and thermal ellipsoids at 50 % probability. H atoms, solvent and the disorder of the O(1) atom have been removed for clarity.



Figure 5.3 Structure of complex 153.

The X-ray crystal structure of **153** shows that an oxygen atom has been added to C(21) and is coordinated to the center nickel ion as well. There is also an axial pyridine ligand *trans* to the bridging oxygen atom. A counteranion was not detected. However, the nature of the nickel complex **153** was still not determined as the origin of the unpaired electrons that result in a paramagnetic compound can be from one of the following sources:

- A high spin Ni(II) ion (two unpaired electrons).
- A low spin Ni(II) ion with a porphyrin π cation radical (one unpaired electron).
- A Ni(III) ion (one unpaired electron for a low spin Ni(III) ion and three unpaired electrons for a high spin Ni(III) ion).

To determine the position of the unpaired electrons in complex 153, the EPR spectrum of 153 in toluene glass was taken at 130 K (Figure 5.4). The spectrum is similar to that observed for a Ni(III) complex of N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin containing an axial hydroxyl group (48a, Scheme 1.21).⁷ The g-factor (g > 2.1) is indicative of the unpaired electron located on the metal center rather than in a porphyrin π cation radical ($g_{iso} \approx 2.002$ for porphyrin π cation radical).^{3,7}



Figure 5.4 EPR spectrum (X-band, 130 K, toluene) of complex 153.

Evan's method^{14,15} was used to measure the room temperature effective magnetic moment (μ_{eff}) of complex 153 in CD₂Cl₂, which was then used to determine the number of unpaired electrons in 153. A dilute CD_2Cl_2 solution of cyclohexane (reference) was placed in the NMR sample tube while the solvent containing a known concentration of complex 153 and cyclohexane was incorporated in an inner narrow-bore tube. The ¹H NMR spectrum of cyclohexane in the two coaxial tubes exhibits a chemical shift difference (Figure 5.5) which was used to calculate the room temperature effective magnetic moment. The experimental result is 1.87 μ_B , close to the spin-only value for a low spin d⁷ Ni(III) center with one unpaired electron $(\mu_{eff} = (n(n+2))^{0.5} = 1.73 \mu_B, n = 1)$. In comparison, a high spin Ni(II) ion would have $\mu_{eff} = 2.83$ μ_B (n = 2). The room temperature effective magnetic moment of complex 153 and its EPR spectrum lead to the conclusion that complex 153 is a Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide. This is corroborated by the parent ion peak of 153 at 741 m/e detected using LSIMS in the negative mode, together with the absence of the counteranion in the X-ray crystal structure. The corresponding Ni(II) complex would require protonation of either N(2) or O(1) to balance the charge, resulting in a parent ion peak observed at 742 m/e.



Figure 5.5 The ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD_2Cl_2) spectrum of cyclohexane showing the paramagnetic shift caused by complex 153 (6.9 x 10⁻³ M). (A = cyclohexane in CD_2Cl_2 , and B = cyclohexane peak shifted by complex 153).

5.2.1 X-ray Crystal Structure of Ni(III) N-Confused Porphyrin Inner C-Oxide

The X-ray crystal structure of complex 153 was found to contain a 6-coordinate nickel ion with an axial pyridine ligand. The nickel ion in complex 153 is bonded to both the oxygen atom and C(21). However, disorder was observed in the location of the O(1) atom. The structure was refined to give 64 % occupancy with O(1) coordinated to the Ni and the C(21), as shown in Figure 5.2, and 36 % occupancy with O(1) attached to the Ni and the N(23). The unit cell also contains one molecule of disordered CH_2Cl_2 .

The planarity of the porphyrin skeleton of **153** is distorted (Figure 5.6), but not as severely as that of the C(21)-methylated Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin **26** (Figure 1.11), in which the inverted pyrrole plane deviates from the N(22)N(23)N(24) plane by 42.2° .¹⁶ For complex **153**, the dihedral angles between the pyrrole planes and the plane defined by N(22)N(23)N(24) are as follows: C(21) 20.5(2)°, N(22) -17.61(7)°, N(23) 22.5(2)°, and N(24) -15.3(2)°.



Figure 5.6 An ORTEP drawing (side view) of compound 153 showing distortion from planarity (thermal ellipsoids at 50 % probability). Solvent, p-tolyl group, H atoms and the disorder of the O(1) atom have been removed for clarity.

The Ni-N bond distances (2.005 - 2.100 Å) in **153**, listed in Table 5.1, are longer than those of the high spin Ni(II) complex of N(2),C(21)-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin **27** (section 1.4.4.1) (1.979 - 2.057 Å),¹⁶ contrary to what might be expected for the smaller Ni(III) ion.¹ However, a similar elongation of Ni(III)-C bond lengths has also been observed in the case of $[Ni^{III}(C_6Cl_5)_4]^{-}$, of which the mean Ni-C distance is 2.007(8) Å.¹⁷

The fact that the bond distances of N(2)-C(1), N(2)-C(3), and C(3)-C(4) are markedly shorter than those of C(21)-C(1) and C(21)-C(4) suggests that the C(21) atom approaches sp³ hybridization. The Ni-O(1)-C(21) ring distorts the octahedral coordination geometry of the central metal. While the pyridine ring is almost perpendicular to the N(22)N(23)N(24) plane with a dihedral angle of $83.3(2)^\circ$, the O-Ni-C(21) angle is only $39.19(16)^\circ$.

Bond	Bond length (Å)	Bond	Bond length (Å)
Ni-C(21)	2.069(4)	N(2)-C(1)	1.393(5)
Ni-N(22)	2.088(3)	N(2)-C(3)	1.348(5)
Ni-N(23)	2.005(4)	C(3)-C(4)	1.409(5)
Ni-N(24)	2.100(3)	C(21)-C(1)	1.444(5)
Ni-N(25)	2.003(3)	C(21)-C(4)	1.427(5)
Ni-O(1)	2.037(4)	C(21)-O(1)	1.377(5)

Table 5.1Selected bond lengths (Å) for complex 153.

Notably, complex **153** is structurally similar to an Fe(III) porphyrin N-oxide **154**, which was proposed as an alternative candidate of compound I, **155**, for the active intermediate of cytochrome P-450 (Figure 5.7).¹⁸ An Fe(III) porphyrin N-oxide **157** was prepared from oxidation of an Fe(III) porphyrin **156** (Scheme 5.1) and was structurally characterized by Groves and Watanabe.¹⁹ Octaethylporphyrin N-oxide, **159**, can be prepared by oxidation of octaethylporphyrin with maleic peracid (Scheme 5.2).²⁰ Metalations of **159** with Ni(OAc)₂ or Cu(OAc)₂ result in complexes **160** (**a**,**b**).^{20,21} The X-ray crystal structures of **159** and the Ni(II) porphyrin N-oxide **160a** were reported by Balch *et al.*^{21,22} The nitrogen atom bonded to oxygen is not bonded to the metal ion in complex **157** and **160a**.^{19,21}



Figure 5.7 Structures of Fe(III) porphyrin N-oxide 154, compound I, 155.



Scheme 5.1 Synthesis of Fe(III) porphyrin N-oxide 157.



Scheme 5.2 Synthesis of porphyrin N-oxide 159 and metalloporphyrin N-oxide 160 (a,b).

5.2.2 Reaction Mechanism

Reactions at C(21) are not uncommon for N-confused porphyrin complexes. Methylations of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} and Cu(II) N(2)-methylated NCP **59** with CH₃I at the C(21) position readily proceed at room temperature (Scheme 1.13, Scheme 1.25).^{8,16} Inner cyanide addition at C(21) was observed for (NCTTP)Ni^{II} in the presence of DDQ and NaOCH₃ (Chapter 4).

Three canonical forms for a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin are shown in Scheme 5.3. The X-ray crystal structure of Ni(II) N(2)-iodooctyl N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin, **115** (section 2.2.3.1), shows that its N(2)-C(3) bond length, 1.311(4) Å, is markedly shorter than those of peripheral C-C bonds, 1.345(5) or 1.346(5) Å. Complex **115** is isoelectronic to Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins, and those bond lengths suggest that dipolar canonical forms **II** and **III**, which reserve the 18 π -electron pathway and have more double bond character for the N(2)-C(3) bond than canonical form **I**, are important contributors to the overall resonance hybrid.



Scheme 5.3 Three canonical forms for a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin.

In canonical form III, C(21) is negatively charged, which might explain why Ni(II) Nconfused porphyrins readily methylate at C(21). Canonical form III could also be used to explain the susceptibility of C(21) towards oxidation. A possible mechanism for the oxidation of (NCTTP)Ni^{II} with OsO₄ is shown in Scheme 5.4. Electrophilic addition of OsO₄ to (NCTTP)Ni^{II}, **129b**, at C(21) results in intermediate **161**. Rearrangement of **161** gives **162** and cleavage of the (C-)O-Os bond in **162** results in Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin C-oxide **163**. Oneelectron oxidation of **163**, followed by deprotonation and coordination of a pyridine gives Ni(III) N-confused porphyrin C-oxide **153**. The coordination of pyridine to the nickel ion at earlier steps is also possible.



Scheme 5.4 A possible mechanism for the generation of complex 153.

5.2.3 Optical Absorption Spectra

The UV-vis spectrum of complex **153** displays a broad absorption at 380 nm (50,000 M^{-1} cm⁻¹) with shoulder peaks at 428 nm and 470 nm (Figure 5.8). The absorption spectrum of **153** is much different from that of (NCTTP)Ni^{II}, suggesting a change of conjugation pathway after oxidation. Structure of **153** favors the outer C(1)-N(2)-C(3)-C(4) conjugation pathway as C(21) is sp³ hybridized (Figure 5.9), while both inner C(1)-C(21)-C(4) and outer pathways are possible for (NCTTP)Ni^{II}. This change of conjugation pathway was also suggested for Ni(II) C(21)-methylated N-confused porphyrin **26** (section 1.4.4.1), and the UV-vis spectra of **26** and **153** are similar to each other.



Figure 5.8 UV-vis spectra of 153 and (NCTTP)Ni^{II}.



Figure 5.9 Structures of complexes 153 and 26 showing possible conjugation pathways.

5.3 Conclusion

A novel nickel complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide **153** was synthesized from the oxidation of the precursor Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin using OsO₄. This complex was characterized to be a Ni(III) complex based on its X-ray crystal structure, room temperature effective magnetic moment, and mass, NMR and EPR spectra.

Complex 153 was not the expected product, as dihydroxylation occurs for the reactions of Ni(II) porphyrins and OsO₄. However, reactions on C(21) are not uncommon for N-confused porphyrin complexes. In a dipole canonical form (III) of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins (Scheme 5.3), the 18 π -electron pathway is reserved and C(21) is negatively charged. This canonical form could be used to explain the high reactivity of C(21) in NCP complexes.

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Chapter 6

Experimental

6.1 Instrumentation and General Materials

All chemicals for syntheses were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich fine chemicals, Across Chemicals, or Fisher Scientific. If necessary, chemicals were purified by published procedures.¹ Deuterated solvents for NMR measurements were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories or Aldrich. The silica gel was 230 - 400 mesh (Silicycle). Activity III basic alumina was obtained by adding 6 % water to activity I Brockman basic alumina, 60 - 325 mesh (Fisher). Analytical thin-layer chromatography was performed using pre-coated silica gel aluminum plates which contain a fluorescent indicator (GF 254 Merck).

The NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker WH-400, a Bruker AV-400 or a Bruker AMX-500 in the solvents indicated and were referenced to residual solvent peaks. Elemental analyses were performed on a Carlo Erba Elemental Analyzer 1108. As N-confused porphyrins obtained are often hydroscopic, and H₂O has been observed in the X-ray crystal structures of N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin **108** and inner C(21)-cyano Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin **146**, H₂O was added to the formula in some cases to obtain acceptable elemental analysis results. The UV-vis spectra were measured with absorption in the range of 0.1 -1.0, on a Varian Cary 50 scan UV-visible spectrophotometer. Mass spectra were determined on a KRATOS Concept IIHQ hybrid mass spectrometer. X-ray crystallographic data were collected on a Rigaku/ADSC CCD. EPR spectrum was recorded on a Bruker ECS-106 spectrometer. Irradiations in the singlet oxygen test were carried with a 250 W Osram HLX 64655 arc lamp in an Oriel lamp housing (model 66184) and the light output passed through a filter: P70-700-S-Corion.

6.2 Experimental Data for Chapter 2

6.2.1 N-Confused Tetraarylporphyrins

General Procedure:

N-confused porphyrins were synthesized using a modification of the procedure of Lindsey and coworkers.² To a solution of pyrrole (0.52 mL, 7.5 mmol) and arylaldehyde (7.5 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (750 mL) was added methanesulfonic acid (MSA) (0.34 mL, 5.2 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 30 min after which DDQ (1.50 g, 6.6 mmol) was added. After 1 min, triethylamine (1.5 mL) was added. The crude reaction mixture was passed through a silica gel $(14 \times 4.4 \text{ cm})$ column under vacuum and eluted with CH₂Cl₂. 1.2 % Methanol/CH₂Cl₂ eluted the product with impurities. The fractions were collected and concentrated in vacuo and then absorbed onto 7.5 g of activity III basic alumina. The absorbed sample was added to the top of a column with 150 g activity III basic alumina in 2:1 hexanes/ CH_2Cl_2 . The polarity of the eluent was increased from 2:1 to 1:1 to 1:2 hexanes/CH₂Cl₂, the N-confused porphyrins were eluted with 1:2 hexanes/CH₂Cl₂ (in the case of compound 99 and 100, the polarity of the eluent was increased from CH₂Cl₂ to 0.2 % methanol/CH₂Cl₂ to elute the product). The solvent was removed in vacuo and the residue was triturated with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to yield the product. Compound 16a, yield: 373 mg (32 %); compound 16b, yield: 274 mg (22 %); compound 99, yield: 259 mg (16%); compound 100, yield: 208 mg (15%); compound 101, yield: 316 mg (23 %).

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin (16a)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.54; ¹H-NMR (200 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -3.88 (s, 1H), -2.40 (br s, 2H), 7.69 - 7.94 (m, 12H), 8.12 - 8.26 (m, 4H), 8.31 - 8.45 (m, 4H), 8.53 -

8.66 (m, 4H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.94 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 9.01 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H); λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 438 (5.27), 542 (3.95), 582 (4.10), 726 (4.06); MS (EI) 614 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (EI) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₄H₃₀N₄: 614.24705, found 614.24691 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₄H₃₀N₄·H₂O: C, 83.52; H, 5.10; N, 8.85. Found: C, 83.86; H, 4.77; N, 8.71. These data agree with the literature data.³

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrin (16b)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.51; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -5.00 (s, 1H), -2.43 (br s, 2H), 2.67 (s, 3H), 2.69 (s, 6H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 7.52 - 7.78 (m, 8H), 7.98 - 8.13 (m, 4H), 8.16 - 8.30 (m, 4H), 8.51 - 8.61 (m, 3H), 8.63 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.93 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.99 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H); λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 440 (5.27), 542 (3.93), 586 (4.16), 732 (4.11); MS (LSIMS) 671 (MH⁺, 100 %); Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₈N₄: C, 85.94; H, 5.71; N, 8.35. Found: C, 86.01; H, 5.52; N, 8.45. These data agree with the literature data.⁴

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin (99)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.46; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -5.24 (s, 1H), -2.56 (br s, 2H), 4.08 (d, 12H), 8.18 - 8.58 (m, 19H), 8.60 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.70 (s, 1H), 8.84(d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.94 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 444 (5.31), 544 (4.07), 586 (4.22), 728 (4.15); MS (LSIMS) 847 (MH⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₂H₃₉N₄O₈: 847.27679, found 847.27667 (MH⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₂H₃₈N₄O₈: C, 73.75; H, 4.52; N, 6.62. Found: C, 73.95; H, 4.49; N, 6.72.

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin (100)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.38; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -4.92 (s, 1H), -2.31 (br s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 4.07 (s, 6H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 7.25 - 7.49 (m, 8H), 8.00 -

8.13(m, 4H), 8.25 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 4H), 8.55(d, J = 5.2 Hz, 3H), 8.61 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.89 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 8.97 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 442 (5.38), 514 (sh), 548 (sh), 592 (4.32), 736 (4.24); MS (LSIMS) 735 (MH⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₈H₃₉N₄O₄: 735.29713, found 735.29721 (MH⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₈N₄O₄: C, 78.45; H, 5.21; N, 7.62. Found: C, 78.11; H, 5.10; N, 7.71.

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*m*-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin (101)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.50; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -5.12 (s, 1H), -2.45 (br s, 2H), 3.98 (s, 6H), 4.02 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 7.22 - 7.45 (m, 4H), 7.58 - 7.82 (m, 8H), 7.82 - 8.00 (m, 4H), 8.55 - 8.66 (m, 3H), 8.68 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 8.96(d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 9.05(d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 440 (5.34), 540 (4.06), 582 (4.13), 726 (4.11); MS (LSIMS) 735 (MH⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₈H₃₉N₄O₄: 735.29713, found 735.29827 (MH⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₈N₄O₄: C, 78.45; H, 5.21; N, 7.62. Found: C, 78.44; H, 5.18; N, 7.71.

6.2.2 N,N'-Dimethylated N-Confused Porphyrins

General Procedure:

N-confused porphyrin (100 mg) was dissolved in a minimal amount of CH_2Cl_2 (about 10 mL). To this solution, CH_3I (8 mL) and Na_2CO_3 (250 mg) were added. The mixture was stirred for 2 days in the absence of light, and then filtered through Celite. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness *in vacuo* and the residue was triturated with CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes to yield the products. Compounds **103**, yield: 110 mg (88 %); compounds **104**, yield: 105 mg (85 %); compounds **105**, yield: 103 mg (87 %); compounds **106**, yield: 112 mg (92 %); compounds **107**, yield: 99 mg (82 %).

N,N'-Dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin I⁻ (103)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.62 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 0.65H), -1.57 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 0.35H), -1.48 (s, 3×0.65H), -1.39 (s, 3×0.35H), 3.62 (s, 3×0.35H), 3.82 (s, 3×0.65H), 7.18 - 8.54 (m, 27H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 382 (sh), 476 (4.85), 582 (3.79), 650 (3.73), 724 (sh), 788 (4.39); MS (LSIMS) 643 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₆H₃₅N₄: 643.28617, found 643.28623 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₆H₃₅N₄·I·1.5H₂O: C, 69.26; H, 4.80; N, 7.02; I, 15.91. Found: C, 68.96; H, 4.76; N, 6.86; I, 15.82.

2-Aza-2,24-dimethyl-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin·CF₃SO₃⁻ (108)

Compounds **103** (86 mg) were dissolved in 20 mL of CH₂Cl₂. Silver triflate (1.3 g) was added and the solution was stirred for 2 h. The mixture was passed through a silica gel column (14 g) and eluted with CH₂Cl₂ under vacuum. CH₂Cl₂ /1% CH₃OH eluted the porphyrin triflate salts. The compounds were recrystallized three times with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes giving **108** (29 mg). Crystals of **108** were obtained by solvent diffusion of hexanes into a CH₂Cl₂ solution of **108**. R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.60 (s, 1H), - 1.49 (s, 3H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 7.24 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.70 - 8.13 (m, 20H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.33 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.47 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 35.47, 39.93, 98.91, 123.55, 124.13, 127.42, 128.06, 128.11, 128.64, 129.00, 129.50, 130.00, 130.23, 131.51, 131.70, 131.88, 132.97, 134.38, 134.93, 136.03, 136.16, 136.92, 137.24, 137.63, 138.70, 139.69, 139.86, 140.54, 141.16, 150.96; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 385 (sh), 475 (4.85), 580 (3.74), 650 (3.67), 724 (sh), 790 (4.41); MS (LSIMS) 643 (M⁺, 100 %); Anal. Calcd for C₄₆H₃₅N₄·CF₃SO₃·1.5H₂O: C, 68.85;

H, 4.67; N, 6.83; S, 3.91. Found: C, 68.99; H, 4.61; N, 6.78; S, 4.00.

N,N'-Dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrin·I⁻(104)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.53 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 0.65H), -1.48 (s, 3×0.65H), -1.45 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 0.35H), -1.34 (s, 3×0.35H), 2.65 (m, 12H), 3.61 (s, 3×0.35H), 3.81 (s, 3×0.65H), 7.1 - 8 .5 (m, 23H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 392 (sh), 478 (4.85), 588 (3.64), 646 (3.69), 798 (4.22); MS (LSIMS) 699 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄: 699.34877, found 699.34859 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄·I·0.5H₂O: C, 71.85; H, 5.31; N, 6.70. Found: C, 71.85; H, 5.41; N, 6.70.

2-Aza-2,24-dimethyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrin·I⁻(104-III)

Compounds **104** (109 mg) were recrystallized three times with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to give the major isomer **104-III** (34 mg). R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.55 (d, J = 1.7 Hz, 1H), -1.49 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 6H), 2.66 (s, 6H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 7.22 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.51 - 8.05 (m, 17H), 8.15 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.34 (br s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 21.54, 21.56, 21.61, 21.83, 35.21, 39.72, 98.64, 114.12, 123.50, 123.96, 127.53, 128.60, 128.79, 128.89, 129.33, 130.01, 130.51, 130.68, 131.30, 131.60, 132.75, 134.25, 134.79, 135.06, 135.90, 136.85, 137.09, 137.45, 137.86, 137.89, 139.08, 139.76, 140.67, 141.30, 142.83, 147.10, 149.30, 150.88, 152.18, 160.56, 160.76; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 390 (sh), 435 (sh), 480 (4.78), 585 (3.54), 650 (3.56), 800 (4.26); MS (LSIMS) 699 (M⁺, 100 %); Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄·I·H₂O: C, 71.08; H, 5.37; N, 6.63; I, 15.02. Found: C, 71.05; H, 5.31; N, 6.58; I, 14.95.

N,N'-Dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-21-carba-

porphyrin·I⁻ (105)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.79 (m, 1H), -1.49 (m, 3H), 3.65 (s, 3×0.27H), 3.87 (s, 3×0.73H), 4.05 (m, 12H), 7.20 - 8.73 (m, 23H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 386 (sh), 478 (4.84), 576 (3.86), 652 (3.81), 726 (sh), 792 (4.24); MS (LSIMS) 875 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₄H₄₃N₄O₈: 875.30809, found 875.30815 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₄H₄₃N₄O₈·I·2.5H₂O: C, 61.89; H, 4.62; N, 5.35. Found: C, 61.99; H, 4.42; N, 5.20.

2-Aza-2,24-dimethyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin I⁻ (105-III)

Compounds **105** (78.5 mg) were recrystallized three times with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to give the major isomer **105-III** (29 mg). R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -1.45 (d, 4H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 4.06 (s, 12H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 2H), 7.82 -8.85 (m, 20H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 35.83, 40.50, 52.73, 52.78, 52.83, 52.94, 99.08, 114.20, 122.42, 123.95, 126.95, 128.01, 128.86, 129.15, 129.52, 129.59, 129.99, 130.27, 130.49, 130.76, 130.82, 130.89, 130.96, 131.18, 131.47, 131.55, 132.17, 132.81, 133.03, 134.28, 134.53, 135.19, 135.98, 136.06, 136.17, 137.05, 139.68, 139.90, 141.03, 143.82, 144.00, 144.46, 150.73, 160.48, 166.74, 167.02, 167.08; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 385 (sh), 480 (4.83), 585 (3.67), 655 (3.16), 725 (sh), 790 (4.26); MS (LSIMS) 875 (M⁺, 100 %); Anal. Calcd for C₅₄H₄₃N₄O₈·I·H₂O: C, 63.53; H, 4.44; N, 5.49; I, 12.43. Found: C, 63.26; H, 4.55; N, 5.48; I, 12.20.

N,N'-Dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin I (106)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.43 (s, 3×0.7H), -1.37 (d, J = 1.5 Hz, 1×0.7H), -1.22 (d, 4×0.3H), 3.60 (s, 3×0.3H), 3.82 (s, 3×0.7H), 4.00 - 4.14 (m, 12H), 7.07 - 8.50 (m, 23H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 436 (4.82), 486 (4.97), 592 (3.62), 662 (3.82), 818 (4.40); MS (LSIMS) 763 (M⁺, 100 %); Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄O₄·I·1.5H₂O: C, 65.43; H, 5.05; N, 6.10. Found: C, 65.67; H, 4.88; N, 5.98.

2-Aza-2,24-dimethyl-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin ·I⁻ (106-III)

Compounds **106** (89 mg) were recrystallized three times with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to give the major isomer **106-III** (37 mg). R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) δ = -1.47 (s, 3H), -1.44 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 4.01 - 4.13 (m, 12H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.28 (m, 4H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (m, 2H), 7.56 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.91 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 8.04 (m, 3H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 5.1Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 35.02, 39.48, 55.97, 56.04, 56.21, 56.38, 98.68, 113.27, 113.51, 113.64, 113.79, 113.97, 114.08, 115.24, 116.37, 122.90, 123.70, 127.73, 128.25, 129.77, 130.56, 130.60, 130.99, 131.19, 132.17, 132.37, 132.40, 133.37, 135.49, 135.93, 136.44, 136.52, 136.88, 137.24, 138.78, 139.19, 141.06, 146.55, 148.80, 150.75, 152.21, 160.39, 160.54, 160.94, 161.95, 163.24; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 436 (4.78), 486 (4.91), 590 (3.56), 658 (3.74), 824 (4.37); MS (LSIMS) 763 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄O₄: 763.32843, found 763.32857 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄O₄·I: C, 67.40; H, 4.87; N, 6.29; I, 14.25. Found: C, 67.11; H, 4.97; N, 6.16; I, 14.09.

N,N'-Dimethylated 2-aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*m*-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrin·I⁻(107)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.36; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -1.61 (m, 1H), -1.48 (d, 3×0.7H), -1.39 (s, 3×0.3H), 3.68 (s, 3×0.3H), 3.86 (s, 3×0.7H), 3.95- 4.17 (m, 12H), 7.21 - 8.42 (m, 23H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 378 (sh), 478 (4.95), 584 (3.81), 654 (3.74), 724 (sh), 788 (4.38); MS (LSIMS) 763 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄O₄: 763.32843, found 763.32854 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₀H₄₃N₄O₄·I·0.5H₂O: C, 66.74; H, 4.93; N, 6.23; I, 14.10. Found: C, 66.72; H, 4.93; N, 6.30; I, 13.97.

Singlet Oxygen Tests of N,N'-Dimethylated N-Confused Porphyrin Salts

A solution containing DPBF and an N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salt (one of compounds 103 - 107 or the major isomer of 103 - 106) (OD = 0.8 - 1.0 at 418 nm, OD = ~ 0.2 at irradiation wavelength) was prepared and the UV-vis spectra were measured. The solution was then irradiated with a halogen lamp (a 250 W Osram HLX 64655 arc lamp in an Oriel lamp housing, model 66184, at 30V) using a filter (~ 700 nm, P70-700-S-Corion) for four 20 second intervals (the UV cell is about 1 cm away from the filter) and UV-vis spectra were taken after each interval. Substantial decay of the signal around 418 nm was observed in all cases.⁵ No change in UV-vis spectra was observed after a sample containing DPBF and an N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salt was left in the dark for 10 min, and there was also no change in UV-vis spectra after irradiating a solution containing only DPBF or an N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salt for 1 min.

6.2.3 Synthesis towards C,N-Strapped N-Confused Porphyrins

6.2.3.1 Synthesis of Iodoalkylated N-Confused Porphyrins

A CHCl₃ solution (25 mL) of NCTPP (153 mg) and I(CH₂)₆I (1.76 g) was refluxed for three days under N₂, shielded from light. The reaction mixture was then chromatographed with silica gel (14 g) under vacuum and eluted with CH₂Cl₂/methanol. 0.8 % Methanol/CH₂Cl₂ eluted NCTPP with some impurities and 2 % methanol/CH₂Cl₂ eluted **112** (142 mg, 69 %).

2-Aza-2-iodohexyl-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrin (112)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.43; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = -2.90 (s, 1H), 0.62 (m, 2H), 0.89 (m, 2H), 1.19 (m, 2H), 1.36 (m, 2H), 2.87 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (s, 1H), 7.70 – 8.42 (m, 24H), 8.67 (d, *J* = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.85 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H); MS (LSIMS) 825 (M⁺, 100 %); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₀H₄₂N₄I: 825.24542, found 825.24554 (M⁺); Anal Calcd for C₅₀H₄₂N₄I·HI·2.5H₂O: C, 60.19; H, 4.75; N, 5.62. Found: C, 60.17; H, 4.40; N, 5.72.

6.2.3.2 Synthesis of Ni(II) Iodoalkylated N-Confused Porphyrins

N-confused porphyrin 112 (73 mg) and Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O (0.36 g) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (2:3) and the solution was stirred for 24 h.⁴ The solvent was then removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was separated with silica gel (12 g) column eluting with CH₂Cl₂ to give Ni(II) complex 114 (92 %). Ni(II) complex 115 was obtained similarly with a yield of 95 %.

2-Aza-2-iodohexyl-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (114)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 1:1) 0.47; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 0.96 (m, 2H), 1.21 (m, 2H), 1.67 (m, 4H), 3.10 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.80 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.56 - 7.69 (m, 12H),

7.77 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 - 7.97 (m, 12H), 8.09 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.44 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) $\delta = 7.12$, 25.85, 30.15, 32.13, 33.61, 52.41, 127.20, 127.38, 127.46, 127.65, 127.80, 127.96, 128.27, 128.75, 130.20, 132.20, 132.34, 132.84,133.51, 133.55, 133.80, 141.80, 152.44; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 364 (4.68), 430 (4.98), 462 (sh), 562 (4.05), 718 (3.71), 786 (3.70); MS (LSIMS) 881 (M⁺, 100 %).

2-Aza-2-iodooctyl-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (115)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 1:1) 0.20; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) $\delta = 0.95$ (m, 2H), 1.14 (m, 4H), 1.32 (m, 2H), 1.68 (m, 4H), 3.48 (t, J = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.78 (t, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.55 - 7.68 (m, 12H), 7.75 - 7.98 (m, 13H), 8.09 (d, J = 5.1 Hz, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) $\delta = 26.79$, 27.02, 28.96, 29.14, 32.26, 32.90, 45.60, 52.46, 117.51, 118.65, 122.03, 124.31, 126.13, 127.18, 127.38, 127.46, 127.65, 127.77, 127.95, 128.24, 128.70, 130.18, 131.34, 132.20, 132.33, 133.45, 133.52, 133.56, 133.80, 134.16, 139.71, 140.27, 141.83, 144.36, 146.24, 148.04, 149.47, 150.97, 152.52, 153.09; MS (LSIMS) 909 (M⁺, 33 %), 818 (100 %).

6.2.3.3 Synthesis of C,N Strapped N-Confused Porphyrins

Compound 115 (63.1 mg) was refluxed with $AgBF_4$ (253 mg) in 150 mL fresh distilled CH_3CN/CH_2Cl_2 (1:1) for 24 h. The solvent was then removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was chromatographed with silica gel (12 g) eluting with 1.5 % methanol/ CH_2Cl_2 to give complex 111 (28.3 mg, 52 %), MS (LSIMS) 781 (M⁺, 100 %). Complex 116 was obtained similarly with a yield of 56 %, MS (LSIMS) 753 (M⁺, 100 %).

6.3 Experimental Data for Chapter 3

6.3.1 Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins

To a solution of pyrrole (1.04 mL, 15 mmol) and arylaldehyde (15 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (750 mL) was added MSA (0.98 mL, 15 mmol).² The mixture was stirred for 8 min after which DDQ (3.00 g, 13.2 mmol) was added. After 1 min, triethylamine (1.5 mL) was added. The crude reaction mixture was passed through a silica gel column (14×4.4 cm) under vacuum and eluted with CH₂Cl₂. CH₂Cl₂/1.2 % methanol eluted the product with impurities. The fractions were collected and dried *in vacuo*. The residue and Ni(OAc)₂·4H₂O (3.50 g) were dissolved in 500 mL CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (1:1) and the solution was stirred for 24 h.⁴ The solvent was then removed *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified with a silica gel column (12×4.4 cm) under vacuum eluting with CH₂Cl₂ (in the cases of **129d** and **129e**, 0.4 % methanol/CH₂Cl₂ eluted the product) to give the Ni(II) complex. Compound **129a**, yield: 405 mg, (16 %); compound **129b**, yield: 306 mg, (11 %); compound **129c**, yield: 257 mg, (7.5 %); compound **129d**, yield: 216 mg, (6.4 %); compound **129e**, yield: 389 mg, (13 %).

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetraphenyl-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (129a)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 3:1) 0.59; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 7.56 - 7.64 (m, 9H), 7.65 - 7.71 (m, 3H), 7.77 - 7.86 (m, 6H), 7.86 - 7.95 (m, 6H), 8.06 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (d, J = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 10.24 (br s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 359 (sh), 426 (4.92), 596 (3.92), 718 (3.66), 788 (3.71); MS (LSIMS) 670 (M⁺, 100%). These data agree with the literature data.⁶

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (129b)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 3:1) 0.70; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 2.57 (d, 12H), 7.37-7.52 (m, 8H), 7.65-7.81 (m, 9H), 7.83 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.05 (d, J = 4.7 Hz, 1H), 8.09 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 10.20 (br s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 362 (4.62), 428 (4.95), 598 (3.97), 720 (3.73), 792 (3.77); MS (LSIMS) 726 (M⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₈H₃₆N₄Ni: 726.22930, found 726.22923 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₆N₄Ni·0.5H₂O: C, 78.28; H, 5.06; N, 7.61. Found: C, 78.00; H, 4.87; N, 7.41. These data agree with the literature data.⁴

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-chlorophenyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (129c)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 3:1) 0.75; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 7.56 - 7.95 (m, 20H), 8.04 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 8.56 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 10.17 (br s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 362 (sh), 426 (4.95), 600 (3.99), 720 (3.71), 792 (3.71); MS (LSIMS) 809 (MH⁺ [C₄₄H₂₅³⁵Cl₃³⁷ClN₄Ni], 100%).

2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (129d)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/1 % CH₃OH) 0.22; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 4.02 (d, 12H), 7.77 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.85 - 8.10 (m, 12H), 8.22 - 8.39 (m, 8H), 8.56 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 10.19 (br s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 364 (4.52), 428 (4.88), 598 (3.90), 722 (3.60), 794 (3.62); MS (LSIMS) 903 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₂H₃₇N₄O₈Ni: 903.19643, found 903.19619 (MH⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₂H₃₆N₄O₈Ni: C, 69.12; H, 4.02; N, 6.20. Found: C, 69.14; H, 4.06; N, 6.44.
2-Aza-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-methoxyphenyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (129e)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/1 % CH₃OH) 0.68; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 3.96 - 4.01 (m, 12H), 7.10 - 7.25 (m, 8H), 7.69 - 7.87 (m, 10H), 7.90 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 7.93 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 1H), 8.07 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.10 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.59 (d, J = 3.8 Hz, 1H), 10.22 (br s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 368 (4.59), 428 (4.94), 600 (3.99), 722 (3.80), 794 (3.85); MS (LSIMS) 791 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₈H₃₇N₄O₄Ni: 791.21679, found 791.21730 (MH⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₃₆N₄O₄Ni: C, 72.84; H, 4.58; N, 7.08. Found: C, 73.18; H, 4.51; N, 7.38.

6.3.2 Preparation of Sultine

A suspension of sodium hydroxymethanesulfinate (rongalite) (6.0 g, 40 mmol) was stirred with a solution of α,α' -dibromo-*o*-xylene (20 mmol) and TBAB (4 mmol) in DMF (40 mL) at 0 °C for 4 h.⁷ Water (300 mL) was then added and the precipitate was removed by filtration. The filtrate was extracted with ethyl ether and chromatographed on silica gel (16 g) with hexanes/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1) to yield sultine **130** 2.31 g (69 %).

1,4-Dihydro-2,3-benzoxathiin 3-oxide (130)

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 3.56 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 4.96 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, J = 13.7 Hz, 1H), 7.20 - 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.33 - 7.45 (m, 2H); MS (LSIMS) 169 (MH⁺, 100%). These data agree with the literature data.⁷

6.3.3 Diels-Alder Reactions of Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins as Dienophiles

A solution of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} (129a, 100 mg) and sultine 130 (1.50 g) was refluxed in benzene (50 mL) for 2 days. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified

with a silica gel column (14 g) using hexanes/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1). The product, **133a**, which has a higher R_f value than that of **129a**, was obtained in 23 % yield. Complexes **133b** and **133c** were synthesized in a similar way with the yield of 25 % and 18 %, respectively.

Ni(II) N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin (133a)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 2:1) 0.77; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 6.91 (s, 1H), 7.11 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.27 (m, 2H), 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.55 - 8.05 (m, 20H), 8.22 (m, 2H), 8.29 (m, 3H), 8.36 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 8.57 (s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 438 (5.07), 628 (4.62); MS (LSIMS) 770 (M⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₂H₃₂N₄Ni: 770.19799, found 770.19797 (M⁺); Anal. Calcd for C₅₂H₃₂N₄Ni·0.5H₂O: C, 80.02; H, 4.26; N, 7.18. Found: C, 79.88; H, 4.11; N, 6.95.

Ni(II) N-confused tetrakis(p-tolyl)isoquinoporphyrin (133b)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 2:1) 0.77; ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.63 (s, 6H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.14 - 7.25 (m, 2H), 7.36 - 7.55 (m, 9H), 7.64 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 2H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 8.19 - 8.27 (m, 3H), 8.28 - 8.35 (m, 3H), 8.42 (s, 1H); UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 440 (5.07), 628 (4.75); MS (LSIMS) 827 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* calc'd for C₅₆H₄₁N₄Ni: 827.26842, found 827.27036 (MH⁺).

Ni(II) N-confused tetrakis(p-chlorophenyl)isoquinoporphyrin (133c)

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 2:1) 0.44; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 7.06 (s, 1H), 7.18 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (m, 2H), 7.49 - 7.95 (m, 17H), 8.15 - 8.33 (m, 6H), 8.66 (s, 1H); MS (LSIMS) 908 (M⁺ [C₅₂H₂₈³⁵Cl₃³⁷ClN₄Ni], 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for $C_{52}H_{28}^{35}Cl_3^{37}ClN_4Ni$: 908.03916, found 908.03956 (M⁺).

6.3.4 Demetalation of Ni(II) N-Confused Tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin

Complex 133a (40 mg) was dissolved in 10 % TFA/CH₂Cl₂. After 24 h, the solution was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ solution. The solvent was then removed *in vacuo* and the residue was purified on a silica gel column (12 g). CH₂Cl₂/4 % CH₃OH/0.5 % Et₃N eluted the product. This collection was concentrated and washed with aqueous NaCl solution. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was triturated with CH₂Cl₂/hexanes to give demetalation product 135 24.6 mg (63 %).

N-confused tetraphenylisoquinoporphyrin 135

 R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5 % CH₃OH/2 % Et₃N) 0.29; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 7.19 (s, 1H), 7.29 - 7.58 (m, 4H), 7.70 (s, 6H), 7.78 - 7.94 (m, 6H), 8.00 - 8.30 (m, 10H), 8.31 - 8.45 (m, 4H), 8.84 (s, 1H); MS (LSIMS) 715 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₂H₃₅N₄: 715.28617, found 715.28614 (MH⁺).

6.3.5 Diels-Alder Reactions of Ni(II) N(2)-Methylated N-Confused Porphyrins

A solution of Ni(II) N(2)-methylated N-confused tetra(*p*-tolyl)porphyrin (80 mg) and sultine **130** (1.50 g) was refluxed in benzene (60 mL) for 2 days. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to column chromatography with a silica gel (14 g) using hexanes/CH₂Cl₂. Compound **137** was obtained with impurities. MS (LSIMS) 860 (100%); HRMS (LSIMS) 860.30121 *m/e*.

6.3.6 1,3-Dipolar Cycloaddition of Ni(II) N-Confused Porphyrins

A solution of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} (**129a**, 50 mg), sarcosine (N-methylglycine, 0.70 g), paraformaldehyde (1.1 g) and DDQ (200 mg)was refluxed in toluene (70 mL) for 24 h. The

solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to column chromatograph with silica gel (14 g) using 2 % CH₃OH/CH₂Cl₂. Compound **138** was obtained with impurities. MS (LSIMS) 782 (100%).

6.4 Experimental Data for Chapter 4

(NCTTP)Ni^{II} (110 mg) and DDQ (400 mg) were added to a 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/CH₃OH (70 mL) solution of NaOCH₃ (200 mg). The solution was stirred for 24 h at r. t. and then washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution for three times. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, 16 g). Using 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes. (NCTTP)Ni^{II} was eluted first; 3:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexanes eluted the first new compound, **145** (11.7 mg, 9.9 %), and the second new compound, **146** (30.3 mg, 27 %), was eluted with CH₂Cl₂.

2-Aza-21-cyano-3-methoxy-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (145)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 2:1) 0.63; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 2.63 (m, 12H), 4.21 (s, 3H), 7.41 - 7.62 (m, 9H), 7.65 - 8.20 (m, 7H), 8.32 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.36 (s, 2H), 8.38 - 8.51 (m, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 21.57, 21.67, 57.72, 108.28, 123.02, 125.60, 126.28, 128.09, 128.18, 128.41, 128.88, 129.77, 131.75, 131.81, 132.55, 133.55, 133.86, 133.93, 135.50, 136.38, 137.19, 137.31, 137.76, 137.96, 138.31, 138.68, 138.80, 138.94, 146.64, 147.21, 148.60, 149.23, 155.29, 159.99, 164.85, 172.83; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 434 (5.12), 716 (3.96); MS (LSIMS) 782 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₅₀H₃₈N₅NiO: 782.24294, found 782.24344 (MH⁺); Anal Calcd for C₅₀H₃₇N₅NiO·H₂O: C, 75.02; H, 4.91; N, 8.75. Found: C, 74.74; H, 4.68; N, 8.68.

2-Aza-21-cyano-5,10,15,20-tetrakis(p-tolyl)-21-carbaporphyrinatonickel(II) (146)

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/hexanes 2:1) 0.37; ¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 2.66 (m, 12H), 7.56 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 4H), 7.63 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.78 - 8.32 (m, 8H), 8.56 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 8.58 - 8.66 (m, 3H), 8.73 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 8.76 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 10.03 (s, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CD₂Cl₂) δ = 21.59, 106.75, 125.86, 127.50, 128.00, 128.13, 128.91, 129.40, 132.30, 133.01, 133.40, 133.71, 134.09, 134.27, 135.04, 135.57, 135.82, 135.90,137.52, 137.86, 137.98, 138.78, 138.84, 138.97, 139.96, 143.72, 147.80, 148.88, 149.25, 149.96, 154.63, 157.48, 158.15, 168.43; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max}/nm (log ε) 434 (5.14), 716 (3.65); MS (LSIMS) 752 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for C₄₉H₃₆N₅Ni: 752.23237, found 752.23242 (MH⁺); Anal Calcd for C₄₉H₃₅N₅Ni·CH₃OH·0.5H₂O: C, 75.68; H, 5.08; N, 8.83. Found: C, 75.97; H, 4.76; N, 9.09.

6.5 Experimental Data for Chapter 5

6.5.1 Synthesis of Ni(III) N-Confused Porphyrin Inner C-Oxide

A solution of the (NCTTP)Ni^{II} complex, **129b** (130 mg), and OsO₄ (60 mg) in 15 % pyridine/CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was stirred at r. t. for 24 h and then filtered through a silica gel plug using 10 % CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue was subjected to column chromatography (silica gel, 16 g). Compound **153** was eluted with 1.5 % CH₃OH in CH₂Cl₂ and was obtained in a 42 % yield.

Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide 153

R_f (silica-CH₂Cl₂/5% CH₃OH/2% Et₃N) 0.70; UV-vis (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} /nm (log ε) 380 (4.70), 428 (sh), 470 (sh); MS (LSIMS) 742 (MH⁺, 100%); HRMS (LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for

 $C_{48}H_{36}N_4NiO:$ 742.22421, found 742.22443 (MH⁺); MS (-LSIMS) 741 (M⁻, 100%); HRMS (-LSIMS) *m/e* Calcd for $C_{48}H_{35}N_4NiO:$ 741.21639, found 741.21609 (M⁻); Anal. Calcd for $C_{48}H_{35}N_4NiO.C_5H_5N:$ C, 77.47; H, 4.91; N, 8.52. Found: C, 77.36; H, 4.97; N, 8.61.

6.5.2 Measurement of Room Temperature Effective Magnetic Moment

A dilute CD_2Cl_2 solution of cyclohexane (reference) was placed in the NMR sample tube while the solvent containing complex **153** and cyclohexane was incorporated in an inner narrowbore tube and held in place with a Teflon spacer. The ¹H NMR spectrum of cyclohexane in the two coaxial tubes exhibits a chemical shift difference, which was used to calculate the room temperature effective magnetic moment.⁸⁻¹¹

6.6 Crystal Data and Details of the Structure Determination

Empirical Formula	$C_{47}H_{35}N_4SO_3F_3\cdot H_2O$
Formula Weight	810.88
Crystal Color, Habit	Dark, chip
Crystal Dimensions	0.50 x 0.25 x 0.15 mm
Crystal System	Triclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 11.922(2) Å b = 13.505(2) Å c = 15.090(3) Å $\alpha = 110.043(6)^{\circ}$ $\beta = 94.106(6)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 113.859(7)^{\circ}$
	$V = 2023.9(6) Å^3$
Space group	Pī (#2)
Z value	2
D _{calc}	1.330 g/cm^3
F ₀₀₀	844.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	1.44 cm^{-1}
Temperature	198 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	4620 exposures @ 51.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

Table 6.1 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 108.

ω oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	-22.0 - 18.0°
Detector Position	38.33 mm
Detector Swing Angle	-10.50°
$2\theta_{max}$	50.4°
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 11514 Unique: 5815 (R _{int} = 0.056)
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (trans. factors: 0.6115 - 1.0000)
Structure Solution	Direct Methods (SIR97)
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w(\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$
p-factor	0.0000
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. Observations (I>0.00 σ (I))	5815
No. Variables	544
Reflection/Parameter Ratio	10.69
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.122; 0.176
Goodness of Fit Indicator	1.69
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.01
No. Observations (I> $2\sigma(I)$)	3078
Residuals (refined on F, I>2o(I)): R; Rw	0.061; 0.074
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$0.60 \ e^{-1}/A^{3}$
Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map	$-0.53 e^{-3}/A^{3}$

 Table 6.1 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 108 (continued).

Empirical Formula	C ₅₂ H ₄₃ N ₄ NiI
Formula Weight	909.54
Crystal Color, Habit	purple, needle
Crystal Dimensions	0.50 x 0.15 x 0.15 mm
Crystal System	Triclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 10.0178(8) Å b = 14.2261(6) Å c = 16.329(1) Å $\alpha = 108.764(2)^{\circ}$ $\beta = 94.009(2)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 109.291(3)^{\circ}$
	$V = 2038.9(2) Å^3$
Space group	Pī (#2)
Z value	2
\mathbf{D}_{calc}	1.481 g/cm ³
F ₀₀₀	928.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	12.76 cm^{-1}
Temperature	173 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	462 exposures @ 19.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

Table 6.2 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 115.

ω oscillation Range (χ = -90.0)	-23.0 - 18.0°
Detector Position	40.30 mm
Detector Swing Angle	-10.52°
$2\theta_{max}$	60.3°
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 17463 Unique: 8533 (R _{int} = 0.036)
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (trans. factors: 0.7367 - 1.0000)
Structure Solution	Patterson Methods (DIRDIF92 PATTY)
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w(\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$
p-factor	0.0000
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. Observations (I>0.00 σ (I))	8533
No. Variables	527
Reflection/Parameter Ratio	16.19
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.076; 0.134
Goodness of Fit Indicator	1.69
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.01
No. Observations (I>2σ(I))	6180
Residuals (refined on F, I>2o(I)): R; Rw	0.046; 0.062
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$1.02 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$

 $-1.69 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$

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 Table 6.2 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 115 (continued).

Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map

Empirical Formula	$C_{52}H_{32}N_4NiI$
Formula Weight	771.55
Crystal Color, Habit	dark, needle
Crystal Dimensions	0.50 x 0.15 x 0.05 mm
Crystal System	Monoclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 13.2484(19) Å b = 15.1197(17) Å c = 19.255(3) Å β = 110.821(3)°
	$V = 3605.1(9) Å^3$
Space group	P2 ₁ /c (#14)
Z value	4
D _{calc}	1.421 g/cm^3
F ₀₀₀	1600.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	5.84 cm^{-1}
Temperature	173 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	460 exposures @ 49.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

 Table 6.3 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 133a.

ω oscillation Range (χ = -90.0)	-17.0 - 23.0°
Detector Position	38.10 mm
Detector Swing Angle	-5.59°
$2\theta_{max}$	55.7°
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 33795 Unique: 8021 (R _{int} = 0.085)
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (trans. factors: 0.7875 - 1.0000)
Structure Solution	Direct Methods (SIR97)
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w(\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$
p-factor	0.0000
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. Observations (I>0.00o(I))	7755
No. Variables	514
Reflection/Parameter Ratio	15.09
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.076; 0.090
Goodness of Fit Indicator	0.80
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.00
No. Observations ($I \ge 2\sigma(I)$)	4167
Residuals (refined on F, I>2σ(I)): R; Rw	0.036; 0.039
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$0.50 \ e^{-1}/A^{3}$
Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map	$-0.59 e^{-3}/{A^3}$

 Table 6.3 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 133a (continued).

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Empirical Formula	C ₅₀ H ₃₇ N ₅ NiO
Formula Weight	782.56
Crystal Color, Habit	Brown, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10 mm
Crystal System	Triclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 9.8239(4) Å b = 12.7674(6) Å c = 15.3382(7) Å $\alpha = 82.788(8)^{\circ}$ $\beta = 81.698(7)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 82.301(8)^{\circ}$
	$V = 1875.39(15) Å^3$
Space group	Pī (#2)
Z value	2
D _{calc}	1.388 g/cm ³
F ₀₀₀	818.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	5.65 cm ⁻¹
Temperature	173 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71069 \text{ Å}$) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	460 exposures @ 47.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

 Table 6.4 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 145.

ω oscillation Range (χ = -90.0)	-17.0 - 23.0°
Detector Position	38.79 mm
Detector Swing Angle	-5.54°
$2\theta_{max}$	55.7°
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 17139 Unique: 7723 (R _{int} = 0.066)
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (corr. factors: 0.7797 - 1.0000)
Structure Solution	Direct Methods (SIR97)
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w(\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$
p-factor	0.0000
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. Observations (I>0.00 σ (I))	7709
No. Variables	538
Reflection/Parameter Ratio	14.33
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.088; 0.112
Goodness of Fit Indicator	0.95
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.00
No. Observations (I>2σ(I))	5006
Residuals (refined on F, I>2σ(I)): R; Rw	0.048; 0.099
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$0.31 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$
Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map	$-0.54 e^{-3}/A^{3}$

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Table 6.4	Crystal	data and	details	of the	structure	determ	ination	for	145	(continued)).
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Empirical Formula	$C_{49}H_{35}N_5Ni\cdot0.5H_2O$
Formula Weight	761.55
Crystal Color, Habit	Dark, chip
Crystal Dimensions	0.15 x 0.15 x 0.10 mm
Crystal System	Triclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 9.7125(10) Å b = 14.3732(15) Å c = 14.0565(15) Å $\alpha = 94.720(10)^{\circ}$ $\beta = 77.440(10)^{\circ}$ $\gamma = 76.150(10)^{\circ}$
	$V = 1840.9(4) \text{ Å}^3$
Space group	Pī (#2)
Z value	2
D _{calc}	1.376 g/cm^3
F ₀₀₀	796.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	5.73 cm^{-1}
Temperature	173 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	460 exposures @ 55.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

Table 6.5 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 146.

ω oscillation Range (χ = -90.0)	-17.0 - 23.0°
Detector Position	38.72 mm
Detector Swing Angle	-5.60°
$2\theta_{max}$	50.1°
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 44912 Unique: 10104 (R _{int} = 0.063)
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (corr. factors: 0.4343 - 1.0000)
Structure Solution	Direct Methods
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w (\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms
No. Observations (I>0.00o(I))	10104
No. Variables	509
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.134; 0.160
Goodness of Fit Indicator	0.96
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.00
No. Observations (I> $2\sigma(I)$)	5521
Residuals (refined on F, I>2o(I)): R; Rw	0.064; 0.142
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$0.58 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$
Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map	$-0.43 \ e^{-1}/A^{3}$

Table 6.5 Crystal data and details of the Structure determination for 146 (co	ontinued).
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Empirical Formula	CraHanNeNiO, CHaCla
Formula Weight	906.56
Crystal Color, Habit	Green, platelet
Crystal Dimensions	0.35 x 0.30 x 0.03 mm
Crystal System	Monoclinic
Lattice Type	Primitive
Lattice Parameters	a = 21.2291(14) Å b = 8.6451(5) Å c = 25.7622(17) Å β = 93.004(3)° V = 4721.6(5) Å ³
Space group	P2/a (#13)
Z value	4
D _{calc}	1.275 g/cm ³
F ₀₀₀	1884.00
μ(ΜοΚα)	5.68 cm^{-1}
Temperature	173 K
Diffractometer	Rigaku/ADSC CCD
Radiation	MoK α ($\lambda = 0.71069$ Å) graphite monochromated
Detector Aperture	94 mm x 94 mm
Data Images	460 exposures @ 47.0 seconds
ø oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	0.0 - 190.0°

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Table 6.6 Crystal data and details of the structure determination for 153.

ω oscillation Range ($\chi = -90.0$)	-17.0 - 23.0°	
Detector Position	37.98 mm	
Detector Swing Angle	-5.59°	
20 _{max}	55.8°	
No. of Reflections Measured	Total: 40883 Unique: 11220 (R _{int} = 0.084)	
Corrections	Lorentz-polarization Absorption/scaling/decay (trans. factors: 0.7145 - 1.0000)	
Structure Solution	Direct Methods (SIR97)	
Refinement	Full-matrix least-squares	
Function Minimized	$\Sigma w (\mathrm{F}o^2 - \mathrm{F}c^2)^2$	
p-factor	0.0000	
Anomalous Dispersion	All non-hydrogen atoms	
No. Observations (I>0.00 σ (I))	10590	
No. Variables	587	
Reflection/Parameter Ratio	18.04	
Residuals (refined on F ² , all data): R; Rw	0.112; 0.209	
Goodness of Fit Indicator	0.94	
Max Shift/Error in Final Cycle	0.00	
No. Observations (I>2 σ (I))	6256	
Residuals (refined on F, I>2σ(I)): R; Rw	0.071; 0.187	
Maximum peak in Final Diff. Map	$0.98 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$	
Minimum peak in Final Diff. Map	$-0.77 \ e^{-3}/A^{3}$	

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Table 6.6 Crystal data and details of the structure determination f	for 153 (•	continued).
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Chapter 7

Summary and Future Work

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7.1 Thesis Summary

Inner nitrogen atoms of N-confused porphyrins are reactive towards alkylation. N,N'dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts, which are mixtures of structural isomers, were obtained in the reactions of N-confused porphyrins with CH₃I in the presence of Na₂CO₃ (Chapter 2). These N,N'-dimethylated N-confused porphyrin salts have been shown to generate singlet oxygen when irradiated with light of the appropriate wavelengths and are potential photosensitizers for PDT.

Two dipolar canonical forms (Scheme 7.1) were proposed to explain the reactivity of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins. Unlike canonical form I, canonical forms II and III reserve the 18 π -electron pathway and have more of a double bond character for the N(2)-C(3) bond. The importance of canonical forms II and III to the overall resonance hybrid is suggested by the X-ray crystal structure of Ni(II) N(2)-iodooctyl N-confused tetraphenylporphyrin, 115 (section 2.2.3.1), which is isoelectronic with Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins, as the N(2)-C(3) bond length of 115, 1.311(4) Å, is markedly shorter than those of the peripheral C-C bonds, 1.345(5) or 1.346(5) Å.



Scheme 7.1 Three canonical forms for a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin. The negative charge in canonical form II can also be located on other inner nitrogen atoms.

In canonical forms **II** and **III**, the peripheral C-N bond is both "cross conjugated" and in the iminium form, which is known to be electron-deficient and an active dienophile.¹ Ni(II) Nconfused porphyrins reacted selectively at the peripheral C-N bond with *o*-benzoquinodimethane giving novel Ni(II) N-confused isoquinoporphyrins, presumably formed by oxidation of the initially formed Diels-Alder adducts (Chapter 3).

The canonical form **III** of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins suggests that Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins are electrophiles at C(21). Inner C(21)-methylation has been observed by Latos-Grażyński *et al.*² Inner C(21) cyanide addition and subsequent nucleophilic addition of CH_3O^- at C(3) followed by oxidation with DDQ were observed in reactions of (NCTPP)Ni^{II} with NaOCH₃ and DDQ (Chapter 4). Electrophilic addition of the reduction product of DDQ to the deprotonated (NCTPP)Ni^{II} was proposed as the critical step for the inner cyanide addition.

A Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide was obtained in the reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with OsO_4 , and the canonical form III of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins can be used to explain the susceptibility of C(21) towards oxidation (Chapter 5).

In summary, N-confused porphyrins are involved in a variety of reactions, especially reactions involving the inner carbon and nitrogen atoms, as well as the peripheral C-N bond. These modified N-confused porphyrins can be potential photosensitizers for PDT, as well as interesting ligands with novel structural features.

7.2 Future Work

The canonical forms **II** and **III** of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins suggest that the peripheral carbon-nitrogen bond of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins has some iminium character and might be reactive towards nucleophiles. However, direct nucleophilic addition was not observed in the reactions of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins with NaOCH₃ and DDQ, presumably because of the

deprotonation of Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins in strong basic conditions. Therefore, nucleophilic addition of a less basic nucleophile, such as **166**, to Ni(II) N-confused porphyrins, might be possible (Scheme 7.2).



Scheme 7.2 Proposed nucleophilic addition of an enolate to a Ni(II) N-confused porphyrin.

The mechanism proposed for the inner C- cyanide addition (section 4.2.1) suggests that the cyanide addition might be general to other nucleophiles. Thus, reaction of **148**, the reduction product of DDQ, with an enolate, such as **166**, may result in cyanide addition to the enolate (Scheme 7.3). This would be a useful method in organic synthesis as the cyanide group can be easily transformed to other functional groups, such as an amine, a carboxylic acid, or an aldehyde.



Scheme 7.3 Proposed cyanide addition to an enolate.

The Ni(III) complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide 153 is structurally similar to an Fe(III) porphyrin N-oxide 154, which was proposed as an alternative candidate of compound I, 155, for the active intermediate of cytochrome P-450 (Figure 5.7).³ It will be interesting to study the reactions of Fe(II) N-confused porphyrins⁴ with OsO₄. The possible product, an Fe complex of N-confused porphyrin inner C-oxide, might have a high oxidation state for the iron ion and still be stable. It will also be interesting to see whether this Fe complex has any catalytic activity toward epoxidation or hydroxylation reactions.

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