## Category

Synthesis of Materials and Unnatural Products

## **Key words**

porphyrin

chirality sensing

host-guest complexes M. ANYIKA, H. GHOLAMI, K. D. ASHTEKAR, R. ACHO, B. BORHAN\* (MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING, USA)

Point-to-Axial Chirality Transfer – A New Probe for "Sensing" the Absolute Configurations of Monoamines *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2014**, *136*, 550–553.

## **Sensing Chiral Monoamines**

**Significance:** The authors report the synthesis of a novel molecule, the 3,3'-bisporphyrin-substituted 2,2'-biphenol **5**, for chirality sensing of monoamines via exciton-coupled circular dichroism (ECCD). The design strategy includes incorporating a bulky chromophoric pocket, created by the tetraphenyl porphyrins (the host), with diols to form hydrogen bonds with the chiral monoamines (the guest). The resulting host–guest complexes would favor either P or M depending on the chirality of the bound guest through minimizing steric interactions.

Comment: The assessment of stereochemistry is central to synthetic organic chemistry. The design strategy employed here could be further developed for sensing other functional groups. Synthesis of 5 starts from the formation of bis-aldehyde 2, followed by condensation with pyrrole to produce 3. Reduction of 4 generates a dipyrromethane dicarbinol which is condensed with 3 under acidic conditions, followed by DDQ oxidation and demethylation. A high-yielding synthesis of porphyrin is hard to achieve; however, this work demonstrates the synthesis of 5, which has two porphyrin units.

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