

Viologen–cycloparaphenylene hybrids: luminescent molecular nanocarbons for anion binding and specific vapor sorption

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Streszczenie

Two viologen-like macrocyclic receptors, $[1]^{2+}$ and $[2]^{2+}$, merging a bent oligophenylene loop with a (*para*-xylylene)bispyridinium moiety were designed and synthesized. Both dications were derived from the same precursor: the more strained cycloparaphenylene analogue $[1]^{2+}$ was obtained using a reductive aromatization, whereas the less curved, *meta*-phenylene-containing $[2]^{2+}$ was generated using a double eliminative rearrangement. $[1]^{2+}$ is active as a receptor toward pyrene-1,3,6,8-tetrasulfonate, displaying a 2 : 1 binding interaction, with $K_{11} = 7.4(3) \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1}$. In the solid state, $[1]^{2+}[\text{TFA}]_2$ shows differential sorption of C_6 hydrocarbons and shows reversible sorption of water. $[1]^{2+}$ displays yellow emission in solution ($\lambda_{\text{em}}^{\text{max}} = 544 \text{ nm}$ in DMF), which is considerably red shifted in the solid state ($\lambda_{\text{em}}^{\text{max}} = 644 \text{ nm}$ for dry samples). Both $[1]^{2+}$ and $[2]^{2+}$ undergo electrochemical reduction, yielding transient viologen-like radical cations and diradicals.

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