

FIRST SYNTHESIS, ROTAMERISM AND HERBICIDAL EVALUATION OF SUBSTITUTED *s*-TRIAZINES WITH SERINOLIC FRAGMENTS (II): AMINO-1,3-DIOXANES OF (1*S*,2*S*)-*p*-NITROPHENYLSERINOLS

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ABSTRACT. Pure enantiomeric amino-1,3-dioxanes, obtained by total diastereospecific ring closure of (1*S*,2*S*)-2-(substituted)amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-propane-1,3-diols ("*nitrophenylserinols*") reacted with cyanuryl chloride to afford *N*-substituted triamino-*s*-triazines (*melamines*) and precursors. Their rotameric behaviour around the C^{sp2}(triazine)-N(1,3-dioxane) bond is discussed in terms of NMR, as steric and electronic influence of the substituents. The herbicidal evaluation of two of the new compounds is also pointed out.

INTRODUCTION

We have previously reported our methodology to prepare pure enantiomeric 5-amino-1,3-dioxanes¹⁻⁵ by direct diastereospecific ring closure of (1*S*,2*S*)-2-amino-1-(4-nitrophenyl)-propane-1,3-diol (the so called "*nitrophenylserinol*") and its *N,N*-dimethyl analogue upon treatment with certain aldehydes in strong acidic media (98 % H₂SO₄, 0 °C). These aminodioxanes exhibited useful reactivity upon treatment with typical electrophiles: aryl(di)aldehydes and acid (poly)chlorides¹⁻³.

For the present preliminary communication, our outstanding attention is dedicated to the reaction between two representative compounds in this class and cyanuryl chloride with a concise stereochemical approach of the products. To the best of our knowledge, amino-1,3-dioxanes were never considered as nucleophiles against cyanuryl chloride though some *N*-substituted-amino-*s*-triazines bearing an acetal motif are mentioned in the literature to be potential anticancer agents⁶.

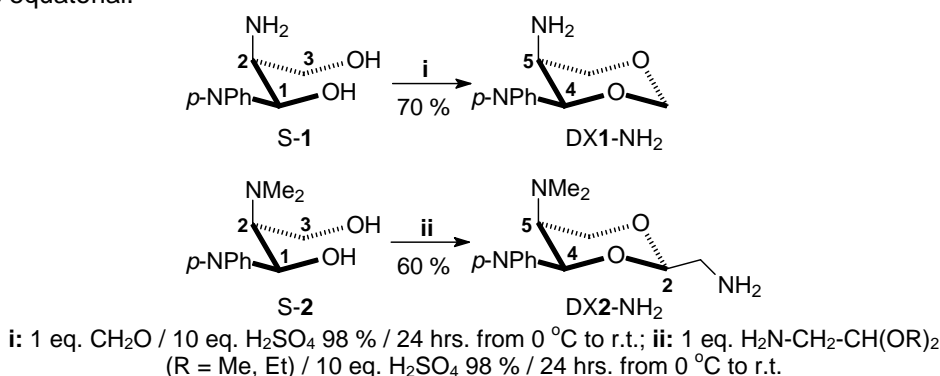
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Synthesis

The starting amino-1,3-DioXanes (DX-NH₂) were prepared from the enantiomerically pure (1*S*,2*S*) serinols **S-1** and **S-2** (**Scheme 1**, *p*-Nitro-Phenyl: *p*-NPh). The synthesis and stereochemistry of DX1-NH₂ we reported elsewhere^{1,4}; the same protocol gave DX2-NH₂ in satisfactory optimized yield and total diastereoselectivity

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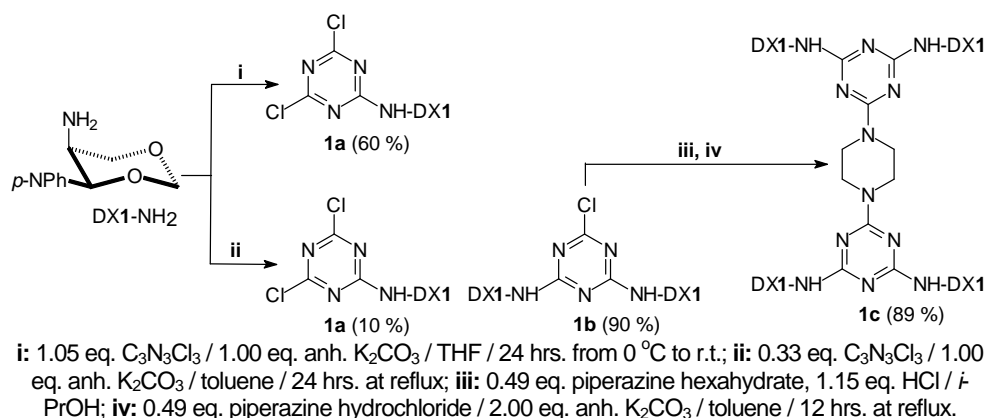
(*R*) with respect to the absolute configuration at C-2. Both compounds are stable solid crystalline and anachomeric structures, possessing the aromatic group in equatorial position. It is already useful to observe that in DX1-NH₂ the amino group is placed in axial position flanked by the preferred bisectonal orientation of the aromatic ring (*cis* relationship) whereas in DX2-NH₂ the methyleneamino sequence is equatorial.



Scheme 1

The nucleophilicity of DX1-NH₂ against chloro-*s*-triazines was first tested (Scheme 2, partial conversions of cyanuril chloride is presented in round brackets).

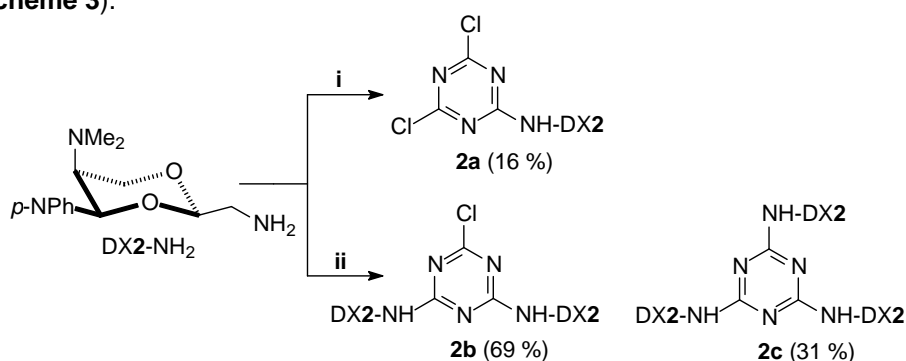
In a first effort (route i) we obtained the expected **1a** with a satisfactory yield; TLC monitoring of the reaction evidenced also the noticeable presence of the unreacted starting materials. Attempting at a melamine based on DX1-NH₂ (route ii) failed: the successive replacement of chlorine in cyanuril chloride stopped after the second substitution. Instead, the chloro-diamino-*s*-triazine **1b** was isolated with excellent yield, together with **1a** as side product. They were separated by flash column chromatography. Matching results we reached when the proton scavenger was the “proton sponge” (1,8-bis-dimethylaminonaphthalene). However, if reducing



Scheme 2

the amount of cyanuryl chloride (0.47 eq., 1.0 eq. K_2CO_3), the partial conversions changed as 47 % (**1a**) and 53 % (**1b**). That is, it was impossible to link three DX1-NH units to the triazine ring, presumably because the intimate stereochemistry of the DX1-NH₂ which influenced the nucleophilicity of the 5-amino group. Consequently, in order to access melamines based on aminodioxane DX1-NH₂, our option focused on a stronger nucleophile, piperazine (**Scheme 2**, routes **iii**, **iv**). Its hygroscopicity was avoided by preliminary conversion into hydrochloride. The “dimeric” melamine **1c** was prepared in good yield in a very clean reaction.

The same chemistry starting from DX2-NH₂ provided different results (**Scheme 3**).



i: 1.05 eq. $C_3N_3Cl_3$ / 1.05 eq. anh. K_2CO_3 / THF / 24 hrs. from 0 °C to r.t.; **ii:** 0.30 eq. $C_3N_3Cl_3$ / 1.00 eq. anh. K_2CO_3 / toluene / 24 hrs. at r.t. / 24 hrs. at 70 °C / 24 hrs. at reflux

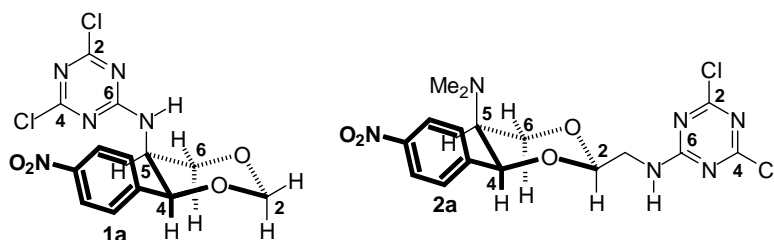
Scheme 3

As depicted in **Scheme 3**, dissimilarity was clearly evidenced. Thus, in route **i**, despite the very slow contact between reagents, the compound **2a** was isolated by flash column chromatography in poor yield. The side product, with complex NMR spectra, appeared to be an oligomeric structure, most probably issued from the competitive replacement of chlorine by both the nucleophilic sites in DX2-NH₂. In cyanuryl chloride chemistry (seen as electrophile) this *N*-dealkyl-*N*-acylation of tertiary amines is already very well documented⁷. In route **ii**, we overcame this behaviour by involving, from the beginning, a large excess (300 %) of the aminodioxane. This method allowed obtaining the melamines **2b** and **2c**. No traces of **2a** were found in the crude reaction mixture.

2. Stereochemistry and rotameric behaviour

2.1. *N*-Substituted-2,4-dichloro-6-amino-*s*-triazines with 1,3-dioxane fragments: compounds **1a**, **2a** (**Scheme 4**)

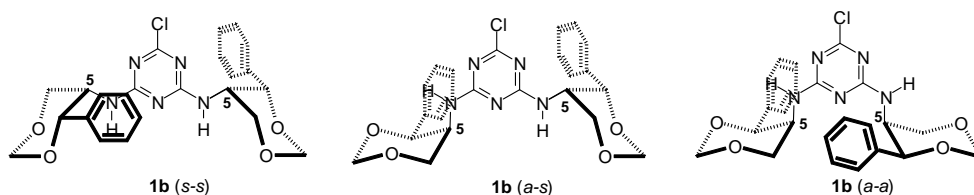
Both the compounds are anachomeric structures with a double bond character of the linkage C-6(*s*-triazine)-N(1,3-dioxane), hence a restricted rotation in this sequence: in the ^{13}C NMR spectra, the triazine positions 2 and 4 were found diastereotopic (e.g. $\Delta\delta=0.5$ ppm, **1a**). The protons *NH* displayed a typical 3J splitting (e.g. $^3J=9.2\text{--}9.4$ Hz, **1a**) to support a fixed location. In the case of **1a**, one can also anticipate some hindered rotation about the axial C-5-N bond, due to the proximity of the ligands H-6-eq. and *p*-NPh, predicting an *out* orientation of the triazine moiety.



Scheme 4

2.2. *N*-Substituted-2-chloro-4,6-diamino-*s*-triazines with 1,3-dioxane fragments: compounds **1b**, **2b**

For the present communication, discussion is limited to assignments at room temperature. The NMR spectra of the compounds **1b**, **2b** revealed the diastereomerism issued from the restricted rotation about the C^{sp2}(triazine)-N(dioxane) bond as mixtures of three blocked rotamers^{8,9}: *syn-syn* (*s-s*), *syn-anti* (*s-a*) and *anti-anti* (*a-a*). The dioxane fragments and the triazine chlorine are references for these descriptors (Scheme 5, Table 1, Figure 1 and 2; in Scheme 5 the *p*-nitro group was omitted for reason of simplicity).



Scheme 5

Table 1

Relevant ¹H NMR data and contributions of the blocked rotamers for the compounds **1b**, **2b**

	Solvent	Rotamers (%) according to NH signals			δ_{NH} (³ J, Hz)		
		(<i>s-s</i>)	(<i>s-a</i>)	(<i>a-a</i>)	(<i>s-s</i>)	(<i>s-a</i>)	(<i>a-a</i>)
1b	DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆	34	53	13	7.55 (8.8) ^a	7.55 (8.8), 7.13 (9.6)	7.10 (11.6)
	C ₆ D ₆	53	24	23	6.48 (8.3)	5.57 (9.1), 5.78 (9.8)	5.85 (9.8)
	CDCl ₃	26	54	20	6.09 (9.4)	5.88 (9.4), 5.71 (9.8)	6.00 (9.8)
2b	DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆	43	47	10	8.15 (8.4) ^b	8.06 (8.0), 8.01 (6.0)	7.79 (6.0)
	C ₆ D ₆	43	46	11	7.45 ^c	7.55, 5.49	6.63
	CDCl ₃	50	41	9	6.36	6.20, 5.62	6.03

^adoublets; ^btriplets (overlapped doublets of doublets); ^coverlapped doublets of doublets as coalescent triplets

As expected, the “reference” protons were *NH* and used for the calculations (**Table 1**): isochronous in environments (*s-s*) and (*a-a*) but anisochronous in (*s-a*). The rotamerism appeared strongly dependent on the stereochemistry of the linkage dioxane-triazine, axial or equatorial (**Figure 1** and **2**).

Thus, the contributions of the rotamers of **2b** showed the minor occurrence of the most hindered one (*a-a*), quite similar with the corresponding open-chain derivatives⁸. The protons *NH* were splitted as overlapped doublet of doublets [(coalescent) triplets] with mediated 3J values (6-8 Hz) with the diastereotopic adjacent methylene group, to prove the free rotation around the $>\text{CH}_2\text{-N}<$ bond (**Figure 2**). The A.S.I.S. (*Aromatic Solvent Induced Shifts*) phenomena¹⁰ had no influence on the content of rotamers.

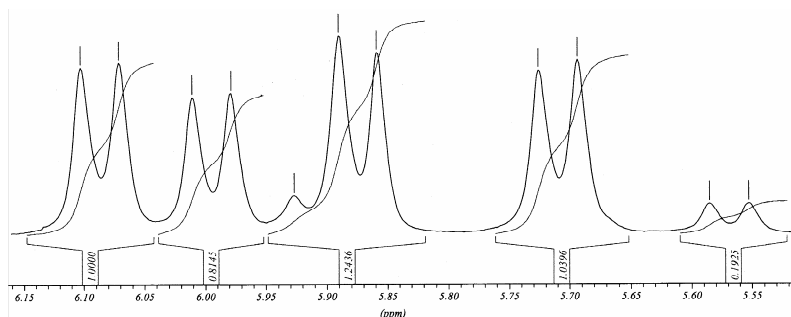


Figure 1: ^1H -NMR spectrum of the compound **1b** (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 293 K), detail in the region of the protons *NH*.

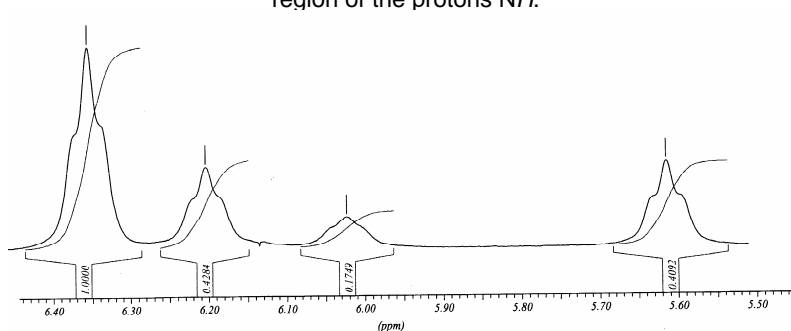


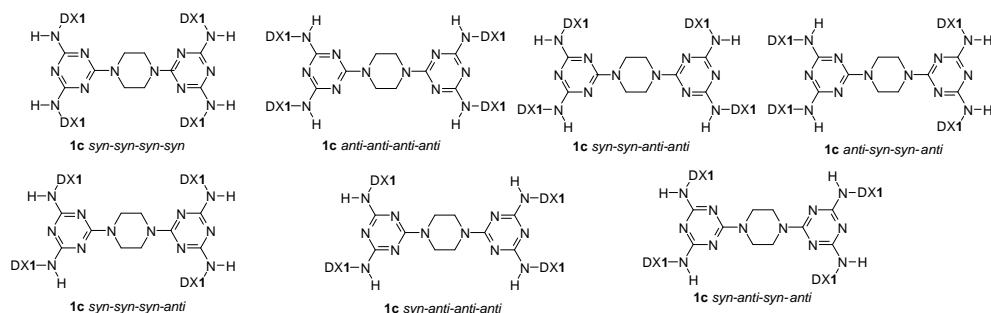
Figure 2: ^1H -NMR spectrum of the compound **2b** (300 MHz, CDCl_3 , 293 K), detail in the region of the protons *NH*.

Surprisingly, the NMR spectra of **1b** clearly indicated that this molecule, arising from a bulky nucleophile, can adopt all possible spatial arrangements (*s-s*, *s-a*, *a-a*) suggested by the manipulation of the Drieding models (**Scheme 5**, **Figure 1**). Moreover, as shown in **Figure 1**, in CDCl_3 , another pair of doublets was revealed to indicate a fourth minor rotamer which was not assigned. It must be observed that, in all stereoisomers, the coupling pattern as 3J between protons *NH* and H-5-eq. were more significant, in agreement with some hindrance to rotation about the axial C-5-*NH* bond (**Table 1**). A major dependence on the solvent was determined

related to the content of rotamers of **1b**: the statistically favoured (*s-a*) rotamer was dominant in polar and chelating solvent (DMSO- d_6) or only polar (CDCl₃). In contrast, the A.S.I.S. interactions required the rotamer (*s-s*) as prevailing.

2.3. *N*-substituted melamines with dioxane fragments: compounds **1c**, **2c**

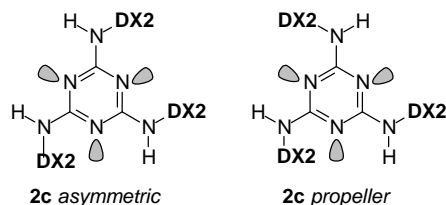
The “dimeric” melamine **1c** can exist as seven distinct rotamers (**Scheme 6**, the 1,3-dioxane and piperazine rings as references; the *syn* and *anti* descriptors are cited clockwise)⁸. At room temperature, the ¹H NMR 300 MHz spectra (CDCl₃ and DMSO- d_6) were complex and allowed only to identify the type of compound as the envisaged one. The ¹H DNMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) recorded by increasing the temperature ($\Delta T=10$ K) provided at 80 °C a single mediated structure with however some residual coalescence in the aromatic and C-6 methylene regions.



Scheme 6

The melamine **2c** can exist as two distinct rotamers: *asymmetric* and *propeller*⁹ (**Scheme 7**) the first being statistically three times favoured.

Indeed, at room temperature, the ¹H NMR spectra (300 MHz, DMSO- d_6 and C₆D₆) were consistent with the statistics displaying four equal broad singlets of the best separated protons NH: 75 % *asymmetric* and 25 % *propeller*. All other signals were overlapped; however, they permitted, as in the case of **1c**, to confirm the type of structure as the desired one. It is noteworthy that the NMR spectra of compound **2c** performed at room temperature in CDCl₃ indicated a single mediated structure on both ¹H (300 MHz) and ¹³C (75 MHz) NMR spectra with some residual coalescence involving the NH-CH₂ sequence. The ¹H DNMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) experiment of **2c** exhibited progressive coalescence of the signals between 323-353 K and a single mediated rotamer at 353 K (**Figure 3**, labelling of the dioxane position as depicted in **Scheme 4**).



Scheme 7

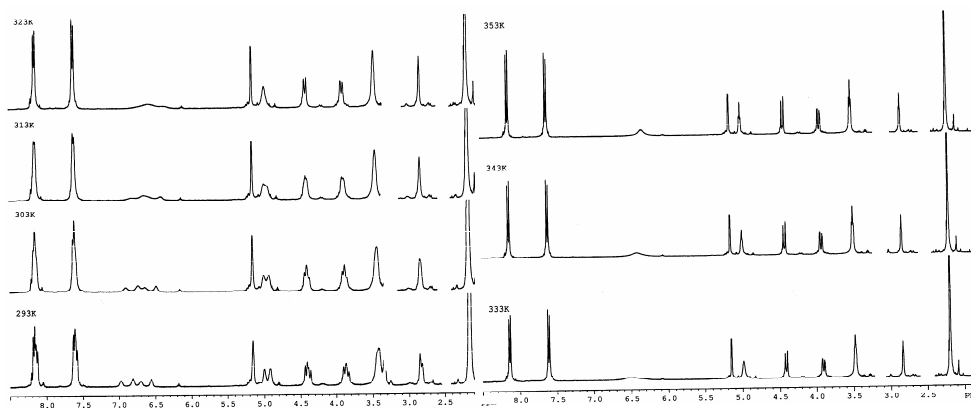


Figure 3: ^1H DNMR of the compound **2c** [400 MHz, $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, 353 K, from left to right, δ (ppm), nJ (Hz)]: 8.13 (6 H, d, $^3J=8.8$ Hz, H-Ar); 7.62 (6 H, d, $^3J=8.8$ Hz, H-Ar); 6.32 (3 H, bs, NH); 5.15 (3 H, d, $^3J=3.6$ Hz, H-4-ax.); 5.00 (3 H, dd as t, $^3J=4.6$ Hz, H-2-ax.); 4.42 (3 H, d, $^2J=12.4$ Hz, H-6-eq.); 3.92 (3 H, dd, $^2J=12.4$ Hz, $^3J=3.2$ Hz, H-6-ax.); 3.50 (6 H, dd as t, $^3J=5.2$ Hz, $\text{CH}_2\text{-NH}$); 2.83 (3 H, dd as t, $^3J=2.6$ Hz, H-5-eq.); 2.23 (18 H, s, CH_3).

3. Herbicidal evaluation

Compounds **1b** and **2b** were in addition tested as potential herbicides on seeds of *Cucumis sativus* and *Raphanus sativus*. Literature methods were straightforward¹¹. The results, as mean (\pm SD) percentage values of germination inhibition and root length are collected in **Table 2**.

Table 2
Percent inhibitions of seeds germination and root length of *Cucumis sativus* and *Raphanus sativus* in response to different concentrations of the compounds **1b** and **2b** compared to control

Tested species Conc.	Germination		Root Length	
	1b	2b	1b	2b
<i>Cucumis sativus</i> 0.50 mM	59 \pm 4.8	60 \pm 3.9	65 \pm 5.4	67 \pm 6.5
0.75 mM	87 \pm 2.3	89 \pm 2.5	88 \pm 3.2	92 \pm 3.8
1.00 mM	100 \pm 0.0	100 \pm 0.0	-	-
<i>Raphanus sativus</i> 0.50 mM	64 \pm 7.3	66 \pm 5.3	70 \pm 4.6	73 \pm 6.7
0.75 mM	88 \pm 3.5	90 \pm 2.7	91 \pm 3.9	93 \pm 5.6
1.00 mM	100 \pm 0.0	100 \pm 0.0	-	-

Our introductory data evidenced an important inhibition in germination seeds of the tested species, even complete (c. 1mM). The root length was also significantly reduced. Although no reference compound was used along with the synthesised **1b**, **2b**, they already appeared active at 5×10^{-4} M in comparison with Atrazine[®] ($>> 10^{-4}$ M), in the same conditions^{11a}.

CONCLUSIONS

As demonstrated by our preliminary findings, the amino-1,3-dioxanes built on some *p*-nitrophenylserinol skeleton react with cyanuryl chloride to yield amino-*s*-triazines in medium to good yields. The substitution of the second and third chlorine depends on the orientation of the amino group (C-5-axial or C-2-equatorial). At room temperature, all *N*-substituted-amino-*s*-triazines with a 1,3-dioxane group are distinct type of rotamers due to the partial double bond character of the C^{sp2}-N(serinol) site. The content of rotameric species is dependent on the orientation of this bond with respect to the 1,3-dioxane ring: axial or equatorial and the solvent. The herbicidal activity in this class of *s*-triazines was tested. The full report of our complete results is under consideration for the near future.

EXPERIMENTAL

General

Melting points were uncorrected; they were carried out on Electrothermal[®] instrument. Current NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker[®] AM 300 instrument operating at 300 and 75 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C nuclei respectively. The ¹H DNMR spectra were run on Bruker[®] AM 400 instrument operating at 400 MHz for ¹H nuclei with each step 10 K increasing the temperature. No SiMe₄ was added; chemical shifts were measured against the solvent peak. All chemical shifts (δ values) are given throughout in ppm; all coupling patterns (ⁿJ_{H,H} values) are given throughout in Hz. TLC was performed by using aluminium sheets with silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck[®]); flash column chromatography was conducted on Silica gel Si 60 (40–63 μm, Merck[®]). IR spectra were performed on a Perkin-Elmer[®] 16 PC FT-IR spectrometer. Only relevant absorptions are listed in cm⁻¹ [weak (w), medium (m) or (s) strong]. Mass spectrum (MS) was recorded on an ATI-unicam Automass[®] apparatus, fitted (or not) with a GC-mass coupling (high-resolution J&W column, 30 m, 0.25 mm ID, flow rate: 1.2 mL min⁻¹).

For the present preliminary communication, only the synthetic pathway **1a** → **1b**→**1c** is listed below:

2,4-Dichloro-6-[(4*S*,5*S*)-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dioxan-5-yl]-amino-*s*-triazine (1a): (60 %) yellowish crystalline powder; m.p.=194-195 °C (Et₂O); [Found: C, 42.11; H, 2.77; N, 19.09. C₁₃H₁₁N₅Cl₂O₄ requires C, 41.96; H, 2.98; N, 18.82 %]; IR (ν_{max}, KBr) 3305 (s), 2875 (m), 1585 (s), 1556 (s), 1510 (s), 1410 (s), 1346 (s), 1325 (s), 1240 (m), 1183 (s), 1167 (s), 1103 (s), 1043 (m), 1028 (m), 964 (m), 842 (m), 798 (m), 713 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 293 K): 8.18 (2 H, d, ³J=8.7 Hz, H-Ar), 7.51 (2 H, d, ³J=8.7 Hz, H-Ar), 6.65 (1 H, d, ³J=9.4 Hz, NH), 5.35 (1 H, d, ²J=6.4 Hz, H-2eq.), 5.11 (1 H, s, H-4-ax), 5.02 (1 H, d, ²J=6.4 Hz, H-2-ax.), 4.56 (1 H, d, ³J=9.8 Hz, H-5-eq.), 4.24 (1 H, d, ²J=12.1 Hz, H-6-eq.), 4.14 (1 H, d, ²J=11.3 Hz, H-6-ax.); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 293 K): 171.1 (1 C, C-Cl), 170.6 (1 C, C-Cl), 165.8 (1 C, C-N), 148.0 (1 C, Cq.-Ar), 144.4 (1 C, Cq.-Ar), 126.8 (2 C, CH-Ar), 124.0 (2 C, CH-Ar), 94.9 (1 C, C-2), 78.9 (1 C, C-4), 70.6 (1 C, C-6), 50.2 (1 C, C-5); MS (EI, 70 eV); m/z (rel. int. %): 371 (40) [M⁺-1], 341 (25), 311 (100), 277 (18), 218 (39), 190 (25), 164 (27).

2-Chloro-4,6-bis[(4S,5S)-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dioxan-5-yl]-amino-s-triazine (1b): (90 %) yellow crystalline powder; m.p.=154-155 °C (flash column chromatography, eluent ligroine : acetone 1.5:1 v/v); [Found: C, 48.97; H, 4.14; N, 17.99. C₂₃H₂₂N₇ClO₈ requires C, 49.34; H, 3.96; N, 17.51 %]; IR (ν_{\max} , KBr) 3404 (m), 3314 (m), 2859 (s), 1573 (s), 1518 (s), 1510 (s), 1346 (s), 1240 (m), 1174 (s), 1167 (s), 1094 (s), 1026 (s), 1028 (s), 987 (s), 851 (m), 805 (m), 711 (m) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃, 293 K): 8.12-8.05 (12 H, m, H-Ar), 7.45-7.39 (12 H, m, H-Ar), 6.09 (2 H, d, ³J=9.4 Hz, NH_{S-S}), 6.00 (2 H, d, ³J=9.8 Hz, NH_{A-A}), 5.88 (1 H, d, ³J=9.4 Hz, NH_{S-A}), 5.71 (1 H, d, ³J=9.8 Hz, NH_{S-A}), 5.35-5.30 (3 H, m, H-2eq.), 5.25-5.20 (3 H, m, H-2eq.), 4.99-4.91 (12 H, m, H-2-ax., H-4-ax.), 4.41-3.88 (18 H, m, H-5-eq., H-6-eq., H-6-ax.); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 293 K): 169.5 (3 C, C-Cl), 165.8, 165.4, 165.3, 165.2 (6 C, C-N), 147.9, 147.7 (6 C, C-q.-Ar), 145.2, 145.0 (6 C, Cq.-Ar), 126.9, 126.73, 126.66 (12 C, CH-Ar), 123.80, 123.77, 123.73 (12 C, CH-Ar), 94.9, 94.8 (6 C, C-2), 79.33, 79.27, 79.21, 79.1 (6 C, C-4), 71.1, 70.8, 70.7, 70.5 (6 C, C-6), 49.6, 49.5, 49.3, 49.2 (6 C, C-5); MS (ESI, 35 eV); m/z (rel. int. %): 559 (100) [M⁺], 541 (27), 529 (22), 511 (10).

1,4-Bis{4,6-bis[(4S,5S)-4-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3-dioxan-5-yl]-amino-s-triazine-2-yl}-piperazine (1c): (89 %) yellow crystalline powder; m.p.=224-225 °C (flash column chromatography, eluent ligroine : acetone 1.25:1 v/v); [Found: C, 53.37; H, 5.02; N, 19.69. C₅₀H₅₂N₁₆O₁₆ requires C, 53.00; H, 4.63; N, 19.78 %]; IR (ν_{\max} , KBr) 3414 (m), 2855 (m), 1576 (s), 1548 (s), 1520 (s), 1442 (s), 1346 (s), 1244 (w), 1173 (s), 1095 (m), 1027 (m), 985 (m), 852 (w), 810 (m), 742 (w), 711 (w) cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 353 K): 8.06 (8 H, bs, H-Ar), 7.59 (8 H, d, ³J=7.6 Hz, H-Ar), 5.58 (4 H, d, ³J=7.6 Hz, NH), 5.22 (4 H, d, ²J=6.0 Hz, H-2eq.), 5.20 (4 H, s, H-4-ax.), 4.99 (4 H, d, ²J=6.0 Hz, H-2-ax.), 4.37 (4 H, d, ³J=7.6 Hz, H-5-eq.), 4.10 (4 H, d, ²J=10.4 Hz, H-6-eq.), 3.94 (4 H, bs, H-6-ax.), 3.36 (8 H, s, CH₂ piperazine); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, 293 K): 165.7 (4 C, C-N), 165.5 (2 C, C-N), 147.6 (4 C, Cq.-Ar), 146.0 (4 C, Cq.-Ar), 127.0 (8 C, CH-Ar), 123.4 (8 C, CH-Ar), 94.7 (4 C, C-2), 79.8 (4 C, C-4), 71.4 (4 C, C-6), 49.0 (4 C, C-5), 42.8 (4 C, CH₂-piperazine); MS (FAB⁺); m/z (rel. int. %): 1132 (95) [M⁺-1], 952 (20), 663 (33), 551 (33), 459 (100).

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