Macroheterocyclic Compound of ABBB-Type Containing 2N–Alkyl Substituted 1,2,4–Thiadiazoline Fragment: Synthesis and Acid–Base Properties

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Dedicated to Professor Oleg A. Golubchikov on the occasion of his 70th Birthday

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The synthesis of ABBB-type macroheterocyclic compound containing both the 5-amino-2-dodecyl-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline fragment (fragment A) and three residues of 1,3-diiminoisoindoline (fragment B) is described in this work. The purification of target compound was carried out by column chromatography and by silica gel plate eluting with CH2Cl2:MeOH:C6H14 mixture. The structure of the resultant compound was determined by data of UV-Vis, IR, 1H and 13C NMR spectroscopy, and mass spectrometry. It was shown that the target product possesses unique stability in acid medium and can belong to the class of "molecular chameleons" due to its ability postsynthetic modification of the optical properties of molecule. A bathochromic shift of the absorption maximum at 459–555 nm and emergence of new inflection points at 692 and 721 nm in trifluoroacetic acid and a shift to 716 nm in sulfuric acid were observed in the UV-visible spectrum. Acid-base behavior has been studied by spectrophotometric titration method in two solvent systems: CH2Cl2–CF3COOH and C2H5OH–H2SO4. The study of protonation in the first solvent system shows an interaction between one molecule of the macroheterocycle with one molecule of the acid. Investigations of the second medium demonstrated the presence of one non-protonated (λ=478 nm) and two protonated (λ=550 nm, λ=716 nm) forms. The most possible position of protonation was determined by quantum chemical calculations at the DFT level.

Keywords: Macroheterocycle of ABBB-type, 1,2,4-thiadiazoline, 1,3-diiminoisoindoline, spectroscopy, molecular chameleon.

Макрогетероциклическое соединение АВВВ–типа, содержащее фрагмент 2N–алкилированного 1,2,4–тиадиазолина: синтез и кислотно–основные свойства

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В работе описывается синтез макрогетероциклического соединения АВВВ-типа, содержащего фрагмент 5-амино-2-додецил-3-имино-1,2,4-тиадиазолина (фрагмент А) и три остатка 1,3-дииминоизоиндоловина (фрагмент В). Очистку целевого соединения осуществляли колоночной с последующей препаративной хроматографией на пластинках силикагеля, элюируя смесью CH2Cl2:MeOH:C6H14. Строение полученного соединения доказано данными электронной, ИК, 1H и 13C ЯМР спектроскопии, масс-спектрометрии. Показано, что целевой продукт обладает уникальной стабильностью в кислой среде и может быть отнесен к классу...
Introduction

Recently, the development of methods of synthesis of hydrogenated derivatives of porphyrins is of special interest for researchers. These compounds, such as chlorins and bacteriochlorins, absorb light in the long-wave region of the spectrum due to changing of the symmetry upon the reduction of one or two double bonds while retaining of aromaticity. In the Russian Federation, sensitizers for photodynamic therapy of oncological diseases have been approved, i.e. Fotoditaizin,[1,2] Radahlorin,[3] Photolon,[4] which are water-soluble chlorins. The difficulty of synthesis of such compounds lies in the reduction of porphyrins, which results in the formation of a mixture of chlorins and bacteriochlorins.[5]

The syntheses of ABBB- and ABAB-type macroheterocyclic compounds, where A is a fragment of 2N-substituted 5-amino-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline, and B is the residue of 1,3-diminoisoindolinol, are of interest. Such products will possess tetraazachlorin- and tetrabacteriochlorin-like structures (Figure 1) due to the presence of the 2N-substituted 1,2,4-thiadiazoline moiety. We have not found a description of these compounds in the literature. For our proposed syntheses, a decrease in the number of synthetic steps and the time of synthesis are expected. This phenomenon can be explained by the formation of a chlorin or bacteriochlorin-like structure without the reduction of one or two double bonds in the macrocycle, which leads to the formation of a mixture of di- and tetrahydrogenated products.

It can be expected that the absorption maximum of such compounds will be shifted to the near-IR region in an analogous fashion as with chlorins and bacteriochlorins, which will allow them to be considered as photosensitizers. Therefore, this work attempts to synthesize of a chlorin-like macrocyclic compound containing a fragment of 2N-dodecyl-substituted 1,2,4-thiadiazoline.

Experimental

Methods

Research on the synthesized compound was carried out using the resources of the Center for Collective Use of Scientific Equipment of Ivanovo State University of Chemistry and Technology. UV-Vis spectra were measured using a HITACHI U-2001 spectrometer in quartz cells of thickness 2 and 10 mm. IR spectra were obtained with AVATAR 360 FT-IR spectrometer with a diffusion reflection attachment Tensor 27 Bruker Optics. The samples were prepared by carefully triturating of the synthesized compound with KBr and compression of the tablet. MALDI-TOF mass spectra were recorded on the AXIMA Confidence (SHIMADZU) instrument in the positive ion detection mode. Samples were prepared by dissolving of the synthesized compound in chloroform (C=10−5–10−6 mol·L−1). DHB is 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid, which was used as a matrix. Nuclear magnetic resonance spectra (1H and 13C) were registered using a Bruker DRX-500 and an AVANCE-300 spectrometers from Bruker, respectively. Working frequencies are 500 (1H) and 75.5 (13C) MHz. Samples were prepared by dissolving the explored compound in CDCl3. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on aluminum plates coated with a 60 F254 (E. Merck) silica gel layer. Silica gel of 60 0.05–0.20 mm (Macherey-Nagel) was used for column chromatography.

Synthesis

2-Dodecyl-3,10,17,24-tetraimino-5,12,19,26-tetranitrilo-1-thiotribenzof[5,k,p](1,5,9,13)tetraazacyclohexadecene (1) was obtained by the reaction of 0.26 g (0.91 mmol) of 5-amino-2-dodecyl-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline (2), synthesized by method described in the literature,[6] and 0.4 g (2.74 mmol) of 1,3-diminoisoindolinol in 3 mL of phenol with step-by-step heating during 1.5–2 hours.
The reaction mixture was stirred for 50 hours at temperature 100–110 °C, then the product was washed by hot water and hexane in Soxlet apparatus while absence of phenol, which was determined by qualitative reaction with ferric chloride. The target product was purified by column chromatography with following preparative thin layer chromatography on plates of silica gel eluting with a mixture of CH₂Cl₂:MeOH:C₆H₁₄=10:1:3. A bright-burgundy band was collected, the target compound was washed with acetone for removed of silica gel, and the solvent was evaporated in vacuo.

The product is dark-cherry powder. Yield: 7 mg (3.7 %). M.p. >200 °C. m/z (MALDI-TOF) 690.6 [M+K]+. EM 651.3. C₃₈H₃₇N₉S. IR (KBr) ν max cm⁻¹: 3437, 2925, 2853 val (C–H alk), 1739, 1647, 1556 val (C=N), 1461 val (C–Car), 1378, 1264, 1091, 875, 713. UV-Vis (C₂H₅OH, C=6.12·10⁻⁵ mol·L⁻¹) λ max (lgε) nm: 263 (4.41), 480 (3.60); (benzene, C=3.06·10⁻⁵ mol·L⁻¹) λ max (lgε) nm: 451 (3.70); (acetone, C=1.49·10⁻⁴ mol·L⁻¹) λ max (lgε) nm: 453 (3.25); (CH₃COOH, C=3.06·10⁻⁴ mol·L⁻¹) λ max (lgε) nm: 478 (3.32); (2,2,2-CF₃COOH, C=4.16·10⁻⁴ mol·L⁻¹) λ max (lgε) nm: 555 (3.38), 692 (2.94), 721 (2.92). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 7.90–7.77 (m, 12Н ar), 1.59–0.89 (25H alk). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ ppm: 170.33 (С14), 168.50 (С13), 134.30 (С15), 132.77 (С16), 123.58 (С17), 121.49 (С18), 63.11 (С12), 50.82 (С11), 31.93 (С10), 31.81 (С9), 31.37 (С8), 30.53 (С7), 29.64 (С6), 29.62 (С5), 29.36 (С4), 25.80 (С3), 22.70 (С2), 14.13 (С1). The numbers of carbon atoms are shown in Figure 6.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis

To date, a number of macroheterocyclic compounds with an asymmetrical (ABBB-type) structure containing fragments of 3,5-diamino-1,2,4-triazoles [7,8] and 2,5-diamino-1,3,4-thiadiazoles is known. However, the compounds that contain the 3,5-diamino-1,2,4-thiadiazole fragment remain insufficiently known. We obtained an ABBB-type macroheterocyclic compound containing the fragment of 2N-dodecyl substituted 5-amino-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline. The synthesis of this product was performed according to the Scheme below.

The product 1 was obtained by the reaction of 5-amino-2-dodecyl-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline with 1,3-diminoindoline in phenol at 100–110 °C over 50 hours. The reaction of the target compound was observed to be unselective. The purification was not sufficient by a column method, and repeated use of this method was impossible because of the instability of the compound obtained. Therefore, product 1 was isolated using preparative chromatography.

Compound 1 was characterized by mass spectrometry, UV-Vis, IR, ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopy. The mass spectrum of 1 contains a signal with m/z 690.6 Da corresponding to molecular ion in form [M+K]+. The isotopic distribution corresponds to the theoretically calculated: 690.3–100 %, 691.3–41.1 %, 692.3–7.2 % (Figure 2).

In the IR spectrum bands at 2925 and 2853 cm⁻¹ can be assigned to stretching valence C–H vibrations of the alkyl group, with bands at 1556 and 1481 cm⁻¹ characterized as stretching valence C=N and C–C bonds of the heterocyclic fragments.

Figure 2. The fragment of mass spectrum of compound 1.
Macroheterocyclic Compound of ABBB-Type

There is an absorption maximum at $\lambda_{\text{max}}=263$ nm in the UV-Vis spectrum recorded in ethanol, which indicates the presence of the thiadiazole ring. The nature of the spectrum in the visible region with $\lambda_{\text{max}}=480$ nm is similar to that of the ABBB-type macroheterocyclic compounds containing the 1,3,4-thiadiazole moiety.\(^\text{(10)}\) A hypsochromic shift of the absorption maximum occurs with a decrease in the polarity of the solvent. Thus, the absorption maximum appears in the region of 457, 453, 451 nm in acetone, dichloromethane, and benzene, respectively.

Figure 3 shows that broadening of the long-wave absorption band occurs in the UV-Vis spectrum recorded in acetone upon dilution of a solution of 1. The dependence of the absorption intensity on the solution concentration is linear (Figure 4). Consequently, the Lambert-Beer law is observed within the limits of concentrations $(5.77-14.9) \times 10^{-4}$ mol·L\(^{-1}\). The same dependence is also observed for solutions in dichloromethane and ethanol.

In the $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 1, recorded in deuterochloroform, there is a multiplet in the range of 7.90–7.77 ppm, which characterizes the resonance of the protons from the aromatic fragments. Theoretically, the signals of the protons of the isoindole residue should be observed in the form of 2 doublets, which are formed due to the spin-spin interaction of protons $H^a$ and $H^b$ (Figure 5). The presence of a multiplet can be explained by the asymmetry of molecule 1, because of which the protons of aromatic fragments are unequal. The overlapping of several doublets forms a complex system of multiplets, whose type couldn’t be determined and calculation of the spin-spin coupling constant wasn’t possible. Signals in the region of 1.59–0.89 ppm correspond to the resonance of the protons of the alkyl substituent. In the region of 11.5–12.5 ppm signals are not observed, which indicates the absence of protons at the intracyclic nitrogen atoms of isoindole fragments.\(^\text{(11)}\) This phenomenon is also confirmed experimentally: when interacting with nickel acetate, compound 1 does not coordinate the metal atom. Therefore, our expectations of obtaining a compound similar hydrogenated porphyrine were unsuccessful.

The $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of 1 reveals the signals in the region 170.33, 168.50 ppm, which characterize the resonance carbon atoms of thiadiazole fragment. The signals in the region 134.30, 132.77, 123.58, 121.49 ppm can be assigned to carbon atoms of isoindole residue. The signals at 63.11, 50.82, 31.93, 31.81, 31.37, 30.53, 29.64, 29.62, 29.36, 25.80, 22.70, 14.13 ppm confirm presence of twelve carbon atoms of alkyl group (Figure 6).

**Acid-base behavior**

Porphyrines are multicenter conjugate bases due to the presence in their structure of donor centers: intra-cyclic and peripheral nitrogen atoms. The stability of porphyrines is determined by the existence of a neutral or acidic form of these compounds in a proton-donor medium. The number of donor centers participating in the acid-base interaction depends on the proton-donor medium and on the structure of the protonated molecule.

We have studied the stability of product 1 in acidic media, which is similar in structure to hydrogenated porphyrine 3, in which there are no hydrogen atoms in the inside cavity.

When solution of compound 1 is added to trifluoroacetic acid, a bathochromic shift of the absorption maximum is observed from 459 nm in dichloromethane to 555 nm in CF\(_3\)COOH. Moreover, small inflections appear at 692 and 721 nm (Figure 7). When dissolving of 1 in monohydrate, the absorption maximum is bathochromatically shifted to the region of 611 nm (Figure 8). All these phenomena support the protonation of compound 1.

A determination of the number of donor centers involved in acid-base interaction is possible when performing spectrophotometric titration in media with a known acidity function. However, to determine the concentration stability constants, an investigation of 1 was carried out using two mixtures: CH\(_2\)Cl\(_2\)-CF\(_3\)COOH and C\(_2\)H\(_5\)OH-H\(_2\)SO\(_4\), for which the acidity functions are unknown. In the absence of the latter, the titration data do not allow us to determine the number of donor centers, but only show the number of acid molecules participating in the protonation reaction.
Figure 5. $^1$H NMR spectrum of compound 1.

Figure 6. $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of compound 1.
When compound 1 is acidified in dichloromethane with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in the concentration range of CF₃COOH 0.0013–0.6165 mol·L⁻¹, characteristic changes are observed in the electronic absorption spectra accompanying the formation of acidified forms. In the first stage of this acid-base interaction (C_{TFA}=0.0013–0.0588 mol·L⁻¹), the intensity of the absorption maximum at λ=459 nm gradually decreases, and at the same time a new band appears at λ=523 nm. This protonated form is kept to a concentration of CF₃COOH equal to 0.0875 mol·L⁻¹. The concentration stability constant of the resulting acidified form according to the transformed Hammett equation (pK_{a}’=lgI_{1}–nlgC_{TFA}) is equal to 1.84±0.01.

It is known that the number of acid molecules participating in the interaction is equal to the tangent of the slope angle of the linear relationship pK_{a}’=f(lgC_{TFA}). For this interaction, tgα is equal to 1.26, which indicates the participation of one molecule of acid in the first stage of protonation. The value of tgα is greater than 1 due to the homoconjugation phenomenon, in which the CF₃COO⁻ anion is stabilized by the formation of conjugates with one or more acid molecules: =NH⁺…-OOCCF₃(CF₃COOH)ₙ, as well as the solvation of the macroheterocyclic compound.

An increase in the amount of CF₃COOH to 0.6165 mol·L⁻¹ leads to a further bathochromic shift of the absorption maximum, which indicates a stronger acid-base interaction in this medium, but a second isosbestic point could not be determined. Thus, the study of properties of 1 in the CH₂Cl₂–CF₃COOH medium (Figure 9) made it possible to establish that in the first stage, interaction of 1 with one molecule of acid is observed.

Figure 7. UV-Vis spectrum of compound 1: 1 – CH₂Cl₂ (C=1.49·10⁻⁴ mol·L⁻¹); 2 – CF₃COOH (C=1.49·10⁻⁴ mol·L⁻¹).
Investigation of acid-base behavior of 1 was continued by spectrophotometric titration in media of C₂H₅OH–H₂SO₄ (Figure 10), which showed existence of a non-protonated (λ=478 nm) and two protonated (λ=550 nm, λ=716 nm) forms.

Spectral changes in compound 1 were observed in the C₂H₅OH–H₂SO₄ system over the concentration range of H₂SO₄ equal to 0.3596–15.4098 mol·L⁻¹. In the first stage of the acid-base interaction (C₄H₂SO₄=0.3596–2.8952 mol·L⁻¹), the intensity of the absorption maximum decreases and its bathochromic shift is 72 nm. The intensity of the absorption maximum at λ=478 nm gradually decreases, at the same time a new band appears at λ=548 nm. This acidic form corresponds to a concentration of H₂SO₄ equal to 2.8952 mol·L⁻¹.

An increase in the amount of H₂SO₄ to 15.4098 mol·L⁻¹ leads to a decrease of intensity at λ=548 nm, a further bathochromic shift of the absorption maximum on 166 nm, and the appearance of a broadened band at λ=716 nm, indicating a stronger acid-base interaction 1 in the C₂H₅OH–H₂SO₄ medium as compared to CH₂Cl₂–CF₃COOH.

We could not calculate the concentration and thermodynamic stability constants for a given medium, since already in the first stage of protonation at concentrations of sulfuric acid 0.3596–2.8952 mol·L⁻¹, several processes occurred simultaneously, which can be related either with the phenomenon of homoconjugation, or with intermolecular and chemical interaction of solvents. This study allowed only to determine the intervals of acid concentrations at which acid forms appear.

It should be noted that compound 1 has unique optical properties that allow the position of the absorption maximum in the visible region of UV-Vis spectrum to be changed by adding an acid or base to the solution of the compound in an organic solvent, i.e. to convert a non-protonated form into a protonated form, and *vice versa*. It is important that destruction of 1 is not observed, which is not characteristic for compounds of this type. Such acid-base interactions make it possible to classify this product as "molecular chameleon", i.e. a compound that has a unique potential for post-synthetic modification of the optical properties of the molecule (Figure 11).

Theoretically, there are four intra-cyclic nitrogen atoms from the isoindole and thiadiazole fragments and four bridging meso-nitrogen atoms of the macrocyclic ring in compound 1 which can act as donor centers for proton addition. To determine of the most probable location of the proton addition, we performed a theoretical study of the model compound (4), the structural formula of which is shown in Figure 12, the numbers denote the places of probable addition.

![Figure 10](image10.png)  
**Figure 10.** Changes in the UV-Vis spectrum of compound 1 in the system C₂H₅OH–H₂SO₄.

![Figure 11](image11.png)  
**Figure 11.** Changes of the UV-Vis spectrum of compound 1 at adding of acid or base by solution: a) in CH₂Cl₂, b) in C₂H₅OH.

![Figure 12](image12.png)  
**Figure 12.** The structure of model compound 4.
Macroheterocyclic Compound of ABBB-Type

of the proton. To simplify the calculations, methyl is chosen as the alkyl substituent.

As mentioned above, according to spectrophotometric titration, one molecule of acid participates in protonation in the first stage. In this regard, complete optimization of the geometric parameters of all possible monoprotonated configurations by the semi-empirical AM1 method with further refinement by the DFT method using the B3LYP hybrid functional and the 6-31G (d,p) basic set was carried out. According to the results of the calculations, the most energetically favorable configuration is the one in which the proton addition takes place at position 8, i.e. along the intra-cyclic nitrogen atom of the isoindole fragment located opposite the thiadiazole ring (Table 1).

Table 1. The calculated values of the total and relative energies of monoprotonated configurations.

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Conclusions

Thus, we synthesized ABBB-type macroheterocyclic compound containing the 5-amino-2-dodecyl-3-imino-1,2,4-thiadiazoline fragment. This compound has unique acid-base properties and can be used as indicator of acid-base processes. It was shown by $^1$H NMR spectroscopy that the target product did not form the expected tatraazachlorin similar structure.

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References


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