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Synthesis and Photophysics of novel 4-aryl-polyhydroacridinodiones: Fluorescence confinement effect

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ABSTRACT

Polyhydroacridinodiones (**PHA**) are compounds derived from 1,4-dihydropyridines, an important class of bioactive molecules with wide applicability in medicinal chemistry. Pillararenes are a recent class of macrocycles that allow complexation with other molecules through the substrate-receptor system, resulting in a series of applications. We have successfully synthesized new **PHA** derivatives by Hantzsch multicomponent reaction using maghemite (γ -Fe₂O₃) as a catalyst, with yields between 40 and 91%. Optimized geometries of products and intermediates were calculated by DFT. Photophysical study of **PHA** in ethanol was also carried out in the presence of the macrocycle pillar[5]arene imidazole (**P[5]Im**), which indicated the possibility of formation of an inclusion complex with structure **2a'**. All compounds are fluorescent in the blue region (~420 nm) and the presence of the macrocycle selectively increased the fluorescence emission intensity of the biphenyl derivative. The interaction was evidenced by NOESY NMR analysis, and a plausible structure was achieved by molecular docking.



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