# Supporting Information

## Synthesis of aza[5]helicene-incorporated macrocyclic heteroarene

# via oxidation of o-phenylene-pyrrole-thiophene icosamer

Yusuke Matsuo<sup>1,2</sup>, Aoi Nakagawa<sup>1</sup>, Shu Seki<sup>1</sup>, and Takayuki Tanaka<sup>\*1</sup>

1: Department of Molecular Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Kyoto University, Kyotodaigakukatsura, Nishikyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan, 2: Department of Chemistry, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, Kitashirakawa Oiwake-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan

Email: tanaka@moleng.kyoto-u.ac.jp

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#### 1. Instrumentation and Materials

#### Synthesis

Commercially available solvents and reagents were used without further purification unless otherwise noted. 1,2-Bis(5-bromothiophen-2-yl)benzene,<sup>[S1]</sup> 2,5-bis(2-(1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)phenyl)thiophene,<sup>[S1]</sup> and 2,5-bis(2-(5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-1*H*-pyrrol-2-yl)phenyl)-1*H*-pyrrole<sup>[S2]</sup> were prepared according to the reported procedures. Dry toluene and dichloromethane were used after distillation. Dry THF and dioxane were obtained by passing through alumina under N<sub>2</sub> in a solvent purification system. The spectroscopic grade solvents were used as solvents for all spectroscopic studies. Silica gel column chromatography was performed on Wako gel C-400. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on aluminum sheets coated with silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (Merck 5554).

#### NMR and mass spectra

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL ECA-600 spectrometer (operating as 600 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 151 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C) and chemical shifts were reported as the  $\delta$  scale in ppm relative to internal standards CHCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta$  = 7.26 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H, 77.16 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C), DMSO ( $\delta$  = 2.50 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H, 39.52 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C), and acetone ( $\delta$  = 2.05 ppm for <sup>1</sup>H,  $\delta$  = 29.84 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C). HR-APCI-TOF-MS was recorded on a BRUKER micrOTOF model or Thermo Fisher Scientific LTQ orbitrap XL model using positive mode.

### **Optical properties**

UV-visible absorption spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-3600. Fluorescence spectra were recorded on a JASCO FP-8500 spectrometer. Absolute fluorescence quantum yields were determined on a HAMAMATSU C9920-02S. Fluorescence lifetime was recorded on a Hamamatsu Photonics Quantaurus-Tau C11367.

### X-Ray crystallography

Single-crystal diffraction analysis data were collected at –180 °C with a Rigaku XtaLAB P200 by using graphite monochromated Cu- $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 1.54187 Å) or with a Rigaku Saturn724+ CCD diffractometer with a graphite-monochromated Mo  $K\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 0.71073 Å). The structures were solved by direct methods (SHELXT-2014/5) and refined with full-matrix least squares technique (SHELXT-2014/7).<sup>[S3]</sup>

### 2. Experimental Section

#### **Compound 4**



**Procedure**: A 2 L three-neck round-bottom flask was charged with XPhos Pd G2 (365 mg, 0.47 mmol, 5.0 mol%), **1** (5.12 g, 9.3 mmol), and **2** (6.13 g, 10.2 mmol, 1.1 eq.). The reaction flask was evacuated and purged with argon three times. After the mixture was dissolved in dry THF (720 mL) and 0.5 M tripotassium phosphate solution (200 mL, 100 mmol, 11 eq.), the reaction mixture was stirred at room

temperature for 24 h. After quenched with saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution, the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane three times and the combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After removal of the solvents *in vacuo*, the residue was purified by column chromatography on silica with dichloromethane/*n*-hexane (v/v = 1/3) as eluent gave **3** (396 mg, yield: 6%) as pale yellow solids. **m.p.** 186.5-203.0 °C. <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>, room temperature)  $\delta$  = 9.07 (s, 4H, pyrrole), 8.98 (s, 2H, pyrrole), 7.36–7.35 (m, 4H, phenyl), 7.30–7.29 (m, 12H, phenyl), 7.24–7.16 (m, 16H, phenyl), 7.06–7.03 (m, 8H, phenyl), 6.65 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 4H, thiophene), 6.57 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 4H, thiophene), 5.99 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 4H, pyrrole), 5.95 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 4H, pyrrole), and 5.87 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, 4H, pyrrole) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C **NMR** (101 MHz, acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub> room temperature)  $\delta$  = 144.52, 143.38, 134.23, 133.22, 132.73, 132.58, 132.44, 131.89, 131.80, 131.69, 131.55, 131.54, 130.18, 130.01, 129.78, 128.95, 128.92, 128.20, 127.74, 127.59, 127.53, 127.41, 110.88, 110.02, and 109.91 ppm. **HR-APCI-TOF-MS** Found: *m/z* = 1479.4320 [*M*]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>100</sub>H<sub>66</sub>N<sub>6</sub>S<sub>4</sub>: *m/z* = 1479.4305. **UV/vis** (THF, room temperature):  $\lambda_{max}$  / nm ( $\varepsilon$  / M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 292 (4.6 × 10<sup>4</sup>). **Fluorescence** (THF,  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 300 nm)  $\lambda_{max}$  = 511 nm ( $\Phi_{F}$  = 0.110).

#### Compound 5



**Procedure**: A 200 mL three-necked round bottom flask was charged with **3** (74.0 mg, 0.050 mmol) and dry dichloromethane (120 mL) under argon, which was cooled to –78 °C. PIFA (323 mg, 0.75 mmol, 15 eq.) was then added, and the reaction mixture was kept at – 78 °C for 3 h. Then, the reaction system was allowed to

warm to ambient temperature. Next, excess amount of sodium borohydride and methanol were added, and the reaction was kept for 10 min. The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane three times and the combined organic layers were washed with water and brine, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After removal of the solvents *in vacuo*, recrystallization from THF gave 5 (42.9 mg, yield: 58%) as pale yellow solids. **m.p.** >350 °C

(decomp.). <sup>1</sup>**H NMR** (600 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100 °C)  $\delta$  = 12.02 (s, 2H, pyrrole), 11.54 (s, 4H, pyrrole), 8.81 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 8.47 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.59 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.52 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.47 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.30 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 7.19 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 4H phenyl), 7.15 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 4H, phenyl), 6.97 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 4H, pyrrole), 6.84–6.82 (m, 8H, phenyl), 6.26 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 4H, thiophene), and 5.94 (d, *J* = 3.7 Hz, 4H, thiophene) ppm. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 100°C)  $\delta$  = 142.31, 141.04, 133.53, 132.89, 132.20, 131.91, 130.30, 129.38, 129.36, 128.80, 126.85, 126.79, 126.71, 126.50, 126.20, 125.83, 123.38, 122.47, 121.78, 120.90, 120.54, 119.47, 118.45, 112.78, and 104.35 ppm. HR-APCI-TOF-MS Found: *m*/*z* = 1471.3682 [*M*]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>100</sub>H<sub>58</sub>N<sub>6</sub>S<sub>4</sub>: *m*/*z* = 1471.3679. **UV/vis** (THF, room temperature):  $\lambda_{max}$  / nm ( $\varepsilon$  / M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) = 313 (1.2 × 10<sup>5</sup>) and 399 (2.8 × 10<sup>4</sup>). Fluorescence (THF,  $\lambda_{ex}$  = 400 nm)  $\lambda_{max}$  = 528 nm ( $\Phi_{F}$  = 0.072).

## 3. NMR Spectra



**Figure S3-1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4** in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub> at room temperature. Peaks with \* are due to the residual solvents.



**Figure S3-2.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **4** in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub> at room temperature. Peaks with \* are due to the residual solvents.



**Figure S3-3.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY chart of **4** in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub> at room temperature.



**Figure S3-3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **5** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> at 100 °C. Peak with \* is due to the residual solvent.



**Figure S3-4.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **5** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> at 100 °C. Peak with \* is due to the residual solvents.

#### 4. Mass Spectra



**Figure S4-1** APCI-TOF-mass spectra of **4**. (Top; observed. Middle; calculated [*M*]<sup>+</sup>. Bottom; calculated [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>.)



**Figure S4-2** APCI-TOF-mass spectra of **5**. (Top; observed. Middle; calculated [*M*]<sup>+</sup>. Bottom; calculated [*M*+H]<sup>+</sup>.)

#### 5. X-Ray Crystallographic Details



**Figure S5-1** X-Ray crystal structure of **4**. Thermal ellipsoids were scaled to 50% probability. (left) Top view and side view. (right) Packing structure. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



**Figure S5-2** X-Ray crystal structure of **5**. Thermal ellipsoids were scaled to 50% probability. (Top) Top view and side view. (Bottom) Packing structure. Solvent molecules (DMSO) and hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.



Figure S5-3 X-Ray crystal structure of 5 with DMSO molecules coordinated to the NH sites.

| Compound                     | 4  | 5   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Empirical Formula            | $C_{100}H_{66}N_6S_4$ , 0.666( $C_6H_{14}$ ), 0.668( $C_3H_6O$ ) | C <sub>50</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>3</sub> S <sub>2</sub> , 4(C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> OS) |
| $M_W$                        | 1576.01  | 1048.39   |
| Crystal System               | Triclinic  | Monoclinic  |
| Space Group                  | <i>P</i> -1 (No. 2)  | <i>P</i> 2 <sub>1</sub> / <i>c</i> (No. 14)   |
| a [Å]                        | 12.9137(5)   | 15.0226(5)  |
| b [Å]                        | 15.6940(5)   | 25.1556(5)  |
| c [Å]                        | 20.8461(7)   | 15.0221(4)  |
| $\alpha$ [deg]               | 80.038(3)  | 90  |
| $\beta$ [deg]                | 81.684(3)  | 113.837(4)  |
| γ[deg]                       | 85.216(3)  | 90  |
| Volume [Å3]                  | 4110.0(3)  | 5192.6(3)   |
| Ζ                            | 2  | 4   |
| Density [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ] | 1.273  | 1.341   |
| Completeness                 | 0.968  | 0.996   |
| Goodness-of-fit              | 1.007  | 1.243   |
| $R_1[I \ge 2\sigma(I)]$      | 0.0914   | 0.1008  |
| $wR_2$ (all data)            | 0.2591   | 0.3095  |
| Solvent System               | acetone/n-hexane   | DMSO/THF/H2O  |
| CCDC No.                     | 2455171  | 2455172   |

 Table S5. Crystal data and structure refinements for 4 and 5.

## 6. UV/Vis Absorption and Fluorescence Spectra



Figure S6-1. UV/Vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of 4 in THF at room temperature.



Figure S6-2. UV/Vis absorption and fluorescence spectra of 5 in DMSO at room temperature.

## 7. DFT Calculations

All calculations were carried out using the Gaussian 16 program.<sup>[S4]</sup> All structures were fully optimized without any symmetry restriction based on the structures obtained by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis. The calculations were performed at B3LYP-GD3BJ/def2SVP for all atoms.<sup>[S5]</sup>



Figure S7-1. DFT optimized structure of 5.



**Figure S7-2.** Kohn–Sham MO representation and energy diagrams of **5**. (Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity.)

| Symbol | Х          | Y          | Z         | С | 1.3200190  | -1.8110650 | 1.2076410  |
|--------|------------|------------|-----------|---|------------|------------|------------|
| S      | 4.6175110  | -1.9598200 | 2.4165150 | С | 1.7155130  | -3.1925370 | 0.9293940  |
| S      | 6.5763980  | 1.3502810  | 0.4046300 | С | 0.6740140  | -4.1366470 | 0.7949460  |
| Ν      | -5.4330800 | -0.3686700 | 2.6786600 | Н | -0.3529360 | -3.8067840 | 0.9371020  |
| Н      | -6.4368570 | -0.3330490 | 2.7913780 | С | 0.9059220  | -5.4515220 | 0.4132400  |
| Ν      | -1.3725470 | 3.2827130  | 2.3655040 | Н | 0.0632440  | -6.1383170 | 0.3091420  |
| Н      | -1.3660800 | 4.2801600  | 2.2010270 | С | 2.2119230  | -5.8723840 | 0.1389300  |
| Ν      | 2.1059780  | -0.7033490 | 0.9626160 | Н | 2.4160610  | -6.8986300 | -0.1752650 |
| Н      | 3.0085110  | -0.7355520 | 0.5072490 | С | 3.2611550  | -4.9751160 | 0.3138960  |
| С      | -4.7287820 | -1.5259170 | 2.4189800 | Н | 4.2873250  | -5.3095060 | 0.1579300  |
| С      | -3.3868990 | -1.1892760 | 2.2840510 | С | 3.0515170  | -3.6434140 | 0.7291260  |
| Н      | -2.6033850 | -1.8921320 | 2.0336060 | С | 4.2760220  | -2.8452000 | 0.9408100  |
| С      | -3.2703900 | 0.2223220  | 2.4544340 | С | 5.3928940  | -2.8532490 | 0.1281540  |
| С      | -4.5775310 | 0.7071100  | 2.7126920 | Н | 5.4180360  | -3.3815320 | -0.8191460 |
| С      | -4.8959210 | 2.0768210  | 2.9598840 | С | 6.4961870  | -2.1383930 | 0.6572470  |
| С      | -6.2005790 | 2.5401710  | 3.2459630 | Н | 7.4551300  | -2.0370560 | 0.1499000  |
| Н      | -7.0229180 | 1.8239690  | 3.3196840 | С | 6.2524500  | -1.6050940 | 1.9054220  |
| С      | -6.4588490 | 3.8906020  | 3.4164790 | С | 7.2114530  | -0.9329950 | 2.7942990  |
| Н      | -7.4749590 | 4.2296410  | 3.6298270 | С | 7.2796480  | -1.3173590 | 4.1464880  |
| С      | -5.4097030 | 4.8280990  | 3.3150700 | Н | 6.5680860  | -2.0593740 | 4.5146640  |
| Н      | -5.6146430 | 5.8924470  | 3.4496950 | С | 8.2572410  | -0.8115140 | 5.0003380  |
| С      | -4.1186670 | 4.4004410  | 3.0498590 | Н | 8.2880060  | -1.1342370 | 6.0434630  |
| Н      | -3.3154950 | 5.1363500  | 2.9756060 | С | 9.2040030  | 0.0911640  | 4.5099170  |
| С      | -3.8246640 | 3.0293930  | 2.8656610 | Н | 9.9825240  | 0.4885280  | 5.1650710  |
| С      | -2.5185630 | 2.5380360  | 2.5523550 | С | 9.1327040  | 0.5088370  | 3.1822570  |
| С      | -2.1985700 | 1.1719860  | 2.3762920 | Н | 9.8316530  | 1.2602130  | 2.8097950  |
| С      | -0.7942650 | 1.1096620  | 2.0629760 | С | 8.1384380  | 0.0276470  | 2.3102390  |
| С      | -0.3272450 | 2.4423880  | 2.0373980 | С | 8.0638400  | 0.6342560  | 0.9672590  |
| С      | 1.0035780  | 2.8254890  | 1.6776540 | С | 9.0932890  | 0.9224610  | 0.0958270  |
| С      | 1.4695110  | 4.1605030  | 1.7017100 | Н | 10.1131420 | 0.5697210  | 0.2555970  |
| Н      | 0.8051380  | 4.9540050  | 2.0497200 | С | 8.6928070  | 1.7323760  | -1.0082270 |
| С      | 2.7525570  | 4.4796290  | 1.2874840 | Н | 9.3718050  | 2.0797520  | -1.7885720 |
| Н      | 3.0910240  | 5.5180960  | 1.3085070 | С | 7.3546940  | 2.0680110  | -0.9860460 |
| С      | 3.6274590  | 3.4628560  | 0.8517950 | С | 6.6398360  | 3.0707550  | -1.8017430 |
| Н      | 4.6410820  | 3.7109050  | 0.5310540 | С | 7.2140910  | 4.3520550  | -1.9020960 |
| С      | 3.2060050  | 2.1440970  | 0.8473430 | Н | 8.1889830  | 4.5220750  | -1.4408080 |
| Н      | 3.8925370  | 1.3614780  | 0.5309210 | С | 6.5420910  | 5.4052680  | -2.5192900 |
| С      | 1.8996270  | 1.7911030  | 1.2490560 | Н | 7.0086740  | 6.3913450  | -2.5753880 |
| С      | 1.4224290  | 0.4443650  | 1.2807020 | С | 5.2603540  | 5.1960930  | -3.0373260 |
| С      | 0.1321220  | 0.0677910  | 1.7256710 | Н | 4.7138720  | 6.0165580  | -3.5079830 |
| С      | 0.0925300  | -1.3526870 | 1.6889170 | С | 4.6875860  | 3.9288460  | -2.9728960 |
| Н      | -0.7243620 | -1.9883670 | 2.0031700 | Н | 3.7084380  | 3.7481890  | -3.4196800 |

 Table S7. Cartesian coordinates of the optimized geometry of 5.

| С | 5.3634920  | 2.8453620  | -2.3803250 | С | -1.7155230  | 3.1922520  | -0.9292350 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|---|-------------|------------|------------|
| S | -4.6176710 | 1.9597440  | -2.4163730 | С | -0.6740250  | 4.1363790  | -0.7948220 |
| S | -6.5765640 | -1.3500540 | -0.4050430 | Н | 0.3529220   | 3.8065400  | -0.9370670 |
| Ν | 5.4331500  | 0.3686700  | -2.6787450 | С | -0.9058990  | 5.4512420  | -0.4130570 |
| Н | 6.4369230  | 0.3330890  | -2.7914990 | Н | -0.0632290  | 6.1380560  | -0.3090480 |
| Ν | 1.3727770  | -3.2828420 | -2.3653210 | С | -2.2118850  | 5.8720730  | -0.1386080 |
| Н | 1.3661630  | -4.2803930 | -2.2015870 | Н | -2.4160250  | 6.8982880  | 0.1756910  |
| Ν | -2.1060050 | 0.7030530  | -0.9626570 | С | -3.2611120  | 4.9748040  | -0.3135430 |
| Н | -3.0085570 | 0.7352170  | -0.5073280 | Н | -4.2872550  | 5.3092350  | -0.1575310 |
| С | 4.7287920  | 1.5259360  | -2.4192690 | С | -3.0515290  | 3.6431200  | -0.7288680 |
| С | 3.3869360  | 1.1892390  | -2.2842400 | С | -4.2760510  | 2.8450110  | -0.9406140 |
| Н | 2.6034040  | 1.8920900  | -2.0338450 | С | -5.3929970  | 2.8532550  | -0.1280330 |
| С | 3.2704700  | -0.2223840 | -2.4544600 | Н | -5.4181100  | 3.3814280  | 0.8193280  |
| С | 4.5776390  | -0.7071460 | -2.7126590 | С | -6.4963930  | 2.1386460  | -0.6571970 |
| С | 4.8960780  | -2.0768670 | -2.9597400 | Н | -7.4553850  | 2.0374840  | -0.1499120 |
| С | 6.2007530  | -2.5401800 | -3.2457890 | С | -6.2526870  | 1.6053430  | -1.9053750 |
| Н | 7.0230290  | -1.8239280 | -3.3197070 | С | -7.2117400  | 0.9334470  | -2.7943410 |
| С | 6.4591220  | -3.8906300 | -3.4160370 | С | -7.2799930  | 1.3179770  | -4.1464660 |
| Н | 7.4752480  | -4.2296380 | -3.6293550 | Н | -6.5684090  | 2.0600000  | -4.5145940 |
| С | 5.4100570  | -4.8281830 | -3.3143540 | С | -8.2576700  | 0.8122590  | -5.0003120 |
| Н | 5.6150780  | -5.8925530 | -3.4486830 | Н | -8.2884940  | 1.1350750  | -6.0434060 |
| С | 4.1189920  | -4.4005550 | -3.0492230 | С | -9.2044400  | -0.0904230 | -4.5099320 |
| Н | 3.3158990  | -5.1365300 | -2.9746610 | Н | -9.9830390  | -0.4876430 | -5.1650810 |
| С | 3.8248840  | -3.0294880 | -2.8653810 | С | -9.1330870  | -0.5082540 | -3.1823140 |
| С | 2.5187410  | -2.5381500 | -2.5522410 | Н | -9.8320650  | -1.2596240 | -2.8098860 |
| С | 2.1986720  | -1.1720880 | -2.3762940 | С | -8.1387540  | -0.0272050 | -2.3103230 |
| С | 0.7943630  | -1.1098230 | -2.0629920 | С | -8.0640300  | -0.6338920 | -0.9673860 |
| С | 0.3274230  | -2.4425810 | -2.0373140 | С | -9.0933570  | -0.9219360 | -0.0957590 |
| С | -1.0033850 | -2.8257490 | -1.6775900 | Н | -10.1131900 | -0.5690480 | -0.2553360 |
| С | -1.4692180 | -4.1607980 | -1.7016120 | С | -8.6927450  | -1.7318990 | 1.0082250  |
| Н | -0.8047880 | -4.9542710 | -2.0495770 | Н | -9.3716300  | -2.0792440 | 1.7886880  |
| С | -2.7522500 | -4.4800010 | -1.2873890 | С | -7.3546800  | -2.0676900 | 0.9857870  |
| Н | -3.0906480 | -5.5184890 | -1.3083980 | С | -6.6398840  | -3.0706270 | 1.8013290  |
| С | -3.6272260 | -3.4632740 | -0.8517340 | С | -7.2141280  | -4.3519320 | 1.9014340  |
| Н | -4.6408150 | -3.7114030 | -0.5309570 | Н | -8.1890210  | -4.5218550 | 1.4401090  |
| С | -3.2058760 | -2.1444800 | -0.8473310 | С | -6.5421280  | -5.4052370 | 2.5184760  |
| Н | -3.8924480 | -1.3619080 | -0.5308930 | Н | -7.0086740  | -6.3913420 | 2.5743790  |
| С | -1.8995140 | -1.7914070 | -1.2490410 | С | -5.2604250  | -5.1961370 | 3.0366010  |
| С | -1.4223770 | -0.4446440 | -1.2806680 | Н | -4.7139840  | -6.0166940 | 3.5071460  |
| С | -0.1320720 | -0.0680100 | -1.7256280 | С | -4.6876350  | -3.9288840 | 2.9723890  |
| С | -0.0925260 | 1.3524480  | -1.6888100 | Н | -3.7084950  | -3.7482970 | 3.4192140  |
| Н | 0.7244120  | 1.9881410  | -2.0029000 | С | -5.3635330  | -2.8453220 | 2.3799630  |
| С | -1.3200450 | 1.8108000  | -1.2075740 |   |             |            |            |

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