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REDOX CONTROLLED BREATHING OF SUPRAMOLECULAR CAPSULE

Gabija Sergejevaite¹, Domantas Valčekas¹, Edvinas Orentas¹

¹Department of Organic Chemistry, Vilnius University, Naugarduko g. 24, LT-03225, Vilnius, Lithuania
gabija.sergejevaite@chgf.stud.vu.lt

The molecular recognition utilizing well-defined molecular constructs is the key subject of supramolecular chemistry. Metal coordination or hydrogen bonds (H-bonds) are usually employed in formation of molecular capsules that are well suited to observe the complexation phenomena and inquire into the nature of non-covalent interactions [1]. Highly flexible building blocks despite their simpler synthesis are rarely used, compared to rigid, preorganized scaffolds, due to absence of entropic penalty reduction when forming molecular aggregates. Modulation of the host-guest chemistry by extending beyond simple covalent adjustment of the cavity size represents a highly sought-after strategy to construct dynamic supramolecular receptors that are reminiscent of enzymes [2]. In nature, induced fit, conformational selection and allosteric control, operating by conformational changes of the host in response to stimuli present, are the principles governing the substrate binding and activation. In our report, we present a redox control approach over cavity size of a simple molecular capsule from tripodal monomer, containing three ureidopyrimidinone (UPy) 4H-bonding units, trimesic acid core and linkers with disulfide moiety (Fig. 1A). We have shown that such monomers are capable of forming well-defined dimeric capsules. Furthermore, these capsules are capable of undergoing reversible conformational shifts and changing size and shape of their cavity by applying redox conditions that dissociate and reform disulfide links (Fig 1B).

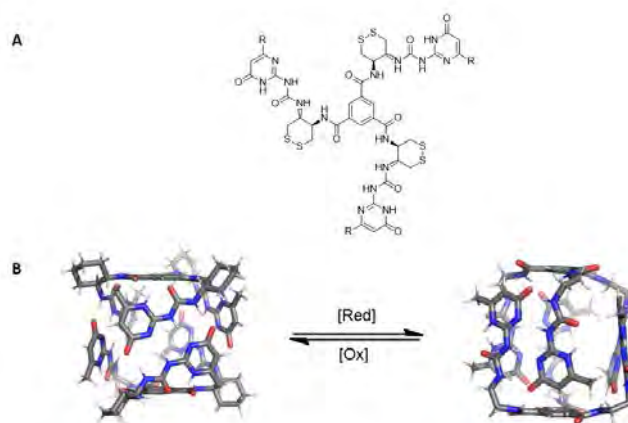


Fig. 1. A. Chemical structure of the supramolecular monomer. B. Redox induced change of capsular cavity.

- [1] A. Morgan Conn and J. Rebek, Self-assembling Capsules. *Chem. Rev.*, 97, 1647-1668 (1997).
 [2] Jozeliunaite, A., et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 145 (1), 455- 464, (2023).