

## Circular dichroism spectra of new optically active terpenoid spiro homofullerenes

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New optically active spiro homofullerenes were prepared by Pd-catalyzed cycloaddition of diazo derivatives of both enantiomers of menthone and camphor to C<sub>60</sub> and were examined by circular dichroism spectroscopy.

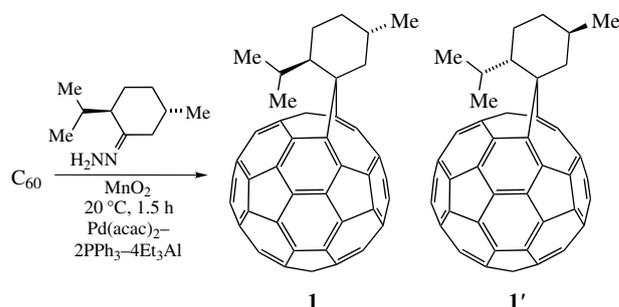
The chemistry of fullerenes is one of the most rapidly developing areas of modern synthetic chemistry,<sup>1–5</sup> although information about chiral carbon clusters is limited. Currently, there are available C<sub>76</sub> enantiomers with chiral skeleton<sup>6</sup> and several derivatives with a chiral arrangement of two achiral ligands on the C<sub>60</sub> spheroid.<sup>7</sup> The general access to optically active fullerenes (mainly C<sub>60</sub>) is their derivatization with chiral addends.<sup>8,9</sup>

In literature including the extensive review<sup>10</sup> the details of preparation of optically active spiro homofullerenes were not documented because of their difficult selective synthesis.

Earlier,<sup>11–16</sup> we reported the selective cycloaddition of achiral cyclic and acyclic diazoalkanes, generated *in situ* by oxidation of hydrazones, to C<sub>60</sub> in the presence of the three-component catalyst Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub>–2PPh<sub>3</sub>–4Et<sub>3</sub>Al to afford individual homofullerenes.

In a recent publication, we described<sup>17</sup> the Pd-catalyzed synthesis of optically active spiro homofullerenes *via* the interaction between C<sub>60</sub> and chiral cyclic diazo compounds generated *in situ* from hydrazones of (–)-menthone and *d*-(+)-camphor, and optical rotation of the synthesized spiro C<sub>60</sub> derivatives was also determined. For a more detailed study of the stereochemistry of chiral 5,6-open cycloadducts of C<sub>60</sub>, as well as for better understanding the CD spectra of fullerene derivatives,<sup>9(f)</sup> we examined the complete set of enantiomeric spiro homofullerenes resulting from cycloaddition between C<sub>60</sub> and diazo derivatives of (+)- and (–)-menthone as well as (+)- and (–)-camphor.

Following the developed procedure<sup>17</sup> (20 °C, 1 h, *o*-dichlorobenzene), fullerene C<sub>60</sub> was reacted with (2*R*,5*S*)-1-diazo-2-isopropyl-5-methylcyclohexane (generated *in situ* by oxidation of (+)-menthone hydrazone with MnO<sub>2</sub>) in the presence of 20 mol% Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub>–2PPh<sub>3</sub>–4Et<sub>3</sub>Al as a catalyst. An individual spiro homofullerene **1** was thus obtained in 40% yield (Scheme 1).<sup>†</sup>



Scheme 1

The structure of **1** was proved by means of one- (<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C) and two-dimensional homo- (COSY, NOESY) and heteronuclear (HSQC, HMBC) NMR experiments and fully consistent with published data<sup>17</sup> for its enantiomer **1'**.

The wavelengths of induced Cotton effects (CE) in the CD spectra<sup>‡</sup> of **1** and its antipode **1'** (Figure 1) were identical and close to ‘mirror images’ of one another for all observed extrema in the wavelength range of 300–800 nm. Both of these compounds exhibited extrema at 589 and 650 nm, characteristic of the electronic π–π transitions of the fullerene derivatives. CEs were positive for **1** and negative for its antipode **1'**. The short wavelength parts of the spectra of compounds **1** and **1'** also contain other extrema (432 and 550 nm), which have opposite signs.

Similarly, we have synthesized spiro homofullerene **2**. Its antipode **2'** was obtained by us previously.<sup>17</sup>

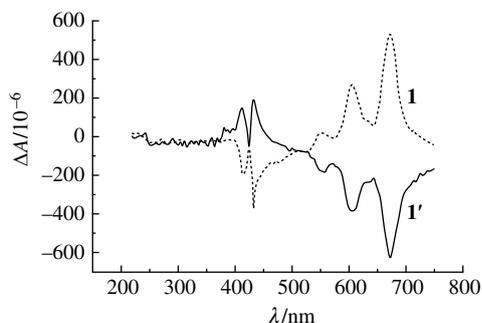
In the case of compounds **2** and **2'**, prepared on the basis of (1*R*)- and (1*S*)-camphor, mirror images of CE extrema are also observed in the CD spectra (Figure 2).

Addends in all investigated homofullerenes are saturated alkanes without any chromophore groups. Hence, Cotton effects observed in the 300–750 nm region in the CD spectra should

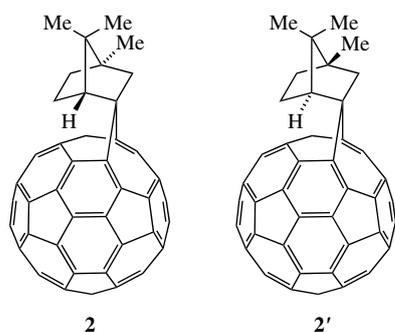
and fullerene C<sub>60</sub> were separated by preparative HPLC using toluene as eluent. Spectral characteristics of compounds **1** and **2** are identical with those previously described.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>‡</sup> The CD spectra of solutions of **1**, **1'** and **2**, **2'** in chloroform were recorded in a wavelength range of 200–800 nm on an SKD-2 dichrograph (designed and produced at the Institute of Molecular Biology and the Institute of Spectroscopy, Russian Academy of Sciences) at 23 °C, in a 1-cm quartz cell. All measurements were carried out with a spectral resolution of 3 nm, an accumulation of 2.4 s, and a scan rate of 35 nm min<sup>–1</sup>. In all figures the dichroism values are given in ΔΔ.

<sup>†</sup> General procedure. Solutions of Pd(acac)<sub>2</sub> (2.78 μmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (0.4 ml) and PPh<sub>3</sub> (5.56 μmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (0.4 ml) were mixed in a glass flask, and a solution of Et<sub>3</sub>Al (11.12 μmol) in toluene (0.1 ml) was added dropwise with stirring under nitrogen flow at –5 °C. The colour of the solution changed from pale yellow to light brown. A solution of fullerene C<sub>60</sub> (13.9 μmol) in *o*-dichlorobenzene (0.1 ml) was added to the resultant catalyst at room temperature, and the colour of the solution turned dark green. A solution of the corresponding optically active hydrazone (69.5 μmol) in toluene (0.5 ml) and MnO<sub>2</sub> were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1–1.5 h at ambient temperature, then treated with aqueous HCl and extracted with toluene (7 ml). The organic layer was passed through a short column of silica gel. The products **1**, **2**



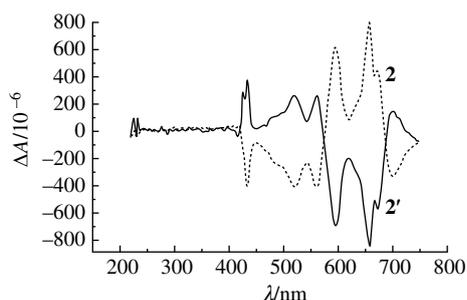
**Figure 1** The CD spectra of spiro homofullerenes **1** and **1'** in chloroform ( $c = 2.0 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$ ).



occur due to asymmetrically perturbed electronic transitions in the fullerene core itself, or, less possible, due to electron transfer from addends to the fullerene core. In isotropic UV-visible spectra of  $C_{60}$  and other fullerenes weak electronic transitions do not occur, but the corresponding Cotton effects can be observed in the CD spectra due to chiral environment. It is known that UV-VIS spectra of methanofullerenes show the characteristic weak band at 430 nm, which is not displayed in the spectra of homofullerenes. However, the Cotton effects corresponding to this wavelength are present in the CD spectra of all 5,6-opened compounds studied. This means that electronic transitions occur in spiro homofullerenes as well, however, in the isotropic spectrum they are of low intensity or symmetry-forbidden.

Taking into account that optically pure (–)-, (+)-menthone and *d*-, *l*-camphor were used as substrates, we attempted to measure the optical rotations of the synthesized homofullerenes **1** and **2**. Experiments were performed on a Perkin Elmer model 341 polarimeter with a sodium lamp ( $\lambda = 589 \text{ nm}$ ). The rotations of the optically active cycloadducts **1'** and **2'** were recorded previously.<sup>17</sup>

The average  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  values of compounds **1** and **2** are about  $-173 \pm 4$  ( $c 0.028$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ) and  $-114 \pm 2$  ( $c 0.028$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ), while those for **1'** and **2'** are  $+176 \pm 5$ <sup>17</sup> and  $+120 \pm 2$ ,<sup>17</sup> respectively. The solutions of higher concentrations of **1** and **2** are dark-coloured and significantly absorb at the measured wavelength. Hence, we were unable to measure the rotation angle of more concentrated solutions.



**Figure 2** The CD spectra of spiro homofullerenes **2** and **2'** in chloroform ( $c = 2.0 \text{ g dm}^{-3}$ ).

The comparison of the enantiomeric homofullerenes with the addend possessing the same absolute configuration can be challenging for future discussions.

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