Photoluminescence of platinum(II) diethynylphenanthroline organometallic complexes with bis-arylethynyl derivatives in solution and solid state

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Platinum(II) phenanthroline organometallics, Pt(3,8-Phen≡Ph-R)2 (1H–11H), of 11 respective arylethynyl ligands with different substituents: R = H (1H), 4-F (2H), 3-F (3H), 2-F (4H), 4-Me (5H), 4-CF3 (6H), NO2 (7H), 4-COOME (8H), 4-t-Bu (9H), 3,5-di-CF3 (10H), and 3,5-di-t-Bu (11H) were prepared from our reported complexes, Pt(3,8-Phen≡TMS≡Ph-R)2, by a deprotection reaction of a trimethylsilyl group. The luminescence and the DFT calculations of the 11 present organometallics clearly supported the assignment of phosphorescence from the mixed transition of 3MLCT/3LLCT (LLCT = ligand-to-ligand charge transfer) in solution state. In solid state, the emission maximum peak values in the spectra of many complexes in 22 platinum organometallics occurred in the long wavelength area over 700 nm, and their emissions were assigned the phosphorescence from the transition of a metal-metal-to-ligand charge transfer, the so-called 3MMLCT. This is related to the diversity of intermolecular interactions as Pt-Pt and π-π interactions in solid state. On the other hand, the emission peak values in the spectra of some complexes occurred in the short-wavelength area less than 600 nm. The complex Pt(3,8-Phen≡TMS≡Ph-3,5-di-CF3)2 showed a particularly strong and vibronic emission, and this phenomenon is presumed to be attributable to the aggregation-induced emission.

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1. Introduction

Research into phosphorescent metal complexes continues to inspire highly efficient phosphorescence suitable for potential applications in a lot of sensing applications for environmental and biological technologies as well as the field of organic light-emitting diodes [1–5]. Phosphorescent studies of square-planar platinum(II) complexes have been reported by many groups because of the high emission quantum yield and long emission lifetime of platinum(II) complexes in solution and solid states [1–3,5–9]. In particular, platinum(II) organometallic complexes with bipyridine derivatives and various arylethynyl ligands, Pt(L)(≡aryl)2 (L = bipyridine derivatives), have recently received attention for their unique emissive properties such as aggregation-induced emission (AIE), vapochromism, and mechanochromism in solid state [10–14]. Photophysical studies of these platinum(II) organometallic complexes indicated that the emission of these complexes in solution was attributable to the mixed transition of 3MLCT and 3LLCT (LLCT = ligand-to-ligand charge transfer) from the photo-excited state [15]. On the other hand, some kinds of platinum(II) complexes Pt(L)(≡aryl)2 in solid state have shown phosphorescence from the transition of a metal-metal-to-ligand charge transfer (so-called 3MMLCT) caused by the Pt-Pt interaction and, furthermore, unique luminescent properties such as vapochromism and mechanochromism [10–15]. As a part of this research trend, we recently reported the photophysics of platinum(II) organometallic complexes with phenanthroline derivatives and 11 respective arylethynyl ligands with a different substituent, Pt(3,8-Phen≡TMS≡Ph-R)2 (3,8-Phen≡TMS = 3,8-bis-(trimethylsilyl)ethenyl-1,10-phenanthroline) (1TMS – 11TMS), as shown in Scheme 1, and a good linear correlation has been revealed between the observed emission energy values of phosphorescence and the calculation values by DFT or TD-DFT in solution state [16]. Then, the emission spectra for some complexes of 1TMS – 11TMS in solid state showed phosphorescence from 3MMLCT, and the phosphorescence was influenced by using various arylethynyl ligands with different substituents because the bulkiness of their substituents on respective arylethynyl...
ligands affected the strength of the Pt-Pt interaction in the solid state of these compounds. Furthermore, Ni and coworkers recently reported the reversible vapochromism based on the similar platinum complex \( \text{Pt}(3,8\text{-Phen})\text{TMS})(\equiv \text{Ph}-4-\text{Cl})_2 \) [17]. We therefore became interested in the phosphorescence of platinum(II) organometallic complexes with phenanthroline and arylethynyl ligands having different degrees of bulkiness.

We report herein the synthesis and photophysical characterization of novel platinum(II) organometallic complexes with phenanthroline derivatives and 11 respective arylethynyl ligands with different substituents \( \text{Pt}(3,8\text{-Phen})\equiv \text{Ph-R})_2 \). The characterization of the novel platinum complexes has been done by IR, \(^1\text{H} \text{NMR}, \text{UV Vis}\) spectroscopy, and emission spectral data. The \(6\text{-31G(d)}\) basis set was used for the Pt atom. The spatial plots of MOs were obtained with the associated valence basis set was employed with a LanL2DZ basis set for C, N, O, F, and H atoms, while the effective core potential and the shape of the Pt atom.

2. Experimental section

2.1. Material and measurements

All chemicals used for syntheses were purchased from Aldrich or TCI and used without further purification. All reactions were carried out under an argon atmosphere. Solvents for the reactions were freshly distilled according to standard procedures. The syntheses of precursor complexes \( \text{Pt}(3,8\text{-Phen})\equiv \text{Ph-R})_2 \): \( R = \text{H} \) (1TMS), \( 4\text{-F} \) (2TMS), \( 3\text{-F} \) (3TMS), \( 2\text{-F} \) (4TMS), \( 4\text{-Me} \) (5TMS), \( 4\text{-CF}_3 \) (6TMS), \( 4\text{-NO}_2 \) (7TMS), \( 4\text{-COOMe} \) (8TMS), \( 4\text{-t-Bu} \) (9TMS), \( 3,5\text{-di-CF}_3 \) (10TMS), \( 3,5\text{-di-t-Bu} \) (11TMS) have been reported by our previous paper [16].

The characterization of the novel platinum complexes has been done by IR, \(^1\text{H} \text{NMR}, \text{UV Vis}\) spectroscopy, and elemental analyses. Elemental analyses for platinum complexes were performed for C, H, and N elements on a Elementar vario EL cube. IR spectra were obtained on a JASCO FT/IR 460 spectrometer using the KBr-pellet method. The \(^1\text{H} \text{NMR}\) spectra were recorded with a Bruker AVANCE and Ascend™ NMR spectrometer (400 MHz) at room temperature and the chemical shifts were referenced to \( \text{CDCl}_3 \) (5.320 ppm). UV–Vis spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU UV-1800 spectrophotometer in \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) (emission spectroscopic grade) at room temperature.

The corrected emission spectra in solution were measured with a HAMAMATSU C7473 photonic multi-channel analyzer and excitation spectra were recorded on a HITACHI F-2500 fluorescence spectrophotometer. Emission spectra for quantum yield measurement at room temperature were measured in a degassed \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) (Emission spectral grade) by argon bubbling (over 15 min) upon excitation at 425 nm. Luminescence life times of present complexes at room temperature in a degassed \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) were measured upon excitation at 355 nm YAG laser by UNISOKUTSP-2000. Emission spectra at 77 K were measured using a liquid nitrogen in a quartz Dewar vessel upon excitation at 425 nm and sample solutions (distilled 2-methyl-THF) in a 5 mm quarts sealed tube were degated by freeze-pump-thaw (over 3 times). The emission spectra in solid state were measured with HAMAMATSU Quantaurus-QY C11347-02. All solid samples were performed by the reprocreation from \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) solution and dried at 60 °C under vacuum for 4 h. TG-DTA measurement was performed all complexes until 300 °C by RIGAKU TG-DTA TGD8120.

DFT and TD-DFT calculations were carried out using the program package Gaussian 09 Revision C01 [18] at the B3LYP level with PCM method in \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) solution and the calculation methods were performed with same condition of our previous paper [16]. The energy separation, \( E(T_1-S_0)_{\text{TD-DFT}} \) between the triplet \( T_1 \) state and the singlet ground \( S_0 \) state was obtained from the energy difference between the highest SOMO under \( T_1 \) state and HOMO under \( S_0 \) state for comparing phosphorescent energy from the emission spectral data of these complexes. TD-DFT calculation was also performed with restricted B3LYP in \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) for the comparison between the calculated lowest triplet transition energy, \( E(T_1-S_0)_{\text{TD-DFT}} \) and emission spectral data. The 6-31G(d) basis set was used for C, N, O, F, and H atoms, while the effective core potential and the associated valence basis set was employed with a LanL2DZ basis set for the Pt atom. The spatial plots of MOs were obtained with the program GaussView 09 [18].

2.2. Preparations of platinum organometallics 1H–11H

2.2.1. Preparation of \( \text{Pt}(3,8\text{-Phen})\equiv \text{Ph})_2 \) (1H)

The 1TMS (161 mg, 0.20 mmol) was dissolved in \( \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2 \) (20 mL) and added \( \text{MeOH} \) solution (40 mL) containing \( \text{K}_2\text{CO}_3 \) (30–39 mg,
2H, Ph-H4), 3.64 (s, 2H, Phen-H3), 7.18 (m, 2H, Phen-H5), 7.13 (d, 1H, Phen-H6), 7.32 (m, 4H, Ph-H3 and H5), 7.22 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H, Ph-H4). 3.64 (s, 2H, Phen-H1).

2.2. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-F)2 (2H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-F)2 was synthesized by the same procedure to that for 1H except for the use of 2TMS (161 mg, 0.20 mmol). The orange powder brown product is obtained. Yield: 126 mg (95%).

2.2.3. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(3-3-F)2 (3H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(3-3-F)2 was synthesized with half scale by the same procedure to that for 1H except for the use of 3TMS (81 mg, 0.10 mmol). The orange powder was obtained. Yield: 64 mg (97%).

2.2.4. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(2-2-F)2 (4H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(2-2-F)2 was synthesized with half scale by the same procedure to that for 1H except for the use of 4TMS (81 mg, 0.10 mmol). The yellow orange powder was obtained. Yield: 64 mg (97%).

2.2.5. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-Me)2 (5H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-Me)2 was synthesized with half scale by the same procedure to that for 1H except for the use of 5TMS (80 mg, 0.10 mmol). The red powder was obtained. Yield: 64 mg (98%).

2.2.6. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-Cl)2 (6H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen-H)≡Pt(4-4-Cl)2 was synthesized with half scale by the same procedure to that for 1H except for the use of 6TMS (80 mg, 0.06 mmol). The dark brown powder was obtained. Yield: 40 mg (87%).
2.2.10. Preparation of Pt(3,8-Phen=H)(≡Ph-3,5-CF3)2 (10H)

The Pt(3,8-Phen=H)(≡Ph-3,5-CF3)2 was synthesized with 0.06 mmol scale by the same procedure to that for 4H except for the use of 10TMS (63 mg, 0.06 mmol). The black powder is obtained. Yield: 50 mg (92%).

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Synthesis and characterization of platinum complexes

The 11 new platinum complexes, Pt(3,8-Phen=H)(≡Ph-R)2: R = H (1H), 4-F (2H), 3-F (3H), 2-F (4H), 4-Me (5H), 4-CF3 (6H), 4-NO2 (7H), 4-COOMe (8H), 4-t-Bu (9H), 3,5-di-CF3 (10H), 3,5-di-t-Bu (11H), were difficult to obtain with a similar transmetalation method of Pt(3,8-Phen=H)Cl2 reported in our previous report, because the starting complex Pt(3,8-Phen=H)Cl2 was not dissolved in major organic solvents [16]. So, we first tried to synthesize the present complexes by the ligand exchange reaction between Pt(COD)(≡Ph-R)2 and 3,8-Phen≡H. This synthetic method produced some compounds (3H (67%), 4H (53%), 5H (39%), 10H (29%)) in moderate yields, but other compounds were obtained at low yields under 15%. Then, the present complexes as shown in Scheme 1 were synthesized from the platinum complexes Pt(3,8-Phen≡H)Cl2(≡Ph-R)2: R = H (1TMS), 4-F (2TMS), 3-F (3TMS), 2-F (4TMS), 4-Me (5TMS), 4-CF3 (6TMS), 4-NO2 (7TMS), 4-COOMe (8TMS), 4-t-Bu (9TMS), 3,5-di-CF3 (10TMS), 3,5-di-t-Bu (11TMS) by a deprotection reaction of the trimethylsilyl group in high yields over 80%. All complexes were characterized by IR, 1H NMR, UV–Vis, luminescence spectroscopy, and elemental analysis. The platinum organometallics exhibited 1H NMR signals, and the elemental analysis results were in accordance with the assigned structures presented in Scheme 1.

The IR spectra of the present complexes indicated the ν1 coordination of metal–carbon bonds between the Pt atom and the ethynyl functional group of each of the 11 arylethyln ligands. The characteristic strong υ(C≡C) bands assigned to the Pt=C≡C bonds of the complexes 1H–11H were observed at around 2115 cm⁻¹ (among 2111–2123 cm⁻¹) except for platinum complex 10H, which had two peaks, at 2112 and 2143 cm⁻¹. These υ(C≡C) peaks of the Pt–C≡C bond in 1H–11H were almost consistent with those of the precursor complexes 1TMS – 11TMS [16]. In addition, the peak for υ(C=C-H) of 3,8-Phen≡H was observed at around 3300 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectra of 1H–11H. The 1H NMR measurements support the formation of the H=C≡C bond in the phenanthroline ligand. A new assignable signal for the ethynyl proton of diethylphophenanthroline in the 1H NMR spectra of 1H–11H was detected at around 3.64 ppm, and the assignable signal for trimethylsilyl substituents was not observed. The proton signals assignable to the phenanthroline and arylethyln ligands in 1H–11H clearly showed similar chemical shift values in the respective precursors 1TMS – 11TMS, and therefore it was supported that the compounds had similar coordination structures to the precursor complexes under the deprotection reaction.

Fig. 1 shows the absorption spectra of 1H–11H in CH2Cl2. These platinum organometallics with 11 arylethyln ligands each have a broad absorption band over 360 nm, and this band was primarily assigned to the mixed transition of both the MLCT from platinum ion to the 3,8-Phen≡H and the LLCT from the respective arylethyln ligands to the 3,8-Phen≡H ligand. The absorption bands of these complexes in the 300–350-nm region were primarily assigned to the lowest π–π*(3,8-Phen≡H) and π–π*(≡C6H4R) single transitions. The lowest-energy [1π–π*(3,8-Phen≡H)] transition in each of these complexes was observed in the short wavelength area compared to the [1π–π*(≡C6H4R)] transition in each of precursor complexes. The lowest 1π–π*(≡C6H4R) transition bands of the respective arylethyln ligands with carboxy methyl ester and nitro substituents in 7H and 8H were observed in the 300–380 nm region. These assignments are consistent with those in 7TMS and 8TMS.

The band of the mixed transition from 1MLCT/1LLCT over 400 nm in these platinum organometallics confirmed a hypsochromic effect of the present arylethyln ligands in these organometallics. For example, 10H with two trifluoromethyl substituents as an electron-withdrawing group exhibited an absorption band (435 nm) of the 1MLCT/1LLCT transition in the short wavelength area compared to the band (469 nm) of the same transition in 5H with a methyl substituent as an electron-donating group.

3.2. Luminescence of 1H–11H in solution state

Platinum complexes, 1H–11H, each showed a visible broad emission band in deoxygenated CH2Cl2 at room temperature upon excitation at 425 nm, as shown in Fig. 2, while the emission spectra at 77 K in deoxygenated 2-Me-THF for these complexes each showed a high-intensity emission band with clear vibronic
progressions in the high-energy region (Fig. 3). These emissions are assigned to phosphorescence from the triplet state of the mixed transition from MLCT and LLCT, namely 3MLCT/3LLCT, which is well known to be present in the luminescence for similar platinum(II) organometallic complexes with bipyridine derivatives and two various arylethynyl ligands, Pt(bipyridine derivatives)(=aryl)2 [10–15]. The maximum intensity peaks of the emission band (λem) at room temperature in deoxygenated CH2Cl2 and those at 77 K in deoxygenated 2-MeTHF for these complexes are listed in Table 1. The peak wavelength values show that the complexes with an electron-withdrawing group are smaller, and have higher-energy values, than those with an electron-donating group. This trend is consistent with the tendency of the mixed transition of 1MLCT/1LLCT in UV–Vis spectra. The values at room temperature span a wide range, 559–664 nm, while those at 77 K in deoxygenated 2-MeTHF for these complexes are also listed in Table 1. Interestingly, the trend of the maximum peak wavelength of the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition in the present organometallics was also strongly related to the energy separation between the excited triplet (T1) state and the ground (S0) state obtained by DFT and TD-DFT calculations. The DFT and TD-DFT calculations of the present organometallics aid the interpretation of the electronic effects of their aryl groups with different substituents on phosphorescence in CH2Cl2 at room temperature. An interesting finding is the good linear correlation between the emission energy values of the maximum intensity peak in the phosphorescent band, Eem, and the E(T1–S0)DFT or E(T1–S0)TD-DFT in terms of eV, as shown in Fig. 4. The energy separation between the T1 state and the S0 state, E(T1–S0)DFT, was obtained as the difference between the HOMO energy level under the S0 state and the highest SOMO energy level under the T1 state, while the value of the direct T1–S0 transition energy, E(T1–S0)TD-DFT, was obtained from the TD-DFT calculation in CH2Cl2. The calculated results of E(T1–S0)DFT and E(T1–S0)TD-DFT also are listed in Table 1. This linear correlation between the observed emission wavelength and the calculated results by DFT and TD-DFT precisely underscores that the related MOs obtained by these calculations reflect the actual MOs in the present organometallics.

### 3.3. Color and luminescence of platinum complexes, 1H–11H and 17TMS–11TMS, in solid state

The color under white light (upper) and luminescent color under UV light (lower) of 22 platinum complexes, 1H–11H and 17TMS–11TMS, in solid state are shown in Fig. 5. For same sample condition, all solid samples were performed by the reprecipitation from CH2Cl2 solution and dried at 60 °C under vacuum for 4 h. These samples were measured by TG-DTA measurement and confirmed that the weight of these samples was not reduced until 150 °C as shown in supplementary data. The color of some complexes (9H, 10H, 3TMS, 8TMS, 11TMS) in solid was dark red, while the color of these complexes in solution ranged from yellow to orange. The definite difference in color between solid state and in solution for these square planar platinum complexes is related to the influence of the Pt-Pt and π–π interactions in solid state, and the color change is a general phenomenon of the bathochromic effect resulting from these interactions, as reported [10–14]. On the other hand, the colors of the three compounds (1H, 8H, 10TMS) in solid state were almost the same as the yellow and yellow-orange of these complexes in solution, and the luminescent colors of 8H and 10TMS under UV light were orange and yellow. The bright emissions of two compounds, 8H and 10TMS, under UV light motivated us to measure the luminescence spectra of 22 platinum complexes in solid state.

The emission spectra of complexes 1H–11H in solid state are shown in Fig. 6. The maximum intensity peaks in the short wavelength area less than 690 nm were observed only in the spectra of 1H (609 nm, weak emission) and 8H (684 nm; the spectrum showed a broad emission band from 500 nm to 850 nm). The maximum peaks of the other complexes were observed in long wavelengths over 690 nm; the longest wavelength value was 764 nm in 10H, although the emissions of 2H and 4H were very weak and may have been in the short wavelength area. The emission maximum peaks of 1H–11H in solution are between 560 nm and 660 nm, as listed in Table 1. The emissions of 1H–11H in solution are assigned to the luminescence from the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition in the present organometallics mentioned above. So, it is
sions of the maximum peaks over 720 nm can be assigned to the luminescence from the 3MMLCT transition in solid state, as mentioned above. The emission maximum peak values of 1TMS (597 nm), 10TMS (573 nm), and 11TMS (662 nm) in solid state are similar to those of 1TMS (624 nm), 10TMS (540 nm), and 11TMS (650 nm), respectively, in solution, and the emission in solid state could be assigned to the phosphorescence from the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition or the mixture luminescence from the 3MLCT/3LLCT and 3MMLCT transitions. This result presumes that the three complexes are situated no or weak Pt-Pt interaction in solid state. Because the strong π–π interaction between the molecules induces the molecules to overlap each other with a slight lateral shift in solid state and therefore the Pt-Pt interaction of the vertical direction against the molecular plane sometimes is weaken. The distinct vibronic emission spectrum of 10TMS, whose luminescent colors under UV light were only bright yellow in the present 22 complexes, was observed. The shortest wavelength value of several peaks in the spectrum of 10TMS was 528 nm, and this value was close to the emission maximum peak value of 10TMS (518 nm) at 77 K in MeTHF. This similarity must indicate that 10TMS in solid state was densely packed relative to the less-hindered complexes (1H, 2H, 4H, 1TMS), which showed weak emissions from the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition, and the strong emission of 10TMS compared to that of 1TMS would be caused by the AIE effect in solid state. The complexes 1H and 1TMS were the least bulky in their respective complex series. We therefore assumed that the complexes could be formed by strong π–π interaction. However, the emission intensity from the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition of these complexes was very weak, and no distinct AIE effect was observed. This result reflects that the AIE effect for the present square-planar platinum complex system is not simple, as the complex that has a less-hindered ligand is introduced by the strong AIE effect. The arrangement of the arylethynyl ligand is most important for dense packing in the space of a crystal, because the AIE is caused by the suppression of the vibration and rotation of the compound under a photo-excited state from many previous AIE researches [15]. The 10TMS must fill a void compared to the other, less-hindered complexes 1H and 1TMS.

4. Conclusion

A new series of platinum(II) diethynylphenanthroline complexes, Pt(3,8-Phen≡Ph-R)2, of 11 arylethynyl ligands with different substituents: R = H (1H), 4-F (2H), 3-F (3H), 2-F (4H), 4-Me (5H), 4-CF3 (6H), NO2 (7H), 4-COOMe (8H), 4-t-Bu (9H), 3,5-di-CF3 (10H), 3,5-di-t-Bu (11H), was synthesized from a previous series of platinum(II) complexes, Pt(3,8-Phen≡TMS)≡Ph-R)2.
(1TMS – 11TMS), by a deprotection reaction of a trimethylsilyl group. The organometallics 1H – 11H showed absorption and emission spectra similar to those of respective precursor complexes 1TMS – 11TMS in solution. The emissions of all 22 platinum organometallics in solution were assigned to the phosphorescence from the mixed transition of the 3MLCT/3LLCT transition. A good linear correlation was obtained between the observed emission energy values of phosphorescence and the calculation values of the difference between the lowest excited triplet state and the ground singlet state by DFT or TD-DFT.

In solid state, the emission maximum peaks in the spectra of many complexes in the 22 platinum organometallics appeared in the long wavelength area over 700 nm. It is reasonable to support an assignment of the luminescence from the 3MMLCT transition caused by the Pt-Pt interaction in the present platinum complex series. The intermolecular orientation of these complexes is related to the diversity of the intermolecular interactions as Pt-Pt and π–π interactions in solid state. The molecular structures of two platinum complex series are suitable for Pt-Pt interaction in solid state, because the flat square planar complex is preferable to the stacking structure in solid state. However, the less-hindered complex of 1TMS and the complex with bulky ligands of 10TMS respectively showed short wavelength emissions from the 4MLCT/3LLCT transition in solid state. So, the structural factor of each arylethynyl ligand sensitively affects the intermolecular packing and the luminescence of their complexes. Complex 10TMS showed a particularly strong and vibronic emission. This phenomenon is presumed to be attributable to the AIE effect.

We are currently extending our photophysical research to study the solid state luminescence and vapochromism including a new series of platinum(II) phenanthroline complexes.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jorganchem.2018.10.032.

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