

DHAL

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Supplementary material

Bisimidazole substrates **2a** and **3a** were synthesized from the corresponding dibromides and imidazole. In a typical reaction, 2.85 g imidazole in 15 ml dry THF was slowly added to 1.9 g sodium hydride (60% in mineral oil) under nitrogen and stirred for 30 minutes. 5.3 g α,α' -dibromo-p-xylene in 20 ml THF was slowly added, and the temperature was raised to 50°C for 4 hrs. After cooling to room temperature, 25 ml of ice cold water was added, and the mixture was stirred for 20 minutes. The organic phase was extracted with chloroform (3 x 50 ml), and the combined chloroform phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was recrystallized twice from ethyl acetate to give 2.6 g (55% yield) of **2a**. Mp 148-150°C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ : 5.2 (s, 4H), 6.85 (s, 2H), 7.05 (s, 2H), 7.20 (m, 4H), 7.55 (s, 2H).