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Synthesis and Spectral Properties of Cholesterol- and FTY720-Containing Boron Dipyrromethene Dyes

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Abstract



Two analogues (1, 2) of free cholesterol and one analogue (3) of the immunosuppressive sphingolipid FTY720 containing a boron dipyrromethene chromophore (BODIPY) were synthesized. The synthetic routes involved preparation of boron dipyrromethene moieties (5, 11) bearing a phenylethynyl group at different positions of the chromophore, and lipids (13, 20) bearing an azido group. The dye was tethered to the lipid via a 1,2,3-triazole in the linker by using the click reaction. Analogues derived from 11 (in which an (*E*)-styrylethynyl moiety is bonded to C-5 of BODIPY) exhibited a marked red-shift (~70–80 nm) compared with those derived from 5 (in which a phenylethynyl moiety is bonded to C-8 of BODIPY).

Introduction

The 4,4-difluoro-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene fluorophore, better known as BODIPY, possesses many distinctive and desirable properties: it is relatively hydrophobic, and has a high molar absorption coefficient and fluorescence quantum yield.¹ The photochemical and chemical stabilities of the boron dipyrromethene chromophore are higher than those of many other dyes, and the extent of π -electron conjugation can be modified by introduction of substituents, affording red-shifted BODIPY derivatives. BODIPY-linked reagents have been used in a wide range of applications, e.g., as fluorescent switches² and chemosensors for protons,³ metal ions,⁴ nitric oxide,⁵ toxins,⁶ and peroxyl radicals.⁷ Biochemical applications of BODIPY include bioconjugates with proteins,⁸ DNA,⁹ and carbohydrates.¹⁰ Because BODIPY is relatively hydrophobic, its conjugates with lipids can partition efficiently into biomembranes.^{8,11} Indeed, BODIPY derivatives of many lipids, including fatty acids,¹² triglycerides,¹³ sphingolipids,¹⁴ phospholipids,¹⁵ and glycolipids¹⁶ have been prepared and used for biological studies. When the local concentration of the probe increases, the characteristic green emission of the boron dipyrromethene chromophore is red-shifted via excimer formation, permitting visualization of probe accumulation within subcellular compartments of living cells by fluorescence microscopy.^{16c,d}

We recently reported the synthesis of BODIPY-modified cholesterol analogues¹⁷ and found that one of the analogues can partition into liquid-ordered domains of model membranes.¹⁸ The spectroscopic and membrane properties of this BODIPY-cholesterol analogue and the

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commercially available 7-nitrobenz-2-oxa-1,3-diazolyl (NBD)-cholesterol have been summarized in a recent review.¹⁹ We now describe the preparation of two new red-shifted BODIPY conjugates of free cholesterol, compounds **1** and **2** (Figure 1).

We also report the introduction of the BODIPY chromophore into the synthetic sphingosine analogue known as FTY720 (Figure 2). FTY720, which was discovered during the optimization of the natural product myriocin (which inhibits the first enzyme in the sphingomyelin biosynthetic pathway),²⁰ has attracted a great deal of attention in the past decade because it is a new immunosuppressant with a unique mechanism of action. FTY720phosphate ((S)-FTY720-P), formed in vivo via sphingosine kinases 1 and $2,^{21}$ is an agonist for several G-protein coupled sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptors.²² FTY720-P exhibits immunosuppressive activity by redirecting the trafficking of circulating lymphocytes. FTY720 has been in phase III clinical trials as an immunosuppresant for organ transplants, and recently entered into a clinical trial for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.²³ An FTY720 derivative bearing the relatively hydrophilic NBD fluorophore has been synthesized and used as to study the metabolism and mechanism of action of $FTY720.^{24}$ However, since the NBD conjugates induce an "upside down orientation in the membrane"²⁵ we directed our attention to the more lipophilic BODIPY conjugates. We report herein the synthesis of compound **3** (Figure 2), which contains a BODIPY fluorophore in the alkyl side chain and retains the intact hydrophilic head group of FTY720.

The key step in these syntheses is the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition between an alkyne and an azide, which was first studied and reviewed by Huisgen et al.²⁶ The conventional procedure of 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition of an alkyne and an azide usually leads to a 1,2,3-triazole as a mixture of two regioisomers, which has limited the application of this reaction. The discovery that a catalytic amount of Cu(I) allows the 1,3-dipolar cycloaddition reaction to proceed under milder conditions with high regiospecificity²⁷ spured interest in using this reaction in various fields ranging from medicinal chemistry to material science.²⁸ This reaction is often referred to as the "click" reaction.²⁹ We have applied the click reaction to prepare BODIPY conjugates of lipids, compounds **1–3**.

Results and Discussion

Synthesis of BODIPY-Substituted Alkynes

The synthesis of BODIPY lipid conjugates by click chemistry involved the preparation of BODIPY derivatives bearing a terminal acetylene group. We prepared two such derivatives with different emission wavelengths. Scheme 1 outlines the preparation of the first alkynyl-BODIPY derivative. Condensation of 4-ethynylbenzaldehyde (4) with 2,4-dimethylpyrrole in the presence of a catalytic amount of TFA, followed by oxidation with *p*-chloranil and chelation with BF₃·OEt₂ in the presence of NEt₃, gave compound **5** in 28% overall yield.

We explored a variety of routes to the second alkynyl-linked BODIPY derivative. Generally, there are three routes for synthesizing BODIPY analogues with an extended conjugation: (1) *de novo* synthesis from a pyrrole derivative bearing a substituent with external conjugation; 30 (2) condensation of the 3- and/or 5-methyl group of BODIPY with an aldehyde; 31 and (3) a transition metal catalyzed coupling reaction of BODIPY via a halide substituent 32 or direct activation of a C-H bond. 33 Our initial attempt to prepare an alkynyl-linked BODIPY with extended conjugation through condensation of 4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-2,6,8-triethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacene 34 with 4 by following reported procedures 31 failed, probably because of the instability of 4 under the relatively harsh reaction conditions (toluene/acetic acid/piperidine, reflux). We observed the total consumption of 4 by TLC (hexane/ethyl acetate 6:1) during the reaction and the complete recovery of the diaza-*s*-indacene starting material after work-up. We then turned to the synthesis of a TMS-substitued terminal alkyne

as outlined in Scheme 2. A Wittig reaction of 6^{35} with pyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde using potassium *tert*-butoxide as the base furnished 7^{36} in 69% yield. After 7 underwent condensation³⁷ with 3,5-dimethylpyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde in the presence of POCl₃, chelation with BF₃·OEt₂ afforded BODIPY analog 8 in 47% yield. Unfortunately, the Sonogashira reaction for conversion of bromide 8 to alkyne 9 was unsuccessful, producing many unidentified products. After reversing the reaction sequences and performing the Sonogashira reaction on bromide 7, we were able to obtain 10 in 56% yield. The synthesis of 9 was accomplished by condensation of 10 with 3,5-dimethylpyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde, followed by chelation with BF₃·OEt₂ in 52% overall yield (Scheme 3). The TMS group in 9 was easily removed by treating 9 with potassium carbonate in a mixture of methanol and dichloromethane to give 11 in 64% yield.

Synthesis of BODIPY-cholesterol Conjugates

We next explored the use of the two alkynyl-substituted BODIPY derivatives (5 and 11) in preparing fluorescent cholesterol conjugates. Known alcohol 12¹⁷ was converted by the conventional three-step sequence of mesylate to bromide to azide 13 in 85% overall yield (Scheme 4). BODIPY cholesterol conjugate 1 was obtained in 91% yield after deprotection of 14, which was prepared in 59% yield via a click reaction between 5 and 13 catalyzed by CuI in DMSO. A similar route was used to prepare BODIPY-cholesterol conjugate 2, which has a longer emission wavelength than 1, in 52% overall yield (Scheme 5).

Synthesis of BODIPY-FTY720 Conjugate 3

The synthesis of a BODIPY-FTY720 conjugate started with the Wittig reaction of 6 and aldehyde 16^{38} using potassium *tert*-butoxide as the base. The resulting bromide 17 was subjected to a Sonogashira reaction with 5-benzyloxy-1-pentyne³⁹ to give **18** in 53% yield. The double and triple bonds were hydrogenated and the benzyl group was removed by hydrogenolysis with palladium hydroxide in methanol. The ketal protecting group was also partially removed under these conditions, but it was easily reinstalled by treating the resulting mixture with 2,2-dimethoxypropane in the presence of CSA to give 19 in 72% yield. After conversion of the hydroxy group in 19 to the mesylate and treatment with NaN₃ in DMF, azide 20 was obtained in 67% yield. The click reaction of 20 with 5 catalyzed by CuI in DMF at room temperature gave protected BODIPY-FTY720 conjugate 21. Deprotection of 21 proved to be troublesome, although it has been reported that a NHBoc group can be removed with 4 M HCl in dioxane in the presence of a BODIPY moiety.¹⁴ When we treated **21** with proton acids, including HCl, trifluoroacetic acid, and p-toluenesulfonic acid, the ketal was removed but the Boc group remained intact under mild conditions. Harsher conditions destroyed the BF₂ chelate of the BODIPY fluorophore. We then reasoned that since the BODIPY fluorophore is formed by chelation in the presence of BF3·OEt2, and that BF3·OEt2 has been reported to deprotect a NHBoc group under quite mild conditions,⁴⁰ this Lewis acid might remove the NHBoc and ketal groups in one pot. Indeed, treatment of **21** with BF₃·OEt₂ in the presence of 4 Å molecular sieves in dichloromethane at 0 °C gave BODIPY-FTY720 conjugate 3 in 61% yield (Scheme 6).

Photospectroscopic Properties

Spectroscopic data are presented in Table 1, and the emission spectra are shown in Figure 3. All compounds exhibited the characteristic absorption and emission patterns of the BODIPY fluorophore, with high extinction coefficients and small Stokes shifts. The absorption and emission maxima were red-shifted in chloroform (dielectric constant, 5.5) compared with ethanol (dielectric constant, 24.3), and the molar extinction coefficient (ε) was higher. Note that for compounds 1, 3, and 21, which have a phenyl substituent at the 8 position of the BODIPY moiety, the absorption and emission wavelengths are very similar to those of the

parent 1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-BODIPY chromophore. The phenyl group at the 8 position is almost orthogonal to the BODIPY plane⁴¹ because of steric hindrance imposed by the methyl groups at the 1 and 7 positions, and thus does not contribute to the conjugation of the BODIPY fluorophore. The introduction of extended conjugation at the 5 position of the BODIPY moiety, however, did cause a significant red shift (~70 nm) in the absorption and emission wavelengths compared with the corresponding 5-methyl substituted chromophore, in good agreement with previous reports.³¹

Conclusion

We have described the syntheses of two acetylenic-linked BODIPY fluorescent dyes (5 and 11) with different absorption and emission wavelengths. Lipids 13 and 20, which bear a terminal azido group, were covalently derivatized with one of these dyes to prepare BODIPY-conjugated cholesterol analogues 1 and 2 and FTY720 analogue 3 by utilizing the click reaction. As these new analogues exhibited intense absorption and strong fluorescence, they can serve as probes for monitoring the effects of cholesterol and FTY720 in model membranes and cells and for donor-acceptor resonance energy transfer studies. Their excellent luminescent properties make it possible to visualize the distribution and transport of these lipids in living cells by fluorescence microscopy.

Experimental Section

4,4-Difluoro-8-(4-ethynylphenyl)-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (5)

To a solution of 4-ethynylbenzaldehyde (0.13 g, 1.0 mmol, compound 4) and 2,4dimethylpyrrole (0.22 g, 2.3 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was added trifluoroacetic acid (7.6 μ L, 0.1 mmol) under N₂. After the mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, a solution of *p*-chloranil (0.246 g, 1.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for an additional 30 min. BF₃·OEt₂ (2.60 g, 18.6 mmol) and NEt₃ (1.7 g, 17.0 mmol) were added, followed by stirring at room temperature for 6 h. The reaction mixture was washed with water (4 × 60 mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 20:1 to 5:1) to give compound **5** (98.8 mg, 28%). ¹H NMR δ 7.63 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 7.27 (d, 2H, *J* = 7.8 Hz), 5.99 (s, 2H), 3.18 (s, 1H), 2.55 (s, 6H), 1.40 (s, 6H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.8, 143.0, 140.6, 135.6, 132.9, 131.1, 128.2, 122.9, 121.4, 82.9, 78.6, 14.62, 14.58; ¹⁹F NMR δ -146.2 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₂₁H₂₀BF₂N₂ (MH⁺), 349.1682; found, 349.1689.

4,4-Difluoro-5-[(E)-(4-bromophenyl)ethenyl]-1,3-dimethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (8)

A solution of 3,5-dimethylpyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde (0.12 g, 1.0 mmol) and 7^{35} (0.248 g, 1.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. After a solution of POCl₃ (0.15 g, 1.0 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (1 mL) was added with caution, the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 1 h, and then at room temperature overnight. BF₃·OEt₂ (0.52 mL, 4.0 mmol) and *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (0.70 mL, 4.0 mmol) were added sequentially at 0 °C, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h. The solution was washed with water (3 × 20 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated under vacuum. Compound **8** (0.19 g, 47%) was obtained by flash chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 50:1 to 5:1). ¹H NMR δ 7.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 7.50-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.0 Hz), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 6.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 160.0, 152.7, 143.3, 135.5, 134.8, 133.9, 131.9, 128.7, 128.1, 122.7, 122.2, 120.4, 119.9, 115.2, 15.1, 11.4; ¹⁹ F NMR δ -143.0 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₁₉H₁₇BBrF₂N₂ (MH⁺), 401.0631; found, 401.0632.

4,4-Difluoro-1,3-dimethyl-5-[(*E*)-(4-trimethylethynylphenyl)ethenyl]-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (9)

The synthesis of compound **9** (294 mg, 52%) was accomplished by using the procedure for compound **8**, with **10** (362 mg, 1.35 mmol) as the starting material. ¹H NMR δ 7.61 (d, 1H, J = 16.4 Hz), 7.50 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.44 (d, 2H, J = 8.4 Hz), 7.22 (d, 1H, J = 16.4 Hz), 7.03 (s, 1H), 6.92 (d, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz), 6.83 (d, 1H, J = 4.4 Hz), 6.12 (s, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 0.26 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR δ 159.7, 152.8, 143.1, 136.6, 135.5, 134.9, 134.4, 132.3, 128.1, 127.1, 123.2, 122.1, 120.3, 120.0, 115.3, 105.1, 95.9, 15.0, 11.3, -0.06; ¹⁹F NMR δ -142.9 (m). HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₄H₂₆BF₂N₂Si (MH⁺), 419.1920; found, 419.1928.

2-[(E)-(4-Trimethylethynylphenyl)ethenyl]pyrrole (10)

To a solution of trimethylsilylacetylene (0.98 g, 10 mmol), **7** (0.50 g, 2.0 mmol), and *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (4 mL, 22.9 mmol) in THF (12 mL) were added CuI (58 mg, 0.30 mmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (0.36 g, 0.3 mmol) under N₂ at room temperature. After the mixture was stirred at 60 °C overnight under N₂ and then cooled to room temperature, it was passed through a short pad of silica gel to remove insoluble salts or by-products. The filtrate was concentrated under vacuum, and the crude product was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 20:1 to 5:1) to give **10** (0.30 g, 56%). ¹H NMR δ 8.28 (br s, 1H), 7.40 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.30 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.92 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 6.76 (m, 1H), 6.55 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 6.36 (m, 1H), 6.24 (m, 1H), 0.25 (s, 9H); ¹³C NMR δ 137.3, 132.2, 130.5, 125.5, 122.4, 121.2, 119.8, 119.6, 110.1, 109.7, 105.3, 94.8, -0.02. HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₁₇H₂₀NSi (MH⁺), 266.1359; found, 266.1356.

4,4-Difluoro-1,3-dimethyl-5-[(*E*)-(4-ethynylphenyl)ethenyl]-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacene (11)

Compound **9** (42 mg, 0.10 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of CH₂Cl₂ (5 mL) and MeOH (5 mL). After addition of K₂CO₃ (41 mg, 0.30 mmol), the mixture was stirred at room temperature under N₂ until the disappearance of **9** (~ 4 h, monitored by TLC: hexanes/EtOAc, 5:1). The solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was distributed in CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and water (10 mL), and then neutralized with acetic acid. The organic layer was separated, washed with water (3 × 10 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated to give a blue crude product. Compound **11** (22.1 mg, 64%) was obtained by chromatographic purification with gradient elution (hexanes/EtOAc 20:1 to 5:1). ¹H NMR δ 7.63 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 7.54 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.48 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.22 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.94 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 6.85 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1H), 3.17 (s, 1H), 2.61 (s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 160.0, 152.6, 143.2, 137.0, 135.6, 134.9, 134.2, 132.5, 128.1, 127.1, 122.2, 122.1, 120.4, 120.3, 115.3, 83.7, 78.6, 15.1, 11.4; ¹⁹F NMR –143.0 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₂₁H₁₈BF₂N₂ (MH⁺), 347.1526; found, 347.1528.

22-Azido-5β-tetrahydropyranyloxy-23,24-bisnorchol-5-ene (13)

A solution of alcohol **12** (2.2 g, 5.3 mmol) and NEt₃ (5.3 g, 53 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (150 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Methanesulfonyl chloride (3.0 g, 26.4 mmol) was added dropwise. After the addition was complete, the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h and then at room temperature overnight. The solution was washed with water (3 × 100 mL), dried, and concentrated to give a viscous oil, which solidified after storing at low temperature. To the solution of the mesylate in THF (100 mL) was added lithium bromide (0.92 g, 10.6 mmol). The mixture was heated at reflux for one day, and then concentrated to give a white solid, which was distributed in CH₂Cl₂ (100 mL) and water (100 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (2 × 100 mL), dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated to give the corresponding bromide (2.48 g, 98% from **12**). ¹H NMR δ 5.34 (m, 1H), 4.71 (m, 1H), 3.91 (m, 1H), 3.60-3.40 (m, 2H), 3.37-3.32 (m, 2H), 2.44-0.88 (m, 33H), 0.70 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 140.9, 140.7, 121.3, 121.2, 96.8, 96.7,

75.79, 75.77, 62.7, 62.6, 56.2, 53.6, 49.91, 49.88, 43.4, 42.2, 40.1, 39.3, 38.6, 37.6, 37.3, 37.1, 36.61, 36.57, 31.8, 31.7, 31.2, 29.5, 27.8, 27.4, 25.4, 24.1, 20.9, 19.93, 19.88, 19.2, 18.6, 12.1.

The above bromide (0.30 g, 0.63 mmol), sodium azide (0.122 g, 1.88 mmol), and a catalytic amount of lithium iodide (10 mg, 75 µmol) were mixed in dry DMF (10 mL). The mixture was heated at 80 °C for 18 h, and then cooled to room temperature. Water (30 mL) was added, and the precipitate was collected by filtration. The solid was washed with water (4×5 mL), and then dried to give **13** (0.235 g, 85%). ¹H NMR δ 5.34 (m, 1H), 4.72 (m, 1H), 3.92 (m, 1H), 3.57-3.45 (m, 2H), 3.37 (dd, 1H, J = 12.0 Hz, 3.2 Hz), 3.04 (dd, 1H, J = 12.0 Hz, 7.2 Hz), 2.38-0.88 (m, 33H), 0.69 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 141.1, 140.9, 121.4, 97.0, 96.8, 76.0, 62.9, 58.0, 56.5, 53.2, 50.1, 42.5, 39.5, 38.7, 37.4, 37.2, 36.9, 36.8, 31.9, 31.3, 27.9, 25.5, 24.3, 21.0, 20.1, 19.4, 17.8, 11.9. HRMS m/z: calcd for C₂₇H₄₄NO₂ ([M – N₂ + H]⁺), 414.3366; found, 414.3354.

3β-Tetrahydropyranyloxy-22-{4-[4-(4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl}-23,24-bisnorchol-5-ene (14)

A mixture of 5 (16.8 mg, 48 µmol), 13 (21.3 mg, 48 µmol), and CuI (0.9 mg, 4.8 µmol) in DMSO (3 mL) was stirred at 80 °C until the disappearance of alkyne 5 (~ 5 h). Water (10 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with Et₂O (4 × 20 mL). The ether layers were combined, washed with water (2 × 20 mL), and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 10:1 to 2:1) to give **14** (22.4 mg, 59%). ¹H NMR δ 7.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 5.99 (s, 2H), 5.35 (m, 1H), 4.72 (m, 1H), 4.45 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 3.2 Hz), 4.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 9.2 Hz), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.58-3.43 (m, 2H), 2.56 (s, 6H), 2.40-0.82 (m, 39H), 0.76 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.6, 146.8, 143.1, 141.3, 141.1, 141.0, 134.7, 131.5, 131.4, 128.6, 126.3, 121.3, 120.5, 97.0, 96.9, 76.0, 62.9, 56.5, 56.3, 53.7, 50.1, 42.7, 39.6, 38.8, 38.1, 36.78, 36.75, 31.9, 31.3, 29.69, 29.65, 29.4, 28.2, 28.0, 25.5, 24.4, 22.7, 21.0, 20.1, 19.4, 17.2, 14.64, 14.59, 14.1, 12.0; ¹⁹F NMR δ 146.2 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₄₈H₆₃BF₂N₅O₂ (MH⁺), 790.5037; found, 790.5042.

22-{4-[4-(4,4-Difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl]-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl}-23,24-bisnorchol-5-en-3 β -ol (1)

To a solution of 14 (25.0 mg, 31.7 µmol) in a mixture of CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL) and MeOH (6 mL) was added PPTS (2.0 mg, 8.0 µmol). After being stirred at room temperature overnight, the mixture was concentrated and redistributed between CH₂Cl₂ (20 mL) and water (10 mL). The organic layer was washed with water (2 × 10 mL) and dried (Na₂SO₄). The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 4:1 to 2:1) to give **14** (8.8 mg) and **1** (13.2 mg, 91% based on reacted **14**). ¹H NMR δ 7.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.81 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 5.99 (s, 2H), 5.36 (m, 1H), 4.45 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 4.0 Hz), 4.14 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 8.8 Hz), 3.58-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.56 (s, 6H), 2.48-0.82 (m, 33H), 0.76 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.6, 146.8, 143.1, 141.3, 140.8, 134.7, 131.5, 131.4, 128.6, 126.3, 121.5, 121.3, 120.5, 71.7, 56.5, 56.2, 53.7, 50.0, 42.7, 42.2, 39.5, 38.0, 37.2, 36.5, 31.9, 31.8, 31.6, 29.7, 29.6, 29.3, 28.2, 24.4, 22.7, 21.0, 20.3, 19.4, 17.2, 14.62, 14.57, 14.1, 12.0; ¹⁹F NMR δ 146.1 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₄₃H₅₅BF₂N₅O (MH⁺), 706.4462; found, 706.4464.

3β-Tetrahydropyranyloxy-22-{4-[4-((*E*)-(4,4-difluoro-1,3-dimethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-sindacen-5-yl)ethenyl)phenyl]-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl}-23,24-bisnorchol-5-ene (15)

Compound **15** (10.2 mg, 54%) was prepared from **11** (8.8 mg, 25.5 μ mol), **13** (10.0 mg, 22.3 μ mol), CuI (1.0 mg, 5.3 μ mol), and DMF (3 mL) by a procedure similar to that used to prepare compound **14**. ¹H NMR δ 7.85 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.4 Hz), 6.13 (s,

1H), 5.36 (t, 1H, J = 6.0 Hz), 4.74-4.70 (m, 1H), 4.43 (dd, 1H, J = 13.6 Hz, 4.0 Hz), 4.12 (dd, 1H, J = 13.6 Hz, 9.6 Hz), 3.95-3.88 (m, 1H), 3.57-3.44 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.39-0.80 (m, 33H), 0.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 159.3, 153.3, 147.1, 142.7, 140.9, 136.2, 135.3, 135.1, 134.9, 131.0, 128.2, 127.9, 125.9, 122.0, 121.4, 120.3, 120.2, 119.2, 115.3, 97.0, 96.9, 75.9, 62.9, 56.4, 56.2, 53.7, 50.0, 42.7, 40.2, 39.5, 38.7, 38.0, 37.4, 36.75, 36.71, 31.8, 31.3, 29.68, 29.64, 28.2, 25.5, 24.4, 22.7, 21.0, 20.1, 20.0, 19.4, 17.1, 15.0, 14.1, 11.9, 11.4, 11.3; ¹⁹F NMR δ -143.1 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₄₈H₆₁BF₂N₅O₂ (MH⁺), 788.4881; found, 788.4888.

22-{4-[4-((*E*)-(4,4-Difluoro-1,3-dimethyl-4-bora-3a,4a-diaza-*s*-indacen-5-yl)ethenyl)phenyl]-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl}-23,24-bisnorchol-5-en-3β-ol (2)

Compound 2 was synthesized in 97% yield by using the procedure to prepare 1. ¹H NMR δ 7.85 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.68 (s, 1H), 7.65 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.06 (s, 1H), 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 6.88 (d, 1H, *J* = 4.0 Hz), 6.13 (s, 1H), 5.38-5.33 (m, 1H), 4.43 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 3.6 Hz), 4.12 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.6 Hz, 8.8 Hz), 3.58-3.48 (m, 1H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 2.27 (s, 3H), 2.37-0.81 (m, 27H), 0.76 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 159.3, 153.3, 147.1, 142.8, 140.7, 136.2, 135.3, 135.1, 134.9, 131.0, 128.3, 127.9, 125.9, 122.0, 121.5, 120.3, 120.2, 119.2, 115.3, 71.7, 56.4, 56.2, 53.7, 49.9, 42.7, 39.5, 38.0, 37.2, 36.4, 31.9, 31.6, 29.7, 24.4, 22.7, 21.0, 19.4, 17.1, 15.0, 14.1, 11.9, 11.3; ¹⁹F NMR δ -143.1 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₄₃H₅₃BF₂N₅O (MH⁺), 704.4306; found, 704.4289.

5-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-5-[(E)-(4-bromophenyl)ethenyl]-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane (17)

To a solution of aldehyde **16** (0.82 g, 3.14 mmol) and phosphonate **6** (1.45 g, 4.7 mmol) in dry THF (10 mL) was added potassium *tert*-butoxide (1.58 g, 14.1 mmol) slowly at 0 °C. After the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h and at room temperature overnight, ice-water (20 mL) was added and the suspension was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with water (2 × 20 mL) and brine (2 × 20 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by chromatography with gradient elution (hexanes/EtOAc 20:1 to 8:1) to give **17** (0.80 g, 62%). ¹H NMR δ 7.37 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 6.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 6.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 5.42 (s, 1H), 3.97 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 3.88 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 1.50-1.39 (m, 15H); ¹³C NMR δ 154.5, 135.3, 131.2, 129.0, 128.7, 127.6, 121.1, 97.9, 79.1, 65.6, 52.7, 28.1, 27.0, 19.5. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₁₉H₂₇BrNO₄ (MH⁺), 412.1118; found, 412.1120.

5-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylamino-5-{(*E*)-[4-(5-benzyloxy-pent-1-ynyl)phenyl]ethenyl}-2,2dimethyl-1,3-dioxane (18)

To a solution of **17** (0.21 g, 0.51 mmol) and 5-benzyloxy-1-pentyne (133 mg, 0.77 mmol) in *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (1 mL, 5.7 mmol) and dry THF (5 mL) were added CuI (9.7 mg, 51 µmol) and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (29.5 mg, 25.5 µmol) under nitrogen. The mixture was heated at reflux under nitrogen for one day, and then was cooled to room temperature and filtered through a short pad of silica gel to remove insoluble and very polar components in the mixture. The filtrate was concentrated and dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL). The solution was washed with water (2 × 20 mL) and brine (2 × 20 mL), and dried over Na₂SO₄. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue was purified by column chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 20:1 to 6:1) to give **18** (0.14 g, 53%). ¹H NMR δ 7.43-7.19 (m, 4H), 6.49 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 6.21 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz), 5.43 (s, 1H), 4.50 (s, 2H), 3.98 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 3.87 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.2 Hz), 3.59 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.0 Hz), 2.53 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 1.89 (m, 2H), 1.45 (s, 15H); ¹³C NMR δ 154.4, 138.1, 135.5, 131.3, 129.3, 127.9, 127.2, 127.1, 125.9, 122.8, 97.8, 90.1, 80.6, 79.0, 72.5, 68.3, 65.6, 52.7, 28.5, 28.0, 27.1, 19.3, 15.9. HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₃₁H₃₉NNaO₅ (MNa⁺), 528.2720; found, 528.2727.

5-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylamino-5-{2-[4-(5-hydroxyl-1-pentyl)phenyl]ethyl}-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane (19)

Palladium hydroxide on carbon (20%) (36 mg, 0.05 mmol) was added to a solution of 18 (0.361 g, 0.71 mmol) in MeOH (8 mL). Hydrogen was bubbled through the suspension with stirring until 18 was completely consumed and converted to a polar substance (monitored by TLC: hexanes/EtOAc 2:1). The mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica gel and concentrated under vacuum. To a solution of the resulting yellow oil in dry DMF (5 mL) were added 2,2dimethoxypropane (90.5 mg, 0.84 mmol) and camphorsulfonic acid (10 mg, 0.043 mmol). After the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 day, it was diluted with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (15 mL) and extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed sequentially with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2×20 mL), water $(2 \times 20 \text{ mL})$, and brine (20 mL), and was then dried (Na_2SO_4) . The solvent was removed under vacuum, and the residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 8:1 to 2:1) to give **19** (217 mg, 72%). ¹H NMR δ 7.15-7.05 (m, 4H), 5.09 (s, 1H), 3.89 (d, 2H, J = 11.6Hz), 3.67 (d, 2H, J = 11.6 Hz), 3.60 (t, 2H, J = 6.8 Hz), 2.60-2.50 (m, 4H), 2.40 (br s, 1H), 1.96 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.65-1.36 (m, 21H); ¹³C NMR δ 154.7, 139.9, 139.0, 128.2, 128.0, 98.2, 79.1, 66.1, 62.4, 51.5, 35.5, 33.5, 32.4, 31.2, 28.4, 28.2, 27.2, 25.3, 19.7. HRMS m/z: calcd for $C_{24}H_{40}NO_5$ (MH⁺), 422.2901; found, 422.2904.

5-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylamino-5-{2-[4-(5-azido-1-pentyl)phenyl]ethyl}-2,2-dimethyl-1,3dioxane (20)

A solution of **19** (168 mg, 0.40 mmol) and N,N-diisopropylethylamine (155 mg, 1.2 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) was cooled to 0 °C. Methanesulfonyl chloride (66 mg, 0.60 mmol) was added, and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 2 h and then at room temperature overnight. The mixture was washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (2×10 mL), water (2×10 mL), and brine $(2 \times 10 \text{ mL})$, and then dried (Na_2SO_4) . After the solvent was removed, the residue was dissolved in dry DMF (5 mL) and lithium iodide (7 mg, 48 µmol) and sodium azide (78 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 80 °C for 18 h and then was cooled to room temperature. Water (15 mL) was added, and the suspension was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (3×20 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with water (3×30 mL) and brine $(2 \times 20 \text{ mL})$, dried (Na₂SO₄), and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 4:1) to give **20** (119 mg, 67%). ¹H NMR δ 7.14-7.04 (m, 4H), 5.02 (s, 1H), 3.89 (d, 2H, J = 11.6 Hz), 3.67 (d, 2H, J = 11.6 Hz), 3.24 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.60-2.50 (m, 4H), 1.97 (t, 2H, J = 8.0 Hz), 1.66-1.56 (m, 4H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.41 (s, 3H), 1.40-1.36 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR δ 154.7, 139.7, 139.2, 128.3, 128.2, 98.2, 79.1, 66.2, 51.6, 51.2, 35.2, 33.5, 30.9, 28.6, 28.5, 28.3, 27.3, 26.2, 19.6. HRMS *m/z*: calcd for C₂₄H₃₈N₄NaO₄ (MNa⁺), 469.2785; found, 469.2786.

5-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylamino-5-{2-[4-(5-(4-(4-(4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl)phenyl)-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)pentyl)phenyl]ethyl}-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxane (21)

To a solution of 20 (22.3 mg, 50 µmol) and 5 (17.4 mg, 50 µmol) in dry DMF (1 mL) was added CuI (1 mg, 5 µmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the starting materials are completely consumed (monitored by TLC: hexanes/EtOAc 2:1). Water (5 mL) was added, and the mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ (3 × 10 mL). The combined organic layer was washed with water (2 × 20 mL) and brine (2 × 20 mL), and dried over Na₂SO₄. After the solvent was removed under vacuum, the residue was purified by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc 4:1 to 2:1) to afford **21** (29.8 mg, 75%). ¹H NMR δ 7.99 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.35 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.0 Hz), 7.13-7.04 (m, 4H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 5.00 (br s, 1H), 4.42 (t, 2H, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 3.90 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 3.68 (d, 2H, *J* = 11.6 Hz), 2.56 (s, 6H), 2.63-2.49 (m, 4H), 2.03-1.93 (m, 4H), 1.71-1.63 (m, 2H), 1.47 (s, 9H), 1.44 (s, 6H), 1.43 (s, 3H), 1.42 (s, 3H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.5, 154.8, 146.9, 143.0, 141.2, 139.5, 139.4, 134.6, 131.4, 131.3, 128.5,

128.4, 128.3, 126.2, 121.2, 119.8, 98.3, 66.3, 51.6, 50.4, 35.1, 33.6, 30.8, 30.3, 28.6, 28.4, 27.4, 26.1, 19.6, 14.6; $^{19}{\rm F}$ NMR δ -146.1 (m). HRMS m/z: calcd for $\rm C_{45}H_{57}BF_2N_6NaO_4$ (MNa^+), 817.4395; found, 817.4401.

2-Amino-2-{2-[4-(5-(4-(4-(4,4-difluoro-1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-3a,4a-diaza-s-indacen-8-yl) phenyl)-1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)pentyl)phenyl]ethyl}propane-1,3-diol (3)

To a cold solution (0 °C) of **21** (40 mg, 50.3 µmol) in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL) were added 4 Å molecular sieves (0.40 g) and BF₃·OEt₂ (0.18 g, 1.27 mmol) with vigorous stirring. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C, and the reaction was monitored by TLC (hexanes/EtOAc 2:1). On the disappearance of **21** (~ 5 h), the reaction was quenched by adding saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (10 mL). After the mixture was stirred for 30 min, CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) was added. The organic layer was separated and washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (20 mL), water (2 × 20 mL), and brine (2 × 20 mL). The solution was dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH 9:1) to give **3** (20.1 mg, 61%). ¹H NMR δ 7.96 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.34 (d, 2H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.11-7.01 (m, 4H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 4.39 (t, 2H, *J* = 7.2 Hz), 3.85-3.57 (m, 4H), 3.56-3.01 (br s, 4H), 2.61-2.51 (m, 4H), 2.55 (s, 6H), 2.00-1.92 (m, 2H), 1.70-1.56 (m, 2H), 1.43 (s, 6H), 1.46-1.05 (m, 4H); ¹³C NMR δ 155.6, 147.0, 143.0, 141.2, 139.8, 138.6, 134.7, 131.4, 128.6, 128.5, 128.3, 126.3, 122.5, 121.3, 119.9, 50.4, 35.1, 30.8, 30.3, 29.7, 29.4, 26.0, 14.6, 14.1; ¹⁹F NMR δ -146.1 (m). HRMS *m*/*z*: calcd for C₃₇H₄₆BF₂N₆O₂ (MH⁺), 655.3737; found, 655.3746.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgements

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Figure 1. Compounds 1 and 2



Figure 2. FTY720 and Compound 3



Figure 3. Emission Spectra of Compounds 1–3, 8, 9, 11, 15, and 21 in EtOH^{*a*} ^{*a*}The spectra were recorded at 1.0×10^{-7} M at 25 °C; an excitation wavelength of 365 nm was used.



Scheme 1. Synthesis of BODIPY-Acetylene Derivative 5^a ^aReagents and conditions: (a) (i) TFA, CH₂Cl₂, rt, overnight; (ii) *p*-chloranil, rt, 30 min; (c) BF₃·OEt₂, NEt₃, rt, 6 h.



Scheme 2. de novo Synthesis of BODIPY with Extended Conjugation



Scheme 3. Synthesis of BODIPY Acetylene with Extended Conjugation



Scheme 4. Synthesis of BODIPY-Cholesterol Conjugate 1



Scheme 5. Synthesis of BODIPY-cholesterol Conjugate 2



Scheme 6. Synthesis of BODIPY-FTY720 Conjugate 3

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Spectroscopic Data in Ethanol and Chloroform^a

F			
Compd.	λ _{max} (abs) (nm)	$(M^{-1}cm^{-1})$	λ _{em} (nm)
1	499	110,000	508
2	569	80,000	583
	(578)	(89,000)	(591)
3	500	72,000	508
	(502)	(85,000)	(512)
8	562	118,000	572
9	568	104,000	579
	(577)	(117,000)	(585)
11	567	114,000	574
	(572)	(119,000)	(580)
15	568	76,000	577
21	495	75,000	500
	(502)	(85,000)	(515)

^{*a*} The parentheses indicate the data obtained with compounds dissolved in chloroform. The absorption spectra were recorded at 6.25×10^{-6} M at 25 °C. The emission spectra were recorded at 1.0×10^{-7} M.