## **Supplementary information**

# Cationic porphycenes as potential photosensitizers for antimicrobial photodynamic therapy

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Fig. S1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of Br<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S2.**<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of Br<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.



**Fig. S3.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO.



**Fig. S4.** <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum of Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO. <u>Inset:</u> Zoom from 110 to 150 ppm.

#### Part II. HPLC analysis of Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo

Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) was performed with an Agilent 1200 series liquid chromatograph equipped with a diode array detector.  $Py_3MeO$ -TBPo was analyzed on a 30 mm x 4 mm, 3 µm particle, Lichrocart Purospher STAR RP-18E column. Detection was achieved at three wavelengths, 244, 380 and 650 nm. All chromatography runs were performed at 50 °C with a mobile phase flow rate of 2.0 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Isocratic elution was performed with 50:50 ACN/aqueous solution, which contained 25 mM sodium dodecyl sulfate and KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 0.01M, adjusted to pH = 4.

As shown in Figure S5, a single peak can be observed at 8.6 min, irrespective of the detection wavelength.



Figure S5. Liquid chromatography of Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo detected at (A) 244 nm, (B) 380 nm and (C) 650 nm.

UV-Vis spectra were recorded every 1 s and found to be identical throughout the peak (Figure S6).



**Figure S6.** Absorption spectrum of the Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo peak at 8.6 min obtained by liquid chromatography and diode array detection.

#### Part III. Fluorescence quantum yields

The fluorescence quantum yield,  $\Phi_{\rm F}$ , was determined by means of equation 1:

$$\Phi_{F}(sample) = \frac{\overline{F_{sample}} \cdot n_{sample}^{2}}{\overline{F_{ref}} \cdot n_{ref}^{2}} \cdot \Phi_{F}(ref)$$
Equation 1

where  $F_i$  is the fluorescence intensity integrated over the entire emission spectrum corrected by the absorption factor (1-10<sup>-A</sup>) and  $n_i$  is the refractive index of the solvent used in each case.



**Fig. S7.** (A) Absorption and (B) fluorescence spectra of cresyl violet in MeOH (violet), and Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo in water (blue) and in MeOH (red).

The absorption and emission spectra of optically-matched solutions at 532 nm of cresyl violet in MeOH as reference, and porphycene solutions in MeOH and aqueous media is shown in Figure S1.

#### Part IV. Singlet oxygen quantum yields

The quantum yield of singlet oxygen photosensitisation is defined as the number of photosensitized  ${}^{1}O_{2}$  molecules per absorbed photon. The pre-exponential factor *S*(*0*), which is proportional to  $\Phi_{\Delta}$ , was determined by fitting equation 2 to the time-resolved phosphorescence intensity at 1270 nm.

$$S(t) = S(0) \cdot \frac{\tau_{\Delta}}{\tau_{T} - \tau_{\Delta}} \cdot \left( e^{-t/\tau_{T}} - e^{-t/\tau_{\Delta}} \right)$$
 Equation 2

The quantum yields of  ${}^{1}O_{2}$  production were determined by comparison of *S*(*0*) to that produced by an optically matched reference in the same solvent and at the same excitation wavelength and intensity (Equation 3).

$$\Phi_{\Delta} \text{ (sample)} = \frac{S(0)_{\text{sample}}}{S(0)_{\text{ref}}} \cdot \Phi_{\Delta}(\text{ref})$$
Equation 3

Part V. In vitro photodynamic inactivation of bacteria



**Figure S8.** Light-dose response inactivation curves of bacteria upon irradiation with light of 652-nm at 125 mW·cm<sup>-2</sup>. (A, C) Survival curves of MRSA (triangles), *S. aureus* (circles), *E. faecalis* (squares) with (dashed line) and without (solid line) removing the excess of PS from the solution with a bulk concentration of Py<sub>3</sub>MeO-TBPo of 0.5  $\mu$ M (*E. faecalis*) and 1  $\mu$ M (MRSA and *S. aureus*). (B, D) Survival curves of *A. baumanii* (squares), *E. coli* (circles), *P. mirabilis* (triangles) with (dashed line) and without (solid line) removing the excess of PS from the solution with a bulk concentration of 5  $\mu$ M (*A. baumanii* and *E. coli*) and 20  $\mu$ M (*P. mirabilis*). Error bars show the standard error of the mean of 3 different experiments.

### Part VI. In vitro photodynamic inactivation of fungi



**Figure S9.** Light-dose response inactivation curves of *C. albicans* (circles) with light of 652-nm and *C. krusei* (triangles) with light of 635-nm. Survival curves with (dashed line) and without (solid line) removing the excess of PS from the solution with a bulk concentration of  $Py_3MeO$ -TBPo of 20  $\mu$ M for *C. albicans* and 10  $\mu$ M for *C. krusei*. Error bars show the standard error of the mean of 3 different experiments.