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Research paper

Neutral interlocked assemblies from anionic pseudorotaxanes coordinated to Sn(IV) and Cu(I) metallic centers

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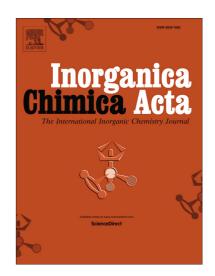
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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

# Neutral interlocked assemblies from anionic pseudorotaxanes coordinated to Sn(IV) and Cu(I) metallic centers

Robert R. Baum,<sup>a</sup> Jedidiah J. Veach,<sup>a</sup> Radu F. Semeniuc,\*<sup>a</sup> Kraig A. Wheeler,<sup>a</sup> and Perry J. Pellechia<sup>b</sup>

#### **Corresponding author:**

Radu F. Semeniuc
Department of Chemistry
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920, USA.

Tel: +1 217 581 5422; E-mail: rsemeniuc@eiu.edu

#### Abstract

Anionic [2]pseudorotaxanes have been prepared by threading an axle consisting of two dithiophosphonate donor groups attached to a 1,4,5,8-naphthalenediimide (NDI) core through the cavity of the bis-1,5-(dinaphtho)-38-crown-10 ether (15DN38C10). The subsequent coordination of these interlocked, negatively charged species to  $R_3SnCl$  (R = Me, Ph) and ( $Ph_3P_2CuNO_3$  yields neutral (pseudo)rotaxanes of the general formula  $NDI[(CH_2CH_2O)_n(An)PS_2"M"]_2 \subset 15DN38C10$  (n = 1, 2; An = anisole; " $M" = R_3Sn$  or ( $Ph_3P_2Cu$ ). Solution and solid state studies of the rotaxanation process show that there are two factors influencing the interaction between the axles and the wheel: the *size* of the stopper and the *length* of the side-arms of the axles. When the axle termini are bulky enough to prevent threading, the length of the side-arms has little influence over the self-assembly process. In contrast, when the size of the stopper does not preclude the threading of the axle through the cavity of the crown, the length of the side-arms is the determining factor in the rotaxanation process. These results presented here provide an alternative method for the synthesis of counter-ion free interlocked species, based on *anionic axles* with donor capabilities that would produce a neutral interlocked architecture upon threading and coordination to *cationic metal-containing centers*.

#### **Keywords:**

Pseudorotaxanes; Supramolecular chemistry; X-ray crystal structures; Phosphor-1,1-dithiolates; Metal complexes.

#### **Highlights:**

- Anionic pseudorotaxanes have been prepared.
- Their propensity to coordinate to Sn(IV) and Cu(I) centers has been explored.
- Neutral bimetallic interlocked architectures have been obtained.
- Solution and solid state (X-Ray diffraction) studies were performed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Department of Chemistry, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920, USA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA

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