

## Total Syntheses Supramolecular Style: Solid-State Construction of [2.2]Cyclophanes with Modular Control of Stereochemistry

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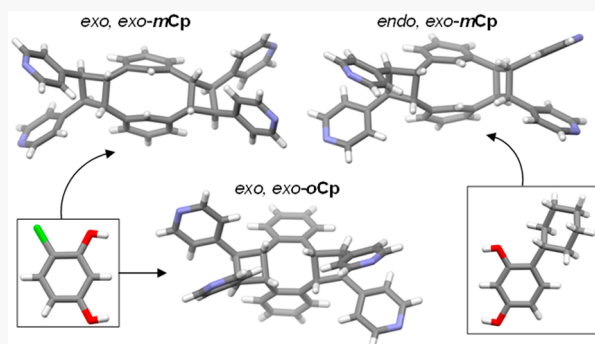


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**ABSTRACT:** A series of templated solid-state reactions are used to construct the 'bent' isomer of the [2.2]cyclophane family of molecules. Small-molecule hydrogen-bond-donor templates based on resorcinol complete the supramolecular construction of ortho-, meta-, and para-[2.2]cyclophanes in the solid state. The family of *exo,exo*-dicyclobutyl-[2.2]cyclophanes forms regiospecifically in up to quantitative yields. The confines of the organic solid state and the modular nature of the template approach allow for the generation of a less stable *exo,endo*-[2.2]metacyclophane by simply changing the template to enforce a concomitant change in self-assembly. Our results demonstrate the first completed solid-state construction of each member of the family of [2.2]cyclophanes.



## ■ INTRODUCTION

The ability to form covalent bonds in the crystalline state has received widespread attention with implications in organic synthesis, green chemistry, optics, nanotechnology, and catalysis.<sup>1–13</sup> In this context, efforts to exploit principles of supramolecular chemistry to confront frustrating effects of crystal packing have been highly promising as a means to reliably direct the formation of covalent bonds in solids. Specifically, small-molecule hydrogen-bond-donor templates based on resorcinol (**res**) have provided stereocontrolled and high-yielding access to architecturally rich molecules such as [*n*]ladderanes<sup>14</sup> and [2.2]paracyclophanes (**pCp**).<sup>15–19</sup> Nevertheless, difficulties to exert control over the assembly and organization of molecules in solids continue to severely limit the scope of organic molecules that have been constructed in solids.

[2.2]Cyclophanes are tractable target molecules of [2+2] photodimerizations performed in solids.<sup>20–23</sup> Whereas [2.2]cyclophanes were originally introduced over 50 years ago, the three fundamental isomers (i.e., linear **pCp** and bent meta (**mCp**)- and ortho-[2.2]cyclophane (**oCp**)) continue to garner attention in synthetic chemistry and materials science.<sup>24–32</sup> Moreover, while the face-to-face  $\pi$ -stacked geometry inherent to a [2.2]cyclophane core is accessible through double photocycloadditions, there have been very limited reports on the syntheses of **pCps**<sup>16,25,33,34</sup> and **mCps** in organic solids,<sup>24,35–37</sup> with no reports of the **oCp** isomer. All examples to date also lack a systematic synthetic approach, which is a hallmark of solution-phase organic synthesis. The syntheses of [2.2]cyclophanes in the organic solid state have thus lagged considerably in comparison to the liquid phase. Double photocycloadditions of dienes to form [2.2]cyclophanes in

solution have been reported in classic work by Nishimura yet typically occur in exceptionally low yields (0.5–40%).<sup>15,38</sup>

Herein, we report the first completed, systematic total syntheses of [2.2]cyclophanes in the organic solid state. We utilize principles of supramolecular chemistry to show how a series of templated solid-state syntheses, or covalent captures,<sup>39</sup> provide stereocontrolled and quantitative access to bent isomers of the [2.2]cyclophane family of molecules (Scheme 1). Specifically, we report the solid-state construction of the ortho cyclophane **oCp** and the two meta cyclophanes **mCp-1** and **mCp-2**. Both **mCp-1** and **oCp** have been constructed using 4-chloro-**res** (**4-Cl-res**) from the photoactive binary cocrystals 2(**4-Cl-res**)·2(**o-bpeb**) and 2(**4-Cl-res**)·2(**m-bpeb**), respectively (Scheme 2). The less sterically favored **mCp-2** has been constructed using 4-cyclohexyl-**res** (**4-Cy-res**) from the cocrystal 2(**4-Cy-res**)·2(**m-bpeb**). In constructing **mCp-2**, we show how the stereochemical outcome of a [2.2]cyclophane synthesis can be advantageously manipulated<sup>16</sup> by modifying the pendant R group.

## ■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first [2.2]cyclophane formed in the solid state was a **pCp** in pioneering work of Hasegawa.<sup>18,40</sup> Since the original report, there have been very limited examples of [2.2]cyclophanes forming in solids. A major obstacle to generate a [2.2]-

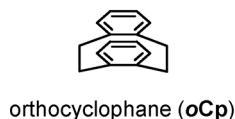
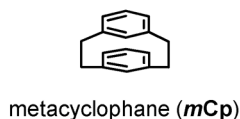
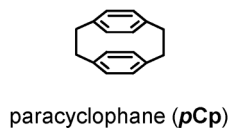
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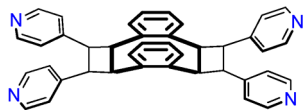
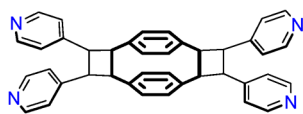
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### Scheme 1. Para-, Meta-, and Orthocyclophanes Generated in Solution and in the Solid State

#### solution-phase synthesis



#### solid-state synthesis



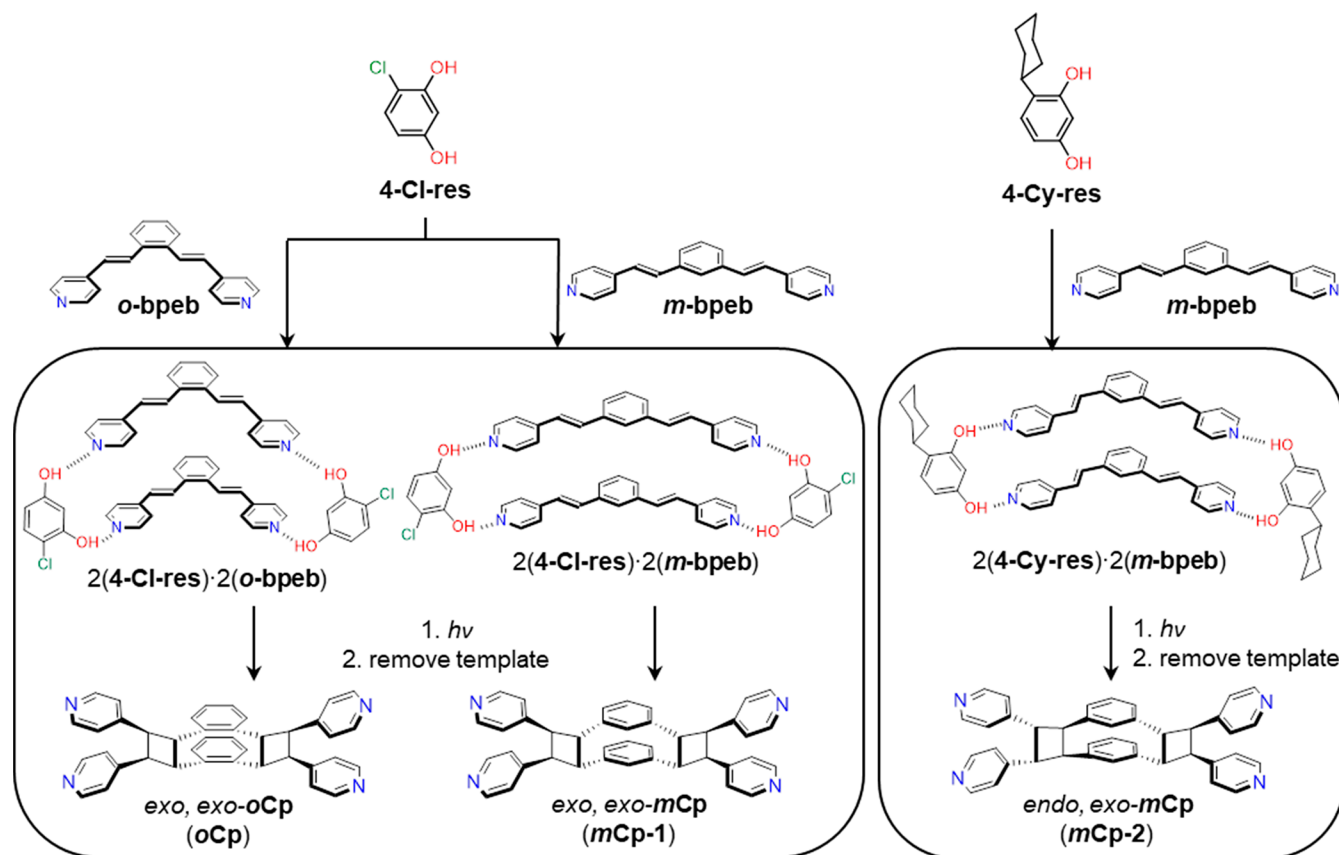
cyclophane in a solid relates to both achieving and maintaining the stacked geometry during cyclobutane generation. The problem of cyclobutane ring formation can be confronted using small-molecule templates to direct the reactivity in binary cocrystals. Our first demonstration was the directed synthesis of a **pCp** (Scheme 1). To date, however, there still remains no report of a solid-state synthesis of an **oCp**. We expected that cocrystallization of **res** with **o-bpeb** would allow us to generate a binary cocrystal wherein the dienes are preorganized by O–H···N hydrogen bonds for a double photocycloaddition to give

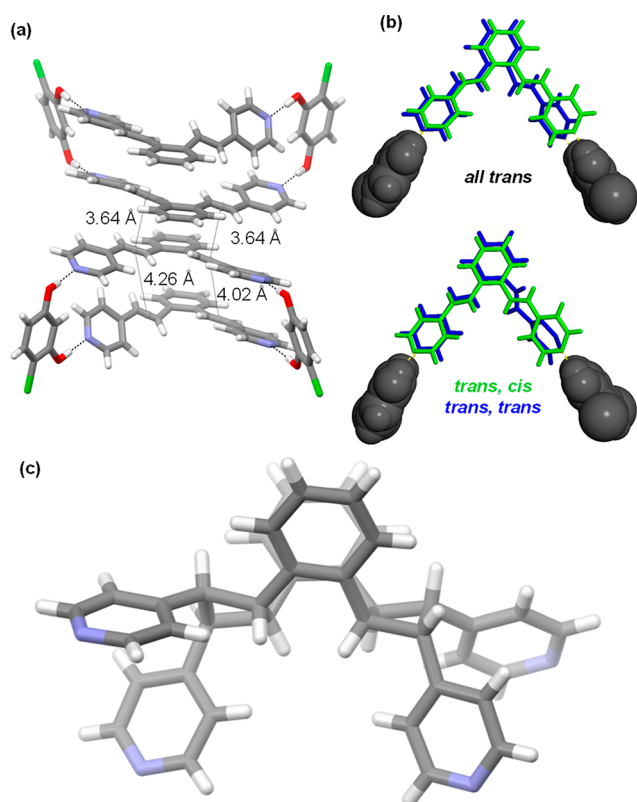
the *exo,exo*-orthocyclophane **oCp** (Scheme 2, left). The related *exo,exo*-metacyclophane **mCp-1** has been very recently reported to form in a coordination network that exhibits fluorescence switching (Scheme 1, center). A synthesis of the *endo,exo* isomer **mCp-2**, however, has not been reported (Scheme 2, right). We describe the solid-state construction of **mCp-2** here by identifying a template that influences the solid-state packing and resulting stereochemical outcome of the conformation of **m-bpeb**. Collectively, our work provides the first completed and systematic total syntheses—akin to total syntheses practiced in solution—of [2.2]cyclophanes in solids. Our efforts to achieve the total syntheses are made possible by principles of supramolecular chemistry.

**Reactive 2:2 Cocrystal To Form oCp.** Single crystals of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(**o-bpeb**) were formed by combining warm solutions of **o-bpeb** (200 mg, 0.77 mmol) with equimolar 4-Cl-res (112 mg, 0.77 mmol) dissolved in nitromethane (15 mL). Cooling to ambient temperature generated colorless platelike crystals suitable for single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

The components of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(**o-bpeb**) crystallize in the triclinic space group  $P\bar{1}$  (Figure 1) as discrete four-component hydrogen-bonded assemblies of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(**o-bpeb**) sustained by four O–H···N hydrogen bonds (distances (Å): O51···N1a 2.61(1)/O51···N1b 2.79(1), O52···N20 2.71(1), O59···N52 2.74(1), O45···N23 2.73(1)) (Figure 1a). The diolefins stack in a face-to-face geometry, with one C=C bond disordered over two sites (occupancies: 0.56:0.44) (Figure 1b). Nearly half of the assemblies contain a pair of C=C bonds that lie criss-crossed (centroid separations: 4.32 Å), while the remaining half contains pairs of C=C bonds at the

### Scheme 2. Generation of Ortho- and Meta-[2.2]cyclophanes Using Cocrystals Based on res Templates





**Figure 1.** X-ray structures: 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*o*-bpeb) showing (a) C=C distances and (b) C=C disorder of all trans (top) and trans,cis (green) with trans,trans (blue, bottom) conformations and *o*Cp·2H<sub>2</sub>O showing (c) isolated orthocyclophane.

upper limit for a [2+2] photodimerization (centroid separations: 4.26 and 4.02 Å).<sup>41</sup> The assemblies stack in columns perpendicular to the *a* axis in a head-to-tail fashion with nearest-neighbor C=C bonds separated by 3.64 Å. The latter C=C bonds are significantly displaced (28.1/26.1°), which contrasts with the stacked C=C bonds within the hydrogen-bonded assemblies (8.4/19.9°).<sup>42,43</sup>

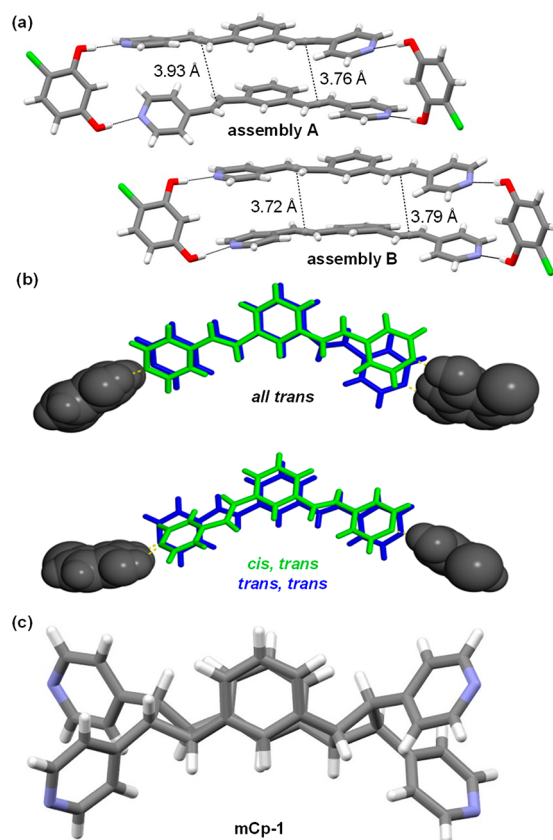
When a finely ground crystalline sample of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*o*-bpeb) was exposed to UV light for 75 h, <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy revealed *o*Cp to form stereospecifically in quantitative yield. The generation of *o*Cp was evidenced by the disappearance of olefinic signals (7.97 and 7.13 ppm) and the appearance of cyclobutane protons (4.87 and 4.62 ppm). We attribute the quantitative formation of *o*Cp<sup>41</sup> to the C=C bonds undergoing a pedal-like motion.<sup>44,45</sup>

To confirm the stereochemistry of *o*Cp, single crystals in the form of colorless plates following basic extraction from 4-Cl-res were obtained by recrystallization from nitromethane. The orthocyclophane crystallizes as the dihydrate *o*Cp·2H<sub>2</sub>O in the triclinic space group *P*1̄ (Figure 1c). *o*Cp and the water molecules assemble by O–H⋯N hydrogen bonds to form discrete assemblies (see the Supporting Information). The stereocontrolled and quantitative generation of *o*Cp from 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*o*-bpeb) is the first example of an ortho[2.2]-cyclophane generated in a solid.

**Reactive 2:2 Cocrystals To Form mCp Stereoisomers.** The stereoisomers *m*Cp-1 and *m*Cp-2 were generated using 4-Cl-res and 4-Cy-res, respectively. Single crystals of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) and 2(4-Cy-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) were obtained by combining warm solutions of *m*-bpeb (200 mg, 0.70 mmol)

with equimolar 4-Cl-res (112 mg, 0.77 mmol) and 4-Cy-res (148 mg, 0.77 mmol) in nitromethane (15 mL). Cooling to ambient temperature generated colorless rods and prisms of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) and 2(4-Cy-res)·2(*m*-bpeb), respectively, for single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

**Generation of *m*Cp-1.** The components of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) crystallize in the triclinic space group *P*1̄ (Figure 2)

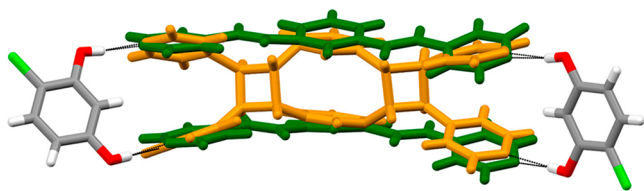


**Figure 2.** X-ray structures: for 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) (a) distances separating reactive olefinic sites and (b) olefin disorder demonstrating all trans (top) and trans,cis (green) with trans,trans (blue, bottom) conformations and for (*m*Cp-1)·4(benzene)·H<sub>2</sub>O showing (c) *exo,exo*-*m*Cp-1.

as two crystallographically unique four-component hydrogen-bonded assemblies sustained by four O–H⋯N hydrogen bonds (distances (Å): assembly A, O9A⋯N10A 2.8565(3), O32A⋯N29A 2.7026(3), O33A⋯N41A 2.8961(3), O8A⋯N60A 2.7031(3); assembly B, O9B⋯N10B 2.7225(3), O32B⋯N29B 2.7376(3), O33B⋯N41B 2.7232(3), O8B⋯N60B 2.5435(3)) (Figure 2a). The diolefins adopt *trans,trans*<sup>46</sup> conformations and stack in nearly eclipsed geometries (Figure 2b). One C=C bond lies disordered in two positions (occupancies: 0.60/0.40). As a consequence of the assembly process, the diolefins stack with the C=C bonds in positions for [2+2] photodimerizations (centroid separations: 4.26 and 4.02 Å).<sup>41</sup> The assemblies stack in columns perpendicular to the *a* axis with nearest-neighbor C=C bonds separated by 3.64 Å.

**Single-Crystal Reactivity.** The cocrystal 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) is highly photoreactive. The difference Fourier map from the X-ray data prior to exposing the solid to UV radiation shows diolefins of one assembly to partially react under ambient light in a single-crystal to single-crystal (SCSC)

transformation to form *mCp-1* (occupancy reacted/unreacted: 0.40:0.60) (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** X-ray structure showing the partial SCSC reaction of 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) to form *mCp-1*.

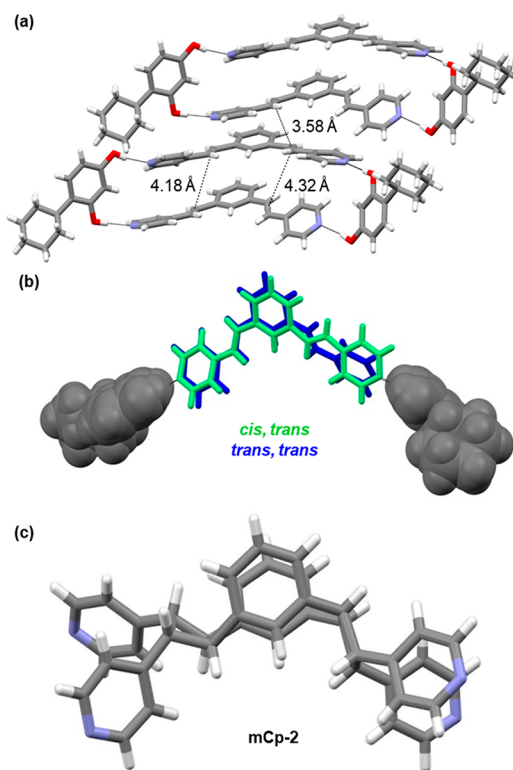
When a finely ground sample of crystalline 2(4-Cl-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) was exposed to UV irradiation for 75 h,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy revealed the complete disappearance of diolefin resonances (7.38 and 7.57 ppm) and the appearance of three cyclobutane signals (4.78, 4.71, and 4.53 ppm) that correspond to *mCp-1* (yield 78%) and *mCp-2* (yield 22%).<sup>15</sup> The generation of the less symmetrical *mCp-2* can be attributed to pedal-like rotation of C=C bonds.<sup>44,45</sup> The formation of each product is consistent with the photodimerizations occurring within each hydrogen-bonded structure.<sup>16</sup>

To confirm the *exo,exo* stereochemistry, single crystals of *mCp-1* following removal from 4-Cl-res using base were obtained as colorless prisms from benzene.<sup>47</sup> *mCp-1* crystallizes in the monoclinic space group *C2/c* as (*mCp-1*)·4(benzene)·H<sub>2</sub>O (Figure 2c). The metacyclophane and water molecules form 1D hydrogen-bonded chains. The chains propagate along the *a*-axis to generate cavities filled with disordered benzenes (Platon calculated void volume 661 Å<sup>3</sup>). An additional benzene participates in edge to face  $\pi\cdots\pi$  interactions with hydrogen-bonded chains along the *c* axis.

**Generation of *mCp-2*.** The components of 2(4-Cy-res)·2(*m*-bpeb), which react to afford *endo,exo*-*mCp*, crystallize in the triclinic space group *P1* (Figure 4) as a discrete hydrogen-bonded assembly sustained by four O–H $\cdots$ N bonds (distances (Å): O66 $\cdots$ N1 2.77(1), O23 $\cdots$ N20 2.78(1), O30 $\cdots$ N37 2.77(1), O59 $\cdots$ N56 2.78(1)) (Figure 4a). One diolefin adopts two *trans* conformations, while the second diolefin adopts a *cis,trans* conformation with disorder over two closely related positions (*cis/trans* occupancies: 0.16:0.84 and 0.84:0.16) (Figure 4b).<sup>48</sup> Each pair of olefins is aligned for a [2+2] photodimerization (pairs of C $\cdots$ C separations (Å): 4.18 and 4.32). Nearest-neighbor assemblies are stacked with C=C bonds lying crisscrossed and separated by 3.58 Å (Figure 4a).

A crystalline powder of 2(4-Cy-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) was exposed to UV irradiation for 36 h.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy showed the quantitative disappearance of the diolefin (7.49 and 7.38 ppm) and the emergence of cyclobutane signals consistent with the *endo,exo* isomer *mCp-2* (4.78 and 4.51 ppm). That *mCp-2* formed quantitatively can be attributed to pedal-like rotations of the C=C bonds.<sup>44,45</sup> Single crystals of *mCp-2*, following removal from 4-Cy-res using base, were obtained as colorless plates from acetonitrile. *mCp-2* crystallized as (*mCp-2*)·(CH<sub>3</sub>CN)·H<sub>2</sub>O in the monoclinic space group *P2<sub>1</sub>/c*. The structure determination confirmed the *endo,exo* stereochemistry (Figure 4c).

**Exploiting Modularity.** That *res* templates assemble *m*-bpeb to afford two stereoisomers of *mCp* demonstrates the modularity of the template method. In combination with the dynamic nature of C=C units,<sup>49</sup> both high-yielding and stereoselective formations of the isomers were achieved. The



**Figure 4.** X-ray structures of 2(4-Cy-res)·2(*m*-bpeb) with (a) distances separating reactive olefinic sites and (b) olefin disorder demonstrating *trans,cis* (green) with *trans,trans* (blue) conformations and (c) structure of *mCp-2*.

ability to switch the template to afford either the *exo,exo* or less stable *endo,exo* isomer illustrates that the cocrystal method can be utilized to covalently capture<sup>50–53</sup> conformations of reactive molecules to form targeted products.

**Structural and Optical Properties.** *mCp-1*, *mCp-2*, and *oCp* exhibit centroid-to-centroid stacked distances of 3.4 Å (*mCp1* and *mCp-2*) and 4.2 Å (*oCp*) (see the Supporting Information). The corresponding distance for *pCp* is 3.0 Å.<sup>16</sup> The rings of *mCp-1* and *mCp-2* (tilts: 38.4/36.2°) and *oCp* (tilt: 61.5°) stack edge to face. Fluorescence data are in line with the cyclobutyl rings of *mCp-1* and *mCp-2* in comparison to that of *oCp* being efficient through-bond electron donors.<sup>9</sup> *mCp* exhibits a  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  value (412 nm) comparable to that of *pCp* despite greater tilting of the rings. *oCp* displays a markedly broader fluorescence envelope and red-shifted  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  value (456 nm) in the wake of the more tilted geometry.

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have used *res* templates to complete the total syntheses of [2.2]cyclophanes in the solid state. We have exploited the modularity of cocrystals to manipulate the stereochemical course of solid-state photodimerizations to control the generation of supramolecular and molecular isomers. We expect these principles to be used to generate more complex supramolecular assemblies and provide access to new complex targets in solids.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.cgd.9b01712>.

Full experimental details including materials, methods, syntheses, and analyses along with characterization data from 1D spectroscopy and single-crystal X-ray diffraction (PDF)

### Accession Codes

CCDC 1916583–1916588 contain the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge via [www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data\\_request/cif](http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data_request/cif), or by emailing [data\\_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:data_request@ccdc.cam.ac.uk), or by contacting The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: +44 1223 336033.

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#### Author Contributions

<sup>†</sup>E.E. and S.D. contributed equally.

#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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