12 nm Soluble Wheel from c. 1878

Significance: The authors have designed and synthesized a soluble and highly rigid macromolecular wheel of the sum formula \( \text{C}_{1878}\text{H}_{2682} \). The six ‘spokes’ of the hexagonal wheel are assembled, joined to the central hexaphenylbenzene unit, and cyclized via palladium coupling in a convergent and modular fashion.

Comment: The spokes maintain shape-persistence and further solubilize the rigid molecule with numerous dodecyl side chains. The yields in the synthetic sequence vary from modest (49%) to excellent (98%). The isolated product is a yellow fluorescent solid.

SYNFACS Contributors: Timothy M. Swager, Sarah P. Luppino
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