Supplementary Information

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. Synthesis of Boroxines

The *p*-alkoxybromobenzenes **12**, which were obtained by Williamson etherification according to the procedure by An [1–3] were submitted to halogen-lithium exchange with *n*-BuLi, followed by treatment with B(OMe)₃ and subsequent acidic hydrolysis providing the boronic acids **13** together with the arylboroxines **3** as byproducts (Scheme S1). In case of the dodecyloxy-substituted derivative, boronic acid **13a** was isolated in only 11% together with 30% of the boroxine **3g** after column chromatography. For longer alkyl chains ($\mathbf{R} = C_{14}H_{29}-C_{18}H_{37}$) the boroxines **3h**-**j** were only detected in the crude product but could not be isolated, whereas the isolated yields of boronic acids **13b–d** were still quite low (21%–22%).

Several conditions were tried for the condensation (Table S1). Heating of **13c** in toluene in a Dean-Stark trap for 16 h under reflux (method A) or in the presence of 6 mol% of TsOH under Dean-Stark conditions (method B) resulted in a (1:1:1) mixture of boronic acid **13c**, boroxine **3i** and byproduct, which could not be separated by column chromatography. Condensation of the neat compound **13c** under reduced pressure according to the method by Wu [4] (method C). Again varying mixtures of boronic acid **13c**, boroxine **3i** and byproduct were obtained (entries 3–6). The most promising result is shown in entry 5, but the boroxine **3i** again could not be isolated in pure form.

Scheme S1. Synthesis of boroxines 3g-j. Boroxines 3h-i were only detected in the crude product by ¹H-NMR.



Table S1. Condensation of 4-dodecyloxyphenyl boronic acid **13c** to the corresponding boroxine **3i** under various conditions. ^{a,b}

Entry	Method	Temperature [°C]	Pressure [mbar]	Time	Product Ratio		
					3i	13c	Byprod.
(1)	А	115	760	16 h	1	1	1
(2)	В	115	760	24 h	1	1	1
(3)	С	110	600	120 min	0.25	1	1
(4)	С	120	700	90 min	0.5	1	0.5
(5)	С	120	700	40 min	0	1	0.5
(6)	С	120	700	17 min	1	0.25	0

^a Reaction conditions: method A: Dean-Stark trap, toluene, 1.00 mM, 115 °C; method B: 6 mol% TsOH, Dean-Stark trap, toluene, 1.00 mM, 125 °C; method C: neat, heating in a revolver oven. ^b Product ratio was determined by ¹H-NMR of the crude product.

2.2. Identification of Boroxines

It should be noted, that boronic acids 13 and boroxines 3 could be easily distinguished by ¹H NMR, because the aryl C-H signals are downfield shifted for boroxine 3 as compared to boronic acid 13. Furthermore boronic acid 13 shows a B-OH signal at 9.15 ppm in DMSO-d₆. If the spectrum was measured in CDCl₃, the B-OH signal was upfield shifted to 5.51 ppm. Typical spectra are shown in Figure S1 for 12a, 13a, 3g.

Further evidence came from the IR spectra for 13a, 3g (Figure S2). Boronic acid 13a displays the O-H stretching frequency at 3607 cm⁻¹. The same procedure was used to identify boroxines 5 and 11 hence boronic acids 6c and 10d were synthesised, and characteristic IR bands which allow distinguishing between boronic acids and boroxines 3g, 5b-d, and 11a-d are listed in Table S2.

From the compounds listed in Table S2 only the boronic acids **13a**, **6c** and **10d** show the BO-H vibration. The B-O band, which slightly varies from 1320 to 1352 cm⁻¹ and is visible for all compounds, is nearly constant in each series of derivatives with identical substitution pattern. A similar trend was observed for the anhydride band BX [5], which was found only in the case of boroxines. Increasing the number of alkyloxy substituents shifted the BX band to larger wave numbers from 688 to 726 cm⁻¹, whereas the alkyl chain lengths in the same substitution pattern has no (or a minor) effect on the absorption. The presence, or absence, of this absorption band strongly indicates the presence, or absence, of a boroxine. Comparable data can be found in a work from Snyder, Konecky and Lennarz [5].

Figure S1. Comparison of chemical shifts of aryl C-H signals for 12a, 13a and 3g. (Spectra of 12a and 3g in CDCl₃, of 13a in DMSO-d₆).



Table S2. Characteristic IR bands of boronic acids 3g, 6c, 10d and the boroxines.

Compound	BO-H Band/cm⁻¹	B-O Band/cm ⁻¹	BX Band/cm ⁻¹
13a	3607	1320	_
3g	-	1351	688
6c	3453	1334	_
5b	-	1351	710
5c	-	1352	710

Compound	BO-H Band/cm ⁻¹	B-O Band/cm⁻¹	BX Band/cm ⁻¹
5d	_	1352	710
10d	3437	1337	_
11a	-	1333	726
11b	-	1334	725
11c	-	1333	723
11d	-	1336	721
11e	_	1336	720

Table S2. Cont.





3. Experimental Section

3.1. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Alkoxyphenylboronic Acids (13, 6c, 10d) and Boroxine (3g) [6–8]

A solution of the appropriate **12**, **4**, **7** (5.00 mmol) in abs. THF (20 mL) was added dropwise at -78 °C to a solution of *n*-BuLi (3.38 mL, 5.25 mmol, 1.6 M in *n*-hexane, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) and THF (80 mL). After stirring for 30 min, trimethylborate (0.85 mL, 0.78 g, 7.50 mmol, Sigma-Aldrich, Germany) was added, the reaction mixture stirred for a further 30 min at -78 °C and then warmed to room temperature. The solvent was removed under vacuum, the residue taken up in CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) followed by addition of HCl (25 mL, 2 M Lösung,). After stirring for 10 min at room temperature, the layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with H₂O (2 × 30 mL) and brine (30 mL), dried (MgSO₄) and the solvent removed under vacuum. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on SiO₂.

3.2. 4-Dodecyloxyphenylboronic Acid (13a)

Purification by chromatography on SiO₂ with hexanes/EtOAc (20:1), colorless solid (11%, purity > 95%), m.p. 96 °C, $R_f = 0.25$. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 110 °C) $\delta = 0.88$ (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 1.22–1.50 (m, 18H, CH₂), 1.70–1.79 (m, 2H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.04 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, 2H, OCH₂),

6.94 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-3), 7.67 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-2), 9.13 (s, 0.5H, OH) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆, 110 °C) $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.4 (CH₂CH₃), 25.9, 29.00, 29.11, 29.22, 29.31, 29.34, 29.36, 31.7 (CH₂), 68.2 (OCH₂), 114.4 (C-3), 136.8 (C-2), 161.2 (C-4). FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 3607.3$ (w, BO-H), 2957 (w), 2937 (w), 2918 (s), 2874 (w), 2849 (s), 1599 (s), 1563 (w), 1511 (w), 1475 (w), 1462 (w), 1405 (w), 1393 (w), 1320 (s, B-O), 1302 (w), 1281 (s), 1247 (vs), 1178 (s), 1159 (w), 1112 (w), 1052 (s), 1021 (s), 1004 (s), 967 (w), 950 (w), 892 (w), 865 (s), 842 (w), 825 (w), 790 (w), 766 (w), 744 (w), 730 (w), 718 (w), 667 (w), 650 (w), 624 (w), 591 (s) cm⁻¹.

3.3. Tris[4-(dodecyloxy)phenyl]boroxine (3g)

Purification by chromatography on SiO₂ with hexanes/EtOAc (20:1), colorless solid (30%, purity > 95%), m.p. 98 °C, $R_f = 0.25$. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.88$ (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 9H, CH₃), 1.19–1.43 (m, 48H, CH₂), 1.42–1.52 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.76–1.87 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.03 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H, OCH₂), 6.99 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 6H, 3-H), 8.14 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 6H, 2-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.1, 29.30, 29.37, 29.43, 29.60, 29.62, 29.65, 29.68, 31.9 (CH₂), 67.9 (OCH₂), 114.0 (C-3), 137.5 (C-2), 162.8 (C-4) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2918$ (s), 2849 (s), 1601 (s), 1567 (w), 1512 (w), 1472 (w), 1413 (s), 1351 (s, B-O), 1305 (s), 1288 (s), 1270 (w), 1240 (vs), 1174 (s), 1115 (w), 1030 (w), 1005 (w), 999 (w), 973 (w), 916 (w), 891 (w), 834 (w), 819 (w), 747 (s), 720 (w), 688 (s, BX), 631 (w), 576 (s) cm⁻¹. MS (MALDI-TOF): m/z calcd. for [C₅₄H₈₇BO₆–H⁺] 864.67; found 863.57. Elemental analysis calculated for C₅₄H₈₇B₃O₆ (864.71 g·mol⁻¹): C 75.01, H 10.14; found: C 75.11, H 10.08.

3.4. 3,4-Bis(dodecyloxy)phenylboronic Acid (6c)

Purification by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc, 20:1), colorless solid (11%, purity > 95%), m.p. 67 °C, $R_f = 0.3$. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 0.88$ (m_c, 6H, CH₂CH₃), 1.18–1.54 (m, 28H, CH₂), 1.72–1.91 (m, 4H, OCH₂CH₂), 3.99–4.07 (m, 4H, OCH₂CH₂), 5.67 (s, 2H, OH) 6.90–6.96 (m, 1H, 5-H), 7.32–7.39 (m, 2H, 2-H, 6-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.06, 26.09, 29.2, 29.38, 29.41, 29.45, 29.49, 29.61, 29.62, 29.66, 29.67, 31.9 (CH₂), 68.9, 69.3 (OCH₂), 112.8 (C-2), 119.8 (C-5), 128.8 (C-6), 148.4, 151.8 (C-3, C-4) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu} = 3453$ (w, B*O*-*H*), 2955 (w), 2915 (vs), 2849 (s), 1595 (w), 1515 (w), 1468 (s), 1410 (s), 1334 (s, B-O), 1292 (s), 1254 (s), 1203 (s), 1140 (s), 1095 (w), 1072 (w), 1030 (w), 999 (w), 975 (w), 956 (w), 866 (w), 811 (w), 791 (w), 765 (w), 740 (w), 703 (w), 683 (w), 599 (w), 535 (w) cm⁻¹.

3.5. 3,4,5-Tris(undecyloxy)phenylboronic Acid (10d)

Purification by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc, 20:1), colorless solid (11%, purity > 95%), m.p. 53 °C, $R_f = 0.3$. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.84-0.93$ (m, 9H, CH₃), 1.19–1.40 (m, 42H, CH₂), 1.40–1.54 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂CH₂), 1.73–1.85 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂), 3.95–4.06 (m, 6H, OCH₂), 5.69 (s, 1H, BOH), 6.99 (s, 2H, H-2) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.15, 26.17, 29.39, 29.42, 29.47, 29.50, 29.64, 29.68, 29.69, 29.73, 29.76, 29.78, 30.4, 31.9, 32.0 (CH₂), 69.2, 73.5 (OCH₂), 113.00 (C-2), 131.65 (C-1), 141.06 (C-4), 152.90 (C-3) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 3437$ (w), 2956 (w), 2917 (s), 2872 (w), 2849 (s), 1572 (w), 1502 (w), 1467 (w), 1407 (s), 1377 (w), 1337 (s, B-O), 1284 (w), 1240 (w), 1199 (w), 1115 (s), 1067 (w), 1002 (w), 972 (w), 943 (w), 888 (w), 845 (w), 831 (w), 703 (w), 640 (w), 607 (w), 586 (w) cm⁻¹. MS (ESI): m/z = 632 [M–H⁺], 604, 472. HRMS (ESI): m/z calcd. for [C₃₉H₇₃BO₅] 631.55; found 631.5453.

3.6. General Procedure for the Synthesis of Alkoxyphenylboroxines (5) [6–9]

To a solution of the appropriate 4 (2.50 mmol) in abs. THF (50 mL) at -78 °C was added *n*-BuLi (3.13 mL, 5.00 mmol, 1.6 M in n-hexane) and the reaction mixture stirred for 2 h. Then trimethylborate (0.68 mL, 0.63 mg, 6.00 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred for a further 1 h at -78 °C. After warming to room temperature, the reaction was terminated by addition of HCl (25 mL, 2 M Lösung) and stirring for 1 h. The resulting aqueous suspension was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O (2 × 20 mL) and brine (30 mL) and dried (MgSO₄). The solvent was removed under vacuum and the crude product purified by column chromatography on SiO₂ and/or recrystallization.

3.7. Tris[3,4-bis(decyloxy)phenyl]boroxine (5b)

Purification by chromatography (hexanes/EtOAc, 20:1) and recrystallization from hexane at room temperature , colorless solid (31%, purity > 95%), m.p. 118 °C, $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O, 10:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 0.88$ (m_C, 18H, CH₃), 1.19–1.60 (m, 84H, CH₂), 1.77–1.94 (m, 12H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.08 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.13 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 6H, OCH₂CH₂), 6.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H, 5-H), 7.69 (d, J = 1.4 Hz, 3H, 2-H), 7.81 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 3H, 6-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃) $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.05, 26.14, 29.2, 29.37, 29.40, 29.45, 29.5, 29.60, 29.64, 29.70, 31.93, 31.94 (CH₂), 68.8, 69.5 (OCH₂), 112.5 (C-2), 120.5 (C-5), 130.0 (C-6), 148.4, 153.3 (C-3, C-4) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2918$ (s), 2849 (s), 1599 (w), 1520 (w), 1467 (w), 1413 (s), 1377 (s), 1351 (s, B-O), 1324 (s), 1272 (s), 1254 (vs), 1212 (s), 1199 (s), 1138 (s), 1096 (w), 1071 (w), 1020 (w), 986 (w), 935 (w), 874 (w), 814 (w), 791 (w), 741 (w), 710 (s, BX), 672 (w), 594 (w), 546 (w) cm⁻¹. MS (MALDI-TOF): *m/z* calcd. for [C₇₈H₁₃₅B₃O₉–2 H]⁺ 1249.04; found 1247.89. Elemental analysis calculated for C₇₈H₁₃₅B₃O₆ (1249.36 g·mol⁻¹): C 74.99, H 10.89; found: C 75.11, H 10.89.

3.8. Tris[3,4-bis(dodecyloxy)phenyl]boroxine (5c)

Recrystallization from pentane at room temperature and acetone at -28 °C, colorless solid (20%, purity > 95%), m.p. 108 °C, $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O, 10:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.81$ (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 18H, CH₃), 1.10–1.52 (m, 108H, CH₂), 1.70–1.87 (m, 12H, OCH₂CH₂), 3.98–4.10 (m, 12H, OCH₂), 6.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H, 5-H), 7.62 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H, 2-H), 7.74 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 3H, 6-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.1, 26.15, 29.2, 29.39, 29.40, 29.46, 29.5, 29.65, 29.68, 29.71, 29.72, 29.76, 31.9 (CH₂), 68.8 (OCH₂), 69.5 (OCH₂), 112.5 (C-2), 120.5 (C-5), 129.9 (C-6), 148.4, 153.3 (C-3, C-4) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{\nu} = 2954$ (w), 2917 (s), 2848 (s), 1599 (w), 1520 (w), 1467 (w), 1415 (s), 1352 (s, B-O), 1274 (s), 1257 (vs), 1213 (s), 1138 (s), 1096 (w), 1073 (w), 996 (w), 960 (w), 874 (w), 814 (w), 791 (w), 741 (w),

710 (s, BX), 672 (w), 595 (w), 553 (w) cm⁻¹. MS (MALDI-TOF): m/z calcd. for $[C_{90}H_{159}B_3O_9-4 H]^+$ 1417.23; found 1413.34.

3.9. Tris[3,4-bis(tetradecyloxy)phenyl]boroxine (5d)

Recrystallization from Et₂O at -28 °C, colorless solid (7%, purity > 95%), m.p. 112 °C, $R_f = 0.3$ (CH₂Cl₂/Et₂O, 10:1). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.88$ (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 18H, CH₃), 1.21–1.59 (m, 132H, CH₂), 1.77–1.93 (m, 12H, OCH₂CH₂), 4.04–4.17 (m, 12H, OCH₂), 6.99 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 3H, 5-H), 7.69 (d, J = 1.3 Hz, 3H, 2-H), 7.81 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.3 Hz, 3H, 6-H) ppm. ¹³C NMR (126 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7 (CH₂CH₃), 26.1, 26.2, 29.2, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.66, 29.69, 29.70, 29.72, 29.8, 31.9 (CH₂), 68.8 (OCH₂), 69.5 (OCH₂), 112.5 (C-2), 120.5 (C-5), 129.9 (C-6), 148.4, 153.3 (C-3, C-4) ppm. FT-IR (ATR): $\tilde{v} = 2954$ (w), 2917 (vs), 2848 (s), 1599 (w), 1520 (w), 1467 (w), 1415 (s), 1378 (s), 1352 (s, B-O), 1256 (s), 1212 (s), 1138 (s), 1097 (w), 1074 (w), 1019 (w), 1006 (w), 974 (w), 873 (w), 815 (w), 792 (w), 741 (w), 710 (s, BX), 672 (w), 595 (w) cm⁻¹. MS (MALDI-TOF): m/z calcd. for $[C_{102}H_{183}B_3O_9 + Na]^+$ 1608.39; found 1604.32. Elemental analysis calculated for $C_{102}H_{183}B_3O_9$ (1586.00 g·mol⁻¹): C 77.25, H 11.63; found: C 77.27, H 11.33.

3.10. 3,4,5-Tris(dodecloxy)phenyl-boro-diethanolamino Complex (9e)

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 0.76-0.98$ (m, 9H, CH₃), 1.11–1.54 (m, 54H, CH₂), 1.58–1.95 (m, 6H, OCH₂CH₂), 2.78 (s, 2H, a-H oder b-H), 3.26 (s, 2H, a-H oder b-H), 3.77–4.12 (m, 10H, OCH₂, a-H oder b-H), 4.86 (s, 1H, N-H), 6.72 (s, 2H, 2-H) ppm. ¹³C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta = 14.1$ (CH₃), 22.7, 26.2, 29.4, 29.5, 29.7, 30.4, 31.9 (CH₂), 51.5, 63.6 (C-a, C-b), 69.05, 73.39 (OCH₂), 110.51 (C-2), 137.64 (C-4), 152.55 (C-3) ppm.

4. DSC Traces

Figure S3. DSC traces of the boroxines 11 (2nd heating/cooling cycle; heating/cooling rate 5 K \cdot min⁻¹).



Figure S3. Cont.



5. XRD Investigations

Figure S4. SAXS profile of the liquid-crystalline Phase of **11** at respective temperatures (Inset: wide-angle scattering, WAXS).



Table S3. XRD results for boroxines 11b-d.

Compound	Mesophase	Lattice Spacing/Å	<i>d</i> spacing/Å Observed (Calcd)	Miller Indices	Z	
11b	Colh at 100 °C p6 mm	<i>a</i> = 27.3	23.6 4.5	(10) (halo)	1.1	
11c	Colh at 65 °C p6 mm	<i>a</i> = 28.4	24.6 4.7	(10) (halo)	1.2	
11d	Col _h at 110 °C <i>p</i> 6 mm	<i>a</i> = 29.5	25.6 14.8 4.6	(10) (11) (halo)	1.1	
11e	Colh at 100 °C p6 mm	<i>a</i> = 31.0	26.8 15.4 (15.5) 13.3	(10) (11) (20)	1.2	
			(13.4) 4.7	(halo)	1.2	

6. NMR Data

Figure S5. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra of complex 9e, boronic acid 6c and boroxines 11a–e.





Figure S5. Cont.

S10

Figure S5. Cont.







Figure S5. Cont.





Figure S5. Cont.

Figure S5. Cont.



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