Selective NIR-Absorbing Dyes

**Significance:** Near-infrared (NIR) dyes that do not absorb in the visible range have potential as heat-blocking window coatings, laser-protecting glasses or as antiforgery markers. The authors present the synthesis of a series of NIR-absorbing bis(pyrrolopyrrole) cyanine dyes (4 and 5 as well as derivatives with different side and end groups) that meet these criteria.

**Comment:** Rigidifying the conjugated system of 4 by introduction of BPh$_2$ groups (leading to 5) results in a red shift of the absorption maximum by 65 nm as well as in narrowing the absorption bands and an increase of the extinction coefficient ($\varepsilon = 277'000$ M$^{-1}$ cm$^{-1}$ for 4 to $\varepsilon = 571'000$ M$^{-1}$ cm$^{-1}$ for 5).

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