Supporting Information for

Asymmetric Organocatalysts Supported on Vinyl Addition Polynorbornenes for Work in Aqueous Media

Irina K. Sagamanova,[†] Sonia Sayalero,[†] Sheila Martínez-Arranz,[‡] Ana C. Albéniz,^{*,‡} and Miquel A. Pericàs^{*,†,§}

[†]Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), Av. Països Catalans, 16, 43007 Tarragona, Spain.[‡]IU CINQUIMA/Química Inorgánica, Universidad de Valladolid, 47071 Valladolid, Spain.[§]Departament de Química Orgànica, Universitat de Barcelona (UB), 08028 Barcelona, Spain

mapericas@iciq.es, albeniz@qi.uva.es

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General Information

Unless otherwise stated, all commercial reagents were used as received. The aldehydes were vacuum distilled before use. Solvents were dried using a solvent purification system (SPS). Reactions requiring anhydrous conditions were performed under nitrogen using standard Schlenk line techniques. Thin layer chromatography was carried out using Merck TLC Silicagel 60 F254 aluminium sheets. Components were visualized by UV light ($\lambda =$ 254 nm) or by staining with *p*-anisaldehyde solution. Flash chromatography separations were carried out using 60-mesh silicagel and dry-packed columns. NMR spectra were acquired on Bruker Avance Ultrashield spectrometers in CDCl₃ at room temperature, operating at 400 or 500 MHz (¹H) and 100 or 126 MHz (¹³C{¹H}). TMS was used as internal standard for ¹H NMR and CDCl₃ for ¹³C NMR. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm referred to TMS. ATR-FTIR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer. FT-Raman spectra were measured on a Via Raman spectrometer with laser excitation in 785 nm, equipped with a Leica microscope and Peltiercooled CCD detectors (-70 °C). Elemental analyses were performed on a LECO CHNS 932 micro-analyzer at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. The halogen content in the polymers was determined by oxygen-flask combustion of a sample and analysis of the residue by mercurimetric titration of the chloride.^[S1] Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) was performed on a JSM-6400 scanning microscope at the Microscopy Unit of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on an Agilent Technologies chromatograph (1200 Series), using Chiralcel OD-H, Chiralpak AD-H and Chiralpak AS-H columns and guard columns. Racemic standards of reaction products were prepared using DL-proline as catalyst according to reported procedures in order to establish HPLC conditions.

Solvent absorption measurements were performed by gravimetric analysis according to common practice.^[S2] Dried samples (30-32 mg) were weighed and then immersed in an excess of the swelling solvent (0.4 mL) at room temperature. At regular time intervals, the samples were taken out, wiped of excessive solvent with filter paper, weighed, and returned to the swelling medium. The experiment was continued until a constant weight of the samples was achieved. The equilibrium swelling ratio (SR) in each solvent was determined

gravimetrically with the formula: Swelling Ratio (SR, %) = $100(W_s-W_{dry})/W_{dry}$, where W_s is the weight of swollen samples after the certain time and Wdry is the weight of dried samples.

Preparation and characterization of 4-ethynylbenzoic acid (5)



a) Synthesis of methyl *p*-bromobenzoate. Methyl *p*-bromobenzoate was prepared quantitatively (10.6 g, 99% yield) by refluxing *p*-bromobenzoic acid (10 g, 49.7 mmol) with an excess of methanol (60 mL, 1.54 mmol) and a catalytic amount of sulfuric acid (0.66 mL, 12.4 mmol).

b) Synthesis of 4-(4-(methoxycarbonyl))-phenyl-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol. To a solution of Ph_3P (67 mg, 0.011 mmol), CuI (18 mg, 0.093 mmol), methyl *p*-bromobenzoate (5.0 g, 23.25 mmol) and 2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol (2.33 g, 27.7 mmol) in Et₃N (32 mL) and pyridine (18 mL) was added dichloro-*bis*(triphenylphosphine)palladium (20 mg, 0.0028 mmol) under N₂ and the mixture was refluxed for 40 min. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered to remove the insoluble triethylamine hydrobromide formed. The salt was washed with triethylamine and ethyl ether until the ether washings were clear. The combined filtrates were reduced to dryness under reduced pressure. The obtained solid was stirred twice with H₂O (40 mL) and then with 3% HCl (40 mL) and again twice with H₂O (40 mL). 4-(4-(Methoxycarbonyl)-phenyl-2-methyl-3-butyn-2-ol was isolated as a slightly tan solid after filtration and drying under reduced pressure (4.32 g, 85% yield).

c) Synthesis of *p*-Ethynylbenzoic acid (**5**). 4-(4-(Methoxycarbonyl)-phenyl-2-methyl-3butyn-2-ol (1 g, 4.58 mmol) was dissolved in a refluxing solution of KOH (1 g, 18.33 mmol) in *n*-butanol (30 mL). After refluxing for 15 min, the mixture was cooled with an ice-bath, acidified with 1 M HCl to pH 2 and extracted with ethyl acetate (3×40 mL). The combined organic layers were dried (MgSO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give *p*-ethynylbenzoic acid as yellow solid (630 mg, 94% yield). All the spectroscopic data of the product matched with those reported in the literature.^[S3]

Solvent effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymers **1a**,**b**



Table SI-1. Solvent effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with p-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymers **1a**,**b**.^{*a*}

			conversion		ee anti ^d
entry	catalyst	solvent	$(\%)^{b,c}$	anti:syn ^b	(%)
1	1a	CH ₂ Cl ₂ ^e	80 (17)	82:18	90
2	1 a	DMF ^e	50 (4)	75:25	84
3	1 a	DMSO ^e	61 (6)	74:26	91
4	1 a	H ₂ O	74 (8)	71:29	73
5	1 a	CH ₂ Cl ₂ /H ₂ O (50:50)	57 (16)	80:20	73
6	1 a	IPA/H ₂ O (50:50)	65 (17)	71:29	54
7	1 a	THF/H ₂ O (50:50)	68 (3)	72:28	62
8	1a	DMF/H ₂ O (50:50)	88 (4)	78:22	78
9	1 a	DMSO/H ₂ O (50:50)	94	81:19	85
10	1 a	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	100 ^f (97) ^g	89:11	90
11	1a	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	$100^{f} (95)^{g}$	88:12	91
12	1a	neat	10	77:23	76
13	1b	DMSO ^e	82	76:24	92
14	1b	H ₂ O	81	79:21	78
15	1b	DMSO/H ₂ O (50:50)	96	86:14	93
16	1b	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	$100^{h} (98)^{g}$	91:9	91
17	1b	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	$100^{h} (96)^{g}$	90:10	93
18	1b	neat	17	77:23	75
19	1b	neat ⁱ	72	84:16	78
20	1b	neat ^j	94	78:22	76

^{*a*} Reactions were performed with polymer **1a** or **1b** (0.015 mmol), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde **9a** (0.15 mmol) and cyclohexanone **10a** (0.75 mmol) in different solvents (54 μ L). ^{*b*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*c*} In parentheses % of enone from dehydration of the product. ^{*d*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a

chiral stationary phase. ^{*e*} Synthesis grade. ^{*f*} 16 h. ^{*g*} In parentheses combined yield of the isolated diastereomers. ^{*h*} 19 h. ^{*i*} 0.33 mmol (2.2 equiv) of cyclohexanone were used (44 h). ^{*j*} Reaction conducted in a ball-mill.

Reactions in the ball-mill were conducted using a Retsch Mixer Mill model "MM200". The milling instrument consists of a main disk, which can rotate at a frecuency of 30 s^{-1} and accommodates two grinding bowls. Both bowls (5 mL) and balls (9 mm diameter) are made of stainless steel. Typical experimental procedure for the solvent-free aldol reaction performed in the ball-mill: A ball-mill vessel was charged with cyclohexanone (67 mL, 0.65 mmol), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (89 mg, 0.59 mmol), **1b** (40 mg, 0.059 mmol) and 2 balls. Stirring was started in a grinding bowl using the ball-mill with a frecuency of 30 s^{-1} . After 6 h 40 min total reaction time (40 min each cycle and 10 min pause), the crude product was washed off the reaction vessel with dichloromethane (2 x 10 mL) and the combined organic fractions were filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure.

Temperature effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymers **1a**,**b**



Table SI-2. Temperature effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with p-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymers **1a**,**b**.^{*a*}

		Т		time	conversion ^b	yield ^c		ee anti ^d
entry	catalyst	(°C)	solvent	(h)	(%)	(%)	anti:syn ^b	(%)
1	1 a	35	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	14	100	96	89:11	91
2	1 a	35	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	14	100	94	85:15	93
3	1b	35	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	14	100	95	88:12	93
4	1b	35	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	14	100	91	89:11	93
5	1b	60	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	11	90	86	82:18	89

^{*a*} Reactions were performed with polymer **1a** or **1b** (0.015 mmol), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.15 mmol) and cyclohexanone (0.75 mmol) in a mixture of DMSO:H₂O (54 μ L). ^{*b*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*c*} Combined yield of the isolated diastereomers. ^{*d*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a chiral stationary phase.

Screening of additives on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymer **1b**



Table SI-3. Screening of additives on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with p-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by **1b**.^{*a*}

entry	solvent	additive (mol %)	conversion ^b (%)	yield ^c (%)	anti:syn ^b	ee <i>anti</i> ^d (%)
1	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	none	100 ^e	98	91:9	91
2	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	$4-NO_{2}-C_{6}H_{4}CO_{2}H(15)$	98	96	91:9	93
3	DMSO/H ₂ O (91:9)	CF ₃ CO ₂ H (10)	84	-	93:7	96
4	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	none	100^{e}	96	90:10	93
5	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	DiMePEG (10)	97	90	89:11	94
6	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	CH ₃ CO ₂ H (10)	100	97	89:11	94
7	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	4-NO ₂ -C ₆ H ₄ CO ₂ H (15)	100	97	92:8	93
8	DMSO/H ₂ O (83:17)	CF ₃ CO ₂ H (10)	99	90	96:4	96
9	H ₂ O	none	74	-	71:29	73
10	H ₂ O	DiMePEG (10)	71	58	90:10	89
11	H ₂ O	CF ₃ CO ₂ H (10)	27	_	93:7	94

^{*a*} Reactions were performed with polymer **1b** (0.015 mmol, 10.2 mg), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.15 mmol) and cyclohexanone (0.75 mmol) in the corresponding solvent (54 μ L). ^{*b*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*c*} The data in parentheses indicate the combined yield of the isolated diastereomers. ^{*d*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a chiral stationary phase. ^{*e*} 19 h.

Solvent and additives effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymer **2**



Table SI-4. Solvent and additives effects on the aldol reaction of cyclohexanone with p-nitrobenzaldehyde catalyzed by polymer **2**.^{*a*}

entry	solvent	additive (mol %)	conversion ^{b} (%)	yield ^c (%)	anti:syn ^b	ee anti ^d (%)
1	H ₂ O	none	91	90	95:5	96
2	DMSO/H ₂ O (50:50)	none	96	95	95:5	96
3	DMF/H ₂ O (50:50)	none	96	94	95:5	96
4	H ₂ O	CF ₃ CO ₂ H (10)	90	87	92:8	95
5	H ₂ O	DiMePEG (10)	69	65	89:11	95

^{*a*} Reactions were performed with polymer **2** (0.015 mmol, 10.2 mg), *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (0.15 mmol) and cyclohexanone (0.75 mmol) in the corresponding solvent (54 μ L). ^{*b*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*c*} The data in parentheses indicate the combined yield of the isolated diastereomers. ^{*d*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a chiral stationary phase.

Recycling experiments with catalysts 1b and 2

a) Recycling experiments with catalyst **1b**. After performing the aldol reaction of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**9a**, 49 mg, 0.32 mmol) with cyclohexanone (**10a**, 168 μ L, 1.62 mmol) in the presence of polymer **1b** (22 mg, 0.032 mmol) swollen in 116 μ L of a DMSO/H₂O (87:13) mixture containing TFA (0.015 mmol) at room temperature for 23 h, the polymer was separated by filtration and rinsed with water (2 mL) and dichloromethane (2 mL). The polymer was then dried under reduced pressure for 1 h and reused in the next run. Results have been collected in the following table:

cycle	conversion ^{<i>a</i>} (%)	yield $(\%)^b$	anti:syn ^a	ee anti (%)°	-
1	93	90	96:4	96	-
2	90	87	96:4	96	
3	87	85	96:4	96	
4	87	84	96:4	96	
5	88	85	96:4	96	
6	83	79	96:4	96	
7	82	80	96:4	96	

^{*a*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*b*} Combined yield of the isolated isomers after flash chromatography. ^{*c*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a chiral stationary phase.





Fresh catalyst **1b**: Elemental analysis (%): N, 8.26; $f = 1.47 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$. Elemental analysis after seven runs (%): N, 7.53; $f = 1.34 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$

Figure SI-2. SEM picture of fresh catalyst 1b (A) and after seven runs (B).



10 µm





10 µm

b) Recycling experiments with catalyst **2**. After performing the aldol reaction of *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde (**9a**, 41 mg, 0.27 mmol) with cyclohexanone (**10a**, 140 μ L, 1.35 mmol) in DMF:H₂O (50:50, 98 μ L) in the presence of polymer **2** (0.027 mmol, 31 mg) at room temperature for 22 h following the general procedure, the polymer was separated by filtration and rinsed with water (2 mL) and dichloromethane (2 mL). The polymer was then dried under reduced pressure for 1 h and reused in the next run. Results have been collected in the following table:

cycle	e yield $(\%)^a$	anti:syn ^b	ee anti (%) ^c
1	97	96:4	97
2	98	96:4	96
3	99	96:4	96
4	98	96:4	96
5	99	95:5	95
6	99	95:5	95
7	98	96:4	94

^{*a*} Combined yield of the isolated isomers after flash chromatography. ^{*b*} Determined by ¹H NMR on the crude mixture. ^{*c*} Determined by HPLC analysis of the crude mixture using a chiral stationary phase.

Figure SI-3. In blue: IR spectrum of fresh catalyst 2; In red: IR spectrum after seven runs.



Fresh catalyst **2**: Elemental analysis (%): N, 4.89; $f = 0.87 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$. Elemental analysis after seven runs (%): N, 4.91; $f = 0.876 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}$

Figure SI-4. SEM picture of fresh catalyst 2 (A) and after seven runs (B).



90 µm



100 µm

¹HNMR and ¹³CNMR spectra and chromathographic data of aldol products 11

(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-nitrophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11a**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 31.4$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 24.7$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S4, S5]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-2-nitrophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11b**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (90:10 hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer t_r= 14.2 min. All the spectroscopic data matched with

literature.[84, 86]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-3-nitrophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11c**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (95:5 hexane:2-propanol), 0.8 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer t_r= 39.2 min, minor enantiomer t_r= 50.1 min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S4, S6]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-cyanophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11d**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (80:20 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 14.0$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 11.5$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S4, S5]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-trifluoromethylphenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11e**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 13.2$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 10.9$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S5]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-2-trifluoromethylphenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11f**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 220$ nm; major enantiomer t_r = 19.8 min, minor enantiomer t_r = 14.7 min. All

the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S6]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxyphenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11g**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralcel OD-H column (99:1 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min, $\lambda = 213$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 18.4$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 23.9$ min. All the

spectroscopic data matched with literature.[S5,S7]



Methyl 4-((*R*)-hydroxy((*S*)-2-oxocyclohexyl)methyl)benzoate **11h**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min; $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer t_r = 37.0 min, minor enantiomer t_r = 55.9 min. All the spectroscopic data matched

with literature.^[S4, S5]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxynaphtalen-2-ylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11i**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AS-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 0.5 mL/min, $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer t_r = 36.8 min, minor enantiomer t_r = 41.3

min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.[S7]





(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-bromophenylmethyl)cyclohexan-1-one **11j**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (90:10 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min; $\lambda = 230$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 34.7$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 29.9$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S8]



	VWD1/	A, Wavelength	=230 nm	(IRINA\ISA-3	(28-5P.D)					
mAU								Nee 1999 0	186 ^(5.)	
250-	1							6	5p2-	
	Peak	RetTime	Type	Width	Area	Height	Area			
	#	[min]		[min]	mAU *s	[mAU]	8			
200-		10 455		0 5200	125 0052	-				
	1 2	22 707	MM	0.000	146 9217	/ 3.00430 c 3.00430	0.3553	11 1		
1	2	20 127	MM	0.7103	1 5550564	200 17755	49 2020			
150-	4	34 974	MM	1 0294	1 5675164	252 79964	49.3620	11 1		
	-	54.574		1.0204	1.5075164	200.70004	40.7525			
100-										
50-						ب هر ^{رو} ه د	AS BEL			
0-						opros. Spros.	/			
	 0	5		10	15	20	25	30 3	5 40) min

(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-nitrophenylmethyl)cyclopentan-1-one **11k**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (97:3 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min; $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 65.6$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 63.9$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched

with literature.[S4, S8]



(2*S*,1'*R*)-2-(Hydroxy-4-nitrophenylmethyl)tetrahydropyran-4-one **111**:



Enantiomeric excess was determined by HPLC with a Chiralpak AD-H column (80:20 Hexane:2-propanol), 1.0 mL/min; $\lambda = 254$ nm; major enantiomer $t_r = 22.9$ min, minor enantiomer $t_r = 19.5$ min. All the spectroscopic data matched with literature.^[S9]



























20 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 f1 (ppm) 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10

S31

-200 --100

-20

0 -10







S33





S35

				elemental analysis			
copolymer	structure	mmolBr/gCop ^a	%N	%C	%H	$f (\text{mmol/g})^b$	
4a	H_2C^{n}	0.27	12.96	74.55	8.44	3.08	
4b	$\begin{bmatrix} & & \\ & $	0.13	9.94	76.60	8.68	2.37	
4c	$(H_2C)_4 \xrightarrow{V}_{y=1}^{m}$	0	12.43	76.61	9.26	2.96	
4d	$(H_2C)_4^{n^{n^*}} x = 24.1$ $y = 1$	0.015	2.01	86.69	10.16	0.48	
3b	H_2C^{*} $x=1.6$ Br $y=1$	2.98		nd		2.98 ^{<i>a</i>}	

Characterization of azido-copolymers 4a-d and bromo-copolymer 3b

Table SI-5. Azido-copolymers 4a-d and bromo-copolymer 3b

^{*a*} Determined by quantitative analysis of bromine in the copolymer. ^{*b*} Calculated from the results of elemental analysis with the formula f = (0.714/n)%N, where n is the number of nitrogen atoms in the functional unit and %N is the percent of nitrogen provided by the elemental analysis.

Figure SI-5. SEM pictures of azido-copolymers 4b-c and bromo-copolymer 3b



80 µm



4c





Figure SI-6. IR spectra of Azido-copolymers 4a-d and bromo-copolymer 3b.









Figure SI-7. Raman spectrum of bromo-copolymer 3b.

IR spectra of catalysts 1a-d









Characterization of polymers 6b and 2



Figure SI-8. ¹³C NMR spectrum of polymer 6b.



Figure SI-9. SEM pictures of polymer 6b.



90 µm

Figure SI-10. IR spectrum of polymer 6b.





Figure SI-11. Raman spectrum of polymer 6b.

Figure SI-12. IR spectrum of catalyst 2.



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