Supporting Information

Visible-Light-Induced Controlled Radical Polymerization of Methacrylates Mediated by Pillared-Layer Metal-Organic Framework

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Materials

Zinc chloride (ZnCl₂, 98% purity , Tianjin Fuchen), terephthalic acid (C₈H₆O₄, 99%, Tianjin Heowns Biochem LLC), N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF, 99.8%, Tianjin Guangfu), hydrochloric acid (HCl, 36%~38%, Beijing Chemical Works), anthracene (C₁₄H₁₀, 98%, Tianjin Guangfu), 4-ethynylpyridine hydrochloride (C₇H₅N•HCl, 95%, Bepharm Limited), bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) dichloride (Pd 15.2%, Aladdin), copper (I) iodide (CuI, 99.5%, Sinopharm Reagent Co., Ltd), ethyl αbromoisobutyrate (EBiB, 98%, Accela), copper(II) bromide (CuBr₂, 99%, Acros). N,N,N',N'',N'''-pentamethyldiethylenetriamine (PMDETA, 99%, TCI) and acetonitrile (CH₃CN, 99.9%, Acros) were used as received without any further purification. Triethylamine was prepared according to literature procedures and all other reagents were obtained from commercial sources and used as received.

Synthesis of L₁

The synthesis of the anthracene derivative pillaring ligands was performed with Sonogashira reaction as the key step. ^{1, 2} In this process a coupling reaction between a terminal alkyne and a halogenated aromatic compound is effected. Typically, a mixture of 9,10-dibromoanthracene (1.008 g, 3.0 mmol), 4-ethynylpyridine hydrochloride (1.089 g, 7.8 mmol) and PdCl₂(PPh₃)₂ (0.211 g, 10 mol %) was dissolved in the dry anaerobic triethylamine/DMF solution (1:1, 40 ml) in a round-bottom flask. The solution was allowed to stir for 10 min at room temperature and CuI (0.171 g, 30 mol %) was subsequently added. A stream of nitrogen was bubbled through the reaction system for about 1h in order to free it from air and the solution was heated to 85 °C under reflux for one day in the nitrogen-filled environment. Then the solvents were removed with a rotary evaporator and the residue was dissolved in dichloromethane, filtered and purified on a silica column with a 1:1 mixture of ether :

ethyl acetate as the eluent. Orange solid of the ligand (0.330 g) were finally isolated (about 30% yield, on the basis of 4-ethynylpyridine hydrochloride). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 7.63 (4H, d, J = 6 Hz, PyH), 7.71 (4H, m, ArH), 8.66 (4H, m, PyH), 8.73 (4H, d, J = 6 Hz, PyH). IR (KBr)/ cm⁻¹: \tilde{v} = 3036 (Arom. CH), 2205 (C=C), 1733, 1588–1403 (Ar), 826 (4-monosubst. pyridine).

Structure determination

Diffraction intensity data were collected on an Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur Eos diffractometer with graphite-monochromated Mo K*a* radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). All data were collected at a temperature of 150 K. The structures were solved by the direct methods and refined on F^2 by full-matrix least-squares using the SHELXTL-97 program.³ The Zn²⁺ ion was easily located and then non-hydrogen atoms (O, N and C) were placed from the subsequent Fourier-difference maps. A summary for data collection and refinements were given in Table S1.

empirical formula	C ₇₅ H ₄₇ N ₅ O ₉ Zn ₂
formula weight	1292.96
crystal system	monoclinic
space group	C2/c
<i>a</i> / Å	28.525
b / Å	29.966
c / Å	14.784
β / degree	109.02
V / Å ³	11947.1
Ζ	8
F(000)	5096
θ range collected / degree	3.11 to 27.10
limiting indices	$-36 \le h \le 36, -32 \le k \le 37, -18 \le l \le 18$
Reflections collected / unique	33906 / 12815
data / restraints / parameters	12815 / 38 / 821
R(int)	0.1054
goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.085
Final <i>R</i> indices ([$I > 2\sigma(I)$])	$R_1 = 0.1421, wR_2 = 0.3663$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.22\overline{60}, wR_2 = 0.4121$

 Table S1 Crystal data and structural refinement for NNU-35.



Fig. S1 (a) Coordination arrangements of zinc dimmers; (b) Two-flod interpenetration structure of **NNU-35**. Blue, green, pink, and orange spheres /polyhedra represent zinc, oxygen, nitrogen and carbon atoms, respectively. All hydrogen atoms were omitted for clarity.



Fig. S2 TGA curve of NNU-35.



Fig. S3 PXRD patterns of NNU-35. (a) simulated X-ray pattern from crystal stucture;(b) PXRD pattern of the as-synthesized crystalline sample; (c) NNU-35 after photocatalysis reaction.



Fig. S4 In situ time-evolution EPR spectra of pillaring ligand L_1 in solid state under visible light .



Fig. S5 UV-vis spectrum for the ATRP reaction without NNU-35.





Fig. S7 The reuse of NNU-35 to initiate the visible-light-induced polymerization of MMA. $[MMA]_o/[EBiB]_o/[CuBr_2]_o/[PMDETA]_o = 200/1/0.2/0.6$ in 2mL acetonitrile, NNU-35 = 20 mg, irradiation time = 14 h.

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