## Zn(II) and Cu(II) formamidine complexes: Structural, kinetics and polymer

## tacticity studies in ring-opening polymerization of $\epsilon$ -caprolactone and lactides

Ekemini D. Akpan,<sup>†</sup> Stephen O. Ojwach,<sup>\*‡</sup> Bernard Omondi,<sup>\*†</sup> and Vincent O. Nyamori,<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>School of Chemistry and Physics, Westville Campus, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X54001, Durban, 4000, South Africa.

<sup>‡</sup>School of Chemistry and Physics, Pietermaritzburg Campus, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa.

Journal in which to be published: New Journal of Chemistry.

# **Supplementary Information**



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Figure S2.  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of complex 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Figure S3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex 2 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



**Figure S4.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



**Figure S5.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of complex **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Figure S6. COSY NMR spectrum of complex 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



**Figure S7.** Two dimensional (2D)  ${}^{1}\text{H}{}^{-1}\text{H}$  nuclear overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) NMR of complex 1 in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at room temperature.



Figure S8. DOSY NMR spectra of complexes (a) 1 and (b) 3



**Figure S9.** (a) Bulk polymerization of  $\varepsilon$ -CL to PCL with time for complexes 1–4 at 110 °C, M/I = 200, [CL]<sub>o</sub> = 0.01 mol and [1] = 0.00005 mol and (b) Polymerization of <sub>D,L</sub>-lactide and <sub>L</sub>-lactide to polylactides using complexes 1 and 3 in toluene at 110 °C, [CL]<sub>o</sub>/[I] = 200.



**Figure S10.** (a) First order kinetic plots of  $\ln[CL]_o/[CL]_t vs.$  time for complexes **1–4** in the bulk polymerization of  $\varepsilon$ -CL at 110 °C,  $[CL]_o/[I] = 200$ . (b) First order kinetic plots of  $\ln[CL]_o/[CL]_t vs.$  time for complexes **1** and **3** in the polymerization of  $_{D,L}$ -lactide and  $_{L}$ -lactide to polylactides in toluene at 110 °C,  $[CL]_o/[I] = 200$ .



Figure S11. Semi-logarithmic kinetic plots for  $\epsilon$ -CL polymerization catalyzed by complex 3 at various temperatures

#### Stellenbosch University

Project Name: GPC2006 Reported by User: System

# Breeze

	SAMPLE	INFORMATION		
Sample Name:	ED003	Acquired By:	System	
Sample Type:	Broad Unknown	Date Acquired:	2014/12/03 07:25:32 PM	
Vial:	3	Acq. Method:	GPC_im_UV254_320	
Injection #:	1	Date Processed:	2014/12/04 08:23:02 AM	
Injection Volume:	100.00 ul	Channel Name:	410	
Run Time:	30.00 Minutes	Channel Desc.:	RI Detector	
Column Type:		Sample Set Name	20141203pm	



Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table									
	Distribution Name	Mn (Daltons)	Mw (Daltons)	MP (Daltons)	Mz (Daltons)	Mz+1 (Daitons)	Polydispersity	Mz/Mw	Mz+1/Mw
1		8631	18468	19883	28657	38314	2.139812	1.551756	2.074657



#### Stellenbosch University

Project Name: GPC2006 Reported by User: System



	SAMPLE	INFORMAT	ION
Sample Name: Sample Type: Vial: Injection #: Injection Volume: Run Time: Column Type:	ED013 Broad Unknown 13 1 100.00 ul 30.00 Minutes	Acquired By: Date Acquired: Acq. Method: Date Processed: Channel Name: Channel Desc.: Sample Set Name	System 2014/12/04 12:45:57 AM GPC_im_UV254_320 2014/12/04 08:23:02 AM 410 RI Detector 20141203pm



	Distribution Name	Mn (Daltons)	Mw (Daltons)	MP (Daltons)	Mz (Daltons)	Mz+1 (Daltons)	Polydispersity	Mz/Mw	Mz+1/Mw
1		898	1006	646	1164	1381	1.120301	1.157019	1.372802

**Figure S13.** GPC traces of PCL obtained from catalyst **3**, M/I = 200, in methanol, time 180 mins, 110 °C.

#### Stellenbosch University

Project Name: GPC2006 Reported by User: System



	SAMPLE	INFORMAT	ION
Sample Name:	ED016	Acquired By:	System
Sample Type:	Broad Unknown	Date Acquired:	2014/12/04 02:22:02 AM
Vial:	16	Acq. Method:	GPC_im_UV254_320
Injection #:	1	Date Processed:	2014/12/04 08:23:02 AM
Injection Volume:	100.00 ul	Channel Name:	410
Run Time:	30.00 Minutes	Channel Desc.:	RI Detector
Column Type:		Sample Set Name	20141203pm



Broad	Unknown	Relative	Peak	Table

	Distribution Name	Mn (Daltons)	Mw (Daltons)	MP (Daltons)	Mz (Daltons)	Mz+1 (Daltons)	Polydispersity	Mz/Mw	Mz+1/Mw
1		16866	31127	31401	45986	61134	1.845614	1.477348	1.963994

**Figure S14.** GPC traces of PLA obtained from catalyst **3**, M/I = 200, in toluene, time 9 h, 110 °C.



**Figure S15.** ES-MS of the crude PLA (from  $_{D,L}$ -lactide) from catalyst **3**,  $[CL]_0/[3] = 200, 9$  h, showing distribution of two structural components.



**Figure S16.** <sup>1</sup>H homonuclear decoupled NMR of the methine region of  $poly(_L-LA)$  formed with (a) complex 1 and (b) complex 3, respectively.



**Figure S17.** (a)  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectra carbonyl region and (b)  ${}^{13}$ C NMR methine region of poly(L-LA).



**Figure S18.** <sup>1</sup>H homonuclear decoupled NMR of the methine region of poly(<sub>D,L</sub>-LA).



**Figure S19.** (a)  ${}^{13}$ C NMR spectra carbonyl region and (b)  ${}^{13}$ C NMR methine region of poly(<sub>D,L</sub>-LA)

Table S1. Crystal data collection and structural refinement parameters for complexes 1–4

	1	2	3	4
Empirical formula Formula weight Temperature (K) Wavelength (Å) Crystal system Space group a/Å b/Å c/Å α β	$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{C}_{46}\mathbf{H}_{58}\mathbf{N}_{4}\mathbf{O}_{12}\mathbf{Z}\mathbf{n}_{3} \\ 1055.07 \\ 173(2) \\ 0.71073 \\ \mathbf{Monoclinic} \\ P2_{1}/c \\ 9.5958(6) \\ 15.6026(9) \\ 16.4916(10) \\ 90^{\circ} \\ 103.752(2)^{\circ} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ C_{58} H_{84} N_4 O_8 Zn_2\\ 1096.03\\ 173(2)\\ 0.71073\\ Triclinic\\ P-1\\ 13.9570(3)\\ 21.3908(4)\\ 21.4967(5)\\ 94.542(10)^\circ\\ 108.766(10)^\circ\\ \end{array}$	3   C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>60</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Zn <sub>2</sub> 927.72   293(2)   0.71073   Triclinic   P-1   9.4219(7)   12.1061(9)   20.8673(18)   85.831(5)°   85.579(5)°	4 $C_{58} H_{84} Cu_2 N_4 O_8$ 1092.37 173(2) 0.71073 Monoclinic $P2_{1/c}$ 15.4331(10) 12.4453(9) 16.2537(11) 90° 104.965(3)°
γ Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> ) Z Density (calculated) Absorption coefficient F(000) Crystal size Theta range for data collection Index ranges Reflections collected Independent reflections Completeness to theta = 28.59° Absorption correction	90° 2398.3(3) 2 1.461 Mg/m <sup>3</sup> 1.552 mm <sup>-1</sup> 1096 0.41 x 0.36 x 0.32 mm <sup>3</sup> 1.82 to 28.59° $-12 \le h \le 12, -20 \le k \le 20, -21 \le 1 \le 22$ 53536 6033 [R(int) = 0.0176] 100% Semi-empirical from equivalents	$\begin{array}{l} 100.316(10)^{\circ} \\ 5913.6(2) \\ 4 \\ 1.231 \text{ Mg/m}^3 \\ 0.864 \text{ mm}^{-1} \\ 2336 \\ 0.36 \text{ x } 0.33 \text{ x } 0.29 \text{ mm}^3 \\ 0.978 \text{ to } 28.433^{\circ} \\ -17 \leq h \leq 18, -27 \leq k \leq 28, -27 \\ \leq 1 \leq 28 \\ 133169 \\ 28279 \text{ [R(int) = 0.0230]} \\ 100.0\% \\ \text{Semi-empirical from} \\ \text{equivalents} \end{array}$	77.657(4)° 2314.4(3) 2 1.331 Mg/m <sup>3</sup> 1.091 mm <sup>-1</sup> 976 0.18 x 0.15 x 0.12 mm <sup>3</sup> 0.980 to 27.917° $-12 \le h \le 12, -15 \le k \le 14, -26 \le 1 \le 26$ 36720 10307 [R(int) = 0.0342] 98.10% Semi-empirical from equivalents	90° 3016.0(4) 2 1.203 Mg/m <sup>3</sup> 0.757 mm <sup>-1</sup> 1164 0.36 x 0.34 x 0.34 mm <sup>3</sup> 1.366 to 25.493° $-18 \le h \le 18, -15 \le k \le 15, -19$ $\le 1 \le 19$ 57141 5593 [R(int) = 0.0338] 100.0% Semi-empirical from equivalents
Max. and min. transmission Refinement method	0.609 and 0.524 Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$	0.791 and 0.683 Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$	0.877 and 0.822 Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$	0.773 and 0.769 Full-matrix least-squares on $F^2$
Data / restraints / parameters Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup> Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	6032 / 0 / 302 1.059 R1 = 0.0273, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0715	$\begin{array}{l} 28279 \ / \ 2 \ / \ 1348 \\ 1.041 \\ \mathrm{R1} = 0.0338, \ \mathrm{wR_2} = 0.0815 \end{array}$	10307 / 5 / 567 1.135 R1 = 0.0510, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1165	5593 / 0 / 325 1.095 R1 = 0.0312, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0841
R indices (all data)	$R1 = 0.0287, wR_2 = 0.0725$	$R1 = 0.0475,  wR_2 = 0.0910$	$R1 = 0.0633$ , $wR_2 = 0.1237$	$R1 = 0.0361,  wR_2 = 0.0875$
Largest diff. peak and hole	0.949 and -0.742 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.745 and -0.480 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.740 and -0.555 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>	0.351 and -0.361 e.Å <sup>-3</sup>