## Zn (II) and $\mathrm{Cu}($ II) formamidine complexes: Structural, kinetics and polymer tacticity studies in ring-opening polymerization of $\varepsilon$-caprolactone and lactides

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## Supplementary Information



Figure S1. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\mathbf{1}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S3. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex 2 in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S4. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\mathbf{3}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S5. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectrum of complex $\mathbf{3}$ in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S6. COSY NMR spectrum of complex 1 in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S7. Two dimensional (2D) ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ nuclear overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) NMR of complex 1 in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at room temperature.


Figure S8. DOSY NMR spectra of complexes (a) $\mathbf{1}$ and (b) $\mathbf{3}$


Figure S9. (a) Bulk polymerization of $\varepsilon$-CL to PCL with time for complexes $\mathbf{1 - 4}$ at $110{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{I}$ $=200,[C L]_{0}=0.01 \mathrm{~mol}$ and $[1]=0.00005 \mathrm{~mol}$ and (b) Polymerization of ${ }_{\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{L}}$-lactide and $\mathrm{L}^{-}$ lactide to polylactides using complexes $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{3}$ in toluene at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C},[\mathrm{CL}]_{0} /[\mathrm{I}]=200$.


Figure S10. (a) First order kinetic plots of $\ln [C L]_{0} /[C L]_{t} v s$. time for complexes $\mathbf{1 - 4}$ in the bulk polymerization of $\varepsilon-\mathrm{CL}$ at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C},[\mathrm{CL}]_{0} /[\mathrm{I}]=200$. (b) First order kinetic plots of $\ln [\mathrm{CL}]_{0} /[\mathrm{CL}]_{\mathrm{t}}$ $v s$. time for complexes $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{3}$ in the polymerization of ${ }_{\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{L}}$-lactide and $\mathrm{L}_{\mathrm{L}}$-lactide to polylactides in toluene at $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C},[\mathrm{CL}]_{o} /[\mathrm{I}]=200$.


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

Stellenbosch University
Project Name: GPC2006
Reported by User: System

| 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 Chromatogram


Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table

|  | Distribution <br> Name | Mn <br> (Daltons) | Mw <br> (Daltons) | MP <br> (Daltons) | Mz <br> (Daltons) | Mz+1 <br> (Daltons) | Polydispersity | Mz/Mw | Mz+1/Mw |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 |  | 8631 | 18468 | 19883 | 28657 | 38314 | 2.139812 | 1.551756 | 2.074657 |

Figure S12. GPC traces of PCL obtained from catalyst 3, M/I = 200, time $53 \mathrm{~h}, 110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Stellenbosch University
Project Name: GPC2006
Reported by User: System

| SAMPLE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sample Name: | ED013 | Acquired By: | System |
| Sample Type: | Broad Unknown | Date Acquired: | 2014/12/04 12:45:57 AM |
| Vial: | 13 | 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 Chromatogram


Broad Unknown Relative Peak Table

|  | Distribution <br> Name | Mn <br> (Daltons) | Mw <br> (Daltons) | MP <br> (Daltons) | Mz <br> (Daltons) | $M z+1$ <br> (Daltons) | Polydispersity | $\mathrm{Mz} / \mathrm{Mw}$ | $\mathrm{Mz}+1 / \mathrm{Mw}$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 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, $110^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Stellenbosch University
Project Name: GPC2006
Reported by User: System

|  | S A M PLE |  | I N F OR M A T I O N |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 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 <br> Name | Mn <br> (Daltons) | Mw <br> (Daltons) | MP <br> (Daltons) | Mz <br> (Daltons) | $\mathrm{Mz}+1$ <br> (Daltons) | Polydispersity | $\mathrm{Mz} / \mathrm{Mw}$ | $\mathrm{Mz+1/Mw}$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 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 $9 \mathrm{~h}, 110$ ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.


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


Figure S16. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ homonuclear decoupled NMR of the methine region of poly $(\mathrm{L}-\mathrm{LA})$ formed with (a) complex 1 and (b) complex $\mathbf{3}$, respectively.


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


Figure S18. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ homonuclear decoupled NMR of the methine region of poly(d,L-LA).


Figure S19. (a) ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR spectra carbonyl region and (b) ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR methine region of poly $\left(\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{L}^{-}\right.$ LA)

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

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

