# **Supporting Information**

#### Supramolecular helical nanofibers assembled from a pyridinium-

#### functionalized methyl glycyrrhetate amphiphile

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# Content

<ul> <li>5 UV-Vis spectra of MGP under different concentrations</li> </ul>	7 7
4. TEM images of MGP under different concentrations	7
3. CD spectra of <b>MGP</b> in mixed solvents	6
2. Self-assembly behaviors of MGP	4
1. Synthesis and structure characterization of MGP	2

# 1. Synthesis and structure characterization of MGP



Scheme S1 (a) CH<sub>3</sub>I, DMF, r.t., 20 h, 98 %; (b) BrCOCH<sub>2</sub>Br, K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, dry DCM, r.t., 12 h, 90 %; (c) Pyridine, r.t., 10 h, 92 %.

#### (1) ESI-MS (+) spectrum of MGP



(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of MGP



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of MGP (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)



#### (4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of MGP (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



## 2. Self-assembly behaviors of MGP

Entry	Mixed solvents (v/v)	MGC (mg mL <sup>-1</sup> )	State
1	chloroform/toluene =1:2	1.0	Gel
2	chloroform/o-xylene =1:2	1.0	Gel
3	chloroform/ <i>m</i> -xylene =1:2	1.0	Gel
4	chloroform/ <i>p</i> -xylene =1:2	1.0	Gel
5	chloroform/mesitylene =1:2	1.0	Gel
6	chloroform/chlorobenzene =1:2	1.0	Gel
7	chloroform/bromobenzene =1:2	1.0	Gel
8	chloroform/o-dichlorobenzene =1:2	1.0	Gel

Table S1 Self-assembly behaviors of MGP in various mixed solvents



Fig. S1 TEM images of MGP assemblies in other mixed solvents of chloroform and
(a) *p*-xylene, (b) chlorobenzene, (c) bromobenzene, (d) toluene (12 mM, chloroform/aromatic solvent = 1:2, v/v). Scale bar is 200 nm.

Mixed solvents	Handedness	Width/nm	Pitch/nm
chloroform/toluene	left	40	124
chloroform/o-xylene	right/left	28	121
chloroform/ <i>m</i> -xylene	right/left	28	117
chloroform/ <i>p</i> -xylene	right/left	34	124
chloroform/mesitylene	left	29	118
chloroform/chlorobenzene	right/left	35	120
-hlandform/hannahanzene	nisht/left	20	120
chloroform/bromobenzene	right/left	29	126
chloroform/o-dichlorobenzene	right	29	115

**Table S2** The parameters of helical fibers assembled from MGP in different

 chloroform/aromatic solvents (the width and pitch are average values)

#### 3. CD spectra of MGP in mixed solvents



Fig. S2 CD spectra of MGP assemblies in different mixed solvents (chloroform/aromatic solvent = 1:2, v/v,  $1.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M): (a) *o*-xylene, (b) *m*-xylene, (c) *p*-xylene, (d) chlorobenzene, (e) bromobenzene, (f) toluene, (g) mesitylene, (h) *o*dichlorobenzene.



#### 4. TEM images of MGP under different concentrations

**Fig. S3** TEM images of **MGP** in chloroform/*o*-xylene (1:2, v/v) under different concentrations. (a) 0.5 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, PG, insert refers to the magnified field inside the red line; (b) 1.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, G; (c) 3.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, G; (d) 5.0 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>, G, dash circles show the coiling process of the helical fibers. G and PG are the abbreviations of gel and partial gel.

#### 5. UV-Vis spectra of MGP under different concentrations



Fig. S4 Normalized UV-Vis spectra of MGP in mixed solvents (chloroform/aromatic solvent=1:2, v/v) under different concentrations: (a)  $5.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M, (b)  $1.5 \times 10^{-3}$  M.

Mixed solvents	$\lambda_1$ /nm	$\lambda_2 / nm$	Δλ /nm
chloroform/toluene	277	288	11
chloroform/o-xylene	280	318	38
chloroform/ <i>m</i> -xylene	281	297	16
chloroform/p-xylene	285	305	20
chloroform/mesitylene	282	295	13
chloroform/chlorobenzene	280	295	15
chloroform/bromobenzene	281	294	13
chloroform/o-dichlorobenzene	287	300	13

**Table S3** The maximum absorption peaks of **MGP** in each solvent system under different concentrations ( $\lambda_1$ : C<sub>1</sub> = 5×10<sup>-5</sup> M,  $\lambda_2$ : C<sub>2</sub> = 1.5 ×10<sup>-3</sup> M,  $\Delta\lambda = \lambda_2 - \lambda_1$ )

# 6. Syntheses and structure characterizations of MGBP, C4-MGP, and C4-MOP

Synthesis of MGBP



Scheme S2 (a) 4, 4'-bipyridine, dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t., 24 h, 75 %.

#### MGBP





(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of MGBP



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of MGBP (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)





Synthesis of C4-MGP



Scheme S3 (a) 4-Bromobutyric acid, DCC, DMAP, dry CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, r.t., 20 h, 54 %; (b) Pyridine, r.t.,

10 h, 64 %.

#### Br-C4-GA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me

#### (1) ESI-MS (+) spectrum of Br-C4-GA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me



(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of Br-C4-GA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Br-C4-GA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



(4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of Br-C4-GA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



#### C4-MGP





#### (2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of C4-MGP



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of C4-MGP (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)



(4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **C4-MGP** (100 MHz,  $CDCl_3/CD_3OD = 5:1, v/v$ )



## Synthesis of C4-MOP



Scheme S4 (a) CH<sub>3</sub>I, DMF, r.t., 20 h, 97 %; (b) 4-Bromobutyric acid, DCC, DMAP, dry DCM,

r.t., 20 h, 58 %; (c) Pyridine, r.t., 12 h, 60 %.

#### OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me





(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



#### (4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me** (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)



Br-C4-OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me

(1) ESI-MS (+) spectrum of Br-C4-OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me



(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of Br-C4-OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of Br-C4-OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)





(4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **Br-C4-OA-CO<sub>2</sub>Me** (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

#### C4-MOP

(1) ESI-MS (+) spectrum of C4-MOP



(2) HRMS (ESI) spectrum of C4-MOP



(3) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of C4-MOP (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)





### (4) <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of C4-MOP (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)