## **Electronic supporting information**

## Carbocationic polymerization of isoprene using cumyl initiators: progress in

## understanding side reactions

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Figure S1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of cumyl chloride, cumyl ether and  $\alpha$ -methylstyrene. (from top to bottom)



(a) IP/cumylCl/B( $C_6F_5$ )<sub>3</sub> 75/1/2, [IP] = 2M, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/methylcyclohexane 100/0

Figure S2: Maldi-TOF MS spectra of oligoisoprenes obtained by the system  $IP/CumylCl/B(C_6F_5)_3/d^tBP$  at 20°C.



Figure S3: Typical HSQC NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with IP/CumylOCH<sub>3</sub>/TiCl<sub>4</sub>/d<sup>t</sup>BP system.



Figure S4: SEC spectra of polyisoprenes obtained varying IP/CumylOCH<sub>3</sub>/TiCl<sub>4</sub> ratio.



Figure S5: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with IP/cumylOCH<sub>3</sub>/TiCl<sub>4</sub>/d<sup>t</sup>BP systems.



Figure S6: JMOD NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with  $IP/cumylOCH_3/TiCl_4/d^tBP$  system.



Figure S7: TOCSY NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with  $IP/cumylOCH_3/TiCl_4/d^tBP$  system.



Figure S8: NOESY NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with  $IP/cumylOCH_3/TiCl_4/d^tBP$  system.



Figure S9: COSY NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with  $IP/cumylOCH_3/TiCl_4/d^tBP$  system.



Figure S10: HMBC NMR spectrum of the polyisoprene obtained with  $IP/cumylOCH_3/TiCl_4/d^tBP$  system.