

## Supplementary information

### **Multi-block copolymers with fluorene-containing hydrophilic segments densely functionalized by side-chain quaternary ammonium groups as anion exchange membranes**

LiuHong Li,<sup>a,b</sup> Xi Yue,<sup>a,b</sup> WenJun Wu,<sup>a,b</sup> WuXin Yan,<sup>a,b</sup> MingJian Zeng,<sup>a,b</sup> You Zhou,<sup>a,b</sup> Shijun Liao<sup>a,b</sup> and XiuHua Li\*<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510641, P. R. China.

<sup>b</sup> The Key Laboratory of Fuel Cell Technology of Guangdong Province, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou 510641, P. R. China.

### **Corresponding Author**

\* Tel & Fax: 8620 – 22236591. E-mail: [lixiuhua@scut.edu.cn](mailto:lixiuhua@scut.edu.cn)

**I. Figures and tables**

**II. Experimental section**

## I. Figures and tables

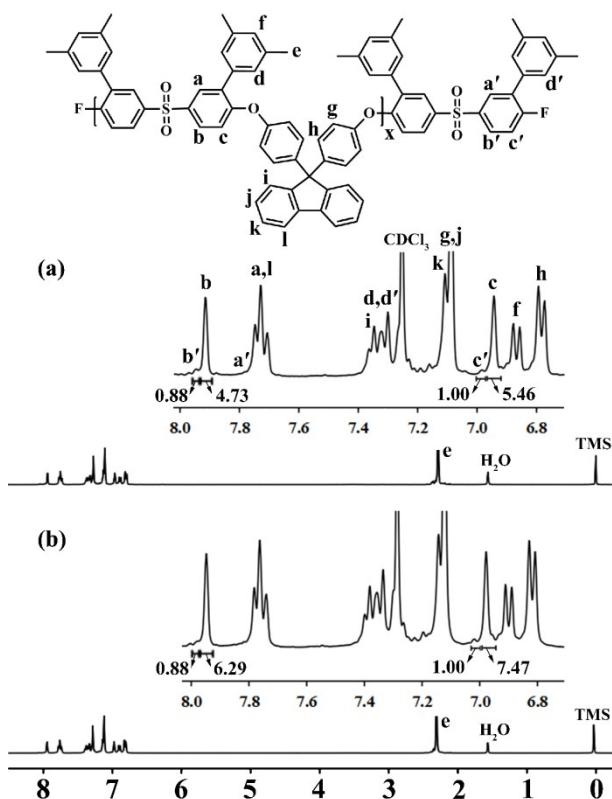
**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the oligomer-Fs (a)  $X = 5$  and (b)  $X = 7$ .

**Fig. S2**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of oligomer-OHs (a)  $Y = 10$ , (b)  $Y = 13$  and (c)  $Y = 17$ .

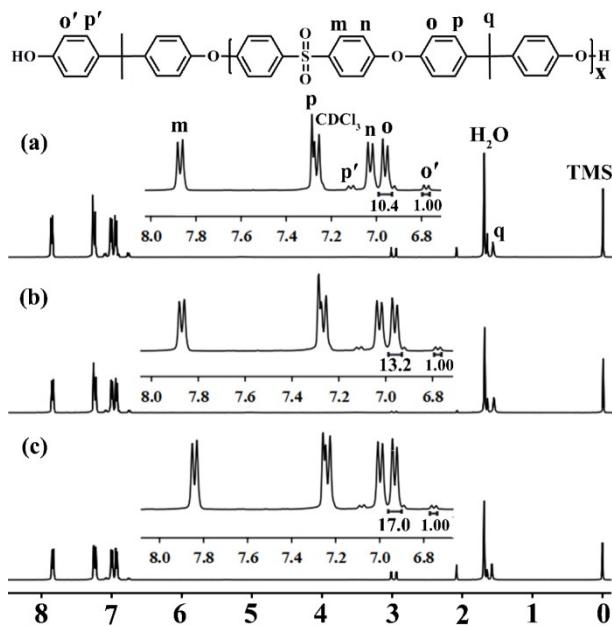
**Fig. S3**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of (a) BrMPAES-X5Y10, (b) BrMPAES-X5Y13, (c) BrMPAES-X5Y17, (d) BrMPAES-X7Y10, (e) BrMPAES-X7Y13 and (f) BrMPAES-X7Y17.

**Fig. S4** AFM pattern of QMPAES-X5Y10

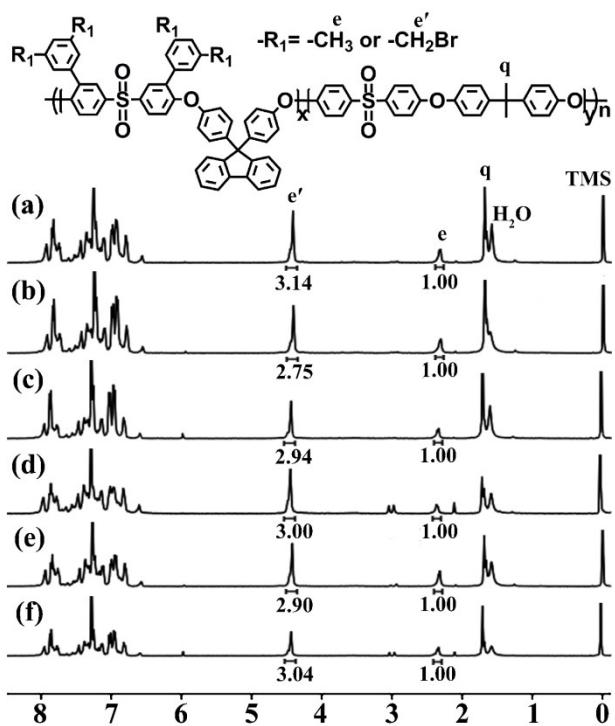
**Table S1** IEC<sub>m</sub>, IECv<sub>wet</sub>,  $\sigma$ ,  $\sigma/\text{IEC}_m$ ,  $\sigma/\text{IECv}_{\text{wet}}$  of the QMPAESs membranes and some reported AEMs.



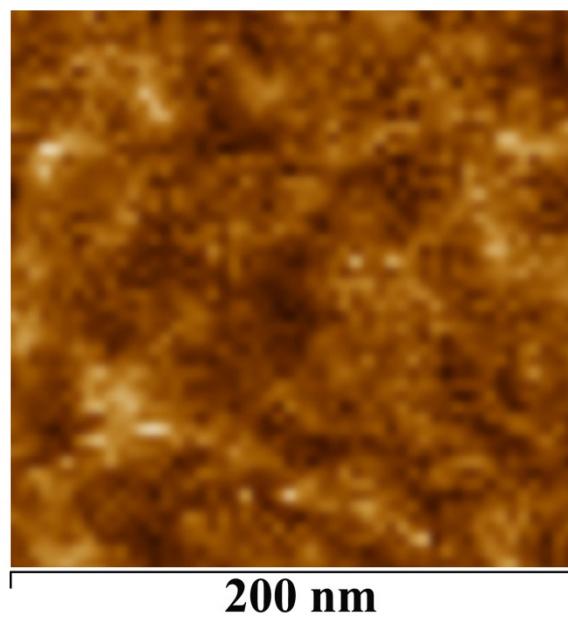
**Fig. S1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of the oligomer-Fs (a)  $X = 5$  and (b)  $X = 7$ .



**Fig. S2**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of oligomer-OHs (a)  $Y = 10$ , (b)  $Y = 13$  and (c)  $Y = 17$ .



**Fig. S3** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of (a) BrMPAES-X5Y10, (b) BrMPAES-X5Y13, (c) BrMPAES-X5Y17, (d) BrMPAES-X7Y10, (e) BrMPAES-X7Y13 and (f) BrMPAES-X7Y17.



**Fig. S4** AFM pattern of QMPAES-X5Y10

**Table S1** IEC<sub>m</sub>, IECV<sub>wet</sub>, σ, σ/IEC<sub>m</sub>, σ/IECV<sub>wet</sub> of the QMPAESs membranes and some reported AEMs

Membrane	IEC <sub>m</sub> (meq g <sup>-1</sup> )	IECV <sub>wet</sub> (meq cm <sup>-3</sup> )		σ (mS cm <sup>-1</sup> )		σ/IEC <sub>m</sub> (mS g/(cm mmol))		σ/IECV <sub>wet</sub> (mS cm <sup>2</sup> /mmol)	
		30 °C	80 °C	30 °C	80 °C	30 °C	80 °C	30 °C	80 °C
QMPAES-X7Y10	1.28	0.52	0.51	27.4	85.0	21.4	66.4	52.7	166.7
QMPAES-X7Y13	1.02	0.70	0.64	27.2	51.9	26.7	50.9	38.9	81.1
QMPAES-X7Y17	0.90	0.72	0.68	11.6	38.7	12.9	43.0	16.1	56.9
QMPAES-X5Y10	1.06	0.78	0.74	21.4	58.0	20.2	54.7	27.4	78.4
QMPAES-X5Y13	0.83	0.56	0.56	16.5	44.1	19.9	53.1	29.5	78.8
QMPAES-X5Y17	0.81	0.64	0.61	9.7	23.0	12.0	28.4	15.2	37.7
QPAES-X8Y8 <sup>1</sup>	1.60	1.12 <sup>a</sup>	1.05	18.3 <sup>a</sup>	75.8	11.4 <sup>a</sup>	47.4	16.3 <sup>a</sup>	72.2
QPAES-X16Y8 <sup>1</sup>	1.24	0.62 <sup>a</sup>	0.56	26.1 <sup>a</sup>	51.5	21.0 <sup>a</sup>	41.5	42.1 <sup>a</sup>	92.0
QPAES-X16Y10 <sup>1</sup>	1.15	0.85 <sup>a</sup>	0.77	11.8 <sup>a</sup>	37.8	10.3 <sup>a</sup>	32.9	13.9 <sup>a</sup>	49.1
	1.45	0.96 <sup>a</sup>	0.84	15.4 <sup>a</sup>	54.5	10.6 <sup>a</sup>	37.6	16.0 <sup>a</sup>	64.9
QPAES-X20Y18 <sup>1</sup>	1.54	0.98 <sup>a</sup>	0.87	13.3 <sup>a</sup>	64.1	8.6 <sup>a</sup>	41.6	13.6 <sup>a</sup>	73.7
QPAE-X15Y8 <sup>2</sup>	1.13	0.90 <sup>a</sup>	0.77 <sup>c</sup>	9.8 <sup>a</sup>	27.6 <sup>c</sup>	8.7 <sup>a</sup>	24.4 <sup>c</sup>	10.9 <sup>a</sup>	35.8 <sup>c</sup>
QPAE-X25Y21 <sup>2</sup>	1.45	1.07 <sup>a</sup>	0.86 <sup>c</sup>	16.9 <sup>a</sup>	37.3 <sup>c</sup>	11.7 <sup>a</sup>	25.7 <sup>c</sup>	15.8 <sup>a</sup>	43.4 <sup>c</sup>
QPE-X16Y11 <sup>3</sup>	0.79	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	8.8 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	11.1 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
	1.13	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	47.0 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	41.6 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
	1.38	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	52.0 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	37.7 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
QPE-X22Y11 <sup>3</sup>	0.86	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	25.0 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	29.1 <sup>c</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
ds-PAES-75 <sup>4</sup>	1.49	1.27 <sup>b</sup>	1.03	21.9 <sup>b</sup>	47.3	14.7 <sup>b</sup>	31.7	17.2 <sup>b</sup>	45.9
4(X35) <sup>5</sup>	1.01	1.14 <sup>a</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	15 <sup>a</sup>	24.6	14.9 <sup>a</sup>	24.4	13.2 <sup>a</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
4(X50) <sup>5</sup>	1.32	1.40 <sup>a</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	26 <sup>a</sup>	40.0	19.7 <sup>a</sup>	30.3	18.6 <sup>a</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
ImPES-0.55 <sup>6</sup>	0.98	1.29	— <sup>d</sup>	21.9	51.7	22.3	52.8	17.0	— <sup>d</sup>
ImPES-0.70 <sup>6</sup>	1.23	1.48	— <sup>d</sup>	32.6	69.2	26.5	56.3	22.0	— <sup>d</sup>
PAES-Q-12 <sup>7</sup>	1.65	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	22.9 <sup>a</sup>	54.0	13.9 <sup>a</sup>	32.7	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>
QA-Psf-g-PEG350 <sup>8</sup>	1.36	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>	24.9 <sup>a</sup>	70.2	18.3 <sup>a</sup>	51.6	— <sup>d</sup>	— <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Determined at 20 °C. <sup>b</sup> Determined at 25 °C. <sup>c</sup> Determined at 60 °C. <sup>d</sup> Not reported in the literature.

## II. Experimental section

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR characterization.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE 400S with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as the standard and CDCl<sub>3</sub> or DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as the solvent.

### Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) characterization.

Tapping mode Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) was performed on a Bruker Multimode 8 scanning probe microscopy with a probe of MPP-11100-10 (40 N/m, 300 kHz). The scanning frequency is 1 Hz. The sample was equilibrated at 60% RH for more than 24 h before test.

## References

- 1 X. Li, Q. Liu, Y. Yu and Y. Meng, *J. Membr. Sci.*, 2014, **467**, 1-12.
- 2 X. Li, Y. Yu, Q. Liu and Y. Meng, *J. Membr. Sci.*, 2013, **436**, 202-212.
- 3 M. Tanaka, K. Fukasawa, E. Nishino, S. Yamaguchi, K. Yamada, H. Tanaka, B. Bae, K. Miyatake and M. Watanabe, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2011, **133**, 10646-10654.
- 4 X. Li, G. Nie, J. Tao, W. Wu, L. Wang and S. Liao, *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces*, 2014, **6**, 7585-7595.
- 5 N. Li, Q. Zhang, C. Wang, Y. M. Lee and M. D. Guiver, *Macromolecules*, 2012, **45**, 2411-2419.
- 6 Y. Zhuo, A. Lai, Q. Zhang, A. Zhu and M. Ye, Q. Liu, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2015, **3**, 18105-18114.
- 7 C. Wang, B. Shen, C. Xu, X. Zhao and J. Li, *J. Membr. Sci.*, 2015, **492**, 281-288.
- 8 S. He and C.W. Frank, *J. Mater. Chem. A*, 2014, **2**, 16489-16497.