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# Supplementary Information

# Catechol Autoxidation: Considerations in the Design of Wet Adhesive Materials

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## 1. Synthesis, Purification, and Characterization of 5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA

5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA was synthesized based on previously published procedures <sup>1</sup>, purified using prep-scale reverse phase HPLC, and characterized using ESI mass spectrometry and NMR.



Figure S1. Reverse phase HPLC purification for 5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA.

The eluent was monitored at 215 nm.



Figure S2. ESI Mass Spectrometry of 5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA.

Data was collected on a XEVO G2-XS TOF Mass Spectrometer and the parent ion and fragmentations are listed.



Figure S3. NMR Data to Establish Purity of 5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA

(A) <sup>1</sup>H NMR Data for 5-sulfo-2,3-DHBA. NMR (Varian Unity Inova 600 MHz Spectrometer) in D<sub>2</sub>O with enlarged aromatic region. (B) <sup>13</sup>C NMR Data for 5-sulfo-2,3-DHBA. NMR (Varian Unity Inova 600 MHz Spectrometer) in D<sub>2</sub>O.

### 2. Oxidation of Catechol by O<sub>2</sub>



#### Figure S4. Minimum Percent Oxygen Saturation Measurement for Clark-type Electrode

The minimum percent  $O_2$  saturation for the Clark-type oxygen electrode was determined by removing all dissolved oxygen from the system. Dissolved  $O_2$  was removed via the oxidation of 16.6 mM catechol at pH 12.0 in 50 mM phosphate buffer at 29.5°C. The high pH and high concentration of catechol were chosen to promote fast oxidation and ensure complete removal of dissolved  $O_2$ . The baseline reading was determined to be 2.9%  $\pm$  0.2%  $O_2$  saturation after all  $O_2$  was removed from the reaction solution. All  $O_2$  saturation measurements were adjusted based on the baseline reading of 2.9% according to the following formula: Corrected %  $O_2$  Saturation = 100 – (%  $O_2$  Consumed \* 1.0298).



#### Figure S5. Consumption of Dioxygen During the Autoxidation of 6.64 mM Catechol at pH 9.0

The oxidation of 6.64 mM catechol by  $O_2$  was carried out in triplicate under pseudo first order conditions in 50 mM CAPSO buffer pH 9.0 at 29.5°C with catechol in excess (6.64 mM) and an initial  $O_2$  concentration of 223  $\mu$ M. A Clark-type oxygen electrode was used to monitor the consumption of dissolved  $O_2$ . The initial data point was not included to account for mixing upon the addition of catechol. The inset shows the plot of  $\ln(O_2)$  versus time. The pseudo 1<sup>st</sup> order rate constant was determined from the initial portion of the reaction from the  $[O_2]$  versus time plot using Dynafit software (version 4.04.087, Biokin Ltd.).

### 3. Oxidation of Catechol by O<sub>2</sub>: Order with Respect to Catechol

The kinetics of oxidation of catechol by  $O_2$ , under pseudo first-order conditions, with catechol in excess of  $O_2$ , was monitored by a Clark-type oxygen electrode in buffered aqueous solution as a function of [Catechol] from 1.66 x 10<sup>-2</sup> M to 4.98 x 10<sup>-2</sup> M (Figure S6). A plot of ln[initial rate] from the slopes of Figure S7 versus ln[Catechol] is linear with a slope of  $1.00 \pm 0.06$ , indicating that the rate of catechol autoxidation is likely first-order in catechol. A greater range in concentration is needed to confirm that catechol autoxidation is first-order in  $O_2$ .



#### Figure S6. Dependence of Rate of Catechol Oxidation on Catechol Concentration

Reactions were carried out under pseudo first-order conditions in 50 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.0, at 29.5°C with variable catechol concentration, which is in excess of  $[O_2]$ . Each reaction at a defined catechol concentration was carried out in triplicate. The initial catechol concentrations were 16.6 mM, 33.2 mM, and 49.8 mM, as listed from top to bottom. The best fit lines were determined over the first 120 seconds of reaction (i.e., the first five data points), which corresponds to less than 10% consumption of  $[O_2]$ .



#### Figure S7. Catechol Autoxidation: Order with Respect to Catechol

The plot of ln(initial rate) from the slopes of Figure S17 versus ln[catechol], is linear with a slope of  $1.00 \pm 0.06$  and an R<sup>2</sup> = 0.996, indicating that the rate of catechol autoxidation is first-order in O<sub>2</sub>.

## 4. Oxidation of Catechol by O<sub>2</sub>: Order with Respect to O<sub>2</sub>

The kinetics of oxidation of catechol by  $O_2$ , under pseudo first-order conditions, with catechol in excess of  $O_2$ , was monitored by a Clark-type oxygen electrode in buffered aqueous solution as a function of  $[O_2]$  from 1.76 x 10<sup>-4</sup> M to 1.06 x 10<sup>-3</sup> M (Figure S8). Dioxygen concentrations were controlled by bubbling the buffered reaction solution with varying ratios of  $O_2$  gas and N gas. A plot of ln(initial rate) from the slopes of Figure S9 versus ln( $[O_2]$ ) is linear with a slope of 0.96 ± 0.02, indicating that the rate of catechol autoxidation is first-order in  $O_2$  (Figure S8).



#### Figure S8. Dependence of Rate of Catechol Oxidation on O<sub>2</sub> Concentration.

Reactions were carried out under pseudo first-order conditions in 50 mM phosphate buffer pH 8.5, at 29.5°C with 13.3 mM catechol, which is in excess of  $[O_2]$ . Each reaction at a defined initial  $O_2$  concentration was carried out in triplicate. The initial  $O_2$  concentrations were 1.06 mM, 0.883 mM, 0.790 mM, 0.710 mM, 0.521 mM, 0.356 mM, 0.269 mM, and 0.176 mM, as listed from top to bottom. The best fit lines were determined over the first 60 seconds of reaction (i.e., the first three data points of each kinetic run), which corresponds to 10% consumption of  $[O_2]$ .



#### Figure S9. Catechol Autoxidation: Order with Respect to O<sub>2</sub>.

The plot of ln(initial rate) from the slopes of Figure S15 versus ln( $[O_2]$ ), is linear with a slope of  $0.96 \pm 0.02$ , indicating that the rate of catechol autoxidation is first-order in O<sub>2</sub>.

# 5. Concentration and pH-Dependent Oxidation of Catechol and Substituted Catechols by O<sub>2</sub>

## Table S1. Table of Kinetic Data

| Compound         | рН  | Conc.<br>(mM) | Pseudo<br>1st Order<br>k <sub>obs</sub> (sec <sup>-1</sup> ) | Standard<br>Error | R <sup>2</sup> | 2nd Order<br>k <sub>obs</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Average<br>2nd Order<br>k <sub>obs</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Standard<br>Deviation |
|------------------|-----|---------------|--|-------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 4-Methylcatechol | 6.0 | 13.3          | 8.79E-05   | 7.6E-07           | 0.955          | 6.61E-03   | 5.54E-03  | 9.51E-04              |
| (p-Me)           |     | 26.6          | 1.39E-04   | 8.8E-07           | 0.984          | 5.23E-03   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 39.9          | 1.91E-04   | 1.9E-06           | 0.986          | 4.79E-03   |   |                       |
|                  | 7.0 | 13.3          | 7.06E-04   | 6.0E-06           | 0.996          | 5.31E-02   | 4.78E-02  | 4.75E-03              |
|                  |     | 19.9          | 9.24E-04   | 7.6E-06           | 0.991          | 4.64E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 26.6          | 1.17E-03   | 1.0E-05           | 0.995          | 4.39E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 7.5 | 6.64          | 2.74E-04   | 2.4E-06           | 0.965          | 4.13E-02   | 8.27E-02  | 3.59E-02              |
|                  |     | 9.96          | 1.03E-03   | 6.3E-06           | 0.996          | 1.03E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 13.3          | 1.38E-03   | 9.2E-06           | 0.996          | 1.04E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.0 | 3.32          | 7.61E-04   | 3.7E-06           | 0.992          | 2.29E-01   | 2.52E-01  | 2.54E-02              |
|                  |     | 6.64          | 1.65E-03   | 6.6E-06           | 0.997          | 2.48E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 13.3          | 3.72E-03   | 3.0E-05           | 0.995          | 2.80E-01   | 5.055.00  |                       |
| 4. Ethylastachal | 9.0 | 3.32          | 1.68E-02   | 1.4E-04           | 0.997          | 5.05E+00   | 5.05E+00  | 1 525 02              |
| 4-Ethylcatechol  | 6.5 | 16.6          | 1.52E-04   | 1.1E-06           | 0.966          | 9.16E-03   | 7.52E-03  | 1.52E-03              |
| (p-Et)           |     | 33.2          | 2.41E-04   | 4.4E-06           | 0.980          | 7.26E-03   |   |                       |
|                  | 7.0 | 49.8          | 3.06E-04   | 2.05.06           | 0.967          | 0.14E-03   | 1 705 02  | 2 005 02              |
|                  | 7.0 | 22.2          | 5.05E-04   | 2.02-00           | 0.966          | 2.20E-02   | 1.796-02  | 5.69E-05              |
|                  |     | 33.Z          | 7 10E 04   | 2 65 06           | 0.900          | 1.732-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 75  | 49.0          | 5 50E-04   | 2.35-06           | 0.964          | 5.61E-02   | / 00F-02  | 8 /12E-03             |
|                  | 7.5 | 16.6          | 2.33E-04   | 2.3L-00           | 0.995          | 5.32E-02   | 4.331-02  | 0.421-03              |
|                  |     | 33.2          | 1 3/F-03   | 1 5E-06           | 0.990          | 1 03E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.0 | 3 32          | 4 24F-04   | 1.8E-06           | 0.985          | 1 28F-01   | 1 10F-01  | 1 56F-02              |
|                  | 0.0 | 9.96          | 1.05F-03   | 2 3E-06           | 0.999          | 1.20E-01   | 1.102-01  | 1.301-02              |
|                  |     | 16.6          | 1.62F-03   | 8.2F-06           | 0.998          | 9.75E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 9.0 | 3.32          | 8.35E-03   | 5.3E-05           | 0.997          | 2.52E+00   | 2.52E+00  |                       |
| Catechol         | 7.0 | 16.6          | 6.05F-05   | 5.50F-07          | 0.975          | 3.64F-03   | 3.96F-03  | 2.83F-04              |
| (p-H)            |     | 33.2          | 1.39E-04   | 1.60E-06          | 0.965          | 4.19E-03   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 49.8          | 2.02E-04   | 1.70E-06          | 0.963          | 4.06E-03   |   |                       |
|                  | 7.5 | 9.96          | 1.69E-04   | 1.60E-06          | 0.940          | 1.69E-02   | 1.49E-02  | 2.00E-03              |
|                  |     | 23.3          | 3.44E-04   | 2.50E-06          | 0.986          | 1.48E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 33.2          | 4.30E-04   | 3.50E-06          | 0.995          | 1.29E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.0 | 6.64          | 4.44E-04   | 1.70E-06          | 0.998          | 6.68E-02   | 6.59E-02  | 1.99E-03              |
|                  |     | 13.3          | 8.96E-04   | 5.20E-06          | 0.993          | 6.73E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 19.9          | 1.27E-03   | 5.30E-06          | 0.998          | 6.37E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.5 | 3.32          | 7.34E-04   | 5.80E-06          | 0.985          | 2.21E-01   | 2.17E-01  | 4.32E-03              |
|                  |     | 6.64          | 1.44E-03   | 1.60E-05          | 0.963          | 2.16E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 9.96          | 2.12E-03   | 1.30E-05          | 0.987          | 2.13E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 9.0 | 3.32          | 2.11E-03   | 5.30E-06          | 0.983          | 6.36E-01   | 5.79E-01  | 6.71E-02              |
|                  |     | 3.32          | 2.12E-03   | 5.30E-06          | 0.994          | 6.39E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 4.98          | 2.63E-03   | 5.20E-06          | 0.999          | 5.28E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |     | 6.64          | 3.42E-03   | 1.40E-05          | 0.996          | 5.15E-01   |   |                       |

## Table S1 Continued. Table of Kinetic Data, Continued

| Compound         | рН   | Conc.<br>(mM) | Pseudo 1st<br>Order k <sub>obs</sub><br>(sec <sup>-1</sup> ) | Standard<br>Error | R <sup>2</sup> | 2nd Order<br>k <sub>obs</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Average<br>2nd Order<br>k <sub>obs</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) | Standard<br>Deviation |
|------------------|------|---------------|--|-------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 4-Chlorocatechol | 7.0  | 16.6          | 3.13E-04   | 8.5E-07           | 0.997          | 1.89E-02   | 1.78E-02  | 1.10E-03              |
| (p-Cl)           |      | 23.3          | 3.89E-04   | 1.7E-06           | 0.978          | 1.67E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 33.2          | 5.95E-04   | 5.3E-06           | 0.986          | 1.79E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 7.5  | 9.96          | 4.80E-04   | 3.6E-06           | 0.968          | 4.82E-02   | 4.70E-02  | 1.63E-03              |
|                  |      | 16.6          | 7.92E-04   | 4.6E-06           | 0.995          | 4.77E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 23.3          | 1.05E-03   | 5.0E-06           | 0.999          | 4.51E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.0  | 9.96          | 1.00E-03   | 2.6E-06           | 0.999          | 1.00E-01   | 9.49E-02  | 5.40E-03              |
|                  |      | 16.6          | 1.57E-03   | 6.4E-06           | 0.997          | 9.46E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 23.3          | 2.09E-03   | 1.2E-05           | 0.996          | 8.96E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 8.5  | 3.32          | 9.57E-04   | 4.4E-06           | 0.995          | 2.88E-01   | 2.91E-01  | 5.18E-03              |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 1.91E-03   | 5.5E-06           | 0.999          | 2.88E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 9.96          | 2.96E-03   | 8.3E-06           | 0.999          | 2.97E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 9.0  | 3.32          | 3.01E-03   | 1.1E-04           | 0.976          | 9.07E-01   | 9.07E-01  |                       |
| 3,4-DHBA         | 9.0  | 3.32          | 9.67E-05   | 3.8E-07           | 0.995          | 2.91E-02   | 2.94E-02  | 3.59E-03              |
| (р-СООН)         |      | 4.98          | 1.29E-04   | 7.7E-07           | 0.930          | 2.60E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 2.20E-04   | 3.2E-06           | 0.925          | 3.31E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 9.5  | 3.32          | 6.19E-04   | 1.9E-06           | 0.995          | 1.86E-01   | 1.54E-01  | 3.11E-02              |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 7.48E-04   | 5.7E-06           | 0.971          | 1.50E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 8.26E-04   | 2.7E-06           | 0.995          | 1.24E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 10.0 | 3.32          | 5.84E-04   | 1.7E-05           | 0.996          | 1.76E-01   | 1.55E-01  | 1.96E-02              |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 6.85E-04   | 2.3E-06           | 0.989          | 1.38E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 9.97E-04   | 1.6E-05           | 0.939          | 1.50E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 10.5 | 3.32          | 2.30E-03   | 3.4E-05           | 0.946          | 6.93E-01   | 6.20E-01  | 8.07E-02              |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 3.15E-03   | 3.2E-05           | 0.994          | 6.33E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 3.54E-03   | 4.1E-05           | 0.995          | 5.33E-01   |   |                       |
| 2,3-DHBA         | 10.0 | 6.64          | 7.64E-05   | 1.5E-06           | 0.915          | 1.15E-02   | 1.14E-02  | 3.32E-04              |
|                  |      | 9.96          | 1.17E-04   | 1.2E-06           | 0.966          | 1.17E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 13.3          | 1.48E-04   | 2.9E-06           | 0.935          | 1.11E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 11.0 | 3.32          | 3.00E-04   | 5.5E-06           | 0.912          | 9.04E-02   | 8.68E-02  | 7.00E-03              |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 4.55E-04   | 7.3E-06           | 0.909          | 9.14E-02   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 5.23E-04   | 6.7E-06           | 0.952          | 7.88E-02   |   |                       |
|                  | 11.5 | 3.32          | 3.29E-03   | 3.0E-05           | 0.989          | 9.91E-01   | 7.76E-01  | 1.88E-01              |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 3.47E-03   | 3.0E-05           | 0.967          | 6.97E-01   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 6.64          | 4.26E-03   | 6.0E-05           | 0.928          | 6.42E-01   |   |                       |
|                  | 12.0 | 3.32          | 5.10E-03   | 9.0E-05           | 0.977          | 1.54E+00   | 1.54E+00  | 2.31E-02              |
|                  |      | 4.15          | 6.51E-03   | 9.5E-05           | 0.974          | 1.57E+00   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 4.98          | 7.59E-03   | 1.1E-04           | 0.991          | 1.52E+00   |   |                       |
| 5-Sulfo-2,3-DHBA | 12.0 | 3.32          | 7.76E-05   | 4.9E-06           | 0.996          | 2.34E-02   | 1.18E-02  | 1.02E-02              |
|                  |      | 13.3          | 9.79E-05   | 3.2E-06           | 0.999          | 7.36E-03   |   |                       |
|                  |      | 26.6          | 1.21E-04   | 3.5E-06           | 0.999          | 4.55E-03   |   |                       |



Figure S10. Plots of the Observed  $2^{nd}$  Order Rate Constants versus  $[H^+]$  for the Oxidation of Catechol and Substituted Catechol by  $O_2$ 

Igor Pro 7 (Wavemetrics Inc.) was used to fit Eqn. (1) to the plot of observed second-order rate constant for the oxidation of catechol or substituted catechol by  $O_2$  versus  $[H^+]$  using non-linear least squares analysis. This analysis provides the fit pK<sub>a1</sub>, fit pK<sub>a2</sub>,  $k_1$ , and  $k_2$  values in Table 1.

### 6. Potentiometric Titration of 4-Ethylcatechol

Potentiometric titrations were performed to determine the  $pK_{a1}$  and  $pK_{a2}$  of 4-ethylcatechol using a Hanna Instruments HI2002-01 pH meter. The electrode was calibrated as previously described <sup>2-3</sup>. Titrations were carried out in jacketed three-necked titration vessels at  $25.0 \pm 0.1$  °C. Solutions were degassed with Ascaritescrubbed argon and kept under a positive pressure of argon to prevent autoxidation. Standardized NaOH (0.0982 M) was incrementally added to a solution of 10 mM 4-ethylcatechol in 0.1 M NaCl background electrolyte. Acid dissociation constants were determined from the nonlinear refinement of the potentiometric titration data using Hyperquad2008 software (Figure S11)<sup>4</sup>. The  $pK_{a1}$  and  $pK_{a2}$  of 4-ethylcatechol are listed in Table 1.



Figure S11. Potentiometric Titration and Speciation Diagram for 4-Ethylcatechol.

The dashed red line corresponds to the Hyperquad2008 calculated non-linear fit. The relative concentrations of Cat,  $Cat^{-}$ , and  $Cat^{2-}$  were calculated by Hyperquad2008. The potentiometric titration of 4-ethylcatechol was done in triplicate. The average and standard deviation for the three experiments are shown in Table 1.

## 7. References

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