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Modulating the Polyolefin Properties through the Incorporation of Nitrogen-Containing Polar Monomers

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1. Experimental Section

General Considerations. All experiments were carried out under a dry Nitrogen atmosphere using standard Schlenk techniques or in a glove-box. Deuterated solvents used for NMR were dried and distilled prior to use. ¹H, ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded by a Bruker Ascend Tm 400 spectrometer at ambient temperature unless otherwise stated. The chemical shifts of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were referenced to the residual solvent; Coupling constants are in Hz. Molecular weight and molecular weight distribution of the polymer were determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) with a PL 210 equipped with one Shodex AT-803S and two Shodex AT-806MS columns at 150 °C using o-dichlorobenzene as a solvent and calibrated with polystyrene standards. Water contact angles on polymer films were measured with Contact Angle Meter SL200B (Solon Tech. Co., Ltd.) by the dynamic sessile drop method.

Preparation of PO-Pd. The phosphine sulfonate ligand¹ (1.0 g, 2.0 mmol) was suspended in THF (16 mL). Pd(tmeda)Me₂ (550 mg, 2.1 mmol) was added at -5 °C. After stirring for 5 min, the evolution of gas stopped and the suspension turned clear. The solution was stirred overnight. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, washed with Et₂O and dried under reduced pressure to yield the tmeda-bridged dimer. The dimer was dispersed in 20 mL DMSO at room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure at 80 °C. The dimer complex is only slightly soluble in DMSO, therefore complete dissolution of the solid indicate complete conversion of the starting material. After removal of DMSO under reduced pressure, the resulting solid was dispersed in Et₂O, and isolated by filtration to yield a white solid (800 mg, 60%). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ 8.31 (s, 1H), 7.60-7.55 (m, 3H), 7.43-7.29 (m, 8H), 7.24-7.22 (m, 2H), 3.73 (s, 3H, OMe), 2.85 (s, 6H, DMSO), 2.70 (s, 3H, OMe), 0.56 (s, 3H, Pd-Me). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 158.3 (s), 157.9 (s), 149.1 (d, J_{PC} = 14 Hz), 142.5 (d, J_{PC} = 18 Hz), 136.3 (s), 135.1 (d, J_{PC} = 9 Hz), 134.7(s), 133.7 (d, $J_{PC} = 10 \text{ Hz}$), 131.8 (s), 131.1 (s), 130.5 (d, $J_{PC} = 7 \text{Hz}$), 129.0 (br), 128.9 (br), 128.8 (br), 128.7(br), 128.5 (br), 127.1 (d, J_{PC} = 8 Hz), 118.0 (s), 104.2 (s), 103.8 (s), 56.0 (s, OMe), 54.6 (s, OMe), 41.6 (br, DMSO), 4.1 (s, Pd-Me). ³¹P NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ 15.4. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₉H₃₁O₆PPdS₂: C, 51.44; H, 4.62. Found: C, 51.49; H, 4.60.

Procedure for copolymerization. In a typical experiment, a 350 mL glass thick-walled pressure vessel was charged with chlorobenzene, a desired amount of comonomer and a magnetic stir bar in the glovebox. The pressure vessel was connected to a high pressure line and the solution was degassed. The vessel was warmed to the desire temperature using an oil bath and allowed to equilibrate for 5 min. The metal complex in 2 mL CH₂Cl₂ was injected into the polymerization system via syringe. With rapid stirring, the reactor was pressurized, maintained at a desired of ethylene, and stirred continuously for the desired time. The pressure vessel was vented, the polymerization was quenched via the addition of MeOH (5 mL) and the polymer was precipitated using excess MeOH. After filtration, the copolymer was obtained and dried at 80 °C for 24 h under vacuum. The polar monomer incorporation (mol %) was calculated from 1H NMR analysis.

Procedure for terpolymerization. In a typical experiment, a 350 mL glass thick-walled pressure vessel was charged with chlorobenzene, a desired amount of two comonomers and a magnetic stir bar in the glovebox. The pressure vessel was connected to a high pressure line and the solution was degassed. The vessel was warmed to the desire temperature using an oil bath and allowed to equilibrate for 5 min. The metal complex in 2 mL CH₂Cl₂ was injected into the polymerization system via syringe. With rapid stirring, the reactor was pressurized, maintained at a desired of ethylene, and stirred continuously for the desired time. The pressure vessel was vented, the polymerization was quenched via the addition of MeOH (5 mL) and the polymer was precipitated using excess MeOH. After filtration, the terpolymer was obtained and dried at 80 °C for 24 h under vacuum. The polar monomer incorporation (mol %) was calculated from 1H NMR analysis.

Water contact angle measurement. Water contact angles on polymer films were measured with Contact Angle Meter SL200B (Solon Tech. Co., Ltd.) by the dynamic sessile drop method. Samples for water contact angle measurements were prepared by the evaporation of 3 to 5 % (w/w) solutions in toluene onto glass slides under ambient conditions. The solvent was evaporated on top of a glass slide for 10 minutes, and a second layer of the polymer solution was then applied in order to make the film thicker. The water contact angles of the polymer thin films were measured using a contact angle goniometer at 25 °C with an accuracy of $\pm 3^{\circ}$. The reported values are the average of at least six measurements made at different positions of the film.

Mechanical properties of the polyethylene sample. Standard test method ASTM 638 was followed to measure the mechanical properties of the polyethylene sample. Polymers were melt-pressed at 30 to 35°C above their melting point to obtain the test specimens. The test specimens had 28-mm gauge length, 3-mm width, and thickness of 1 mm. Stress/strain experiments were performed at 10 m/min by means of

a Universal Test Machine (UTM2502) at room temperature. At least three specimens of each copolymer were tested.

Stoichiometric insertion studies. The insertion of NB-NP and NP into the Pd–Me bond of palladium complex Pd was monitored by 1H NMR under pseudo first order conditions. General procedure: About 5 μ mol of **PO-Pd** was dissolved in 0.5 mL of CD₂Cl₂. About 5 equivalents of monomer were added, the NMR tube was sealed. 1H NMR spectra were recorded periodically at 20 °C. The decrease of the resonances for **PO-Pd** complex and the increase of a new set of species could be clearly observed.

2. Spectra data

2.1 NMR spectra

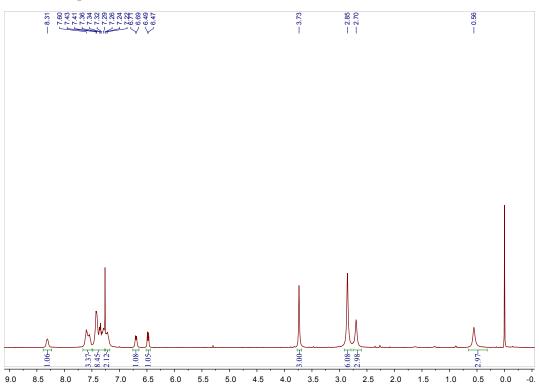


Figure S1. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, CDCl₃) of **PO-Pd**.

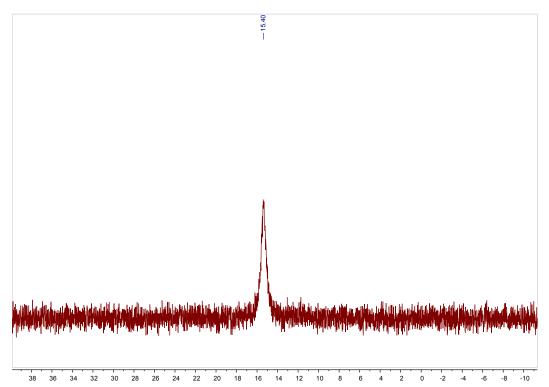


Figure S2. ³¹P NMR spectrum (162 MHz, DMSO-d₆) of **PO-Pd**.

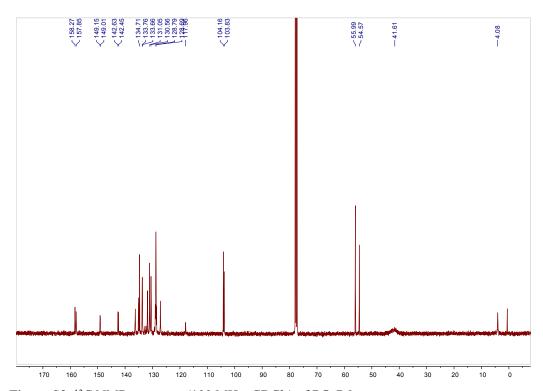


Figure S3. ¹³C NMR spectrum (100 MHz, CDCl₃) of **PO-Pd**.

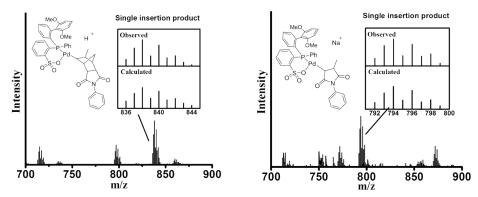


Figure S4. ESI-MS spectrum of a mixture of **PO-Pd** complex and comonomers (1:5). Inset: expanded experimental and calculated isotope patterns of single insertion product of comonomers into the Pd-allyl bond.

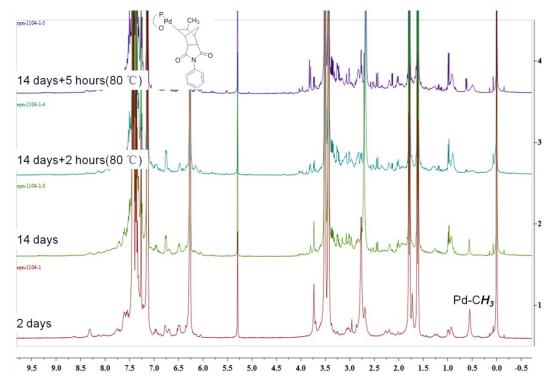


Figure S5. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) monitoring of the reaction of PO-Pd (Pd-Me) with 5 eq of NB-NP at 25 °C.

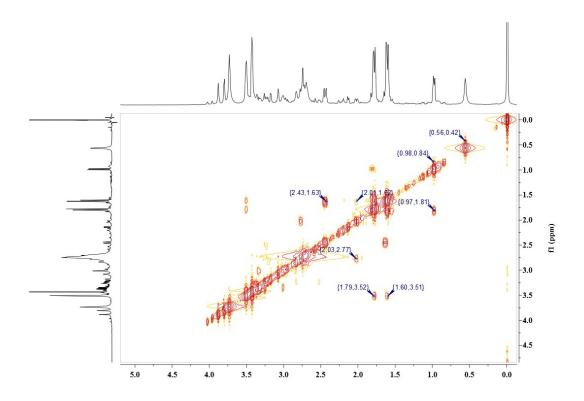


Figure S6. ¹H-¹H gCOSY 2D spectrum (25 °C, CDCl₃) of POPd-NBNP.

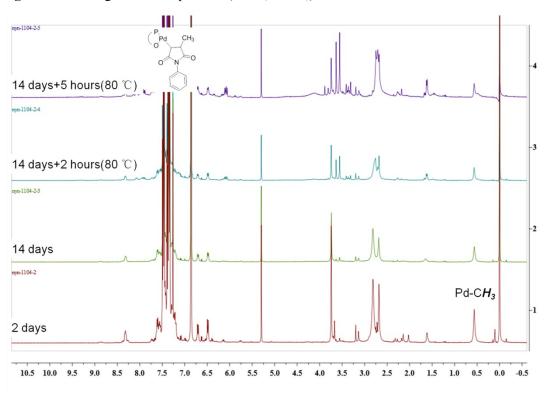


Figure S7. 1H NMR (CD₂Cl₂) monitoring of the reaction of PO-Pd (Pd-Me) with 5 eq of NP at 25 °C.

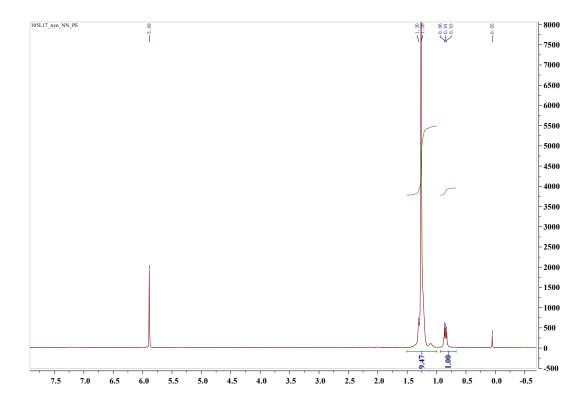
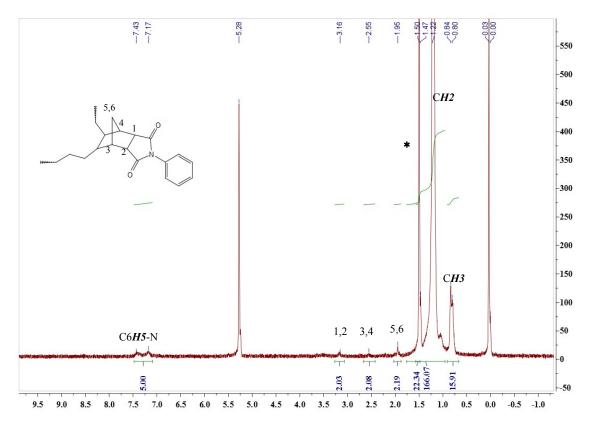


Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of the polymer from table 1, entry 1. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).



ure S9. 1H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 2. (CD_2Cl_2). $\star H_2O$.

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1+39} * 100\% = 2.5\%$$
 Incorporation(%)=

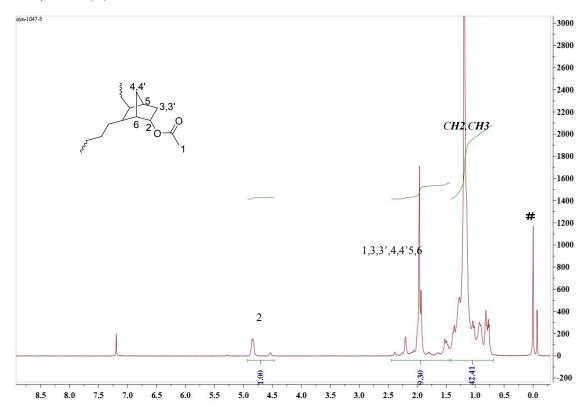


Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 3. (CDCl₃). #greese.

Incorporation(%)=
$$\frac{I(2)}{I(2) + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 10} * 100\% = 9.1\%$$

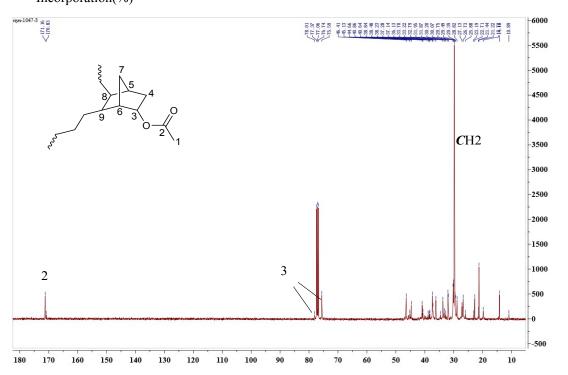


Figure S11. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 3. (CDCl₃).

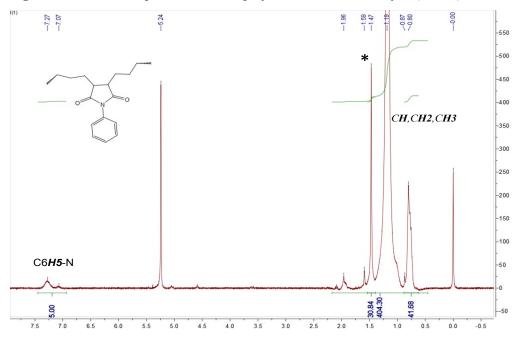


Figure S12. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 4. (CD₂Cl₂). $\star H_2O$.

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 93} * 100\% = 1.1\%$$
Incorporation(%)=

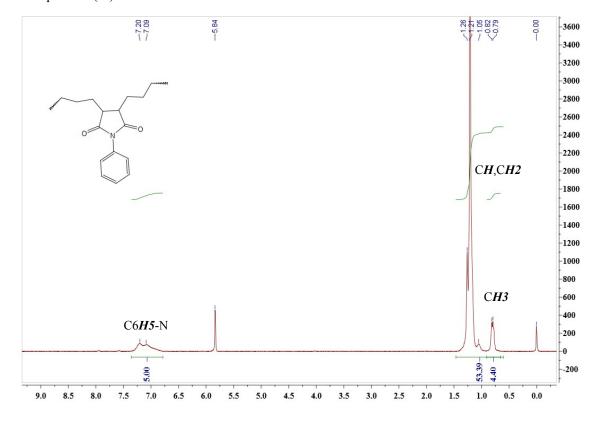


Figure S13. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 5. (CD₂Cl₂).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{I(C6H5N)} = \frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1+13} * 100\% = 7.1\%$$
Incorporation(%)=

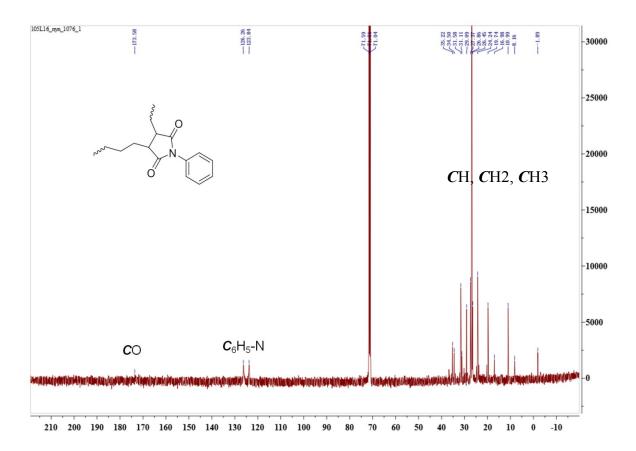


Figure S14. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 5. (CD₂Cl₂).

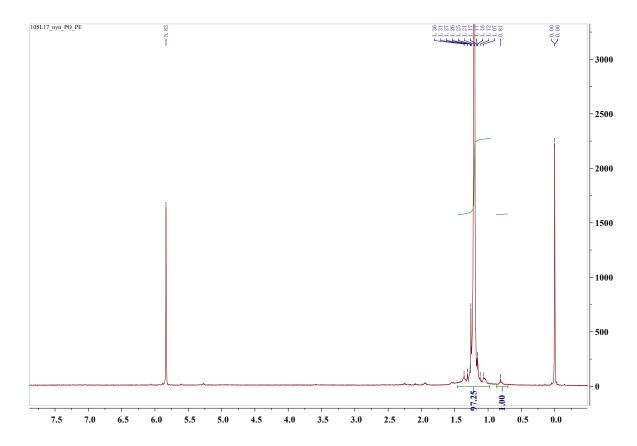


Figure S15. ¹H NMR spectrum of the polymer from table 1, entry 6. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

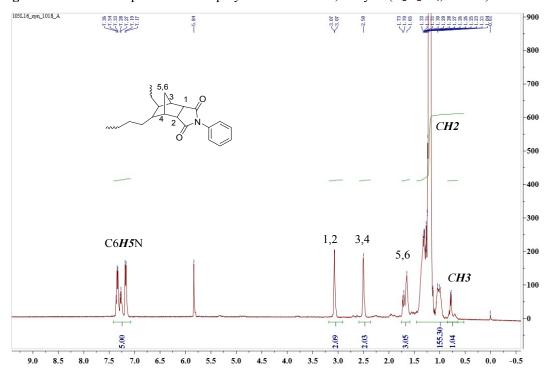


Figure S16. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 7. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 39} * 100\% = 2.5\%$$
Incorporation(%)=

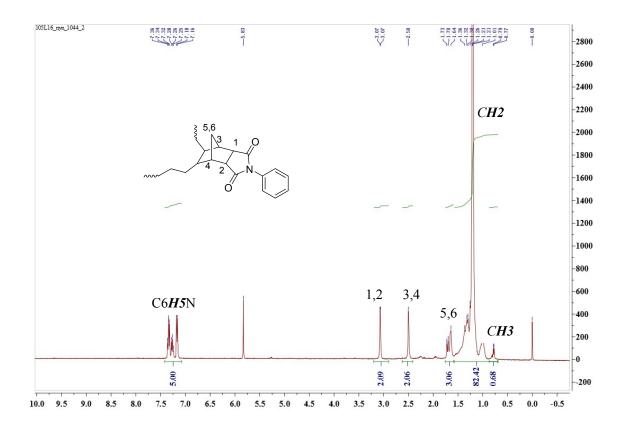
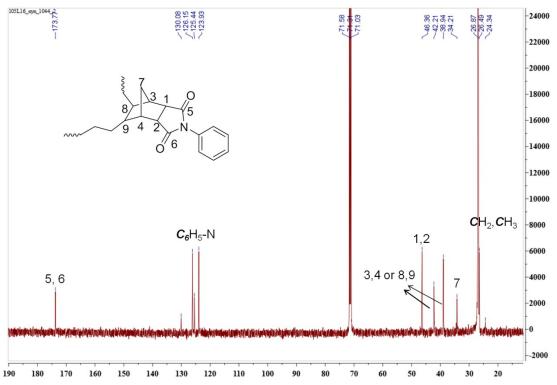


Figure S17. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 8. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{I(C6H5N)} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 20} * 100\% = 4.8\%$$
Incorporation(%)=



S18. 13 C NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 8. ($C_2D_2Cl_4$, 120 $^{\circ}$ C).

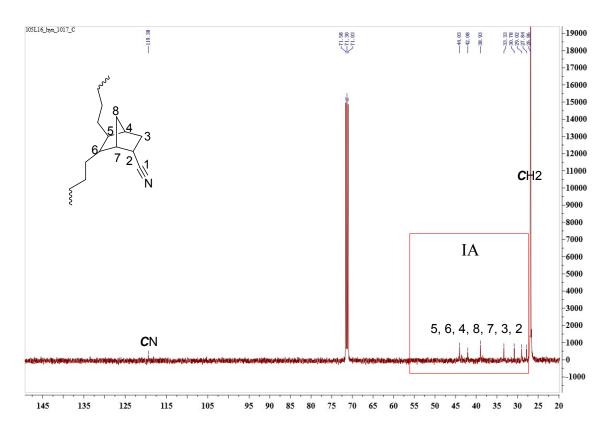


Figure S19. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 9. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{IA/7}{\text{Incorporation(\%)} = \frac{IA/7 + I(CH2)}{IA/7 + I(CH2)} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 60} * 100\% = 1.6\%$$

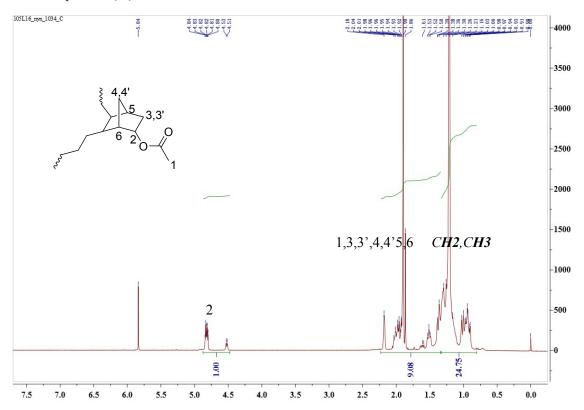


Figure S20. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 10. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(1)}{I(1) + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1+6} * 100\% = 14.3\%$$
Incorporation(%)=

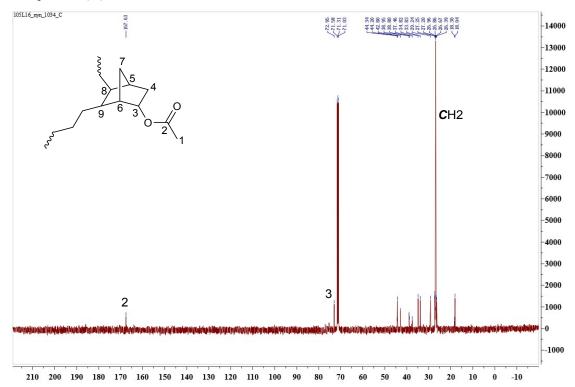


Figure S21. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 10. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

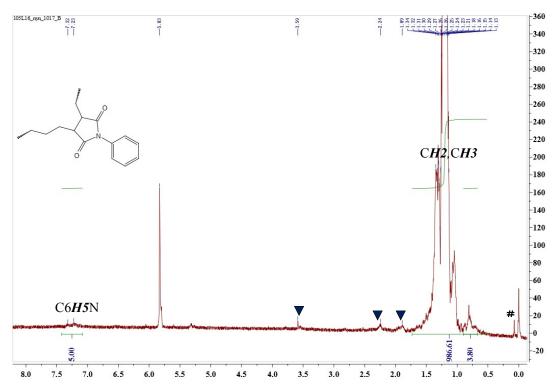


Figure S22. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 11. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C). ▼Solvent

inpurity.

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 246} * 100\% = 0.4\%$$
Incorporation(%)= $\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}$

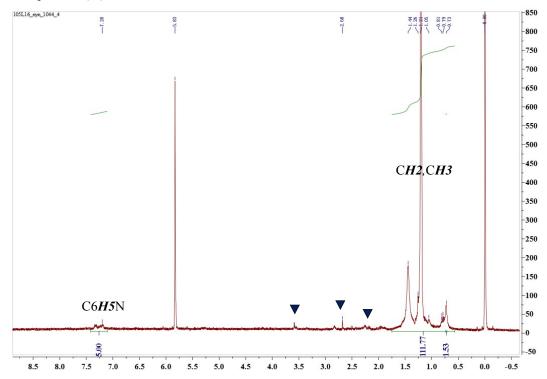


Figure S23. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 1, entry 12. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{I(C6H5N)} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 27} * 100\% = 3.6\%$$
Incorporation(%)=

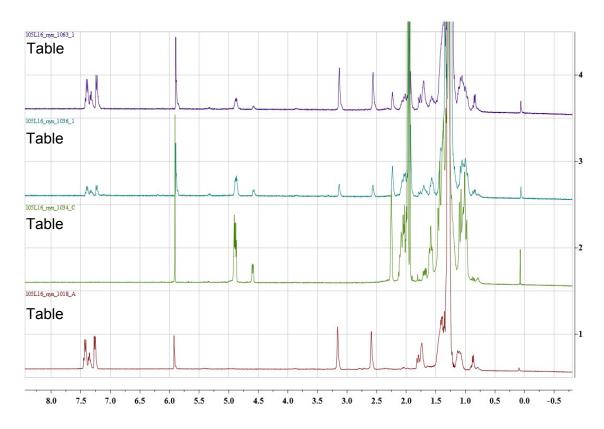


Figure S24. ¹H NMR spectrum comparison of the terpolymers (ethylene/NB-NP/NB-OAc) and copolymers (ethylene/NB-NP and ethylene/NB-OAc).

The terpolymers showed peaks that are not shifted from those of their constituent copolymers.

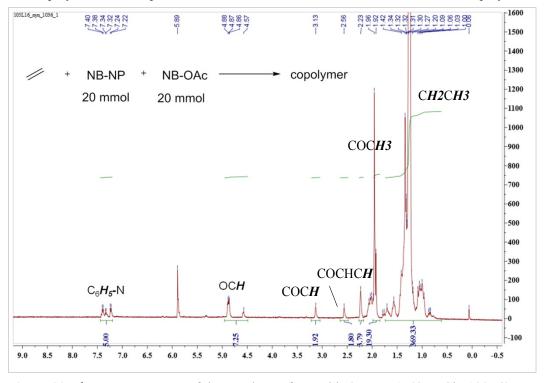


Figure S25. ¹H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 2, entry 1. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 92} * 100\% = 1.1\%$$
Incorporation(%) of NB-NP= $\frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{5}$
Incorporation(%) of NB-OAc=7.25*1.1%=8.0%

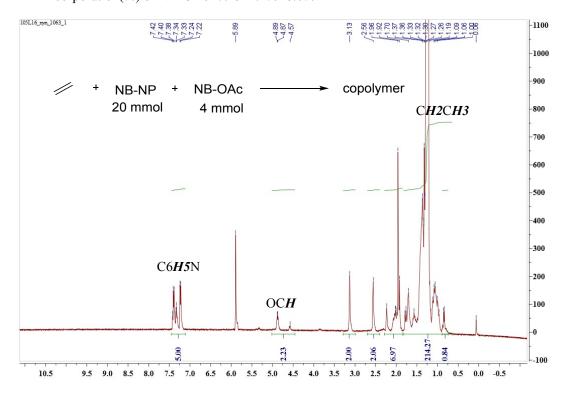


Figure S26. 1H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 2, entry 2. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 53} * 100\% = 1.9\%$$
Incorporation(%) of NB-NP=

Incorporation(%) of NB-OAc=2.23*1.9%=4.2%

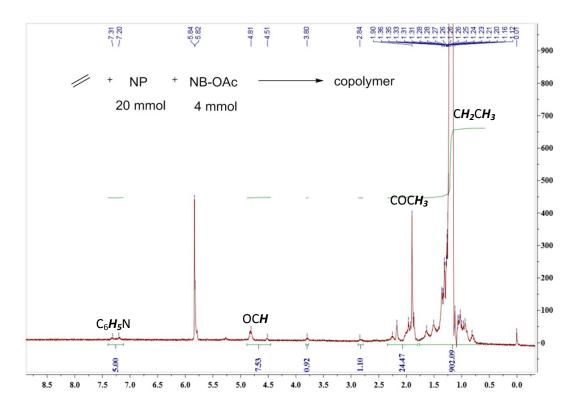


Figure S27. 1H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 2, entry 3. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 225} * 100\% = 0.4\%$$
Incorporation(%) of NB-NP=

Incorporation(%) of NB-OAc=7.53*0.4%=3.0%

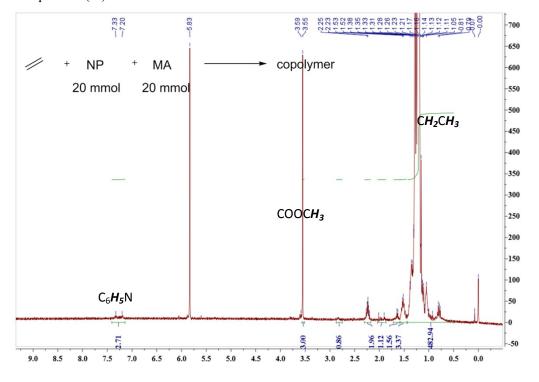


Figure S28. 1H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 2, entry 4. (C₂D₂Cl₄, 120 °C).

$$\frac{I(COOCH3)/3}{\frac{I(COOCH3)}{3} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3)}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 120} * 100\% = 0.8\%$$
Incorporation(%) of MA= $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3)}{4}$

Incorporation(%) of NP=2.71/5*0.8%=0.4%

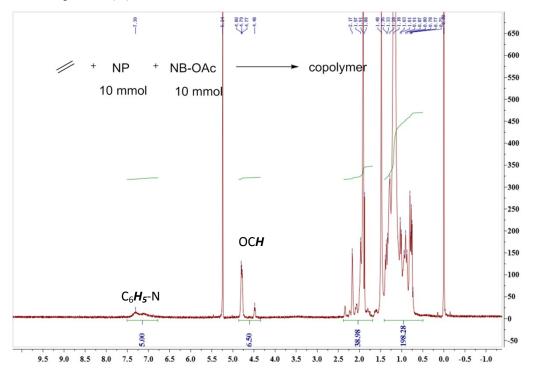


Figure S29. 1H NMR spectrum of the copolymer from table 2, entry 5. (CD₂Cl₂). $\star H_2O$.

$$\frac{I(C6H5N)/5}{\frac{I(C6H5N)}{5} + \frac{I(CH2) + I(CH3) - 2}{4}} * 100\% = \frac{1}{1 + 49} * 100\% = 2.0\%$$
Incorporation(%) of NP=

Incorporation(%) of NB-OAc=6.5*2.0%=13.0%

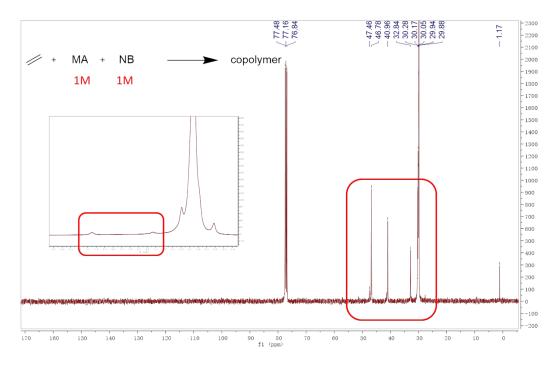


Figure S30. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the attempted E-MA-NB MA 1 mol/L, NB 1 mol/L) terpolymerization product. The characteristic peaks between δ 30 and 50 ppm are from NB comonomer.

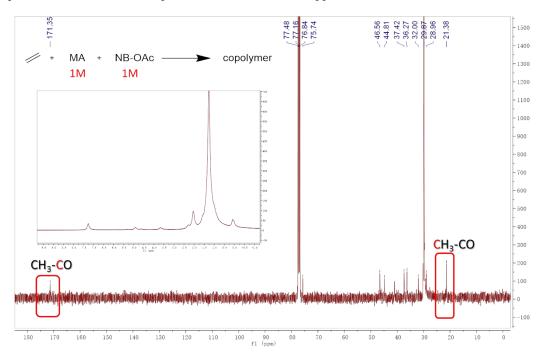


Figure S31. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the attempted E-MA-**NB-OAc** (MA 1 mol/L, **NB-OAc** 1 mol/L) terpolymerization product. Only the characteristic peaks from **NB-OAc** comonomer were observed.

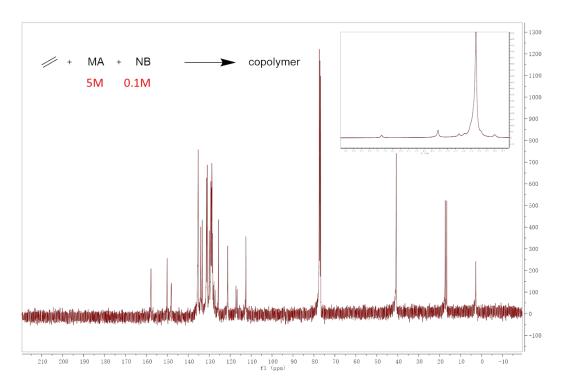


Figure S32. ¹³C NMR spectrum of the attempted E-MA-**NB** (MA 5 mol/L, NB 0.1 mol/L) terpolymerization product. Only the characteristic peaks from **MA** comonomer were observed (the peaks between δ 110 and 160 ppm are from the catalyst residue).

2.2 DSC, GPC of copolymer.

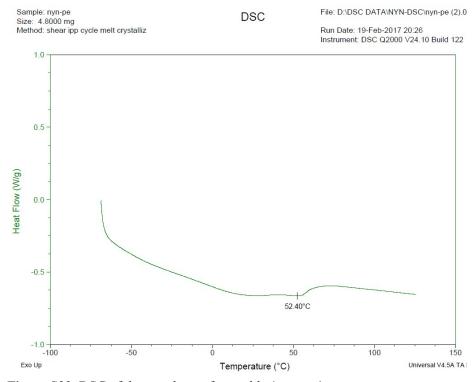


Figure S33. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 1.

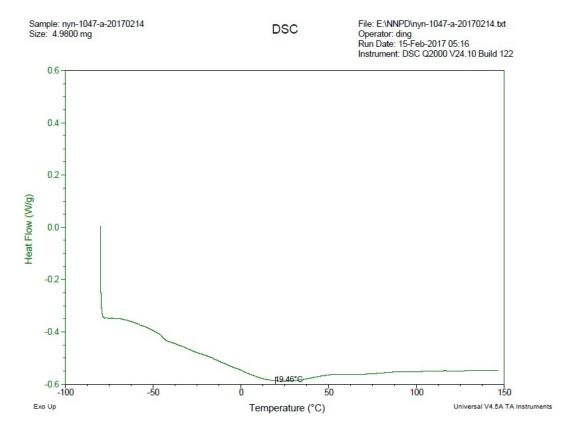


Figure S34. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 2.

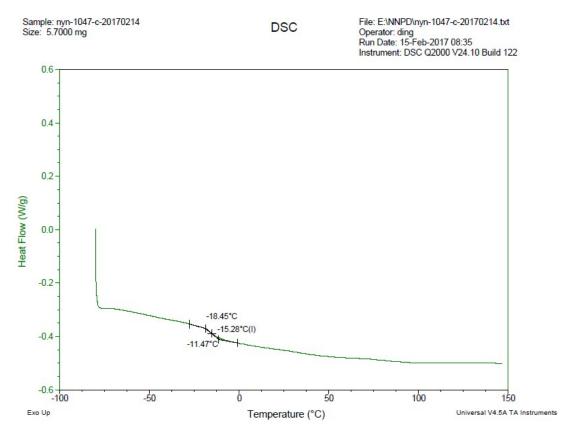


Figure S35. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 3.

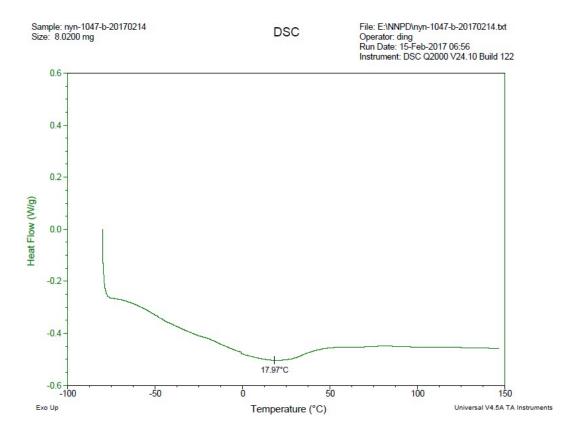


Figure S36. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 4.

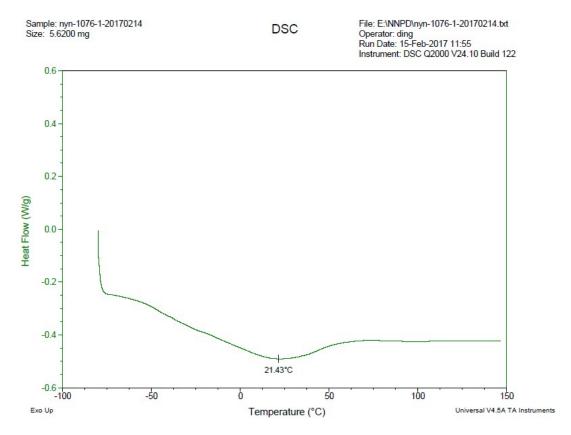


Figure S37. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 5.

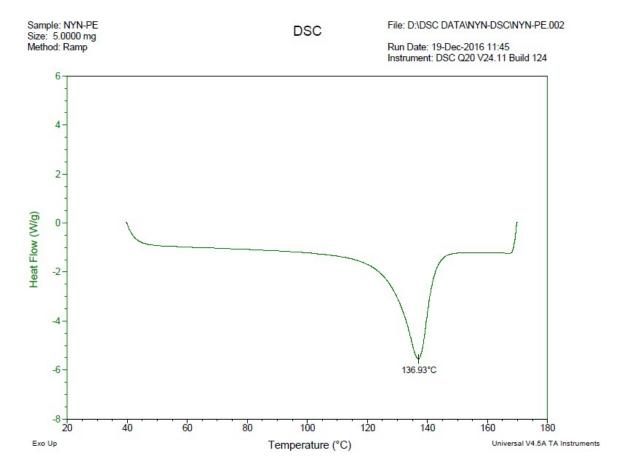


Figure S38. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 6.

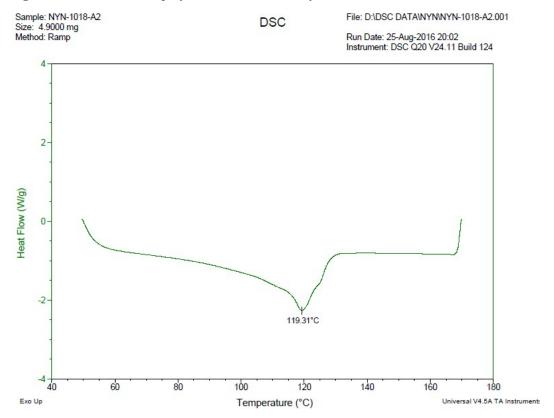


Figure S39. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 7.

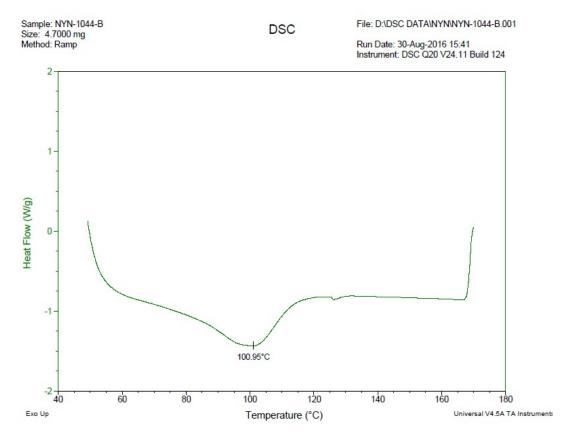


Figure S40. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 8.

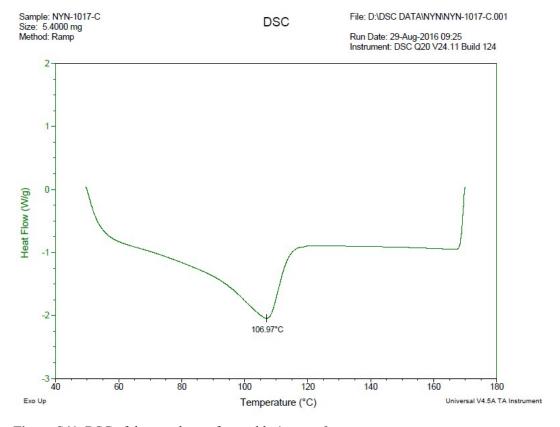


Figure S41. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 9.

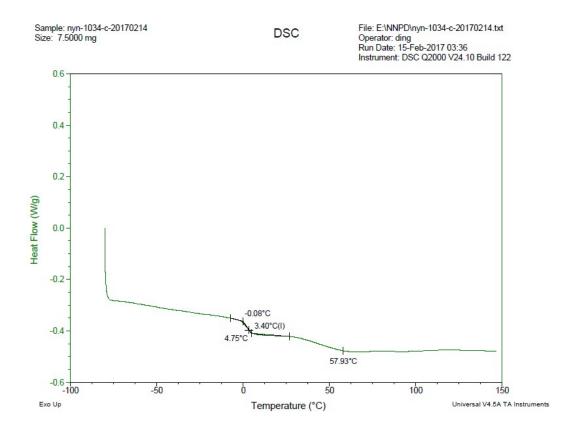


Figure S42. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 10.

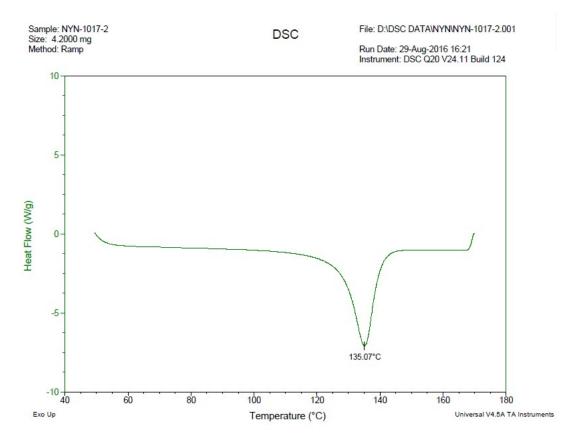


Figure S43. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 11.

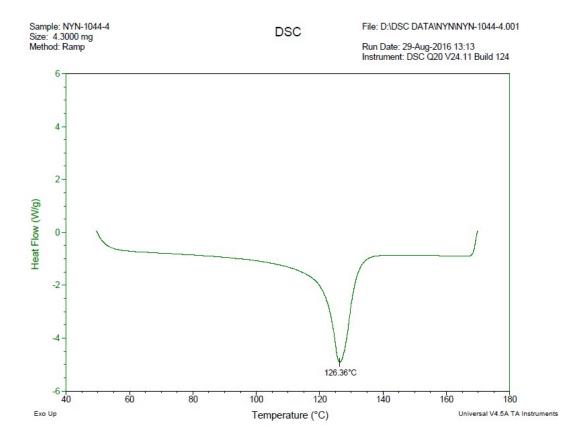


Figure S44. DSC of the copolymer from table 1, entry12.

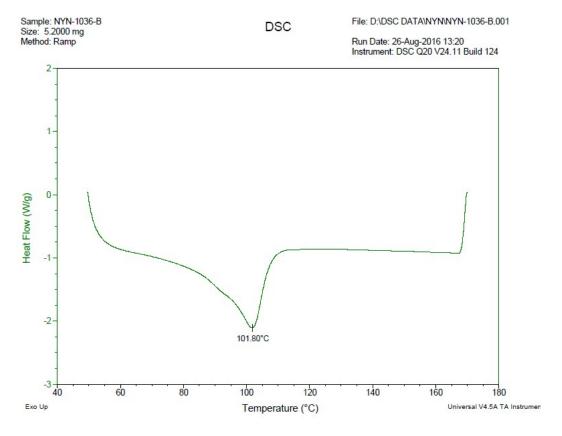


Figure S45. DSC of the copolymer from table 2, entry1.

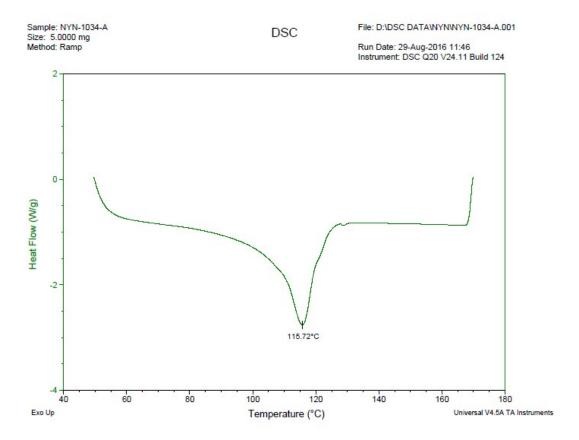


Figure S46. DSC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 2.

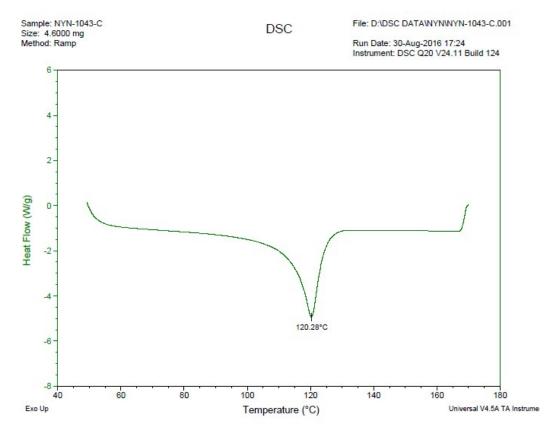


Figure S47. DSC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 3.

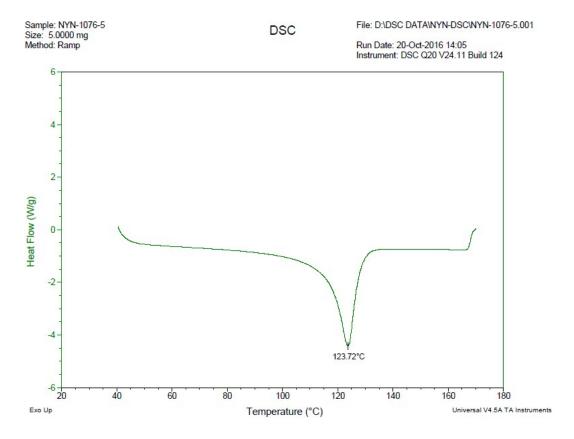


Figure S48. DSC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 4.

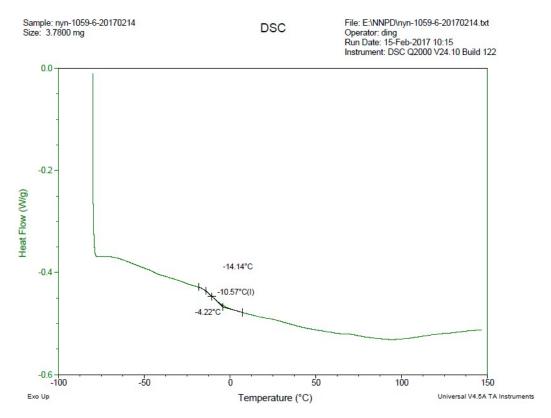


Figure S49. DSC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 5.

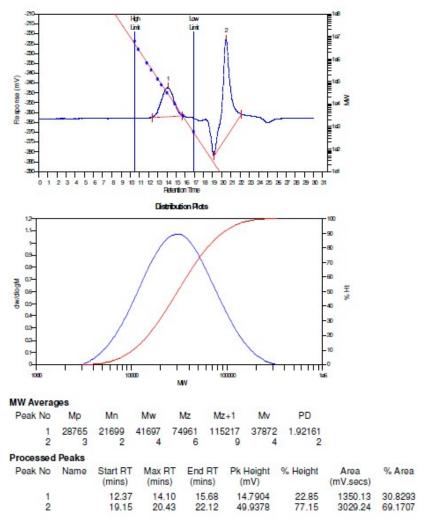


Figure S50. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 2.

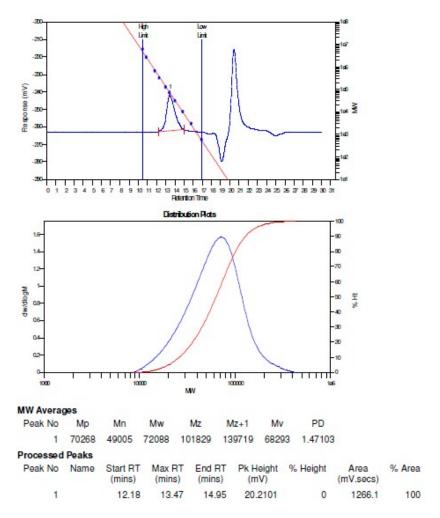


Figure S51. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 3.

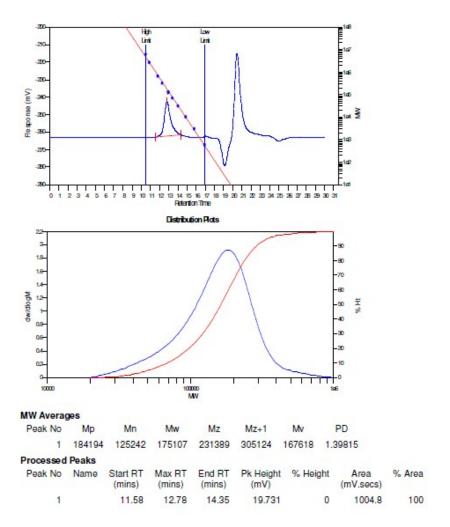


Figure S52. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 4.

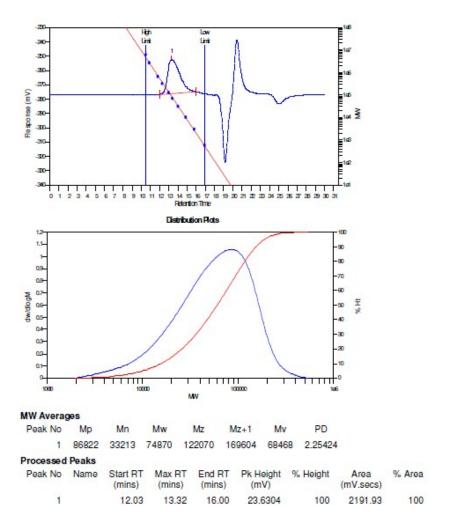


Figure S53. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 5.

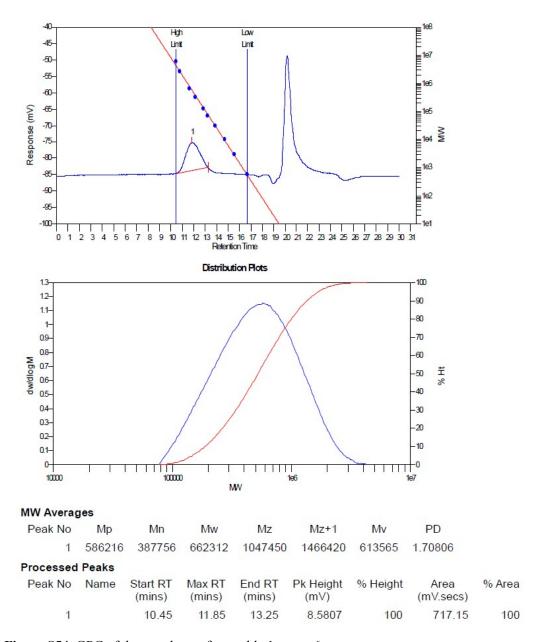


Figure S54. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 6.

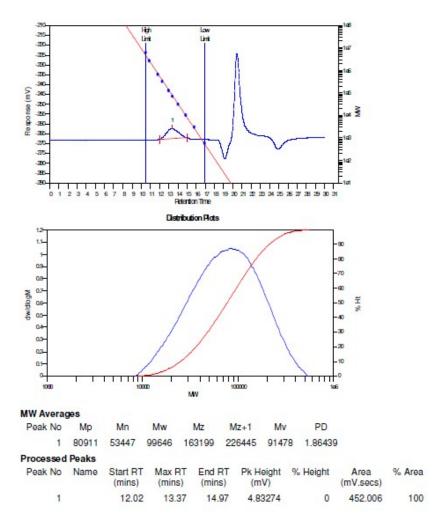


Figure S55. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 7.

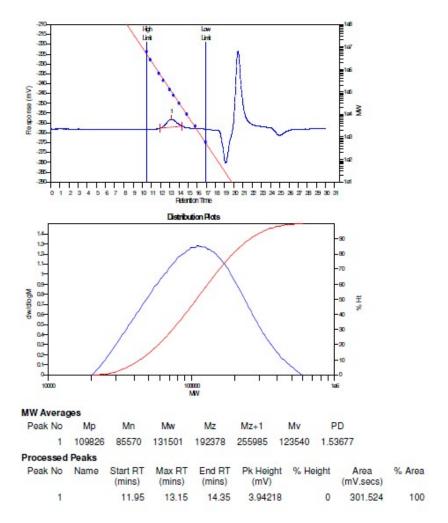


Figure S56. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 8.

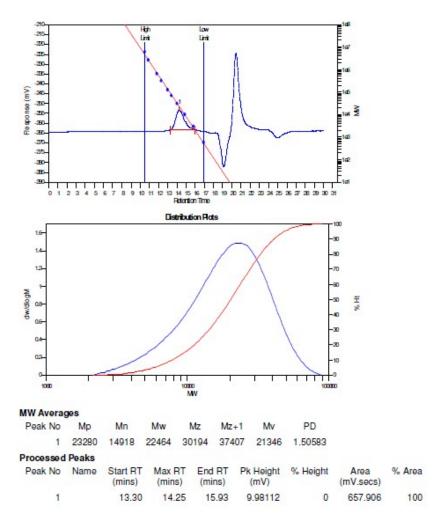


Figure S57. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 9.

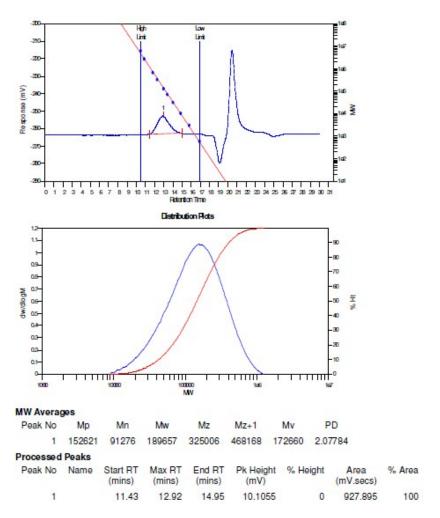


Figure S58. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 10.

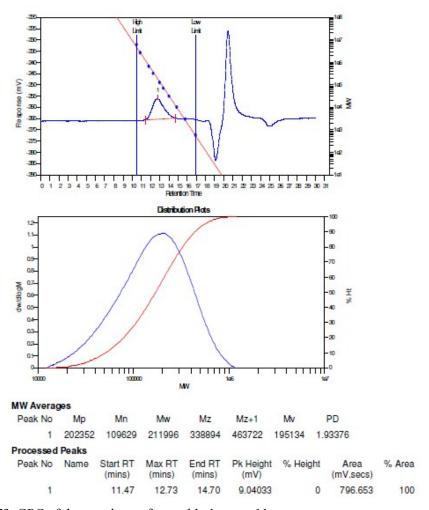


Figure S59. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 11.

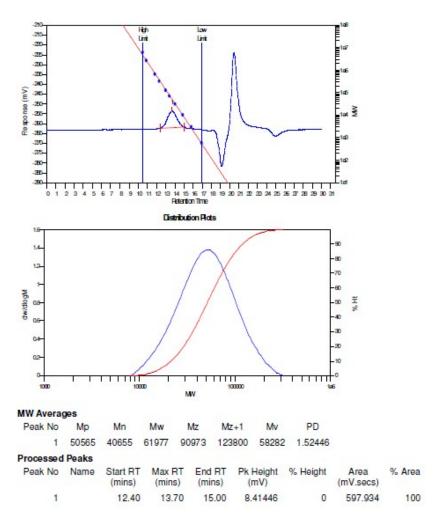


Figure S60. GPC of the copolymer from table 1, entry 12.

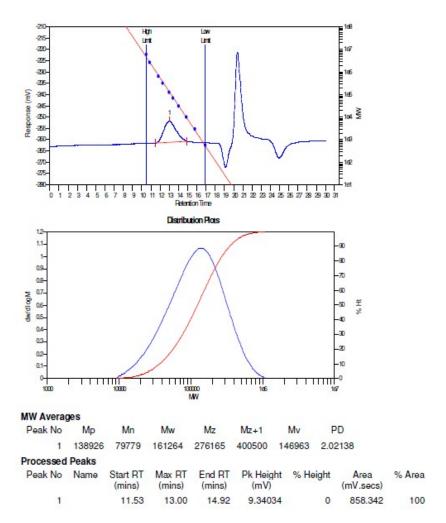


Figure S61. GPC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 1.

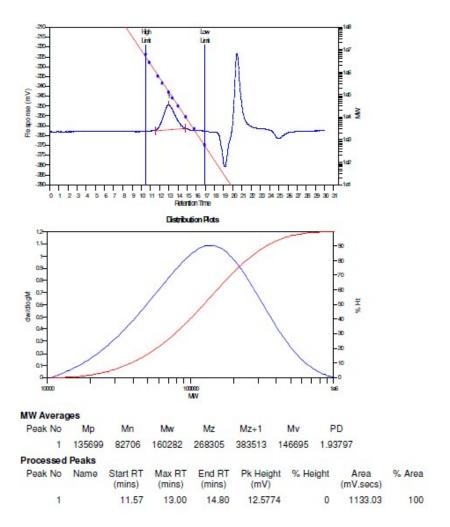


Figure S62. GPC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 2.

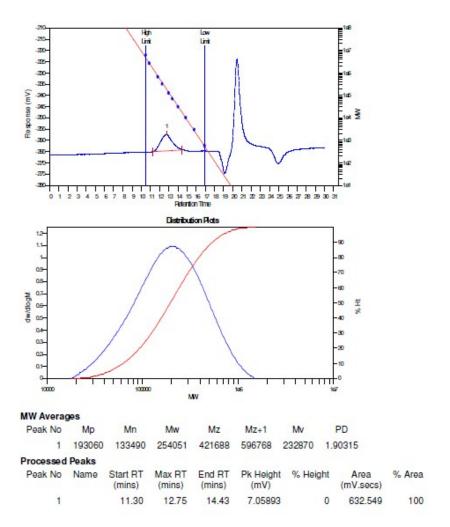


Figure S63. GPC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 3.

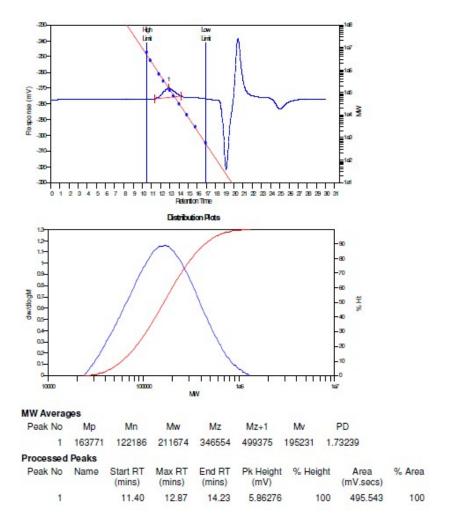


Figure S64. GPC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 4.

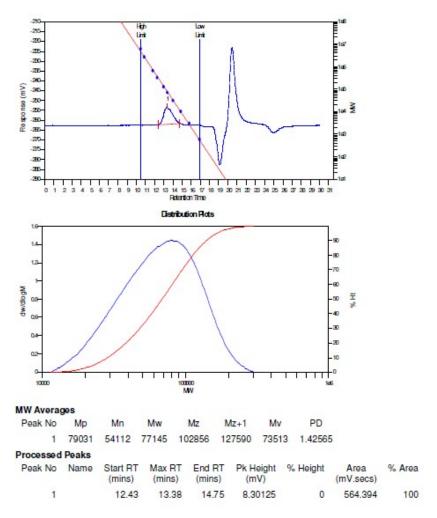


Figure S65. GPC of the copolymer from table 2, entry 5.

3. References

P. Perrotin, J. S. J. McCahill, G. Wu and S. L. Scott, Chem. Commun., 2011, 47, 6948.