## **Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)**

# Highly Efficient Transformation of Linear Poly(Phenylene Ethynylene)s into Zigzag-Shaped π-Conjugated Microporous Polymers through Boron-Mediated Alkyne Benzannulation

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#### Supplementary Scheme.



poly- $3_{OTBS}$ - $^{t}Bu_{50}$  (benzannulation ratio ~ 50%)

Scheme S1. Synthesis of poly-3<sub>OTBS</sub>-<sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>50</sub> from poly-2<sub>OTBS</sub>. Possible partial structures of poly-3<sub>OTBS</sub>-<sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>50</sub> are shown.

#### Supplementary Table.

Table S1. Molecular weight and PDI values of polymers, obtained by the SEC-MALS analysis.

| Entry | Polymer  | $M_n$ / Da (SEC-MALS)               | PDI (SEC-MALS) |
|-------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1     | $\text{poly-}\mathbf{3_{OTBS}}^{-t}\mathbf{Bu_{100}}^{a}$                                      | 4.77 x 10 <sup>4</sup> <sup>c</sup> | 1.66           |
| 2     | poly- <b>3<sub>OTBS</sub>-</b> <sup><i>t</i></sup> <b>Bu</b> <sub>50</sub> <sup><i>a</i></sup> | $1.62 \times 10^4$                  | 1.52           |
| 3     | poly-3 <sub>OTBS</sub> -H <sub>100</sub> <sup>a</sup>  | $1.61 \mathrm{x} \ 10^4$            | 1.34           |
| 4     | poly- $3_{\mathbf{OHex}}$ - $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_{100}$                                       | 1.87 x 10 <sup>4</sup> <sup>c</sup> | 2.37           |
| 5     | poly-3 <sub>OHex</sub> -H <sub>100</sub>   | 2.25 x 10 <sup>4</sup> <sup>c</sup> | 2.00           |
| 6     | poly- $3_{\text{OTBS}}$ - ${}^{t}\text{Bu}_{100}$  | 6.17 x 10 <sup>4 c</sup>            | 1.25           |
| 7     | poly- <b>3<sub>OH</sub>-<sup><i>t</i></sup>Bu<sub>100</sub><sup><i>b</i></sup></b>             | $1.28 \times 10^{5 c}$              | 1.14           |

<sup>*a*</sup>Synthesized from poly- $2_{OTBS}$  ( $M_n = 6,400$ , PDI = 2.02). <sup>*b*</sup>Synthesized from poly- $2_{OTBS}$  ( $M_n = 5,900$ , PDI = 2.32). <sup>*c*</sup>The values may be overestimated to some extent due to the occurrence of polymer aggregation in the SEC analysis.

#### **Supplementary Figures.**



**Fig. S1.** Electronic absorption spectra of poly- $2_{OTBS}$  (black, 3.2 x  $10^{-3}$  mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and poly- $3_{OTBS}$ - ${}^{t}Bu_{100}$  (red, 3.2 x  $10^{-3}$  mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at 25 °C.



**Fig. S2.** GPC profiles of poly- $2_{\text{OTBS}}$  ( $M_n = 6,400$  Da, PDI = 2.02) and poly- $3_{\text{OTBS}}$ - ${}^tBu_{100}$  (eluent: CHCl<sub>3</sub>).



**Fig. S3.** SEC-MALS profile of poly- $3_{OTBS}$ - ${}^{t}Bu_{100}$  ( $M_n = 4.77 \times 10^4$  Da, PDI = 1.66). The observed rise in the light-scattering (LS) trace (green arrow) suggests the occurrence of polymer aggregation in the SEC analysis, which may lead to the overestimation of the molecular weight of the polymer.



**Fig. S4.**BJH pore size distribution profiles of powder samples of (a) poly- $\mathbf{3}_{OTBS}$ - ${}^{t}\mathbf{Bu}_{100}$  and (b) poly- $\mathbf{3}_{OTBS}$ - ${}^{t}\mathbf{Bu}_{50}$  obtained from **poly-\mathbf{2}\_{OTBS}** ( $M_n = 6,400$ , PDI = 2.02), and (c) poly- $\mathbf{3}_{OTBS}$ - ${}^{t}\mathbf{Bu}_{100}$  and (d) poly- $\mathbf{3}_{OH}$ - ${}^{t}\mathbf{Bu}_{100}$  obtained from **poly-\mathbf{2}\_{OTBS}** ( $M_n = 5,900$ , PDI = 2.02).



Fig. S5. IR spectra (KBr) of poly- $3_{OTBS}$ -<sup>*t*</sup> $Bu_{100}$  (red) and poly- $3_{OH}$ -<sup>*t*</sup> $Bu_{100}$  (green) at 25 °C

### **Analytical Data**



**Fig. S7.** <sup>11</sup>B NMR spectrum (128 MHz) of  $\mathbf{1}_{tBu}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C. The broad peaks in a region from 50 to -40 ppm are the contributions from a borosilicate-glass NMR tube.



Fig. S8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of  $1_{tBu}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly- $1_{OTBS}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S10. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly-1<sub>Ohex</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly-1<sub>OHex</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S12. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly-1<sub>OHex</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly- $3_{OTBS}$ -<sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>100</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S15. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly-3<sub>OTBS</sub>-<sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>50</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S16. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly-3<sub>0TBS</sub>-<sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>50</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S17. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly-3<sub>0TBS</sub>-H<sub>100</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S18. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly- $3_{OHex}$  <sup>*t*</sup>Bu<sub>100</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S19. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly- $3_{OHex}$ - $^{t}Bu_{100}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



**Fig. S20.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly- $3_{OHex}$ - $H_{100}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



Fig. S21. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly- $3_{OHex}$ - $H_{100}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



**Fig. S22.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (500 MHz) of poly- $3_{OH}$ -<sup>*t*</sup> $Bu_{100}$  in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.



**Fig. S23.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (125 MHz) of poly-**3**<sub>OH</sub>-<sup>*t*</sup>**Bu**<sub>100</sub> in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C.