

## Supporting Information

### Living cationic polymerization of vinyl ethers initiated by electrophilic selenium reagents under ambient conditions

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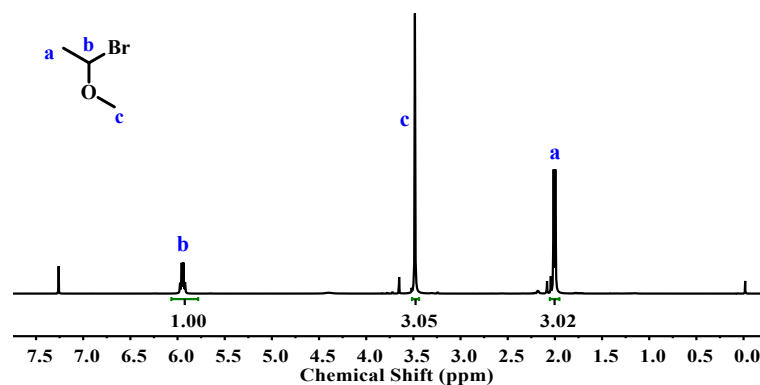


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of bromoethyl methylether in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

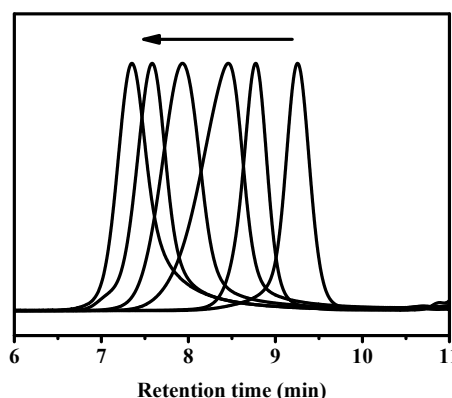


Figure S2. SEC traces versus conversion of bulk polymerization of IBVE with the different molar ratio ([IBVE]<sub>0</sub>/[PhSeBr]<sub>0</sub>) entries 1-6 in Table 1.

**Table S1.** Polymerization of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 100 : 1 : 0.1$  under various solvents at 25 °C,  $V_{\text{IBVE}} = V_{\text{solvent}} = 0.5$  mL.

Entry	Solvent	Time	Conv.%	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,\text{th}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,\text{SEC}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\bar{D}$
1	Toluene	7 h	95.5	9800	12600	1.15
2	EA	7 h	69.8	7200	5300	1.42
3	Hexane	7 h	97.6	10000	13100	1.09

<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,\text{th}} = [\text{M}]_0 / [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{\text{PhSeBr}}$ ).

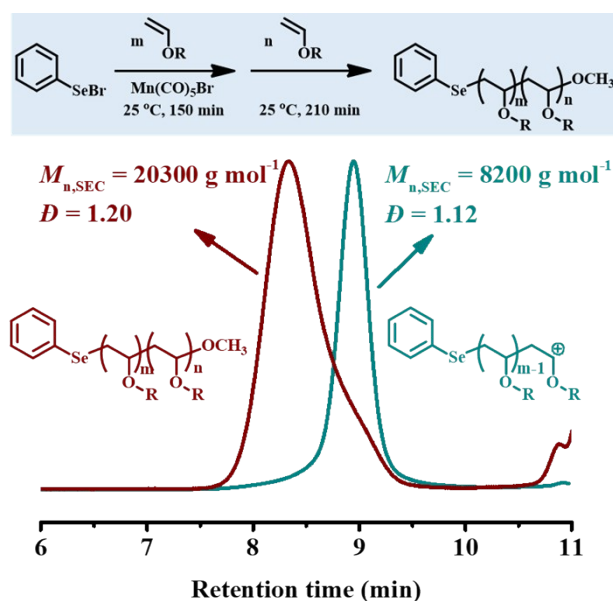
<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).

**Table S2.** Bulk polymerization of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Catalyst}]_0 = 200 : 1 : 0.1$  under various Lewis acid catalysts at 25 °C in glove box.

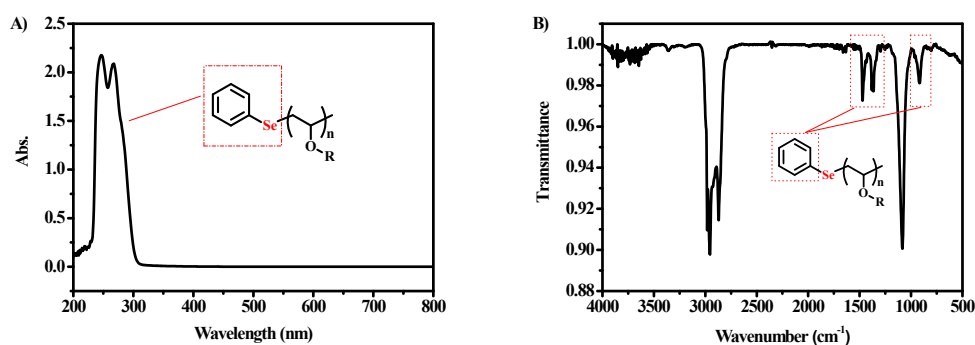
Entry	Catalyst	Time	Conv.%	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,\text{th}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,\text{SEC}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\bar{D}$
1	ZnCl <sub>2</sub>	0.08 h	95.6	19400	20200	1.26
2	AlCl <sub>3</sub>	0.33 h	78.3	15900	25600	2.16
3	TiCl <sub>4</sub>	0.33 h	88.7	18000	13600	1.29

<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,\text{th}} = [\text{M}]_0 / [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{\text{PhSeBr}}$ ).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).



**Figure S3.** *In-situ* chain extension via cationic polymerization initiated with PhSeBr.



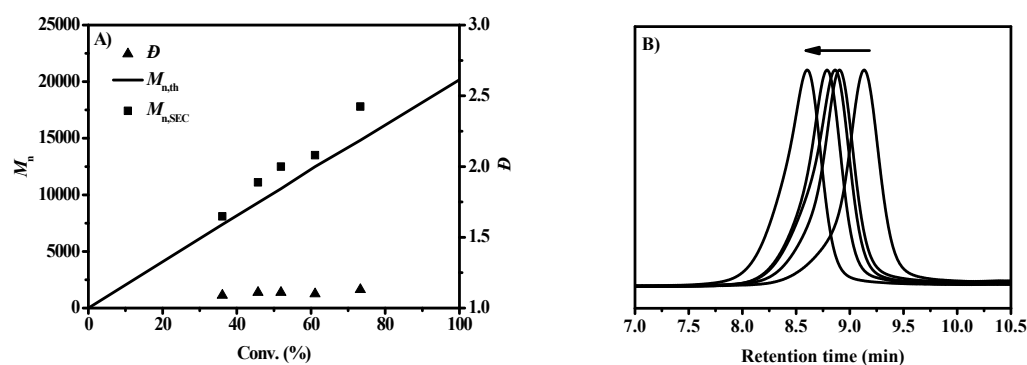
**Figure S4.** A) UV-vis absorption of PIBVE in THF; B) FT-IR spectrum of PIBVE ( $M_{n,SEC} = 6600 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{D} = 1.08$ ).

**Table S3.** Bulk polymerization of IBVE under various conditions at 25 °C.

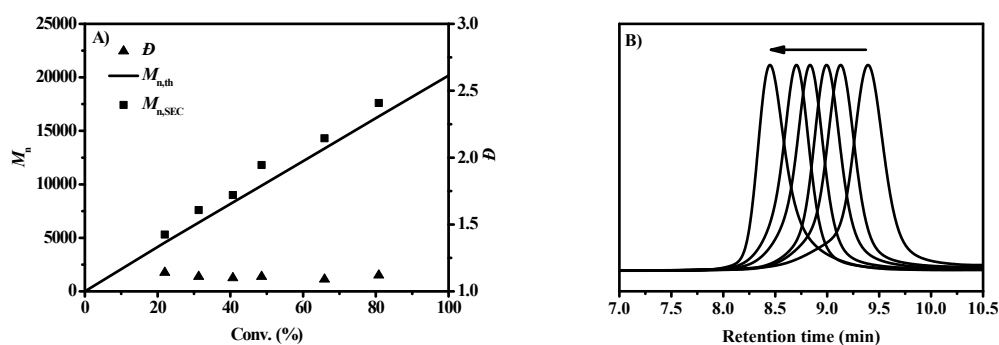
Entry	$[M]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0$	Time	Conv. %	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,th}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,SEC}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\bar{D}$
1	200 : 1 : 1	0.5 h	70.1	14200	17400	1.11
2	200 : 1 : 0.2	1 h	60.1	12500	13500	1.10
3	200 : 1 : 0.05	3 h	90.0	18200	21800	1.08
4	200 : 1 : 0.02	5 h	82.7	16700	17400	1.09
5	200 : 1 : 0.01	21 h	75.5	15100	22100	1.09
6	200 : 1 : 0.005	31 h	65.9	13200	15700	1.11

<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,th} = [M]_0 / [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{\text{PhSeBr}}$ ).

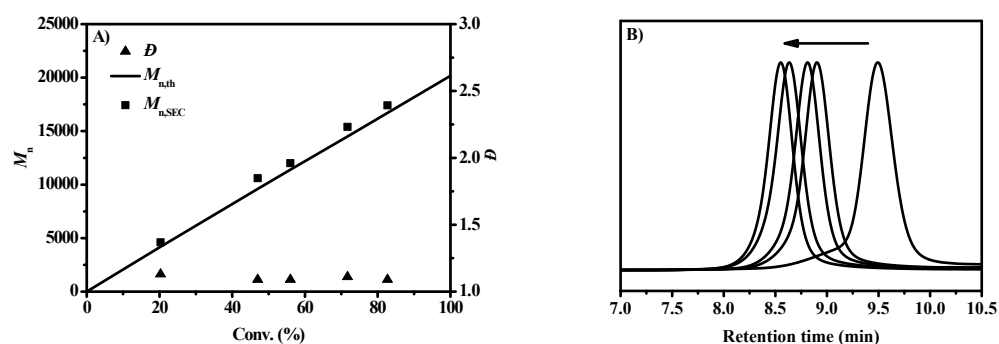
<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).



**Figure S5.** Bulk polymerization results of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 200 : 1 : 0.2$  at 25 °C. A) molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) and molecular weight distribution ( $\bar{D}$ ) versus conversion; B) SEC traces.



**Figure S6.** Bulk polymerization results of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 200 : 1 : 0.05$  at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . A) molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) and molecular weight distribution ( $\bar{D}$ ) versus conversion; B) SEC traces.



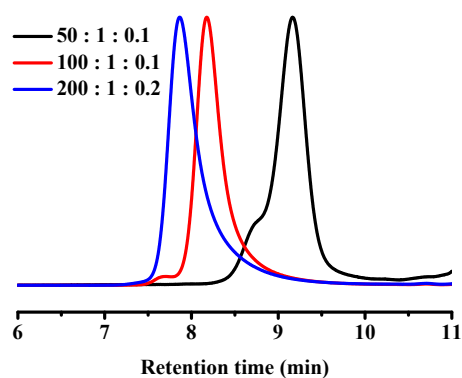
**Figure S7.** Bulk polymerization results of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{PhSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 200 : 1 : 0.02$  at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . A) molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) and molecular weight distribution ( $\bar{D}$ ) versus conversion; B) SEC traces.

**Table S4.** Bulk polymerization of IBVE with  $\text{BnSeBr}$  as initiator at  $25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

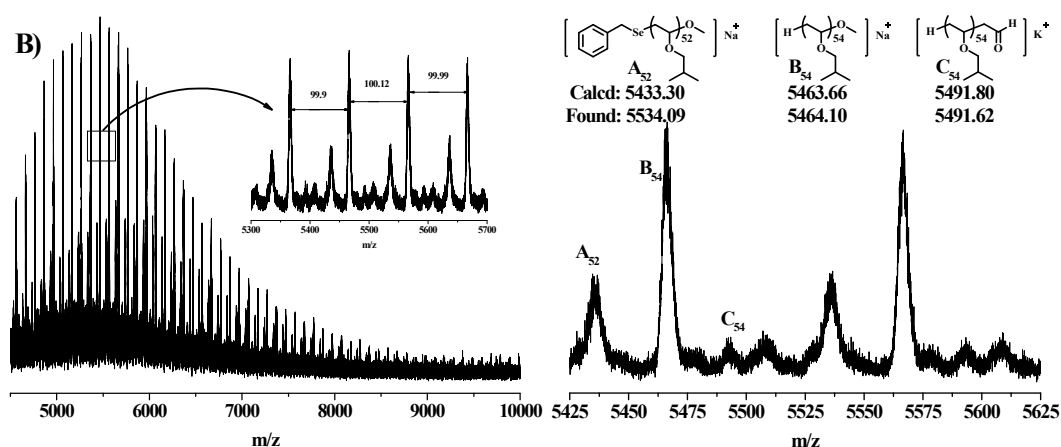
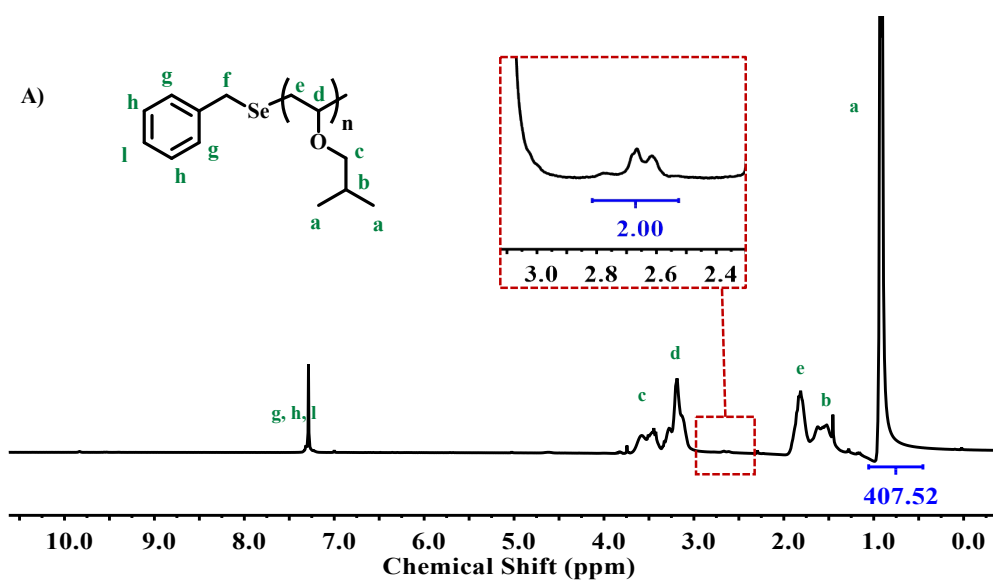
Entry	$[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{BnSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0$	Time	Conv. %	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,\text{th}}$ ( $\text{g mol}^{-1}$ )	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,\text{SEC}}$ ( $\text{g mol}^{-1}$ )	$\bar{D}$
1	50 : 1 : 0.1	2.5 h	52.3	2800	7800	1.12
2	100 : 1 : 0.1	3 h	98.3	10000	25400	1.16
3	200 : 1 : 0.2	3 h	95.5	13900	33400	1.28
4	100 : 1 : 0	24 h	-	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,\text{th}} = [\text{M}]_0 / [\text{BnSeBr}]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{\text{BnSeBr}}$ ).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).



**Figure S8.** SEC traces of PIBVE with BnSeBr as initiator under various rates.



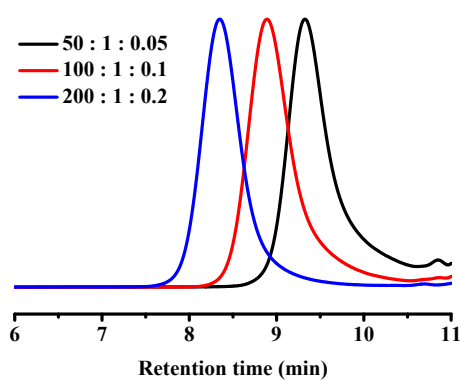
**Figure S9.** Bulk polymerization results of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{BnSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.1$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ , A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra analysis ( $M_{n,\text{NMR}} = 7100 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ). B) MALDI-TOF MS of PIBVE ( $M_{n,\text{SEC}} = 7800 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{D} = 1.18$ ).

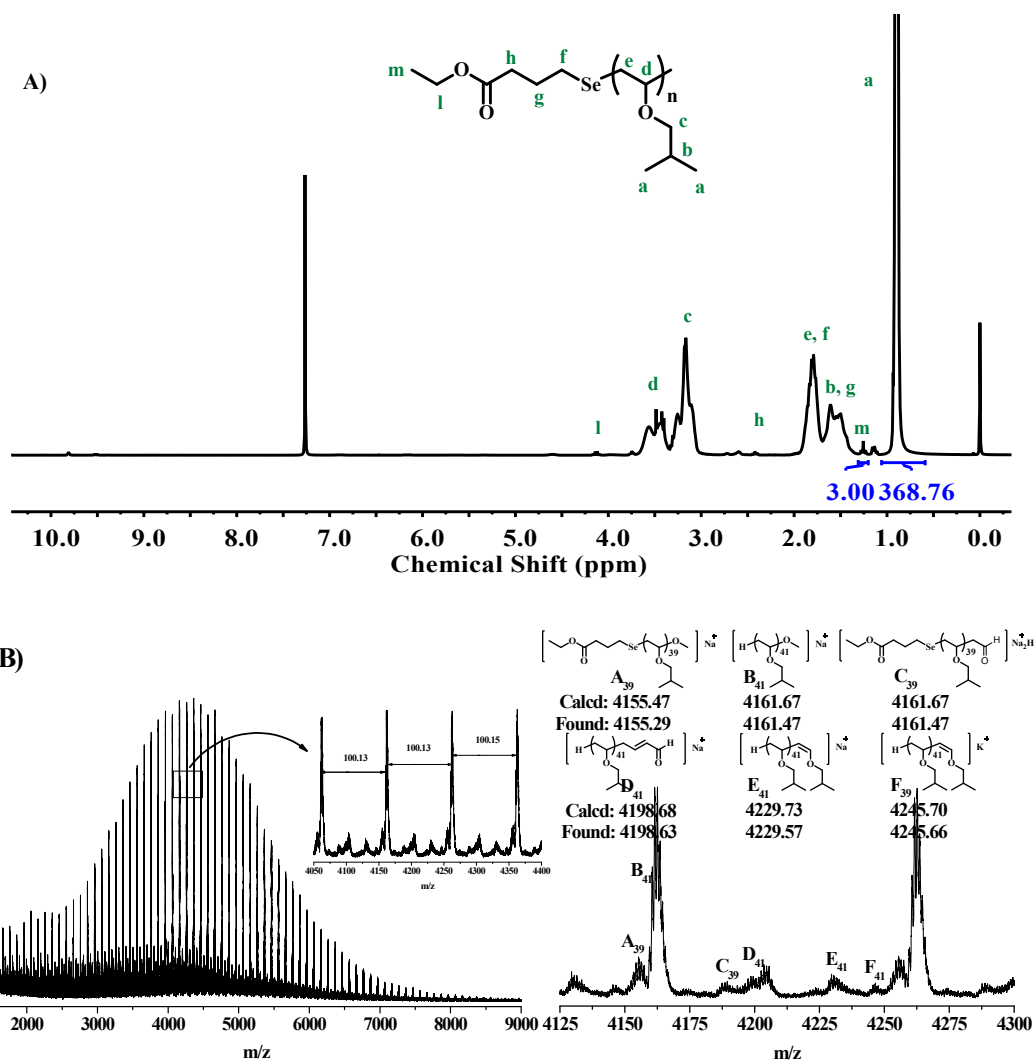
**Table S5.** Bulk polymerization of IBVE with EBSeBr as initiator at 25 °C.

Entry	[IBVE] <sub>0</sub> : [EBSeBr] <sub>0</sub> : [Mn(CO) <sub>5</sub> Br] <sub>0</sub>	Time	Conv.%	<sup>a</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,th</sub> (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> <i>M</i> <sub>n,SEC</sub> (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<i>D</i>
1	50 : 1 : 0.05	62 h	85.9	4500	4700	1.19
2	100 : 1 : 0.1	47 h	74.4	7600	8400	1.25
3	200 : 1 : 0.2	40 h	75.6	15300	21100	1.16
4	100 : 1 : 0	24 h	-	-	-	-

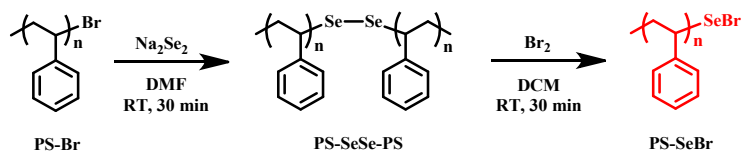
<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,th} = [M]_0/[BnSeBr]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{EBSeBr}$ ).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).

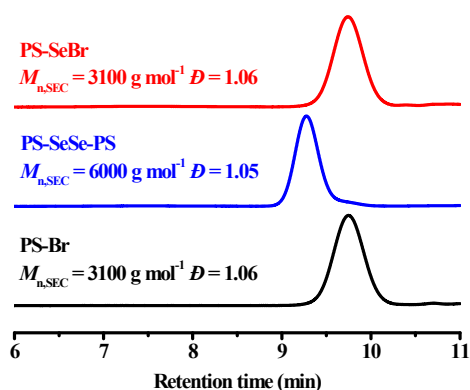
**Figure S10.** SEC traces of PIBVE with EBSeBr as initiator under various rates.



**Figure S11.** Bulk polymerization results of IBVE with the molar ratio  $[\text{IBVE}]_0 : [\text{EBSeBr}]_0 : [\text{Mn}(\text{CO})_5\text{Br}]_0 = 50 : 1 : 0.05$  at 25 °C, A)  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra analysis ( $M_{n,\text{NMR}} = 6400 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ). B) MALDI-TOF MS of PIBVE ( $M_{n,\text{SEC}} = 6600 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{D} = 1.09$ ).



**Scheme S1.** Synthetic routes of macroinitiator (PS-SeBr).



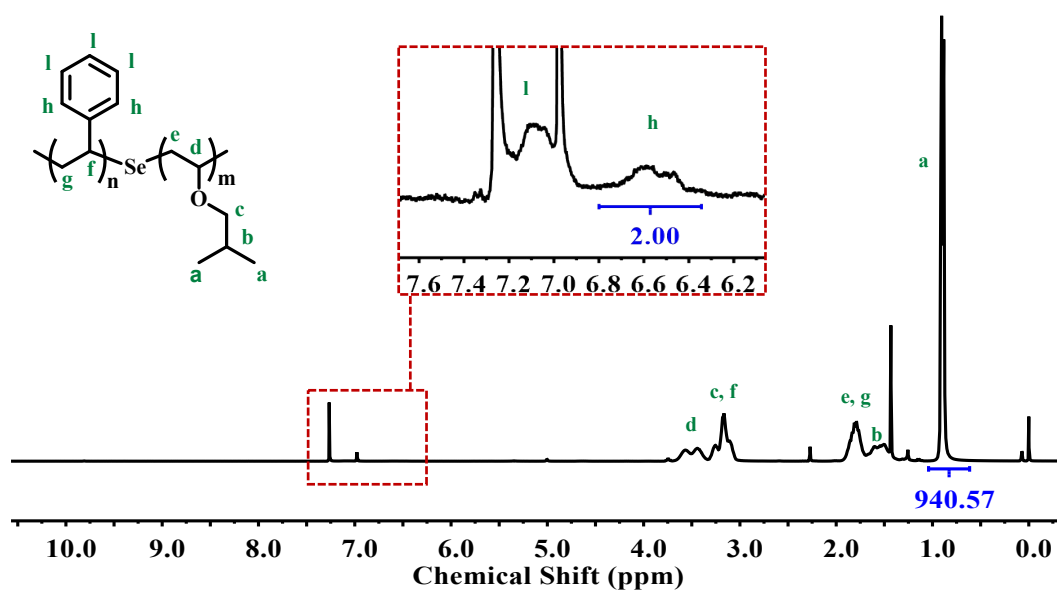
**Figure S12.** SEC traces of the synthesis of macroinitiator (PS-SeBr).

**Table S6** Polymerization of IBVE with PS-SeBr as initiator at 25 °C,  $V_{\text{IBVE}} = V_{\text{toluene}} = 0.25$  mL.

Entry	[IBVE] <sub>0</sub> : [PS-SeBr] <sub>0</sub> : [Mn(CO) <sub>5</sub> Br] <sub>0</sub>	Time	Conv.%	<sup>a</sup> $M_{n,\text{th}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	<sup>b</sup> $M_{n,\text{SEC}}$ (g mol <sup>-1</sup> )	$\bar{D}$
1	200 : 1 : 0.2	11 h	85.4	20100	22100	1.16
4	200 : 1 : 0	24 h	-	-	-	-

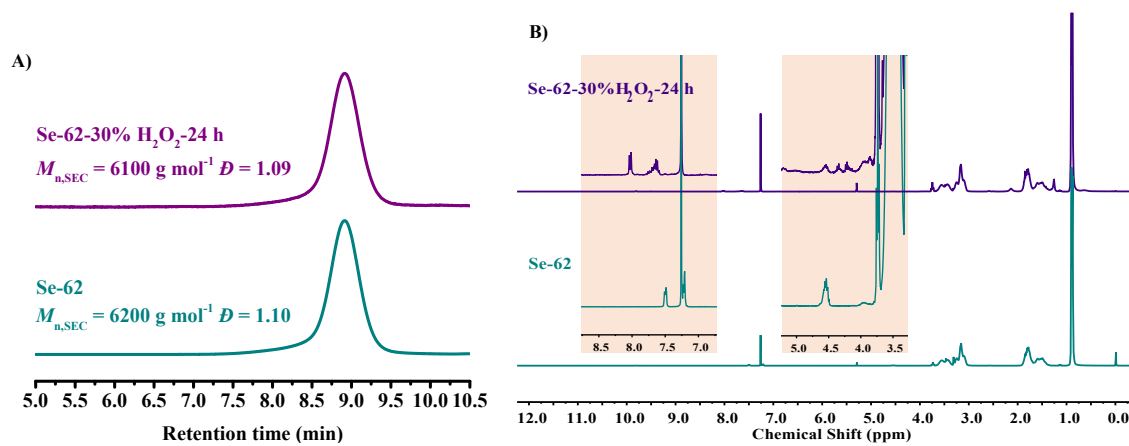
<sup>a</sup> Calculated based on conversion ( $M_{n,\text{th}} = [M]_0/[PS-SeBr]_0 \times \text{conversion} \times M + M_{PS-SeBr}$ ).

<sup>b</sup> Determined by SEC using polystyrene (PS) as standard in tetrahydrofuran (THF).



**Figure S13.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra analysis of PS-*b*-PIBVE ( $M_{n,\text{NMR}} = 18800$  g mol<sup>-1</sup>).





**Figure S14.** A) SEC traces; B) <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra analysis of PIBVE before and after oxidation.