Tailored structuring of functionalized silsesquioxanes in an one-step approach

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Material synthesis

The silica hybrid material (SHM) synthesis was adapted from literature.¹

In a typical synthesis, 1.5 mmoles of organosilane precursor PX were added to 50 mL of water and the pH was adjusted to basic (NH₄OH, pH 9) or acidic (HCl, pH 1.5) conditions. After stirring for two weeks in a sealed flask, the obtained precipitate was dried by freeze drying and washed with 60 mL (3x20 mL) EtOH/water (1/1) followed by 60 mL (3x20 mL) of EtOH and analysed. Afterwards, the materials were heated to 130 °C for 24 h to promote the condensation and washed in the same order to remove possible degradation products.

¹ Winkler, R.; Pellet-Rostaing, S.; Arrachart, G. Selective Extraction of REEs Thanks to One-Pot Silica Hybrid Materials. *Appl. Sci.* **2020**, *10* (21), 7558.



Figure S1. FT-IR spectra of the sample P5, $v = 1800-1600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$.



Figure S2. Typical FT-IR spectrum of the residual material after the TGA analysis. The peaks indicate crystalline silica structures like e.g. β -cristobalite.



Figure S3. TEM images of samples: a) and b) P1-TA- Δ and c) P1-TB- $\Delta.$

The scale is represented on the lower right.



Figure S4. WAXS patterns of materials P5-HB and P5-TB.

| Parameter | Fresh material | After thermal treatment | Description |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $ \rho_{CH2} $ | 0.73E-10 cm ⁻² | 0.73E-10 cm ⁻² | SLD of the alkyl chains |
| $ \rho_{SiOx} $ | 1.23E-10 cm ⁻² | 1.6E-10 cm ⁻² | SLD of the Si-O-Si network |
| $ ho_{HG}$ | 1.04E-10 cm ⁻² | 0.85E-10 cm ⁻² | SLD of the headgroup |
| σ_{SiOx} | 0.06 nm | 0.06 nm | FWHM of the Si-O-Si network |
| σ_{HG} | 1.3 nm | 1.44 nm | FWHM of the headgroup |
| d | 5.95 nm | 6.7 nm | Separation distance |

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