

Supporting Information

Formation of cyclic structures in the cationic ring opening polymerization of 1,3-dioxolane

Anna M. J. Coenen, Jules A. W. Harings, Samaneh

Ghazanfari, Stefan Jockenhoevel, Katrien V. Bernaerts

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¹H NMR analysis

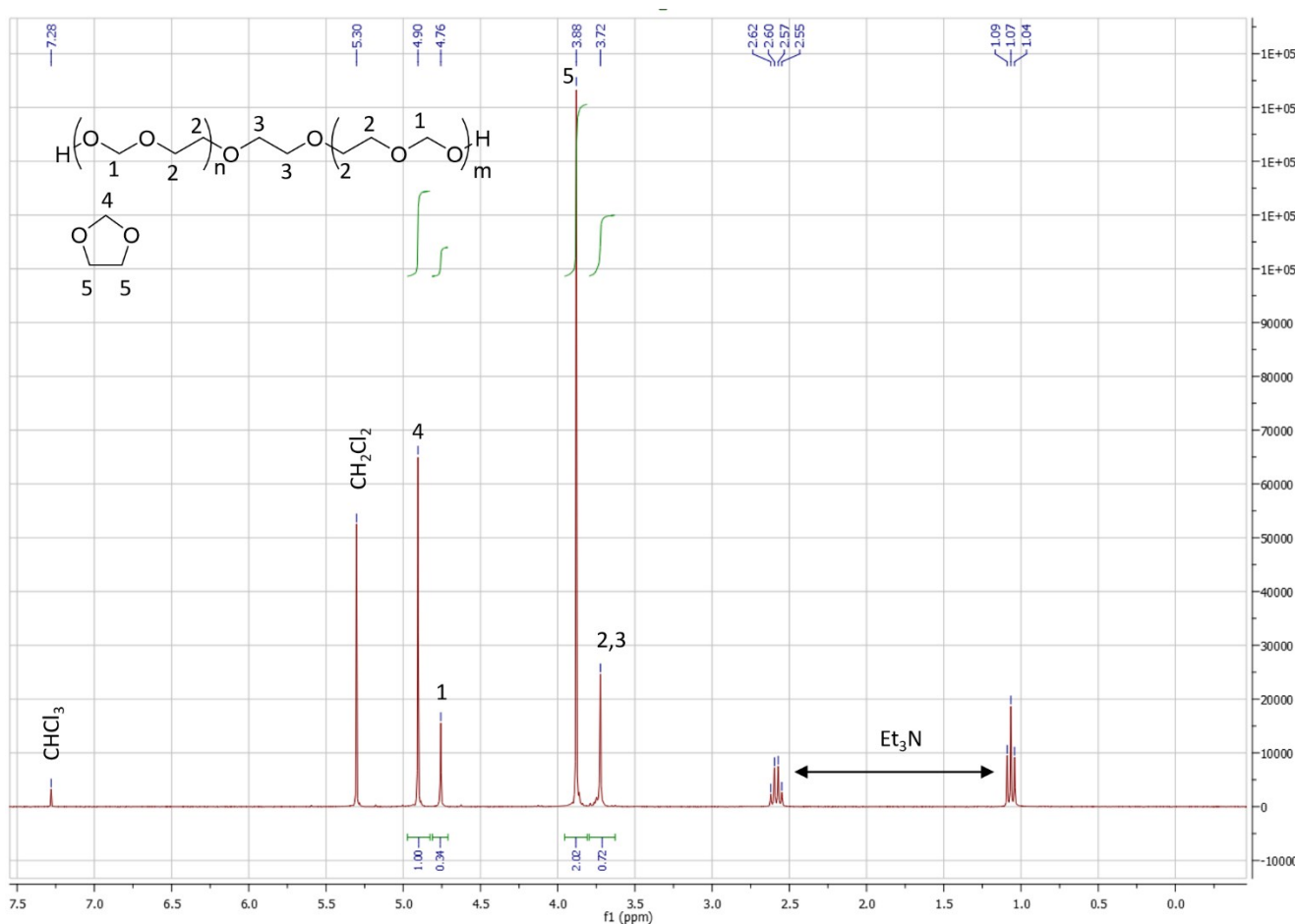


Figure S1. Typical ¹H NMR spectrum to calculate conversion for the CROP of dioxolane.

$$\% \text{ conversion} = \frac{1H_{\text{polymer}}}{1H_{\text{monomer}} + 1H_{\text{polymer}}} * 100 = \frac{2H_1/2 (\delta = 4.75 \text{ ppm})}{2H_4/2 (\delta = 4.90 \text{ ppm}) + 2H_1/2 (\delta = 4.75 \text{ ppm})} * 100$$

(1)

GPC data versus % conversion

Table S1. Overview of the GPC results before and after precipitation for different reactions linked to conversion and $M_{n,conv}$: polymerizations 1-5.

| Polymerization | Time (min) | Conversion ^a (%) | $M_{n,conv}$ ^b (g/mol) | Before precipitation | | After precipitation | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | | | $M_{n,GPC}$ (g/mol) | \bar{D} | $M_{n,GPC}$ (g/mol) | \bar{D} |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 450 | - | - | - | - |
| | 15 | 13 | 950 | 700 | 1.6 | - | - |
| | 23 | 19 | 1350 | 1000 | 1.8 | - | - |
| | 30 | 25 | 1750 | 1300 | 2.0 | 3200 | 1.3 |
| | 38 | 37 | 2550 | 1900 | 2.1 | 3600 | 1.4 |
| | 45 | 49 | 3350 | 2300 | 2.3 | 3900 | 1.6 |
| | 53 | 59 | 4000 | 2700 | 2.4 | 4000 | 1.8 |
| | 60 | 65 | 4400 | 3200 | 2.3 | 4300 | 1.8 |
| 2 | 8 | 5 | 750 | - | - | - | - |
| | 15 | 10 | 1400 | 900 | 1.9 | - | - |
| | 23 | 20 | 2750 | 1800 | 1.9 | - | - |
| | 30 | 26 | 3550 | 2400 | 2.1 | 4200 | 1.5 |
| | 38 | 39 | 5250 | 4100 | 2.0 | 5200 | 1.7 |
| | 45 | 52 | 7000 | 5200 | 2.1 | 5800 | 2.0 |
| | 53 | 62 | 8350 | 5900 | 2.2 | 6800 | 2.0 |
| | 60 | 70 | 9400 | 5900 | 2.4 | 7800 | 2.0 |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 1450 | 700 | 1.8 | - | - |
| | 15 | 13 | 2650 | 1700 | 1.8 | - | - |
| | 23 | 22 | 4450 | 2500 | 2.2 | 4900 | 1.4 |
| | 30 | 30 | 6050 | 3200 | 2.5 | 6200 | 1.6 |
| | 38 | 46 | 9300 | 5600 | 2.6 | 8100 | 1.8 |
| | 45 | 61 | 12300 | 5800 | 2.7 | 10000 | 1.9 |
| | 53 | 70 | 14100 | 7000 | 2.7 | 12300 | 1.9 |
| 4 | 8 | 4 | 1100 | 700 | 1.4 | - | - |
| | 15 | 9 | 2450 | 1600 | 1.6 | - | - |
| | 23 | 15 | 4050 | 1800 | 2.4 | - | - |
| | 30 | 22 | 5900 | 2700 | 2.6 | 5800 | 1.5 |
| | 38 | 35 | 9300 | 4300 | 2.9 | 8500 | 1.7 |
| | 45 | 51 | 13550 | 5600 | 3.1 | 11300 | 1.8 |
| | 53 | 59 | 15650 | 7000 | 3.0 | 13740 | 1.9 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 1400 | 700 | 1.7 | - | - |
| | 15 | 8 | 2700 | 1000 | 2.3 | - | - |
| | 23 | 15 | 5000 | 2200 | 2.3 | 4700 | 1.4 |
| | 30 | 22 | 7350 | 2200 | 3.4 | 6200 | 1.5 |
| | 38 | 35 | 11650 | 3500 | 6.6 | 9200 | 1.8 |
| | 45 | 48 | 16000 | 4700 | 4.2 | 12600 | 1.9 |

^a Conversion was calculated based on ¹H NMR (Supplementary information equation 1)

$$M_{n,conv} = \frac{\% \text{ conversion}}{100} * \frac{[DXL]_0}{[initiator]_0} * M_{DXL} + M_{initiator}$$

Table S2. Overview of the GPC results before precipitation for different reactions linked to conversion and $M_{n,conv}$: polymerizations 6-10.

| Polymerization | Time (min) | Before precipitation | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | Conversion ^a (%) | $M_{n,conv}$ ^b (g/mol) | $M_{n,GPC}$ (g/mol) | \bar{D} |
| 6 | 30 | 5 | 350 | - | - |
| | 60 | 25 | 1550 | 1600 | 1.4 |
| | 120 | 67 | 4050 | 3800 | 1.8 |
| | 180 | 76 | 4550 | 4500 | 1.8 |
| | 240 | 84 | 5050 | 4500 | 1.9 |
| | 300 | 86 | 5200 | 4700 | 1.9 |
| | 360 | 89 | 5300 | 5200 | 1.8 |
| 7 | 30 | 11 | 700 | - | - |
| | 60 | 65 | 3950 | 3300 | 1.6 |
| | 90 | 82 | 4950 | 3900 | 1.8 |
| | 120 | 86 | 5150 | 4100 | 1.8 |
| | 150 | 87 | 5250 | 4100 | 1.8 |
| | 180 | 89 | 5350 | 4300 | 1.8 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 100 | - | - |
| | 60 | 21 | 1350 | 1200 | 1.4 |
| | 120 | 52 | 3200 | 2100 | 1.9 |
| | 180 | 66 | 3950 | 2600 | 2.1 |
| | 240 | 73 | 4450 | 3600 | 1.8 |
| | 300 | 79 | 4750 | 3800 | 1.8 |
| | 360 | 83 | 5000 | 4000 | 1.8 |
| 9 | 5 | 2 | 200 | - | - |
| | 30 | 65 | 3900 | 3100 | 1.7 |
| | 60 | 82 | 4950 | 4000 | 1.8 |
| | 90 | 87 | 5200 | 4200 | 1.8 |
| | 120 | 88 | 5300 | 4100 | 1.9 |
| | 150 | 90 | 5400 | 4100 | 1.8 |
| | 180 | 90 | 5400 | 4500 | 1.8 |
| 10 | 15 | 5 | 350 | - | - |
| | 30 | 14 | 900 | 1000 | 1.4 |
| | 45 | 41 | 2500 | 1600 | 1.6 |
| | 90 | 67 | 4050 | 2200 | 1.7 |
| | 110 | 78 | 4700 | 3200 | 1.7 |
| | 150 | 86 | 5200 | 3700 | 1.8 |
| | 180 | 92 | 5500 | 4100 | 2.1 |

^a Conversion was calculated based on ¹H NMR (Supplementary information equation 1)

$$M_{n,conv} = \frac{\% \text{ conversion}}{100} * \frac{[DXL]_0}{[initiator]_0} * M_{DXL} + M_{initiator}$$

Table S3. Overview of the GPC results before precipitation linked to conversion and $M_{n,conv}$ for polymerization 11.

| Before precipitation | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Polymerization | Time (min) | [DXL]₀ (mol/L) | Conversion^a (%) | $M_{n,conv}$^b (g/mol) | $M_{n,GPC}$^c (g/mol) | \bar{D} |
| 11 | 0 | 9.53 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| | 20 | 9.53 | 15 | 1100 | 800 | 1.6 |
| | 30 | 9.53 | 25 | 1700 | 1300 | 1.7 |
| | 45 | 9.53 | 40 | 2800 | 1900 | 1.9 |
| | 360 | 9.53 | 51 | 3500 | 2400 | 2.0 |

^a Conversion was calculated based on ¹H NMR (Supplementary information equation 1)

$$M_{n,conv} = \frac{\% \text{ conversion}}{100} * \frac{[DXL]_0}{[initiator]_0} * M_{DXL} + M_{initiator}$$

^c GPC traces are shown in Figure S4.

GPC traces of crude samples of polymerizations 2-5 & 6-10

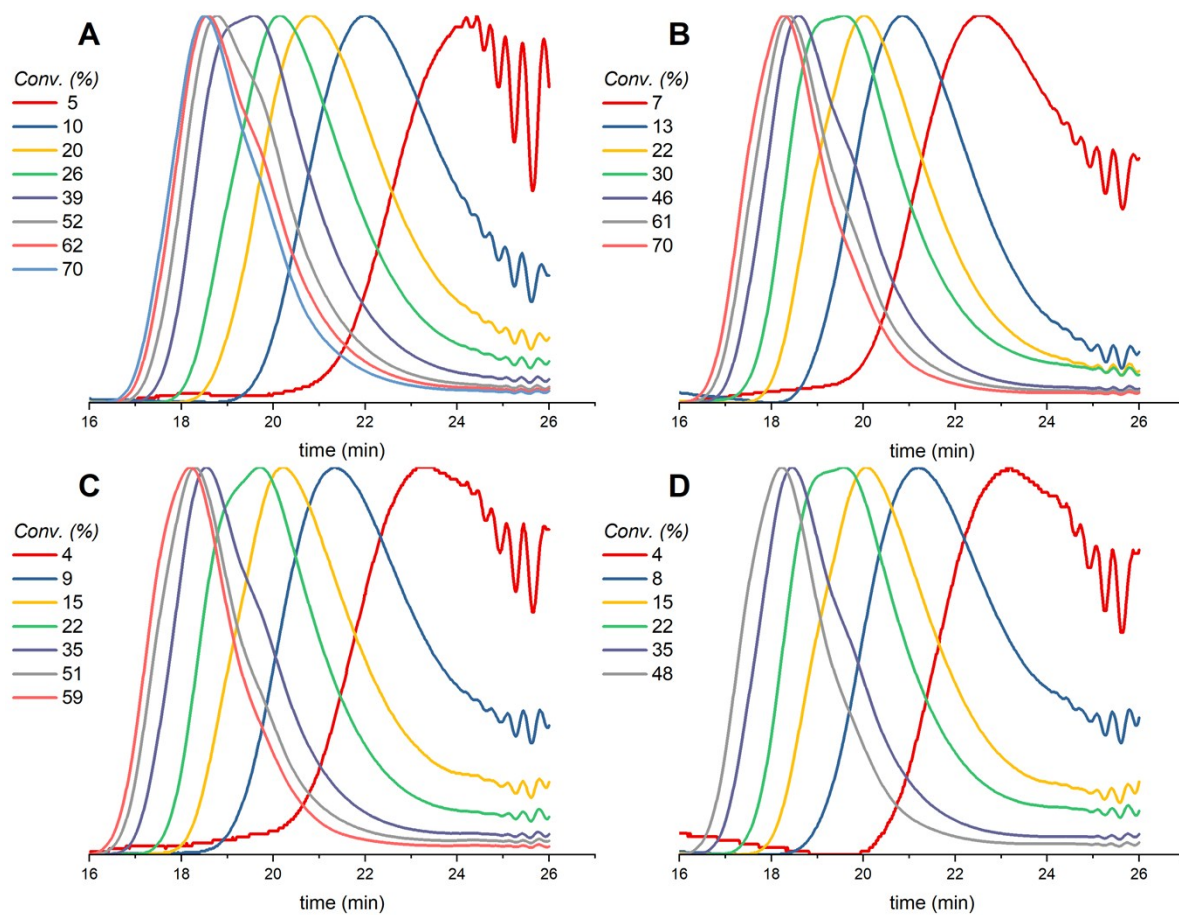


Figure S2. GPC traces (THF as eluent, PEG calibration, RI detection) of crude samples taken during polymerizations (A) 2, (B) 3, (C) 4, (D) 5 (Table 1).

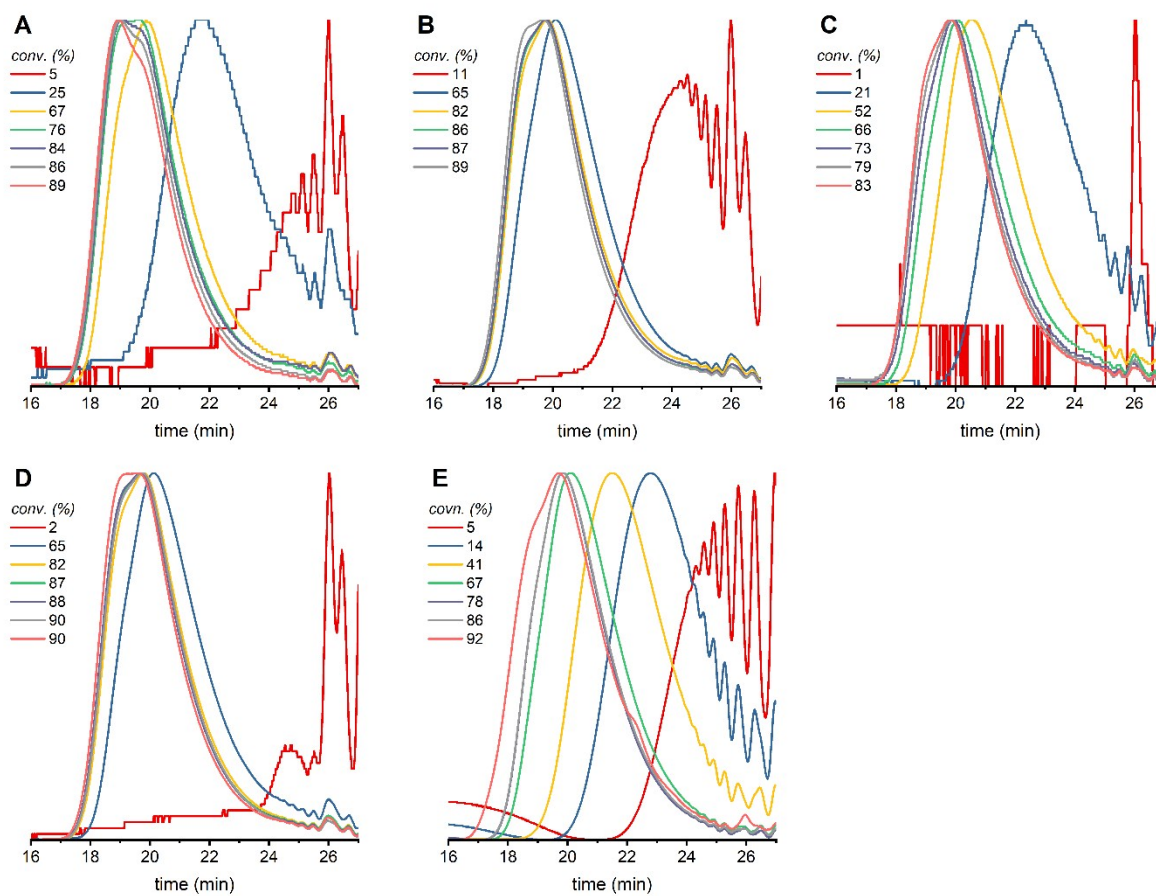


Figure S3 GPC traces (THF as eluent, PEG calibration, RI detection) of crude samples taken during polymerizations (A) 6, (B) 7, (C) 8, (D) 9, (E) 10 (Table 1).

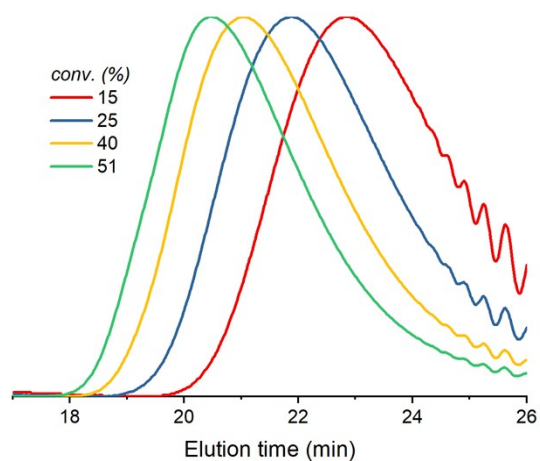


Figure S4 GPC traces (THF as eluent, PEG calibration, RI detection) of crude samples taken during polymerization 11

GPC traces of purified samples of polymerizations 1-5

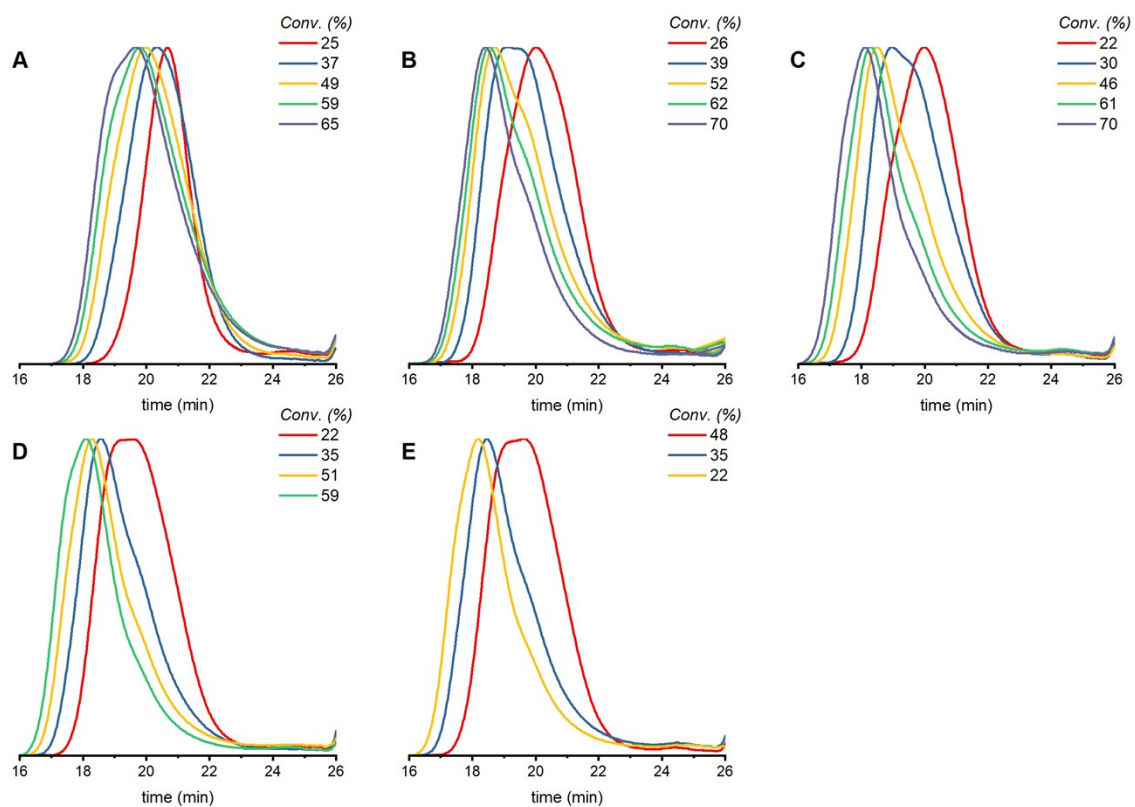


Figure S5 GPC traces (THF as eluent, PEG calibration, RI detection) of purified samples taken during polymerization (A) 1, (B) 2, (C) 3, (D) 4, (E) 5 (Table 1).

MALDI-ToF MS of crude samples of polymerizations 2-5, measured in reflectron mode

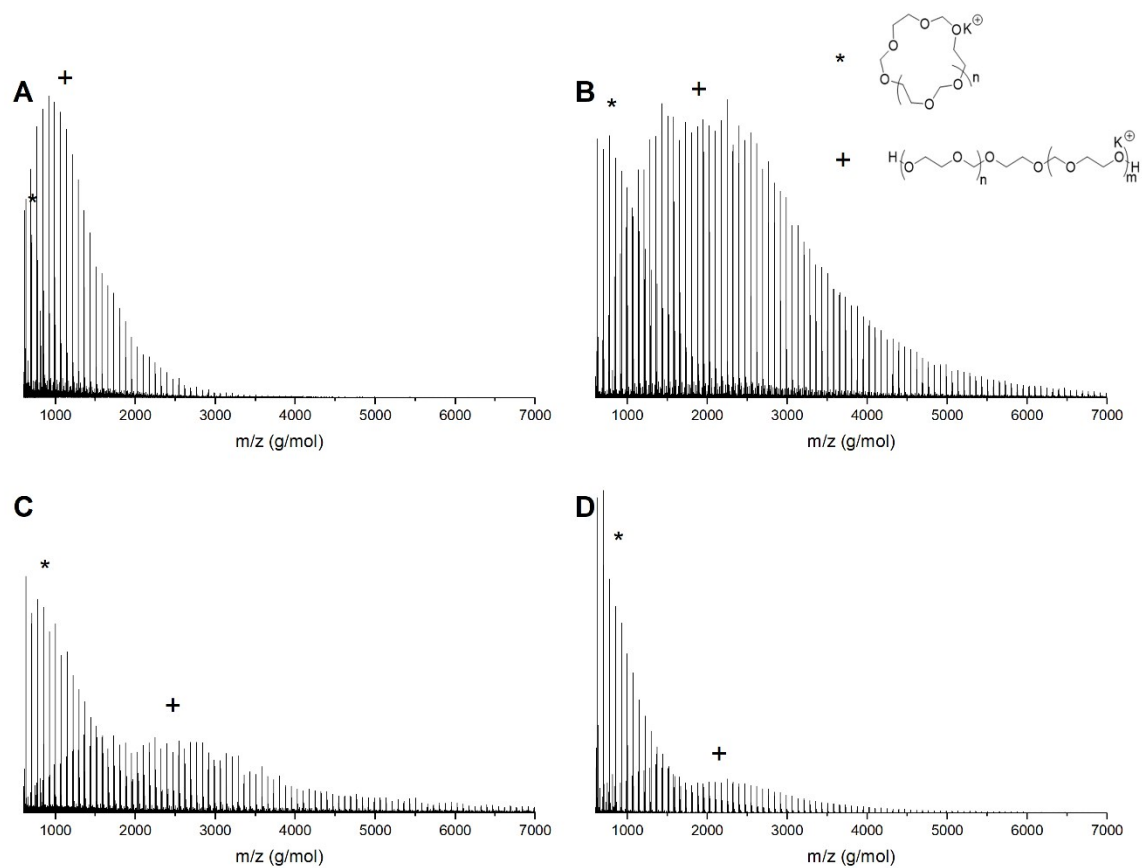


Figure S6 MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 2 (Table 1) before precipitation at (A) 5%, (B) 20%, (C) 52% and (D) 70% conversion.

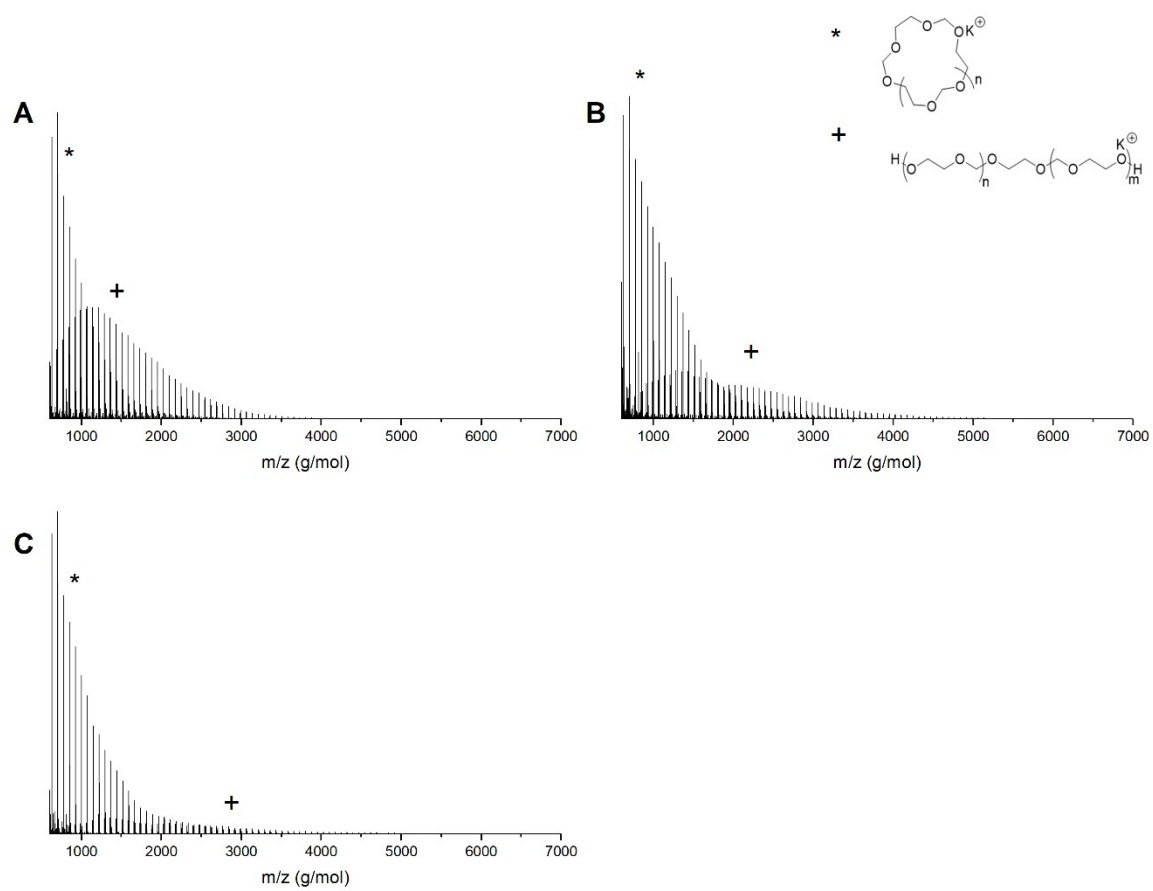


Figure S7 MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 3 (Table 1) before precipitation at (A) 7%, (B) 22% and (C) 70 % conversion.

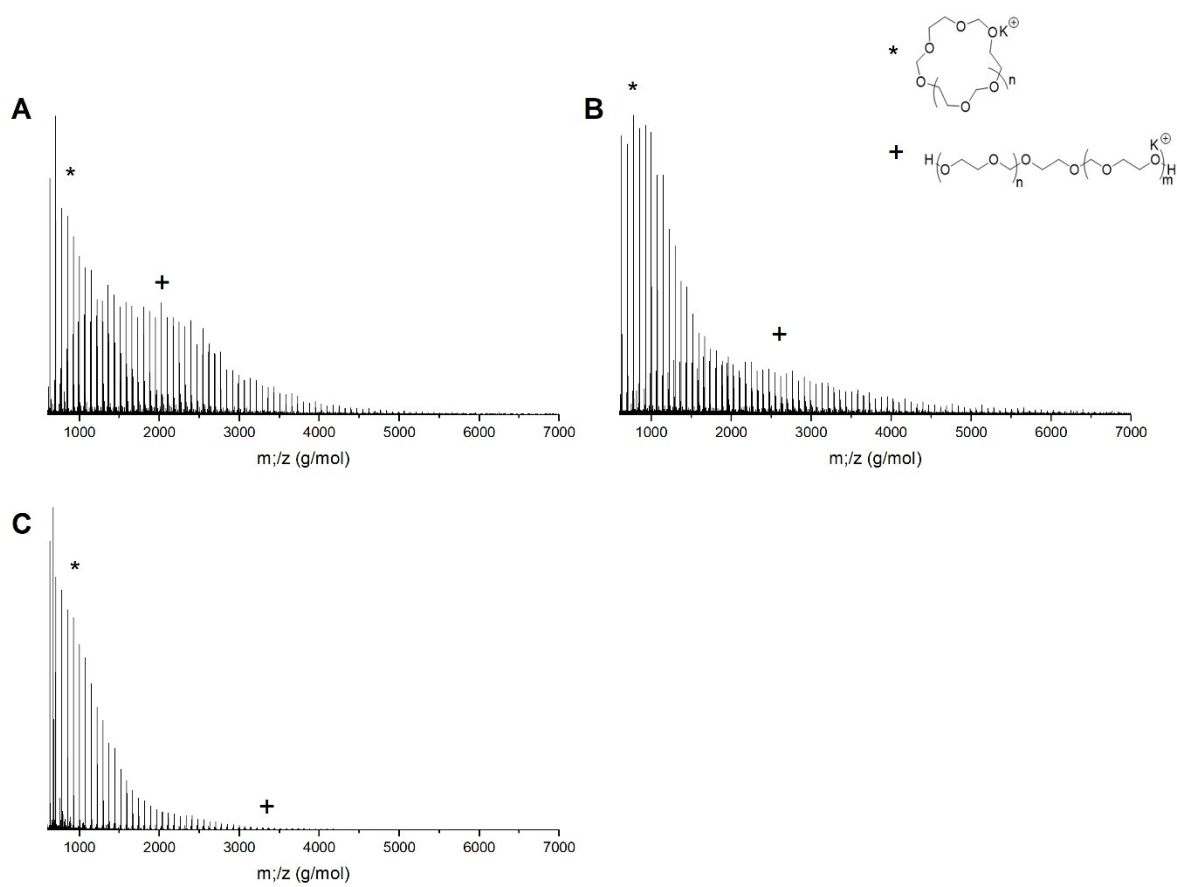


Figure S8 MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 4 (Table 1) before precipitation at (A) 9%, (B) 22% and (C) 59% conversion.

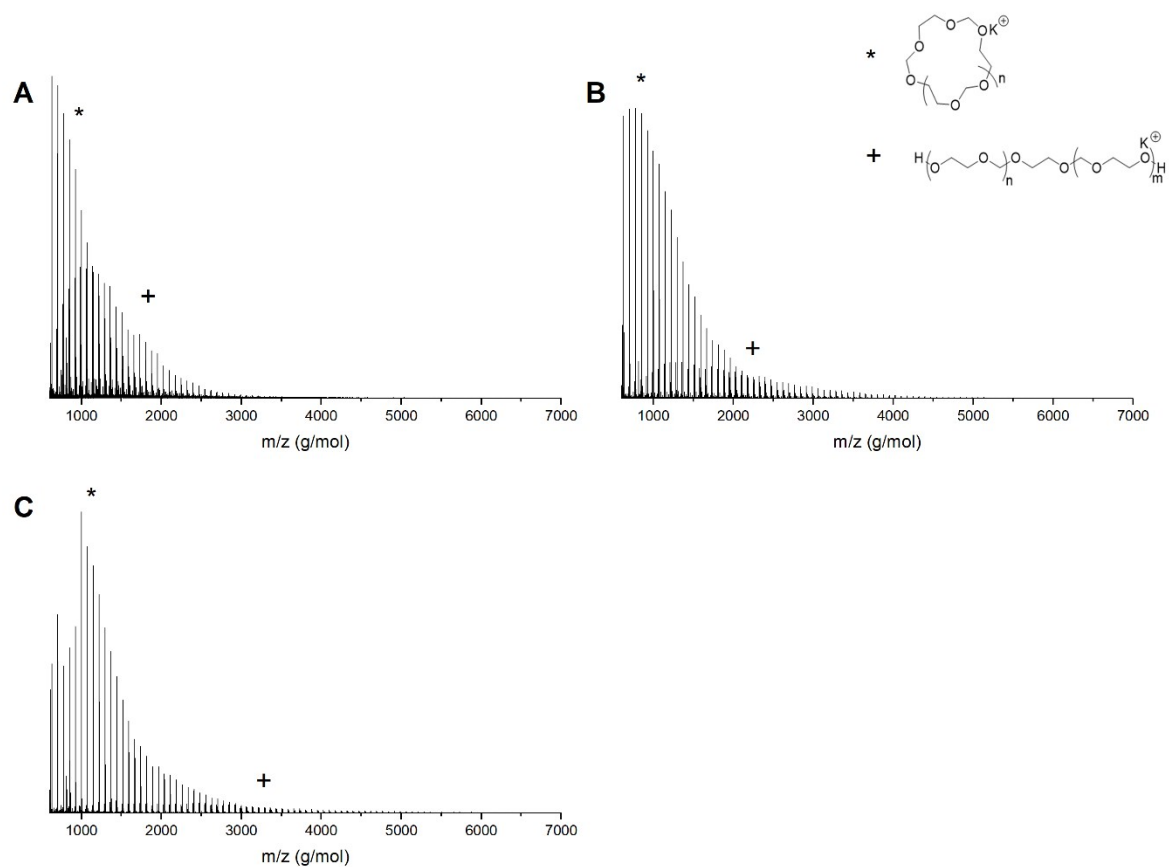


Figure S9 MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 5 (Table 1) before precipitation at (A) 4%, (B) 15% and (C) 48% conversion.

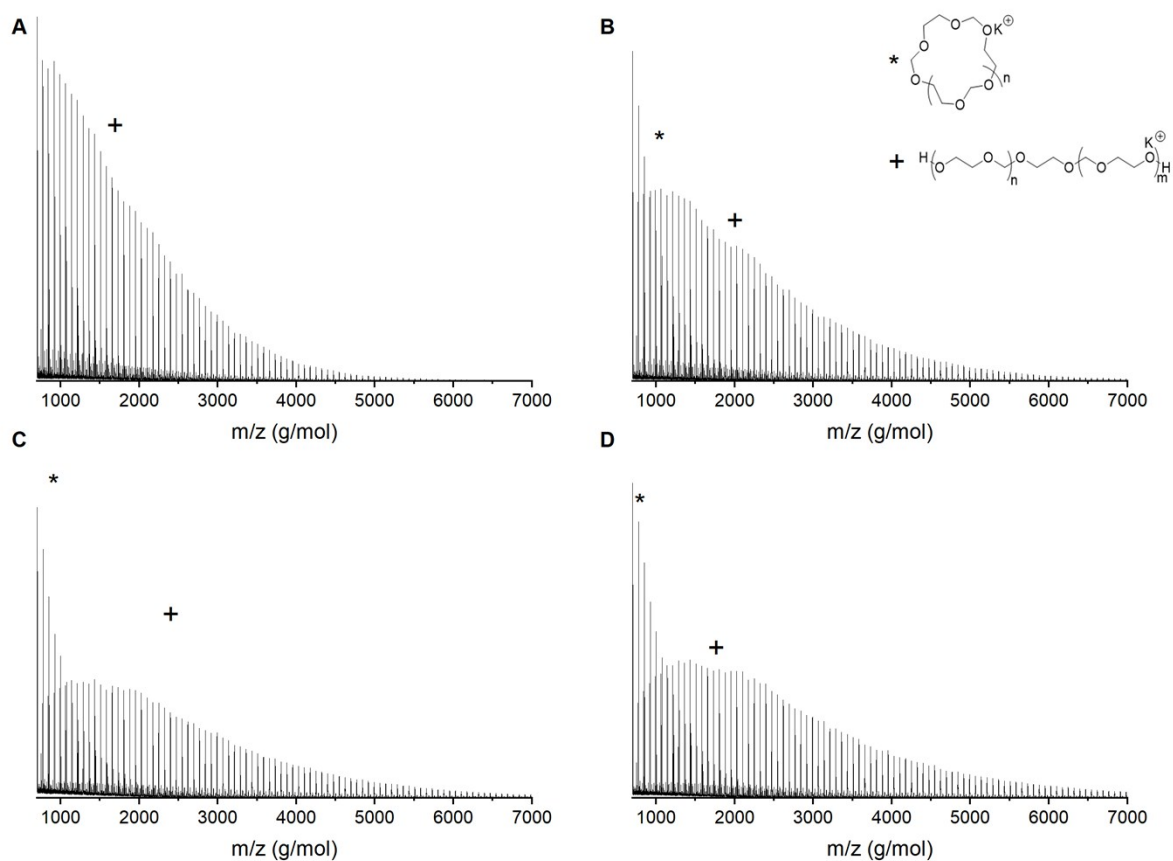


Figure S10 MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 11 (Table 1) before precipitation at (A) 15%, (B) 25%, (C) 40% and (D) 51% conversion.

MALDI-ToF MS of purified samples of polymerizations 1-5 measured in reflectron mode

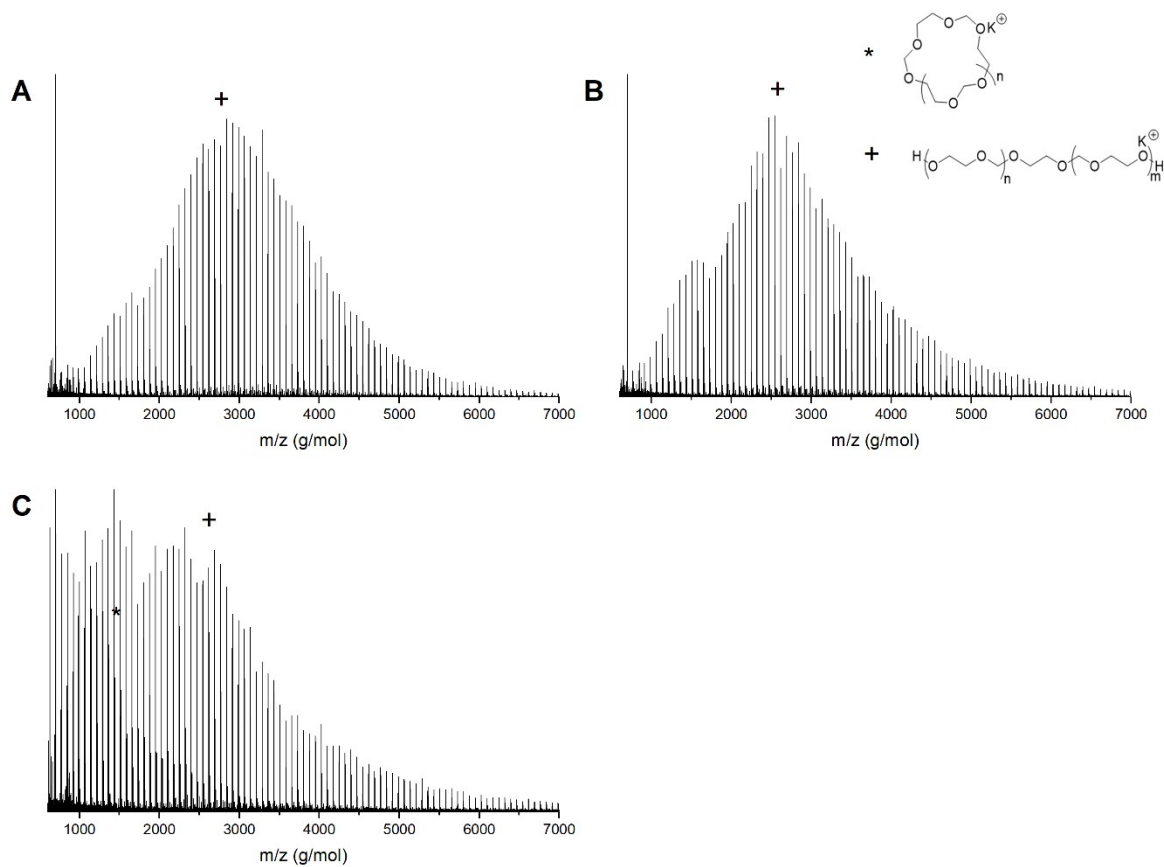


Figure S11. MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 1 (Table 1) after precipitation at (A) 25%, (B) 37% and (C) 65% conversion.

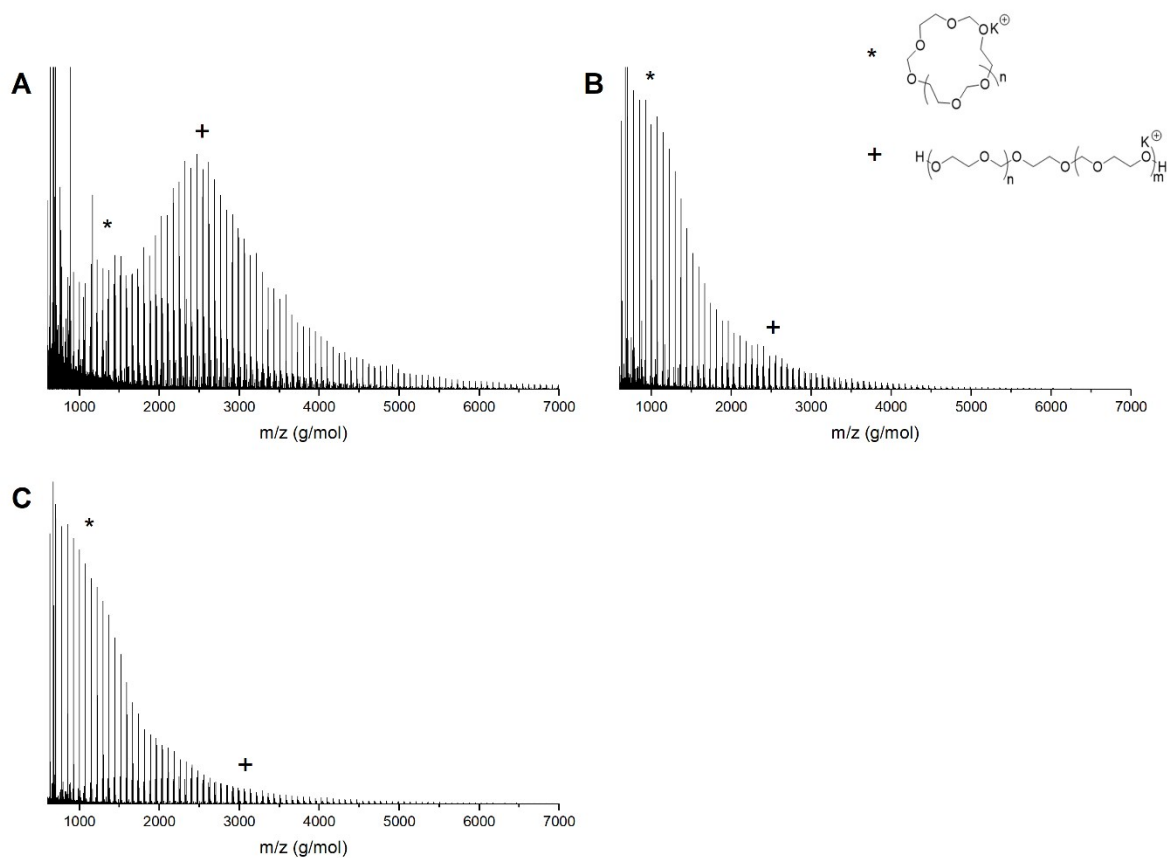


Figure S12. MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 2 (Table 1) after precipitation at (A) 26%, (B) 52% and (C) 70 % conversion.

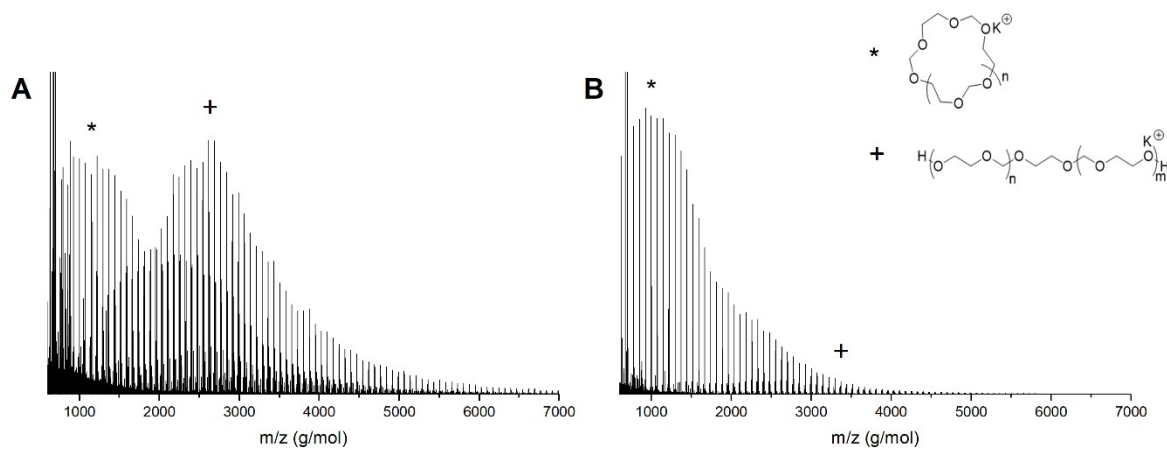


Figure S13. MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 3 (Table 1) after precipitation at (A) 30% and (B) 70% conversion.

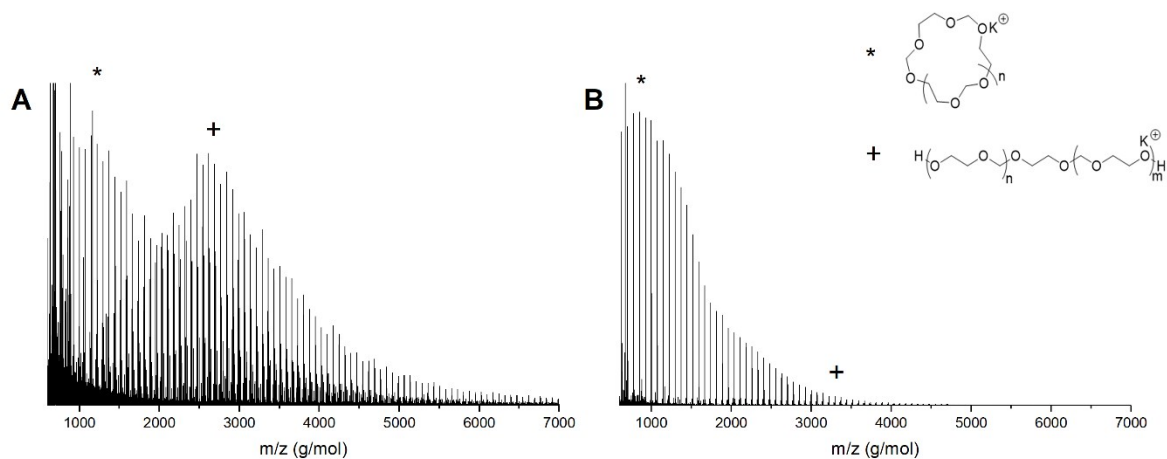


Figure S14. MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 4 (Table 1) after precipitation at (A) 22% and (B) 59% conversion.

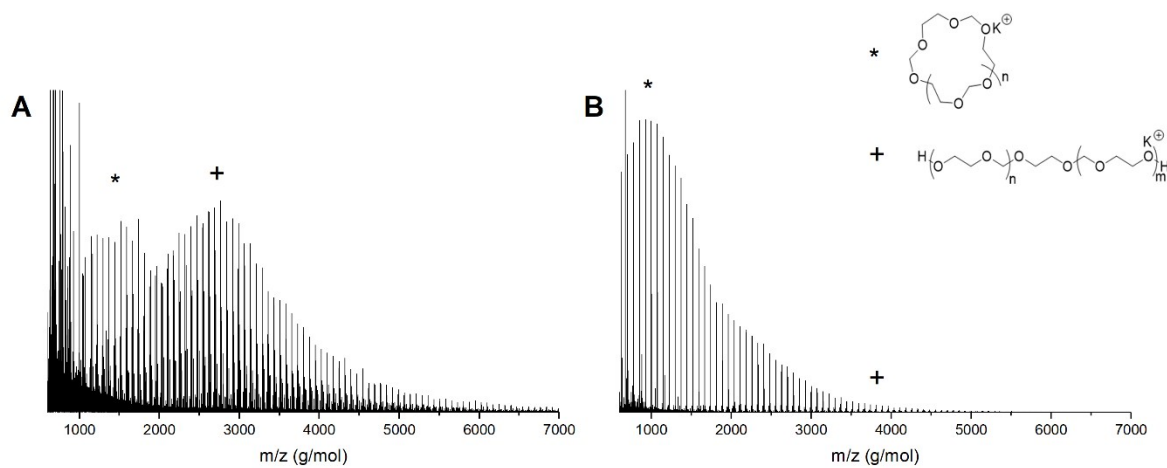


Figure S15. MALDI-ToF spectra of polymerization 5 (Table 1) after precipitation at (A) 22% and (B) 48% conversion.

^{31}P spectra of polymerization 11

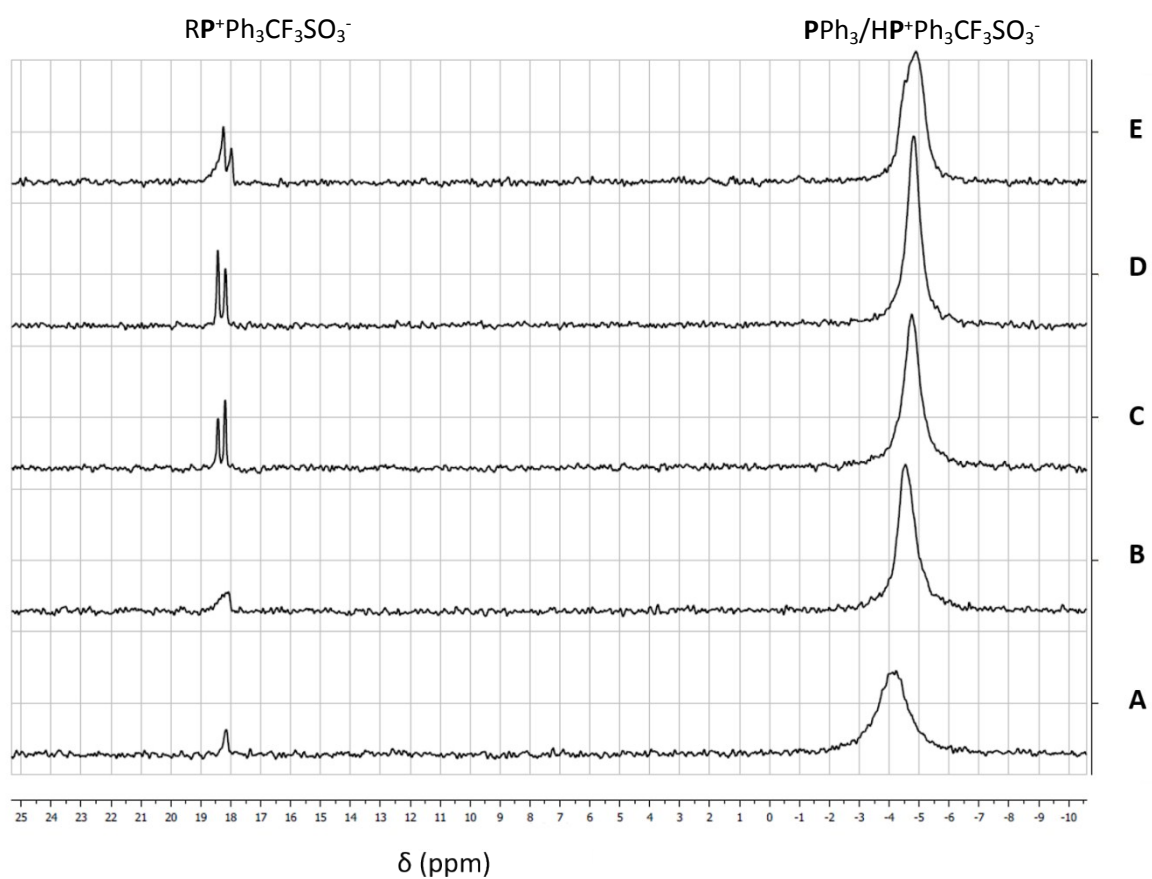


Figure S16. ^{31}P spectrum of polymerization 11 (Table 1) at (A) 0%, (B) 15%, (C) 25%, (D) 40% and (E) 51% conversion. R = polydioxolane.