

**Supporting Information**

**Radical-Radical Coupling Effects in the Direct-Growth Grafting-Through Synthesis of  
Bottlebrush Polymers using RAFT and ROMP**

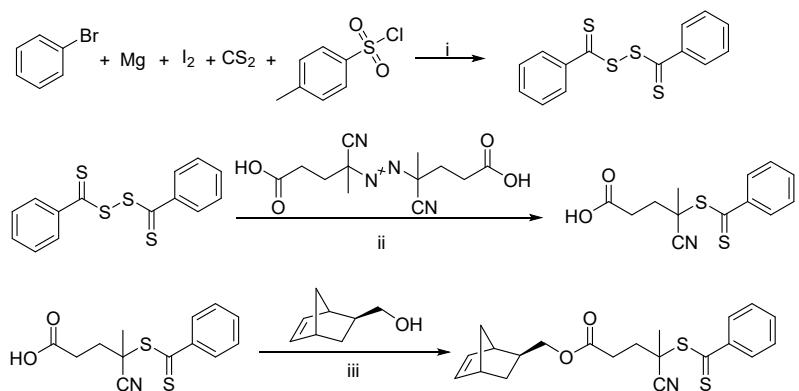
*Mohammed Alaboalirat<sup>a,b</sup> Clark Vu<sup>a,b</sup> and John B. Matson<sup>a,b\*</sup>*

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, United States

<sup>b</sup>Macromolecules Innovation Institute, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, United States

E-mail: [jbmatson@vt.edu](mailto:jbmatson@vt.edu)

Scheme S1. Synthesis of Norbornene-functionalized trithiocarbonate **3<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Conditions: (i) THF, rt, 8 h. (ii) THF, 80 °C, 18 h. (iii) CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, rt, 16 h.

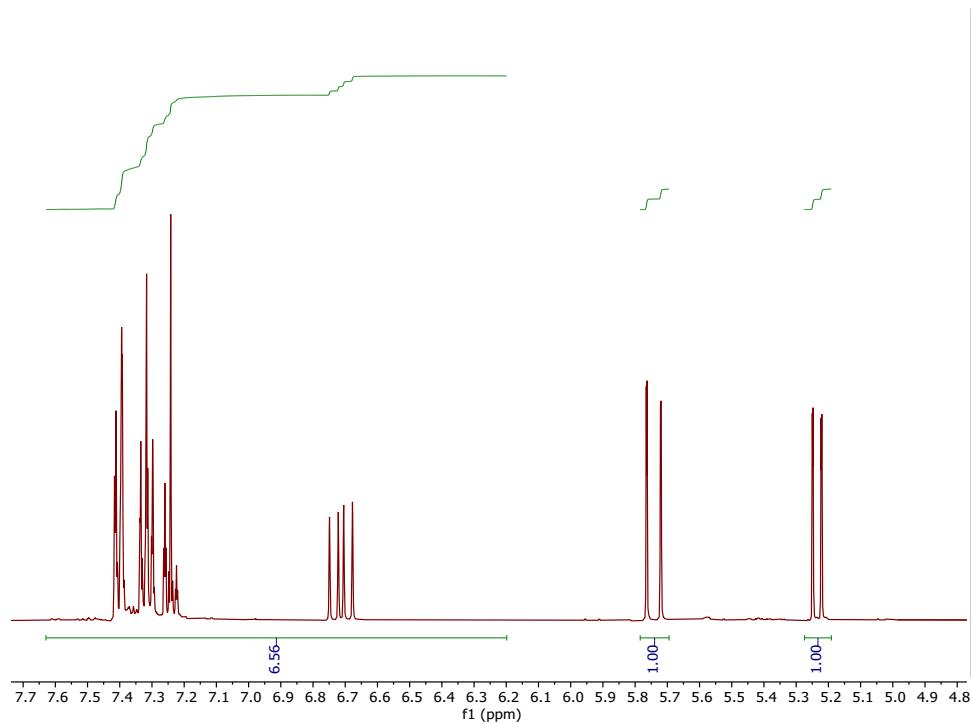


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of S<sup>10%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 10%.

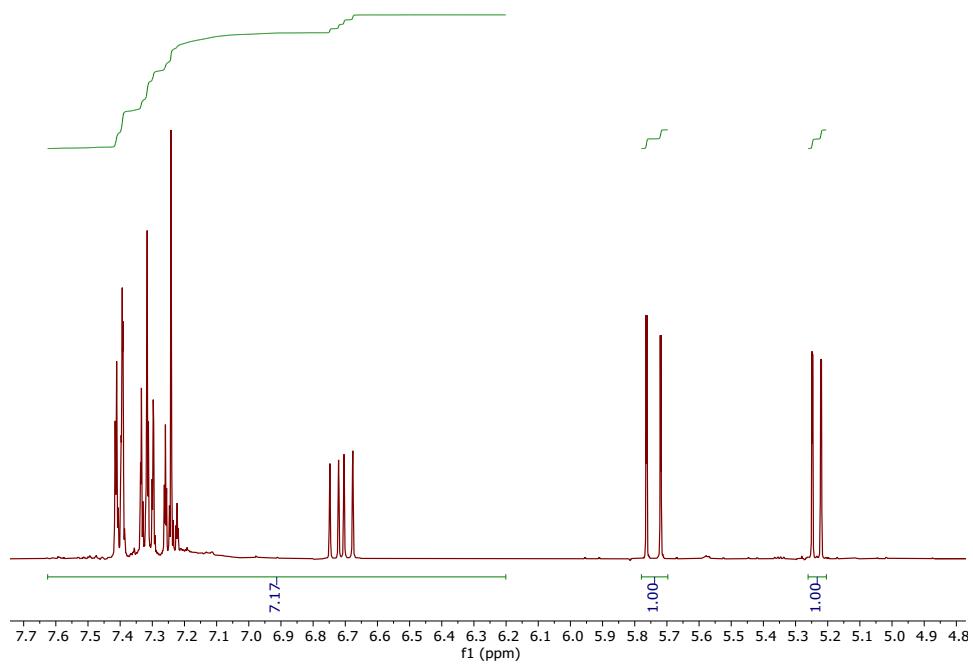


Figure S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\text{S}^{20\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 19%.

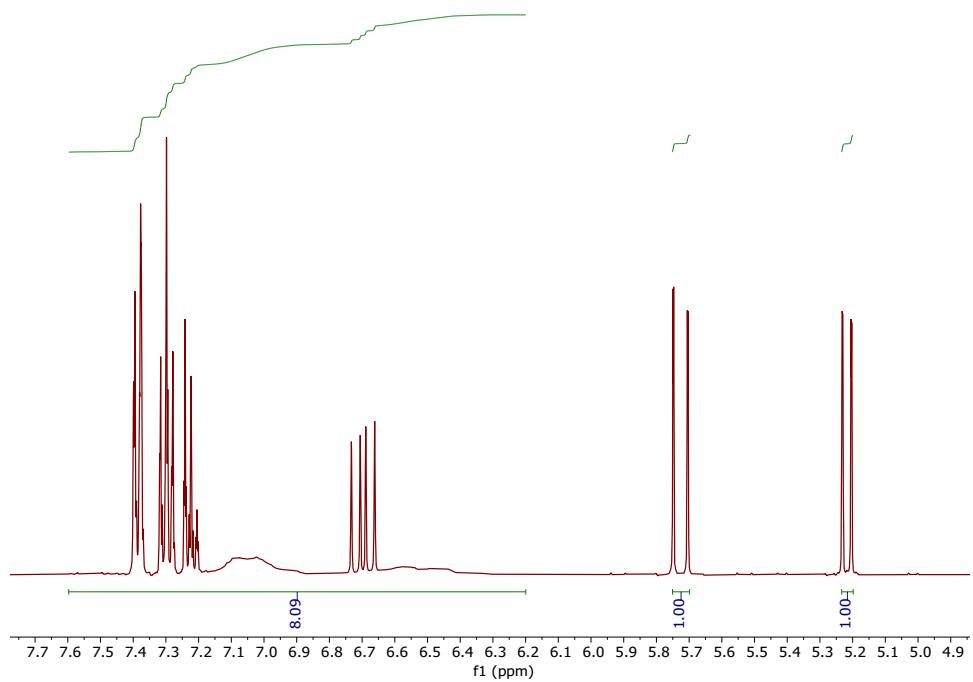


Figure S3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\text{S}^{30\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 30%.

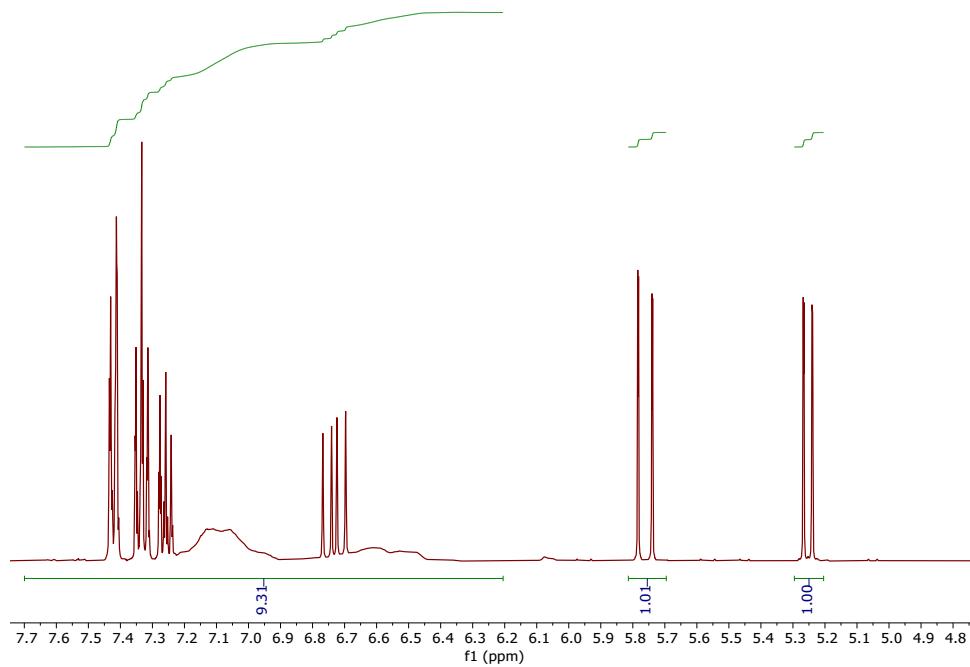


Figure S4.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\text{S}^{40\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 40%.

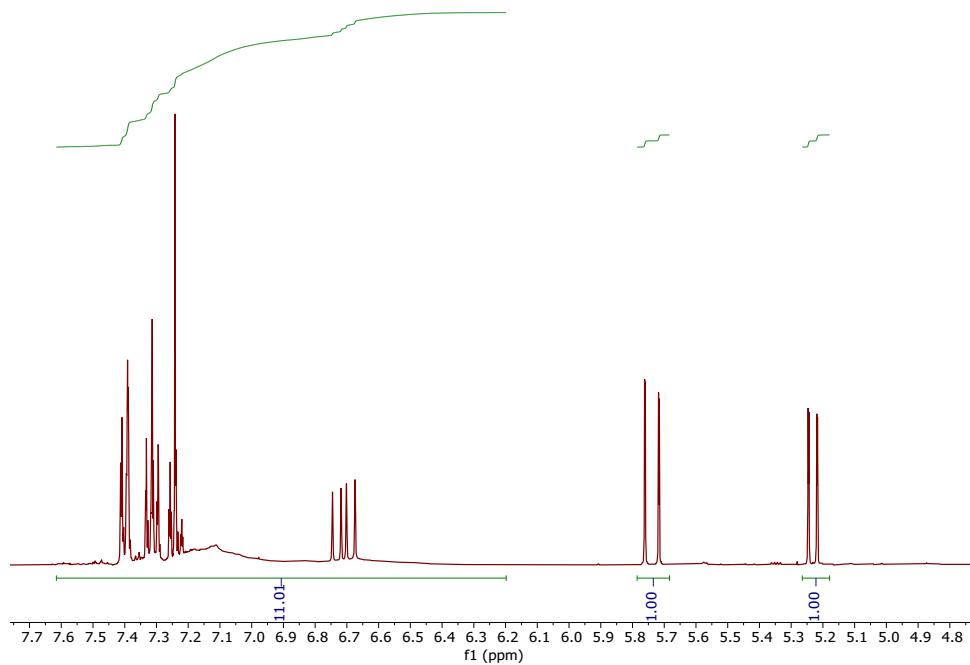


Figure S5.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\text{S}^{50\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 50%.

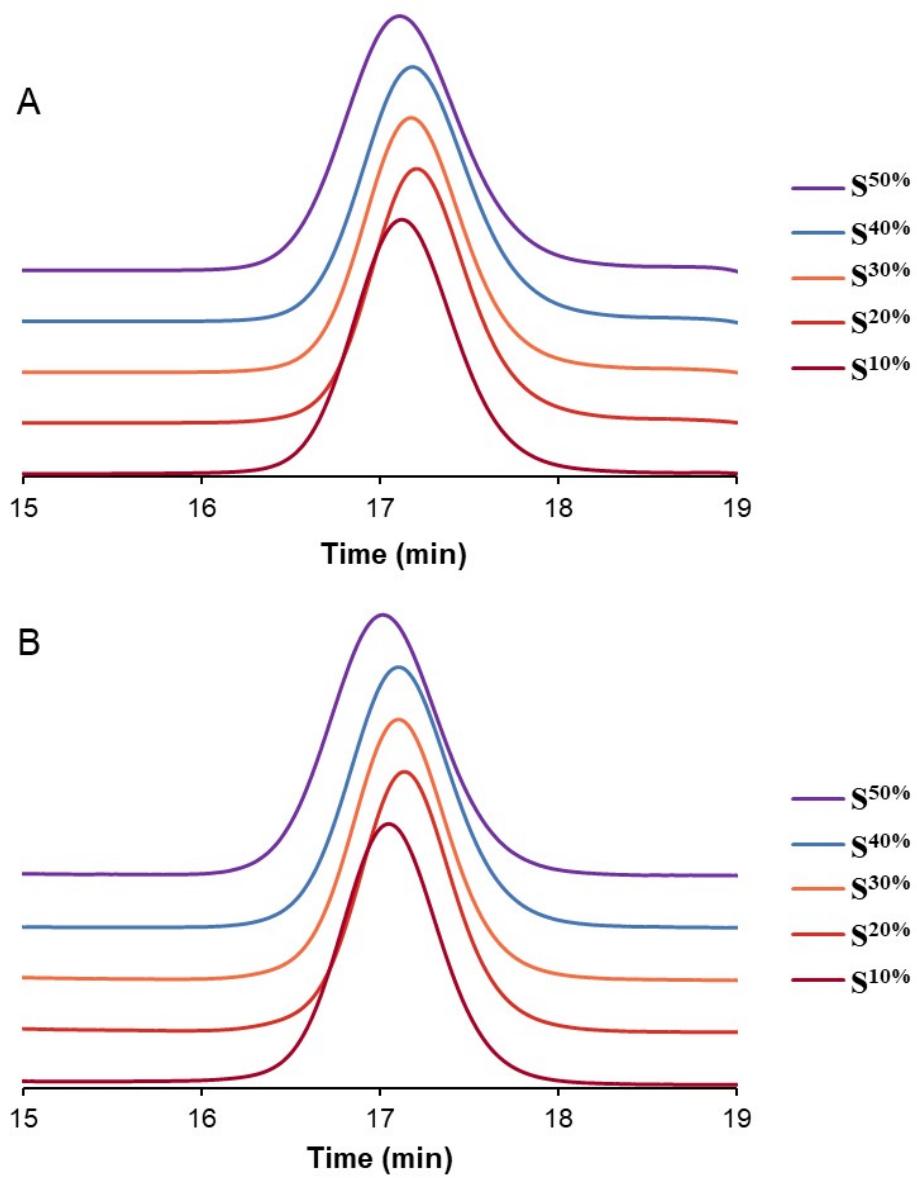


Figure S6. SEC traces showing (A) refractive index detector and (B) light scattering detector of PS MMs  $\mathbf{S}^{10\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{S}^{20\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{S}^{30\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{S}^{40\%}$  and  $\mathbf{S}^{50\%}$ .

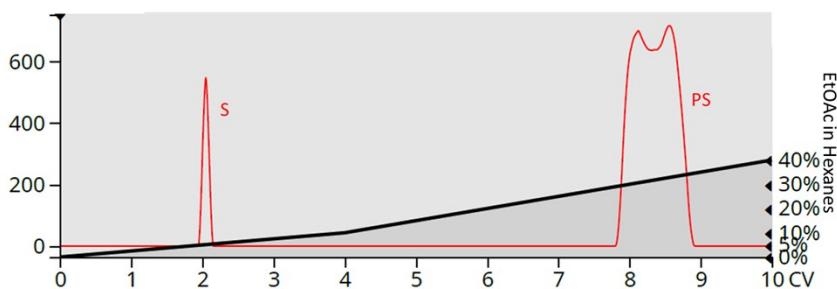


Figure S7. PS-MM purification plot showing the absorption of monomer and the MM at 200 nm (red) as the polarity of the mobile phase increases.

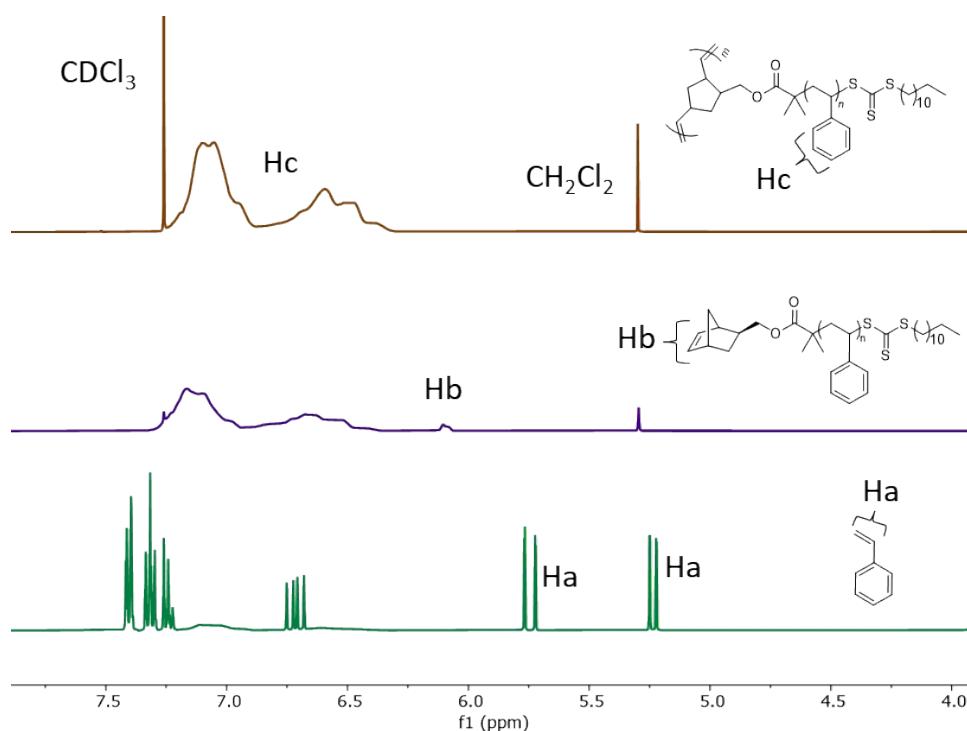


Figure S8.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR stacked spectra showing the progress of  $S_{100}^{30\%}$  from crude MM containing unreacted monomer after RAFT polymerization (bottom) to purified PS-MM after silica column (middle) and to PS-BB after ROMP (top).

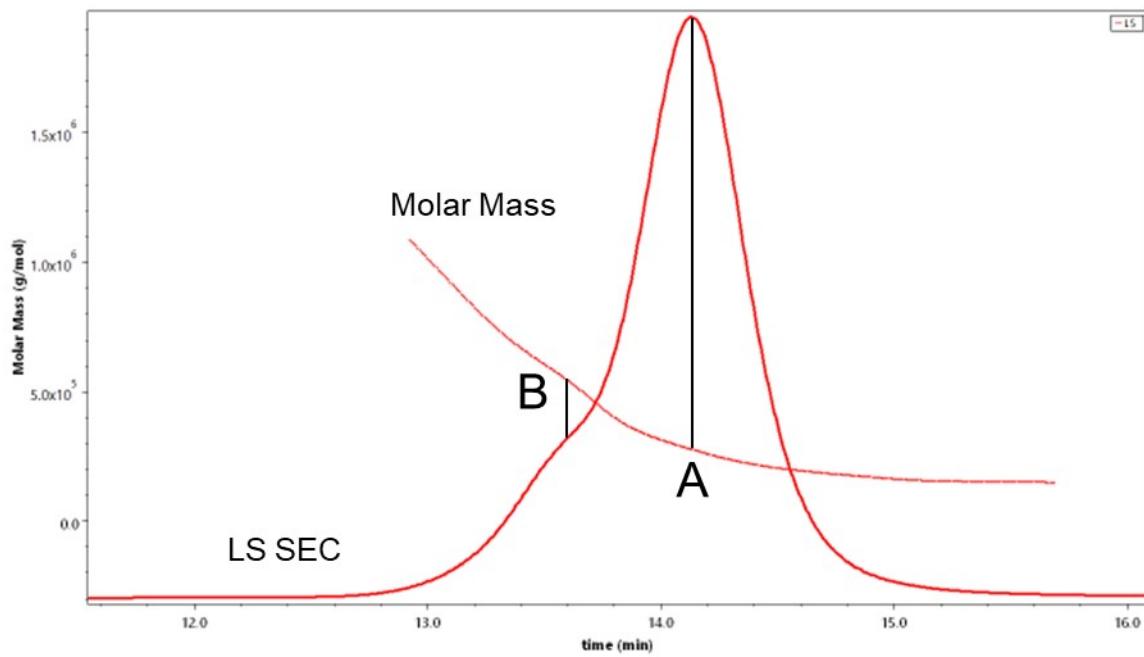


Figure S9. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $S_{100}^{20\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 273 kg/mol and peak B is 518 kg/mol.

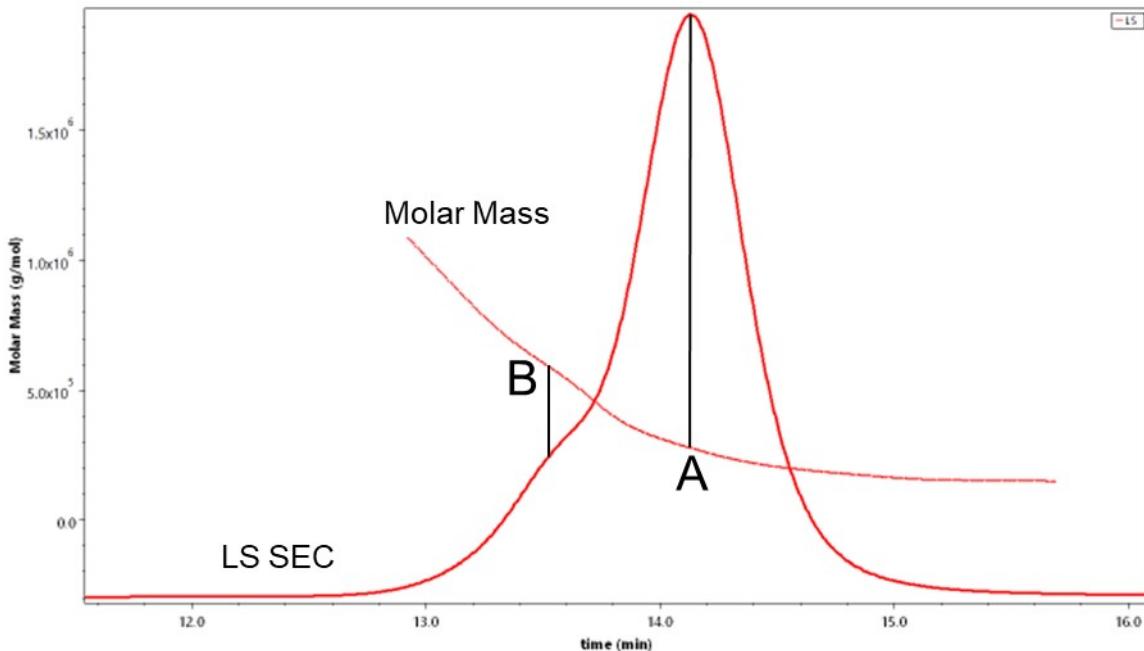


Figure S10. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $S_{100}^{30\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 276 kg/mol and peak B is 572 kg/mol.

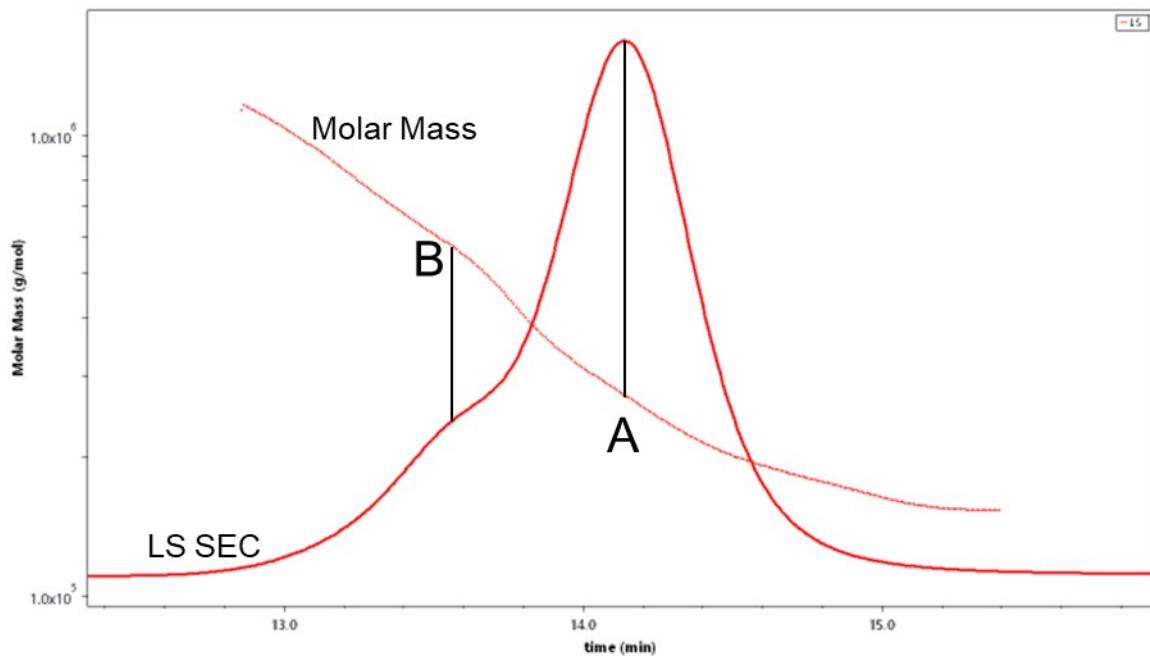


Figure S11. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $S_{100}^{40\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 279 kg/mol and peak B is 574 kg/mol.

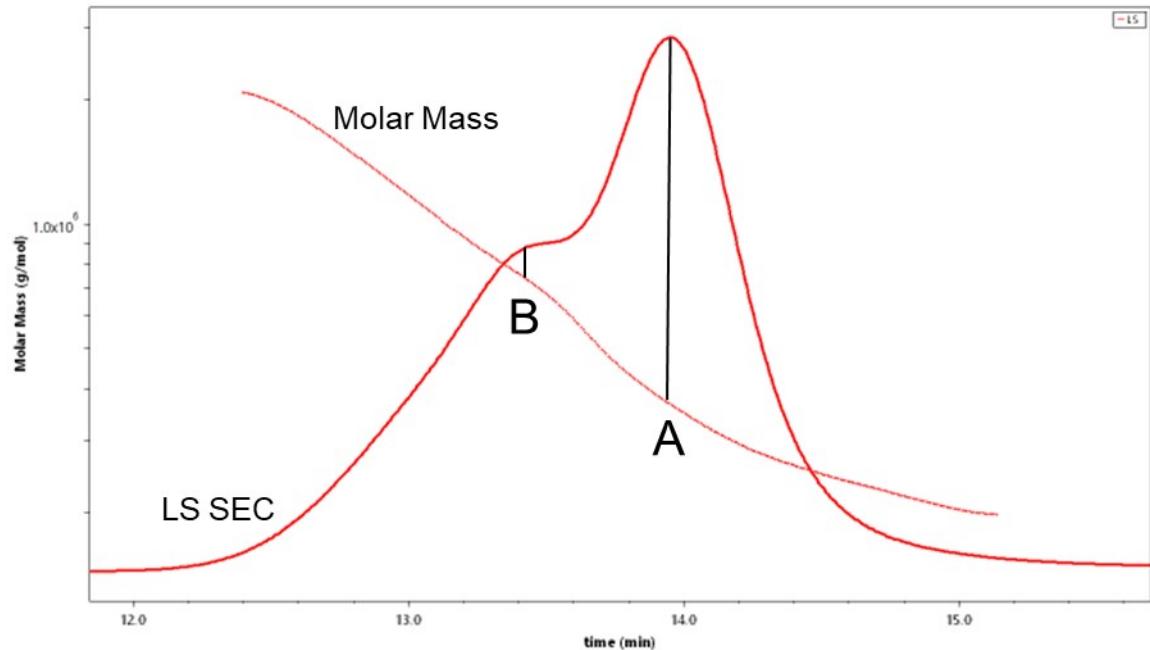


Figure S12. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $S_{100}^{50\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 279 kg/mol and peak B is 524 kg/mol.

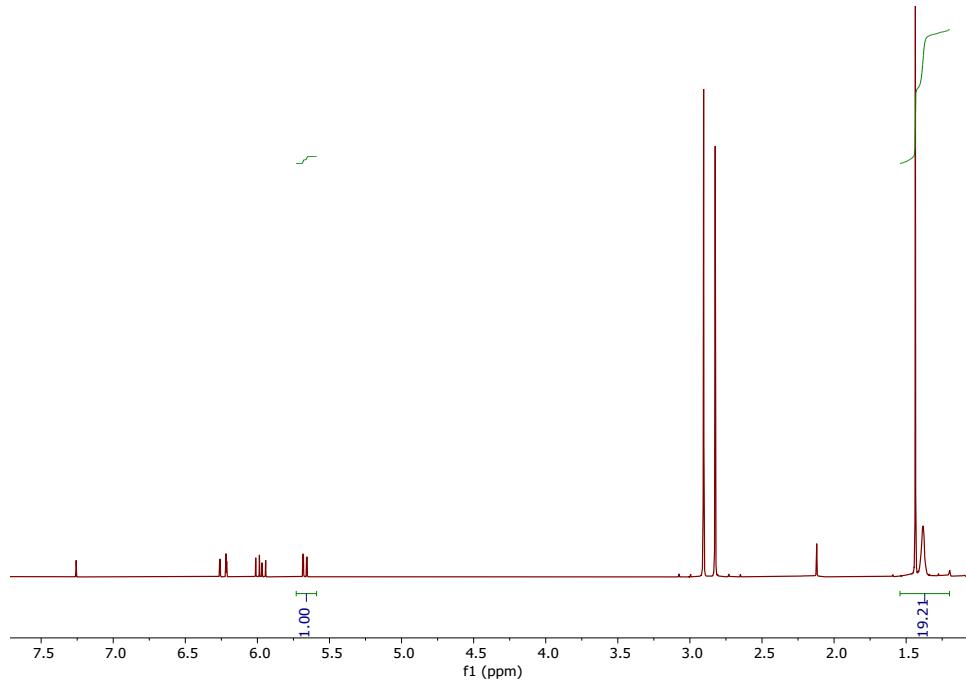


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of T<sup>50%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 53%.

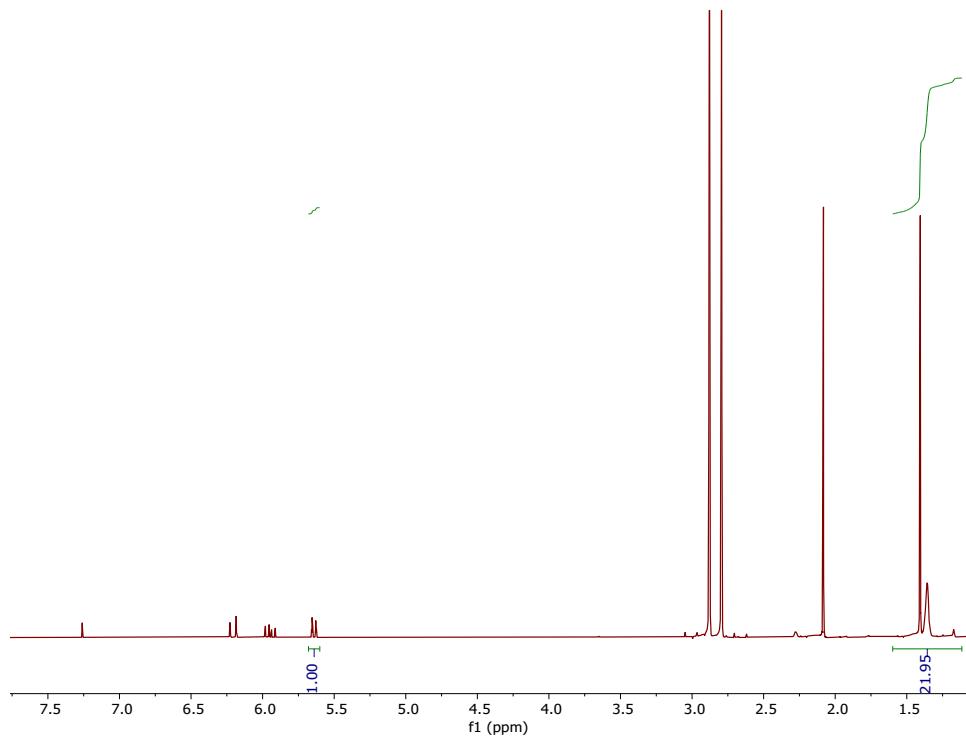


Figure S14.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of **T**<sup>60%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 59%.

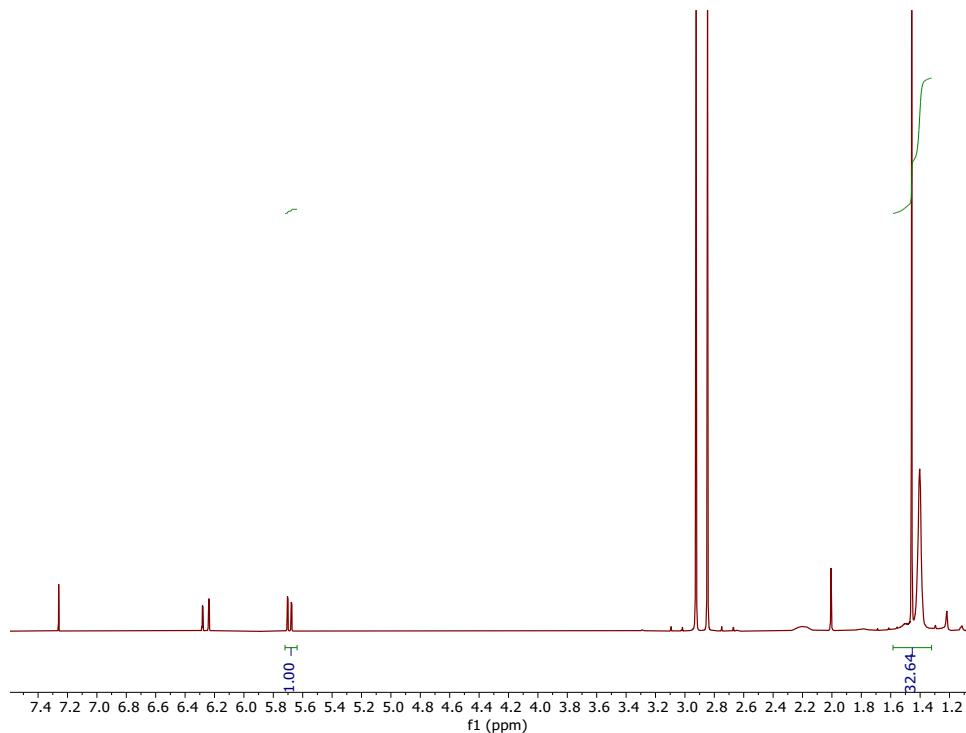


Figure S15.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of **T**<sup>70%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 72%.

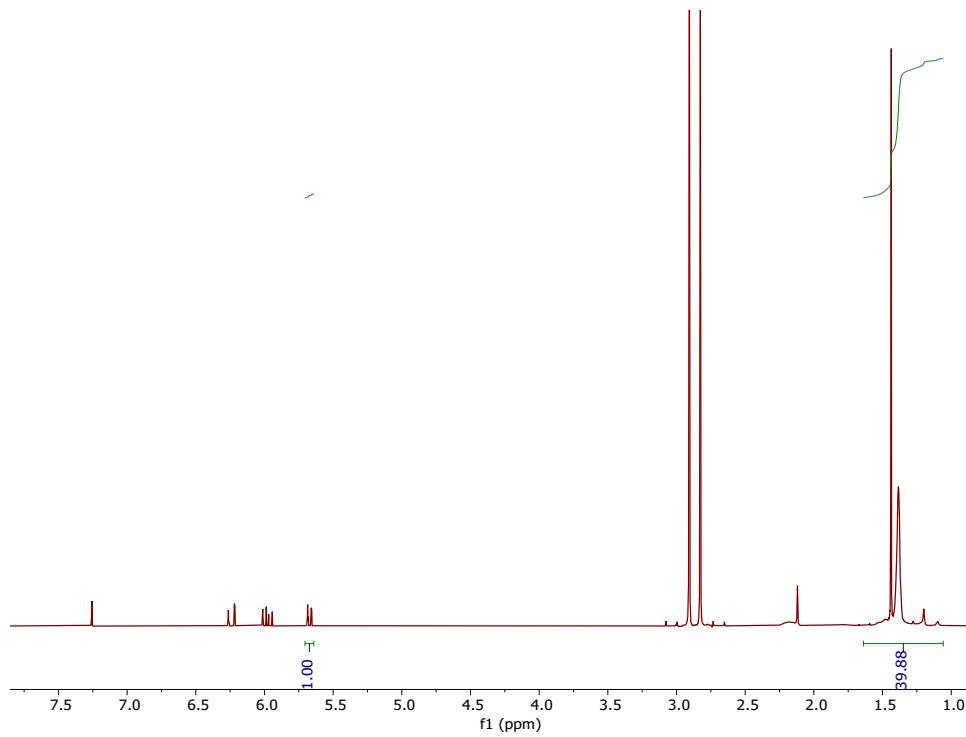


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of **T**<sup>80%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 77%.

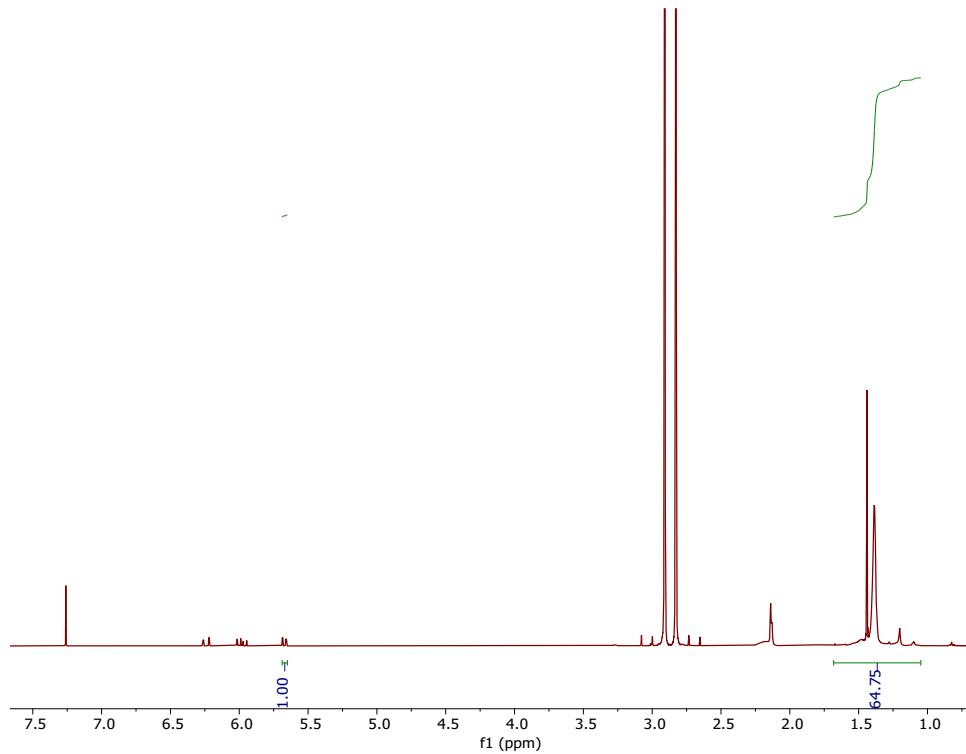


Figure S17.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of **T**<sup>90%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 86%.

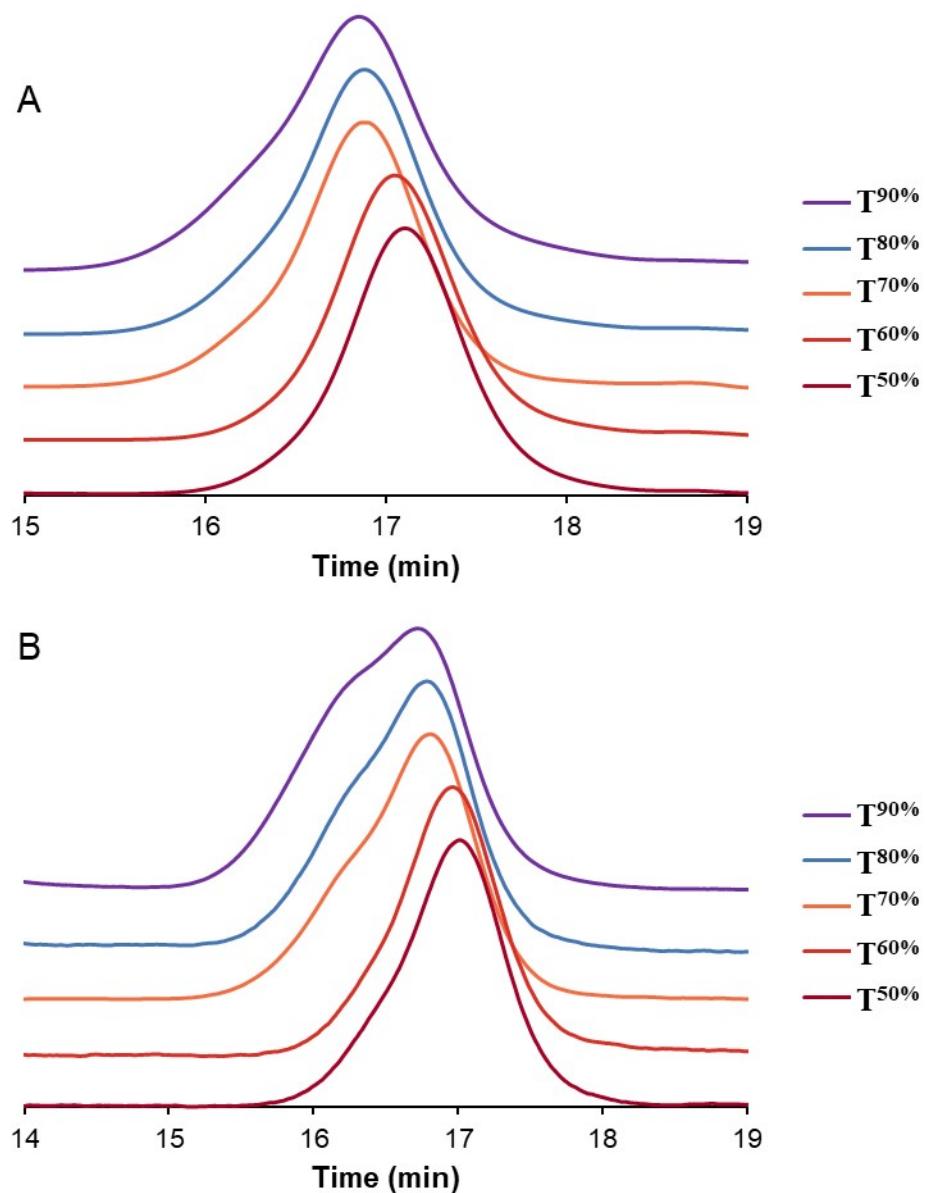


Figure S18. SEC traces showing (A) refractive index detector and (B) light scattering detector of PtBA MMs  $T^{50\%}$ ,  $T^{60\%}$ ,  $T^{70\%}$ ,  $T^{80\%}$  and  $T^{90\%}$ .

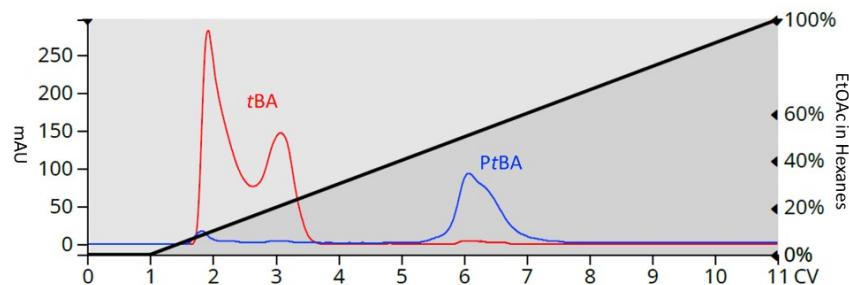


Figure S19. PtBA-MM purification plot showing the absorption of monomer at 265 nm (red) and the MM at 305 nm (blue) as the polarity of the mobile phase increases.

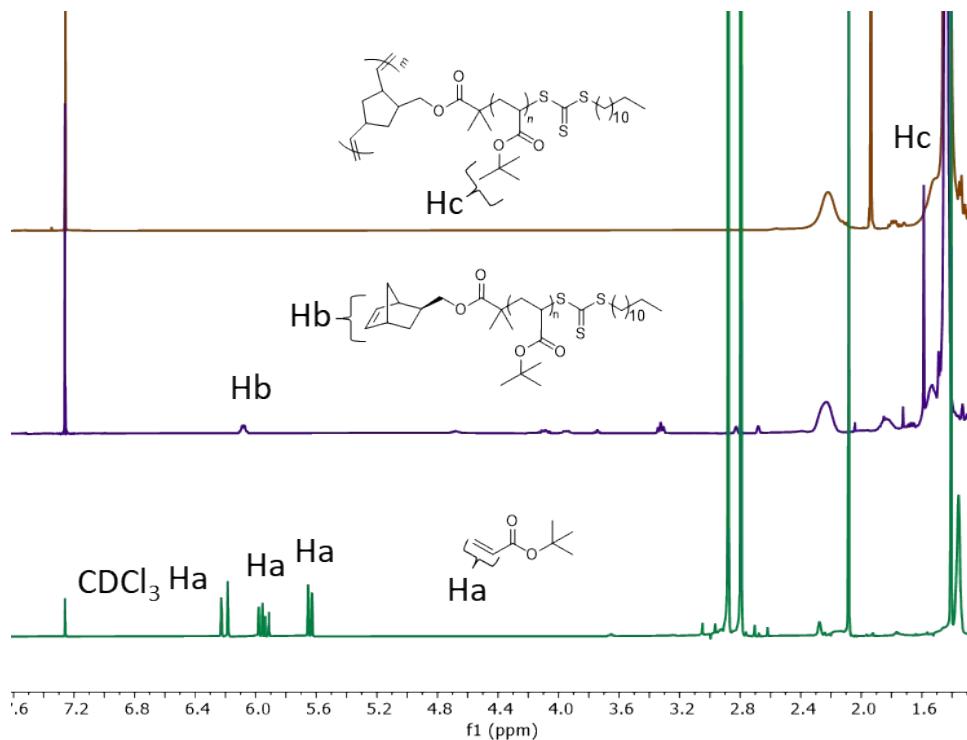


Figure S20. <sup>1</sup>H NMR stacked spectra showing the progress of  $T_{100}^{50\%}$  from crude MM containing unreacted monomer after RAFT polymerization (bottom) to purified PtBA-MM after silica column (middle) and to PtBA-BB after ROMP (top).

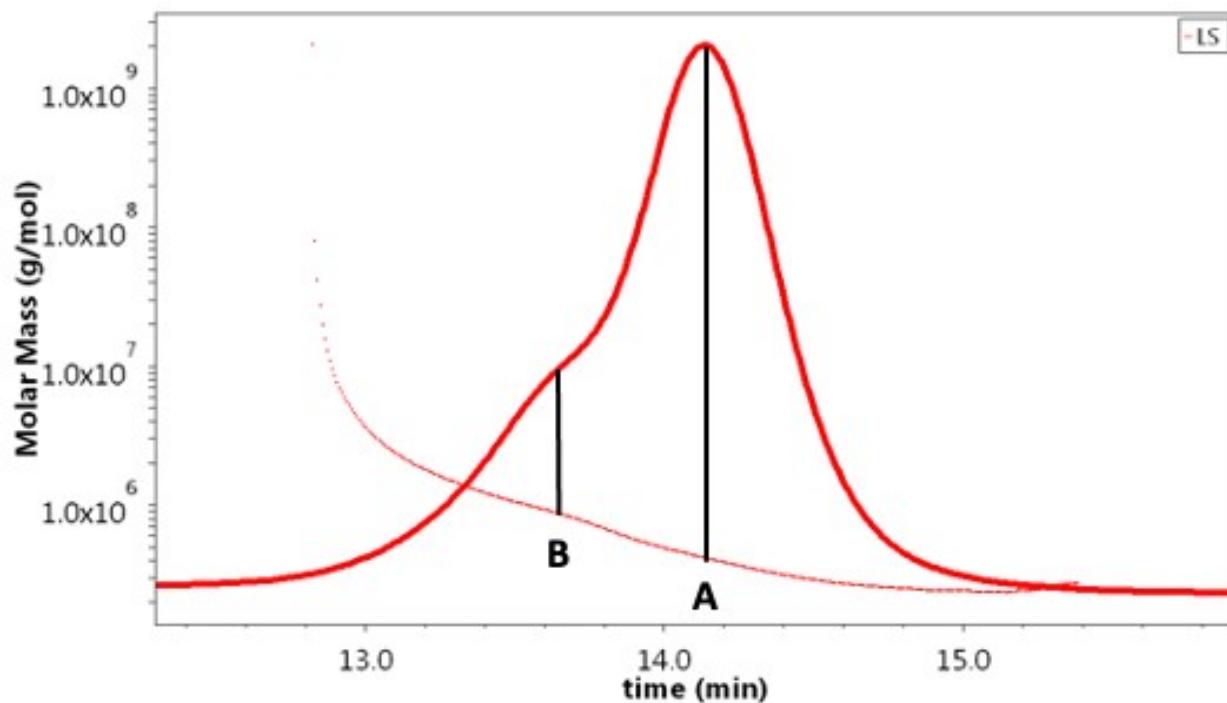


Figure S21. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $T_{100}^{80\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 413 kg/mol and peak B is 848 kg/mol.

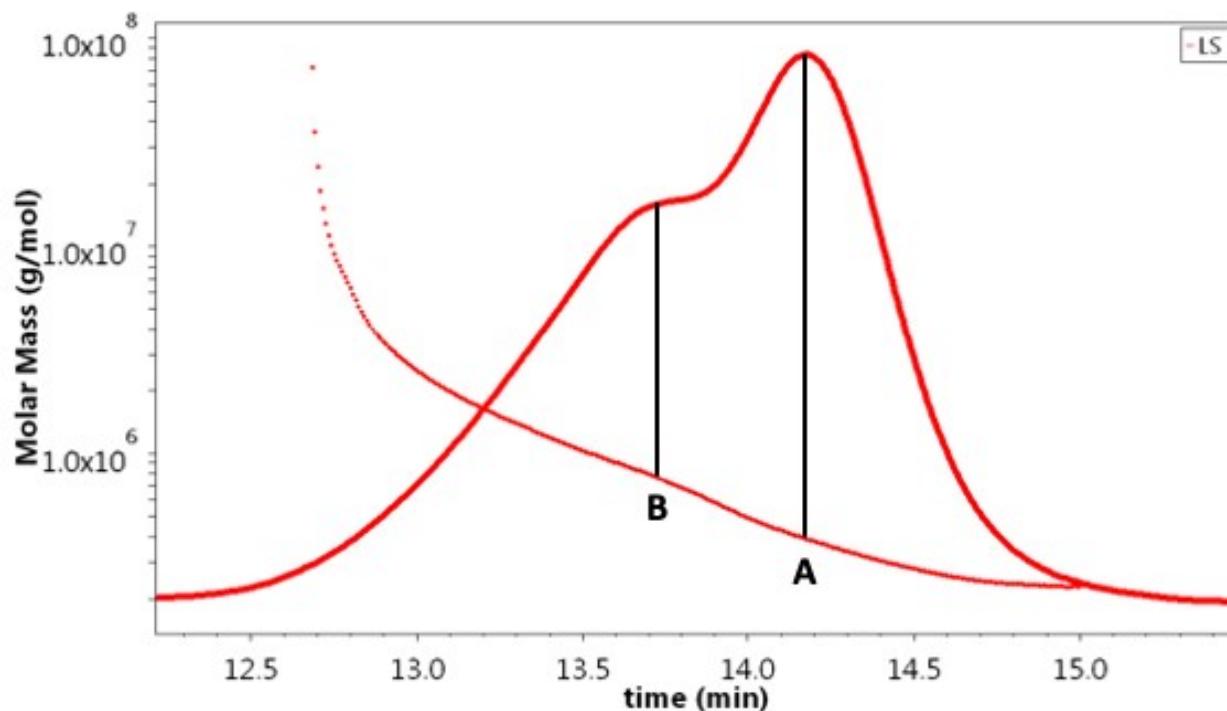


Figure S22. SEC trace of light scattering detector and molar mass of bottlebrush polymer  $T_{100}^{90\%}$ . The molar mass of peak A is 396 kg/mol and peak B is 888 kg/mol.

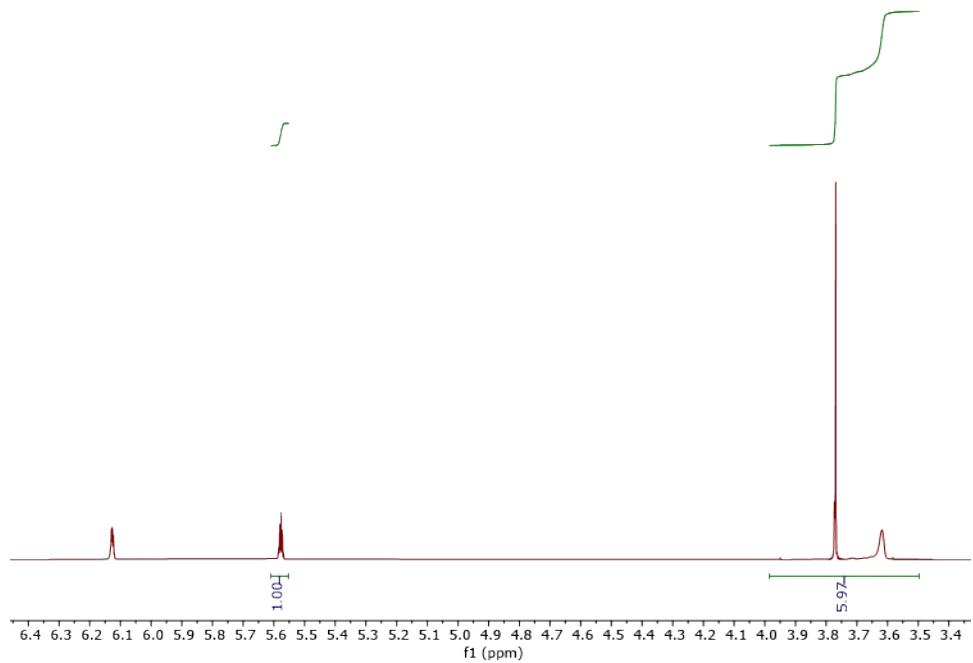


Figure S23.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\mathbf{M}^{50\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 50%.

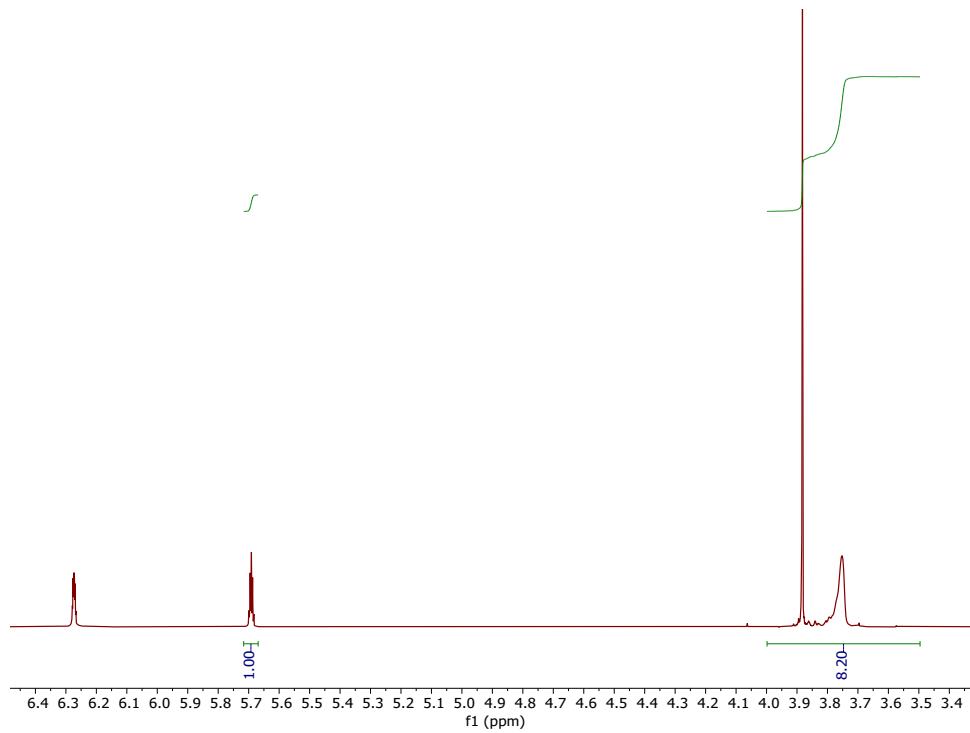


Figure S24.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\mathbf{M}^{60\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 63%.

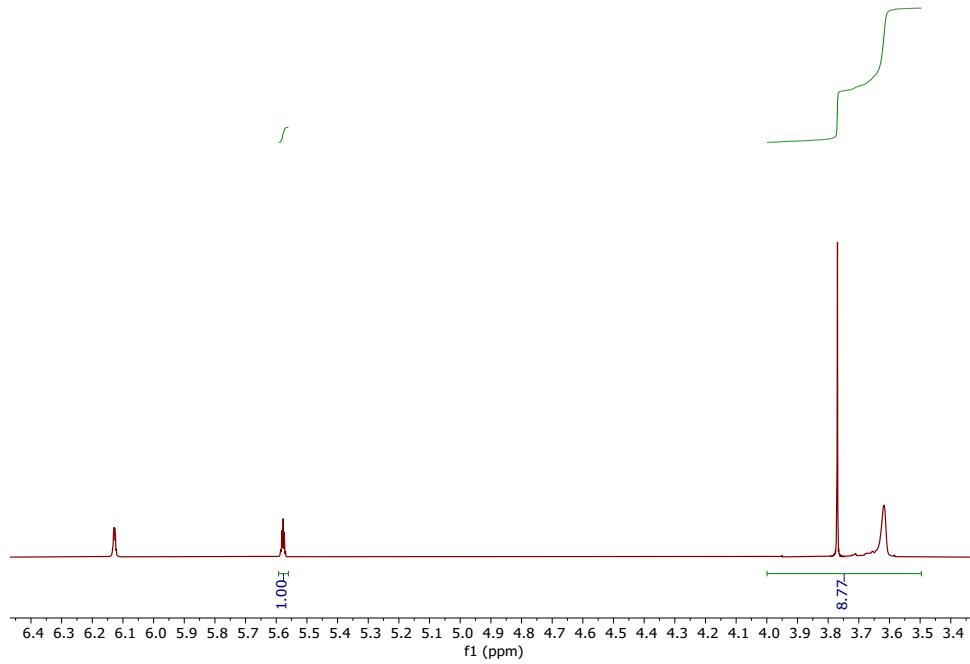


Figure S25.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\mathbf{M}^{70\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 66%.

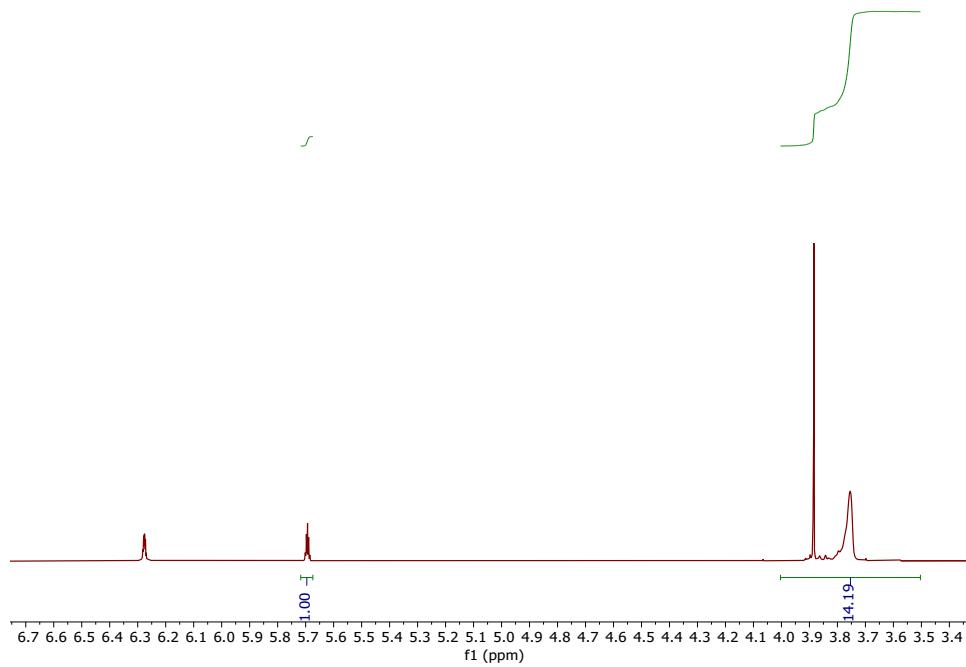


Figure S26. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of **M**<sup>80%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 79%.

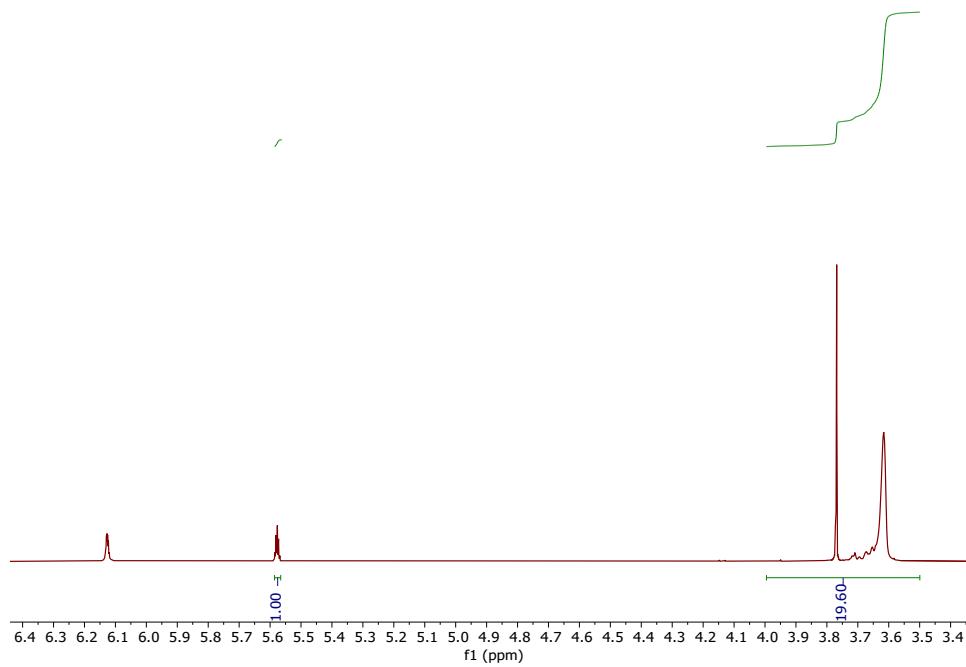


Figure S27.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of  $\mathbf{M}^{90\%}$  containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 85%.

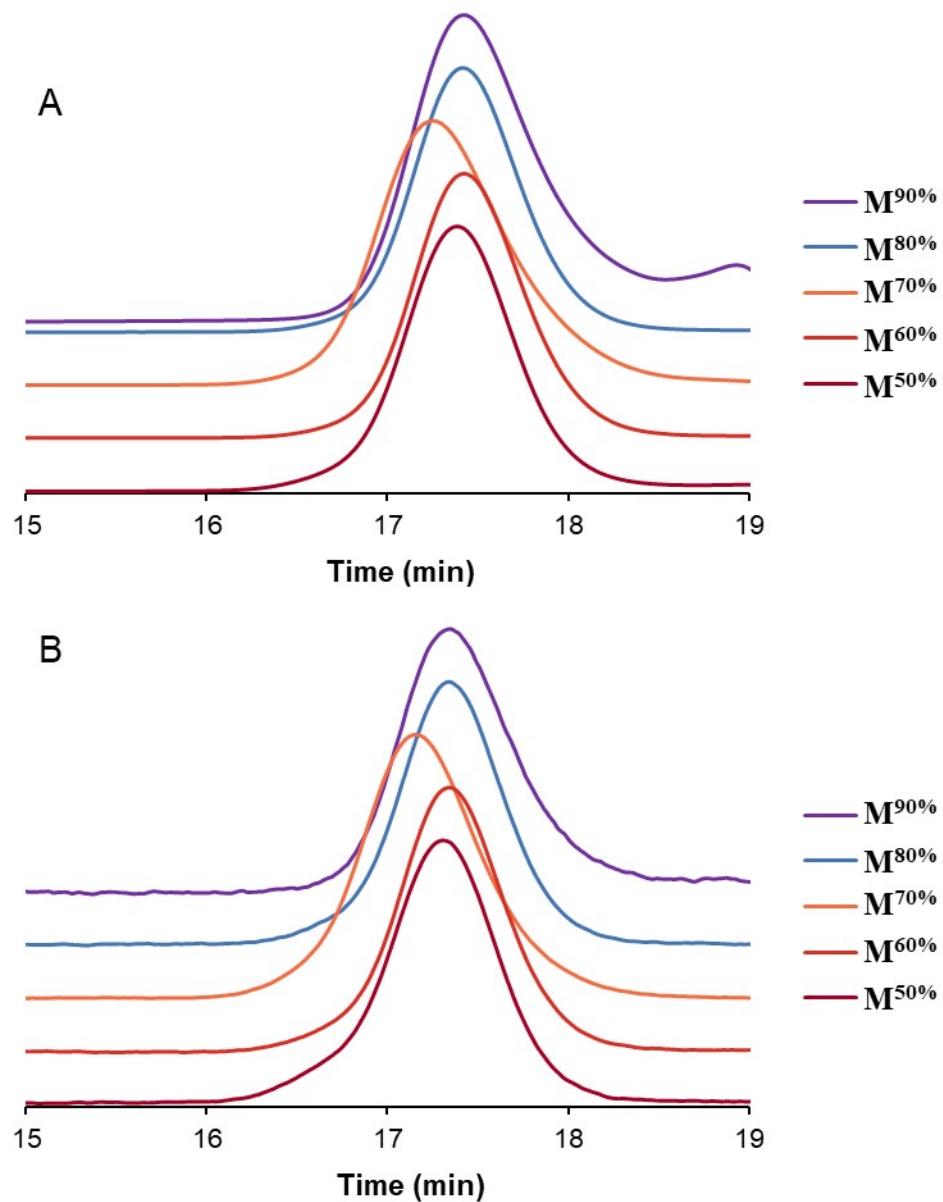


Figure S28. SEC traces showing (A) refractive index detector and (B) light scattering detector of PMMA MMs  $\mathbf{M}^{50\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{M}^{60\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{M}^{70\%}$ ,  $\mathbf{M}^{80\%}$  and  $\mathbf{M}^{90\%}$ .

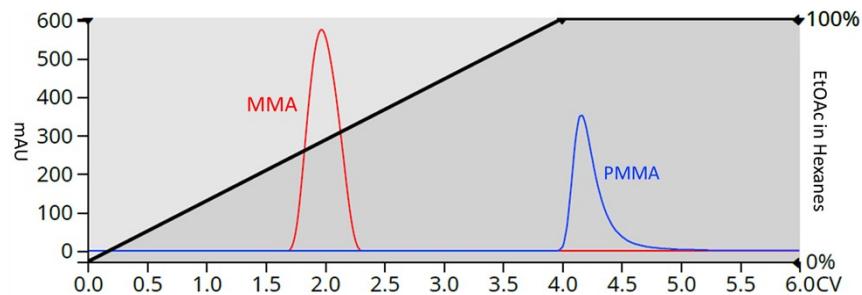


Figure S29. PMMA-MM purification plot showing the absorption of monomer at 253 nm (red) and the MM at 330 nm (blue) as the polarity of the mobile phase increases.

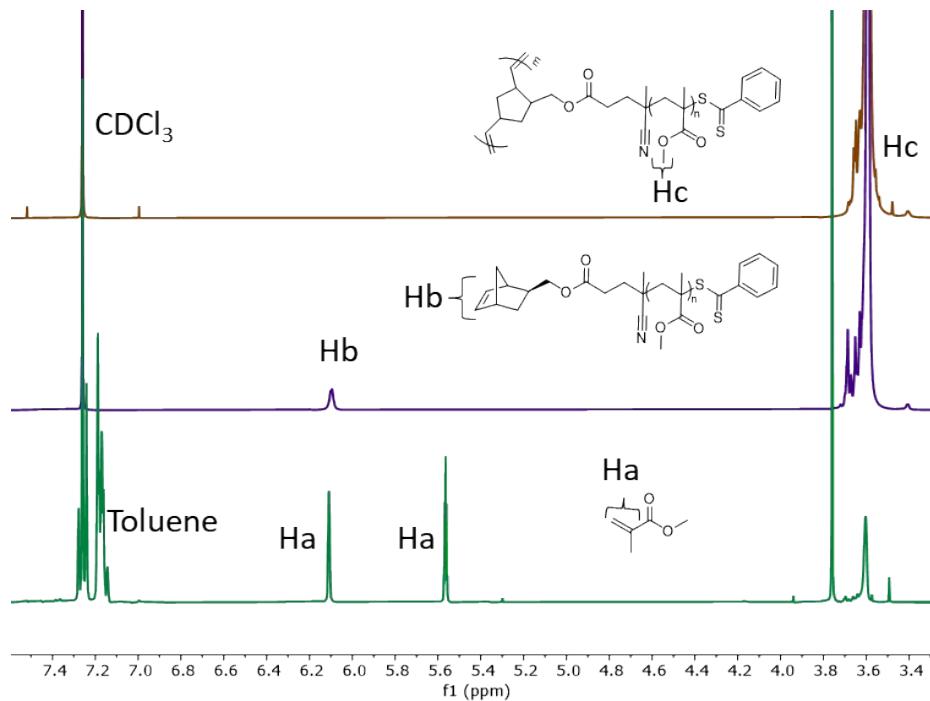


Figure S30. <sup>1</sup>H NMR stacked spectra showing the progress of  $M_{100}^{50\%}$  from crude MM containing unreacted monomer after RAFT polymerization (bottom) to purified PMMA-MM after silica column (middle) and to PMMA-BB after ROMP (top).

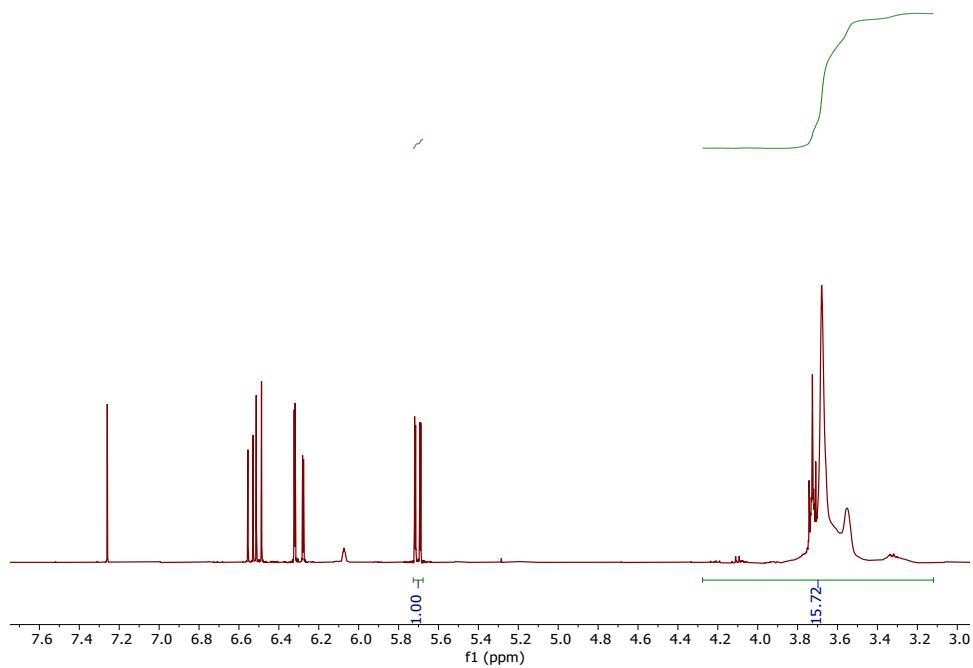


Figure S31. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of A<sup>50%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 49%.

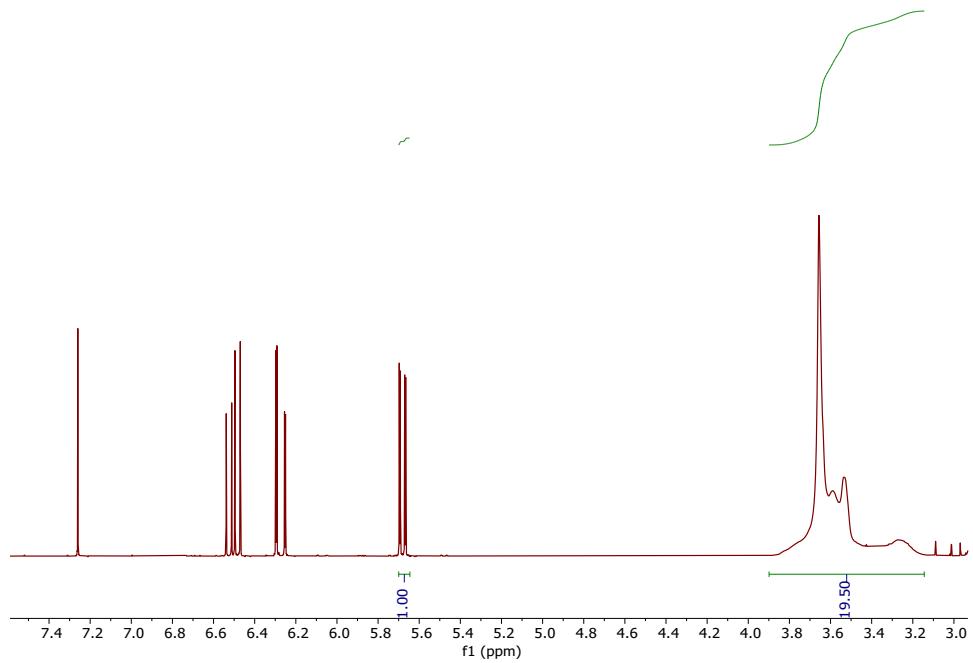


Figure S32. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of A<sup>60%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 59%.

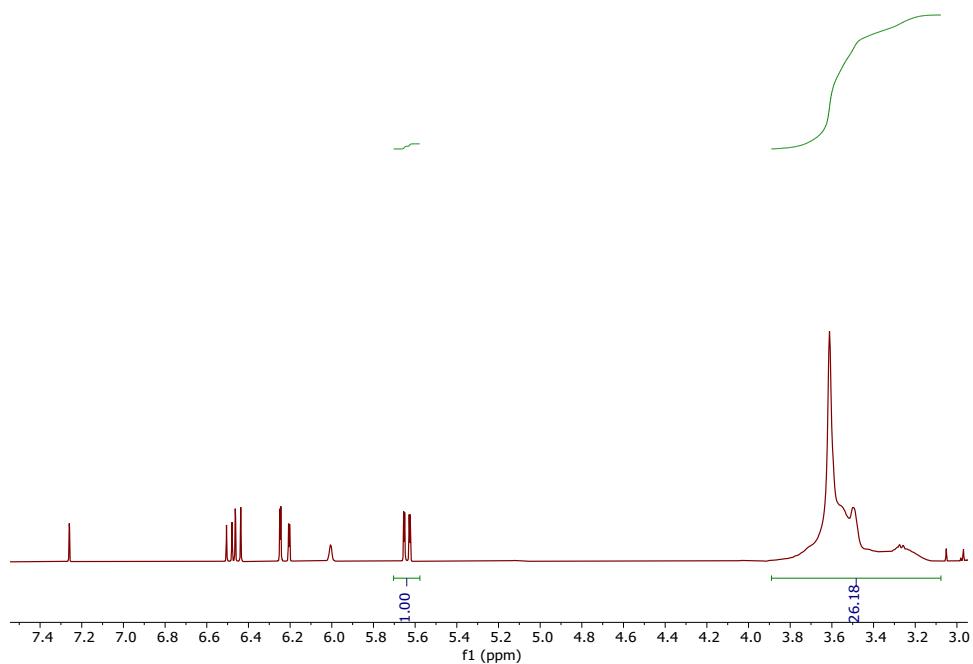


Figure S33. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of A<sup>70%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 70%.

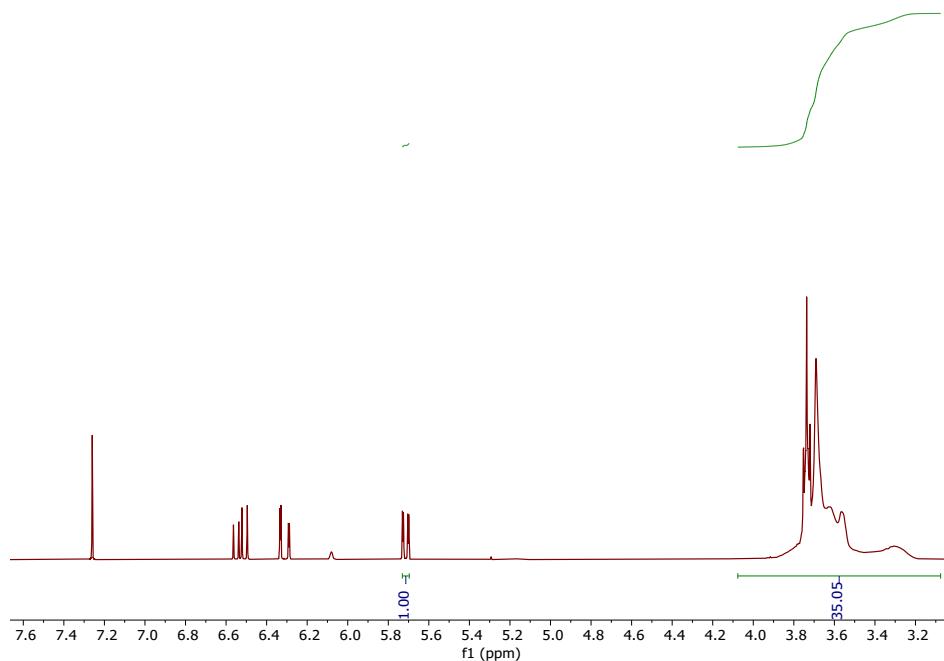


Figure S34. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of A<sup>80%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 77%.

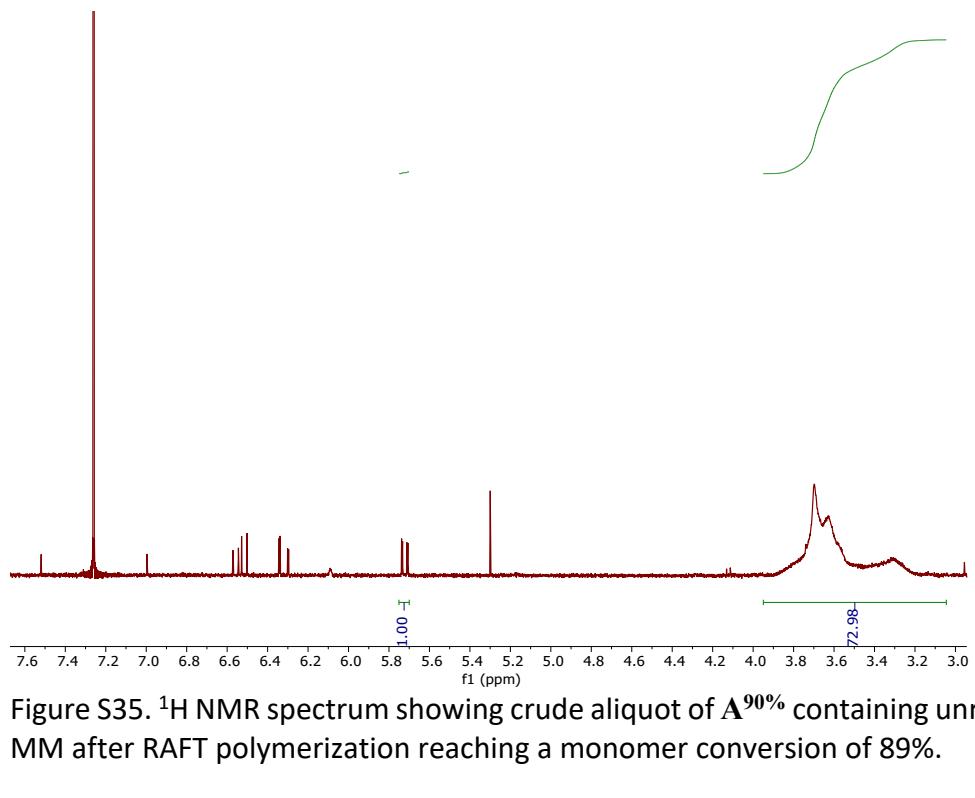


Figure S35. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showing crude aliquot of A<sup>90%</sup> containing unreacted monomer and MM after RAFT polymerization reaching a monomer conversion of 89%.

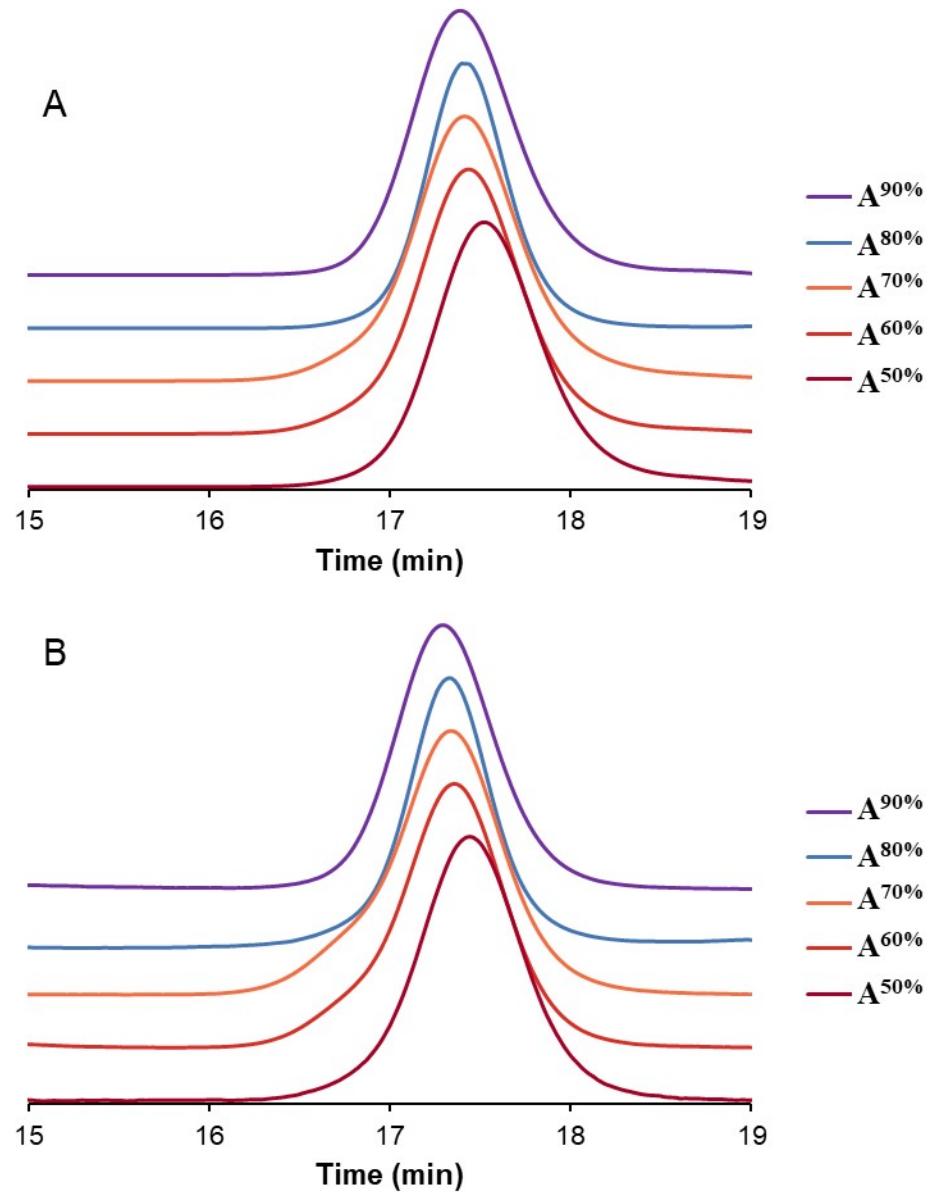


Figure S36. SEC traces showing (A) refractive index detector and (B) light scattering detector of PACMO MMs  $\text{A}^{50\%}$ ,  $\text{A}^{60\%}$ ,  $\text{A}^{70\%}$ ,  $\text{A}^{80\%}$  and  $\text{A}^{90\%}$ .

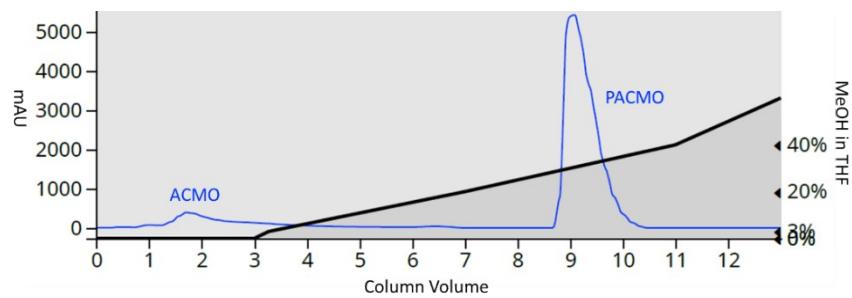


Figure S37. PACMO-MM purification plot showing the absorption of monomer and the MM at 210 nm (blue) as the polarity of the mobile phase increases.

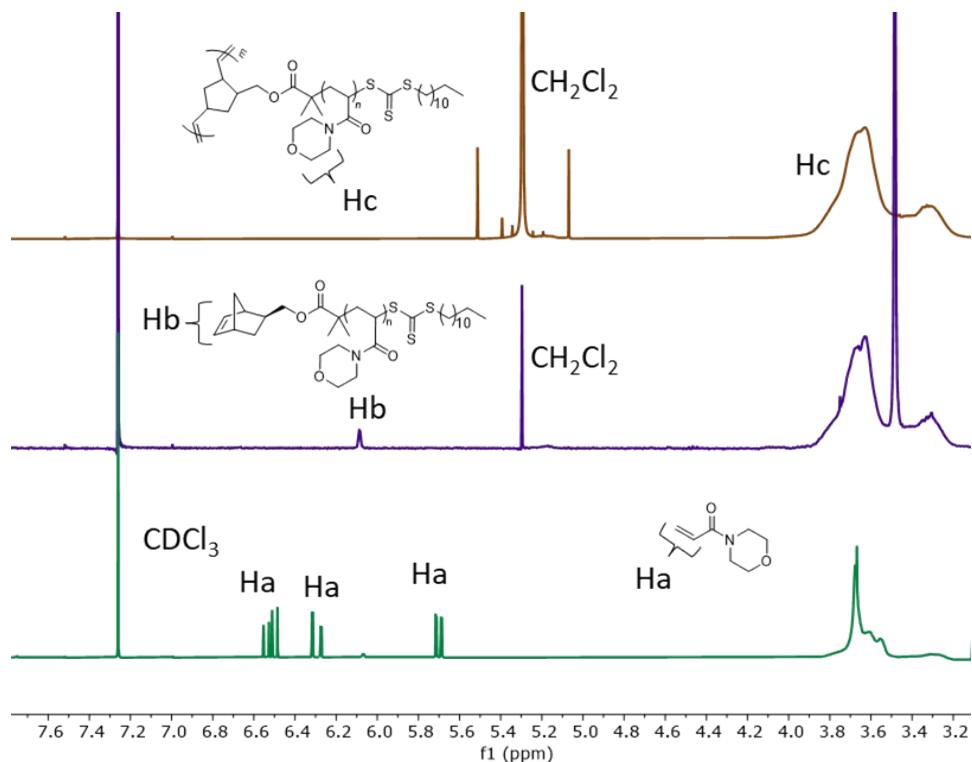


Figure S38. <sup>1</sup>H NMR stacked spectra showing the progress of  $A_{100}^{80\%}$  from crude MM containing unreacted monomer after RAFT polymerization (bottom) to purified PACMO-MM after silica column (middle) and to PACMO-BB after ROMP (top).

### Deconvolution of Coupled Bottlebrush Polymers

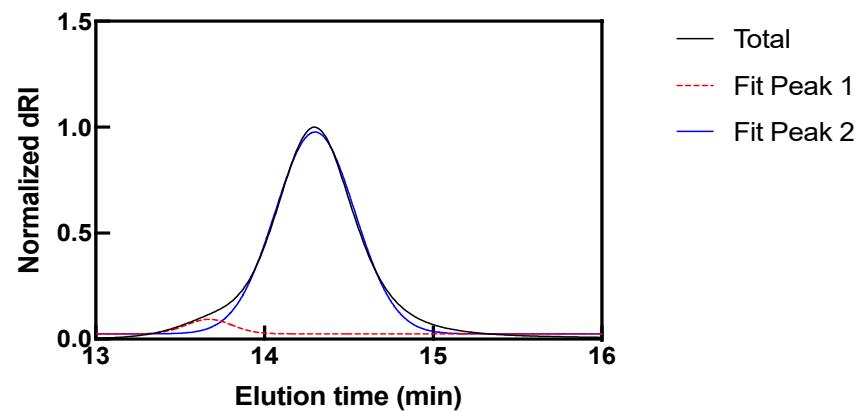


Figure S39. RI signal from SEC of  $S_{100}^{20\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

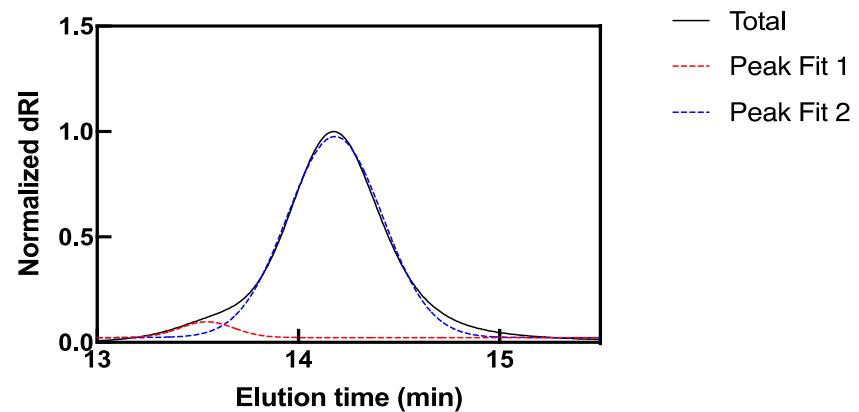


Figure S40. RI signal from SEC of  $S_{100}^{30\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

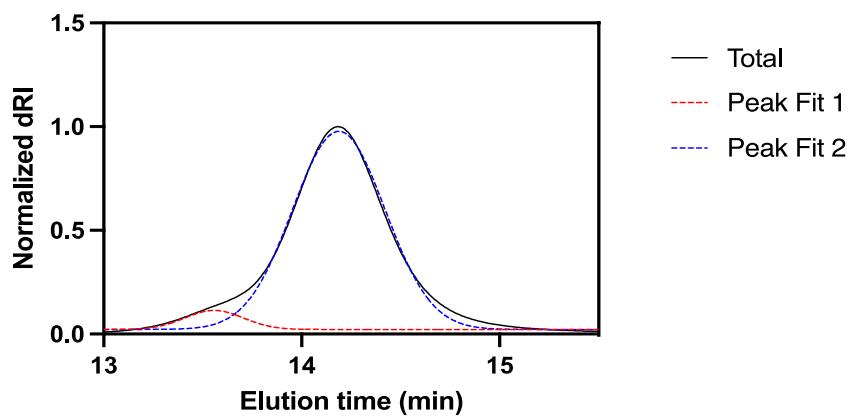


Figure S41. RI signal from SEC of  $S_{100}^{40\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

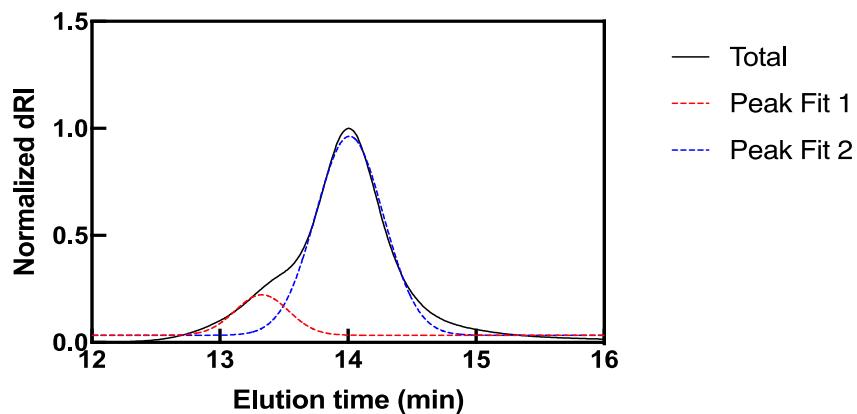


Figure S42. RI signal from SEC of  $S_{100}^{50\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

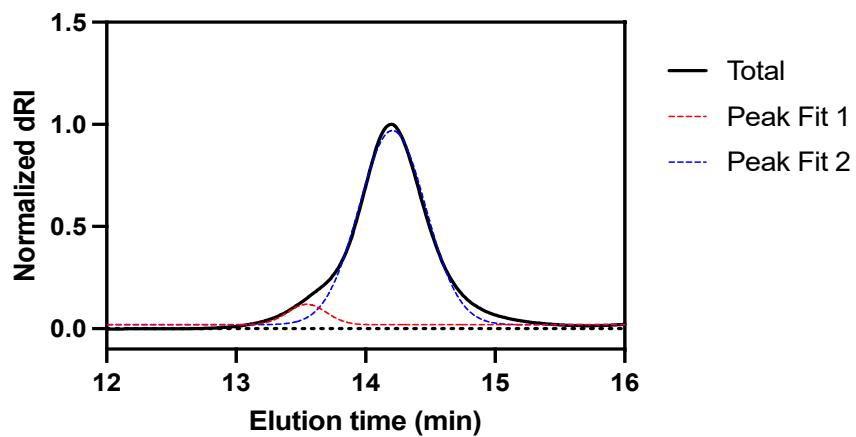


Figure S43. RI signal from SEC of  $T_{100}^{80\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

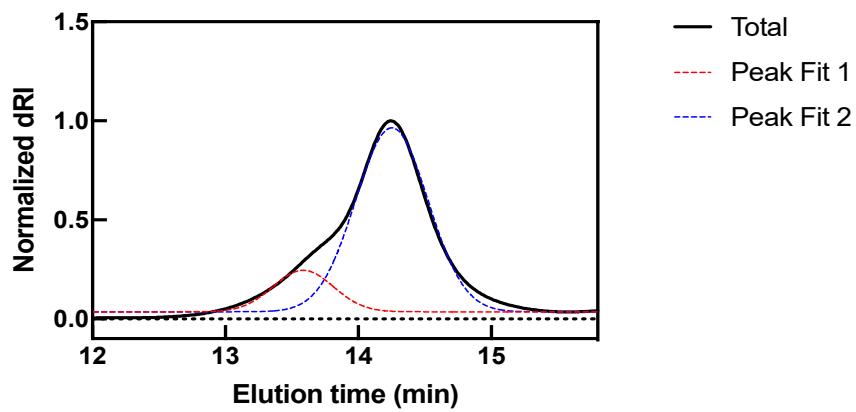


Figure S44. RI signal from SEC of  $T_{100}^{90\%}$  (solid, black), deconvoluted coupled bottlebrush products (dash, red), and deconvoluted uncoupled bottlebrush product (dash, blue).

## End group Analysis of Macromonomers

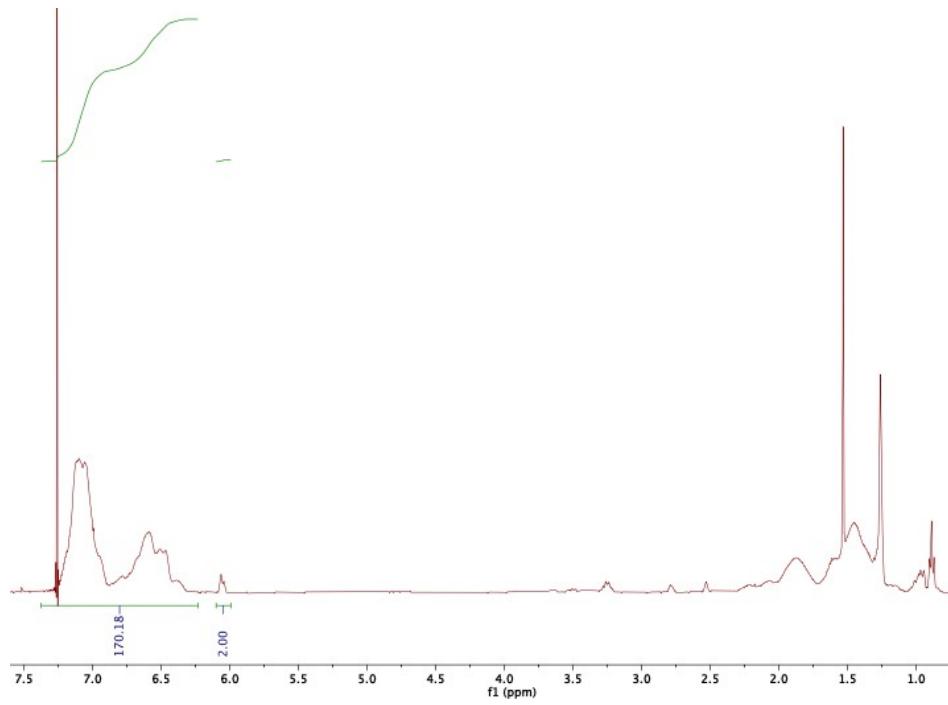


Figure S45. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S<sup>10%</sup>

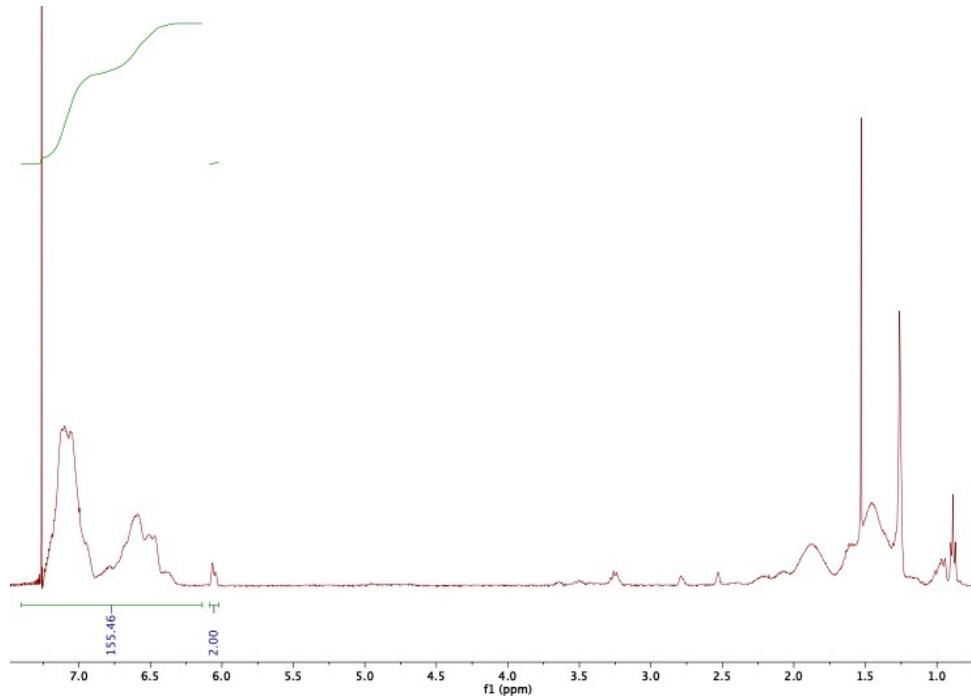


Figure S46. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S<sup>20%</sup>

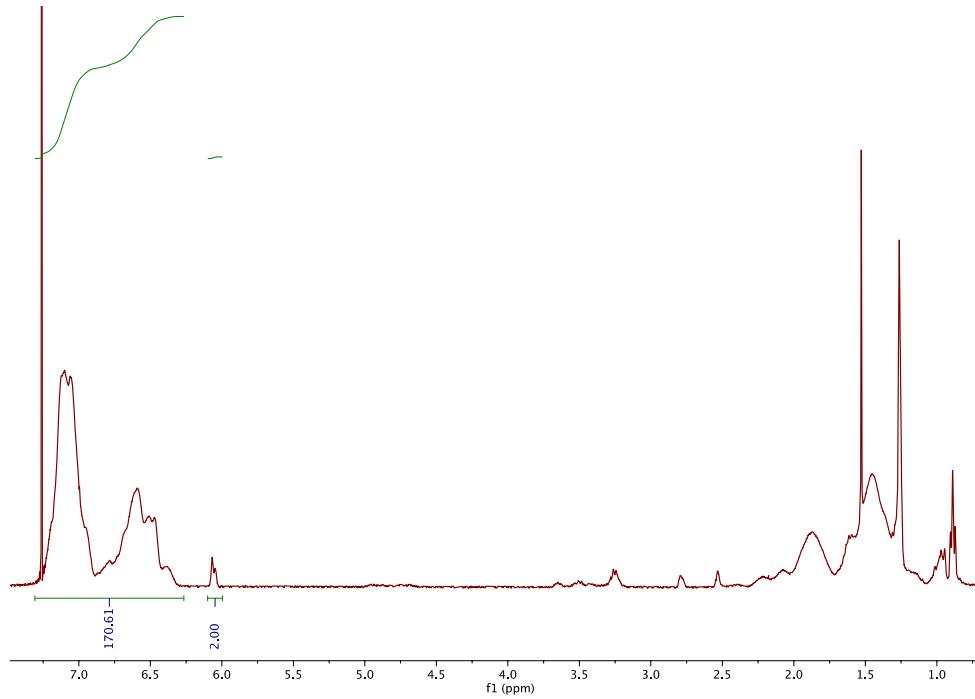


Figure S47.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **S<sup>30%</sup>**

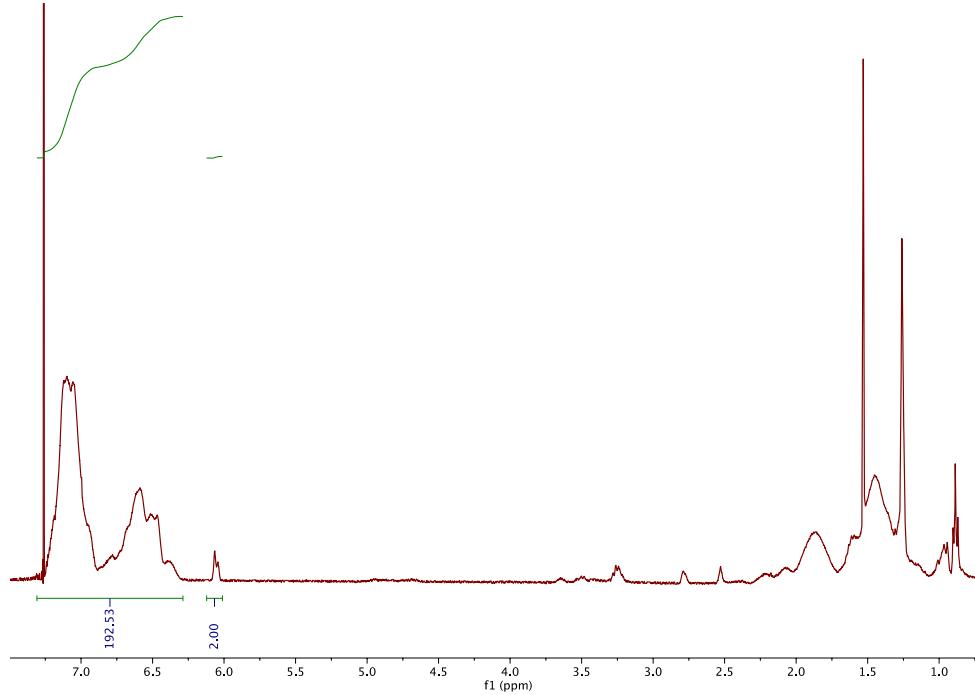


Figure S48.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **S<sup>40%</sup>**

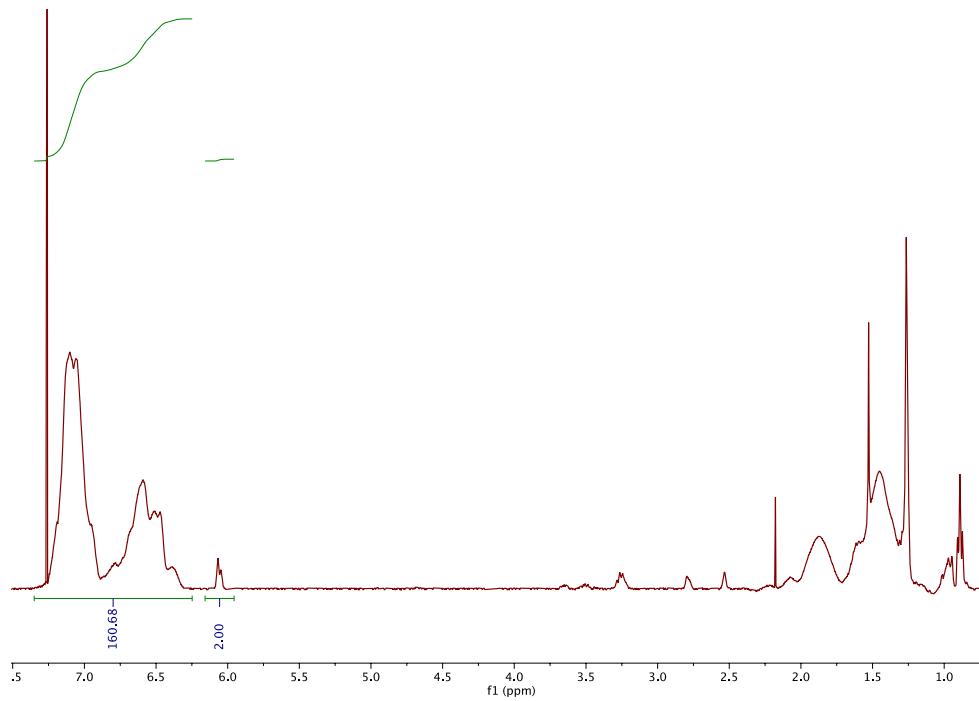


Figure S49. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of S<sup>50%</sup>

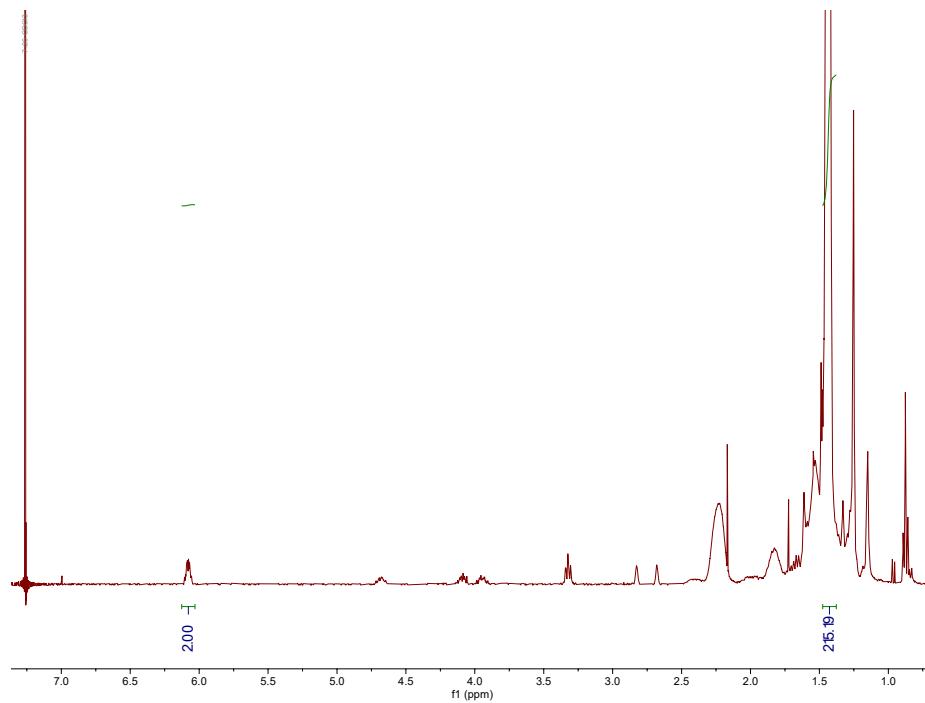


Figure S50. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of T<sup>50%</sup>

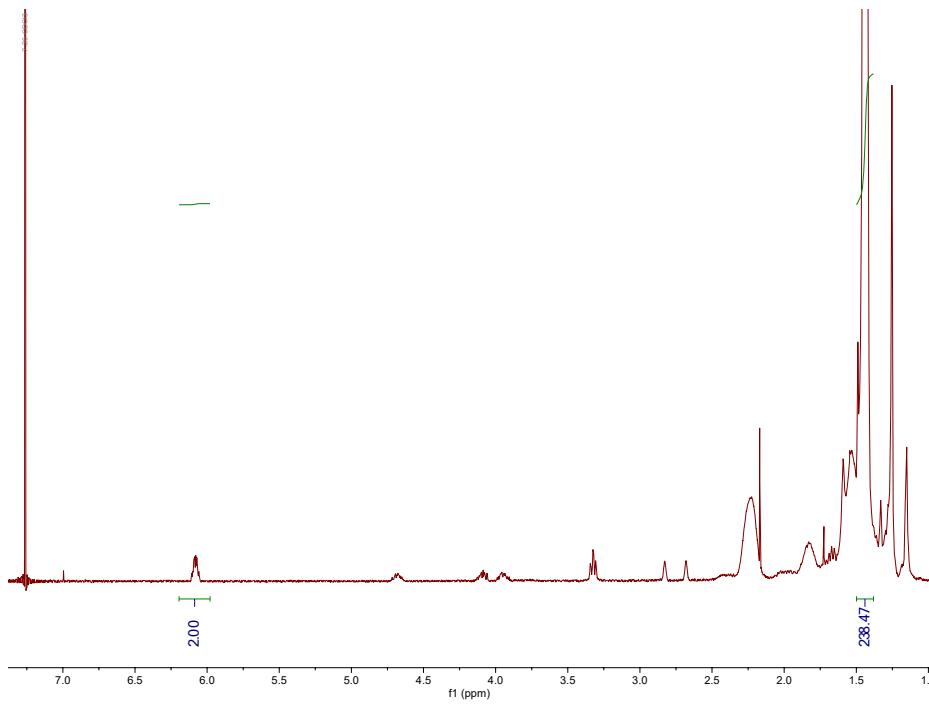


Figure S51. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of T<sup>60%</sup>

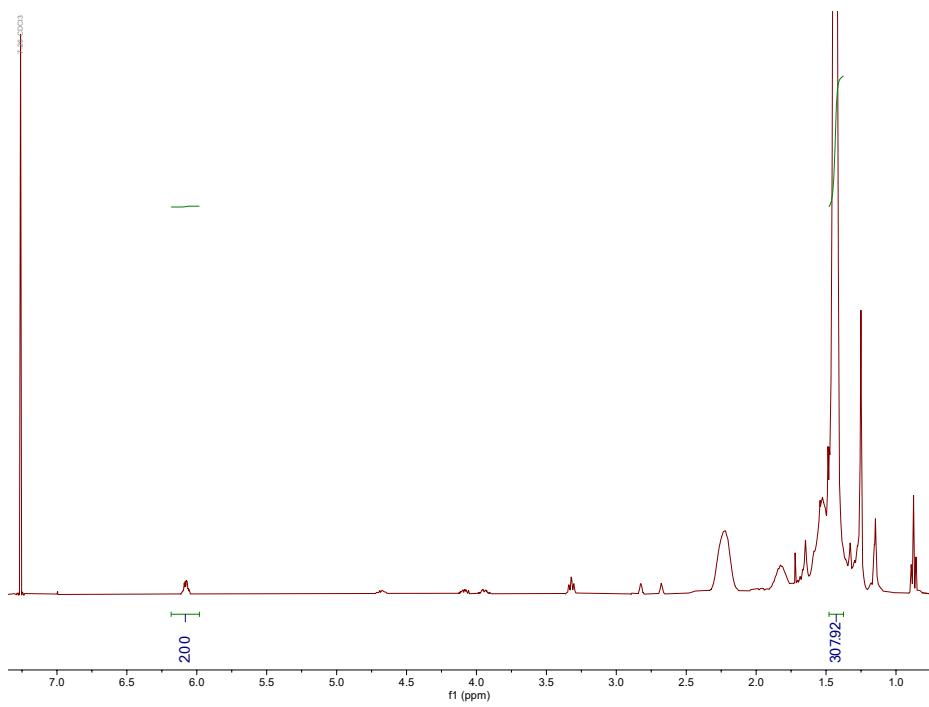


Figure S52. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of T<sup>70%</sup>

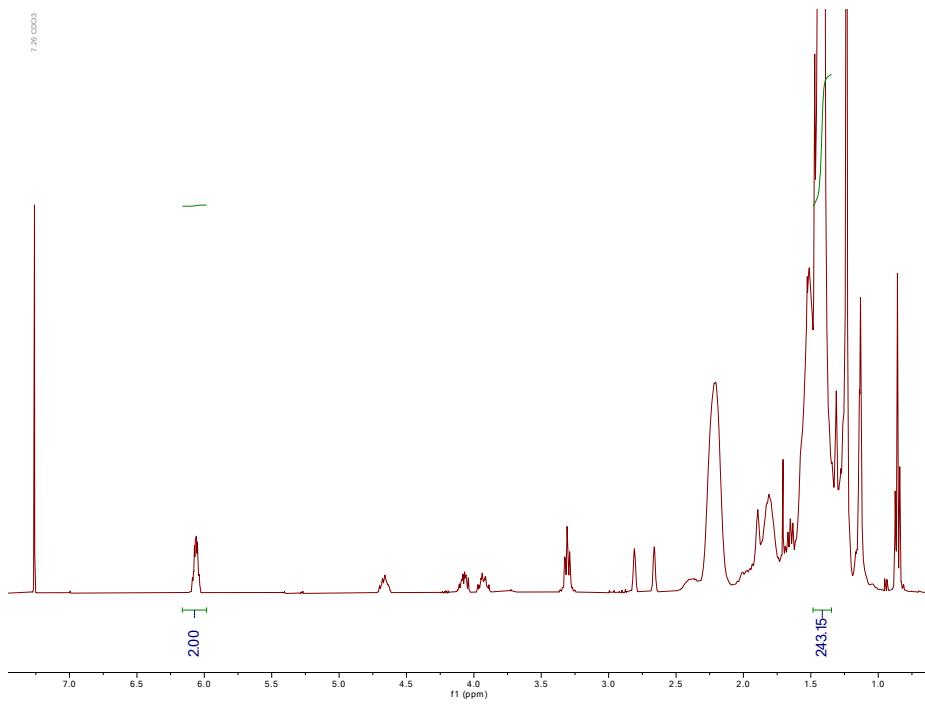


Figure S53. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of T<sup>80%</sup>

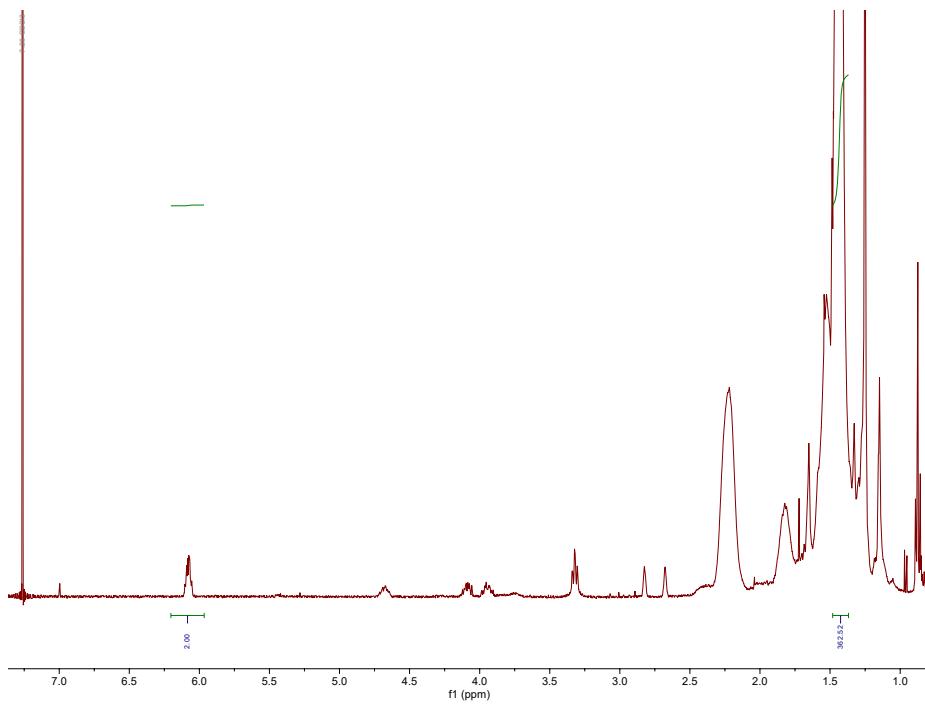


Figure S54. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of T<sup>90%</sup>

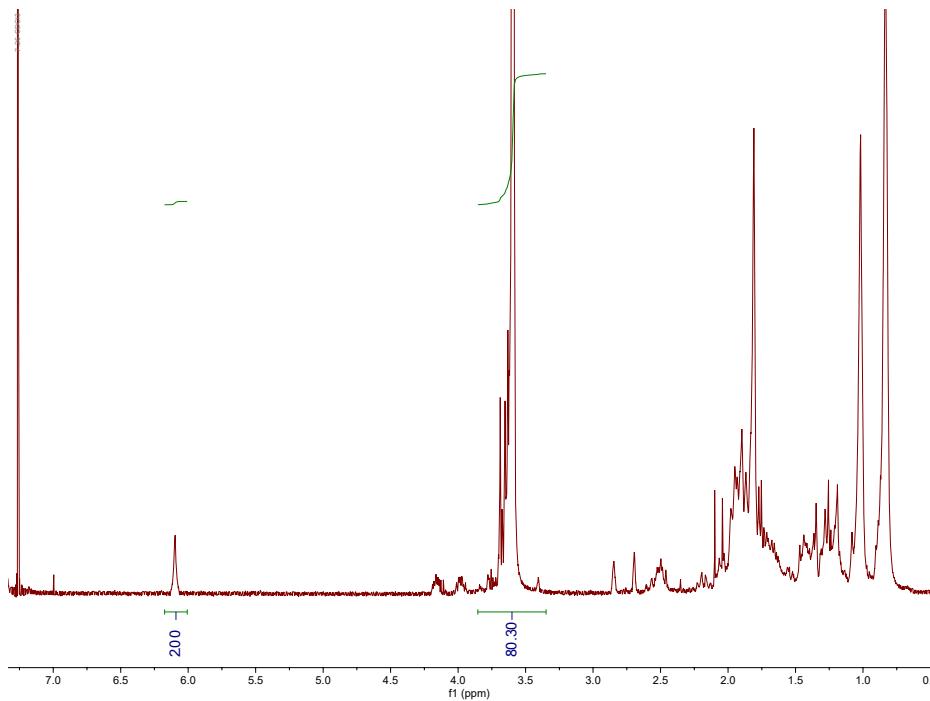


Figure S55. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **M**<sup>50%</sup>

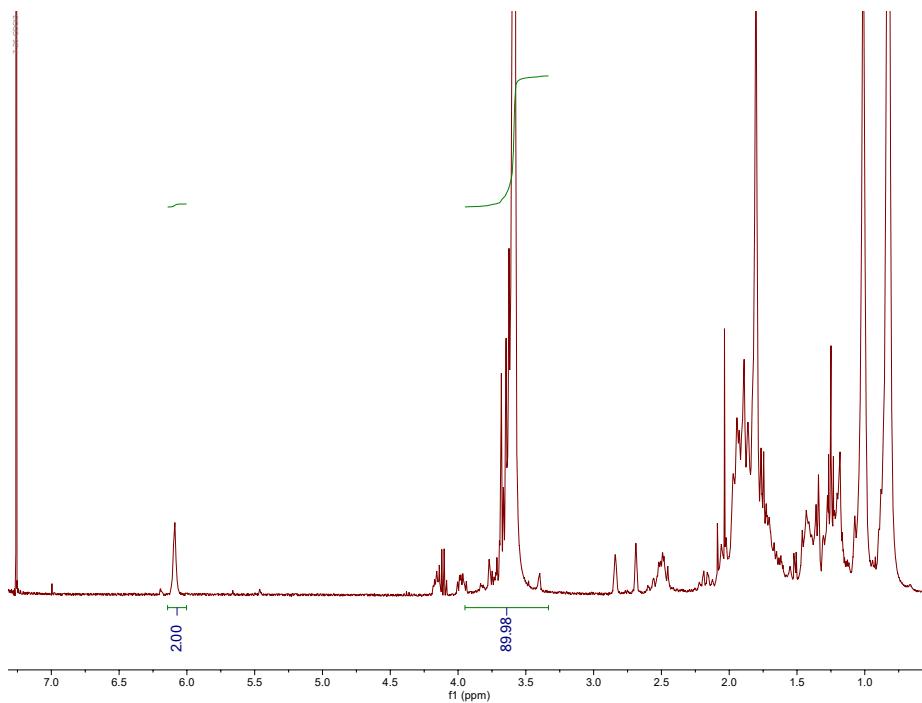


Figure S56. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **M**<sup>60%</sup>

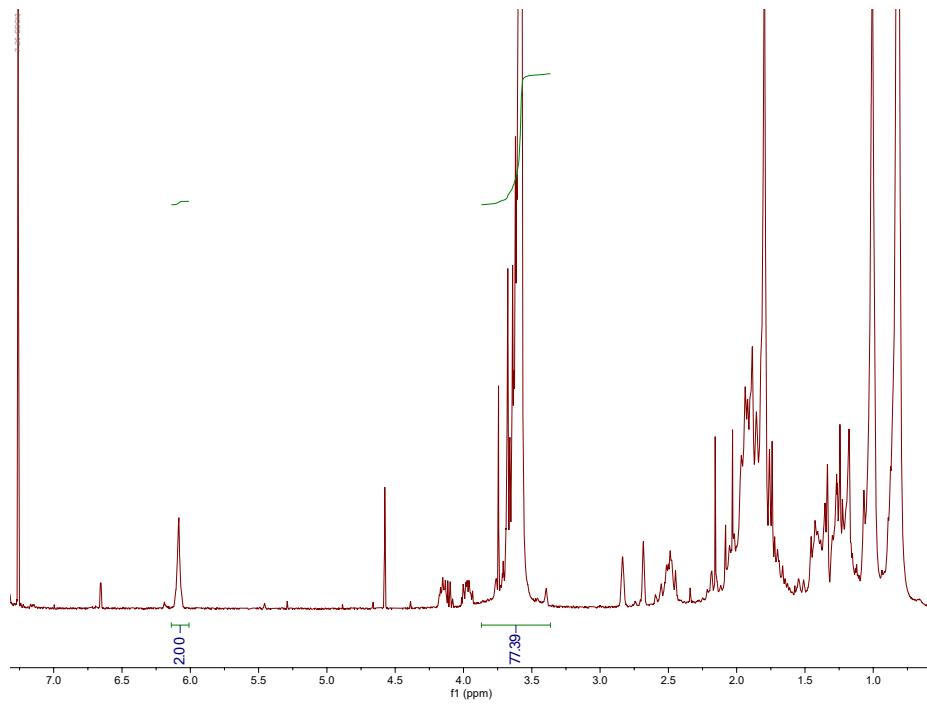


Figure S57. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **M**<sup>70%</sup>

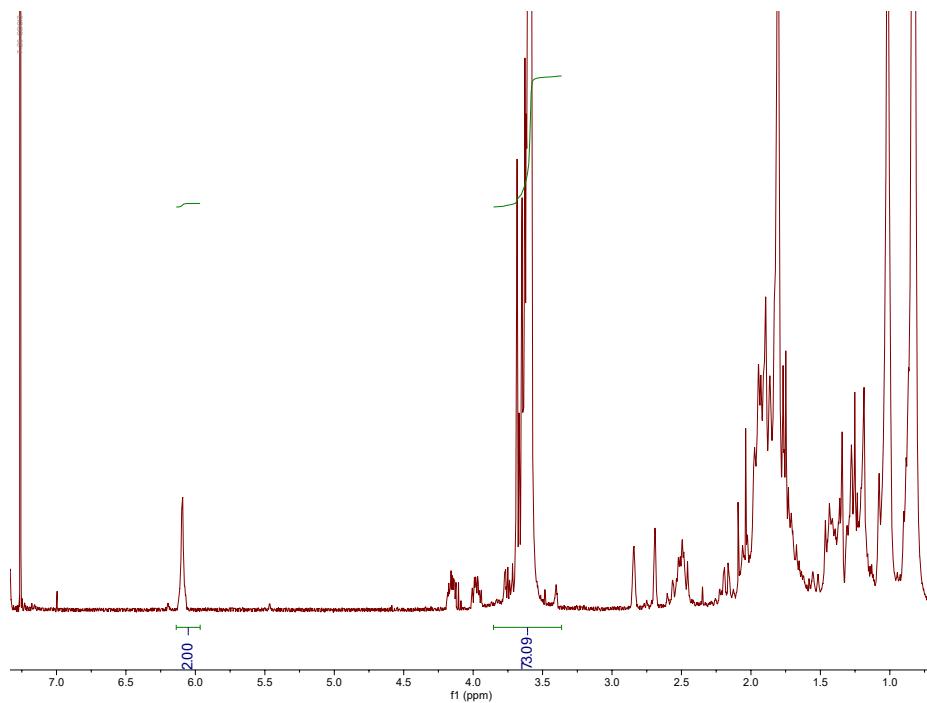


Figure S58. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **M**<sup>80%</sup>

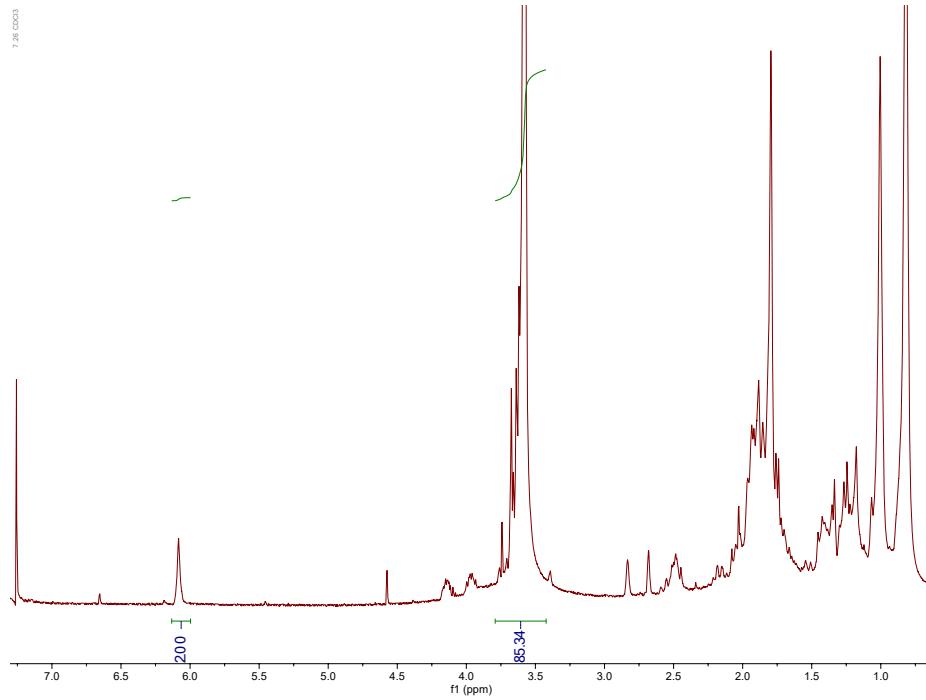


Figure S59.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\mathbf{M}^{90\%}$

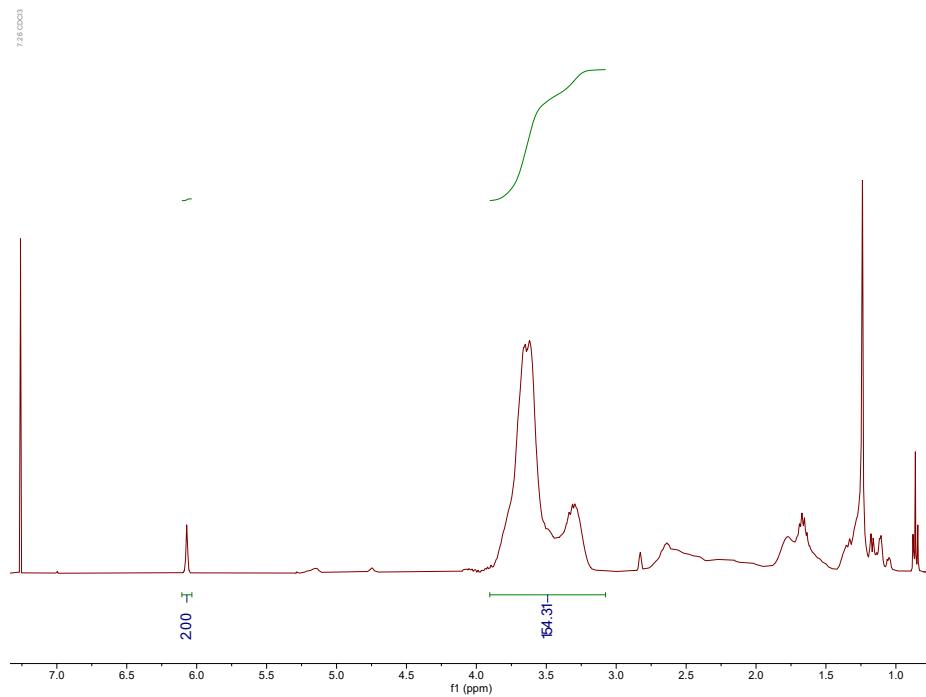


Figure S60.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\mathbf{A}^{50\%}$

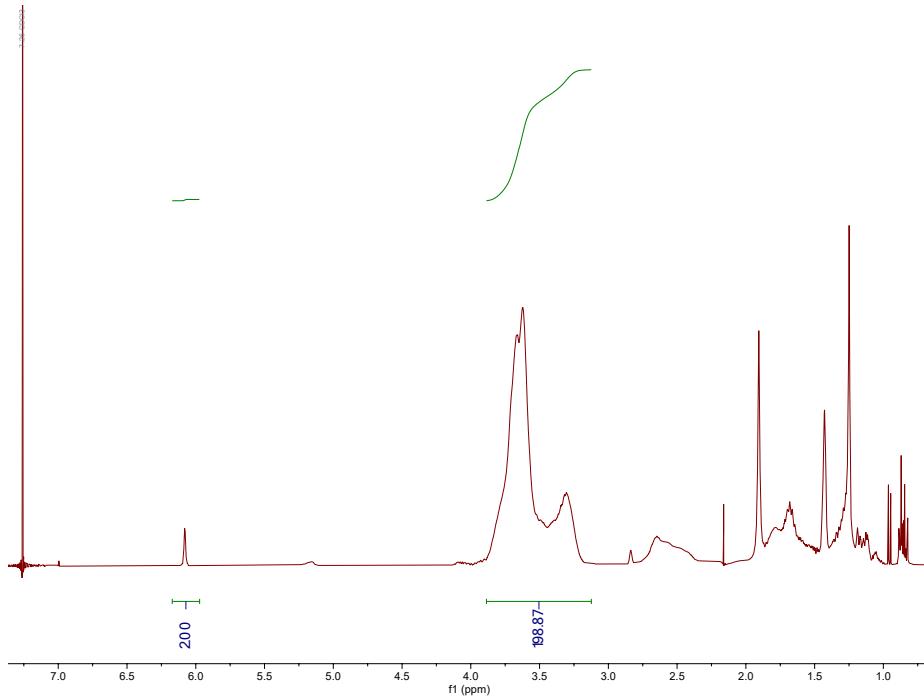


Figure S61. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of A<sup>60%</sup>

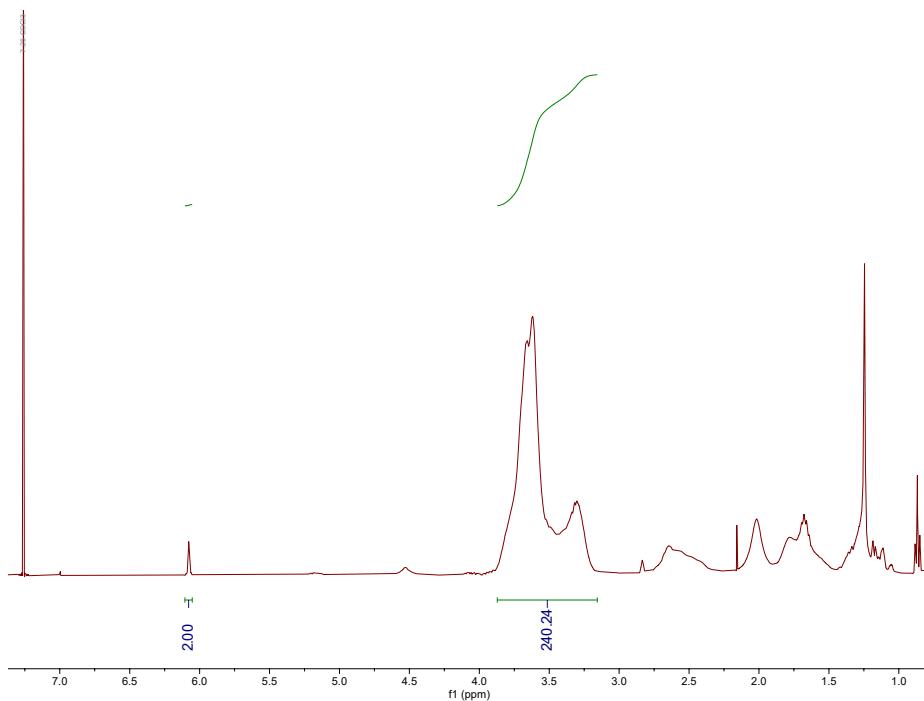


Figure S62. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of A<sup>70%</sup>

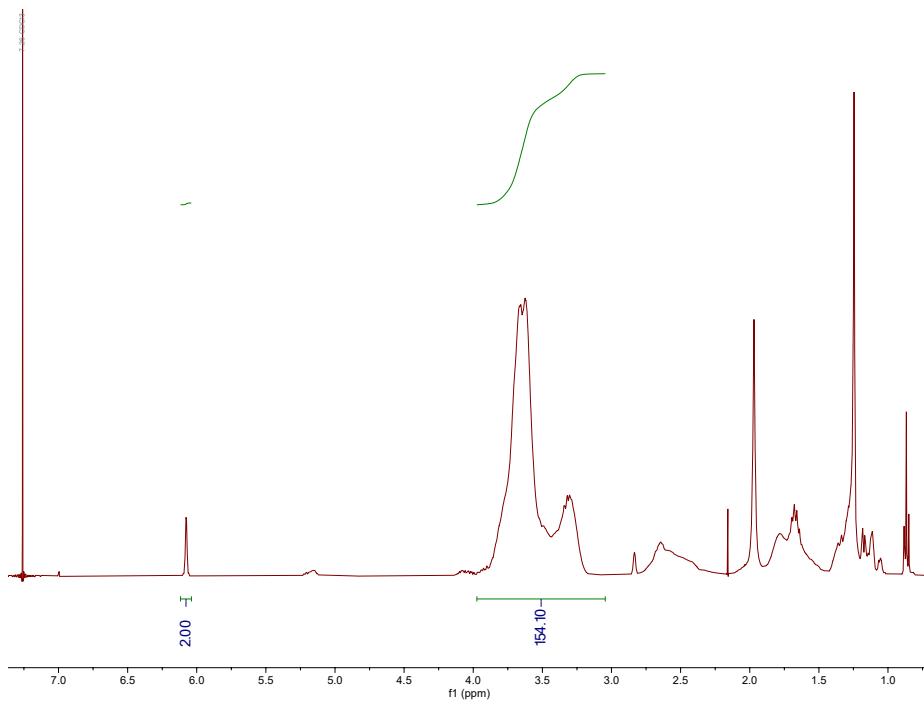


Figure S63. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of A<sup>80%</sup>

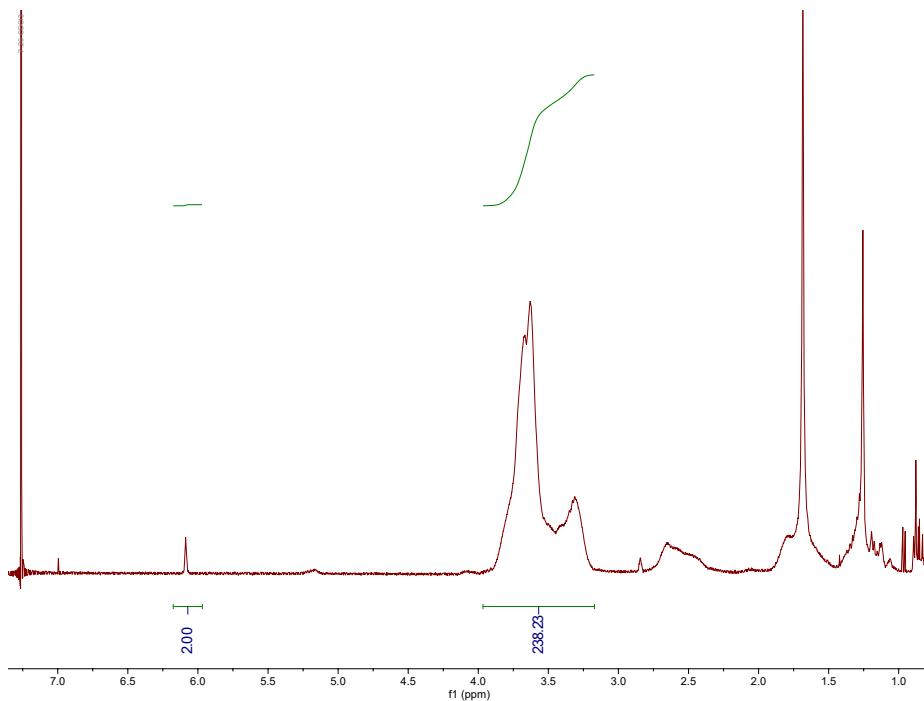


Figure S64. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of A<sup>90%</sup>

#### Offline Measurement of dn/dc of PtBA in THF from RI

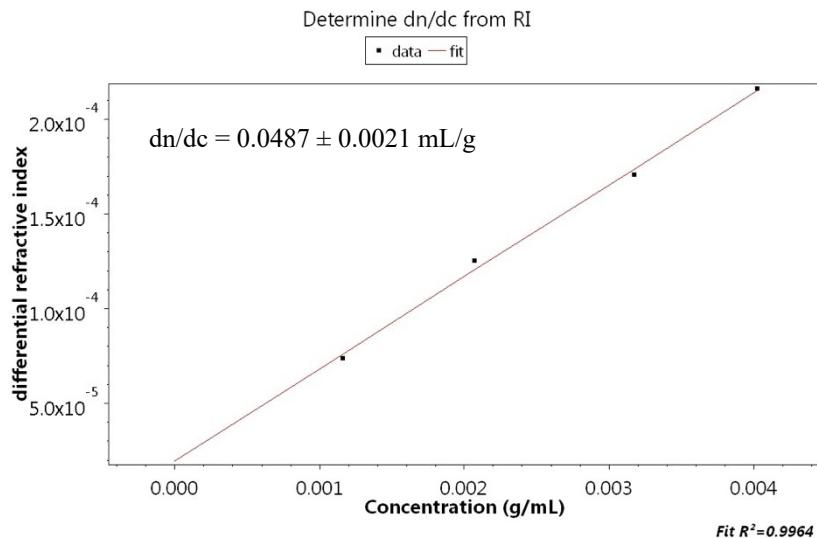


Figure S65. Plot of differential refractive index vs. concentration for PtBA (4 kg/mol made by RAFT using CTA shown in Scheme 2A) in THF at 26 °C.

#### Offline Measurement of dn/dc of PACMO in THF from RI

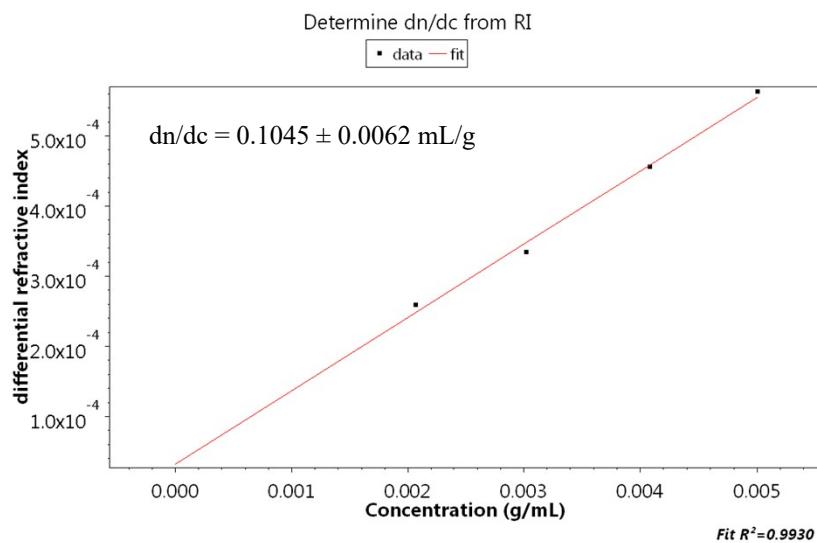


Figure S66. Plot of differential refractive index vs. concentration for PACMO (3 kg/mol made by RAFT using CTA shown in Scheme 2A) in THF at 26 °C.

**Table S1. MMs used in this study**

<b>MM</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,theo<sup>a</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,NMR<sup>b</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,SEC<sup>c</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>\mathcal{D}</math></b>	<b>MM</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,theo<sup>a</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,NMR<sup>b</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>M_n</math>,SEC<sup>c</sup> (kg/mol)</b>	<b><math>\mathcal{D}</math></b>
<b>S10%</b>	3.0	3.5	3.0	1.09	<b>M50%</b>	3.0	2.7	2.8	1.10
<b>S20%</b>	2.9	3.2	2.8	1.10	<b>M60%</b>	3.1	3.0	3.0	1.16
<b>S30%</b>	3.0	4.5	2.8	1.09	<b>M70%</b>	2.8	2.6	2.8	1.10
<b>S40%</b>	3.0	4.0	2.8	1.09	<b>M80%</b>	2.9	2.8	2.8	1.09
<b>S50%</b>	3.0	3.3	3.0	1.12	<b>M90%</b>	2.8	2.7	3.4	1.13
<b>T50%</b>	3.1	3.0	4.7	1.04	<b>A50%</b>	2.9	2.7	3.9	1.10
<b>T60%</b>	2.9	3.4	4.7	1.07	<b>A60%</b>	3.0	3.7	4.3	1.14
<b>T70%</b>	3.1	4.4	3.9	1.08	<b>A70%</b>	3.0	4.2	4.5	1.11
<b>T80%</b>	2.9	3.5	6.0	1.10	<b>A80%</b>	2.9	2.7	4.2	1.04
<b>T90%</b>	2.9	5.2	6.7	1.16	<b>A90%</b>	2.9	4.2	4.3	1.09

<sup>a</sup>Expected (theoretical)  $M_n$  value based on an assumption of linear molar mass growth with monomer conversion, where monomer conversion was monitored using  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy.

<sup>b</sup>Measured by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopy using end group analysis based on norbornene end group proton integrations compared to backbone proton integrations. <sup>c</sup>Measured by SEC in THF at 30 °C using light scattering and refractive index detectors using  $dn/dc$  values noted in the Experimental Section.