## Supporting Information

## Homoleptic and heteroleptic ketodiiminate zinc complexes for the ROP of cyclic L-Lactide

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## I. Spectroscopic Characterization



Figure S1. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.


Figure S2. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.


Figure S3. IR spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.
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$\Gamma$


Figure S4. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{2} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.


Figure $\mathbf{S 5} .{ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{2} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.


Figure $\mathbf{S 6}$. IR spectrum of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$.


Figure S7. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) spectrum of the reaction of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$ with 2 eq. of $\mathrm{ZnCp}{ }^{*} 2$ yielding compound 1 and $\mathrm{Cp}^{*} \mathrm{H}$.


Figure S8. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) spectrum of the reaction of $\mathrm{L}^{1} \mathrm{H}_{2}$ with 2 eq. of ZnCp 2 yielding compound 1 and $\mathrm{Cp}^{*} \mathrm{H}$.


Figure S9. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of $\mathbf{1 .}$


Figure $\mathbf{S 1 0 .}$ IR spectra of 1.


Figure S11. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( 300 MHz , toluene- $d_{8}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) spectrum of 2.


Figure S12. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR (75 MHz, toluene- $\left.d_{8}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of 2.


Figure $\mathbf{S} 13 . \operatorname{IR}$ spectrum of 2.


Figure $\mathbf{S 1 4 .}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR $\left(300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of 3.


Figure S15. ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR $\left(75 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ spectrum of 3.


Figure S16. IR spectrum of 3.

## II. Crystallographic Details

Table S1 Crystal data for compounds 2 and 3

| Compound | 2 | 3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{42} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{OZn} \mathrm{n}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{27} \mathrm{H}_{48} \mathrm{~N}_{4} \mathrm{OZn}$ |
| Formula weight (Da) | 569.38 | 510.06 |
| $T$ (K) | 100(2) | 100(2) |
| Wavelength ( $\AA$ ) | 0.71073 | 1.54178 |
| Crystal system | triclinic | triclinic |
| Space group | $P-1$ | P-1 |
| a $/ \AA$ A | 7.9884(6) | 8.0513(4) |
| $b / A$ | 8.0941(7) | 12.3749(6) |
| c /Å | 22.3164(18) | 14.7581(7) |
| $\alpha\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 98.388(4) | 81.3299(17) |
| $\beta\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 95.725(4) | 81.6550(17) |
| $\gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 106.622(4) | 74.9858(17) |
| $\mathrm{V}\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | 1352.54(19) | 1395.29(12) |
| Z, Calc. density ( $\mathrm{g} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$ ) | 2, 1.398 | 2, 1.214 |
| Abs. coefficient ( $\mathrm{mm}^{-1}$ ) | 1.799 | 1.397 |
| Crystal size (mm) | $0.255 \times 0.119 \times 0.05$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.263 \times 0.087 \times \\ 0.075 \end{gathered}$ |
| Theta range for data collection ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) | $2.664^{\circ}-33.268^{\circ}$ | $3.048^{\circ}-79.538^{\circ}$ |
| Reflections collected | 92625 | 71276 |
| Independent reflections | 10387 | 5871 |
| Data/restraints/parameters | 10387/0/313 | 5871/52/362 |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ | 1.040 | 1.062 |
| Final $R$ indices [ $/>2 \sigma(I)$ ] | $R 1=0.029$ | $R 1=0.038$ |
|  | $w R 2=0.064$ | $w R 2=0.099$ |
| $R$ indices (all data) | $R 1=0.0406$ | $R 1=0.0421$ |
|  | $w R 2=0.0679$ | $w R 2=0.1040$ |

## III. Polymerization Studies



Figure S17. MWDs of cPLA obtained by reaction of $L$-LA and $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$.


Figure S18. MWDs of cPLA obtained by reaction of L-LA and complex 2 (200:1+200+200).



Figure S19. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR ( $300 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{D}_{6}, 25{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) spectrum of cPLA obtained by reaction of $L-L A$ and 2 in ratio [monomer]: $[\mathrm{Zn}]=200: 1$ at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in toluene.


Figure S20. MALDI-ToF spectrum of cyclic-PLLA obtained by reaction of $L-\mathrm{LA}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ in ratio [monomer]:[Zn] = 50:1 at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in toluene.


Figure S21. IR spectrum of cyclic-PLLA obtained by reaction of $L$-LA and $\mathbf{2}$ in ratio [monomer]:[Zn] = 50:1 at 100 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in toluene.


Figure S22. MALDI-ToF spectrum of linear PLLA obtained by reaction of $L$-LA and $\mathbf{3}$ in ratio [monomer]:[Zn] = $50: 1$ at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in toluene.


Figure S23. IR spectrum of linear PLLA obtained by reaction of $L$-LA and $\mathbf{3}$ in ratio [monomer]:[Zn] = 50:1 at 100 ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in toluene.

