

1. Supplementary

1.1. Diblock (DB) Synthesis – Polymer A

Polystyrene-macroRAFT was synthesized using thermal initiation in refluxing toluene to a monomer conversion of 50% (15 hrs - 120 °C). The resultant macro-RAFT agent was then precipitated out in Methanol (MeOH) and dried under vacuum (12 hrs - 50 °C). Chain extension was carried out using 2-bromoethylacrylate, to a monomer conversion of 40%, in toluene using Vazo 88 as a radical initiator (6 hrs). The resulting block copolymer was precipitated and washed with MeOH and dried under vacuum (12 hrs - 50 °C). Quaternization is carried out between 1-butylimidazole (3 mol equivalents) and the polybromoethylacrylate block in DMF (24 hrs - 80 °C) before anion substitution of the bromide ion through addition of LiTFSI (3 mol equivalents) forming the final product and LiBr (24 hrs - 80 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.18–8.97 (s, 1H, N=CH-N), 7.76–7.51 (d, 2H, N-CH-CH-N), 7.28–6.24 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 4.50–4.06 (s, 6H, O-CH₂-CH₂-N=CH-N-CH₂), 2.26–2.00 (m, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃) 1.93–1.64 (m, 1H, CH₂-CH), 1.61–1.17 (m, 2H, CH₂-CH), 0.95–0.81 (m, 5H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃)

1.2. Optimised Quasi-block (QB) Synthesis – Polymer B

Initial Polystyrene-macroRAFT synthesis was carried using thermal initiation in refluxing toluene to a monomer conversion of 90% (48 hrs – 120 °C). The reagents were left in-situ before chain extension with 2-bromoethylacrylate in toluene using 427 nm light to initiate polymerization (Kessil LED lamps – 9 h – 70 °C). Final conversion of each monomer for styrene and 2-bromoethylacrylate was 100% and 75% respectively. The resulting block copolymer was precipitated and washed with MeOH and dried under vacuum (12 hrs – 50 °C). Quaternization is carried out between 1-butylimidazole (3 equivalents) and the polybromoethylacrylate block in DMF (24 h – 80 °C) before anion substitution of the bromide ion through addition of LiTFSI (3 mol equivalents) forming the final product and LiBr (24 hrs – 80 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.15–8.89 (s, 1H, N=CH-N), 7.73–7.56 (d, 2H, N-CH-CH-N), 7.28–6.23 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 4.45–3.98 (s, 6H, O-CH₂-CH₂-N=CH-N-CH₂), 2.07–1.96 (m, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃) 1.86–1.63 (m, 1H, CH₂-CH), 1.61–1.15 (m, 2H, CH₂-CH), 0.94–0.80 (m, 5H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃).

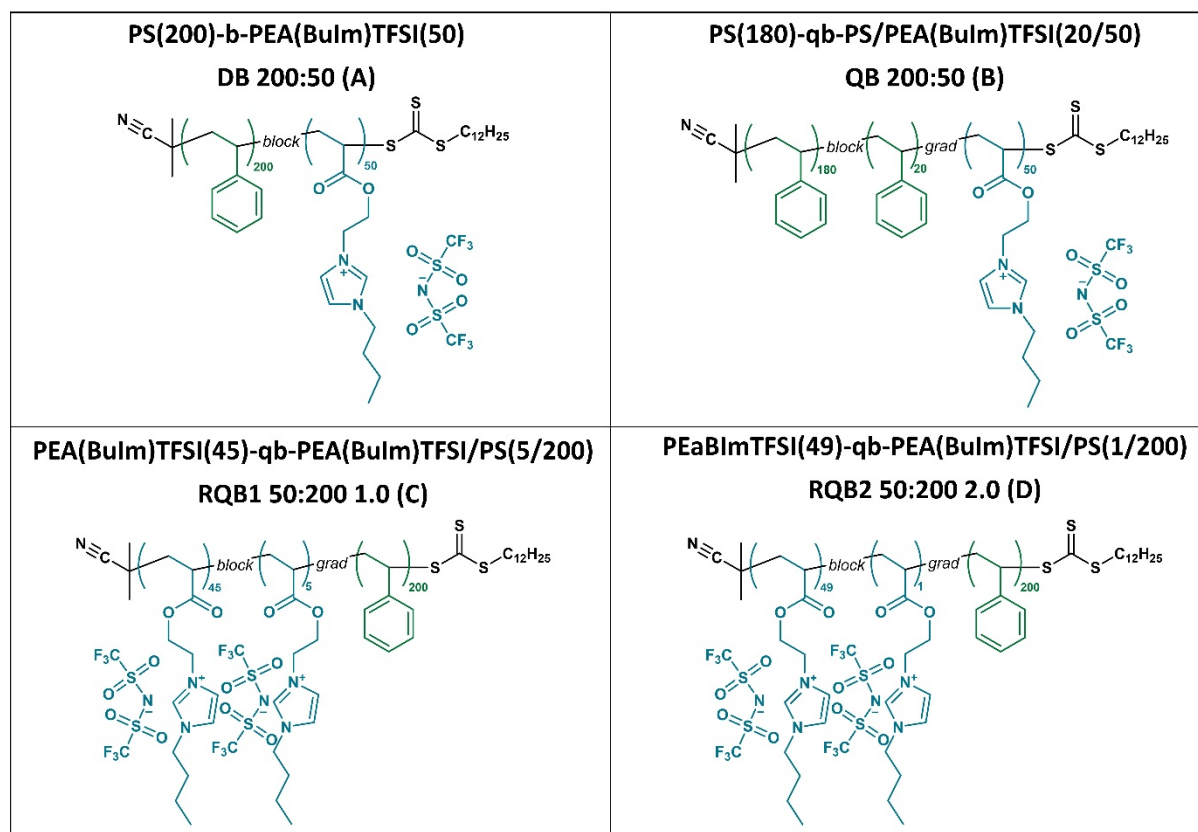
1.3. Optimised Reverse-order Quasi-block 1 (RQB1) Synthesis – Polymer C

Initial Polybromoethylacrylate-macroRAFT synthesis was carried in toluene using 427 nm light initiation to a monomer conversion of 90% (3 hrs – 70 °C). The reagents were left in-situ before chain extension with styrene in toluene using thermal initiation (72 hrs – 120 °C). Final conversion of each monomer for styrene and 2-bromoethylacrylate was 85% and 100% respectively. The resulting block copolymer was precipitated and washed with MeOH and dried under vacuum (12 hrs – 50 °C). Quaternization is carried out between 1-butylimidazole

(3 mol equivalents) and the polybromoethylacrylate block in DMF (24 hrs – 80 °C) before anion substitution of the bromide ion through addition of LiTFSI (3 equivalents) forming the final product and LiBr (24 hrs – 80 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 8.97–8.82 (s, 1H, N=CH-N), 7.59–7.40 (d, 2H, N-CH-CH-N), 7.17–6.16 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 4.49–4.01 (s, 6H, O-CH₂-CH₂-N=CH-N-CH₂), 2.07–1.96 (m, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃) 1.92–1.61 (m, 1H, CH₂-CH), 1.61–1.10 (m, 2H, CH₂-CH), 0.92–0.76 (m, 5H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃).

1.4. Optimised Reverse-order Quasi-block 2 (RQB2) Synthesis – Polymer D

Polybromoethylacrylate-macroRAFT synthesis was carried as in section 3.5.1.3 but to a monomer conversion of 99% (4 hrs – 70 °C). The reagents were left in-situ before chain extension with styrene in toluene using thermal initiation (57 hrs – 120 °C). Final conversion of each monomer for styrene and 2-bromoethylacrylate was 75% and 100% respectively. The resulting block copolymer was precipitated and washed with MeOH and dried under vacuum (12 hrs – 50 °C). Quaternization is carried out between 1-butylimidazole (3 mol equivalents) and the polybromoethylacrylate block in DMF (24 h – 80 °C) before anion substitution of the bromide ion through addition of LiTFSI (3 mol equivalents) forming the final product and LiBr (24 hrs – 80 °C). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃/DMSO-*d*₆) δ (ppm): 9.19–8.95 (s, 1H, N=CH-N), 7.74–7.49 (d, 2H, N-CH-CH-N), 7.22–6.20 (m, 5H, C₆H₅), 4.48–4.06 (s, 6H, O-CH₂-CH₂-N=CH-N-CH₂), 2.08–1.99 (m, 2H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃) 1.87–1.64 (m, 1H, CH₂-CH), 1.64–1.14 (m, 2H, CH₂-CH), 0.94–0.78 (m, 5H, N-CH₂-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃).



SI Figure 1 Chemical structure of each of the block (A) and quasi-block (B-D) copolymers used to produce electrolyte materials. Initial degree of polymerization of each block highlighted first followed by a gradient notation to demonstrate the quasi-block nature of the secondary block.