

## Supporting Information

### Tolane-Based Bent Bolaamphiphiles Forming Liquid Crystalline Hexagonal Honeycombs with Trigonal Symmetry

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## 1. Synthesis and analytical data

### 1.1 2,6-Diiodo-4-methylphenol 2<sup>1</sup>

A solution of *p*-cresol (1.62 g, 15.0 mmol) in 20 % ammonium hydroxide (12 mL) and methanol (6 mL) was stirred vigorously as a suspension of I<sub>2</sub> (7.6g, 30.0 mmol) and KI (9.96 g, 60.0 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) was added dropwise. The solution was stirred for 2 h at RT. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×40 mL). The combined organic phase was washed with brine dried over NaSO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by recrystallization (ethanol). Yield 52%; yellow crystal; m.p. 54-56°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 7.47 (s, 2 H, ArH), 5.56 (s, 1 H, OH), 2.20 (s, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

### 1.2 General procedure for the synthesis of 2-alkoxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzenes 3/n

To a mixture of K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.62 g, 4.5 mmol), 2,6-diiodo-4-methylphenol (1.08 g, 3.0 mmol) in dry DMF (12 mL), the appropriate 1-bromo-*n*-alkane (3.3 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to 95 °C and stirred for 20 h. After the reaction was complete (TLC), the mixture was cooled to RT, poured into ice water (60 mL) and acidified with 10% HCl to pH = 4-5. The mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (3×50 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (3×30 mL) and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, then the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography or recrystallization (petroleum ether).

**2-Hexyloxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzene 3/6:** Yield 86%; colorless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 7.57 (s, 2 H, ArH), 3.94-3.92 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.22 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.92-1.86 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.56-1.51 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.38-1.36 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.93-0.90 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**2-Dodecyloxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzene 3/12:** Yield 84%; colorless crystal, m.p. 27-28°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 7.57 (s, 2 H, ArH), 3.94-3.91 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.23 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.92-1.86 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55-1.50 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39-1.27 (m, 16 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.87 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**1,3-Diiodo-5-methyl-2-tetradecyloxybenzene 3/14:** Yield 78%; colorless crystal, m.p. 37-38°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 7.57 (s, 2 H, ArH), 3.94-3.91 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.22 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.91-1.88 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55-1.52 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39-1.26 (m, 20 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.87 (t, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**2-Hexadecyloxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzene 3/16:** Yield 76%; colorless crystal, m.p. 48-49°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz): δ = 7.56 (s, 2 H, ArH), 3.94-3.91 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.22 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.91-1.88 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55-1.52 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39-1.26 (m, 24 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.87 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**1,3-Diiodo-5-methyl-2-octadecyloxybenzene 3/18:** Yield 75%; pale yellow crystal, m.p. 32-34°C.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.57 (s, 2 H, ArH), 3.94-3.91 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.23 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.92-1.89 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.55-1.52 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.39-1.24 (m, 28 H, 14CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.87 (t,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**2-Docosyloxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzene 3/22:** This compound was synthesized according to literature<sup>2</sup> and NMR data corresponded to that reported in the literature.

### 1.3 General procedure for the synthesis of compounds 7/n by Sonogashira coupling<sup>3</sup>

The appropriate 2-n-alkoxy-1,3-diiodo-5-methylbenzene **3/n** (0.5 mmol) and 4-(4-ethynylphenoxyethyl)-2,2-dimethyl-1,3-dioxolane **6**<sup>4</sup> (0.28 g, 1.2 mmol) were dissolved in a mixture of dry THF (7 mL) and dry triethylamine (5 mL) under a nitrogen atmosphere. Then a mixture of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (35 mg, 0.05 mmol), CuI (23 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added, and the solution was stirred for overnight at RT. Ethyl acetate (30 mL) was added into the mixture, and washed with water (3 × 10 mL) and brine (3 × 10 mL), the organic layer were separated and dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and the solvent was evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether : ethyl acetate : chloroform = 10 : 1 : 1).

**7/6:** Yield 80%; pale yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.46-7.44 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.26 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.90-6.88 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.50-4.47 (m, 2 H, OCH), 4.25 (t,  $J$  = 6.3 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19-4.16 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 4.09-4.07 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.98-3.92 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 3.91-3.90 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.28 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.87-1.83 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.60-1.56 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.41 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.33-1.27 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.85-0.83 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**7/12:** Yield 78%; pale yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.46-7.45 (d,  $J$  = 7.0 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.24 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.90-6.88 (d,  $J$  = 7.2 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.51-4.47 (m, 2 H, OCH), 4.26-4.24 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.21-4.12 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 4.12-4.02 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.02-3.95 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 3.95-3.82 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.28 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.87-1.83 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.60-1.56 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.47 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.41 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30-1.22 (m, 16 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.87 (m, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**7/14:** Yield 86%; pale yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.44-7.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.22 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.88-6.86 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.48-4.44 (m, 2 H, OCH), 4.24-4.22 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.17-4.14 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 4.07-4.04 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.96-3.93 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 3.90-3.87 (m, 2 H, OCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.26 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.85-1.82 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.59-1.53 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.45 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.39 (s, 6 H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.30-1.19 (m, 20 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.87-0.84 (t,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

**7/16:** Yield 83%; pale yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.45-7.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.23 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.89-6.87 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.48-4.44 (m, 2 H, OCH), 4.24-4.22 (t,  $J$  = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.16-4.14 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH), 4.07-4.05 (m, 2 H,

$\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.96-3.92 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 3.90-3.86 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.28 (s, 3 H, Ar $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.85-1.83 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.60-1.53 (m, 2H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.45 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.39 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.30-1.20 (m, 24 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.88-0.85 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**7/18:** Yield 64%; pale yellow crystal, m.p. 47-48°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 7.46\text{-}7.45$  (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 7.24 (s, 2 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 6.90-6.88 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 4.50-4.47 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}$ ), 4.26-4.23 (t,  $J = 6.2$  Hz, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.19-4.17 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 4.09-4.06 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.98-3.95 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 3.93-3.90 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.28 (s, 3 H, Ar $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.87-1.84 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.60-1.55 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.47 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.41 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.30-1.21 (m, 28 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.89-0.86 (t,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

**7/22:** Yield 88%; pale yellow crystal, m.p. 49-51°C.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 7.46\text{-}7.45$  (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 7.25 (s, 2 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 6.90-6.88 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 4.50-4.48 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}$ ), 4.25-4.23 (t,  $J = 6.0$  Hz, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.20-4.17 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 4.07-4.06 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}_2$ ), 3.98-3.96 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}$ ), 3.93-3.90 (m, 2 H, O $\text{CH}_2$ ), 2.28 (s, 3 H, Ar $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.90-1.79 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.60-1.56 (m, 2H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.47 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.41 (s, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1.24-1.21 (m, 36 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.89-0.86 (t,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ).

### 1.5 General procedure for the deprotection of the 1,2-O-isopropylidene groups to yield the bolaamphiphilic 1/n<sup>4,5</sup>

**7/n** (0.5 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  (30 mL) and PPTS (120 mg) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 12 h, then cooled to RT, and extracted with chloroform ( $3 \times 30$  mL). The combined extracts were washed with aqueous saturated  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  solution ( $3 \times 30$  mL) and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ( $3 \times 30$  mL), dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , then the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by column chromatography (petroleum ether : acetone = 3 : 2).

**1/6:** Yield 85%; colorless crystal.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 7.47\text{-}7.46$  (d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 7.24 (s, 2 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 6.91-6.89 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 4.32-4.2 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.2-4.12 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.12-3.96 (m, 4 H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{CHOH}$ ), 3.92-3.82 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.82-3.66 (m, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 2.70-2.50 (m, 2 H, OH), 2.28 (s, 3 H, Ar $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.05-2.00 (m, 2 H, OH) 1.91-1.80 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.37-1.20 (m, 6 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.86-0.84 (m, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 125 MHz):  $\delta = 159.3, 158.9, 134.0, 133.4, 133.2, 118.1, 116.8, 115.0, 93.4, 85.2, 74.9, 70.8, 69.7, 64.0, 32.3\text{-}20.8, 14.4$  (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for  $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_7$  (572.69): C 73.40, H 7.04; Found: C 73.31, H 7.06.

**1/12:** Yield 87%; colorless crystal.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 500 MHz):  $\delta = 7.47\text{-}7.45$  (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 7.24 (s, 2 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 6.90-6.88 (d,  $J = 8.6$  Hz, 4 H, Ar $\text{H}$ ), 4.26-4.24 (t,  $J = 6.3$  Hz, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 4.16-4.07 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 4.06-4.05 (m, 4 H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{CHOH}$ ), 3.86-3.84 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2$ ), 3.77-3.74 (m, 2 H,  $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ), 2.77-2.65 (m, 2 H, OH), 2.28 (s, 3 H, Ar $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.21-2.13 (m, 2 H, OH) 1.89-1.83 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.59-1.53 (m, 2 H, Ar $\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$ ), 1.32-1.21 (m, 16 H,  $\text{CH}_2$ ), 0.89-0.86 (t,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, 3 H,  $\text{CH}_3$ );  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ , 125 MHz):  $\delta = 159.2, 158.9, 134.0, 133.8, 133.2, 118.1, 116.8, 115.0, 93.4, 85.2, 74.9, 70.7, 69.7, 64.0, 32.3\text{-}20.8,$

14.5 (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>41</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (656.85): C 74.97, H 7.98; Found: C 74.90, H 8.00.

**1/14:** Yield 87%; pale yellow waxy solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.47-7.45 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.25 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.90-6.88 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.26-4.24 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.17-4.11 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.10-3.96 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO), 3.87-3.84 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.78-3.75 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.62-2.61 (m, 2 H, OH), 2.28 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.10-2.00 (m, 2 H, OH) 1.87-1.83 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.61-1.53 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.32-1.21 (m, 20 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.86 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):  $\delta$  = 159.3, 158.9, 134.0, 133.4, 133.2, 118.1, 116.8, 115.0, 93.4, 85.2, 74.9, 70.7, 69.7, 64.0, 32.3-20.8, 14.5 (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>43</sub>H<sub>56</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (684.90): C 75.41, H 8.24; Found: C 75.32, H 8.25.

**1/16:** Yield 77%; pale yellow waxy solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.47-7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.24 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.90-6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.26-4.24 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.19-4.10 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.10-4.00 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO), 3.87-3.84 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.80-3.70 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.28 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.87-1.84 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.57-1.53 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.32-1.21 (m, 24 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.89-0.86 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):  $\delta$  = 159.3, 158.9, 134.2, 133.4, 133.2, 118.1, 116.8, 115.0, 93.5, 85.2, 74.9, 70.79, 69.7, 64.0, 32.3-20.8, 14.5 (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>60</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (712.95): C 75.81, H 8.48; Found: C 75.74, H 8.50.

**1/18:** Yield 84%; pale yellow waxy solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.46-7.44 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 7.23 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.88-6.86 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.25-4.23 (t, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.13-4.10 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 4.03-4.02 (m, 4 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO), 3.85-3.82 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.76-3.73 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.20-3.05 (s, 2 H, OH), 2.73-2.60 (s, 2 H, OH), 2.26 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 1.88-1.82 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.58-1.52 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.30-1.20 (m, 28 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88-0.86 (t, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):  $\delta$  = 159.2, 158.9, 134.0, 133.5, 133.3, 118.1, 116.7, 115.0, 93.5, 85.1, 74.9, 70.8, 69.5, 64.0, 32.4-20.8, 14.6 (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>64</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (741.01): C 76.18, H 8.71; Found: C 76.09, H 8.73.

**1/22:** Yield 83%; colorless solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz):  $\delta$  = 7.47-7.45 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H, ArH), 7.25 (s, 2 H, ArH), 6.90-6.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4 H, ArH), 4.26-4.23 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 4 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.13-4.06 (m, 6 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>OH, CHO), 3.90-3.82 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.80-3.72 (m, 2 H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 2.68-2.60 (m, 2 H, OH), 2.28 (s, 3 H, ArCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.19-2.17 (m, 2 H, OH), 1.87-1.84 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.63-1.48 (m, 2 H, ArOCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.25-1.21 (m, 36 H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.1 Hz, 3 H, CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz):  $\delta$  = 159.2, 158.9, 134.0, 133.5, 133.2, 118.1, 116.8, 115.0, 93.4, 85.2, 74.9, 70.7, 69.6, 64.0, 32.3-20.8, 14.5 (multi carbons in alkyl chain); Elemental analysis calcd (%) for C<sub>51</sub>H<sub>72</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (797.11): C 76.85, H 9.10; Found: C 76.78, H 9.12.

## 2. Additional Data

### 2.1 XRD data

**Table S1** Crystallographic data of the mesophases of compounds **1/n**<sup>a</sup>

Compound	T/°C	Phase plane group	$\theta_{\text{obs}}/^\circ$	$d_{\text{obs}}/\text{nm}$	$hk$	$d_{\text{calc}}/\text{nm}$	$d_{\text{obs}}-d_{\text{calc}}/\text{nm}$	$a/\text{nm}$
<b>1/14</b>	35	Col <sub>hex-3</sub> /p3m1	1.864	2.37	10	2.37	0.00	2.74
			3.736	1.18	20	1.19	-0.01	
			4.923	0.90	21	0.90	0.00	
			6.472	0.68	22	0.68	0.00	
			10.10	0.44	diff			
<b>1/16</b>	35	Col <sub>hex-3</sub> /p3m1	1.840	2.40	10	2.40	0.00	2.77
			3.698	1.20	20	1.20	0.00	
			4.869	0.91	21	0.91	0.00	
			6.422	0.69	22	0.69	0.00	
			10.05	0.44	diff			
<b>1/16+H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	25	Col <sub>hex-3</sub> /p3m1	1.732	2.55	10	2.55	0.00	2.95
			3.419	1.29	20	1.28	0.01	
			9.940	0.45	diff			

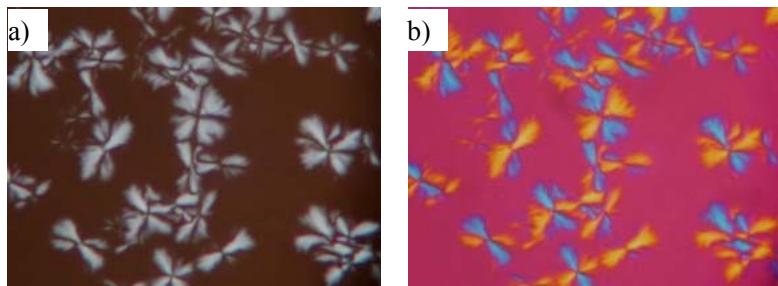
<sup>a</sup>  $\theta_{\text{obs}}$ : experimental scattering angle;  $d_{\text{obs}}$ : experimental and  $d_{\text{calc}}$ : calculated  $d$  spacing;  $hk$ : assigned indices for 2D phases (Col<sub>hex</sub>),  $a$ : lattice parameters used to calculate  $d_{\text{calc}}$  with an error of the calculated parameters in the order of 0.1 nm.

**Table S2** Calculations of molecular volumina ( $V_{\text{mol}}$ ), volumina of the hypothetical unit cells ( $V_{\text{cell}}$ ) and number of molecules in these unit cells ( $n_{\text{cell}}$ ) of compounds **1/14** and **1/16**

Comp.	$a/\text{nm}$	$V_{\text{cell}}$	$V_{\text{mol}}$	$f_R$	$n_{\text{cell,cryst}}$	$n_{\text{cell,liq}}$	$n_{\text{cell}}$	$n_{\text{wall}}$
<b>1/14</b>	2.74	2.93	0.958	0.40	3.06	2.40	2.73	1.82
<b>1/16</b>	2.77	2.99	1.008	0.43	2.97	2.33	2.65	1.77

<sup>a</sup>  $V_{\text{cell}}$  = volume of the unit cell defined by  $a^2 \times \sin(60^\circ) \times 0.45 \text{ nm}$ ;  $V_{\text{mol}}$  = molecular volume as calculated using crystal volume increments;<sup>6</sup>  $n_{\text{cryst}}$  = number of molecules in the unit cell, calculated according to  $n_{\text{cell}} = V_{\text{cell}}/V_{\text{mol}}$  (average packing coefficient in the crystal is  $k = 0.7$ );  $n_{\text{liq}}$  = number of molecules in the unit cell of an isotropic liquid with an average packing coefficient  $k = 0.55$ , calculated according to  $n_{\text{liq}} = 0.55/0.7 \times n_{\text{cryst}}$ ;  $n_{\text{cell}}$  = number of molecules in the unit cell in the LC phase estimated as the average of that in the  $n_{\text{cryst}}$  and  $n_{\text{liq}}$ ;  $n_{\text{wall}}$  = number of molecules in the cross section of the cylinder walls as calculated from  $n_{\text{cell}}$  divided by the number of cylinder walls in the unit cell, i.e. for Col<sub>hex-3</sub>/p3m1,  $n_{\text{cell}}$  is divided by 1.5;  $f_R$  = volume fraction of the lateral chain with respect to the total molecular volume.

### 2.2 Textures



**Fig. S1** (a) Crystallization of **1/12** as observed at  $T = 30^\circ\text{C}$  between crossed polarizers (b) with additional  $\lambda$ -plate, indicating that the crystalline phase has positive birefringence in contrast to the LC phases of compounds **1/n**.

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