Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for RSC Advances.

Supplementary Information

An Intermediate State in Gelation as Revealed by Vibrational Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy

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1. **The comparison of VCD spectra at the initial and stable states of a CD_3CN/C_6F_6 gel**

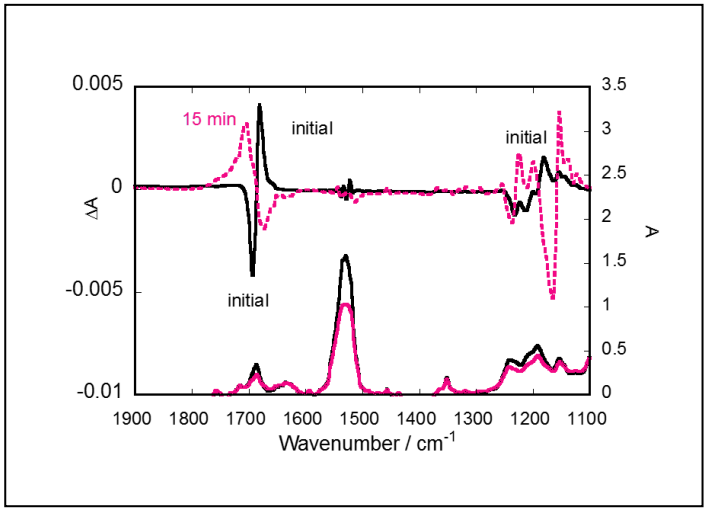

Figure S1. The VCD spectra are compared between the initial (black) and stable (red) states of a CD_3CN/C_6F_6 gel. The latter was recorded 15 minutes after mounting. The data are taken from Figure 1 in the text.

2. Microscope observation

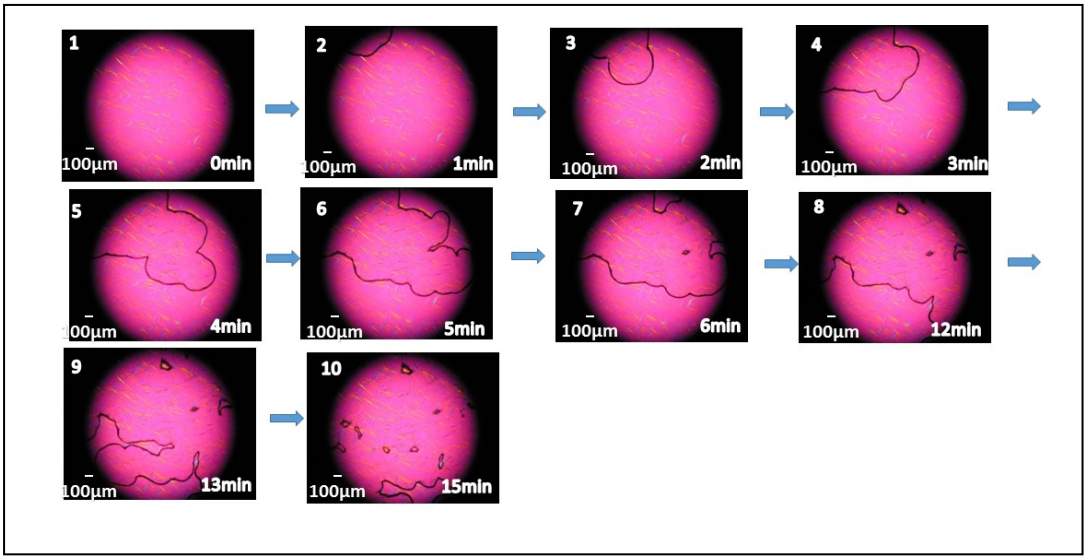

Figure S2. The time course of the microscope images of a 4:1 (V/V) CD_3CN/C_6F_6 gel when the sample at 60 ^oC was mounted on a plate glass and left at room temperature.

3. **VCD spectra recorded on the viscous C_6F_6 solutions of enantiopure CF7 gelators**

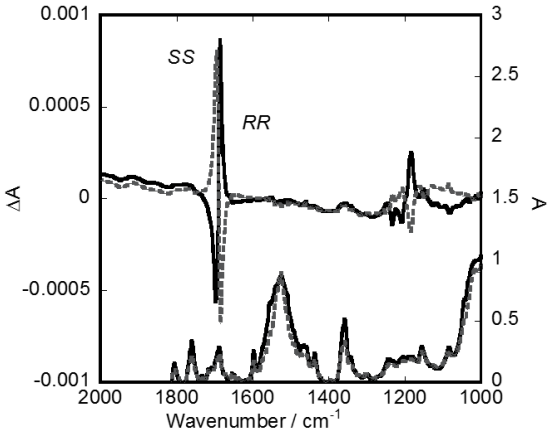

Figure S3. The observed IR (lower) and VCD (upper) spectra of the viscous C_6F_6 solutions of ***RR*-CF7** (solid curve) and ***SS*-CF7** (dotted curve) at room temperature. The concentration of a gelator was 20 mg mL^{-1}.

4. **The calculated VCD and IR spectra reproducing the transient VCD spectrum of a 4:1 (V/V) CD_3CN/C_6F_6 gel**

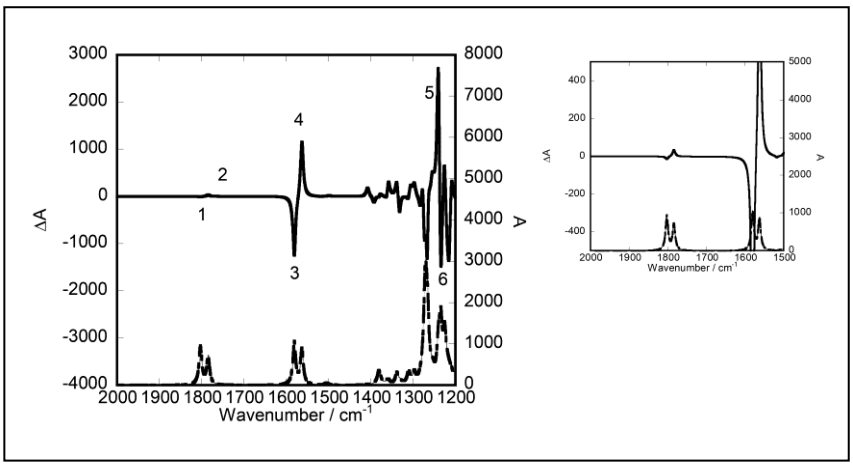

Figure S4. The calculated VCD and IR spectra when a ***RR*-CF7** molecule is assumed to take the conformation as given in Figure 5 (left in the text). The spectrum is compared with the transient VCD spectrum of a 4:1 (V/V) CD_3CN/C_6F_6 gel. The right figure is the same spectrum magnified to the narrower wavenumber range of 1500 cm^{-1} to 2000 cm^{-1}.