

## Supporting Information

### **Dispersion of carbon nanotubes in water by self-assembled micelles of branched amphiphilic multifunctional copolymer with photosensitivity and electroactivity**

Ren Liu\*, Xuebiao Zeng, Jingcheng Liu, Yuanyi Zheng, Jing Luo, Xiaoya Liu\*

*The Key Laboratory of Food Colloids and Biotechnology, Ministry of Education,*

*School of chemical and material engineering, Jiangnan University, Wuxi 214122, P.R. China*

#### **Index for this document:**

- **S1 Synthesis and characterizations of VCz**
- **S2 Tables and Figures of contents**
- **S3 Supplementary Tables and Figures**
- **S4 References for the Supporting Information**

## S1 Synthesis and characterizations of VCz

The synthesis route of VCz has been report in the literature.<sup>1</sup> Carbazole (7.5 g, 45.0 mmol), potassium hydroxide (4.5 g, 80.0 mmol) and 120 mL N, N-dimethylacetamide (DMF) were added to a three-necked flask. After stirring for 15min, 4-vinylbenzyl chloride (6.8 g, 45.0 mmol) was added slowly to the mixture and continued reaction for 5 h at room temperature. Then the resulting mixture was poured into water (500 mL) and the precipitate was collected by filtration and washed with hot alcohol at about 70 °C several times to remove the un-reacted carbazole. The final white product VCz was dried at 80 °C under vacuum for 5 h, with the yield of 80% (10.1 g). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz), δ (ppm): 5.21-5.18 (d, 1H), 5.70-5.65 (d, 1H), 5.45 (s,2H), 6.68-6.60 (m, 1H), 7.44-7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36-7.34 (d, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H),7.25-7.23 (d, 2H), 7.10-7.08 (d, 2H), 8.14-8.12 (d, 2H). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis of VCz indicated the successful preparation of VCz (Fig. S2).

## **S2 Tables and Figures of contents**

**Table S1.** Experimental conditions of polymers

**Table S2.** The main structure and performance parameters for LPVCM and a series of BPVCM copolymer

**Fig. S1.** The schematic illustration of synthesis of monomer VCz.

**Fig. S2.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the monomer VCz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .

**Fig. S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the copolymers BPVCM in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .

**Fig. S4.** FTIR spectra of BPVCM<sub>4</sub> and the monomer VBT.

**Fig. S5.** SEM (A, B, C) and TEM (D, E, F) images of self-assembled micelles of copolymer BPVCM<sub>4</sub>. The concentration is 0.2 mg/mL for A and D, 0.5 mg/mL for B and E, 1.0 mg/mL for C and F, respectively.

**Fig. S6.** UV-vis absorption spectra of BPVCM functionalized MWCNTs aqueous dispersion with different concentrations. The arrow direction exhibits the increasing direction of concentration. Inset: absorption intensity at 500 nm vs the concentration.

**Fig. S7.** Raman spectra (A) of pristine MWCNTs (a) and BPVCM<sub>4</sub> modified MWCNTs (b); Fluorescence spectra (B) of BPVCM<sub>4</sub> (a) and BPVCM<sub>4</sub> modified MWCNTs (b).

### S3 Supplementary Tables and Figures

**Table S1.** Experimental conditions of polymers

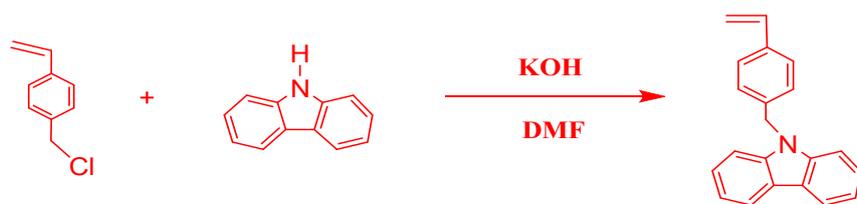
Sample <sup>a</sup>	VCz (mmol)	VM (mmol)	MA (mmol)	VBT (mmol)	AIBN (mmol)	Time (h)
LPVCM	5	5	13	0	0.46	24
BPVCM <sub>t2</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	2
BPVCM <sub>t3</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	3
BPVCM <sub>t4</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	4
BPVCM <sub>t6</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	6
BPVCM <sub>t12</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	12
BPVCM <sub>t24</sub>	5	5	13	0.46	0.46	24
BPVCM <sub>4</sub>	5	5	13	0.92	0.46	24
BPVCM <sub>8</sub>	5	5	13	1.84	0.46	24
BPVCM <sub>16</sub>	5	5	13	3.68	0.46	24

a) The subscript of the sample (BPVCM<sub>t2-t24</sub>) is the different polymerization time and that of (BPVCM<sub>4-16</sub>) is the different content of VBT, under 65 °C. As a comparison, LPVCM was synthesized without VBT.

**Table S2.** The main structure and performance parameters for LPVCM and a series of BPVCM copolymer

Sample <sup>a</sup>	Yield %	M <sub>w</sub> (GPC) ×10 <sup>-3</sup> g/mol	PDI (GPC)	M <sub>w</sub> <sup>b</sup> (LS) ×10 <sup>-4</sup> g/mol	[η] <sup>c</sup> m L / g	g' %
LPVCM	90.77	9.074	1.890	2.780	9.0	-
BPVCM <sub>t2</sub>	37.80	7.564	1.470	1.923	5.7	93.72
BPVCM <sub>t3</sub>	53.40	7.417	1.478	1.897	6.1	88.42
BPVCM <sub>t4</sub>	63.32	8.528	1.479	2.113	4.8	72.35
BPVCM <sub>t6</sub>	74.50	8.061	1.464	2.018	5.7	68.02
BPVCM <sub>t12</sub>	83.93	8.699	1.503	2.226	7.7	57.21
BPVCM <sub>t24</sub>	85.50	9.140	1.403	3.101	7.4	51.87

a) The subscript of the sample (BPVCM<sub>t2-t24</sub>) is the different polymerization time. As a comparison, LPVCM was synthesized without VBT. b) Refractive index detector and BPVCM calibration standards were used for GPC analysis of the LPVCM with PS as standard, THF as eluent (elution rate was 1 mL/min), whereas a light scattering detector was used for each branched copolymer. c) [η] donates for online viscosity detector under 25 °C.



**Fig. S1.** The schematic illustration of synthesis of monomer VCz.

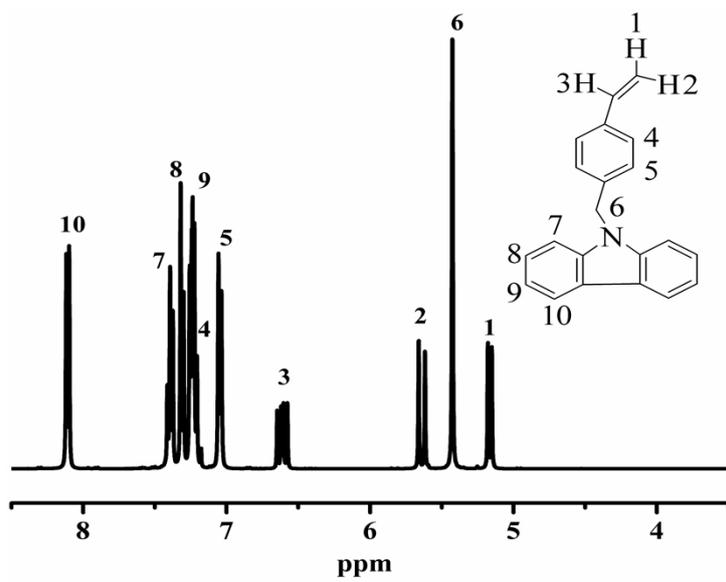
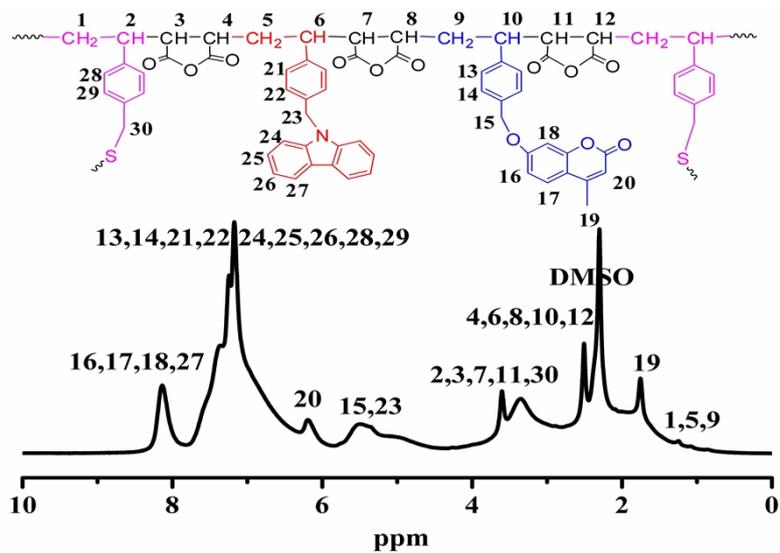
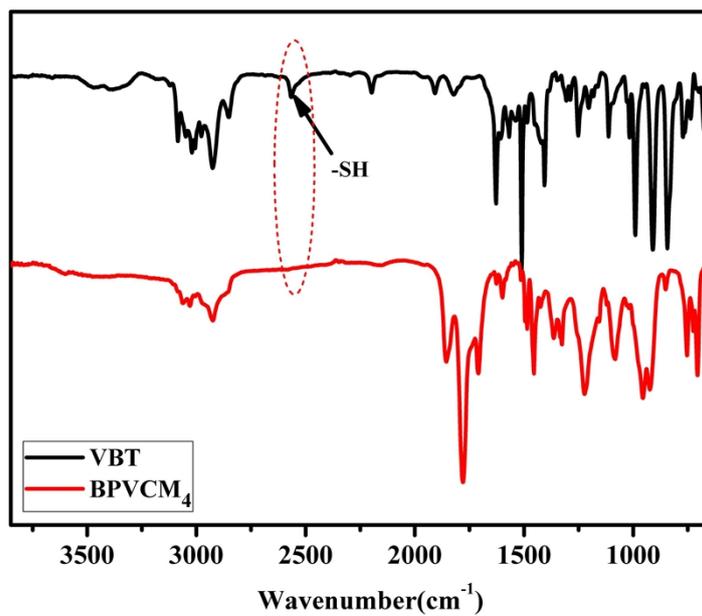


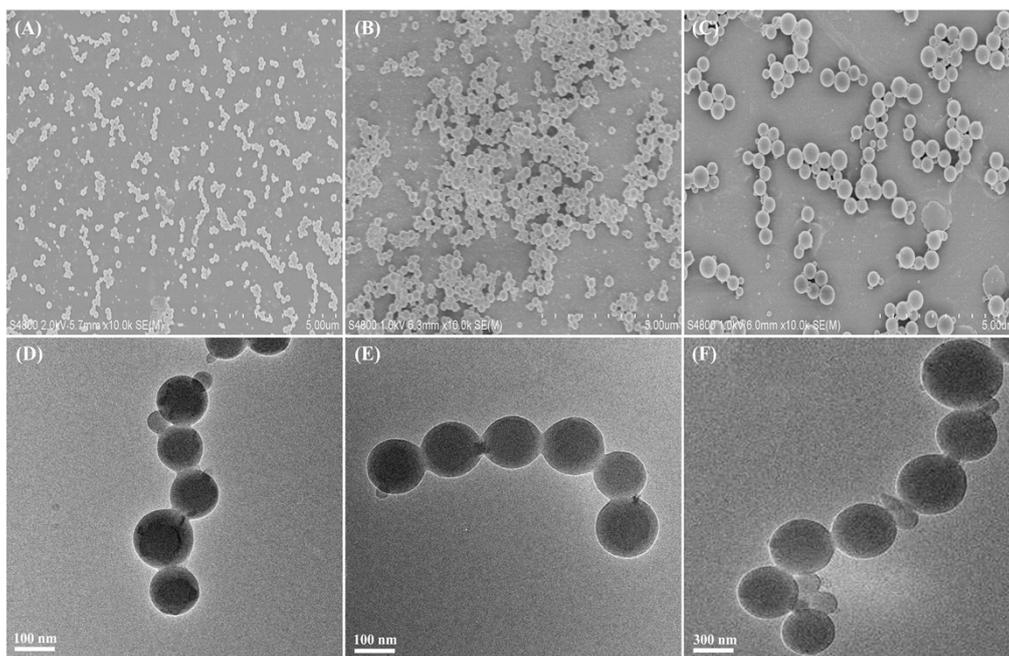
Fig. S2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the monomer VCz in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ .



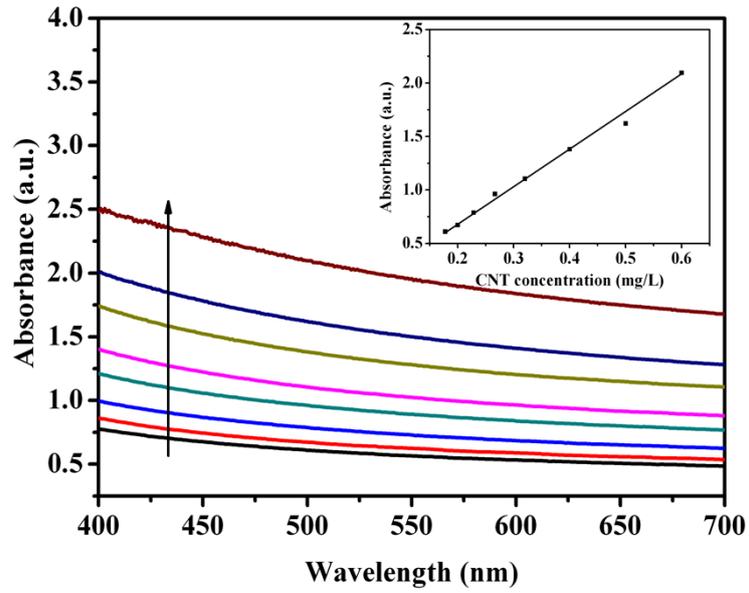
**Fig. S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the copolymers BPVCM in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ .



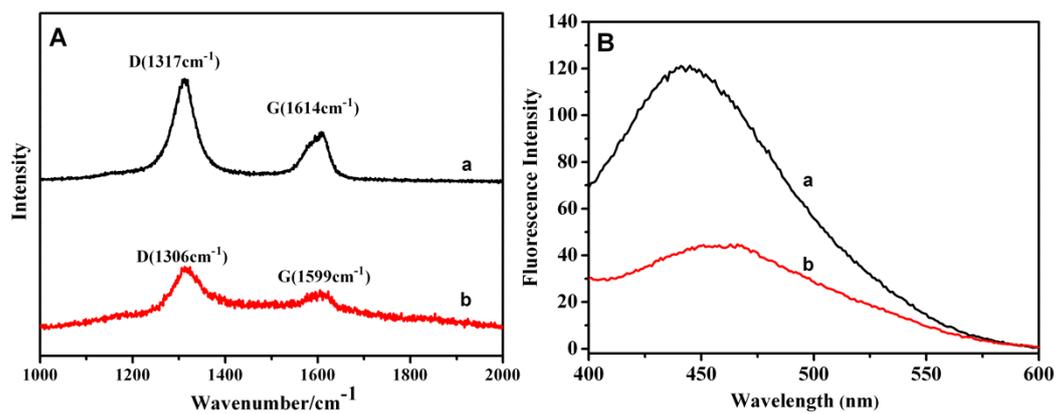
**Fig. S4.** FTIR spectra of BPVCM and the monomer VBT.



**Fig. S5.** SEM (A, B, C) and TEM (D, E, F) images of self-assembled micelles of copolymer BPVCM<sub>4</sub>. The concentration is 0.2 mg/mL for A and D, 0.5 mg/mL for B and E, 1.0 mg/mL for C and F, respectively.



**Fig. S6.** UV-vis absorption spectra of BPVCM functionalized MWCNTs aqueous dispersion with different concentrations. The arrow direction exhibits the increasing direction of concentration. Inset: absorption intensity at 500 nm vs the concentration.



**Fig. S7.** Raman spectra (A) of pristine MWCNTs (a) and BPVCM<sub>4</sub> modified MWCNTs (b); Fluorescence spectra (B) of BPVCM<sub>4</sub> (a) and BPVCM<sub>4</sub> modified MWCNTs (b).

#### **S4 References for the Supporting Information**

- 1 Y. Liu, N. Li, X. Xia, Q. Xu, J. Ge and J. Lu, *Materials Chemistry and Physics*, 2010, 123, 685-689.