Synthesis and Characterization of Biobased Polyesters with Tunable T_g by ROCOP of Beta-Elemene Oxides and Phthalic Anhydride

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General Considerations

All water-sensitive operations were carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere using an MBraun glovebox, standard vacuum line, and Schlenk techniques. Solvents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (HPLC grade) and dried using an MBraun MBSPS800 purification system. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-400 spectrometer operating at 400 MHz to collect ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectral data. ¹H NMR spectra are referenced to the residual solvent peak at δ 7.26 ppm for CDCl₃. ¹³C NMR spectra are referenced to the residual solvent peak at δ 77.16 ppm for CDCl3. Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) analyses for determination of the glass transition temperatures (T_g) were measured under a N₂ atmosphere using a Mettler Toledo equipment (model DSC822e). Samples were weighed into 40 μL aluminum crucibles and subjected to two heating cycles at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. Thermogravimetric analyses (TGA) were recorded under air atmosphere using Mettler Toledo equipment (model TGA/SDTA851). Samples were weighed into 40 µL aluminum crucibles and heated to 600 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C/min. Gel permeation chromatography (GPC) measurements were performed using an Agilent 1200 series HPLC system, equipped with PSS SDV Analytical linear M GPC column (8 x 300 mm; 5 µm particle size) in tetrahydrofuran at 30 °C at a flow rate of 1 mL·min⁻¹. Samples were analyzed at a concentration of 1 mg·mL⁻¹ after filtration through a 0.45 μ m pore-size membrane. M_0 , M_w , and \mathcal{D} data were derived from the RI signal by a calibration curve based on polystyrene standards (PS from Polymer Standards Service) for the analysis of the polymers. The crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) GPC samples were prepared by extracting the polymer (3-4 mg) with THF (2 mL), shaking the suspension for 10 minutes with an ultrasonic bath at room temperature and filtering the solution through a 0.45 µm pore-size membrane. Gas-chromatography mass (GC-MS) analyses were performed using an Agilent equipment (model 6890N, with MSD model 5973) equipped with a HP5 column (30m x 0.25 mm, 0.25 μ m) via direct injection (280 °C) in MeOH-formic acid 0.1% and ESI as ionization mode with the following temperature program: 80°C (110') - 325°C (5') / 20 °C·min⁻¹, at a flow rate of 1.5 mL·min⁻¹. Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF) was performed by the on a BRUKER Autoflex spectrometer using the following conditions: sample (4 μL, 1 mg/mL), dithranol as a matrix (20 μL, 10 mg/mL) and CF₃COONa as an additive (1 μL, 1 mg/mL).

Reagents and Complexes

All reagents were purchased from commercial suppliers (Aldrich and Acros) and used as received. Phthalic anhydride (**PA**) is commercially available and was used after recrystallization from hot chloroform and drying under vacuum for 48 h. The additive bis(triphenylphosphine)iminium chloride (PPNCI) is commercially available and was used after recrystallization from dichloromethane and drying under vacuum for 48 h. β -elemene was kindly provided by Isobionics. The complexes 1^2 and 1^2 are prepared following previously reported procedures. β -elemene monoxides (**BEM**) and β -elemene dioxides (**BED**) were dissolved in dry hexane or dichloromethane, stirred over CaH for 24 h, filtered through Celite and vacuum-dried prior to use in the copolymerization reactions.

Reaction Conditions Screening for β-elemene Epoxidation

Scheme S1 Possible stereoisomers for **BEM**, **BED** and **BET** obtained after β-elemene epoxidation.

Table S1 Epoxidation of **BE** with *m*CPBA.

	MCP	ва			2 P	\		Q Q
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	ВЕ		11,12-BEM	3,4-BEM		BEDs		BETs O
Entry	[<i>m</i> CPBA]/[BE]	Conv ^a (%)	BED/BEM ^a (%)	Yield BEM (%)	Yield BED (%)	Yield BET (%)	11,12/3,4 ^a (%)	Recovered BE (%)
1	0.5	47	12/88	41.5	n.d.	n.d.	63/37	95
2	0.75	66	19/81	48.2	n.d.	n.d.	64/36	99
3	1	73	22/78	53.6	n.d.	n.d.	66/34	99
4 ^b	1	72	22/78	44.7	n.d.	n.d.	65/35	90
5 ^c	1	72	22/78	47 (3.54 g)	n.d.	n.d.	66/34	81
5 ^d	1	71	24/76 ^e	49.5	17	0	67/33	81
6f	2.2	100	99/1	-	97	-	-	-
7 ^g	3.2	100	-	-	18	25	-	-
8 ^h	3.5	100	-	0	0	32.5	-	0

Reaction conditions: β -elemene = 1.00 g (4.9 mmol); [**BE**] = 0.1 M; temperature = 0 °C; reaction time = 1 h. Difference between conversion and yield is due to formation of BE dioxide. a) Determined by ¹H NMR on the basis of signals of methyl 14 on cyclohexyl ring. b) β -elemene = 3.0 g (15.0 mmol). c) β -elemene = 7.0 g. d) β -elemene = 3.0 g. e) from isolated yields. f) β -elemene = 2.00 g; reaction time = 4 h. g) β -elemene = 1.00 g, reaction time = 20 h, T = from 0 to RT. h) β -elemene = 1.00 g, reaction time = 24 h, T = from 0 to r.t.

Synthesis of β-elemene monoxide (BEM)

BE (3.00 g, 14.68 mmol) was weighed into a vial and transferred to a 250 mL round-bottomed flask. After dissolving in dichloromethane (147 mL, [**BE**] = 0.1 M), the solution was cooled to 0 °C with an ice bath. *Meta*-chloroperbenzoic acid, *m*CPBA (77 % w/w, 3.29 g, 14.68 mmol) was added portion-wise during 15 minutes, and the suspension was stirred for further 45 min. The suspension was then filtered, washed with cold hexane and the filtrate dried by rotary evaporation. The resulting mixture was suspended in cold hexane and filtered again. The filtrate was dried obtaining a clear liquid. The mixture was dissolved into hexane (50 mL) and washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (50 mL, 4 times). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and dried giving a clear liquid (3.0 g). The mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR to determine the conversion (71%). The product was purified by column chromatography (from Hex:Et₂O = 9:1 to Hex:EtOAc = 9:1) obtaining recovered **BE** (0.72 g, yield = 24%), **BEM** (1.60 g, yield = 49.5%) and **BED** (0.59 g, yield = 17%). APCI-HRMS: $[C_{15}H_{25}O]^+$ calculated = 221.1900; measured = 221.1897.

The same procedure was scaled up to 7.00 g of **BE** (34.25 mmol), yielding 3.54 g of **BEM** (yield = 47%) (entry 5, Table S1).

Spectroscopic data of 11,12-BEM.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 5.80 (*dd*, 1H, J = 17.8 Hz, J = 10.5 Hz, -CH=CH₂); 4.91 (m, 1H, -CH=CH₂); 4.87 (m, 1H, -CH=CH₂); 4.83 (m, 1H, -C=CH₂); 4.59 (m, 1H, -C=CH₂); 2.64-2.66 (m, 1H, -COCH₂); 2.55 (d, 1H, J = 4.9, -COCH₂); 1.95 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.70 (m, 3H, -CH₃); 1.66-1.35 (overlapped m, 6H, cyclo -CH₂-); 1.30 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.29 (m, 3H, -CH₃); 0.99 (m, 3H, -CH₃).

¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 150.13; 147.59; 147.57; 112.36; 110.16; 110.14; 59.59; 53.61; 53.48; 52.47; 52.32; 44.68; 44.60; 40.00; 39.97; 39.53; 39.44; 29.97; 29.51; 24.95; 24.90; 23.99; 23.53; 18.61; 18.45; 16.71; 16.88.

Spectroscopic data of 3,4-BEM.

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 5.97 (dd, J = 17.5 Hz, J = 10.8 Hz, -CH=CH₂) and 5.79 (dd, J = 17.5 Hz, J = 10.8 Hz, -CH=CH₂) 1H; 5.01-4.93 (m, 2H, -CH=CH₂); 4.73-4.70 (overlapped m, 2H, -C=CH₂); 2.68-2.66 (m, -COCH₂) and 2.59 (dd, -COCH₂) and 2.57 (d, J = 4.39 Hz, COCH₂) and 2.41 (d, J = 4.95 Hz, COCH₂) 2H; 1.91-1.82 (m, 1H, -CH₃); 1.76-1.73 (m, 3H, -CH₃); 1.66-1.35 (overlapped m, 6H, cyclo -CH₂-); 1.30 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.22 (m, 3H, -CH₃); 1.13-1.09 (m, 3H, -CH₃)

¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 150.60; 150.20; 149.47; 110.72, 109.78; 58.78, 58.15; 56.34; 53.45; 53.37; 51.52; 45.44; 45.25; 41.77; 41.25; 39.42; 31.74; 29.35; 27.08; 26.80; 22.80; 22.63; 21.27; 21.12; 19.95; 17.58; 17.32.

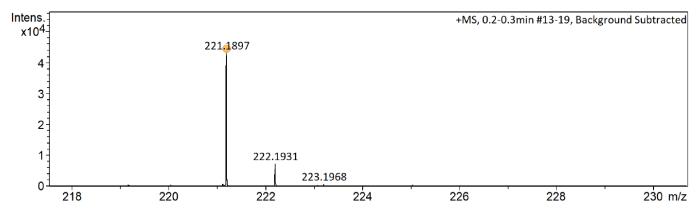


Figure S1 APCI-HRMS spectra of of a 3,4-BEM/11,12-BEM mixture.

Synthesis of β-elemene dioxide (BED)

BE (2.00 g, 9.79 mmol) was weighed into a vial and transferred to a 250 mL round-bottomed flask. After dissolving it into dichloromethane (98 mL, [**BE**] = 0.1 M), the solution was cooled to 0 °C with an ice bath. mCPBA (77 % w/w, 4.83 g, 14.68 mmol) was added portion-wise during 22 minutes, and the suspension was stirred at 0 °C. 4 h After the first addition, the suspension was filtered, washed with cold hexane and the filtrate dried by rotary evaporation. The resulting mixture was suspended into cold hexane and filtered again. The filtrate was dried obtaining a clear liquid. The mixture was dissolved into hexane (50 mL) and washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (50 mL, 4 times). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and dried giving **BED** as a clear liquid (2.25 g, yield 97%). ESI-HRMS: [C₁₅H₂₅O₂Na]⁺ calculated = 259.1669; measured = 259.1658.

In some cases, a mixture of **BEM** and **BED** was obtained (up to 85:15), probably due to a lower quality of mCPBA. In these cases, the product was re-purified by column chromatography (Hex:EtOAc = 8:2).

Spectroscopic data of BED.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 5.96 (*dd*, J = 6.4, J = 10.8 Hz, $-CH = CH_2$), 5.91 (*dd*, J = 6.4 Hz, J = 10.8 Hz, $-CH = CH_2$); 5.76 (*dd*, J = 10.6, J = 17.4 Hz, $-CH = CH_2$); 5.75 (*dd*, J = 10.8, J = 17.5 Hz, $-CH = CH_2$); 5.01-5.00 (*m*, $-CH = CH_2$); 4.98-4.94 (*m*, $-CH = CH_2$); 4.93-4.92 (*m*, $-CH = CH_2$); 2.70-2.53 (overlapped *m*, $-COCH_2$); 2.42 (*dd*, J = 4.7 Hz, J = 6.1 Hz, $-COCH_2$); 1.84-1.66 (overlapped *m*, cyclo $-CH_2$); 1.64-1.54 (overlapped *m*, cyclo $-CH_2$); 1.52-1.23 (overlapped *m*, cyclo $-CH_2$ and $-CH_3$); 1.31 (*d*, J = 0.6, $-CH_3$); 1.30 (*d*, J = 0.6, $-CH_3$); 1.28 (*m*, $-CH_3$); 1.27 (*d*, J = 0.6, $-CH_3$); 1.21 (*d*, J = 0.6, $-CH_3$); 1.10 (*s*, $-CH_3$); 1.08(*s*, $-CH_3$).

 13 C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 150.37; 150.18; 148.19; 149.08; 110.90; 110.83; 109.99; 109.93; 59.48; 59.43; 59.36; 58.71; 58.57; 58.02; 56.37; 56.18; 53.70; 53.51; 53.48; 53.14; 53.04; 52.86; 52.82; 51.11; 50.87; 44.21; 44.16; 44.12; 43.31; 41.20; 41.16; 40.72; 40.58; 39.99; 39.41; 39.37; 26.54; 26.09; 26.04; 26.02; 24.02; 23.61; 23.48; 23.18; 22.98; 22.38; 20.02; 19.85; 19.32; 18.49; 18.46; 18.38; 17.50; 17.48; 17.32; 17.13.

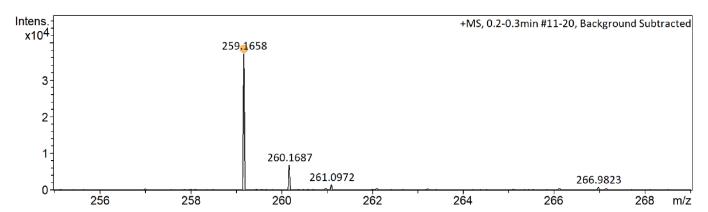


Figure S2 ESI-HRMS spectra of BED.

Synthesis of β -elemene trioxide (BET)

BE (1.00 g, 4.89 mmol) was weighed into a vial and transferred to a 100 mL round-bottomed flask. After dissolving it into dichloromethane (49 mL, [**BE**] = 0.1 M), the solution was cooled to 0 °C with an ice bath. *m*CPBA (77 % w/w, 3.51 g, 15.66 mmol) was added portion-wise during 30 minutes, and the suspension was stirred at 0 °C in an ice bath and left warming up to room temperature. After 24 h, the suspension was filtered, washed with cold hexane and the filtrate dried by rotary evaporation. The resulting mixture was suspended into dichloromethane and filtered again two times. The filtrate was dried obtaining a clear liquid, which partially solidified at 0 °C. The mixture was dissolved into dichloromethane (50 mL) and washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO₃ (50 mL, 4 times). The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and dried giving a clear liquid (1.0 g). The mixture was analyzed by ¹H NMR to determine the conversion (100%). The product was purified by column chromatography (from Hex:EtOAc = 8:2 to Hex:EtOAc = 6:4) obtaining **BET** (0.40 g, yield = 32.5%). ESI-HRMS: [C₁₅H₂₄O₃Na]⁺ calculated = 275.1618; measured = 275.1617.

Spectroscopic data of BET.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 2.9-2.46 (overlapped m, 7H, -CHOCH₂ and -COCH₂); 1.85 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH₂); 1.64 (overlapped m, 2H, cyclo -CH₂); 1.48-1.20 (overlapped m, 3H, cyclo -CH₂); 1.42 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.31 (d, J = 0.7 Hz, -CH₃); 1.29 (s, -CH₃); 1.28 (s, -CH₃); 1.27 (s, -CH₃); 1.27 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.26 (m, 1H, cyclo -CH); 1.23 (d, J = 0.6 Hz, -CH₃); 1.22 (s, -CH₃); 1.15 (s, -CH₃); 1.12 (s, -CH₃); 1.11 (s, -CH₃); 1.10 (s, -CH₃); 1.08 (s, -CH₃); 1.07 (s, -CH₃); 1.06 (s, -CH₃); 1.05 (s, -CH₃); 0.93 (s, -CH₃); 0.91 (s, -CH₃); 0.88 (s, -CH₃); 0.87 (s, -CH₃); 0.85 (s, -CH₃); 0.78 (s, -CH₃); 0.77 (s, -CH₃).

¹³H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 60.06, 60.05, 59.82; 59.40; 59.35; 59.31; 59.24; 58.08; 58.05; 57.40; 56.49; 56.38; 55.51; 55.31; 54.52; 54.14; 53.88; 53.77; 53.63; 53.34; 52.89; 52.67; 52.29; 52.19; 50.48; 50.14; 44.37; 44.09; 43.67; 43.11; 43.05; 42.30; 37.39; 37.34; 37.17; 36.62; 36.53; 36.41; 36.34; 36.15; 35.08; 34.90; 26.87; 26.74; 26.44; 26.35; 25.91; 22.96; 22.87; 22.77; 22.63; 22.56; 20.47; 20.28; 19.48; 19.41; 19.25; 18.60; 18.52; 18.25; 13.15; 13.10.

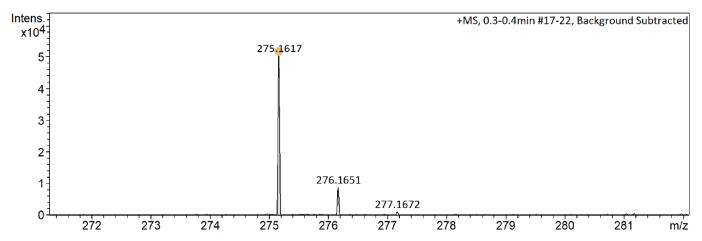


Figure S3 ESI-HRMS spectra of BET.

Reaction Conditions Screening for the ROCOP of BEM/PA

Table S2 ROCOP of BEM with PA

Entry	Cat.	[PA]/[Cat]	Solvent	Т	Time	Conv.a	Polyesterb	<i>M</i> _n c	а
	(mol%)			(°C)	(h)	%	(%)	(kDa)	
1	1 (1)	100	THF	60	36.5	26	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2	2 (1)	100	THF	60	36.5	13	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
3	1 (1)	100	Tol	100	24	71(71)	>99	4.72(5.11)	1.18(1.21)
4	2 (1)	100	Tol	100	24	46(44)	>99	2.22(2.52)	1.16(1.15)
5 ^d	1 (1)	100	neat	60	36.5	81	>99	4.85	1.14
6 ^d	2 (1)	100	neat	60	36.5	17	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
7 ^d	1 (1)	100	neat	80	24	92	>99	5.41	1.20
8 ^d	2 (1)	100	neat	80	24	24	>99	n.d.	n.d.
9	1 (0.5)	200	Tol	100	40.5	55	>99	7.05	1.21
10	1 (0.33)	300	Tol	100	40.5	52	>99	6.52	1.22
11	2 (0.5)	200	Tol	100	40.5	44	>99	3.93	1.16
12	2 (0.33)	300	Tol	100	40.5	39	>99	4.53	1.14
13 ^d	1 (0.5)	200	neat	100	24	99	>99	6.01	1.28
14 ^d	1 (0.33)	300	neat	100	2	21	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
15 ^d	1 (0.33)	300	neat	100	6	50	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.

Reaction conditions: Phthalic anhydride = 100 mg (6.75· 10^{-4} mol); β -elemene monoxides = 149 mg (6.75· 10^{-4} mol); solvent = 200 μ L; PPNCI/Catalyst = 1/1. a) Determined by 1 H NMR on the basis of aromatic proton signals of phthalic anhydride and polyester. b) Determined by 1 H NMR of isolated product. c) Determined by GPC in THF calibrated with polystyrene standards. d) β -elemene monoxides = 298 mg (1.35· 10^{-3} mol).

General Procedure for the ROCOP of BEM/PA in Toluene (entry 1, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (3.9 mg, 6.75 μ mol), complex **1** (3.7 mg, 6.75 μ mol), **PA** (100 mg, 0.68 mmol), **BEM** (149 mg, 0.68 mmol), and toluene (200 μ L) were added in this order into a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon lined cap and sealed with electric insulator tape. Out of the glove-box, the vial was placed in an aluminum heating mantel preheated to 100 °C, and the mixture kept stirring for 17 h. To stop the reaction, the vial was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected to determine the conversion by ¹H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer product was collected by filtration. The polymer was purified by dissolution into dichloromethane and precipitated from methanol. Conversion = 75%. Yield = 67%. M_n = 6.96, θ = 1.19.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 7.68 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); 7.60 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); 7.47-739 (overlapped *m*, 2H, Ar-C*H*); 5.77 (overlapped *m*, 1H, -C*H*=CH₂); 4.89 (*s*, 1H, -CH=C*H*₂); 4.88-4.62 (overlapped *m*, 2H, polyester -[O-C*H*₂-CR₂]-); 4.86 (*s*, 1H, -CH=C*H*₂); 4.80 (*s*, 1H, -C=C*H*₂); 4.56 (*s*, 1H, -C=C*H*₂); 2.33 (broad *s*, 1H, cyclo-C*H*), 1.99 (*d*, 1H, cyclo-C*H*) 1.68 (*s*, 3H, -C*H*₃); 1.66 (*s*, 3H, -C*H*₃); 1.65-1.42 (overlapped, 6H, cyclo-C*H*₂) 0.97 (*s*, 3H, -C*H*₃)

 13 C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 167.02; 166.83; 166.60; 166.40; 150.16; 149.91; 147.64; 147.46; 134.12; 134.00; 133.76; 133.69; 132.01; 131.33; 131.14; 131.06; 130.68; 129.54; 129.25; 128.97; 112.41; 112.35; 110.25; 110.09; 87.00; 86.65; 86.61; 86.52; 86.40; 86.27; 73.65; 73.59; 73.50; 71.23; 67.02; 66.82; 52.75; 52.44; 52.38; 50.99; 45.80; 43.60; 39.82; 39.68; 39.62; 31.04; 28.60; 28.34; 27.91; 27.57; 25.12; 24.95; 24.87; 22.82; 22.45; 22.13; 21.82; 21.62; 21.53; 21.32; 21.18; 19.03; 18.79; 18.72; 16.72; 16.67.

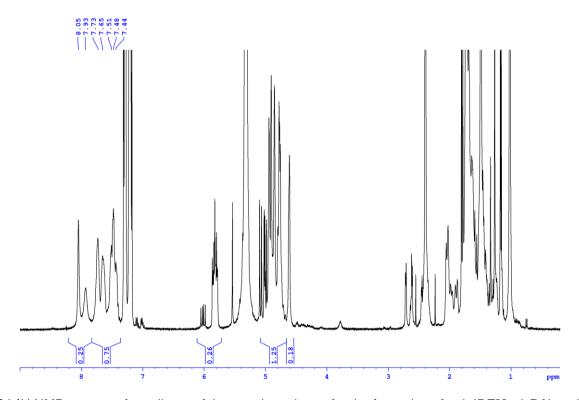


Figure S4 ¹H NMR spectra of an aliquot of the reaction mixture for the formation of poly(**BEM**-alt-**PA**) to determine the conversion (entry 1, Table 1) (CDCI₃, 400 MHz).

General Procedure for the ROCOP of BEM/PA without Solvent (entry 5, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (1.3 mg, $2.25 \,\mu$ mol), complex **1** (1.2 mg, $2.25 \,\mu$ mol), **PA** (100 mg, 0.68 mmol) and **BEM** (298 mg, 1.35 mmol) were added in this order into a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon lined cap and sealed with electric insulator tape. Out of the glove-box, the vial was placed into an aluminum heating mantel, preheated to the desired temperature, and the mixture kept stirring for the desired reaction time. To stop the reaction, the vial was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected to determine the conversion by ¹H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer was collected by filtration. The polymer was purified by dissolution into dichloromethane and precipitated from methanol. Conversion = 98%. Yield = 95%. $M_0 = 6.39$, $\theta = 1.25$.

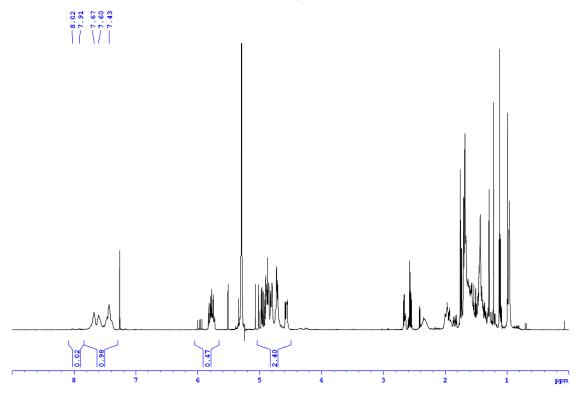


Figure S5 ¹H NMR spectra of an aliquot of the reaction mixture for the formation of poly(**BEM**-alt-**PA**) to determine the conversion (entry 5, Table 1) (CDCl₃, 400 MHz).

Gram-scale ROCOP of BEM/PA in Toluene (entry 6, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (38.8 mg, $6.75 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol), complex **1** (36.8 mg, $6.75 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol), **PA** (1.00 g, 6.75 mmol), **BEM** (1.49 g, 6.75 mmol), and toluene (2.0 mL) were added in this order into a 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. Out of the glove-box, the tube was placed in an oil bath, preheated to $100 \, ^{\circ}$ C, and kept stirring for 24 h. To stop the reaction, the tube was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into the minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected to determine the conversion by 1 H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer was collected by filtration. The polymer was purified by dissolution into dichloromethane and precipitated from methanol. Conversion = 55%. Yield = 52%. $M_0 = 6.88$, D = 1.21.

Gram-scale ROCOP of BEM/PA without solvent (entry 7, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (12.3 mg, $2.14 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol), complex **1** (11.6 mg, $2.14 \cdot 10^{-5}$ mol), **PA** (0.95 g, 6.41 mmol), and **BEM** (2.83 g, 12.8 mmol) were added in this order into a 10 mL Schlenk tube equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. Out of the glove-box, the tube was placed in an oil bath, preheated to 100 °C and kept stirring for 24 h. To stop the reaction, the tube was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected for to determine the conversion by ¹H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer was collected by filtration. The polymer was purified by dissolution in dichloromethane and precipitated from methanol. Conversion = > 99%. Yield = 94%. $M_0 = 4.36$, $\theta = 1.21$.

General Procedure for the ROCOP of BED/PA in Toluene (entry 8, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (3.9 mg, 6.75 μ mol), complex **1** (3.7 mg, 6.75 μ mol), **PA** (100 mg, 0.68 mmol), and toluene (200 μ L) were added in this order into a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon lined cap and sealed with electric insulator tape. Out of the glove-box, the vial was placed in an aluminum heating mantel, preheated to 60 °C, and kept stirring for 48 h. To stop the reaction, the vial was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected to determine the conversion by ¹H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer was collected by filtration. Conversion = 57%. Yield = 52%. $M_0 = 6.8$, D = 1.77.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 7.70 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); 7.45 (overlapped *m*, 3H, Ar-C*H*); 6.01 and 5.71 (*bs*, 1H, -C*H*=CH₂); 5.14-4.76 (overlapped *m*, 2H, -CH=C H_2 and 2H, polyester -[O-C H_2 -CR₂]-); 3.96 (broad *s*, branch polyester -[O-C H_2 -CR₂]-); 2.30 (broad *s*, 2H, -COC H_2), 2.01 (*d*, 1H, cyclo-C H_3); 1.67 (overlapped *m*, 1H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.66 (overlapped *m*, 1H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.64 (overlapped *s*, 3H, -C H_3); 1.48-144 (overlapped *s*, 3H, -C H_3); 1.03 (overlapped *m*, 1H, cyclo-C H_3); 0.97 (overlapped *s*, 3H, -C H_3).

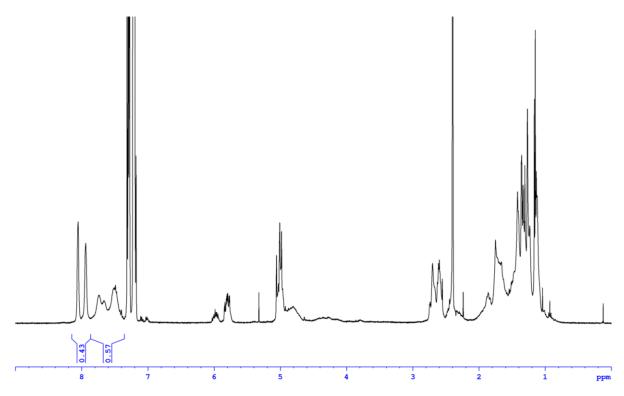


Figure S6 ¹H NMR spectra of an aliquot of the reaction mixture for the formation of poly(**BED**-*alt*-**PA**) to determine the conversion (entry 8, Table 1) (CDCI₃, 400 MHz).

General Procedure for the ROCOP of BED/PA without Solvent (entry 11, Table 1)

In a glove-box, PPNCI (3.9 mg, 6.75 μ mol), complex **1** (3.7 mg, 6.75 μ mol), **PA** (100 mg, 0.68 mmol), and **BED** (319 mg, 1.35 mmol) were added in this order into a 4 mL glass vial equipped with a magnetic stirring bar. The vial was closed with a Teflon lined cap and sealed with electric insulator tape. Out of the glove-box, the vial was placed in an aluminum heating mantel, preheated to 80 °C, and kept stirring for 24 h. To stop the reaction, the vial was cooled down to room temperature in cold water, opened to air and the mixture dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane. An aliquot was collected to determine the conversion by ¹H NMR analysis. The reaction mixture was poured into acidified methanol under stirring and the polymer was collected by filtration. Conversion = 91%. Yield = 89%. $M_0 = 4.1$, D = 2.48.

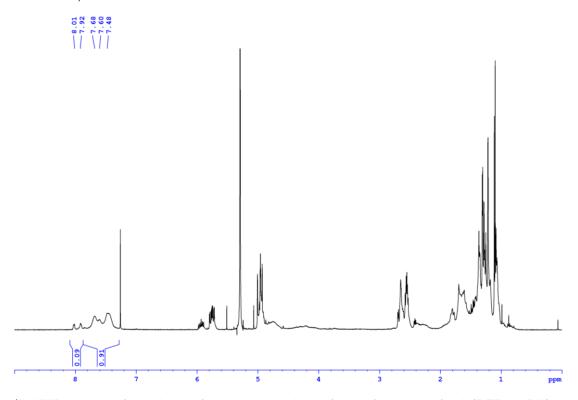


Figure S7 ¹H NMR spectra of an aliquot of the reaction mixture for the formation of poly(**BED**-*alt*-**PA**) to determine the conversion (entry 11, Table 1) (CDCl₃, 400 MHz).

Epoxidation of Poly(BEM-alt-PA) to Poly(BED-alt-PA)

In a 50 mL flask, poly(**BEM**-*alt*-**PA**) (400 mg, 1.09 mmol repeating unit, $M_0 = 4.36$ kDa, D = 1.21) was dissolved into dichloromethane (22 mL, [repeating unit] = 0.05 M) and positioned in an ice bath. *m*CPBA (77 % w/w, 292 mg, 1.30 mmol, 1.2 eq) was added portion-wise during 5 minutes. The flask was left in the ice bath and warmed up to room temperature under stirring. After 15 h, the solution was washed 3 times with saturated NaHCO₃ (aq) and 2 times with water, then the solution was dried using Na₂SO₄. The solid was dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane and poured into methanol under stirring. The polymer was collected by filtration and dried in vacuum. Isolated yield = 0.40 g (96%); $M_0 = 4.10$ kDa, D = 1.22. Functionalization degree = 94%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 7.69 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); δ 7.61 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); 7.44 (overlapped m, 2H, Ar-C*H*); 5.92 and 5.73 (*dd*, J = 10.4 Hz, J = 16.9 Hz, and overlapped m, 1H, -C*H*=CH₂); 4.98-4.88 (overlapped m, 2H, -CH=C*H*₂); 4.76 (overlapped *bs*, 2H, polyester -[O-C*H*₂-CR₂]-); 2.57 (m, 2H, -COC*H*₂); 2.29 (broad *s*, 1H, cyclo-C*H*); 1.90 (overlapped m, 1H, cyclo-C*H*₂); 1.70 (overlapped *s*, 3H, -CH₃); 1.65-1.37 (overlapped m, 5H, cyclo -C*H*₂); 1.36 (overlapped m, 1H, cyclo -C*H*); 1.25-0.94 (overlapped *s*, 6H, -CH₃).

 13 C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 167.02; 166.60; 150.06; 149.97; 149.25; 149.00; 147.49; 133.99; 131.46; 130.71; 128.93; 112.41; 110.93; 110.26; 110.00; 86.47; 86.35; 73.50; 71.26; 66.96; 66.60; 59.84; 58.65; 58.13; 58.09; 57.97; 53.55; 53.27; 53.02; 52.43; 51.36; 43.62; 43.33; 41.41; 40.82; 39.87; 39.65; 39.28; 25.12; 24.86; 24.56; 24.29; 22.62; 22.18; 21.86; 20.11; 19.04; 18.86; 18.68; 17.52; 17.33; 16.69.

Epoxidation of Poly(BEM-alt-PA) to Poly(BET-alt-PA)

In a 50 mL flask, poly(**BEM**-*alt*-**PA**) (400 mg, 1.09 mmol repeating unit, $M_{\rm h} = 4.36$ kDa, D = 1.21) was dissolved into dichloromethane (22 mL, [repeating unit] = 0.05 M) and positioned in an ice bath. *m*CPBA (77 % w/w, 608 mg, 2.71 mmol, 2.5 eq) was added portion-wise during 5 minutes. The flask was left in the ice bath and warmed up to room temperature under stirring. After 26 h, the solution was washed 3 times with saturated NaHCO₃ (aq) and 2 times with water following drying on Na₂SO₄. The solid was dissolved into a minimum amount of dichloromethane and poured into methanol under stirring. The polymer was collected by filtration and dried in vacuum. Isolated yield = 0.41 g (94%); $M_{\rm h} = 4.02$ kDa, D = 1.26. Functionalization degree = 90%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, rt): δ 7.69 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); δ 7.61 (*bs*, 1H, Ar-C*H*); 7.45 (overlapped m, 2H, Ar-C*H*); 4.76 (*bs*, 2H, polyester -[O-C H_2 -CR₂]-); 3.58 (overlapped m, 1H, -CHOC H_2); 2.90-2.43 (overlapped m, 4H, -CHOC H_2) and -COC H_2); 2.23 (*bs*, 1H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.86 (overlapped m, 1H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.85 (overlapped m, 1H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.69 (overlapped m, 5H, cyclo -C H_2); 1.25-0.75 (overlapped m, 6H, -CH₃).

 13 C NMR : δ 166.61; 133.63; 133.30; 132.01; 131.56; 130.79; 128.97; 128.10; 86.29; 66.95; 59.95; 59.76; 58.03; 57.39; 56.27; 55.26; 53.82; 53.55; 50.38; 44.38; 43.17; 42.33; 39.27; 37.46; 37.04; 36.58; 36.26; 36.07; 35.29; 24.74; 24.43; 22.13; 21.95; 21.63; 21.27; 20.32; 20.11; 19.58; 18.92; 18.63; 17.52; 15.68; 15.18; 13.21.

NMR Characterization of BE

NMR characterization of β -elemene is reported to facilitate comparison with the β -elemene oxide products.

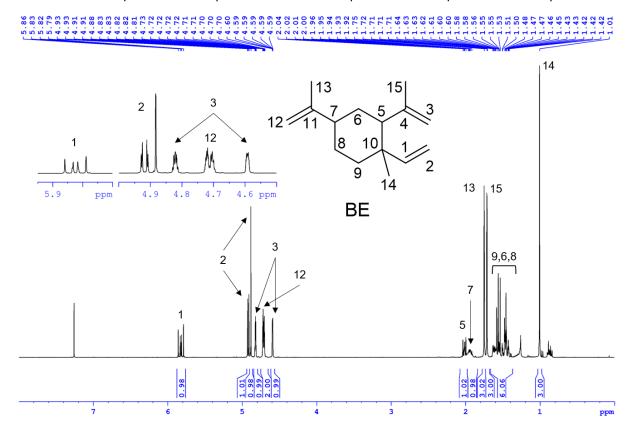


Figure S8 ¹H NMR of BE (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

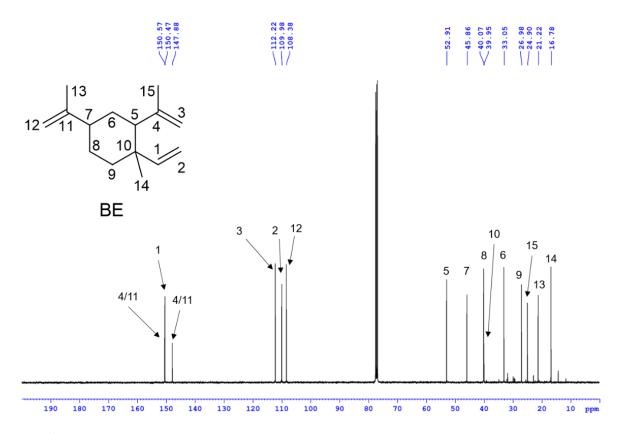


Figure S9 ¹³C NMR of BE (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

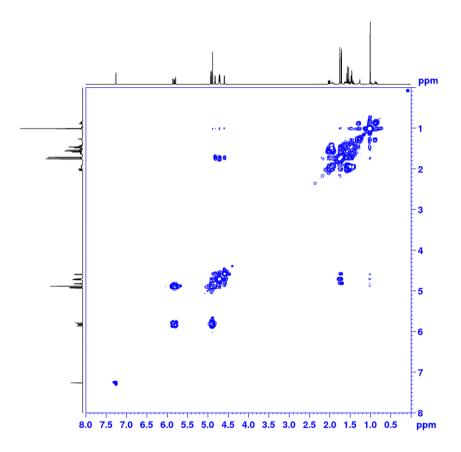


Figure S10 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BE (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

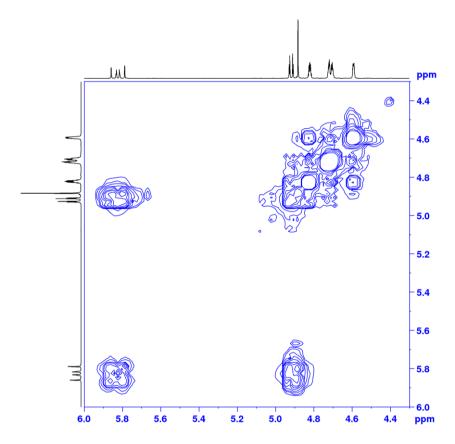


Figure S11 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BE from 6.0 to 4.3 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

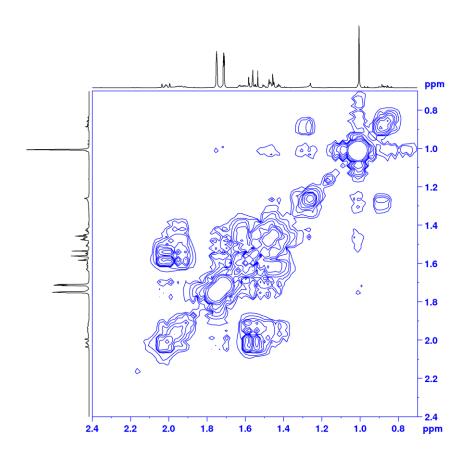


Figure S12 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BE from 2.4 to 0.7 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

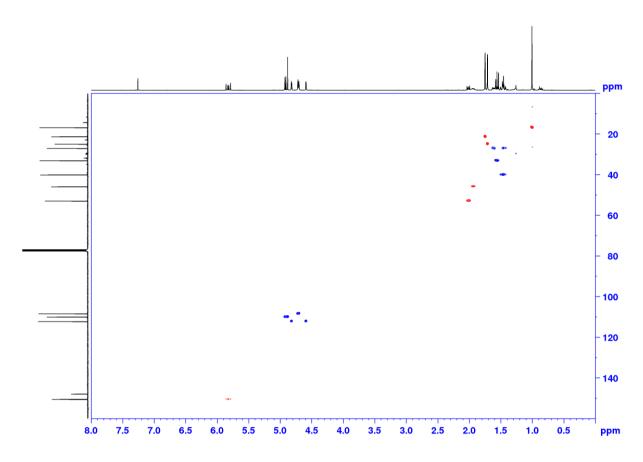


Figure S13 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of BE (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

NMR Characterization of BEM

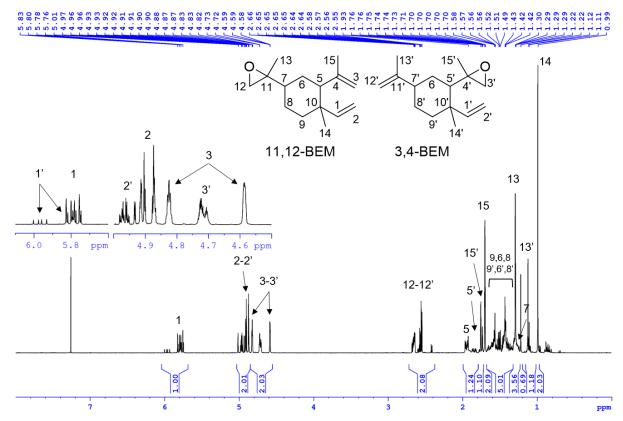


Figure S14 ¹H NMR of BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

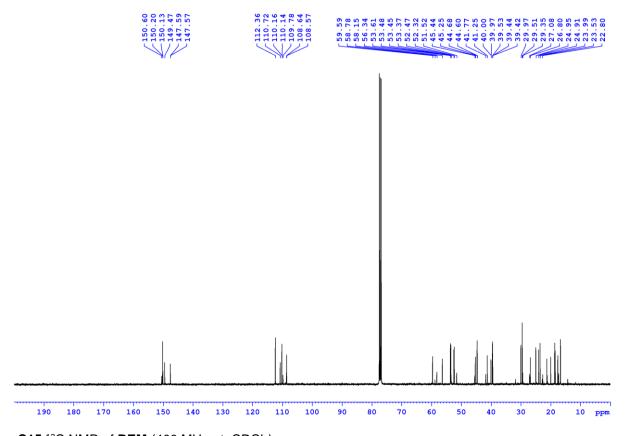


Figure S15 ¹³C NMR of BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

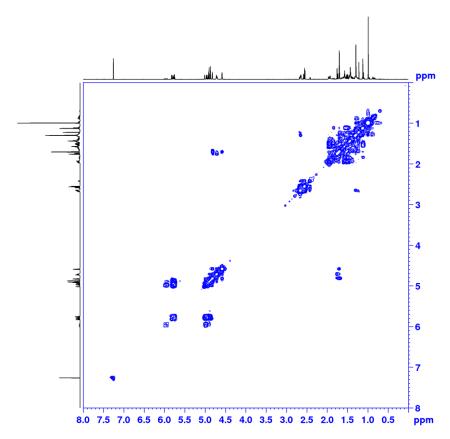


Figure S16 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

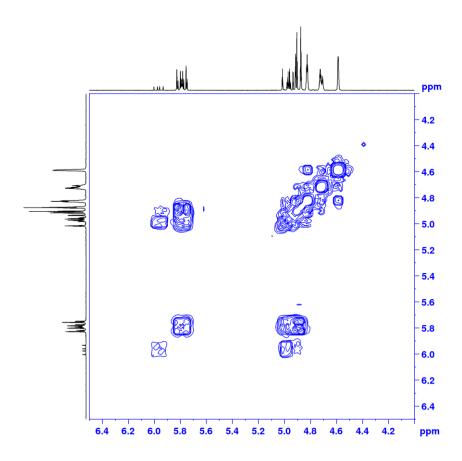


Figure S17 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BEM from 6.5 to 4.2 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

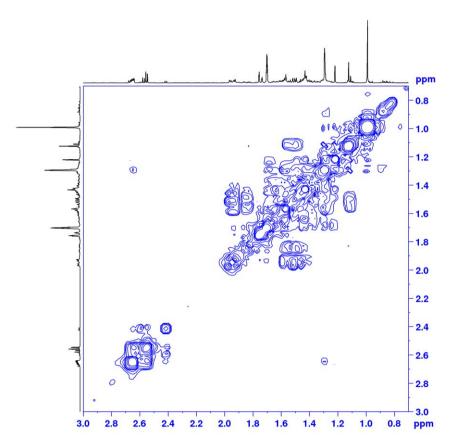


Figure S18 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BEM from 3.0 to 0.7 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

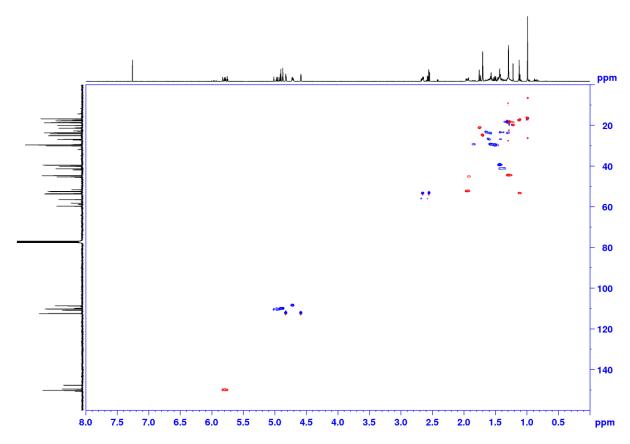


Figure S19 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

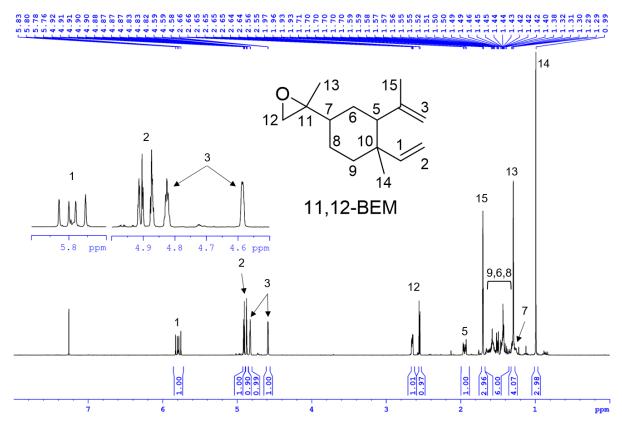


Figure S20 ¹H NMR of 11,12-BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

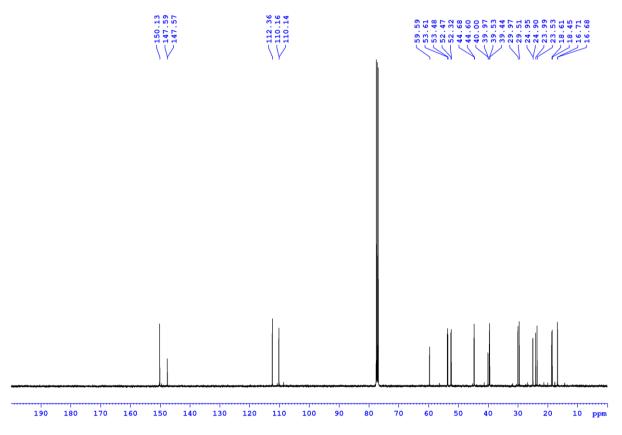


Figure S21 ¹³C NMR of 11,12-**BEM** (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

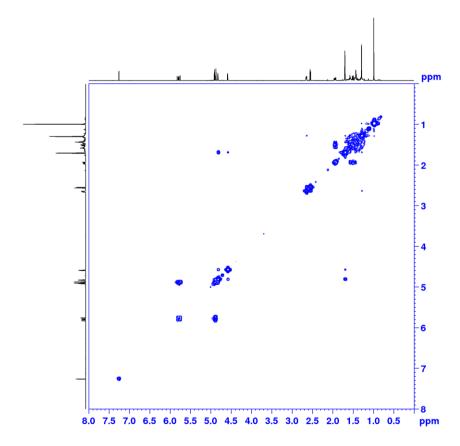


Figure S22 $^{1}\text{H-}^{1}\text{H}$ COSY NMR of 11,12-BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

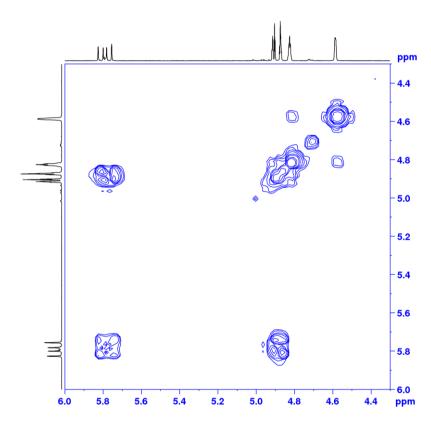


Figure S23 $^1\text{H-}^1\text{H}$ COSY NMR of 11,12-BEM from 6.0 to 4.3 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

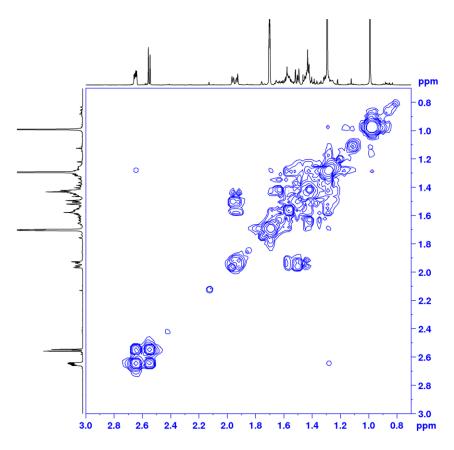


Figure S24 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of 11,12-BEM from 3.0 to 0.7 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

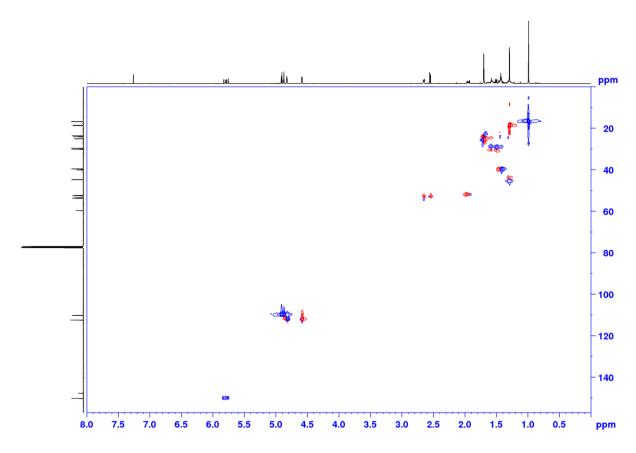


Figure S25 $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$ HSQC NMR of 11,12-BEM (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

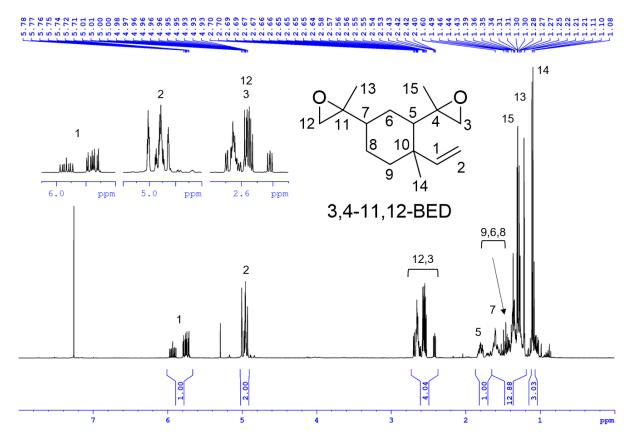


Figure S26 ¹H NMR of BED (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

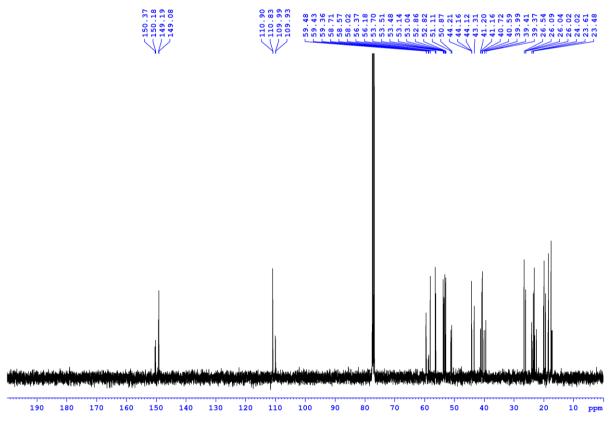


Figure S27 ¹³C NMR of BED (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

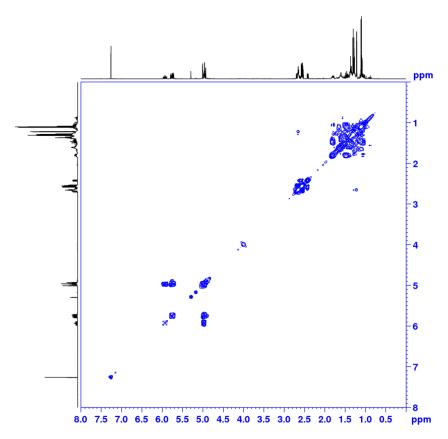


Figure S28 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BED (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

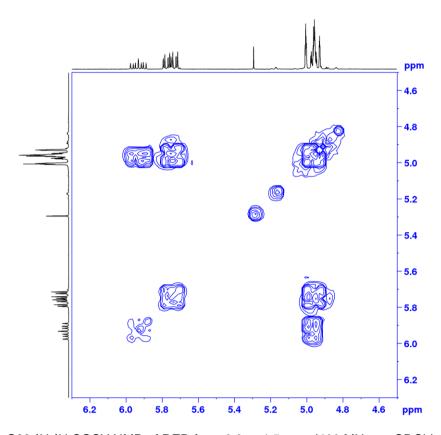


Figure S29 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BED from 6.3 to 4.5 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

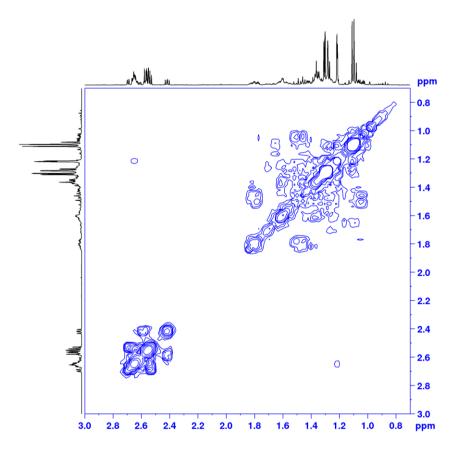


Figure S30 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BED from 3.0 to 0.7 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

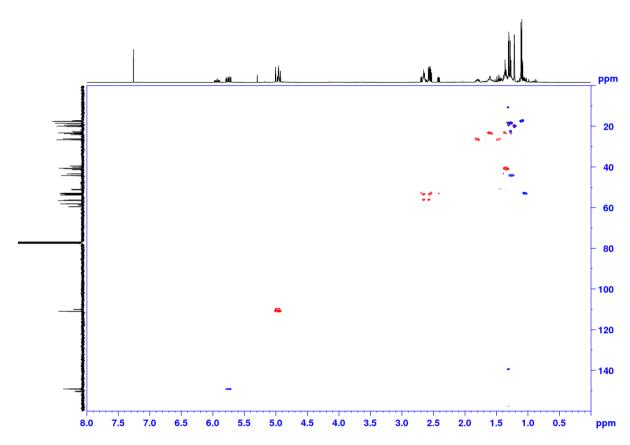


Figure S31 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of BED (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

NMR Characterization of BET

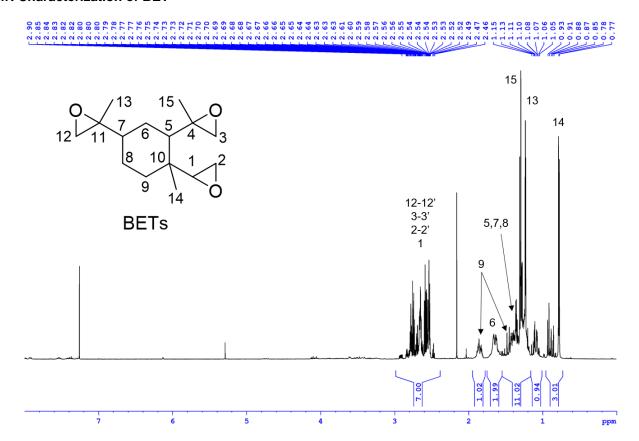


Figure S32 ¹H NMR of BET (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

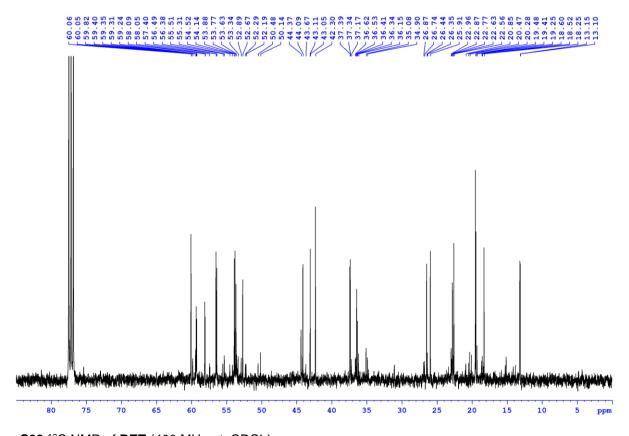


Figure S33 ¹³C NMR of BET (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

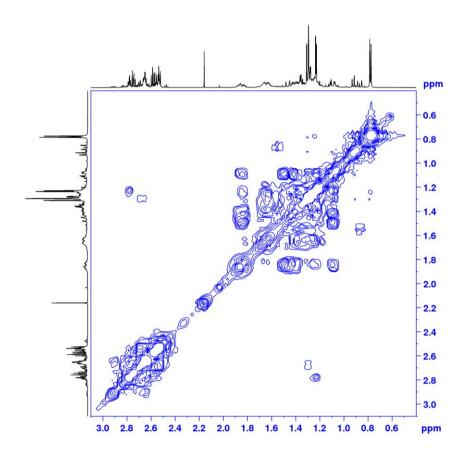


Figure S34 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of BET (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

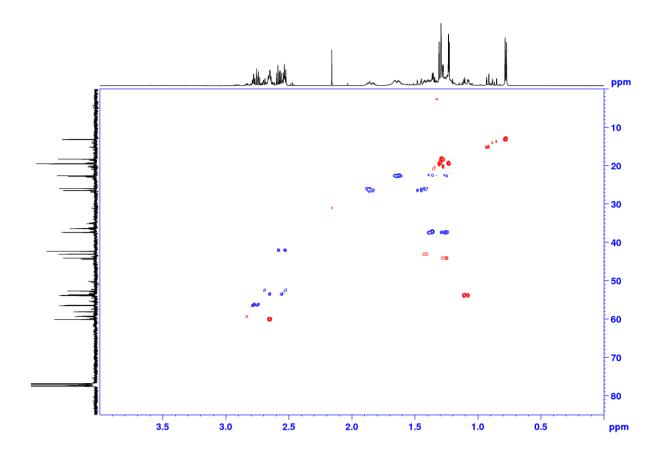


Figure S35 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of BET (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

NMR Characterization of Poly(BEM-alt-PA)

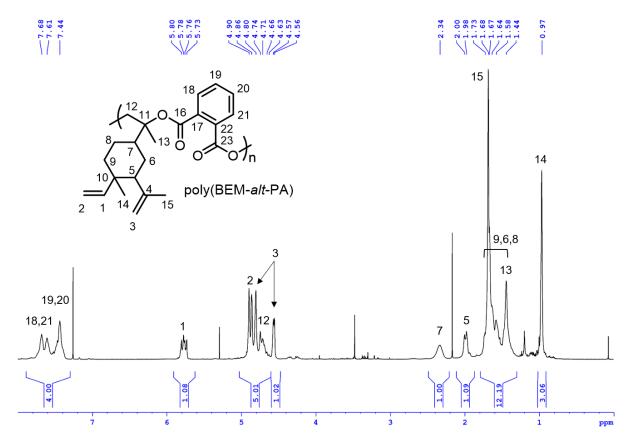


Figure S36 ¹H NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

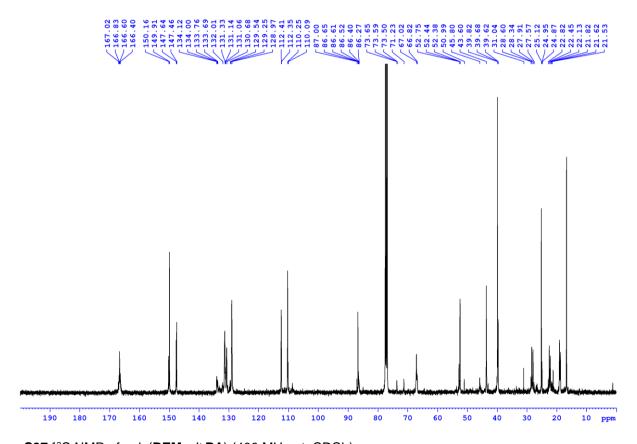


Figure S37 ¹³C NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

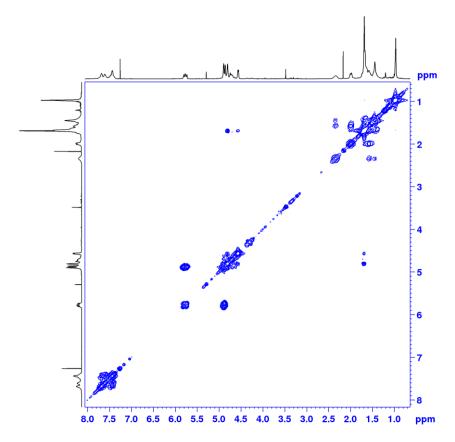


Figure S38 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

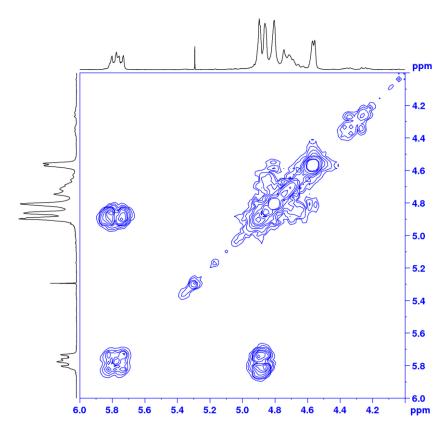


Figure S39 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) from 6.0 to 4.0 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

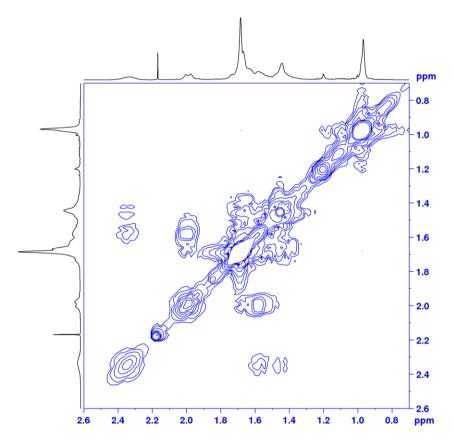


Figure S40 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) from 2.6 to 0.7 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

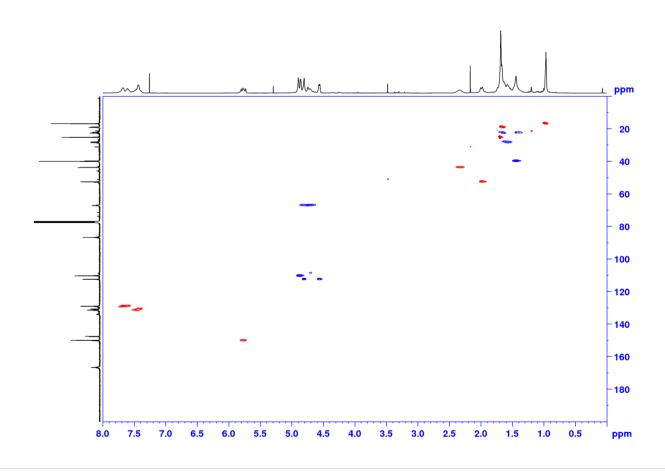


Figure S41 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of poly(BEM-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

NMR Characterization of Crosslinked Poly(BED-alt-PA)

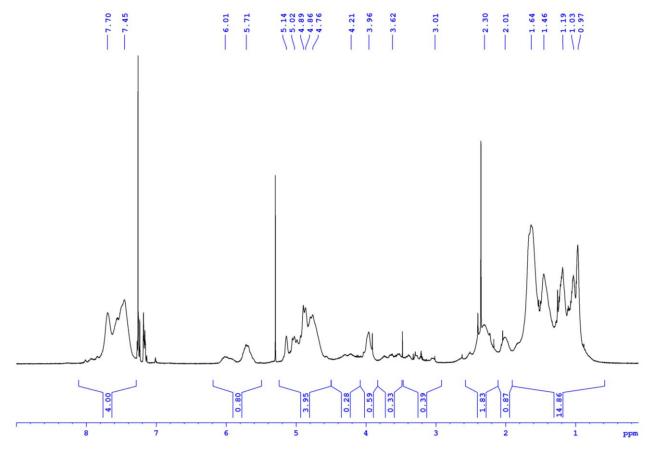


Figure S42 ¹H NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

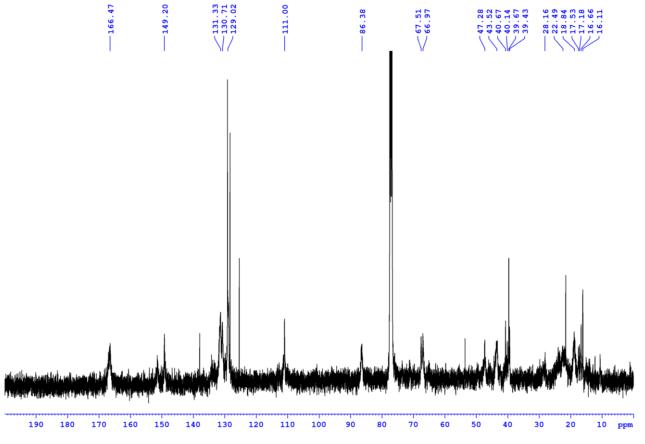


Figure S43 ¹³C NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

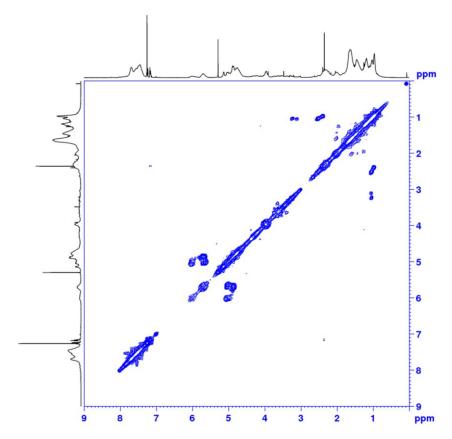


Figure S44 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

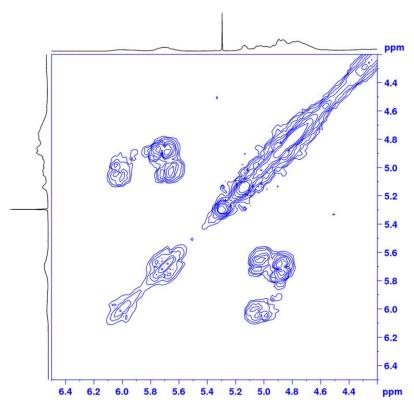


Figure S45 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) from 6.5 to 4.2 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

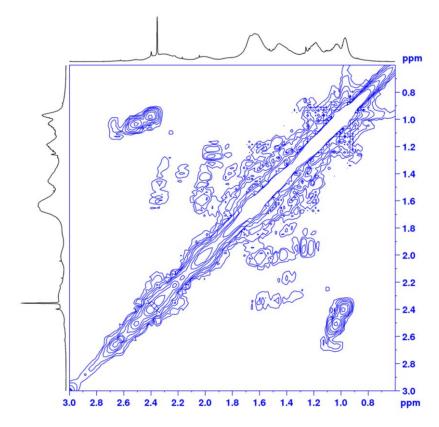


Figure S46 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) from 3.0 to 0.6 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

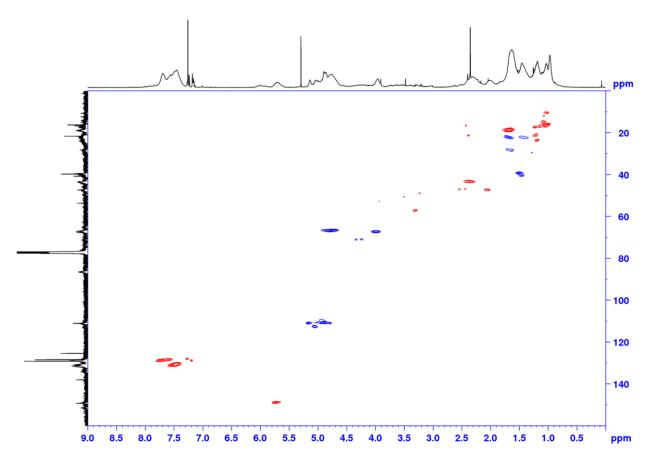


Figure S47 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

NMR Characterization of Poly(BED-alt-PA)

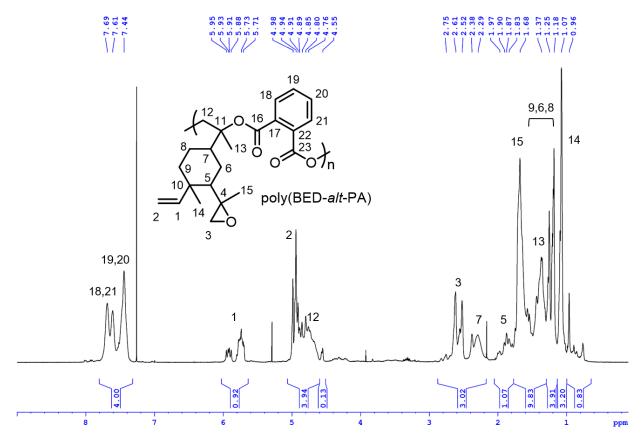


Figure S48 ¹H NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

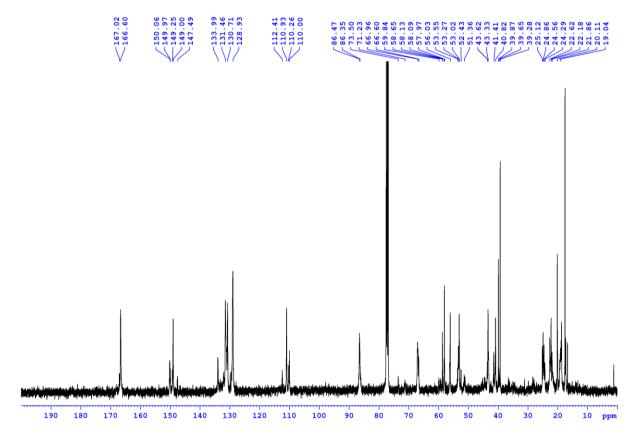


Figure S49 ¹³C NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

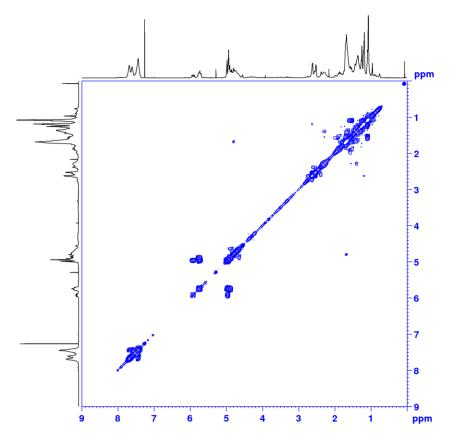


Figure S50 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

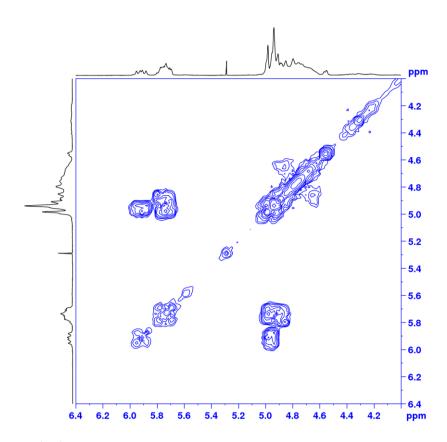


Figure S51 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) from 6.0 to 4.0 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

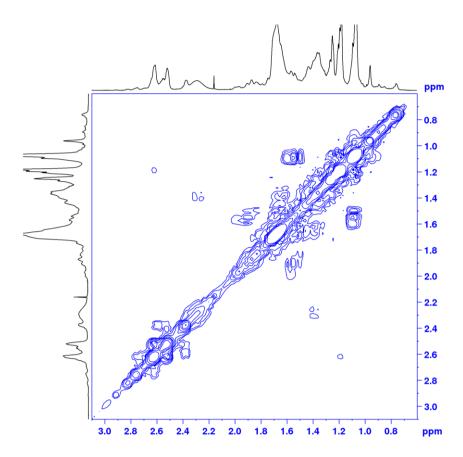


Figure S52 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) from 3.1 to 0.6 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

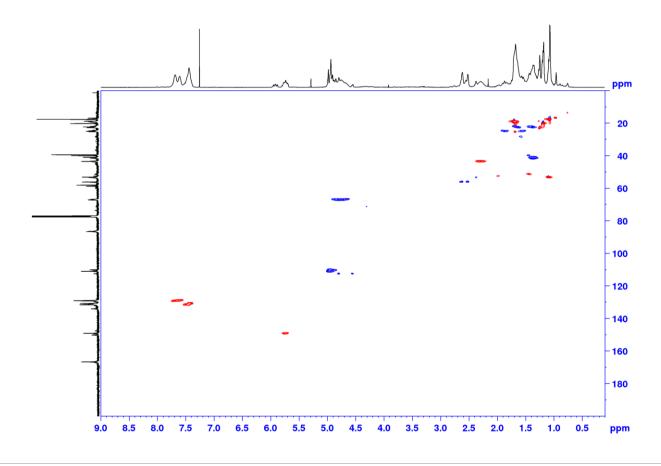


Figure S53 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of poly(BED-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

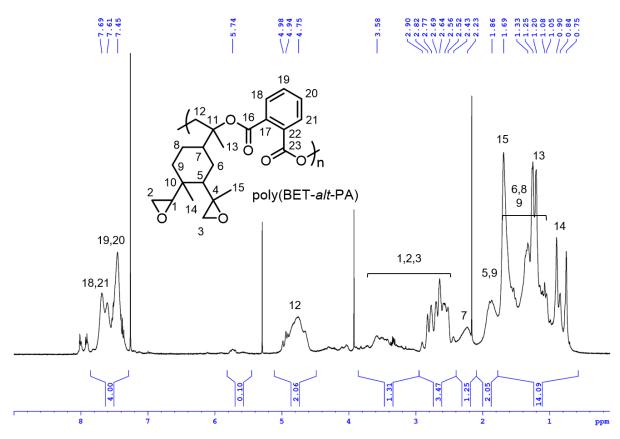


Figure S54 ¹H NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

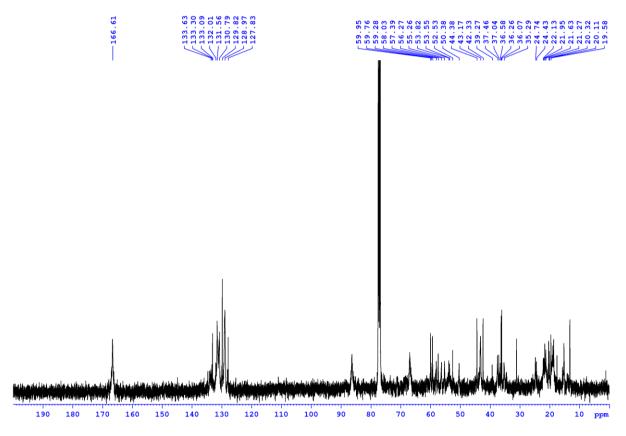


Figure S55 ¹³C NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

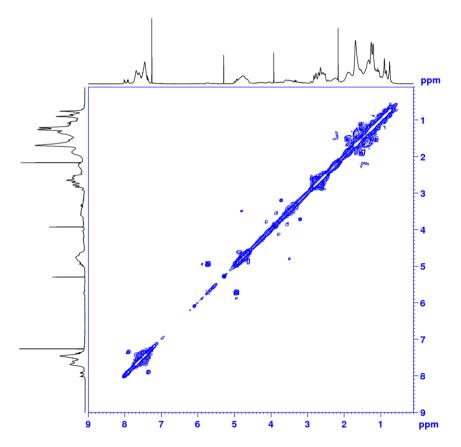


Figure S56 $^1\text{H--}^1\text{H}$ COSY NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

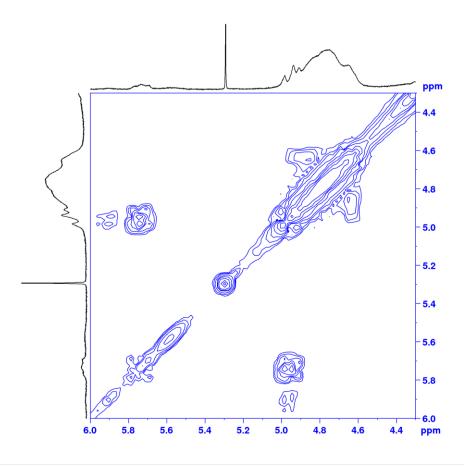


Figure S57 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) from 6.0 to 4.3 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

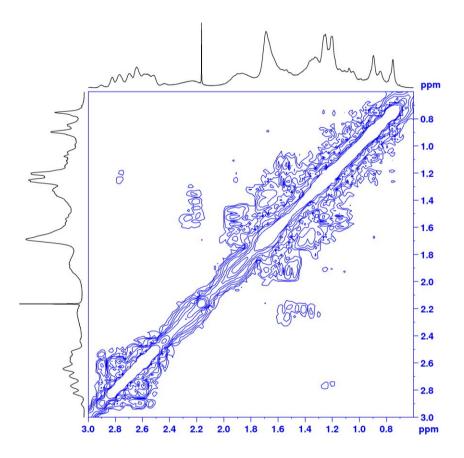


Figure S58 ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) from 3.0 to 0.6 ppm (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

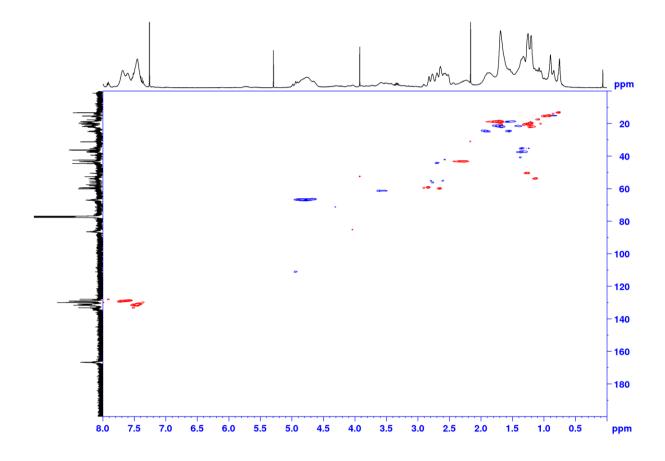
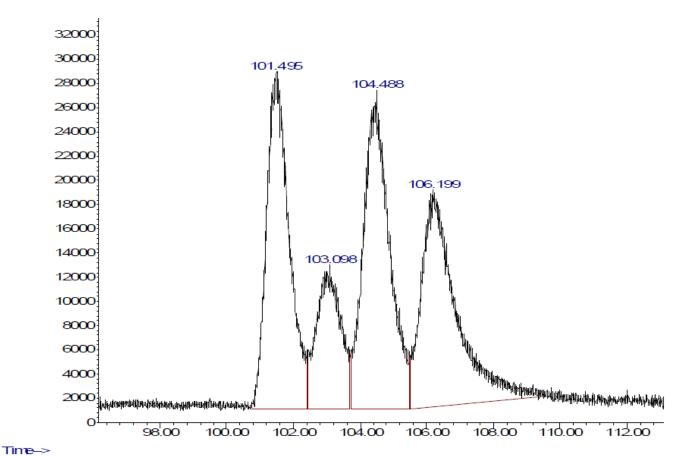


Figure S59 ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of poly(BET-alt-PA) (400 MHz, rt, CDCl₃).

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analyses of BEM



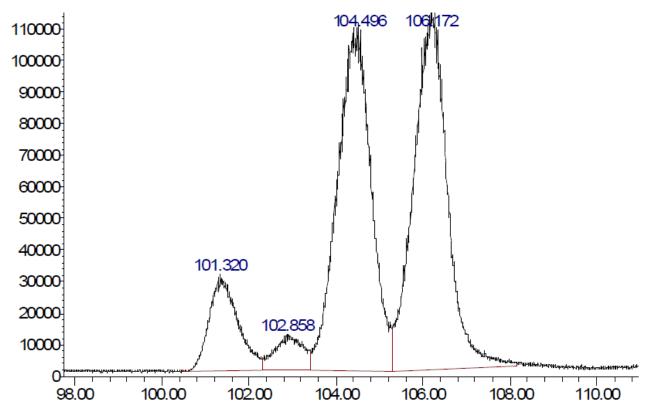
peak R.T. first max last PK peak corr. corr. % of # min scan scan scan TY height area % max. total

-- ----- ----- ----

1 101.495 17150 17287 17447 M 28117 12877348 92.14% 28.208% 2 103.098 17449 17567 17674 M 11948 5901370 42.22% 12.927% 3 104.488 17676 17810 17984 M 26581 13976317 100.00% 30.615% 4 106.199 17986 18109 18656 M 17997 12896911 92.28% 28.251%

Sum of corrected areas: 45651945

Figure S60 GC-MS analysis of a 3,4-**BEM**/11,12-**BEM** mixture (49:51 ratio by NMR). (all peaks show the same mass at m/z = 221.2.)



Time->

peak R.T. first max last PK peak corr. corr. % of # min scan scan scan TY height area % max. total

1 101.320 17095 17256 17430 M 30754 13648528 22.26% 9.884%

2 102.858 17430 17525 17620 M 11155 4757614 7.76% 3.445%

3 104.496 17620 17811 17951 M 110269 58369270 95.19% 42.268%

4 106.172 17951 18104 18452 M 115306 61317358 100.00% 44.403%

Sum of corrected areas: 138092770

Figure S61 GC-MS analysis of a 3,4-**BEM**/11,12-**BEM** mixture (20:80 ratio by NMR). (all peaks show the same mass at m/z = 221.2.)

Gel Permeation Chromatography of BE-Based Polyesters

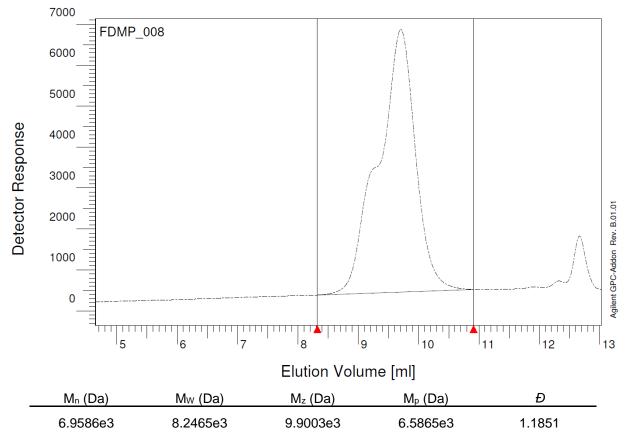


Figure S62 GPC trace of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 1 table 1.

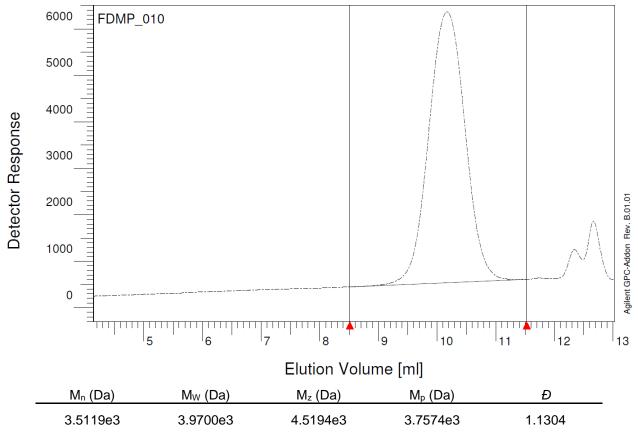


Figure S63 GPC trace of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 2 table 1.

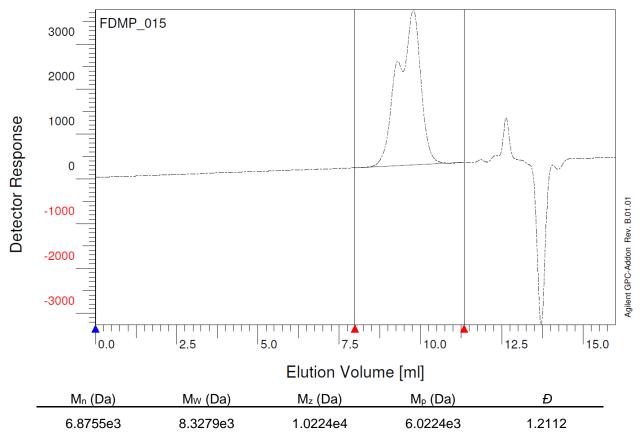


Figure S64 GPC trace of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 6 Table 1.

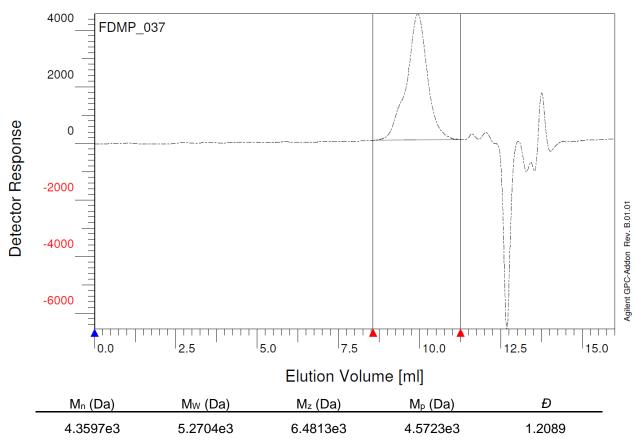


Figure S65 GPC trace of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 7 Table 1.

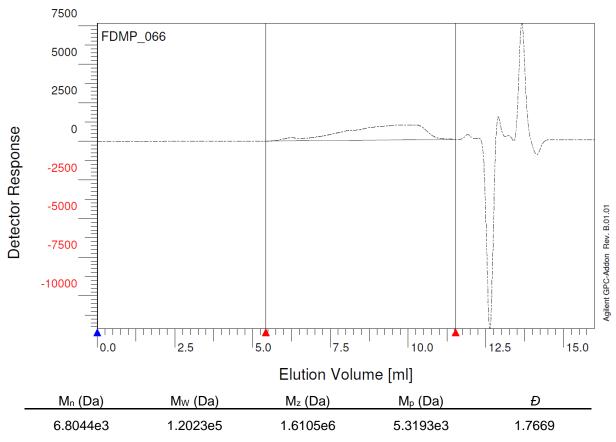


Figure S66 GPC trace of THF-soluble fraction of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 8 Table 1.

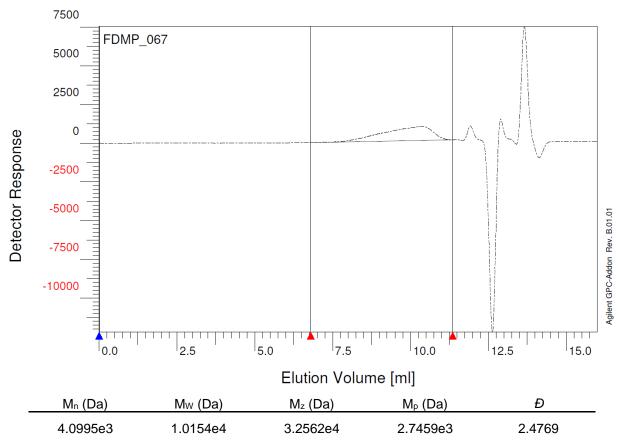


Figure S67 GPC trace of THF-soluble fraction of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 11 Table 1.

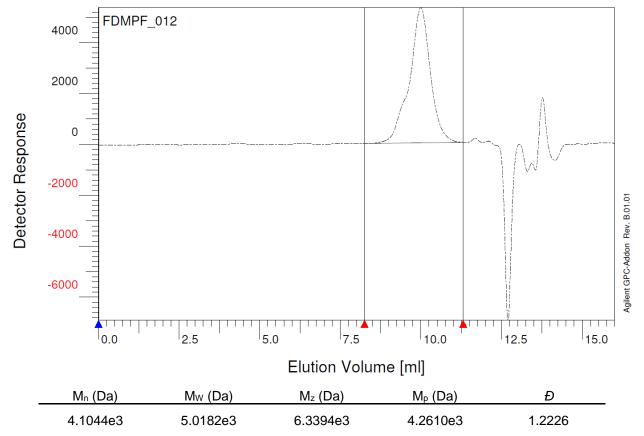


Figure S68 GPC trace of poly(BED-alt-PA).

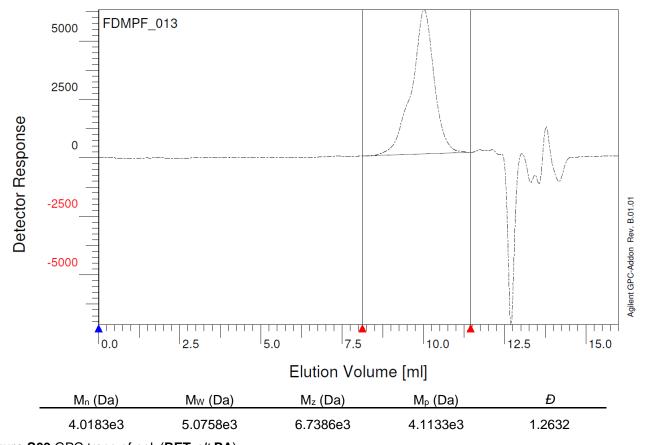
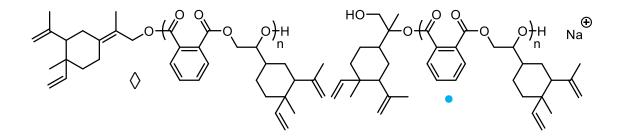


Figure S69 GPC trace of poly(BET-alt-PA).

Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry of BE-Based Polyesters



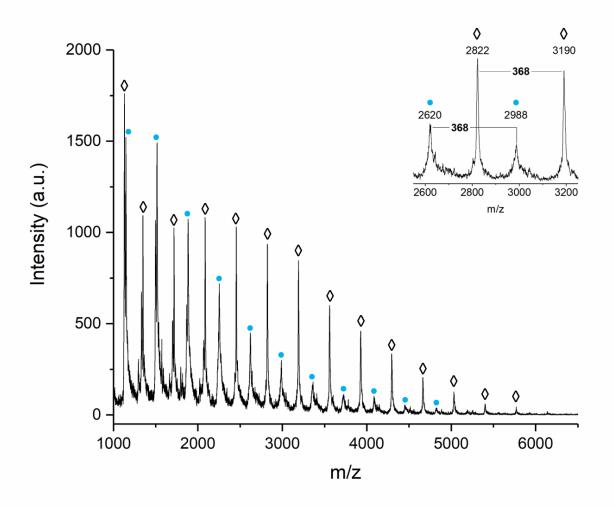
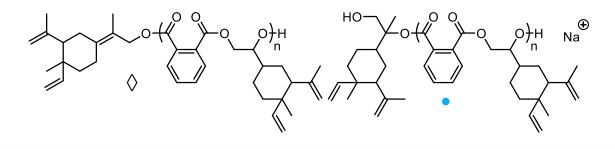


Figure S70 MALDI-TOF spectrum of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 7 table 1.



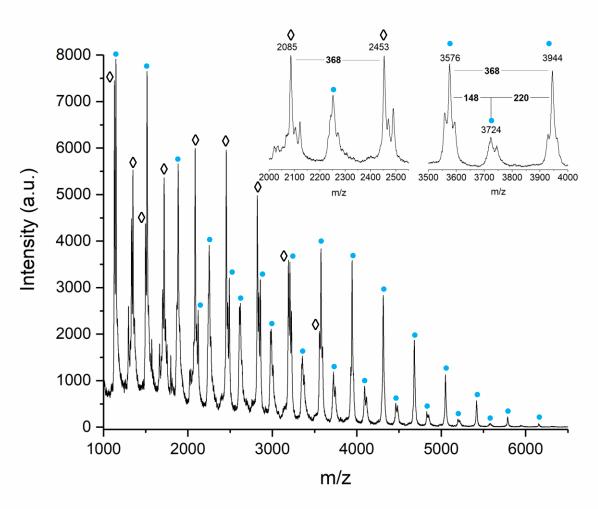


Figure S71 MALDI-TOF spectrum of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 2 Table 1.

Differential Scanning Calorimetry of BE-Based Polyesters

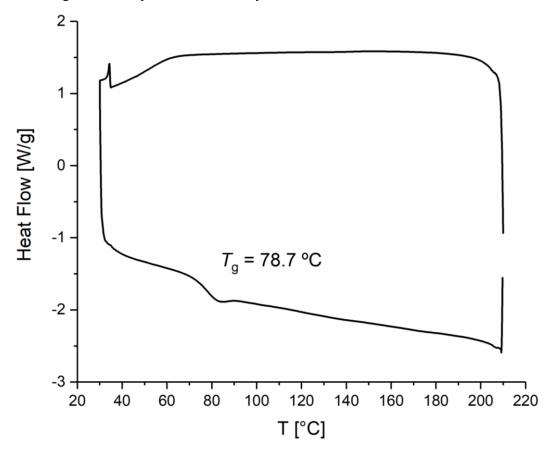


Figure S72 DSC thermogram of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 6 Table 1.

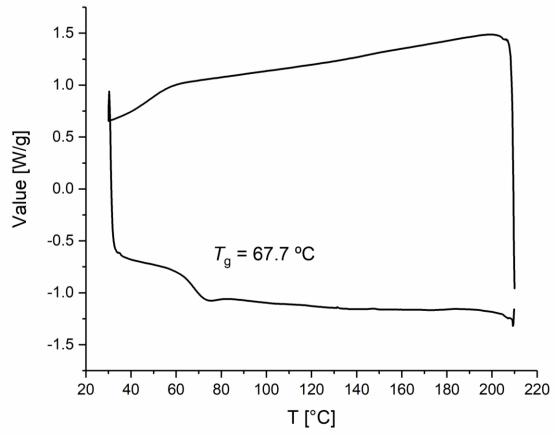


Figure S73 DSC thermogram of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 7 Table 1.

S50

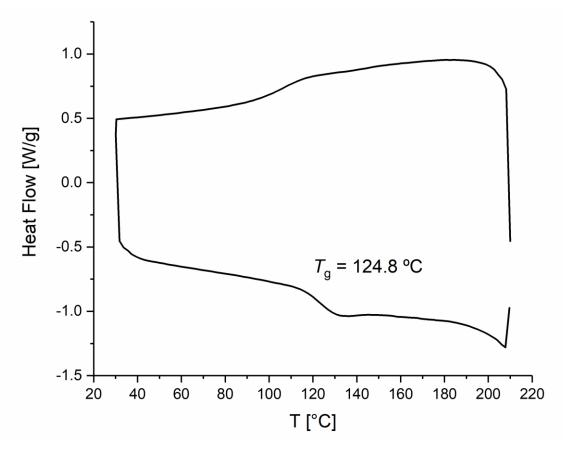


Figure S74 DSC thermogram of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 8 Table 1.

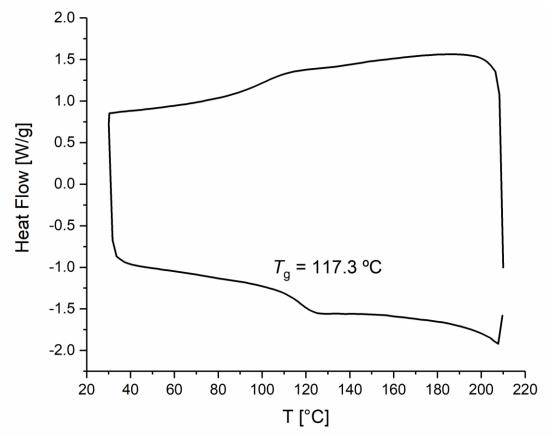


Figure S75 DSC thermogram of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 11 Table 1.

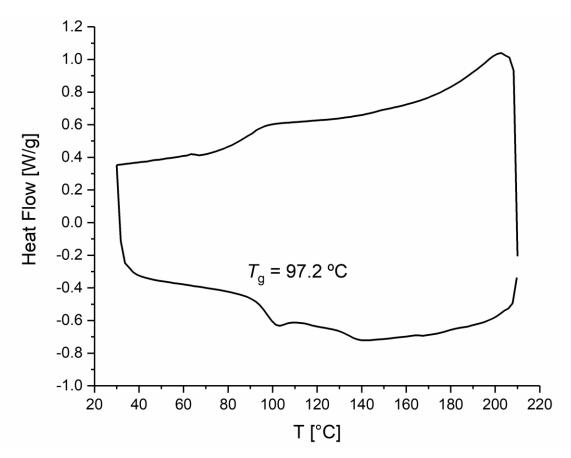


Figure S76 DSC thermogram of poly(BED-alt-PA).

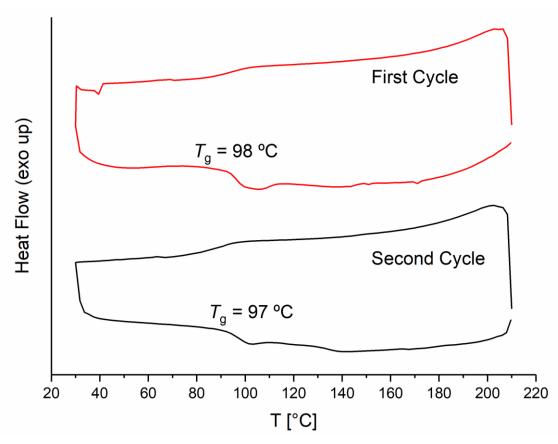


Figure S77 Comparison of first and second cycle of DSC thermogram of poly(BED-alt-PA).

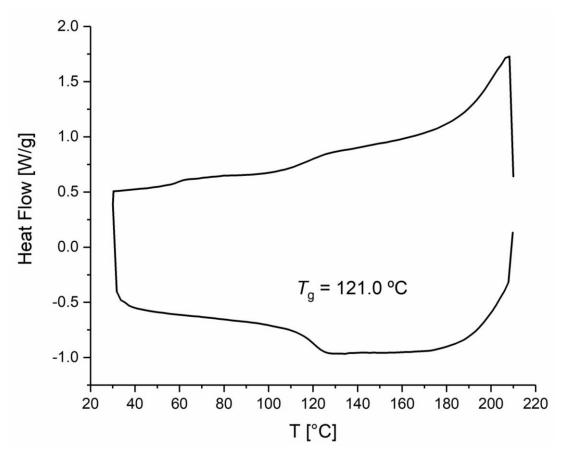


Figure S78 DSC thermogram of poly(BET-alt-PA).

Thermogravimetric Analyses of BE-Based Polyesters

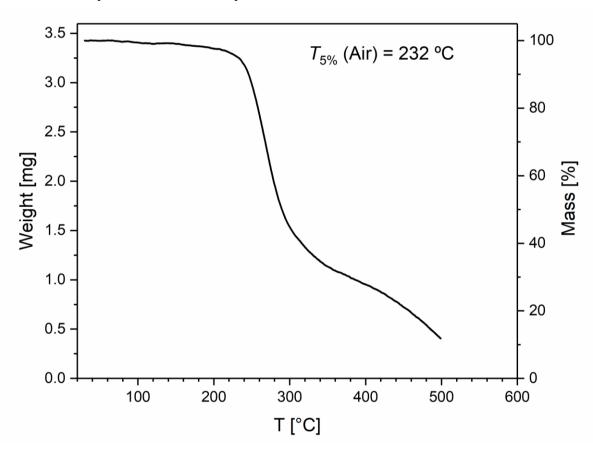


Figure S79 TGA thermogram of poly(BEM-alt-PA) sample related to entry 6 Table 1.

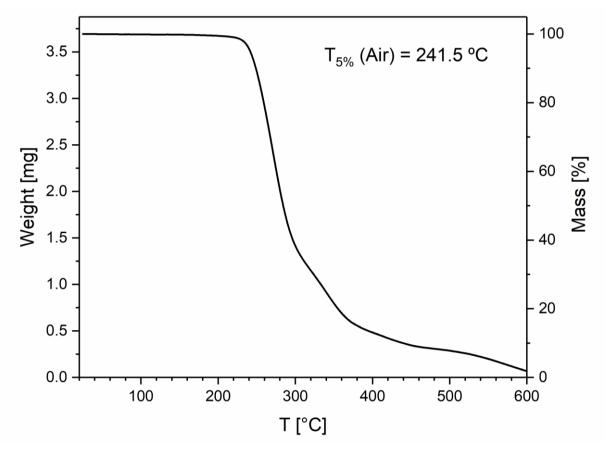


Figure S80 TGA thermogram of poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 7 Table 1.

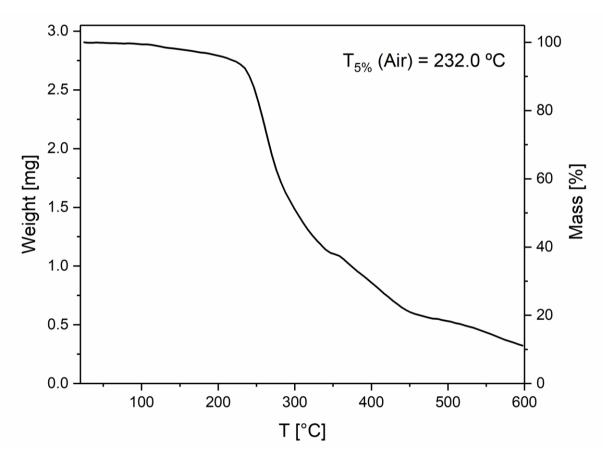


Figure S81 TGA thermogram of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 8 Table 1.

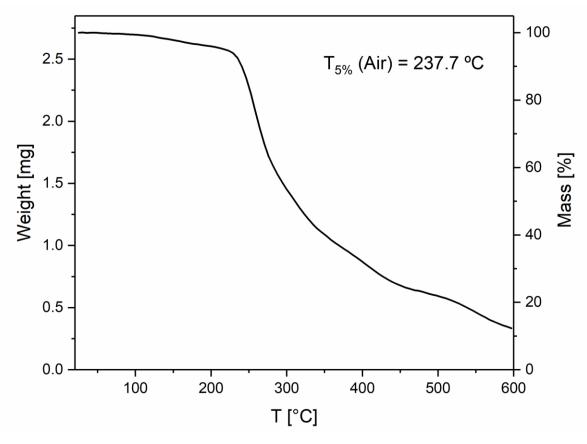


Figure S82 TGA thermogram of crosslinked poly(BED-alt-PA) sample related to entry 11 Table 1.

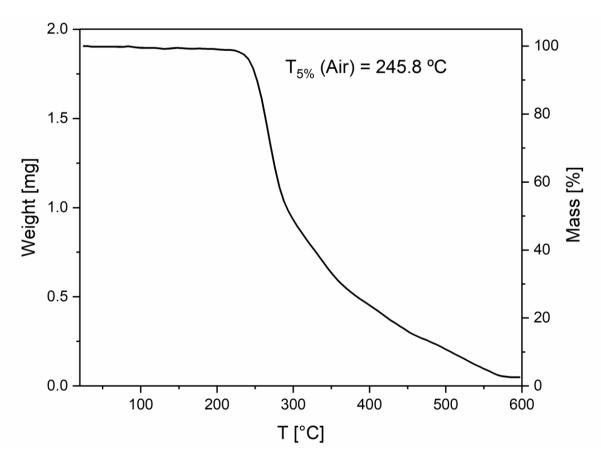


Figure S83 TGA thermogram of poly(BED-alt-PA).

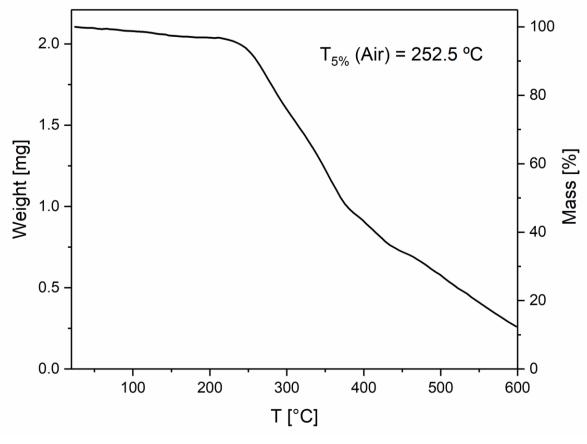


Figure S84 TGA thermogram of poly(BET-alt-PA).

References

- 1. https://www.isobionics.com/index.html
- 2. Whiteoak, C. J.; Martin, E.; Martínez Belmonte, M.; Benet-Buchholz, J.; Kleij, A. W. An Efficient Iron Catalyst for the Synthesis of Five- and Six-membered Organic Carbonates under Mild Conditions. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2012**, 354, 469–476.
- 3. Whiteoak, C. J.; Kielland, N.; Laserna, V.; Castro-Gómez, F.; Martín, E.; Escudero-Galán, E. C.; Bo, C.; Kleij, A. W. Highly Active Aluminium Catalysts for the Formation of Organic Carbonates from CO₂ and Oxiranes. *Chem. Eur. J.* **2014**, *20*, 2264–2275.