Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

Synthesis and aggregation behaviour of single-chain, 1,32-alkyl-branched bis(phosphocholines) – Part 2: lateral chain length triggers self-assembling from sheets to fibres to vesicles

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1. Synthetic aspects

Table S1. Reagents and conditions for the selective Grignard mono-coupling reactions performed in this work.^a

Entry	Lateral alkyl chain	Educt 1 (Grignard reagent)	Yield ^b (%) of Grignard reagent	Educt 2 (coupling reagent)	Ratio Ed1 : Ed2	Cat. (1/60 mol%) ^c	Temp. of coupling reaction ^d	Product	Yield ^e (%)
1	<i>n</i> -C8	6a (39.48 mmol)	>98	6 (37.60 mmol)	1.05 : 1	Li ₂ CuCl ₄	$-70 \ ^{\circ}\text{C}$ $\rightarrow \text{r.t.}$	8a	78
2	<i>n</i> -C12	6b (22.50 mmol)	>98	6 (25.17 mmol)	1:1.12	Li ₂ CuCl ₄	$-70 \ ^{\circ}\text{C}$ $\rightarrow \text{r.t.}$	8b	76
3	<i>n</i> -C15	6c (34.33 mmol)	94	6 (37.76 mmol)	1:1.10	Li ₂ CuCl ₄	$-70 \ ^{\circ}\text{C}$ $\rightarrow \text{r.t.}$	8c	77

^a All reactions were performed in THF.

^b Yields determined by weighing the Mg left after Grignard formation.

^c 1/60 mol% of Cu-catalyst with respect to the molar amount of Grignard reactions.

^d The formation of the Grignard reagent (RMgBr) was carried out at 50 $^{\circ}$ C, whereas the subsequently performed coupling reaction was done at the temperature mentioned in the table (r.t. = room temperature).

^e Isolated yields after chromatography.

2. DSC measurements



Figure S1. DSC heating (red lines) and cooling (blue lines) curves of aqueous suspensions of bolalipids **PC-C32(1,32Cm)-PC** with m = 4 (top left), 5 (top right), 7 (middle left), 8 (middle right), 12 (bottom left), and 15 (bottom right).

Table S2. Data taken from DSC measurements of aqueous suspensions of **PC-C32(1,32Cm)**-**PC**. Data for m = 3, 6, and 9, respectively, are shown for comparison.¹ Data analysis was performed using Origin 8.0 software.

		Enthalny	Transition	(°C)		FWHM	I eft half	Right half
Bolalipid	Peak	$(\Delta H / \text{kJ mol}^{-1})$	Begin	End	Maximum	(K)	width (K)	width (K)
C3	1	94.6	57.4	67.2	63.8	0.6	0.4	0.2
C4	1	89.5	47.2	52.3	50.8	1.0	0.6	0.4
C5	1	5.0	14.9	25.5	22.5	4.1	2.5	1.6
	2	4.7	27.3	31.5	29.0	2.0	0.8	1.2
	3	-7.4	31.5	38.5	33.8	3.3	1.1	2.2
	4	13.7	38.5	47.3	40.6	2.8	1.1	1.7
C6	1	44.8	16.2	22.9	20.7	1.0	0.6	0.4
C7	1	7.5	20.9	30.4	27.4	5.1	3.6	1.5
	2	1.5	30.8	35.6	32.3	2.6	1.0	1.6
C8	1	7.0	15.7	21.8	20.1	2.1	1.1	1.0
	2	17.5	21.8	26.6	25.1	1.5	1.0	0.5
С9	1	27.2	16.7	23.3	20.6	2.0	0.9	1.1
C12	1	27.3	22.8	51.9	37.2	4.8	3.4	1.4
	2	1.6	63.7	73.8	68.9	5.9	3.0	2.9
C15	1	24.5	30.5	52.8	42.7	9.8	4.9	4.9
	2	2.4	62.8	71.3	67.9	3.8	2.7	1.1

FWHM = full width at half maximum

3. TEM



Figure S2. TEM image of an aqueous suspension of **PC-C32(1,32C7)-PC** ($c = 0.05 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$). Sample was prepared at T = 22 °C and stained with uranyl acetate before drying.



Figure S3. TEM image of an aqueous suspension of **PC-C32(1,32C8)-PC** ($c = 0.05 \text{ mg mL}^{-1}$). Samples was prepared at about 50 °C and stained with uranyl acetate before drying.

4. Synthesis of compounds 3a-c, 4a-f, 5a-f, and 10a-f

General procedure for the synthesis of alkane-1,5-diols 3. For the reduction of the lactones, lithium aluminium hydride (1.1 equiv.) was suspended in dry diethyl ether (200 mL) in a 1 L-round-bottomed flask under argon atmosphere. The suspension was cooled to -10 °C and stirred for 1 h. The corresponding lactone 2 (1 equiv.), dissolved in dry Et₂O (50 mL), was added slowly. The ice bath was removed, and the mixture was stirred for 20h at room temperature. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was hydrolysed with ice and acidified using sulphuric acid (30%, 40 mL). The layers were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether (200 mL). The combined ethereal phases were washed with brine (300 mL), dried over sodium sulphate, and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography with the use of heptane/chloroform (2/8, v/v) as eluent yielding the diol **3** as a white solid or colourless oil.

(5*RS*)-Nonane-1,5-diol (3a).² Following the general procedure, 2a (12.50 g, 80.02 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (3.35 g, 88.02 mmol) gave 3a (11.17 g, 87%) as colourless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3 H, CH₃), 1.19–1.65 (m, 12 H, CH₂), 2.33 (s, 2 H, 2× OH), 3.51–3.65 (m, 3 H, CHOH, CH₂OH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.03 (CH₃), 21.77 (CH₂(CH₂)₂OH), 22.72 (CH₃CH₂), 27.83 (CH₃CH₂CH₂), 32.53 (CH₂CH₂OH), 36.91 (CH₂(CH₂)₃OH), 37.21 (CH₃(CH₂)₂CH₂), 62.61 (CH₂OH), 71.77 (CHOH); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 183.48 (M + Na). Analytical data are in accordance with data published previously.²

(5*RS*)-Decane-1,5-diol (3b).² Following the general procedure, 2b (12.20 g, 71.66 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (3.12 g, 82.11 mmol) gave 3b (11.39 g, 92%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.85-0.93 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.23–1.67 (m, 14 H, CH₂), 3.57–3.64 (m, 1 H, CHOH), 3.66 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, CH₂OH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.01 (CH₃), 21.81 (CH₂(CH₂)₂OH), 22.61 (CH₃CH₂), 25.31 (CH₃(CH₂)₂CH₂), 31.86 and 32.60 (CH₃CH₂CH₂ and CH₂CH₂OH), 37.00 and 37.50 (CH₂(CHOH)CH₂), 62.81 (CH₂OH), 71.88 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 157.1 (M – H₂O + H), 175.1 (M + H). Analytical data are in accordance with data published previously.²

(5*RS*)-Dodecane-1,12-diol (3c).² Following the general procedure, 2c (15.70 g, 79.17 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (3.40 g, 89.47 mmol) gave 3c (14.40 g, 90%) as a white solid. M.p. 36–38 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.85–0.91 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.20–1.66 (m, 18 H, CH₂), 3.58–3.63 (m, 1 H, CHOH), 3.66 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H, CH₂OH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.06 (CH₃), 21.82 (CH₂(CH₂)₂OH), 22.63 (CH₃CH₂), 25.64 (CH₃(CH₂)₄CH₂), 29.26 and 29.63 (CH₃(CH₂)₂CH₂CH₂), 31.80 (CH₃CH₂CH₂), 32.65 (CH₂CH₂OH), 37.03 and 37.54 (CH₂(CHOH)CH₂), 62.85 (CH₂OH), 71.88 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m/z* 185.2 (M – H₂O + H), 203.2 (M + H). Analytical data are in accordance with data described previously.²

General procedure for the synthesis of bromoalkanols 4a-c via Appel-reaction. The diol 3 (1 equiv.) was placed in a 250 mL-round-bottomed flask and dry CH_2Cl_2 (150 mL) was added and cooled to 10 °C. Triphenylphosphane (1.1 equiv.) and tetrabromomethane (1.1 equiv.) were added in one portion and the colourless solution was stirred for 20h at 10 °C. Afterwards, silica gel (amount of the total weight) was added and the solvent was evaporated. The adsorbed crude product was purified by column chromatography using heptane/diethyl ether (8/2, v/v) as eluent.

(5*RS*)-1-Bromononan-5-ol (4a). Following the general procedure, 3a (11.17 g, 69.70 mmol), triphenylphosphane (20.11 g, 76.67 mmol) and tetrabromomethane (25.43 g, 76.67 mmol) gave 4a as colourless oil (8.16 g, 53%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.62–0.94 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.10–1.69 (m, 10 H, CH₂), 1.74–2.02 (m, 2 H, CH₂CH₂Br), 3.29–3.43 (m, 2 H, CH₂Br), 3.51–3.62 (m, 1 H, CH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.03 (CH₃), 22.70 (CH₂CH₃), 24.30 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 27.78 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 32.76 (CH₂CH₂Br), 33.71 (CH₂Br), 36.40 and 37.17 (CH₂(CHOH)CH₂), 71.72 (CH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 205.0 (M – H₂O + H, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 207.0 (M – H₂O + H, ⁸¹Br isotope).

(5*RS*)-1-Bromodecan-5-ol (4b). Following the general procedure, 3b (11.39 g, 65.36 mmol), triphenylphosphane (18.87 g, 71.89 mmol) and tetrabromomethane (23.87 g, 71.89 mmol) gave 4b (9.97 g, 65%) as colourless oil. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.82–0.93 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.21–1.68 (m, 12 H, CH₂), 1.80–1.97 (m, 2 H, CH₂CH₂Br), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, CH₂Br), 3.55–3.65 (m, 1 H, CH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.01 (CH₃), 22.61 (CH₂CH₃), 24.31 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.28 (CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃), 31.84 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 32.77 (CH₂CH₂Br), 33.71 (CH₂Br), 36.43 (CH₂(CH₂)₃CH₃), 37.49 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br), 71.70 (CH); APCI-MS *m/z* 219.1 (M – H₂O + H, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 221.1 (M – H₂O + H, ⁸¹Br isotope).

(5*RS*)-1-Bromododecan-5-ol (4c). Following the general procedure, 3c (14.40 g, 71.17 mmol), triphenylphosphane (20.55 g, 78.29 mmol) and tetrabromomethane (26.94 g, 78.29 mmol) gave 4c (10.87 g, 58%) as colourless oil. $C_{12}H_{25}BrO$ requires C, 54.34; H, 9.50; found: C, 53.94; H, 9.02; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.82–0.92 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.20–1.67 (m, 16 H, CH₂), 1.80–1.97 (m, 2 H, CH₂CH₂Br), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, CH₂Br), 3.55–3.65 (m, 1 H, CH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.01 (CH₃), 22.62 (CH₂CH₃), 24.31 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.61 (CH₂(CH₂)₄CH₃), 29.25 (CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃), 29.61 (CH₂(CH₂)₃CH₃), 31.79 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 32.77 (CH₂CH₂Br), 33.71 (CH₂Br), 36.41 (CH₂(CH₂)₅CH₃), 37.51 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br), 71.73 (CH); APCI-MS *m*/z 247.2 (M – H₂O + H, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 249.2 (M – H₂O + H, ⁸¹Br isotope).

General procedure for the synthesis of 1-bromoalkan-5-ols 4d-f via reduction. For the reduction of the bromoketones 8, lithium aluminium hydride (0.4 equiv.) was suspended in dry diethyl ether (100 mL) in a 500 mL-round-bottomed flask under argon atmosphere. The suspension was cooled to -10 °C and stirred for 1 h. The corresponding bromoketone 8 (1 equiv.), dissolved in dry diethyl ether (150 mL), was added slowly. The mixture was stirred for 20h at -10 °C. Afterwards, the reaction mixture was hydrolysed with ice and acidified using sulphuric acid (30%, 40 mL). The layers were separated, and the aqueous phase was extracted three times with diethyl ether (200 mL). The combined ethereal phases were washed with brine (300 ml), dried over sodium sulphate and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography with the use of heptane/diethyl ether (92/8, v/v) as eluent yielding the bromoalkanols 4d-f as a white solid or colourless oil.

(5*RS*)-1-Bromotridecan-5-ol (4d). Following the general procedure, 8a (8.10 g, 29.22 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (0.47 g, 12.37 mmol) gave 4d (4.57 g, 57%) as a colourless oil. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.21–1.71 (m, 18 H, C*H*₂), 1.81–1.95 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂CH₂Br), 3.41 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.55–3.64 (m, 1 H, C*H*); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.07 (*C*H₃), 22.64 (*C*H₂CH₃), 24.31 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.61 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₅CH₃), 29.24, 29.55 and 29.65 (*C*H₂), 31.85 (*C*H₂CH₂CH₃), 32.77 (*C*H₂CH₂Br), 33.70 (*C*H₂Br), 36.43 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₆CH₃), 37.53 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₃Br), 71.69 (*C*H); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 261.1 (M – H₂O + H, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 263.1 (M – H₂O + H, ⁸¹Br isotope).

(5RS)-1-Bromoheptadecan-5-ol (4e). Following the general procedure, 8b (5.69g, 17.07 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (0.26 g, 6.83 mmol) gave **4e** (4.59 g, 81%) as white solid. M.p. 45–46 °C; C₁₇H₃₅BrO requires C, 60.88; H, 10.52; found: C, 60.95; H, 10.42; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ0.84–0.92 (m, 3 H, CH₃), 1.23–1.67 (m, 26 H, CH₂), 1.82–1.95 (m, 2 H, CH₂CH₂Br), 3.42 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, CH₂Br), 3.56–3.65 (m, 1 H, CH); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) *δ*14.09 (CH₃), 22.67 (CH₂CH₃), 24.31 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.61 (CH₂(CH₂)₉CH₃), 29.34, 29.58, 29.59, 29.62, 29.63 and 29.65 $(CH_2CH_2CH_3),$ 32.77 (*C*H₂CH₂Br), 33.71 (*C*H₂), 31.90 $(CH_2Br),$ 36.43 (CH₂(CH₂)₁₀CH₃), 37.54 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br), 71.70 (CH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 255.7 (M – HBr + H).

(5*RS*)-1-Bromoicosan-5-ol (4f). Following the general procedure, 8c (9.9 g, 26.40 mmol) and lithium aluminium hydride (0.43 g, 11.32 mmol) gave 4f (6.94 g, 70%) as white solid. M.p. 57–58 °C; C₂₀H₄₁BrO requires C, 63.64; H, 10.95; found: C, 63.49; H, 11.03; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3 H, *CH*₃), 1.21–1.68 (m, 32 H, *CH*₂), 1.82–1.95 (m, 2 H, *CH*₂CH₂Br), 3.42 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2 H, *CH*₂Br), 3.57–3.64 (m, 1 H, *CH*); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.09 (*C*H₃), 22.67 (*C*H₂CH₃), 24.31 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.61 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₁₂CH₃), 29.34, 29.58, 29.60, 29.64, 29.65 and 29.67 (*C*H₂), 31.90 (*C*H₂CH₂CH₃), 32.78 (*C*H₂CH₂Br), 33.70 (*C*H₂Br), 36.44 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₁₃CH₃), 37.54 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₃Br), 71.70 (*C*H); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 359.3 (M – H₂O + H, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 361.3 (M – H₂O + H, ⁸¹Br isotope), 295.3 (M – HBr + H).

General procedure for the synthesis of THP-protected 1-bromoalkan-5-ols 5. The bromoalkanols 4a-f (1 equiv.) were dissolved in dry di-chloromethane (150 mL) at room temperature. 3,4-Dihydro-2*H*-pyran (DHP; 1.8 equiv.) and pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate (PPTS; 10 mol%) were added and the mixture was stirred for 20 h. Afterwards, the organic solution was washed with water (150 mL), dried over sodium sulphate and concentrated to dryness under reduced pressure. The crude oil was purified by column chromatography using heptane/triethylamine/diethyl ether (98.5/0.5/1, v/v/v) as eluent yielding the THP-protected bromoalkanols **5a-f**.

2-{[(1*RS***)-5-Bromo-1-butylpentyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5a). Following the general procedure, 4a** (8.16 g, 36.57 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (5.55 g, 65.98 mmol) gave **5a** (9.22 g, 82%) as a colourless oil. $C_{14}H_{27}BrO_2$ requires C, 54.72; H, 8.86; found: C, 54.25; H, 8.66; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.76–0.90 (m, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.14–1.72 (m, 16 H, C*H*₂), 1.72–1.90 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂CH₂Br), 3.32–3.49 (m, 3 H, C*H*₂Br and OCHOCH*H*), 3.51–3.97 (m, 2 H, C*H*Othp and OCHOC*H*H), 4.55–4.63 (m, 1 H, OC*H*O); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.03 (CH₃), 19.91 and 20.05 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.81 and 22.88 (CH₂CH₃), 23.57, 24.17, 25.50 and 25.51 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 27.24 and 27.73 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 31.17, 31.20, 32.47, 32.93, 32.94, 33.22, 33.58, 33.59, 33.68, 33.69, 34.03 and 34.63 (CH₂), 62.61 and 62.83 (OCHOCH₂), 76.33 and 76.36 (CHOthp), 97.57 and 97.70 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 329.77 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 331.46 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

2-{[(1*RS***)-1-(4-Brombutyl)hexyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5b). Following the general procedure, 4b** (9.77 g, 41.19 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (6.30 g, 74.89 mmol) gave **5b** (11.51 g, 87%) as a colourless oil. C₁₅H₂₉BrO₂ requires C, 56.07; H, 9.10; found: C, 55.57; H, 9.12; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.20–1.95 (m, 20 H, C*H*₂), 3.37–3.44 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.45–3.52 (m, 1 H, C*H*Othp), 3.55–3.66 (m, 1 H, OCHOCH*H*), 3.85–3.96 (m, 1 H, OCHOC*H*H), 4.59–4.68 (m, 1 H, OCHO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.01 and 14.06 (CH₃), 19.93 and 20.10 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.61 (CH₂CH₃), 23.62 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 24.23, 24.71, 25.26, 25.51 and 25.53 (CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃ and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 31.19 and 31.23 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 32.01, 32.05, 32.51, 32.96, 32.97, 33.51, 33.75 and 33.85 (CH₂), 34.07 and 34.94 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br and CH₂(CH₂)₃CH₃), 62.69 and 62.94 (OCHOCH₂), 76.43 and 76.49 (CHOthp), 97.64 and 97.77 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 343.38 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 345.34 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

2-{[(1*RS***)-1-(4-Brombutyl)octyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5c). Following the general procedure, 4c** (10.66 g, 40.19 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (6.10 g, 72.52 mmol) gave **5c** (12.88 g, 92%) as a colourless oil. $C_{17}H_{33}BrO_2$ requires C, 58.45; H, 9.52; found: C, 57.86; H, 9.74; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.24–1.94 (m, 24 H, C*H*₂), 3.38–3.44 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.45–3.52 (m, 1 H, C*H*Othp), 3.55–3.66 (m, 1 H, OCHOCH*H*), 3.85–3.95 (m, 1 H, OCHOC*H*H), 4.59–4.67 (m, 1 H, OCHO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.07 (CH₃), 19.93 and 20.09 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.63 (CH₂CH₃), 23.62 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 24.22, 25.05, 25.51 and 25.60 (CH₂(CH₂)₄CH₃ and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 31.19 and 31.23 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 31.80, 31.85, 32.51, 32.96, 32.97, 33.56, 33.74 and 33.84 (CH₂), 34.07 and 34.98

 $(CH_2(CH_2)_3Br \text{ and } CH_2(CH_2)_5CH_3)$, 62.69 and 62.93 (OCHOCH₂), 76.42 and 76.48 (CHOthp), 97.64 and 97.77 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 371.70 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 373.56 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

2-{[(1*RS***)-1-(4-Brombutyl)nonyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5d). Following the general procedure, 4d** (4.04 g, 14.47 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (2.19 g, 26.04 mmol) gave **5d** (5.22 g, 99%) as a colourless oil. $C_{18}H_{35}BrO_2$ requires C, 59.50; H, 9.71; found: C, 59.29; H, 9.74; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.20–1.94 (m, 26 H, C*H*₂), 3.37–3.43 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.45–3.52 (m, 1 H, C*H*Othp), 3.56–3.65 (m, 1 H, OCHOCH*H*), 3.85–3.97 (m, 1 H, OCHOC*H*H), 4.59–4.67 (m, 1 H, OCHO); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.08 (CH₃), 19.93 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.65 (CH₂CH₃), 23.62 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.53 and 25.59 (CH₂(CH₂)₅CH₃ and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 29.29, 29.55, 29.80, 31.19 and 31.87 (CH₂), 32.51 and 32.96 (CH₂CH₂Br and CH₂Br), 33.73 and 34.98 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br and CH₂(CH₂)₆CH₃), 62.69 (OCHOCH₂), 76.47 (CHOthp), 97.63 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 385.63 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 387.49 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

2-{[(1*RS***)-1-(4-Brombutyl)tridecyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5e). Following the general procedure, 4e** (4.16 g, 12.41 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (2.11 g, 25.08 mmol) gave **5e** (4.82 g, 93%) as a colourless oil. C₂₂H₄₃BrO₂ requires C, 62.99; H, 10.33; found: C, 62.36; H, 10.41; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.85–0.91 (m, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.21–1.76 (m, 32 H, C*H*₂), 1.77–1.96 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂CH₂Br), 3.36–3.44 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.44–3.52 (m, 1 H, C*H*Othp), 3.55–3.66 (m, 1 H, OCHOCH*H*), 3.85–3.96 (m, 1 H, OCHOC*H*H), 4.59–4.67 (m, 1 H, OCHO); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.08 (*C*H₃), 19.93 and 20.10 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.66 (*C*H₂CH₃), 23.62 and 24.22 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₂Br), 25.05, 25.52 and 25.59 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₉CH₃ and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 29.33, 29.58, 29.60, 29.63, 29.65, 29.66, 29.80, 29.85, 31.19 and 31.23 (*C*H₂), 31.90 (*C*H₂CH₂CH₃), 32.96 and 32.97 (*C*H₂CH₂Br), 33.56 (*C*H₂Br), 33.72, 33.82, 34.07 and 34.98 (*C*H₂(CH₂)₃Br and *C*H₂(CH₂)₁₀CH₃), 62.68 and 62.93 (OCHOCH₂), 76.43 and 76.47 (*C*HOthp), 97.62 and 97.77 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m/z* 441.80 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 443.62 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

2-{[(1*RS***)-1-(4-Brombutyl)hexadecyl]oxy}tetrahydro-2***H***-pyran (5f). Following the general procedure, 4f** (6.94 g, 18.39 mmol) and 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran (2.80 g, 33.29 mmol) gave **5f** (6.96 g, 82%) as a colourless oil. $C_{25}H_{49}BrO_2$ requires C, 65.06; H, 10.70; found: C, 64.71; H, 10.57; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.84–0.92 (m, 3 H, C*H*₃), 1.23–1.93 (m, 40 H, C*H*₂), 3.36–3.44 (m, 2 H, C*H*₂Br), 3.44–3.52 (m, 1 H, C*H*Othp), 3.55–3.66 (m, 1 H, OCHOCH*H*), 3.85–3.95 (m, 1 H, OCHOC*H*H), 4.59–4.67 (m, 1 H, OC*HO*); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 14.08 (CH₃), 19.93 and 20.10 (OCHO(CH₂)₂CH₂), 22.67 (CH₂CH₃), 23.62 (CH₂(CH₂)₂Br), 24.22, 25.05, 25.52 and 25.59 (CH₂(CH₂)₁₂CH₃ and OCHOCH₂CH₂), 29.34, 29.59, 29.60, 29.64, 29.66, 29.68, 29.80, 31.19 and 31.23 (CH₂), 31.90 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 32.51, 32.96 and 32.97 (CH₂CH₂Br and CH₂Br), 34.07 and 34.98 (CH₂(CH₂)₃Br and CH₂(CH₂)₁₃CH₃), 62.67 and 62.69 (OCHOCH₂), 76.42 (CHOthp), 97.61 and 97.76 (OCHO); ESI-MS *m*/*z* 484.83 (M + Na, ⁷⁹Br isotope), 486.17 (M + Na, ⁸¹Br isotope).

General procedure for the synthesis of alkyl-branched diols 10. The bis-THP-ether 9a-f and catalytic amounts of pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate were suspended in dry methanol (150 mL) and the mixture was heated under reflux for at least 3h until a white precipitate appeared and no educt is detectable via TLC. The hot suspension was filtered off giving the diols 10a-f as white solids.

(5*RS*, 36*RS*)-Tetracontane-5,36-diol (10a). Following the general procedure, 9a (1.50 g, 1.97 mmol) gave 10a (1.14 g, 97%) as white solid. M.p. 109–110 °C; C₄₀H₈₂O₂ requires C, 80.73; H, 13.89; found: C, 80.05; H, 14.20; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 0.91 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.13–1.80 (m, 72 H, CH₂), 3.40–3.76 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 13.90 (CH₃), 22.68 (CH₂CH₃), 25.58 (CH₂CH₂CHOH(CH₂)₃CH₃), 27.78 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 29.53, 29.55, 29.57, 29.59, 29.61 and 29.64 (CH₂), 37.17 (CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃), 37.50 (CH₂CHOH(CH₂)₃CH₃), 71.96 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 559.9 (M – 2× H₂O + H), 595.9 (M + H).

(6*RS*, 37*RS*)-Dotetracontane-6,37-diol (10b). Following the general procedure, 9b (2.71 g, 3.43 mmol) gave 10b (2.08 g, 98%) as white solid. M.p. 109–111 °C; $C_{42}H_{86}O_2$ requires C, 80.95; H, 13.91; found: C, 80.60; H, 14.17; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.25–1.47 (m, 76 H, CH₂), 3.48–3.64 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 13.87 (CH₃), 22.54 (CH₂CH₃), 25.23 (CH₂CH₂CHOH(CH₂)₄CH₃), 25.58 (CH₂(CH₂)₂CH₃), 29.55, 29.61 and 29.65 (CH₂), 31.87 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 37.45 and 37.50 (CH₂CHOHCH₂), 71.99 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 588.2 (M – 2× H₂O + H).

(8*RS*, 39*RS*)-Hexatetracontane-8,39-diol (10c). Following the general procedure, 9c (4.39 g, 5.18 mmol) gave 10c (3.38 g, 97%) as white solid. M.p. 110–112 °C; C₄₆H₉₄O₂ requires C, 81.34; H, 13.95; found: C, 81.08; H, 14.18; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.12–1.64 (m, 84 H, CH₂), 3.54–3.62 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 13.91 (CH₃), 22.55 (CH₂CH₃), 25.58 (CH₂CH₂CHOHCH₂CH₂), 29.20, 29.54, 29.55, 29.58, 29.59, 29.61 and 29.66 (CH₂), 31.76 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 37.49 (CH₂CHOHCH₂), 71.99 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m/z* 644.1 (M – 2× H₂O + H).

(9*RS*,40*RS*)-Octatetracontane-9,40-diol (10d). Following the general procedure, 9d (0.17 g, 0.19 mmol) gave 10d (0.11 g, 82%) as white solid. M.p. 112–113 °C; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.24–1.49 (m, 88 H, CH₂), 3.45–3.72 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 27 °C) δ 13.92 (CH₃), 22.56 (CH₂CH₃), 25.58 (CH₂CH₂CHOHCH₂CH₂), 29.18, 29.51, 29.53, 29.55, 29.61 and 29.65 (CH₂), 31.80 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 37.49 (CH₂CHOHCH₂), 71.98 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 672.2 (M – 2× H₂O + H).

(13RS,44RS)-Hexapentacontane-13,44-diol (10e). Following the general procedure, 9e (0.61g, 0.62 mmol) gave 10e (0.50g, 99%) as white solid. M.p. 114–116 °C; C₅₆H₁₁₄O₂ requires C, 82.07; H, 14.02; found: C, 81.66; H, 13.80; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 0.90 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.18–1.45 (m, 104 H, CH₂), 3.55–3.65 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 13.94 (CH₃), 22.56 (CH₂CH₃), 25.59 (CH₂CH₂CHOHCH₂CH₂), 29.26, 29.56, 29.62 and 29.66 (CH₂), 31.85

(CH₂CH₂CH₃), 37.51 (CH₂CHOHCH₂), 71.99 (CHOH); APCI-MS m/z 784.5 (M – 2× H₂O + H).

(16RS,47RS)-Dohexacontane-16,47-diol (10f). Following the general procedure, but using dry ethanol instead of methanol, 9f (1.00 g, 0.94 mmol) gave 10f (0.68 g, 80%) as white solid. M.p. 116–118 °C; C₆₂H₁₂₆O₂ requires C, 82.41; H, 14.05; found: C, 82.14; H, 14.37; ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 0.89 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 6 H, 2× CH₃), 1.09–1.71 (m, 116 H, CH₂), 3.51–3.61 (m, 2 H, 2× CHOH); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃, 50 °C) δ 13.93 (CH₃), 22.58 (CH₂CH₃), 25.58 (CH₂CH₂CHOHCH₂CH₂), 29.25, 29.54, 29.55, 29.61, 29.65 and 29.79 (CH₂), 31.84 (CH₂CH₂CH₃), 37.50 (CH₂CHOHCH₂), 71.98 (CHOH); APCI-MS *m*/*z* 884.0 (M – H₂O + H), 900.0 (M + H).

5. Characterization of products: MS, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR spectra

Compound **3a** – *ESI-MS* (*positive mode*)



















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Compound $4c - {}^{1}HNMR$



















Compound **4***e* – *APCI-MS* (*positive mode*)










Compound 4f – APCI-MS (positive mode)



















Compound 5b – ESI-MS (positive mode)









Compound 5c – ESI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 5d – ESI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 5e – ESI-MS (positive mode)



































Compound **8b** – *APCI-MS* (*positive mode*)











Compound 8c – APCI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 9a – ESI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 9b – ESI-MS (positive mode)













Compound 9*c* – *ESI-MS* (*positive mode*)








Compound 9d – ESI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 9e – ESI-MS (positive mode)





















Compound 10a – APCI-MS (positive mode)











Compound 10b – APCI-MS (positive mode)











Compound **10***c* – *APCI-MS* (*positive mode*)





Compound $10c - {}^{1}HNMR$

















Compound **10***e* – *APCI-MS* (*positive mode*)





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PC-C32(1,32C4)-PC – ESI-MS (positive mode)



PC-C32(1,32C4)-PC – ESI-MS (negative mode)



PC-C32(1,32C4)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

MT_6b_2 #3-19 RT: 0.03-0.27 AV: 17 NL: 4.63E8 T: FTMS + p NSI Full ms [300.00-2000.00]











PC-C32(1,32C5)-PC – ESI-MS (positive mode)



PC-C32(1,32C5)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

KG-42b-2 #2-15 RT: 0.03-0.40 AV: 14 NL: 2.72E7 F: FTMS + p NSI Full ms






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PC-C32(1,32C7)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

KG-41b-3 #2-15 RT: 0.03-0.42 AV: 14 NL: 1.06E8 F: FTMS + p NSI Full ms











PC-C32(1,32C8)-PC – ESI-MS (positive mode)



PC-C32(1,32C8)-PC – ESI-MS (negative mode)



PC-C32(1,32C8)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

KG-38b-3 #2-15 RT: 0.04-0.41 AV: 14 NL: 4.96E8 F: FTMS + p NSI Full ms











PC-C32(1,32C12)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

KG-33b-3 #2-15 RT: 0.05-0.41 AV: 14 NL: 1.32E7 F: FTMS + p NSI Full ms





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PC-C32(1,32C15)-PC – ESI-MS (positive mode)



PC-C32(1,32C15)-PC – HRMS (positive mode)

MT-3b-2 #2-15 RT: 0.04-0.40 AV: 14 NL: 4.79E6 F: FTMS + p NSI Full ms









6. References

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