

## Supporting information

Synthesis of novel sustainable optical poly(isosorbide thioethers) with high refractive index and good biocompatibility by functional ionic liquid catalysts

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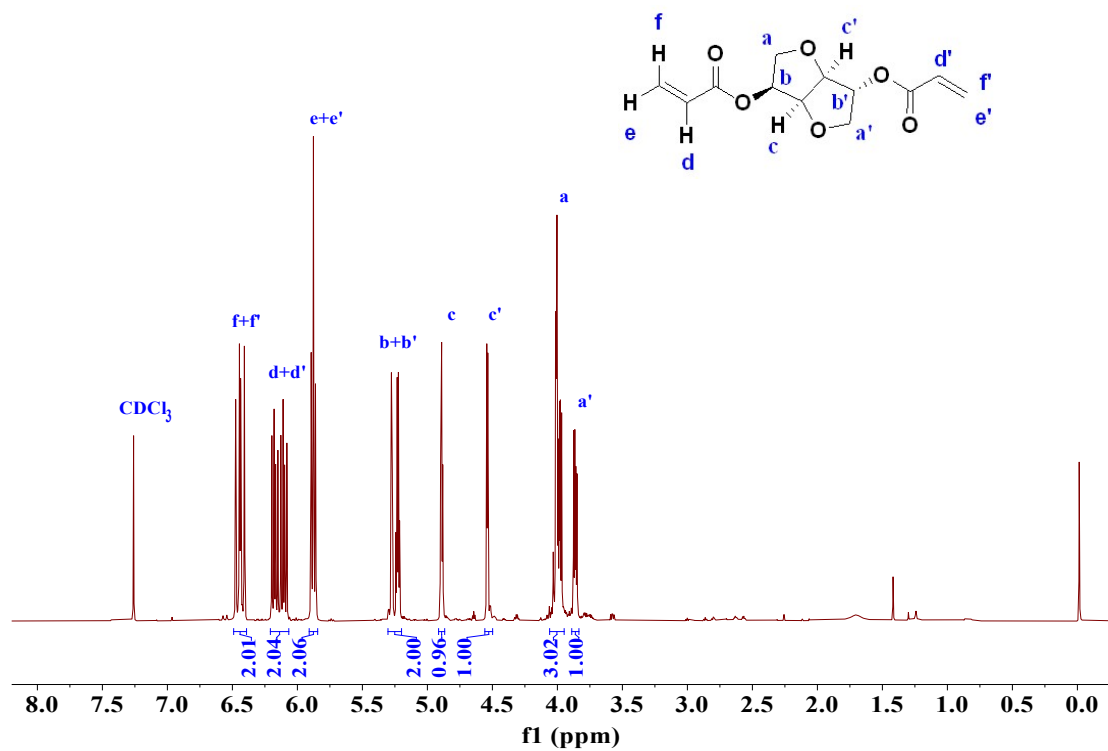


Figure S1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of ISDA ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).

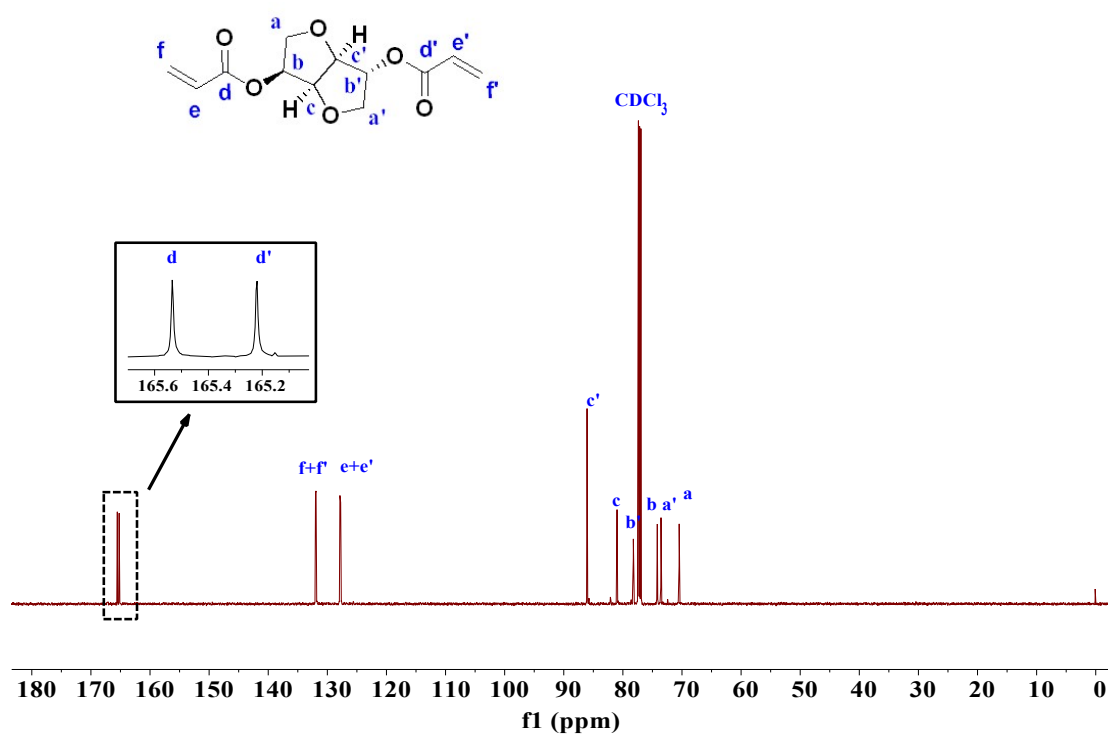
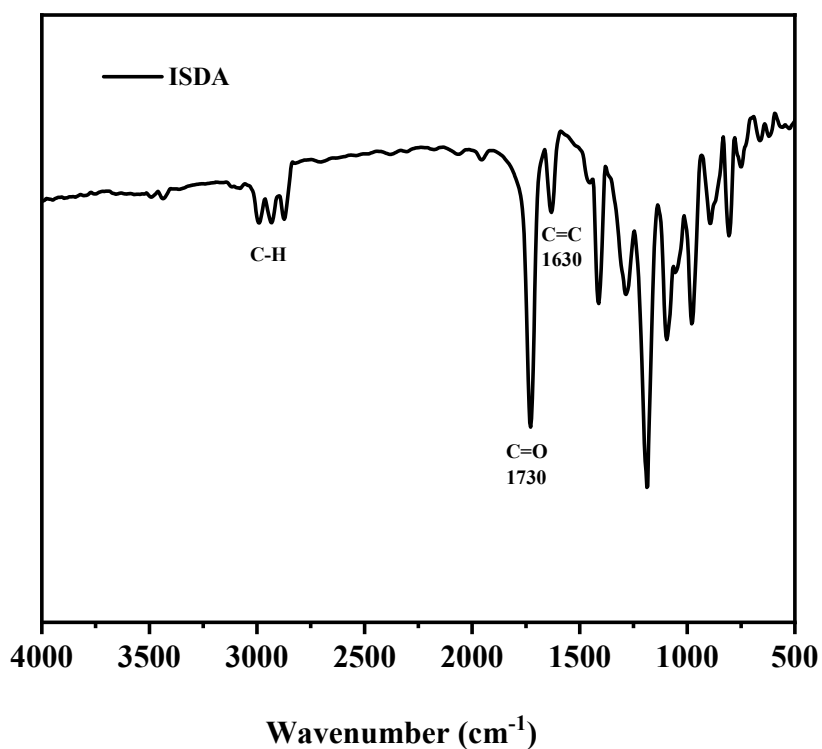


Figure S2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of ISDA ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).



**Figure S3.** FT-IR spectrum of ISDA (KBr).

ISDA: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 6.44 (d, 2H), 6.14 (d, 2H), 5.88 (d, 2H), 5.24 (m, 2H), 4.89 (t, 1H), 4.54 (d, 1H), 4.00 (m, 3H), 3.86 (d, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 165.53, 132.00, 127.75, 86.06, 80.98, 78.23, 74.18, 73.58, 70.50. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2993, 2935, 2873, 1730, 1630, 1415, 1292, 1184, 1095, 976, 890, 806, 748.

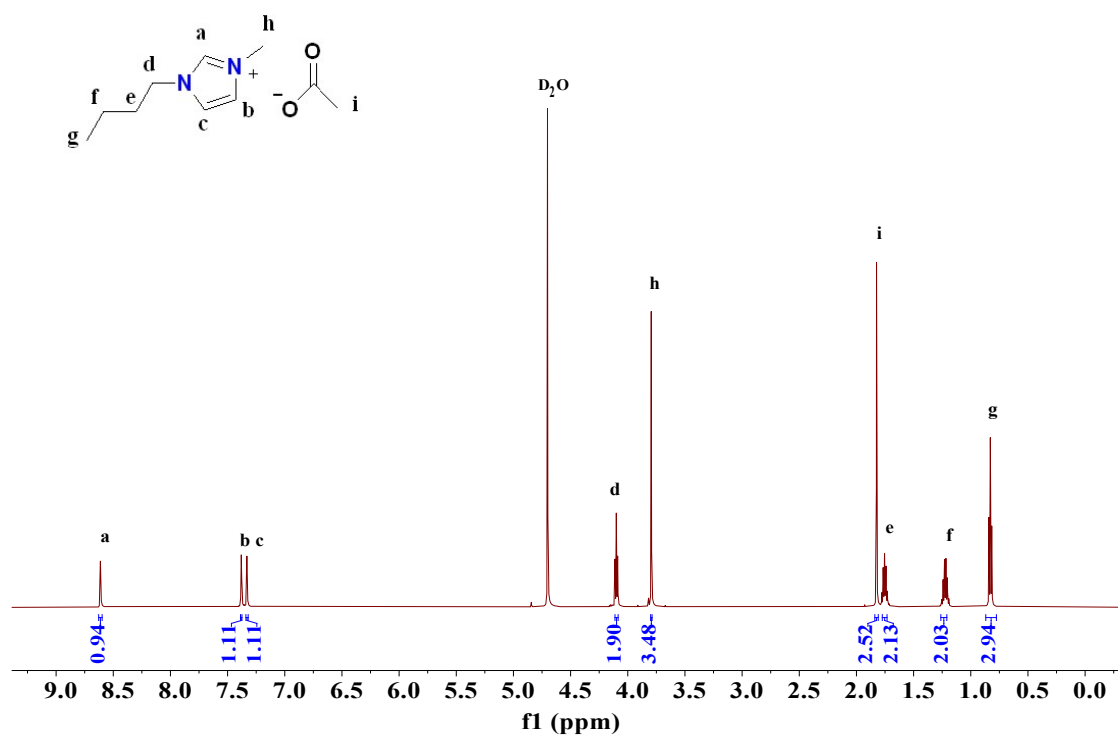


Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Ac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz).

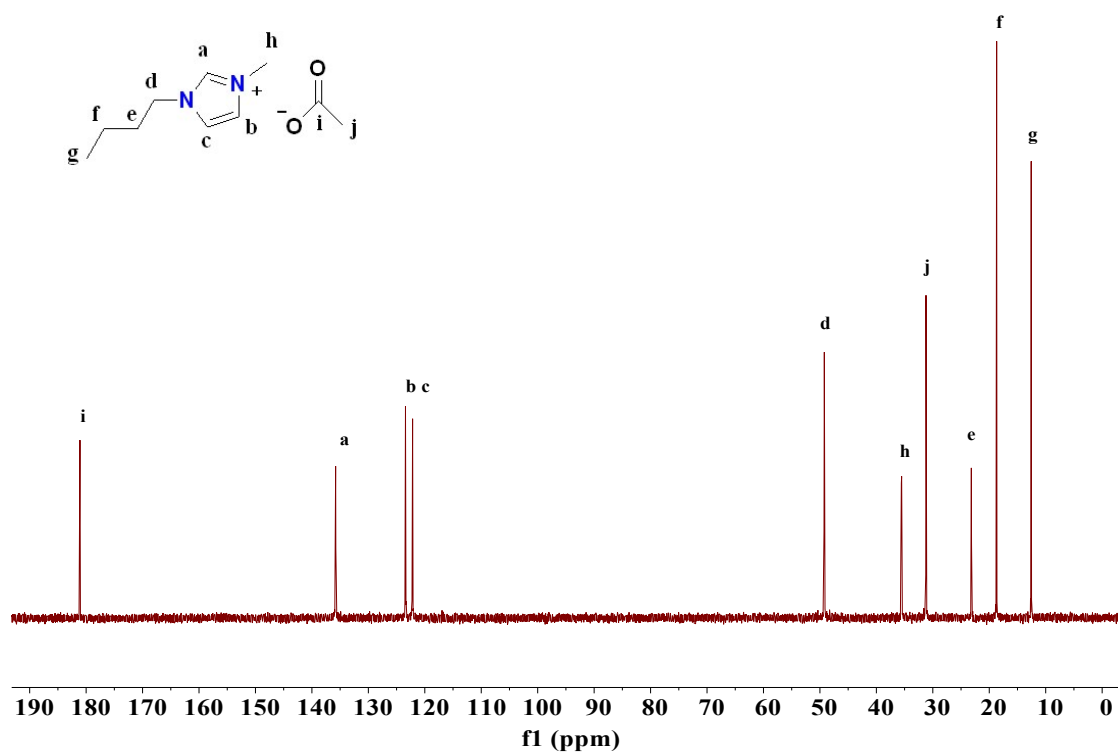
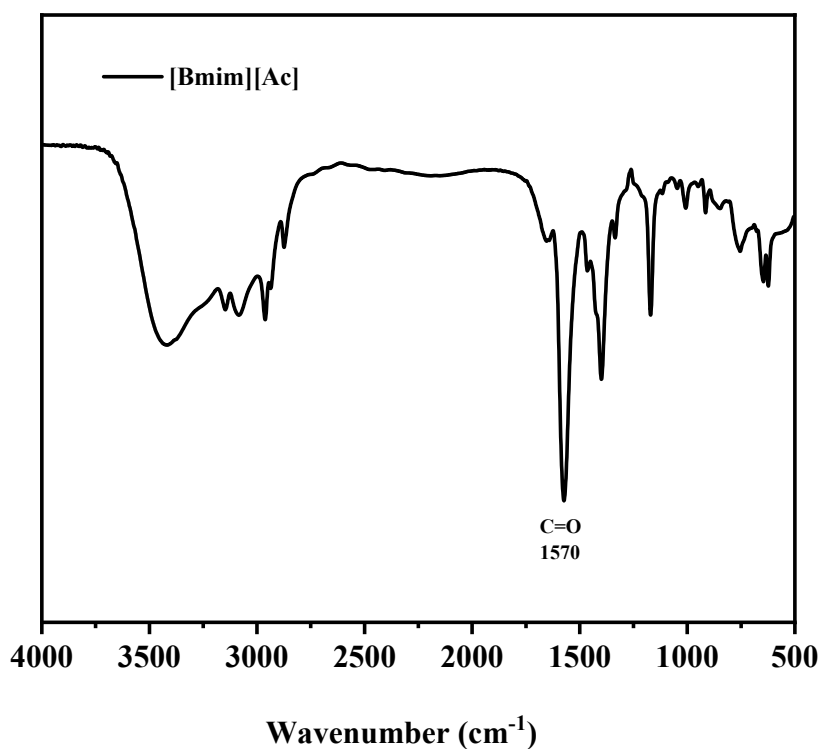


Figure S5. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Ac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 150 MHz).



**Figure S6.** FT-IR spectrum of [Bmim][Ac] (KBr).

[Bmim][Ac]:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.61 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H), 7.33 (d, 1H), 4.09 (d, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.24 (d, 2H), 0.83 (t, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  181.09, 135.80, 123.43, 122.16, 49.19, 35.55, 31.21, 23.16, 18.69, 12.57. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3428, 3150, 3095, 2964, 2870, 1570, 1395, 1170, 1010, 917, 754, 644, 622.

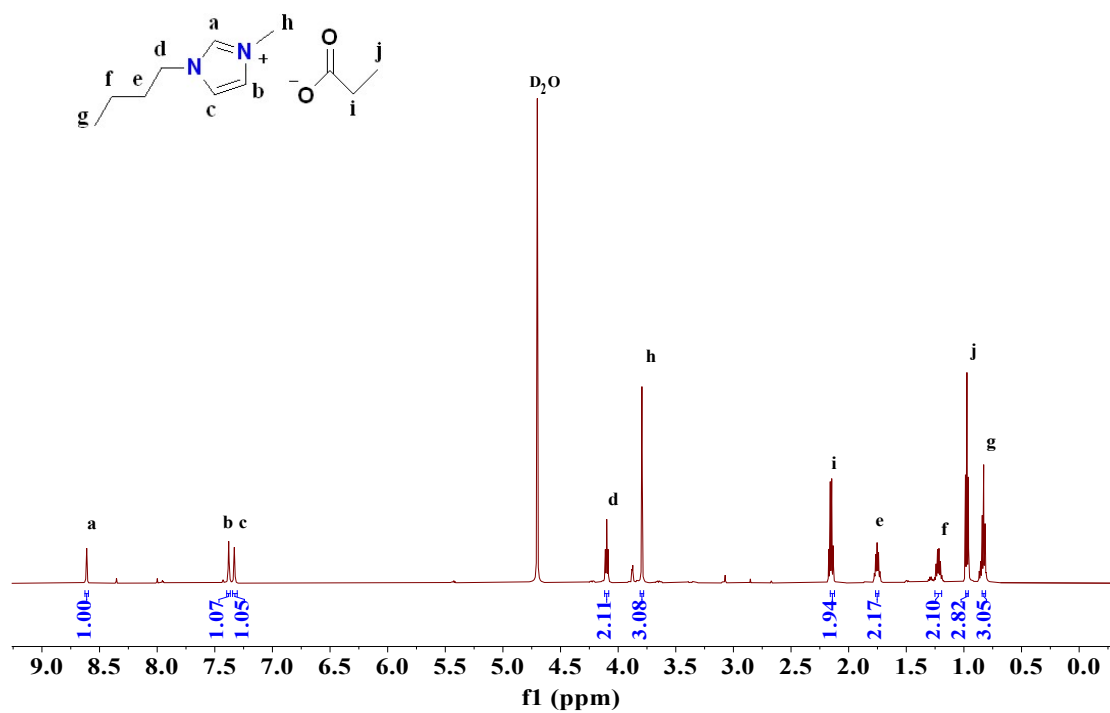


Figure S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Pr] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz).

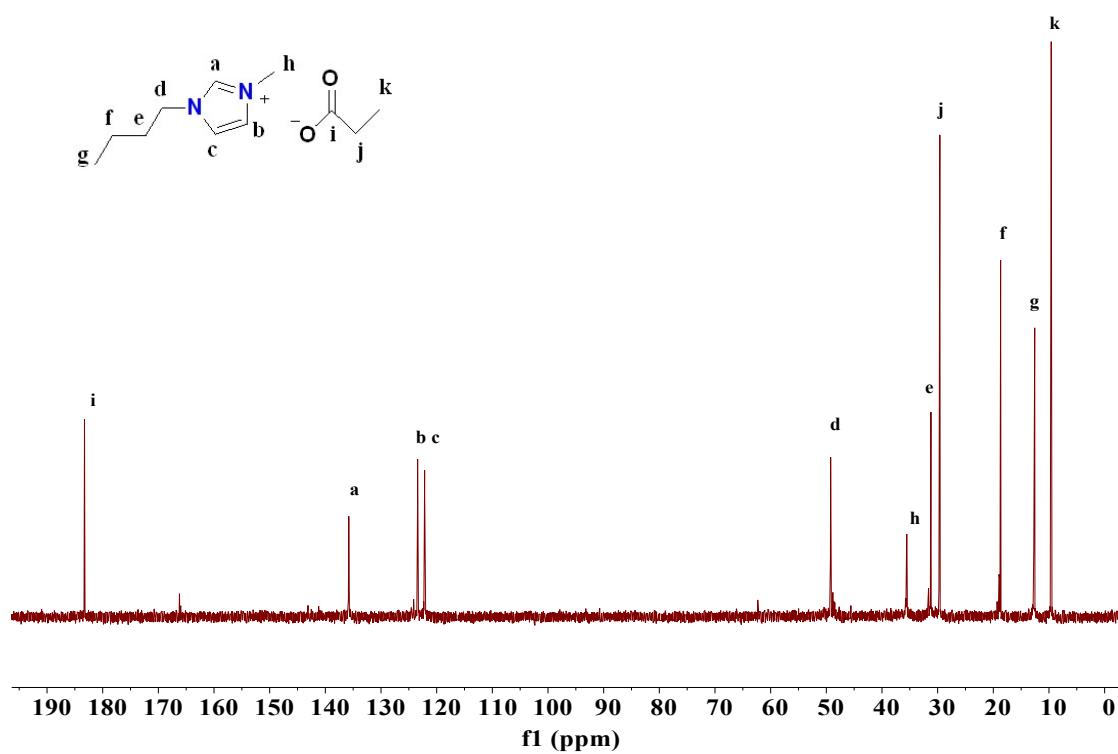
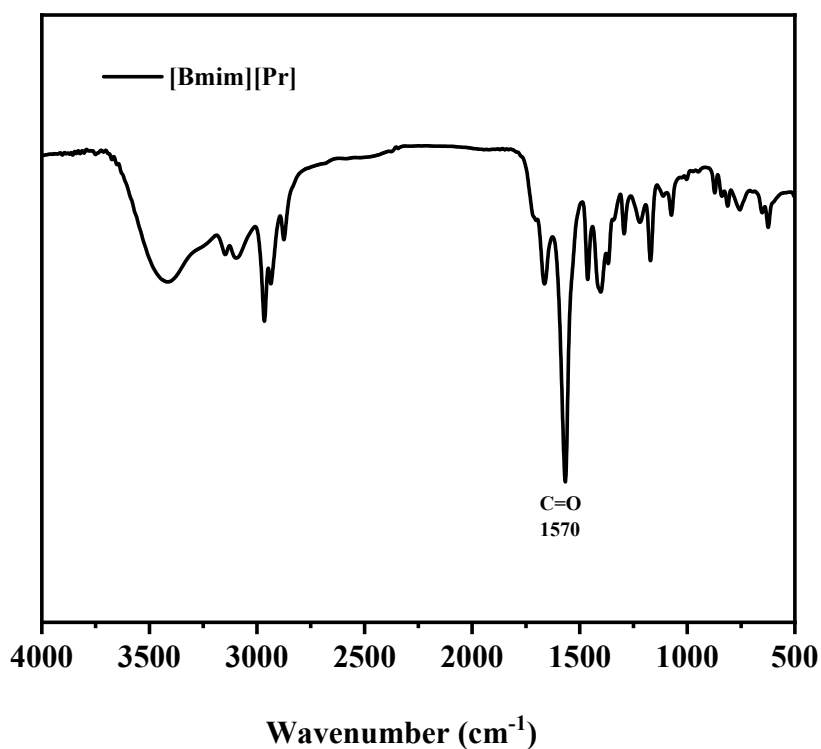


Figure S8. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Pr] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 150 MHz).



**Figure S9.** FT-IR spectrum of [Bmim][Pr] (KBr).

[Bmim][Pr]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 8.61 (s, 1H), 7.38 (t, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 4.10 (t, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.15 (m, 2H), 1.75 (m, 2H), 1.22 (q, 2H), 0.98 (m, 3H), 0.83 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 183.27, 135.79, 123.42, 122.16, 49.20, 35.54, 31.21, 29.61, 18.68, 12.77, 9.60. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3428, 3153, 3091, 2968, 2932, 2874, 1664, 1570, 1460, 1400, 1371, 1290, 1223, 1169, 1071, 874, 813, 756, 620.

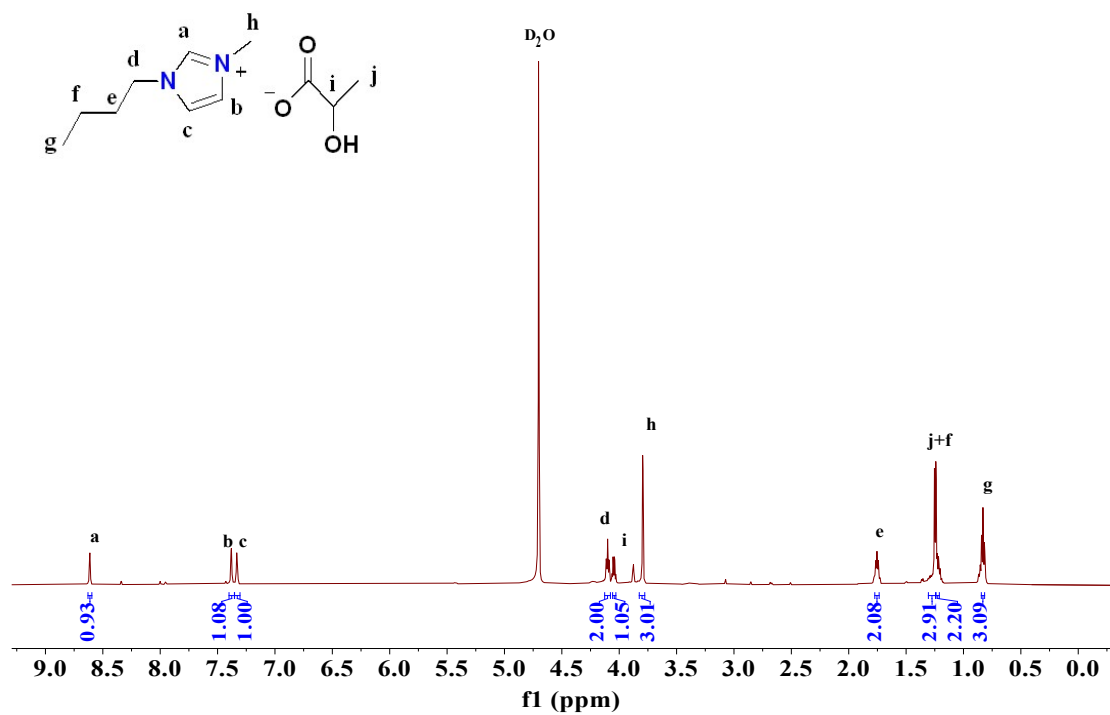


Figure S10. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Lac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz).

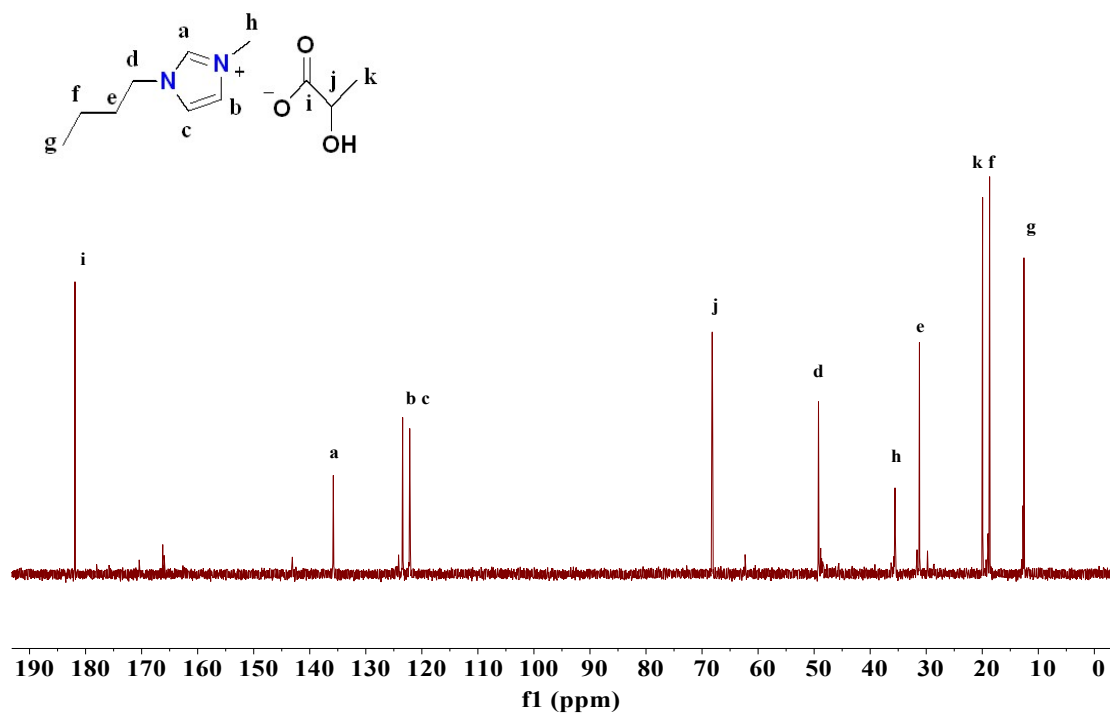
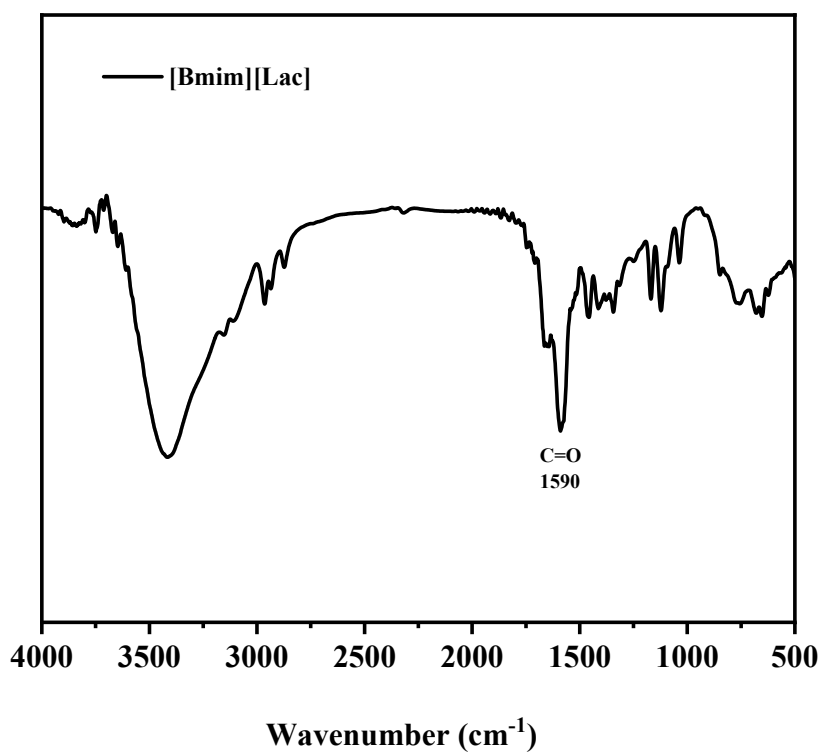


Figure S11. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [Bmim][Lac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 150 MHz).





**Figure S12.** FT-IR spectrum of [Bmim][Lac] (KBr).

[Bmim][Lac]:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  8.61 (d, 1H), 7.38 (q, 1H), 7.33 (q, 1H), 4.10 (td, 2H), 4.04 (m, 1H), 3.79 (d, 3H), 1.75 (td, 2H), 1.25 (d, 3H), 1.22 (m, 2H), 0.83 (m, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  181.89, 135.80, 123.43, 122.10, 68.19, 49.20, 35.55, 31.22, 19.94, 18.69, 12.78. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3405, 3153, 3101, 2964, 2931, 2873, 1643, 1590, 1456, 1410, 1344, 1165, 1122, 1035, 852, 760, 684, 652.

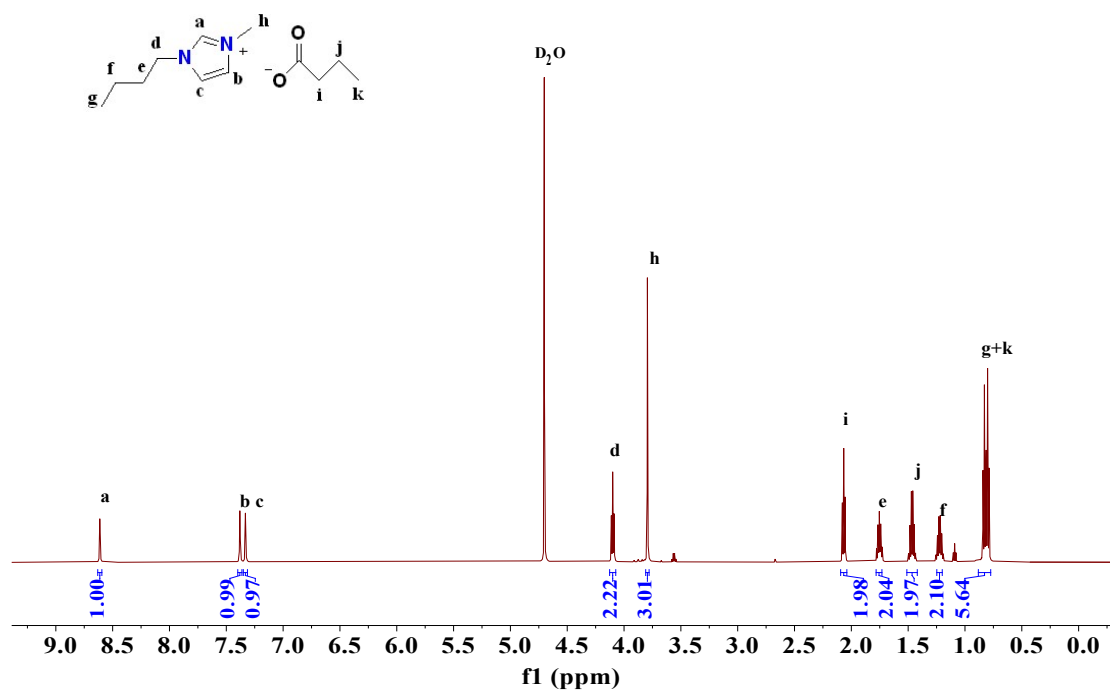


Figure S13. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [Bmim][BA] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz).

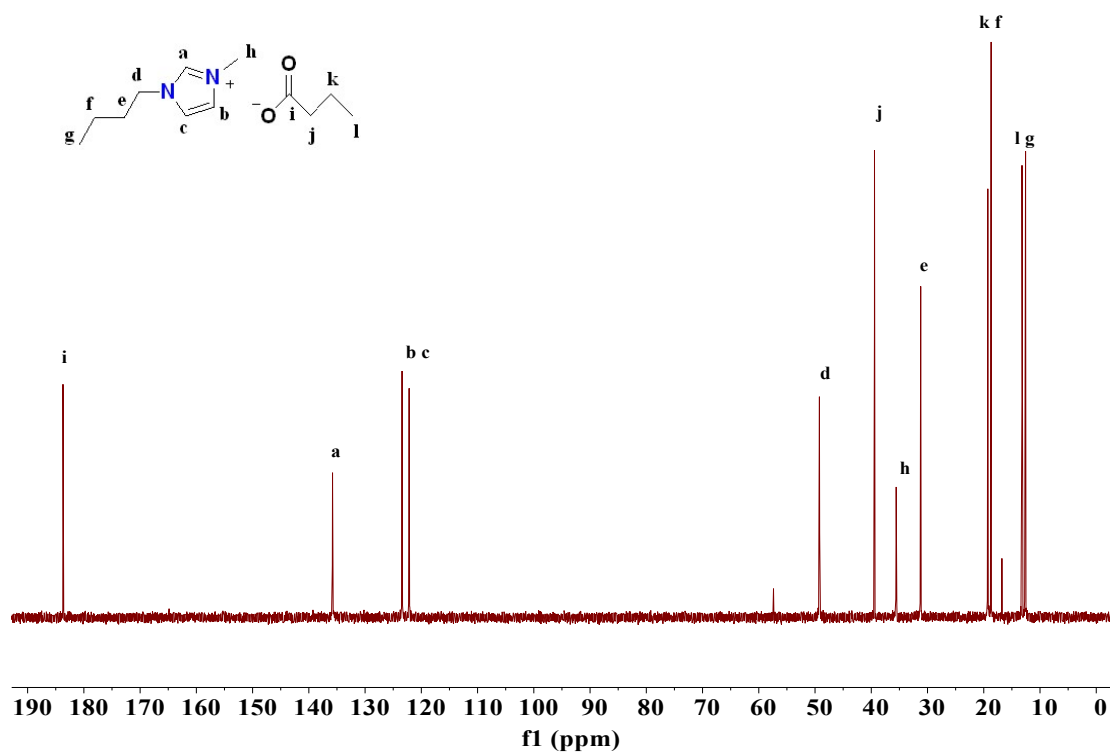
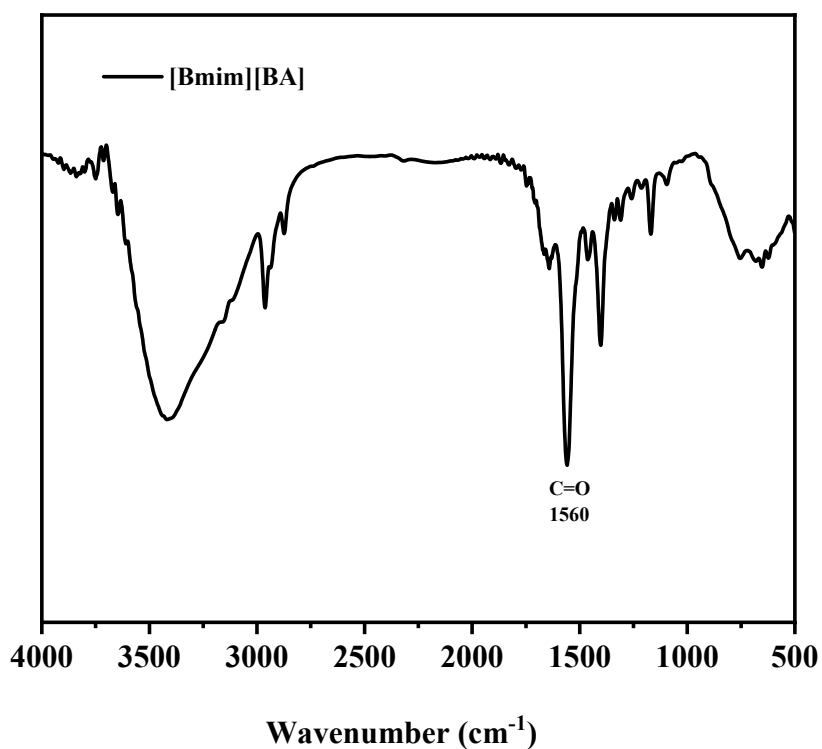


Figure S14. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [Bmim][BA] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 150 MHz).



**Figure S15.** FT-IR spectrum of [Bmim][BA] (KBr).

[Bmim][BA]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 8.61 (d, 1H), 7.38 (t, 1H), 7.33 (t, 1H), 4.10 (t, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.07 (t, 2H), 1.76 (m, 2H), 1.47 (h, 2H), 1.22 (m, 2H), 0.82 (dt, 6H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 183.71, 135.79, 123.43, 122.17, 49.20, 39.43, 35.55, 31.21, 19.28, 18.69, 13.20, 12.57. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3407, 2958, 2873, 1641, 1560, 1458, 1400, 1338, 1309, 1257, 1170, 1089, 760, 659, 619.

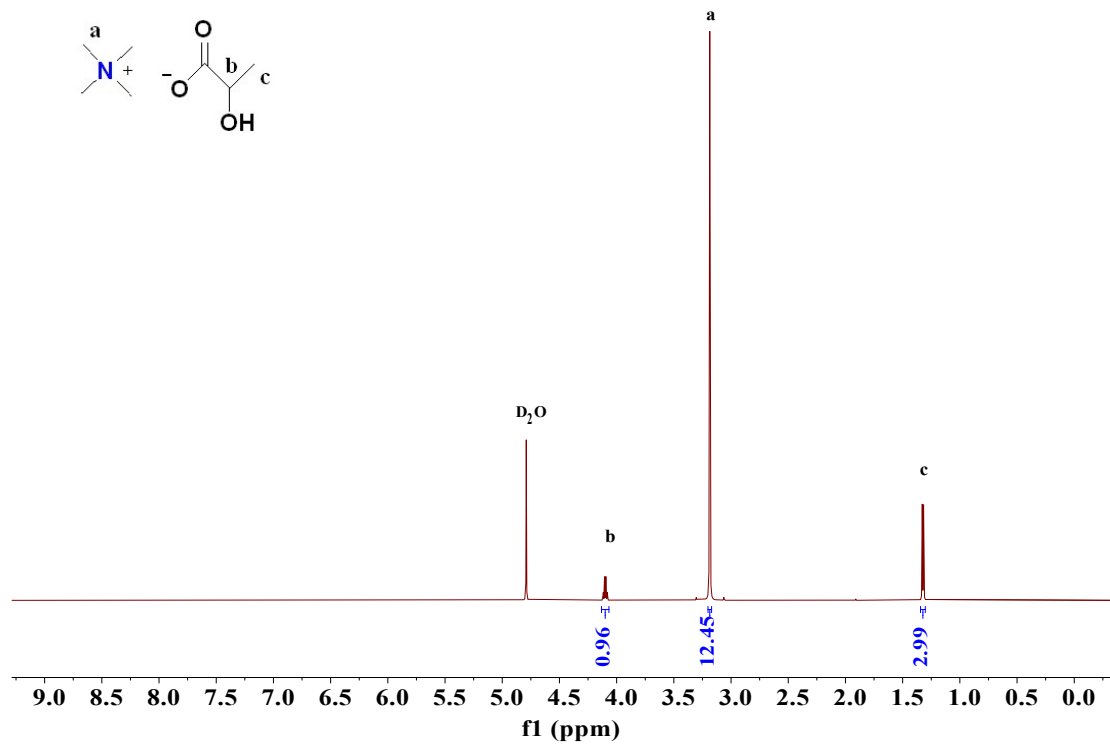


Figure S16.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of [TMA][Lac] ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 600 MHz).

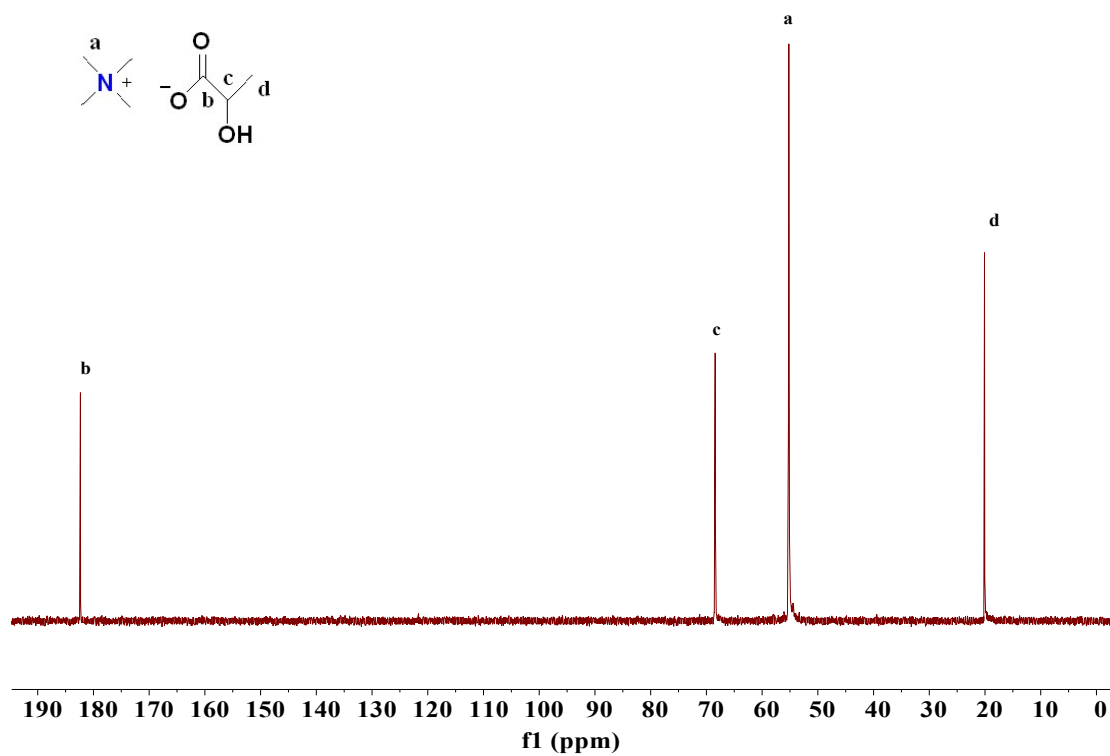
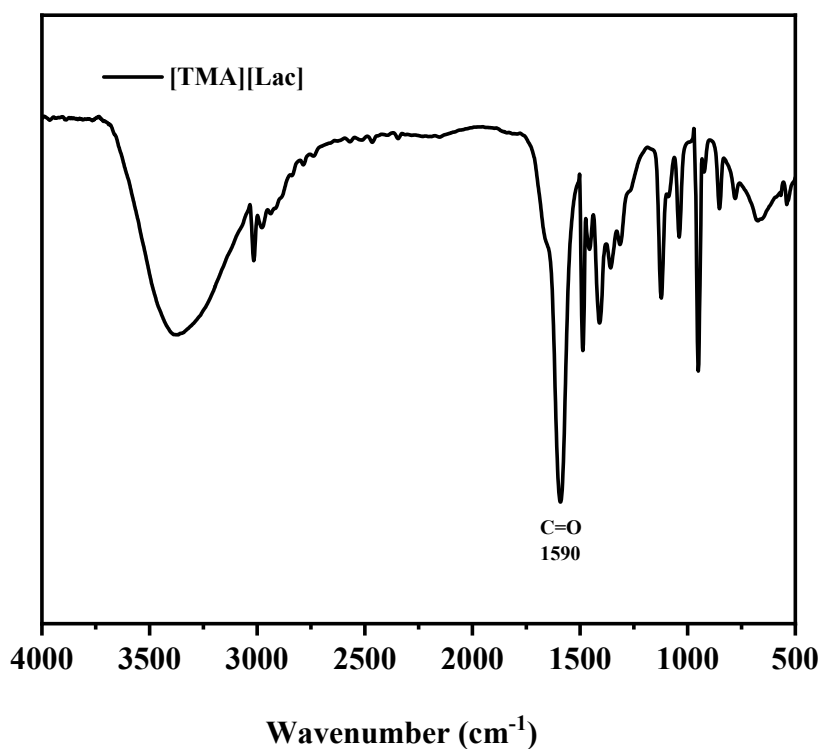
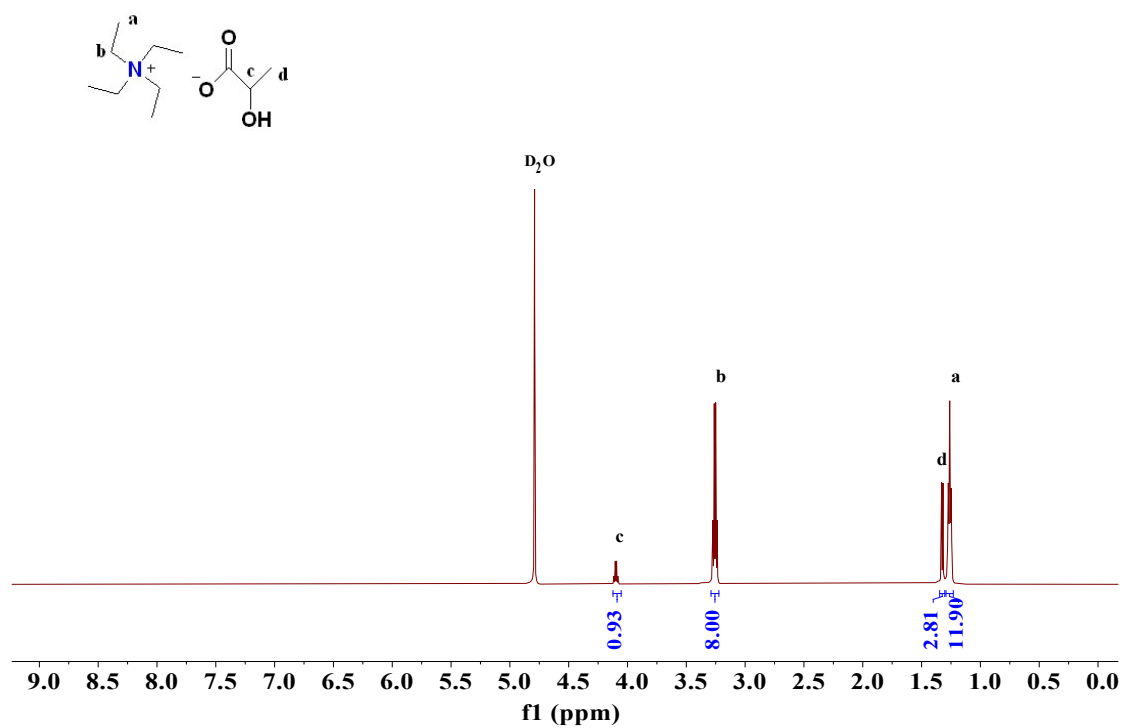


Figure S17.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of [TMA][Lac] ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 150 MHz).

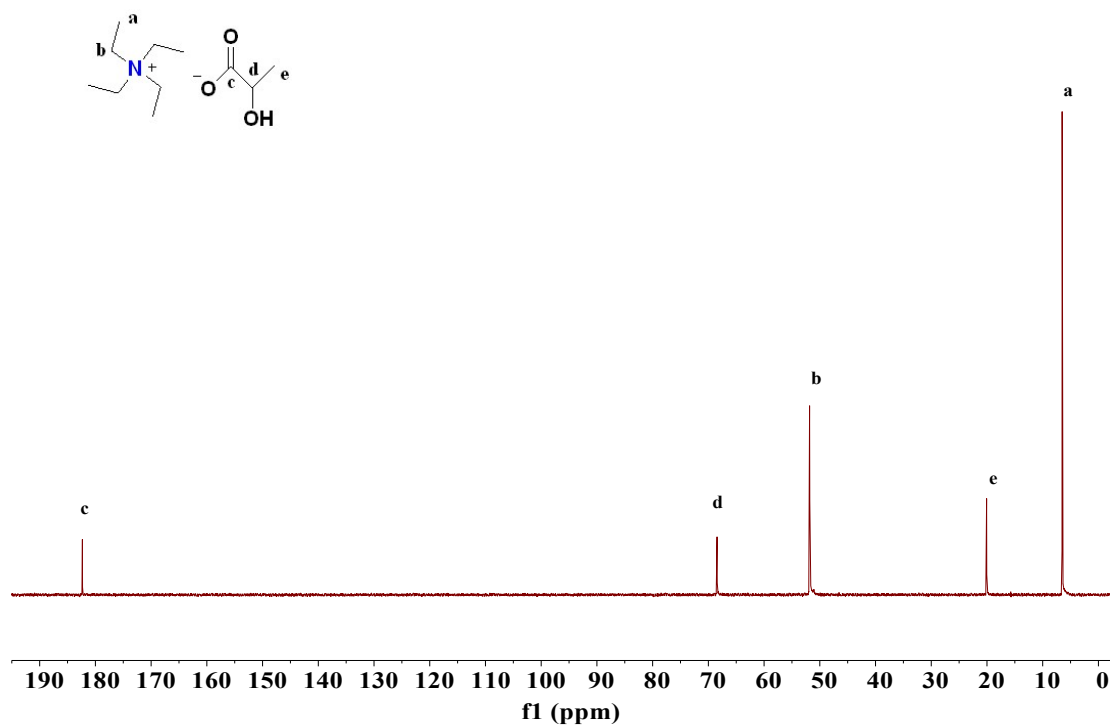


**Figure S18.** FT-IR spectrum of [TMA][Lac] (KBr).

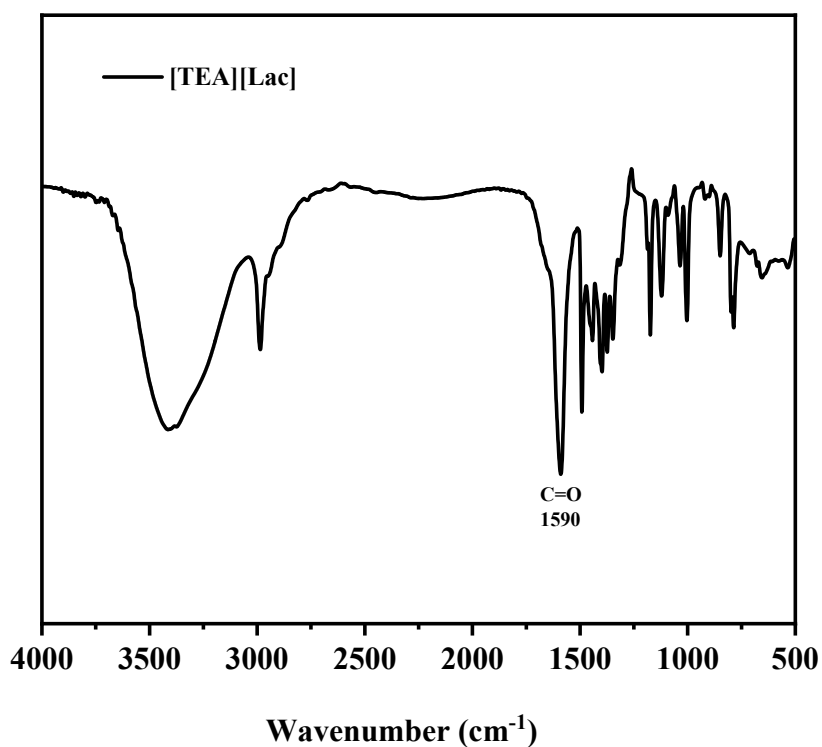
[TMA][Lac]: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 4.10 (q, 1H), 3.19 (m, 12H), 1.32 (d, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, D<sub>2</sub>O, ppm) δ 182.33, 68.46, 55.19, 20.08. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3401, 3012, 2970, 2933, 1590, 1489, 1452, 1400, 1355, 1313, 1122, 1039, 950, 850, 779, 667, 540.



**Figure S19.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{TEA}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 600 MHz).



**Figure S20.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $[\text{TEA}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 150 MHz).



**Figure S21.** FT-IR spectrum of [TEA][Lac] (KBr).

[TEA][Lac]:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  4.10 (qd, 1H), 3.26 (q, 8H), 1.32 (dd, 3H), 1.26 (tdd, 12H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  182.33, 68.46, 51.85, 20.07, 6.51. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3401, 2988, 1590, 1490, 1441, 1403, 1372, 1345, 1172, 1118, 1037, 1005, 922, 846, 789, 659.

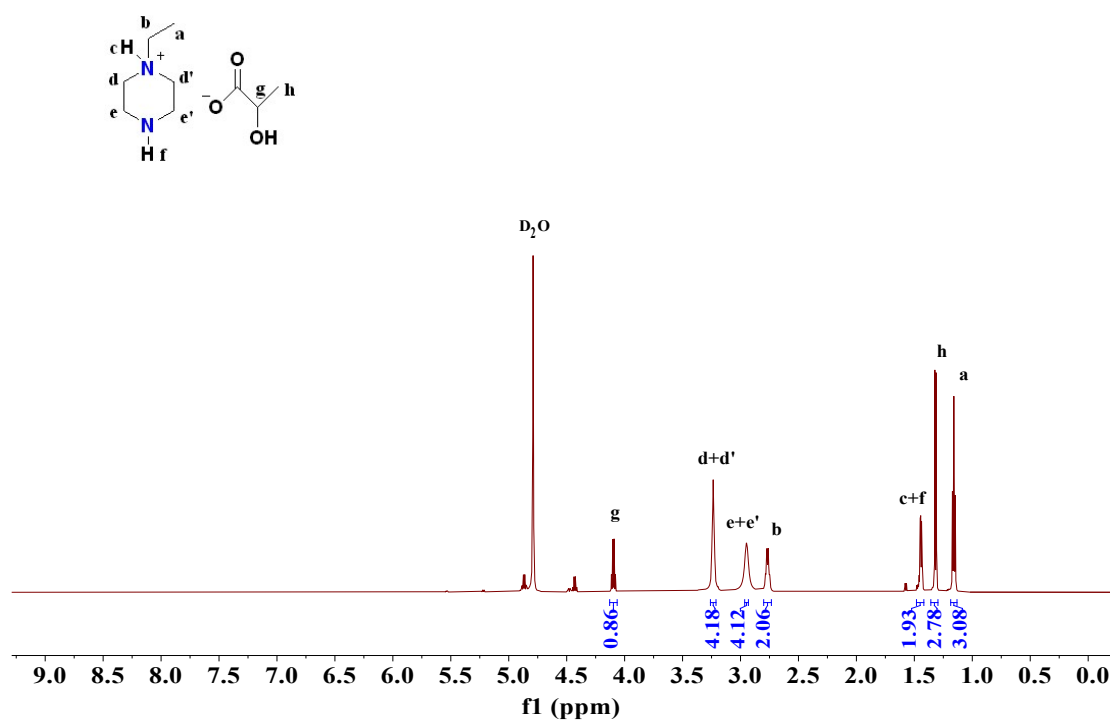


Figure S22.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of [Epe][Lac] ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 600 MHz).

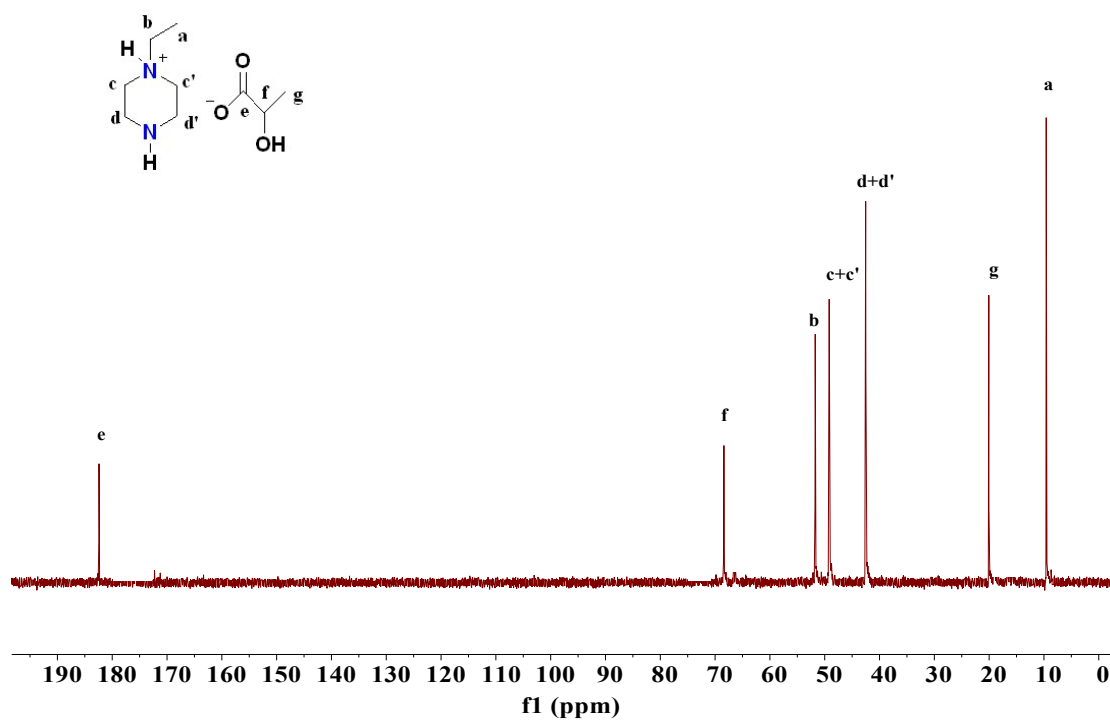
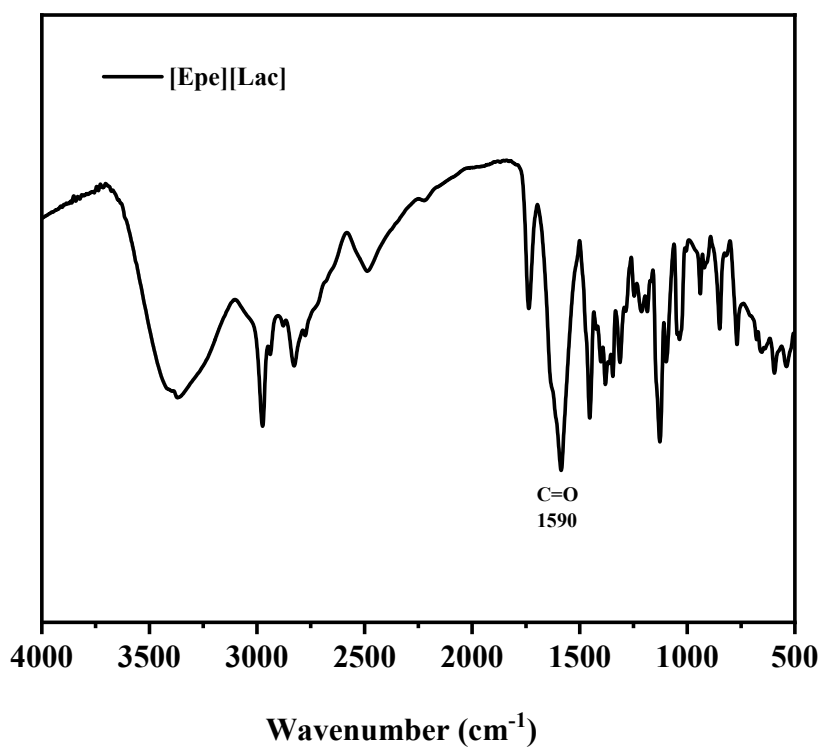


Figure S23.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of [Epe][Lac] ( $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , 150 MHz).





**Figure S24.** FT-IR spectrum of [Epe][Lac] (KBr).

[Epe][Lac]:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  4.10 (q, 1H), 3.24 (m, 4H), 2.95 (m, 4H), 2.77 (q, 2H), 1.44 (m, 2H), 1.32 (d, 3H), 1.16 (t, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  182.41, 178.41, 175.81, 72.76, 68.42, 66.59, 51.72, 49.18, 42.51, 20.06, 19.01, 16.67, 9.58. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3401, 2977, 2941, 2828, 2772, 2491, 1739, 1590, 1450, 1400, 1380, 1346, 1311, 1208, 1131, 1093, 1031, 937, 851, 766, 662, 599, 538.

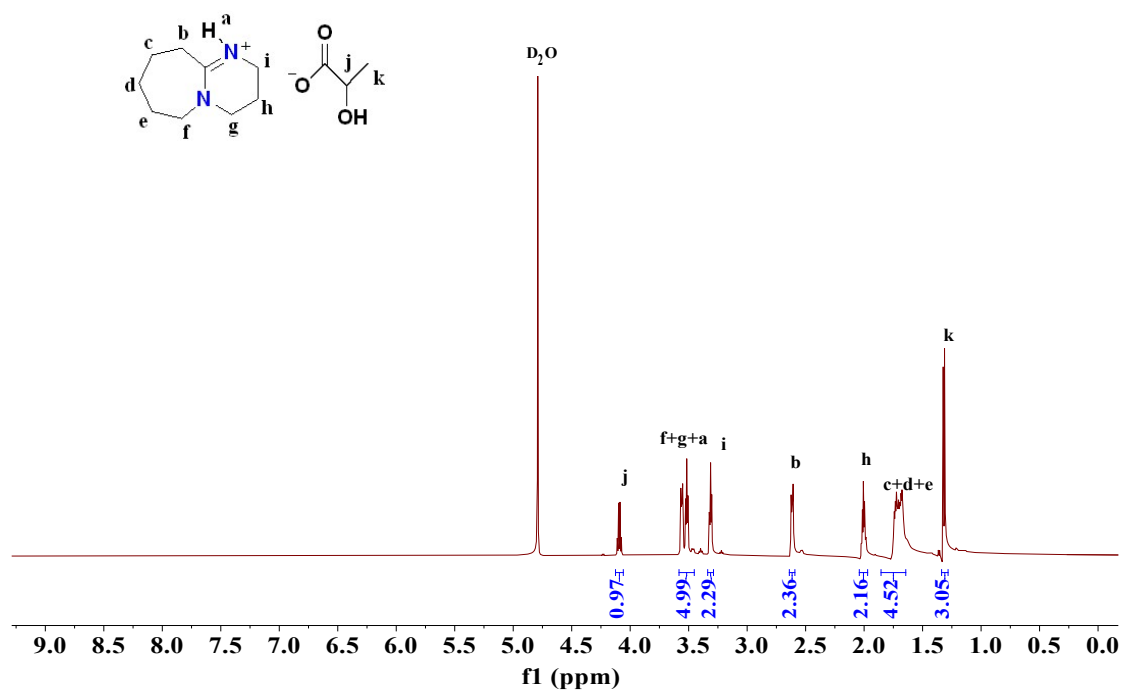


Figure S25. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of [DBU][Lac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 600 MHz).

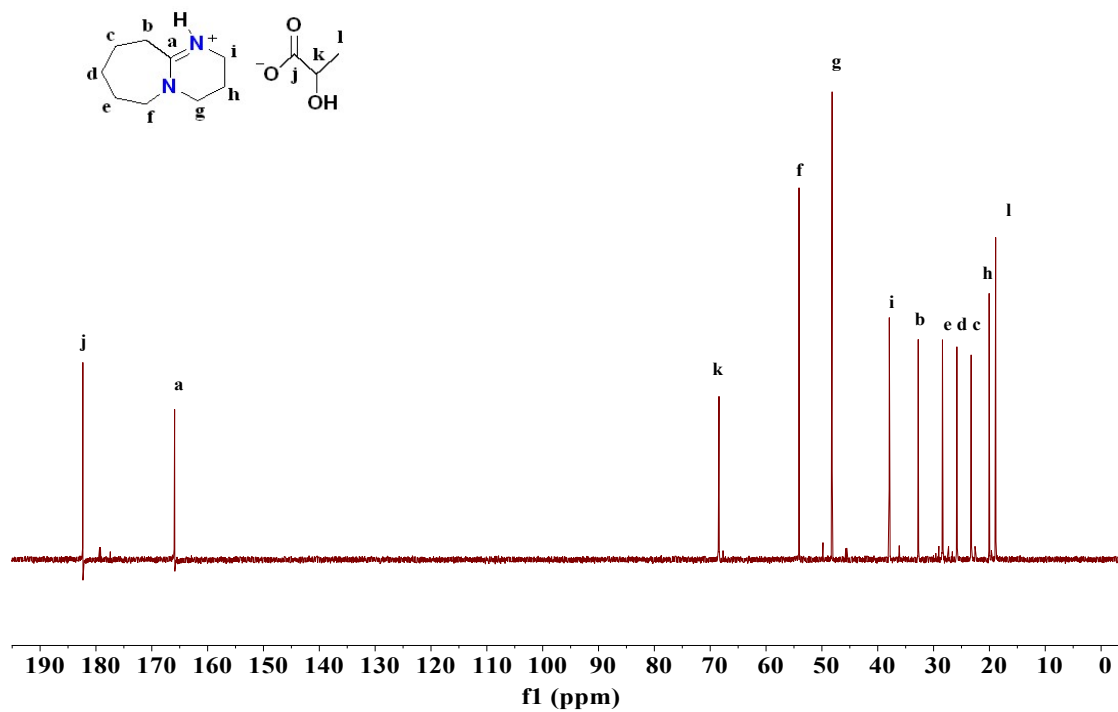
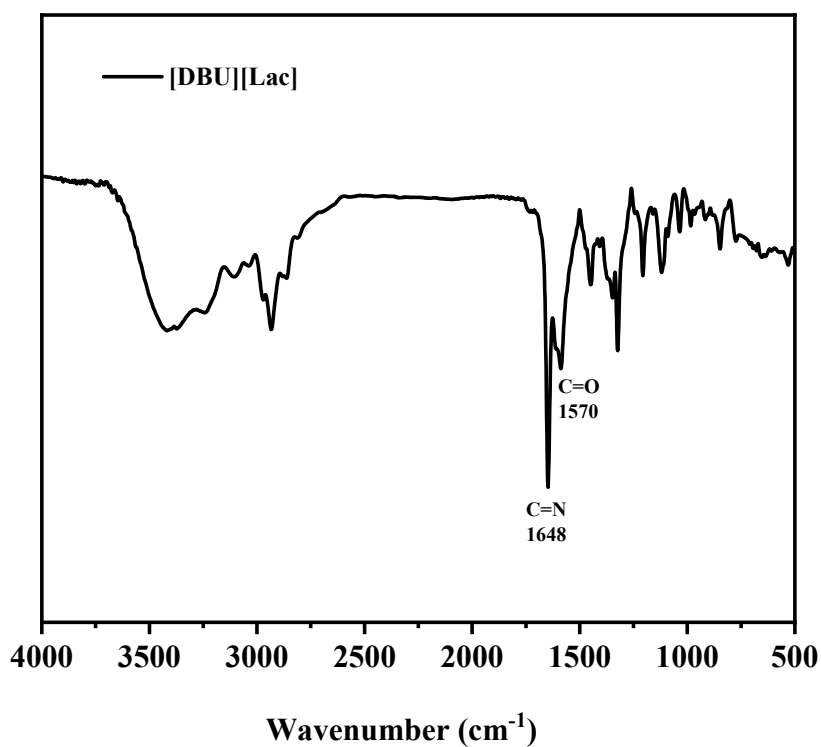
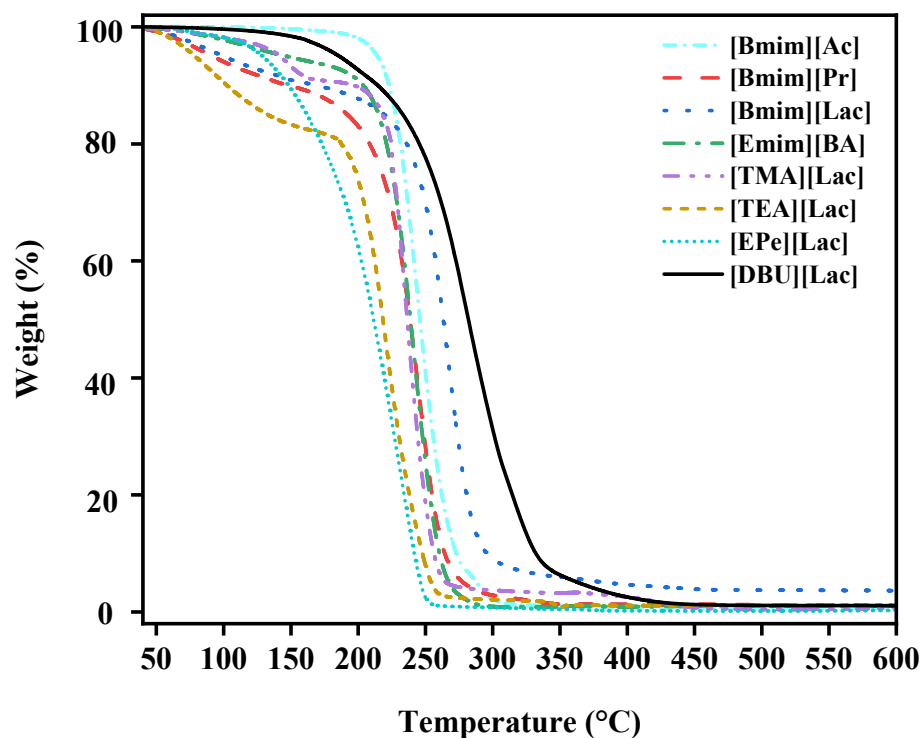


Figure S26. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of [DBU][Lac] (D<sub>2</sub>O, 150 MHz).



**Figure S27.** FT-IR spectrum of [DBU][Lac] (KBr).

[DBU][Lac]:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  4.09 (qd, 1H), 3.54 (dt, 5H), 3.31 (t, 2H), 2.62 (m, 2H), 2.01 (pd, 2H), 1.71 (m, 5H), 1.32 (dd, 3H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ , ppm)  $\delta$  182.34, 165.91, 68.45, 54.10, 48.17, 37.92, 32.75, 28.41, 25.83, 23.27, 20.06, 18.87. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3401, 3238, 3099, 3036, 2966, 2932, 2858, 2805, 1648, 1570, 1453, 1350, 1324, 1209, 1116, 1032, 983, 914, 844, 771, 641, 540.



**Figure S28.** TGA curves of different catalysts.

**Table S1.** Thermal decomposition temperature of catalysts. <sup>a</sup>

Entry	Catalyst	$T_{d-5\%}$ <sup>b</sup> (°C)	$T_{d-max}$ <sup>c</sup> (°C)
1	[Bmim][Ac]	214	253
2	[Bmim][Pr]	91	246
3	[Bmim][Lac]	100	270
4	[Bmim][BA]	146	243
5	[TMA]Lac	142	237
6	[TEA]Lac	79	222
7	[EPe]Lac	129	233
8	[DBU]Lac	186	285

<sup>a</sup> Measured by TGA at nitrogen atmosphere.

<sup>b</sup> Temperature at 5% weight loss ( $T_{d-5\%}$ ).

<sup>c</sup> Temperature at maximum weight loss rate.

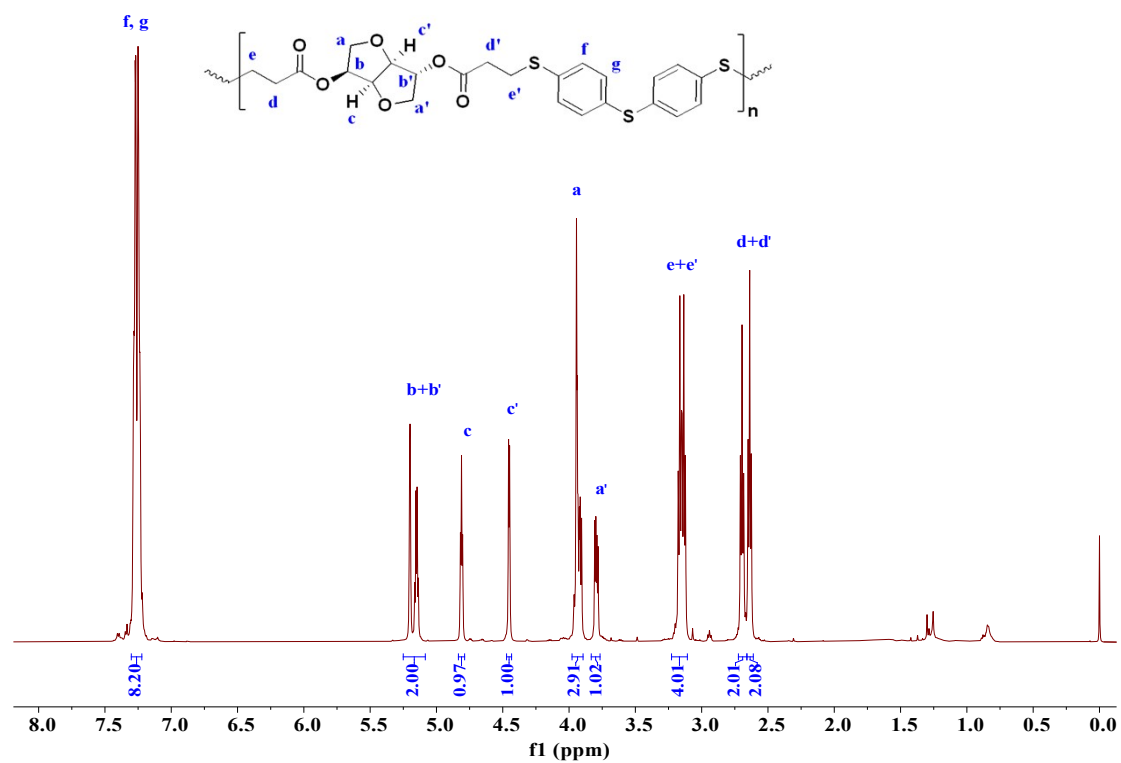


Figure S29.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_{100}\text{E}_0$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).

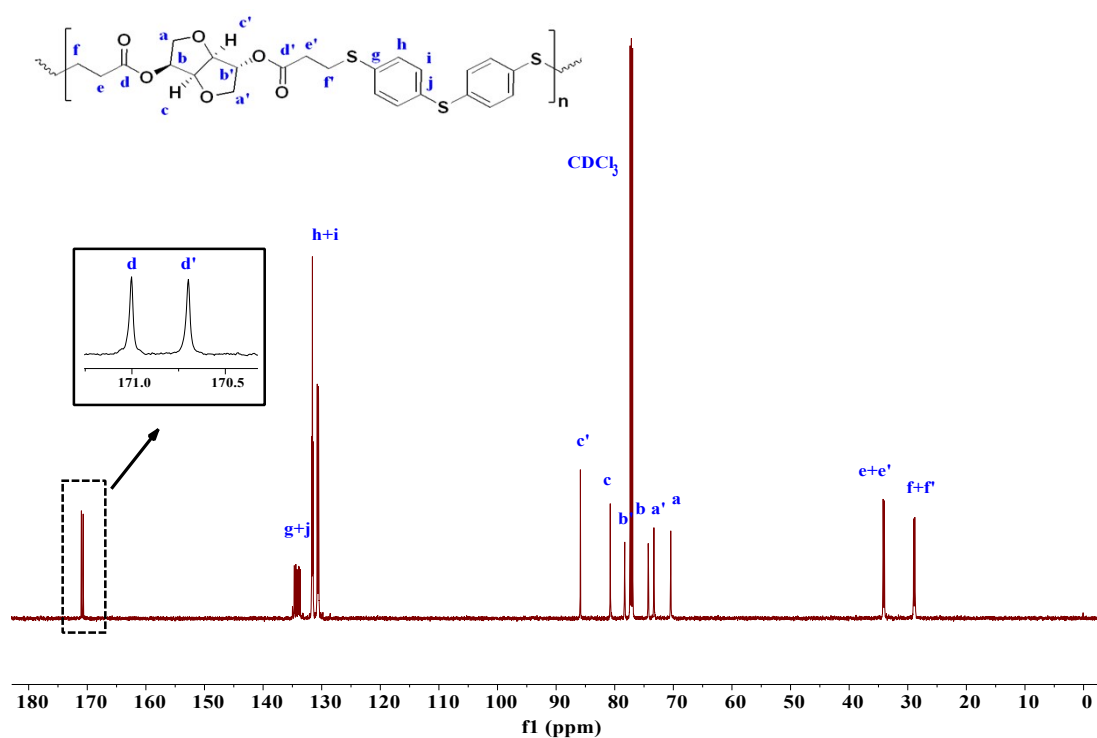
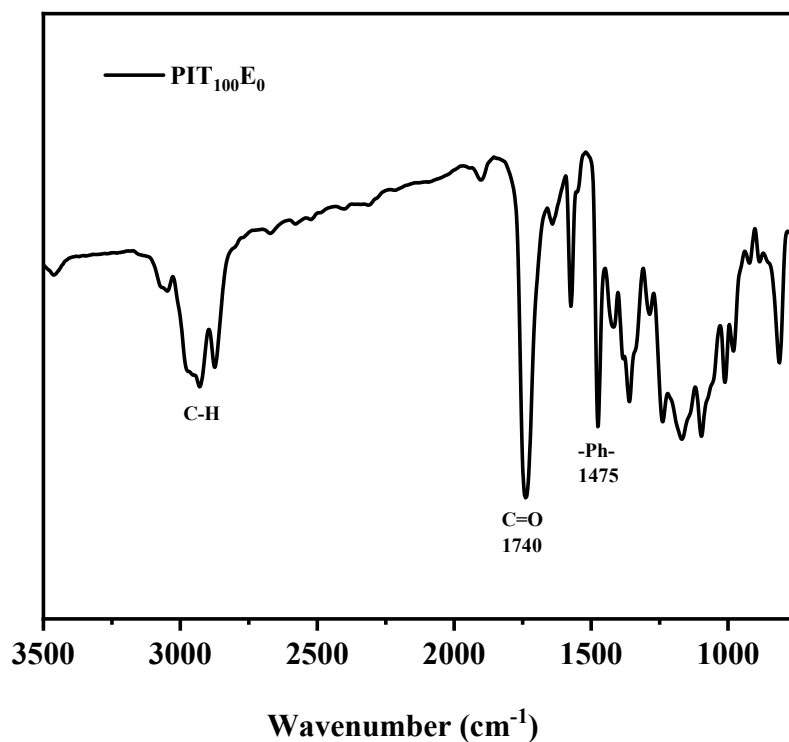
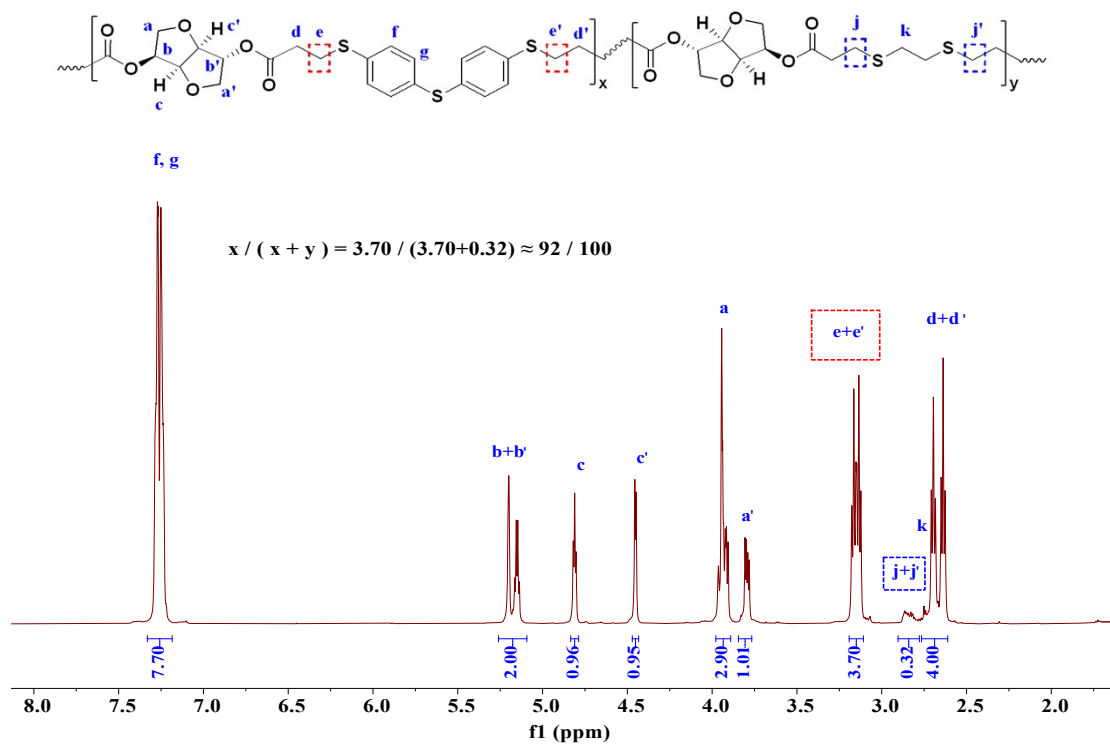


Figure S30.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_{100}\text{E}_0$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).

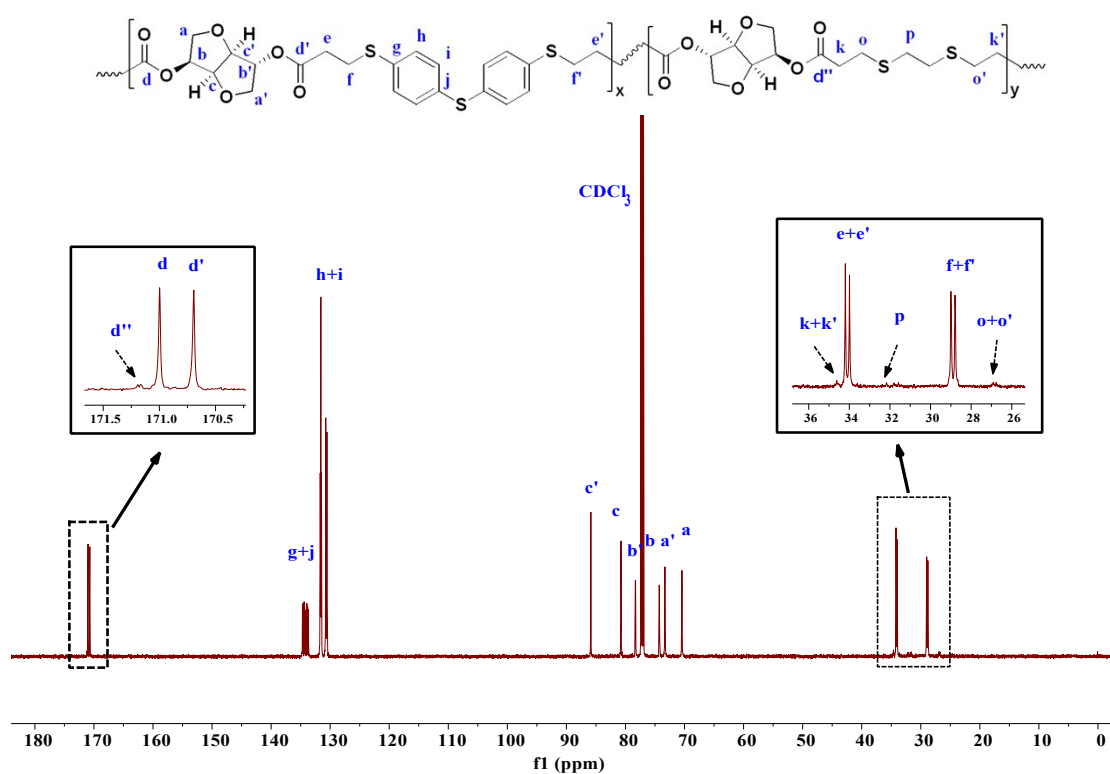


**Figure S31.** FT-IR spectrum of PIT<sub>100</sub>E<sub>0</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] (KBr).

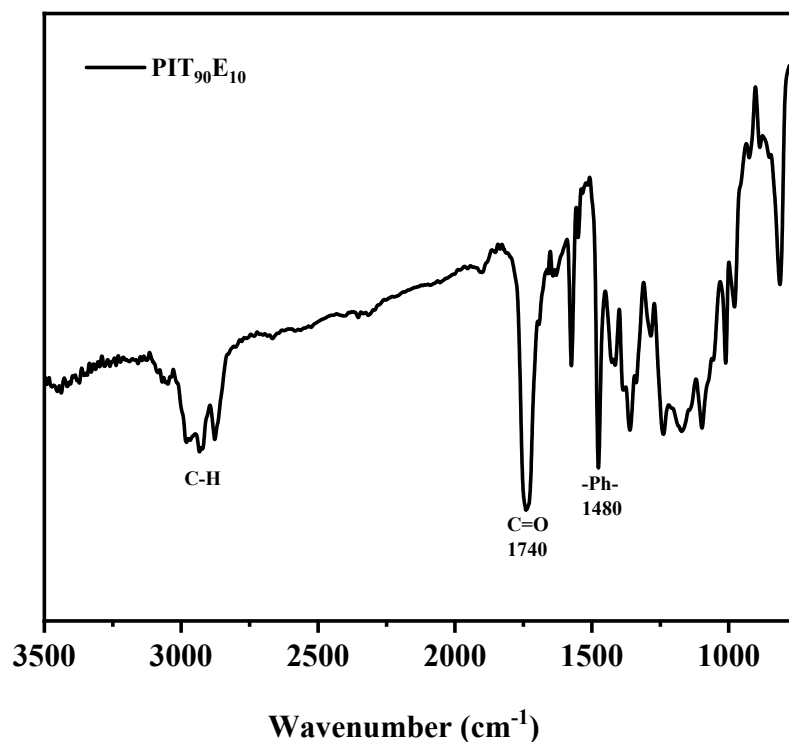
PIT<sub>100</sub>E<sub>0</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 7.26 (d, 8H), 5.17 (m, 2H), 4.81 (t, 1H), 4.45 (d, 1H), 3.93 (m, 3H), 3.79 (d, 1H), 3.15 (dt, 4H), 2.70 (t, 2H), 2.64 (t, 2H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 170.70, 134.37, 133.68, 131.58, 130.65, 85.86, 80.76, 78.31, 74.27, 73.34, 70.46, 34.01, 28.89. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2975, 2930, 2871, 1740, 1638, 1571, 1480, 1423, 1357, 1290, 1238, 1168, 1095, 1008, 975, 809.



**Figure S32.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).



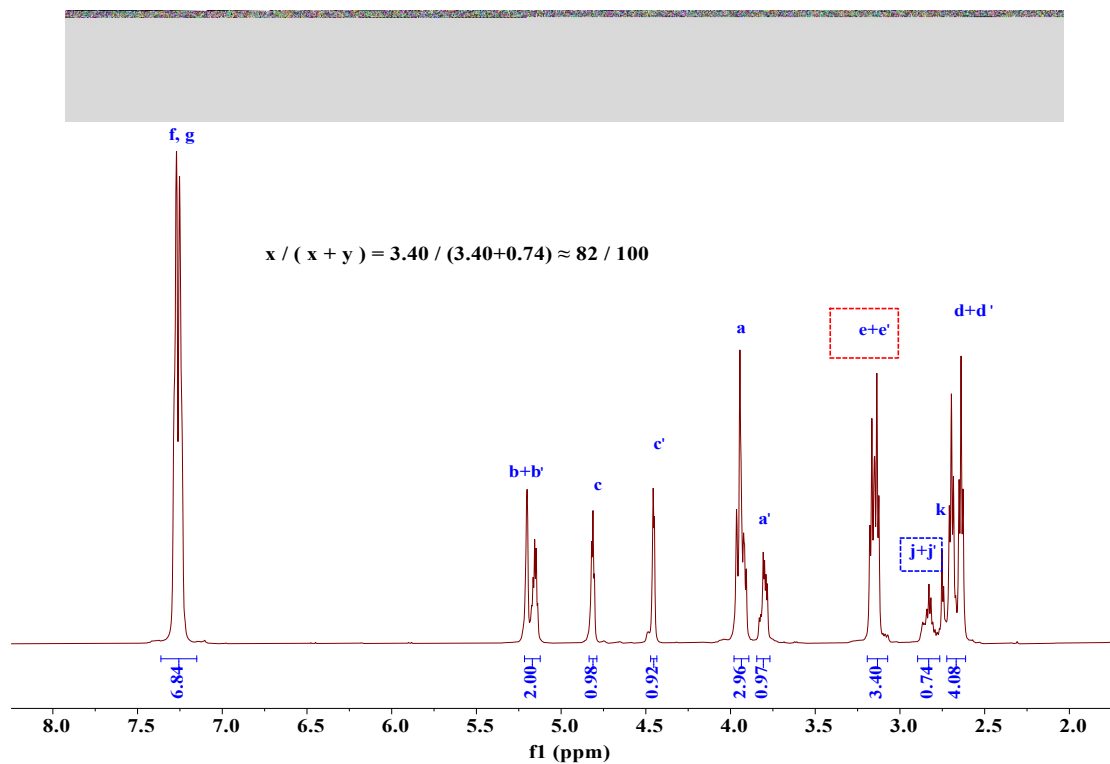
**Figure S33.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).



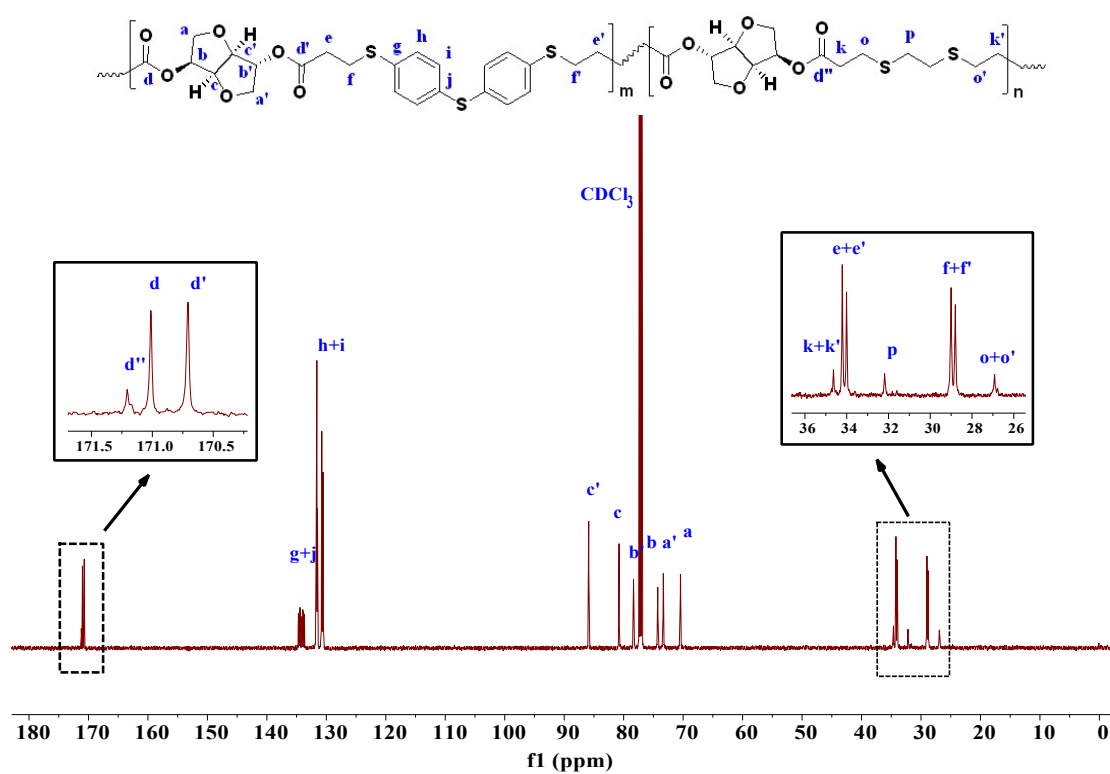
**Figure S34.** FT-IR spectrum of PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] (KBr).

PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 7.26 (d, 8H), 5.17 (m, 2H), 4.81 (t, 1H), 4.45 (d, 1H), 3.93 (m, 3H), 3.79 (d, 1H), 3.15 (dt, 4H), 2.84 (m, 0H), 2.67 (dt, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 170.69, 134.37, 133.96, 131.58, 130.65, 85.86, 80.76, 78.31, 74.27, 73.29, 70.44, 34.01, 28.79. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2980, 2932, 2876, 1740, 1638, 1575, 1480, 1425, 1355, 1283, 1238, 1168, 1095, 1012, 982, 811.

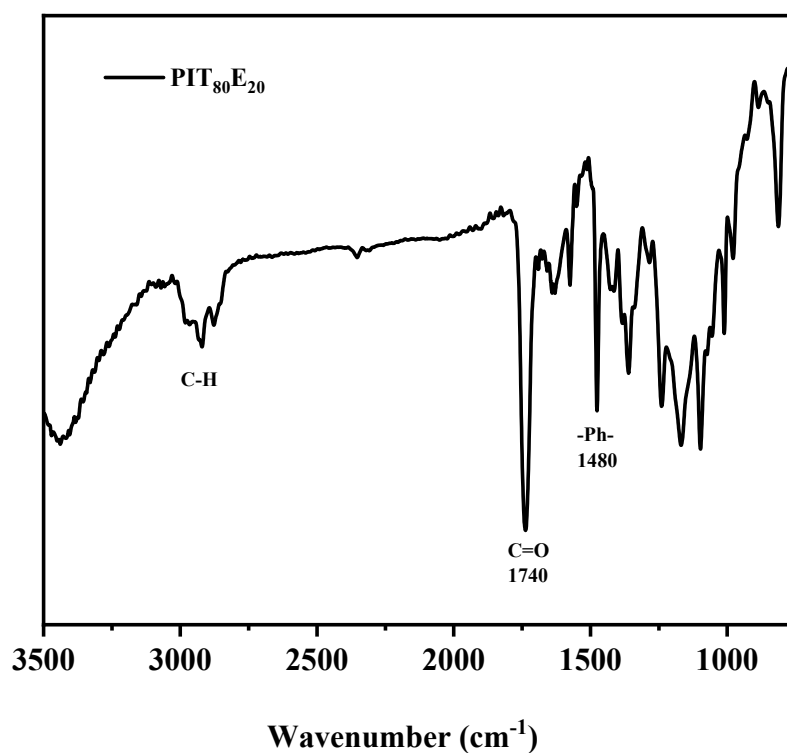




**Figure S35.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_{80}\text{E}_{20}$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).

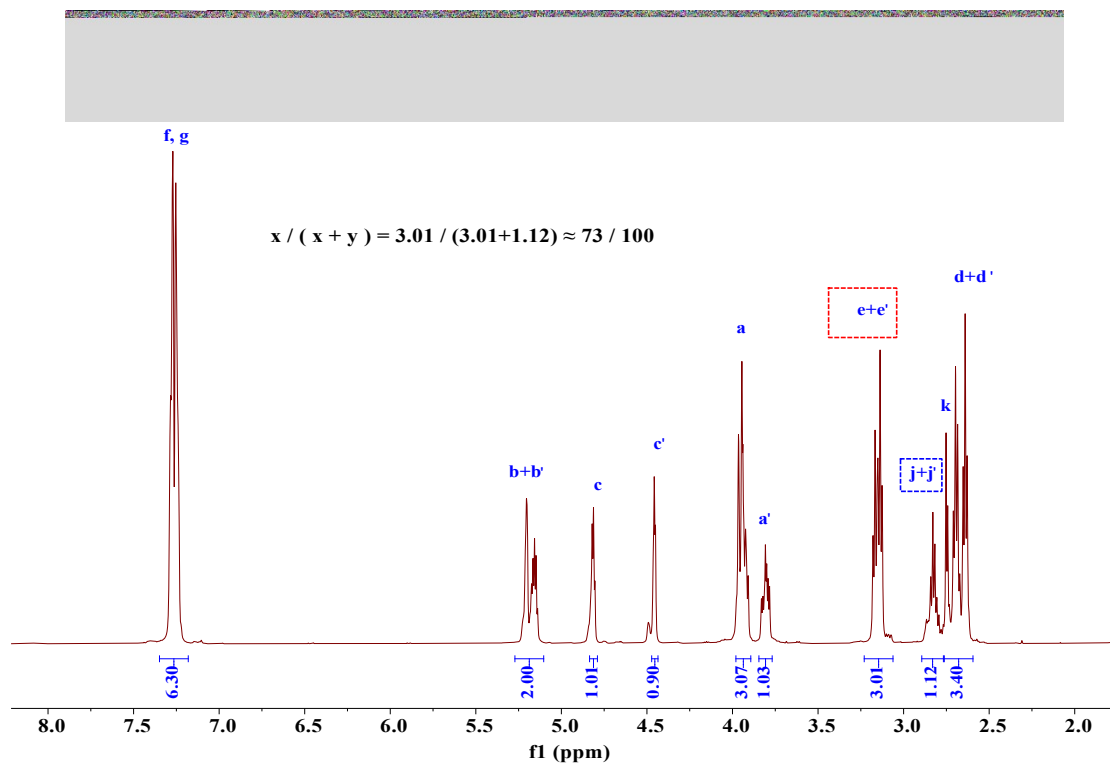


**Figure S36.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_{80}\text{E}_{20}$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).

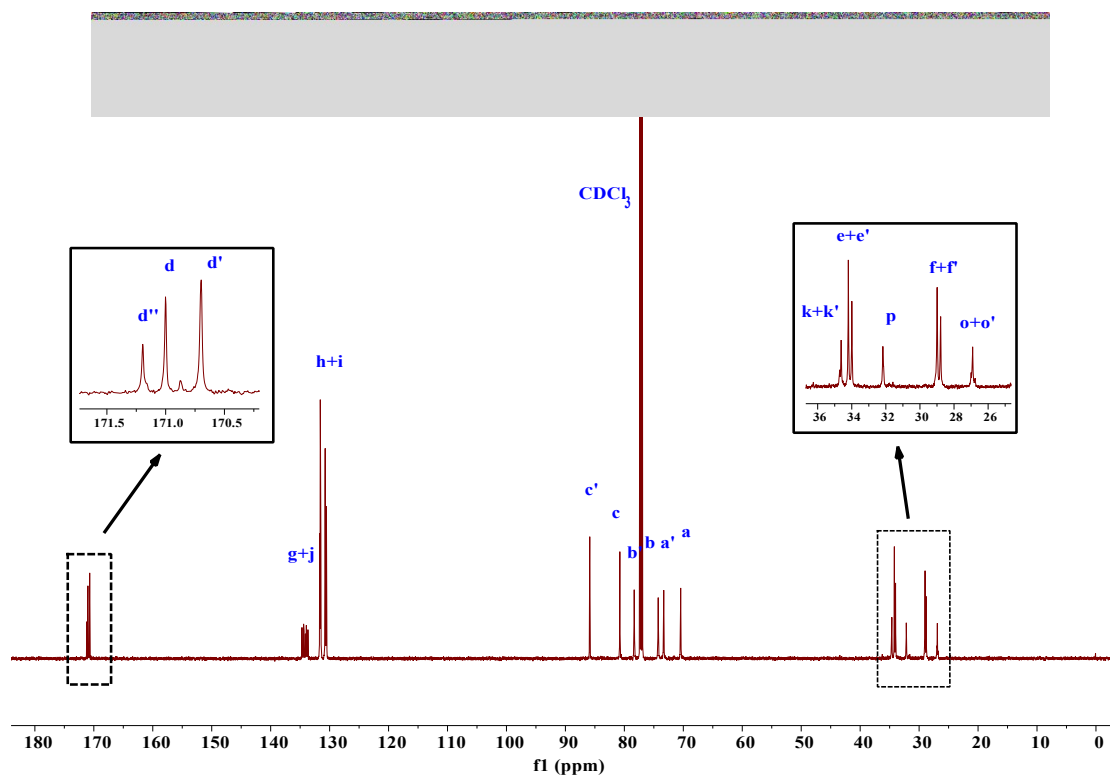


**Figure S37.** FT-IR spectrum of PIT<sub>80</sub>E<sub>20</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] (KBr).

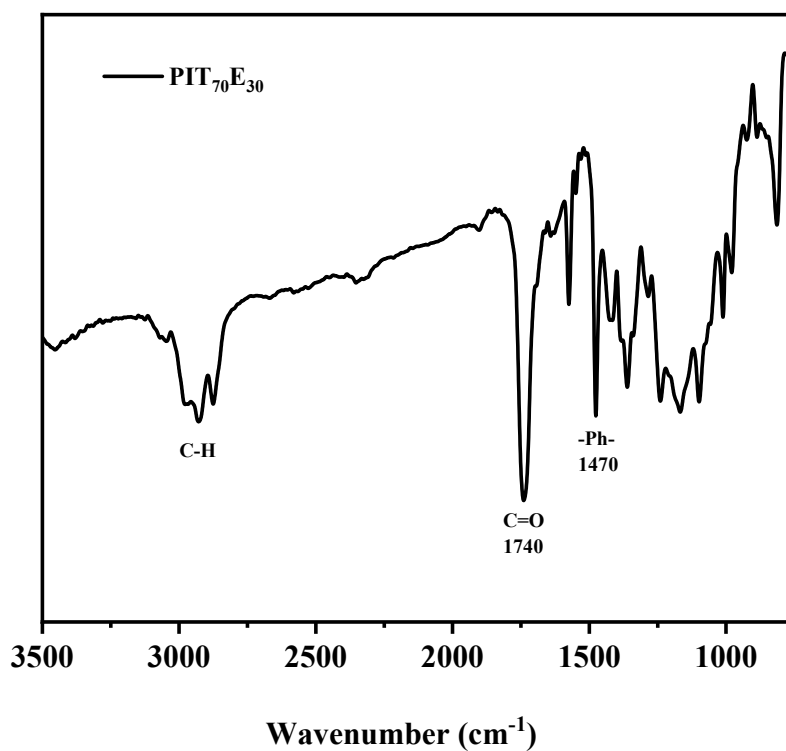
PIT<sub>80</sub>E<sub>20</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 7.26 (d, 7H), 5.17 (m, 2H), 4.82 (q, 1H), 4.45 (d, 1H), 3.94 (m, 3H), 3.81 (d, 1H), 3.15 (dt, 3H), 2.83 (td, 1H), 2.67 (dt, 4H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 170.86, 134.52, 133.90, 131.59, 130.67, 85.88, 80.78, 78.32, 74.28, 73.34, 70.47, 34.63, 34.01, 32.18, 28.91, 26.92. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2984, 2923, 2877, 1740, 1642, 1575, 1480, 1423, 1363, 1290, 1241, 1164, 1096, 1009, 975, 812.



**Figure S38.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of PIT<sub>70</sub>E<sub>30</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).



**Figure S39.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of PIT<sub>70</sub>E<sub>30</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).



**Figure S40.** FT-IR spectrum of PIT<sub>70</sub>E<sub>30</sub> synthesized by [DBU][Lac] (KBr).

PIT<sub>70</sub>E<sub>30</sub>: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 7.26 (d, 6H), 5.18 (d, 2H), 4.82 (q, 1H), 4.46 (t, 1H), 3.94 (m, 3H), 3.81 (d, 1H), 3.15 (dt, 3H), 2.82 (dt, 1H), 2.68 (m, 3H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ 170.96, 134.49, 133.93, 131.58, 130.62, 85.87, 80.77, 78.33, 74.27, 73.32, 70.46, 34.67, 34.10, 32.17, 28.86, 26.91. FT-IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2980, 2930, 2876, 1740, 1639, 1575, 1480, 1423, 1357, 1290, 1238, 1168, 1095, 1013, 976, 817.

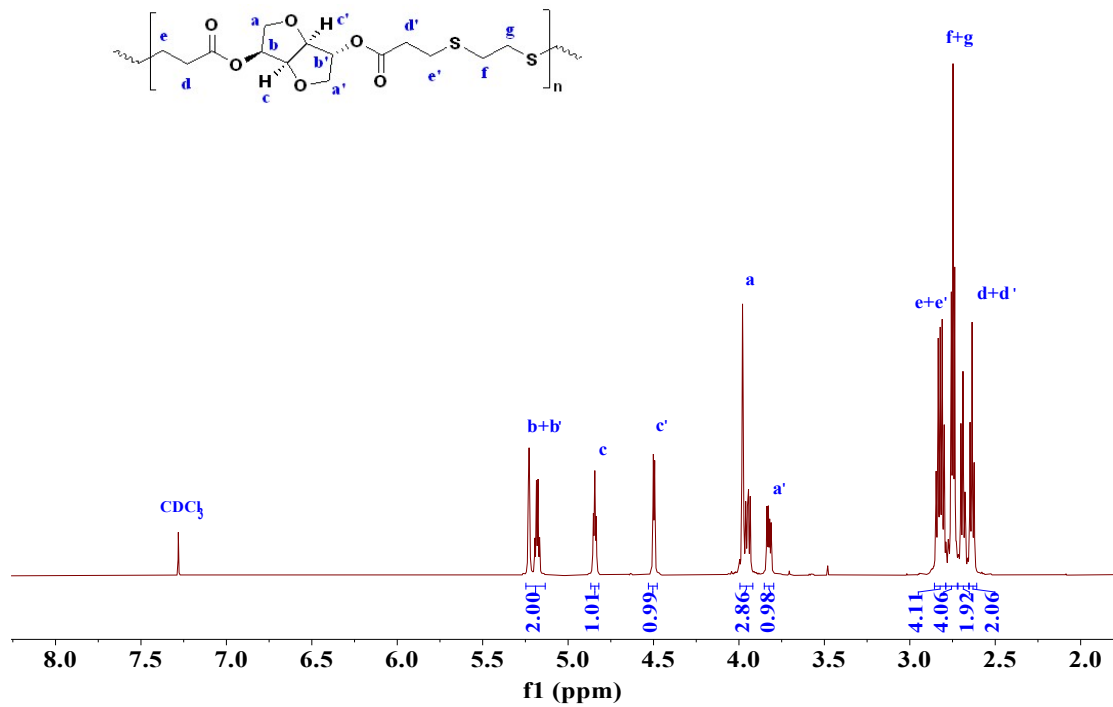
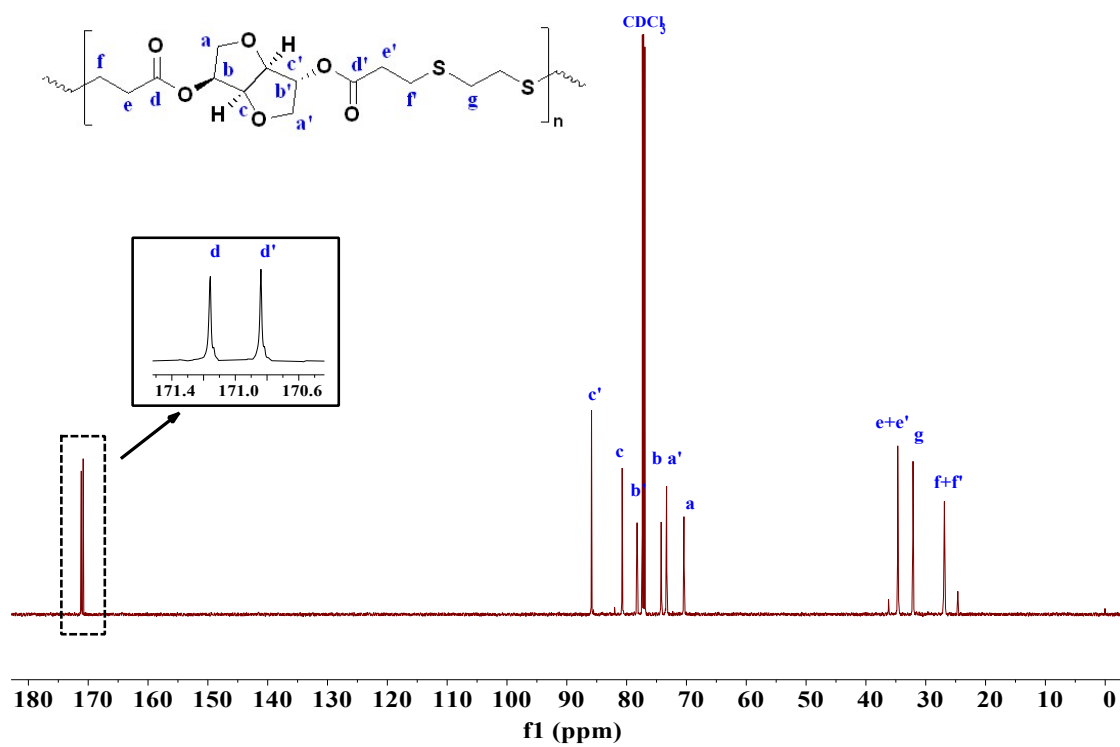
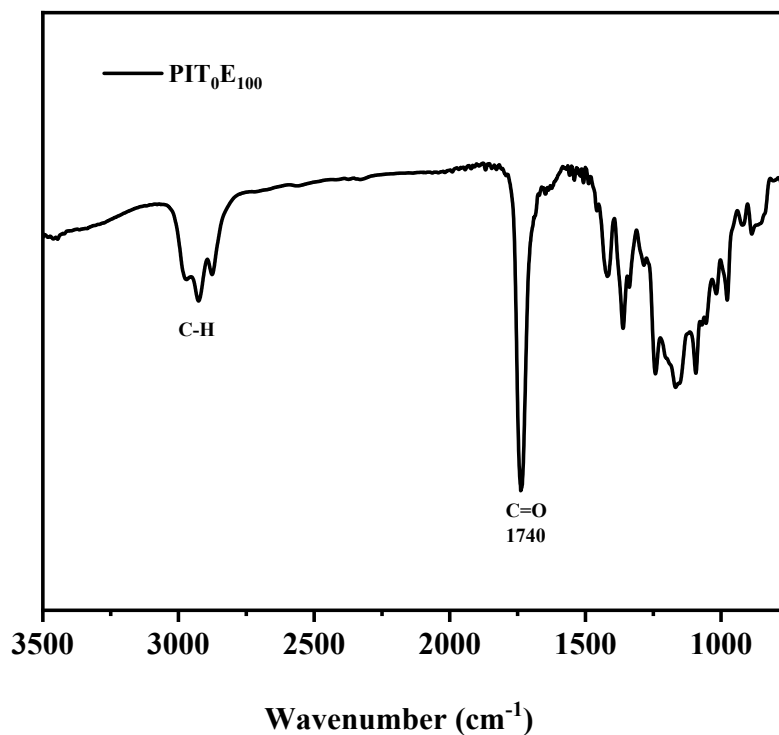


Figure S41.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_0\text{E}_{100}$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 600 MHz).



**Figure S42.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_0\text{E}_{100}$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 150 MHz).



**Figure S43.** FT-IR spectrum of  $\text{PIT}_0\text{E}_{100}$  synthesized by  $[\text{DBU}][\text{Lac}]$  (KBr).

$\text{PIT}_0\text{E}_{100}$ :  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  5.20 (m, 2H), 4.84 (t, 1H), 4.50 (d, 1H), 3.96 (m, 3H), 3.82 (d, 1H), 2.82 (dt, 4H), 2.75 (m, 4H), 2.69 (t, 2H), 2.64 (t, 2H).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  170.84, 85.87, 80.74, 78.25, 74.21, 73.30, 70.44, 34.65, 32.12, 26.91. FT-IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2975, 2930, 2871, 1740, 1421, 1359, 1290, 1244, 1163, 1093, 1018, 977, 914, 882.

## Tensile test

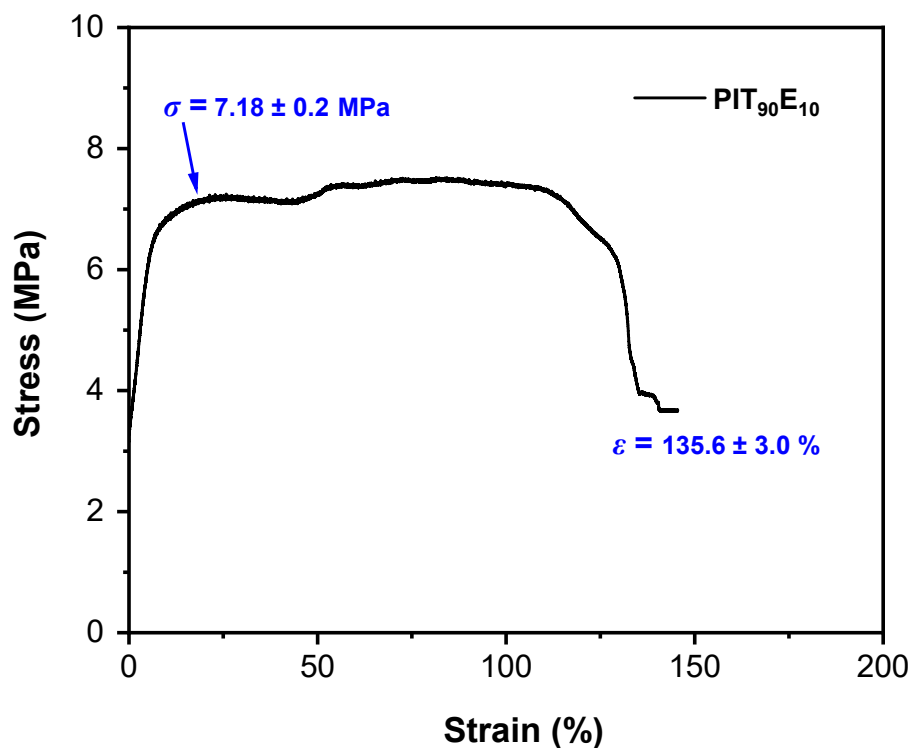


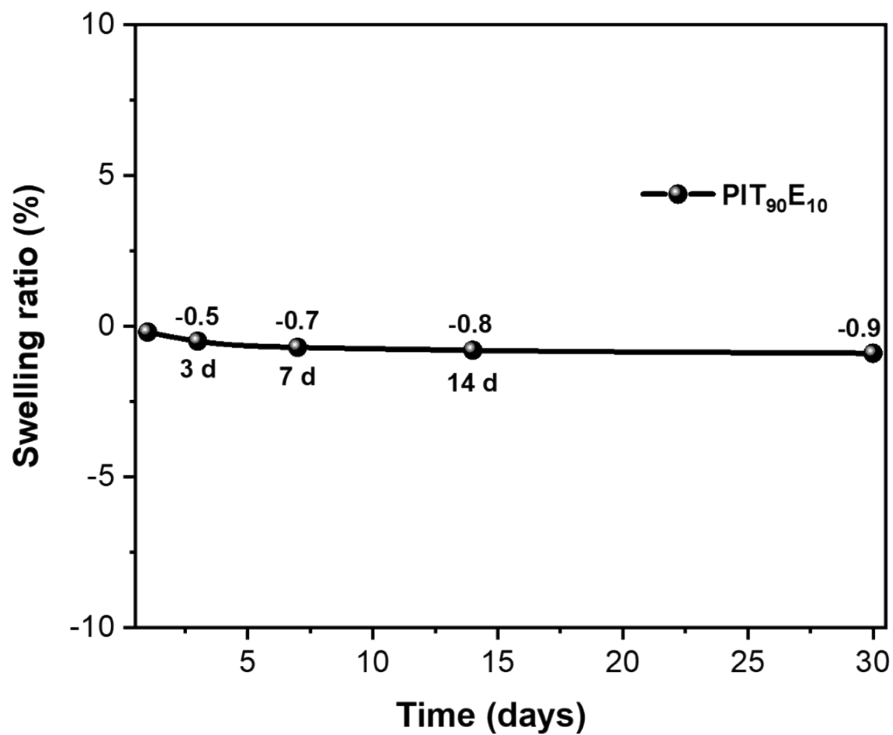
Figure S44. Mechanical behavior of representative PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub> sample.

## Swelling test

For polymer swelling capability testing, phosphate buffered saline (PBS) was chosen as the aqueous solution approaching the physiological environment of human body.<sup>1</sup> Firstly, the specimen of PIT<sub>90</sub>E<sub>10</sub> were weighed at dry state and the dry weight ( $W_d$ ) was obtained. Then it was immersed in PBS at a constant temperature of 37°C for fixed time interval and wet weight ( $W_w$ ) were assessed after the removal of extra water with the help of tissue paper. The mass swelling ratio (SR) is calculated using following equation.

$$SR = (W_w - W_d) / W_d \times 100\%$$

where  $W_w$  - mass of the swollen wet hydrogel sample,  $W_d$  - mass of the dried sample.



**Figure S45.** Swelling test of optical polymers in PBS buffer (pH = 7.4, 37 °C).

1. V. Hidalgo-Alvarez, N. D. Falcon, J. Eldred, M. Wormstone and A. Saeed, *Curr. Eye. Res.*, 2024, 1-10.