Transition of cellulose crystalline structure in biodegradable mixtures of renewably-sourced levulinate alkyl ammonium ionic liquids, γ -valerolactone and water

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Chemicals : Microcrystalline cellulose AVICEL PH-200 (Lot. No. 40739C) was purchased to FMC Biopolymer. γ -valerolactone was bought to Sigma-Aldrich. All reagents were obtained from Aldrich at the highest purity available and used without further purification. CDCl₃ and CD₃OD (99.95% isotopic purity) were obtained from Euriso-top. In all experiments, the water used was Millipore (18.2 M Ω ·cm; Simplicity 185).

Apparatus:

▶ IR spectra were recorded on a FT-IR Perkin Elmer (spectrum one) using ATR technology.

➤ The degree of polymerization (DP) of cellulose samples were determined by intrinsic viscosity measurements using copper ethylenediamine complex as solvent for dissolving MCC (normalized method: AFNOR NF G 06-037).

> XRD patterns of cellulose were recorded on a Bruker D5005 Bragg–Brentano (θ - θ) diffractometer operated with a copper tube powered at 40 kV and 40 mA (Cu_{Ka1} = 1.54060 A° and Cu_{Ka2} = 1.54443 A°). Measurements were performed from $2\theta = 10^{\circ}$ to 60° in step mode, with steps of 0.068 and a fixed acquisition time of 10 s/step.

> ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded in the indicated solvents on a Bruker Avance 300 spectrometer. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in parts per million (ppm). Chemical shifts are given in ppm (δ) and measured relative to the HOD signal or the deuterated solvent chemical shift. The following abbreviations are used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, quint = quintet, sext = sextet, m = multiplet.

The thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of prepared salts was performed using a TGA Q5000 apparatus (TA Instruments) unit under a nitrogen atmosphere to determine decomposition temperatures. Samples between 2 and 10 mg were placed in aluminum pans and heated from 25 to 300 °C at a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹.

➤ Thermal transitions were determined by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) with a DSC Q100 calorimeter (TA Instruments) unit under a nitrogen atmosphere, calibrated with a standard sample of indium. Samples between 5 and 10 mg were sealed in aluminum pans and

measured over a temperature range of -80 °C until ca. 20 °C under the beginning of degradation with a rate of 10 °C min⁻¹; the samples were cooled with an intercooler.

> Viscosity measurements were carried out with a Malvern Kinexus rotational rheometer with cone plate geometry (CP 20/2°), which was equipped with a Peltier temperature-controlled plate. Shear rates were determined over a shear stress ramp between 1 and 2000 Pa. To study the temperature dependence of the viscosity the measurements were carried out at 25 and 80 °C. Samples were dried under lyophilisation, and rapidly transferred to the plates of the rheometer. Measurements were started as quickly as possible to minimize the water absorption.

➤ The surface tension measurements of pure ILs were performed using a Krüss-K11 tensiometer equipped with plate geometry. They were carried out in the temperature range from 25 to 80 °C at atmospheric pressure. The temperature was thermo-regulated thanks to a double-jacketed glass cell by means of a water bath using a Lauda RC6 circulator to control the temperature.

Biodegradability experiments: Biodegradadion of ILs was performed following the OECD 301F standard, which requires the biological oxygen consumption (BOC) and the theoretical oxygen demand (ThOD). The ThOD (in mg of oxygen per mg of product) corresponds to the amount of oxygen necessary to oxidize the compound into its final oxidation products. Sodium acetate was used as a reference. With the average number of each element in the structure and the average molar weight (MW) of the compound, the ThOD can be calculated according to the equation 1 when no nitrification occurs.

ThOD =
$$\frac{2C + 0.5(H - Cl - 3N) + 3S + 2.5P + 0.5Na - O}{\overline{MW}}$$
(1)

The biological oxygen consumption (BOC) was determined by means of an IBUK respirometer, which identifies the oxygen consumption all along the degradation process. Experiments were conducted at 20 °C over a period of 28 days in a medium containing various mineral substances (sodium and potassium phosphates, ammonium, calcium and iron chlorides, magnesium sulfate) and bacteria collected from a local wastewater treatment plant. The starting pH was 7.4. The percentage of biodegradation or biodegradability (% B) values were obtained according to the following equation (Eq. 2):

$$\%B = \frac{BOC}{ThOD} \cdot 100$$
(2)

The reliability of the experiment depends on 3 parameters. The first one is the degradation of the reference molecule (sodium acetate). Its degradation has to reach 60% after 14 days. Secondly, the mineral medium has to exhibit oxygen consumption below 60 mg L^{-1} (ideally between 20 and 30 mg L^{-1}) after 28 days. Finally, after 28 days, the pH should be between 6 and 8.5.



Figure S1: FT-IR spectra of cellulose AVICEL PH 200 and cellulose regenerated from [TriC₃][Lev] and from [TriC₃][Lev]/GVL



Figure S2: (a) ¹H NMR of fresh [TriC₄][Cl] and (b) ¹H NMR of recycled [TriC₄][Cl] after regeneration of cellulose with ethanol (EtOH)



Figure S3: ¹H NMR of recycled [TriC₃][Lev]

NMR-Analysis of [TriC3][Lev]

Methyltripropylammonium levulinate, [TriC₃][Lev]: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₅H₇O₃⁻], M=273.41 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCl₃):** δ(ppm): 0.93 (t, *J*=7.4 Hz, 9H), 1.57-1.73 (m, 6H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.31 (t, *J*=6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.59 (t, *J*=6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.15-3.23 (m, 6H)



Fig. S4 ¹H NMR spectrum of [TriC3][Lev]

¹³**C-NMR (CDCl₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 15.9 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₃), 32.1 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH₂), 48.9 (CH₃), 62.9 (CH₂), 177.1 (C), 210.0 (C)



Fig. S5. ¹³C CP/MAS NMR spectrum of PH-AVICEL cellulose (cellulose I) and regenerated cellulose (cellulose II) (Cr=crystalline and am = amorphous). For comparison with data in the current literature, please see reference 26 of the manuscript

Analytical data for all other tested ILs

Dimethyldipropylammonium acetate, [DiC₃][Ace]: [C₈H₂₀N⁺][C₃H₂O₂⁻], M=189.29 g/mol

¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.93 (t, *J*=6.3 Hz, 6H), 1.74-1.57 (m, 4H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 3.19 (s, 6H), 3.22-3.32 (m, 4H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCl₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 16.2 (CH₂), 25.3 (CH₃), 51.1 (CH₃), 65.1 (CH₂), 176.8 (C)

Dimethyldipropylammonium lactate, [DiC₃][Lac]: [C₈H₂₀N⁺][C₃H₅O₃⁻], M=219.32 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.96 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.26 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.62-1.78 (m, 4H), 3.17 (s, 6H), 3.21-3.29 (m, 4H), 3.84 (q, *J*=6.5 Hz, 1H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.8 (CH₃), 16.3 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 51.2 (CH₃), 65.4 (CH₂), 68.3 (CH), 179.6 (C)

Dimethyldipropylammonium levulinate, [DiC₃][Lev]: $[C_8H_{20}N^+][C_5H_7O_3^-]$, M=245.36 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCl₃):** δ(ppm): 0.95 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.62-1.77 (m, 4H), 2.10 (s, 3H), 2.33 (t, *J*=6.7 Hz, 2H), 2.61 (t, *J*=6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (s, 6H), 3.19-3.27 (m, 4H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.8 (CH₃), 16.1 (CH₂), 30.1 (CH₃), 31.7 (CH₂), 40.1 (CH₂), 51.2 (CH₃), 65.1 (CH₂), 177.4 (C), 210.0 (C)

Di-(dimethyldipropylammonium) itaconate, [DiC₃]₂[Ita]: $[C_8H_{20}N^+]_2[C_5H_4O_4^{2-}]$, M=388.59g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 1.04 (t, *J*=6.7 Hz, 12H), 1.69-1.85 (m, 8H), 3.25 (s, 12H), 3.30 (s, 2H), 3.30-3.39 (m, 8H), 5.33 (s, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 16.6 (CH₂), 43.6 (CH₂), 51.2 (CH₃), 65.4 (CH₂), 122.3 (CH₂), 141.2 (C), 172.9 (C), 175.3 (C)

Methyltripropylammonium acetate, **[TriC₃][Ace]**: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₃H₂O₂-], M=217.35 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.89 (t, *J*=6.7 Hz, 9H), 1.53-1.68 (m, 6H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 3.07 (s, 3H), 3.11-3.19 (m, 6H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 15.8 (CH₂), 24.8 (CH₃), 48.8 (CH₃), 62.9 (CH₂), 177.1 (C)

Methyltripropylammonium lactate, [TriC₃][Lac]: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₃H₅O₃⁻], M=247.37 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.96 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 9H), 1.26 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.60-1.75 (m, 6H), 3.12 (s, 3H), 3.16-3.25 (m, 6H), 3.85 (q, *J*=6.8 Hz, 1H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 15.9 (CH₂), 21.6 (CH₃), 48.8 (CH₃), 63.1 (CH₂), 68.1 (CH), 179.8 (C)

Methyltripropylammonium levulinate, [TriC₃][Lev]: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₅H₇O₃⁻], M=273.41 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.93 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 9H), 1.57-1.73 (m, 6H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 2.31 (t, *J*=6.9 Hz, 2H), 2.60 (t, *J*=6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.09 (s, 3H), 3.14-3.24 (m, 6H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 15.9 (CH₂), 30.2 (CH₃), 32.1 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH₂), 48.8 (CH₃), 62.8 (CH₂), 177.1 (C), 210.0 (C)

Di-(methyltripropylammonium) itaconate, [TiC₃]₂[Ita]: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_5H_4O_4^{2-}]$, M=444.69g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.99 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 18H), 1.63-1.78 (m, 12H), 3.17 (s, 6H), 3.19-3.28 (m, 12H+2H), 5.19 (s, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H) ¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 10.7 (CH₃), 15.9 (CH₂), 43.4 (CH₂), 49.1 (CH₃), 62.8 (CH₂), 119.4 (CH₂), 145.0 (C), 173.5 (C), 177.1 (C)

Dibutyldimethylammonium acetate, [DiC₄][Ace]: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+][C_3H_2O_2^-]$, M=217.35 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.96 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.31-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.69 (m, 4H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 3.21 (s, 6H), 3.32-3.40 (m, 4H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 13.7 (CH₃), 19.7 (CH₂), 24.6 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₃), 51.1 (CH₃), 63.3 (CH₂), 177.3 (C)

Dibutyldimethylammonium lactate, [DiC₄][Lac]: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₃H₅O₃-], M=247.37 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.98 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.31 (d, *J*=6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.33-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.70 (m, 4H), 3.22 (s, 6H), 3.31-3.40 (m, 4H), 3.91 (q, *J*=6.8 Hz, 1H) ¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 13.6 (CH₃), 19.6 (CH₂), 21.7 (CH₃), 24.7 (CH₂), 51.2 (CH₃), 63.6 (CH₂), 68.0 (CH), 179.8 (C)

Dibutyldimethylammonium glycolate, [DiC₄][Gly]: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₂H₃O₃⁻], M=233.35 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.90 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.25-1.38 (m, 4H), 1.52-1.65 (m, 4H), 3.13 (s, 6H), 3.21-3.30 (m, 4H), 3.68 (s, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ (ppm): 13.7 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₂), 24.4 (CH₂), 50.9 (CH₃), 62.3 (CH₂), 63.7 (CH₂), 176.6 (C)

Dibutyldimethylammonium levulinate, [DiC₄][Lev]: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+][C_5H_7O_3^-]$, M=273.41 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ (ppm): 0.95 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.30-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.70 (m, 4H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.36 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 2.63 (t, *J*=6.8 Hz, 2H), 3.19 (s, 6H), 3.25-3.34 (m, 4H) ¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ (ppm): 13.8 (CH₃), 19.9 (CH₂), 24.6 (CH₂), 30.4 (CH₃), 32.1 (CH₂), 40.4 (CH₂), 51.4 (CH₃), 63.6 (CH₂), 177.5 (C), 210.4 (C) Dibutyldimethylammonium sorbate, **[DiC₄][Sor]**: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₆H₇O₂⁻], M=269.42 g/mol

¹**H-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ (ppm): 1.05 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.44 (sext*a*, *J*=7.4 Hz, 4H), 1.68-1.79 (m, 4H), 1.83 (d, *J*=6.8 Hz, 3H), 3.09 (s, 6H), 3.25-3.43 (m, 4H), 5.83 (d, *J*=15.3 Hz, 1H), 6.02 (dq, *J*=15.1 Hz, *J*=6.7 Hz, 1H), 6.20 (dd, *J*=15.1 Hz, *J*=10.8 Hz, 1H),7.01 (dd, *J*=15.4 Hz, *J*=10.5 Hz, 1H)

¹³**C-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ(ppm): 13.9 (CH₃), 18.5 (CH₃), 20.7 (CH₂), 25.4 (CH₂), 51.1 (CH₃), 65.2 (CH₂), 127.6 (CH), 131.9 (CH), 135.9 (CH), 141.4 (CH), 175.9 (C)

Dibutyldimethylammonium mandelate, **[DiC₄][Mand]**: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺][C₈H₇O₃⁻], M=309.44 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃) :** δ(ppm): 0.89 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 6H), 1.16-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.32-1.46 (m, 4H), 2.77 (s, 6H), 2.89-2.98 (m, 4H), 4.79 (s, 1H), 7.10-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.46 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃) :** δ (ppm): 13.7 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₂), 24.1 (CH₂), 50.9 (CH₃), 63.4 (CH₂), 74.5 (CH), 126.87 – 128.04 (5xCH), 143.2 (C), 176.3 (C)

Di-(dibutyldimethylammonium) succinate, $[DiC_4]_2[Suc]$: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_4H_4O_4^{2-}]$, M=432.68 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃) :** δ(ppm): 0.88 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 12H), 1.23-1.39 (m, 8H), 1.49-1.64 (m, 8H), 2.29 (s, 4H), 3.15 (s, 12H), 3.19-3.29 (m, 8H, NCH₂)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCl₃) :** δ(ppm): 13.7 (CH₃), 19.5 (CH₂), 24.4 (CH₂), 35.5 (CH₂), 51.2 (CH₃), 63.1 (CH₂), 179.2 (C)

Di-(dibutyldimethylammonium) itaconate, $[DiC_4]_2[Ita]$: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_5H_4O_4^{2-}]$, M=444.69 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃) :** δ(ppm): 0.92 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 12H), 1.25-1.40 (m, 8H), 1.51-1.66 (m, 8H), 3.02 (s, 2H), 3.14 (s, 12H), 3.18-3.28 (m, 8H), 5.12 (s, 1H), 5.73 (s, 1H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCl₃) :** δ(ppm): 13.7 (CH₃), 19.8 (CH₂), 24.4 (CH₂), 43.6 (CH₂), 51.5 (CH₃), 63.4 (CH₂), 119.6 (CH₂), 144.9 (C), 173.4 (C), 176.9 (C)

Di-(dibutyldimethylammonium) maleate, [DiC₄]₂[Male]: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_4H_2O_4^{2-}]$, M=430.66g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ(ppm): 1.05 (t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 12H), 1.44 (sext*a*, *J*=7.5 Hz, 8H), 1.68-1.82 (m, 8H), 3.09 (s, 12H), 3.26-3.59 (m, 8H), 5.97 (s, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ (ppm): 13.9 (CH₃), 20.7 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₂), 51.3 (CH₃), 65.1 (CH₂), 132.4 (CH), 175.3 (C)

 $Di-(dibutyldimethylammonium) fumarate, [DiC_4]_2[Fum]: [C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_4H_2O_4^{2-}], M=430.66g/mol$



¹**H-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ(ppm): 1.04 (t, *J*=7.5 Hz, 12H), 1.42 (sext*a*, *J*=7.4 Hz, 8H), 1.68-1.82 (m, 8H), 3.08 (s, 12H), 3.26-3.35 (m, 8H), 6.67 (s, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CD₃OD):** δ (ppm): 14.0 (CH₃), 20.8 (CH₂), 25.5 (CH₂), 51.2 (CH₃), 65.2 (CH₂), 137.2 (CH), 174.0 (C)

Di-(dibutyldimethylammonium) tartrate, [DiC₄]₂[Tar]: $[C_{10}H_{24}N^+]_2[C_4H_4O_6^{2^-}]$, M=464.68 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.95 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 12H), 1.35-1.49 (m, 8H), 1.59-1.74 (m, 8H), 3.20 (s, 12H, NCH₃), 3.30-3.39 (m, 8H), 4.19 (s, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 14.0 (CH₃), 19.9 (CH₂), 24.7 (CH₂), 51.9 (CH₃), 63.6 (CH₂), 73.7 (CH), 177.2 (C)

Tri-(dibutyldimethylammonium) citrate, **[DiC₄]₃[Cit]**: [C₁₀H₂₄N⁺]₃[C₆H₅O₇³⁻], M=664.01 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.93 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 18H), 1.29-1.43 (m, 12H), 1.55-1.68 (m, 12H), 2.61 (d, *J*=7.3 Hz, 4H), 3.22 (s, 18H, NCH₃), 3.26-3.35 (m, 12H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 13.9 (CH₃), 19.6 (CH₂), 24.7 (CH₂), 46.7 (CH₂), 51.6 (CH₃), 63.3 (CH₂), 176.7 (2xC), 180.2 (C)

TributyImethylammonium acetate, [TriC₄][Ace]: [C₁₃H₃₀₄N⁺][C₃H₂O₂⁻], M=259.43 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.94 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 9H), 1.29-1.43 (m, 6H), 1.53-1.67 (m, 6H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 3.15 (s, 3H), 3.19-3.29 (m, 6H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ (ppm): 13.8 (CH₃), 19.6 (CH₂), 24.2 (CH₂), 25.2 (CH₃), 48.9 (CH₃), 61.3 (CH₂), 177.1 (C)

TributyImethylammonium glycolate, [DiC₄][Gly]: $[C_{13}H_{304}N^+][C_2H_3O_3^-]$, M=275.43 g/mol



¹**H-NMR (CDCI₃):** δ(ppm): 0.95 (t, *J*=7.3 Hz, 9H), 1.28-1.43 (m, 6H), 1.53-1.66 (m, 6H), 3.11 (s, 3H), 3.20-3.30 (m, 6H), 3.77 (s, 2H)

¹³**C-NMR (CDCI₃):** $\overline{0}$ (ppm): 13.8 (CH₃), 19.8 (CH₂), 24.3 (CH₂), 48.9 (CH₃), 61.3 (CH₂), 62.5 (CH₂), 176.9 (C)