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Supplementary Information

The influence of hydroxy propyl β-cyclodextrin on the micellar to gel transition in F127 solutions investigated at macro and nanoscale level

Marin Micutz^{,a,b} Erez Matalon^c, Teodora Staicu^b, Daniel Angelescu^a, Ana Maria Ariciu^a, Adina Rogozea^a, Ioana Maria Turcu^a, Gabriela Ionita^{a*}

^{*a*} "Ilie Murgulescu" Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Romanian Academy, 202 Splaiul

Independentei, Bucharest 060021, Romania

^b Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, University of Bucharest, Bd. Regina

Elisabeta 4-12, Bucharest, Romania

^c Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Chemical Physics, 76100 Rehovot, Israel

* Corresponding author: <u>ige@icf.ro</u>



Fig. S1. Temperature dependence of storage modulus (G') for samples 1-3 prepared in (a) H_2O and (b) D_2O at 10 Hz

The behaviour of sample 1 described by data presented in Figure 2 in the main text is similar for all samples.

In particular for the sample 1, within the pretransition temperature range (293-303), G' increased slower than G'' did (at 293 and 298 K, G' was kept pretty constant while G'' rose), which means that the system has a viscoelastic behaviour close to the Newtonian one. Accordingly, the temperature ascending leads to increasing the viscous or loss part of the viscoelastic behaviour of the sample. Still, that G' starts to increase when temperature evolved from 298 K to 303 K is in accordance to the system status closer to the gel transition.

In the temperature range 303-343 K, the sample starts to gel and then the gel becomes progressively strong as temperature increases. The G' steeply rises reaching a plateau above 313 K and G'' descends abruptly attaining a plateau beyond the same 313 K. This is equivalent to the prevalence of the elastic part over the viscous one of the sample viscoelasticity and, going further, to the increasing strength of the gel-like behaviour as a function of temperature in the range of 303-343 K. Generally, such behaviour of a viscoelastic material beyond its gel point, where G'>G'' and the difference G'-G'' becomes higher as strength gel increases, it is reported both for physically cross-linked gels [1-3] and chemically cross-linked ones [4,5].

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Fig. S2. Dependence of loss modulus (G'') on angular frequency (ω) for the sample 1-H₂O at the inset temperatures;



Fig. S3. a) the experimental EPR spectrum of **DT** in $1-D_2O$ at 293 K - black continuous line, b) simulated spectrum – black dash line, c) component C1 – blue, d) component C2 – pink.

The software developed by Budil et al. on the basis of Liouville equation was used to simulate the two component spectra characteristic for DT in F127 solutions (this feature was observed only below the temperature values lower than cgt.^a

Magnetic parameters: $g_x=2.0089$, $g_y=2.0059$, $g_z=2.0027$, $A_{xx}=6.8G$, $A_{yy}=6.70$, $A_{zz}=36.4G$, $\beta_D=90^\circ$ C1 88.7 %, C2 11.3 %

a) D. E. Budil, S. Lee, S. Saxena and J. H. Freed, J. Magn. Reson., Ser. A, 1996, 120, 155



Fig. S4. Variation of τ_c with 1/T for the spin probe DT in samples 1-3 prepared in ${\rm H_2O}$ and in D_2O



The straight lines in figure S5a are guides to evidence the changes in slopes for variation of τ_c with temperature.



Fig.S6. The temperature dependence of the EPR spectra of L62NO in sample 1-D₂O



Fig. S7. The absolute-values Fourier transform ESEEM spectra of (a) L62NO, (b) MTCYC and (c) F127NO in samples **1-3** prepared in D₂O.



Fig. S8. Normalized fluorescence spectra of DT in H₂O (red) and in sample 1-H₂O (blue)



Fig. S9. Normalised (at 374 nm) emission spectra of pyrene (3 \Box M) in sample1-H₂O at 293 K (continuous line), 313 K (dotted line) and 333 K (dashed line). $\lambda_{ex} = 335$ nm