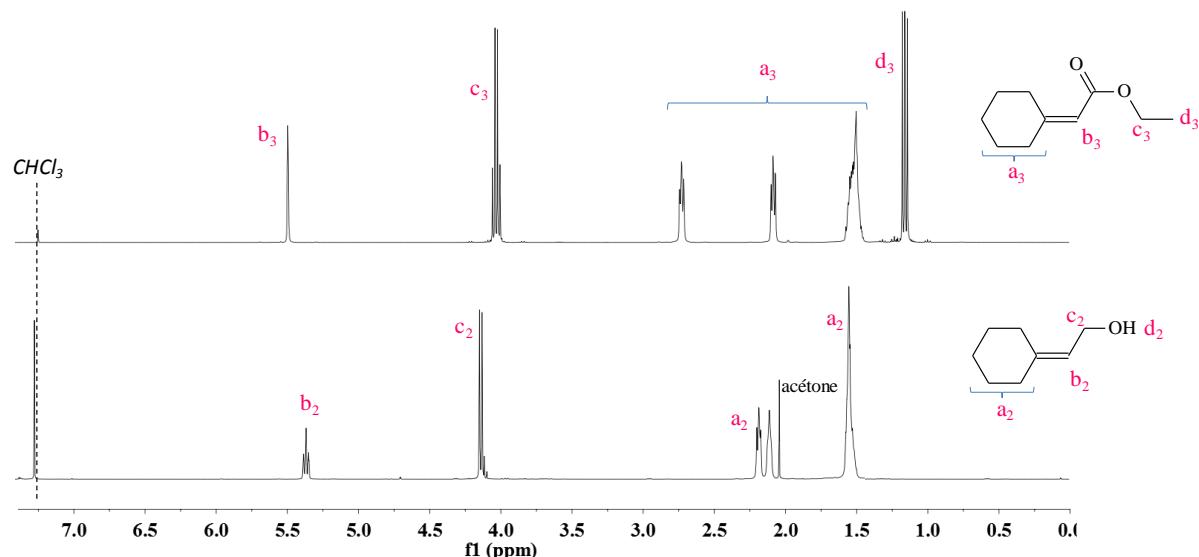


*Electronic Supplementary Information*

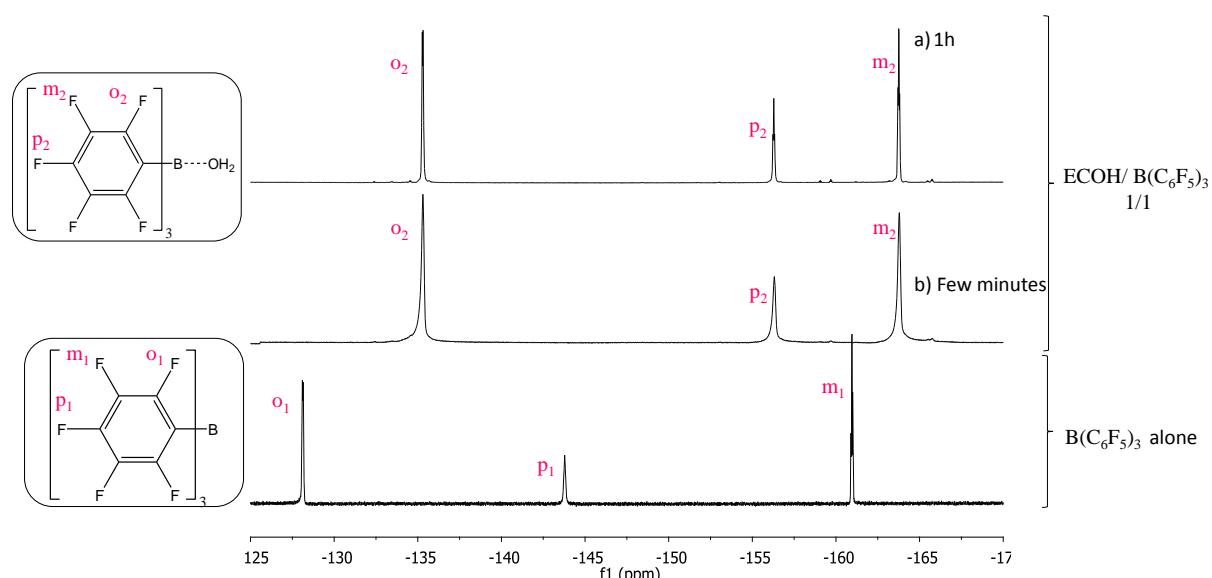
**Cationic Polymerization of Isoprene initiated by 2-cyclohexylidene ethanol/B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>: insight into initiation and branching reactions**

Samira Ouardad, Thomas Lebarb  , Alain Deffieux, Fr  d  ric Peruch

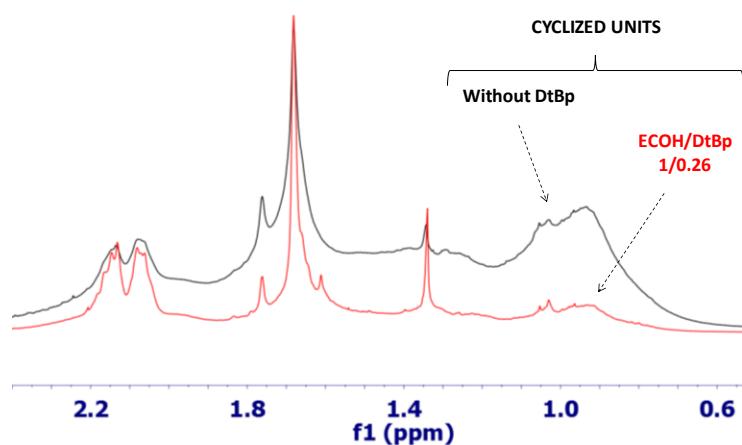
Laboratoire de Chimie des Polym  res Organiques, UMR 5629 CNRS/UB1/IPB, Bordeaux University, 16 avenue Pey Berland, 33607 Pessac Cedex, France



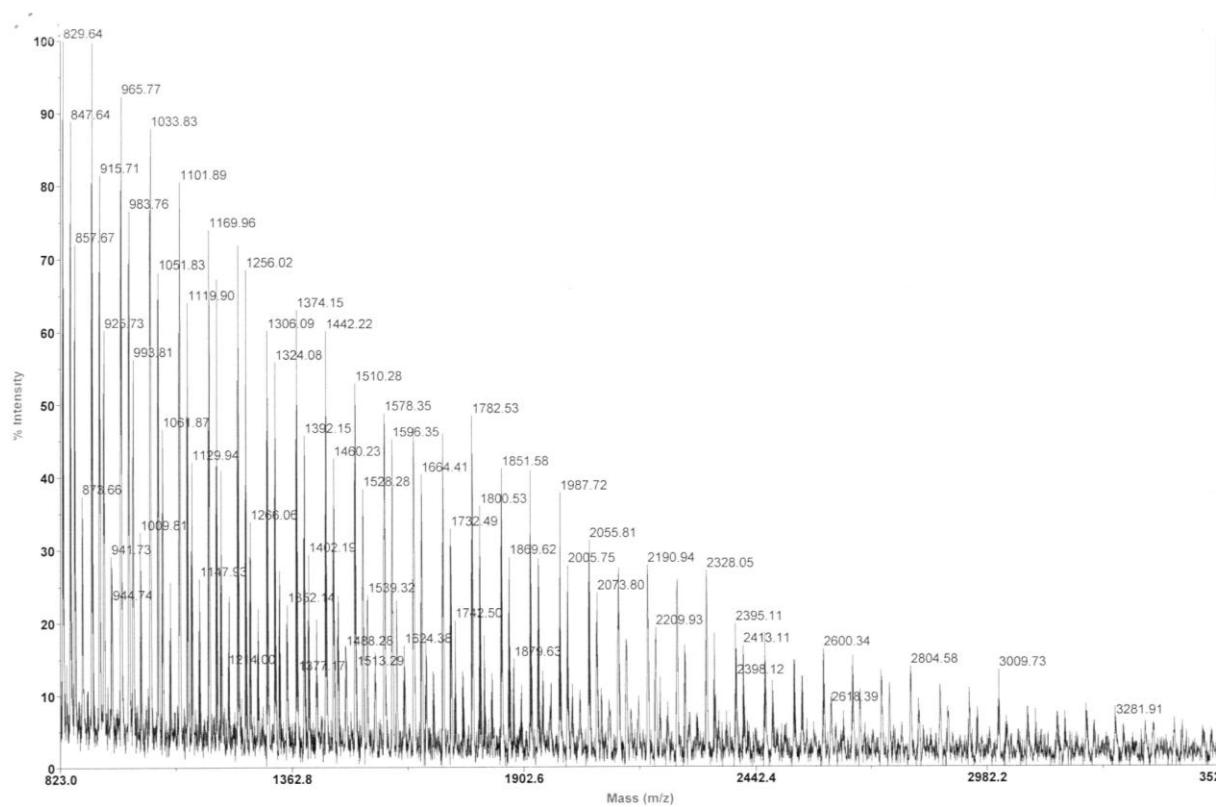
**Figure S1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of ethylcyclohexylidene acetate and 2-cyclohexylidene ethanol.



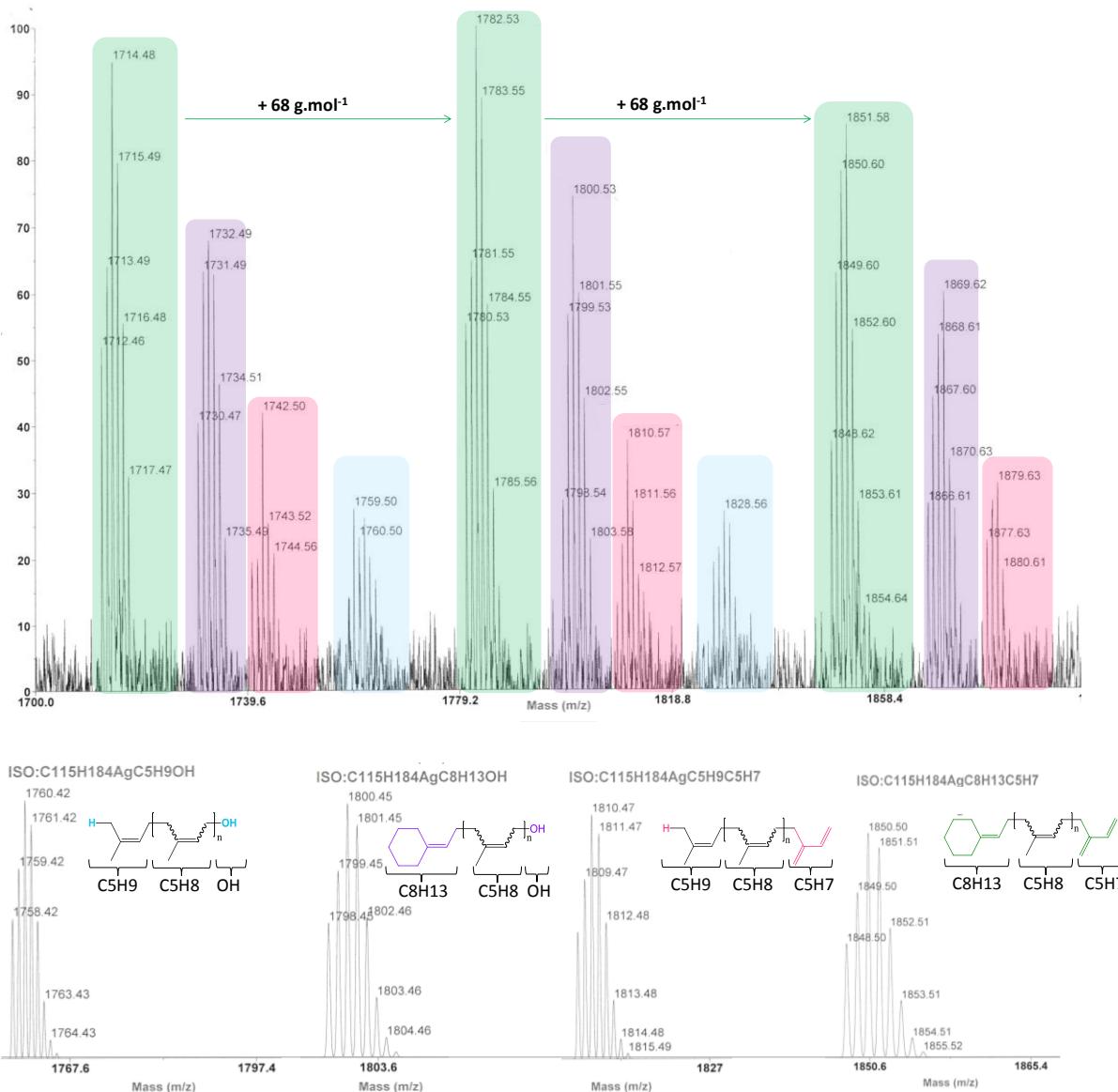
**Figure S2.**  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR spectra measured at different time for the ionization study of ECOH by  $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_3$  (1/1) in  $\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}_2$ .



**Figure S3.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra (0-2 ppm region) of oligoisoprenes obtained without and with  $\text{d}^{\text{t}}\text{BP}$ .



**Figure S4.** Maldi-Tof spectrum of run 1 in Table 3



**Figure S5.** Simulations of Maldi-Tof spectrum compared to experimental results for polyisoprene chains bearing different chain-ends.

n	nC5H8AgC8H13C8H13C5H7C5H7	nC5H8AgC8H13C8H13C5H7OH	nC5H8gC8H13C8H13OHOH
19	1752,27	1702,22	1652,17
20	1820,27	1770,22	1720,17
21	1888,28	1838,23	1788,17
22	1956,28	1906,23	1856,18
23	2024,28	1974,23	1924,18
24	2092,29	2042,24	1992,18
25	2160,29	2110,24	2060,19
26	2228,30	2178,24	2128,19

Table S1. Theoretical Maldi-Tof molar masses of branched polyisoprenes obtained by intermolecular branching (chains bearing 2 cyclohexylidene moieties), molar masses highlighted in grey are the expected ones for the zoom in Figure S5.

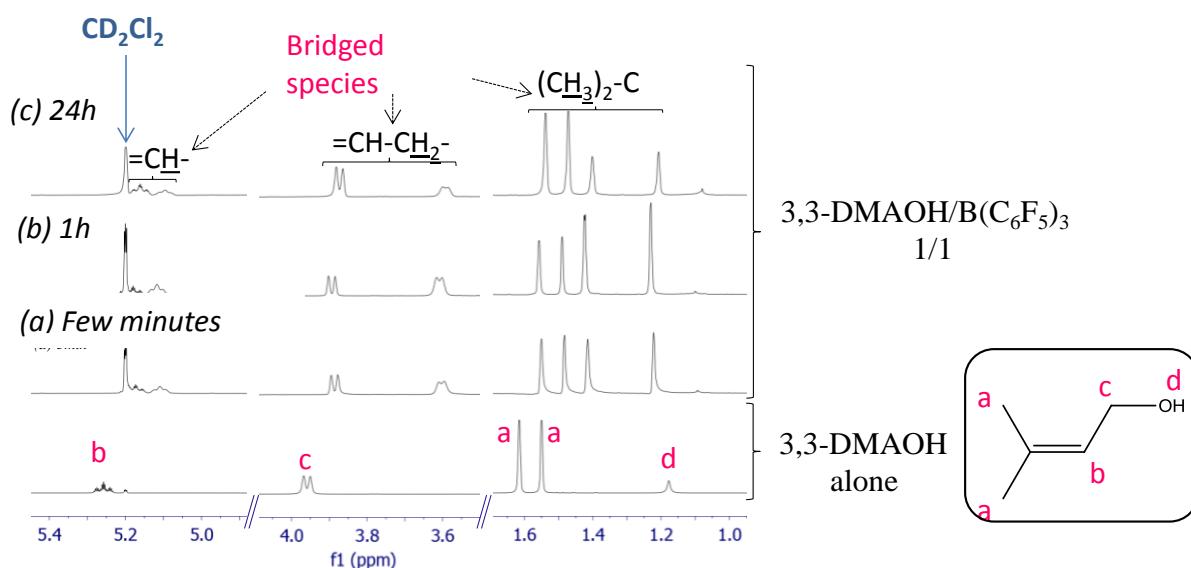


Figure S6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of 3,3-DMAOH/B(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub> (1/1) system for different reaction time in CD<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at -40°C.