One-Dimensional Inclusion Polymerization of Diene and Vinyl Monomers by Using Methyl Cholate as a Host

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ABSTRACT: Inclusion polymerization of diene and vinyl monomers by using methyl cholate (MC) as a host was studied. The polymerization exhibited a number of behaviors characteristic of one-dimensional inclusion polymerization. For example, polymerizabilities of the monomers depended on their size and shape rather than their electronic properties. Another is that thermally stable propagating radicals were detected by ESR spectroscopy. These features resemble those observed in the case of deoxycholic acid (DCA) and apocholic acid (ACA). Consequently, it is considered that there exist one-dimensional molecular assemblies of the monomers in one-dimensional spaces at a molecular level, called channels. Crystallographic studies show that MC forms amphiphilic bilayered assembly. It is expected that sliding of the bilayers along the lipophilic side yields channels between the layers like the cases of cholic acid (CA), DCA, and ACA. Side pockets of the channels are slightly different in the size and shape among these hosts. The difference is closely related to slight differences of the polymerization behaviors among the hosts, called space effects.

KEY WORDS Inclusion Polymerization / One-Dimensionality / Space Effects / Channels / Side Pockets / Relative Size / Methyl Cholate / Amphiphilic Bilayers / Crystal Structure / Molecular Graphics /

Inclusion polymerization can be recognized as a polymerization in a microscopic space at a molecular level.¹ Since a host component provides an inherent space, the polymerization is characterized by an occurrence of the space effect. When the space is a channel and an interlayer space in inclusion compounds, we may observe a one- and two-dimensional character of the polymerization, respectively.

We so far studied the one-dimensional polymerization by using of a pair of hosts, deoxycholic acid (3α , 12α -dihydroxy- 5β -cholan-24- oic acid, DCA) and apocholic acid (3α , 12α -dihydroxy- 5β -chol-8(14)-en-24-oic acid, ACA).^{2,3} Recently, we found that the related compounds, such as cholic acid (3α , 7α , 12α -trihydroxy-5 β -cholan-24-oic acid, CA),⁴⁻⁶ methyl cholate (MC),^{7,8} and methyl deoxycholate⁹ form the inclusion compounds. We may expect that these compounds also serve as a set of the hosts suitable for the one-dimensional inclusion polymerization.

However, it must be kept in mind that even though a set of the hosts have similar molecular structures, their molecular assemblies often differ greatly from one another. For example, a pair of CA and DCA constitute such a case. CA has an additional hydroxyl group as compared with DCA, leading to a different hydrogen-bonding network among the host molecules. The molecular assembly of CA has channels with larger pockets than those of

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DCA and ACA.^{5,6} Consequently, CA has a different inclusion ability from DCA and ACA. Another example is provided by a set of methyl esters of these hosts. Methyl ester of DCA, unlike DCA, assembles in a different mode to yield no channels,⁹ whereas methyl ester of CA(MC), like CA, forms the inclusion compounds with a variety of organic substances.^{7,8}

We can observe the space effect at a molecular level in the one-dimensional inclusion polymerization, when a set of hosts form similar assemblies to leave a set of finely different channels and further to include the same guests in common. From this viewpoint a well-known pair of urea and thiourea do not serve as such an example. The reason is that they can not include the same monomers in common, although these hosts surely form similar hexagonal channels. However, a pair of ACA and DCA serve as a good example. On the basis of a fact that ACA forms larger channels than DCA,¹⁸ we confirmed the space effects from various viewpoints for the first time.1-3

Advantageously, it was found that MC serves as the third host suitable for the one-dimensional inclusion polymerization in addition to a pair of DCA and ACA as reported previously.10 Thereafter, we obtained crystallographic evidence which supports an existence of channels between amphiphilic bilayers.¹¹ In addition, molecular graphics studies gave us visual and valuable information about the size and shape of the channels and their side pockets.^{6,12} It seems that a comparison of the channels and pockets leads us to a possible explanation of the space effects among these hosts mentioned above. We try in this paper to understand various behaviors in the polymerization by using MC as a host on the basis of crystal structures of MC inclusion compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

MC used was prepared from commercially available CA (Sigma Co.) by esterification with methanol containing hydrogen chloride,¹³ further purified by recrystallization from methanol. Solvent-free MC was obtained by heating at 110°C for 20 h under reduced pressure or by recrystallization from ethyl acetate–hexane. 1,3-Pentadiene, 2-methyl-1,3butadiene, and vinyl monomers were commercially available and used without further purification. 2,3-Dimethyl-1,3-butadiene,¹⁴ 1carbomethoxy-1,3-butadiene,¹⁵ 1-cyano-1,3butadiene,¹⁶ 1-chloro-1,3-butadiene,¹⁷ were prepared according to literature.

Formation of Inclusion Compounds and Their Polymerization

The inclusion compounds of a monomer with MC was prepared as follows. 1.0 g of the solvent-free MC and an equimolar amount of a monomer were placed in a glass tube of 10 mm diameter, which was sealed under vacuum (10^{-3} Torr) after three freeze-thaw cycles. The tube was allowed to stand at 25°C for 20 h to form the inclusion compounds, and then exposed to γ -irradiation from a ⁶⁰Co source at a definite temperature for one hour with a total dose of 1.0 Mrad. After the irradiation the tube was allowed to stand at a definite temperature in order to post-polymerize and then cooled again to -78° C. The contents were immediately poured into an excess amount of methanol to separate the polymer from MC. The methanol-insoluble fraction was filtered, dried under vacuum and weighed.

Measurements

Melting points of MC-polymer inclusion compounds were determined on a hot-stage polarizing microscope and were uncorrected. The molecular weight of the polymers was estimated by gel permeation chromatography and viscometry. Infrared (IR) spectra were

obtained by using a KBr disk or a film. ¹H and ¹³C NMR were measured at 100 MHz with a JEOL JNM-RS-100 spectrometer and at 15 MHz with a JEOL JNM FX-60s spectrometer, respectively. Specific optical rotation of polymers was measured in chloroform-benzene solution (50:50, v/v) on a JASCO DIP 181 digital polarimeter. Thermogravimetry (TG) and differential thermal analysis (DTA) were carried out by using a SEIKO I&E SSC 580 DS instrument. The scans were taken at a speed of 5°C min⁻¹ under nitrogen atmosphere. ESR spectra were performed by a VARIAN E-109 spectrometer equipped with an automatic temperature control operating at X-frequency band.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Properties of MC Inclusion Compounds

The inclusion compounds of MC are usually prepared by a recrystallization and/or an absorption method. The formation of the compounds is readily confirmed by a combination of DTA and TG with IR and NMR spectroscopy. For example, in the case of methanol-included MC which was obtained by esterification of CA in methanol, it is clear from their measurements that the crystals include an equimolar amount of methanol, as shown in Figures 1(b) and 2(b). Solvent-free MC was obtained by heat treatment at 110°C under reduced pressure (Figures 1(a) and 2(a)).

We isolated the inclusion compounds with vinyl monomers by direct recrystallization of the solvent-free MC from large amounts of the liquid monomers. As for thermally stable compounds, we could determine molar ratios of the compounds by DTA and TG measurements. The absorption method yielded the same compounds with these monomers.

For example, Figures 1(c) and 1(d) show DTA and TG diagrams of the compounds of MC with acrylonitrile and 2-chloroacrylonitrile, respectively. Each DTA diagram has two kinds of peaks. The peak at lower temperature



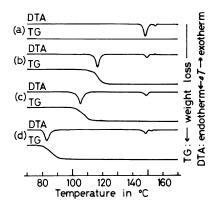


Figure 1. TG and DTA diagrams of the inclusion compounds of MC with (a) no guest, (b) methanol, (c) acrylonitrile, and (d) 2-chloroacrylonitrile.

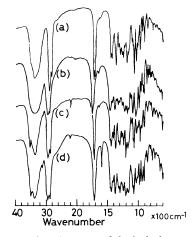


Figure 2. Infrared spectra of the inclusion compounds of MC with (a) no guest, (b) methanol, (c) acrylonitrile, and (d) 2-chloroacrylonitrile.

corresponds to the temperature at which the corresponding included monomer is released from the MC crystals. The TG measurement indicated that the molar ratio of MC to the monomer amounts nearly unity. The peak at higher temperature corresponds to the melting point of MC itself. Figures 2(c) and 2(d) show IR spectra of the inclusion compounds with the monomers. In addition to an existence of the guest component, it can be seen from a comparison of Figures 2(a)—(d) that absorption bands due to hydroxyl and carbonyl groups are different from each other, indicating that the guest molecules induce different hydrogen-bonding networks in the molecular assemblies.

In the case of volatile diene monomers, we have a difficult problem of isolating the inclusion compounds. In the case of DCA and ACA, the compounds with such monomers can easily be prepared by recrystallization from methanol or ethanol containing the monomers. But we can not use the alcohols as the solvents in the case of MC, since MC forms the stable inclusion compounds with the alcohols. We do not find an alternative solvent yet, and we fail to isolate the inclusion compounds of MC with the monomers. It seems that the compounds are not stable at ordinary temperature and pressure. Therefore, we employed an absorption method for obtaining the compounds with the monomers in sealed tubes and applied them to the inclusion polymerization without isolating.

Polymerizability of Monomers in MC Inclusion Compounds

We studied the inclusion polymerization of various monomers in a similar way to the case of DCA and ACA.² The degassed and sealed tubes were exposed to γ -irradiation from a ⁶⁰Co source at -78 or 0°C. The post-polymerization was done at various temperatures. The results are summarized in Table I. In the absence of the host, only a trace amount of polymers yielded.

During the polymerization procedure, the crystalline inclusion compounds were found to keep their original shape and appearance. After the polymerization, the compounds melted at lower temperatures than the melting point of MC itself. These points are considered to be the melting points of the polymer inclusion compounds. The lowering of the melting points was notable in the case of 1-carbomethoxy-1,3-butadiene and methyl methacrylate, as shown in Table I.

Polymerizabilities of the monomers depended on the size and shape of the monomers

Monomer ^b	Postpolymn.		Conv.	Mp of polymer adduct		Microstructure	
	Temp	Time Day	%		M_w	1,4- <i>trans</i> ^e	
	°C			°C			
$(R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = R_3 = H$	30	4	6	136—139	c	50	
$R_1 = R_2 = CH_3, R_3 = H$	30	4	19	154—156	d	90	
$R_1 = R_2 = H, R_3 = CH_3$	30	7	50	142—144	8.2×10^{3}	68	
(A) $\begin{cases} R_1 = R_2 = H, R_3 = CH_3 \\ R_1 = R_2 = H, R_3 = CO_2CH_3 \end{cases}$	70	1	49	128-132	5.0×10^{3}	95	
$R_1 = R_2 = H, R_3 = CN$	70	2	46	143—145	1.6×10^{4}	90	
$R_1 = R_2 = H, R_3 = Cl$	30	4	46	133—135	d	95	
$\begin{pmatrix} R_1 = CH_3 \\ R_2 = CO_2CH_3 \end{pmatrix}$	- 30	2	26	7881	5.1 × 10 ⁵	Syndiotactic rich	
(B) $\begin{cases} R_2 = CO_2CH_3 \\ R_1 = CH_3, R_2 = CN \\ R_1 = Cl, R_2 = CN \end{cases}$	70	2	96	158-160	1.1×10^{6}	Atactic	
$R_1 = Cl, R_2 = CN$	70	2	47	150-152	c	Atactic	

Table I. Inclusion polymerization of various vinyl and diene monomers by using MC as a host^a

^a MC, 1.0 g; molar ratio of feed; MC/monomer = 1/1; γ-ray irradiation, 1.0 Mrad, 0°C for diene monomers, 1.0 Mrad, -78°C for vinyl monomers.

^b (A) $CH_2 = C(R_1)C(R_2) = CH(R_3)$; (B) $CH_2 = C(R_1)(R_2)$.

^c Not determined due to unstable and insoluble polymers.

^d Inherent viscosity (η_{sp}/c) of a 0.4 g dl⁻¹ solution in *o*-dichlorobenzene at 30°C was 0.06 g dl⁻¹.

^e In the case of 1,3-butadiene derivatives.

rather than their electronic properties. For example, we obtained a trace and small amount of polymers in the case of 1,3-butadiene and 2-methyl-1,3-butadiene(isoprene), respectively. Other monomers having an alkyl group, such as ethyl and isopropyl, at 2-position gave no polymers. However, in the case of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene and 1,3-pentadiene, the polymer yields increased up to 19 and 50% yield, respectively. 1,3-Butadiene derivatives having a polar group at 1-position gave the corresponding polymers, as shown in Table I.

However, other derivatives, such as 4methyl-1,3-pentadiene, 2,4-dimethyl-1,3-pentadiene, 1,4-dicyano-1,3-butadiene, 1-cyano-1,3-pentadiene did not give the corresponding polymers, when post-polymerized at 50°C for 4 days.

The polymer yields tend to increase with increasing the post-polymerization time and temperature. As an example, we studied the post-polymerization of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene in detail. Figure 3 shows the resulting relationship between the time and the polymer yields. It can be seen that the polymerization proceeds fast in the early stage, then gradually and saturates. Such a saturation of the polymer yield was observed within 24 h at 100°C.

Acrylonitrile did not yield the corresponding polymers, when post-polymerized at different temperatures ranging from -78 to 70° C. Other vinyl monomers, such as methacrylonitrile, 2-chloroacrylonitrile and methyl acrylate, gave the corresponding polymers in good yields.

Microstructures of the Resulting Polymers

The resulting polymers contained some regular microstructures in the case of diene monomers, while no regular ones in the case of vinyl monomers.

Diene Monomers with Alkyl Groups. The resulting poly(1,3-pentadiene) consists of about 2:1 ratio of 1,4-*trans*-addition to 1,4-*cis*addition and several percent of 1,2-addition based on the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra. The

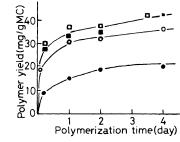


Figure 3. Temperature dependence of the post-polymerization of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene by using MC as a host. Postpolymerization temperature: (\bullet) 0, (\bigcirc) 30, (\blacksquare) 50, and (\square) 100°C. MC, 1.0 g; the monomer, 0.25 ml; γ -irradiation dose, 1.0 Mrad at -78° C.

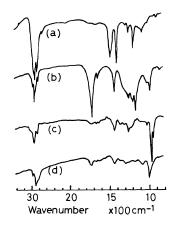


Figure 4. Infrared spectra of the polymers obtained by the inclusion polymerization of (a) 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, (b) 1-carbomethoxy-1,3-butadiene, (c) 1-chloro-1,3-butadiene, and (d) 1-bromo-1,3- butadiene by using MC as a host.

microstructure is similar to that of a polymer obtained by free-radical polymerization.

On the other hand, the resulting poly(2,3dimethyl-1,3-butadiene) had some stereoregularities.¹⁹⁻²¹ The melting point (257— 260°C) is near that of 1,4-*trans* polymer (267—272°C) and far from that of 1,4-*cis* polymer (182—192°C). As shown in Figure 4(a), the IR spectrum of the polymer have no absorption bands at 1630 cm⁻¹ and 890 cm⁻¹ characteristic of 1,2-addition, whereas a strong band at 1150 cm⁻¹ characteristic of 1,4-*trans*addition. In the ¹³C NMR spectra measured in *o*-dichlorobenzene, methyl and methylene resonances appear at 1.77 and 2.16 ppm in the case of 1,4-*trans*-addition as well as 1.73 and 2.24 ppm in the case of 1,4-*cis*-addition, respectively, while no signal for 1,2-addition was observed. The content of 1,4-*trans*-addition was more than 90% at -20° C and decreased to about 80% with increasing the post-polymerization temperature.

Diene Monomers with Polar Groups. In the case of 1-carbomethoxy-1,3-butadiene, the post-polymerization produced a colorless solid polymer. The IR, ¹H, and ¹³C NMR spectra indicate that the polymers predominantly consist of 1,4-*trans* structure. For example, Figure 4(b) shows the IR spectrum of the polymer obtained by the post-polymerization at 30°C for 4 days. Moreover, the polymer had a relatively high value of specific optical rotation ($[\alpha]_D^{20} - 27^\circ$ in chloroform-benzene).²²

In the case of 1-chloro-1,3-butadiene, the post-polymerization at 0°C gave a colorless solid polymer. Figure 4(c) shows IR spectra of the polymer. The absorption bands at 1650 and $960 \,\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ are assigned to C=C stretching and C-H bending vibration of trans double bond, respectively. The polymer had a low value of specific optical rotation $(\lceil \alpha \rceil_{D}^{25} - 3^{\circ})$ in CHCl₃).²³ These results indicate that the polymer consists predominantly of head-totail, 1,4-trans structure. This is supported by an occurrence of dehydrochlorination of the polymer.²⁴ The color of the polymer turned through pale yellow to purple color after 15 h on standing at room temperature. As shown in Table II, the dehydrochlorination of the resulting polymers increased with increasing the post-polymerization temperature.

The polymerization of 1-bromo-1,3-butadiene also yielded polymers composed of 1,4-trans-addition, as indicated from the IR spectrum (Figure 4(d)). The dehydrobromination proceeded at a fairly high rate and amounted to 60%, when post-polymerized at 70° C for one day. The post-polymerization of

Postpo	olymn.		Ŧ	
Temp	Time	Color of polymer	Loss of chlorine	
°C	h		%	
0	96	white	2.4	
30	96	pink	5.1	
50	72	violet	20	
70	72	violet	19	
90	2.5	black	32	

Table	II.	Properties of poly(1-chlorobutadiene)s				
obtained by inclusion polymerization						
		by using MC ^a				

^a MC, 1.0 g; molar ratio of feed, MC/1-chloro-1,3butadiene = 1/1; γ -ray irradiation = 1.0 Mrad.

1-cyano-1,3-butadiene yielded polymers with a high 1,4-*trans* content.

Vinyl Monomers. Methacrylonitrile polymerized in a high yield, when post-polymerized at 70°C for two days. 2-Chloroacrylonitrile polymerized to yield violet and insoluble polymers in a good yield. The polymerization of methyl acrylate and methacrylate at -30° C for two days gave the polymers with conversions of 5 and 26%, respectively. The resulting polymers did not show any significant differences in the microstructures from polymers obtained by free-radical polymerization in solution.

ESR Study of the Propagating Radicals

In the case of DCA and ACA, we observed clear ESR specra of propagating radicals, indicating that the polymerization in the channels proceeds by a free-radical mechaism.^{2,25} Also in the case of MC, we detected the ESR spectra in the case of diene monomers. However, most of the spectra were complex and difficult to analyze. It is considered that the complexity arises from an overlap of spectra derived from the host with ones derived from the propagating radicals.

The best ESR spectra of the propagating radicals were observed in the case of 1-carbomethoxy-1,3-butadiene.¹⁰ Starting from the measurement below $-120^{\circ}C$ after γ -irradiation, the ESR signals due to the host radicals disappeared with increasing the temperature prior to the ones due to the propagating radicals. Although total intensity of the signal decreased, a clear spectrum of the propagating radicals remained even at 0°C. The spectrum consists of four lines with a hyperfine splitting of about 1.7 mT, and are well assigned to an allylic radical. The intensity distribution did not change until the spectrum disappeared at 100°C. The disappearance of the ESR signal is in contrast to the case of DCA and ACA, where the radicals were stable even at 100°C.^{3,10} Also in the case of 2,3-dimethyl-1,3-butadiene, the propagating radicals still remained even at room temperature, although the radicals derived from other alkyl-substituted butadienes disappeared.

Crystallographic Study of the Inclusion Spaces

We still have no direct evidence which shows an existence of the channels on the basis of crystal structure analysis of MC inclusion compounds. But we recently obtained a strong support from a crystallographic viewpoint. CA shows guest-dependent polymorphism by an exchange of multiple hydrogen-bonding networks and conformations of the side chain.²⁶ Likewise, it was found that MC has also polymorphic crystal forms based on the same mechanism. We determined a crystal structure of the inclusion compound of MC with acrylonitrile¹¹ in addition to that with methanol.⁷ The former structure is more closely related to that of channel-type inclusion compound of CA^{5,6} than the latter. Accordingly, a comparison of these structures provides us valuable information of the channels formed between organic bilayers, as described below.

MC, like CA, DCA, and ACA, are facial amphiphilic molecules, since they are composed of one hydrophilic and another lipophilic site.²⁷ These host molecules assemble in various modes to form similar pleated sheets composed of one hydrophilic and another

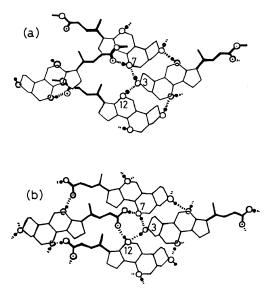


Figure 5. Hydrogen-bonding networks of the bilayers of the inclusion compounds of (a) MC with acrylonitrile and (b) CA with γ -valerolactone.

lipophilic sides, and the sheets stack to form amphiphilic bilayers. The bilayers can slide each other along lipophilic sides on the basis of lots of crystallographic studies on the inclusion compounds of DCA.²⁸

The crystal of MC with acrylonitrile has the same space group $(P2_1)$ as that of CA with γ -valerolactone.⁶ As shown in Figure 5, the bilayers of both crystals are formed by the same assembly mode. Four host molecules provide each functional group to form similar hydrogen-bonding networks. It is noteworthy that the side chains attached to the steroidal skeleton locate in different sites between these two cases. That is, the carboxylic part of CA connect two hydroxyl groups at 7- and 12-positions in the steroidal skeleton to form a cyclic hydrogen-bonding network, while the esteric part of MC connects the hydroxyl group only at 7-position.

Molecular graphics of the crystals gives information of a more subtle variety than available by other methods. MODRASTE²⁹ is an excellent software for analyzing the channels, because we can cut and slice the

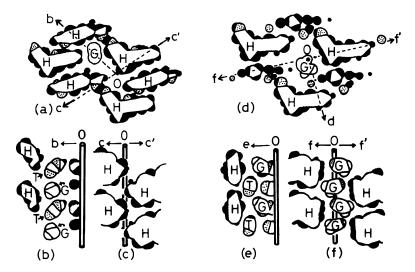


Figure 6. Schematic drawings of horizontal (upper) and vertical (lower) cross sections of the concaved amphiphilic bilayers of the inclusion compounds of MC with acrylonitrile ((a), (b), and (c)) and CA with γ -valerolactone ((d), (e), and (f)) with 0.2 Å of thickness by means of space-filling models.²⁹ Dotted arrows show the position of the cross sections. H, host; G, guest; T, side chain of the host; O, center of the cross sections.

crystals freely, like X-ray Computed Tomography for human body.

The important result is about flexibility and unevenness of the bilayers. Figures 6(a) and (d) show cross sections of parts of the crystals of the inclusion compounds of MC with acrylonitrile and CA with γ -valerolactone, respectively. In the former, it can be seen that the bilayers stack to leave no channels between them and that the guest molecules are included only into the pockets. Furthermore, it can also be seen from a comparison of these figures that a sliding of the bilayers along the lipophilic sides should yield channels with relatively small pockets. So, we may postulate that vinyl and diene monomers are accommodated into such channels of MC. Figures 6(b), (c), and (e), (f) show vertical cross-sectional views of closed and opened channels of MC and CA, respectively. It can be seen from Figures 6(b) and (e) that the pockets are between the side chains of the hosts. In addition, it can be seen from Figure 6(c) that the skeletons of the host molecules match well to leave no spaces for the guests. We assume that the guest molecules insert to yield a channel like that shown in Figure 6(f).

Comparison of the Inclusion Polymerizations

As described above the polymerization by using MC as a host exhibit a number of behaviors characteristic of the one-dimensional inclusion polymerization. These are summarized as follows: (1) possible postpolymerization which indicates the living nature of the polymerization; (2) observation of ESR spectra of the propagating radicals; (3) changes of the melting points of the inclusion compounds after the polymerization as compared with those before the polymerization; (4) polymerizabilities of the monomers, which depend on their size and shape rather than their electronic properties; (5) formation of relatively stereoregular polymers based on α, ω -addition; (6) formation of optically active polymers in the case of prochiral monomers. In analogy with DCA and ACA, these features can be well explained on the basis of one-dimensional character of the assemblies of the monomer molecules in the one-dimensional space at a molecular level, called channels.¹

The further remarkable feature is an existence of the "space effect" at a molecular level. That is, an arrangement and movement of the included molecules should be different depending on the relative size between the molecules and the channels. The same molecules would be loosely included in larger channels, while tightly held in smaller ones. The slight difference yields various slight different behaviors of the polymerization at a molecular level. We found that the behaviors in the case of MC are slightly different from those in the case of DCA and ACA. For example, the stability of the propagating radicals as well as the stereoregularities of the resulting polymers are lower in the former than in the latter. All of the results are consistent with an idea that the MC channels are larger than those of DCA and ACA, but smaller than that of CA. The idea is supported by the following crystallographic results. DCA has a rectangular channel with very small pockets, while CA has a pentagonal one with large pockets.^{5,6} As the esteric part of MC occupies a part of the large pocket of CA, the pockets of MC are smaller than those of CA. So, the channels of MC are intermediate in size between those of CA and DCA.

In conclusion, we may consider that MC provide a channel suitable for a systematic study on the one-dimensional inclusion polymerization. The study may contribute to clarify the space effect on the polymerization, because the channel of MC is smaller in size than that of CA, but larger than those of DCA and ACA.

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