

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Synthesis of miktoarm star copolymer Ru(II) complexes by click-to-chelate approach

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A series of AB₂-, ABC-, (AB)₂-, A₂B₂- and ABCD-type miktoarm copolymer Ru(II) complexes was synthesized by a stepwise chelating method, which involved the first-step chelating reaction of Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂ with a polymer-substituted 2-(1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (tapy) or 2,6-bis(1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (bitapy) ligand to produce a stable polymer Ru(II) *mono*-complex, and a second-step chelating reaction of the polymer Ru(II) *mono*-complex with another tapy or bitapy ligand to afford the miktoarm copolymer Ru(II) complexes. In order to synthesize them, the polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands were first prepared by the click reaction of azido-terminated polymers with 2-ethynylpyridine and 2,6-diethynylpyridine, respectively. The azido-terminated polystyrene (PS) and poly(*n*-butyl acrylate) (PBA) were prepared by the atom-transfer radical polymerizations of styrene and *n*-butyl acrylate using ethyl 2-bromoisobutyrate as the initiator, followed by the substitutions of their end bromines with an azido group, respectively. The azido-terminated poly(*n*-hexyl isocyanate) was prepared by the living coordination polymerization of *n*-hexyl isocyanate using dichloro(cyclopentadienyl)(6-azidoheptyloxy)titanium that was prepared by mixing 6-azido-1-hexanol with trichloro(cyclopentadienyl)titanium before the polymerization. The azido-terminated poly(styrene oxide) and poly(ϵ -caprolactone) were synthesized by the controlled/living ring-opening polymerizations of ϵ -caprolactone using diphenyl phosphate as the catalyst and of styrene oxide using the phosphazene base of *t*-Bu-P₄ as the catalyst, respectively, in which 6-azido-1-hexanol was used as the initiator.

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INTRODUCTION

In general, supramolecular chemistry involves diverse non-covalent interactions, such as hydrogen bonding, metal/ligand coordination and hydrophobic interactions, which therefore involve new fields including self-assembly, molecular recognition and topological chemistry. Among the non-covalent interactions, the chelating properties of transition metal cations toward the appropriate ligands undoubtedly has a significant role in supramolecular chemistry. Transition metal cations, such as Cu(II), Co(II), Ni(II), Fe(II), Zn(II) and Ru(II), are usually employed, and bi- and tridentate amines are extensively utilized as the chelating ligands due to their strong coordinating abilities. Many efforts have already been devoted to design and for the constitution of various macromolecular architectures based on the metal/ligand non-covalent interaction. In particular, the complexes of Ru(II) with bipyridyl and terpyridyl ligands are typically utilized because of their easy formation and highly stable properties. For instance, Fraser *et al.*^{1–4} reported the synthesis of Ru(II) supramolecular polymers by the coordination reaction between

Ru(II) and bipyridyl derivatives, including star-shaped macromolecular architectures with an arm number varying from three to six by either divergent or convergent methods. In addition, Rehahn *et al.*⁵ initially started the field of Ru(II) supramolecular complexes based on terpyridyl chelating ligands leading to linear polymers. Schubert *et al.*⁶ then expanded the terpyridyl chelating method to prepare three- and four-armed star-shaped Ru(II) supramolecular polymers. The facile and convenient chelating method has become one of the important issues for constructing well-defined macromolecular architectures by forming the non-covalent Ru(II) complex.

Besides the molecular design of the macromolecular Ru(II) complex using the bipyridyl and terpyridyl compounds, the copper-catalyzed click reaction of azides with alkynes containing amino groups, such as 2-ethynylpyridine and 2,6-diethynylpyridine, has been recently developed as one of the promising methods for preparing bi- and tridentate amine ligands consisting of the 1*H*-1,2,3-triazole group due to its synthetic simplicity.^{7–12} The application of such bi- and

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tridentate amines as chelating ligands is of great potential and significantly expected in synthetic polymer chemistry.^{13–14} In particular, the combination of the click reaction and controlled/living polymerization techniques, such as the atom-transfer radical polymerization and living ring-opening polymerization, provides versatile procedures to produce well-defined polymeric chelating ligands possessing the 1*H*-1,2,3-triazole-containing bi- and tridentate amine groups. For example, we successfully prepared three- and four-armed star-branched PSs with a Ru(II) complex core by the click-to-chelate approach;¹⁵ that is, (i) the synthesis of the bromine-terminated PS (PS-Br) by atom-transfer radical polymerization, (ii) the conversion of PS-Br into the end-functionalized PS with the azido group (PS-N₃), (iii) the click reaction between PS-N₃ with 2-ethynylpyridine and 2,6-diethynylpyridine to afford a 2-(1-PS-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS-tapy) and a 2,6-bis(1-PS-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS₂-bitapy), respectively, and (iv) the one-pot synthesis of star-shaped PSs through the formation of Ru(II) complexes with PS-tapy and PS₂-bitapy ligands, during which the reduction reaction of the commercial Ru(III)Cl₃ was applied. Notably, the direct utilization of Ru(III)Cl₃ involved the formation of an intermediate of the Ru(III)Cl₃ *mono*-complex that was sensitive to external environments and reactive groups, such as the ethynyl group, causing difficulty in isolating and handling such a Ru(III)Cl₃ *mono*-complex. The Ru(II) complex finally formed by the reaction of the Ru(III)Cl₃ *mono*-complex with ligands under a reducing environment. Thus, a reducing agent, such as *N*-ethylmorpholine, and some reductive solvents, such as *N,N*-dimethylformamide and ethanol, are required for the conversion of Ru(III) to Ru(II).^{16–17} Although this one-pot method is very suitable and efficient for preparing star-shaped homopolymers consisting of the same polymeric ligands, it is hardly applicable for synthesizing miktoarm star copolymers. In order to explore the scope of the click-to-chelate method, we now focus on the convenient synthesis of miktoarm star copolymers based on a stepwise chelating method. Specifically, a Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂ precursor is used and offers the possibility to synthesize a very stable Ru(II) *mono*-complex without any reducing steps, and particularly, the Ru(II) *mono*-complex can be readily isolated under ordinary conditions.^{18–19} Thus, after the first polymer possessing a bi- or tridentate amine ligand is reacted with Ru(II) to produce a stable Ru(II) *mono*-complex, the Ru(II) *mono*-complex is isolated and further chelated with the second polymeric ligand possessing a bi- or tridentate amino group to produce a star-shaped polymer Ru(II) complex. A star-shaped homopolymer is synthesized when the first and second polymers are the same, and a miktoarm star-shaped copolymer when they are different. In this article, we used PS, PBA, poly(*n*-hexyl isocyanate) (PHIC), poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL) and poly(styrene oxide) (PSO) as the arm polymers for the synthesis of star copolymer Ru(II) complexes, that is, with three-miktoarm: (Ru(PS-tapy)(PHIC-tapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS-tapy)₂(PHIC-tapy))(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS₂-bitapy) (PSO-tapy) (DMSO))(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS-bitapy-PBA)(PCL-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂, and with four-miktoarm: (Ru(PS₂-bitapy)(PHIC₂-bitapy))(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS-bitapy-PBA)₂(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL))(SbF₆)₂, as shown in Scheme 1.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Materials

Toluene (>99.5%; water content, <0.001%) was purchased from Kanto Chemical Co, Inc. (Sapporo, Japan) and distilled over sodium benzophenone

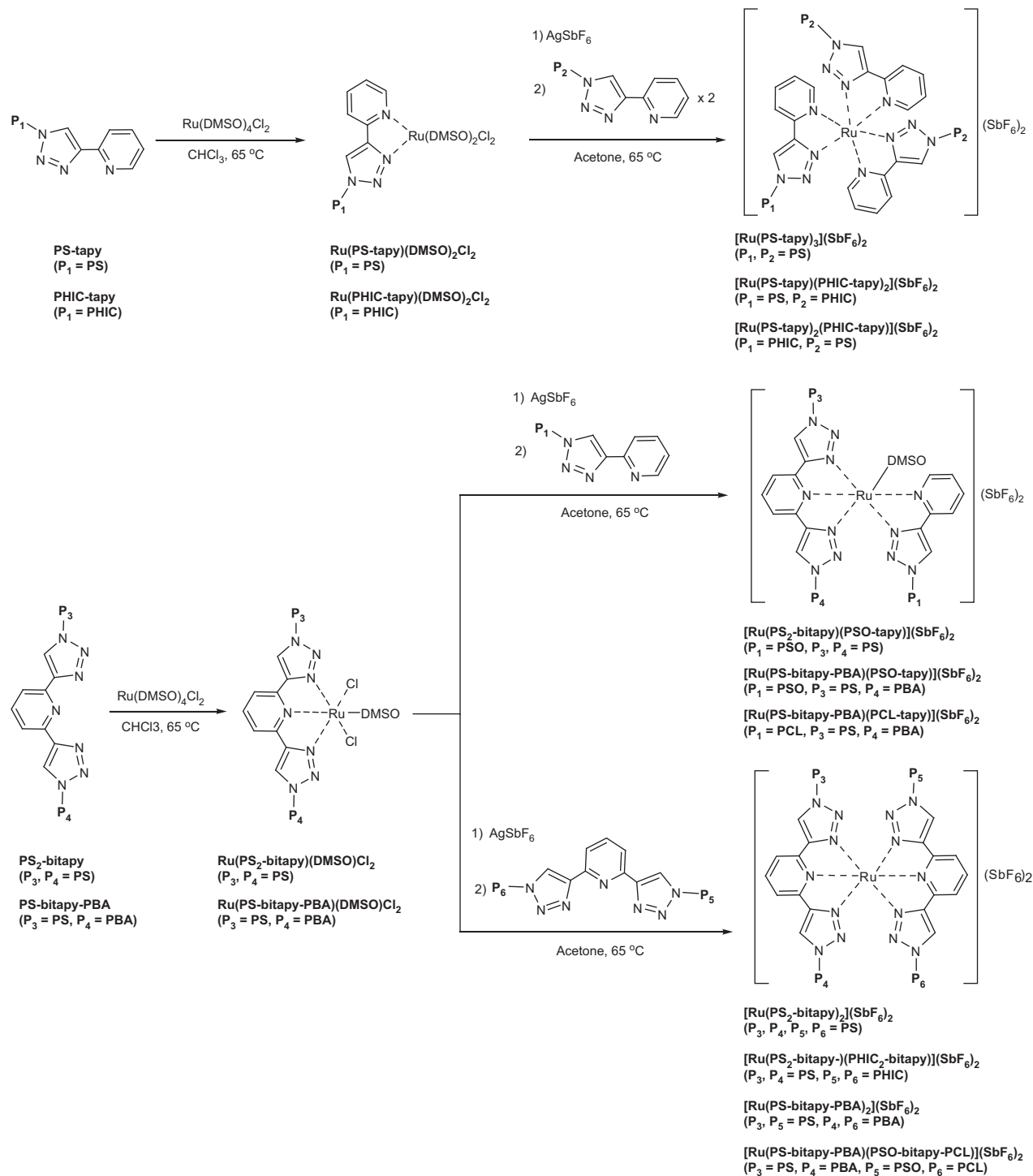
ketyl before use. Styrene oxide (SO; >98.0%, Tokyo Chemical Industry Co, Ltd. (Sapporo, Japan) (TCI)) was distilled over NaH before use. Dry dichloromethane (CH₂Cl₂; >99.5%), *N,N*-dimethylformamide (>99.5%), styrene (>99.0%), *n*-butyl acrylate (BA; >99.0%), *n*-hexyl isocyanate (HIC; >98.0%), ϵ -caprolactone (ϵ -CL; >99%), ethyl 2-bromoisobutyrate (>98.0%) and *N,N,N',N''*-pentamethyldiethylenetriamine (PMDETA; >99.0%) from TCI, and were used after distillation from CaH₂ *in vacuo*. Copper bromide (Cu(I)Br; 99.999%), anisole (99.7%) 1-*tert*-butyl-4,4,4-tris(dimethylamino)-2,2-bis(tris(dimethylamino)phosphoranylideneamino)-2 Λ^8 ,4 Λ^8 -catenadi(phosphazene) (*t*-Bu-P₄, 1.0 M solution in *n*-hexane), 2-ethynylpyridine (98%), and silver hexafluoroantimonate (AgSbF₆; 98%) were purchased from the Sigma-Aldrich Chemicals Co.; sodium azide (>97.0%), acetic anhydride (>97.0%), benzoic acid (>99.5%), 2-propanol (>99.7%), diphenyl phosphate (>99%) and boron trifluoride diethyl etherate (BF₃·OEt₂; 95.0%) from Kanto Chemical Co., Inc. (Ichikawa, Japan); trichloro(cyclopentadienyl)titanium (CpTiCl₃; >98.0%) and acetone (>99.5%, TCI) from TCI; and Amberlyst® A21 from Acros Organics (Tokyo, Japan) and they were used as received. 6-Azido-1-hexanol,²⁰ 2,6-diethynylpyridine,²¹ and Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂¹⁸ were prepared according to methods in the literatures.

Instruments

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL JNM-A400II instrument (JEOL, Tachikawa, Japan) in CDCl₃ as the solvent. The infrared (IR) spectra were recorded using a Perkin-Elmer Paragon 1000 FTIR instrument (Perkin-Elmer, Yokohama, Japan). The ultraviolet–visible spectra were recorded using a Jasco V-550 spectrophotometer (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan). The synthesis of azido-terminated poly(SO) (PSO-N₃) and the azido-terminated PCL (PCL-N₃) were carried out in an MBRAUN stainless steel glovebox (MBRAUN, Wako, Japan) equipped with a gas purification system (molecular sieves and copper catalyst) under a dry argon atmosphere (H₂O, O₂ < 1 p.p.m.). The moisture and oxygen contents in the glovebox were monitored by an MB-MO-SE 1 and MB-OX-SE 1, respectively. Preparative SEC was performed using a JAI LC-9201 HPLC system equipped with a JAI RI-50s refractive index detector and a JAI JAIGEL-3H column (20 mm × 600 mm; exclusion limit, 7 × 10⁴) using tetrahydrofuran (THF) or CHCl₃. The SEC measurements in THF were performed using a Jasco GPC-900 system equipped with a Waters Ultrastaygel column (linear; 7.8 mm × 300 mm; exclusion limit, 1 × 10⁷) and two Shodex KF-804L columns (linear; 8 mm × 300 mm; exclusion limit, 4 × 10⁵) at the flow rate of 1.0 ml min⁻¹ and 40 °C. The SEC measurements in CHCl₃ were performed using a Jasco GPC-900 system equipped with two Shodex K-805L columns (linear; 8 mm × 300 mm; exclusion limit, 4 × 10⁶) with the flow rate of 0.8 ml min⁻¹ and 40 °C. The number-average molecular weight (*M*_{n(SEC)}) and polydispersity (*M*_w/*M*_n) of the polymers were calculated on the basis of a PS calibration. Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) of the obtained polymers was performed using an Applied Biosystems Voyager-DE STR-H (Applied Biosystems, Scottsdale, AZ, USA) equipped with a 337-nm nitrogen laser (3 nm pulse width). Two hundred shots were accumulated for the spectra at a 25 kV acceleration voltage in the reflector mode and calibrated using the PS standard with a linear calibration. For the MALDI-TOF MS measurement, the polymer (10 mg ml⁻¹) in THF, a matrix (Dithranol, 20 mg ml⁻¹) in THF and a cationizing agent (sodium trifluoroacetate, 10 mg ml⁻¹) in methanol were mixed in the ratio of the polymer/matrix/cationizing agent of 5 μl/25 μl/5 μl, and 1 μl of the mixed solution was deposited on the sample holder.

Synthesis of azido-terminated PHIC (PHIC-N₃)

To a 50-ml Schlenk flask, the trichloro(cyclopentadienyl)titanium (CpTiCl₃) (345.0 mg, 1.6 mmol) and dry dichloromethane (5.0 ml) were added, and then stirred to homogeneity. A dichloromethane stock solution of 6-azido-1-hexanol (1.2 ml, 1.6 mmol) was then introduced. After the reaction was carried out at room temperature for 3 h, the solvent was removed under vacuum. *n*-Hexyl isocyanate (HIC; 5.8 ml, 40.0 mmol) was added and the flask was sealed off. The polymerization was carried out for 24 h at 0 °C to afford a PHIC living chain as a solid product. Termination was achieved by the addition of an excess amount of acetic anhydride (22.3 ml, 238.0 mmol) and BF₃·OEt₂ (2.9 ml, 23.5 mmol). The crude product was purified by the reprecipitation from THF to methanol to give PHIC-N₃ as a white solid (3.7 g, 73.0%). *M*_{n(NMR)}, 5 300; *M*_{n(SEC)}, 3 900; *M*_w/*M*_n, 1.09.



Scheme 1 Synthesis of star-shaped polymer Ru(II) complexes with three and four miktoarms consisting of polystyrene (PS), poly(*n*-butyl acrylate) (PBA), poly(*n*-hexyl isocyanate) (PHIC), poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL) or poly(styrene oxide) (PSO).

Preparation of 2-(1-PHIC-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PHIC-tapy)

Method A: Cu(I)Br (43.0 mg, 0.3 mmol) was added to a single-neck 100-ml flask capped with a rubber plug in a glovebox. PHIC-N₃ ($M_{n(\text{SEC})}$: 3900; 1.17 g, 0.3 mmol), 2-ethynylpyridine (60.6 μl , 0.6 mmol), PMDETA (62.6 ml, 0.3 mmol) and THF (10.0 ml) were added to another flask. The mixture was degassed by bubbling with argon gas for 20 min and then transferred to the 100-ml flask. After the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 48 h, it was diluted with THF, and then passed through a short SiO₂ column to remove the copper

complex. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude polymer was purified by dialysis in methanol and dried *in vacuo* to give PHIC-tapy as a white solid (1.13 g, 92.0%). $M_{n(\text{NMR})}$: 5000; $M_{n(\text{SEC})}$: 4000; M_w/M_n : 1.09.

Preparation of 2,6-bis(1-PHIC-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PHIC₂-bitapy)

Method B: Cu(I)Br (86.1 mg, 0.6 mmol) was added to a single-neck 100-ml flask capped with a rubber plug in a glovebox. PHIC-N₃ ($M_{n(\text{SEC})}$: 3900; 2.34 g,

0.6 mmol), 2,6-diethynylpyridine (38.1 mg, 0.3 mmol), PMDETA (125.3 μ l, 0.6 mmol) and THF (20.0 ml) were added to a flask, the mixture was degassed by bubbling with argon gas for 20 min and then transferred to a 100-ml flask. After stirring at room temperature for 48 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with THF, then the solution was passed through a short SiO₂ column to remove the copper complex. After the solvent was removed under reduced pressure, the resulting residue was purified by preparative SEC using THF as the eluent and dried *in vacuo* to give PHIC₂-bitapy as a white solid (1.64 g, 69.0%). $M_n(\text{NMR})$, 10 200; $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 9900; M_w/M_n , 1.05.

Preparation of 2-ethynyl-6-(1-PS^{II}-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS^{II}-etapy)

Method A was used with Cu(I)Br (7.2 mg, 50.0 mmol), PS^{II}-N₃ ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4700; 235.0 mg, 50 μ mol), 2,6-diethynylpyridine (12.7 mg, 0.1 mmol), PMDETA (10.45 μ l, 50 μ mol) and THF (5.0 ml). The crude product was purified by dialysis in methanol and dried to yield PS^{II}-etapy as a light yellow solid (222.9 g, 92.5%). $M_n(\text{NMR})$, 5000; $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4400; M_w/M_n , 1.26.

Preparation of 2-(1-PS^{II}-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-6-(1-PBA-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)

Method C: Cu(I)Br (14.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added to a single-neck 100-ml flask capped with a rubber plug in a glovebox. PS^{II}-etapy ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4400; 440.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), PBA-N₃ ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4700; 470.0 mg, 0.1 mmol), PMDETA (20.9 μ l, 0.1 mmol) and THF (10.0 ml) were added to another flask. The mixture was degassed by bubbling with argon gas for 20 min and then transferred to the 100-ml flask. After stirring at room temperature for 48 h, the reaction mixture was diluted with THF and passed through a short SiO₂ column to remove the copper complex. The residue was purified by preparative SEC using CHCl₃ as the eluent followed by dialysis in methanol to obtain PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA as a light yellow solid (696.2 mg, 76.5%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 300; M_w/M_n , 1.15.

Preparation of 2-(1-poly(SO)-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-6-(1-PCL^I-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PSO-bitapy-PCLI)

Method C was used with Cu(I)Br (6.5 mg, 45.5 μ mol), PSO-etapy ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4600; 215.0 mg, 46.7 μ mol), PCL^I-N₃ ($M_n(\text{NMR})$, 5500; 250.3 mg, 45.5 μ mol), PMDETA (9.5 μ l, 45.5 μ mol) and THF (10 ml) to yield PSO-bitapy-PCL^I as a light yellow solid (369.4 mg, 79.4%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 14 600; M_w/M_n , 1.18.

Preparation of Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂

Method D: To a 10-ml needle flask containing CHCl₃ (1.0 ml), Ru(DMSO)₄Cl₂ (5.8 mg, 12.0 μ mol) and PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 300; 113.0 mg, 10.0 μ mol) were added. The mixture was degassed by three freeze-pump-thaw cycles. The yellow-green mixture was then heated at 65 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was removed. The crude product was further purified by preparative size exclusion chromatography using CHCl₃ as the eluent, followed by dialysis in methanol to yield Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ as an orange-red solid (98.0 mg, 84.8%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 400; M_w/M_n , 1.25.

Preparation of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂

Method E: A mixture of Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 400; 34.0 mg, 3.0 μ mol) and AgSbF₆ (3.0 mg, 8.6 μ mol) in acetone (1.0 ml) was heated in a 10-ml needle flask at 65 °C for 12 h. Followed by filtration of the precipitated AgCl, the solvent was removed to give (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)(COMe₂)₂)(SbF₆)₂ as a yellow solid. The intermediate (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)(COMe₂)₂)(SbF₆)₂ was then dissolved in acetone (2.0 ml) and added to a 10-ml needle flask containing one molar ratio of PSO-tapy ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 4400; 13.2 mg, 3.0 μ mol). The reaction mixture was heated at 65 °C for 24 h. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was filtered, then purified by preparative SEC using THF as the eluent to give (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ as a yellow solid (38.7 mg, 82.0%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 16 800; M_w/M_n , 1.11.

Preparation of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂

Method E was used with Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 400; 34.0 mg, 3.0 μ mol), AgSbF₆ (3.0 mg, 8.6 μ mol) and PCL^{II}-tapy ($M_n(\text{NMR})$, 7400; 22.2 mg, 3.0 μ mol). The crude product was purified by preparative SEC using CHCl₃ as the eluent to yield (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ as a yellow solid (36.0 mg, 64.0%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 25 600; M_w/M_n , 1.12.

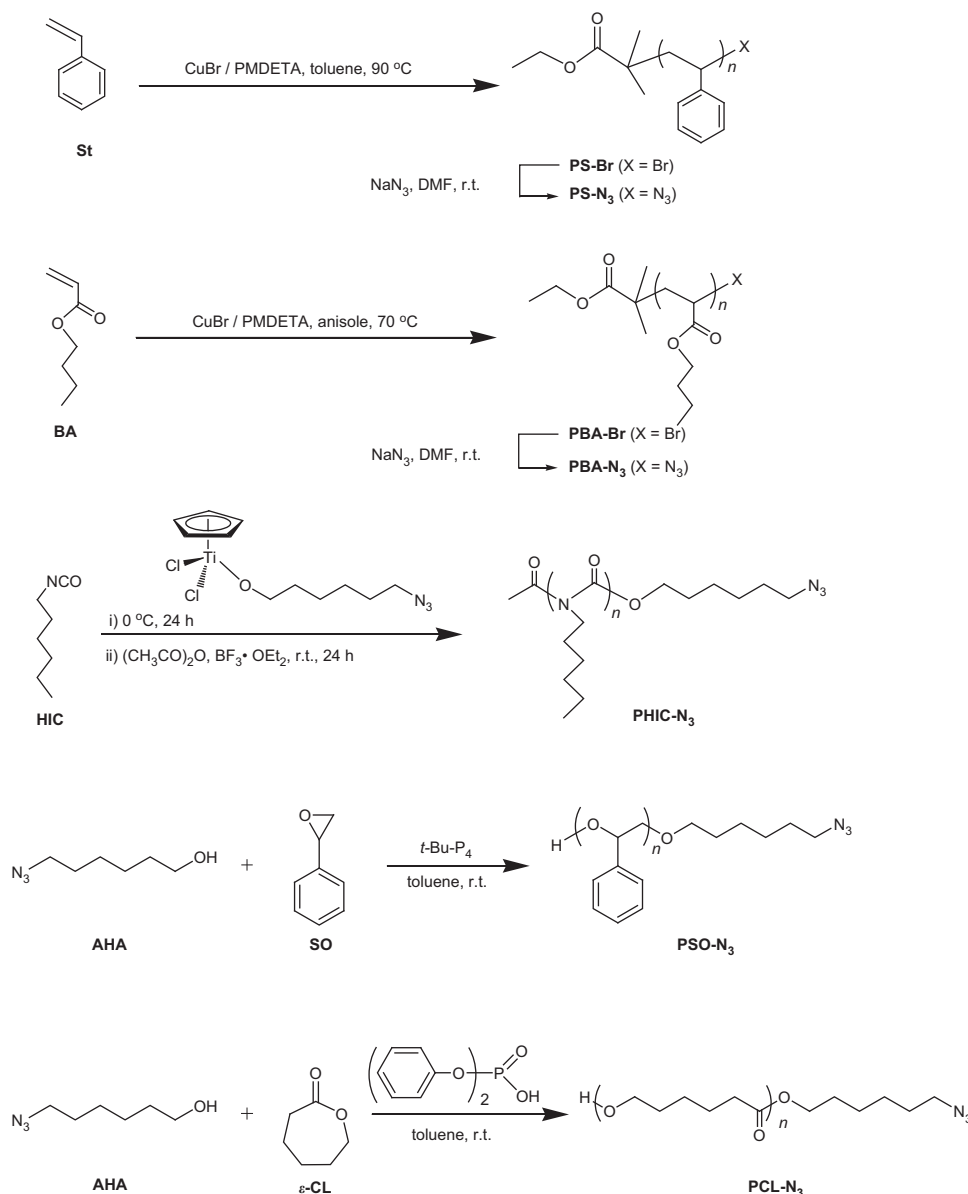
Preparation of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂

Method E was used with Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ ($M_n(\text{SEC})$, 11 400; 34.0 mg, 3.0 μ mol), AgSbF₆ (3.0 mg, 8.6 μ mol), acetone (1.5 ml) and PSO-bitapy-PCL^I ($M_n(\text{NMR})$, 11 600; 34.8 mg, 3.0 μ mol) to yield (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ as a yellow solid (34.8 mg, 50.6%). $M_n(\text{SEC})$, 26 500; M_w/M_n , 1.11.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands

To obtain the polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands, the azido-terminated arm polymers were first prepared, as shown in Scheme 2. Table 1 summarizes the synthetic results for the azido-terminated arm polymers. All polymer yields were reasonable in the range of 73.0–94.4%, and the molecular weights ($M_n(\text{NMR})$ s) estimated by the ¹H NMR measurements were 2900–7400. The azido-terminated PS (PS-N₃) and PBA (PBA-N₃) were prepared by the reaction of the (PS-Br) and PBA (PBA-Br), which were synthesized by the atom-transfer radical polymerizations of styrene (S) and *n*-butyl acrylate (BA) using ethyl 2-bromoisobutyrate, respectively, with NaN₃. The degree of polymerizations (DPs) of PS^I-N₃ and PS^{II}-N₃ were 26.4 (run 1) and 44.3 (run 2), respectively, and that of PBA-N₃ was 43.2 (run 3). For the synthesis of the azido-terminated PCLs (PCL-N₃)s and the azido-terminated poly(SO) (PSO-N₃), the controlled/living ring-opening polymerizations of ϵ -caprolactone using diphenyl phosphate and of SO using the phosphazene base of *t*-Bu-P₄ were carried out, employing 6-azido-1-hexanol as the initiator for both of the two ring-opening polymerizations, respectively.^{22–23} The DPs of PCL^I-N₃ and PCL^{II}-N₃ were 47.2 (run 4) and 63.8 (run 5), respectively, and that of PSO-N₃ was 52.1 (run 6). All the molecular weight distributions (M_w/M_n)s were between 1.09–1.13. In addition, the azido-terminated PHIC (PHIC-N₃) was prepared by the living coordination polymerization of *n*-hexyl isocyanate using dichloro(cyclopentadienyl)(6-azidohexyloxy)titanium that was prepared by mixing 6-azido-1-hexanol with trichloro(cyclopentadienyl)titanium before the polymerization. The DP of PHIC-N₃ was 40.4 (run 7), and the M_w/M_n was as low as 1.09, as shown in Figure 1. The characteristic signals due to the initiator residue of 6-azido-1-hexanol were observed at 3.30 and 4.21 p.p.m. along with the PHIC chain, as shown in the ¹H NMR spectrum (Figure 2a). In addition, the characteristic stretching signals of the azido group was confirmed in the FTIR spectrum (Figure 3a). In order to provide further insight into the polymer structure of PHIC-N₃, a MALDI-TOF MS measurement of PHIC-N₃ was carried out. A main and sub series of peaks were observed, as shown in Figure 4a. The peak interval between the main series was 127.1, which is identical to the molecular weight of *n*-hexyl isocyanate. Additionally, the main peak at 3514.5 (*m/z*) is in good agreement with the theoretical isotopic molecular weight of the sodium-cationized PHIC ($n = 26$) with the azido end (C₁₉₀H₃₅₃O₂₈N₂₉Na: 3514.71). The small sub peaks were attributed to those of the denitrogenized product, which were produced during the ionization process. These results clearly indicated that the azido group was quantitatively introduced into the PHIC chain end. The characteristics of the ¹H NMR, FTIR, MALDI-TOF MS spectra and SEC measurements for the obtained



Scheme 2 Synthesis of azido-terminated polystyrene (PS- N_3), poly(*n*-butyl acrylate) (PBA- N_3), poly(*n*-hexyl isocyanate) (PHIC- N_3), poly(styrene oxide) (PSO- N_3) and poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL- N_3).

Table 1 Synthesis of azido-terminated polymers.

Run	Polymers	Yield (%)	$M_{n(\text{NMR})}$ (DP) ^a	$M_{n(\text{SEC})}$	M_w/M_n
1	PS ^I - N_3	87.0	2900 (26.4)	2 800 ^b	1.13 ^b
2	PS ^{II} - N_3	89.5	4800 (44.3)	4 700 ^c	1.12 ^c
3	PBA- N_3	91.4	5700 (43.2)	4 700 ^c	1.12 ^c
4	PCL ^I - N_3	94.4	5500 (47.2)	9 300 ^c	1.09 ^c
5	PCL ^{II} - N_3	90.5	7400 (63.8)	13 800 ^c	1.11 ^c
6	PSO- N_3	85.0	6400 (52.1)	4 600 ^c	1.13 ^c
7	PHIC- N_3	73.0	5300 (40.4)	3 900 ^b	1.09 ^b

Abbreviation: DP, degree of polymerization.

^aDetermined by $^1\text{H NMR}$ in CDCl_3 .

^bDetermined by SEC in THF using polystyrenes (PS) standards.

^cDetermined by SEC in CHCl_3 using PS standards.

PS-Br, PBA-Br, PS- N_3 , PBA- N_3 , PSO- N_3 and PCL- N_3 are displayed in Supplementary Figures S1–12 and 14–16.

The polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands were synthesized by the click reaction of the azido-terminated polymers with ethynylpyridines, as illustrated in Scheme 3. Table 2 summarizes the synthetic results of tapy and bitapy ligands. For the synthesis of the polymer-substituted tapy ligands, we previously reported the click reaction of PS- N_3 with 2-ethynylpyridine using CuBr/PMDETA in THF to produce the 2-(1-PS-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS-tapy).¹⁵ In this study, the PS^I-tapy with the $M_{n(\text{NMR})}$ of 3000 was obtained in the high yield of 90% (run 8). Similarly, the 2-(1-PCL-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine, 2-(1-poly(SO)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine and 2-(1-PHIC-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PCL^{II}-tapy, PSO-tapy and PHIC-tapy, respectively) were prepared using PCL^{II}- N_3 , PSO- N_3

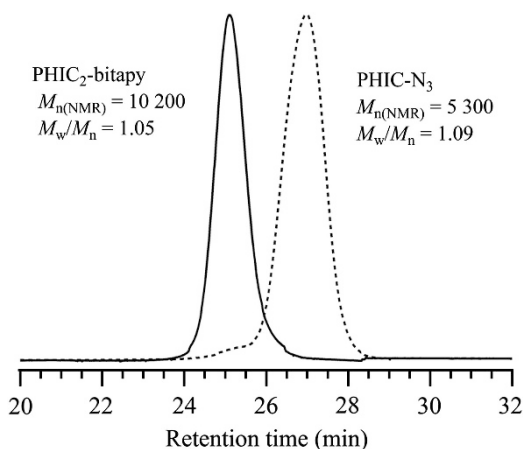


Figure 1 SEC traces of PHIC-N₃ and PHIC₂-bitapy determined in THF at a flow of 1.0 ml min⁻¹.

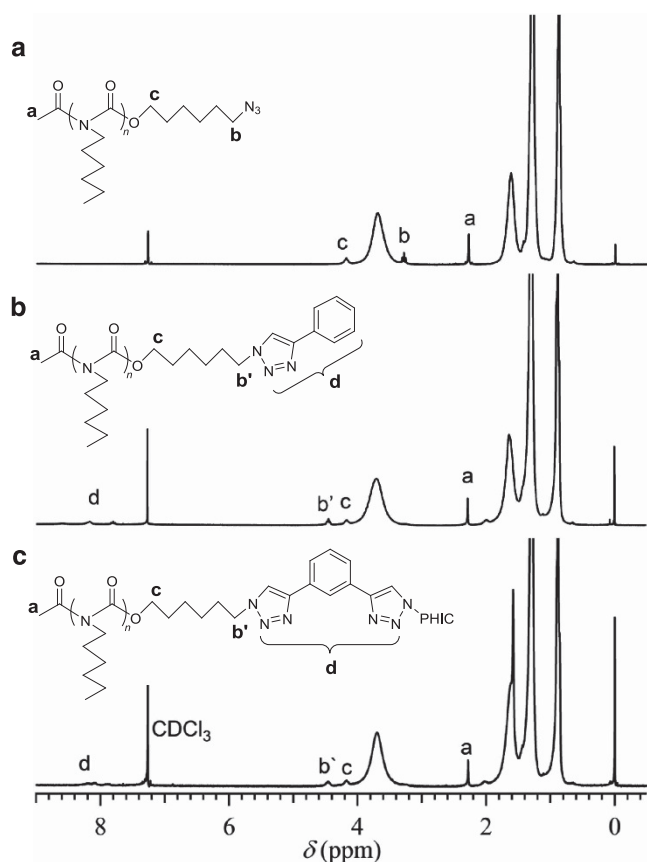


Figure 2 ¹H NMR spectra of (a) PHIC-N₃, (b) PHIC-tapy and (c) PHIC₂-bitapy determined in CDCl₃.

and PHIC-N₃, respectively, in the good yields of 90.2–92.0% (runs 9–11). The $M_n(\text{NMR})$ showed no obvious difference, and the M_w/M_n remained narrow from PHIC-N₃ to PHIC-tapy ($M_w/M_n = 1.09$). In the ¹H NMR spectrum (Figure 2b), the new signals due to the tapy group were observed in the range of 7.80–8.43 p.p.m. along with the PHIC chain. Additionally, the signals of the methylene protons neighboring the azido group shifted from 3.30 p.p.m. to 4.43 p.p.m. after the click reaction with 2-ethynylpyridine. In the FTIR spectrum (Figure 3b), the characteristic stretching signals of the azido group

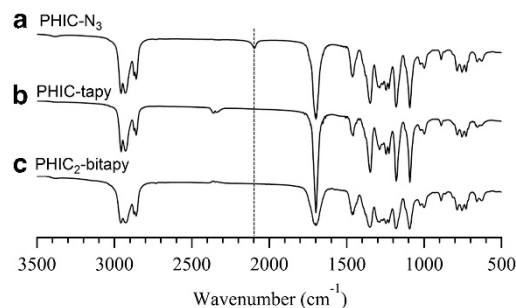


Figure 3 IR spectra of (a) PHIC-N₃, (b) PHIC-tapy and (c) PHIC₂-bitapy.

due to PHIC-N₃ disappeared after the click reaction with 2-ethynylpyridine. The PHIC-tapy structure was further confirmed by a MALDI-TOF MS measurement. Only one series of peaks was observed, as shown in Figure 4b. The peak interval of 127.1 is identical to the molecular weight of *n*-hexyl isocyanate. The main peak at 3617.5 (m/z) is in good agreement with the theoretical isotopic molecular weight of the sodium-cationized PHIC ($n = 26$) with the tapy chain end (C₁₉₇H₃₅₈O₂₈N₃₀Na: 3617.75). For PS^I-tapy, PCL^{II}-tapy and PSO-tapy, the SEC traces, ¹H NMR and FTIR spectra, and MALDI-TOF MS measurements are shown in Supplementary Figures S1, 3–5, 7–9, 11–12 and 16.

The synthesis of 2,6-bis(1-PHIC-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PHIC₂-bitapy) was obtained from PHIC-N₃ and 2,6-diethynylpyridine according to the procedure similar to that for the synthesis of PS^I-bitapy reported in our previous study.¹⁵ The click reaction between PHIC-N₃ and 2,6-diethynylpyridine was carried out at the molar ratio of (PHIC-N₃)/(2,6-diethynylpyridine) = 2. After the click reaction, the SEC trace shifted to the higher molecular weight region, as shown in Figure 1, and the $M_n(\text{NMR})$ of PHIC₂-bitapy was almost twice that of PHIC-N₃. In the ¹H NMR spectrum (Figure 2c), the new signals due to the bitapy group were observed in the range of 7.74–8.25 p.p.m. along with the PHIC chain. In the FTIR spectrum (Figure 3c), the characteristic stretching signals of the azido group due to the reactant, PHIC-N₃, completely disappeared after the click reaction with 2,6-diethynylpyridine. These results clearly indicated that the bitapy group was introduced into the center of the PHIC₂-bitapy chain. For PS^I-bitapy, the characteristics of the SEC trace, ¹H NMR and FTIR spectra, and MALDI-TOF MS measurement are shown in Supplementary Figures S1, 5, 9 and 14.

For the synthesis of the block copolymer-substituted bitapy ligands, the click reaction was carried out twice using two different azido-terminated polymers. The 2-ethynyl-6-(1-PS^{II}-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS^{II}-etapy) was first prepared by the click reaction between an excess amount of 2,6-diethynylpyridine and PS^{II}-N₃ in 92.5% yield, and then PS^{II}-etapy was further reacted with PBA-N₃ to afford the 2-(1-PS-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-6-(1-PBA-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA) with a yield of 76.5%. Using the same procedure, the 2-(1-poly(SO)-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)-6-(1-PCL^I-1*H*-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)pyridine (PSO-bitapy-PCL^I) was obtained in a yield of 79.4%. For the structural confirmation of the PS^{II}-etapy, PSO-etapy, PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA and PSO-bitapy-PCL^I, the characteristics of the SEC traces, ¹H NMR and FTIR spectra, and MALDI-TOF MS measurements are shown in Supplementary Figures S1, 3, 6–7, 10–11, 15–16.

Synthesis of miktoarm star copolymers

We previously reported the one-pot synthesis of three- and four-armed star-shaped PS Ru(II) complexes, (Ru(PS-tapy)₃)(PF₆)₂ and

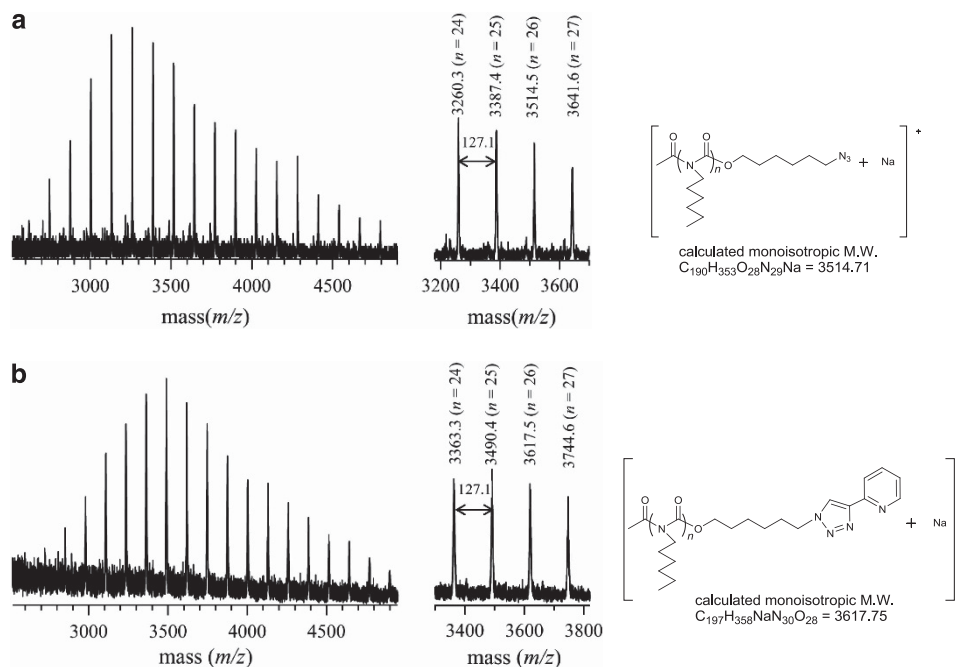


Figure 4 MALDI-TOF MS spectra (reflector mode) of (a) PHIC-N₃ and (b) PHIC-tapy.

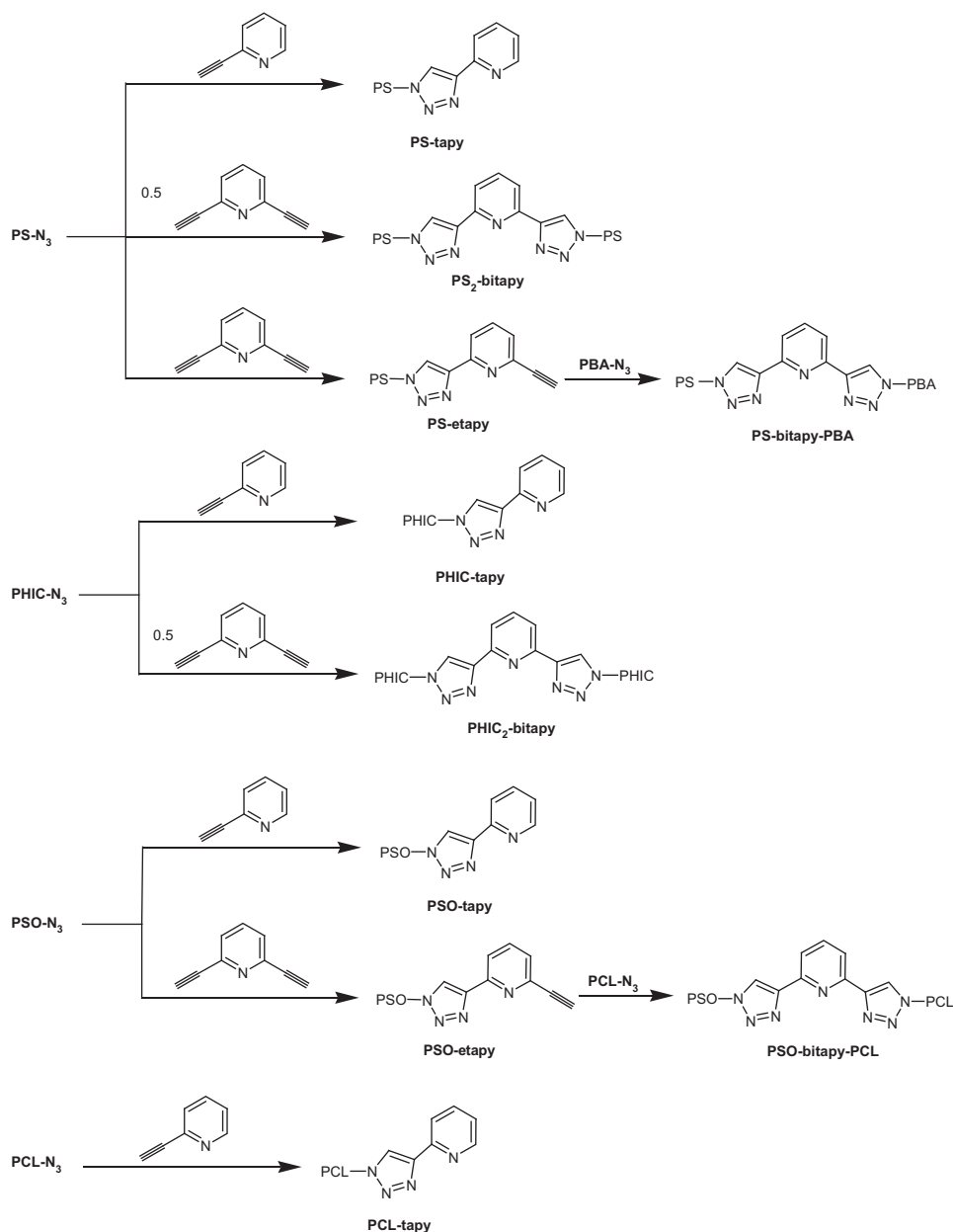
(Ru(PS₂-bitapy)₂)(PF₆)₂, by the chelating reaction between PS-tapy and PS₂-bitapy with Ru(II) that was obtained from the reducing reaction of Ru(III)Cl₃, respectively.¹⁵ We now examined the preparation of (Ru(PS-tapy)₃)(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS₂-bitapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂ by the stepwise chelating method as model reactions, as illustrated in Scheme 1, to confirm the feasibility of the stepwise chelating method for synthesizing miktoarm star copolymers. PS^I-tapy and PS₂^I-bitapy were reacted with Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂ in chloroform at 65 °C to produce their stable Ru(II) *mono*-complexes, Ru(PS^I-tapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂ and Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂, respectively. The chelating reactions of PS^I-tapy with Ru(PS^I-tapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂ and PS₂^I-bitapy with Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂ were then further carried out to afford (Ru(PS^I-tapy)₃)(SbF₆)₂ (run 16) and (Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂ (run 22), respectively. Table 3 lists the synthetic results. After removal of the unreacted polymeric ligands, the molecular weights ($M_{n(\text{SEC})}$) of (Ru(PS^I-tapy)₃)(SbF₆)₂ (run 16) and (Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂ (run 22) were 8200 and 14 800, respectively, which indicated the obvious enhancement relative to their chelating arms, PS^I-tapy (run 8; $M_{n(\text{SEC})} = 3100$, $M_w/M_n = 1.13$) and PS₂^I-bitapy (run 12; $M_{n(\text{SEC})} = 6400$, $M_w/M_n = 1.07$), respectively. The shifts in the SEC traces to the higher molecular weight region in Supplementary Figure S18 provided the direct evidence for the formation of the three- and four-armed PS^I Ru(II) complexes. The formation of star-shaped PS Ru(II) complexes was also proven by ¹H NMR spectra, as shown in Supplementary Figure S13. A broadening effect of the proton signals due to the tapy groups was clearly observed after the formation of the Ru(II) complex, which should be attributed to the strong coordinating interaction between Ru(II) and the tapy groups.

For the ABC-type miktoarm star copolymer Ru(II) complexes, (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ (run 20) and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ (run 21) were prepared from Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ with PCL^{II}-tapy and PSO-tapy, respectively. The $M_{n(\text{SEC})}$ s of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)

(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ were 25 600 and 16 800, respectively. The SEC traces of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ after the Ru(II) complexation displayed an obvious shift to the higher molecular weight region relative to that of PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA, as shown in Figure 5. The ¹H NMR spectra in Figure 6 showed both the signals assignable to the PS^{II} and PBA segments along with the PCL^{II} one in (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and the PS^{II} and PBA segments along with the PSO one in (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂. These results indicated the formation of the ABC-type miktoarm star copolymers Ru(II) complexes, (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂.

For the ABCD-type miktoarm star copolymer Ru(II) complex, (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ was prepared from Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ with PSO-bitapy-PCL^I. The $M_{n(\text{SEC})}$ of the obtained (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ was 26 500, which fairly agreed with the addition of the $M_{n(\text{SEC})}$ s of PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA and PSO-bitapy-PCL^I, that is, ($M_{n(\text{SEC})}$ of PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA) + ($M_{n(\text{SEC})}$ of PSO-bitapy-PCL^I) = 25 900. The SEC trace of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ after the Ru(II) complexation, as shown in Figure 5, displayed an obvious shift to the higher molecular weight region relative to that of the precursor, PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA. In the ¹H NMR spectra of Figure 6, the signals assignable to the PS^{II}, PBA, PSO and PCL^I segments were simultaneously observed. These results indicated the formation of the Ru(II) complexes.

Using the same stepwise chelating method, the AB₂-type miktoarm star-shaped copolymer Ru(II) complexes, (Ru(PS^I-tapy)(PHIC-tapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂ (run 17), (Ru(PS^I-tapy)₂(PHIC-tapy))(SbF₆)₂ (run 18) and (Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ (run 19), were prepared from Ru(PS^I-tapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂ and PHIC-tapy (molar ratio, 1:2), Ru(PHIC-tapy)(DMSO)₂Cl₂ and PS^I-tapy (molar ratio, 1:2), and Ru(PS₂^I-bitapy)(DMSO)Cl₂ and PSO-tapy (molar ratio,



Scheme 3 Synthesis of tapy- and bitapy-functionalized arm polymers, PS-tapy, PS₂-bitapy, PS-bitapy-PBA, PHIC-tapy, PHIC₂-bitapy, PSO-tapy, PSO-bitapy-PCL and PCL-tapy.

Table 2 Synthesis of tapy- and bitapy-functionalized arm polymers.

run	Polymers	Yield (%)	$M_n(\text{NMR})^a$	$M_n(\text{SEC})$	M_w/M_n
8	PS ^I -tapy	91.0	3000	3 100 ^b	1.13 ^b
9	PCL ^{II} -tapy	90.2	7600	13 500 ^c	1.20 ^c
10	PSO-tapy	92.0	6500	4 400 ^c	1.26 ^c
11	PHIC-tapy	92.0	5000	4 000 ^b	1.09 ^b
12	PS ^I ₂ -bitapy	62.0	6200	6 400 ^b	1.07 ^b
13	PHIC ₂ -bitapy	69.0	10 200	9 900 ^b	1.05 ^b
14	PS ^{II} -bitapy-PBA	76.5	10 800	11 300 ^c	1.15 ^c
15	PSO-bitapy-PCL ^I	79.4	12 200	14 600 ^c	1.18 ^c

^aDetermined by ¹H NMR in CDCl₃

^bDetermined by size exclusion chromatography (SEC) in THF using polystyrenes (PS) standards.

^cDetermined by SEC in CHCl₃ using PS standards.

1:1), respectively, the (AB)₂-type miktoarm star copolymer Ru(II) complex, (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)₂)(SbF₆)₂ (run 23), was prepared from Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(DMSO)Cl₂ with PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA, and A₂B₂-type miktoarm star copolymer Ru(II) complex, (Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(PHIC₂-bitapy))(SbF₆)₂ (run 24), was prepared from Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(DMSO)Cl₂ with PHIC₂-bitapy, respectively. The $M_n(\text{SEC})$ s of (Ru(PS^I-tapy)(PHIC-tapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS^I-tapy)₂(PHIC-tapy))(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)₂)(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(PHIC₂-bitapy))(SbF₆)₂ were 9 900, 9 500, 12 200, 21 400 and 11 900, respectively, which were in good agreement with the additional $M_n(\text{SEC})$ s from their polymeric ligands, that is, ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of PS^I-tapy) + ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of PHIC-tapy) × 2 = 11 100, ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of PHIC-tapy) + ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of PS^I-tapy) × 2 = 10 200, ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of PS^I₂-bitapy) + ($M_n(\text{SEC})$ of

Table 3 Synthesis of star polymer Ru(II) complexes with three and four miktoarms.

Run	Polymers	Yield (%)	$M_{n(SEC)}^a$	M_w/M_n^a
16	(Ru(PS ^I -tapy) ₃)(SbF ₆) ₂	74.0	8200	1.17
17	(Ru(PS ^I -tapy)(PHIC-tapy) ₂)(SbF ₆) ₂	51.0	9900	1.13
18	(Ru(PHIC-tapy)(PS ^I -tapy) ₂)(SbF ₆) ₂	62.0	9500	1.11
19	(Ru(PS ^I ₂ -bitapy)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF ₆) ₂	76.0	12 200	1.10
20	(Ru(PS ^{II} -bitapy-PBA)(PCL ^{II} -tapy)(DMSO))(SbF ₆) ₂	64.0	25 600	1.12
21	(Ru(PS ^{II} -bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF ₆) ₂	82.0	16 800	1.11
22	(Ru(PS ^I ₂ -bitapy) ₂)(SbF ₆) ₂	86.0	14 800	1.08
23	(Ru(PS ^{II} -bitapy-PBA) ₂)(SbF ₆) ₂	45.4	21 400	1.13
24	(Ru(PS ^I ₂ -bitapy)(PHIC ₂ -bitapy))(SbF ₆) ₂	19.2	11 900	1.14
25	(Ru(PS ^{II} -bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL ^I))(SbF ₆) ₂	50.6	26 500	1.11

^aDetermined by size exclusion chromatography (SEC) in CHCl₃ using polystyrenes (PS) standards.

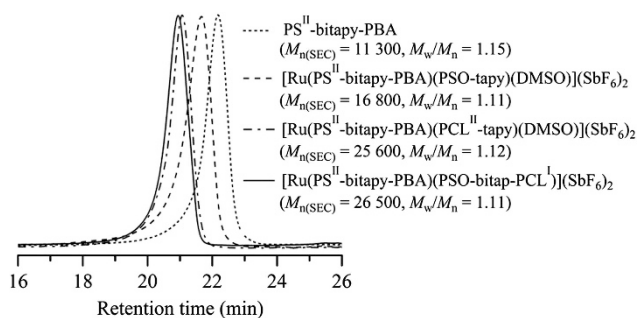


Figure 5 SEC traces of PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA ligand, three-miktoarm (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂, and four-miktoarm (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ (CHCl₃ at the flow of 0.8 ml · min⁻¹).

PSO-tapy) = 10 800, ($M_{n(SEC)}$ of PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA) × 2 = 22 600 and ($M_{n(SEC)}$ of PS^I₂-bitapy) + ($M_{n(SEC)}$ of PHIC₂-bitapy) = 16 300. The formation of the AB₂-, (AB)₂- and A₂B₂-type miktoarm star copolymers Ru(II) complexes were also confirmed by the SEC measurements and ¹H NMR spectra, as shown in Supplementary Figures S13 and 17–18.

CONCLUSION

The miktoarm copolymer Ru(II) complexes, AB₂-type of (Ru(PS^I-tapy)(PHIC-tapy)₂)(SbF₆)₂, (Ru(PS^I-tapy)₂(PHIC-tapy))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂; ABC-type of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂; (AB)₂-type of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)₂)(SbF₆)₂; A₂B₂-type of (Ru(PS^I₂-bitapy)(PHIC₂-bitapy))(SbF₆)₂; and ABCD-type of (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂, were readily synthesized by the stepwise chelating interaction between the polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands, which were prepared by the combination of the controlled/living polymerizations and click reaction, and Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂. The application of Ru(II)(DMSO)₄Cl₂ afforded a simple way to synthesize the stable polymer Ru(II) mono-complex. In addition, the polymer Ru(II) mono-complex was easily isolated and chelated with different polymer-substituted tapy and bitapy ligands to form the miktoarm copolymer Ru(II) complexes. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first one to report the simple arm-first synthesis of miktoarm star copolymers by the click-to-chelate method, which

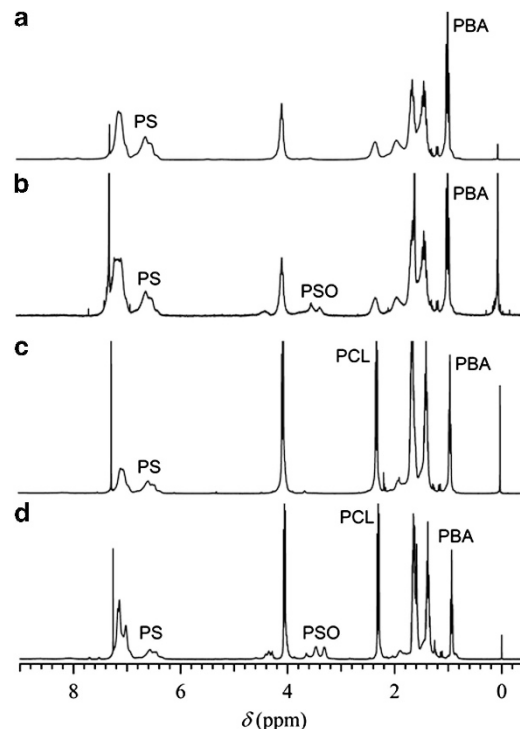


Figure 6 ¹H NMR spectra of (a) PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA ligand, (b) three-miktoarm (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂, (c) (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PCL^{II}-tapy)(DMSO))(SbF₆)₂ and (d) four-miktoarm (Ru(PS^{II}-bitapy-PBA)(PSO-bitapy-PCL^I))(SbF₆)₂ determined in CHCl₃.

involves a non-covalent connection between Ru(II) and the arm polymer ligands. This method provides a method for the preparation of the miktoarm star copolymers. The further designs of polymer architectures by the click-to-chelate method are currently under investigation.

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